

[REDACTED]

Southampton

11.2.60

Dear Tom,

Sorry this is not quite by return - I have had to take a day in bed to shake off a cold.

1. I'll mull over your comments on English step dancing and tell you what I plan to say after I've been to Devon this weekend.
2. Sword dance etc - I wanted to distinguish essentially 'competitive' dances over ~~destacles~~ (the more dangerous or fragile the better), which I think of as akin to other dances involving feats such as putting out candles, from those with a more significant ~~own~~ background. As you rightly say, the Manx ~~disk~~ dance is ceremonial; but surely the ceremony must originally have signified justice or strength ~~valour~~ in the Manx kings? I consider in leaving out the ~~Manx~~ dances - though I must point out that while they have affinities with Irish dancing, Mona's Delight (in Set 1) is of pure Gtswold Morris form, and in the solo jig, Keep the Old Petticoat Warm (in Set 2) the step described in B7 1, 2 is ^{one} of the highfield Morris capers which I have not met elsewhere.
3. If you are writing to Sam Steele and Pat Tracey you can say that I should be glad if they would show their style with one step each - that is all I wanted from them.

4. Also for the disk, would you show the style with half the first step and half the 'ripping' step - these can be made to run on and look fairly complete.

5. I didn't know the date of Miss Gayton. We want demonstrate any doubtful High Dances and just put in Miss G as a dancing masters dance.

6. I would like you to do a fair chunk of the old words. I will show the form of the modern words, bacca pipes etc but not dance them right through. I should like you to send me the MacFarlane step. Miss G + Hing are over to you. I will show development of steps in H.L/S.T. (including a Nova Scotia step) and also dance four steps of Roddie's.

Will you do MacFarlane S.T + get Leslie to do the games (intro, + 2 steps - half each only).
to do Blue Bonnets?

Is Skelley going to be there? If not, perhaps I could show 2 steps of 1st Aug + you or Leslie ~~2 steps of~~ Blue Bonnets to contrast the styles.

7. I'll write again concerning step dancing after this weekend.

8. I'll work up the crunch - and hope to have a good problem for you before then too.

9. I will do Flowers of Edin if you wish. The tune goes A, B, B etc for circle, step with RF and step counterclockwise etc.

10. Beryl could work up Liverpool Hornpipe with warning.

(a). Step forward and toe heel toe etc

(b) Catch in R + double treble L moving R etc

(c) Catch in R + treble L, fudon L throwing R to 4th inst lower
fudon R + catch in L etc.

- Possibly also the turning step - but not the others yet for a public show.
11. I have my own copies of the Journals now - and I returned the 'News' two weeks ago. But you don't need the news - relevant quotes are in the Journal 1927.
12. You just caught me in time on the Saddlesworth dances - the letter to John Springer was written but not posted. The other person working with Alan Roughley is Mrs D Bradshaw, 1 Kinders Lane, Greenfield, Nr Oldham.
14. There are lots of interesting references to dancing round a 'lock' places on the ground - one particularly relevant one is that of a long sword dance in which the lock is placed on the ground and the men, in two sets of 3, dance ~~to~~ hand 'step + key' reels. I shall steer clear of Morris + Sword too, for I am ~~at~~ realising how much is written on them which I have not read.
15. Thanks for the notes which I return - I'd like to look at them again later.

Sorry I couldn't get this to you by Wens - I was thinking that your class was Saturday. I got back from Oxford on Monday at Midnight - read your letter hastily and retired to bed. I have only just started thinking properly again.

Yours
Frank.