

FLORA MACLELLAN CLIPDALE ISLE OF EGG.

Aged 82

Mrs Maclellan is the widow of Duncan Maclellan, from whom Donald Mackay notes the words of *Danusa Mór*.

Danusa Mór: She told us that in her young days, the dance differed from the version described by Hugh MacKinnon (p. ) only in that during the singing of the verses by X and Y, all the men released hands, and X and Y went back into diametrically opposite pieces anywhere in the ring. It was danced by as many as pleased.

White Cocksade: Mrs Maclellan gave us a description of this dance exactly like that of Mr Maclellan of Benbecula (p. ). We asked her if she remembered the earlier version in which the first man twisted his hancie into a rope, laid it on the floor, and danced round it. She said she did, and (without prompting on our part), said that he danced steps like those of The Sward Dance, and danced clockwise. She was quite certain on this point.

The Scotch Reel, etc: She told us that on Egg, about 80 years ago, they did not do the 'figure 8' in the Scotch Reel, but used a circle figure instead. To begin the dance, the two couples faced each other (Fig. 1), the lady standing on her partner's right. The lady passed across in front of her partner, who stood still until she had passed him, and then fell in behind her. The ladies danced round in a circle and return to their original places. The two men follow their partners round but end back to back in the centre facing their own partners (Figs 2-3).



Fig. 1.

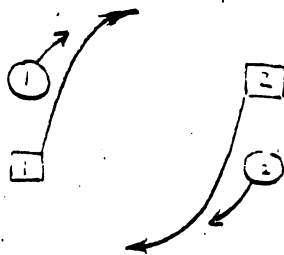


Fig. 2.

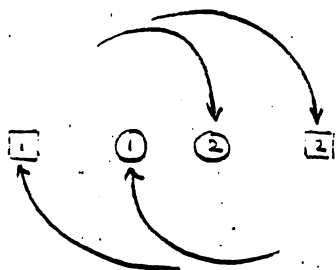


Fig. 3.

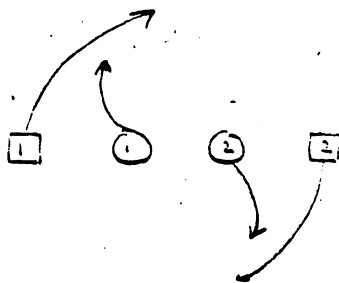


Fig. 4.

They then set, facing their partners, & then danced round in a circle again. The time they all began simultaneously, & the men simply fell into place behind their partners.

The ladies could do the same steps as the men if they pleased, but they usually do "sidesteps" - low down. Both men and girls nooned and snapped their fingers.