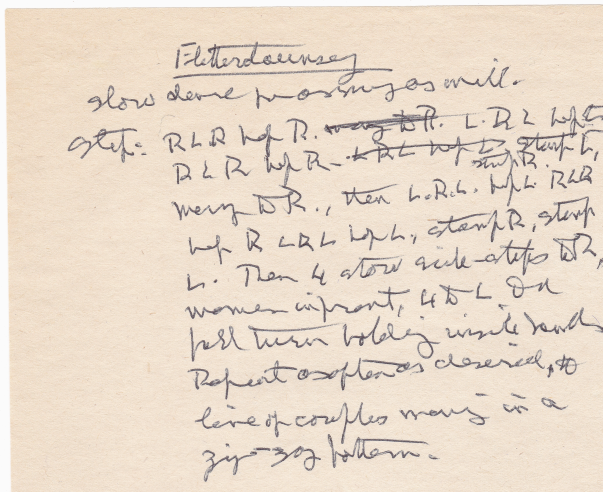


FLITTERDAUNSEY *



Flitterdaunsey

slow dance for as many as will.

Step: R L R hop R. ~~[two words unreadable]~~ to R. L. R L hop to R L R hop R. ~~L R L hop L~~ stamp L, [step R.] moving to R., then L.R.L. hop L. RLR hop to L & L hop L., stamp R, stamp L. Then 4 slow side-steps to R, women in front, 4 to L & a full turn holding single hands Repeat as often as desired, to line of couples moving in a zig-zag pattern.

The above is a paper slip (the image cropped here) found amongst the personal papers of Mona Douglas now held in the MNHL. A fuller description of the Flitter Dance appears in her notebook recording her folk dance collecting where she states that the principal informant for the dance itself was Ada Skillicorn: “Ada Skillicorn remembers the dance being performed on the Dhoon beach about 1900. Took part in it herself as a child & showed me steps & movements.” Besides displaying the

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “Flitterdaunsey,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* March (2020), [13].

somewhat difficult handwriting of Mona Douglas, which you decipher rather than read, this note shows well what we rely on for the documenting of the Island's vernacular culture—as here a simple slip of paper, one easily lost, or for that matter mislaid amongst her papers in the MNHL. But we are fortunate indeed that she was there in the first place willing to collect.

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

