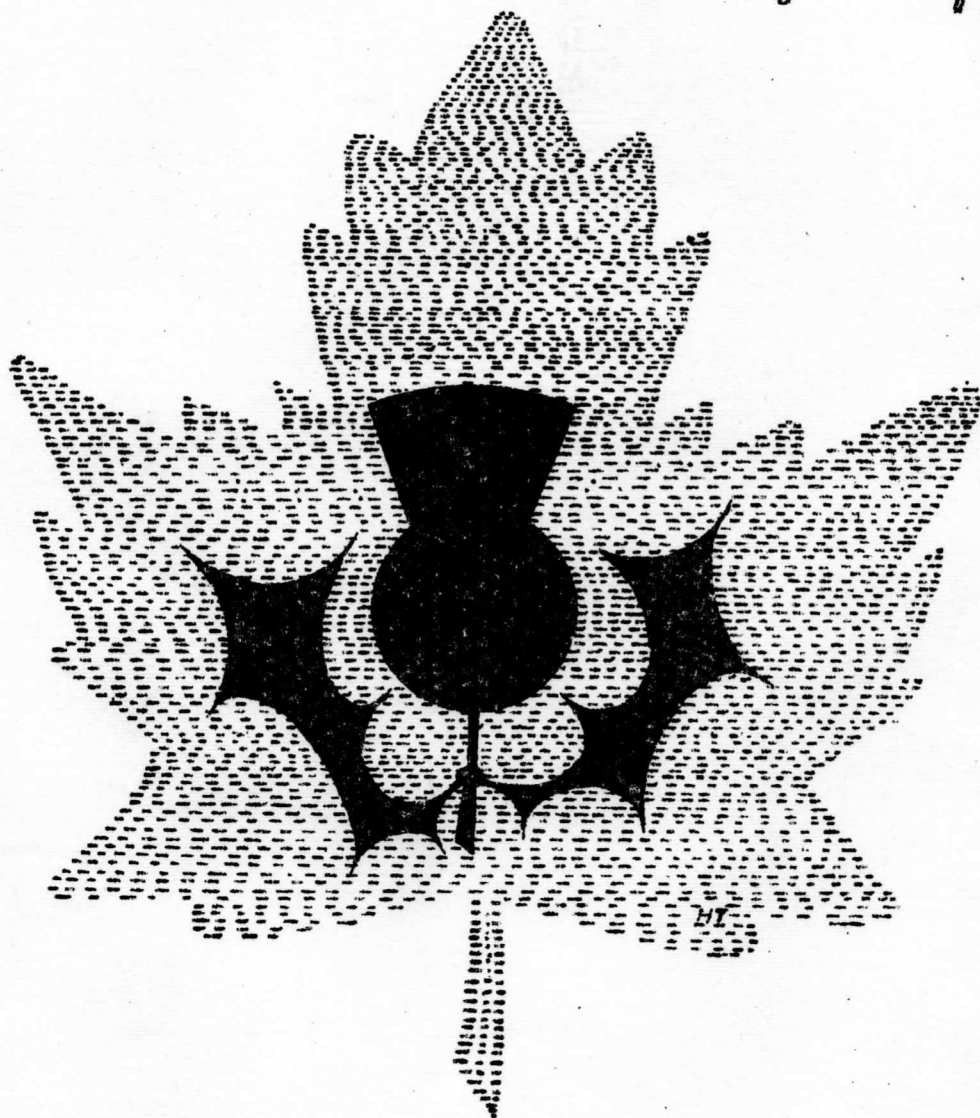


# THE THISTLE

1966-7



Issued by the Thistle Club.

President: Dr. Norman MacKenzie, C.M.G., M.M. & Bar, Q.C., LL.D.

Editorial Address: 3515 Fraser, Vancouver 10, B.C. Canada.

NO. 29.

October, 1966.

## EDITORIAL.

Much of our space this year will be taken up by an interesting and valuable article about a prominent Scottish dancing-master of the late 19th century by Dr. and Mrs. T.M. Flett. It will appear in four parts.

Our magazine and "The Reel" have long had an informal agreement to reprint each other's articles, but this is the first time that an article appears simultaneously (for Dr. Flett submitted it to both). We apologize to those of our readers who subscribe also to "The Reel", but we feel that the article merits wide circulation - and presumably the Editors of The Reel feel the same.

## OUR DANCES, NO. 33 : THE REEL OF THE 51st DIVISION.

This dance was composed during the second world war, at Oflag VIIC, near Salzburg, in Austria, by Scottish prisoners of war. Several people had a hand in its composition, notably J.E.M. Atkinson (of the 7th Argylls) who was inspired by the St. Andrew's Cross, which was the divisional sign of the 51st (Highland) division, to which the 7th Argylls belonged. Another participant in the composition was Harris Hunter, also of the Highland division, who found a satisfactory opening figure. It was finally worked out at dancing-classes organized by A.P.J. Oliver (4th Seaforths), who reached the camp, with many other officers of the Highland division, from St. Valery. (The dance seems to have been originally known as "The St. Valery Reel"). The classes were held on a concrete landing in the prison block, in November 1940.

The camp was dispersed soon afterwards, but the dancers met again in Oflag VIIB, at Warburg, and there on Hallowe'en 1941, the dance had its first public performance, and was presented to the divisional commander, Sir Victor Fortune.

The original dance was slightly different from the version eventually published by the R.S.C.D.S. : it was danced in five-couple sets, and started "first couple set and cast off three places". The tune used in the camp was "My love she's but a lassie yet". Dugald Stuart of the 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders wrote a tune especially for it, but the tune seems to have been lost, and the dance was published in the R.S.C.D.S. Victory book to the quickstep "The drunken piper". It was for a long time the only 20th-century dance recognized by the R.S.C.D.S.

## COMING EVENTS.

R.S.C.D.S. Hamilton branch, annual garden centre week-end, October 14-16 including a Ball (with Stan Hamilton's band) on the Saturday night. Contact: Miss Frances Whitaker, Apt. 102, 222 Concession St. Hamilton. Ont.

Calgary Scottish Country Dance Workshop. November 5-6. Contact Jean Legge, Secretary, P.O. Box 1202, Calgary, Alberta.

Vancouver Branch Party, October 22nd. Contact the secretary, Mrs. T. Black, 109 W. 15th, Vancouver.

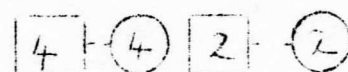
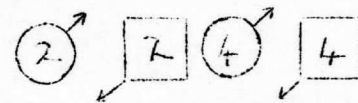
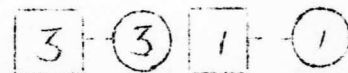
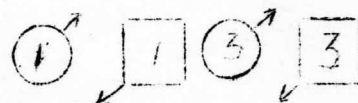
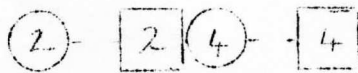
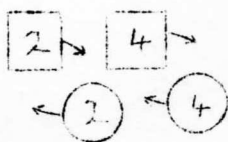
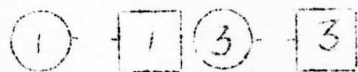
OUR DANCES, NO. 34 : MISS BONNY PARKER, by Harry C. Ways.

A strathspey designed for exhibitions on stage. The set forms as shown in diagram 1.

BARS.

- 1 - 4 Couples 1 and 2 dance half rights and lefts. Couples 3 and 4 do the same.
- 5 - 8 Couples 1 and 2 dance right hands across, first lady and second man dancing in to finish back to back in diagonal line. Couples 3 and 4 do the same. (See diagram 2).
- 9 - 12 Couples 1 and 2 dance right shoulder half reel of four on diagonal. Couples 3 and 4 do the same.
- NOTE - Bars 5-12 flow smoothly, with no interruption in movement.
- 13 - 16 Couples 1 and 2 dance half strathspey pousette to finish in each others places. Couples 3 and 4 do the same. (Diagram 3).
- 17 - 20 Couples 1 and 3 dance  $\frac{1}{2}$  reel of four, centre persons facing out and passing right shoulder with partner to begin. Couples 2 and 4 do the same.
- 21 - 24 All four couples dance eight hands halfway round. Finish as in diagram 4.
- 25 - 28 Couples 1 and 3 dance half reel of four as in bars 17-20, couples 2 and 4 do the same.
- 29 - 32 Couple 1 with couple 2 dance four hands round. Couples 3 and 4 do the same. Finish as in diagram 5.
- 33 - 64 Repeat from new positions. Note that in addition to facing the opposite direction, dancers have changed relative positions in the set.

Suggested Music: The Scotsman in America - J. Blair.





## DAVID ANDERSON OF DUNDEE AND HIS BALLROOM GUIDES. I.

by J.F. and T.M. Flett.

During the nineteenth century, many Scottish dancing-masters published small pocket ballroom guides containing brief instructions for all the popular dances of the day. Most of these pocket ballroom guides are now very rare, and in some cases only unique copies seem to survive. Of all these ballroom guides, the most encyclopaedic, and the most valuable for the study of the history of Scottish dancing, are those published by David Anderson of Dundee. Professor Thurston, in his *Scotland's Dances* (Bell, 1954) has given much information about the dances described in Anderson's *Universal Ball-Room and Solo Dance Guide*. More recently, in our book, *Traditional Dancing in Scotland* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1964) we have given a brief account of David Anderson himself, and of the style in which he taught. In this article, and those which are to follow, we hope to amplify this account, and to give further material from Anderson's publications. In writing these articles we have made use of information given to us by various of the informants listed in our book, and, in particular, by Mrs. C.F. Stewart, a daughter of David Anderson, who helped him in his classes, and by Mrs. Martha Dingwall, a well-known Highland dancer and herself once a teacher of dancing in Dundee. We have also used information given in Anderson's own books.

David Anderson was born about 1850, and was a full-time teacher of dancing from about 1870 until his death, about the year 1911. His principal dancing school was always in Dundee, but in addition he taught in the neighbouring villages and towns; about 1885, for instance, he held classes in Brechin, Broughty Ferry, Perth, St. Andrews and Tayport. In the summers he travelled further afield, and we have heard of his classes in places as widely separated as Alford in Aberdeenshire, Dingwall, Inverness and Kingussie.

In his early years he competed regularly in Highland Games, and he was one of the leading competitors of his day. In one of his books, he recorded that his most successful period was from 1878 to 1887, when he was aged about 28 to 37. By 1885 he had won a total of 1381 prizes, and between 1878 and 1885 he won one fifth more prizes than any other competitor. In 1885 he took 79 first prizes, 34 second prizes, and 11 third prizes.

Throughout his career as a teacher, David Anderson taught solo Highland dancing as well as ballroom dancing (in those days ballroom dancing included Reels and Country Dances as well as various Quadrilles and Waltzes). However, from at least about 1895 he was best known as a teacher of ballroom dancing. He used the City Assembly Rooms in the centre of Dundee for two or three nights a week for his public classes, and these were crowded - "it was a job to get in". He also held private classes at his Academy in Bank St. In later years his daughters assisted him, and an advertisement in one of his books c.1900 reads as follows.

"Private Lessons Conducted personally by MISS ANDERSON at Academy, 1 BANK STREET, DUNDEE, In all the Popular Ball-Room Dances, the Waltz being a special feature of this course. Pupils can rely upon having the utmost satisfaction, MISS ANDERSON (member of the British Association of Teachers of dancing London), having gone through a Special Course of Lessons by the Leading Professors in London, Brighton, and Paris. Skirt Dance, Minuets, and other Ornamental Dances Taught.

"Mr ANDERSON'S Selected Quadrille Band. FROM 1 MUSICIAN UPWARDS.  
For Garden and Children's Parties, also Private Dances, etc....

"Can arrange for any number of Pipers, also Ladies and Gentlemen  
Refined Characteristic Dancers. N.B. Terms as Floormaster, One Guinea".

In David Anderson's later years as a teacher, Country Dances had  
begun to fall out of fashion in the larger Scottish towns, and according-  
ly in his lessons in his central classes in Dundee he taught only the  
Country Dances still popular, namely Petronella, Flowers of Edinburgh,  
Maymakers, Rory O'More and Strip the Willow (we are here using the term  
'Country Dance' in the traditional Scottish sense of a longways progres-  
sive dance). He also taught the Scotch Reel (though this was seldom  
danced in Dundee after about 1895), together with Quadrilles, Lancers,  
Waltz Country Dance, Circassian Circle, and various Circle Dances, such  
as the Waltz and Polka.

In the more rural districts, Country Dances retained their popular-  
ity much longer than in the towns, and in his classes in such districts  
David Anderson taught many more Country Dances than in his central clas-  
ses. He himself composed over 20 Country Dances, many of which were  
named after places where he held classes, e.g. Monifieth Star, Brechin  
Fancy, and Tayport Beauty. Even as late as 1900-1 he was still compos-  
ing new Country Dances, for example The Volunteer's Return, Lord Kitchen-  
er's Country Dance, and the Coronation Country Dance.

He also composed various Quadrilles, for example The Cluny MacPher-  
son Golden Wedding Quadrilles, Tel-el-Kebir Quadrilles, and The Corona-  
tion Quadrille, and also some miscellaneous dances, for example La Dance  
Florence and The Joyful Dance, both in 'Dashing White Sergeant' formation.

After he ceased to compete in Highland Games, Anderson was often  
asked to arrange exhibitions of dancing at some of the "Highland" Games  
where there were no dancing competitions, for instance Hawick, Jedburgh  
(a two-day affair), and Birnam. For these exhibitions he employed (at  
a suitable fee) not only the best of his own pupils, but also some of the  
best dancers in Dundee who were not his own pupils. Among the latter  
was Mrs. Dingwall, who took part in these displays from about 1895 until  
David Anderson's death.

The group dances performed at these exhibitions were the Scotch  
(Foursome) Reel, Reel of Tulloch (either by itself or in combination with  
the Scotch Reel), Eightsome Reel, Broadwords, Scotch Reel for six, and  
the Threesome Reel (we will give details of these last two dances in a  
later article). The solo dances were very varied. There were the  
standard Games dances, Highland Fling, Sword Dance, Seann Truibhas, Sail-  
or's Hornpipe, and Irish Jig, and also Highland Laddie. In addition,  
Mrs. Dingwall often gave exhibitions of "fancy dances", for example the  
Skirt Dance, Tambourine Dance, Skipping-rope Dance, and a Clog Dance.  
Most of these were her own arrangements, but she made use of traditional  
material. For the group dances, David Anderson specified the steps to  
be used, and the dancers had one or two rehearsals in order to achieve  
uniformity.

David Anderson is best known today through his ballroom guides.  
These must have ranked as one of the best-sellers among such publications,  
for over 20,000 copies of the various editions were sold. However, all  
these editions are now very scarce, and in 1953, when we first sought  
copies, there was none in any public library in Scotland.



The earliest edition which we have seen is entitled D. Anderson's Ball-Room Guide. With full tuition in the art of dancing without the use of French terms. This was published c.1886, had 130 pages, and was sold for sixpence. Since it is the "New, Enlarged, and Complete Edition", there was presumably an earlier edition, but we have not seen it. A further edition of the Ball-Room Guide was published c.1891, and another edition c.1894, each having some new material added. In 1899 Anderson revised the book more thoroughly, adding much fresh material, and published it under the title The Universal Ball-Room and Solo Dance Guide. Further editions of this were published c.1900 and c.1902, in each case new material being added. The last edition has 188 pages, and the price remained at sixpence. We have seen copies of all these books.

The 1886 edition contains descriptions of the Scotch (Foursome) Reel, the Reel of Tulloch, A Reel of Nine, an early version of the Eightsome Reel, 64 Country Dances, 15 Square Dances (i.e. Quadrilles, Lancers, etc.), 14 Circle Dances (i.e. Waltz, Polka, etc.), and a number of dances of miscellaneous types such as Waltz Country Dance, Circassian Circle and La Tempête. It contains also descriptions of the pas de Basque (here called the Petronella step in order to avoid the use of French terms), together with the 'balance', 'set to partner', and 'chasse' steps. In addition there are descriptions of a Highland Fling step and three quick Reel setting steps for use in the Scotch Reel and Reel of Tulloch, and also of the basic hornpipe movements 'catch in', 'treble', 'back treble', and 'flatter'.

About 1886 Anderson also published two 4-page leaflets entitled D. Anderson's Highland Fling for Ladies, and for Gentlemen. We have a copy of the Ladies' leaflet, and it contains 10 steps of the Highland Fling, together with 8 quick Reel setting steps. These leaflets were sold for two shillings each (this could be a day's wage for a young man or girl in 1886), and they contained the hopeful injunction that "Mr A. hopes his pupils will keep this Copy strictly Private, and not show it to neutral Parties".

This injunction was presumably disregarded, and Anderson soon discontinued the publication of these leaflets. He incorporated the steps of the Highland Fling for Ladies in the 1894 edition of his Ball-Room Guide, together with the steps of the Irish Jig, and in The Universal Ball-Room and Solo Dance Guide of c.1899 he added also the Highland Fling for Gentlemen, Sword Dance, Seann Truibhas, Sailor's Hornpipe, and Highland Laddie. For the last three dances, these seem to be the earliest known printed versions.

In this 1899 book, David Anderson discontinued three of his own Quadrilles compositions, but in compensation he added six new Country Dances which he had composed, namely The Football Favourite, Haughs o' Cromdale (different from the familiar dance of this name), Leap Year, Princess, Record Reign and Royal Visit. The Football Favourite was later taught in Ayrshire by the Kilmarnock teacher, Joseph Wallace junior\* and we have recorded Royal Visit in South Uist.

David Anderson's daughter told us that he attempted to make the later editions of his Guide as encyclopaedic as possible, and the inclusion of a dance in the Guide does not mean that he ever taught that dance in his classes. For instance, in the 1899 edition he included the figures of the Country Bumpkin (R.S.C.D.S. Book 2), which he reproduced from The Companion to the Reticule (c.1820). However, as far as his daughter knew, he never taught the Bumpkin, although he did teach the rather similar Reel of Nine, in both town and country classes.

\* See our Traditional Dancing in Scotland.

# CORRESPONDENCE.

(From a letter from Mr. Archie Dudgeon). The activities of the small out growing group in Ponoka, Alberta, may interest readers in Vancouver. The group, which meets weekly, is under the able instruction of Mr. and Mrs. David Noel. It has as a team danced at a charity concert in aid of crippled children, at a demonstration for the patients at Alberta Hospital (mental) and at the Senior citizens' home. The season closed with a barbecue and dance at the home of Dr. B. Backus.

## RECORD LIST (ctd.)

Jimmy Blair (Fontana)

- TFE 17048 Mairi's wedding; Bonnie Ann; Mrs. McLeod of Raasay; The Robertson rant.
- TFE 17062 The Atholl and Breadalbane gathering; The ivy leaf; The gay Gordons; Speed the plough; The mason's apron.
- TFE 17066 None so pretty; The "longwise" eightsome reel; Miss Mary Douglas; The axum reel.
- TFE 17075 The back of Benachie; Strathspey and reel; The braes of Tullimet; Lamb skinnet; schottische.
- TFE 17080 General Stuart's reel; The shepherd's crook; Lord McLay's reel; Light and airy.
- TFE 17085 The new-rigged ship; Fidget; Kenmure's on and awa'.
- TFE 17090 Mrs. Hepburn Belches; Todlen hame; Rouken glen.
- TFE 17142 The reel of the 51st division; The Duke of Atholl's reel; Scottish reform; The Hebridean weaving-lilt (96 bars of schottische).
- TFE 17157 The Glasgow highlanders; Military two-step; Cauld kail in Aberdeen.
- TFE 17187 Hamilton house; Bonnie Brux; The Duran ranger; The bonnie lass of Bon Accord.
- TFE 17193 The lad of Kyle; The winding road; The road to the isles; The gentle shepherd.
- TFE 17209 The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh; The foursome reel (32 strathspey, 32 reel); The Earl of Errol's reel; Monymusk.
- TFE 17218 The Duke of Perth; Bonnie Glenshee; The Circassian circle; The ship of grace.
- TFE 17227 The machine without horses; Canadian barn dance; Cadgers in the Canongate.
- TFE 17299 The Perth medley; The de'il amang the tailors; The pride of Erin.
- TFE 17308 The Dundee reel; The braes of Balquhiddy; Waltz.
- TFE 17309 Ellwyn's fairy glen; Waltz; Just as I was in the morning.
- TFE 17310 The Scotsman in America; The dashing white sergeant; Miss Bennet's jig; Polka.
- TFE 17311 Petronella; Off she goes in the north; La Russe; McDonald of Sleat.
- TFE 17313 Capt. McBride's hornpipe; Jenny's bawbee; The Baldovan jig.
- TFE 17314 Dalkeith's strathspey; The eight men of Moidart; A trip to Aberdeen.
- TFE 17373 Cumberland reel; Strathglass house; Jessie's hornpipe.
- TFE 17376 Argyle's fancy, Garry strathspey; Merrily danced the quaker's wife.

... ctd.

FE 17377 Miss Nancy frowns; Miss Jarvis' reel; The drummer.  
 FE 17378 The Montgomeries' rant; Teviot brig; The express.  
 E 17410 Last of the Lairds; La Tempête; Hamilton rant.  
 E 17411 Hooper's jig; Schiehallion; Birks of Invermay.  
 E 17412 Peggy's wedding; Gillie Callum; Gates of Edinburgh;  
 Gay Gordons.  
 E 17413 Holyrood house; Seann Truibhas; Middleton medley.  
 E 17414 Within a mile of Edinburgh town; College hornpipe;  
 Waltz country dance.  
 E 17415 Muirland Willie; The old sporran [also fits The lad with  
 the plaidie]; The ladies of Dingwall.  
 E 17416 Admiral Nelson; Highland fling; Miss Cahoon's reel.  
 E 17417 Black dance; Corstorphine fair; Up in the air.  
 E 17455 The weaver; McDonald of Sleat; The wedding medley.  
 65 186 TE Loch Katrine jig; Triumph; New Scotland strathspey.  
 65 187 TE White cockade; St. Andrew's night; Rothesay country dance.  
 65 201 TE Stirling castle; Queen's bridge; Buchan eightsome.  
 65 202 TE Strip the willow; Willie with his tartan trews; Haughs  
 of Cromdale.  
 65 203 TE Bute polka; Meg Merrilees; Maid of the mill.  
 65 204 TE Grant's rant; The rock and the wee pickle tow; The kilt  
 is my delight.  
 65 205 TE Lord Rosslyn's fancy; Letham ladies; march/strathspey/  
 reel.  
 65 206 TE Leith country dance; Torryburn lasses; Lea rig.  
 65 207 TE My love is but a lassie yet; Campbell's frolic;  
 Kingussie flower.  
 65 208 TE Royal exchange; Linton Ploughman; Elwynn strathspey.

This excellent series is commended because they play the full dance,  
 and should be explored by collectors and clubs. Each sleeve has an  
 excellent, and different, photograph of Scotland, and gives the number  
 of bars played, e.g. 8 x 32.

Johnston's Scottish Accordion Band. (Waverley).

LP 101 Dashing White sergeant; Rouken Glen; Duke of Perth; Bonnie  
 Anne.  
 LP 102 Madge Wildfire's strathspey; Maxwell's rant; Blue bonnets;  
 Foursome reel (two strathspey steps, two reel).

Uned in Scottish dance band (Waverley)

LP 104 Gay Gordons; Strip the willow; Highland schottische; Waltz  
 country dance.  
 LP 108 The drummer; Linton ploughman; Keppoch's rant; A kiss for  
 nothing.

The record list will be continued in our next issue.



## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### NORTHERN JUNKET.

The square-dance magazine that is different. \$2.50 for 12 issues, from Ralph Page, 117 Washington St., Keene, N.H., U.S.A. 03431.

Each issue brings you interesting articles on all phases of dancing: squares, contras, folk-dance, folk-song, folk-lore. Traditional recipes, too, for hungry dancers.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Custom-made. Gold or Silver. Scottish flavour.  
Old heirlooms cleaned. Moderate charges.  
Murray Shoolbraid, 8415 Duff Street, Vancouver. Tele : 321-0633.

\*\*\*\*\*

We had a request for an advertisement from

THISTLE KILTMAKERS, 6 Warrender Park Crescent,  
Edinburgh 9, Scotland.

Their copy has not made our dead-line, so we insert this note in lieu. Their letter-head describes them as Export Specialists, and lists their wares as Highland dress for day and evening wear; Tartans; Tartan Travel bags; Scarves; Ties; Sporrans; Ladies Skirts).

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### THE THISTLE.

Editorial Board - Douglas and Sybil Duncan  
Andrew Shawyer  
Murray Shoolbraid  
Hugh and Nina Thurston

Subscription - \$1.25 per year (4 issues)

Back numbers available, except for No. 1. 25¢ per copy for numbers 2-

4. 35¢ for later issues.

Leaflets available : Schiehallion, Inverness reel - 10¢ each.

Rosslyn Castle, Far up the glen, Lylestone House,  
Black Ness, Flying Scotsman, Last of the lairds,  
Suilean gorma, Suilean donn', The ceilidh, Castle  
Campbell, The old sporran, The provost - 5¢ each  
Argyll Broadwords - 25¢.

To anyone ordering a complete set of back numbers, or a substantial number to complete a set, we will supply a photostatic copy of issue No. 1).

The Thistle Club meets every Friday at 8 p.m. in Hut L5 on the UBC campus. All subscribers are welcome to dance with us when in Vancouver.

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