



**BNAPS First Day
Cover Study Group
Issue No. 1
January 2009**

First Impressions

Welcome to the FDC Study Group

Welcome fellow First Day Cover collectors! This is the first newsletter for the revitalized BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group. Temporary Chairman Gary Dickinson and I hope you will join us in this effort to further the collecting and documenting of Canadian First Day Covers. As an official BNAPS Study Group, we are obligated to keep our membership at an acceptable level (10), publish at least three newsletters a year, and participate in BNAPS activities as practical.

We see this group as an opportunity for those of us who have become acquainted over the past few years to share our knowledge, our friendship, and our common interest in Canadian FDCs. The advent of the Internet and the nearly instant communication between us has made possible what many have only dreamt of previously.

Please take this initial newsletter as a jumping off point—we need your participation to make it work. Monographs, articles, even just scans of interesting covers are welcome. As we progress, many of us hope to begin developing a catalogue of cachets and cachet makers that will serve as a guide to all.

- 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 or mail to George Basher, 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY 12061, United States.

Share Your First Day Covers

One of the benefits of membership in a Study Group is the ability to share your collection with the rest of the group. Whether it's a rare unreported variety or you just have a question to ask, please send me your cover scans and the story behind them.

I hope to make this a regular feature of the newsletter—and include the weird as well as the wonderful.

An Unusual First Day Cover—Commercial or Philatelic??

Here is one of the more interesting First Day Covers I have encountered recently. It is a Post Card with the 1933 Universal Postal Union Five Cent Issue (Scott #202), appropriately postmarked May 18, 1933 in Winnipeg.

At first glance, it appears to be a commercial first day usage – an uncommon find and certainly very collectible. One could certainly wonder, however, why someone would overpay the two cent postcard rate with a five cent stamp.



Address/message side of UPU Issue FDC



Front of card with photo of C3a Block of Four

The answer is on the other side of the card.

The front of the card is a photograph of a block of four of the six cent 1932 Airmail (Scott C3a) with the six cent overprint inverted. The card's message reads "Photo of new 5¢ airmails 6¢ printed as 9¢ only one sheet so printed \$100 asked for these 4 now".

Evidently the sender, Mr. Brownie, was a Winnipeg stamp dealer trying to generate some business and at the same time managed to produce a First Day Cover that is both philatelic and commercial at the same time. Interesting to note that there is no mention of the First Day of Use on the card, so we may never know if the use was intentional or serendipitous.

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. MS Word is preferred, but I'll work with what you have.

The Third Canadian "First Cachet"

By Gary Dickinson

It has long been thought that the first cacheted Canadian FDC's were those produced by George Eppstadt of Maxville, ON and Century Stamp Company of Montreal, QC, and those cachets have achieved iconic status among collectors. (1, 2) Those FDC's appeared on June 27, 1927 along with the nine stamps (Scott 141-148 and E3) issued to mark the 60th anniversary of Confederation and to honour several historical political figures. Recently, however, a third "first cachet" has surfaced and is shown below.

The cachet consists of a rubber-stamped red maple leaf which is hand-coloured with yellow inside its borders. The text shows "CANADA" above the maple leaf and "DAY OF ISSUE" beneath it. The cover is addressed to Mr. G.H. Crouch of Toronto. There is a single 1-cent stamp (Scott 141) so the 2-cent rate for domestic mail is underpaid by 1 cent.



Hand-coloured "Crouch" Confederation First Day Cover with rubber stamped cachet

The postmark is a clear and distinct Toronto Diamond Jubilee flag cancellation (Richardson Type 43-6) which was in use from June 28 until July 1, 1927. (3) The cover was cancelled at 11:30 p.m., almost at the end of the day of issue for these stamps. There are no markings on the back of the cover.

This "Crouch Cover" is an interesting addition to the history of Canadian cacheted FDC's and keeps alive the possibility that still more early examples will continue to surface.

References

1. Baron, Melvin L. and Lum, Stan. "First Day Covers of the Classis Issues of Canada. Part 6—First Day Covers of the Canadian Confederation Commemorative Issue of 1927." *BNA Topics*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (May-June, 1993), pp. 34-41.
2. Houtby, Roy. "Eppstadt Cachets on 1927 Jubilee Series." *Canadian Stamp News*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (May 25, 1999), p. 13.
3. Richardson, Ed. *The Canadian Flag Cancellation Handbook 1896-1973*. Toronto: BNAPS, 1973.

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**We'll be on the
World Wide Web Soon**

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.
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