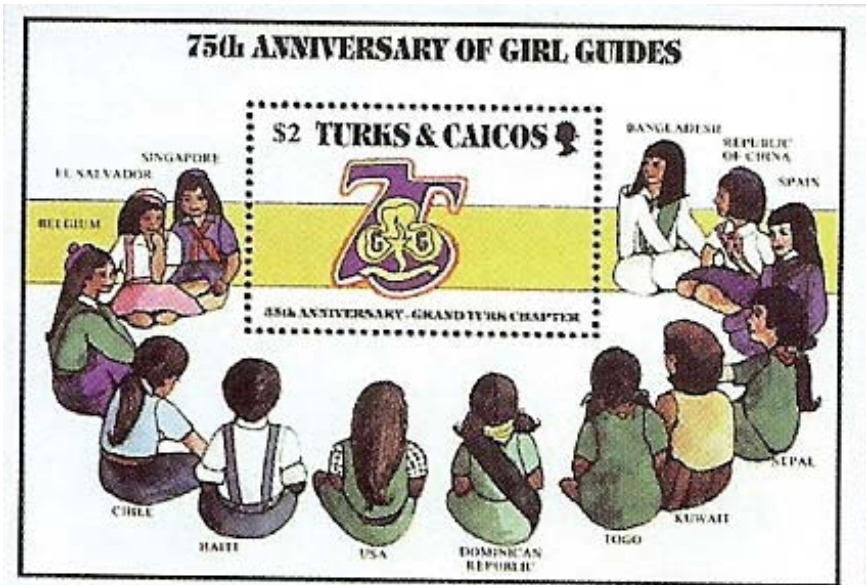


Scout and Guide Stamps Club BULLETIN



Volume 53 No. 5 (Whole No. 307)



Getting ready to celebrate the Centenary of Guiding

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009



Editorial

As we approach the end of yet another year we must turn our thoughts to the Centenary of our “sisters” in the Guide Associations throughout the world. I must admit that whilst I’ve always included Guide stamps and covers in my collection my knowledge of world-wide Guiding and/or Girl Scouting is quite limited. From my discussions with local Guiders over recent months I believe that, whilst in the UK The Guide Association is larger than The Scout Association, the reverse is the position globally. I know the story of the girls who appeared at the Crystal Palace Rally and told BP they were Girl Scouts - and a few years ago I was privileged to meet the young lady who stands proudly at the centre of the well known postcard from the event. She was then around 90 years old and attended the closing ceremony of our County Jamboree - lighting the first of the candles that spread out from the front centre until the whole area was alight - and all with their own personal link to the Crystal Palace Rally.

I would really welcome some major articles on the growth of Guiding or modern Guiding so that these can take their place in the 2010 issues.

On the subject of articles in general, I am now getting to the end of my store, although I do have a couple of Peter Shore’s memories still to include. So now is the time to get the thinking caps on and put pen to paper - or better still fingers to keys to give me something to publish in 2010.

I am trying to catch up with the publication dates and this should be a lot easier as I am retiring (well almost) in November and might have a bit more time after I’ve completed everything that my wife wants.

Plans are progressing for EuroScout. Look out for more, including exhibit entry forms and requests for volunteers to help in the next Bulletin

Terry Simister

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FUTURE COPY DATES

November 15th, January 17th, March 21st and May 16th.

Please send copy, including photos, electronically - where possible.



NOTE THE DATES NOW - 14TH TO 16TH MAY, 2010
IN THE SHIRE HALL, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, UK.

Help please! Much has been written about the very scarce 1936 Darlington postmark, but very little about the West Country Jamboree held at Mount Edgcumbe, Plymouth the same year. Registered covers are known and they all appear to have the "A" cancel as illustrated here, but having recently seen a third known postmark type on cover, I would like to research and write an article for the Bulletin about these cancels. Therefore your help would be appreciated if you could either send me a photocopy or a scan of any covers you own from this Jamboree. My address and email is to be found inside the back cover. I do have illustrations over the years from the Healey & Wise auction catalogues, so if you purchased one of those covers or postmarks, there is no need to reply.



Moving from Devon to the next county of Somerset, the Scouts there have had at least three Jamborees in the 1930's. Some 10,000 Scouts attended the West Country Jamboree at Corston near Bath in 1932, where in usual Scout fashion; it carried on despite torrential downpour which turned the campsite into a "sea of mud". Despite having no sound track there is a short Pathe News film of this event which can be seen by going into the website

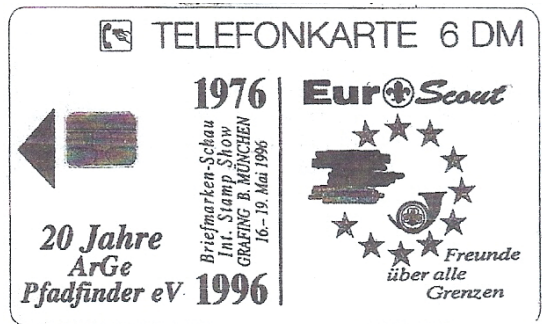
<https://www.britishpathe.com/record.php?id=3003> Baden-Powell, and his wife both attended this event and were given a rousing welcome. In fact if you scroll down on this website you will find pictures (and in some cases



sound) of many events from the 1930's including Raby Castle, Darlington, the Blackpool Rally and BP at Canterbury with Jam Roll. Circular cachets were used at Corston in 1932 (in black), Glastonbury in 1935 and Bridgwater in 1937, (both in purple). Do you know of any more cachets from these Jamborees held during the 1930's ? I am aware of the two line Kent County Jamboree held at Maidstone in 1932 which was used on registered covers.

With our Euro-Scout event taking place next May in Chelmsford, I have been asked by one of our members if I could explain more about these exhibitions. The

first one was held by the German Club, ArGe Pfadfinder, at Grafing, in 1996 when there were 230 frames with displays from all over Europe, New Zealand and Mexico. Not only did they hold a Scout stamp exhibition, but they organised a Balloon Post. It was they who named it Euro-Scout and the logo which they designed has been used in subsequent exhibitions with each country using their own National Flag. So successful was this event that that the Austrian Club StPS hosted a Euro-Scout in Schwanberg in 1998 and this was followed by Italy in 2000,



Belgium in 2002, Czech Republic in 2004, Spain in 2006 and Switzerland in 2008. There have been many souvenirs from these shows including a telephone card from the Euro-Scout held in Germany. Special postmarks have been part of this event and we are already making plans for one to be used for our show next year.

It was at the 2000 Euro-Scout Philatelic Exhibition held at Comacchio, Italy, that a meeting took place to form IFSCO, the International Federation of Scout and Guide Stamp Collecting Organizations. The purpose of IFSCO is to provide a unified front in dealing with the World Scout Bureau, international philatelic organizations, promoting international Scout stamp exhibitions, and participation in World Scouting events. Since the formation of IFSCO some of the members have helped to classify the various issues from A to E. Details at www.ifSCO.info/ifscoclass-en.htm There were many dubious issues in 2007 and many of these are classed as “C”. It is at the Euro-Scout meeting that IFSCO decides where the following meeting will take place.

I do have various Scout magazines to give away. The only cost would be the actual postage plus a very small packing fee. However, if paying by PayPal, the purchaser would have to pay their charge of 4%. I have the following. Our magazine but called the *Scout Stamp Collectors Club* 1961-1969 virtually complete. *World Scout Sealers* No. 1-23 (1990-2000) great for those collecting seals/labels. *Scout & Guide Stamp Society* of Australia 1986-1991. *Scout Memorabilia* published in the USA 1967-1996 nearly complete. I also have a later long run of our Bulletin and the SOSSI Journal which I will offer free in another Bulletin.

INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE 1

A series of 5 labels depicting Scouting was used by the German firm of De Fries & Beckmann. There were three coloured strips along the bottom in the black, white, red colours of the old German imperial flag. Text of “Schokolade” on the black, “Dejuwe” on the white and the firms name on the red. Basically these labels were advertising for Dejuwe brand of chocolate.

An identical set of designs was also issued, across the



border in the Netherlands. There are colour changes, notably the flag goes to red, white and blue. Along the bottom there are only two strips, the top one in black with large red letters “Padvinders” and then a light blue panel with black lettering “Suikerwerkfabriek S.Meyer, Groningen Amsterdam”. This was for the sugar works factory (literally) or confectionery company of S.Meyer which had branches in the cities of Groningen and Amsterdam. “Padvinders” is the Dutch word for Scouts



Many Dutch companies used German cinderellas which they overprinted with their names and products, but this is perhaps the only example of a Scouting design being used by different companies across borders ?

CLEANING

Brasso, that product many of us will remember for cleaning metal, used Scouting for advertising purposes. A brown label with black edging depicting a Scout holding the familiar can of the product and the text “Brasso” across the top. Across the bottom the text is “Pudse Extrakt” which is Danish. This label is listed in the catalogue produced by the Danish Scout stamp collectors club.

There is an identical label in existence but with the text along the bottom row reading “Poets Extrakt” which is in Dutch. An internationally recognisable product so perhaps there are more language versions of this label in existence ?



Danish text

Dutch text

INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE 2

The international Nestle company produced “vignettes” or labels on a variety of topics which could be obtained by exchanging coupons from their products via mail order. these labels could then be put into a specially printed album on an annual basis.

A series of 12 Scouting designs were produced as series 52. Of interest is that they were able to be put into a french album published in paris for 1936 -37 which contained series 41 to 70. In addition they could also go into a flemish language album published in Brussels for 1937 which contained series 31 to 60. Not all the series were identical, particularly not when it came to some of the sportsmen, but the Scouting series was obviously international enough to be identical for both french and flemish versions.

The swiss chocolate manufacturer, Lindt & Sprungli, also had albums with various topics in similar fashion to Nestle. Scouting was also a topic they covered, producing 36 labels in total, in 2 distinct series. Each was numbered and had text in both French and German languages.



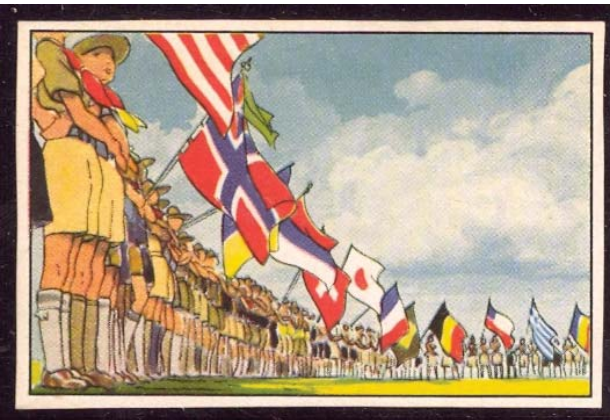
The first series starts at No. 865, which is a portrait of Baden -Powell, and goes to no. 879. This series covers general Scouting activities.

The second series is from No. 2509 to 2532 and are all images from the 3rd National Jamboree (“Bundeslager”) held in Zurich in 1938.

French confectionery firm, Suchard, also produced 51 Scouting labels in 1935. They are



perhaps better known for their second series issued in 1951 when they issued an album entitled “La Vie Fiere et Joyeuse des Scouts” which contained 20 chapters (pages) each with 10 labels. the labels were all designed by the french Scouting artist , Pierre Joubert. some of the chapters were related stories



and so some cards on their own do not appear to have a Scouting images, but they do all contribute to the over-all story of the album.

THE FINAL PART OF PAUL’S ARTICLE WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE

SALES SERVICE

The following items are available. Orders to Peter J.Duck, 9 Broadlands Court, Kew Gardens Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3HW..Payment with order please: cheques payable to P.J.Duck, USA \$ bills or EURO notes accepted at current rates. Postage extra – Inland 50p for 1st class post (any packets weighing over 100 gr will be sent by 2nd class post). Overseas 80p for stamp orders only, covers/cards orders £1.20.

STAMPS MINT & USED (Please note – some issues are only available in mounted mint condition, but unmounted will be sent where possible).

	MINT	USED
CHD97 CHAD 1997 Animals + Scout badge (6)	2.40	-
OMA97 OMAN 1997 Girl guides Silver Jubilee (1)	-	0.20
NGR98S NIGER 1998 90 Years of World Scouting MS	2.50	-
ALA98 ALAND 1998 Scouting commemorative (1)	0.60	0.60
HK98 HONG KONG 1998 Scouting commemorative (4)	-	1.45
MAL98 MALI 1998 Scouts/minerals/fungi (4)	1.20	-
MAL98S MALI 1998 Scouts/wildlife/B-P MS	2.50	-
TWN98 TAIWAN 1998 20 th Asia Pacific Jamboree (2)	0.35	-
LBY98 LIBYA 1998 International Day for Handicap & Scout – sheetlet of 16	5.00	-
NEV98 NEVIS 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	-	4.00
GUI98 GUINEA 1998 90 Years of World Scouting (6)	2.25	-
LIB98 LIBERIA 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	3.50	-
GRN98S GRENADA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	-	2.75
GRD98S GRENADA GRENADINES 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	-	2.75
EAS98 EASDALE ISLAND(Scotland) 1998 19 th W. J. O/p on flower stamp imperf	0.80	-
GUY98 GUYANA 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	-	4.00
GAM98 GAMBIA 1998 19 th World Jamboree sheetlet of 3	-	3.75
MAV98 MALDIVES 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	-	4.00
SRL98 SIERRA LEONE 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	-	4.25
SRL98S SIERRA LEONE 1998 19 th World Jamboree 2 x MS	-	6.00
CHL98 CHILE 1998 19 th World Jamboree (5)	2.00	2.00
CHL98S CHILE 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	3.50	3.50
GHA98 GHANA 1998 19 th World Jamboree sheetlet of 3	-	3.75
GHA98S GHANA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	-	3.25
UGA98 UGANDA 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	-	2.75
UGA98S UGANDA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	-	2.75
TNZ98 TANZANIA 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	-	4.00
TNZ98S TANZANIA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	-	3.50
NGR98L NIGER 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS (with leopard)	2.00	-
BAN99 BANGLADESH 1999 6 th National Jamboree (1)	0.25	0.20
PER99 PERU 1999 19 th World Jamboree (2)	-	1.50
SAM99 SAMOA 1999 Queen Mother and Scouts (1)	0.65	-
GUI99 GUINEA 1999 Wildlife + Scout badge (3)	3.00	-
BAN00 BANGLADESH 2000 5 th Cub Scout Camporee (1)	0.25	-
CHD00 CHAD 2000 Wildlife (Oryx – Antelopes) + Scout badge (4)	1.75	-
ANG00B ANGOLA 2000 Birds of the World + Scout badge sheetlet of 9	4.00	-
ANG00C ANGOLA 2000 Big Cats + Scout badge 2 x sheetlets of 9	8.00	-
ANG00D ANGOLA 2000 Wild Dogs + Scout badge sheetlet of 9	4.00	-
ANG00E ANGOLA 2000 Domesticated Dogs + Scout badge sheetlet of 9	4.00	-
HUN01 HUNGARY 2001 European Scout Conference (1)	0.70	-
BRN01 BRUNEI 2001 International Youth Camp (Scouts & Guides) (3)	0.70	-
BRN01S BRUNEI 2001 International youth Camp (Scouts & Guides) MS	0.80	-

INA01 INDONESIA 2001 National Jamboree (2)	0.50	-
INA01G INDONESIA 2001 Nat. Jam. (2) long gutter pairs with decorative centre	1.00	-
BRZ01 BRAZIL 2001 Pan American Jamboree (2)	0.80	-
ERT01 ERITREA 2001 Wildlife blocks of 4 stamps depicting – parrots, lizards, crocodiles, dolphins, snakes, bears, big cats, apes or frogs – all with Scout emblem (probably a bogus issue!) @ £1.25 each, please state which subject you would like.		

POSTCARDS

GB82 BIPEX Postcard Exhibition, Kensington 1982 depicting Scout shoeshine	1.00
GB99 70 th Anniversary Arrowe Park Jamboree – aerial view of camp	0.50
AUT72 AUSTRIA 1972 3 rd Scout Philatelic Exhibition, Salzburg – card with imprinted stamp	0.60
FRA97 FRANCE 1997 50 th Anniversary of Moisson Jamboree – Joubert drawing of Scout	0.50
LN81 LIECHTENSTEIN 1981 50 Years of Scouting first day maxi-card	0.75
SWZ66 SWITZERLAND 1966 National Camp maxi-card of Scout flag & salute – Camp PMK	0.75

CORNWELL, JOHN (Jack) TRAVERS,

By Peter Shore

To me a very special hardest article that I have any reason. Though emotional in a very small way, it was that no personal comparison, even considered. It I was researching for my autobiography*—that I member—in Korea—on the Frigate “Opossum’s” twin 4” mounting as ammunition loader. We were not hit, and no one on board suffered injuries but I do know what fear, cold and loneliness feels like when at Action Stations, as I am sure do many ex-service readers. So why not read again the details of that inexperienced courageous young Scout and ponder on the frailties and similar stark deadly demands on his modern counterparts serving overseas.?



stamp! This is probably the ever attempt to write—for tionally touching, pertinent most important to ensure son whatsoever is entered, dawned on me suddenly as own recently published too was a Gun’s crew

CORNWELL, JOHN (Jack) TRAVERS, Boy, First Class, Royal Navy.

Born on 8 Jan. 1900, at Leyton, son of Eli and Alice Cornwell and educated at Walton Road School, Manor Park, he wished to be a sailor when he left school, but his parents could not bear the thought of losing him so soon so he bravely turned to the work of a boy on a Brook Bond’s tea van. He was also a keen Boy Scout, and held two certificates. Eventually when WWI broke out his father joined the Army, and Jack Cornwell joined the Navy. He went through preliminary training at Devonport from 27 July, 1915 and became a First Class Boy on HMS “Chester” destined for active service in Admiral Beatty’s North Sea Squadron. A few months after joining his ship, Admiral Beatty came to grips with the German High Seas Fleet near Jutland 31st May 1916. Here he was mortally wounded in action, and died two days later in Grimsby hospital and posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross [London Gazette, 15 Sept. 1916] : as follows.....

John Travers Cornwell, Boy (First Class), O.N. J.42563: Mortally wounded early in the action, Boy, First Class, John Travers Cornwell remained standing alone at a most exposed post, quietly awaiting orders, until the end of the action, with the gun's crew dead and wounded around him. His age was under sixteen and half years."

The story of his brave deed was told in the following letter, written to his mother by the Captain of his ship :

" I know you would wish to hear of the splendid fortitude and courage shown by your son during the action of 31 May. His devotion to duty was an example for all of us. The wounds which resulted in his death within a short time were received in the first few minutes of the action He remained steady at his most exposed post at the gun, waiting for orders. His gun would not bear on the enemy ; all but two of the ten crew were killed or wounded, and he was the only one who was in such an exposed position. But he felt he might be needed, and, indeed, he might have been ; so he stayed there, standing and waiting, under heavy fire, with just his own brave heart and God's help to support him. I cannot express to you my admiration of the son you have lost from this world. No other comfort would I attempt to give to the mother of so brave a lad, but to assure her of what he was, and what he did, and what an example he gave, I hope to place in the boys' mess a plate with his name on and the date and the words, ' Faithful unto Death.' I hope some day you may able to come and see it there. I have not failed to bring his name prominently before my Admiral."

Admiral Sir David Beatty himself, in his official Despatch describing the battle, wrote : " Boy (First Class) John Travers Cornwell, of the Chester, was mortally wounded early in the action. He, nevertheless, remained standing alone at a most exposed post, quietly awaiting orders till the end of the action, with the gun's crew dead and wounded all round him. His age was under sixteen and a half years. I regret that he has since died, but I recommend his case for special recognition in justice to his memory, and as an acknowledgment of the high example set by him." ... "I feel that this boy, who died at the post of duty, sends a message through me as First Lord of the Admiralty, to the people of the Empire:.....**Obey your orders, cling to your post, don't grumble, stick it out."**

A valuable comment don't you agree in this carefree, careless, greedy litigious society? Where excess seems to be rife and austerity and law-abidance a thing of the past!

***"A shifting Shore"** Autobiography covering my youth, Naval career as a Clearance Diver; Boat, Engineering, Camping business, Rugby, Travel and of course—Scouting!

Future meetings and Venues

Just a reminder of forthcoming Club Meetings to be held in the UK:-

1. Rooms have been booked at Philatex for Club meetings as follows:

2009	7th November	Starting at 11.00am to 12.30pm
2010	27th February	Starting at 11.00am to 12.30pm - Room 31
	6th May	Starting at 11.00am to 12.30pm - Room 23
	6th November	Starting at 13.15pm to 14.45pm - Room 23

These meetings will be fully open to Club members with any Committee business being discussed prior to the meeting, as necessary.

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We will be changing the name and password of part of our web site from 1st September. This is to protect names and addresses of our members, and from this date until next year you will need to enter:- User name: **jamboree** and Password: **hungary** (no capitals)

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My favourite Scout Stamp

by Melvyn Gallagher



As a boy I collected all stamps, that included a few Scout issues and, being a Scout started to specialise. Amongst my first Scout stamp acquisitions from a dealer near my school was the Nigerian issue to commemorate the 11th World Scout Jamboree of 1963. This is cheating a bit as it is a miniature sheet with two stamps, the one shilling value being my favourite

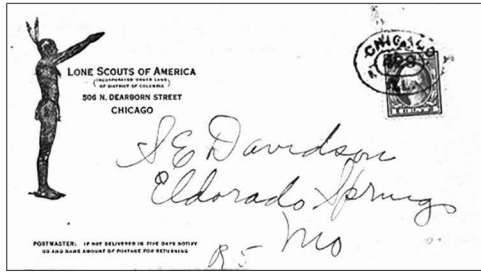
The design in silhouette is simple yet very effective and evocative of Scouting and also works very well in the triangular format - always a difficult shape in which to place a design. Despite the hundreds of Scout stamp issues issued since this still remains my favourite

The Lone scouts of America ran parallel to the Boy Scouts of America until they were merged in 1924. They had their own symbol, which comprised the linked letters LSA. The LSA was set up as a separate organisation for country boys or those who could not attend regular Boy Scout Meetings.

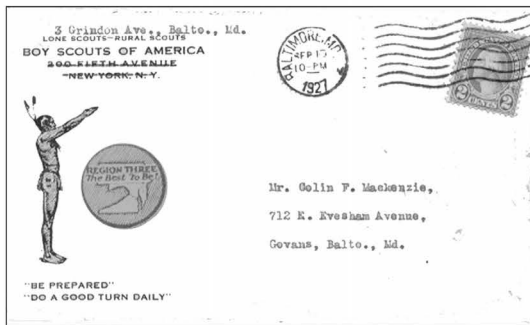
A newspaper was produced in Florida called “SEMINOLE SCOUT” and a series of labels was issued around 1918. These labels were designed by Perry E. Thompson and were produced in Chicago under the title “PEP STAMPS”. They all depicted “JAKE” who was the Lone Scouts’ mascot. These labels are in the collection of Paul van Herpt of New Zealand.



Postal stationery items known are shown in Levy’s “Boy & Girl Scout Cachet Covers of the United States” (available from SOSSI - see website <http://www.sossi.org>).

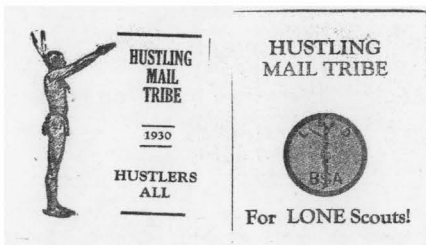
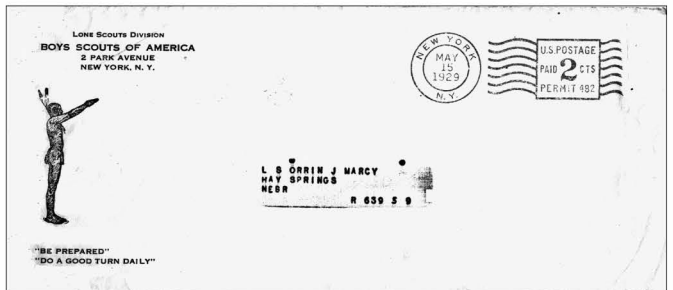


Their emblem is a saluting Indian brave and a 1920 cover from Chicago shows the title LONE SCOUTS OF AMERICA (Incorporated in District of Columbia). After



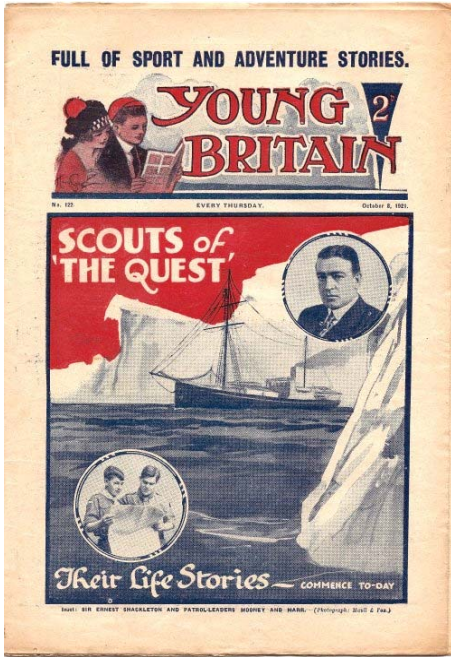
merging with Boy Scouts of America in 1924 they were known as Lone Scouts & Rural Scouts and from 1927 the Lone Scout Division. By the 1930's their programme was entirely absorbed by the Boy Scouts of America.

A couple of labels are also known from the 1930's from the "Hustling Mail Tribe", but nothing else is known about them.



Thanks are due to Paul van Herpt and SOSSI for use of their material

Scout Marr and the 'Quest'



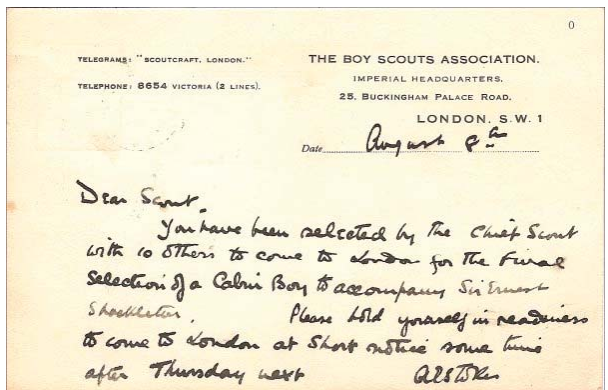
The following article shows how the many types of Scouting Ephemera can be used to illustrate not only the story of Scout Marr but nearly any Scouting theme. The artefacts I have selected however are very special to me and my interest in them has led me to follow in Marr's wake to the frozen ends of the earth!

I have been involved personally in the production of some of the more recent items which, I like to think, has added a novel dimension to my collection.

Scout James Marr shot to fame in 1921 after Major Wade of the Scout Association wrote a letter to the Daily Mail appealing for Scouts to enter a competition. Sir Ernest Shackleton had asked Baden-Powell to assist him in finding a 'Cabin-Boy' to accompany him on his latest expedition aboard the 'Quest' to Antarctica.

Despite very strict criteria, seventeen hundred applications were received. These were whittled down to just ten boys who were to meet Sir Ernest at Imperial Scout Headquarters, to allow him to make the final choice. I was lucky enough to find an entire archive on eBay relating to the experiences of Patrol Leader W J Warren of the Prestonkirk Troop in Scotland who was one of the ten chosen for interview.

The archive contained a post-card from Scout Headquarters that was sent to all ten interviewees informing them that they that had been successful in getting an interview with Sir Ernest and that they should ready themselves available at short notice to attend Scout HQ in London.



Scout Warren was a meticulous lad and had kept, in pristine condition, every piece of correspondence relating to the event, including the many telegrams with their envelopes that were sent to him by Fleet Street Newspaper editors asking him for information and a photograph of himself. Shortly after came a registered letter marked "Urgent", from Scout Headquarters. The three one penny stamps were cancelled with the oval 'Registered' cancel, and the stamps were all 'perfin's', with the letters BSA (Boy Scouts Association) spelt out in 'perforations'. Inside was another letter from Major Wade giving the date and time of Warren's interview together with a Railway Warrant for his travel (the reason why the letter was registered). Sad to say Warren was not chosen to accompany Shackleton, but his archive contains personally a signed letter of commiseration from B-P himself and much else of interest. (Another of the unlucky 'finalists' was Cornwell Scout J Brandford from Knottingley Yorkshire, very close to where I live).

Shackleton however was unable to decide on just one boy, so in the end he resolved to take two. Burly-built 18-year-old Scout James Marr was from Aberdeen and wiry 17-year-old Norman Mooney from Orkney whose family had a long sea-faring history. As indicated by the interest Fleet Street had shown in Warren and no doubt all the other applicants, much was made in the national press of Marr and Mooney. Without doubt, at that time, they were the most famous boys in Britain! A magazine 'Young Britain' ran articles for eleven consecutive issues about and by the two Boy Scouts, some of these running to five pages. These issues can with luck be obtained, as mine were, from dealers. In exchange for their 'endorsement' the two Scouts were given watches, books, cameras and fountain pens. Adverts relating to these endorsed products can be found in the newspapers of the day.



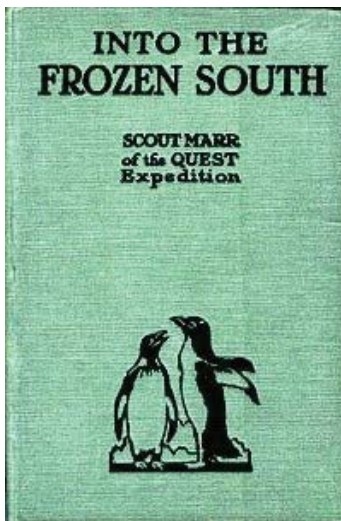
Postcards were produced by Pathé News of Scout Marr and possibly Mooney (they had a film cameraman aboard 'Quest'), but I have yet to find one of the Orcadian Scout, perhaps because, despite his claims to a seafaring background, he regrettably had to leave the expedition due to seasickness when it arrived at its first port of call after meeting heavy weather in the Bay-

of Biscay. The postcard above shows Marr with a 'fan club' of Scouts on The Embankment, London in front of the 'Quest'.

Marr's epic voyage can be followed in detail on my 'Scouting Milestones' website. It lasted a year, but was regrettably blighted when 'The Boss', Sir Ernest Shackleton, died on board the 'Quest' when it arrived at Grytviken, South Georgia, the gateway

to Antarctica. The expedition, though much subdued, continued but never landed on the Antarctic mainland. Shackleton had been assisting Marr in writing an expedition journal, which was later published as a book in the format you see here, but also with a blue cover especially for Scouts.

Shackleton was eventually buried on South Georgia. The crew of the Quest constructed their own personal memorial to Shackleton, over-looking the entrance to Grytviken looking out back to sea. This evocative view was immortalised on the South Georgia stamp (below) in 2000. I have been very fortunate to visit this remote place, Shackleton's grave and also the site on Elephant Island where the crew of the 'Endurance' made camp whilst Shackleton in the 'James Caird' sailed for South Georgia to effect their rescue.



Via an auction in New Zealand, I was able to obtain two letters on 'Quest' headed notepaper that Marr wrote to a Miss Ivan, whom he met at a reception just before the ship departed. Evidently she did not have a good opinion of Shackleton. Marr writes amidst the description of his experiences, 'I am sorry that you thought that poor old Boss, Sir Ernest rude, I think he was a very sick man and we were very cut up about it when he died.'

On the homeward voyage 'Quest' called in at Tristan de Cunha where Scout Marr had a 'sacred' mission to perform. He had been charged by Baden-Powell with the task of presenting the very small island Scout Troop with a Scout Flag. A photograph was taken of the occasion and this was later on two Tristan da Cunha stamps. The first was a set of four stamps issued in May 1972, two of which are illustrated

below, and more latterly in 2007 as illustrated later in this article.



The ‘Quest’s’ homecoming to England though naturally low key after the death of Shackleton resulted in Marr with the ship’s cat ‘Questie’ being featured on the front page of the Chums’ Magazine of December 16th 1923. This same image is to be found on another Tristan da Cunha Scouting Centennial stamp illustrated below.



Scout Marr, who it will be remembered, only came to prominence by winning the Scout competition, was later to have other claims to fame. After joining several other Antarctic expeditions as a marine biologist, he eventually won the Polar Medal. With the advent of war in 1939 he was sent to Singapore, a most unlikely posting for a Polar Scientist! Just before the Japanese captured the colony in 1941, Marr was transferred to the UK to command the ex-sealer ‘William Scoresey’

and a handpicked crew for the still top-secret mission, ‘Operation Tabarin’. It was rumoured that ‘Tabarin’ was set up out to watch for Nazi activity in Antarctic waters, but the League of Nations charter for Antarctica forbade any military presence, and so officially Marr and his men were there to count seals and penguins.

The rumour as far as the press and the public were concerned seemed sufficient justification for sending men and materials many miles away from any known threat. In fact Operation Tabarin was most likely set up to establish polar huts, enclosing an area which immediately after the war, became the British Antarctic Territories. Operation Tabarin was a covert ‘land grab’ at the time when non-combatant countries such as America and Argentina were busy establishing Antarctic territories with an eye to potential mineral/oil wealth. Commander Marr never divulged his secret mission.



The 2008 Falkland Island stamp (above) depicts Marr with his ship the ‘William Scoresby’. The polar huts established by the expedition are commemorated on a British Antarctic Territories issue (see below). The hut at Port Lockroy, South



Georgia, is now preserved and manned by the Antarctic Heritage Trust. I have visited the hut there and viewed artefacts from Operation Tabarin. The interior of the building is shown on the 65 pence stamp.

My deep involvement with Scout Marr artefacts began when my good friend in Scouting, our Chairman John Ineson, loaned me what we then believed was a unique postcard. It carried, as it was designed to do, his facsimile autograph, but this one was also personally signed by the Scout. John kindly lent me this item to scan and I arranged to return it at a Badger's Club Meeting at Gilwell Park. The meeting was marked by the horrific spectacle (to me at least) of my motor caravan, complete with John's postcard, being burnt to the ground.



Fortunately John and I were to be proved wrong on our assumption that this was a unique postcard. In time we were both able to acquire other signed examples of this still rare card, which coincidentally came from the estates of former club members Keith Burkenshaw and David Jeffries.

An image of the card was added to the Scout Marr Pages on my Scouting Milestones website, where it was spotted by a stamp publishing house working on behalf several Commonwealth Countries. To cut a long story short, I was able to provide them with material to illustrate the Scouting Centennial Stamps for South Georgia. I also wrote the official government press release connected with the issue, which was used as a 'stiffener' in the FDC illustrated below.

An interesting twist is that another stamp publishing firm on the same mission of producing stamps for the Scouting Centennial, but for Tristan da Cunha, did not approach me directly but consulted the UK Scout Association. They were able scan images from a 'print out' of my Marr Web article which I had supplied to Scout Archives, as I do with all my published material. As a result the images on their 15p stamp, which features the ill-fated postcard image and the 20p stamp showing the Godfrey Phillips' pre-war cigarette card of Scout Marr in his kilt on the deck of Quest, are not as crisp as those images I supplied directly for the South Georgia issue.

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Some of Colin Walker's Marr collection reproduced from a printout of his WebPages.



The issue on which Colin collaborated - note the Marr signed postcard on the 85 pence stamp.

