

GLENCAIRN MUSEUM



Carol dancing was done throughout the year in medieval times, with carols not just for Christmas, but to celebrate all of the holidays. Both men and women danced circle dances, but they were mostly done by women in the Middle Ages. One woman would sing the song and beat time on a frame drum, while the others danced and would join in the chorus of the song. On occasion, they would be accompanied by a musician who could be a man or woman. In this case, a noble woman is playing a fiddle (also called a vielle) to liven up the music.