

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

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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 is by Lesley Boorer and shows the design on
the new S.I.F.D. notelets. (See p.3).

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EASTBOURNE FOLK FESTIVAL, 1ST-4TH MAY 1998

Further to the information in last month's issue, I regret that Jan Knoppers
is unable to attend the Festival. However, "Steve" Steventon has agreed to
run a couple of Spanish/Portuguese workshops. I have also managed to obtain
a teenage Russian group from the Page-Mason Schools of Dance & Drama, called
"Riabinoushka".

Please remember to wear SOFT-SOLED SHOES ONLY in the Gym. And please let me
know if you are prepared to steward in the Gym (or elsewhere) for one or two
sessions over the weekend. Thanks.

HELEN EZRA
0181 648 4118

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

The next date to remember is 16th May in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, when we
shall be revising, or perhaps learning, a dance or two. I have asked Joan and
Simon Guest to assist; Anne Leach has also-agreed to revise a couple of Irish
dances for us. £6.00 members, £8.00 non-members. Further date to note: 13th
June.

HELEN EZRA

☞ March Committee Meeting ☞

- **Eastbourne and York** were discussed extensively - more information about both appeared in the March News. Helen urgently needs volunteers at Eastbourne for occasional stewarding duties in the gym -small things like checking shoes and watching over equipment will help her a lot. York is proving to be very good value.
- A date for the meeting to discuss the **News** was suggested for May, to give everyone ample time to make suggestions, and investigate any related costs.
- We talked about the purchase of a new **sound amplifier** for dances (fortunately the Society has capital to cover expenses like this) as the current one is getting old and has a mind of its own. A new one should ideally be easy to use but fully-featured, and produce excellent sound. It will need careful choosing, but fortunately experts are on hand to give advice.
- The Society now has a Website on the **Internet** - WWW.aapi.co.uk/scrimsrj/sifd/sifdindex.htm for those of you with access. It's early days yet, but we hope this will be an attractive and informative site, already linked with others, and with luck will eventually attract new members.
- A discussion document has been drafted on **Teachers and Badges**, and a questionnaire is being prepared to gather members' views on **Day Courses**. We'd be very grateful for views when they appear!
- **Dance Books**, 15 Cecil Court, WC2N 4EZ, (just off the Charing Cross Road), are going to be asked if they will stock our books and tapes.
- **National Dance Week** is coming up at the end of June, and we talked about what we could do for it. A note about it should appear in next month's news.

ALISON SCRIMSHAW
Hon. Secretary

S.I.F.D. SHOP

We now have a new stock of T-shirts - "Lots of Dancers" design by Sister Anna. The design was the front cover of SIFD NEWS, August 1997. The T-shirts are all cotton, sizes XL, Large, Medium. Colours: Jade, Sunflower, Sky, Red. Cost: £9.00 plus £1.00 postage & packing. Cheques payable to S.I.F.D. Available from me at 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

Many thanks to Fiona Howarth for the large number of T-shirts she has sold in the last few months. I must vote her Top Sales Lady. I should also like to thank her club members for buying them. Fiona tells me you all look great.

We also have new Notelets, designed by Lesley Boorer, in packs of 8, printed in black on coloured card which is in four different colours. Each pack contains two cards each of the four colours, and envelopes. £2.00 + 50p p. & p. Available from me (address above). The design is a couple from Voivodina in former Yugoslavia and is shown on the cover of this month's SIFD NEWS. Thank you, Lesley, for such a charming design.

CLAIRE STEELEY

Music. Two more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.12. If you would like to have the music for a particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

May I thank Michael Gilbert for his interesting and informative reply to my letter on rhythms. I quite accept that in making the point about Balkan rhythms I rather glossed over the subtleties of our "Western" ones.

Since writing my letter, I have noticed that Jacques L'oneux, in his book "A Propos Des Danses Roumaines" (1996 Stembert, Belgium), addresses this question very fully in respect of Romanian 2/4 and 4/4 among the other rhythms, and I feel these may be of interest to your readers :-

* Hora, Jianu 

Sîrba 

Brîul nou bănăţean 

Purtata tîrnăveană 

Purtata cîmpeneasca 

Ceardaş 

Învîrtita rară 

Învîrtita deasă 

Haţegana 

Ardeleana dreaptă 

De doi bănăţean 

Haidăul 

Ardeleana 

Brîul drept 

Brîul pe şase 

Corăghiasca 

Breaza 

De Sărit 

Fecioreasca rară, rară 

(De ponturi româneşte)

Învîrtita sincopată 

Yours sincerely,

DAVID ROBERTS
La Chaumille, 74380 Lucinges,
France.

*reproduced with kind permission of Jacques L'oneux.

Dear Lily,

The 16th April 1998 is the 20th anniversary of Margery Latham's death. She is, I am sure, a name that is mentioned by older ones, and one of those noted as the compilers of the S.I.F.D. books that accompany the tapes of dances. However, for those who knew her she remains a personality who is remembered; as the teacher for the Central London Wednesday class, and her work in many ways for the S.I.F.D.; but above all as somebody who gave - friendship, advice and practical help - all in a warm kindly manner. Saying "No" was not Margery's way. With dances, members still say, "We learnt that with Margery"; today the words used are likely to be "We did that" or "we've done that"!

Margery is missed but not forgotten, and apart from the Memorial Dance at Porchester Hall I feel the S.I.F.D. has not really done enough to honour her memory.

Yours sincerely,

ROY CLARKE
33 Cedar Park Road, Enfield
Middx. EN2 0HE.

Dear Lily,

Jenia Graman reminds us that Hopak is a Ukrainian and not a Russian dance. I doubt if it would be recognised by that name in either country. Our sound "h" does not occur in the Russian or Ukrainian languages. The letter "H" is used in both languages, and others using the Cyrillic alphabet, for our sound "h". Words and names containing the "h" sound coming into Russian/Ukrainian from other languages had to be presented somehow, and the sound "g" was chosen - Cyrillic Г - why, I do not know; perhaps because the letters are adjacent in our alphabet. Thus the composer Handel becomes Gandel, or ГАНДЕЛ on a Russian concert programme.

So where did "Hopak" come from? I guess, somewhere, sometime, some knowledgeable Ukrainian, or Russian, wishing to take the dance "Gopak" ГОПАК abroad, thought, "Hs coming into our language are transliterated as Gs, so we must reverse the process for Gs going out". Thus Gopak became Hopak, although I have seen it named Gopak in some English programmes. Hooray for Ukrainian Gopak!

Б Б The proximity of letters in our alphabets is revealing. The Cyrillic letters for sounds "b" and "v" respectively are adjacent in his alphabet, which makes one realise how close they are in sound and formation, an affinity not revealed in our alphabet where they are about as far apart as they could be. Hooray for the Balkan Saint Cyril and his alphabet; how marvellous to have one letter for "shch". Enjoy your БОРЩ.

MICHAEL CLARK
14 Weldon Close,
Church Crookham, Fleet,
Hants. GU13 0BG.



DANCE WITH DELYAN DEMIREV IN BULGARIA - 19th August to 2nd September, including a visit to Rozhen Festival, 28th to 30th August. For details, please contact me at 47 Jordan Hill, Oxford OX2 8EU.

Delyan will be in the U.K. for the first three weeks of October, so if you would like him to lead a workshop for your dance group, please contact me to arrange this.

ROGER WICKSTEED

**re: LECTURE ON TRADITIONAL GREEK COSTUME AT THE
THE HELLENIC CENTRE ON THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 1998**

Speaker: Ioanna Papantoniou

Having a deep interest in this subject, I and a few other like-minded friends attended the above lecture. We found the lecture on the origin and evolution of Greek costume extremely interesting and enlightening in many aspects. The variety of costume within Greece is quite astonishing and it was wonderful to have its evolution explained in such interesting detail, which we all found most enjoyable and well worth the effort of getting to the Hellenic Centre by 7 pm.

However, at the end of her lecture on costume, the speaker then embarked on stating her own very personal, view on Greek costume when combined with dance and stirred up a hornets' nest in so doing in the presence of so many members of the much respected Lykion ton Hellinidon dance group. plus members of other dance groups such as ourselves! What she said was, that if people want to take part in Greek dancing then they should do so only for their own personal pleasure, but not perform in public, in costume. She also stated that following a falling off of interest in Greek costume in Greece, there has recently been a revival, mostly by "women in their 50's, 60's and even 70's" who are making replicas of the old costumes and wearing them to dance in. The speaker stated that she considers these women "to be very sad"!!

These statements, in the presence of so many professional and amateur dancers were, I think, at best ill-advised and at worst, (remembering that she was invited to give this lecture by the Lykion ton Hellinidon) could be construed as rather insulting. Surely if there were no groups prepared to give their time to earnestly endeavouring to preserve the treasures of traditional Greek dancing and striving to make their costumes as closely resembling the original ones as possible, given the fact that the original materials are no longer obtainable, then the whole culture of Greek dance would fade away and be lost forever. (This would apply to all international folk dancing)

When one considers that Angeliki Hatzimichaelis made the study of Greek costume her life's work, and Dora Stratou likewise greatly enriched posterity with her painstaking research into costume and dance, even to the point of getting ordinary villagers to come to her school and teach her group of dancers the way to "perform" these dances in the village style, so as to be correct in every detail, then I think the lecturer's comments were somewhat arrogant.

We have, of course, all witnessed that very worst form of "Greek dancing" in the form of the "Greek Night" put on purely for tourists, which bears no resemblance at all to that of traditional Greek dance and costume. Just occasionally, however, one may be treated to a "performance" which does stick to tradition - and a great enjoyment it is to watch. When this happens, and brings so much pleasure to others, where is the harm? Therefore let us not be discouraged, so long as we still endeavour to retain as much of the "purity" of Greek dancing as is possible.

The speaker was invited to talk about Greek costume, which she did I think to most peoples' enjoyment and enlightenment. However I, and the friends who accompanied

me, feel she overstepped the mark by straying into verbalising her own very personal views on how and where Greek dance should be performed. Considering her remarks took place in the very same hall in which the Lykion ton Hellinidon, just a few months ago, gave their very entertaining and authentic performance, this was, I feel, extremely unwise and guaranteed to deeply upset all those present who took part after very many hours of diligent work to make it authentic. This lady, eminent though she may be in her research into the origins of traditional Greek costume, should have adhered to the subject on which she had been invited to speak.

Bryan Wild

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CHINESE SILK FANS

Nick and I have been approached by several members of S.I.F.D. asking if we still have Chinese dance fans. They are long sold out. They don't seem to be available for sale anywhere in the U.K. We've searched in specialist shops, enquired with Asian dance teachers and so on, but to no avail.

We are considering if we should get another consignment from China. We are not importing them ourselves but we have a contact who does international trade and who is willing to organise another order for us. He'll take a cut, of course. However, this will be a considerable capital outlay and financial risk for us. Unless we order a large quantity the fans would be very costly, but if we get 200 or so the prices will be realistic. So it would be useful to know in advance who wants fans, how many, and which colours.

Allowing for expected price increases, we think a set of two will cost around £14.00. They are available in the following bright colours: red, pink, green, blue. They are very large and made from wood and two layers of silk, the same style as used by professional Chinese dancers. We will get a consignment only if there is enough interest. (Don't send any money yet!).

CHRISTINE HALL
Finchden, Sandhurst,
Cranbrook, Kent TN18 5JS

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MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 1998 - FRIDAY, 3RD, TO SUNDAY, 5TH JULY

You will be pleased to know we have at last been able to finalise which groups will be coming to our Festival this year. They are "Zagreb Folkdance Ensemble" from Croatia, who took part in Llangollen Eisteddfod last year; returning by popular demand are "Vagonar" from Poprad, in the Slovak Republic, who last came to Milton Keynes in 1991; a children's group from Amman Valley in Wales; and the well-respected Pan African Dance Ensemble "Adzido", who are based in London.

This year the main dance performances will be held at the Woughton Centre, with a folk choral concert in the City Church and a "meet the groups" Dance in Newport Pagnell. For a copy of the detailed programme leaflet, due out in April, please send a stamped addressed envelope to us at 30 St. John Street, Newport Pagnell, Bucks. MK16 8HJ.

DON & JILL ALLISON
Tel: 01908 610564

WOODVALE'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE ON SATURDAY, 25TH APRIL
AT BOROUGH GREEN VILLAGE HALL

When we look back we cannot believe that thirty years have passed since Woodvale was founded by Ian and myself and Eileen and Ernie Nolan. Ian and I moved to Harrogate in 1974, leaving Eileen and Ernie running the group for the next seven or eight years until Ernie's untimely death. By that time some of the original members, Alan Cant, Jan Bryce, and a few others, were able to take over (with a lot of help from Eileen) - what a good job they have done. We particularly congratulate them on the wonderful sets of costumes they have made over the years. We had a letter recently from a friend who used to be our next-door neighbour in Kent, saying that Woodvale had once again given a very good and colourful demonstration to the W.I. of which she is President; she used to be a needlework teacher and commented on the high standard of the costumes they were wearing.

We are very much looking forward to being present at the Dance and hope to see lots of our friends, both from Woodvale and the S.I.F.D.

IAN & JEAN WILLSON
(now members of Loidis I.F.D.G.)

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RESIDENTIAL COURSES FOR 1998

24th-26th April ISRAELI DANCING with Fiona Howarth at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. A few places remain on both the General and Advanced courses. Non-dancers are also welcome to enjoy a Spring break in this delightful setting overlooking the bay, and not far from the Needles and Alum Bay. Full board and accommodation is £64.00 (£74.00 for en-suite). A course of two half-days tuition and evening social dancing is £10.00.

30th October-1st November ARMENIAN DANCING with Tinneke Van Geel from Holland, at Dovedale, Peak District. Tinneke has taught at the Arnside Balkan course and at an S.I.F.D. weekend course, and the participants speak very highly of her teaching and programme. Full board and accommodation is £76.00, two half-days tuition £14.00 or two full days £28.00.

Both venues are excellent locations for walking and sightseeing for non-dancing friends and family. Dancers selecting the half-day course option will also have an opportunity to explore the area. Accommodation is in comfortable single and twin-bedded rooms, and there is a plentiful choice of food. For details and a booking form, send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

CATHY MEUNIER

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BULGARIAN TOURS

The British-Bulgarian Friendship Society is running two tours this summer which S.I.F.D. members may find interesting. The "Soft Walking in the Rhodopes Mountains Tour", 26th July to 5th August, will visit very little known areas of this beautiful region and also have the opportunity to visit Ilinden Folk Festival. Price from £570.00. Those interested in national dress and costume might well enjoy the "Textiles and Crafts Tour", 11th to 21st September, which will visit various Ethnographic Museums and craft exhibitions, as well as many beautiful towns and villages. Price from £695.00. Further details from Dr. Annie Kay, B.B.F.S. Tours Organiser, 0171 237 7616.

DANCING ON THE WATER

A few years back, Barbara and I met an American at the Eastbourne Festival, who was distributing leaflets about dance cruises, which explains why, on 27th December last, we were en route from Gatwick to Nassau to join a group organized by Mel Mann aboard the "s.s. UNIVERSE EXPLORER".

The "UNIVERSE EXPLORER" is not your typical glitzy cruise ship. It takes a maximum of 700 passengers, there is no gambling, no Butlins' style entertainment, and no having to dress up to the nines every night. What it does have is a friendly informal atmosphere, a library of 11,000 books, a computer suite, a really good entertainment programme, and a fascinating lecture programme delivered by five American University Professors.

Our cruise took us from Nassau to the Yucatan Peninsular of Mexico for a night stopover, then on to Grand Cayman and Ocho Rios in Jamaica - which was a real highlight for us - then finally back to Nassau and a reluctant journey home. In Jamaica and Mexico we were lucky enough to see folkdance groups and to our delight we actually recognised two Mexican dances that we had ourselves been taught in past Summer Schools with the S.I.F.D. The lecture programme was based around the cruise itinerary, and covered the history, social anthropology, marine biology, music, and language, including some basic Spanish.

Our dance leader was a wonderful American teacher called Marianne Taylor (Caspar Cronk remembers her from his days in Cambridge Massachusetts). Marianne presented a variety of dances - Western European, Balkan, English, Scottish and American - mostly simple dances which were easily accessible to most dancers and which could be attempted even when the ground under your feet kept on moving. For one session, we opened up the group to non-dancing passengers, and I was really impressed, firstly by the way in which Marianne got people dancing and enjoying themselves, and secondly by the way in which Mel encouraged newcomers to obtain information which he had available on where they could dance close to wherever they lived in the U.S.

You will have gathered that we had a wonderful holiday, but I have not yet mentioned what made this holiday so outstanding for us - the people. The twenty-six people in Mel's group were really warm and friendly, and made us limeys feel really at home. There was also another small group on board, led by a guy called Karl Finger - some of you may have seen his group at Koprivshitsa some years ago. We were able to join in some of Karl's sessions, including his guitar playing and singing.

I have a small supply of leaflets from Mel, so please contact me if you would like some information. We are saving up for an Alaskan cruise in July/August 1999.

BARBARA & MALCOLM SHAFFER
Fieldfare, 5 Mountain Ash,
Marlow Bottom, Bucks. SL7 3PB
Tel: 01628 485333

21st June-1st July 1998. "Dance On The Water", international folkdance cruise beginning in Copenhagen, travelling up coast of Norway and also visiting Solovskiy Island, Murmansk and Archangel in Russia. Dance leader: Lee Otterholt. Cost: Cruise only \$1995.

21st July-4th August 1998. "Dance On The Water", Alaska Inside Passage international folkdance cruise. Dance leader: Ned Gault. An educational cultural experience. Cost from \$2095.

For more information on the above, contact Mel Mann, c/o Berkeley Travel Company, 1301 California St., Berkeley CA94703, U.S.A. Tel: (510) 526 4033.
Fax: (510) 524 9906.

July 18th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO SUMMER PARTY. 7.00-11.00 p.m. and A DANCE WORKSHOP with James Webb in the afternoon, 2.00-5.30, at St.Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road. Party £4.00, Workshop £3.00.

July 25th/Aug.1st YORK INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL. Booking forms from Paul and Dawn Webster, Greenacres, Broadstreet Common, Nash, Newport NP6 2AZ. Tel: 01633 272662.

Aug.2nd/7th "MACHOL - EUROPA 1998". Israeli Folkdance Seminar at De Montford University, Bedford. Advanced and Intermediate. Full information from Israel Folkdance Institute, Balfour House, 741 High Road, London N12 0BQ. Tel: 0181 446 6427 (day), 0181 455 6765 (evening).

Oct.24th/25th MARTISORUL ROMANIAN GROUP has invited Silviu Ciuciumis to London. There will be a one-day workshop with Silviu presenting another selection from his ever-popular repertoire of dances. Further details shortly.



BALKANPLUS are organizing a Bulgarian Day Course on 4th April at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £7.00. Season ticket holders £3.50.

Tutors will be Brian Dowsett and Frances Horrocks. Dances will be selected from Eddy Tijssen's previous courses and will include a range of challenging and simple dances from different regions of Bulgaria. A spare belt would be an added asset. Balkanplus will follow at the usual time of 7.00-10.30 p.m. £3. M.C.s: Brian and Frances, who will include some, if not all, of the dances taught during the day. Music by Dunav.

The next Balkanplus will be on 9th May when those wearing a Balkanplus T-shirt will get their ticket at half-price. T-shirts (£6.50) and season tickets (£25) are available at the Dances.

FRANCES HORROCKS

In time-honoured fashion (well, Jeff and Tina Stone did it once), Balkanplus is being hi-jacked on 9th May for purely personal reasons. To kick off the final descent to a certain birthday of mine in June, when I am assured my life will finally begin, I shall be assuming the M.C. mantle and dishing up a delicatessen of dance delight (well, I'll be doing a few dances that I like). A varied programme of old and not-so-old (and that's just the dancers) with a fair sprinkling of rapid walk-throughs and maybe even a surprise or two. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces from the fifteen(!) years I've now been dancing in the Balkan(plus) circles in London and environs - and don't forget to wear your Balkanplus T-shirt (available in black, green.....).

ROBERTO HADDON



ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP - class dates for the Summer term:-

April 20th, 27th. May 11th, 18th. June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th July 6th, 13th
(May 4th and 25th are Bank Holidays). ROSEMARY GIBB, Group Secretary.

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

Apr.5th M.C.s: Central London I.F.D.G.

May 10th M.C.s: S.I.F.D. Band - in Trefusis.

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £4.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 for non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- Apr.3rd DANCING AT WITNESHAM, near Ipswich. Mainly Balkan plus Israeli and others. 7.30-10.30 p.m. £2.00. Contact Bruce Barbour on 01473 749091 or Sally Fletcher on 01473 252824.
- Apr.3rd to 5th STEPPING, CLOGGING & CAJUN FESTIVAL at Matlock. Organized by "Foot-loose". Contact: Meg Ridley, 01246 434789.
- Apr.4th IRISH SOCIAL SET DANCE WORKSHOP, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. with Diana Jewitt at St.Michael's Community Centre, St.Michael's Road, Hitchin, Herts. Whole day £5.00. Organized by Rainmakers I.F.D.G. For further details, ring 01462 677916 or 01462 490071.
- Apr.4th ORIENTAL FOLK & BELLY DANCING WORKSHOP AND DEMONSTRATION with Christine Hall at Eastbourne for Age Concern. Suitable for absolute beginners and near beginners, especially the elderly. No price given.
- Apr.4th BALKANPLUS - BULGARIAN DAY COURSE followed by Evening Dance. See p.11.
- Apr.18th SIFD/EFDSS INTERNATIONAL/ENGLISH BARNDANCE at Cecil Sharp House, 8.00-11.00 p.m. Newcomers encouraged. M.C. for International: Jeanette Hull. Music by "Jacob's Ladder". £4.00 members, £4.50 non-members.
- Apr.18th "MAGIC OF THE ORIENT" - Dance Show at Claverham Community College, Battle. 7.00 p.m. Details given last month. Enquiries to Christine Hall, 01580 850687.
- Apr.24th to 26th ISRAELI DANCE WEEKEND at Freshwater Bay. See p.8.
- Apr.24th to 27th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND. Details given last month. More information from André Hobro, 01203 418 949.
- Apr.25th WOODVALE I.F.D.G. 30TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Borough Green Village Hall. M.C.s: Alan Cant, Heather Dascălescu, Jan Bryce, David Mckie and Ian Willson. Tickets £8.00 including champagne toast and food (bring your own drink and glasses). ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY. Details from Alan Cant, 01732 883405.

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All material for publication in 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 and dances unless typewritten.