

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

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Editor's Notes

I was very pleased with the response from the membership to my request for articles and other information for *First Impressions*. The result is a 16-page edition with a considerable variety of interesting and informative material.

The lead item consists mainly of a series of scans of covers made by renowned U.S. cachet maker Ludwig Staehle. His grandson is working to preserve the Staehle legacy, and agreed to share material that would be of interest to collectors of BNA. Robert Markovits has presented a challenge to the FDCSG members to “collect complete sets” on FDCs, and Gordon Payne provided us with some colorful, occasionally spectacular, cachets for U.S. wildlife stamps that were originally released at CAPEX '87 in Toronto.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and look forward to seeing more contributions from all of you for future issues.

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 or mailed to Gary at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.

SOME CANADIAN COVERS BY LUDWIG STAEHLE

For several months your editor has been corresponding by e-mail with Stephen Tobin, grandson of the prolific and popular U.S. cachet maker Ludwig Staehle (1893-1967). Stephen inherited from his grandfather “several suitcases full of super rare items that have never seen the light of day.”

He recently sent me photographs of about 150 items and invited me to share some of them with the members of the FDC Study Group. Taken together they represent the tip of an iceberg of rare and interesting material produced by Staehle over some three decades. Among the examples I received were photos of FDCs, postcards, patriotic and event covers, and original art work done for a variety of publishers and dealing with philatelic material representing the U.S., Germany, the United Nations, Canada, and several other countries.

Shown here are fourteen examples of the Staehle material with Canadian postage including three Coronation Day covers from 1937 (Figures 1-3), a Royal Visit cover from 1939 (Figure 4), four FDCs from the 1946 Peace Issue (Figures 5-8), a Newfoundland

airmail cover (Figure 9), and five patriotic covers from WW II which feature very colorful and timely illustrations (Figures 10-14).

Four of the covers are self-addressed by Staehle while the four Peace Issue FDCs appear to be self-addressed by John J. McHale as they were postmarked at Halifax and addressed in a style consistent with the hand-made FDCs he produced himself. The five patriotic covers are all unaddressed and postmarked at Scotchtown, NS between November 18, 1944 and September 2, 1945.

The Coronation Day covers addressed to Staehle were posted at Toronto, Halifax, and Ottawa on May 12, 1937 which was two days after the official day of issue for #237. These three cachets are all different and have different combinations of stamps.

The Newfoundland airmail cover honours both the Royal Visit by the King and Queen in 1939 and the first transatlantic airmail service, however it was not postmarked so the date of use is not possible to determine.



Figure 1.



Figure 2.



Figure 6.



Figure 3.



Figure 7.



Figure 4.



Figure 8.



Figure 5.



Figure 9.



Figure 10.



Figure 11.



Figure 12.



Figure 13.



Figure 14.

A JOHN GUY ENGRAVED ISSUE SHOWPIECE

John Jamieson of Staskatoon Stamp Centre forwarded a scan of this recent addition to his Guy Issue collection. It has a block of six of Newfoundland #98, the 6 cents brown violet of the February 7, 1911 John Guy Engraved Issue. The cover was registered at St. John's and addressed to The Stamp Exchange in Brighton, England, so it probably carried new stamps that were issued that day.



THREE FDC HANDBOOKS

Three FDC handbooks by Gary Dickinson have been published by BNAPS. All are obtainable from Ian Kimmerly Stamps at www.iankimmerly.com/books/ or write to them at 62 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5A8. BNAPS members receive a 40% discount from the retail price. The most recent is titled *First Day Covers of Canada's 1937 Coronation Issue* which was published in January, 2014. (Stock No. B4h06.1.1, \$44.00 retail, 52 pages) More than 200 different cachets as well as first day postmarks are described and illustrated for this stamp (#237). *First Day Covers of the 1953-1957 Wildlife Series* was published in November, 2013 and features more than 300 different cachets that were produced for this series of eleven stamps that were issued over a five-year period. (Stock No. B4h064.1.1, \$47.00 retail, 67 pages) January, 2013 was the publication date of *First Day Covers of Newfoundland* which is the first extensive study of the subject and includes a catalogue of known cacheted FDCs. (Stock No. B4h060.1.1, \$46.95 retail, 64 pages) An error pertaining to the local postage rate was detected in the Newfoundland handbook. Purchasers may obtain corrected pages 29-30 from the author.

COMPLETE SETS ON B.N.A. FIRST DAY COVERS

by Robert L. Markovits

SETS! What percentage of first day covers of Canada and Newfoundland are produced as sets?

Years ago, when I initiated and started to build the late Dr. Mel Baron's incredible Canada FDC collection, I handled more than 10,000 Canadian FDCs—boxes of them--and then sorted and stacked them singly by issues, towns, singles, blocks, inscription plate blocks, and sets on one cover.

If my memory serves me correctly—the gathering was accomplished decades ago—there were very few covers featuring complete sets. Figure 1 shows a FDC with the Confederation set complete (#141-145). It was registered at Montreal to a Montreal addressee and has a FDC rubber stamped impression at lower left. I doubt that more than five such covers exist.

I remember one Confederation cover of 1927 which included the special delivery stamp (#E3) as well as the other five values. All six stamps are tied to the cover with Kitchener, ON circle date stamps. Such covers as the one shown in Figure 2 with the additional special delivery stamp are even rarer than those with the Confederation set of five stamps.

Longer sets of stamps are often hard to place on a normal envelope because of the area they cover, and they are difficult for a collector to display horizontally on an 8.5 x 12 inch page if they are on an extra-large cover. The Newfoundland Long Coronation set is shown on a large envelope in Figure 4. This FDC was posted at Harbour Grace and addressed to London, England. Most of the stamps in the eleven stamp set have socked-on-the-nose cancellations. I believe that fewer than a dozen similar examples exist.

The alternative solution for dealing with longer sets is for the FDC maker to split them up on two or more envelopes, and they can then be displayed on page. That was the approach taken by Newfoundland stamp dealer Rev. E.A. Butler with the Long Coronation set. As shown in Figures 5 and 6, he placed the six lower values on one cover and the five higher values on the other.

I would be interested in seeing more examples of complete sets of stamps on FDCs, and if you have any of interest in your collection, please send a scan to the Editor.



Figure 1. #141-145.



Figure 2. #141-145 and E3.



Figure 3. Newfoundland #233-243.



Figure 4. Newfoundland #233-238.



Figure 5. Newfoundland #239-243.

PERSPECTIVES ON FDCs BY THE ELIZABETHAN II STUDY GROUP

by Gary Dickinson

The Elizabethan II Study Group has published its newsletter, *The Corgi Times*, since July, 1992. It had a major change of format in 2001 with a change of editor. The newsletter is on the BNAPS website and can be viewed at the following address: <http://www.adminware.ca/esp/corgitimes/corgi.php> Only the first 14 volumes (84 issues) are accessible to non-members of the study group, so those are the ones reviewed here.

The first FDC-related article to appear in the *Corgi Times* was Andrew Chung's "Replacement and Presentation First Day Covers of the Canada Post Office" in Issue 10 (January, 1994), pp. 70-72. This included eight illustrations of covers used by the CPO from 1949 until the mid-1970s. (Figure 1) Later, in Issue 50 (September, 2000, pp. 33-34), the editor provided a brief review of CPO cachets Types 1 through 5 including illustrations of two Type 1 cachets with stamps from the Cameo series.



Figure 1.

Andrew Chung collaborated with John Aitken and John Arn in an Issue 53 (March, 2001, pp. 91-92) article "Canada Post General Purpose Cachets/Presentation Covers." This focused on the 300 or so presentation FDCs for each new stamp issue that CPO mailed to persons around the world. Three of the eight general purpose

designs were shown, including one with the Rosecraft Peace Tower cachet. (Figure 2)



Figure 2.

These presentation covers were always addressed mechanically and, according to the authors, are "difficult to find."

Two articles by John Burnett dealing with stamp issues of the 1950s included material about FDCs. A contribution in Issue 17 (March, 1995, pp. 75-78) was titled "Prime Ministers Series of 1951-55" and included an illustration of the JCR cachet for the Tupper stamp (#358). His "1958-A Very Good Year to Collect Canada" (Issue 48, May 2000, pp. 101-102) reviewed the eight commemoratives issued that year and included a picture of a FDC with #377 that was posted at Victoria to Barkerville, BC.

Jerome C. Jarnick published three articles in the *Corgi Times* that dealt with special presentations by CPO and included references to FDCs. The first appeared in Issue 25 (July, 1996, p. 12) and was titled "The RCMP Presentation Cover." It discussed the set of three stamps (#612-614) issued on March 9, 1973 to mark the RCMP centenary. A presentation cover for a Regina conference of the force held on May 23 was cancelled with both dates.

In Issue 27 (November, 1996, p. 47) Jarnick discussed "The Philimpia Cover," a

special presentation cover with the Group of Seven stamp (#518) for participants at a major international philatelic exhibition held in London, England in September, 1970. An illustration of the cover was included in the article (Figure 3), along with the comment that “the cover can be considered a forerunner of Canada Post’s series of ‘Official’ cachets which began in the Spring of 1971.”



Figure 3.

His article on the “Patriation of the Constitution of Canada Souvenir Program” which appeared in Issue 32 (September, 1997, p. 30) described the program and included an illustration of CPOs FDC (Figure 4) for the issue (#916).



Figure 4.

Editor Robin Harris wrote about the “Vancouver 2010 Surprise Issue” in Issue 67 (July, 2003, pp. 8-11) when he discussed the

stamp (#1991) issued to celebrate the award of the Winter Olympics to Vancouver. Whereas CPO usually printed about 10,000 FDCs in that period for each new stamp issue, it did not publish an official FDC for this one. Four private individuals printed about 100 covers in total, with three of them pictured in the article. The fourth FDC was shown in Issue 68 (September, 2003, p. 23). In Issue 74 (September, 2004, p. 32) Harris described and illustrated two different FDC cachets issued by CPO for Olympic stamps #2049-2050.

In Issue 21 (November, 1995, pp. 43-44), the editor discussed briefly Canadian Bank Note Co. FDCs with Caricature and Landscape definitives. John Arn and John Hillner dealt with United Nations stamps that were for use only in Canada at Expo 67, including FDCs, in their article in Issue 37 (July, 1998, pp. 6-7).

John Arn’s article “Red Dues—Earliest Dates of Use” in Issue 45 (November, 1999, p. 52) compared published dates of issue with dates of earliest known use for mid-1970s postage due stamps.

Robin Harris reviewed the second edition of the Chung and Narbonne specialized catalogue of CPO official first day covers in Issue 62 (September, 2002, p. 23). His article “Champlain Explores the Atlantic Coast” (Issue 84, May, 2006, p. 89) about the joint issue of #2155-2156 with the United States included scans of three FDCs.

Finally, an article by Andrew Chung and Robert Harris titled “Recent FDCs Produce New Varieties” (Issue 82, January, 2006, p. 58) described and illustrated two varieties involving rouletted stamps on panes of #2135-2139 and #2141.

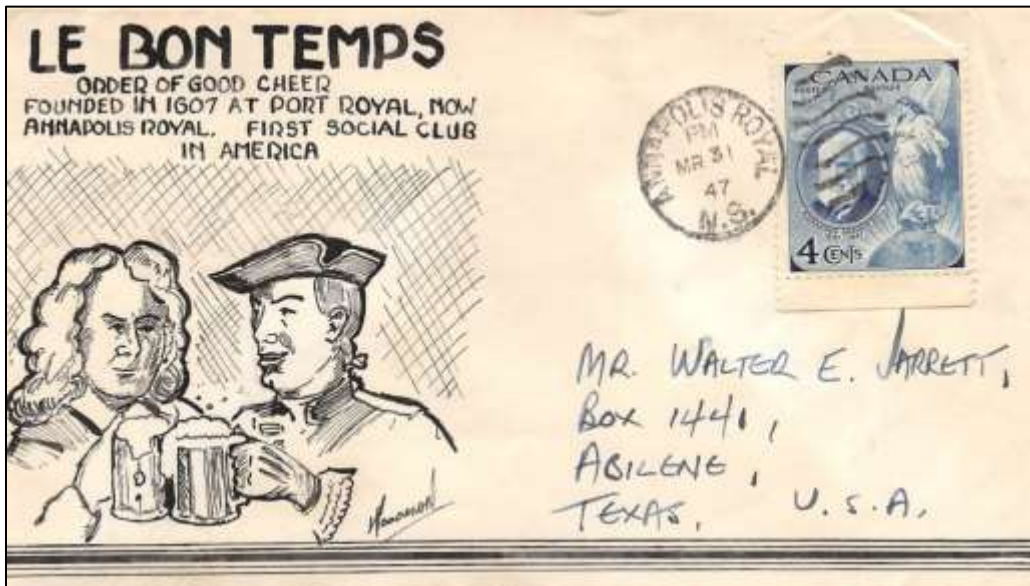
VARIOUS VARIETIES

Brainard Fitzgerald's article in Issue 18 of *First Impressions* dealt with the cacheted covers of H.L. Woodman, including the one shown below. The relevant description was as follows:

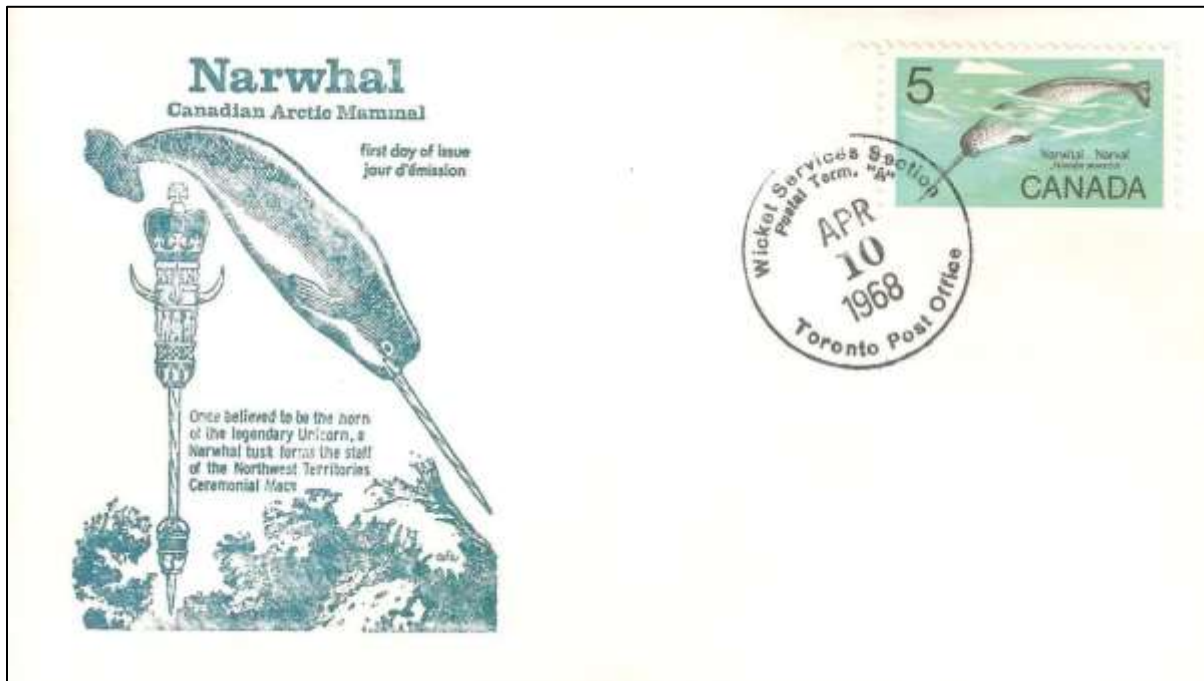
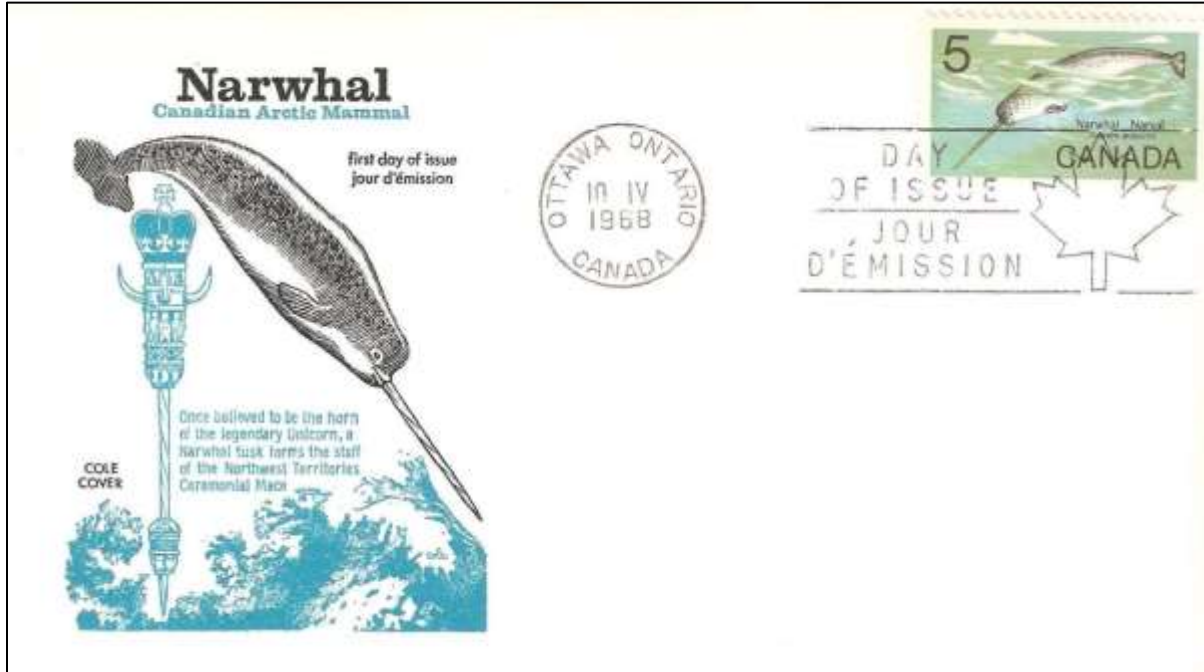
Harold Woodman not only made FDCs but also on occasion would do a cover for a special event. One such early cover is the "Le Bon Temps" cover cancelled appropriately at Annapolis Royal on March 31, 1947. It is the only one I have seen that was signed by Woodman.



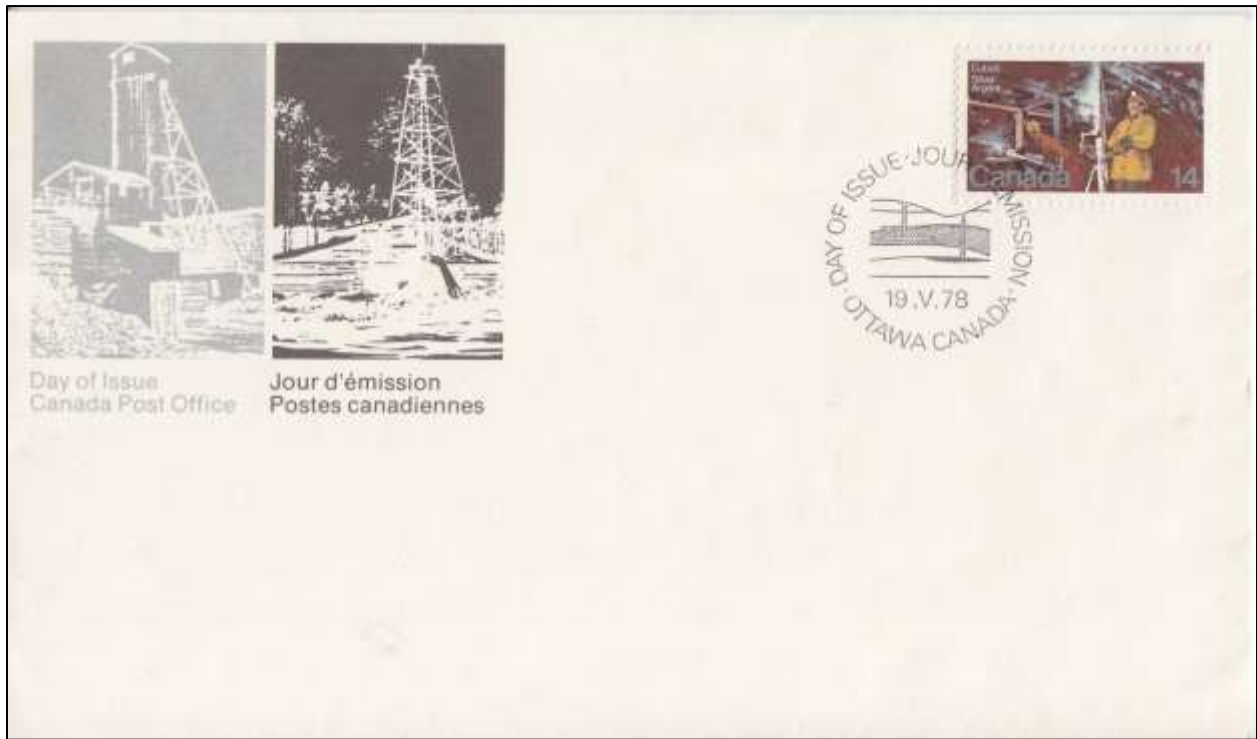
A similar cover recently came to my attention, and it also included a Woodman signature and Annapolis postmark.



The two FDCs for the Narwhal stamp issued on April 10, 1968 (Scott #480) shown here are by Cole Cover and illustrate a normal cover above that was printed in black and blue and a variant below printed only in a different shade of blue. The Cole Cover logo is shown on the cover above but it is not printed on the cover below. The monochrome cachet may have been a proof that found its way into the marketplace.



Peter Wood forwarded a scan of Canada Post's FDC for the 1978 mining issue (#765) as well as an enlargement of the bottom left corner, which happens to be #765i, the "silver inscription double printed" variety catalogued at \$400 for a mint single.



U.S. WILDLIFE STAMPS DEBUTED IN CANADA

by Gordon Payne

The Canadian International Philatelic Exhibition of 1987 (CAPEX '87), sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, was held in Toronto from June 13th to June 21st. The U.S. Post Office honoured the Exhibition by establishing a temporary on-site Postal Station at the Exhibition for the duration of the show and by issuing panes of 50 different 22 cents Wildlife stamps.

On opening day, Saturday June 13, these Wildlife stamps were issued and put on sale for First Day of Issue covers only at the CAPEX Postal Station as the remaining U.S. Postal Stations were closed on Saturday and Sunday. Covers postmarked June 15 in the U.S. as is shown in Figure 4 are also regarded as "First Day" even though they were postmarked two days later than the initial release in Canada.

Three forms of cancellation postmarks were used:

1. The standard First Day Of Issue cancellation showing the origin as USPS CAPEX STA, JUN 13 1987, Toronto Canada, in small and large sizes.
2. The special Eagle/Beaver cancellation issued for the Exhibition, in small and large sizes.
3. Pictorial postmark cancellations dated June 15 were issued to Post Offices in ten National Parks in one size only. They were attractive single line drawings typical of scenes in each park.

The ten parks were Denali (Alaska), Shenandoah, Acadia, Everglades, Grand Canyon, Isle Royale, Yellowstone, Yosemite, Great Smoky Mountains and Haleakala (Hawaii).

The 50 wildlife stamps were exquisitely done, and each stamp was associated with one of the 50 States of the Union. They

attracted the attention of many First Day of Issue cover cachet makers in the U.S., resulting in many styles of FDCs and many combinations of stamps. The cachet makers selected for this article included:

Colorano Silks – Ray Novak was the originator of Colorano Silks and along with his wife, Jennie, owned the business until they sold it in 1995. During their tenure in 1987, Colorano Silks made four different sets of CAPEX '87 FDCs (see Figures 1 to 4) illustrating a variety of postmarks and stamp arrangements – a single stamp cover postmarked First Day of Issue in small print, a five stamps cover with the same postmark in large print, a five stamps cover with the special CAPEX postmark, and a 5 stamps cover with a pictorial cancellation dated June 15.

Fred Collins of Collins First Day Covers began business in 1951 and started producing hand-painted covers in 1978. The quality of work was acknowledged by their peers when Collins was awarded Cachetmaker of the Half Century by the American First Day Cover Society. The illustrated cover shown in Figure 11 is a case in point.

Dave Bennett describes his Covers as "Wild and Wacky" on his Internet site, but as the illustrated cover (Figure 5) shows, there is a factual message as well. He has received many accolades for his work.

Lois Hamilton (a/k/a Ham) has been a very popular cachet maker of hand-painted FDCs for many years. The illustrated cover showing an Alaskan mountain scene in Figure 6 is indicative of her talent. Note how she has cleverly worked the Denali pictorial postmark into the scene.

George Van Natta produced a very fine set of hand painted CAPEX '87 First Day Covers. The one illustrated here (Figure 7) is

an example of his fine work. Unfortunately, no biographical information is available at this time.

Larry Gassien is a retired high school teacher. He began making FDCs in 1985 and since then has produced over 2,000 different cacheted covers. Obviously, his work is much appreciated. The illustrated cover in Figure 8 is indicative of his fine attention to detail.

Curtiss Poormon began producing hand-painted FDCs in 1984 using acrylic paint. Early in the 1990's he gradually transferred his work to more lucrative paintings, doing covers for friends and special requests only. His covers, with an example shown in Figure 9, are very meticulous in detail and also very attractive.

Wilma Peterson was a resident of Yachats, Oregon when she started to produce FDCs at the encouragement of stamp dealer Harold Chevrier. Mr. Chevrier wrote as follows; "She had a successful career as a staff artist, fashion artist,

advertising manager, freelance artist in many places across the country. Her realistic style portrays her subjects in a delightfully refreshing manner," as exemplified by the illustration in Figure 10.

Alan Tossman was listed as a State Architect in California. He showed his place of residence as Santa Monica on a header card for his CAPEX'87 Wildlife stamps issue set. His artwork is exceptional. There are twelve Tossman FDCs bearing four stamps as shown in Figure 12 and one with two stamps.

C&C (Gurney Conyers) was a commercial artist until his retirement. He took up residency in an "Old Folks Home" in his eighties in Scottsdale, Arizona and at that time began making FDCs until his death at well over 90. All his covers are on hand-made envelopes and are hand-painted with no more than six proofs for any issue. There are three very attractive covers for the CAPEX '87 stamps issue, one of which is shown below.





Figure 1. Colorano A.



Figure 5. Dave Bennett.



Figure 2. Colorano B.



Figure 6. Lois Hamilton (Ham).



Figure 3. Colorano C.

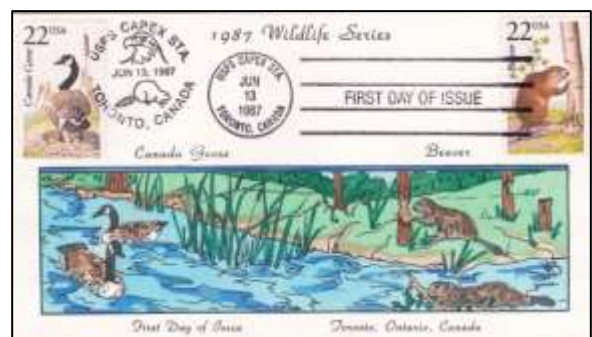


Figure 7. George Van Natta



Figure 4. Colorano D.



Figure 8. Larry Gassien.



Figure 9. Churtis Poormon



Figure 10. Wilma Ferguson.



Figure 11. Fred Collins.



Figure 12. Alan Tossman.