

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 20 July-September, 2014

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## Editor's Notes

The central focus of this issue is on the great diversity and creativity of FDC cachets produced by four relatively unknown makers. Polly Berndt of Hartville, Ohio has produced a relatively small number of colourful, all-over, add-on cachets primarily for stamps issued during the 1960s. J.F. Burns, who may have been a resident of Nelson, B.C., also worked with stamps issued during the 1960s and produced a small number of hand-drawn cachets. A set of hand-drawn and lettered cachets for the Cameo series was posted to, and may have been produced by, the Colliers of Ottawa. These cachets used simple line drawings and hand-printing and script to create an attractive group of FDCs. Finally, the treasure trove of hand-painted covers by T.G. Wolstencroft of Kelowna continues to be unearthed and unveiled.

As always, new articles for future issues of First Impressions will continue to be welcomed. I'd like to hear from you if you have material or research projects that you think may be of interest to others, and am willing to assist you if needed in bringing an article to fruition.

## 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](mailto:gandbdickinson@shaw.ca) or mailed to Gary at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.

## POLLY BERNDT'S CANADIAN FDC CACHETS

by Gary Dickinson

Polly Berndt was born in Wisconsin in 1950 and moved to Hartville, Ohio in 1976. She started painting in 1985, with themes emphasizing nature, family, and her faith. She made her first FDC in 2007 and has since made some 400 of them, primarily for U.S. stamp issues. About half of her cachets have been one-of-a-kind, while her printed cachets have been limited to editions of four to ten covers. Increasingly Berndt has emphasized commissioned and one-of-a-kind works that are colourful, childlike, and simplistic.

Most of Berndt's FDCs have been for U.S. stamps, but she has produced 29 that are either for Canadian stamps or have some other tie to Canada. All of them can be classified as all-over, add-on, and hand-painted, and all of them are illustrated in the following pages.

Her most frequent subject has been the provincial flowers and coats of arms series that was issued from 1964 to 1966. Seventeen FDCs are shown for this series with as many as three different cachets for #420 and 423. In both those cases, the three designs are quite different.

A pair of cachets is shown for a U.S. stamp (#1324) which was issued in 1967 to commemorate Expo 67 held in Montreal. Those covers, shown in Figures 27 and 28, were both postmarked at the U.S. pavilion in Montreal.

The final FDC shown in Figure 29 is a souvenir cover bearing six commemorative stamps issued between 1959 and 1965. It was postmarked on the day of issue of #439 which is the stamp shown at upper left in the block of six. That stamp marked the first use of the new Canadian flag on postage.

For more information about Polly Berndt and her art, her website address is: [www.rabbithillgallery.com](http://www.rabbithillgallery.com)

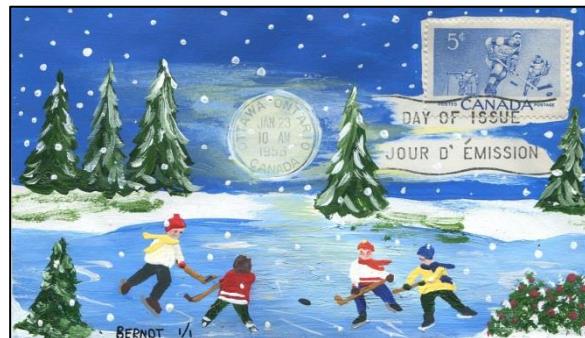


Figure 1. #359.



Figure 2. #364.



Figure 3. #417.

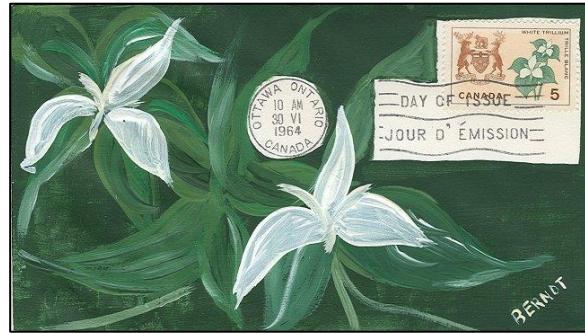


Figure 4. #418.

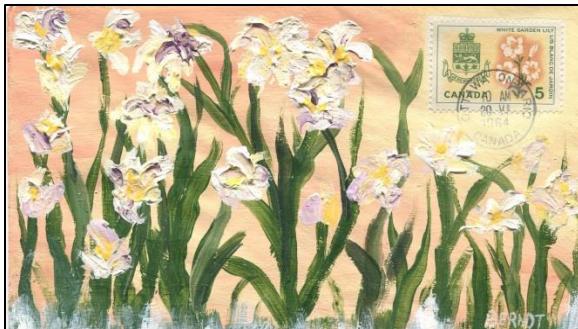


Figure 5. #419.

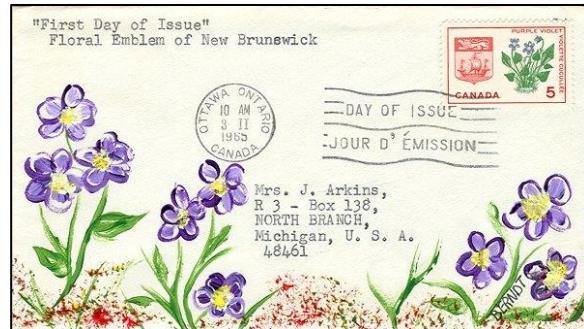


Figure 9. #421.



Figure 6. #420a.

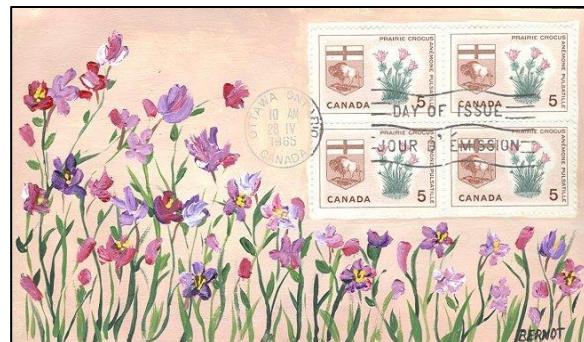


Figure 10. #422a.



Figure 7. #420b.

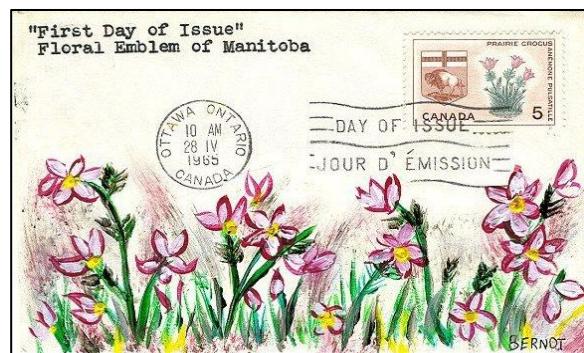


Figure 11. #422b.

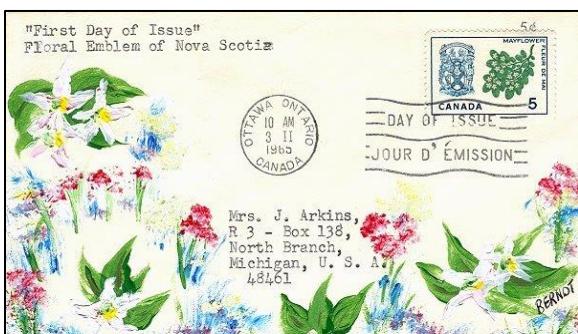


Figure 8. #420c.

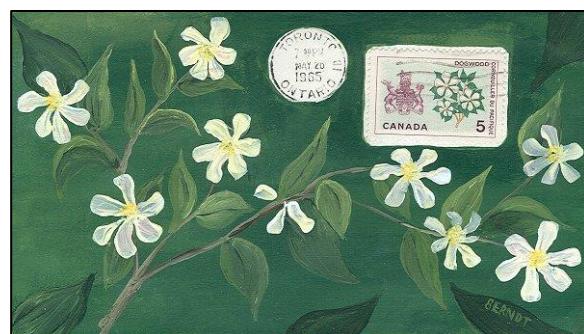


Figure 12. #423a.

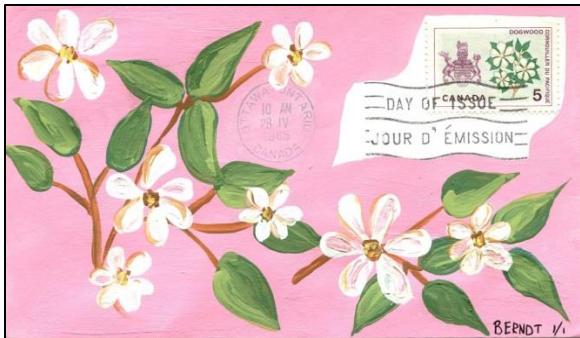


Figure 13. #423b.

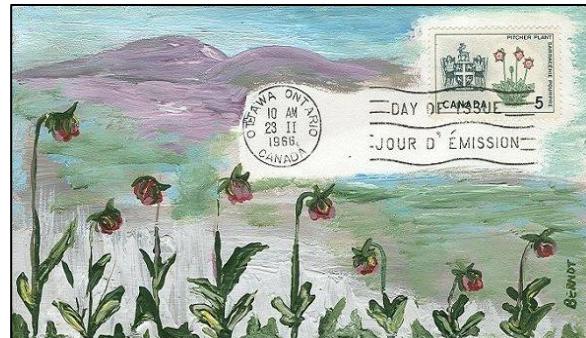


Figure 17. #427.

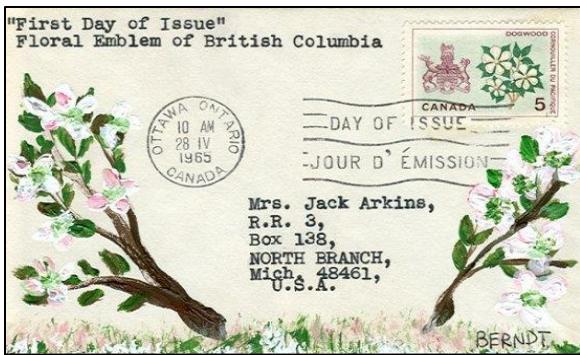


Figure 14. #423c.

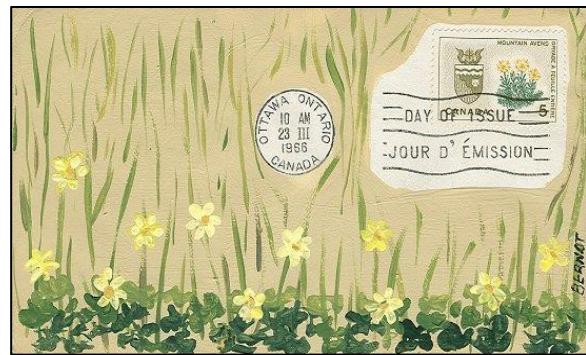


Figure 18. #429.



Figure 15. #424a.



Figure 19. #429A.



Figure 16. #424b.

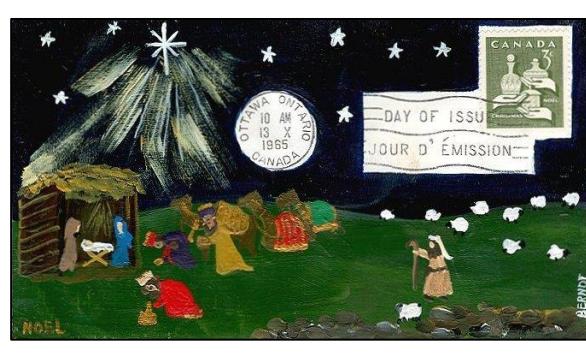


Figure 20. #443.



Figure 21. #446.

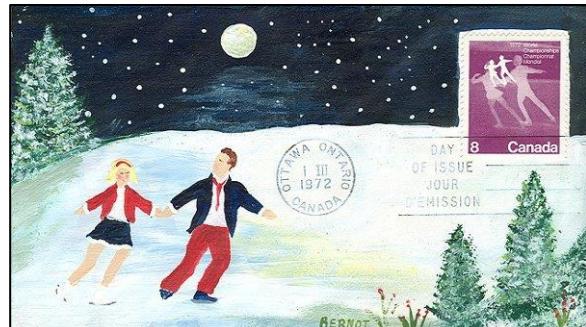


Figure 25. #559.

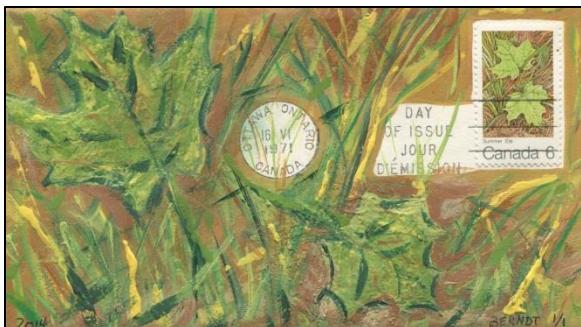


Figure 22. #536a.

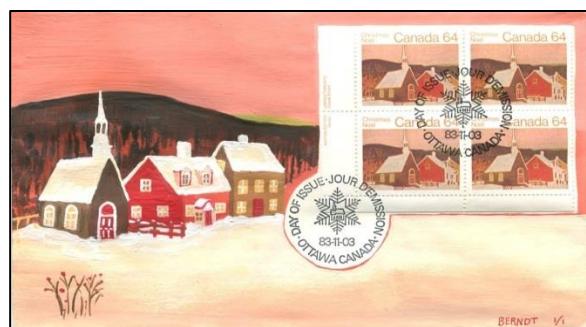


Figure 26. #1006.



Figure 23. #536b.

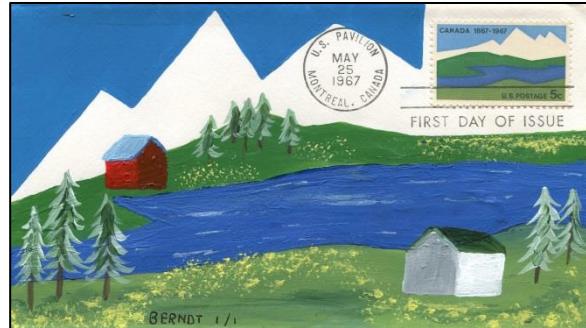


Figure 27. #U.S. 1324a.

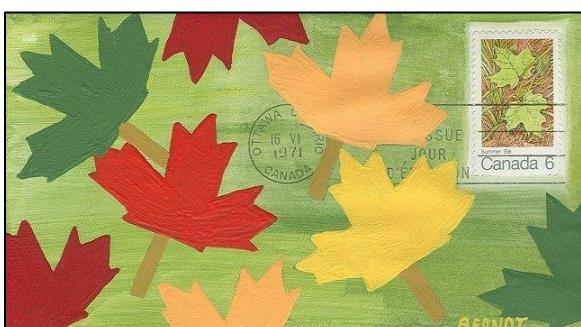


Figure 24. #536c.

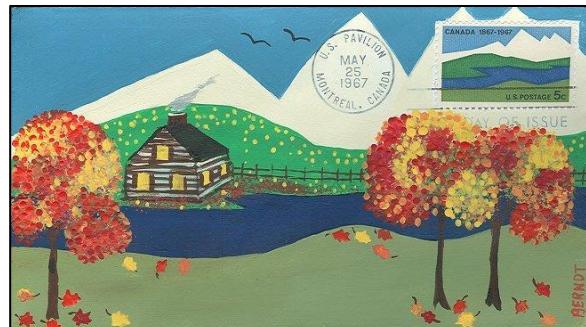


Figure 28. #U.S. 1324b.



Figure 29. Souvenir cover.

## EARLIEST KNOWN USES, ANYONE?

Two correspondents have suggested that it might be time for the FDC Study Group to undertake a project that would involve us to a greater extent than previously in collecting and codifying information about the earliest known uses (EKUs) of BNA stamps that did not have official dates of issue. Following are some of the related points they (and I) raised, and I would invite your comments on any or all of them.

1. One suggested that stamps issued before 1900 would be the most appropriate era to start while the other indicated 1931.
2. A printed catalogue is needed which lists and illustrates the earliest recorded uses of every Canada and Newfoundland stamp from 1851 to 1931.
3. Alternatively, the FDC Study Group website could house an “album” of EKUs.
4. A useful model that could be considered is the Earliest Reported Postmarks listing by the United Postal Stationery Society which can be viewed at:  
<http://www.upss.org/erp/index.php?PHPSESSID=206ed8e7a1089873086effb9c5e463f1>
5. EKUs for postal cards, postal stationery, and wrappers might also be included.
6. EKUs would likely be of interest to other study groups such as Large and Small Queens, Confederation, Map Stamp, Admirals, etc. We might explore the possibility of working collaboratively with one or more of those other groups.

## FDC CACHETS BY J.F. BURNS

by Barry Douch

Several years ago Carol Christopher gave me a group of hand-drawn covers with the message that they had been made by J.F. Burns.

The FDCs were all made within a fairly narrow time period, for stamps issued between June 14, 1963 and October 14, 1964. The Scott catalogue numbers ranged from #411 to #434.

There were eight different cachets with similarities in colours, lettering style, and media used, but only #411 was signed with the initials "JFB." In addition to those similar characteristics, a single maker was also suggested in that all of the covers were sent to the same address, 306 Silica Street in Nelson, B.C. to N.C. Stubbs, Edna Stubbs, or Mr. and Mrs. N.C. Stubbs.

Two of the covers shown here (Figures 1 and 2) were for the \$1.00 Export issue while four (Figures 3 to 6) were for the provincial emblems and flowers series and the remainder were for miscellaneous other issues.

I have not encountered any similar cachets, but would like to hear from any member who has FDCs that might also have been made by J.F. Burns. You might notify the editor if you have seen others like these.

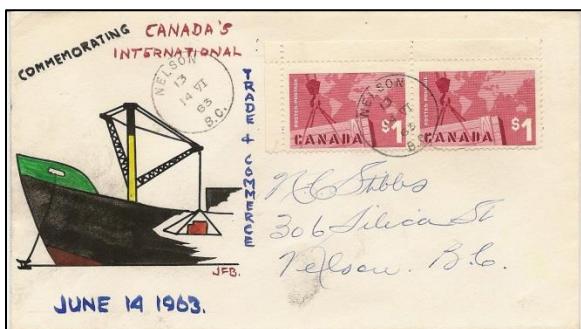


Figure 1. #411a.

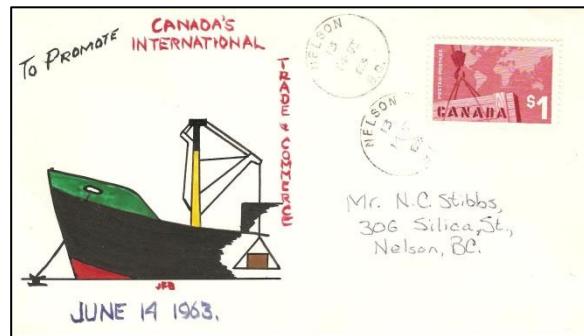


Figure 2. #411b.



Figure 3. #420.



Figure 4. #421.



Figure 5. #422.

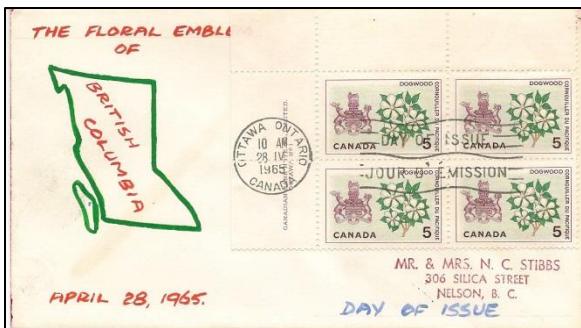


Figure 6. #423.

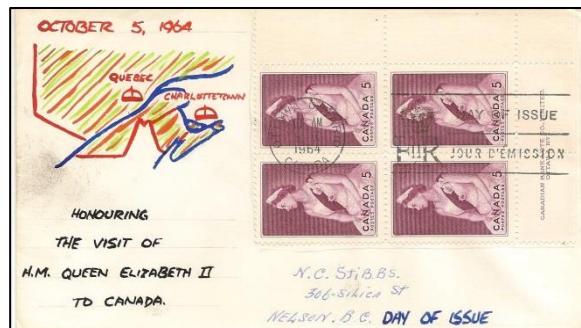


Figure 8. #433.



Figure 7. #432.

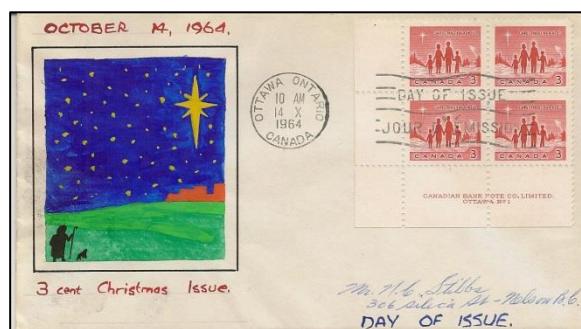


Figure 9. #434.

From Canadian Stamp News, Sept. 20, 1976, rediscovered by Peter Wood and reprinted with permission of CSN.

## Right Place Combines With Right Time For Bargain

By John H. Talman

In previous columns I have mentioned that, if you are lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, you can find a bargain (or words to that effect)!

Well, on Sunday, Aug. 22, I found myself in the right place at the right time and discovered a super bargain. It also proved that even the most knowledgeable of dealers can miss a detail and provide the opportunity for others to find the "sleeper".

The well-known writer, collector and cover dealer, Allan Steinhart, had his stock of covers out for sale at the Victoria Stamp Show at the St. Lawrence Hall. Knowing of my interest in Newfoundland material, he offered me various Newfoundland covers and cards to examine for possible purchase. I picked out a number of nice ones and paid him his reasonable price. Bringing the covers to my table, I began to take a closer look at the postmarks and views.

One was a private post-card showing a view of Sports — St. Bonaventure's

College, St. John's, Newfoundland. Paying the postage to Ottawa was the Newfoundland two-cent Map Stamp of 1908, Scott's No. 86. According to The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Newfoundland by Winthrop S. Boggs (reprint price \$20), "There is considerable mystery surrounding the reason for its issue".

In April 1908, the S.S. Silvia en route from New York to St. John's was wrecked off the island of Cuttyhunk, Mass., and a consignment of two-cent and five-cent Royal Family stamps was washed ashore.

Representatives of the American Bank Note Co., N.Y., rushed to the scene and apparently secured all the stamps involved. (I have seen a few large pieces of two-cent no gum still around).

Boggs' treatise goes on to explain that "the authorities in Newfoundland, fearing the recovery of the shipwrecked

consignment by unauthorized persons who might defraud the Government, contemplated the demonetizing of the two-cent



What is perhaps the earliest use of the Newfoundland two-cent Map Stamp?

King Edward stamp. In order to replace the lost stamps and to prevent unauthorized use a new design and colour were hastily decided on. The recovery of the entire lot of the wrecked consignment made it unnecessary to demonetize them, but since the map stamp had been ordered it was decided to place the shipment on sale.

"The explanation given above fits the known facts and until someone can produce further evidence the mystery will remain".

Thus, the reason for the

Newfoundland two-cent Map stamp has long remained a mystery and subject to much conjecture by collectors and dealers. After my lucky find in Steinhart's stock, a new mystery begins. The previously mentioned card has a written message in the correspondence section which reads "Lo Behold our new two-cent stamp" signed by Donovan. The card is cancelled with a St. John's Au 31 08 Nfld. cancel and cork cancel on stamp. An arrow projects from the written message to the new stamp.

All the reference books mention September 1908 as the issue date for this stamp. Now, unless someone can come up with an earlier date, it would appear that the stamp was first sold Aug. 31, 1908 and that this card is the only known first-day cover! Since the first day of issue had remained a mystery for 68 years, this should be one of the rarest BNA first-day covers in existence.

Incidentally, when I brought to Mr. Steinhart's attention that this was

probably FDC and worth considerably more than I had paid, he good-naturedly said: "So you owe me one".

SPECIAL BRIT	
Scott Numbers All	
Aden 36-46 . . . . .	10.00
Bahamas 158-173 . . . . .	15.00
Barbados 216-227 . . . . .	8.75
Bassutoland 46-56 . . . . .	6.50
Bechuanaland 154-165 (ex. 158) . . . . .	6.00
Br. Guiana 253-267 . . . . .	8.75
Caymans 135-148 . . . . .	8.75
Dominica 122-136 . . . . .	10.50
Dominica 142-156 . . . . .	10.00
Gilbert & Ellice 61-72 . . . . .	15.00

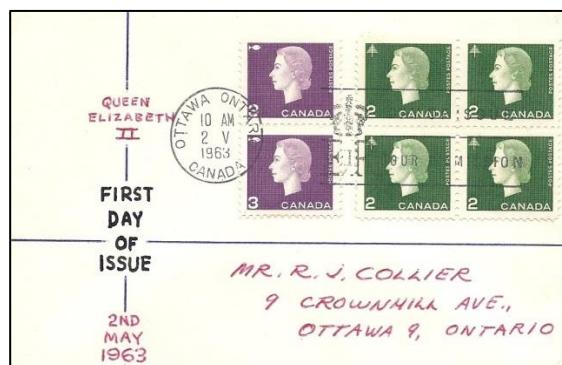
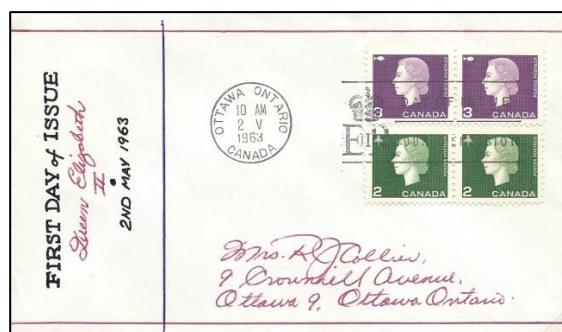
## WHO WERE THE COLLIERs?

by Rob McGuinness

Scans for six FDCs with hand-drawn cachets for the 2 and 3 cent denominations (Scott #402 and 403) of the Cameo series are shown here. They were issued on May 2, 1963 and the covers were addressed in equal numbers to Mr. R.J. Collier and Mrs. R.J. Collier of Ottawa.

One or both of the Colliers may have been the creators of these cachets, or possibly they were just the recipients. They were all hand-lettered, with three using a mixture of cursive writing and printing and three using only printing. One cover used red and black ink while the others used red, blue, and black. The line designs are simple, but they are quite attractive nonetheless.

I would appreciate receiving any information readers of this article might have about the Colliers and these FDCs, or of other similar covers.



## T.G. WOLSTENCROFT CACHETS—PART III

by John Van der Ven

In Issue 15 of *First Impressions* I presented eight FDC cachets that were hand painted by T.G. Wolstencroft of Kelowna, B.C. in 1968-69. All of them were addressed to Kelowna resident, Victor Pashnik. An insert dated January 12, 1969 was included with the final cover that indicated he would not be distributing any more FDCs.

Bruce Perkins forwarded a group of six Wolstencroft cached FDCs that were produced in 1963 and which appeared in Issue 16. These were all addressed to another Kelowna resident, H.G. Walburn.

More recently, Kadine Stamps of New Plymouth, New Zealand has been offering on eBay five Wolstencroft covers every week. As of early May, 2014 these covers have been appearing for three months.

John Kilpatrick of Kadine Stamps has not indicated how these covers were acquired or how many remain to be sold, but he has supplied scans of all of the material that has already been listed and has given permission to use them for this article.

To date there have been 68 Wolstencroft FDCs offered on eBay. All of them are addressed to the same person in Invercargill, New Zealand who is named variously as James, Jas, or Jim McArthur except for a Christmas envelope addressed to The McArthurs.

The earliest cover is dated March 5, 1963 and the latest February 5, 1975. These FDCs extend considerably the period in which Wolstencroft was previously known to be an active maker of cachets. It also goes well beyond the 1969 date at which he stated that he would no longer be sending them out.

The cachets all appear to have been made individually by hand before they went through the mail system. Some of them do show the wear and tear of having made it across the ocean to New Zealand while others are in excellent condition. Only four covers lack an airmail etiquette. Most have between two and five stamps, sometimes because there were several stamps issued on the same date as a set, but more often because multiple stamps were needed to make up the airmail rate.

Only one cover of the New Zealand set of FDCs (#486) is duplicated from the first article in Issue 15, and the two differ in several details. Two stamps shown in the current set were also in the Bruce Perkins covers shown in Issue 16, but #410 is a completely different cachet and #415 differs in several details.

The New Zealand covers include two different cachets for #436, the 8 cent airmail issue, while the same cachet was used for both the Caricature set (#586-591) and #B1-B3 of the Montreal Olympics semi-postals. The cachets for #419 and 432 used the same basic design.

I'm amazed that this batch of FDCs has survived intact for 40 to 50 years and suspect that many of the cachets are unique. The questions again arise as to whether Wolstencroft produced any more FDCs, whether he had any other customers or correspondents in other countries, and whether there are additional treasures waiting to be discovered?

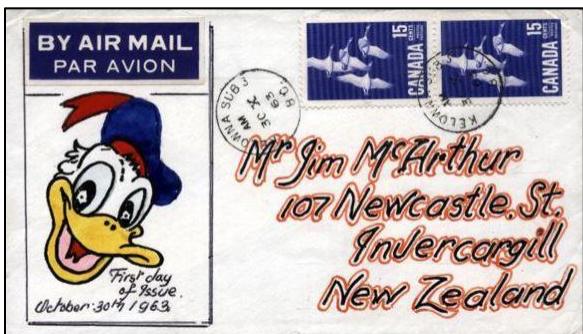
The Wolstencroft FDCs shown here are arranged in order by catalogue number. More covers will be shown in the next issue.



#410



#418-419



#415



#419



#416



#421



#418



#424



#429



#436b



#431



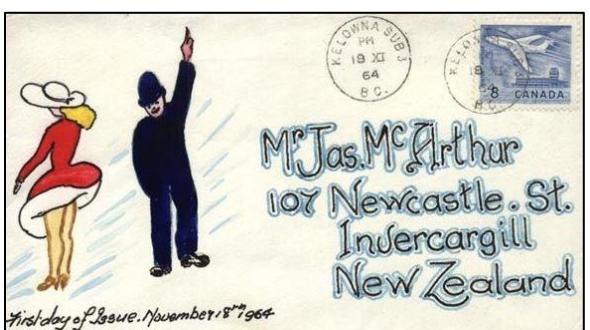
#438



#432



#439



#436a



#440



#441



#450



#443-444



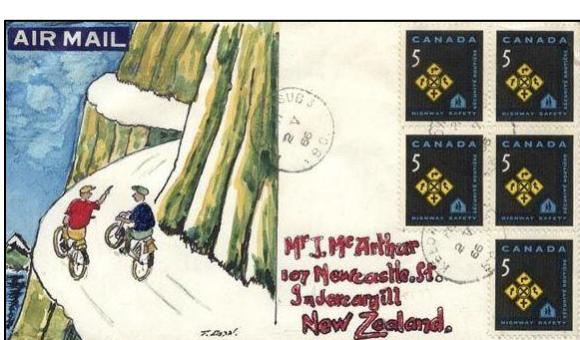
#451-452



#444



#452



#447



#454, 457, 458



#470



#479



#473



#480



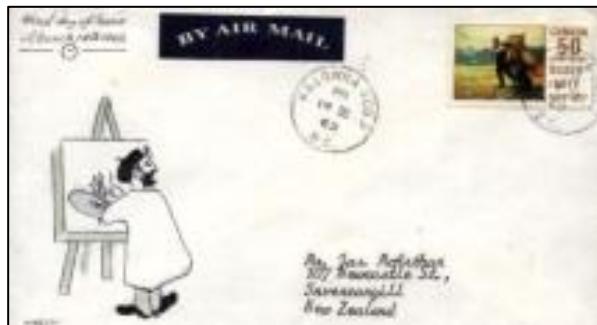
#476-477



#486



#478



#492