

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 42 April-June 2020

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## Editor's Notes

We were informed recently of the passing of our first and third editor, George Basher. Although he was a lifelong resident of New York, George was an enthusiastic collector of FDCs for Canadian stamps. His passing saddens us greatly, and he is remembered on the next page of this newsletter issue.

This issue contains two short articles about a singular commercial FDC and a cachet for the St. Lawrence Seaway joint issue of 1959. There is a lengthier overview of the cachets produced for the unwanted and unloved Karsh definitive issue of 1953, and reviews of two new BNAPS publications dealing with collecting and cataloguing Canadian FDCs.

Member Michael Pierce writes: 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of 1970 Christmas issue that were designed by Canadian school children. If anyone has any material, especially FDCs, of these stamps that they would care to share with me, it would be much appreciated. My email address is [mpierce@bellaliant.net](mailto:mpierce@bellaliant.net)

My intention is to serve only as interim editor of *First Impressions* until a more permanent editor can be identified. If you would be interested in taking on this task, please contact me at the address shown below.

## 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.

## IN MEMORIAM



George P. Basher

1947-2020

George P. Basher, 73 of East Greenbush, passed away suddenly on Monday, March 9, 2020, at Albany Memorial Hospital. George was born on January 28, 1947, in Lackawanna, N.Y., the son of Willard and Genevieve (Davis) Basher. George earned his degree from Alfred University in 1969 while attending ROTC and then proudly served in the Army during the Vietnam War. After his discharge in 1971, George returned to the family business, Fayette Wood Products, in Brant, N.Y., but in 1995 left to work for other wood working companies. Later George accepted the job as state Director of Veterans' Affairs where he served until 2007. He then worked for the V.A. in Albany, and lastly as the CEO for Loyola Recovery Foundation for veterans in Pittsford. Survivors include his beloved wife of 50 years, Karen L. Basher, his college sweetheart; and his brothers, Richard (Anne) Basher, and Edward Hayes. Burial with honors was in the Saratoga National Cemetery.

George was one of the founding members of the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group and served as the first editor of its newsletter which he named "First Impressions." He returned as editor in 2018 and served in that capacity until his passing.

Karen Basher noted that George "really got a lot of joy from collecting Canadian covers, especially when he found something interesting in the boxes of covers he purchased at auction."

## AN IMPARTIAL COMMERCIAL FIRST DAY COVER

by Bob Vogel

A commercial first day showing the 1956 Paper Industry stamp (Scott 362) printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company shows the ultimate in impartiality. It was mailed by the Pulp & Paper Mill Accessories Limited to the Abitibi Power & Paper Co. Ltd. (Figure 1)

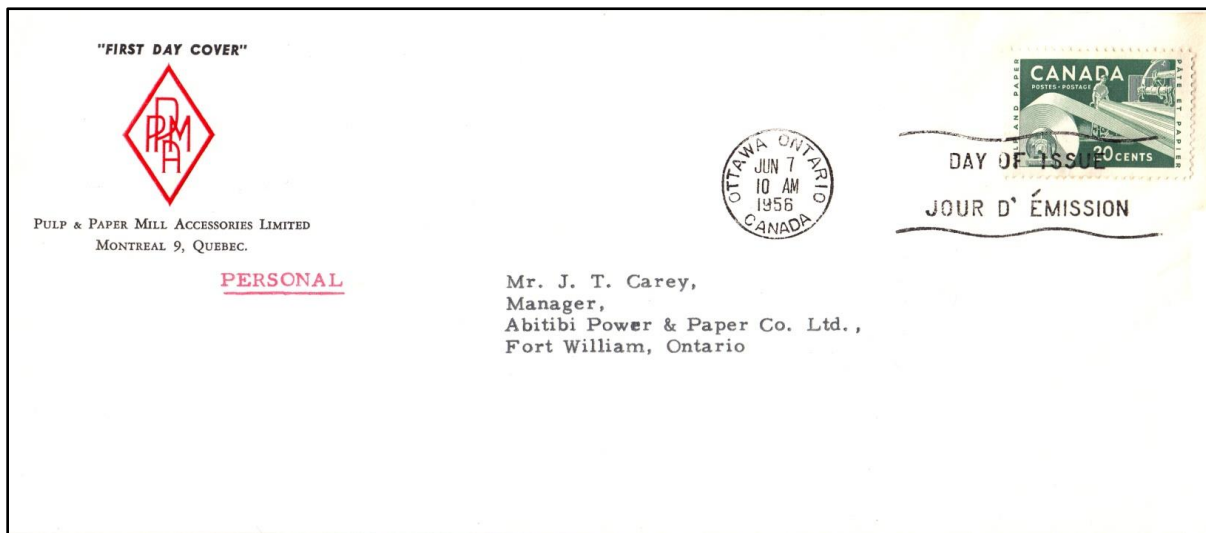


Figure 1

The envelope is printed on watermarked paper from The Rolland Paper Co. (Figure 2) and the letter (Figure 4) is printed on watermarked paper from the Howard Smith Paper Co. (Figure 3).

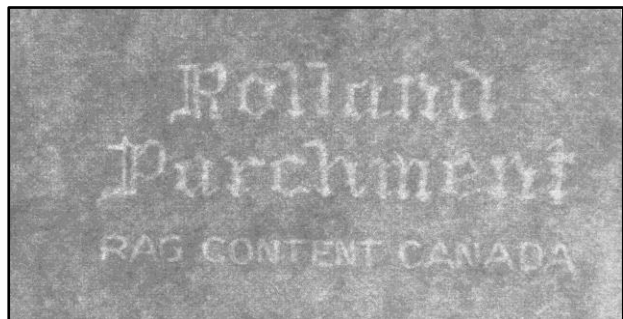


Figure 2. Rolland Parchment watermark



Figure 3. Howard Smith Krypton Parchment watermark

It is quite unusual to have a FDC involving one paper supply company and three different paper manufacturers.

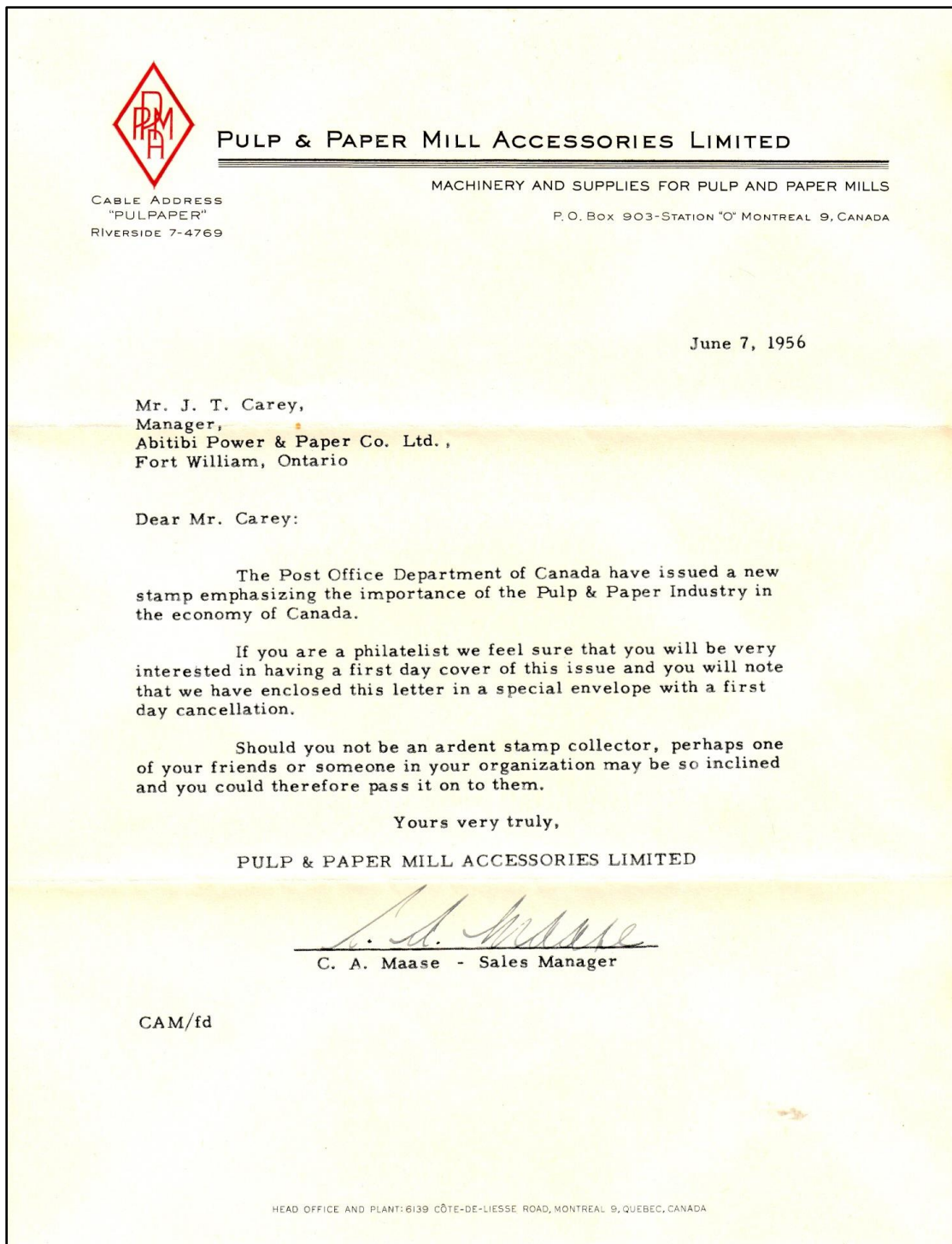


Figure 4

## THE 1953 KARSH ISSUE FIRST DAY COVERS

by Gary Dickinson



The first definitive issue of low-denomination Canadian stamps (Scott 325-329) following the ascension of Queen Elizabeth II to the throne appeared on May 1, 1953. It consisted of five stamps having the same design with each printed in a single colour. The set was informally designated as the Karsh Issue as the stamp design was based on a portrait by Ottawa photographer Yousuf Karsh.

The reaction to the set by the philatelic community as well as the general public ranged from disappointment to outright hostility. Less than a month after the stamps were released, the post office indicated that it was “not entirely happy” and “somewhat discouraged” with the issue and that it was already planning a new set.

Eleven months after the Karsh set was issued, the first stamp in the replacement Wilding Issue appeared on April 1, 1954 coinciding with a one cent increase from four cents to five cents in the postage rate for domestic letters. The remaining four stamps in the Wilding set appeared on June 10, 1954 so that the Karsh issue was completely replaced in just over thirteen months from the time of its initial release, one of the shortest tenures of any Canadian definitive issue.

Seventy-five different cachets have been documented for the issue and are shown on the following pages. Several cachet makers including JCR, Personal Stationery Company, Michael Sanders, Scott, and UEL produced five or more FDCs matching each colour of stamp with a differently coloured printed cachet, with Sanders producing the greatest number of varieties.

Anyone having additional cachet designs or varieties is requested to forward scans to the author at [gandbdickinson@shaw.ca](mailto:gandbdickinson@shaw.ca)





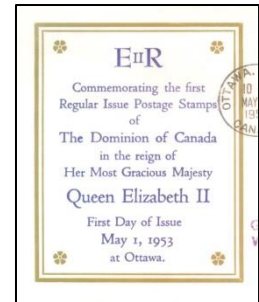
A.R. Alexandre



Canada Post Replacement cover



Ralph Dyer



Grover Stamp Exchange 3



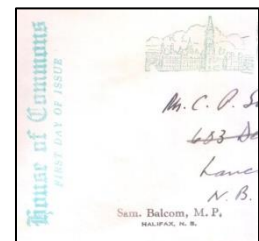
ArtCraft Type A



Canada Post Official cover



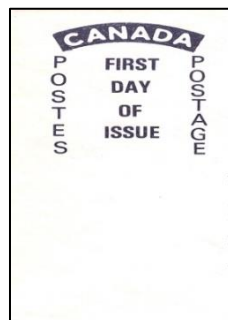
Charles George



House of Commons



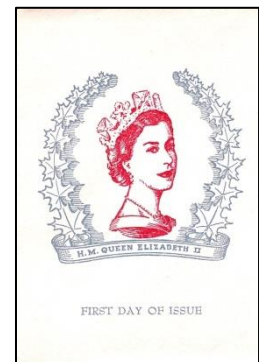
ArtCraft Type E1  
5 lines of text



John Cochrane



Grover Stamp Exchange 1



H. Jacobi 1



ArtCraft Type E2  
6 lines of text



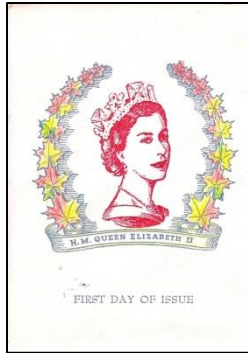
Arthur Dixon post card



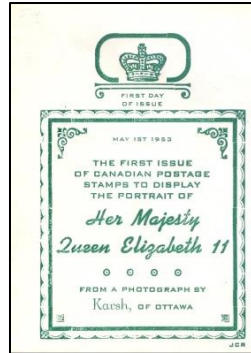
Grover Stamp Exchange 2



H. Jacobi 2



H. Jacobi 3



JCR 2



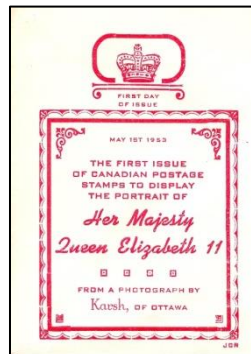
JCR 6  
One line of text



Lautenslater  
general purpose  
Type 1



H. Jacobi 4



JCR 3



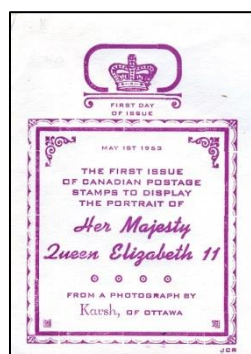
JCR 7  
"Canada" added



Northwest Fed. of  
Stamp Clubs



H. Jacobi 5



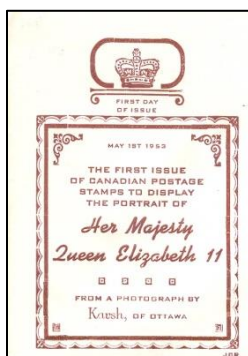
JCR 4



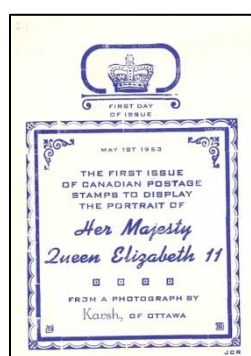
JCR 8  
Redacted text on  
cachet used for  
#330 FDC



Ottawa Stamp  
Shop



JCR 1

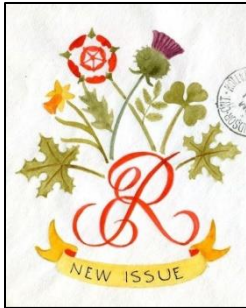


JCR 5



A.J. Peake 1





A.J. Peake 2



Personal 2



Philatelic Supply Company



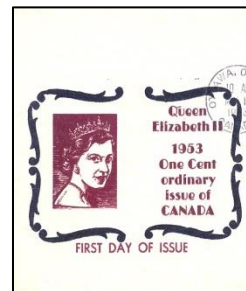
M. Sanders 4



A.J. Peake 3  
#10 envelope



Personal 3



M. Sanders 1



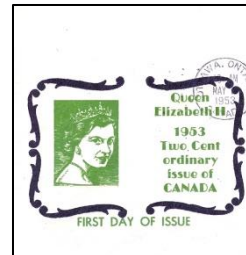
M. Sanders 5



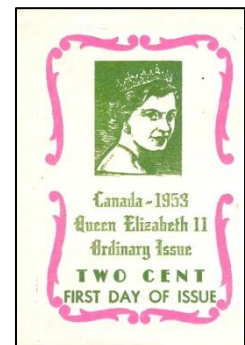
Pent Arts



Personal 4



M. Sanders 2



M. Sanders 6



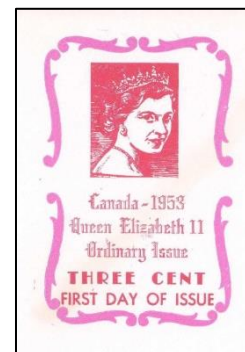
Personal Stationery Co. 1



Personal 5



M. Sanders 3



M. Sanders 7





M. Sanders 8



Scott 1



Scott 5



Tuck post card



M. Sanders 9



Scott 2



Stanley Stamp Co.  
1—blue



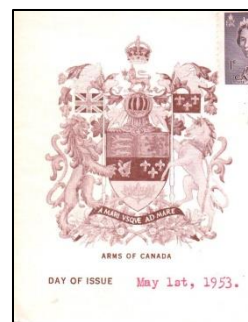
Universal  
Engravers Ltd. 1



M. Sanders 10



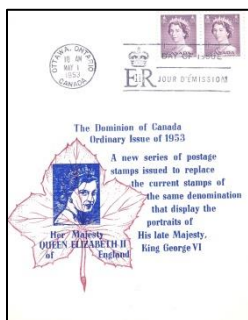
Scott 3



Stanley Stamp Co.  
2—brown



UEL 2



M. Sanders 11  
Souvenir card



Scott 4



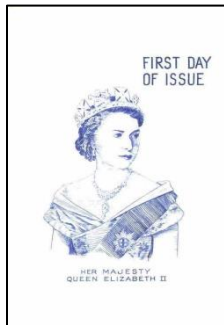
W. Talbot



UEL 3



UEL 4



UEL 5



Al Van Dahl  
Type 1, brown & purple



Al Van Dahl  
Type 2, blue & brown



Al Van Dahl  
Type 2, green & red



Al Van Dahl  
Type 2, orange & blue



Velvatone



Unknown 1  
Black & purple



Unknown 2  
Purple



Unknown 3



Unknown 4  
Beaver general purpose cachet



Unknown 5

## VELVATONE SCANS FOR THE SEAWAY JOINT ISSUE FROM CHARLES VERGE

American cachet maker August W. Dargis produced a limited number of first day covers for Canadian stamp issues, mainly from 1951 to 1957. He used a silk screen printing process with flocking material added before the ink dried to give the cachets a fuzzy look and feel.

With the first joint Canada-United States issue to commemorate the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway, however, he produced a single cachet that was appropriate for use with either or both stamps.

Figure 1 shows the Velvatone cachet with just the U.S. stamp (Scott 1131) postmarked at Massena, N.Y. with an added Seaway Development Corporation marking. Figure 2 has both the U.S. and Canadian (Scott 387) stamps but the same cancellations. There is also a minor variation in printing with the second example which has the blue American eagle closer to the red border at the left side of the oval containing it.

There are no known documented copies of this Velvatone cachet with a Canadian stamp only or with a first day Canadian cancellation.

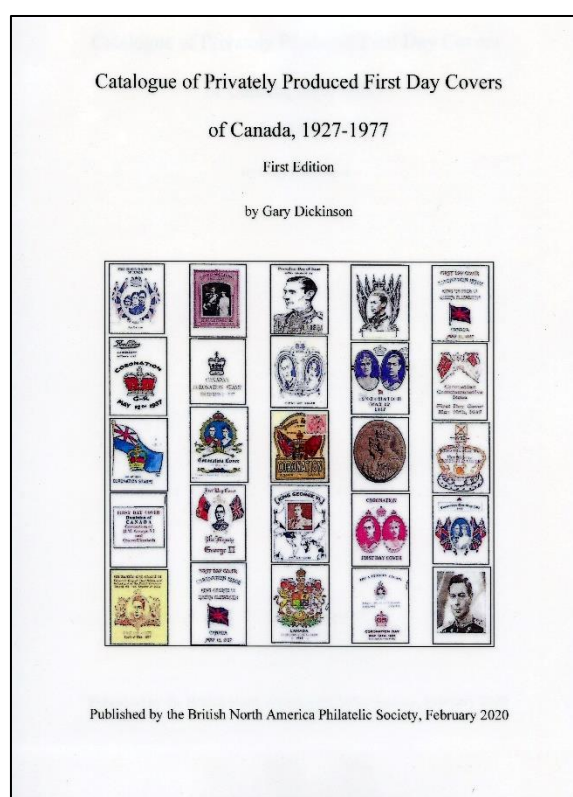
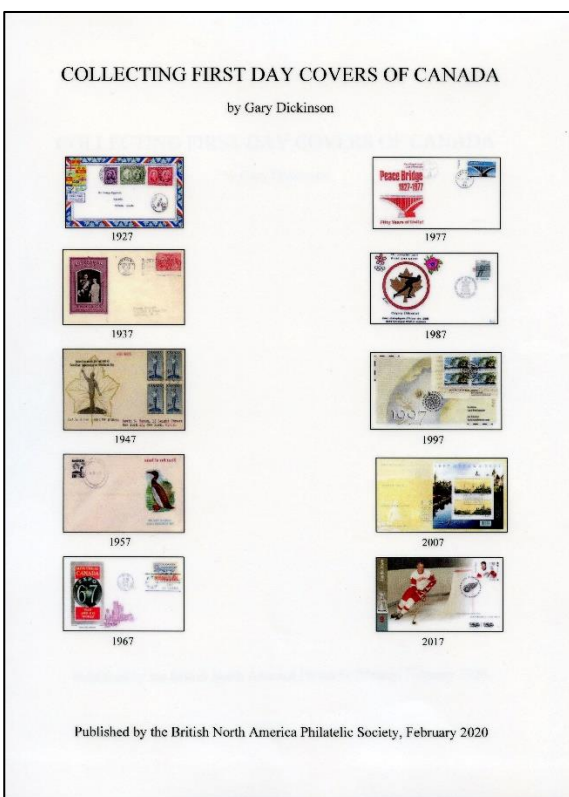


Figure 1



Figure 2





## REVIEWS OF TWO NEW BNAPS PUBLICATIONS

by Alan Warren

***Collecting First Day Covers of Canada*** by Gary Dickinson. 142 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, stiff covers, spiral bound, British North America Philatelic Society, Forest Hills, NY, 2020. ISBN 978-1-989280-06-5, C\$36, from <https://longleyauctions.com/product/collecting-first-day-covers-of-canada-gary-dickinson/>.

Author Gary Dickinson is known for his popular column in *First Days*, journal of the American First Day Cover Society, as well as his many monographs on Canadian first day covers and cachets. He realizes that those embarking on this collecting area would benefit from a basic handbook on the subject. The result is this major resource for beginner and intermediate collectors.

Dickinson begins with a brief description of how he became interested in this collecting area, followed by some definitions of terms, and the significance of cachets. He points to T. R. Legault as a pioneer creator of Canadian FDCs in the 1920s and early 30s. The role of the Canadian Post Office in producing and processing first days is outlined.

The author describes how to go about forming collections of covers by stamp issue and chronologically addresses some of Canada's significant stamps and their FDCs over the years. He profiles the major cachet makers including J.C. Rosenbaum, Cole Covers, H&E, and Universal Engravers. This is followed with a chapter on lesser known producers such as Canadian Bank Note Company, Darnell, Mapleaf, Regal, and Stanley Stamp Shop and more.

Stamp clubs and philatelic societies also produced cachets and a number of these are identified. United States cachet makers played a significant role in creating FDCs for use north of the border. These include Roessler, Artmaster, C. Stephen Anderson, Crosby, Cachet Craft, Frank Herget, Ioor, Linto, Staehle, Colorano and Fleetwood, among others. An interesting chapter discusses creating do-it-yourself cachets with handwriting, typewriting, rubber stamps, labels, and hand colored/painted means.

Another chapter is devoted to collecting thematic first day covers like explorers of Canada, views of the Peace Tower in Ottawa, FDCs of Newfoundland, the St. Lawrence seaway, UPU, Christmas, and similar topics. A discussion of first day postmarks includes CDS, duplex, split circle, flag cancels, and official first day postmarks. A chapter is devoted to errors and oddities like mistakes in cachet designs, printing (colors omitted, and colors inverted), and postmark placement errors. Although not widespread, fake cachets and cancellations are mentioned.

Helpful information resources are identified including the American First Day Cover Society and the FDC Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, both of which have useful publications and web sites. Catalogs, monographs, and journals as well as internet sources have a wealth of detail for collectors. The final chapter summarizes the “ownership cycle” of FDC collecting—deciding what to collect, acquiring material, storing covers, exhibiting, and disposal of the collection.

A handy index of cachet makers concludes this book. Rather than a major bibliography at the end, Dickinson chose to list the important references for the various topics at the close of each chapter. The two-column format and layout permit good illustrations of the covers. The spiral binding allows the handbook to lie flat. While this monograph is intended for collectors of Canada’s first day covers, it serves as a model for any single country FDC collection.

***Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1977*** by Gary Dickinson. 220 pages, 8 ½ by 11 inches, stiff covers, coil bound, British North America Philatelic Society, Forest Hills, N.Y., 2020. ISBN 978-1-989280-05-8, C\$44 from [longleyauctions.com/bnapsbooks](http://longleyauctions.com/bnapsbooks).

This comprehensive catalogue of private cachets of Canadian first day covers reflects the active period from 1927 when the first cachets appeared through 1977 when the number of cachet makers had dropped to only a handful because the Canadian Post Office had introduced their own “official” cachets in 1971.

Only the definitive and commemorative issues of Canada are listed. Future editions of the catalogue might include airmail, semi-postal, special delivery, and official stamps. The catalogue does not include business corner cards or unique items produced by individuals. Also excluded are cachets used for the wrong stamp issue, either accidentally or with intent.

The listing is chronological by Scott catalogue numbers and cachets are priced in Canadian dollars, based on recent market values. Plate numbers, autographs, and combination FDCs would increase the value but are not addressed in the catalogue. Picture postcards released for first day use are illustrated. General purpose cachets are included but generally reflect lower values compared with themed designs. The GP items are identified at the end of each stamp listing and illustrated as a separate section at the end of the catalogue.

Many American cachet makers produced Canadian covers including highly desirable items by Ralph Dyer, Dorothy Knapp, William Linto, and Gladys Adler. Unknown makers are so identified as Unk. Each stamp catalog number has a color thumbprint of the issue to help navigate the listings. The cachets are shown alphabetically by maker for each stamp issue but are

not assigned numbers. Varieties are simply marked Roessler 1 and Roessler 2, Ed Hacker 1 and Ed Hacker 2, etc.

The listing starts with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Canadian Confederation and Historical issues, Sc. 141-148, released June 29, 1927. The eight different cachets run from \$150 to \$750 in value. The number of cachet makers increased during the 1930s and the popular Royal Visit stamps of May 15, 1939 have 132 different cachets, including twelve varieties by Harry Ioor.

The number of producers grew dramatically in the 1950s and 60s. This trend suddenly shifted downward when the Canadian Post Office introduced its own competitive cachets in 1971. Their designs are not shown as they already appear in *The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Office First Day Covers* by Andrew Chung and R.F. Narbonne (2015). The last entry in Dickinson's catalogue is the November 18, 1977 native Inuit stamps. Only twelve different cachets are known.

Dickinson's catalogue becomes Canada's "Mellone/Planty" catalogue that serves for United States stamps. He points out that many of these covers can be seen on the web site of the Canada First Day Cover Study Group, <http://canadafdc.org/Drupal/Covers>. The author realizes this is the first edition and that collectors may have examples of cachets that should be added. He invites them to contact him to update the catalogue.