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Unusual format for 1960 Boy Scouts commemorative card

What to do when you can't get a United States postage stamp issued for your significant anniversary or event?

A commemorative cancellation arranged with your local postmaster is the usual alternative. Another is a special cachet on a cover canceled on the significant date.

If, however, your budget is a bit larger — or you can

The 50th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America was commemorated on a 4¢ stamp issued in 1960 (Scott 1145).

This commemorative is shown in the middle of the 1980 souvenir card.

The U.S. Postal Service has not historically released stamps for odd anniversaries. Multiples of 50 are the norm.

Thus, the little private

of Valley Forge, Pa., (www.worldofscoutingmuseum.org) it is Thornton Percival of Stockbridge, Mass., who was 14 at the time.

An article about Percival in a local Washington state newspaper, the *NorthKitsap Herald*, reported that Thornton never became a Boy Scout.

The article by Tad Sooter, published Feb. 9, 2010, begins, "One of the most recognizable Boy Scouts in the organization's 100-year history was never a Scout.

"Fifty years ago, North Kitsap resident Thornton Percival's face and lanky body were made famous in prints by Norman Rockwell, who used him as a model for a series of Boy Scouts illustrations. Percival, in full Scout uniform, appeared on handbook covers, calendars and even a U.S. postage stamp painted by the legendary illustrator."

The image of the stamp shown on the 1980 souvenir card is about half again the size of the issued stamp. The likely cause is that it thus complied with Postal Service requirements aimed at preventing successful use of privately produced stamp images as genuine postage.

In addition to the illustration of the stamp, the 1980 souvenir card includes text along the outer edge, which reads: "1910 Boy Scouts of America 1980," "William Dickson Boyce," "First Lone Scout 1910," "Siege of Mafeking May 17th, 1900," and "Lord Baden-Powell."

On the back of the card is the well-known story of how Robert Baden-Powell founded the scouting movement in 1900.

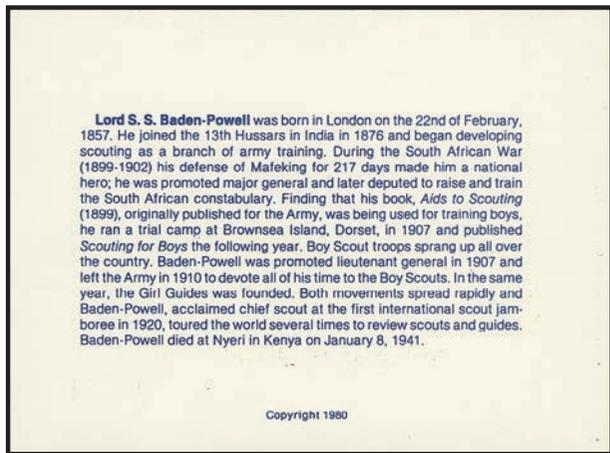
William Dickson Boyce is less well known, but holds an honored place in U.S. scouting history. He was a newspaper publisher who saw scouting first hand in England, and came back to the United States to get it started here.



The 4¢ Boy Scout stamp reportedly shows Thornton Percival.

In tiny printing in the lower left corner of the card are the words "Postal Card/Limited Edition."

How limited? Apparently, not very, as each is sequentially numbered, and my example is number 10,753.



If you can't convince the Postal Service to issue a stamp for your anniversary, one alternative for celebration is to issue a privately produced commemorative souvenir card, such as this one shown front and back for the 70th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

sell enough to cover your costs — producing a private souvenir sheet or private souvenir card may be the classy way to go. And if you can include an image of a stamp in the design, that's even better.

An example of a private souvenir card is shown nearby, back and front. It was released by the Boy Scouts of America in 1980 for its 70th anniversary.

souvenir card was the best the Boy Scouts could do for the 70th anniversary.

The stamp it illustrates features a Norman Rockwell image of a Boy Scout. I keep track of living people shown on U.S. stamps, and am interested in the identity of the Scout shown. According to Scouts on Stamps International (<http://sossi.org>) and the World of Scouting Museum