

# S.I.F.D. NEWS

DECEMBER 1971



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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas.

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Officers of the Committee:-

Chairman: Bert Price,  
22 Sunnysdale Road,  
London, S.E.12  
Home: 01-852 0509

Secretary: Dorothy Bryan,  
Flat 1, Braunton Mansions  
28 Rosebery Avenue,  
London E.C.1.  
Home: 01-837 2438

Treasurer: Harry Whitaker,  
29 Sherbrook Gardens,  
Winchmore Hill,  
London, N.21  
Home: 01-360 4965

Membership Secretary (Ex-officio member):  
Roland Minton,  
131 Holly Street,  
London, E.8.

Demonstration Secretary: Margery Latham,  
14 Beechwood Avenue,  
Kew, Richmond, Surrey.  
Home: 01-876 7055  
Office: 01-930 7022 Ext.3447

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BADGES S.I.F.D. Badges for lapel, scooter and car, @ 17½, 37½p and 62½p respectively, can be obtained from our Membership Secretary, Roland Minton.

RECORDS Our records are available from Magnegraph Recording Co., Ltd., 1 Hanway Place, London, W.1. Price 85p each plus postage, and also from Frances Horrocks, 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

BOOKS Our books are published by Pergamon Press and are available, to order, through any bookseller, price 50p each, or from Frances Horrocks.

Discounts are obtainable on records and books purchased by members for their own use when purchased direct from the S.I.F.D. (i.e. from Frances Horrocks), but not when purchased from Magnegraph or booksellers.

## THE CHAIRMAN WRITES.....

I am as sorry as Margaret Joyner (see November NEWS) that the idea of producing a Silver Jubilee Booklet giving a potted history of the Society has had to be shelved for the time being. The trouble is that to do the job properly a lot of research needs to be undertaken and a lot more letters giving us various members' remembrances must be received before a real start can be made. The Society grew out of the private meetings organized once a month at Cecil Sharp House and on other Sundays at the International Youth Centre in Pont Street by Frances Waight, now Frances Brown. Both she and Nat, her husband, were at the Reunion Dance. These meetings were likely to cease in 1946 when Frances announced that she was going to America for a year, and the Society was conceived in my front room at home when my sister said to me, "What are we going to do when Frances goes?", to which I replied that I didn't know and she said, "I think we ought to form ourselves into a Society". Subsequently, a meeting was held in Bloomsbury to ask all those who were attending Frances' sessions for their views, and finally a motion to form an International Folk Dance Society (as we at first called it) was carried by one vote. I had taken a non-dancing friend, Horace Sharp, with me, who kindly put his hand up at the same time as I did, so the Society could be said to have been born under some difficulty aided by a non-dancing midwife. We hired Carlyle School Hall at Chelsea once a fortnight; for tuition we appointed Mary Butterworth and Eve Grant; they were good dancers and both school teachers and so, we said, they can be our dance teachers. Irene Hales played the piano for us at these classes, and Kurt Eisinger or Henry Schuster or Mourrie Pfeffer played their accordions at S. cials. I can remember all these beginnings and many more but here comes the difficulty, perhaps here and there I remember things wrongly. Every remembrance needs checking before the booklet is printed. It cannot be left to be challenged or contradicted afterwards when it is too late to make corrections. It is here that letters from members will be helpful, if only to tell us the date they joined, what the Society was like at that time, and so on.

You, Margaret, to the best of my memory, joined in 1954 following a Summer School I was taking at Canford near Bournemouth. You told me you were going to East Africa, I think, but I am not sure enough of these dates or of my facts to put them into a booklet. So all I can say is that the more letters we get from members telling us of their early days in the Society, the greater the chance of the history being compiled.

I am enclosing a letter from Cengiz Karahan (printed on page 4), who has been teaching us Turkish dancing over the last ten months. It is very much to my regret that he is going home and that we have had to cease the class for the time being. Cengiz, or Tim as we called him (his first name being Timucin) is a charming person; he has a warm-hearted personality (as you will see from his letter); he taught us some nice dances and I regret only that our skills and our numbers did not do justice to his teaching. Nevertheless, Tim sowed the seed and perhaps in time another Turkish dancer will arrive to help it into growth.

I close these notes with my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you will all come to the Christmas Party - in costume - and that we shall start the New Year with at least one resolution - to carry on dancing.

BERT PRICE

LETTER FROM CENGIZ KARAHAN TO HIS FRIENDS AT THE S.I.F.D. :-

Dear Bert,

I am writing in the hope that you will have this letter printed in your next News Sheet, for I should like to say Goodbye to all my dear friends in the Society but cannot write individually for there are so many of them! I trust that you will be kind enough to say Goodbye to them for me through this medium.

I was very happy to meet so many nice and interesting people in Britain, and I am glad to have had the opportunity to meet them all. I tried to do my best by them and work with them successfully, but could not, for I lacked good tapes and records, and good trained players for our dance accompaniments. I invite them all to Turkey and hope they will come to visit my country. If there is anything they would like from there, I would be happy to try and get it for them.

I am going back to Ankara on Friday, the 12th November, and although very glad to see my family again, I am sad at leaving so many dear friends and having to say Goodbye is most trying. "Insallah" we shall see each other again.

To you, Bert, I thank particularly for your kind cooperation in everything.

Yours sincerely,

CENGIZ KARAHAN

63 Soak No.16/2  
Bahcelievler, Ankara.

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CHATHAM AGAIN

This is just a preliminary announcement, but do please note the date right now - 5TH FEBRUARY 1972.

At the invitation of the Chatham Entertainments Office, we shall be presenting another SEE HOW THEY DANCE Show at the Chatham Town Hall on 5th February 1972, as before in the Central Hall. Margery Latham is busy fixing teams for a representative programme, not quite on the same lines as last time or the time before. Can we do as well as before?

There will be the usual children's performance at 4 p.m. Evening performance will be at 8 p.m. Prices for the children's show will be 12½p and 25p. In the evening, prices will be 35p, 50p, 65p and 75p.

More details later, but have you written the date in your diaries???

WILL GREEN

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SECRETARY'S NOTES

A meeting of the Committee was held on 6th November. All Committee members were present.

Balance as at 31.10.71: £1493.68                      Membership: 250

The costumes and assets of the Los Ibericos Group were discussed, and the whereabouts of the costumes now that the Group has been disbanded. This is being investigated.

The Chatham Show to be held in February 1972 was discussed in detail. The Sub-Committee for production of the Show are Bert Price, Margery Latham, and Harry Whitaker. It was suggested that as so many groups now exist within the Society, the programme should consist of ten-minute items from as many different groups as possible. The Sub-Committee hope that a detailed Dance Programme for the Show can be finalised by the end of November.

The Junior Section was discussed and plans laid for the Dance Party on the 27th November. These Children's Afternoons have proved to be a great success and it was agreed that they should continue. Discussion took place on the most suitable dances to be taught at these functions.

Other matters discussed: Christmas Party on 18th December, Walk in Epping Forest, Publicity, Demonstrations.

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I shall be organizing the Christmas Dance on the 18th December at The Dance Centre. We have decided to start off the evening with refreshments and we hope to have a noggin at 7 p.m. so that we can get the Dance off with a happy start. I have found that in the past two years members have been very generous in bringing titbits and the home brew. I would like once again to ask all you good folk to bring a little something to help out. I would like this Silver Jubilee Party to be something special, so, chaps, sort out the home brew, and all you good cooking ladies, sift out the flour; and a plea from the bottom of my heart PLEASE WEAR COSTUME, and Jean (Willson) please give us all a treat and wear your exotic Turkish gear! (as seen at Surrey Crest on one occasion).

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With reference to the position of Honorary Secretary for the next year: owing to the very large number of applicants we have found it necessary to whittle the number down to five. References are now being taken up and we shall arrange interviews as soon as possible!!!!

DOROTHY BRYAN, Hon. Sec.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION.

## CHRISTMAS IN UKRAINE

by Marusia Popowich

Christmas festivities signify something more to the Ukrainians than just the time for families to be reunited with their loved ones, the exchange of gifts or a time for merrymaking. To the Ukrainians, Christmas seems to have somewhat of a special meaning that unites all Ukrainians through some very rustic traditions that have been preserved for many centuries. Most of the customs observed at Christmas time have been handed down through many generations. They have become so closely interwoven into Ukrainian life that even today, although many of us have been born in countries outside the Ukraine, we faithfully cherish them.

The day preceding Christmas everyone is expected to remain at home. The day is to be spent in righteous living with no harsh words from anyone. All of the dinner will be fast-dishes prepared without meat and without dairy products. Usually during the day before Christmas meals are not served.

On the night of Christmas Eve, when the first star appears in the sky, the father brings the "deed" or "deedooch", (a sheaf of grain) into the house and greets the family, expressing joy that God has favoured them with good health and crops. He expresses hope that the family will have equal prosperity in the coming year. The sheaf is then placed in the corner of the dining room. A "yalynka" (Christmas tree) is usually decorated and placed in another corner. The old custom was to have a "snip" (a sheaf of wheat) instead of the "yalynka". The mother has already spread hay on the table over which she has placed a beautiful white embroidered tablecloth. In each corner, a clove of garlic is put to protect the table against evil spirits. Hay is also strewn under the table and often across the floor. Our legends tell us that this hay corresponds to the bed of hay upon which Jesus lay. In the centre of the table is the "kolach". This is a large round loaf of bread which usually is decorated by a rolled, twisted, braid of dough before baking. A candle is placed in the centre of the "kolach". On some tables, salt and a bottle of honey are placed at the side of the "kolach". This is to symbolize the earthly subsistence of man.

The "Sviata Vechera" (Holy Supper) consists of twelve courses, symbolic of the Twelve Apostles of Christ. Truly, the "Sviata Vechera" is a family festival. All members of the family are reunited. Even those members who have died since last Christmas have a place at the table. A dish is placed on the table so that their souls may come to be with the family on this day. The candle is lighted and before starting the "Sviata Vechera", the father blesses the food. A brief prayer follows. The father will pray aloud all the thoughts of every Ukrainian on this day. He will ask the Christ Child's blessings for the next year and "may all those present be again with us next Christmas, "Christos Razhdayetsia!" (Christ is born)". The family replies in unison "Slavite Yoho" (Glorify Him) and everyone joins in the traditional and most famous of Christmas carols "Bog Predvichney" (God the Eternal).

With this, the family begins the "Sviata Vechera". The first course is always the especially delicious "kutia" (wheat prepared by boiling honey, nuts, poppyseed and sugar). The "kutia" is served only at Christmas time. It symbolizes gratitude and thanksgiving for God's blessings. Usually no-one is permitted to begin eating anything else until the "kutia" has been tasted. Dish follows dish. There is "Borsch" (beet soup), sour cabbage, pea soup or fish soup. Fish is served in many different ways. It may be boiled, jellied, baked, or stuffed. Sometimes even

herring is served, usually specially prepared with onions and spices. Then follows the different "pyrohy" which are made of potatoes, cheese, sauerkraut, plums, poppyseed or berries. Holubtzi made of rice or buckwheat are also served. Stewed mushrooms with sauce is topped over all the food. For dessert, there are assorted pampushky, medivnyk, makivnyk, or khoosty. Fruit of any kind may be served, but the tradition is usually for cooked dried fruit. Mixed candy, nuts and fresh fruit follow. It is customary not to serve any liqueurs.

After the family has been taken care of, the mother can be seen putting a table-spoonful of each course on the special dishes set aside for the souls who have departed. These dishes usually are left on the table through the night.

When the supper is at an end, the family again joins in the traditional "Bog Fredvichney", and many other carols follow until late at night. The children receive gifts of nuts and apples and play games upon the straw that is spread under the table. Before going to sleep, the children hang their stockings at the foot of the bed for "Sviatety Mikolie" (St. Nicholas) to fill.

No sooner has the "Sviata Vechera" ended, when usually groups of "Kolyadnyky" (carollers) can be heard by the jingling of bells or their "Kolyada". The father permits the carollers to continue their song and when they have finished, small gifts are passed around. Sometimes the "kolyadnyky" will be invited into the house and the feasting starts all over again. In the older days, the carollers went from house to house, usually dressed in costumes depicting the manger. There would be a heralding angel, shepherds, three Kings, perhaps a Kossack and many times a comical character. Usually the leader would carry a "swizda", the star of Bethlehem, or a "wertep", the manger in miniature usually all hand-carved. When the group finishes their "kolyada", the leader extends greetings and good wishes to the household. Today, carollers everywhere collect donations for church causes or other charitable funds.

Early on Christmas Day, everyone is expected to go to church. The church is traditionally decorated with a manger - the Kings, shepherds, and cattle. Beautiful Christmas trees can be seen as well. After the services, another feast begins. However, this time it is not Lenten, but includes fowl, spiced ham, roasts and more delicious baked goods. Friends are invited and "kolyadnyky" are expected throughout the day. Carolling and feasting continues for the next two days after Christmas according to Ukrainian tradition. Church services, as can be seen, play a most important part in the celebration.

Thus, the four-day Christmas holiday is a most religious and colourful celebration. It is observed by young and old, by all Ukrainians no matter where they may be settled.

(Acknowledgment to "VILTIS")

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#### A NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES

BISHAM ABBEY WEEKEND. 21st-23rd January 1972. Usual weekend of dancing and walking, with some tuition. Cost approximately £3.50. Bookings, with a deposit of 50p to be sent to Prof. J.F. Richardson, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, Glam.

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 \* As I have had no response whatsoever to my plea for help with the SIFD NEWS, \*  
 \* I am repeating it below in the hope that one or two of our 250 members will \*  
 \* be willing to give a hand. \*  
 \*  
 \* WANTED - Volunteers to help with the SIFD NEWS. Help is required on two \*  
 \* evenings each month - usually between the 26th and 29th of the month. On the \*  
 \* first of these evenings, the NEWS is printed on the Roneo and one person is \*  
 \* required to assist the Editor - preferably the same person each month so that \*  
 \* she/he can learn to operate the machine. On the second evening, two or three \*  
 \* people are required to help with folding, stapling, putting into envelopes \*  
 \* etc. Volunteers should be willing to help regularly, and be able to be at \*  
 \* Will Green's office in Camberwell by about 6.15 p.m. (I could pick up anyone \*  
 \* in the City area between 5 and 6 p.m. and drive them there if necessary, or \*  
 \* Will may be able to pick them up at the Elephant or Oval underground stations). \*  
 \* Would anyone able to spare either one or two evenings a month to help, please \*  
 \* contact me. \*  
 \*  
 \*  
 \* ED. \*  
 \*  
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LOOKING AHEAD .....

One of the biggest opportunities ever offered to us in London is being discussed with the authorities of Islington Borough. For the Islington Festival, which will run for two weeks from 24th June till 8th July next year, we have been invited to perform every night for at least one week (perhaps two) with a full programme each night.

Can we do it? Can we fill a hall five nights a week? Have we dancers with the stamina to supply three teams each night?

Margery Latham is again looking round at our resources of talent and availability in this holiday period. No definite fixture has been made, as this depends very largely on you. If you can give Margery any real encouragement, she will be able to negotiate some intelligent arrangement with Islington. She will need to know whether you will be available at that time - what groups you could dance with - what teams we could offer - how many evenings?

Bert Price in his Chairman's Notes last month said that 1971 was a busy year. Already plans for 1972 seem to be exceeding 1971's. We shall need many more helpers than we have, for the Committee cannot do more than normal superhumans can do.

WILL GREEN

AFFILIATED GROUPS

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday evening at Handsworth Wood Girls' School, Church Lane, Birmingham 20, from 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. as an Evening Institute Class. Secretary: Miss P. Baker, 27 Vernon Avenue, Birmingham 20.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC GROUP meet at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, London W.8., from 7 to 10 p.m. every Wednesday and Thursday evening. They learn and perform Czechoslovakian dances and are taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, London W5 5BU.

HARROW GREEN FOLK DANCE GROUP - details from George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, S.E.5.

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S.I.F.D. CLASSES

Autumn Term ends on 11th December 1971. Next Term commences on 3rd January 1972.

Fees: For one class a week .. .. £2.15      For two classes a week .. .. . £2.40  
       For three classes a week .. £2.90      For four or more classes a week ..£3.40

MONDAY

6.00 to 8.00	International Advanced	Christopher Hatton School	Margery Latham
7.00 to 8.00	Polish, Beginners	"	Betty Harvey
8.00 to 10.00	Polish, General	"	Betty Harvey

TUESDAY

6.30 to 8.30	Yugoslav, Beginners & Intermediate	Hugh Myddelton School	Ken Ward
8.30 to 9.30	Yugoslav, Advanced	"	Ken Ward
7.30 to 9.30	European National	Greenwich Institute	Bert Price
7.00 to 9.00	Hungarian & Romanian	Pinllico School	Alan McLean

WEDNESDAY

6.30 to 7.30	International, Beginners	St. Albans Hall	Margery Latham
7.30 to 9.30	International, Intermediate	"	Margery Latham
7.45 to 9.45	Israeli	Pinllico School	J. Barkan

FRIDAY

6.00 to 9.00	Hungarian & Romanian	Millbank School	Alan McLean
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CHRISTOPHER HATTON SCHOOL, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1.

HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1.

GREENWICH INSTITUTE, Charlton Manor School, Hornfair Road, S.E.7.

MILLBANK SCHOOL, Erasmus Street (off Vauxhall Bridge Road) S.W.1.

PIMLICO SCHOOL, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.W.1.

ST. ALBANS HALL, Baldwin Gardens, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1.

PROGRAMME FOR SOCIAL DANCES

		<u>Musicians</u>	<u>M.C.</u>	
Sunday,	5th December	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Wilf Horrocks
Sat.	18th December	Dance Centre	Cliff Harry and Wilf	Ian Willson
	2nd January	Cecil Sharp House	C.S.H. Band	Margery Latham

Time: 7 to 10 p.m. Admission: Cecil Sharp House, 25p members, 35p non-members  
Dance Centre, 20p members, 25p non-members.

Cecil Sharp House: No.2 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (Nearest Underground: Camden Town)  
Dance Centre: 12 Floral Street, W.C.2. (Nearest Underground: Leicester Square)

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WHAT'S ON

- December 4th HURDY-GURDIES AND BAGPIPES OF FRANCE. With colour film, slides, recordings. Free lecture at Horniman Museum, 3.30 p.m.
- 5th FOLK DANCES & SONGS by 14 National Youth Groups in exile: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Yugoslavia. 3 p.m. at Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London, W.6. Admission 50p, 35p, 25p. Information and tickets can be obtained in advance from Reverend Dr. J. Lang, S.J., 22 Ladbroke Square, London W.11 (Tel: 01-727 7849)
- 6th THE SOCIETY FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH BULGARIA are organizing a meeting to hear a report and see slides of the Folklore Conference held at Koprivshinitza, Bulgaria, earlier this year. 7.30 p.m. at the Balkan Tourist Board, 226 Regent Street, London, W.1. (basement room).
- 10th Barnet International Folk Dance Club's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE. The Dunav Balkan Group will be performing as well as providing music for dancing. 8 p.m. at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, Herts. Admission 40p including wine and Christmas fare. Enquiries to Brian Dowsett, 01-449 2121 (Home).

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S.I.F.D. SILVER JUBILEE CHRISTMAS PARTY

on

SATURDAY, 18TH DECEMBER 1971

at

THE DANCE CENTRE

7 p.m. till 11 p.m., starting with refreshments

M.C. Ian Willson      Three Musicians      Demonstrations      Admission as usual,  
No extra charge.

PLEASE COME IN COSTUME

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M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S A N D A H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

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## SERB-CROATIAN

Sretam Bozic,  
Vesela Nova Godina.

## AFGAN

Betarin arozo  
Baray salnow.

## LINGALA - CONGO

Kobotama Na Yesu.

## ETHIOPIAN (AMHARIC)

Melkham Yelidate Bealina  
Yedessita Addis Amet  
Imegnilarwotalehu!

## GAELIC-IRISH

Nolag Vah Guith Agus  
Blen Nua Fey Washa.

## GAELIC-SCOT

Nollag Chridheil;  
Blidhna mhath ur  
agus moran diubh.

## ROMANIAN

Sarbatori Fericite.  
La Multi Ani!

## SLOVAK

Vesele Vianoce.  
A stastlivy Novy Rok.

## PORTUGUESE

Feliz Natal e  
prospero Ano Novo.

## UKRAINIAN

Veselykh Svyat i scaslivo  
Novoho Roku.

## WELSH

Nadolig Llawen. Blwyddn  
Newdd Dda.

## MALTESE

Il-Milied it-Tajjeb,  
Is-Sena it-Tajba.

## HEBREW

Mo'adim Lesimkha.

## ICELANDIC

Gledileg Jol og Nyar

## FRENCH

Joyeux Noel at  
heureuse Annee.

## HUNGARIAN

Boldog Karacsonyi is Ujevi  
Unnepekert.

## POLISH

Wesolych Swiat Bozego  
Narodzenia i szczesliwego  
Nowego Roku.

## BULGARIAN

Tchestito Rojdestvo  
Hristovo. Tchestita  
Nova Godina.

## BASQUE

Zoriontsu Eguberri.  
Zoriontsu Berri Urte.

## CATALAN

Felic Nadal i Any Nuo.

## INDONESIA

Selamah Tahun Baru!

## ALBANIAN

Kreshendalat dhe.  
Motin e ri Gezuar.

## ARMENIAN

Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev  
Pari Gaghand.

## NORSE-DANISH

Glaedlig Jul og  
godt Nytt Aar.

## SLOVENE

Vesele Bozicne!  
Srecno Novo Leto!

## GREEK

Kala Christougena kai  
Eftikhes to Neon Ethos.

## SAMOAN

Ia Maunia Le Kilisimasi  
Ma Le Tausaga Fou.

## TURKISH

Yeni Yilinizi kuthar.  
Saadetler Dilerim.

## RUSSIAN

Pozdrevlyayu vas s  
prazdnikom Rozhdestva  
Kristova i s Novim  
Godom.

## KAWERUK ESKIMO

Kwi-anatowok Kusamasik  
elip-nun Kuwaswin  
Nutahme Ooganwami.

## FINNISH

Hyvaa Joula. Onnellista  
Uutta Vuotta.

## ESTONIAN

Roomsaid Joulu Puhi Ja  
Uut Aastat.

## DUTCH

Zalig Kerstfeest en  
een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar.