



No 7.

December 1958.

NEWSLETTER OF THE LUNDY SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary and Editor :
B.N.D.Chinchen,
97, Chamberlayne Road,
Eastleigh, Hants.. ENGLAND.

Dear Fellow Members,

I must apologize for the delay in publishing this "Puffin". Once again articles submitted have been very few, but in spite of this, from information sent in I have been able to track down some things which may be of interest.

With reference to the exchange packet, I have only had one offer of material. This was from Mr. B.R.Hall. As this is the case, and there being a number of copies of each stamp, a list of these together with prices is included in this Puffin.

On the suggestion of Mr F.D.Allington I wrote to Mr Harry Hayes of Batley in Yorkshire who deals in philatelic literature. From him I received a price list of cuttings etc. referring to Lundy. I have reproduced this as it is bound to be of use to some members.

I made enquiries to Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co Ltd., about the minor column differences in the lithographed stamps of 1929 - 53. The reply received is reproduced here.

Mr Gade suggested, when I asked for lists of books that have been written about Lundy, that I should obtain a copy of "Some Critical Notes on the Bibliography of Lundy" by Alfred E Blackwell, Head Librarian and Curator of the North Devon Athenæum at Barnstaple. I did this and it is a valuable pamphlet indeed.

May I remind members that Subscriptions are now due. This time they reach receipt book number, 23. I thank those members who paid so promptly last time.

I have received a letter from the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, about Melville Junior Awards. As entries for this essay/stamp Competition have to be from those under 17 years of age I do not suppose any of you are interested, but if you are I have a copy of the rules.

I have to inform you of the change of address of a member.

M
MISS R AUDREY PYLE, 44 COLLAMORE AVENUE, WANDSWORTH COMMON, LONDON SW18.

Also included in this issue you will find an article "Pirates used Romantic Lundy". by Mr I Bruce Mayne, by whose permission it is reprinted. Thanks are also due to the publishers of the Cooperative HOME Magazine for their consent to its reproduction.

I will finish by wishing you all a merry Christmas and Happy New Year. As many of you will not receive this till then.

Yours Sincerely,
B.N.D.Chinchen.

WANTED

A SET OF THE UNOFFICIAL "ROTARY" OVERPRINTED STAMPS.

E.F.Keys,
38 Warrarong St.,
Beverly Hills,
Sydney,
New South Wales.
Australia.

This article is reproduced by kind permission of the cooperative HOME MAGAZINE, and the author.

PIRATES USED ROMANTIC LUNDY by L. Bruce Mayne.

Lundy Island, the three-and-a quarter-mile-long island at the mouth of the Bristol Channel, is a rugged and romantic place. In summer the gentle Atlantic swell washes at the base of its granite cliffs, but in winter the island faces the full force of the westerly gales. Here, more than 11 miles from the mainland, live 20 people, including a boy of 13. But the people of Lundy are no castaways for they have electricity and some have television. Yet they pay no rates and taxes and have no gun, dog, liquor or radio licences.

To trace the full story of the island a start must be made in pre-historic times for there is plenty of evidence that people were living here in the Stone Age. A church was probably built here some time before the sixth century and was dedicated to an English saint, St. Elen.

In the twelfth century the Marisco family came to Lundy and with them Lundy's history took a turn for the worse. Jordan de Marisco, the first lord of Lundy, rebelled against the Crown, setting the pattern for his descendants, who often did exactly the same thing.

One of the family, Geoffrey de Marisco, held important offices in Ireland during the reigns of John and Henry II, but in 1325 Geoffrey's son was involved in a piece of skulduggery which included the murder of Henry Clement, a clerk on a mission from Ireland to the King at Westminster. William de Marisco fled to Lundy and lived as an outlaw for seven years. He is supposed to have plotted the murder of Henry III, but was captured and executed in 1242. Eventually the family lost the island, leaving to posterity the gaunt, ruined Marisco castle at the southern end.

Pirates had the run of Lundy early in the seventeenth century using it as a base from which they harried shipping in the Bristol Channel. During the Civil War Thomas Bushell held Lundy for the Crown and surrendered only when fighting had ceased everywhere else and with the written permission of Charles I, who then was a prisoner.

Thomas Benson, M.P., a merchant of Bideford, was one of the biggest rogues that even Lundy has ever seen. He was a slave owner, smuggler, and wrecker. He held a government contract for transporting convicts to Virginia, the contract said "out of the realm". Benson used this loophole to land the convicts on Lundy to work in the granite quarries, while claiming the full amount for shipping them on the long sea journey to the American colony.

But his shady dealings were brought to an end when he tried to defraud an insurance company. A survivor of his ship Nightingale revealed that the heavily-insured cargo had been landed on Lundy after which the ship was scuttled. Unfortunately justice was foiled; Benson escaped to live in Portugal as an exile. There is a tradition that he buried a huge treasure on the island and that his ghost visits Lundy periodically to dig it up.

In the 1830's William Hudson Heaven obtained the island and it remained in his family for eighty years until 1916. Then the last of the family, the Rev. Hudson Grossett Heaven, priest and squire who built the fine granite church of St. Helen's which still stands alongside the path-way from the landing beach to the Marisco Tavern, died.

The late Martin Coles Harman bought Lundy in 1925 for £16,000. Now his son, Mr. Albion P. Harman, a London mining engineer, owns it and takes a great interest in it too, visiting the place at every opportunity.

On the island the person who can tell the visitor anything he wants to know is the agent. A tall, grey-haired, athletic-looking man, he has lived on the island for 30 years and his daughter is the nearest to a native, having been brought to Lundy within a few weeks of her birth.

In summer, between 14,000 and 15,000 day-trippers visit the island, usually by one of the White Funnel paddle-steamers which operate from the ports and holiday resorts on both sides of the Bristol Channel. Visitors may also stay for longer periods, accommodation being found at the hotel. This immense tourism is one of the mainstays of the island's economy. The inhabitants also make a living from farming, fishing, and crabbing.

Letter from Bradbury Wilkinson and Co. Ltd.

Dear Sir,

We thank you for your letter, in which you detailed the various differences in the half puffin and one puffin "stamps" which you enclosed

We would point out that these cannot be truly considered as postage stamps, and quote from the "American Philatelist" for May 1938:-

"The British Government considered that the Puffin stamps did no actual postal duty as every letter or mail packet before it left Lundy Island had to have placed upon it the proper amount of British postage stamps - though Mr. Harman allowed no letters or packets to leave or enter the island without the placing thereon of the one-half Puffin stamp. Mr. Harman insisted upon this requirement - the addition of the one-half Puffin stamp regardless of the British postal issues - as a kind of "export tax". and, The British Postal Authorities - ruled that the Puffin stamps had to be placed on the back of the cover away from the British stamps."

It has been made clear now that at no time did Lundy Island seek admittance to the International Postal Union, and, had application been made it would have been refused. The stamps of Lundy Island are purely and in every sense of the word "Locals".

In point of fact the letters we received from our principals which we have in our files refer to these "stamps" as "labels".

The method by which they were printed, namely, lithography, had not at that time been developed into the highly precise photo-mechanical process which it now is, and instead of a photographic repeat for each frame, an individual transfer had to be made from a litho transfer stone in which the details were clarified by hand. The discrepancies found between the various labels would be accounted for by the slight errors of judgement which could not then be avoided by the artist responsible for touching up the originals.

We trust that this explanation will be of assistance to you, but if there is any other way we can help you please do not hesitate to write to us.

Yours faithfully.

BRADBURY, WILKINSON & CO. LTD.

List of books, periodicals and magazine cuttings concerning Lundy:
Obtainable from Harry Hayes, 48 Field Hill, Batley, Yorks.

Philatelic Journal of G.B., 38/195. The Stamps of Lundy - Pemberton	3/-
The Stamps of Lundy Island (M C Harman)	3/-
Stamp Lover, 31/6. Lundy Island and its Locals	2/-
Aero Field, Dec 1947. The Roll Type Airmail stamps	1 1/2pp illus. 1/6
Stamp Collecting, 18-1-30. Note on issue of Lundy Stamps.	1/2 column. 1/6
1-2-30. Further 1/2 column on 1st issue & pmks.	1/6
26-4-30. "The last of the Lundy locals?" & note on coins.	1/6
10-2-51. Note re resumption of airmail service.	1/6
(Cutting 3d.)	
14-9-51. British Locals-Lundy. 1 1/2 page article.	1/6
5-10-51. British Post Office in Lundy. 2/3rds col. illustrated.	1/6
9-5-52. The 1936 Lundy Map Stamps - Bale. 1/2 page. illustrated.	1/6
Philatelic Magazine, 5-11-43. The Status of Lundy Stamps. Letter of 2/3rds column from Mr F.W.Gade.	1/6
Stamp Collecting, 17-2-51. Short note re Lundy new issue	1/6
(Cutting 9d.)	
24-2-51. Further note re this.	1/6
(Cutting 9d.)	

In the same list were several more expensive books or more well known works which I have omitted.

I have included this list, not as an advertisement, though it can be used as such, but for your interest. I have obtained no permission to reprint this, as I only included it as an afterthought.

List of stamps for sale in place of Exchange Packet

The numbers refer to those in Mr. Windeatt's Catalogue.

1942. V and Plane.

48a	½p blue ovpt., double.	...	4/-
49b	1p magenta ovpt., inverted.	...	4/-
50a	2p red ovpt., double.	...	4/-
50b	2p red ovpt., inverted.	...	4/-
51a	3p green ovpt., double.	...	4/-
51b	3p green ovpt., inverted.	...	4/-
52a	4p black ovpt., double.	...	4/-
53b	6p green ovpt., double	...	4/-
54b	9p green ovpt., inverted	...	4/-
12b	1929 1p. blue bisected diagonally, surcharged "½" in red MS and tied to piece..	...	50/-
65	1943 IXth Anniversary. Miniature Sheet imperf., gold ovpt.		10/-
65b	Miniature sheet imperf. gold ovpt., inverted.		12/6
65a	Miniature sheet imperf. gold ovpt., double.		12/6
58a	1p gold ovpt., double.	...	4/-
58d	1p gold ovpt., no border.	5/6	5/-
60b	3p gold ovpt., inverted	...	4/-
60d	3p gold ovpt., no border.	...	5/-
59b	2p gold ovpt., inverted	...	4/-
59a	2p gold ovpt., double.	...	4/-
62b	6p gold ovpt., inverted.	...	4/-
62d	6p gold ovpt., no border.	...	5/-
63a	9p gold ovpt., double.	...	4/-
63d	9p gold ovpt., no border	...	5/-
64b	12p gold ovpt., inverted	...	4/-
64d	12p gold ovpt., no border	...	5/-
1929	1p tied to piece with "BUREAU MAIL" barred pmk. Rare		20/-
	1p tied to piece with same Bureau pmk in green		20/-
	3p tied to piece with same Bureau pmk in black		20/-
1942	½p imperf tied to piece with same pmk.		20/-
	2p imperf tied to piece with same postmark		20/-
	9p imperf. tied to piece with same pmk.		20/-
P503	1942 V & Plane proof sheet of 15 Overprints in green on plain paper		20/-
P506	ditto in red on plain paper		20/-
541 - 546			
1943	Essay for unadopted 10p on white gummed paper. Brown, black, violet, red, green or blue. Each:		3/6
547 - 552			
1943	Essay for unadopted 30p on white gummed paper. Black, green, brown, blue, red, or violet. Each:		3/6
ditto	on yellow ungummed paper. Same 6 colours Each:		5/-
ditto	on thin white card. Same 6 colours Each:		6/6

Please send remittance with your order to the Secretary.
Please include postage.

The normal rates of exchange apply to members outside the U.K.

+++++

With reference to "Some Critical Notes on the Bibliography of Lundy" Mr. Blackwell says, "It is far from being a list of works on Lundy being merely a sort of review of the various publications on the subject. The Editor was unable to find room for the whole of the material I submitted but I have a considerable list of works in addition to those mentioned in my Paper and this list may get published one day"