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NEWSLETTER OF THE LUNDY SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY † - - - - -

Dear Fellow Members,

With the stamp magazines bristling with news of Europa issues for the past few weeks, I was surprised to read of a Lundy Europa issue. This will consist of seven stamps, six of which are triangular. Face value is 2/3d.

Since the last issue of the Puffin there has been very little to report. I heard with regret some months ago from Mr Gado, of the death of Mr John E. Moss of Hertfordshire, one of our members.

There are three new members :-

Mrs C.E. Humphrey, 304 South Steward Avenue, Lombard, Illinois, U.S.A.

Holge Frøysot, Skogbrynet 10, Jøløy, Norway.

Mr Eric Goldsworthy, "Rosaley" 217 Joel Street, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx.

Miss Gladys Moon wrote a superb, lavishly illustrated article for "The American Philatelist" in September. Local stamps are rapidly gaining popularity thanks to this sort of publicity.

In the January 1961 edition of the "Stamp Magazine" there appeared an article on the Postal History of Lundy - Notes on the Official Period. I will summarise the information it contained elsewhere.

Earlier this year, Woodcote (Stamps) Ltd. of the Kennels, Fieldcommon Lane, Hersham, Surrey. were selling a duplicated booklet called "A Handbook and Catalogue of the Stamps and Postmarks of the Islands of Great Britain". Price - 2/- post free. There is nothing new in the Lundy section, but some of the postmark and stamp lists of other islands were interesting.

I received a copy of "The Philatelic Guide" a quarterly magazine published by H. Garratt-Adams & Co. Dealers in Philatelic Literature of Kinnorsley, Hereford. The subscription is 5/- per annum.

I am sorry that this "Puffin" is so brief, but I am very busy and must let you know of the new issue as quickly as possible.

I will ask Mr Gade if he can keep a few sets of the new issue back for members abroad who's orders may be late. It seems quite possible that the issue will sell out very quickly.

I wish you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Your sincerely,

Barry N. D. Chinchin .

97 Chamberlayne Road,
EASTLEIGH,
Hants.
England.

November 20th 1961

Summary of the information contained in an article from the Stamp Magazine - January 1961, by W.G.Stitt Dibden.

The first official document still in existence about the Posts to Lundy is a minute from Sir S.A.Blackwood, secretary to the Post Office to the Postmaster General. It is dated 15th April 1886. :-

" Representation has been received from the Trinity House and the Committee of Lloyds in support of an application from the Lessee of Lundy Island, on the North Devonshire coast, for the establishment of a Postal Service to and from that Island, which is dependent upon trading vessels for the receipt and despatch of letters.

This question has been considered on former occasions, and the paucity of the letters, as compared with the cost of a Postal service, has, hitherto, precluded the Department from coming to any arrangement; but it now appears that by means of one of the Steam Tugs which ply between Cardiff and Lundy, a service once a week might be afforded with a fair degree of regularity. Mr. Button of Cardiff having offered to make the trip from that Port on Wednesday of each week with letters for delivery, and to return as soon as possible with letters for despatch, provided he be paid for this conveyance at the rate of 1d. for every letter, newspaper packet or parcel. It is estimated that there are 140 letters &c. and 13 parcels a week for Lundy; but it is difficult to say how many there would be for despatch.

Under ordinary circumstances, the Revenue available for a Postal Service is computed at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for each letter, &c., for delivery, i.e., in one direction only, but the acceptance of Mr. Button's offer would more than absorb the whole postage of 1d., seeing that his stipulation is for payment at the rate of 1d. for every Article conveyed in either direction, even if it bear postage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. only. On such terms the Service would of course entail some loss, but the case is exceptional, and is, I think, entitled to exceptionally liberal treatment as has been accorded to the several Islands on the west coast of Scotland. I recommend, therefore, that a service once a week to and from Lundy may be established on the terms proposed, in the hope that it will not only develop the resources and promote the convenience of the Island, but also lead to such an increase of correspondence as may, before long, admit of the adoption of an arrangement which will be self supporting.

Without a Post Office in the Island, the proposed service could scarcely be maintained in a satisfactory manner, and the carrying out of the measure should, therefore, be contingent on suitable provision being made for an Office. The Surveyor anticipates some difficulty on this head, but the difficulty would probably not prove insuperable.

S.A.Blackwood. "

The Treasury permitted a service to start on the 26th March 1888 Via Instow. The Mail was carried by Captain Dark in "The Gannet"

In 1886 the Post Office issued two handstamps; the first was a 19mm dated circle, this was replaced in 1893 by a similar one together with a Coastguard stamp for shipping documents. The 1893 stamp was badly damaged by 1906 and was replaced by a third circular canceller. The last canceller only differed in small details from the others.

In April 1920 Mr A.L.Christie was paid £208 per annum by the Post-Office and Admiralty to transport mail and supplies to and from the Island.