

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

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Contents

Miss Smith Rides the Royal Train	Editor	Page 2
Fort Garry Revisited	Editor	3
A “Reddy Kilowatt” FDC for #C1	Rob McGuinness	4
Printing Varieties in the Wildlife Series	John Van der Ven	5
Art Craft General Purpose Cachets	Gary Dickinson	7
Vedder Crossing First Day Cancellation	Rob McGuinness	11
Oh to be Coronated Once Again	Editor	12

Editor’s Notes

This issue contains more than the usual number of short items regarding various interesting discoveries submitted by our members. In addition, there are two longer articles dealing with printing varieties in the cachets of the Wildlife series and Art Craft general purpose cachets. Please keep those cards and letters coming in for future issues. If you’d like some assistance in putting an article together, please let me know and I’ll be glad to help.

The next issue will feature a major article by John Van der Ven on the cachets produced by Calgary artist Victor Brosz during the 1960’s. Many of these are beautiful, hand-painted cachets that were done in limited quantities. If you have any examples of his work, I’d appreciate it if you could send me scans in jpeg, 300 dpi, for possible inclusion in the article.

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

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

MISS SMITH RIDES THE ROYAL TRAIN

Issue 9 included an article and numerous scans of FDCs made by Miss W.R. Smith of Toronto. Doug Lingard forwarded nine more scans of FDCs, seven of which were postmarked with Royal Train flag cancellations. None of the examples in the previous article had such cancellations, so three are shown here.

Doug's scans introduced a variable which should probably be considered in future research and collections of Miss Smith's cachets but which wasn't dealt with in the Issue 9 article. That variable is the envelope colour.

Smith's Royal Visit cachets were printed on four different colours of envelopes: white, buff, green, and brown. This was first written up by Marcel Cool in Vol. 1, No. 10 (1985) of his *Canada First Day Cover Specialist* newsletter. He offered, at prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$10.00, FDCs franked with the 1, 2, or 3 cent stamp and on the four colours of envelopes. Only the 1 cent stamp was offered on all four envelope colours while the 2 cent was available on buff or brown envelopes and the 3 cent on three colours, with no covers available with green envelopes.

The completist collector of Miss Smith's FDCs would want to find each of the three stamps on all four colours of envelopes. For now, see the four different colours illustrated here. The first three covers have Royal Train flag cancellations.



Brown cachet on brown envelope



Green cachet on green envelope

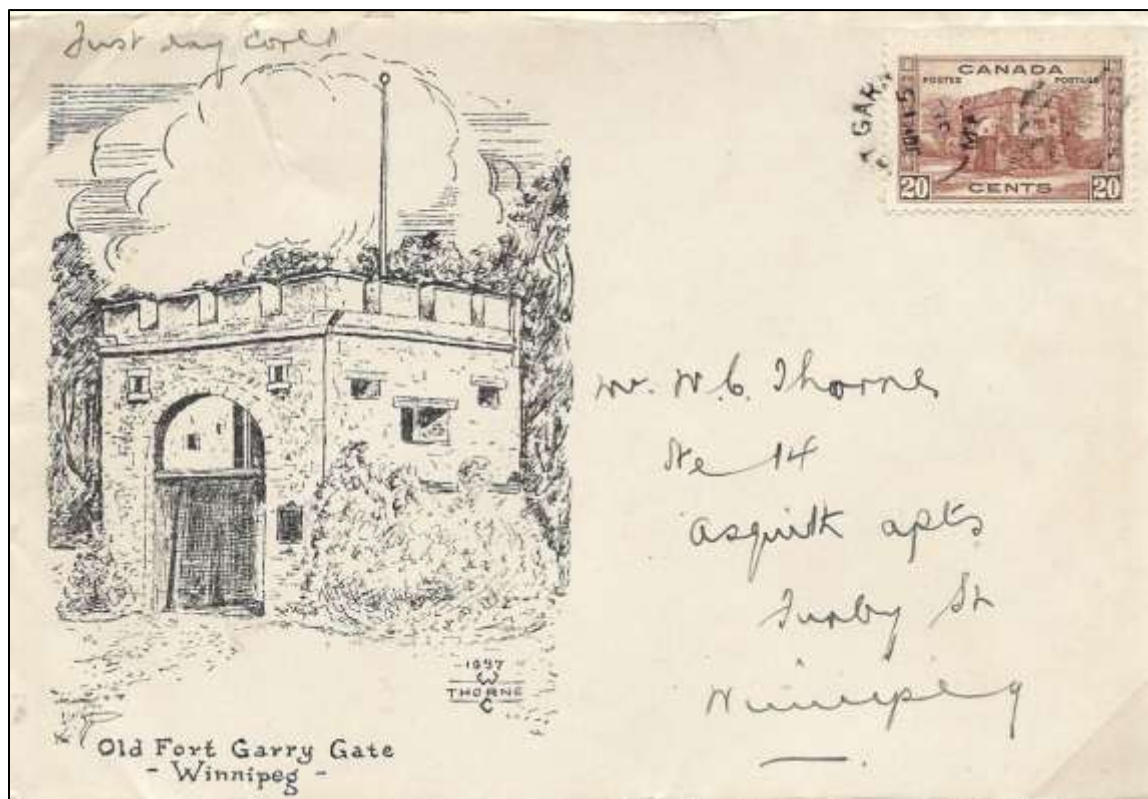


Green cachet on buff envelope



Red cachet on white envelope

FORT GARRY REVISITED



Issue 8 included a scan of a FDC provided by David Hanes. The cachet consisted of a William C. Thorne drawing of Old Fort Garry Gate in Winnipeg. This accompanied the 20 cent stamp (#243) showing the same theme as the November 15, 1938 stamp issue.

Rob McGuinness responded to Dave's cover with scans of two more featuring the same cachet. One of these is shown above. It was probably self-addressed by Thorne and posted at Fort Garry as indicated by the split circle cancellation.

Rob said that he knew Bill Thorne (1916-2009) for many years. Bill drew the cachet to earn money while attending St. John's College in Winnipeg. He received \$2.00 for his drawing which was purchased

by the Hudson Bay Company stamp department and printed by them. Bill gave Rob the original sketch mounted in a frame.

Rob indicated that Bill didn't design many FDC cachets but there was one for the Pauline Johnson stamp (#392) of 1961 and a couple of other hand-drawn cachets from the 1970s. His main collecting interests were in the postal history of Eastern Europe although he did have a nice collection of Ottawa and Winnipeg postal history at one time.

If any of you have other Thorne FDCs, please send me a scan for inclusion in a future *First Impressions*. Note his logo near the lower left corner of the Fort Garry cachet which may help in identification.

A "REDDY KILOWATT" FDC FOR # CE 1

by Rob McGuinness



Canada issued a 16 cent air mail-special delivery stamp on July 1, 1942 to expedite mail that required both the 6 cent and 10 cent postage. The design of the cachet shows an airplane over the powerhouse at Lord's Falls on the St. Francis River near Drummondville, Quebec. The cachet also includes a cartoon character, Reddy Kilowatt, described as "Your Electrical Servant."

According to Edwin Campbell in his article "First Special Delivery Airmail" in the *Canadian Philatelist* (Vol. 15, No. 6, 1964, p. 271), Southern Canada Power, which owned and operated the power house shown, ordered approximately 1,500 cacheted covers to be franked with one or more of the War Issue stamps and the 10 cent Special Delivery stamps or singles of the new 16 cent air mail-special delivery

stamp. It is not known how many FDCs with #CE 1 were prepared.

A.C. Dulieu, a philatelist living in Drummondville, was asked by Postmaster C.A. Lupien to assist him in getting the covers prepared, hand-stamped, and into the mail. As a special "thank you", Lupien signed one cover for Dulieu. A further six covers were autographed and sent to King George VI, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister King, the Premier of Quebec, the Postmaster General, and the President of Southern Canada Power.

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has a copy of this cachet, especially with different franking. I can be reached at mrmacis@shaw.ca.

PRINTING VARIETIES OF FOUR FDCs IN THE WILDLIFE SERIES

by John Van der Ven

Canada's Wildlife series included eleven stamps issued between 1952 and 1956. This article reviews four pairs of FDC cachets which represent uncommon and possibly rare printing varieties in this series.

The first pair of FDCs is by Herman Jacobi and features the Polar Bear stamp (#322) of April 1, 1953. Figure 1 has all three stamps issued that day while Figure 2 shows only the Polar Bear. The scene in both cachets was printed in blue, and the common or normal cachet has red text at the top and bottom of the scene. The uncommon cachet has green printing.

This is the only copy of the cachet with green text that I've seen.

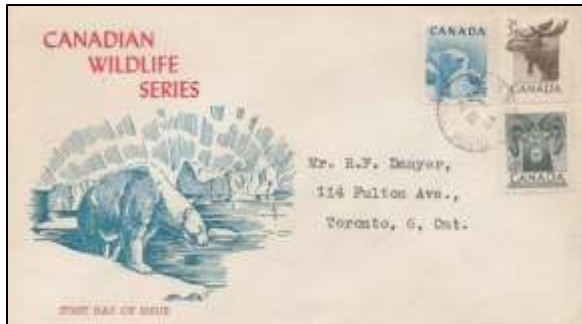


Figure 1 Normal cachet, red printing

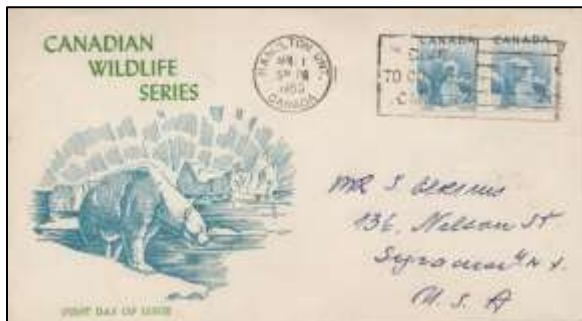


Figure 2 Uncommon cachet, green printing

The second pair of cachets, also by Jacobi, depicts a Bighorn Sheep (#324) which was also issued on April 1, 1953. The normal cachet (Figure 3) has text printed in green at the top and bottom of the scene. The other cachet (Figure 4) has no text.

I observed that there is no impression of the text on the envelope paper and examination under a microscope indicated that it had not been removed chemically.

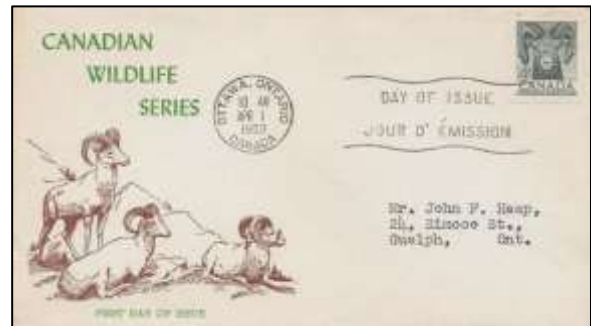


Figure 3 Normal cachet, text in green



Figure 4 Uncommon cachet, text missing

A Musk Ox was featured on the third pair of cachets for #352 issued on April 4, 1955. (See Figure 5 and 6)

I purchased this pair several years ago when I attended a show at a community centre in Scarborough. I was about to leave when one of the dealers asked if I would be interested in a group of Coronation covers. It

was a nice bunch but had a hefty price tag. What made me buy the lot was that he also had a few Canadian FDCs to go with them. When I went through them I found the two covers shown below, one right after the other. I had never seen this cachet with the text missing, and I was hoping that the dealer wouldn't notice it. I think that by the time I paid him he started to clue in, but by then the deal had been consummated. I had to show him what he had just sold me, and he said that if he had known, he would have charged me at least \$300 since he'd never seen this in 25 years as a dealer.

I examined the cover under a microscope to determine if the ink had been chemically removed, but there was no sign that it had been.



Figure 5 Normal cachet, red text



Figure 6 Uncommon cachet, no text

The final pair of cachets, shown in Figure 7 and 8, bear the two stamps (#360-361) issued on April 12, 1956 and featuring the Mountain Goat and Caribou.

The normal Grover cachet in this case has the black scene and red text while the uncommon one has those colours reversed. Both covers were cancelled at Windsor, Ontario but at different post offices.



Figure 7 Normal cachet, red text & black scene



Figure 8 Uncommon cachet, black text & red scene

I would be interested in hearing from you if you have any of the uncommon cachets noted in this article, and a scan would be helpful. This will help in establishing the rarity or uniqueness of the cachets. Also, most of the Grover cachets for the Wildlife series were cancelled at one of the Windsor post offices, with some FDCs from the 1955 issue being cancelled at Ottawa when they were franked with multiple stamps. I'd also like to hear from you if your Grover covers are all postmarked Windsor. I can be reached at: cjvanderven@sympatico.ca.

ART CRAFT GENERAL PURPOSE CACHETS

by Gary Dickinson

The U.S. cachet maker Art Craft published a set of ten general purpose cachets that were used for a large number of Canadian stamp issues primarily between 1953 and 1971, with a few outliers beyond the latter date. In addition to the ten main designs, the company placed a letter (A through K excluding I) on some of them but not on others, and a small number were printed in colours other than the basic black. The combination of multiple stamp issues, ten basic cachets, numbering of some but not others, and colours of printing result in a complex and fascinating challenge to the FDC collector, akin to putting together a gigantic jigsaw puzzle.

The twenty scans which accompany this article represent the basic varieties of the general purpose cachets produced by Art Craft. The range of stamps that were used on each type of cover is not addressed here.

As not all covers bore an initial at the bottom of the cachet (See Figure 1), each cachet was assigned a short, descriptive title to make identification easier. The titles are as follows:

- A Leaf & industry
- B Flag & parliament
- C Map & Queen
- D Parliament & Mountie
- E Queen in frame
- F Wild river
- G Queen in shield
- H Provincial arms and flag
- J Leaf and parliament
- K Four seasons

All ten cachet designs had at least some examples with a letter, but cachets A, B, C, and E also had some FDCs without a letter designation.

Cachet E had two sub-types, one including five lines of text and the other

having six lines. Both sub-types were found without a letter, but cachets with a letter have only been documented on the version with six lines of text.



Figure 1 Cachet with letter H

All ten cachets were printed in black, but there were also single-colour printings in blue, red, and green. The only documented green printing is shown as cachet A4 and the only known red printing is cachet A5. Blue printings are known for cachets A3, C3, and F2.

The general purpose Art Craft cachets were in heavy use between 1953 and 1971 although some are known with first day postmarks as late as 1980. An example of late use of a general purpose cachet from 1980 is shown in Figure 2. No attempt has been made to document which cachets were used with which stamps, but multiple cachets (at least six) were used with the same stamp on many occasions.



Figure 2 Art Craft A1, #877

The success of the Art Craft brand may have inspired imitations as suggested by the FDC for #1358 issued on December 30, 1992. This cachet is an apparent photocopy of Art Craft's C2 (Map and Queen) used for a block of stamps with House of Commons markings. (Figure 3)



Figure 3 Photocopied Art Craft C2

Several questions about the Art Craft general purpose cachets of the 1953 to 1979 period remain to be researched, among them:

1. Was there an “I” general purpose cachet which remains to be documented?
2. Which stamp issues appeared on which general purpose cachets?
3. What was the earliest and latest date of use for each cachet?

Following is a scan of the 20 types of Art Craft general purpose cachets. I would be delighted to receive scans of additional cachets not shown here, and can be reached at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca



A1 (letter)



A2 (no letter)



A3 (letter, blue)



A4 (no letter, green)



A5 (no letter, red)



C2 (no letter)



B1 (letter)



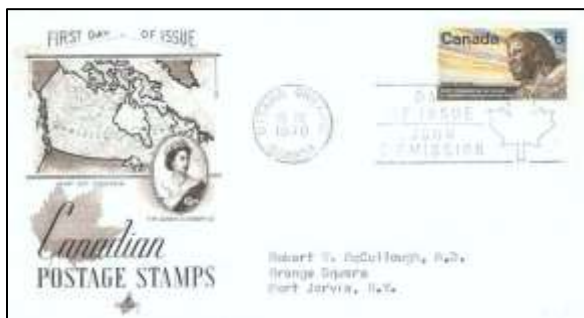
C3 (letter, blue)



B2 (no letter)



D1 (letter)



C1 (letter)



E1 (no letter, 5 line text)



E2 (no letter, 6 line text)



G1 (letter)



E3 (letter, 6 line text)



H1 (letter)



F1 (letter)



J1 (letter)



F2 (letter, blue)



K1 (letter)

VEDDER CROSSING FIRST DAY CANCELLATION

by Rob McGuinness

A little while ago I found these covers in an estate that I was helping to clean up. At first glance they would appear to be Vedder Crossing First Day of Issue cancels but obviously they are not. The Vedder Crossing hammer is legitimate but to the best of my knowledge the FDI cancels in the 1960s were all in Ottawa. These three straight lines with the wording FIRST DAY / OF / ISSUE therefore must be private, possibly illegal or very much unofficial. The piece of paper accompanying this lot simply said that the owner didn't know what they were and that he had never seen any others. In addition to the two examples shown here, the others I have are for Gzowski (1963), Royal Visit (1964), Christmas (1964 and 1965), Sir Isaac Brock (1969), and Curling (1969). My question is, have you ever seen this type of marking before or do you know anything about it? If you would like scans of any other of the above covers just let me know. My e-mail address is: mrmacis@shaw.ca



BUY AND SELL

John Irvine would like to obtain cacheted FDCs for the following issues: 517, 632, 663, 729, 737, 835-8, 910-12, 1113-15, 1194, 1407, 1872, 1882, 2020. Contact him at yjirvine@rogers.com

Bruce Davidson is interested in obtaining Word War II FDCs and possibly other wartime covers. Bruce may be contacted at BruceCubs@aol.com

Don Stiegler has a broad selection of Canadian FDCs for sale on his eBay store. To see his Canadian covers, go to: http://stores.ebay.ca/dwstieglar/_i.html?_nk w=Canada&submit=Search&LH_TitleDesc=1&_sid=670142751

OH, TO BE CORONATED ONCE AGAIN



Member Judith Edwards sent a FDC for the 1937 Coronation issue (#237) with an interesting cachet. The cover was postmarked with Coronation flag and CDS cancellations from London, Ontario and it has two different “Air Mail” rubber stamps. The cachet maker used the word

“Coronated” to describe what went on at the Coronation, although my *Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines this as “furnished with a corona,” which is a halo of light around the sun or a circular chandelier hung from the roof of a church.