



# First Impressions

## HELP WANTED

In a future issue of First Impressions I'd like to include an article about the cachets produced by Miss W.R. Smith of Toronto. Unfortunately, very little is known about her other than her address. Only three cachet designs of hers have been documented to this point. Each consists of a very intricate and detailed sketch, and some were printed in a single colour while others were hand-lettered and hand coloured with several variations.

The first design was for the Royal Visit issue of 1939 (Scott #246-248). The cachet shows portraits of the King and Queen in an arbour of leaves, and it was printed in the colours of the three stamps. The second cachet features a beaver with maple leaves, and it was printed in single colours and hand-painted in multiple colours. This cachet was used for #272, 275, 276, and 301. The final cachet shows a dove and leaves, with the dove flying to the left in some cases and to the right in others. This cachet was also in single and multiple colour versions and used for #275, 276, CE3, and E11. Miss Smith's handiwork was signed in very small capital letters, WRS, and two of her designs are shown in member albums on the FDCSG website.

Would you please let me know if you've seen other WRS cachets, or have seen one of the above designs with other stamp issues, or have any biographical information. It would also be helpful to have good scans of the Royal Visit cachets.

\*\*\*\*\*

This issue includes articles by Gary Dickinson who provides a checklist of Canadian FDCs by A.C. Roessler, John Van der Ven who illustrates how Michael Sanders reused a U.S. cachet for a Canadian stamp issue, and Rob McGuinness who shows how Canada Post Office announcements of new issues were adapted for use as FDCs. And there are a few extras worth hanging around for.

**BNAPS First Day  
Cover Study Group**

**Issue No. 7**

**May, 2011**

### Submitting Articles to First Impressions

Articles should be submitted in either manuscript or MS Word, and scans of covers 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.

### Inside

- 2 Roessler's FDCs
- 5 Sanders Recycles
- 7 P.O. Announcements
- 9 Extra Goodies

*A CHECKLIST OF A.C. ROESSLER'S CANADIAN FIRST DAY COVERS*

by Gary Dickinson

New Jersey stamp dealer A.C. Roessler (1883-1952) was a prolific publisher of first day, first flight, and assorted airmail covers among his varied enterprises. In the last ten years of his business career he developed an extensive product line of Canadian philatelic material, starting with semi-official airmail covers in the mid-1920's then moving on to first flight and other flight covers in the latter 1920's, and finally adding Canadian FDCs beginning in 1928 through to the end of his operation in 1938. Roessler did not publish FDCs for all Canadian stamp issues during that period, and some of his cachets and envelopes were used for several issues. What follows is an initial listing of all of Roessler's FDC products for Canadian stamps. They are listed chronologically by Scott catalogue number and date of issue, and a brief description of each cover is also provided.

CHECKLIST OF CANADIAN FDCs BY A.C. ROESSLER

SCOTT #	ISSUE DATE	DESCRIPTION
<b>AIRMAIL STAMPS</b>		
C1	Sep. 21, 1928	Barber pole uncacheted envelope Barber pole envelope, rubber-stamped FDC Lindbergh portrait airmail envelope
C2	Dec. 4, 1930	Barber pole uncacheted envelope Smaller checks, uncacheted envelope
C3	Feb. 22, 1932	Orange 6c airmail cachet, larger checks on envelope Red-orange 6c airmail cachet, larger checks on envelope Yellow-orange 6c airmail cachet, larger checks on envelope Larger checks on uncacheted envelope Larger checks on envelope with FDC label
C4	Jul. 12, 1932	Black 6c airmail cachet on plain envelope Black 6c airmail cachet, plain env., "Ottowa" misspelled Smaller checks on uncacheted envelope Larger checks on uncacheted envelope
<b>REGULAR STAMPS</b>		
191	Jun. 21, 1932	Natal Day purple cachet on plain envelope Natal Day red cachet on plain envelope Natal Day green cachet on plain envelope Natal Day green (left half) & purple (right half) cachet Larger checks on uncacheted envelope
192-194	Jul. 12, 1932	Black 6c airmail cachet on plain envelope
202	May 18, 1933	Ottawa skyline cachet on plain envelope

203	Jul. 24, 1933	Ottawa skyline cachet on plain envelope, airmail label
204	Aug. 17, 1933	Ottawa skyline cachet on plain envelope
208-209	Jul. 1, 1934	Cartier portrait cachet on plain envelope Black 6c airmail cachet with smaller checks on envelope London rubber stamp cachet, larger checks on envelope
211-216	May 4, 1935	King of Collectors silver cachet
231-233	Apr. 1, 1937	Large portrait of King on black cachet, plain envelope
234-236	May 10, 1937	Barber pole airmail envelope
237	May 10, 1937	Small black portrait, "First Day" at top, plain envelope Small blue portrait, "Posted..." at top, plain envelope
241a	Jun. 15, 1938	Small black portrait, "First Day" at top, plain envelope
244	Jun. 15, 1938	Larger checks on uncacheted envelope

Roessler's initial foray into Canadian FDCs occurred with the issue of the first airmail stamp, #C1, on September 21, 1928. Three different types of Roessler FDC's have been documented for this issue, but the one shown as Figure 1 has the distinction of being the first cacheted FDC published by an American for a Canadian stamp issue. It features a portrait of Charles Lindbergh and an Air Mail arrow, all in vermilion. This cachet was described by Barry Newton as a "general purpose flight cachet" (ROE-FG2) and Roessler had used it earlier in the United States for other purposes. Roessler used several different FDCs for each of #C1, C2, C3, and C4, but none is known for #C5 or later airmail stamps.

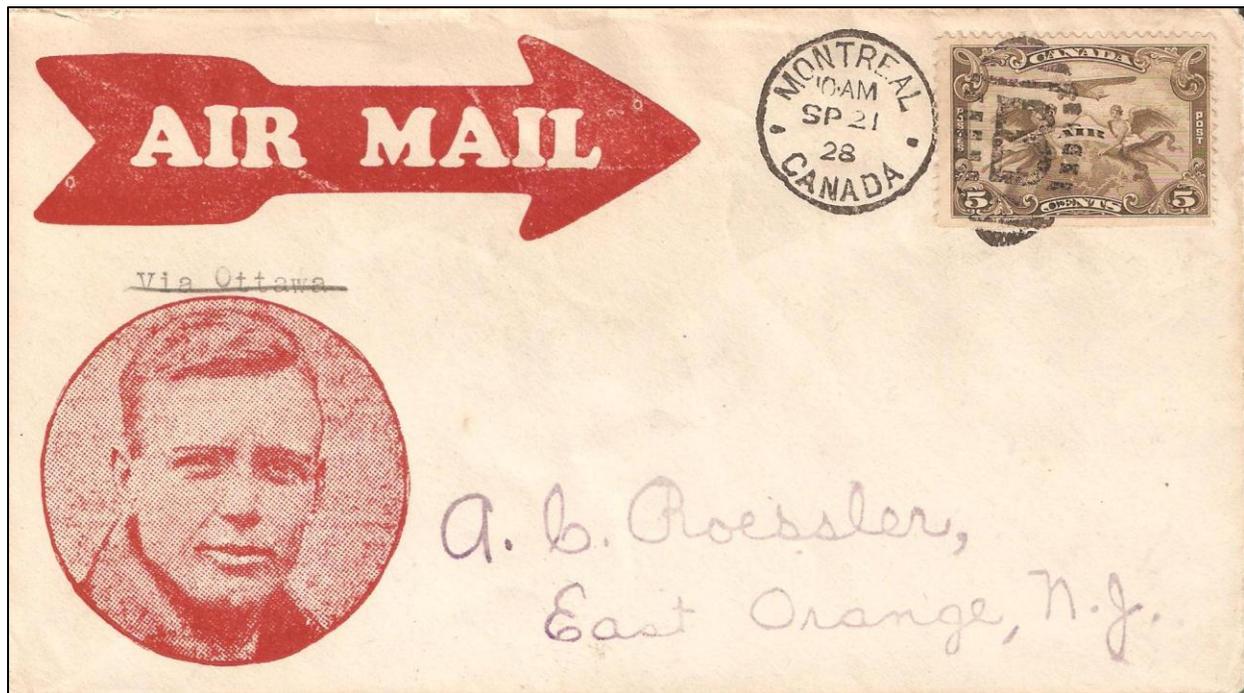


Figure 1. Self-addressed Roessler FDC for #C1 with Lindbergh portrait, postmarked with a Montreal duplex cancellation.

One of Roessler's later and less well-known cachets is shown in Figure 2 with the three lower values of the "Mufti" issue of April 1, 1937. It features a large, black portrait of the new King although he is hardly recognizable as depicted. The cachet is general purpose in that it is not specifically related to the stamps for which FDC service was provided, and it was used by Roessler for the King George VI Coronation stamps of other countries.



Figure 2. Self-addressed Roessler cachet with portrait of King George VI, franked with #231-233 and postmarked at Ottawa with a machine cancellation.

A close inspection of the checklist shown above will indicate that Roessler was an early practitioner of today's mantra of "reduce, reuse, recycle." He made considerable use of his printed airmail envelopes as FDCs either on their own or with a cachet applied, and he used the same cachets for several different stamp issues. An interesting array of FDCs produced by Roessler has been documented, and hopefully there are more yet to be recorded.

#### Reference

Barry Newton. *A.C. Roessler Photo Cachet Catalogue*. Stewartville, NJ, F.D.C. Publishing Co., 1976.

## CACHET MAKER DUPLICATION WITH A COLOUR TWIST

by John Van der Ven

Recently as I was re-arranging my special cachet section for Canadian covers I came across the Sanders Souvenir Cards that we see offered once in a while. Now it also happens that I collect certain issues of related US issues and covers: there is a vast array of cachets in the U.S. for most issues. So the "American Chemical Society" Scott catalogue #1002 3 cent also has a Sanders cachet shown in Figure 1. This stamp was issued on September 4, 1951. It appeared to be an identical likeness to the Sanders cachet that was issued for a Canadian stamp in 1956, the 25 cent red Chemical Industry Scott # 363. Figure 2 shows this design on cover and Figure 3 has it on a souvenir card. There is no doubt in my mind that it was the same cachet but with altered colours. There are several other cachets that were used by other cachet makers for their Canadian products but with a slight tweak in colours or design. One wonders if they took the easy route when asked to develop a Canadian cachet! In some of the Boll and George covers you will see the same situation, where minor changes are made to U.S. products for Canadian stamps.

This also opens a whole other chapter to see how many U.S. cachets were used for Canadian issues and for how long a period of time. So far my observations show that this is seen primarily in the issues from 1950 to 1960. Maybe you could share your observations with the rest of us if you have also come across something of this nature.



Figure 1. Original usage of Sanders "Chemical" cachet for U.S. stamp in 1951.



Figure 2. Sanders “Chemical” cachet on FDC for Canadian stamp in 1956.



Figure 3. Sanders “Chemical” cachet on souvenir card for 1956 Canadian stamp.

POST OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS AS FDCs

by Rob McGuinness

I picked up an unusual cachet from the APS sales department a couple of weeks ago and hadn't seen anything similar to it before. Shown in Figure 1, it was sent to Frank W. Irwin of Ottawa who died in 1999, and I assume that he was the originator. He only prepared twelve of these cachets, possibly all sent to himself. The stamp is placed on top of the picture, which is part of the sheet which is a Post Office announcement of a new issue.

I have similar FDCs from the 1960s and two are shown in Figure 2 on the next page. These Post Office publications, sometimes referred to as birth certificates, are for the 1968 Christmas stamps and were prepared by John Kitchen of Woodstock, Ontario. This was the only pair of Christmas stamps with different issue dates as a rate change was imminent but it was not known when exactly it would take place. Thus the 5 cent value was issued on November 1, 1968 and the 6 cent on November 15.

If you have collected similar first day material, I'd be interested in hearing from you at [mrmacis@shaw.ca](mailto:mrmacis@shaw.ca). In particular:

What other Post Office announcements had similar use?

When was the earliest and latest use?

Who else produced this kind of FDC?

How common or rare are they?

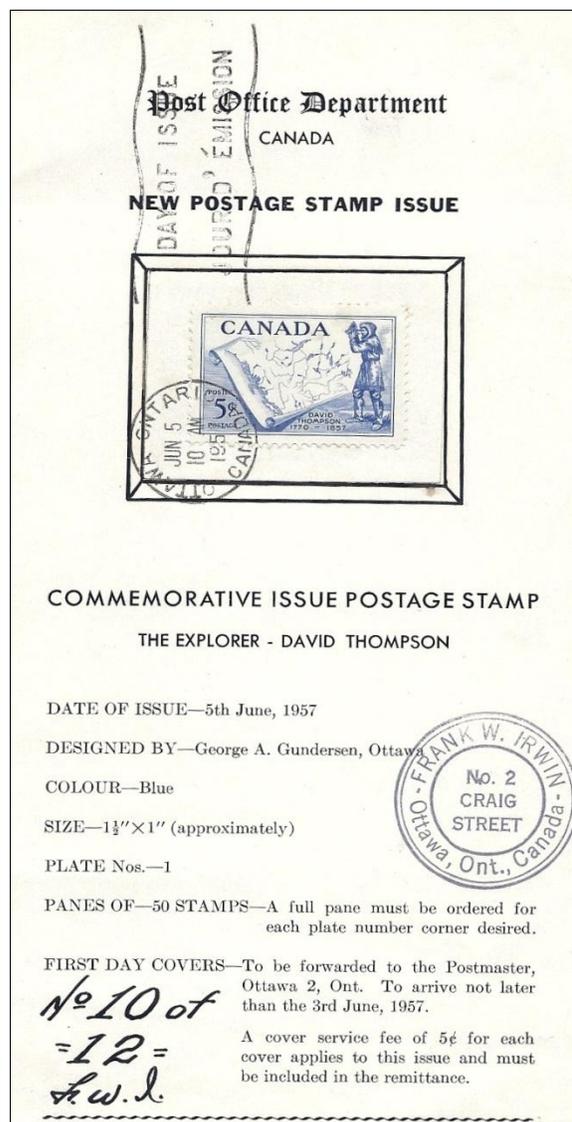


Figure 1. Post Office announcement-FDC for June 5, 1957 David Thompson issue.

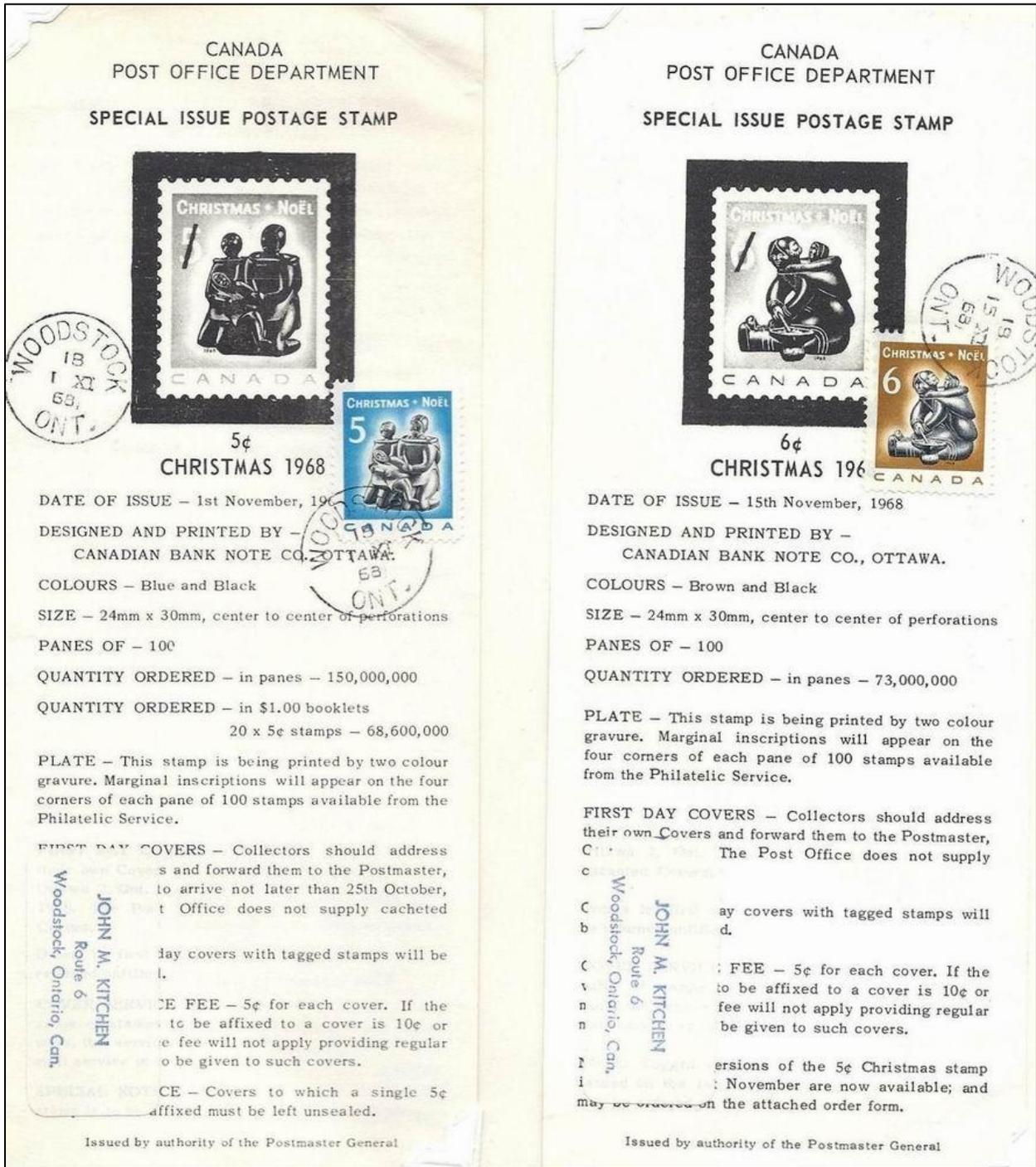


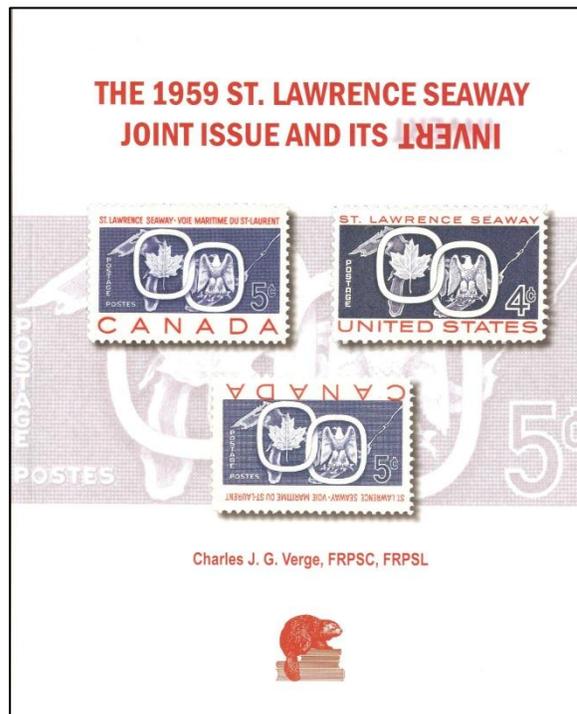
Figure 2. Post Office announcement-FDCs for Christmas, 1968 stamps issued on November 1 and November 15.

FDCSG member Charles Verge has recently published a thorough and detailed study of the joint Canada-United States issue commemorating the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959. Based on extensive research, this 200-page volume provides considerable insight into the lengthy process involving the two governments, taking the reader from concept through the design and production stages of the two stamps. About one-third of the book is given to documenting the history of the inverted Seaway stamp, including covers the covers on which it appeared.

Of particular interest to FDC collectors is Chapter 6 which provides a detailed analysis of the first day of issue, including extensive illustrations of both Canada and U.S. FDCs. This is the longest chapter in the book, and represents the type of research that does much to advance the study of FDCs as a significant branch of philately.

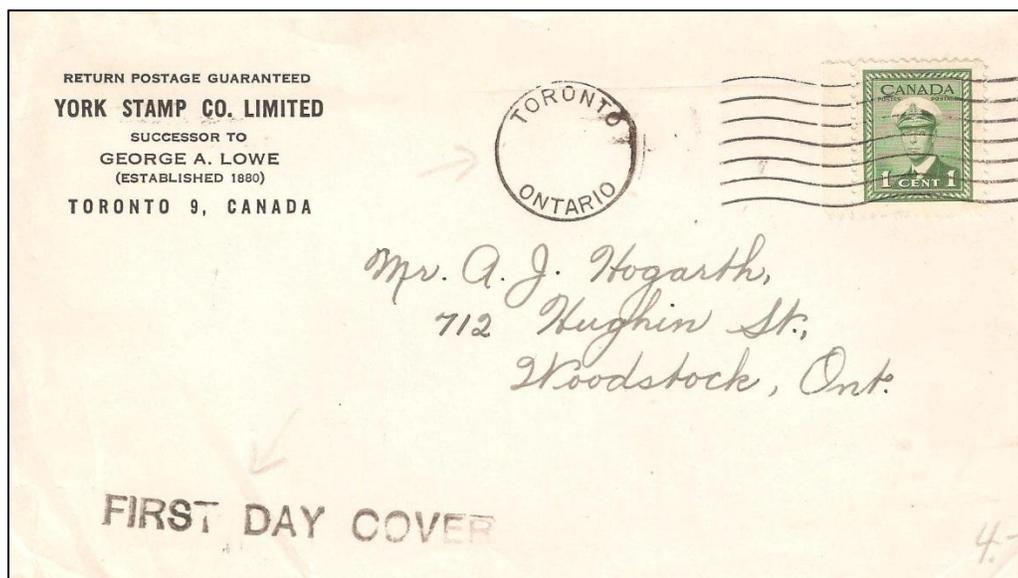
The book is thoroughly illustrated with colour reproductions of both stamps

and covers and there is an extensive bibliography. Production values are superb. *The 1959 St. Lawrence Seaway Joint Issue and Its Invert* is obtainable from Saskatoon Stamp Centre, which delivered my order within a week.



\*\*\*\*\*

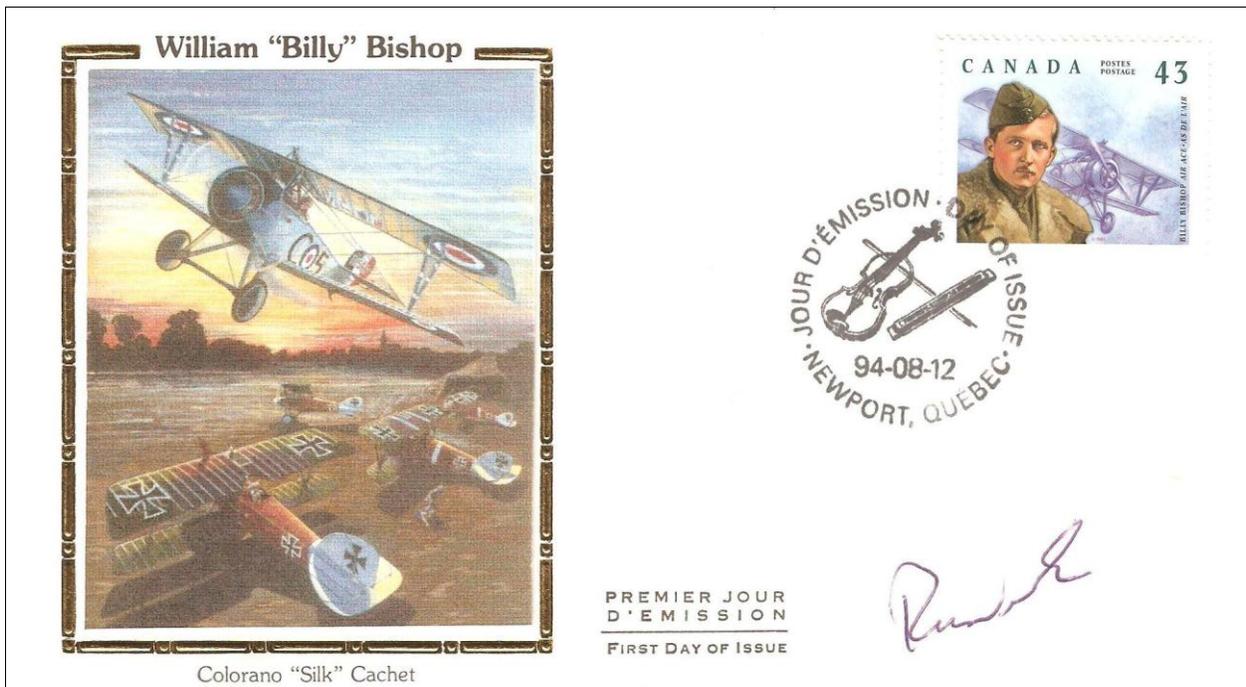
Some things in life just seem to need more than a bald assertion.



Member Gordon Payne has done an extensive study of the Canadian cachets produced by Ray and Jennie Novak and their company, Colorano. His monograph is housed on the FDCSG website and may be viewed at <http://www.canadafdc.org/Drupal/CanadianSilks>. Gord has also created an album of cachets at <http://canadafdc.org/Gallery/v/MemberAlbums/GordPayne/>. The album includes 881 cachets published from 1973 to 1994.

It was with considerable sadness and a sense of loss, therefore, that Gord learned recently of the death of Ray Novak on March 17, 2011. Gord commented, "I got to know Ray through a series of telephone calls, e-mails, and snail-mail over the last ten years. He was a genuine and very nice person. With the work he did on Colorano, I feel strongly that his passing should be recognized."

Gord had a particular interest in the cachet shown below for the Billie Bishop stamp (Scott No. 1525) which was issued on August 12, 1994. The envelopes were produced, stamped, and postmarked at the time, but this was one of a small number of 1994 issues for which cachets were not produced at the time as the Novaks were in the process of selling their company. They agreed at the time of the sale to furnish appropriate cachets within a decade, and Gord suggested in 2003 that they use an artist's impression he had for the Bishop cachet. The Novaks did so, and as Gord noted in his monograph, "This is quite possibly the longest time on record for the release date of a First Day cover!" The cachet is shown below, and the envelope is signed by Ray Novak.



\*\*\*\*\*

And finally, Chairperson Bob Vogel is arranging a meeting of the FDCSG at BNAPEX 2011 to be held at North Bay, Ontario from September 2 to 4. Detailed information will be provided at a later date.