

THE FIRST SCOUT COVERS !

by John Ineson.

I have been very fortunate in being able to purchase what may be called the first Scout Covers together with their letters written by the founder, Robert Baden-Powell, to a family friend, Mrs Langdale. The experimental camp was held on Brownsea Island situated in Poole Harbour in southern England. B.P. set up camp a few days before the boys arrived on 29th July 1907. The letter dated 26th July states.....now I am down here preparing my Boys Camp. It is just the perfect place for it - a splendid island well wooded and wild giving plenty of scope for Scouting. I think we shall have a very good time if the weather is kind-which it doesn't promise to be just at the moment.

Arthur Pearson, the printer and publisher never imagined that the camp would be anything but a great success, and presented Baden-Powell with special stationery headed "Scouts Camp, Brownsea Island, Poole". The letter written and posted by Baden-Powell on the last day mentions...I am just breaking up Camp here-I am in a tearing hurry- The camp has been a great success but hardish work.



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Mr Langdale
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TELEGRAPH: BALKIE, PARKSTONE.
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STATION, POOLE.

BROWNSEA ISLAND,
DORSET.



SCOUTS CAMP,
BROWNSEA ISLAND,
POOLE.

26 Jul .07

9th Aug. 07

I am so sorry that I was not able to see you the other day. The doctor was there the first time

Thank you so much. I am just breaking up Camp here - and am in a tearing hurry - so