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STAMP



Lover



New Zealand Christmas Issue.

New Issues Spotlight. See Inside

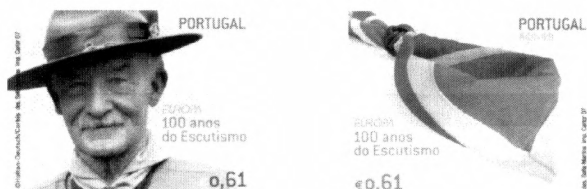
New Issues Spotlight – Centenary of Scouting

On 28 July 2007 some 40,000 scouts from around the gathered for the 21st World Jamboree at Hylands Park in Essex marking the centenary of the Scout Movement.

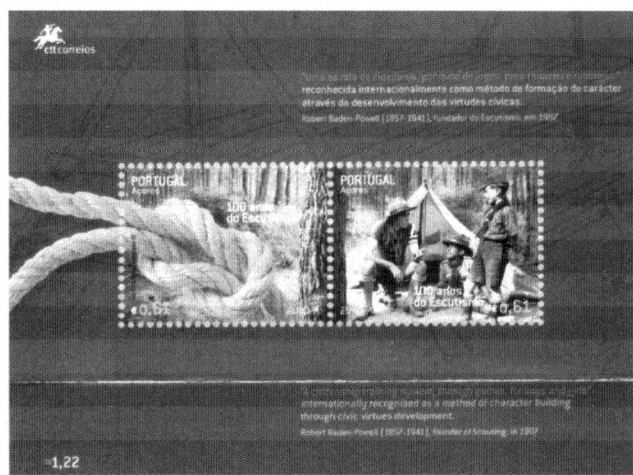
This centenary has also been marked by postal administrations across the world, and PostEurop designated the centenary as its theme for the 2007 “Europa” stamps issued earlier in the year. This article looks at some of these centenary stamps and the scouting themes used in their designs.

It was in South Africa, from his experience as a cavalry officer in the siege of Mafeking in the Boer War where boys were used as messengers, that the founder of the movement, Robert Baden-Powell (1857- 1941) developed his belief that the ability of youngsters to educate themselves through games could be used to aid their development. These ideas culminated in the first scout camp on Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, in August 1907 and his book “Scouting for Boys” published in 1908.

The word “jamboree”, adopted by the scout movement in 1920, also comes from Africa, being derived from the Swahili greeting “Jambo”, meaning “Hello”.



“B-P” first appeared on the 3d Mafeking Siege Stamp of 1900, but a centenary issue portrait of Sir Robert Baden-Powell as he became, can be seen on one of the 3 x 61c stamps from Portugal, Azores and Madeira – the scarf and international scout badge appear on the others, whilst the pairs of stamps in three miniature sheets each feature early camping scenes and scouting artefacts.



A selection of the activity badges earned by scouts appear on one of the four stamps from Jersey – the 74p value which has as its theme “Changing the World for Good”



The new movement soon spread throughout the world to become the largest child and youth movement in the world. It reached New Zealand in 1908, being organised there by Lt. Col. David Cossgrove who had met Baden-Powell in South Africa while on army service. Lt. Col Cossgrove appears on one of two scouting stamps forming part of the 2007 New Zealand Centenaries set released on 24 April. The second stamp (\$2) shows modern scouting teaching self-reliance through outdoor activities.

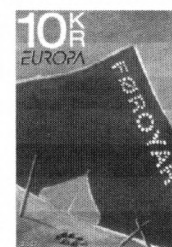


Similar modern images appear on France’s 60c Europa stamp and on the six British stamps issued by Royal Mail on 26 July. Litho printed by Enschede in sheets of 25 or 50 each illustrates different



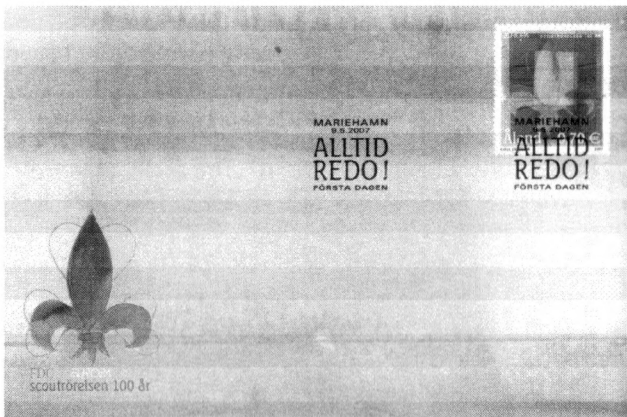
scouting activities and achievements with a “fact statement” – taking the 54p stamp for example, did you know that adult scout volunteers give 360 million hours of time each year? As ever with modern issues, it seems a pity that relatively few members of the public will see these stamps in daily use.

Not that the spread of scouting always ran smoothly. In the Faroe Islands, boys had previously attempted to create scout patrols but failed every time until 1926 when four boys in Tórshavn got together with a view to forming a scout group to stop the fights then taking place between the different quarters in the town. This time it was a success and today there are 1,500 scouts now in the Faroes.



The two Faroe Islands stamps are striking, as is the single 70c stamp from Åland shown below on the First Day Cover. Prominent in the cancellation is

the scout motto “ALLTID REDO! (Be Prepared). An Åland clergyman, in contact with the Swedish Scout movement formed the first Finnish scout troop here in 1909-10, but in 1911 the Russians (Finland was the Russian Grand Duchy) banned scouting in Åland, the movement being re-established in the 1920's following Finnish independence.



More traditional, showing international and national scout emblems are the two 1.70 Lt stamps from Lithuania. Scouting began here after independence in 1918, and there were approximately 3,000 scouts by 1930 but with invasion in 1940 the Scout Union was dissolved and many of its leaders were arrested, jailed or exiled – sadly, a pattern repeated elsewhere in Europe.



Scouting came to what is now the Czech Republic in 1911 but was suppressed two years after the Communist coup in 1948. Now re-established, the centenary has been marked by an attractive 11k stamp, recess-printed in black with photogravure in yellow, red, blue and ochre.



Other countries have opted for symbolic designs such as can be seen on the two stamps from Mexico, a dramatic stamp from Egypt and the se-tenant pair featuring a dove of peace from Mexico. These three countries and their stamps alone demonstrate how scouting has not only bridged the continents, but are examples of not only how scouting bridges continents, but also differences of



race, religion and culture, keeping the original aims of helping others and always doing your best.

Finally, some really striking images from Canada whose 52c domestic rate stamp by Matthias Reinicke of Edmonton's Lime Design Inc. was issued on 25 July. As its background, the stamp features the scout emblem, along with images of camping, campfire-related activities, canoeing and cycling. A “Scout "grand howl" from the archives is the central feature of the booklet pane.



Altogether the Canadian issue is a fine tribute to a movement that is still going strong after one hundred years and now has over 218 million scouts in no less than 216 countries and territories.

A listing of all the stamps issued for this Scout Centenary appears on the website of the [Scouts on Stamps Society International \(SOSSI\) www.sossi.org](http://www.sossi.org)

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