

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



JUNE 2022

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Packaging, posting & electronic distribution is done by Dalila Heath.

A short time ago I announced that the extracts from The Dictionary of the Dance had run out (found in ancient copies of the SIFD News). I am very grateful to Philip Lloyd who has kindly sent me the actual book. So, the alphabet continues with **Jota** (according to my scanner it is an Iota) on page 6.

The front cover shows a dancer from Morena, (Slovak group) at the recent D.A.T.W. The back cover photo of Kitka illustrates the article on page 5; the motif below is from the Kilikia group.

Enjoy an afternoon out - Leslie Haddon will be back at the Victoria Embankment Gardens in June and July (see dates).

Ed.



Dance Around The World

Unfortunately I was unable to attend this year so I was very interested to read Fiona's account of the programme and to see the photos she had taken.

The front cover of the May 'News' is of a beautiful dancer wrongly attributed to Sri Lanka. Fiona admitted she wasn't sure. This dancer comes from S.E.India, principally Tanjore and is demonstrating the Bharata Natyan style of classical dance. Fiona's photo has caught the dancer beautifully, showing the strong footwork and delicate hand gestures. I still have my costume from when I attempted to learn the basics of this style, though unsurprisingly it no longer fits.

If you still have a copy of the SIFD News for September 2020 look up the article "An Incomplete Guide to Indian Dancing" by Bhhayji (respected brother) which is both informative and amusing.

Frances Horrocks



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **July 10: BALKAN WITH BRIAN IN BOGNOR**, an afternoon workshop with Brian Dowsett £7. at 2pm at the Willowhale Centre, Pryors Lane, Aldwick, Bognor Regis PO21 4JB. Tel: 01243 265010 or sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk
- S.I **July 16: BALATON, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS** at 3-5 pm. will perform with the Guildford Hungarian group.
- Aug. 7-11: MACHOL EUROPA** Israeli Dance Institute teachers: Schmulik Govari, Rafi Ziv, Ilai Szpiezak, Dado Kraus, Moshe Telem. University of Surrey. 07980 451912
idi.org.uk/macholeuropa info@idi.org.uk
- Aug. 19-22: SOUTH DOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL** at Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex. £205 full board. Enquiries to Sue Kewley, suekewley@outlook.com.
- Sep. 10: GERMAN DANCE MUSIC WORKSHOP** see page 6
- Oct. 1: NUTBROOK I. F. D. G.- ROMANIA & FRIENDS**, led by Maggie Kaye. 11.00am – 3.30pm Nutbrook dance workshop at Bramcote Memorial Hall Comm. Hall am / Large Hall pm. Nottingham NG9 3HD. £8.00. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Further information: Gill Morral on 0115 9171381 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com
- S.I **Oct. 8: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY t 6.00pm - 9.00pm.
- Oct. 29-30: DANCE AROUND THE WORLD**, Cecil Sharp House, www.datw.org.uk
- S.I **Nov.19: HENRY & BETTY LEE MEMORIAL DANCE** see p5
- S.I **Dec.10: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY t 6.00pm - 9.00pm.



*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.*

Rainmakers Memorial Dance

For Henry & Betty Lee, Saturday 19th November 7.30pm-10.30pm at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3TG.

MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. Rainmakers would particularly like to invite people who knew Henry and Betty to attend this special dance. Naturally all other dancers would be very welcome. The dance is free. If you are interested in coming, please contact Mark on 01462 454210 or markbalaam2@sky.com



Kitka Meets Zlatni Pendari

at Rochester's famous Sweeps Festival

It was lovely to have the Sweeps Festival back in Rochester after a two-year gap due to Covid. The sun shone for most of the 3-day festival and it was dry for awakening the Green Man at 5.31 on May Day morning.

The Rochester-based Bulgarian dance group Kitka joined with a sister group, Zlatni Pendari who meet at the Fursedown Project, 91-93 Moyser Road, London SW16 6SJ

(email cveticeci@googlemail.com for more information).

We danced 2 sets on the Saturday in a wonderful location between Rochester Cathedral, Rochester Castle and the King's Head pub.

Our sets included Stamina, Sitno Shopsko, Ruko Danets, Iliovata, Duna Ide, Batuta, a choreographed version of Daichevo, and a Macedonska/Arap suite. I hope the photograph will inspire you to join us. ([back page](#))

For Kitka, email susanjhaydock@aol.com.

Sue Haydock,
Secretary, Kitka

Here are further extracts beginning with J from

'The Dictionary of the Dance' by W.G.Raffe

Jota (Spain)

A couple dance claimed by the Aragonese to belong specifically to Aragon, but acknowledging its arrival there from Andalusia. Said to have been brought north by the Moorish poet, Aben jot, it is known nearly all over Spain and in the Basque country on both sides of the Pyrenees. There is some contradiction as to its actual origin. Generally believed to have derived from the Andalusian Fandango, some claim that it originated in Aragon, but the Aragonese themselves sing a copla, or verse, which says:

"From the banks of the Turia to the banks of the Jalon,
Singing the Jota came the exiled Aben-Jot".

In the twelfth century this "Moorish poet" was exiled from Valencia, and took refuge in a village of Aragon. Some authorities state that the Jota was at that time called Canario. Very popular in Aragon and Valencia, the Jota is danced by couples facing each other, the woman following the steps chosen by the man from a selection of about forty. In quick 3/4 or 3/8 time, it is danced in flat rope-soled shoes, partners facing and moving in opposite directions. The same step is always used for the opening, after which any may be chosen, the dance being broken by the estrivillo - an interval during which a copla is sung while the dancers rest. The dancers sometimes accompany themselves with castanets, or tambourines, while the music is played by guitars or pipe and drum. The chief characteristic of the dance is a light, springy agility, with jumps and kicks to the side, in front and behind.

In the Philippines variations of the Spanish Jota, having alternative grave and gay moods, are Jota Purpura, and Jota Moncadena which is danced with elongated bamboo castanets.

Jota Aragonesa (Spain)

Aragon possesses several different styles of Jota, classified into: rabaleras, golondrinas, zaragonzonas, femateras, etc. The man (maños) approaches his maña (girl) and, taking her by the hand leads her to the dancing-place, where they wait facing each other, until the musicians (playing guitars, lutes, mandolins), strike four vigorous chords, when the dance begins.

Havelock Ellis describes Jota Aragonesa as "a kind of combat between (the partners) . . . advancing and retreating in an apparently aggressive manner, the arms alternately slightly raised and lowered, and the legs, with a seeming attempt to trip the partner, kicking out alternately somewhat sideways, as the body is rapidly supported first on one foot and then on the other. ... "

Jota Valenciana (Spain)

Differs from the Aragonesa dance, the most popular version being the Jota del Carrer ("of the street"). Leading his partner to a suitable clear space, the man spreads his striped blanket on the ground and the couple dance up to and away from it. Accompanied by the dulzaina (pipe) and tabalet (drum), guitars and the singing of coplas also form part of the dance. The style is softer than the Aragonesa Jota.

In Valencia the Jota is also a funeral dance following the death of a child. With guitars and castanets, a man and girl dance in gala costume, to the singing and clapping of the funeral guests. It is an expression, not of grief, but of joy at the escape of the innocent child from tribulations on earth.





Jota Aragonesa

This a copy of an illustration by Lucile Armstrong for the Max Parrish publication: 'Dances of Spain II' North-East and East. **Ed.**

18th/19th. Century Dance Music From Germany

Saturday 10th. September - 10.45 a.m.- 4.45 p.m.

Lewes Saturday Folk Club **Workshop for Musicians**

£35 Elephant & Castle, White Hill, Lewes BN7 2DJ

Keith Macdonald (piano accordion) and Ange Hauck (German and French bagpipes, hurdy gurdy, harp) are well known as a duo in the German folk scene. They play mainly for dancing and are experienced workshop leaders. Keith's musical roots are playing in Sussex for Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men and English and French dance music (The Drift). Ange specialises in the traditional music of Franconia. As well as playing in a duo with Keith, she plays in the group Irononymous Bock.

10.45 Registration & coffee; order lunch

12.30-13:30 Lunch

15.00-15:15 Tea/coffee break

16.45 Finish

N.B. Booking is recommended as numbers are limited.

Some music will be sent in advance.

Maps and accommodation lists sent on request.

Lewes Saturday Folk Club

c/o 20, St. John's Terrace, LEWES, East Sussex BN7 2DL

01273 476757 valmaigoodyear@aol.com

www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org

In the evening Keith Macdonald, Ange Hauck and Mel Stevens perform at Lewes Saturday folk Club

(£7; email valmaigoodyear@aol.com to reserve tickets)



Jota Aragonesa

Spain

Musical score for Jota Aragonesa, Spain. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of 12 staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 2/4 time signature. The second staff has a 2/8 time signature. The third staff has a 2/8 time signature. The fourth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The fifth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The sixth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The seventh staff has a 2/8 time signature. The eighth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The ninth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The tenth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The eleventh staff has a 2/8 time signature. The twelfth staff has a 2/8 time signature. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings. Chord symbols A and E7 are placed below the notes. Performance instructions include 'Rit.' (ritardando), 'marcato', 'a tempo', 'Slower', and 'Faster'. There are also markings for '3' (triplets) and 'Steady'.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Kriči Kriči Tiček from Croatia will be featured next month. **Ed.**





SIFD Committee

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WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- S.1 **Sunday 19th DOINA - VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS**
Doina will perform at 3-5pm. with the Hungarian children's group.



*All material for the July issue of the SIFD NEWS
must be received by the Editor **in writing** by 18th June.*