

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOUT STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB

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Editorial

In this auspicious year of Scouting, it is fitting that we should pay tribute to the founder of the Boy Scout Movement. Thus, the first number of our Journal has been largely given over to the first stamp that bore his portrait - the Mafeking B.P. stamp. It is hoped that some of the information about this stamp will be new to you; much of it has been taken from "The South African Philatelist" to which publication I acknowledge my thanks. Members wishing to pursue the subject more deeply may borrow from me the copy of the magazine in which the article appeared.

In each number of the Journal I shall try to include something of interest to everyone - older issues will be discussed; details as full as possible of new issues will be given; cancellations will be referred to and, if possible, illustrated. If you have any queries, please send them in to me so that I can pass them on to a panel of experts for their opinions.

This is YOUR Journal and it is our aim to please YOU; constructive criticism will therefore be welcomed as will articles and notes connected with stamp issues, cancellations etc; in fact, anything associated with Scouting and Guiding on stamps.

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THE MAFEKING BADEN POWELL STAMPS

(These notes have been extracted from an article by Dr. K. Freund and appeared in the S.A.P. Vol. 21, No.8. He is an authority on these stamps and has an extremely fine collection of international renown. Editor.)

These stamps are really the forerunners of modern photogravure stamps. Considering the rather primitive methods used in their manufacture and the conditions under which they were produced, the results are extremely good. A negative glass plate, sensitive printing paper (in this case treated with ferrocyanide of potassium), the "reducer" and the printing frame were used to produce them, not by a printing firm but by a professional photographer. This is why so many shades, varying from pale grey - blue to deep blue can be found.

Broken plate variety.

Many well known philatelists have presumed that this variety occurs on the smaller sized stamps SG19 and 20 and that the plate was broken, necessitating the making of a new one, i.e., that used to produce the larger sized stamps. This is not so. The original plate was never damaged and the real reason for making a second plate was because it was considered that a larger sized stamp i.e. SG21 and 22, would be an improvement. The 3d value, SG19 and 20 were issued on 7th April 1900 and the similar value SG21 and 22 together with the 1d value (bicycle stamp) SG17 and 18, appeared three days later.

Cause of the broken plate.

The variety was caused through Mr. D. Taylor, the photographer who was in charge of the production, accidentally dropping the negative glass plate and breaking it during the printing. It has also been alleged that this was deliberately done to create a unique variety but Dr. Freund convincingly argues that the extraordinary circumstances under which these stamps were manufactured precludes such a thing happening. The frame holding the plate and printing paper during printing would be capable of containing the broken glass without difficulty.

The break occurred right across the plate, affecting chiefly the middle row of stamps i.e. row 2, since a complete sheet consisted of three rows of four stamps; a line slanting upwards occurs on (a) first stamp, row 3, top left margin; (b) second stamp, row 2 - bottom margin; (c) third stamp, row 2 - bottom of portrait and (d) fourth stamp, row 2 - across portrait.

(a) and (b) are somewhat difficult to recognise since the 'line' is partly obliterated by the perforations. Because the broken plate did not fit exactly when placed in the printing frame, the vertical frame lines of stamps (c) and (d) are slightly out of alignment, an easily recognisable peculiarity.

(To be continued)

HAVE YOU NOTICED a rather curious feature about the postal stationery used at the Boy Scouts' camp near Sayn in the Brexbach Valley, Germany, held at Whitsun of last year? The lines for writing the name and address of sender and recipient consist of dots and dashes, i.e. morse. This is certainly an innovation on postal stationery although it has been included on a stamp design before. What is perhaps more interesting is that two errors have crept in! The second "line" on the right side of card when decoded reads VORUND DURNAME instead of VORUND ZURNAME (christian and surname) and the bottom "line", HAWSNAMMER instead of HAUSNAMMER (number of house). I'll leave you to solve the rest! When translated it reads - at top left - (a) sender, (b) hometown and (c) district; on right of card - (a) address, (b) christian and surname (c) postal address (d) district and (e) number of house.

NEW ISSUES

This year will undoubtedly be a bumper one for Scout stamps; several countries have already made an issue to commemorate this Jubilee year and the centenary of B.P.'s birth; they are:-

Cuba - two stamps (a) ordinary mail, 4c., deep green and red (horizontal), (b) air, 12c, deep greenish slate (vertical). Perf. 12½. Recess printed. Design (a) Scouts round camp fire, (b) portrait of B.P. - stamp also inscribed AEREO. Wmk - star.

Finland - one stamp, 30m, blue. Perf. 14, Recess printed. Design - Scout badge on globe behind a hand giving Scout salute. Designed by O. Vepsalainen and engraved by E. Paakkari.

Netherlands Antilles - Three stamps, 6c x 1½c, yellow; 7c x 2½c, deep green; 15c x 5c, vermilion. Perf. 14 x 13. Photo-gravure. Design - Portrait of B.P. surrounded by circlet of laurel leaves.

Persia (Iran) - One stamp, 10R, Bistre brown and deep green, Perf. 12½. Photogravure. Design - portrait of B.P. surrounded by a five pointed star having the Persian Scout badge inset; the frame consists of miniature Scout badges. Wmk - multiple lion, sun and crown. Number printed, 85000.

All the above were issued on February 22nd. 1957.

South Korea - two stamps (a) 40h, purple, (b) 55h, reddish purple. Perf. 13½. Lithographed. Design - Korean Scout badge and Scout. Wmk - Lozenges. Number printed, (a) 500,000, (b) 200,000. Issued February 27th. 1957.

Philippines - one stamp, 5c blue. Perf. 12½ and also imperf. Lithographed. Design - Girl Guide with tents in background. Issued to commemorate the Girl Guides' Pacific World Camp, Quezon City and the centenary of B.P.'s birth, on January 19th. 1957.

It has been reported (Stamp Collecting, May 3rd 1957) that Stamp 48 on each sheet contained an error - 1357 instead of 1857 - in the date on the left hand side; the error was noticed and cancelled by black bars and each defective stamp should have been removed from the sheet for destruction in accordance with official instructions. Some were, however, inadvertently left on the sheets and sold on the day of issue. I doubt if copies of this "error" will ever attain catalogue rank.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS

The President has offered to service unofficial covers from the Jamboree, Indaba and Moot to S.S.C.C. members at the following low rates. Cover with 2½d Jamboree stamp - 8d; cover with complete set of Jamboree stamps - 2/6d. Only one of each to each

member. Self addressed envelope with correct remittance should be sent to him at 38 Richmond Avenue, Higham's Park, London E.4., as soon as possible. The small profit will go either to club funds or to a good cause to be determined later.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this first number. Please show it to fellow collectors and brother Scouts who are interested in philately and persuade them to join the S.S.C.C. thereby making it possible, with a larger membership, to increase the size of the Journal. I hope to issue the next number in October.

Good hunting,
Sincerely yours,
WILF NODDER.

STOP PRESS

Will YOU endeavour to recruit at least one new member this Jubilee year? Only by a larger membership can the S.S.C.C. really flourish and serve your interests. Please D.Y.B.