



Scouting around the World



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The Royal Philatelic Society London

27 October 2016

Plan of the Display

Frames Subject

1 – 12 **World Scouting – its Path to Success**

The FIP large gold thematic exhibit “World Scouting – its Path to Success” has the accolade of achieving the highest award ever given to a philatelic Scouting exhibit. The exhibit demonstrates the significance of Baden-Powell’s original conception and the development of Scouting to today’s world wide movement.

13 – 17 **Scout Mail in Displaced Persons Camps**

A traditional exhibit, documenting local postage stamps, postmarks and mail delivery services related to Scouting, issued for and used by inhabitants in Displaced Persons camps in Europe after World War II.

18 – 22 **Scouting in the United Kingdom**

Postal history related to the Scout and Guide movements in the UK up to 1957. This section of the display focuses on the postal history of the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree.

23 – 28 **Scouting in Norway**

A postal history class 2C exhibit (Historical, Social and Special Studies), documenting postal history related to the Scout and Guide movements in Norway up to 1957. Postal usage of all thirty of the earliest Norwegian Scout postmarks is shown for the first time.

29 – 44 **Scouting in Europe**

A potpourri of the postal history of Scouting in Europe up to 1957, presented by country and year.

45 – 52 **Scouting Overseas**

A potpourri of the postal history of Scouting outside Europe up to 1957, presented by country and year.

The significance of 1957 in Scouting history and in Scouting philately:

1957 marks the Golden Jubilee of Scouting and the centenary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell. The Centennial Jamboree was also held in 1957.

Front cover illustration:

Mafeking SG 21 cracked plate position 8, with portrait of R.S.S. Baden-Powell.

The stamps were produced from photographic glass plates. One of these glass plates was cracked during production of the stamps, however it continued to be used, and the resulting row of affected stamps being placed in circulation.

Introduction



Why Scouting? I was a stamp collector as a boy, and I went the usual route from a junior's general all-world collection to concentrating on the stamps of my own country. I was also a Boy Scout, and during the 1972 National Jamboree near Røros, Norway I secured covers and postcards with the special postmark, and so I was hooked.

I collected what I could find of Scout stamps and Norwegian Scout postmarks, and later on expanding to selected international Scout postmarks and meter marks. Advice from fellow Scout philatelists has been invaluable. I joined local stamp clubs in Norway, and Scout stamp clubs in Denmark and later also in other countries, such as the Scout and Guide Stamps Club in the UK. The specialist clubs' bulletins have been excellent sources for information. As the collection grew more specialised I was able to contribute with research articles to these publications. Several of these are published on my website.

As a visitor to stamp exhibitions I was inspired by what I could see there to form my own exhibit. It has been a long way from my first medal at a local stamp show in 1992, to three FIP Large Gold medals 2009-2015. It was the first (and so far the only) thematic exhibit in Norway to win Grand Prix in the national Championship Class in 2006 and the first (and so far the only) thematic exhibit from Norway to win FIP Large Gold. "World Scouting – its Path to Success" is today the world's highest ranking Scout exhibit.

I have also found interest in other collecting areas, but Scouting has remained my main collecting focus. Along the way I also have formed exhibits on totally unrelated topics such as local postal history (the area of Egersund, Norway where I grew up), Norwegian Zeppelin mail, Scandinavian Crash and Wreck Mail, Danish Sunday letters (but only those which were not delivered on the Sunday!), Norwegian place-names in America, and I edited two handbooks of postmarks from Rogaland County.

I joined the Royal in 1993 and I was elected fellow in 2004. Since 2009 I have been Overseas Representative for Norway. Attending meetings is difficult due to the distance involved, but I have used the Library for research purposes, and I find *The London Philatelist* full of interesting information. The Expert Committee has proved to be useful, as unfortunately Scout philately also faces the problems posed by forgeries.

There have been very few thematic displays at the Royal, and this is the first meeting in the Society's history solely dedicated to Scouting.

Today's display consists of 52 frames of my Scouting collection that I thought you might find of interest. As you will see, Scouting can be presented thematically, traditionally or as postal history. The "World Scouting" thematic exhibit forms the first part of the display. It is followed by the traditional exhibit "Scout Mail in Displaced Persons Camps" which is a special interest of mine. We then turn to postal history, where "Scouting in the UK" (since we are here!) and "Scouting in Norway" (since I am Norwegian) are thoroughly presented. The display concludes with a general section "Scouting around the World" which is presented by country and year.

Today's display is the culmination of my collecting career and it is my earnest wish that you will enjoy it, as that really would be the highest recognition it can receive!

Get in touch? Write to me at hallvard@slettebo.no, website www.slettebo.no or to my postal address Theodor Dahls gate 23, NO-4024 Stavanger, Norway.

Hallvard Slettebø FRPSL

A Brief History of Scouting

There are today around 50 million Scouts, young people and adults, male and female, in over 200 countries and territories. Some 500 million people have worn the Scout badge.

A Man, a Book, an Island

1899-1900, the second Anglo Boer War. Colonel Baden-Powell and his men held the town of Mafeking in a 217 day Siege. After its relief, Baden-Powell found himself a national hero. In the summer of 1907, at the age of 50, he took a group of 22 boys with him to Brownsea Island, outside Poole in Dorset, England. The experimental camp was a great success and proved to Baden-Powell that his training and methods appealed to young people and really worked.

In January 1908, Baden-Powell published the first edition of "Scouting for Boys". It was an immediate success and has since sold over 100 million copies. Baden-Powell had only intended to provide a method of training boys to become better citizens, something that existing youth organisations such as the Boys' Brigade and YMCA could adopt. To his surprise, youngsters started to organise themselves as Boy Scouts, into what was to become the largest voluntary youth movement in the world.

Expansion and Scouting for All

By 1909 "Scouting for Boys" had been translated into five languages, and a Scout rally in London attracted more than 11,000 Scouts. By the end of the year Scouting spread not only to most of the major countries of the British Empire, but was spreading rapidly across the globe.

Initially the programme was for boys aged 11 to 18 years; however, others also wanted to participate. The Girl Guide programme was started in 1910, under Baden-Powell's direction by his sister Agnes.

A Wolf Cub section was formed for younger boys. It used Rudyard Kipling's "Jungle Book", to provide an imaginative symbolic framework for activities. For older boys, a Rover Scout branch was formed.

The first World Scout Jamboree took place in 1920 with 8,000 participants, and proved that young people from different nations could come together to share common interests and ideals. Since that first World Jamboree at Olympia in London, there have been 22 others at different locations.

The World Wars

The coming of World War I in 1914 could have brought about the collapse of the Movement, but the training provided through the Patrol System proved its worth. Patrol leaders took over when adult leaders volunteered for active service.

Between the two world wars Scouting continued to flourish in all parts of the world, except in totalitarian countries where it was banned. Scouting is voluntary and based on democratic principles.

During World War II, Scouts undertook many service tasks – messengers, firewatchers, stretcher-bearers, salvage collectors, mail services and so on. In occupied countries, Scouting continued in secret with Scouts playing important roles in the resistance and underground movements. Rover Scouts played an important part in raising morale in both German and Japanese prisoner of War camps.

Carrying on

Many "third world" countries gained their independence from the 1960's onwards. Scouting under these conditions often evolved to be an effective youth programme, designed by Scout leaders to better meet the needs of their communities. Scouts became more involved with issues such as child health, low-cost housing, literacy, food production and agriculture, job skills training, etc., much to the benefit of their countrymen.

Drug abuse prevention, life skills training, integration of the handicapped, environmental conservation and education, and peace education have become issues of concern to Scouts around the world.

By the 1990s Scouting had been reborn in every country where it existed prior to World War II and then banned by an oppressor, including the newly independent countries of the former USSR.

One hundred years and beyond

In 2007 the Movement celebrated its centenary - 100 years of Scouting. What started as a small camp on Brownsea Island is today a growing Movement with members in nearly every country in the world. Through its unique combination of adventure, education and fun, Scouting continues to be an inspiration for young people to become active local and global citizens, helping them in creating a better world.

World Scouting – its Path to Success

Frames 1 - 12:

A Thematic Exhibit

The scope of the exhibit is to demonstrate the significance of Baden-Powell's original conception and the development of Scouting to today's world wide movement.

Thematic development - Scouting is a well-known theme; this exhibit demonstrates a novel approach as well as applying the material in a new way, utilizing the thematic information to its full extent. The most appropriate items are chosen, showing the connection between width and depth in the elaboration of the theme. Personal studies have resulted in new material being included.

Philatelic importance - A wide range of philatelic material is shown. Priority is given to highest philatelic importance: world class philatelic items (original artwork, essays, proofs and varieties); important postal history items (covers and other postal documents). Philatelic studies are included when appropriate, and are blended with the thematic development.

Exhibiting history - The exhibit was first shown internationally at Philakorea 1994 where it won Vermeil medal, it reached Large Vermeil at Indepex 1995, Gold at Hafnia 2001 and Large Gold at China 2009. Large Gold medals also followed at Antverpia 2010 (FEPA), Philanippon 2011 and Singapore 2015.

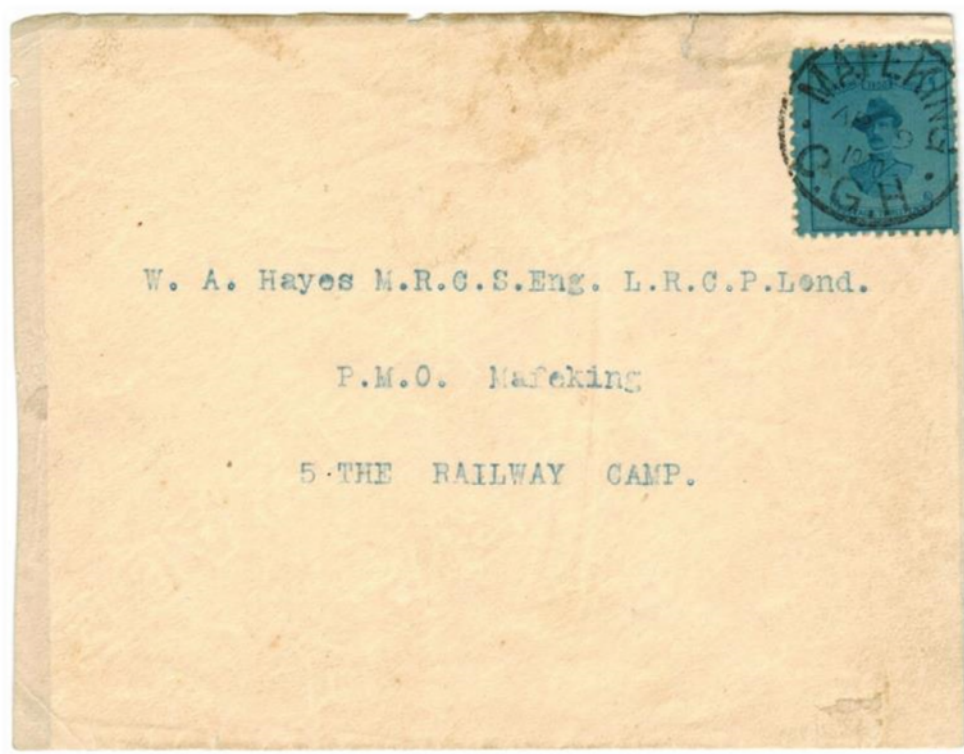
It was the first (and so far the only) thematic exhibit in Norway to win Grand Prix in the national Championship Class in 2006 and the first (and so far the only) thematic exhibit from Norway to reach FIP Large Gold level. At Indonesia 2012 it was invited to the Court of Honour, truly a rare tribute for a thematic exhibit. It is today the world's highest ranking Scout exhibit.

The 1899-1900 second Anglo-Boer war, Colonel Baden-Powell and his men were besieged for 217 days (the longest running siege of the conflict) holding out against overwhelming odds until the relief forces arrived. During the siege there was a shortage of postage stamps.

1d and 3d stamps were produced locally by a photographic ferro-prussiate blue-print method.

“The Mafeking Mail”, Special Siege Slip No. 112, of Saturday April 7th 1900, announcing the new stamp issue. Note the limitation of one letter per person per day.





Mafeking AP 9 1900, one of only four recorded first day on cover usages of the narrow format Baden-Powell stamp.

The name of sender or receiver of mail is normally not considered appropriate material in thematic exhibits. Exceptions are when there is a postal connection, as demonstrated here: Free postage is certified by Major-General Baden-Powell in Cape Colony September 1900. Queen Victoria had promoted B-P from Colonel to Major-General upon the Relief of Mafeking on 17 May 1900.



*Baden-Powell writes home to his brother in London.
Manuscript annotation "O.A. Service / R. Baden-Powell / Major Genl.".*

The Boy Scouts organised a mail delivery service in November 1918 in Prague when Czechoslovakia won its independence. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the first president of the newly formed Czech-Slovak republic returned to Prague on 21 December, 1918 after four years in exile. The Scout Mail Delivery Service was reinstated on this day only. Eight telegrams are recorded with overprinted stamps.

Telegram from České Budějovice to Prague, handled by the Boy Scout Delivery Service in Prague on 21 December 1918.



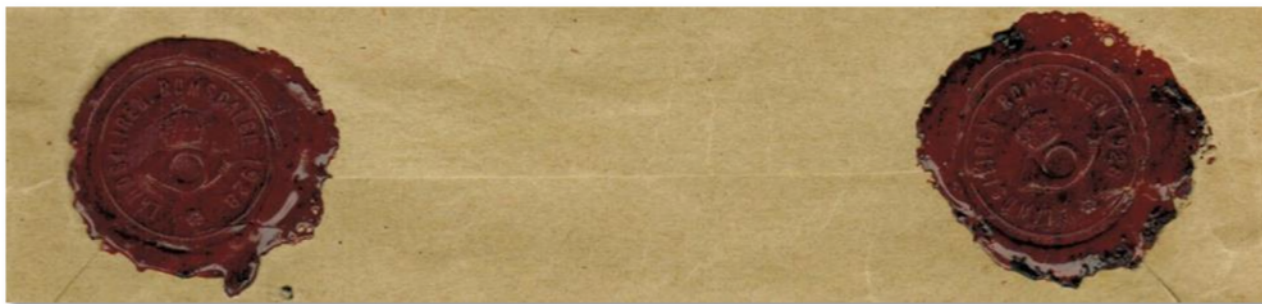
Trial proof overprint, believed to be for the 2nd Scouts' Fund issue.

King Rama VI of Siam brought back the idea of Scouting from England where he studied. In 1911, he established the "Wild Tiger Corps" for adults and created a junior branch "Tiger Cubs" which continues today as the Scouts.



Siam 1920 Scouts' Fund overprint; earliest reported usage of the 5s+5s Type II opt.

How many Scouts do you think need insured mail to send money home from camp?



*Norway 1928 national Boy Scout camp;
the only recorded cover with the official postal wax seal.*

The next two items would appear at first sight to have little to do with my theme. Hopefully the included research will amply demonstrate that this is not so and encourage others to delve more deeply into their acquisitions.

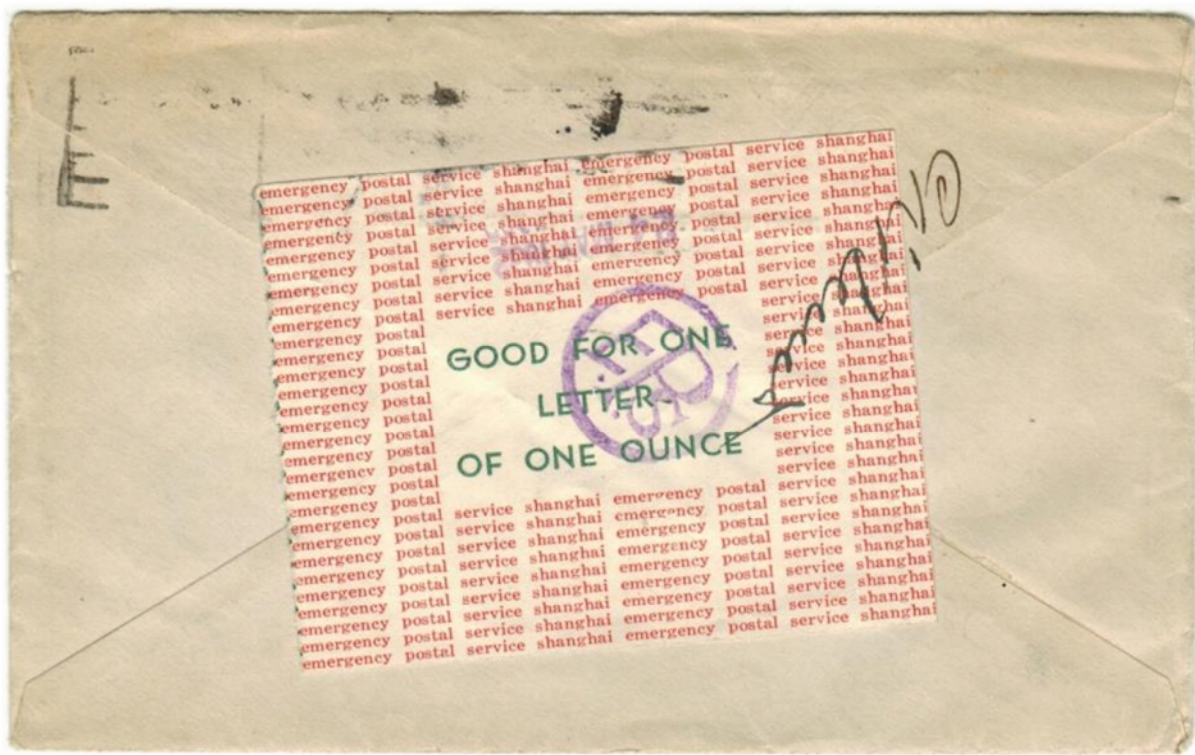


*1c Washington vertical perforations 14, used exclusively by the
Boy Scouts of America New York Executive Council 1922.*

*Fewer than 10 copies are recorded; all are pre-cancelled
New York N.Y. and all are poorly centred.*



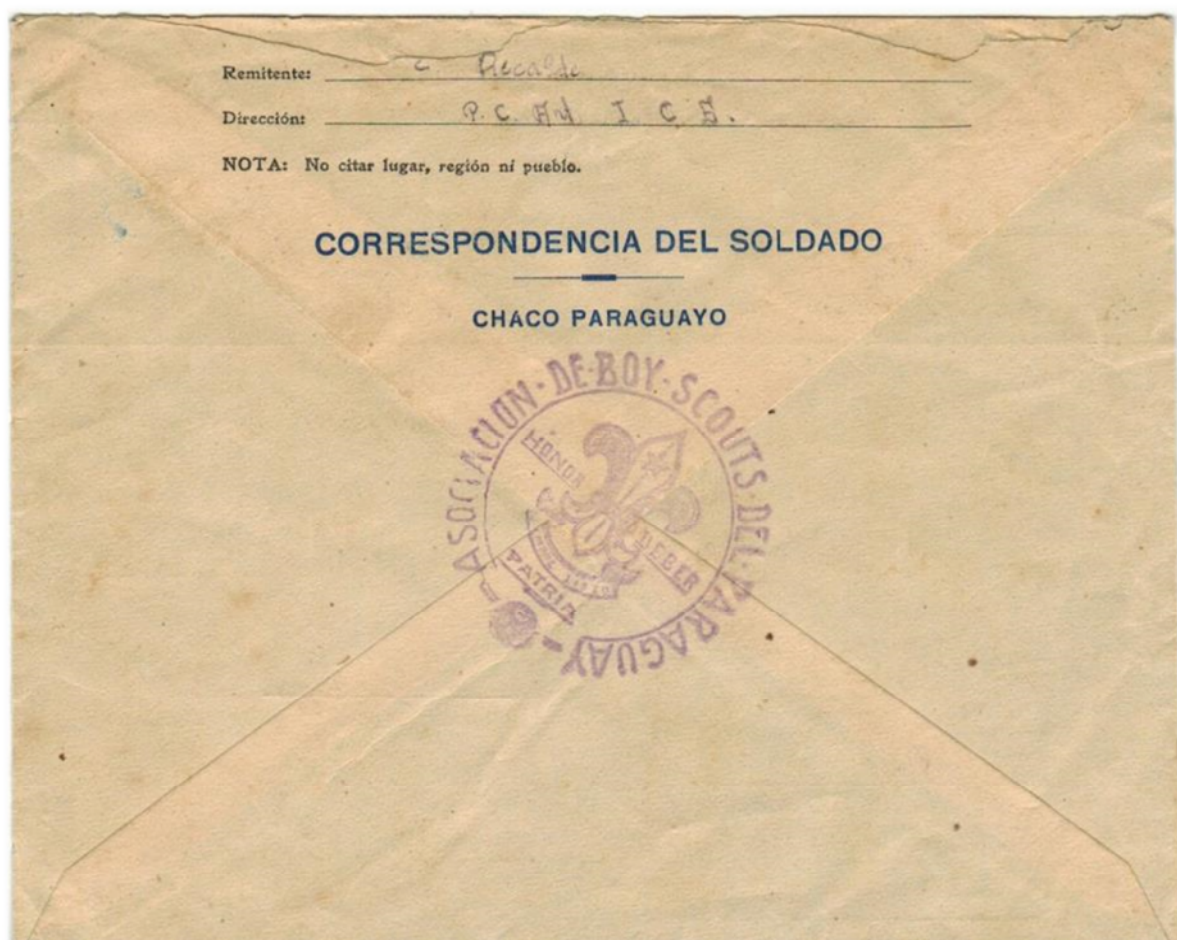
Shanghai Emergency Postal Service, Scout Mail Delivery Service which operated during the 1932 six-day postal strike. Original research article.



*Regular letter sent from Shanghai via Vancouver to Andover, Mass., USA.
E.P.S. coupon affixed to reverse of cover with circular handstamp and signature.
On front Canada 3c postage stamp and Vancouver Paquebot postmark 14 JUN 32.*



The Chaco War was fought 1932-1935 between Bolivia and Paraguay over control of the northern part of the Gran Chaco region, which was thought to be rich in oil. A Scout Mail Delivery Service operated in the war zone, Paraguay, 1933. Five Chaco War covers carried by Scouts are recorded. Research article by the exhibitor.



Stampless military “flag” envelope sent from a member of the First Army Corps to Asuncion. The contents dated 28/10/33. Cachet on reverse; carried by Boy Scouts.

The Hindenburg disaster occurred on May 6, 1937, as the German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in Manchester Township, New Jersey, United States. Of the 97 people on board (36 passengers and 61 crewmen), there were 36 fatalities (13 passengers and 22 crewmen), additionally a member of the ground crew was also killed.

Of the 17,609 pieces of mail on board, only 358 pieces were salvaged in a charred condition. 176 of the surviving pieces were uncanceled, awaiting to be cancelled on the return voyage to Europe. Zeppelin mail has always been a popular topic for air-mail collectors, and in particular the Hindenburg crash covers are much sought-after.

Of particular interest to Scout collectors are salvaged covers which are franked with one or more stamps of the Dutch 1937 Jamboree issue.



Original study article and census of the Hindenburg covers franked with Dutch Jamboree stamps.



Severely burnt cover franked with a World Scout Jamboree stamp, and salvaged from the 1937 Hindenburg airship accident.

The Warsaw Uprising began on 1 August 1944, with the objective of freeing Poland's Capital from the German occupier. In the front line of the battle, Polish Scouts and Guides organised a Postal Service, delivering messages and letters to civilians and to the Home Army. Mails could be sent between the various resistance enclaves within Warsaw, most of which had been razed to the ground. Scout "postmen" travelled overland and through sewers to deliver their letters.

It was a very dangerous task and though the Uprising only lasted for 63 days quite a few young lives were lost.

A circular postmark possibly carved from a raw potato was used for the first couple of days, but had to be replaced as it quickly wore out.



The elusive "potato" postmark on a General Government postal card dated 6 August, 1944, the inaugural day of the Scout Post Service.

Scout Mail in DP Camps

Frames 13 - 17:

A Traditional Exhibit

Scout Mail in Displaced Persons Camps in Europe after World War II

Soon after the capitulation of Germany, the allies entrusted the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) with the establishment of special camps for displaced people. There were hundreds of camps scattered across Germany, Austria, Italy and Yugoslavia. The majority of camps however were located in the American and British occupation zones of Germany. These camps were often temporary cities of no small proportions, requiring the same facilities as any other large concentration of people.

In the beginning the German postal system could not cope due to war damages. This inspired local organisations in many camps to set up their own mail delivery systems for camp needs. A good number of these issued their own postage stamps, or used their own postmarks.

Scout Troops and Rover Scout Crews were formed by residents of several of the DP camps. Scouts were involved with the mail delivery service and Scout stamps were issued. These DP camp stamps are in the category of local or provisional issues rather than official country issues. No official permission was sought or given for the production and issue of the stamps, nevertheless, many of them saw real postal use though, of course some were kept as souvenirs.

Baltic Scouts

Lithuanian Scouts operated a mail service in the Augustdorf an der Lippe DP camp.



*Printed
Scout
postcard
from
Augustdorf
9 Jan, 1948
to Chicago,
Ill. USA.
Cachet
"21a
AUGUST-
DORF-
LIPPE /
POSTAMT
SCOUT-
POST".*

Russian Scouts

Scoutmaster R. Polchaninov organised in 1946 a mail service in the Russian DP camp Mönchehof.



Imperforate pair 12 Pf. church and 24 Pf. Easter egg.

On 18 April 1946, during the Russian Easter, Easter greeting cards and special stamps were issued. Two stamps were printed in small quantity on a mimeograph machine.

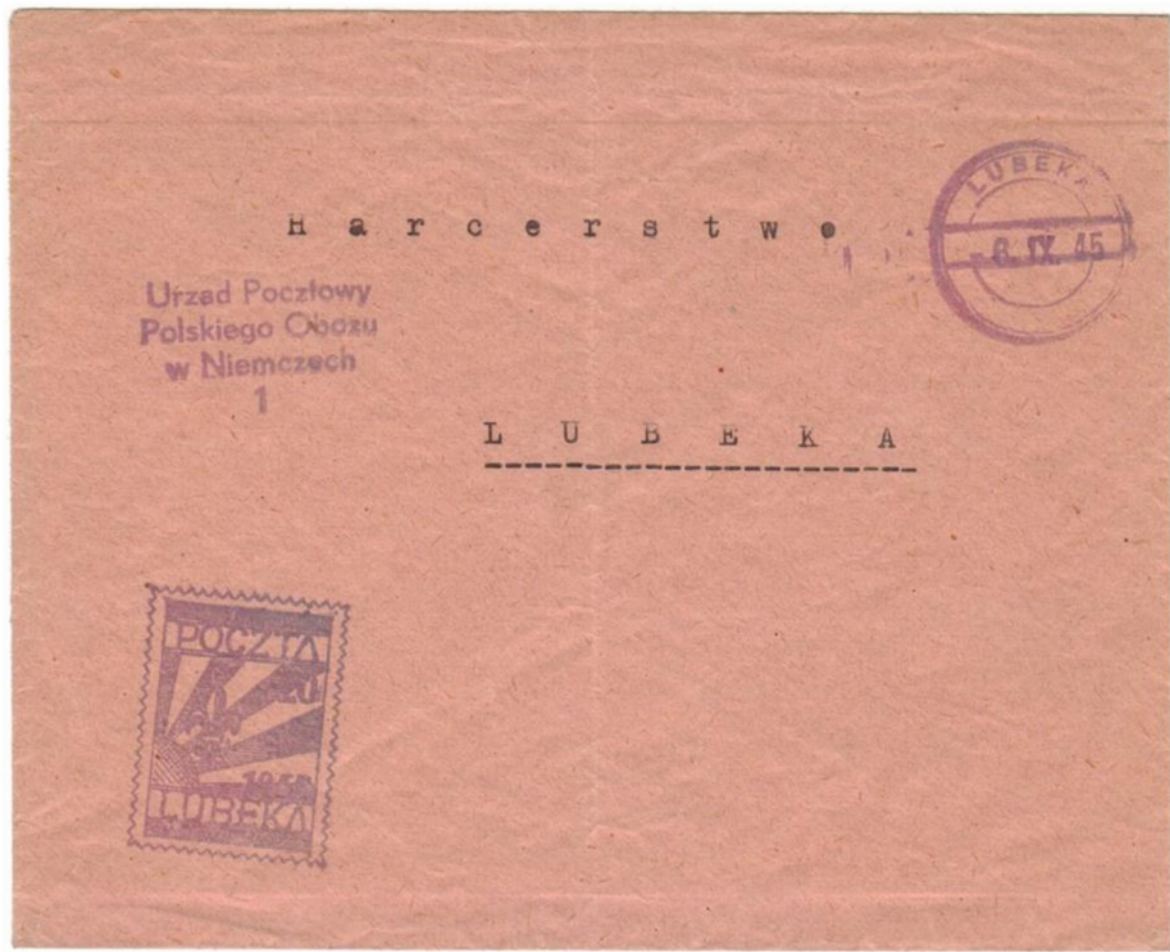
It was impossible to obtain good paper, and this first set was printed on old German forms. 196 stamps were printed of each value.

The Russian DP Camp Mönchehof was dissolved 1949 and its residents moved to Feldmoching. A camp mail service was organised with a Scout mail delivery service.



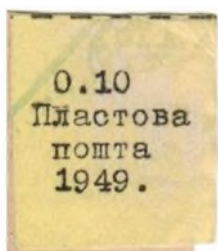
April 1950, cover from the Feldmoching DP camp to France, partially franked with an 8 Pf. on 24 Pf. Russian Scout Post stamp (issued 1 Jan 1950).

The Lübeck DP camp had Latvian Boy Scouts, Rover Scouts (including a Polish Crew) and Girl Guides. The Polish Rover Scouts worked and organised the mail operations in the Lübeck Post Office. The Scouts officially validated the mail using a metal handstamp simulating a postage stamp indicating that 20 Pf. postage was paid.

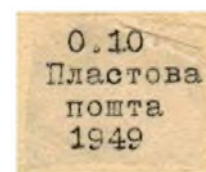


Cover to the Polish Scout unit in Lubeck. "Urząd Pocztowy Polskiego Obozu w Niemczech 1" (Post Office of the Polish Camp in Germany 1).

Ukrainian Plast (Scouts)



Provisional postage stamps used Christmas / New Year 1948-49 in the Aschaffenburg DP camp. The stamps were printed on yellow or white paper and bore the legend "0.10 / Plastova / poshta / 1949" which is Ukrainian for Scout Post. The stamps used on postcards are included in the display.

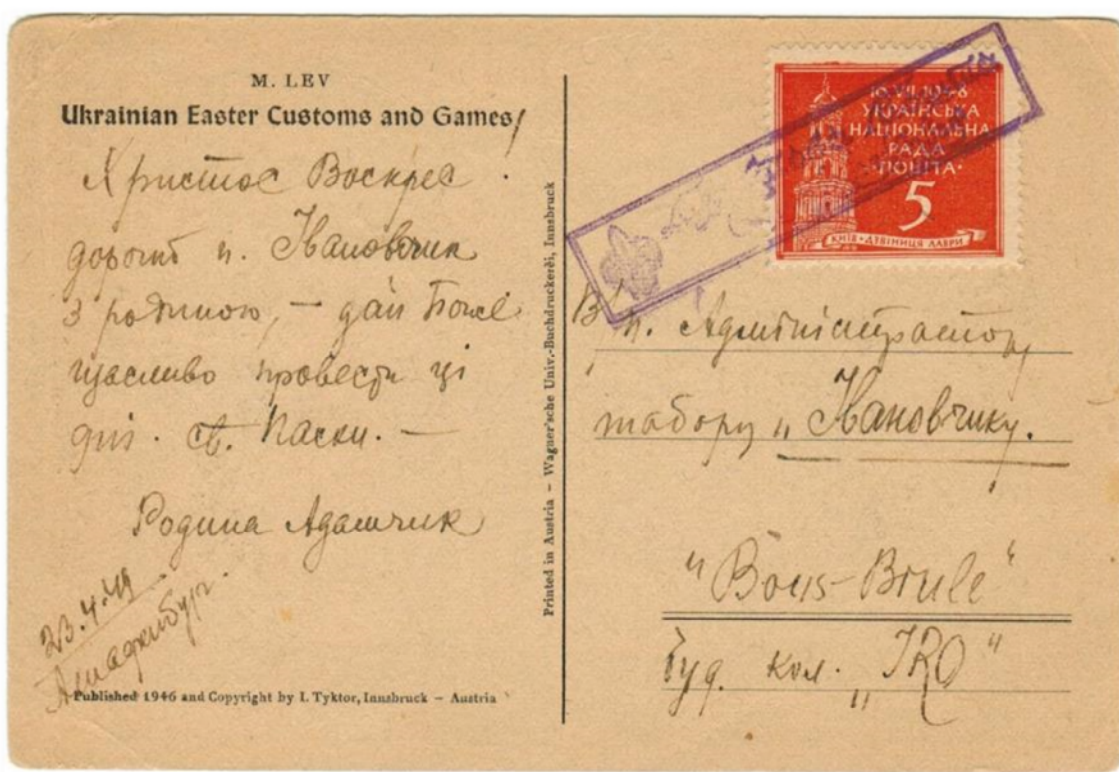


Four stamps were issued 1947 to support Ukrainian Scouts participating in the World Scout Jamboree in France known as the Jamboree de la Paix (the Peace Jamboree). The stamps were used in various Ukrainian DP camps in Germany.



*Cover from Munich 4 July 1947 to Mittenwald.
Jamboree stamp and postmark were applied in Mittenwald.*

Five DP camps were located in Aschaffenburg, Bavaria. A Scout Mail Delivery Service operated in and between the camps.



*1949 Easter greetings card, sent internally in the Aschaffenburg DP camp.
Postage 5 Pf. paid, as evidenced by the Ukrainian National Council stamp of 1949.
The rectangular violet postmark shows a Boy Scout badge and text
"Plastova Poshta / Aschaffenburg" (Scout Post / Aschaffenburg).*

Scouting in the United Kingdom

Frames 18 - 22: The postal history of Scouting in the UK up to 1957

The highlights of Scouting and Scout philatelic history in the UK include:

1907-1908	The birth of Scouting
1920	First World Scout Jamboree, Olympia, London
1929	Third World Scout Jamboree, Arrowe Park, Birkenhead
1936	West Country Jamboree, Mount Edgcumbe, Plymouth
1936	Northern Counties Jamboree, Darlington
1939	Third World Rover Moot, Monzie, Scotland
1957	Jubilee Jamboree, Indaba and Moot, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire

1920 First World Scout Jamboree

The first World Scout Jamboree was organized by The Boy Scout Association in London. It took place in London, England, in the exhibition halls of Olympia from 30 July to 8 August 1920. Around 5,000 Scouts were encamped at the Old Deer Park in nearby Richmond. The Scouts rotated in and out of Olympia to give them all the opportunity to participate in the events there. The Thames flooded the campsite one night and Scouts had to be evacuated. Olympia hosted numerous exhibitions, pageants and contests during the Jamboree event. The Jamboree did not have its own post office or a special postmark, but a boxed, square cachet was used on mail from the camp.



Postcard with cachet “THE SCOUTS INTERNATIONAL JAMBOREE CAMP 1920 OLD DEER PARK, RICHMOND, SURREY.” and machine cancel “RICHMOND SURREY 7 AUG 20”, sent to Larne, County Antrim, Northern Ireland.

1929 Third World Scout Jamboree

The 3rd World Scout Jamboree was held in 1929 at Arrowe Park in Birkenhead, United Kingdom. As it was commemorating the 21st birthday of Scouting for Boys and the Scouting movement, it is also known as the Coming of Age Jamboree. With about 50,000 Scouts and over 300,000 visitors attending, this jamboree was the largest jamboree ever. Baden-Powell was given a peerage at this jamboree, taking the title Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.



A meter slogan was used by the Boy Scouts Association to promote the Jamboree.

This was the first World Scout Jamboree to have its own postmark. Three different skeleton postmarks were used on registered mail at the Jamboree post office. Regular mail was postmarked at the nearby Liverpool post office.



Type 1a



Type 1b



Type 2



1929 Jamboree, type 1a, the only recorded cover with this postmark.

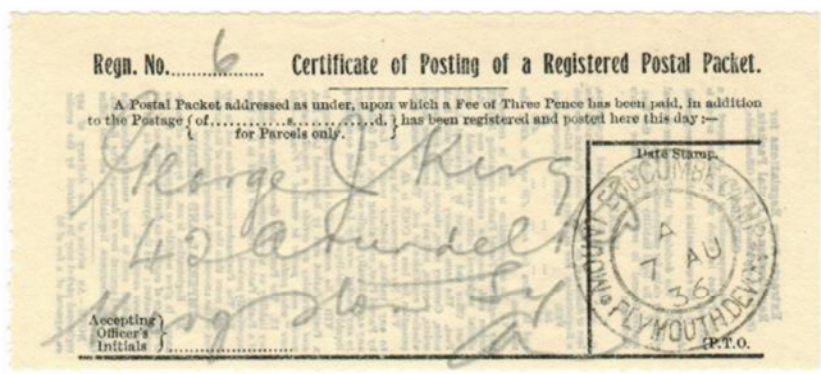
1936 Northern Counties Jamboree, Darlington

Two large Boy Scout camps were held in England in 1936. The West Country Jamboree took place in Devon while the Northern Counties had their camp in Darlington. Lord Baden-Powell attended both camps.

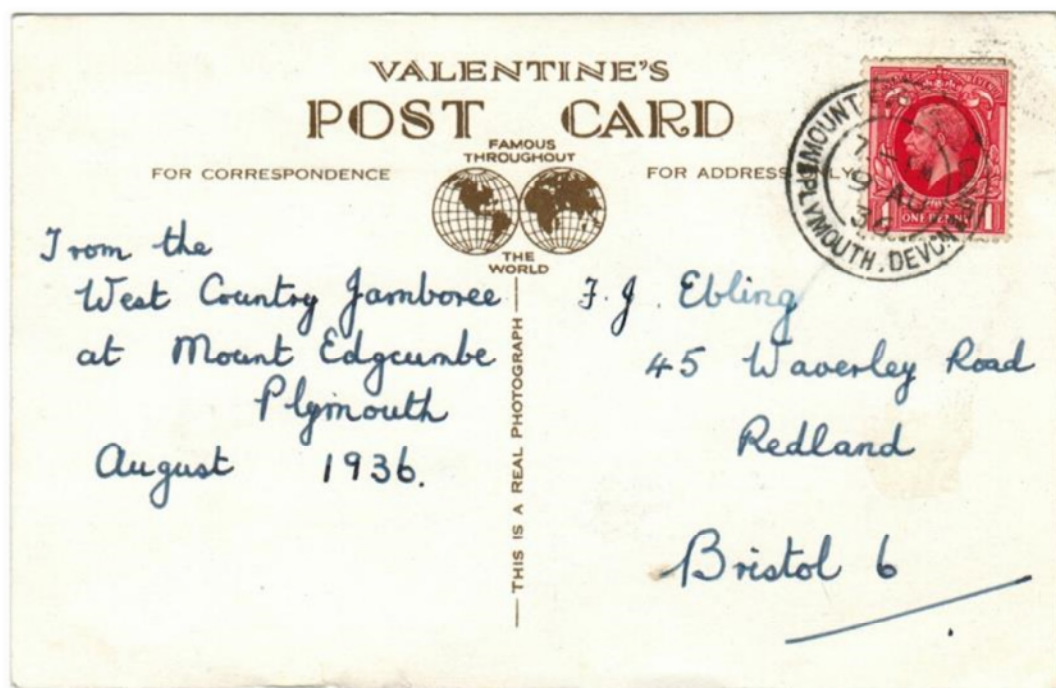


Postmark JAMBOREE CAMP DARLINGTON 7 AU 36 from the Northern Counties Boy Scout Jamboree. This is the most elusive of all U.K. Scout postmarks!

1936 West Country Jamboree, Mount Edgumbe



Certificate for posting of a registered postal packet. Postmark with code letter 'A' instead of time, and with dots between MOUNT EDGCUMBE and PLYMOUTH DEVON. This postmark was used for registered mail.

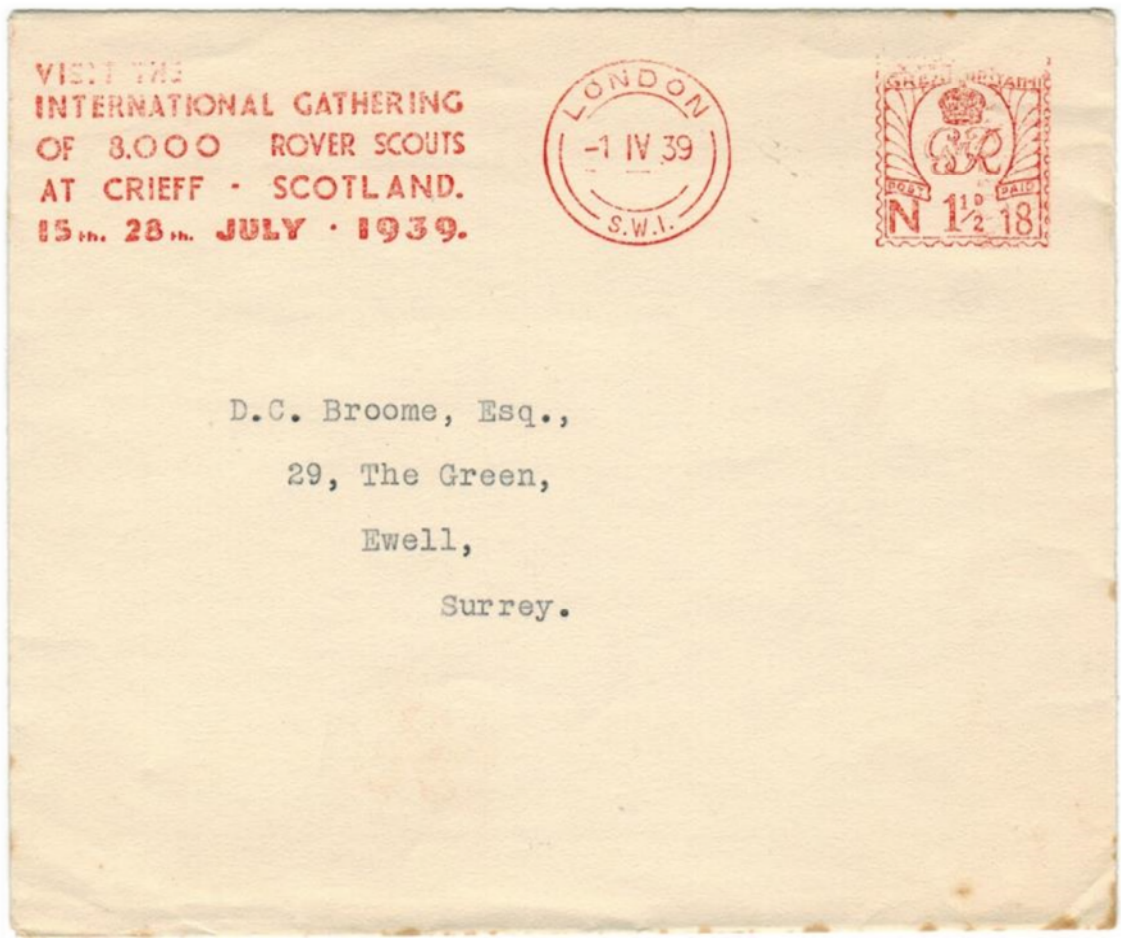


The postmark used for regular mail showed hour instead of the code letter, and with bars between MOUNT EDGCUMBE and PLYMOUTH DEVON.

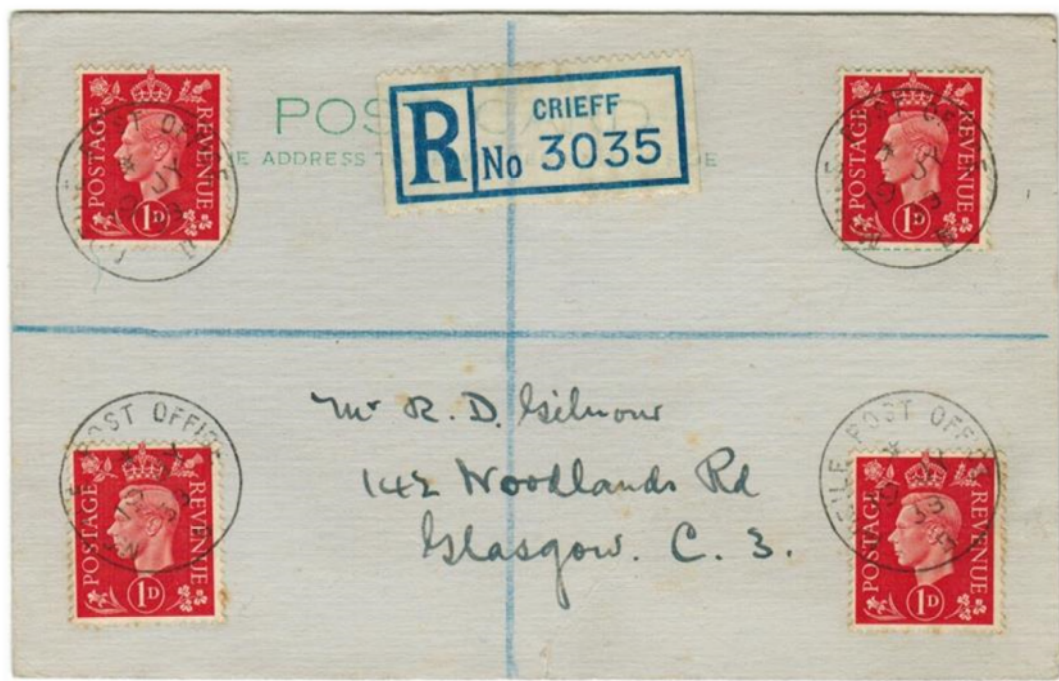
1939 Third World Rover Moot

The World Scout Moot (previously Rover Moot) is a gathering of older Scouts, mainly Rover Scouts. The 1939 World Rover Moot was held at Monzie Castle, Crieff in Scotland during July 1939. 3,500 Rover Scouts from 42 countries attended.

Previous World Moots had been held in Switzerland, 1931 and Sweden, 1935.



A meter slogan was used by the Boy Scouts Association to promote the Moot.

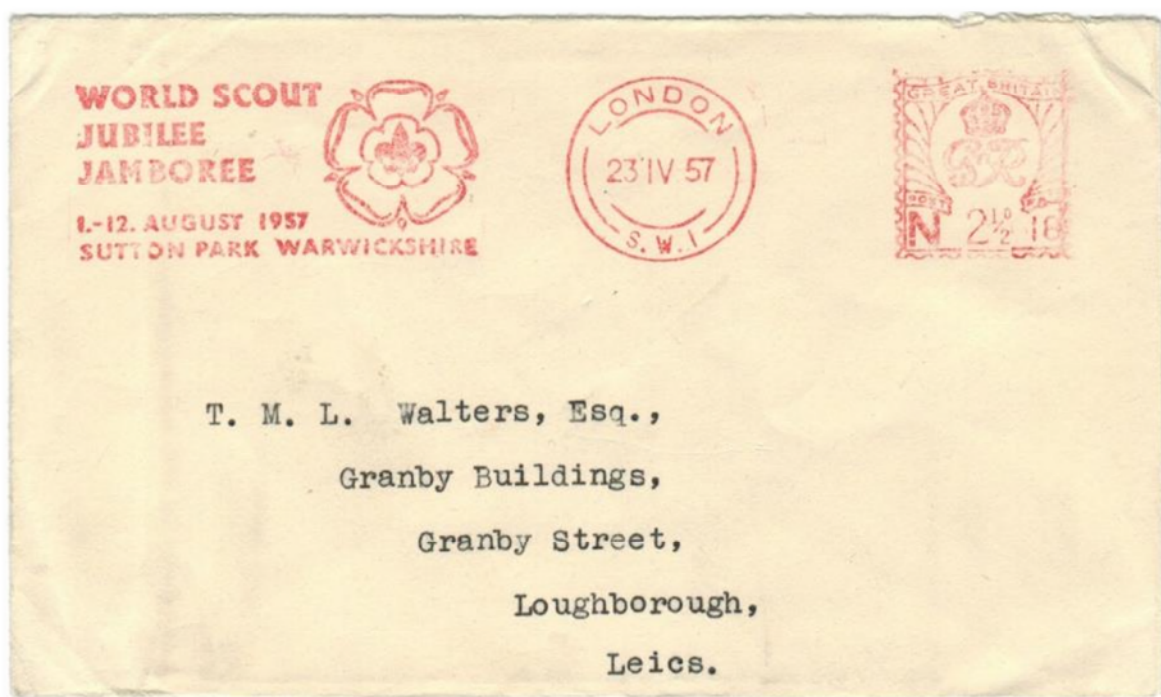


*Registered mail was postmarked "MOBILE POST OFFICE B",
and a regular Crieff registration label was affixed.
Regular mail was postmarked at the local post office in Crieff, Perthshire.*

1957 Jubilee Jamboree, Indaba and Moot

In 1957, to celebrate the Jubilee of the Movement and the Centenary of its Founder, a combined Scout Jamboree, Scouters' Indaba (meeting) and Rover Moot was held in Sutton Park - a beautiful natural park of 2,400 acres, in Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

33,000 Scouts from 90 countries camped for 12 days in weather which ranged from a heat wave to a storm which flooded parts of the huge camp site. Many thousands more took the opportunity to camp in the surrounding countryside.

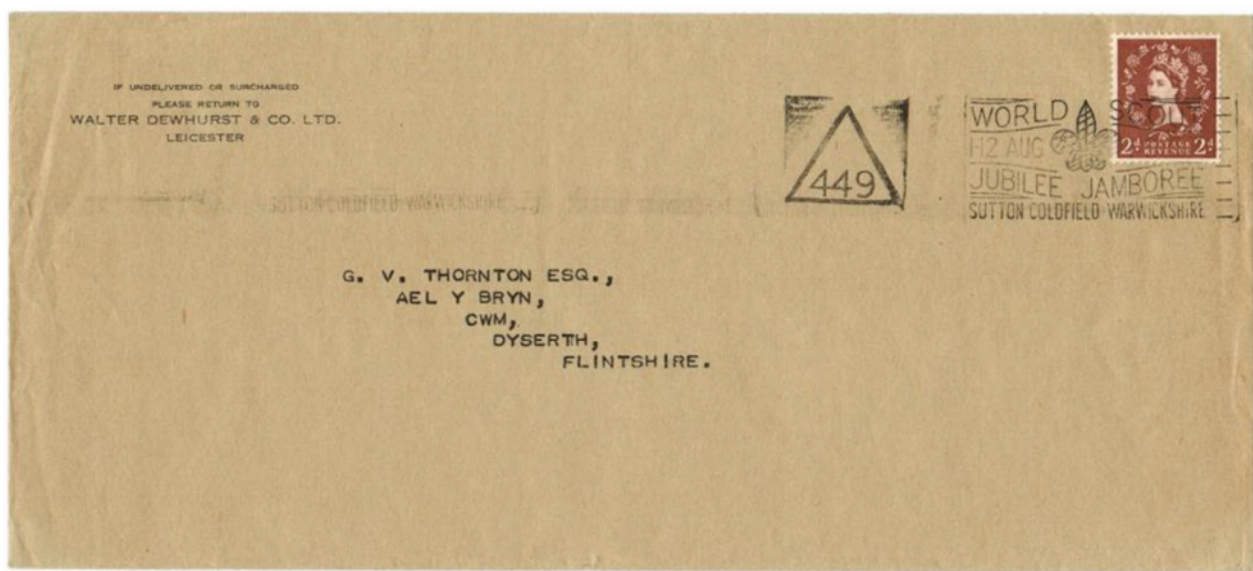


An advertising Jamboree slogan was fitted to the franking machine located at the Imperial Headquarters of the Boy Scouts Association in London.



Advance publicity slogans were used on mail cancelling machines at the larger G.P.O. sorting offices in London and in the provinces between 1 and 31 July 1957.

Triangular dies were part of the equipment supplied with the cancelling machines, and were used instead of the dated dies for cancelling certain types of bulk mail. The number in the triangle is the post office number. Number 449 is Leicester.



Three commemorative postage stamps were issued on 1 August 1957. Two imperforate registration sheets of 120 stamps were kept by the Post Office Archives.



*Only 10 sets are believed to have been sold.
Cancel "N / P / IMPRIMATUR" on reverse.*

Special rolls of stamps were produced, designed to service first day covers automatically. They were produced from different cylinders from the sheet stamps and were printed on continuous reels of paper. The cylinders bore 126 impressions in 21 rows of six. Regular stamps were in 20 rows, so any strip of 21 or more stamps is from a roll.

The reels were cut so as to provide single rolls of 4,800 stamps, numbered 1-6. The rolls of 4,800 stamps were available for sale on request at the London Chief Office, but, understandably, not many were sold of these huge rolls.

The Post Office finally relented to the feedback they were getting from customers and rolls of 4,800 were rewound to smaller rolls of 480 stamps for the 2½d and 4d, and 240 on the 1s3d rolls. 100 coils were produced of the 2½d; only 49 were sold.



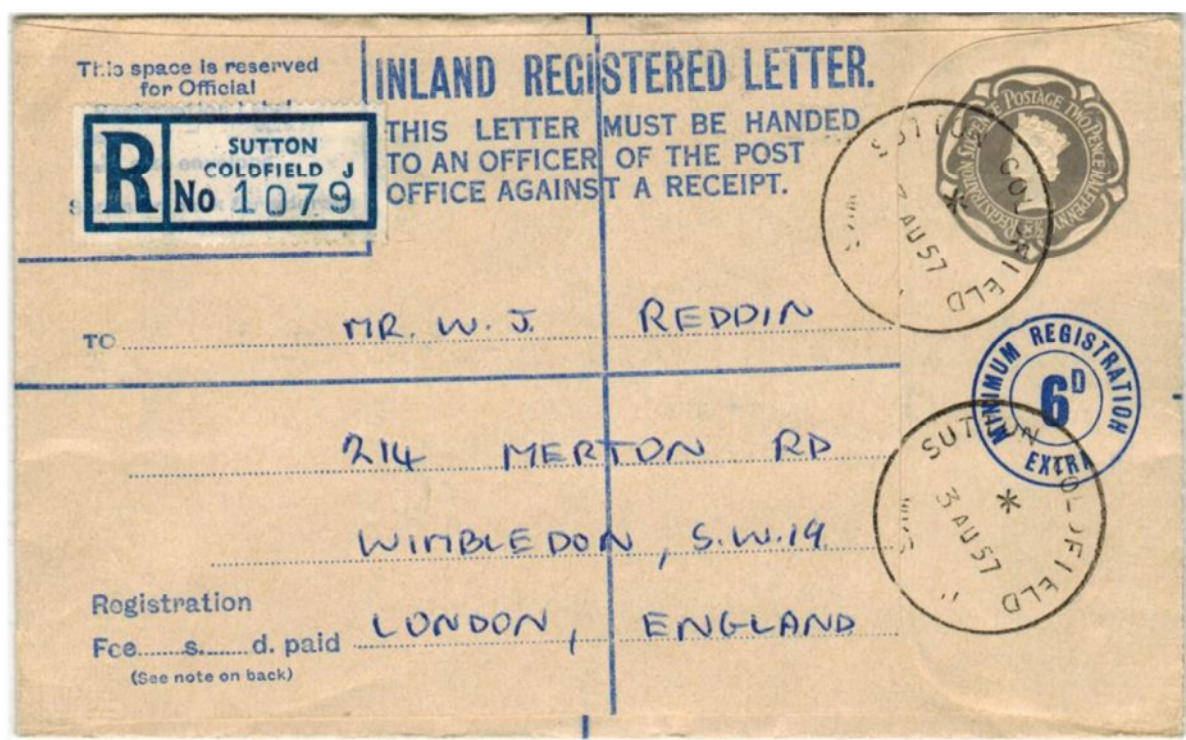
Coil leader ("wrapper") for No. 5 of the 480-stamp coils of the 2½d Boy Scout Jamboree stamps.

The Jamboree Post Office was a branch of the Sutton Coldfield Post office. It was known as Sutton Coldfield 'J', and this legend was included in the hand cancels and registration labels. The post office opened on Monday 29 July, and was in operation until Saturday 17 August. The Jamboree itself lasted from 1 August to 12 August.

The circular hand cancels were used on savings, postal and money orders, registered mail, parcel receipts, official documents etc. Eight hand cancels of skeleton type were in use.

A total of 1,096 registered letters were sent from the Jamboree. The first registered items were sent on 29 July, and the last were sent on 17 August.

576 items, i.e. more than half of the total number of registered mail, were sent on 1 August which was the official opening day for the Jamboree.



Registered letter from the Jamboree to London.

Scouting in Norway

Frames 23 - 28: A Postal History Exhibit (class 2C)

In 1910, Norwegian Boys' Scout Corps was founded as a subgroup under the Norwegian Confederation of Sports, but only lasted until about 1912. The Norwegian Boy Scouts Association was founded in 1911. Girl Guiding started in Norway in 1912.

The Norwegian Boy Scouts were among the charter members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1922 and the Girl Guides were among the founders of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 1928.

The scope of this exhibit is to document the postal history related to the Scout and Guide movements in Norway up to 1957. Mail sent from and to Scout camps etc. Postal usage of all 30 of the Norwegian Scout postmarks from 1928 to 1957 is shown for the first time.

The Norwegian Scout and Guide postmarks are among the most challenging to collect of them all. Reasons for this include that many of the camps were small district camps with only a few hundred participants, rainy weather, and little philatelic mail was sent.



In 1930, Bergen district of the Norwegian Boy Scouts Association held their summer camp in Etne, located some 100 km south of Bergen. 434 Scouts participated, including Scouts from Sweden and Denmark. The field post office which operated in the camp used a special postmark.



The Norwegian Boy Scouts Association marked their 25th Anniversary in 1936 by staging a Jubilee camp at the Jeløy island, south-east of Oslo. 6,600 Scouts attended. Registered cover to Farsund, note special postmark and registration label.

During the war a number of Norwegians fled the Nazi regime to Sweden or England. Quite a few of these had a background in Scouting, and wanted to continue the Scout work in exile.



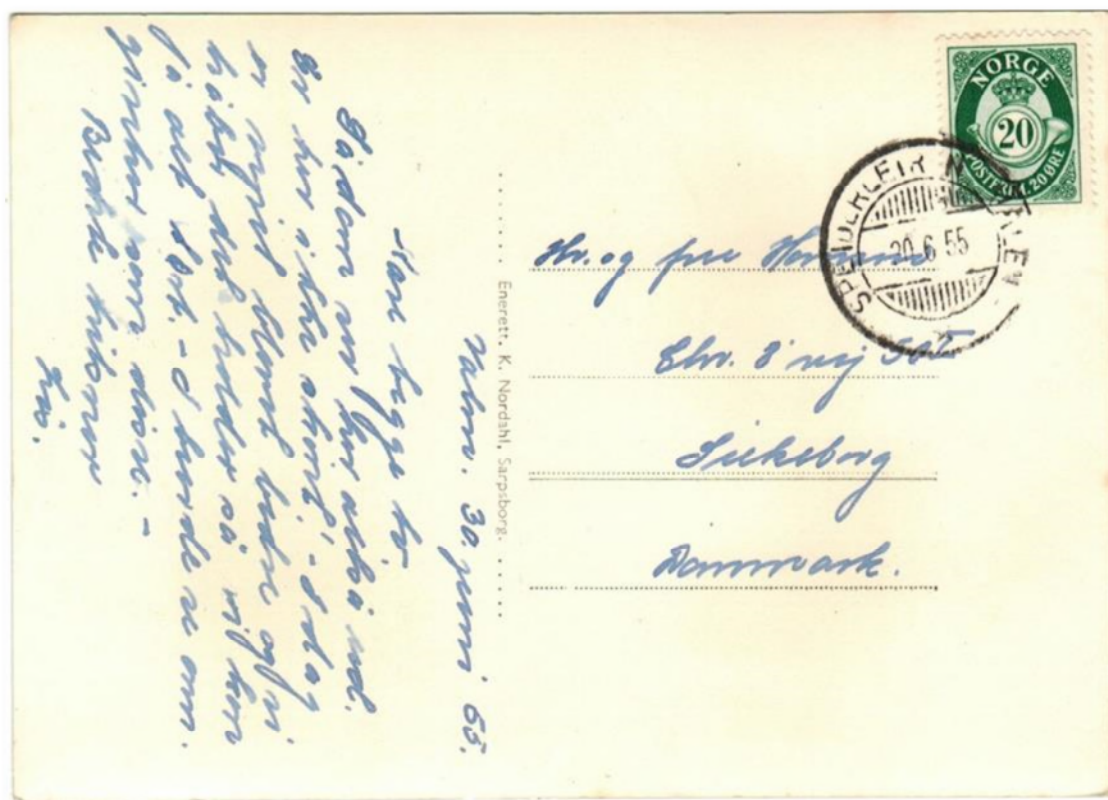
Cover from the Norwegian Boy Scouts Association in GB to its chairman Victor Carlsen, postmarked on-board a Norwegian ship. British censorship.

In 1941, the Nazis dissolved the Scouting associations in Norway and took over all their properties and belongings.

In August 1941 the Norwegian Scout Club in Great Britain was formed, affiliated to the Norwegian Boy Scout Association, with Victor Carlsen as chairman. Cover from the Norwegian Boy Scouts Association in GB to its chairman Victor Carlsen, postmarked on-board a Norwegian ship. British censorship.

When the news of the abolishment of Scouting in Norway reached England, Colonel J. S. Wilson, who also was Director for the International Bureau, summoned chairman Victor Carlsen and appointed him Chief Scout of Norway and authorised him to act on behalf of the Association. Thus, the Norwegian Boy Scouts Association operated continuously throughout the war.

Valen, 1955, 560 YWCA Girl Guides in a district camp set in a beautiful fjord landscape on the west coast of Norway. Heavy rain and wind gave poor conditions for writing home.



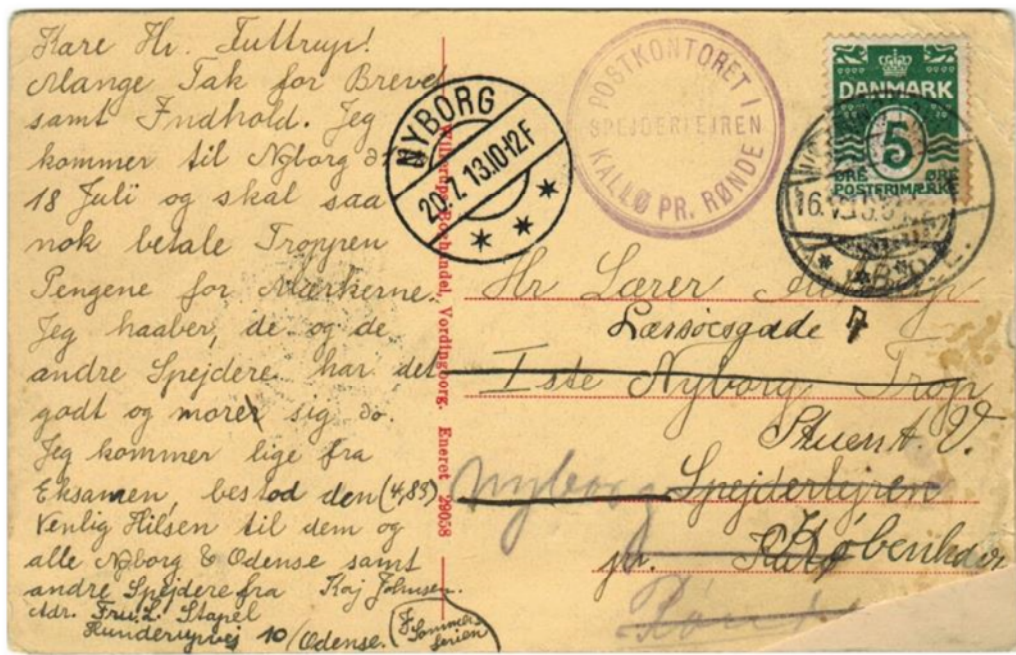
*Postcard to Denmark, written by camp participant.
The only recorded item with this postmark.*

Scouting in Europe

Frames 29 - 44: A selection of the postal history of Scouting in Europe up to 1957

Thousands of special postmarks have been used over the years at Scout and Guide camps and events. The two first official Scout postmarks were used in July 1913 in Denmark and the Netherlands.

8-17 July 1913 – the first official Scout postmark of the World, used by the rural postman at Kallø, Denmark: “POSTKONTORET I SPEJDERLEJREN KALLØ PR. RØNDE” (The post office in the Scout camp at Kallø near Rønne).



Postcard sent from Vordingborg 16 July 1913 to the Kallø Scout camp, where the Scout handstamp was applied.

24 July to 7 August 1913 – The Boy Scout camp near the port city of Ijmuiden in the vicinity of Amsterdam saw the use of world's second official Scout postmark.



Card from the Ijmuiden camp to Amsterdam. “PADVINDERS KAMP” handstamp.

The postage stamp is cancelled “IJMUIDEN 24.7.13”, first day of camp.

This postmark illustrates the hardship Scouting has endured under totalitarian regimes. The Communist Party assumed undisputed control over the government of Czechoslovakia in late February, 1948. The new communist government demanded that the Czech Scout Movement “voluntarily” join ČSM, the communist youth organisation. A Scout Congress was called in Zlín on 28 February to discuss the matter.

The postal cancel was put into use at 7 pm, but by 8 pm the state police arrived, closed the congress and seized the cancel, but forgetting to seize the mail in the mailbox. The shocked Scouts and their leaders received the news over the radio: “The Scouts have voluntarily joined the ČSM. The congress is unnecessary. Go home!”.



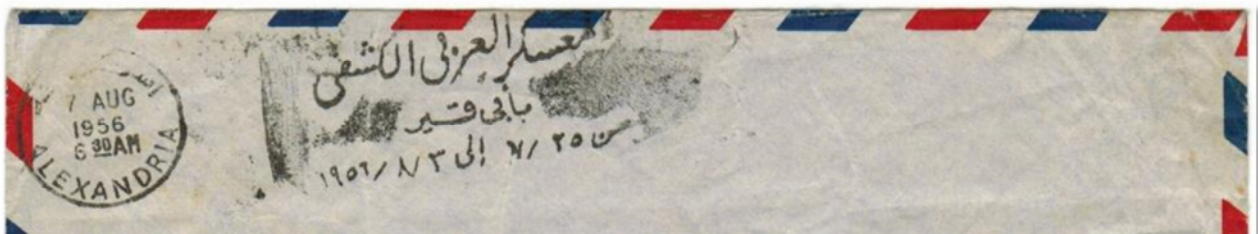
*Cover to Brno from the dramatically interrupted
Scout Congress in Zlín, Czechoslovakia.*

Scouting Overseas

Frames 45 - 52: A selection of the postal history of Scouting outside Europe up to 1957

The 2nd Pan-Arab Scout Jamboree took place in Aboukir near Alexandria, Egypt in July-August 1956. The stamps, souvenir sheets and FDCs are well known to Scout stamp collectors since they were issued in 1956.

What was not known among Scout collectors until 2009 is that an Alexandria machine cancel with advertising slogan was in use in Alexandria around the time of the Jamboree. In 2016, a similar machine cancel from Cairo was discovered. The slogan is in Arab only, and this must be one of the reasons why Scout collectors have been unaware of these postmarks for over 50 years. Translation: Arab Scout Jamboree / at Aboukir / from 25/7 to 3/8/1956.

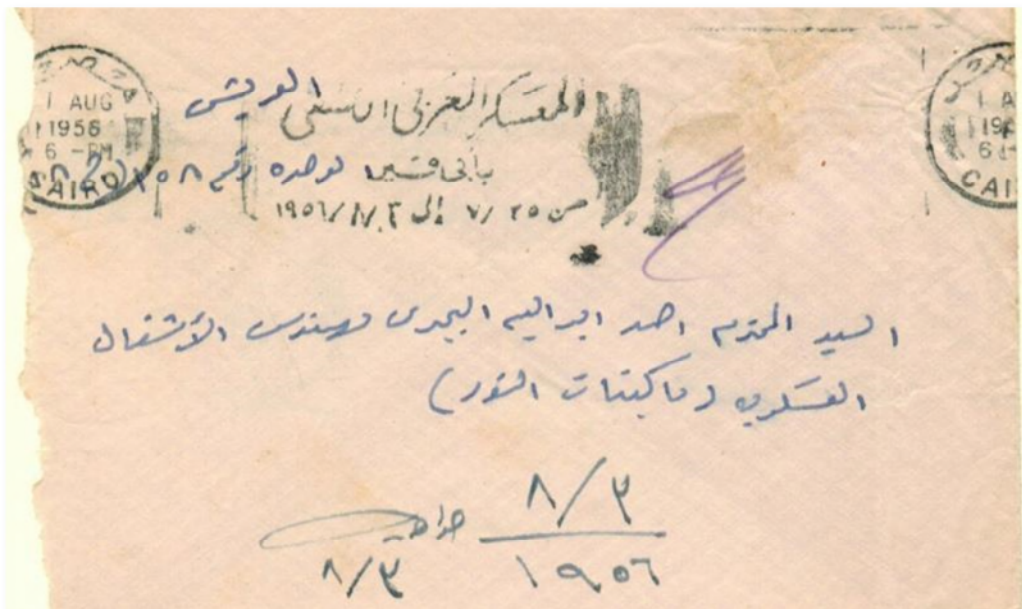


Cover from "LONDON W.C. 4 AUG 1956" to Alexandria, Egypt.

On reverse Alexandria machine cancel with advertising slogan

"Arab Scout Jamboree at Aboukir from 25/7 to 3/8/1956".

Only two items are recorded with the Alexandria 1956 Scout machine cancel.



Cover from Cairo 1 AUG 1956 to El Arish, postmarked

with Cairo machine cancel with advertising slogan

"Arab Scout Jamboree at Aboukir from 25/7 to 3/8/1956".

The only recorded item with the 1956 Scout machine cancel used in Cairo.

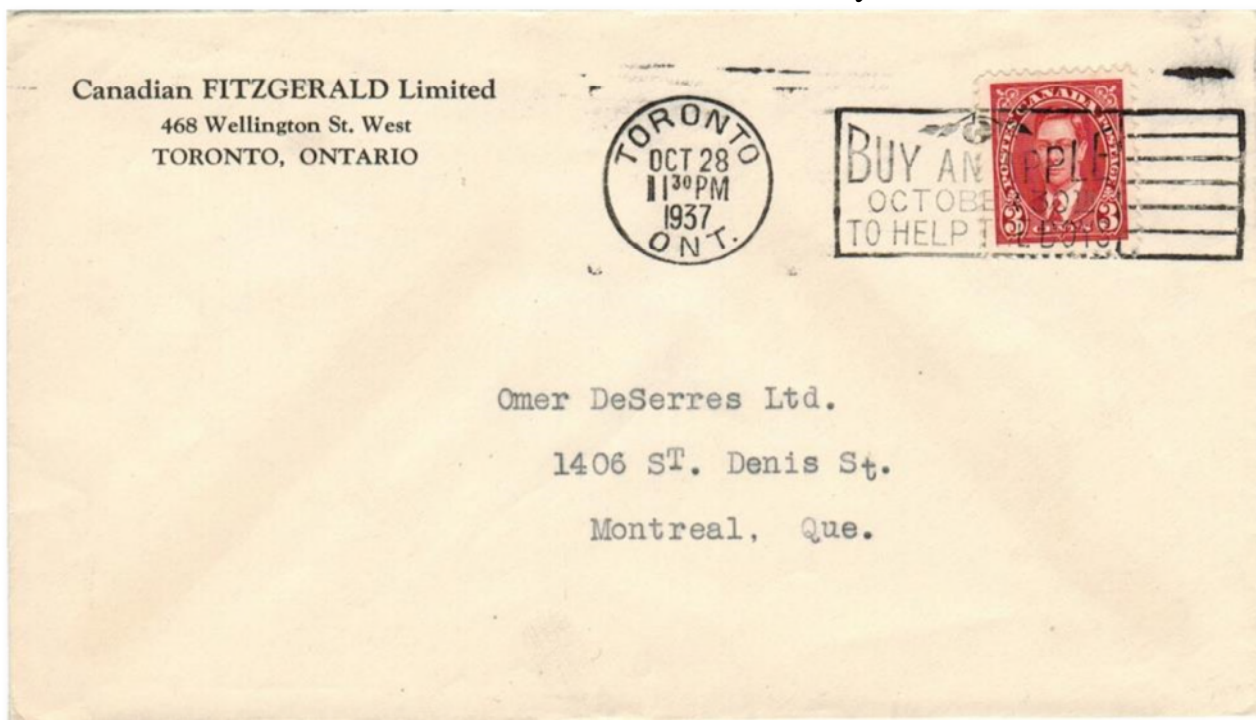
As elsewhere, the Boy Scouts of America, as well as The Girl Scouts, have a long tradition of establishing resident Scout camps. Scores of such camps existed all over the United States, but only six are known to have had seasonal post offices within the boundaries of the camps.

Owasippe Scout Reservation, located in Twin Lake, Michigan is the resident camp operated by the Chicago Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. It is the oldest and longest continuously operating Scout camp in the U.S.A.



Special camp card from Owasippe, Mich. to Chicago, Ill. 1929.

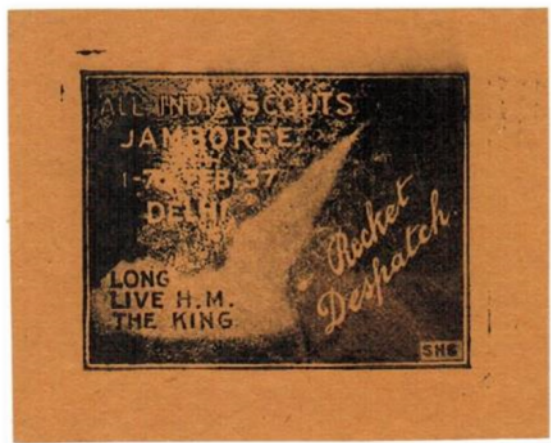
The Scouts in Canada sell apples to raise funds, rather than the simpler approach of begging for money. The first Apple Day took place in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1932, and the tradition continues to this day.



"Buy an apple to help the boys" – machine cancel with advertising slogan for the Canadian Boy Scouts' 1937 fund-raising campaign.

Dr. Stephen Hector Taylor-Smith, Secretary of the Indian Air Mail Society, was a pioneer in rocket mail dispatches, and was responsible for demonstrations of this new method for mail transport.

Eleven different rocket firings took place at the All India Boy Scouts Jamboree in Delhi, 1937. Specially printed stamps were used for covers and postcards carried by the mail rockets.



Proof, black printing on thin orange paper.



*Proof, red printing on thick buff paper.
Signed by the rocketeer, Stephen H. Smith.*



*Rocket No. 139 "Lord Baden-Powell" was fired on Feb. 3, 1937.
It carried 71 official covers and 90 official cards.
This postcard was sent internally in the camp.*

Thank you!



Original artwork for the 1982 Great Britain Scout stamp, in pencil and water-colour, close to the final and accepted design. Signed by the stamp's artist, Brian Sanders.



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I have enjoyed putting this display together, and I hope you have enjoyed looking at it. Thank you for your attention!

Hallvard Slettebø