

The Newport Dancers' Gazette

Newport Vintage Dance Week
Editor: Katy Bishop, The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

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MID -19TH CENTURY BALL Friday, *Rotunda Ballroom*, Newport

Friday's ball will be held at the Historic Rotunda Ballroom adjacent to the Carousel on First Beach (Easton's Beach) in Newport. We are happy to be returning to this lovely Ballroom to enjoy the music of The New River Dance Orchestra. If weather permits we will enjoy refreshments on the terrace overlooking the moonlit Atlantic Ocean. Once again the Carousel will be open for rides during the intermission.



DIRECTIONS FROM PORTSMOUTH ABBEY:
Turn left onto Cory's Lane, drive to the intersection with route 114, turn right onto 114 and almost immediately, at the first light, turn left onto Hedley St. (there is a sign to Portsmouth Business Park). A little over 1/2 mi. down Hedley St. there is a stop sign, with a second stop sign almost immediately beyond it. Go straight at the first stop sign and turn right at the second onto route 138 south. Go approx. 4 1/2 mi. on Rte. 138; 138 intersects with 138A (Aquidneck Ave.) at the Dunkin Donuts, turn onto 138A. Follow Aquidneck Ave. for about 2 miles, it eventually intersects with Memorial Blvd. Turn left onto Memorial Blvd., which bears right, and passes Newport's First Beach (on left). The carousel and ballroom will be on the left at Easton's (First) Beach. Parking is adjacent to the building.

PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED

We are always searching for interesting photographs of the various events at Newport and other CVD events for inclusion in publicity materials and for placement on our webpage. If you have any that you think would be appropriate, please send them to the address on page 4, attn: CVD Photos, or give them to Katy Bishop (let us know if you wish to have them returned).

VIENNA DANCE WEEK, 2004!

Word has reached us from Hannelore Unfried, a Newport teaching staff alumnae, that Vienna Dance Week will return for a repeat performance in February 2004. The dates for the event will be February 2-7. For more information please contact Hannelore at unfried@hofdantzer.at or visit the Hof Dantzer website at www.hofdantzer.at



LAST NEW THING IN SKIRTS.

AUNT (*slightly shocked*). "Why, Child, all your clothes are falling off!"
LAURA. "Oh, dear no, Aunty; it's the Fashion!"

FORMAL TEA
Friday, Manor House Gazebo

The Formal Tea will take place near the gazebo, on the lawn which sweeps down to Narragansett Bay. This event is your opportunity to wear your most formal afternoon outfit to enjoy tea and a game of croquet, or to rest your feet after a full week of dancing.



ASK MRS. ASTORBILT

Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,

What should I do when I'm dancing a quadrille and the set dissolves into chaos around me?

Shell-shocked

Dear Shell-shocked,

Mrs. Astorbilt is not a dancing master, but she is happy to pass on what the etiquette books say about dancing the quadrille:

“When an unpracticed dancer makes a mistake, we may apprise him of his error; but it would be very impolite to have the air of giving him a lesson.” (Willis, *Etiquette* (1860), p. 23.)

“Never press forward to take the lead in a quadrille, and if others, not understanding the figures, make confusion, try to get through without remark. It is useless to attempt to teach them, as the music, and

other sets will finish the figure long before you can teach and dance it. Keep your temper, refrain from all remark, and endeavor to make your partner forget, in your cheerful conversation, the annoyances of the dance.” (F. Hartley, *Ladies' book of etiquette* (1860), p. 168.)

So smile through the chaos and count on being able to laugh about it later.

Mrs. Astorbilt

Dear Mrs. Astorbilt,

I had promised a dance to one gentleman, but he did not come to claim me. Just before the music began another gentleman, seeing me standing alone, asked me to dance. How should I have answered the second gentleman?

An Accidental Wall-flower

Dear Miss Wall-flower,

When you are invited to dance, you should answer quickly. You should not spend long moments considering your answer, nor should you make an ambiguous reply like, “I'd love to dance with you if my partner doesn't show up. Let's stand here and wait.”

This would prevent the second gentleman from finding a partner if, indeed, your first partner appears.

If you have reason to believe that your first gentleman has forgotten the dance, or has been called away from the ball-room, you may accept the second gentleman. You will want to apologize to your original partner if he comes to claim you and finds you dancing with the second gentleman.

As a general rule, you should not give up on your original partner until the first strains of music for a couple dance, or until the sets are nearly all formed. If you are still waiting for your original partner, you should immediately decline the invitation of the second gentleman, and free him so that he can invite some lady who would otherwise have to sit out the dance.



GAMES DAY AT THE ASTORS' BEECHWOOD

Don your smartest sporting togs and practice your croquet swing. Saturday afternoon Patri and Barbara will be leading Victorian games on the lawn at *The Astors' Beechwood*. Picnic lunch fixings will be available in the dining hall for you to pack a lunch and enjoy period games and the sights of Newport. There will be no charge for Dance Week attendees to participate in this event. If you wish to tour the house Saturday or any other day during the Dance Week, you can present your Dance Week badge for free admission to the house. We highly recommend touring the house. In case of rain, games will be held indoors.



CLIFF WALK AND
FREE TIME

Free time is available on Saturday afternoon for outings in Newport and its environs. A perfect time for a stroll on the Cliff-Walk or a tour of a mansion or two.

PERRY'S VOYAGE TO THE ORIENT FANCY DRESS BALL

The theme for the 2003 Turn of the Century fancy dress ball is *Voyage to the Orient: Celebrating Commodore Perry's Voyage to Japan*. Once again, *Smoke and Mirrors (and friends)* will apply their magic and transform the Abbey Auditorium into an exotic trip to an Oriental destination. We invite you to join Commodore Perry as he sets sail from Newport in 1853 on a voyage of discovery that leads him to Japan. This will be an informal evening of dancing and merriment featuring recorded music from the 19th and early 20th centuries.



TOILETTES, APRIL 1895

SUNDAY CHECK-OUT

Check-out time is 11am, Sunday August 17. Please return keys to Hannah or your house parent. Your key deposit checks will be returned to you upon return of your key(s).

UPCOMING COSTUME EXHIBITION CINCINNATI

A Separate Sphere: Dressmakers in Cincinnati's Golden Age, 1877-1922 on view at the Cincinnati Museum of Art October 12, 2003 to January 4, 2004, this exhibition of over fifty fashionable women's garments examines the world of Cincinnati's women couturiers, their fashions, and their lives in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Etiquette Hints for the Ball Room

On entering a ball-room, all thought of self should be dismissed. The petty ambition of endeavoring to create a sensation by either dress, loud talking, or unusual behavior, is to be condemned; also the effort to monopolize a certain part of the room during the evening, or of forming exclusive circles when unanimity and good feeling should prevail, are, to say the least, exceptionable. (Hillgrove, A Complete Practical Guide to the Art of Dancing, New York: 1863, p. 24.)

Ladies should remember that men look to the effect of dress in setting off the figure and countenance of a lady, rather than to its cost. Few men form estimates of the value of ladies' dress. This is a subject for female criticism. Beauty of person and elegance of manners in woman will always command more admiration from the other sex than costliness of clothing. (Hillgrove, p. 18.)

Be very careful, when dressing for a ball, that the hair is firmly fastened, and the coiffure properly adjusted. Nothing is more annoying than to have the hair loosen or the head-dress fall off in a crowded ball room. (Florence Hartley, The Ladies' Book of Etiquette, and Manual of Politeness. Boston: 1860, p. 167.)

Draw on your gloves (white or yellow) in the dressing-room, and do not be for one moment with them off in the dancing-rooms. At supper take them off; nothing is more preposterous than to eat in gloves. (Henry P. Willis, Etiquette, and the Usages of Society. New York: 1860, p. 22.)

At private parties ladies and gentlemen should not dance exclusively with the same partners, if by so doing they exclude others from desirable company. We may, however, without impropriety ask a lady to join us the second time in a dance. We should treat all courteously; and, not manifesting preference for any one in particular, be ready to dance with whoever may need a partner. (Hillgrove, p. 21.)

For Further information on the Dance Week
or vintage dance please contact:
The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers at:
(781) 662-8344 or e-mail Info@VintageDancers.org
visit them on the web at: www.VintageDancers.org

To submit information to the Gazette, make suggestions, or
to put your name on the Gazette mailing list
please contact Katy Bishop at
Gazette@VintageDancers.org or write:
Newport Gazette, c/o Katy Bishop
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In inviting a lady to dance with you, the words, "Will you honor me with your hand for a quadrille?" or "Shall I have the honor of dancing this set with you?" are more used now than "Shall I have the pleasure?" or "Will you give me the pleasure of dancing with you?" (Cecil B. Hartley, The Gentlemen's Book of Etiquette. Philadelphia: 1860, p. 93.)

A young lady should be very careful how she refuses to dance with a gentleman; and above all she must take care not to accept two gentlemen for one dance. Many duels have resulted from this thoughtlessness. (Mrs. Hale, Manners; or, Happy Homes and Good Society. Boston: 1868, p. 286.)

If your partner has a bouquet, handkerchief, or fan in her hand, do not offer to carry them for her. If she finds they embarrass her, she will request you to hold them for her, but etiquette requires you not to notice them, unless she speaks of them first. (Cecil B. Hartley, p.96.)

When an unpracticed dancer makes a mistake, we may apprise him of his error; but it would be very impolite to have the air of giving him a lesson. (Willis, p. 23.)

When the dance is over, offer your arm to your partner, and enquire whether she prefers to go immediately to her seat, or wishes to promenade. If she chooses the former, conduct her to her seat, stand near her a few moments, chatting, then bow, and give other gentlemen an opportunity of addressing her. If she prefers to promenade, walk with her until she expresses a wish to sit down. Enquire, before you leave her, whether you can be of any service, and, if the supper-room is open, invite her to go in there with you. (Cecil B. Hartley, p. 93.)

Every gentleman should escort a lady to the supper-room, and after attending to her wants or tastes, never forget to return with her to the ball or drawing rooms, for nothing can be more impolite than to leave an "unprotected female" to shift for herself amid the tumult of a crowd of modern party-guzzlers. (Anon. Bazar Book of Decorum. New York: 1870, p. 228.)

