

NOV

1999



AE

SIFAD NEWS

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

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

--oOo--

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 Janet McCrickard and shows the Baris, or
Warrior's Dance, from the island of Bali, Indonesia.

--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: 020 8427 8042.

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

--oOo--

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES

Unfortunately there will not be a day course in November as Trefusis is being
used by Cecil Sharp House and we have been unable to find an alternative venue.
In December also there is no course, due to everyone getting ready for Christmas.

May I extend my thanks to everybody who participated in the teaching at the
courses during the year, and also to those who have supported the courses. We
hope to have a further selection for you to learn and enjoy next year.

HELEN EZRA

--oOo--

REPORT ON S.I.F.D. BEGINNERS' DANCE, 16TH OCTOBER

A good time was had by all at the Beginners' Dance in October. I should like to
thank Maggie O'Regan and Anne Leach for their inspiring hard work as M.C.s, and
"Jacob's Ladder" for displaying their versatility providing live music. Thank you
also to Richard Mellish for setting up and monitoring the sound system, to Anna
Huston for designing the appealing flier and for handling the "gate", and thanks
also to all those members who supported the event. There was an enthusiastic
crowd of about fifty people, well over half of whom were non-members, including
many totally new faces. Judging by the response, it appears there is a need for
events suitable for newcomers.

CASPAR CRONK

SEVEN TEACHERS AT YORK 2000

Thanks to everyone who has sent us comments on the ideas we floated earlier in the year.

Yes! there will be seven teachers at the **York Summer School 29 July - 5 August 2000**, chosen to meet as wide a range of tastes as possible. This is going to be a new kind of summer school and we hope that you will all come and give it a try.

Elsche Korf (Alsace) and **Delyan Demirev (Bulgaria)** will each give a full six session course open to all. Five other teachers will offer two session courses — introducing the dances of unfamiliar countries, or giving us a chance to extend our repertoire from countries we have met before. It will be possible for any participant to attend all five of these option courses if they wish, but we expect that most will prefer to make a choice, to give themselves some free time in the afternoons.

The planning team is hard at work recruiting the teachers and we will give more information in the *News* as soon as it is available. So far we have **Ronnie del Barrio (Philippines)** in response to requests for an Asian teacher after the success of the Japanese and Chinese workshop in 1998 and **Galina Turker (Egypt)**. We hope to get an **Armenian** teacher to build on the delightful time we had with Dalila Heath in 1998. Among other countries we are considering are two of **Italian, French Canadian and Romanian**, depending on availability.

Reverting to former "Swansea" practice, we will leave one afternoon completely free of classes so that those who wish to can join an excursion. Other features we have all come to love will continue — the programme of evening dances, official video and photographs, sales of SIFD merchandise, the costume display and the cake. Anyone who wishes to offer workshops can book a space, subject to availability.

The planning team are keen to encourage families with children to attend. A provisional programme for school age children could include attendance at a York "Kids Club" in the morning followed by a visit to one of York's many attractions in the afternoon. If you have children and would like to discuss provision for them and the likely cost, please contact Judy Penaluna, tel: 01535 631474.

The costs will be only slightly more than in 1998 but still lower than 1996:

The College's charge for Dinner Bed & Breakfast will be £234.50 for the week

Course fee for dancers will be £85 (£75 for SIFD members who book by 1 May 2000)

Application forms will be available in February 2000

Anne Leach, Jeanette Hull, Judy Penaluna, Roger Sturge (Planning team)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

Here is a contribution to the SIFD newsletter in response to last month's entry by Michael Howard on 'Trojak'

'Last month Michael Howard of the Beskydy dance group referred to the performance of dances for a boy and two girls which the Doina Eastern European Dance group performed at the Embankment. First, and just to correct the record (before anybody else does!) the Polish dance was called 'Trojak', the Hungarian one 'Mezosegi'.

Contd...

To clarify a little further, what happens in Hungarian dancing is that (with exceptions) you tend not to have small set piece dances, but instead the dances are long and improvised, and usually only they are fixed into sequences for the purpose of performing a choreography. Now sometimes one option during a longer dance is to move from couple dancing to having a threesome. For example, in Zemplin, the option is for two couples to join up to form a 4 and then one boy takes over dancing with two girls for a while during which time the free boy does a boy's sequence. They may swap over so that the other boy has a chance to do a solo, but then in this area they would eventually return to the original couples. In the case of Mezosegi (danced by Hungarian speakers in Transylvania, Romania) a threesome is simply an option, especially for certain speeds of music.

But, yes, in general there obviously are threesome dances in different countries - for example, on a Czech and Slovak course this summer we learnt two more Czech threesomes: another 'Trojak' and a 'Trojke'. I think these trios can also be interesting for demonstrations, especially because they provide a different theme to explain to the audience, where we can point out what they might look at. For example, at the Embankment, Trojak represented a dance where, apart from the under and over movements that can only be done in threes, the main strategy was to do a figure with one girl and then repeat it with the other. In Mezosegi the boy does the same (normally couple) figure simultaneously with both girls, using what would normally be the free hand to dance with the second girl. Obviously, for groups with more females than males, trios can be an attractive option for other reasons!

LESLIE HADDON
3 Clifford Lodge, 36 Clifford Road,
New Barnet, Herts. EN5 5PF

--oOo--

Dear Lily,

You print the tunes of dances every month, so the people at my Israeli day course wondered if you could print the "legs" of one of the dances. This is not a formal dance description, but words that fit in with the music and helps to remind people of the steps if they were there at the teaching session.

For those who were at the recent Israeli Day Course, here are the legs for MAYA

Cherkessia
step and a sway
Turn and a sway and a
cross and click.

Prepare to go in with a
right hand, shoul-der.
Open and cross and
open and turn out.
Side behind face out
side behind face in - sway sway
Yemenite brush
yemenite brush.

(Each section repeats)

FIONA HOWARTH
17a Ravensbourne Road, Bromley
BR1 1HN



S.I.F.D. SHOP

Year 2000 - New Design - New Colours.

We are ready to meet the year 2000 with a new design for our T-shirts (see above), and a limited edition of new design mugs. The delightful design has been created by Sister Anna Huston. Thank you, Anna, for giving us something special for the year 2000.

Year 2000 T-shirts available in Black/Claret/Navy, 100% cotton, sizes M, L, XL, design printed in light blue and gold. Cost £10.00 + £1.00 postage & packing.

Year 2000 Mugs. Blue mugs printed in black and gold, gold rim. £4.00 each. Posting mugs is not practicable, so I hope members will help by placing club orders and arranging collection.

Remember - Order Now - Don't miss these special items. Available from me at 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF. Cheques payable to S.I.F.D.

CLAIRE STEELEY

BALKANPLUS - 6th November 1999 (Please note date) at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.s: Sally Fletcher and Roger Wicksteed. Roger will have dances that are easy to follow, while Sally will also have some more challenging dances in the programme; in fact, something for everyone.

Bring & Buy Sale. Prior to the Dance we will be holding a sale of "ethnic" items - costumes, part costumes, cassettes, souvenirs etc. and anything that might be of interest to folk dancers. Please bring along any items you have for sale, clearly marked with your name and the asking price, 10% of which will go to Balkanplus. Prices should be in multiples of 50p to make finances quick and easy. If you have several items, please give a list with prices to any Committee member. Outright donations will be most gratefully received. Last year's event was very successful and people were most generous. We hope that this year will be equally so.

Bring: 6.00 p.m. Buy: 6.30 p.m. Dance: 7.00 p.m.

Next month's Balkanplus will be on 11th December.

FRANCES HORROCKS

With classes in between, we're round to the weekend again, so we're off again first to the pottery at Marginea where the clay, or possibly something added to it, makes it black when fired. There is a potter at work on his wheel. No such thing as electricity or even a treadle, but a "kick-start" motion with one foot to set the wheel turning and the other foot on top to slow it down again. I can't help feeling the potter's skill is that much greater, considering the conditions. However, I have fallen in love. I have found the waistcoat of my dreams. The inside is dark brown sheep's wool, the outside white lamb's skin bordered with astrakhan, and the remaining space is filled with embroidery and bugle beads which give it a wonderful sheen. With bated breath I try it on. "Made to measure", says Ari from Finland. By dint of a quick whip-round from my friends I manage to raise enough lei to pay for it and my love is fulfilled. It's beautiful. Remind me to show it to you sometime. Mind you, it's heavy and it's bulky, and I'm already beginning to wonder how on earth I'm going to get it home.

We move on to visit another monastery with beautiful external murals and all gilt and gold inside, and then it's change of plan time again. The restaurant where we were to have had lunch has been reserved for a wedding, and another is closed for re-decoration, so we have to return to Rădăuți. However, this does give some people the chance to visit the ethnographic museum again and their costume stocks are greatly depleted by the time we move on to Horodnic. Here we are treated to another wonderful display of dancing, mainly by younger people. The highlight for most of us is the boys' dancing lesson. One young lad stands in front of the line and demonstrates a step. The others, looking very puzzled, stand behind and make desperate attempts to copy, but happily after sixteen bars everything is resolved and the next sixteen bars go smoothly until the leader changes step again. The efforts of the boys to keep up are hilarious but really demonstrate their skill and the ingenuity of their teacher and choreographer. In the "all together" spot on stage our hosts lend us their waistcoats and I can feel the weight and warmth enveloping me. The rest of the evening is spent in more energetic dancing, as usual.

The next day is our last big day out to the village of Comanești. It's not that far but it's off the beaten track and country lanes have potholes. Upon arrival we are greeted by a fanfare on bucium, an instrument made of wood or metal the length of an Alpine horn but straight and not so melodious. We are offered the traditional bread and salt and țuica, a strong spirits drink. We are ushered into the hall to watch their performance, but first there are some welcome speeches but the microphone is misbehaving and there is an echo to rival the Albert Hall at its best. Their show includes several songs and some lively dances to tunes that we recognise, and then it's our turn. Without any of their lovely costumes, and somewhat cramped on the small stage, we do our best and the packed audience seems quite pleased.

This village has put itself out to entertain us and we are now invited to different families for a meal. Here, Maggie and I turn out to be extremely fortunate. Our host family comprises three generations, and the grandparents, whose house we are in, make us very welcome. Father is the camera-man who is filming the proceedings, while the two children both speak excellent English and are the most charming, intelligent and mature teenagers I have met in a long time. We have a lovely meal sitting under the vines in the garden and all too soon it's time to go back to the hall.

In the meantime there has been a slight change of plan and we find we have returned early. There is a disco going on in the hall, but as more and more people return it gradually changes to a folk evening and we stay to dance for a while. Around 10.00 p.m. the proceedings are supposed to draw to a close. There are speeches of thanks, and then the band starts up and there is another dance. Then the thanks are reciprocated and the band starts up again and time is passing. Saying farewell

Contd...

to all one's dance partners and a good few of the audience and several others who just happen to be there takes quite a while, so it's past 11.00 p.m. by the time we actually get away. Our musicians have also had a good time and there's quite a party going on at the back of the coach.

The next day is our last lesson and we have to video all the dances we have learnt - lunch time being changed twice - and we have a last-night party with lots of guests. Wednesday is spent watching the eclipse, last minute shopping and the nightmare of packing, wondering how much my suitcase will weigh. That night we are off on the train again and fly home on Thursday. Even the airport had a slight change of plan - a different boarding gate.

Many things have changed in eleven years - the increased ownership of cars and the mushrooming of petrol stations, open non-stop, though the horse and cart still reign supreme in the country lanes; the number of snack bars and restaurants open late; the building and restoration of churches and the greater freedom to travel. Some things don't change - the great welcome and hospitality we received from groups and individuals and the charming custom of kissing a lady's hand when asking her to dance. Can't think why I left it for so long. Noroc.

FRANCES HORROCKS

*

*

WANTED - BALKAN COSTUMES

The demonstration team of Hursley International Folk Dancers are interested in buying costumes from the Balkans. If anyone has any to sell or can help us in any way, please would they contact me.

JANICE GILLIAM
39 Daniells Walk, Lymington,
Hants. SO41 3PP

*

*

SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS

Woodvale I.F.D.G. have the following items that they no longer require:-

2 Reel-to-reel tape recorders - in working order but poor quality
Record Deck
Cassette Deck
Old style speaker amp

All free of charge - before we throw them out.

ALAN CANT, 01732 883405.

*

*

LOST

At the monthly Sunday Social Dance on 4th July at Cecil Sharp House in Trefusis, I left a shower-proof, hip-length, light grey coat. I have contacted the House but no-one has seen it. If anyone does know of its whereabouts, I should be grateful for the information. Address and telephone number on p.2.

GEORGE SWEETLAND

Playing Aunt Hessie's White Horse

Aunt Hessie's White Horse is a very simple tune accompanying a easy, but enjoyable dance (well I like it anyway) which always goes down well at Barn dances and beginners evenings, but can be less popular with more experienced dancers.

Some simple tunes have a natural charm of there own and is it most effective to play them simply and let the tune speak for itself. This doesn't quite seem to work for Aunt Hessie if it is played absolutely 'straight' as though it was an ordinary barn dance tune.

When Jacob's Ladder approach a tune for the first time we give quite a bit of thought about which instrument (if any) would sound best taking the lead. Our accordionist already knew the tune from the standard Barn Dance repertoire, so the lead naturally evolved fell to her. But we wanted to do something more than just play the tune. After much head scratching we eventually noticed the obvious – the tune is largely on one note. This points to a significant role for a drum. We don't have a drummer in Jacob's Ladder, but we do have a small collection of drums which we all use from time to time. By a stroke of luck the most readily available was a small goblet drum from Tunisia. Beating the basic rhythm of the tune (essentially a samba beat) out with this, using a very light finger stroke sounded quite like a trotting horse. Getting louder and heavier, and then switching to a larger Arab drum bought in Israel adds to the tension and builds up the piece. Recently I have splashed out on a full sized djemba (bought in exotic Cambridge) which can get a full range of sounds from a light trotting horse to a heavy beat with a genuine African sound if not a genuine African rhythm.

The other thing we learnt from the barn dance version is start slowly and get faster. Judging by the surprised reaction we got at a beginners dance, this is not the way the SIFD usually does it, but it is effective (especially when combined with an increase in volume and a steadily more dominant and heavier drum beat).

Articulation, we have found, needs a sharp and crisp – which naturally results if you use a drum to beat out

the rhythm. This also follows from the way the tune is written  rather than the more usual 

This will sound awfully stodgy if it is not crisp and will also lead to a temptation to drag slightly. Making the dotted crotchet short (or at least starting it crisply and fading) and playing it softer than the preceding semi-quaver, so that the phrase is not too syncopated will, in my opinion be more suitable for this dance. Playing it loud and long is often a viable alternative but could give it an Israeli feel, which may not be suitable here.

As always I would like to add a disclaimer. The views expressed here are my own opinions based on my own experience and taste and are in no way authoritative. If any-one has contrary views I would be only too glad to here from them.

Mike Gilbert

85 Fen Road Chesterton, Cambridge. CB4 1UN

e. & o.e. (Ed.)

*

*

MUSIC for three more tunes from Wilf Horrocks on p.11. If you would like the music for any particular dance, please contact Wilf on 0181 642 3629.

LYKION TON HELLINIDON hold Greek folkdance classes for Adults Beginners, Adults Intermediate, and for Children on Saturdays at The Crypt, St.Sophia, Moscow Road, London W.2. For details, contact Margaret Elliott, Tel: 01525 240174, or The Hellenic Centre, Tel: 0207 2241969.

+++++++

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec.4th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Balsall Common Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common. Bring-and-share supper. £2.00.

Dec.5th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

S.I. Dec.10th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY, 8.00-11.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. Music by Dunav Balkan Group. Seasonal fare and wine. £5.00. Details from Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.

Dec.17th/19th S.I.F.D. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND. See p.10.

Dec.19th At Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, London, MAZURY DANCE COMPANY OF THE POLISH Y.M.C.A. celebrates its 50th anniversary at this prestigious West End venue with a show of dances, songs and music from all regions of Poland. Over 100 dancers, singers and musicians will perform dances including Krakowiak, Oberek from Lowicz, Kujawiak, Polonaise, Mazurka. dances from Lwow, the Hucul highlands, Rzeszow and others. The show starts at 6.30 p.m. Tickets at £15.00, £12.00 and £9.00 are available from the Polish Y.M.C.A., 0181 992 5699 (11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.).

Jan.1st S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY, 7.30-11.00 p.m. at Downing Hall, Knowle. Please bring food for bring-and-share supper. £2.00.

Feb.19th/20th ERSIN SEYHAN will teach a weekend course of TURKISH dances in Bognor Regis, Sussex. For information, contact Janet Douglas, 01243 265010.

Mar.24th/26th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH MILLENNIUM WEEKEND. Details given last month. For information contact Maggie Kaye, 402 Heath Road South, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2BE, Tel: 0121 608 1437. Bookings and deposit (£30) to Malcolm Cox, 25 Elmcroft Road, South Yardley, Birmingham B26 1PJ. Tel: 0121 783 8517.

Apr.14th/16th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE with Fiona Howarth at Alnmouth (North-East coast). Dances mainly from the Balkans and Israel, with opportunities to go walking, sightseeing or birdwatching. Non-dancers and bird-watchers welcome. Full board accommodation in single or twin-bedded rooms. £82 with course, £68 for non-dancers. For details, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Apr.28th/May 1st EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL. For details of International events, contact Julie Korth, 01942 831141. For booking and other details contact Dave & Mary Shockley, 01323 895680.

Aug.25th/28th JAN KNOPPERS at Buxton. Details to follow.

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.

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

S.I. Nov.7th M.C.s Merton Park I.F.D.G.
S.I. Dec.5th M.C.s Audrey Whiteley and Mona Graham

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 NOVEMBER

- Nov.6th NUTBROOK I.F.D.G. is arranging DANCE WORKSHOPS at Stevenson Junior School, Wadsworth Road, Stapleford, Notts. ISRAELI 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Teachers: Adrian & Jane Pointon. BULGARIAN 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. Teacher: James Webb. £7.00 all day, £4.00 one session, £4.00 children all day. Contact: John or Gill Morral, Tel: 0115 9171831.
- Nov.6th BALKANPLUS. See p.5.
- Nov.12th CELTIC FIDDLE FESTIVAL (Reels, Breton dances, Celtic airs), 8.00 p.m. Rushcliffe Leisure Centre, Boundary Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. £7.00 (£5.50) in advance, £8.50 (£6.50) on the door. Tel: 0115 9148517. For information on other venues and dates in November, ring 01377 217662.
- Nov.12th to 14th RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND COURSE OF ISRAELI DANCING with Fiona Howarth, at Bourton-on-the-Water. THIS WEEKEND IS NOW FULLY BOOKED.
- Nov.20th DAY OF ROM (GYPSY), MACEDONIAN & BULGARIAN DANCES in Sheffield, 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., with Paul Boizot. £6-£16. Book in advance, £5 deposit. Contact: Paul Boizot, 9 Sturton Road, Sheffield S4 7DE. Tel: 0114 2561708.
- Nov.20th ARMENIAN WORKSHOP with Gagik Mehitarian, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Witnesham Village Hall. £10.00. Booking essential. Further details from Sally Fletcher, 106 Westerfield Road, Ipswich IP4 2XN. Tel: 01473 252824.
- Nov.20th CHINESE DANCE COURSE with Chen Shan, organized by Barlow I.F.D.G at St.Ninian's Church Hall, corner of Wilbraham & Egerton Road South, Chorlton, Manchester. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £5.00 all day, £3.00 one session. Bring packed lunch. Details from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.
- Nov.20th DUNAV BALKAN GROUP at Cossham Hall, Thornbury, near Bristol. Afternoon dance workshop 2.00-5.00 p.m. Evening party with live music, 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. Details from Hazel Young, 0117 956 4923. No price given.
- Nov.27th GREEK MACEDONIAN DANCE COURSE. See p.10.
- Nov.27th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1, 7.00-10.30 p.m. Nearest Underground Station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY, £6.00 (including refreshments) from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 0181 592 4427. Cheques payable to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group; s.a.e. please.
- S.I. Nov.28th ISRAELI DANCE PARTY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Revision of this year's dances plus requests. £12.00 (£7.50 concessions). Shared vegetarian lunch. For details/bookings/requests/map, contact Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

.....

All material for the December issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th November.