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2nd October, 1953,

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Flett,

I am sending to you now the music of the Dannsa Mor, with my apologies for having taken so long to do so. This has been on my conscience for a long time but during this summer I have found it impossible to do all the things which were waiting to be done, and I am only now beginning to find time to tackle the arrears. I have not yet obtained the music of the Pin Reel from Mrs. Donald MacIsaac but hope to do so as soon as they are clear of the harvest. Thank you for the copy of the words of the Dannsa Mor - I enclose a rough typed copy of the full lay-out.

The music of the Dannsa appears to be in the Key of D, in Common Time. In the first part, the music consists of three groups of four bars each, these groups being linked by the last bar of each group being identical throughout. I have tried to give an accurate indication of the speed; but although I have marked the chorus as "slightly faster" It is possible that it should be at the same speed as the first verse, the change of rhythm being responsible for the impression of increased speed. However, I think it is sung a little faster. With regard to the rhythm, in the music of the first verse in the first part of the Dannsa the first and third beats in each bar are strongly accented. In the chorus the accent is the same on each beat, giving it an even rapid running effect throughout. In the verses after the first, the bars are sung alternately by two men inside the circle of dancers; the first man sings bars one and three fairly slowly, but the other bars are sung in the same speed as the first verse, into which they lead.

In the entire second part of the Dannsa there are only two bars of music which are repeated over and over throughout verses and chorus with a steady, monotonous rhythm (perhaps suggested by the mill-wheel) at the same speed as Part One.

Although D. G. MacLennan in his book gives the impression that a girl takes part in the Dannsa, and the words imply it, the old people here are definite in stating that they have never known a girl take part in the Dannsa.

'With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Walter J. A. MacKenzie

First Verse and last few lines of each subsequent verse in the first part.

All wi - die a sudden de all a sudden - an,
 we - die a sudden a mo - de - with - an,
 sped! The above goes down every seven seconds

Silence after each Verse of the first part.

the - de - wi - die wi - die wi - die wi - die an
 the - de - wi - die wi - die wi - die wi - die an

After: Hymn 104 - esp. suitable to these first parts.

3: Verses of first part after the first!
 These were slow and steady | One does as fine then as that alone!

After: Hymn 104 - esp. suitable to these first parts.

the or our bairns a bairns, a gun or a rifle gear;

the or our bairns a bairns, a gun or a rifle gear;

5

Part 2 of the Danish old,

first time many attempted over and over for all voices and others of the parts.



one night a' winter day,
the night is wintry,

there is a frosty wind,

it

+

5

19th March 1953

Dear Mrs. Flett,

Your letter to Oliver & Boyd has been forwarded to me by Mr Hugh Watson, brother of the late Professor J. Carmichael Watson. He thought I would be able to deal with it as I am editing Volumes v and vi of *Carmina Gadelica*. I have not been through all the Carmichael papers, as the portions I had to deal with had been set apart by J. Carmichael Watson. In the portions I have dealt with I have only come across two things bearing on your query. One is a song concerned with the dance *Cailleach an Dùdain* (Vol. i, 206), which is as follows:

Chailleach an dùdain,
Chailleach an dùdain,
Chailleach an dùdain,
Cum do dheireadh rium!

Chailleach an dùdain,
Chailleach an dùdain,
Cum do chùl rium,
Cum do cheathramh rium!

Chailleach an dùdain,
Chailleach an dùdain,
Null e! null e!
Cum do cheathramh rium!

Chailleach an dùdain,
Chailleach an dùdain,
Sios e! suas e!
Nuas na beirearan!
Cum do chùl rium!
Cum do cheathramh rium!

- i.e. Carlin of the mill-dust, (thrice), keep thy rear to me!
Carlin of the mill-dust ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ (twice), keep thy back to me,
keep thy quarter to me!
Carlin of the mill-dust (twice), over with it! back with it! Keep
thy quarter to me!
Carlin of the mill-dust (twice), ~~xxxxwithxxxx~~ down with it! up with
it! let it not be brought down (?)! Keep thy back to me! Keep thy
quarter to me!

The other is a small note: 'Marbhadh na Béiste Duibhe', the killing of the ~~black~~ black beast (otter), or 'Togradh an Dobhrain Duinn', the desire of the brown water-dog (otter), was the name of a dance containing much action.

These two items, to the best of my recollection, are the only ones of this nature I have come across. The remainder of the Carmichael papers are now deposited in the Library of Edinburgh University and it would be

TEL. KELVIN 22

8807 to 8810

arduous task to search through them in their present state.

I am,

Yours sincerely,
Angus Matheson

Lecturer in Celtic, University of Glasgow

114 Unive
Glasgo
11th Ma

Dear Mrs

your usi
Dùdain i
to l e
Librarian
apprecia
offprint
of the E
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dance in
of Carmi
appeared
further

Ask. 17

ir present state.

At the University of Edinburgh (the University of Glasgow) Gairloch City Folk Song Society has been formed by students of the University. They have a journal and a collection of songs and poems which is to be published annually. It is intended to include some material from the old folk songs of Scotland and Ireland. I am enclosing a copy of the first issue.

I would like to know if you would consider publishing the words of the Cailleach an Dudain in your article. It may be as well to have the formal permission of the Librarian of Edinburgh University. I would appreciate it if you would send me an offprint of your article in the Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. I amxxixxx may be including the words of the dance in a collection of words in Vol. VI of Carmina Gadelica and if your article had appeared by then I could refer to it for further information.

TEL. KELVIN 2231.



THE UNIVERSITY,
GLASGOW, W.2.

114 University Avenue,
Glasgow. W.2.

11th May 1953.

Dear Mrs. Flett,

I have no objection to your using the words of Cailleach an Dudain in your article. It may be as well to have the formal permission of the Librarian of Edinburgh University. I would appreciate it if you would send me an offprint of your article in the Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. I amxxixxx may be including the words of the dance in a collection of words in Vol. VI of Carmina Gadelica and if your article had appeared by then I could refer to it for further information.

Yours sincerely,

Angus Macleod

Ask. 17.5.53.

3 hours, 2 horses, a bottomless水库 (or
who will keep me company (?), ~~who~~ (or
perhaps it should be chimideachadly, who will
assist me?), who will dance (with me),
who will leave me company (?), but a body
with a turist in it?

(C) My cock would dance ('Mr. Reel') ~~on~~
the floor
With Macknay's cock,
My cock would crow on the roost
though I should decapitate it (as
tattoo the head out of it).
That is the cock which was 'foppish'
With the French coat +
He would sell to another cock
In Macknay's cellar
(+ is a Turkey cock?)

I was interested in the 'Big War Dance'.
I had heard of it but had not come
across it. I believe John home
Campbell of Canna recorded it.
The best known Pudda an Indian
is in Shige, of which a family of
Mac Ashkells were tackmen, and
the name Bennett occurred
among them.

I would be glad to have an
offprint of your articles as I

10th July 1953.

would like to have a copy of
the Trig War Dance.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Angus MacTavish

AN DANNSA MOR.

Rann: Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Verse. Ubh a uidil-an,
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Hal-da-uidil ubh-an.

Fonn: D D D B A A A,
~~air~~, F F E D D,
D D D B A A A,
B A A B D D.

Seisd: Si ubh uidil uidil uidil,
~~Si~~. Hal-dar-al uidil an,
Si ubh uidil uidil uidil,
Hal-day-uidil ubh-an;
Si ubh uidil uidil uidil,
Hal-dar-al uidil an,
Si ubh uidil uidil uidil,
Hal-day-uidil ubh-an.

Fonn: D D F E E D D D,
~~air~~ B B B B A A,
D D F E E D D D,
B A A B D D;
D D F E E D D D,
B B B B A A,
D D F E E D D D,
B A A B D D.

Rann: Tha or aig Coinneach a Rudha,
'S gun or aig a h-uile fear;
Tha cr aig Coinneach a Rudha,
'S aig fear Rudha 'n Dunain.
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Ubh a uidil-an,
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Hal-da-uidil ubh-an.

Fonn: A D D E E E F,
~~air~~ B B B B B A A,
A D D E E E F,
B A A B D D;
D D D B A A A,
F F E D D,
D D D B A A A,
B A A B D D.

Seisd:

Rann: Pog do nighean a' Ghobha,
'S gun phog dha'n a h-uile te;
Pog do nighean a' Ghobha,
'S do ogha Mhic Luais.
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Ubh a uidil-an,
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Hal-da-uidil ubh-an.

Seisd:

Rann: Bidh poll air osan nan toll,
'S tric air feadh nan nighean e;
Bidh poll air osan nan toll,
'S bidh e feadh na duthcha.
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Ubn a uidil-an,
Ubh uidil a thurabh a,
Hal-da-uidil ubh-an.

Seisd:

Rann: Ciamar a ruitheas mi'n nighean?
'Sdithis a's a' rathad orm;
Ciamar a ruitheas mi'n nighean?
' S cearnadh air an urlar.

AN DANNSA MOR.Part 2

2.

Seisd: Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir Oig,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir Oig,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir Oig,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir Oig,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir.

Fonn: D D D D D E,
 F D D D D A,
 D D D D D E,
 F D D D D A,

Rann: Ubh is ubh is ubh,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Ubh is ubh is ubh,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Gu de loc a rinn mi?
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Gu'n d'laighmi le saighdear,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Nach iomadh te rinn e?
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir.

Seisd:

Rann: Mo ghaol a' Ministeir Buidhe,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Mo ghaol a' Ministeir Buidhe,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Cuide riut a dheanainn suidhe,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
 Anns a gharadh 'm boidh na liubhean,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir

Seisd:

Rann: Cha teid mise chun a' stcil,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Cha teid mise chun a stoil,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Gus am faigh mi gun an t-sroil,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir;
 Aparan buidhe gu bord,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir.

Seisd:

AN DANNSA MOR.

3.

~~Rann:~~ Dhannsainn le trombaid,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
~~Dhannsainn le trompaid,~~
~~Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,~~

Rann: Dhannsainn le trompaid,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
~~Dhannsainn gun trompaid idir,~~
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
~~Dhannsainn le fidhleir,~~
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
~~Dhannsainn gun fidhleir idir,~~
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir,
 Le sadach na muile,
 Arsa nighean a' Mhuileir.

~~Seisde:~~

TEL. KELVIN 2231.

THE UNIVERSITY,
GLASGOW, W.2An Daonna Thair

- V. 1. Kenneth of the Rudha (headland) has gold,
 and not every man has gold;
 Kenneth of the Rudha has gold
 And so has the Goodman of Rudha an Dhuimh.
2. A kiss for the Smith's daughter,
 without a kiss for every girl,
 A kiss for the Smith's daughter
 and for MacLucas' granddaughter.
3. There will be mud on the tattered hose (can also = leg of trousers),
 Oft is he (or perhaps 'it') among the girls;
 There will be mud on the tattered
 hose,
 And he will be ranging the country
 (or it might mean; the news will spread through the Country side)

4. How shall I chase the girl:

When there are two in my way?

How shall I chase the girl

when there are four on the floor?

('four', reading ceathair. If ceannadh is correct, I am not sure of its meaning here. Cearn can mean 'corner, angle')

Part. II Chorus. Said the daughter of the young Diller,
Said the daughter of the Diller,

Verse 1. Ibh and ibh and ibh (ibh = something like alas, woe)

What bairn have I done?

I lay with a soldier,

Has not many a girl done it?

2. Ory love is the yellow-haired Dmister

" " " " " "

With thee I would sit

In the garden of herbs.

3. I shall not go to the stool, (of repentance?)

" " " " " "

Till I get a satin gown,

And a yellow apron for show.

4. I would dance with (=to?) a trumpet,

I would dance without a trumpet at all,

I would dance with (=to?) a fiddler,

I would dance without a fiddler at all,

With the mill-dust.

2

An Dannsa Mór

Part I. Chorus.

Ùbh uidil à thurabò à

Ùbh à uidil-an

Ùbh uidil à thurabò à

Hal-dar-uidil ùbh-an.

Si ùbh uidil uidil uidil

Hal-dar-uidil ~~uidil~~ uidil an

Si ùbh uidil uidil uidil

Hal-dar-uidil ùbh-an.

Verses. 1.

Tha òr aig Coinneach a' Rudha,

's gun à aig a h-uile fear;

Tha òr aig Coinneach a' Rudha,

's aig fear Rudha 'n Dùnain.

2.

Pòg do nighean a' Ghobha

's gun phòg dhà'n a h-uile te,

Pòg do nighean a' Ghobha

's do agha Mhic Lìcais.

3. Bidh poll air osan nan toll,

'S tric air feadh nan nighean e;

Bidh poll air osan nan toll,

'S bidh e feadh na dùthcha.

+ Ciamaor a ruithreas mi'n nighean,

'S dithia a's a' rathad omg?

Ciamaor a ruithreas mi'n nighean,

'S ceannadh + air an urlar?

Part II.

Chorus

Arsa nighean a' Mhùileir Òig

Arsa nighean a' Mhùileir.

Verses. 1.

Ubh is ubh is ubh

Gu dé lochd a rinn mi?

Gu'n d'laigh mi le saighdear,

Nach comadh te rinn e?

2. Mo ghaol a' Ministeir Buidhe,

Mo ghaol a' Ministeir Buidhe.

+ Possibly 'seathran.'

✓?

Cuide ~~mitt~~^{mitt} a dhéanainn suidhe

Anns a' ghàrradh 'm b'odh na luibhean

3. Cha téid mise chun a' stòil

Cha téid mise chun a' stòil,

Cus am faigh mi gùn an t-sròl.

Aparan buidhe gu bòsá.

+ Dhannsainn le trombaid,

Dhannsainn gun trombaid idir,

Dhannsainn le fidhlair,

Dhannsainn gun ~~f~~ fidhlair idir,

le sadach na ~~muilne~~^{muilne}.

Also the following songs:

- (a) Mórag bheag nighean Mhurchaidh an t-saoir
 Murdoch's daughter Murdoch the joiner's daughter
 's astron a dh' fhalbhadh i, 's astron a dh' fhalbhadh i,
 mother a glane i, 's mother a glane i
Mórag bheag nighean Mhurchaidh an t-saoir
 Murdoch's daughter Murdoch the joiner's daughter
 's astron a dh' fhalbhadh i a phòsadh.
 mother a glane i a posadh.

[Transl. of above (?)

Wee Morag, Murdoch the joiner's daughter.
Light she would go, light she would go.
Wee Morag, Murdoch the joiner's daughter.
Light she would go to her wedding.]

- (b) Trí criodhan, dà criodhan, trí criodhan caorach.
Trí criodhan, dà criodhan, criodhan caomachadh maoil
chuideachd. Caoracha?
Có théid a chuideach team, có théid a dàindhannsac?
Có théid a chuideach team, ach criodhan is carf cam an
- (c) Ruidhleadh mo choileach air lár
Ri coileach Mhíche - Amhlaidh
Ghairmeadh
Gairmeadh mo choileach air spàrn
Gàidhleann an ceann as.

Sud an coileach a bha spòrsal

Leis a' chóta thrangach,

Shearadh & rith coileach eile

Ann an seicear Mhíche - Amhlaidh.

Also the following phrases or names.

6

(a) Sail ^{na} dara coise

Ainn am baean na coise eile

[Transl' of above (?). 'the heel of one foot in the mstep of the other']

(b) Co' ghoid an t-inneadh a Tiuray

Co chir no chàrd no shniamb e?

[Transl' of above (?). 'who stole the wool from Tiuray',
Who teased or carded or spun it]

(c) Coille Bharrach

??
[Barra Wood]

= Birch wood?

(d) Long Bharrach

[Barra Ship.]

(e) Pòg an toiseach

[Kiss first.]

(f) Dannsa bho balla ^{gur} balla [Dance from wall to wall]

(g) Gillean ^{an} aic Eilidh

[Hads with the heir.]

Ruidhle na fionn?

Ruidhle nam fleasach?

??

(h) Ruidhleadh na?

[Pin Reel.]

(i) Ruidhleadh na

[Batchelor's Reel.]

(j) Ruidhleadh nam Banfraicheang

[widower's Reel.]

Widows?

(primarily means 'widow'
but sometimes used
for 'widower')