

Geschichte des Square Dance in Europa seit 1949

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The Start

The start of today's Modern Square Dance can be traced back far. From the Morris dances, folk dances from different countries, dances of aristocratic folks (French), German ländler, polka from Poland, waltzes from Austria, and Scottish, Irish and English dances people developed a new dance form which still makes the character of its heritage clearly recognized until today. We still dance with 8 dancers starting from a square formation, originating from the English country dances and the French quadrille. This article starts in the year 1949 – only to avoid *making copies* of existing very good articles (www.eaasdc.de) or telling the same story using other words. The history starting in 1949 offers many interesting details – more than worth to take a look onto. This elaboration is not final - I am more than happy for each additional reference, further comments or hints.

A small, in my opinion essential chapter, is dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford who became acquainted with dance teacher Benjamin Lovett during one of their vacations in 1924 in Massachusetts. Henry Ford loved the hotel and recognized the unbelievable motivation and recreation value in the style and kind of dance Benjamin Lovett offered his students. Ford wanted to contract Lovett to teach the personnel in his company. Because of a contract with the hotel "Wayside Inn" in Sudbury, Lovett rejected the offer. Henry Ford bought the hotel, Lovett came along. Henry Ford let his own company build a dance hall. He named this hall "Lovett Hall". Lovett stayed teaching dances for 26 years under contract with Henry Ford. This was the reason, Henry Ford became respected for being one of the promotional persons founding employment and development. Thus the owner of a huge concern came into fame to have considerably promoted our hobby until 2004. Benjamin Lovett instructed 26 years under contract by Henry Ford - an immeasurable employment for our current hobby. Mr. and Mrs. Ford together with Lovett published the book "Good Morning" in 1926. It includes photos and descriptions of dances: minuet, gavotte, round, mixer, lancer & quadrille, but no square dance.

Square dance was described by teacher Lloyd Shaw, who noticed that the book "Good Morning" included only half of common country dances. By traveling around, Shaw collected these dances and published them in his book "Cowboy Dances" in 1939. Both books "Good Morning" and "Cowboy Dances" are the fundamentals of today's square dance hobby.

After World War II not only Europe experienced a square dance boom. The American troops left this kind of dance where ever people have been familiar with folk dances. At first Americans remained among themselves. After a while the doors were open for the local nationals – first "BIO" – by invitation only. Many technical discoveries and developments came in the Square Dance activity - so the invention of Vinyl in 1948 (Singles 1949). Shellac records were soon to be retired.

Start in Bremen

The American GIs brought along Square Dance to Europe. The first public dance was shown in Bremen, 16.07.1949, Caller Paul Hartmann. Vinyl single records were invented **1949**. In **1950** the first Square Dance Labels have been founded. It has no longer been necessary to

call to live-bands, public address systems offered the possibility to call to more than just one or two squares.

1960 –1970 The Foundation Time for Clubs in Europe

An inflation of new figures has started – every caller wants to connect his or her name with a call. In the USA, Les Gotcher invents workshops: he instructed all of his dancers calls. Thus different dance experiences became balanced, all dancers are in same state of training. Ladies started to use square dance petticoats, a new kind of dress in our activity.

1970 - 1980 Second Foundation Time

Great spirit of pioneers to settle new clubs, no firm structures existed, each and everyone is able to develop or to be part of the foundation. Dancers who started in this time remain in the activity a long time, often until age or illness forced them to retire. The average age of club members was about 25 years. "The Chatterbox" published articles – mostly talking in a very positive way, but only in English language. 1978 in the Stockholm area Peter Myhr started teaching 22 Students by using a book. Peter had never seen live square dance before!

1980 – 1990 The wild Time

Computers come into private households. Flyers are getting more professional, clubs are inventing their own club-newspapers. Callers came and have been forgotten after a while. Roland Federle founded his "HILTON Dependence" for Europe in Germany 1980. Square dance petticoats are a MUST for the ladies at club nights and special dances. Square dancers care about round dance. It is normal to learn up to 3 figures or formations during just one workshop, only for this particular special dance. 95% of the guests joined these workshops. All stay till the end of the afterparties, most dancers have been able to participate in the ballroom dances during the afterparties. The average age of club members has been about 40 years. Many dancers came along with their children.

People working for the Swedish company ERICSSON in Sao Paulo, Brasilia have been sent to Saudi Arabia, were they settled a square dance club like they have seen in Brasilia. Many Swedish workers learned square dancing in this club in Saudi Arabia and came home back to Sweden knowing about this new kind of dance. A square dance boom started in Sweden. Inger and Gösta Toreld founded the square dance hotel in Bödabaden on Öland. Square dance came to Denmark.

During festivals and the Swedish conventions many US callers came in contact with very good and experienced dancers. Some callers have been unable to call by being limited to the basic or mainstream program. ECTA had two kind of badges: the learning members wearing the black badge and the members who successfully passed an examination wearing the white badge.

Three fairy tales have been told: for square dancers there is no need to understand the English language / the weakest dancer in each class sets the speed of progress / all square dancers are honest human beings.

1990 – 2000 Time of Changes

Time changes square dance in Europe. Many things have been changed: the meaning of banner stealing (plaque exchange) is now just 8 dancers visiting another club. Ladies started wearing T-shirts, they dropped doing the petticoat skirt work. Square dance petticoats became just accessories. Styling workshops have been invented for showcases. Different countries, different style: some people in Denmark started using cowboy hats in different colors. Callers recognized they should do something to avoid the "Rush to Plus" and the North-German callers started to graduate their classes in basic program. This stopped because no club wanted to offer basic dances. Line dance came along. Clogging came

along. Many clubs installed line dance or clogging sections in their club structure just to keep the dancers together. Dancers started leaving the dances at 22:00 h, the average age of club members is about 45 years. Fewer dancers came to dances together with their children.

ECTA dropped the "Black Badge" totally, they dropped the examination for callers to gain the white badge. Round dancers still have an examination. During the Minilab convention 1994 in Great Britain, some differences came obvious. Misunderstanding of language started trouble between US and overseas. The overseas talked in a direct, clear and open way. They were no longer willing to accept moving of figures through the programs without having been asked. For a while it looked like the US and overseas were on their way of splitting up.

The idea of kids corals during festivals has been dropped because of insurance and supervision problems. Clubs started installing their own homepages in the internet. The "Schwäbisch Sweethearts" travel to Russia – the start of square dance in a new country. Eberhard and Traute Walz helped the new baby growing up.

2000 – 2005 The Next Generation

Dancers are no longer wearing the badges of last weekends special dance during their next club night. Clubs started wearing square dance dress just during the special dances. They are using leisure clothes during their normal club nights. Club banners are no longer brought to special dances. Callers are no longer teaching the ideas of travel banners, banner badges, etc. during classes. It seemed to be normal to start a mainstream class for 3-6 students. It seemed to be normal to join a plus program class 2-3 months after Mainstream graduation.

Callerlab dropped basic as a single program and re-established it in 2006. In North Germany, afterparties disappeared after special dances, because clubs have to leave the halls cleaned at the same day the dance has been celebrated. In the north plus has totally replaced round dance. The first dancers went home 2 hours before the last tip was to start.

2006 - ? Departure into the future

There are about 30 clogging groups in Germany. Susie Rothscheid offers a cuer school. "Global Traveling Friends" assign three scholarships for caller schools and offered the "golden purple heart dangle" for the first time. Many dangles and their stories or games disappear. The skirts grow longer - the petticoat disappears slowly from the specials. On the ECTA convention Seevetal the question "which kind of dress for the ladies" has been discussed. Workshops disappear at special dances, fun squares are in fashion. The focus is on the weakest dancers in each group thereby losing the stable dancers. Large, anonymous seeming meetings are in demand. To the caller school with Kenny Reese four scholars come from Russia.

How do we administer our heritage?

Today it seemed to be impossible to direct an average mainstream floor by a caller's choreography from 1985. It seemed to be complicated, dancers are no longer familiar dancing to directional calls. Duration of a class, kind of the advertisement and caller's schedule is determined by club officials, claims to leadership by club boards and financial conditions. Many callers are not conscious of the fact that a caller has to train the board of the future. Through egoism by callers and club officials, much knowledge was lost in a quiet way. It is the caller's job to take back again the leading role and the responsibility for complete training

References and Sources:

Many details including dates of foundations, start of callers or clubs I received by surfing through Internet websites. I started square dancing in 1983 (round dancing 1985 and clogging 2000) so I have seen many details by myself or interviewed people myself. Please contact me, if you are missing your name and/or dates, please contact me if you find some mistakes. I am more than happy to correct, complete or change the article.

List of Books and Articles I used see German version.

Please take a look at the German version to check clubs have been founded and who became new leader (caller, cuer, instructor) in the specific year. Thanks to my husband Guido for the help in this translation.

1951	1. US National Square Dance Convention in Anaheim / USA
1952	Cal Golden moved to Germany – he was MC on a special dance: duration 25 h !
1953	Foundation: British Association of American Square Dance Clubs (BAASDC)
1954	
1955	First Jamboree in Bad Wildungen, Germany (250 dancers) Foundation: European Association of American Square Dance Clubs (EAASDC). Foundation Members: Beaux & Belles Frankfurt, Kuntry Kuzins, Heidelberg Hoedowners First Square Dance Club in Europe: Beaux & Belles Frankfurt 250 Dancers are Members in Clubs of EAASDC
1956	Foundation: "Blue Star", one of the first square dance labels, has been founded by Nadine & Norm Merrbach Next foundations: Sets in Order, MacGregor, Kalox, Windsor
1957	Foundation: E. A. S. D. L. A. This group was renamed to ECTA in 1964. Doris & Bill Brockett invented the motto at the Jamboree in Berchtesgaden: "Friendship is Square Dancings greatest reward". New Clubs came along and have been forgotten. EAASDC und ECTA agreed to standard applications. "Easy Key Handbook of Square Dance Fundamentals" has been published
1958	"Mox Nixers" renamed into "Dip-n-Divers". Cal Golden called Worlds Fair Brüssel, 12 Squares were dancing 3hours each day! Marshall Flippo recorded "The Auctioneer", Blue Star – the most popular singing call until today, 2006
1959	Les Gotcher invented the impulse for sight calling by publishing a book. Duration of Mainstream class: 12 weeks. EAASDC- Winter Jamboree Paris
1960	30-40 clubs in Germany. Square Dance Logo has been invented. Fall Roundup: Round Dance has been presented for the first time. New record label: Bogan
1961	Heidelberg Spring Jamboree: 650 dancers. Round up: Progressive Squares have been presented first time. Tex Hencerling invented idea for Oversea's Dancers Association, founded in 1962
1962	49 clubs are member in EAASDC (3.000 dancers). Spring Jamboree hosted by Zweibrücken Swinging Zweis, dancers
1963	EAASDC-Logo has been changed. About 2920 dancers are members in EAASDC Clubs. European Areas Square Dance Leaders Association changed into ECTA
1964	Caller-Instructor-Clinic in Berchtesgaden. (J. Kaltenthaler, B. Brockett, B. Millican)
1965	Rounddance-Logo EAASDC has been invented
1966	J.W. Bryant invented idea: Bannerstealing (Plaque-Exchange)
1967	Stintfang Hamburg hosted first Pfingsttreffen – 67 dancers joined
1968	Marshall Flippo was awarded a Golden Record – he sold 1 Mio singing call records. Set's in Order & Golden Ribbon Committee invented the first Basic program. USA: Men were asked to accept colored shirts. Now they invented Cowboy-Shirts
1969	Jim Cholmondeley founded early version of EAASDC-Bulletin: CHATTERBOX.
1970	Jim Cholmondeley invented the Friendshipbook/Badge. The first was given to Lynn

	Sandström. Bob Osgood & Friends started caller a organization that became CALLER-LAB. Chris Vear published square dance newspaper "Chatter Box" 1 US-\$ = 4 DM New Label: Dance Ranch. Bill Burleson published "Burleson's Square Dance Encyclopedia", Pfingsttreffen Hamburg renamed to "Hummel Dance"
1971	CALLERLAB has been founded by Bob Osgood & 11 other Callers. Hanhurst Tape & Record Service started working. New Label: Petticoat Patter. Chatterbox was written mostly in English, no translation to other languages.
1972	45 Clubs in Germany (West)
1973	First Tremonia Dance in Dortmund
1974	Merry Mixers Böblingen celebrate their first Marathon Dance. US-National Convention hosted 18.000 dancers: New Logo: square & round dance
1975	CALLERLAB's Tentative Mainstream Program, split into Basic Program, Extended Program, Mainstream Program. EAASDC minutes in English & German language from now on. New Chatterbox editor: to Rolf Schuster.
1976	100-Yard-Luxus-Petticoat = \$ 8,50. Chatterbox is published English & German from now on. New program: Advanced
1977	13 clubs founded Bavarian Festival. Stintfang SDC are dancing in Vejers, DK. Deplorable habit: crossing arms and yelling "Thank you" while turning around. Warinka Schuster became the first active lady caller in ECTA wearing the "white badge".
1978	EAASDC has got 8 clubs from Italy, 10 from Netherlands, 1 from Island. In Sweden Peter Myhr instructed 22 Students while using a book "All about Square Dancing" by Betty Casey. Peter had never seen live square dance in before. Advanced program has been divided into A1 and A2. EAASDC changed Bylaws, they wanted to avoid basic program members. There were differences whether clubs should pay their fees in DM or US-\$
1979	Stintfang hosted 140 members
1980	Roland Federle founded HILTON -Dependence in Germany. First clubs have been founded in Sweden
1981	Rudi Mennes became first German member in CALLERLAB. Yellow Rockers Kiel celebrated Kieler Sprotten Dance/Behler See, SD-Boom in Sweden
1982	Homecoming Swedish workers from Saudi Arabia and the Peter Myhrs club met for their first time. Peter joined real live square dance first time at convention in Seattle – he was first Swedish caller calling a tip in the USA. 01.11.1982 SAASDC has been founded by 22 clubs. Johan Lazár published Swedish SD handbook New: Round dance in Köln, Colonia Swingers. Matthias Hemmerich tried to establish square dance in Lübeck
1983	Al Stevens became first full time professional caller in Germany, Monika Zöller first clogger in Munich. Duration of an average German mainstream class 10 months. Synthesizer & CDs have been invented. First special dance "Do Si Dome" in Cologne (Caller Kenny Reese)
1984	Blue Jeans are not accepted on special dance; 3 clubs exist in Africa . Prices: National Directory 7 US \$, Burleson Encyclopedia 8 US\$
1985	
1986	New dance location in Munich: Square Dance Ranch, New label STING; EAASDC changed Bylaws to include clogging, contra & basic groups
1987	Europe-Tour : Rainbow Cloggers (Instr. Joan Niemczac) & Appalachian Mountain Dancers (Instr. Rudi Petke). Blue Jeans are accepted from now on
1988	CALLERLAB promoted community dance program. New: fractionalizing calls. Swedish Convention Malmö: 200 German guests. 1. Gälkfiesler Danz, Freiburg
1989	New friendships badge has been invented for dancers whom visited 208 clubs.
1990	1. Danish Convention in Hadbjerg, Czech dancers came to visit dances. Newspaper has been founded: "Square up" ,Colonia Swingers Köln
1991	Kenny Reese became fulltime professional square dance caller
1992	
1993	1. Advance & Challenged Convention Barmstedt. Foundation "Caller's Society DK" Norresundby, 02.04.1993. ECTA became e.V., Kenny Reese became Accredited Callerlab Callercoach.

1994	ECTA added clogging to its programs, duration of average German MS class 1 year, World SD Convention in Roskilde/DK, Callerlab Minilab in GB, Edeltraud Haas founded regional caller meeting Schleswig-Holstein. New: Minidiscs. The start of making illegal copies, US National Convention hosted 22.000 dancers.
1995	Knowledge of English language seemed to be unnecessary for new callers. A lot of knowledge is lost. The level in Europe starts going down. Ulla Stern invented weekend courses for students in North Germany. 1. Clogging Special Crazy Taps, start home-pages, Cellular phones became popular. 1. special on island Sylt (Caller Edeltraud Haas)
1996	Callers started using pop music like "Children", Robert Miles.
1997	ECTA Golden Achievement Award was given to Jim Robar, Edeltraud Haas started Clogging-Workshop in HH (Sabine Jacob) Clogging Start: Flensburg, Norderstedt, Hannover. 1. European Square Dance Convention in Hochheim
1998	New label in Prague: ABC Records, Differences between overseas & CALLERLAB: ECTA-President Dirk Loomans asked his members to vote against T 2000
1999	Sweden has got about 8.000 square dancers
2000	Paul Bristow (GB) became Accredited Callerlab Caller Coach
2001	Poland started dancing with help from Bernemer Squeezers. New Laptop & MP3. ECTA invented EEP, 50th US National Convention hosted 13.000 dancers.
2002	CALLERLAB Minilab & ECTA Convention Darmstadt
2003	Joe Kromer & Jeannette Stäuble passed examination to Callerlab Accredited Caller Coach, Thorsten Dudziak founded label "Toddys Tunes", Russia started dancing in St. Petersburg & Petrosavodsk, Caller Eberhard Walz
2004	New labels: "BvR", Bodo von Reth, "Gramophone Productions", Joe Kromer. 600 dancers at "Hummeldance"
2005	EAASDC celebrated 50th anniversary in Bergheim. USA: Tom Dillander (Palomino) bought Hanhurst Tape Service. Palomino's competing service ended.
2006	4 caller students from Russia joined Kenny Reese's school in Bad Wörishofen. US National Convention hosted 7.200 dancers. About 30 groups are clogging in Germany. Burleson's Encyclopedia = US\$ 75,00 (1 US-\$=1,20 €) Jim Pead & Betsy Waite invited Svetlana Stern from Russia to participate in a caller school in Texas.
2007	Steffen Knott's Homepage www.squaredancecaller.de started.