

Resources for the Study of 19th Century Social Dance

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The following is a summary of the most accessible and useful of the sources for research into 19th century ballroom dance, with some information on their content. Only British, French, German, American and Canadian sources are quoted.

The abbreviation 'call' has been used to indicate abbreviated instructions for figures, for example ladies' chain, promenade.

1. General Survey of 19th Century Dance

Three books are essential reading:

Emmerson, G.S.

A Social History of Scottish Dance

McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal & London, 1972

This book contains much general material on English as well as Scottish dance, predominantly of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Guilcher, J.M.

La Contredanse

Mouton & Co, La Haye, 1969

An excellent and complete history of social ballroom dancing in France from medieval times to the 20th century. Especially detailed information is given on the 18th and 19th centuries. In French.

Richardson, P.J.S.

The Social Dance of the 19th Century

Herbert Jenkins, London, 1960

A good introduction to 19th century dance, it includes descriptions of Waltz, Polka, Quadrilles and the Washington Post.

2. Dance Manuals and Music

The following are listed in roughly chronological order:

Peacock, F

Sketches relative to the History and Theory but more especially to the Practice of Dancing

J. Chalmers & Co., Aberdeen, 1805, 224 pages

A general history of dance; use of dance to correct posture; description of Scottish reel steps pp 74-85.

Wilson, T

Treasures of Terpsichore

W. Calvert, London, 1809, 144 pages

Preface on the present state of dancing; calls for 223 triple minor country dances. No music.

Wilson, T

Analysis of Country Dancing

Calvert, London, 1808, 194 pages

Description and diagrams of figures used in triple minor country dances. This was enlarged and revised and later issued under the title *The Complete System of English Country Dancing* in 1815. This later version is the better buy.

Simonet, F

Fashionable Parisian Quadrilles

C. Wheatstone, London, 1810, 48 pages

Piano notation for six sets of five or six Quadrilles; calls given, generally First Set, repeated; music for ten Waltzes, one Allemande and two Sautouses.

Wilson, T

A Companion to the Ballroom

Button and Whittaker, London, 1816, 234 pages

Notation of the melody line and calls for hundreds of country dances; notation only for Allemandes, Cotillions, Minuets and Marches. Includes an entertaining 'Dissertation on the state of the Ballroom', a great quantity of dances, not always of high quality.

Wilson, T

A description of the correct method of Waltzing

Sherwood, Neely and Jones, London, 1816, 119 pages

A description of French Waltzing - slow Waltz, Sautouse Waltz and quick Sautouse danced in sequence. I am not aware of any other description of this form of waltzing although the folk dance Swedish Masquerade has some similarities. Also includes description of German Waltzing; notation of melody line given for several tunes.

Gourdoux-Daux, J.H

Principes et notions elementaires sur l'Art de la Danse

Dondey-Dupré, Paris, 1811, 87 pages

A revised and enlarged edition was published in 1823 with the title *l'Art de la Danse*. This book gives detailed descriptions of the steps and the most frequently used figures in the Quadrille as danced 1804-1830. These two editions are essential reading for those who wish to dance in the style of that period. The second edition of 1823 includes descriptions of the more complicated steps, including entrechat, pirouette, temps de cuisse and a detailed description of waltzing. Gourdoux-Daux' authority is confirmed by Carlo Blasis; his work appeared in translation in America in 1817 and Scotland in 1822. In French. Translation by Ellis Rogers awaiting publication.

Wilson, T

The Quadrille and Cotillion Panorama

R & E Williamson, London, c.1818, 107 pages

Despite its title, this work contains no information on the Cotillion. It consists of detailed descriptions of fifty-two quadrille figures, with diagrams and some illustrations. French dance terms are explained. There are no descriptions of steps but a short list is given of the names of the steps most commonly used.

Dun, B

A translation of nine of the most fashionable Quadrilles

William Wilson & Co., Edinburgh, 1818, 69 pages

A short description of the style in which Quadrilles should be performed. Includes a long extract on posture, taken from *The Mirror of the Graces* by 'A lady of distinction', published in London, 1810. No step descriptions; calls given for fifty Quadrilles; no music; one Quadrille in waltz time.

Strathy, A

Elements of the Art of Dancing

Pillans, Edinburgh, 1822, 98 pages

The greater part of this work is an unacknowledged translation of the 1811, edition of Goudou-Daux' *l'Art de la Danse*. To this has been added descriptions of a few extra steps and enchainements for 'balancing'; calls are given for First Set and two other Quadrilles, one of which is Les

- Lanciers - not Duval's or Hart's version but a single Quadrille.
- Anon.
Analysis of the London Ballroom
Thomas Tegg, London 1825, 159 pages
History of dancing; etiquette of the ballroom; calls for twenty-one country dances, six sets of Quadrilles (all First Set) and eight Waltz country dances. Piano notation is given for all the dances, but the quality of the arrangements makes them less than useful
- Anon.
Contre-Danses à Paris 1818
Handwritten manuscript found in a Paris market.
Original in the National Library of Scotland, ms 3860.
Written 1820 or later.
An invaluable source of information on Quadrille and Scottish country dancing figures and steps. The paper is watermarked 1820 and later, thus the title is probably indicative of the date when the collection of material was begun. Contains very detailed descriptions and diagrams of common quadrille figures and some of the more complicated country dance figures; comments on the introduction of the Waltz to Scotland; details of quadrille, reel and strathspey steps; descriptions of fifteen Scottish country dances. The handwriting is fairly easy to decipher.
Much of the material in this work is examined and analysed in *Dance Studies, Vol. 13* by Yves Guillard, obtainable from The Centre for Dance Studies, Jersey, Channel Islands, JE3 7AQ.
- Blasis, C
The Code of Terpsichore
J. Bulcock, London, 1828
Mainly concerned with theatrical dance and the ballet but one section on 'Private Dancing' contains descriptions of Quadrilles. Much of this book was translated into French by Paul Vergnaud and published in France in 1830 with the title *Manuel Complet de La Danse*. A later edition c. 1860 includes descriptions and comments on couple dances of that time, including the Redowa and Polka Mazurka.
- Casoril, L
Der instructive Tanzmeister für Herren und Damen
Zimenau, 1826, 110 pages
Contains descriptions of many dance steps of the period. Dances described are: the Waltz and such variations as the Langsame Waltz, the Ecosaise Waltz and the Viener Waltz. There are also some country dances, including five German versions of Ecosaise and four French dances. Also included are some cotillion/quadrille type dances and a version of The Tempest; no music or diagrams.
- Collinet
Les Soirées de Famille
Collinet, Paris, c. 1810-1825
Under this general title Collinet published many collections (recueils), most of them containing the notation for piano of five sets, each of five Quadrilles, the calls for the dances being printed beside the music; occasionally a few Waltzes were included. Of particular interest is an unnumbered volume with the sub-title *Recueil Unique* which contains very detailed descriptions of dances not described elsewhere, such as Le Grand-Père, Le Rond de Roche, La Marlborough, La Monaco, Quadrilles La Bonne Aventure and Les Graces. There is music for Bourrées, Mazurkas, La Fricassée, Bolero, la Bernoise and a sailor's dance. Details are given of La Gigue Anglaise, which is said to be used frequently as the final quadrille in a set. The musical arrangements in the *Recueil Unique* are not up to the very high quality of the quadrille music in the other volumes. *Volume 16* of Quadrilles is said to be music composed by Collinet and Musard and played by them at Almacks in the presence of the Prince Regent in 1821. In French. Translation by Ellis Rogers of *Recueil Unique* is awaiting publication.
- Pollock, J.S.
La Terpsichore Modern
London, c. 1824, 40 pages
Brief descriptions of quadrilles by Pain, Weippert, Hart and Duval, including differing versions of The Lancers by Hart and Duval. Also included are three sets of Quadrilles in waltz time and The Guards, The Hussars, The Mid Lothian, The Caledonian, The Cuirassiers, The Hibernian and The Parisian Quadrilles. No music.
- Pollock, J.S.
Companion to la Terpsichore Moderne
London, c. 1820, 30 pages
Descriptions of Circassian Circle dances, Mescolanzes, Swedish Dance, l'Union Dance, La Callopade, Spanish country dances; calls for twenty-seven English country dances; description of Bavarian Quadrille (waltz) and Hart's 26th set of Quadrilles. No Music.
- Lowe, Messrs.
Lowe's Ball-Conductor and Assembly Guide
Lowe, Edinburgh, c. 1830, 181 pages
Contains twelve pages on deportment in the ballroom, glossary of French terms, brief explanations of the five quadrilles in First Set, plus an extra finale; gives two more sets of Quadrilles taken from Dun and Strathy's version of Les Lanciers. This is followed by a description of Sixtrilles, a variant of First Set danced with three people on each side of a square set, a man between two ladies. There is a call for The Italian Monferina (a quadrille style of dance) and a Reel of Eight, which is said to frequently follow the above dance. The Gallopade is described and followed by a description of a form of mazurka in a set of two couples side by side facing two couples similarly placed; mazurka steps are described.
Various methods of holding your partner in a Waltz are described but there is no detailed description of this couple dance. Mescolanzes are described and five figures given. Two Ecosaises are given and two Spanish dances. There are two sets of figures for the Circassian Circle Dance and calls given for twenty-six country dances. The Country Bumpkin is described in detail - a reel for nine dancers. The book concludes with a few country dances in reel time and a long section on behaviour and manners.
- Anon.
The Ballroom Preceptor and Polka Guide
David Bogue, London, 1846, 79 pages
Contains a glossary of French dance terms, brief descriptions, Quadrilles, Pain's First Set, The Caledonians, The Parisian, Duval's Lancers, Hart's Lancers, Windsor Castle, The Queen's First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth

Sets, Victoria, The Royal Victoria, Her Majesty's Favourite. These are followed by a description of the Polka as a couple dance, followed by its use in a Polka Cotillion (not the 18th century square dance but a combination of circle dancing and display items). A description of the steps of the Valse à Deux Temps is followed by descriptions of the form of the Circassian Circle and Spanish Dancing in waltz time. No figures are given. A description of a Gallop Quadrille and Mazurka figures is followed by a set of Mazurka Quadrilles, The Royal Devonshire Mazurka. There follows a brief mention of the Polonaise, then some Waltz Cotillion figures (the type of cotillion mentioned above) and the last dance is a Scottish reel danced as a progressive threesome rather as we now dance The Dashing White Sergeant.

Cellarius

La Danse des Salons

1847

In French.

Cellarius

La Danse des Salons,

Jérôme Millon, Grenoble, 1993.

A modern and more easily obtainable reproduction of the 1849 edition, preceded by an additional article on Cellarius and his influence on dancing.

Cellarius

The Drawing Room Dances

English translation.

E. Churton, London, 1847

A translation of *Le Danse des Salons*.

Cellarius

Fashionable Dancing

English translation.

Vizately Bros. & Co., London, c.1847

Another translation of *Le Danse des Salons*.

Contents of these books are: general comments on dancing to page 16; description of First Set danced in the abbreviated manner of Paris salons at that time; description and steps of the Polka, the Waltz of Trois Temps, the Waltz of Deux Temps; advice to waltzers; steps of the Waltz of Cinq Temps; description of mazurka steps followed by a Quadrille in mazurka Time (Cellarius's Second Mazurka Quadrille); description of a Waltz Mazurka, The Cellarius Waltz and The Redowa. The book concludes with a description of the later, or 19th century Cotillion, an alternation of couple dancing with party games or 'forfeits'. Eighty-three figures are described. This is the dance that was known in America as The German.

Willock, H.D

Manual of Dancing

Glasgow, c.1847, 61 pages

Calls are given for eight sets of quadrilles and two single quadrilles, La Russe and the Waltz Cotillion. There are also descriptions of fourteen couple dances, four reels and twenty-nine country dances, ten of them to Scottish tunes. No music.

Bland, Prof., et al

The Art of Dancing

Milner and Sowerby, London, c.1850, 129 pages

'Matters of Dress, Manners and Deportment' occupy the

first thirty-nine pages, honours and the positions another eight, a glossary of French terms four pages. This is followed by a description of Scottish reel steps, taken from Peacock (1805). The remainder of the book is a haphazard collection of descriptions and calls for dances taken from many unacknowledged sources.

Hill, F

Fredrick Hill's Book of Quadrilles and Country Dances

Handwritten manuscript, 1841, 73 pages

(This is included as a printed version, with notes on the dances, will be published some time soon.)

This will be of particular interest to those studying Scottish dance as it contains instructions for twelve solo dances. The manuscript also contains calls for several Quadrilles and Cotillions and forty-eight Scottish country dances. Many of those included had been out of fashion and use for many years but some of them are not easily found elsewhere. Included are sixteen Quadrilles, fourteen country dances and fifteen couple dances.

Ferrero, E

The Art of Dancing

Dick & Fitzgerald, New York, 1859, 283 pages

Pages 1 - 79 contain a history of world dance.

Pages 85 - 120: hints to dancers on behaviour and manners, the five positions and honours.

Page 120 - 180: dance instructions.

There is then a further 103 pages of piano notation of the music for twenty-three of the dances.

As with most dance manuals, several of the dances are copied, unaltered, from earlier collections but there are some interesting remarks on the contemporary (1859) American method of dancing *Balance to Partners* (pages 121 and 123).

Contents: six sets of Quadrilles, six single Quadrilles, three country dances, fifteen couple dances.

Coulon

Coulon's Hand Book

A. Hammond & Co., London, 1844 - 1880, 153 pages (many editions)

Coulon, a Frenchman living in London, was probably the most fashionable dancing master of Victorian times. Descriptions or calls are given for: twelve sets of Quadrilles, ten couple dances, ten country dances. The book includes twenty-one figures for the 19th century Cotillion and diagrams and description of a 'Minuet de la Cour' which uses a waltz step, among others. The book finishes with a series of exercises for keeping fit using sticks and dumbbells.

Reilly, E.B

The Amateur's Vademecum

J. Nicholas, Philadelphia, 1870, 231, pages

A short history of dancing is followed by sections on dress, etiquette, cards, programmes, invitations, types of ball, honours, positions, exercises and steps. A list of unexplained, named steps is given for a Lady's Hornpipe and a Sailor's Hornpipe. Descriptions are given of: five single Quadrilles, twelve sets of Quadrilles including an 'Improved' First Set, fourteen couple dances, two country dances and twelve figures of the 19th century Cotillion.

- Youen
Youen's Dance Album
 George Routledge & Sons, London, 1874, 128 pages
 Contains: ten sets of Quadrilles, six couple Waltzes, seven other couple dances and four country dances.
- De Garmo, W.M
The Dance of Society
 De Garmo, New York, 1879, 177 pages
 Contains: eight sets of Quadrilles, eight single Quadrilles, three country dances, fifteen couple dances - practically the same repertoire as Reilley, E.B (1870). Also contains one hundred and two 19th century Cotillion figures and piano notation for a Quadrille and the 'Minuet de la Cour'.
- Allan, M
Guide to the Ballroom
 Mozart Allan, Glasgow, 1880, 80 pages
 Mainly useful for its extensive set of instructions for fifty-one Scottish country dances. Also includes eleven couple dances and nine sets of Quadrilles.
- Holt, A
The Cotillion
 Hamley Bros., London, 1894, 68 pages
 A full description, with illustrations, of the English way of dancing the 19th century Cotillion. Seventeen figures that require no accessories, many more that do. Hamleys sold the accessories and this book gives some idea of the expenses involved in giving a 'Cotillion Ball'.
- Grove, L. et al
Dancing
 Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1895, 428 pages
 This is one of the 'Badminton' series of books on sport and pastimes. Accessible but not recommended. Over 400 pages of mis-information on dates, sources and dance history. No dance described accurately enough for reconstruction.
- Wilson, M
Dancing
 Penn, Philadelphia, 1907, 208 pages
 The general content of this book is remarkable for its reproduction of instructions for dances so long out of fashion that its contemporary readers had probably not heard of them. It is included in this list solely for its mention of a few late 19th century American dances: four Polkas, the York, the Racket and two curiously named quadrille figures: The Minuet and La Pavane.
- Lamb, W
How and What to Dance
 C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London, 1904, 118 pages
 The author was President of the British Association of Teachers of Dancing in 1896 and 1897. The contents show how the repertoire of the ballroom was changing, with the emphasis more on couple or sequence dances, among them the Cakewalk and the Washington Post. Late versions of some Quadrilles are given and there are descriptions of a Maypole Dance and a Skirt Dance.
- Scott, E.
Dancing as it should be
 Fredrick Pitman, London, 1910, 117 pages
 Edward Scott was a prolific writer on dance matters and produced many books on the subject. In all of them he expresses his strong, individual and stimulating ideas on dancing in a clear and amusing manner. His detailed description in this volume of performing First Set and The Lancers is a model of clarity and good humour. The remainder of the book describes couple dancing, with the emphasis on the Waltz as danced at this period.
- Mitchell, A.C
A Guide to Ballroom Dancing
 A. Cosmo Mitchell, Aberdeen, c.1914, 64 pages
 Contains one of the earliest descriptions of the One Step, the Two Step and the Boston but they occupy only a couple of pages in a general selection of Quadrilles, couple dances and Scottish country dances.
- Mitchell, A.C.
New Dances
 A.C. Mitchell
 Aberdeen, c.1914
 There are *two* small, eight-page pamphlets with the same title and no publication date. They contain instructions for the new couple dances flooding in from America, including the Foxtrot, the One-Step, the Three-Step, the Destiny Waltz and the Blues.
- Castle, Mr & Mrs V
Modern Dancing
 TheWorld Syndicate Co., New York, 1914, 176 pages
 Here, all previous dancing is declared out-of-date and the Castles introduce their completely new way to dance couple dances. Introducing the Castle Walk, the Tango and the Maxixe.
- Lange, E & KH
Modetänze um 1800 in Becker's Taschenbüchern 1791-1827
 Deutscher Bundesverband Tanz eV, Berlin, 1984, 132 pages, ISBN 3-925318-11-9 in German.
 A review of all the ballroom dances included in a series of pocketbooks published between 1791 and 1827. With many of the original dance descriptions, diagrams and music, including twelve versions of The Tempest. Very interesting and useful.
- Daye, A, Rogers, E & C, Schou-Pedersen, J
The First Refinement
 Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society, Salisbury, 1997, 130 pages
 A handbook for students attending a summer school devoted to early 19th century (1800-1830) dance. In three sections. The first devoted to the French influence on English dance. The second describing dances in Scotland during the same period. The third devoted to Danish ballroom dances with special emphasis on the dances composed for a royal occasion. All sections give step and figure descriptions and contain piano notation; in the first two section this is for the melody-line only. All three sections contain country dances and quadrilles. There are three music tapes available.
- Rogers, E & C
Dances for the Prince Regent
 Rogers, London, 1997
 The same as section 1 of the above DHDS book, with the addition of extra notes on dance style and facsimile reproduction of the original music.