

Seann Triubhas

(Time 4/4)

The Gaelic for this dance (pronounced 'Shan' - not 'Shean' Trewes) simply means 'Old Trewes' (Old Trousers) dates from the time of Culloden. The Act of Proscription, was passed in the year 1746 when the Highlander was forbidden to wear the kilt. It shows his contempt for having to dance in the hated trewes (trousers), and he is seen trying to shake off the confining trouser legs. The last part of the dance in quick time shows his joy at returning once more to the wearing of the beloved kilt.

After the defeat of Prince Charles Edward at Culloden, the English Government determined to suppress all Jacobite influences and sought to curb the National Spirit and characteristics of the Highlanders by forbidding the wearing of the Highland Dress - hoddie green trewes or knee breeches had to be worn instead of the Kilt or tartan.

The old dance called the Scottish Measure was the only one the Highlanders would consent to dance in this much disliked garb and it thus became known as Seann Triubhas. A feature of the dance is the old time arm movements and quaint, graceful action in slow strathspey tempo, usually 6 steps followed by 2 steps to finish in quick time. This is the most beautiful of all Highland Dances and its performance requires lightness, agility and a grace peculiar to itself. It is really the embodiment of what all dancing should be, 'The Poetry of Motion'.