

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

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## Editor's Notes

Our winter issue leads off with an article by faithful contributor John van der Ven which examines the day of issue cachets for Canadian stamps produced by the much-revered American artist Dorothy Knapp. Although the numbers were very small, the products were spectacular and most are shown here in full size. Later on in the issue John looks at the FDCs produced by the Canada Envelope Company for itself and other firms.

Several shorter pieces take a look at three FDCs by makers unknown, shared with us by Ken Thibault, and a series of cachets by a Winnipeg-based but unidentified maker and submitted by Barry Douch. Barry also sent along an early Kolor Kover while Rob McGuinness reports on a pair of Phila Coin cachets that found their way to someone's covers.

As always, I will continue to welcome articles and cover scans on a wide range of BNA first day cover topics.

## 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.

## DOROTHY KNAPP'S CANADIAN CACHETS

by Jan Pieter (John) van der Ven

In 2014 a book was published about the famous American cachet maker Dorothy Knapp. The title of the book is *Dorothy Knapp: Philately and Family* and it was written by Douglas S. Weisz, a prominent U.S. cover dealer, with a foreword by Dorothy's son R Wallace Knapp. Doug Weisz received the AFDCS Philip H. Ward Memorial Award for Excellence in First Day Cover Literature for this book in 2015. I would like to thank Doug Weisz for his permission to use information from his book in this article.

Dorothy Knapp was born in Kingston, New York on June 1, 1907. She passed away in 1986. At one point, besides having a family, she also was a grade school art teacher. She started her work as a cachet maker around 1930 and created FDCs for American stamps, WW II patriotic covers, and event covers for holidays, stamp shows, and unique events.

Her style was to use colour in a manner to cover the space of the envelope for the cachet that revolutionized this art form. Her skilled use of shading created a third dimensional effect whereas others who produced hand-painted cachets at that time appeared flat on the paper. That she was named cachet maker of the decade for 1940-1949, cachet maker for the quarter century of 1926-1950, and cachet maker of the half century for 1900-1950 by the American First Day Cover Society speaks volumes about the impact she made and importance of her work over those years.

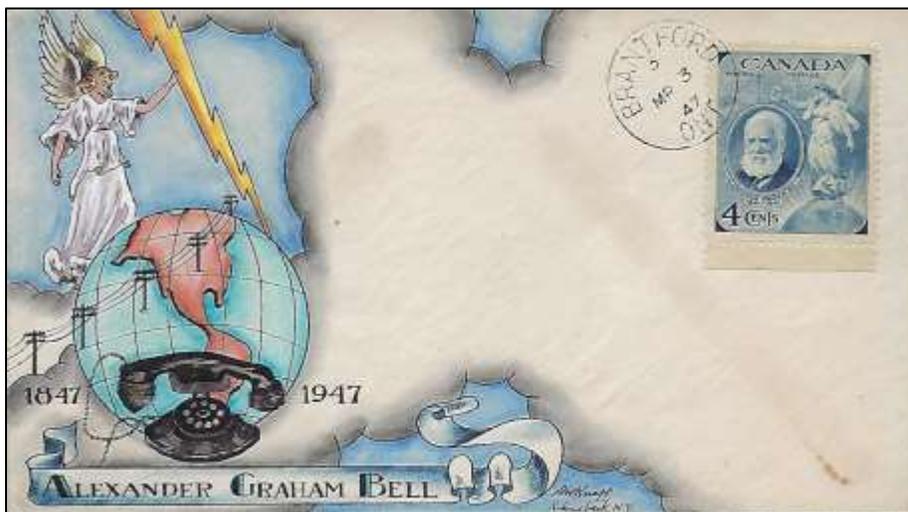
Dorothy Knapp produced her American FDCs in quantities of less than 50 making them very hard to find in today's market place. She was a prolific artist and also produced drawings to become printed works for a variety of philatelic firms. All her covers were hand-drawn and hand-painted, and she did more than 1,100 of them. Her work has a very distinctive style that continued throughout the years and the vibrant colours she used made her cachets really stand out.

She had several different customers judging from the addresses on her covers but her biggest customer was Walter Jarrett from Texas whose estate supplied most of the pictures in the book about Dorothy's work. It is an amazing book with very detailed information about Dorothy Knapp's life and almost all of the covers she produced are replicated in it. It is a delight to the eyes to see every page with all their different covers. I am sure Dorothy Knapp had great enjoyment in making these little pieces of art on FDCs.

According to Doug Weisz the Canadian and international FDC's she made are extremely scarce and for most only one copy exists. Covers for only eight Canadian stamps have been reported. Her largest production appears to have been for the Bell commemorative issued on March 3, 1947 (Scott #274) for which four examples are known, three of which are shown below. The third cover came directly from Knapp's estate.

The other six FDCs shown here are believed to represent one-of-a-kind products. The only stamp not represented is her cachet for the 2c New Brunswick Seal issue (Scott #209) of August 16, 1934 which was probably Knapp's first Canadian FDC.

That there is a 1953 cover for the Coronation stamp issued on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1953 makes you almost think (or at least wish) that there are more covers out there not seen or recorded yet between 1947 and 1953. The 1953 Coronation cover (Scott #330) seems to be the last FDC that Dorothy Knapp made for a Canadian stamp issue.



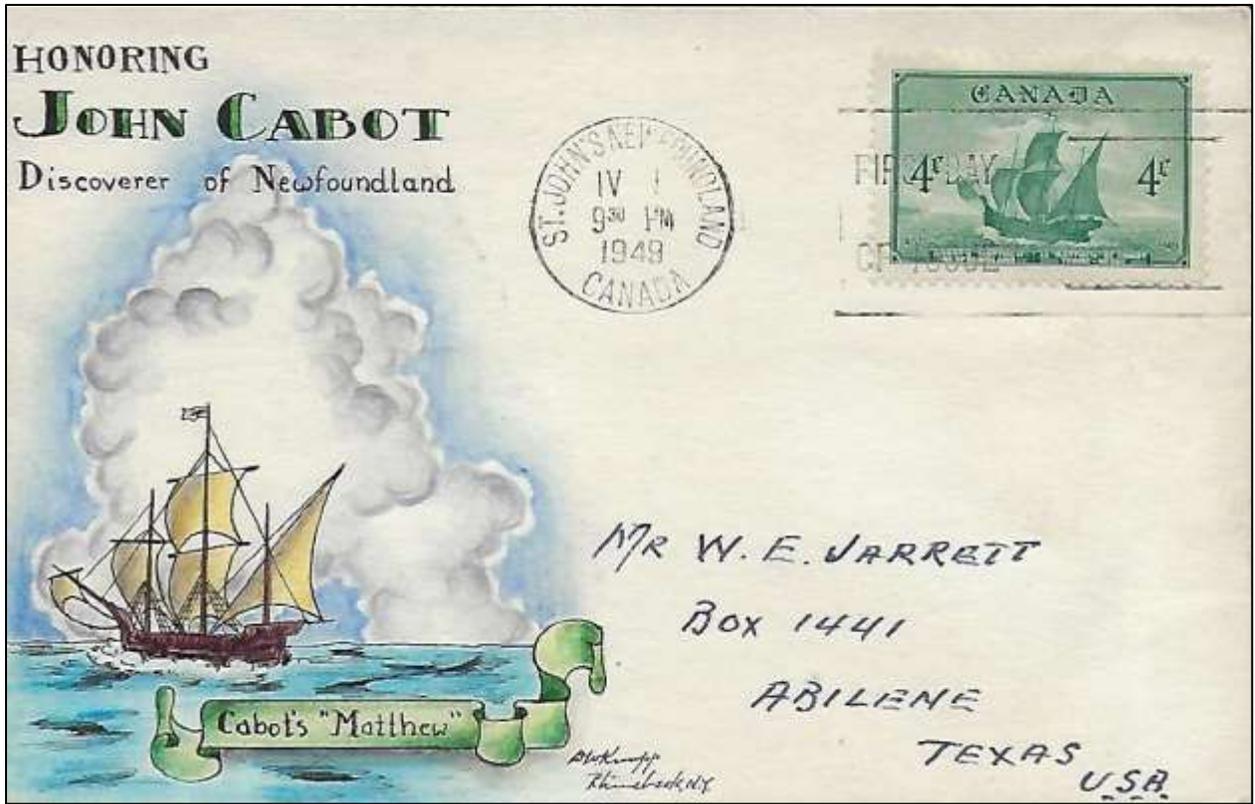
#274



Newfoundland #269



#277



#282



#283



#288



#330

# AN UNKNOWN WINNIPEG CACHET MAKER

by Barry Douch

I discovered a batch of FDCs by an unknown cachet maker in Winnipeg in 2008. To date I've accumulated 37 different FDCs apparently by the same maker. They are all postmarked Winnipeg and are attractive colours and designs.

A group of them is shown here together with a two-sided stuffer found in the first example. The dates of the covers range from May 3, 1974 to November 10, 1975. Of the group shown here, five covers are unaddressed, four are addressed to local resident A. Seward, and four to Box 143.



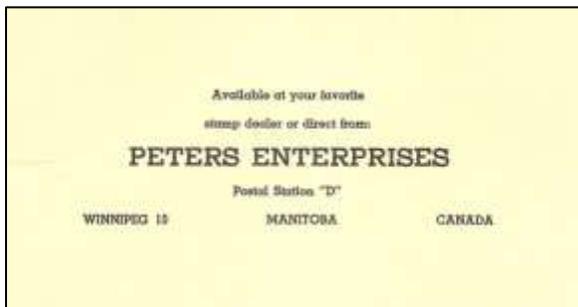
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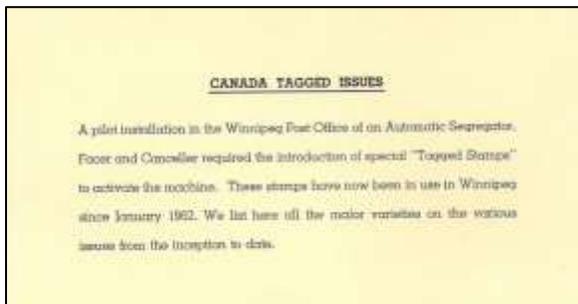
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#648



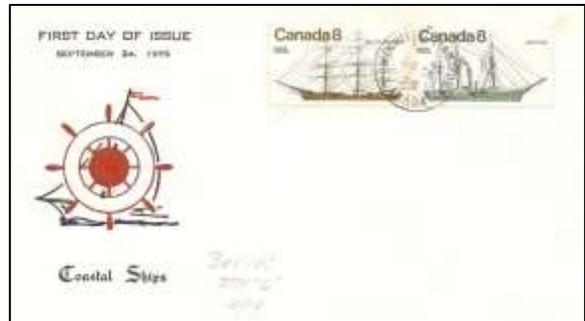
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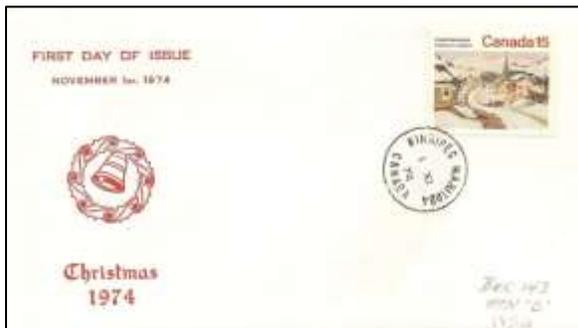
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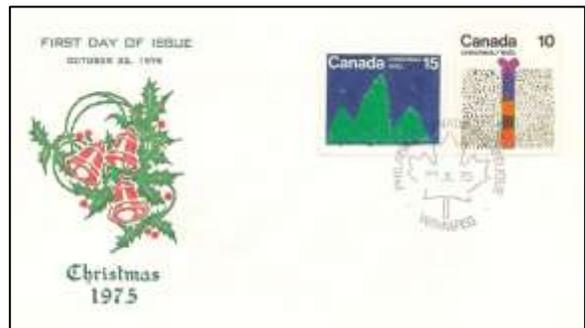
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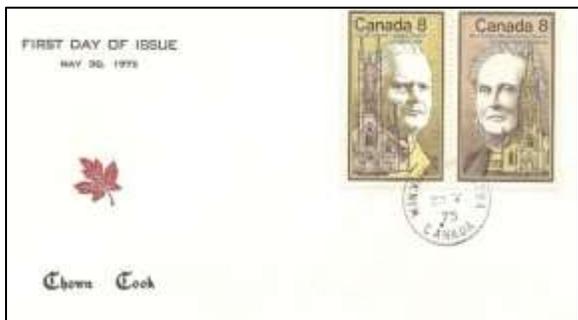
#670-673



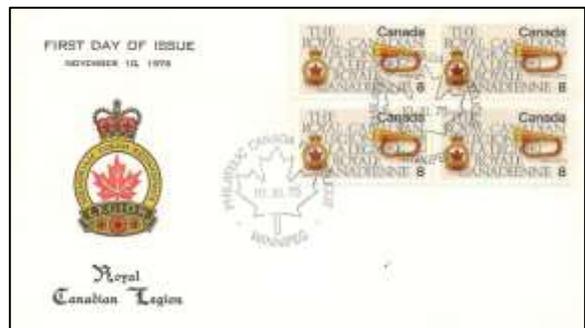
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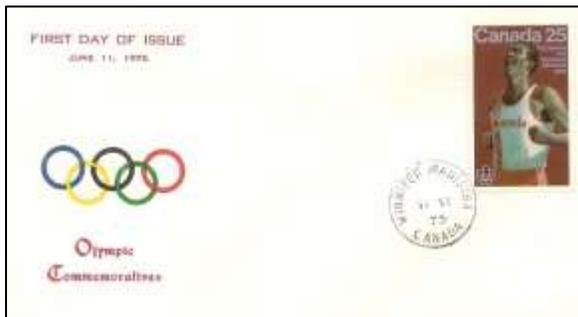
#678-679



#662-663



#680



#665



#687-688

## WHODUNIT X 3 FROM KEN THIBAUT

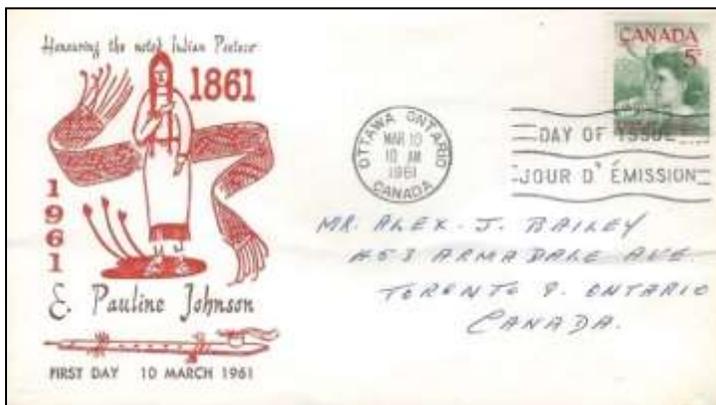
Member Ken Thibault sent along the three cachets pictured here and would appreciate any information about who made them. The Editor can forward to Ken any information that can be provided.



#389



#390



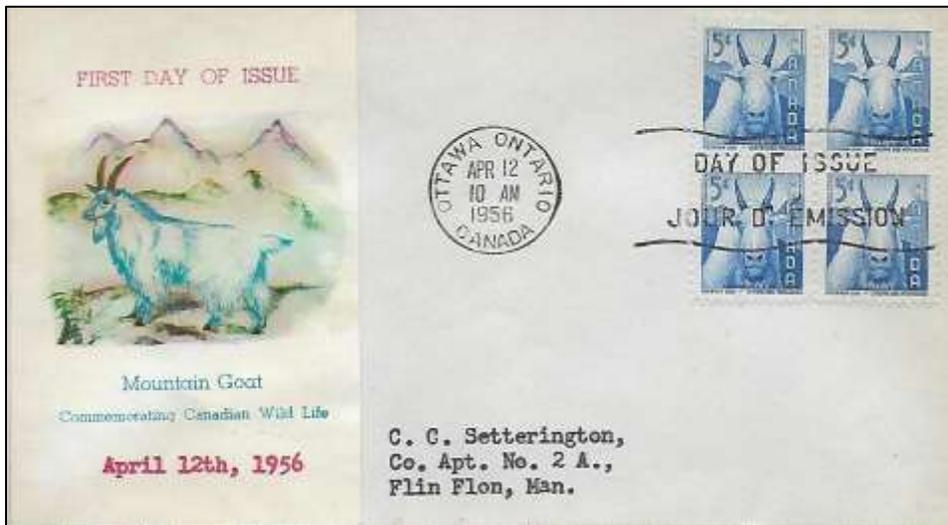
#392

## A PAIR OF “BORROWED” PHILA COIN CACHETS

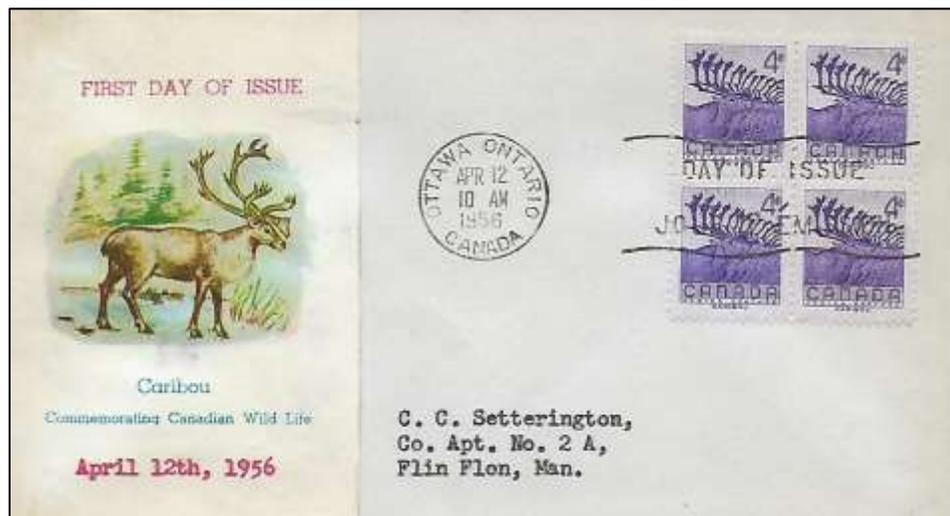
by Robert McGuinness

Shown below are two Phila Coin-related FDCs that I found on the internet. I say “related” because the cachets have been cut off the original envelopes and glued on to other envelopes. Typed dates have been added with red ink.

I’m not sure why the original owner did this. Perhaps he couldn't get cacheted covers in Flin Flon and so sent his own plain envelopes to Ottawa for cancelling and then added the cachets later when he was able to get some, or perhaps the original cachet FDCs had poor cancels and he decided to make them look better by cutting off the cachet and attaching it to an uncacheted cover, or perhaps it is for another reason entirely. I don't recall ever seeing something like this before; that is, a cachet cut from one cover and added to another. Have you? All comments and insights will be most welcome.



#361



#360

## CANECO'S CONNECTIONS WITH SCHERING AND OTHER COMPANIES

by Jan Pieter (John) van der Ven

The second FDC issued by the pharmaceutical company Schering Corporation that was sent to Canadian physicians took place in 1955 with two stamps in the prime ministers of Canada series issued on November 8. Figure 1 shows the English version of the Schering cover with the Rt. Honourable Richard Bedford Bennett who was prime minister from 1930-1935 and Figure 2 shows the French version.



Figure 1. Schering cachet (English) for #357



Figure 2. Schering cachet (French) for #357

At the same time, the Canada Envelope Company (Caneco), also located

in Montreal, issued a FDC depicting both Prime Ministers to promote their own business to their customers. It has the same depiction as the Schering cover of the Rt. Honourable Richard Bedford Bennett in light purple, the same colour the stamp was issued in. (See Figures 3 and 4)

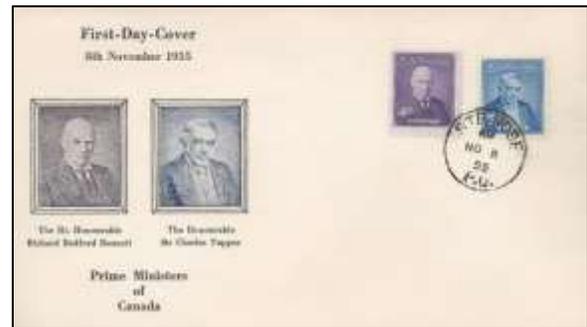


Figure 3. Caneco cachet for #357-358 with St. Rose cancel



Figure 4. Caneco cachet for #357-358 with official Ottawa cancel

The Caneco Envelope also depicts in light blue the stamp that was issued for The Honorable Sir Charles Tupper. Interestingly enough, the font on both covers is the same and the wording is almost the same. The only difference is that the Schering cover uses a larger font, has a larger envelope, and only features one prime minister. The

Canada Envelope Company covers are smaller and usually cancelled with the official Ottawa day of issue cancellation as in Figure 4, however Figure 3 shows a cover cancelled at Ste. Rose, a suburb of Montreal, which is uncommon.

As a side note, the official day of issue cancellation was applied at the main post office in Ottawa. One of their employees was Earl Graziadei who was one of the founders of the H&E Stamp Company in Ottawa which serviced many different cachet makers and companies such as Schering and Caneco to have the first day cancellation applied to their cacheted FDC's.

Caneco probably started sending their customers FDC's with the 1953 Coronation stamp, Scott #330. It was in 1955 with the Boy Scout issue that Caneco and Schering (I believe it was their first FDC) had FDCs at the same time, but the cachets were very different from each other and so were the envelope sizes. (See Figures 5 and 6)



Figure 5. Schering cachet for #356

I have looked at some examples of the different years since then of Schering covers and Caneco covers and have not come across another case of where both companies used the same cachet. None of

the Schering covers or inserts show a Caneco logo.



Figure 6. Caneco cachet for #356

The prime minister's issue from 1955 was a one-time occasion and a unique connection. The inserts for both companies were totally different because of their different customer bases. Caneco's insert was always a business card and for Schering it was a letter and monograph about one of their products.

Following are some scans of later Schering and Caneco covers that show no resemblance at all. (See Figures 7 and 8)



Figure 7. Schering (top) and Caneco (bottom) cachets for #427



Figure 8. Schering (top) and Caneco (bottom cachets for #449

Although Caneco was a company based in Quebec, I have only seen one example of an English and a French version for the same issue, and this was for the stamp commemorating Emily Pauline Johnson. (See Figures 9 and 10) There could of course be other examples.

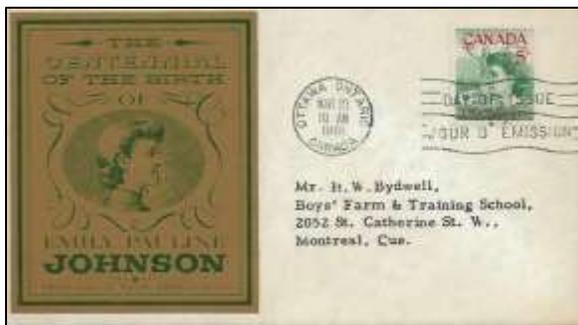


Figure 9. Caneco English cachet for #392



Figure 10. Caneco French cachet for #392

Is it then a coincidence that both Schering and the Canada Envelope Company used the same cachet for the Bennett stamp?

I do not think so. Both companies were in Montreal and likely the Canada Envelope Company was approached by Schering or vice versa regarding the new Schering marketing to physician mailing program campaign they were embarking on. The Canada Envelope Company was probably already a longtime supplier of envelopes and other printed matter to Schering and one thing led to another. Either company might have come up with the art work or Schering might have used their advertising agency.

I'm sure this was a planned event and most likely the beginning of a long-term business arrangement that lasted well into the 1970s for both companies.

Several other pharmaceutical companies such as Hoechst and Elliott-Marion also had their head offices in Montreal and I would not be surprised if there are other companies tied into the Canada Envelope Company producing similar covers over the years. Exploring further some covers that I have, I did find other interesting Caneco connections.

The first such one is for the 6 cent Group of Seven stamp issued in 1970 (Scott #518) where the cachet is identical and the back flap has the two different company names, one of them being Caneco and the other Elliott-Marion. The Schering cover for this issue is totally different in cachet and size.



Figure 11. Elliott-Marion FDC for #518

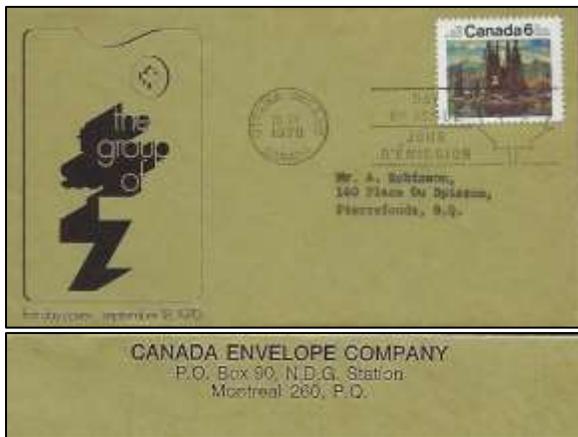


Figure 12. Caneco FDC for #518

Also in 1970 I found the same cachet produced by Caneco as the FDC cachet for two other companies—Elliott-Marion and the paper machinery branch of Dominion Engineering Works Limited. Both companies are also located in Montreal. The Schering cover is again completely different.

There is no doubt in my mind then when we put the complete range of FDCs from Schering, Elliott-Marion, Caneco, and Dominion Engineering together some more examples of multiple-use cachets will be found. It demonstrates that Caneco played an important role over many years in producing FDCs to help their own company and others in promoting their businesses.



Figure 13. Front and back views of three cachets for #518



## AN EARLY KOLOR KOVER FROM BARRY DOUCH

An article by David Hanes in Issue 33 of *First Impressions* noted that the first known Kolor Kover for a Canadian stamp we for Scott #391 on February 8, 1961. Barry Douch reports that he recently acquired a Kolor Kover FDC for the NATO stamp (Scott #384) issued on April 2, 1959. Bruce Perkins's catalogue of FDCs for the 1950s also lists a Kolor Kovers cover with red printing on a pink envelope for the St. Lawrence Seaway issue (Scott #387). Barry would like to know if there are any other Kolor Kovers to report prior to Scott #391.



Figure 14. Front and back views of three cachets for #531