

## THE PUFFIN

### NEWSLETTER OF THE LUNDY ISLAND SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY.

No. 2.

MARCH 1957.

Hon. Secretary & Editor:- M. WINDEATT, 4, ALBERT ROAD,  
Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, ENGLAND.

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Dear Fellow Members,

Firstly, please let me thank you very sincerely for the criticisms sent in after the first number of Puffin. Although some of them have been made by different people, many seem to be similar.

The main suggestion dealt with the margin width; this has been carried out as far as possible. Another criticism was with the heading of the Newsletter. This IS similar to my List, for the simple reason that I am not an artist, and consequently, I did not attempt any fancy designs. Now a really beautiful design has been submitted by Mr. John Dyke, designer of many of the recent Lundy stamps, who recently joined our number.

At Stampex, I shall try to get this design cut electronically by Messrs. Roneo, and then it will be used on our Newsletters from No. 3 in May.

Another important suggestion came from another new member, Mr. Thomas Patronite, who put forward the idea of duplicating the Puffin as a BOOK rather than as sheets. The drawback to this is that my typewriter will not take these stencils horizontally.

Reviews of the first number of PUFFIN appeared in Stamp Collecting, The Aero Field (Messrs. Francis J. Field of Sutton Coldfield), and our Society is to be included in the next edition of the B.P.A. Philatelic Societies' Handbook and Yearbook.

Naturally enough, the B.P.A. sent down details of their affiliation fees for Societies, which are quoted elsewhere. If members feel that the Society should become affiliated to the B.P.A. then I will see to it.

A note about the Society appeared in the CLEVELAND PRESS, Ohio, U.S.A. at the end of January, and has brought us a few new members. Many thanks to our enthusiastic member Mr. J.C. Price who is doing really good work for the Society out there.

I would like to suggest that other United States and Canadian members should try to get the Society publicised in their local papers, especially if that paper runs a Philatelic section.

Now, I would like to hear from all members who are willing to become BUYING and/or SELLING members of an Exchange Packet in the British Isles. U.S.A. and Canadian members will be able, if response is sufficient, to have their own circuit, run by one of our members out there. Any volunteers, please???

Mr. Price has also suggested that the Society should sponsor a Printed LUNDY album, or leaves for binders. Whilst this sort of thing is popular in the States, printed albums are not altogether a success in this country. However, members' views are very welcome on this point.

Membership now stands at 24. New members are noted in the register with an \*. A warm welcome is extended to all who have joined us, and here's hoping that you all will enjoy your membership of the Society. The Register of names and addresses is complete to date, and is intended to show you where everyone else lives. If members wish to correspond and exchange directly, then the Register is at your disposal. Change of Addresses will, of course, be notified.

This issue is a really full one, with the continuation of the article by Mr. Moss on the Lure of Lundy, and another article in the Historical series by Mr. Downing.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WINDEATT.

THE LURE OF LUNDY PART 2

By John E. Moss.

From March 1890 to 31st. December 1927, the British Post Office on Lundy operated in the normal way of any other sub-office on the mainland, dealing with letter and parcel mails, Postal Orders, and, presumably, Savings Bank Deposits! When this Postal Service was withdrawn, it was left to the late Mr. Martin Coles Harman, the new "King" of Lundy, to issue his own local stamps and to carry mail to and from Instow in his own vessel - the LERINA. - and in the drawing room-cum-Post Office, where for a short time, I helped the Postmaster, there was displayed a full scale list of charges in puffin coinage; both outgoing and incoming mails requiring the local stamps. Mr. Harman also issued two copper coins bearing his profile, and of 1/2p. and 1p. values. Specimens of these coins are displayed at the Royal Mint; the authorities there being very curious as to the legality of such "Tokens" and who minted them!

Lundy is a very dangerous coast, and the rocks were strewn with the wreckage of fine vessels - many had been torpedoed in the late war, when the islanders witnessed many tragic scenes in their endeavours to rescue drowning sailors. German planes and bomb crews were also stranded on the island.

Mr. & Mrs. Gade and their daughter Mary are charming people, and I enjoyed their hospitality, including that early morning cup of tea brought to my room by Mr. Gade; and Mrs. Gade's breakfast dish of stewed seaweed and eggs - probably Razorbill's - also Lobsters.

To-day, Lundy is easily reached from most of the Bristol Channel Resorts by P. & A. Campbell's White Funnel Line Steamers, and my subsequent visit there by this service, accompanied by my wife, was a most enjoyable day's outing, climbing over the stone partition walls, visiting the new Hotel, sending off my puffin mail and visiting the historic spots. Unfortunately, we didn't have time to visit the vast caves, some of which are reported to be as large as the Albert Hall in London, and were visited by the early Phoenecians in their galleys from Tyre and Sidon.

For the naturalist, as for the stamp collector, Lundy is a fascinating place, and much could be written about its unique features, exhilarating climate and total lack of restrictions. The shrine to the memory of John Harman V.C. who loved to talk to the bees, should be visited. He lost his life in Burma, after deeds of great bravery against the Japanese, and it is reported that at the exact time of his death, all the bees departed from Lundy, as though his spirit was calling them from the other world. He was a true son of Lundy, and, although he preferred the quiet life and a peaceful one, he was determined to finish off the Japs. It was indeed a privilege to meet him and to talk with him as I returned to the mainland.

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B. P. A. AFFILIATION FEES -- CURRENTLY OPERATIVE

Societies having up to 50 members	~	21/- p. a.
51 - 100 members	-	42/- p. a.
Over 100 members	-	63/- p. a.

This is your Society - let me know what YOU think about affiliation. Actually, since Lundy Stamps are Locals, and not recognised by any standard British Catalogue, it is rather doubtful whether members would find the Expert Committee of much use; nor the other advantages. However, as I have said, it's up to you.

LUNDY UNDER THE GRENVILLES 1600 - 1754

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

It will be remembered from the previous notes that Mary St. Ledger, the Lady of Lundy, was married in 1600 to the famous Sir Richard Grenville of Bideford. Grenville's exploits against the Spanish are too well known to be repeated here, and on his death, Lundy was taken over by his son, Sir Bernard Grenville.

Bernard seems to have had little interest in his island kingdom, as for several years, it became a pirate stronghold. Bristol merchants reported that Lundy was occupied by Turkish pirates in 1625, and again in 1632 that it became the headquarters of the pirate Captain Nutt; while in the following year, men landed from a Spanish Man-O-war and stole all the provisions. By this time, 1647, the piracy had become so serious that Charles I appointed a Thomas Bushel as his governor. Bushel, who owned some silver mines in Cornwall, held Lundy for the Cavaliers during the Civil War, and only surrendered upon written authority from the King, who, by this time, was imprisoned by Cromwell.

Later in the same year, possession was granted by these Parliamentarians to Viscount Saye and Sale, and he was responsible for building the Brazen Ward fortifications on the N.E. coast. He lived there until the Restoration, and died the following year.

Charles II granted Lundy to Sir John Grenville in 1661 - he was the son of Sir Basil - and on April 26th. of the same year created him Earl of Bath. The pirates were still being troublesome and reports of their activities reached the Admiralty in both 1663 and 1667, but they were not fully eradicated until some West Country yeomanry cleared them out in 1698. Meanwhile, in 1666, all the Lundy Chapel Records were lost in the Great Fire of London.

Sir John died in August 1701, to be followed by his son Charles, but he only survived his father a few days, being killed on Sept. 4th. as the result of a pistol which he was examining going off accidentally. He was followed by his son William Henry who died without issue on May 12th. 1711. During his time - 1708 - French pirates were again reported but driven off.

Ownership now reverted to John Leveson, whose grandmother was the grand-daughter of Sir Basil Grenville. He was created Earl Gower on July 8th. 1746, and in 1748 he leased the island to Thomas Benson at an annual rental of £60. Benson was a merchant of Bideford and a Member of Parliament, but he turned to the more lucrative business of slave trader and smuggler. Eventually, in 1753, his estate was forfeited to the Government; he fled the country and died in exile in Portugal. It was during this time that the three dry stone walls known as Quarter Wall, Halfway Wall and Threequarter Wall were built by convict labour. These walls divide the island from west to east. Lord Gower died on Christmas Eve 1754 and on February 15th 1755, his executors sold the island for the sum of £510, and by comparison, it is interesting to note that two centuries later, the purchase figure had risen to £16,000.

ADDITIONS TO MINERALS & BIRDS ON LUNDY

Minerals - Tourmaline or Schorl; impure China Clay.

Birds - Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*); Gannet (*Morus bassana*).

Submitted by A. Dulin.

Query. The second printing of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Tram Tickets has an inverted T in lieu of fraction bar. Is there a type, in this printing with the 1 and 2 separate?

Is the variety in the 2nd. ptg. of the 3d. Tram Ticket where there is a piece out of the top left of the bottom stroke constant or is it true of all copies?

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

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All the above members are listed in order of the receipt book, and the overseas members' names have been inserted in lower-case letters to distinguish them from those living in the British Isles.

+++ Mr. Bridger is at present serving with H. M. Forces, and his home address has been given.

WANTS - BUY, SELL, TRADE -- ALL RED CROSS ISSUES, SCOUTS,  
 LUNDY, CANADA & AUSTRALIA.

CHARLES D. LUNDY,  
 12, MIKEL,  
 BELLEVILLE, ONT.,  
 CANADA.  
 C. P. S., S. C. E. C., A. T. A., LUNDY S. S.

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 ADDITIONAL VARIETIES.

1942 V & PLANE. 1/2p. Pink, optd. RED.  
 4p. Maroon, optd. BROWN.  
 6p. BLUE optd. Green.  
 9p. Brown optd. GREEN - opt. doubled.

1943 1 1/2p. on 12p. Value omitted in opt.

1950 BY AIR. All values - opt. doubled.  
 2p. opt. Doubled; one inverted.  
 6p. opt. misplaced.

1955 Millenary sets. ALL VALUES OF BOTH SETS - imperf.

1957 1/2d. Air view Proof - purple on violet gummed paper. R. D.

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 Mr. Austin Dulin reports that he has a cover addressed to A. Phillips, bearing normal 1/2p. cancelled Lundy Lights and Leads cachet in green, also 1/2d. red Airview cancelled L. A. C. A. L. in blue. The 1 1/2d. KGVI. stamp is cancelled with machine mark of Newport Monmouth, 7p.m. 27 Mar. 1939. The Lundy green cds. reads 31 Mar 1939. The cover is inscribed FIRST DAY. This can't be F.D. for the GB. stamp, but it seems that a new date for the 1/2d. Airview has been established. What do you think???

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 ILLUSTRATED ARTICLES ARE COMING! Next time, I hope.