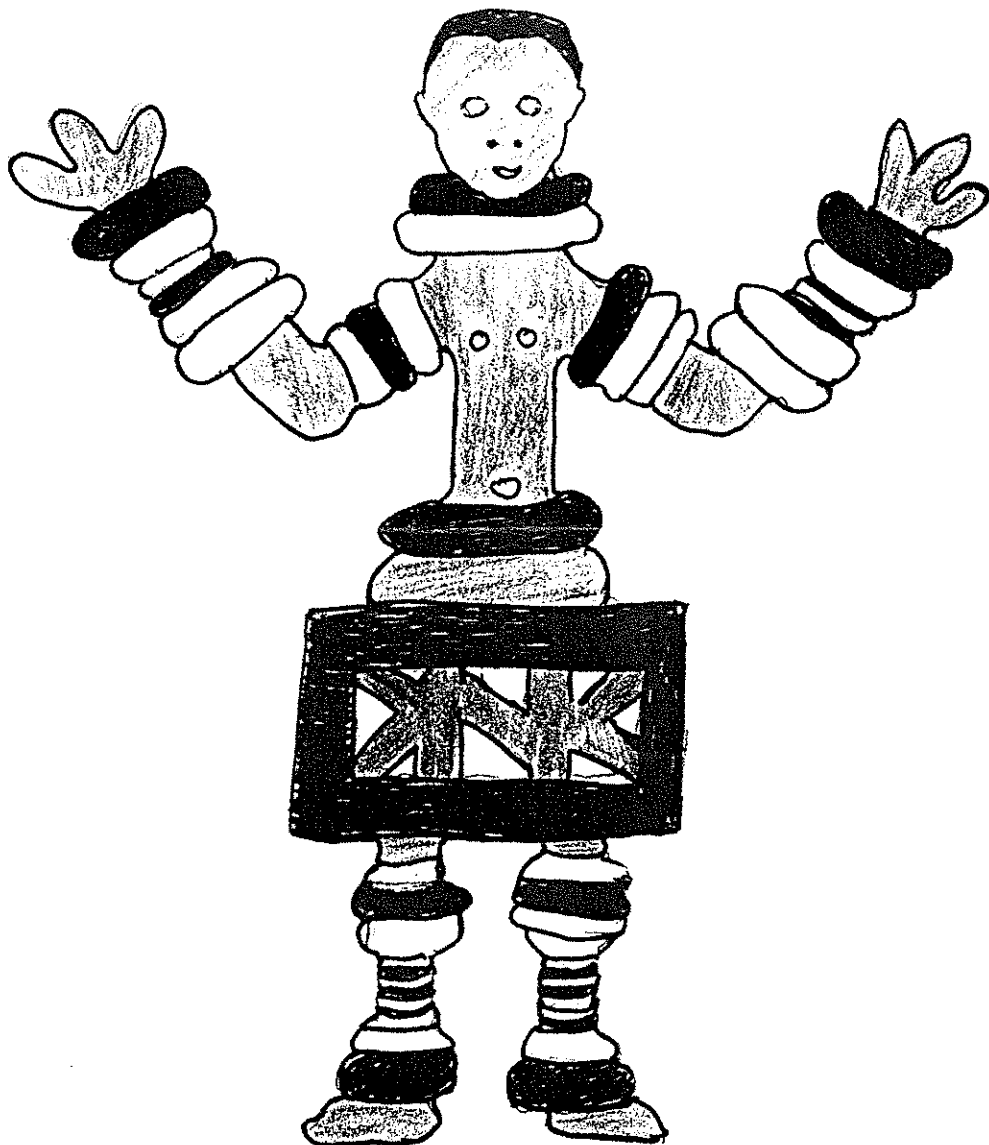


SIFD NEWS

APRIL 1997



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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

--oOo--

This month's cover was drawn by Jill Bransby and shows a female Nedebele figure
as portrayed by Nedebele art, showing the body "bands" or "hoops" (rholwani)
and the stylised apron. (See Jill's article on pp.4 & 5.

--oOo--

CHAIRPERSON: Jeanette Hull (Miss), 24 The Homefield, London Road, Morden,
Surrey SM4 5AS. Tel: 0181 640 5267.

SECRETARY: Alison Scrimshaw (Mrs.), 22 Sherwood Park Road, Sutton, Surrey
SM1 2SQ. Tel: 0181 642 3385.

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 4PG.
Tel: 0181 427 8042.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road,
London SE5 0TQ. Tel: 0171 701 3785.

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S.I.F.D. GROUP HISTORIES - "50TH" PUBLICATION

These are selling quite well but there are still some left. Among the con-
tributors are the West Midlands Branch and the groups "Zivko Firfov", Folkestone,
Barlow-Manchester, Merton Park, Woodvale, London Turkish, Newport and Pembroke-
shire, Hursley, Bristol, "Rainmakers" and Nutbrook, together with Croxley Green,
Harrow Green and Richmond. Although now defunct, the last three have left their
mark on the Society. If you have been, or are, a member of one of the groups
you now have an opportunity to read of its past trials and tribulations. The
cost is £1.25 plus 50p post & package. For London people, if they contact me
I can bring them on Sunday to Cecil Sharp House.

Finally, there are still a few copies of the "old" History of the S.I.F.D.
which is a personal recollection of the past of the Society. These are avail-
able in a bargain package with the "Group Histories" for a total of £2.00 only
plus p. & p. 70p.

GEORGE SWEETLAND
(Address above)

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All material for the May issue of SIFD NEWS must reach the Editor
IN WRITING by 17th April. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all
names of people, places, dances, unless typewritten.

GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND, NEAR ALCESTER IN WARWICKSHIRE
FRIDAY EVENING, 25TH, THROUGH TO MONDAY, 28TH, APRIL

1997 is the 14th anniversary of this lively gathering which makes full use of the friendly atmosphere of Great Alne village hall. International Music Workshops, followed by Social Dances with a substantial International content on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

From the Netherlands, Nel Nijman and Jan bring this year their two young daughters. Nel's sessions are of International dances from various countries, with which S.I.F.D. are generally unfamiliar. The sessions will take place each day from 11.45 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. Roger Wicksteed from Oxford is again coming with some lively Bulgarian dances. There will be a range of workshops, mainly Saturday, Sunday and Monday mornings, offering introduction to Morris, Scottish, Playford, Cajun and Line Dancing; even handbell ringing, and you might even be able to try your hand at juggling. Additionally, there are a variety of instrumental sessions for musicians of all abilities. Children are particularly encouraged. Jack Steele and David Bradley on accordions, and Gordon Taylor on violin will play our International Music and also lead Workshops to help us in playing the dance tunes.

We use our own small campsite near the hall. Tent, caravan, or camper-van are acceptable, or you may wish to book into local B. & B. accommodation via: Tourist Board, Bridgefoot, Stratford. Tel: 01789 293127. The bluebell woods of the Alne Hills are superb for walks during the afternoons, and "bring a bike" if you would like to join in a ride along the country lanes on Sunday.

You are welcome to join in any day or half-day's activities. For spontaneous arrivals at Great Alne village hall (Stratford-upon-Avon 7 miles, Alcester 2 miles), there's a full programme of times and leaders for each event. For details and booking information, ring me on 01203 418949. If I am not in, PLEASE leave an address and preferably telephone number on the answerphone so that I can eventually contact you and send a copy of the detailed programme, or, alternatively, contact Linda Bradley at Gt.Alne, Tel: 01789 488568.

Incidentally, the International Clothing Suppliers, which has been a very useful source of costumes and blouses, is now only four miles away at Kings Coughton and will be open on the Saturday and on the Monday.

ANDRÉ HOBRO

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FOR SALE

Zivko Firfov Group has a projector for sale. A Super 8 Film Projector, T.V. style screen. Make: EUMIG; Model: R2000; Trade Name: Instap Projection. If anyone is interested, would they please contact Fred Wood, Tel: 01689 827 363. Best offer accepted.

ROSEMARY GIBB (Group Secretary)

Would anyone like to buy my Basque costume? (I have decided it is time to hang up my espadrilles/alpargatas!). Size 12. White long-sleeved blouse, black velvet lace-up bodice, full red skirt with wide black band, white pantaloons, black fancy apron, white triangular headscarf. £50.00. If you are interested, I could bring it along to the Eastbourne Festival.

LILY AVERY
(Address on p.2)

DANCING AT THE VICTORIA FALLS CRAFT CENTRE

Peter and I were visitors to the Victoria Falls last November and among the highlights of our trip - which included canoeing on the Zambesi River in between hippos, crocs and rocks, camping on islands, swimming in pools on the very rim of the Falls, seeing "moonbows" in the spray - was watching "Traditional Dancing" at the Craft Village in the town of Victoria Falls.

In the daytime we viewed the traditional building styles of many African tribes in the reconstructed village. We recognised the brightly painted mud walls of the Ndebele huts with their unique geometrical patterns (we had earlier visited a Ndebele village at Loopspruit, near Pretoria, South Africa, where we saw a progression of building styles and this fascinating art-work which incorporates contemporary images of clocks, 'planes and cars in its designs). We were taken round the Craft Centre by a knowledgeable guide whose parents "lived a hard life in a traditional village not far away" and who explained the significance of the different building materials, functions of the buildings, customs of the inhabitants, use and significance of various artefacts. During our tour, women were basket-making whilst chickens roamed free and the medicine-man studied his bones. Then the Marimba dancing started, our guide rushed off to play the music, and we were back in modern Zimbabwe!

The men, dressed in brightly coloured modern fabrics, played music on a variety of different sized Marimbas. These are played like xylophones and the blocks are placed over gourds for the deeper-sounding instruments, and over pieces of plastic piping with the ends blocked for the higher-sounding Marimbas. The tunes were accompanied by the intricate rhythms beaten on the drums. The women, also brightly clad in modern fabrics and wearing black plimsoles, danced, in a very loose-limbed sort of way, set sequences in lines (African line dancing?). I joined in and was told "I was first-class and must have done it before". I tried to explain that I did a lot of different styles of dancing at home but I didn't have a D.W.T.W. leaflet to show them!

The dance-show took place outdoors in the evening. First of all there was half an hour of modern Marimba dancing as an overture to the "Traditional Dancing". Then the male and female roles were reversed. The women, if in evidence at all, banged wood-blocks and sang, whilst the drums, played by the men, provided the dance rhythm for the all-male dancers. There were four groups represented. The first was Shangaan, which I think is a sub-group of the Zulus. (There was no printed programme unfortunately). They showed a dance which was to 'psych' the warriors up for battle, then a war dance with spears and shields, followed by a joyful dance to celebrate victory with drums and singing. A man taught a boy how to pick up a huge and heavy iron bar with his teeth to prove how strong he is so that he can become the Chief's body-guard one day.

The Makishi group wore incredible red and black masks, some depicting the faces of birds or animals, and some of people or spirits. The first dance was to initiate the young boys to sexual awareness as part of their circumcision ceremony. The men dressed as women, wobbled their woollen knitted breasts and danced in sexually explicit fashion "to show the young boys what women were like". One dance was entitled "The Daring Woman" and involved a man, dressed as a woman, who climbed up a 50' pole that was stuck in the ground and then transferred to another parallel pole by means of a high rope (it looked like a tall and thin rugby goal with the cross-bar near to the top). The dancer moved daringly between the two poles and performed some hip and pelvic movements. Some of the dances were dance-dramas to teach the young about birds and animals. These featured a large crocodile that had legs like a pantomime horse, an elephant who spun round and round, and a splendid large eagle with outstretched patterned wings. The patterns were in red, white and black, which echoed those on the masks.

Contd...

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The Nedebele group were very energetic and enthusiastic, and performed war-like dances carrying sticks (Knobkerries?). They were a smaller group who were less in step together and ended their dances rather casually; more "traditional" perhaps(?), although their garments were made from modern material rather than skins. They had white feathers on their heads and shoulders. Unfortunately there were no women represented in this group. It would have been interesting to see the patterned beadwork of the aprons that use similar geometrical patterns to those painted on the walls of the huts, as well as the heavy and horribly restrictive body hoops or bands, called 'rholwani' which are worn on legs, arms, necks and waists to indicate the women's marriageable status. (See this month's cover. Ed.).

The last group were Nyau, and the most memorable dance was performed by a man on stilts dressed mainly in feathers. I thought that he may have been evoking the spirits. The Shangaan and Makishi performed more dances and the latter wore even larger and more exotic masks in their final dances. Altogether, it was an exciting programme which I would recommend to members if you visit the Victoria Falls. It also raised pertinent questions about "traditional dancing". This was the term used on the poster outside the Craft Centre but since the dances are performed and taken out of their village context does this disqualify them from being genuine "folk dances"? A dance that is psyching up the men to do battle would presumably take hours rather than minutes, so I suppose that what we were seeing were edited highlights, rather like an excerpt of a piece of music on Classic FM instead of the whole symphony, concerto or opera!

Anyway, the dancing seemed "authentic" in that it had cultural significance in village life but, one wonders, for how long? Will the Marimba dancing be watched in fifty or a hundred years' time as "traditional dancing"?

JILL BRANSBY

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SOME GREEK ITEMS FROM DIKI

Workshop. Many thanks for the support for Elena Katopodi's varied, lively programme for the workshop on 9th March. A tape of the music is still available at £3.00.

Lykion Video. Anyone interested in obtaining a video of the Lykion performance of Sunday, 16th March, should contact me. I included some new costumes and dances from many regions in appropriate costumes. It should be an interesting addition to your collections.

Lykion T-Shirts. If you'd like a "different" T-shirt, you can purchase a Greek one for £10.00. Very tasteful, small pair of Greek dancers embroidered in colour on a white short-sleeved T-shirt, sizes S, M, L and XL.

"Greek Concert", introduced by Natassa Lemos. This is advance notice to all those interested in Greek music and song, especially those who were unfortunate to have missed the special concert at the Hellenic Centre by Domna Samiou. Natassa is introducing the programmes with, I am sure, some interesting and enlightening comment and information. She has arranged the programmes from the concert, and the broadcasts will be on Radio 3, 1st and 8th June, at 11.15 p.m. Two programmes of half an hour each. Well worth a late night!

DIKI GLEESON
Oak Lodge, Theobalds Park Road,
Enfield, Middx. EN2 9BN
Tel: 0181 363 1506

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Thank you for putting my letter in the last issue of SIFD NEWS. I was pleased to receive some very welcome letters from old friends who still remember me. Very pleasant.

But I must put the matter straight.....well, straighter. Yes, I confess my friend, Margaret Joyner, DID mention the 50th anniversary dance - in a sort of casual side-glance way as if to say "They are having a special Dance....." I didn't feel included. Let me say immediately that I wasn't expecting a personal invitation. I just felt that the Society should have taken some steps to inform those, many of us, for whom the Society had been a big part of our lives, that there was to be a special event. It shouldn't have been left to chance encounters with current dancers. After all, it was a very special event, and many of the "exes" had some historical effect on enabling it to happen. Anyway, I still have some respect and affection for S.I.F.D. and wish it well, and prosperity.

Sincerely,

WILL GREEN
202 Dunkery Road, Mottingham,
London SE9 4HP

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Dear Lily,

How very sad that Will Green should not have known about the "50th", for whatever reason. I do not wish to make any sort of issue over the matter - these things happen. However, I do know the difficulties we (P.I.F.D.) went to, to try and trace as many people as we could for our 10th celebration. Sometimes the search went on for weeks, even months, sometimes with success, sometimes not.

As for you, Will, of course we haven't forgotten - the Sundays in Floral Street and Inns of Court, and Cecil Sharp House, and the never-to-be-forgotten Harrow Green days. I was one of your partners.

Happy Dancing.

SUE CLARK
22 Church Road, Roch, Haverfordwest
Pembrokeshire SA62 6BG

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Dear Lily,

In reply to Will Green's letter in the March SIFD NEWS, may I say that I remember him very well. On the few occasions I was able to get to the Sunday Dances many people would make me welcome but none more so than Will, who would take me back to his office and home in Wells Way after the Dance for a coffee and chat before taking me to Euston Station for the midnight sleeper back to Manchester. Now, both Will and the sleeper have gone!

Will mentions several out-of-London groups that he visited. He also visited our Barlow Group in Manchester and we were very pleased to see him, as we are pleased to see anyone from other groups who are in the area. It was nice to read his letter and learn more of the many jobs he did for the Society, but I did miss him at the Anniversary Dance.

Sincerely,

PHILIP E. LLOYD
The Flat, 268 Upper Chorlton Rd.,
Manchester M16 0BN

Dear Lily,

The new S.I.F.D. Group History book is worth every penny. Thank you, George (Sweetland) for organizing the whole project. It has been most interesting reading about our fellow dancers, and I, for one, have learned a lot. Re-reading my own contribution, I must apologize to Hilda Sturge and the Bristol I.F.D.G. because I suggested that the Midlands Group was our (Newport's) first contact over the Severn Bridge. Truth is we never felt Bristol was over the bridge. They were just always there to support and to be supported by. (How many noted the printer's error? P.I.F.D. was born in 1986 not 1968!).

Re "Manchester". In the January SIFD NEWS, G.D.Towner asks about a dance called "Manchester" or "Manchester Gallop". In 1977 Herr Hans Jörg Brenner from Stuttgart was a guest tutor at a school in Thornbury, Bristol, and "Manchester" was in his repertoire, though sadly I have forgotten the dance, but I still have the record bought from him and it could most certainly be described as a gallop. More recently, in about 1992/3, a group from Löffingham visited us here in Wales, and "Manchester" was in their repertoire too. They were also from S.W.Germany.

Happy Dancing.

SUE CLARK
22 Church Road, Roch,
Haverfordwest, Pems.SA62 6BG

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Dear Lily,

As the person doing much of the work on the "Dance with the World" publicity leaflet, I must join myself to George Sweetland's apology in the February SIFD NEWS for the lateness of the 1996/7 issue. There were several contributory causes, including two business trips which took me out of the country for three weeks (and to one of which, in South Africa, I added a further week as holiday). We hope and intend to get the 1997/8 issue out earlier.

It would be helpful if we could identify someone who could take over the up-dating of the database and the incorporation of the relevant information into the leaflet, if I am once again otherwise committed at the critical period around October and November. For preference, this should be someone who uses an Acorn computer running one of the versions of Computer Concepts' Impression. (I have Impression Publisher). If the leaflet had to be transferred to a DTP package on a PC or a Mac, that would involve more work, but I could at least provide the fixed text in ASCII form, the old data in CSV format and the membership application form as a TIF or GIF bit-image file.

Yours sincerely,

RICHARD G.MELLISH
15 Lancaster Road, North Harrow
Middx. HA2 7NN

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LOIDIS I.F.D.G. - A CHANGE OF CONTACT. Would groups please note that any publicity/information etc. for Loidis should now be sent to me at 8 Dorset Crescent, Harrogate, N.Yorks HG1 2LU, and not to Mrs. Fella Yashpon as before.

JEAN WILLSON

S.I.F.D. CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Anyone wishing to contact Simon Guest by telephone about events they are organizing or to ask about potential clashes can contact him on 01992 577065.

BALKANPLUS - 12th April at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00 to 10.30 p.m. £3.00 M.C.s: "Olly" and Frank Dowling. This dynamic duo
were unable to come in February but will be making up for the disappointment
this time. Patrons are reminded that a spare belt is often a valuable asset at
these dances. The next Balkanplus will be on 10th May, when season tickets and
T-shirts will also be on sale.

Balkanplus is looking for a reliable door-keeper to sell tickets for our dances.
Ideally, this person will be able to attend every month and be able to keep an
accurate count of the number attending each dance, including season ticket holders.
Reward - free dancing later in the evening.

Balkanplus is also seeking a book-keeper/treasurer to keep account of the monthly
payments, income etc., who would be able to attend Committee meetings four times
a year. Reward - free season ticket.

Please apply to Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717 or Frances Horrocks, 0181 642 3629.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD will take place this year from 8th
to 13th July, starting with Children's Matinees at 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. on the
8th. The opening evening concert that day will be the King's College Choir and
London Adventist Chorale.

Competition for instrumental folk solo or group will be on Wednesday, 9th,
followed by that for the adult folkdance groups. Competitions for folk song
solo and folk song groups will be on the Thursday, and the children's folk-
dance groups on the Friday. Evening concerts on Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday will include folk dancers. In addition, there will be dance workshops
on the Thursday.

Enquiries to International Musical Eisteddfod Office, Llangollen, Denbighshire,
Wales LL20 8NG.

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BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL will take place this year from 9th
to 16th August and, as usual, Stockton Adult Education Service will be running
an International Folkdance Course for that week, in conjunction with the Festival.
The course is intended for organizers, specialist dance teachers, dance students
and others interested in international folk dance. Each group taking part in
the Folk Festival teaches their dances to the course members. This year there
will be groups from Columbia, Peru, Israel, Italy, Serbia and Ukraine, and three
more groups will be chosen from Korea, Russia, China, New Zealand, Portugal and
Kenya. The cost of the course, including lunch, refreshments each day, and
attendance at the opening ceremony will be £125 inclusive. Accommodation can
be arranged. For more information, write to the Course Organizer, Brian Padgett,
at William Newton Centre, Junction Road, Norton, Stockton-Tees TS20 1PR.
Tel: 01642 554001, Fax 01642 363333.

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ARC MUSIC are offering 7 CDs for only £10.00, containing over 450 excerpts
of music from all over the world. For details, write to ARC Music Distri-
bution U.K. Ltd., P.O.Box 111, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4FZ. Tel:
01342 312161, Fax: 01342 325209.

As international folk dancers, who do a dance from Romania one moment and one from Norway the next, we are well placed to see the connections and contrasts between the traditions of different countries.

Of course there are complications, such as the uncertain "authenticity" of many dances, as discussed by several contributors to these pages over the last year or two. A recently choreographed dance may well include extraneous elements from another country. But borrowing from one country to another is not a new phenomenon - compare Trekarlspolska and Jägerneuner for example. The Swedes took a dance from Poland and, although they introduced lots of variations, they still call all of them "polska", which just means "Polish". The quadrille became Irish sets and American squares.

In fact this has always happened. Consider the simple basic village dance, where you take one step to the side, then a second, then one back the other way, then repeat the whole thing over and over (all night, in some villages). This seems to be the oldest and most primitive of all, and it is certainly the most ubiquitous, extending (with minor variations) from the Faeroe islands to the Greek islands (though it has largely disappeared in the middle of Europe, superseded by successive waves of later dances spread by wars and fashions).

The earliest written record of this dance comes from the French court some time around the 14th century, but I believe it started in more ancient times.

Let us reconstruct the history. Long ago, someone bored with trudging always in one direction introduced the idea of taking two steps one way, then one back. Obviously this can be done in two ways: either two to the right and one to the left, or two to the left and one to the right. At first the direction depended on whether the dance leader happened to be at the left or right end of the line. Then maybe someone found some significance in whether the dance went with or against the movement of the Sun across the heavens. Or perhaps some groups just had a succession of left- or right-dominant leaders.

Anyway, over the centuries, some peoples consistently went one way, some the other. Those who took two steps to the left and one to the right gradually drifted to the left, so their descendants are now to be found in the left-hand side of Europe; while those who went the other way are to be found in the right-hand side of Europe.

I am grateful to Jeanette Hull for offering a further insight. The commonest time to dance is in the evening. People would naturally prefer to face east to keep the setting sun out of their eyes, so the left-dancers also tended to drift north and the right-dancers to drift south.

When eventually nomadic life gave way to settlements, dances were mostly held indoors and the line often closed up to a circle; but the tradition of moving one way or the other was by then firmly established.

You don't believe all this?

Then look at the surviving versions of the dance. In the Faeroe Islands and in Brittany, they go to the left. In Bulgaria (Pravo), the Greek islands (Sousta) and elsewhere in the Balkans, they go to the right. Even the more complicated line and circle dances, which have evolved from the simple two-there-and-one-back pattern, still go to the left in north-western Europe and to the right in south-eastern Europe.

In the heart of Europe, the most similar dance that still survives is Czardas, which is not consistent as to the numbers of steps but tends to go about the same amount each way. And at one of the Swansea summer schools we were introduced to Sardinian examples of both left and right forms of the dance; proof positive of a third group of people who saw the virtues of both ways and so, over the years, have drifted neither to the East nor to the West.

Richard Mellish

VISIT THE BULGARIAN FESTIVAL, "PIRIN SINGS".

The Three Mountains Tour of the Rila, Pirin and Rhodope Mountains, centred around beautiful Bansko, and visiting the Music Festival, will take place 11th to 23rd August 1997. Leader: Dr. Donald Kenrick. Ex Heathrow Airport. Details from Dr. Annie Kay, British-Bulgarian Friendship Society, c/o Finsbury Library, 245 St. John Street, London EC1V 4NB. Tel/Fax: 0171 837 2304.

DR. ANNIE KAY

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BULGARIAN FOLK DANCE & MUSIC HOLIDAY with Delyan Demirev in Pavlikeni, in August 1997. Another chance to sample Bulgarian hospitality, meet Delyan's friendly young dance group, "Nastroenie", and to learn/revise some of his folk dances. Based in a pleasant North Bulgarian town, there will be sightseeing excursions, including wine factories, as well as the chance to experience local culture. For a provisional programme leaflet, contact me at 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU. For other information, ring Galina Turker on 0181 349 4291.

ROGER WICKSTEED

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Is there anyone going to Sofia, Bulgaria, this summer or before? Would you be prepared to spend half an hour with some elderly friends of mine? It is VERY URGENT and I would be so grateful.

SYBIL CHAPMAN
20 Pelham Road, Droitwich Spa,
Worcs. WR9 8NT
Tel: 01905 773288

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STOP PRESS FROM "BALKANFOLK '97". Further to the information given in last month's SIFD NEWS (p.9), I have just had a letter offering one free place in every ten for groups; mention S.I.F.D.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

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SUTTON DAY OF DANCE, SUNDAY, 27TH APRIL 1997

At Westcroft Leisure Centre, Westcroft Road, Carshalton, Surrey. 10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £1.75 all day.

This is the fifth Day of Dance organized by local dance teachers and will include half-hour sessions throughout the day in a wide variety of dance forms including English, Scottish and International Folk Dancing, Tap, Ballet, Jive, Keep Fit, Medau, Margaret Morris Movement, Cheer-leading, Salsa etc. There will also be short demonstrations during break times in the main hall. Light refreshments are available, or bring your own. At the bargain price of only £1.75 you can't afford to miss it. Further details from the Centre, 0181 770 4800/4819, or from me on 0181 642 3629.

FRANCES HORROCKS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 2nd to 5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL.

May 10th EGYPTIAN AND IRANIAN VEIL DANCE TECHNIQUES. One-day workshop with Christine Hall at Isle of Sheppey Adult Education Centre, 01795 875059. No price given.

May 17th TURKISH BELLY DANCING plus playing finger cymbals. One-day workshop with Christine Hall at Hastings Adult Education Centre, 01424 435619. No price given.

May 17th BALKAN WORKSHOP IN IPSWICH. A day of dance with Helen van Bochove from Holland. A varied programme of dances. If you are interested, please contact Sally Fletcher, 106 Westerfield Road, Ipswich IP4 2XN. Tel: 01473 252824. No price given.

May 23rd to 26th BALKANPLUS WHITSUN WEEKEND OF BULGARIAN DANCING with Eddy Tijssen at Cheddar Youth Hostel, Somerset. Contact: Anne Marshall, 44 Church Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS9 3EQ. Tel: 0117 950 9889. No price given.

June 8th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ANNUAL COTSWOLDS SAFARI, starting at 11.00 a.m. at Moreton-in-Marsh. Details to follow.

June 8th ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. £12.00 (concessions £7.50). Contact: Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

July 4th to 7th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

Nov. 7th to 9th ROMANIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Silviu Ciuciumis at Dovedale, in the Peak District, with opportunities for walking/sightseeing. Full board £70.00 plus £24.00 for two full days dance course, or £12.00 for two half-days. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Dec. 6th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY.

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BALKAN FLAVOUR WEEKEND - AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY, FRIDAY, 22ND, TO MONDAY, 25TH AUG.

Dunford House is a very comfortable Victorian country house situated in 60 acres of grounds and woodland, not far from Midhurst in West Sussex. It will be a Balkan dancing and walking weekend. If you are interested, please send me a £60.00 deposit plus s.a.e. I would appreciate it if you could get in touch with me as soon as possible as I will have to let Dunford know, in the very near future, whether I have enough people interested in the weekend.

IRENE KEYWOOD
133 Third Avenue, Dagenham,
Essex RM10 9BD
Tel: 0181 592 4427

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DANCERS NEEDED

I'd like to make an appeal to S.I.F.D. members, new and old, to come and join Beskydy Dancers. We are looking for new members, especially men. The dances (Czech and Slovak) are extremely varied, so - as they say - "there's something for everyone". We rehearse every Wednesday in term time at Imperial College of Science & Technology in Kensington from 7.30 p.m. Please contact me for further details, on 0181 699 8597.

HEDY FROMINGS