

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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Enquiries and orders for SIFD books, records and cassettes should be sent to Mrs. Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts.

This month's cover showing Christmas Mummers is by Caroline Thomas

WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY EDWINA AND MICHAEL HOLDUP, 16 NETHERBY GARDENS, ENFIELD, MIDDX. AS WELL AS THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

The November meeting of the Committee was concerned with arrangements for the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 3rd December.

Amongst other items discussed was SIFD NEWS, and we are delighted to report that Douglas Wells, his wife and three daughters, have offered to take over the printing as well as the collation of the magazine each month, and the duplicator is to be moved to his home at Finchley. Thank you very much Doug. Also a very sincere thank you to the many people who have been keeping the production going in the past, including, of course, Will Green who has given house room to the duplicating equipment in recent years.

We have not forgotten the subject of a tee shirt. We have now received some further designs and those members attending the A.G.M. will be able to see them and give the Committee their views.

Membership at the end of October stood at 315, which is a good figure for this time in the Society's year.

I wish you all a happy Christmas, and hope to see you dancing your way into 1979.

EDNA FOSTER Hon. Secretary

S.I.F.D. AFFILIATED GROUPS

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meets every Friday 8 to 10 p.m. at Stevenage Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Old Stevenage, Herts. Secretary: Roy Bowtell, 9 Beech Drive, Stevenage, Herts. Tel: Stevenage 2871.

KAROMA FOLK DANCE GROUP meet at South Wellfield Middle School, Whitley Bay, each Wednesday in term time from 12.30 to 2 p.m. Tutor: Kaye Lewis Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland. Tel: Wylam 2495. Further information from Brenda Ross, 26 Waterloo Road, Wellfield, Whitley Bay. Tel: Whitley Bay 534597.

BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP meet every Tuesday at Wilbraham Road United Reformed Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester, from 7.30 to 10 p.m. Further details from Philip Lloyd, 268 Upper Chorlton Road, Manchester. (Tel: 061 881 3613).

REMINDER: Affiliated and Associated groups and classes who wish to be listed in the SIFD NEWS must send details to the Editor as well as to Frank Flanagan.

HELP WANTED

Is anyone in the Nottingham/Derby area interested in forming an international dance group in Ilkeston? If so, would they please contact Gillian Coulton, 53 Tulip Road, Answorth, Notts.

The following is a copy of a letter written to Lucile Armstrong by Chris Gunstone while he was in Macedonia in September. Lucile has kindly passed it on to me to publish for the interest of those of our readers who are interested in folk-lore customs still practised today. ED. (Chris is a member of Ken Ward's Jugoslav group).

Dear Lucile,

Linda Dawson (folkdance teacher with "Sedenka" in Sydney, Australia), Linsey Pollak (gaida player with Ken's group), and I are here in Berova, Macedonia, chasing a festival that apparently isn't on until October! Still, we were definitely told to come and we are prepared to follow up even the off-chances. You never know your luck.

The 8th, 9th and 10th September passed well with us as we were invited to come to see a good friend we made at a festival. His cousin was getting married and they were all Albanians living in Debam, Western Macedonia. We were staying at the bride's house, and the family's hospitality to us, and that of their many guests, was overwhelming.

The bride was 19 years old, Moslem; Albanian her first language in the house, and Macedonian the second language. The father had been working in Germany for nine years and had returned for two weeks only, for the wedding. The two brothers ran the house and were in charge of everything concerning the bride's family.

Three cows were killed, one from the bride's family and two from the groom's. Linda and Linsey, who were there a day before I was, were "specially honoured" to watch with the brothers, the botched-up job of hacking the dead cows into large chunks and thrown into a huge cauldron for boiling. "They were not skilled butchers and wasted an incredible amount of meat", quoted Linsey Pollak.

During the Friday afternoon, the bride, dressed in blue with a white head-dress, a coin stuck on the forehead, sat in one room to receive visitors all day. Not as formal as it was for the next day. Basically, there was a room for the men to congregate, one room for the older women, and one for the bride and young girls, with visitors from both sexes. The bride, boys and girls, danced in their own room to the gaida - with Linsey playing.

Most of Saturday was spent in receiving visitors - the bride now dressed in all white (western style) with white veil, a golden coin on the forehead, and silver and gold leaves stuck on her cheeks and face. At 1 p.m. musicians were coming up from the groom's house, to play at the bride's house. The bride stayed in one room all day and evening. She always stood up when people came into the room, eyes always down and very solemn expression.

Men, unless they were visiting the bride, stayed separate from the women in separate rooms. In the men's room we all sat down around a low circular table, sitting on the floor with cushions, and proceeded with the standard three-course meal of that area:-

1) one large container of rice and paprika soup, with everyone around the table dipping into it.

2) a large tray of meat chunks (scented first, then boiled).

contd./...

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3) followed by rice, also from one large tray in the middle of the table from which all kept dipping.

In the evening there was the men's celebrations at the groom's home with dancing all night to a band of saxophones, darabuka, gymbush (Turkish cumbus), accordion, microphones and amplifiers, all playing Albanian folk and modern tunes. Each tune was danced to by the great gathering of friends and relations. No alcohol for anyone except for the musicians - no spirits, only beer. All dances went anti-clockwise, very slow as in Pravo Oro (Makedonsko). The end of the dance, however, would be fast, with more steps going clockwise before stepping on the spot and then moving off anti-clockwise again. Also an inner circle was formed by younger people dancing much more energetically in the centre. The other circle (the main one) was led by relations and was much steadier and expressive, quite serious in fact, as opposed to the younger studs who were displaying their youth. Dancing was mixed, and sometimes men would form their own line and dance vigorously between the younger circle and the outer circle.

All the houses have an enclosed courtyard in which festivities take place. About midnight the music stopped. A long break was anticipated and a gaida player was coming to play the rest of the night with the people singing (seens to be mainly for singing, the gaida).

Back at the bride's house, men sang all night. Alcohol was drunk - mainly beer but some spirits were around.

On Sunday at 5.30 a.m. the groom's family came with dancing and a band of clarinet, accordion, darabuka, edaire, to collect the bride's belongings which were loaded into a van. Children carried the pillows and led the way back to the groom's house. At 9 a.m. there was breakfast for those who could take it, or coffee and biscuits. At ll a.m. the groom's entourage of friends and relations came to the bride's house with full band and musicians all dancing along the way to collect the bride and take her to the groom's house. Much dancing in the courtyard - same as the previous night at the groom's house.

The groom tried to enter the house to get the bride half a dozen times at least but was kept back by the bride's brothers - it was token force only. He then left.

Now the whole family dance back to the groom's house and the bride is escorted by her brothers and the family walk on in a stately procession at the rear of the groom's relations and friends. Having arrived at the groom's house the male heads of the family kissed the brothers just outside the doorway. The head of the bride's family concludes a discussion with exchange of money with the head of the groom's household, by placing his cheek on the other's cheek.

The bride is now free to cross the threshold. A cloth is thrown around her back and she is pulled in by the groom's family. Then a horse bridle, complete with blinkers, was put over her head, and a black fez was placed on top. A man from the courtyard threw a live chicken to another one standing on the threshold. He caught it and threw it back. It was caught within and thrown back to the doorway again and hurled back again. Then the doors shut and the festivities continued with the groom's family and relations. The bride's family went home as it was all over for them.

- 5 -

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They couldn't visit the bride until four days had passed. For the brothers it was a great loss, "to have no-one to bring their bread when they needed it". It is usual, but not obligatory, to wait for up to a year between wedding and the usual registration. In this period no intimate relations take place and it is really a trial period to see how the couple get on, and if suitable for the rest of their lives. If either party or neither like each other, the marriage is annulled and the wife goes back to her previous family's house. If they suit each other the marriage is then registered and a union takes place. Even at this late stage the marriage can still be annulled by man or wife after registration, or even after children are born, if the terms of the registration documents are broken.

Well, that is one story we observed. The details are put together by three of us, Linda, Linsey and myself, as I was not there all of the time and additional information about the bride was supplied by Linda as she could go where men could not.

CHRISTOPHER GUNSTONE

(acknowledgements to Linda Dawson and Linsey Pollak)

AN EVENING OF JUGOSLAV DANCING

Ken Ward's Tuesday Jugoslav class presented a programme of dances from Serbia and Macedonia at Horniman Museum on 3rd November, which was very enjoyable indeed to watch. The hall was full and the audience very appreciative of the really lovely display of costumes which this group now has (of which, of course, we saw only a small selection) and of the very good musicians. The dances, I thought, were well chosen and showed the varied styles and rhythms of the selected regions, as well as the different costumes and authentic musical instruments. The whole programme was enjoyable but particularly good was the solo item by Linsey Pollak who played gajda and sang a plaintive shepherds' song with completely relaxed expertise.

LILY SOUTHGATE

SIFD DAY COURSE IN NORWEGIAN DANCES 9th DECEMBER

This month Tony Parkins will be teaching the seven Norwegian dances in the Silver Badge syllabus. The dances are:-

Gammel Reinlender, Fyrtur, Tretur, Seksmannsril, Tyrolervals, Parisar Polka, Attetur med Mylne.

As usual the course will be from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Hugh Myddelton School, Corporation Row, Clerkenwell Green, London, E.C.l. Fee: 50p members, £1 non-members. Tea and coffee available. Please bring a packed lunch.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I wonder if any of the knitters in SIFD would be interested in a pattern book I discovered the other day - Patons 3009 "Dolls' Clothes Around the World". They do Spanish, Eskimo, Mexican, Dutch, Swedish, Russian, French, Scottish and Swiss. With knowledge of your favourite countries' costumes and this pattern book, it should be possible to make some really good knitted costumes for dolls. I haven't had time to try yet!

We have been in Cornwall, at various locations, for over a year now. It was good to go to Halsway Manor last Spring, to dance and meet old friends. I have danced once since, with $3\frac{1}{2}$ year-old Debbie, at the local carnival. We did the Floral Dance, at the end of a very long procession, ineptly and not very enthusiastically led by the carnival queen followed by two sets who almost knew what they were doing, followed by visitors, some of whom did know what they were doing, and locals. It was all rather sad, and disappointing.

Our life has changed drastically from London, and even Reading, days. After nine months on a friend's farm, rearing calves and humping hay, I now run a petrol station and cafe, while Roy is garage foreman/mechanic. We still have rabbits and chickens and also a white nanny goat, so westways is a sort of micro-mini farm! I don't have much time for knitting!

Visitors are always welcome; we are on the Λ .3059 St. Columb to Newquay road. We hope to be here next summer too.

Happy dancing.

MARJORIE CORNER (and ROY and DEBBIE)

Westways Service Station Tregaswith, Newquay, Cornwall.

Dear Lily,

The day on which Twelve Circle Dances were taught by Frances Horrocks at Hugh Myddelton School was extremely enjoyable, a great success in every way. I should like to thank everyone concerned; Frances, of course, and also all the other people who worked so hard to make the day a success - taping, providing refreshments, booking hall etc. The fact that people came from as far afield as Wales, Northumberland, Bristol and Southampton, must indicate how worthwhile it was.

In addition, I am delighted with the double record in its attractive sleeve. Great care has obviously been taken to provide the authentic sound for each type of dance. Much hard work must have gone into its preparation.

The Day Courses are of great help to those of us living out of London.

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After the Edinburgh Summer School I felt I had simply added to my repertoire of dances to be forgotten for lack of practice, living as I do, too far out even to join a group. However, the Day Courses help, not only as refreshers for the dances, but as an opportunity to renew acquaintances. Long may they continue.

Best wishes,

LIZ BRIDLE 56 Chequers Road, Minster on Sea, Sheerness, Kent.

HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND - MAY 1979

All those who applied in September, and others who put their names on the list last May, have had places reserved for them. There are still some places available.

The weekend (4th to 6th/7th May) will again coincide with the "May Day" Bank Holiday Monday, and you will be able to stay for either two or three days. The charges will be £17.50 and £26.25 respectively, plus a small charge for overheads.

Would members who have not yet booked but wish to do so, please write direct to Michael Clark, 14 Weldon Close, Church Crookham, Aldershot, Hants., or telephone Fleet 4663.

FRIDAY "DEMONSTRATION" CLASSES

The dates for the next monthly Friday classes at Chequer Centre are:-

1st December 5th January

6.30 to 9.30 p.m.

SPECIALIST POLISH S.I.F.D. TEACHER'S EXAMINATION

We are sending out with this issue of SIFD NEWS, the syllabus for the Polish S.I.F.D. Teacher's examination which will be held on July 14th, 1979, at Hugh Myddelton School. Application forms will be sent out nearer the date. Examination fee £5.

HAMA'AGAL NEWS

It is many months since I last reported on the group's activities and announced forthcoming events, so here goes.

We have enjoyed residential weekends at Halsway Manor and Woodlands, Stoke d'Abernon, in which weather, company and dancing have all been of unparalleled excellence. At last we have a full set of Chassidic costumes and a programme of dances to go with them. We performed this at "London Entertains", a festival of the many cultures of London, where it was enthusiastically received. We have continued giving occasional demonstrations, and leading general dancing at synagogues, Israeli evenings, etc. Several members of our group attended the outstanding Summer School organized by the Hilel Group and had the benefit of excellent teaching from Tom Bozigian (Armenian) and Moshiko (Israeli). Moshiko has given us inspiration and material in plenty to start the new season of classes.

Our Basic Dance Class (not Beginners please) now tops 30 enrolled members, so we may have to close the list soon if we can't move the circle round fast enough. The Advanced Group continues to flourish, several members having returned with renewed zeal after a visit to Israel. I shall be visiting Israel in April to check up on style points, renew old acquaintances, purchase costume items, and generally not want to return home.

Our main public face has continued to be shown on our workshop days in February/March, with attendances of 100-plus. Because last year we had to disappoint so many applicants, the 1979 workshops will be organized differently. We have decided to hold two separate days, allocated as follows:-

On 3rd February there will be a day workshop for Beginners, Class Teachers, M.C's, Keep Fit leaders etc. who want to work on simple dances suitable for recreative occasions. There will be no party that evening but I shall be M.C. at Cecil Sharp House the following day and some of the workshop material will be incorporated in the programme then.

On 3rd March there will be the Advanced day workshop. There the teaching will be at a faster rate, and some dance experience is presumed, also knowledge of basic steps. In the evening, we will have the usual International Party which will include dances from both workshops. It is hoped that people who attended the first workshop will come to the party on 3rd March too. Of course, there will be several people who want to attend all three events, so perm any 1, 2 or 3 from 3 - reductions for more than one event.

As usual, each workshop will be linked to a record, copies of which will be available for sale. We also hope to bring out our third book of simple dances on this occasion, and our previous books and records will be available too. So we look forward to meeting many SIFD friends at the three events on the "3rds" and on other occasions where the circle will keep turning. Shalom to you all.

FIONA HOWARTH Leader of Hama'agal Israeli Dance Group, Henry Fawcett School, South Bank Inst. (Home Tel: 01 460 0823)

FOLK DANCE INSTRUMENTS

GADULKA (kemene, kemenche, tsigulka, gyola, dyola) - Rebek

This is a string-bow (Bulgarian) instrument. It is made of acacia, mulberry or maple wood in one piece. It is pear-shaped with a short wide fingerboard. The upper part of the rebek is faced with a veneer of pine wood.

The rebeks have from two to six strings. They are made of hide and lately of wire. The three-string rebeks are the oldest. The most widespread are the four-string rebeks. The three-string rebeks are adjusted to three basic keys mainly:

	N 677	*2	Ī	II	III
Gabrovo			 al	a	el
Lingur			a ₁	e _l	1
Thracian			a_1	el	a

These keys are used in all rebeks (four, five and six-string) by keying every extra string to a major second, clear fourth, fifth, octave or some lower interval. Some rebeks have free sounding strings, "glashnitsy", similar to viola d'amore.

The bow is made of tree branches and horsetail hair. The strings are pressed with the fingers, without touching the finger-board, flageolet fashion. The next string produces a sound which accompanies the melody all the time, or from time to time, as a drone. The first string is keyed to 1, al, or Bl

The rebek player, who is seated, holds the instrument vertically resting on the knee a gamba, or if standing, on the waistband. The rebek has a strong tone. It is used both as a solo instrument and in orchestra. It is also used to accompany epic songs. Rebeks are played at weddings and round dances. They are mainly used in Thrace, the Dobrudja and the Central Balkan range, and rarely in the Rhodopes and Pirin region.

PHILIP KOUTEV AND MARIA KOVTEVA

ED. NOTE: When in Billingham this year, I remarked to a colleague how well the musician was playing the gadulka. "Gadulka?", he said, "I thought that was a kemenche". It's just as well we didn't bet on it. It seems we could have used any of the seven names for the same instrument.

ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION IN THE JANUARY ISSUE MUST REACH THE EDITOR IN WRITING BY 15TH DECEMBER.

S.I.F.D. ASSOCIATED CLASSES

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Every Tuesday at St. Marylebone School, 74 Marylebone High Street (off Baker Street) London. 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.

EUROPEAN NATIONAL

Every Wednesday at St. Albans School, Baldwins Gardens, London, 6.00 to 7.00 p.m. Beginners. 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. General & Advanced. Tutor: Janet Woolbar.

At Rutlish School, Watery Lane, London, S.W.20 during term time: Beginners on Mondays 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. (Two classes 15-30 and over 30s). Advanced on Wednesdays 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Contact: Charles Steventon. Tel: 542 3831.

HUNGARIAN (including Transylvanian)

Every Friday at Millbank School, Erasmus Street, Pimlico, London (behind Tate Gallery and 5 minutes from Pimlico Station). 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.

ISRAELI

Every Wednesday at Kidbrooke School, Corelli Road, London, S.E.3. 7 to 8 p.m. Beginners. 8 to 10 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Gaye Saunte (Tel: 01 318 0237)

Every Thursday at Henry Fawcett School, Bowling Green Street, Oval, London, S.E.ll. 6.15 to 7.15 p.m. Basic Israeli Dance Course. 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. New members should consult Fiona before enrolling for the Advanced Class.

POLISH

Every Monday at Christopher Hatton School, Laystall Street, Rosebery Avenue, London, E.C.1. 6.45 to 7.45 p.m. Beginners. 8 to 10 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Betty Harvey.

ROMANIAN (including Transylvanian)

Every Thursday at Millbank School, Erasmus Street, Pimlico, London (behind Tate Gallery and 5 minutes from Pimlico Station) 7 to 9 p.m. Tutor: Alan McLean.

JUGOSLAV

Every Tuesday at West Square Branch of South Bank Institute, St. George's Road, London, S.E.l. 6.15 to 8.15 p.m. Beginners and Intermediate. 8.30 to 9.30 p.m. Advanced. Tutor: Ken Ward.

SUNDAY DANCES

Dec. 3rd Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. M.C. Ernie Nolan.

Jan. 7th Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London N.W.l. 4 M.C.'s.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: 50p members. 75p non-members.

WHAT'S ON

Dec. 2nd HUNGARIAN/POLISH DAY COURSE & PARTY at Moorfields School. Details given last month.

- 3rd SIFD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- 9th SIFD NORWEGIAN DAY COURSE See page 6.
- 9th BALKAN PARTY organized by Ken Ward's group at Johanna School, Johanna Street, Lower Marsh, London S.E.l. 7 to 11 p.m. Admission by ticket only, from Fred Wood, 43 Gillmans Road, Orpington, Kent. (Tel: Orpington 27363 evenings, Erith 47724 daytime). Tickets will not be sold at the door. Cost: £1.25 including refreshments.
- 12th THE DUNAV BALKAN GROUP present a programme of music, songs and dances from Eastern Europe. Stoke Newington Assembly Hall, London N.16.
 7.30 p.m. Admission free. Tickets available from Hackney or Stoke Newington Libraries.
- 15th CHRISTMAS PARTY at Barnet International Folk Dance Club. Hadley Memorial Hall, Hadley Highstone, Barnet, Herts. 8 to 11 p.m. Music by Henry Morris and the Narodni Group. Admission £1.00 including refreshments. Enquiries to Janet Heathfield, 01 368 5345.

15th/17th DUNFORD WEEKEND

30th KASATKA COSSACKS. Traditional Russian and Ukrainian songs, music and dances. Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 3.15 and 7.45 p.m. Tickets: £1.20 to £3.00

ADVANCE NOTICE

Bristol International Folk Dance Group will be holding a Day Course on 20th January 1979. The tutor will be Frances Horrocks, and the dances mainly Armenian and Israeli. Further details next month.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR READERS FROM THE EDITOR AND HELPERS

POLISH

Zycze wam wesolych swiat Bozego Narodzenia i szczesliwego Nowego

Roku

ESTONTAN

Romsaid Joulu Puhi Ja Uut Aastat

UKRAINIAN

Veselekh Vyat y Stoslivoho Novoho Roku

BULGARIAN

Tchestito Rojdestvo Hristovo Tchestita Nova Godina

SERB-CROATIAN

Sretan Bozic i Nova Godina

BASQUE

Zoriontsu Eguberri Zoriontsu Berri Urte SPANISH

Feliz Navidad y prospero Ano Nuevo

CATALAN

Felic Nadal i Any Nuo

ITALIAN

Felicita e salute per Natale e Buon Anno

FRENCH

Sincere vouex de joyeux Noel et de bonne et heureuse Annee

PORTUGUESE

Feliz Natal e prospero Ano Novo

HUNGARIAN

Boldog Karacsonyi is Ujevi Unnepeket HAWAITAN

Mele Kalikimaka me ka Haule Makahiki Hou

*

SWEDISH

Glad Jul och ett Gott Nytt Ar

GREEK

Kala Christougena kai Eftikhes to Neon Ethos

ARMENIAN

Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev Pari Gaghand

JAPANESE

Shinnen Omedeto Kurisumasu Omedeto

I should like to thank very sincerely all those people who have been a great help over the past year in getting the SIFD NEWS printed and posted on time, sometimes at some considerable inconvenience; particularly Kelsey Blundell, Frank Flanagan, Gaye Saunte, Will Green, John Hughes, Dorothy Bryan, Shirley Rogers, Delia Mattey, Rita Whiting, Keith Bradbury, Caroline Thomas, Joy Steventon, Lesley Boorer, Edwina and Michael Holdup, Hugh Wood and George Sweetland, plus any I haven't named but who have helped from time to time. Thank you all very much indeed for your continued loyalty to the S.I.F.D and to me.

LILY SOUTHGATE