February 22, 1982

Two Birthdays:

125th Birthday of
Lord Robert Baden-Powell,
Founder of Scouting

75th Anniversary of
the Scout Movement

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22 février 1982,
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125e anniversaire
de la naissance de
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fondateur du scoutisme

75e anniversaire
du Mouvement scout
Scout and Stamps: A Long Tradition

For some people, Scouting and stamp collecting are inseparable. Many Scouts like to collect stamps, and probably millions of adults attribute their interest in the hobby to Scouting. Even collectors who never were Scouts take special interest because nearly 1,500 Scouting stamps have been used during the Movement's 75 years.

Collecting stamps gives any collector a better understanding of the world - but collectors of Scout stamps also see that there is a truly international brotherhood of Scouts who follow the same principles set by Lord Baden-Powell.

In 1982 and 1983, more than 80 countries and territories will issue stamps on Scouting to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Scouting. This is not only a tribute to Scouting, but to the worldwide interest in collecting Scout stamps.

Collectors say the first stamp related to Scouting was issued in 1900, seven years before the official start of the Scout Movement. That year, Colonel Robert Baden-Powell was defending Mafeking during the Boer War in South Africa.

He recruited boys as messengers, and set up a local mail delivery system. Three stamps were issued, two depicting Baden-Powell, and one of his bicycle messenger. The first cancellations read, "April 7, 1900, Mafeking, C.G.H."

His experiences in training the young men under his command showed him the need for developing youth, and helped him devise an educational system to accomplish it. He returned to England, a hero for his military success. He also returned to find boys avidly reading his writings.

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In August, 1907 he decided to test his theories at a camp on Brownsea Island. This is now recognized as the beginning of Scouting and the first Scout camp.

Lord Baden-Powell's ideas and ideals quickly spread around the world, followed by Scouting commemoration on stamps. In 1918, after the creation of Czechoslovakia, Scouts were used to deliver the new government's mail. Two special stamps marked "Czech Scout Post" were issued. These were the first to be issued as Scout stamps, rather than regular stamps which were overprinted.

In 1920, after a visit to Siam by Baden-Powell, the King ordered the over-printing of Siam's stamps with the words "Scout Fund." This added a sur-tax to support the country's Scout Movement. This fund raising benefit was common in many early Scouting stamps.

Today, countries issue Scouting stamps for many reasons. Frequently they pay tribute to Scouting on an anniversary, or for a special event such as a Jamboree. Through these stamps, Scouting maintains considerable visibility worldwide. A recent example is a set of 50 stamps issued by Liberia with illustrations by Norman Rockwell.

Collectors have different approaches to their hobby. Many collectors seek mint stamps, that is, those which are not postmarked. Some want entire sheets, or official and unofficial First Day Covers. Other collectors want to have special cancellations. Because Scouting is in more than 150 countries and territories, the possibilities are almost endless.

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The appeal of collecting Scout stamps has produced a proliferation of them from very small island countries or mini-states. Some of these do not even have any Scouts. For many issuing agencies, Scout stamps are simply a business, and they know that there are eager collectors who do not care whether the stamps represent Scouting in their area.

Scout stamp collectors will find help from some of the many groups formed for this purpose. Two major Scout Stamp organizations are:

Scouts on Stamps Society International, 3951, Stone Canyon Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA. 91403, U.S.A.

and

Scout Stamp Collectors Club, 59, Gilpin Crescent, Whitton, Middlesex TW2 1BP, England

To quote one Scout who is an avid collector, "Scout stamp collecting gives one great pride. Especially the long hours of work, patience, and the hours of saving up for that one stamp that completes a certain section. Especially the Scouters who can no longer advance on the trail of Scouting; except for the joy of passing on its traditions and tales. It is that something that makes you proud to sit down and look at your collection for the millionth time. Or the feeling of showing this accomplishment to a friend. It is a feeling of joy only you can experience, and a feeling only you can find."

(This article has been excerpted from one written by Jeff Ohlfs, an Eagle Scout in the U.S.A., and from information provided by Harry Thorsen.)
Happy Birthday B-P!

World Briefs: Spain, Venezuela, Serving Immigrants, Italy

Scout 'U' Fund Helps Scout Brothers in Need

Adolescents are Focus of Europado

Scout and Stamps: A Long Tradition

Joyeux Anniversaire B-P!

Le monde en bref: Espagne, Venezuela, au service des immigrants, Italie

Le Fonds Scout 'U' aide les Scouts dans le besoin

Europado met l'accent sur les adolescents

Scouts et timbres-poste: une longue tradition
The last page of this World Scouting Newsletter, page 12, contained pictures of stamps issued for each World Jamboree from 1933 to 1959 by each of the host countries. For some reason, they were printed in the negative rather than in the positive. This page was added to show the same stamp images as they probably were meant to be pictured.