

Scout and Guide Stamps Club BULLETIN



Volume 53 No. 6 (Whole No. 308)



..... and my hopes for a Peaceful 2010

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2009



Editorial - Merry Christmas and Happy New Yera

I have done what I can to get the Bulletin back onto a proper time schedule but I must apologise for the day over your receipt of the September/October issue. This was caused by a combination of events:-

1. Tim Reed posted the address labels to me and then went on holiday.
2. The labels never arrived and I was e-mailing Tim for more - not knowing he was away.
3. The Bulletin was printed and sitting in my office for posting.
4. My own holiday arrived and I still did not have labels.
5. John finally made contact with Tim and new labels were sent but I had already gone away and had made arrangements for Bernard Tewksbury to deal with the issue. (Thanks Bernard)
6. Additional labels were send to Bernard and he did the packing and then passed to my office for the posting.

I never know stamp collecting could be so exciting.

Some of you will have received new Membership Cards with the last issue and there may be further with this one. Please don't worry if your own has not arrived yet as Tim is catching up on the issue of these and they will all come in time.

Future copy dates are shown below and I would welcome some additional articles for the 2010 issues - especially any related to the Guiding Centenary.

If you do send material please try to do this electronically if possible. An article in Word format with pictures as jpegs take me about 10 minutes per page to paste into my programme. The same same will take me about an hour if I have to type and scan photos, etc. However don't let this stop you if you don't have a computer I will do the typing

Terry Simister

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FUTURE COPY DATES

January 17th, March 21st and May 16th.

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



NOTE THE DATES NOW - 14TH TO 16TH MAY, 2010
IN THE SHIRE HALL, CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, UK.

It has been confirmed by Royal Mail that a set of stamps will be produced for the Centenary of the Girl Guides and will be issued on February 2nd 2010. Randall Frank, the President of SOSSI also reports that the United States Postal Service has announced that a Scout stamp will be issued in 2010 to celebrate the Centenary of Scouting in the U.S.A. I do know what a struggle it has been to obtain this stamp issue and contact has been made with many members of the US Government with support from the American Philatelic Society. In the United States they will probably have one stamp, but no doubt we will have a set with high values so once again the collector helps to keep our Post Office going.

Peter Duck, our President has reported in this Bulletin on the 40th Anniversary celebrations held in Venice of the Italian Scout Stamp Club AISF. This club certainly knows how to put on a very good show and they excelled with the programme and tours and made us visitors as always most welcome. A free catalogue, in full colour, with descriptions and images from every display was given to visitors. The opening ceremony was already unique; there was not only an excellent buffet, but also an impressive concerto of Italian opera arias to enjoy. On Saturday, a sightseeing tour by ship attended by



over 100 members and friends visited the Venetian islands Murano, Burano, Torcello and S.Francesco del Deserto was a great full day experience, which included a delicious Mediterranean lunch. The Gala Dinner on the Saturday was superb and over 60 sat down for this event. I sometimes wonder how we are going to receive and erect the frames at our Euro-Scout exhibition next May at Chelmsford. The frames are coming from

Essex, Suffolk and Kent, but as mentioned by Peter, the Italian ones came by boat on the Grand Canal.

I was sorry to hear that Reg Morris died a few months ago aged 77. He was a keen member of our Club and SOSSI in its earlier years and used to attend our meetings until he moved to the U.S.A. in the 1970's. He was responsible for writing many Philatelic Jamboree Monographs that were produced for the 1929 U.K. event with Jimmy Golton (but published in 1978). 1963 Greece with Peter Duck, 1967 USA with Peter Duck and David Jefferies, 1971 Japan, 1975 Norway with Peter Duck, David Jefferies and Tobjorn Larsson-Fedde of Norway, 1983 Canada with David Jefferies. Since then Monographs have been written about the 1951 Austrian Jamboree by the Austrian Club SPS., 1955 Canadian Jamboree by Tony Manson and lastly the 1995 Netherlands Jamboree by Fred Maarsen. These have all been first class productions and a great philatelic record of these events.

Returning to Italy, an International Philatelic Exhibition was held in October at Rome where our member Giovanni Cucchiani was awarded a Large Vermeil for his Siege of Mafeking exhibit and Estanislao Pan de Alfaro of Spain from the Spanish Scout Stamp club, for his exhibit "The Ad-venture of Scouting" which won a Vermeil. Congratulations to both.

Plans continue to take shape for our Euro-Scout Exhibition in Chelmsford from 14th–16th May 2010. Details are now being to be placed on our SGSC website at www.sgsc.org.uk/index.shtml and in the near future the application form for frames will be added to this site. The Euro-Scout sub-committee have met on four occasions and much planning has taken place. Frames will be erected on the Thursday morning and nearer the time we will be looking for volunteers to help with this and many other jobs over the weekend. In the meantime a list of Hotels and Guest Houses can be found on our website. Early reservation is recommended especially for those Hotels near to the centre of the town. For those wishing to also attend the London International Stamp Exhibition at the Design Centre, Islington, London, the dates for this show are May 8th- 15th, so why not visit this before our show.



INTERNATIONAL CHOCOLATE 3

Tobler and their triangular Toblerone chocolate bars are well known today. Before the Second World War, they produced cinderellas on a wide variety of topics and their series 22 depicted 12 Scouting images.

There are however varieties indicating the series was reissued on a number of occasions. The Desmaretz catalogue lists 3 versions, but this article will list 4, giving a total of 48 cinderellas to collect.

The first three series all have the cinderellas headed with the name “Exploranti” and the text is in “IDO” Esperanto. All are labelled as “Series XXII Nos 253 - 264” plus the actual cinderella number.



1 Series with white background and brown lettering. The “Tobler” lettering is with serifs.

2 Series with black background and white lettering, no serifs used.

3 Series with black background and white lettering. Designs have been re-drawn to be more graphic and less realistic, heads often turned slightly, arms or legs in differing positions. In the example

shown to the right the sitting Scout’s head has been turned significantly.

4 White background with black lettering, designs as series 1 and 2. Text has been changed to be in English, and reads “Scouting - Tobler - Swiss Milk Chocolate, No - , Serie 22 No 253-264”

Is anyone aware of series of these items ?

GERMAN ASSOCIATIONS

Deutscher Pfadfinderbund (German Scout Association) and Jungdeutschland (Young Germany) are two names most frequently seen on early labels. There are numerous others, but ultimately prior to the Second World War, the World Scout Conference chose to recognise no German associations. German associations were known to be very militaristic and as the 1930's came also very politically influenced and hence none were recognised by the Conference. However, many of the label produced were done before 1920 when the World Scout Conference was first set up and criteria for recognition agreed. This then sets a challenge as to what is collectable as Scouting for this early period ? A selection of some varieties follow.

The Deutscher Pfadfinderbund had many labels, one in particular featuring a kneeling Scout and a Scout flagbearer, has a tablet along the bottom that allowed overprinting giving the opportunity for variations. Three are shown here, are there more ?

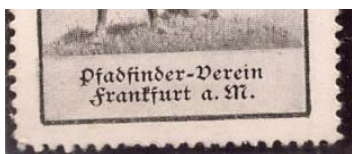
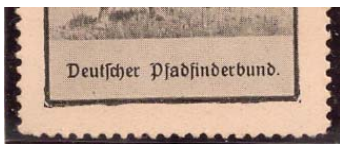
The text read from top left;

“Deutscher Pfadfinderbund”

“Pfadfinder-Verein, Frankfurt a.M.” (Scout Association, Frankfurt)

“Pfadfinder Verlag Otto Tmelin, Munchen OS”

(A Scout supplies shop in Munich ?)



In 1913 there was a Scouting exhibition held in Stuttgart. A series of 15 labels was produced for the exhibition featuring coloured photos of Scouting activities. These images were also produced as a postcard series. On the label there was overprinted text in black reading “Pfadfinder Ausstellung, Stuttgart Juni 1913”. A second series of the labels also exists with the overprint reading just “Pfadfinder”

Also in 1913, a Jungdeutschland group in Heilbronn, a city in Wurttemberg, just north of Stuttgart held a “stiftungsfest” or inauguration festival for which a series of 6 labels were produced. The labels exist with and without the “Stiftungsfest Mai 1913” text. Jungdeutschland was another boys youth organisation that was very similar to Scouting.



This concludes Paul's very interesting introduction to the world of Cinderellas.

LINN'S STAMP NEWS November 9, 2009

Reginald Morris, 1931-2009

Machine cancel collector Reginald Morris died Sept. 25 in The Villages, Fla. He was born Dec. 17, 1931, in London, England, and later moved to Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Morris served as president of the Machine Cancel Society from 1993-98. His articles and research involving machine cancellations have been published in the *Machine Cancel Forum*, the society's journal.

He is survived by his wife Marguerite and daughters Susan B. Morris and Diana L. Collins. ■



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 50p for 1st class post (any packets weighing over 100 gr will be sent by 2nd class post). Overseas 80p for stamp orders only, covers/cards orders £1.20.

STAMPS MINT & USED (Please note – some issues are only available in mounted mint condition, but unmounted will be sent where possible).

	MINT	USED
IND96 INDONESIA 1996 National Jamboree (8)	0.95	-
IND96S INDONESIA 1996 National Jamboree & world Philatelic Exhibition 2 x MS	2.40	-
HON96 HONDURAS 1996 75 th Anniversary of Scouting (3)	0.80	-
NGR96 NIGER 1996 Baden-Powell commemorative (2)	2.00	-
NGR96 NIGER 1996 Baden-Powell commemorative MS (design as above stamps + centre label)	2.20	-
GAB96 GABON 1996 Scouting commemorative (3)	2.40	-
GAB96S GABON 1996 Scouting commemorative MS – showing B-P	4.75	-
TNZ96A TANZANIA 1996 34 th World Scout Conf. + Scout Camp Thailand (12 overprints – animals)	-	4.00
TNZ96B TANZANIA 1996 above overprints on sheet of 16 stamps depicting horses	5.00	-
LBY97 LIBYA 1997 Postal Savings (3) depicting Scouts & Guides	0.45	-
ELS97 EL SALVADOR 1997 75 th Anniversary of Scouting (1)	0.15	0.15
KEN97 KENYA 1997 75 Years of Girl Guides + Scouting (8)	4.00	3.60
GUI88S GUINEA 1998 90 th Anniversary of World Scouting MS	1.25	-
MAV98 MALDIVES 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	3.00	-
GAM98S GAMBIA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS of B-P	3.00	2.75
STV98 St.VINCENT 1998 19 th World Jamboree 3 in sheetlet	3.20	3.00
STV98S St.VINCENT 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS of B-P	2.50	2.35
GRN98 GRENADA 1998 19 th World Jamboree (3)	2.25	2.00
GRN98S GRENADA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	1.75	-
GRD98 GRENADA GRENADINES 1998 19 th World Jamboree (3)	2.00	1.85
GRD98S GRENADA GRENADINES 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	1.75	-
DOM98 DOMINICA 1998 19 th World Jamboree (3)	2.00	-
DOM98S DOMINICA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	1.65	-
ANT98 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 1998 19 th World Jamboree (3)	1.95	1.80
ANT98S ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 1998 19 th World Jamboree MS	1.75	1.60
BRB98 BARBUDA MAIL 1998 19 th World Jamboree overprints (3)	1.95	-
BRB98S BARBUDA MAIL 1998 19 th World Jamboree overprint MS	1.75	-
SRL98 SRI LANKA 1998 5 th National Jamboree (2)	0.45	-
LBY98 LIBYA 1998 Children's Day (6 in sheetlet showing Scouts & Guides)	2.75	-
CAR98 CENTRAL AFRICAN REP 1998 Scouts/flowers/sports 2 x MS with B-P	6.00	-
SOM99 SOMALIA 1999 Scout Badges and Awards sheetlet of 18	5.00	-
MON99 MONTSERRAT 1999 19 th World Jamboree O/P on 1986 Guide issue (4)	1.20	1.20
JGO99 JUGOSLAVIA 1999 Scouting commemorative (1)	0.40	-
BUL99 BULGARIA 1999 Scouting commemorative (4)	0.90	-
STL00 St.LUCIA 2000 75 th Anniversary of Girl Guides (3)	1.35	-
LIB00 LIBERIA 2000 2 x MS honouring Baden-Powell and Scouting	4.50	-
JDN00 JORDAN 2000 90 th Anniversary of Scouting (3)	0.80	-
IOM00 ISLE OF MAN 2000 Commemorating the Anglo-Boer War (1) with B-P	0.55	-
BOL01 BOLIVIA 2001 21 st Inter American Scout Conference (1)	1.50	-
CHD01 CHAD 2001 Honouring Baden-Powell (1)	1.55	-

CON02 CONGO 2002 Honouring Baden-Powell sheetlet of 9	3.90	-
CON02P CONGO 2002 Honouring Pope John Paul II & Baden-Powell sheetlet of 6	3.00	-
NEP02 NEPAL 2002 Golden Jubilee of Scouting (1)	0.15	-
IRL02 IRELAND 2002 Commemorating Scouting (4)	2.00	2.00

SALES SERVICE AND “100 LIST”

Peter Duck

The Sales Service lists which have appeared in almost every Bulletin for the past 30 years have been mostly a personal venture of my own. Over this period, all available stamps from 1925 onwards have been listed in more-or-less date order, and we're now into 21st Century issues. The number of collectors purchasing stamps has decreased to a “faithful few”. When occasionally other items such as covers, postcards or labels have been advertised, the response has been fairly minimal. Consequently, can it be presumed that everybody's collections are complete? Or I'm not offering what you need. I would appreciate some response on the subject before we start the 2010 Bulletins.

My “100 List” has also been going for a few years, and membership of this has now fallen to below 20 subscribers. Nevertheless I intend to keep it going as new stock is always coming in. The lists contain 100 items of Scout and Guide interest including stamps, covers, postcards, labels and ephemera (sometimes badges). Most items are priced at under £1.00 and as one item is sold, another replaces it. Lists are dispatched three or four times each year. If you wish to subscribe, please send a 1st class stamp, or a couple of Scout badges or postcards from overseas. There is no further charge for the lists provided you order something, but after two “no orders” names are deleted.

Future meetings and Venues

Just a reminder of forthcoming Club Meetings to be held in the UK:-

Rooms have been booked at Philatex for Club meetings as follows:

2010	27th February	Starting at 11.00am to 12.30pm - Room 31
	6th May	Starting at 11.00am to 12.30pm - Room 23
	6th November	Starting at 13.15pm to 14.45pm - Room 23

These meetings will be fully open to Club members with any Committee business being discussed prior to the meeting, as necessary.

Please try to support us - only the Committee turned up last time!

The Exhibition took place in the prestigious Ca`Vendramin Calergi, which also houses the Casino, from 16-18 October 2009. As there is no motorised road transport in Venice, the frames had to be carried to the venue by boat, quite a feat! How many other Scout philatelic exhibitions can say the same?

There were 34 exhibitors including displays from Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland, as well as from the host nation Italy. As expected, some very fine material on show, sometimes from a single country, others with more thematic interest. One should not use too many superlatives, but the quality of the material on show and the fine presentation made it all a joy to see. There were Mafeking items galore, Hungarian items, especially from 1933, many covers from the Warsaw Uprising 1944 "Sewer Post", and much other eastern European material. Also, of course, fine displays of Italian Scout philately.

Venice is such a beautiful city that one could not just admire the philately. Just to walk around the city is to be absorbed in its history. Non-philatelic events included a boat tour around the islands of the Venice Lagoon – a beautiful day. Also a reception and buffet in the Casino with a lovely operatic concert. Finally, plenty of fine meals with adequate supplies of wine.

Will I make it to the 50th Anniversary?

Other Guiding Anniversaries



Me and my favourite Guide Stamp

by Margaret Davison

I joined the 2nd Coulsdon Brownies when I was 8 in 1945 we met in a local school. When I was 11 I went up the 2nd Coulsdon Guides and was enrolled in July, 1948 and went to my first Guide Camp at Studland Bay. Great experience, we went by train, it was a wet camp and we finished up sleeping in a barn. At that time, Parents and the Guides were working hard to get our own equipment and by the next year we had some lovely new Bell tents. I was at boarding school, so only went to Guides in the holidays, until I was 14. I gained my 2nd and 1st Class and went on to Queens Guide. I think I must have been a bit of a nuisance as I had to work hard having not been able to go to Guides in the term time to get everything done, but I was determined. Then I joined the Old Coulsdon District Land Rangers. A lot of the time we did not have a Guider so ran ourselves and by the time I left at 21 I had gained my Ranger Service Star. During these year the only test I did not enjoy was the lightweight camping. We went to Rover Ranger Camps and we always turned up with a large ridge patrol tent, when the others were lightweight camping. We did have the last laugh sometime, as we did have some very wet weekends.



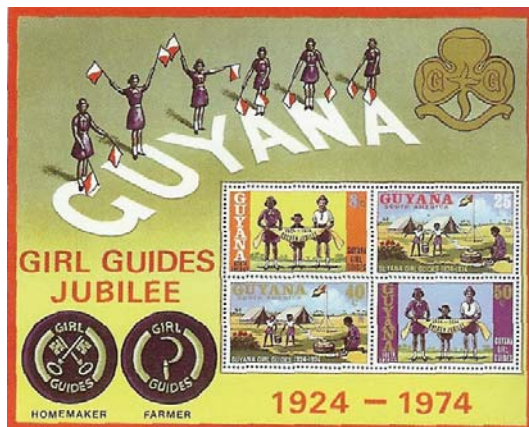
By this time I was a Guide Guider, with the 10th Coulsdon Guides, first of all as a Ranger Helper, then a Lieutenant and a Guide Captain. (Now Asst and Guide Guider). Before I gained my campers licence we camped with the other two Guide Companies in Old Coulsdon, as we all met at the District Guide Headquarters. This is where I gained my experience, after which we went off as a unit on our own. Later I became a Camp Trainer, and had my Certificate presented by the Chief Guide, Olave Lady Baden Powell. Since those days I have held several administrative posts. I have visited Our Chalet, Switzerland, Our Cabana, Mexico, and Sangam in India. Living at home with my Parents, I always had their support, and without them I would not have been able to do what I did. We had a plot of land at the end of the garden, which we used for practicing and patrol camping.



1 of a set of 4 stamps issued 24th March, 1982 - Youth Organisations. Designed by Brian Saunders, Printed by Harrison & Sons, (High Wycombe) Ltd., Photogravure Process in sheets of 100.

I think I chose this as my favourite stamp as it shows the Brownie and Guide, in the uniform that was worn when I was running Guides. and in the background is Foxlease the first Guiders Training Centre, at Lyndhurst in the New Forest. I have spent many happy times there at trainings, camping and holidays in the house.

Another Guiding Anniversary



Mafeking – The Paper Ephemera of the Siege.

As my friends will know I am never happier than when talking about the 'M' word, and I guess that this extends to writing about the Siege. Although I have now published three books and many articles on the subject, I have never encountered a reference that has concentrated on the complete range of paper 'ephemera' that originated during the Seige. There was, of course, also a vast out-pouring of material in celebration of the Relief that may well form the basis for a later 'Corner'. To cover all the ground in the space available one must tread lightly, but be aware that some of the areas I merely touch on are life-long subjects for some collectors.

The Stamps

At the outbreak of hostilities (October 13th 1899), the Mafeking Post Office had stocks of stamps which had been produced over a period of time. On March 23rd 1900, five Cape of Good Hope stamps, showing the figure of 'Hope' either standing or sitting, with values ranging from ½ to 4 pence were overprinted 'Mafeking Besieged'. These were surcharged to pay the costs of employing native runners whom risked their lives taking mail out of Mafeking through the Boer lines at night.

The need for higher denominations led to the issue in April of eleven more stamps, this time of British origin, that had been overprinted either Bechuanaland Protectorate or British Bechuanaland. (At the time of the siege the area was officially British Bechuanaland with Mafeking as its administrative capital). These were also additionally overprinted 'Mafeking Besieged' but with a smaller 'Sans Serif' font. The GB 6d stamp was surcharged 1/-, some having the Bechuanaland Protectorate overprint, but one sheet only (240 stamps) with the British Bechuanaland overprint, the mint stamp (illustrated) must be one of the world's rarest, but beware, all a forger has to do is to overprint an existing British Bechuanaland stamp with the words 'Mafeking Besieged'.

The overprinted stamps were so popular that it looked like there would be insufficient for local use in Mafeking and so by using ferro-prussiate process, (as for an architects 'blueprint') also used for the £1 notes, three additional 'blue' stamps were issued in April 1900, for local use only. The one-penny issue shows Cadet Sergeant-Major Warner Goodyear on a bicycle. B-P himself said that the Cadets were the first Boy Scouts and if that is so, this stamp is the first ever 'Scout Issue'. There were two threepenny issues, both showing the head of Baden-Powell. For

some reason both of these stamps were of the same pattern but one being slightly larger than the other. The 'blue' stamps were printed in sheets of twelve.

There are 19 different Mafeking issues in total but the number of stamps to be collected is increased by rarities including the much sought after Baden-Powell reversed head and stamps produced from a cracked photographic plate.



Cyclist on piece



Reversed Head



Bech. Protectorate



Brit. Bechuanaland

Covers and 'Kaffirgrams'

'Internal mail should, in theory, have had a single blue 3 penny stamp or row of three one penny 'cyclist' stamps, and 'external mail' leaving Mafeking which, in theory, should only have overprinted stamps. Mafeking's inhabitants were very aware that collectors across the world wanted all the stamps and so blue stamps were sometimes used on outgoing mail and overprinted stamps on internal mail. This 'philatelic mail' is often characterised by the use of more stamps than were necessary to cover the cost of postage.

As the first overprinted stamps were issued on April 25th 1900, mail sent before that did not have stamps of any description. Though unstamped covers are rarer than those that have been stamped, they are not of so much interest to philatelists and are therefore less costly today.

The 'cover' will often have the route it took (north or south from Mafeking) written on the front, as a choice of route was allowable but with different costs of posting. The mails often showed censor marks and, if sent to England, black T strikes that indicates they were tax exempt with a red cancel to show the date it arrived.

Items of 'external mail' particularly - deservedly because of the risk to life in carrying them through the Boer lines - are now very prized and a single item can cost several thousand pounds.

Letters. It is somewhat bizarre to discover that envelopes are more prized than their historical contents, even though these have rarely survived. I am fortunate to have one or two original letters, the most interesting being from Captain Panzera, Baden-Powell's Chief of Artillery, to his wife. This describes the construction of the Wolf cannon (named after B-P) that was made in the railway workshops.

General Orders These were produced to be displayed at various points in the town and also published in the Mafeking Siege Slips. Individual copies occasionally come up for sale but the Smith Premier Typewriter Company (on whose machines the originals were typed) produced a quantity of them in facsimile, in their book, 'Souvenir of The Siege of Mafeking' shortly after the end of the Siege.

Banknotes

The Garrison was forced into issuing Siege Notes when Mafeking's citizens and traders began to hoard silver coinage. The low value 1/- 2/- and 3/- denominations were produced in book form as tear off coupons and signed in facsimile by H

Greener, B-P's Army Paymaster. They were all numbered individually and were issued in January and February 1900, showing the month of issue on the top left hand side. The Ten Shilling note was issued in March from a woodcut engraving, using a croquet mallet, of a Baden-Powell drawing showing the Nordenfeldt and Maxim machine-guns. The £1 note, also introduced in March,

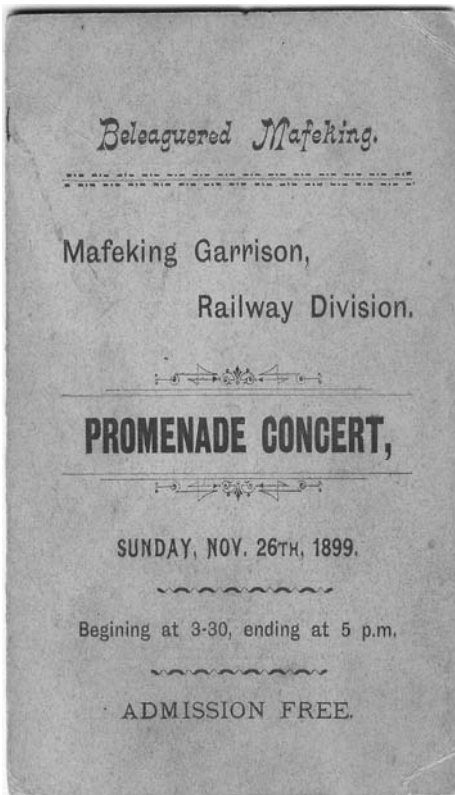


was made from a photograph of a B-P sketch of the 'Wolf' gun manufactured in Mafeking and printed using the ferro-prussiate method, identical to that used for the 'blue stamps'. Each note was then hand-numbered and signed by both Mr Urry, the Manager of the Standard Bank and Captain Greener, Army Paymaster and, as with the other notes, was embossed with the seal of Bechuanaland Protectorate. Six hundred and eighty-three £1 notes were issued. They were highly prized as collectors' pieces and only 59 of them were ever redeemed, making a considerable 'profit' for the Bechuanaland Administration.

All the notes come up for sale at specialist auctions but the three lower values are often to be found on eBay. They sell in 'creased' condition at between £40 to £60, but mint ones are much more. The question to be asked is, which really is of more interest? A note that was carried throughout the siege and used for the purpose it was intended, or a 'mint' one that was bought merely as a collectable item?

Mafeking Seige Slips. About two weeks into the Seige, the town's newspaper, the 'Mafeking Mail' produced their Siege Slips, (Issued Daily, Shells Permitting), on dwindling paper stocks resulting in various print formats, colours and thinness of paper including tissue. The complete run of Siege Slips were reprinted not long after the seige, on the same paper stocks, as a bound edition. Collectors can still find single issues, (recently on eBay at around £10 each) though it is difficult to know whether they were issued during the Seige or have been cut from a bound edition. In good condition bound editions can fetch £900-£1000, however they must be treated with great respect as the 110 year old tissue paper is now extremely brittle and prone to cracking.

For the purposes of my researches I have typed out the entire run of siege slips into a single 'Word' document and having done that published them as a 615 page A4 book, illustrated with over 50 contemporary photographs.



The Sunday Event Programmes

The 'hostilities' were suspended on Sundays as the religiously-minded Boers did not wish to break the commandment. Baden-Powell used this time to promote morale-building 'entertainments' for the Garrison. These must have had entirely the opposite effect on the Boers who were in earshot and telescope sight of the 'festivities'. There was a huge range of events, cricket and polo matches, baby competitions, produce shows and of course Concerts. Ten card programmes are known to exist and they are very interesting as they list the performers/competitors which, in the case of the Sunday Concerts, often included 'Mr Personally Conducted Cook' and 'Signor Paderewski',

the then famous Italian statesman pianist. Both were in fact pseudonyms for Baden-Powell.

It is interesting of course to read the reviews of these concerts in the Siege Slips, particularly how the town's Commandant brought the house down.

Sowen tickets.



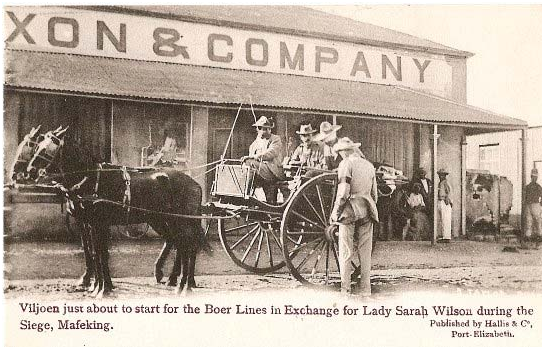
The above illustrations are from items in my collection but are documented in our Chairman John Ineson's definitive work, 'Paper Currency of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-2'. Sowen, as recounted in the Siege Slips, is the name given in the far North East of Scotland to a form of porridge made from husks of the oat plant rather than its seeds. In besieged Mafeking there was a surplus of horse fodder, namely oat husks, as the horses were being shot to provide meat. A Scotsman from Caithness, W. Sims of the Railway Division, was given a £5 bonus for suggesting the oat husks could be made into 'Sowens' for human consumption. The raw husks needed to be boiled for 36 hours before they were edible. Baden-Powell set up five Sowen Kitchens which provided the entire Garrison with ration of a quart of Sowens daily. It is not too fanciful to say that without this issue the besieged, in the later stages of the Siege, would have been at risk of starving. The issue of Sowens was via a ticket from one of 13 different locations, each one having an officer or official in charge named on the ticket. Baden-Powell is accused by his detractors as having allowed the natives in Mafeking to starve. All Natives, other than those being deliberately shepherded into Mafeking by the Boers, in order to break the Siege, were entitled to the ration.

These tickets with similar 'Soup Coupons' are rare, but not impossible to find. One in poor condition sold recently on eBay at £350+.

Photographs/Postcards. Mafeking had only one professional photographer, David Taylor, working during the siege, but several 'gifted amateurs'. Taylor's large 'Souvenir of the Siege of Mafeking', published shortly after the siege, is now very collectable and is worth around £300. Some of his photographs however were produced after the siege both in black and white and tinted colour. These can typically be found at around £20-£30. Siege photographs produced whilst the Siege was on-going are to be found, but of course are very rare.

Mafeking December 7th 1899.

The postcard serves as an example of how postcards / photographs and the first hand evidence of diaries can work together. In the horse-drawn trap the blindfolded spy Petrus Viljoen is about to be exchanged for Lady Sarah Wilson nee Churchill.



Having been sent out of Mafeking with the other Officers' wives, at the start of the siege, after an exciting adventure, she surrendered herself to the Boer Commandant and demanded to be exchanged back into Mafeking. Baden-Powell had no option but to agree. The next day all Mafeking's strategic targets were hit by the Boers' 94 lb Cruesot Siege Gun. Lord Edward Cecil, son of the then Prime Minister Lord Palmerston, and Baden-Powell's Chief of Staff, looks on supervising the exchange. He can be identified by his height but also because he is wearing a black mourning armband. The Boers had kindly sent a message into Mafeking, under white flag on November 24th 1899, to say his mother had died.

Diaries. The contemporary 'voice' is of course one of the best sources of information available and we are extremely fortunate in that there have been at least a dozen Mafeking Diaries published, some in the year following the siege, but many later. The latest is that of Herbert Greener, (Baden-Powell's Paymaster), published only this year. I am fortunate to own an original unpublished siege diary myself, and several copies of others never before published, so perhaps there is room for more publications yet. These diaries provide the positive facts that Baden-Powell's biographers so most often miss/ choose to ignore. In the 25 plus diaries that I have read, even where there is the odd line of criticism, all the diarists have a strong admiration for Baden-Powell. Each diary of course offers a different perspective, but to mention just a few: Edward Ross Auctioneer, had a role in the design and printing of the Mafeking 'blue stamps'; Ada Cock was a rare voice speaking for the wives of serving soldiers, her editor included photos of the Mafeking Cadets and Sol Plaatje, a Baralong Court Interpreter who later became the first Secretary of the ANC, eloquently chronicled the Siege from the perspective of Native peoples. All the known diaries, and in fact all Mafeking Resources, are recorded on 'The Siege of Mafeking' a sub-website to my main Scouting Milestones pages to be found at www.scouting.milestones.btinternet.co.uk

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Card posted to “Sixter Terry Simister” from his Akela, who always called herself “CM”, on 23rd December 1954.

The Editor had just passed his 10th Birthday on 11th November so those with mathematical brains can calculate that this year he was 65 - and is retiring from full-time work on 31st December.