

RADIKALKA or HAJ, HAJ, BOŽE DAJ
(also DEVOJAČKO KOLO or RUKAVICE S PRSTIMA)

Notes by Dick Crum for *žviLA TAMBURA '93*

Radikalka ('kolo of the Radical Party'), was part of the early repertory brought to the U.S. at the turn of the century. It remained steadily popular in some communities up into the 1950's. It has various improvised lyrics, such as the following, which musicians sometimes sang:

*Radikali igraju
a cigani sviraju.*

The radicals are dancing
while the Gypsies play.

*Ja sam stari radikal,
skinem gaće pa igram!*

I'm an old radical,
I take my pants off, then I dance!

Devojačko kolo ('girls' kolo') or *Haj, haj, Bože daj* ('hey, hey, by God') is also a classic pre-World War I kolo. The name *Haj, haj, Bože daj* is taken from the refrain of the song *Rukavice s prstima* ('gloves with fingers') whose melody accompanies the dance:

*Rukavice s prstima,
Mara šiške nosila.
Haj, haj, Bože daj,
lepša cura nego raj...*

Gloves with fingers,
Mara wore spit-curls.
Hey, hey, by God,
a girl is better than heaven...

DESCRIPTION OF THE DANCE

Formation Open circle or chain of dancers, mixed male and female, hands joined down at sides ("V" position).

Meter 2/4

Facing slightly right of center and moving to right (counterclockwise around):

Meas 1 ct 1 Step Rft forward in this direction.
 ct & Hop on Rft forward in this direction.
 ct 2 Step Lft forward in this direction.
 ct & Hop on Lft forward in this direction.

Meas 2 ct 1 Step Rft forward in this direction.
 ct & Close Lft beside Rft, moving in this direction.
 ct 2 Step Rft forward in this direction.
 ct & Hop on Rft, turning to face directly toward center.

Meas 3 ct 1 Facing center, step Lft backward (away from center).
 ct & Hop on Lft backward.

ct 2 Still facing center, step Rft backward.
ct & Hop on Rft backward.

Meas 4 ct 1 Still facing center, step Lft backward.
ct & Close Rft beside Lft.
ct 2 Step Lft beside Rft.
ct & Hop on Lft, turning to face slightly right of center.

Note: A common variation on measure 4 was a set of three stamps in place, LRL (all taking weight) instead of the step-close-step backward described above.