

LLANGOLLEN INTERNATIONAL EISTEDDFOD

The International Eisteddfod at Llangollen has had its third annual meeting and may be regarded as a permanent institution. Last year the folk dance competitions were again one of the most popular events and the audience of between five and six thousand that had assembled in the specially erected marquee were held spellbound throughout the performances. The greatest number of dancers came from Spain, and the first prize was awarded to a group from the Balearic Islands, whilst the Cabezón de la Sal (Santander) stick-dancers, who participated in the Venice Festival, won a very close second prize.

The Eisteddfod will be held this year from 4th to 9th July. Particulars can be obtained from Mr. W. S. Gwynn Williams, Hon. Music Director, International Music Eisteddfod, Llangollen, North Wales, Great Britain.

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"THE MAID FREED FROM THE GALLOWS"
AN ENQUIRY

The Ballad of "The Maid Freed from the Gallows" or "The Briary Bush," which appears in Child's *English and Scottish Popular Ballads* (No. 95), was recently broadcast in a programme of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and aroused such interest that it has encouraged the BBC to make, in conjunction with the English Folk Dance and Song Society, a comparative study of the ballad, and to seek for versions which are still traditionally sung in other countries.

The ballad treats of a young woman (or sometimes a young man) who has fallen into the hands of bandits or is to be hanged for stealing. She calls in turn on her father, mother, brother and sister, to pay the ransom and set her free. They all refuse and she finally appeals to her "true love" who, of course, grants her request.

The ballad is widely distributed in the English-speaking countries and Child quotes analogues from Sicily, Spain, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Sweden, Germany, Estonia, Russia, etc.

The Secretary of the International Folk Music Council would be glad to receive any information about extant versions of the ballad and would like in particular to know whether there are any living traditional singers who might be persuaded to make a record.

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OBITUARY

GIULIO FARA

Professor Giulio Fara died at Pesaro on the 8th October, 1949. He was a noted student of ethnophony and through his works contributed greatly to spreading the knowledge of Italian folk songs. He was born at Cagliari in Sardinia on the 4th December, 1880. Having completed his musical studies, he was appointed professor of harmony and sight-singing at the Municipal School of Music of his native city, and later of choral singing at the Normal State Schools. After his appointment as professor of history of music at the Liceo "Rosini" in Pesaro, he remained in that city until his death. He composed an Opera in one act with a