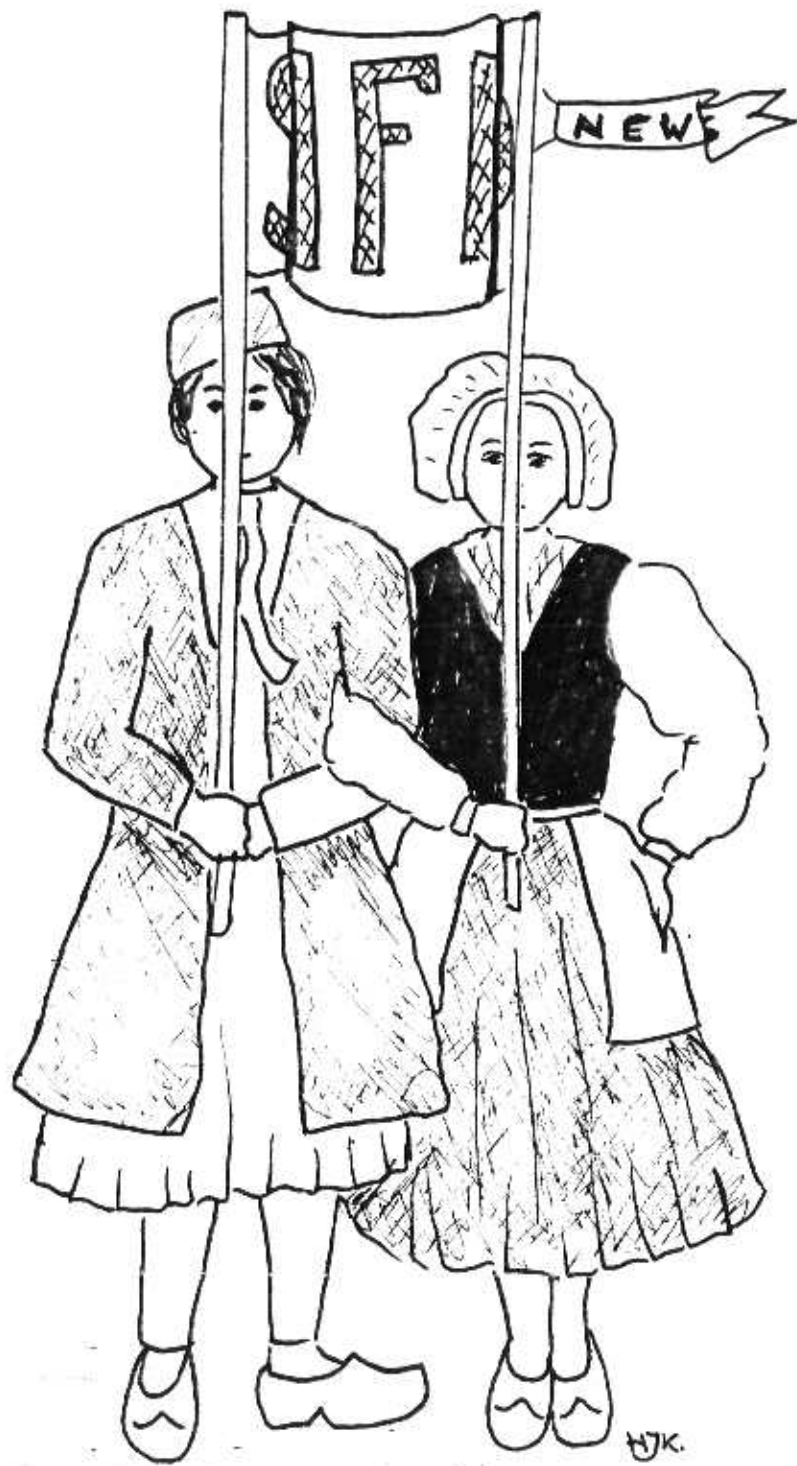


MARCH 1988



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery, 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: Cooden (04243) 5866.

—oOo—

The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.

—oOo—

This month's cover is by Hassina Khan and shows costumes of "Les Polletais" from Dieppe, France.

—oOo—

CHAIRMAN: Janet Woolbar, 34A Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. HA3 8JZ.

SECRETARY: Audrey Whiteley, 16 De Vere Walk, Watford, Herts. WD1 3BE. Tel: Watford 221696

TREASURER: Judith Holloway, 28 Shepherds Road, Watford, Herts. WD1 7HX.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Alan Morton, 26 Durham Rd., Harrow, Middx HA1 4PG. Tel: 01 427 8042

DEMONSTRATION SECRETARY: Kay Leighton, 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts WD4 8AN  
Tel: Kings Langley 62763.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Rd., London SE5 0TQ  
Tel: 01 701 3785.

GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan McLean, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt, Middx. Tel: 01 422 6498.

—oOo—

WOULD ANY MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THEIR ADDRESS PLEASE NOTIFY THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.

—oOo—

Enquiries and orders for books, records and cassettes should be sent to  
Joan Rackham, 16 Bathurst Avenue, London S.W.19.

Car stickers are available from Judith Holloway (address above), 30p each.  
(please send s.a.e. 4" square)

S.I.F.D. T-shirts in various designs and sizes available from Kay Leighton  
(address above). Also available from Kay are copies of "The History of the  
S.I.F.D.", price £1.50 (£1.75 by post).

—oOo—

ALL MATERIAL FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF S.I.F.D. NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR  
IN WRITING BY 15TH MARCH.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES

People sometimes ask me what on earth we talk about at Committee Meetings, so I thought you might be interested in the account of a typical meeting.

At all Committee Meetings certain items appear on the Agenda every month. In our case, these are Minutes of the Last Meeting, Matters Arising, Secretary's Report, Treasurer's Report, Sales, Demonstrations, Associated and Affiliated Groups, and Membership Report. These items take a considerable amount of time, as they pay due regard to Committee members' "second thoughts", experiences, and the views of Society members expressed to them. Then we deal in detail with one or two items - for instance at the February meeting we discussed Sunday Dances and possible ways of making them more attractive to the members who only come occasionally. This item was also highlighted by a letter to the SIFD NEWS, written in appreciation of the format of the January Dance, with its eight or nine M.C.s. Any comments on this subject by regular (and irregular) attenders at the Sunday Dances will be welcomed.

Under the item "Any Other Business", matters crop up which were not on the original Agenda. At the March meeting, and no doubt subsequent ones, we shall discuss Diki's letter to the SIFD NEWS about some sort of memorial to Lucile Armstrong. Again, ideas and comments will be welcomed, and we hope that a decision can be reached somewhat more quickly than was the case with the Margery Latham memorial.

As a Committee, we have only two hours a month to discuss Society matters, and it is inevitable that some subjects seem to be long-running sagas (e.g. the G.L.A. application). Please give us your views on the points mentioned above, and remember that your views are welcome and always taken seriously.

AUDREY WHITELEY  
Hon. Secretary

—oOo—

## DAY COURSE VIDEOS

The S.I.F.D. has been considering for some months the possibility of making videos of dances at Day Courses for the benefit of class teachers, and particularly as reference tapes for the Silver Badge examinations.

Following a recent Day Course, I have spoken to three S.I.F.D. members who own video recorders and who would be prepared to offer their services as members of a team of "video makers", and Joe Cott has offered his expertise in video making to advise on practicalities. Obviously we would want to avoid placing full responsibility for video production on one individual, otherwise that person would never be able to do any dancing himself, and that would be too great a sacrifice to ask. Hence, the proposal of a team of video operators on a rota system.

Would you - or any member of your family, or your dance group, owning a video recorder - be prepared to join the team? Wouldn't it be ideal if we could find eleven volunteers, one for each month we hold a Day Course. That would leave us with the organization of the reproduction and then the sale of the tapes. Could we also at the same time appeal for two people to take responsibility for these vital aspects? Once we have an idea of who is willing to help, a meeting of volunteers and S.I.F.D. Committee can be set up to formalise a system. The need for Day Course videos has been demonstrated to exist, and S.I.F.D. funds can be made available to finance the project. Clearly, the Society aims to provide as professional a service as possible regarding the quality of the video, the co-operation of teachers and students, and protocol regarding the distribution of the tapes, and therefore there will be many issues to be ironed out before the scheme can get under way.

On the basis that if you don't tell people you need help, you won't get any, I await a deluge of 'phone calls offering comments, issues to be considered and practical offers of help. The need is urgent!

ELEANOR OAKLEY  
Tel: Ingatestone (0277) 352743

WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH OF S.I.F.D.

Dance Groups: "Selpar" classes on Tuesdays, 7.15 p.m. at Selly Park School, Pershore Road, Stirchley, Birmingham. Tutor: Sybil Chapman.

"Heart of England" International Folkdance Group meet on Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m. at Lyndon School, Daylesford Road, Solihull.

"Arden" International Folkdance Group meet every Tuesday except the second Tuesday of the month at the Village Hall, Station Rd., Balsall Common, near Coventry, 7.30 p.m.

Further details of these activities from the Secretary of West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D., Dennis V. Hunt, 27 Baginton Rd., Styvechale, Coventry CV3 6JX. 0203 413854.

—oOo—

SILVER BADGE EXAMINATIONS AT KIRK HALLAM

It has been decided to organize Silver Badge Examinations, for the Bert Price Proficiency Awards, in the Midlands. The first examinations will take place on Saturday, 17th September 1988, at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire. The four countries for the examinations will be Norway, Switzerland, Italy and England. The syllabus for each country and other information will be available in the SIFD NEWS or from Gill Morral, Secretary of Nutbrook International Folkdance Group, 116 Nottingham Rd., Stapleford, Notts. Tel: Nottingham 393204.

—oOo—

NEWS OF CECIL SHARP HOUSE

Cecil Sharp House is officially open until the end of September. It has now been registered as a Listed Building (Grade 2) by the Department of the Environment. The reason for the House achieving this status is the mural in the Main Hall. Despite this, the N.E.C. Chairman, Janet Wood, announced in a press release on 23rd December that the House would still be sold but the N.E.C. would be "taking expert advice and every precaution to avoid any damage to the mural".

I am sure everyone will be very sad to hear that Douglas Kennedy, of the E.F.D.S.S., died on 7th January 1988.

KAY LEIGHTON

HARROW FOLK FESTIVAL

The Harrow Folk Festival will take place this year as a weekend event only - 19th to 21st August. "International" dancing will not be included this year but there will be American Clog, Elizabethan, Fallibroome, French Canadian Stepping, Irish, Modern Jive, Morris, New England Contras, Pat Shaw, Playford, Tap, 17th/18th Century. Programmes available from Festival Office, 29 Tenby Avenue, Harrow HA3 8RU. Please send s.a.e. Tel: 01 907 4700.

—oOo—

Please add the following to the list of SIFD Affiliated Groups previously circulated:-

KAYROMA INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets Fridays, 7 to 9 p.m. during term time at Whitley Lodge First School, Whitley Bay, for General International folkdancing. Tutor: Kaye Poole, 50 Antonine Walk, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE15 0EE. Tel: Wylam 2495. Pianist: Nancy Willis.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP meets on Fridays, 8 to 10 p.m. at St. Michaels Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Leader: Jill Bransby. Enquiries to Secretary: Betty Lee, 4B Rockingham Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 1SH. Tel: 0438 316288.

The November issue of "Folk Roots" (available from P.O.Box 73, Farnham, Surrey) carried an article about the Swedish Folk Dance Band "Filarfolket" who were an outstanding success at last year's South Bank, Towersey, Pontardawe and Whitby Festivals. "Filarfolket" are a Folk Dance Band with a difference because they are trying to give the dancer the feeling "that this is going on for hours and hours and hours, and you hope that the music will not stop because you want to dance all the time". They play traditional music for Polska dances, and they emphasise that they concentrate on important rhythmic and phrasing details of the Swedish tradition, but amongst their traditional instruments you will also find synthesisers, congas, saxes and a trumpet. The Polska dances are part of the old Swedish tradition, and "Filarfolket"'s way is to teach two dances and then do them all night, encouraging people to improvise within the dances. "Filarfolket" have been criticised by some members of "the guardians of Swedish Folk Music" but others welcome the way they have kept old traditions alive. This interest in improvisation within folkdance was also discussed in the programme of the last tour of the Hungarian State Folk Dance Ensemble whose Director sees improvisation as a key element in keeping a tradition alive. Folk dance in this country is mainly concerned with learning steps and figures. The emphasis is on the form rather than the actual dancing experience. But in European folk dance there is a dance called "The Dance of the Random Dancer" where the "random dancer" creates new steps, within the essential structure of the basic dance step, which the whole circle picks up and learns. This approach to dancing was once, I believe, widespread, and musicians like "Filarfolket" are part of an on-going tradition. The article published in "Folk Roots" was supplemented by the editorial comment that "maybe the time has come to question the rigid way that (folk) dances operate in this country".

Recently in SIFD NEWS we have had references to Sacred/Circle Dance, whose approach to Folk Dance is very similar to that of "Filarfolket". I feel it is very unfortunate that some highly inaccurate statements have been made which have led some people to feel that Sacred/Circle Dance is a threat (or an alternative?) to traditional International Folk Dance. I should like to make it very clear that, as a Sacred Dance teacher, I value absolutely the Folk Heritage that has been passed on to me and I, in turn, hope to pass it on to my children. But I wish to pass on a living vibrant tradition, and this aliveness I have experienced most strongly at the Sacred/Circle Dance camps. Whether Balkan dancing to Mara (how can anybody call that bowdlerised kindergarten dancing!), experiencing the long Breton dances with Pol Huellou, or dancing to the resident Neo-Hungarian Cafe Orchestra, I have never felt so completely part of a tradition that stretches back thousands of years.

It saddened me greatly that people should seek to criticise the late Bernard Wosien who was such an inspiration to myself and others. His dancing won awards from Greek dance bodies, and his esoteric knowledge was drawn from the Pythagorean Order whose traditional teachings stem from Ancient Greece. I feel it is of interest to know which of today's folk dances are connected to which Greek God. I have a drawing of a terra cotta cup which illustrates the connection between dance and the Gods.

The Meditation Dances mentioned by Janet McCrickard in the December SIFD NEWS are an important part of Sacred/Circle Dance. Such dances are found in primitive planter cultures where they are characterised by "walking forwards and backwards....raising and lowering the arms.....turning towards one another by couples", (Curt Sachs; World History of the Dance p.127). Sachs describes the goal of these dances as meditation. As such dances do not appear to have survived in Europe (this statement is obviously contentious and I would be interested to know readers' opinions e.g. the Armenian "Carone" and the Hungarian "Paloc Tancole" have a very meditative feel and satisfy a number of the criteria that Sachs lists), Bernard Wosien, and others, have choreographed/reconstructed dances in this style to pieces of folk, classical and religious music. Other new dances are being created, and I would mention "Winds on the Tor" and "King of the Fairies", which have been warmly welcomed by International Folk Dance Groups in America as examples from a living folk tradition.

I should like to offer to teach a Sacred Circle Dance Workshop, free of charge, in the London area. Owing to a forthcoming visit to America, it would probably

Contd...

not happen until July. I would like to hear from any S.I.F.D. members who feel that "Filarfolket"'s approach to folk dance is a valid one. If I am a minority of one, perhaps I shall start learning Swedish.

PETER VALLANCE  
Park Farm, Braiseworth, Eye,  
Suffolk IP23 7HB.

—oOo—

POLISH PARTY - SATURDAY, 16TH APRIL 1988 - 4.30 TO 10 P.M.  
AT CHRISTOPHER HATTON CENTRE, LAYSTALL STREET, ROSEBERY AVENUE, LONDON E.C.1

4.30 to 6.00 p.m. Informal tuition/revision of dances.  
6.00 to 6.30 p.m. Break for changing into costume before the evening party.  
6.30 to 10.00 p.m. Party

Cost: £2.50 including tea during the afternoon and supper during the evening.

As the hall is quite small, numbers have to be limited, so entrance cannot be guaranteed unless tickets are purchased in advance (please send s.a.e.) from:-

Betty Harvey  
30 Regent Square,  
London E3 3HQ

- or -

Tony Latham,  
Flat 9,  
\*118 Avenue Road, London W.3.  
(\*not 18 as stated last month)

Costumes: If anyone would like to wear a Polish folk costume for the party and hasn't one, we will endeavour to fit him/her with one, provided it is requested at least two weeks before the 16th April.

BETTY HARVEY

—oOo—

AMMERDOWN

There are still vacancies for the weekend at Ammerdown, near Radstock, 25th to 27th March 1988. A weekend of dancing and exploring the North Somerset countryside. Accommodation in single rooms. Cost: £42.50. Further details, including programme, from - and bookings to - Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield, Middx. EN2 0HE. Tel: 01 367 2649.

—oOo—

BULGARIAN SHOES

On several occasions, people have asked me where Bulgarian leather Tservuli can be bought, as the shops seem to run out of supplies during the summer when most people visit Bulgaria. Usually, I am able to get them when I visit Bulgaria in the Spring, if I order them in advance. If anyone would like to order a pair, they could write to me giving continental shoe size, preferably early March, so that I can get them at Easter. Prices vary, but in the past have been around £10/£11, excluding postage and packing. They would be posted to those who ordered them early in May. At the moment, I have only sizes 36 and 38 - £10.50 plus £1 p. & p.

It is also possible to order musical instruments, but these can sometimes take longer. Tamboura, Kaval, Doduche, Godelka. Again, I am quite willing to help should anyone wish.

SYBIL NEWTON,  
British-Bulgarian Friendship Society,  
c/o Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street,  
London EC1V 4NB.  
or - 117 Buxton Lane, Caterham, Surrey  
Tel: 01 660 3007.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....

Dear Lily,

"A Letter from Pembrokeshire" - Congratulations must go out yet again for the Trojan work done by the various members, both on and off the Committee of the S.I.F.D. Without their efforts, the Society couldn't function and the members, especially those further afield, would become quite isolated in the folkdance world.

Vic and I are now the proud owners of a video machine, and all because of the Swansea 1987 video cassette! I'm delighted with the cassette and find it a great bonus in reinforcing the notes taken whilst on the course. This leads me to wonder if there are video recordings available, either to buy or to hire, of other Swansea courses I've attended - in particular the \*1982 French/Romanian/Czech? Attending the refresher courses is unrealistic for me, and a video would be such a help and reduce the risk of my introducing errors!

Our little group is doing fine and some members have joined the S.I.F.D. Thank you to the S.I.F.D. "Lord Mayor's Parade" members who gave our Beth such a warm welcome when she visited London over the New Year holiday. She was bubbling with enthusiasm on her return. We have now moved our group from the Mill, where we used to dance, due to alterations, and are dancing in an old school nearby. It's early days yet but we hope the extra space will soon be filled with happy international dancers. We look forward to meeting those of you who can come this way - assuming, that is, that we're not already heading your way to some festival, e.g. Sidmouth/Folkestone/Eastbourne etc. By the way, Edinburgh Folk Dancers - when did you say your festival was?

Happy dancing everyone,

SUE & VIC CLARK (and members of the Pembrokeshire  
International Folkdance Group)  
22 Church Rd., Roch, Nr.Haverfordwest, Pembroke.

ED. NOTE: Can anyone help Sue with information on (a) video recordings and (b) the date of the festival at Edinburgh? (\*I'm not sure that Sue has the correct year).  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Lily,

It was just like old times up at "The House" on Saturday, 30th January. Friends kept turning up from all over the place and there was a real spirit of reunion. The occasion was a Day of Dance in aid of Cecil Sharp House. Nine types of dance were featured including ballet, historical dancing, jive and chantraine, and teams gave a short demonstration in the morning in preparation for workshops in the afternoon. I should like to put on record a very big Thank You to the twelve members of Janet Woolbar's and Charles Steventon's classes who came together - without benefit of rehearsal - to form the S.I.F.D. demonstration team. They really put on a good show with an interesting element of spontaneity!

The afternoon workshop was attended by 70 or more dancers who, despite it being the last session of the day, worked enthusiastically at six dances - Zedik Katamar, Chotis de la Frontera, Sicilian Tarantella, Oige ya Vasemba, Santis Mazelka and Tarina de l'Abrud. Joan Rackham brought and distributed S.I.F.D. literature, so we hope this will yield some new interest.

My thanks to the Friends of Cecil Sharp House for their excellent organization of a most interesting day, and for inviting the S.I.F.D. to participate. Perhaps we may look forward to another similar event in the future.

ELEANOR OAKLEY  
95 The Furlongs, Ingatestone,  
Essex CM4 0AL

Dear Lily,

I would like to make a few comments on Will Green's note in last month's SIFD NEWS about recorded cassettes being sold at S.I.F.D. Day Courses, as I feel that the situation is not quite as simple as he assumes.

I should point out that my experience is mainly with Balkan dancing. I have therefore also come into contact with professional folkdance teachers based in Holland, many of whom do in fact hold the copyright in the West on the folk records and cassettes they have produced, e.g. Silviu Ciuciumis, to name the most recent example. In these cases it seems quite fair to me that we should have to buy the material from them.

Much of the other material used is not in fact copyrighted in this country. Many of our home-grown teachers make the effort to travel to the various countries whose dance they teach, and they bring back either records from that country or indeed make their own recordings in the field. If those teachers then make "their" material available through cassettes, on the whole the cassettes are priced to cover costs only, and I personally am grateful that they do so. It is only in this way that most of us can afford to have a collection of folk music from a wide variety of sources.

On a purely logistical level, if everyone tried to make individual cassettes at a day course, the disruption caused would surely mean a loss of precious dancing time. The copies made at a day course, particularly those optimistically made on the inadequate equipment sometimes brought to these venues, are of inferior quality to the copies made by most of our teachers direct from the original recording. This is of importance, particularly if we are intending to use our copies at subsequent classes. Or should we be using this possibly copyrighted material at all?

Yours sincerely,

HELEN GREEN,

28 St. Mary's Road, Watford, Herts WD1 8EF

\*\*\*\*\*

The question of copyright is a complicated one. Perhaps Will can sort it out for us?

When the Day Course/Badge Sub-Committee arrange the programme for the Day courses, we do our best to make music available to everyone, to go with the dances taught. But each course is different, and we have to rely on the integrity of the teacher or musician of the day.

If our own musician, Wilf Horrocks, is playing, he very willingly allows people to record "his" music on the spot; if the teacher is a visitor, he/she sometimes brings his/her own copies of the taped music and, quite rightly, wishes to sell them to us and does not want people making their own recordings; if the teacher is one of our own members he/she may either (a) have cassettes for sale which he/she has had to buy and therefore, again quite rightly, expects us to buy, or (b) may have made up a cassette himself/herself for which he/she would charge us a cost price - in both these cases we would not expect to be allowed to make our own recordings, the teacher will have done the job for us. If a visiting teacher brings along his/her own musician they sometimes very kindly allow us to record, or, if he/she has only one cassette he/she may allow us to record from that. The circumstances differ considerably each time. We always ask the teacher in advance what arrangements are being made about music and whether recording will be allowed. We rely on the teachers' integrity regarding copyright. (I am told that if music is more than 50 years old, it is outside copyright anyway).

If the vendors are making a profit unfairly; If we are infringing copyright; If it is illegal, what alternative method does Will suggest to ensure that we are within the law, and are fair to everyone?

LILY AVERY



A further extract from Lucile Armstrong's article on "Ritual Dances", continued  
from the November issue :-

VERIN, Province of Orense, Galicia, N.W. Spain. In March, teams of men perform what we would call Morris Dances. They wear white cotton shirts and trousers with coloured ribbons down their backs. In the morning of the feast day they perform in special mitre-like headdresses. These are made of wire frames covered with flowers, somewhat similar to those worn by our Cheshire and Yorkshire Pace-Eggers, called Gorro de la Virgen (Virgin's bonnet). But in the afternoon they wear dome-shaped close-fitting bonnets also covered with flowers. The eight men dance the usual figures like our Morris. Orense possesses numerous such teams of Morris dancers, called Danzantes. Although they differ in detail of costume and some figures, they conform to the general pattern of what we call Morris dances. Many teams possess a Fool, or Jester, called Cachimorro or Bobo. Some have a devilish appearance, others wear a mask. Some wear smart blue or green pierrot-like costumes or breeches and jacket with a peaked cap and bells at the points - like some Italian jesters.

BOCAIRENTE, Province of Valencia, has numerous teams of "Moors and Christians" (the "Bad Old Year" versus the "Good New Year") who fight - the "White Ones" winning. There are teams of many kinds: Students, Shepherds, Guards etc., but of most interest are the twelve dwarfs (big heads on human shoulders) who carry a very long strip of red cloth, a metre wide, with holes in it at intervals through which the "dwarfs" bob up and down "bringing fertility to the crops". These dwarfs are really phallic symbols - they "find the hidden treasures". Shepherds have their own dances too; in LABASTIDE, Basque Country, twelve shepherds come into the great church, two by two, their sole accompaniment being the hitting of their staves on the ground. There, they dance before the altar, in two rows. Their figures are the cast-off, up the row and back to place, and turning round each other in couples, sunwise, marking time with their staves. The leader raps out his orders with a sharp click of castanets, otherwise they have no instruments. Outside the church they dance again, in a circle this time, feeding a fire with hay from their satchels. A "soup" is cooked over the fire in a cauldron (yet another fertility symbol), which is then presented to the Holy Family along with other gifts of fruit and a lamb. It is tempting to regard the origin of this dance as an offering to the Earth Mother, asking her for fruitful flocks in exchange - just as the ancient Greeks and the Trojans used to do.

Along the course of the River Ebro, in Spain, scarves replace swords and sticks. The figures are similar - crossing over, hays, or figures of 8, the spiral, ending with the leader holding the ends of the kerchiefs, or scarves, in his/her mouth, and having them wind round his/her neck! Finally a "tunnel" is formed and the leader escapes, leading the whole line of dancers out of a maze into a snake formation.

SITGES, near Barcelona, has a ritual dance in which eight men perform some Morris figures ending up by climbing onto the shoulders of four supporting men. They make up what are now called Mysteries, or Sacred Tableaux, representing scenes from the Bible story. That this is aetiological (or Christianized) is shown by the wands the dancers carry in each hand; a flexible red cloth phallic symbol, reminiscent of what some of our Lancashire Morris dancers also carry with such dexterity, marking the rhythm with twists of these "mollies". The Sitges men wear long tunics or skirts of white embroidered cotton. These skirts are frequently worn in the Iberian Peninsular by ritual dancers.

In Aragon, HUESCA, the Morris men carry little boys dressed in white frilly skirts on their shoulders. These boys are now called Angels. Turkey also has a dance where men climb on each other's shoulders, making tableaux, also Morocco. Some people believe the custom came from there. They may have meant to represent the Great People, the Gods, originally, for they are kept up for ritual purposes, as in Galicia, the Penlas who come in the sailors' sword dance. Penlas are old women who carry young girls in white on their shoulders. If you have not got stilts to make you taller, climb on to someone's shoulders!

by Lucile Armstrong

From the Journal of the Folklore Society. Reproduced by her kind permission.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Apr. 16th. West Midlands Branch of S.I.F.D. SPRING DAY COURSE. German folk dances will be taught by Joan Richardson at Dakenshaw Centre, Dakenshaw Rd., Solihull. S.I.F.D. members £4 for morning session (10.30) and afternoon session (2.00). Details and road map from Secretary: D.Hunt, 27 Baginton Rd., Coventry. Tel: 413854.

Apr. 16th. BALKANPLUS. Details as for 19th March, but M.C. to be arranged.

June 24th/26th. A WEEKEND OF DANCING, CAMPING & WALKING is planned at Beauchamp House, about 3 miles West of Gloucester, on the A.40, giving good access from all parts of the country but especially the Midlands, Bristol and Wales. Provide your own tent and sleeping bag; all food, washing facilities and a room for dancing are provided by Beauchamp House. All-in cost is expected to be about £23, but much less if you provide and prepare your own food on your own camping equipment. For non-campers, Bed & Breakfast accommodation is available locally. Bookings to, and further details from, Roy Clarke, 33 Cedar Park Rd., Enfield, Middx. EN2 0HE. Tel: 01 367 2649.

—oOo—

We have heard from Karl Klenk, in Switzerland, the very sad news that Eva Krasser, one of the Swiss ladies who came to the Swansea Course last summer, died suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of November. She was on the course with her daughter, Martina, and with two other Swiss ladies from Karl's group. I am sure all the people who attended the course will remember the four charming ladies who danced for us and who joined in our activities so readily, and will wish to offer our sincere condolences to Martina.

—oOo—

### EASTBOURNE "SWAP-SHOP"

At the Eastbourne Festival this year, there will be an S.I.F.D. "swap-shop" for anyone who wants to sell or buy any items of costume, books, records, or anything else that may be of interest to folk dancers. If anyone has anything they would like to dispose of, could they please pass it on to me at Eastbourne, or through Committee members or Merton Park dancers, or give me a ring to see if it can be done at any Day Courses, Workshops etc. Please enclose your name, telephone number, price wanted (10% will be deducted for S.I.F.D. funds) and description of the article, if that is not immediately apparent!

PAM KHAN  
Tel: 01 648 1422

—oOo—

### A NEW CLASS

A new class for folkdancing, particularly Balkan, will meet on Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. starting on 3rd March, at Finsbury Public Library (basement), 245 St. John Street, London EC1 4NB. Beginners and more experienced dancers welcome. It will be organized and mainly tutored by Cathy Meunier (under the auspices of Islington Workers' Music Association Branch). £1 for each session (50p for unwaged), tea and coffee and biscuits included.

—oOo—

### COMIC RELIEF

Harry Stone has written to tell us that Fiona Howarth's group "Hama'agal" held a "nose party" in aid of Comic Relief on 3rd February. The money made by the sale of clowns' noses at the party, added to that raised by Fiona's school classes, amounted to £130. Well done!

—oOo—

WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP have a new Secretary:- Miss Heather Bevan, 1 Gammons Land Cottages, Hadlow Place Farm, Golden Green, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0BP. Tel: Hadlow 851648.

EVENTS OVERSEAS

HUNGARY. 4th-11th July 1988. Gypsy Dance & Music Camp in Mateszalka, Hungary. Details from Gustav Balazs, Arpad U.41 11/6, Nyiregyhaza 4400, Hungary. 11th-19th July 1988. Hungarian Folkdance Camp at Debrecen, Hungary. Details from International Folklore Centre, H-4015, Debrecen, P.O.Box No.4, Hungary. 28th July-7th Aug. 1988 International Dance House & Musicians Camp at Jaszbereny. Details from Deryne Muvelodesi Kozpont, Jaszbereny, Lehel Vezér Ter.33, Hungary.

ISRAEL. 3rd-17th April 1988. Israeli Dance Course. Details from N.J.V.-sec., Van den Nestlei 23 bus 16, 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium.

YUGOSLAVIA. 12th-23rd July and 23rd July-3rd Aug. 1988. Seminars on Macedonian Folklore, dances, songs, music, at Struga. Details from Visinski (Stanimir), Rajko Zinzifof st.52 - 91000 Skopje, Yugoslavia. Also, the L.C.V. (Dutch Folkdance Society) are organizing tours to Yugoslavian Macedonia, Greece and Czechoslovakia. Details from L.C.V.-buro, Oudegracht 25, 3511 AB Utrecht, The Netherlands.

TURKEY. 27th July-4th Aug. 1988. Umit Catak and Turgay Ontali, who taught at the Turkish/Bulgarian weekend course in Brighton organized by Cathy Meunier, are organizing a folkdance course in Cinarli, on the island of Marmara. Instruction from five teachers, accompanied by five musicians. Cost: 585.00 Dutch guilders for bungalow accommodation, 645.00 for hotel accommodation, including full board and two overnight stays in Istanbul. Details from Umit Cacak, Assendelftstraat 4 I-voor, 1013 SP Amsterdam, Netherlands. Tel. No. from Britain - 010.31.20.844074. 9th-15th July 1988 a Folkdance Seminar in Turkey and 16th-31st July 1988 a Tour of Turkey, both organized by Dorette & Bahri Ertek. Bookings can be accepted for the seminar and tour together, or either one separately. Hotel accommodation, folkdance instruction, sight-seeing, dancing with local groups etc. Full details from Dorette & Behri Ertek, Hinterdorf 31, CH-9043 Trogen, Switzerland. 10th July-1st Aug. 1988 another tour to Turkey including folkdance seminar. Cost: 2880 Swiss francs. Details from Tufem, Postfach 322, 8021 Zurich, Switzerland.

\*INTERGROUPE FOLKLORES are organizing the following courses in 1988:-

2nd-9th April	Auvergne & Bulgarian dances, at Vesdun, France.
13th-20th July	South-West France " " St.Macaire, France.
18th-27th July	Romanian " " Bihor, Romania
31st July-8th Aug.	Hungarian " " Holloko, Hungary
5th-16th Aug.	Bulgarian " " Triavna, Bulgaria
9th-16th Aug.	Austrian " " Graz
18th-27th Aug.	Portuguese " " Leiria Region
28th Aug.-3rd Sept.	European " " Beauvoisin, France.

DENMARK. 26th June-3rd July 1988. Dance & Holiday week at Humble Efterskole, On Langeland, South of Fyn, Denmark. Dances from Serbia and Macedonia, and American Square dances. Full details from Berit Borg, Guldager Stationsvej 111, DK-6710 Esbjerg V, Denmark.

GREECE. 6th-10th July 1988. Folkdance Research 2nd World Conference in Larissa, Greece. Full details from Prof. Alkis Raftis, I.O.F.A. Greek Section, Hadjimichall 12, GR.10558 Athens, Greece. From 26th June to 27th August 1988 "Hipaistia" are arranging various dance courses in Greece. Details from Hipaistia, 29 Rue Saint Ferreol BP 2255, 13211 Marseille Cedex 01.

YUGOSLAVIA. 9th-18th July and 21st-31st July 1988. Macedonian Folkdance Courses organized by Pece Atanasovski at Etesevo, on the Prespa Lake. Details from Pece Atanasovski, ul.Vostanicka br.92, 91000 Skopje, Macedonia, Yugoslavia.

\*\*\*  
\*  
\*

\*Full details of Inter-Groupe Folklores courses can be obtained from 41 Rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 75013 Paris, France. Tel: (161) 45 89 36 28.

Has anyone attended an Inter-Groupe Folklores Course in recent years? If so, we would be interested to have any comments.



SUNDAY DANCES at Y.W.C.A. (Queen Mary Hall), Great Russell Street, London W.C.1.

Mar. 6th M.C. Uri Gerson

\*Apr. 10th M.C.s Joyce Sharp & Audrey Whiteley (Interval dances will be led by Roberto Haddon)

\*N.B. This is the 2nd Sunday in the month.

7 to 10 p.m. Admission: £2.50 for S.I.F.D. members, £3.00 for non-members.

—oOo—

WHAT'S ON

Mar. 11th DANCE TRADITIONS OF KOREA, OLD & NEW. Free concert at Horniman Museum, London Rd., Forest Hill, London S.E.23. 7.45 p.m.

Mar. 12th BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY AWARD SILVER BADGE EXAMINATIONS. Candidates and others involved will have received details.

Mar. 13th DAY COURSE - YUGOSLAV, GREEK, ROMANIAN, BULGARIAN. Organized by Julie Korth at Edge Hill College of Higher Education, Ormskirk. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Details from Julie Korth, 0942 831141.

Mar. 18th THE RAMAYANA EPIC IN BHARATA NATYAM DANCE. Free concert at Horniman Museum, London Rd., Forest Hill, London S.E.23. 7.45 p.m.

Mar. 18th AN EVENING OF GREEK DANCING organized by Rainmakers International Folkdance Club, 8 to 10 p.m. at St. Michaels Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. Tutor: Lillian Galatis. All welcome. Enquiries: 0438 316288.

Mar. 19th DAY COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCES at Henleaze U.R.C.Hall, Waterford Rd., Bristol. Tutor: Rod Perkins. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £3.50 (non-members £4) including morning & afternoon refreshments. Reductions for unwaged. Bring packed lunch, or use nearby Take-aways. Tickets and further details from Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Rd., Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0272 621802.

Mar. 19th BALKANPLUS, at Swiss Cottage Community Centre, 19 Winchester Rd., London N.W.3. 7 p.m. M.C. Roberto Haddon. Musicians: Dunav Balkan Group and others. Admission £2 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807.

Mar. 19th MEDITERRANEAN DAY COURSE at Kirk Hallam Community School, Godfrey Drive, Kirk Hallam, near Ilkeston, Derbyshire, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Teacher: Judith Holloway. Cost £3. Further information, tel: Nottingham 393204.

Mar. 20th/31st RED ARMY ENSEMBLE tour. Details given last month. Enquiries: 01 930 7502

Mar. 25th SONGS & INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS FROM THE MAGHREB. Free concert at Horniman Museum, London Rd., Forest Hill, London S.E.23. 7.45 p.m.

Mar. 25th/27th WEEKEND AT AMMERDOWN. See page 6.

Mar. 26th WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP 20TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 8 to 11.30 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. Tickets £4 including buffet and glass of wine. Bring your own additional drink. Tickets must be purchased or booked in advance. Please ring Sue McKie, 0732 846065 or Jenny Cant, 0732 883405, to book tickets or for further details.

Apr. 2nd ANGLO-FRENCH DAY OF DANCE. Workshop on the dances of the Berry region, with Josiane Perrin and "Balade Tes Pieds" (10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.) followed by a Dance with "Rosbif" and "Balade Tes Pieds" (8 to 11.45 p.m.). Workshop £4. Dance £2.50. Both £5. At Newick Village Hall, Newick, near Lewes, Sussex. Advance tickets and information from Mel Stevens, 62 Hanover St., Brighton, East Sussex BN2 2SS. Tel: 0273 685434.

Apr. 4th DUNAV BALKAN GROUP at Royal Festival Hall foyer, London, 12.30 to 2 p.m.