

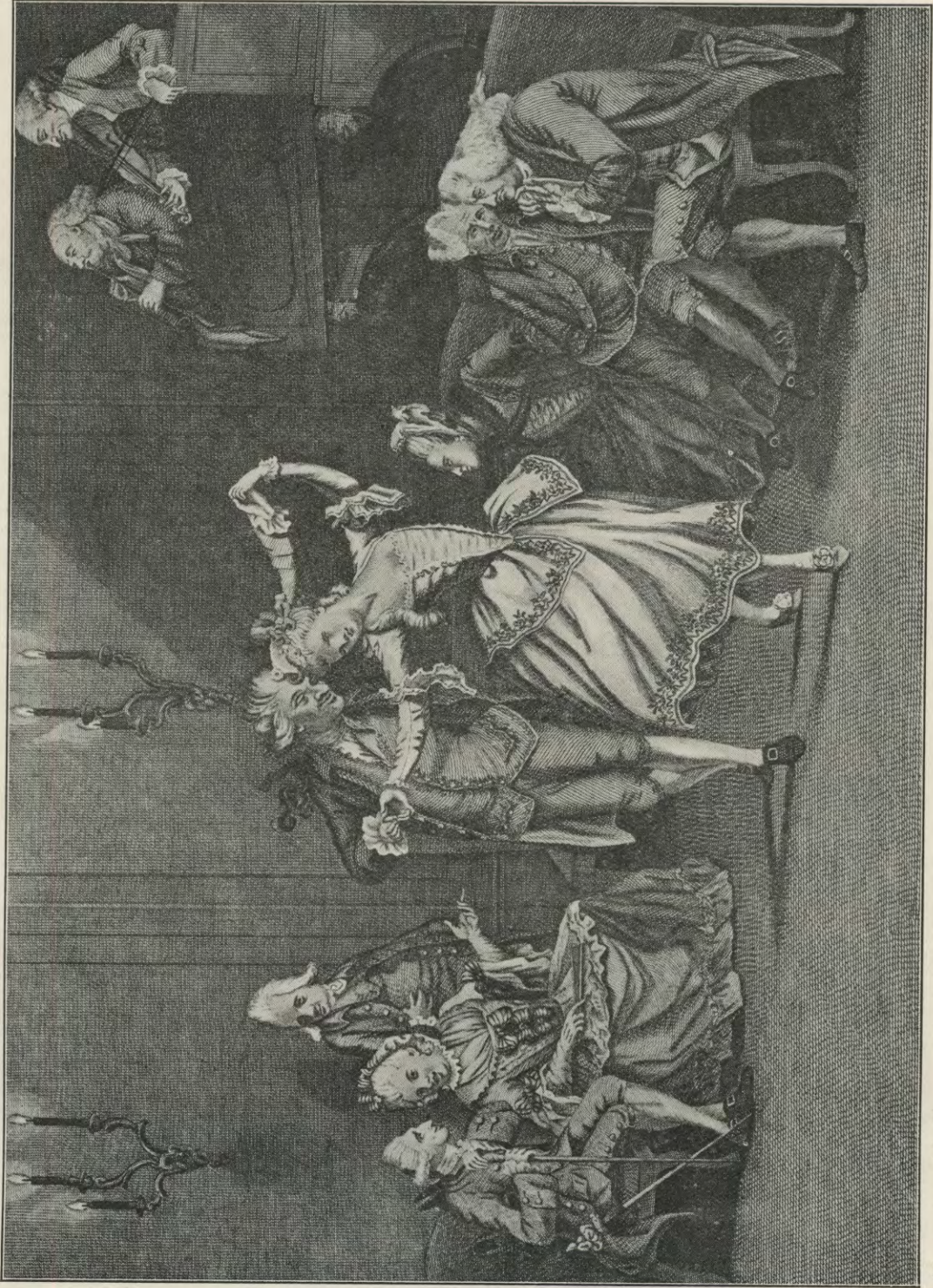
The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 7.

MARCH, 1935.

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(By courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum).

THE ALLEMANDE DANCE.

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin.

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Editorial.

The Annual Summer School of the Scottish Country Dance Society will be held at University Hall, St. Andrews, from 29th July to 12th August. As usual classes will be held in the forenoons and the afternoons will be left free for golf, bathing, etc. Full particulars of the School, which is open to members and to non-members of the Society, will be found on page 11 with the application form.

The attention of members is drawn to the article by the President on page 8 with reference to the International Folk Dance Festival to be held in London in July.

Two more dances, Circassian Circle and the Punch Bowl, have been republished in leaflet form and are issued with this number of the Bulletin. The music has been arranged by Mr Wiseman.

The Highland and Agricultural Show is to be held in Aberdeen this year from 18th to 21st June. The Scottish Country Dance Society has again hired a Stand which is to be run by the members of the Aberdeen Branch. It is hoped that many S.C.D.S. members and their friends will visit the Stand.

New Branches of the Society have been formed at Hamilton, secretary Miss J. A. Ballantyne, Schoolhouse, Burnbank, Lanarkshire, and at Wigtown, secretary Miss M. S. Clark, c/o Mrs Smith, Thorncliffe, Wigtown.

The St. Andrew's Society of Otago, New Zealand, the Shanghai Reel Club and the St. Andrew's Society of Lisbon, Portugal, have affiliated with the Scottish Country Dance Society.

The Executive Council wishes to remind members that the Society owns a projector, a Bolex Model, suitable for showing both 16 mm. and 9.5 mm. films. It will work with different voltages and also by hand off an accumulator, and is complete with folding screen and all accessories. Films belonging to the Society demonstrate the following dances :—

Glasgow Highlanders.
 Jenny's Bawbee.
 Scottish Reform.
 You're welcome Charly Stuart.
 The Braes of Tullymet.
 I'll mak' ye fain to follow me.

Applications for use of the projector and films, which can be hired for £1 1/- should be made to the Secretary, 7 Blackburn Road, Ayr.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting.

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 3rd November, 1934, at 22 Stafford Street, Edinburgh.

Lord James Stewart Murray presided, and between 70 and 80 members were present.

Apologies were intimated from Miss Jarvis, Dr Kidd, Mrs Law, Mrs Hamilton Meikle, Miss Milligan, Miss Moir, and Mr Watson.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

The Annual Branch, and Financial Reports, having been circulated amongst members, were taken as read.

Mrs Stewart, Vice-President, moved the adoption of the Annual and Branch Reports, seconded by Miss Kenyon. Mrs Stewart said that it was very satisfactory to notice that while new Branches were being formed the older Branches were still retaining a large membership.

The adoption of the Financial Report was moved by Mr Cox and seconded by Mrs Bruce.

The election of Office-bearers for the year 1934-35 was as follows :—

Chairman—Lord James Stewart Murray.

Vice-Chairman—Mr J. Hubert Low.

Six Elected Members—Miss Anderson, Miss Dow, Mr Drummond, Miss Milligan, Mr Punchard and Miss Thomson.

It was announced that for reasons of economy the Executive Council would meet only twice a year in future, instead of four times, and that the Publications Committee would meet more often when necessary.

With regard to the Summer School, it was agreed to adopt the proposal of the Executive Council that in future the 5/- deposit sent in with the Summer School application form, be retained as a registration fee.

The Chairman congratulated the members on their work during the past year, and thanked them for their help and interest in the Society. He was particularly interested in the report of the work done in Vancouver and welcomed Mrs C. K. Stewart, a member of the West Vancouver Branch, who was present at the meeting.

It was agreed to accept the invitation of the members of the Perth Branch to hold the Annual Meeting in Perth in 1935.

It was decided to publish a further book of 12 dances in 1935.

This ended the business.

After the meeting a The Dansant was held in Mackie's Restaurant, organised by the members of the Edinburgh Branch. Many members were present and enjoyed a varied programme of Scottish Country Dances. The thanks of the Society are due to Miss Martin Stewart and her committee for their work in connection with the Autumn School arrangements.

—:O:—

Copies of the following Dances which have been published
in Leaflet Form are for sale, price 2d each.

Circassian Circle.
Corn Rigs.
Dashing White Sergeant.
Duke of Perth.
Flowers of Edinburgh.
Glasgow Highlanders.
Petronella.
Scottish Reform.
Speed the Plough.
The Punch Bowl.

An Old Shetland Sword Dance.

The storm-swept yet beautiful little island of Papa Stour, in St. Magnus Bay, is the only place in Shetland where the old Norse custom of the sword dance still survives.

At the time of the Reformation the Church authorities suppressed this dance (among other old customs) elsewhere in the Shetland Islands, but it was cherished together with its words and music in this little isle of Papa Stour, where it has been performed for hundreds of years.

The old form of the dance is still enacted in Papa, and it is recognised as one of the oldest Shetland customs.

A manuscript of the words and figures of the drama was in the possession of the Hendersons of Gardie, Papa Stour (descendants of Hendrich Hendrichson, one-time Great Fowde and Lawman of Shetland), and this old manuscript was transcribed by William Henderson, jun., in the year 1787.

In Sir Walter Scott's diary there is the following entry:—"August 7th, 1814.—At Scalloway my curiosity was gratified by an account of the sword dance, now almost lost, but still practised in the island of Papa, belonging to Mr Scott One of my three Mrs Scotts (the Scotts of Melby, Sandness), readily promised to procure me the lines, the rhymes, and the form of the dance. A few years since a party of Papa men came to dance the sword dance at Lerwick as a public exhibition, with great applause."

Dr. Hibbert also saw the dance in Papa while in Shetland in 1818. Other writers, Cowie and Wilson, refer to the Papa dance as being unique.

The evolutions of the actors, the coloured sashes worn by them, and the fine old Shetland music combine to make a very striking spectacle, and authorities on folk-dances have given it a high place among the many such dances in Britain.

Seven young men and a "minstrel man" are the characters in the sword dance; they represent the seven champions of Christendom: St. George of England, St. James of Spain, St. Denis of France, St. David of Wales, St. Patrick of Ireland, St. Andrew of Scotland, and St. Anthony of Italy. The champions wear coloured sashes, each being of a different shade, and in addition St. George wears a blue knot on his breast. They each carry a sword made from steel hoops about 3 feet 2 inches in length, and an inch wide.

Before the commencement of the dance the fiddler strikes up the "Day Dawn," an old Norn tune, during which St. George enters and bows to the audience. He recites some verses and then dances while the violinist plays "The Trip" an old Shetland tune. He then recites again, introducing the six champions, "that they may dance with all their might, with hearts and hands as they are knights." He then dances and advances to each knight in turn, beginning with St. James, who steps out from the rank and dances. Each knight dances in turn, while St. George, the master, delivers a verse, eulogising their respective merits. After each has danced alone with drawn swords they all six stand with their swords reclining on their shoulders. The fiddler now plays the music of the sword dance proper.

St. George dances, and then strikes the sword of St. James, who follows St. George, then dances, strikes the sword of St. Denis, who follows behind St. James. The others also do the same until the seven form into a circle. Having formed into a circle each knight holds his own sword in his right hand, at the same time grasping the point of his neighbour's sword in his left hand ; the swords are thus held point to hilt.

In this manner they dance round in a circle twice. St. George then passes out of the circle under his own sword and turns to the right, and he is followed by St. James who passes out under St. George's sword, but who turns to the left. Both these actors, passing down the outside of the circle on the right and left, must hold their swords aloft over the heads of the others.

The swords thus held form an arch under which St. Denis, following close behind St. James, passes under, and lifting his left-hand sword over his head, turns to the right and follows St. George. Each champion does the same, turning alternately to the right or left, but always passing under their respective left hand swords. Three or four intricate movements are gone through by the seven actors, who all the time are holding the swords point to hilt, until the master calls out "Loose," when they once again form into the original circle.

St. Andrew now lays down his sword, and St. George passes down the midst of the circle and passes out under St. David's sword, the point of which is held by St. Patrick. St. George turns to the left, at the same time lifting his own sword over his head. St. James, following close behind, turns out under St. George's sword to the right. Each champion, passing through under the arch again formed, goes up to the right or left wing on the outside of the circle and back again into the clue.

St. Andrew picks up his sword again, and the other six let go their neighbour's swords and then form such figures as to make a compact shield of their swords, and this shield is constructed in such a way that each performer can dance with it held aloft by two points, the other six forming a circle around the one dancing. The last knight to dance with the shield throws it down forcibly to the floor, and the swords thereupon jump apart.

The seven then regain their swords and fall into rank, St. George then steps forward and delivers the epilogue :—

Mars doth rule, he bends his brows,
 He makes us all aghast ;
 After the few hours that we stay here,
 Venus will rule at last.

Farewell, farewell, brave gentles all,
 That herein do remain,
 I wish you health and happiness
 Till we return again.

(The above was published some years ago, over the initials "P.J.")

International Folk Dance Festival, London.

The First International (European) Folk Dance Festival will be held in London from July 15 to 20th, 1935.

The Festival is designed :—

1. To promote understanding and friendship between nations through the mutual interest of folk-dance.
2. To demonstrate the value of folk-dance in the social life of to-day.
3. To study the origin and relationship of the folk-dance of various countries.

Twenty or more countries will be represented by groups of folk-dancers, and the programme will include :—

Two public performances in the Albert Hall and one in the grounds of Lambeth Palace.

A Public Procession.

A Folk-Dance Ball.

Lectures and Conferences.

The Scottish Country Dance Society has been asked to send a team of not less than 50 dancers to take part in one of the Albert Hall performances at the Festival. Although the expense incurred will be considerable, the S.C.D.S. feels that it must be represented on this important occasion, and arrangements are being made to send a team. Branch secretaries have already been asked to collect the names of any couples (men and women), really good dancers, who would be free to take part in the Festival.

An excellent team will easily be found, and the only difficulty is finance. The cost of sending a team of 50 dancers to London for one night, accompanied by a small orchestra, will amount to approximately £225. This is a great deal of money for the Society to spend, and it is proposed to try and raise it by asking for donations from Branches. Will anyone wishing to give a subscription kindly send it to the Secretary of their own Branch, or to the Hon. Treasurer of the Society, Mr R. T. Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire. It is most important that the S.C.D.S. should send dancers representing Scotland, and the co-operation of members is earnestly entreated.

JAMES STEWART MURRAY,
President S.C.D.S.

Names and Addresses of Office-Bearers.

Executive Council.

Chairman—Lord James Stewart Murray, Cuil-an-Duin, Ballinluig, Perthshire.

Vice-Chairman—Mr J. Hubert Low, Seabourne, Broughty Ferry.

Mrs Stewart, Camserney Cottage, Aberfeldy, Perthshire.

Miss A. Anderson, 16 Warriston Crescent, Edinburgh.

Miss M. M. Dow, Training College, Dundee.

Mr J. Drummond, Daniel Stewart's College, Queensferry Road, Edinburgh.

Miss Jean Milligan, 19 Rosslyn Terrace, Glasgow, W.2.

Mr Frank Punchard, 54 Mitre Road, Glasgow, W.4.

Miss C. L. Thomson, 3 St. Swithin Street, Aberdeen.

And Representatives of Branches.

Secretary—Miss W. Forgan, 7 Blackburn Road, Ayr.

Treasurer—Mr R. T. Terras, British Linen Bank, Galston, Ayrshire.

Terms of Membership of Scottish Country Dance Society.

Annual Subscription, - - - - 5/-

Life Membership Subscription, - - £3 3/-, or £2 10/-

to those who have paid their annual subscription for four years.

Answers to Correspondents.

Question: In the first part of "Corn Rigs" Bars 1-4, when the first couple cast off on their own sides for four steps, do the dancers turn out or in to cast up again for four steps?

Answer: In the first part of "Corn Rigs" the dancers turn both times in the same direction. If they turn right at the top they turn right at the bottom. (See diagram in Book 4).

Question: In "Glasgow Highlanders" for competition work, what are the correct places for the finishing bow and curtesy?

Answer: This is a matter of taste, but it looks nice to finish with two chords as at the beginning, so that all bow on the correct sides of the dance.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Ninth Annual Summer School of the above Society will be held at University Hall, St. Andrew's, Fife, from 29th July to 12th August, 1935.

Two weekly courses will be held as follows :—

FIRST COURSE. Monday, 29th July, to Monday, 5th August.

SECOND COURSE. Monday, 5th August, to Monday, 12th August.

If there is room early applications will be considered for the whole fortnight, and a decisive answer given after the closing date.

Applications are only taken for a week or a fortnight.

TERMS :—

RESIDENTS. 3½ guineas per week, plus a registration fee of 5/- which must accompany the application form. Non-members of the Society pay an extra 10/- per week.

NON-RESIDENTS. 1 guinea per week, 4/- per day, 2/- per class.

Classes will be held from 9.45—1 o'clock daily on all nine books. A reel step class will be held from 5.30 to 6.30 p.m. and there will be social dancing each evening at 8.30 p.m. The afternoons are free for bathing, golf, etc.

Examinations for Teacher's Certificate will be held at the end of each week.

NOTE. Please report at the Secretary's Office on arrival between 3 and 5 o'clock on Monday, 29th July, and 5th August. The first Country Dance class will be held at 5.30 p.m.

In the event of any member being prevented from attending, the registration fee will be refunded if notice of withdrawal is sent to the Secretary before 13th July.

TO BE SENT IN BY 17th JUNE.

To THE SECRETARY, S.C.D.S.,
7 BLACKBURN ROAD, AYR.

Please reserve a room for me at the Summer School at St. Andrews, from
.....to.....(Please fill in dates).

Name,.....

Address,.....

I should like a room near.....

I would share a room with.....

My Registration Fee of 5/- is enclosed.

