

## BUTTER'D PEASE

Butter'd Pease. 999929

• Each Strain twice •

The 1st Man and Wo. set foot it and turn; the 1st Man does the same with the 2d Wo. as at the same time doth his partner with the 2d Man; The 1st Cu. crosses over below the 3d Cu. Then flip up the Middle to the Middle to the Top foot it and cast off.

The above dance would appear to have been exceedingly popular and was even known in Italy as 'pisello burro'. This country dance comes from Wright's Caledonian Collection. These books went into eight volumes between 1733 and 1757. Walsh, 1731 and Thompson, 1764 give the same dance and the same tune although the latter has two crotchets where a minim occurs for beats two and three in Wright's version. Thomas Wilson in his 'Companion to the Ballroom' 1816, gives the same tune and same dance, but the dance is but one of three alternatives, the other two being unrelated. In his 'Treasures' 1809, there is no music and the dance given with this title is in two parts and again different from his others.

Leta Douglas gave a dance of this name in her 'Six Dances of the Yorkshire Dales', Giggleswick 1931. Both the dance and the tune differ from any of those mentioned above but the tune was of the same genre and the dance had an interesting 4/4 step – RLR,LRL (two bars). The foot on beat two was brought to the heel of the leading foot and beat four carried a pause – which step seemed to echo older practice. A more rumbustious version of Leta Douglas' dance was 'Down Back o't' Shoddy' given in the collection of that name. (Pilling 1973).

The interesting thing is the persistence of the name from the eighteenth century to the present day for these dances; and that all the dances, apart from Wilson's rather impoverished inventions, have intrinsic merit. Wright, 1742, also had a dance called 'Butter'd Beans'. Maybe this was taking advantage of the popularity of 'Butter'd Pease' just as Horatio Nichols produced an abortive 'Blackpool Walk in the 1930s following the phenomenal success of the 'Lambeth Walk'!

J.P.