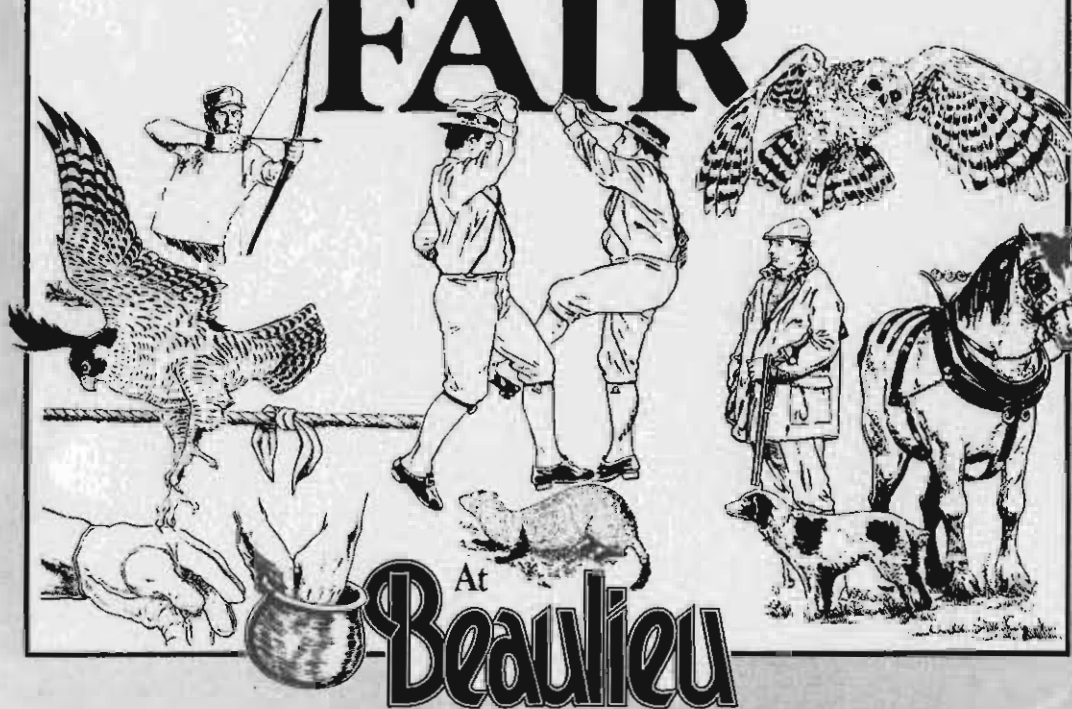




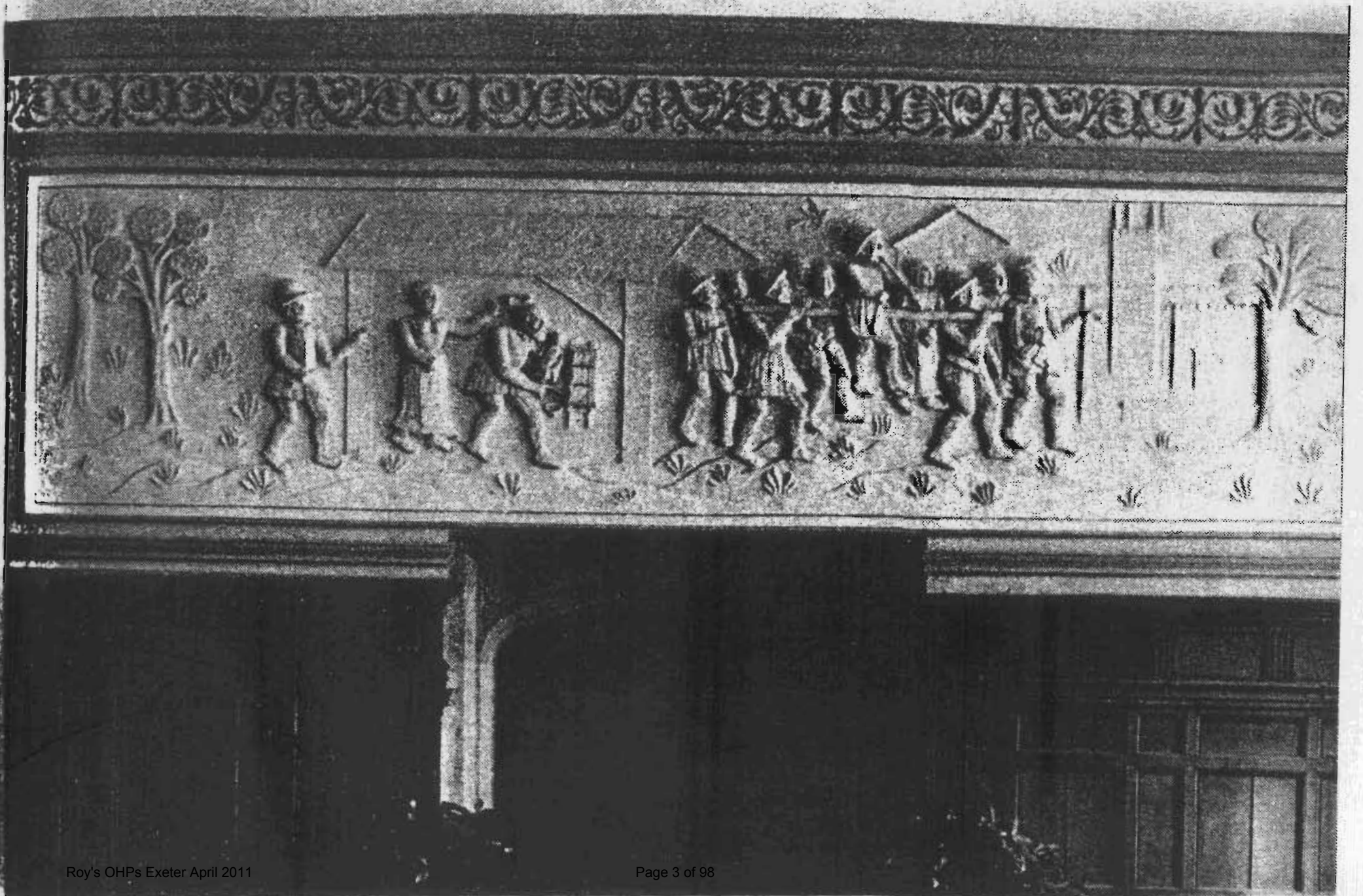
1. Most of our scanty knowledge of the dances of classical Greece derives from low reliefs and paintings on vases, of which the above is a good example in the late sixth-century style. The flute player himself appears to be dancing, and the female dancer is wielding clappers in each hand.

# COUNTRY FAIR



Entertainments and Crafts galore, including Morris Dancing, Punch and Judy, Brass Band, Falconry, Heavy Horses, Ferret Racing, Archery, Thatching, Stick Dressing, Sheep Shearing, The Pathfinders Alsatian Display Team, New Simulated Clay Pigeon Shoot and lots more.

**The South's greatest outdoor covered Country Fair.**

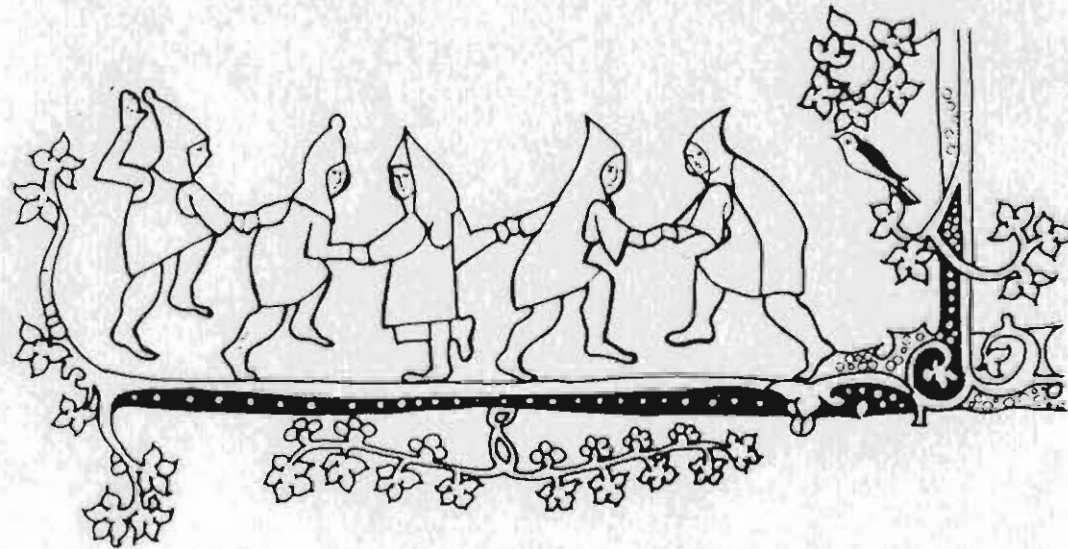






**Taborer and woman as hobby-horse. Oxford,  
Bodleian Library, MS Douce 118, f.34r.**

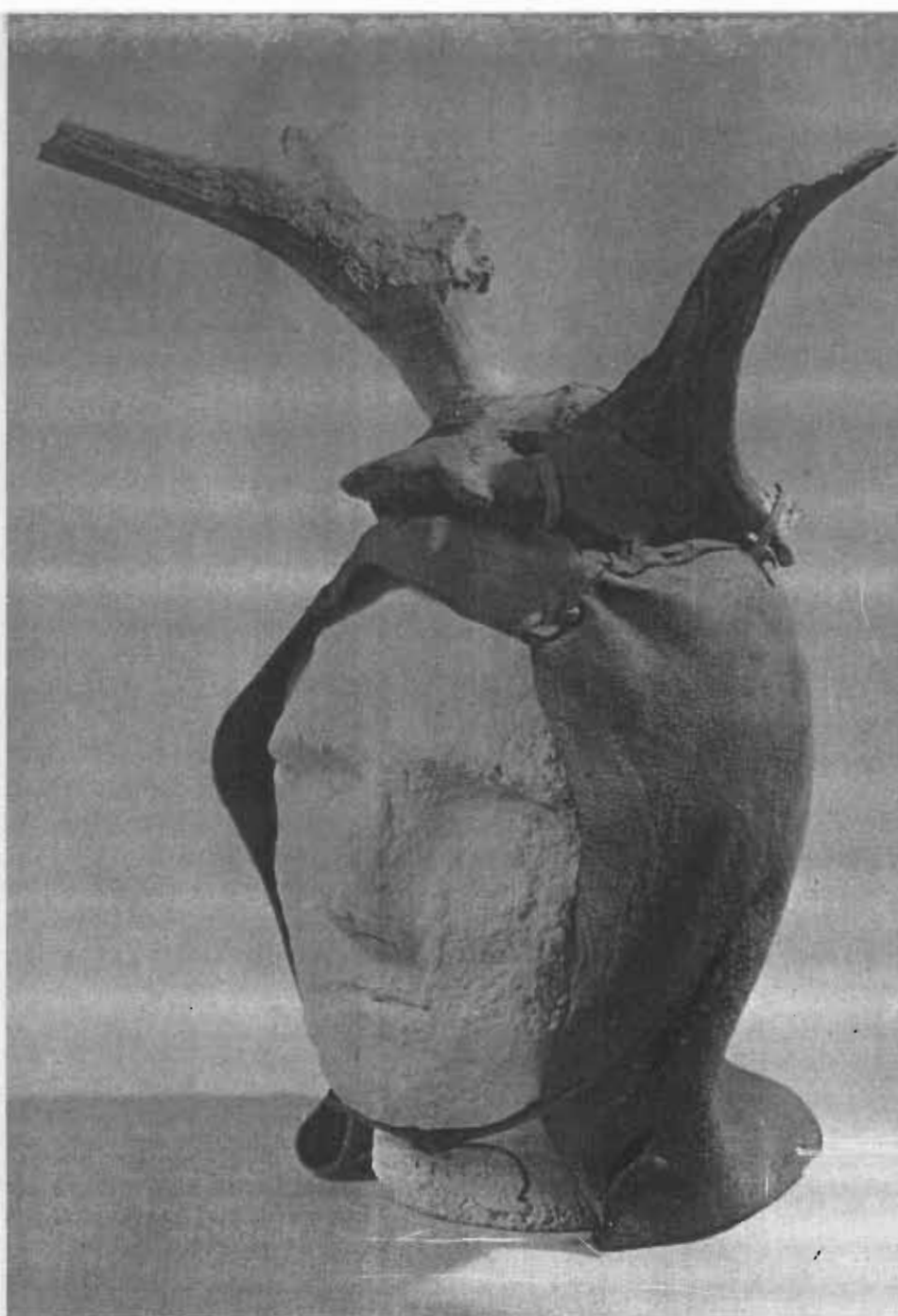




Dancing in medieval times (taken from a medieval manuscript).



**Hunting Rituals.** Some of the hunters at Star Carr wore headgear made from stag frontlets with part of the antlers still attached. The interiors of the skulls had been hollowed, as if to lighten the bone, and the skulls were perforated. These deer-hunters may have worn them during hunting rituals.



11 *This reconstructed 'head-piece' from Star Carr in Yorkshire shows how these antler frontlets could have been both hunting decoys and also the 'horns' of witch-doctors in the Middle Stone Age around 7500bc*





*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 México (Hurok)*

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

---



*Left:  
Dance scene from a ceremony of  
Neolithic hunters. Men are dressed  
in skirts and caps of leopard skin and  
carry bows or boomerangs. One  
marks the rhythm with a little drum.  
Two naked figures jump or run.  
Çatal Hüyük, 6th millennium B.C.*





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







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





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

Salome as acrobatic dancer with two swords.  
Cambridge, Pembroke College MS 120, f.5v.





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





Saints and Angels dancing in Paradise.

*Italian Painting 17th Century.*



Roy's OHPs Exeter April 2011 16 Page 18 of 98  
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



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









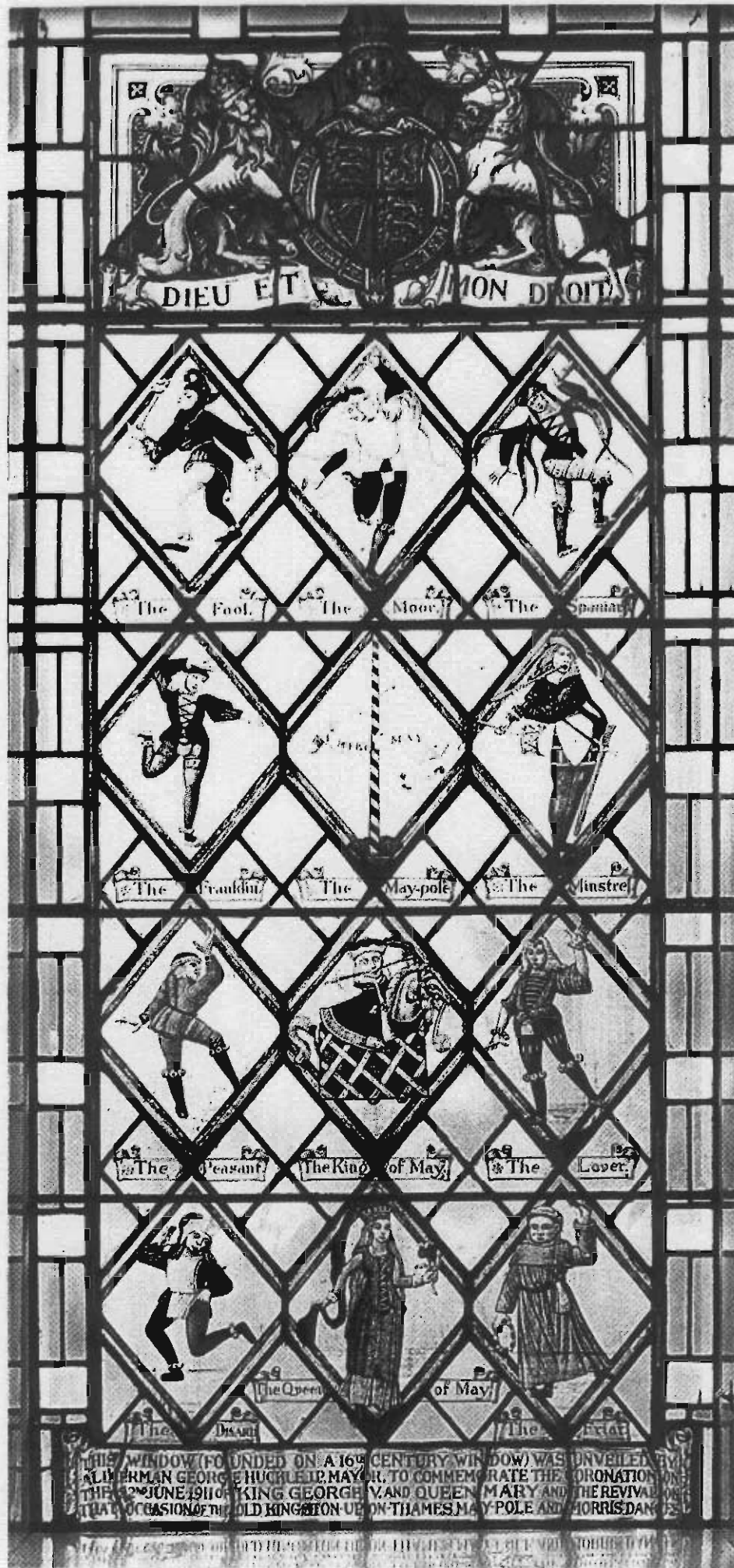
William Kemp dancing on his way from London to Norwich, accompanied by Thomas Slye, in 1599. Kemp was a fellow member with Shakespeare of the Lord Chamberlain's Company, and first acted the part of Dogberry, among others. (From Kemp 1600, reprinted 1840.)



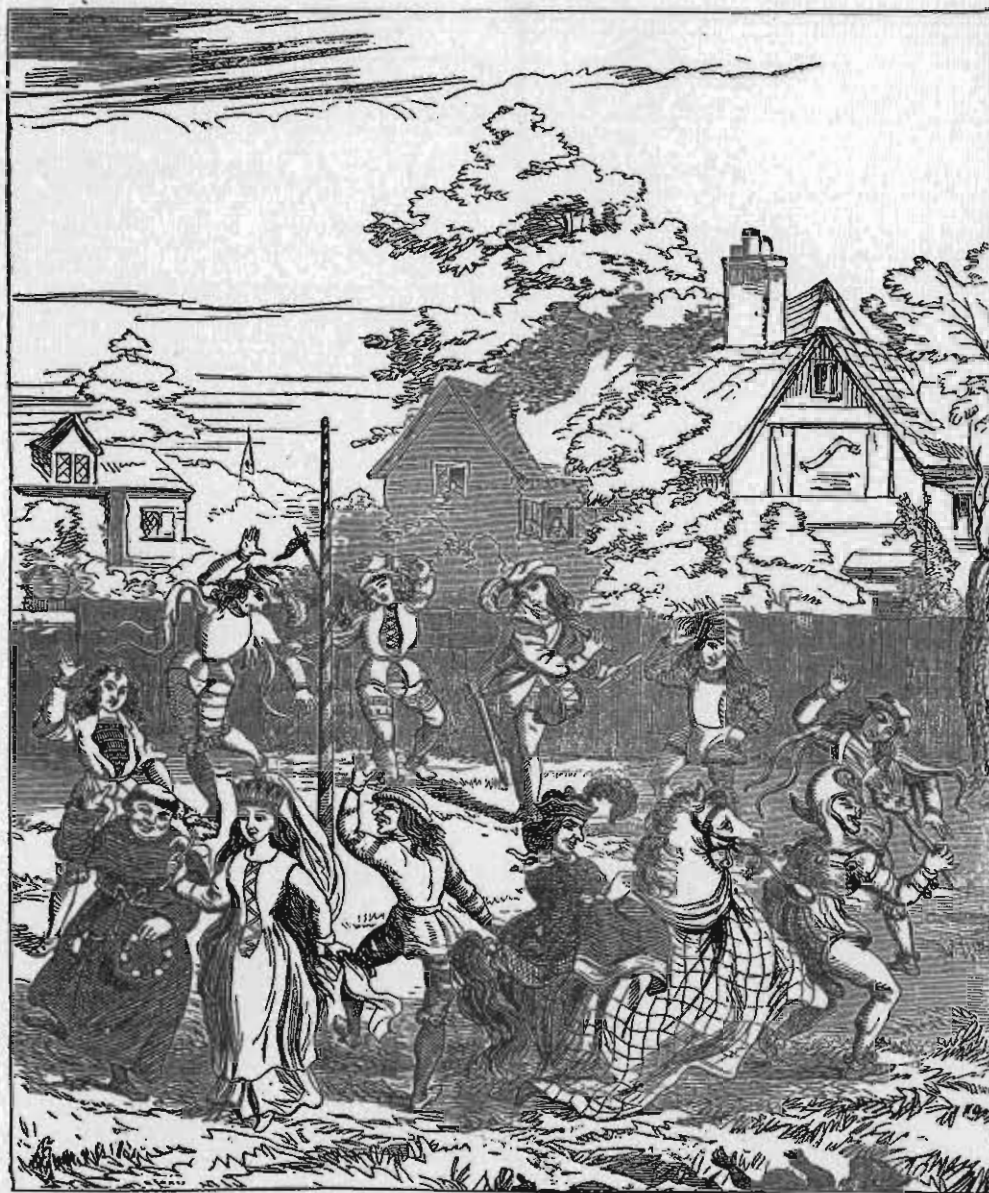
Morris Dancers











THE MORRIS-DANCERS.





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*



Le grand jeu des Diables



Les Tirassoun  
Page 29 of 98

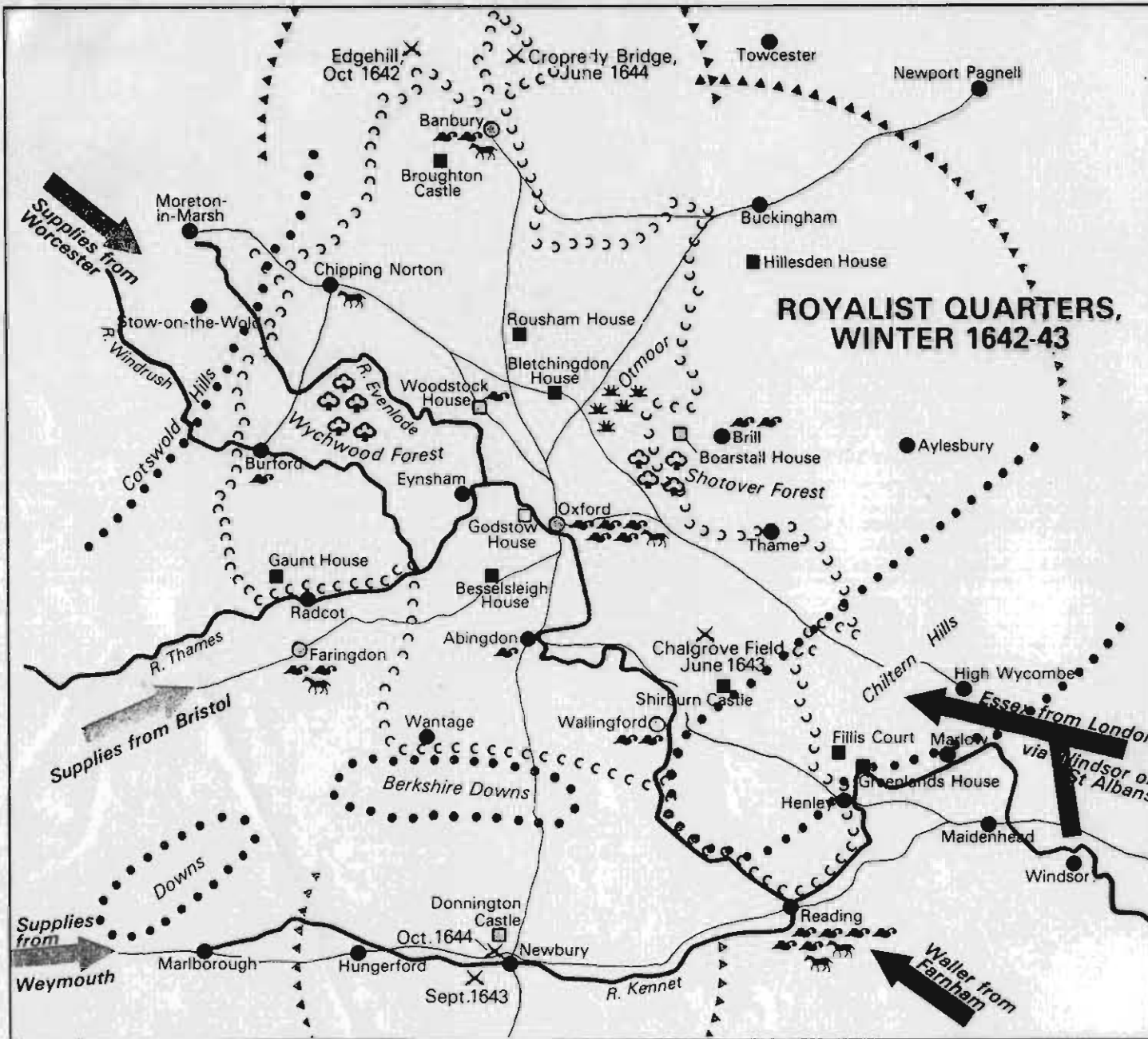








'The Milkmaid's Garland', by F. Hayman, c. 1735. By permission of the Victoria and Albert Museum.

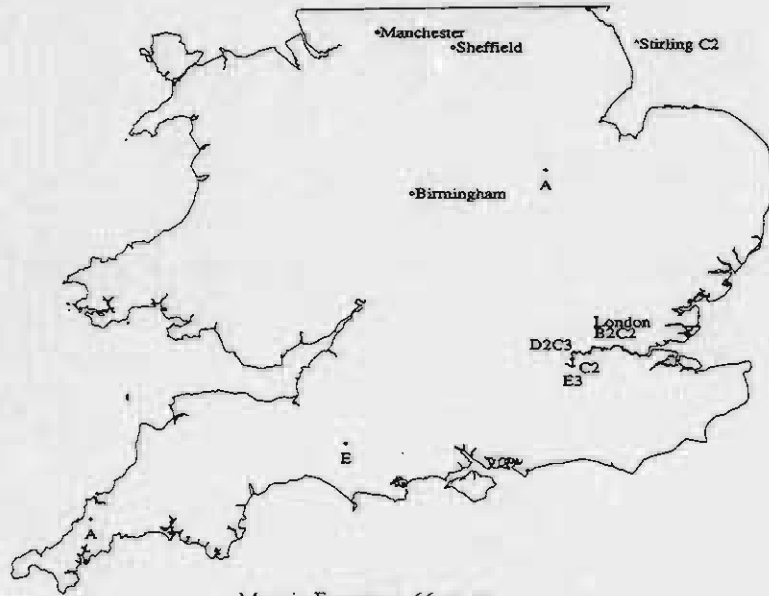


- Land over 600 feet
- Principal garrisons
- ⊙ Principal garrisons still in Royalist hands in 1646
- Fortified houses
- Fortified houses still in Royalist hands in 1646
- × Battles

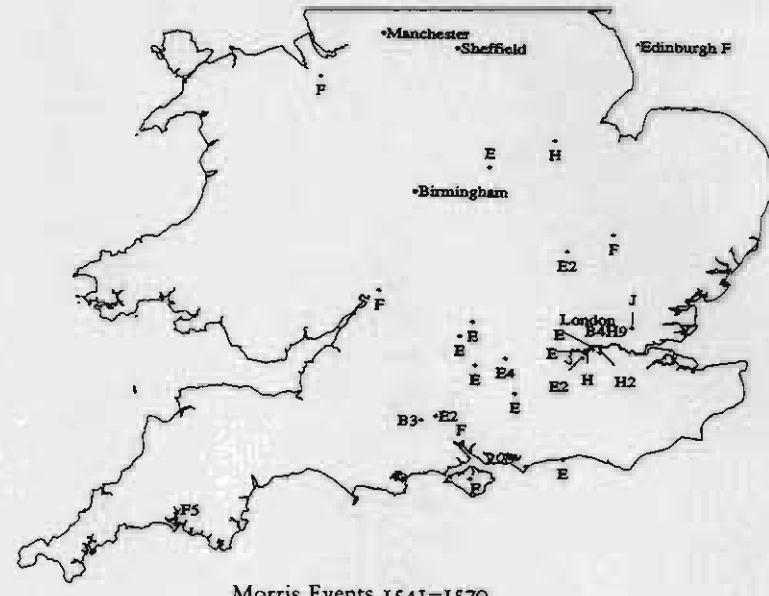
# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

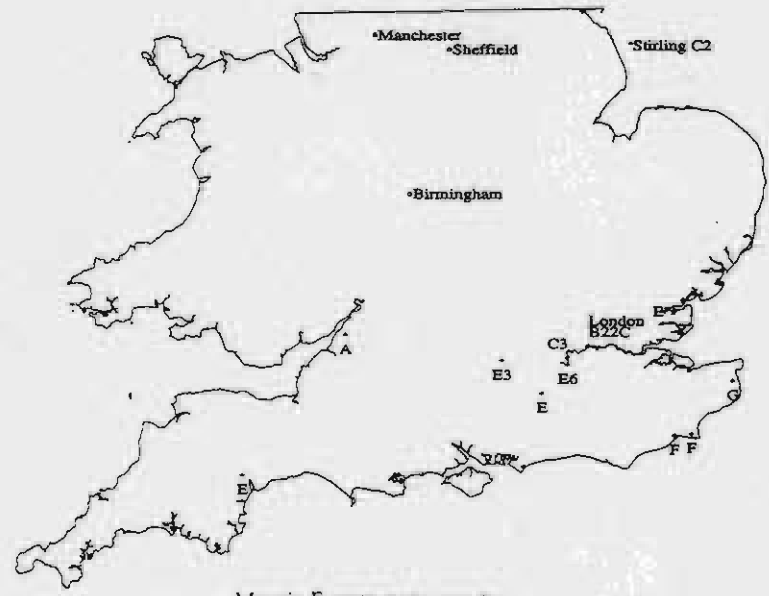
Historical



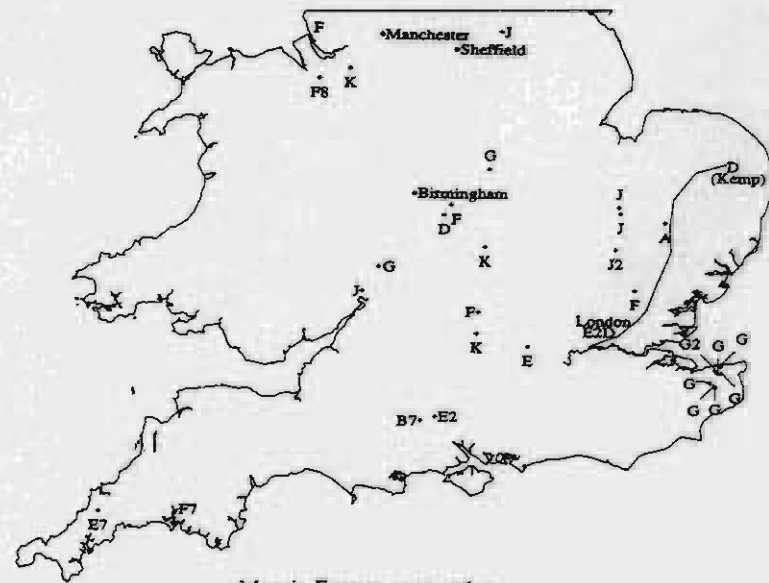
Morris Events 1466-1510



Morris Events 1541-1570



Morris Events 1511-1540



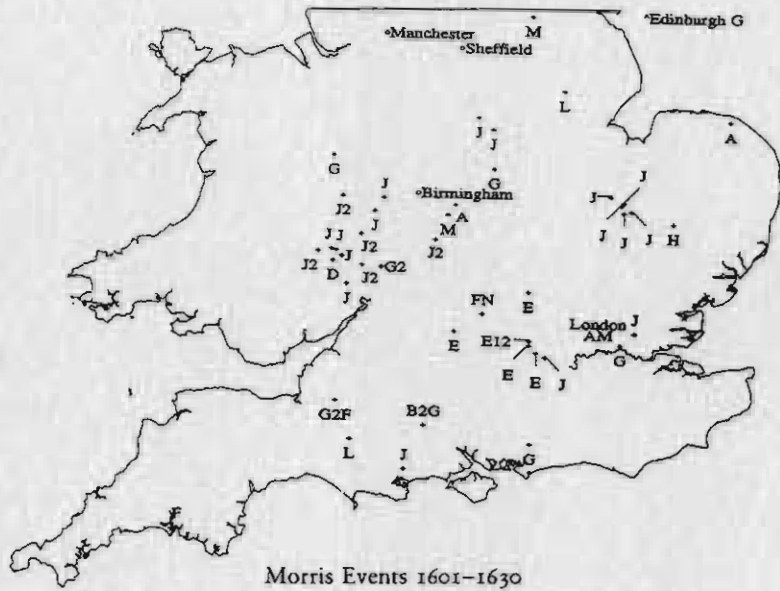
Morris Events 1571-1600



# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical



Morris Events 1601-1630



Morris Events 1661-1690



Morris Events 1631-1660

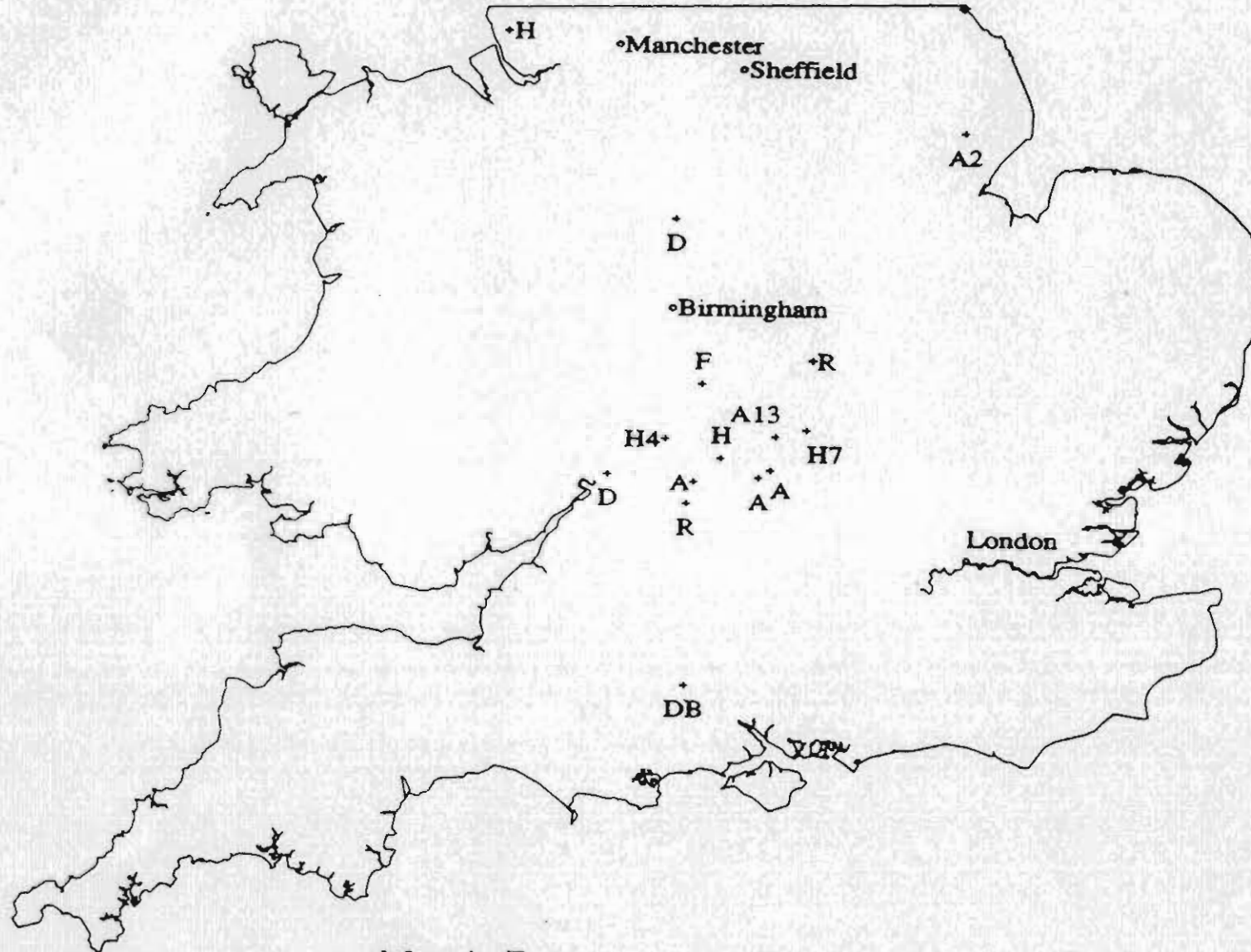


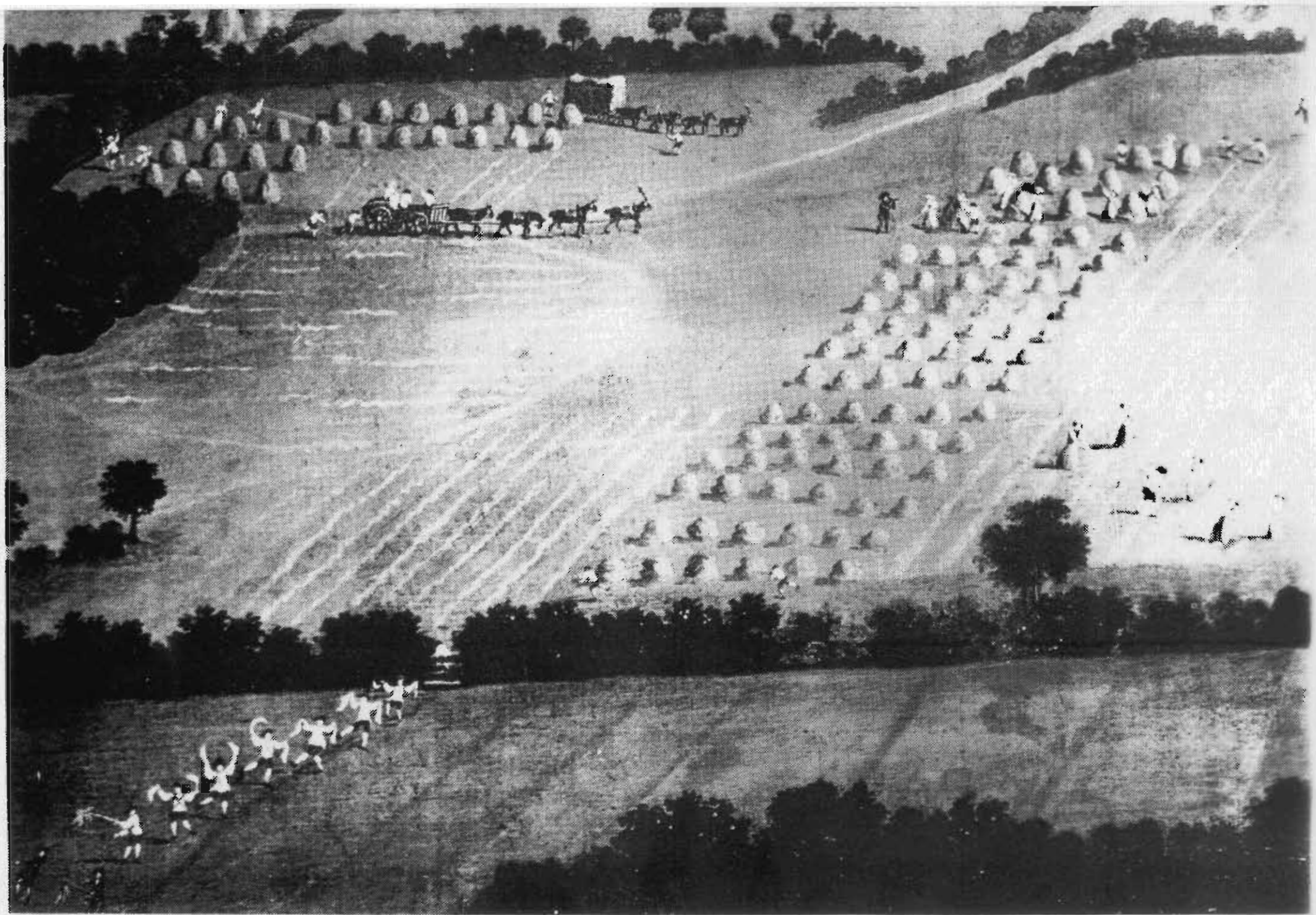
Morris Events 1691-1720

# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

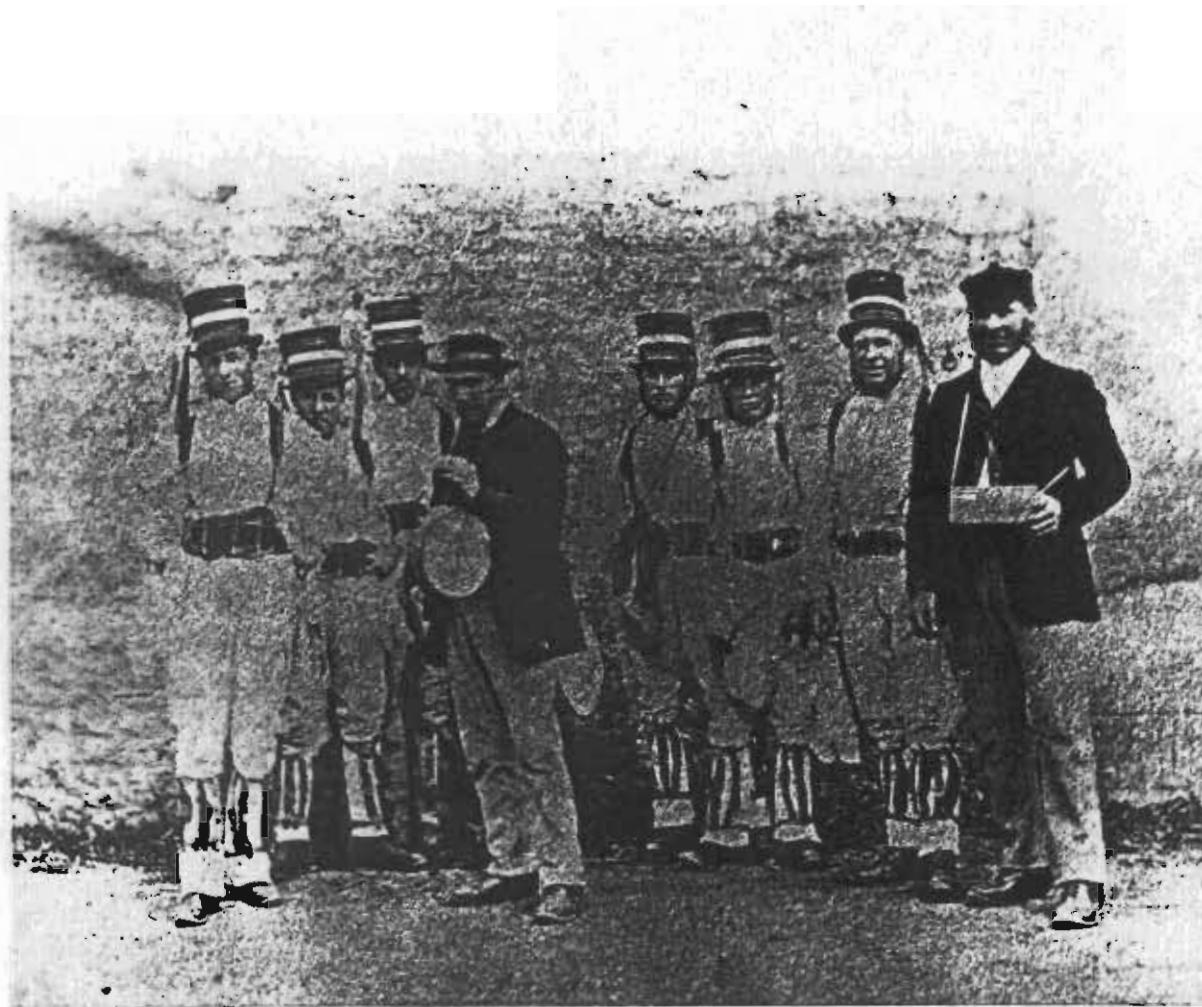
29th February

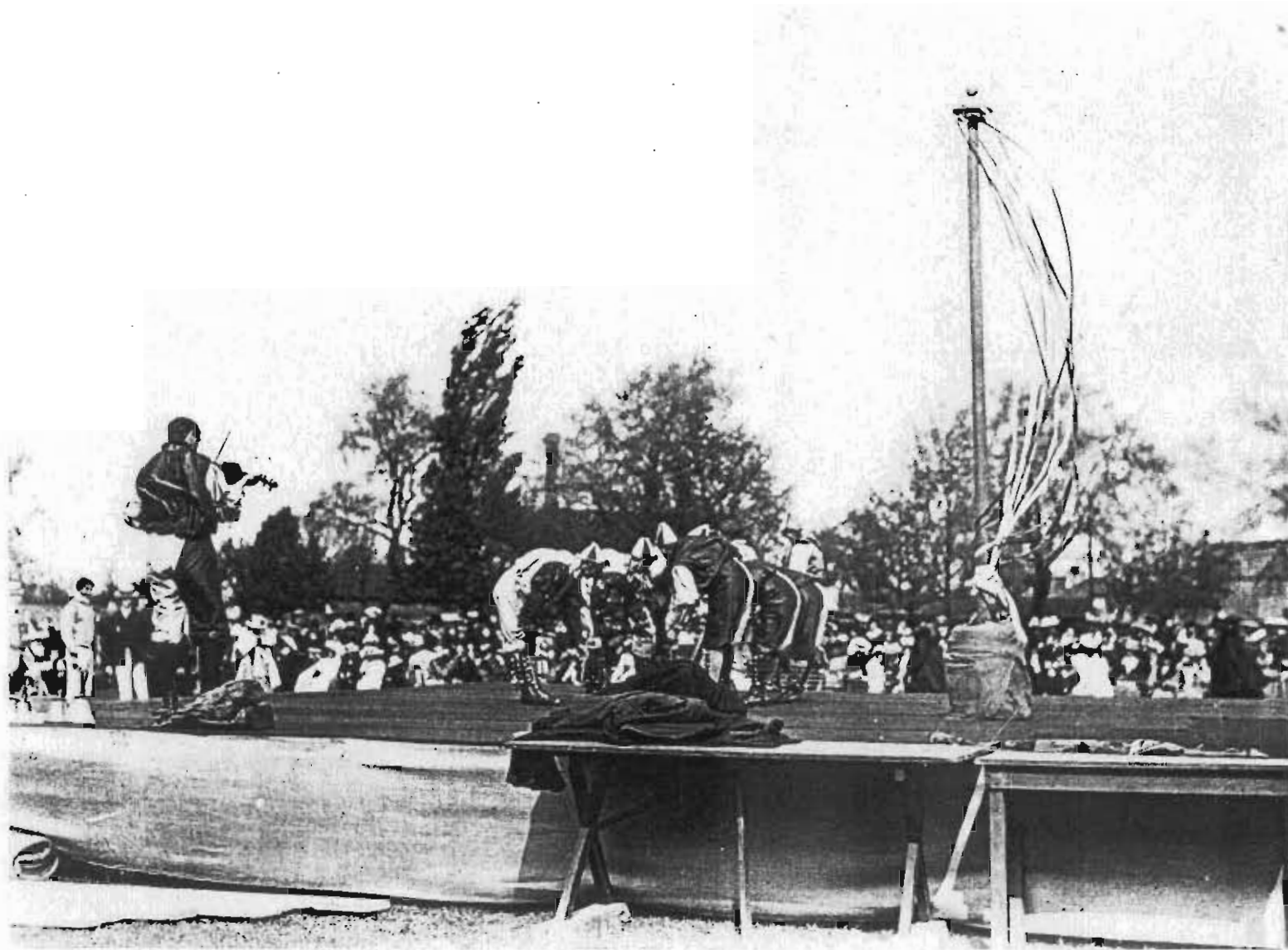
Historical

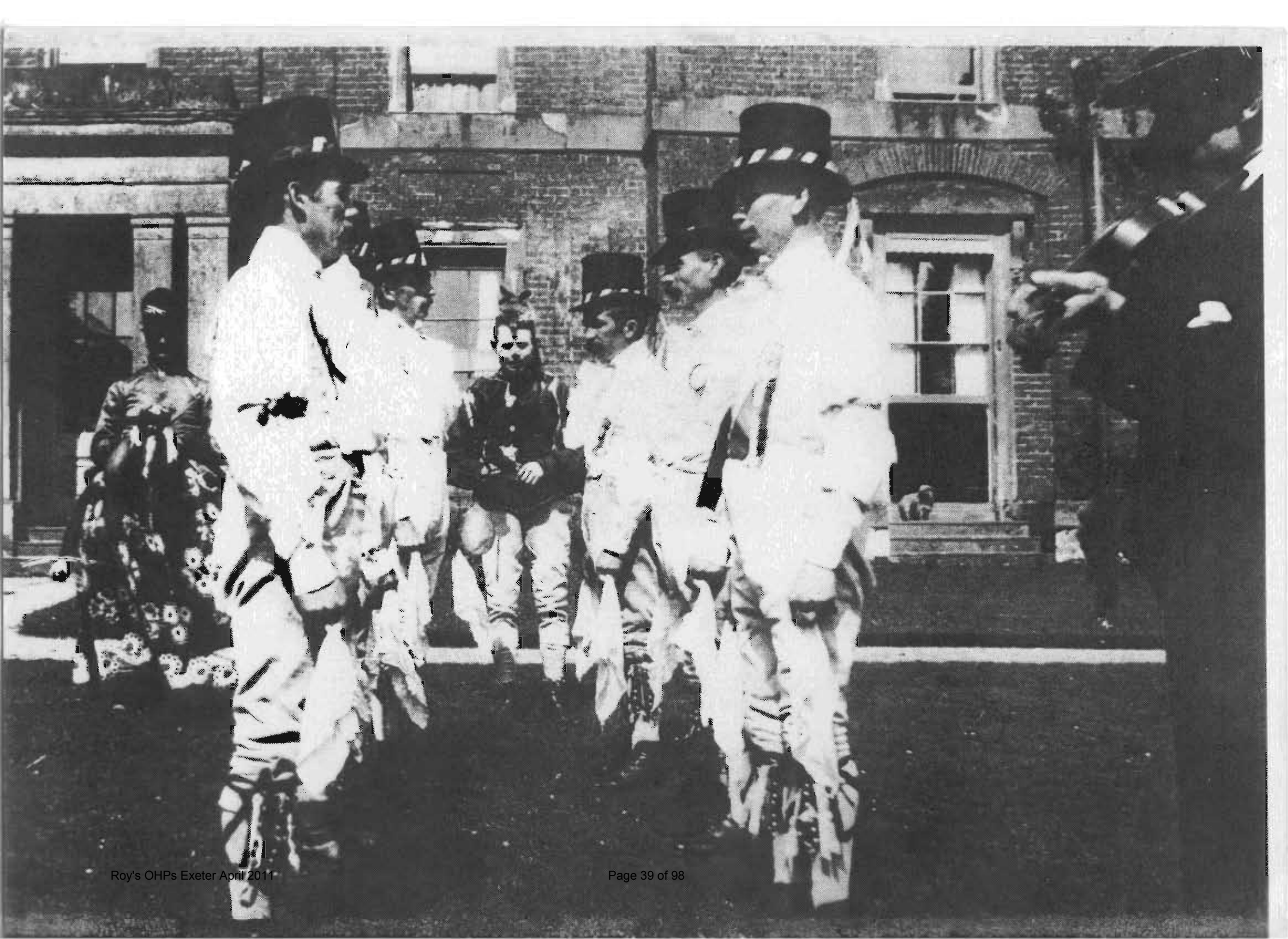














**Shakespeare's Birthday, April 23rd, 1904.**

"let vs devise  
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 Minstrelle who plays . . . . . JOHN ROBBINS.

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

Ye Hobby Horse . . . . . Eli Bennett.

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

Ye Tom Foole . . . . . Edward James.

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

Maister of ye Reuels . . . . . EDWARD SALSBURY.

*"I delight in Maskes and Reuels."—Twelke 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."

"Billy & Nancy."

"Princes Royal"

"Heel & Toe."

"Merry-go-Round."

"In Wooden Shoes."

"Bluff King Hal."

"Young Colin."

"Devil among ye Tailors."

"Morning Star."

"Valentine."

"Old Trunko."

"Saturday Night."

"Constant Billy."

"Old Woman tossed up  
in a Blanket."

"Blacke Joke."

"Molly Oxford."

"We wont go home till  
Morning"

"Brighton Camp."

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.*

















HARRY TAYLOR. of Longborough.

10. 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."

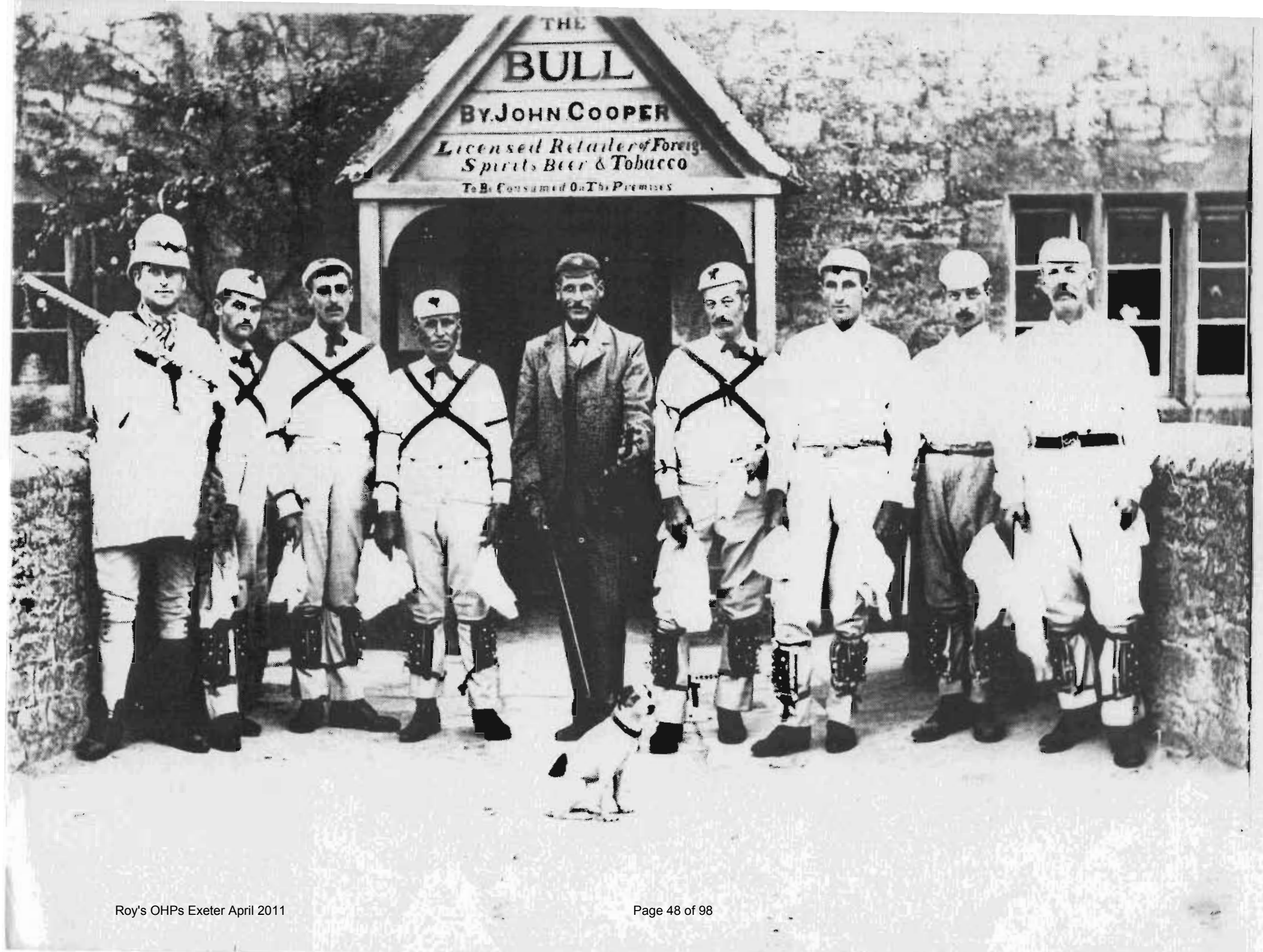
—CECIL SHARP in *The Morris Book*, Pt. IV, p. 9.



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ALBERT TOWNSEND, of Sherborne.

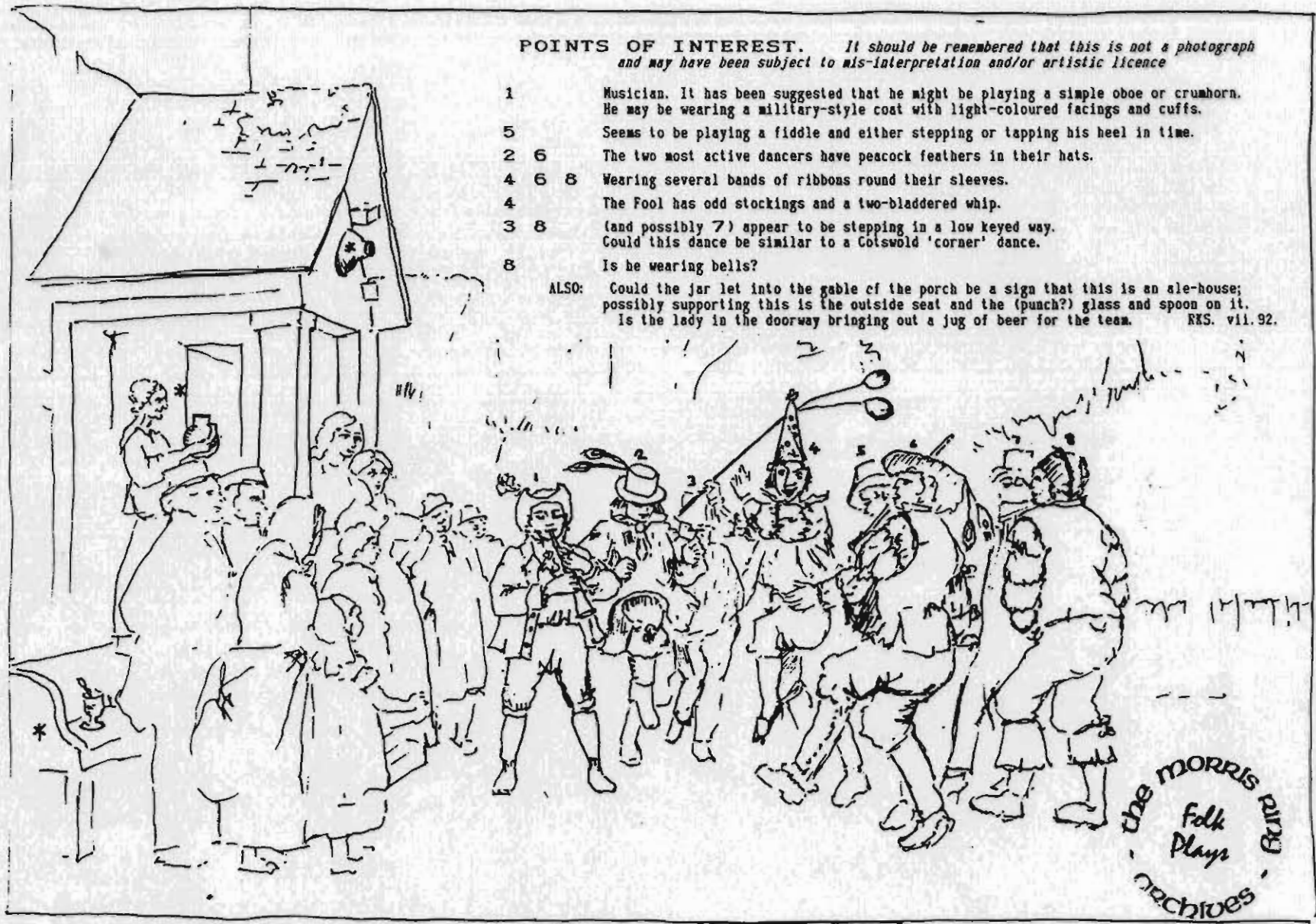








WORCESTERSHIRE MUMMERS.—PAINTED BY C. CATHERMOL.—SEE PAGE 70.



**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.

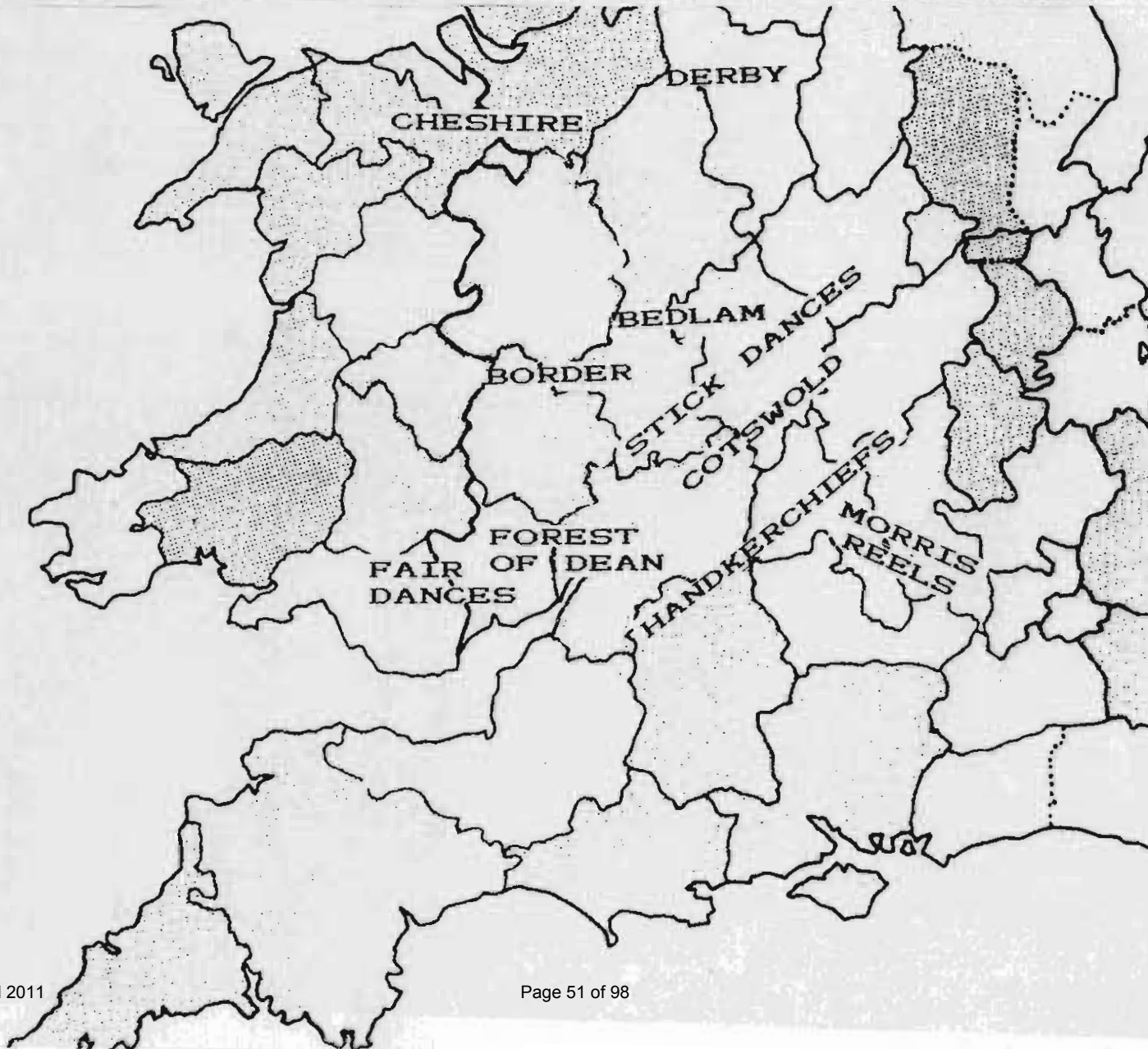
WORCESHIRE MUMMERS . by Charles Callumole. 1859.

the MORRIS RING  
Folk  
Plays  
Archives

# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

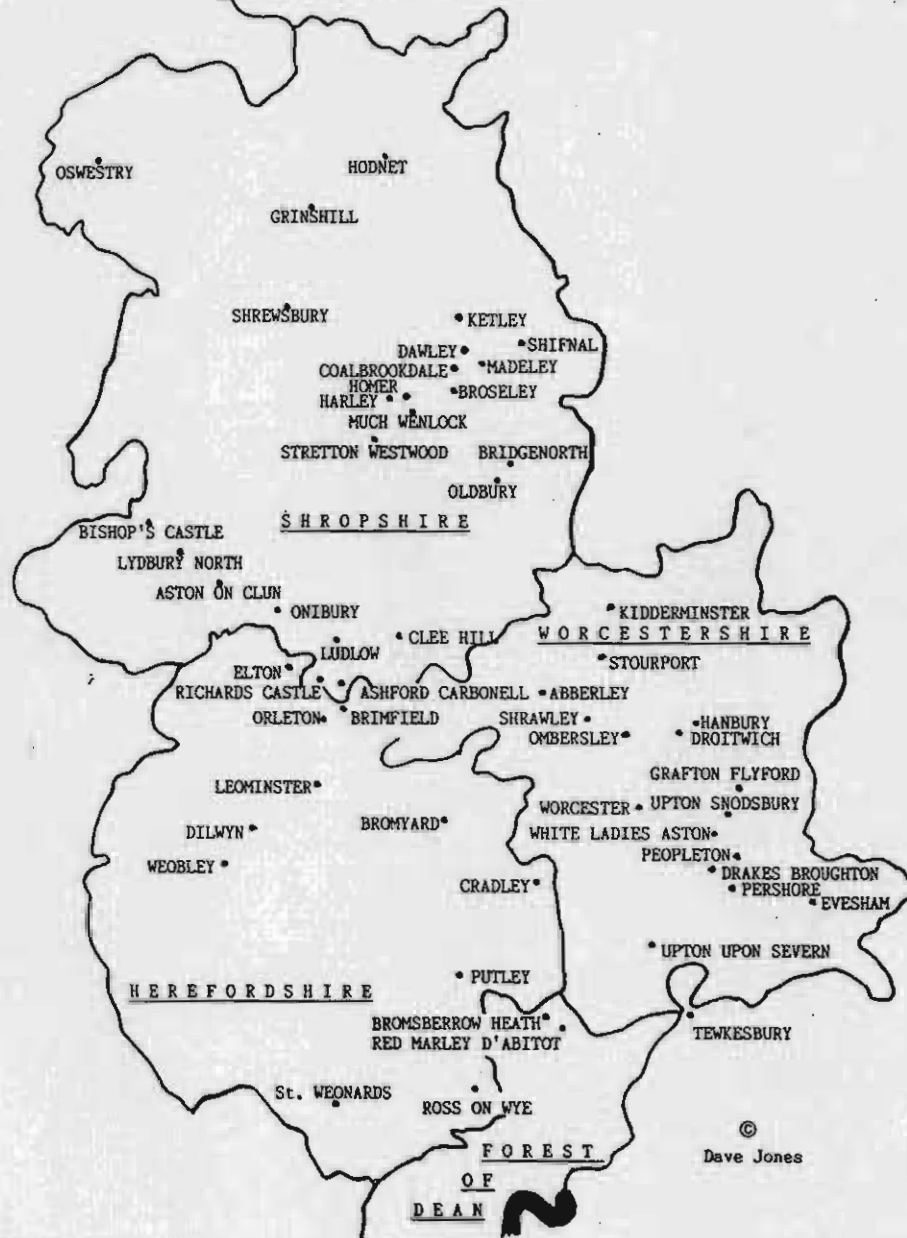
29th February

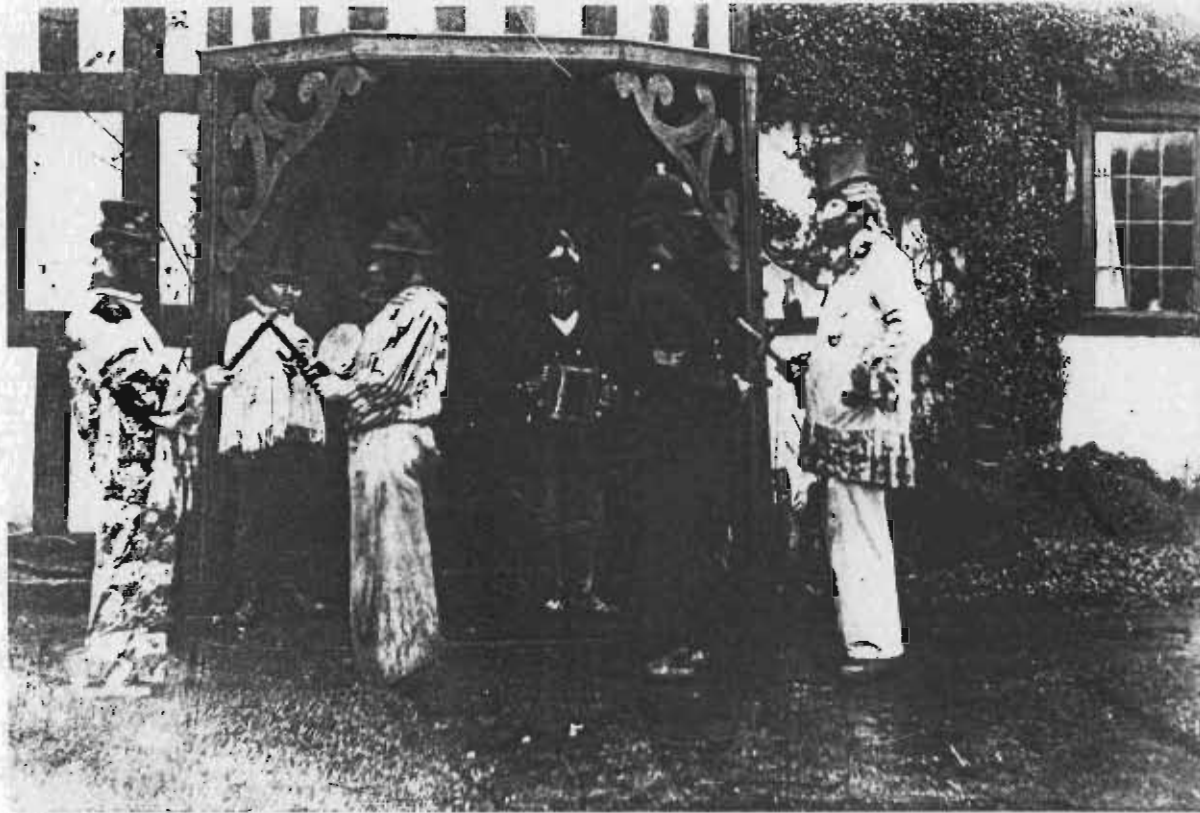
Historical





REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF MORRIS SIDES  
BETWEEN 1800 AND 1940





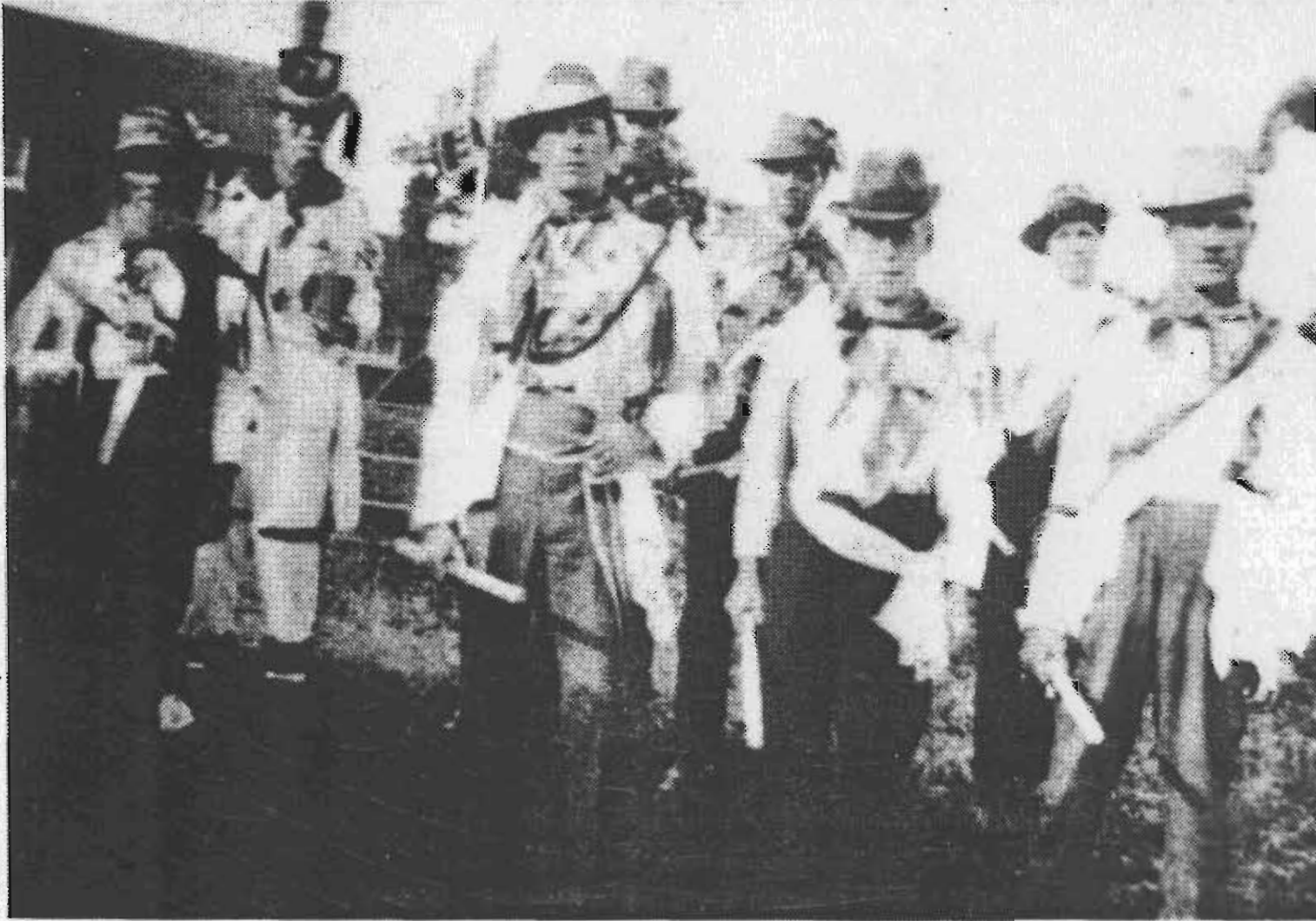
# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

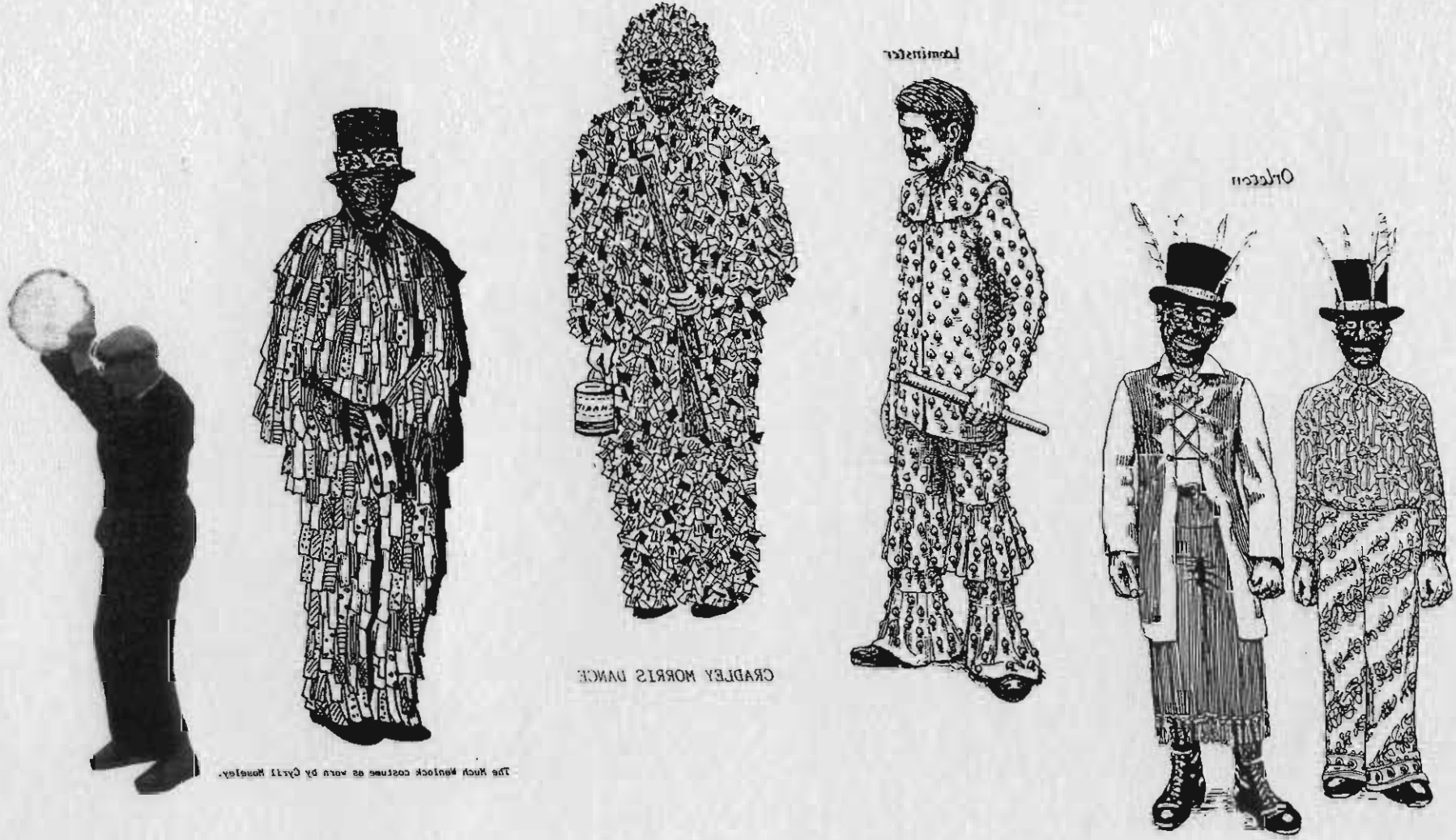
Historical







*Upton Morrismen in the mid twenties.*



The Much Wenlock costume as worn by Cyril Moseley.

CRADLEY MORRIS DANCE

Laminster

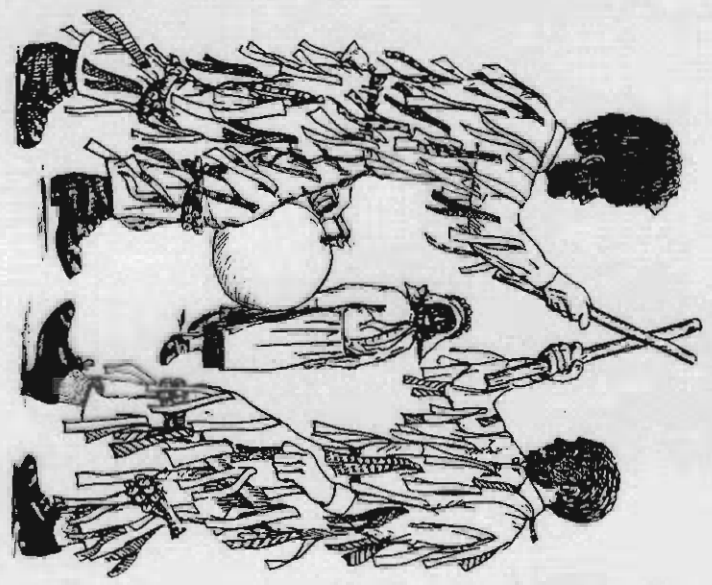
Orleton

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

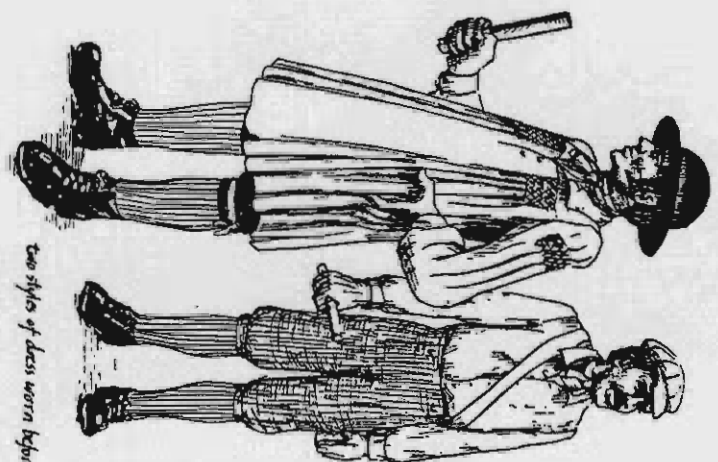
29th February

# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

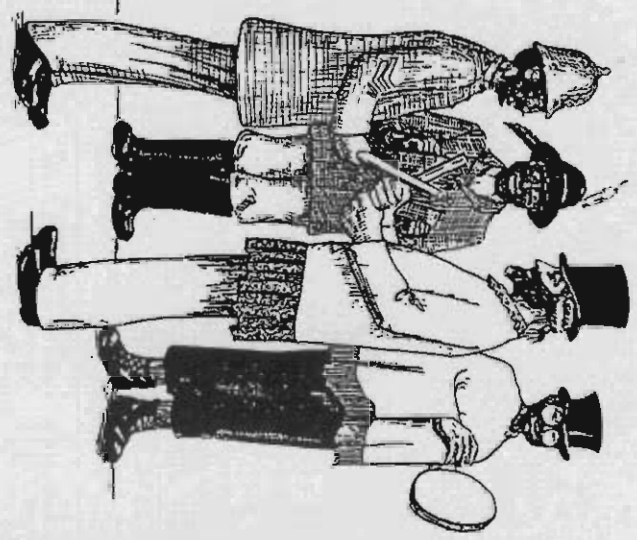
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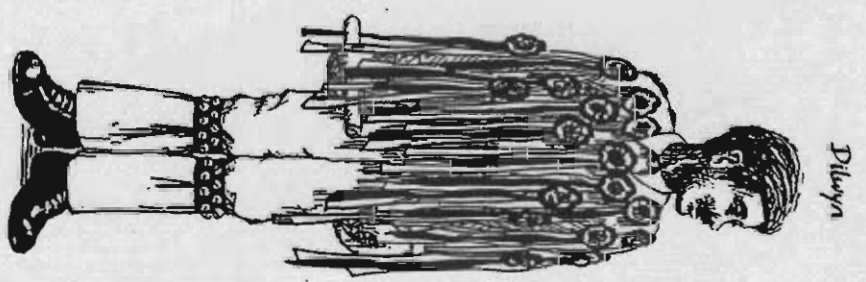
THE BRONSBERROW HEATH MORRIS JANGLES.



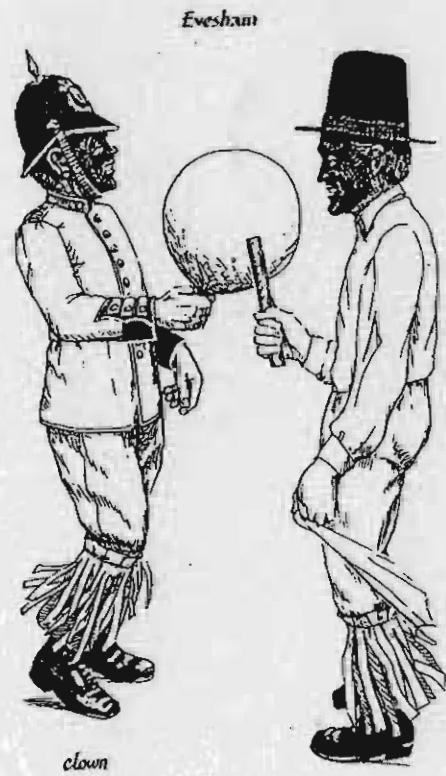
two styles of dress worn before 1909



1909







THE UPTON ON SEVERN MORRIS DANCES.



# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical

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## ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical



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





**COMMONERS MORRIS AT SCARBOROUGH**

ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical

---

BLACKING UP

DONE BY HENRY VIII

DEVILS OR SATANS ABROAD

POACHERS - WOOLMER BLACKS

NIGGER MINSTREL TROUPES

MID 1800'S TILL WORLD WAR II

FOLK PERFORMANCE SINCE TURN OF CENTURY

VERY COMMON IN 1920'S

SHOW HAS FORMAL STRUCTURE

LEADER, END MEN, SONG, DANCE, SKITS

BARLEY MORRIS EXPERIENCE

PROBLEM OF ALL OVER COLOUR - BE CLOWN LIKE

---

## ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MENTIONED

	F I D D L E	C O N C E R T I N A	M E L O D E O N	T I N W H I S T L E	T A M B O U R I N E	T R I A N G L E	B O N E S
ASTON ON CLUN				X	X		X
BRIMFIELD			X		X		
BROMSBERROW	X	X	X		X	X	X
DILWYN	X						
EVESHAM		X					
LEOMINSTER			X		X	X	
MUCH WENLOCK			X		X	X	X
ORLETON			X		X		X
PEOPLETON		X			X		
PERSHORE	X	X		X	X	X	X
UPTON ON SEVERN		X			X		X
WHITE LADIES ASTON		X	X		X	X	X

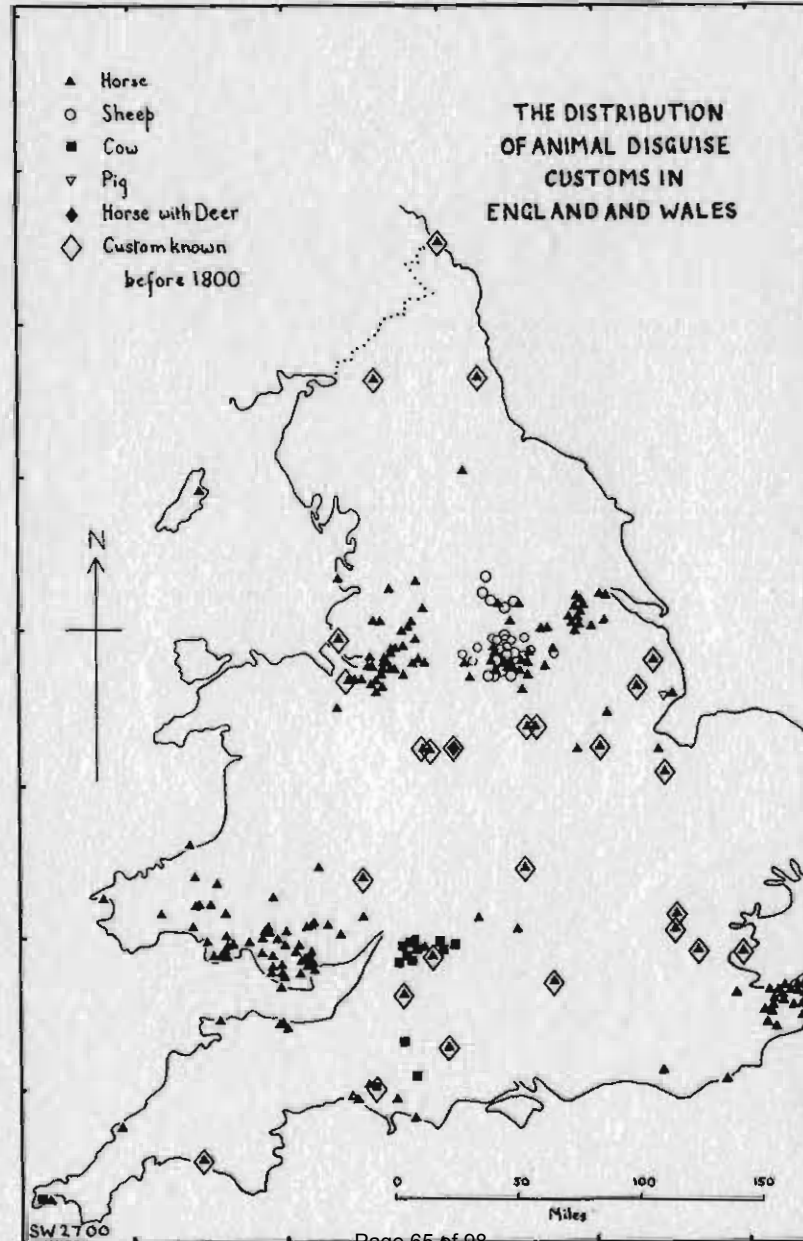




# ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical

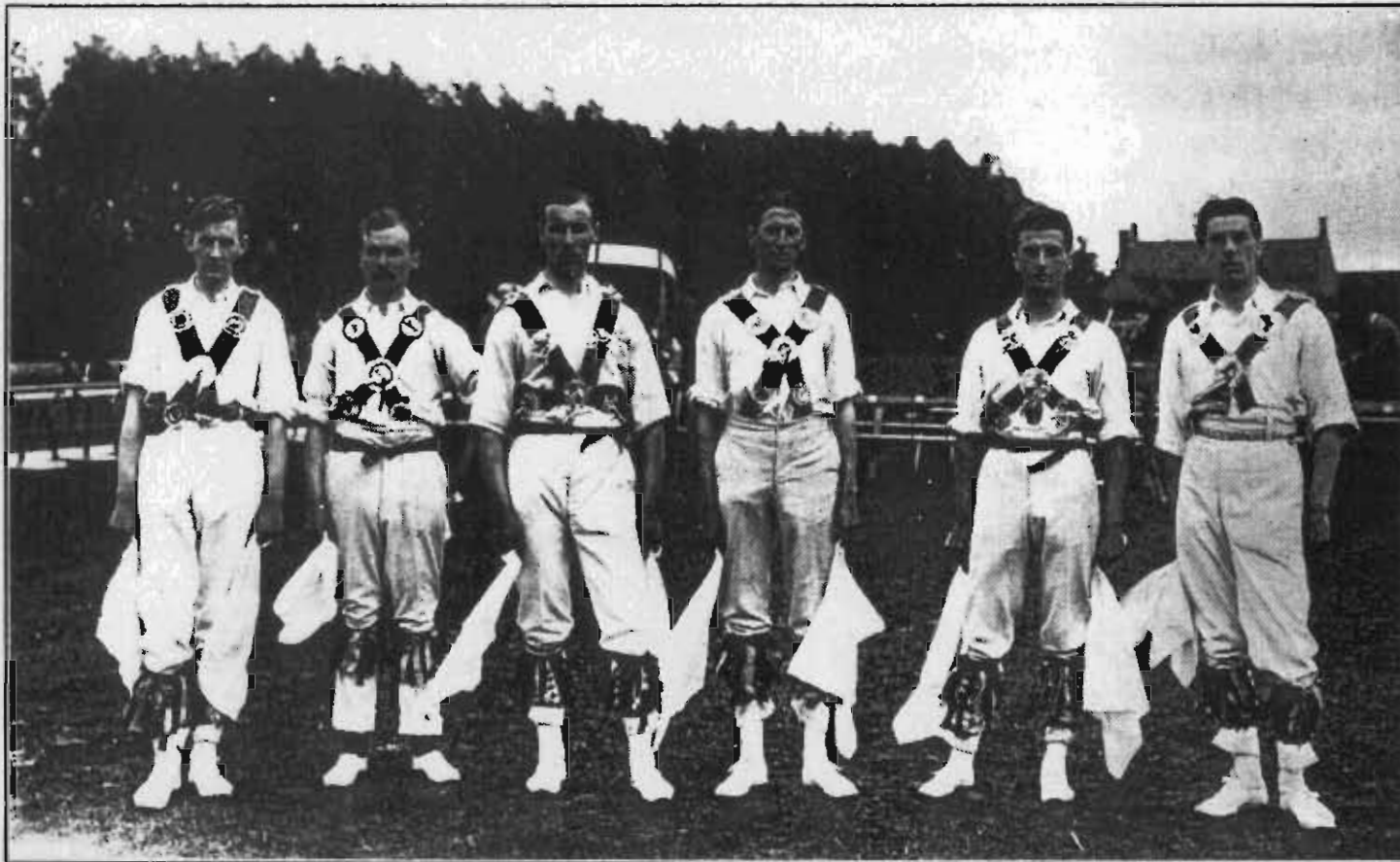




The Ilmington Tourney Horse, Warwickshire, made in the twentieth century. Operated here by Sam Bennett.







THE SOCIETY'S FIRST MORRIS SIDE.

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



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



*Photograph]*

*{G. F. Quiller, Ingatestone.*

ADDRESSING TEAMS AFTER A COMPETITION AT INGATESTONE.



WITH DISCIPLES AT ALDEBURGH. AUGUST, 1923.



WITH DISCIPLES AT ALDEBURGH. AUGUST, 1923.







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



SHEPHERD'S HAY (p. 20)



ALL IN (p. 26)







*'Hallelujah lasses',  
Salvation Army officer  
cadets in training at Tring,  
1889.*



**ABOVE : May Day, 1891**

Roy's OHPs Exeter April 2011





## 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.



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

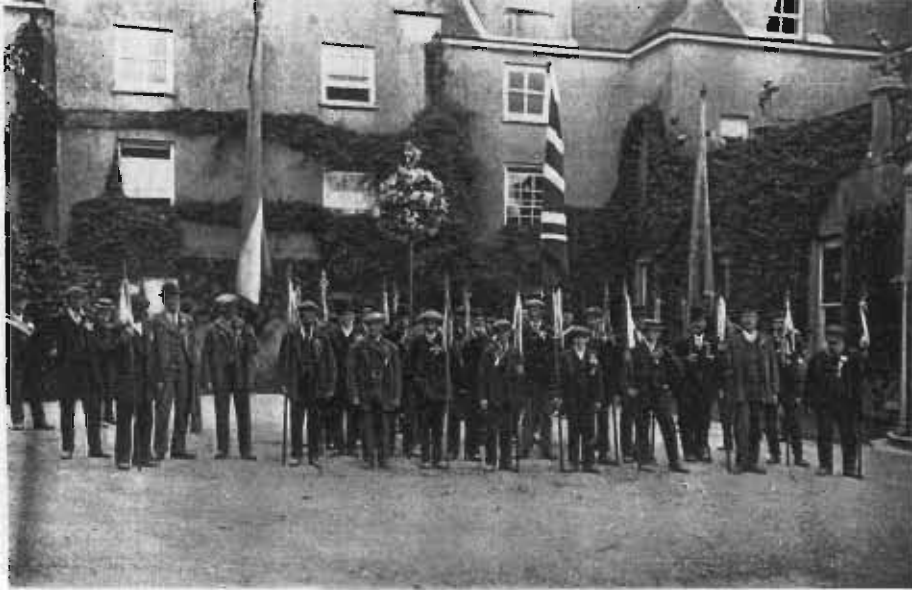
*Above:* Members lined up in the street, holding their poles topped with spears and thick woollen tassels. The two officers in the foreground hold larger spears than the ordinary members

*Right, above:* Assembled members with a patron and the banner in their midst, the band, and women and children

*Right, below:* The 'walk' passing the fairground



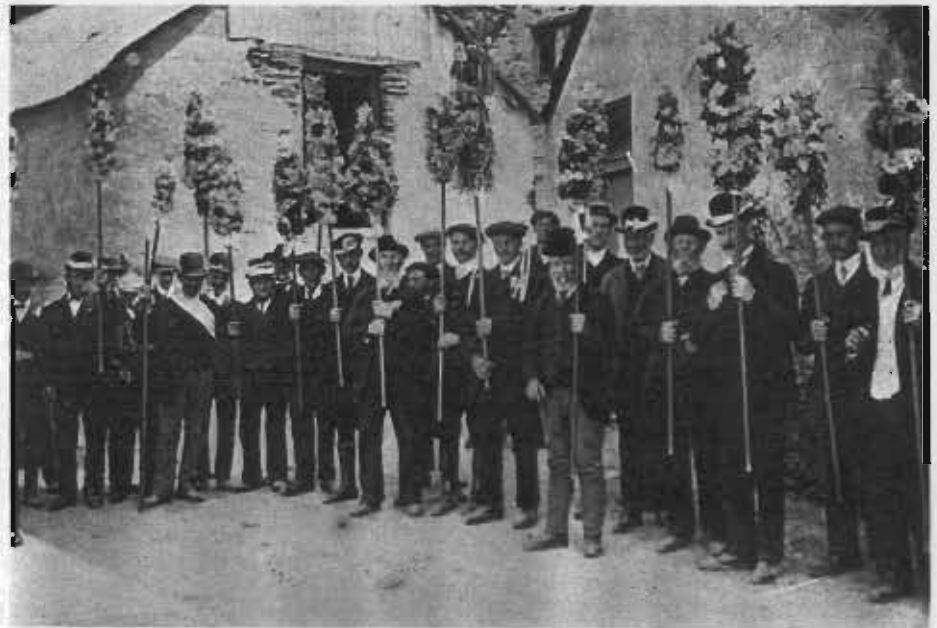




1 Henstridge Friendly Society members assembled before a patron's house with their spherical garland of flowers, possibly circa 1918



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





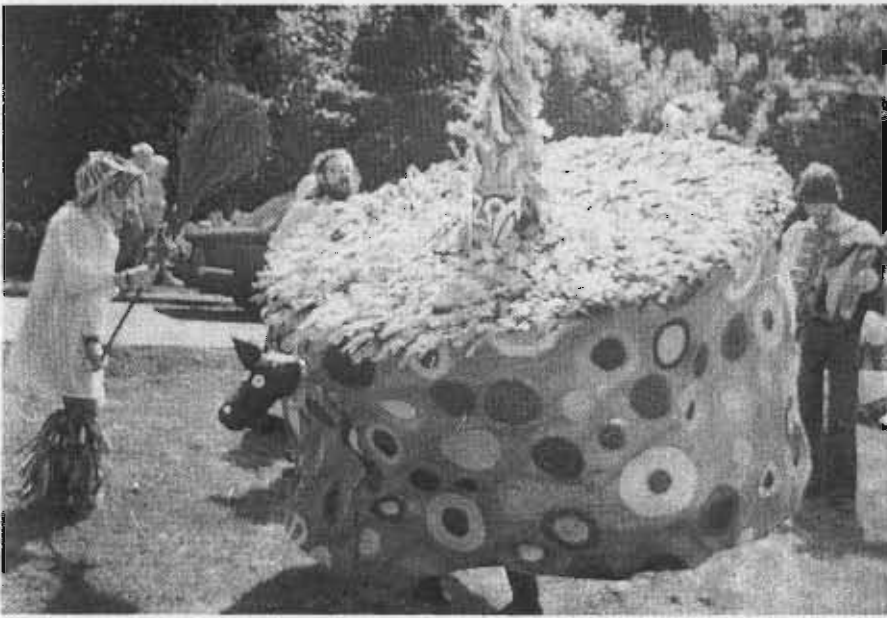




CHARACTERS IN THE HORN DANCE, ABBOTS BROMLEY.







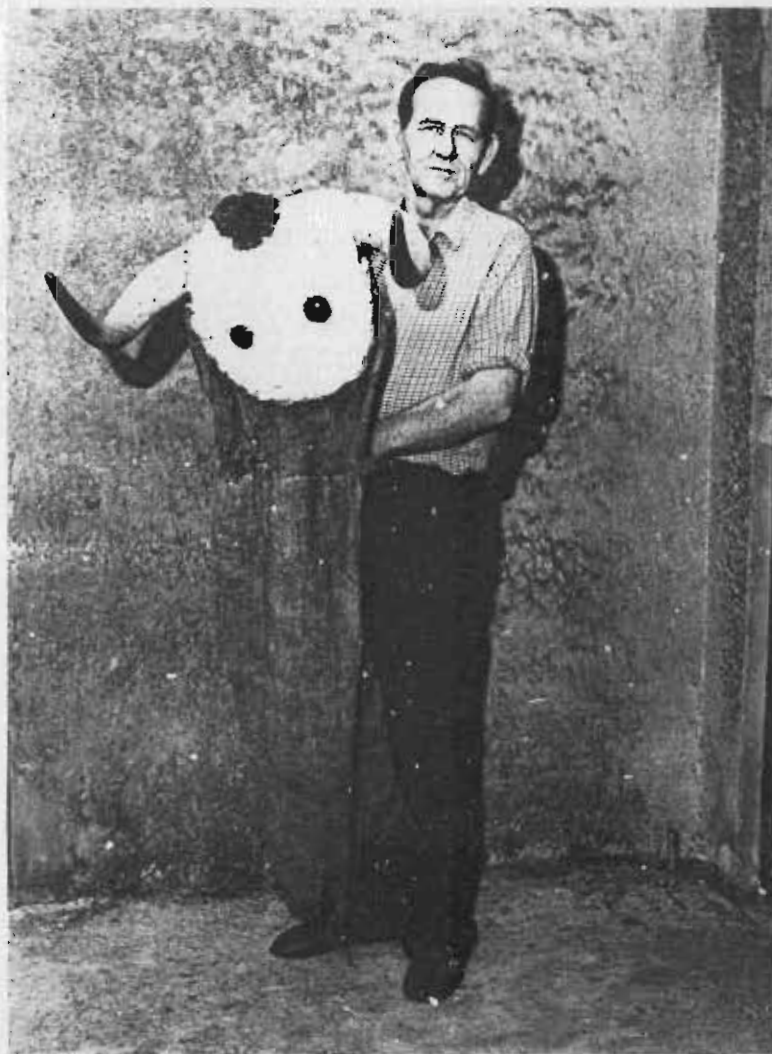
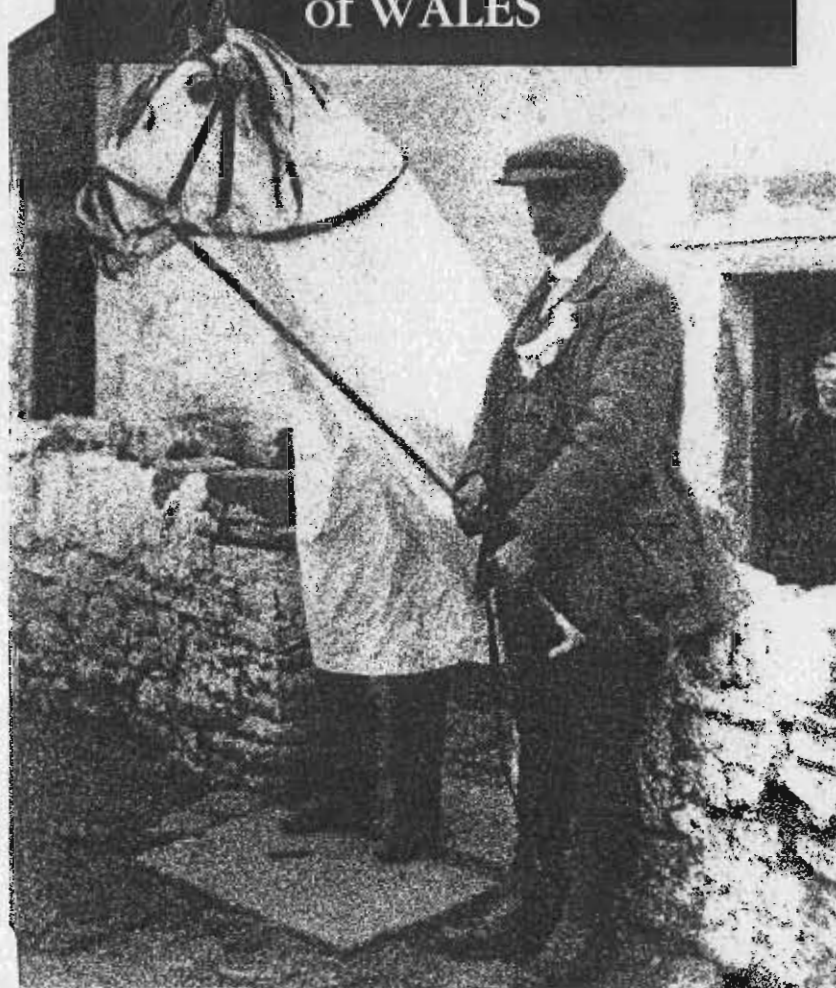


FIGURE 14. The Tetbury Bull, Gloucestershire, last used in the 1930s. The bull has belonged to one family for 170 years or more. The horn span is twenty seven inches and the height forty eight inches. The central boss is blue, and once had two red ribbons hanging down to the eyes. The wooden head is 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.)



# CUSTOMS and TRADITIONS of WALES

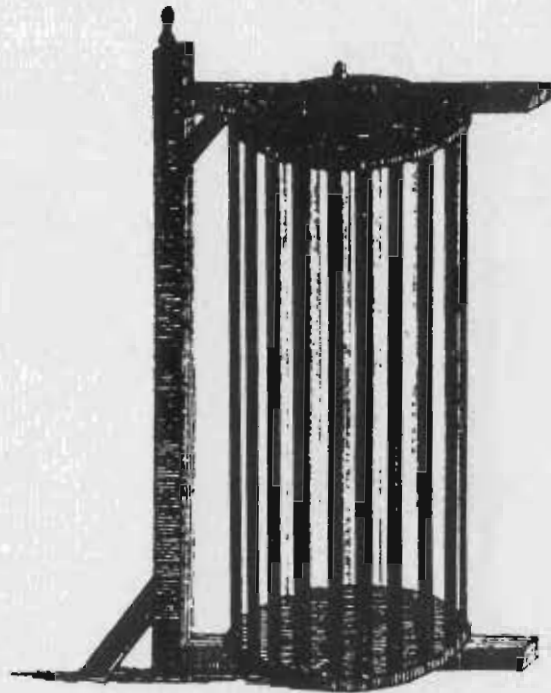




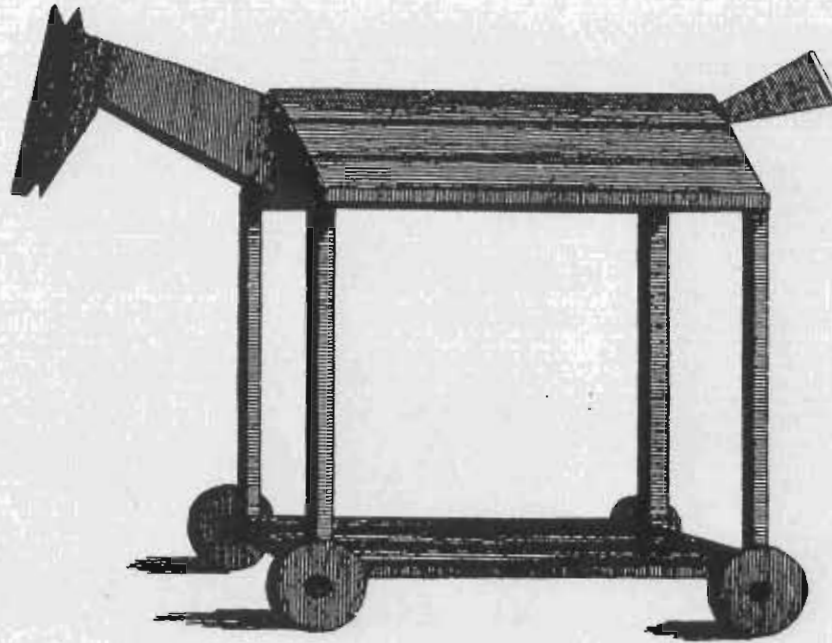
The Hoodening party at Saint Nicholas-at-Wade, Kent, in about 1908. Mollie has a broom and plays the triangle. The other musicians play melodeon and tambourine, and there are a jockey and waggoner. The horse seems to be the one photographed by Maylam at Sarre in 1906, with the same face piece and characteristic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







*The whirligig*



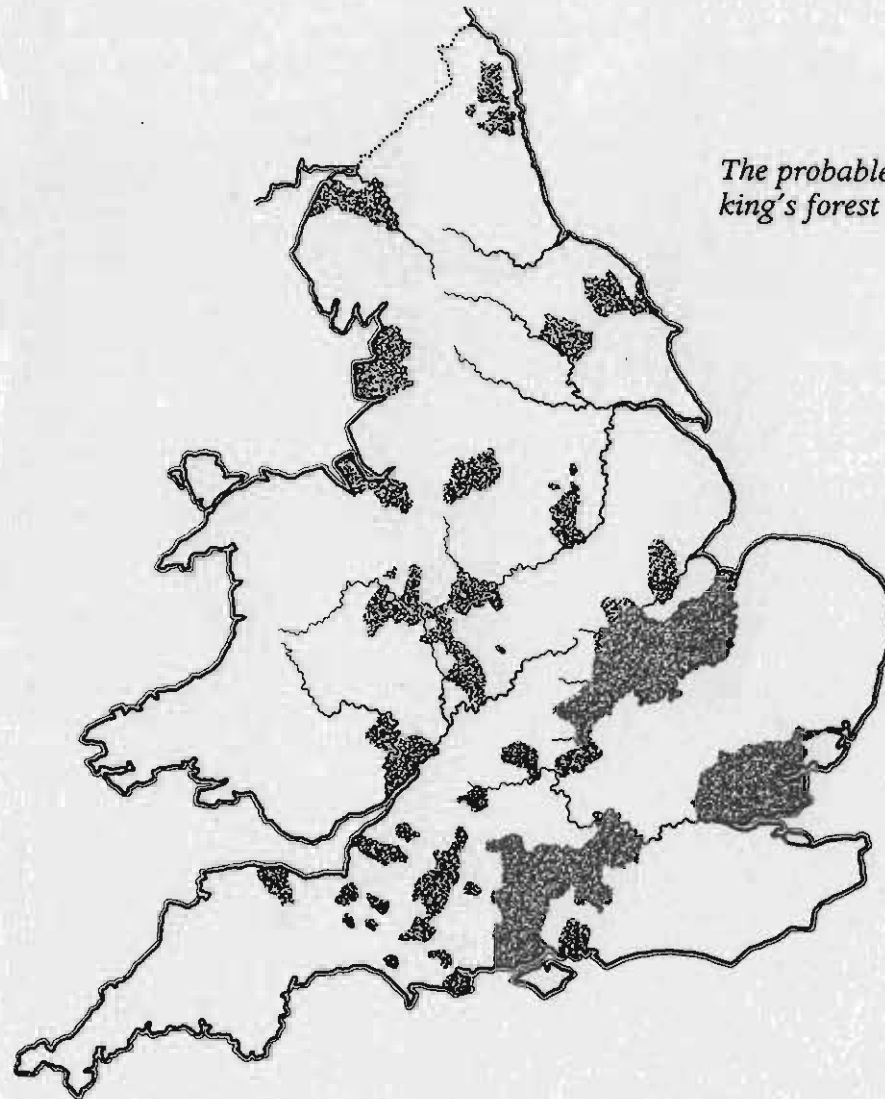
*The wooden horse*



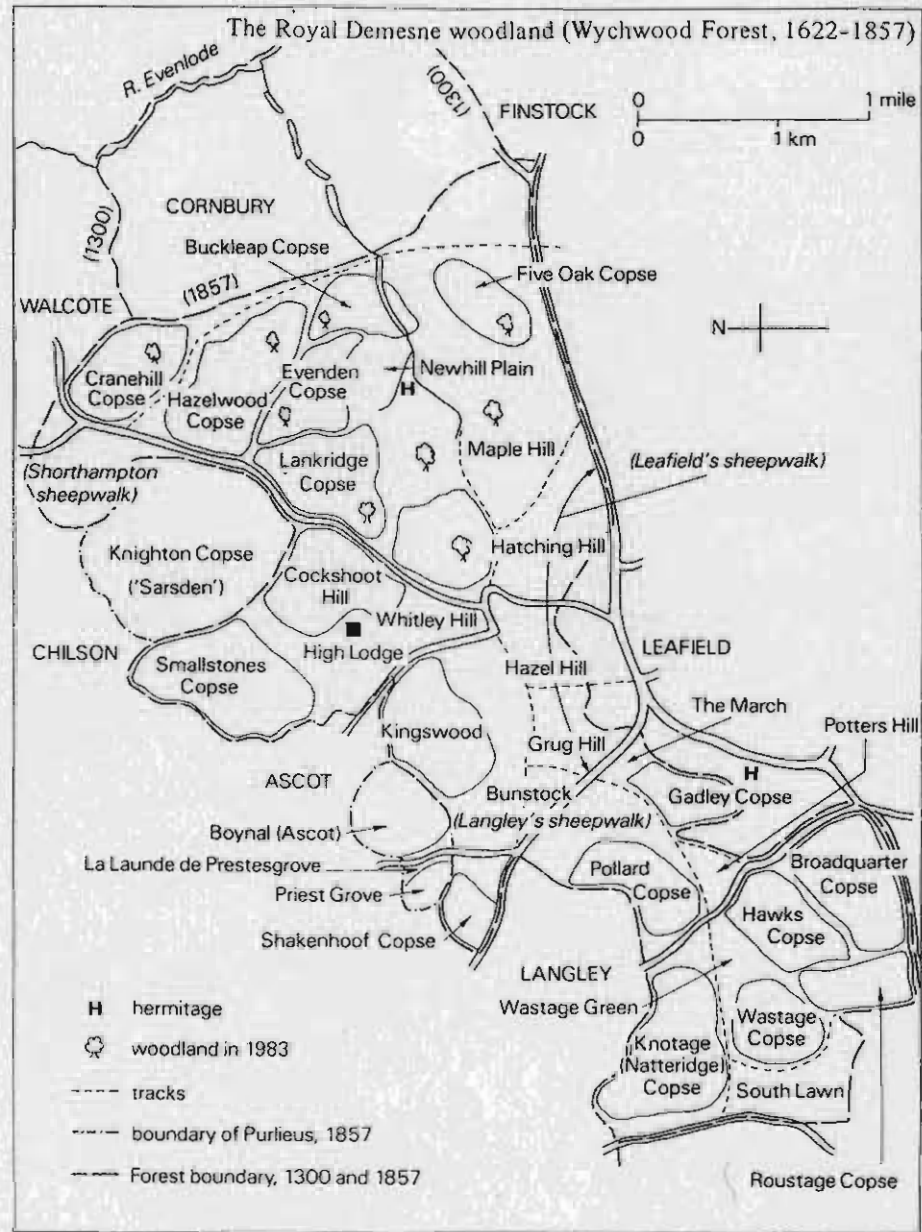
Cheerful male 'offenders' are carried to the stocks on poles, while lady 'miscreants' enjoy a more comfortable chair ride: Corby Pole Fair in 1902.

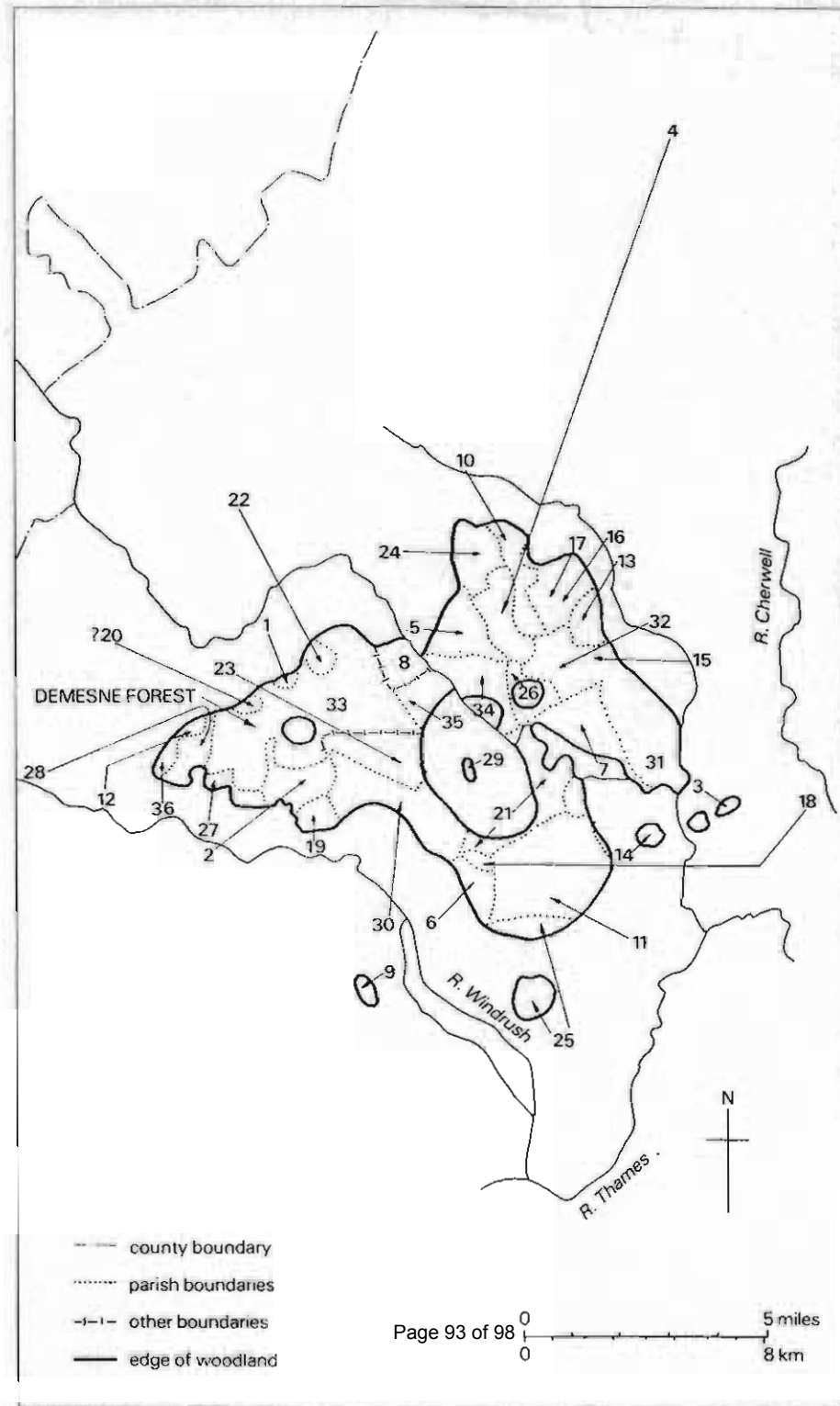






*The probable extent of the  
king's forest*







## ORIGINS OF THE MORRIS

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### 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

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© 1990 R L Dommett

## ORIGINS OF THE MORRIS

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### OUTWARD CHARACTERISTICS

COATS - TEE SHIRTS & BUTTON BADGES

(LIVERIES) (FAVOURS)

KERCHIEFS or NAPKINS & BELLS

A FOOL - "CHARACTERS"

### CONTENT

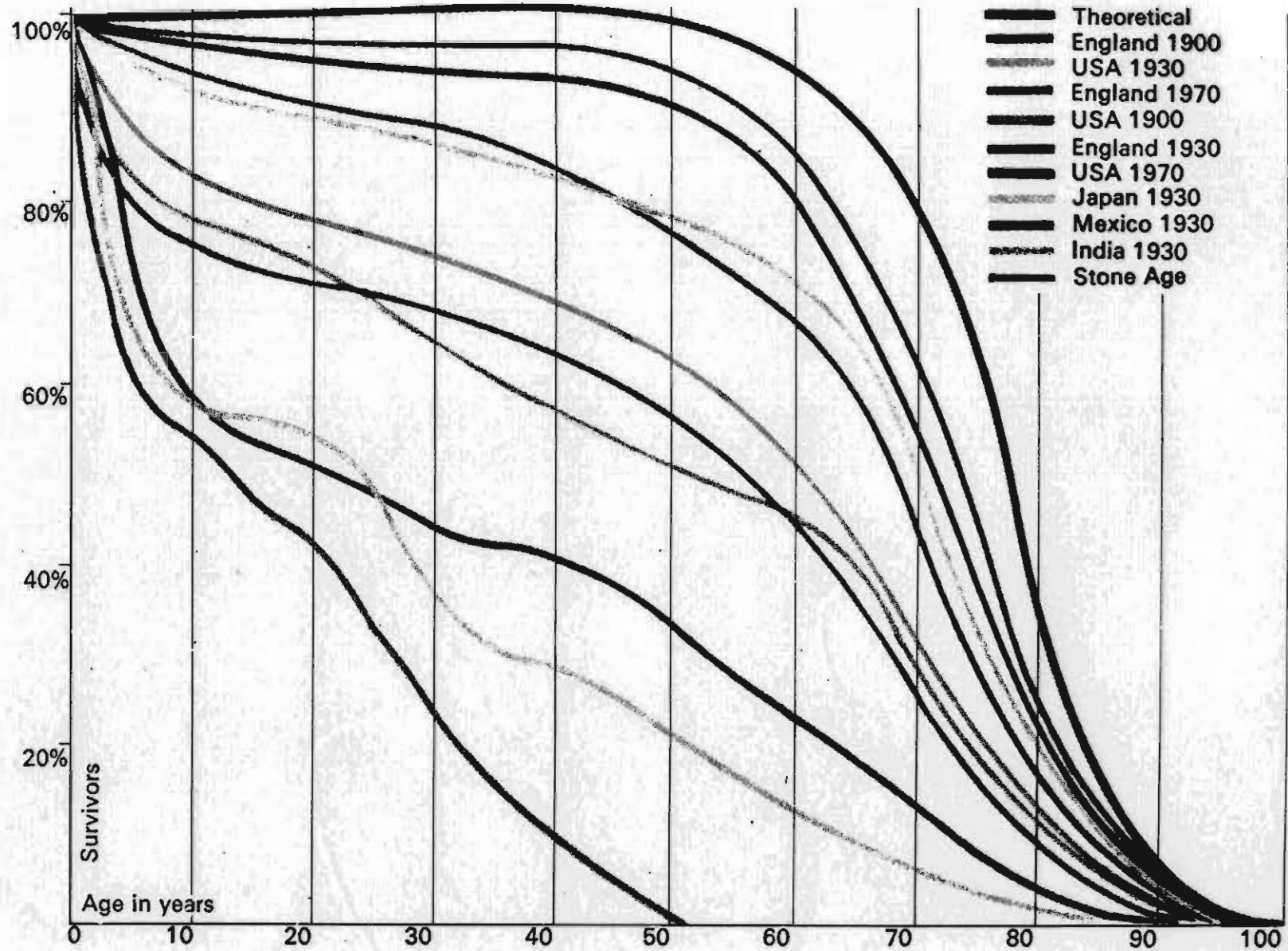
STEPS - RENAISSANCE, GALLIARD

FIGURES

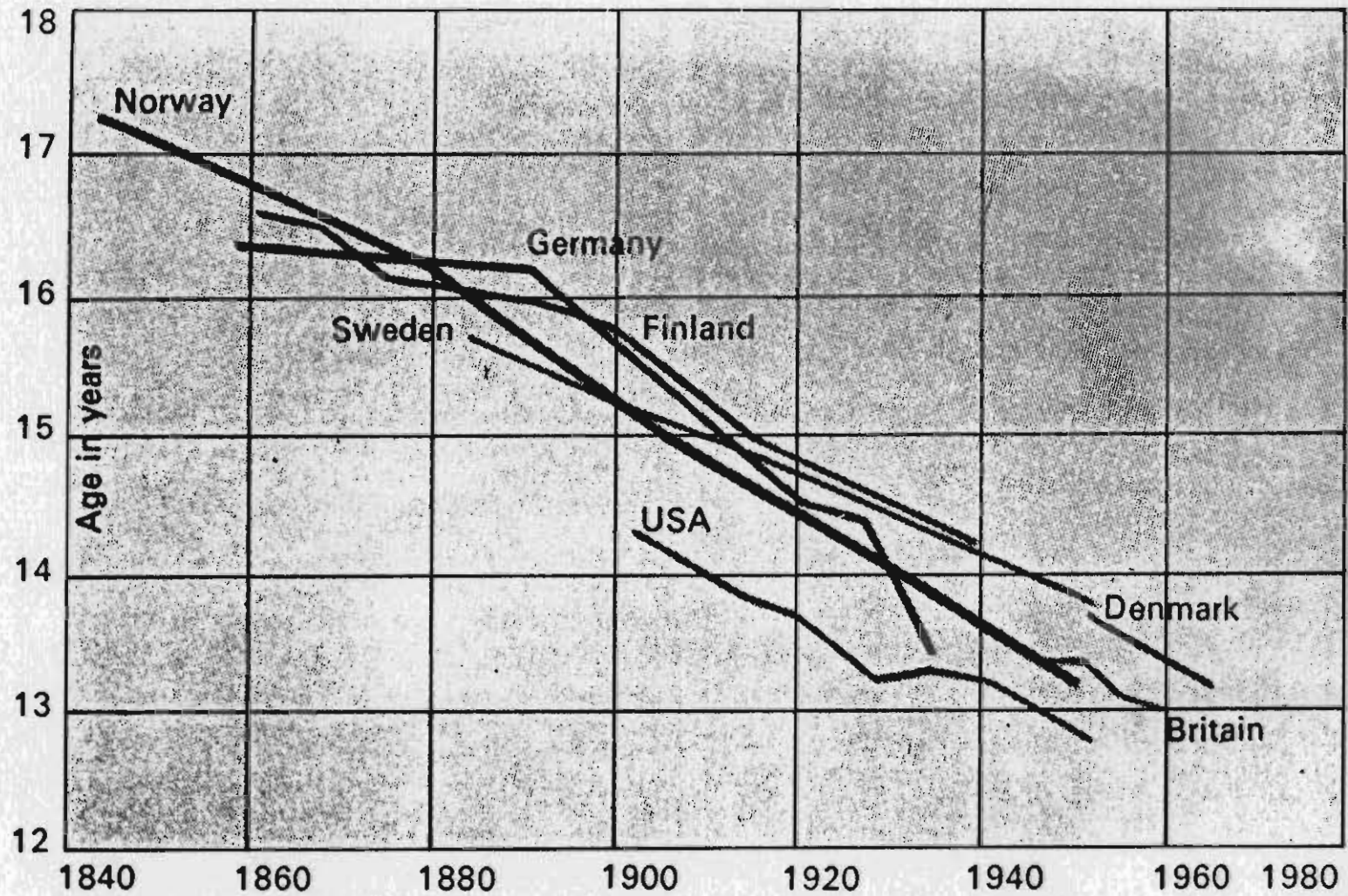
SPANISH ⇒ COUNTRY DANCE ⇒ PLAYFORD

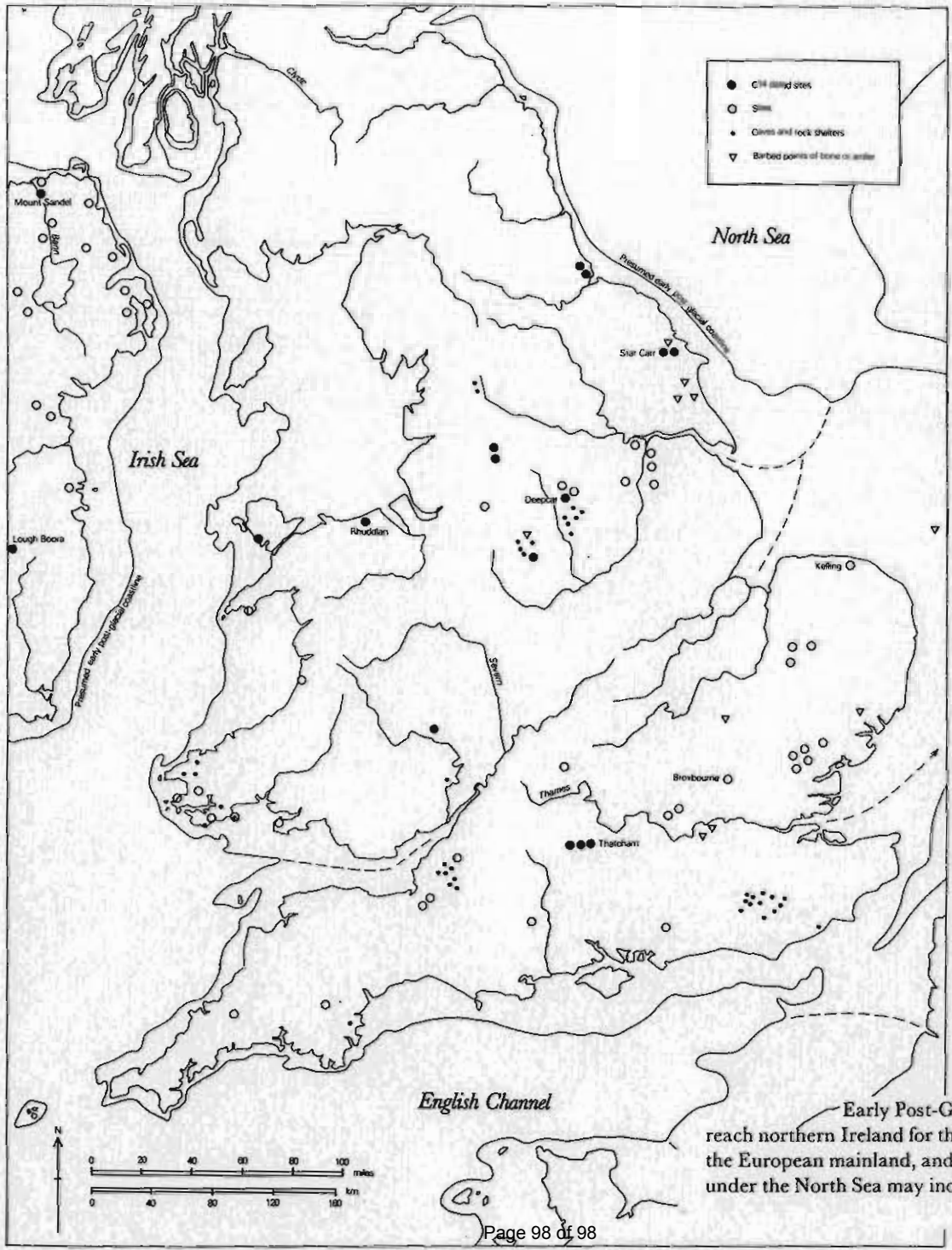
RESTORATION

MUSIC - FEW TUNES CHOSEN









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.