

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 24 July-September, 2015

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Editor's Notes

The two feature articles in this issue explore the varieties to be found in the early Canada Post official FDCs and written exchanges between Montreal stamp dealer and FDC maker Joseph C. Rosenbaum and one or our honorary members Robert L. Markovits. Also from the Markovits archives are two Canada Post announcements pertaining to the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue. Also included are an unusual usage of an Eppstadt cacheted cover and a review of a book about U.S. cachet maker Dorothy Knapp's hand-painted FDCs which included several Canadian stamp issues.

This issue is a few pages shorter than others in recent months, which reflects a lack of submissions. I would encourage any members with ideas for articles to contact me about getting them into print. FDC topics that are of interest to you will probably be of interest to others, and the success of the newsletter is dependent on the willingness of us all to share 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@shaw.ca or mailed to Gary at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.

COLLECTING CANADA POST OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVERS 1971-1974

by George Basher

The 1971 entry of Canada Post into the FDC business marked the death knell for many private cachet makers across Canada. Collectors at the time bemoaned the event, noting correctly that after a short period of time the variety of cachets available would be severely limited. Over the next two years many of the venerable names in the hobby departed the Canadian market, unable to compete with Canada Post's thousands of outlets and design and marketing budgets. The collecting field looked to become boring, boring, boring.

However, collectors being collectors there opened up another dimension for them to pursue--a robust number of variations within each Official First Day Cover (OFDC). It started with a small thing - the first OFDC (Maple Leaf in Spring) (Scott #535) had two different types of envelope paper. The scarcer cover had no watermark--a condition that also existed on the second and subsequent Maple Leaf covers. The Maple Leaf in Summer also had a cancellation variety that had a wider gap between the day/month line and the year line (Figures 1 and 2).

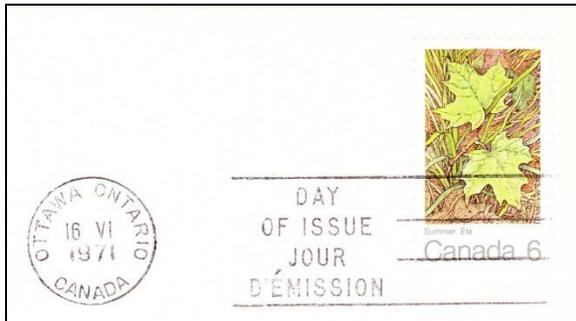


Figure 1. Narrow (normal) spacing between date and year lines.

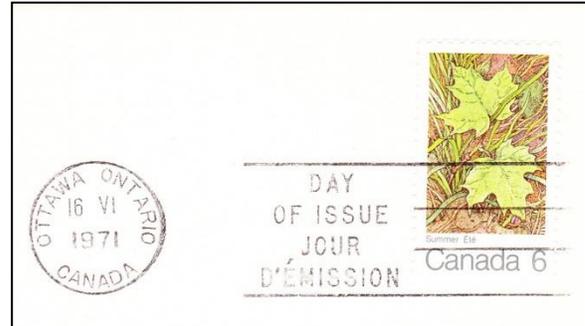


Figure 2. Wide spacing between date and year lines.

With the British Columbia issue (Scott #552) a cancellation variety appeared, a small "20" in the date (Figures 3 and 4).

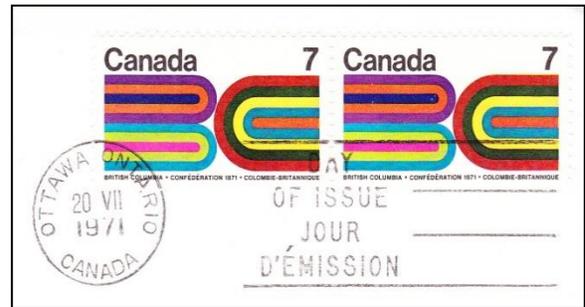


Figure 3. Normal 20 in cancellation.

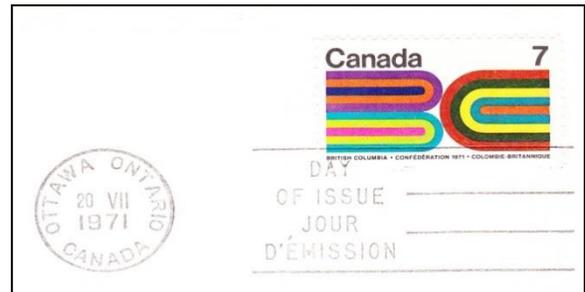


Figure 4. Small 20 in cancellation.

Things got even more interesting with the Paul Kane issue with a variety in the stamp itself (Scott #553i, stroke on teepee) and covers that were issued without an official day of issue cancellation as

shown in Figure 5. The Jeanne Mance issue of 1973 (Scott #615) is also known without an official cancellation.

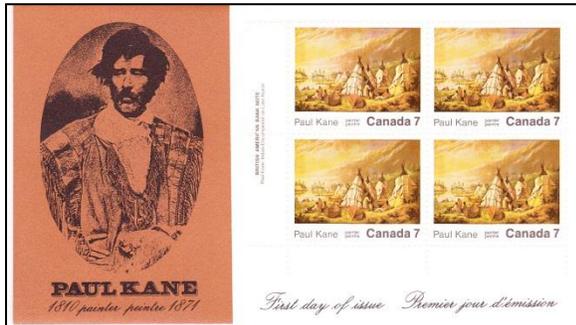


Figure 5. Missing cancellation on #553.

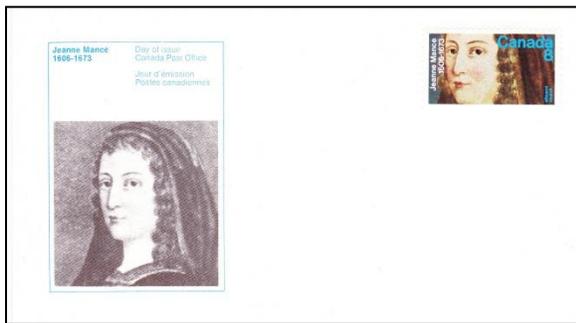


Figure 6. Missing cancellation on #615.

The year 1972 saw additional varieties appear, including the "short stroke \$" in the Vancouver definitive and the deformed "n" in the Indians of the Plains issue. The same issue introduced tagged and untagged varieties for the remainder of the year, and the Earth Sciences issue also appeared with a missing cancellation and a cancellation variety (Small "2" in the date). The second Indians of the Plains issue had a variety that lacked the inscription color on the cachet, the Christmas issue had a bewildering combination of possibilities with tagging, watermark, paper texture, and insert color variations. The Cornelius Krieghoff issue had all of the varieties present in the stamp itself along with missing cancellations and tagging varieties.

The 1973 RCMP issue had a missing cancellation on the combination cover and

two different insert colours. The Jeanne Mance issue had a double printing of the cachet. A spectacular error occurred with the Prince Edward Island issue. The wrong date was shown on the official cancellation, the MacDonald date of 8 VI 1973 for Scott #617 instead of 22 VI 1973 which should have been shown for #618. This error is shown on Figure 7 and enlarged in Figure 8.

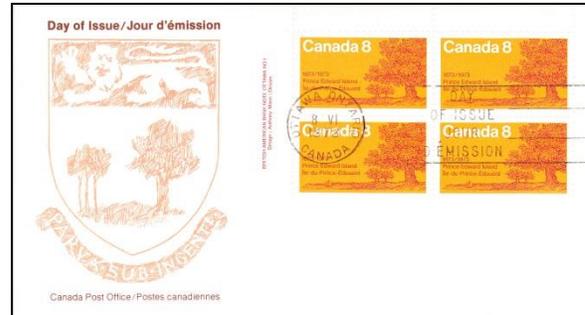


Figure 7. Incorrect date shown.

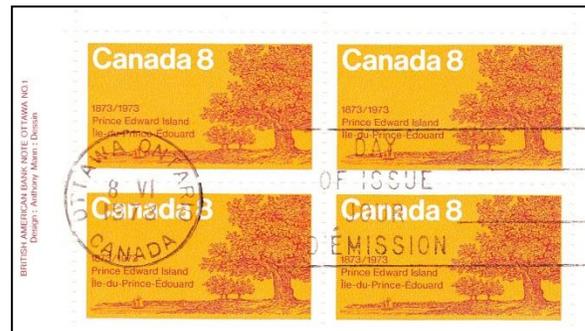


Figure 8. Enlargement of incorrect date.

The Scottish Settlers issue had the "small 20" cancellation variety and the Heads of Government issue had a "small 2" cancellation variety. The Nellie McClung issue escaped without mishap but the Olympic Games issue arrived with the "small 20" variety and an inverted hub variety as well. The 1973 definitives saw a cancellation variety (small "17"), and the Christmas issue brought gifts like different stamp arrangements (Figures 9 and 10) and a cachet printing variety (Figure 11) showing a scar on the lower section of the snowman.



Figure 9. Normal arrangement of stamps.

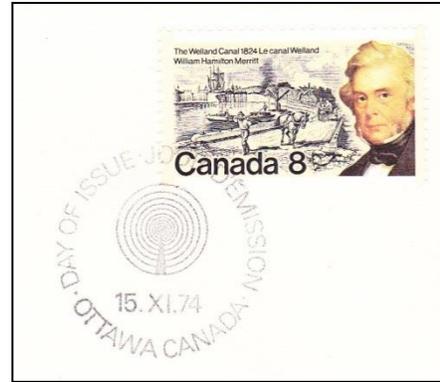


Figure 13. Marconi cancel on Merritt cover.



Figure 10. Linear arrangement of stamps.



Figure 11. Scar on snowman variety.

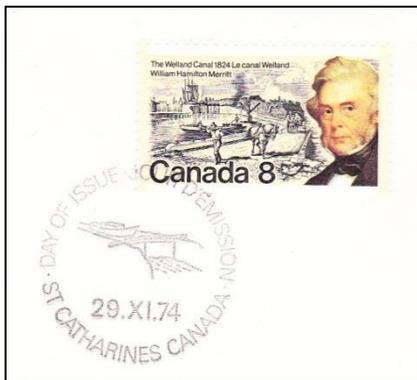


Figure 12. Crack in wall cancellation.

The 1974 Indians of the Pacific Coast Issue had a cancellation variety (wide "16"), and the Keeping Fit issue had missing cancellations, missing stamps, and an oval "O" cancellation variety. The St. Laurent definitive had a round "O" cancellation variety as well as two different watermarks. The Olympic Games issue had the same cancellation variety as well as missing embossing on the cachet. The Winnipeg issue had both watermark and paper varieties, while the Letter Carrier issue had a dating error as well as missing and inverted cancellations. Among the next few issues (Agriculture, Prairie Settlers, and UPU) there are watermark varieties, and the Christmas issue had cachet printing and stamp arrangement errors. The Marconi issue has a missing cancellation variety, and the Merritt issue (Scott #655) has a cancellation variety (crack in canal wall) shown in Figure 12 as well as a dating error created by using the Marconi cancellation shown in Figure 13.

As available and inexpensive as these covers are, it's a real challenge to compile a complete collection of the varieties discovered in the first four years of OFDC production. Some of these covers are very rare yet can often be overlooked by collectors of more "traditional" FDCs. Kudos are due to Andrew Chung and Hank Narbonne (2007) for compiling and

producing the OFDC Catalogue, now in its third edition with a fourth in preparation. This is an invaluable resource for anyone attempting to collect in this field. Anyone who has assembled a complete collection of

these early year OFDCs complete with errors and varieties has had to put a lot of time and effort into a very challenging endeavour.

AN IGNOMINIOUS END FOR A CLASSIC FDC

One of the treasures in the Robert L. Markovits archives is this classic FDC envelope published by George Eppstadt in 1927 for the 60th Anniversary of Confederation and Historical issues (Scott #141-148). Some 2,000 were printed by Eppstadt at his own expense as a tribute to Canada. It's believed that approximately 800 were put into service as FDCs but Eppstadt told Markovits that he "threw away" the remaining 1,200.

The envelope shown below was apparently used as an address label on a cover to Markovits. It was posted in Ontario,

possibly at Ottawa although the town name is illegible, on January 20, 1970 and has 38 cents postage comprised of three stamps from the Centennial series, Scott #456, 462, and 465. This was sufficient to pay for delivery of a 9 ounce letter.

It is an interesting exercise to speculate as to how this FDC classic came to be used in this apparently cavalier manner. One can visualize a collector or dealer having a pile of unused Eppstadt cacheted envelopes and using one of them to make an address label for some philatelic material being sent to Markovits's business address.



REVIEW OF DOROTHY KNAPP: PHILATELY AND FAMILY

by Alan Warren

Dorothy Knapp: Philately and Family by Douglas S. Weisz. 312 pages, 8 ½ by 11 ¼ inches, casebound, dust jacket, self-published, McMurray, Pa., 2014. ISBN 978-0-692-24343-5, \$50 plus shipping from Douglas S. Weisz, PO Box 1458, McMurray PA 15317, or www.douglasweisz.com.

Collectors have long prized the cachet art of Dorothy W. Knapp. Information about the artist and her work has been limited to the book on Staehle and Knapp by M. Douglas Parks and various articles in the philatelic press. Cover dealer Doug Weisz and his wife Miriam have put together this definitive resource on Knapp which will help collectors seeking Knapp covers for the stamp issues they collect or for patriotic or special events covers that she created.

The Weisz book focuses on the hand-drawn and hand-painted covers of Dorothy Knapp. Her printed cachets were covered in the 1981 book by Parks. Doug Weisz was stimulated to compile this book when he acquired the extensive collection of Walter Jarrett, Dorothy's biggest customer. Starting with this huge grouping and working with collectors known to Doug as owning Knapp covers, this wonderfully illustrated monograph and keepsake was created to record the life work of one of the hobby's most celebrated artists.

Dorothy's son R. Wallace Knapp and his wife worked with the Weiszes to provide information and material for the profile of Dorothy at the beginning of the book. We learn about her parents, her schooling, her early career, her marriage, and the circumstances that attracted her to illustrating covers. Evidence of her talent emerges from her college yearbook entry and her own personal journal and homemade books, hand lettered and illustrated.

Over 250 pages are devoted to illustrations of Knapp covers. Recognizing

that many FDC cachets were add-ons, the covers are arranged in Scott numerical order with a suffix number if more than one design was created for a particular stamp issue. The stamp first day covers are followed by airmail issues, special delivery and official stamps, and postal stationery.

The listing of patriotic covers begins with a set of 20 covers and their varieties, numbered by Dorothy. She even did some patriotics in black and white. Then follow World War II event covers for the declaration of war, D-day, V-E days in various European countries using the overrun countries issues, V-J day, and the renaming of the MacArthur and Nimitz West Virginia post offices.

In the international section of this book there are eight covers shown for Canada. These are listed by Scott number: 195 King George V, 274 Alexander Graham Bell, 277 Parliament buildings, 282 Cabot's ship *Matthew*, 283 Halifax, 288 George VI, 330 Coronation, and Newfoundland 269 Princess Elizabeth.

In addition to her ones for Canada, Dorothy also created covers for Malta, Bermuda, and the United Nations. Various U.S. and personal family event covers follow. Some illustrated album pages complete the story of her philatelic work. An index and references conclude the book.

Doug and Miriam Weisz have compiled a lovely handbook and catalog that serves not only as an important reference for collectors, but also as a tribute to the talented cachet artist and her life work.

THE ROSENBAUM-MARKOVITS CORRESPONDENCE

by Gary Dickinson

Montreal stamp dealer Joseph C. Rosenbaum was a long-time producer of FDCs for Canadian stamp issues. Initially he distributed them under his own name, then he launched the JCR brand in 1947. His Rosecraft line began in 1957 and continued until 1974 Rosenbaum sold the business to William Assad of Ottawa in 1967. (Dickinson et al, 2012)

Shortly after he had sold the Rosecraft brand, Rosenbaum was contacted by New York stamp dealer Robert L. Markovits who was seeking Canadian FDCs for Melvin Baron and other clients. The Robert L. Markovits archives include more than a dozen letters between him and Rosenbaum on various issues, with much of it dealing with the availability and price of various FDCs. Of particular interest here is some basic information that Rosenbaum

provided about his FDC production under the JCR and Rosecraft brand names.

The letters from Rosenbaum in the archived material are usually typed by Rosenbaum himself, who apparently was a graduate of the “hunt and peck” school of typing. The earliest letter is shown here in full but subsequently extracts have been re-typed for the sake of legibility. Letters from Markovits were kept on carbon copies on thin green or yellow paper which does not reproduce well so they are quoted here.

The earliest letter in the file (Figure 2) is dated January 2, 1968 and is reproduced below. Rosenbaum mentions how he started the Rosecraft brand and then notes his recent semi-retirement. He enclosed an unused first cachet envelope for the 1957 mining issue (Scott #373) which is shown in Figure 1. He subsequently referred to this as his “first engraved cover.”

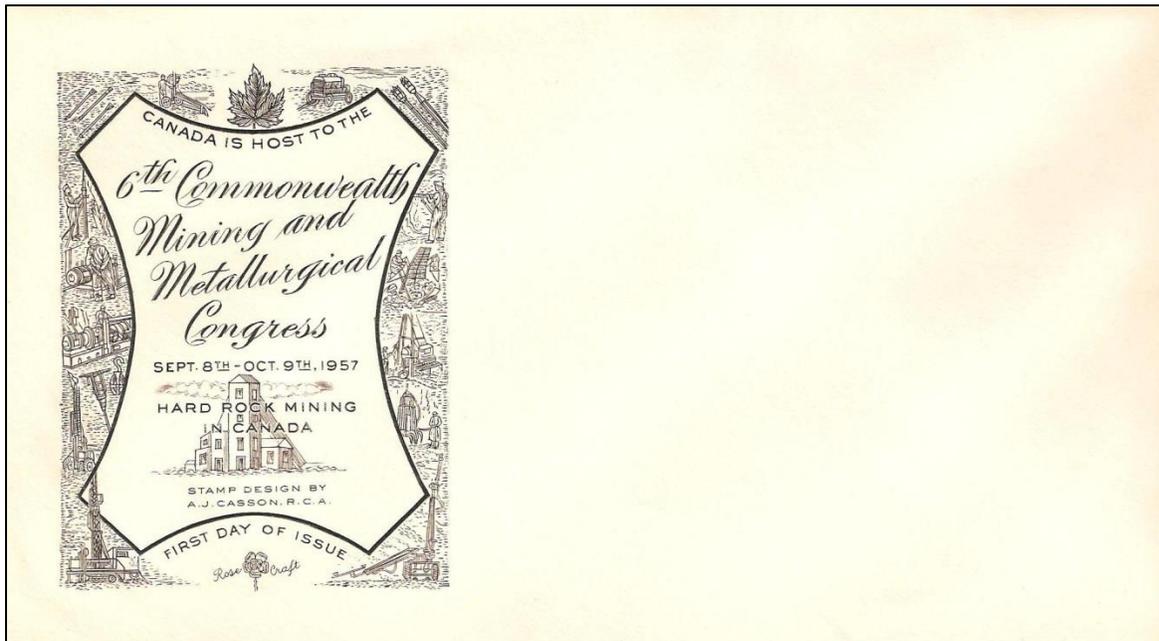


Figure 1. First Rosecraft cachet, October September 5, 1957.

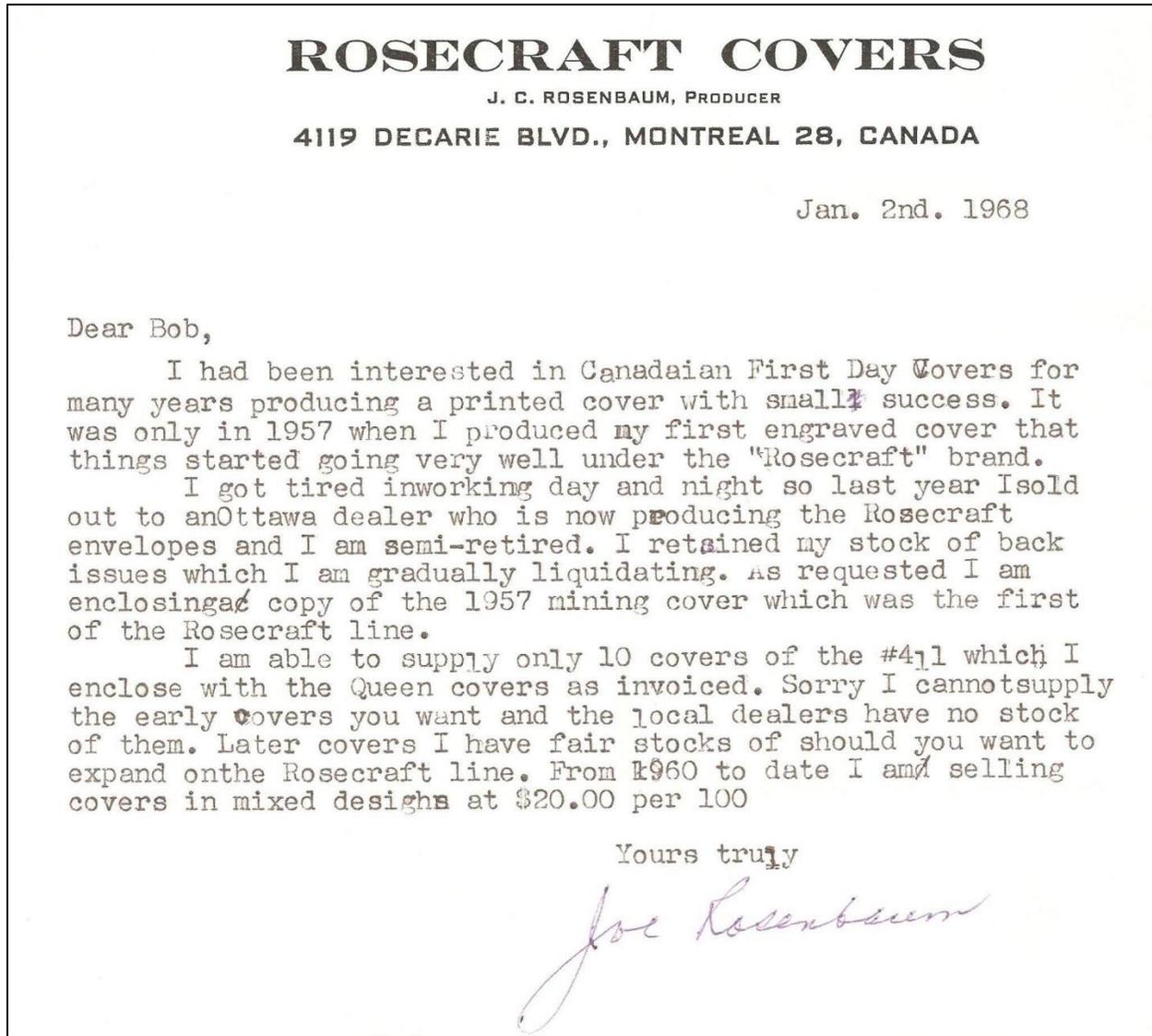


Figure 2. Letter from Rosenbaum to Markovits, January 2, 1968.

On several occasions Markovits queried Rosenbaum about his background in the FDC business. For example, on October 27, 1968 he wrote:

"I still would like my questions about your service answered, especially as to when you began, how many initial covers you made, who was your competition, etc. One day I shall write it up. I would also like to see your very FIRST cachet."

On November 10 he tried again:

"If it is not a state secret, how many cachets did you make for your earliest issues, and did you ever handle any prior to 1957. I would very much like to have a short biography about you and your photograph for my records. Who is or was your competition in the business of making cachets?"

Rosenbaum replied to these requests on November 19 as follows:

"In response to your letter I had been producing printed covers for many years

prior to 1957 under the brand name of JCR but with small success rarely going over 5,000 covers per issue. Of course FDC collecting was not so popular in those days. With my first engraved cover total sold was about 12,000 and steadily increased to about 45,000 when I sold out.”

The issue of providing a photograph was apparently one that Rosenbaum tried to avoid for as long as possible. As his letter of November 19 indicates, “As to a photo of myself I have none of recent vintage as I never take pictures.”

Markovits tried once again to get a photograph as this extract from a letter on February 10, 1969 indicates:

“I appreciate your note, and the fact

that you have become lazy, but I still want a PICTURE. I will even pay for it! Please have one taken so that a real Canadian pioneer cachet maker can be properly written up for posterity, with photograph attached.”

Rosenbaum responded to this entreaty with the photograph shown in Figure 3. He wrote, “I have dug up an old photo which I am enclosing. It was taken many years ago probably around the time I started making my JCR covers. I hope this will satisfy your curiosity.”

In the same letter, Rosenbaum also noted that “The JCR printed covers never exceeded 5,000 and ran as little as 3,000 copies.”



Figure 3. J.C. Rosenbaum circa 1947.

Reference

Dickinson, Gary with George Basher, Ivan Hebert-Croteau, Maurice Malenfant, Bruce Perkins, and Bob Vogel. *Canadian First Day and Other Philatelic Covers by Joseph C. Rosenbaum*. British North America Philatelic Society, 2012.

POST OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE 1935 SILVER JUBILEE ISSUE

The Canada Post Office issued a set of six stamps on May 4, 1935 to commemorate the silver jubilee of the reign of King George V. A preliminary announcement was distributed in March (Figure 1) and a more detailed one in April (Figure 2). The latter announcement includes instructions for FDC collectors. Both announcements shown here were copied from originals in the Robert L. Markovits archives.

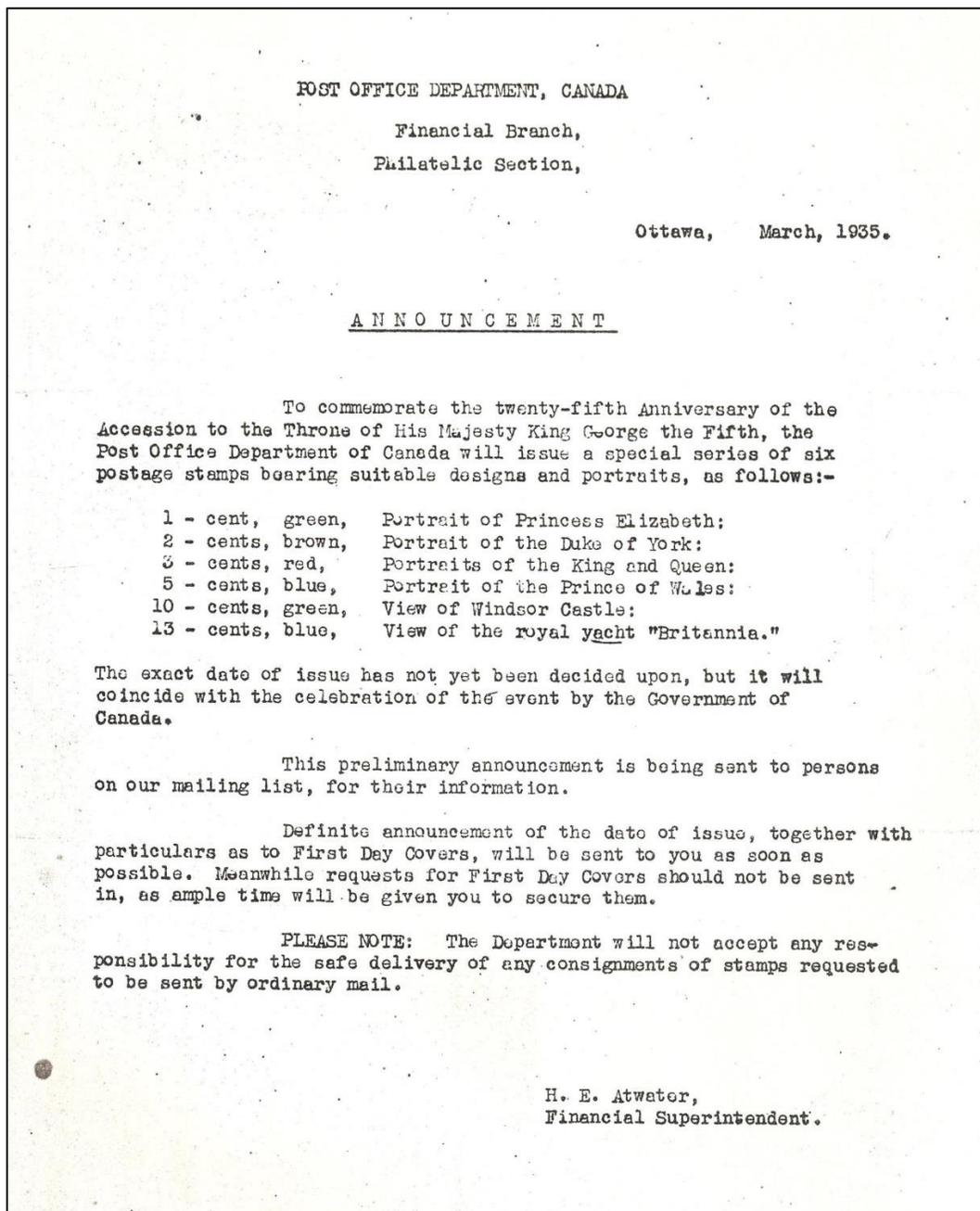


Figure 1. CPO preliminary announcement.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA.
Financial Branch
Philatelic Section.

Ottawa, April, 1935.

ANNOUNCEMENT

In compliance with your request to be kept informed as to new Canadian postage stamp issues, I am pleased to advise that a new issue of Canadian postage stamps, commemorating the Silver Jubilee of the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty King George the Fifth, will be available at the Philatelic Section of this Department on and after the 4th of May, 1935, as follows:-

- 1¢ Green - Portrait of Princess Elizabeth (single size),
- 2¢ Brown - Portrait of the Duke of York (single size),
- 3¢ Red - Portraits of the King and Queen (double size),
- 5¢ Blue - Portrait of the Prince of Wales (single size),
- 10¢ Green - View of Windsor Castle (double size),
- 13¢ Blue - View of the Royal Yacht "Britannia" (double size)

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Orders for these stamps in mint condition may now be sent to the Philatelic Section, Financial Branch, Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada, and will receive the earliest possible attention. Remittances should be made payable to the Receiver General of Canada, and if from points outside Canada must include postage and registration fees in addition to the face value of stamps.

Orders for the new stamps only will be given preference over mixed orders for both the new stamps and former issues.

To meet the wishes of First Day Cover collectors, arrangements are being made to furnish advance supplies of the new stamps to Postmasters at the following Canadian Post Offices:

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.
HALIFAX, N.S.
SAINT JOHN, N.B.
QUEBEC, Que.
MONTREAL, Que.
OTTAWA, Ont.
TORONTO, Ont.
HAMILTON, Ont.
KINGSTON, Ont.
LONDON, Ont.
WINDSOR, Ont.

FORT WILLIAM, Ont.
PORT ARTHUR, Ont.
WINNIPEG, Man.
REGINA, Sask.
MOOSE JAW, Sask.
SASKATOON, Sask.
MEDICINE HAT, Alberta.
LETHBRIDGE, Alberta.
CALGARY, Alberta.
EDMONTON, Alberta.
VANCOUVER, B.C.
VICTORIA, B.C.

Persons desiring to secure First Day Covers should forward under cover to the Postmaster at one or more of the above-mentioned points, any covers intended for transmission on the first day of issue (4th May, 1935), together with remittance by Postal Money Order, Express Order or Bank Draft (not personal cheque) for the face value of stamps desired to be used, payable to the Receiver General of Canada at the Canadian point of mailing. If blocks of four double-size stamps are required to be used, allowance should be made for the fact that these are larger stamps than usual and covers affording the necessary space must be sent.

Figure 2. Final announcement of Silver Jubilee issue.