

# Background on Dances of El Dorado Scandinavian Dancers for Camelia Festival 2006

## **Slängpolska fran Ovanåker**

A well known Slängpolska from the parish village of Ovanåker in Hälsingland, Sweden. It is based on the memory of Kerstin Törnberg from the town of Edsbyn.

## **Den Halve Kaede (Danish Half Chain)**

A well known dance in Denmark from the region of Sjaelland. The dance was published before 1924, and the music was written by 1901.

## **Rørospols**

A very old example of the Norwegian *bygdedans* or village dance, from the historic mining district of Røros, it developed through the folk tradition, without a formalization stage. All of the figures were portrayed just as they are danced today in a tapestry from near Stockholm from about 1500. It was danced all over Scandinavia for centuries, including at weddings, when the bride would dance it with each male guest, including the minister! A great many Pols tunes have survived, and although originally played on the bagpipes, today they are usually played on the flat fiddle. The music is characterized by driving rhythms, subtle syncopations, and modal keys. Although the dance appears straightforward visually, it offers many opportunities to add to the figures for the experienced Pols dancer.

The Rørospols was introduced to the United States in the 1960's. Consistent with the traditional Norwegian styling for social occasions, we dance it with each couple free to make the transitions between the figures at their own pace. Variations between the couples may be seen in the man's embellishment, and in the woman's footwork, her individual turns, and in the CCW turn (the *vrangsnú*).

## **Karjalan katrilli**

This Finnish quadrille from Soutjärvi in the region of Karelia was first documented in 1940.