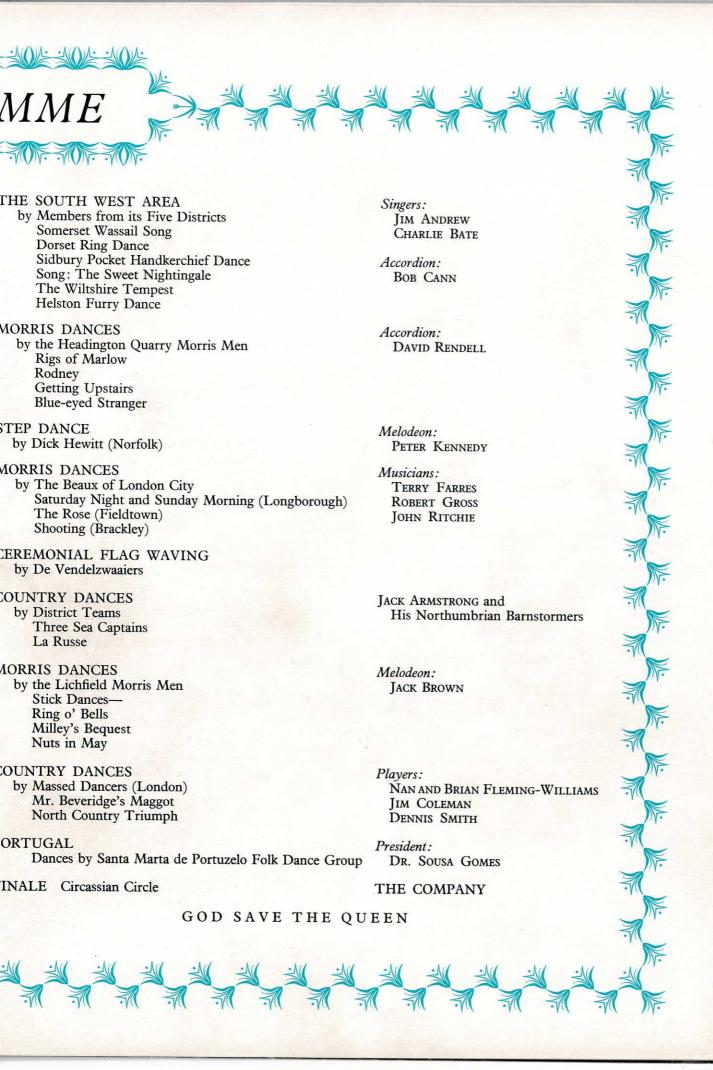
English Folk Dance & Song Society Festival



Royal Albert Hall

9-10 January 1959

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 2/6



Musicians

The Overture and Intermission are played by a company of fiddlers, part of the corps of folk dance musicians acquiring the special skill needed for the playing of traditional tunes. The technique of this specialist playing has been aided by the gramophone and broadcasting, but it finds its inspiration in the fiddling of surviving traditional players scattered throughout the British Isles.

The English School of traditional playing is represented to-night by the Northumbrian Barn-

stormers, led by Jack Armstrong.

The recognition of the value of this living tradition, and the growth in the number of players who follow it is one facet of the many-sided programme of work carried out by the Society in recent years.

The Morris Dance

The Morris is represented by three men's Clubs. The Lichfield Morris dances are of particular interest in that the knowledge of them has been acquired very recently and they have been revived after a considerable lapse of time.

The second team is famous as inheriting a living tradition which, with only brief lapses, has been maintained at Headington Quarry, Oxford, from a remote past. It was from the predecessors of this Club that Cecil Sharp received his first stimulus to revive folk dancing in England. Headington Quarry has a special nack of self-entertainment at Christmas, and the dancers in addition to giving their version of the Morris are performing a Mummers' Play and Sword Dance.

The Beaux of London City have acquired a reputation for their Morris. Their Club is one of seventy belonging to the Federation of Clubs known as the Morris Ring.

Step Dancing

In different parts of England a certain amount of traditional club dancing and step dancing persists. This type of dancing is associated with the North of England Sword Dance. Another variety of solo step dancing belongs to the Morris—a good example being the Bacca Pipes Jig danced over crossed churchwarden pipes.



BEAUX OF LONDON CITY at Windsor