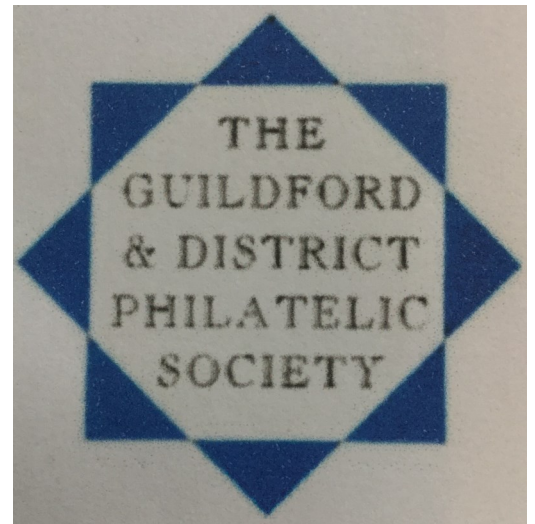


GDPS January Bulletin

Dear philatelic friends—I trust you all had a pleasant, if somewhat more circumspect, Christmas and every good wish for 2021. Some of you have already had your vaccines...there is light at the end of the tunnel—even though it is a distance ahead. This month's newsletter is all about stamps associated with the Boy Scouts.

Kindest Regards Susan



Scouting and Stamps

Many members will, at an earlier stage in their lives, have been Boy Scouts, Guides, or Brownies.

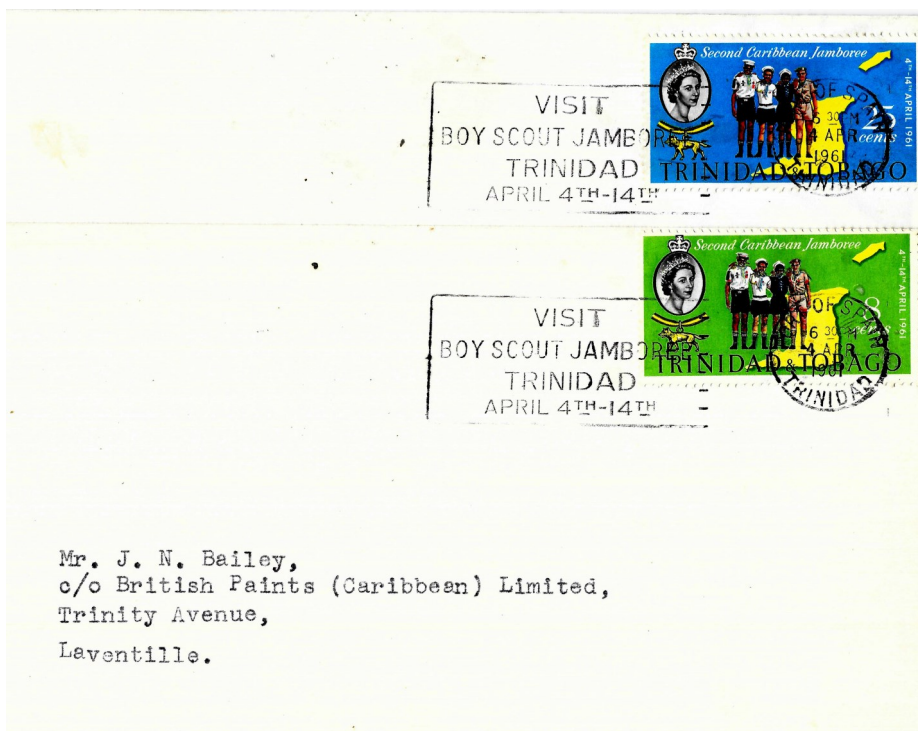
In 1906 and 1907 Robert Baden-Powell, a lieutenant general in the British Army, wrote a book for boys about reconnaissance and scouting. In mid-1907 Baden-Powell held a camp on Brownsea Island to test ideas for his book. This camp and the publication of *Scouting for Boys* (London, 1908) are generally regarded as the start of the Scout movement.

The Scout movement is a voluntary non-political educational movement for young people. Although it requires an oath of allegiance to a nation's leaders and, in some countries, to a god, it otherwise allows membership without distinction of gender, race or origin in accordance with the principles of its founder, Lord Baden-Powell. The purpose of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The first ever "Scouting Stamp" actually pre-dates the movement. In April 1900, in Mafeking, South Africa, the town was sieged when Warner Goodyear led a Cadet Corps providing a local postal service. The boys charged 3d for post between local towns and 1d per half ounce for inner town deliveries which were made by bicycle or donkey. The military authority bought up the entire stock of postage stamps in the Mafeking Post Office and then had the stamps overprinted "Mafeking Besieged" and surcharged for the special rates of the siege mail. When the supply of overprinted/surcharged stamps was exhausted in early 1900, the now famous photographic stamps bearing the portraits of Cadet Sgt. Major Warner Goodyear of the Cadet Bicycle Post and Colonel Baden-Powell, were produced.



America launched its first ever scouting stamp on June 30, 1950 at the second National Jamboree at Valley Forge to mark scouting's 40th anniversary in the USA. Britain produced its first ever scouting stamps on 1 August 1957, to mark the 9th World Scout Jubilee Jamboree. This event marked the 50th anniversary of the initial camp at Brownsea Island.



Scouting is an international movement and unsurprisingly countries worldwide have issued stamps recognising their own local movements. Such an example is this issue—to mark the second boy scout Jamboree in Trinidad in 1961. In 2007, the centennial year of Scouting, nearly all countries of the world released special sets of stamps and first day covers to celebrate 100 years of Scouting. Today some people specialise in collecting Scouting stamps.

Scouts are themselves encouraged to collect stamps. The Scout Badge Book, details the Stamp Collector Scout Interest Badge requirements. The collection can be made over a period of at least one year. It must comprise neatly mounted stamps, or postal material, and demonstrate the use of a catalogue in indexing the collection. The Scout must show a good knowledge of items in the collection, be able to explain common philatelic terms, be able to demonstrate how to remove used stamps from paper (! – perhaps mounting would be more appropriate now) and understand something about the history of stamps and postage.



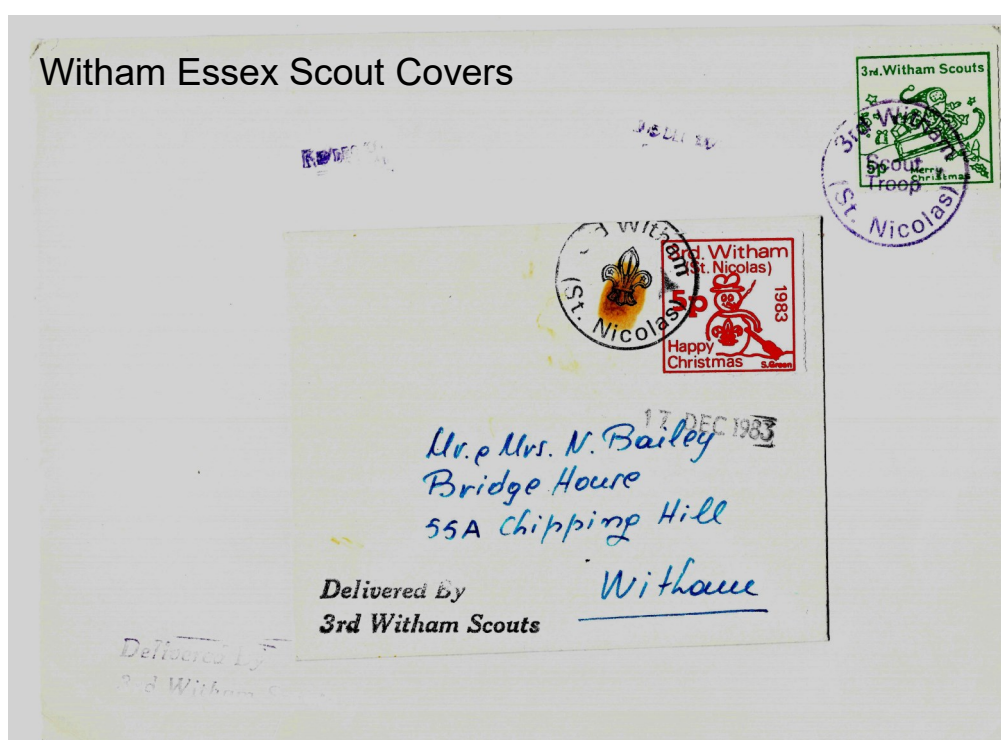
In November 1980 the “British Telecommunications Bill” modified the previous postal monopoly of the G.P.O. It allowed the Secretary of State for Industry powers to grant a licence allowing Charities to carry Christmas cards at a concessionary rate “For the purpose of raising funds for charitable purposes” during the period 25 November to 1 January. Scouts in Weare, Somerset - over optimistically, having heard about the proposed change in law prepared a stamp for 1980 which never actually got used. As far as is known this was the first one. Following the change in the law members of the Woodseats Venture Unit decided to provide a postal service to the South Sheffield area as a way of raising funds. In the first year 11,000 cards were delivered, and in later years as many as 750,000 cards were handled. Over £150,000 had been raised by 2000. Whist Sheffield has the largest and most sophisticated scheme, many other scout groups have operated this service. Some groups rely on a rubber stamp to denote payment, but many troops produce one or more stamps. There is a website “Scout and Guide Charity Christmas Posts in Great Britain” that is dedicated to the study of the postal services operated by the Scouts and Guides in Great Britain:

<http://johcra7.100webpace.net/> The website is run by John Crabbe who can be contacted on johncrabbe@yahoo.com



Sheffield sheet 2000

John has so far identified over 400 different Scout and Guide related posts, most of which are beautifully illustrated. So, if you have some stamps or envelopes from Christmas Scout deliveries why not dig them out and check them against John's catalogue? He would be delighted to hear from you if you have any new information to add to the site.



Here are some examples of Guildford Scouting Christmas cards and stamps that Alan Hammond had...thanks Alan!



An original design by Shirley Vester C
Hand painted



An original design by Shirley Vester C
Hand painted



nick

