

Social Dance Short History Routledge Revivals: Unveiling the Art of Movement and Connection

In today's fast-paced world, where communication often takes place through screens and distances seem to grow larger, the value of human connection becomes more apparent than ever. Throughout history, one art form has been able to transcend borders and bring people together: social dance. In this article, we will dive into the captivating history of social dance, focusing on the acclaimed book *Social Dance: A Short History*, Routledge Revivals, by Roderyk Lange.

Unearthing the Origins

The origins of social dance can be traced back to ancient civilizations, where communal celebrations and rituals often involved rhythmic movements. From Mesopotamia and Egypt to Greece and Rome, dancing played a significant role in societal events. However, it was during the European Renaissance that social dance truly began to take shape as an art form.

The 15th and 16th centuries witnessed the rise of courtly dances, where the nobility would gather and partake in elaborate choreographed routines. These dances not only provided entertainment but also served as a way to demonstrate wealth, power, and social standing. Intricate footwork, graceful arm movements, and intricate costumes became synonymous with the nobility's elegance and sophistication.

Social Dance: A Short History (Routledge Revivals) by Brenda Bobby (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



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Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 31 pages



The Dancefloor Revolution

As time progressed, social dance gradually transcended the confines of the aristocracy and began to embrace a wider audience. The 19th century witnessed a dance revolution, with various styles emerging across Europe and America. Dance halls became popular gathering places, where people from different social classes could come together and partake in the joy of dancing.

The waltz, a sensual and fluid dance characterized by sweeping turns, gained immense popularity during this period. Its rise marked a shift in societal attitudes toward intimate physical contact between partners on the dance floor. As social dance continued to evolve, new styles such as the tango, foxtrot, quickstep, and swing emerged, each reflecting the changing times and cultural influences.

The Roaring Twenties and Beyond

No discussion of social dance history can be complete without mentioning the impact of the 1920s, also known as the Roaring Twenties. With the end of World War I, a newfound sense of liberation took hold, and people began to embrace a more carefree lifestyle. The dance floors of this era, fueled by jazz music and

flapper culture, witnessed the rise of energetic dances like the Charleston and the Lindy Hop.

The integration of African-American rhythms and movements into mainstream social dances revolutionized the art form and created a platform for cultural exchange and acceptance. As social constraints loosened, partner dancing became more fluid and improvisational, emphasizing personal expression and connection.

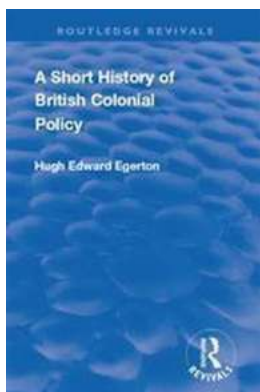
Revival of Interest and Routledge's Contribution

In recent years, there has been a revival of interest in social dances from different eras. People are rediscovering the beauty and joy of movement, as well as the sense of connection and community that social dance can foster. Publications like *Social Dance: A Short History*, Routledge Revivals, serve as an invaluable resource for enthusiasts seeking to delve deeper into the rich tapestry of social dance.

Roderyk Lange's book is a comprehensive guide, offering insight into the evolution of social dance from its early origins to contemporary styles. With detailed descriptions and historical context, the book allows readers to immerse themselves in the intricate steps, musical nuances, and societal influences that have shaped social dance throughout the ages.

Social dance has not only provided individuals with a means of self-expression and artistic exploration but has also served as a catalyst for social change and acceptance. Whether it be the structured ballroom dances of the nobility or the spontaneous movements of the Jazz Age, social dance has always reflected the spirit of its time.

Through the pages of Roderyk Lange's *Social Dance: A Short History*, Routledge Revivals, we are transported on a journey through centuries of rhythmic celebration, showcasing the power of movement and connection to bring people together. In an era dominated by technology, social dance reminds us of the importance of human interaction and the beauty of sharing harmonious moments on the dance floor.



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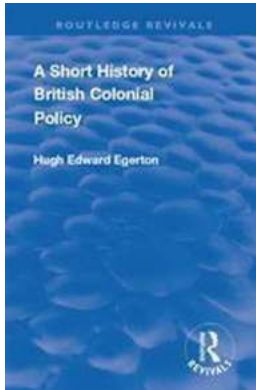
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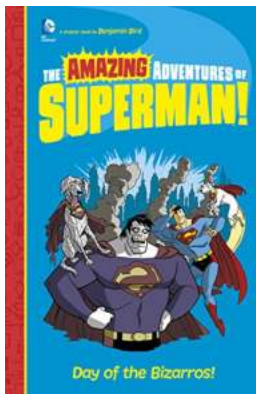


Originally published in 1963 and authored by the then Editor of the *Dancing Times*, this was a pioneer work discussing not only the origins and development of many social dance forms from early times, but also relating these forms to their environment. As well as its role in social history, the book analyses the role of dance as a prime creative power in Renaissance spectacles which depicted and celebrated diplomatic, military and regal occasions. After a wide-ranging introductory chapter on the origins of dancing, the book takes the reader through the centuries, discussing in turn the *Basse Danse* and the *Moresco* of the Middle Ages, the *Pavane*, *Galliard* and *Courante* of the 16th Century, the *Minuet* of the 17th & 18th, the *Allemande*, the *Waltz* and the *Polka* as well as *Jazz*, the *Cha Cha Cha*, the *Jive* and *Twist*.



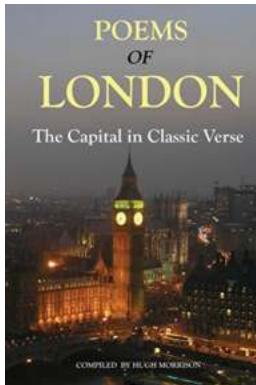
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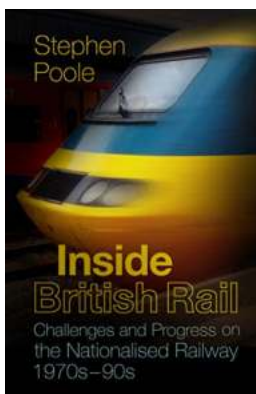
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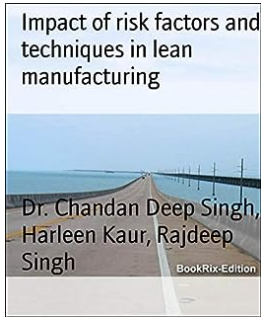
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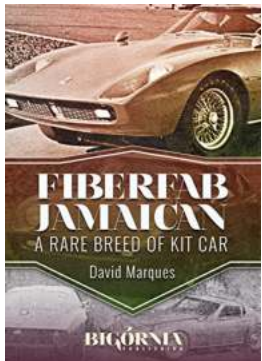
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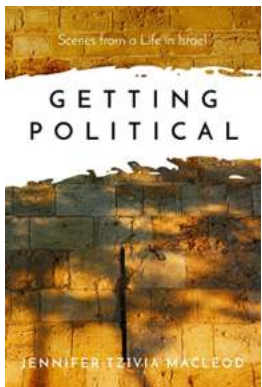
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