

JANUARY

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 845866.



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



This month's cover design was drawn by Lesley Boorer specially for our
Silver Jubilee Anniversary Year and we shall be using it every month
throughout the year.

To those people who have sent in cover designs which I have not yet used,
I hope you will not mind if I hold them over, and please do not stop sending
in designs as I like to have a stock to draw on. Many thanks. Ed.



S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - JANUARY

The January Day Course will be FRENCH with Joan and Simon Guest. Dances
taught will be mostly dances which are not well-known but there will be quick
revision sessions of one or two of the Badge syllabus dances.

Date: Saturday, 13th January 1996
Venue: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London N.W.1
Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Price: S.I.F.D. members £6, non-members £7, concessions on request.

MAGGIE O'REGAN



DEMONSTRATIONS AT VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON 1996

I give below a list of bookings I have made for the above stage, with approx-
imate duration of performances. At the moment of writing, I have only received
forms of confirmation from Zivko Firfov and Croxley Green/Central London so I
may well have read my scrappy notes wrongly, relating as they do to verbal in-
formation, which has often had to be altered. Please would group leaders check
their entries and let me know if anything is wrong. Also, if any group would
like to perform and I have not sent them a form, do let me know. Thank you.
KAY KEDGE, Demonstration Secretary, 9 Barnes Rise, Kings Langley, Herts. WD4 8AN.

Saturday,	18th May	2.30 p.m.	1 hour	Zivko Firfov (former Yugoslavia)
Sunday,	19th May	3.00 p.m.	2 hours	Martisorul (Romanian)
Sunday,	23rd June	3.00 p.m.	2 hours	Doina (E.European & London Turkish)
Sunday,	30th June	3.00 p.m.	2¼ hours	Balaton (Hungarian) & Philhellenes (Greek)
Sunday,	7th July	3.00 p.m.	1½ hours	Croxley Green & Central London (General International)
Sunday	21st July	3.00 p.m.	2 hours	Merton Park, Woodvale & Iberian Folk Song & Dance Society.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

We have just arrived home from a weekend of English country dancing at St.Leonards-on-Sea. Full board in a comfortable, old-fashioned, well-run house; ample well-cooked food, comfortable beds, nice and warm despite the outside weather, games rooms etc., and a decent dance floor. We were about 40 in number and we had no space problems. Price very reasonable. I was so impressed that I felt it would be of use to S.I.F.D. groups (but it is a Methodist hotel, so no booze on sale!). The address is Adelphi, Warrior Square, St.Leonards-on-Sea, E.Sussex TN37 6BH.

Now, Lily, a great big Thanks to you for flying our flag by editing our SIFD NEWS, the life blood of our Society. Please don't think we take it for granted. We look forward each month to its news and views.

Also, on behalf of members of Central London Group, a big round of cheers to Janet Woolbar, ably assisted by Frank Flanagan, for her indefatigable patience with our efforts in learning. Also, much enjoyed last Sunday's dance with the Rainmakers playing.

A healthy happy Christmas and New Year.

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

Dear Lily,

Balkan dance enthusiasts may like to know about a new book entitled "Romanian Traditional Dance". From the first time I met my dear friend, Sunni Bloland, she has been promising to publish this book in collaboration with (and with the major contribution by) her esteemed colleague Anca Giurchescu.

Sunni was Supervisor of Dance at the University of California (1960-1991) and studied traditional dance in Romania as a Fulbright grantee. Anca was a researcher in dance at the institute of Ethnography and Folklore in Bucharest and, since moving to Copenhagen, has become a well-known author and lecturer on theories and research methods in traditional dance. She has recently been a member of the panel of judges at Llangollen. The book is therefore written to appeal equally to the folkdancer and scholar.

Its 428 pages cover such topics as dance in its historical and social framework, analysis of dance structure, and the distribution of dance according to ethnographic zones. There is an appendix of 40 dances in Labanotation and a Romanian notation system, a glossary and index with over 500 dance names and terms, 115 photos of dances, and a pronunciation guide. A single copy to individuals in Europe costs US\$45 (including postage & packing) in the form of a blank cheque payable to Anca Giurchescu, 8 Kornblomstvej, Sal 1, 2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark.

I have a few promotional leaflets about the book, and I will tend to carry my own copy around at future functions if people wish to glance through it.

Yours sincerely,

BRIAN DOWSETT
"Larchwood", 75 Fordwich Rise,
Hertford, Herts.SG14 2BW

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE
S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE, SATURDAY, 12TH OCTOBER 1996

The main feature of our Golden Jubilee Year will be a Grand Dance on Saturday, 12th October next, in Camden Town Hall, London. The Hall is opposite St.Pancras and King's Cross Stations and very near Euston. Other travel facilities are good, and car parking should not present any problem.

This is an early reminder to everyone to keep the date free, and to join us in our celebrations. We hope that groups will take an active part by leading dances. Further details will be given in two or three months.

KAY KEDGE



S.I.F.D. BERT PRICE PROFICIENCY BADGES

Several people have asked for a list of the Badge syllabus dances in those countries mentioned as possibilities for the next Badge examinations, wherever they may be held.

FRENCH

Compulsory - La Bourrée Croisée
La Bourrée Droite d'Issoudun

Any 3 from: La Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort
La Bourrée à Six de Briantes
La Montagnarde de St.Chartier
Deux, Deux, Deux
L'Angoise
La Gavotte de Pont-Aven

MACEDONIAN

Compulsory - Makedonska
Skudrinka

Any 3 from: Bufcansko
Potrcano
Paidouska
Struga (Devojce, Devojce)
Rada Pere

GREEK

Compulsory - Kalamatianos
Tsamikos

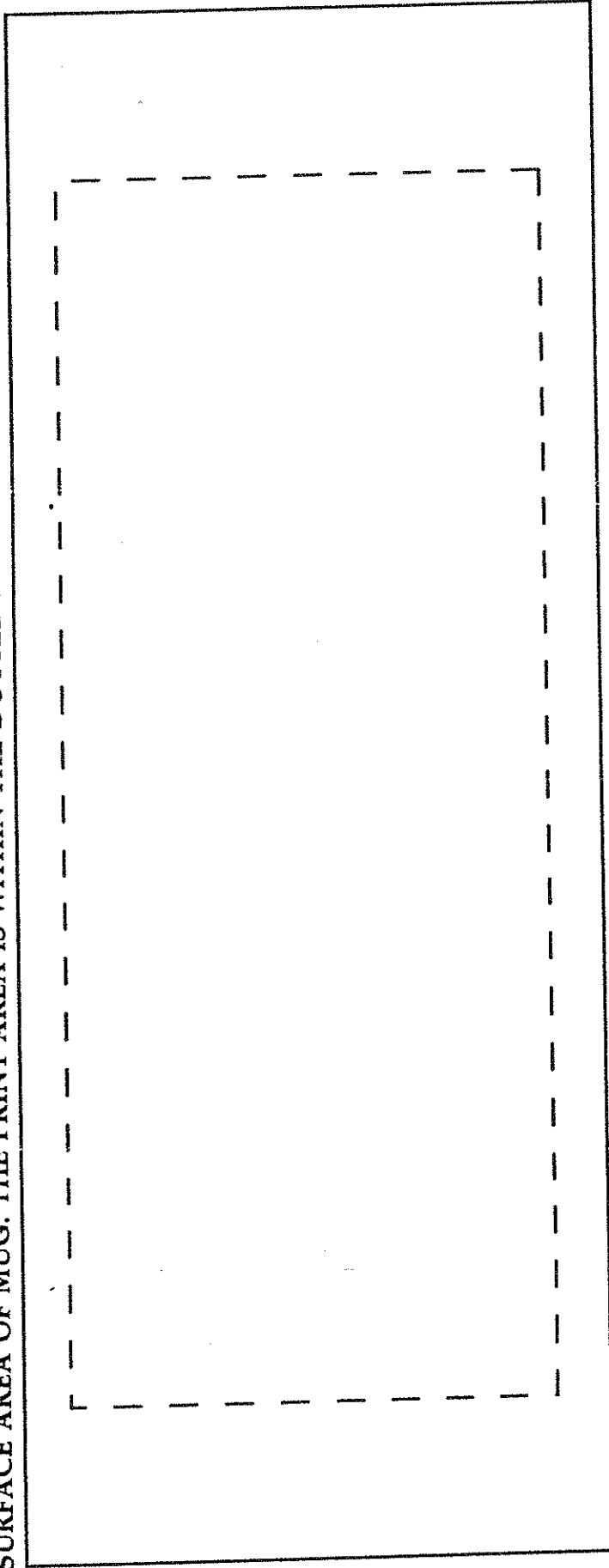
Any 3 from: Karagouna
Zagorissios
Zonoradikos
Mikri Eleni
Pidhitos
Pentozali

MAGGIE O'REGAN

S.I.F.D. SHOP. ANNIVERSARY MUGS

Your design could be chosen to decorate our anniversary mugs. Use one or two colours and keep your design within the print area 75mm and 190mm as indicated. Send your design by 31st January 1996 to Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

SURFACE AREA OF MUG. THE PRINT AREA IS WITHIN THE DOTTED LINE WHICH MEASURES 75mm x 190mm



Back of Mug

Centre of Mug
Opposite Handle

Front of Mug

NEW BOOKLET ON CHINESE FOLK DANCES

When journalist Christine Hall set out to work in North-east China as editor of an educational newspaper, she found the promised job did not exist. The publisher had invented a tempting job description to lure a young European woman into this remote, cold part of China. What he really wanted was a blonde, foreign photo model for his magazines! She was not allowed to do any work other than sit in the office, sip endless cups of hot water, and occasionally pose for photos. However, she made good use of her time by writing articles about China for magazines such as "Company", "Woman Alive", "New Internationalist", "The Lady", and a book ("Living & Working in China", How-to Books Ltd., £12.99).

She also studied the local fan dances, especially the procession dances, and the traditional performances with huge ribbons and the graceful performances with one or two large silk fans. "I have always enjoyed dancing, and before going to China, I did teach belly dancing at Adult Education Centres. On my return, I found there was a huge demand for lessons in Chinese dancing, especially from Chinese people in Britain who wanted to explore their own cultural roots".

She is often asked if there is a book on Chinese dances, so she decided to write and publish a small booklet herself. "It would not be possible to analyse all the folk dances in such a huge country such as China in a small booklet, so I wrote about the dances as I learnt and saw them", says Christine. "It's an introduction rather than a definitive work, but I know that many people are keen for this sort of information".

"Chinese Dancing" focuses on the traditional folk dances of the Han and Manchu peoples in North-east China. The 16-page A5 booklet gives information on history, music, basic steps, ribbon dance, fan dance, the role of the monkey god and other legendary figures in folk dancing, and descriptions of costumes. The booklet will be interesting for anyone interested in Chinese culture, or in folk dances.

Christine Hall is a member of several folkdance related organizations, including the S.I.F.D. and the Midlands Arabic Dance Network, as well as the Great Britain-China Centre. She teaches Oriental dancing workshops and courses in London, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Hastings and Rye. Her next London workshop will be at The Place on 16th March 1996 ('phone Diki Gleeson, 0181 3631506).

The booklet, "Chinese Dancing", is available by mail order from Scriptease Editorial, Finchden, Sandhurst, Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS, ISBN 09526002 0X. Send a £2.50 cheque and a large stamped addressed envelope.

POLISH FOLKLORE

I have a set of eleven items relating to the folklore of Poland which I would like to offer as a job-lot. They include possibly the best work on Polish folk dance I have ever seen in Polish, two descriptions of traditional weddings - one of them a rare regional publication from the Wielkopolska region, a history of Polish folklore research, three rare pre-war publications, a general book of dance and song melodies with texts, two booklets concerning traditions and a folk group's publicity leaflet.

In addition, I have a set of 19 cassettes ranging from traditional Polish folk music to stylised "jazzed-up" versions of it, and one record. (A couple of cassettes have so-called "przyspiewki" on them. These were songs that were often improvised at traditional weddings and sometimes made fun of wedding guests in slightly rude ways. ("Peasants will be peasants!"). The record is of Ukrainian music/songs. Anyone interested please ring 01375 373093 (Grays, Essex) after about 7.30 p.m. weekdays. HENRYK MATYKA

We apologise to anyone who went to Sheffield on 3rd December for the "Taste of China", with the intention of learning some Chinese dances. Christine Hall was informed by the organizers at very short notice that her Chinese workshops had been cancelled, and it was too late for this to be announced in the December SIFD NEWS. Ed.

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"RUSSIAN AND OTHER FOLK COSTUMES"

I have now had a chance to read Jenia Graman's booklet entitled "Russian and other Folk Costumes" which follows her booklet "Russian and other Folk Dances". Jenia has selected costumes from various popular regions and clearly illustrates them with drawings and full descriptions; text on one side of the page and illustrations on the opposite side. Clearly, a lot of thought and effort has been put into the booklet, drawing on Jenia's vast knowledge of the subject. It would be very useful to people doing research into the subject of folk costumes, as well as to those involved in teaching and performing. The price is £6.95 and the booklet is available from the Dance Book Shop, 15 Cecil Court, London W.C.2. Enquiries to Jenia on 0181 8760514.

LILY AVERY

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The Doina Foundation are organizing the following tours in 1996:-

FOLKLORE AND DANCE TOURS TO ROMANIA

April 27th to 4th May 1996	Bristrita, Transylvania	Dfl.1,325.00
July 20th to 3rd Aug. 1996	Deva. Transylvania	Dfl.2,310.00

Prices include:

Return flight Heathrow or Amsterdam to Bucharest and transfer to destination
Full board in first class hotel with bath and toilet
Dancing lessons from Romanian dance teachers, with live music
Excursions; dancing with dance ensembles; museums; village festivities
Accompaniment by Silviu Ciuciumis and a Romanian guide/interpreter.

Earlier arrival or later departure can be arranged. Alternative programme for non-dancers during the dancing hours.

For further information, contact Silviu Ciuciumis, Aarhuispad 22, 3067 PR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 10 421 86 22. Fax: +31 10 445 60 65.

Also contact Silviu Ciuciumis regarding a BALKAN FESTIVAL to be held from 27th to 30th June 1996 at Social Cultural Centre "De Wanmolen", Schweitzerpark 2, Zetten (near Arnhem), The Netherlands. Programme includes:-

Greek	with Dick v.d. Zwan
Bulgarian	Eddy Tijssen
Turkish	Ersin Seyhan
Hungarian	Jeno Molnar
Albanian	Martin Ihns
Yugoslav	Paja Milic
Romanian	Silviu Ciuciumis

BALKANPLUS

The Balkanplus monthly dance changes in two major ways in 1996. The new venue will be Trefusis at Cecil Sharp House, and the available bookable evenings require us to move to the second Saturday of the month.

Mindful that the Croxley Green New Year Party was carefully planned to avoid our traditional third Saturday of the month, I hope our regular members will understand if we re-start Balkanplus in February. Season ticket holders will have their expiry dates extended to compensate.

Balkanplus will try to cover the increased costs by just a modest rise in the admission price, to £3, and to recommend the in-house refreshment facilities instead of importing our own. Being a born optimist, I expect the move to Cecil Sharp House will attract newcomers to Balkan and International folk dancing from other dance circles.

Frances Horrocks will be the M.C. for the inaugural dance on 10th February. I hope that all our friends will be there to make it an evening to remember.

BRIAN DOWSETT
Chairman, Balkanplus

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BALKANPLUS DANCE COURSE (Macedonian and Romanian) AT IRONBRIDGE GORGE YOUTH HOSTEL, 24TH-28TH MAY 1996.

Thank you to all the people who sent their forms and deposits promptly, thus enabling me to pay the deposit for the hostel on time. If you would like to attend the course but still have not booked, please do so as soon as possible. It is difficult to make further plans until definite numbers are known. Details about the course were given in December SIFD NEWS. Enquiries to me.

ANNE MARSHALL
44 Church Rd., Westbury-on-Trym
Bristol BS9 3EQ
Tel: 950 9889

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BRISTOL

Another lovely celebration, this time in Bristol for the group's 21st anniversary, on 18th November. Thank you Hilda, Roger, and all members of the Bristol International Folkdance Group who made the evening so worthwhile. Without doubt Pat (?) summed it all up in her "Thank You to Hilda" address when she referred to "the doors that had been opened" due to Hilda's teaching and enthusiasm.

SUE CLARK

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PEMBROKESHIRE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP will be holding special 10th Birthday Celebrations on Saturday, 26th October 1996. (The thought of waiting for our "20th" when I shall be 75 is just too long a wait!). Hosting can be arranged and may well include staying on a farm or a woollen mill as well as more conventional abodes. Don't write us off because it is a longish way. We can assure you it is well worth the effort to get here. Just ask Irene Keywood, Kath French and Jean Marshall, or Sybil Chapman, for starters. More details nearer the time.

SUE CLARK, Tel: 01437 710261

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb.10th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - Chinese, with Robert Harrold. Fairly easy, very accessible and enjoyable dances which Robert learned in China during his extensive career as an examiner with the I.S.T.D.

Feb.10th BALKANPLUS. M.C.: Frances Horrocks. 7 p.m. at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London N.W.1. £3. NOTE NEW VENUE. Enquiries to Frances on 0181 642 3629.

Feb.24th "BEGINNERS PLUS", 8 to 11 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House, downstairs in Trefusis. The M.C.s will be Jill Bransby and Jeanette Hull, and the band will be "Jacob's Ladder". Admission £4 (£3 for S.I.F.D. members). The evening will be aimed at newcomers but with interest for more experienced dancers.

X Mar.9th RUSSIAN AND BALKAN DAY COURSE. Tutor: Maggie O'Regan. Organized by Barlow I.F.D.G., Manchester. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at St.Ninian's U.R. Church Hall, Egerton Road South, Chorlton. Further information from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.

Mar.10th ARMENIAN DANCE DAY with Laura Shannon at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. £15. Details from Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

Mar.15th/17th DANCE AND WALKING WEEKEND IN DOVEDALE. Join West Midlands Group's members for an informal weekend. £70 p.p. Contact: Yvonne Hunt, 01203 413854.

June 8th ANNIVERSARY DANCE in the North. All welcome. Venue: Oldham College, just off the M62. Further details to follow. Enquiries to 01942 831141.

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ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP - Songs & Dances from Serbia, Macedonia and Croatia.

Dates for the Spring Term 1996 are:-

January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th)	
February 5th, 12th, (19th is half-term), 26th)	All Mondays
March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th)	
April 1st (provisionally the A.G.M.))	

All meetings are held at the Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, London S.W.1. The format of the evening is as follows:-

6.30 - 7.00	General Dancing
7.00 - 7.30	Work Session
7.30 - 7.45	Break and Announcements
7.45 - 8.15	Work Session
8.15 - 8.30	Singing
8.30 - 9.00	General Dancing

JANET GILBERT, Group Secretary

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MUSIC. Another two tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.10. Don't forget to let Wilf know if you would like the music for a particular dance. His number is 0181 642 3629.

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When sending in material for publication, please remember to write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typed. Ed.