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SEPTEMBER 2000

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Web Site: www.sifd.org

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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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To coincide with the "Dancefest 2000" Show at the Royal Albert Hall this month,
Simon Guest has produced this month's cover from a photograph of Bob Robinson
and Theresa Hartt of the Barlow Group in Manchester in Bulgarian costume, taken
at the rehearsal in Birmingham in June.

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ACTING CHAIRMAN: Mike Gilbert, 85 Fen Road, Chesterton, Cambridge CB4 1UN.
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London SE5 0TQ. Tel; 020 7701 3785.



Annual General Meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting will take place at Cecil Sharp House on Sunday 3rd
December at 4 p.m. (time and place to be confirmed). In the absence of a secretary, motions
for the agenda, duly proposed and seconded, should be sent to me at the address below on or
before the last day of September.

We also need more people for the committee. This year we have been without a Chairman and
Secretary (these duties of these posts have been filled, as far as possible, by the remaining
committee members) and are also short of ordinary committee members. In fact, we
desperately need more people all round. Enthusiasm for folk dancing is far more important
than depth of knowledge or previous experience and you do not have to live in or near
London. If anyone feels able to help in any way please contact me.

Mike Gilbert (Acting Chairman)
85 Fen Road, Chesterton, Cambridge. CB4 1UN. (01223 425648).

YORK SUMMER SCHOOL

When we heard that Elsche Korf would be teaching at the S.I.F.O. Summer School we decided to go, having been taught by her on a number of occasions at Sidmouth and Eastbourne Folk Festivals. It was, then, with some trepidation that we attended after hearing of her knee injury which meant that she was replaced by Aly Bols. However, Aly and her musician, Wim, did a splendid job and we did not feel let down by the substitution. We learnt eleven interesting dances over the week, from France (not bourrées!), Italy, Holland and Denmark. Delyan Demirev provided the teaching of the other main course, with seven dances from various parts of Bulgaria. The dances consisted of an assortment of styles from gentle stepping to frenetic stamping. With Delyan's patient and enthusiastic teaching, we managed dances that looked impossible at the beginning of the week.

For the main sessions we were divided into two groups, alternating between the teachers each morning. Although the numbers attending were lower than the organisers were hoping for, it meant that we fitted comfortably into the smaller of the two rooms used. As though the three hours of teaching in the morning were not enough, there were also four optional courses which occupied two further sessions most afternoons (two sessions for each course). We attended one session of the Filipino, where there was yet another substituted teacher. Alan Conception was very enthusiastic but we found the class rather militaristic. The dances varied from delicate, with graceful hand movements, to lively, with some clear European influence in steps and formation. The Armenian dances with Dalila Heath were mostly quite slow, with graceful arm movements. The sessions were quite well attended despite being held rather late in the afternoon. Fiona Howarth made a refreshing change with her ebullient style of teaching Israeli. The dances chosen were suitable for our tired bodies, feet and full-to-bursting heads. Galina Turker, as well as helping Delyan with his Bulgarian classes, taught a select group of women Egyptian dancing. We did not attend these, but everyone was mesmerised by the displays given by the class and Galina on the last two evenings.

For those who wanted a change from dancing, there were some informal music sessions and also a coach excursion took people to Rievaulx Abbey and Helmsley one afternoon. To round off each day there was a social dance in the main hall, hosted by various M.C.s. The dances were relatively simple and followable, so people were easily persuaded to join in. They also gave us an opportunity to rehearse dances from the morning sessions. On the last evening the majority of people wore costumes, which made an impressive show.

Everyone, from absolute beginners to accomplished dancers, seemed to enjoy the week, so if the next Summer School's programme includes styles that you enjoy or wish to learn, then it should be one of your highest priorities.

COLIN & SALLY HERSOM



A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you very much to all those dancers at York Summer School who contributed to "Action For Children" and the various other charities I was waving about. The total raised was £42.50, for which I am most grateful.

DALILA HEATH

A NOTE OF THANKS

I should like to thank those members of the S.I.F.O. who so kindly sent me their good wishes (from York, I deduce!) inscribed on the beautiful Diploma.

JACK RICHARDSON

OUR SURPRISE VISIT TO THE CHAMPAGNE REGION

Recently we received an invitation to attend the wedding of Jacqueline and Cesar's eldest daughter, Claire, to take place on Saturday, 10th June. Woodvale members, and perhaps some other S.I.F.D. members, will remember that Jacqueline Prieto was the President of Association Folklorique Chaalonnaise, which resulted in our two groups being twinned in the early 1970s.

We arrived at Jacqueline's on the Friday evening and, after some refreshments, were taken next door to Jacqueline's neighbours, where we slept for two nights. We had a very pleasant meal in Jacqueline's garden, with time to catch up with the news and re-unite with their offspring - Samuel 25, Claire 23 and Ann 20. Later in the evening several friends of Claire and Mickael (bride and groom) came to the house. Things were beginning to get busy.

On Saturday morning there was a lot of activity as several cars were cleaned (mostly by the groom) and then decorated with ribbons and balloons. During the morning an Australian couple named Rosie and Ferdinand arrived, who used to run a Folkdance Group in Salzburg and also had exchanged visits with Jacqueline's group. (They also spent time with members of the Folkestone Group). We spent a pleasant time with them and at about midday Cesar went to meet his mother and other members of his family. (Cesar comes from the Basque region of Spain). Gradually, more and more Spanish relations arrived and at about 1.00 p.m. eighteen people sat down to lunch in Jacqueline and Cesar's garden. This was a very friendly occasion with plenty of champagne and wine flowing. Several of the Spanish relations were accommodated with Jacqueline's other neighbours.

The time of the wedding was 4.00 p.m. At about 3 o'clock, Claire and Mickael left the house to be taken to the studio for photographs. They were dressed in their wedding outfits, although not yet married. They returned from the studio at 3.45 and the procession to the Town Hall in Chalons began. There were about twenty cars in the procession and it is the norm for all drivers to sound their horns all the way to wherever they are going. It was rather busy in the town of Chalons on a Saturday afternoon where, among other things, a market was taking place. Having miraculously found a parking place at the rear of the Town Hall, afterwards we had then to find our way to the Church. Fortunately, we were in a one-way system and some of "our" wedding cars started to come past us, so we joined in where we could and hoped we would manage to keep in sight of a car with ribbons and balloons. There was another wedding party also travelling in similar style so things got a bit difficult some of the time. The worst journey was from the Church to the sports hall as there was a roundabout outside the Church with four or five exits, not to mention another wedding party with horns, ribbons and balloons like ours who were taking a different exit from our party. We tossed up and decided to follow a distant car, and fortunately for us we were with the right party.

A Civil Wedding Ceremony took place, presided over by Jacqueline as she is the Deputy Mayor of Chalons and has a licence to marry. Members of the Association Folklorique Chaalonnaise made a guard of honour up the stairs for the bride and groom. After this ceremony we proceeded to a Catholic Church where a service took place, similar to an English service, with a choir. There must have been about two hundred people at the Church. The service lasted about forty minutes and when we left there was a folkdance demonstration in which Claire joined. There were no official group photographs taken at the Church. After this, we travelled to the local sports hall where there was a drinks reception for 350 people! The champagne flowed. We were at this venue until about 8.00 p.m., giving us time to renew old acquaintances. After the drinks reception, we travelled about five miles to a village hall where the wedding breakfast awaited us. There were 103 guests for this part of the reception. The meal started at 9.45 p.m. and lasted until 2.30 a.m. (We were surprised to find ourselves sitting next to the parents of the bride, who were not at the top table!). We had an

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eight-course meal with more champagne and several wines with the various courses, followed by the cutting of the 7-tier multi-gateaux wedding cake. We got to bed at 4 a.m. and were told by the youngsters that the dancing continued until about 6 a.m.

On Sunday morning, we had intended leaving Jacqueline's at around 11 o'clock to start our return journey. However, Jacqueline persuaded us to stay on longer as there was a buffet lunch organized for about fifty people at the same village hall where the reception was held. We finally left at 3 p.m.

This was an experience we definitely won't forget. What marvellous hosts Jacqueline and Cesar are. Ian coped extremely well, speaking French the majority of the time and driving all those miles on the right hand side of the road.

JEAN & IAN WILLSON

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ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP - OPEN EVENING

The Zivko Firfov Group, which specializes in line and circle dances and songs from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia, is seeking new members. We meet on Monday evenings in term time from 6.45 to 9.00 at Abbey Community Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, Westminster. Nearest Underground Stations are St. James Park, Victoria, Westminster. We are holding an OPEN EVENING on Monday, 9th October, for beginners and more experienced dancers - programme adjusted to match dancers. Please come and join us. Ring 020 8749 4613 or 01634 302190 for further information or to let us know you are coming.

IRENE KEYWOOD

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YVES MOREAU

Some readers may be interested to know that, following his highly successful Bulgarian dance workshops in March, Yves Moreau has accepted an invitation to return next year to present more dances from his remarkable repertoire. Balkanplus has booked Kennedy (the main hall at Cecil Sharp House) on 15th and 16th September 2001. The Saturday evening dance will also take place in Kennedy, which means that, thankfully, there will be no need to impose a restriction on numbers attending the function this time.

There is a good chance that Yves' wife, France, will be accompanying him again. This would present an opportunity for a French Canadian dance workshop during their stay in England.

I expect to have full details in the new year. In the meantime, be sure to enter the dates in your 2001 planner.

BRIAN DOWSETT

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S.I.F.D. books and cassettes are available from Eleanor Gordon, 70 Chestnut Grove, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3TS. Other S.I.F.D. goods are available from Claire Steeley, 34 Broadwater Avenue, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HF.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

I believe others will be sending you an account of York 2000: this is a personal appreciation of the work that went into it. I have become even more aware this year of how much hard work there is, some of it very visible but most of it behind the scenes.

On the last evening Jeanette Hull (as that evening's M.C.) made a short speech praising Roger Sturge's work as head of the planning team. Then it was one of his many duties to speak about the other people who had contributed to making the Summer School a success. When he came to me (as chief audio technician and video camera operator), I was embarrassed to receive a round of applause. By that standard, some others ought to have received a standing ovation.

One of those is Roger himself. Besides carrying out his own duties, he was always there during the planning and during the actual event to provide practical help and moral support to everyone who needed it, all for no reward except the satisfaction of doing it. Another is Anne Leach. For the last several Summer Schools she has negotiated the rota of evening M.C.s for the week and run one evening herself. This time she added finding and employing the teachers and many duties during the week. She also attended every class except when her duties prevented it and learnt the dances so well that she is one of a handful to appear with the teachers in the video, and the only other person besides the teacher for a few dances. It was no wonder that she didn't stay quite so long in the late-night sessions as she has in previous years. The important contributions from the other members of the planning team were entirely behind the scenes, apart from Judy Penaluna's responsibility for the coach outing.

One more person worthy of particular praise is Allan Conception, who substituted for Ronnie del Barrio at the last minute to teach dances from the Philippines. And it was the last minute - Ronnie told Anne on the Friday evening before the Summer School started that he couldn't come but that Allan would come instead. He came and he did a fine job. When the time came for the first video session, he willingly co-operated with my experimental connection of the Society's radio microphone to feed his commentary, along with the music from the tape, via the mixing desk and a long cable into our brand-new camcorder. (This was not a necessity and we didn't use the radio microphone for the video sessions with the other teachers, but it seems to have succeeded and will probably be useful on occasions in future).

I myself can take in only a fraction of the dances taught during such an intensive week, so I am honoured to become a member of such a worthy team and to be entrusted with a few tasks to justify my presence.

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

Dear Lily,

I'd like to thank everyone who had a share in making the York Summer School such a marvellous week: Roger Sturge, Anne Leach, Judy Penaluna, and everyone who worked so hard on our behalf.

What a rich choice of dances and teachers we had: Bulgarian with Delyan Demirev, whose brilliance, enthusiasm and love for his dances so rubbed off that we achieved far more than we dreamed possible; W.European with Aly Bols, who filled in with style and energy, accompanied musically by the large presence of Wim. Not content with that, we had Israeli with Fiona Howarth at her excellent

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best, the lyricism of Dalilah Heath's Armenian, and two new areas entirely - dances from the Philippines with Allan Conception, and from Egypt with Galina Turker, who held us rapt as she performed solo at the final dance.

Extra joys: Aly brought her three children, Dalilah brought her two and Judy brought Matthew, all of whom boosted our energy levels (and lowered our average age!). It was a pleasure to see them playing and being creative all around us, culminating with the ceremony of the blowing out of the cake candles at the last dance.

Judy organized an outing to Rievaulx and Helmsley one afternoon. We had ideal weather and it made a perfect interlude in the week, and left at least one of us breathless with inspiration. We all had the chance to learn much from the teachers and to experience one another's choices of favourite dances in the evenings. We met old friends from different areas and made new friends. It was a glorious week.

PAMELA RADFORD
St. Saviour's Priory,
18 Queensbridge Road, London
E2 8NS

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Dear Lily,

In response to Rowena Martin's suggestion last month that we should produce a set of professional teaching videos, the problem we have at the moment is not so much the money but the time and effort needed to co-ordinate this. We do have nine "packages" already on the market (dance notes, music and, for the later ones, videos as well) with plans for a tenth in the pipeline. Unfortunately, we do not have enough people with enough time at the moment to see it through to completion. Getting all or parts of it prepared professionally could reduce the effort needed a bit, but a massive amount of work is still needed to find musicians and dancers who know the material, as well as preparing a "teaching script" and then assembling the finished product.

So, yes it is a good idea, and we will be doing something along those lines as soon as we can, but when that will be I cannot say.

Best wishes,

MIKE GILBERT (Acting Chairman)
85 Fen Road, Chesterton,
Cambridge CB4 1UN

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WINSTON CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS 2001

Every year the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust offers the opportunity for British citizens to travel overseas to undertake study projects related to their trade, profession, or particular interest. The categories for 2001 of some relevance to us include Teachers of the Arts (Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts), Artists and Craftsmen working in the field of British Heritage and Projects in Australia. The grant will cover return air fare, daily living (usually for between four and six weeks) and travel within the countries being visited.

If anyone has a project and the time to spare, further details can be obtained direct from the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 15 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PR.

MIKE GILBERT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I. Oct.7th PHILHELLENES DAY OF GREEK DANCE and related workshops culminating in a party with live music. 10.00 a.m. till late at Regent Square U.R. Church, Tavistock Place, London W.C.1. FREE to all, supported by a grant from the Lottery Millennium Fund. More information from Ariana Johnson, 020 8441 7029.

Oct.9th ZIVKO FIRFOV GROUP OPEN EVENING. See p.5.

S.I. Oct.13th RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP 24TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE, 8.00-11.00 p.m. at St.Michael's Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth. Cost: £4.00 to include refreshments. Music by "Jacob's Ladder", M.C. Jill Bransby.

S.I. Oct.14th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH DAY COURSE with Maggie O'Regan. Mainly Greek, plus some others including Armenian. 10.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m; 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. At Blakenhale Junior School, Homestead Road, Garretts Green, Birmingham. £7.00 all day; £4.00 half-day. Branch A.G.M. will be held 1.30-2.00 p.m. For details of how to get there, ring Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.

S.I. Oct.14th FRITH FOLK DAY COURSE with Marina Wolstenholme. Dances from Eastern Europe to include particularly ROMANIAN and BULGARIAN, following her travels in those countries this year. At Town End Methodist Church, Chapel en le Frith, near Buxton, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Followed by tea. Cost about £6.00 depending on numbers. Ring Pat Phillips on 01298 24450 for details.

Oct.21st READING TRADITIONAL & STEP DANCE GROUP ANNUAL CLOG & STEP DANCE FESTIVAL in Maidenhead, Berkshire. Workshops include Appalachian, English & Welsh clog. Information from Michele Vale, 0118 987 3901 or Anne Garrison, 0118 947 4244. Programme of events with application form from Lesley Thackeray, 94 Hartsbourne Road, Earley, Reading, Berks. RG6 5SJ. Tel: 0118 987 4510.

Oct.28th/29th YUGOSLAVIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Paja Milic in Bognor Regis. Cost: £30.00. Further details from Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Rose Green, Bognor Regis, W.Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.

Oct.29th ROMANIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Chris Lee. 11.00 to 5.00 p.m. at Alcester Town Hall (between Worcester and Stratford-upon-Avon). Details/Bookings: Chris Lee, Newhaven, School Lane, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL51 5TF. Tel: 01242 706582. No price given.

S.I. Nov.4th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP with James Webb. Organized by Barlow I.F.D.G., Chorlton, Manchester. Corner of Wilbraham & Egerton Road South. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. £5.00 all day; £3.00 for one session. Bring packed lunch. Further details from Joan Wood, 0161 881 1077.

Nov.11th A DAY OF ISRAELI DANCING with Roberto Haddon, arranged by Derbyshire Dancers at Calver Village Hall. More details later. MARINA WOLSTENHOLME, Tel: 01433 630183.

Nov.24th/26th MACEDONIAN DANCE COURSE with Paul Mulders at Whitby. Full or half-days tuition with social dance evenings and an option to learn Macedonian folk singing. Excellent venue for walking and sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board en-suite accommodation £80.00. Two half-days tuition £15.00, two full days tuition £30.00. For full details and booking form, please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

S.I. Dec.2nd S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Weoley Village Hall, Weoley Hill, Selly Oak, Birmingham (off Bristol Road South). M.C. Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. For details of how to get there, ring Maggie on 0121 608 1437.

Dec.2nd ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London.

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Dec.3rd S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Feb.24th/25th ERSIN SEYHAN returns for another weekend of TURKISH dances. £30.00. Further details from Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Rose Green, Bognor Regis, W.Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.

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.

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OUR HOLIDAY

As for folk dancing, it was a disaster. Letters to both Malaysia and Australia didn't even get a courtesy reply. However, I did join in with a Malaysian Folk Group in their participation item at a Tourist Cultural event in Kuala Lumpur. Also in Cairns, Northern Queensland, Australia, I joined in a "step kick, step kick, side behind, kick" version of "Zorba" in a Greek restaurant which had just given a display of Belly Dancing!

In Kuala Lumpur, I spoke to the Director of the Cultural Group who said that if I returned to Malaysia he "may be able to see me and maybe give me a teaching video". I declined, feeling the whole thing was too regimented and not very "ethnic".

On a better note, I wrote to Ruth Coton (née Sharp) (address given to me by George Sweetland). As some of you will remember, she was, back in the 50s, a member of Harrow Green F.D.G. Ruth did answer my letter and, whilst in Queensland, I rang her and we chatted about the old days. She no longer dances but has many happy memories of the S.I.F.D. and wishes to be remembered to any who still remember her.

Our holiday was a great adventure and one we shall never forget - drifting up rivers looking for crocodiles, snakes and monkeys; crawling on our bellies in caves looking and finding bats; looking but not finding snakes; collecting turtle eggs and releasing and giving a helping hand to 356 hatchlings into the South China Sea. I climbed Ayers Rock by sunrise whilst Vic walked round the base. Together we snorkled on the Great Barrier Reef, shared camp fires in the Red Centre of Australia with youngsters (in their 30s) from around the world. We froze at 5.00 in the morning, dark and under canvas; we sweltered in Borneo by the swimming pool at 7.00 in the evening. So many new experiences, life will never be the same. Here's to my next trip! (we wish!).

Best wishes and happy dancing.

SUE & VIC CLARK

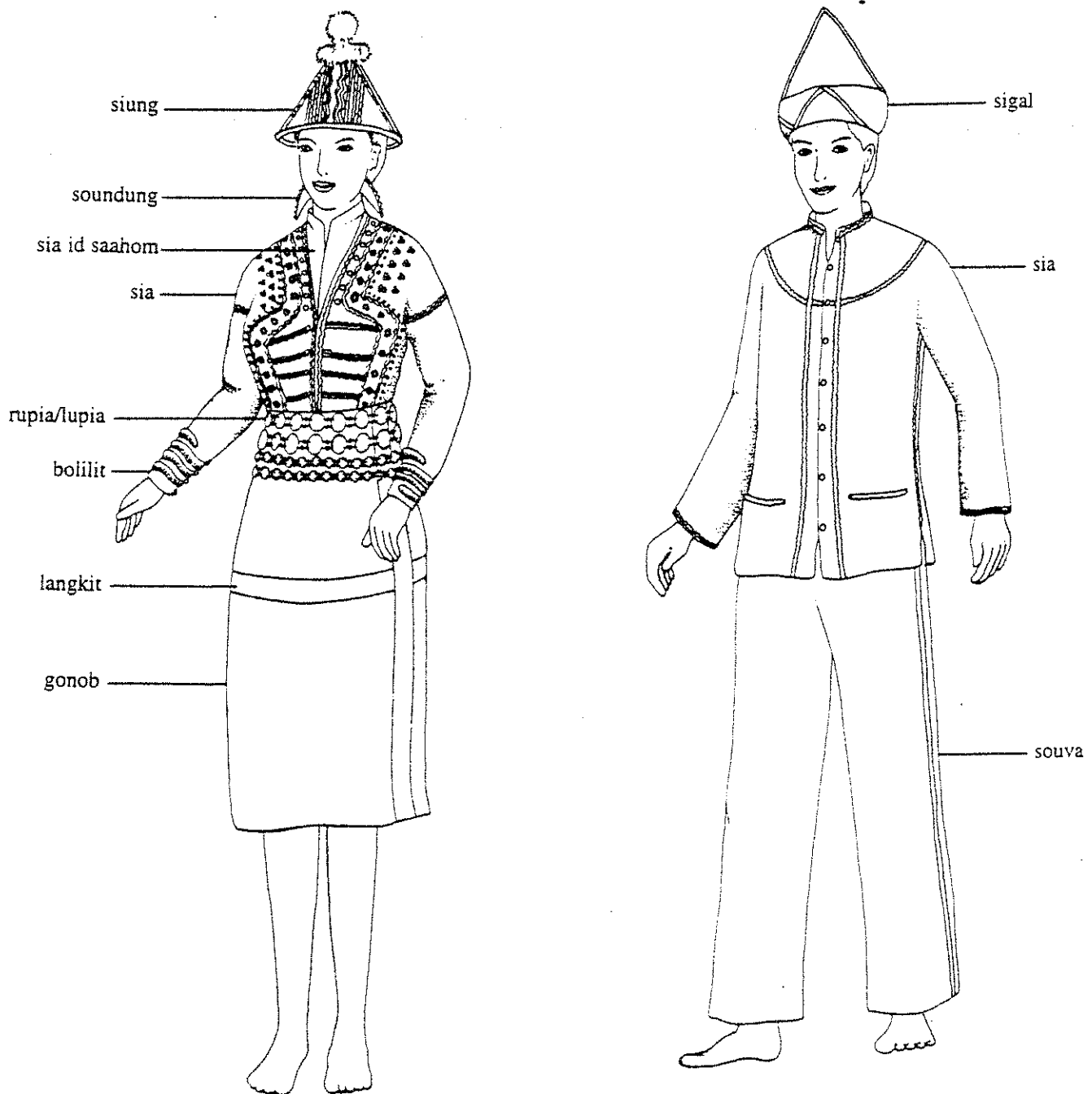
P.S. On "going through" at K.L. airport on the last leg home, sounds of music and drums greeted us A K.L.folkdance group taking part in "Colours of Malaysia". I joined in.

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

In addition to her article on p.9 , Sue Clark also sent the following information on traditional costumes of Papar Kadazan, Sabah (Malaysian Borneo).



A Papar Kadazan lady in traditional costume.

A Papar Kadazan man in traditional costume.

MEN: SIA (jacket) and SOUVA (trousers) in black cloth.(can be velvet) with gold trimmings on seams. SIGAL (headdress) of folded "Kain Dastar".

WOMEN: SIA (short jacket) and GONOB (knee-length skirt) in black cloth (usually velvet) with gold trimmings on the seams. Large brass (or similar) buttons around the neckline and smaller ones on the cuffs of the jacket; the skirt has verticle and horizontal panels of cross stitch embroidery edged with gold thread. The hat (SIUNG) is made of three panels of bamboo strips and is worn over a scarf (SOUNDUNG). Decoration for the hat is in black and red, with a top tuft of feathers for single women and flowers for marriedwomen, but neither decoration for elderly women, grandmothers or widows. A white blouse is worn under the SIA.

JEWELRY: A flat spiral silver bracelet is worn by the women; also silver "dollar" belts (RUPIA/LUPIA), four for single women, two for married women.

Neither men nor women wear shoes.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

S.I.F.D. subscriptions became due on 1st September 2000. I should like to say thank you to all members who have paid in advance. It all helps the finances and it is much appreciated. Receipts where required are in the process of being sent out.

I should like to say, also, thank you to all members who have sent me good wishes and kind thoughts. I am hoping to make a good recovery and no doubt be back in action for the new season.

Wishing you all well for the year to come.

ALAN MORTON
Membership Secretary and
Group Liaison Officer.



S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE - SATURDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2000

Our September Day Course will be a day of DUTCH DANCES with Dorien van der Belt in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. approximately. £9.00 for non-members, £7.00 for members.

Dorien is aware of the dances in our repertoire and will be teaching us some couple dances she has learnt herself, together with some she has learnt from Elsche Korf. I am sure it will be a very enjoyable day, so come along and give them a try. See you there.

HELEN EZRA

Future dates for S.I.F.D. day courses:-

Saturday, 7th October. Revision of dances taught at York Summer School.

Saturday, 18th November. Revision of dances from the Philippines, taught at York, plus more if time permits.

There will be no day course in December.



FOR SALE

Two genuine Bulgarian bracelets to go with your Bulgarian costume. They are made of metal, heavy, with traditional embossing. £5 each plus postage.

Would any collector of costume dolls like to have two female dolls dressed in Italian costume - one from Piemonte and the other from Rome. 7" and 8" high respectively. £4 each plus postage.

For both the jewellery and the dolls, please apply to the Editor, address on p.2.