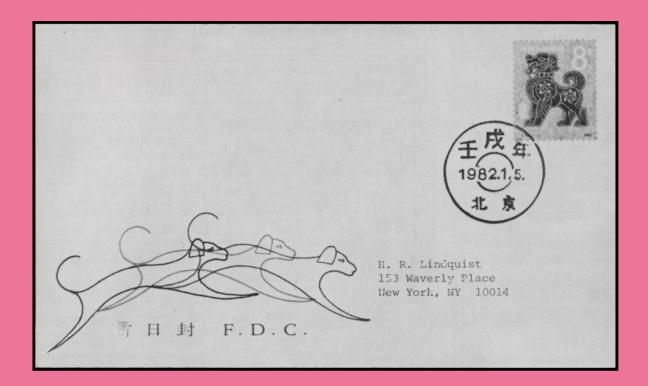
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Girl Scouts and Guides on Stamps

By JOAN BUTTERWORTH GRADY

In 1908, Robert, Lord Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scout Movement in England. The following year, 1909 a Boy Scout Rally was held at the Crystal Palace in London. Eleven thousand boys paraded at the event. Much to Baden-Powell's surprise several girls, calling themselves Girl Scouts, also attended. They were determined to be a part of the Scouting Movement. Baden-Powell decided that if they were to be a part of the movement, they needed a name and a program of their own. Shortly after the Rally, in 1909, "A Scheme for Girl Guides — A Suggestion for Character Training for Girls" was published. In 1910 the Girl Guides Association was officially founded under the presidency of Agnes Baden-Powell, Sir Robert's sister. The two Scouting founders collaborated on the first handbook for Girl Guides. The handbook was used by girls



in 1949, Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the US Girl Scout movement, was honored with this U.S. 3c green stamp.

and adults all over the world to set up their organizations.

As the world-wide Girl Scout/Guide Movement grew and expanded, more and more countries set up programs. In 1924, forty countries participated in a World Camp. In 1919 an International Council was formed and this was

replaced in 1928 by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). This organization remains the focus of the Movement today. Recent figures show that there are 94 national organizations representing over 7.5 million members.

The first stamp to depict a Girl Scout was printed by an Eastern European country. Romania issued a set of five values to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the accession of King Carol II to the throne and a National Sports meeting to be held June 8, 1935. At this time the Scout groups were autonomous organizations in Romania; by 1937 they had been merged with other Romanian youth organizations and were no longer eligible for membership in the Worldwide Scouting Movement. The 10 lei + 2 lie value of this issue shows a Sea Scout, a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout



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in uniform.

The first complete set of stamps to honor Girl Scouts was a four value set issued by Hungary in 1939 to honor a Girl Scout Jamboree held in that country. These were the first stamps to honor a Girl Scout event. Pictured were: the Scout sign (2 filler); lilly, crown and shield with Girl Scout sign (6 filler); 2 girls, one in uniform and one in national costume (10 filler); and the Dove of Peace with Girl Scout badges (20 filler).

The next stamps, in 1944 from New Zealand, depicted Princess, now Queen, Elizabeth and her sister Princess Margaret in their Girl Guide and Brownie uniforms.

In 1949, Juliette Low, the founder of Girl Scouts in the United States was honored with a three-cent green stamp. Mrs. Low started the Movement in the U.S. in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. The Girl Scout trefoil badge which is no longer used as the official symbol of Girl Scouting in the U.S. is also shown on the stamp.

Stamps depicting and honoring Girl Scouts and Guides began to be issued with regularity as the years passed. A Girl Scout hiker was shown on the 5+3c value of a four value set from the Netherlands in 1949.

New Zealand issues stamps for health each year and in 1953 Scouting was honored. The words 'Health' and 'New Zealand Health' are spelled out in Morse code on the border of the stamps. A World Camp for Girl Scouts was honored by the Philippines in 1957 with a blue, 5 centavo stamp. Both the Boy and Girl Scout symbols were shown on two stamps issued by Luxembourg to honor the 100th anniversary of Baden-Powell's birth and the fiftieth anniversary of Scouting in 1957.

Many famous women have been recognized on stamps for their work with the Girl Guide/Scout movement. Empress Farah, in uniform from Iran in 1968. Lady Baden-Powell and the Queen on a three-stamp set from Barbados in 1968. The King and Queen of Thailand in uniform in 1971. Mrs. Elsie

Ofuatey-Kodjoe, the founder of the Girl Guide Movement in Ghana, in 1971. Lady Annie Allen the Chief Guider of the St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Island was on a 1975 stamp. Lady BP was also depicted on a single stamp of a Norfolk Island set in 1978.

The number of Girl Guide/Scout issues continue to increase. This subtopical part of the Scout topical area shas enough stamps to fill 50 exhibit pages. As we move toward the 70th year of Girl Scouting in the U.S., there is a push for another Girl Scout stamp. This will probably have to wait until 1987, the 75th year. In the meanwhile, many other countries will release stamps honoring Girl Guides and Scouts.

