Errors, Freaks and Oddities on Canada Post Official First Day Covers

by

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In 1971, the Canada Post Office introduced a new philatelic product called Official First Day Covers. OFDCs competed head on with established cachet makers in Canada such as Rosecraft and Cole Cover.

The errors, freaks and oddities are presented in three parts: on the cachet, on the cancellation and on the stamp or stamps.

Each slide depicts two covers. The one on the left is the *normal* and the one on the right is the *variety*. Can you spot the difference?

Indians of the Plains Graphic Symbolism and Dress 1972.10.04

Inscription (orange colour) of cachet missing



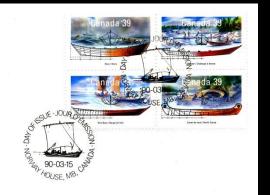


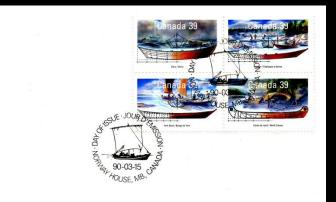
Small Craft – Work Boats 1990.03.15

All colours of the cachet are missing



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Christmas – Paintings 1974.11.01

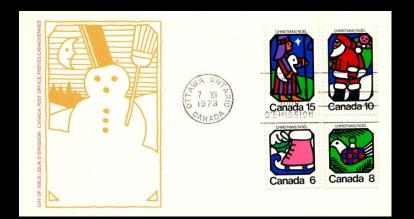
Printing of cachet (the angel) doubled

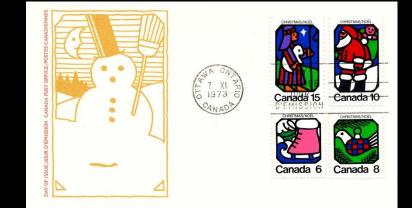




Christmas – Celebrating Christmas 1973.11.07

Slash on snowman's belly





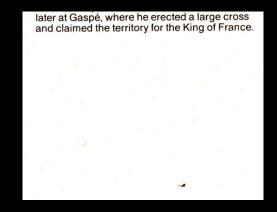
Jacques Cartier 1984.04.20

Arc-shape scratch below the English text

The cachet is a reproduction of an original engraving prepared by the British American Bank Note Company in 1866. This engraving has been used in the design of bank notes, certificates of value, and the 1934 commemorative stamp issue for the four hundredth anniversary of Cartier's arrival.

The vignette depicts Jacques Cartier directing the first landing in New France (Canada). This intrepid explorer set sail from Saint-Malo, France, in April 1534, and landed three months later at Gaspé, where he erected a large cross and claimed the territory for the King of France. La vignette que vous voyez est une reproduction de la gravure originale qui a été exécutée par la British American Bank Note Company en 1866. Elle a figuré sur des billets de banque, des certificats d'actions et d'épargnes et, en 1934, sur le timbre commémorant le 400e anniversaire de l'arrivée de Cartier en Amérique.

Cette vignette représente Cartier dirigeant le premier débarquement en Nouvelle-France (Canada). Cartier part de Saint-Malo, France, en avril 1534 et trois mois plus tard, il débarque à Gaspé où il érige une croix et prend possession du nouveau territoir ea uno md uro ide France.



William Hamilton Merritt 1974.11.29

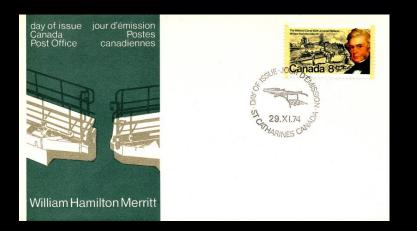
Day of issue site error noting "OTTAWA"





William Hamilton Merritt 1974.11.29

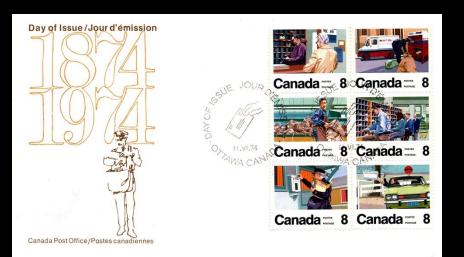
Dating error – Marconi cancellation of 15.XI.74

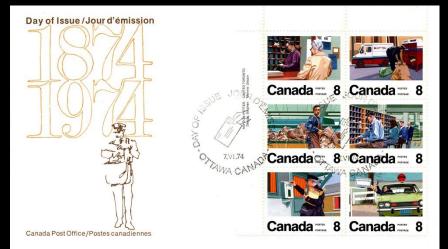




Centenary of Letter Carrier Delivery Service 1974.06.11

Dating error of 7.VI.74





1976 Olympic Games Logo of the XXI Olympiad 1973.09.20

"OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA" hub inverted relative to the date





Christmas – Stained Glass Windows 1976.11.03

Missing one of two cancellations tying the inscription block to the cover





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Art Canada: Homer Watson 2005.05.27

Missing cancellation



Art Canada: Homer Watson 2005.05.27

Missing cancellation (left) appears on the reverse side (right)



Art Canada: Homer Watson 2005.05.27

Inverted cancellation at the left side of the cover



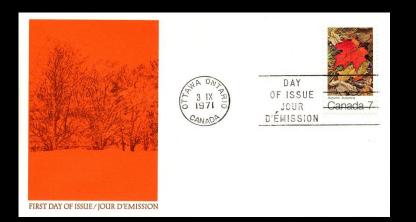
CAPEX 78 Souvenir Sheet 1978.06.10

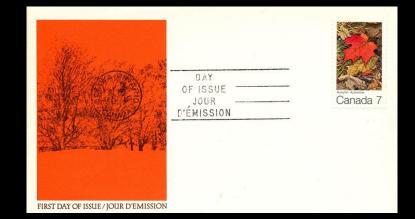
Cancellation doubled



The Maple in Four Seasons – The Maple in Autumn 1971.09.03

Cancellation shifted to the left; stamp uncancelled





Earth Sciences 1972.08.02

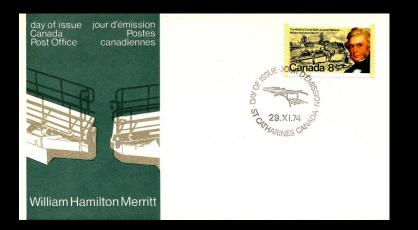
Small "2" in the cancellation





William Hamilton Merritt 1974.11.29

Canal's wall cracked





William Hamilton Merritt 1974.11.29

Canal's wall cracked (right)





Indians of the Pacific Coast Graphic Symbolism and Dress 1974.02.22

Missing top of totem pole





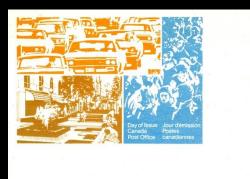
Art Canada: Homer Watson 2005.05.27

Cancellation only – stamp missing



Definitives – Streets 1978.07.06

Stamp (75-cent) missing









Definitives – Fruit Trees 1994.02.25

A single 69-cent and two single 88-cent (the 50-cent is missing)





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Folklore – Legendary Creatures 1990.10.01

Block inverted

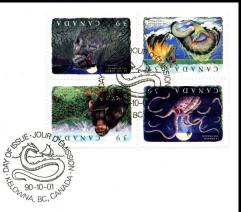


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Canadian Broadcasting Corporation 1986.07.23

Twin inscription blocks

(This is a trick slide showing 2 identical covers!)





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