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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting
is done by Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover was produced by Simon Guest from a photograph and shows Soumaya El Arfa, aged 11, who is a pupil at the Allenova School of Dance, Reading. Soumaya was the winner of the All England Dance Competition Finals in her age group for national dance at the Peacock Theatre (Sadlers Wells) in London, with a solo Balinese dance. She also won third place in the Senior Classical Duet with Amy Mellors. The school also had success with a Senior Hungarian Quartet which won third place in the finals. This was performed by Amy Mellors, Sarah John, Charlotte Christie and Carolyn Harvey.

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SECRETARY: Janet Douglas (Mrs.), Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor
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Tel: 020 8427 8042.

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PUBLICITY

A quick note to say that the "Dance With The World" groups and classes leaflet (including the London groups) will be ready for the December issue. I have just created, at short notice, a London leaflet listing all the London activities (I hope!) as Caspar Cronk pointed out a number of upcoming publicity opportunities in London. (Note that the photo, though a good composition, is not good quality. I need either good quality actual photos or electronic ones that are large - 800 x 640 are too small). If the feedback is good, and on request, I can generate regional leaflets, e.g. South, Midlands etc.) along the same lines.

JOHN DOUGLAS
Publicity Secretary

KATH FRENCH

I know her many friends in the Society will be sorry to hear the sad news. Kath died on 4th October after a prolonged illness during which time she remained her old cheerful self.

Kath and I became involved in the Society many years ago. We both belonged to the Central London Y.H.A. group and often went youth hostelling at the weekends where the members of our group, on Saturday night, would roll up the carpet, put on their dancing shoes and dance the night away. We were both quite taken with this new type of dancing (international). We made some enquiries, joined Margery Latham's class, which used to meet at the Y.M.C.A. in Tottenham Court Road and from these small beginnings it grew and grew. We joined Dr. Cyriax's Swedish class and then Ken Ward's Yugoslav group.

On many of Jack Richardson's and Roy Clarke's weekends, Kath's sense of humour, her friendliness and her Cockney wit contributed so much to the occasions. I know she will be missed by her many friends and I have lost a very dear friend of many years standing.

On a personal note, my thanks to the friends who have written or telephoned me. Kath was a very popular lady.

IRENE KEYWOOD

We are sad to announce that Kath French died on 4th October 2003, after being ill for some time. She was a member of the Zivko Firfov Group for many years and did sterling service as group treasurer for a long time. Kath was an excellent dancer and participated in most of our demos, always enjoying herself and affecting others with her enthusiasm. She also had a very good voice and led much of our singing. She will be missed very much.

THE ZIVKO FIRFOV GROUP

I have just heard that Kath French has passed away after a long illness. I first met Kath, along with Irene Keywood, at Cecil Sharp House when I was first introduced to international folk dance back in 1954. Kath welcomed me to the S.I.F.D. with warmth and enthusiasm and it was always that way. When I started the Newport International Folkdance Group, Kath, with Irene, Margery Latham and Derek Mulquin, helped me on launch night, and again when Pembrokeshire group had their 10th celebrations she was there. I shall remember Kath with affection for both her giggle and her wiggle.

SUE CLARK



CASSETTE AND DANCE NOTES NUMBER 9

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the master recordings of music for cassette Number 9? We need to create some more cassettes but cannot find where the masters are. Anyone with any information, please contact me or Janet Douglas as soon as possible. (addresses and telephone numbers on p.2).

MIKE GILBERT

A SELECTION OF EUROPEAN FOLK DANCES

Hopefully most of you will recognise that this is the title of the original books of dances published by the S.I.F.D. Some of these dances still appear on the programmes of social dances around the country, but many have been relegated in favour of new repertoires. As a result, many members who have joined the Society in recent years have not had the opportunity of learning some of these "Golden Oldies". Folk dances are traditional and do not go out of date and many of the dances from the original repertoire do not deserve to be forgotten. Consequently we have been requested to revise some over the course of the next year. We plan to use some of the Saturday day courses for this purpose, and the dances will be grouped by book, so each course will be accompanied by book, tape and video. The first book to get the treatment will be Book 1. As it is not possible to revise all 19 dances, if you have any special requests from that book please let one of the day course committee know in good time.

Dances in Book 1

Die Woaf	Austria	Hakke Toone	Holland
Jooksu Polka	Estonia	Neapolitan Tarantella	Italy
Kigadi Kaagadi	Estonia	Fyrtur	Norway
Sadala Polks	Estonia	Gammel Reinlender	Norway
Kleiner Schottisch	Germany	Wrona Gapa	Poland
Schwarzwaldler Mazurka	Germany	Karapyet	Russia
Kreuz Koenig	Germany	Kohanochka	Russia
Sanftenberger	Germany	Fyrmannadans	Sweden
Snurrebocken	Sweden	Swedish Schottische	Sweden
		Meitschi Putz-di	Switzerland

Day course committee:-

Janet Loader, 32 London Road, South Merstham, Surrey RH1 3DT
Pam Radford, St.Saviour's Priory, 18 Queensbridge Road, London E2 8NJ
Janet Woolbar, 34A Prestwood Avenue, Kenton, Harrow HA3 8JZ

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WEST MIDLANDS WEEKEND - A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL CONCERNED

It was twelve years ago that PIFD stormed "The Heart of England" at Barford. Since then one or two of our members have attended most Midlands' weekends. This year we booked nine places, though sadly one had to cancel at the last minute. Reading members' comments you will know how they all felt about the weekend. For my part, I couldn't do without my "dose of Midlands salts" on a regular basis. Over the years, both "home" teachers and guest teachers have helped and guided me on various dances and can pat themselves on the back for their contribution to the success of PIFD.

Happy dancing everyone.

SUE CLARK

"A wonderful welcome from all our old friends. Dancing - music - food; excellent. Thank you all." EVE BRENNAN

"A most enjoyable weekend. The atmosphere was friendly and welcoming. Interest was maintained because of the variety of dances." DOROTHY HOARE

"A lovely location, Cirencester Agricultural College. I had a fantastic weekend, dancing and laughing from breakfast to bedtime. The weekend passed too quickly. Thanks to all concerned." JULIE DRINKWATER

SWEDISH FOLK DANCE

On Saturday and Sunday, 20th and 21st September 2003, a Swedish Dance and Music weekend was organized by Skandia and the S.I.F.D. and musician Tania Simon. The musicians, all fiddlers, had workshops tutored by Mats Berglund. The dancers had workshops on the Saturday morning and afternoon. In the evening, at Cecil Sharp House, there was a Swedish dance party made up of a short dance workshop followed by an hour-long concert by Mats Berglund which included dance displays by the two dance teachers. This was followed by a Dance, to music provided by the nine fiddlers who had been studying with Mats Berglund. On Sunday morning and afternoon the dance workshops were continued.

The dance teachers were Mats Nilsson and Ingegerd Sigfridsson and we were very fortunate because not only was Mats an excellent teacher but it is a great advantage to have couple dances being taught by an accomplished pair showing us how to do the dances. I did not expect much from their evening display as I did not think dances like the polska, though nice to do, would make lively show-piece dances. I was wrong. For their displays, Mats added to his costume a colourful waistcoat and Ingegerd wore a simple but splendid dark green floor-length dress with six metres (I asked her) of heavy woollen cloth in the skirt. When she turned, the skirt would billow out like the sails of a windmill. They did three dances and the last one was a Swedish version of the Norwegian Halling which required some gymnastics from Mats. The dances were superlatively danced and lovely to watch. When they did the polskas, one could recognise some of the movements and variations they had taught earlier in the day but what surprised me was the enormous vitality and variety they put into doing the polska and they could vary their movements so that sometimes they could be seen to be going very fast and then to be going very slowly, even though the tempo of the music was unchanged. Mats later explained that, to him, the tempo of the music and the tempo of the dance are two quite different things and he could talk about and discuss this subject for hours.

When I started learning Swedish dances, I got the impression that Swedish folk dance consisted mainly of rather complex figure dances. Mats taught none of these. He was asked to teach folk dance and his argument was that these sort of figure dances were not folk dances. They might contain some folk elements but they were choreographed by ballet masters for performance by professional dancers on a theatre stage. Also, these dances are not done in the average Swedish folkdance club but only by specialist groups who keep them alive.

Mats started the teaching by emphasizing the need to keep the knees flexible (reminding me of ski instructors' "bendze knees") and then taught a social folk dance common in Swedish folkdance clubs whereby couples meet on the dance floor, having walked round each other, then take hands and do a variety of jive-like movements and then swing each other. All very freestyle, and it reminded me to a small extent of Hungarian social dancing. (I am afraid freestyle hardly exists in the S.I.F.D.).

He spent a lot of time on the polska and on some of its variations, e.g. Bakmes where couples turn anti-clockwise. He said there were innumerable variations and sometimes from one place to another, and even musicians would alter the music. When talking about regional variations, he said that, speaking in general terms, one should imagine a line running from North to South through Sweden. There were significant differences between East and West Sweden, and West Swedish dances were closer to Norwegian dances than to East Swedish ones.

On the Sunday, he taught some simple figure couple dances, done in the Swedish folkdance clubs, called Engelska (i.e. English), Lybeckare and Göteborgs-mazurka. The Göteborgs-mazurka, a charming dance, was danced to polska music with a waltz step. One of the Engelskas would have fitted quite comfortably

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into an English country dance evening. Another Engelska contained a polka step which was the first time I had ever met this step in a Swedish dance. Mats told us that years ago the polka was quite common in Swedish folk dancing but there had been a change of fashion and it had more or less disappeared; why was a mystery, more so when the polka remains rife in its neighbours on the other side of the Baltic.

Mats taught the Hambo as he had been requested to. Going round the circle, the men had to step right foot forward, step left foot forward and close with the right foot, leaving the weight on the left foot. The women, at the same time, stepped left foot forward, closed with the right foot and stepped right foot forward. (I hope I have got that right. I am never sure of the Hambo). He showed us variations in the introductory steps before one starts the Hambo step proper. He then said, "I will throw you in at the deep end; now partner up and do the dance". We spent a lot of time on the Hambo, with all of us changing partners frequently.

I used to tell people that if they became interested in Swedish dance it was fundamental that they learnt to do the Hambo, so I felt shaken when Mats said that the Hambo has practically disappeared from the average Swedish folkdance club. It was one of those strange changes of fashion. He told us that the young are not interested in the Hambo and do not want to do it. The Hambo is kept alive by the specialist groups and those who take part in the famous Hambo competition. He listed the dances usually done in the Swedish folkdance clubs as Engelska, polska, schottis and waltz. For those in the London area, the club Skandia (020 8340 4683) provides an excellent opportunity to get to know these dances well.

It was a wonderful weekend with these excellent teachers. I have been to very good Swedish dance day courses but this time I felt I was taken more deeply into the nature of Swedish folk dance than ever before. Any criticisms? Yes. There was little support from S.I.F.D. members and few turned up, which for such a special high-quality event was a great shame. Another thing is that there were more men than women attending. For couple dancing this is an unnatural and dreadful situation. Skandia must do something about this. They could hire management and PR consultants and set up focus groups and even a committee of enquiry chaired by Lord Hutton.

Finally, I felt that people who are taught Swedish folk dance need to have their minds deconstructed at the end. I am sure that I walked back to Camden Town station taking one beat with my left step and two beats with my right step. That is not normal.

HENRY LEE



BALKANPLUS, 15th November at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1, 7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00. M.C.: Sally Fletcher, with loyal support from the Ipswich group. Sally always has a delightful selection of dances for everyone; an evening not to be missed.

N.B. This is the third Saturday in November as our usual weekend is taken by the EFDSS and Cecil Sharp House is closed for regular activities. Please check your diaries carefully.

The next Balkanplus dance will be on 13th December.

FRANCES HORROCKS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dec.6th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY, 7.00-10.30 p.m. at Moorfields School, Bunhill Row, Old Street, London E.C.1. Nearest Underground Station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia; also from Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY, £6 including refreshments, from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD. Tel: 020 8592 4427. Cheques to be made out to Zivko Firfov Folklore Group. (s.a.e. please).

Dec.7th S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4.00 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House.

S.I. Dec.7th THE LAST ISRAELI DANCE PARTY WITH ANAT. Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.00). Shared vegetarian lunch. 'Phone in advance to request your favourite dance. For bookings/information/map, 'phone Rowena Martin on 01323 503991.

S.I. Dec.19th/21st SIFD WALKING/DANCING WEEKEND at Dunford, Midhurst. For details and bookings contact Mrs. Dot Bradbury, 32 Aylward Road, Merton Park, London SW20 9AF. Tel: 020 8540 3464.

S.I. Dec.31st SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY, 8.00-12.15 at Downing Hall, Knowle. M.C.: Grace Pittman. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. Further information from Maggie Kaye on 0121 608 1437.

Feb.21st/22nd MACEDONIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Ibrahim Rizevski at Bognor Regis. £32.00. Saturday evening supper and singing with Claudia £12.00. Details from Janet Douglas (address and telephone number on p.2).

S.I. Mar.19th/21st RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND WITH BOB NEAL at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. All inclusive cost for the weekend: £126 for en-suite, £116 for room with wash-basin. Further details from Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028. £30 deposit secures place; s.a.e. please.

S.I. Mar.20th/21st BULGARIAN FOLKDANCE WEEKEND with Nina Kavardjikova at Chorlton Manchester and Calver Derbyshire. £20 (£12 for one day). Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, near Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141.

Mar.27th/28th YUGOSLAV COURSE with Paja and Madelon Milic at Manchester (Barlow R.C. High School, Parswood Road, Didsbury). £32.00. Contact: Theresa Hartt, 23 Brassington Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 3PN. Tel: 0161 432 6748. Map and accommodation list available if required.

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S.I.F.D. DAY COURSES, 2004

The dates booked for S.I.F.D. day courses in 2004 are:-

January 10th	May 8th	September 11th
February 14th	June 12th	October 9th
March 13th	July 10th	November 20th

All at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1. 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Cost: £6.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £8.00 for non-members. The content of each course will be announced nearer the time but meanwhile the list of dates may help with your forward planning.

PAM RADFORD

S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE

Date: Saturday, 15th November

Place: Cecil Sharp House

Time: 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Cost: £6.00 for SIFD members
£8.00 for non-members

Tutor: Maggie O'Regan (see below)

In last month's SIFD NEWS I promised to be more specific about which dances I would be teaching on 15th November, so here is the (almost) final list:-

From Nunspeet 2003:	YAMAN YAR	Armenia
	MAZURCA DI GRAZIELLA	Italy
From Hennie Konings at Bognor & Manchester:	SEYU RASSJEVAYU	Russia
and possibly	SLOBOZHANSKAYA POLKA	Poland
or (from Eastbourne):	ADA'S KUJAWIAK	Poland
From Liege 2002:	TOU GAMBROU	Greece
From Billingham 2002 & 2003:	MATENIK	Czech Republic
	OIRA OIRA	Lithuania
	MAPUCHES	Chile
or:	CAMILLE	Peru

I hope there's something for everyone - and I think we'll have fun!

MAGGIE O'REGAN



SITUATIONS VACANT

As you all know, the A.G.M. is fast approaching, so it is time for my annual appeal for new members of the Committee. This year we have had a larger Committee than we have had for some time but it should be larger still. There are many opportunities for the S.I.F.D. which we cannot take full advantage of because we do not have the manpower. So, if you would like to join us on the Committee or help in any other way please speak to me or any other member of the Committee before, during or after the A.G.M. - in fact, speak to us at any time.

I shall be standing down as Chairman at this A.G.M. Other commitments, not least my forthcoming move to Japan, mean that I have not been able to give the position the attention it deserves recently and it is now time for me to move on. So, if anyone is really feeling brave there is an opportunity here.

I should like to thank all the support I have received during my time as Chairman. It has been a lot of fun and I just wish there had been a couple more days in the week to do the job as I would have liked.

MIKE GILBERT

BEXHILL INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP

As I mentioned in the September issue of SIFD NEWS, the Bexhill International Folkdance Group, founded by Lily Avery and myself, reached their 10th anniversary this year. This was celebrated on 2nd October when twenty-two people, many having been with the group from the start, joined in an evening of food and dance. A wide selection of "eats" brought by members took up a good part of the evening, with special contributions from two friends - a superb moist fruit cake with icing depicting a couple in Austrian costume (not Australian as stated by the local newspaper!) and a delicious iced sponge complete with candles, ribbons and a Bulgarian doll.

After blowing out the candles, Lily and I were surprised and delighted to be presented with engraved glass vases as mementos of the occasion. We also managed to fit in dances from Serbia, Russia, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Israel, not forgetting the home country with Bucksaw Reel and Devil's Dream, ending with the Greek Kalamatianos, a favourite.

Our small friendly group meets socially to enjoy music and dance from other countries (we do not give performances) on the first and third Thursdays of the month at Little Common Methodist Church Hall, corner of Shepherd's Close, Little Common, near Bexhill, 8.00 to 10.00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining us (some experience of dance would be an advantage) will be very welcome. Please contact me on 01424 222382.

HEATHER EDWARDS



SOME ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY, 2004 - AND 2005!

A MAINLY BALKAN AND ISRAELI FOLKDANCE WEEKEND WITH FIONA AND FRANK at Alnmouth 23rd to 25th April 2004.

This promises to be an unforgettable weekend with the combined experience of Frank Dowling and Fiona Howarth, both excellent teachers in their own right. The teaching programme will include a variety of mainly Balkan and Israeli dances. "Last week's dynamic new creation" will not be included but the dances, like the teachers, will be well worn and will have stood the test of time. Dancers can select either a single course or both courses and there will be additional tuition during the evenings as well as social dancing for all course members. Non-dancing friends and family are welcome.

Accommodation is in the HF Holidays guest house, Nether Grange, in the harbour village of Alnmouth and in an Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the North-umberland coast. There are extensive sandy beaches, delightful areas to go walking, castles and historic houses to visit. You can also take a boat trip to the Farne Islands which are well known for their large colonies of seabirds and grey seals. By late April, the puffins, guillemots, razorbills etc. will be back in their thousands.

The cost of the weekend is £106 and includes full board in comfortable en-suite twin and single rooms from Friday supper to Sunday (packed) lunch. There is plentiful choice of good food and special diets are catered for. Single course £15.00. Both courses £24.00. For further details and booking form please send s.a.e. to me at 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

BIANCA DE JONG AT DERWENTWATER, 22nd to 24th October 2004. Bianca has been unable to teach in Britain for a long period of time because of her work commitments, so I am delighted to say she will be back next year. Bianca specialises in Bulgarian and Turkish dance but she also has an extensive repertoire of international folk dance. She is an excellent teacher, as those who have danced with her will know. Derwent Bank House, on the shores of Derwentwater in the Lake District, is a superb location for this residential course. More details later.

DESSI STEFANOVA AT DOVEDALE, 5th to 7th November 2004. Dessi is a highly talented singer but she is also a wonderful teacher of Bulgarian singing. You will have a chance to learn singing technique and some enchanting Bulgarian songs, and have fun whilst you are learning. We are also inviting those who enjoy playing international folk music to get together at this weekend.

We'll be staying in Dovedale for this residential weekend and there will be free time to enjoy the countryside while you are there. More details to follow.

CATHY MEUNIER



ROYAL ALBERT HALL, SEPTEMBER 2005

Yes, that wonderful event will be with us again in the not too distant future. I have been asked (and accepted with pleasure) to do the choreography for the S.I.F.D. spot at the R.A.H. The dances will be Serbian, so in the New Year I shall be letting interested groups know which dances. I am open to suggestions! So, please have a think about it and remember, the more the merrier.

HELEN CLANCY

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

Nov.2nd M.C.s: Phil & Brenda Steventon, Merton Park I.F.D.G.

Dec.7th M.C.s: Jill Bransby and Rainmakers

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



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Nov.1st & 2nd SERBIAN DANCE COURSE in Manchester with Vladimir Tanasijevic and Sasha Smerkic. £35.00. Contact: Helen Clancy, 18 Aylesbury Court, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0US. Tel:0161 881 0442.

Nov.7th to 9th RESIDENTIAL MACEDONIAN COURSE with Paul Mulders at Whitby. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board. General or Advanced course, or both. Excellent area for walking/sightseeing. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board and accommodation £107. Each course £18. Details/booking forms from Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA. (s.a.e. please).

Nov.15th S.I.F.D. DAY COURSE with Maggie O'Regan. See p.8.

S.I. Nov.15th BALKANPLUS. See p.6.

Nov.21st to 23rd RUSSIAN & UKRAINIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Hennie Konings at Chisenhale Dance Space, East London. Details from Janet Wilks, Creative Energy Circles, 138B Portobello Road, London W11 2DZ. Tel: 020 7229 9387. £45 for the weekend.

Nov.22nd BRISTOL, 2.00-9.00 p.m. BALKAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Brian Dowsett followed by a meal (please bring food to share) and dancing to live music by Dunav. St.Ursula's School, Brecon Road, Henleaze, Bristol. £7.00 (£5.00 for SIFD members). To reserve a place please send cheque made out to BIFD to K.Green, 64 Coronation Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 5SL. For further details, 'phone Pat Skinner on 0117 9672493.

S.I. Nov.29th SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH ADVENT PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road (B4102), Solihull (corner of Station Approach, by 'bus and train stations). M.C. Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper. Further information from Maggie on 0121 608 1437.



Events covered by S.I.F.D. insurance are marked S.I. 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.



All material for the December issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th November. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances if not typewritten.