

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 38 January-March 2019

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Editor's Notes

Here I am back in the Editor's chair – and glad to be here. My deepest thanks to Gary Dickinson for making this journal a valuable contribution to the collecting of Canadian First Day Covers. It's hard to believe this is the tenth year of First Impressions. I also want to thank all of you for your contributions over the years and hope you will continue far into the future.

John van der Ven has a terrific article regarding the handpainted FDCs of Ralph Dyer. John did extensive research on this gifted artist whose work spans nearly 50 years. Gary Belyea adds to the knowledge base for storage of FDCs, and Gary Dickinson has an interesting article about FDCs currently being produced by 3 Angry Cats at Carrying Place.

Finally, member Ken Thibault has a question for the group regarding Softones cachets. Feel free to send me any questions you might want answered by the group and I'll include them in the next newsletter.

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 George Basher at gbasher@nycap.rr.com or mailed to George at 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY, 12061, United States.

RALPH DYER – PHILATELIC ARTIST

by John van der Ven

Ralph Dyer was born in Chalchihuites, Zacatecas, Mexico on October 24th, 1889. His family lived there for 13 years emigrating to El Paso, Texas during the Mexican Revolution. He already started to develop his artistic ability at the age of 18 and enrolled in a school in Philadelphia, PA. While in school he familiarized himself with printing techniques through part time work in a printing shop. After a few years in Philadelphia he moved to the Bronx in New York City. He enrolled in the prestigious Cooper Union Institute for a series of art courses and shortly afterward found employment with the Dodge Brothers Publishing Company.

He completed his studies in 1931 and moved to 338 Tom Hunter Road, Fort Erie, New Jersey. Since Ralph would always send some of his own covers to himself we can trace where he lived over all those years across the USA. Here in Fort Erie he found employment as a linotyper with the Consolidated Film Industry. Soon he transferred to the art department where he was able to use his commercial artistic training. Ralph also spoke four languages - Spanish, Portuguese, Czechoslovakian and English.

While he lived in Fort Erie he joined the Ridgely Park Stamp Club and for years produced cachets for its members on request. He was also their Cover Editor of the "Blue Streak" newsletter. He was the force behind this monthly publication which included long articles and editorials. To Ralph Dyer creating FDC's and artistic design work on album pages was a hobby and not a business. He was often out of pocket because the collector/customer had not included the stamps necessary to return the item.

Dyer used ink and transparent water colors, spraying the completed design with a fixative to prevent fading, accounting for the amazing freshness of the original colors on covers made

over more than 50 years. He usually prepared a master design from which subsequent covers were individually duplicated. Further on in this article there will be some examples of that for his Canadian made cachets. While he was working at Consolidated Film Ralph met Leo August who was a cover dealer and specialized in First flight covers. This is more than likely the reason why the first Ralph Dyer Canadian cachet/cover is a First Flight cover from Winnipeg to Pembina on February 2nd, 1931 with Ralph Dyer's address at that time.

As Dyer became more well-known he was advised to sign his work and cachets with a distinctive signature. He first developed the signature "RD" in the early 30's and later a very distinctive signature that showed up as "R. Dyer".



For

Fig.1 Leo August First Flight Cover

more than 40 years Dyer produced US FDC's making more than 2000 of them for almost every stamp issued for the US and United Nations starting in 1928. The US cachets were produced in larger numbers and several of them more than 85 per issue. That was not the case for the Canadian cachets he produced. He won many awards for his extensive work and for many years produced the special covers for the AFDCS annual meetings.

There are 3 distinct types of Dyer covers:

- A) Hand drawn and colored by Ralph Dyer (Includes most Canadian covers).

- B) Printed by Dyer or Carl August from Dyer design.
- C) Printed as under B with ornamentation added by Dyer.

RALPH DYER CANADIAN CACHETS

It is believed that the first hand drawn Canadian Dyer Cover was done in February 1931 for the first flight from Winnipeg to Pembina with the C1 airmail issue. For comparison a plain first flight cover is shown in Fig.1. The following 2 figures are for his two different hand drawn corner cachets for the same issue, both addressed to Dyer with a printed address.

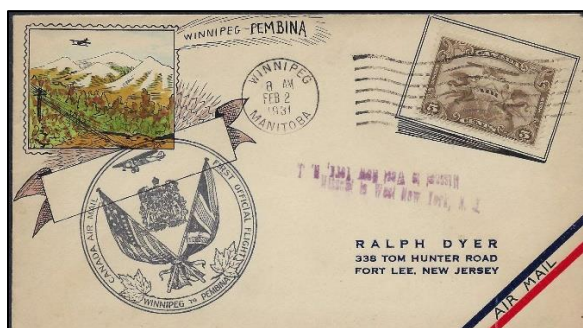


Fig.2 Dyer First Flight Covers

The covers were designed and produced before cancellation by the post office and the addition of the Special stamped flight cancellation was added, thanks to his work with Leo August. No earlier Canadian Dyer has surfaced up to now, so these are his earliest known work. You need a magnifying glass to find the RD signatures hidden in the

lower right corner of the small hand painted cachets.

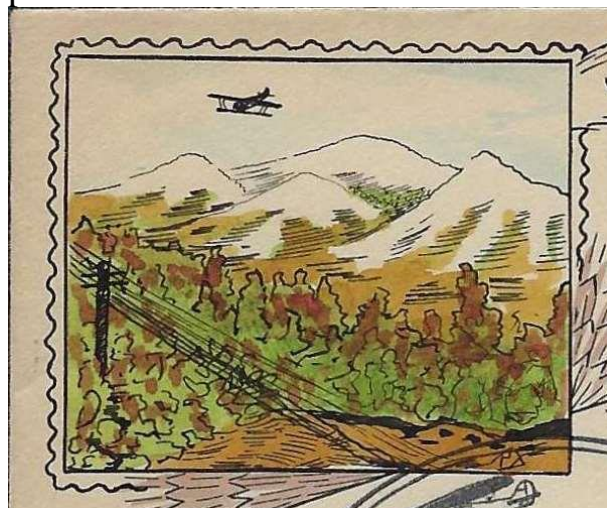


Fig.3 Dyer Signature example

Shown below is a Dyer US FDC and you will find the RD signature in the bottom right like the two First Flight covers.

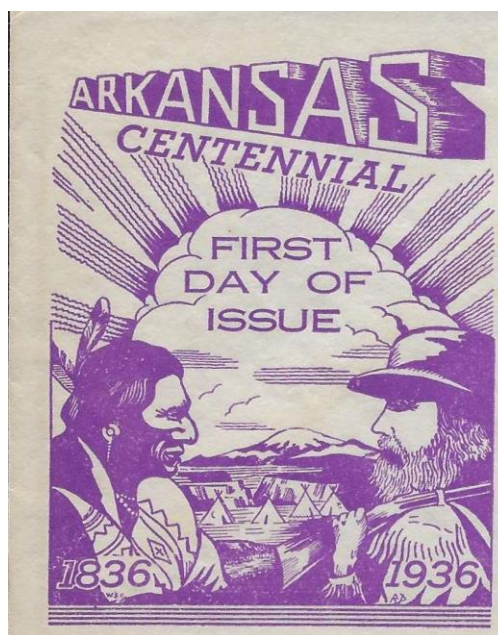


Fig.4 Dyer Signature example

It has been suggested that other Canadian FDC's were produced in the mid and late 40's

but so far they have not been reported; if they exist, they are probably very scarce. The earliest I am aware of in his long run of Canadian produced covers is for Scott Issue # 303/304 the Prime Ministers Issue 1951.

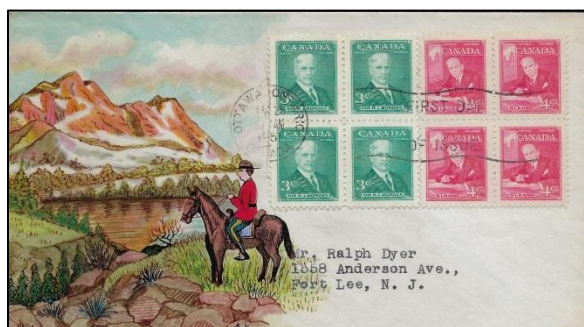


Fig.5 Dyer Sc#304/305 Cover

I believe that Dyer cachets exist for all Canadian issues from 1951 to 1977 but I have not been able to document this is the case. The 1953 Polar Bear (Scott # 322) demonstrates that three different covers produced from a master design were differently drawn and colored by Dyer. You can clearly distinguish the difference for each cachet in the wording and colors used.

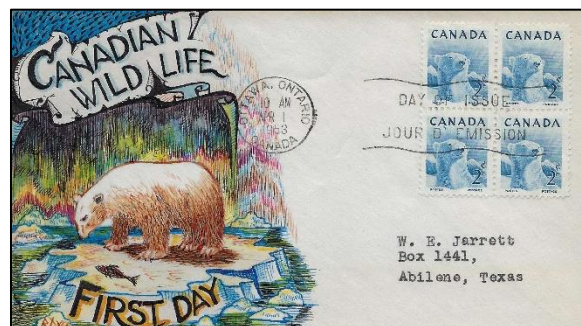
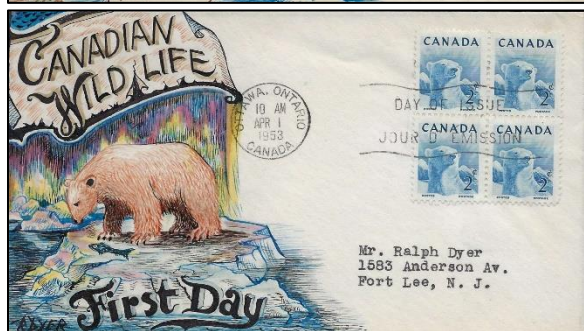
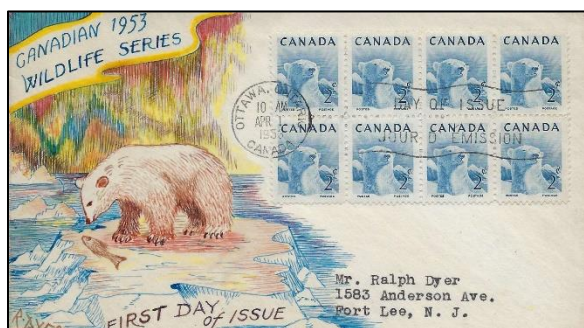


Fig.6 Variations on a theme

Dyer had approximately 7 regular customers for his Canadian FDC's:

W.E. Jarrett in Texas, C. Malmedahl in Illinois, W. Way in NJ, R.W. Maul in Ohio, J. Husak in Wisconsin and Ralph Dyer himself. Many of his early covers had type written addresses, followed by labels for a short period of time and no address at all for his covers after 1957.

Of note is that almost all Canadian Dyer's had a block of 4 stamps for each issue. The Scott #334 issue for the Textile Industry stamp shows a very elaborate cachet taking up half the cover.



Fig.7 Dyer Sc#334 Cover

Ralph Dyer had a good sense of humor and he incorporated that from time to time in his cachets. An example of this is for the 1954 Scott issue # 336 the 5c Beaver. If you look carefully you will see that the initials CM are carved in the tree that the Beaver is pushing

down. The cover is addressed to Chris Malmédahl.

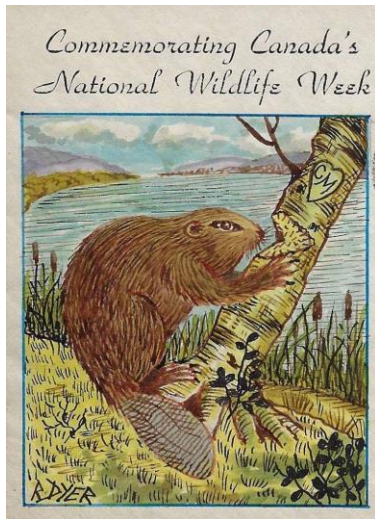


Fig.8 Personalized cachet

The 1954 Issue of the Prime Ministers Scott # 349-350 gives an interesting glimpse of how Ralph Dyer altered the main cachet to distinguish it from the others and giving the collector the feeling that he got a personalized cachet. In the following figures take a good look at the different skies, colour and tree line.



Fig.9 Variations on a theme

For the Alberta and Saskatchewan issue (Scott #355) you will see again fine nuances to each cachet such as the top of the oil rig and the wheat leaves at bottom right. It is amazing to see how close he came to making them identical.





Fig.10 Variations on a theme

There are several other later issues showing similar variations, but I was not able to acquire them in numbers enough to show the talent of this great Philatelic Artist.

We are very fortunate to have one cover that included the process of how he produced this cover in his own handwriting. The UPU Congress issue (Scott#371-372) is a brilliant piece of work.



Fig.11 UPU Issue with detail

(3) Nonaccrual loans are included in net loans, the related income is recorded in interest income on a cash basis.

My original design for this issue of the 14th Congress of the U.P.U. The covers were first printed in two presses, the black ink first, then the U.P.U. in gold on the Hot press, then hand painted my design. At that time only 15 covers were made, as I only had 9 regular customers, the first were sold at the Stamp Club in

	1,770	1,070	1,320	1,400	1,752	1,303	930	090
CONVEN								
Provision for	35,816	34,406	31,690	29,838	28,257	28,437	27,903	24,980
	14,833	13,302	12,683	11,710	11,245	11,621	10,956	10,692
	39,315	35,891	35,099	33,031	33,099	33,360	30,586	28,487
	11,334	11,817	9,314	8,517	6,403	7,696	8,273	7,185
	2,804	3,675	2,266	2,116	918	1,165	1,819	1,470
	\$ 8,530	\$ 8,142	\$ 7,048	\$ 6,401	\$ 5,485	\$ 6,531	\$ 6,454	\$ 5,715
	\$1.16	\$1.12	\$1.15	\$1.04	\$.87	\$1.07	\$1.07	\$.95
	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45	.45

Bridgefield Park Stamp Club of New Jersey (1957)

Dyer also indicated in 1957 he only had about 9 regular customers and did not make more than 15 copies for Canadian issued stamps, confirming the scarcity of Dyer Canadian produced cachets versus American produced cachets.

There was one later cover in 1968 with another insert in Dyer's handwriting which was Scott #487 for the John McCrae stamp with the poem "In Flanders Field".

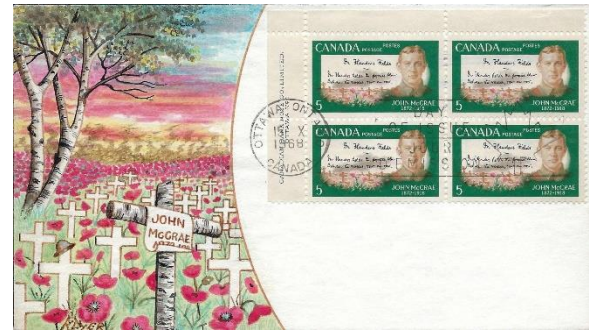


Fig.12 John McCrae issue

John McCrae - Born at Guelph, Ontario in 1872, died at Boulogne, France on the 28th of January 1918. On May 3rd 1915 he composed "In Flanders Fields" under the most adverse and dramatic circumstances, the locale was an artillery dug-out by the Yser Canal during the 2nd Battle of Ypres. A Major Grab, said: "This poem was literally born of fire and blood". McCrae succumbed to pneumonia, shortly after his promotion to Lieut-Col.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
(World War One) — John McCrae (1872-1918)

Fig.13 John McCrae issue inserts

Ralph Dyer played a very prominent role in the history of US cachet making for 49 plus years. His Canadian contribution spanned from 1931 to 1977 with a gap in the 1940s but altogether 46 years as one of the longest creators of Canadian Hand Painted cachets. Dyer was an avid stamp collector but first he was a well-trained/educated and seasoned Philatelic Artist which is reflected in the many fantastic cachets he produced over the years. Around 1978 due to painful and crippling arthritis he had to scale down his lifelong hobby and passion, only producing the odd cachet. Ralph Dyer passed away on November 28th in 2000 at the age of 102 in San Diego California according to the notice in the San Diego Tribune of December 7, 2000.

His legacy and his work will live on for a long time for many to enjoy.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources and people that contributed to this article:

“First Cachets – Part IX” by R. A. Elms
November/December issue of 1968
“First days Journal of the American First day Cover Society” Vol.23/no.1 January/February 1978
Leo August article in First Days by Curtis Patterson
Scott Tiffney from the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte PA
Research Librarian Kathy Hartley from the Harry Sutherland Library and the Vincent Green Foundation Toronto,

HOW I STORE MY FIRST DAY COVERS

by Gary Belyea

I had this issue several years ago. I had a bunch of old vinyl FDC binders that I had accumulated over the years as well as banker's boxes of miscellaneous covers of various subjects that were not well organized. Other than the CPO covers that were in the binders (but unattractive) I spent far too much time

searching for covers that I was sure I had but couldn't lay my hands on. I ended up with many duplicates once I did find them because I had repurchased multiple times.

Well the first thing I did was pick up a few Lighthouse Varios and come of the larger Classic binders and repackage some of the

covers so that I could display these in the bookcase and have them look attractive.

I didn't have space for more than a dozen binders, so the remaining covers from 2000 forward I would put in some photo storage boxes that I would pick up at Michael's. They are the perfect size and I can thumb through any one of the covers.

For other specialty covers, I picked up colorful translucent plastic tubs I found at the Superstore. They are 12" x 9", stack up, are see through and snap closed. I know what is in them visually, as well as with a label. They don't take up much space and are handy at my

desk. The covers in the boxes and tubs are either in PH neutral plastic sleeves or #6 glassines for protection from wear 'n tear. All of these boxes are only a few bucks. There are even specialty glassine boxes for under \$10 if I want.

I generally organize my covers by theme, such as designer signed covers; historical subject or event; postal history, etc. Larger items still

must go in larger boxes, but they are fewer and easier to manage. Still working on a stamp inventory, with descriptions (especially significance or value) so that whoever must manage the collection in the future will have some guidelines. Final note, I try to take great care in preserving my envelopes, since I am just a temporary custodian of this history, so I do not mount them on anything, unless it is for exhibiting.

3 ANGRY CATS AT CARRYING PLACE MAKE COLOURFUL FIRST DAY COVERS

by Gary Dickinson

Gary and Carol Ridge, who live in Carrying Place, ON have been designing and distributing FDCs for new Canadian stamp issues since 2016. Their brand name is 3AngryCats, and their covers are marketed via personal contact and their eBay store.

The Ridges are one of a very small number of Canadian publishers of FDCs. Gary was a collector of FDCs for many years and has accumulated some 8,000 of them. They turned to producing their own covers as a hobby when he realized that there was little variety available in the current FDC marketplace.

Carol became involved as they developed a joint enterprise and both now participate in the complete process. They create a design using Photo Shop and make the envelopes, then outsource the three-colour laser printing to a local printer.

The quantities of FDCs produced for each design range between five and 25, and their issues are beginning to sell out. They

brand name, number of covers produced for the issue, the serial number of the cover in hand, and the cachet designer's signature. An example from their earliest cachet is shown in Figure 1 and one from 2018 is illustrated in Figure 2.



Fig.1



Fig.2

specialize in booklet stamps and souvenir sheets for which Canada Post doesn't produce its official FDCs.

The back of each envelope includes the

Their first cover was produced for the five

stamps of the “Haunted Canada” issue of September 8, 2016, and they have missed only three issues since then. Their first cover used a single design which was printed on five differently coloured envelopes, one of which is shown in Figure 3.



Fig.3

Examples of the 3AngryCats cachets are shown in chronological order in the remaining figures, beginning with their second cachet (Figure 4) for the Christmas 2016 issue and ending with the Queen’s 65th anniversary commemorative in April, 2018 (Figure 11). Souvenir sheets or booklet panes are illustrated in Figures 4, 7, 8, and 10. Figures 11 and 12 have illustrations of the Queen both on the front and back of the envelope.

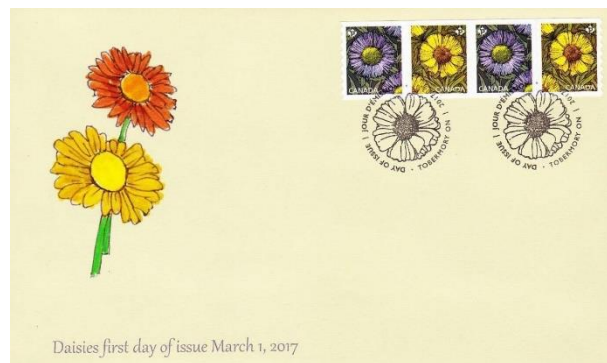


Fig.5

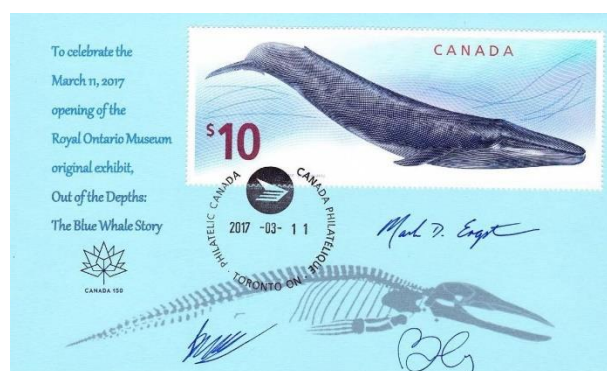


Fig 6

Fig.4



Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig.9

You may see more of the Ridge's FDCs on their eBay store at the following Internet address: <https://www.ebay.ca/str/3AngryCatss> (yes, there are two s's) or write to them at 21 Old Carrying Place Road, Box 64, Carrying Place, Ontario, K0K 1L0.

For the curious (as I was!), the Ridges do have three cats but assured me that they are very mild-mannered and peaceful. Carrying



Fig.10



Fig.11

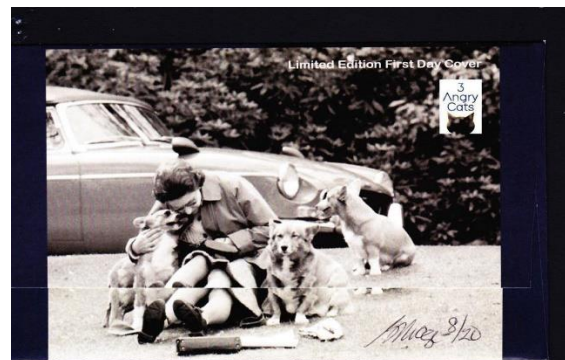


Fig.12

Place, as Wikipedia describes it, is a community that serves as the gateway to Prince Edward County. Situated just south of Trenton, it was named for its location on the portage between the Bay of Quinte and Weller's Bay on Lake Ontario.

A QUESTION FOR THE GROUP

Editor

Member Ken Thibault is looking for any information on the producers of Softones cachets – he has some in his collection and is asking for help in identifying the history of this producer. Please respond to me with any information and I'll include it in the next issue.





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