

THE JOURNAL OF THE SCOUT STAMP COLLECTORS CLUB

President - Roy Rhodes, Esq.,

Hon. Secretary -
Howard Fears, Esq.,
11, Salisbury Road,
Seaford,
Sussex.

Hon. Editor -
Wilf Nodder, Esq.,
158, Bradford Road,
Combe Down, Bath,
Somerset.

Volume 1, No. 2.

August 1957

Price - Sixpence

SPECIAL JAMBOREE NUMBER

Editorial

I trust the shock of receiving the second number of our journal so soon after the first will not be too great a shock, but it was thought that such an important event as the Jamboree should not be allowed to pass unmarked.

Copies of this journal will be available at the Indaba and may be obtained from our President.

----ooOoo----

THE MAFEKING BADEN POWELL STAMPS

(Continued from Vol. 1, No. 1)

Differences in sizes of the 3d. Value, SG 21 and 22

Copies can be found which are 23 mm wide instead of the normal 24 mm; these are not necessarily forgeries, neither were they due to the use of a third plate; they were caused through the shrinkage of the paper during printing on account of dampness. The "broken plate" variety can be found on both the normal and sub-normal width stamps.

Dr. Freund concludes his interesting article by saying that although it cannot now be actually confirmed, it is highly probable that not more than five sheets were printed after the accident to the plate and thus only twenty copies of the variety in its four different states would have existed. You may not as yet have seen this rare variety, but at least these notes will cause you to look more closely at copies of these stamps which may come your way and thus you will "be prepared". These stamps are now elusive but can still occasionally be picked up in exchange packets at a reasonable figure or at auctions, at a rather enhanced price.

Forged cancellations

These are very similar to the genuine, that is, a single circle mark of 25 mm diameter. There are two simple tests which can be applied to these cancellations, one connected with the lettering and the other with the dates. If the tops of the word MAFEKING and the bottoms of the letters C.G.H. are more than ½ mm inside the circle, then it can be assumed that the mark is a forgery: if the date is AP 23 or any day in February and March or after May 17th 1900, then the mark should
1900

be regarded with the greatest suspicion.

The majority of genuine cancellations will be found impressed centrally on each stamp so that most of the mark is visible when the stamp is "off cover".

Perforations

Perforating and gumming of the sheets were done by Thompson and Son, the printers and publishers of the "Mafeking Mail". Genuine stamps are perforated 12 line, whilst forged examples are invariably 11½ or 12½.

Watermark

A very interesting discovery was made a few years ago by Dr. Freund and in an article in the "South African Philatelist", Vol. 20, No. 6, he discussed the paper used, which he was able to prove, was watermarked. Once again my thanks are due to that publication for the somewhat curtailed notes which follow.

Gibbons catalogue and Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia, Volume 2, list the 1d and both 3 values as "having no watermark." Dr. Freund stated that when viewed from the back, some stamps could be found with one, or more usually, part of one of the letters of the words OCEANA FINE, in reverse; these were arranged one word above the other, the upper, in old English Outline having the "O" 23 mm high and the remainder 17½ mm whilst the lower word was in Roman Capital Outline having the "F" 14½ mm high and the remainder 11 mm. He was able to reconstruct from single copies a complete watermark and found that the upper word measured 10.3 c.m. and the lower word 5.6 c.m.

I do not propose going into the rather controversial question of the kind of paper used; a lot of correspondence appeared in the "S.A.P", and concerns specialists of these stamps only: the fact that some copies may be found with a watermark is, however, of importance to us, for as Dr. Freund said "one, or part of one of these letters on a stamp is an excellent certificate for its genuineness".

I think the catalogues rightly describe these stamps as "having no watermark", because it is usual to find them in that state. When one considers that the paper used for printing them was originally foolscap and that the watermark only appeared once on each sheet and in a different position each time, it is obvious that only some stamps could possibly contain the watermark portion - for example; examine a pad of Basildon Bond notepaper; the watermark varies in its position on each sheet. Dr. Freund estimated that about 8% of the stamps printed had part of one of these watermarks letters visible.

I hope these notes have interested you sufficiently to check up on copies you possess; whether some are forgeries or have forged cancellations, whether they are watermarked or not will, naturally be of importance to you, but all are worthy of a place in your collection if they are correctly annotated.

-----ooOoo-----

REVIEW

"Boy Scout and Girl Guide stamps of the World" by Gordon Entwistle and published by Cassells, price 7s.6d. A recently published book of over eighty pages giving details of stamps and postal stationery commemorating Scouting and Guiding issued by

all countries up to 1957. It is to be regretted that the author did not make certain of his facts concerning the Mafeking stamps before putting pen to paper, since these inaccuracies spoil an otherwise informative book. He would be well advised to make the necessary corrections before a reprint of the book is contemplated.

----ooOoo----

NEW ISSUES

I omitted to refer to a small brochure which was issued to commemorate the two Cuban stamps mentioned in our last journal. This brochure gives an appreciation of B.P., by the President of the National Boy Scout Council of Cuba, Jose Borrell Tuduri and includes reproductions of the two stamps in paler shades than those of the issued stamps. 2,000,000 copies of the 4. c and 500,000 of the 12 c stamps were issued.

400,000 copies of the Philippines Girl Guides stamp were issued perforated whilst a further 50,000 were issued imperforated.

Nicaragua: Fifteen values comprising (a) ordinary mail, five values; 10c, olive brown and violet; 15c, sepia and purple; 20c brown and ultramarine; 25c, red-brown and blue-green; 50c, olive-brown and scarlet. (b) Air mail, ten values; 3c, olive-brown and orange-red; 4c, deep green-blue and chocolate; 5c, brown and emerald; 6c, olive brown and red-violet; 8c, red and black; 30c, grey black and deep blue-green; 4c, grey-black and deep blue; 75c, sepia and brown-purple; 85c, grey-black and red; 1 Cor, Red-brown and grey-green. 3c and 40c, horizontal format, perf. 14 x 13½; remainder, vertical format, perf. 13½ x 14. Photogravure. Varied designs as under, all inscribed "CENTENARIO DEL NACIMIENTO DEL FUNDADOR DEL ESCULTISMO MUNDIAL LORD ROBERT BADEN POWELL, 1856 - 1956" . In addition the air mail stamps are inscribed "AERIO".

3c	clasped hands, Scout badge with map of world behind.
4c	Scout badge superimposed on globe.
5c and 15 c	Wolf Cub and Scout badge.
6c	Scout badge and flags
8c	Scout badge and emblems (axe, camp fire, knot)
10c	Scout and Scout badge.
20c	Scout and Scout badge.
25c and 1 Cor.	Lord Baden Powell.
30c and 50c	Joseph A. Harrison.
40c	Presentation to President Somorza.
75c	Rover Scout and Scout badge.
85c	Scout and Scout badge.

Two miniature sheets, one comprising the values 10c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 50c and the other, 30c, 40c, 75c, 85c and 1 Cor. were also issued, both imperforated. The numbers issued have not as yet been stated.

----ooOoo----

FROM THE SECRETARY

At the time you read this I expect you will be at the Jamboree or else the Jamboree will be under way. It is the belief of the Committee of the Scout Stamp

Collectors Club that the collecting of Scout stamps, covers and the like is a rewarding and fascinating pastime. We also believe that if you enjoy collecting Scout stamps we can be of assistance to you. Apart from a regular Bulletin we hope to have meetings of members and in this year alone are making plans for meetings in London and the North of England (and we are not forgetting Scotland). One day we may be able to organise an adequate First Day Cover service for members and we hope to encourage "swopping" between members. But we do need maximum support - YOUR support. So will you send your annual subscription of 5/- to me NOW, or if at the Jamboree to Roy Rhodes.

Oh yes! We also welcome all overseas members.

-----ooOoo-----

Thus ends our Special Jamboree number. Don't forget to send me your queries and any information which you think would interest others.

Sincerely yours,

WILF NODDER