

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 27 April-June, 2016

Contents

First Day Covers for #CE4	Bruce Perkins	Page 2
FDC Study Group Financial Statement for 2015	Bob Vogel	4
The Harford Harvest	Gary Dickinson	5
An Exceptional FDC for the Quebec Issue		8
Five Stamp Issues as Seen by Four Cachet Makers	Gary Dickinson	9
The 2015 Catalogue of Official FDCs		12
A New EKU for the 1950 Unrevised Issue		13
Robert L. Markovits		15
ArtCraft Cachets		15

Editor's Notes

This issue contains three articles and several short notices, all of which cover a broad range of topics that you may find to be of interest. The articles deal with FDCs for stamp #CE4 in response to a request from the late Bob Markovits for information about them, with the cachets produced by Robert Cole for Fred Harford, and with five stamp issues in consecutive years that highlighted the work of three private cachet makers and the official versions produced by CPO.

Member Ivan Hebert-Croteau shares with us a pair of covers that move back the EKU for the 1950 unrevised issue by two weeks, and members will be pleased to see that the new edition of the Chung-Narbonne catalogue of official FDCs is now available.

As always, your editor would welcome the receipt of new articles for future issues, and as always is willing to assist you in bringing your ideas to fruition.

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.

FIRST DAY COVERS FOR #CE4

by Bruce Perkins

The search for FDCs for the revised Airmail Special Delivery stamp of December 3, 1946 (Scott #CE4) was initiated by FDCSG honorary member Bob Markovits in Issue 25 of First Impressions. He believed that it was “the rarest FDC since 1930.”

My collection includes nine such covers, none of which has a FDC cachet. All but two of them were postmarked Ottawa with the exceptions being mailed at Victoria, SK and Ladysmith, BC.

Following are scans of each cover together with my collection notes.

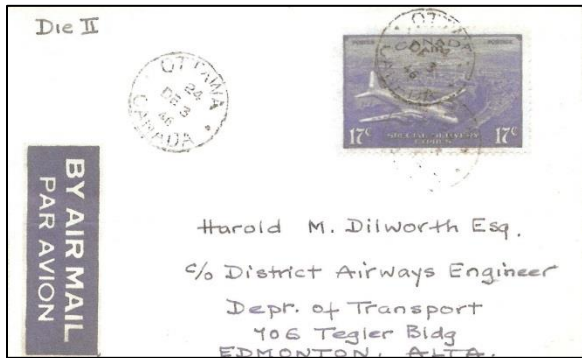


Figure 1. This is a neatly-addressed FDC on a smaller-sized envelope, with the Besserer Street Post Office CDS. The majority of the Besserer covers shown here have two CDS cancellations on the cover front.



Figure 3. This cover is addressed to D.H. Ward, an Ottawa area cover collector. It has only one Besserer cancellation and a handwritten “First Day Cover” notation at upper left.

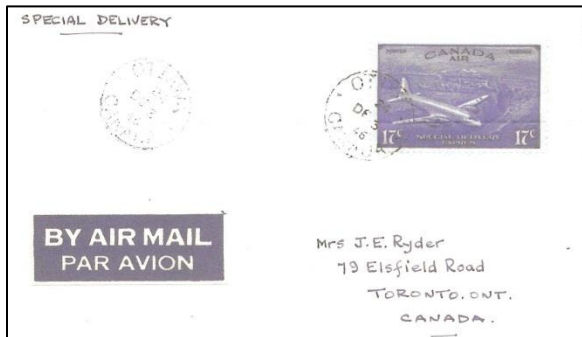


Figure 2. This is a slightly larger envelope addressed in the same printing as on the previous cover. The same airmail label was also used which together with the printing suggests a common origin. There are two Besserer postmarks but no back stamps. See also Figure 12 below for a related cover.



Figure 4. A second FDC addressed with faint handwriting was to the same person as Figure 3 but at a different address. This plain looking cover disguises a rare item.



Figure 5. Addressed to N.S. Spence of Ottawa, this FDC on an airmail envelope has a Special Delivery Expres label and a typed notation, "FIRST DAY COVER/ Corrected Accent." It was cancelled with the less common 16 hour hammer whereas the majority of covers show the 24 hour. Spence was an Ottawa area collector.



Figure 6. A second airmail cover was addressed to another Ottawa resident, W. Murray Hall. This example has a "FIRST DAY COVER/ Die (II)" notation typed at centre left of the envelope front.

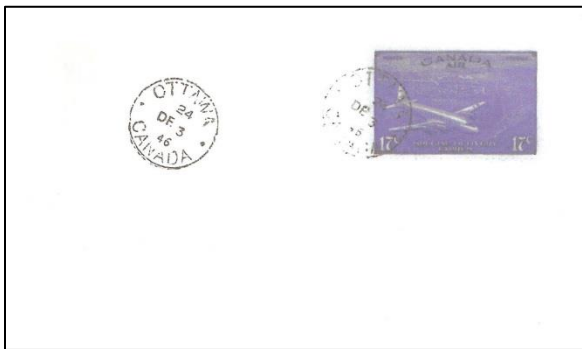
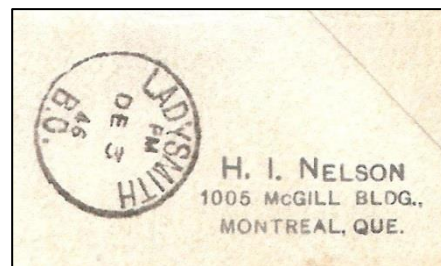


Figure 7. This cover appears to be unaddressed without a hint of any erasure.

The cancellation is the Besserer Street 24 hour marking and there are no back stamps as is the case with most of these FDCs.



Figure 8. This stunningly beautiful, surprising, and rather unexpected cover is from the collection of a retired postmaster. It is on an Aero Finance Limited corner card and has a Special Delivery Expres label. It has three Victoria, SK CDS cancellations on the day of issue and has no address so it was serviced to favour. It appears to be appropriately aged and raises no obvious concerns as to its legitimacy. The west was usually supplied with new stamp stock in time for FDCs so covers like this one are possible.



Figures 9 and 10. The final cachet in my CE4 group was postmarked at Ladysmith,

BC. It was prepared by and addressed to H. I. Nelson of Montreal who was a pioneer maker of Canadian FDCs. It bears two unusual airmail labels and was sent via Italian Air Squadron from Shediac, NB to Chicago. Nelson's home address was typed on the back of the envelope. From the evidence of the cover it appears that Nelson was visiting Vancouver Island when the CE4 stamp was issued and there was stock available locally which he used for the FDC.

Editor's Note

Another member of the FDC Study Group forwarded scans of two CE4 FDCs which are shown below.

Figure 11 below was addressed to the Ottawa Mayor's secretary, Miss B. Byers. It has an airmail label although it was posted in Ottawa to an Ottawa addressee. There is a typed notation at upper left reading, "FIRST DAY COVER/ 17c 1946 (Die II).

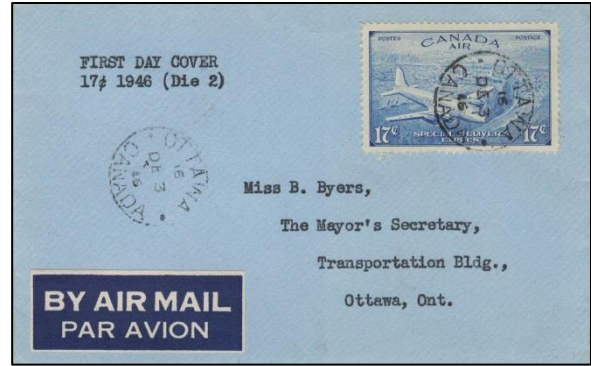
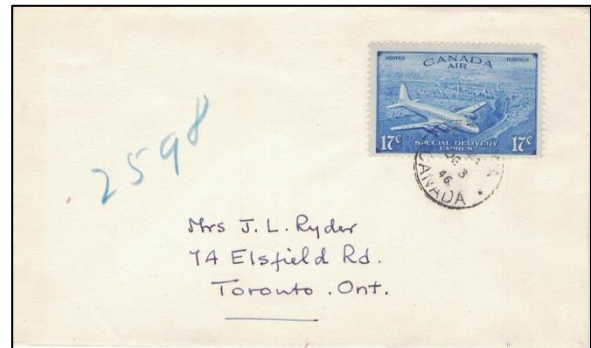


Figure 12 below shows a second cover addressed to Mrs. J.L. Ryder in Toronto, with one Besserer Street 24 hour postmark .See also Figure 2 for a related cover.



**BNAPS-FDC STUDY GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015**

Bank Balance at December 31, 2014	\$178.94
Add: 2016 dues received by December 22, 2015	232.17
 Total	 411.11
Less: 2015 newsletter expenses	139.83
 Bank Balance at December 31, 2015	 271.28

THE HARFORD HARVEST

By Gary Dickinson

Harford FDCs were the creation of Robert (Bob) Cole under contract with an Ottawa resident, Fred Harford. Only eleven Harford cachets were published with ten of them in 1966 and one in 1965. As Cole described it in 1985:

“A very knowledgeable and interesting gentleman by the name of Fred Harford of Ottawa, Ont. saw one of my covers and contracted me to design a series for him. All in all, I designed eleven cachets for him, six of the Provincial flowers and five commemoratives. I do not believe that more than 1000 of each were serviced. Each cachet has his logo: a mail box, a letter, and his name—HARFORD—in capital letters.”

The cover that Cole noted in his comments was his first attempt at a FDC and was designed to mark the stamp issued on September 8, 1965 for the centenary of Ottawa as the capital of Canada (Scott #442) This cachet is shown in Figure 1 and was unsigned. It was printed in black by thermography (raised printing) and only 300 envelopes were produced.

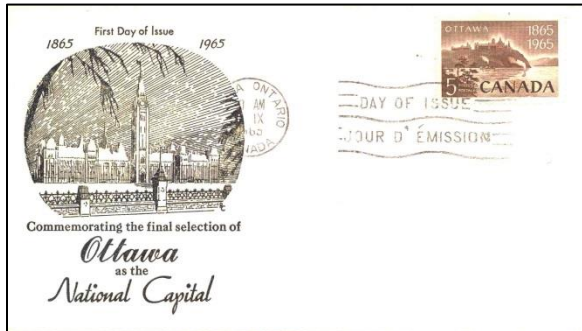


Figure 1. First cachet by Robert Cole (not a Harford)

Slightly more than a month elapsed between the publication of the first Cole design and the appearance of the first Harford cachet for the 1965 Christmas stamp issue on October 13. (Figure 9) Each cover had an insert as illustrated in Figure 10 which featured a reproduction of the cachet and a Christmas greeting as well as the Harford logo which displayed a mailbox, an envelope, and the name “Harford Covers.” The signatures of the two principals and the mailing address were also shown. (Figure 2) The logo appeared on all of the subsequent Harford FDCs at the lower right of the design in a small format.

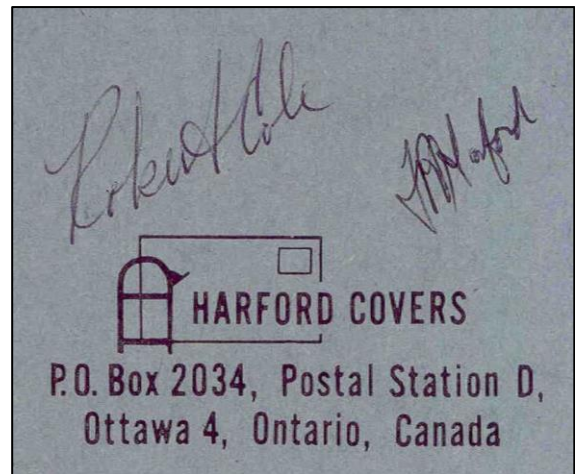


Figure 2. Harford logo (enlarged) with signatures

The Harford Covers were launched midway in the provincial flowers and coats of arms stamp series. Only the last six issues commencing with Scott #425 on January 19, 1966 were included. (Figures 3 through 8) Each cachet was printed in three colours and drew its basic features from those of the relevant stamps. Thus, each one showed a sample of the provincial flower illustrated on the stamp as well as the appropriate coat of arms on the left side.

As with ten of the eleven Harford cachets, the provincial set of cachets was framed by a vertical rectangle. In one case, the de la Salle commemorative, the frame was incomplete as illustrated in Figure 13.

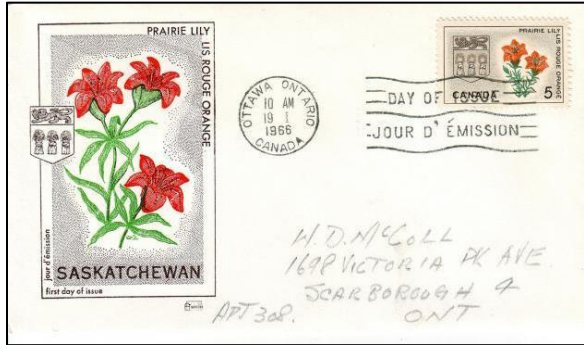


Figure 3. Cachet for #425

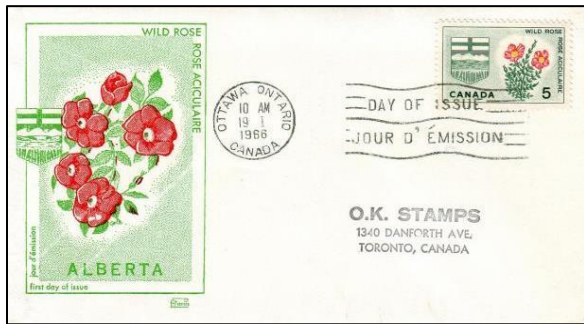


Figure 4. Cachet for #426

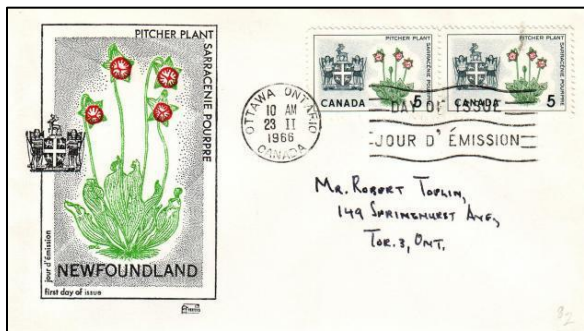


Figure 5. Cachet for #427



Figure 6. Cachet for #428

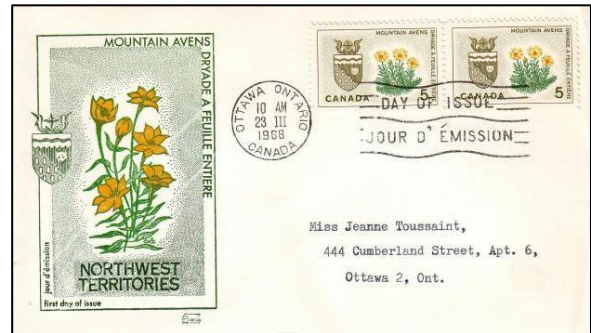


Figure 7. Cachet for #429



Figure 8. Cachet for #429A

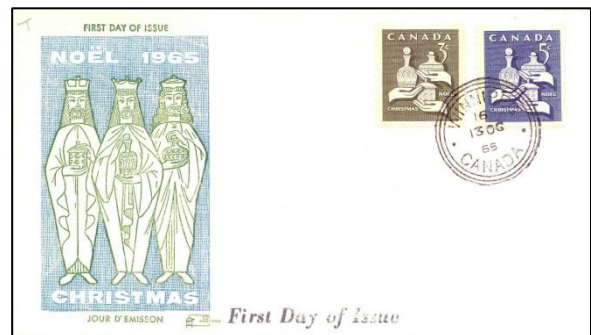


Figure 9. Cachet for #443-444



Figure 10. Insert for Christmas FDC

Apart from the Christmas and Provincial issues, Cole designed only three cachets for Harford Covers. The first of these, for the Alouette II satellite, was issued on January 5, 1966 and was the only Harford design to be printed in both English and French. On the French language example shown in Figure 12, the date “5 Janvier 1966” was typed at the top of the cachet. The cover was postmarked at Quebec City and had a bilingual day of issue cancellation.

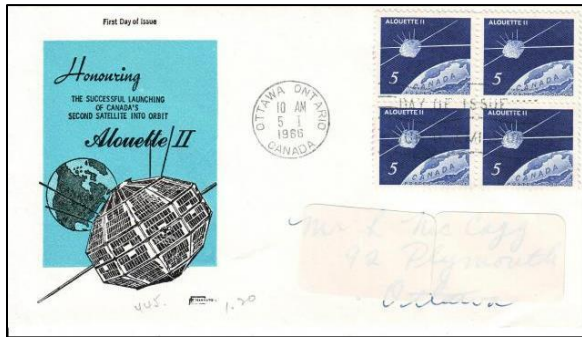


Figure 11. Cachet for #445 (English)

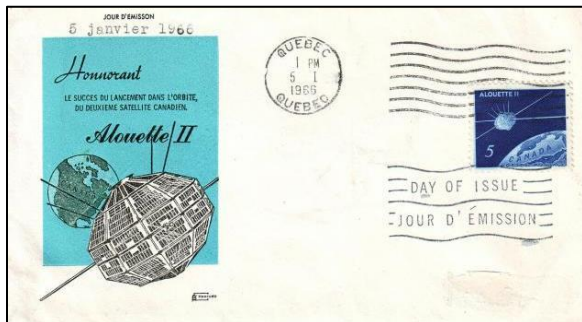


Figure 12. Cachet for #445 (French)

The final Harford Covers FDC commemorative (Figure 15) appeared on May 26, 1966 and honored the 100th

anniversary of the London Conference leading to confederation in 1867. The overall final Harford publication occurred a month later with the final FDC in the provincial flowers and coats of arms series. (Figure 8) on June 30, 1966.

The overall lifespan of Harford Covers was only nine months, but the series was attractive in appearance and provided a good opportunity for FDC collectors to expand their holdings. Perhaps more significantly, it provided an entrée for Bob Cole who would soon launch his decade-long series of Cole Covers.

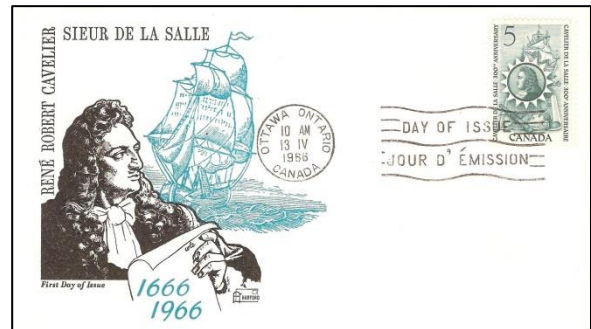


Figure 13. Cachet for #446



Figure 14. Cachet for #447



Figure 15. Cachet for #448

AN EXCEPTIONAL FDC FOR THE QUEBEC CENTENNIAL ISSUE



89 * 96-103: 1/2¢ to 20¢ complete on REGISTERED FIRST DAY COVER to Vermont, all denominations tied by light Montreal cds cancels (some appear to be dated the evening before, possibly by a rash or imprecise postal clerk), with bold confirming MONTREAL JUL 16 08 circular date stamp FIRST DAY CANCEL at bottom centre and two more identical confirmations on reverse, next day St Albans, VT exchange office transit and 18 JUL Burlington receiver also on back, cover has filing fold and several stamps with minor perforation stains, etc, but this is the ONLY RECORDED FIRST DAY COVER BEARING THE COMPLETE SERIES including the 'last-minute' produced and supplied 20¢ value (having only been approved for production some six days before the issue date), a UNIQUE and IMPORTANT DISPLAY ITEM, with 2004 Greene Foundation certificate stating 'genuine but several stamps have creases and perforation tears'. *Ex - R. Nickle, Brigham.*

Estimated \$4,000, Realized \$3,000. From the Brigham Auction sale, September 19, 2015

FIVE STAMP ISSUES AS SEEN BY FOUR CACHET MAKERS

by Gary Dickinson

Three new cachet makers arrived on the Canadian scene immediately following Rosecraft's exit in early 1974. These included Brickley Jones (Jones) of Victoria, Norman Rosenbloom with his Montreal base (NR Covers), and Stu Blumenthal of Scotia Stamp Studio (SCS). (Perkins, 2013) At this time Canada Post Office (CPO) had only been marketing its FDCs for three years but was already playing a dominant role.

The FDCs produced for a single stamp issue by each of the four makers noted above were selected for comparative purposes at the rate of one stamp per year and are reproduced here. As all four publishers were only in operation from 1974 to 1978, this resulted in the selection of 20 cacheted covers in total. The order of presentation is CPO followed by Jones, NR Covers, and SCS.

For the most part the FDCs were a rather colorless lot, with only two cachets being printed in more than one colour. Of the 20 cachets, 14 were black.

The 1974 cachets were the first for the three private makers, none of whom signed them, but all three illustrated the Portage and Main Street sign.

The CPO cachet designs were generally minimal although each of them used colour other than printing them in black. Only two cachets, both by NR Covers, used a photograph as part of the design, and five cachets consisted entirely of text with no artwork.

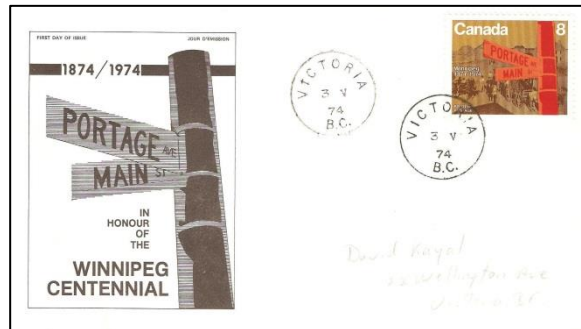
Reference:

Perkins, Bruce. "The Demise of Private FDC Cachet Making in Canada." *First Impressions*, Issue 14 (January-March, 2013), pp. 2-9.

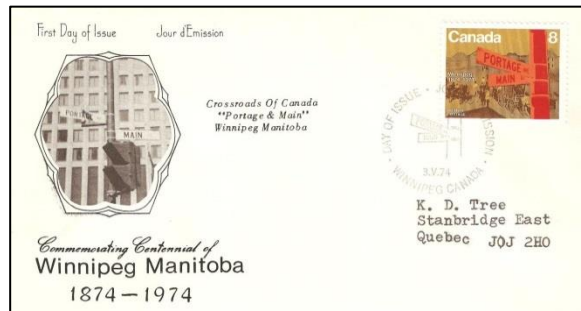
1974--#633 Winnipeg Centennial



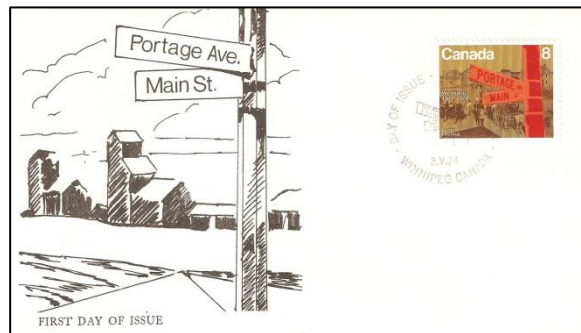
CPO



Jones



NR Covers



SCS

1975--#668 International Women's Year

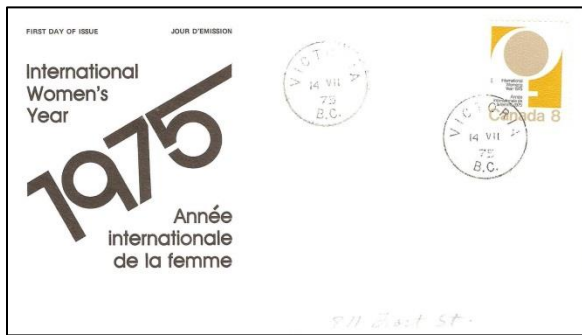


CPO

1976--#690 Habitat



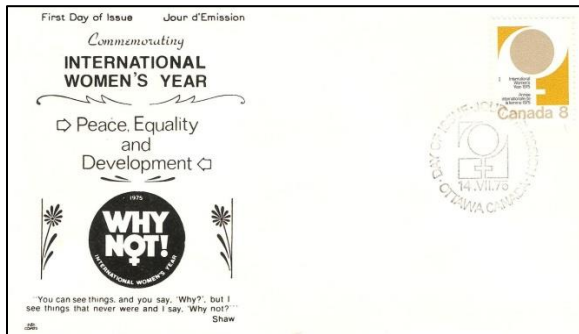
CPO



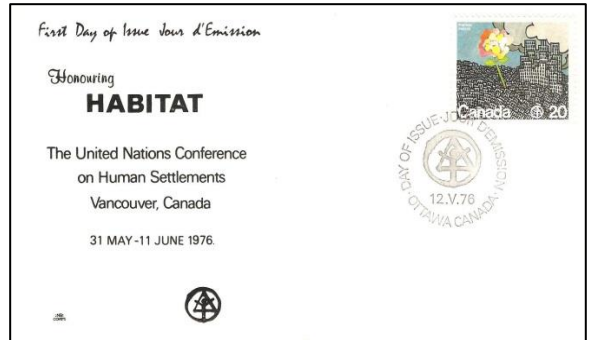
Jones



Jones



NR Covers



NR Covers



SCS



SCS

1977--#744-747 Sailing Vessels

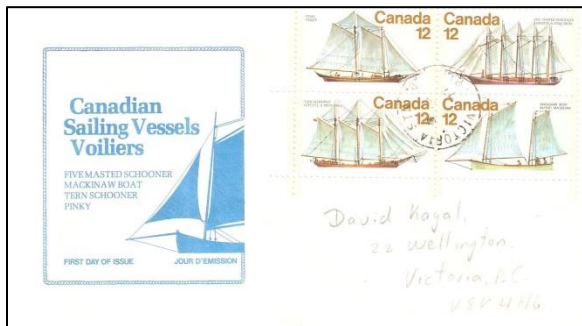


CPO

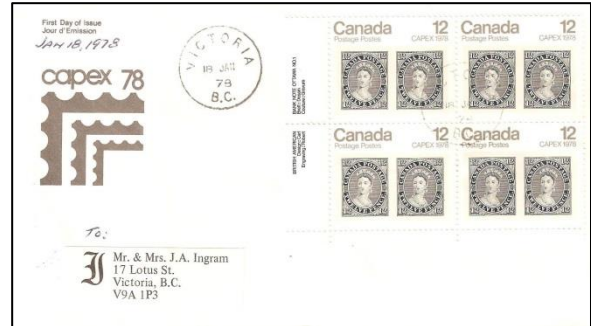
1978—753-756a CAPEX 78



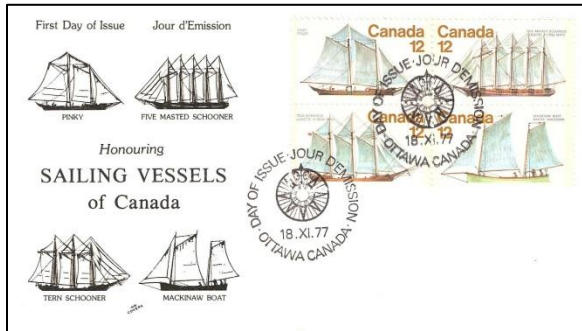
CPO



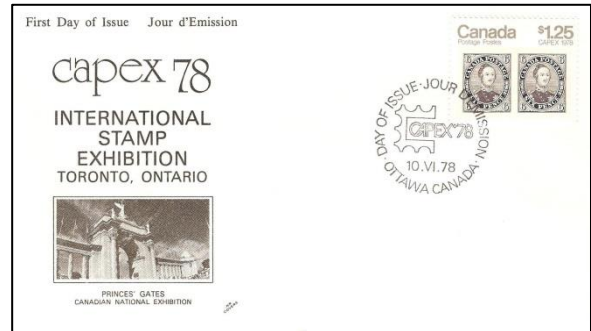
Jones



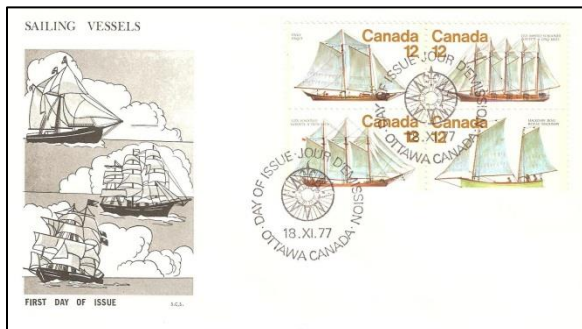
Jones



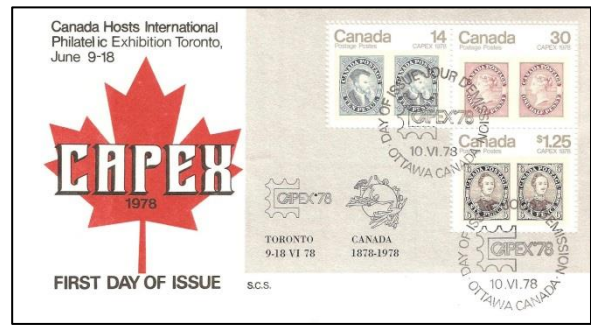
NR Covers



NR Covers



SCS



SCS

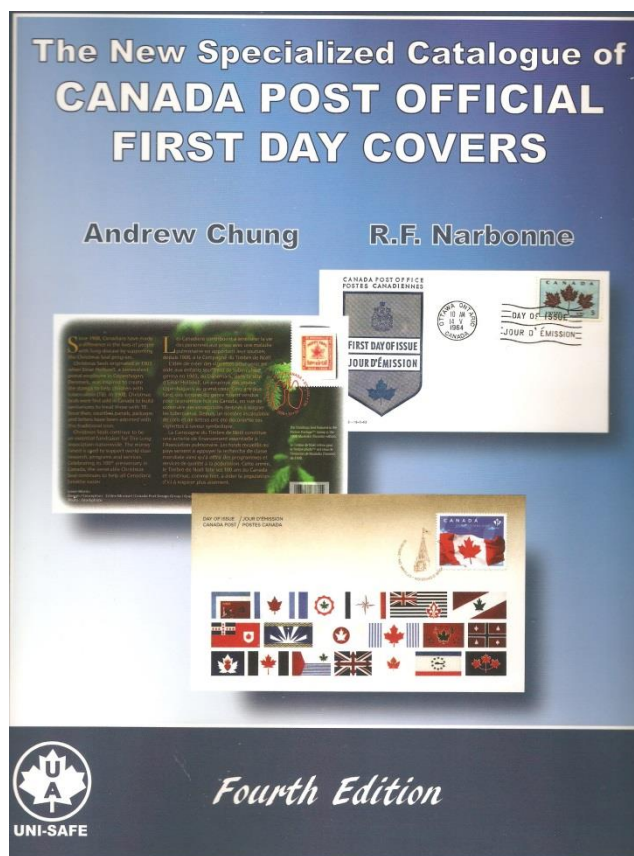
THE 2015 CHUNG-NARBONNE CATALOGUE OF OFFICIAL FDCs

The fourth edition of The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers by Andrew Chung and R.F. Narbonne (Unitrade Press, 2015) is now available and provides a superb service for the collectors of Canadian FDCs. The new edition expands the coverage of the previous version by 65 pages, mainly by adding CPO covers from July, 2007 until December, 2015, or Scott #2227 through #2874.

The preliminary pages of the third edition are essentially unchanged, as are the prices applied to the catalogue entries. There is, however, a one-page addition about Philatelic/Numismatic Covers

The main differences in the fourth edition occur in a series of topical sections following the main listing of official FDCs. For example, there are many and significant upward revisions of the values noted for replacement covers, and there are several worthy additions to the topics covered in the third edition. Charles Verge prepared a three-page article on publicity (presentation) covers and brief sections were added about Aerogrammes, Cole and Rosecraft cachets used instead of CPO products, and faked CPO replacement covers.

The Chung and Narbonne catalogue rates as a “must have” for FDC collectors as it provides a useful and methodical overview of modern Canadian products. It may be obtained from the publisher, Unitrade Press, at 99 Floral Pky, Toronto, ON, M6L 2C4 or by e-mail at the following address: <http://www.unitradeassoc.com/>



A NEW EKU FOR THE 1950 UNREVISED ISSUE

For 65 years it was thought that the earliest use of the stamps in the 1950 unrevised definitive issue occurred on January 19 at London, ON. Gary Dickinson's BNAPS handbook *First Day Covers of the King George VI Definitive Issues of 1949-50* which was published in 2015 reported an earlier date of January 16 at Toronto, ON.

FDC Study Group member Ivan Hebert-Croteau has recently reported an earlier date which further revises the EKU

by two weeks to January 2, 1950. Two examples from his collection bearing that date are shown below, with enlargements of the cancellations to show them more clearly. The covers carry JCR (Joseph C. Rosenbaum) cachets that were also used for the revised issue (Scott #284-288) and they are unaddressed. Each cover has a block of four stamps, with Scott # 290 and 293 represented. Ivan has other covers in his collection with blocks of four covering all five stamps and three different cachet colour varieties.





ROBERT L. MARKOVITS

For the third newsletter in a row we've learned of the death of one of our members. Honorary Member Robert L. Markovits passed away on December 20, 2015 at the age of 78 after a lengthy struggle with muscular dystrophy. Bob became involved with Canadian covers in 1969 during his extensive search for pre-1940 FDCs for the collection of Melvin Baron who subsequently wrote about them in a long series of articles in *First Days* and *BNA Topics*.

Bob was an early supporter of the FDC Study Group, and donated an Eppstadt cachet which was auctioned on eBay for the benefit of the Group. He was especially interested in #E3 and placed his small but select collection of this issue's FDCs on our website. He contributed an article about

collecting full sets on day of issue covers (First Impressions #19) and sought out any members who might be interested in cataloguing Earliest Known Use covers (Issue #21). His final request for information and examples about the rare #CE4 led to the presentation by Bruce Perkins in this issue of our newsletter.

Bob's search for early Canadian FDCs in 1969-1970 was carefully documented and several selections from his archives have appeared in recent issue of this newsletter before they were sent to their final resting place in the American Philatelic Research Library.

Extensive obituaries for Bob Markovits appeared in the January-February, 2016 issues of *Stamp Insider* and *First Days*.

ARTCRAFT CACHETS

Linn's Stamp News reported recently that Washington Stamp Exchange has discontinued its ArtCraft FDCs. The company's statement said that they had "concluded that the decreasing volume of sales could no longer sustain the high costs of production."

The first ArtCraft cachet was produced for the U.S. 1939 World's Fair stamp (Scott #853) and the last one was for the 2015 Geometric Snowflakes set (#5031-5034). In between ArtCraft produced cachets for every U.S. stamp issue and it also sold unserviced, cacheted envelopes.

The report noted that ArtCraft and Fleetwood were both proclaimed to be the "oldest continuing cachet line" although the former was the only firm operated by the same family or company while Fleetwood had been sold several times.

Co-owner Michael August was reported as saying that "Our conclusion was that producing new ArtCraft first day covers had been a burden on our resources for several years and that we could not continue to do this. The biggest challenge is the diminishing customer base. Stamp collecting and cover collecting seem to be challenged by a failure to bring younger people into these hobbies."

The Linn's article made no mention of ArtCraft FDCs for Canadian issues, but the company was a major presence for many years. The FDCSG website search engine produces 538 Art Craft covers, the great majority of which were applications of the ten general purpose cachets that were in use for Canadian stamp issues from 1953 to 1971.