

# Scout and Guide Stamps Club BULLETIN



Volume 54 No. 4 (Whole No. 312)



Guiding Centenary stamps from Jersey

JULY/AUGUST 2010



## Editorial

Firstly, my apologies for the delay in getting the MAY/JUNE issue of the Bulletin out to you all. I worked on this before my planned holiday and delivered the completed document on disc to the printer at the end of the first week in June. Arrangements had been agreed with Bernard Tewksbury for him to collect the finished items, pack them and then return them to the printer for posting. Well, as they say the best laid plans, etc. Unfortunately the printer suffered several major problems with the printing machine, which meant that he was only managing to finish about 10 copies at a time before the machine failed. After three weeks of trying to cure the problem they abandoned the machine and agreed to purchase a replacement. Once this arrived there was a learning curve on printing the booklets and so when I arrived back the printing had only just been finished and the packing and dispatch were then handled as a matter of urgency. Hopefully the new machine will mean that you will get this issue in a reasonable time.

As you will no doubt recall, in 2007 we shared a base / stand with the International Badgers Club at the World Jamboree. This was so successful that we hoped to repeat the exercise for Sweden in 2011. However, at this moment, despite numerous approaches to the Jamboree authorities neither of us has received any communication and so it looks as if we are not wanted. This does seem a shame as certainly the swapping area outside of our marquee in 2007 was one of the more popular places on the whole site.

I will end this editorial with a request for more articles. There are still some in my stock but it would be nice to get a few more so that there are some in reserve. How about something different - like why we are not wanted at World Jamborees!!

Terry Simister

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### FUTURE COPY DATES

September 19th and November 21st

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

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### 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.

## Chairman's Notes

by Melvyn Gallagher

It is with some measure of reticence that I have agreed to take on the mantle of Club Chairman (yes, Chairman not chair, which is something you sit upon!) following, as I do, in the footsteps of John Ineson a Scouting philatelist of international renown and whose recent award of the Silver Wolf credited his work for our Club in the citation.

At present our hobby, like many others, is not as popular with young people as it was in more halcyon days when there was not the plethora of other more trendy activities available to them, such as computer games, Facebook and, perhaps, an over emphasis on achieving sporting and academic prowess.

Like the difference between taking snaps and photographs we have collectors and philatelists, most of the club members falling into the former category collecting for fun rather than profit or undertaking serious research and exhibiting at major exhibitions.

Our philatelists publish their research and are helping us collectors, who see their wonderful collections displayed, at learning a great deal about our hobby with information that can be passed on to other collectors or in basic displays for young people to enjoy and learn from at Group level. Hopefully this will encourage youngsters to start collecting and join our Club either as an individual or as a Troop, Pack, Colony or Company or other section.

Our members should not be afraid to get out and attend our Club meetings where we exchange knowledge in a friendly environment and as at present they are held at PHILATEX in central London members have the added bonus of being able to see other collections and add to their albums too.

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From Ron Sambell

The interest in Scouting Handstamps has prompted me into looking rather more closely at my other Australian ones. Attached is a scan that may also be of interest and perhaps add to the history of these Jamborees. The handstamp is the one used at the Pan-Pacific Jamboree at Yarra Brae between 29th Dec 1948 and 9th Jan 1949. The cachet marks the

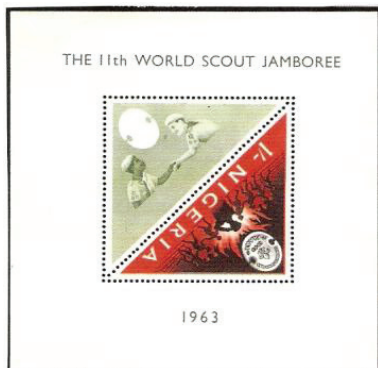


'Inauguration of Post Office'. The cancel is dated 27 De 48 which suggests the Post Office opened 2 days prior to the Jamboree. I don't know whether this observation has any value.

As you will read in other reports, the Euro-Scout exhibition in Chelmsford was a great success, and we were pleased to welcome many of our U.K. and overseas members. From outside Europe visitors included Dr William Wells from Australia, Randall Frank, Lawrence Clay and Phil Edwards from the United States, Alex Hadden from Canada and Franklin Kuperman from Brazil. I would like to thank Terry Simister, Melvyn Gallagher and Peter Duck who were on our sub-committee for Euro-Scout and for attending the ten preliminary meetings. All the committee supported the event in many ways. The next Euro-Scout will be held at Rothenburg ob der Tauber in Germany over the weekend of 28-30 September 2012 and for the first time, the Walter Grob Award (in memory of the late Walter Grob of Switzerland) will be awarded with a prize of 500 Swiss Francs. The criteria for this award are that the display must be a first time exhibit and that it should not have taken part in a former competition or shows such as Euro-Scout.

To recuperate from the Euro-Scout exhibition I went on holiday to Warsaw and Krakow in Poland as my interest includes the 1944 Scout Postal Service during Warsaw Uprising. The idea of the Museum to commemorate this tragic event started in 1983, but no construction work took place for many years, and the museum finally opened on July 31, 2004, marking the 60th anniversary of the Uprising. A room was set aside in the museum to show the hundreds of letters and notes sent during the uprising and delivered by the Boy Scouts, and although they were photocopies on the four walls, they showed the Scout cancellations of that period. The museum collects and maintains hundreds of artifacts, ranging from weapons used by the insurgents to love letters, in order to present a full picture of the people involved. The Museum's stated goals include the creation of an archive of historical information on the Uprising and the recording of the stories and memories of the still living Uprising participants.

Sold at a recent sale by Grosvenor Auctions in London, was the very scarce Nigeria 1963 World Jamboree Miniature sheet with the red printing omitted on the 3d value. Printed in England by Harrison & Sons Ltd, the Scout badge, Nigeria and the value were missing. Sold for £800 (€ 905, US\$ 1150) plus 19.975% buyer's premium, against the estimate of £600-£800. I see from my records that a similar one was sold by Stanley Gibbons Auction in June 1981 for £280 plus 8% buyer's premium making a total of £302. I thought this may have been the same miniature sheet, but from the position of the perforations, I can see that this was not so. Also at the same auction were a number of India Rocket covers and other paper ephemera. A postcard sent by Rocket No. 139 and given the name of "Lord Baden-Powell" made £500 plus buyers premium, while cover No. 134 "Dr R. Paganini" made £450.



Since the Euro-Scout meeting, our club held our Annual General Meeting on the Scout Ship *The Lord Amory* which is the Headquarters of the Docklands Scout Project in the West India Docks in London. At this meeting I retired from being Chairman and am delighted to report that Melvyn Gallagher has taken my place. With the recent death of our member No.6, Norman Read from Bournemouth, I am now the longest serving member, having been allocated number 56 in September 1957.

Those in the U.K. who collect Scout covers will no doubt have had a problem with the transparent self adhesive photo corners that are now sold by Boots, Smiths and Dixons etc. Although they used to be very good, today they are very small, and although may be suitable for photographs, are not much good for covers. I did buy at a recent stamp fair, some corners produced by Prinz at £4.95 for 250 mounts but although they are better than those sold by the chain stores, they are not as good as those produced by Henzo. These are made in Denmark and are of archival quality and on the Internet cost £3.49 for 500 (Ref No. 18309). They are also available in 250 and 1000 lots and are highly recommended at [www.henzo-albums-uk.com/accessories/photo-mounts.htm](http://www.henzo-albums-uk.com/accessories/photo-mounts.htm)

I was sorry to read in the *Picture Postcard Monthly* the obituary to Michael Goodman who died in June. He was a most knowledgeable postal historian, and was to be seen at Stampex, Postal History and Postcard fairs. Many of the scarce U.K. items in my own and other Scout collections came from Michael. At one time he had a stand at Stampex where his stall was regularly besieged by customers four deep just after opening time. Although he knew the real value of most items he was selling, I did once have a bargain. In February 1980, I purchased from him a collection of Scout books and postcards for £40, and on looking through one of the books I noticed inside a 1924 World Jamboree badge in perfect condition. Unfortunately I was persuaded to sell this in 1986 for a considerable sum of money. A mistake as I now wished had this rare badge in my collection!

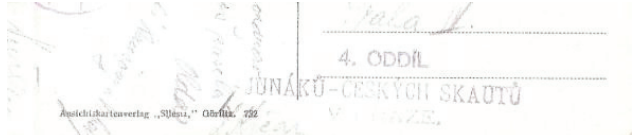
## SCOUT HANDSTAMPS UP TO 1957 Part 4

by Peter Duck

Scouting had already started in what was to become Czechoslovakia (in 1918) by 1911 when Dr. Antonin Svojsik formed the first Scout Troop in Prague. At this time, the country was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Austrian stamps were used on two early postcards in my collection both dated 1918. Boy Scouts were also known as Junak (Strong Youth), and I have handstamps from Junak troop "DZIGITU" and 4. ODDIL JUNAKU – CESKYCH SCOUT V PRAZE. (4<sup>th</sup> Troop Czech Scouts in Prague).

As is well known and documented, the Czech Boy scouts operated the first official postal service in Prague, capital of the new Republic of Czechoslovakia in November 1918. In conjunction with this service a special handstamp was used on mail delivered by the Scouts. The two-line stamp reads:-

DOPIS OD SKAUTA (delivered by Scout)  
PREVZAL (received).



Envelopes bearing this handstamp should also carry the signatures of Scout "postman" and the recipient. Many later forgeries and "produced by favour" covers exist of the "Scout Post" items.

Scouting became well established

by 1920, and from this date many Troop and Camp cachets were used on envelopes and postcards. My earliest is from the Troop 10 Prague B.P.Skauti with an unusual fleur-de-lys emblem.

Most handstamps carry the "Dog's head" Scout badge which is still in use today. A couple of very interesting handstamps from the 1920's are from (perhaps) specialised Scout Troops. One from





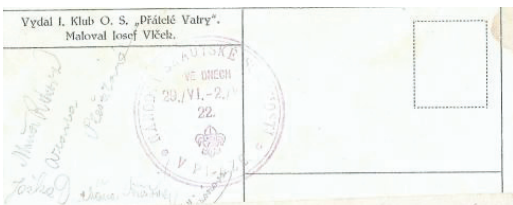
KMEN DACOTAH SDRUZENI E.T.SETONOVICH SKAUTU SE SIDLEM V PRAZE. (Dakota Tribe Association of E.T. Seton Scouts with Headquarters in Prague). This Troop particularly honoured Ernest Thompson Seton, one of the early Scouting pioneers in U.S.A.



And one from HASOMER Jewish Scouts in Prague.



The first National Jamboree took place in Prague in June 1922 and a circular handstamp was used.



A 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary handstamp was produced by the Boy Scouts of Brno, and a fine handstamp was issued for the Scout Camp at Cerveneec in 1932.



Scouting was effectively banned by the Nazis in 1939, but I have one cover posted in 1940 bearing the handstamp of the Scouts of Liberec-



Praha. Immediately following the end of world War II, Scouting was resurrected and there exists a cover from 1946 with Scout Camp Sumvald u Znojma handstamp on reverse. A Scout Post handstamp was used at Nesterovice Camp in 1947.



Many Troop handstamps were used (or re-used) on postal items until Scouting was banned again, this time by the Communists. But, a New Year card posted to

England in 1949 from the Esperanto Scouts League carries a green rubber stamp print of a Boy Scout with a Red Indian and an Arab with camel.

Denmark was home to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Jamboree in 1924, But I do not know of any special handstamps used in connection with the event.

But the earliest Scout handstamp known was in 1913 for SPEJDERLEJREN (Scout Camp) at Kallo Pr.Ronde. In 1923 a circular handstamp was used at the National Camp at Fredericia. Also a handstamped overprint was used on labels at the National Camp at Gravenshoved 1928.



The 5<sup>th</sup> Osterbro Troop "Concordia" was using a circular handstamp in black on





their mail in 1935. The DDS Scouts 5<sup>th</sup> Frederiksberg Troop's Camp was held at Kalo Pr. Ronde (note – one l in Kalo as opposed to two l's in 1913) in 1937 and a rectangular dated stamp was used. A letter to the Boy Scouts of South Africa in 1946 bears the cachet of KFUM Scouts in Aarhus District. A green handstamp showing a Viking ship was used at the Lyngby Division Jamborette in 1954. And similarly a purple handstamp was used at Kalo 55 Jamboretten.

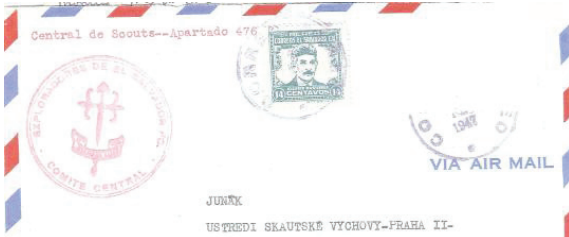


In 1945, Scout Ferdinand Condoy Paredes “Guia-Scout del Ecuador” Guayaquil wrote a letter which was stamped with a small Scout badge cachet. The letter was sent to Paraguay on 12 April 1945.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan Arab Jamboree was held at Aboukir in Egypt in July 1956 and some of the first day covers bear handstamped cachets of Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts and Air Scouts. Also known are two types of handstamped badge of the Jamboree itself.



The COMITE CENTRAL EXPLORADORES DE EL SALVADOR used a red circular handstamp on their mail. My envelope from 1947 has had most of the stamps removed!

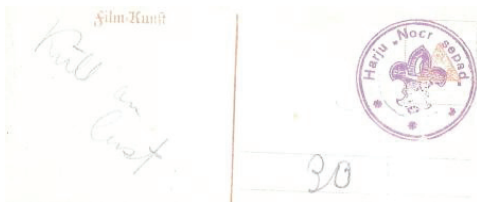


The civil war in Estonia 1919/1920 caused a breakdown in postal services, and the Scouts among others handled the mail. Various Scout units produced their own "postmarks", no stamps being available. A fine article about these handstamps appeared in SOSSI Journal some years ago. There was also a descriptive note in our Bulletin. The study of these "postmarks" would take a lot more research. I have four types, none of which are clear enough for reproduction.

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A variety of Scout Troop handstamps are known from Estonia including those from Kalevi, Tallinn, Harju, Rakvere, Tartu and Woru. An



oval cachet with scout badge was used at the 2nd National Camp at Parnus-Doberanis 1932. And two



types were utilised at the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Camp at Paralepas. These are known stamped onto Camp Savings labels.

The Soviet Union annexed Estonia in 1940, and a letter written in April of that year carries the handstamp in red SCOUTMASTRITE KOGU E.S.M. with Scout badge.

miskoosolekul.



Skm.

Across the Baltic to Finland where at one time there were both Finnish and Swedish-speaking Scout Associations. At the National Camp of Swedish Scouts in 1932 a square handstamp was used showing a saluting Scout and text FORBUNDS-LAGRET 8-18-7-1932. The postmark on the envelope is from Hindhar.



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The National Camp at Drumso in 1934 produced a handstamp showing three Scouts at (an enormous) campfire and dates 20-30-7.1934.



A circular handstamp in green was printed onto mail from the Jubilee Camp of Finnish Scouts WESTEND 1947. The Swedish Scouts Association used a circular stamp in purple at LEM-LAX-LAGRET(Camp) in 1951 showing a stylised campfire.



*Further parts of Peter's article will appear in future Bulletins*

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> class post (any packets weighing over 100 gr will be sent by 2<sup>nd</sup> class post). Overseas 90p for stamp orders only, covers/cards orders £1.35.

| STAMPS   | MINT  | USED |
|--|-------|------|
| TNZ05 TANZANIA 2005 Girl Guides commemorative – camp & village life (4)  | 3.00  | 3.00 |
| TNZ05S TANZANIA 2005 Girl Guides commemorative MS  | 1.45  | 1.45 |
| ROM05 ROMANIA 2005 Scouting Anniversary – strip of 4   | 4.45  | 4.45 |
| ROM05S ROMANIA 2005 Scouting Anniversary 4 in MS   | 4.45  | 4.45 |
| UAR05 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 2005 2 <sup>nd</sup> Interl. Gathering of Scouting (2)  | 2.30  | -    |
| LES05 LESOTHO 2005 Girl Guides commemorative (4)   | 1.00  | 1.00 |
| LES05S LESOTHO 2005 Girl Guides commemorative MS   | 1.85  | 1.85 |
| PER05 PERU 2005 12 <sup>th</sup> Pan American Jamboree (1)   | 3.80  | -    |
| BEN05 BENIN 2005 Baden-Powell & butterflies (7 x diamond shapes)   | 3.40  | -    |
| GUI05 GUINEA 2005 Scouts playing Basketball / Chess + B-P (2 x gold foil)  | 14.85 | -    |
| ANT06 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 2006 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Guides (5)   | 1.35  | 1.35 |
| LIB06 LIBERIA 2006 Rockwell Scout paintings (4)  | 10.50 | -    |
| BVI06 BR. VIRGIN IS. 2006 Queen Elizabeth 80 <sup>th</sup> Birthday - in Guide uniform (1)                               | 0.20  | -    |
| STP06 St.THOMAS & PRINCE 2006 “Scouting” block of 4 B-P +fungi, owls, orchids – gold foil                                | 6.75  | -    |
| STP06S St.THOMAS & PRINCE 2006 “Scouting” MS B-P + owl & orchid – gold   | 6.75  | -    |
| IOM07 ISLE OF MAN 2007 Centenary of Scouting (6)   | 5.25  | -    |
| IOM07S ISLE OF MAN 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS   | 2.90  | 2.90 |
| ANT07 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 2007 Centenary of Scouting 3 in sheetlet   | 6.00  | -    |
| ANT07S ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS   | 3.10  | -    |
| GRC07 GRENADA CARRIACOU 2007 Centenary of Scouting 4 in sheetlet   | 3.80  | -    |
| GRC07S GRENADA CARRIACOU 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS   | 2.90  | -    |
| STV07 St.VINCENT 2007 Centenary of Scouting 3 in sheetlet  | 5.65  | -    |
| STV07S St.VINCENT 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS  | 2.90  | -    |
| UNI07 UNION ISLAND, St.VINCENT 2007 Centenary of Scouting 3 in sheetlet  | 5.70  | -    |
| UNI07S UNION ISLAND 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS  | 2.90  | -    |
| ZAM07 ZAMBIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting 4 in sheetlet  | 5.15  | -    |
| ZAM07S ZAMBIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS  | 2.65  | -    |
| STK07 St.KITTS 2007 Centenary of Scouting 4 in sheetlet  | 5.70  | -    |
| STK07S St.KITTS 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS  | 2.45  | -    |
| AUT07 AUSTRIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting 4 in sheetlet   | 2.35  | -    |
| JER07 JERSEY 2007 Centenary of Scouting (4)  | 2.35  | 2.35 |
| GAM07 GAMBIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting 4 in sheetlet  | 5.25  | -    |
| GAM07S GAMBIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS  | 2.90  | -    |
| SGSC STOCK CLEARANCE (Mostly plenty available)   |       |      |
| S-A 1980 SSCC Exhibition Baden-Powell House large card with Exhibition Postmark  |       | 0.20 |
| S-B 1990 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relief of Mafeking souvenir sheet (shows Mafeking “blues” stamps)                  |       | 0.15 |
| S-C 1990 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relief of Mafeking 3 x postcards of B-P  |       | 0.40 |
| S-D 1991 17 <sup>th</sup> World Jamboree postcard with designs of all earlier World Jamborees                            |       | 0.15 |
| S-E 1995 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1 <sup>st</sup> World Jamboree St.George postcard by Keith Burtonshaw (6 left!) |       | 0.20 |
| S-F 1995 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 1 <sup>st</sup> World Jamb 3 postcards designs by B-P, adapted by Burtonshaw    |       | 0.40 |
| S-G 2001 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SOSSI (USA) sheetlet of 6 self adhesive labels with portraits of B-P            |       | 0.25 |
| S-H 2007 21 <sup>st</sup> World Jamboree set of 5 postcards  |       | 0.60 |



# A Centenary of Guiding (Part 4)

by Margaret Davison

## British Guides in Foreign Countries

The 3847 members of Girlguiding BGIFC are UK nationals dotted around the world who carry out their guiding programme either in units, or if it is not possible for them to join in with girls from the local area, on their own. They meet in 31 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Asia and those out of reach of a unit can sign up as Loan Guides and meet up with other members at camps every other year at Foxlease.

Thanks to the Internet and e-mail, members can now keep in touch with the organisation and each other at the touch of a button which makes working towards badges and taking part in projects a whole lot easier. Imagine how much harder it must have been for the earliest troop founded in 1911 who had to rely on letters and telegrams. Many of the BGIFC units were suspended during the Second World War because communication was difficult, but the postwar years when many military families were stationed in Europe, saw a boom in units. The first Lone BGIFC Unit was formed in 1985 and in the same year girls travelled to Buckingham Palace from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Oman to represent BGIFC at the 75th Anniversary Celebrations. On 1st April, 1986 changes were made. Formerly the responsibility of the Commissioner for Branch Associations, it was then re-classified as a Region and given its own Commissioner, Advisers and Secretary.



## Branch Associations

Branch Associations was established in 1930 although the first unit was registered in Bermuda in 1913. They look after guiding members who live in UK Overseas Territories – countries which have chosen to maintain political links with the UK and still have HM Queen as their head of state. There are currently nine members, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falklands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, St Helena and Turks & Caicos, They make the same promise as those in the UK and wear the same uniform, although the hotter regions





choose the more lightweight options. They follow the same programme, but adjustments are made for climate. UK. International camps, such as the one in Foxlease in 1999, give the members a chance to meet their UK counterparts and members from other territories.



At one point there were over 50 UK Overseas Territories who were members of the Branch Association, who have since become Independent, and full members of WAGGGS. They can remain Branch Associations until they are admitted as Associate Members of WAGGGS All the present Branch Association members have issued postage stamps, with the exception of the Falkland Islands connected with Guiding, and many of the countries from the

Branch Associations who have become members of WAGGGS.

## The Royal Family

From the beginning of Guiding The Royal Family have always taken a keen interest.

**Princess Louise** - Duchess of Argyll - 1911 became the first Patron of Guiding.- Born 18th March, 1848 - the 4<sup>th</sup> daughter and 6<sup>th</sup> child of Queen Victoria She married John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Marquis of Lorne in 1871 who later became the 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll. She remained a Patron until she died on the 3rd December, 1939.



This was a personal loss to Dunbartonshire and particularly the to 1st Rosneath, to who the Princess was their 'very own'. Here she is presenting colours in 1928

**Princess Alice** –Lady Alice Christabel Montague Douglas Scott 1915 – enrolled a Guide during the First World War. born 25th December (Christmas Day) 1901 She married Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester in 1935. Died 29th October, 2004. As Duchess of Gloucester she attended many Guiding events both home and abroad.



**HRH Princess Royal** 1917 - became President of Norfolk Girl Guides and President of The Girl Guides Association 1920. Born Victoria Alexandra Alice Mary on the 25th April 1897, only daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. She married Viscount Henry George Charles Lacelles on the 28th February, 1922. She remained President until her death on the 18th March, 1965. In 1923 was presented with her personal standard. In the same year Foxlease had been given to the movement, but money was need for its upkeep. The money collected by all the Marys of the empire for a wedding present, she gave for this purpose, hence the additional name of Princess Mary House. All her life she remained devoted to the movement earning the accolade “beloved President”.



**H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother** In 1921 as Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon she was appointed District Commissioner for Glamis & Cassie. On the 25th April, 1923 she married the Duke of York, On becoming HM Queen Elizabeth at the Coronation of King George VI, her husband she became Patron of the Girl Guides Association. In 1960 she also became Patron of the Trefoil Guild and remained with these

two appointments until she died on 30th March, 2002.

**Princess Alice,- Countess of Athlone,** Born 25th February, 1883. Daughter of HRH Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany. She married on the 10th February, 1904 Prince Alexander of Teck, the brother of Queen Mary. In 1917 when the British Royal Family abandoned all Germanic titles, they became the Earl & Countess of Athlone. She became a Vice-President of the Girl Guide Association in 1931 until she died on 3rd January, 1981.

**H.M. The Queen Elizabeth II** Born HRH Princess Elizabeth, 21st April, 1926. she was enrolled a Guide in the newly formed 1<sup>st</sup> Buckingham Palace Guide Company on the 13th December, 1937 by HRH Princess Royal. She gained her 2nd Class Badge and Little House Emblem and was Patrol Leader of the Kingfishers. During WWII they continued to meet at Windsor Castle, camping in the grounds. In 1943 SRS Duke of York was formed so she could become a Sea Ranger. In 1945 became Commodore of the Sea Ranger Section and in 1949 Chief Ranger of the British Empire. Following the death of her Father King George VI on the 6th February 1952, Princess Elizabeth became H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Following her Coronation on the 2nd June, 1953 she then joined her Mother as a Patron of The Girl Guides Association.



**HRH Princess Margaret.** Born 21st August, 1930 she was enrolled a Brownie in the newly formed 1<sup>st</sup> Buckingham Palace Brownie Pack also on the 13th December, 1937 by HRH Princess Royal. Later a Guide and became Patrol leader of the Bullfinches. She gained her 1st Class, Little House Emblem, and All Round Cords, before moving on to Sea Rangers in 1945. The 1<sup>st</sup> Buckingham Palace Guide Company then closed, the Brownie Pack having closed earlier. In 1949 she became Commodore of the Sea Ranger Section, and in 1952 Chief Ranger of the Commonwealth & Empire, following her sister. Following the death of HRH Princess Royal in 1965 became President

of the Girl Guides Association and always took a keen interest in the movement attending many events and camps. She held Queen's Guide Presentation Ceremonies at Kensington Palace. She died on the 8th February, 2002.



## HRH Princess Anne

Born 15th August, 1950, she was enrolled a Brownie in the recently opened 1st Buckingham Palace Brownie Pack. The Pack has a magic carpet, on which is entered all the events of the pack, one being when the Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret were enrolled. She was enrolled a Guide in the 1st Buckingham Palace Guide Company which was reformed from Guides in the 12th Westminster Company .



**Lady Sarah Armstrong Jones**, Born 1964, the daughter of Princess Margaret and Anthony Armstrong-Jones, later to become Lord Snowdon, was a Brownie in 1971

**HRH The Countess of Wessex** Born 20th January, 1965 Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones in Oxford, she married HRH The Earl of Wessex, Prince Edward on the 19th June, 1999. In June, 2003, Following the death of Princess Margaret HRH Countess of Wessex - Sophie Wessex as she likes to be known is now President. She makes only the 4<sup>th</sup> President since the movement was formed.

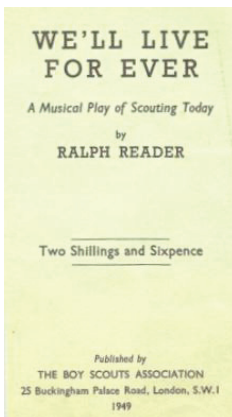
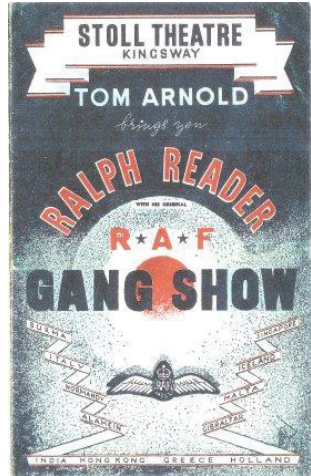


*Further parts of Margaret's article will appear in future issues of the Bulletin*

## Ralph Reader and Gang Show Ephemera (Part 2)

Prior to the outbreak of war Ralph Reader had agreed he would join the RAF Intelligence Branch, but was surprised to find that this involved working with 'Belge' Wilson, who had been Camp Chief at Gilwell and in charge of the International Scout Bureau. Reader was asked to form a touring Gang Show with a cast of ten London Gang Show boys, under the ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association) to take to France as a front for espionage. Somewhat amazingly this is exactly what happened. It was then decided that Ralph should run an annual RAF Gang Show for morale raising purposes, and some of the original London Gang Show cast were joined over the war years by ENSA members such as; Reg Dixon; Cardew Robinson; Dick Emery;

Peter Sellers; Tony Hancock; Norie Paramor; Richard Attenbrough and Harry Worth with Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan who were both later stars of the *Goon Show*. The RAF *Gang Show* (A generic name for 25 touring units) toured allied bases at home and abroad. It was estimated that three and a half million servicemen were entertained by these shows. Additionally Gang Shows were performed with Ralph Reader scripts in prisoner of war camps. Ralph Reader, for his services to the Royal Air Force, was awarded an MBE (Member of British Empire) in 1943



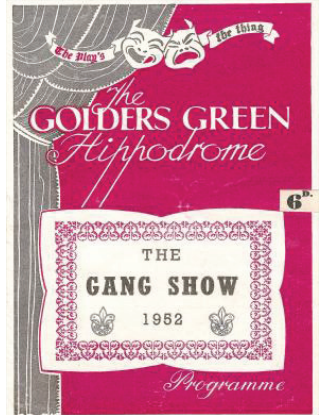
After the war Ralph Reader continued to produce RAF style Gang Shows on a commercial basis, the first having a three week run in Blackpool. The 1946 Stoll Theatre production programme is illustrated above. Ralph also toured and produced later shows as a recruiting tool for the RAF ENSA concerts in the Malayan Campaign of 1952.

The UK Scout Association published Ralph's musical play *We'll live for Ever* in 1949. The following year after successful postwar restarts of Gang Shows in Newcastle (in which Ralph assisted) and Glasgow, the London Gang

Show, re-opened with a 150 strong cast at the Kings Theatre Hammersmith. The show had excerpts broadcast on radio and TV and in 1951 had to seek larger premises at the Hippodrome, Golders Green, where it continued to thrive.



Yet another production of *The Boy Scout Pageant* was produced just after the Queen's Coronation in 1953. It was recorded by Philips (PB.151). The Queen did not attend the Gang Show of that year, Princess Margaret attended in her stead. Her Majesty the Queen was however present in 1954, as she was in 1962 and for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show in 1972. The 'Gang' also appeared in the 1957 and 1964 Royal Variety Performances. The latter I feel sure



was televised. The former was of course a very special year, being the Jubilee Jamboree and the Silver Jubilee (25 years) of the London Gang Show. That same year Her Majesty the Queen was pleased to present Ralph Reader with his CBE (Commander



of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire).

The photograph here was taken by a Scout Member of the audience during the Jubilee Jamboree performance of the 1957 Gang Show at the Birmingham Hipper-drome. Thousands of the Jamboree participants were 'bused in' to see it. Ralph also wrote the Jamboree Song , *March, March , March*



1968 was a year of great changes in Scouting. Following the 'Advanced Party' report major changes were made in uniform and Senior Scouts were disbanded in favour of Venture Scouts etc. Nothing, it appeared, was going to be allowed to stay the same, and not all the changes were well received. The biggest innovation in the Gang Show was that for the first time girls were permitted to take part and that was all for the good! Unfortunately, the 1968 London Gang Show programme did not have any photographs of the pioneer girls, or anybody else for that matter, but

it did contain names of all 25 girls along with the 102 male members of the cast

I was part of Peterborough's 'Red Necker' Gang Show the following year, when Ralph visited. One of my Venture Scouts in his traditional Scout uniform, including shorts, was on stage alongside another in his new Venture Scout Uniform. The cast also contained Rangers in their turquoise uniform blouses and before too long I was invited to 'Gang Show' weddings!



The Edinburgh and Crewe Gang Shows in 1964, were very early recipients of the right to wear the coveted red neckerchief\*. Ralph Reader handed over the administration of his 'Red Necker Award' to the Scout Association who appointed a small band of successful Gang Show producers as the monitoring and awarding 'authority'. Some four years ago that 'committee' was abolished. Each Scout County now independently control their own shows. Red neckers however are still awarded and to this day are worn with pride in Gang Shows all over the world.

In 1971, Ralph was initiated and made a member of the Grand Order of Water Rats. Far too late, Ralph was given a 'proper' position in Scouting, that of Scouts' Commissioner. His final London Gang Show opened at the Gaumont State Theatre, Kilburn, in October 1974. He died aged 78 in 1982. Ralph Reader is a theatre legend.



Ralph Reader was involved in 19 shows on Broadway, 34 in London's West End and produced more than 50 shows in the Royal Albert Hall. He also wrote 15 books of plays, played in 5 films and composed over 400 songs.

Ralph died in 'The Year of the Scout', Scouting's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Newcastle Gang Show produced this special postmark.

They are the third

oldest Gang Show in the country and enjoyed a special connection with Ralph Reader. Ralph said that every day of the year there was a Gang show playing somewhere in the world, a comment which I think, for once, was something of an understatement.



*\*Most Gang Shows use 'red neckers'. It is the 'GS' logo (see above) embroidered at the back of the triangle that turns the item into a coveted award.*

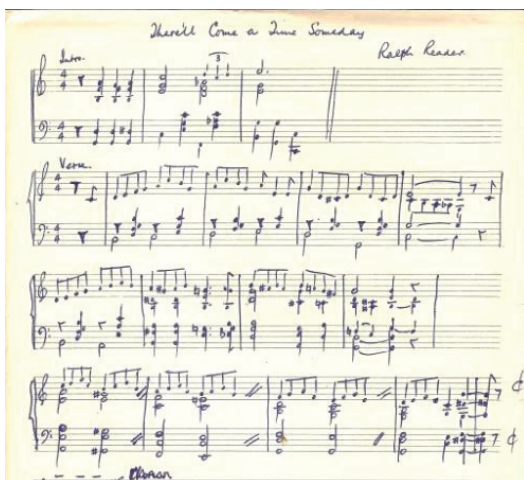
Every collector will have a favourite item that shines out from their collections. I suspect that for most Gang Show collectors, as for me, this will be a personal item, possibly a ‘red necker’, from a production in which they were involved.

*For these are  
dream about  
them the good*



*the times we shall  
and we will call  
old days.*

To the right is part of a Ralph Reader handwritten manuscript, of ‘*There’ll Come a Time Someday*’, a ‘number’ from the very first Gang Show in 1932. It is signed both on the top left of the first sheet of music, and again on its ‘cover’ with the title of the piece. Some things are worth more than money!



The commercial sheet music for this song, is illustrated in its printed Scala Theatre guise at the start of the first chapter.

Ralph Reader’s three autobiographical books were published in 1953, 1957 and 1974. An earlier book, *Scouting is a Boy* was published in 1950, but is not autobiographical.

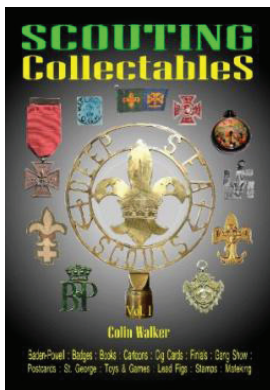
Gang Show items are not well collected and this is reflected in the price they command. Signed postcards were the ‘stock in trade’ of the ‘show biz’ personality, before and after the war, and so Ralph’s, signed in green, are not that rare. They are however deserving of rather more respect than the £10- £15 price tag that they have recently generated on eBay. Programmes and sheet music can be for around £5 each, excepting the earliest pre-war shows and especially the rare 1932 programme. Programmes of course give access to cast lists and sometimes, on anniversaries, to a ‘potted history’. It is a Gang Show tradition for members of the Gang to sign each other’s programmes and this adds to their value, especially if you can spot the signature one of the rising stars that made it to the professional

stage. Gang Show records are pure nostalgia, but again are very much ‘Cinderellas’. Few people now have the equipment to play LP’s, let alone shellac 78 rpm records and so, perhaps for this reason, even the pre-war gems are to be found at very low prices. Ralph’s three biographical books (see images on back page) are easy enough to find and, relatively, cost little more now than when new. A complete listing of all known London Gang Show Recordings supplied by Terry Simister and Ian Coates is to be found in my new book *Scouting Collectables* (see advert on this page).

*Acknowledgement is made to the help given in this and the previous article on the Gang Show by our editor Terry Simister, an active Gang Show producer who is still in contact with some of the members of the Ralph Reader London Gang Show production team.*

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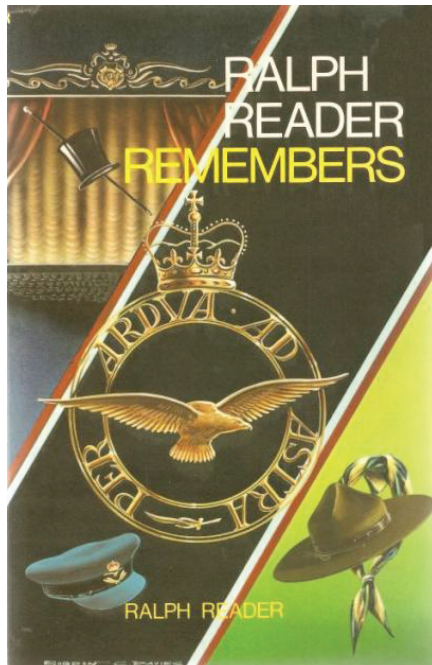
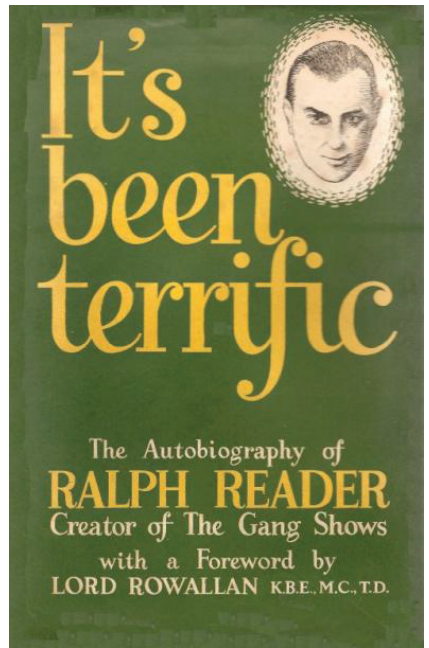
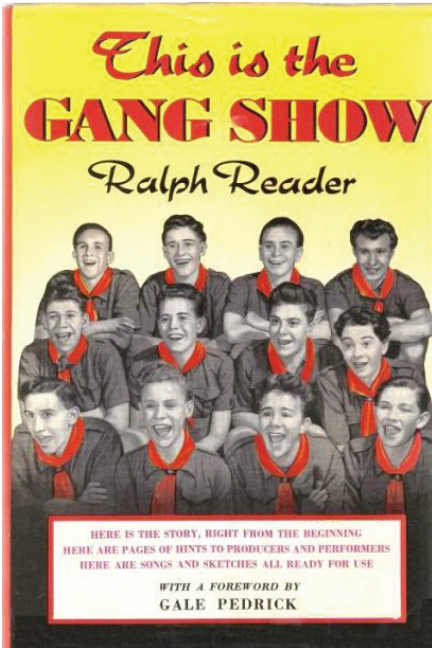
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Ralph Reader's three autobiographical books as mentioned in Colin Walker's article.