

FIRST LOOK AT EFDSS NORTH SKELTON FILM 29.1.70

Revision 5.2.70

Titles

1. The North Skelton Traditional Sword Dance
2. Exclusive rights owned by the Scarborough and District Branch of the EFDSS
3. Filmed October 1932 by H.L.Kettle ARPS Scarborough in the grounds of Skelton Castle by kind permission of Col. and Miss Wharton.
4. The Team

G.Hugill	T.Jackson
J.Hugill	T.H.Batterbee
J.T.Hunter	R.Evans
G.Tremain	

Reserves S.Winspear, F.Hugill

Film

1. Opening shot is pan of team in line with lock in front of them
2. Called "Rehersal" it is a shot of Figure 4 from "Guard of Honour" to the "Draw" taken at ground level with the building as background
3. Main part of film consists of the 5 published figures straight through, taken from an upper window.

Quality

In general the quality is good. There are two parts underexposed. An important part, progressive windows, is one, so that it is impossible to get a clear view of how the men go over the swords. Parts of the film show scratching along the right hand side on the copy I used however the original negative seems to exist & a new print from this could correct the exposure differences to a great extent.

Costume

White shirt, Dark trousers, trousers held up by leather belt, not through loops, around trousers some inches below top in true working man's fashion.

*Different from Kennedy \**

The Dance

Figure One

Elbows - wrist of right hand over the elbow joint of left arm, left upper arm as little forward as possible.

Open Ring - arms more or less straight, out at side, about 1 ft from body

Neighbour's Sword - each man takes 4 beats - left foot over first, facing backwards, bending well down.

Double Under - 1&6 under 1st, 2&5 next etc. A few frames missing in 2nd Double Under. Swords not raised too high, so men duck a little in going under. 1st cu under, turn on step 6 & raise sword over head and back to place on step 12. Next couple come side-by-side on step 3, turn out on step 9. 3rd couple start turn on step 10 & straight on 12. 2&3 lead next Double Under, 4&5 the last.

Back Lock - link behind back & circle 8 bars. Lock then formed in 4 bars - raised & held up for 12 bars. Turn lock over in lowering & men hold their hilt. In draw lock held just a little above waist level.

Figure Two

Low Clash - round in 12 steps, mark time 4 steps

Clash & Mark time - men look up at the clash

Pousette - 1st couple in place in 12 steps, rest on step 14, thus always a bit ahead of Kennedy description \*

Roll - Some differences - \*

in bars 5 - 6 3rd couple turn in not out so that they start by doing 3 spins down, then 2 up.

in bars 27 - 28, 1st couple spins up not down so that they end the movement with 4 spins up.

When changing direction swords are not brought between men, but to side of body only

th Shelton 2.

Clash Hilt Lock - preparatory swing back of both arms before coming into centre. Swing upper hand up to head height - hold it momentarily and bring down sharply to clash. Appeared to clash only twice. Lock made in 4 bars, held up 12 bars, ~~turned over before lowering~~. Draw just above waist level.

Figure three

Over Own Sword - start left foot, right over first, having turned the hands are crossed at the wrists, sword hilt just below knee level, following man has hand almost at ankle level - ie sword is sloped away from man going over.

Double Over - order as Double Under. Start left foot, left foot over first etc. Turn immediately over sword. Lead couple swung sword up as crossing to anticipate turn but others did not in repeats.

3rd couple turned to face over sword after the 2nd had crossed. Sword as low as possible for 1st foot over, then just behind knee for getting 2nd foot over. Have to lift leg well up. In getting right leg over need to get leg tight up against thigh & thigh high up against chest - men are well ebnt forward.

Back Ring 8 bars not 16.\*

Second detailed look 5.2.70

Figure One

Double Under - 1st arch goes about  $\frac{2}{3}$  across set. 1st couple under goes almost across set ~~at~~ turn back. Each couple goes as far as necessary & as far as swords will allow. Lock - raised by leader, palm upwards, held in palm forward, lock along radius, lowered, palm up, men hold own hilt when lock still at head level & lower lock to just above waist level. Draw can be seen to be forward across front of body.

*as goes over arch then it has only travelled forward a few steps*

Figure Two

Roll - when changing direction of roll, pair do not face front but stop when facing up or down with pair of swords across front of body. Circular hey - 12 bars - Ring following - 4 bars.

Clash Hilt Lock - preparatory outward swing of arms (& swords) at end of Ring. Swing in 1 2 3 4 moving into tighter circle & raise right hand to top of head level, move out 4 steps, Repeat. No third clash - start to make lock where 3rd clash would have been - hold up at start of 1st 2nd (ie take 6 bars - leisurely)

*don't complete*

Figure Three

Double Over - sword goes only just  $\frac{1}{2}$  way across, couple holding go further to get over.

Figure Four

Basket - in high and low baskets the swords are crossed between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{2}{3}$  point not tips.

(note - on film - top couple at other end of set to musician)

Guard of Honour - 8 steps down middle, 2 more to turn front & take up position

Low Basket - form open ring swing arms & swords out before releasing tips to make basket.

Move Down & Cast - 1st couple. turn down & walk side by side down middle casting out at bottom. 1st couple 1234, then 2nd couple follow on next 1234, then 3rd couple join in, facing down for next 2 bars, then turn out on spot to face front on last 2 bars.

High Lock - don't turn - keep facing direction going while forming lock above heads. Left hand over right - r goes back, l forward, left go left & bring it back. Don't turn over. Take hilt in left, still high above head, draw left, right on right shoulder of person in front. Retain sword in left for start of next figure.

Skelton 3.

1st roll  
to the lock. i left

Figure Five

High Salute - facing anticlock - sword in left hand.

High Clash

High Basket - take 4 steps, turning in to face clockwise, changing hands on sword & raising sword again.

Left Turn - starting at No.1 - take 4 steps, anticlockwise turn, Raise right hand above head as make 1/4 turn anticlock to face out, bring hands together crossed at wrists, right in front of left, continue completing anticlock turn bringing hands, still crossed at wrist, over in an arc, till on inside of circle. Left hand behind right at right side of body. As each man turns, circle tightens. Ring for 4 bars.

Left unturn - raise hands still crossed over head in an arc & uncross near end of turn (clockwise)

Preparatory Windows - 12b. - 2 preparatory rolls, top couples up, bottom couple down (4b), all face down, make windows, but not in usual way but both low down, rear one lowest & nearest as Loftus, 4 steps (2b) All step through, left over first, turn out (2b) get straight, from facing out, Downside arm brought over head in the turn - other arm got straight by doing a small circle. Eg no.1 goes over sword in right hand - other sword held forward - sword held in left hand brought over head - right arm will be twisted, needs straightening. (2b) another roll as before (2b)

Progressive Windows - when forming windows - upper arm to top.

Window not so high that couples do not have to duck through.

Take 4 bars for two couples to pass, under going down, during passing neutral does a roll out then one in. Agree that couple who pass do a roll in direction they are going & neutral do one in direction they are to go. At end couple will do two out, then two in in succession. At end of movement top couple does 4 rolls up (35 bars)

Hey - mirrors, top between middle, bottom face up at start.

From Open ring straight into right and left lock - seemed to have trouble - took 24 bars to form lock - didnt turn over.

Problem of nature of Windows due to being Sleights for 8?

Over fool's head in first figure instead of distinctive movement.

In our detail the film appears - in Kenney notation which is precise 5 years before the film.

The significant differences are at level of 1.11 & 1.12, also booklet doesn't have clear explanation

Details of planning etc might depend on composition of particular team, and not be rigidly explained. Dances were obviously following the music.

Just the advice is to simplify the notation in an attempt to give the detail that makes the dance flow smoothly