

10a Downside Crescent

London N.W.3.

August 17th 1955

Dear Mr Flett,

I'm sorry to say that I have just returned from my BBC summer trip which took me to the Orkney Islands. They did not wish me to work again in the Borders as Francis Collinson of The Scottish School of Studies will be working there this summer. You might like to contact him at the School, 27 George Sq., Edinburgh, mentioning that I suggested you do this.

If I had known earlier that you would be free I might have wangled something on the return from Orkney but it would have had to have been this month.

With regard to Orkneys you'd probably like to know what dances they have, though I expect you already know more than me. I was more concerned with recording songs and dance-music; Descriptions of dances are not very useful recorded material for BBC.

There are plenty of people who still remember how to do "The Bride'S Reel" which was an eightsome or sixteensome danced only by women. Not the modern eightsome but an old Scotch Reel, of course. I have recorded the tune from people on the Mainland but it was also done on other islands. They were very keen on Grand Marches and I've got some very nice tunes. Other popular dances were Country Dances like Rory O'More, Triumph, Meg Merilees but they're seldom danced nowadays. Strip the Willow they do in the same style as Drops of Brandy in Northumberland (step) but they omit the first part of figure.

*Bob Kennedy*

*Can you tell me if "The Bride's Reel" is known and published?*