



DECEMBER 1975

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Typist: Kelsey Blundell, 65 Lonsdale Avenue, London, E.6.

Other helpers last month: Nicolette and Theresa Saunte, Will Green  
and Ray Brown.

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This month's cover is by Lesley Boorer and shows Christmas characters from various parts of Europe: Befana, from Italy; St. Nicholas, from Holland; the Christ Child, from Alsace; Father Christmas from Britain; and Frau Percht from Austria. The first four all bring presents, but the last has to be given presents to go away!

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At the Annual General Meeting, the following Officers were elected:

Chairman: Simon Guest, 65 Crescent Road, New Barnet, Herts. Tel:  
01 440 4862.

Secretary: Edna Foster, 116d Marlborough Road, Bowes Park, N.22.

Treasurer: Dennis Wood, 12 Alpha Court, Hillside Road, Whyteleafe,  
Surrey.

Membership Secretary and Demonstration Secretary remain as before:

Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, N.1.

Margery Lathan, 14 Beechwood Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.

Tel. 01 876 7055.

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Sylvia Fulton has had to give up assisting me with the NEWS, owing to domestic commitments. She has been faithfully helping with the printing, folding and stapling, for about nine years, and has edited and produced the magazine when I have been away on holiday. I am sure you will all join me in thanking Sylvia most sincerely for all the help she has given over the years, for your benefit and mine.

ED.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The last meeting of the present Committee was held on 2nd November.

Balance as at 31.10.75: £3509.44          Membership: 304.

Requests for affiliation were received from the following groups -  
Folkestone, Harrow, Southampton. These were accepted by the Committee.

Demonstrations have been arranged for an Anglo-Italian evening at Ealing  
on 29th November and a Swedish item at Egham on 22nd December.

Publicity. It was agreed that we should reduce the size of the advertise-  
ment in the Y.H.A. Magazine, owing to the increased cost.

It was proposed that consideration be given to appoint one Committee Mem-  
ber to monitor all classes and affiliated groups and to give regular  
three-monthly reports of names and addresses and arrange for printed  
information to be distributed where required. This was agreed and will  
be done at the next meeting, under "job allocation".

A Christmas Dance will be held at Trevelyan Hall on 21st December, and  
we will try to make it a bit special. We would like the ladies to bring  
some dainties to eat and the men some home brew if they have any in hand  
and ready for sampling. Also, as we would like to put up a few decora-  
tions, anyone who could come along a little early, to blow up balloons  
etc., would be very welcome. Try to get your tickets in advance as we  
have to limit numbers at Trevelyan Hall (see below).

Simon and Joan Guest have once again agreed to run the New Year's Dance.

DOROTHY BRYAN  
Hon. Secretary

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GRAND CHRISTMAS DANCE

at TREVELYAN HALL, ST. ANNE'S LANE, GREAT PETER STREET, S.W.1.

SUNDAY, 21st DECEMBER 1975

7.00 to 10.00 p.m.

M.C.s.:          George Sweetland and Charles Steventon.

Musicians:      Wilf Horrocks and Cliff Beck.

Refreshments, wine, cheese, etc.

Raffle.

Tickets available from George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell  
New Road, S.E.5. or Roland Minton, 10 Benyon Court, Balmes Road, N.1.  
50p for adults, 25p for children.

## "BALATON VISITS HUNGARY"

(Continued from last month.....)

On that final evening, a huge fireworks display was to be given on the Buda hill outside the Citadel, which compelled everybody to remain on the flat Pest side. However, somehow or other, I missed the parking place of our 'bus, and had fun and games scanning the many thousands of faces along the riverbank both before and after the display, but eventually gave it up as a bad job and headed back during the night to the Tata camping ground, where we had agreed to spend the final night before our return. The others arrived back at about 2 a.m., having waited around, wondering whether I had "defected", found myself another wife, or just simply got lost!

In conclusion, quite apart from the considerable amount of cultural activity and glorious climate, I strongly recommend Hungary for holiday-makers. They admit to a 1% inflation and in my experience based upon 7 years of visits, some prices have not changed at all. Meal prices are very low and of excellent quality and quantity. One can still travel anywhere by Metro, 'bus or tram in Budapest for 1 forint or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  forints (50 forints to £1). Inter-city travel prices are also very low. This is part of the reason for the absence of privately owned motor cars, although this summer I was aware of the quite considerable increase in traffic over previous years. Entertainment prices are low, as are the cost of books, records, etc. and anything of cultural interest - taxation being non-existent. Camping costs are low, most camping grounds having also wooden bungalows, with dormitory type rooms or single or double-bedded rooms. Prices around 25p to 49p per night. Hungary joined the International Federation about four years ago and opened a string of rather large, modern, Youth Hostels in all its main towns. My favourite hostel in Budapest is the "Citadella", the old fortress on top of the Buda hill overlooking the Danube, which lies above the Tourist restaurant and wine cellars, where one can hear the strains of gypsy orchestras until the early hours of the morning, floating through the open windows. This is open 24 hours a day and costs 22 forints nightly, as it did seven years ago.

There are, of course, 1st, 2nd and 3rd category hotels or, if one prefers, Ibusz, the national tourist organization, will always fix you up with a private family for bed and breakfast in any town. You'll need a visa, which is very easily obtained at the various frontier points. From then on, you stay where you like and go where you like without interference.

So, back to another year of dancing and performances and looking forward to seeing some new members to swell our ranks, particularly musicians. We're still hoping to do more ambitious programmes, but one must have live music. This year, we are also hoping to encourage one of the amateur operatic societies to present either Kodaly's opera "Hary Janos" or his "Szekely Fono", which are full of beautiful Hungarian folksongs and dances. The film has been shown at the Festival Hall, but the operas have never been presented in the theatre in England.

ALAN McLEAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I have recently come across, and bought, the records described in the article below and thought that more members might like to know about them. I suspect that a lot of the dances would be very suitable for older dancers but the instructions only give a few of the simpler figures, steps etc. They are certainly an interesting set for use with children. I do not know how widely they are available. I bought mine from Discount Records Ltd., 51 York Road, Brentford, Middx. @ £1.49 each (three for £4.10) who, incidentally, have the same address as Peerless(!) who offer them for £1.99 each!

DR. G. D. TOWNER,  
41 Water Street, Cambridge.

"Hi Neighbor"

This rather corny title is that of a set of **five** (and possibly more) folk song and dance records for children produced under the auspices of UNICEF. Each record features four or five different countries\* and includes songs and dances from each country. Each record is accompanied by a leaflet which gives the words for many of the songs, and simple instructions for most, but regretfully not all, of the dances. A refreshing feature of this collection is that it does not confine itself to the European culture. The sources for the recordings are varied and include Radio Corporations, Embassies, "Folkways" etc. and not all are pure folk. Some of the tracks have a lot of surface noise on them.

The serious adult dancer would not find many dances to his taste and would not be satisfied with the instructions, but the teacher concerned with children will find a wealth of varied material, and the instructions more than adequate. The general listener will find in them a delightful set of community songs and dances from many parts of the world.

- \*Peerless PRCC 104 - Brazil, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Turkey.
- Peerless PRCC 105 - Guinea, India, Iran, Mexico, Poland.
- Peerless PRCC 126 - Jamaica, Madagascar, Ceylon, the Philippines.
- Peerless PRCC 125 - Burma, Guatemala, Spain, Sudan, Egypt.
- Peerless PRCC 124 - Indonesia, Italy, Lebanon, Paraguay, Uganda.

G. D. TOWNER

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Dear Lily,

Through the SIFD NEWS, may I thank all those who made Hawkwood such an enjoyable weekend. To Roy Clarke and all his hard work and hours of preparation, to the 'official' teachers, Margery Latham, Sybil Chapman, Janet Loader and George Sweetland, and the 'unofficial' teachers, Irene Keywood and Kathy French, who helped me so much on points of style and sequence notation. Thanks also to Wilf Horrocks who helped on the music side.

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One thing struck me forcibly; whilst it was good, as always, to see so many old friends, I was left wondering, "Where are the new faces?". Do the new SIFD members go on other weekends away, or to Sunday Dances and/or classes, or aren't there any new members? Certainly at Swansea there were many new faces, but I am not sure how many were SIFD members. At Hawkwood there were but a few of the new generation and this alarmed me, as any organization needs a steady injection of fresh blood in order to remain healthy. This is not intended as a criticism but as an interested observation.

News from Newport is that four of us went to Hawkwood and enjoyed it sufficiently for us to place our names at the top of the forward booking list. Our group now meets weekly and this has stimulated interest, and amongst our new members is a musician who is eager to learn.

Best wishes,

SUE CLARK,  
31 East Grove Road,  
Newport, Gwent.

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TREVELYAN HALL

We have held a "second" monthly Dance at Victoria for some eighteen months, moving there from Floral Street Dance Centre when the increased rental made our losses too great to sustain. For some time, Trevelyan Hall appeared to be reasonably successful, but in the last few months, attendance, particularly of girls, has fallen off considerably. Through Will Green's good offices, we have publicised the Dances as much as possible, and we also arranged for different M.C.s such as Frances Horrocks, Gaye Saunte and Sylvia Fulton, but to no real effect.

All sorts of reasons for this failure are possible; the location, the general lack of variety in the M.C.s etc., but we have received no concrete suggestions for an alternative venue or for additional "callers".

I am personally very disappointed, and I had hoped that an extra Sunday Dance would give dancers who felt there was not enough time at Cecil Sharp House to indulge in their special fancy, whether it be Polish, Balkan, or whatever, an additional opportunity to dance there just for fun. However, it is obvious that there is no real call for a second Dance, at least not in the circumstances we can provide, so very reluctantly I must point out that January will be the last occasion I will be organizing it. In the remote possibility that there is a need for Trevelyan Hall Dances, members must demonstrate that the interest is there, now. Alternatively, I would be only too happy to pass over the responsibility to a new organizer, in the hope that a fresh approach might find an answer.

May I take this opportunity to thank Wilf Horrocks, Roland Minton, Cliff Beck, and also Harry and Irene Whitaker for helping out with the catering.

GEORGE SWEETLAND,  
28 Hayes Court, Camberwell  
New Road, London, S.E.5.

## BACKGROUND TO ALBANIA

Albania takes its name from the Albanes, an Illyrian tribe who occupied the Durres region in the 2nd century B.C. The country is small, only slightly larger than Wales, with two-thirds of the area covered by rugged mountains, and the fertile coastal lowlands accounting for the remainder. Its history is typically Balkan, with the main exception that it was not settled by the Slavs and Bulgars so that the ethnic stock is basically Illyrian, as is suggested by the language. From Roman times on, the land became part of the Byzantine, Venetian, and Turkish empires. After the 1914-1918 war, for a few years it became a "Ruritainian" monarchy under King Zog, until 1939 when the Italians invaded once again. By 1945 it was by far the most backward country in Europe and, as the only organized group, the Communist partisans were the only practical contenders to form a Government. In the post-war period, Russia, as elsewhere in the East, attempted to dominate Albanian politics, whereupon Enver Hoxha, the Head of State, turned to China for material assistance and, in fact, much of the equipment we saw was Chinese.

There appears to be little or no real poverty; both children and adults are adequately clothed and fed, but there are none of the adjuncts to living which are regarded as normal in the West. For example, there are no private cars at all, except for a few used by administration officials. Personal freedom, too, seems to be non-existent as indicated by the total ban on religion. This, when in 1938 75% of the population were Moslem, must create difficulties. Gypsies too, according to the official line, are no longer allowed to roam at will and are now part of the settled communities.

In general, the State's sensitivity to the backwardness of its people in the recent past appears to make it isolationist in the extreme, and it seems reluctant to allow that religious, foreign, and gypsy influences have had any effect on costume, music, etc. An instance of this was the difficulties we experienced in trying to elucidate the facts relating to references by Western writers to a tribal system existing until fairly recently.

That Albania, particularly in regard to its small area, has an amazing variety of beautiful costumes is obvious, even to the casual observer, and the following summary of an explanatory leaflet from the catalogue of an exhibition of Albanian folk art at the Horniman Museum in 1965 (which I imagine was approved by the Albanian ethnographers) may help to give a general outline. It does, however, seem to contradict some of the explanations we were given during our visit.

"Albania (Shqipëria) has two main dialects, one spoken by the Gëgs north of the Shkumbi river, and the other by Tosks to the south. Distinctive elements in folk costume are the Gëne, or long coat derived from Illyrian sources and the Xhuplete, or flared skirt, found near Skodra which has similarities to Ancient Cretan models.

"The Geg men have tight woollen trousers with black and white embroidery in the summer and white, black or brown in winter, leather moccasins, tight waistcoat, and a coat over all, heads being shaven. Women have pantaloons under a full shift, a blouse with belt, a waistcoat, and a long decorated coat. Designs vary from tribe to tribe, some wearing embroidered headdresses with coins attached.

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"Tosk men have knee breeches with leggings, waistcoat, and embroidered jacket, white cloth cap, and woollen cloak. The pleated linen skirt (Fustenella) is worn on ceremonial occasions. The women wear a linen shift, dark bodice, long white cloak to the ankle, loose white drawers, and a coloured headscarf.

"When preparing for marriage, girls make as many as a dozen pairs of shifts and drawers, and fifty pairs of socks, partly for the obligatory wedding gifts to friends. Men's clothes, after initial preparation of the cloth, were made by a tailor in the nearest town.

"Hobhouse, Byron's companion on his travels, described Albanian costume as "incomparably more elegant than any worn in the Turkish empire"."

GEORGE SWEETLAND

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#### NEWS FROM THE MIDLANDS

"Selpar" Group will be holding a Dance on 6th December with something of a Christmas flavour. Contributions in the way of mince pies etc. would be welcome, along with the cooks. The Dance will be at Kings Norton United Reform Church Hall, Watford Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham 30. (Outer Circle 'bus No. 11). The entrance is to the RIGHT of the main doors.

Anyone in the Salisbury area please note; at 10.55 a.m. on Saturday, 8th November, Charlie Chester read out a message on the radio from Frank Phillips, an accordionist of experience who is offering his services FREE and asking only his fares and a cuppa if anyone is interested in his playing for them! How often is there a group of dancers without a musician - here's the musician, where are the dancers? Anyone interested should contact Charlie Chester, B.B.C. Radio 2 and a contact will be made. Thought you'd like to know!

All the best and a very Happy Christmas to all dancers.

SYBIL CHAPMAN

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#### POLISH JUMBLE SALE

SATURDAY, 24th JANUARY 1976. 3 p.m. at BROMLEY PUBLIC HALL, BOW ROAD, E.3.

Please sort out anything you don't want - old clothes, books, bric-a-brac etc. and let any member of the Polish class know, and we will arrange collection.

BETTY HARVEY



HARROW GREEN WEEKEND

A Residential Course and Social is being arranged at the Granville Hotel at Cliftonville, near Margate, for the weekend of 20th/22nd February 1976. It is expected that there will be three or four tuition sessions, one of which will probably be an introductory class for complete beginners (provided the composition of the party justifies it), and the remainder by specialist teachers. A Polish class has been included, Ken Ward will be teaching Yugoslav dances, and there will be the usual Saturday evening Social Dance.

The cost will be approximately £8.00 (some small additional sum may be necessary for expenses), and a deposit of £2.00 will be required with each application. Children can be accommodated at a reduced rate, according to age.

It is very much hoped that new members of the Society, and of affiliated groups, and anyone else who may be interested, even if totally new to folk dancing, will join us on what we are sure will be a most enjoyable weekend.

Please send your deposit to me by the end of December, at the same time indicating the sort of tuition you would prefer, i.e. Beginners, Polish, Balkan, or any other. George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road, London, S.E.5.

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"YACY TACY"

Although the Polish class in its present constitution is now in its 11th year, we have never used any name other than S.I.F.D. Polish Group when dancing in demonstrations and concerts. For a number of reasons - not least the controversy over what constitutes an S.I.F.D. group/class, we decided last year that we needed a name, and have been researching and cogitating ever since over which of many suggestions we prefer. Our decision, "YACY TACY" (pronounced Yatsy Tatsy) is difficult to translate literally, but means, "We are such as we are" or "We are of a kind", and these words come from a very famous old Krakowiak tune. As we have always especially enjoyed dancing Krakowiak, but at the same time are only too aware of the fact that we are foreigners practising another country's dances, we feel this is quite appropriate!

BETTY HARVEY

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DANCING WEEKENDS, 1976

HAWKWOOD (February 6th/8th) and HALSWAY (April 30th/May 2nd) still have vacancies at the time of going to Press. If you posted your slip during October, you can take it that you have a firm booking.

DUNFORD (June 25th/27th and September 24th/26th) is full, and names can be taken for waiting list only. If you posted your form during October, your booking is firm unless you have had a note to say you are on the waiting list. All bookings received from November onwards are on the waiting list.

J. F. RICHARDSON

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, Kentor, Harrow, Middx.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meets every Friday at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, from 8 to 11 p.m. Details from the Secretary: Mrs. Janet Heathfield, 29 Cedar Avenue, East Barnet, Herts. Tel. 01 368 5345.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reform Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 8 to 10 p.m. Further information from the President, Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 7744) or the Chairman, Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 3613).

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A SPANISH DAY COURSE

Date: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th 1975.

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

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with breaks for coffee and lunch.

Fee: 50p

Tutor: IRENE WHITAKER

Revision of the following dances:

Majadero from Segovia (Castilla)  
El Rondon " " "  
Ave Maria from Badajoz (Extremadura)  
La Uva from Olivenza (Extremadura)  
Jota Realito from Aragon

New Dance:

El Candil from Badajoz (Extremadura)

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Lily Southgate has taken over the General European Class at Charlton Manor School, Hornfair Road, S.E.7. on Tuesday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Standard Average, some Beginners. All newcomers welcome.

SIFD records, cassettes, tapes and books are available from Frances Horrocks, 112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. A 10% discount is allowed on items purchased by SIFD members for their own use. Unfortunately, Books 1, 2 and 4 are out of print at the moment, but all records, cassettes and tapes are available.

When sending orders to Frances, people often enquire about any groups or classes for international folk dancing in their area, and it would help her to reply if she had a list of all groups. We did ask for this information from members in a previous issue but Frances received only two replies. If you do know of a group anywhere, would you please send details of meeting places, times, days, and any other relevant information to Frances Horrocks to enable her to compile a complete list.

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#### SOME THOUGHTS ON SUMMER COURSES

At Swansea when the weather's fine,  
We've tripped around from time to time,  
But now to Scotland we must go,  
Where further seeds we hope to sow,  
We Sassenachs regret the change,  
But couldn't SOMEBODY arrange  
Another course alternately  
And then we might dance annually?

HEATHER STRONG

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#### SIFD NEWS HELPERS

Would all those people who gave Will Green their names as being willing to help with the folding, stapling, etc. please look out in next month's issue for details of the venue decided on for the January get-together.

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#### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Ian and Jean Willson send Christmas Greetings to their many friends in the Society, and hope that 1976 will be a very successful dancing year for us all.

Jack Krebs sends the following good wishes to the Editor and helpers of the SIFD NEWS, the Committee, and all his friends in the Society, "Frohliche Weinachten und Gesundes Neues Jahr".

## SUNDAY DANCES

- December 7th Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1.
- December 21st CHRISTMAS DANCE at Trevelyan Hall, St. Anne's Lane,  
Great Peter Street, S.W.1.
- January 4th NEW YEAR'S DANCE at 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.

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## WHAT'S ON

- Dec. 6th CHRISTMAS DANCE PARTY FOR CHILDREN organized by the  
Polish Class at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row,  
Clerkenwell Green, E.C.1. 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. Admission 10p.  
It would help if you could let Betty Harvey know in advance  
how many children you will be bringing.
- 6th BALKAN DANCE PARTY organized by Ken Ward's Yugoslav Class  
at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, off Old Street, E.C.1.  
7 to 11 p.m. Admission 75p including food and drink.
- 6th "SELPAR" CHRISTMAS DANCE See page 8.
- 8th "BALKANSKA MUZIKA" - an evening with the Dunav Balkan  
Group and guest artists, the Argonoffs, at the Collegiate  
Theatre, 25 Gordon Street, W.C.1. 8 p.m. Tickets at door  
or in advance from Caroline Thomas, 77 Forest Road, E.17.  
£1.10. Cheques to be made out to Dunav Balkan Group.
- 12th CHRISTMAS PARTY organized by Barnet International Folk  
Dance Club at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone,  
Barnet, from 8 to 11 p.m. M.C. Henry Morris. Balkan music  
and songs from the Narodni Group. Admission 60p including  
food and wine. Enquiries: 01 368 5345.
- 13th ONE-DAY SPANISH COURSE See page 10.
- 19th/21st WEEKEND AT DUNFORD

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MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JANUARY ISSUE  
MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY 15th DECEMBER.

\* T c h e s t i t o

R o j d e s t v o

H r i c

E t h o s i f z a t a m m a ' n a l a ' k a ' I d e l M i l a ' d W a S a ' n a S a ' i d a

W a s h a l t M p r e j e m e

J o v o l e

T c h e s t i t a

N o v a

G o d i n a

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A M E 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 T O A L L O U R R E A D E R S \*  
F R O M T H E E D I T O R & H E L P E R S

Kala Vesele Bozicne  
Christougena kai Eftikhesto  
Romsaid Joulu Puhii

Ia Shinnen Omedeto  
Mauria Feliz Natal  
Le Kilisis Neon  
Gung Tso Sun Tan' Gung Haw Sun

Nadolic Llawan  
God Jul  
Nadali Kerstfreest

Hyvaa Joolua  
Nuo  
Aany  
Shenoraavor Nor Dari

Boldog Karacsonyi is Ujevi Unnepekot

Glaedlig Jul og Godt Nyt Aar  
Sinceres vouex de joyeux Noel

Sretan Bozic i Nova Godina  
Kung Ho Hsin Hsi. Ching Chi Shen Tan

Vesele  
Gluithah  
Nolag Edd Mbarak  
Vesele Maligayang Pasko

Kalikimaka  
Sarbatori Fericite  
Zoriontsu Eguberri

Nieuwjaar\*\*  
Gelukkig  
Stastny Novy Rok



THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1975

I am very pleased to be in a position to give you a very favourable report on the activities of the past year. I would like first to remind you that the Society is not a 'business' run by a Board of Directors with a duty to make profits for its shareholders and that our financial success, while essential for the smooth running of the Society in order to further our aims is not our prime raison d'etre.

The Society is like a co-partnership in which certain people are elected to office to further the aims of the Society as propounded by its founders, as enunciated in its constitution and as accepted by all who join.

The function of the members of the Committee is to see that the aims of the Society are maintained. These aims are to encourage an interest in performing the folk dances of all nations in their authentic form. The Committee must see that authentic International Folk Dances are introduced to all members and that institutions are set up which will perpetuate an interest in International Folk Dancing. The Committee is appointed to run the affairs of the Society and to bring International Folk Dancing alive to all members. You, the members, have a duty to see that the Committee honours its commitments and an obligation, nonetheless real for being unwritten, to help the Committee in every way you can.

The aims of the Society must not be allowed to die like the autumn leaves, nor fade away like the wind after a storm, nor disappear like footprints on the sand when the tide comes in but must be nurtured like the lamp in a lighthouse for the benefit of all.

To achieve these aims the Chairman must see that his Committee members foster not only those institutions which already exist but continually promotes new ones and at the same time conducts the affairs of the Society in a proper and businesslike manner.

I regard the past year as successful because the Committee has done all of these things and because you, the members, have supported your Committee in so many ways.

We have seen the membership figures slowly but surely increasing, we have seen new classes opening up and new groups being formed. We have held another successful Summer school in Swansea and introduced a monthly one-day Course. Your monthly Newsletter continues to be mine of information on Society and other folk dance matters and regularly reminds you of the many social weekends that are constantly being organised, of various holiday trips to other lands and also I am happy to say of not a few marriages amongst the membership. It is a very personal magazine and I hope you will continue to give your editor the news of your comings and goings, be they dance orientated or not, so that she may keep it that way.

We have performed many demonstrations, some organised by your Demonstration Secretary and some by individual members - all are welcome and doubly valuable when reported in the News.

Our social dances are firmly established and the appearance, nearly every month of a guest item at C.S.H. embellishes the evenings enjoyment.

A lot of work has been done in the production of a book of Israeli dances and the making of records and tapes to match while both Yugoslav and Polish books and records are in process of being prepared.

We now have a branch in Birmingham with its own attendant classes and we have several newly affiliated clubs.

There is a continuing demand for our books and records which are very ably distributed by Frances Horrocks who gives a great deal of her time (rather more than one would dare ask) in dealing with all the many enquiries she receives.

All of the above and much more by the Committee and by you, the members, in this past year and I congratulate you all on your efforts. In particular however I must thank the Committee members for all they have done and to record that it has been a joy to work with them during this past year. You will be glad to know that we have had a happy Committee, that our meetings have been pleasurable as well as productive and that we have not been divided by dissention.

It is not my prerogative to report on our financial standing, only to say that, as you can see from the accounts, our bank balance is a healthy one. Let me quickly warn you however that it most decidedly needs to be so if we are to continue to expand. When you look at that nice £3,000 plus please remember that the cost of producing the News together with postage and coupled with the hire of social dance halls will take more than £1,000 of it away in the year ahead.

Guarding the finances of the Society has always been a difficult job and is today a very time consuming one so you will forgive me if I stray from my usual policy of not stressing many names in my report and single out your retiring Treasurer for special mention. About 7 years ago when the Committee had to face some serious financial losses, mainly due from over-enthusiasm in producing too many festivals, our bank balance was reduced to about £300 and we resolved then that the Treasurer must ensure that no such disaster be allowed to occur again. That all projects should be considered but that over-enthusiasm on any that might be financially unsound should be curbed. Harry has done just this, caution has often been his watchword and one of the reasons why the bank balance has multiplied by about ten times over the past seven years is due to his careful handling of the accounts. He has kept the books in a proper and businesslike manner which has entailed many hours of work every week as you will realise when you consider the number of separate accounts and floats that your Treasurer has to monitor. On top of this Harry has attended most of our dance socials, both at Trevelyan Hall and at C.S.H. not just to socialise but to supervise, to help in collecting the money at the door and generally to liaise between our many working members and the Committee. As Chairman I owe Harry a very special thank you for all he has done over many years and I am sure you will wish me to record your support in a vote of appreciation for all he has done.

As you know both Harry and I are retiring from office at this meeting and I would like to say for both of us that we have enjoyed being of use to you and are now looking forward to being one of you once again.

I welcome your new Chairman and Treasurer and Secretary and remind you that Dorothy remains as Committee member to assist the new Secretary and

that both Harry and I will be available should any queries arise in regards to past matters arising while we were in office.

I know that, with Simon in the chair and Dennis occupying the Treasurer's seat, the Society will continue to flourish, I know that they will be as ably assisted by the Committee members in the future as I was in the past and I will end my report by asking you all to give them your full support and understanding since I know what a great help that can be to any Committee and to any Chairman whatever the enterprise.

BERT PRICE