

THE PUFFIN.

NEWSLETTER OF THE LUNDY ISLAND SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY. FORMED 1956.

No. 1.

January 1957.

Hon. Secretary and Editor:- M. Windeatt, 4, Albert Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, England.

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Dear Fellow Members,

At last, the first issue of the Puffin has been issued. I am confident that it will, with your help, go from strength to strength. There is one thing which I would like to impress upon all of you: it is YOUR Society and YOUR Newsletter. Without your help, in the form of contributions of Articles, Notes, reports of "finds" &c. it will be impossible to keep the Newsletter alive. It is up to you to see that the Puffin does not die of starvation.

No doubt some of you are saying - "Well, I can't write an article." There is no need to contribute long serial stories or factual essays running into several editions - just a short note on an interesting variety, or even impressions of the Island on your first visit there. You see, if everybody sends in one article or note - even 100 words - at least once a year, then the newsletter can be kept active and filled with the sort of news which YOU find interesting.

One gentleman has suggested to me that there should be a Lundy Exchange Packet within the Society. Now, the main thing is to get the Society "on its feet", but I do consider this to be a good idea. There is, however, one snag. This is that we already have members in Canada, U.S.A., Australia, as well as England, and in order to be fair, we cannot leave them out of the circuit. If a packet goes astray on the journey round the world, it will be far more difficult than usual to trace it. However, I would like to have your views on this point. As usual with Exchange Clubs, members will buy from the Secretary a number of books, in which stamps can be mounted. The system of rotation in receiving the books will be controlled by the Secretary, and payment should be made to him. A deduction of 10% will be made - the funds of the Society to benefit - and payment then made to the vendors.

Last year - 1956 - saw the publication of a very interesting book - "The Lundy Locals" by F. R. Downing, M.P.S. - one of our founder members. Apart from several pages on the History, Flora and Fauna of the Island, there is a very good section on the stamps issued up to the 1955 Millenary sets - the latest issue to date. Whilst the check-list of all the varieties known is very good, I have had through my hands in the past six months, a number of other varieties not listed. I have noted these in fair detail elsewhere in the Newsletter. It is my sincere hope that the Society will be able to publish, in the not too distant future, a comprehensive catalogue of the Stamps of Lundy.

I would like to make one thing clear about Subscriptions. ALL subs. are due on January 1st of each year, unless members join after this date, when the subs. will be due on the first of each month, annually, in the month in which they joined. In other words, I have received subscriptions from all who expressed interest since the Society was mooted in November last. Their subs. will fall due on January 1st. 1958. However, all persons joining after January 1st. 1957 will pay annually on the first day of the month in which they joined.

One final note which will interest you all - Our total membership now stands at 14. This is quite encouraging for a new Society, and I hope that we increase in numbers as the year progresses.

You will note by the heading that I have entitled myself Hon. Secretary and Editor. This title is purely an Acting position until the time when we can hold a meeting to elect all Officers to their permanent positions.

Yours sincerely,

M. WINDEATT.

THE BUTLERS AND THE ST. LEDGERS.

1450 - 1600.

By F. R. DOWNING, M. P. S.

About 1450, the ownership of Lundy became invested in the person of Avice Lovell, Countess of Wiltshire and Lady of Lundy. She died in 1456, but in the meantime had married James Butler, the 5th. Earl of Ormonde and Lord of Camley.

James was an ardent supporter of the Lancastrians during the Wars of the Roses, and was unfortunately taken prisoner by the Yorkists in 1461 at the Battle of Towton. He was immediately attainted, but the details of his death are unknown.

The attainder of the 5th. Earl was repealed by the Crown in 1476, and when his son died two years later, the title went to his brother, Thomas Butler.

In 1515, Ann, the daughter of the 7th. Earl, became Lady of Lundy, and it was she who married into the St. Ledger family of Annery near Bideford. Her husband was Sir James St. Ledger, and in due course, the ownership of the island passed to his son George, and thence to the grandson John.

Sir John St. Ledger married Katherine, daughter of Lord Abergavenny, and they had two sons, John and Dudley, both of whom predeceased their parents.

There then followed two further generations of this family whose names are not recorded, but it is known that in 1600, a Mary St. Ledger married the famous Sir Richard Grenville of Bideford, whose family retained Lundy for over a century.

Any further information regarding the St. Ledger family would be appreciated; especially any details of the period following 1515.

THE LURE OF LUNDY. (PART ONE)

By JOHN E. MOSS.

No Jason, seeking the Golden Fleece, could have experienced more thrills than I had, when, late in September 1941, the British Navy dumped me on the pocket-handkerchief beach of Lundy, in a thick sea fog, and nearly midnight, after an adventurous zig-zag voyage from Appledore with minesweeper escort. I had long desired to visit this magic island with its historical associations with Monks, Pirates, Smugglers and various brands of buccaneers. What the Admiral, to whom I had applied for a permit, called me, can only be expressed in "You \*\*\*\*\*!"

Having corresponded for some years with Mr. F. W. Gade, the Agent, and Mr. Charles F. Waghorn, the Lighthouse Keeper, I was looking forward to meeting these friends and the nine other inhabitants of this 3 mile by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile rock, supposed by some archaeologists to be part of the buried continent of Atlantis (?), and still bearing prehistoric types of vegetation and insects, and having a remarkable treasure-trove of unusual birds, including BEE-EATERS, - Merops apiaster (Linn.) - which had rested in the grounds of Millcombe House, - the Island's "Buckingham Palace" - where I stayed.

Lundy is the only part of Britain where there are no taxes - not even Income Tax - and there are no roads. There is one general store, and the Harisco Tavern. Other buildings consisted of a farm, some decrepit cottages, an old Pirate Castle, and the beautiful Church of St. Helen; built by the late Reverend Grossett Heaven, at the time when the island was known as the "Kingdom of Heaven". There are three lighthouses; hence Lundy's postmark slogan "LUNDY LIGHTS AND LEADS."

Unfortunately, I found the Church desecrated and badly fouled by Wild Goats and Seabirds. In the Churchyard were found the stone coffins of ancient giants - probably Vikings - over 8 feet tall. One TIGHERNNA - the Chief - is a kind of Patron Saint of Lundy, and his name appears on the Miniature Sheet of Puffin stamps issued in 1942.

ADDITIONAL VARIETIES OF LUNDY STAMPS.

Here, I am listing all additional varieties which I have found during the past six months, and which have not been listed in Mr. Downing's excellent work.

1935 Tram Ticket Airmails. INVERTED "T" VARIETY.

There are two distinct types of inverted T. The first printing is in very thick and bold type. In the first printing, the vertical portion of the "T" which serves as the 1, is 7mm high and 3mm wide. The base of the T which is here used as the fraction bar, is 5mm long, and 2½mm deep. The figure 2 is squat, and measures 9mm in height.

The second printing is altogether more slender as regards the figures, which are as follows:- Vertical arm of T used as 1 - 8½mm in height; 2mm wide. The base of the T which serves as the fraction bar is 10mm long, and 2mm deep. The figure 2 is thin and measures 10mm in height.

1936 Large Maps. Proofs without values - Mauve on White paper, Mauve on blue paper, Green on White paper, Red on White paper, have all been recorded on UNGLAZED PAPER.

1937-9 Air Views. Proofs. I have had an imperf. pair of the black on white paper of the ½d. showing a partial impression of the design on the right-hand stamp, due no doubt, to the presence of paper or other obstruction between the roller and the stamp.

1939 ½d. Air View. Shows an extra variety - perf. all round.

1942 V & Plane. Colour Trials. The following have been noted.

½p. Vertical pair; one overprinted in red; the other blue. Also one in green; the other in blue.

1p. Vertical pair, showing variety Opt. omitted in pair with normal - red opt.

2p. Double opt. one red; the other green.

3p. Overprint in Purple; Brown. Also Double opt. one inverted, Green.

4p. Pair (horiz.) one green; the other black. Also black opt. doubled. Also Black opt. Double; one inverted.

6p. Green opt. doubled.

9p. Double opt.; one inverted - Green. Also opts. in Brown; Purple.

1945 Air Anniversary. ½p. Opt. Double; one inverted.

½p. without gold border.

1p. opt. inverted.

1½p. Opt. Double - one inverted.

1950 BY AIR Opts. 12p. The words "BY AIR" offset on reverse.

1955 Coronation Miniature Sheet. There is a watermark which reads:-  
"ABERMILL BOND - MADE IN GT. BRITAIN."

1954 Jubilee Issues. All these were printed on CHALK SURFACED PAPER.

1955 Millenary Issues. Both were printed on Chalk surfaced paper, and the watermark reads:- "HARRISON & SONS. LONDON" script.

Also a set of essays for the overprint on the 1945 2½p. on 6p. Provisional. There are five stamps so far noted, and the figures have been obliterated in red as follows:- small x on each; large Maltese Cross on each; Vertical block of colour on each; two small x's on each; four small dots on each

LUNDY NEW ISSUES 1957.

Owing to certain difficulties, the issue scheduled for January 1st. has had to be postponed until February 1st. It is a new Definitive set, in the same design as the 2p. 3p. 4p. of 1956. The following information on the stamps has been sent me by Mr. F.M. Gade, the Lundy Agent, to whom I express my thanks.

Colours are:- 1p. PINK. 2p. GREEN. 3p. BLUE-GREEN. 4p. BLACK.  
6p. RED. 9p. VIOLET.

Quantities are to be as follows:- 1p. 150,000; 2p. & 3p. 100,000 each; 4p. 80,000; 6p. & 9p. 35,000 each. The stamps, which are printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, come in sheets of 60 having two panes of 30 stamps.

One thing - I don't quite see how 60 will divide into 100,000; nor yet into 80,000 or 35,000.

ADVERTISEMENTS. MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE ALLOWED TWO FREE INSERTIONS IN THE NEWSLETTER EACH YEAR. ANY INSERTIONS IN EXCESS OF THIS NUMBER WILL BE CHARGED AT 2/- (25 cents) PER INSERT; PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE SOCIETY'S FUNDS. ADS. FROM MEMBERS ONLY.

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BUY, SELL, TRADE -

ALL RED CROSS ISSUES, SCOUTS, LUNDY,

CANADA & AUSTRALIA.

CHARLES LUNDY,  
12, MIKEL,  
BELLEVILLE, (Ontario),  
CANADA.

Member:- C. P. S., S. C. E. C.,  
A. T. A., LUNDY S. S.

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MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE "LUNDY GANNET" 1956. I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF ALL MEMBERS TO THE FACT THAT THERE WERE ONLY 500 OF THESE COVERS MADE, AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY ARE NOT COMMON.

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THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL FIRST DAY COVERS TO BE PREPARED FOR THE NEW ISSUE IN FEBRUARY WILL BE 1,000 ONLY.

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WITH THE ADVENT OF THE NEW ISSUE, THE OLD 1/2p. RATE WILL DISAPPEAR, AND WITH IT THE UBIQUITOUS 1/2p. STAMP. AS YOU WILL SEE ABOVE, THERE IS NO 1/2p. IN THE NEW SET. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT, OWING TO INCREASED CHARGES, IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO REMAIN THIS SMALL CHARGE ON INCOMING AND OUTGOING MAIL. IT WILL NOW BE 1p., THEREFORE.

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WHEN THE AIRCRAFT BELONGING TO DEWCLAR CAME DOWN IN THE SEA IN 1955, NO FURTHER FLIGHTS IN A SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT WERE PERMITTED BY THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT. SINCE THE COMPANY HAD NO TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, THEY DECIDED TO SUSPEND FLYING. AT PRESENT, THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF ANY FURTHER AIR SERVICES, AND CONSEQUENTLY, THE AIRMAIL STAMPS ARE NOW OBSOLETE.

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THIS, THEN IS THE FIRST NUMBER OF "THE PUFFIN". I WILL BE VERY INTERESTED TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON IT AND HOW YOU CONSIDER IT CAN BE IMPROVED. ALL NOTES AND JOTTINGS TO FILL UP THIS PAGE ARE VERY WELCOME; ALSO LONGER ITEMS FOR THE CHAIRS PLEASE.

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE SOCIETY SHOULD ARRANGE A MEETING AT A CENTRAL PLACE TO ELECT OFFICERS AND TO CONFIRM THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DONE ALREADY. WOULD STAMPEX 1957 AT THE CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER BE A GOOD VENUE? I MAY BE ABLE TO ARRANGE SOMETHING THERE IF AS MANY OF YOU AS POSSIBLE CAN SEND IN A NOTE TELLING ME THE MOST CONVENIENT DATES. STAMPEX IS OPEN FROM MARCH 16th. TO MARCH 23rd. THIS YEAR.