



# **A Handbook of Irish Dances: With an Essay on Their Origin and History (Classic Reprint)**

*O'Keeffe O'Keeffe*

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Gaelic literature for any assistance in tracing the origin of Irish dances. It may be candidly said that there are no allusions whatever to dancing either in old or mediaeval Irish literature. The one text to which an enquirer would naturally first turn, with some degree of confidence, for information on the subject is that entitled the Fair of Loc Carman, which deals with an ancient festival held at Loc Carman, the Wexford of today. In this very old and interesting text there are to be found some vivid descriptions of a number of entertainers, and of musicians in particular, who frequented the Fair, but there is no mention made of the man of dance. It is true that the name Fer Cengal, occurring in that text, has been interpreted by some as a dancer, and his dance has even been compared to the German Springendantz, which was a song and dance combined. The name, however, suggests an acrobat rather than a dancer, but as it does not appear elsewhere in Irish literature it Early Irish Literature.

(Typographical errors above are due to OCR software and don't occur in the book.)

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