



SIFD NEWS JAN 1989

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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This month's cover shows a Latvian folk dancing couple in traditional costume from the "Abrene" region of Latvia, and the text translates, "London is dancing". The drawing was sent to us by Pēteris Pētersons of the London Latvian Folk Dance Group and is by "SAX". It is from the poster advertising the group's Anniversary Evening on 7th January 1989 (see What's On).

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GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton (address above).

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

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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 Payling (address above), 30p.
(Please send s.a.e. 4" square).

S.I.F.D. T-shirts in various designs and sizes, S.I.F.D. Mugs, Notelets, Shopping Bags, and also copies of "The History of the S.I.F.D.", are all available from Kay Leighton (address above).

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ALL MATERIAL FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF SIFD NEWS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE EDITOR
IN WRITING BY 15TH JANUARY.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

At the Annual General Meeting on 6th December, we had a larger attendance than last year - 42 members. This was encouraging, but still represents less than 10% of the membership. The Constitutional amendments and additions were discussed in some depth. One of the main recommendations had been to change the name of Associated Classes to Constituent Classes, but this found no favour and was defeated, although no more acceptable alternative to "Associated" could be found. The revised Constitution, and the Minutes of the Meeting, will be available to members in the New Year.

We have received hardly any of your views on the idea of having an S.I.F.D. Library. Does this mean that you are not interested?

A very happy New Year's dancing to everyone!

AUDREY WHITELEY
Hon. Secretary



S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE

Place: St. Paul's Centre, Rossmore Rd., Marylebone, London N.W.1. (off Lisson Grove) near Marylebone and Edgware Road Underground Station.

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Date: SATURDAY, 14TH JANUARY 1989

Tutors: Mona Graham and Susan Bell

Fee: £3 for SIFD members, £4 for non-members

In the morning, Mona will be teaching Scottish dances - soft, flat shoes are recommended. In the afternoon, Susan will be teaching dances from N.W.England.

Bring packed lunch; squash available. If tea/coffee required, please bring your own provisions; kitchen available.

Next month's S.I.F.D. Day Course will be Yugoslav.



SWEDISH TAPE

At the S.I.F.D. Swedish Day Course in November, one person was given a "rogue" tape with the word "Demo" appearing on the contents list. Jack Richardson would like to swap it for an ordinary tape, so would the person who has the "Demo" tape please return it to Jack (34 Mayals Avenue, Blackpill, Swansea, SA3 5DB) and he will exchange it.



EASTBOURNE FOLK FESTIVAL, 1989

Advance notice: May Bank Holiday weekend as usual. Same venue as last time, but more space, more dancing, and we hope more support. Details and booking forms shortly with SIFD NEWS. Further information from me if needed. ROY LE CROISSETTE, International Director of Eastbourne Festival, 26 Westfield Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2QU.

JAAP LEEGWATER IS BACK IN ENGLAND - 9TH/10TH JANUARY 1989

Jaap Leegwater is a most highly respected and renowned teacher of Bulgarian folk dance in the many countries in which he has taught and in Bulgaria itself. He has a unique ability to teach dances so that they can be both enjoyed and mastered by dancers of all abilities. Jaap has a wealth of knowledge about the music, dances and folk customs of Bulgaria, through his many visits to the country, including a special study of the village dances.

Many people will remember his last visit as a thoroughly enjoyable and inspiring experience. His dances were well selected and presented with comprehensive dance notes and good quality recordings, all on a single record. They have remained popular ever since. This time he will be bringing his new record with a new selection of dances.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to meet a truly talented teacher who will make the learning of Bulgarian folk dance much more fun than you ever imagined. Remember too that if the events are well supported he may be tempted to come back again, so bring your friends with you. Jaap is an excellent teacher for beginners and advanced dancers alike.

Details of the workshops are given below. For more information, contact me -

CATHY MEUNIER
115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
Tel: 01 637 3434 Ext.5565 (day)
01 482 0906 (evenings)

*Jan. 9th ~~BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WORKSHOP WITH JAAP LEEGWATER~~. At the Dance Studio, Camden Institute (ILEA), Longford Street, London W.1. (nearest stations: Euston, Warren Street, Great Portland Street). 8 to 10 p.m. Class members £1.50, visitors £2.50.

Jan. 10th BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WORKSHOP WITH JAAP LEEGWATER at Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W.6. Nearest Underground Station: Hammersmith. 7 to 10.30 p.m. Cost: £3.50.

*STOP PRESS! Jan. 9th now cancelled. Changed to 11th. Contact Cathy Meunier for details of venue.



A NEW RECORDING

TRDIKA group have issued a new cassette, called "Troika & Friends Live". It was recorded live at Dartington Village Hall in July 1988 and is an exciting mixture of tunes from Eastern Europe, with lots of improvisation. The tune titles are - Bukaria, Serbianca, De Doi, Kiriak, Arkan, Hora Numerata, Floricica, Hopak. All very lively and enjoyable to listen to. They kindly sent us a copy for reference, not for copying. The price of the cassette is £3.50 including postage. If you would like to buy the new "Troika & Friends Live" tape plus the previous tape under the "Wild Borscht" title, you can have the two for £6. Send your orders to Basil Bunelik, Bellever, Crosspark, Totnes, Devon.

Troika would be pleased to play for dances for the S.I.F.D. or branches, and are hoping to set up their own branch in the South-West. If anyone is interested either in booking the group to play, or in their idea of setting up in the South-West, would they please contact Basil Bunelik. ED.



TO COMPETE OR NOT?

One of the features which distinguishes the International Folk Festival of the mountainous regions of Zakopane (Poland) from other international festivals is its competitive nature. The teams coming to Zakopane are judged by an international jury, who take into consideration the different parts of each programme, and awards are made in the form of ice-axes (the symbol of the region) of gold, silver or bronze, or "Autumn leaves of the Tatras" if one wishes to praise a part of the programme.

The aim of this form of competition is clear. It is to develop all that is sound and good in the programmes of the teams, and to point out the mistakes which they must avoid in the future. In this way, the folklore is protected against wrong changes, and the public is able to judge the true standards of folklore, while avoiding the presentation of spectacles which have nothing to do with authentic traditions.

All the same, there are always many discussions, in spite of the matter seeming simple enough. Certain people with hypersensitivity are sorry for groups taking part in the competition, and ask, "Why have a competition? It only spoils the atmosphere of the Festival; it generates an unhealthy rivalry, and discourages those who do not obtain the approbation of the judges". One must nevertheless remember that whenever one wishes to get the best results, one uses competition. One meets it at school, on the sports field, and above all in all areas of art - for example, music, theatre, film, etc. Why then should folklore be the exception?.

The form of the competition is not a disagreeable surprise for the teams. On the contrary, they know the rules of the festival, and they freely submit themselves to adjudication. Moreover, there are teams who like to compete and thus obtain an appraisal by specialists. There are certainly those who are dissatisfied. They are those advisors and artistic directors of groups who do not know the true value of folklore, and present programmes of their own compositions, or of parts borrowed from others. As for the teams - they value to an extraordinary degree the festival prizes obtained at Zakopane, which among all other festivals puts them at the top of the league of folklore groups.

There are others who criticise the very large number, according to them, of the prizes awarded. The truth is: for the twenty teams, which in theory participate in the festival, there are 12 ice-axes, and unlimited Autumn Leaves. This seems fair, as it has the result that, at the end of the competition, there should not be any hurt feelings, because the judges can evaluate each team conscientiously, and can make an award corresponding to the worth of each performance. During previous years of the festival there was only a single prize (a gold ice-axe) for each of the three categories which existed at that time. So there were many times when there were injustices, when there were two teams of the same standard and one could only make one award.

Sometimes, we are asked this question: "How can the judges compare things so different as the folklore of the Balkans and that of Scandinavia?". This is an extremely naive question. It is not the folklore which is appraised, but the manner of its stage presentation, which is not a difficult task for the experts. The members of the jury are specialists in various fields and they know how to recognise the team which understands best how to present the folklore of its own region, how to demonstrate its own customs, music, dance and costumes, and also knows how best to stage it all.

The judges are not interested in the fact that team X are more splendidly dressed and more colourful compared with team Y. What counts is the choice of costumes in the whole presentation and, above all, fidelity in relation to traditional costume. In the same way, one compares the composition of the instrumental ensembles, choice of repertoire, standard of the presentation of the dances, etc. By using this procedure, one can compare the various folklore groups who are different from each other. Division into categories is a great help. Each team is judged with others in one of four categories: 1) Authentic groups, 2) Groups with artistic arrangements, 3) Stylised Groups, 4) Groups reproducing folklore scenes.

Contd...

Someone will perhaps ask, "If competition is so advantageous to folklore, for the public and for the teams who are forced to achieve higher stands, why do not other festivals introduce it?". The answer is simple. The majority of festivals have material profit as their goal - economics rule, and not the protection of folklore. In such a situation, any adjudication by the experts would, to say the least, be undesirable and unsuitable.

Translation of an article written by Prof. Roman Reinfuss, Chief Adjudicator at the 20th Zakopane International Folk Festival, 1988. The article was published in the official Reporters' programme, and appeared in Polish and French. (Thank you to Kay Leighton for translating it for us).

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Just a quick note about the Georgian Dance Company recently over here. Surprise, surprise, - it was the Georgian State Dance Company after all! - though only a "mini" one; three girls and twelve boys.

They performed some of the dances listed in the programme, but by no means all of them, though sometimes it was difficult to see which was which. "A Collection of Dances", for two of them, for instance, is confusing. Where does one dance end and the next begin? The dances, "Davhuri", Kartuli" and "Khevsuri" were easily recognisable, but the three "Warrior Dances" interspersed with them, which is which? Not that it really matters; the 15 dancers were superb, as always, and the applause of the packed Camden Centre Hall was deservedly rapturous.

As a very welcome surprise, we got several spots of "The Tsitisperi Trio", internationally known as "The Three Georgians" - a truly wonderful singing group sometimes accompanied by one of them playing a guitar, or two of them with the "pandura", a Caucasian stringed instrument (not to be confused with the Ukrainian bandura). I must confess that up to now all Georgian singing had struck me as rather morose, even the supposedly funny songs, but these three singers are a joy to anyone who loves truly beautiful singing.

JENIA GRAMAN
39 Stanley Road, East Sheen,
London SW14 7EB

Dear Lily,

I should just like to say what a splendid idea it was to hold an S.I.F.D. Christmas Tea Dance on 10th December. Kay Leighton did a very good job in organizing this, and thanks are also due to all the M.C.s.

I think Tea Dances are a very good idea, especially at this time of the year, and are in fact better than an evening dance. You can do your shopping beforehand, and spend a pleasant afternoon from 3 to 6, dancing and enjoying the tea and refreshments that were thoughtfully provided, and it is not too late for children to join in. It was nice to see them there. A very good afternoon. This, to me, is the S.I.F.D.

Thanks to all concerned. It was even timed to miss the football crowds!

HARRY STONE,
4 Pelham Road, Tottenham,
London N15 4RN



We have reproduced above, the designs which are on our S.I.F.D. Notelets, in full colour. The designs are by Lesley Boorer and the dancers on the left are wearing costumes from Volendam, Holland, and those on the right are from Moldavia, U.S.S.R. The notelets are available from Kay Leighton (address on page 2) and are in packets of 10 with envelopes - 5 each of the two designs in each packet. £1.10 per packet, available at most S.I.F.D. functions, or by post from Kay. For orders by post, please add: 22p for 1 packet, 26p for 2 packets, 39p for 3 packets, 46p for 4 packets, 52p for 5 packets.



Also available from Kay are S.I.F.D. T-shirts with the above design - a re-issue of our 40th Anniversary T-shirt. Again, the design is by Lesley Boorer and is in colour. The T-shirts are £3.80 each, plus 26p postage. Sizes: Small, Medium, Large, XL, child 30". All in 100% cotton, except for Small, which is Polycotton.

FOLKDANCE TRIP TO ALBANIA

As promised last month, we give below further details of the folkdance trip to Albania.

The course will run from 17th March to 1st April 1989, and the maximum number of British participants will be 10 (to join up with a group from Germany). Deadline for application, with full payment, is 1st February 1989.

The cost will be £155 for the air fare (London/Belgrade/Titograd/Belgrade/London) plus DM1600 for the rest of the trip - which includes visa, bus transfers, full board (double room), excursions, entrance fees (except for performances), Albanian tour guide, Albanian dance teacher and musician, insurance for health and luggage (from Titograd). Hotels will be category 'A' where possible, but some will be 'B' class. Rooms will be double but single rooms can be requested at checking-in at hotels and payment for a single room is made at checking-out. If less than a total of 20 persons on the tour, there will be an extra DM120 added.

The group will leave London on 17th March to fly to Titograd (via Belgrade where they will join up with the group from Germany), then proceed over the Albanian border. Overnight stops during the tour, in Albania, will be at Shkodra, Durrës, Tirana, Korça, Berat, Lezha. In addition to some six hours per day of dancing, there will be visits to museums etc., talks on ethnography, sightseeing tours.

Visa application forms and further information on itinerary, and where to send the forms and the payment, available from the Editor (address on page 2). Application should be made as soon as possible, as the deadline for full payment is 1st February.

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The British Bulgarian Friendship Society are now able to confirm the price for their Folkdance Course in Bulgaria. Details are as follows:-

FOLKDANCE COURSE IN BULGARIA, 22nd March to 1st April 1989, at Plovdiv. All levels. Leader: Cathy Meunier. 36 hours instruction by experienced Bulgarian teachers. £300 plus £45 for the Course. Price includes two nights in Sofia, air travel from Heathrow, half-board in first-class hotels, meeting local groups, transfers, guide/interpreter, museum fees.

There will also be a TEXTILES & EMBROIDERY TOUR, BULGARIA, 22nd March to 3rd April 1989. Leader: Jenny Fitzgerald-Bond, Director of Education, Royal School of Needlework. Price: £368 plus £20 for a 3-day embroidery course. Price includes air travel from Heathrow, half-board in first-class hotels, visits to craft centres, museum fees, folk evening, transfers throughout, Sofia/Plovdiv/Gabrovo/Lovech/Sofia.

Further details of both these Bulgarian tours from B.B.F.S., c/o Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street, London EC1V 4NB. Tel: 01 837 2304.

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BULGARIAN FOLK INSTRUMENTS

I have a few doudouk(wooden pipe) at prices ranging from £13.50 to £17.50, including p. & p., and a beautifully made Kaval, played like a flute, price £60.

If anyone wishes to purchase any of these, please let me know. Cheques, payable to me, to my home address (below). The items will be despatched immediately.

SYBIL F.M. NEWTON,
117 Buxton Lane, Caterham,
Surrey CR3 5HN
Tel: 01 660 3007.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb. 25th POLISH DANCING at Christopher Hatton Centre, London, from 1.30 to 7.30 p.m. including tuition/revision and social dancing. Further details next month. Betty Harvey and Tony Latham.

Feb. 25th DAY COURSE at Bristol, "Circles & Lines". Tutor: Frances Horrocks. Details next month. Hilda Sturge, 0272 621802.

Silviu Ciuciumis will be coming to England in February and it is hoped to organize one or two dance courses with him (Romanian). More details next month. Silviu will also be organizing a trip to Romania at Easter. Details later.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Jackie Green and James Webb on their engagement, and our best wishes for their wedding in Harpenden on 6th May. We wish them every happiness in their future together.

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FOR SALE

Genuine costumes from Slovakia. One man's sheepskin waistcoat from Detva. White leather outside, off-white fleece inside; with beautiful multicoloured appliqué work and embroidery; waist length. £120. One man's costume from Čičmany, comprising pair of off-white thick felt trousers with 2-button front flap, braided around pockets and leg splits, pompom at top of slit; a leather belt with brass buckle; and a heavily embroidered shirt, yellow/orange on white linen. £100 complete. Enquiries to Mrs. Zdena Volavka, 01 952 4028.

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DAY COURSE OF BALKAN FOLKDANCES, ORGANIZED BY THE BALKAN & INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP, FOR ILEA

The above course will take place on SATURDAY, 21ST JANUARY 1989, from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Dance Studio, Camden Institute, Longford Street, London N.W.1. Cost: £2.25 for London residents, £3.50 for those living out of London.

Teaching will be by members of the Group, and dances will be taken from the following:-

Teamikos	Ardelleana
Koftos	Staro Oro
Menousis	Crna Gorka
Ikariotikos	Kucunješte
Alunelul de la Horezu	Porunčasca
Hora Femeilor	Teškoto
Bugeac	Üç Ayak

and popular dances from Jaap Leegwater's recent workshops.

In the lunchtime interval, there will be a chance to request a revision of almost any dance from recent Balkan courses that you may have forgotten or not quite grasped.

Further details from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
Tel: 01 637 3434 Ext.5565 (day), 01 482 0906 (evening).

SPRÖTZER ACHTERUM

(Germany)

A (Briskly) [Intro.]

B

C

Play 4 times - finish on A.
(A - Verse 3x - Chorus)

SCHWARZERDNER

(Germany)

A at a gentle pace [Intro.]

B

C

Play ABABA.

Wilf Horrocks has given us the music for two German dances this month, above. One is a request from a member, and the other he has added as they date from about the same time. Don't forget, if you would like the music for a particular dance, send your request to Wilf, at 53 Southway, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 4HP. Tel: 01 642 3629.

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

Jan. 1st M.C.s The Committee

Feb. 5th This Dance will be run by Bromley International and Hama'agal Israeli groups. Refreshments will be on sale, and we hope to have a display of photographs etc. This is the first of the group-led Dances. We hope the varied programme will give us a good start, and encourage others to emulate or improve upon our efforts. FIONA HOWARTH

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WHAT'S ON

Jan. 7th LONDON LATVIAN FOLKDANCE GROUP'S ANNIVERSARY EVENING at Porchester Hall, Porchester Rd., London W.2, at 7 p.m. The performance will be followed by a DANCE with music by "Ock 'n' Dough". Refreshments, including a late Bar, will be available. Tickets at £5.00 and £3.00 (under-16s and Senior Citizens) available from London Latvian Folkdance Group, c/o 66 Cottenham Park Rd., Wimbledon, London SW20 0TB. Please make cheques payable to "London Latvian Folk Dance Group".

Jan. 7th NEW YEAR DANCE organized by Merry Andrew Folkdance Club, 7 to 10.30 p.m. Sherard Hall, rear of United Reformed Church, Court Rd., Eltham, S.E.9. 'Buses 21, 108, 124, 126, 160, 161. B.R.Stations: Eltham Well Hall or Mottingham. Parking easy. General Dancing including American Square, English and International. Club & guest callers/leaders. £3 (family ticket £5) including refreshments. Enquiries: 0689 71494.

~~Jan. 9th BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WORKSHOP WITH JAAP LEEGWATER. See page 4. CANCELLED~~
Changed to 11th

Jan. 10th BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WORKSHOP WITH JAAP LEEGWATER. See page 4.

Jan. 14th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - See page 3.

Jan. 21st BALKANPLUS, 7 p.m. at Working Men's College, Crowndale Rd., London N.W.1
Note change of venue. 7 p.m. M.C. Uri Gerson. Musicians: Dunav Balkan Group and others; visiting musicians welcome. Admission £2 including light refreshments. Further details from Liz Mellish, 01 863 7807.
Next BALKANPLUS, 18th February, M.C.s Nick & Helen Green.

Jan. 21st DAY COURSE OF BALKAN FOLK DANCES. See page 9.

Jan. 23rd CONCHORDIA MUSICIANS' WORKSHOP at Grays Inn Resource Centre (3rd floor), 1A Rosebery Avenue, London E.C.1. (corner of Rosebery Avenue and Laystall Street), 7 to 10 p.m. Price: £1.50. Bring your own refreshments. Further details from Tina Stone, 01 379 6191 Ext.279 (office hours). Next Conchordia Musicians' Workshop, 20th February.

Jan. 28th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30 to 11 p.m. at St.Margaret's Parish Institute, Polstead Rd., off Woodstock Rd., Oxford. Tickets £4 from Gill Loveday, 44 Richmond Rd., Oxford.

Jan. 28th NEW YEAR PARTY, organized by Croxley Green International Folk Dancers at "The Welcome Club", Barton Way, Croxley Green, nr.Watford, Herts. 7.30 p.m. Admission £1.50 including refreshments (payable at door). Please note this later date for their New Year Party, owing to a change of venue this year. This hall is easy to find; it is built on to the side of Croxley Green Library. Car parking approximately 50 metres away, at rear. If any queries, telephone 0923 241441 or 0923 228080.

Jan. 29th INTERNATIONAL LINES & SQUARES. Day Course for Sussex E.F.D.S.S. and friends. Village Hall, Fittleworth, near Pulborough. 10.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Leader: Roy le Croisette.