

OVER THE WATER

A Joint Newsletter of the Northern Virginia and Washington DC Branches
of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

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* <http://rscds-greaterdc.org> * RSCDS Headquarters, Edinburgh - <http://www.rscds.org> *

BY THE BOOK

Evolution of RSCDS Publications

By Ellie Briscoe

In the beginning, in 1924, there was Book 1. It included dances, tunes, and two pages of instruction on how to dance. Since then, the RSCDS has published over 50 books of dances, frequently drawn from old sources or collected from living memory, even newly devised, and edited to suit current style and practice. Now the Society has gone back to its origins: Books 1-6 are being brought up to date and republished.

Over time, the Society established a pattern of publishing every other year, and later every year, a new numbered book of dances with

music, then compiling a small "pocket book" of the three previous dance books, with no music.

The Victory Book (Book "13"), published after World War II, had the first modern-devised dance: "The Reel of the 51st Division." Book 22 was the first book of all modern dances.

The dance book format was changed in 1999 with Book 40, to a larger format, glossy publication. This continued through Book 45.

In 2005, the RSCDS announced it would no longer publish a separate book with music each year, and would stop publishing the "pocket book" versions of its publications, allowing them to go out of print. New dances, however, continue to be published as leaflets and distributed with the membership magazine.

In order to ensure that the core of RSCDS dances remain

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A Capital Ball

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You may have noticed some changes this year in the Capital Weekend program. Notably, there will be no Friday night dance, and no classes on Saturday. But do not despair; we are still ready to have a fabulous spring weekend of dancing and fun with all our Scottish country dancing

friends, old and new, in the nation's Capital.

Because of renovations to our usual venue, the National Cathedral School, an insufficient notice to find another suitable location for a full weekend event, Capital

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RSCD Publications Cont.

available, the RSCDS is in the process of publishing compilations of the dances from its numbered books, starting with Books 1-6, edited to suit modern terminology and style. These books will not include sheet music, as all of the RSCDS lead tunes have been published in a single book, *Originally Ours*.

The Society also previously published an annual Bulletin listing the groups worldwide and giving accounts of the previous year's activities. According to Jean Martin, in the early years this bulletin was published twice a year, though in a much slimmer volume. The Bulletin format was changed to a large glossy publication in 1997, supplemented by a twice-a-year newsbrief newsletter.

Ultimately these publications were replaced by *The Scottish Dancer*, a glossy magazine, in 2005. The lists of groups were dropped, as the information is readily available on the RSCDS web site, and pull-out leaflets of new dances were included as needed; thus, merging the functions of the Bulletin and the dance publications.

There were at least three non-RSCDS publications by the RSCDS co-founder Jean C. Milligan, published by Collins or HarperCollins, which contained both dance instructions and general

information on how to dance:

101 Scottish Country Dances, including 23 dances previously unpublished by the RSCDS, compiled by Jean C. Milligan, illustrated by Irene B. Stewart, 1956. This has an introduction, 20 pages on the steps, progression, and formations, and illustrations of the steps later used in the Society's manual, *Won't You Join the Dance?*

99 More Scottish Country Dances, 1963. Again, this included some dances not previously published.

Introducing Scottish Country Dancing, 1969.



In 1977, the RSCDS published *Miss Milligan's Miscellany of Scottish Country Dances*. It reproduced, with corrections by Jean Milligan, those dances from the Harper/Collins books which were not included in any other Society publications. Volume 1 covers *Introducing SCD* and *101 SCD*; volume 2 covers *99 More*. The Miscellanies were freshly edited and republished in 2007 as a single volume.

Another "successor" to the Harper/Collins books is the *Collins Pocket Reference*, published in 1996. It was



compiled in association with the RSCDS, edited by Peter Knight. This book covers the history of the dance, the RSCDS, steps and formations, nearly 100 pages of popular RSCDS dances, dances from other sources, ceilidh and party dances.

The Society's instructional material began with Miss Milligan's booklet, *The Scottish Country Dance*, in 1924, revised in 1931. *Won't You Join The Dance? a Manual of Scottish Country Dancing* was published in 1951, and was expanded and revised several times. It was re-written and issued in a small loose-leaf format in 1992 as *The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing*, amended in 1997, and revised and reissued in A4 format in 2005.

The RSCDS has published other materials as well: a syllabus for teaching beginners, indexes to the RSCDS dances, core program for tutors, glossary of dance terminology, etc.

The RSCDS dances form the core of the dancer's repertoire, but represent only a fraction of the books of dances available. In North America, the best source of publications is TACBooks, with a catalog online at <http://www.tac-rscds.org>.

Want to know what's happening? Read the EVENTS CALENDAR: <http://www.rscds-greaterdc.org/events.html>



RSCDS Dance Selection

Previously dances submitted to HQ were looked at by Publications Committee (now Membership Services), with identifying marks removed and whittled down to a manageable number. Sometimes there were lots to choose from and at other times not so many. Then dancing them out begins, which has been done in various ways: dancing by the members of Committee; dancing by a group of experienced dancers who may not be on committee--often in Edinburgh but sometimes at Summer School on a 'free' afternoon; and for books 44 & 45, groups of dancers worldwide were asked to 'rate' the dances. Then the best were selected for publication.

It is my understanding that Branches have been asked/are being asked to submit dances in the near future with a view to producing another book along the lines of Frae A' the Airts (36 & 37).

Jean Martin

A Capital Ball Cont.

Weekend will be hosting A Capital Ball this year. The Ball will take place in the very elegant Hearst Hall Auditorium on March 29, 2008. This beautiful location overlooks the lovely courtyard and grounds of the National Cathedral. The Auditorium has an excellent dance floor and will make a stately ballroom. In addition, parking will be available in the new garage adjacent to the Cathedral.

Joining us for the evening will be musicians Paul Woodiel on fiddle and Susie Petrov at the piano. Paul hails from the New York area and has been described by Leonard Bernstein as "first-class performer—one who combines spirituality with intellect." He is one of the country's foremost exponents of traditional fiddle styles, and he currently teaches traditional fiddle at Wesleyan University. Paul has played all over the U.S. and around the world with his Scottish dance band Local Hero.

No stranger to dancers in this area, Susie Petrov has been playing for Scottish Country dancing since 1980. Also a member of the band Local Hero since 1988, Susie has played for dancers all across the U.S.,

Canada, and Europe. She is currently producing a new CD of music in strict tempo that should be perfect for demonstrations and performances.

In addition to the fabulous music and dancing, there will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the company of your fellow dancers. The Ball on Saturday night will be preceded by a reception at 7:15



P.M. and the Grand March at 7:50 P.M. The Ball will then commence at 8:00 P.M. There will also be a raffle at the Ball.

But if that is not enough fun and socializing for you, the following morning there will be a potluck brunch at the MacLeod's at 11:00 A.M. Maps and directions will be provided at the Ball.

You are encouraged to share your culinary skills by helping to supply the tea table on Saturday

evening. Then you have the chance to reprise your gastronomical triumph the following morning by sharing another scrumptious dish at brunch.

The cost of attendance is \$30 for the ball, with a 50% discount if you have danced for a year or less or if you are currently a student. The brunch is free! You do not have to purchase advance tickets; payment can be made at the door.

You can get all the details about the ball program and registration, and see pictures of the beautiful ballroom at www.capitalweekend.org. If you have questions you can contact Jenn Mayrovitz at (410) 381-3948 or jmayrovitz@verizon.net, or Ralph Stoddard at caberfei@hotmail.com.

Because the renovations to the National Cathedral School will be permanent, it is not likely that Capital Weekend will resume in that location next year. The organizers, however, have assured us that they plan to return to the weekend format next year.

But, whatever the future may hold, we know you are going have A Capital Ball with us on March 29 and 30.

We look forward to seeing you on the dance floor!





DANCERS WANTED

Dancers needed April 16th and May 8th

Dancing is more fun when more people do it. We are all interested in increasing membership in the Scottish Country Dance (SCD) community. Rather than waiting for people to find us, we are initiating a more proactive effort involving outreach. Giving people an opportunity to see us dance, and for us to dance with them, makes a greater impression than reading or hearing about SCD. Joan Rubin has approached prospective groups and organizations to invite us to one of their meetings to demonstrate SCD and engage their membership in participation. We also gain visibility through the host organization's publicity and website.

We've already conducted two recruitments and have scheduled two more. The first was through the Potomac Conservancy at Lock House Number 8 on the C&O Canal, and the second was at the Washington Ethical Society as part of their Winter Festival. Ralph taught the first and Jay the second.

The next recruitment will be at 7:00 on April 16th at the Kensington Park Library, and Ellen is teaching. The fourth will be May 8th at the Twinbrook Library's Spring Dance Festival. I am hopeful that a full set or more of us will be able to participate. Since I will be out of the country from March 7 through 29, **please RSVP as soon as possible** so we can confirm our availability. This would also be a good a time to consider getting together for one or more practice sessions, if that can be arranged. I would like your feedback so we can work out details.

So what are these recruitments and where do we go from here?

1. These recruitments are not intended to be formal demo presentations. We are completely up front with the host organization about our interest in attracting people to SCD and having opportunity to talk to people and distribute flyers.
2. This is not an exclusive demo team. Every member of the branch is encouraged to participate. Some of our newer dancers make our most enthusiastic recruiters.
3. Recruitment venues are all different so we need to be flexible. The primary idea is to have fun and recruit while we are doing it.
4. Most people require multiple exposures to an idea before trying it. In addition to the impression created by going to people and dancing with them is the opportunity try to get email addresses from interested people so we can follow up.

Being proactive requires more effort than waiting for someone to discover us. We are all busy people and don't need one more thing to do. I respect that, and I feel the same way. But I also feel that this is worth the effort.

If you have any comments or questions, I welcome them.

Jim Mielke
jim.mielke@geologist.com



Happy 90th Birthday

Macauley!

By Joan MacLeod

Macauley Howard was introduced to Scottish Country Dance in 1969 by attending the Saint Andrew's Society of Washington's Tartan Ball. At the time the Tartan Ball had two dance bands: Stan Hamilton and the Flying Scotsmen and a more conventional ballroom dance band. The ballroom of the Washington Hilton was filled with Scottish Country Dancers and St. Andrew's Society members, all in formal attire. An impressive sight to experience!

Macauley and his wife, Mary, became members of the Washington dance group in 1970, when there were 140 members, annual dues were \$6 and the year's tuition was \$24. Mac quickly became a regular and served as Treasurer for the group from 1978 to 1982 and was President from 1983 to 1985. He also served as the SCDSW's liaison with the



Saint Andrew's Society for many years. He is an Honorary Member of Scottish Country Dance Society of Washington.

Mac is a dedicated participant in the Monday night dance classes, which he says "is good exercise."

Macauley has a fascinating history. As a son of an admiral living in Washington, DC, he has interesting stories to tell about his

childhood playgroups, playing soccer at St. Albans School and seeing the Hope Diamond being worn. Mac retired from the Navy as a Captain after serving in the Second World War and the Korean War.

Macauley's other interests are golf, naval history and photography. He has volunteered for many years to run the Junior Golf Program each summer at Kenwood Golf and Country Club and prepares and arranges for their awards banquet. Active in establishing the Naval Undersea Museum in Seattle, he still serves as the Washington office liaison. He also volunteers to photograph the various activities at Knollwood, his current residence, and makes his pictures available to the other residents.

Please join the Washington Dance group on Monday, March 17th at NIH, Bldg T-39, to celebrate Macauley's 90th birthday!



Wee Nibbles...



- The 20th Annual Scottish Weekend will be held at Timber Ridge Sept. 19-21, 2008. Information is available at <http://scottishweekend.org>. Don't miss out; it's going to be a fabulous year!
- Argyle XXV is coming Nov. 7-9, 2008, with Muriel Johnstone, Keith Smith, Elinor Vandergrift, and Cecily Selling. You won't want to miss it! See <http://www.argyle-weekend.org> for more info.
- Don't miss the St. Patrick's Day Dance on Sat., Mar. 15 at 2 pm in Richmond. For more information, see <http://scd-richmond.org/StPatricksDay.html>.
- Is there a dance you are just dying to do? NoVA will be holding two Dancers'/Teachers' Choice classes, on Mar. 26 and Apr. 23. Send your requests to Eva Lanyi at elanyi@cox.net.
- The Friday Night Basic Class is going strong. We have several new dancers who are doing really well, thanks to the great teaching by Yvonne Yang. Come Join Us! It's relaxed, casual, and so much fun. You will find the schedule at <http://rscds-greaterdc.org/fridays.html>.
- Elaine Brunken and Ellie and Mel Briscoe will teach an RSCDS teacher candidate class starting this fall. For more information or to express an interest, e-mail mail@briscoes.com or call 703-461-7383.