

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

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First Day Cover Study Group

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Editor's Notes

The articles in this issue feature three (or five, depending on how they're counted) cachet makers, all of whom were most active during the 1950s.

John van der Ven has done a masterful job in tracking and presenting the Canadian cachets that were produced in small numbers by Portland, OR maker William Linto. Unlike most cachet makers, Linto kept precise records of his products and catalogued them on his cacheted envelopes.

The issue of how many cachet makers are represented in this issue crops up in the second article which discusses the work produced by a Regina-based maker under three different brand names; Litho Art, Philatelic Supply Company, and Phila Coin. In sharp contrast with Linto, the Regina cachets are difficult to identify and the number produced as well as the person or persons who produced them is unknown.

An article by Bob Vogel illustrates a handful of cacheted covers sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton and requests assistance in identifying others.

I would welcome contributions from members for the Spring issue of First Impressions.

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.

CANADIAN FIRST DAY COVER CACHETS BY WILLIAM S. LINTO

by Jan Pieter (John) van der Ven

William (Bill) S. Linto was an American cachet designer who was best known for his voluminous production of U.S. naval covers and ultra-conservative “patriotic” covers in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. Four examples of these types of covers are shown in Figures 1 through 4.

Linto also produced cachet designs for U.S. first day covers over much of that period. These designs are among the scarcest and most coveted of all U.S. first day cover cachets. The importance and scarcity of Linto first day covers, especially those produced in the 1940s and 1950s, are reflected in their value listings in the definitive U.S. cachet catalogues published by Michael Mellone for that period (1). Linto designs are not known in quantities more than 52 (usually much less), and carry higher Mellone catalogue values than all other printed cachet designs. Remarkably, they also carry higher catalogue values than many respected hand drawn and hand painted cachets (e.g., Mae Weigand and William N. Wright designs) for virtually all comparable stamp issues throughout the catalogues.

While few collectors of Canadian first day covers are aware of it, Linto also produced first day cover cachet designs for most Canadian stamp issues during the period from 1939 to 1958. These covers were produced in even smaller quantities than he made for U.S. issues. The highest Canadian production number known is 33. The lowest is two. In all, approximately 48 designs for Canadian FDCs are currently known to exist for that period. (2)

This article provides:

- Details about Linto’s life.
- Listing of all known Linto Canadian FDC designs.

- How to easily identify a Linto cover.
- Illustrations of a number of those covers.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

William S. Linto

William Stanley (Bill) Linto was born in Yeovil, Somersetshire, England on September 23, 1884. In 1900, when Bill was fifteen years old, his family immigrated to the United States, settling in Gloversville, NY. Bill was a stamp collector as a youngster both in England and the U.S.

Bill married Jessie Hall in 1907. Jessie's brother and his family lived in Portland, OR, and the couple moved there in 1913. They remained in Portland throughout their marriage until Jessie's death in 1957. They never had children.

While in Gloversville, Bill went to work in the composing room of the *Daily Leader*, the local paper. His newspaper job no doubt provided the initial exposure and knowledge of typesetting and printing that made his later cachet making possible. After Linto moved to Portland, he went to work in a similar capacity for the daily *Oregonian*. He remained with that paper, and typesetting and printing remained his vocation, until he retired 45 years later.

He made his work his hobby in the early 1920's by obtaining a hand printing press for use at home.

This acquisition did not lead Bill immediately to merge his printing and philatelic hobbies by producing cacheted covers. In fact, his earliest cachet design was not produced until August 15, 1934 and that design was drawn and coloured by hand, rather than printed. His first printed cachet design for a first day cover was made for a U.S. stamp, Scott #857, the Printing Press issue (what else!) that was released on September 25, 1939. After that, Linto is not known to have produced another printed U.S. first day cover until Scott #904, the Kentucky Statehood issue that was released on June 1, 1942. Linto's subsequent U.S. FDC production was virtually continuous from that time through January 3, 1959, when his final first day cover design was

issued for Scott #C53, the Alaska Statehood issue (4).

Linto is not known to have commercially distributed his cover production. His peak production years for U.S. first day covers were 1945 to 1949, when his standard-design production numbers were typically in the 40-42 range, reaching as high as 52. By the end of his U.S. cachet design production, his standard production numbers had dropped to ten.

Canadian Linto List

Linto is believed to have first produced Canadian FDCs in 1939, with two designs for the Royal Visit issues. His next known Canadian FDCs are for the Bell Birth Centennial stamp of 1947. Two different Linto cachet designs are also known for that issue. A gap appears in Linto's Canadian FDC production from 1949 to 1954 (Scott Canada #282 to #335).

Linto FDCs are known for most (5) subsequent Canadian issues through to the First Elected Assembly issue of 1959 (Scott Canada #382), the last known Canadian Linto FDC.

New Linto discoveries occur each year, however, and there is always the possibility that Linto-produced cachets for some or all of these "missing" issues may surface.

The table on the next page lists all known Linto Canadian FDC designs with quantities produced (6).

Identifying Linto FDCs and Production Numbers

Linto printed cachets for first day covers are easily identified by rubber stamp information on the reverse side of the covers.

Figure 5 shows the reverse for a Standard Linto FDC design, Scott Canada

TABLE OF LINTO CANADIAN FDC DESIGNS

SCOTT NO.	LINTO CACHET CODE	YEAR	QUANTITY PRODUCED
246-247	Royal Visit	1939	2
248	Royal Visit	1939	2
274	Bell	1947	25
274	Bell-X	1947	6
275	Can. Citiz.	1947	12
275	Can. Citiz..	1947	12
276	Prin. E.	1948	33
276	Princess E.-X	1948	10
277	C.R.G.	1948	33
277	C. Gov.	1948	20
282	Newfoundland	1949	8
335	Wildlife Walrus Can. 4c	1954	4
336	Wildlife Beaver Can. 5c	1954	4
337	Can. 1c- Reg.	1954	3
338	Can. 2c- Reg.	1954	3
339	Can. 3c-Reg.	1954	3
340	Can. 4c-Reg.	1954	3
341	Can. -Reg. 5c	1954	4
342	Can. 6c-Reg.	1954	3
343	Can.-15c Airmail	1954	4
352	Musk Ox	1955	3
353	Cranes	1955	3
354	I.C.A.O. Canada	1955	4
355	Alberta-Saskatchewan	1955	4
356	B.S.A.-Canada-Aug. 20	1955	6
357	Not known	1955	Not known
358	Not known	1955	Not known
359	Hockey-Jan. 23	1956	4
360	Caribou-April 12	1955	4
361	Mountain Goat-April 12	1955	4
362	Paper '56	1956	4
363	Chemical '56	1956	4
364	Canada-Prevent Fires	1956	4
365-368	Recreation	1957	10
369	Loon-April 20	1957	6
370	Thompson	1957	6
371-372	U.P.U.-C	1957	6
373	Mining-Sept. 5	1957	6
374	Royal Visit-Oct. 10	1957	6
375	Free Press-Jan. 22	1958	6
376	Geophysical-Mar. 5	1958	6
377	P. of B.C.-May 8	1958	6
378	La Verendrye-June 4	1958	6
379	Quebec-June 26	1958	6
380	Nurses-Asson	1958	6
381	Oil-Sept. 10, '58	1958	6
382	Assembly-Oct 2	1958	6

#274, Alexander Graham Bell. It shows Linto's name and address along with Cachet Code, Covers Issued and Cover Number data. Standard designs are believed to be those that were distributed to Linto's full distribution list of the time. Perhaps, standard covers went to both personal friends and other cachet makers with whom some form of cover exchange was established.

Figure 6 shows the reverse for an Extra Linto FDC design. It shows the same data found on the Standard cover, but the Cachet Code is typically followed by an X or an A. Extra designs are believed to be those distributed to a much more limited distribution list of special recipients, perhaps personal friends only.



Figure 5. Complete cover back



Figure 6. Expanded portion of cover back

Because this rubber stamp information is found on virtually all Linto printed first day covers, more appears to be known about Linto's cover production numbers than about the corresponding

production for virtually all other printed cachet makers. In fact, the Covers Issued data shown on Linto FDCs may actually represent the maximum numbers that exist, rather than the actual numbers. This is because Linto only indicated the total number of covers produced for a particular design, even when a single design was produced in different colours. Also, while the numbers printed are indicated, the number actually serviced may be lower. Sometimes, numbered but unserviced Linto cachets turn up having been used in the personal correspondence of Linto or his wife.

The two Scott 370 Thompson covers shown below (Figures 7 through 10) illustrate one instance of multiple colours for one Linto design. Only six covers were produced in total. What were the colours of the other covers? Could there have been six different colours? The same questions, of course, may also be raised for other designs done by Linto, and the scarcity of specific colours is something that certainly should be explored further.



Figure 7. Scott #370.1

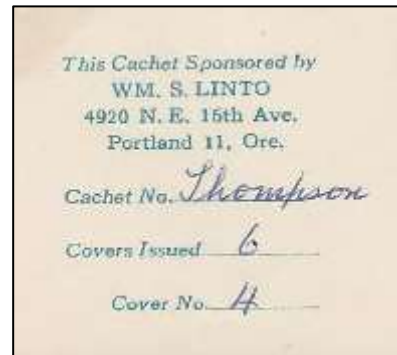


Figure 8



Figure 9. Scott #370.2

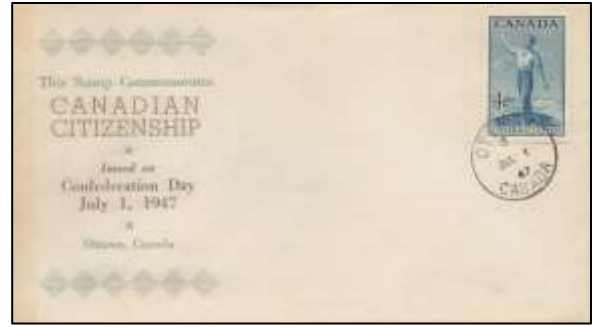


Figure 13. Scott #275.1



Figure 10



Figure 14

A sample of Linto FDC cover fronts and backs follows, with most of them drawn from the commemorative stamp issues of the late 1940s.



Figure 11. Scott #275



Figure 15. Scott #275.2



Figure 12



Figure 16



Figure 17. Scott #276.1



Figure 21. Scott #277.1

This Cachet Sponsored by
Wm. S. Linto
4920 N. E. 16th Ave.
Portland II, Oregon

Cachet No. Prin. E.

Covers Issued 33

Cover No. 3

Figure 18

This Cachet Sponsored by
Wm. S. Linto
4920 N. E. 16th Ave.
Portland II, Oregon

Cachet No. C. Gov.

Covers Issued 20

Cover No. 4

Figure 22



Figure 19. Scott #276.2



Figure 23. Scott #277.2

This Cachet Sponsored by
Wm. S. Linto
4920 N. E. 16th Ave.
Portland II, Oregon

Cachet No. Princess E-X

Covers Issued 10

Cover No. 9

Figure 20

This Cachet Sponsored by
Wm. S. Linto
4920 N. E. 16th Ave.
Portland II, Oregon

Cachet No. C. R. G.

Covers Issued 33

Cover No. 7

Figure 24



Figure 25. Scott #282



Figure 26



Figure 27. Scott #375

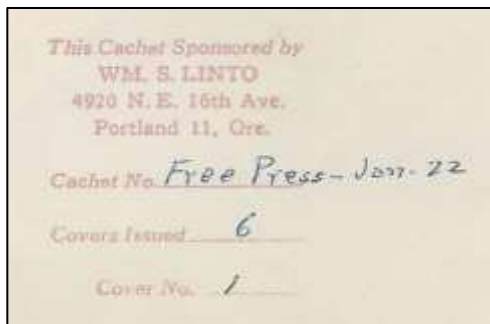


Figure 28.

Notes and References

1. Michael Mellone and Monte Eiserman, eds., *Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1940's*, Second Edition, FDC Publishing Co., Stewartsville, NJ, 1999 and Michael Mellone, ed., *Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1950's*, First Edition, FDC Publishing Co., Stewartsville, NJ, 1999.

2. An indicator of their scarcity arose in 2008 when Roy Houtby from St. Catherines, ON, the largest Canadian First Day Cover dealer, obtained a small group of Canadian Linto first day covers. To publicize the availability of the covers at an upcoming show, Roy Houtby took out a quarter-page ad in the *Canadian Stamp News*!

3. All biographical and related information here is drawn from Ralph Nafziger and Richard Sverid, "William S. Linto – Oregon Cachetmaker," *First Days*, Volume 28, Number 8, November 15, 1983, pp. 1306-1311.

4. The timing of his last design in 1959 coincided with his retirement and marriage to his second wife, Fay.

5. The most notable omissions are for Scott #349 Sir John Thompson, Scott #350 Sir Mackenzie Bowell and Scott #351 Inuk and Kayak.

6. This listing draws very heavily on Ralph Nafziger and Richard Sverid, "William S. Linto – Oregon Cachet Maker," *First Days*, Volume 28, Number 8, November 15, 1983, p. 1310; and Ralph Nafziger, "Oregon Cachetmakers Update, Part II," *First Days*, Volume 32, Number 6, September 1, 1987, p. 744.

THREE CACHET BRANDS FROM REGINA

by Gary Dickinson

From about 1948 to 1960 some of the more innovative and colourful FDC cachets for Canadian stamp issues emanated from Regina, Saskatchewan. In chronological order, these cachets were produced under the brand names Litho Art, Philatelic Supply Company, and Phila Coin. There was no overlap of FDC dates between the three brands, so they are likely to have come from the same source.

Litho Art cachets were produced from 1948 (Scott #277) until 1953 (#321) followed by Philatelic Supply Company from 1953 (#322) to 1958 (#376) and Phila Coin from 1958 (#377) until 1960 (#390). No related cachets with a Regina origin have been confirmed beyond #390.

None of my inquiries has managed to determine who made these cachets, or in fact if there were one, two, or three different sources.

Throughout this period none of the Regina-based cachets was signed, but a few had a brand logo on the back flap. The number with such identifiers is probably less than 10%. The logos were usually printed in small type in colours that were difficult to read.

The first logo was for Litho Art and was 15 x 18 mm (Figure 1). It was printed in pale grey with the "L" enclosing the words "Litho-Art Series" and the "A" enclosing "Litho-Art Supply Company Regina Sask." The latter phrase is only legible with a magnifying glass.

Two forms of the Philatelic Supply Company were used. The first measures 12 x 14 mm and is shown to scale on a complete envelope in Figure 2 while Figure 3 has an enlarged version. The border

surrounding the PS contains the words "Philatelic Supply Company Regina."

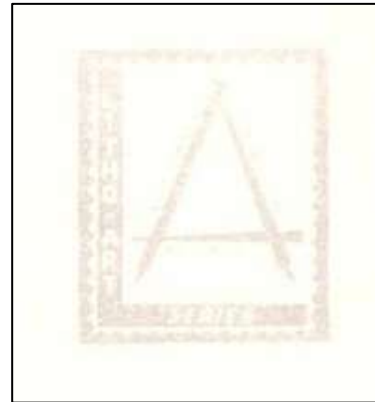


Figure 1. Litho Art logo enlarged

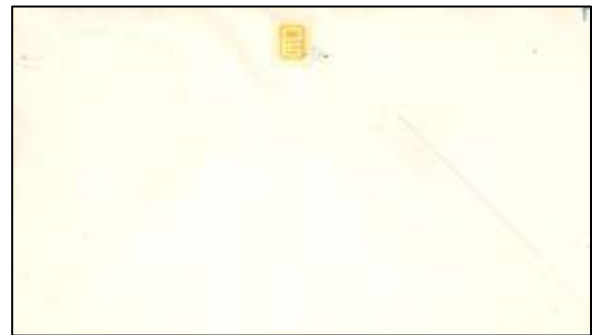


Figure 2. Philatelic Supply logo to scale



Figure 3. Yellow Philatelic Supply logo enlarged

The same design was also printed in green in a larger (18 x 22 mm) version in

Figure 4. This was the most easily read logo appearing on the backs of the Regina FDCs.



Figure 4. Green Philatelic Supply logo enlarged

Phila Coin's logo (Figure 5) reverted to a smaller (10 x 15 mm) design printed in yellow with text reading "Phila Coin Co" with "Regina Canada" below and outside the oval.



Figure 5 Phila Coin logo enlarged

The style of the Regina cachets is so distinctive that attribution is usually possible although still somewhat tentative at times. A Regina day of issue cancellation is normally sufficient to confirm a doubtful attribution although a minority of these FDCs was posted there. In addition, every cachet included the line "first day of issue" although the text font, type size, and colour were different almost every time. The absence of that phrase from a particular cachet would rule it out as having a Regina-based maker.

The name changes are an intriguing feature of the cachets. Bruce Perkins (1) speculated about them as follows:

"There are several ways it could go. Was it the same owner with a different name? Was it a change of ownership? Did a printer sell the line to a stamp guy? Did the printer turn into a stamp supply specialist? Then a stamp and coin guy? I really don't know."

Cachets from the earliest years of the Litho Art brand are difficult to identify, especially any possible FDCs for the six commemorative stamps issued from 1947 to 1949: Scott #274, 275, 276, 277, 282, and 283. Perkins (2) attributed a cachet design for #277 to Litho Art (see Figures 6 and 7) and identified cachets that might possibly be by that maker for the other five commemoratives in that period. The two variations for #277 may be considered as the first Litho Art cachets unless and until firm evidence arises for one or more of the three prior commemorative stamp issues.



Figure 6. Type A cachet for #277



Figure 7. Type B cachet for #277

Probably the most extensively used Litho Art cachet was the one carrying both the revised and unrevised King George VI definitive issues of 1949-1950. The FDC for #284-288 (revised issue) shown in Figure 8 was printed in orange, but there is also a less-frequently seen red version.

This cachet also appears on several earliest known use covers for #289- 293, (unrevised issue) early in 1950 including Toronto (January 16), London (January 19), Ottawa and Regina (January 20), and Vancouver (January 25).

The last Litho Art cachet was for the \$1 Totem issue of February 2, 1953. The design of the cachet and the colour of the printing closely matched those of the stamps.



Figure 8. Litho Art cachet for #284-293



Figure 9. Last Litho Art cachet

Philatelic Supply Company (PSC) commenced publishing FDCs with the next stamp issued after the \$1 Totem, which was the April 1, 1953 trio kicking off the

Wildlife Series. Their cachet for the Polar Bear stamp (Scott #322), the first in the series is shown in Figure 10 and is a two-colour product in blue and red.

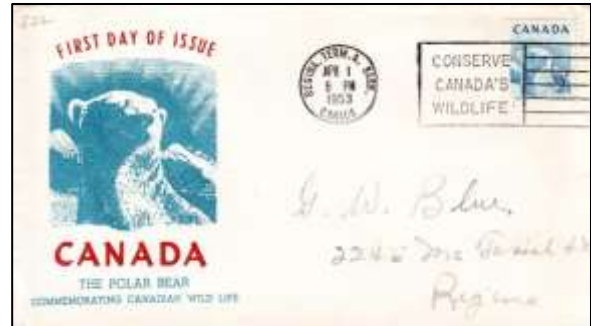


Figure 10. PSC first cachet for #322

The last PSC cachet was a brown and blue design for Scott #376 (Figure 11) published on March 5, 1958.



Figure 11. PSC last cachet for #376

Further attribution of a PSC cachet is shown in Figure 12. This business corner card with the PSC address of P.O. Box 123 in Regina has been paired with the cachet design for the Wilding definitive issue (Scott #337-341) of June 10, 1954 on a cover posted in Regina on December 4, 1954.



Figure 12. PSC business corner card envelope

Colour varieties occurring during the printing process appeared to be more frequent during the PSC period than those that may have happened earlier or later. Occasionally it is not certain whether those variations were a natural evolution as more covers were imprinted with cachets, or as the result of a deliberate change of the ink colours used. An example of discernible differences among colours on a single cachet design is shown below in Figures 13 through 15. The cachets illustrated were all scanned on the same machine, and represent three copies of the cachet for the Boy Scout stamp (Scott #356)



Figure 15. Darker shades of #356 cachet



Figure 13. Lighter shades of #356 cachet.



Figure 14. Medium shades of #356 cachet

The shades of colour in the three cachets are shown to darken increasingly from Figures 13 to 15. This is especially noticeable in areas such as the pair of globes at the top of the cachets and in the colours of the large maple leaf. Other differences of similar magnitude may also be found on some of the PSC cachets for the Wildlife Series stamps.

There was no gap in FDC production between the last PSC cachet (Scott #376) and the first in the Phila Coin brand (Scott #377).

The first Phila Coin cachet was a multi-coloured design for the British Columbia Centennial issue of May 8, 1958. Featured on this cachet (Figure 16) was a pair of totem poles on the left and a pair of Douglas Fir trees on the right side of the B.C. provincial shield.

The Phila Coin brand was short-lived, just two years. The last of their cachets was published on May 19, 1960 for the Battle of Long Sault issue (Scott #390). The cachet, shown in Figure 17, replicates that of the commemorative stamp.

Although it was short-lived, the Phila Coin brand of cachets also lacked the type of printing variations found on Litho Art and

PSC cachets. No varieties have been recorded for Phila Coin FDCs.



Figure 16. Phil Coin first cachet for #377



Figure 17. Phila Coin last cachet for #390

The cachets produced in Regina were highlights among cachets for Canadian stamp issues, yet our knowledge about who produced them, how many were printed, and the reasons for the changes of brand names are still largely unknown. Sharing of further information would be most welcome!

References

1. Bruce Perkins. Personal communications, February and May, 2016.
2. Bruce Perkins. *Canada FDC Cachet Catalogue 1947 to 1959*. Pre-publication draft, March, 1992.

SALE OF BARON FIRST DAY COVERS

Eastern Auction's sale of the late Mel Baron's FDC collection, along with his Canadian imperforates and major errors, took place on October 28, 2016. There were some 130 lots of FDCs which sold for more than \$60,000. One-fourth of the lots sold for more than the auction house estimates.

Baron's collection started forming in the late 1960s with the assistance of stamp dealers Bob Markovits and Stan Lum. Baron (1927-1997) had sought out an unexplored collecting field, and he was the first philatelist to focus seriously on Canadian FDCs as an area worthy of study. He subsequently published several long series of articles between 1977 and 1997 in *First Days*, the periodical of the American First Day Cover Society, and in the BNAPS publication *BNA Topics*.

The Eastern Auction sale concentrated mainly on the 1927 through 1946 period with a couple of later entries and a handful of Newfoundland FDCs. Some featured items include 23 FDCs in seven lots addressed to T.R. Legault which realized more than \$5,000 and a single lot of 49 Eppstadt cachets which realized \$1,400.

The two most expensive lots in the sale were #276, a collection of more than 250 FDCs from the War Issue, which was sold for \$3,250 and #289, with over 500 covers in ten binders from the late King George VI era which had a winning bid of \$2,700.

The successful bidders managed to acquire some important historical FDC material as the Baron collection as a whole formed the foundation of this branch of philately.

KIWANIS CLUB OF EDMONTON CACHETS

by Bob Vogel

The original Kiwanis Club of Edmonton was founded in 1919 but since then many branches have been formed throughout the city. The club name “Kiwanis” was coined from an indigenous peoples’ language, although the exact source is unclear. The organization’s founders adopted the motto “We Build,” and in 2005 a new motto was adopted “Saving the Children of the World.”

The Edmonton group probably had a stamp collector amongst its membership as it sponsored four FDCs between 1947 and 1955. Only one of these was a standard cover with the others being souvenirs carrying the stamp of the day and assorted messages.

The first effort (Figure 1) was a 4 x 5 inch souvenir card from the club’s Board of Directors which was mailed on the issue date of the commemorative (Scott #274) celebrating the centennial of A.G. Bell’s birth. Bell’s birthdate was March 3, 1947 although the souvenir had it as March 31.

The second product (Figure 2) was a souvenir folder featuring a “Canadian Chronology” of dates when the ten provinces entered confederation. The featured stamp was Scott #282, the commemorative issued to mark the entry of Newfoundland.

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated by the Canada Post Office with a commemorative stamp (Scott #330) issued on June 1, 1953, although the event itself took place on June 2. The Kiwanis souvenir brochure was posted on the latter date, so it is technically not a FDC. A tribute to the Queen was shown on one side of the card (Figure 4) while the other side listed the purposes of Kiwanis (Figure 5)..

The fourth and final known philatelic product of the Edmonton Kiwanis Club is a FDC for the August 20, 1955 Boy Scout Jamboree issue (Scott #356) shown in Figure 3. This cover purports to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Kiwanis, but unfortunately the celebration was a decade premature. The club was founded in 1915, not 1905 as the cachet indicates, so 1955 was only the 40th anniversary.

There may be others but in my years of collecting this is all I have found. I would be interested in hearing of other products from the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton if any members have seen them.

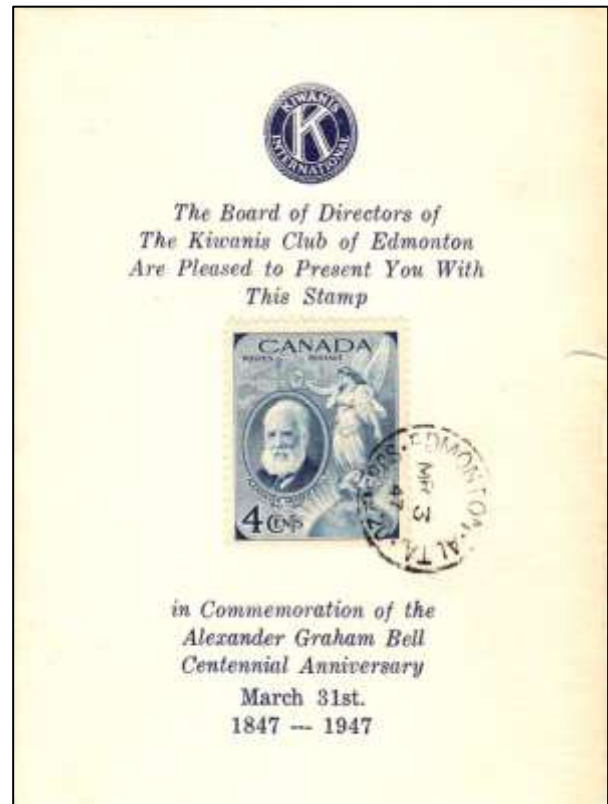


Figure 1. Maximum card for #274

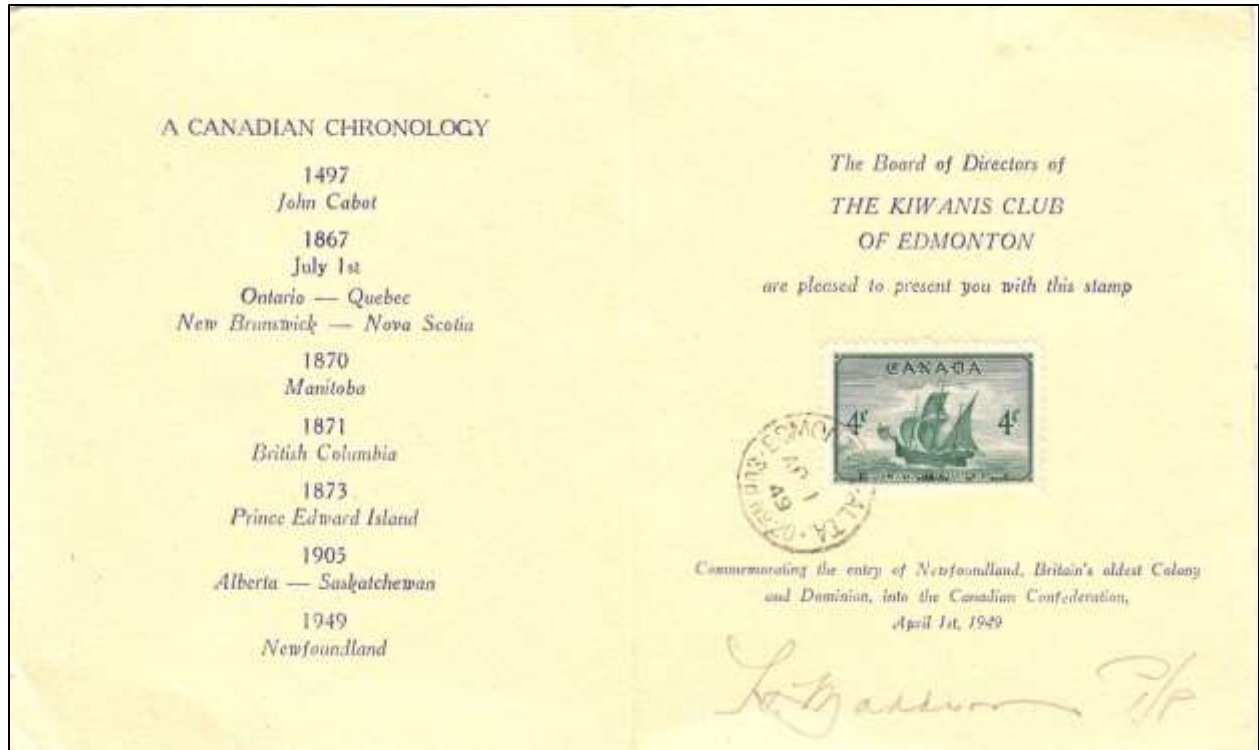


Figure 2. FDC for #282



Figure 3. FDC for #356



Figure 4. Souvenir card for #330

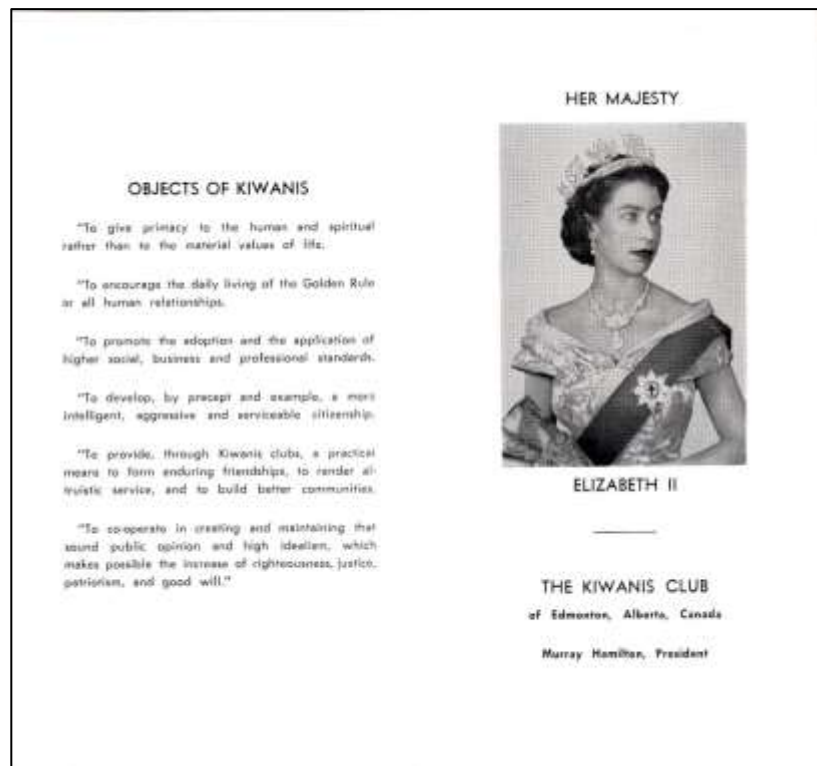


Figure 5. Reverse of souvenir card for #330