

SOCIOLOGY OF DANCE INDEX (i) 1899-1904

NYT Aug 4 1899 p.3:3

Preaches against dancing

An Australian Clergyman fiercely denounces those who do it  
- A protest against his sermons.

Sydney July 5. Rev. Gladstone, son of an actor in

Australia, unrelated to Prime Minister. In our own district there are many dances during the winter months, about every two or three weeks...In nine cases out of ten, no harm comes, but we are considering the tenth girl tonight, and with the eye of God on her we want to show her the red danger signal of warning. We do not blame the young girls for going, as a price must be expected for their pleasure. She does not realize the scorching tongue of slander, the physical danger. Why do their mothers not stop them? They do it when it is too late and their young lives wrecked. They do not know the dangers they are exposing themselves to. They get up a dance at Barmah in aid of the cemetery. See them returning from this ball, their veils perhaps torn, their hair all disheveled. They go out bright and happy, they return jaded. It is dancing with death as a partner.

Received with shouts of laughter, until his utterances became libelous. Bishop declined to interfere.

Local magistrates, police etc. described the district "as one of the most decent and orderly in the colonies."

NYT Oct 22 1899

Change in style of dancing.

More repose of manner and stateliness to be seen. New Yorkers Dance Well - rich children dress simply.

1904

NYT March 24 1904

If Weary try dancing

Lecture in the Second Church by Dr. G. Stanley. on "The Rhythmic System of the Universe."

"Dancing has great curative powers. The best thing is health, which means holiness. The best kind of happiness is the happiness of being alive and that is the spirit of the dance.

NYT 30 Oct 1904 p.1:2

Pastor Attacks Dancing.

Clifford N.J.

Methodist Episcopal Pastor preached "No women could be a good dancer without yielding to sin and going to ruin. [His exact language was plainer, in fact]. i.e. quoting from book sent him: Some of the authorities of this town are allowing the dancing classes to start a preparatory school for the benefit of hell and the devil by letting it use the Town Hall."

Six church members had resigned in protest.

His sermon widely protested.

1904 - 1907 Cont.

NYT May 2 1904

Dancing Disrupts a College.

Horrified by occasional dances permitted at Whitworth college, a presbyterian College, the trustees have dismissed three Profs. The College President has resigned in protest.

Reaction: Faculty and students will leave college unless revoked. Other side say "discipline has been too lax, girls dance every evening.

1908 - 1910

NYT Jan 19 1908 4:1

Mlle. Genee believes that "dancing of the classic school will uplift its devotee mentally.

London March 1908: Maud's debut. How did she get away with it?

NYT July 18 1908 p.3:3

Trial of two Music Hall Managers.

Seven women jailed for nudity show in Paris.

1 manager got 3 months +40 fine.

Two actresses get 15 days

Judge ruled that " Distance from the audience and the immobility of pose robbed any licentiousness and gave only sense of natural beauty

London -- July 1908 Manchester Bans Maud Allan, reminiscent of Le Milo. Other cities followed. King had approved dance - exploitation.

NYT Aug 8 1908 London Dancing Masters

Founder of Imp. Soc. of Dancing Teachers

I want to see dancing taught as a compulsory subject in every school in the land," said Mr. M.R. M. Crompton. "Look at the boys at Eton and Harrow slouching along with their hands in their pockets. How will they ever be able to look like peers, diplomats, or lords of the manor or how impress foreigners with the grace of English dignity as in the old days [when a Lord Chancellor was appointed mainly on account of his proficiency as a dancer"] unless they learn to dance?

1909

NYT Nov 2 1909 p.9:4

Classic dancer denounced.

Minister severely criticizes Isadora Duncan.

Society women defend her.

The classic dance of Isadora, accompanied by Walter Damrosch, led to protest of a St. Louis Methodist minister.

Society women: Her dancing graceful, modest and beautiful.

NYT Dec 5 1909

:Lady Constance Richardson "wore as much costume as the usual professional salome dancer, and no more. One woman in audience said her figure too muscular to be perfect.

Bishop of London left before Lady Constance appeared.

1911 - 1914

NYT Jan 20 1911

Dancer's sword Victim May live.

Hamilton, Ont. Jan 19. Robert Sherick of Omaha Neb. whose brain was pierced by the socket end of a sword blade which flew into the audience out of the hand of M. Mikhail Mordkin at performance of the Russian Imperial Ballet has a fighting chance....

Mordkin paused an instant and continued the dance. Anna Pavlova who saw the sword strike the man staggered to one side and upset an incense lamp, which started a fire.

Extinguished at once.

Heavy law suit expected.

Did victim live?

NYT 27 June 1911 -- 28 June 1911.

Gertrude Hoffmann and her troupe of Russian ballets.

Hoffmann arrested - indecency charge.

"If tights are eliminated in dancing you will eliminate all beauty from it. It is necessary for dancers of this kind to bring out all the beauty of their art.

A group of Russian dancers appeared last night before the king and Queen of England, dressed in much scantier clothing ... [defending witness.

Performance 'modified' and charge withdrawn.

Quote Mayor's letter?

1912

And yet, NY Times 14/12/12: Kaiser produces Ballet"Corfu" to be produced at Royal Opera on his birthday. Jan 27

This is the second venture of the kind for which the German Emperor is responsible. Several years ago another ballet of his, called Sardanapole was performed but, despite the vast sums spent on the production, it was a failure."

NYTimes Feb 12 1912.

The turkey trot. Daily Mirror can't understand why it should be allowed in ballrooms. The Times says it's ugly. Nothing more ungraceful could be imagined than the bunny hug and the 'grizzly bear.'

"We have seen something of the same sort danced in London before last night. Of course, all these dances are sensual in their aim. There is no getting away from that fact on the plea of dancing as an art and so forth. But this does not apply to the audience but on the dancers themselves when they are not professional.

(The Daily News.)NYT Feb 18 1912 pt. iii 2:8

Abused turkey trot spreads in London.

Society want return to Waltz.. Introduced by American vaudeville performers.

NYT June 2 1912

Daring Ballet stirs Paris critics.

Rodin is its defender.

"L"Après midi d'un Faune with Nijinski.

Nijinski passed beyond all limits of convention.

Le Figaro gives no review; "A Mistake" is editorial. "Any one who can call such an exhibition scientific, artistic or poetic is misguided." Such realism will never be accepted by the real public.

Le gaulois also no review; demands apology.

== Ticket rush.

Changes in performance made overnight.

Rodin comes to defence.

Le Figaro editorialises violently against Rodin.

NYT 3 June 1912.

Editorial "Moral Reaction in Paris.

"The spectacle of Paris in a furor because of theatrical disregard for decency and propriety is all that will interest the outside world.

NYT July 26 1913.

Duel over Turkey trot.

A General challenged his opponent, a colonel, for allowing his daughter to dance the Turkey trot with an officer at the Garrison hall. The two fought ewth swords - the colonel being fatally wounded.

NYT C. Aug 25 1913:

London: Canon Newbolt preached at St. Paul's:

The current evil is the indecent dance, suggestive of evil and destructive of modesty. I urge parents to assert "I will not allow my daughter to turn into a Salome, even though Herod were to give me half his kingdom and admit me into the most coiveted society of a world that has persuaded itself that immodesty is inartistic and that anything is inartistic that removes the intolerasble monitoring of its pleasures."

From the Times of India 11 December 1913:

The tango dance, as well as the two step and one step are, according to the Berliner Salon officially forbidden all officers of the German Army and Navy. "Officers of the Army and Navy are hereby requested to dance neither the tango nor the one or two step in uniform, and to avoid families where these are danced. Dismissal will be penalty if order is ignored.

The "Prince's Gavotte" is the livliest dance permitted at Court.

1914 Cont.

NYT Jan 2 1914 p.9:3Catholic Church fighting the Tango.

Cardinal Farley has inaugurated a crusade against the Modern dance.

....."the modern vogue in dancing and the prevailing modes of women's dress are both indicative of a moral decadence in society."

This decadence is evidenced in the popularity of salacious moving picture films and the filthy dramas that pollute the stage.

We have no objection to the old-time forms of dancing, and this embargo on cotillions will only be lifted when the people return to saner and more modest forms of ballroom amusements.

NYT Jan 3 1914

Paris: The Tango has become a veritable craze in Paris. But Bishop of Lyon "This abominable dance kills virtue and gives rise to every appetite."

Bishop of Verdun: a dance profoundly dangerous to our morals. It tends to become more and more widespread."

NYT Jan 4 1914 sect 3 3:3

Ex London. Tango flourishes despite Boycotts over the years the tango has been disapproved by the Pope, two kings and Queen Alexandra.

Father Vaughan "It is not what happens necessarily at a tango tea that so much matters as what happens after it. ..."

NYT Jan 5 1914 p.5

Mrs. Israel and Miss de Wolfe Call it beautiful dance.

[Mrs. I. was head of the Committee on Amusement Resources for Working Girls.

NYT Editorial Jan 6 1914.

Said the Reverend Jabez McCotton

The Waltz of the devil's begotten."

But Jim made reply

"Never mind the old guy,

To the pure almost everything's rotten."

NYT Jan 18 1914 III 2:7

Rome: Rome still tangoes despite the church

Many think ecclesiastical thundering only serves to advertise Tango.

NYT Jan 15 1914 1:5

"Tatao" a Chinese measure, to replace Tango

1914 Cont.

NYT Jan 16 1914 4:2Pope denounces the "New Paganism."

Says the Tango and certain newspapers, theatrical presentatiopmns and fashions pervert souls.

Vicar general of Rome: "The tango, which has already been condemned by illustrious Bishops and is prohibited even in Protestant countries, must be absolutely prohibited in the seat of the Roman Pontiff, the centre of the Catholic religion." Order obeyed. UNTIL:

NYT Jan 28 1914 p.4:3Pope saw Tango

Remarked that if it were made a penance it would be considered cruelty.

At private audience two aristocrats danced tango for the Pope. As they danced the Pope's brow furrowed with a look of stupefaction.

"Is that the tango?"

Yes, your Holiness."

"Well, my dear children you cannot find it very amusing-- and then he referred to penance. Then and there he lifted the interdict. But he insisted the name be changed.

The Pope asked why they did not dance the venetian furlana. They didn't know 9t at all.

"What, do you not know the furlana?"

He was all too keen to demonstrate, but called for a venetian servant to do so.

This inspired a [dull] editorial in the NYT Jan 29.

NYT Jan 19 1914.

Survey of clerics' view of new dancing steps. "Do they have a harmful effect?"

four assail the innovations directly

six criticize the modern dance, but conceded opinion is based on hearsay only.

Two Methodist Bishops and Presb churches damn all dancing.

March 2 1:2 Denmark: Alexandra and mother devoted to the Tango