The Danish Dance

Richard Powers

Edward Ferrero described this dance in THE ART OF DANCING, published by the author, New York 1859. It was soon included in Thomas Hillgrove's A COMPLETE AND PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE ART OF DANCING, NY, 1863. Hillgrove had not mentioned the Danish Dance in either of his earlier books, 1857 or 1858, so it was apparently new in 1859.

Here is Ferrero's 1859 version:

![Image of Ferrero's 1859 version]

The inclusion of a schottische step at the end gives a hint to its tempo. Schottische tempo was around 144 bpm at that time. At the end of the century, M. B. Gilbert specified the tempo as 144 bpm in his ROUND DANCING, 1890.

Note that Ferrero complained that "many" dancers stamped the first four steps. He considered it vulgar, as any dance master would, but we dance historians appreciate the rare occasions when unsanctioned dance styles are described. Most often we only read what should ideally be done, not what was actually danced.

Next is Thomas Hillgrove's 1863 version, without the schottische step as an option:

continued...
M. B. Gilbert's Danish Dance, 1890, was the same as Hillgrove's, then he described a second version, that traveled against LOD on the repeat: