

SIFD NEWS



JULY 1999

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Editor for this month: Heather Edwards, 47 Sutherland Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 3QL

+++++++

The typing is done by Heather Edwards. The printing, packaging and
posting is done by Doug and Maureen Wells.

+++++++

The cover design is by Simon Guest. His photograph of a Ukrainian girl
was taken at the 1992 Confolens Festival in France. The blouse is white
with red and green embroidery, the bolero is blue with red and white
edging and the headdress is made up of red, white, blue, yellow and
purple flowers

+++++++

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: 020 8427 8042.

PUBLICITY OFFICER: George Sweetland, 28 Hayes Court, Camberwell New Road,
London SE5 0TQ. Tel: 0171 701 3785.
Internet Web Site Address: www.sifd.org

+++++++

S.I.F.D. books and cassettes are available from Eleanor Gordon, 70 Chestnut
Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT13 3TS. Other S.I.F.D. goods are available from
Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

PLEASE NOTE

Lily will be back in the editorial chair for the August issue
of the SIFD NEWS so send all items for that month IN WRITING
to: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common,
Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4PX.
Deadline: July 17th 1999

THE VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS, LONDON

The end-of-the-Century season of performances started on Sunday May 23rd with Doina East European Folk Dance Group and the London Turkish Dancers.

The two teams had to cope with difficulties at the start which tested their ingenuity. Firstly, traffic along the Embankment was completely stopped because of a cycle race, and the usual entrance to the gardens was closed. Only a small entrance some way off was available, which was difficult for cars to turn into. However, Leslie Haddon (of Doina) quite ably stopped any traffic that end.

The next major problem was that the stage sound equipment had been stolen, even though it was all firmly screwed down. Various solutions were tried until Pauline Welch (Turkish) remembered she had a Walkman outfit in her car. This item saved the day as a technician was able to make it work by wiring it round the microphone, though speech could not be amplified. Fortunately, a dancer's husband with a loud penetrating voice came to the rescue.

Doina performed some new dances, one of which was Trojak, a dance for one man and two girls. Two sets of three danced back to back, one set in Polish costume, the other in Hungarian, showing how the same dance varied in style from the different countries.

Eight dancers performed in the Turkish sections, with their usual gorgeous costumes. Kafkas was a Georgian-type dance on the balls of the feet with no rise or fall, giving a smooth gliding effect. Antet came from south east Turkey, and Silifke was danced with painted wooden spoons.

Many thanks to both groups for overcoming the obstacles and carrying on the show.

KAY KEDGE

+++++++

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - PHILIPPINE DANCES

Date: Saturday July 24th 1999 Place: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House
Time: 10.30a.m. to 4.30p.m. Teacher: Ronnie Del Barrio
Fee: £7.00 members £9.00 non-members

Ronnie was spotted at a travel show by Maggie O'Regan and his details were passed to me. Hopefully he will bring a few of his group along to demonstrate as well.

All are welcome. Come along to join in the fun and learn something about the dances and customs.

No course in August.

Next day course on Saturday September 11th. (No details given).

HELEN EZRA

+++++++

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I am very sad to let you know of the death of Florence Brien in Melbourne. She died after a series of strokes on April 15th, slipping away quietly at the end.

Her sister, Jon, came with Florence to England many years ago. They saw one of our Albert Hall shows and joined on the spot. For the next few years they were very keen and supportive of the SIFD and joined in everything and anything.

When they went back to Australia they joined Scottish dancing groups and Florence was a keen 'safari' fan, going camping in the bush and all over Australia.

At our last SIFD reunion Florence came over and met up with us 'oldies', staying for a while at the YWCA in Victoria. Luckily she managed to come to stay with us at Bookham before her return journey.

She will be very much missed by all her friends.

Sincerely,

MARGARET WEBB
43 Crabtree Lane
Great Bookham, Surrey KT23 4PL

+++++++

LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD July 6th/11th 1999

Information on participants and events.

Folk Dance Groups - Adults Wednesday 7th - Children Friday 9th

The teams that have been invited to take part this year are as follows:

Albania, England (2), Estonia, France (2), Georgia + children, Germany, Hawaii, India (2) + children, Korea, Lithuania (2) + children, N. Ireland + children, Poland, Republic of Ireland + children, Romania + children, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey (2) + children (2), Ukraine (2) + children, Wales.

The workshops scheduled for Thursday 8th will be:

a.m. Hawaii, France - Provence
p.m. Korea, Romania

FRANCES HORROCKS

+++++++

MUSIC for Dreifache Kreuzpolka (Switzerland) and Merton Morris (UK) from Wilf Horrocks this month on p.12. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please let Wilf know, on 0181 642 3629.

NEVER ANY TIME TO TRY ALL THOSE OTHER LOVELY DANCES!

I recently received a letter from our treasurer, Judith Payling, reminding me that in a teachers' survey I had indicated that I was willing to write articles for the SIFD News. I have to admit I had forgotten about this, and thought "Oh alright, I'm going to Poland soon and I'll try to write something about it when I get back." Then I thought how holiday accounts can be pretty boring and, I suspect, often don't get read. Maybe this won't be, but anyhow I'll write something about being an octogenarian with dancing days well past. (I'll probably write that holiday article as well!)

One of the things I very much regret now is that I didn't find time for much other dancing besides Polish. Then I think of my very exacting full-time job in the fashion industry and wonder how on earth, after getting back to some dancing again following two years of severe back trouble, necessitating giving up ballet for good, I managed to do anything at all.

I briefly first tried a little Spanish with Lucile Armstrong (she frightened me to death!). That wasn't any good for my back, but Basque with Aguadita Sarasu was much more enjoyable. She soon went back to Spain. Then, in the same St. John's Wood school came the lovely Doina Trandabur, political refugee from the Romanian State dance company. I absolutely loved her dances. We were a small female only group - mostly girls of Romanian parents living in London, and not very good dancers on the whole, plus two or three of us English who were rather better. After not much more than a year she left to get married in France. I was devastated. Nobody else taught any Romanian in those days. Then, again in the same school, a Polish class started with Barbara Bojanowska. That was it - I was hooked on Polish for good! I later joined Walczak's SIFD class, and then was invited to dance in his own National group before finally teaching Polish for the SIFD under the ILEA umbrella.

Those years were more than full, building up Jacy Tacy's costumes, going to Poland during every bit of my meagre holiday time to work with various dance groups there, and bringing back besides the music and dances, materials, patterns and prototype pieces of regional costume. Then of course, in term time, back to teaching and arranging our participation in so many concerts both small and large. It was exciting, stressful and deeply rewarding, but allowed no time for any other dancing.

Our group began to decline during the last few years before I had to retire at 65 years (ILEA's ruling). No younger men were arriving to replace those leaving for the usual reasons of age, moving away from London, etc. Younger girls came but didn't find partners and left disappointed. It was only then I realised how very lucky we had been to start our group when there were some really good male dancers around, who in turn attracted many of the best (and I have to say prettiest!) girls from the SIFD.

The following years were unhappy for me as I watched Tony Latham gallantly struggling against the odds to keep classes going until they finally closed. Later on, we started our weekend days of Polish Dance. It was good to see some of our lovely dances kept alive but I still felt so sad that we couldn't teach the more demanding ones that required more than day course time, and that our valuable costumes no longer were worn. I suppose this was the time when I should have tried some other dancing but I did not have the heart!

The whole scene has changed now so radically. There are so many lovely dances coming from E. European and other countries that don't need partners. Who can blame people for preferring them for that reason, and also many of them are not so challenging as the best of Polish which require very concentrated work?

Now I look back in rather more accepting frame of mind and remember what we achieved. I enjoy watching other people's efforts and still follow the dance scene in Poland itself. I just wish these old feet could get off the ground rather more so that I could try a bit of the "other"!

BETTY HARVEY

+++++++

A DIDI DOODLE FROM DIKI!

Just to say how wonderful to be invited to the best of all parties - the dancing-with-music sort of celebration! James and Jackie Webb's 10th Anniversary was such a highlight with lashings of super food and drink, ongoing live music to dance to in a lovely setting - no wonder the hours flashed by.

Then Frances Horrock's birthday party where, despite the very watery, unpredictable weather, the delights included a super free dancing session on the patio.

This weekend Donald Kendrick's 70th was a cultural feast with such a variety of splendid contributions including inspired Hungarian music to open the proceedings, followed by poetry, story telling, special sung Swedish greetings from an old friend of his, a Romany strolling player, a jolly flautist and so much music and singing (including Zivko Firfov, so not confined to Bulgarian). Yash Bash and their singers provided ongoing beautiful music to dance to - which we nearly all did. Bliss! It should be mentioned too that Donald joined the SIFD 50 years ago and it's 35 years since he started doing so much for the British Bulgarian Friendship Society. Well done Donald!

This sharing of good company with a glass, some chat, plenty of magic music and the chance to dance together nothing better. As soon as I can think of something to celebrate (for instance when my flooding is cured at long last!?) I must have another go, but until then I do hope I can squeeze in on all the party guest lists - I'm addicted.

Anyway, just thought I'd encourage anyone and everyone toying with the idea of a dancing party - for any reason - YES PLEASE DO. That's the best possible kind.

DIKI GLEESON

+++++++

INTERNATIONAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN CATALUNYA, July 15th/18th 1999

The dance groups taking part will be:

Bulgaria, Catalunya (4), Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Murcia, Republic of Ireland, Russia, Slovakia.

There are also 39 choirs taking part.

FRANCES HORROCKS

Ed. This adds to the information provided by George Sweetland in the June 1999 issue of the News on page 9.

Playing Santis Masoulka

Santis Masoulka is a pleasant Swiss partner dance with a pretty, simple tune to go with it. Both the dance and the tune are in two sections and, it seems to me, it is the second section of the tune which can cause problems. Playing it is not difficult (except that on a wind instrument you have to find somewhere to breathe). The main problem is making it interesting. The same eight bars are played twice each time through the dance and as bars 1,2 and 3 are the same as bars 5, 6 and 7 (almost) and as the 'tune' is only a continuous run of quavers, this can quickly get boring.

My interpretation of this passage is that the quavers should be played very full and legato within each bar – almost like a barrel organ or music box – with a slight leaning on the first quaver. As can be seen from the example, all the bars are all pretty much the same. The only differences are the second quaver of each bar, which gets progressively higher over four bars, and the fourth quaver, which varies between C and B to fit the underlying chord. The second quaver, as it is the highest note in each bar will naturally come over as being slightly emphasised. To my mind putting a deliberate emphasis on these notes would be over-egging the pudding and would sound rather forced. The first time bar has a different pattern to the others and it is possible to bring this out by separating the quavers into two groups of three (or possibly even one group of three and three slightly staccato notes).

Having done this, this section can still sound boring. After all, the chords change between D7 and G on every bar and the movement of quavers is continuous. Changing the chords may be an option, but might interfere with the essential simplicity of the music. Changing the phrasing (from legato to staccato for example) might also be an option, but the dance movement here is a continuous turning figure (with the man and the woman alternating - one bar each to turn), and anything other than legato quavers might interfere with the flow.

The simplest solution is to add an inconspicuous, simple countermelody. The one shown isn't much more than a few arpeggios, but it does work – mainly I suspect because the minims break up the rhythm without disturbing the flow of quavers or of the dance.

The first section of the tune has a more varied rhythm to start with and doesn't run such a risk of becoming boring. However, it can sometimes drag. Playing the crotchets in bars 2, 4, 10 and 12 with emphasis and a very clear articulation will combat this as well as helping the dancers who have moved to the side on the preceding bars and move on the spot on these bars. The extra movement in the quaver passages can be emphasised and made to sound more Germanic (rightly or wrongly) by adding a second voice a third above the tune. Two of the same instruments sound best although a clarinet, flute combination is also very effective.

The whole piece comes out as something like this :-

The musical score is presented in three staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, 3/4 time, and one flat key signature (B-flat). The bottom staff is also in treble clef, 3/4 time, but in a one sharp key signature (F#). The main melody consists of a continuous run of quavers. The countermelody consists of minims. Chords are indicated below the staves: C, G, C, G, C, G, C, G, D7, G, D7, G, D7, G, D7, G, D7, G.

Speaking as a totally biased clarinet player, I find the whole tune sounds most effective if wind instruments (especially clarinets) are given the tune (in particular in the second section where fiddles sound very effective on the countermelody).

Mike Gilbert

BALKANPLUS

Meets on July 10th at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1. 7.00-10.30p.m. M.C. Brian Dowsett (but without Dunav!). £4.00.

There have been several requests recently to revise the Bulgarian dance "Kamažice" - most effectively performed to unaccompanied singing with rhythm emphasised by the tapan (the large drum on our T-shirt). Brian has volunteered to teach the song and the dance, starting at 6.30p.m. and to include it in the programme later in the evening. If you would like to revise (or learn) this fascinating dance be sure to arrive at 6.30p.m. and be sure to bring a spare belt.

There is no dance in August.

The next dance will be on September 11th.

FRANCES HORROCKS

+++++++

SIDMOUTH 45th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ARTS, July 30th/August 6th 1999

Amongst international groups scheduled to appear in the World of Dance at the Arena Theatre are:

Anhui Festive Drum-Lantern Folk Art Troupe of China (dance, acrobatics and traditional orchestra), The Kresala Dance Group (Basque Country), the Sumalyak Dance and Song Ensemble from The Republic of Uzbekistan, the Tessedik Dance Ensemble from Hungary, Musafir (music, song and dance circus from Rajasthan), Barachois from Canada playing Arcadian traditional music from Prince Edward Island, Shikisha (traditional Zulu dance, song and drumming), The Black Eagles from Tanzania (acrobatics and limbo dancing), Assafo from the Ivory Coast (dance, percussion and drumming), Kabudu (Sierra Leone/UK), the Punjab Arts Bhangra Group and Tarika (Madagascar). "Top French band" Maubuissons plays French song and dance.

Tickets and programmes are available from The Festival Office, PO Box 296, Aylesbury, Bucks. HP19 3TL. Box Office: tel. 01296 433669, fax 01296 392330, E-mail sid@mrs-casey.co.uk

+++++++

THE ULTIMATE IN SOCKS!

I feel I have to share my great "find"! Corrymoor mohair socks are just the most fabulous; they are fine and silky, extremely hard wearing, but most important of all they are ODOUR FREE, no matter how dirty! The mohair is of particularly fine quality which is too smooth to allow any bacteria to hang on and no short fibres so there is never any irritation, even for the most sensitive skins or when soaking wet. They do not shrink; always warm in winter and cool in summer; a dancer's (or walker's) dream. They come in a small range of colours and lengths and sizes. Prices from £6.70 to £12.90 post free from Westcountry Mohair Corrymoor Farm, Stockland, Honiton, Devon EX14 9DY, who'll be delighted to send you a little brochure and order form. Anyway, I hope some of you might be interested, and hope you'll mention my name too!

DIKI GLEESON

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug.14th/21st BILLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL.

Aug.14th/21st HF HOLIDAYS RESIDENTIAL WEEK IN ST. IVES with Phil and Brenda Steventon. A course aimed at Beginner/Intermediate dancers; all dances will be walked through. To book, ring 0181 905 9558, or for further details contact Phil or Brenda on 0181 397 9649.

S.I. Aug.27th/30th MINI FESTIVAL at Roedean School, Brighton. Programme includes Macedonian, Greek, Romanian, Israeli, English, Circle, Russian, Armenian, Playford and Breton. "Labyrinth" Band on Saturday evening and a country walk on Sunday. Full board, single rooms, swimming pool. A few places still available at £110 (deposit £20). S.a.e. to Rowena Martin, Willingdon I.F.D.G., 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ.

S.I. Sept.11th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, London.

Sept.11th BALKANPLUS dance

S.I. Sept.12th DAY OF BALKAN DANCES with Frances Horrocks, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne (at junction of B2104 and B2247, map on request). £6.00. Drinks provided, please bring packed lunch. Ring Rowena Martin on 01323 503991 to reserve your place.

S.I. Sept.25th ANNIVERSARY DANCE organised by RAINMAKERS International Folk Dance Group at Ickleford Village Hall, near Hitchin, Herts. 7.30-11.00 p.m. Music from Cloud Burst. M.C. Jill Bransby. Tickets £6.00 including refreshments. Details from 01462 636 038.

S.I. Oct.9th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, London.

Oct.22nd BRISTOL I.F.D. 25th ANNIVERSARY PARTY.

Nov.12th/14th RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND COURSE OF ISRAELI DANCING with Fiona Howarth at Bourton-on-the-Water, Cotswolds. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. En-suite accommodation, plentiful choice of food. Full board and accommodation £82.00, weekend course £14.00. For details send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Nov.27th ZIVKO FIRFOV BALKAN PARTY at Moorfields School, London E.C.1. (N.B. The party will be a week earlier than in previous years).

+++++

Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked "S.I." in the margin. Please remember that the onus is on you to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.

+++++

WHAT'S ON IN JULY (continued from page 11)

S.I. July 24th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE, PHILIPPINE DANCES. See p.3.

July 24th to 25th POLISH FESTIVAL AT BLETCHLEY PARK to commemorate the handing over of the Enigma secrets by the Poles to the British. Polish folk dancing, folklore and music will be featured. Information from Merryl Jenkins, Festival Director, on 01525 261565 (E-mail majenkins@aol.com). Joan and Simon Guest can advise on travel details, tel. 01992 577065.

July 30th to Aug.6th SIDMOUTH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FOLK ARTS. See p.8.

+++++++

GREEK FOLK DANCE COURSES

Residential courses in Greek Folk Dance will be taking place on the Greek island of Kythira, during the weeks of August 3rd-10th and August 18th-25th this year. These courses, timed to coincide with village festivals, will be led by Dimitris Triandafyllidis of the Dora Stratou Folk Dance Company. For information contact: Andrew Mullett, The Greek Experience, 19 Leopold Street, Southsea, Hants. PO4 0JZ, tel. 01705 830312.

DAVID MOWAT
Oxford International
Folk Dance Group

+++++

DANCE HISTORY GALLERY - 10,000+ works of art on dance

A CD-ROM archive has been compiled by Professor Alkis Raftis:

- 10,000+ images, full screen size
- Paintings, prints, drawings, sculptures (no photographs)
- All the great masters in the history of art, all time periods, all cultures, all dance forms
- Complete information for each work:
title, artist, date, size, comments, biographical details, sources
- The simplest installation and operation
- Multiple search criteria, by specially-designed software
- Every CD-ROM contains 2,000 works
- More CD-ROMs are under preparation, all are constantly updated

The essential reference tool for dance historians, costume and set designers, musicologists, art historians

For information, please write to Greek Dances Theater "Dora Stratou",
8 Scholiou Street, Plaka, 10558 Athens. Tel: (30.1)3244395, 3246188,
fax 3246921. grdance@hol.gr users.hol.gr/~grdance

+++

S.I.F.D. SUNDAY DANCES at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1

S.I. July 4th M.C. George Sweetland. In Trefusis.

No Sunday dance in August.

S.I. Sept.5th M.C. Jeanette Hull

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

+++

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

- S.I. July 2nd BARNET SUMMER PARTY. A spirited finale to the club's 1998-99 season, with Dunav Balkan Group providing dance music and cabaret. £4.00 including refreshments. 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Further details from Brian Dowsett, tel. 01992 582717.
(Meetings recommence on Friday September 10th).
- July 2nd to 4th MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Two Macedonian workshops on July 3rd (afternoon). Tel. Festival Office, 01908 610564 or Rachel Gray 01908 502347.
- July 3rd "REFLECTIONS OF DANCE: Tetry Polish Group Hosts Chelsea Ballet" 2.30 and 7.00 p.m. at The Polish Centre, 238-245 King Street, Hammersmith, London W.6. Tickets £7.00 (concessions £5.00) from Tetry on 0171 736 6169 (ansafone) or Chelsea Ballet, 0181 961 0519; seats unnumbered.
- July 6th/11th LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD. See p.4.
- July 9th ARMENIAN CHILDREN'S GROUP. A children's dance group will be giving an informal concert in London on their way to France to take part in a folkdance festival. The concert will be at Acton Town Hall, Uxbridge Road, London W.3 at 8.30 p.m. Ticket prices are £12.00, and £8.00 for children up to 12 and concessions. Tickets can be ordered from Dalila Heath, tel. 01707 642774, or are available at the door.
- July 10th BALKANPLUS. See p.8.
- S.I. July 11th HIGH WYCOMBE FOLKDANCE CLUB SUMMER PICNIC at Old Jordans, Quaker Guest House and Conference Centre, Jordans Lane, near Beaconsfield, Bucks. 3.00 to 7.00 p.m. £2.00. Bring your own food and drink. Hall available if wet. All welcome. More details from Alison Whisker, tel. 01923 778547.
- July 11th BALATON HUNGARIAN FOLKDANCE GROUP and PHILHELLENES GREEK FOLKDANCE GROUP, 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.
- July 17th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO SUMMER PARTY, 7.00-10.30 p.m. at St. Margaret's Parish Institute Hall, Polstead Road, off Woodstock Road, Oxford. No price given.
- July 18th MERTON PARK and WOODVALE INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUPS, and the IBERIAN FOLK SONG & DANCE SOCIETY, 3.00 p.m. at Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.

(continued on page 10)