

29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 59

126, Railway St. <sup>717</sup>  
Nelson lanes.

Dear Tom

May I thank you and Joan for the extremely pleasant day I spent with you. I had intended writing before, but then I delayed thinking I might obtain some dancing information that would interest you, I have not yet the title of the pamphlet on Scot. dancing but there will be no difficulty there.

I have a few more steps from Upton Hobson of Colne, he has been ill all summer & lost the use of his legs but is fortunately improving now. The main teacher of dancing in his young days in Nelson (clog & sand) & acrobatic dancing was Edith Roberts, now married & called Edith Drinkwater & resident in Fife. she danced as "Dot Arden". She will be 79 now & Mrs Hobson is going to try to get her address for me. Have you any friends in Fife? The gymnasium in Broad St Nelson was the

centre for clog dancers. Upton Hobson's father was a stone-mason & travelled around a bit following his trade. The family used to dance to his playing the 'cello' & Upton's sister on the piano. He doesn't remember much & his illness has visibly affected him, two dances he remembered by name. Lancers & The Jig, both were long ways. The tune used for the jig was 'Shoo fly' & it began: forward & back & crossover. (& presumably back again) He showed me a step which I presume was used for setting.

- 1 step diagonally forward on left
- 2 step to the side on right
- 3 step back with left
- 4 close right.

Through Upton I have also got on the track of Morris in Nelson - they were also called 'Nut dancers' (there were also nutters in Rochdale as well as Bacup) This is the first intimation of anything other than fluffly which existed for a good period between the wars.

Have also met + seen dance another clog man: Henry Whittaker - another style altogether only three steps comprise his dance I think. I am going to see him next Friday, he is an exponent of vegetarianism, Bates' eye exercises + long healthy walks in the country. He dances having been taught. Possibly, but his relaxed rhythm is very pleasing. he uses high stepping  $\frac{4}{5}$  rather suggest, the heel + toe.

I have a book called 'Consult Me' published 1902. It gives cures for cancer, toothache, etc recipes for dandelion wine - well it includes French Terms Used in Dancing, instructions for. First set of Quadrilles, The Caledonians, Lancers' Quadrilles, Mayanka, Galopade (sq.) Country Dance - Dashing white Sergeant. (duple-minion long ways) The Schottische. Sir Roger de Coverly Valse a trois temps + Valse a deux temps. ~~Also~~

Also I have a record, pre 1914, by Tom Joy called My Farewell to Sarby Brig (Sawby Bridge) <sup>Yorkshire</sup> which is a ~~humorous~~ account of a country dance - no information but interesting from the mention.

Both these I will let you have next time I see you

I think that's about all. I have started to write my information up in some semblance of order!

By the way how do you interpret a poussette?

All best wishes

Julian.

P.S. Do you know anything of 'Gentle Boys'? London East End. Dressed as women, step dance to Barrel organ.