

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 9 November, 2011

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## Editor's Notes

Chairman Bob Vogel reports that a successful meeting of the FDCSG was held at BNAPEX 2011. Five members and seven guests attended, and three of the guests signed up as new members. Bob explained the website and its importance to the Study Group, and urged everyone to access it, register, and upload scans of their own FDCs. After the meeting a brief show and tell was held, with the highlight being a display of 1930s postal stationery by John Jamieson of Saskatoon Stamp Centre.

My "Help Wanted" note in Issue 7 produced several new applications of cachets by Miss W.R. Smith and these are included in an article starting on page 4 of this issue. Many thanks to those of you who responded.

If you are looking for particular FDCs or types of FDCs, or have some for sale, I'd be happy to include a brief note about your wants in future issues of First Impressions. Just send me a brief description of the items along with contact information.

## Submitting Articles to First Impressions

Articles may be submitted in writing or MS Word, and scans should be in JPEG format at 300 dpi. E-mail submissions should be sent to Gary Dickinson at [gandbdickinson](mailto:gandbdickinson)

@shaw.ca or mailed to Gary at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.

## FDCs TO JOHN C. TAPLEY

by John Van der Ven

The purpose of this article is to find out if anyone has similar hand-drawn pieces of FDCs of other issues addressed to John C. Tapley in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The covers shown here came from a collection I bought several years ago. What really attracted me to this collection were the six hand-drawn covers shown as Figures 1 through 6.

The first three scans are three covers from the Wildlife issue of April 1, 1953. These have been drawn rather well and appear to have a higher artistic calibre than the next trio. As I was reviewing these three covers I noticed that the ink from the cancellation clearly is on top of the drawings and as such these pieces went through the regular mail. In the drawings of the 3 and 4 cents, the values were done to the left the same as on the stamps. On the 2 cent it appears that the 2 was applied afterwards and at the right side of the cachet, and it might have been forgotten at the time the work was done. The quality of these drawings indicates that they were done by a graphic designer or artist who had attended an art school.

The fourth through sixth scans are hand-drawn pieces done for the April 1, 1954 Wildlife set. They appear to have been done by a different person, but what is more interesting is that they were applied after the covers had gone through the mail. It shows clearly on all three that the cancellation is under the black ink from the drawings. It does not appear that the quality of the artistic output is the same as on the first three scans.

Figures 7 through 9 show three covers also addressed to Tapley. One is from Art Craft and two from H&E. It appears that John C. Tapley might have had a subscription at that time with the companies that made the cachets or the stamp dealer that was selling them. There are no markings to be found on the back and there were no inserts that might have helped to

determine if the hand-drawn covers were done by the addressee or if they were done for him. I think this makes for some interesting follow-up possibilities and I wonder if any of our members have seen these before. If you have, please let me know which issues and if you know anything else about these hand-drawn covers. Scans would also be appreciated.



Figure 1

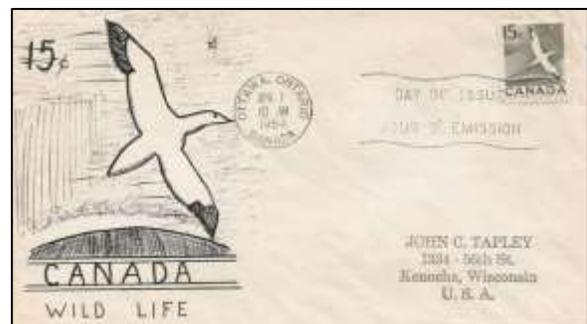


Figure 2



Figure 3

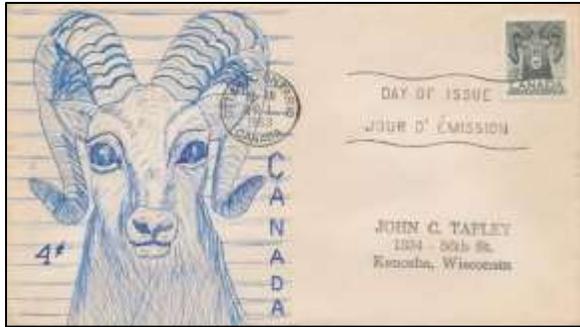


Figure 4



Figure 7

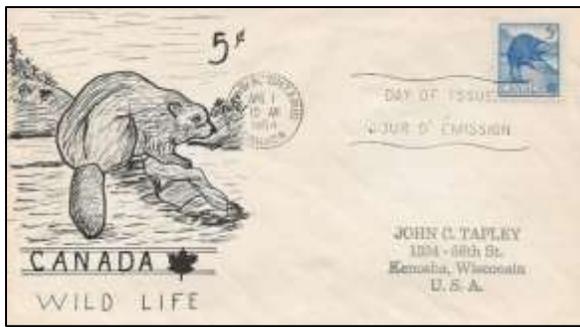


Figure 5



Figure 8

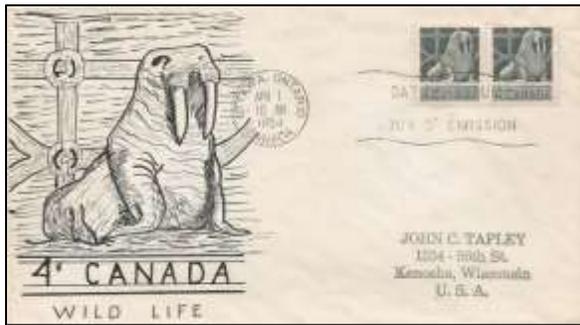


Figure 6



Figure 9

## MISS W.R. SMITH'S CACHETS

by Gary Dickinson

Miss W.R. Smith was a Toronto resident who produced a handful of FDC cachets for Canadian stamp issues in the 1930s and 1940s. Although her output was small, her cachets featured intricate designs, imaginative uses of colour, and varied texts. As a result they are of considerable interest to some collectors.

The notes and scans shown here represent the pooling of material from members of the FDC Study Group including Barry Douch, John van der Ven, Bob Vogel, and myself. In this presentation, the distinguishing features of Smith cachets are first discussed and then scans for known cachets are shown according to a typology developed for this purpose.

### Type I: Royal Visit

The first known W.R. Smith cachet was produced for the Royal Visit issue of May 15, 1939. Three stamps (Scott No. 246-248) marked the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Canada, the United States, and Newfoundland. Smith used a single cachet design for all three stamps, although different colour variations were featured both in printing the cachets and in choosing the envelopes upon which they were printed.

The cachet itself was an intricate line drawing with head and shoulders portraits of the Royal Couple in an arbour of flowers with a crown at the top. The text at the bottom read, "Commemorating the Visit of/ King George VI and Queen Elizabeth/ to Canada 1939." The cachets were printed in the colours of the three stamps, that is, green ink for the 1 cent, brown for the 2 cent, and red for the 3 cent. For the most part Smith used envelopes that were coloured in lighter tones of the stamp colours. In 1985,

however, Marcel Cool in his *Canada First Day Cover Specialist* newsletter (Vol. 1, No. 10, p. 106) advertised Smith FDCs for sale in a dozen different combinations of cachets and envelopes. For example, the 1 cent stamp with a green cachet was available on buff, white, green, or brown envelopes while the 2 cent was offered on buff envelopes with either a green or brown cachet. No examples of these unusual colour combinations were available for scanning.

Newfoundland issued a single stamp (Scott No. 249) to mark the brief Royal Visit there, and Miss Smith produced a blue version of her cachet in keeping with the stamp colour. One word of the text, "Canada", was replaced by the word "Newfoundland" for the cachet. A hand-painted version of the Newfoundland cachet is also known. Although not a FDC, at least one Type I cachet was used for posting a Royal Train cover in the U.S. on June 9, 1939.

### Type II: Busy Beaver

The greatest number of variations on a Smith cachet has been noted for her second type which shows a beaver under an umbrella of maple leaves working away on building its lodge. This design was used first for the Citizen stamp of July 1, 1947 (Scott No. 275) but it was also used for the Fur Resources issue of October 2, 1950 (No. 301). The Busy Beaver cachet with hand-painted highlights also appeared at least once with the Canadian Flag issue of June 30, 1965 (No. 439) but this was most likely a late use by someone with a supply of unused Smith covers as it was some fifteen years after the previous known usage.

The envelopes used for this cachet were either white or buff coloured and the

cachets were printed in brown, blue, and green. There were also a considerable number of hand-painted cachets, some of which were quite colourful.

Miss Smith hand-lettered the text for the Type II cachets using a considerable number of variations in placement and wording for the Citizenship issue. Sometimes the text was at the top of the design, sometimes at the bottom, and sometimes in both places. The wording used also varied considerable, with phrases on the Citizenship issue including First Day Cover (with and without the date), First Day of Issue, Canadian Citizenship, and Commemorating Canadian Citizenship. The Fur Resources issue had either no text in one case or Honoring Canada's Fur Trade in two instances, with one of these latter cachets showing the text in black printed letters rather than green hand-lettered ones. The black printed letters were uncharacteristic of Miss Smith's work and might have been added by someone else.

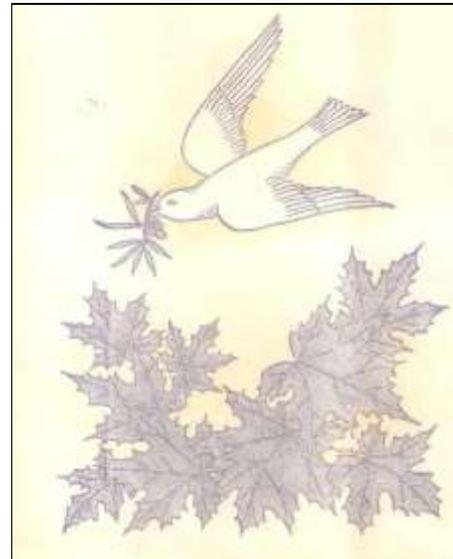
### Type III: Flying Dove

Miss Smith's cachets featuring a flying dove carrying an olive branch above an array of maple leaves appeared on four different stamp issues. The Citizenship stamp of 1947 (No. 275) shows a dove flying to the left. A cachet design showing a dove flying to the right was used initially for No. E11 on September 16, 1946, then for No. CE4 on December 3, 1946. The last known use of this design was for the Royal Wedding issue (No. 276) of February 16, 1948.

At first glance the two different dove cachets appear to be mirror images of each other, but closer inspection indicates that there are small differences indicative of a complete redrawing of the design. For example, the dove flying to the right cachet has seven large maple leaves while the dove flying to the left has nine. The branch

carried by the dove flying right has five olives while the other one has four. The dove flying right has five tail feathers and the one flying left has seven.

For purposes of this report, the dove flying to the left is designated as Type IIIa and the dove flying to the right is Type IIIb. Both sub-types are shown below in enlargements to enable a better comparison.

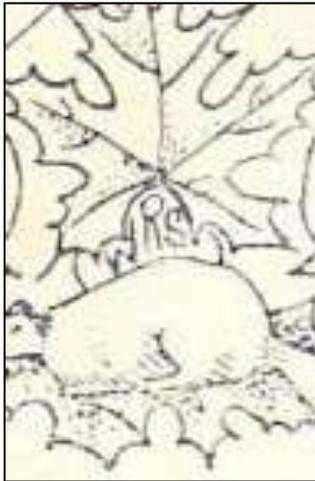


Type III a Dove flying left



Type III b Dove flying right

Identifying the work of Miss W.R. Smith is a relatively simple matter as all of her cachets were signed with her initials W.R.S. The printing is very small and usually requires a magnifying glass to discern. Shown below are enlargements of the placement of Smith's initials on her cachets.



Royal Visit



Busy Beaver



Dove flying left



Dove flying right

The following pages show the known variations of Miss Smith's three main types of cachets.



Type I Royal Visit 246-248.1



Type I Royal Visit 246-248.5



Type I Royal Visit 246-248.2



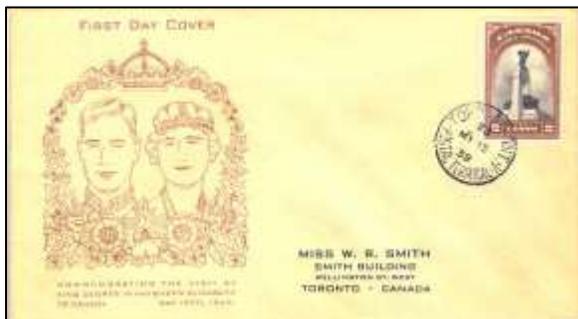
Type I Royal Visit 246-248.6



Type I Royal Visit 246-248.3



Type I Royal Visit 249.1 Newfoundland



Type I 246-248.4



Type I Royal Visit 249.2 Newfoundland



Type I Royal Train in U.S.



Type II Busy Beaver 275.3



Type II Busy Beaver 268-273.1



Type II Busy Beaver 275.4



Type II Busy Beaver 275.1



Type II Busy Beaver 275.5



Type II Busy Beaver 275.2



Type II Busy Beaver 275.6



Type II Busy Beaver 275.7



Type II Busy Beaver 275.11



Type II Busy Beaver 275.8



Type II Busy Beaver 275.12



Type II Busy Beaver 275.9



Type II Busy Beaver 275.13



Type II Busy Beaver 275.10



Type II Busy Beaver 275.14



Type II Busy Beaver 275.15



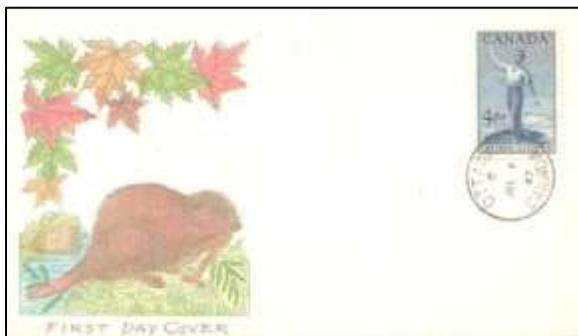
Type II Busy Beaver 301.1



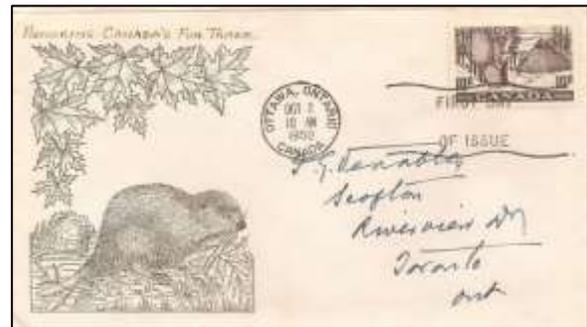
Type II Busy Beaver 275.16



Type II Busy Beaver 301.2



Type II Busy Beaver 275.17



Type II Busy Beaver 301.3



Type II Busy Beaver 275.18



Type II Busy Beaver 301.4



Type II Busy Beaver 439.1



Type IIIb Dove Flying Right 276.1



Type IIIa Dove Flying Left 275.19



Type IIIb Dove Flying Right CE4.1



Type IIIa Dove Flying Left 275.20



Type IIIb Dove Flying Right E11.1

## HELP WANTED

by Rob McGuinness

Shown below is a scan of a FDC and letter for the 2 cent Polar Bear stamp (#322) issued on April 1, 1953. The cover is cancelled with an Ottawa day of issue machine cancellation and there is a National Museum oval rubber stamp in the upper left corner. Just below that is the autograph of John A. Crosby, the stamp designer. The cover was sent to Clifford Carl, Director of the B.C. Provincial Museum of Natural History and Anthropology by L.S. Russell, Chief of the Zoology Section of the National Museum with an enclosed letter describing this FDC as “an example of zoology applied to the philatelic art.”

Have any of you ever seen anything like this? I doubt that Russell sent just one cover, and perhaps he sent them to the head of each provincial natural history museum. Any information you can shed on this would be most welcome. My e-mail address is [mrmacis@shaw.ca](mailto:mrmacis@shaw.ca).

