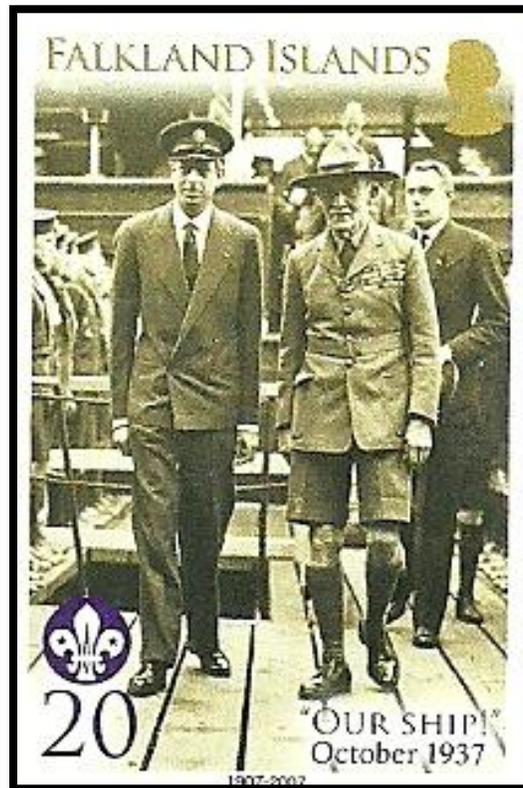


SQUARE KNOTS & PENGUINS

THE ANTARCTIC SCOUT PHILATELY CONNECTION

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LOVELAND, COLORADO, USA
2016

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INTRODUCTION

Antarctica and its *aurora australis* have been the destination for human adventure for well over two centuries. It was only the deep cold and the inferior technology that kept humankind from exploring these regions at earlier dates. Even today's explorers struggle to maintain warmth as temperatures shift and vary from moment to moment, hour to hour and day to day. Although technology has changed for the better, even in this modern age we read of very large ships entrapped in the crushing ice of Antarctica. In addition, we read of today's modern scientists wintering over on this great continent having to perform medical operations via satellite web link with a medical doctor literally thousands of miles away in some warm land. In the beginning, it was the search for the whale and its oil for fuel that encouraged explorations. Later it was the potential for minerals such as coal, various ores and other natural resources. Ultimately for many, expeditions occurred simply because it was there and few had been there before. To be the first, to winter over and to just survive had the potential for bringing fame and perhaps even fortune for those who dared.

In the days of the late 19th and early 20th centuries travel by sea was evolving from that of sail to mechanical engine. At times ships had both modes of propulsion as refueling was difficult, and with sails the wind almost always blew. The crews that manned these ships, such as *R.R.S. Discovery*, were a hearty group who could handle the rough seas, the icy winds, the days and nights on watch and deal with both food rationing and constant wet conditions. These same crews built the ice and land bases from which the exploration treks within this unexplored continent of Antarctica took place. These hardy and adventurous men stayed through the Antarctic winter, skied across frozen terrain for hundreds of miles, studied penguins and seals, and recorded on which day the sun disappeared below the horizon and the day it returned.

It was men who went to Antarctica who became scouts, such as Jean-Baptist Charcot who helped to form the French Boy Scouts and who became its first president. Also scouts, such as King Scout James Marr and Eagle Scout Paul Siple, were selected to experience real life adventures of the Antarctic because of their personal qualities and experiences. Later, even in recent years, others have followed in their snowshoe tracks; but never to the degree experienced by these early explorers. Today scientific study is the main motive for a visit to Antarctica; however, there are those, such as British Chief Scout Bear Grylls, who have made the trip for pure adventure as the early explorers had done.

During all of this exploration, communications with the outside world were always important to the expeditions and those individuals participating. In the early years, there only was the mail and short-wave radio. The mail was sent and returned via the countries of New Zealand and Chile, while letters with special postmarks noted the historical aspects of the expeditions. In time special efforts were engaged in to create unique cachet envelope covers during time spent aboard ship or on the ice. As the decades flew by, countries were determined to remember the exploits of the expeditions and explorers via the issuance of special postage stamps. It is the stamps and cachets from and about the Antarctic expeditions and activities related to scouts and scouting that are presented in this publication.

Whether it is from selected scouts crewing old ships or tracing through the frozen snow fields, to the existence today of a scout troop at Esperanza Base, the allure of the Southern Cross continues as scouting skills are tested. While they are tested the mails continue to depart and arrive even though satellite links and email have made communication virtually instantaneous. There are postmarks yet to be found and applied, and there are still stamps to be issued and cachets yet to be designed and printed. Welcome to the Antarctic and Scout Philately Connection!



R.R.S. DISCOVERY: "OUR SHIP"

Royal Research Ship (RRS) Discovery has captured the imaginations of scouts, Antarctic explorers and "would be" explorers over the past century. She has sailed to the south on expeditions of exploration as a tall ship before the modern conveniences of this century. Today *Discovery* is moored in Dundee, Scotland, as a museum to her past adventures, especially those in the icy waters of Antarctica.

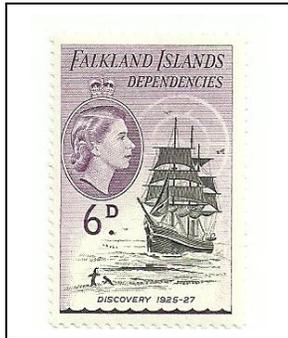


Figure 1

Issued by the Falkland Islands Dependencies in 1953 as Scott #1L26 (Figure 1), and re-issued in 1955 with an overprint "Trans Antarctic Expedition 1955-1958" as Scott #1L37 (Figure 2), these are the first stamp issues featuring *RRS Discovery*. In the 1970s two additional *RRS Discovery* stamps were issued. In 1976, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the "Discovery Investigations", South

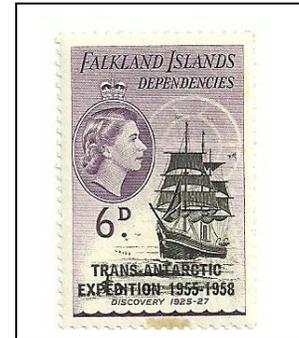


Figure 2

Georgia issued a 2p value stamp, Scott #44 (Figure 3), in an autumn orange and brown color combination. Following in 1979 was an issue from the Australian Antarctic Territory, Scott #L51 (Figure 4), with a face value of 55c.

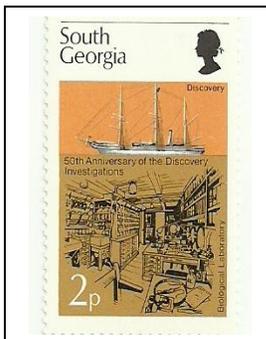


Figure 3

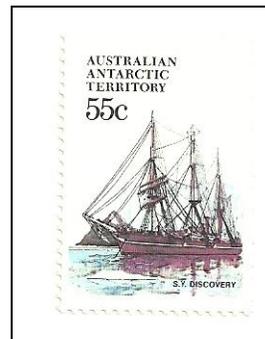


Figure 4

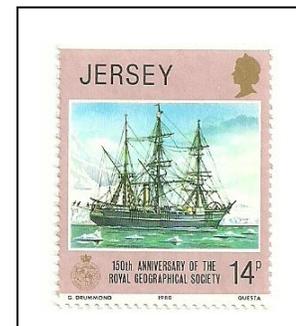


Figure 5

In 1980 Jersey and the British Antarctic Territory both issued stamps illustrating *RRS Discovery*. The Jersey stamp, Scott #239 (Figure 5), shows *RRS Discovery* with ice in the background with her sails taken in. This 14p stamp was issued in honor of the Royal Geographical Society's 150th Anniversary. The British Antarctic Territory 7p value stamp was issued in celebration of the same anniversary, but it also includes an illustration of Sir Clement Markham, the Society's first president. This rose and white colored stamp presents a picture of *RRS Discovery* at Hut Point. It is listed by Scott as #77 (Figure 6).

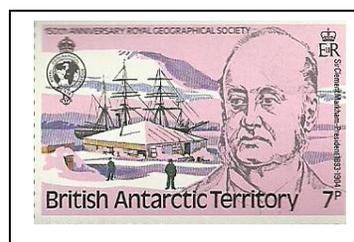


Figure 6

In 1987 the British Antarctic Territory issued a 24p stamp, Scott #135 (Figure 7), using the same illustration as the 1980 stamp. This time the illustration was in full color with *RRS Discovery* in the ice at Hut Point.

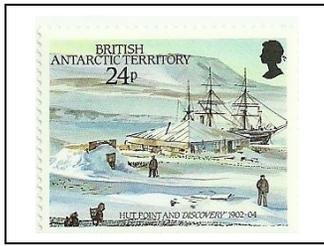


Figure 7

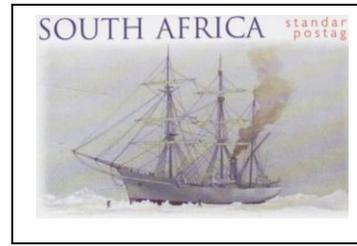


Figure 9

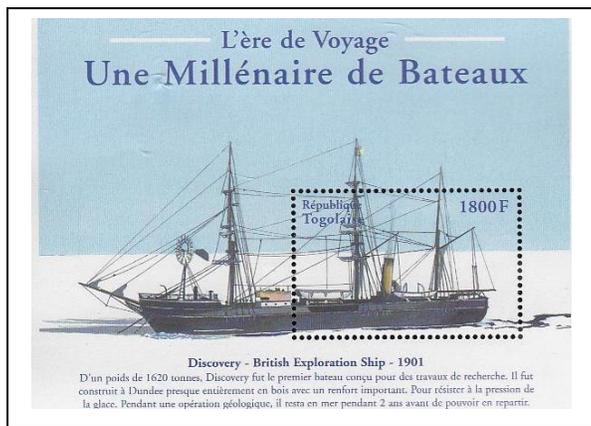


Figure 8

After a lapse of twelve years *RRS Discovery* stamps re-appeared. A 1999 French language souvenir sheet, Scott #1962 (Figure 8), featuring *RRS Discovery* in the ice was issued by the African country of Togo. In addition, South Africa issued a standard postage set of four ship stamps as part of their “Sailing the Southern Oceans” theme done in support of the 1999 World Stamp Exposition in Australia. Included in the set is a rendition of *RRS Discovery*, Scott #1104 (Figure 9), in ice and under steam. Additional *RRS Discovery* stamps were issued by the British Antarctic Territory in 2001. Both issues were in celebration of the 1901 – 1904 British National Antarctic Expedition under the leadership of Robert Falcon Scott. A 43p stamp, Scott #303 (Figure 10), shows *RRS Discovery* in the background as the first manned balloon flight in Antarctica takes place in the foreground. The second issue, an 80p value Scott #306 (Figure 11), shows *RRS Discovery* in “winter quarters” with sled dog teams in the foreground.



Figure 10

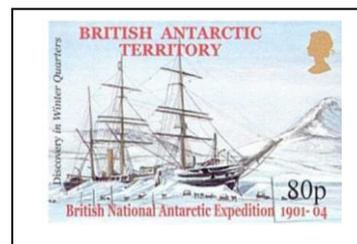


Figure 11

In 2002, and again in 2003, the Ross Dependency issued stamps featuring black and white photographs of *RRS Discovery*. The 2002, 90c stamp, Scott #L75 (Figure 12), shows a wind-blown *RRS Discovery* on winter station in the ice. The 2003, 80c value, Scott #L74 (Figure 13), shows her anchored off of an unknown Antarctic inlet with fog enshrouded mountains in the background. Figure 14 presents a fine first day cover prepared by New Zealand Post in 2002 in honor of The Discovery Expedition of 1901 to 1904. This cover uses all six of the Ross Dependency stamps issued.

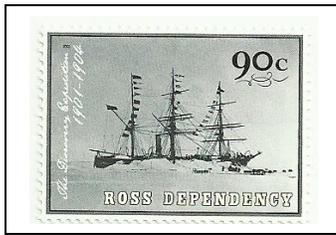


Figure 12

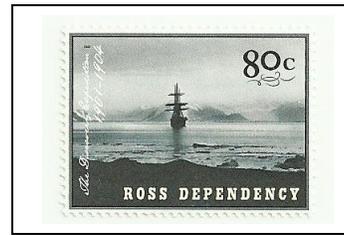


Figure 13



Figure 14

During *RRS Discovery's* hundred plus years of history, she was built in 1901, the 172 foot craft made numerous Antarctic forays with several well known explorers and future well known explorers. Scott, Shackleton, and Mawson all made her their sea going home; and all embraced and suffered along with her poor sailing ability as she rose and plummeted through the south Atlantic and Antarctic seas. Whether it was exploring the Antarctic, hauling goods for the Hudson Bay Company or ferrying munitions to the White Russians, *RRS Discovery* presented herself as a noble lady of strong endurance and dependability. Towards the end of her "work" career, *RRS Discovery* was secured by the British Scout Association for a Sea Scout training ship. Moored on the River Thames in London, she was host to literally hundreds, if not thousands, of scouts who came to call her "our ship" during the years prior to World War II.



Figure 15

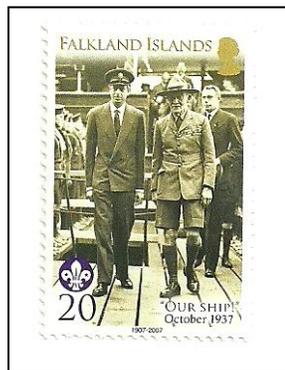


Figure 16



Figure 17

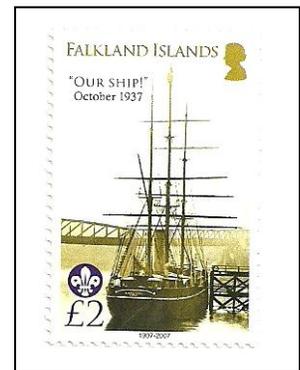


Figure 18

In 2007, in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of World Scouting, the Falkland Islands issued a set of four stamps of photographs illustrating *RRS Discovery* on her dedication day as a Sea Scout training ship in London on October 9, 1937. A 10p value stamp, Scott #937 (Figure 15), shows Sea Scouts in her rigging waving their covers. The 20p stamp, Scott #938 (Figure 16), presents Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Scouting's Founder; and British Sea Scout Commodore, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent. The 25p value stamp, Scott #939 (Figure 17), has the two afore mentioned leaders on the *RRS Discovery's* deck inspecting Sea Scouts. The final stamp in the series, Scott #940 (Figure 18), is a £2 value, showing *RRS Discovery*, and entitled "*Our Ship*", at her new dockside home on the River Thames.

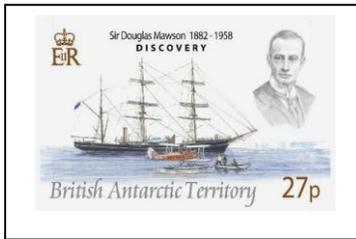


Figure 19

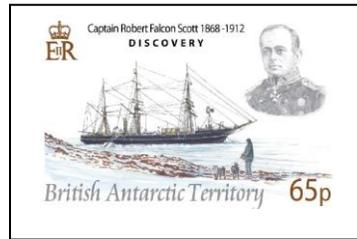


Figure 20

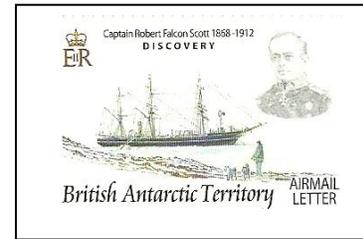


Figure 21

During the entry to the 21st century the number of *RRS Discovery* stamps increased. In 2008 the British Antarctic Territory introduced a series of stamps entitled "The Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration". In this series appeared three stamps featuring *RRS Discovery*, with one of the stamps being part of a special souvenir sheet (Figure 26). A 27p value stamp featured *RRS Discovery* along with Australian Antarctic Explorer Sir Douglas Mawson. The illustration used, Scott #305 (Figure 19), shows a sea plane along the side of ship. The other two stamps issued were the same illustration with *RRS Discovery* anchored off shore with a wind mill on her foredeck. Both stamps honor Captain Robert Falcon Scott, but one stamp, which was issued as a single, Scott #394 (Figure 20), shows a value of 65p. The other stamp, as part of the souvenir sheet Scott #399c (Figure 21), shows the value as being the prevailing air mail rate.

During World War II *RRS Discovery* was called to war time service as a Royal Navy training ship. Her engines and boilers were removed, and she stayed moored on the River Thames throughout the ordeal of war. Following the war she was returned to the Scouts Association who found that maintaining such a vessel during the austerity of a rebuilding Britain was beyond their means. Again, *RRS Discovery* returned to the Royal Navy as a training ship, but this time for the Royal Navy Auxiliary. Towards what was considered the end of her life in 1979 she was secured by the Maritime Trust and opened to the public as a museum. Later in 1985, she transferred to the Dundee Heritage Trust and moved to Scotland where she is moored today at Discovery Point as the key exhibit.



Figure 22

Figure 23



Figure 24

In 2011 South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands produced a se-tenant issue (Scott # 439, Figures 22 and 23) featuring *RRS Discovery* and two famous Antarctic explorers: Frank Wild and Robert Falcon Scott. Both stamps have a postal value of 60p. Frank Wild and a Polar Medal are shown on Scott #439a and Robert Scott is shown on Scott #439b along with an anchored *RRS Discovery* in the background. Also in 2011 South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands issued a series of four stamps honoring Sir Alister C. Hardy who served as *Discovery's* Chief Zoologist during a 1924 voyage. This £1.45 value stamp, Scott #425 (Figure 24), shows a modern day Sir Hardy with *RRS Discovery* in the background. In 2015, as part of a twelve stamp "Ships, Scientists and Explorers" issue, South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands issued a 5p definitive stamp (Figure 25, Scott #520) honoring Stanley Kemp. Dr. Kemp served as the Director of Research concerning whaling in the South Atlantic Ocean, and his first voyage was aboard *RRS Discovery* which is featured in the background.

The influence of *RRS Discovery* has gone far beyond the oceans of the Antarctic. When Arthur C. Clarke was working in London he used to take his lunch breaks on board the docked *RRS Discovery*. In the 100th year anniversary of her launching, it was his inspiration to select the name "*Discovery*" for the name of the spaceship in *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Also of note is that the third NASA Space Shuttle was named *Discovery*, selected in recognition of the several sailing vessels in history, including the *RRS Discovery*, of the same name.

RRS Discovery has every right to be referred to as a "proud ship". With her strong scouting connection, scientific research endeavors, commerce hauling, and war time adventures; she is a vessel well deserving of being featured on so many stamps over the decades. As a proud piece of both maritime and scouting history, scouts across the globe can today still feel a sense of pride and recognition when references to "Our Ship" are mentioned.

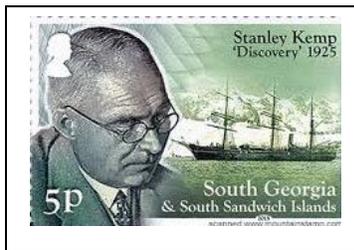


Figure 25

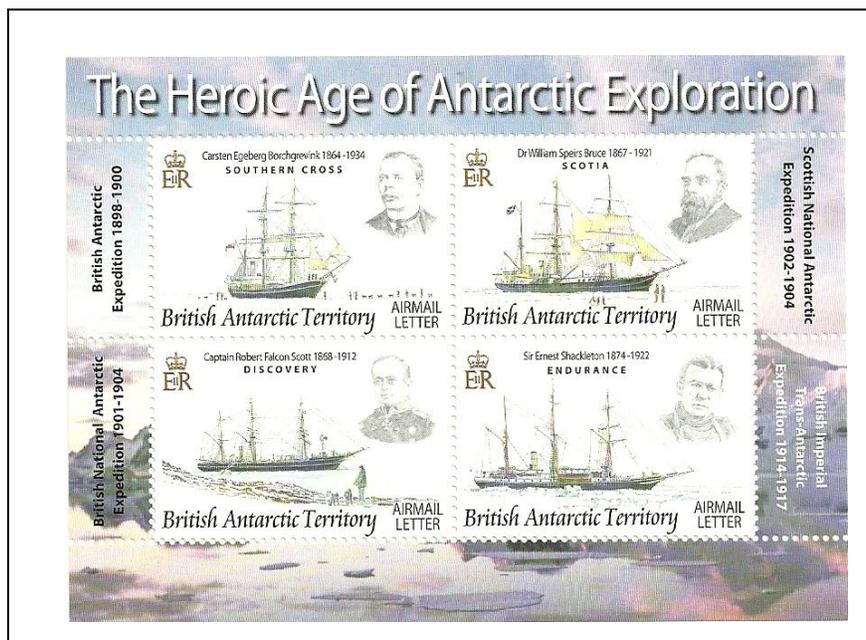


Figure 26

THE POLAR GENTLEMAN

Jean-Baptiste Charcot, honored by France on two semi-postal stamp issues in 1938, Scott #SP68 (Figure 1), and 1939, Scout #SP69 (Figure 1), made his first trip to the Antarctic in 1903 aboard the three-masted schooner *Français*, a ship he began constructing with his own funds. Being a medical doctor, as was his father, he had determined at a young age that a life of sailing and adventure was more to his liking. His first trip south actually began as a trip north, but he changed plans in an effort to assist in the rescue of the Swedish explorer, Otto Nordenskjöld, who was presumed stranded in the Antarctic. While traveling south word was received of the rescue of the explorer before Charcot and his crew arrived in Antarctica, but he determined to continue south as he believed that Antarctica was a place of little exploration where one could achieve greatness. Wintering in the Antarctic at Booth Island, in 1905 he returned to his home in France as an explorer and great hero now known as “Commandant Charcot”.

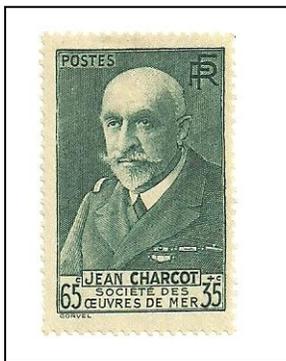


Figure 1



Figure 2

Sailing again, this time with French government assistance, Commandant Charcot embarked on a second expedition in 1908 on board a three-masted bark he had constructed especially for polar exploration. The *Pourquoi-Pas?* (Why Not?) was an oak ship constructed to be three times as strong as the *Français* had been, and with special protection designed to prevent damage from ice. In 1909 he crossed the Antarctic Circle and sailed along the coast of Adelaide Island, discovering it to be over 70 miles in length and the not the reported eight miles. In January of 1910 a new land was discovered within the Antarctic Circle, but at first the peaks were thought to be icebergs. Both Charcot and his crew were amazed to discover that the “icebergs” were actually mountains. To honor his father, Jean-Martin Charcot, he named the land “Charcot Land”. In later explorations it was determined that Charcot Land was actually “Charcot Island”, and the home to a major colony of Adélie Penguins. This 30 mile long island was connected to the Antarctic coastline, along with the Wilkins Ice Shelf, by an ice bridge. Illustrating the changing climate, in 2009 this ice bridge shattered into many small icebergs.



Figure 3

Returning home again as a hero, Jean-Baptiste Charcot assisted with the effort in to organize the Éclaireurs de France (Boy Scouts of France) where he served as its first president. A Jean-Baptiste Charcot souvenir card from 1938 is considered to be the first official French Scout cancellation; and the card, pictured on the Scouts On Stamps Society International website, shows a special surcharge that benefited French Boy Scouts. Although fragmented into several Scouting organizations today, Scouts in France still honor Jean-Baptiste Charcot within their units. On sight at the World Jamboree in 1947, as tribute to their hero, French Scouts constructed a giant model of Charcot's ship the *Pourquoi Pas?*

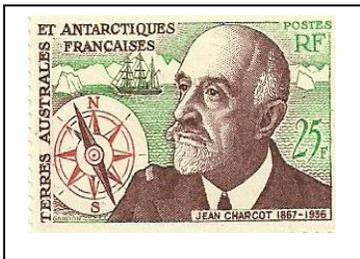


Figure 4

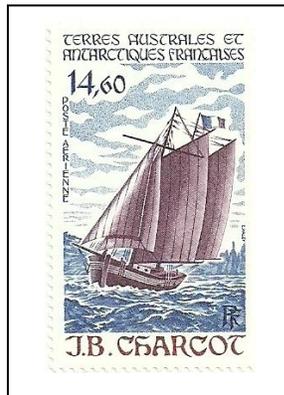


Figure 5

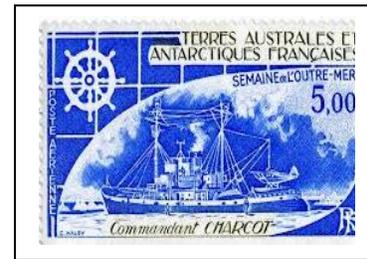


Figure 6

France again honored Jean-Baptiste Charcot in 2007 on the occasion of the 120th anniversary of his birth with a se-tenant issue (Figure 3) of Charcot, Scott #3368, and the *Pourquoi-Pas?*, Scott #3369, illustrated against a background of ice in Greenland. The French Southern and Antarctic Territories has issued several Charcot related stamps with a 1961 issue showing Charcot and *Pourquoi-Pas?* with a compass rose (Scott #21, Figure 4). A two color stamp was issued in 1987 picturing a sailboat with the flag of France at the masthead (Scott #C96, Figure 5)). Issued in 1982 was a 5fr stamp (Scott #C71, Figure #6) showing the French vessel *Commandant Charcot* which was named in the explorer's honor. Scott #C93 & #C94 (Figure 9), together were a se-tenant issue honoring Charcot in 1986 on the 50th anniversary of his death in 1936 when the *Pourquoi-Pas?* sank with the loss of 44 of her 45 man crew during a storm off the coast of Iceland. A very nice cachet cover celebrating this 36th French Antarctic Expedition was issued in 1986 (Figure 10).

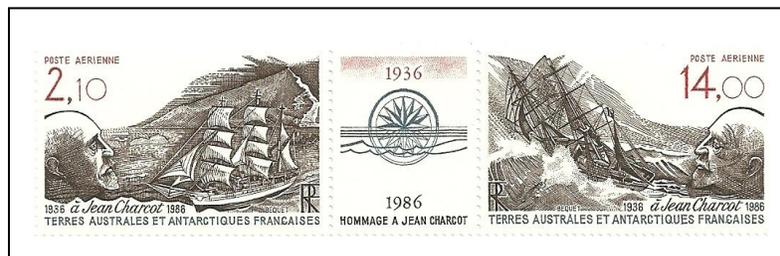


Figure 9

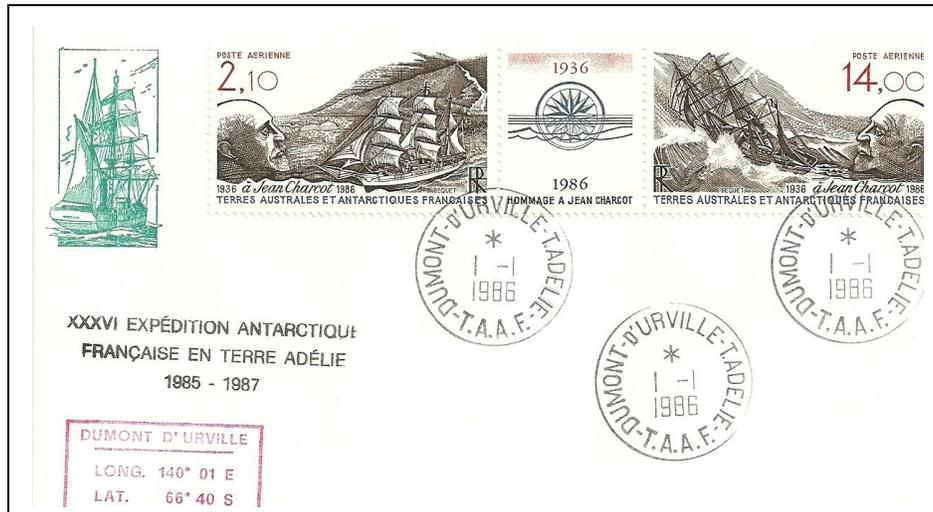


Figure 10 Cachet celebrating the 36th French Antarctic Expedition 1986

In 1973 the British Antarctic Territory issued a 10p value stamp, Scott #55, which was part of a polar explorer's series (Figure 11). Charcot's tie to Great Britain comes from the Great War (World War I) when he served aboard a British Royal Navy Q-Boat as a commander. For his heroic service and bravery he was awarded the British *Distinguished Service Cross*. In 1983 the Asian nation of Laos issued a six stamp "explorers" series with a 6k value. Scott #492 shows Charcot (listed in error on the stamp as "Cabot") with his ship the *Pourquoi Pas?* in the background (Figure #12).

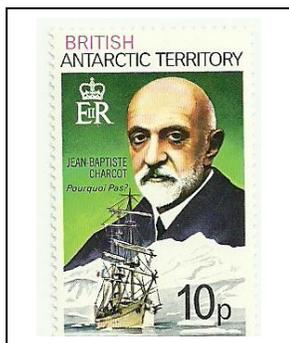


Figure 11

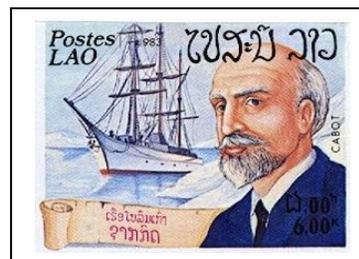


Figure 12

From the scientific observation perspective, Jean-Baptiste Charcot is known as one of the world's most important Antarctic explorers. In 1980, and again in 1995, The French Southern and Antarctic Territories issued air mail stamps commemorating the establishment of the French Antarctic station named in his honor. The 5fr stamp, issued as Scott #C68 (Figure #13) in 1980, shows the Charcot Station in the Antarctic snows. The 1995 15.00fr issue (Scott #C134, Figure #14) illustrates the departure of the winter residents from Charcot Antarctic Station.



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16

In 2003 The French Southern and Antarctic Territories issued three stamps in a three part se-tenet format commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the departure of Charcot for the Antarctic. The feature stamp (Scott #328a, Figure 15) is a .79c value of Commandant Charcot. In 2005 another issue was released showing Charcot on his knees observing a penguin. This stamp (Scott #356, Figure 16) was a two part perforated stamp with a 4.50€ value with the non-postal portion on the left being a map illustrating Charcot's route to the Antarctic.

Related to the scouting movement, the French owe a great deal to Jean-Baptiste Charcot for his work in the early days of the organization's formation. With his admiration by the country's population, his demonstrated leadership, and his keen interest and involvement in the outdoors, he was certainly a great explorer in the history of the Antarctic as well as a hero for the youth of the nation to look up to. Even Britain's Captain Robert Falcon Scott referred to him as "the gentleman of the Pole". For those in scouting he was also a "gentleman for the youth of France".

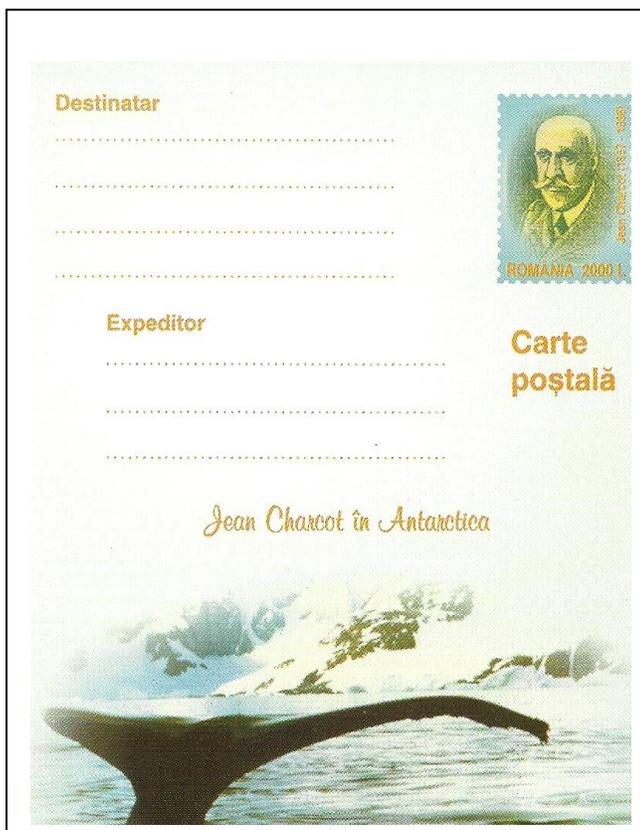


Figure 17: 2003 Romanian Charcot Postcard

SCOUT MARR AND THE QUEST EXPEDITION



Figure 1

When *Quest* departed her dockside on the Thames River in London on September 17, 1921, James William Slessor Marr was the second youngest member of her crew. As an 18 year old scout from the 1st Aberdeen (Scotland) troop, he and another Scottish scout, Norman Mooney, age 17, had been selected from over a 1,700 applicants to accompany Sir Ernest Shackleton on the Shackleton-Rowett Antarctic Expedition (Quest Expedition). Sir Ernest Shackleton, a well known explorer of the time, had been part of the ill-fated Scott Expedition of 1901-03 as well as his own expeditions in 1907-09 and 1914. During his 1914 expedition his ship, *Endurance*, was trapped in Antarctic ice and crushed. Heroic efforts by Shackleton culminated in an 800 mile open boat trip to South Georgia to organize the rescue of his marooned crew on Elephant Island.

Although Scout Mooney left early in the voyage due to sickness, Scout Marr continued with the one year (to the day) expedition as a full member of the *Quest's* crew. Not having been a Sea Scout, Marr was not familiar with sea going ways. He soon found that what had been billed as a "cabin boy" position had been a might altered. The *Quest* was a wooden hulled ship of only 111 feet in length. It had a ketch rigged sail and a coal fired engine and very tight cramped sleeping quarters for her crew. Over the course of his sea going experience Marr served as a lamp trimmer, coal shoveler, deck scrubber, bilge pumper, cook's mate, sail setter, lookout, quartermaster, and one who stood watch. Skill, teamwork and perseverance were all learned by this scout and university student while he endeavored to overcome bouts of seasickness.

Working watches on and off, being assigned the most trivial of jobs, being pushed and slogged back and forth as *Quest* rolled about in gales and rough seas, Marr grew to become a valued member of the crew. During one remarkable gale a monstrous wave struck *Quest* while Marr was on deck. He was knocked off of his feet, pounded by an avalanche of water and nearly swept into the sea. Fortunately he was able to hold onto a covering board or this would certainly have been his last Christmas Day. Following the expedition Marr probably had this event in mind when he wrote in his book, *Into the Frozen South*, that the sea "either makes you or breaks you."

In January of 1922 sadness struck *Quest* when anchored at South Georgia. The expedition's leader, Sir Ernest Shackleton, died in his sleep; and he was buried on the island. The expedition might have ended here but second in command, Mr. Frank Wild, was determined to follow through with the expedition's original plan. Leaving the anchorage at South Georgia *Quest* sailed on to Tristan da Cunha and anchored in what is now known as Quest Bay.

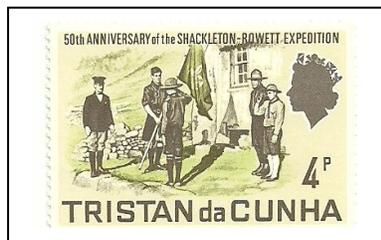


Figure 2

It was at this island that Scout Marr donned his scout uniform (he called it his “kit”), and spent time with the island’s scout troop of six boys. He presented to the troop’s scoutmaster, The Rev. Rodgers, a personally signed photograph from Lord Baden-Powell. To the troop’s patrol leader, Donald Glass, he presented a troop flag especially provided by Lord Baden-Powell. Taken from a photograph, this occasion was illustrated in 1971 on a Tristan da Cunha 4P stamp (Scott #154) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the event (Figure 2). The scene was presented again in 2007 when Tristan da Cunha issued a £1.25 stamp (Scott #811, Figure 3), along with three additional stamps, commemorating the 100th anniversary of World Scouting. A 15P stamp shows Scout Marr along with his expedition book *Into the Frozen South* (Scott #809, Figure 4). A 20P value stamp (Scott #810) shows *Quest* while docked (Figure 5). A £1.40 stamp (Scott #812) shows the scouts of the island (Figure 6). Unfortunately, recent information shows that this island of some 264 residents (2010) no longer supports a scout group.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

2007 proved to be a banner year for Scout Marr stamps with South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands issuing five centenary stamps with Scout Marr and *Quest* as the featured topics. A 25P value stamp (Scott #354, Figure 7) illustrates the cover of *Young Britain Magazine* with the *Quest* Expedition as the lead article. A 50P stamp (Scott #355) shows both Scouts Marr and Mooney raising flags on the *Quest* prior to departure from London’s Saint Katherine’s Dock in 1921 (Figure 8). A 60P value stamp (Scott #356) is a photograph of Scouts Marr and Mooney with Sir Ernest Shackleton prior to the expedition’s departure (Figure 9). Two additional stamps, one valued at 85P (Scott #357, Figure 10) and the other at £1.05 (Scott #358, Figure 11), show Scout Marr and *Quest* respectively. The 85P value stamp is the same photograph, but a full view, used on the 2007 Tristan da Cunha 15P value mentioned above. Although he did not complete the expedition, it is in good scouting spirit to have shown some recognition to Scout Mooney for being selected from such a large pool of qualified scout applicants.



Figure 7

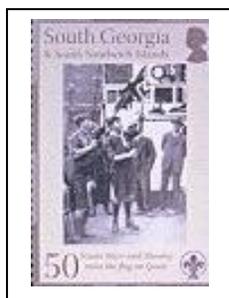


Figure 8

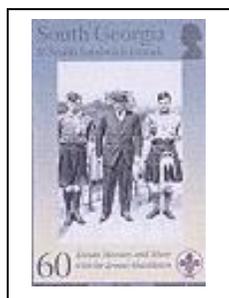


Figure 9

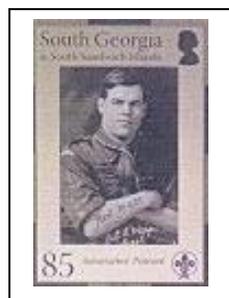


Figure 10

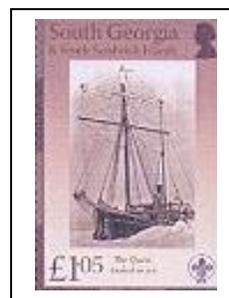


Figure 11

Following the Quest Expedition James Marr went on to complete his university work at Aberdeen University in Scotland. In 1925 he participated in the British Arctic Expedition as a zoologist; and in 1927, 1931, and 1935 he served on three expeditions to the Antarctic being awarded three *Polar Medals*. In 1929 he also served as an oceanographer in Sir Douglas Mawson's British Australian New Zealand Expedition. During World War II James Marr served with Britain's Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in the Far East, Iceland and the Orkneys. In 1943 Lt. Commander Marr commanded a covert operation known as Operation Tabarin which established a base at Port Lockroy, a tourist ship stop today, in the Palmer Archipelago in an effort to assert control over the British Antarctic Territory. Both during and after the World War II James Marr did research related to the canning, storage, and drying of whale meat for human consumption.

From Tristan da Cunha a 2007 souvenir sheet (Figure #12) was issued featuring two se-tenant stamps as Scott #813a and b. The stamp to the right is of Baden-Powell in pith helmet garb and the one to the left is of Scout James Marr. Both stamps are at the £1.50 cost for Tristan da Cunha postage. The James Marr photo is from his book, *Into the Frozen South*, and the ship's cat, *Questie*, may be seen perched on his right shoulder. The sheet also has the 2010 World Jamboree motto "One World One Promise" printed across the top as well as the jamboree emblem printed at the lower right corner.



Figure 12

In April 2008 the Falkland Islands issued a set of four polar explorer stamps designed by Andrew Robinson in recognition of the Fourth International Polar Year. A £1.61 value stamp (Scott #948, Figure 13) shows an older James Marr in winter garb and *Quest II* in the background. In November of 2012 a set of four stamps, also designed by Andrew Robinson, were issued by Tristan da Cunha in recognition of the Shackleton-Rowett Expedition (Quest Expedition). All stamps are of 70P denomination and all are based on actual photographs from the expedition. One stamp (Scott #981, Figure 1) shows a rather stern looking young Scout Marr attired in his scout kit.

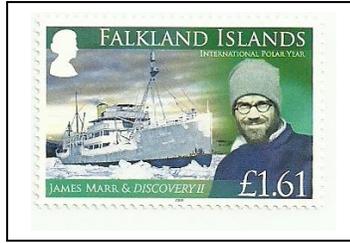
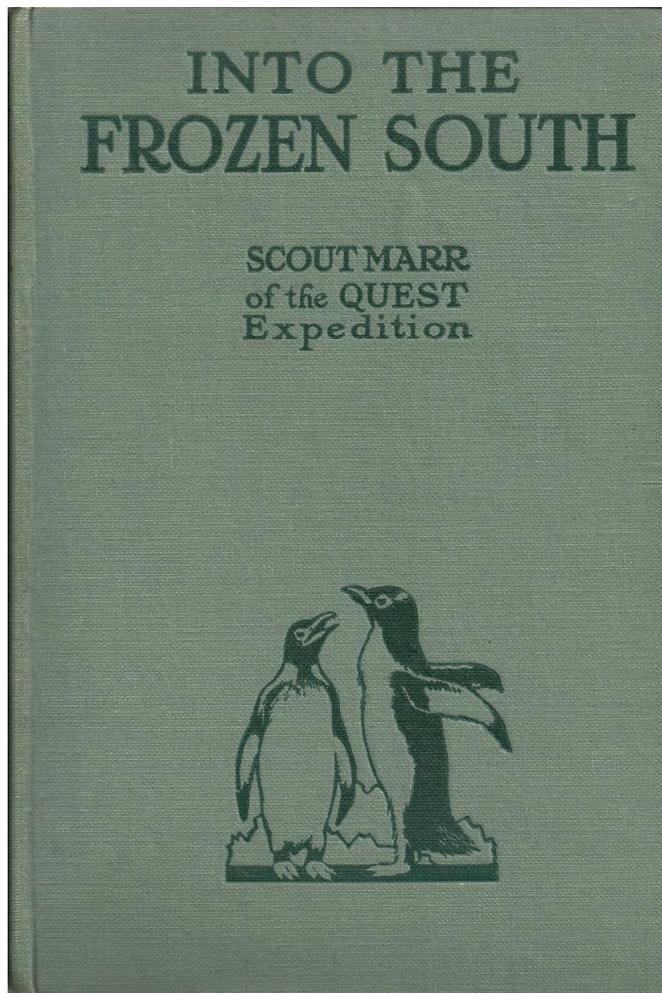


Figure 13

Although a leading polar scientist for Great Britain, and one who wrote for his time the definitive work on krill (ocean crustaceans at the bottom of the food chain), James Marr was not one who sought publicity. He served as the Principal Scientific Officer for the Royal Naval Scientific Service (National Institute of Oceanography), reared a family, and died on April 4, 1965 in Surrey, England. James Marr grew from a boy to a man on his first voyage to the Antarctic where he learned that "... hard work faithfully performed: it teaches you to enjoy pleasure." For someone who is so little known, especially on the western side of the Atlantic, James Marr has had a significant number of philatelic issues presented in his memory.



James Marr's 1923 published account of the Quest Expedition.

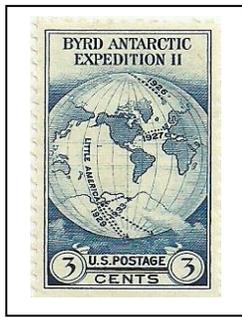


Figure 1

PAUL SIPLE: EAGLE SCOUT TO POLAR EXPLORER

Commander Richard E. Byrd (later Rear Admiral Byrd), United States Navy, was very adept at researching those who had gone before him to the Antarctic. Discovering that Sir Ernest Shackleton of Great Britain had selected scouts to take along on his expedition of 1921, and that Shackleton's experience with scouts had served him and second in command Frank Wild well, he decided to do the same with his scheduled 1928 expedition. Working with National Boy Scouts of America executives, requirements were developed for applying scouts with the minimum being that the scout must be an *Eagle Scout*. Hundreds of applications were received by the BSA! From this group 88 were hand-picked for further review with a final six being directed to BSA Headquarters in New York City for face to face interviews with Commander Byrd and scout officials. Among the final six applicants was Paul A. Siple of Erie, Pennsylvania. Not only was Siple an *Eagle Scout*, he also held the Sea Scout Rank of *Able*, had completed 59 merit badges, and he had an impressive accumulation of over 60 nights of cold weather camping in the snow belt of western Pennsylvania. At age 19, over six feet tall, and with a bearing of confidence, he was unanimously selected by Commander Byrd and the committee.

Paul Siple's polar adventures span a period covering several decades, but it all began in 1928 with a voyage aboard an old sailing ship named the *City of New York*. Casting off her moorings at dockside in New York City, the *City of New York* set sail to the southern hemisphere via the Panama Canal, Tahiti, and finally New Zealand. The second ship of the small squadron carrying Commander Byrd, the *Eleanor Boling*, soon joined up with the *City of New York*. This larger steamship set the pace south, and the slower sailing vessel kept the crew, including Paul Siple, busy tending lines and setting sails in an effort of keep up with the faster more modern ship. On December 26th they entered Discovery Inlet where Commander Byrd intended to establish the expedition's base to be known as "Little America." Finding this not to be a suitable location for a base, they sailed on to the Bay of Whales where a site was located at what they thought was the general location of the Norwegian Roald Amundsen's base known as *Framheim*. Establishing a land base with supplies carried from the ship was an arduous physical effort with Paul Siple working as any other member of the crew. Although awed by the ice formations, unique sea life and the penguins, Paul Siple went to work becoming a sled dog driver with dogs who had just finished a very long sea voyage and who were not used to working as a team. With the long winter night approaching the ships needed to sail back to New Zealand, and Commander Byrd must select his wintering over crew. Having demonstrated his perseverance for hard work, training the dogs, and otherwise being a top member of the crew, Paul Siple was one of those selected to winter over.

The many adventures and exploits of Paul Siple on his first and following expeditions can be found in detail in his several books published over the years. *A Boy Scout With Byrd* was printed following his return from this first expedition in 1928-30. *Scout to Explorer* tells about his second trip to Antarctica in 1934 where he served as the expedition's biologist. It was during this trip that he and three others made a three month long skiing field trip that included several hundred miles of travel, a crevasse accident and numerous blizzards. *90° South* is about his last expedition in 1957 as the commander for the first team in history to construct a base and winter over at the South Pole: the bottom of the world!

In the philatelic world of the past 85 years Dr. Paul Siple has been largely forgotten by those who decide who and what will grace our postage stamps. The closest actual stamp relating to Siple was the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II issue (Scott #733, Figure 1) released by the U. S. Postal Service in 1932. During this expedition Siple served as the chief biologist under his old commander, now Admiral Byrd. The stamp design was influenced and encouraged by stamp collector President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and its intended purpose was to garner an extra three cents to pay for the additional mailing costs to and from the Antarctic expedition.

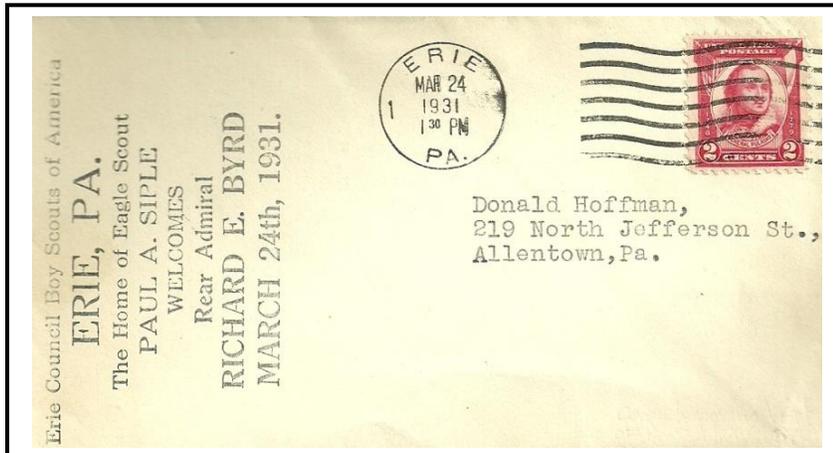


Figure 2

Probably the most prolific philatelic legend of Paul Siple has been the volume of special cachet covers produced by scout groups across the nation. Following Paul Siple's first trip to Antarctica, and throughout his life, he traveled across the nation lecturing on his adventures on the Antarctic ice. It appears that most of his visits were of a scouting nature in an effort to promote scouting on the local council level, and to allow scouts the ability to say thank you for such an arduous scouting adventure. The Erie Council, BSA, 1931 cover in Figure 2, although honoring Rear Admiral Byrd, makes note of the fact that Erie, Pennsylvania, was the hometown of Paul Siple.

Many of these covers are illustrated in *Levy's Boy & Girl Scout Cachet Covers of the United States* by Jay Rogers. Thumbing through this publication one can find more than two dozen covers from the 1930 to 1934 period which were the years following Dr. Siple's first and second expeditions. In addition, two covers from 1958, recognizing Dr. Siple's achievement in wintering over at the South Pole during the International Geophysical Year expedition, show both covers being from Chicago. An additional cover from Troop 109 of Vicksburg, Mississippi, recognizes Dr. Siple on his visit in May of 1960.

Additional covers relating to Paul Siple have even surpassed his death related to heart complications in 1968. The cover illustrated in Figure #3 is from the U.S.A. base known as *Siple Station* located in Ellsworth Land at the base of the Antarctic Peninsula. This station is named in Siple's honor and was opened in 1969 as a summer only base for scientific exploration and study. In 1973 it began operations as a year around base, was reconstructed in 1979 due to heavy snow accumulation. The base was permanently closed in 1988. Never a large base by today's standards, its population varied from seven in the winter to 65 in the summer. The Figure #3 cover is interesting in that the rubber stamped cachet design is upside down. It is not know whether this was simply a "stamper's mistake", or was this purposeful in the occasional Antarctic tradition of placing things upside down as is the northern hemisphere's perspective of the bottom of the world.

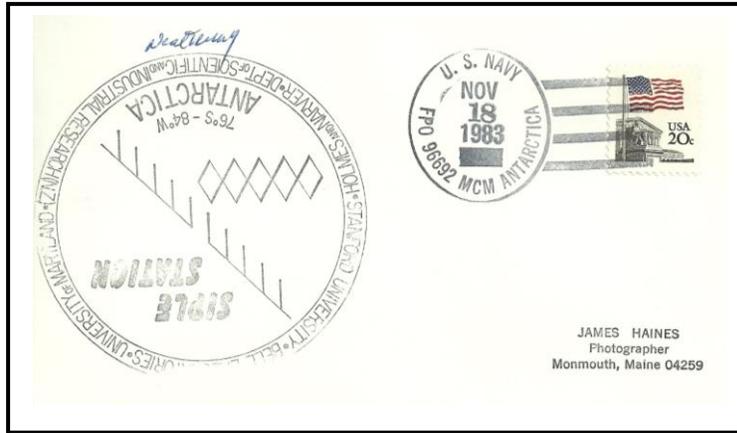


Figure 3

Highlighting the Paul Siple cover scene are the large number of covers from across the nation that have been autographed by him. *Levy's Boy & Girl Scout Cachet Covers of the United States* says on page 16 that one should add \$30.00 to the value of any cover with Siple's autograph. However, recent viewings of online resources have shown autographed Siple covers offered for amounts ranging from \$150.00 to \$399.00. Four covers illustrated on the Scouts of Stamps Society International website, provided Jay Rodgers of Levy's, show Siple's autograph. Figures #4 and #5 are from the 1957 "Operation Deep Freeze" establishment of the first over the winter station at the South Pole. Figure #4 contains two autographs with one being Paul Siple, and other being Richard Chappell who was the selected Eagle Scout for Operation Deep Freeze. It was on Operation Deep Freeze that Paul Siple became overtly aware of the impact of philatelic covers on an Antarctic expedition. In his publication entitled *90° South*, Siple states (p 185), "The airdrops came as announced and among the items were nine bags of philatelic mail that swamped us. Stamp collectors had sent us nearly a quarter million letters to which an estimated \$15,000 worth of stamps were affixed. Bob Chaudoin, our postmaster, dragged the bags into the barren science building where he set up his hand-turned cancellation machine and laboriously canceled the stamps and imprinted each cover with **Pole Station, Antarctica**. The first-day covers were dated **15 Dec. 1956**". It would seem there must be a few covers from the Pole Station out in the world somewhere.

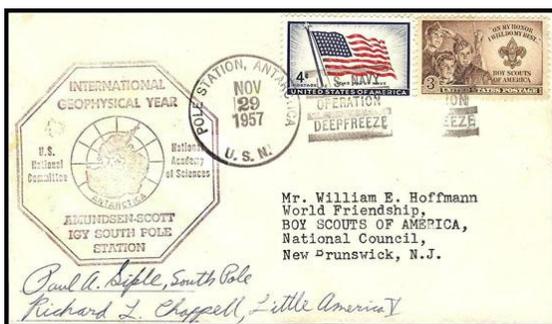


Figure 4



Figure 5

Two earlier covers are illustrated from the same SOSSI website Levy catalog source are shown in Figures #6 and #7 related to the 1933-35 Byrd Antarctic Expedition. Figure #6 was cancelled at the Little American Station and autographed by Paul Siple. Figure #7 is a rather plain autographed cover with a Byrd Expedition stamp affixed to it and cancelled the year after the expedition, 1936, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

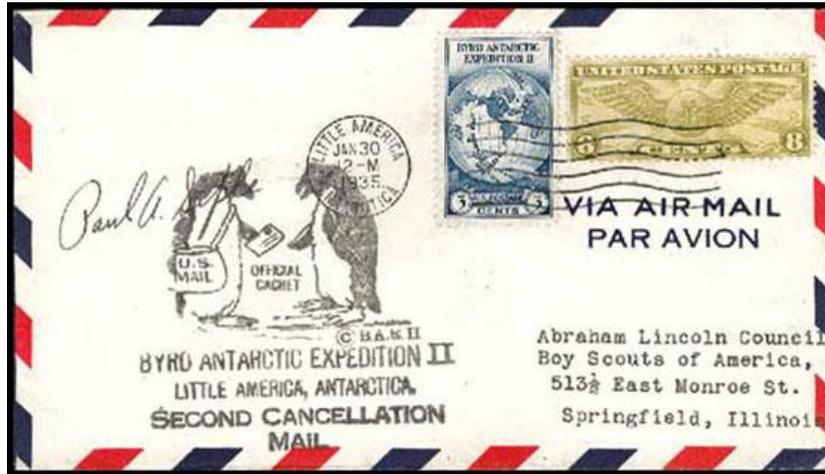


Figure 6



Figure 7

Figure 8 shows a postcard issued in Chicago in 1958 promoting Paul Siple as the featured speaker at the Boy Scouts of America's National Council Meeting. These cards were numbered (#032 on lower left corner), and an illustration of card #168 (Levy's #58-27) can be found in Levy's catalog on page 133.

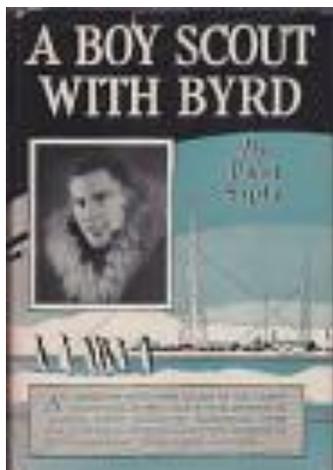


Figure 8

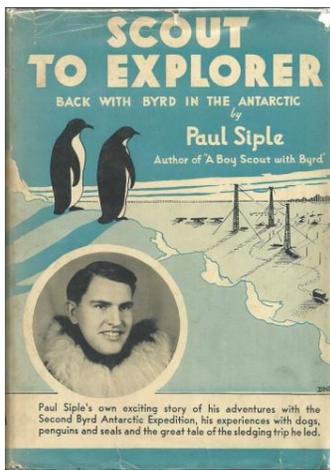
Dr. Paul A. Siple died in 1968 of heart failure. He led a life of polar exploration that placed him at the top of the scientific community as the expert in his field. His picture appeared on the cover of *Time Magazine* on December 31, 1956, as "Man of the Year." He served his country in World War II as a Lieutenant Colonel. During the war, and at other

times between expeditions, he served in the U.S. Army Research and Development Office developing field clothing and equipment for cold weather and other harsh conditions. It was Dr. Paul Siple who developed what we know today as the “Wind Chill Chart”, and he was the first man to fly in a U.S. Air Force plane over both the North and South Poles. If there was ever a man to exemplify what it means to be a “scout”, it was Dr. Paul Siple. This fact was made known by the Boy Scouts of America in 1947 when he was presented with the *Silver Buffalo Award*.

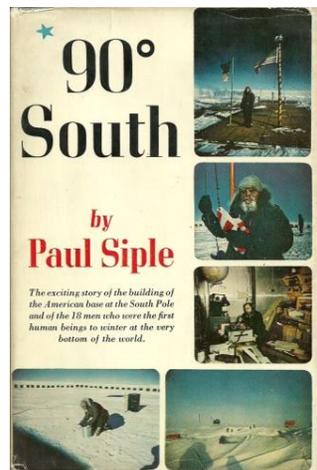
On the continent of Antarctica today we will find *Siple Island*, *Siple Coast* and *Mount Siple*; and in the Erie, Pennsylvania, community museum can be found a rather small display case telling his Antarctic story. Perhaps someday in the near future there will be a postage stamp recognizing the outstanding exploits of this scout and scientist, Dr. Paul Siple.



1931

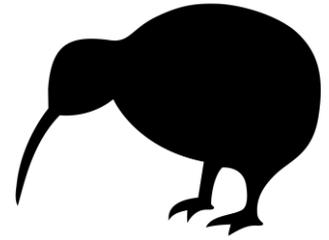


1936



1959

Three of Paul Siple's several publications highlighting his Antarctic adventures.



NEW ZEALAND ADVENTURES

In 1963 two Queen's Scouts and a member of the Boy's Brigade from New Zealand; Douglas Crawford, Duncan McDonald and Francis Stanton; participated in the New Zealand Geologic Survey expedition to Antarctica. From the collection of SOSSI member Frederick Oppliger, the covers presented below are all postmarked at Scott Base as part of the Ross Dependency. Figure 1 is double postmarked on December 19, 1963, and it shows a Ross Dependency 3D stamp (Scott #L1) with *HMS Erebus*, applied at the upper right. The cover is autographed by the scouts and the brigade member. Another expedition took place in 1965 with three Queen's Scouts participating: David Crerar, Wilfred Janssen and Brian Service. Their autographs are featured on the reverse of the envelope as shown in Figure 2. This cover is also postmarked at Scott Base – Ross Dependency, and it features a 4p Ross Dependency stamp (Scott #L2) on the upper right corner.

A third expedition took place in 1969 with David Craig, Sea Scout; John Jennings, Venturer Scout; and Graham Pollack of the Boy's Brigade participating. This cover is autographed by the participants, and it is stamped with a Scott Base – Ross Dependency postmark and a Timaru, New Zealand, postmark. The stamp applied in the upper right corner is a 3C Ross Dependency issue as in the 1965 issue. A purple hand-stamped kiwi bird has been placed on the lower left corner.



Figure 1

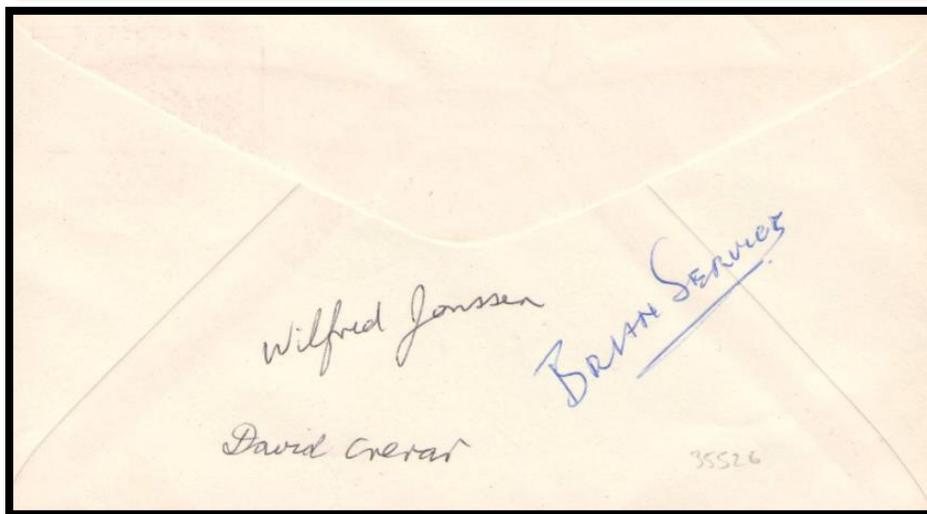
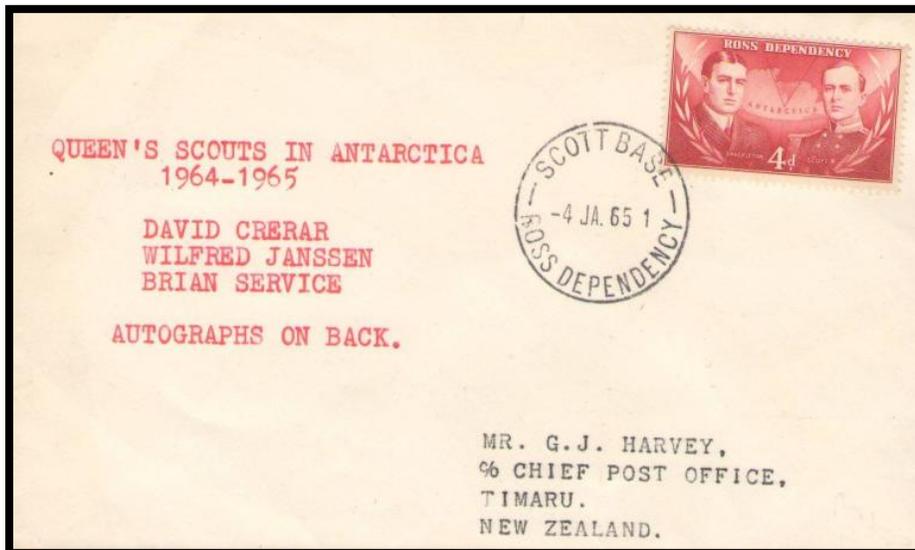
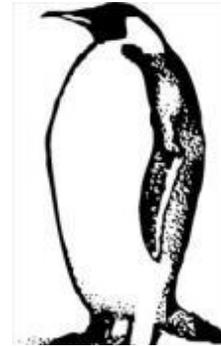


Figure 2



Figure 3

ANTARCTICA MISCELLANY



Along with the scouting Antarctica philately already presented there are several items that are not as well known to make note of in this series. Details on many of the items presented below seem difficult to come by, and their notoriety is certainly not as wide spread.

SECOND EAGLE SCOUT ON RONNE EXPEDITION 1947

In 1947-48 the Ronne Antarctic Research Expedition traveled to Antarctica from the USA as the last privately funded expedition, and the first to include a female. Eagle Scout, and former Philmont Scout ranch staffer, Arthur Owen was selected as member of this expedition. He served as a scout representative, trail man and dog sledge driver. In addition he cared for the dogs, set up camps, cooked crew meals, and operated the radio. The purpose of this sledge journey was to survey the Weddell Sea and Palmer Peninsula coasts. As this was a small expedition headed by Commander Finn Ronne, it appears as though National BSA was not involved in the scout selection process as Owen was selected by the Beaumont Council (Texas). The expedition did not have its own post office, but several covers exist canceled through Chile. In recognition of his exemplary service Commander Ronne dedicated a mountain as Mount Owen located on the east coast of Palmer Land.

In 2004 a special celebration cover (Figure 1) was issued by the Port of Beaumont at the Ronne Antarctic Expedition Reunion Station. This postmark honored both Arthur Owen as "Eagle Scout", and Jackie Ronne as the "First Lady of the Antarctic". A USA 37 cent "Stratocumulus undulatus" stamp (Scott #3878K) is placed in the upper right hand corner.

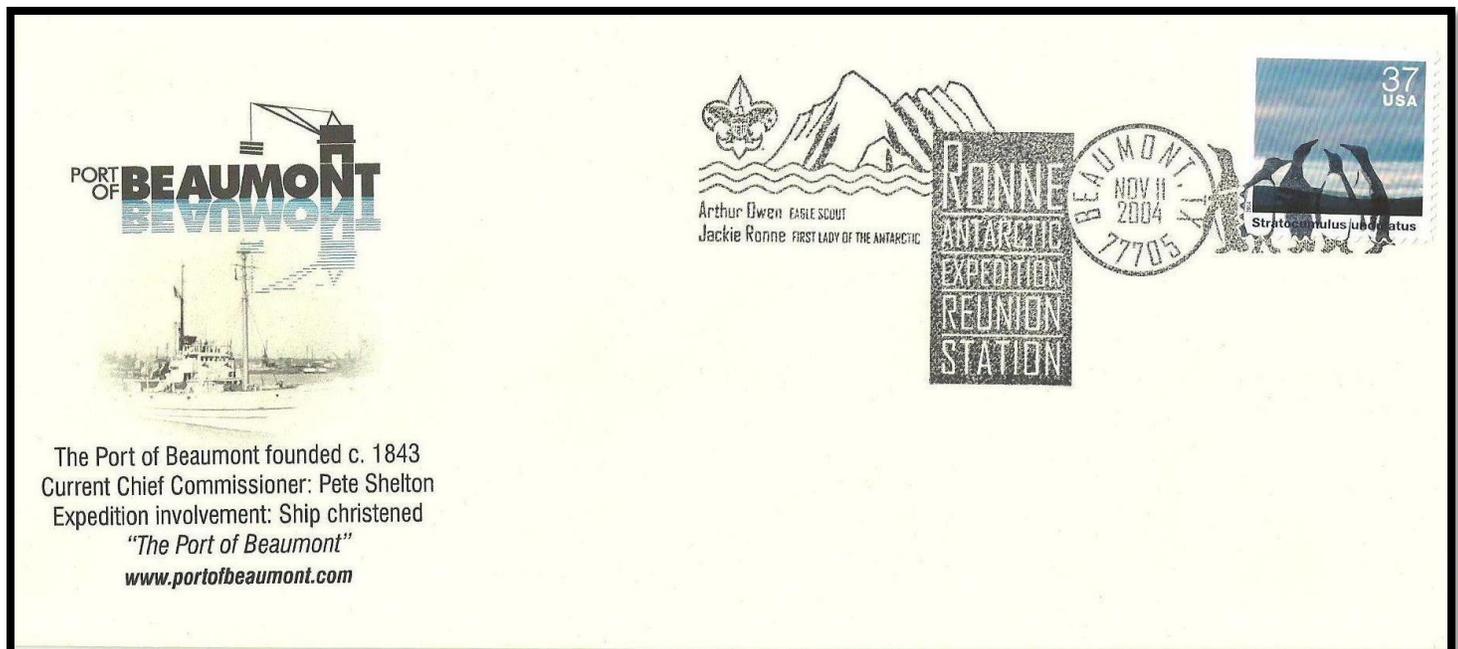


Figure 1

FOURTH EAGLE SCOUT TO THE SOUTH POLE FOR BSA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

1985 was the Boy Scouts of America's 75th Anniversary, and Eagle Scout Douglas C. Barnhart was selected by the National Council to go to Antarctica with The United States Antarctic Research Program. The cover presented below (Figure 2) is franked with two coil stamps, a USA 20 cent USA Flag issue (Scott #1895) and a 2 cent 1870s era steam locomotive issue (Scott #1897A). The cancellation was at the South Pole Station on January 22, 1985, and the cover is signed by Eagle Scout Barnhart.

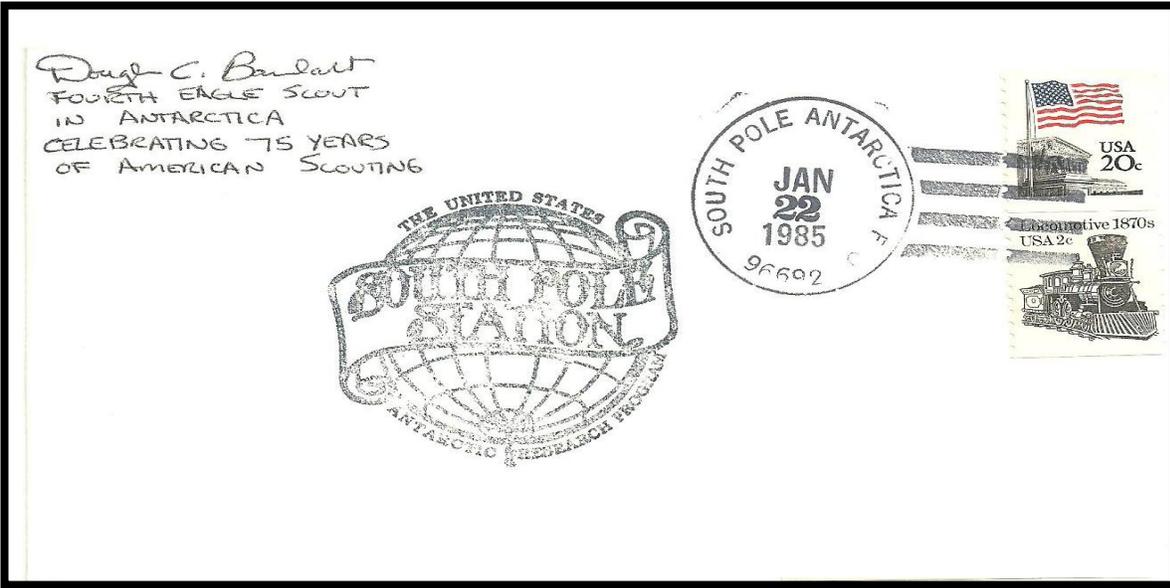


Figure 2

SCOUTS FROM CHILE ANTARCTIC TRIP 1983

In 1983 scouts from Chile were recognized in an Antarctic postal series. Although little is known of this event it appears as though scouts actually traveled to Antarctica. This event is illustrated on the far right stamp of the cachet illustrated in Figure 3 which was printed in recognition of their achievement. The cover presented below was located online, but the stamp (Scott #673), as a separate item, has been somewhat challenging to acquire.



Figure 3

BRITISH CHIEF SCOUT IS MAN OF ADVENTURE

Edward Michael "Bear" Grylls is a modern day adventurer who is well known worldwide for his numerous television shows concerning feats of survival and daring adventure. In 2008 Bear Grylls joined three others for a trek to Antarctica where they intended to conquer several unclimbed mountain peaks, explore a coastal area by watercraft, and perform other acts of pure excitement. During one of these activities, kite skiing, he was rewarded with a broken shoulder and was air rescued to South Africa for medical treatment. As Chief Scout of the United Kingdom Scout Association he visits a large number of scouting programs across the nation. One such visit was in 2013 to the Isle of Man, and this visit was commemorated with a special cachet cover by local scouts as shown in Figure 4. This cover uses a 29p value stamp (Scott #211) from the 75th Anniversary of Scouting series issued in 1982. A limited number of these autographed covers from the Isle of Mann were produced, and only ten were autographed by Bear Grylls onsite. The report from the isle is that the supply was sold out.

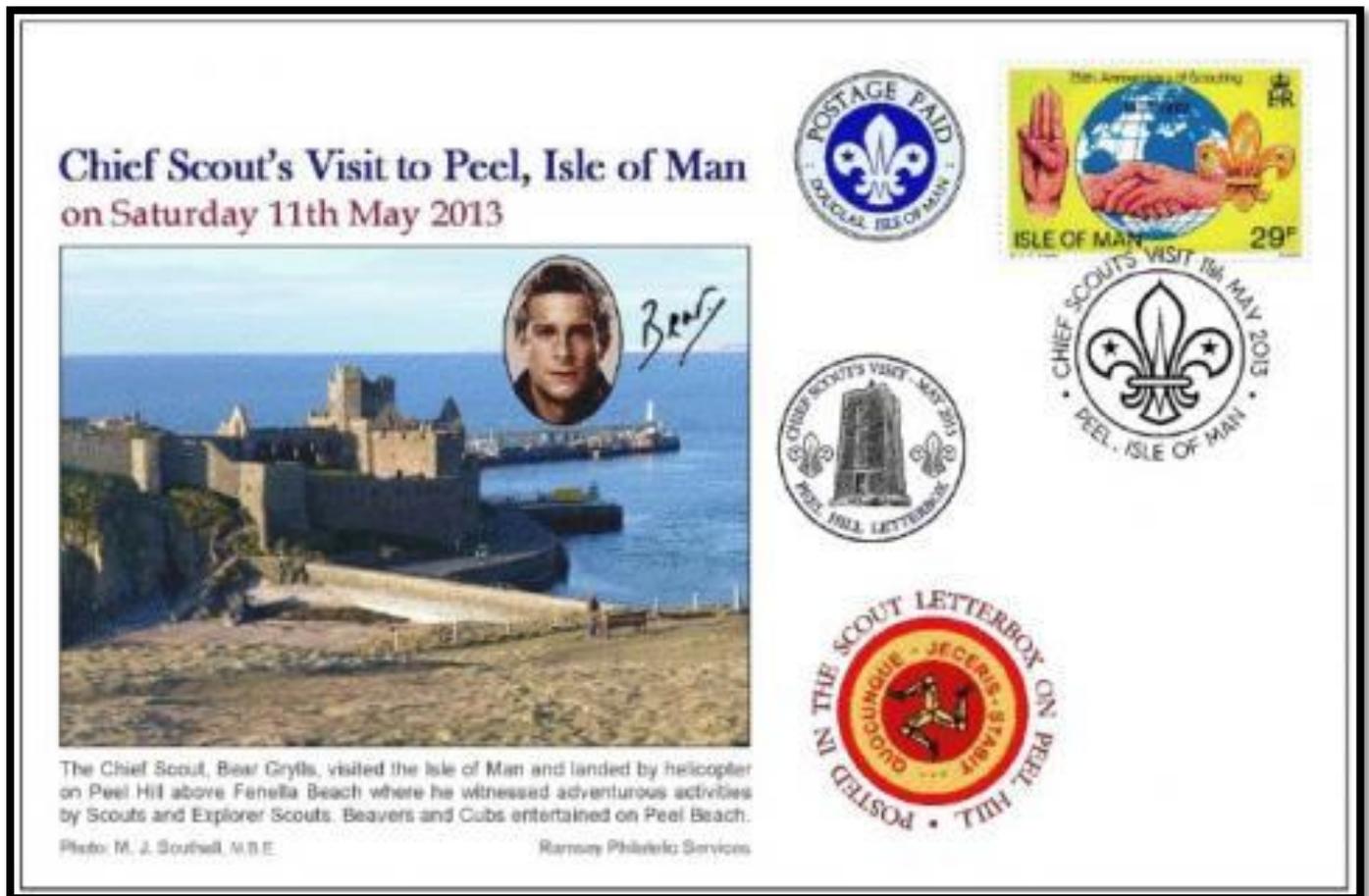


Figure 4

BELGIUM COVER USES SCOUT STAMP IN 1958

The official cover (Figure 5) for the Belgium Antarctic Expedition from 1958 to 1960 featured a very handsome design illustrating one of the expedition's trail camps along with a sledge dog team. The top stamp in the upper right corner is the 1957 80c Belgium scouting issue (Scott #509) showing both the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides logos. The stamp below it is the 1954 (Scott #479) recognizing Rotary International.



Figure 5

AUSTRALIA EXPEDITION COVER 1979

The cover in Figure 6 was issued and canceled in February of 1979 in recognition of the First Australian Scout Antarctic Day Expedition held on February 11th. The cover is franked with three Australian Antarctic Territory stamps (Scott #L23, L27, and L28). The cover design includes a map of Antarctica with the year 1979 in red, and an additional illustration of the Australian Scout emblem and expedition date in green.



Figure 6

BRAZIL ANTARCTIC COVER FROM 1989

The cover shown below (Figure 7) is in recognition of scouting's fifty year anniversary in Brazil, and of the scouts who participated in an expedition to Antarctica. The well designed cover features both penguins and scouts, and the double cancel shows a penguin with a scout hat and a scout holding a flag. The stamp presented on the upper right corner is the 1981 Brazil scouting issue (Scott #1730). The cancellation date is May 18 – 24, 1989.



Figure 7

ANTARCTICA SCOUT TROOP

Scout Group 1556 is located at Esperanza Base which is a permanent settlement by Argentina in Antarctica. As the world's southern most scout unit, the latest report is that it has nine active scouts. The group is affiliated with Scouts de Argentina and "Chilly Willy" is their mascot (see Figure 8). The search is on for philatelic items pertaining to this scout group!

Scouting in the Antarctic



Figure 8

SOURCES

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Scout to Explorer, Paul Siple, 1936, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York
The Philatelic Bureau, Post Office, Stanley, Falkland Islands, www.falklandstamps.com

STAMP LISTING BY TOPIC

R.R.S. DISCOVERY STAMPS

1953 Falkland Island, Scott #1L26
1955 Falkland Islands, Scott #1L37
1976 South Georgia, Scott #44
1979 Australian Antarctic Territory, Scott #L51
1980 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #77
1980 Jersey, Scott #239
1987 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #135
1999 South Africa, Scott #1104
2001 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #303
2001 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #306
2002 Ross Dependency, Scott #L74
2003 Ross Dependency, Scott #L75
2007 Falkland Islands, Scott #937
2007 Falkland Islands, Scott #938
2007 Falkland Islands, Scott #939
2007 Falkland Islands, Scott #940
2008 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #305

R.R.S. DISCOVERY STAMPS, continued

- 2008 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #394
- 2008 British Antarctic Territory, Scott #399c
- 2001 South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands, Scott #425
- 2011 South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands, Scott #439
- 2015 South Georgia and the Sandwich Islands, Scott #520

JEAN-BAPTISTE CHARCOT STAMPS

- 1938 France, Scott #SP68
- 1939 France, Scott #SP69
- 1961 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #21
- 1980 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #C68
- 1982 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #C71
- 1983 Laos, Scott #492
- 1986 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #C93 and C94
- 1987 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #C96
- 1995 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #C134
- 1990 South Africa, Scott #1104
- 2000 Togo, Scott #1962
- 2003 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #328a
- 2005 French Southern and Antarctic Territory, Scott #356
- 2007 France, Scott #3368 and 3369

SCOUT JAMES MARR STAMPS

- 1971 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #154
- 2007 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Scott #354
- 2007 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Scott #355
- 2007 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Scott #356
- 2007 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Scott #357
- 2007 South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Scott #358
- 2007 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #809
- 2007 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #810
- 2007 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #811
- 2007 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #812
- 2007 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #813
- 2008 Falkland Islands, Scott #948
- 2011 Tristan da Cunha, Scott #981

SCOUT PAUL SIPLE STAMPS

- 1932 United States, Scott #733

NEW ZEALAND STAMPS

Ross Dependency, Scott #L1

Ross Dependency, Scott #L2

ANTARCTICA MISCELLANY STAMPS

1954 Belgium, Scott #479

1957 Belgium, Scott #509

1973 Australian Antarctic Territory, Scott #L23

1973 Australian Antarctic Territory, Scott #L27

1973 Australian Antarctic Territory, Scott #L28

1981 Brazil, Scott #1730

1982 Isle of Man, Scott #211

1983 Chile, Scott #671

1983 Chile, Scott #672

1983 Chile, Scott #673

1985 USA, Scott #1895

1985 USA, Scott #1897A

2004 USA, Scott #3878I

