

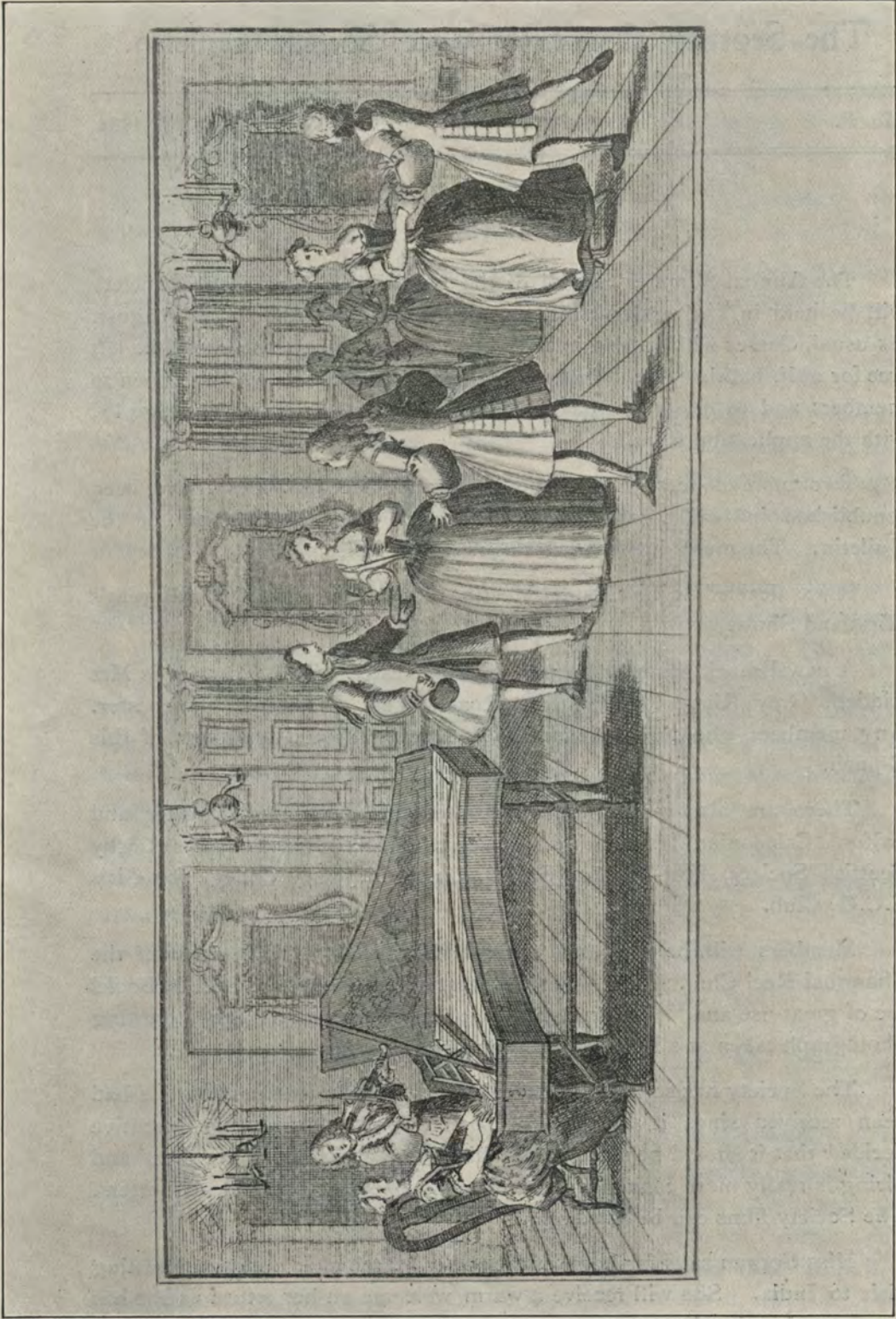
The
Scottish Country
Dance Society
Bulletin.

No. 9.

MARCH, 1936.

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

CALEDONIAN COUNTRY DANCES.

The Scottish Country Dance Society Bulletin.

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Editorial.

The Annual Summer School of the Scottish Country Dance Society will be held in University Hall, St. Andrews, from 3rd to 17th August. As usual, classes will be held in the forenoon, and the afternoon 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.

Two more dances, Eightsome Reel and Greig's Pipes, have been republished in leaflet form, and are issued with this number of the Bulletin. The music has been arranged by Mr Wiseman.

It was decided at the General Meeting not to take a stand at this year's Highland Show.

A new Branch has been formed in Manchester. The Secretary is Mrs Liddell, Grey Rigg, 717 Princess Road, West Didsbury, Manchester. Any members who have friends in Manchester should tell them of this Branch.

There are also several new Affiliated Societies. Manchester and Salford Caledonian Association, the Hartlepoons' Burns Club, Rugby Scottish Society, Fort-William S.C.D. Club, the Jersey College for Girls S.C.D. Club.

Members will be interested to read the article by a member of the Shanghai Reel Club. In a letter the Secretary says that the S.C.D. Books are of great use and "their repertoire is extending rapidly." An interesting photograph taken at a recent dance was also received.

The Society has sold the film projector. So few requests for it had been received since it was bought some years ago that the Executive decided that it should be sold. The hire of a projector is not great and hiring is really more convenient than having one sent from Headquarters. The Society films can be hired still.

Miss Forgan sails for home at the end of March after a most interesting visit to India. She will receive a warm welcome on her return as she has been greatly missed.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting.

The twelfth Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Country Dance Society was held on Saturday, 9th November, 1935, in the Salutation Hotel, Perth.

Lord James Stewart Murray presided and over 200 members were present.

Apologies were intimated from Lord Inverclyde, Sir J. Lorne Macleod, Mrs Hamilton Meikle, Mrs George Macintosh, Mrs M'David, Mrs Shand, and Mrs Drummond.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

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

The Chairman remarked on the excellence of the Reports, showing as they did the growth of the Society in its membership and its influence. He announced the formation of a new branch in Manchester.

Mrs Stewart, Vice-President, in moving the adoption of the Annual and Branch Reports said that one of the most interesting items was the success of the team sent to the International Folk Dance Festival. The Team danced well and the interest and co-operation of the whole Society was shown by the fact that nearly the whole cost of the London visit had been met by donations. Mrs Stewart urged the members to try to interest in Scottish Country Dancing people who were already interested in dancing and thus gain new members.

Mr Duncan seconded the motion.

The adoption of the Financial Report was moved by Sir Malcolm MacGregor and seconded by Mr Forbes.

The election of Office-bearers for the year 1935-36 was as follows:—

Chairman—Lord James Stewart Murray.

Vice-Chairman—Mr J. Hubert Low.

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

It was decided to hold the General Meeting of 1936 in Glasgow.

The Chairman congratulated the members of the Society once again on the work done by them during the year. They had shown unflinching interest in all the activities of the Society. Lord James spoke of the Scottish dance music played by the B.B.C. It was, he said, gratifying that the B.B.C. gave regular programmes of Scottish dance music but it was a pity that there was so little variety in these programmes and that the actual perform-

ance lacked the spirit of the dance. He hoped that members as individuals would co-operate with the Society in approaching the B.B.C. on this matter.

Lord James made regretful reference to the death of Mr Kidd the representative of the Greenock Branch and to the illness of Mrs Shand.

It was decided to publish a further book of 12 dances in 1936.

This ended the business.

After the meeting a The Dansant was held in the Salutation Hotel, organised by the Perth Branch. There was a large attendance of members who greatly enjoyed a varied programme of Scottish Country Dances to the delightful music of Mr Reid's band. The thanks of the Society are due to Mrs Pinkerton and her committee for their organisation of a particularly successful and happy Autumn School.

Scottish Country Dancing in England.

The Formation of a Branch of the Scottish Country Dance Society in Manchester has surprised many people and has led them to wonder how much interest in Scottish Country Dancing exists in England. There is a surprising amount. Already there are affiliated Societies in Hull, Ilford, Manchester and Salford, Leicester, Portsmouth, Rugby and in the Island of Jersey. These affiliated societies are mostly Caledonian Associations and are composed of Scottish people who want to dance these old dances at their social gatherings once again. All over England however there is a large number of people who are interested in, and are studying Scottish Country Dancing. At present this interest is shown chiefly by teachers, who have recognised the educational value of the dances. They realise the vigour, the precision of technique, the training in rhythm, deportment and team work which are essential to a well performed Scottish Country Dance. Classes in Scottish Country Dancing are run by Teachers' Associations in Birmingham, Bradford, Durham, Hull, Leeds, London, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, St. Helen's and Sunderland, and many of the teachers take the Scottish Country Dance Certificate Examination.

The Children in these districts are taught Scottish Country Dancing as part of their physical training lesson, and the Board of Education Syllabus mentions Scottish Country Dancing as a suitable addition to Physical Education.

There is now a direct move to include Scottish Country Dancing in the Musical Festival Programmes, and this year Nottingham and Southport have added classes for Scottish Country Dancing.

The Physical Training Colleges in England all include Scottish Country Dancing in their Syllabuses, and Anstey College has held an examination for the Scottish Country Dance Certificate for a number of years. This year Dartford students are working for this examination.

All this does not perhaps carry out the main object of the Society—the re-introduction of these dances into the Ballroom, but it does at least create an interest in, and a desire for a more social type of dancing.

The Shanghai Reel Club.

BY HARRY K. STRACHAN.

The Shanghai Reel Club now occupies a very definite place in the life of the big International Settlement in China, and it has been of very definite use. The writer came to China some 25 years ago, with piping and dancing two of his greatest hobbies. He was amazed, considering the strength of the Scottish community and the fact that the annual St. Andrew's Society Ball is easily the biggest social event of any year, to notice how very few Scottish people have even the most elementary knowledge of reel-dancing and how few could show anything approaching grace or confidence in the execution of the few steps they did know. He immediately advocated the formation of a Reel Club, and Dr. H. Couper Patrick enthusiastically associated himself with the idea. The two kept at their agitation for several years, but the response was nil. It was not until five years ago, spontaneously it would seem, for no one quite knows how it came about, that a meeting was called and a Reel Club formed. Mr James Macbeth, one of the few in Shanghai who could dance, was elected the first President and continued in that office for four years, being succeeded a year ago by Dr. Couper Patrick, and these two enthusiastic and popular Scots probably have done more than any others to keep the Club alive and bring it to its present state of success. For tuition the Club has relied upon the writer, Messrs W. M. M'Lennan, A. Y. Tait, and two or three others, with invaluable assistance during their brief periods in Shanghai of pipers from the Royal Scots Fusiliers and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

From a very small beginning the Club has grown to a membership of roughly 100, and it has a fairly regular average attendance of some fifty or sixty at its gatherings twice a week all through the winter season. There are occasional "small dances" at which the programmes are confined almost exclusively to reels and Scottish Country Dances.

For the first two seasons the Club did not progress beyond the foursome and eightsome reels and that mongrel measure, the Caledonian Quadrilles, which, bred in the East (many accredit it to India), appears now to have become established. Teaching was very hard in the early days of the Club, and often heartbreaking, for here we have what is called "the Shanghai mind," the sufferers from which have a fixed idea that they need no tuition on any subject known to civilisation and that they can, each and severally, do anything far better than anyone else can demonstrate. The results in many cases were ludicrous, for there is nothing more absurd than a strapping fellow in Highland garb floundering through a reel like an elephant with tender toes. However, there were some who were keen to learn whatever they could be taught, and the showing they eventually made seemed to spur the others to greater efforts. Nowadays, on any Scottish dancing occasion, Shanghai can muster a good 150 or more able to give a most creditable display of reel dancing.

Unfortunately, no one appeared with sufficient knowledge to make a start with the Scottish Country Dances until the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders joined the garrison. Pipe-Major Sinclair, a splendid instructor, who was the greatest help to the Club, had the necessary experience, and he started the Club on a course of intensive training. Again they were fortunate, for Mr A. Y. Tait developed a flair for these dances, and, sending home for instruction books and music, made an admirable substitute for Pipe-Major Sinclair when the latter departed. The Club now regularly dances Strip the Willow, Petronella, the Dashing White Sergeant, the Circassian Circle, Flowers of Edinburgh, the Schottische, and some others, and is rapidly extending its repertoire. Pipe-Major Wellsted, of the Shanghai Scottish Volunteer Company, and Messrs W. M. M'Lennan, A. Watt, and W. Todd (luckily all dancers), see to it between them that the Club always has at least one piper every dance night, so the Club gets along very well. There seems no reason to think otherwise than that the organization will continue to grow, for it is becoming stronger every season and the members are showing a real interest in it. It might be mentioned that, although directed entirely by Scottish men and women, and having the blessing of the powerful Shanghai St. Andrew's Society, the membership is by no means confined to Scots. A variety of nationalities are represented at all its gatherings, and Englishmen, Americans, and others show as much enthusiasm as the Scots.

The Autumn School.

Mrs Pinkerton and the members of the Perth Branch are to be warmly congratulated on a most delightful Autumn School. Perth itself was a particularly central and suitable place to hold the meetings—the record number of over 200 members at the Annual Meeting showed this—but everything was made so easy for people from a distance that that also contributed to the large attendance.

Hospitality was kindly given to many, yet over 50 Scottish members and those from across the Border made a short but pleasant stay in the Salutation Hotel.

Miss Milligan's class for Book 10 on Friday evening was filled to overflowing and was happily reminiscent of a Summer School social evening at St. Andrews.

On every hand visitors were conscious of the kindness and hospitality extended to them.

The Dansant with music supplied (to the pleasure of all) by Mr Reid and his band, which was held on Saturday afternoon, provided an excellent finish to a most enjoyable gathering.

M.W.M.M.

Book 10.

By LORD JAMES STEWART MURRAY.

With the completion of Book 10, the S.C.D.S. has now published 120 Scottish Country Dances. Owing to the great interest which is now taken in the movement, new opportunities have been made available for research, and many more delightful dances have been found. The best ones are usually collected locally or are found in manuscript collections of dances which were popular at the various social gatherings of the period. Many of these have also been found in the books which were published periodically by contemporary dancing masters. Presumably only the best of these passed the test. The titles often throw some light on the origins of the dances. Often the names of the tunes are considerably older than the dances themselves. The names Maggie Lawder, Crieff Fair and There's nae luck about the Hoose are typical examples, for Wilson's Companion to the Ballroom was not published till 1816. Lady Mary Douglas is probably a contemporary tune composed in honour of some patron of Scottish dance and music. We owe a debt of gratitude to these leaders of a former Scottish social world whose patriotic sentiment was responsible for the many beautiful tunes and dances which have been handed down to us.

"*Lady Jean Murray's Rant.*" The lady in whose honour both this dance and the tune were composed, was the elder daughter of James, 2nd Duke of Atholl. Neil Gow was at the beginning of his career appointed fiddler to her father, but it is unlikely that Neil was responsible for the original tune which is a very poor one. The tune which has been substituted was composed by Donald Dow, another famous Atholl fiddler.

Lady Jean and Lady Charlotte were the Duke's only children, and it is possible that the tunes and dances called after them were composed by some Edinburgh dancing master, for on the outbreak of the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, these two young ladies were sent to Edinburgh for safety. Lady Jean was attractive, and it may be assumed that she achieved considerable success at the various balls which took place at the Assembly rooms. Here "Eightsome Minuets" were danced and probably "Strathspey Minuets" as well, for Prince Charlie himself had asked for this dance when he visited the House of Lude in Blair Atholl. Lady Jean complained that her allowance was insufficient to supply her with the necessary clothes, but the Duke was short of money, and Lady Jean's entreaties were quite ineffective. Duke James's two brothers were notorious Jacobites, he alone supported the Hanoverian Government. So Lady Jean made another attempt, for her letter still exists in which she writes "I shall turn bankrupt with all my frugality, which is so great that I am almost suspected to be a Jacobite for wearing a tartan gown to save money." Two years later Lady Jean Murray married the Earl of Crawford. The marriage was contrary to her father's wishes. She died abroad six months later from fever.

Lady Jean was probably a frequent visitor to Castle Menzies. The manuscript of country dances which was written here is dated 1749. This is the date of her death. Three dances from this collection are published in Book 10. The most interesting is called "The Infare" or "Will ye marry Kitty." The word "Infare" is described in Jamieson's Dictionary as "an entertainment given to friends upon newly entering a house." The same word is found in the following passage from "Harbour's Bruce," which was written between 1316 and 1396. "For he thought to mak an infar till his men." It is hoped that the publishing of this old dance may be the means of bringing this very expressive word back into our language again.

The Bowman m.s.s. of country dances was written at about the same time as the Castle Menzies Collection. The dance called "The Scotch Bonnet" has lately been discovered in this manuscript in almost the same form as it was found in Roxburgh, but there is an important difference which shows how dances tend to become changed in our rural districts.

Another dance "The Shepherd's Crook," also collected in Roxburgh, has an entertaining tune. The pipe tune now known by that name and a reel called Dunkeld Bridge are both variants of an original tune called Donside which was published by Bremner in 1759. Certain figures in the dance suggest that it belongs to the latter part of the 18th century.

Hey, Jenny, come down to Jock.

Jocky he came here to woo
 On ae Feast day, when we were fou,
 And Jenny pat on her best array,
 When she heard that Jocky was come that way.

Jenny she gaed up the stair,
 Sae privily to change her smock,
 And aye sae loud her Mither did rair :
 "Hey, Jenny, come down tae Jock."

Jenny she came down the stair,
 And she came bakein and bingein ben,
 Her stays they were lac'd, and waist it was jimp,
 And a braw well made manti gown.

Jock's ta'en her by the hand,
 Says "Bonnie lass will ye fancy me ;
 My father is dead, and left me some land,
 Wi' braw houses, twa or three ;

And I will gi' them a' to you."
 "A heath," quoth Jenny, "I fear ye mock."
 "Then foul fa' me gin it be na true ;
 If ye'll be ma Jenny, I'll be your Jock."

Jenny she's gane up th' gate,
 And a' her coats as white as her smock :
 And ae so loud as her mither did cry,
 "Wow, has na Jenny got Jock."

From a new and complete collection of Scots songs.

Sig Corri. Edinburgh: Printed by Corri & Coy.

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

Circassian Circle.	Scottish Reform.
Corn Rigs.	Speed the Plough.
Dashing White Sergeant.	The Punch Bowl.
Duke of Perth.	The Waltz Country Dance.
Flowers of Edinburgh.	The Merry Dancers.
Glasgow Highlanders.	The Eightsome Reel.
Petronella.	Greig's Pipes.

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, Queen's Ferry Road, Edinburgh.

Miss M. W. Kenyon, 93 Herries Road, Glasgow, S.1.

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

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

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 to 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.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Tenth Annual Summer School of the above Society will be held at University Hall, St. Andrew's, Fife, from 3rd to 17th August, 1936.

Two weekly courses will be held as follows :—

FIRST COURSE. Monday, 3rd August, to Monday, 10th August.

SECOND COURSE. Monday, 10th August, to Monday, 17th 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 ten 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, 3rd August, and 10th 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 20th 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.

