

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 21 October-December, 2014

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Editor's Notes

This issue features three articles including the fourth in a series about the cachets produced by Kelowna's T.G. Wolstencroft. The number of known cachets by this hitherto unknown maker continues to expand, so John Van der Ven is attempting to keep us up to date. The efforts of the Windermere and District Historical Society to produce and distribute FDCs for the David Thompson issues of 1957 is chronicled by Gary Dickinson, and Bob Vogel reviews letter cards produced by the Folkard Company and used as FDCs.

This will be the last call for expressions of interest regarding the development of a register for earliest known uses of stamp issues that do not have an established first day of issue. Doug Holmes has offered to set this up on the Study Group website, but we need someone to take the leadership to develop and manage a process for reporting these covers.

As always, contributions to First Impressions will be welcomed. You might consider writing an article about your favourite cover or cachet maker, or reporting about a previously unknown cachet maker. Please let me know if you have anything in mind that might be of interest to other members and I can help you get it into publishable form.

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.

T.G. WOLSTENCROFT CACHETS—PART IV

by John Van der Ven

Three previous issues of First Impressions (#15, 16, and 20) have featured presentations of first day cachets designed and produced by T.G. Wolstencroft, a resident of Kelowna. Many of these were posted from Kelowna to a resident of Invercargill, New Zealand and had been offered for sale on eBay by Kadine Stamps of New Plymouth, New Zealand.

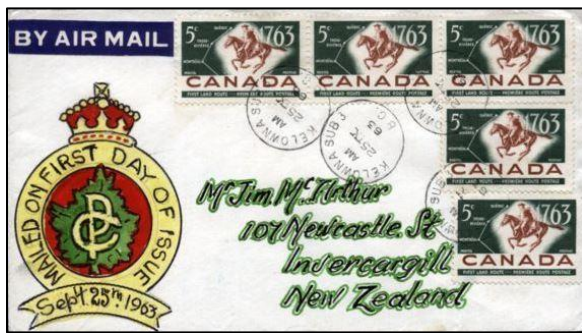
This unveiling of long-unknown FDCs has continued, and an additional group of 38 cachets dated from 1963 to 1970 is shown here. All of the covers shown are addressed to James McArthur, including three stamp issues (#482, 483, and 490) each with two different designs. The hand-drawn and hand-coloured artwork ranges from simple stick figures in black ink (eg. #445 and 448) to elaborate, multi-coloured paintings (eg. #512 and 516).



#422



#423



#413



#430



#417



#445



#446



#472



#448



#474



#453



#475



#471



#476-477



#481



#483.2



#482.1



#484



#482.2



#485



#483.1



#487



#488-489



#493



#490.1



#494



#490.2



#495



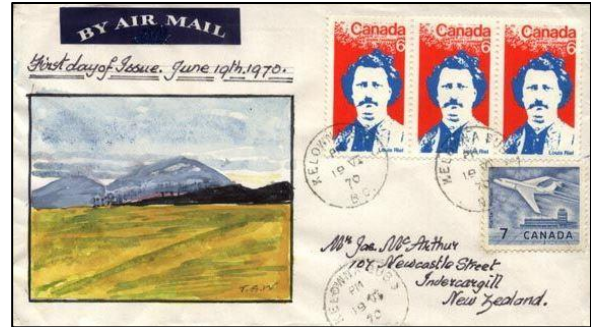
#491



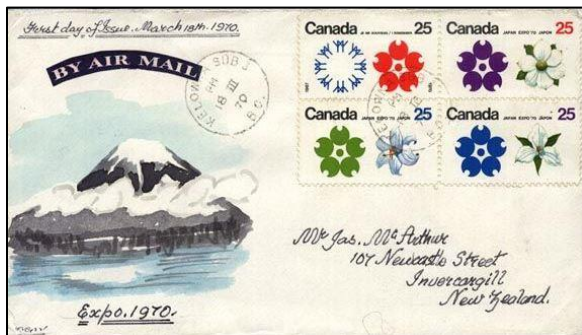
#496-498



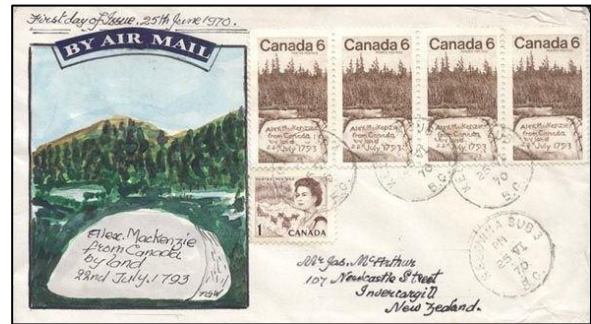
#499 & 500



#515



#508-511



#516



#512



#517



#513-514



#518

DAVID THOMPSON FIRST DAY COVERS BY THE WINDERMERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Gary Dickinson

The Canada Post Office issued a 5 cent stamp (Scott #370) on June 5, 1957 to honour the achievements of explorer and geographer David Thompson. The stamp depicted a scroll map of the region explored by Thompson along with his figure standing and holding a sextant at the right side of the design.

Thompson lived from 1770 until 1857. He was born in England and joined the Hudson's Bay Company at the age of 14. He studied surveying with the Company, and by the time he was 17 he had explored as far west as Calgary, Alberta. He later joined the North West Company and spent three winters headquartered near Lake Windermere in the East Kootenay area of British Columbia after first arriving there in July, 1807.

The Windermere District Board of Trade suggested to the Canada Post Office that it would be appropriate to issue a stamp commemorating the 150th anniversary of Thompson's arrival in the Windermere Valley, with the issue date of June 5 being the approximate date of his reaching the continental divide near Golden, B.C.

The Windermere District Historical Society, under the leadership of Mrs. R.B. (Justine) Harris, lobbied successfully to have the stamp issued at three towns in the Valley (Invermere, Wilmer, and Windermere), all located about 200 miles southwest of Calgary.

Three different cachets were designed and printed by "a friendly printer who owned our local paper." These are shown here in Figures 1 through 3.

Figure 1 shows the FDC designed for a Windermere cancellation. It features

Thompson and a native person overlooking Lake Windermere and includes a brief description of the lake:

"This body of water is very clear—is about 7 miles long and 1 mile wide. Close behind to westward rise mountains covered with snow and glaciers."

The second cachet, designed for Invermere, depicts the "David Thompson Memorial Fort." An extract from his records laments the difficulties caused by a lack of suitable trees for construction activities and the need to haul water a considerable distance.

"I was obliged to pitch upon a spot at the Head of the River, on a bank of about 240 ft. high and very steep, and not a drop of water but what must come up this bank, and still we had nothing to build with other than straggling, stunted sort of Hemlock Trees—not a Fir, nor Pine within a mile of us."

Figure 3 illustrates the Wilmer cachet showing the plaque at Kootenae House which was built in August, 1807. The text of the plaque reads:

"David Thompson of the North West Company built here in August, 1807 Kootenae House, the first trading post of the white man on the Columbia River or its tributaries. During the next four years he explored the Columbia River from source to mouth and established trade with the Indians in southern British Columbia and in much of the country now known as the states of Montana, Idaho, and Washington."

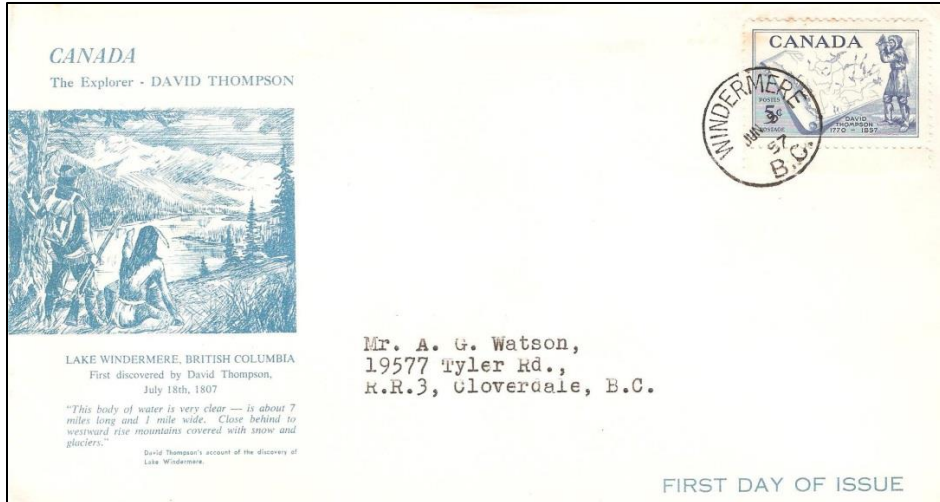


Figure 1. Windermere circular date stamp.



Figure 2. Invermere circular date stamp with erroneously dated cancellation.

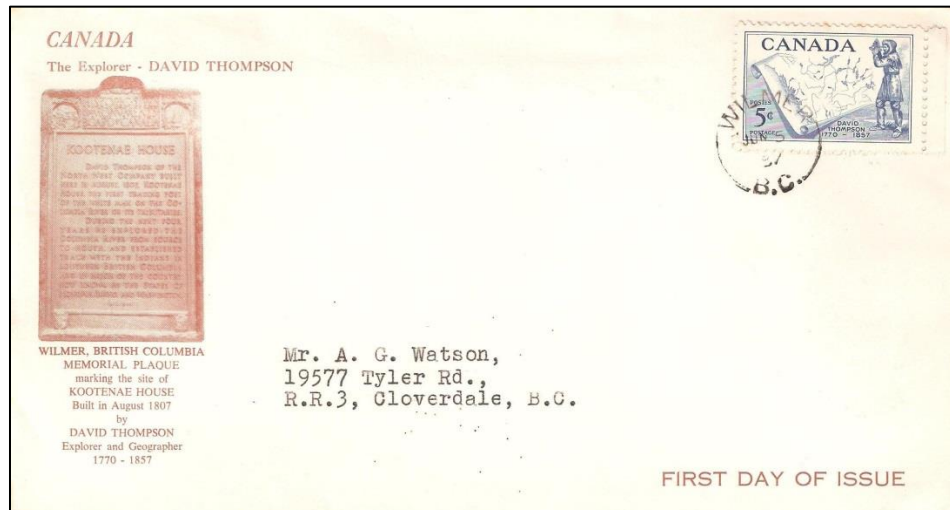
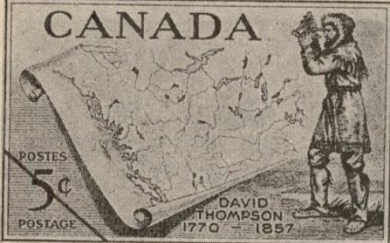


Figure 3. Wilmer split circle cancellation.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Harris, advertisements for the FDCs were placed in philatelic periodicals throughout North America as per the example shown in Figure 4 which appeared in May, 1957. Each of the three post offices received some 700 stamps, with most collectors receiving the set of three postmarked covers. Each cover

enclosed a three-panel brochure with a brief biography of Thompson.

The advertisement included a description of the three cachets which were priced at \$1.00 for all three with single stamps and \$2.00 with blocks of four. Orders were to be received by Mrs. Harris by June 1, 1957



**FIRST DAY COVERS—
FROM THE LAND OF
DAVID THOMPSON**

CANADA'S new Commemorative Postage Stamp to be issued 5th, June 1957, will honour this outstanding explorer and geographer.

THE WINDERMERE & DISTRICT (British Columbia) HISTORICAL SOCIETY, in commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the discovery of the headwaters of the Columbia River, will on 5th. June issue a series of 3 First Day Covers, each one cancelled at a Post Office closely identified with Thompson's explorations.

From WINDERMERE, B. C. The cover will bear a photograph of LAKE WINDERMERE first discovered by David Thompson on 18th. July 1807.

From INVERMERE, B. C. This is the site of the David Thompson Memorial Fort. The cover will bear a photograph of the Fort as it stands today.

From WILMER, B. C. This is the site of FORT KOOTANAE, Thompson's first fort west of the Rockies, where he spent the winter of 1807-08 under siege by the Indians. The cover will feature the Memorial Plaque located on the site of the Fort.

Fillers will take the form of a leaflet giving an historical outline of Thompson's travels in the Canadian West.

All Three Covers: \$1.00 (single stamps) \$2.00 (blocks)

It is regretted that orders for plate blocks cannot be guaranteed.

All orders, accompanied by a Money Order made payable to the Windermere and District Historical Society should be sent to:

Mrs. R. B. HARRIS, Secretary Commemoration Committee,
Windermere & District Historical Society,
WINDERMERE, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Orders should be mailed to arrive not later than 1st. June 1957.

Figure 4. Advertisement for Windermere FDCs.

The first page of the Thompson biography enclosure is shown in Figure 5.

The Windermere and Wilmer postmarks were all shown as Jun 5/ 57, however some of the Invermere covers were dated IV 5/ 57 (April 5) rather than VI 5/ 57 (June 5). This error was discovered and

corrected after about 300 strikes had been made. The cover shown in Figure 2 bears the erroneous cancellation.

An alert Calgary stamp collector, R. N. Talbot, soon spotted the error and it became the subject of an article (see Figure 6) in the June 8 issue of the Calgary Herald.

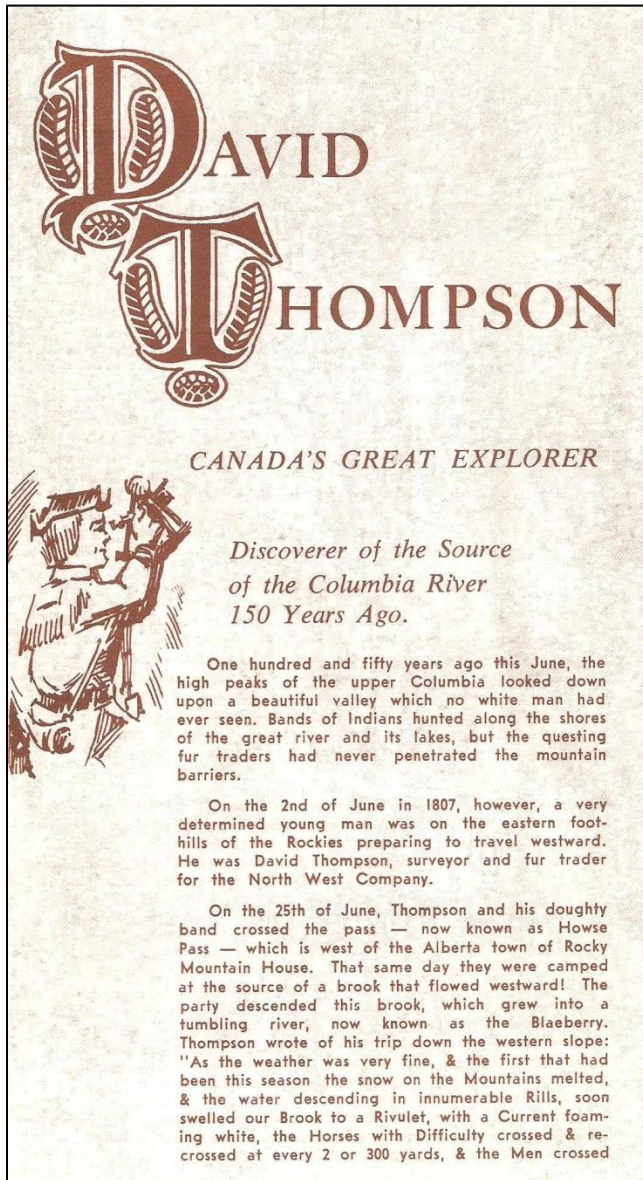


Figure 5. First of three panels of cover stuffer.

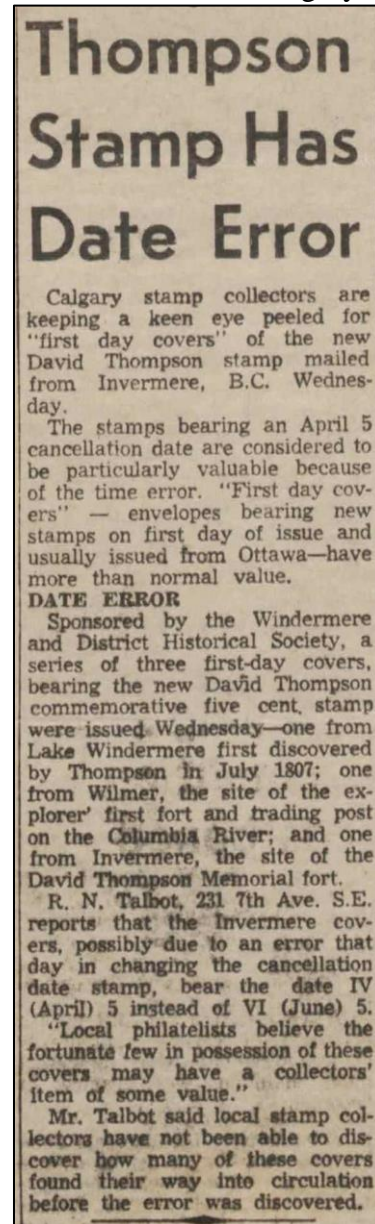


Figure 6. Calgary Herald article.

Author's Note: I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to J.D. Jeffery, Curator, and Alex Weller, Assistant Curator, of the Windermere Valley Museum for their assistance in gathering information for this article.

Folkard Company of Canada Letter Cards Used as First Day Covers

by Bob Vogel

The letter card was a product that was manufactured and used exclusively in Canada by the Folkard Company of Canada Limited headquartered in the Drummond Building in Montreal. It consisted of a pre-printed letter sheet that when folded and glued closed could be mailed as a postcard. A perforated and gummed margin would be torn off to open the card and read the message.

Little information can be found on the Internet about this company. From my own collection of these cards I know that there are Canadian cards numbered to 1003 depicting views across the country. They were also produced in the U.S. showing many scenes from that country.

My interest in these cards started when I acquired the following three cards used for #274, the 1947 commemorative issue for A.G. Bell. (Figures 1 to 3)

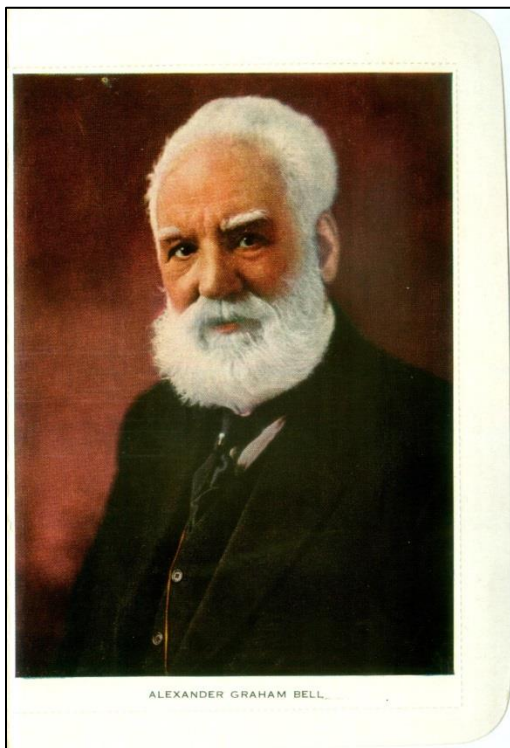


Figure 1a. Alexander Graham Bell portrait.

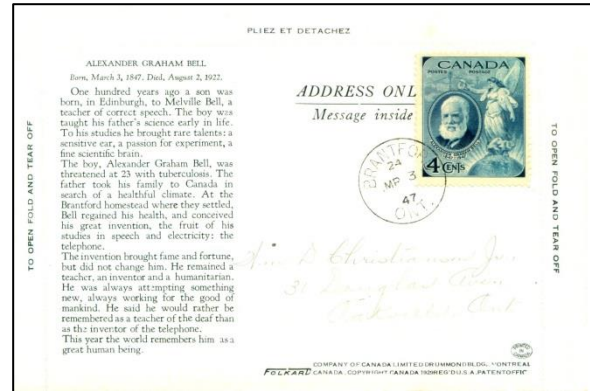


Figure 1b. Reverse of Bell portrait with #274.

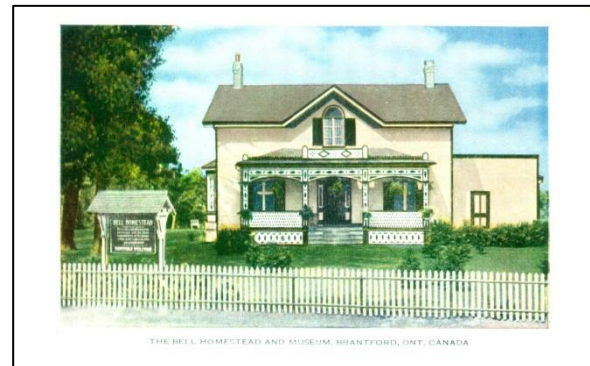


Figure 2a. Bell homestead.

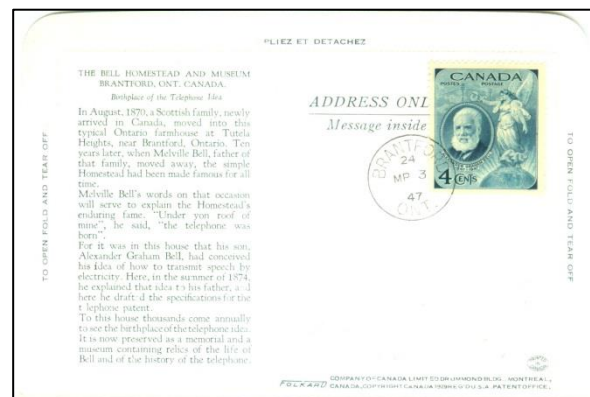


Figure 2b. Reverse of Bell homestead with #274.

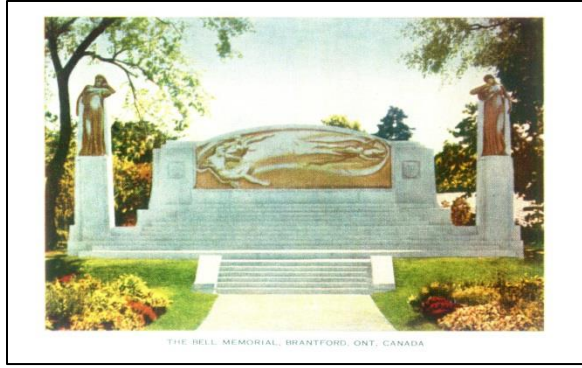


Figure 3a. Bell memorial.

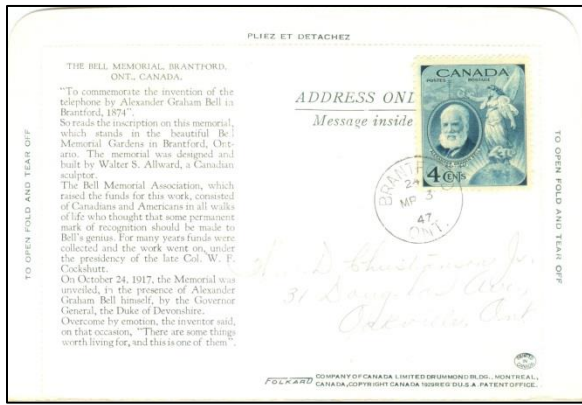


Figure 3b. Reverse of Bell memorial with #274.

Generally the scenes shown on these cards were related to the subject matter of the stamp was the case with the three views shown above. Others were only vaguely related as shown below with the letter cards in Figures 4 and 5.

A photograph of mounted RCMP members in front of the Peace Tower in Ottawa was used for FDCs for #371 and 374, with the photo shown in Figure 4a and the reverse side in Figures 4b and 4c.

A different view of the Peace Tower was used for a second letter card for the Royal Visit issue, #374, as shown in Figure 5a and 5b. On this card the stamp was affixed on the obverse side. The text is the same as it was for the illustrations in Figure 4 except that the final two line paragraph shown earlier was omitted from that shown in Figure 5b.

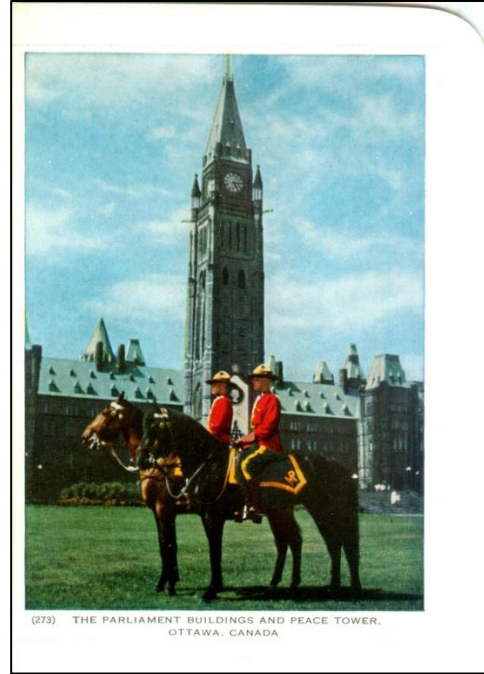


Figure 4a. Peace Tower.

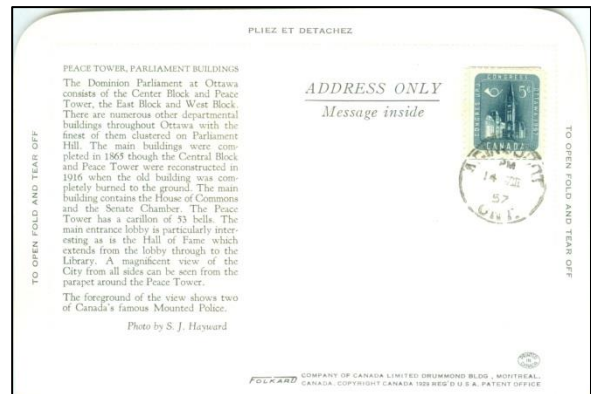


Figure 4b. Reverse of Peace Tower with #371.



Figure 4c. Reverse of Peace Tower with #374.



Figure 5a. Frontal Peace Tower view with #374.



Figure 6b. Reverse of oil drilling scene with #381.

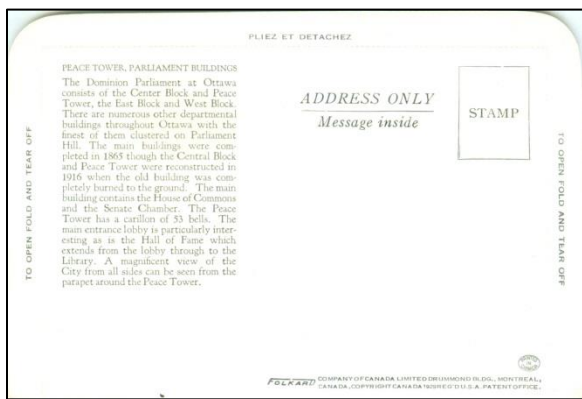


Figure 5b. Reverse of frontal Peace Tower view.

The petroleum industry stamp of 1958 (#381) was shown in Figure 6 on the reverse side of a scene featuring an oil drilling rig in Western Canada.

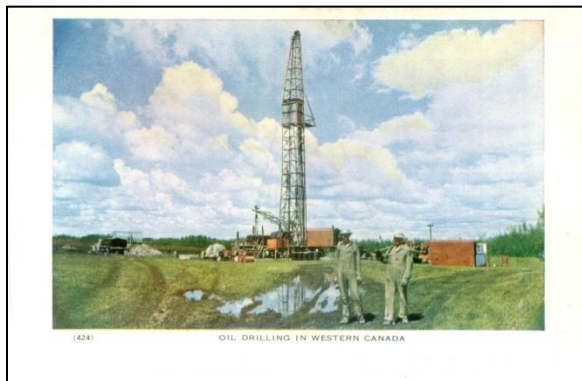


Figure 6a. Petroleum industry scene.

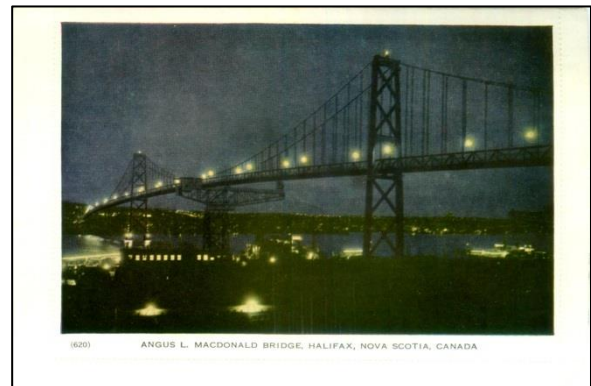


Figure 7a. McDonald Bridge.

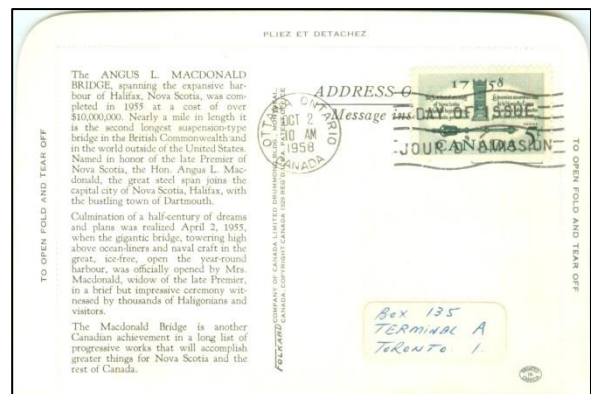


Figure 7b. Reverse of McDonald Bridge scene.



Figure 8a. Halifax view.

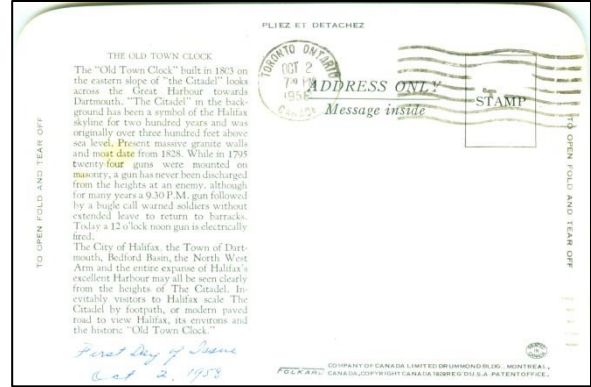


Figure 9b. Reverse of Halifax Town Clock scene.

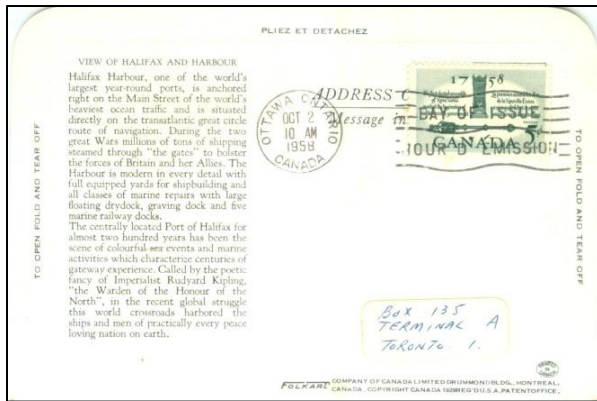


Figure 8b. Reverse of Halifax view.

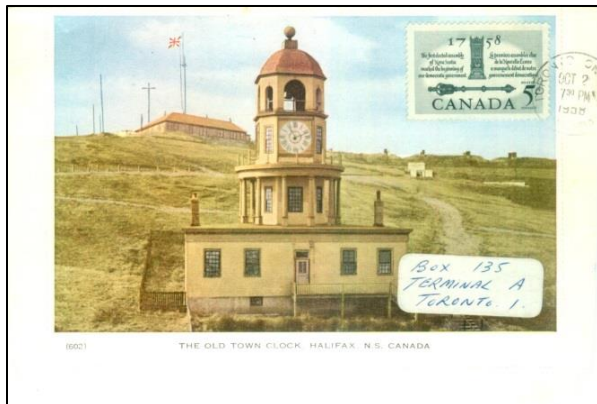


Figure 9a. Halifax Town Clock.

Apart from the Bell letter cards which were published in 1947, the others illustrated here were all from 1957 and 1958. As there was a gap of a decade between documented cards, together with the fact that more than 1,000 numbered photographs were published by the company, it appears very likely that other Folkard Company letter cards remain to be identified and catalogued. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows of such unrecorded cards.