

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 41 January – March 2020

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Editor's Notes

As Spring approaches we are seeing the FDC authors coming out of hibernation! Thanks to John van der Ven as always for bringing us informative articles on some unique covers as well as the detective work that went into them. Bob Vogel has teamed up with Andrew Chung on a new project to complement the *Catalog of Official First Day Covers* and needs our assistance. Michael Pierce sent along an interesting collection and describes his sleuthing efforts as well. Finally, we have an announcement for two new BNAPS Books by Gary Dickinson. Gary was kind enough to send me preview copies and I am certain any serious FDC collector will want them on their desk. Another outstanding effort by Gary. In conclusion, I have almost enough articles left for the next edition – so keep them coming. Thanks again to all of the contributors.

Submitting Articles to First Impressions

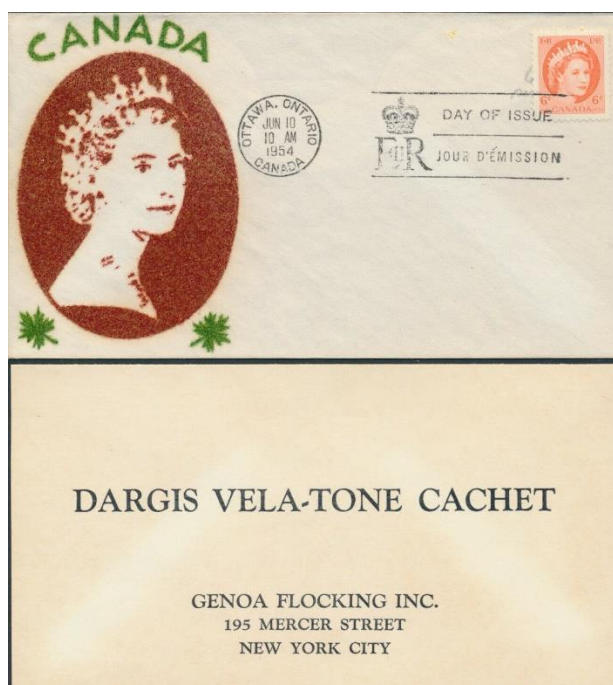
Articles may be submitted in writing or MS Word, and scans should be in JPEG format at 300 dpi. Please scan covers individually if possible. E-mail submissions should be sent to George Basher at gbasher@nycap.rr.com or mailed to George Basher, 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY 12061, United States.

DARGIS VELA-TONE CACHETS for Scott #356

By John van der Ven

These cachets were produced for many years by:

Genoa Flocking Inc.
195 Mercer Street
New York City, New York



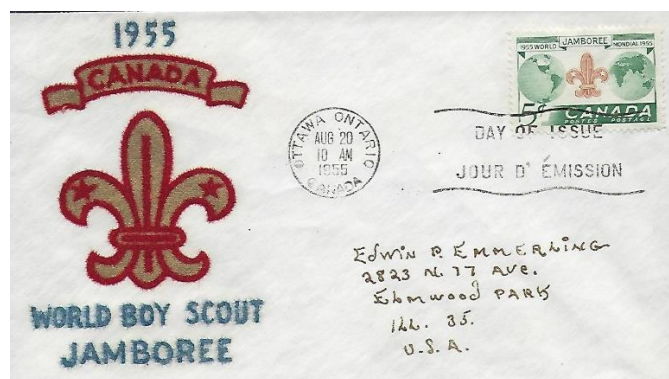
Flock printing or **flocking** is a printing process in which short fibres of rayon, cotton, wool or another natural or synthetic material are applied to an adhesive coated surface. This adds a velvet or suede-like texture to the surface. Since the fibres can be dyed, **flocking** can also add a color to the **printed** area.

Up to now these covers have been identified as Texture Craft, Flock, Dargis and Vela-tone cachets. In my opinion they should be contributed to the producer of these cachets. So, the correct identification would be then Flock(ing) covers.

We can assume that the names Dargis and

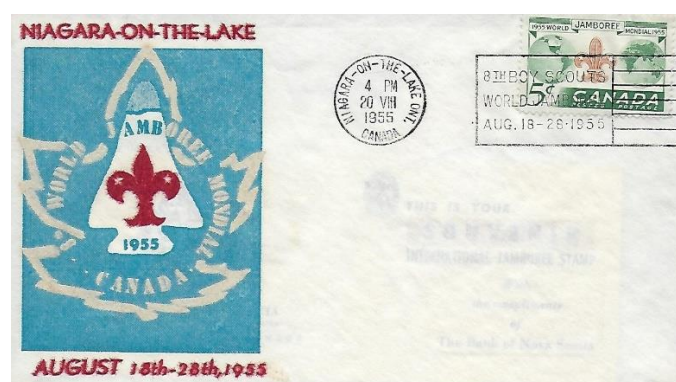
Vela-tone could be the different designers of the cachets. In this example of Scott # 356 one can see the enormous possibilities and combinations that could have been produced using the same design but playing around with many different colours.

Below follow five examples but surely knowing what possibilities existed I am sure there are quite a few more Flock covers produced for Scott # 356 with that design.





Not only this design but there may exist another design? One different design for #356 follows below.



A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

From Bob Vogel

Bob Vogel and Andrew Chung are presently preparing a comprehensive study on Canada Post Replacement and Publicity FDCs. Also to be included will be PMG FDCs and Stamp Launch covers. In particular they are looking for Publicity covers sent Greece, Poland, Russia and Czechoslovakia along with their enclosed letters. They have identified 40+ of the 61 destination countries and colonies and would like to include more. This handbook will be published by BNAPS and will complement the Chung/Narbonne "Canada Post Official First Day Covers" catalogue. Anyone interested in participating in this study is asked to please contact Bob Vogel at berlinb@csolve.net. They are planning to print the handbook in the Spring of 2020.

HAND PRODUCED CANADIAN FDCS BY LOU HAHN

For the longest time I had in my collection just one example of a Lou Hahn hand produced cover. That changed some time last year when a dealer put some others up on e-bay but unfortunately would only ship to a USA address.

Many thanks to Mark Lerner who had not only made me aware of these listings but also was able to

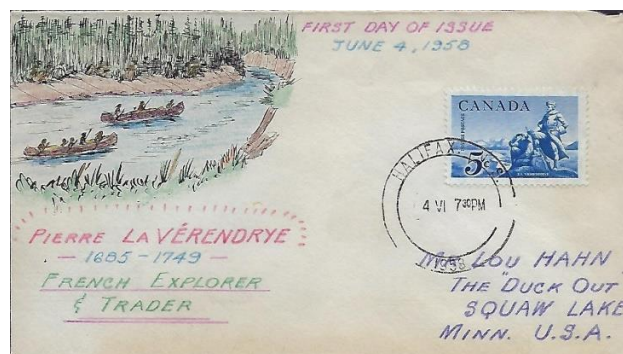
have them shipped to his contact address in the USA.

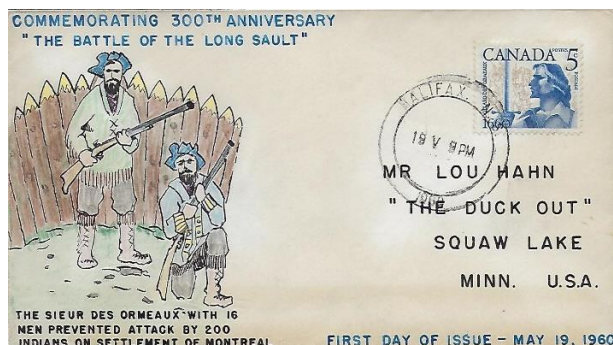
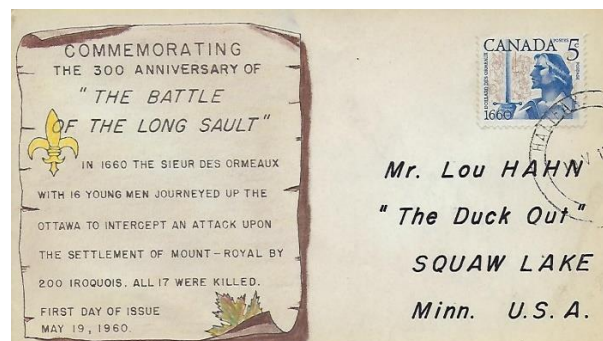
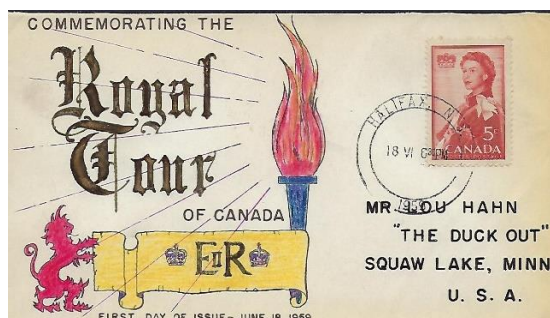
Based on the covers that I currently have we can establish that he produced these from 1956 to 1960. I have rarely seen these covers and one must think that they are just a one of a kind that he produced.

The style of drawing and colouring is more towards that produced by Gladys Adler. It is very difficult to determine if the cachets were applied before or after they went through the mail. I am going out on a limb here I guess to call them "Lou Hahn" covers but called them that since they are addressed to himself. All covers are addressed to:

Mr. Lou Hahn The Duck Out Squaw Lake Minn. USA.

The question remains if Mr. Lou Hahn produced more of these covers before 1956 and after 1960. I hope that those of you that might have such covers can scan them and report them to George Basher. An interesting grouping to say the least and a welcome addition to the list of producers of hand made cachets for Canadian FDC's. Shown below are the covers I have found so far:





WALTER O'HARA COVERS

By Michael Pierce

I Found these covers in a little collection I came across recently. There are eight covers from 1967, five from 1968, one from 1969 and one issued for the US pavilion in 1967 for Expo 67. They were created by a Walter E. O'Hara from Fredericton New Brunswick as his name appears on the back of some covers while others do not show his name. Others will show W E O'Hara on the back of the cover.

I believe they are hand drawn and the wording done on a manual typewriter. He used different colours of envelopes for different issues. Some have information on the issue on the back as well as the hand drawn illustrations. Others are completely blank on the reverse. All are addressed to the same individual. I know absolutely nothing about this man. In an effort to locate Mr. O'Hara or learn more about him I have checked with the president of the Fredericton stamp club who never heard tell of Mr. O'Hara or his FDC's. I have made inquiries to people that currently live in that area and also came up empty. I am assuming he produced these covers as his name and address are stamped on the backs of these covers (Walter E. O'Hara of 102 Myrtle Court, Nashwaaksis, New Brunswick, Canada). I only have 15 covers in total. They appear to be all hand done and different colours of envelopes were used for different issues. They also have the appearance of being produced using some type of copying machine, using an original to make others. The design and lettering are all in black but have faded. I have no idea at this point when he started creating FDC's or how many he did per issue or when he stopped. I am sure there are other "orphan" collections out there similar to this type of thing. At the end of the day it is something different. It's always nice to find different things.

Figure 1 – O'Hara Covers

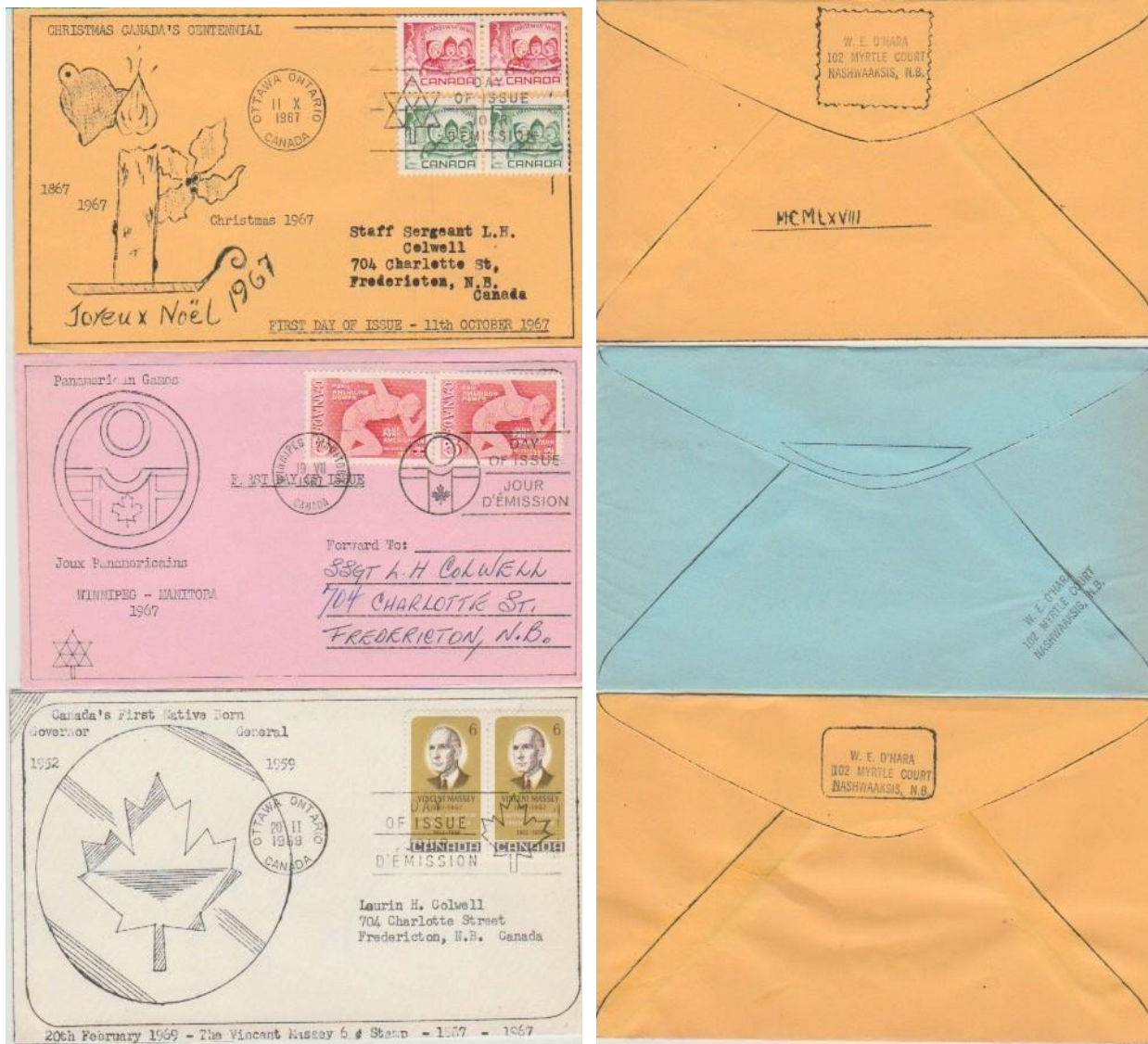


Figure 2 – O'Hara Covers

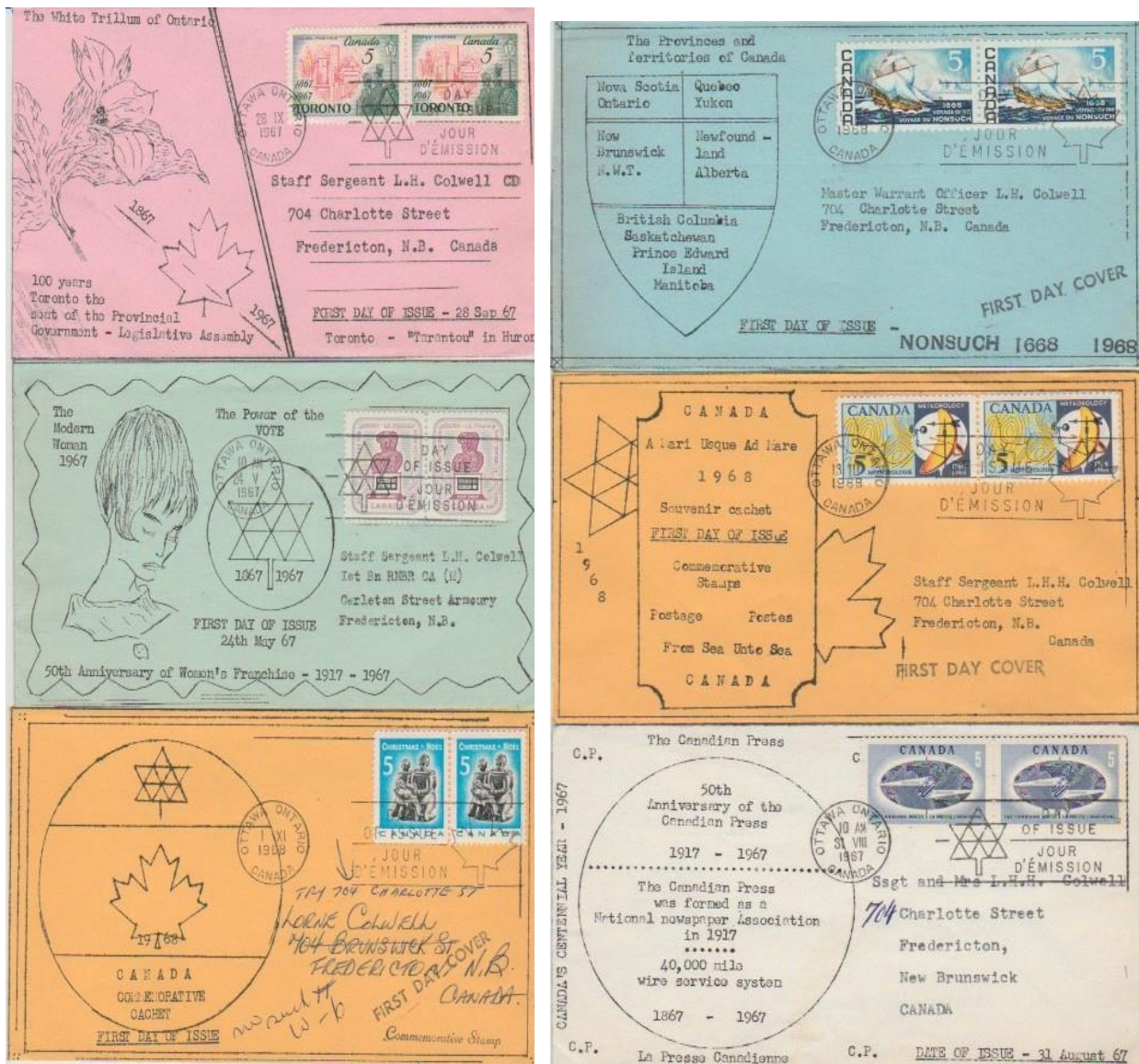
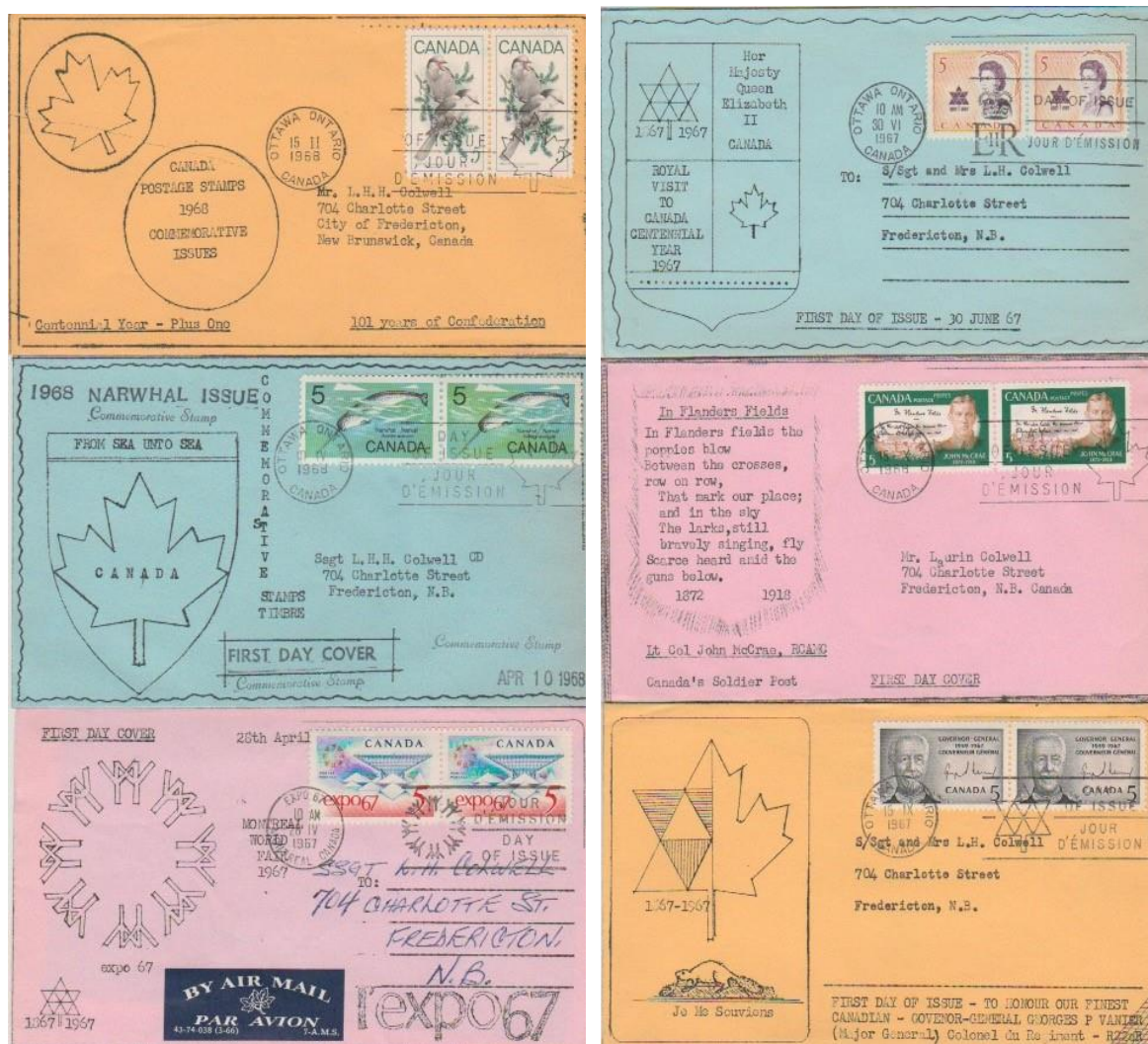


Figure 3 – O'Hara Covers



NEW BOOKS FROM BNAPS

Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1977, Gary Dickinson.

An illustrated catalogue of the first day covers produced by private individuals and organizations for Canadian stamps issued over five decades. 2020.

From the first known cachet for a Canadian stamp issue which appeared in 1927, through the apex of FDC collecting in the 1950s and 1960s, to the gradual decline of new products following the introduction of Canada Post's own line of official covers in 1971, privately-produced FDCs have rarely been studied and never thoroughly documented. This catalogue represents the start of a broader and more thorough treatment of FDCs as a sub-field of postal history.

Official Canadian FDCs are dealt with in detail in *The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Office First Day Covers* by Andrew Chung and R.F. Narbonne which was published by Unitrade

in 2015, so they are not included in this FDC catalogue. Also excluded from this first edition of the private FDC catalogue are such back-of-book covers as airmail, special delivery, official, and semi-postal stamps as well as the stamps of Newfoundland.

This catalogue is also a companion to the current edition of *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* which includes prices for FDCs from 1927 onwards, and these serve as minimum price points for the new volume. The assumption behind the stamp catalogue's pricing is that all cacheted FDCs are worth the same amount, however, prices for privately produced FDCs often run higher or lower than those listed in the stamp catalogue depending on a variety of factors.

More than eight thousand different cacheted covers are included in the volume. All of the special purpose cachets produced for specific stamp issues are illustrated in colour, while general purpose cachets that could be used for any stamp issue are each shown once in a separate section and cross-referenced to every stamp for which examples have been documented by at least one reported cover.

The catalogue provides guidance to both novice and experienced collectors regarding their acquisitions by illustrating the range of covers that have been produced for specific stamps and suggesting market prices for a wide range of FDCs.

Collecting First Day Covers of Canada, Gary Dickinson. A comprehensive overview of collecting and studying first day covers for Canadian stamp issues. 2020.

This is the first book-length treatment of this topic and will be of interest to those new to this area of philately or who have developed an interest that they wish to pursue in greater depth. Topics include collecting by stamp issue, cachet maker, theme, and postmark, with each approach being illustrated profusely with sample covers. Canadian cachet makers are emphasized, but American makers of FDCs for Canadian stamps are also discussed. Do-it-yourself cachet makers are well-represented.

The role of the Canadian post office in the production and distribution of FDCs is examined, as are cachet errors and oddities and information resources for the collector. The final chapter describes the ownership process beginning with deciding what to collect and concluding with disposing of a collection.

Dr. Gary Dickinson worked in B.C. secondary schools, colleges, and universities for thirty-five years until he retired in 2000. The last twenty years were at Okanagan College and Okanagan University College in Kelowna where he served as South Okanagan Regional Director for five years and Dean of the Faculty of Adult and Continuing Education for fifteen years. He was also Academic Vice-President for the two years prior to his retirement.

After his retirement, Dickinson continued his interest in continuing education by serving as a founder and President of the Society for Learning in Retirement, a six hundred member organization providing educational programs for seniors in the Central Okanagan, chairing the Okanagan College Central Okanagan Advisory Committee, and serving on that institution's Research Ethics Board. Gary and his wife Barbara have six grown children and were foster parents for twenty years.

Although his participation in philately was on an occasional basis since early youth, the hobby became a more serious avocation after he retired. He gradually redefined his area of interest as writing about first day covers rather than just collecting them, and he has published more than three hundred articles in such periodicals as *First Days*, *Canadian Stamp News*, *BNA Topics*, *Stamp Insider Online*, *First Impressions*, and others as well as fifteen handbooks in a series published by the British North America Philatelic Society. He served as editor of the BNAPS FDC Study Group newsletter, *First Impressions*, from 2011 to 2018