

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS

FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

ISSUE 46, APRIL-JUNE 2021

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EDITOR'S NOTES

There is lots of interesting material in this issue, covering a wide span of time from the 1940s through the early part of the 21st century.

A theme of industry-related FDCs continues with articles by Bob Vogel (Norton Company) and John van der Ven (Cominco). The latter is of personal interest because my first teaching job was in Kimberley, B.C. where the major employer in the early 1960s was Cominco. Barbara and I were married on August 17 and we packed all our worldly possessions into our 1960 Studebaker Lark, with our honeymoon spent at several stops between Vancouver and Kimberley.

Stamp dealers were also the topic of two more articles, one by John featuring Harold Bickerstaff's cachets and the other showing two ephemeral pieces from Rosecraft's final days.

We enter the 21st century on a rare occasion for Charles Verge's presentation about a surprise issue for the celebration of Canada being awarded the 2010 Winter Games.

A pair of brief items from my files round out the issue, one showing a "manufactured" pretence at being a FDC and the other requesting information about some specific Artopages covers.

Enjoy, and keep sending those articles to me for *First Impressions*.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Articles should be submitted in MS Word and scans should be separate attachments in JPEG format at 300 dpi. E-mail submissions should be sent to the Editor, Gary Dickinson at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca

CANADA'S 2003 OLYMPIC SURPRISE STAMP AND ITS UNOFFICIAL FDCs

by Charles J. G. Verge, RDP, FRPSC, FRPSL

On July 11, 2003, nine days after Canada was awarded the 21st Winter Olympic games, Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp (Scott 1991) to celebrate this major event in the life of our country. The Games were held in 2010 in Vancouver, British Columbia as well as the world-famous Whistler ski resort. To ensure that the stamp would be available in a timely fashion, Canada Post overprinted "Vancouver 2010" on its then current 48-cent definitive flag stamp (Scott 1931). This stamp—overprinted or definitive version—is only available in booklet format.

Normally overprinted stamps are already-issued stamps that go through the printing press again to receive an overprint. In this case, the timing was perfect as Canada Post was ordering a new printing of the self-adhesive booklet of 30 stamps for current use. Instead of the normal overprinting process—which was tried but proved unsuccessful—staff at Canada Post inserted the red inscription "Vancouver 2010" directly onto the printing plate to produce the new stamps. Purists might debate the validity of the term "overprint" for this stamp. However, if one looks at the stamp carefully it not only looks like an overprint, but no part of the design was removed to fit in the wording. In fact, the original design can be seen through the overprint. In addition, the same inscription was added three times to the booklet cover as the 30-stamp booklet (Scott 1991b) can be separated into three booklets of ten stamps for counter sales (Scott 1991a).

As these are definitive stamps, although with a commemorative bent, they could be reprinted should stocks of the flag booklets be insufficient. Another flag stamp was scheduled for the 49-cent domestic rate that took effect in January 2004. This would not be a first time this would happen: Canada Post reprinted the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee stamp of 2002 (Scott 1932) when it was required and committed to do

the same with the 2003 Coronation issue (Scott 1987).

A reprint of the Vancouver Olympics overprint stamp was unlikely for two reasons. The first was a Canada Post memorandum that accompanied the booklets shipped to post offices that was addressed to "all post offices in British Columbia and selected major post offices across the country". It read "Your outlet has been selected to receive an automatic allocation of the definitive flag stamps, available in a booklet of 10 or 30 stamps. The stamps and booklet cover are over-printed with "Vancouver 2010". This product is not available for reorder, as they are a limited quantity intended to commemorate the communities of Vancouver and Whistler being selected to host the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games". The second is that in the summer, and during the phase-out period of a rate, Canada Post substitutes stamps and booklets they have in stock when orders are received to diminish as far as possible the stock of the outgoing rate stamps.

Canada Post has a bar code identifier on each booklet of ten and calculates items in that way even if the illustration on the cover of the 30-stamp booklet spreads over the three booklets of ten. Therefore, the distribution for sale throughout the country is calculated in booklets of ten. Sixty per cent (180,000 booklets) of the printing of 300,000 "Vancouver 2010" 10-stamp booklets were distributed to British Columbia post offices while 113,000 were sent to major post offices throughout Canada. The remaining 7,000 booklets of ten were made available to collectors through Canada Post's National Philatelic Centre. At the time, Canada Post informed me that this is more than was needed to supply their account holders' request for booklets. There are many varieties in the booklet make-up, the stamp and its overprint which is beyond the scope of this article.

No official Canada Post FDC was prepared on July 11, and I am aware of no more than 100 privately prepared FDCs. Four individuals were able to make the FDC covers on the day of issue. These are illustrated with this article. Two were postmarked in Manitoba, one in Charleswood (Figure 1) and one in Winnipeg (Figure 2). The other two in Ontario, with the first postmarked in Hamilton (Figure 3) and the other at the Canada Post Headquarters post office in Ottawa (Figure 4). Quantities for each are not

recorded except for the Ottawa FDCs of which there are 20.

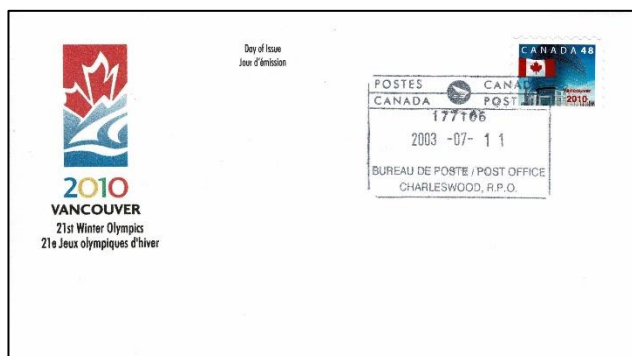


Figure 1

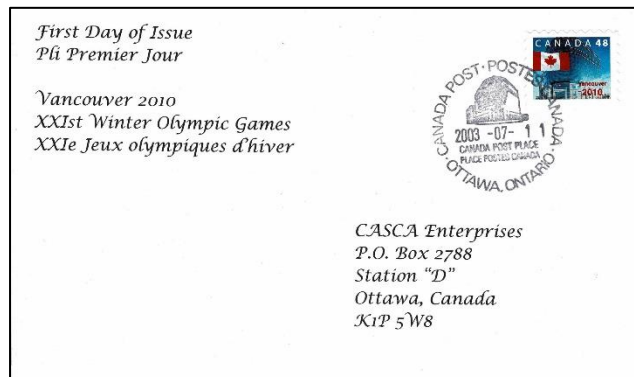


Figure 3

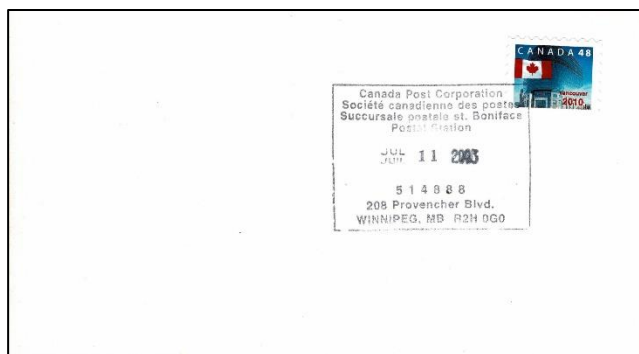


Figure 2

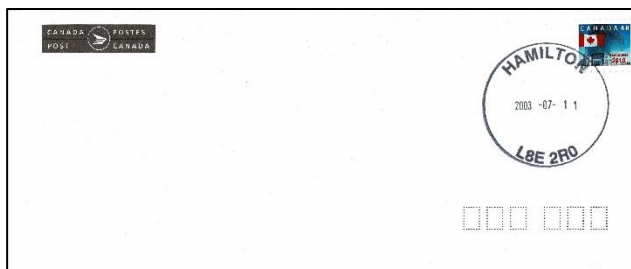


Figure 4

HAROLD W. BICKERSTAFF FIRST DAY COVERS

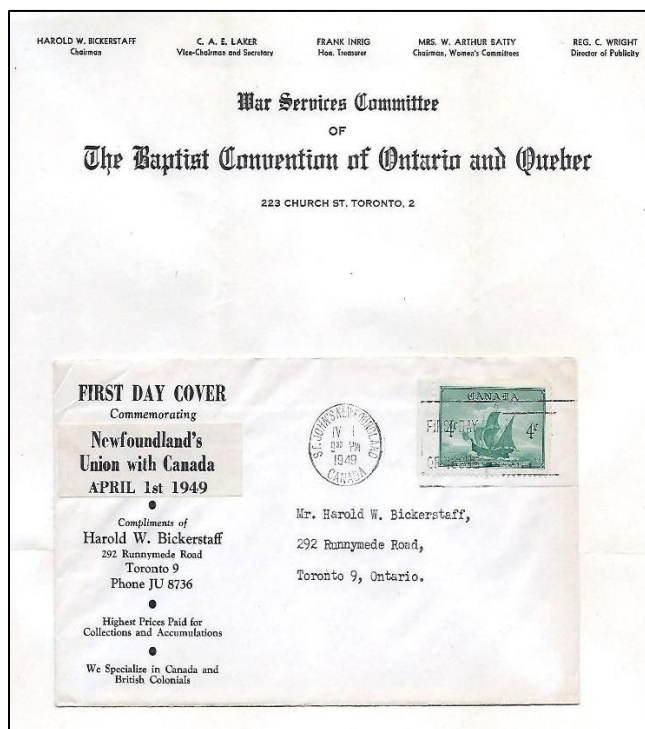
By Jan Pieter (John) van der Ven

Harold W. Bickerstaff was a part-time stamp dealer in Toronto who prepared home-made FDCs for some of his customers and clients of his insurance business. The earliest documented cover is for the April 1, 1949 Newfoundland union with Canada stamp (Scott 282) and the latest is for the Red River Settlement issue (Scott 397) of May 3, 1966. There are also at least two FDCs bearing cachets by other makers towards the end of this period.

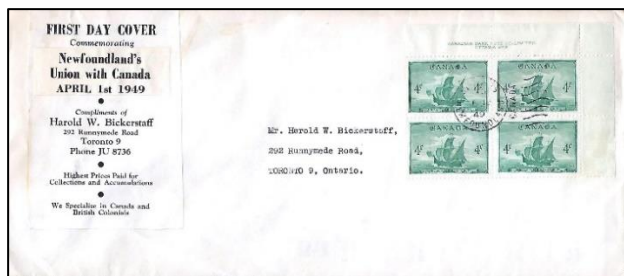
His earliest cachets from 1949 consisted of a label pasted to an envelope but Bickerstaff used typewritten cachets starting in 1951. A rubber stamp was used for his FDCs beginning in 1953 which indicated him as both the sender and receiver of the covers. These later covers stated that the cover was "Compliments of Harold W. Bickerstaff," suggesting that he would give these FDCs to his clients in the insurance business, some of whom may also have been stamp collectors.

Little is known about Bickerstaff's background apart from his involvement in the stamp business. However, the stationery shown below illustrates that he was chairman of the War Services Committee of the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec which shows that he was active in the Baptist church and likely a war veteran.

Another insert in a 1949 FDC notes that was the manager of Canadian Insurance Services located at Bloor and Bay Street in Toronto. Other inserts in later covers reinforce his participation in the insurance industry.



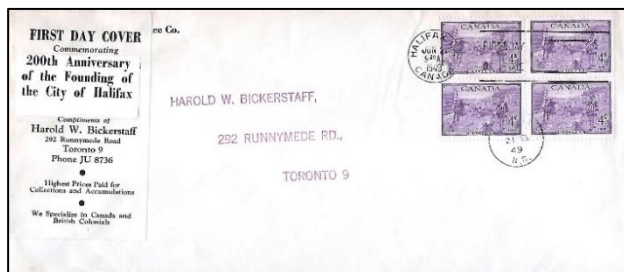
Following are scans of the Bickerstaff FDCs that I have observed to this point from the fifteen-year period in which he was actively preparing and distributing them. Most of the envelopes are slightly larger than a standard #10 envelope and they are postmarked either from the local point of origin or with the official Canada Post day of issue cancellation.



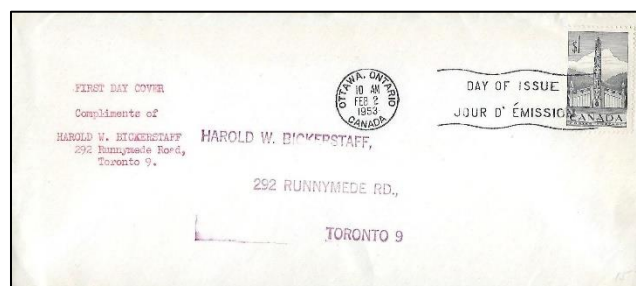
282 label, first Bickerstaff FDC



318 typed. Same as 319, 320



283 label



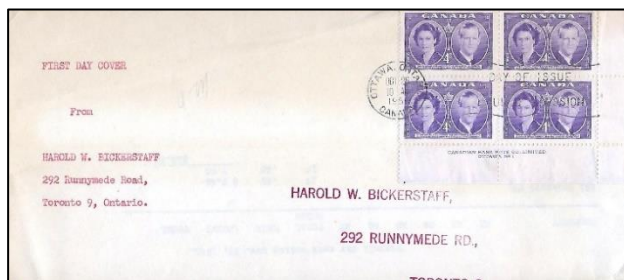
321 typed



284-288 label



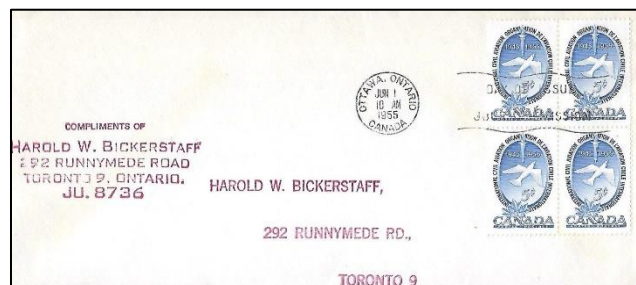
321-325 rubber stamp. Same as 355, 360, 361, 369, 371, 374, 386, 387, 397



315 typed



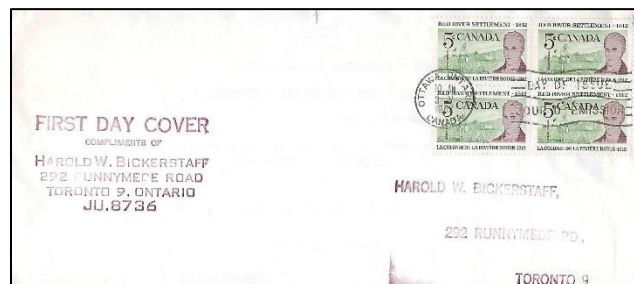
317 typed



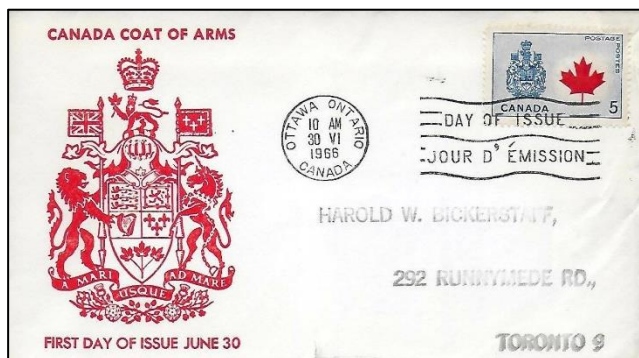
354 rubber stamp



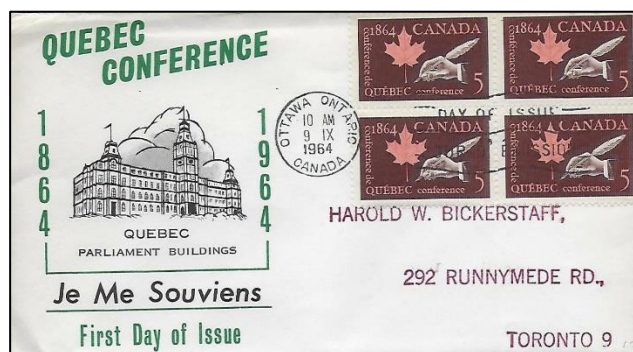
357 rubber stamp, vertical position. Same as 358



397 rubber stamp, last Bickerstaff cachet



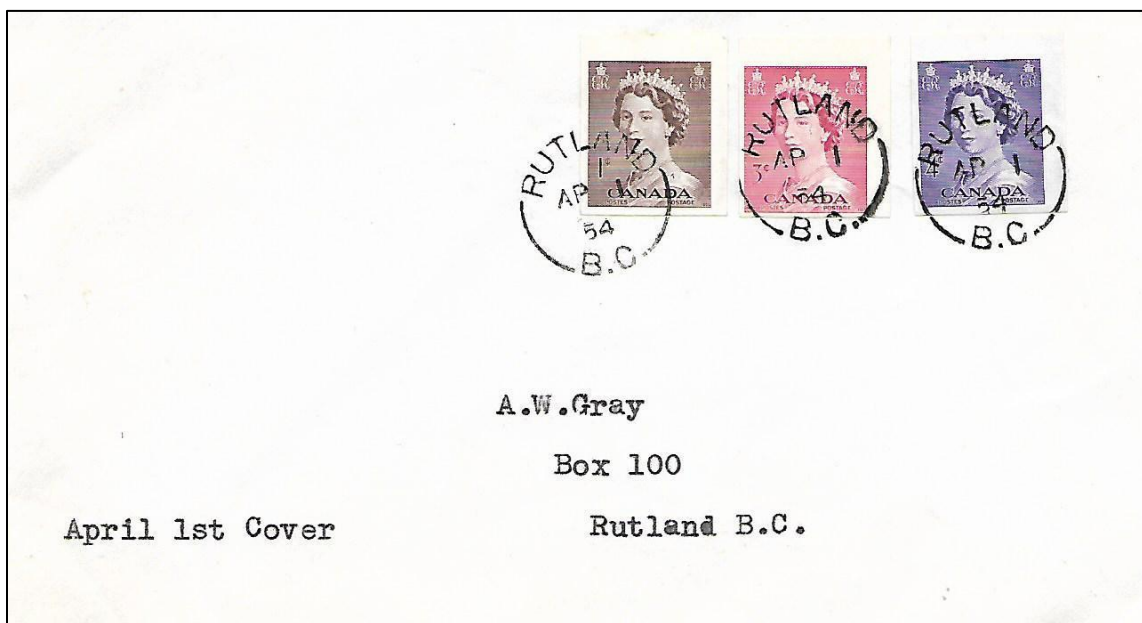
429A



432

A PRANK FDC

This cover presents itself as a FDC franked with imperforate stamps, probably made as a prank by the addressee A.W. Gray of Rutland. However, the year is 1954 rather than 1953, and the stamps are taken from the right-hand stamps of booklet panes in BK 47 with the left edge trimmed. Who says that stamp collectors don't have a sense of humour?



THE DEMISE OF ROSECRAFT IN 1974

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ROSECRAFT CUSTOMERS

It is with deep regret that we have to advise you that the 17 April 74 issue of ROSECRAFT Engraved Cacheted Envelopes and First Day Covers will be our last. This decision has been reached after a detailed evaluation of factors that have arisen over the past several years, including the following:

1. The unwarranted intrusion by the Canada Post Office into the Canadian First Day Cover industry. Since the Spring of 1971 we have seen our competitors, one by one, forced to give up their businesses because of the unfair competition.
2. Rising costs of printing, paper, advertising and shipping - factors which affected our prices but apparently not those of our government "competitor".
3. The 300% increase in Servicing Fee. This has discouraged thousands of people from enjoying the preparation of their own FDCs. As well, the introduction of a new fee of 10¢ per envelope, levied on collectors and dealers in the First Day city, effectively crippled the interest of thousands of additional collectors.

The effect of this conflict of interest between the Post Office and the private Canadian First Day Cover industry has confirmed our decision.

Our heartfelt thanks to you for your faithful patronage over the years.

ROSECRAFT COVERS LTD
Box 402, Ottawa, Canada K1N 8V4
(613) 745-1748

CANADA first day COVER CATALOGUE '74Ed.



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Box 402, Ottawa, CANADA
K1N 8V4

Producers & Distributors of Engraved
Cacheted Envelopes & First Day Covers

COMMERCIAL FIRST DAY COVERS

PART III-NORTON COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED

by Bob Vogel

The Norton Company was established in 1885 when seven Worcester Massachusetts entrepreneurs bought the patent for a grinding wheel from Frank Norton, owner of the Water Street Pottery Shop, where the formula for the grinding wheel had been invented. They also bought his company name.

By 1920, Norton was one of the 400 largest industrial companies in the United States. They diversified into industrial products other than abrasives and became a major multinational corporation. Norton became a publicly held company in 1962.

When they celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1985, they employed 18,700 people across 130 plants in 27 countries. Norton Canada was just one of them, specializing in industrial abrasives. Norton Canada appears to have started their FDC program sometime during 1958 using various cachet makers, with an early ArtCraft example illustrated in Figure 1.

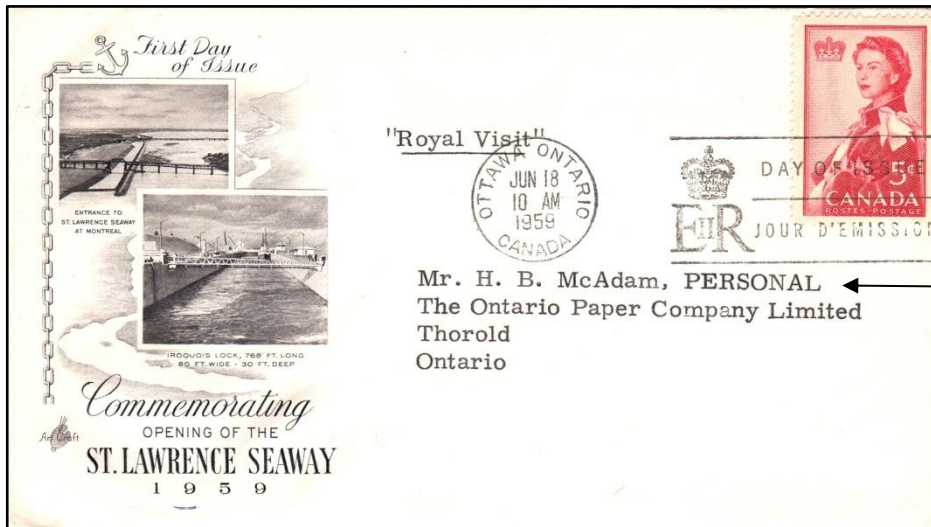


Figure 1

Their covers were sent to regular clients such as Anglo-Canadian Pulp and Paper Mills Ltd., Atlas Copco Canada Limited, Canada Paper Co. Limited, Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd., Fahrallloy (Canada) Ltd., International Nickel Co. of Canada Ltd., Ontario Paper Company Limited, Ontario Steel Products Co. Ltd., and Pyrotenax of Canada Ltd. to name a few who purchased their products.

Typical letters such as the one shown in Figure 2 describe the stamp issue with detailed information of the purpose. Oddly enough the letters contain little or no information about their own products which is contrary to most other companies who participated in similar first day programs.

Three types of letterhead were used during the Norton FDC programs and are shown below in Figures 3, 4, and 5.

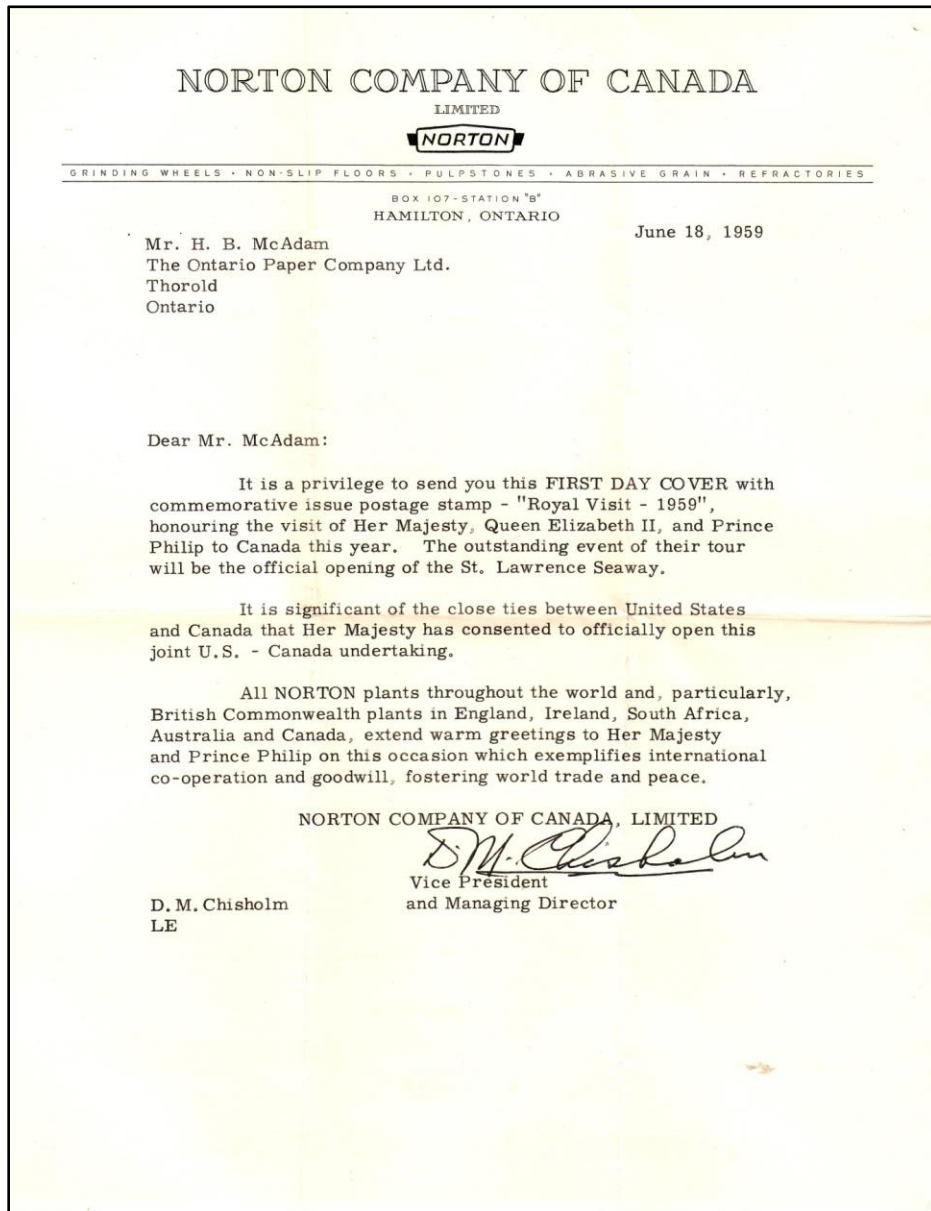


Figure 2

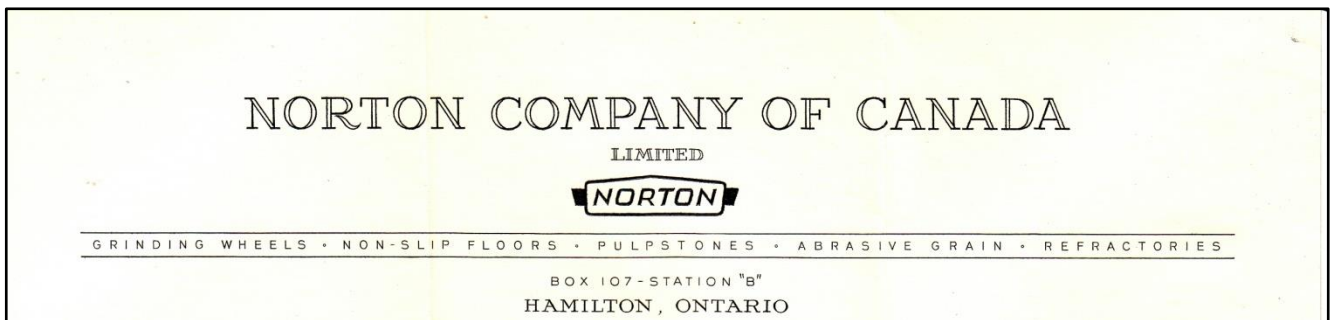


Figure 3

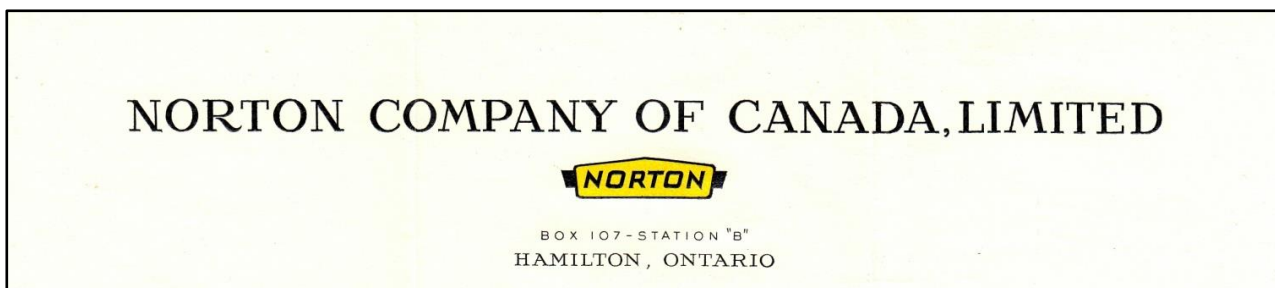


Figure 4



Figure 5

The earliest Norton FDC was for Scott 376 on March 5, 1958 and used a Personal cachet. This was followed by eight ArtCraft covers which appeared on five different ArtCraft general purpose cachets, as shown in the table below. The series concluded with a dozen Rosecraft designs concluding with Scott 429 on March 23, 1966.

Day of issue	Scott #	Description	Cachet type	Letterhead
58.03.05	376	International Geophysical Year	Personal	Type 1
59.06.18	386	Royal Visit	Artcraft Seaway	Type 1
61.06.28	394	Colombo Plan	Artcraft GP C	Type 2
62.02.28	396	Education	Artcraft GP C	Type 2
62.08.31	400	Trans-Canada Highway	Artcraft GP E	Type 2
63.09.25	413	Postal Service	Artcraft GP D	Type 2
64.05.14	417	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Maple Leaf Unity	Artcraft GP A	Type 2
64.05.14	417	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Maple Leaf Unity	Artcraft GP F	Type 2
64.06.30	418-419	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Ontario and Quebec	Artcraft GP A	Type 2
65.02.03	420	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Nova Scotia	Rosecraft	Type 3
65.02.03	421	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – New Brunswick	Rosecraft	Type 3
65.04.28	422	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Manitoba	Rosecraft	Type 3
65.04.28	423	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – British Columbia	Rosecraft	Type 3
65.07.21	424	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Prince Edward Island	Rosecraft	Type 3
66.01.19	425	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Saskatchewan	Rosecraft	Type 3
66.01.19	426	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Alberta	Rosecraft	Type 3
66.02.23	427	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Newfoundland	Rosecraft	Type 3
66.03.23	428	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Yukon	Rosecraft	Type 3
66.03.23	429	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Northwest Territories	Rosecraft	Type 3
66.06.30	429A	Floral Emblem and Coats of Arms – Canada	Rosecraft	Type 3
67.01.02	453	Centennial of Confederation	Rosecraft	Type 3

The cover shown in Figure 6 was not sent by Norton Canada but is from the parent company in the United States, Norton Behr-Manning Overseas Inc. This indicates the company's program was

participated in by their worldwide subsidiaries. The letter enclosed in the Seaway FDC is shown in Figure 7.

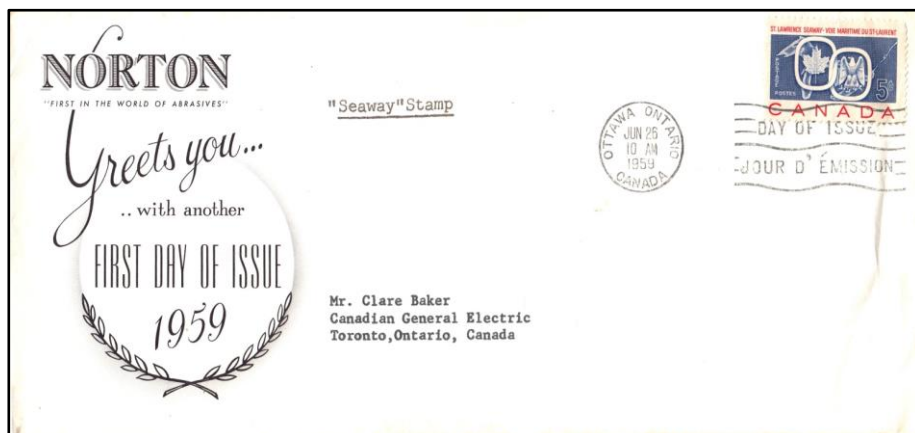


Figure 6

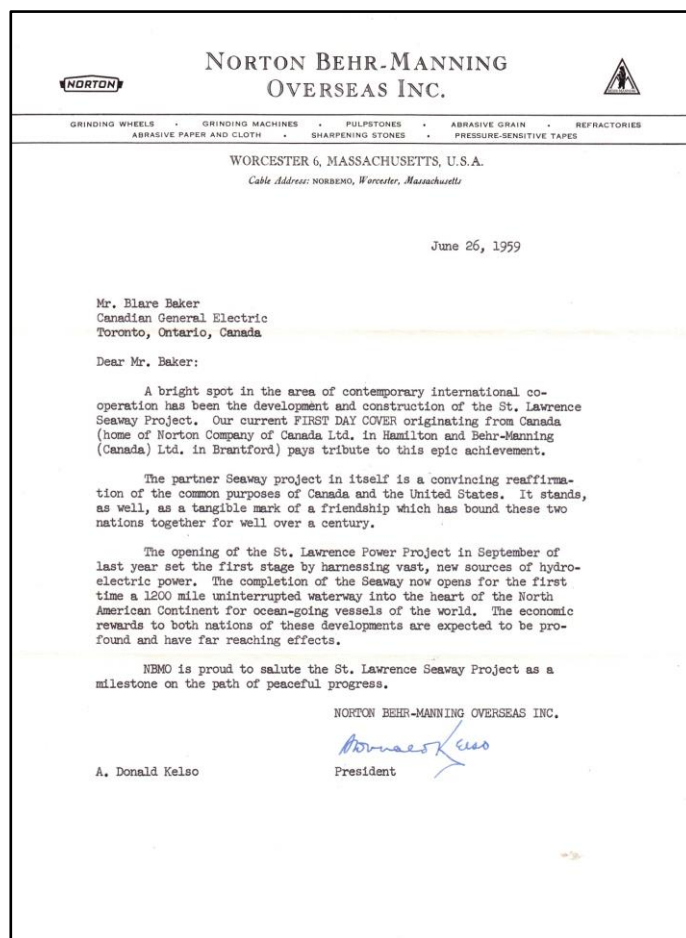


Figure 7

COMINCO FIRST DAY COVERS

by Jan Pieter (John) van der Ven

The Cominco Mining Company was started in 1906 as the Consolidated Mining Smelting Company of Canada formed by the organization of several units controlled by Canadian Pacific and CM&S. The company has been involved in the mining and smelting of zinc, lead, copper, gold, coal and lately the oil sands in Alberta. The name was changed to COMINCO in 1966 and then became Teck Cominco. In 2008 it became Teck Resources. In the past couple of years, the China Investment Corporation bought a 17% stake in Teck Resources.

In 1972 the Canadian Post Office launched the Earth Science Series consisting of four stamps, Scott 582 to 586 marking international conferences hosted by Canada for Geology, Geography, Photogrammetry, and Cartography. The common element theme of

these conferences was that the organizations involved all concerned themselves with themselves with the exploration and development of the earth's and man's activities on our planet. It was expected that more than 15,000 delegates from more than 125 countries would take part in these conferences to be held in Montreal and Ottawa.

These events probably sparked COMINCO to produce special FDCs with inserts for this stamp, and example of which is shown in Figure 1. The covers were mailed primarily to those involved in the industry and more than likely were customers for COMINCO. I have seen a complete set of these once, but they do not appear often in dealer boxes. Two examples are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

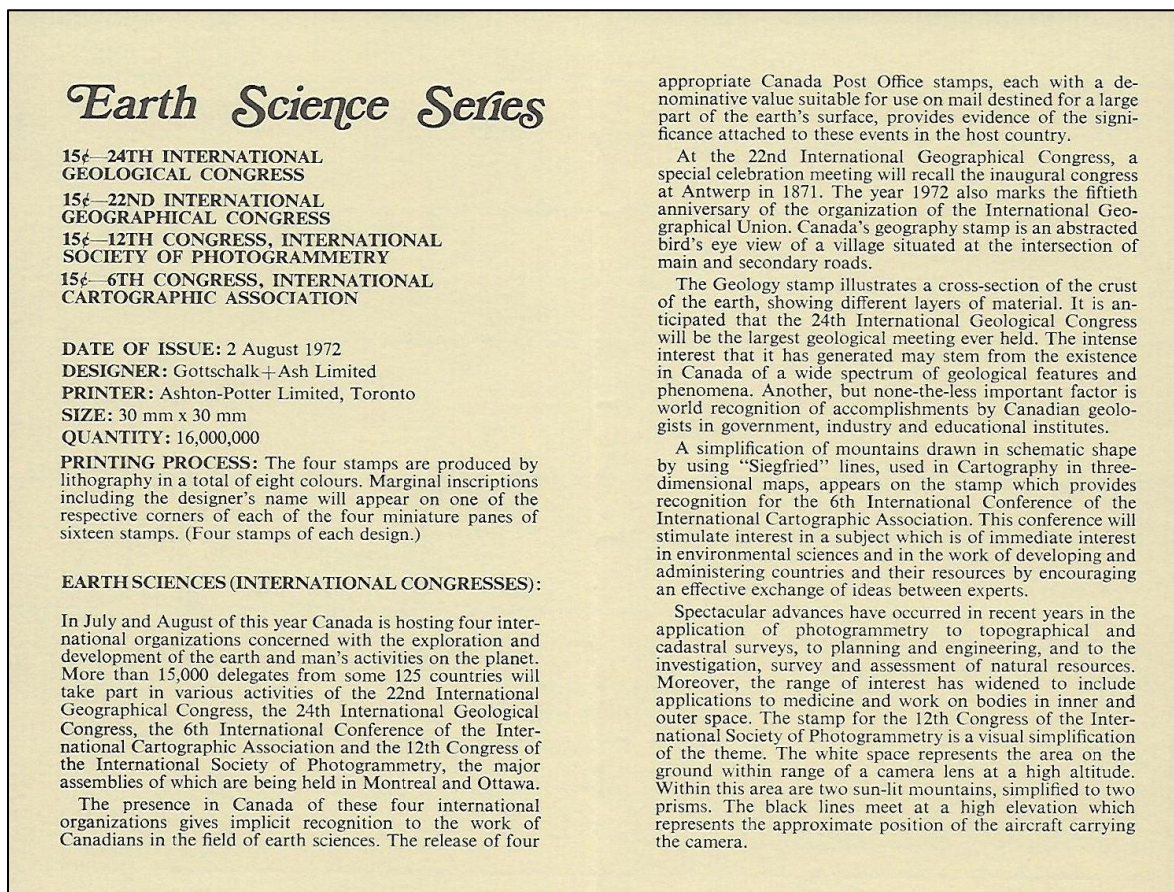


Figure 1

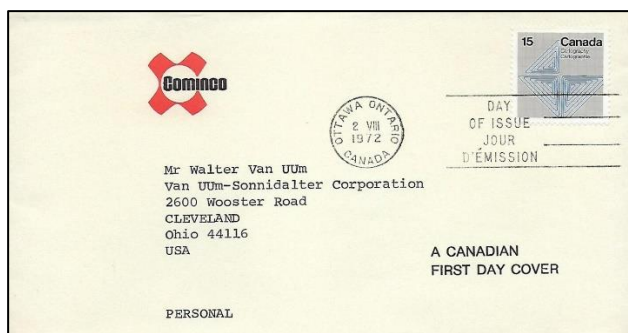


Figure 2

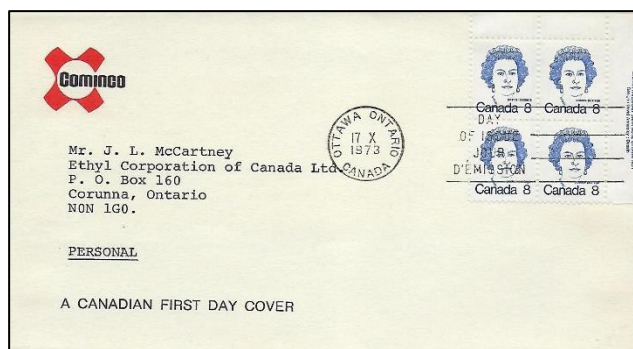


Figure 5

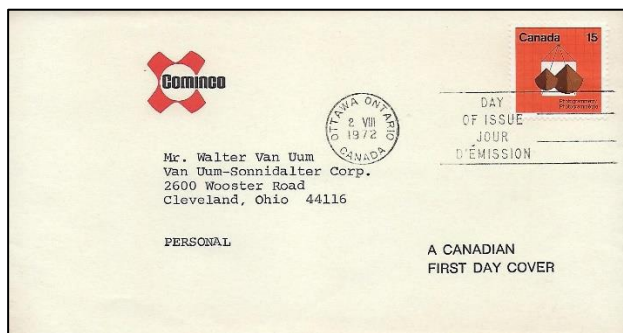


Figure 3

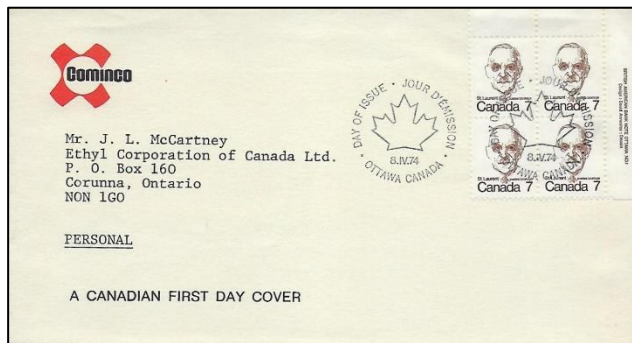


Figure 6

The Earth Sciences set is the only one I've seen with a two-line text in the lower right corner of the envelope.

Canada Post issued the Caricature definitives (Scott 589 to 593) in 1973-74. This is the only set that I have seen with the COMINCO logo in the top left corner and with "A CANADIAN FIRST DAY COVER" text in one line in the bottom left-hand corner. I have not seen an insert for these.

I have only found three covers of this Caricature set. I am sure there are some collectors out there that collect this period and who may have the complete set and COMINCO FDCs from other issues. If you do, please be so kind as to take a scan and send it to our editor.

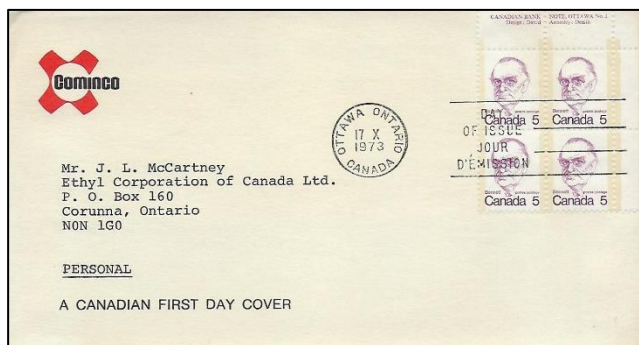


Figure 4

MORE 1953 KARSH ISSUE FIRST DAY COVERS

by Gary Dickinson



The first set of definitive stamps of the Queen Elizabeth II era consisted of five low-value denominations from 1 to 5-cents (Scott 325-329). It may have been the most unloved and unwanted set of the century as less than twelve months after its first appearance its successor, the Wilding issue, was launched.

Seventy-five different cachets for the FDCs of the Karsh issue were illustrated in Issue 42 of *First Impressions* in April 2020. More cachets have been documented since then and are presented here.



The Canada Post Office poster announcing the April 1, 1953 Karsh issue included the June 1 Coronation commemorative.



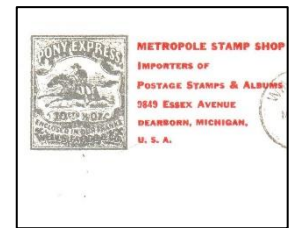
A.R. Alexandre 2



Canada Post
Replacement cover



Ralph Dyer



Metropole Stamp
Shop



Bell Telephone



Canadian Bank of
Commerce



Charles George 2



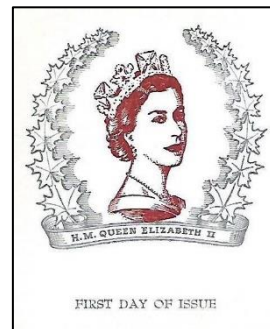
Philatelic Supply
Company 2
Typed addition



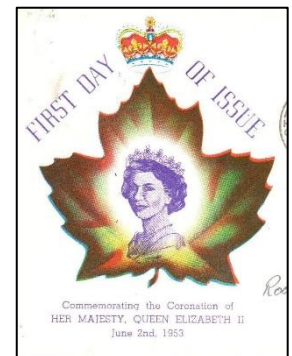
H.W. Bickerstaff



Carle's Postcard 1



H. Jacobi 6



Philatelic Supply
Company 3



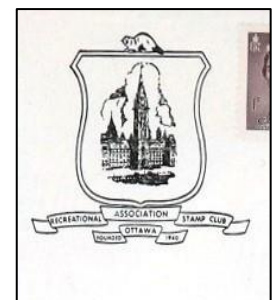
British Philatelic
Authority



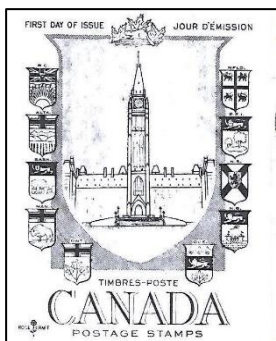
Carle's Postcard 2



JCR 9
Coronation date



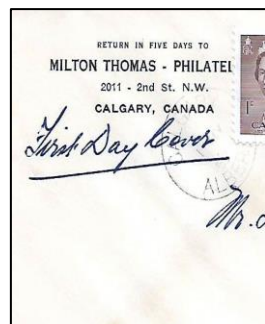
Recreation Assoc.
Stamp Club



Rosecraft cachet
used as label



M. Sanders 13



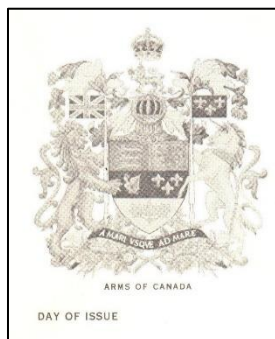
Milton Thomas



Unknown 7
Black



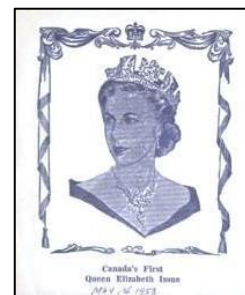
Robert Ross 1



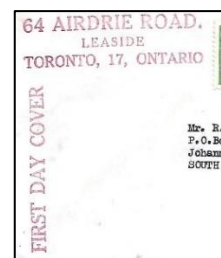
Stanley Stamp Co.
3—black



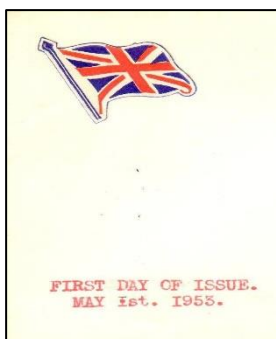
University of New
Brunswick



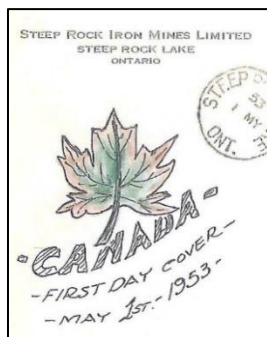
Unknown 8
Blue



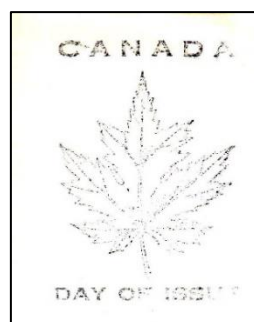
Unknown 9



Robert Ross 2



Steep Rock Mines



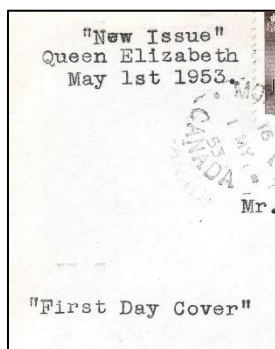
Ted Wright
Add-on cachet



Unknown 10



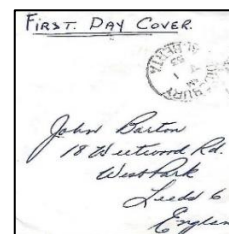
M. Sanders 12



F.J. Tait
Typed



Unknown 6



Unknown 11

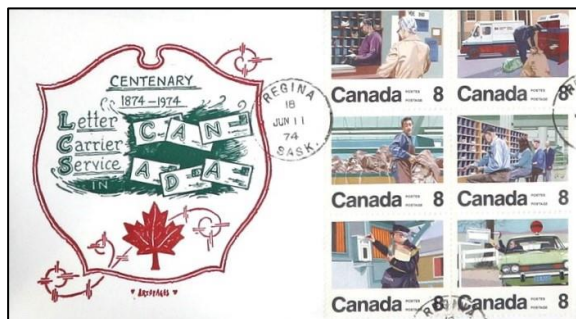
ARTOPAGES ANYONE?

I've been collecting Artopages FDCs for about five years with the thought of doing a BNAPS handbook about their Canadian products. The brand was active in the special purpose cachet market from 1967 until 1977 although their general purpose cachets began before and continued throughout that period and are still being sold today.

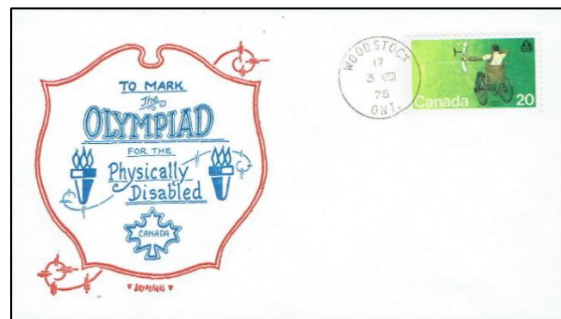
There are quite a few Artopages special purpose cachets that I've been unable to track down and are not listed on our website, so I'm not sure if that's because they are especially rare or they were never made in the first place. If you have any of their special purpose FDCs listed below, I'd be delighted to receive scans of them at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca. Many thanks for your assistance!

Gary Dickinson

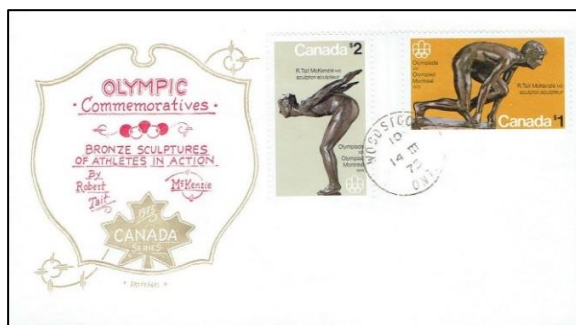
474 Vanier	534 Rutherford	658-9 Authors
483 Lacross	539 Papineau	660-1 Personalities
484 Brown	542 Census	662-3 Ministers
493 ILO	552 BC	668 Women
495 Osler	618 PEI	680 Legion
499 PEI	619 Scots	691 Franklin
501 Brock	620-1 Royal Visit	692-3 RMC
503 Christmas	623-4 Olympics	695-6 Authors
515 Riel	640 Agriculture	700-03 Vessels
517 Mowat	641 Telephone	715-6 14c definitive
532 Carr	642 Cycling	726-7 Hi.Val. Defs.



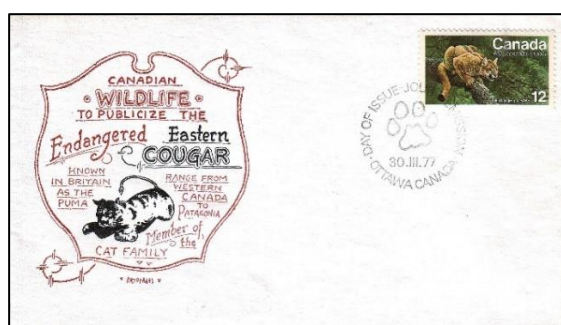
634-639



694



656-657



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