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SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509
www.sifd.org

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The typing is done by Janet Douglas;
the packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.



A Korean dancer (appearing at a past Billingham Festival) is pictured on the front cover
which was designed by Holly and Judith Payling.
The motif is a smaller version of the one on the SIFD banner.



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Acronymious Debate.

Someone recently referred to 'sifter' in conversation - I understood of course. Frequently people talk of the 'ess aye eff dee' although that doesn't really qualify as an acronym. My personal version is 'siffid', and I have heard 'sift' (but that sounds a bit bald).

We are used to hearing of 'eff dus', sometimes 'eddfuss'; but possible acronyms would hardly have been considered at the naming of these two societies in the first half of last century. I suppose it is because laziness and short cuts are gaining ground in the English language.

eg: text messaging: R U rdy 4 T?

The thing is should we try to move with the times? Perhaps a text message of the News could be fired at everyone's mobiles. (Not by me I hasten to say - for one thing I don't know the vocabulary and for another - my fingers are too big).

Possible acronyms were very important to us when naming groups (in case we became famous!). Combinations to include Bognor, dance and International resulted in 'dib', 'bid', and 'bridge' but ended with 'bride'. The short-lived Portsmouth group was easy 'pi' (Π), but sadly its name didn't help it survive. 'Skid' could do better - (Scunthorpe, Southampton etc. kids' International dance).

Ed.



First colour front page

I was delighted and proud to see that one of my photos had been chosen for the very first coloured front page of the SIFD News.

At the age of 92, I may be the oldest member in the Society or maybe the oldest member still dancing. These days however it is English folk dancing as it was no longer possible for me to continue with International after the Wycombe International club closed in 2002.

I first started International dancing in Kathleen Monroe-James' class at Croxley Green where our daughter Alison had already started in a dancing class for children at the school where Kathleen was a teacher. Shortly after Kathleen died I started a club attached to the Community Centre at Canons Park Stanmore where we lived. Judith Payling, Jennifer Cant and Alison Whisker (our daughter) were all members of that club, and we enjoyed frequent visits from Mona Graham, Joyce Sharp, Audrey Whiteley and Kay Kedge for special events. Margaret and Alan Moreton and Liz Mellish all had their introduction to International Folk dancing at the Canons club.

I left the Canons club at the end of 1978 when we moved to Marlow where I joined the Wycome International Folk club. Uri Gerson was already a member of that club and soon after I joined he became the leader until he died in 1998 when Malcolm Shaffer took over as leader. By that time I had already switched my allegiance to Modern Sequence Dancing with my wife until she had to give up in 2000 when I rejoined the Wycombe club until it closed because of lack of support. Travelling weekly to the nearest International club at Croxley Green was not really practical so I joined up with the Marlow English Folk Dance club where I continue to enjoy folk dancing - albeit with a little less vigour and a lot less expertise than I did 20 years ago.

Good luck to all those who work with dedication and energy to keep the Society running and performing the very important role of stimulating and maintaining interest in International folk dancing throughout the country.

Ken Poyton



November Day Course

The dances will be easy, short dances to learn and pass on. I plan to do Cumbia and Bambuco from Colombia, Contradanza from Cuba, La Chacarera from Argentina, a Peruvian dance and then one or two of these if time - Samba (Brazil), Rumba or Salsa from Cuba, Merengue from Dominican Republic. These last ones have set steps but the order of steps is variable. Please could the women bring/wear wide skirts, the fullest they can find. There will be notes and CDs available on the day.

Elsa Perez



SIFD Day Courses for 2008

January 12th
February 9th
March 8th
April 12th

June 14th
July 12th
September 13th
November 8th

Pam Radford



Lykion In The West End

Do hope you have all got your tickets for "The Road to Independence".
Sun Nov 4th at Queens Theatre, Shaftesbury Ave, starting promptly at 7pm.

Lykion Ton Hellinidon have gone to such a huge amount of expense and organisation to present a full show of varied costumes, dances and traditions not only from all over Greece but throughout the ages. It will be a fantastic kaleidoscope of every aspect of their rich heritage and an event NOT TO BE MISSED.

If you haven't already done so, give a ring to the Box Office 08709 500902 or queensboxoffice@delmack.co.uk Tickets £30/£25/£20

Any enquiries or more information ring Anita Williams 020 7229 4086 or enquiries@lykionhellinidon.co.uk See you there,

Diki.



Dance With the World Leaflets

I'm pleased to report that an updated Dance With the World leaflet is now available, this year on lovely lemon-coloured paper.

It has kept last year's successful format, but of course incorporates the latest information. It lists all the groups and classes associated with and affiliated to the SIFD, and is very useful for handing out at demonstrations and displays, to anyone interested in joining a group or class, or wanting more information about the Society.

There is also a "Join Us!" leaflet available to encourage new members, which outlines the benefits of joining the Society, both for an individual or an affiliated group. We really need new members to keep the Society alive and healthy, so please consider distributing some of these.

If you would like some leaflets, please contact me (details on the first page).

Alison Scrimshaw

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Dec. 1st ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP BALKAN PARTY** -7pm-10.30pm. Dances from former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania. admission £7 including refreshments at St. Albans Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, London. EC1N 7RD. Nearest tube station: Chancery Lane and Farringdon. Tickets from Irene Keywood, 133 Third Ave. Dagenham, Essex RM10 9BD tel. 0208 592 4427. admission by ticket only. (tickets limited. s.a.e.please)
- S.I **Dec. 1st SIFD AGM:** Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group at Grangewood Hall, Wollaton, Nottingham. General International Dances led by Marina Wolstenholme 1pm - 4pm, followed by AGM at 4.30. Evening Dance 7pm-9.45pm with live music. Cost: Course £5. Dance £3. (concessions SIFD Members and combined tickets). Details 01332 701922/0115 9171831.
- S.I **Dec. 8th BALKANPLUS** - Christmas MC will be Frances Horrocks with guest Dalila Heath
- S.I **Dec. 15th SIFD W MIDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS DANCE** 7.30 - 10.30pm at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, Solihull B91 1LG. MC Maggie Kaye Bring-and-share supper. £3 on the door. More details from Maggie on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk
- Dec. 28th WILLINGDON IFDG TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY.** Stone Cross Memorial Hall, Eastbourne; 10.30 - 4.30., £5 Come and share dances: International, English, Circle, anything really! Shared lunch, drinks provided. Info 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- Jan. 26th /27th INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE COURSE WITH HENNIE KONINGS** for people with a special interest in exploring Russian dance in more depth. At ISTD2, 346 Old Street. Advance booking essential. £70 for the weekend. Contact Janet Wilks 0207 229 9387, janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk
- S.I **Apr. 4/7th RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ARMENIAN FOLK DANCE** with Tineke Van Geel at Derwent Bank, Lake District. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, full-board. Choice of General or Intermediate course, or both courses. Superb area for mountain, lakeside and valley walking. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board accommodation (3 nights) £189. Single course £26, both courses £46. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115, Chetwynd Road, London, NW5 1DA or e:mail your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL** a wide selection of events with Cristina Casarini, Angie Saravelaki, and MCs Julie Korth, Ian Willson and Brian Dowsett with Dunav. Helena Bengé and the Morena Dance Company perform at the evening dances. Booking office: 01278 424332 or 07970 436337
- S.I **May 2nd/5th (6th) SIFD LONG BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND at HALSWAY MANOR**, an attractive folklore centre on the edge of the Quantocks and near the north Somerset and Devonshire coast and Exmoor. Join in Folk Dancing and walking (or just sightseeing!) A full-day outing with coach transport and packed lunch provided on the Sunday to the coast or Exmoor. Inclusive cost about £170 for 3 nights with supplements for the 4th night or en-suite bedrooms. Enquiries and further details from: Gordon Adie, 35 Royal Crescent, Exeter EX2 7QT. (tel:01392 362788) or further details from Jack Richardson 01792 403153
- S.I **Jul. 26th/Aug. 2nd - THE SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea University. Further details TBA but please put the dates in your diaries.

Events covered by SIFD 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.



Fist Polka

In assembling the tracks for the new SIFD CDs, I was perplexed by the one that is identified (in SIFD Book 4 and the associated Cassette 4) as Fist Polka, from Finland, because the music is most certainly not a polka, being in 3/4 time.

It could however pass for a polska, and the dance step, as described in Book 4, seems similar to the Östgöta step used for some Swedish polskas. The music is marked in the book as "Tempo di Mazurka", which is not the same as a polska but is much nearer than a polka.

Finland was at one time ruled by Sweden, still has a substantial Swedish-speaking population, and certainly has some polskas, so I think this dance probably should have been called "Fist Polska". Anyway we have decided to call it that on CD1.

It must have been introduced to SIFD a long time ago, because the recording was first issued on one of the SIFD EPs, then re-issued on C4 with the book. Can anyone recall who first introduced it, when or where?

Of course a simple typing mistake can turn "polska" into "polka", but anyone who did the dance or just listened to the music should immediately have realised that it isn't a polka. Can anyone shed light on why the mistake (presuming that it was a mistake) wasn't corrected?

Or is this one of those odd instances where a dance has genuinely acquired a seemingly inappropriate name?

Richard Mellish



A Day of Swedish Dance and Music

Saturday November 3 at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY
As a reminder of the Swedish day that was announced in the October Newsletter, Ingegard Vejvi with Bjorn Fredriksson from Småland will be teaching some Swedish dances with a concentration on Släng polska. This is a traditional dance where the dancers "freestyle" - improvising sequences of standard figures. The dance is readily accessible as it uses a simple walking step. It is a charming dance to do and to watch. Pelle Björnler will also be teaching fiddle workshops at a different location. In the evening there will be a short concert, combining the dance and music, preceded by a dance workshop and followed by a dance.

10.30am – 4.30pm Dance Workshop £8.00

6.30-7.30pm Short dance workshop before concert

(The price is included with the concert.)

7.45 - ? Concert with some demonstration dancing £5.00

8.?? - 10.30 Dance following the concert (The price is included with the concert.)

The combined day and evening events £12 (£10 for Scandia members)

For information call **Caspar Cronk** – 020 8340 4683



A warm hello from Heinz and Ilse (Striegel)

Although obviously only a limited number of lucky people were able to take part in the fabulous walking/dancing holiday in Austria, organised by Heinz and Ilse, far more took part in the Austrian item led by those participants at the Royal Albert Hall Show and during their 17 years living in North London many more SIFD members would have come to know and dance with them.

They married in London in 1953, 1st April - but no joke they are still very much in love, and the famous trip was summer 1956. Ursula and I were the youngest, fittest (had to be) and thoroughly enjoyed it. We walked all day in the mountains and then just as a bath and refreshment loomed large in our minds, miraculously we were at the farm /mountain hut/ lodging for the night with the impeccable timing, speaking of detailed, experienced preparation - not just Heinz' magic wand. With our shoulders relieved from the backpack, our feet nicely refreshed (in our case bare) and stomach pleasantly full, we danced the night away to Mourie's (Pfeffer) squeezebox with any hesitation/forgetfulness soon dispelled/ corrected by Ruth (nee Sharpe still a member although long since married and a long time resident in Australia). This was sometimes extended to a singing and recitation as an entertainment for us if we were in the farmhouse kitchen for the meal and evening, as on the one and only occasion when because of an unforeseen detour we could not possibly reach our scheduled place of rest and had to beg a square of straw in the barn at a lovely farmstead. It was certainly a new experience for our hosts, particularly when we amazed them with a spinnradel and a bit of schuhplattler. Thank goodness it was dark by the time we popped into our sleeping bags and snuggled down in the straw... with a couple of dead rats close by not seen till morning light (eek) and had we rolled over towards the 'wall', we could have disappeared through a gaping hole which only led to a perilous precipitous drop to the valley below!!!

I spent a wonderful week reminiscing with Heinz and Ilse and getting up to date with family and friends. I had no idea that Ilse was a PhD, although her range of faultless languages was well known. In fact lots of gaps were filled, when thoroughly reading the amazing 'book' which her children organised for her 70th birthday, as did the even more splendid printed (!) book of photos and captions which spanned Heinz 80 years celebrated in March this year. A brilliant idea and so interesting to see old photos of even Heinz' great grandparents... right down to his youngest grandchild. Such a lovely idea and great for the young ones to see some of their forebears.

Anyway, I didn't see any dancing or singing to report, although I must mention the unique Clock Museum in Winterthur (where Heinz and Ilse live). You could even put on headphones and hear a range of chimes from all over the world. The permanent exhibition started with lots of very interesting really primitive contraptions for recording or indicating the passing of time - the range was amazing. I spent the morning there with Heinz and the whole afternoon till closing time practically with Ilse. Its scope and international coverage far exceeds the museum near the Guildhall (London) which I felt duty bound to visit as watch making and jewellery are the traditional family expertise - only severed in my dad's generation! Sadly, I've still to actually see a gold hunter or grandfather clock with "Turpin and sons" inscribed on it. Wish I had paid more attention, as a child when I was privileged to go into my grandfather's workshops.

I digress - really all I was going to say was Heinz and Ilse are well, still rough walking and in the mountains, still Ilse the soup maker par excellence (wish you could all have tried the pumpkin soup made with an 11 kilo monster which grew on top of their boundary hedge !! As you would expect they generously shared it with all the neighbours). And of course they send greetings and good wishes to all who remember them - particularly Nancy (nee Ashcroft from NZ) Enid and Tony Barber, John Weigells, and the rest.

The week's full time dancing by the lake at Turnerssee meant that Anton (the very square formidable lead dancer and teacher) and Zepperl (remember that ancient, lovely accordionist with the fierce huge moustache who played for us at the Albert Hall) - That was the first time I ever led an item (as Anton's partner) deputising for Ilse who very sadly was not well enough to dance on that occasion. I did smile all the time and as soon as the music started the nervousness flew away.

Jack and Joan's favourite place is Schnyger Platte and its Alpine Garden. That was a spectacular outing, chugging up the very steep mountain side, stopping halfway at the only place where it's possible for the up train to pass the down train. Not only was there a lovely al fresco restaurant, shop, video room, exhibition/lecture hall but the renowned Alpine Garden. What a delight that was with so many benches to sit and gaze at the various splendid views, or simply rest the back from peering closely at the labels/flowers/seeds/leaves of a huge (definitive?) range of Alpine plants. Round one corner a surprising view lay spread out quite a way below - it looked like a velvet, shared lawn with such interesting mazes and patterns of special plantings. Nearby there were mini caves and mushroom houses etc. for the kids to lark about in and around.

Dear Jack and Joan Richardson have often lent them their flat for a London visit over the years and it was a bitter disappointment that Ilse's sudden temporary illness prevented them from coming last year ... so fingers crossed they make it next year and can come to Balkan-plus to see everyone again! Thanks for listening - or did you doze off?

Diki Gleeson



Progress with SIFD's Cassette-to-CD Project

I'm delighted to tell you that, after various hiccups, major improvements have now been made to SIFD's musical offerings. Cassette tapes 1 and 4 have been turned into **CD 1**, and cassette tapes 2 and 3 have become **CD 2**.

Many thanks are due to Richard Mellish for ensuring improved sound quality, and Roger Sach for nobly offering to produce the CDs for us. Because of their efforts, we can now offer the full benefits of having these dances on CD

Many thanks are due to Richard Mellish for ensuring improved sound quality, and Roger Sach for nobly offering to produce the CDs for us. Because of their efforts, we can now offer the full benefits of having these dances on CD –

- improved sound quality,
- instant track accessibility,
- tracks in the same order as they appear in the books,
- better value for money,
- a slim CD instead of 2 chunky tapes,
- and on CD2, two bonus tracks – two versions of La Bourrée Pastourelle and Alunelul.

The books are unchanged, so each CD needs two books, but at only £5 for the CD, and £5 for both the books, a mere £10 brings you music and instructions for 30/35 dances, a bargain. AND – cassette 8 has **also** been converted to CD! We're really on a roll now... This has turned into **CD 3**, again at £5, and again the book is unchanged.

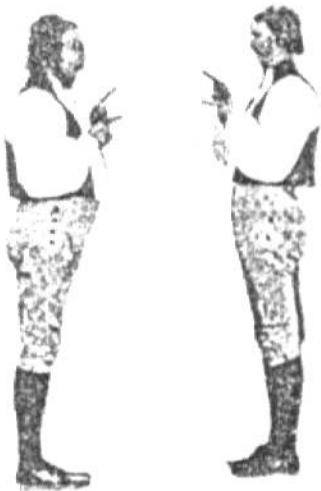
Post and Packing for the CDs are –	One CD	80p
	Two CDs (or one CD + one book)	£1.20
	Three CDs (or two CDs + two books)	£2.00
	Three CDs + three books	£3.00

Cheques payable to SIFD please, and my address for orders is at the front of the News.

Alison Scrimshaw

(A full list of tracks will appear in the next issue. Ed.)

HALLING



Klappdans, Halling and Skobodans

How interesting to read in the September issue Ken Ward's recollections of the Society's first Swedish group under the leadership of Dr. Cyriax, in which he and my mother were regular partners. His observation of Bert Price and Mr. Mattson performing a "Swedish combat dance for two men" reminds me of having come across and wondered at just such a dance in the Lektugan book of Swedish folk dances when writing about Oxdans (see the August News). So it is particularly felicitous to read of it from an eye witness.

It would seem that Ken is confusing the name, however. Swedish Klappdans is a very simple couple dance, now no longer in favour and perhaps considered only a dance for children, but it featured in the Society's early repertoire and appeared on sheet "1a" (Fyrmannadans was on the reverse and both "with acknowledgments to Dr. V Cyriax"), one of the sets of instruction sheets that preceded the Society's Selection of European Folk Dances books. Klappdans is one of the dances in the Lektugan book, but the one Ken writes about is called Halling: "This dance is performed by two boys; good physique is necessary to be able to dance it."

Instructions are given for five figures of sixteen bars each and include in the fourth the cart-wheels mentioned by Ken: "They then change places by wheeling... N.B. The left hand is out first on the floor in the wheeling which is always done back to back." The first figure includes a step whereby they travel sideways moving, in alternation, left heel and right toe then left toe and right heel with elbow movements in 'chicken wing' fashion as illustrated. In the second figure they "approach each other with small hopping steps keeping the knees stiff and toes and heels touching ... moving the hands from the wrists alternately up and down... in front of the body with... the index finger ...stretched forward". In one squatting figure they turn clockwise as a unit holding hands and shooting forward alternate legs; in another they leap up and land squatting on one leg while extending the other sideways "so that the inner side of the foot and knee touch the ground". Each figure is punctuated by a bar of music either in the middle or at the end when they adopt the "cadence position" standing on the inside leg and slowly raising sideways the other and both arms. The other figure that Ken remembers in which each lifts the other on his back is sadly not included here.

The same book provides instructions and music for another dance on this theme, but whereas both Oxdans and Halling are designated "for two boys", Skobodans is said to be "for two men" and as such is very much less physically demanding. It consists of just thirty-two bars in all and the only exertion required is for each to kick a leg over the other's head as he crouches down. It ends humorously with a 'bumps-a -daisy'.

Tony Latham



Dunford (Midhurst, West Sussex)

14th - 16th December 2007

If you've been before there's no need to tell you that this is a really enjoyable weekend of dancing and walking or, of course, just relaxing in the lounge with its Christmas tree and log fire. Accommodation is in single, double or twin bedrooms, all en-suite, at a well-furnished country house at the foot of the northern slopes of the South Downs, once the home of Richard Cobden.

Janet Woolbar has kindly agreed to lead the dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoon. On both Saturday and Sunday mornings there will be a walk from the house - returning in time for lunch. For non walkers, on Saturday morning, there is the opportunity to visit the Midhurst monthly market.

There will be Christmas dinner (the meals are jolly good) and carol singing on Saturday evening.

If you haven't been before, and you're a dancer, I'm sure you'll feel at home and among friends.

The cost of the weekend - £125.00 Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dot Bradbury (Mrs)
Tel. No. 020 8540 3464



International dancing to the rescue

I was asked recently to call some Manx dances at a wedding reception. I explained that Manx dances were not necessarily simple and did he (the groom) think that his guests would be able to cope? He assured me that there would be mainly young people there, they were all good dancers and were looking forward to some authentic Manx dances. I saw this as a challenge so I agreed and started putting feelers out to expand on the subtotal of two that I already knew. I got a couple of dances from Jill Bransby but Janet Woolbar came up trumps with a whole book and tape and I made contact with the Manx Folk Dance Society and got another book and tape. The problem now was to choose simple dances with attractive music; the music was fine but most Manx dances seem to have a chorus and figure construction, often with 5 or 6 different figures. Nevertheless I persevered and with cunning ironing out of several tricky bits, thought I had put together a good programme. I had planned to include the dance Peter O'Tavy: a traditional Manx wedding dance which includes some tricky balance steps and a song that refers to the groom's sobriety as shown by his ability to do said steps. I was a little dismayed when I later discovered it was to be an alcohol-free wedding! Well, you can guess what I found on the night: an extreme reluctance to get up to dance and an apparent inability to detect 8 bar phrasing. So, not only was it difficult to form sets but it was darned-near-impossible to get them through the dances. Luckily I always take my music and notes for international dances so, almost in desperation, I asked the groom if I could give up on the Manx dances and try some from other countries. He reluctantly agreed and we never looked back. Those willing to have a go immediately took to the likes of Ivanitsa, Kak pri Balki, Ambee Dageetz and Alunelul and I even managed to give away one of the promotional leaflets. So, it was a case of inter-national dancing to the rescue!

Incidentally, in addition to the Rinkaghyn Vannin tape and book I got from Janet (I haven't forgotten I owe you a tape, Janet) I also have Leighton Stowell's book and a tape to go with it. These are available for hire at an exorbitant fee from me at jennyandgeoff@aol.com.

Goef Weston

The Dance Dialects of Romania

Transylvanian Dialect

North (including Maramureş and Oaş in the North West)

Characteristics - many syncopated stamping patterns

Dances - mostly men's such as "Bărbătesc", "De Sărit", "Roata", or couple dances simply called "Joc" or "Danţu" or "Învîrtita". eg "Joc la Sînzien", "Joc de Leagăne"

Some similarities found with dances from Bucovina.

Central

Characteristics - few dances but very many figures. In couple dances women only required to spin or support men's highly skilled improvisation.

Dances often done in set order starting with "Dealungul" a couple dance, followed by "Rarul" and "Fecioreasca", two men's dances, and finishing with "Învîrtita" couple dance. "Dansul Fetelor de la Crihalma", a unique women's dance also comes from here. Other dances include "Jiana" and "Tărină de la Abrud"

West (Bihor or Crişana)

Characteristics - mostly couple dances. Women maintain basic step whilst men improvise, giving many intricately syncopated step-patterns. "Hora miresei" comes from this region.

Villages have small repertoire of only 4 or 5 dances.

Carpathian Dialect

Moldavia (Bucovina, Central and South)

Characteristics - swaggering style especially in Bucovina and Central zones. Many couple dances or men's dances.

Bucovina Couple dances often called "Țaraneasca".

Men's dances include "Trilîşeşti", "Arcanul".

Central "Horă", "Sîrbă", (stamping type),

Men's dances: "Corăgheasca", "Bătută"

South Similar to central zone and Muntenia.

"Arcanul", "Busuiocul", "Hora mare" and "Bătuta ursului" are from Moldavia.

South Transylvania Similar in style to Central Transylvania, but with greater variety. Includes dances like "Purtata" or "Fecioreasca", "Hațegana" and "Brîuls".

Banat Often danced with deep knee plié and at very fast tempo.

Characteristic men's dance is the "Brîul" done in 7/16 rhythm.

Examples are "Damul", "Brîul lui Remuș" and "Brîul bănățean".

Danubian Dialect

Characteristics - light, quick, graceful in style. Mostly mixed dances done in closed or open circle. Few couple dances.

Villages have large repertoires of 30 or 40 different dances.

Oltenia Dances found are: - "Horă", "Sîrbă", "Brîulețul", "Alunelul", "Rustemul".

Also "Hora de mîna", "Hora de la Risipiți", "Hora de la Calafat", "Hora mînșita", "Trei pazește".

Muntenia (called Wallachia)

Dances include: - "Horă" (particularly stamping type), "Sîrbă", "Rustemul" (called "Bugeac"), "Brîul", "Geamparale", "Călușul", "Ciuleandra", "Bugeac", "Hodoroagă".

Dobrogea Dances include: - "Horă", "Sîrbă" and many of uneven rhythms such as 5, 7, 9 and 11 beats.

Examples from Dobrogea are "Drăgăicuța", "Joc aromăn", "Hodoroagă", and "Șchioapa".

Written in 1986 by **Frank Dowling**

Big Dance Week 5th-13th July 2008

The Mayor's office is arranging a Big Dance Week in London next year and is intending to repeat the event every two years up to and including the Olympics in 2012. The idea is to get the public (adults over 16) to make a pledge to undertake six weeks of dance.

The CCPR had asked whether any organisations would be interested in participating in this event by providing a showcase day of taught dance workshops, leading into an evening production of high standard dance. This would take place for example in Trafalgar Square during 'the week'.

Whilst we as an organisation may not be directly involved with these proposed ideas, perhaps if any group is thinking of arranging a course or a dance, they could co-incide the dates to fall within the 'Big Dance Week'.

Helen Ezra



Letters to the Editor

Dear Janet,

This might be of interest for the next newsletter; I came across it by chance.

Christies of S. Kensington who hold regular specialist auction sales with days for previewing had a sale of fine European costumes and textiles in July. The next one is on 4th December and might be worth viewing beforehand (you can just walk in!) And of course you can buy and sell yourself... at Christie's prices.

Their general number is 0207 752 3170, and the costume specialist is: Pat Frost 0207 752 3215

Margaret Joyner



I have been intrigued by the various discussions on the instructions for Oxdans. We asked those who have performed it and, as in SIFD, there were several opinions offered. (You realise how quickly you can forget how dances should be done and realise how they change and evolve.)

Today I did find my notes from 1964 endorsed by the instructions in Svenska Folkdanser. It states definitely that both men move the same way at all times - to the RL twice and then LR back to their original place. One detail I am sure we overlooked is that at the end of the first step there are two stamps with the SAME foot - the back one - and one stamp after the second step. The same applies on the return step. The notes also state that the dance was originally called Frikasse [as in Chicken Fricasse] and no one can give any explanation for the curious name.

Dorothy Sloan



Cobbler (and Blacksmith)

Play ABC

(A) Introduction $\text{♩} = 72$

$\text{♩} = 72$ $\text{♩} = 84$ 2nd time only.

shoe mend $\text{♩} = 80$. Back to (A) with A.L.L. repeats

(B) Polka $\text{♩} = 88/92$ SLOW - ONCE ONLY

Paying the cobbler $\text{♩} = 84$ Call 'Hay' G Straight on

Clap skip 1st C steady faster $\text{♩} = 69$ 1st time $\text{♩} = 116$ 3rd time $\text{♩} = 116$ 1st time Bar. X3 or more for dancing

Wilf Horrocks



This piece of music for the Cobblers dance (also entitled Cobbler and Blacksmith) was in very poor condition. Wilf had scribbled things out all over it and made changes on top of changes - so I have had to do a lot of tidying, half-informed guesswork and erasing. So, musicians please be forgiving and ready to tweak the odd note or waive an instruction.



NB The music for **La Storta Da Crusch** (Swiss) will appear in the next issue. Any contributions about its history, and anecdotes and information about the dance will be welcomed.

Ed.



SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, N.W.1
Cost £6 members £7 non-members

Nov 4th 7-10pm **MCs:** Merton Park

Dec. 2nd 7-10pm **MCs:** Dot Bradbury and Alison Scrimshaw



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

Nov.3rd **A DAY OF SWEDISH DANCE AND MUSIC** see page 6

Nov. 4th **TRADITIONAL GREEK DANCE THROUGH THE AGES** see page 4

Nov.10th **KLEZMER KLUB** (Klezmer and Eastern European song and dance tunes) Cellar Upstairs Folk Club. Exmouth Arms. London NW1 2HR . 8.15pm. £6 tel: 020 7281 7700

S.I **Nov. 17th** **BALKANPLUS** - The November Balkanplus will be held on the 17th November 2007 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Julie Korth from the Manchester Balkan Group. Admission £5.

S.I **Nov. 17th** **SIFD DAY COURSE** see page 4

S.I **Nov. 17th** **ARMENIAN DANCE DAY** with Dalila Heath at Barnham Village Hall, near Bognor Regis. 10.30am-5pm. £10 SIFD members. £14 non-members. Details: Janet Douglas 01243 265010, or email dalila@interfolk.co.uk



All material for the December issue of SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th November, emails by 16th November. Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS all names of people, places and dances, unless typewritten.