

J.F.D.
NEWS

SEPTEMBER
1976



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Frank Flanagan helped with the printing last month, and the collating, stapling and packing etc. was done by the Working Group organized by Will Green.

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This month's cover was donated anonymously.

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Books, records, tapes and cassettes are available from Frances Horrocks,
112 Kingston Avenue, North Cheam, Sutton, Surrey. Tel: 01 683 3629.

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WOULD ALL MEMBERS CHANGING THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY
THE EDITOR, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM ROMANIA

For the ten of us touring Romania by minibus it was like going back in time. Ox-carts and painted wagons abounded in the village, though mechanisation is coming in fast. Women sat in parks crocheting, tatting or doing embroidery. (Roland Minton would have felt quite at home here!) Spindles and weaving looms were a regular feature in village homes - we stopped to photograph one lady spinning and when we turned round, all her neighbours had brought their spindles out to their gates to be photographed too! In another Moldavian village, where we had been visiting a painted monastery with beautifully restored icons outside and in, a lady was sitting weaving inside her house, and the driver of our minibus, clearly on our wavelength, asked if we would like to go in and watch. Several purchases were made, representing at least a month's work, and it transpired in conversation that the lady had made Moldavian costumes for herself, her husband and daughter; blouses and sheepskin jackets, beautifully embroidered, handwoven skirts, and a wide leather belt for her husband, covered with complicated floral patterns in minute beadwork. These were put on for us to admire, and we promised to send them copies of the photos we took of them, proudly posed in front of their house beside the carved wooden porched gate.

Moving over to the North-Western side of the country, we barely had time to explore the Maramures region, but one morning we were invited on to a farm to watch a horse being shod at the forge, and while we were there one of the children was sent to pick apricots for our picnic and was rewarded by payment in real money - we were told that they still usually barter apricots for potatoes or the like, and money was quite something special. Then, after the now customary promise of photos, we happened on a village feast. Apparently, when you want a new house you assemble the materials and call the neighbours in! This man had just finished having the tiles made for his roof, and this called for a celebration lunch, laid out on a long table in front of the barn, with homemade plum brandy flowing in plenty. Everyone had brought their whole family along, and the hosts would have shared their food and hospitality with us for longer if we could have stayed. As it was, we just had time to applaud one man as he showed us some dance steps he knew from that region, and to persuade the women out of their shyness to sing some songs for us which were so sweet and a joy to listen to, completely natural, unspoiled by amplification and "con bello" presentation which seems essential to public performances of national folksongs. Everyone was so friendly, and assured us of a welcome again next year, when they said they would prepare a whole concert of songs for us!

One word of warning to anyone planning a visit to Romania; you will find it very hard to obtain accurate information in advance. For example, the brochures say that each year there is a Folk Festival in the Olt Valley, around Calimanesti, so we asked the Automobile Club of Romania, through the network of National Tourist offices spread over the country, for confirmation of dates, exact location, times, booking procedures etc. so we could be sure not to miss it. A fortnight later, back came a telex, "Unable to confirm Folk Festival dates or arrangements - it all depends on the weather"! So our itinerary from the start had to be somewhat speculative. However, when you realize that it takes half an hour before you can ever make a connection by 'phone, you cease to be quite so cross about the vagueness of things and accept that everything will turn out right in the end.

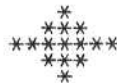
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In fact, the Festival "Songs of the Olt" was a spectacle not to be missed, bringing together ten different groups, divided between two towns, in a competition on the Saturday night, to find (1) the best "hora" and (2) the best presentation of customs and traditions. Two separate items were based on a village wedding - the uniting of the two households, with songs, garlands, rituals, gifts, drinking - though why one bridegroom was harnessed, albeit reluctantly, to a plough, we never did quite fathom. Most of the groups had presented shows abroad, and some of the performances were quite breathtaking, the men's Calusari stick dances (the Romanian counterpart of English Morris) demanding a rare stamina and agility. The first of these qualities was also required on the Sunday when an 8-hour spectacle was mounted in the park, with each of the teams giving a longer programme which displayed the full range of their talents, with singing and instrumental items between the dances to allow for changes of costume.

Later on in the week we were lucky enough to make contact with the teacher of a group from Calimanesti and he taught us some very nice, quite simple, horas from this region (Oltenia and Montenia, the two banks of the Olt river). We also had the opportunity to watch his group in rehearsal; they seem to be permanently perfecting their repertoire of nine suites of dances from which their shows are planned. Most of the men start dancing in their teens and gradually build up the complicated footwork and stepping which is basic to all the dances, so fitness and regular training are really necessary. We found it very hard to explain that we danced folkdances for fun and our own personal enjoyment, rather than for the benefit of an audience, and were therefore much more interested in the unchoreographed versions as danced at weddings and feasts, but I believe we did eventually convey this.

A fortnight is soon over, and we were very sorry to leave. Our teacher was excellent, and so were his group. It would be so nice if some way could be found of transporting them all over to England so that everyone could have the chance to enjoy the fruits of our holiday good fortune and enlarge the Society's repertoire of Romanian dances.

ELEANOR OAKLEY



SELPAR (Birmingham Branch of SIFD) meet at Selly Park Centre, Pershore Road, Birmingham, every Tuesday, 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. Enquiries to Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham, or to Sybil Chapman, 20 Pelham Road, Droitwich, Worcs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR....

Dear Lily Southgate,

As a member of S.I.F.D. I write to tell you that I spent a most enjoyable weekend at the Israeli Dance Workshop organized by our most energetic friend, Fiona Howarth.

On Saturday and Sunday mornings we had three-hour tuition sessions, broken only for coffee, and a one-and-a-half^{hour} session on Sunday afternoon. Personally, I was very pleased about these working sessions, for my aim in attending was to try to consolidate real learning of dances. I hope very much that these enjoyable dances will be frequently included among our other favourites at S.I.F.D. Socials. We were also able to purchase or order an instruction booklet and record.

Tuition was not withheld during the good evening Socials on Friday and Saturday, when we danced dances from other countries also. Fiona's teaching ability is demonstrated in her clarity of explanation and demonstration; her warm acceptance of those of us who always seem to find an extra foot at the wrong moment, and in her very amusing way of describing dance-steps in order to help you remember. On previous occasions, I had tried to understand the sequence of "Esanikos"; when Fiona illustrated the action of "killing a fly" via our dance steps, I could not fail to remember the sequence! Small actions go far - I was very touched by the fact that Fiona had taken the trouble to make out a little notice for each bedroom door with our names on it, and the Hama'agal sign to illustrate it.

Woodlands Park is a first-class place to hold such a weekend; plenty of room to dance inside or on the lawn; excellent food and plenty of it. The group of people were a particularly harmonious group - perhaps it has something to do with the "drawing together to form a circle" - folk dance being one of the earliest and deepest ways that mankind can express emotion and meaning of Life.

Yours very sincerely,

DIDI CROOK

Flat 15 Powis Court
29-30 Powis Square
London W.11

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NEW GROUP STARTING

On Friday, 10th September, from 8 to 10 p.m., a new group for general international dancing will be starting at The Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage, Herts. We hope to meet every Friday. Further details from Mrs. Jill Bransby, 59 Baldock Road, Letchworth, Herts. Tel: Letchworth 4843.

DANCING IN MAJORCA

Dancing is instinctive and inherent in man. It is as old as human beings. The individual dances when pleasure or grief enters his spirit. The internal joy or pain is reflected in his limbs by expressive movements which give outward expression to these influences. If these movements are given rhythmic order, a dance is made, and if to this dance we add music, we turn it into an artistic spectacle by the union of the art of the dance and the art of music. The intermingling of dancing and music appears so intimate that one does not imagine the separation of one from the other.

As far as Majorca is concerned, there used to exist, and exist even now, certain religious dances of great antiquity such as the "Els Cossiers", "Les Aguiles" (The Eagles), and "Els Cavallets de Felanitx" (The Little Horses of Felanitx). There are records of performances as far back as 1392. They continue today, retaining their primitive purity. They are performed in religious ceremonies inside temples and in processions (formerly walking dances). "Les Aguiles de Pollensa" (The Eagles of Pollensa) is performed in the procession of Corpus Christi; "Els Cossiers" of Algaida, Alaro and Montuiri on the feast day of the patron Saint of these villages.

The Majorcan dance is characterized by its great variety of names and movements although all of them emanate from the "Mateixes" jotas and boleros; but because the groups, which are many, have a great desire to improve and increase their exhibitable repertoire, they have "invented" dances and figures by multiplication within the same dance the number of movements, thus diminishing its primitive purity. This circumstance is not entirely censurable if it is taken into account that they have not deviated from the rhythm and the melodies taken from the popular rural songs to which they have added the dance although it be with airs of "Mateixa" or "Jota".

In order of antiquity, apart from those of religious character already mentioned, in first place can be cited the "Mateixas" with the appearance of jotas. Jotas, parado, boleros and boleras are in 3/4 time. From these dances, the directors of the groups have extracted many variations.

To attempt to make a history of the Majorcan dance is a difficult task. Nothing exists in archives of definite dances; they only exist in the files of the Town Council; "At such and such a time a dance will take place". Consequently, dancing was popular and normal, not only on feast days of Patron Saints but also in connection with certain tasks of the countryside; the vintage, the fig drying, threshing, and also family dancing in connection with the domestic slaughtering of the swine. Because all this was so natural, nobody bothered to make a history. Normalities are not written about, nor recorded in archives.

Thus the investigator has had to make use of actual memories or living archives personified in the old folk, particularly those of the women. With good reason, it has been said that the women have always been, and still are, the most faithful vehicles for the passing on of folklore.

From these collectors (today, groups) arose the oldest Folklore Group of Valldemosa", now known as the "Parado of Valldemosa" (1925) under the direction of the enthusiastic and untiring Bartolome Estaras, who, attracted by the beauty

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of popular folklore, has been able for many years to keep burning the sacred fire, without adulteration and illegal interpolations, by taking advice from such famous students of folklore as Antonio Mulet and Andres Estarellas. And in this most prominent way, on the musical side, under the direction of the famous concert guitarist Bartolome Calatayud who, enamoured by the popular melodies, has been able to extract from them all their delicious sweetness, the Parado of Valldemosa as a group is considered the most famous and the one that performs its dances with the most purity and art, and sings its melodies with all their former flavour, both the dance and music constituting a veritable gift both for the eye and the ear.

Acknowledgement to "Mallorca y su Musica", Discos Belter S.A.



"DANCES FROM CUIAVIA, POLAND"

Roderyk Lange, the Polish dance authority, has compiled a folder of four dances from the region of Cuiavia or Kujawy, N.W. Poland. In very clear kinetograms and Labanotation he shows the differences in melody and steps between the village and urban versions of the Kujawiak and the other dance of this region, the Chodzony. Also included are the Dyna and Czapnik. This is the first of a series of Documentary Dance Materials. The folder is obtainable from the Centre for Dance Studies, Les Bois, St. Peter, Jersey, Channel Island, or Dance Books Ltd., 9 Cecil Court, London W.C.2. Price £1.60 plus 20p postage.

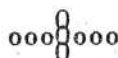
ROBERT HARROLD



DANCEERS WANTED

The Alexeyev Balalaika Ensemble are looking for male and female dancers to join their ensemble. They need not be experienced in Russian dancing, but should be enthusiastic and willing to work hard. The group is based in London but perform all over the country on a semi-professional basis.

Anyone interested should contact the group by post or telephone for an audition. Address: 285a Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough. Tel: 0733 63442.



Last month we gave a list of folkdance weekends that have been organized. Betty Harvey has asked me to point out that credit for organizing the Polish weekend to be held in November should go to Margaret Joyner and David Trenaman, who have done all the work so far. ED.

A NEW CLASS

A new folkdance class is being started by Kristina Michael, for two terms from 30th September 1976, at Park Hill School, Stanhope Road, Croydon, Surrey, on Thursday evenings 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. The class is for beginners and advanced, and regions covered will be within Central Europe, with special emphasis on Russian and Balkan dancing. The two-hour class will commence with a study section on the basic steps and styles, and then move on to the actual learning of dances. As the term, and the students, progress there will be more emphasis on studying and performing dances.

Students wishing to attend the class should apply to The Warden, Coombe Cliff, Adult Education Centre, Coombe Road, Croydon. The fee is £8 and cheques should be made payable to "The London Borough of Croydon". Anyone wishing to know more about the class before enrolling should contact Kristina at 91 Harberton Road, Highgate, London N.19, Tel: 01 263 1139 (evenings and weekends).



ANOTHER POEM BY LESLEY COLEGATE

On the 27th June, in the sizzling heat
The Merton Park International Folk Dance Group did meet
To pick up a coach for their safari
Throughout different places in beautiful Surrey
"All aboard folks - the first stop's Broadham Green
'Where we'll start dancing once in the pub we've been".

There we danced a while before moving on
To nearby Hurst Green where the sun was strong
Which decided us returning to Broadham's pub to sink
As much liquid refreshment all of us could drink
Also we had our picnic sitting on the grass
Which for everyone a pleasant time did pass.

Before moving on to the Outwood Common Windmill
Where you can buy their home-ground flour still,
The sun was getting hotter, but dancing carried on
Everybody had a go, t'was a merry throng
There was a jolly miller who joined in the dance
Calling to the crowd as around he did prance

"Come and join us for it is such fun
Dancing in the open in this lovely sun".
After a while the dancing it did stop
Giving us time to view this lovely spot
Some of us sank down thankfully in the shade
Whilst others went walking through the wooded glade.

Finally back to the coach we went
After a great day most enjoyably spent
We must go next year - why not join us all
For we guarantee that you'll have a ball.

SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

ISRAELI

Every Thursday, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London. Advanced. Tutor: Fiona Howarth.

JUGOSLAV

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. NEW MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO SEE KEN WARD BEFORE ENROLLING FOR THE ADVANCED CLASS.

POLISH

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

INTERNATIONAL

Every Wednesday at St. Albans School, Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road, London E.C.1. Tutor: Margery Latham. As shown in the prospectus, this class will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at first, but the times may be altered later on.

INTERNATIONAL

A new class has been formed in Leeds and will be known as "Interfolk Leeds". The class/group will be run by Ian & Jean Willson and starting on 2nd September will meet each Thursday at Stainbeck Hall, Stainbeck Lane (off Scott Hall Road) Leeds, from 8 to 10 p.m. Further details from Mrs. Jean Willson, 8 Dorset Crescent, Harrogate, N.Yorks. Tel: Harrogate 55006.

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HAMA'AGAL ISRAELI DANCE BOOK

A book of instructions and music for the dances taught at the Israeli Workshop weekend held in July has now been printed and is available. The ten dances are standard Israeli dances, from the record NIRKODA II :-

Debka Meshuleshet (Triple Debka); Simi Yadech; Hine Ma Tov;
Hava Netze B'lachol; Kuma Echa; Zemer Atik; Hen Yeronen;
Harimon; Al Tira; Rakefet.

The instructions are intended as reminders and clarification for those who have learned or seen the dances. Copies of the book may be obtained from Fiona Howarth, 6 Cromwell Avenue, Bromley BR2 9AQ, price 50p plus 10p post and packing. (Cheques/Postal Orders made out to Hama'agal please).

AFFILIATED GROUPS

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 Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 7744) or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester (Tel. 061 881 3613).

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.

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.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday during term time at South Kent College of Technology, Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone, from 7.45 to 9 p.m. Details from the Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Warwick, 32 The Crescent, Sandgate, Folkestone. Tel. 38338.

GLEN EYRE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP (SOUTHAMPTON). meet every Monday during term time at the Glen Eyre School, Violet Road, Basset, Southampton, from 8 to 10 p.m. Details from Audrey & Charles Dellow, 25 Roman Way, Dibden Purlieu, Southampton. Tel. Hythe 846040.

KENSINGTON SLAVONIC DANCERS meet every Wednesday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Fox School, Kensington Place, Notting Hill Gate, W.8, and every Thursday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Isaac Newton School, Lancaster Road, W.11. Dances from Czechoslovakia taught by Mrs. Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, W.5. Tel. 01 567 2346.

MERTON PARK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Wednesday in term time at Rutlish School, Watery Lane, S.W.20. 7 to 7.30 p.m. Spanish beginners; 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. General International. Musician: Wilf Horrocks. Details from Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19. Tel. 01 542 3831.

WOODVALE FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at Borough Green Village Hall, Borough Green, near Sevenoaks, Kent, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. All details from Mrs. Eileen Nolan, 16 Dryland Road, Borough Green, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Tel. 0732 883380.

N.B. Affiliation expired at the end of August. We hope you will decide to renew affiliation by applying to the Committee for renewal and then sending the appropriate cheque. Groups are reminded that after renewal has been accepted by the Committee, they should write to the Editor giving details of meeting places, times, etc. for the next year. Only those groups doing so will be listed in the SIFD NEWS.

ED.

SUNDAY DANCES At Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.
7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 40p for members, 50p non-members.

M.C. for September 5th - Roland Minton
M.C. for October 3rd - Margery Latham

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WHAT'S ON

Sept. 2nd IVAN STEPANOV AND HIS BALALAIKAS AND DANCE.S Fairfield Hall,
Croydon. 8 p.m. Tickets 75p to £1.50.

Sept. 6th/7th/8th ONDEKO-ZA, Traditional Japanese Dance, Music and Theatre.
10th/11th/13th 8.30 p.m. (Saturday matinee 5.30). Collegiate Theatre,
14th 15 Gordon Street, London W.C.1.

Sept. 11th ISRAELI DAY-COURSE. Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row,
Clerkenwell Green, London E.C.1. 10.30 a.m. Tutor: Fiona
Howarth.

Sept. 17th/19th WEEKEND AT DUNFORD

Sept. 18th IVAN STEPANOV AND HIS BALALAIKAS AND DANCE.S. Royal Albert
Hall, London. 7.30 p.m. Tickets 50p to £2.70.

Sept. 18th LUCERO TENA AND HER SPANISH MUSICIANS. Classical Spanish dancing,
Flamenco, and virtuoso castanet playing. Queen Elizabeth Hall,
London. 7.45 p.m. Tickets 80p to £1.80.

Sept. 24th/26th WEEKEND AT HALSWAY MANOR organized by SIFD Midland Branch.

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** Have you renewed your membership? SIFD membership expired
** at the end of August and renewal forms were sent out with
** last month's issue. We hope you will decide to renew your
** membership, and the forms, with cheques for the appropriate
** amounts, should be sent to the Membership Secretary (address
** on page 2) as soon as possible to ensure continuity of
** delivery of the SIFD NEWS.
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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE MUST
REACH THE EDITOR BY 15TH SEPTEMBER