

Scout and Guide Stamps Club

BULLETIN

Volume 58 No. 1 (Whole No. 333)



See article by
T.P. McDermott
starting page 6.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2014



Editorial

I had a letter from one of our members the other week which said that he always enjoyed reading my little quips in the Editorial. This was quite a surprise because its the last thing that I do and I keep it really so that I can add any last minute information on events or the Club.

Scouting wise I am still at loggerheads with the new DC and we are finally going to have a face to face meeting on 27th February to sort things out. So by the time you get the next Bulletin I might no longer be a member of the Movement. I must admit that the Scout Association's Vision 2018 leaves me a bit perplexed - by then we are supposed to be a "Youth lead Organisation supported by Adults" - and the current crop of "managers" at Gilwell don't seem to realise that since 1908 this has been tried on numerous occasions and failed every time. Still we must wait and see what happens.

Hopefully another interesting Bulletin for you with another one of Peter's articles on the Ukrainian Scouts (which is particularly pertinent at the time of writing because of the problems in that country - a place I was privileged to visit on holiday in 2012). This is supported by more examples of the humorous Scout postcards and I really would welcome some from other countries to add to the diversity in this respect.

Finally, thanks to all who have enquired after my health. The current situation is that the doctors are trying to control my heartbeat by the use of drugs but they say that there is little, if anything, that they can do for the weak heart muscles.

Terry Simister

FUTURE COPY DATES

March 16th, May 18th, July 20th, September 21st and November 16th.

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

FUTURE MEETINGS UPDATE

As mentioned before we are still intending to hold regular meetings in the UK during the Stampex and Thematix Exhibitions each year.

The next of these will be at

Spring Stampex: 19th - 22nd February 2013, with our meeting on 22nd

and then at Thematix: 11th - 12th July at Chessington, as before, with our AGM on 12th July

and finally Autumn Stampex: 17th - 20th September with our meeting on 20th.

During 2014 we commemorate the start of World War One and many national events will be taking place.

It can be argued that this tragedy was also responsible for the rapid development of Scouting in Britain, as prior to 1914 they received little respect from some of the general public. With the Boy Scouts being put at the disposal of the authorities this soon changed as they did so much valuable work on the home front working as hospital orderlies, messengers, air-raid wardens and guarding key installations against possible sabotage. The Sea Scouts took over and ran the Coastguard service when adults were called up and many Troops were run by older boys when Scoutmasters were called up.

Boy Scouts became a popular subject for both humorous and patriotic postcards some depicting Boy Scouts of Belgium and France who experienced the fighting and we must not forget John Travers Cornwell V.C. who was depicted on many postcards as an inspiration to other young people.

In 1914 B-P published his little book entitled "Quick Training for War" which included many of his Boy Scout training ideas and others from his experiences during the Anglo Boer War. In it he shows prophetic drawings of how to construct trenches to be protected from "aeroplane bombs". Later in 1915 his book "My Adventures as a Spy" describes some of his somewhat exaggerated exploits spying against Germans and Turks. Chapter IX is headed "Germany's Plans for Invading England". Some of the contents is both naïve and laughable but here too, with the benefit of hindsight, he does predict some of the horrors of war to come..



As you are probably aware, by the time you read this Bulletin, the auction of the late Walter Grob-Sigrist's collection will have taken place in Switzerland. Not only did he have one of the best Scout collections in the world, but he also collected Mafeking, which gained a number of Gold International medals. This was sold in June 1993 by Christie's Robson Lowe and included virtually every known variety including the corner copy of the Reversed Head BP. Our member Fredy Scherb from Switzerland, who knew Walter well, has written the following details about him for the Röllli auction catalogue.

Walter Grob-Sigrist, Scout philatelic pioneer - On 28th June 2008 Walter Grob passed away aged 94. He was one of the prominent pioneers of the International Scout philately and founder of the Swiss Scout Philatelic Society in 1984. In the 1950's he



was one of the first enthusiasts to collect the few Scout stamps and covers as historic documents. He was also known for his worldwide correspondence, his short articles and essays and his participation at National and International stamp exhibitions. In contrast to most other Scout stamp collectors, Walter had been a traditional stamp collector for many years. Based on this knowledge and experience he started to create his own Scout stamp collection as a post-historical collection and continued to develop it as a documentary thematic collection. By the end of the 1960's Walter Grob's Scout collection was the most extensive Scout collection worldwide, and he was awarded several national and international prizes. The photograph shows Walter in August 1973 at "Our Chalet" in Adelboden. Walter arrives with a helicopter (special post-flight) from Kandersteg (during JUBIKA Camp 73) and brings with him a postbag full of cards and covers which he handed over to the Girl Scouts. In the Chalet, all the flight post was given the special handstamp and later posted again at Adelboden to be sent on its way.

In the Sept-Oct 2006 Bulletin I wrote that D.E. (Bill) Bourke past away in December 2005, and, "What has happened to his collection which included some very fine Mafeking stamps and banknotes as well sketches by Baden-Powell?. When Bill died he had a lodger who decided in March (four months after Bill's death) that he would set fire to the house. The lodger then crossed the road and watched as the fire brigade came to put out the fire, after which he went to the Police Station to report what he had



Scottish Soldier £330



The cracked skin grin £633



Crossing the line £260

purchased from a local dealer by Michael Berry of Healey and Wise. What we do not know was how much other Scout material was placed by the lodger in the local auction before the fire. In other words what happened to the rest of his extensive collection? Has the majority of this been lost forever?.....Well, the good news is that some of the sketches have survived, which Bill purchased at the Mrs Wade's sale in London in 1965. In a roundabout way "Barrie" has obtained these and in January placed some of them on eBay. The "cracked skin grin" was taken through glass so is not that clear.

WHIMSICAL POSTCARDS of the GIRL SCOUT of USA BY T.P. McDermott ©

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America issued sets of postcards depicting various camp scenes which were quite humorous. They were issued almost annually between 1936 and 1975 in sets of four different designs. They were listed in the regular GSUSA National Equipment Service merchandising catalogs that were mailed to registered members twice a year, usually in the fall before Christmas and again in the spring before the camping period. The postcard sets could also be obtained at council office shops, camp trading posts as well at official GS Equipment Agencies (usually department stores that sold uniforms etc). Agencies however usually did not carry the postcard sets due to the low price and the possible spoilage of this paper product especially the thin white paper band used to group four cards into one salable product. As you can guess, most were sold at camp.

These postcards are pictured in the book *Girl Scout Collector's Guide* by Mary Degenhart and Judith Kirsch. The second edition, 2005 with its green cover, has identified considerably more cards than their 1987, first edition book with the blue cover. With eight images per page, all 127 cards took up fifteen pages in the book.

The postcards are the standard size 3½ X 5½ inches (as we say in the USA) or 88 X 138 mm. Almost all cards were layout horizontally. There are a few which are formula cards where one could fill in your own information such as camp name etc. Most cards were printed in green ink on cream-colored stock and in later years, dark green on green stock and brown on cream stock can be found. Dark blue printed on light blue stock was used during the 1953-4 years.

I especially enjoy collecting postal used cards. Reading the messages on the cards one sees the whines of little ones missing home, the writings of maturing mid-scholars and finding the secret, coded messages between teenagers. Another nice item are cards that the sender (or a friend) shading and coloring the major figures on the card to individualize their postcards.

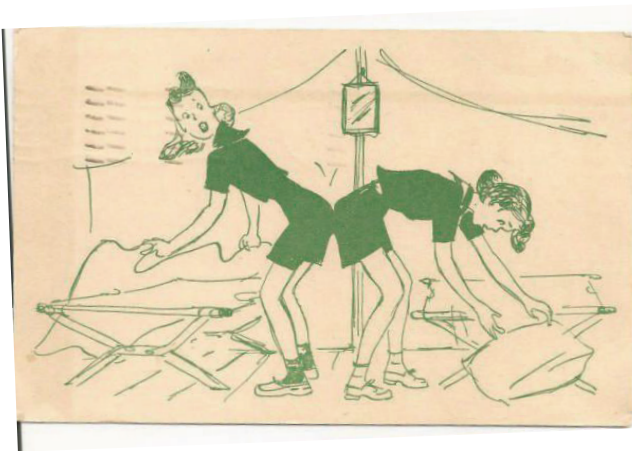
Identifying which camps were involved is an interesting challenge as unlike picture postcards the cards have no printed camp names. Cards with post marks of the Central Valley, New York (NY) post office are from the many different camps in the Palisades Interstate Park/Harrlman/Bear Mountain parks on the west side of the Hudson river. Postmarks of Pleasantville and Briarcliff Manor, New York were used for mail from the historical Edith Macy Training Center (GSUSA's Gilwell) or its neighbor, Andree Clark Camp, mostly used for youth members.

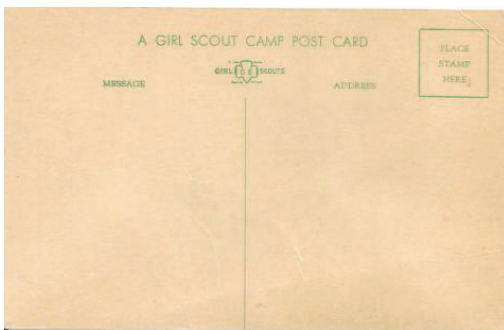
An activity of your author to photocopy three cards onto card stock (rather than the usually regular thin paper) and cutting them into mailable postcards. The backside being not copied is used for addressing. We had a lot of fun sending humorous camp scenes postcards to our granddaughter in her younger years. Fortunately, she returned some of the cards to me.

I believe packaging and merchandising the cards in sets of four was a great idea. No “nickel and dime” sales (in USA: too small to be effective). Actually the cards were sold in the days of penny post cards and probably sold for about that price. The package provided enough cards to mail to different family members and friends. Changing the images each year provide “new cards” for returning campers, while last year’s reminders could be easily sold. One must wonder if the merchandising of these sets failed due to the repetitive production of the same scenes in its later years or were there changes in society habits? Remember the cards were discontinued after 1973 which is before the age of the PC and Internet.

Annual sets of four were great incentive for beginning collectors. You could start with the years of your camping experience. One would only need to collect four cards to complete a set. And for serious collectors, a limit of 127 items is reasonable quantity however the long issuing time period might hurt beginners. Current cost of cards should not be too expensive, say five dollars or less. But due to the listing of the cards in the *GS Collectors Guide* and its publication and wide distribution during the birth of eBay, it had an effect on prices. Collectors then had a guide as to what they were missing and was soon bidding high to obtain a needed card or two. Bids of 25 dollars or more were common at the time. And all the cards looked alike to dealers, from the ‘antique 1936’ to the ‘just yesterday 1975’. A few dealers did not recognize that changes in the market place should have been reflected in later starting bids/prices.

A package set of the next to last set issued between 1962-68, was founded by your author. It consisted of four different designs printed on both aqua (light green) and yellow card stocks for a total of eight cards. It carried the NES number 11-963 and a price of ten cents. However there are the partial remains of a pricing label as if the item was at onetime re-priced.





T.P. McDermott, White Plains, NY tpwzrmcd@hotmail.com

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SUBSCRIPTIONS will be due for the new year starting on 1st April and these should be sent to the Membership Secretary. Don't forget that if paying by PayPal there is a small surcharge of 3.5% to cover our costs.

	POSTAL SERVICE		ELECTRONIC SERVICE	
TYPE	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

ThematiX '14

BRITAIN'S NATIONAL THEMATIC STAMP SHOW

Will be held on

**Friday 11th & Saturday 12th
July 2014**

Friday 10.30 to 17.00, Saturday 10.00 to 16.00

at

**King George Field Indoor Bowls Club
Jubilee Way, Chessington
Surrey KT9 1TR**

Previous Dealers included;

**W van der Bijl (Holland), Filatis (Poland)
Stanley Gibbons, John Perriman, Frank Spencer
Thames Themes, Martin Appleton, Eric van Blerk (Holland)
Paula Cant Stamps, Bob Lee
British Thematic Society table**

**Ample free parking & admission,
Nearest Railway Station is Tolworth (from Waterloo)
Bus K2 (Kingston-Epsom) stops at venue
By road, M25 Junction 10 ~ A3 ~ A240**

Light refreshments available

**Contacts: Paula & Philip Cant (01256 415699)
e-mail; paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk**

or

**Bob Lee (020 8397 2332)
e-mail; boblee@thematix.co.uk**

web site; www.thematix.co.uk

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 70p for 1st class post (any packets weighing over 100 gr will be sent by 2nd class post). Overseas £1.30 for stamp orders only, covers/cards orders £1.75.

A MISCELLANY FROM STOCK:

BEZ82U BELIZE 1982 75 th Anniversary of World Scouting (6)	used	1.50
CAR82SU CENTRAL AFRICAN REP 1982 75 th Anniversary of World Scouting MS	used	1.00
COM82SU COMORES 1982 75 TH Anniversary of World Scouting MS	used	1.00
CON82SU CONGO 1982 75 th Anniversary of World Scouting MS	used	1.00
EST78 ESTONIAN SCOUTS IN U.S.A. 1978 sheetlet of 4 labels for “World Jamboree”		1.20
FUJ71SU FUJEIRA 1971 Lord & Lady B-P MS	used	0.45
GHA91S GHANA 1991 17 th World Jamboree 2 x MS	used	5.00
GRE85U GRENADA 1985 4 th Caribbean Cuboree (4)	used	2.50
GRE85SU GRENADA 1985 4 th Caribbean Cuboree MS	used	2.00
ISR61L ISRAEL 1961 8 th Israel Jamboree sheetlet of 10 labels		2.00
ITA88L ITALY 1988 3 labels for Anniversary of Scout Study Centre (Parma)		0.50
IVC73 IVORY COAST 1973 24 th World Scout Conference (1)		0.35
JPN63L JAPAN 1963 label honouring Girl Scouts of Japan		0.20
JPN66 JAPAN 1966 4 th Nippon Jamboree cachet cover with postmark & handstamp		0.80
JPN78L JAPAN 1978 7 th Nippon Jamboree label (2 sizes of same design)		0.40
JPN-L JAPAN 1978, 1980 & 1981 3 x dated labels of Scout badge (? for membership)		0.45
JPN80L JAPAN 1980 1 st Tokyo Camporee label (3 sizes of same design)		0.60
LN53U LIECHTENSTEIN 1953 14 th World Scout Conference (3)	used	8.00
LN57U LIECHTENSTEIN 1957 Baden-Powell Centenary (2)	used	0.90
MAG91D MALAGASY 1991 Scouts, insects & fungi 6 x de luxe MS (reduced price)		10.00
MAL70 MALI 1970 Scouting commemorative (3)		0.75
MAL74 MALI 1974 11 th Arab Jamboree overprints (2)		0.85
MAL81S MALI 1981 4 th African Scout Conference MS – imperforate		6.00
NEV95U NEVIS 1995 18 th World Jamboree MS	used	3.00
NOR90L NORWAY 1990 Scouts Christmas Charity label showing B-P (1)		0.15
PHL54 PHILIPPINES 1954 1 st National Jamboree overprints (2)		1.75
PHL70 PHILIPPINES 1970 Tourism issue – Scout Park value only (1)		0.20
STV91S St. VINCENT 1991 17 th World Jamboree MS		2.25
SRL91S SIERRA LEONE 1991 17 th World Jamboree MS		3.00
SGP92L SINGAPORE 1992 75 Years of Guiding strip of 3 identical labels		0.20
SGP93L SINGAPORE 1993 Scout badge label in 3 different sizes		0.40
SGP-L SINGAPORE label stating “The Scout Association Singapore”		0.10
SAK67S SOUTH ARABIA KATHIRI STATE 1967 12 th World Jamboree MS		1.50
SPN83 SPAIN 1983 75 TH Anniversary of World Scouting (1)		0.30
SYR 58 SYRIA 1958 2 nd Pan-Arab Jamboree (2)		2.00
TRD89 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 1989 (1)		1.20
TUV87 TUVALU 1987 16 th World Jamboree (4)		1.25
TUV87S TUVALU 1987 16 th World Jamboree MS		1.10
UGA91SU UGANDA 1991 17 th World Jamboree MS (Scout with stave)	used	3.00
UGA95SU UGANDA 1995 18 th World Jamboree MS	used	2.75

UKRAINIAN SCOUTS (PLAST) IN GERMANY 1945-1950.

Following the Second World War, many Ukrainians, as well as other nationalities, found themselves in Displaced Persons Camps in western Germany. The Soviet Zones in eastern Germany and Austria provided no such facilities. Amongst the Ukrainians were many Scouts who had been able to pursue their Scouting activities in parts of Czechoslovakia, eastern Poland and France until the start of the War and consequent Nazi domination. A few fund-raising “stamps” or labels had been produced at this time, but these are very rare.

The first stamps issued by the exiled Scouts were produced in Munich in 1946 and commemorated the 35th Anniversary of Ukrainian Scouting. There were five stamps dated 1911-1946 printed in crudely perforated sheets of 20 in colours: light and dark blue, red, green and violet. The stamps had no postal validity and were used for revenue purposes, mostly on membership cards and certificates.

A series of 11 postcards were also issued in 1946 showing various “Scouty” designs. These cards were available for some considerable time and many appear with overprint “UKRAINE Anti Communist Scouts in exile in Canada. Edition of the Cooperative Ukrainian (sic) Scouting”.

On 5 July 1947 the Ukrainian Spring Festival in Mittenwald was celebrated with an issue of 16 stamps in four different designs. (1) The Ukrainian Scout Plast emblem, (2) Scout with stave, saluting, (3) Scout with stave in campsite, (4) stylised camp in a forest. These stamps were denominated in German Marks and range from 0.15 to 2.00. Designed by Roman Rohoza and printed in sheets of 30 in a quantity of 3000 sets. The stamps were perforated but it is understood that some were issued in imperforate condition. A handstamp was used to cancel the stamps, this reads (in Ukrainian) MITTENWALD JUBILEE SPRING FESTIVAL. A special souvenir booklet was also produced to house the stamps, this has the wording “Ukrainian Scout Jamboree” on the face. The stamps contained in the booklets were cancelled with the above FESTIVAL handstamp. (Unfortunately, the booklet I possess is not handstamped. I also have a number of the stamps used on various Scout envelopes posted in U.S.A. in 1958 & 1959.)

In 1948, the entire range of 16 stamps was overprinted for UKRAINIAN Scout's Congress ASCHAFFENBURG 26-29.III.1948. Some of these are known with double or misplaced overprints.

In 1947, the Ukrainian Scouts were able to participate in the 6th World Jamboree in Moisson, France. Labels and postcards were produced in red, brown and shades of blue.



Four cards and four stamps were issued, and some are known with the Jamboree postmark. Others were cancelled with MITTENWALD or other Scout handstamps.

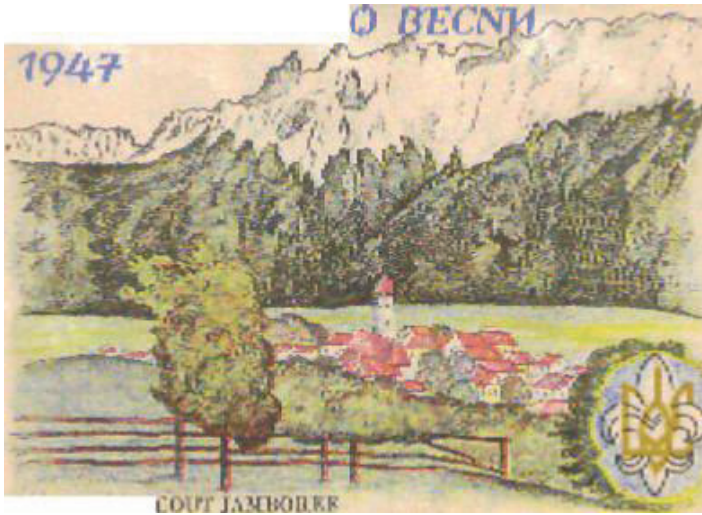
On 22 February 1948 an (Exiled) Scouts Rally took place in Hannover. This event commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the Boy Scout Movement and the birthday of Lord Baden-Powell. Four labels were produced on grey gummed paper in blue, green, red and yellow, all imperforate. A further printing was made in black on red paper. Four identical postcards were issued on different coloured card and labels affixed to them were cancelled with (imitation) postmark reading SCOUTS RALLY (in English and Ukrainian) HANNOVER LYSSENKO 22.2.48 plus a saluting hand.



SCOUT WEEK (PFADFINDER WOCHE) took place in Hannover and Augsburg from 20-27.II.1949 and three labels in brown, green and blue were issued. Denominated at 25 pfennigs they were printed in Hannover. And in Augsburg, four identical postcards were produced on different coloured card.

In 1947, Plast in Germany started to organise a courier service that operated between the various D.P.Camps where Ukrainians lived. This was effectively a basic postal service. In the centres where it operated Plast printed very basic labels that were attached to envelopes or parcels and served as postage stamps, or they produced cancellations that were applied onto postal

items on payment of the postage fee. The Scouts who performed this service operated on bicycles or motor bikes or even on foot.



Stamps or handstamped cancellations were used in D.P.Camps at Aschaffenburg, Sedan, Ludendorf, Reinhardt and Landshut. The service is believed to have continued until 1950.



Scout Humour on postcards

These continue to arrive, so I am including a further set herewith.

From Paul van Herpt - French and Czechoslovakian versions



More from Gottfried Steinmann in Germany:



“Late comer .
(where is supposed
my place)”



“Patrol
competition –
bridge
constructing”

Scouts – Picture postcards by Otto Pokorny, Austria

(Gottfried Steinmann in collaboration with W.O. Neubäck und Horst Ziegler)

I have a further selection of the illustrations from Gottfried’s article for future issues.

10. EuroScout 2014
in Taastrup / Danmark 2014
8. - 10. August 2014

Information

Spejderfrimærkeklubben in Danmark invites you and all collectors and friends of scout stamps collecting, to participate of an International Scout Stamps Exhibition during the days 8. - 10. August 2014, in Taastrup, Danmark.

Place:

Taastrup is a suburb to Copenhagen (about 18 km. to the City) and placed in Høje-Taastrup Municipality.

Taastrup Kulturcenter, Poppel Allé 12, DK - 2630 Taastrup.

How do you get to Taastrup ?

By Car:

Motorvej E 47, MotorRing 04, drive off 5, Taastrup.

By Train:

Høje Taastrup railway station (stop for all international trains), from here by S-train or bus to Taastrup station.

Where to sleep:

Taastrup Park Hotel, Brorsonsvej 3, DK-2630 Taastrup.

Hotel-rooms: 67.

Taastrup Kulturcenter, Poppel Allé 12, DK-2630 Taastrup.

Bring you own sleeping- mat and bag etc. with you.

Where to dine:

Taastrup Kulturcenter, Kultur Caféen

It is possible to buy, breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee, tea, beer, soft drinks etc.

Exhibition:

You will find interesting collections from many parts of the World at the Exhibition. Incl. the 2. World Scout Jamboree 1924, Danmark.

100 frames of 16 A4 pages ? = total 1.600 pages.

For the second time there will be an competition in the

Possibility for trade- and exchange tables with Scout-philately and (SUM) Scout Uniform badges and etc.

Presentation of scout- literature and exhibitions from Scout-museums and privates, about the 2. World Scout Jamboree 1924, Danmark, and other scout/guide items.

A special exhibition catalogue will be made.

Possibility for a special neckerchief ? and participant-badge.

A special postmark and cover will be made.

Special postcard/s ?

The program for 10. EuroScout 2014, in Taastrup / Denmark - could be as follows:

For the participants there will be a interesting program.(Details in next issue)

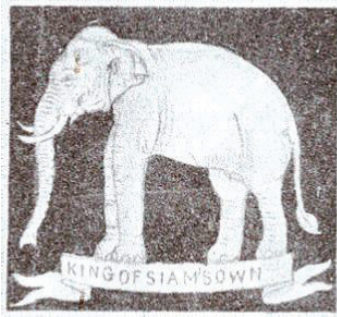
The King of Siam and the Siamese 'Wild Tiger Corps' Issues

Three of my research 'paths' have come together to focus my attention on Bangkok. It is a place I have previously visited in a Scouting connection, so I needed little persuading to linger longer at my studies, reviving fascinating memories. However the deeper my research, the more perturbed I became, so much so that I nearly decided to call this article, 'You can spoil many a good argument with facts'.

As regular readers will know I have been documenting UK Rover Crews, using their badges as a starting point. The King of Siam's Rover Crew (1st Balham and Tooting) badge consists of a white elephant on a red background. On a recent visit to Hertfordshire Scout County Archive at Well End Campsite, to value their wonderful collection (the second of my above mentioned research areas), I encountered a comb-bound booklet of 136 pages, called 'Trumpeting', published in 1990, The book documents the history of the King of Siam's Own Scout Group (KSO), written by Ken S Warner, the only post-war leader of the group's Rover Crew and a one-time (now deceased) member of our club.

Ken Warner's book immediately exploded one myth that I had previously been led to believe, that the King of Siam had had a connection with the troop during the time he spent in England as a young man. Prince Vajiravudh, the Crown Prince of Siam, succeeded his father in 1910 becoming King Rama VI after whom the troop is now named. The Prince finished his education at Sandhurst and then Oxford in 1902. Ken explains that the 1908 formed 1st Balham and Tooting Troop was joined in 1910 by Sidney 'Pa' Riches, who was central to their history until his death in 1972. 'Pa' read in 1912 that Prince (then King Rama VI - though he is still very frequently referred to King Vajiravudh) had, on his return to his homeland, become an enthusiastic Scout and had set about forming Scout Troops across his nation.

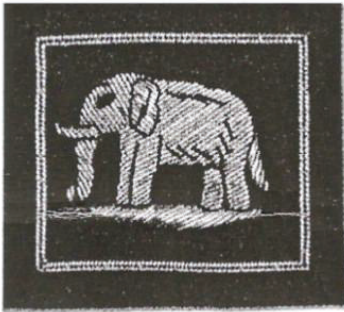
'Pa' had had no connection with the Prince; however his father had been a clerk in the Siamese Consulate in London, and had risen to the heights of Consul General. His work included the arrangements for Prince Vajiravudh's stay in Britain. Pa thought this connection was sufficient to make contact with the new King and request his patronage for the 1st Balham and Tooting Troop. He posted off his letter to 'His Majesty The King of Siam, Bangkok, Siam', and was delighted when, some months later, a large registered letter arrived covered in emblems and seals together with an equally interesting parcel. The letter gave permission for the troop to be called 'The King of Siam's Own'. The parcel contained a signed portrait of the King in his Wild Tiger's Scout Uniform (Photographs were rarely signed by Siamese Royalty). 'Pa' tried to adapt the Siamese Royal symbol of a white elephant to make a badge for his renamed troop and sent it as a draft to the King for his approval. His Royal Highness returned a much better version that he had had made up by the Court Artist.



The Court Artist's Badge (red white)



An early Group Badge



Pa's silver wire 10 years service badge

It was this badge that became the Group's badge, a later version is worn to this day at the top of the left sleeve. Pa, as the Group Scout Leader, decided to reward ten years of service within the group by awarding, as his own gift, a special badge made with the elephant formed from silver wire. A Cub joining at eight years of age would be a Rover by the time he could be awarded the badge. (Should anyone be able to supply a colour scan of the silver wire badge I would be most grateful).

The Rover Crew, like so many others, was temporally suspended during WWII. It was reconvened in 1951 when an unbound Rover Crew Badge (without banner as below) was worn on the back of the scarf. This badge was later replaced by a bound version.



My third Siamese research 'thread' was occasioned by a recent purchase of two covers with Wild Tiger Corps 'Tiger Head' overprinted Scout stamps, first issued in Siam on February 4th 1920. The Wild Tigers' Corps was formed from the adult members of Siamese Scouting as founded by King Vajiravudh in 1911, a somewhat paramilitary organisation. The 'Tiger Cubs', its junior section, were Scouts.

The first 1920 issue of the six stamps depicting King Vajiravudh were crudely overprinted with black tiger's head and 'Scout's Fund' (in Siamese) in a straight line beneath the tiger's head. They were surcharged to provide funds to finance Scout Groups in schools, but the amount of the surcharge was not actually shown.



Type I



Type II



Type III

In the same year, a second set (Type II) of six stamps were issued, also with a rubber (but different) tiger head overprint showing lettering in Siamese and English i.e. 'Scout's Fund' in an arc below the tiger's head. In 1921, a third set of seven stamps were over-

printed using a metal die, with a smaller tiger's head. The lettering is on two horizontal lines, in red or dark blue.

The nineteen overprinted stamps were mainly from old stocks issued between 1906 and 1920.

Nine government postal cards with pre-printed 'stamps' were also overprinted, three of each type of overprint with differing postal values. These are very rare. The overprinted stamps and postcards were withdrawn from



A rare 'Tiger Head' postcard (Type II) courtesy Hallvard Slettebø.

sale on June 14th 1926, however the stamps were used by stamp dealers, using up their stocks, until the early 1930's. As is always with valuable overprints, there are large quantities of fakes, on and off cover in circulation. Buyers without real expertise should, as always, be on their guard.

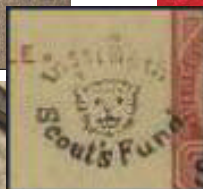
Another myth which surrounds these issues, emanating from an old (1964) SOSSI (Scout on Stamps Society International) catalogue, but now to found on several websites, is that Baden-Powell visited Siam before their issue which, by inference implies that King Vajiravudh had B-P's support for his Wild Tiger Corps. Having transcribed B-P's life-time diaries etc., I can report that this was not the case. At first the Corps was made up of members of

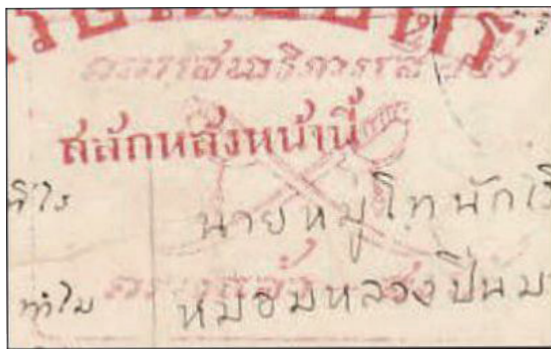
the King's own household including the Royal Bodyguard. The organisation rapidly expanded. Many joined, it is said, as a way of gaining influence with the King. Whilst there are those who believe that Wild Tiger Corps members were just adult Scouts leaders, there are some uncomfortable facts to be absorbed.

In 1920, (the same year as the Scout stamps), 10,000 Lee Enfield Rifles (made not far from Gilwell Park) with matching bayonets were ordered by King Vajiravudh, stamped with his name in Siamese and the Wild Tiger symbol (The same as on the stamps- see the inset below). The Wild Tiger Corps then was not quite Baden-Powell's concept of Peace Scouting. (B-P had long since banned adults from carrying fire arms!) The Wild Tiger Corps (but not the Tiger Cubs) was disbanded in 1925. Wild Tiger' overprinted stamps were used on cover, as were the postcards, from Wild Tiger Corps run Scout Camps. At least one item, a Scout overprinted postcard dated February 28th 1919, is known exist with a red crossed swords 'Can be Accepted', censor mark. Censorship is of course consistent with military and paramilitary organisations.



Registered cover front sent from Siam to New Zealand in 1922 with a Type III tiger head overprint. Colin Walker Collection.





The above does seem to beg the question of whether items relating to the Wild Tiger Corps should really be considered as Scouting material. There is no doubt however that members of the Wild Tiger Corp were Scout leaders. There is a similarity with UK Scout history. In 1908 Baden-Powell was very pleased to accept members of the Legion of Frontiersmen (LoF) as Scoutmasters.

The LoF was an independent volunteer militia, their leader Roger Pocock wrote articles in the 1908 Scout Magazine. Frontiersmen at the time (the organisation still exists) were prone to wearing fire arms with their Scout Uniform! B-P had to distance himself from the organisation and cracked down the wearing of fire arms and any other military non-standard Scout uniforms. So, just as in the case of the Wild Tigers there were Members of the Legion of Frontiersmen who were Scoutmasters, but that did make the their organisation a recognised part of the Scout Movement.

Scouting philatelist owners of the overprinted stamps and the valuable covers bearing these issues, need not, I feel, be over concerned about their relevance to Scouting, as the surcharge, we have always been led to believe, was to fund raise for Scouting and not the Wild Tiger Corps?

The movement continues to enjoy royal support in modern Thailand*. Though it is no longer compulsory for pupils to belong to a Scout or Guide group, children in grades 6-8 must belong to an approved youth organisation, but most are Scouts. Scouts (and Guides) are required to wear their uniforms in school one day a week. The present King Rama IX is Chief Scout. Thailand, with a population of 66m, is the world's 20th most populous country. It has 1.25m Scouts the 5th highest population of Scouts in the world, giving it the 2nd highest ratio of Scouts per head of population (1:52), an astounding legacy that is directly attributable to King Vajiravudh.

*Siam changed its name to Thailand from 1932- 39, reverting to Siam during the war, only to finally change its name back to Thailand in 1949.

Acknowledgements: 'Boy Scout and Girl Guide Stamps of the World' , Gordon Entwistle; Hallvard Slettebø Collection; John Ineson Collection; National Scout Association of Thailand website.; SOSSI Magazine and Website and 1964 'Scouts on Stamps of the World' catalogue; WOSM website; www.allaboutenfields.co.nz/restorations/siamese-contract-smle/. There is a chapter in my book 'Dawn of the World Scout Movement' on the Scouting role the Legion of Frontiersmen.

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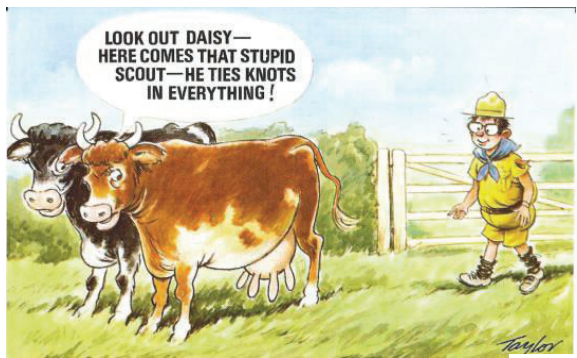
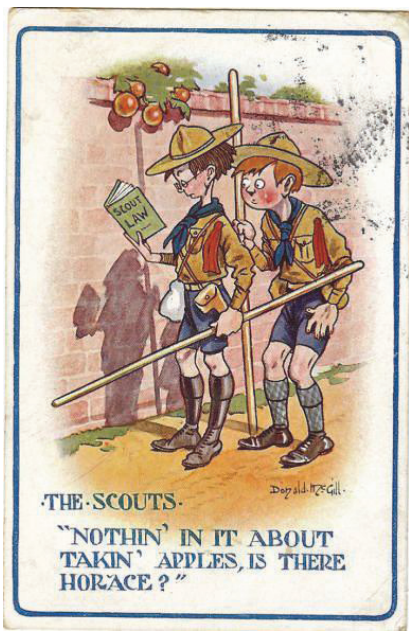
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..... and just a few more of my own humorous cards:



"THAT'S A GRANNIE,— YOU SILLY!"

