

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 16 July-September, 2013

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## Editor's Notes

Welcome to the summer, 2013 issue of First Impressions. The two main articles in this issue deal with overprinted stamps, with the first one being Gary Dickinson's review of the various ways in which FDC cachet makers dealt with the transitional version of the 1964 stamp used for air mail to the United States. The second article by Norris (Bob) Dyer presents earliest known uses of Newfoundland's 1920 provisional stamps. Shorter articles present a study by John Van der Ven of a general purpose cachet now attributable to U.S. maker Ludwig Staehle while Bruce Perkins reports some additional cachets by T.G. Wolstencroft of Kelowna.

Peter MacDonald will be chairing a meeting of the FDC Study Group at the BNAPS meeting in Charlottetown on Sunday, September 1 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. All members and guests who are attending the exhibition will be most welcome to attend.

## 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](mailto:gandbdickinson@shaw.ca) or mailed to Gary at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.

## CACHET MAKERS' RESPONSES TO A PROVISIONAL PROBLEM

by Gary Dickinson

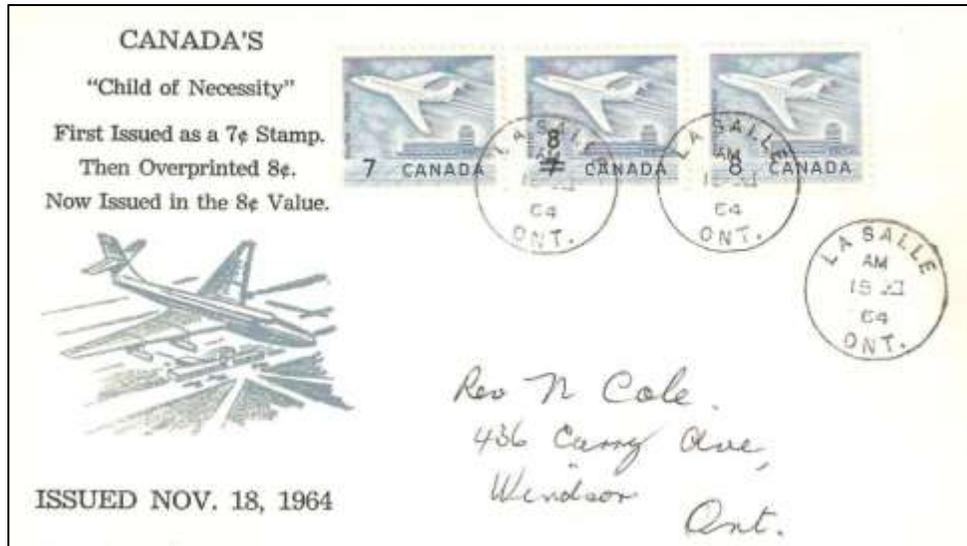


Figure 1. A Grover cachet with the three 1964 airmail stamps, addressed to Rev. N. Cole.

The Canadian post office has produced provisional stamps on rare occasions. The first one was issued in 1899 (Scott #87 and 88) when the Queen Victoria Leaf and Numeral 3 cents stamps were overprinted for use as 2 cents denominations, but less than a handful have been issued since then.

In 1964, a long-standing 7 cents airmail rate to the United States was increased to 8 cents which created a need for a new stamp, however a new one (#414) had been introduced only a few months earlier so there was a large supply of them in existence. Consequently the extant stamps were overprinted with an 8 cents value tablet (#430) until such time as a new issue (#436) was produced. All three stamps are shown in Figure 1 with Grover's "Child of Necessity" cacheted FDC for #436.

The timing of these changes was very tight compared with the usual process of stamp production. The initial stamp had been issued on March 11, 1964 and 26 million copies were printed. The 7 cents

airmail rate had been in effect since 1943 but ended on July 14, 1964. The provisional stamps were needed for July 15 and 15 million copies were printed. The "new" 8 cents stamp issued on November 18 differed from the stamps it replaced only by a reworked numeral table. Almost 42 million copies were printed during its period of service which ended in 1968.

The rapid changeover posed by the new airmail rate to the U.S. was problematic for stamp production, but it also posed difficulties for FDC cachet makers. With only a short period of time to produce new cachets, a variety of different solutions to the problem emerged.

### 1. Use a general purpose cachet.

The solution adopted by some cachet makers was simply to use a general purpose cachet as they had with other stamp issues. Four of these are shown here.

Figure 2 has a general purpose Rosecraft Peace Tower cachet franked with the overprinted stamp. This cachet is known with #430 in at least three different colours

including purple, black, and brown. Figure 3 is a pen and ink drawing by Gordon Bazeley with the same design he also used for several other issues of this period.

Cachet Craft used a general purpose cachet as shown in Figure 4. Although not designated specifically for this overprinted issue, the design featured a goose and an airplane, both symbolic of flight, so it would have been equally appropriate for any of the three airmail stamps issued in 1964.



Figure 2. Rosecraft general purpose cachet.

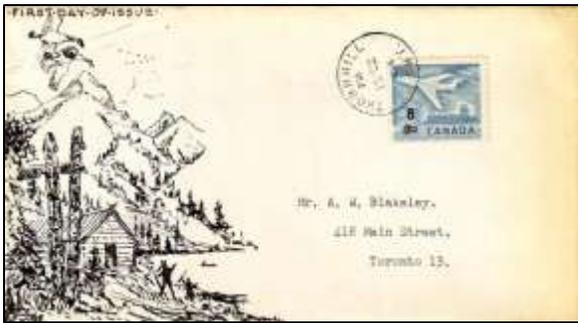


Figure 3. Hand-drawn general purpose cachet by Gordon Bazeley.

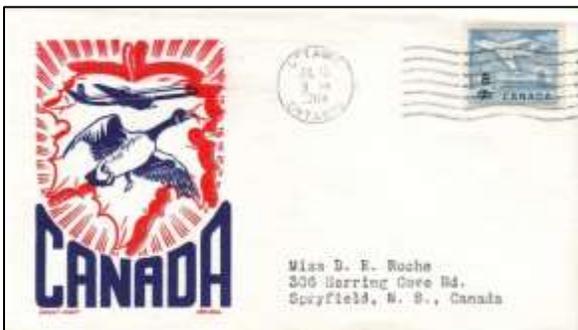


Figure 4. Cachet Craft general purpose cachet.

Art Craft used a series of ten different general purpose cachets during the period in which the airmail stamps were in use. The only documented use of one of their general purpose cachets is shown in Figure 5 and is their cachet B.



Figure 5. Art Craft B general purpose cachet.

## 2. Modify a general purpose cachet.

A few cachet makers used a general purpose cachet and modified it with information about the provisional stamp issue. Caneco, for example, used their general purpose Canadian coat of arms cachet (see Figure 6) with additional typed text at the bottom of the design reading, “7c overprinted 8c July 15, 1964.”

Rosecraft’s Peace Tower cachet was given a red overprinted text as shown in Figure 7. This extended over the top half of the cachet and referred to the “emergency surcharge inaugurating new air mail rates to the U.S.A.”



Figure 6. Caneco general purpose cachet with typed text.



Figure 7. Rosecraft general purpose cachet with overprinted text.

### 3. Create a new cachet.

Perhaps because of the short timeline leading up to the issue date of the provisional airmail stamp, there were relatively few new cachets produced for this issue. Only four were identified here.

The first one, shown in Figure 8, is a black version of a McGuffin cachet with a portion of the text reading, “8c Overprint.” The same cachet was also printed in red.

The red Middlesex Stamp Circle cachet shown in Figure 9 followed the group’s standard practice at the time of using a general purpose graphic design showing a flag, shield, and Parliament Buildings but varying the bottom line of text to suit the particular issue. This created a specific cachet for each issue for which it was used.

Figure 10 has a small blue cachet created specifically by an unknown maker for the provisional airmail issue. It was apparently produced in Victoria given the local postmark and address.

The final new cachet shown in Figure 11 was by an unknown maker and printed in dark blue. It includes text describing the nature of the issue, and the graphic shows what could be interpreted as a bird attempting to lift an airplane.

### 4. Overprint the 7c airmail cachet.

The most common method used by cachet makers to deal with the provisional

issue was to follow the same practice as the post office, namely, overprint the previous



Figure 8. McGuffin black cachet.



Figure 9. Middlesex Stamp Circle cachet.

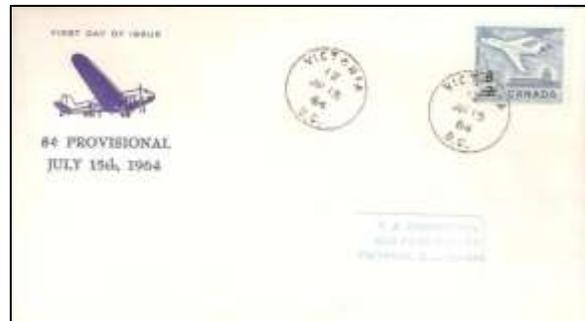


Figure 10. Victoria cachet by unknown maker.

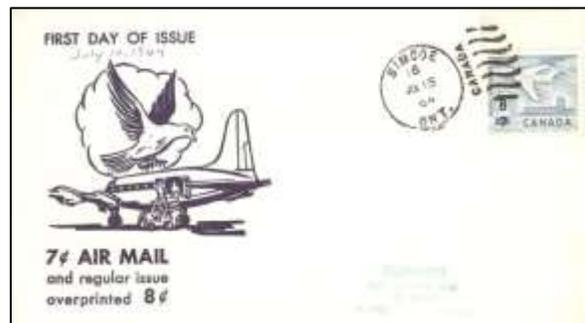


Figure 11. New cachet by an unknown maker.

stamp with the new denomination. In most cases this involved use of a rubber stamp with the new information. In a few others it meant a new printing run to apply it.

Robert Ginn's cachets used both methods. Figure 12 shows his cachet for the 7 cents airmail issue overprinted in the same manner as the stamp: the 7 was obliterated and replaced by an 8 printed above it. The plane on the cachet does not appear to be heading in a desirable direction.

Figure 13 shows a five-line rubber-stamped impression, "Overprint/ 8c/ Air Mail/ July 15-64" on the cachet that was used originally for the 7 cents stamp while Figure 14 has the same rubber stamp on a Ginn cachet that was used for other stamps issued in 1962 and 1963.



Figure 12. Overprinted Ginn cachet.

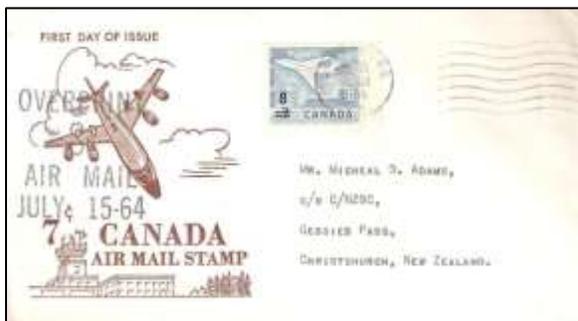


Figure 13. Ginn airmail cachet with five-line rubber stamp.

The Grover cachet, shown in Figure 15, was overprinted with black text, "Overprinted/ 8c/ July 15<sup>th</sup>, 1964" on the original green and blue cachet.

The J.K. Robbins cachet showing a beaver attempting to eat the Parliament Buildings is known with two different rubber stamps. A five-line imprint that also appeared on Ginn cachets is shown on the red cachet in Figure 16 while a one-line rubber stamp appears on the blue cachet shown in Figure 17. Both covers included here were used initially for the Cameo issue of 1962-1963.



Figure 14. Ginn general purpose cachet with five-line rubber stamp.



Figure 15. Grover cachet overprinted in black.

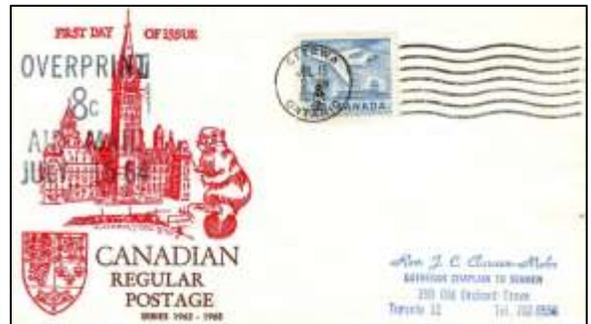


Figure 16. J.K. Robbins cachet with five-line rubber stamp.



Figure 17. J.K. Robbins cachet with one-line rubber stamp.



Figure 18. Cachet by unknown maker with inked revisions and one-line rubber stamp.

Figure 18 presents a cachet modified from the 7 cents airmail issue by applying a one-line rubber stamp, “8c on 7c” as well as inked amendments to the date and denomination.

The cachet in Figure 19 actually preceded the one shown in Figure 12 as it was used for the earlier 7 cents stamp but rubber-stamped with a one-line overprint to accommodate the provisional issue. The maker of the cachet is unknown.

The H & E cachet in Figure 20 has a large printed 8 as well as the same five-line rubber stamp shown on the covers in Figures 13, 14, and 16.

**5. Make something up.**

An enterprising philatelist, likely a resident of Victoria as suggested by the

postmark and addressee, used black ink and a pen along with a rubber-stamped “First Day Cover” impression to create the cachet shown on the cover in Figure 8. Home-made cachets of this type seem to be relatively rare with the provisional airmail issue.

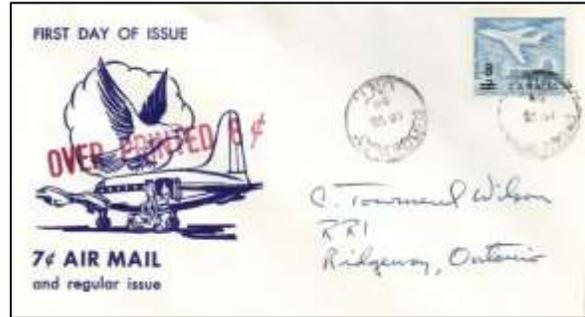


Figure 19. Cachet by unknown maker with one-line rubber stamp.



Figure 20. H & E cachet with five-line rubber stamp.

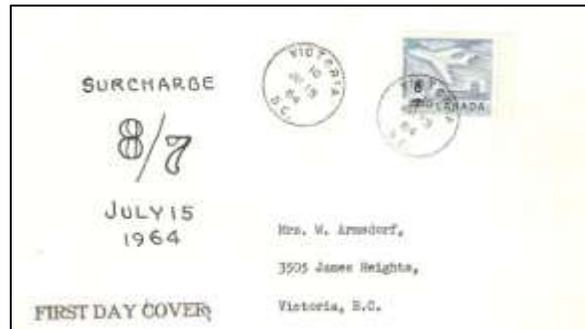


Figure 21. Home-made cachet with rubber stamp and inked text.

## EARLIEST KNOWN USES OF NEWFOUNDLAND'S 1920 PROVISIONALS

by Norris (Bob) Dyer

*Editor's Note: "Earliest Known Use" is used as a proxy for "First Day of Issue" when the latter is unknown. This is particularly important for early stamp issues as in many cases an actual first day of issue can't be established. In this "crossover" article, the editor of The Newfie Newsletter provides a useful case study of the extent to which the philatelist sometimes needs to undertake research in order to establish the earliest known use, in this case for the 1920 Newfoundland provisional stamps.*

The 1920 Newfoundland postal shortage and its remedies represent one of the most interesting topics of 20<sup>th</sup> century Newfoundland philately. Certainly, it does not have the panache of the scarce air mail issues, but still offers a lot of grist for research. The four adhesive provisionals have numerous varieties and two of the issues are known with inverted surcharges. Several types of POSTAGE PAID handstamps were also used in the roughly three-week period of the shortage.

Most catalogues are a bit circumspect as to the dates when the stamps were first made available to the public. The most detailed listing of the provisionals and handstamps is in the *Newfoundland Specialized Stamp Catalogue* (NSSC) by John M. Walsh and John C. Butt (2006). There are several contemporary references that are also of value including *Notes on Newfoundland, 1897-1921* by Harry E. Huber which was first published in 1922. Seven years later, *Stamps of British North America* by Fred Jarrett (1929) was published and is also helpful. That does not mean I agree with all of the issuance dates indicated by these authors as it sometimes takes decades for postal historians to burnish the record and come to well-researched

judgments. Another term for that is the "clarity of distance."

I recently exhibited a single-frame study on the subject, *Newfoundland's 1920 Postal Shortage* at the APS Ameristamp Expo 2013 in Louisville, Kentucky. I was pleased to receive a Gold award for the exhibit, but in any case the subject is one I had researched again to provide some updates for an exhibit that had been shown previously. The four images shown here are scanned from exhibit pages, so please forgive some corner mounts as I try to limit handling the covers.

Here is how I opened the exhibit's title page:

"The 1919 Caribou set was popular, and the low values sold quickly. This, coupled with irregular steamers from London where the stamps were printed, led to a postal shortage and the need for provisionals by September, 1920. Three high values left over from the 1897 Cabot issue were used for the creation of four surcharged stamps."

Two trial surcharges were made of THREE CENTS with horizontal value-obliterating bars above and below. This worked on the 6-cent Cabot's but it was decided to reserve the value for foreign mail. The 15-cent Cabot was available in sufficient quantities as the high values of the Cabot issue did not find many philatelic buyers, so it was ordered that 50,000 be surcharged.

Here is where my findings and those of NSSC disagree with Harry Huber. He states that:

"...just previous to the closing hour [Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>] a local stationer, who also retails postage

stamps, sent up for 500 3¢ stamps. Not desiring to inconvenience those with letters for Sunday's mail, 500 overprinted stamps were handed out. At 6 p.m. the G.P.O. [St. John's] closed for the day."

I have not seen covers with Sunday postmarks during the 1920 postal shortage. This was also the case in 1897 when the first Newfoundland postal crisis occurred. This applies to covers with paid markings. There are two covers from October 2<sup>nd</sup> with inverted 2¢ surcharges that are a philatelic exception as I believe they had favor cancels from a clerk in a small sub-station. Consequently, no covers have been recorded from September 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>. After some 93 years it is doubtful any such covers will be found. That doesn't mean one might not be still gathering dust somewhere but it would certainly warrant a certificate if it came to light. Covers with the first provisional that were postmarked during the provisional period have a high catalogue value.

Everyone agrees that the provisionals were made available Monday morning on September 13<sup>th</sup> at the G.P.O. The first provisional is shown in **Figure 1**. (NSSC #122, Scott #128). Huber reports that they were

"...limited from the start to five copies to a person; during the morning this was reduced to two and one, and by noon, as the demand continued, the clerks were instructed to sell none at all."

Huber may have actually been there! Note the handwriting on the cover of 11:30 AM SEP 13 that is addressed to him: "1<sup>st</sup> day of actual sale at GPO. Exhausted by noon."

A problem arose in the printing process as the parallel bars did not obliterate the lower values. This was because the value tablets were placed differently on the 15¢ compared to the 6¢ Cabot used for trials.

The bars were a scant 10.5mm apart (Type 1). Three thousand of the 15¢ (120 settings of 25) received the "narrow bar" surcharge.

What happened next? I believe the balance of the 15¢ supply was sent back to the printer to adjust the distance between the horizontal bars to 13.5mm. I have a POSTAGE PAGE cover from 3 PM that afternoon at the G.P.O., evidence that no provisionals were available at that point in the day.

Huber states that the "wide bar" version [Type II] was also on sale on the morning of September 13<sup>th</sup>. This is NSSC #123 and Scott #129. If they were sold where are examples of usage? I have one from 7:30 PM on the 13<sup>th</sup> (**Figure 2**) which John Walsh and I believe is the only known surviving cover. It supports my theory that Type II's only arrived at the end of the day.

Jarrett states the 15¢ provisionals were exhausted by the end of September 14<sup>th</sup>. He points out that "At 9 a. m. of the 15<sup>th</sup> the 35¢ surcharged 'THREE CENTS' was placed on sale."

The third provisional (**Figure 3**) had the Type II surcharge on an order of 50,000 of the 35¢ (iceberg) value of the 1897 Cabot issue. The same stamp would also be used for overprinting for the "Halifax" air mail in 1921. As a result of these usages, this value in mint condition has the highest catalogue value of any of the Cabot issues, including the 60¢ Cabot. This provisional was on sale until the arrival of the S.S. Sachem with a shipment of the 3¢ caribou on September 25<sup>th</sup>. It did not sell out during its 11-day tenure, suggesting that collectors may have reached a point of saturation. NSSC is #124, and Scott is #130.

The supply of 1¢ caribou's was declining and they had a use for fiscal purposes, so Newfoundland decided to surcharge the 30¢ Cabot TWO CENTS and 50,000 were released to the public. Both Huber and Jarrett claim this was on

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, however no covers are known from that date.

The 2¢ rate also covered postage for local covers. The cover in **Figure 4** is from the 24<sup>th</sup>, and is addressed to stamp dealer R.C. Rose in St. John's. Note the "Newfoundland Stamp Exchange" corner card which was Rose's stamp business. At this time he was also a part-time postal clerk at the G.P.O. This also suggests that he would try to send himself covers with the earliest possible use date. The fourth provisional is NSSF # 125 and Scott # 127. Local covers, used during the provisional period, are quite scarce.

As Huber noted, "The 2¢ Caribou reached St. John's on the 29<sup>th</sup> by the S.S. Derby, and was placed on sale October 4<sup>th</sup>."

The 2¢ on 30¢ was withdrawn, and rubber-stamping of town and inland covers ceased."

There were remainders of the 3¢ surcharge on 35¢ and 2¢ on 30¢ Cabot. They could be used on mail after October 4<sup>th</sup> and are commonly seen. When considering purchase, check dates carefully – you could find a gem!

A final note on stamp dealer mail. Some frown on this, however, sometimes with earlier material this is the only way you will find a particular stamp used on cover. Stamp dealers have the same right to use the postal system as the rest of us. The criteria should be – is the rate correct, and the period of usage proper!

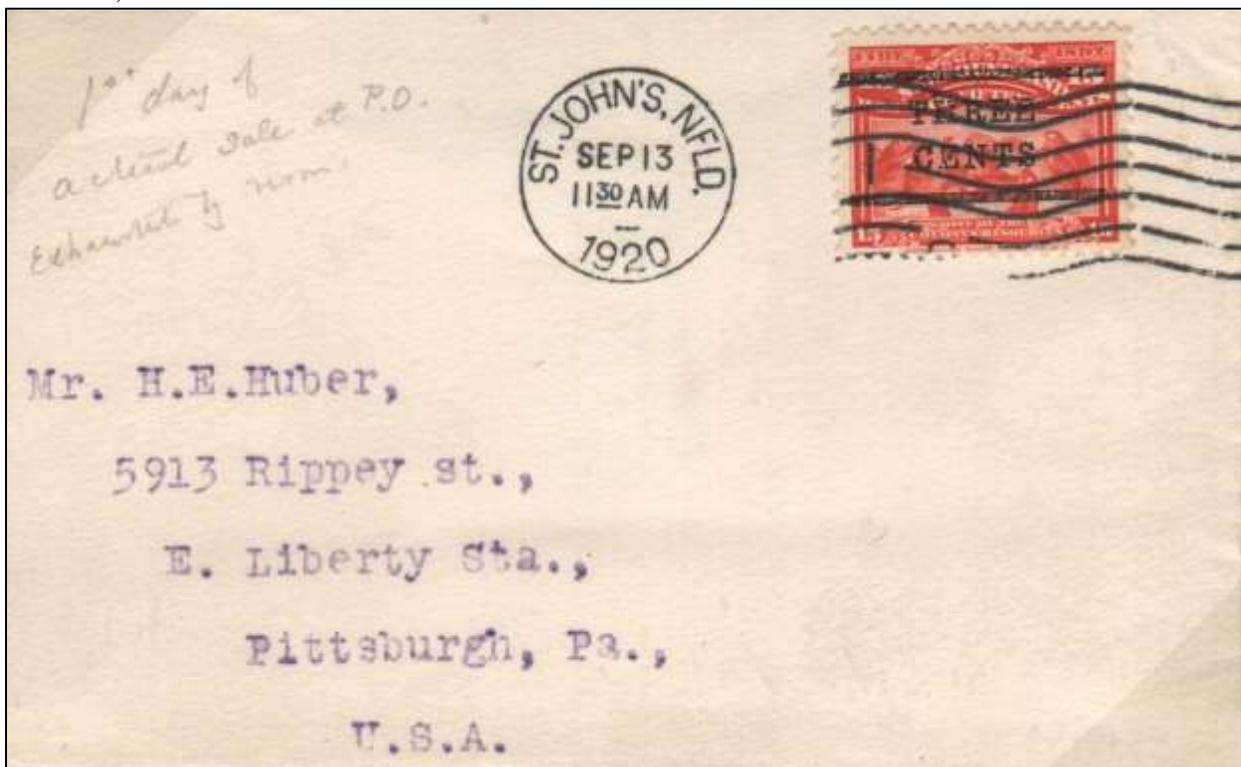


Figure 1. Scott #128, September 13, 1920.



Figure 2. Scott #129, September 13, 1920.



Figure 3. Scott #130, September 15, 1920.

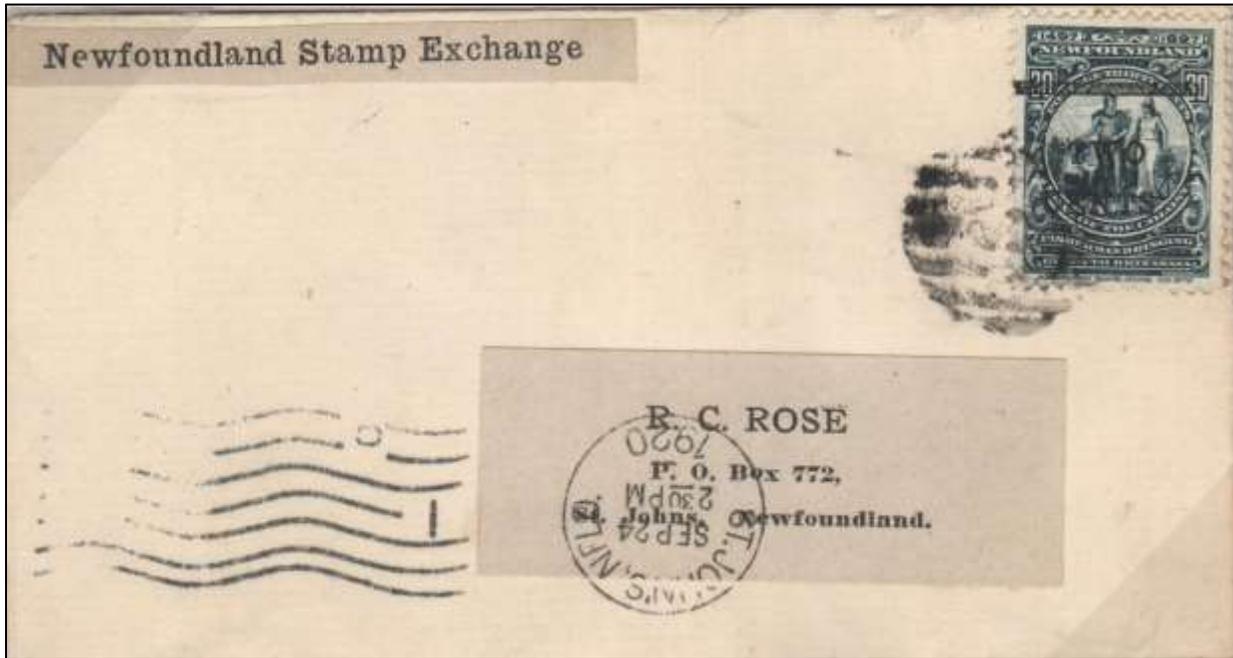


Figure 4. Scott #127, September 24, 1920.

### UNCOMMON 1937 CORONATION FDCs FROM THE INTERNET



## A GENERAL PURPOSE CACHET BY LUDWIG STAEHLE

by John Van der Ven

Ludwig W. Staehle was a very well-known U.S. cachet maker who produced FDC cachets from 1937 until 1959. Most of his works were printed in quantity, but a few hand-painted covers are known.

The cachet shown in Figure 1 is one of Staehle's early hand-painted ones which was prepared for the U.S. Thanksgiving in 1937. Of particular interest here is that the cover was self-addressed by Staehle in his own handwriting, thus establishing both his address in New York City and his handwriting style.



Figure 1. Hand-painted Staehle cachet.

The cachet shown in Figure 2 is a fairly common general purpose one used on a number of different Canadian stamp issues around this time. It is printed in green and brown and the design features a leaf, a crown, and the King's initials GR.

The cover is franked with #C6 issued on June 15, 1938. It is addressed in ink to Mr. Stan C. Koepke in Regina, as are many other known FDCs of this era.



Figure 2. General purpose Canadian cachet.

The back of the cover shown in Figure 3 is of particular interest in that it is signed "Ludwig W. Staehle" and addressed to the same residence as the 1937 Thanksgiving cover shown earlier. The back also bears the handwritten note, "How you like my Cachet Design for Canada?"



Figure 3. Staehle note and signature.

The combination of the address and handwriting, together with the note and signature, clearly establish Ludwig Staehle as the maker of this general purpose cachet. It may be that Staehle and Koepke met at a stamp exhibition and established a philatelic friendship which continued with this FDC.

## MORE WOLSTENCROFT CACHETS

In Issue 15 of *First Impressions*, John Van der Ven introduced us to the cachets produced by T.G. Wolstencroft of Kelowna, B.C. and invited others to let us know of any others. Bruce Perkins subsequently submitted six additional examples. Whereas John's were all dated 1968 and addressed to Kelowna resident Walter Pashnik, Bruce's were all done in 1963 and mailed to a different Kelowna resident, H.G. Walburn.

Bruce noted that it was unlikely the cachets were "add-ons" as the graphics and addresses were done in the same ink colours and in one case (Figure 2) the address was partially covered by the postmark rather than vice versa. Donald Duck appeared on Figure 6 as it did on two of John's covers.

Bruce concludes that Wolstencroft must have produced more than the 300 covers noted in John's article, but what happened with TGW between 1963 and 1968?

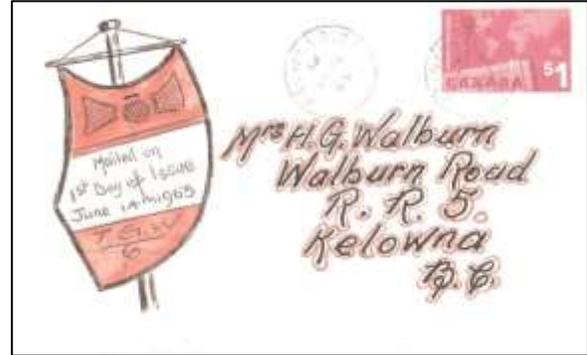


Figure 3. #411.



Figure 4. #412.



Figure 1. #410.

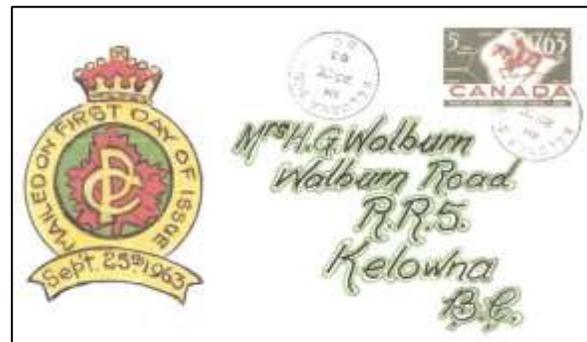


Figure 5. #413



Figure 2. #401 & 403.

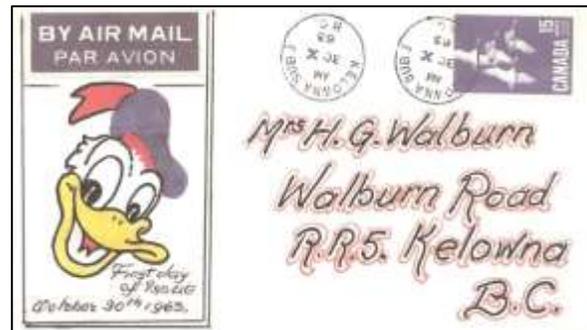


Figure 6. #415.