



# First Impressions

**BNAPS First Day  
Cover Study Group  
Issue No. 3  
October 2009**

## Our Website is Up and Running!

Here is our third edition of First Impressions. It's a little tardy (for which I take full responsibility) but better late than never.

Doug Holmes has opened up our FDC Study Group website within the past few weeks, and I think we all will find it a useful tool for organizing our own collections and more importantly for sharing them with the rest of us.

I urge all of you to take a few minutes and visit the website ([www.canadafdc.org](http://www.canadafdc.org)). It's fairly easy to register and login, then you're free to explore what's already there (over 2000 images) and when you're ready—put your own items on the web.

There are no set “rules” for how you need to organize your covers—that's the beauty of this effort. So far, most of us have organized by cachet maker, but you can also do it by a particular issue, a particular series, or simply a big list of what you have—it's **your** catalog!

If you run into any difficulties, contact Doug Holmes ([4holmes@mts.net](mailto:4holmes@mts.net)) and I'm sure he can set you right. Doug deserves a huge round of applause for all he's done to get this off the ground. I'll try to make a web column a regular newsletter feature.

- George Basher

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### Submitting Articles to First Impressions

Articles should be submitted in either manuscript or MS Word, and scans of covers should be in JPEG format. E-mail submissions to [gbasher@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gbasher@nycap.rr.com) or mail to George Basher, 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY 12061, United States.

## We Need Your Articles!!

The success of this newsletter—and the study group—depends on all of us who join. There is a real shortage of written information about Canadian FDCs and one of the prime purposes of this Study Group is to change that. Please contribute—no matter what your writing skills or experience—and share your knowledge with the rest of us.

Please send your submissions to: George Basher, 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY 12061 United States, or [gbasher@nycap.rr.com](mailto:gbasher@nycap.rr.com). MS Word is preferred, but I'll work with what you have.

## **THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE FDC STUDY GROUP HELD AT BNAPEX**

**By Gary Dickinson**

The inaugural meeting of the First Day Cover Study Group was held on Saturday, September 12, 2009 at Kingston, ON as part of the BNAPS annual convention. Gary Dickinson chaired the meeting which was attended by sixteen people. As only six of them were currently members of the FDCSG, much of the meeting was given to discussing the background, purposes, and activities of the Group.

Many of those in attendance identified themselves as “closet” FDC collectors in that their interests in other fields of philately had led them to collect FDC’s as a sideline or adjunct to their other interest. For example, one person’s interest in postal stationery had led him to acquire day of issue uses while another’s interest in postal history had resulted in the acquisition of early FDC’s as well as covers with earliest known uses.

Several participants mentioned the need for more reference materials about Canadian FDC’s. One pointed out that Australia and New Zealand both had had extensive volumes about their FDC’s published, while another noted that time was running short to document the achievements of some earlier Canadian cachet makers.

The pioneering work of Melvin Baron and Bruce Perkins in documenting early Canadian FDC’s was lauded by several members, including at least two who carried with them photocopied and well-used copies of Perkins’ catalogue. It was suggested that the Group’s emphasis should be placed on pre-CPO first day covers rather than later ones as there was a greater variety of cachets and publishers prior to the Post Office entering the field.

The meeting proved to be a useful orientation to the FDCSG and to FDC collecting generally for non-members of the Study Group and an opportunity for members to get acquainted with each other. Three new members signed up at the conclusion of the meeting and at least two more participants are likely to join in the near future.

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# Some Unusual FDCs

By John van der Ven

Last fall I attended one of the local stamp shows and did not have very high hopes of finding anything. Was I ever proven wrong- and also by a sheer stroke of luck I came across these specific FDC's. All these times I just ask the dealers if I can see Canadian FDC's and you will be surprised how many do NOT have any at all.

I had some time on my hands and decided to look for some other items for my other areas of interest and went through all the Canadian material that this dealer had- and by the way it was the first time that I had seen this dealer at any of the shows for the last five years.

To my amazement when I went through the RPO section there were all these covers with a First Day but with a railroad cancellation. I have never seen these before and some of the cachets were also new to me. The last three are of special interest to find out where they originated from and who made them. The last three are raised Thermo covers and all are addressed to John J. Young in Montreal. Have any other collectors seen these cachets before or had this experience? When I went back to that dealer to buy the ones I had skipped they were all gone - so somebody in Ontario also collects these and bought them.



Fig. 1—CANECO Cachet w/RPO Cancel

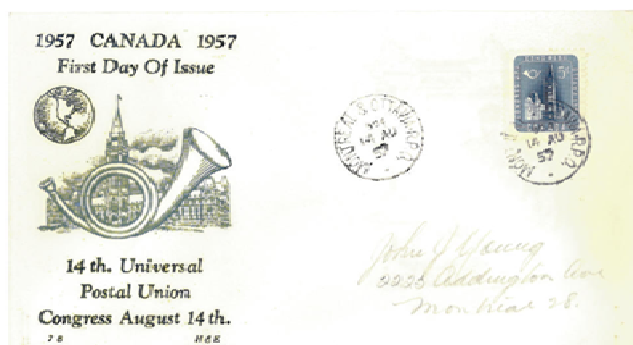


Fig. 2— H&E Cachet w/RPO Cancel

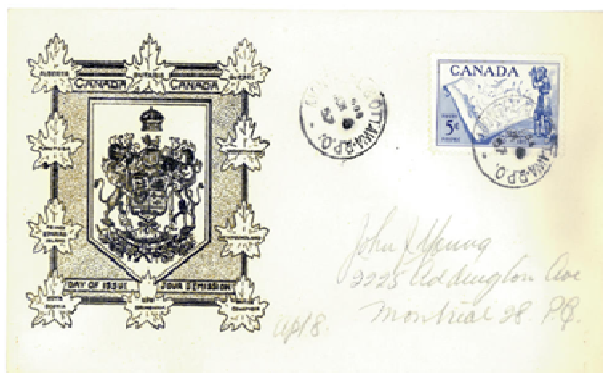


Fig. 3—Unknown Cachet w/RPO Cancel



Fig. 4—Unknown Cachet w/RPO Cancel

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**We're on the Web!**

[www.CanadaFDC.org](http://www.CanadaFDC.org)

We expect that this FDC Study Group will do some or all of the following things, depending on participant interests:

- \* publish an occasional newsletter (at least 3 per year,
- \* arrange for publication of member articles, monographs, and other writings,
- \* develop catalogues and other sources of information about FDC's,
- \* facilitate the exchange of FDC's among members,
- \* convene meetings at BNAPS conferences, and
- \* serve as a "home" for all Canadian FDC collectors.

## The British North America Philatelic Society

The Society for Canadian Philately

### Joining the First Day Cover Study Group

1. The first year of membership will begin whenever you sign up and end on December 31, 2009 regardless of when you sign up. The annual fee is \$10 Canadian.
2. If you are NOT now a member of BNAPS, you have two options:
  - A. Join BNAPS and receive free membership in the FDC Study Group until December 31, 2009. The BNAPS membership application is available on their website at <http://www.bnaps.org/form.htm>. Your dues should be sent directly to BNAPS, and they will forward a portion of that to the Study Group.
  - B. Join the Study Group as a trial member until December 31, 2009 and pay only the \$10 study group membership fee. You must join BNAPS by the end of that period to retain your membership in the Study Group. Your dues for the first year of the Study Group should be sent to Treasurer Gary Dickinson.
3. If you ARE now a member of BNAPS, you may join as many study groups as you wish, including the FDC Study Group whose membership fee is \$10. Your dues for the first year of the Study Group should be sent to Treasurer Gary Dickinson.
4. Any \$10 membership fees for the Study Group may be paid by PayPal (click on "Send Money", use Gary Dickinson's e-mail address shown above, and check "Services/Other") or by cheque or cash to Gary Dickinson, 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.