TRAPPING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY
Brooklyn, New York

There are all sorts of new names for dances (disco = done to records, aerobic = done while breathing, and so on) and many old ones too: ballet, bolero, Black Bottom, buck and wing, etc. Some names reveal old customs (cakewalk, tea dance), some have amusing names (fox trot, turkey trot, fandango), some are names easy to trace (hula, soft shoe, twist), and some offer unsolved puzzles to the etymologist (jive and jitterbug, for example -- where do 'jive' and 'jitter' come from?). Here are some hints from which you are asked to provide the names of popular dances (hint: many are derived from popular names).

1. inhabitants of the Alps (Provencal)
2. southern American city (US)
3. from a vaudeville team (US)
4. from Scotland (German)
5. from Poland (French)
6. half-step (Czech)
7. two-step (Mexican)
8. voodoo priest (Haitian)
9. a square dance (French)
10. carrousel (Spanish)
11. easy (Italian)
12. shake back and forth (Dutch)
13. fast Scottish dance from the South (US)
14. French dance from Germany (French)
15. gypsy dance from Belgium (Spanish?)
16. African dance (South America)
17. African dance (Portuguese)
18. dance from a Polish province (French)
19. a small dance (French)
20. Scottish romp (English, after Swedish)
21. a big city, big time dance c 1936 (US)
22. dance to a sailor's instrument (English)
23. a field hop (Old Norse)
24. waddle like a duck (French baby-talk)
25. shaking dance (US slang)