

NEIL MACDONALD CHIA DALE, ISLE OF EIGER.

(Aged 5)

Mr Macdonald is the son of one of the men who brought Dannsa Mór and Marshadh na Béisie Duibhe to Eiger.

Dannsa Mór: Mr Macdonald told us that Dannsa Mór should be danced by 12 men only. In his youth, during the singing of the verse, all the men released hands, and X and Y went back into diametrically opposite places ~~anywhere~~ in the ring. While they were singing the verse, X and Y sometimes used to go outside the ring. He thought that V stood still while X sang the first line of the verse, and only moved while singing the second line. The "grief" in the first verse about the Miller's daughter was very overdone, the "sobbing" man almost touching the floor with his forehead.

He and his wife were quite certain that the dance started with the verse beginning "Tua ór aig Coineach a' Rudha". He said also that in this first part of the dance there is a verse missing. It was about a fishing boat & a net used with it, & some objects which were in the sea.

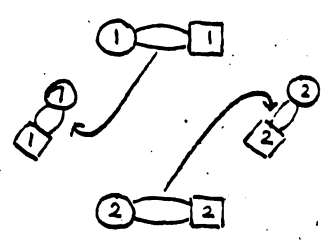
To begin the chorus, the men just waltzed into their places - there was no "whole turn & spring". During the chorus, the dancers hopped round, hopping as high as they could, with the right leg held out horizontally. They used normal gait. Otherwise the dance was as described by Hugh Mackinnon (p.)

Marshadh na Béisie Duibhe: In the old days, Mr Macdonald told us, the dancers would fashion an otter out of an old sack stuffed with straw and fix a tail to it. The "dance" was exactly as described to us by Mr Mackinnon, except that to nearly all the otter, the hunter gripped it behind the ears & banged it now against the ground. The otter would often hide beneath the caller's long skirt. The whole performance lasted about half an hour.

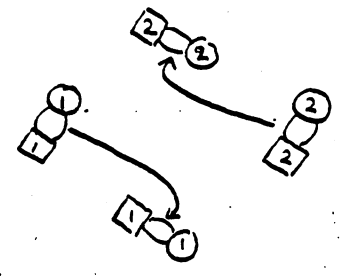
Dannsa na tunnaig: He saw this done as a solo by an adult about 70 years ago. The dancer danced round the room on his hunkers, & used the kind of step

The Scotch Reel, etc: He remembered the "Old Style" as he termed it, described by Mrs MacLellan. He said that the ladies had different steps from the men. The men, or also "feery girls" wobbled & snapped their fingers.

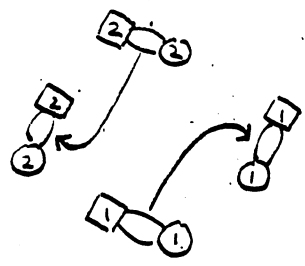
He also told us that they danced the usual Country Dances on the island - Petronia King C. More, Flowers of Edinburgh, etc. but there were no strathspeys. He remarked that the pousette used for Petronella was performed in diamond formation, using 'scaly hold' & something like skip-change-of-step.



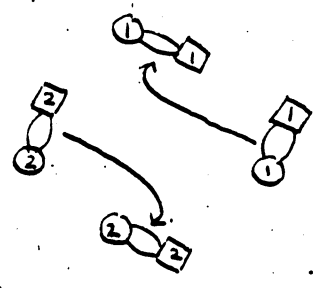
Bar 1.



Bar 2.



Bar 3.



Bar 4.

of probably prompted here
Now doubtful of this.

Bars 5 and 6 as bars 1 and 2 respectively. On Bar 7 half turn & drop back to own sides on bar 8, having moved up or down one place.

For the reel portion of the Scotch Reel they used 'skip-change-of-step' but for the strathspey portion they used a step consisting of

1. Step forward on 'L' foot
2. Circle around R.
3. Repeat ..
4. stop on R & bring L to 3rd normal aerial pos.

From the ...