UNIFORMS AND BADGES OF THE WORLD

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INTRODUCTION

THERE are two particular reasons for the production of this little book. Firstly, as members of a world-wide organisation we are naturally interested in our brother Scouts in other lands – at any rate to the extent of wanting to know what they look like. Most Scouts yearn to go to an International Jamboree where they can meet Scouts from far afield in the flesh. But we are not all able to do this. And so, through the medium of this book an attempt has been made to do the next best thing, that is to bring the Scouts of the World to you.

The second reason is to provide organisers of Scout pageants, displays, processions, etc., with the necessary information to rig out Scouts in the uniforms of the World in order to illustrate to the public the international character of the Movement. During the course of a year I.H.Q. is bombarded with requests for photographs to enable Troops to design such uniforms. But photographs are expensive items and we would require many sets to meet all demands. This book, then, should meet this need.

Badge-swapping is a favourite activity when Scout meets Scout but again, we don’t all get the opportunity to do this. And so for those who would like to have the up-to-date “gen” on the Scout badges of the World the last section of this book will be of particular interest.

By the way, you will notice that the artist who has drawn the uniform illustrations has deliberately refrained from shading them in. By leaving them in open line those of you who may care to fill in the various colours may do so.

And whilst I am on the subject of the illustrations you may like to know something about the person responsible for them. Mr. Kenneth Brookes is a well-known illustrator of boys’ books and drew for “The Scout” for many years. He was an active member of the Movement in the County of Cheshire way back in 1909 when Scouts were wearing the style of uniform seen on page 4. He is a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colour and is a Past President of the famous London Sketch Club.

I have known Ken for a long time both as a colleague at I.H.Q. and as a personal friend, and in my opinion there is nobody to touch him when it comes to accurate drawings of Scouts.

E. G. W. W.
THE ORIGIN OF
THE BOY SCOUT UNIFORM

EVEry Scout knows (at least he should know) that before our Founder got down to organising the Scout Movement he held a small experimental camp in 1907 on Brownsea Island in the middle of Poole Harbour, Dorset. The boys who were invited to attend this historic camp came from all walks of life and in order that they should feel at home with one another he made an attempt to get them to dress alike.

They were asked to bring along a pair of flannel shorts and each boy was given a brass fleur-de-lys badge and a Patrol shoulder knot of coloured wools to wear. Each “Patrol Leader” was given a flag to carry bearing a representation of an animal. Thus, in a way, they were uniformly attired.

Later, when B.P. came to write his famous book, Scouting for Boys, he described in detail and gave reasons for his choice of the various items of the Scout uniform. You can see what he wrote if you turn up Camp Fire Yarn No. 4.

In another excellent book entitled The Scout Movement, by E. E. Reynolds, it is pointed out that it is possible to trace the origin of at least two items of the Scout uniform, namely, the Scout hat (which, alas, seems to have lost its old appeal in Great Britain) and the staff. B.-P. first made use of the “cowboy” type of hat in the Ashanti Campaign of 1895 and so became known to the natives as “Kantankye” (He of the Big Hat). He chose this type of headgear himself (in those days soldiers were allowed to do that sort of thing when on active service) because he considered it comfortable, serviceable, and a good protection from both sun and rain.

It was during the same campaign that the idea of the Scout staff was born. The Old Chief saw how useful such a staff was to the officer in charge of the army engineers in testing footings and making measurements when his men were laying the field telegraph.

In 1908 boys were obliged to suffer rather dull, uncomfortable clothing for normal everyday wear. A stiff Eton collar worn outside a belted Norfolk jacket, a pair of knickerbockers strapped below the knees with long stockings and boots was considered the best and most serviceable wearing apparel for boys those days.

So you can well imagine what a stir B.-P. caused when he introduced the colourful Scout uniform with (heaven forbid) SHORTS! It can be said with truth that Scouting did more than a little to promote the adoption of a sensible, comfortable dress for boys, not only in this country, but also in other parts of the world. As with many other things since then the Boy Scouts were the pioneers of the free-and-easy dress still widely used by campers, hikers, cyclists and all lovers of the great outdoors, despite the present-day cult of jeans and sweaters.

The correct Scout uniform is something to be proud of. It should be worn with pride and not something to be hidden away under layers of jerseys, jackets and overcoats!

A SCOUT OF 1908

In the very early days of the Movement Boy Scouts blossomed out in a rather wide variety of dress (you could hardly call it a uniform), but all these get-ups had four items in common. These four items were regarded as the basic dress of a Boy Scout – the wide-brimmed hat with dented crown (and chin-strap!), the coloured scarf or neckerchief knotted at the throat, the staff made of plain turned wood (which gave rise to their being called broomsticks) and the long coloured Patrol shoulder-knot.
Our illustration shows an old-time Scout wearing this basic equipment over his ordinary clothes, in this case a white sweater and dull grey or brown tight fitting shorts half covering the knees.

By 1910 the uniform of the Scout began to look very much like that of today except for one or two details much favoured at the time such as laced boots (shoes were regarded as “sissy”), rolled-up coats or capes fixed to the back of the belt and, of course, chin-straps to the hat. In the eyes of present-day Scouts they might have appeared rather odd fish but I can tell you this, they took tremendous pride in their appearances and in spite of the louts on the street corners who yelled rude remarks at them they would never dream of hiding their uniforms as though being a Scout was something to be ashamed of. This last remark will, I hope, jerk the conscience of some who turn up to parades these days in all kinds of outer covering, even in Summer, which they proceed to peel off when they arrive at the Troop’s H.Q.

THE OLD-TIME SCOUTMASTER

Many of the early Scoutmasters were rather exotic in their choice of attire. Gauntlets, tassels, chain epaulettes and even spurs were among the ornaments to be seen. Some were even known to have worn Boy Scout proficiency badges on their sleeves!

In the end B.-P. advised them to wear breeches with putties or brown leather gaiters, and a shirt with collar and tie, preferable khaki in colour. If a jacket was worn then a stiff white collar was considered the correct thing! Frequently the early Scoutmaster wore a pugaree around the crown of the hat as depicted in the drawing – and, most decidedly, the chin-strap.

It was not until about July 1912 that Scoutmasters were asked to take to shorts – a bold move, although breeches were still permissible. Many of them carried out the wishes of B.-P. but some of the returning warriors of the 1914-19 War tended to make use of ex-army uniform items, particularly tunics. Today the really accepted uniform of the Scouter is almost the same as that of the Scout with the alternative of slacks in place of shorts if so desired.

THE SCOUT OF TODAY

This is the uniform as worn today by the greater majority of Scouts in Great Britain and in many other countries within the Commonwealth and Empire. To all intents and purposes it is that which was devised and worn by the Founder, B.-P.

Certain portions of it, such as the shirt and scarf and to a slightly lesser extent the shorts, have been universally adopted throughout the Scouting World whilst other items, notably the hat, vary according to national tradition or climatic demands.

The most common colour is khaki but in Great Britain it is permissible for the shirt and shorts to be in dark blue, green or grey.
Senior Scouts in Great Britain now wear the maroon beret and Rover Scouts the green beret. The green beret is also widely worn by Boy Scouts in place of the original Scout hat although the latter is still proudly maintained in a fair number of long established Troops.

If worn correctly the Scout Uniform is one of the smartest and most business-like outfits. Take a look at yourself in the mirror and see if you match up with Ken Brooke’s illustration here!

THE AIR SCOUT

Since Air Scouting was started in Great Britain during 1941 the official uniform for this small and rather exclusive branch has remained unaltered.

Grey shirt (or jersey), dark blue shorts, grey stockings and on the head is worn a dark blue beret-type cap bearing a cloth badge with the letter A and S on either side of the Scout Badge,

A pale blue patch containing the figure of a golden bird in flight with the words “Air Scouts” in red is worn on the shirt above the left breast pocket.

Senior Air Scouts and the Air Rover Scouts wear the same uniform as their younger brothers but with the appropriate “S” or “R.S.” bar immediately below the cloth hat badge.

THE SEA SCOUT

Regarded as the most uniform of all Scout uniforms the dress of the Sea Scout is today almost identical to that worn when this branch of the Movement was formed in 1909.

Dark blue jersey (with the words “Sea Scouts” in white letters across the chest) or shirt of the same colour. The shorts and stockings are also in dark blue. Badges and marks of rank are the same as those worn by Boy Scouts. The headgear is a white topped naval cap with the words Sea Scouts or Senior Sea Scouts on the tally band.

The scarf is knotted with the sailor’s knot low down in front and the two ends turned up and tucked away. It has become the practise of most British Sea Scouts when wearing the jersey to keep the belt out of sight.

NORWAY

Here we see the hat widely worn by Scouts throughout mountainous Norway. It fits close to the head and it would take more than a gale to blow it off. Edged with green it is made of the same blue-grey material as the Norwegian Scout uniform. The normal Scout hat is, however, still to be seen on certain occasions.
**SWEDEN**

Like his brother in neighbouring Norway the Swedish Scout wears a kind of “field service” cap. But if you look closely you will notice that it is of a different pattern with a split or fold down the middle. It is made of a heavier material than that of the Norwegian and is medium blue in colour.

**FINLAND**

A very distinctive close-fitting sky blue skull cap quartered with white stripes distinguishes a Scout from the Land of Lakes from any other country. A Finnish Scout favours long sleeves to his shirt. During the long winter months the Scouts of these three countries wear a kind of ski dress.

**SCOTLAND**

As is to be expected the traditional kilt of Scotland is worn by the greater proportion of the Scouts north of the Tweed.

Scottish Scouts always present a colourful spectacle at World Jamborees in their kilts of many tartans (of which there are close on a hundred) and khaki shirts. The sporran or pouch which hangs down in front midway between the waist and the bottom of the kilt is usually made of brown leather or fur. It is “not done” for Scouts to wear the long horse-haired sporrans of the various Highland regiments.

Scottish Scouts are permitted to wear a khaki Balmoral hat in place of the Scout hat.

As you all know, the Chief Scout of the Commonwealth is a Scot. What you may not know is that he wears a kilt in the tartan of Maclean of Duart, for Sir Charles Maclean is the 27th Chief of the famous Clan Maclean of which there are over 40,000 members spread throughout the world.

**IRELAND**

The Scouts of the Republic of Ireland also favour the kilt. Unlike those of Scotland they are not of different tartans but are all of the same colour, a plain emerald green. The shirt and soft hat (I don’t think we had better refer to it as a beret!) are also of the same colour with the stockings in a similar shade or grey. It would, however, be wrong to assume that all Irish Scouts are kilted, but the shorts that are to be seen are usually either green or dark blue.

To the uninitiated it may appear that the length of the kilt can be anything so long as it terminates somewhere about the knees. To be strictly correct the bottom of the garment should be level with the middle of the knee cap.
FIJI ISLANDS

A thousand miles north of New Zealand, in an area of the Pacific where Polynesia meets with Micronesia and Melanesia (how’s your geography?) are the Fiji Islands. Like their neighbours in the Tonga Islands the Fijians are a friendly race of people, proud members of the great family within the British Commonwealth and Empire.

A Fijian Scout would soon be spotted in a crowd for he wears the traditional Sulu which resembles a fairly close-fitting light coloured skirt with a serrated or saw-toothed hem. In or out of uniform a Fijian boy seldom, if ever, wears a hat or stocking or shoes although he may well wear sandals.

Scouts from other pans of the Pacific wear a similar lower garment which is known by various names, one being the Lava-Lava. In parts of New Guinea this is the only garment worn and it is on this that a Scout is obliged to sew his badges.

CANADA

The normal uniform of the Canadian Scout is exactly the same as that worn by his English brother (colours: dark blue shorts and dark green shirts), but owing to the extremely cold weather during the long winter months the Scouts of the great territory north of the 49th Parallel adopt the warm uniform as seen here.

Made of closely woven dark green gabardine, the long slacks tucked inside high angle boots and jacket with parka hood worn over Scout shirt and scarf afford excellent protection against the cold winds and snow. The close fitting ski-cap allows the fur-edged parka to be pulled up over the head in very icy weather.

During severe winter conditions other countries make use of a ski-type dress notably Norway, Sweden, Finland the Alpine regions of Europe and parts of the U.S.A.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA

A white Scout from this Central Africans country is quickly spotted at a World Jamboree by his distinctive light and dark striped hatband made from the skin of the Zebra. The rest of his uniform is the same as that of an English Scout but made in light khaki drill with the shorts cut wider and shorter.

UGANDA

A beret made of light khaki drill is the head-dress of the Scouts of this Equatorial country. It is also widely worn by Scouts in other parts of the African continent.
SWITZERLAND

The official hat is still the normal Scout hat although the Swiss are not unduly worried if the brim is not stiff. The traditional Swiss skull cap embroidered with red and white fleur-de-lys is much favoured when in camp. Khaki is the commonest colour of the Swiss Scout uniform.

PAKISTAN

Most of the Scouts of this young but progressive nation wear the Jinnah hat made of astrakhan, a rough kind of cloth with a curled pile. Scouters also wear a similar hat. The normally accepted Scout rig is worn extensively.

ZANZIBAR

The tasselled red fez worn by Scouts in this small island off the coast of Tanganyika is also worn by Moslem Scouts in several other African countries north of the Equator.

INDIA

Khaki drill shirts and shorts is the standard uniform of Scouts throughout India. Turbans or pugarees of various styles according to sect or religion are worn in place of the Scout hat. Scouts of Sudan also wear a khaki turban.

GREENLAND

Around the coast line of Southern Greenland are to be found a hardy breed of Scout. If you were to visit his Troop room you would find the flag of Denmark hanging from the ceiling and on the left breast of his thick loose-fitting top garment our brother in the frozen north proudly bears the enamelled badge of the Danish Scouts, Greenland being under the Danish Crown.

The knee-length seal skin boots he wears over his blue slacks will doubtless be attractively decorated with Eskimo beadwork. He wears no hat but the hood which hangs from his shoulder over his coloured Scout Scarf can be quickly drawn up over the head if needs be.
UNIVERS STATES OF AMERICA

Sea Scouts

Through our eyes it would appear at first glance there is little to distinguish the Sea Scout on the other side of the Atlantic from a rating in the U.S. Navy. Indeed it is obvious that his uniform is very much based on that of the American doughboy. Trousers slightly bell-bottomed, close-fitting blouse but in place of the square jack-tar collar he wears the Scout Scarf loosely knotted at the throat.

The familiar American sailor’s white duck cap is worn by Sea Scouts both in winter as well as in summer. The rest of the uniform is navy blue whilst during the summer months white trousers and white T-shirt or sleeved vest is the generally accepted wear when practising on the water.

Boy Scouts

When we talk of the Scout uniform we rather naturally think in terms of shirt, shorts and wide-brimmed hat. It is hard to believe, therefore, that half the Scouts of the world do in actual fact wear the uniform pictured here.

Almost the only features recognisable as accepted Scout rig are the scarf and woggle and the shirt. But even here there are distinct differences for the American Scout drapes his scarf about his neck in a loose fashion instead of folding it as we do here and the absence of short sleeves. The Americans also tend to go in for rather fancy woggles or “slides” as they call them.

Even the Wolf Cubs, or Cub Scouts, of the United States have adopted slacks as part of their uniform but without the gaiters. Their bigger brothers do however, frequently discard slacks in favour of shorts when in camp.

FRANCE

There is a certain indefinable something about the uniform of our near neighbours across the Channel which is rather difficult to describe. It is true they wear ankle socks instead of knee-length stockings and most of them wear the basque beret at a jaunty angle upon their heads. No, the difference is something much more subtle. Is it the shortness of his shorts or the way they are cut? Is it that the French boy possesses an “air” that one does not find in others? He would very likely take exception if you were to call him chic but it is something intangible like that. Blue is the most favoured colour although khaki or grey are often seen.

The Sea Scouts of France are easily distinguished by the French mariner’s cap with the pom-pom in the centre of the crown. The rest of
his uniform is much the same as that of the Boy Scout, in navy blue, of course.

PHILIPPINES

For many years before World War II and up to July, 1946, the Philippine Islands, situated in the Pacific to the South East of China, came under the protection of the United States.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Scouts of this large group of islands were influenced in many ways by the Boy Scouts of America and even today, after several years of independence their uniforms, made of light khaki material, bear the stamp and cut of the old summer dress of the U.S. Scouts.

In place of the traditional wide-brimmed felt hat the Filipino Scouts wear a similarly shaped hat made from lightweight straw with a bound edge to the brim.

ARMENIAN SCOUTS

The Armenians who have settled down in France are descendants of a race of people who once lived in the southeastern corner of Europe between Turkey and Russia near the Caspian Sea. These swarthy Scouts wear a dark blue uniform of shirt and shorts and for head covering they have adopted a tallish round hat made of dark brown astrakhan material.

They belong to a separate Association of their own and quite distinct from the four Associations of Scoutisme Francais.

JAMAICA

Two special features of the Jamaican Scout uniform are the brightly coloured scarf, frequently of a tartan pattern, and the open-weave lightweight hat made in straw and in the form of the traditional Scout hat. Similar straw hats are worn by Scouts in other parts of the West Indies – Trinidad and British Guiana for instance.

NETHERLANDS

Put a Dutch Boy Scout (“land” type) alongside an English Scout and you can scarcely tell one from the other. Practically the only difference is in the design of the Tenderfoot Badge on the left pocket.
To a slightly lesser degree, the uniform of the Dutch Sea Scout conforms to that of his opposite number in this country. The small differences are (1) Scarf held together with a woggle – British Sea Scouts tie it with the Sailor’s knot; (2) The ends of the hat ribbon or tally-band hang down rather long at the back of the head whilst in Britain the ends are tied in a small bow on the left side. The crown of the Dutch hat is softer and has a more rounded appearance than that of the British; (3) The Dutch Sea Scouts favour the belt over the jersey and the jersey itself does not carry lettering across the chest as in the case of the British pattern.

THAILAND (Siam)

You can pick out the Siamese Scout quite easily in a crowd. Whilst he wears the normal Scout rig, usually dark blue, his hat is a cross between a Scout hat and the slouch hat of the Australian soldier. It is also dark blue in colour with a white hatband. The turned-up brim on the right side is held in position by a hat badge. The hat is fitted with a chin strap.

LEBANON

In their own country Lebanese Scouts wear the normally accepted Scout rig. When they travel abroad they tend to wear certain national items of dress such as the picturesque Bedouin head-dress. The flowing white cloth which hangs around his shoulders and the plaited rings worn on the crown of the head together are called a khafiya.

Frequently they wear loose dark trousers gathered in at the ankles instead of shorts.

NOTE:

In camp both the Thai and Lebanese Scouts usually wear a plain khaki forage cap.

AUSTRIA

At first glance there appears to be nothing very different between the uniform of our Austrian brother Scout and those of many other countries. On closer examination, however, you will find several distinctive features not to be found elsewhere with the possible exception of Germany.

Take the shorts they wear. These shorts, or to give them their correct name, lederhosen, are made of soft mouse-grey or black leather and can stand up to a lot of punishment. Austrian Scouts never have to worry about tearing them on thorny bushes.

The stockings they wear are usually white without turned down tops and knitted in such a way as to render garters unnecessary.

Their khaki shirts are seldom worn with short sleeves and it will be noticed that the dents in the crown of the hat are placed two on either side of the head with a ridge in front and in line with the nose.
BADGES
OF THE SCOUTS OF THE WORLD

On the following pages you will find the official badge of every Association registered with the International Bureau together with the years in which they were founded and registered. No registration date earlier than 1922 is given. This is because the first meeting of the International Conference did not take place until that year although the International Bureau was established two years earlier, the year of the First World Jamboree held at Olympia, London.

* An asterisk denotes the year of registration as a separate member of the International Conference; such countries previously were registered as members of larger units; e.g. Australia until 1953 was registered under “Great Britain” as a member of the British Commonwealth.

This is B.-P’s original design for the Scout Badge. It was reproduced in the earliest edition of Scouting for Boys (1908) in which the Founder wrote: “The Scout’s badge is the arrow bead, which shows the North on a map or on the compass. It is the badge of the Scout . . . because he shows the way.”

The purpose of the knot hanging from the scroll bearing the motto “Be Prepared” was to remind the Scout of his daily Good Turn. As you will see this knot is still incorporated in the badges of certain countries. In Great Britain this little reminder is now confined to the Second and First Class badges and the Patrol Leader’s hat badge.
GERMANY
(i) Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder.
(ii) Christliche Pfadfinderschaft, Deutschland.
(iii) Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft St. Georg.
Founded 1946
Registered 1950

GREAT BRITAIN
The Boy Scouts Association
Founded 1907
Registered 1922
NOTE: The badge of Great Britain is also worn by the Scouts of 45 overseas branches throughout the British Commonwealth.

GREECE
Scouts Hellinon
Pentapole
Founded 1912
Registered 1922

GUATEMALA
Asociacion de Scouts de Guatemala
Founded 1928
Registered 1930

HAITI
Scouts d’Haiti
Founded 1932
Registered 1932-1939
Re-registered 1940

HONDURAS
Founded 1953
Registered 1957

IRELAND
The Boy Scouts of Ireland
Founded 1908
Registered 1949*

ISRAEL
Israel Boy and Girl Scouts Federation
Founded 1949
Registered 1951

INDIA
The Bharat Scouts and Guides
Founded 1910
Registered 1916*

IRELAND
Bancalag Iskutka
Founded 1913
Registered 1924

IRAQ
Iraqi Boy Scouts Council
Registered 1932-1940
Re-registered 1950

IRAN
Iranian National Organization of Scouting
Founded 1928
Registered 1929
Suppressed 1946
Registered after revival 1958*

INDONESIA
Bakauan Pauda
Indonesia
Founded 1934
Suppressed 1946
Registered after revival 1953*

ISRAEL
Israel Boy and Girl Scouts Federation
Founded 1949
Registered 1951
Uniforms and Badges Of The World

NICARAGUA
Boy Scouts de Nicaragua
Founded 1937
Registered 1946

NORWAY
Norsk Spellemann-Forbund
Founded 1911
Registered 1922

PAKISTAN
The Pakistan Boy Scouts Assn.
Founded 1947
Registered 1948*

PANAMA
Asociación de Scouts de Panamá
Founded 1920
Registered 1926
Re-registered 1930

PERU
Asociación Nacional de Scouts Peruanos
Founded 1919
Registered 1922

PHILIPPINES
Boy Scouts of the Philippines
Founded 1923
Registered 1946*

PORTUGAL
(i) Escolares de Portugal
Founded 1912
Registered 1922
(ii) Corpo Nacional de Escutas
Founded 1923
Registered 1929

SOUTH AFRICA
The B.S.A. of the Union of South Africa
Founded 1909
Registered 1937*

SUDAN
Sudan Boy Scouts Association
Founded 1935
Registered 1936*

SWEDEN
Svenska Scoutingförbundet
Founded 1911
Registered 1922

SWITZERLAND
Fédération des Éducateurs Suisse
Founded 1912
Registered 1922

SYRIA
Boy Scouts de Syrie
Founded 1912
Registered 1924

THAILAND
National Boy Scouts Organization of Thailand
Founded 1947 (Tham)
Registered 1922

TUNISIA
Founded 1924
Registered 1937

TURKEY
Türkçe Tesceri
Founded 1923
Registered 1940

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Boy Scouts of America
Founded 1910
Registered 1912

URUGUAY
Boy Scouts del Uruguay
Founded 1946
Registered 1950
NOTE

The following is a list of former members of the International Conference; their Scout Associations have either been suppressed or merged in national youth organisations. The dates give the periods of registration.

Afghanistan (1932-47)        Latvia (1922-40)
Albania (1922-37)            Liberia (1922-34)
Bulgaria (1924-40)           Lithuania (1923-40)
China, mainland (1937-50)    Poland (1922-46)
Czechoslovakia (1922-48)    Roumania (1922-37)
Estonia (1922-48)          Spain (1922-39)
Hungary (1922-48)         Yugoslavia (1922-40)
WORLD CENSUS

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WORLD JAMBOREES

1920

1924
Ermelunden, Copenhagen, Denmark.

1929
Arrowe Park Birkenhead, England.

1933
Godollo, Hungary

1937
Vogelensang-Bloemendal, Holland.

1947
Moisson, Rosny, France

1951
Bad Ischl, Salzkammergut, Austria.

1955
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada

1957

1959
Makeling National Park, Philippines