

TOPICAL STAMP COLLECTING



Today's fastest growing branch of the world's most popular hobby—
with 50 most popular topics, the stories behind the stamps, and
complete instructions on forming a topical collection

BY M. W. MARTIN

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41. Scouting

Most Scouts and Scouters are interested in many phases of stamp collecting and in stamps from all countries, but many of them are particularly interested in stamps related to their own organization and its many sided activities.

Those interested in forming a collection of Scout stamps will find many informative articles on this subject, several books, and a collectors' society devoted to collecting only Scouting stamps—Scouts on Stamps Society International.

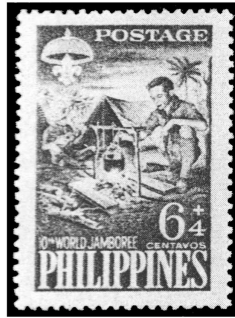
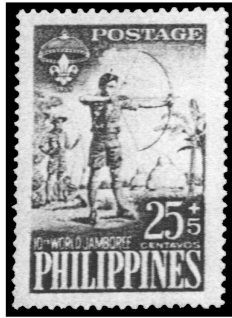
The first Scout stamps are older than Scouting itself. They were issued in 1900, during the 219-day siege of Mafeking in South Africa, during the Boer War. There, the British garrison, commanded by Col. Robert Baden-Powell, successfully fought off a much stronger Boer force. Boys were organized into a Cadet Corps to provide local bicycle mail service and it was from his experience with this group that Baden-Powell developed the Scouting idea.

As there were no stamps available in Mafeking, two designs were produced by photography. One portrayed Col. Baden-Powell, the other depicted Cadet Sergeant Major Warner Goodyear—later called “the first Scout”—riding his bicycle. Today, these

stamps are quite expensive and actual covers (some were carried by native runners through enemy lines) are rare and valuable.

The first stamp to picture a Boy Scout was issued by Hungary in 1925 as part of a set of stamps depicting various sports. These stamps were surcharged (carried an additional price) for the benefit of various athletic and youth groups. The additional price collected on the Scout stamp went to the Hungarian Boy Scouts.

Hungary was also the first country to issue stamps in honor of a World Scout Jamboree. This was in 1933, when Hungary hosted the Fourth World Jamboree at Godollo. The stamps proved so popular that since that time Scout stamps have been issued by every Jamboree host nation. In 1957, Britain issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Scouting, which coincided with the Ninth World Jamboree in Sutton Coldfield (where the Scouting movement was launched) and the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Lord Baden-Powell. There were Scout stamps issued from other nations complimenting the fiftieth anniversary of Scouting and since then it has been usual for a World Jamboree to inspire Scout stamp issues by more than the host



country. In 1967, for example, some 15 countries issued Scout stamps to commemorate the Twelfth World Jamboree, and more than a dozen nations honored the Thirteenth World Jamboree in 1971.

The World Jamboree commemorative stamps are only a small fraction of Scout stamps issued around the globe. Many countries have issued stamps for their national jamborees. The United States' first Boy Scout stamp was issued in connection with the Second National Jamboree held in 1950 in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Other issues have honored regional gatherings—such as, for example, the 1948 Pan-Pacific Jamboree in Wonga Park, Australia—and there are many Scout stamps which were issued for anniversaries of Scouting in various coun-

tries. A number of stamps exist commemorating the centenary of the birth of Baden-Powell.

New Scout stamps are issued each year by many countries. In 1973, for example, 21 countries issued over 90 Scouting stamps!

There are also stamps issued for the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and some have also pictured their founder, Lady Baden-Powell, who has carried on as a vital force in the Scouting movement since the death of her husband in 1941.

In addition to Scouting stamps there are many First Day covers of the commemorative stamps, many decorative cachets, and a number of special commemorative cancellations for the various Scouting events.