

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 39 April-June, 2019

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Editor's Notes

We have a lead article from new contributor Norbert Hobrath, a collector who specializes in Confederation issues describing a really interesting early use of the issue. John van der Ven continues his prolific philatelic efforts with an article on a very (apparently) short lived cachet maker and his accompanying research.

John also has a follow up article on a previous discussion of cachets by Australian artist Alice Green, thanks to a connection to Australian collector Daryl Kibble facilitated by Gary Dickinson.

Finally an article by yours truly giving a snapshot of how different FDC collecting was forty years ago by showcasing a small part of the work of Mel Baron.

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 Basher, 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY 12061, United States.

AN INTERESTING EARLY USE OF THE CONFEDERATION ISSUE

by Nobert Hobrath

Some of Canada's earliest first day covers are dated June 29, 1927 with the launch of the Confederation series including the 20¢ special delivery issue. My special collecting interest is the 1927 USC #E3 on postal history, so I am always looking at any covers from that time period for a first day usage.

Although I have a number of First Day Covers from this date, there have only been two times I have seen one or more of the stamps in this series used one day earlier. The photos enclosed with this article shows one of these covers I discovered. It is one of my favorite Canadian postal history items for a number of reasons.

First, the cover is perhaps one of a handful of earliest known usages (EKU) of the 2¢ Confederation stamp. *First Impressions* editor George Basher and Bob Vogel tell me that in addition to the Toronto postal office, there were a few other post offices that had these new issues on hand and some slipped out a day prior to the official day of issue.

The cover shown here comes from a Toronto address, and is sent to Mr. G.H. Couch, c/o the Postmaster in Red Lake, Ontario. There are two CDS from Toronto Terminal A, June 28, 1927 21(9pm), with one of these cancelling the 2¢ stamp. The cover has a typed line, "First Day of Confederation Jubilee Issue" and there is a hand-written note that further says, "1st Flight with this stamp, 7-1-27".

The second interesting aspect about this cover is that it features a Canada semi-official stamp issued by Patricia Airways and Exploration Ltd. This is listed as Unitrade #CL25c with 4,448 of these stamps printed, but it is unclear how many were actually used for this first flight on 7-1-27. Three different backstamps show 1) a CDS June 30, 1927 from Sioux Lookout, Ontario, then two split

rings dated July 1, Red Lake, Ontario, and then again in Red Lake, Ontario July 2, 1927.

In the future, I will endeavor to also showcase a few of the 1927 FDCs with the Confederation special delivery adhesive from my collection in issues of *First Impressions*.



Figure 1- Early Use Confederation Cover.

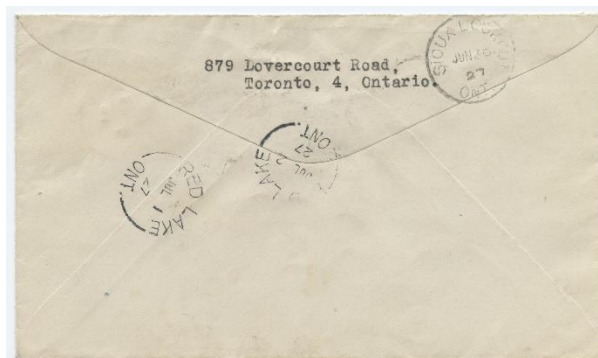


Figure 2 – Reverse of Cover with backstamps showing airmail destinations.

THE SZABO FIRST DAYCOVERS

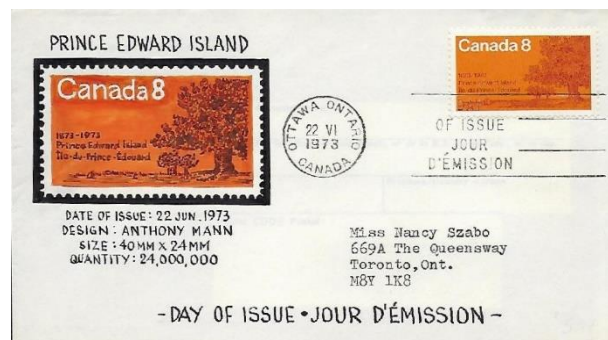
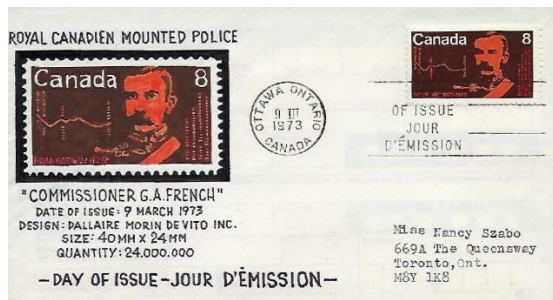
By John van der Ven

About a month ago I was going through a box of new covers at a dealer's table and found these interesting covers. I asked the dealer if he could remember where he got them from, but he could not. A few weeks later I learned that they came from Ted Wright's store on the Danforth here in Toronto because I found five more of these covers in his FDC boxes but Ted could not remember either who he bought them from. What intrigued me the most was that the cachets looked like a picture taken of the original stamp and then pasted onto a black back ground. I had never seen these types of cachets before except for a Suriname cover (printed version) from around 1956.



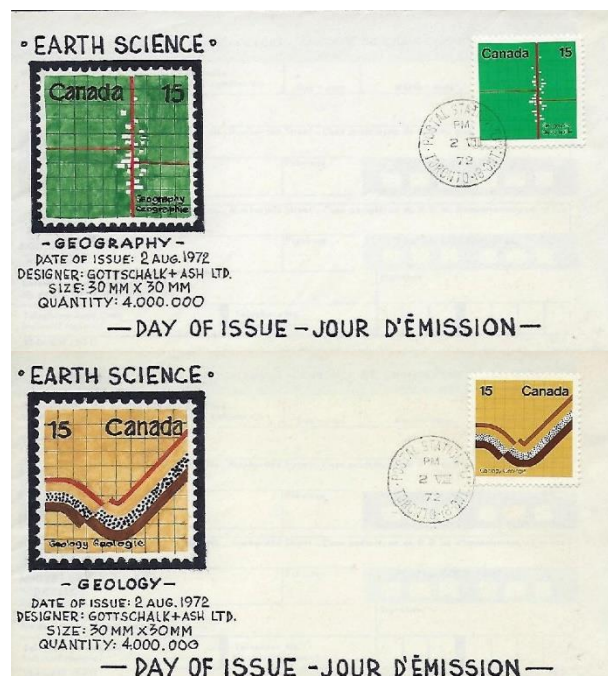
Fig.1 Suriname FDC

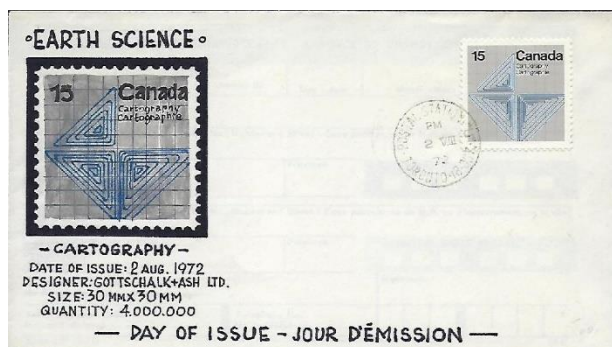
Since two covers were addressed to Nancy Szabo I am calling these the Szabo covers, because right now we do not have a lead who made these absolutely magnificent miniature stamp replica cachets. Yes, these are all hand painted and meticulously executed cachets.



Figs. 2,3 Addressed covers

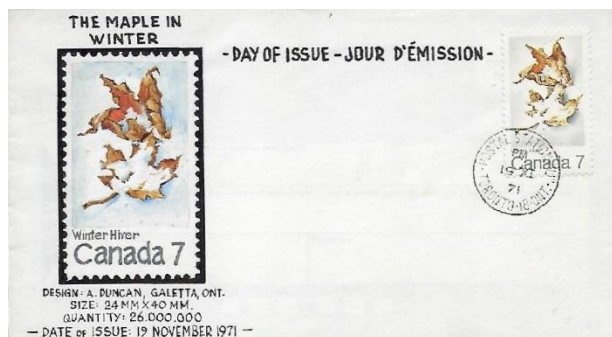
You really required to have a strong magnifying glass to be able to detect this. You will then see some very light pencil marks on some of them and minor variations from the original stamp. This person also had meticulous handwriting and was very knowledgeable on matching the colours from the stamps. This requires a very good know how of the artist colour wheel and then reproduce the exact colours such as we see on the 1972 Earth Science issue covers.





Figs 4,5,6 Earth Science Cachets

In order to duplicate the stamp issued into a hand painted miniature cachet one would think that the person was educated at an art school and had graphic art training or was a pure talent to be able to accomplish that. The result in the end is an enjoyment for all of us to see.



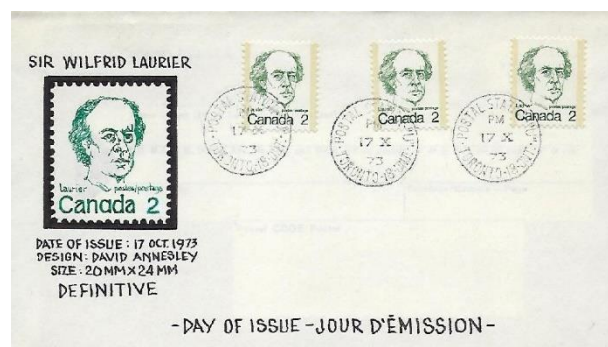
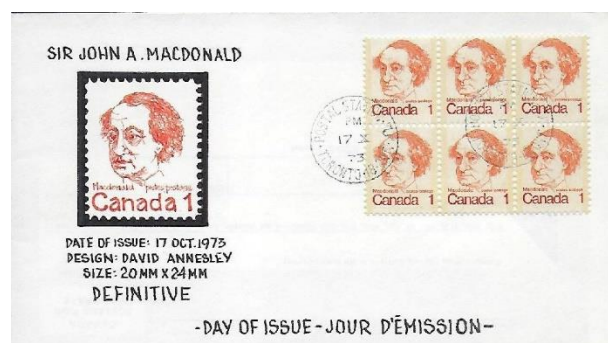
Figs 7,8 Maple Leaf Cachets

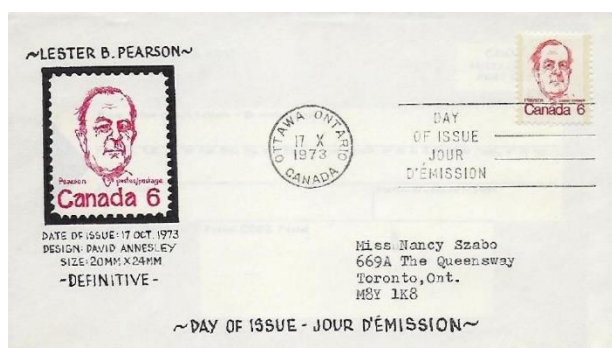
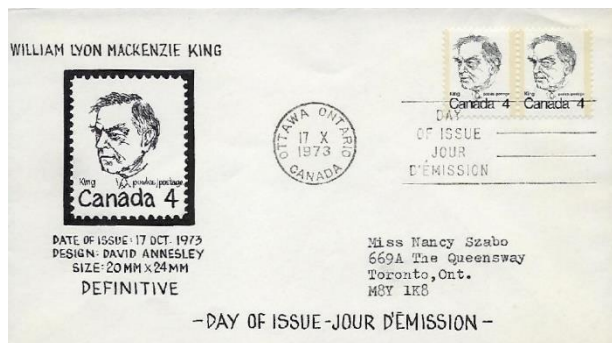
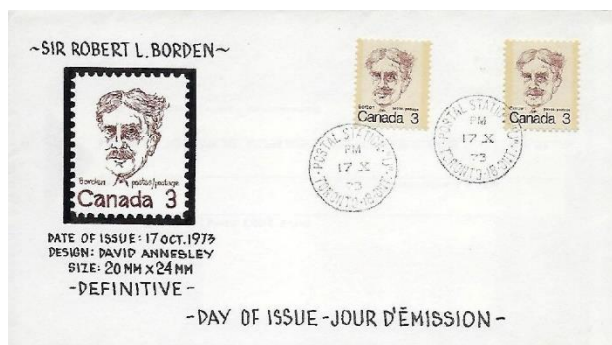
It was real fun to have discovered these covers done by the same person from 1971 to 1973. It appears that there was just one of each and it is unlikely that we will find more for the same stamp. What amazes me is that after 47 years they just seem to have surfaced now and in

great fresh condition, so a good collector was taking excellent care of them.

The earlier 1971 cachets were cancelled at Postal Station "U" Toronto-18-ONT. The address of Miss Nancy Szabo (6691 The Queensway, Toronto, Ont) is also in the same vicinity of this Postal station! According to Google Map the distance from this Queensway address to the 214 College Str. address for this postal station is 30 minutes via Public Transit. Is it possible then that the maker of these cachets, presuming he/she was also living in that area or near that Postal Station had these covers cancelled at this Postal Station on their way to work? The reason I made that assumption is that all the unaddressed covers so far have the same hammer cancellation from that Postal Station for the period that we have discovered these covers.

We can only hope that these were not made for this short a period. I am sure a lot of time and patience went into it to make them and let's anticipate that more of these will surface in the future. It is these kinds of artist/craftsman cachet makers we need today to create a new interest in the collecting of original Canadian Hand Painted cachets.





Figs. 9,10,11,12,13 Caricature Cachets

CANPEX 2019 National Philatelic Exhibition

October 19 – 20, 2019 London, Ontario

The Hellenic Centre
133 Southdale Road West
London, Ontario

Show hours:
Saturday 10 AM – 5 PM
Sunday 10 AM – 4 PM

Free admission, Free parking, Lunch counter
Information; info@canpex.ca
Web site; www.canpex.ca

THE JOYCE GREEN FIRST DAY COVERS A FOLLOW UP

By John van der Ven

Back in 2016 in First Impressions Issue 28 I wrote an article on the Joyce Green hand painted covers. This is a follow up to confirm that these are in actuality Joyce Green covers so I was not far off with my guess re the maker of these covers.

Thanks to Gary Dickenson who was in contact

with Daryl Kibble from Brisbane Australia we have now information on Joyce Green. She was apparently a prolific maker of hand painted cachets and ranked among the top three hand painted cachet makers in Australia after Jack Peake and Eric Ogden. Below are two examples of Australian cachets done by

her.



Figs. 1, 2 Joyce Green Cachets

Joyce Green lived in Sandgate not far away from Brisbane. According to Daryl Kibble she did approximately six covers for each issue however they were never for sale. Most covers were addressed to herself and sent to her penfriends. Below is the info that Daryl Kibble used for Joyce Green in his exhibit pages.

ARTIST PROFILE
JOYCE GREEN, Australia
Commercial Artist
Active: 1957 - mid 1980s

**GREEN PRODUCED AN ESTIMATED 6 OF ANY ISSUE
NO TWO COVERS OF THE SAME ISSUE WERE THE SAME**

Style: Green would hand paint covers on a multitude of subjects, but particularly enjoyed landscape as well as horse themes. Typography, if any, was mostly done using an old Imperial typewriter. She would then send off the painted covers with payment to be serviced by the post office.

She sent covers to Australia, Norfolk Island, USA & Canada. Most works signed "J Green" or initialled JG.

Addressees: Most covers are addressed to J Green, Sandgate, Queensland or her friend Joyce Tinney in Morayfield, Queensland using a typewriter.

Fig. 3 Joyce Green Exhibit Biography from Kibble Exhibit

A big thank you to Daryl Kibble for forwarding the info and now we can add Joyce Green to the list as one of the artists that produced Canadian hand painted covers.

MEL BARON – FDC HERO A LOOK BACK IN TIME

By George Basher

Those of us who collect Canadian First Day covers have in many cases spent dozens of years accumulating covers for our collections. With the arrival of the *First Impressions* newsletter we are also sharing what we have as well as what we've learned. The technology available today makes information sharing so much easier it's also easy to forget how much effort it took not so many years ago.

Mel Baron not only collected Canadian First Day Covers, he and fellow collector Stan Lum also wrote extensively about their collections – primarily in *First Days*, but also exhibited what they wrote about. Over several years in the mid 1980s they covered an amazingly broad spectrum of issues, and any serious collector of Canadian FDCs certainly needs those articles in their library.

What follows is an excerpt from Baron's article on the issues of 1937 as it appeared in *First Days* – specifically talking about combination covers of the KGV definitives and the Coronation Issues:

Combination Covers

Combination First Day Covers were serviced at several cities with the King George VI definitive issue stamps (Sc. 234-236) and the Coronation stamp (Sc. 237). These covers generally have singles of each of the four stamps affixed.

Table III gives a listing of the cities, known to the author, from which the combination First Day Covers exist.

Table III - Combination First Day Covers Sc. 234-236 - King George VI Definitive Issue Sc. 237 - Coronation Issue First Day - May 10, 1937

- (1) *Calgary, Alb.*
- (2) *Edmonton, Alb.*
- (3) *Hamilton, Ont.*
- (4) *Kingston, Ont.*
- (5) *Kitchener, Ont.*
- (6) *Ottawa, Ont.*
- (7) *Port Burwell, Ont.*
- (8) *Toronto, Ont.*
- (9) *Winnipeg, Man.*

The combination covers appear with several of the cachets that were produced for each of the two issues. The reader is referred to the cachets for the King George VI definitive issue (Part XV of this series) and the cachets for the Coronation stamp (see the earlier paragraph in this article) for a description of the varieties. The author knows of no cachet that was specifically prepared for the combination First Day Covers.

Written in his distinctive descriptive style, the article discusses the known cities that produced the combination covers and also refers to the cachet varieties discussed elsewhere. What follows are Baron's actual exhibit pages that correspond to the article:



This may look unsophisticated to a modern collector – quadrille pages with 3-hole punches and photo mounting corners and typewritten titles and descriptions – but back then it was state of the art. I feel very fortunate to be able to preserve this little bit of Canadian FDC history.

References:

First Days Vol. 34 #3, p296