

FLEMISH GARLAND DANCES

Source: Belgium girls at Sidmouth 1977.

Costume: long skirts and long aprons.

FIRST DANCE - "THE WAIN"

Title refers to resemblance to covered waggon in entry and initial form.
Formation: 2 columns of dancers facing up. 7 pairs with one garland per pair, held in inside hand, so dancers stand outside their garland.

Entry: walking in column. Led by 2 supernumeraries, the first playing and followed by the second with a small mascot on shoulders who is holding ribbon reins from the first.

Stepping Sequence: dancers hold skirt and edge of apron in outside hand.

Each figure starts with 16 bars of stepping on the spot, an 8 bar sequence repeated. Face away throughout with no turn of body.

Bars 1-4: 4 pas de basque, to right first. Spring about 1 ft to side, and next 2 steps side by side not feet crossed. No sway or incline of body.

Bars 5-8: 4 slow swing steps, weight on right foot first, and swing left foot sideways out to left side fully extending leg. Hop and swing foot back and change weight. Repeat alternately. In the swing, the free foot goes forward and out and back and in, in an ellipse. Marked rock of body to opposite side during the step.

FIGURE ONE.

Bars 1-4: All walk forward 8 short steps, all start right foot, move up a distance equivalent to one spacing between the pairs.

Bars 5-8: Top pair turn in so that they are inside the garland and skip or gallop down the middle of the set under the other garlands, outside foot leading throughout. Turn out forward from under the garland to face back up the set behind the last pair. Keep garlands in same hand throughout. The rest walk up one place as in bars 1-4, 8 steps.

Bars 9-32: repeat 5-8 by each pair in turn till all have been down through the tunnel.

Music pauses for 4 beats while dancers change formation to beats on a drum
Step to side, other foot cross, first foot to side again and feet together.

As set moves forward on bars 1-4 and never recovers the distance it might be preferable to start with bar 5 and use bars 29-32 at end for the change in formation.

FIGURE TWO.

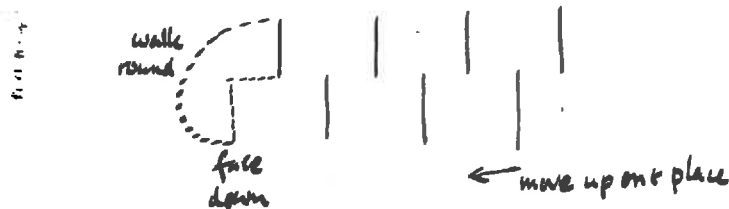
Formation: odd pairs move to right and even pairs to left so that the dancers who have now become the "insides", the left and right hand ends respectively are in one line behind each other.



Flemish Garlands 2.

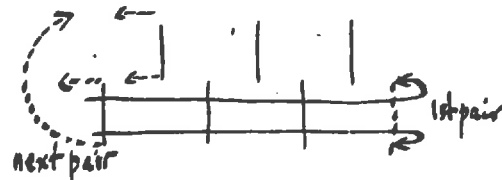
Start with the 16 bar stepping sequence facing up described before and as in Figure one.

Bars 1-4: top garland rotates across the front of the set. The inside supporter moves forward with the rest of the set, who are moving up with 8 short steps a distance equivalent of one spacing between pairs, while turning in unison with the outside who walks round ahead of the set, across to face down the other side.



Bars 5-8: top garland just before going down under the garlands transfer the garland to their outside hands so that they are inside their garland. 8 gallops or skips down under the 3 garlands as in figure one and turn out forward from under the garland to face up at back of column of garland that they have gone under.

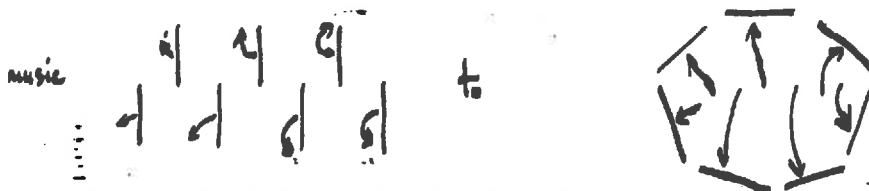
During this the rest move up 8 short steps as bars 1-4 and the next pair at the top rotate across. The dancers do not have to change hands on the garlands at the bottom as they have changed sides relative to the top.



Bars 9-32: each pair in turn do similarly, the casting being alternately to either side, the movements flowing continuously. At the end the top pair is back to the top but the set is reversed from left to right. It might be considered worth carrying on till back to initial formation.

FIGURE THREE.

Formation: move out into a circle with all facing outwards, 16 bar stepping facing out.



Bars 1-4: the left hand end of each garland moves in a semicircle around the right hand end, who marks time, facing out throughout, to reform circle. The garlands change hands during the movement to end in the new inside hands.

Bar 5 onwards: repeat this as often as desired, i.e. 7/8 times to fill music, or till back in original starting place, or only 4 times if leading to an exit.

Exit: Half way through a move, all turn to face clockwise, so that in two circles, and move off in direction facing, following the top pair.

Flerish Garland 3.

If there are other dancers coming on, they come in under the tunnel.
POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL FIGURE.

Formation: return to that for Figure one in column.

After the initial 16 bar stepping facing up, do a "dip and dive" progression rather than going under all the way. In going under, face forward inside garland and hold in what is then the outside hands and lower garland to go under. In going over, turn out backwards to face top, so that garland, still in same hands, is in outside hands, and the garland is well raised to go over while dancers move backwards. After going over turn the reverse way to go under etc. Do not think it correct to turn other ways as more difficult to use the garlands.



SECOND DANCE - "THE ROSE BUD"

Title refers to resemblance in final movement.

Set: 7 girls each with a garland.

Music: 12 bar A and B music

Step: slow walk, one step per bar.

A1 - Once to Yourself: The 7 dancers stand in one line, shoulder to shoulder, facing music but at back of dancing spot.

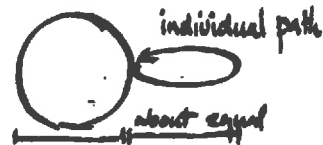
A2 Bars 1-8: 8 steps to form a complete circle, starting right foot, end knuckles touching, garlands upright.

Bars 9-12: stand still, feet together, garlands stationary.

B1 All circle to left for 11 steps and end feet together. Maintain circle of garlands so cross feet over in front in walking - not a slip step - right foot start.

B2 All circle back to right for 11 steps and feet together etc.

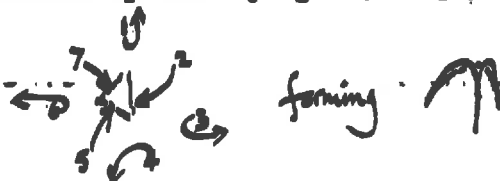
A3 Each dancer walks an individual loop to the left in 12 steps. The path is an ellipse away from the centre, going out about a distance equivalent to the diameter of the circle in B1/2. Turn over 90 deg on the first two steps. It is important to end loop with a reformed circle.



A4 Repeat a similar loop to right ending with reformed circle.

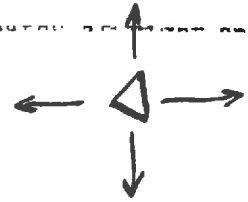
B3 Middle 3 take 4 steps forward to form a central group.

They stand still forming a triangle, raising hands to hold garlands up and laying them forward onto each other for rest of phrase.



Flemish Garland 4.

The other 4 turn out to left and walk 12 steps away from centre, on paths at right angles to each other.



B4 The 4 turn left to face back and walk the 12 steps back to form the full circle. The 3 in the centre turn out to left and walk out 6 steps to meet and join the others coming in, slotting into the original ordering round the circle, they turn left and all walk in to form a full circle of 7.

A5 Form the two circles again in 2 steps.

The inner circle of 3 raise their hands up high, sloped at least at 45° and the garlands form a tight bunch, garlands still vertical but compressed, not like in B3.

The outer circle have their arms out wide, knuckles touching, arms horizontal, garland laying out behind body, not quite horizontal, just below shoulder level.

The outer ring circle to the left and the inner to the right.

A6 Circle other way, inner to left and outer to right. During the circling the rose does not unfold or otherwise change.

B5 The outer circle separate and raise their garlands to the normal position while the inner circle move a little apart and lower theirs. They go into the exit movement in which 2 of the outside circle are followed by the 3 in the middle and then the other 2 outers. Move off in single file to skipping step.