

ORIGINS OF THE MORRIS

WHAT IS MORRIS?

DRESSING UP & PERFORMING IN PUBLIC

ACQUIRED WIDELY BY MANY SEASONAL CUSTOMS

ORIGINS - NOT NECESSARILY ANCIENT

TECHNOLOGY DEPENDENT ELEMENTS

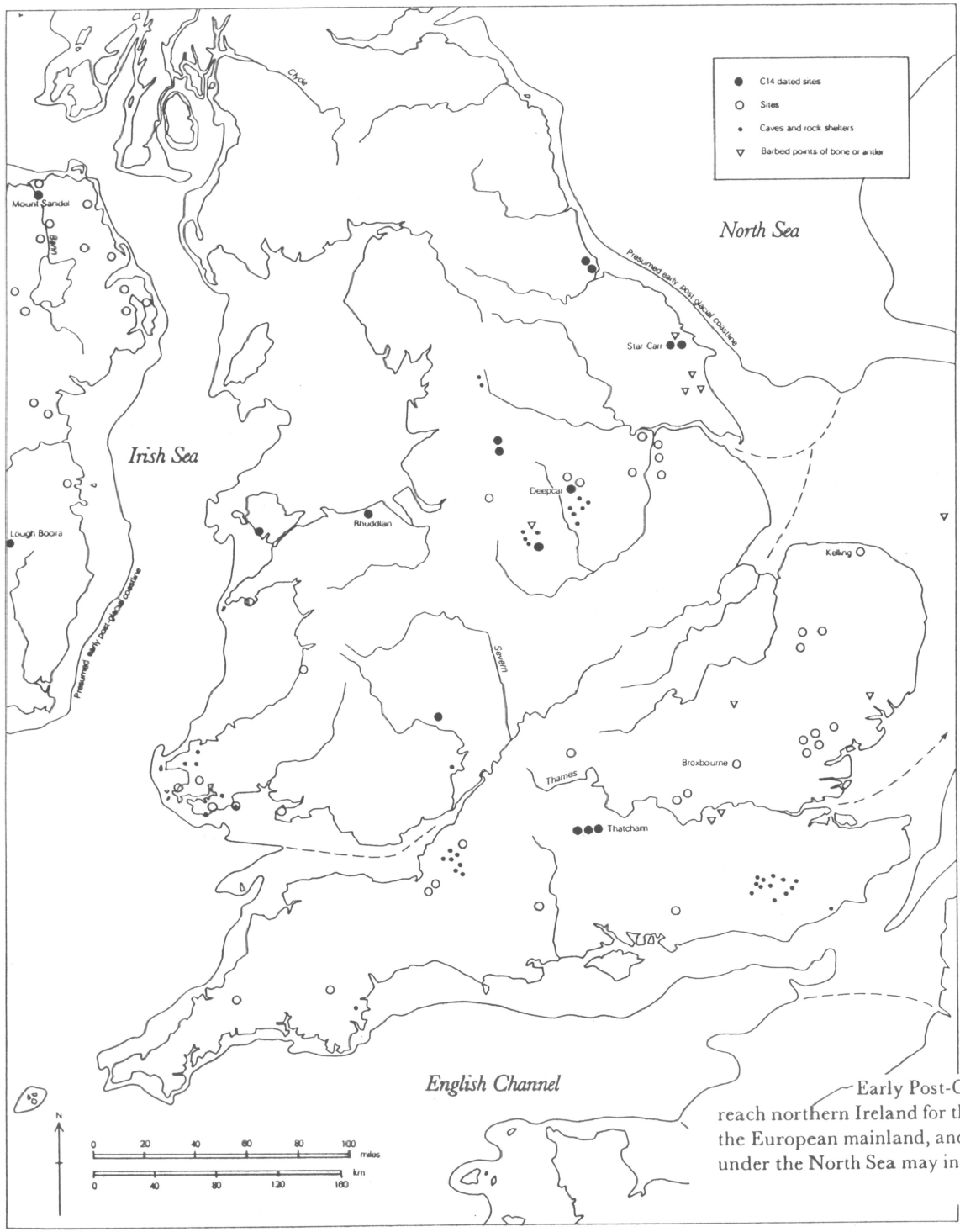
BELLS

SPRING STEEL

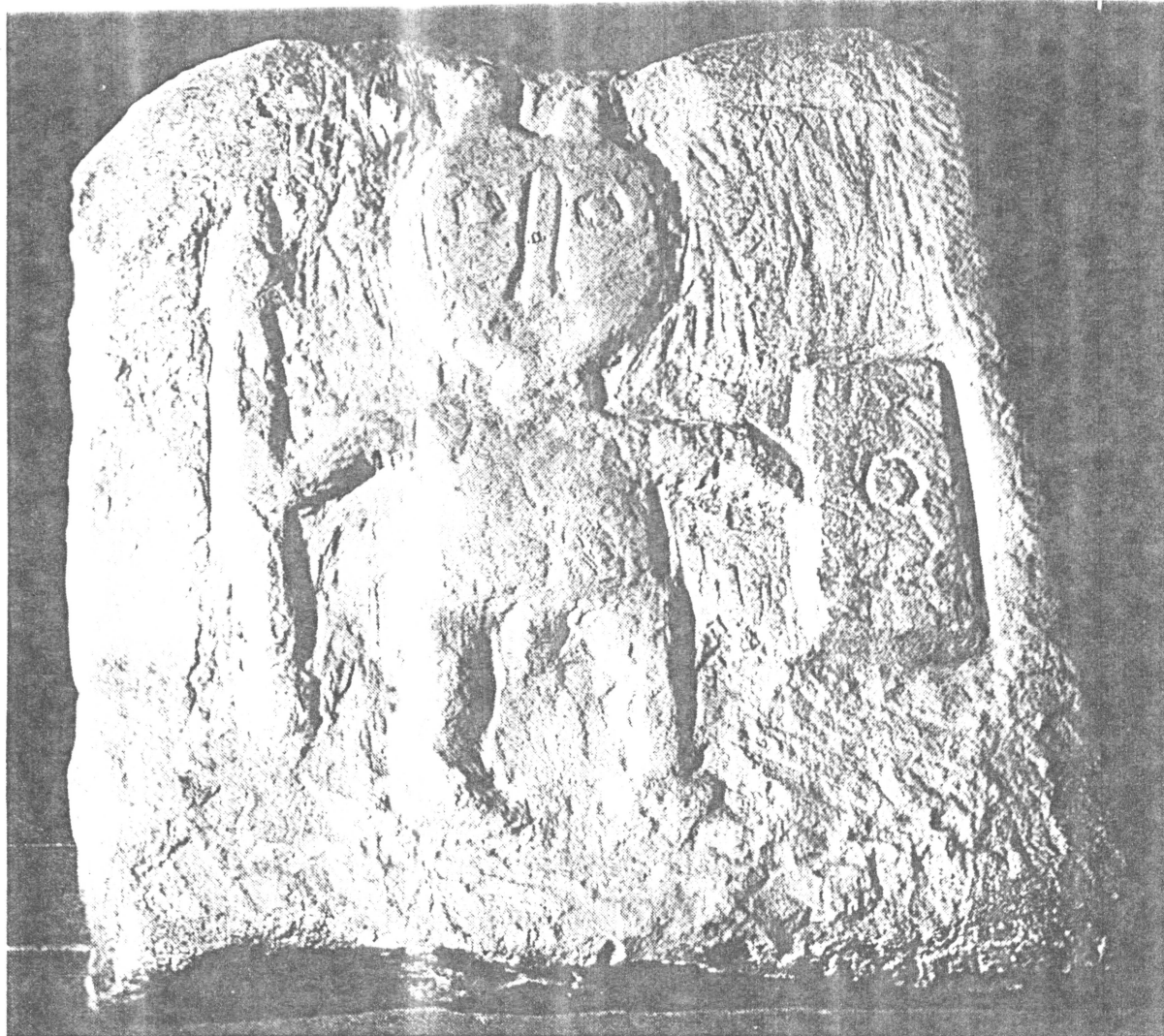
RIBBONS



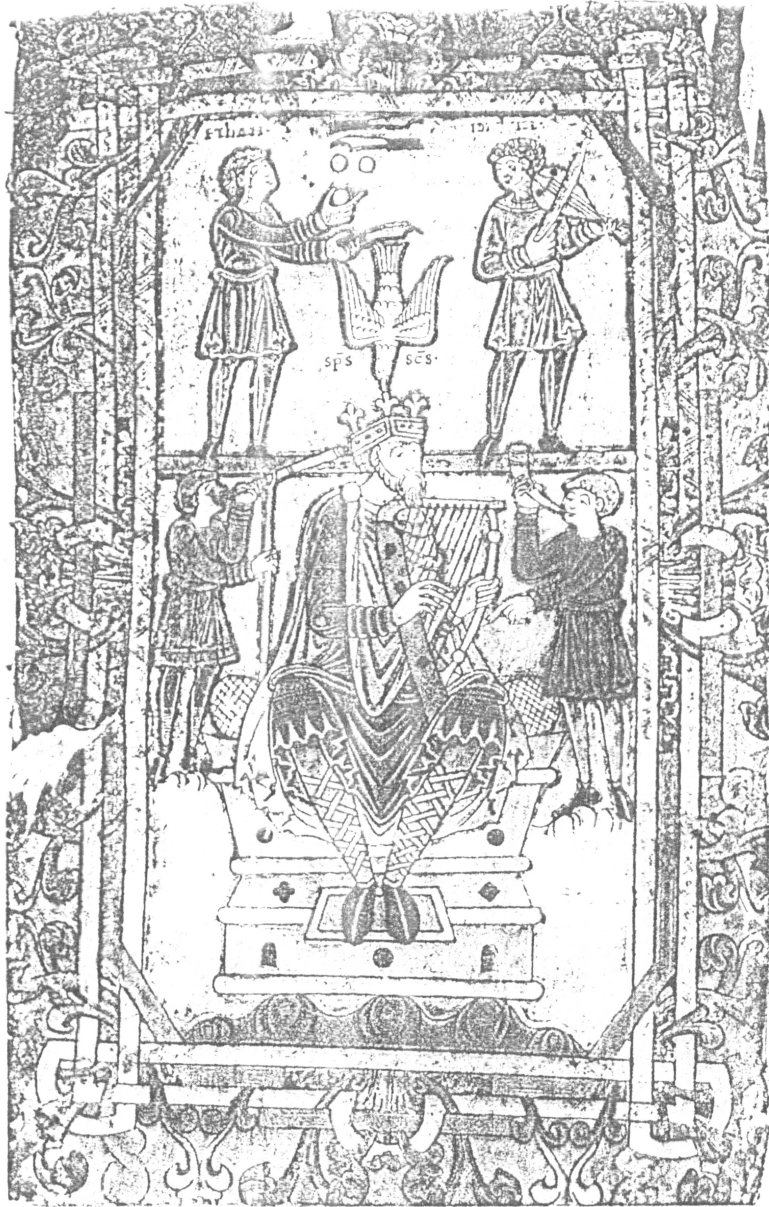
Above and Right: The Deer Dance, part of a hunting rite, imitates faithfully the movements of the hunted animal. Still danced by the Yaquis of Sonora, it is one of the rare examples of practiced imitative magic, here done by the Ballet Folklórico de Mexico. (Hurok)



Early Post-Glacial Sites: c 9,000–6,500 BC. People reach northern Ireland for the first time. Britain is still joined to the European mainland, and the occasional find of barbed points under the North Sea may indicate the location of camps.



A carving of a horned figure discovered at the Roman fort of Alauna (Maryport) in Cumbria.



Royal Psalmist. British Library,
MS Cotton Tiberius C vi, f.30.



Cleomen dancing. British Library, MS Cotton Vespasian
A i, f.30b.

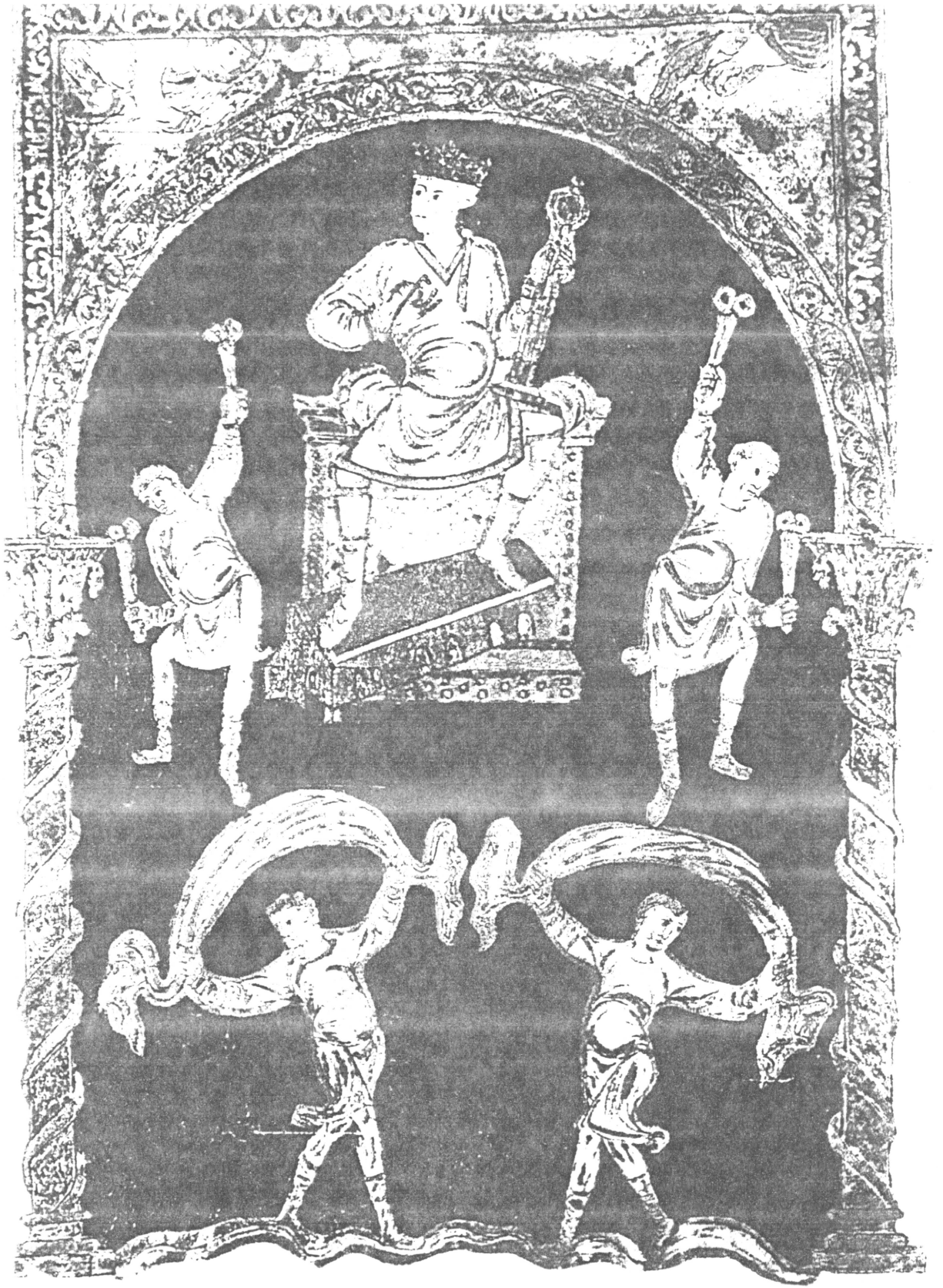


.ul tan qm ucauu
 te mandare uices
 ne .s. ad .ul ne sp
 uidetur ptiue ad of.
 inu eccar in pout a
 De offio sacete.
 or sacroꝝ pof arch.
 ea q. **Limnaria.**
 inu su in ceta qua
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et aut demona
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 florentiu et a
 tior a scioꝝ tele
 melior suffia
 fiat in plato. e
 S. de ec. cum u
 mis zelus et
 bonis colus c

Balancing on two swords. British Library, MS Royal 10 E iv, f.58.

lome as acrobatic dancer with two swords.
 ambridge, Pembroke College MS 120, f.5v.



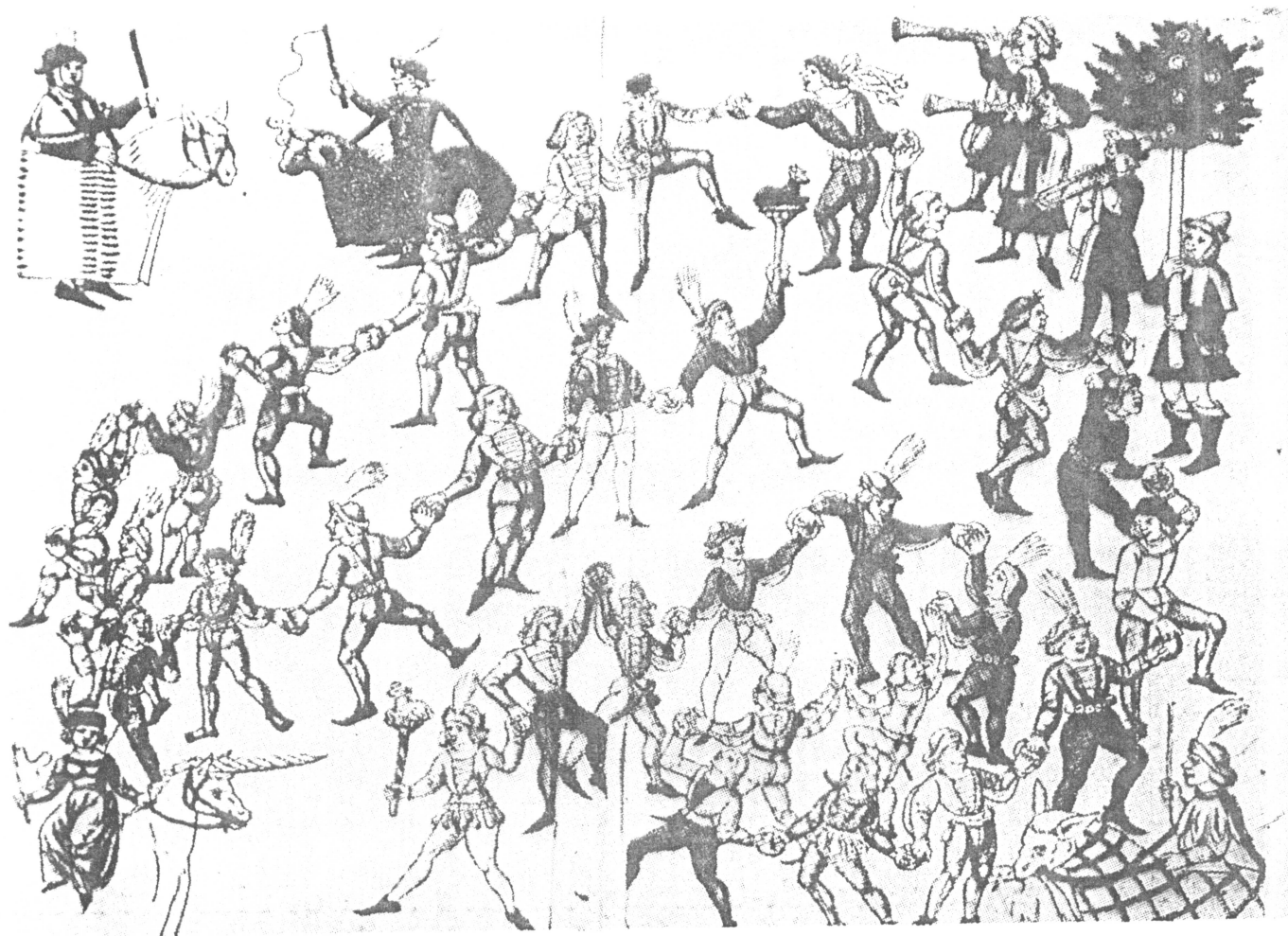
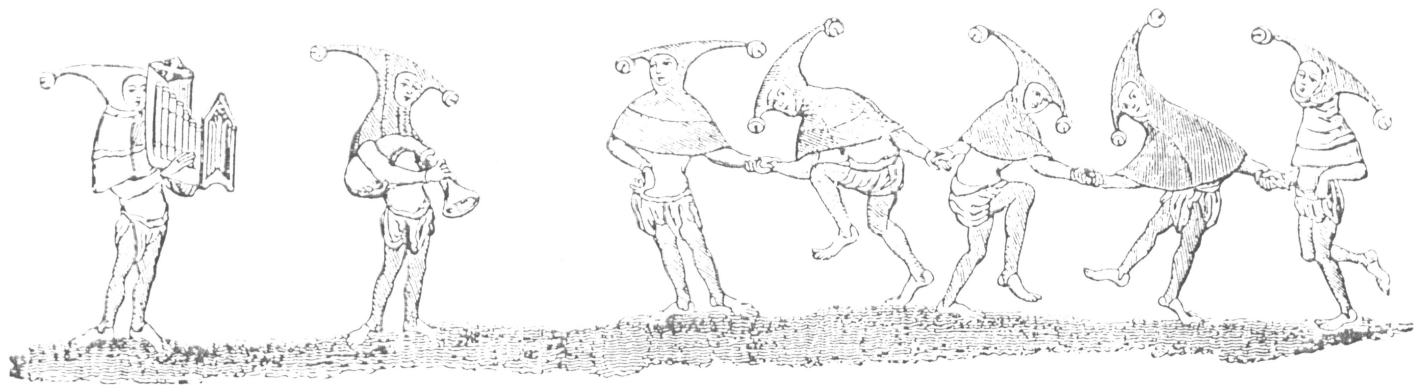
Tenth century artists showed King David as a 10th century monarch.



ENTERTAINERS



Saints and Angels dancing in Paradise.
Italian Painting, 15th Century.

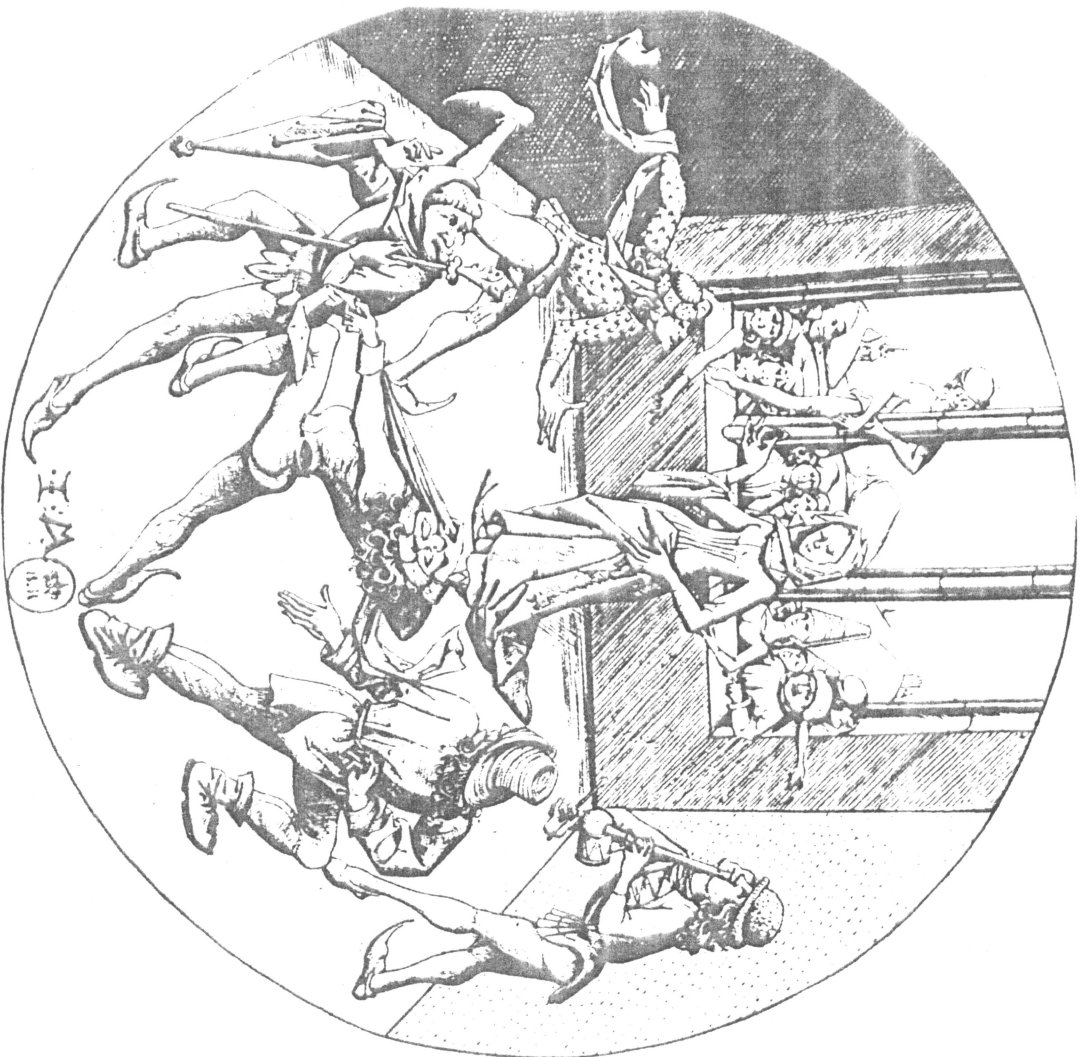




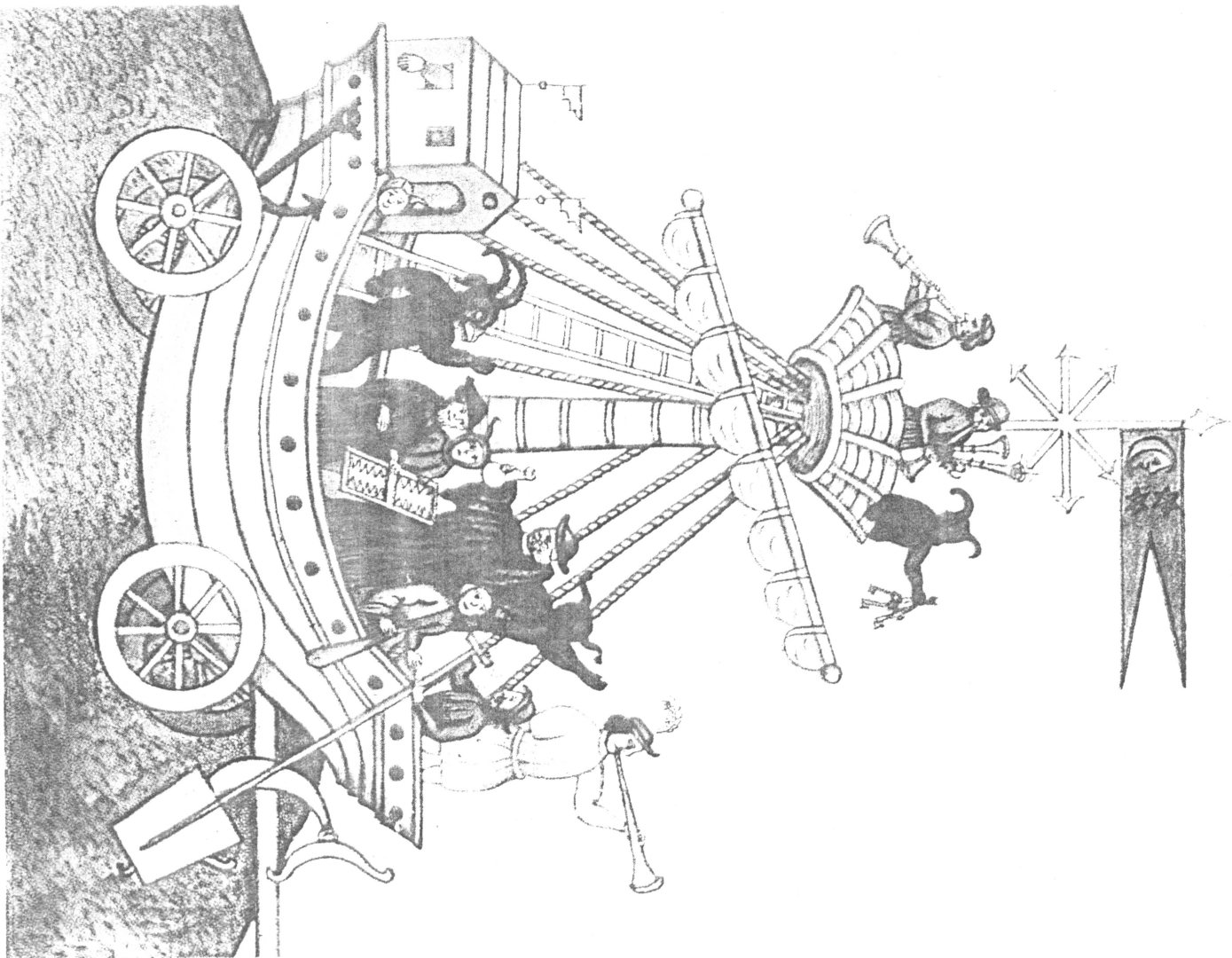
16 The traditional labyrinth dance being performed at Ostmarsum, in the Netherlands, in 1939. The dancers, holding hands, coil inwards and outwards in a manner identical to the Cornish labyrinthine



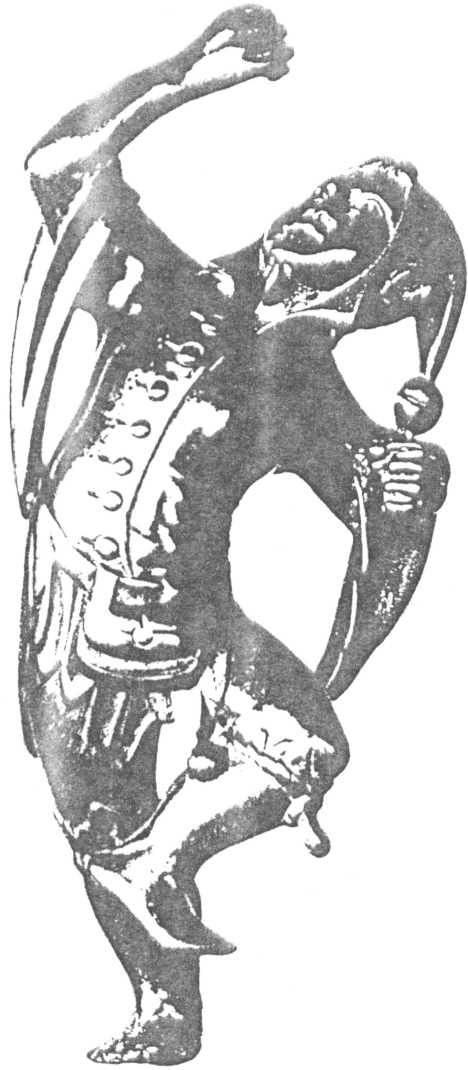
WOMEN IN CENTRE FORM



*“The Dance for the Ring,” an allegorical etching by
Israhel Van Meckenen, shows a Morris dance to the
tune of Jageolet and tambourine. (Bibliothèque Nationale)*



SHIP OF FOOLS



GERMAN WAR'S FIGURINES



William Kemp dancing on his way from London to Norwich, accompanied by Thomas Slye, in 1599. Kemp was a fellow member with Shakespeare of the Lord Chamberlain's Company, and first acted the part of Dogberry, among others. (From Kemp 1600, reprinted 1840.)

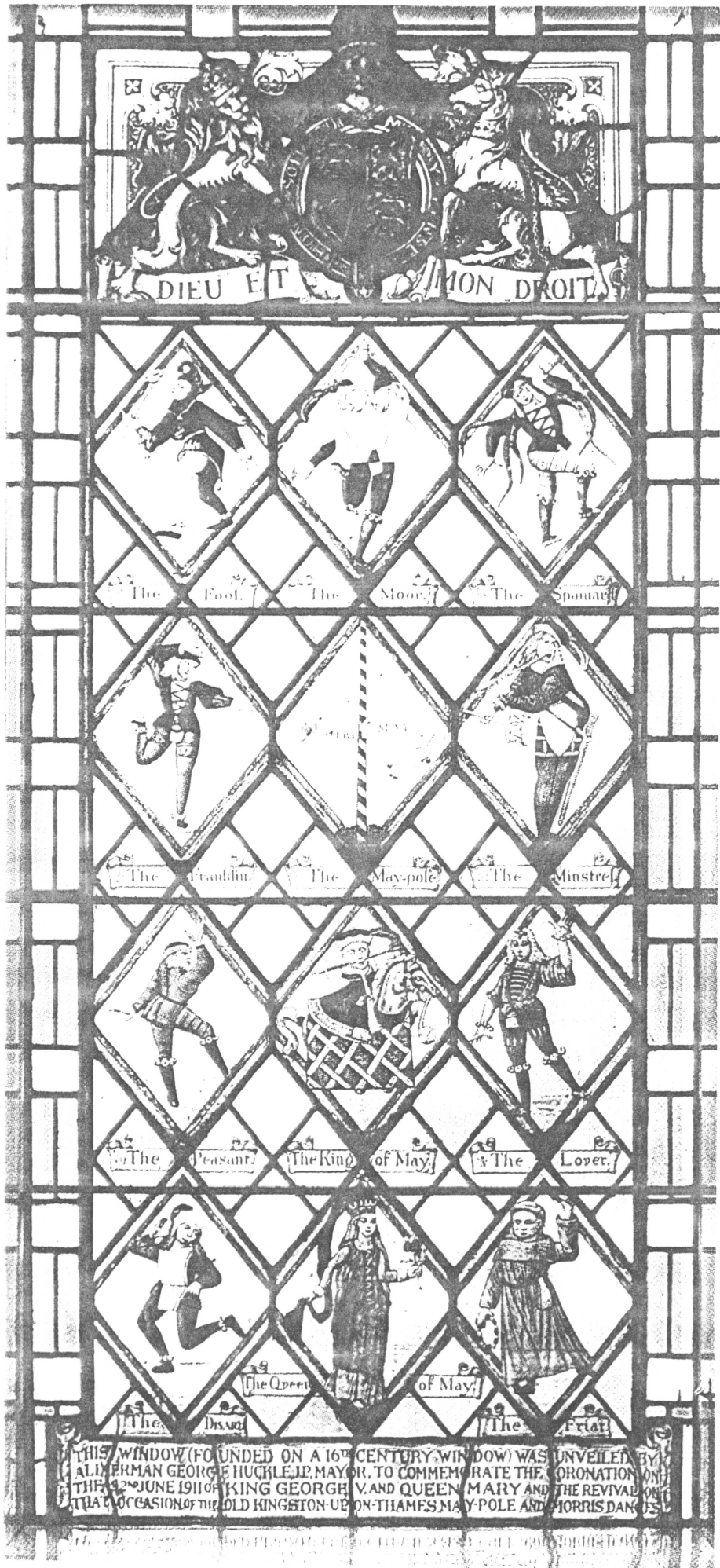


Morris Dancers by the Thames, about 1620. Three morris men, a shemal, and a hobby-horse, dance in line. The horse is without dummy legs. The dancers' dress is similar to Kemp's and the musician resembles Slye. The Fool wears a motley jacket with bells, much like the one in the Betley window. Probably a bladder hangs from the handle of the ladle. (Detail from *The Thames at Richmond*, reproduced by permission from No. 61 in the collection at The Fitzwilliam Museum.)



Morris Dancers

CLOSER LOOK

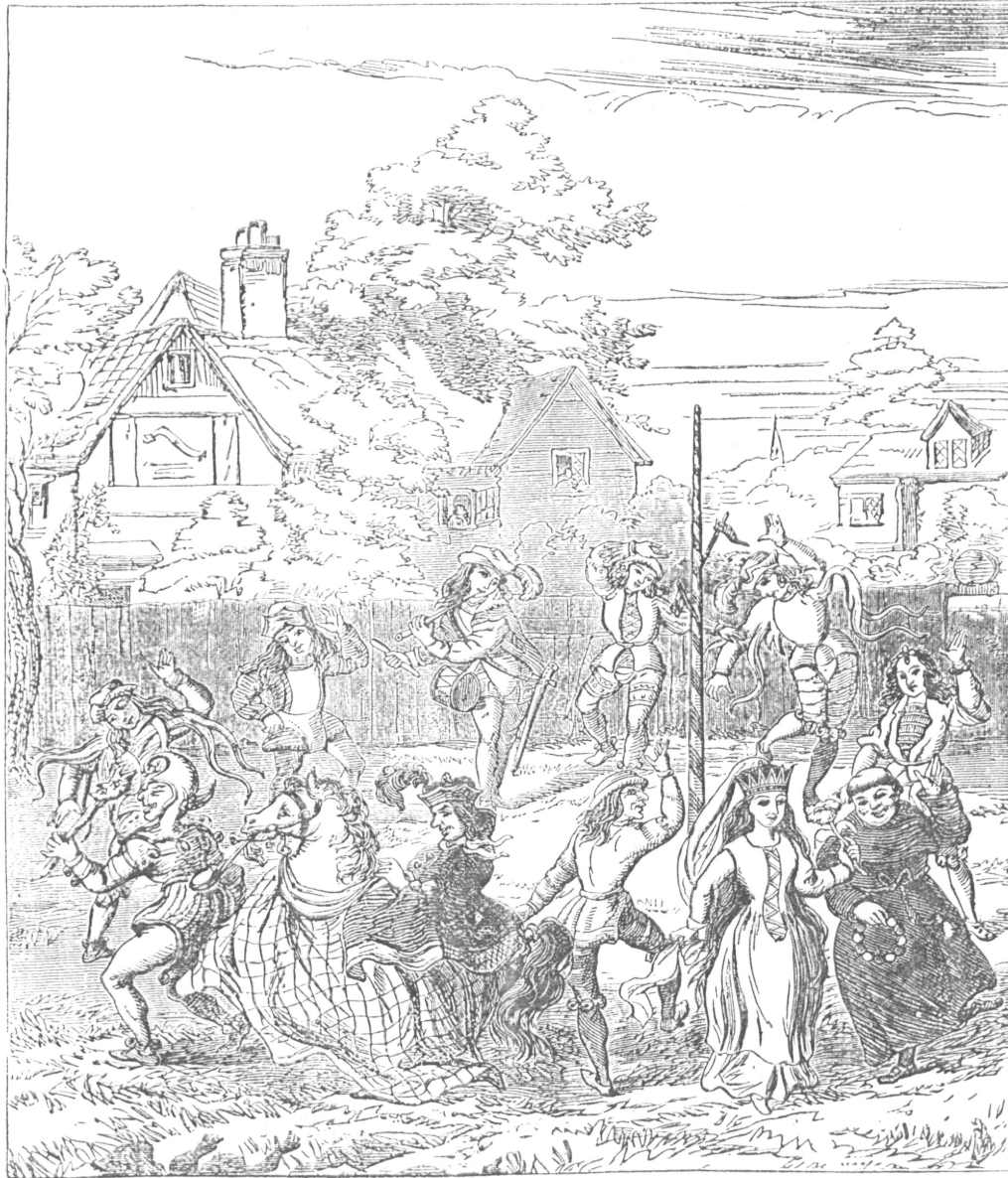


KINGSTON COPY
 OF
 BETLEY WINDOW
 SHOWING
 MAY GAMES

THIS WINDOW (FOUNDED ON A 16TH CENTURY WINDOW) WAS UNVEILED BY
 ALDERMAN GEORGE HUGBLE, JR. MAYOR, TO COMMEMORATE THE CORONATION OF
 THE 42ND JUNE 1911 OF KING GEORGE V. AND QUEEN MARY AND THE REVIVAL OF
 THAT OCCASION OF THE OLD KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES MAY-POLE AND MORRIS DANCES



Cross SP

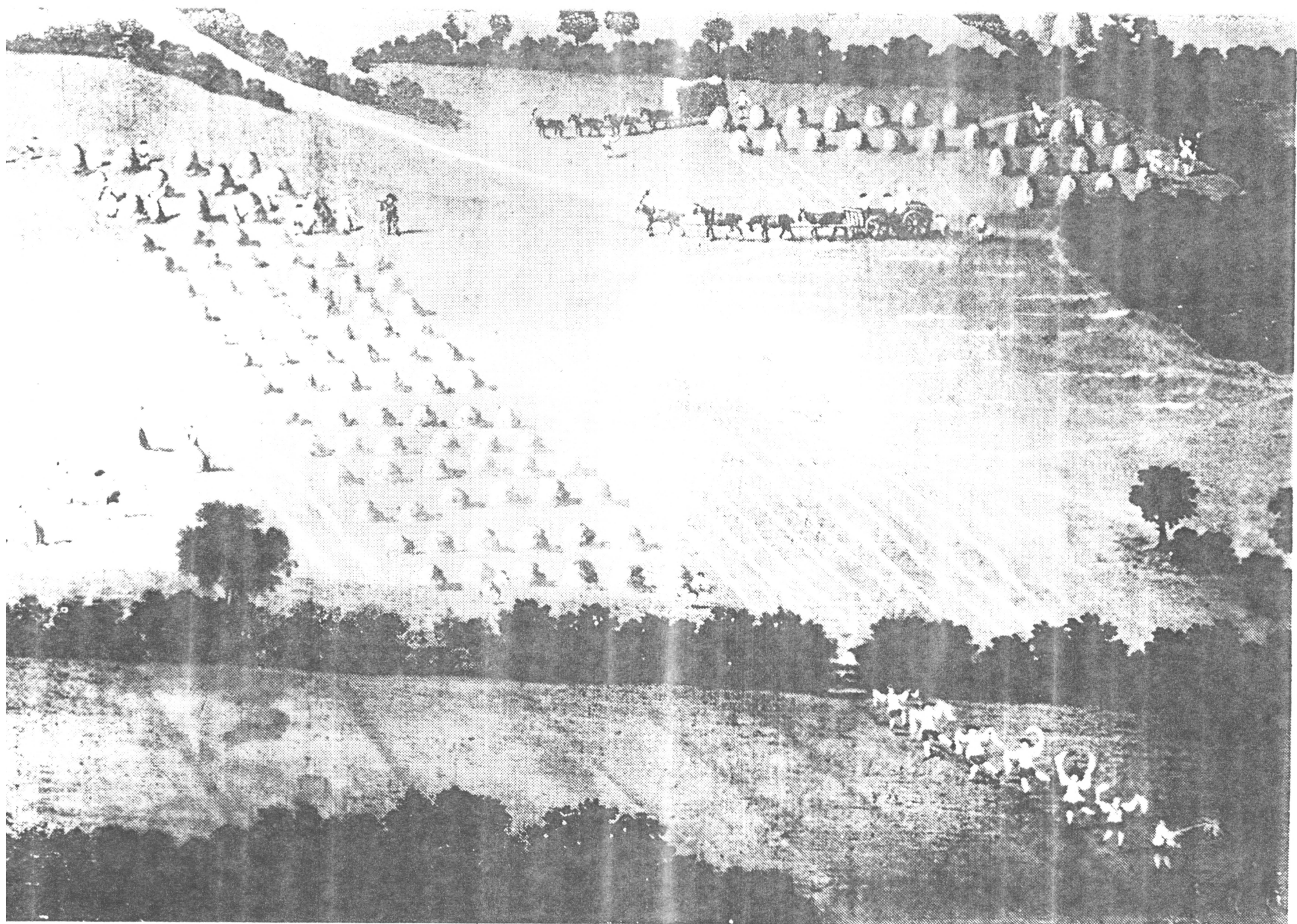


THE MORRIS-DANCERS.

TRANSLATED



Maypole in the Strand



18th C

DIXON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE



PROCESSION OF THE PLOUGH ON PLOUGH MONDAY.



Le grand jeu des Diables



Les Tirassoun



Les Chivau-Frus



La Reino Sabo



'MAD MOLL' OF HITCHIN

During the 19th century, Hitchin's May Day celebrations were famous throughout Hertfordshire. From early morning, parties of strangely dressed townsfolk and country people paraded the town, singing their 'Mayers' Song' and dancing to the music of fiddles, fifes and clarinets. The procession was led by 'Mad Moll and her

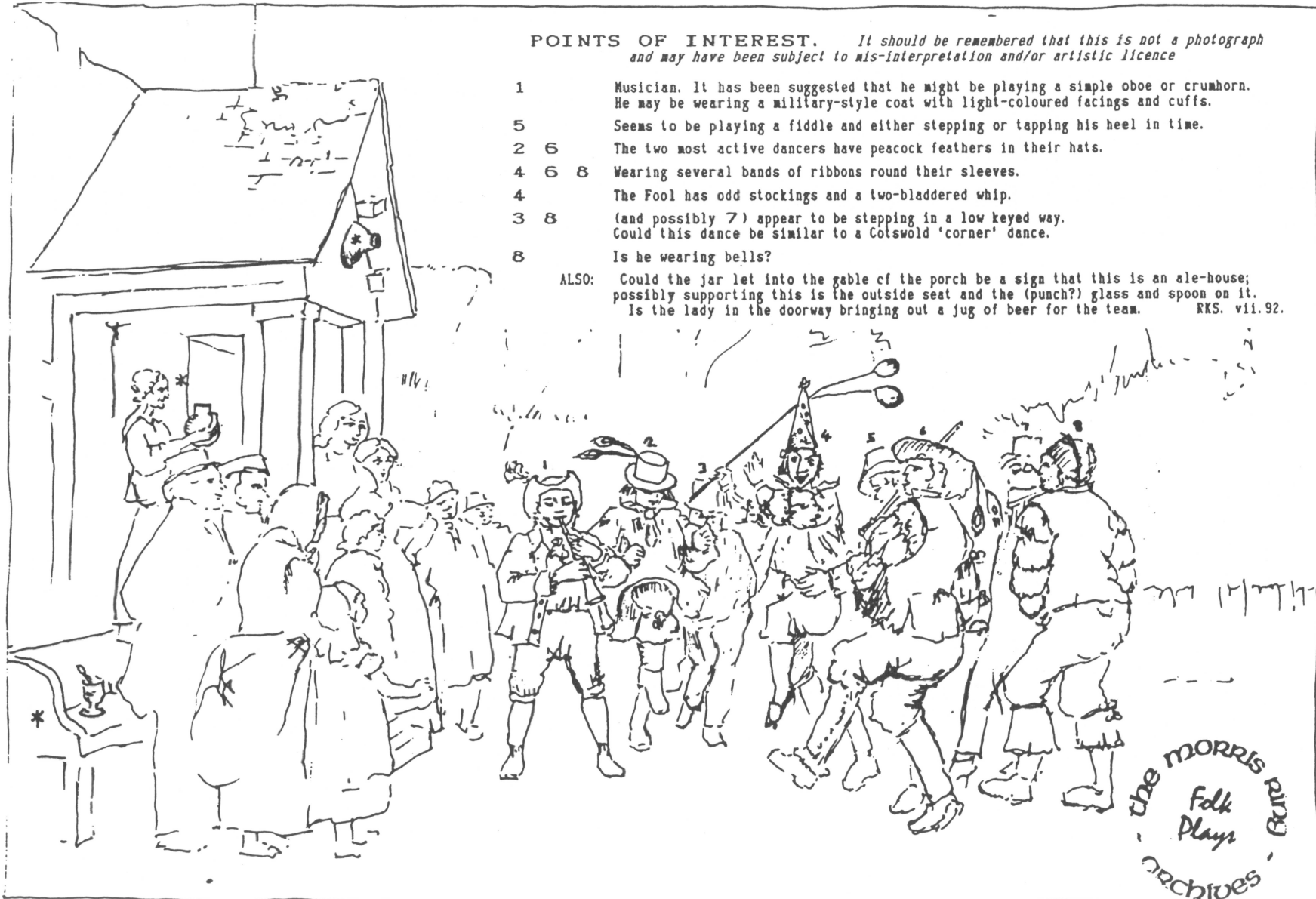
husband' – two men with blackened faces, one dressed as a woman in rags and tatters. Behind them came 'the Lord and Lady' – the 'Lady' a youth in a fine dress, the 'Lord' carrying a sword, and both of them decked in ribbons. Dancing and revelry went on all day. The Mayers' modern counterparts are the Offley Morris Men, who tour the area in the late spring with their hobby-horse.

The moated Hitchin Priory, built in 1770–1 over the site of a 14th-century Carmelite house, is reputedly haunted by the ghost of a Cavalier named Goring, slain under the eyes of his fiancée by a party of Roundheads at nearby High Down House. Each year, on June 15, his headless ghost is said to ride to the site of his hiding place in the grounds of the priory



C. CATTEEMOLE

"WORCESTERSHIRE MUMMERS."—PAINTED BY C. CATTEEMOLE.—SEE PAGE 70.



POINTS OF INTEREST. *It should be remembered that this is not a photograph and may have been subject to mis-interpretation and/or artistic licence*

- 1 Musician. It has been suggested that he might be playing a simple oboe or crumhorn. He may be wearing a military-style coat with light-coloured facings and cuffs.
 - 5 Seems to be playing a fiddle and either stepping or tapping his heel in time.
 - 2 6 The two most active dancers have peacock feathers in their hats.
 - 4 6 8 Wearing several bands of ribbons round their sleeves.
 - 4 The Fool has odd stockings and a two-bladdered whip.
 - 3 8 (and possibly 7) appear to be stepping in a low keyed way. Could this dance be similar to a Cotswold 'corner' dance.
 - 8 Is he wearing bells?
- ALSO: Could the jar let into the gable of the porch be a sign that this is an ale-house; possibly supporting this is the outside seat and the (punch?) glass and spoon on it. Is the lady in the doorway bringing out a jug of beer for the team. RKS. vii.92.

WORCESHIRE NUMMERS . by Charles Cattermole. 1859.



'The Milkmaid's Garland', by F. Hayman, c. 1735. By permission of the Victoria and Albert Museum.



BIAGIO MILKMAN'S GARLAND

ORIGINS OF THE MORRIS

OUTWARD CHARACTERISTICS

COATS - TEE SHIRTS & BUTTON BADGES

(LIVERIES) (FAVOURS)

KERCHIEFS or NAPKINS & BELLS

A FOOL - "CHARACTERS"

CONTENT

STEPS - RENAISSANCE, GALLIARD

FIGURES

SPANISH ⇒ COUNTRY DANCE ⇒ PLAYFORD

RESTORATION

MUSIC - FEW TUNES CHOSEN

SWORD DANCES

■ ■ ■ ■ Rapper sword

● ● ● ● Long sword

PROCESSIONAL MORRIS DANCES

^^ ^^ North-west

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ May Garland

* Non-progressive
(with handkerchiefs)

○ Non-progressive
(Derbyshire)

SET DANCES (MORRIS)

■ ■ ■ ■ Six-Man

● ● ● ● Six-Man Variable

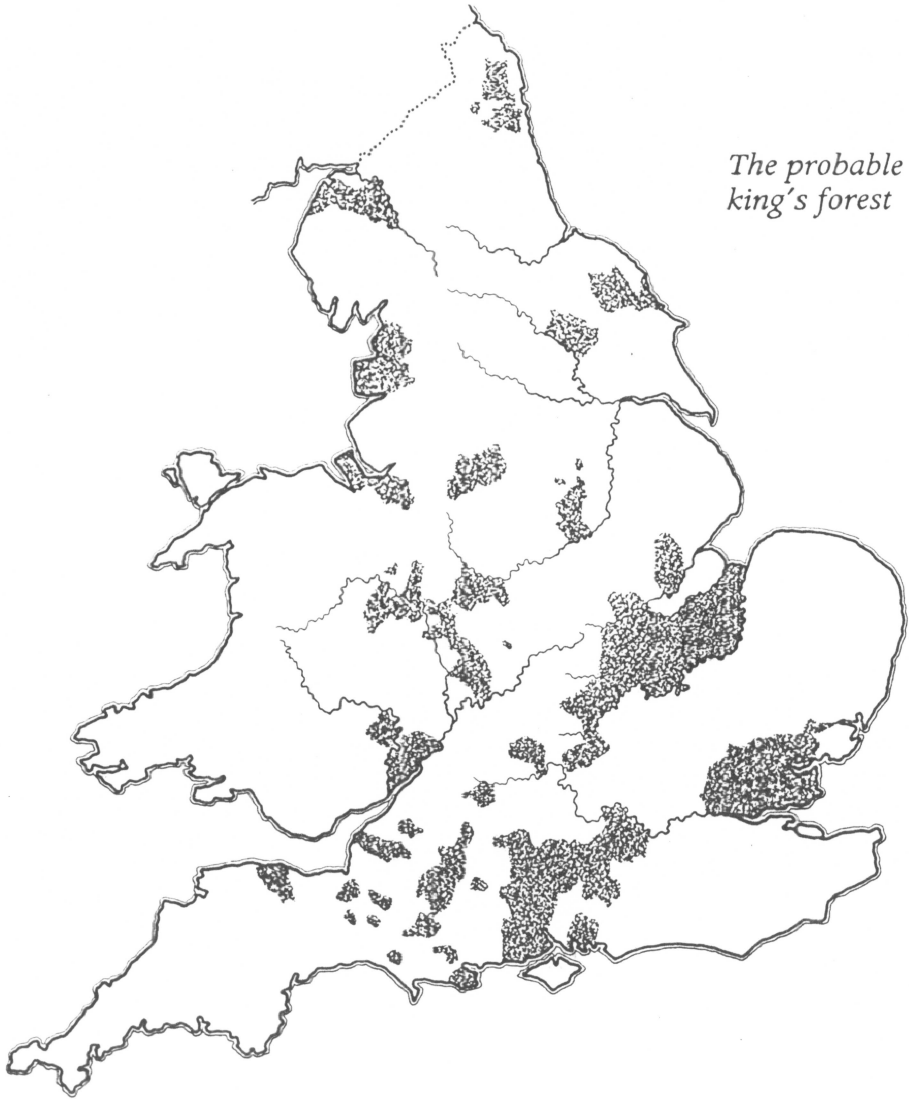
○ Eight-Man

++++ Variable Number

HORN DANCES

■ Animal Disguise



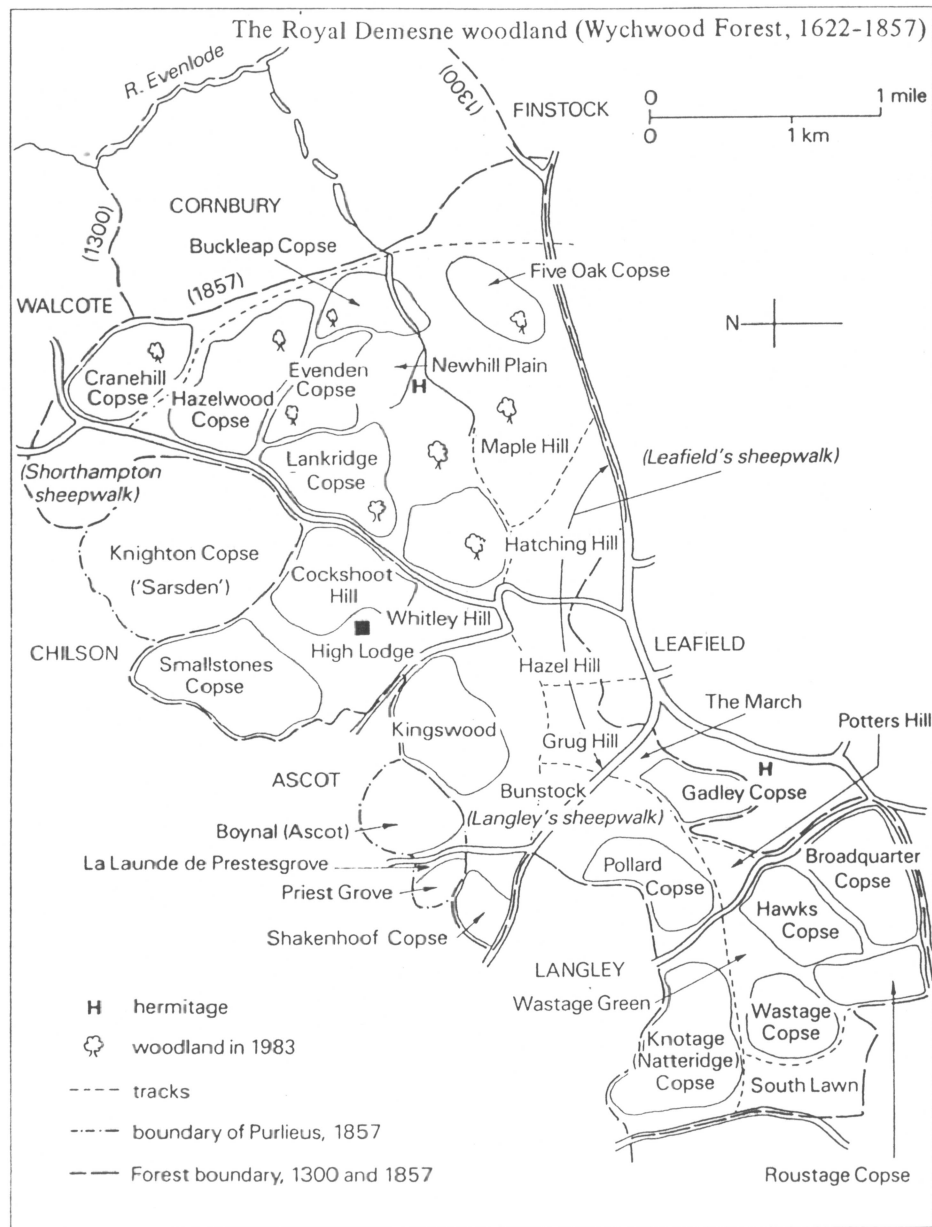


*The probable extent of the
king's forest*

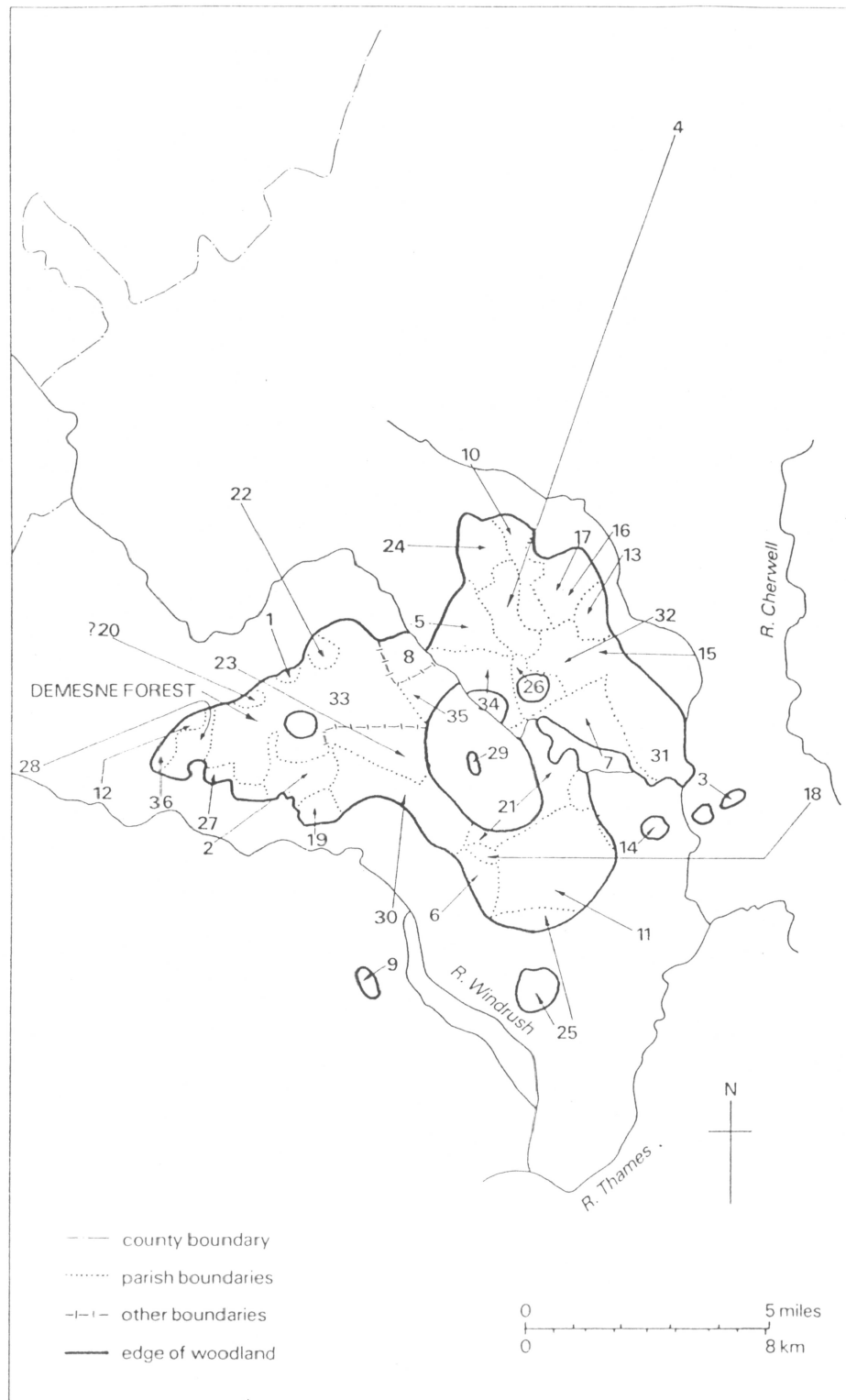
CHARLES WOODS



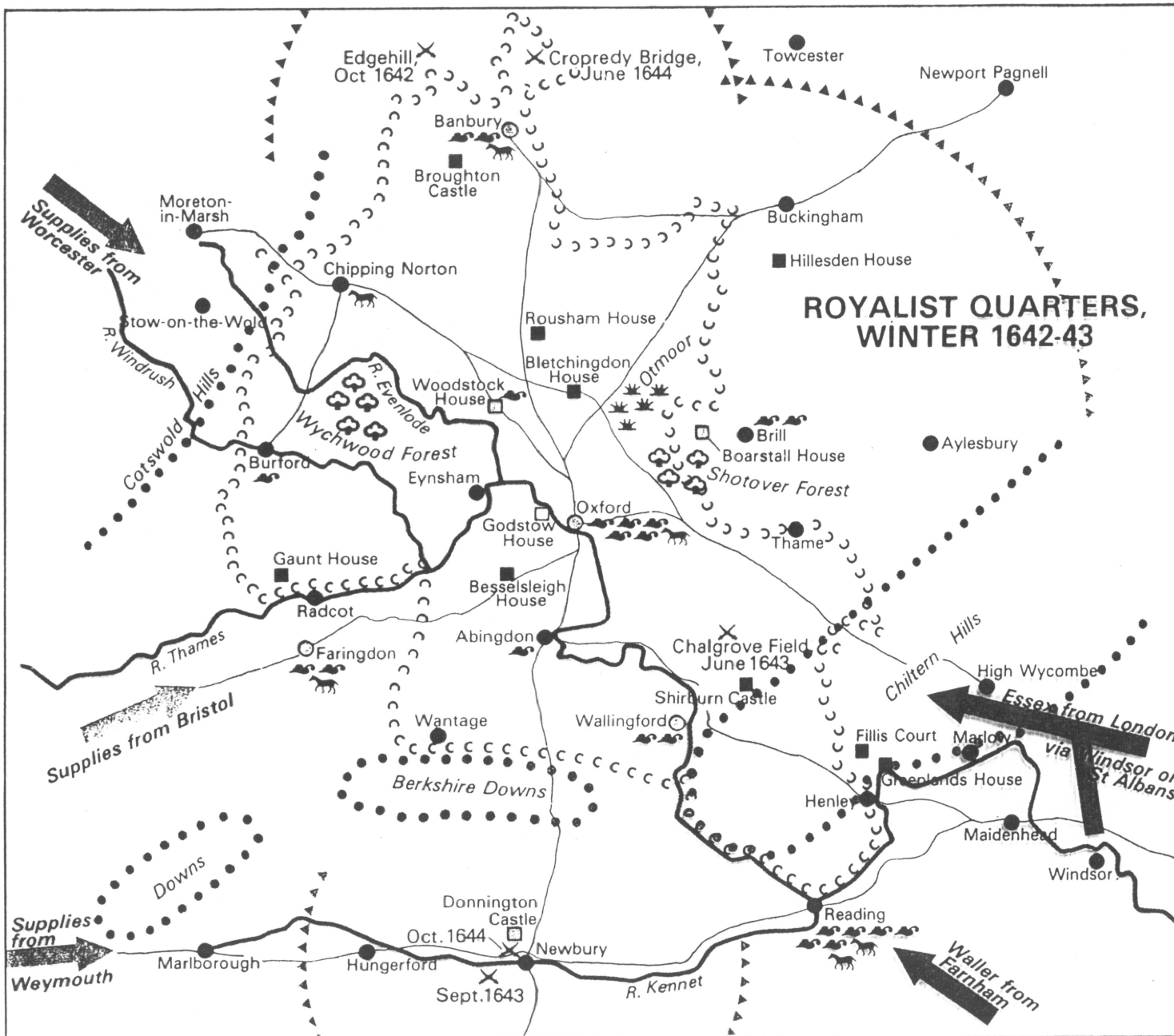
ROMAN RAVEN



NOT A REAL FOREST



RIGHTS FOR
 TIMBER & WOOD

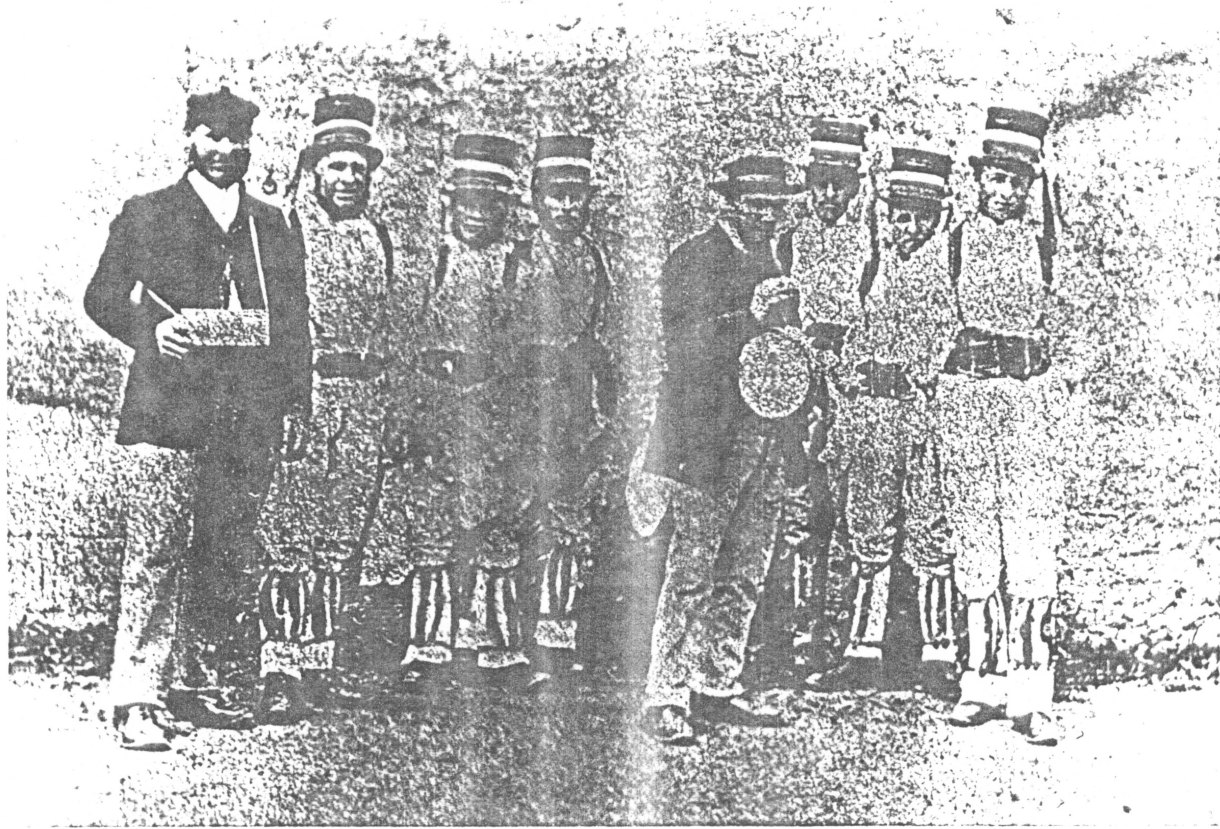


- Land over 600 feet
- Principal garrisons
- ⊙ Principal garrisons still in Royalist hands in 1646
- Fortified houses
- Fortified houses still in Royalist hands in 1646
- ∨ Battle

Royal Influence
Near Oxford



FIRST ILLUSTRATION OF
COTSWOLD MORRIS IN LONDON



Bucknell 1870



ADDOR BERRY C. 12.11



CAPPING CAMPDEN c 1900

"let vs deuse
Some entertainment for them."—*Loves Labour's lost.*

Programme of MORRIS DANCERS

As performed at ye Falcon Inn, at Bidford, on
ye XXJst day of January, mdccclxxxvij, & nowe to bee repeated
in STRATFORD-VPPON-AVON, under ye patronage of
The Shakespeare Club of ye said Towne.

Ye Troupe Consist of

Ye Foreman - - - Ed. Salisbury.

(Who did daunce XVIIJ years ago).

Ye Hyndeman - - - Herbert Smith.

(Also an old Morriser).

Ye myddle men =

Thomas Winket. John Smith. George Hendley.

Alfred Bott. And manie Supernumeraries.

Ye Mynstrelle who plays JOHN ROBBINS.

"What Minstrelsy and pretty din."—*Pericles.*

Ye Hobby Horse - - - Eli Bennett.

"The Hobbie-horse is but a Colt."—*Loves Labour's lost.*

Ye Tom Fool - - - Edward James.

"What foole is this?"—*As you like it.*

Maister of ye Revels EDWARD SALSBUURY.

"I delight in Maskes and Reuels."—*Twelife Night, or, What you will.*

Ye Morris Dancers enter Performing

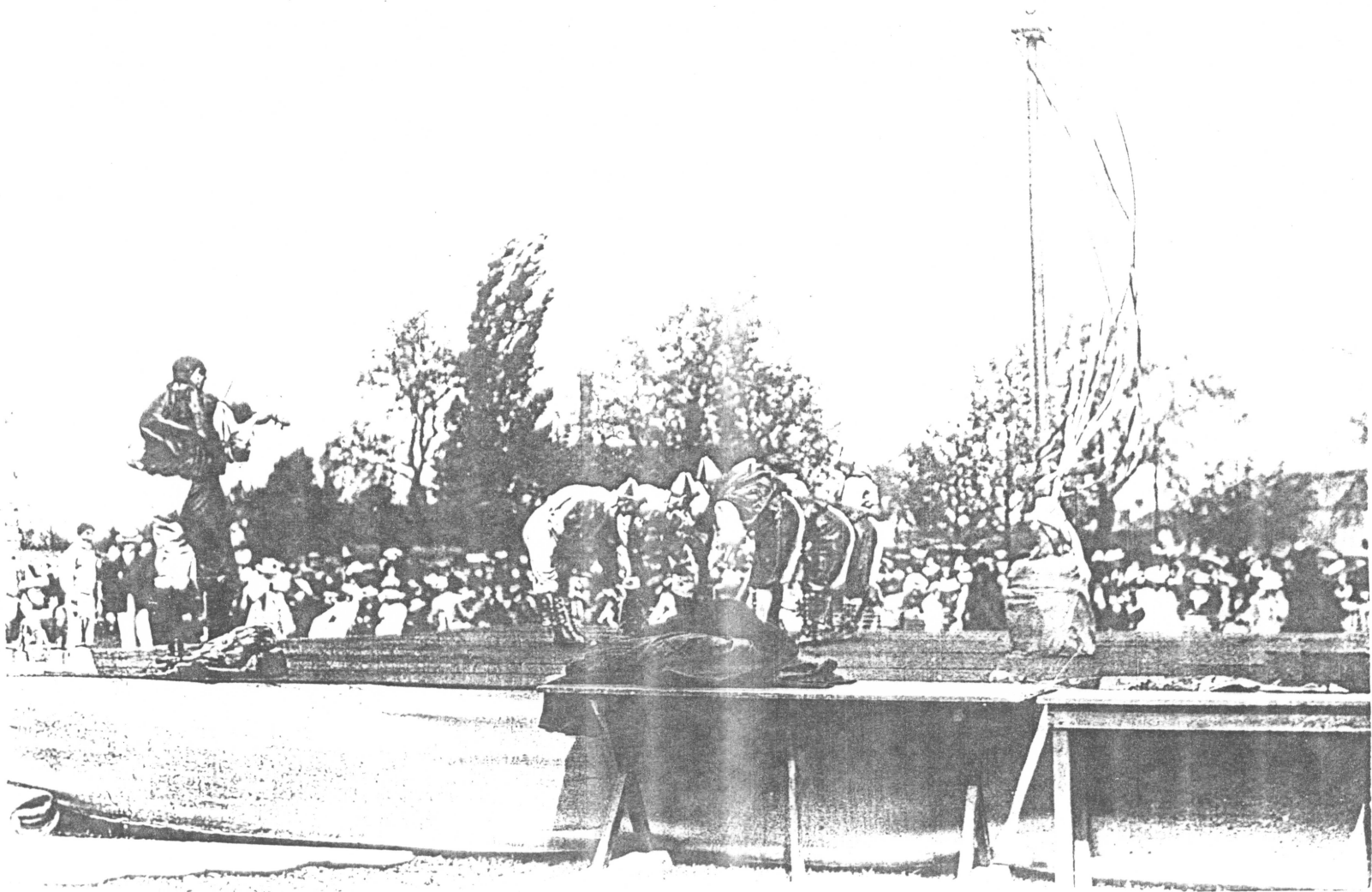
"Towne Morris," or "Greene Garter."

They shall then daunce certaine of ye following Figures :

"Shepherd's Hay."	"Young Colin."	"Old Woman tossed up in a Blanket."
"Billy & Nancy."	"Devil among ye Tailors."	"Black Joke."
"Princes Royal."	"Morning Star."	"Molly Oxford."
"Heel & Toe."	"Valentine."	"We wont go home till Morning."
"Merry-go-Round."	"Old Trunko."	"Brighton Camp."
"In Wooden Shoon."	"Saturday Night."	
"Bluff King Hal."	"Constant Billy."	

With Interludes between each Daunce by ye Hobbey Horse & ye Tom Foole, ye latter
shall also perform cunning daunces, sing songs, & do many curious anticks.

"Our Reuels now are ended."—*The Tempest.*



BIDFORD AT STRATFORD 1904

BIDFORD 21906





HEADINGTON C1910

511



HEADINGTON c. 1960



ASINERDON C1904



JAMES HEMMING
OF ASINARDAN



ARBLINGDON & BYSSHAM 1937

12



AS MeDon early 1960's



Bampton c1887



B. Wilson



Bambra 1970



ICMINGTON c1910



HARRY TAYLOR, of Longfellow.
"making light of his sixty-eight years, sang to me the tunes, executed the steps,
and explained the figures with the utmost skill and readiness."
—GLEN SHARP in THE MOVIE BOOK, Pt. IV, p. 9.



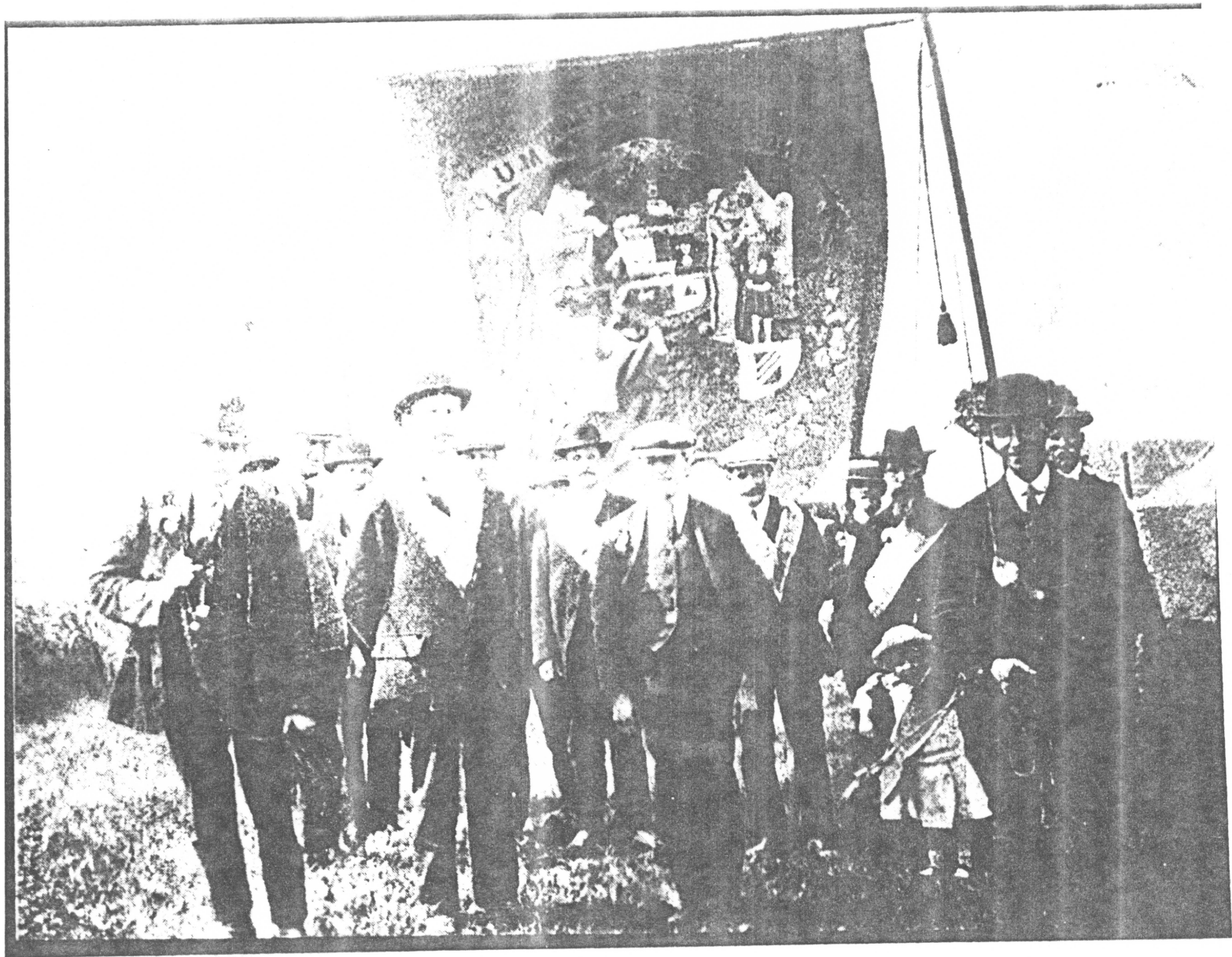
ALBERT TOWNSEND, of Shetford.

Sources



THE BRITISH LEGION CARNIVAL. this time two years earlier.

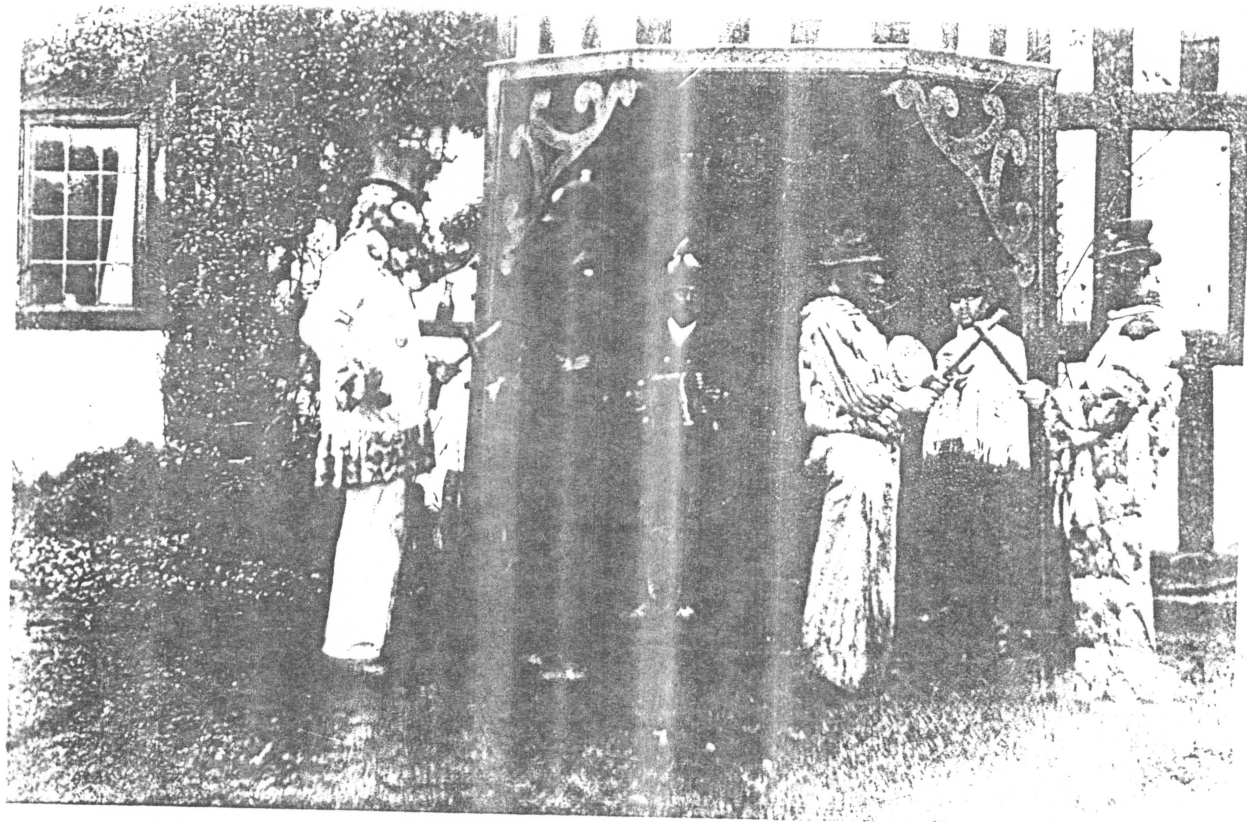
CARNIVAL MARRIES IN THE COESWOLDS!



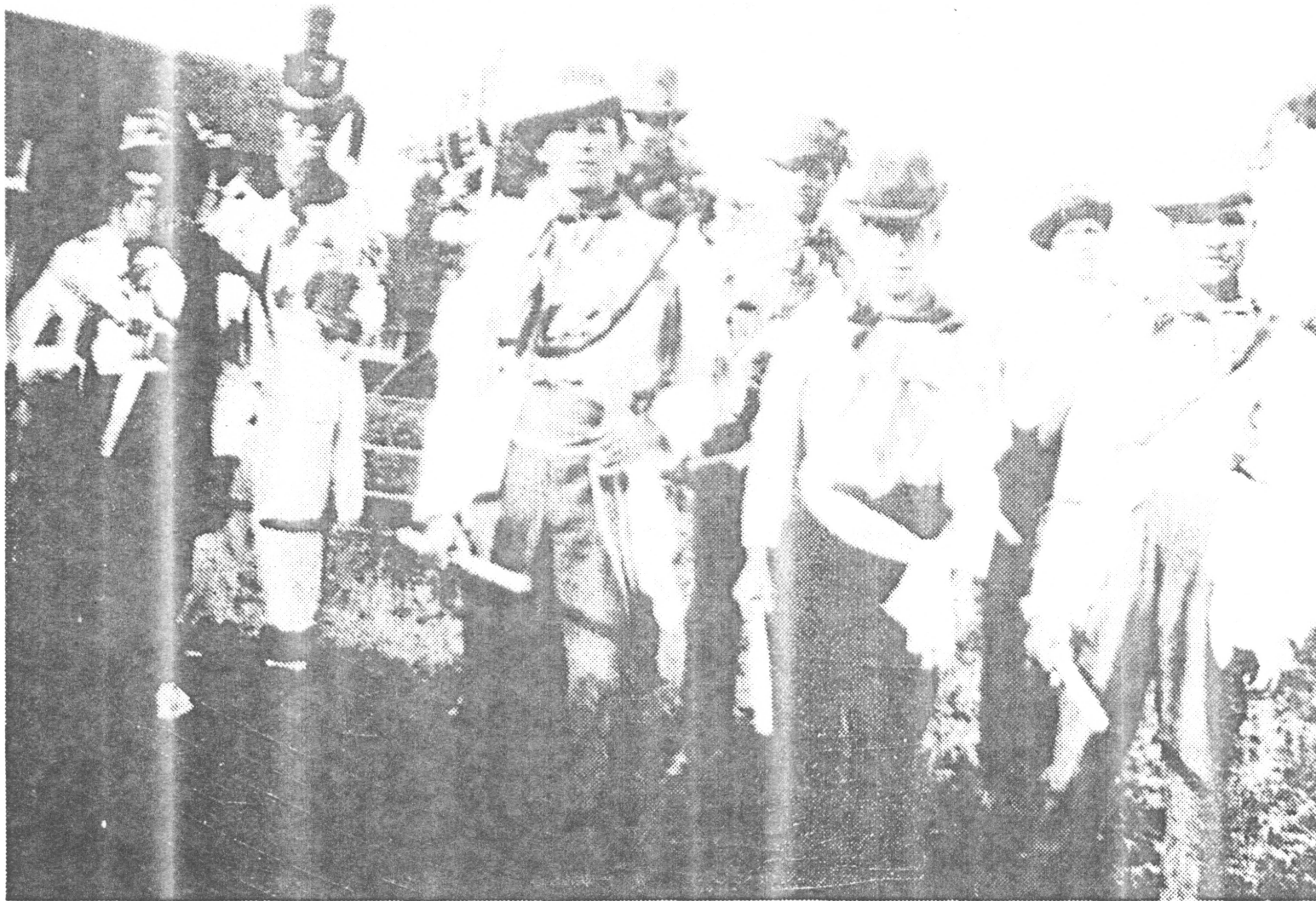
TADDINGTON, Dorsetshire



Figure 5
Taddington Morris Dance, Club Feast Day, c. 1900



Brimfield



Upton Morrismen in the mid twenties.



OPTON ON SEVERN

25

Evesham



clown

THE UPTON ON SEVERN MORRIS DANCES.



A Pershore Not for Jace.

Elton



Orleton



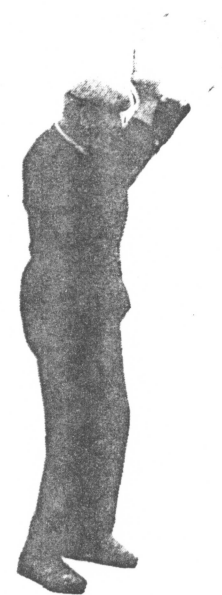
Leominster



CRADLEY MORRIS DANCE



The Much Wenlock costume as worn by Cyril Moseley.



Cyril Moseley, a "Molly Dancer" from Much Wenlock.



king

collector

THE BROMSBERROW HEATH MORRIS DANCES.

Brimfield



two styles of dress worn before 1929

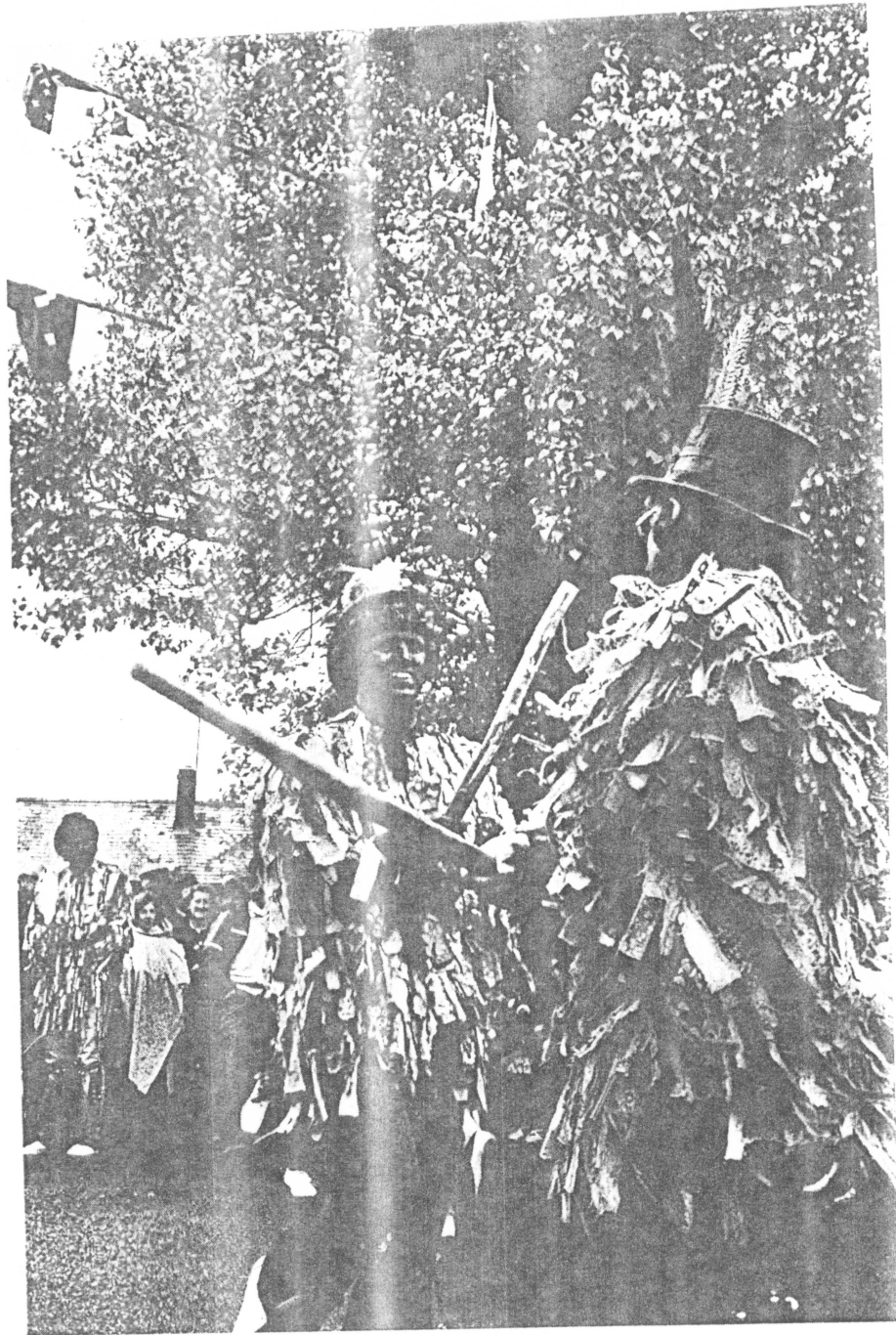
Brimfield



1929

Dilwyn





Morris men in action during the Aston-on-Clun Arbor Day festivities in Shropshire, 1980.

68

THE MORRIS MEN AND MODERN CULTURE



COMMONERS MORRIS AT SCARBOROUGH

MIXED SET

ORIGINS OF THE MORRIS

THREADS

ANIMALS

RELIEF FOR DRAMA

THE RECONQUEST

RIGHTS - MOSTLY FOREST

THE GAMES - KING, ROBIN HOOD, MAY
DOVER & MUCH WENLOCK

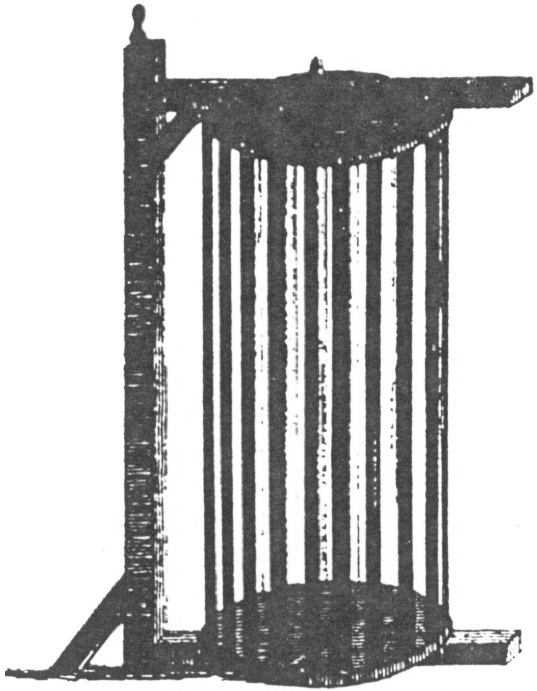
ALES - CHURCH, REGULAR, OCCASIONAL
KIRTLINGTON LAMB

CLUBS - FRIENDLY SOCIETIES

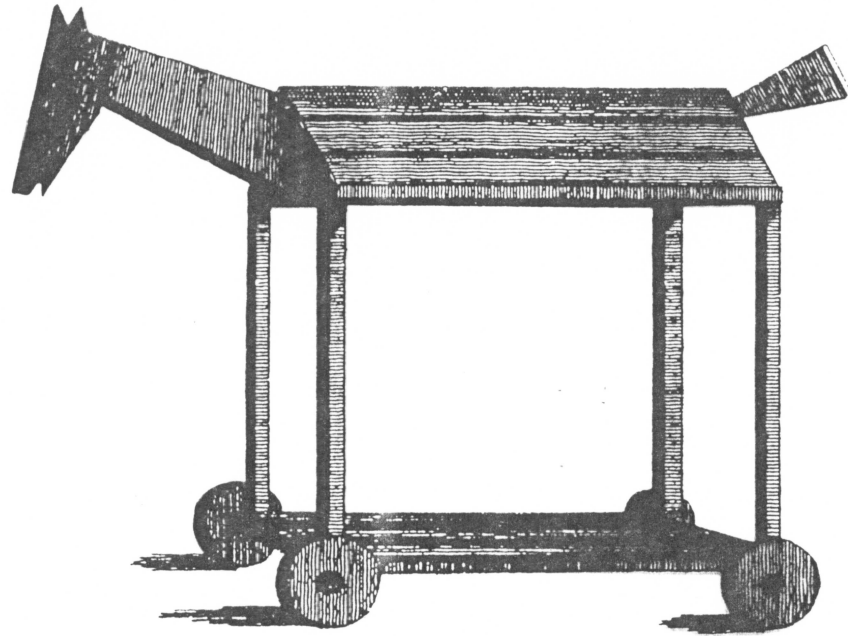
THE GENTRY



Taborer and woman as hobby-horse. Oxford,
Bodleian Library, MS Douce 118, f.34r.

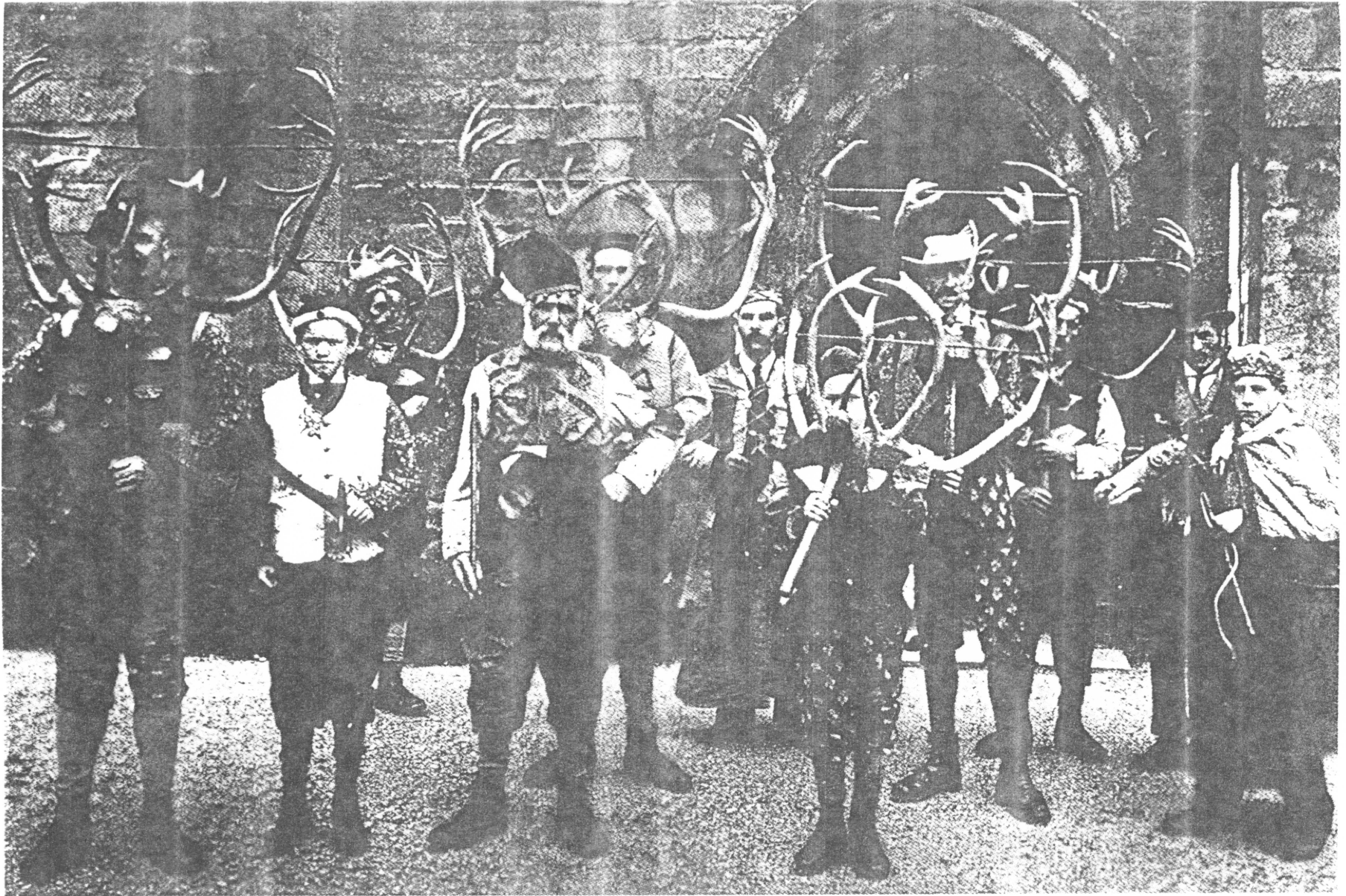


The whirligig

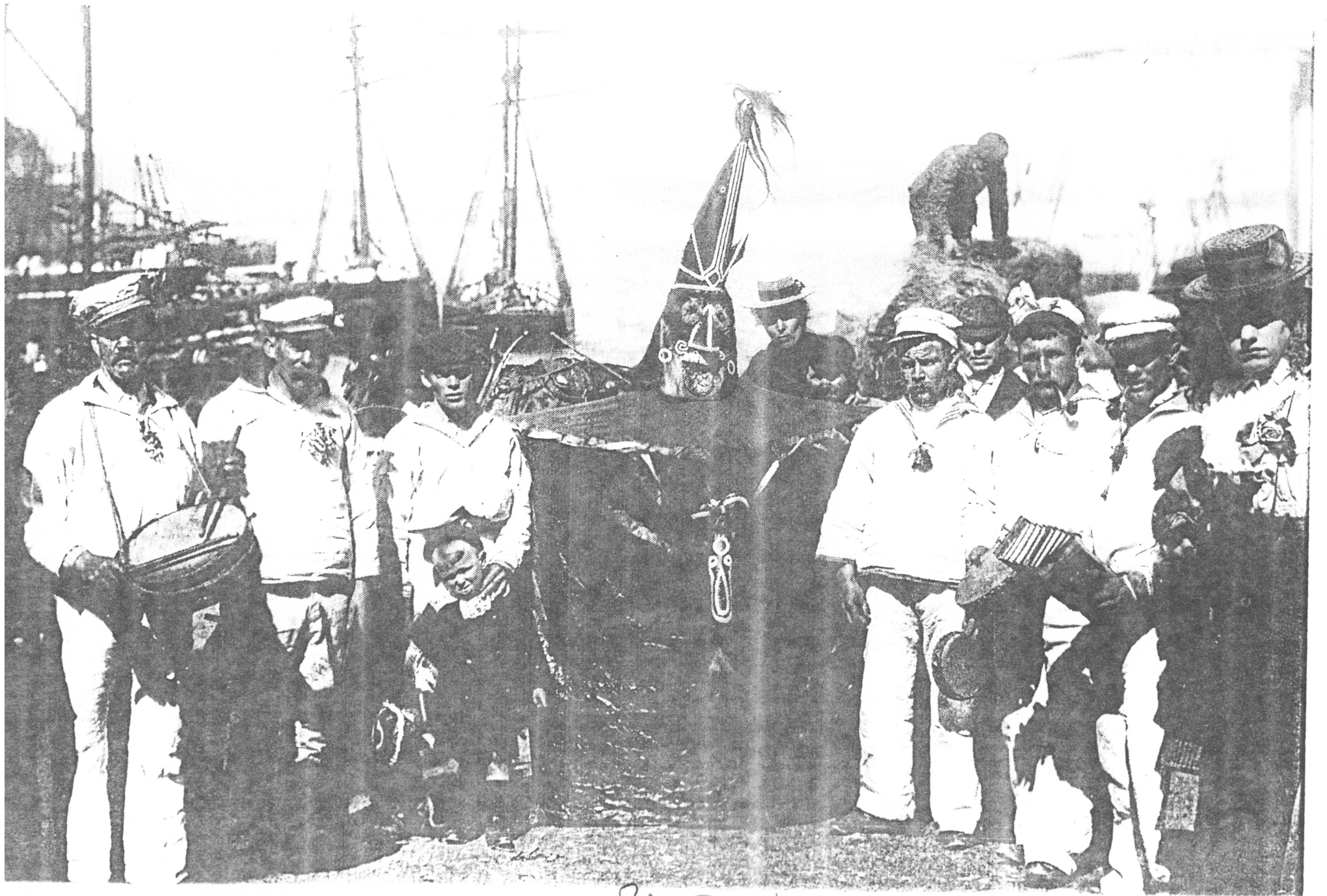


The wooden horse

AS INSTRUMENTS OF PUNISHMENT



CHARACTERS IN THE HORN DANCE, ABBOTS BROMLEY.



0A-5511

CUSTOMS and TRADITIONS of WALES





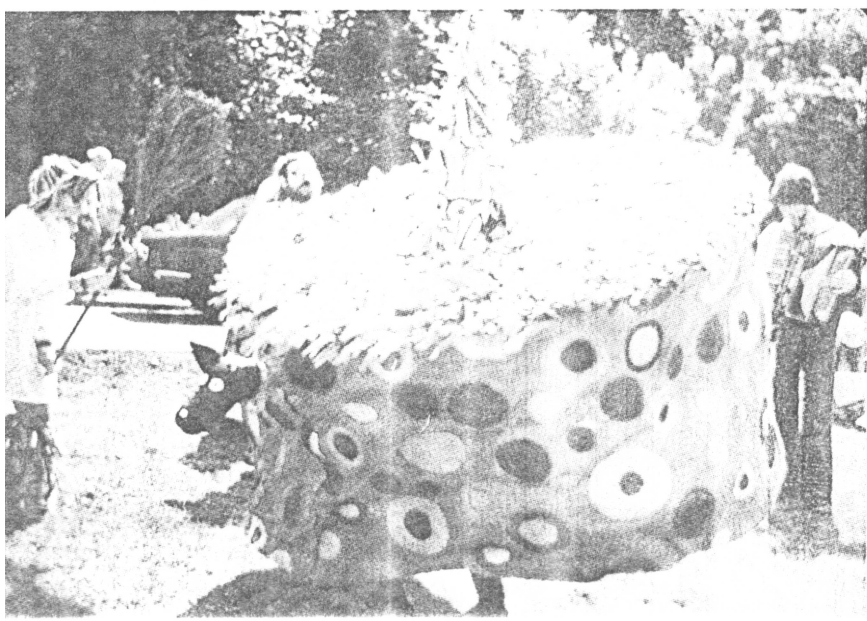
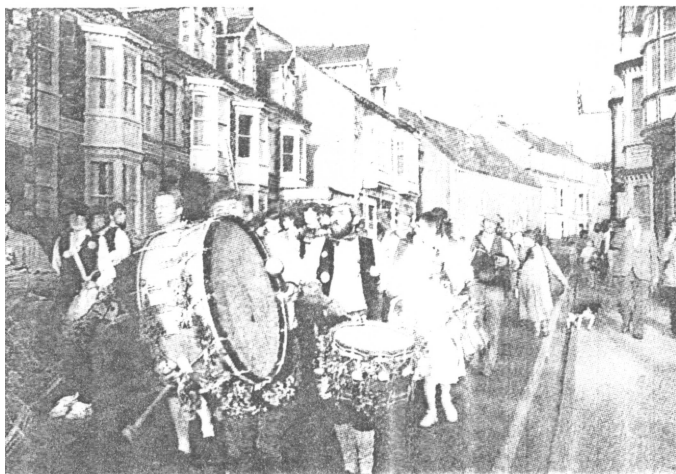
FIGURE 14. The Tetbury Bull, Gloucestershire, last used in the 1930s. The bull has belonged to one family for 170 years or more. The horn span is twenty seven inches and the height forty eight inches. The central boss is blue, and once had two red ribbons hanging down to the eyes. The wooden head is covered with whitewashed hide, with the bases of black bottles for eyes. (Photograph: Taken in 1975 by Hector Paroussi, by courtesy of R. P. Chidlaw.)



The Hoodening party at Saint Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent, in about 1908. Mollie has a broom and plays the triangle. The other musicians play melodeon and tambourine, and there are a jockey and waggoner. The horse seems to be the one photographed by Maylam at Sarre in 1906, with the same face piece and characteristic rein, but with a more elaborate head brass here, with bells.



The Ilmington Tourney Horse, Warwickshire, made in the twentieth century. Operated here by Sam Bennett.

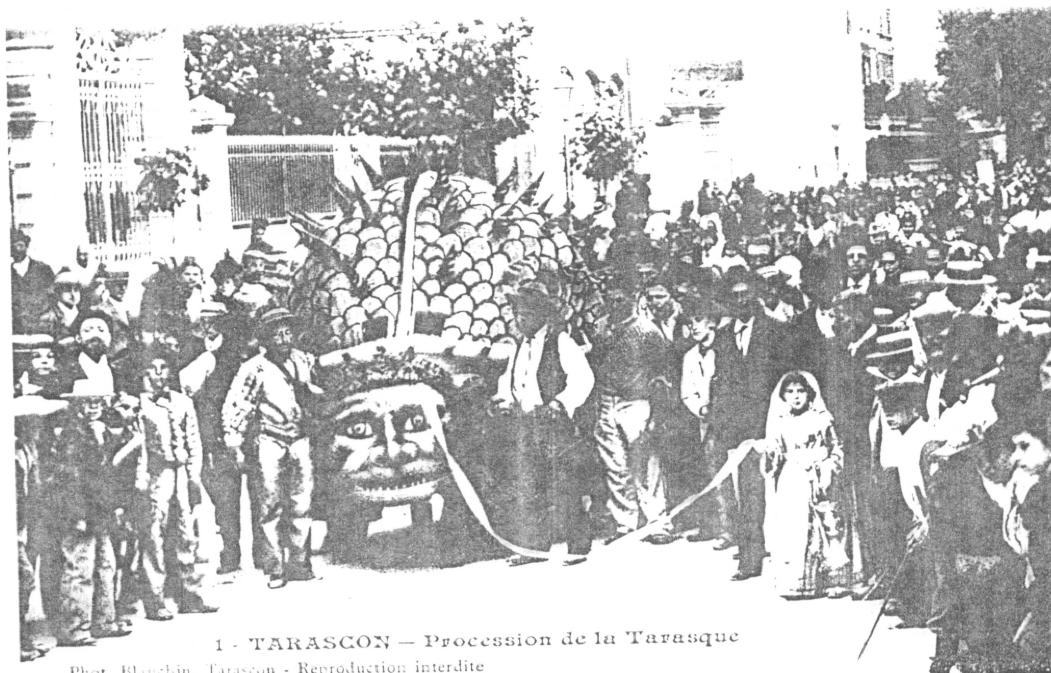




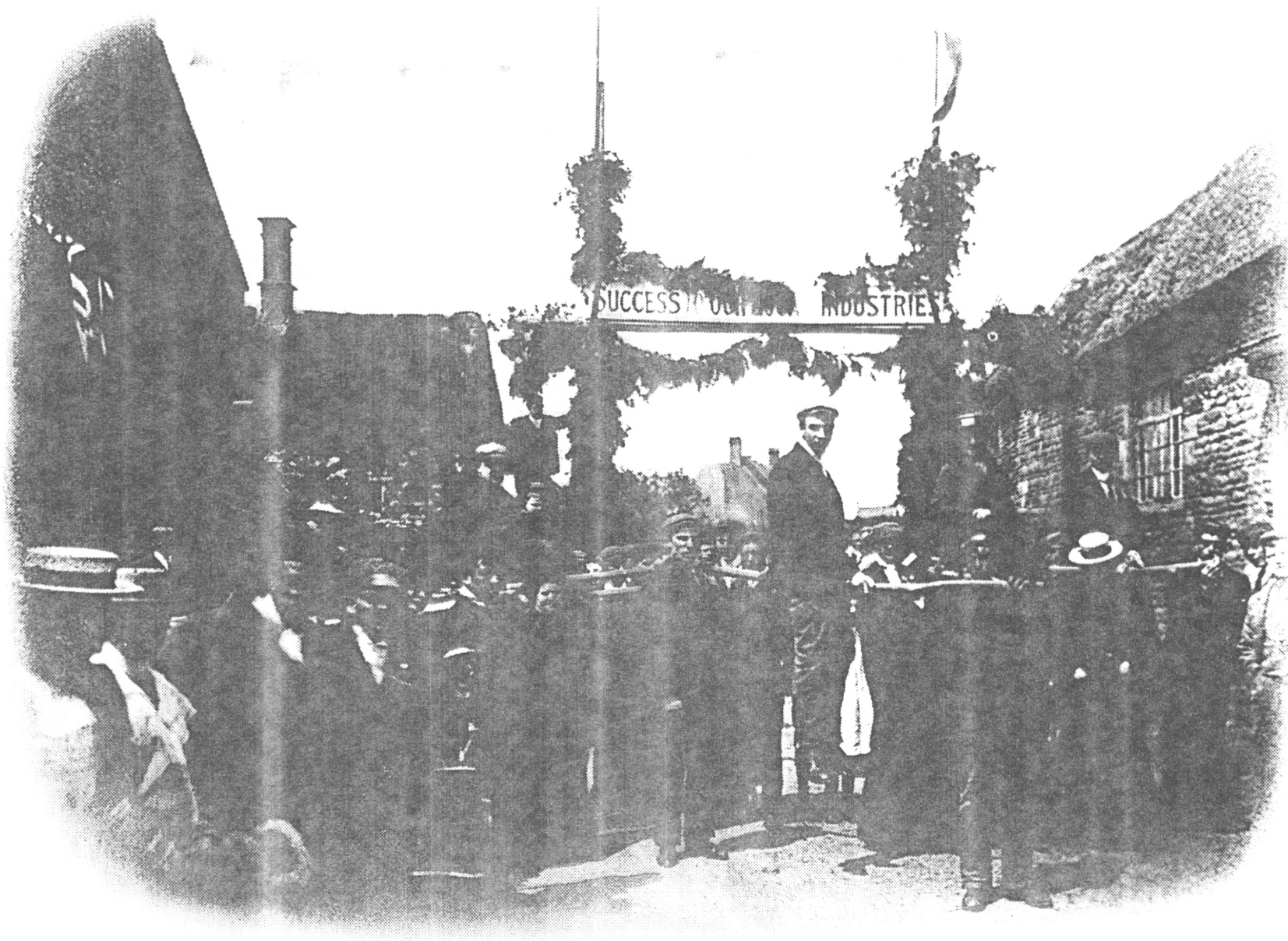
NORWICH DRAGON



M. L. CHIRIAN
Edit. Prévot, Avignon
13. FÊTE PROVENÇALE — Promenade de la TARASQUE



1. TARASCON — Procession de la Tarasque
Phot. Blanchin, Tarascon - Reproduction interdite

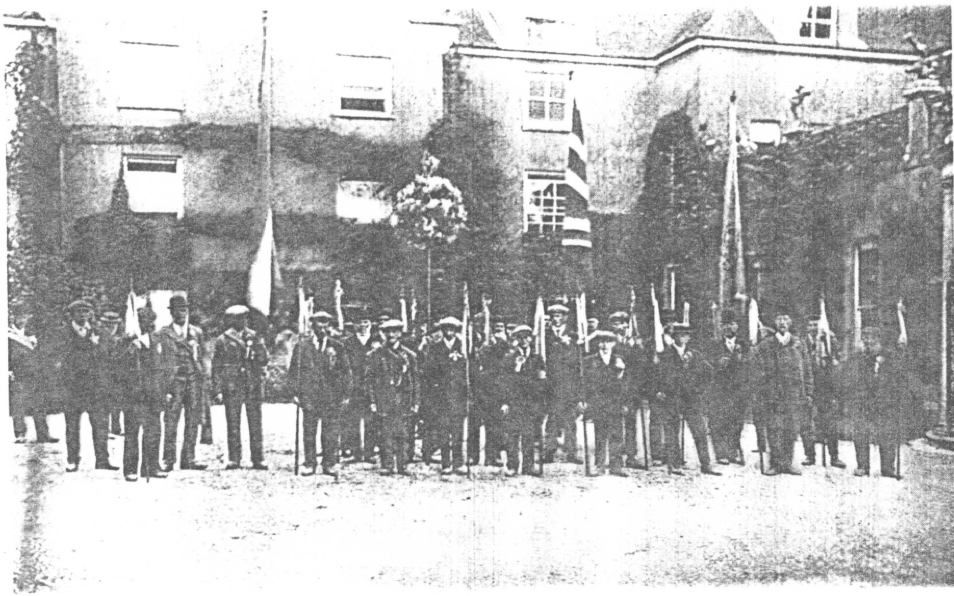


Cheerful male 'offenders' are carried to the stocks on poles, while lady 'miscreants' enjoy a more comfortable chair ride: Corby Pole Fair in 1902.

PUNISHMENT



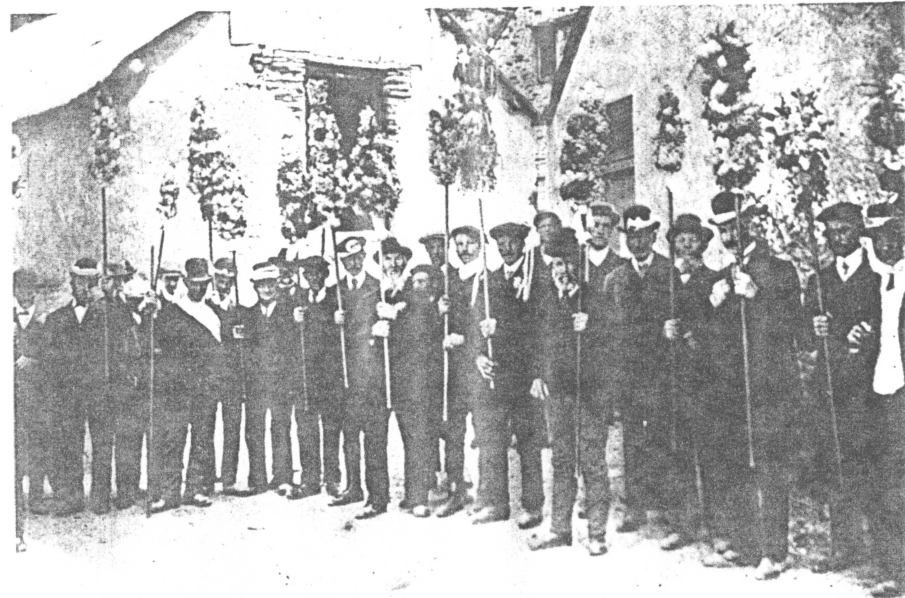
Punishment



1 Henstridge Friendly Society members assembled before a patron's house with their spherical garland of flowers, possibly circa 1913



2 Timberscombe Friendly Society. Floral pole heads held by young 'walkers' representing absent members on an annual feast day, circa 1915



Bridgetown Friendly Society in the early nineteen-hundreds, 'walking', and assembled, with flower-topped poles

STAVES

20

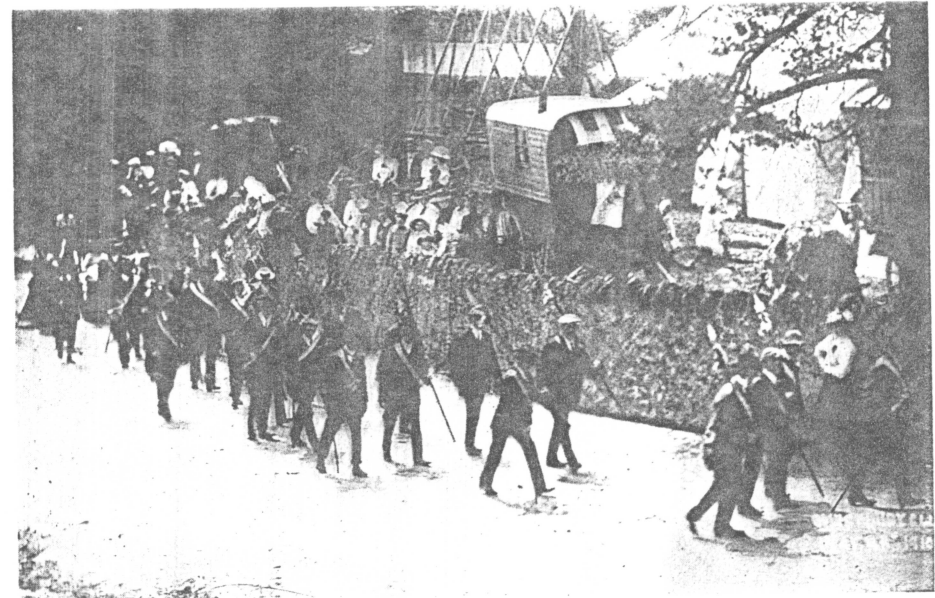


Westbury-sub-Mendip Friendly Society, 23rd May, 1910

bove: Members lined up in the street, holding their poles topped with spears and thick oollen tassels. The two officers in the foreground hold larger spears than the ordinary members

ght, above: Assembled members with a patron and the banner in their midst, the band, and omen and children

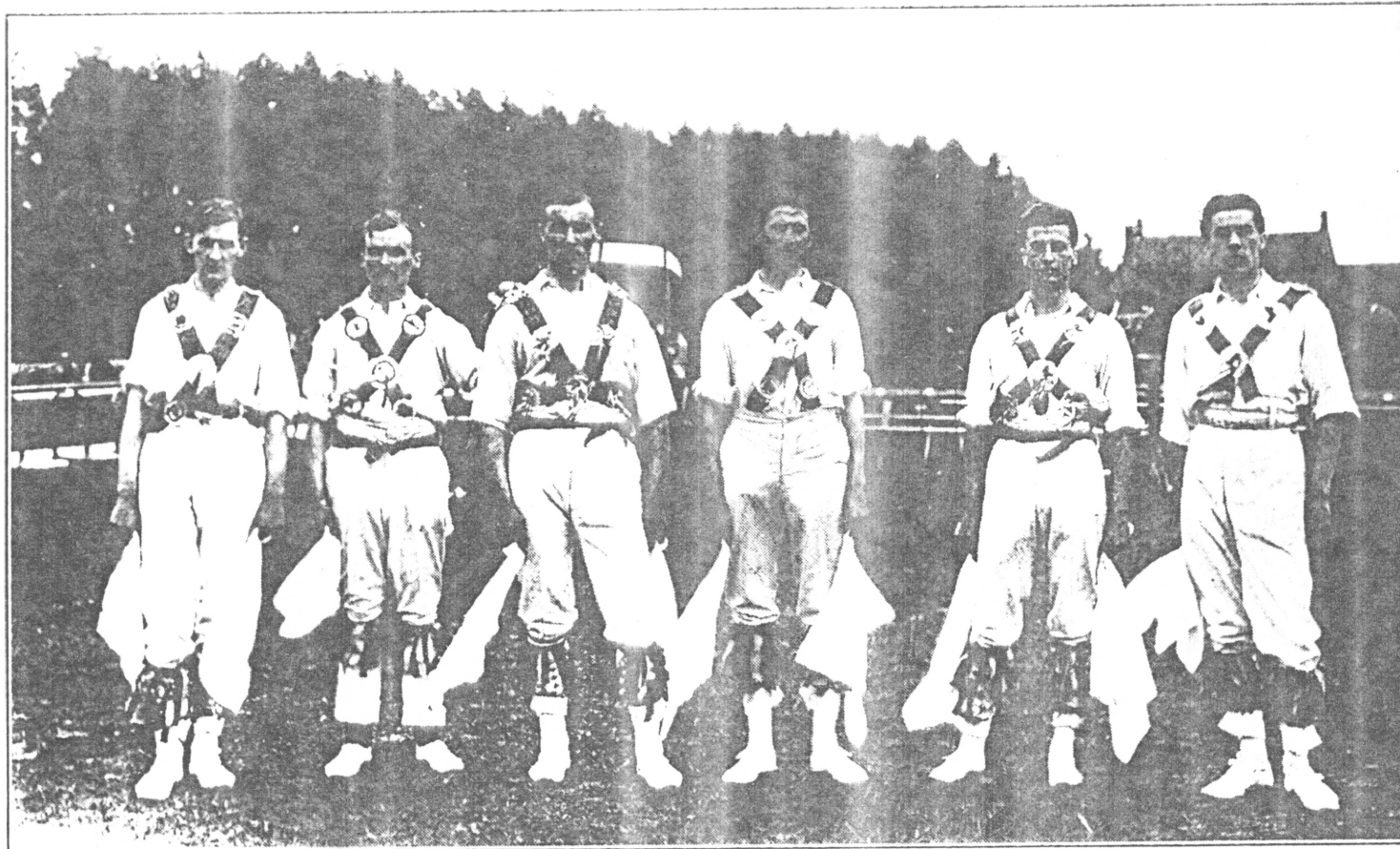
ght, below: The 'walk' passing the fairground





ABOVE : May Day, 1891

MAYPOLE & GARLANDS REACH SEWERS



THE SOCIETY'S FIRST MORRIS SIDE.

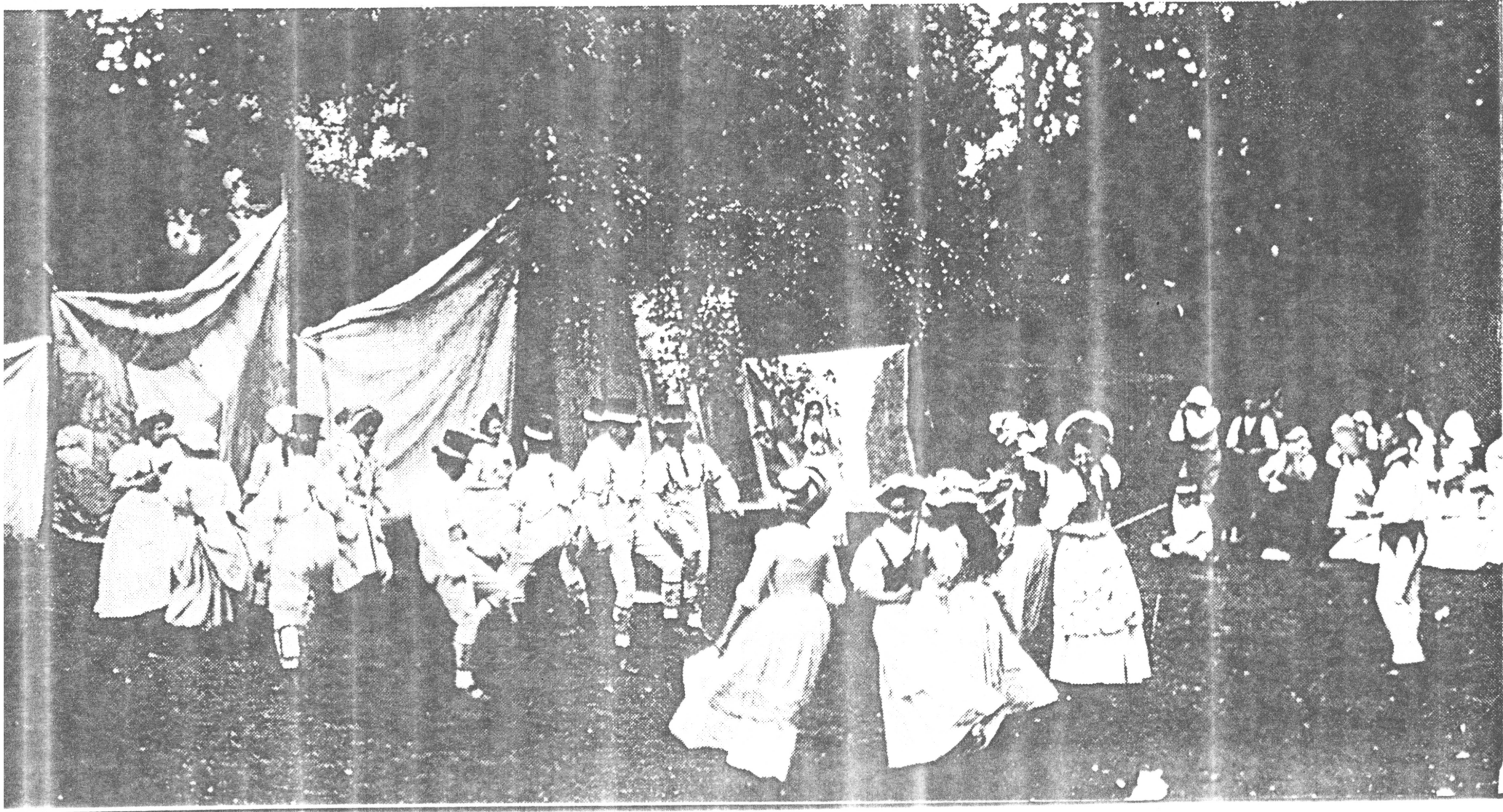
D. N. Kennedy. G. S. K. Butterworth James Paterson Perceval Lucas. A. C. Wright. G. J. Wilkinson.

GFDS



MERRIE ENGLAND ONCE MORE!

[In consequence of the great success of the Espérance Girls' Club in promoting the revival of English Folksongs and Morris Dances in country villages, a Conference is to be held, on November 14, at the Goupil Gallery for the purpose of furthering this admirable scheme.



LES PERANCES PUBLIC DISPLAY



SHEPHERD'S HAY (p. 20)



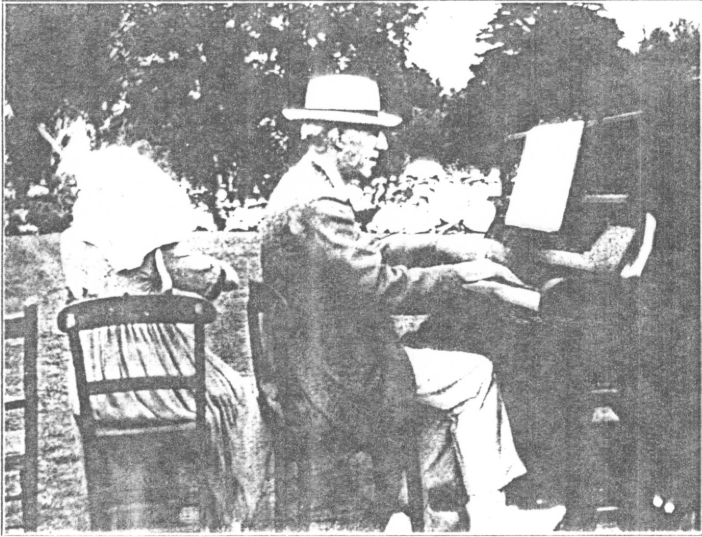
ALL IN (p. 26)

ESPERANCE CLUB



Figure 2
Joe Trafford instructs the Espérance girls at Crosby Hall, Chelsea,
3 November 1910, with Mark Cox, fiddler; with acknowledgements to
Bob Grant and Oxfordshire County Council Library Services

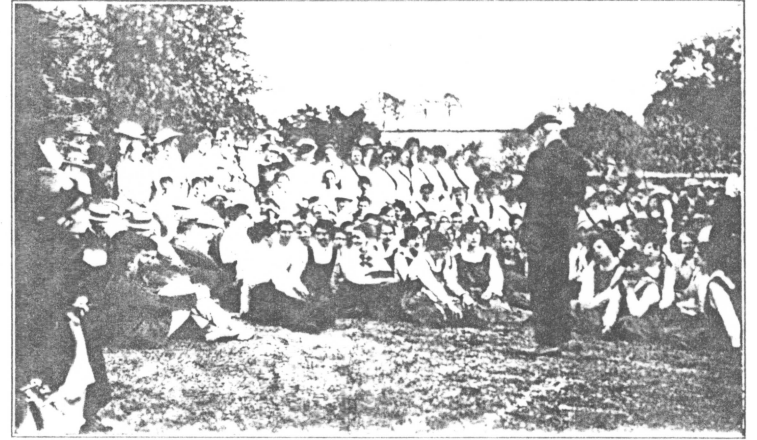
INVITING TRADITIONAL DANCERS



PLAYING FOR A DEMONSTRATION AT STRATFORD-ON-AVON, 1919.



WITH DISCIPLES AT ALDEBURGH, AUGUST, 1923.



Photograph

G. F. Quilley, Ingatestone.

ADDRESSING TEAMS AFTER A COMPETITION AT INGATESTONE.



WITH DISCIPLES AT ALDEBURGH, AUGUST, 1923.

Cecilia Sharp