

Scout and Guide Stamps Club

BULLETIN

Volume 60 No. 2 (Whole No. 344)



2016 is also the Centenary of the Ranger Guides and we have an article on the subject in this issue starting on page 13.

In this picture our authoress, Margaret Davidson is standing on the left for the opening of their Guide Hut in 1955.

Margaret says “The opening of our Guide Hut in 1955, which was always only temporary. The Ranger on the left is me. Lady Burnham who was Chief Commissioner at the time had just arrived. She came when we opened the brick built HQ in 1967, when she was President.”

SUMMER 2016



Editorial

The Cub Centenary is progressing well and, as you will see from Margaret Davidson's article in this issue, we are also celebrating the Centenary of the Ranger Guides.

From a personal point of view my wife and I went to see Chelmsford Gang Show a few weeks back and, to be honest, we weren't particularly impressed overall, although there were a few excellent items. I do think that the restriction of performers to those under 25 only (which in most cases, because of University, etc. actually means a restriction to those under 18) is not good and leaves too many items which can no longer be performed because the youngsters are not suitable.

A short while ago I was approached by the Chairman of the International Badgers Club (IBC) who raised the possibility of the two clubs - IBC and SGSC - merging to form a "Scout Collectors Club" because both of us are facing a falling membership. The matter has been discussed in principle by the Committee and we have agreed to have some discussions with the IBC Committee on the whole issue, benefits, finance, control, etc. As soon as there is anything to report we will come back to you all but, meanwhile, we would welcome any comments or observations that you may have so that these can be taken into account in the discussions.

A final plea yet again for items for inclusion in the Bulletin - the Editors Universal request - but it is true that I really have very little in stock for future issues. Please let me have something - even if its only comment on the IBC situation

Terry Simister

FUTURE COPY DATES

August 15th. Please send copy, including photos, electronically
- where possible.

FUTURE MEETINGS UPDATE

As mentioned before we are still intending to hold meetings in the UK during the major philatelic Exhibitions each year, providing that the hire costs are reasonable. Known dates are:

17th September, 2016 - Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London. N1 0QH. A Room has been booked for 12 noon to 14.00. Committee Meeting from 12 noon to 13.00 and Open/Members meeting from 13.00 to 14.00.

The 2016 AGM has been planned for 25th June, 2016 and again to be held at The Headquarters' Training Ship, The Lord Amory, Dockland Scout Project. See notice on page 11.



From the earliest days of Scouting the hand axe was an essential piece of equipment with many uses and, when I was a young Scout, passing the “axe and knife test” was a right of passage.



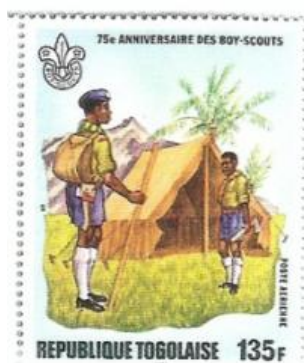
Back in 1909 “official pattern” leather axe pouches to carry on a belt cost 6 pence (old money) and axes were carried by many Boy Scouts as an essential piece of kit, as seen on many early postcards and the cigarette cards issued by Ogden's

and Gallaher's in 1911.

Nowadays here in Britain with less emphasis on cooking over wood and more health and safety rules, axes are not used so much. B-P's early illustrations and his humorous picture of “Tommy the Tenderfoot” trying to use a blunt axe are well known.

Many early Scout hand axes had a spike tool on the butt as well as the cutting edge, but today's Scouts wearing axes would probably be arrested for carrying an offensive weapon.

A 1982, 135F stamp from Togo show a Scout wearing an axe in full uniform, but perhaps the earliest depiction of Scouts using axes is an postcard No. 4 from the set issued by “The Scout” in 1908 entitled “Tree Cutting Competition” on which most of today's safety rules are broken!





It is not very often these days that an original sketch by Lord Robert Baden-Powell comes up for sale at a public auction in the U.K., but recently this one showing Lord Edward Cecil with one of the Mafeking Cadets, was sold for £620 (about US\$ 910, €790) against an estimate of £200-£300. Signed with B-P's initials, this pen and ink sketch measuring approximately 4 x 4 inches (10 x 10cm), had the provenance that the seller purchased it direct from C. Arthur Pearson's, the Publishers. In the earlier edition of *Scouting for Boys*, this sketch was used in the Camp Fire Yarn No. 1 and headed "Mafeking

Cadets". Baden-Powell wrote "And the Cadets, under their Sgt.Major, a boy named Goodyear, did right good work, and well deserved the medals which they got at the end of the war. Many of them rode bicycles, and we were thus able to establish a post by which people could send letters to their friends in the different forts, or about the town, without going out under fire themselves; and we made postage stamps for these letters which had on them a picture of a cadets bicycle orderly".

This cover sent from Breda during May 1945 through to Rotterdam and then to England showing the Dutch censor label was recently sold on eBay for £555.00 (US\$ 785, Euro €710). During the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, Scouting was banned, but upon the liberation of the country on 5th May 1945, the Boy Scouts were soon reformed. They played an important role in carrying and delivering mail for the Post Office, which at that time was in some disorder. The postal



service was run by the Scouts in Rotterdam and started on 10th May 1945. It lasted until 25th May when the Post Office in Rotterdam was again functioning normally. This cover with the circular purple Scout cachet, which had been designed and cut from linoleum by a certain Mr van Eijnsbergen was posted on 23 May 1945. Considerable information about the Scout post from this period is available in the well illustrated colour 132 page book by René Taselaar, which was published in 2009. Written in Dutch, there is a supplementary book with a translation in English, but without the illustrations.

Since the end of Communism, my Scout stamp collecting hobby has taken me to various countries in Eastern Europe. In the near future I will be going to the Czech Republic followed a month later to Warsaw in Poland. Each of these countries produced some of the earliest and most interesting Scout items, and no doubt you are aware that Romania issued five sets of Scout stamps in the 1930's. One of the rarest of all Czech Scout cancellations is that of the third Scout Congress, which should have taken place on 28 February 1948 at Zlin.



The Congress had started, but within an hour, the Scout Association was banned by the Communist Government throughout the country. The State Police arrived and all documents as well as the postmark were confiscated. However they forgot to check the letter box, so a very few postcards and covers which been cancelled, were the only items to have survived.

I was delighted to read in the latest St. George's Day awards that Colin Walker, our regular contributor to the SGSC Bulletin and Scout Historian, has been awarded the Silver Acorn, in recognition of specially distinguished service to the Scout Movement. Congratulations to him on receiving this high award in Scouting, which was first introduced on St. George's Day in 1933.

Just a gentle reminder that annual subscriptions were due on 1st April and should be sent, if you've not already done so, to:

Tim Reed at 10 Falconwood Close, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP16 1TB, England.

TYPE	POSTAL SERVICE		ELECTRONIC SERVICE	
	1 YEAR	5 YEARS	1 YEAR	5 YEARS
UK INDIVIDUALS AND SECTIONS	£18	£85	£12	£55
EUROPE AIRMAIL	£21	£100	£12	£55
REST OF WORLD AIRMAIL	£26	£125	£12	£55
JUNIORS ALL WORLD	£6	NOT AVAILABLE	£5	NOT AVAILABLE

Cheques, Postal Orders or Money Orders should be made payable to:

“Scout and Guide Stamps Club”.

Subscriptions via PayPal are still available with a modest extra charge.

Our Queen Elizabeth II has received a lot of tributes recently, having become our longest reigning Monarch, and reaching her 90th birthday on 21st April 2016.

Long may she reign!

Going back to her Coronation Year in 1953, there were a number of philatelic items and postcards, mostly issued by the Girl Guides to commemorate the event.

A meter slogan was used at Girl Guides Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road showing a stylised crown with Guide badge and date 1953. This emblem was also issued in the form of a gold foil label. As my only example of this meter slogan is printed onto a brown envelope, the reproduction might not be too good.

I have three postcards, one posted on 1st September 1952 showing H.M. THE QUEEN “as Princess Elizabeth, in the uniform of Chief Ranger of the British Empire”. Another card shows the Queen as a Girl Guide together with an elegant portrait of Her Majesty. The (Girl Guides) Coronation Camp, Alnwick (Northumberland) was commemorated with an artist postcard showing three Guides in front of Alnwick Castle. My card has not been posted. (*See on next page*).



Special envelopes were produced (by the Girl Guides Association?) with a pictorial front, presumably to send a Message of Loyalty to the Queen. Mine was sent by the 1st Vale of Mowbray Company, and is empty. Do any of our Guide members know of these envelopes?

A Scout Pageant “Send Her Victorious” took place in the City Hall, Sheffield from 20-25th April 1953. This event was announced using a special meter slogan.

The only other Coronation Year items I can locate are for first day covers of the New Zealand Health Stamps of 1953. These show a Scout and a Guide with flags flanking a picture of Mount Everest with the text “1953 Coronation Year. Conquest of Mt. Everest May 29, 1953”. These envelopes were widely available as they are known from various towns in New Zealand. On one of the covers, a coloured portrait of a young Prince Charles has been affixed over the picture of Mt. Everest. This cover was posted from Dunedin to Chester, U.K. (Prince Charles had appeared on the N.Z. Health Stamps in 1952.)

The Queen’s father, King George VI only appeared on one Scout stamp issue, and by the time it made its appearance, the King had died. The pair of stamps produced by Jamaica for the 1st Caribbean Jamboree were issued on 5th March 1952, but the King had died on 6th February 1952.



The two stamps were designed by Claude D’Souza, and proofs exist showing a profile portrait of the King. These are signed on the reverse by Claude D’Souza F.R.S.A., M.R.P.S.L. POSTAGE STAMP DESIGNER, JAMAICA, B.W.I. When the stamps were issued, the King’s portrait appears full face on. The printer was Bradbury Wilkinson & Co.Ltd, New Malden, Surrey, England. Printing plates were 1 and 1a for both 2d and 6d values. A minute colour shift of the red appears of some of the 6d stamps.



The official first day cover for the Jamboree shows a map of the



Caribbean area with Jamaica highlighted, plus a Scout badge and the text "1st Caribbean Jamboree, March 5th – 17th 1952". There are two recognised postmarks used for the

Jamboree, printed in purple with the wording "1st CARIBBEAN JAMBOREE, BRIGGS PARK, JAMAICA. The one, which I believe to be the philatelic postmark and possibly used for first day covers only, has no hyphen between the figure 5 and MAR 1952. I have one FDC with this postmark plus Registration label No.0003, posted to Huddersfield, Yorkshire. All the way to U.K. by Registered mail for 8d! Other postmarks show a hyphen between 5 – MAR 1952, and similar envelopes posted from the Jamboree are dated 6 -, 7 - & 8 – MAR. I also have covers dated 10, 12, 13, 15 and 17 MAR (last day) when the hyphen would not apply.

The Boy Scouts Association of Jamaica was granted the privilege of free post within the country. A circular print in green with Crown and text POST FREE can be found on covers posted from the Jamboree. A handstamp of similar design but in purple was also used on other envelopes from the Boy Scout Headquarters in Kingston.



I only know of one other cachet FDC posted from the Jamboree, it shows a multicoloured map of the Caribbean area within a Scout badge and was posted to OVERSEAS MAILERS LTD, New Jersey, U.S.A. who probably produced the cachet.



The Jamboree stamps were available nationally within Jamaica, and I have first day covers with normal postmarks from such exotic sounding locations such as: Half Way Tree, Cross Roads, Port Maria, Irish Town, Constant Spring, Montego Bay as well as Kingston.



One of my special souvenirs from this event is a first day cover signed by the Island Commissioner, the Jamboree Camp Chief and two Assistant Jamboree Camp Chiefs. The Camp Chief, Leslie Mordecai was the Jamaican Scouts Contingent Leader at the Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield in 1957 and produced his own hand-painted first day covers for the Jamboree stamps.



Did any member notice the error in the "Japanese Philately" article about the World Jamboree stamps on page 14 of our last Bulletin? On their page No.248 it states that the 8th World Jamboree was held in Greece in 1955. This of course, should have read Canada in 1955.

Invitation - Scouting around the World at the Royal Philatelic Society London in October

The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) is the oldest philatelic society in the world, and was established in 1869 as The Philatelic Society, London. Our member Hallvard Slettebø FRPSL has been invited to display Scout and Guide philately at RPSL.

As much as 588 pages of Boy Scout and Girl Guide philately will be shown. This is the first meeting of the Royal devoted to Scouting.

The display takes place at the society's premises at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY on Thursday 27 October 2016. It is open from 13:00 to 18:00 hrs, with wine and nibbles being served from 17:15. (See description of the display below.)

Hallvard has the pleasure to invite SGSC members to visit the Royal and view the display, and it would be great if many members can attend. Please submit your name before 15 October if you plan to attend so that a list can be available at the door and name badges prepared – by informing Hallvard Slettebø, Theodor Dahls gate 23, NO-4024 Stavanger, Norway, or to hallvard@slettebo.no or tel +47 4140 8960.

Scouting around the World

The display starts with the FIP large gold exhibit “World Scouting – its Path to Success” which currently is the highest merited exhibit within the ever popular theme of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. The exhibit presents the idea, principles and activities of Scouting and its development from Baden-Powell's Scheme into today's world wide movement.

It is followed by “Scout Mail in Displaced Persons Camps”, “Scouting Norway” (since the presenter is Norwegian), “Scouting UK” (since we are here!) and a general section “Scouting around the World”. Focus is on presenting Scout related postal history for the period up to 1957 which marks the golden jubilee of Scouting and the centenary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell.

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO ATTEND THIS EVENT.

SCOUT AND GUIDE STAMPS CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Scout and Guide Stamps Club
will be held on Saturday 25th June 2016 at 2.00pm at the
Headquarters' Training Ship, Lord Amory, Dockland's Scout Project,
631 Manchester Road, Dollar Bay, London. E14 3NU.

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies.
- 2) Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 13th June 2015 (previously circulated).
- 3) Matters Arising: *Club Website*.
- 4) Chairman's Report.
- 5) Membership Secretary's Report.
- 6) Editor's Report.
- 7) Treasurer's Report.
- 8) Club's Future.
- 8) Election of Committee.
 - i. Chairman.**
 - ii. Secretary.**
 - iii. Treasurer.**
 - iv. Six Committee Members.**
 - v. Independent Examiner.**
- 9) Future Meetings including the AGM 2017:

The next Meeting to be held on 17th September 2016 at Stampex Autumn 2015 (Committee Meeting 12noon -13.00: Open/Members Meeting 13.00 - 14.00.)
- 10) Any Other Business.

The first meeting of the newly elected Committee will be held immediately after the AGM for the
Election of Officers from the Committee.

Note: The AGM will be preceded by a short meeting of the SGSC Committee starting at 12.30pm followed
by lunch [bring your own].

NB If you need a map to show the location of the vessel please e-mail the Editor who will forward one.

Here are the audited accounts for the SGSC in respect of the year 2015.

The signed original copy will be available at the AGM.

They are in a slightly amended format to previous years as the Auditor felt that the new layout would make matters clearer for all those reading them.

SCOUT AND GUIDE STAMPS CLUB							
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 2015.							
Expenditure				Income			
2014		2015		2014		2015	
1,771.78	Bulletin Expenditure	1,134.52		1,130.11	Annual Subscriptions	1,015.43	
30.00	Exhibitions and Meetings	131.00		668.24	Five Year Subscriptions	443.81	
9.70	Telephone, Post and Travel	62.18		238.63	Auction Income	0.00	
0.00	Sales Service	0.00		15.00	Advertisements	93.32	
123.38	Stamp Insurance	77.00		526.55	Sales Service	25.50	
41.65	Printing and Stationery	36.06		82.65	Donations	132.05	
17.00	British Thematic Association	20.00		0.00	Interest	0.00	
0.00	Web Site	8.38					
				2,661.18	Active Income	1,710.11	
				0.00	Unpresented cheque	8.38	
1,993.51	Total Expenditure	1,469.14		2,661.18	Total Income	1,718.49	
667.67	Excess Income over Expenditure	249.35					
2,661.18		1,718.49		2,661.18		1,718.49	

Statement of Funds as at 31st December, 2015							
Brought Forward				Carried Forward			
Community Account as at 1st January, 2015	456.44			Community Account		829.93	
Less Uncleared Cheques				Less Uncleared Cheques			
Plus Unbanked Cheques	525.00			Plus Unbanked Cheques		8.38	
	981.44	981.44		Balance as at 31st December, 2015		838.31	838.31
Business Money Manger Account		0.06		Business Money Manager Account			0.06
PayPal Account		286.21		PayPal Account		677.45	677.45
	TOTAL	1,267.71		TOTAL		1,515.82	
Postage reimbursement outstanding		-1.24					
Excess Income over Expenditure 2015/2016		249.35					
		1,515.82					1,515.82

NOTES

1. Unearned balance of five year subscriptions included in above figures is £355.05
2. Bulletin Postage included with Bulletin cost as part of printing deal.

.....
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, 2015.

Signed

.....
B. Forshaw. Hon. Auditor



When we talk about Rangers it is the girls in the age group of 14 – 25, but the age bracket has varied over the years, along with the various name changes of this section.

Land Ranger Enrolment badge each section had a different colour background Air Rangers Pale Blue, Sea Rangers Dark Blue, Cadets White, outlined in blue

I was a Land Ranger from 1953-1958. We were an active unit, some of the time we were running ourselves, and when we had gained our Ranger Camp Permit we could go off camping, which we all enjoyed. There were not the activities that are now available.

2016 celebrates 100 years of Rangers. The Guide movement started in 1910 and by 1916 the pioneer Guides were getting too old to work side by side with newer younger recruits and other older girls were clamouring to join the movement.



So Senior Guides were formed. At the same time Cadets were started in schools to train as Guiders.

In 1920 Sea Guides were formed and Senior Guides renamed Rangers. By 1927 a scheme was devised to bring Rangers, Sea Guides and Cadets into one branch, and were known as Rangers, Sea Rangers and Cadet Rangers. During WWII there was a war time uniform – beret, pullover, skirt, belt and triangular tie. The Rangers helped out in many ways during the war. It was in 1959 this section became the Senior Branch, and there have been various other changes over the years. In 1945 Air Rangers were officially recognised, selected companies of Rangers begun



experimenting with air training in 1944, presumably at this point the name Rangers became Land Rangers. In 1946 the first Ranger Magazine was published monthly.

In 1968 with the introduction of the Eight Point Programme the need for separate specialist sections ceased. All Ranger Sections were then amalgamated into one Ranger Guide Section sharing a common programme, uniform and aims but allowing individual units to follow their own interests.

In 1973, adoption of a standard Ranger Guide Uniform for all formal occasions The Young Leaders Scheme launched through which girls between the ages of 16 and 18 who wanted to work with younger members of the Movement whether or not they were Ranger Guides, could register as a Young Leader and work for the Young Leaders Certificate. The Sea Rangers were very unhappy about all of this and a lot of them went off on their own forming the Sea Ranger Association.



Issued:- 9th October, 1944 - 1 of 2 Health Stamps. The 2d post & 1d health was the same but blue

The Royal Family have always taken an interest in Guiding and in 1943 HRH Princess Elizabeth who had been a Guide, was enrolled a Sea Ranger on the 26th February, in the SRS Duke of York, who met at Windsor Castle. Later in December, 1946 she was followed by HRH Princess Margaret. In 1945 HRH Princess Elizabeth became Commodore of the Sea Rangers. At the All England Ranger Rally on the 16th May, in the Royal Albert Hall, she became Chief Ranger of the British Empire. The Princesses took part in the first course held on board the Association's first training ship the MTB 630. In 1949 HRH Princess Margaret becomes Commodore of the Sea Ranger Section, and in 1953 becomes Chief Ranger of the British Commonwealth & Empire as on the Coronation in 1953 HRH Princess Elizabeth who had become H.M. Queen Elizabeth II had become a Patron of the Girl Guides Association, jointly with HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.



Issued 23rd February, 1970 for the Diamond Jubilee of Guiding, there were two other stamps in the set one a brownie and one a guide in the same design.

1977 was Ranger Diamond Jubilee Year and events were held all over the Country. Our County, Croydon held a weekend camp 9th – 11th September at Frylands Wood, our local Scout Campsite, which also included our Joint Units.

I produced this cover and we sold about 500 of these, posted in Croydon.



Issued:- 27th May, 2010 as a set of 6 for the Girlguiding Centenary

In 1983 the Queens Guide Award moved from the Guide Section to the Senior Section, and was drawn up on the lines of the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme which started in the Senior Section a a few years previously.



Issued 2nd February, 2010 – A miniature sheet with 4 stamps. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section. 4 maxi Cards one for each Section ,

There have only been a few stamp issues with Rangers and Senior Section issued. These I could not fit into the story.



Issued 24th June, 1987 to Celebrating 75th Anniversary of Guiding in Zimbabwe One stamp of a set of 4.

Issued 2nd October, 1989. Celebrating 75th Anniversary of Guiding in Trinidad & Tobago. One stamp of a set of 4.



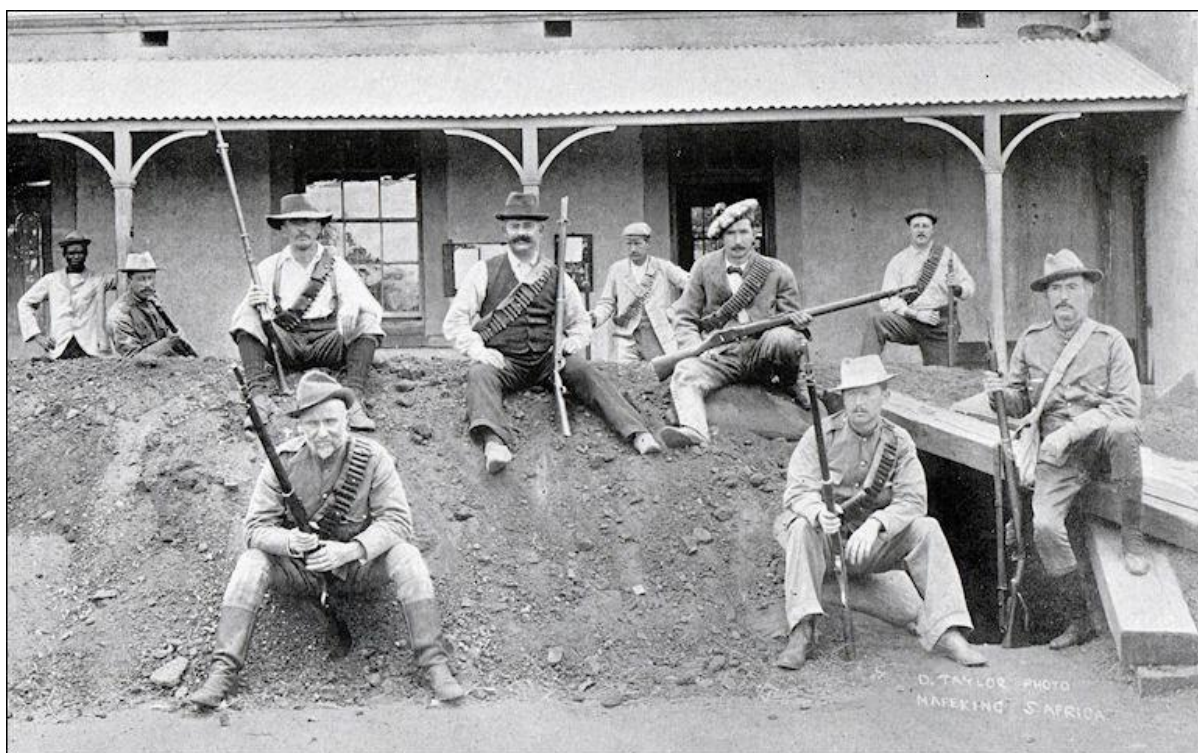
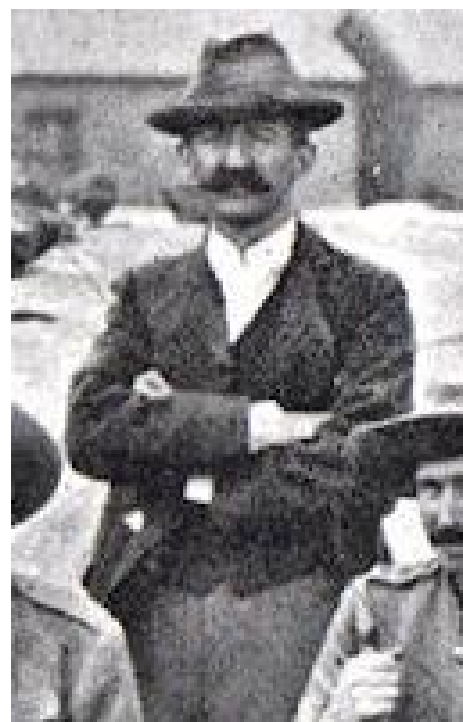
Issued 28th June, 1990 Celebrating 75 Years of Guiding in Jamaica. One stamp of a set of 3.

Issued 19th April, 2010 Celebrating 100th Anniversary of Girlguiding..



Mafeking's Postmaster JV Howat

Amongst the Scout stamp collecting fraternity who take an interest in the Mafeking issues, there will be some who will know that JV Howat was Mafeking's Postmaster at the time of the Siege. (I have met Scouting philatelists, and even competition organisers, who have no interest in Mafeking issues, even though two of the stamps have the same photographic portrait of B-P. They claim they do not belong in Scouting collections as Scouting had yet to be founded at the time of the Siege!) Not only was Howat the member of Baden-Powell's staff who ran the Post Office, but he was also responsible for establishing telephone lines between B-P's HQ in the Market Square and the outlying forts. This is confirmed in the General Order of 21/10/1899. (Mafeking had an 8 mile perimeter observable from a considerable number of forts, though they were not all connected by trenches.) Besides his official role, like all Mafeking townsmen of serviceable age, Howat was a member of the Town Guard. The General Order of March 3rd 1900 stated that he had been awarded a special allowance of 2 shillings and 6 pence ...*in consideration of the very valuable work he has done under fire and under considerable strain.*



Caption for photograph on bottom of previous page

JV Howat (centre) at the 'Post Office Redan'. The 'bomb proof' was constructed by laying rails from the railway workshops across a hole, covering it over with sleepers and then a layer of earth. There were no fatalities amongst those taking cover in the 'bomb proofs', despite the Boer's massive 96lb 'Long Tom' gun. After a four hour bombardment B-P famously communicated with his high command, 'All's well, Four hours shelling, one dog killed.'

Unfortunately not much is known about Howat, who played such a leading role in Mafeking's postal history. Indeed, it was not until I was able to research an historic ledger from Mafeking's Standard Bank that carried the names and signatures of all its account holders during the Siege that I was able to discover that Howat's initials JV, stand for John Voltman.

The Mafeking Mail Siege Slip 114 issued on April 10th 1900 contained news that Mrs Howat (I think her initials were CJ) had that morning been 'safely delivered' of a baby girl, one of the few children to have been born in the town whilst the siege was ongoing. Mrs Howat's presence in Mafeking was much against Baden-Powell's advice as he tried (but with only partial success) to get all wives and children to leave on the last trains out before the siege commenced. According to 'The Philatelist' magazine 1978, both she and her husband would on occasion initial the back of stamps 'on piece' that were cancelled to order at the Post Office so that the townsfolk could obtain 'used' copies of the Siege stamps.

Though Howat was not responsible for the actual production of the blue stamps (that was the responsibility of Edward Ross, a Government Agent and one of the town's auctioneers), he was later to profess complete ignorance as to the mechanics of the operation. He was though clearly very familiar with both the overprinted and the three 'blue stamps' produced in the town by the ferro-prussiate method.



The size of these images will of course depend on how you are viewing them on your screen and they will be different again if you are looking at a hard copy of the bulletin. However the relative sizes of the small head to the large is correct and the size of the 'cyclist' stamp is the same size as that of the small head.

You will note that on both of the Baden-Powell stamps (above), B-P is looking to his left. In an article that Howat wrote for *The South African Philatelist* in September 1936 he reported that he first became aware of the very rare Baden-Powell 'reversed-head' 3d blue Mafeking stamp (B-P looking to his right) by reading an

article in the *London Philatelist* by JRF Turner entitled *The Romance of Baden-Powell*. In this article Turner provided 'a complete list' of Mafeking Issues. Just to make this clear, Howat was reporting that as the official in charge of the Post Office at the time of the Siege, he was completely unaware that he had had through his hands a sheet of twelve stamps that are now to be considered amongst the world's rarest.



Of particular interest to Howat was that three Baden-Powell stamps were listed, not just the two of which he was very aware, i.e. the Baden Powell 'small head' and the Baden-Powell 'large head'. Turner made it very clear that there were three different stamps by listing them underneath each other.

Baden-Powell Blue,
Baden-Powell Blue larger size,
Baden-Powell Blue head looking to the right.

Howat decided to reread his bound volume of the Mafeking Siege slips, 'Published Daily Shells Permitting' as he was aware that as the Siege was drawing to a close, residents used its columns to advertise that they had stamps for sale or wanted to purchase same. He found, in the Siege Slip of May 11th, just 6 days before the town was relieved, that an advertiser calling himself 'FY' had inserted the following advertisement.



STAMPS WANTED Imperial Brown on Salmon, or brick dust red surcharged British Bechuanaland and Mafeking -

(This issue, now classified as SG 15, is the most valuable of the overprinted stamps (varieties excepted). It is claimed that only one sheet of 240 stamps was produced - though there are numerous forgeries as just reproducing the overprinted words 'Mafeking Besieged' and British Bechuanaland on a standard

British postage stamp is not hard to achieve.)

The advert concluded ...

3d blue local head to right, state price, or will exchange for any other. (My bold emphasis)

As I have maintained my *Mafeking Siege Register* over many years listing the European inhabitants along with details taken from every source possible (and also any philatelic items sent either to them or by them during the siege), I am confident that there was nobody in the town with these initials. It was though quite usual for

letter writers, contributors and advertisers to use pseudonyms. Howat had found what he was looking for, confirmation that a blue stamp with B-P looking to the right existed. He realised, as did the advertiser FY, such stamps were of great rarity.

The ex-Postmaster started to look avidly at all sources of Mafeking stamps to see if he could locate a 'reversed head'. In 1936 (the year of his South African Philatelist article) Howat was in London and called on the philatelic auction houses that might have Mafeking Blue stamps on offer. Plumridges in Chancery Lane had had a recent sale including some blue stamps. They informed Howat that this would also be the case in their next Auction.

Howat received the catalogue but, because he was unable to attend the auction, he asked if he might inspect the lots he was interested in at his home address. Perhaps because they were aware of his Mafeking connections they quite amazingly, agreed to do so. Howat was shaken to discover that in a lot of eight blue stamps - one had B-P facing right with a beautifully April 30th 1900 postmark. Neither by the vendor or the auction house, however and done to mark this stamp as being of any special significance. Howat now faced a considerable dilemma, did he alert the auction house to the importance of the stamp by submitting a very high bid, or risk losing it by only bidding to the value of the normal issues? (A third option existed but it is to Howat's great credit that it didn't appear to cross his mind. As he believed that he was the only person in London aware of the existence of right-facing B-P stamps, he could easily have swapped it for a normal one!). He came to a conclusion that he thought would serve. He instructed Plumsteads to purchase on his behalf a large number of Mafeking stamps with the single instruction that they were to keep going until he won (I have been at auctions where this has happened- it is great fun if two such buyers give the same instruction to two different agents!) His ruse succeeded beyond all his expectations because amongst the stamps purchased were other minor rarities that were knocked down to him at a cheaper price than their then current market value. What of the reversed head? Well, he had to pay £2 10s for all eight Baden-Powell blue stamps in the lot!

The last 'reversed head', a used example, was auctioned in 2010 making £34,000. There are no records of a mint example being sold in recent times. Other than the one in the Royal Collection, only two are known so if one came up for sale, it could be expected to make in excess of £60,000.

It is now known that there was only one sheet of twelve 'reversed heads', accidentally printed by the careless act of reversing the photographic negative when the stamps were printed. To date only ten of these stamps have been located seven of them used. These ten stamps are then amongst the rarest in the world. (I am informed that we

have three members of our club fortunate to have a reversed head in their collection!)



Both mint and used examples are to be found in the Royal Collection

Howat's Queen's South African Medal with its Defence of Mafeking bar is in the collection of Chris Gillett, to whom I am very grateful for these excellent photos. The specimen signature is from the Giovanna Cucchiani Mafeking collection.



This interesting cover was sent to Howat as the 'Ober Post Meister' in Mafeking, whilst the siege was ongoing, from a train in Germany. We know this from the Zug (German for train) Bahnhof postmark. On the reverse of the cover was sender's return address, who no doubt wanted to purchase Mafeking stamps. He

would have been out of luck, as his mail did not reach the town until after its relief, by which time all the blue and overprinted stamps had sold out. Amongst Howat's more unpleasant duties after the siege would have been returning mail addressed to soldiers who had been killed in the Siege. I have a cover addressed to Trooper Armstrong, British South Africa Police, postmarked May 8th which was received in Mafeking on August 10th 1900 and returned to the sender in Newcastle Upon

Tyne with the single word 'Deceased' written in red across its front. Armstrong died of typhoid on February 13th 1900.



Howat is standing second from our right. Seated is B-P in his forage hat (he did not have his wide awake hat in Mafeking). Next to him is Lord Edward Cecil his Chief Staff Officer, son of the serving Prime Minister Lord Salisbury, and then Capt Wilson, married to Lady Sarah Churchill, Winston Churchill's aunt also in Mafeking. Standing 2nd from right is Lt Ronnie Moncrieffe i/c Mafeking Cadets.

I have only a few copies left of my 615 A4 page *Mafeking Siege Slips*. The book is complete with 50 photographs taken from the contemporary Taylor's *Souvenir of Mafeking* photographic album together with my commentary. These are available to members at £35.00 each plus postage. My *Mafeking Siege Register* is now out of print but a new edition is planned, with several hundred updated records, at the original price of £25.00. Please let me know if you are interested in obtaining a copy at scouting.milestones@btinternet.co.uk

SCOUT & GUIDE STAMPS CLUB

Club Website: www.sgsc.org.uk

President: Peter Duck

9 Broadlands Court, Kew Gardens Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3HW
(Tel: 020 8948 5617)
e-mail:- peterjduck@hotmail.co.uk

Honorary Vice President: John Ineson

Highfields Farm. Bures, Suffolk. CO8 5BN (Tel: 01787 227136)
e-mail: jpineson@aol.com

Chairman & Junior Section: Melvyn Gallagher

47 Sycamore Avenue, Upminster, Essex RM14 2HR (Tel: 01708-224167)
Mobile: 07815 730387 e-mail:- mgallagher@mgnnet.freemove.co.uk

Vice-Chairman: Bernard Tewksbury

11 Claypits Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex. CM3 3BZ (Tel: 01245 468835)

Editor & Treasurer: Terry Simister

1 Falcon Way, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 8AY (Tel: 01245-251190)
e-mail:- terry.simister@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary: Graham Osborne

3 Camberry Close, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 3AG (Tel: 01256-328831)
e-mail:- camberry@tiscali.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Tim Reed

10, Falconwood Close, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 1TB (Tel: 01425-650961)
e-mail:- tim.p.reed@btinternet.com

Committee Members:

Randall Frank, Bob Lee

Web Master:

Randall Frank, Box 7638 Newport Beach, California 92658, USA.

e-mail:- rfrank@sossi.org

A further selection of Margaret Davidson's photos of Ranger Guides to compliment her article on their Centenary which is in this issue.



Camping at Crossrigg, which was a local campsite.

Marching back to the Guide Hut from Church Parade.



The Downland Joint Unit, was a combination of the Rangers (Old Coulsdon District Land Ranger Unit and 17th Purley Venture Scouts). This was the dedication of their Flag. At the time they were very active. Sadly we do not have a Ranger Unit, I don't know about the Venture Scouts.