

Scout and Guide Stamps Club

BULLETIN

Volume 55 No. 1 (Whole No. 315)



Have a really great time if you are lucky enough to be going.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011



Editorial

Welcome to 2011 - a World Jamboree Year - and it really doesn't seem like four years since we were running our base, alongside the International Badgers Club, here in Chelmsford. I wish all those who are attending an enjoyable time and an experience which will last them a lifetime.

I am pleased to inform you that our member Hallvard Slettebø served successfully as Apprentice Juror at the FIP world stamp exhibition Portugal 2010, and has now received accreditation as FIP Juror for Thematic Philately. I am sure that you will all join with me in congratulating him on this success.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see a formal announcement of the Annual General Meeting which is being held earlier this year in the hope that it will encourage and enable more members to attend. As last year the Meeting will be held at the Scout Docklands Project aboard the H.Q. Training Ship, the MV Lord Amory, commencing at 14.00. The site is within easy walking distance of stops on the Docklands Light Railway and there is a local area map on the back page showing directions.

I hope that you all enjoy this issue and the good news is that I still have some articles in hand, including the final part of Peter Duck's Handstamps. However, not to be complacent, I would welcome some more so that the Bulletin can have a balance of subjects and I can have a choice in filling the spaces.

Terry Simister

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FUTURE COPY DATES

March 12th, May 14th and July 9th.

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

26th February 2011 at Philatex

Committee Meeting: 12.45- 13.15; Open Meeting: 13.15 -14.45

9th April 2011 Lord Amory, H.Q. Training Ship, Docklands.

12.00 - Committee Meeting.

14.00 - Annual General Meeting.

5th November 2011 at Philatex

Committee Meeting: 12.45- 13.15; Open Meeting: 13.15 -14.45

Philatex is held at the Royal Horticultural Society Hall, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE. This is within easy walking distance of St. James Park Underground Station. Entrance is free and there are all the stands to look at as well.

On new year's day, along with 10,000 others, I took part in London's "New Year's Parade" that included many Scouts, Guides and marching bands - nearly 30 of them from the U.S.A. Scout bands in Britain are seen at many public and Scouting events and have a long history from the earliest days of the Movement. Many early postcards show them leading parades celebrating major national events, to carnivals, funerals and St. George's Day parades. In Scotland kilted pipe bands are seen and also in other lands, such as Palestine.

Before the days of minibuses, when Scouts marched much more, many Groups had their own band or, at least, a small number of drummers and buglers to set the marching pace. Many stamps picture Scout bands, including a band of 1912 reproduced on the 1972, 25c stamp from Barbados. A 1942 Bulgarian stamp from their "work and joy" set shows a Scout band playing by a tent. A 1969 3D Qatar stamp shows a Scout drum band leading a parade and later 1982 stamps from Anguilla, Barbados, St Helena and Uganda all depict Scout bands. Old postcards showing formal groups of Scouts usually include their instruments and these can sometimes be a useful clue to identifying them as their name was usually painted on the base drum.

I look forward to seeing members at "Philatex" on February 26th where there will be talks and displays of unusual material and an opportunity to add to your collections too.



THE BIRMINGHAM BOY SCOUTS PIPERS, with their President and Instructor.

Holloway, Photo. Handson

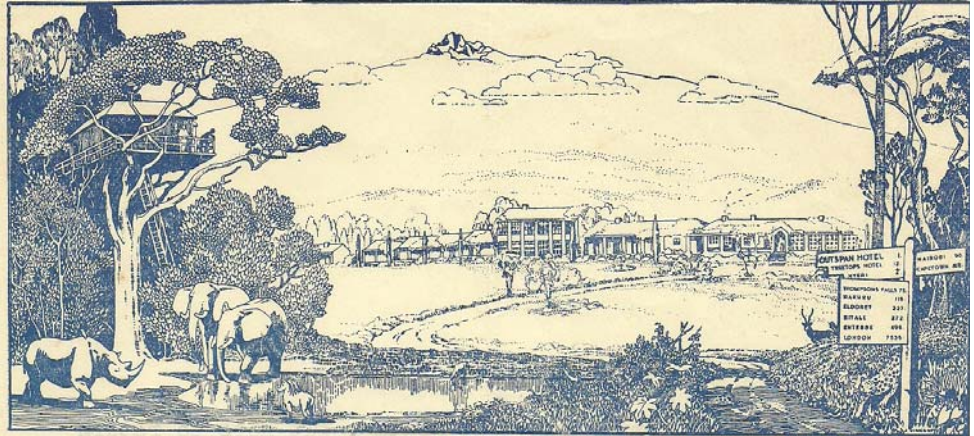
Like the Stock Exchange, stamps can also go up or come down in value, and this applies to a half sheet of six mint Mafeking Cyclist stamps, that were sold in December last year by Spink's of London. In my notes of July/August 2008, I mentioned that this same half sheet was up for sale at the same auction house in London when it made £16,000 (at that time US\$ 31520, Euro €20000) against an estimate of £2-3000. As I wrote at the time, these stamps came from the Royal Collection which personally belongs to the Queen. The decision had been taken that duplicated material should occasionally be sold and the proceeds used to purchase other items for the collection. As there was already a proof sheet of twelve of the 1d cyclist stamps as issued in the collection, it was not considered necessary to keep the half sheet. This time the estimate was £15-18,000 but the final hammer price was £12,000 (US\$ 18962 € 14297), a loss of £4000 in two years!

Much has been written in the philatelic press during the last few years concerning the number of new issues appearing on the market. In the February issue of *Stamp Collecting*, there is an interesting letter written by Nick Salter regarding Royal Mail sales figures. Although they are not happy to release the number of stamps printed, under the Freedom



of Information Act, details are now available. He mentions that over 160 million 2nd class Christmas stamps were issued in 2007, while the shortest print runs that year was for the Scouting Centenary set. A total of 2,500,000 each of the 46p, 54p, 69p and 78p values were issued, while the 1st class stamp in that set amounted to 6,025,000 stamps. Times have changed as in 1957; the 2½ value of the Scout World Jamboree issue sold over 137,000,000 copies. It would appear that Royal Mail adjusts its anticipated needs depending on the likely popularity of the subject matter, as the 1st class Harry Potter stamps issued a few days before the Scout Centenary set, had a print run of 20,832,000 stamps.

There is not much Philatelic news to report this time so I thought readers may be interested in a batch of letters that I have recently purchased in auction. They have all been written by Lady Baden-Powell between 1938 - 40 with some of them on "The Outspan Hotel, Nyeri, Kenya" notepaper where they stayed (except for one last visit to the UK in 1938) until their new bungalow Paxtu was built. Shown on the letter heading is also Tree Tops where our present Queen Elizabeth went up as



Princess and came down as a Queen in 1952. The Baden- Powell’s bungalow Paxtu is shown on the far left of the buildings. Writing to “Jumbo” (I do not know who he was) on 8th January 1938, she reports that “Now that the Chief has got a nasty – a VERY nasty - go of lumbago coming down the last month, and it turned into a chill-cum-couch, cum bronchitis, and now he has rather a ‘tired heart’ as a result of it all”. On 17th March she wrote “We sail for England again next month, but hope to return here again in October. In fact to make sure of coming back, we are arranging to have a bungalow built for us in this delightful place”. By December 18th 1938 Lady Baden-Powell writes "You will be glad to hear that the Chief is VERY well indeed, and we are thrilled to be back in Africa again. He is never idle, and is busy writing and painting. He is fishing a bit too and loves going off to see big game near here”. Nearly a year later on November 27 1939 she writes "We are so happy here and adore Kenya more than ever. The Chief is well and very busy painting some grand water colour pictures of big game (which are now in the Gilwell Park dining room). Another batch of letters were sent to Dr Pierskowski who treated B-P at Paxtu and who prescribed him some ointment so that on September 10th 1939 Lady B-P wrote “I just CANNOT describe to you what a relief it is that you have prescribed this curative stuff for him, and we can NEVER thank you enough for your helpfulness”. Ten days later she wrote “The liniment always soothes it, and so, though he is a little impatient that is not altogether completely cured, he realises the itchiness IS able to be able to be kept in check. In November 1940, Dr Pierskowski was staying at the Outspan Hotel when he was called to inject B-P with a respiratory stimulant, as his health was gradually deteriorating. He agreed to stay on at the Outspan Hotel and secured the services of two nurses from Nyeri military hospital, who stayed with him until B-P died on 8th January 1941.

A FEW COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT PETER DUCK

Another fine Bulletin with interesting articles, thanks to Terry for putting it all together. The Christmas postcards on front and back covers are fun, but I found the verses rather odd!

Firstly, to Melvyn's notes regarding the Duke of Connaught (please note – spelt with an A in the middle, not an O). Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught & Strathearn 1883 – 1938 was a grandson of Queen Victoria. The publication SCOUT PERSONALITIES ON STAMPS (1973) by the late Stanley Hunter reports that he was Chief Scout of Canada 1911-13 and President of the Boy Scouts Association 1913-38. But I believe that the Duke shown on the stamp is the father of Prince Arthur who was Governor-General of Canada 1911-16.

Perhaps a little more research is needed?

With regard to Jean Charcot (1867-1936), he came to prominence as far as Scout philately is concerned when the stamp depicting him was issued on 25 March 1938 with surcharge for “Shipwrecked Mariners' Society”. A souvenir postcard of similar design to the stamp was produced by Les Eclaireurs de France of whom he was President from 1911 to 1921. The “Plein Jeu” event for which a special postmark was issued in Paris on 26 June 1938 produced many souvenir items of which many carried the Charcot stamp.

A similar stamp, uprated from 65+35c to 90+35c was issued on 26 June 1939, but I have never seen this on any Scout-related philatelic item. Also depicted on a stamp issued by France in 1953 was Marechal Hubert Lyautey (1854-1934) President of the Scouts de France from 1928-34.

John Ineson's Jottings mentioned the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree overprinted stamps of Kuwait which were never issued. I believe that the three sets of issued stamps were inter-changeable between the territories as they were all priced in Naye Paise currency (introduced in India in 1957 and the accepted currency in Bahrain, Muscat and Qatar).

I have two covers with Bahrain overprinted stamps used in Kuwait, one cover with Muscat stamps and another with Qatar stamps used in Bahrain. All are on commercially used envelopes and were posted in August, November and December 1957. The price in Harmer's sale quoted by John seems to be quite extortionate at £250 each – I almost feel happy that they did not sell!

When Great Britain changed to decimal currency in 1971, the old £.s.d. stamps were valid for one year, one shilling being equal to five new pence. A special postmark was used at Windsor for the last day of their validity on 29 February 1972. As an experiment, I sent myself three covers using the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree stamps plus the overprinted stamps of Bahrain, Muscat and Qatar. All were

accepted and postmarked accordingly, possibly the postal clerk mistook the NP for Naye Paise as "New Pence"!

In respect of Fred Maarsen's query on the earliest known Scout handstamp used on a philatelic item, I can report one from 1912. This was used in Lund, Sweden and reads: SCOUT-BASAREN I LUND 19 och 20 APRIL 1912, which is presumably for a Scout fund-raising Bazaar.

The earliest postmark used was from Czechoslovakia for the Scout Post in Prague 1918. But this had only local use for deliveries within the city by Scouts. Philippe van Hille in his Catalogue of Scout and Guide Cancellations published in 1982, reports a postmark from India INDIAN SCOUT VILLAGE * S.I.B.S.A. * with Scout badge and date(?) PEH 18 1921. Presumably S.I.B.S.A. means South India Boy Scout Association, but it is unclear whether this is a proper postmark as it shows no Post Town.

Otherwise, I have always regarded the first postmark from a Scout event as being from the 1st National Camp of Swiss Scouts, Berne 1925.

Finally, I must take Colin Walker to task – he must have had a "Senior Moment" on page 21 when he reported B-P and Olave's birthdays as being October 22nd!

OTHER REPLIES TO MELVYN'S "PERSONALITIES" QUESTION

1. FROM GOTTFRIED STEINMANN

I am reading your Chairman's Notes (54/6) with great interest, but can not agree with your point of view.

This stamp of the Duke of Connought does not show any necessary sign of Scouting, which actually should be the criteria for declaring a stamp as a scoutstamp.

Nevertheless this stamp is most suitable to be put into a historical display or collection, in which you intend to tell a story like "History of Scouting" or "English Scouting history", or even "1929 World Jamboree".

Personally I am writing on a series "Galery of wellknown Scouts" for the Arge Magazine "Scoutpost" (in German), within this I intend to use your informations about the Duke of Connought in one of the next issues, if only you can provide me with a good image of this stamp, or even better, if you could send me a spare sample of this stamp. (for payment). Of course, I would mention you as the source of information.

Have a nice New Year,

Yours in Scouting

2. FROM T.P. McDERMOTT

Yes it would be a nice collecting group to study to workup and study. The Canadians had several people that are related, A women for guiding, a mounties, and several Queen's Representatives. One Canadian/American is a scalpher that designed the

statue that BSA used a gifts. His statue was used at the 1930s Headquarters of the Philadelphia Scout Council. The stamps were issued about the time of the Montreal Olympia. (Sorry I don't have any info with me right now nor a dictionary.) One of these days I'll write up the C/A for you. Turkey also has a stamp for a leader per an old SOSSI journal. Sorry for the misspellings!

MELVYN ADDS

I would add the comment that whilst I agree that from many countries there are stamps picturing people with a passing scouting or guiding connection that are worthy of a study within a specialist exhibit they are not generally considered to be scout or guide issues as such.....

..... AND ON HANDSTAMPS - FROM JOHN INESON

A request was made in the last SGSC Bulletin by Fred Maarsen regarding the earliest known Scout Handstamp. My earliest was posted on 11th March 1914 and was applied by the 3rd Altringham B.P. Boy Scouts. Scan below.



..... AND ON B-P'S BIRTHDAY - FROM MIKE HARRINGTON

Just been reading the last bulletin and noticed on page 21 that BP and Olave's birthday is now in October instead of Feb?????

PASSWORD

We will be changing the name and password of part of our website from 1st March. 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 **holland** (no capitals)

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.

TAIWAN SCOUT COVERS WITH CACHETS & POSTMARKS:

TWN1 4 th Provincial Jamboree 1961	1.00
TWN2 Northern & Middle Regions Jamboree 1963	1.00
TWN3 Girl Scout Jamboree 1963	1.00
TWN4 Southern Region Provincial Jamboree 1963	1.00
TWN5 Taichung Regional Camporee 1963	1.00
TWN6 Provincial Jamboree 1964	1.00
TWN7 6 th Provincial Jamboree 1967	1.00
TWN8 Girl Scouts 2 nd Provincial Jamboree 1968	1.00
TWN9 4 th National Jamboree 1970 - Boy Scouts postmark	1,00
TWN10 4 th National Jamboree 1970 - Girl Scouts postmark	1.00
TWN11 5 th National Jamboree 2 stamps in presentation folder with postmarks on front	1.25

ROMANIA 1930's ISSUES MOUNTED MINT AT 20% of CATALOGUE VALUE:

ROM31 National Boy Scouts' Exhibition 1931 (5)	5.70
ROM32 National Jamboree Sibiu 1932 (6)	10.95
ROM34 National Jamboree Mamaia 1934 (6)	10.45
ROM35 5 th Anniversary of Accession of King Carol (5)	6.95
ROM36 National Jamboree Brasov 1936 (3)	2.90

BOOKLET KOR91B KOREA 1991 17th World Jamboree booklet of 4 + postmarked stamp on face

STAMPS	MINT	USED
NEV07 NEVIS 2007 21 st World Jamboree 4 in sheetlet	5.70	-
NEV07S NEVIS 2007 21 st World Jamboree MS	2.45	-
BEQ07 BEQUIA St.VINCENT 2007 Centenary of World Scouting 3 in sheetlet	5.70	-
BEQ07S BEQUIA St.VINCENT 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS	2.90	-
LN07 LIECHTENSTEIN 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa (1)	1.20	1.20
SWE07 SWEDEN 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa 4 in booklet	2.60	-
GRE07 GREENLAND 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa (2)	2.55	-
DOM07S DOMINICA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	2.45	-
GRN07 GRENADA 2007 Centenary of Scouting 4 in sheetlet	5.70	5.70
GRN07S GRENADA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	2.90	-
MAV07 MALDIVES 2007 Centenary of Scouting 3 in sheetlet	4.55	-
MAV07S MALDIVES 2007 Centenary of Scouting MS	2.55	-
MIC07 MICRONESIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	2.90	2.90
MIC07S MICRONESIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	1.95	-
PAL07 PALAU 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	3.45	-
PAL07S PALAU 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	2.30	-
SRL07 SIERRA LEONE 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree 4 in sheetlet	5.10	-
SRL07S SIERRA LEONE 207 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	2.65	-
LIB07 LIBERIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree 4 in sheetlet	6.20	6.20
LIB07S LIBERIA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	4.70	-
GUY07 GUYANA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st world Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	3.40	3.40
GUY07S GUYANA 2007 Centenary of Scouting & 21 st World Jamboree MS	2.85	-
ISR07 ISRAEL 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa (1)	0.50	0.50
BOS07 BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa (2)	4.90	4.90
BOS07S BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa MS	4.90	-
CYP07 CYPRUS 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa (2)	1.35	1.35
FRA07 FRANCE 2007 Centenary of Scouting/Europa (1)	0.65	0.50

Salisbury & South Wiltshire Christmas Post

by John Wyeth

The post has now been running since 1994 and covers much of southeast Wiltshire and incorporates two Districts – Salisbury & South Wiltshire and Salisbury Plain.

Originally the cost of a stamp was 12p but this increased to 15p and last year to 20p.

Most Groups in the Districts support the Post together with some elements of Girlguiding UK. The stamp designs are chosen by competition following submissions when a new printing is required.

Stamps are sold via Groups who get a proportion of the cost of the stamp. Deliveries are also via Groups who get a proportion of the 20p for each card delivered.

Sorting of the cards to delivery areas are done during two evenings and a Saturday morning following the last day of posting which is chosen to give about two weeks for delivery prior to 25th December.

Although not the biggest Scout Post by far over 560,000 items have been delivered which has resulted in an income of over £90,000.



NEW ISSUES

Ifsco Class	Ref	Country and Event	mint			FDC
			set	m/s	sheet	
Previous Items						
A 619	Kosovo	100th Anniversary of Scouting (issued 2007 !!)	-	4.45	-	-
A 739	USA	100th Anniversary of American Scouting	-	-	-	6.55
A 740	Cook Is,	ANZAC Day, 75th Anny of BP Visiting	-	-	-	9.35 (2)
New Items						
A 751	Antigua & Barbuda	100th Anny American Scouting 2 sh x 4 vals	-	-	16.25	-
A 752	St Kitts	100th Anny American Scouting 2 sh x 4 vals	-	-	16.25	-
A 753	Canada	100th Anniversary of Girl Guides (only in booklet form)	5.75	-	-	1.45
A 754	Oman	Scout 75th and 100th Anny of World Scouting 1 val	1.65	-	-	-
A 755	Barbados	100th Anniversary of G.G. set x 4 vals + m/s	2.40	2.00	-	-
A 757	Australia	100th Anniversary of G.G. 3 vals + 3 vals self adhve.	8.80	-	-	5.65 (2)
A 757a	Australia	100th Anniversary of G.G. (COIN COVER)	-	-	-	15.30
A 757b	Australia	100th Anniversary of G.G. (MAXIMUM CARD SET)	-	-	-	6.70
A 757c	Australia	100th Anniversary of G.G. (POSTAL STATIONERY COVER)	-	-	-	0.75
A 757d	Australia	100th Anniversary of G.G. (BOOKLETS X 3)	-	-	10.25	-
A 758	Gibraltar	100th Anniversary of G.G. Set x 4 vals	5.20	-	-	5.25
A 759	Guernsey	70th Anny Wartime Evac. 1 of 6 with Scout helping	0.55	-	-	6.40
A 760	Tuvalu	100th Anny of American Scouting 2 sheets x 4 vals	-	-	17.80	-
A 761	Mexico	Mexican Scouting x 1 val	1.50	-	-	-
Perforated						
C 762	Rep of Togo	100th Anny of American Scouting 1 sh x 4 vals + m/s	-	6.85	6.85	-
C 763	Rep of Guinea	World Youth Day, Pope & Scouts sh X 6 vals + m/s	-	5.20	6.25	-
C 764	Sao Tome	100th Anny of G.G. Juliette Low sh x 4 vals + m/s	-	9.55	10.25	-
Imperforated						
C 762	Rep of Togo	100th Anny of American Scouting 1 sh x 4 vals + m/s	-	18.60	18.60	-
C 763	Rep of Guinea	World Youth Day, Pope & Scouts sh X 6 vals + m/s	-	18.60	18.60	-
C 764	Sao Tome	100th Anny of G.G. Juliette Low sh x 4 vals + m/s	-	21.85	21.85	-

All available from Bob Lee 57 Church Rise, Chessington, Surrey, UK KT9 2HA
 Please add £1.00 postage UK , £1.75 Europe, £2.25 rest of the world.

Was there ever such a thing as just an ordinary postage Stamp?asks Peter Shore

Browsing through my collection of tatty copies of “**The War Illustrated**” – dated Oct 21st 1939, I by chance came across a gem of an article highlighting a stamp.

It briefly explained that at the beginning of World War II many people living in Britain had relatives and friends living in Germany and were naturally worried particularly about their welfare as mail was to say the least, somewhat erratic.

‘A British family were relieved to receive from their beloved daughter a post card with the usual exhortations “ *not to worry, all fine here, no problems, eating well..... lots of love etc*” and signing off with the PS “tell Sidney to remember to carefully save the stamp for his collection”.

The recipients were relieved to get the re-assuring card, but mystified about the message, for their lad Sidney did not collect stamps! So carefully the stamp was steamed off to reveal a terse message “**We are starving**”! and who says stamps don’t tell a story with or without the dreaded overtones of censorship?

Some New Issues Illustrations



1A



1A

1B

1B



1A



1A

1B

1B



1A

1A

1A

1A

1A

1A



1C

1C

1C



1C

1C

1C



22nd Australian Jamboree was held at Cataract Scout Park, Appin, New South Wales. 4 - 14th January, 2010 with the Post Office open on 15th January, 2010. Attended by 11,000 Scouts from various nations.



Online merchandise Email address

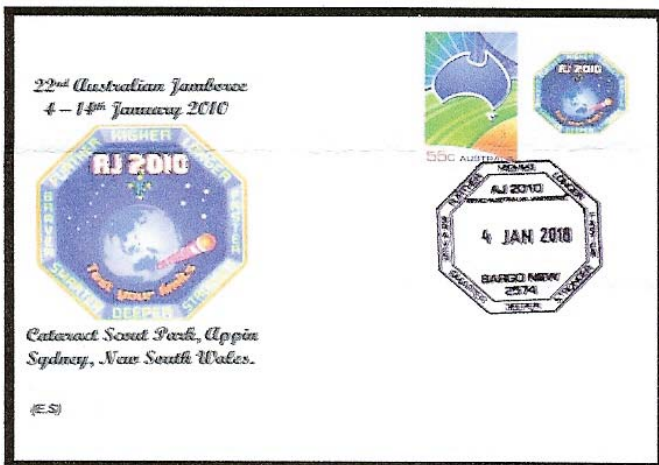


Personalised stamps (120)



Jamboree badge 90 x 90 mm

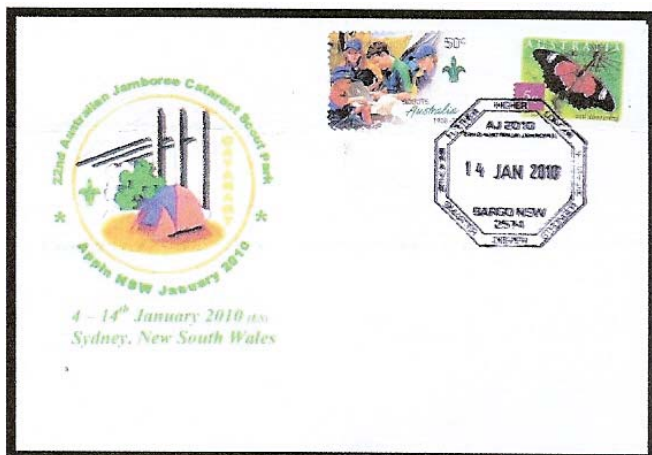
First Day
4th January 2010
(70)



*Cateract Scout Park, Appin
Sydney, New South Wales.*

(E.S.)

Last Day of Camp
14th January 2010
(70)



*4 - 14th January 2010 (NSW)
Sydney, New South Wales*

10 Covers signed by Chief
Camp Director dated 2 JAN
2010, two days before the
Jamboree started.



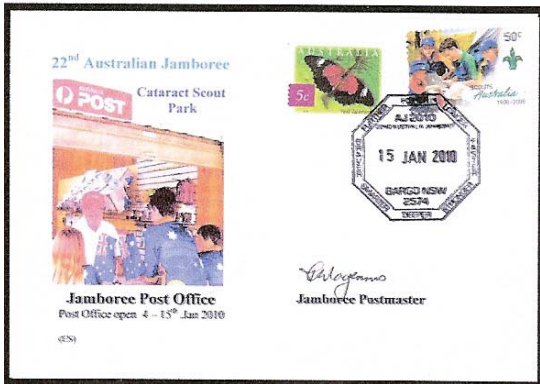
*Cateract Scout Park, Appin
Sydney, New South Wales.*

(E.S.)

*Bob Baker, Chief Director
22nd Australian Jamboree*

It was very difficult to get good
examples of the date stamp
size 39mm.

Jamboree Post Office, with Postmaster. Text added to photograph.

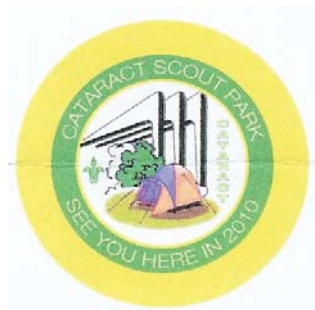


Post Office closed 15th January 2010 (70). 10 only signed by the Jamboree Postmaster.

Pre-Jamboree publicity Decal 40 x 40 mm. Jamboree publicity distributed at the 21st Jamboree to publicise the 22nd Jamboree AJ2010.



Victorian Contingent Decal



The South Australian Contingent had an elongated printed letter card thick the squares type, e.g. “I am having an great time/awesome fun” etc. Size 210 x 100 mm. Sold for 50c - 3,000 produced.



A sample of 5 Prepaid Post Cards of surplus stock overprinted by Australia Post in Gold lettering “Greetings from the 22nd Scouts Jamboree” also included a copy of the hand canceller in gold.

There was an initial first overprint of 3,000 cards, these sold out by the Jamboree Post Office by the close of business on 11th January 2010. A further 1,000 were printed to cover mail orders. Advertised in the Philatelic Bulletin at \$1.50, sold in the camp Post Office and mail orders for \$2.00.



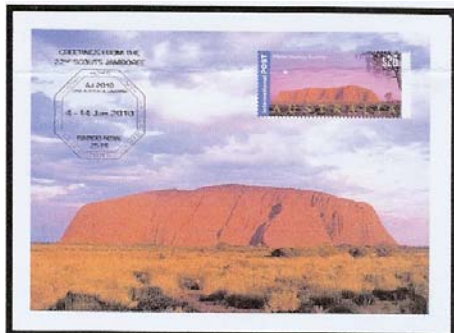
International Greetings 1st September 1999.



Nature & Nation 11th May 2000



Nature & Nation 11th May 2000



International stamps 12th July 2001

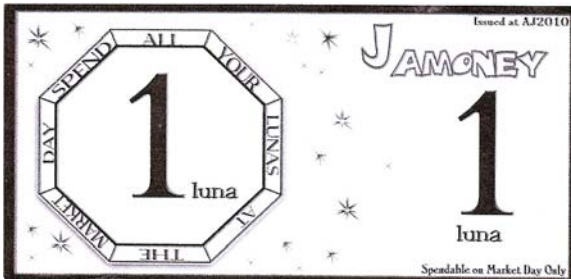


Bush Wildlife 7th June 2005



Bush Wildlife Double overprint

Jamboree Money



“JAMONEY” Suitable on Market day only Issued at AJ2010

On to the next Jamboree AJ2013 Marlborough, Queensland.



AJ2013 website



Decal 90 mm

Mafeking Postal History, - A personal perspective. Part 1.

Mafeking Seige Stamps have always been valuable, so much so that the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue for 1902 warns collectors to be on their guard against the forgeries that were being brought home by soldiers returning from Cape Colony. If the stamps are rare, mail posted in Mafeking, either for 'internal' delivery or to be run though the Boer lines by native runner at night are, of course, even rarer.

My own collection started in the year 2000 when, on retirement from my 'day job', I decided I would like to collect Mafeking and Scout related items. I read the SOSSI (Scouts on Stamps Society International) web pages that warned against forgeries and indicated how hard they are to detect, so I looked through the list of officers of the Society to see whom I might contact for advice. The only English sounding name amongst them was our former Chairman, John Ineson. I contacted him and asked if he knew of an honest and reliable dealer specialising in these issues. This was the start of our long friendship that has taken us to Mafeking and many Scouting philatelic events.

With John's support, as a very late starter, I have been able to form a Mafeking Collection that I use in my talks and writing. The first objective was to collect all 19 Mafeking issues, the 16 overprinted stamps and the 3 'blues' produced by ferro-prussiate process in Mafeking. I doubt that without John's help that I would ever have found SG 15, the 6d purple/red British Bechuanaland surcharged 1s., as was there only one sheet of 240 stamps available to overprint and surcharge in the Mafeking post office.

Advised by John, I decided to concentrate on used stamps, the dated Mafeking postmark being part of the attraction. This of course is all the clearer if the stamp can be obtained 'on piece'. Having all the stamps on piece rather than having some on and some off, helps considerably in their presentation on the album page, so I was doubly fortunate that my SG 15 was also 'on piece'. How many of the 240 issued can there be 'on piece' given that some are mint, some on cover, some 'lost', but most, I suspect, 'off piece'.

Very selective buying extended my collection with a few additional rare items, including a pair of the smaller Baden-Powell blue stamps with selvedge top and side edges, coming from the famed Maxwell Joseph Collection. This was illustrated in the auction catalogue that was produced when that collection was originally sold. Fortunately as I bought them from a local stamp dealer the price was considerably cheaper than the auction purchaser paid.

It was not long before my collecting ambitions led into the exotic and potentially expensive world of Mafeking Siege Mail. Though in my youth I was a member of an adult philatelic society, my approach today is not that of most serious collectors. I collect Mafeking artefacts and am particularly interested in the ‘doings’ of the 1800+ garrison and townsfolk, as demonstrated in my book, *‘The Mafeking Seige Register’*. Covers, with their combination of name, address and postmark give a reasonable accurate timed location check for the addressee shown on the envelope. Obviously, for my purposes, it would be even more interesting to find the contents of the envelope, particularly where the sender had made reference to what was happening in the town at the time. Pure philatelists however seem to have little interest in what was once inside their valuable ‘covers’ and perhaps for that reason, covers are rarely now found with their contents intact.

I was fortunate in being able to purchase a letter, unfortunately without its cover, sent by Major Panzera on March 10th 1900, back home to his wife in England. Panzera, who was Baden-Powell’s artillery officer, describes finding the ‘Lord Nelson’, an 18th century old ship’s cannon, in use as a gatepost, on a farm in Mafeking and also the making of the ‘The Wolf’ howitzer, under his direction in the Railway Workshops. These two weapons had a far greater range than the four obsolete seven pound field cannon that was all the British previously had to repel the Boers. (These and all other British Arms used in the siege together with the Boers’ ‘Long Tom’ are fully documented in my book *‘Mafeking’s Artillery’*). For me, the Panzera letter is pure treasure, but in the absence of a cover and therefore a stamp, its price was again ‘affordable’.

From the same auction sale I was able to fulfil one of my collecting ambitions, a cover actually run through the Boer lines. The first of the Mafeking overprints were issued on March 23rd 1900 only a couple of months before the end of the 217-day siege. Clearly however, mail was sent out of Mafeking before then. Col Vyvyan, Base Commandant of Mafeking, for example sent regular letters home from the start of the Siege to his wife in London. She quite naturally kept them together, and in pencil on the front of the cover numbered them in sequence ‘Siege 1’, ‘Siege 2’ etc. One such, illustrated in the definitive twin volumes on the Siege, *‘The Siege of Mafeking’*, published by the Brenthurst Press, has a stamp affixed – a normal One Penny Cape of Good Hope issue, postmarked 16th January 1900 (predating the Mafeking Issues), because this was the cost of mail home from any part of the British Empire if sent by members of the armed forces ‘On Her Majesty’s Service’. My own example, numbered 10 by Mrs Vyvyan, would be referred to by philatelists as a ‘Stampless Cover’.

As the cover has no censor mark or Mafeking postmark it will have left the town with official dispatches sent out by Baden-Powell. It travelled via the Northern

route, the large black T strike being applied in Bulawayo. This denoted that tax had still to be paid (as it was without a stamp), however on arrival in England it received the 'FB' strike showing that the mail had arrived via the Foreign Branch' and a red 'Paid' strike warning Post Office officials that no further charges or 'Postage Dues' should be applied. In my limited experience, Mafeking 'Stampless Covers' are far rarer than their normal stamped counterparts, but because philatelists naturally prefer covers to have stamps, this item was also 'affordable'.

The three blue stamps, manufactured in Mafeking were produced to conserve stocks of the overprinted stamps for external mails only. (One of the blue stamps, issued April 7th 1900 depicts Sgt Major Warner Goodyear of the Mafeking Cadet Corps who Baden-Powell in, Camp Fire Yarn No 1 of Scouting for Boys January 1908 described as being one of his 'Mafeking Boy Scouts'. The other two were different size stamps showing B-Ps head and shoulders.)

There was then a short period of time (two weeks) before the 'blues' were issued when overprinted stamps could be used for both internal and external mails. The cover, illustrated, is addressed to Walter Moore who was the proprietor of the Commercial Hotel, one of the three hotels in Mafeking. The date of the postmark nicely fits the 'window' after the introduction of the overprinted stamps, but before the blue stamps were issued. However, rules were meant to be broken, and an internal cover in my collection sent to Corporal Gilbert in the BSAP Fort has overprinted stamps to the face value of 2 shillings when one 3 pence stamp would have sufficed. So what was going on? The cover is postmarked April 3rd 1900. At that point the lifting of the siege was widely forecast and the citizens and garrison of Mafeking were well aware that their stamps were creating an international sensation amongst collectors worldwide. This and many other covers (often called 'Philatelic Mail') were then 'manufactured', often bearing a range of unnecessary stamps. They were made to appeal to collectors, a piece of speculative investment sent by individuals to themselves, in the accurately predicted hope of being able to sell the item at a handsome profit after the Relief.

My most recent acquisition is I think a very interesting item, a cover sent out of Mafeking still with its original letter. It was written by Vere Stent, the senior War Correspondent in Mafeking to publisher EE Speight in London, in the hope of placing his book on the siege, which he claimed to have already completed.

The letter was dated April 9th and carries the chocolate and green overprinted stamp surcharged, 1s, which was the correct rate for sending mail up to ½ oz via the Northern Route' i.e. via Crocodile Pools and Bulawayo. (The Southern Route was only half that price.) Stent wrote that his book would contain, *racy stories of my own adventures, character sketches of different officers commanding*



the defence, candid criticism, and other interesting matter. Stent did not succeed in selling his book to Speight (or to anybody else for that matter), perhaps because the letter, sent from Mafeking on April 9th 1900, did not arrive in England until May 25th, a week after the Relief. By that time other accounts of the Siege were in production and the publishers probably thought Stent's book had missed the crest of the wave as far as 'Maffickania' was concerned.

I have seen internal mail addressed to Baden-Powell and external mail sent home by him. (Some of the world's leading Mafeking collectors exhibit at 'Euroscout' held every two years – and the Royal Mafeking collection is also publicly displayed in various locations from time to time, there are also items in the B-P's Mafeking 'scrapbooks' held in the UK Scout Archives). I never supposed that I would ever acquire items of such stature. To be truthful, I still do not have any covers exactly matching the above description. What I do have however is a B-P Mafeking postal history item of even greater interest! The item is a typed letter dated 27th January 1900 hand signed RSS Baden Powell Colonel, Commanding Office to the Boer Commandant, General Snyman, "near Mafeking".

The letter starts, *Sir, with reference to the deliberate shelling of the Women's Laager yesterday, I get to inform you that I now had the Dutch Prisoners and Informers lodged in a temporary prison there, so that any further shelling in that direction will probably kill your friends and you may hold yourself responsible for their deaths.*

Baden-Powell then informs Snyman that he has enclosed a list of women and children of Dutch extraction that his shells have so far killed or wounded. Amazingly the list, compiled and signed by Lord Edward Cecil, Baden-Powell's Chief Staff Officer and fourth son of the then Prime Minister Lord Palmerston, is still with the letter. It list makes chilling reading, of the eight named children, four described as being 'infant' are listed as 'killed' with the dates of their deaths. A Mrs Graham, aged 20, of Boer Extraction, is also listed as having died in hospital of wounds received in November. Mrs Sophie Graham was in hospital, recovering from a bullet wound when the hospital was shelled, she was a widow and left three children.

Philatelists may argue as to whether this and some of the other items I have described are in fact Postal History. To me that is almost irrelevant – they are simply part of an enthralling history, that ensured the fame of the man who became the Founder of the World Scout Movement.

Letter from Member, John Roberts

I always enjoy reading the SGSC magazine and thought readers may be interested in the following item about the price of a scout card!

On reading the excellent December issue of *Picture Postcard Monthly* I was interested to read on page 42 (Auctions) about the price paid (£206 on EBAY) for the Boy Scout 'The Bear' in the Tuck Animal series.

I could not believe the price paid for this card. To put the price into perspective a similar card in the same series 'The Owl' went for £77 in early December.

The postcards are hard to obtain as they do not appear very often. I believe there are six cards in the set and they were issued by Raphael Tuck in about 1909 -- only two years after the Boy Scouts started.

Are there similar cards in other scout or guide categories which have vast differences in the prices? (I suppose the obvious example would be cards with a 'Titanic theme'.)

Editor's Comments - I was well aware of this particular auction as "The Bear" is the only one of the postcards that I actually need - and I was the under bidder!

I would welcome comments from other members on John's questions and if anybody has any samples of specific cards or series that they can supply as electronic copies then perhaps we could run a small series on this particular subject.

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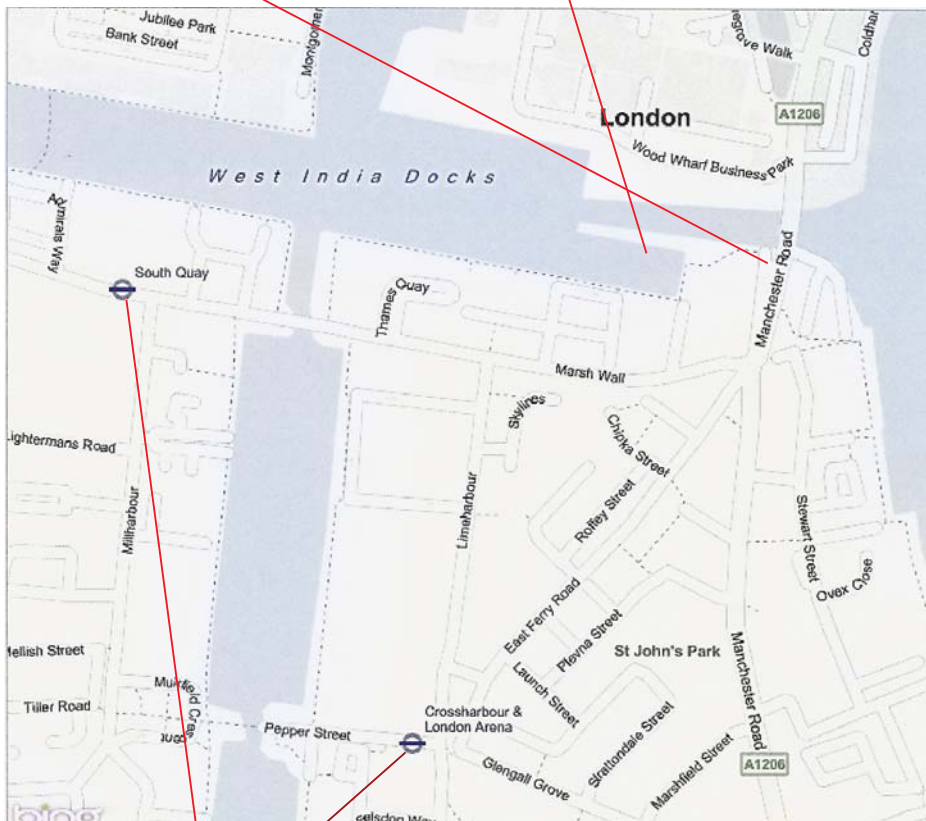
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**Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Scout and Guide Stamps Club will be held on 9th April, 2011 at:
The Headquarters Training Ship, Lord Amory, Dockland Scout Project,
631 Manchester Road, Dollar Bay, London E14 3NU commencing at 14.00.**

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