

MAY 1953

THE PUFFIN

No.
4

NEWSLETTER OF THE LUNDY SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

Hon Secretary and Editor: B.M.D. CHINCHEN
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Eastleigh, Hants.,
England.



Dear Fellow Members,

It is a year since you received the last number of the "Puffin", but at last here is another. You must by now have given up hope of the society's survival. Mr Windeatt has unfortunately been unable to continue as Editor and Secretary, and so I have taken over. I am sure you will join me in thanking him for all the work he put in to get the society started, and in production of the first Newsletters.

The heading of this Newsletter is a copy (slightly reduced in size) of Mr John Dyke's design, mentioned in previous issues of the "Puffin". As I had to copy it by hand on to the stencil it is not a very faithful reproduction of the very beautiful original.

There is a shortage of philatelic articles in this edition but I hope you, the members, will remedy this in future ones. Because of this shortage of material I am including in this issue an article which I prepared last year. I hope you will find it interesting, if a little trivial. If it is not too clear, as I fear it will not be, let me know, and I will prepare explanatory diagrams for next time.

I welcome one new member:-

Miss Gladys Moon, 1905 N. Machin Street. PEORIA, Illinois, U.S.A.

The Newsletter still has the form of two duplicated sheets. I find that this is most economical. If our membership could be expanded sufficiently, the "Puffin" could be properly printed, in a much neater form, but this must be a dream of the future.

Once more I appeal to you for articles, even if they are not philatelic. Lundy is so small that anything about the island may be the inspiration for future stamp designs.

I hope you are satisfied with this "Puffin", I will try to improve on this next time, so please let me have your criticisms, even if Mr Windeatt had the same ones, because I do not know what they were.

I am sorry I have not kept to the new margin width, but with the wide heading it did not look right. If there is a good reason for having a narrower column, please let me know, and I will put it right next time.

Yours sincerely,

Barry N.D. Chinchon.

THE PUFFIN
by W.R. Rowcroft, Jr.

Usually in the spring of the year the Puffin turns from the open sea and heads toward shore and their breeding-grounds. They congregate off shore for days getting reacquainted and to chose a mate. When this is done, the male and female Puffin come ashore and look for an old burrow and make the necessary repairs. To do this, their bills and paddle-like feet are used.

After about two months the egg is laid and the male and female Puffin take turns at its incubation. This period takes about 40 to 45 days; the egg is white with purple markings. Strangely enough, the Puffins do not sit on their eggs but actually lean on them with the egg partly under one wing.

When the egg is hatched, the young Puffin is covered with dark furry down and has a small and pointed beak and a white breast. The beak has a tiny "tooth" which was used by the young Puffin to break through the shell of the egg. The parents stay about a month and a half feeding and caring for the young Puffin, and then take off, leaving the young bird to shift for itself.

The young Puffin usually stays in the burrow for about 7 to 10 days before venturing out. When he is ready to go down towards the sea, he usually makes this trip at night to avoid being attacked by other birds living in the vicinity, who hunt during the daytime.

The Puffin is an excellent swimmer and diver, and has been known to stay under water for more than half a minute. The Puffin uses this underwater method when he sights any enemy birds.

POSTMARKS OF LUNDY

The Millenary Stamps were never intended to be used after 1955 and so the makers of the canceller were not very careful about the year figures on it. There was no '57. The rotating figures were made in pairs and went from '56 to '79. but there was a '67 which was used until the new canceller (made from the old jubilee one) came into use in February 1957. I have specimens as illustrated.



B.N.D.C.

Dr. J. Lubran, included in an article similar to that which Mr Austin Dulin prepared last time, these illustrations of more cancellers
The British Post Office Post Mark



There may be other of these, because from descriptions, Mr Dulin believes it to look like illustration ii.



AND

A special canceller for the first day of issue of the Wright Brothers Anniversary set.

VARIETIES IN THE 1929 ONE PUFFIN STAMP

By B.N.D. CHINCHEN

The 1929 one puffin stamp, as I expect you know, was printed in sheets of 120, arranged in four panes of 30, and each pane consisting of 6 horizontal rows of 5. You will notice, if you inspect a sheet of these stamps, that there are five slightly different stamps in each sheet; 24 of each type. They occur, one type in each vertical column of the pane. (The panes being alike).

The differences though minute seem constant. Some other marks which only occur on one stamp in the sheet, may be due to the clotting of the ink, or dust on the plates. These are the major of these minor differences; many others can be found.

Column 1: These do not contain the other differences mentioned.

Column 2: These stamps have a bulge of shading of the left hand l.

Column 3: These stamps exhibit a dot which is very small, but darker than those nearby, midway between the puffin's beak and the top of the right hand one.

Column 4: The distinguishing feature here is a dot in the shaded margin, below the right hand stroke of the N of PUFFIN.

Column 5: The difference in this column is merging together of three lines of shading in the left hand l.

The Coronation Miniature sheet stamp is a photograph of a stamp from column 2.

~~Is the Tighearna Miniature sheet stamp one of these?~~

I had intended to do the same for the 1929 half puffin stamp, but have been unable to obtain a sheet of these.

I did, however, manage to get a sheet of the 1953 reprint -- overprinted for the Coronation. The varieties occur in similar columns to the 1929 1 puffin stamp, but as far as I can tell these varieties are not the same as those in the original half puffin printing in 1929. Perhaps this was a different plate.

THE CORONATION HALF PUFFIN STAMP

Here is a list of the differences:

Column 1: A dot on the edge of the stamp level with the top of the right hand ornament.

Column 2: A gap at the top of the puffin's beak.

Column 3: A ragged edge of the top line of the left hand ornament.

Column 4: The FF1 of PUFFIN have faint hair-like lines "crossing them out".

Column 5: No foot to the N of PUFFIN.

The formation of the 2nd F in PUFFIN is worthy of note, as it varies considerably from normal in columns 2 and 4.

The Coronation Miniature sheet stamp is a photograph of one from column 2.

The 1929 Half Puffin Stamp

I am now convinced that this is different to the Coronation stamp. Again the five column differences occur. This time they are as follows :-

COLUMN 1: An extended "lobe" on the bottom left corner of the 2.

COLUMN 2: The lower right corner of the U in Puffin is inked in.

COLUMN 3: I can find nothing noticeably different on this stamp.

COLUMN 4: No upward turn in the top of the tail of the 2.

COLUMN 5: The right hand end of the fraction bar in $\frac{1}{2}$ is thin. The lower right hand corner of the stamp is a clean right angle. On the other stamps it slopes off slightly.

These differences are not always easy to detect, and with only two horizontal strips and a few singles to examine I would not like to guarantee the constancy of these varieties.

Perhaps other members would let me know if stamps in their possession conform to these descriptions. I would like information about the Tighearna Miniature Sheet, if anyone could examine it.

The same sort of thing can be done for the 6, 9, and 12 puffin stamps but the columns are sometimes similar, there being, as far as I can see, in a strip of five, two stamps of one type and three of another.

B.N.D.C

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF BIRDS SEEN ON LUNDY 1951-6

by W.R. Rowcroft, Jr.

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aquatic Warbler | Grey Wagtail | Red Breasted Flycatcher |
| Arctic Skua | House Sparrow | Reed Warbler |
| Arctic Tern | Hedge Sparrow | Robin, Rook |
| Black Tern | Hen Harrier | Red-headed Bunting |
| Black-necked Grebe | Hooded Crow | Peed Bunting |
| Black Throated Diver | Herring Gull | Red-throated Diver |
| Brent Goose | Icterine Warbler | Redshank, Ringed Plover |
| Blue Tit | Iceland Gull | Red Rumped Plover |
| Black-tailed Godwit | Jackdaw | Siskin, Scaup |
| Bluethroat | Jack Snipe | Sanderling, Serin |
| Bonelli's Warbler | Kingfisher | Spotted Flycatcher |
| Brambling | Kestrel, Knot | Sedge Warbler |
| Crossbill, Coal Tit | Little Stint | Sardinian Warbler |
| Corn Bunting | Lesser Whitethroat | Stonechat, Sparrow Hawk |
| Chil Bunting, Coot | Little Bunting | Starling, Snow Bunting |
| Corncrake, Chough | Lapland Bunting | Scoter, Surf Scoter |
| Cartford Warbler | Little Crake | Stock Dove, Snipe |
| Dotterel | Moorhen, Magpie | Sandwich Tern |
| Firecrest | Meadow Pipit | Turnstone, Tree Sparrow |
| Great Northern Diver | Melodious Warbler | Tawny Pipit, Tree Pipit |
| Grey Phalarope | Mistle Thrush | Teal, Twite, Tree Creeper |
| Gadwall | Merlin, Mallard | White-fronted Goose |
| Greenshank | Nightjar | White Wagtail, Wryneck |
| Green Sandpiper | Ortolan Bunting | Wood Warbler, Whinchat |
| Greenfinch | Pied Wagtail | Woodlark, Wigeon |
| Goldfinch, Goshawk | Pied Flycatcher | Wood Pigeon, Woodcock |
| Grasshopper Warbler | Purple Sandpiper | Wood Sandpiper, Water Rail |
| Garden Warbler | Redpoll, Ruff | White's Thrush, Yellowthroat |
| Goldencrested Wren | Red Necked Phalarope | Yellow Hammer, Yellow Bunting |
| Great Tit | Red-backed Shrike | Yellow-browed Warbler. |