

FOREWORD

As my very good friend Tom Cook remarked some years ago the trouble with looking at old manuscripts is that one thing inevitably leads to another. It does, and here are another ten musical maggots together with dance instructions most of which are suggested by the original text.

The exceptions are The New Allemand, Wooburn Abbey and The Scrutiny, where the dances were made up to use the tunes. Seven sources have been used, Thomas Wall's Manuscript of 1764, Thompson's Compleat Collection Vol. III and Vol. V, Nathaniel Kynaston's 24 Dances for the year 1711 and 1716, The Compleat Dancing Master (Walsh 1718) and an unidentified collection of dances in the Vaughan Williams Memorial Library.

Two of the tunes will be familiar namely The Russian Dance and Buskin. It seems to me that The Russian Dance is a 6 strain sequence and the version given is suggested by Thomas Wall's Manuscript in the Ashover Collection and also by the instructions in Thompson's Compleat Collection Vol. III. Another slightly different version is given in an unidentified collection, and yet another in The Preston Collection. Both the Thompson and unidentified publication use the same tune but the Wall Manuscript tune seems to be unique and I have been unable to find it in any early printed form.

Buskin came to my notice while working through The Compleat Dancing Master for 1718, during 1982. Purcell's tune is a gem and the dance as given here is a triple minor version of my original interpretation. However Bernard Bentley had already published the dance in the Fallibroome Collection so it was not included in my earlier books. There is no suggestion that this is the "correct version" but I believe it does the tune justice.

I am again indebted to the many dancers who have sometimes unwittingly, helped in working out the dances, to the musicians often having single line melodies presented to them at fairly short notice and yet have made the dancing possible, to Wild Thyme for their expertise in working out the arrangements and for producing the cassette, and Pam who has patiently unravelled my notes and made them readable.

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