

FOREWORD

As with previous volumes this book contains 10 tunes, most of which have been found while looking through eighteenth century dance collections. The dance instructions are interpretations or modifications of those set out in the original; the exceptions being Half Century and Newbury Fair.

The tune 'Polwort on the Green' from Vol. 1 of Dr. Crotch's Specimens had been haunting me for some time and Norman Haynes' 50th birthday dance at Wolvercote Village Hall was an excuse to make up a dance for this tune, hence Half Century.

The tune to Newbury Fair will be immediately recognised as Bury Fair, a dance which one comes across only occasionally in this area. When I first met Bury Fair it seemed to me that the instruction to the first woman to 'cast down' was unfortunate. Surely she should have danced down the middle and cast up into the line, she would then have been facing down. Rather than try to change the original version the same basic movements have been arranged in the form of a square and re-named Newbury Fair.

Constant Nymph is a version of The Nymph found in Thompson's Compleat Collection Vol. 5. This attracted my attention because each strain of the music is repeated. The dance is quite different from that given in 'Every Day Dances' and is unchanged except for the substitution of a 6 hand star at C1 to avoid two long 6 hand circles.

I am again indebted to my friends, both dancers and musicians, who have patiently tolerated the necessary experiments with the dances, to John Graham who harmonized the music and to my wife, Pam, who has, among a host of other things, checked the instructions, typed and made them readable.

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