

# SIED NEWS

NOVEMBER 1975

## Ringel Tanz



Es reg-net auf der Brü-cke, und ich werd' nass.)

Ich hab' noch was ver-ges-sen, und weiss nicht was?)



Schö-ne Junq-fer hübsch und fein Komm mit mir zum



Tanz he-rein, Lass uns ein-mal tan-zen und lus-tiq sein.



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

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\* This month's cover, showing "Ringel Tanz" \*  
from Germany, is by Lesley Boorer

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#### HALSWAY MANOR

The Halsway Manor weekend to be held from 30th April to 2nd May, as shown on the list sent out with last month's NEWS, will be organized by Michael Clark and the estimated cost will be £10.30. Would everyone who wishes to book for this weekend, including those who put their names on the list at the last Halsway Manor weekend, please indicate on the list sent out last month, if they have not already done so. If anyone who has not been to Halsway Manor before would like details, would they please contact Michael Clark, 14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants. Tel: Fleet 4663.

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE  
DECEMBER ISSUE MUST REACH THE  
EDITOR BY 15TH NOVEMBER.

I would like to welcome all new members and to say a few words about the S.I.F.D. It must sometimes be puzzling to newcomers who join a class or group just to enjoy dancing some of the dances of other lands and find themselves in a world of interlocking groups of social dancers, specialists etc., people amongst whom certain names continue to crop up and between whom there seems to exist a kind of freemasonry. Well, it would need a Machiavelli to unravel all the interlocking components which go to make up the S.I.F.D. Often I find myself explaining some of the finer points of our raison d'etre even to longstanding members.

In some respects, your Committee is a prisoner of the Constitution. Although it is based on a simple principle, namely to promote folk dances of other countries and to perform them in an authentic manner, different branches have grown up reflecting different aspects of our aims as seen through different eyes. The Chairman, aided by his Committee, has the unenviable job of balancing all the various interests, and especially those of dedicated specialist dancers who wish to over-emphasize their own particular favoured countries' dances and by so doing threaten the balance that must be observed if we are to consider the benefit of all. In the past, we have seen many 'aficionados' over-emphasize different countries' dances. We have seen affiliated groups rise to prominence and sway the balance for a time, but always a state of equilibrium is reasonably quickly reached.

The bonds of a common interest have produced many members who have enjoyed giving their own time and money to further the aims of the S.I.F.D. These will be the names which you will hear mentioned over and over again. Jack Richardson is not paid to run the Swansea Course, nor Lily Southgate to produce the SIFD NEWS; we do not pay Harry Whitaker to spend hours doing the accounts, nor the auditors to check them. We do not pay those people who organize weekends for your benefit, and neither do we pay the Committee members their fares to attend meetings. Basically, we are a self-help group who give of their best for the benefit of all.

We have an income, from the sale of books and records, which is available to us thanks only to the work done freely by many of our older members. Nevertheless, we must keep a balance in our finances and must endeavour to see that all of our activities make an effort to pay their own way, or almost. For this reason, and since paper and postage continues to increase in cost, the membership fee for 1976/77 will need to be revised. You may hear that we give money away to various members with a good cause that they wish the Society to subsidise. This is definitely not true, although aid (even financial) may be granted as a loan, subject to the Committee's approval after due consideration (another unenviable task for the Chairman and his Committee).

Our activities, to anyone interested in international folk dancing, are all-embracing. We run Social Dances, Classes, Examinations, Day Courses, Weekends, and once every two years our annual Summer School. We encourage specialist classes and groups within the Society; we provide demonstrations, and we occasionally hold a big Festival of Dancing in a Town Hall

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or Theatre. Teaching authentic national folk dances, planning courses by national experts, and arranging Socials where the dances may be performed is our primary function. We use many ways to achieve our objects; coax, cajole, make a small loan, encourage some people into making a greater effort, hold back some whose enthusiasm takes them too far down a divergent path, encourage members to organize various functions of their own and endeavour to see that these are well publicised to receive the support required. Many of you will find that the multiplicity of our activities is rather bewildering; you may wish that we could direct you into a choice of which branch to follow. We cannot. Basically we offer to introduce you to the many facilities which we have created and we leave it to you to make your own decisions and to enjoy your folk dancing in your own way.

So, as I have said before, the S.I.F.D., like the Holy Roman Empire (which was neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire), is very difficult to define. It carries a wealth of enjoyment and comradeship within its confines. "Those who would gain the wealth of the Indies must carry the warmth of the Indies within their hearts." I, on behalf of the Committee and of all the older members, offer all new members the wealth of the Society which we have built and which we hope you will not only perpetuate but refurbish, initiate new movements, create new groups, and enrich our movement with new ideas on how to enlarge the Society within its only immutable aim - to perform the dances of all nations in their correct and authentic form.

Per authentica ad astra.

BERT PRICE

P.S. I also recommend that you be not too intensive in your dancing but cultivate other interests as well. Walking in the countryside is one which fits very well with weekending and dancing in the evening. Another interest which I personally enjoy is gardening and in this respect, since I have a vast empty space up here in Lincolnshire, I would ask any of you who can supply me with a few cuttings of your perennials to bring them along to Cecil Sharp House or to the A.G.M. I'll be glad to receive them and will remember them in future as "Joan's phlox", "Tom's lilac" or "Jill's buddleigh".

B.P.

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#### NOTICE TO HONORARY MEMBERS AND LIFE MEMBERS

I am bringing my record cards up to date and would like all Life Members and Honorary Members to let me have their present address and confirm to me that they still wish to continue receiving the SIFD NEWS. Some names have been on my list for many years and may have moved, emigrated, changed their name, lost interest, or even died. For the purpose of bringing my circulation list up to date, I will assume you have done one (or all) of these things unless I hear from you.

ED.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

A Committee meeting was held on 7th October and attended by all Committee members except Alan McLean, who sent apologies.

Balance as at 30.9.75: £2953.56. Membership 247.

Matters discussed

Applications for affiliation were accepted from Barnet Group, Kensington Slavonic Dancers, Hillel House Group, Barlow Group and Harrow Green.

It is regretted that the Children's Dances have had to be discontinued owing to lack of helpers. If there is sufficient interest we may resume the Children's Dances in the New Year.

Tapes and instructions for the dances taught at the Balkan Day Course last December are now available. See page 8.

Day Courses have been arranged until June 1976.

In 1977, instead of holding a Summer School at Swansea, we shall be holding one at Edinburgh University. The dates will be 23rd to 30th July 1977 and the course will be organised by Joan Henderson, with the help of other SIFD members.

DOROTHY BRYAN,  
Hon. Sec.

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ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY? ALREADY?

Only a few short months ago, it seems, we had our Silver Jubilee Year, but next year, 1976, will be our THIRTIETH year of existence as SIFD. The years fly very quickly, don't they? No doubt we shall have some celebrations. Perhaps the "annual" Reunion Dance will be revived for just this year; perhaps a special issue of SIFD NEWS will make some impact on our members; perhaps we shall reach the dizzy heights of a half-thousand members? Whatever we do, we shall have to start thinking about the coming year very soon. At least two of the most important officers of the Society will cease to hold office, and whoever takes over will be involved in the celebrations.

For my part, I have leaned very heavily on Harry Whitaker as Treasurer, and hope he will still be around and on the Committee to help a new Treasurer into the routine. And even though Bert Price will not be in the Chair, we do know that he will be constantly coming forward with his ideas for new projects and stimulating people into activity. We shall miss both.

Now, how about the 30-years' jubilee (I'm sure someone will come up with a name for it - Orange Jubilee or Emerald, or something). But what are we going to do to mark the event? Any ideas?

WILL GREEN,  
90 Wells Way, Camberwell,  
S.E.5.

I believe 30 is 'pearl' as in King and Queen or mother of. What about a cockney theme? (K.B. HON. TYPIST)

## GATHERING IN THE ROAD

This title was given to a small programme sent out by Warsaw television in July of this year, and I had the good fun of going along with the crew when it was filmed. The subject of it was a 'primitive' folk group from a small village called Lipnica - way out in the beautiful countryside around Nowy Sacz in the foothills of the Beskid mountains.

After rattling along for about 20 kms. in the television van, we arrived at the Dwar (old Manor House) which was our meeting place. Though the gardens surrounding it had disappeared with the years (it had ceased to be a private dwelling since the last war) it was a very romantic and peaceful setting in the late afternoon sun, with its lush grass and heavily perfumed lime trees, and with a small river at the bottom of the lane where the gathering was to be.

Several older people in costume were already there, getting excited about their appearance on television and waiting for the younger people to finish work in the surrounding fields and join them. I had ample time to chat with one or two of them, finding, to my surprise, I could follow their slow and simple speech quite well. This was entirely different from the strong dialect spoken in the not so far off Tatra mountains, which even the average Pole finds very difficult to follow.

Soon, amidst flurries of dust, the others began to arrive - mostly on bicycles. The boys had their be-flowered hats already on the backs of their heads and the rest of their costumes in battered old suitcases which they had perched precariously behind them, along with their girl partners sometimes! The young people's costumes were mostly new - the girls in the predominantly red flowered skirts and heavily embroidered black velvet bodices of that part of Poland, and the boys in blue trousers and cream linen summer coats. The old people's original costumes were more interesting, though not at all rich as in some of the villages around Nowy Sacz. The women's bodices, with their fluted and braided peplums were in a mixture of plain colours, sometimes brown with a wide horizontal band of green or blue, or wine with purple, and were worn over plain, long, and very full skirts. The beautiful embellishments were their sparkling white lace aprons and brilliantly patterned and fringed shawls which they carried. The old men had dark trousers tucked into very heavy high boots, beautifully tooled and decorated wide leather belts, and very voluminous cream felt coats trimmed with black braid.

Soon there was the hubbub of fiddles tuning, arguments, laments (one of the girls had sprained her ankle and couldn't get a boot on), geese being shooed out of the way, children prised off the television equipment etc., and finally a kind of proba (rehearsal) began. This started with some words from the leader gathering the families together, and the bestowing of the betrothal 'corals' on one of the young girls. Then the girls sang, were joined by the boys, and the betrothed couple led them into a fast polka. After that, it was the older folks' turn to sing and dance, and I must admit that was far more interesting for me. Taking it all more naturally than some of the young, who tended to look a bit stiff and overawed by the occasion, they danced their snippets of waltzes and polkas with great verve and character, each of the men singing an introductory verse or so. The first old man was tall and gaunt - completely toothless, but with a fine presence, a good strong voice, and a very definite gleam in his eye!

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But my favourite character was a tiny little man who didn't appear to have a partner and had been standing disconsolately on the side for some time. He had very large spectacles and his hat well down over his ears, and looked like a little elderly clerk amongst all the more bucolic types. His costume had very definitely not been made for him - the coat was so long you couldn't see his feet when he stood in the grass, and unless he kept his arms bent upwards his hands disappeared likewise! However, suddenly he sprang to life, sang a verse in a rather quavering voice, and seizing a very large lady, swept her in into what was meant to be a polka but which he danced like an oberek! We all held held our breath - surely he must trip over that long coat on such rough ground, but he remained firmly anchored to his stalwart partner till she, I suspect, steered him safely to a halt.

Throughout all this session, the older women remained calm and graceful, with beautiful relaxed smiles on their brown weather-beaten faces. Their unhurried and dignified bearing was something to be appreciated in this age of tension and bad posture.

The sun was by now fast sinking behind the distant hills as the group walked slowly towards it, singing the last song together, rough and sometimes discordant, but a perfect memory for me of the 'real' thing in that beautiful summer Polish countryside.

BETTY HARVEY

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#### POLISH CLASSES

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m., Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

#### YUGOSLAV CLASSES

Every Tuesday at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. Beginners 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Advanced 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Ken Ward.

#### INTERNATIONAL CLASSES

Every Wednesday at St. Albans School, Baldwin Gardens, Grays Inn Road, W.C.1. Beginners 6 to 8 p.m., Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Tutor: Margery Latham.

#### HUNGARIAN/ROMANIAN CLASSES

Thursdays, 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. and Fridays 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, Chelsea, S.W.1. Tutor: Alan McLean. Beginners are asked to come on Thursdays.

Fees: £3.50 per session for 1 class per week, £3.75 per session for 2 classes.

BALKAN COURSE TAPES

The tapes, cassettes, and written instructions for dances taught by Ken Ward last December during the Day Course at Hugh Myddelton School are now, belatedly, ready. If you ordered these and still wish to have a copy, please send £1 plus 15p postage to: Will Green, 90 Wells Way, Camberwell, S.E.5. Please state whether open reel tape or cassette. Instructions will be sent with either.

If there are any spares after those who ordered have taken up their orders, by the end of November, these will be available to anyone who wishes to have them and sends the money and a stamped addressed envelope to Will Green.

Dances taught were: Poskok, Ti Momo, Djurdjevka, Igrale se Delije, Vljajnica, Zarbarka, Potrculka, Klekuska, Bufcansko, Sadila Sem Rogozek.

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MAKEDONSKA DEVOJČE

Last month we gave in the NEWS a guide to pronunciation for the words of the song "Makedonsko Devojče". Ken Ward has asked me to point out that the "k" sound in Macedonian is now equivalent to the Serbian "č". Both are pronounced "ch", viz. devojk<sup>e</sup> = devojč<sup>e</sup>.

The song is modern 'pop folk' and was written by Jonče Hristovski, Ken's first Macedonian dance teacher back in 1958. The song has become a legend and is virtually accepted as folk!

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"HUNGARIAN FOLK DANCES"

I should like to bring to the notice of members the publication of the first book printed in English of "Hungarian Folk Dances" written by Gyorgy Martin and edited by Prof. Gyula Ortutay, leading members of the Academy of Sciences, which is a complete bibliography of dances and songs of all regions, as well as Transylvania, and includes many coloured plates of folk costumes. Priced as just over £1, this book is a real gem and is years overdue.

ALAN McLEAN

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ALBANIA

It is hoped to organize another trip for folkdancers to Albania next year, with the emphasis on folkdance instruction. Would anyone interested please contact me at the address below.

IAN PRICE,  
10 Heath Close, Hampstead Way,  
London, N.W.11.



I am pleased to report that 13 members of our "Balaton" (Hungarian) dance group spent a most enjoyable and instructive month in Hungary travelling by Minibus and train, having a pretty hectic time and getting involved in incidents which at the time seemed pretty serious but which we can now have a good laugh at in retrospect.

After crossing Belgium, Germany and Austria, using Youth Hostels on the way, we arrived at the Hungarian frontier in jubilant mood in broiling heat. In past years, having nobody in the group who could cope with the Hungarian language, we have normally passed through the Customs within minutes. However, on this occasion one of our Hungarian-speakers, when asked whether we had any guns on the 'bus, replied jokingly that we had machine-guns as well - which led to unloading every article from the 'bus and having all the baggage searched, which took a considerable amount of time and energy. What a pity the English sense of humour seems confined to this island! (A chorus or two of the girls' songs from their dances did help to ease the situation somewhat).

Our first port of call was at Tata in the camping ground, where we spent some days with the new Tata Dance Group. This small town adjacent to Tatabanya (a mining town whose dance group I first saw in London) boasts a new Culture House with a theatre, cinema, practice rooms, Youth Club, photographic rooms; also an open-air theatre (most towns in Hungary have at least one such open-air theatre and Culture House); also a very beautiful lake for boating and swimming and a medieval castle. This is also the centre for the Hungarian Olympic teams. The new Tata group was brought into existence about three years ago by an ex-member of the Tatabanya group and at present consists of a first group of 36 dancers and a second group of 40 dancers, mostly between the ages of 14 and 18 years. We were delighted to learn that they wanted to "twin" with our own London group, which pleases us immensely. We learned during this visit that several new dance groups had come into existence under ex-members of other groups and practising dancers from the top groups.

From the Tata Group, we learned a very beautiful Transylvanian girls' dance (Szeki Dalok) which incorporates quite an amount of singing, and also quite a short girls' dance (Dunafalvi Leánytanc) which could quite easily be danced at the Cecil Sharp House Social Dances. In addition, we learned two new men's "Verbunkos" (recruiting dances), one from Kapuvar and the other from Marosszek.

From Tata we moved on to Budapest for some days and spent many hours at rehearsals and performances of the Budapest State Ensemble, who did two 8-weeks' tours in England within the last year, and some of the leading amateur groups, particularly at the Folk Centre Theatre on the Buda side of the Danube, at which performances are given every evening of the year by the Budapest group or top amateur groups. The difference between the professional Budapest groups and some provincial amateur groups is really minute. In fact, it is true to say that many of the amateur groups spend as much, if not more, time at rehearsals than the professionals. During this period, we learned another Transylvanian couple dance, which was relatively simple and we understand was Saxon in origin. We were pleased that Sybil Chapman from Droitwich was able to join us in this, as she was fortunate enough to be in Hungary early enough to attend the famous Szeged Festival and the Kalocsa and Debrecen Festivals. During our few days in

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Budapest, our various drivers picked up two or three fines on the spot for making U turns and parking offences. Budapest must boast of the most complicated one-way system of any town in Europe (and I think I must have trundled my various motorbikes round most cities in Western and Eastern Europe). At the moment, they are reasonably free from the private motorcar. It remains to be seen what happens with their system when their roads are as choked as our own.

We decided to spend a few days cooling off at Lake Balaton and parked our tents on the water's edge at one of their many camping grounds watching the beautiful sunrises and sunsets across the hills on the other side of the lake. Cooling off was hardly the word in air temperatures of over 90F and water temperature well over 80F. However, there are considerable cultural and sporting activities going on around the lake, and we enjoyed contacting again the Siofok Dance Group whom we knew five years ago. Tourists abound at the lake, mostly from Czechoslovakia and Poland, but the few Western Europeans stay at Siofok, the main town.

From literature supplied by the National Tourist office, we learned that the famous Kalocsa 4-day Festival was planned for mid-August so we headed there for the first day, only to learn that this was a misprint and it had taken place in mid-July. However, we consoled ourselves with visiting two folk exhibitions and contacted the Kalocsa Senior Group and the High School Dance Group. We do perform one of their dances.

Our next port of call was Szekszard, county town of Tolna, which I had visited some years ago when the leading London Co-operative Society choir performed in their Festival. We stayed in a camping ground on the banks of the Danube, where we were visited nightly by mosquitoes, but the manager of the camp (which boasted a television room, hot showers and small cafe) took pity on us and charged us the princely sum of 8p per person per night. Oddly enough, he seemed to hold a responsible position at the local Culture House but was somewhat inebriated at the time he talked about prices.

From the Szekszard group, we learned the "Dobozsi Csardas", a beautiful dance in the regular programme of the Budapest State Ensemble. We were at first a little confused between this name and that of the most famous Hungarian cake, Dobos torta, which consists of layers of pure cream and chocolate, as do most Hungarian cakes.

Having heard from Magda Ossko that her "Vadrozsak" Group would be rehearsing on the Sunday prior to their performance at the open-air theatre on the Buda hillside on Constitution Day (20th August), we motored up from Szekszard, arriving at the H.Q. opposite Heroes Square, only to learn that they had rehearsed from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and had left. This gives one an idea of the dedication and enthusiasm of amateur dance groups in Hungary. Those who saw them in Lewisham a year ago will testify to the quality of their dancing. However, we were lucky enough to watch their performance on the 20th with a nearly completely new programme from a year ago. All Magda's many friends will be pleased to hear that her husband now seems to be in very good health.

To be continued next month....

CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY FOR CHILDREN

given by the Polish class

SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 1975, 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.

at HUGH MYDDELTON SCHOOL, CORPORATION ROW, CLERKENWELL GREEN, E.C.1.

Admission 10p including :- Dancing, Games, Tea.

We would particularly ask all those planning to bring children to let us (i.e. any member of the Polish class) have numbers well before the date, as catering for an unknown quantity can be something of a problem!

BETTY HARVEY,  
30 Regent Square, London, E.3.

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FOLK DANCE PARTY

A folkdance party with variations is being held by Gaye Saunte's class on Saturday, 8th November 1975. It is to be in a beautiful 17th century building, Charlton House, in Charlton Village, London, S.E.7. There is ample parking space, buses, and Charlton Station is nearby. The party will run from 7.30 to 11 p.m. and as tickets are limited to sixty, admission is by ticket only, at 70p. Please send money for tickets and stamped addressed envelope to Gaye Saunte, 50a High Street, Lewisham, S.E.13. Refreshments are included.

There will be a pop-type session for young people, and items of interest besides general international dancing. Please wear a costume.

This is the first event of the Greenwich Israeli Group which is prospering in Kidbrooke School, on Wednesdays, at 7.30 p.m. A sort of group First Birthday Party.

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DAY COURSE AT BRISTOL

Bristol International Folk Dance Group are running a Day Course and Social Dance at Friends Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, Redland, Bristol, on 22ND NOVEMBER 1975.

Teacher: Frances Horrocks. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. M.C. George Sweetland.

Course fee: 70p 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Dance: 50p 7.30 to 10.00 p.m.

Combined ticket: £1.00.

Places on the Course will be restricted, so if you wish to attend, please let Hilda Sturge know beforehand. Her address is: 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol.  
Tel: 0272 625750.

## AFFILIATED GROUPS

CANONBALLS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday during term time at Stanburn School, Stanmore, Middx. 7.30 to 10 p.m. (Nearest station Canons Park). Secretary: Miss J.G.S.Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.

If Affiliated Groups (after they have been accepted by the SIFD Committee) wish to have information about their place and time of meetings etc. printed in the SIFD NEWS, would they please let the Editor have the relevant details.

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## NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

The West Midlands Branch held their 1st Anniversary Dance on 11th October. Eight London members went to Birmingham to attend the Dance, which was preceded by a half-day Course in Yugoslav dancing taught by Ken Ward, supported by David and Linda Swanton, Kathleen French and Irene Keywood, and between these two events the first A.G.M. of the branch was held. There were 90 people at the Course, including dancers from Bristol, Coventry, Leeds, Malvern, Manchester, Pontypool and Sheffield, and it was a very enjoyable afternoon indeed. The Selpar Group had provided refreshments for the visitors wishing to stay on for the A.G.M. and the evening Dance.

Ken Ward chaired the A.G.M.; the treasurer's report was accepted; the group started with a float from the parent body of £50 and a £2 donation. Receipts from raffles, demonstrations, Dances, sale of badges etc. was over £244 and, after deducting various expenses, the balance for the year was £50.86, which is quite a good start. The proposed programme of events for next year was accepted, the present Committee offered their services for a further year, and the whole meeting took less than half an hour! We then all adjourned to change into costumes for the Dance. Members of Selpar Group acted as M.C.s, each taking a different country, and Ken Ward took Balkan interludes between each of the other countries, with revision of the afternoon Course. An excellent buffet was provided and the bar was open all evening.

Congratulations to the West Midlands Branch for putting on such a splendid anniversary day, and thanks to the Selpar members for their hospitality to the London members. Best wishes, West Midlands, for your continued growth in 1976.

MARGERY LATHAM

Weekly classes are held at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham, on Tuesdays, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Buses 2, 41, 45, 47. Fees £2.50 per term. Visitors and new members welcome.

## ALBANIA 1975

by George Sweetland

Continued from last month ....

Above the town is the fortress of Rozafat, which we reached after a fairly easy ascent, and was well worth a visit as there is a substantial amount of the castle still standing, and the view across Lake Skodra to the Yugoslav border was a wonderful sight. The castle must have been almost impregnable and is named after a local woman, Rozafa, who in the legend was sacrificed so that the building could be completed.

Wednesday saw us again lazing on the beach and in cafes, and as we now knew that the classes would start the day after our visit to Tirana, we made the most of our leisure time. The local cafe-bars were not exactly luxurious but they did provide coffee, which was quite good, beer with the alcohol content of lemonade, and various sorts of fire-water. We spent quite a lot of time in one or other of these, partly because the service on the hotel terrace was truly dreadful and partly because they were cheaper. In the late evening we tended to finish up in the "night-club", a bar in the basement of the main hotel, that boasted a three-piece band and stayed open until 2 a.m. Prices were not excessive and a favourite drink was a "Lumumba", chocolate spiced with brandy, several of which ensured a good night's sleep. There were quite a number of little bands up and down the beach, and without exception they played the worst of outdated Western "pop". We heard "Love Story" played continually.

The night Roland Minton lost his embroidery. After discussing with some of our more sensitive members the possibility of noting this tale for posterity in the NEWS, we concluded that it was not suitable for the eyes of its gentler readers. I have no doubt, however, that for those interested, our Membership Secretary would supply them with a detailed personal account. Suffice it to say, if any member is on holiday by the Adriatic Sea in the coming weeks and should see one of Roland's socks drifting by, perhaps they could retrieve it for him.

Tirana, as the capital, is by far the largest city, but as we had little free time at our disposal we only saw the immediate area around the hotel, which was on the main street. The avenue was wide, sufficient for at least five lanes of cars but as we crossed, it was totally devoid of traffic for its entire length. On either side were gardens, one with a large statue of Stalin and in the other a similar one of Lenin, and to my eyes they appeared to be glowering at each other. At one end was the main square, which was dominated by a mounted figure of Skanderbeg, the national hero who led the Albanians against the Turks in the 15th century.

Many of the exhibits in the museum had been shown at the Horniman, and one could only marvel at the work which must have gone into making such beautiful costumes. There were, as I have noted, difficulties in getting an overall ethnographical picture, but at any rate we did see parts of the jigsaw and perhaps later they will fall into place. In the afternoon, we listened to a lecture by the curator.

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The next day our hard work really began. The "maestro", two principal dancers, and a drummer, came to the hotel next morning and after some delay we found ourselves in the only available space, the "Games Room", which was most unsuitable for our purpose as it was long and narrow. First, we tackled what we eventually discovered was a suite of dances from Malesia and Tropojes. They were difficult as they were choreographed for professional dancers, and the dances, while the timing was fairly simple, used hands, arms and body to a considerable extent. We were fortunate in having Sid and Madelaine Chapman of the Hursley Folk Dance Group, and of course Ian Price and Kelsey Blundell, so that the rest of us were able to follow them. The daily tuition of three hours, divided into two sessions, was quite exhausting, but by the end of the third day we could make some showing with that item, so we passed on to three simpler dances. Two were line dances in couples, one in 7/8 time, the girls using scarves, and the second with a shoulder-shaking figure which our English bodies found a little tricky, and a third, which appeared to be partly extempore, for couples only.

On Saturday, as we were not encouraged to go to Durres on our own, two of the EFDSS contingent arranged an official visit for us as they wished to see the recently excavated amphitheatre. Most of the stonework above ground has been pillaged in the past but the underground passages and cells in which the lions were kept, when not in use so to speak, were still intact. It was estimated that the amphitheatre could accommodate 30,000 spectators which, according to our guide, indicates that Roman Durres had a population of 150,000, making it a city of some importance.

Before I close, I would like to say how much we appreciated the friendliness and assistance we received from all the Albanians we met, the ordinary people, our guides and interpreters, and of course our teachers from Tirana. They willingly gave their time and constant attention to what was a mixed bag of English dancers. Albturist, once our genuine interest in their folklore was established, made considerable efforts to make our visit a profitable one. Ian Price's hard work, too, was an important factor.

Our last engagement was a farewell party for our Albanian friends. Johnny Dear was responsible for the arrangements and Dorothy Bryan gave a Thank You speech to our guests, and the rest of us partnered them in some English and International dances. Peter Oakley and one of our other dancers performed a couple of Morris jigs, which were very well received, and altogether it was a fitting conclusion to a great holiday.

The flight back to England was somewhat fraught as our aircraft had to make three attempts at a touchdown at Belgrade, but no sooner had we made the second change at Zagreb than we were back in the organized chaos of Heathrow, exhausted but happy.

\* \* \* \* \*

WOULD ALL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY  
THE EDITOR, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

SUNDAY DANCES

- 2nd November Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.
- 16th November Trevelyan Hall, St. Anne's Lane, Great Peter Street, S.W.1.
- 7th December Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.

7 to 10 p.m.

Admission: 40p members, 50p non-members, for Cecil Sharp House  
30p members, 40p non-members, for Trevelyan Hall

A demonstration of Spanish regional dances will be given by Del los Campos at Cecil Sharp House on 2nd November.

\* \* \* \* \*

WHAT'S ON

- Nov. 8th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE, organized by Selpar Group, at Swanshurst School, Brook Lane (Outer Ring Road) Birmingham. SIFD members 30p, others 40p.
- 8th ESTONIAN DAY COURSE at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Tutor: Aily Eistrat. Fee 50p.
- 8th HALF-DAY COURSE IN FRENCH DANCING organized by Woodvale Group at Borough Green Village Hall, nr. Maidstone, Kent. 2.30 to 4.30 p.m. Fee 30p. Tutor: Simon Guest.
- 8th FOLK DANCE PARTY at Charlton Village. See page 11.
- 16th \*\*\*\*\*  
\* S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. TREVELYAN HALL, ST. ANNE'S \*  
\* LANE, GREAT PETER STREET, S.W.1. 5 P.M. PLEASE BE THERE \*  
\* PROMPTLY. THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*
- 22nd DAY COURSE & SOCIAL DANCE at Bristol. See page 11.
- 28th BALKAN EVENING organized by Barnet Group at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet. 8 to 11 p.m.
- 29th INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE organized by Barlow Group at Wilbraham Road U.R. Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester (junction of Withington Road). 7.30 p.m. Tickets 30p including refreshments, at door or in advance from A. V. Sallnow, 17 Heaton Rd., Withington, Manchester or G. Andrew, 18a Palatine Rd., Withington, Manchester. (You are invited to bring a bottle). Limited overnight accommodation may be arranged for visitors.
- Dec. 6th Ken Ward's Yugoslav group are holding a Balkan Dance evening at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, off Old Street, E.C.1. Admission 75p including food and drink. 7 to 11 p.m.

## TREASURERS REPORT 1975

Once again you will see from the accounts that we have closed our financial year with an excess of income over expenditure, but no where near as much as last year. However this is countered by the fact that we hold a far larger stock of Books, Records etc. now to the value of £1,800, so although our cash balances are not much different to last year, our total assets are considerably greater, despite increased admin and news costs.

To analyse the main items of the accounts, taking expenditure first:

### ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES:

These have trebled this year due mainly to inflation, postage, printing, paper like everything else have gone up by leaps and bounds, also in administration expenses I include membership expenses, which is mainly postage, and you all know how much that has increased.

### N E W S:

This is the item which has probably suffered more from inflation than any other postage, paper etc. and this year we have had quite considerable expense acquiring new addressing equipment for envelopes.

### P U B L I C I T Y:

This item is only a fraction more than last year, but I must add that Will Green has advertised very wisely, one of the results is reflected in the much larger sales of books etc.

### B A D G E S:

This was purchase of badges to be given with the teachers certificates and to members who qualify for proficiency badges, also stock of bronze badges for sale to members.

These are the main items of expenditure, now for income:

### M E M B E R S H I P:

Although the number of members increased last year by about 40, our income only increased by a few pounds, this could be having fewer London members and more Country members, or possibly because several members married this year and now have joint membership. I don't think we can grouse about that.



BOOKS RECORDS ETC:

Our net income from sales is down about £150, but as explained earlier we have purchased a very large stock, and as you can see receipts from sales have increased by approx. 150%. When I tell you that practically all these sales are attended to by Frances Horrocks, you can see it is like running a small business, and you can imagine the work she has to put into it. Thank you Frances, and well done.

S O C I A L D A N C E S:

I said in my report last year that I thought it would be a very long time before we made a surplus on our dances. How wrong can you be. This is the first time to my knowledge that we have made a surplus, only very small agreed. Cecil Sharp and Hillel House both covered themselves, but Trevelyan Hall made quite a large loss, and yet if only we can get 10 more people at these dances they would pay. To those of you who never go to Trevelyan Hall, Why Not? Be one of that 10. Please!

The other items of income are self explanatory.

Once again I am very happy to report that your Society is in a very sound financial condition, despite a wider spread of activities, and increase in equipment and stocks. I am particularly pleased to be able to say this this year as this is my last report as your Treasurer. When I took over as Treasurer in 1969, the Society's cash assets amounted to £300, although I feel pleased with the present day position, I am not trying to blow my own trumpet. What success the Society has had in these last 7 years is because we have had a stable Committee working amicably under a first class Chairman, and of course because a very large number of people throughout the Society do a lot of hard work, without saying much about it. Now I feel it is time for someone else to take over, next year's Committee will have quite a few new members, and I am sure they will bring a lot of new ideas to the Society.

In closing I want to thank those members I have served with these past years, particularly Bert Price, Dorothy Bryan, Roly Minton, Will Green and Frances Horrocks, thank you all very much, and of course I wish the new Treasurer and Committee every success, I will be around to help if required.

Members I have pleasure in presenting this my last report as your Treasurer.

HARRY WHITAKER

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1975

<u>Capital Account</u>		<u>Costumes</u>	1,093.50
Capital at 31st August 1974	4,336.55	<u>Equipment</u>	276.42
<u>Sundry Creditors (Reserves)</u>		<u>Badges</u>	58.80
Printers Account	150.00	<u>Payments in Advance</u>	
Rent Cecil Sharp House	36.00	Halsway Manor	20.00
*Rent Trevelyan Hall	18.00	Hawkwood	45.00
	<u>204.00</u>		<u>65.00</u>
		<u>Loans</u>	
		Selpar Group	50.00
		Balkan Group	60.00
		(Greenwich (Israeli Group	60.00
			<u>170.00</u>
		<u>Cash</u>	
		National Savings Bank	
		Investment a/c	2,207.68
		Ordinary a/c	53.03
		Barclays Bank Ltd	
		Deposit a/c	107.84
		Current a/c	286.44
		In hand	56.79
		Swansea a/c	52.25
			<u>2,764.03</u>
		EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	112.80
	<u>£4,540.55</u>		<u>£4,540.55</u>

STOCK IN HAND (NOT INCLUDED ABOVE)

106 Books @ 50p each	53.00
1,267 Records @ 85p each	1,076.95
46 Tapes @ £1.50	69.00
657 Cassettes @ £1	657.00
	<u>£1,855.95</u>

In our opinion, the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31st August 1975 and of its excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to that date.

HON. AUDITORS

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 1975

<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
<u>Membership Subscriptions</u>			<u>Administration Expenses</u>	342.74
1974/75	426.41		<u>Purchase of badges</u>	149.52
1975/76	<u>2.00</u>	428.41	<u>Social Dances</u>	
<u>Records, Books &amp; Tapes</u>			<u>Trevelyan Hall</u>	
Receipts	1,735.74		Payments	135.92
Payments	<u>1,222.60</u>	513.14	Receipts	<u>103.93</u>
<u>Social Dances</u>				31.99
<u>Cecil Sharp House</u>			<u>Childrens Xmas Dance</u>	10.74
Receipts	466.40		<u>Lewisham Show</u>	
Payments	<u>437.32</u>	29.08	Payments	57.00
<u>Hillel House</u>			Receipts	<u>21.96</u>
Receipts	29.53			35.04
Payments	<u>17.88</u>	11.65	(NOTE: £57.80 Receipt received last year)	
<u>Greenwich Show</u>			<u>Safari</u>	
Receipts	220.00		Payments	84.11
Payments	<u>201.70</u>	18.30	Receipts	<u>61.00</u>
<u>Courses</u>				23.11
Receipts less payments		52.81	(NOTE: £6.25 Payments included last year)	
<u>Donation</u>		1.00	<u>Selpar Group expenses</u>	58.85
<u>Interest received</u>			<u>Interfolk News</u>	333.93
Bank Deposit a/c	24.07		<u>Publicity</u>	149.09
National Savings Bank			<u>Insurance</u>	33.09
Ordinary a/c	3.45		<u>Excess of Income over Expenditure</u>	112.80
Investment a/c	<u>198.99</u>	226.51		
		<u>£1,280.90</u>		<u>£1,280.90</u>