

SIFD NEWS JUNE 1997



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 was drawn by Caroline Thomas and shows a selection of
regional headdresses from the Netherlands.

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EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

The weather was fairly kind to us on Saturday for the displays in the town
centre, but unfortunately the crowning of the May Queen was "rained off". Mean-
while, back in the school, a variety of activities was taking place, from Clog
and Salsa to Dutch, Israeli, Bhangra and Swedish. I hope all those who attended
the weekend had an enjoyable time.

I should like to thank Jill Bransby, "Cloudburst", Jeanette Hull, Anne Leach,
Judy Ingram, Elsche Korf, Gabhru Punjab De and Sundsvalls Folkdansgille for their
participation in the various dances and workshops over the weekend. I should also
like to thank Roy and Virginia le Croisette for escorting the Swedish team around,
together with the small band of friends who assisted in stewarding the Gym, not
forgetting Claire Steeley and family, who looked after the S.I.F.D. shop. Please
forgive me if I have not mentioned everyone involved.

HELEN EZRA

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MUSIC. Three more tunes from Wilf Horrocks this month on p.10. If you would
like the music for any particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

S.I.F.D. SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1

June 1st M.C.s: Badge & Day Course Committee (see below)

July 6th M.C.s: S.I.F.D. Band

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £3.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £4.00 for non-members.

The Dance on 1st June will be especially suitable for newcomers to International dancing. The programme will suit dancers of all levels and experience. Your hosts will be members of the Badge & Day Course Committee. There will be something new for everybody, so please bring friends and relatives and, of course, yourselves.

The cost of admission at the Sunday Dances at Cecil Sharp House will increase in September. The rising costs associated with running the Dances have finally caught up with us and the new entrance prices will be £4.00 for S.I.F.D. members and £5.00 for non-members. These prices are highly competitive for the venue and I hope that everyone will agree that the Dances are still excellent value.

See you dancing.

ANNE LEACH



S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COTSWOLDS SAFARI will take place on 8th June 1997 as follows:-

11.00 a.m. Moreton-in-Marsh
12.15 - 2.30 p.m. approx. Bledington
3.00 p.m. approx. Broadway

We have again booked the village hall at Bledington from 12.00-2.30 p.m. to provide toilet facilities and shelter should the weather be bad. Drinks can be obtained at the village inn, but of course the toilet facilities are for customers only. Timing at Broadway is flexible, depending on the weather, and whether we stay longer at Bledington. As a reminder, and to inform any newcomers, Bledington is on the B4450 about four miles S.E. of Stow-on-the-Wold.

We look forward to another good day.

MAVIS LOWE



DISCOVERING PORTUGUESE

If, by chance, any of you were watching "Discovering Portuguese" on B.B.C. television on Wednesday, 14th May, you would have had the pleasure of seeing (in addition to a men's stick dance very skilfully executed) the same dance, to the same music, as the delightful Portuguese item that won first prize at the Eisteddfod last year. The dance was done with the same enthusiasm and in the same style, and it may well have been the same team, dancing in the village. It was a great pleasure to see them again, and quite unexpected as this is a language programme.

LILY AVERY

P.S. Don't forget to listen out for Natassa Lemos' lecture "Greek Concert" as mentioned by Diki Gleeson in the April issue of SIFD NEWS (p.5). It will be on Radio 3, 1st and 8th June, at either 11.00 p.m. or 11.15 p.m. (I have been given both times!). Ed.

BALKAN DANCE GROUP

Our small and friendly folkdance group is seeking new members. We meet on Friday evenings from 7.00 p.m. at Culross Hall, Culross House, across from the Battle Bridge Centre in Battle Bridge Road, behind King's Cross Station. The evening's programme consists of teaching, revision and requests, with a Balkan repertoire, plus a few Israeli dances. Both novice and veteran dancers are welcome. For further information, contact Frank Dowling on 0171 821 7315.

KATHRYN FULLER

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BALKANPLUS - 14th June at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00-10.30 p.m. £3.00. M.C:- Dave Carter. We are particularly pleased to welcome Dave back after his recent enforced inactivity, and look forward to a lively evening.

The next Balkanplus, on 12th July, will be a very special event. "Popeluc", the trio who play Romanian music, have been confirmed as guest artists and will be giving a dance workshop prior to the main evening dance, as well as a performance. There will therefore be a change to the usual timings and prices:-

6.00-10.30 p.m. £5.00 Workshop, Dance, Performance.
7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00 Dance, Performance

There is no increase for season ticket holders. "Popeluc" will be joined by Dunav for the Dance.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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THE BESKYDY DANCERS

It was with great pleasure that I attended the Beskydy Dancers' programme on 19th April at Addlestone Community Centre with certain members of my family. Hedy Fromings gave a delightful and informative introduction to the programme, which included songs, dances and musical items from the Czech and Slovak Republics. The dancers performed extremely well, had several changes of costume, and were supported by a nine-piece band including a cimbalom. There were also four excellent singers, including Hedy. Guest artist was Don Allison, who played the fujára, described as a shepherd's pipe. This was about the size of a bassoon and had a most unusual variety of tone and range of notes.

The programme had some 20 items and lasted a full evening. My congratulations to the group for being able to produce such a varied performance of such a high standard. My little grandson has now been introduced to the Slovakian side of his heritage, even if he did sleep through most of it.

FRANCES HORROCKS

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RAINMAKERS HAVE COME OF AGE! Rainmakers cordially invite all of their friends to a Celebration "21st" Dance on Saturday, 18th October 1997. The coming-of-age Party will be held at the Ickleford Village Hall, 7.00-11.00 p.m. Tickets £5.00. For further information contact me on 01462 490071 or Mark Balaam 01462 454210.

CURLE M. LEE

THE PONTIC LYRA

The basic musical instrument of the Pontos is the lyra. It has three cords and is played with a bow. The sound box is principally made from hard wood, wild plum, acacia, or walnut, and the front made from pine. The bow is from olive and its strings from male horse tail. Its measurements may differ. A regular lyra is usually about 50cm. in length, 9cm. width in the middle, with a depth of 4cm. Originally the cords were made of intestine or of silk. Today, steel cords are used. These are one "si" guitar and two "La" violin. The "Si" guitar is zil, while the two "La" violin are middle and kapa.

The Pontic lyra is tuned in quarter intervals. The tuning is done in high key (zilia) and low key (kapania). Thus it differs greatly from other Pontic instruments. The large lyras are played in high key, while the small ones played in low key, and they are usually played in harmony. It is an instrument without "tasta", and most players are self-taught.

The modern Pontic lyra differs greatly from the ancient one, as much in body shape as in sound. Already in the 3rd and 2nd millennia B.C. exists the first representation of the lyra in Crete, statues of singers holding the instrument. From ancient Greek mythology we learn that the god Hermes made the first lyra from shell and three branches stretching across its sweet-sounding chords.

The lyre, in its 5000-year history, follows different stages of development. Its first name was Formix, and possibly the four-string Formix was called "Hermes Lyra". In the 8th century A.D. we find a single chord lyra with a bow. The next changes are in the number of chords and a change in the body shape. From the 10th to the 15th century in Europe, this instrument was called "fiddle". After the 15th century, again it was called a lyra. A whole family of lyras was created with different improvements in size and number of chords. One of these was called the lyra "de bratso", and after its perfection by Italian technicians was named "violin". Simplified, though, by the Greeks of the Black Sea, a variation of the instrument was called "Pontic lyra". It is not out of the question that the "Pontic lyra" was not made earlier when the instrument was still known by the name of "fiddle".

The Greek Pontios who lived in Turkey often called the three-string lyra "kementze", and the eight-string "Kemane". The kemane had five strings in front and three behind. The bow played the five, while the three simply quivered from the sound made by the bow. The reasons for the similarity between the lyra and the kementze are possibly: the same number of chords, the way in which the instrument is played, and the way that the bow is held, but also perhaps due to the Turkish influence in Greece during its 400-year occupation. When a person plays the lyra and also sings and dances in the Pontian tradition, the influence of Ancient Greece clearly shows. Although the kementze shape seems fitting to the earlier style of playing, where the player sits down with legs crossed, the shape of the instrument doesn't allow its player to stand, as is characteristic of the Pontian lyra.

The Pontic lyra today is played outside of the Greek boundaries. It is played by Ponts in all the Republics of the ex-Soviet Union and by expatriate Greeks in Australia, America, and in Europe, mainly in Germany. Recently it is worth noting that Pontic professors of music have begun scientifically and systematically studying our musical tradition as expressed by the Pontic lyra and other Pontic instruments such as the angeion, the silal, the zournas and the daouli.

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This article was written by Mr. Giannis (Yannis) Korosidis and translated by Gilly Defterigo. It is reproduced here by kind permission of the author.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

FOR SALE

Balkan Leather Opanki shoes. Five pairs - 36, 37, 38, 38, 39. Almost new. £50.00 for the package of five pairs, or £12 per pair. Please contact Kaye Lewis Poole, Kayroma Folkdance Group, 3 Townegate, Heddon-on-the-Wall, North-umberland NE15 0DT. Tel: 01661 852495.

Irina Raspopova's "Method of Voice Training in Folk Styles of Russian Polyphony" Book and tape. New and unused. £15.00 including postage (unless outside the U.K.). Contact: C. Waterlow, 18 Edward Street, Lower Weston, Bath BA1 3BP.

One ticket for the Eisteddfod at Llangollen. I have one spare ticket for the Thursday competition session (Folk Song Competition). Excellent seat, in centre of front row of the non-season-ticket seats. Seat number P/A 5. £10 o.n.o. (normal price £12). If interested, contact Hilda Sturge, 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol BS9 4DU. Tel: 0117 962 1802.



THE 1997 FOLK THINGS DIRECTORY

Editor: David Henry. Publisher: Folk Things, POB 13070, San Antonio TX 78213-0070 U.S. Price: 17.50 US\$ or 22.50 US\$ air mail.

This is a new guide which gives details of folkdance activities worldwide. It is uneven in its coverage because the Editor is heavily dependent on people sending in information and therefore it is at present strongly biased towards the U.S. There is mention of most of the S.I.F.D. classes and activities, with acknowledgements and thanks to Jeanette Hull, so send material to David Henry if you would like publicity. There are strange omissions - York and Sidmouth appear, but there is no mention of Eastbourne, Billingham or even Llangollen. However, if you are thinking of going to Papua New Guinea, for instance, there are several useful addresses, but nothing on Ireland, but this 90-page booklet is a good starting point for information, particularly on activities in out-of-the-way places.

The first issue (February 1997) is dedicated to Mary Ann and Michael Herman, whose books and records were the lifeblood of the Society in its early days, and to Pece Anatoski of Skopje, who was invited by Ken Ward to teach us on at least two occasions in London. The next issue is due in January 1998 and will be even more useful if readers keep the Editor posted with details of events.

JACK RICHARDSON



S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, IRISH SET DANCES

Date: Saturday, 7th June 1997. Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Place: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1.

Cost: £6.00 S.I.F.D. members, £7.00 non-members.

An opportunity to revise or learn from scratch some of the dances that Timmy McCarthy taught at York Summer School, plus some dances that will be new to everybody. Anne Leach and Caspar Cronk will be arguing about who's in charge!

"DANCEAV" AT MILTON KEYNES

The only dance workshops at the Milton Keynes Festival this year will be taken by "Danceav", and I thought that our members might be interested in what this group is offering in these workshops, described as "taster" dance sessions. A few weeks ago, at the "Footloose" Festival in Matlock, I did their workshops and watched all their exciting performances.

The leader of "Danceav", Ross Allen, has assembled a group of amazingly talented percussive dancers and six musicians, all of whom seem to play several different instruments, and sing. Ross himself dances in Appalachian, French Canadian and Flatfooting styles and is an excellent teacher; Lee Payne is a jazz tapper and dancer; Gary Pell an American rhythm tapper; Martin Percival an Irish step dancer who seems to defeat the laws of gravity, especially in his soft shoes; and Gary O'Mahoney who, in spite of his Irish name, is an English clog dancer. It was lovely to see such a young man dancing brilliantly in the old English clog style. Not long ago the group lost their original Irish dancer to "Riverdance" and their English clogger also got a professional contract, but I can't imagine that they could possibly have been better than Martin and Gary.

Having met S.I.F.D. members at other events, I know that there are a lot of steppers, cloggers and tappers amongst us who would enjoy these workshops. Numbers are limited to 25 per workshop and they cost £3.50 each. "Danceav" are also giving a show on Sunday, 6th July, 3.30 to 5.30 p.m., if your feet need a rest and you appreciate brilliant step dancing and music. Festival office number is 01908 610564.

MARINA WOLSTENHOLME

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MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 1997

Due to the continuing difficulties in Albania, the visit of the group "Youth of Tirana" to our Festival has now been postponed until next year, when we hope the situation will have improved. We and they are very disappointed by this. Fortunately, the choir and dancers from Soweto, "Imilonji Katu", will be able to take their place in both the Saturday evening and Sunday evening concerts.

DON ALLISON and JILL GOURLAY

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DANCE STUDIES Vol.20 is published on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Centre for Dance Studies in Jersey. It contains just one study by R.Lange, on "Polish Traditional Dance", the result of intensive field work in Poland conducted between 1954-67 and continual research during the following years.

This study has a concise, analytical profile. The author critically surveys all available sources and the text has been furnished with detailed references and an extensive bibliography. Special attention has been paid to methodological issues in viewing a complex, multi-layered dance culture. An attempt has been made to discuss this phenomenon as a process, rather than a series of static artefacts.

Price £9.00 plus postage & packing. Do not send any money with your order; an invoice will be sent. Payment accepted in Sterling, U.S.\$ cheques, and Sterling Eurocheques. List of publications sent on request.

CENTRE FOR DANCE STUDIES
Les Bois, St.Peter, Jersey
JE3 7AQ, C.I.

"POPELUC", the group of musicians who play Transylvanian music, are touring around Britain this summer. Details so far are as follows, but there will be more. Where the venue is suitable and the audience is interested, they intend to offer opportunities for dancing. The group are available for bookings.

June 14th Dracula Centenary Celebrations, Whitby
 18th Cross Keys, Llantrisant, S.Wales
 19th Weald & Downland Museum, Singleton, nr.Chichester (some dancing)
 21st Phoenix Arts, Leicester (lunchtime)
 21st Roecliffe Manor, nr.Loughborough (some dancing)
 28th Friends Meeting House, Luton
 July 3rd Islington Folk Club, Lark in the Park, Copenhagen Street, London N.1
 5th Day of Dance, Sudbury Hall, Staffs (with Nutbrook FDC) (Mainly dancing)
 6th Belper Folk Festival, Derbys. (Hope to include a dance session)
 12th Balkanplus, Cecil Sharp House (mainly dancing)
 13th Buxton Festival Fringe at Old Clubhouse, Water St. (with Opanka FDC)
 (mainly dancing)
 16th - Ditto -

Enquiries to Steel Carpet Music, 190 Burton Road, Derby DE1 1TQ. Tel: 01332 346399.



IRISH SET DANCING WITH TIMMY McCARTHY

Timmy McCarthy will be teaching a Set Dancing weekend, 21st-22nd June 1997, at the Mazenod Ceilidh Club, Mazenod Avenue, London N.W.6 (in the Hall below the church). He will be bringing with him two musicians from Ireland. For those who were at the York Summer School last summer, Timmy needs no introduction. For others, ask someone who was at York to hear what you missed. Timmy is a fine teacher as well as a great character.

Saturday, 21st June	10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.	Workshop, £6.00	} Day ticket £10
	8.30 - 11.30 p.m.	Social Dance, £5.00	
Sunday, 22nd June	11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	Workshop, £3.00	} Day ticket £5
	2.30 - 5.00 p.m.	Social Dance, £4.00	

For additional information and tickets, contact Pat Cardis, 26 Woodlea Road, London N16 0TH. Tel: 0171 254 3998.

CASPAR CRONK



GREEK TRADITIONAL DANCES SEMINAR IN MACEDONIA

The Seminar will be held from Monday, 4th August, to Saturday, 16th August, in the small village of Agios Germanos, near Prespa Lake. Natural park, rare varieties of birds and flowers, swimming, fishing, walking. Dancing lessons in traditional Greek dance from many regions for five hours per day. Visits to village festivities, cafeneion etc. Accommodation in traditional Macedonian houses, but other arrangements are possible on request, e.g. camping. Cost for dance lessons, full pension, activities - equivalent to French francs 3600 per person. Further information from Yannis and Ira Konstantinou, Alex.Papagou No.4, 17456 Alimos (Athens), Attiki, Greece, Tel: 30(0) 1 98 26 840, or from Margarete Luy-Daschler, Avenue Vandromme No.6, B.1160 Brussels, Belgium, Tel: 32 2 672 98 23, or from Maryse Fabre, No.2 Rue Coysevox, 75018 Paris, France. Tel: 33(0) 1 46 27 92 04.

"SPIRIT OF THE DANCE", 2nd May, Fairfield Hall, Croydon

Having seen "Mongolian State Dancers" advertised on the programme, Jeanette Hull, Phyllis Hand and I duly went to Fairfield Hall. We had all been at Jan Knoppers' "Eastern Promise" course at Easter and were very keen to see what these dancers would be like. In the event, the Mongolians did not appear, neither did the Irish Harp Ensemble, nor the Gospel Choir. We ended up with Irish step dancing, a few melancholy songs, and the Cossacks, who were good but predictable. We are now negotiating a refund for misrepresentation.

FRANCES HORROCKS

P.S. Heather Edwards and I also saw the Show (at Hastings) and although the Mongolians did make an appearance, and also the Irish harpists (the best item on the programme), we would not recommend the Show. And I notice that the Mongolians, the Harp Ensemble and the Choir are not mentioned in the current advertisements.

LILY AVERY

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 4th-7th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

July 5th EGYPTIAN FOLKDANCE WORKSHOP (especially Saïdi - dance style of Upper Egypt) with Josephine Wise, introduced by Christine Hall. Enquiries to Josephine on 0171 249 0010. No price given.

July 8th-13th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL EISTEDDFOD.

July 11th BARNET SUMMER PARTY with music by Dunav. 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. £4.00 including wine and refreshments. Enquiries to Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.

Aug.2nd-9th SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL.

Aug.9th-16th BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL.

Aug.22nd-25th BALKAN FLAVOUR WEEKEND at Dunford House, near Midhurst, West Sussex. If interested, please send £60.00 deposit plus s.a.e. to Irene Keywood 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. as soon as possible. Tel: 0181 592 4427. Approximate cost of weekend: £118.

Nov.1st MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOP with Nutbrook Group. Italy, Austria, Holland and Switzerland. 10.15 - 11.15 a.m. Musicians' Playalong. 11.15 a.m. - 4 p.m. Dance Workshops. 4.15 - 5.15 p.m. Social Dance. £5.00. Teacher: Jill Bransby. At Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. For further information ring 0115 917 1831.

Nov.7th-9th ROMANIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Silviu Ciuciumis at Dovedale, in the Peak District. This weekend course is now full for dancers but it is still possible for walkers and sightseers to book for this Autumn weekend break. The cost of £70.00 includes full board from Friday evening meal to Sunday (packed) lunch, in comfortable rooms, with plentiful choice of food and all the facilities of the house and grounds. Alternatively, as there may be cancellations at a later date, I will keep a waiting list for anyone who wishes to book as a dancer. For details, please send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.
CATHY MEUNIER.

Nov.15th DAY COURSE IN CHINESE FOLK DANCING by Chen Shan at Hope Valley College, Derbyshire. Details later.

Dec.6th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY