

LET'S DANCE

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TO THE GENTLEMEN By Grace Perryman

There are many more discussions as well as illustrations of women's folk costumes than men's, therefore, this article will be directed to the masculine side of folk dancing. Men's costumes add a distinctive note to the riot of color which is such a prominent part of all our festivals, either as a complement to women's costumes, or as in some instances, as a challenge.

The men's costumes have been divided into five groupings, each one having basic articles from which to work. The illustrations are not costumes in themselves, but foundation articles upon which costumes may be built. It is well to keep a completed picture of the costume in mind at all times, if important details are not to be overlooked. Some costumes do not lend themselves to any generalization and have been omitted from this article.

Latin-American costumes which include Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Mexican, Cuban, and the countries of Central and South America, almost always include dark trousers with slashes of colored material at the ankle, or braid down the side seams. The traditional Spanish, as well as the Flamenco gypsy of Northern Italy, have very high-waisted and tight fitting trousers, sometimes loose at the knee and lower leg, but tight at the ankle and hips. Colors may be black, grey, tan, or blue, depending on locality. The Mexican Charro's trousers are also very tight fitting with a very ornate design down the length of the side seams as well as across the front and back. The trousers are usually black with white trim, trimming may be either braid or cut-out leather. The Italians either have long black, plain trousers, or straight hanging knee length pants. The Portuguese fishermen also often wear knee length pants. The Aragonese gypsy of Spain wears knee length velvet pants laced at the sides over white linen trousers that hang below the knee.

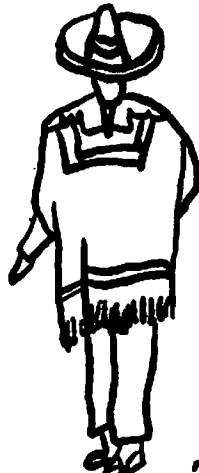
The shirt worn with these costumes is usually white. The Flamenco's shirt may be of any bright color, figured or checked, with long full sleeves gathered into a cuff at the wrist and open at the neck. The Spanish and Portuguese wear black string neckties tied loosely under a flat collar. The Mexican Charro, when not wearing a jacket, may have a shirt of any color cut short at the waist, the tails tied in front, with large pockets on either side. His shirt is usually embroidered across the back and pockets. A bright windsor tie of red and green is worn with the shirt. The Cuban has a distinctive shirt, commonly called a rumba shirt. It may be either white, or colored, with narrow ruffles the full length of the sleeves, having a narrow band at the neck. The Brazilian may also wear a rumba shirt.



Spanish, Portuguese,
 Italian, Cuban



Russian, Polish,
 Hungarian, Estonian,
 Lithuanian



Mexican,
 Peruvian
 Chilean



Swiss, Bavarian,
 German, Austrian



Scandinavian
 Irish, Welsh.

Except for the high waisted Spanish and the Mexican Charro costume, the men always wear a wide sash. The Spanish and the South Americans usually wear their sashes wound smooth around the waist, while the Portuguese and Italians wear theirs with loose ends hanging at the sides.

Jackets worn with these costumes are short waisted, not buttoned at the front and trimmed with embroidery or braid. The Spanish gypsy, Portuguese and Italian often wear a sleeveless vest or bolero. The Spaniard and Mexican may wear a bright sarape folded lengthwise and hung over one shoulder.

The costume is completed with a hat. The Spanish, Flamenco, and South Americans wear a flat brimmed, felt hat with a square crown, usually black, at a very jaunty angle. The Portuguese, Italian, and Aragonese, wear a round crowned felt hat with the brim rolled slightly upward. The Mexicans wear a huge, peaked, sombrero, with a wide brim rolled upward of straw or felt, heavily embroidered. Some Portuguese as well as Italians wear stocking caps, while a kerchief tied about the head may be used in many of these costumes.

The Panamanian costume is identical with the Mexican Charro and the Argentine Gaucho with the Spanish flat hat and short jacket. The difference being in the trousers which are wide and tucked into short boots. A wide leather belt and a double triangular embroidered cloth is worn over the trousers, the purpose of which is protection while riding, like the American cowboy's chaparajos.

The Anglo-Saxon countries of England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Pioneer America, Germany, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, France, and Bavaria, have a wide variety of costumes. The Irish and the Welsh are so like the Scandinavian that they will be discussed in that grouping.

The English do not offer much in color outside of the ancient Morris dancers, or Robin Hood's men. The Pioneer American is known to all. The Scotch Highland Plaids costume is quite distinctive and worthy of specific study.

The German, Austrian, Swiss, and Bavarian usually wear short trousers made of chamois skin worn with wide suspenders with gaily embroidered cross pieces in front. Knee length hose which leave the knee bare, in former times were worn only to the ankle, leg and foot hose being separate. The shirts are white usually open at the neck, often worn with short sleeves. A small, soft, felt hat is worn with flowers or feathers at the side. Sleeveless sheepskin jackets are worn, or coats similar to suit coats, with fancy frogs across the front for buttons. Vests are also worn, cut low in front, with heavy chains draped across them from which to suspend hunting medals.

The Frenchmans characteristic articles of clothing are the peasant smock and the beret. The smock worn with dark trousers is usually of a plain solid color, worn without a belt and finished with a narrow band collar. A kerchief may be tied around the neck.

The Dutch costume is more distinctive, having long full trousers gathered in at the ankle. A white shirt with a wide collar worn outside the short, double breasted, jacket, which is adorned with very large buttons, and a pillbox cap with or without the visor, completes the costume. Colors may be brown, tan, blue, or black. The jackets are sometimes red.

The Scandinavian countries of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and also Ireland, and Wales, are all very much alike. Knee length trousers fastened below the knee with "garters" of bright cords, or buckles. The double breasted vest closes high in front, buttoned with either gold or silver buttons. The vest is made with a gaily striped or figured material in front, contrasted with a plain, solid colored back. The Irish vest may be green. The shirt is white and may have a little embroidery on the collar and cuffs. The tie for the Scandinavian and Welsh is a narrow, gaily colored, striped or figured ribbon, or tape. The Irish wear a wide green or black, windsor tie. Long stockings are worn which are held up by buckles, or cord "garters" tied at the knee. The Swedish, Irish, and Welsh may wear long tailed coats of black, brown, or blue. Trousers may be in yellow, tan, blue, black, and sometimes green for the Irish.

The Slavic countries including Russia, Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary, Jugo-Slavia, Estonia, Lithuania, Roumania, and Bulgaria, almost always wear trousers wider than the average (but not extreme) tucked into boots. Typical Polish trousers are made of red and white striped material. The Czech and Roumanian may wear tight trousers embroidered on the front, tucked into boots, while the Hungarian-Magyar may wear very wide white trousers hanging loose over their boots. The shirts are usually white with very wide and ornate sleeves loose at the wrist, edged with lace or embroidery.

The Russian, Lituianian, and Estonian shirt or smock, may be of any color with embroidery on the band collar and cuff, and sometimes on the hem. The shirt is usually worn outside the trousers with a narrow belt tied at the waist. The Polish shirts are usually white with full sleeves gathered into a cuff at the wrist, without embroidery. The Jugo-Slav, Bulgarian, and Roumanian wear plain ordinary white shirts.

The Russian Cossack coat is a long flowing garment worn with a heavy ammunition belt and dagger, with a fur hat which is rather hot for dancing. The Poles wear a similar coat without sleeves and with a plain leather belt. The Estonian, Lituianian, Slavonian shepherds wear long vests, almost to the knee, heavily embroidered and trimmed with fur. The Bulgarians, Jugo-Slavs, Czechs, and Hungarians wear a short bolero often heavily embroidered. The Czechs have small white embroidered cap sleeves in their boleros. The Hungarians wear a bolero cut low in front, waist length, resembling a vest.

The Jugo-Slav, Bulgarian, Czech, Roumanian, and some Russian costumes, wear pillbox caps. The Hungarians and Poles wear soft felt hats with flowers on them. The Russians wear high fur hats, as well as small caps with visors, worn also by the Estonians and Lituianians.

Indian costumes of Mexico, and of Central and South America are of a different type. The Mexican, Peruvian, and Chilean always wear white trousers, cut like pajamas. The Mexican wears a white or colored shirt with the tails tied in front, and sometimes a sash tied about his waist. He wears leather sandals or "guaraches" and a straw sombrero. His sarape is worn like a poncho, with his head thrust through a slit in the middle of the blanket. The Peruvian and Chilean also wear the poncho, but the shirt is a short one hanging outside the trousers. The hat is a round crowned felt with a rolled up brim.

The Guatemalian costume is made of woven material of dark colors and typical design. The trousers are rather short, being above the ankle. The shirt is also short, of the same material, and is usually hanging outside the trousers, sometimes tied at the waist with a woven belt. A woven head band similar to the belt is worn about the head.

A great deal more could be added if space would permit. We hope that the information given will prove of value to you.

AUGUST FESTIVAL

The August festival of the Folk Dance Federation of California was held on Sunday, August 26, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Tamalpais School, San Rafael, with the Tamalpais International Folk Dancing Society as hosts. The day was warm and bright and dancing on the lawn was very pleasant. Exhibitions given by the host group, Chang's International Folk Dancers, and the Scandinavian Folk Dancers were nicely done and applauded by an appreciative audience. Our thanks to the Tamalpais International Folk Dancing Society for another happy outdoor festival.

SEPTEMBER FESTIVAL

The September festival will be held on Sunday, September 16, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. Palo Alto, with the Palomarians as host group. Council meeting at 12:00 o'clock. The festival will be held in the park lying between the Railroad and 101 Highway, near the railroad depot. To those going either by train or Greyhound bus it is only necessary to get off at the Palo Alto depot in either case and find yourself within one half block of the park. Don't miss what may be the last outdoor festival of the year.

VOLUME ONE

Volume 1 of dance descriptions being published by the Folk Dance Federation of California is ready for the printers. Its title will be, "Folk Dances from Near and Far." The first edition will be limited to 500 copies which will be distributed by a sales manager yet to be appointed. More details next month.

INACTIVE GROUPS

The following clubs have become inactive: The Sierra Club, the Stanford Folk Dancers, and the San Jose Peasant Dancers. We hope that they will all be with us again in the future.

WOODMINSTER FESTIVAL

Those who took part in the Woodminster International Dance Festival will be glad to know that the Folk Dance Federation of California has been asked to hold the date open next year for a similar exhibition. The program this year was given to a capacity crowd which enthusiastically applauded the dancers.

YOUR CLUB AND MINE

SAN JOSE POLKATEERS by Dottie Frost

Armed with a hammer and a gasoline lantern the San Jose Polkateers dance outdoors one night a month at Alum Rock Park. The use of the bright light and the pounding of the hammer (used to keep the floor together) soon attracts the passerby. Club members invite those who come along to take part in simple progressive dances and a great deal of fun is had by all.

Club members, under President Bill Stevens, are planning to be hosts to the Federation at a festival in the near future.

GATE SWINGERS by Patricia French

To the tune of the Victory Polka, the Gate Swingers are cheering the peace that will return so many of their boys home again. The Monday Night Square Dance group hoped to enjoy an impromptu victory celebration but missed the good news by a day.

President Ken Wade received a birthday present of a wrist watch from his "gang". The whole Central "Y" from square dance enthusiasts to "lobbyists" are awaiting the annual Labor Day outing at Jones Gulch when its dancing until sunrise.

CASTLE PROMENADERS by Tecla Barry

The Castle Promenaders have been fortunate in having Miss Avis Landis, Director of the New Century Club Mexican National Dancers to teach them the intricate Jarabe Tapatio and Las Altenitas. The Castle Promenaders were entertained at Durant Park, Saturday, September 1, by members of the Fun Club of San Francisco, who honored Myrtle Thomas with a birthday cake large enough to serve the entire group and guests. Everyone enjoyed the occasion.

TULARE FOLK DANCERS by Florence Rata

The Tulare Folk Dancers held a party at Mooney's Grove which included picnic suppers and rowing on the lake, followed by dancing in the pavilion. Spectators attracted by music, remained to watch the dancing. In this manner folk dancing was introduced to over 100 people from all over the County.

The group meets regularly every other week at the Tulare High School Auditorium, or at Memorial Hall. An electric fan and iced lemonade keep the members going even with the temperature hovering between ninety and a hundred degrees.

On August 5, the Tulare Folk Dancers danced at the Springville Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Springville, which is located in the Sierras. Swimming and refreshments followed.

OAKLAND FOLK DANCERS by Betty Pearson

The Oakland Folk Dancers entertained Federation members on Sunday evening August 5, at the Park Blvd. Clubhouse. Squares were called by Lt. Ed. Kremers and Sandy Tepfer. The Palomanians did an exhibition and Trudy Tulmer danced the "Highland Fling."

Cookies and punch were served.

Sandy Tepfer and Ed. Kremers have been recent instructors at the regular Wednesdays.

CHANG'S INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS by Jack Kaufman

On Sunday, September 30, Chang's will be hosts to the other Federation clubs at a special outdoor festival to be given at Golden Gate Park, Children's Playground, from 1 to 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Don't forget the Hobby Show of Sunday, October 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. which is to be held at the San Francisco Athletic Club, 1630 Stockton Street. Be sure to attend and see the booth exhibits of the different nations represented.

New teachers for classes starting October 1 will be Song Chang, and Celia Strauss.

PALOMANIANS by Annemarie Steinbiss

The Palomanians were requested to exhibit a wide variety of dances at a Masonic Lodge Banquet recently held in San Jose.

A similar exhibition was given at the Dibble General Hospital and was enthusiastically received. Several convalescents were able to actively join in the fun. The group now have a standing engagement to appear once a month.

At a recent Saturday night party the Palomanians were hosts to a group from the Festival Workshop. Everyone declared it a most successful evening, thanks to the efforts of the Hoffits, Duncans, and others who assisted. These parties, just for fun, are to be held once a month, and will include a business meeting and refreshments.

SQUARE STEPPERS by R. C. Kennedy

The Square Steppers had a chance last month to attend a "Hobo Party" given by Ruth and Harold Reames, with the help of Bertie and Sandy Tepfer. Everyone came dressed in their oldest and most outlandish clothes, some carrying packs. Tents, sleeping bags, and gunny sacks were placed for the guests. Refreshments consisted of chile beans, corn on the cob, salad, and coffee, with apple cider and doughnuts later. The Square Steppers took part in the exhibition at Woodminster with Bill Barr calling the squares. Max, a twelve year old boy, friend of Stan and Bea Little, furnished music with his accordion.

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