

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 15 April-June, 2013

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Editor's Notes

Welcome to Issue 15 of the FDC Study Group newsletter. This issue features an article by George Basher about the FDCs produced for the stamp issued to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953. I invited George to prepare this as the 60th anniversary of the coronation will occur during the current issue of *First Impressions*.

Bob Vogel and John Van der Ven have both prepared articles about two relatively unknown FDC cachet makers. Bob has collected numerous covers made by Arthur Wood, who had a lifelong commitment to the Boy Scout movement and did much of his FDC work in support of their activities. John has provided an interesting look at a Kelowna resident, T.G. Wolstencroft, whose career as a cachet maker was productive but quite brief.

Two short pieces under the generic title "Help Wanted" seek information about specific cachets and cachet makers. Hopefully some of you will be able to enlighten all of us. If you do have information to share, please forward it to me and I'll see that the interested parties receive it and will report back in the next issue.

As always, please forward your ideas, suggestions, and drafts, as well as your highly-polished articles for future issues.

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.

FIRST DAY COVERS OF THE 1953 CANADA CORONATION COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

by George Basher

The Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953 provided a tremendous opportunity for First Day Cover cachet makers. Capitalizing on the worldwide attention paid to the ascension of the young Queen and the Canada Post Office Department issue of a commemorative stamp for the occasion the number of cachets produced approached numbers not seen since the previous coronation of King George VI in 1937. Additionally, First Day Cover collecting was a very popular hobby in the early 1950s in both Canada and the United States; publishers on both sides of the border produced covers for the new Canadian stamp.

The stamp, Scott Catalog #330 (Figure 1), was released on June 1, 1953. Designed by sculptor Emanuel Otto Hahn and based on a Yousuf Karsh photograph the stamp was printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company. According to Post Office records, there were 56,923 First Day cancellations from a variety of locations. Canada also provided a unique second opportunity for cancellations – covers posted on the actual Coronation Day, June 2nd, from Coronation, Alberta.



Figure 1. #330

Most cachets featured a portrait of the Queen (Figure 2), although C. George (Figure 3) and Michael Sanders (Figure 4) maintained their usual non-pictorial format. One of the

more interesting cachets came from Dr. W. L. Fluck (Figure 5) who produced a limited number of First Day cachets during the 1950s. The Coronation issue was his first cachet and the only one known produced in color. Also, individual collectors sometimes went to considerable length to produce a distinctive cachet (Figure 6).

What is perhaps most notable about this issue is the number of varieties that were produced for individual cachet makers. Most likely due to unexpected demand for covers, many cachet makers printed more than one distinct variety of their cachets for this issue, including A. R. Alexandre, Artcraft (Figure 7), C. George, Dargis Velvatone, Jacobi, Ottawa Stamp Shop, Personal, Philatelic Supply (Figure 8), Sanders, and UEL. Curiously missing from the Coronation issue is Joe Rosenbaum's JCR cachets. He produced a series of cachets for the "Karsh" definitive series but never followed up with a cachet specifically for the Coronation issue.

Canada Post has issued a 60th Anniversary stamp (Figure 10) to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, including the original stamp design. The selection of cachets, however, is nowhere near the number available for the original event.

Collecting First Day covers of the Coronation Issue can be challenging – so far over 60 varieties have been cataloged, but most are generally available and inexpensive. The reward is in finding the cachet or variety that no one else has recorded and adding to the ever-growing body of knowledge about the history of our hobby.

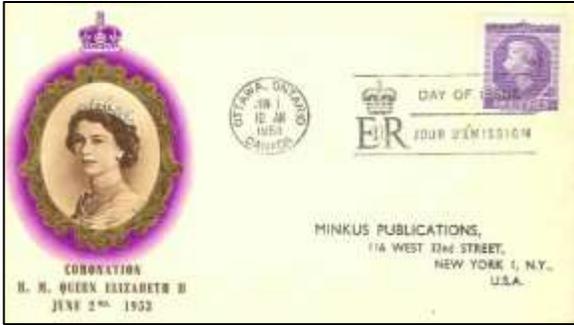


Figure 2. British Philatelic Society Cachet.



Figure 6. Unique add-on cachet



Figure 3. C. George Cachet – No portrait.



Figure 7A. ArtCraft varieties



Figure 4. Michael Sanders Cachet – No portrait



Figure 7B. ArtCraft varieties



Figure 5. Fluck colour cachet.



Figure 8A. Philatelic Supply Company varieties



Figure 8B. Philatelic Supply Company varieties.



Figure 9. Canada Post Jubilee commemorative panel.

HELP WANTED I

In working on a handbook of FDCs for the Wildlife Series of 1953 to 1957, your editor has come across a number of cachets prepared by unknown makers. Some of them are quite outstanding pieces, and it would be very

helpful to the project if any of you could provide a suggestion as to who made them. Following are some of the more interesting cachets.



Figure 1. From West Vancouver, BC.



Figure 3. From Steep Rock Lake, ON.



Figure 2. From Steep Rock Lake, ON.



Figure 4. From Lakefield, ON.

ARTHUR WOOD, CACHET MAKER EXTRAORDINAIRE

by Bob Vogel

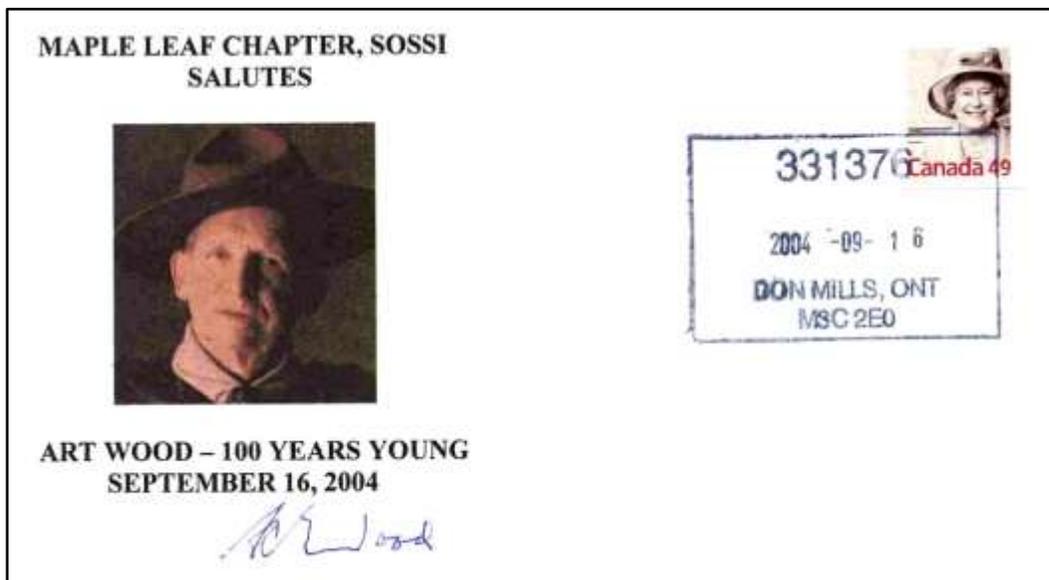


Figure 1. Cover presented to Art Wood on his 100th birthday.

Arthur Wood was born in Etobicoke Ontario, on September 16, 1904 and died in 2006. He was employed as an office worker for the same furniture company for 50 years. He married Marjorie in 1927 and they celebrated their Diamond Jubilee in 1987.

Art joined the scouting movement in 1915 and was associated with it for the rest of his life. He joined SOSSI (Scouts on Stamps Society International) as member #568 in the 1950's and The Maple Leaf Chapter (MLC) in 1962. He was appointed an Honourary Member of the MLC for his outstanding services in 1985. He was presented with a cover commemorating his service to scouting on his 100th birthday. (See Figure 1).

Art only started producing his cachets in 1970 when he was in his mid-60s. Little is known about his first cachet as they were one-of-a-kind products and were serviced in Ottawa or Toronto. Two issues, Cornelius Kriehoff (Scott #610) and J.E.H. MacDonald (#617) were printed in quantities of 100 each and sold as fundraisers for SOSSI- MLC.

He received a letter of encouragement from a Post Office clerk in Ottawa in 1973 which led him to start producing more copies of his cachets. His evolution as a cachet maker was traced in a 1991 letter to a correspondent named Bob, reproduced in Figure 2.

Many of his cachets were unsigned, but those that were used a simple "A. Wood." In later years he used a stylized axe in a log that contained his name, as shown in Figure 3.

In addition to his FDCs, Art produced numerous cacheted envelopes in support of various scouting activities. These warrant study in their own right, but are beyond the scope of the current article.

I am grateful to Maurice Malenfant for his permission to use the scans found in his album on the FDC Study Group website, www.canadafdc.org. Many more of Wood's cachets may be seen there. I would also like to thank Tony Manson, President of the Maple Leaf Chapter #15 of SOSSI for his assistance in providing reference material and scans of covers from the Chapter archives.

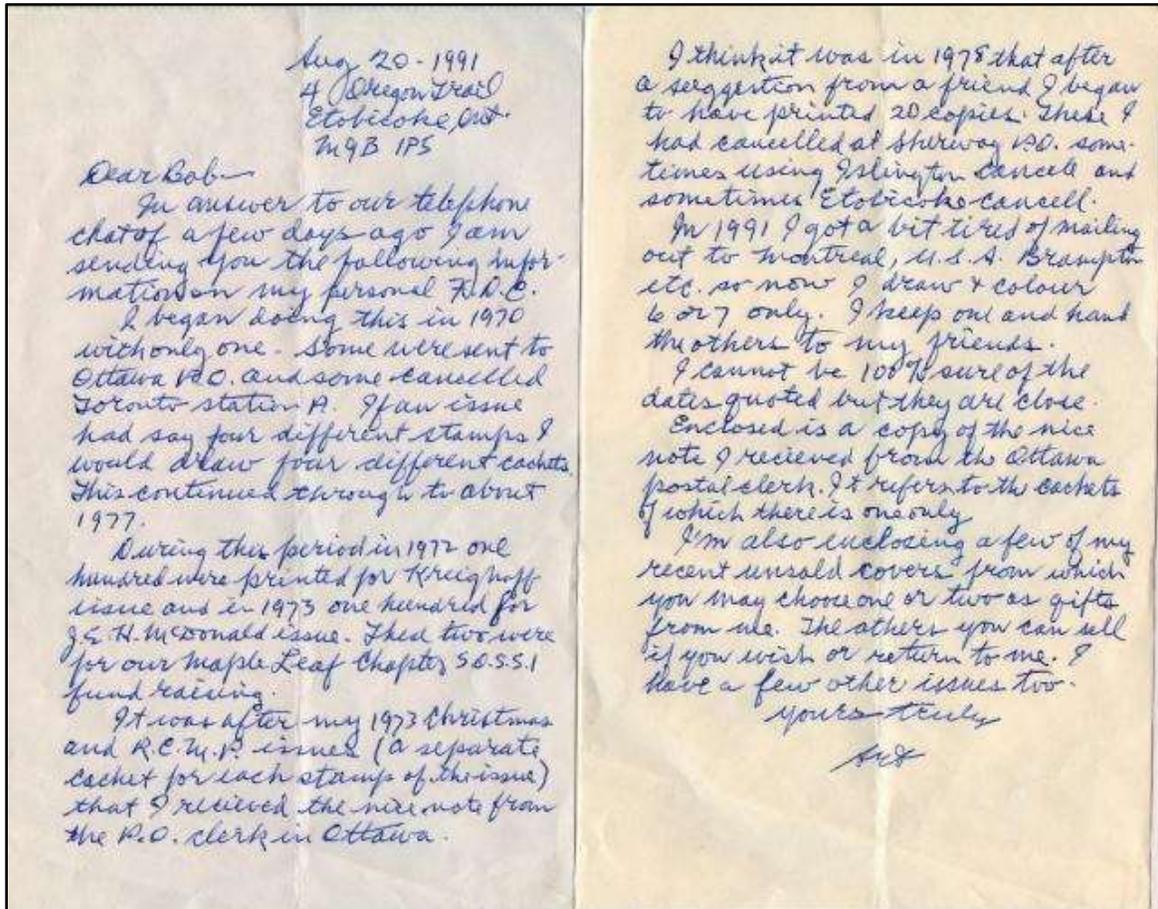


Figure 2. Art Wood's description of his cachet-making career. (Image courtesy of Maurice Malenfant)

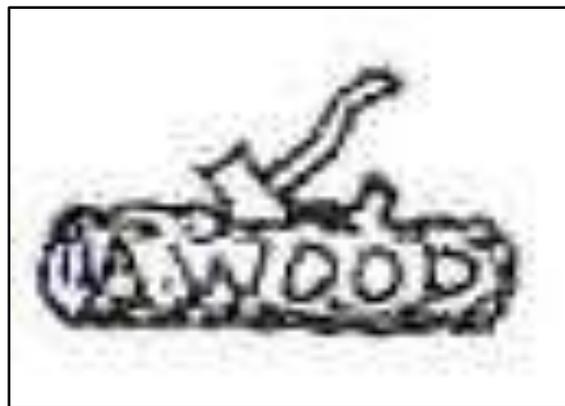
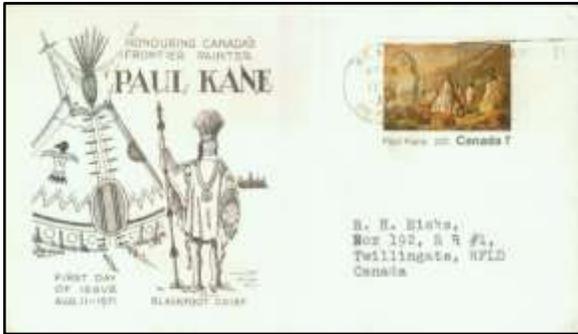
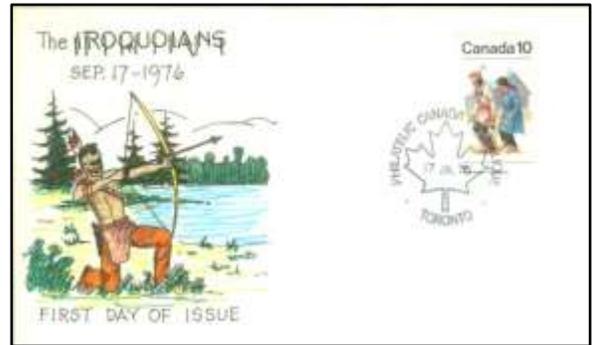


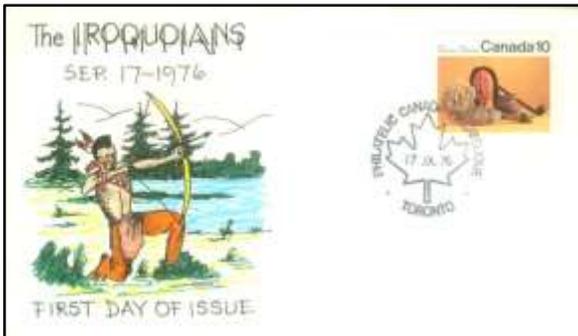
Figure 3. A. Wood cachet signature.



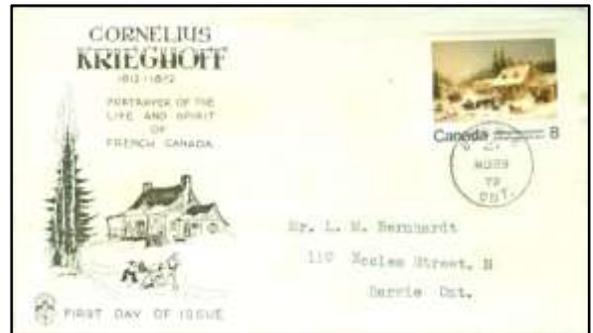
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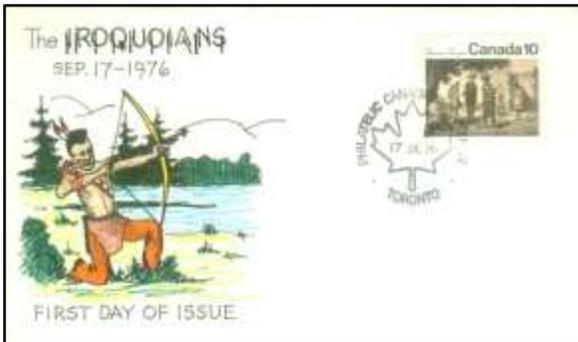
581 (There are subtle differences, 578-581)



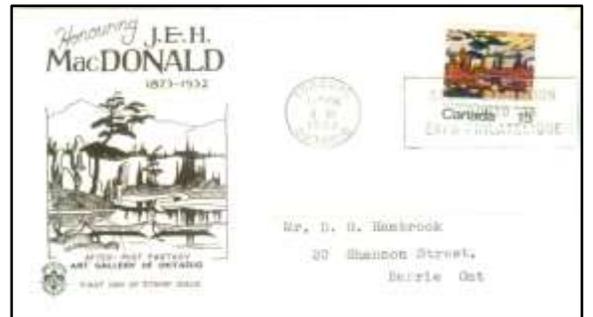
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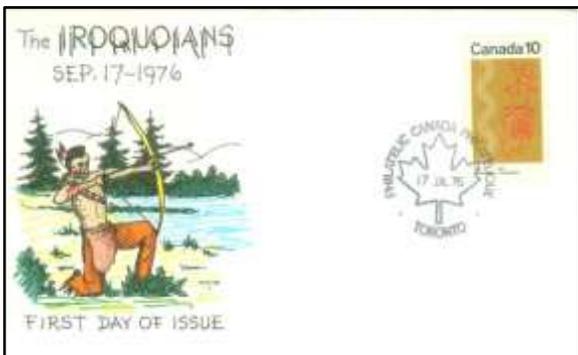
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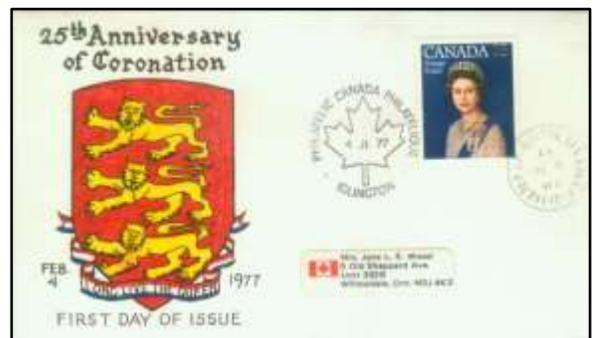
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617



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704



712



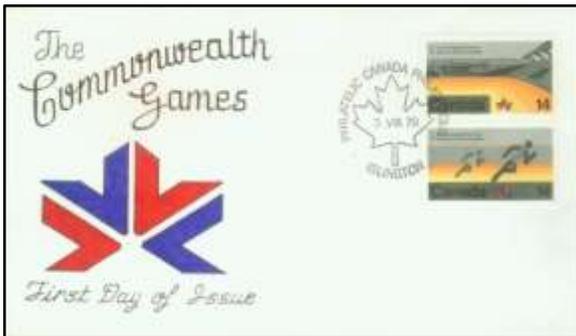
767b Multicoloured



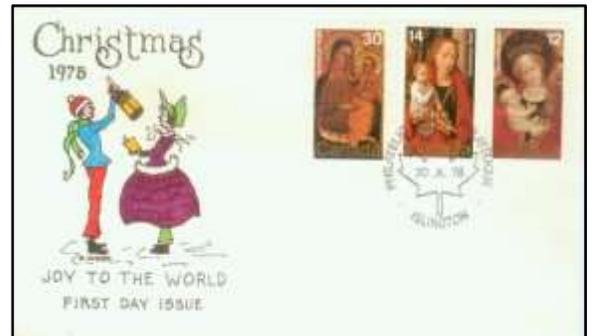
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769-772



759-760



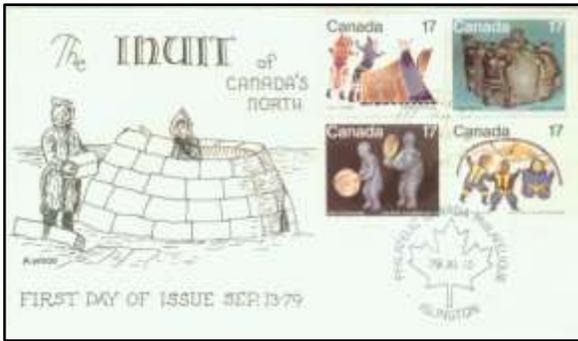
773-775



767a Black and white



787



835-838



853



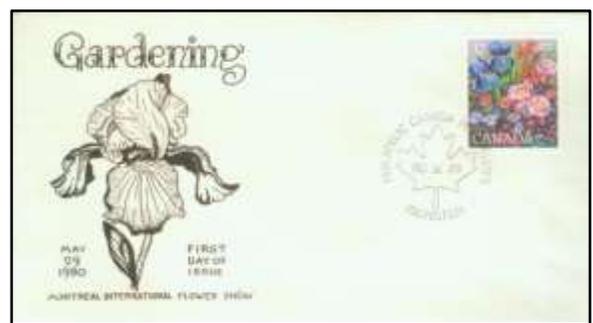
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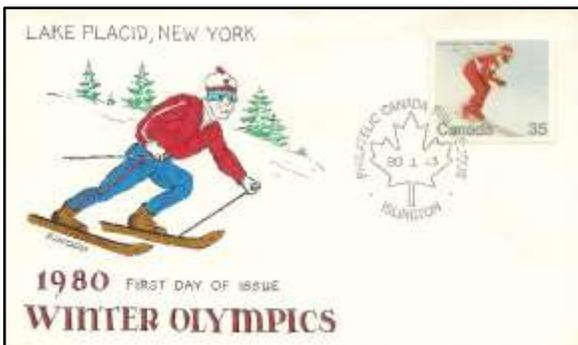
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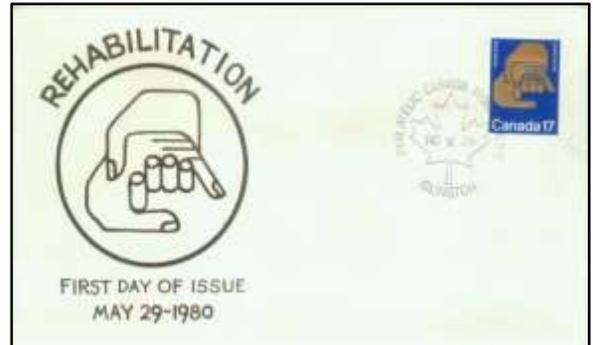
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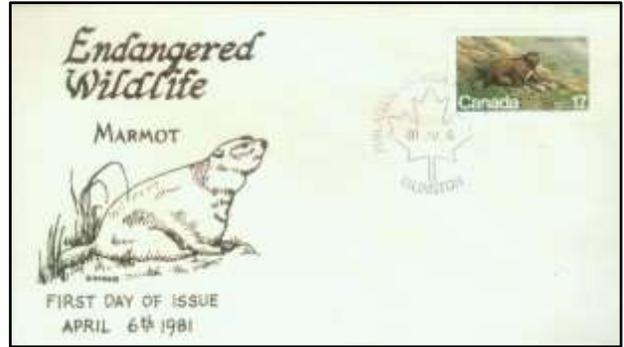
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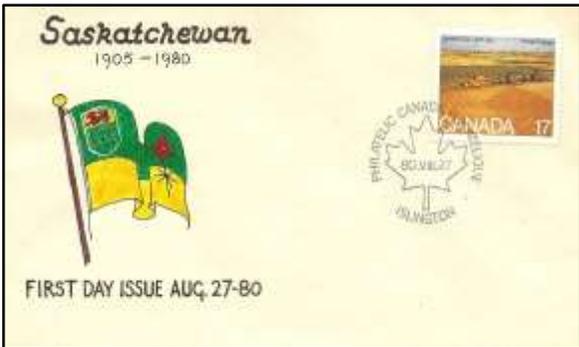
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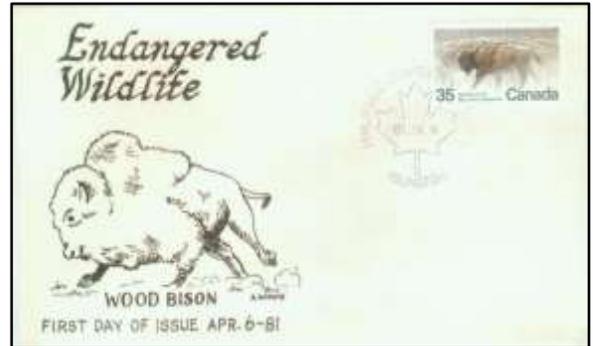
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883



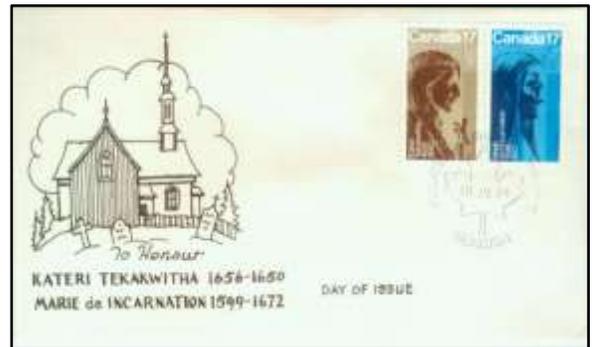
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885-886



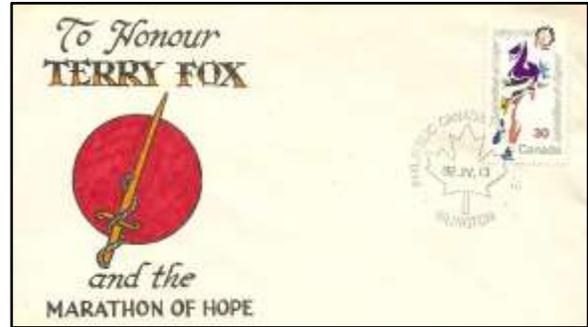
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887, 889



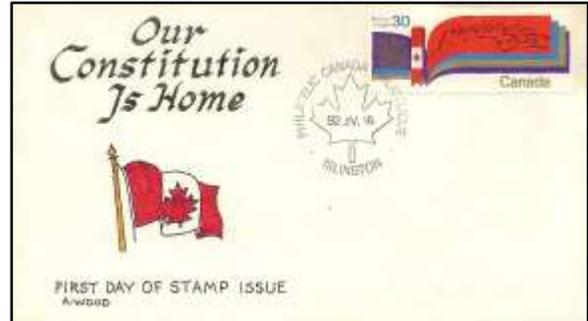
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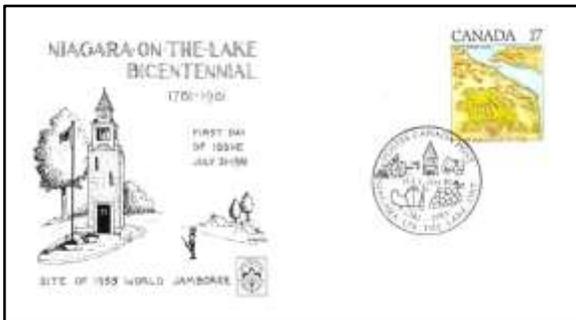
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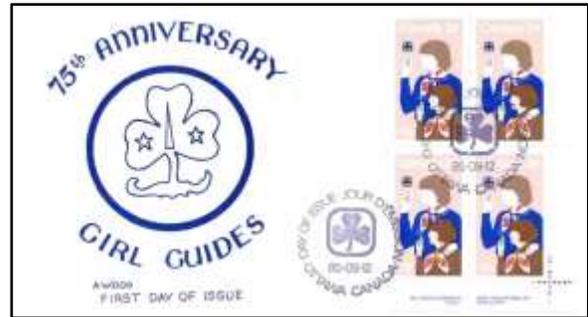
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916



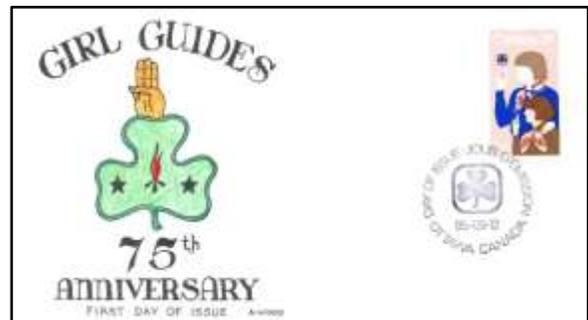
897



1062a



900-902



1062b



907



FIRST DAY COVERS BY T. G. WOLSTENCROFT

by John Van der Ven

T. G. Wolstencroft lived at 527 Roanoke Avenue in Kelowna, BC and produced some colourful and well-executed FDCs for a short period in 1968 and early 1969.

I had not seen his hand-painted cachets before coming across a group of them in a box of covers offered by a Toronto stamp dealer. I purchased all that were offered for sale, and would be interested to know if any Study Group members have seen others. You could contact the Editor if you have any such FDCs.

The earliest FDC included in the lot was for #483 (Figure 1) which was issued on July 3, 1968. The latest was for #490 (Figure 8) which was released on January 15, 1969. All of the consecutive catalogue numbers between those two dates were accounted for with FDCs, indicating that Wolstencroft had produced cachets for each issue during his active period.

The ties between the themes of the cachets and the subjects of the stamps were sometimes direct, as was the case with #483, 486, and 487, for example. In other cases the linkages were tenuous, as for #484 and 485. For some unknown reason, Donald Duck was chosen as the central figure for the two 1968 Christmas stamps.

All of the covers I purchased were addressed to Victor Pashnik, another resident of Kelowna. All of them were mailed at the Kelowna Sub 3 post office which was located near Wolstencroft's home. His address was established through the return address appearing on the envelope backflaps, as shown in Figure 8.

The cachets are all crisp, well-executed, vibrantly coloured, and with distinct calligraphy requiring a steady hand. It's not possible to determine if the cachets were produced before or after mailing, but the presence of an insert in #490 dated after the day of issue suggests that the cachets were added after mailing.

The last Wolstencroft cachet was produced for the Curling stamp of January 15, 1969 as indicated by an inserted note with the cover to Pashnik. He indicates that what had

started as a small effort had grown to 300 covers during 1968 and he was unable to maintain the production. Given the number of known covers (300) and the number of different cachets (8), he probably had been servicing a mailing list of some 25 people.

The enclosed note (Figure 9) read, "Dear Friend, I regret that I shall not be able to continue sending F.D.C.s to you. I trust that those I have sent to you have given you some enjoyment." There followed a postscript reading, "What started out as a small thing developed into more than 300 FDCs in 1968."

The high quality of Wolstencroft's covers was apparently something that he could not sustain so his promising career ended after less than six months.



Figure 1. #483



Figure 2. #484

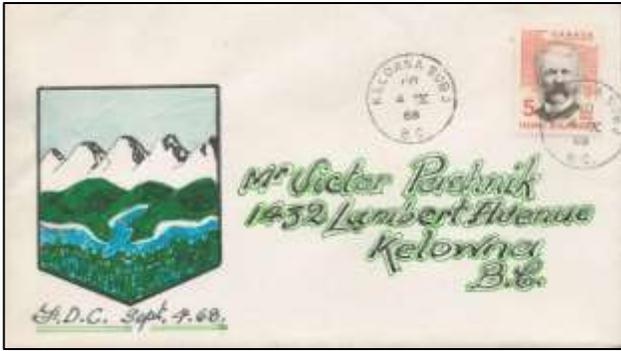


Figure 3. #485



Figure 7. #489



Figure 4. #486



Figure 8. #490



Figure 5. #487

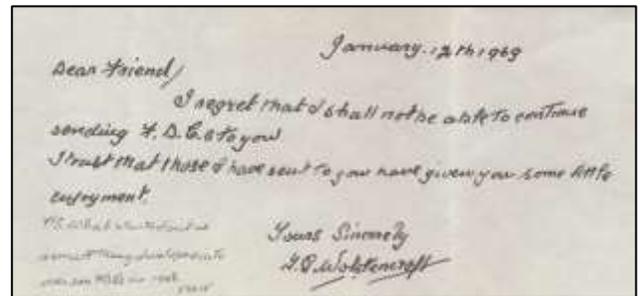


Figure 6. #488

January 2, 1969

Dear friend,
I regret that I shall not be able to continue
sending 4. D. C. to you
I trust that those I have sent to you have given you some little
enjoyment.

Yours Sincerely
A. G. Wolstenhelf

Figure 9. The end of the line.

HELP WANTED II

Three members forwarded covers with FDC cachets that were produced by relatively unknown makers. These are presented here with a request for anyone who has additional covers or knowledge about the makers to forward it via the editor.

Rob McGuinness submitted the Canada Post souvenir card shown in Figure 1. He asks if anyone else has seen other CP cards with the “First Day Cover” rubber-stamped impression, or who in Delhi, ON might have created it.



Figure 1

David Hanes sent the two hand-drawn cacheted FDCs shown in Figure 2 and 3. He suggests that these and others were made by Cyrus Miller of Rockingham, NS as some are addressed to Miller and others have the initials “CM” included in or adjacent to the design. Other covers are addressed to Ada Spidel of Brookfield, NS who might be a sister or close friend of Miller’s. Any information about Cyrus Miller or his cachets would be welcomed.

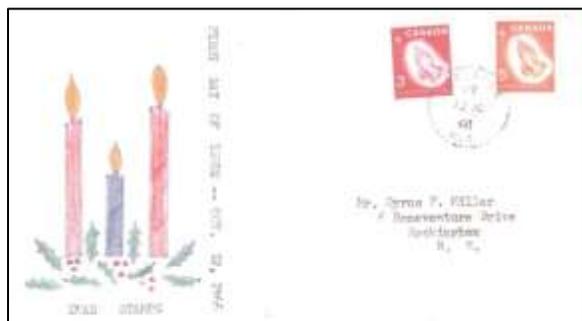


Figure 2

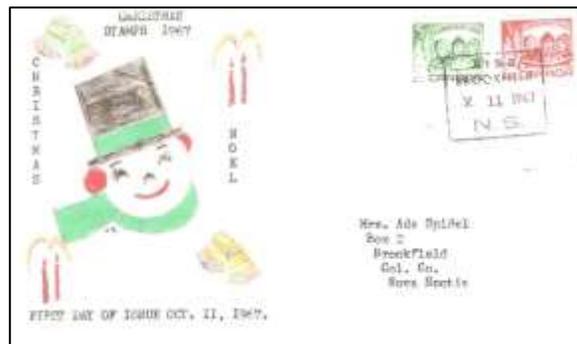


Figure 3

Finally, John Van der Ven forwarded a pair of pen-and-ink cacheted FDCs by Robert Salamon (1924-2011) of Denville, New Jersey. He was a mechanical engineering graduate who taught at the New Jersey Institute of Technology for most of his working life. John learned from a friend of Salamon’s family that the cachet maker had done many FDCs for American personalities honored with stamp issues. The friend thought that the cachets for the 1947 Citizen issue were unique and that he was unaware of any others that had been produced for Canadian stamps. Has anyone seen other Salamon cachets?



Figure 4



Figure 5