

MAY 1977

SIFD  
NEWS



KALOCSA, HUNGARY

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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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Will Green did the printing last month, and the collating and packing etc. was organized by Gaye Saunte.

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This month's cover is by Caroline Thomas and shows  
a girl in a costume from Kalocsa, Hungary.

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Books, records 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 WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE LET  
THE EDITOR KNOW, AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

One of the dominating points for discussion at the moment is the Edinburgh Summer School. Enrolments are coming in, but slowly at the moment. I would remind those from the South who may be interested in travelling to Edinburgh by coach that either Simon or I would be pleased to hear from you. However, arrangements for the coach are going ahead, and we will adjust the size according to demand.

Our Demonstration Secretary, Margery Lathem, reports a record number of applications for teams around June and July this year in connection with Jubilee Celebrations etc. It looks as if we shall have difficulty in meeting them all, with the limited number of dancers available to appear.

We are sorry to hear that Ingrid Pursall has found it necessary to resign from the Committee. Our thanks for the service she has given during her period of office. This means, of course, that we are looking for a replacement; any volunteer would be most welcome.

Membership is still increasing and has now reached 364.

EDNA FOSTER,  
Hon. Secretary

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## HERE AND THERE

At the Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1., there is an exhibition on at the moment called "Bulgarian Village Arts". Admission free. Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays, 2.30 to 6 p.m.

At Waterside, 99 Rotherhithe Street, London, S.E.16 every Friday evening is Music Night, when they have an impromptu programme of music and dancing. Irish, Yugoslav, Early Music, Jazz, Brazilian, African, Turkish folk, depending on who turns up. 8 p.m.

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## SOUTH PETHERTON FOLK AND CRAFT FESTIVAL

The South Petherton Festival takes place from 1st to 3rd July 1977 and is a festival of various folk crafts, including Morris and country dancing. Henry Morris's NARODNI Balkan Group will be appearing, and Henry will be running a Balkan Folk Music/Dance Workshop over the weekend. All instrumentalists and dancers are cordially invited. Bookings & enquiries regarding the Festival to: Marjorie Brunner, The Square House, Palmer Street, South Petherton, Somerset. Tel: South Petherton 40766.

## HOLIDAY IN JUGOSLAVIA 1976 PART IV

### Skopje and some reflections

I spent the last few days of my holiday with Živko Firfov and his wife. The visit is an annual thing and I am always assured of a good welcome. Their house is situated in the suburb of Dolno Vodno up on the hillside, so that one is away from the city noise, and it is cooler at night. Their former house was destroyed in the 1963 earthquake, but in quality and situation could not compare with the present one. The suburb has an English quality about it, with its trees and clipped hedges.

The journey back to Skopje, about two hours on the 'bus from Radovis, is very pleasant, and the entry into 20th century Skopje is along the spacious highway, lined with new flats and hotels. The highway also opens up older buildings which were formerly hidden, buildings such as the impressive Turkish baths (now the Art Gallery), some mosques and other monuments. It is lined with grass, flowers, and trees, and like the many new open spaces is kept well watered against the fierce summer sun.

Skopje is now perhaps, or will be, one of the most completely modern cities in Europe. A city planned from the outset after the disastrous earthquake, it is now taking shape, like pieces of a jigsaw. There are some really good modern flats and offices, as well as museums, government offices, flats, University buildings, and schools. Its three-storey shopping centre is well designed and up to Western European quality. The old gypsy quarter has unfortunately vanished and they now have a modern suburb to themselves, but the old bazaar has survived and is a conservation area with much of its modern fittings removed or hidden.

I arrived about midday to get caught up with the 'rush hour'; this meant struggling on to packed 'buses with all my luggage. I had my usual good welcome, and slatko was produced. (This is a traditional offering of very sweet crystallised fruit with a glass of water). There was an enormous meal and then a rest in the peaceful surroundings, my first opportunity to relax and be lazy for two weeks. Peter Atanasovski, now a kind of legendary figure, called to see me. He is the Macedonian musician and folklorist par excellence and is known throughout Western Europe, Scandinavia and America. Not always an easy man to work with, he has, with Živko Firfov, worked hard to maintain Macedonian traditions in music and dancing, and provide a link with the modern way of life which is now establishing itself. He is an outstanding bagpiper and versatile musician, and superb dancer. He is an old friend of Živko and has much respect for this now aged folklorist. We met for dinner at his house the following evening; he also makes excellent wine and rakiiija.

It is difficult to imagine folk traditions in such a modern city but they do exist in spite of the antis and the trashy amateur folk ensembles. The sound of the zurla and tapan still announce to all that there is a wedding in progress. One still sees many older ladies out in their traditional dress - this explained by the fact that the existence of work in Skopje's industry attracts many village communities and so they came en bloc and settle together in one block of flats or group of houses. The old and new are reconciled by

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the new Folk Institute and Folk Museum, which will soon house the full collection of costumes, instruments, and articles connected with village life and existence of a passing era.

I always find it exciting to visit the old town (Uskub) again. It has preserved its old shops and trades without artificial assistance, and many people still cross the river to shop there. The 'Bit Pazar', the old market, is not as colourful as when I first saw it in 1958, but it is still a place to visit. I called on Trojan, the wooldyer, in his little wooden shop, and was warmly welcomed. He proudly displays a large photograph of Živko Firfov, taken at a performance at the Guildhall in London. Over Turkish coffee and cigarettes, we discussed the possibility of his getting some items of costume, especially some men's red socks. He told me to return in three days' time, which I did, and as promised he had the socks. I also bought a very nice woman's over-jacket from the Shopsko region.

On my last day in Skopje I went with Živko and Danka to see their new chalet which is being built on the mountainside overlooking the artificial lake called 'Mavrovo', resulting from the construction of a large dam in the 1950s. I well remember my first journey in Southern Macedonia in 1958, to Ohrid. Road conditions were bad, the coach was old, half the people were sick on the journey, but we all had a good lunch with lots of booze in the old wooden restaurant which is no longer there. The day was cold and rainy then, as it was on this occasion, and we had a picnic in the bareness of the hut. When it is completed, it will be fine, and I shall have the use of it in the spring or summer if the family are not there. Many people now have chalets there, built among pine trees, and the English 'weekend' and 'fireplace' are very popular - as are English electric fires with simulated glowing coals!

An interesting phenomenon at present is the decline and rise of the villages. Those in remote areas are being abandoned, but those within travelling distance of a town are being repopulated, often by the original families. Families are returning after some years in America or Australia with money to buy extra land and build a house. Alternatively, the menfolk work in the town, travelling daily, and the women look after the animals and till the land. The villages often have a look of wellbeing, and at the same time some traditions are preserved, even to the construction of the house. Local folk festivals are growing in number, and some effort is being made to revive many older dances and make new costumes (sometimes with unfortunate results). The playing of traditional instruments is, I think, more acceptable now than in the 1950s and early 1960s during the initial craving for complete modernization. I hope that in time the 'show biz' groups will be phased out.

Perhaps the increased degree of political and economical autonomy will encourage still more this identity expressed through the folklore medium.

KEN WARD

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A DAY COURSE has been arranged of GREEK DANCES to be held on 11th June, at Hugh Myddelton School, 10.30 to 4.30. The tutor will be Georgia Mikellidou, and the usual fee of 50p for members, £1.00 for non-members will be charged.

## HOLIDAY 1978

I am planning to organize a two-weeks' folk festival holiday at the end of July and beginning of August 1978. I had to disappoint some people this year as the numbers dropped below 30.

I am opening the venture to as many who would like to go. The cost will be below £200 and will include the return flight London/Zagreb, bed/breakfast accommodation in Zagreb for about four days during the mammoth 'Smotra', a folk festival which attracts about 60 Yugoslav groups and some from abroad (only traditional groups can take part), then the return flight from Zagreb to Ohrid in Macedonia, then by 'bus to Bitola for the 'Illenden Den' festival of Macedonian groups. After another four days or so, return to Ohrid, four days in this absolutely beautiful mountain lakeside town on the Yugoslav/Bulgarian frontier.

This provides the opportunity of watching the real thing, and to some extent of joining in, and it may be possible to make some local arrangements. It may be possible for the party to join in the 'rave up' at the school where the groups are staying in Bitola or perhaps link up with some groups in Zagreb.

It is too early to get prices yet, but I would be interested to know if there is sufficient interest to go ahead. I only need about 35/40 names and some measure of guarantee, but I shall arrange a confirmation date early next year. Please write to me at home - 39 Harpenden Road, London, S.E.27.

KEN WARD

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CONGRATULATIONS to Doreen Pearce and Ray Jones who were married on 16th April. Our best wishes to them both for their future happiness.

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## HALF-DAY COURSE IN ROMANIAN FOLK DANCING

The Midlands Branch of SIFD is holding a half-day course in Romanian folk dancing on 28th May at Swanshurst School, Brook Lane, Kings Heath, Birmingham, followed by an International Folk Dance in the evening. The course tutor will be Marina Wolstenholme.

The course will run from 2 to 5.30 p.m., cost 50p. The Dance from 7.30 to 10.30 p.m., cost 50p. Combined ticket 80p.

Swanshurst School is situated on the Outer Ring Road opposite the Billesley Hotel at the junction of Brook Lane and Wheeler's Lane, Kings Heath. Visitors who wish to stay in Birmingham overnight should write to Rod Perkins, 3 Linnet Close, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1XB.

DAY OF DANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS

On Saturday, 18th June 1977, Canons Group will be holding a day of dance for all international folk dancers at Flaunden, a village in the Chilterns about six miles from Watford. There will be dancing in the afternoon (outside if fine) and in the Village Hall in the evening. Tickets from Ken Poyton, 72 Dalkeith Grove, Stanmore, Middx. Tel: 01 958 5785.

Full day including tea	£1.00
Afternoon .. .. .	60p
Evening only .. .. .	60p

Tickets and leaflets will be available at the next SIFD Day Courses and at Cecil Sharp House Dances.

All members of the SIFD will be welcome to attend this special Jubilee event.

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ONE-DAY COURSE IN HUNGARIAN DANCING

Newport International Folk Dance Group are holding a one-day Hungarian Course followed by an evening Dance on SATURDAY, 21ST MAY, at CLYTHA PRIMARY SCHOOL, BRYNGWYN ROAD, OFF RISCA ROAD, NEWPORT, GWENT. 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.15 to 5 p.m. the Course, and 7 to 10 p.m. the Dance. Teacher: SYBIL CHAPMAN.

The course will concentrate on five or six dances only, all suitable for general club enjoyment, and ample time will be allocated for those wanting to take notes. The cost has yet to be worked out but will be similar to those run by other groups, i.e. under £1 for a combined ticket. Pubs and cafes are nearby for food, and soft drinks will be served at the school.

Visitors from outside Newport should use Exit 27 of the M4 which is 15 minutes from Severn Bridge. (Please note we only get holdups on the bridge at Bank Holidays as a general rule, though Margery Latham will tell you otherwise when they came here with the gale of the century!). Full details and maps will be sent to all those interested in coming.

SUE CLARK,  
31 East Grove Road,  
Newport, Gwent

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I am frequently asked by various groups how much we charge for advertising their events in SIFD NEWS. We do not make a charge, and I am always pleased to include these advertisements when there is room, but I think it would be a nice gesture of goodwill if when quoting admission charges a reduction could be made for SIFD members. How about it, group leaders? ED.

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ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JUNE  
ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR BY 15TH MAY



## " S L A V A "

I was dragged to Islington Town Hall on 26th March grumbling to myself that I had seen it all before and it ain't folk.

Therefore, the Show was half over before I realized what a high standard was being achieved in a hall which had no atmosphere and on a stage which was too high for anybody in the stalls to see the feet of the dancers.

The Balkan instrumentalists were most impressive, especially the tamboura and gajda players, and it is no mean feat to play the kaval. It was also pleasing to note that not too much use was made of the accordion. The dancers were successful in achieving an informal village atmosphere, which is so necessary for Balkan dancing, but not so important for Polish. The weakest aspect of the Balkan was the lack of polish in the men's dancing; it just lacked virility, especially in Maskoto; only two men really got going.

The Polish dancing was very good, and they looked as though they were enjoying it, especially in Olender. The music sounded Polish; in fact, it got close to that rare sound, a Polish FOLK band. It is a pity Jacz Tacy aren't allowed to compete at the Eisteddfod in Llangollen.

The costumes of both groups were excellent, and credit should go to both Betty Harvey and Ken Ward for authenticity.

I feel that minor improvements could have been made by having some appropriate background music on for ten minutes before the start (it helps in such a bleak hall); and that announcements should have been made at the beginning of each half of the programme, if only to get the audience full of anticipation.

The overall effect was that the Show deserved a better hall and a bigger and more appreciative audience.

I now wish that I had bought a better seat!

LES AVERY

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A party from Birmingham travelled down to London to see our many friends from the Balkan and Polish groups perform in the SLAVA concert at Islington Town Hall on Saturday, 26th March. One of the many friendly greetings we received when we arrived quite early, trying to beg a cup of tea, was, "You haven't come all the way from Birmingham to watch us have you?". "Yes" was the simple answer, and it was well worth the journey. Both groups were a joy to watch, and I am sure that they enjoyed performing as much as we enjoyed watching. Congratulations to everyone concerned for what was a memorable entertaining evening.

SELPAR CONTINGENT

## MUSIC WANTED

Has anyone a copy of the piano music for the Swedish dance 'VARSOVIENNE'? If so, Miss E. D. Chimes, Secretary of St. Patrick's R.C. Primary School, Avenue Road, Farnborough, GU14 7BW, would be very pleased to hear from you.

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## MUSICAL EQUIPMENT FOR FOLK DANCING

Short of live music, the cassette player is now the most widely used and satisfactory means of providing music for folk dancing. Apart from the usual facilities on all normal mono cassette players, basic essentials are:- a counter (not fitted to many mono players), and a high output, i.e. at least  $1\frac{1}{2}$  watts.

Many mono players have an output of around 0.5 to 1.0 watts and these would usually only give enough volume for class work if used with an external speaker with its own amplifier and power supply. Stereo cassette players would give enough volume for class work but they cost a lot more than mono units and the costly stereo facility is not needed for folk dancing.

My Group recently decided to buy a cassette player, and the following were considered in some detail:-

- 1) Sanyo 2523G. This has an output of 2 watts and at about £33 would have been satisfactory except that it lacks the essential counter.
- 2) A Type 878 recorder specially made for school use by Clarke & Smith of Wallington, Surrey. This is a robust unit with a full 3 watt output and at a cost of about £56 would be ideal for class work except that it requires a non-standard oversize cassette.
- 3) A Type 302 player made by Coomber of Worcester. Again it is specially made for schools, and in this case the player takes the standard compact cassette. A very good unit but, at about £110, too expensive for most people.
- 4) Sanyo 2502G. This mono cassette recorder costs around £45 and has all the facilities needed for class work. The facilities include audible cue on fast forward and rewind which makes it easy to pinpoint the start of a dance. The  $1\frac{1}{2}$  watts output through a relatively large speaker gives plenty of volume for ordinary class work.

The Sanyo 2502G unit has been purchased by my Group and is proving very satisfactory. Further information can be supplied to anyone contemplating a purchase in the near future.

KEN POYTON,  
72 Dalkeith Grove,  
Stanmore, Middx.

01 958 5785

## SIFD ASSOCIATED CLASSES

### INTERNATIONAL

Every Tuesday at Charlton Manor Junior School, Hornfair Road, Charlton, S.E.7.  
7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Peter Oakley.

Every Wednesday at St. Albans School, Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road,  
E.C.1. Tutor: Margery Latham.

Every Tuesday at Henshaw's School, Bogs Lane, Starbeck, Harrogate, 8 to 10 pm.  
Class run by Ian and Jean Willson. Contact Harrogate (0423) 55006 for further  
details. PLEASE NOTE: This class replaces the Thursday meetings at Stainbeck  
Hall, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, and will run initially only until 17th May, re-  
opening in September at Harrogate.

### ISRAELI

Every Wednesday at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, S.E.3. from 7.30 to 9.30  
p.m. Tutor: Gaye Sainte.

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London  
(Advanced), 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. 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 Ave.,  
E.C.1. Beginners 7 to 8 p.m. General & Advanced 8 to 10 p.m. Tutor:  
Betty Harvey.

### HUNGARIAN & ROMANIAN

Every Friday at Pimlico School, Lupus Street, S.W.1. 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.  
Tutor: Alan McLean. Beginners are asked to come at 6.30.

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### FOLK DANCE - A SHORT BOOK LIST by G.D. Towner

The list of folkdance instructional books that originally appeared over  
several issues of the SIFD NEWS has now been expanded and printed as a  
booklet under the above heading, for sale at 60p including postage.

Copies are limited in number, so please order by postcard and send remittance  
on receipt of the booklet, to G.D.Towner, 31 Water Street, Cambridge CB4 1NZ.

## SIFD AFFILIATED GROUPS

CANONS FOLK DANCERS meet every Tuesday at Park High School, Thistlecroft Gardens, Stanmore, Middx. (nearest station Canons Park) from 7.45 to 10 p.m. Further details from Joan G. S. Goodman, 13 Woodgrange Close, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. Tel: 01 907 9857.

BARNET INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE CLUB meet every Friday from October to June, at Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, 8 to 11 p.m. for general international dancing. Leader: Brian Dowsett; Hon Sec.: Janet Heathfield. Telephone 01 368 5345 for details.

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at Borough Green Village Hall on Tuesdays 7.30 to 10 p.m. General International, some English. Leaders: Ernie & Eileen Nolan, 16 Dryland Road, Borough Green, Sevenoaks, Kent.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reform Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Alan Williams, 47 South Drive, Manchester. Tel: 061 881 7744 or Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester. Tel: 061 881 3613.

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.

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 Hedda Jolly-Klingerova, 69b Grange Road, W.5. Tel: 01 567 2346.

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.

HAVERING INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Thursday at 8 p.m. at Harold Wood Primary School, Recreation Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford, Essex. Enquiries to Miss Doreen Grew, Brentwood 222051.

FOLKESTONE DISTRICT NATIONAL DANCE GROUP meets every Tuesday in term time at South Kent College of Technology, Kingsnorth Gardens, Folkestone, Kent, from 7.45 to 9 p.m. General International and English. Leader: Mrs. O. Field, "Schlupfwinkel", Cannongate Road, Hythe, Kent (0303 67737). Hon. Sec.: Mrs. M. Orchard, 5 Sutton Close, Folkestone (0303 76263).

## SUNDAY DANCES

- May 1st Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, N.W.1. M.C.: Ernie Nolan  
June 12th " " M.C.: Fiona Howarth  
7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 50p members, 75p non-members.

I apologize for giving the date of the May Dance as the 8th, in last month's issue. This should, of course, have been the 1st, when Woodvale Folk Dance Group will be giving a display of Scandinavian dances. Please note: the June Dance is on the second Sunday, owing to the Bank Holiday. ED.

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## WHAT'S ON

- May 6th GREEK FOLK MUSIC AND DANCES (Macedonia, Epirus, Pontus)  
at Royal Festival Hall, London. 8 p.m. Tickets £1 to £3.50.
- May 6th/8th HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND.
- May 14th SIFD FRENCH DAY COURSE. Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row,  
Clerkenwell Green, London E.C.1. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
£1 for non-members, 50p for members. Tutors: Simon and Joan Guest.
- May 21st ONE-DAY COURSE IN HUNGARIAN DANCING, at Newport. See page 7.
- May 28th FOLKDANCE AT BOROUGH GREEN. Woodvale Folk Dance Group are  
organizing an International Folk Dance at Borough Green Village  
Hall, 7.30 to 11 p.m. M.C. Ernie Nolan. Musician: Wilf Horrocks.  
Admission 65p including refreshments. Licensed Bar.
- May 28th HALF-DAY COURSE IN ROMANIAN FOLKDANCING at Birmingham. See page 6.
- May 28th HALF-DAY COURSE IN BALKAN DANCING at Watford Central Library (side  
entrance). 1.45 to 4.45 p.m. Tutor: Brian Dowsett. Fee 35p.
- June 3rd/7th DUNFORD WEEKEND.

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## BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY BADGE

Application forms for the next Silver Badge examinations are being sent out with this issue of SIFD NEWS, and must be returned, with the £1 fee, to Charles Steventon, 64 Erridge Road, Merton Park, S.W.19, by 1st June 1977.