

Scout and Guide Stamps Club BULLETIN



Volume 54 No. 3 (Whole No. 311)



EUROSCOUT 2010 - GRAND GALA DINNER AT COUNTY HOTEL, CHELMSFORD
(Photo: Alex Hadden)

MAY / JUNE 2010



Editorial

There's been plenty for me to do since I officially retired on 31st December, 2009 - a Gang Show to Produce for the end of April and then a multitude of work on EuroScout 2010 for early May. I think its safe to report that both eventually went off OK - even if there were one or two "problems" along the way.

My Gang Show, which was the 53rd in Chelmsford, links me in nicely to Colin Walker's article in this Bulletin. For me Gang Show has always been a very special extra bit tagged on to my Scouting life and I've been involved, on and off, for more than 50 years, performing on stage for most of that time and then Producing for the last 10 years. I know it is not to everyone's taste but if you don't have any hang ups and have never seen one I suggest that you find your nearest and pay a visit next time they are performing. My wife and I are going to spend time shortly with my son and his family in Australia and we have even found time to see one Gang Show whilst we are there.

The other event was, of course, EuroScout 2010, which I feel was a great success despite the real lack of support from our own members and the lack of interest amongst the younger generation. We did get good support from our overseas members, many of whom actually exhibited, and there was a good general interest from amongst Scouters and Philatelists in the Chelmsford Area. It is a great pity that more of our UK members couldn't have got there because some of the material on view you will probably never get the chance to see again. Please see Peter Duck's appreciation of the event in this issue.

Future copy dates are shown below and I would still welcome some additional articles for the 2010 issues - especially any related to the Guiding Centenary.

Terry Simister

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FUTURE COPY DATES

July 18th, September 19th and November 21st

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

Future meetings and Venues

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

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

2010 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.

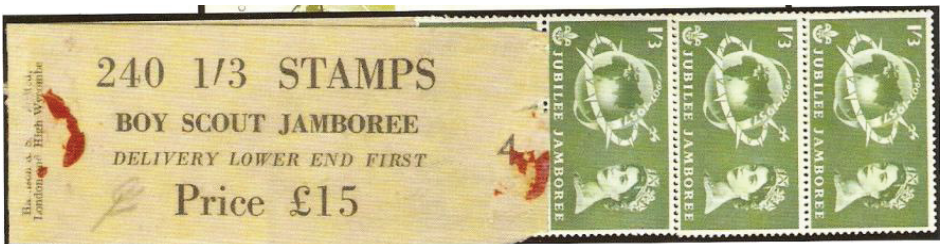
I recently attended the European International Philatelic Exhibition in Antwerp, Belgium and I am delighted to report that the following members of our club received awards. Large Gold to Hallvard Slettebø from Norway for his exhibit "World Scouting", Large Vermeil to Gottfried Steinmann from Germany for "The Warsaw Uprising and its Boy Scouts" and a Vermeil to Panayotis Cangelaris from Greece for "The Czech Scout Post 1918". Congratulations to them all.

Good prices are still being obtained for scarce Scout items being sold in auction and on eBay. The Grosvenor Auction held in March sold one of the scarce 1957



“poached egg” covers which made a high price of £520 (about € 570 US\$ 760) plus of course the usual buyers premium which at 19.975% came to a total of £623. These trial covers were prepared for servicing the first day covers mechanically. It was about twenty five years ago that our Editor informs me that he went into the International Stamp Centre in the Strand, London where a dealer had some ten or so of these for sale. His price was £10 each but as Terry asked for a price for the lot, the price was reduced to £9.00 each. We all hope to find such bargains which can happen occasionally.

At the same auction, a small coil leader with five stamps of the 1/3 (one shilling and three pence) value of the 1957 World Jamboree stamp sold for £1600 (about



€1745 US\$ 2335), which must be a record for such an item. For those who do not know about the coils, originally over 480 rolls of each of the three values were produced in quantities of 4800 stamps, but only 23 rolls of the 2½d, 21 of the 4d and 20 of the 1/3 were sold. As the quantities purchased were very small, the larger rolls were then rewound into smaller rolls of 480 stamps of the 2½ and 4d stamp, while the 1/3 was produced in a roll of 240 stamps. Despite only 100 of these lower quantities being for sale, 49 of the 2½d, 39 of the 4d and 33 of the 1/3 were sold. This was the first and last time that Royal Mail produced commemorative stamps in rolls!



Still writing about the 1957 World Jamboree, a special ‘Sutton Coldfield J’ Jamboree Parcel label (the “J” shows that it came from the Jamboree) was sold on eBay in March for £114 (about €125, US\$ 166). This label was created, but despite this, the price considering its condition, showed how scarce such an item is. Today it appears only in a handful of Scout collections.

It was in 1997, some 13 years ago that I became Chairman of our Club and now at the age of 76, it is time for me to retire at the AGM in June to make way for a younger person. Since joining the club within a few months of its formation in 1957, technology has changed beyond all recognition.

When I took over as Chairman in 1997, the Bulletin was at that time typed by Peter Duck our former Editor, and printed on a duplicating machine. Very few members used email, and the World Wide Web was in its infancy. Many of us have bought and sold on eBay which went public for the first time in 1998.

Today the Bulletin is printed from a computer disc with the contents and photographs having been sent to the Editor by email. Very few people owned mobile phones, but today most families and many children have their own. We are using colour on the front and back of the Bulletin, which at that time then would have been very costly.

This has all happened within the last 13 years.



Following over a year of sub-committee meetings and much decision making, our EuroScout Exhibition eventually took place from 14 – 16 May.

Having originally planned for 200 frames x 16 sheets of exhibits, we end up with 120 frames which actually fitted into the hall perfectly.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Mayor of Chelmsford on Friday 14 May. This was in fact his first engagement as Mayor, as he had only taken up the post four days earlier.

Our displays came from 15 countries and ranged from the Siege of Mafeking issues of 1900 to the most recent Girl Guiding Centenary issues of 2010. There were no competitive exhibits, but we were proud to include Hallvard Slettebo of Norway's gold medal winning collection of eight frames on World Scouting. The exhibits were well studied by Scout collectors as well as members of the general public. Disappointingly there were very few younger visitors, even though they could have received free packets of stamps!

Besides most of the nationalities whose displays were on show, we also had visitors from Australia, Brazil, Malaysia and Netherlands.

On Saturday morning three meetings were held. Firstly a meeting of IFSCO delegates at which the decision was made to accept the invitation of ArGe Pfadfinder Club of Germany to hold the next EuroScout there in 2012. The 2014 EuroScout (the 10th) will be held in Denmark. Also it was announced that the "Walter Grob Award" will be instituted at the 2012 EuroScout. This Award will be in memory of the late Walter Grob (1914-2008) for a one-frame "first time" exhibit.

This was followed by the Annual General Meeting of SOSSI, only the third occasion it had been held outside of U.S.A. Only two Americans were present: Randall Frank (President) and Lawrence Clay (Secretary and former President) plus Treasurer Alex Hadden from Canada.

John Ineson arranged our SGSC meeting (which I didn't attend).

Saturday closed with our Gala Dinner at the County Hotel in Chelmsford – a great evening in fine company.

Brisk trading took place each evening, and many new "treasures" were located. Also there were good sales of our covers with special postmark, plus postcards and badges – see Sales Service for available items, also the programme (now half price) to see details of the exhibits.

Throughout the Exhibition, refreshments were available for visitors, and a big “thank you” goes to Betty Simister and her team of Scout Fellowship volunteers for keeping us going.

As President of SGSC, I am proud to have been on the organising team for EuroScout 2010 and wish sincerely to thank my fellow members: John Ineson, Terry Simister and Melvyn Gallagher. Also many thanks to other members and helpers who assisted during the exhibition.

Peter Duck

(Photos: Steve Simister)



The Shire Hall - Venue for EuroScout 2010



The Mayor of Chelmsford with his wife and SGSC Editor Terry Simister



In the County Room - Exhibits and Exhibitors



General view of framed exhibits



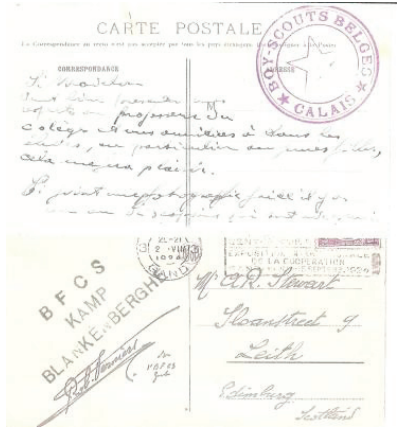
Central Exhibit by Hallvard Slettebo



General view of Exhibitors, SGSC and Trading

Belgium has had many groupings of Scouts over the years, mainly based around Catholic and Open Associations, also with language variations between Flemish and French speaking areas.

The earliest handstamp to report is that of BOY-SCOUTS BELGES CALAIS, a circular print in purple with a star in the centre. This appears on a postcard sent via Military Post of Belgium on 12.III.16 and addressed to Switzerland. A second postcard contains only a message and is unaddressed. My collection also includes Scout membership cards, and the card for Scout Wynant carries two handstamps from Eclaireurs de Belgique Boy Scouts Belges.



As with Austria, there are numerous Troop and Association handstamps, mostly used on official correspondence. Perhaps too many to go into details, but a few Scout Camps also produced noteworthy rubber stamps:

CAMP D'ETE 1922 LAC DE VIRELLES CHIMAY. BFCs KAMP BLANKENBERGHE (1924). BOY-SCOUTS DE BELGIQUE XVIIe CHAMP DE MARS PENTECOTE 1932 HUY.

Esperanto Scouts also used a handstamp, and my example is printed in blue with text SKOLTA



ESPERANTISTA LIGO ESTU PRETA plus star with Scout salute in centre.

A mysterious handstamp appears on a letter dated 25.11.1954 from Ghent which reads DE BELGISCHE IDEAL PADVINDER HOOFDKWARTIER. This is apparently not a recognised Scout Association.





In January 1935, the International Scout Commissioner of Brazil wrote to the Boy Scouts of Luxembourg and his cachet with the Scout badge of Brazil was printed onto the envelope. A similar handstamp appears on a Scout Christmas card sent to U.S.A. in 1950.

Brazil hosted the International Patrol Camp at Sao Paulo in 1954, and the corresponding stamp is well known. The Escoteiros do Brasil, Regiao de Sao Paulo used their handstamp on souvenir cards. The Grupo Escoteiro Sao Luiz de Gonzaga, Curitiba, Parana also stamped cover bearing the Jamboree postage stamp.

Probably, the Boy Scouts of Bulgaria produced their own Troop handstamps, the only one I have seen was used in 1925 for (King) Boris III Troop (in Cyrillic script).

Nowadays, Burma is not considered a Scouting nation due to its oppressive regime, but in 1957 there were Scouts and an envelope addressed to Boy Scouts International Bureau in London bears the handstamp of NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF BURMA BOY SCOUTS.

A Boy Scout Message envelope from Windsor, Ontario carries the rubber stamp print CAMP SAN-CHO-SCOOT in 1928.

Although Cuba has no longer had Scouts since Communist take-over in the late 1950's, their Scouting was going strong in 1955 and an envelope from their Headquarters in Havana bears the handstamp 8o JAMBOREE MUNDIAL NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, CANADA, AGOSTO 18-28, 1955.



Our friends in SOSSI were represented at

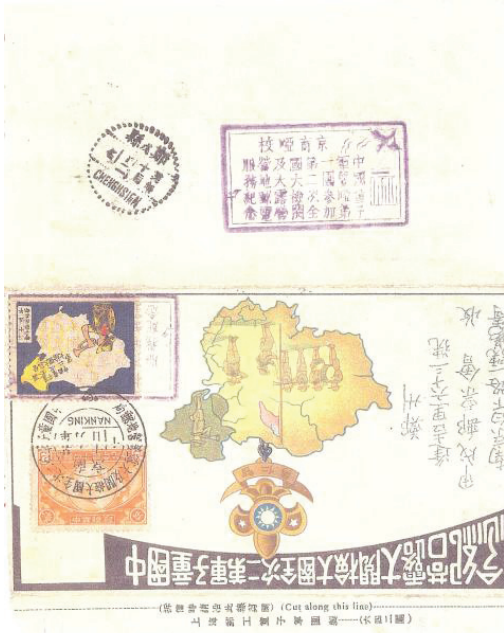
the 8th World Jamboree and produced a handstamp in red 1st International Convention Sunday, August 21, 1955 (but no mention of the Jamboree!) The 2nd Canadian Rover Moot took place at Sussex, New Brunswick at the end of August 1956. A red rubber stamp cachet of the Moot badge appears on many envelopes. This was



hand-carved by our late SGSC member David Clark in the late 1980's in order to "improve" a quantity of blank covers which had been posted at the Moot.



Post box
1000



The Boy Scouts of China flourished until the Japanese invasion of the 1930's. Their 2nd National Camp was held in Nanking during October 1936 and many covers and cards carry the purple boxed handstamp "In commemoration of the 1st Regiment of the Deaf-Mute Chinese Boy Scouts participating in the Postal and Wire Services of the 2nd National Grand Inspection and Camp".(all in Chinese).

Costa Rica utilised a number of handstamps, and mine from the 1950's include: CUERPO NACIONAL DE SCOUTS DE COSTA RICA, GUILD DE B.P.COSTA RICA, and one from the National Secretary of the ANTIGUOS SCOUTS DE COSTA RICA.

As recorded earlier, the Cuban Boy Scouts were disbanded when the Communist regime came into power. Until that time, they enjoyed the privilege of Free Post for which a variety of circular



handstamps were used. The Free Post privilege appears to have been valid within the Caribbean Region, and the earliest cover I have was posted in July 1945 to the Boy Scouts of Jamaica. The handstamp used is circular BOYS SCOUTS DE CUBA COMITE MUNICIPAL MANZANILLO, CUBA printed in purple. Variations of the ASOCIACION DE SCOUTS DE CUBA OFICINA NACIONAL appear on covers addressed to Jamaica, U.S.A. and Mexico. Envelopes with these handstamps addressed to U.K. bear regular postage stamps.



In 1953, the Cyprus Post Office handstamp mail with a red boxed handstamp BOY SCOUTS BOB-A-JOB WEEK. I have two postcard addressed to U.K. on 4.4.53, one with print on the picture side, the other on the address side.

This article will continue in future issues of the Bulletin.

Handstamps - an e-mail from Ron Sambell

Re Peter Duck's article on Scout Handstamps p. 7. I have attached a scan of an Australian Scouting cover handstamped 29 De 38 which may be of some interest. The phrase 'First Day Cover' must, I think, refer to the opening day of the event since the stamp, SG 184, was issued 11.7.38. (Peter confirms this). The Jamboree was held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of New South Wales.



THE SILVER WOLF

by Peter Duck

This year’s St Georges’s Day awards in the UK included two of our long-standing SGSC Members.

Bob McSherry, Regional Vice President for Scotland South West, and also Peter Pocknell, Training Advisor for Croydon, both received the Award.

The Silver Wolf was introduced by Lord Baden-Powell and remains The Scout Association’s highest award from services to Scouting.

The Silver Wolf is the unrestricted gift of the Chief Scout and is only awarded “for service of an exceptional nature”.

Another Member, Nigel Cole of Carmarthenshire received the Bar to The Silver Acorn “In recognition of further special distinguished service”.

All are well-deserving of their awards and our congratulations go out to them.

Message received
from The Mayor of
Chelmsford after
EuroScout 2010



*The Mayor's Office
Councillor Alan Arnot
Mayor 2010-2011*

Mayor's Parlour
Civic Centre
Duke Street
Chelmsford
CM1 1JE

Terry Simister
1 Falcon Way
Chelmsford
CM2 8AY

18th May 2010

Dear Terry

The mayoress and I would like to thank you most sincerely for inviting us to your exhibition last Friday morning. Everybody was very welcoming and we felt it to be an excellent introduction to our mayoral year, having only been inaugurated last Wednesday evening.

Please pass on our congratulations to any others who made the event such a success and thank them for their hard work in preparing it. The logistics behind staging such an occasion could not have been easy and you can feel justifiably proud of what you have achieved.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Alan Arnot
Mayor of Chelmsford

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 90p for stamp orders only, covers/cards orders £1.35.

EUROSCOUT 2010 items

| | |
|--|------|
| ES01 cacheted cover with 14 May 10 postmark | 1.50 |
| ES02 as above with 15 May 10 postmark | 1.50 |
| ES03 as above with 16 May 10 postmark | 1.50 |
| ES04 unused postcard | 0.50 |
| ES05 Postcard with postmark 14 May 10 on face (maximum card) | 1.20 |
| ES06 as above with postmark 15 May 10 | 1.20 |
| ES07 as above with postmark 16 May 10 | 1.20 |
| ES08 SOSSI AGM cacheted cover with postmark 15 May 10 | 1.20 |
| ES09 embroidered cloth badge | 1.00 |
| ES10 Exhibition programme | 0.50 |

Earlier EuroScout items:

| | |
|--|------|
| AUT98 AUSTRIA 1998 postmark on postal stationery card | 0.50 |
| ITA00 ITALY 2000 self adhesive perforated label | 0.20 |
| GB-GG G.B. 2010 Girlguiding Centenary miniature sheet – mint | 2.80 |

| | MINT | USED |
|---|-------|------|
| GBS03 GUINEA-BISSAU 2003 20 th World Jamboree 2 x MS USA Scouts + B-P & dogs | 6.90 | - |
| STP03 St.THOMAS & PRINCE 2003 20 th World Jam sheet of 9 –Scouts, birds, flowers etc | 7.00 | - |
| CAR02A CENTRAL AFRICAN REP 2002 Scouts & minerals sheetlet of 3 | 10.00 | - |
| CAR02B CENTRAL AFRICAN REP 2002 Scouts & fungi sheetlet of 3 | 10.00 | - |
| CAR02C CENTRAL AFRICAN REP 2002 Scouts & orchids sheetlet of 3 | 10.00 | - |
| CAR02D CENTRAL AFRICAN REP 2002 Scouts & dinosaurs sheetlet of 3 | 10.00 | - |
| IOM00 ISLE OF MAN 2000 Henry Bloom Nobel Trust (5 - one Scout value) | 1.60 | - |
| DJI04 DJIBOUTI 2004 cartoon stamps Boy & Girl Scouts MS with B-P in border – imperf | 5.95 | - |
| MIC03 MICRONESIA 2003 25 th Anniversary death of Norman Rockwell 4 in sheetlet | 3.55 | - |
| MIC03S MICRONESIA 2003 as above (Scout illustrator) MS | 2.25 | - |
| NEV04 NEVIS 2004 Girl Guides 50 th Anniversary (4) | 3.00 | - |
| STK03 St.KITTS 2003 25 th Anniversary death of Norman Rockwell 4 in sheetlet | 3.20 | 3.20 |
| STK03S St.KITTS 2003 as above MS | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| GHA03S GHANA 2003 25 th Anniversary death of Norman Rockwell MS | 2.55 | - |
| CAP. CAPE VERDE ISLANDS Commemorating Scouting (dated 30.11.90) (2) | 1.60 | - |
| ARG05 ARGENTINA 2005 12 th Panamerican Jamboree (1) | 0.45 | 0.45 |
| CON04G CONGO 2004 commemorating B-P gold foil stamp in MS | 5.25 | - |
| CON04S CONGO 2004 commemorating B-P silver foil stamp in MS | 5.25 | - |
| CON04A CONGO 2004 commem Australian Jamboree MS Scouts + stamps butterflies | 2.85 | - |
| EGT04 EGYPT 2004 24 th Arab Scout Conference (1) | 0.20 | 0.20 |
| EGT04A EGYPT 2004 50 th Anniversary Arab Scout Organisation (1) | 0.20 | 0.20 |

LABELS

| | |
|--|------|
| CAN007 CANADA 2007 100 years of Scouts Canada 3 self adhesive labels in sheet. | 0.50 |
| GER59 GERMANY 1959 2 Camp Post labels for “Landesmoot Sudbaden” | 0.50 |
| JPN57 JAPAN 1957 sheetlet of 6 identical labels commemorating B-P & 50 years of Scouting | 1.00 |
| LBY62 LIBYA 1962 3 rd Scout Philia Camp label | 0.20 |
| SCO07 SCOTLAND 2007 self adhesive label commemorating Centenary of Scouting | 0.15 |
| SLO-L SLOVENIA 3 x sheetlets of 8 Historical Scouting + Guiding labels | 3.25 |
| SWE-U SWEDEN 1960's Scout “U”Fund label – “Youth helping Youth” | 0.10 |
| SWZ72 SWITZERLAND 1972 40 Years of “Our Chalet” + o/p Helicopter flight labels (2) | 0.25 |

A Centenary of Guiding (Part 3)

by Margaret Davison

World Guiding

Guiding started to spread round the World from the beginning. In 1910 Companies were started in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Japan (until 1940, then restarted in 1947). South Africa. New Zealand had the Girl Peace Scouts which started in 1908 – 1924. During these years the Girl Guides Association had been formed but was officially recognised by WAGGGS in 1923. Some of these countries have left, owing to various government intervention, and WWII, many of them have rejoined.



In the United States of America Girl Scouting was established in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, who was influenced by the work of the Founder and Guide companies in England & Scotland. The first troop meeting was held on 12th March, 1912 with 12 girls. The National Organization was formed three years later.

Thinking Day The idea for a special day each year on which Girl Guides/Girl Scouts around the world think of each other in friendship originated at the 4th World Conference in USA 1926. The date chosen was 22nd February, since it was the joint birthday of the Founder and the Chief Guide. This idea was further developed at the 7th World Conference (Poland 1932); a Belgian delegate suggested that Girl Guides/Girl Scouts give ‘a penny with their thoughts’ to be used to assist development of Guiding in member countries. Now used to finance adult leader training

World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) was formed 1928 with the World Bureau opening in London with 26 member countries, with a total membership of 799,275 at the 5th World Conference in Parad, Hungary, and confirmed at the 6th World Conference, Foxlease, England in 1930. Guiding has now spread to 145 countries with over 10 million members.

World Bureau, The offices of WAGGGS was set up in London in 1928 at 9 Palace Street, London, SW1. This World headquarters was a modest house, in no way reflecting the importance and volume of the work which emanated from it. In 1940 a branch office was opened in New York know at the Western Hemisphere Centre. Financed by an annual quota from member countries. Which is the one penny from each member world wide. The World Bureau moved out of Palace Street to 132 Ebury Street, London SW1. Then in 1985 moved to the Olave Centre,

a purpose built home for the offices of WAGGGS and was opened in 15th February, 1985.



The World Trefoil depicted on the World Flag adopted in 1930. The stars in the two leaves of the trefoil mean the leading stars which we will always keep before us – The Promise and the Law. The vein or line is the compass needle which will give us the right course or away in Guiding. The base of the stalk is an exact copy of the heraldic “feu” and represents the flame of the love of mankind. It will

always burn high, brightly, and intensively in the hearts of all Girl Guide and Girl Scouts. The golden trefoil represents the sun shining in a blue sky which is over all the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of the World. A round badge was adopted at the 11th World Conference in France in 1946. This may be worn in or out of uniform by all members of the movement round the world.



World Brownie badge adopted at the 15th World Conference in the Netherlands in 1954. An oval badge depicts the Brownie sign (two finger salute) Gold hand, blue background, worn in or out of uniform. They now wear the World Badge worn by all members.

Hungary was a founder member of WAGGGS, but is no longer a member. A rally was held at Godollo, near Budapest. Inspired by their faith 4000 girls from 32 nations including 206 from the UK gathered. They were issued with maps and special equipment in the likely event of Poland being invaded by the Germans while they were in Hungary, they were to find their way home over the Carpathian Mountains. Hungary was the first country to issue stamps related to Guiding. Four stamps were issued.

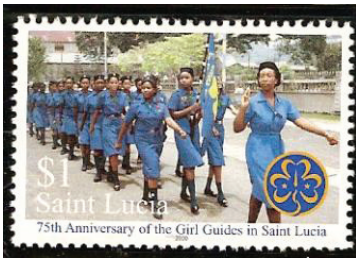


World Conferences These were held every two years except during WWII until 1954 when it was decided they would be held every three years. The World Committee consists of 12 elected members at a World Conference and member countries can send 2 delegates each who are supported by appointed visitors in accordance with numbers agreed by the world committee. The World Association badge is worn by members of the World Committee. There have been 33 World Conferences. 20 in Europe. 6 Western Hemisphere. 3 Asian Region, 2 Arab Region and 2 in Africa.



Thinking Day Symbol This was introduced in 1975. The World Trefoil in the centre of the design represents the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The arrows pointing towards the trefoil represent action and give direction for that action. The arrows may also represent ways and means in which the World Association can be helped by all members. The round shape of the design can be interpreted as the world-wide aspect of our Movement. The symbol can be used in connection with all Thinking Day activities.

World Badge & World Flag redesigned. In the year 2000 the World Badge and the World Flag were redesigned, still having the trefoil.



Further Parts of Margaret's history will appear in future issues of the Bulletin.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By the time you are reading this the AGM will either be imminent or will have just passed. As advised in the last issue it will again take place on the Scout Training Vessel The Lord Amory, which is part of the Scout Dockland Project in East London.

Unfortunately I will not be able to be present this year as I will be in Australia but I would like to just say here a big thank you to John Ineson for all his years of leadership in the Club, especially in the role of Chairman over the last 13 years.

John has promised me that he will still write a regular page or so of general Scout / Guide interest for future Bulletins.

For those of you who are unable to get to the actual event I have included the annual accounts on the next page so that you can see we are still solvent.

Terry Simister (As Treasurer this time)

SCOUT AND GUIDE STAMPS CLUB

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 2009.

| 2008 | Expenditure 2009 | | 2008 | Income 2009 | |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1,727.93 | Bulletin Expenditure | 1,813.50 | 1,130.01 | Annual Subscriptions | 620.66 |
| 0.00 | EuroScout 2010 | 340.00 | 479.80 | Five Year Subscriptions | 1,539.80 |
| 84.00 | Exhibitions and Meetings | 59.00 | 0.00 | Auction Income | 587.40 |
| 44.53 | Post and Travel | 71.80 | 12.00 | Advertisements | 0.00 |
| 138.20 | Sales Service | 0.00 | 501.44 | Sales Service | 63.62 |
| 90.00 | Stamp Insurance | 125.00 | 1.05 | Donations | 1.05 |
| 13.39 | Printing and Stationery | 51.95 | | | |
| 14.00 | British Thematic Association | 14.00 | | | |
| 20.00 | Friends of Thematica | 0.00 | 122.19 | Interest | 3.13 |
| 95.85 | Web Site | 120.78 | | | |
| 4.00 | Bank Charges | 0.00 | | | |
| 8.00 | Failed Cheque (Dec'd) | 0.00 | | | |
| 2,239.90 | Total Expenditure | 2,596.03 | 2,246.49 | Total Income | 2,815.66 |
| | Excess Income over Expenditure | 219.63 | | | |
| 2,239.90 | | 2,815.66 | 2,246.49 | | 2,815.66 |

Statement of Funds as at 31st December, 2009

| Brought Forward | | Carried Forward | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| Current Account | 144.02 | Current Account | 988.17 |
| Less Uncleared Cheques | | Less Uncleared Cheques | |
| | 493 | | 502 |
| | -271.29 | | -123.75 |
| | ----- | | 503 |
| | -127.27 | | -626.70 |
| | -127.27 | | -58.57 |
| | | | ----- |
| | | | 179.15 |
| | | | 179.15 |
| High Interest Account | 5,262.50 | High Interest Account | 4,465.63 |
| PayPal Account | 640.00 | PayPal Account | 1,325.51 |
| Outstanding Cash Reimbursement | -24.57 | | |
| | ----- | | |
| | 5,750.66 | | |
| Excess Income over Expenditure | 219.63 | | |
| | ----- | | |
| | 5,970.29 | | |
| | ===== | | |
| | | | ----- |
| | | | 5,970.29 |
| | | | ===== |

NOTES

1. Unearned balance of five year subscriptions included in above figures is £1,231.84.
2. Bulletin Postage included with Bulletin cost as part of printing deal.
3. EuroScout 2010 expenditure includes £250.00 deposit for Gala Dinner.

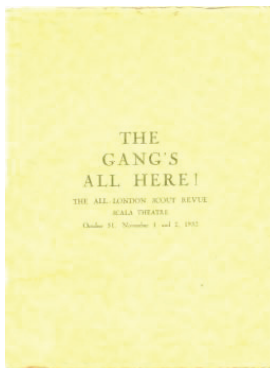


T.A. Simister Hon. Treasurer

I have examined the foregoing Statement of Accounts and all vouchers relating thereto, including Bank Balances and other balances, and certify that the Accounts are in order and show the position of the Club as at 31st December, 2009.

Signed B. Forshaw. Hon. Auditor

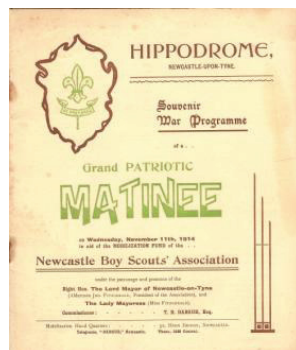
Ralph Reader and Gang Show Ephemera (Part 1)



It is reasonable to suppose that any Gang Show collection should start with the Ralph Reader production that opened at the Scala Theatre London in October 1932, and so I have ‘headlined’ this article with images of the very rare 1932 programme and two pieces of sheet music from that production. However as the old local is alleged to have said to a posh visitor enquiring the way, ‘If I were you I wouldn’t start from here!’

The Founder of our Movement, Lord Baden-Powell advocated the use of ‘theatricals’ in the very first edition of Scouting for Boys in January 1908. He believed that not only were they good for fund raising and attracting publicity to Scouting, above all they built confidence and aided the development of ‘The Boy’. There were then many early Scouting performances and programmes and notices of some of these can be obtained quite cheaply. I have yet though to find one from 1908. (If you have access to one I would be grateful for a scan!) It would also wonderful to find a programme for the 1914 ‘Concert’ of the 2nd Newhaven, Denton and Heighton Troop Sussex, as in it there would be mention of the 11 year old Ralph Reader’s first theatrical performance.

Ralph would have been one of the many Boy Scouts performing in Scout Huts and Village Halls that year to raise money for the war effort. Given the excellent cause however, some Scout Districts and Counties moved to a much larger scale and hired local theatres such as for ‘The Grand Patriotic Matinee’ held at the Hippodrome, Newcastle upon Tyne. As Ralph was to observe later, such concerts were often composed of



singers, interspersed with demonstrations of trek cart and monkey bridge assembly, and so in his professional view, 'not theatre'.

Ralph, later to be known as 'Mr Gang Show', was orphaned at the age of nine and spent an impoverished childhood, leaving school at 14 to become a Telegraph Messenger. He jumped at the chance to join his aunt in America when he was eighteen years old, to follow his dream of performing on stage.



He worked his way up as a dancer and choreographer to be involved with 21 American musicals, five of them running at the same time on Broadway. Regrettably I have never seen a paper artefact that connects Ralph with the US, other than the photo on the postcard opposite which would appear to feature an American car. (Can anyone identify it please?) The photograph is signed by Ralph with his usual 'Cheerio' in his trademark green ink.

He returned to the UK in summer 1927 initially for a rest, but then to work in the West End. He lived in Holborn where he joined the local Rover Crew, later becoming its leader. The crew had some experience of 'theatricals' having assisted in the Roland House Pantomines, which dated from 1926, Ralph acting and assisting in the 1928 Ali Baba and 1929 Dick Whittington productions. (I have a collection of Roland House Pantomine Programmes but they date from 1936 -can anybody help with missing 'numbers' please?)

Admiral Philpotts, then County Commissioner for London, saw the Holborn Rovers performing and asked Ralph to devise a 'concert' to raise funds for a swimming pool at the Downe Campsite in Kent. The 1932 'Scout Revue' at the Scala Theatre London was the result. Note that though that the word 'Gang' appear in its title the performance was a 'Review' not a 'Gang Show'. Whilst waiting for a rehearsal to begin, a member of the cast informed Ralph that 'the gang's all here', giving rise to a song of the same name and, eventually part of the English language.

The three performances of the first show were a financial success, despite the non-appearance of invited guests the Duke and Duchess of York who on the night were 'unavoidable detained' by the threat of industrial unrest. Ralph was soon at work writing the sequel, 'The Gang's Come Back, which ran to packed houses. An indicator of its success was that Edison Bell produces '78 rpm' recording of its hit songs 'Birds of a Feather' and 'These are the Times' with 'Mac' on the Piano' and

Ralph singing. The tradition of Gang Show recording though had started. The following year Decca's record had 'some of the cast' with Ralph on its record, then in 1935 and 1936 Columbia Records has Ralph, 'and Chorus'. Presumably these were studio recordings with no room for a cast of hundreds, but live recording was to change all that.



It was the 1934 cast that first sang the Gang Show standard *We're Riding Along on the Crest of a Wave*, (Decca record above) which was an immediate success. *Crest of a Wave* also appeared in the 1937 *Boy Scout Pageant* and in the feature film *The Gang Show - or "The Gang" in the USA*. (The sheet music opposite is from the film) and at the Royal Command Performance of that year. Ralph Reader ran his Gang Shows like an extended Scout Troop, with



the finales featuring all the cast. With such large numbers, the simplest (and cheapest) costume was a white shirt, gym shorts and a contrasting red neckerchief which became the trademark of the London Gang Show. Ralph later used it as an award allowing Gang Show casts across the country to wear the covered necker but only if their production matched his high standards.

In 1936, Ralph Reader wrote the *Boy Scout Pageant*, designed to show off Scouting to the general public on a vast scale. It had a cast of 1500 Scouts, at one of London's biggest venues, the Royal Albert Hall. How was this enormous cast

managed? Ralph simply appointed a 'P.L.' for each of the ten dressing rooms!. The show was an a great success and repeated at intervals until 1959. The programme cover image below is from the original 1936 show. The signed postcard image on the right uses the same hand-drawn image of Ralph in his Holborn Rovers uniform as that displayed as a whole page in the 1938 Boy Scout



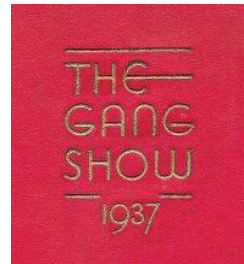
The 1936 Programme Cover



A signed preface from 1938



Pageant Programme, as was the page next to it, signed by Ralph



The first shows, including 'The Boy Scout' used Ralph's pseudonym, 'The Holborn Rover', but by 1936, the 'Gang Show' as they were then known had Ralph's name on the programme.

Above are rare poster stamps for 1934, 35 and 37. Presumably there must have been one for 1936. (I would appreciate a scan of any others - a 'cover' sent out from Ralph on Gang Show business including a poster stamp would be the 'Holy Grail'.) Above right is a detail from the 1937 programme cover.

Letters of this period relating to Gang show do exist, below, is an extract of one sent on Oct, 15th 1938 by Baden-Powell to Fred Hurrll, a Headquarters' Commi-

sioner who was actively involved in the show, asking him to pass on his best wishes to Ralph and the Gang as he could not attend. This is not as rare as you

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Team spirit on the part of all.

Secondly, I would like to congratulate and thank every one, from Ralph Reader down to the smallest wren in the bunch, for the really valuable service that you have all done for our Movement, through your hard work and clever acting and music.

You have set a fine example of cheerful discipline and sacrifice of your own leisure for the good of the whole - each one doing his best in his particular part - A real good piece of team work.

I heartily thank you, one and all, for it - not forgetting you, Fred Hull!

Yours sincerely
Bader Powell

The history of Crime Tells us of many forms of Robbery through the ages.

Dick Turpin was a police Black guard : modern gangsters are not : they put you "on the spot" if you don't fork out

But now there's this new 'Gang' upon us, with quite a new method : they tickle us till our sides ache and we don't notice that all the while our pockets. They are picking our pockets. But what do we care? Nix. It's all in a good cause. More pence to their new show. Thank you for coming to it!

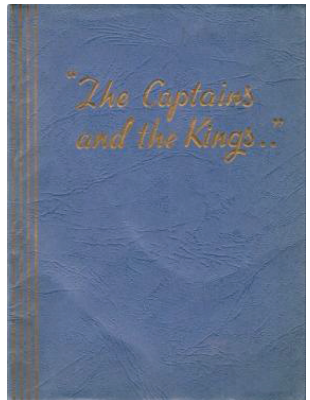
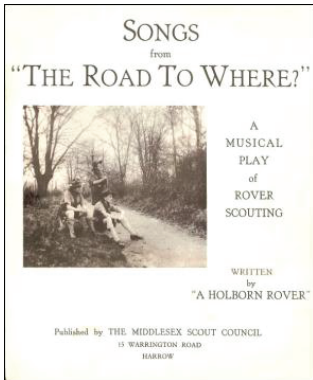
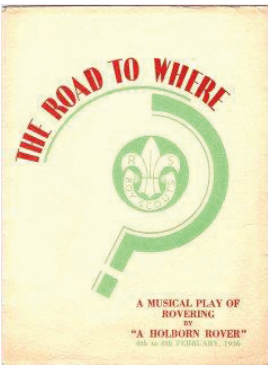
Bader Powell
Chief Scout.



might think as whenever B-P wrote a letter about the show, it was promptly (and properly) duplicated for every member of the cast. The first sheet (not illustrated) talks about the strain the cast must have been under whilst making their 'preparations for the greater show, namely their duties in the event of war'!

Above right is a B-P's public message from the 1935 Programme, one of the many reasons why it is a delight to collect them.

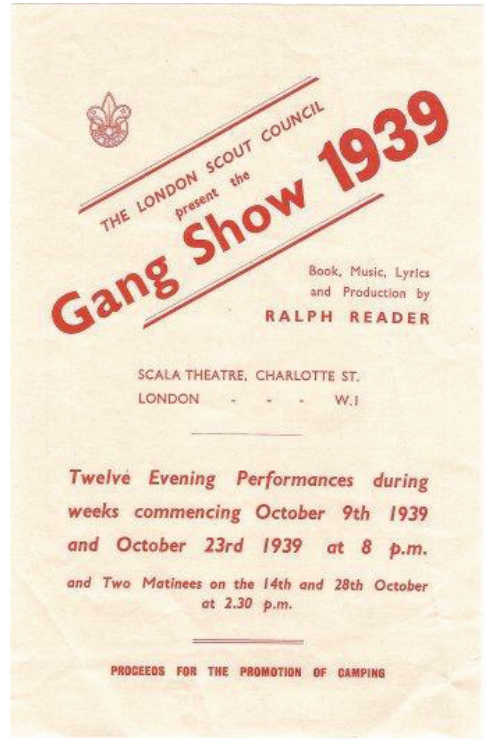
Besides the London Gang Shows, Ralph Reader wrote Gangs Shows and plays for Middlesex Scout County.



Illustrated above is the sheet music and programme from the 1936 'Rovering Production', *The Road to Where* and its sequel in 1938 of *The Captains and the Kings*, one of 15 musical plays Ralph was to write.

The coming war that Baden-Powell had prophesied in the 1938 programme was finally declared on September 3rd 1939. At first, during the so-called 'Phoney War', London was allowed to keep its public entertainments, and as the handbill below demonstrates, a Gang Show was projected. However it was to be the end of the era as the show never opened. Many of the pre-war cast, joined the services never to return.

It was though far from the end of the Gang Show, as the next article will show.



Above, A postcard image of Ralph Reader in a Sea Scout Leader's Hat-(Ralph was for a time, prior to the war, the Scout Master of 20th Holborn Sea Scouts). Left to right; Norman Harvey, RR, Harry Warden, Alan Cruickshanks, Barry Cornfoot and Dougie Pearson

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Some more of Alex Hadden's candid shots of EuroScout 2010

