

Dear Frank,

I stayed over in London until Tuesday, and spent some time in Cecil Sharp House looking for descriptions of steps of the date of the Howe MS. I have found most of them, but a few still defeat me.

Whilst I was in Cecil Sharp House, I had a talk with Sara Jackson and Douglas Kennedy. Items emerging were.

- 1) S.J. told me that ~~she~~ throughout her time at Cecil Sharp House she has received enquiries about step-dancing, but simply could not be of any assistance. The interest has been roused recently because people have seen ~~some~~ several different exponents - previously it was just Jackie Toaduff and no-one else.
- 2) In the course of a conversation about step-dancing, D.N.K. put forward a half-hearted apology for the previous neglect of it. He said that Clara Boyle ~~was~~ (one-time Cumberland organist) was very keen on it, but they did nothing much with it. Then when Peter K. went to the N.E. & discovered ~~a~~ a living tradition there, he (D.N.K.) decided to concentrate on that rather than to try to resurrect ^(nearly) the dead traditions of the other parts of England. They effectively made Jackie T. their official demonstrator in order to spread a knowledge of its existence (I forbore from asking why they did not arrange weekends when J.T. could teach it).
- 3) Julian Pilling is a school-teacher in Nelson - I have his address.
- 4) Patricia Tracey is a ~~young~~ ^{aged ca 22} girl from the N.W. who now lives in

London. She ~~just~~ learnt clog-dancing from some-one in the N.W., & is fairly expert. Since she is much more articulate than Jackie T ("she has theories about clog-dancing" - S.T.), D.N.K. has invited her to the Staff Conference at Shrewsbury. I will prime Beryl ^(Vivian) (who will also be there) to get as much information out of her as possible. When we know a bit more about her, do you think you could see her - I will pass on what information I get from Beryl. Patricia Tracey's address is

(5) Merryn Plunkett is regarded as a menace in Cecil Sharp House.

(6) The E.F.D.S.S. hope to hold a Collector's Conference in November of this year. I gather that M.P. is prodding the Society into this, and I rather feel that D.N.K. is not too hopeful of any useful outcome. In fact my impression from the whole conversation with D.N.K. is that ~~he is physically and mentally tired, and that events are now~~ he is being pushed into various things by pressure from outside rather than being ahead of the field himself.

I suggested to S.T. that you should be invited to the Collector's Conference, a suggestion which she welcomed.