A dance to mark the 300th. Anniversary of the publication of Newton's Principia in 1687

Hornpipe - 4 couples - 32 bars.

In this dance 3rd and 4th couples start on wrong sides. There should be two chords at the beginning to allow them to cross over on the second chord.

Tune - "Sir David Hunter Blair" - See Athole Collection - page 237 and Kerr's 1st Collection of Merry Melodies for the Violin - page 17

BARS

Motion of bodies in Ellipse

1-8 1st and 4th couples "dance round an ellipse" as follows:- 1st woman dances in slightly and then casts off below 2nd woman; she dances down crossing over to fourth place on the men's side; she dances up behind 3rd woman and dances up crossing over to her original place and stays facing out. 1st man dances straight across and then follows his partner round the ellipse but, at the end, he dances up behind the men's line to his original place.

In a similar way, 4th woman dances in slightly and then casts up behind 3rd woman; she dances up crossing over to top place on the women's side; she dances down behind 2nd woman and dances down crossing over to her original place and stays facing out. 4th man dances straight across and then follows his partner round the ellipse but, at the end, he dances down behind the women's line to his original place.

9-16 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th couples dance reels of four on the sides.

At the end: - 2nd and 3rd couples do not pass left shoulders but curve round (as at the end of a foursome reel) to finish with 3rd couple in second place facing up and 2nd couple in third place facing down.

17-20 1st couple set twice to 3rd couple and 2nd couple set twice to 4th couple.

- 21-24 1st man and 3rd woman, 1st woman and 3rd man, 2nd man and 4th woman, and 2nd woman and 4th man turn twice with the right arm (elbow grip).
- 1st and 3rd couples set on the sides and then dance three quarters of a double figure of eight as follows: 1st couple dance down crossing over to second place on wrong sides; they cast up to top place and then dance down crossing over to second place on own sides. 3rd couple cast up to top place on wrong sides; they dance down crossing over to second place on own sides and cast up to top place. 4th and 2nd couples set on the sides and then dance three quarters of a double figure of eight as follows: 4th couple dance up crossing over to third place on own sides; they cast off to fourth place and then dance up crossing over to third place on wrong sides. 2nd couple cast off to fourth place on own sides; they dance up crossing over to third place on wrong sides and cast up to fourth place.

The finishing order is 3,1,4,2 and 4th and 2nd couples are on wrong sides.

Repeat from new positions.

NOTE - Margaret Brander of Carlisle sent me a copy of the first day issue of the stamp to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the publication of Principia - the stamp bore the legend "Motion of bodies in Ellipse". My