

If you have not yet collected postage stamps honoring Boy Scouts, then you have some surprises ahead!

Did you know that an American Boy Scout appears on a Japanese 1949 Scout stamp? It is true, but the story was not discovered until several years later when a member of the Scouts on Stamps Society happened to compare an illustration in the 1938 USA Field Book with the stamp. It was evident that the Japanese artist had copied one of the photographs for the stamp illustration.

After World War Two, General MacArthur encouraged the Boy Scouts of America to reprint several books in Japanese, and some artist assumed the boys shown were Japanese. The Scout used as a model for the Japanese stamp had in fact been a member of a troop in Mendham, New Jersey, USA.

Another interesting oddity occurred

And while the stamps show a Scout cooking, the proceeds from their sale, in addition to regular postage costs, went toward the New Zealand national health program of the day.

Again in 1959 the Boy Scouts in New Zealand were honored by their country with a stamp that reproduced the badge of their Pan-Pacific jamboree, which was attended by 8,200 Scouts from 14 countries. The bird in the badge, and on the stamp, is the kiwi, a flightless bird native to New Zealand. The female kiwi leaves her mate to incubate her single egg for from 70 to 80 days!

In 1918, at the close of World War One, the Czechoslovakian Scouts performed valuable postal service for all the government departments in Prague, while their newly formed country was getting organized. From November 7 to November 20, 1918, the stamps used in

same USA Field Book that was copied by the Japanese in 1949.

In 1969 the country of Sierra Leone issued Scout stamps on pressure-sensitive paper, which requires that the backing paper be removed before sticking the stamps down, without the use of moisture. Advertising for a New York jewelry firm appears on this removable paper. This is a most recent innovation in philately. But it's not too surprising for the diamond-producing nation of Sierra Leone to promote a diamond merchant.

Collecting Scouts-on-stamps is fun, especially if you study your stamps closely and find out about the events or people shown in the designs.

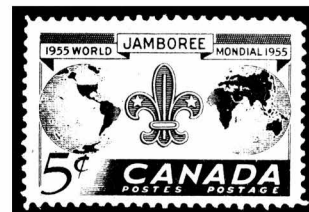
When any nation pictures Scouts on a stamp issue, it is an endorsement of the largest youth organization known in the world today.

There is another organization for stamp



THE ODD ONES

by Harry D. Thorsen Jr.



seven years before Lord Baden-Powell actually started the Boy Scout movement.

During the Boer War in South Africa, while the town of Mafeking was besieged and surrounded by the enemy, B-P organized the boys of the town into an efficient messenger service. When postage stamps became scarce, new ones were improvised with a picture of Warner Goodyear, the leader of the boys. Years later, B-P referred to Goodyear as "my first boy scout"—although there were no Boy Scouts organized at that time. The idea for the whole movement was born.

New Zealand issued two Scout stamps in 1953 and these are believed to be the only stamps in the world carrying a Morse code message in their design.

In the border of each of these stamps you can see the dots and dashes that spell out N-E-W-Z-E-A-L-A-N-D-H-E-A-L-T-H.

Czechoslovakia read: *Czech Scout Postage. . . In the Service of the National Government.*

Yet most of the stamp catalogues do not list these as the first stamps for this country, because Czechoslovakia did not exist legally or officially until after November 20, 1918.

Canada honored the 8th World Scout jamboree in 1955, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a stamp showing the Scout badge and the two hemispheres of the world. Designed by Laurence Hyde, this Scout stamp represented Canada's second occasion for issuing a steel-engraved stamp in two colors. The first time had been in 1939, for the Royal Visit issue.

The Republic of Indonesia, in 1955, produced five Scout stamps for their first national jamboree. The designs were all based on the pictures appearing in the

collectors interested in Scouting material. It's SOSSI (Scouts on Stamps Society International). If you'd like to join SOSSI, the membership fee is only three dollars a year.

As a member of SOSSI you receive the monthly bulletin (The SOSSI Journal), which is mailed out to about 1,400 collectors in more than 40 countries.

Through SOSSI you can trade, buy, or sell Scout stamps, first day covers, Scout cancellations and other special event items. And you can receive information about new issues and thorough research notes on the older issues.

You are welcome to join the ranks of SOSSI, a leading specialty group. A self-addressed envelope and international reply postage coupon, sent to the author, will get you started. The address is 387 Sunset Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093. 🌟