

Scout and Guide Stamps Club

BULLETIN

Volume 61 No. 1 (Whole No. 347)



See Peter Duck's article on page 9

SPRING 2017



Editorial

So here we are in 2017 and it really doesn't seem like 10 years since the World Jamboree was in Chelmsford and 7 years since we hosted EuroScout. They do say that the days go by so much quicker as you get older and I am starting to believe that it's true. Add to the general situation that Betty and I will have been married for 50 years on 24th June this year and if the days are going quicker I really don't know where they have gone!

There has been an increase in correspondence regarding the possible merger of SGSC and IBC which I find most satisfying as it does indicate that some people do care about the future. I'm afraid that there hasn't been any progress as we have sent a lot of details to IBC and are awaiting the result of a recent Committee Meeting.

As soon as there is any news we will let you all know.

Terry Simister

Our Secretary has received a request for assistance from somebody who is not actually interested in Scout or Guide matters and I am including this below just in case anyone can help.

*I am a collector of old postcards of topic **TABLE TENNIS /PING PONG /WHIFF WHAFF /PLIM PLAM** etc.*

Maybe there exist some members in your club which collect same or similar.

We can swap, buy/sell, etc.

Waiting for your comment !

Best regards,

Christian Klaus

Schwechatstrasse 33

A-2514 Traiskirchen/Austria

FUTURE COPY DATE

May 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, subject to hire costs. Known dates:

10th June,2017 AGM on Lord Amory at Docklands - full details to follow.

16th September, 2017 - Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London. N1 0QH. We hope for a Room to be booked for 12 noon to 14.00. Probably Committee Meeting from 12 noon to 13.00 and Open/Members meeting from 13.00 to 14.00. Confirmation will be in next Bulletin.

Chairman's Notes

by Melvyn Gallagher

The "Spring Stampex" was an excellent show with many more interesting display frames than in recent years as well as the stands of dealers, auctioneers and post offices with activities for young collectors too.

At our Club's meeting we too were treated to displays from Peter Duck comprising Scout philately from Yugoslavia and Imperial Russia where Scouting flourished with the approval of the Czar before the Revolution. John Ineson brought along a large collection of Mafeking Siege printed ephemera and it is surprising to see just how much material has survived. No doubt many items were kept as souvenirs by those involved and treasured as such.

John reminded us all that 2017 sees the 60th anniversary of our Club formed after the 1957 World Jamboree and showed us his original membership card and other Club items including Bulletins from 1962 in which were advertised Mafeking 1d cyclist used stamps for £6, happy days!

Our editor would love to hear from any other original members out there who may have tales of the early days.

Once again our A.G.M will be held on board the Scout training ship the "Lord Amory" and we are planning to put on some displays for the many youngsters and Leaders expected to be there and promote the Club, we hope to see you there.

A new year of subscriptions will start on 1st April, 2017 and the Committee hope that everyone will wish to continue with the Club and will make their payments, which remain unaltered yet again, to the Membership Secretary as soon as possible. **Subs Cheques, Postal Orders or Money Orders should be made payable to "Scout and Guide Stamps Club"** and sent to Tim Reed at 10 Falconwood Close, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP16 1TB, England.

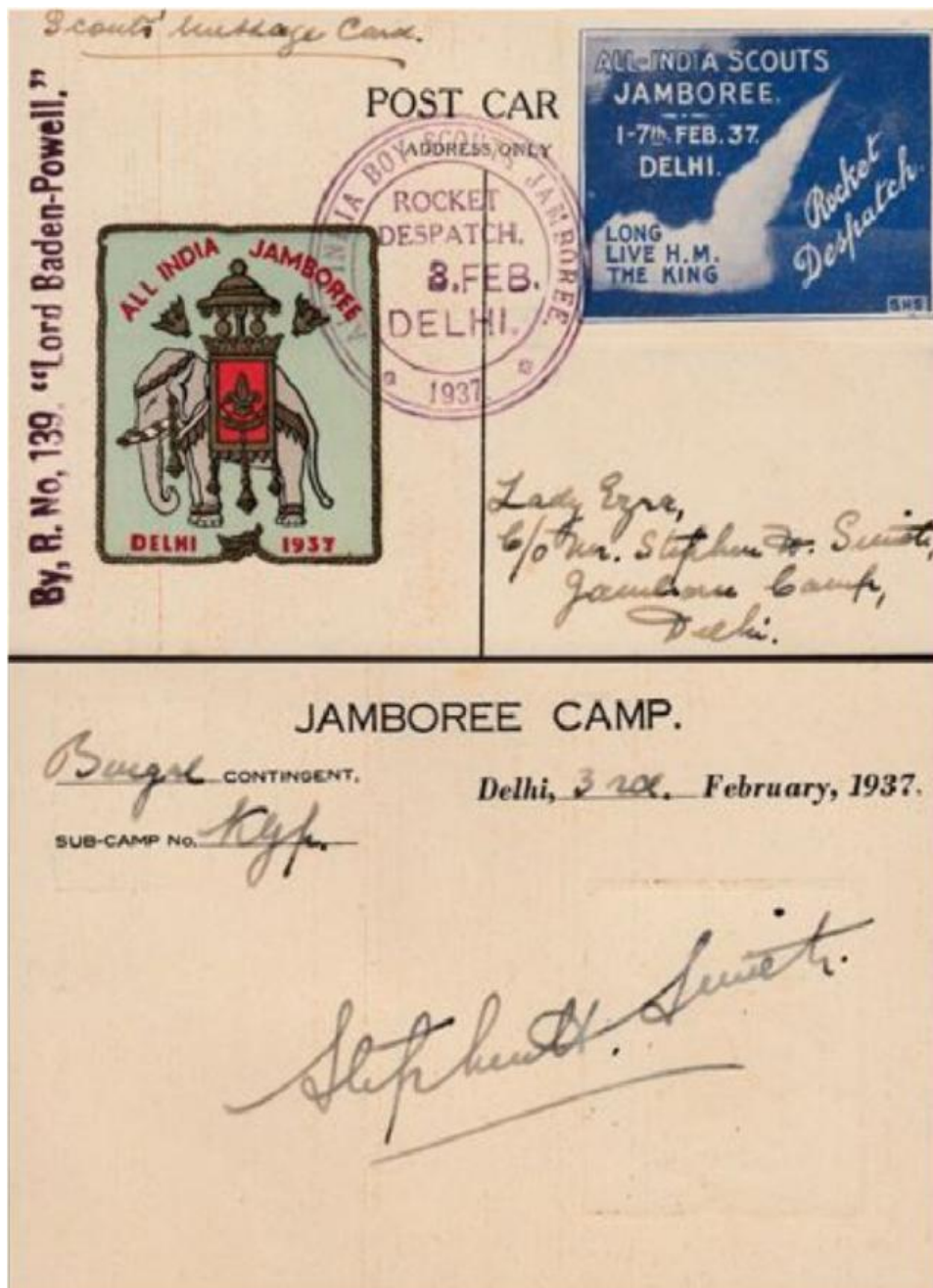
TYPE	POSTAL SERVICE		ELECTRONIC SERVICE	
	1 YEAR	5 YEARS	1 YEAR	5 YEARS
UK INDIVIDUALS AND SECTIONS	£18	£85	£12	£55
EUROPE AIRMAIL	£21	£100	£12	£55
REST OF WORLD AIRMAIL	£26	£125	£12	£55
JUNIORS ALL WORLD	£6	NOT AVAILABLE	£5	NOT AVAILABLE

An interesting auction held by "Romano House of Stamp Sales Ltd", took place in Israel in early December and amongst the many items on sale were over 20 lots of Scout Rocket Mail. Most of the covers were sent to a Lady Ezra who must have been a close friend of Stephen H. Smith, who at that time was the Secretary of the Indian Air Mail Society. He was the organiser of the Rocket Mail which carried covers and many other paper items sent at the All-India Boy



Scout Jamboree held at Delhi in February 1937, and at the Girl Guide Rally at Bengal a month later. Both events were attended by Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, and Girl Guide Rocket No. 7 was fired by Lady Baden-Powell. A very good account of the Rocket Mail was published in Gordon Entwistle's book "Boy Scout & Girl, Guide Stamps of the World" and published in 1957. (This book can often be found on eBay for less than £5.00). This was a live auction by internet only, so you had the chance to bid early online or wait until the last few seconds at Israel Local Time of 00.00.00 (in other words at midnight on 1 December). As bids arrived they were updated on their website and were in US dollars, but there were some strange activities with the bidding. Amongst the

lots were two of the very scarce Girl Guide covers (shown here) which at an hour or so before the auction ended, stood at US\$ 4500 (£3600) but finally sold for US\$ 2700 (about £2160). It is difficult to guess what was happening, but once the bid stood at US\$ 4500 most people would have dropped out. I have my own thoughts what happened, but cannot prove them!! The same thing happened to one other lot, so it was a little "fishy". The postcard shown sent by Rocket R.139 Lord Baden-Powell sold for US\$ 450 (£360) but as with all lots, there was a 20% buyers premium, which brought the price, even with postage, to somewhat less than the usual market price for rocket mail.



Something a little different to report this time are items with the “wrong” stamps.

Occasionally, stamps appear with postmarks from the wrong country, or are outdated stamps used by accident or design. I have not located too many items, although a few of which have been produced by myself in the past! Sometimes, these were done in an effort to obtain postally used stamps from countries where only mint stamps and/or first day covers seemed to exist.

One of my earliest efforts was to get the Nicaragua 1949 Baseball Championships 2c Scout value used on envelope with a 3d G.B. stamp in 1965 – it worked!

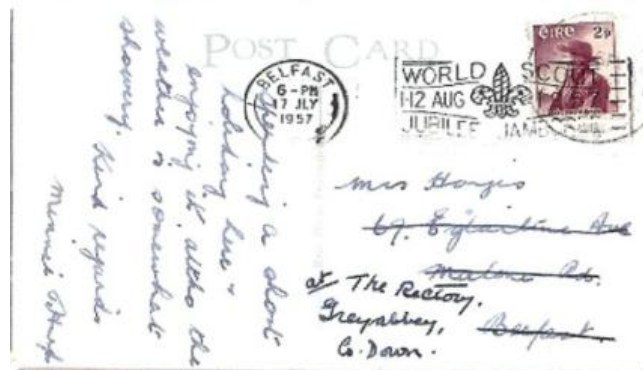
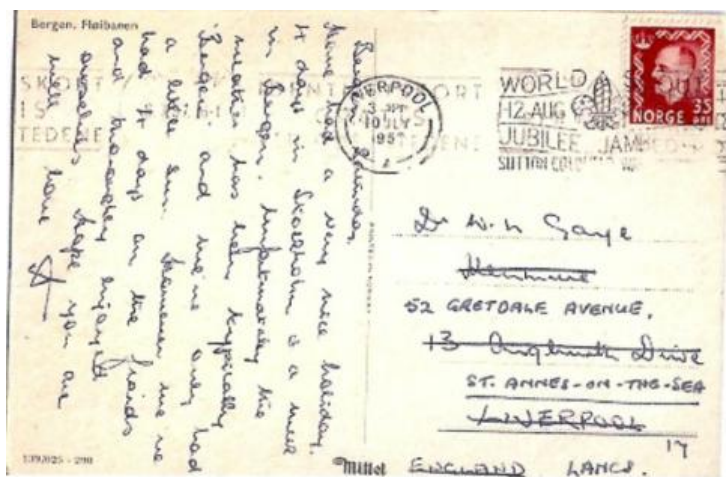


In the 1960's, I used to send stamped addressed envelopes to British Embassies in various countries in an endeavour to obtain really used Scout stamps from nations where the stamps were considered a bit obscure or perhaps “dodgy” philatelically speaking. One such envelope was sent to the Central African Republic with their first Scout set of 1965, and the item was returned to me as there was no British Embassy in Bangui. Consequently, I had an envelope with two C.A.R. stamps on, which was more-or-less useless for my collection. But, as it so happened, I had moved house a little earlier, so I re-addressed the letter, and ended up with a nice cover with Central African Republic stamps with Chiswick, W.4. Postmark!

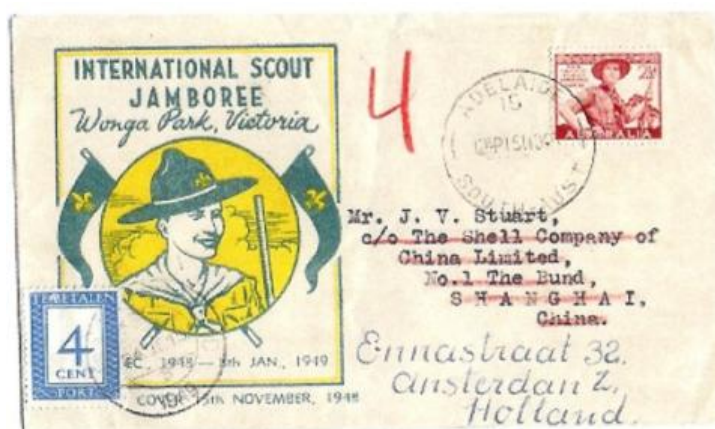


A cover that I didn't produce was an envelope bearing the New Zealand 1953 Girl Guides Health stamp, posted on 27 Dec.1953 from Ilford & Barking, Essex to Cheshire. When people move, mail is usually forwarded, and I have a postcard with Norwegian stamp bearing the World Scout Jubilee Jamboree slogan from

Liverpool. Similarly, a postcard with Irish stamp bearing the Belfast Jubilee Jamboree slogan.



A postcard which had been sent from Denmark to Australia in 1948 was forwarded during the period of use of the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree slogan postmark in Melbourne (See Front Cover). Unusually, I have a first day cover of the Pan-Pacific

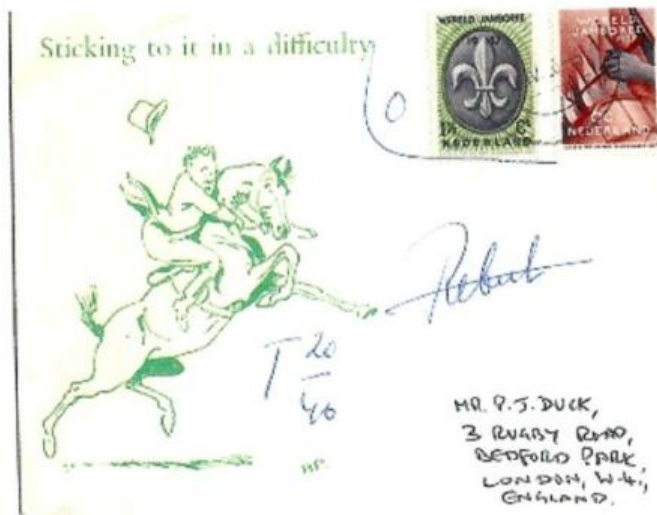


Jamboree 1948 stamp posted to Shanghai in China, then forwarded to Amsterdam and carrying a Dutch Postage Due stamp of 4c. Another, possibly unique FDC of this issue was sent to Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel and bears a Lundy 1 Puffin stamp for local delivery. Envelopes also exist carrying this stamp with Papua New Guinea postmarks, as Australian stamps were used in the Territory until 1952.

The stamps issued in the Netherlands for the 5th World Jamboree were only



valid until 31st December 1937. An envelope posted at Putten on 8.VIII.1944 carries the 12 1/2 c. Jamboree stamp. But as the country was under Nazi occupation at the time, it can



be presumed that the stamps were not checked. For one of my efforts in 1966, I arranged for a card to be posted with the 1 ½ and 6c Jamboree stamps. The stamps were cancelled and a line with circle was inscribed around them. This indicates that the stamps were no longer valid, although no postage due was applied.

During the Jamboree itself, an underpaid letter was received by a member of the British Contingent. Postage due was applied and the postmark neatly cancels the 2 x 1d King Edward VIII stamps. On 5.VIII.1937 an envelope was sent



to Belgium bearing both the Netherlands and Netherlands Indies sets of stamps – the only one I have seen.

Returning to the Jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield in 1957, the stamps ceased to be valid when Great Britain changed to decimal currency in 1971. Although, technically they could be used until 29th February 1972. I have a couple of envelopes used with invalidated 1957 stamps, one of which was sent to me at the 14th World Jamboree in Norway in 1975.

A special postmark was used at Windsor on 29th February 1972, which was the last day of validity of all pre-decimal G.B. stamps. I sent myself three covers, but being the naughty (!) person I am, I included on the covers the overprinted stamps for Bahrain, Muscat and Qatar. I thought it might be possible that the NP values on the stamps might be interpreted as “New Pence”. The Post Office were probably handling so many covers at the time that they didn't study the stamps being postmarked.

At the time of issue, the overprinted stamps were valid in all the areas of Bahrain, Qatar and Muscat (British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia), also in Kuwait whose



stamps were withdrawn. I have envelopes with Bahrain stamps posted in Kuwait, also Muscat and Qatar stamps posted in Bahrain.

First day covers from 1960 and 1962 for the Scout stamps of U.S.A. are known with both U.S.A. and Canal Zone Boy and Girl Scouts stamps affixed, with either Washington, D.C. or Burlington, Vermont postmarks.

Finally, at Christmas 2016, I received a card from U.S.A. which somehow had been printed with the new CUBS slogan postmark from G.B.

Possible SGSC and IBC Merger

Further letters have been arriving on this subject - all with very valid points for consideration.

1. From Paul van Herpt

My two bob's worth on the merger issue. It doesn't have to be published as far as I'm concerned, it is more to assist the committee.

In general terms I'm not opposed to a merger as both have a level of commonality being Scouting, but I have always found philatelists not concentrating on a single country which badge collectors tend to do. Probably this is caused by a lot of countries only having 1 or 2 stamp issues and limited numbers of postmarks, while in badges a single country collection can still be very extensive particularly if they go into varieties.

2. From Fredy Scherb

"I understand that "merger" means that the SGSC would be integrated into the Badgers Club. And this would mean that SGSC would give up to exist as a society, lose its independence and the philatelic identity of the actual Club. What about future membership of the actual SGSC within IFSCO? Would the Badgers Club agree to adapt the name to "Scout & Guide Philatelic + Badgers Club"? The Badgers Club has no philatelic background and probably wouldn't care about it.

I suppose that the SGSC isn't a member of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). Some or most of our Clubs within IFSCO are members in the National Associations of Philatelic Societies and profit from the various services such as frames or insurance for exhibitions, the national monthly bulletins and the possibility to participate in local, regional and national exhibitions.

Is the situation of SGSC really so serious to think about this merger?"

Response to Fredy - Peter Duck has passed me a copy of your e-mail on this subject so that I can include it with others on the same subject in the next Bulletin.

However I would also like to just explain to you some of the matters which are incorrect in your e-mail.

Firstly a "merger" does not mean that one of the bodies absorbs the other but that the two join together and continue, probably under a new combined name - such as "The Scout and Guide Collectors Club".

Secondly, each of the bodies would continue with its own sub-identity, although both would give up their individual status and, in the case of SGSC, the philatelic identity would be maintained within the new Club - we have already said that we would wish to remain in membership of IFSCO. Please remember that it was IBC who approached us on the subject of a merger not us approaching them.

You are correct that SGSC is not a member of ABPS but we are a member of the BTA (The British Thematic Association).

The reasons that we are considering the IBC approach, other than out of courtesy, is that our membership is steadily falling - now down to approximately 200 - and, unless we get a financial windfall, if we continue on the existing basis of income and expenditure then we will run out of funds in the early months of 2019.

Please rest assured that when some proposals have been made then we will put them all to the membership for consideration before taking any action. There will be several more letters on the subject in the Spring Bulletin.

3. From Colin Walker

Shall we stay or shall we go? (This article has also been accepted for publication in the IBC Sett).

No sooner had the nation learnt the news of the referendum result then I was motivated to consider the next great dilemma on which we will be asked to ponder. I refer of course to last year's news that members of the Scout and Guide Stamps Club and the International Badgers Club are considering a merger.

I should say from the outset that I have a vested interest in that I have been a very keen member of both clubs over the last 15 years. In July 2008, (where does time go?) I was commissioned to write a regular article for the SGSC Bulletin, encouraging members to look not just to their stamp collections when depicting Scout themes, but include other ephemera such as postcards, cigarette cards, photos, posters, and yes badges. None of the above, of course, makes my vote any more valid than anybody else's, but my membership of both clubs has perhaps given me certain insights that I would like to share.

Both clubs have a great deal in common, our greatest bond being, of course, that we are all members of the Scout/Guide Movement. The two clubs cover various forms

of collecting, mainly using historic/obsolete material from our Scouting Heritage. A Martian freshly arrived on the planet might conclude that one 'tribe' collects bits of paper with printed Scouting designs, the other very similar designs on cloth and metal, all of which are swapped or cost good money. Members of both tribes store their finds, often in albums and display them sometimes publicly. The very titles of their collections are often identical e.g. 'World Jamborees' or relate to Scouting in particular countries.

Both clubs have magazines, the editors of which regularly send out very similar pleas to their members to supply articles which sadly these days seem in very short supply.

Both clubs have members in common such as myself, but a surprising number have at least some examples from the other camp in their collections. Last year at EuroScout, the two yearly meeting of European Scout and Guide stamp clubs plus the American SOSSI, (Scouts on Stamps Society International), the highlight of the philatelic exhibition was the Walter Grob Award. The award founded in 2014, in memory of a prominent Swiss Scouting philatelist, is competed for at every EuroScout event. Entries of 12 to 16 sheets are submitted on any Scouting subject or theme. Interestingly, the rules demand that judges should not be prejudiced by the value or rarity of the items being exhibited, but must take into account the development of the Scouting theme, which may use other ephemera/artefacts as well as stamps. This combination of subject matter is now described as 'Open Philately'.

The award comprises of a certificate and 500 Swiss Francs (very rarely do philatelic competitions offer a cash prizes). The 2016 winner was Hubert Schnabl from Austria whose exhibit ably demonstrated my premise in that he selected several national and international Scouting events and illustrated these with stamps, postcards, cloth badges, metal badges, handbills, letterheads, etc; all combining to make a very interesting, colourful and informative display.

Dare I suggest that a union of both clubs would bring together skills and attributes from which both sides might benefit? The philatelists are past masters at developing a topic or theme. The care spent on research, 'writing up' and display is staggering. The Badgers Club already have a network of regional meetings and do not suffer from the 'Londoncentricity' that afflicts the philatelists. Joint meetings would of course cure this problem.

The EuroScout events are held each time in a different member country, usually in conjunction with the World Scout Collectors' Meeting, or if not a smaller but integral collectors' mart, where of course all types of Scouting artefacts are on offer to a wide range of collectors. Last year in Vienna the Badgers Club was well represented by

Mike Gosling, Bob Bailey and Peter Ford who all had stalls. Both collecting fraternities, I feel, benefit immensely from these shared events.

Both clubs however have declining memberships and an ever-rising average age. I am not privy to the actual statistics but, in good referendum style, I am not above surmising. Average ages in both clubs will be in excess of that required to receive the national old-age pension! The option of remaining 'as is' then will surely ultimately result in the demise of both clubs. The first signs are already visible as it is increasingly difficult to fill key roles such as magazine editor and other club officers.

On a selfish, but practical level, members of both clubs have built up valuable collections, investing funds secure in the knowledge that their asset could always be liquidated come 'a rainy day'. Without young informed collectors however will the market for Scouting 'collectables' always be as strong?

Both clubs are subject to rising costs, particularly for venues not least that of Gilwell. In an age where members independently 'trade' on the internet without subscription, any increase in club membership costs would not be helpful. A single larger club would allow for a reduction in membership fees as expenses would only be required to fund one magazine, committee, AGM etc.

We all surely want the same thing, to pass on, as others have before us, an appreciation of the 'cultural' (if not financial) value of our collections along with the importance of making friendships in Scouting? We are all part of the world's greatest youth movement and as 'elder statesmen' we surely have a duty to look to the needs of the rising generations, to maintain a strong group of knowledgeable collectors intent on preserving our Scouting heritage that will survive long into the future.

I am strongly in favour of merger, but I know that many members hold the opposite view. I would be very interested to hear all the arguments to give a better understanding of the consequences of this important debate.

4. From Sandy Kerr

I write in support of the views expressed by Lawrence Clay in Volume 60 (3) of the magazine. His conclusion that a merger will not solve the problems facing the club is spot on. What we need is an honest review of the problems, their causes and possible solutions. In doing so, I recognise that a) I joined the Club when I was over 70 so have not been involved for most of my time, b) compared to those who currently

lead the Club, I am a novice in most aspects of serious Scout Philately and c) I live so far from London as to make me of little help in doing things for the Club. Anyone involved in Scouting will be aware of the first charge on taking up an appointment- “your first duty is to find your successor”! Easily said. Not so easily done when we have a committee with such eminent people. Who would dare to succeed them?

It would be helpful to have an indication of the profile of our membership. A basic split between overseas and UK would be a help. An analysis of the spread of UK membership would also help. Beyond that, we need to develop a succession plan for the office-bearers and the committee and then a development plan for the Club.

On succession planning, maybe we just start by seeking one new person and ask the longest serving member of committee to step down – hopefully while remaining willing to help out or to mentor an incoming member. On the forward planning side perhaps we need to start with recruitment and the ways of achieving that. One key plank in my view would be ensuring we are attractive and friendly to new members. Might it be possible to try and engender informal regional meetings? Could individuals be targeted to lead that process? Happy to help in a Scottish context. The second plank would be developing a positive relationship with the Scout Association as our existence and activities are never mentioned in their publications. Scouting magazine now goes to all leaders and office-bearers for free. What a fantastic recruitment opportunity. How about a short non-technical item about the recent Jamboree stamps?

The Club has much to be proud of and the need to change is one that many organisations have faced up to very successfully. Surely, with our Scouting background, we can find a way around the current difficulties without depending on others.

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Advert

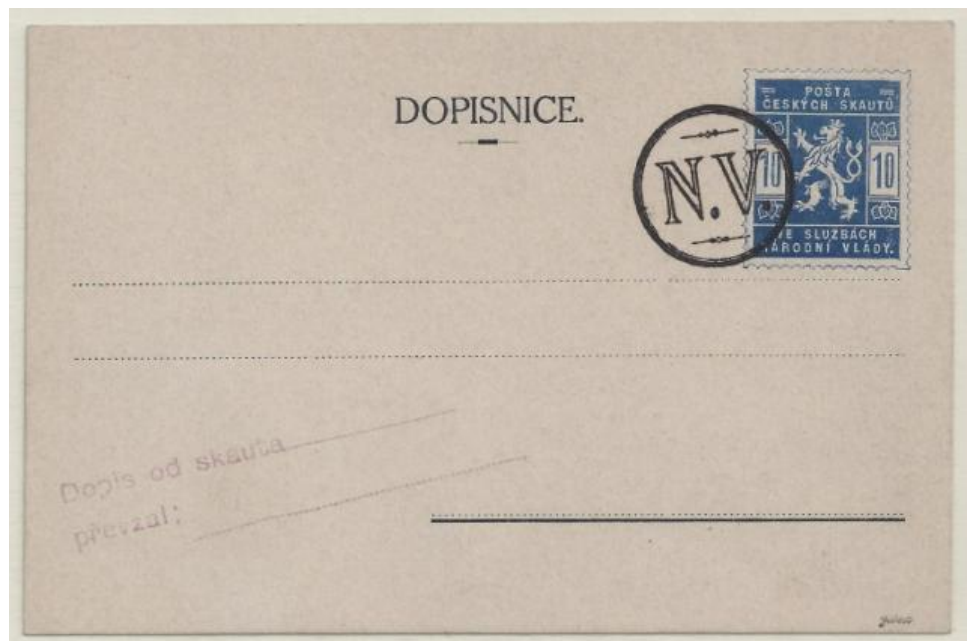
From John Ineson - I would like to purchase the following Polish cancels on cover or postcard. 1932 Charzkowo, 1932 Garczyn and 1937 Wilno. If you can offer, please send a scan and price required.

John Ineson at jpineson@aol.com

The Winter 2016 issue of the *SGSC Bulletin* is now at hand here in the United States. I would like to briefly expand on some of the comments made by two of the contributors.

In his “John’s Jottings” our former Chairman and President John Ineson reported on the auction sale in Prague of a post card from the 1918 Czech Scout Post, which “was not addressed and did not have a message on the reverse, so not so collectable.” Closely related to this card, and in my opinion highly collectable, are the precancelled post cards, which were prepared in the Scout Post operations centre in the National Council offices in the Harrachov Palace to facilitate dispatch of Scouts with messages or to collect telegrams. An

adult Scout leader wrote the name of the agency or office on a precancelled post card, the name of the Scout to be dispatched on the first line of the “Dopis od skauta ... prevzal: ...” (Delivery by Scout ... received: ...) handstamp, and a message on the back. The Scout presented the post card and his Scout Post identification card at the agency or office, to



authenticate the message as being from the National Council provisional government. These precancelled post cards of the Scout Post were the first Scouts on stamps precancels.

In his “Colin’s Corner” Scout Historian Colin Walker reported on our member Hallvard Slettebo’s afternoon display at the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) on October 26, 2016. Unfortunately, personal and professional obligations prevented my attending, though I would have very much wished to have been present. Colin noted that Hallvard is a Fellow of the RPSL (FRPSL), and very courteously and thoughtfully mentioned that our former Chairman and President John Ineson and I are both also Fellows.

From Hallvard’s display Colin first illustrated one of the today-reported four April 9, 1900 first day covers of the small format Baden-Powell head Mafeking siege photographic or “blueprint” (“blue”) stamp. April 9 (Monday) is considered the

official first day, based on an announcement by the Postmaster, J. V. Howat, which appeared in the April 7 (Saturday) issue of *The Mafeking Mail*, the daily Special Siege Slip. Until 1979, April 7 was considered the unofficial first day of use. In 1979



I discovered the first stamp cancelled on April 6 (Friday). Today, at least five examples are reported, either on or off piece, but unfortunately none on cover. That the stamps cancelled on April 6 were neither cancelled on April 9 with the “9” inverted, nor cancelled on April 16 or 26 with the leading “1” or “2” missing, is discussed in detail in the Autumn 1983 and Spring 1984 issues of *The Anglo Boer War Philatelist*, the journal of the Anglo-Boer Philatelic Society (ABWPS).



Another of the four April 9, 1900 first day covers is addressed to Trooper H. D. Reid, Cape Police, Maxim Fort, Western Outposts. According to Dr. Freund, the Western Outposts were postal service zone 6 for mail delivery by the Mafeking Cadet Bicycle Corps. This cover was formerly in the collection of the late Judge Sheldon Levy in New York

City, who was a well-known Scouts on stamps collector.



Colin then illustrated a December 21, 1918 telegram of the Czech Scout Post franked with an “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprinted stamp, and stated that “on that day eight telegrams were sent out, ...” In fact, there are eight telegrams reported with 20h red stamps

with black “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprints, and two telegrams reported with 10h blue stamps with red “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprints, all posted on the day of President Masaryk’s arrival by train in Prague, December 21, 1918. In my opinion, of the two telegrams with 10h “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprints, the more interesting is a handwritten message on a telegraph form by Josef Roessler-Orovsky, the President of the Czech Scout Association (Junak) and the organizer of the 1918 Czech Scout Post, with instructions for Scouts to assemble

later that day at the Wilson Station for the arrival of President Masaryk by train. (Illustration 5 on back cover) The other telegram with a 10h “Arrival of President Masaryk” overprint is in an international large gold medal exhibit of Czechoslovakia, currently located in the Czech Republic.

Colin then illustrated a miniature RSVP reply envelope, horizontal format, franked with a 1920 Siam “Scout’s Fund” 5s+5s Type II overprint. The Type II overprints were a split issue. The first five values, not including the 5s+5s, were produced and sold in early 1920, probably beginning in late January or February. The source stamp for the sixth and last value, the 5s+5s, was part of the 1920-1921 King Rama VI definitive series, and was not issued until March 11, 1920. The miniature RSVP reply envelopes were included in invitations from King Rama VI to members of the royalty to attend a fundraiser for the Wild Tiger Scouts Corps, which included the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides as components. Modern-day Siam/Thailand specialists believe that the 5s+5s Type II overprints were produced specifically for these invitations and the replies from the invitees. Several of these miniature RSVP reply envelopes are reported today, but to date no outer mailing envelope, which would have contained both an invitation and a stamped miniature RSVP reply envelope, has been reported, so it’s not known for sure, if the 5s+5s Type II overprints were also used to frank the outer mailing envelopes, as is suspected. These miniature RSVP reply envelopes are also reported in vertical format. (Illustration 6 on back cover).

If I might be so presumptuous to take this opportunity for a shameless plug ... Our Webmaster Randall Frank and I have compiled a CD of my 100 “The Classics Corner” columns which appeared in the *SOSSI Journal* of our sister society, the Scouts on Stamps Society International (SOSSI), from October 1994 through November/December 2012, and with copies of all the principal references (sources) from the philatelic literature about the Scouting on stamps “classics” issues [except for one, permission to reproduce which has not been granted by the copyright holder]. The CD is available for the cost of materials (US\$5) plus postage [by media mail to addresses in the US, but unfortunately only by air mail to addresses outside (per the United States Postal Service)]. Anyone interested in a CD may contact Randall through the SGSC web site or by email to rfrank@sossi.org, or me by email to ieconsulting@cox.net .

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL CONTAIN A NEW ISSUES LIST AND THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2016 AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF SHORTER ITEMS.

In 1989 Boreham was asked to join the East Essex Village Christmas Post scheme, along with approximately twenty other villages. Like today's Royal Mail the villages operated a two tier system. Postage at that time was 5p for delivery within our village and 10p for posting to the other villages.

The mail was collected 2 or 3 times a week from the 4 shops who not only sold the stamps, but were kind enough to have a post box as well. It was then taken to the scout headquarters where it was sorted into home (Boreham) and away (all other villages). The resident GSL had the job of cancelling the mail, while a couple of helpers then sorted into their roads for distribution. Two old ex kitchen cupboards, which had been adapted for the purpose, formed the pigeon holes for the respective roads. The Scout & Guide leaders on their meeting nights would then pass out the mail to the children for delivery.

Post travelling out of the village was taken to the main sorting office at Prances, our local scout camp site. Staff there would then sort the mail into the individual villages. Delivery and pick up was twice a week with monies changing hands as well as the post. Each village was responsible for passing on half of their "Stamp money" with the mail. The money travelled all the way with the post until both ended up at the receiving village, who then used to money for their own purposes. For Boreham, we found whilst the scheme was in operation, that twice as much mail came into the village, than ever left us.

Into the 21st century, some of the villages began to leave the scheme for various reasons. The main Sorting office at Prances Scout camp closed, and by approximately 2005 only a few villages were left to carry on their own postal service. This of course means that nowadays Boreham only delivers within its own village boundaries.

An incentive for the children to be involved has been running after the first couple of years. Every unit has the opportunity to design the stamp for the coming year. The winning entry is then used for the post and the winner is able to see their design in print as well as receiving a book token as a prize. Whilst this idea is very good for children's participation it has meant in several years, designs following the same sort of pattern. It has also meant that some of the stamps have received comments along the lines of "I could have done better than that", but the people concerned did not enter!

The post within the village nowadays is used to provide publicity and promote the uniformed organisations. Although no longer seen as a major fundraising scheme, while the post remains cost effective it is hoped to carry on for years to come.

So far the groups have only failed to deliver one card which came into the system several years ago, with just the number 11 on the envelope. With no name or Road name, it still sits in the pigeon hole year after year. Other recent problems have included 2 envelopes, one addressed to “Steve & Angie” and the other addressed to “Rose & George”, again without surname or address. These were eventually delivered by Royal Mail as our local knowledgeable post lady was able to work out the recipients, and delivered them for us.

The post of today is still sorted and cancelled at our new headquarters by volunteers and delivered by the children. We have found that some post can take days to arrive due to the fact some parents only allow their children to deliver at weekends (we can't let Johnny out on his own in the dark.)

As of this year, the Boreham Stamp Story, continues.



If you would like copies of any of the Boreham Christmas mails then please make contact with Bernard as per the details inside the back cover.

Brave Little Belgium and a discovery!

In the first edition of *The Scout* (August 15th 1914) following the declaration of WW1, Baden-Powell outlined, in the simplest of terms, the just cause of Britain's entry in the Great War.

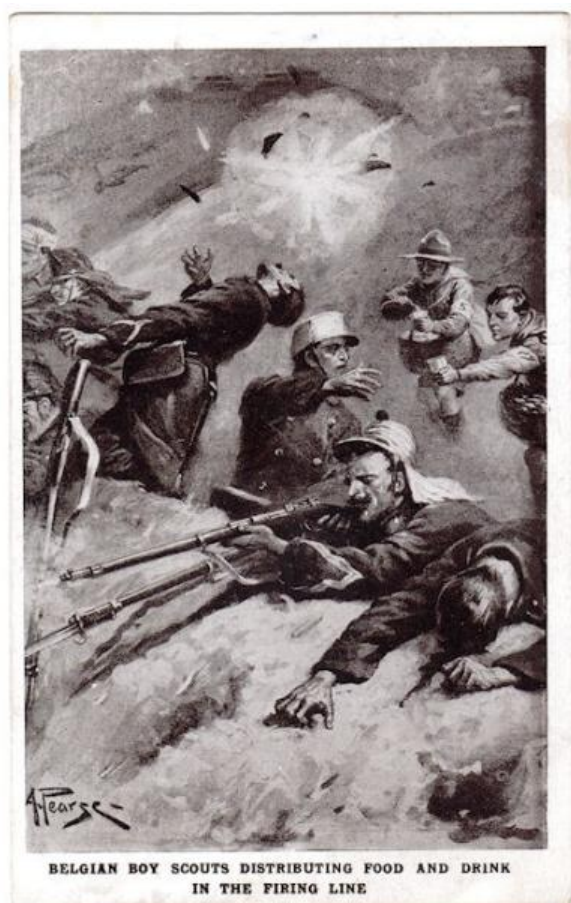
The British long ago made a promise that we would protect the small country of Belgium if war should arise between Germany and France, so we have been dragged into this huge conflict when really the original question of which they (Germany and France) are quarrelling has nothing what so ever to do with us.

The German invasion, not surprisingly, immediately resulted in many thousands of Belgians fleeing across the channel. The British nation as you would expect opened up their hearts and their homes to the escapees, and it was not long before British Boy Scouts at local level were 'mobilised', not only to respond to their other many war duties* but also to assist in re-housing the refugees.

Hertfordshire, for example, just six days after the declaration of war opened its St Albans' Scout Office as a 'clearing house' to service requests for Scout assistance in the emergency. The official log book records that a Mrs Beal required services of a trek cart party to move furniture to assist the re-housing of Belgium Refugees.

Taunton and District Scouts held a 'Belgium Favour Day' selling little bows of ribbon in Belgium's national colours in aid of the refugees. Scouts across the nation were well aware that brother Scouts who had stayed behind in their homeland were fighting manfully against the enemy in a way that Scouts in Britain thankfully were never called upon to do.

Two postcards (at least) were published in Britain that illustrated their role and risks they undertook which sometimes resulted in fatalities. The card opposite has no publisher's mark but the reverse states: *Belgium Boy Scouts have shown remarkable pluck during the fighting in the trenches outside Liège. It can be seen that this is very dangerous work, and should be writing large in the roll of daring deeds in this war of wars.*



BELGIAN BOY SCOUTS DISTRIBUTING FOOD AND DRINK
IN THE FIRING LINE

The postcard (right) was postally used on September 1st 1915. It is marked *The War Series No.1855. Printed in England. The Regent Publishing Company London N.W.* You will observe the front of the card features the image of, *A Boy Scout Hero Rene Castex ... who was in both Liège and Namur....* His Red Cross armband gives some indication of his work, but unfortunately I have been unable to find any other specific reference to Scout Castex.

The *Headquarters Gazette* of September 1914 carried a full page article mainly extracted from the Belgium correspondents of *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Express*. The article comments on the war work of the 4,500 Belgian Boy Scouts often in close proximity with the enemy. *The Times* Correspondent noted that Germans had disbanded Scouting in Liège. ... *on account no doubt of the number of German Spies they had tracked down.* This work had earned them the sobriquet *Enfants Terribles* amongst the enemy who had no hesitation in executing Scouts engaged in such work.



The *Daily Express* correspondent reported on a Boy Scout who *captured a German Cavalryman near Liège last week..*

On the following page is a very rare poster stamp issued early in WW1 depicting *Boy Scouts of Belgium who captured German Spies*. Our former Chairman John Ineson, whilst searching through back issues of this publication, discovered a very poor black and white image of this poster stamps (not that illustrated) in an article written by Bill Bourke in the March 1965 edition of this magazine. Bill was an Assistant Editor of *The Bulletin* and often contributed occasional notes to the magazine. He died in December 2005 and regrettably his considerable collection including a pair of stamps with a 1936 Northern Counties Jamboricee Darlington Cancel, some Mafeking Items and Baden-Powell sketches were destroyed in a fire at his former home four months after his death involving his former lodger, who confessed his actions to the police. He did not burn everything however as a dealer, a member of our club, Michael Berry of Healey and Wise bought some items which were known to be in the collection which were then auctioned. It is thought that poster stamp was one of many items which went up in smoke.

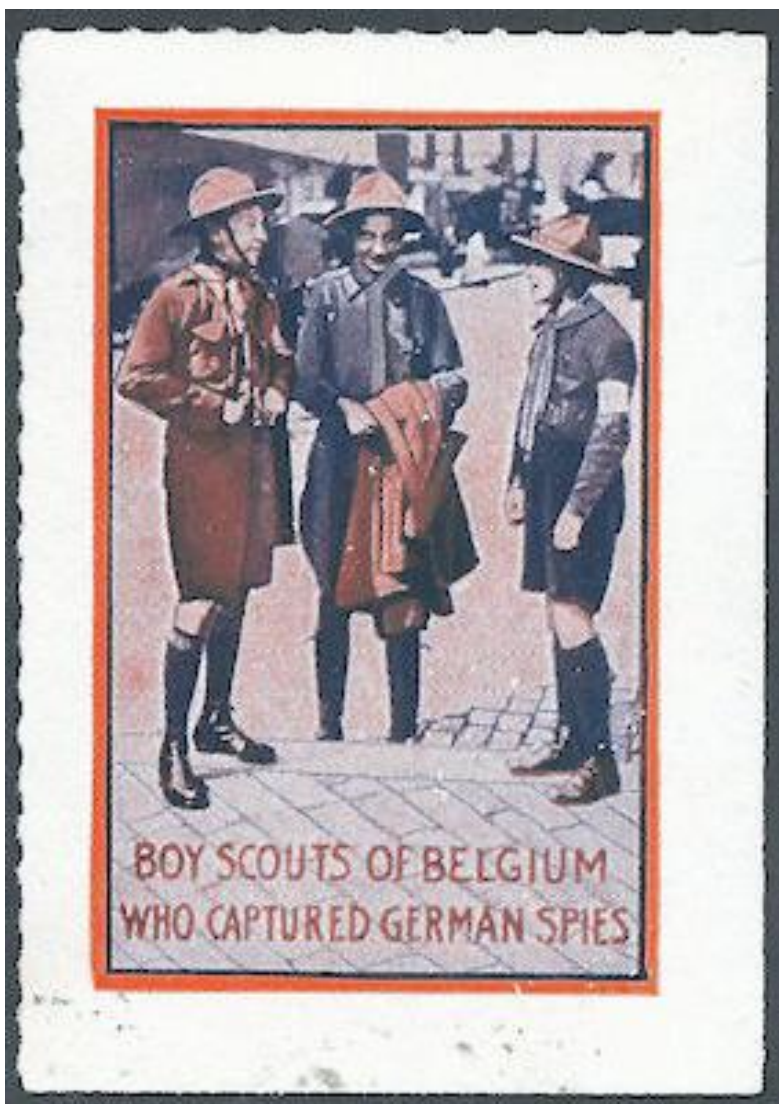
John, being aware of my long-term aim to publish a 'catalogue' of all British Scout Poster stamps up to 1957 kindly forwarded the image to me. Neither he nor I had ever seen this issue before. My dilemma was whilst it obviously amazing to find a rare addition to my catalogue, the quality of the image and its lack of colour meant that it was virtually impossible to reproduce to modern-day standards.

Obviously the item is not a 'one off' and there must, I reasoned, be others. I was able to source this coloured scan of an example in the collection of our member Peter Duck who, like John, has for many years been interested in this 'Cinderella' branch of our hobby. He too has never seen another example.

I had previously seen and scanned Peter's collection but not this issue, because as Peter explained, as the subject matter concerned Belgium he had filed it with other items from that country. However, it is very clear from its English title that it was published for the British market.

Bill Bourke was aware of the rarity of the item, and wrote that it might be the earliest ever poster stamp (I am sure it is not) and that it might be unique. Clearly, as two edges of the stamp are rouletted, it must have come from a sheet of stamps. Given the amount of time and effort that it will have taken to produce, and that its purpose must have been to attract publicity/funds to the plight of Belgium, it is very unlikely that only one sheet would have been produced. The publisher is unknown but we can be reasonable sure that it was not the British Scout Association, as there is no reference to it in any publication that I have ever seen. Like the 'War Series' postcard by Regent Publishing it could easily have been produced by an independent printer and perhaps part of a war-time series that may or may not have had other Scouting subjects.

It goes without saying that should you be aware of other poster stamps that may have been issued at the same time as this I would be very pleased to hear from you. I am currently working on Scouts at War Vol II, World War II, and so I would also appreciate scans of any items relating to this conflict. *Volume 1 about Scouting in the Great War is still available but there will be no further reprints.



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Illustrations for Frederick P. Lawrence letter on page 17



ILLUSTRATION 5



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