

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

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Editor's Notes by Gary Dickinson

The major article in this edition of *First Impressions* is a review of numerous “firsts” in our hobby of First Day Cover collecting which goes well beyond the usual approach of identifying “first cachets” by various makers. I’m sure you’ll find it an interesting a useful discussion that will open your mind to a new dimension of our hobby.

Next up, Gary Dickinson expands on his study in *First Impressions* #51 of the private first day covers created since the turn of the last century. New makers have been identified and names have been attached to some of the FDCs first shown in the previous issue.

Faithful contributor John van der Ven has produced studies and listings of cachets made by Grover Stamp Exchange and Middlesex Stamp Circle. These were written for and published by the Markham Stamp Club, and John has indicated a willingness to share the articles with interested FDC Study Group members.

Finally, a couple of members have shared information about American FDC maker F.R. Rice whose work was noted in Issue #51.

FDC Study Group member Gary Denis is interested in acquiring first day covers of Canada’s 1990 Legendary Creatures issue (Scott 1289-92, 1 October 1990), especially the Sasquatch single. All privately produced cachets are wanted, both professional and collector made. Also seeking usages on cover: letter rate, airmail, destinations, registered, etc. Contact garycdenis@comcast.net.

Written contributions to *First Impressions* are sought and welcomed, and new issues will be published quarterly. Contributions should be in Word format, with each scan in jpg format at 300 dpi forwarded as a separate attachment, and submitted to editor Gary Dickinson at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca.

MILESTONES IN CANADIAN FIRST DAY COVERS

by Douglas A. Hill

A First Day Cover (FDC) is any envelope or card that is postmarked on the first day of issue of the stamp, or set of stamps, that it bears. It does not even have to be sent by mail. Like Chung and Narbonne's definition [1, p. iv], ours permits, but does not require, any FDC text, cachet, or special cancellation or postmark on the envelope or card. "Card" includes maximum cards, souvenir cards, and similar postal items. An excellent overview of this field, *Collecting First Day Covers of Canada*, has been published by Gary Dickinson [2]. We also make use of Dickinson's other major publication, *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1989 Second Edition* [3], which is a major expansion of his first edition. Almost all the information in this article may be verified by careful examination of the text and illustrated cachets and covers found in these first three references.

Stages of Development

The development of FDCs in Canada has occurred in three main stages: Minimal FDCs, denoted MFDCs, are those that meet the minimal requirements for envelopes and cards that are postmarked on the first day of issue of the stamp or stamps that they bear. These typically have no printed First Day text, cancellation, postmark, or cachet. Thus, the occurrence of MFDCs runs from the earliest Canadian stamps right up to the present. It would be impossible to catalogue these covers as usually each one is unique. Figure 1 shows a sample MFDC.

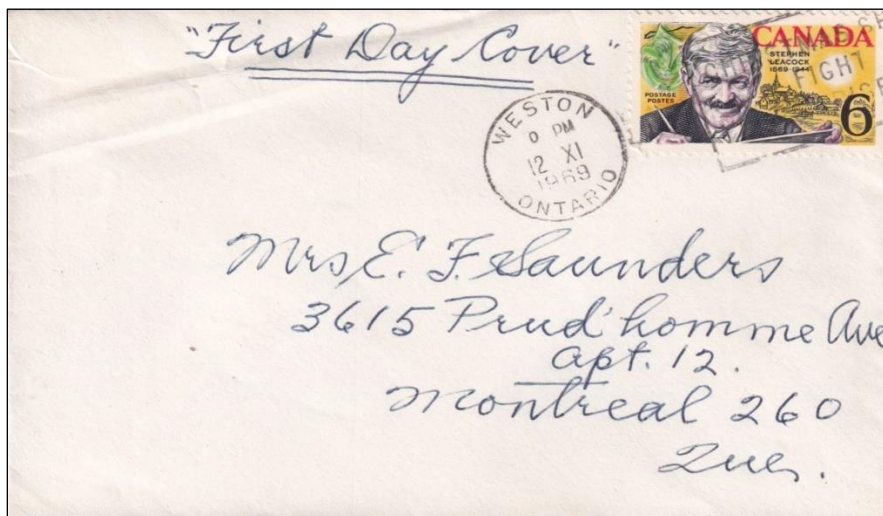


Figure 1.

Privately produced FDCs, denoted PFDCs, are produced and sold by private individuals and organizations such as printing, commercial or envelope companies, stamp dealers, stamp-collecting clubs, and philatelic exhibitions. Often the cover producer cannot be identified. The more recent ones, since 1927, have an FDC text and cachet, and are catalogued in [3].

A cachet is a text or a drawing showing an image related to the subject of the just-issued stamp(s), and usually placed on the left side of the cover. Some cachets are for general use with multiple different Canadian

stamps, and others have designs unique to one stamp or set of stamps. Figure 2 shows a PFDC for the Bell stamp of 1947. It was one of three early issues that had many FDCs made for them. This one set a record, as 203 different FDC designs were produced, and 25 of the generic designs were also used. The details are in the table starting on page 5.

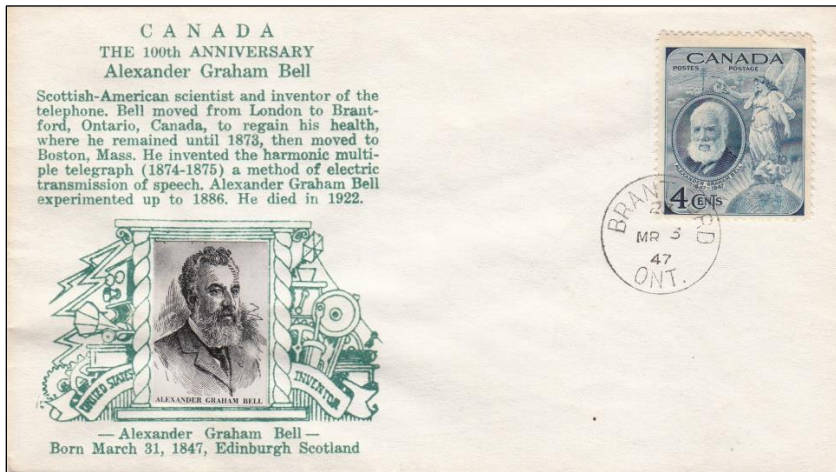


Figure 2.

This second PFDC era mostly faded away over 1971 to about 1977 as one by one the private FDC makers found they could not compete with those sold by Canada Post, which had all the advantages of a non-profit monopoly with sales offices across Canada. One exception were the Colorano covers, with their silk-like images, which continued until 1983.

We are now in the third era, that of Official First Day Covers, or OFDCs. These were first produced by the Canadian Post Office starting in 1971, and then continued by the Canada Post Corporation (Société canadienne des postes), which took over this public function starting with the 1 July 1982 Canada Day cover. These covers always have an FDC text, and a cachet. One of the early 1971 covers is shown in Figure 3. It is the only OFDC with the French text “Premier jour d’émission.” All others omit the word “Premier.”

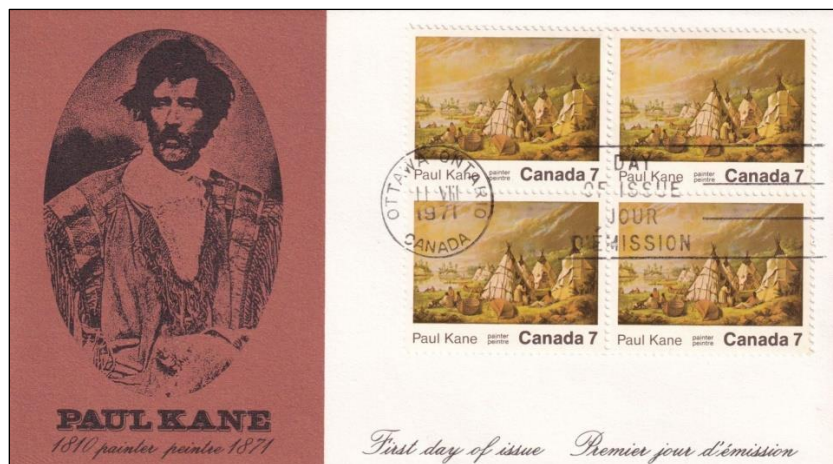


Figure 3.

Chung and Narbonne have provided an excellent service to Canadian FDC collectors, with their publication *The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers* [1], which lists OFDCs up

to the end of 2015. Since these OFDCs are usually neither addressed nor go through the mail, they are considered by some collectors to be philatelic souvenirs that were produced just for collectors.

Milestones

FDC milestones are first day covers that mark specific dated events within the historic development of Canadian FDCs. Most milestones mark the first occurrence of something new, but a few milestones consist of other noteworthy events, such as stamp issues with large numbers of FDCs. Our list includes all known firsts in Minimal, Private, and Official FDCs with respect to:

- stamp configurations (single, set, se-tenant pair, souvenir sheet, etc.)
- the design, layout, and text of the cancellations and postmarks
- the design, layout and text of the cachets, including text on the back of the cover
- unusual features in the OFDC cachets
- different envelope sizes (discussed below the checklist)
- English and French text on the cancel or cachet
- other languages on the cancel or cachet
- joint issues with selected other countries (discussed below the checklist)
- philatelic-numismatic covers.

Our list does not include firsts in:

- multiple colours for the same cachet
- the subject of the stamps, cancellations, or cachets
- errors or freaks in the stamps, cancellations, or cachets
- a list of the hundreds of different cities named on cancellations
- the covers produced by most of the 130+ known PFDC makers [2, p.132]
- most irregularly shaped cancels after the first few
- replacement, presentation, stamp launch, and special event OFDCs, most of which are described in the later sections of [1], and updated in [4]
- OFDCs since 2015, the last year covered in [1].

Checklist of Milestones

The list is in order of the date of issue of each stamp. In several cases this puts the Scott numbers out of order. “CDS” means Circular Date Stamp and “ss” means souvenir sheet.

Scott Number(s)	Date of Issue yy.mm.dd	Stamp(s)	Notes
1	51.04.23 (1851)	3d Imperf Beaver on laid paper.	Only two MFDCs are known to exist. [5].
50-65	97.06.19 (1897)	Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Issue for her 60 years reign. Set of 16 stamps, from the 1/2c to the \$5.	FDCs are known for only seven of the 16 stamps (1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 8c, 10c, \$1) and all are rare [3, p.10]. Ethier [5] shows examples of some of these MFDCs, which have no "first day" text.
141-5; 146-8; E3.	27.06.29 (1927)	9 stamps released same day: five (1,2,3,5,12c) for the 60th anniv. of confederation; three (5,12,20c) for historical issue; and one 20c orange Special Delivery.	1st PFDC with a cachet but some had no cachet; the first class rate was 2c. A <i>First Impressions</i> article [#8, p.6] says "A total of 75 different cancellations from 46 different locations have been reported." There are 41 different cities from 8 provinces listed as cancel locations. A second <i>First Impressions</i> article [#1, p.3] says two were cancelled June 27 th , two days early ! The Unitrade catalogue [6] starts listing prices for FDCs here.
237	37.05.10	3c Carmine stamp for 1939 Coronation of King George VI; shows both King and Queen.	Dickinson's Cat. lists 179 different cachets for this stamp. [3, pp. 13-18].
274	47.03.03	4c blue Bell centennial commemorative.	The third of three early issues with many FDCs. 228 different covers consist of 86 identified brands and 41 unknown brands designed specifically for this issue; 25 generic brands designed for any issue; and 76 from companies in Brantford, done as an organised community project. [2, p.2] [3, p.26].
276	48.02.16	4c wedding portrait of QE II.	1st known maxi card FDC (brand unknown).
	1949	Several private cachet makers offered FDCs starting in 1949.	Post Office starts a 'FDC service' which just offers an English "First Day of Issue" cancel. Covers are 165 x 92 mm, the traditional size.
282	49.04.01	4c green Cabot's sailing ship; issued to mark Newfoundland joining Canada.	1st time an official FIRST DAY OF ISSUE cancel was used, at St. Johns, Newfoundland. Almost 100 different first day cachets are known. [2, p.7].
284-88	49.11.15	King George VI mufti dress; revised issue.	1st Post Office general purpose cachet, Type 1. Cachet text is "CANADA POST OFFICE CPO FIRST DAY OF ISSUE." Wavy cancel over the stamps is "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" (English only). [2, p.13].
318-19	52.11.03	3c PM Abbott and 4c PM Mackenzie.	M. Sanders cards D and E are 1st Souvenir Cards treated as FDCs.
360-1	56..04.12	4c caribou and 5c goat.	1st known case where one company, Schering, issued one English and one French FDC for same stamp issue [3, p.72].
373	57.09.05	5c black; 6th Commonwealth Mining and Metallurgy Congress.	1st Rosecraft PFDC; Rosecraft is the most significant Canadian FDC producer. All their covers are engraved. At this stamp, the note in the Unitrade catalogue [6, p.146] says "Values for FDCs from No.373 to No.534 are for unaddressed covers with Artcraft, Rosecraft cachets. Other cachets command a premium."

379	58.06.26	5c Champlain.	The three Grover FDCs are the 1st FDCs with bilingual text on the cachet.
CAN 387 USA 1131	59.06.26	CAN 5c & USA 4c red, white & blue design; Opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway.	1st Joint OFDC with USA. There is also a first day souvenir card on the 25th anniversary of this issue, with the same two 1959 stamps printed, and two new joint stamp issues affixed and cancelled.
482	68.06.05	5c Nonsuch issue; Darnell cover.	1st FDC with a serial number; most, but not all, Darnell covers had a serial number. No other commercial brand ever did. [2, p.52]
535	71.04.14	6c Maple in Spring; issued Apr '71; other 6c stamps in the set had later dates of issue to Nov '71.	1st Canada Post Office Official FDC designed for only one issue, and the start of CPO continuous production of a unique FDC for each set or issue. The <u>cachet</u> text is only FIRST DAY OF ISSUE / JOUR D'EMISSION. with no Canada post office name. The same cachet text is also on OFDCs #2,4,6 & 9, which carry the Maple stamps of the other three seasons and the British Columbia cover. Envelope size, 'traditional' 165x92 mm. The Cancel date is 14 IV 1971 on two lines; cancel place is OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA; At this issue, the notice in the Unitrade Catalogue [6] says "From No.535 on, FDCs with cachets other than Canada Post command a premium."
553	71.08.11	7c Paul Kane painting of tepees.	1st and only OFDC cachet with the script text, <i>First day of issue Premier jour d'emission</i> . The word <i>Premier</i> was never repeated on any OFDC cachet.
554-7	71.10.06	Christmas issue, 6,7,10,15c snowflakes.	1st combination OFDC (2 to 4 different stamps on one cover).
544	71.12.30	8c slate definitive; QEII and Library of Parliament.	1st with cachet text CANADA POST OFFICE POSTES CANADIENNES and Day of Issue, Jour d'emission. Post Office name continues to June 1982.
611	73.01.31	8c blue Bishop Laval.	Colorano produces its first "silk" cachet PFDC.
620-1	73.08.02	8c large silver & 15c large gold QEII, for Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.	1st use of the contemporary size envelope, 190 x 112 mm, which became standard in 1975.
623-4 656-7	73.09.20 75.03.14	8c silver; 15c gold COJO; \$1 Sprinter, \$2 Plunger.	1st embossed FDCs are those of the first five Olympic issues. COJO means "Comité Organisateur des Jeux Olympiques."
572-3	74.02.22	2x8c se-tenant pair Pacific Coast Indians, chief with blanket & thunderbird.	1st pictorial cancel, a stylized tepee. Horizontal line cancels ended. All following cancels also pictorial with bilingual slogan DAY OF ISSUE /. JOUR D'EMISSION; Date format now 22.II.74 on one line. "II" is Roman numeral for the 2nd month. Place text is OTTAWA CANADA.
633	74.05.03	8c Winnipeg street corner; Portage and Main.	1st OFDC with a cancel city (WINNIPEG) other than OTTAWA. The subsequent cancel cities other than Ottawa are Brantford, Montreal, St Catherines, etc.
704	77.02.04	25c QEII silver jubilee.	1st silver foil stamping on the cachet.
756a	78.06.10	\$1.69 ss (14c, 30c, 1.25) CAPEX 78.	1st souvenir sheet on any FDC.
832a	79.06.15	12x17c, 1979 Canada Day miniature pane of	1st use of a new largest size envelope, 255x153mm, and 1st pane of 12 on any FDC.

		12 provincial and territorial flags.	
833	79.07.03	17c canoe-kayak championships.	Date format changed to yy-mm-dd with hyphens; this one is 79-07-03 on one line.
865	80.09.03	35c Uranium resources issue.	1st to add descriptive text on the back of the cover.
877	80.12.05	17c Lachapelle (Hopital Notre-Dame founder).	1st time that the text reads JOUR D'EMISSION / DAY OF ISSUE, with the French first, because of the Montreal city place of issue. This continues for all following stamps issued in Quebec cities. Previously, #687-8 was English first for a Quebec City stamp launch.
916	82.04.16	30c patriation of the constitution; wide stamp.	1st gold foil stamping on a cachet.
966a	82.06.30	12x30c Canada Day 1982; min pane of 12 works of art.	Canada Post Corporation, founded Oct 1981, changes cachet text to Canada Post Corporation, Société canadienne des postes on 1 Jul 82. Day of Issue and Jour d'emission continued.
994	83.07.22	32c World Council of Churches.	1st OFDC cachet using non-Latin letters, namely Greek.
1009	84.03.15	32c Yellowknife (1934-1984).	1st with an indigenous language on the cachet.
CAN 1011 FRA 1923	84.04.20	Canadian 32c & French 2F; 450th anniv. of Jacques Cartier's first voyage from France to Canada.	1st JOINT card with FRANCE. The card has both similar stamps, each cancelled by their own post office with a CDS. Printed in France.
1125A	87.06.12	\$1.86 CAPEX 87 souvenir sheet.	1st use of the 4th envelope size, 245x140mm; this large envelope is used where appropriate from now on.
1151	87.11.02	31c Christmas tree.	1st with three rows of boxes for printing the postal code, for machine reading of the Greet More stamps.
1204-05	88.06.01	37c duck and 37c moose; conservation issue.	Circular cancel place format now OTTAWA, ON CANADA .
1227	88.11.18	37c Frances Ann Hopkins.	1st with initials of the person honoured, FAH, inside the circular cancel.
1311-15	91.05.22	5x40c Public Gardens issue.	1st free-form cancellation design - there is no circle. Place format, HAMILTON ONTARIO (without CANADA) is used with all the occasional free-form cancellations from here on (stamps 1321-5, 1408-12, 1485-9; etc.)
1407a	92.03.25	\$2.16 ss for Canada 92 PHILEX.	1st where ss and cachet leave no room to write an address.
1419	92.06.29	50c painting, <i>Red Nasturtiums</i> , by Milne.	1st handwritten signature, <i>David Milne</i> , within a circular cancel.
1460	93.04.16	43c 110th anniversary of the NHL's Stanley Cup.	1st Philatelic-Numismatic Cover (PNC1); there are at least six more by 2003. Issued for \$29; cat \$60; in the <i>Unitrade Catalogue</i> , p.697. Stanley Cup proof silver dollar coin embedded within the cover.
1466	93.05.17	86c drawing, <i>The Owl</i> , by Kenojuak.	1st cancel with the Inuktitut text for the artist Kenojuak. CAPE DORSET, NT, CANADA.

1467-71	93.06.14	4x43c Historic hotels set.	1st use of the new postal code "QC" for Quebec: QUEBEC, QC, CANADA. Last cover using "PQ" is stamp #s1349-55.
1490a-f	93.08.23	6x43c historic land vehicles; three se-tenant pairs (ab, cd, ef) from one souvenir sheet.	1st 'filled circle' cancel, which has no text inside the circle. The date is moved to the outer circular text. CANADA dropped from place text for these and all future 'filled circle' cancels. All text, going around the circle is: "JOUR D'EMISSION DAY OF ISSUE STANSTEAD QUEBEC 93.08.23" .
1507-08	94.01.28	43c greeting quick sticks with wings stickers for all occasions.	1st rare red coloured cancellation. Cancel place text now LOVE, SASKATCHEWAN.
1546	95.05.01	43c anniv. of Canadian flag, 1965-95.	1st rectangular "CDS". The top of the rectangle is the Canadian flag. Text is "1965-1995 / Day of Issue-Jour d'emission / 1995-05-01 Ottawa, Ontario". This is the start of the occasional use of lower case text, also found on stamp #s 1657, 1672, etc.
1553-7	95.06.06	5X43c famous golf clubs.	1st odd-shaped cancel with text still circular.
1559abc	95.06.29	Group of Seven. 1st of 3 souvenir sheets with 3x43c; total 10x43c stamps.	1st oval cancel; handheld painter's pallet with text in an oval.
1590	95.11.09	45c Holocaust, or "Shoah".	1st cancel with Hebrew alphabet text for 'shoah'. Date format is 95/11/09 just for this irregular cancel.
1602	96.04.30	90c sculpture <i>The Spirit of Haida Gwaii</i> , by Bill Reid; Temporary exhibit at our embassy.	1st FDC cancel outside of Canada. Text is "CANADIAN EMBASSY - AMBASSE DU CANADA, WASHINGTON, D.C." Bill Reid's signature is at the center of the cancel. The next Washington stamp release may be stamp #2154 (2006).
1608-12	96.07.08	5x45c sporting heroes issue.	1st with two different pictorial day of issue cancellation designs paired on one cover: One hand passing and another hand receiving the baton. The next example is stamp #2299, with two different locations for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.
1630	97.01.07	45c; Chinese Lunar New Year: Year of the Ox.	1st Chinese text (on both cancel and cachet).
		March, 1997.	The varieties of cancel designs (shapes, drawings, text arrangement) are becoming too numerous, so we stop listing them here. Also, the date formats start changing, cover by cover, between all varieties from here on.
1665-8	97.10.01	4X45c supernatural issue (vampire, werewolf, ghost, goblin).	1st glow-in-the-dark cover created to complement the stamp. Glowing images front and back.
1715-17	98.04.16	3x45c fishing flies.	1st FDC where place & date text are both "bumpy" upper case.
1721	98.05.04	45c mining, metallurgy & petroleum.	1st time place text is a mixed font, "DAY OF ISSUE JOUR D'EMISSION Montréal, QC"
1784	99.04.01 (1999)	46c creation of Nunavut (NV) from the NWT.	1st issue from new territory, Nunavut, which began on 1 Apr 1999. IQUALUIT NV.

1683	00.12.28 (2000)	47c QEII definitive.	Cachet text changed to "Day of Issue / Canada Post; Jour d'émission / Postes Canada" which continues until the end of the OFDC book in 2015 [1].
1900	01.04.06	47c 150th anniversary of Canadian Post.	1st and only OFDC to combine metallic foil stamping, embossing and die-cutting to produce the stunning three dimensional ornate mail slot.
2211-12	07.03.15	Two paintings by NL artist Mary Pratt: a 52c <i>Jelly Shelf</i> and a ss with the same stamp set-tenant with a \$1.55 <i>Iceberg in the North Atlantic</i> .	On 6 Dec 2001, the province of Newfoundland was renamed "Newfoundland and Labrador" and the 2-letter postal code changed from "NF" to "NL". This set is the first cover showing "NL" as the cancel location: ST JOHN'S NL [1]. The last use of "NF" for Newfoundland was the set #s1904a-e, tourist attractions, on 01.05.11. It took nearly six years before any cover was issued in NL !
2076-80	04.12.20	5x50c flag definitives.	1st very wide cancel, covering the width of five stamps.
2105-06	05.04.22	2x50c National Parks.	1st cover with Irish (Gaelic) text, found in the Irish PO cancel on this joint issue with Ireland.
2226	07.07.26	52c Membertou (1607).	1st with much small text, covering half the front, in an indigenous language, likely Mi'kmaq.
2265	08.04.03	52c 2008 IIHF World Championship.	Two different cachets and city cancellations produced: Halifax & Quebec City.
2266	08.04.21	52c guide dog stamp. Braille on both stamp and cover.	1st use of Braille on a Canadian cover. The 52c stamp carries the Braille for "[numbers:]52". The cachet's first line of text is Braille for [cap]Guide [cap]Dogs, exactly as printed on the cover. However, the second line of Braille, which should say "Chiens-guides", cannot be interpreted as any sensible text; online translators for Braille do not help.
2271	08.05.21	ss of three (52c, 96c, \$1.60) for photographer J. Karsh.	1st case where the stamps are at the center of the cover, not near the UR corner.
2514	12.02.06	P(61c) Royal visit of 1967.	1st CDS with date in italics: "2012.02.06."
2554-55	12.06.15	2xP(61c) Brock & Tecumseh.	New cancel date format: "15 JUNE 2012".

Varieties

In 1993, Canada Post produced our first Philatelic-Numismatic cover, listed in Chung and Narbonne [1] as PNC1. Seen in Figure 4, it celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Stanley Cup. One of our earliest embossed FDCs is the guide dog issue of 2008 (Figure 5). The embossing on the stamp is the Braille number "52", the denomination of the stamp, and the embossing on the cachet is Braille for "Guide Dogs" in English, with similar text in French. Another innovation is the extensive use of the Inuktitut language in the cancel, cachet, and verso text on the 2022 FDC honouring Inuit leader Jose Kusugak, who was key in the creation of the Nunavut territory in 1999. That cover is presented as Figure 6.

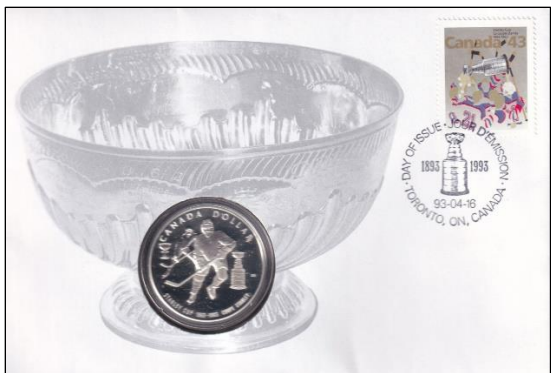


Figure 4.

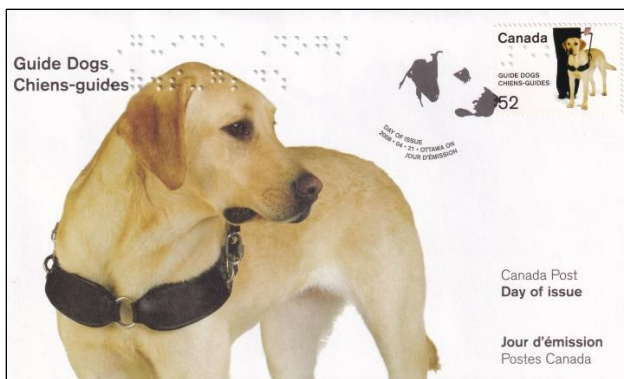


Figure 5



Figure 6

Envelope Sizes

Canadian FDCs have been produced in four different envelope sizes:

1. The traditional size of 165x92 mm, used since the earliest covers, and three larger sizes introduced by Canada Post as needed:
2. The contemporary size of 190x112 mm (starts at #620, 1973)
3. The large size of 254x140 mm (starts at #1125A, 1987)
4. The largest size of 255x153 mm (starts at #832a, 1979).

Cancellation Formats

For most of our philatelic history, mailed addressed envelopes had a circular date stamp (CDS) cancellation, sometimes partly on the stamp, and at other times off the stamp when horizontal lines and text were used to cancel the stamp(s). These cancels always show the date, place, and text DAY OF ISSUE JOUR D'ÉMISSION (or similar), but the formats for all of these vary a lot. Thirteen different changes in the format of these circular cancels are recorded in the checklist, including the more recent use of other images within the circle. The circular cancels of some of the PFDCs also contained the time of the cancel, but it was never shown on the cancels for the OFDCs. The first cancellation showing an image – in this case a teepee - is presented in Figure 7. Cancel images became popular over the next ten years.



Figure 7

From the beginning of Canadian FDCs, post office locations have almost always been printed in capital letters. This table lists the five main formats, using OTTAWA as an example.

Cancel Location Text Format	PFDCs		OFDCs		
	Date range [a]	% of sample [a]	Start Date	Stamp # & subject	OFDC #
1. OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA	Span 1947-74 Bulk 1951-71	54	71.04.14	# 535 Maple in Spring	001
2. OTTAWA CANADA	Span 1928-85 Bulk 1939-60 & 1974-85	18	74.02.22	# 572-3 Pacific Coast Indians	036 [b]
3. OTTAWA, ON, CANADA (ON, BC, SK, NS, etc)	Not used.	0	88.06.01	# 1204 Wildlife: duck	292 [c]
4. OTTAWA, Ont. (Ont., B.C., Sask., N.S. etc.)	Span 1932-80 Bulk 1947-74	21	Not used.	None.	None.
5. OTTAWA, ONTARIO Prov/terr abbreviated where space is limited.	Span 1937-94 Bulk 1948-67	7	94.01.28	# 1507-8 Quick stick greetings.	413 [d]
6. Date and place formats both vary significantly from here on.	Not used.	0	97.03.20	# 1637 Charles-Emile Gadbois	490

Notes on the Table.

[a] Formats used for PFDCs were varied and mixed over time. The date ranges were found by examining all 126 readable covers in chapters 3, 4, 6 & 9 of Dickinson’s introductory book. [2] The Span is the full range of dates found, while Bulk gives the approximate date range for most of this format. The percentages were calculated from this small sample of 126 covers so they are only approximate.

[b] Beginning with the “Indians of the Pacific Coast” issue (Scott 572-3), the horizontal line cancellations were discontinued, and the “DAY OF ISSUE / JOUR D’EMISSION” text was moved to the top half of the circular cancel. This issue marks the start of an ongoing series of pictorial cancels and a new date format of 22.II.74 for 22 Feb 1974 – a return to the use of roman numerals for the month. This redesign left no room for the name of the province or territory in the cancel location text, so the province or territory was omitted.

[c] These use the original two-letter provincial or territorial postal codes (which have no periods) including PQ (now QC) and NF (now NL).

[d] This issue starts this cancel location format, but from here on the date and place formats vary significantly.

It may be seen in the table that the development of the location format for the OFDCs is a simple pattern over time, but that of the PFDCs had much overlap in the different stages. There are a few exceptions to these standards, for special occasions such as a Royal Tour/Train or the circular cancels for the Papal tour of Canada in 1984.

Cancellation Cities

From the beginning, minimal and privately produced FDCs were cancelled at the many different cities where the Canada Post Office simultaneously issued the stamps. In 1935, the post office listed twenty-three different cities [2, pp.12-13]. But Dickinson's article about cancellations on 1927 FDCs [7], lists 75 different cancellations from 46 different locations – the result of the efforts of two cover printers and several dealers.

This changed significantly at the start of the era of OFDCs. All the early ones were cancelled at OTTAWA until Scott # 633 (1974), which was cancelled at WINNIPEG. This is the only non-Ottawa release city in our list of OFDCs; the many later cancellation cities were not considered noteworthy.

Joint Covers

These are covers with two or more stamps on them; at least one from Canada and at least one from another country issuing their own stamp, like ours, on the same day as ours. For this list, covers are limited to the first issues from our closest allies by history and geography; namely Britain, France, and the United States. Up to January 2024, there are no joint stamp issues with Britain, four with France (in 1984, 2004, 2008, 2017), and six with the United States (in 1959, 1976, 1977, 1984, 2006, and 2017). The covers with the underlined dates are in our list, but we do not expect to find joint first day covers for all ten issues.

Our first joint FDC with France is the souvenir postcard shown in Figure 8. It was issued to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Jacques Cartier's first voyage to Canada. The card was printed in France and has a serial number.

Additions and corrections to this list would be welcomed by the author at dahill3973@rogers.com This list is part of a bigger project, to document firsts and other milestones in many different aspects of Canadian Philately. The other lists will include firsts in the cutting of stamps, hidden features, bilingualism, other languages, and souvenir sheets.



Figure 8

References

1. Andrew Chung and Narbonne, R.F. *The New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers*. (Fourth Edition.) 304pp. The Unitrade Press, 2015.
2. Gary Dickinson. *Collecting First Day Covers of Canada*. BNAPS, 2020.
3. Gary Dickinson. *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1989* (Second Edition, 364 pp). BNAPS, 2023.
4. Andrew Chung and Vogel, Robert D. *Canada Post Office Replacement and Publicity First Day Covers*. BNAPS, 2020. (This publication extends these lists from their end date of 2015 indicated in reference 1.)
5. Pierre Ethier. "The earliest First Day Covers of Canada." *Cachets*, vol. 1, issue 3, Aug. 1998.
6. Robin Harris, editor. *The Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*. The Unitrade Press, 2022.
7. Gary Dickinson. "A Checklist of Cancellations on 1927 FDCs". *First Impressions*, Issue 8, Aug. 2011.

Privately Produced FDCs for Canadian Stamp Issues of the 21st Century, Part II by Gary Dickinson

The first article about the FDC makers of the current century appeared in Issue 51 of First Impressions and provided differing amounts of information about the several producers involved. Not all of the brands were clearly identifiable as most of their covers were unsigned. Several respondents have since provided additional information about the cachet makers. Two new ones, Robert Goyette and Harvey Shuter, have been added to the short 21st century list.

Corrections and Updates

Carol and Gary Ridge, producers of 3 AngryCats FDCs, reported that three covers illustrated in the article as “single unknowns” were theirs: Figures 26, 27, and 29.

The “Calgary” FDC group of covers prompted a couple of replies. One reader noted that Philip Wolf of Select Stamps and Covers told him that the FDCs were made by Fred Oelhaupl. Wolf and Oelhaupl were both members of the Calgary Philatelic Society although the Club was apparently not involved in selling the covers. Wolf bought Oelhaupl’s collection from his son after the father’s death in 2016. Another member thought that the Calgary-postmarked covers were from the Heritage Stamp Company located at Innisfil ON which currently has over 9,000 listings on e-Bay, a large portion of which feature the Calgary covers.

Gary Denis noted that Dragon Cards were made by Lloyd de Vries, president of the American First Day Cover Society, whose website is at <https://www.dragoncards.biz>

Robertstamps

FDC Study Group member David Hanes identified a maker who had not been noted previously. Robert Goyette of Blainville, QC has the e-Bay name [robertstamps](#) which can be used to access his offerings. He began making FDCs in 2009 and continues to produce cachets for selected Canadian stamp issues, with special emphasis on those for which Canada Post does not produce FDCs, including coils, booklet panes, souvenir sheets, uncut press sheets, and postcards. Some examples of his products are shown below.

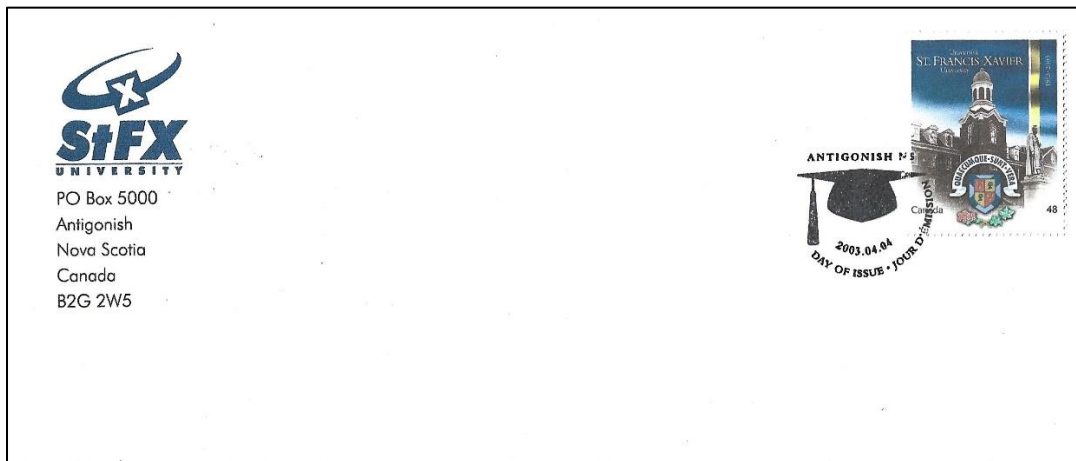


Figure 1. #1975, April 4, 2003

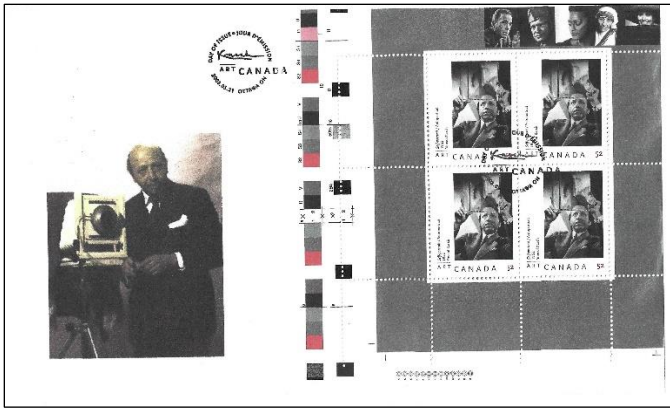


Figure 2. #2270, May 21, 2008

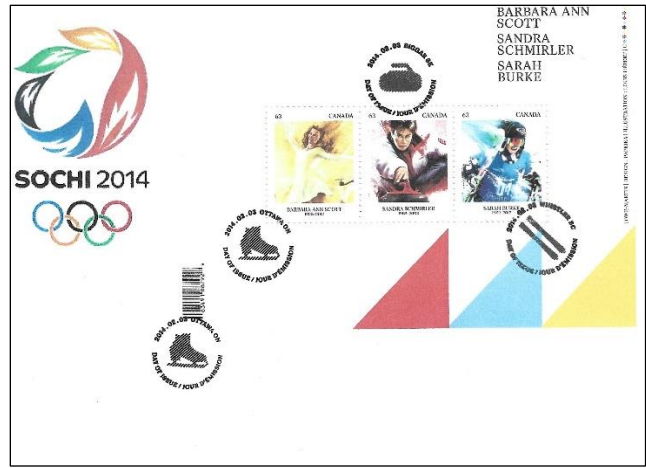


Figure 5. #2703, February 3, 2014

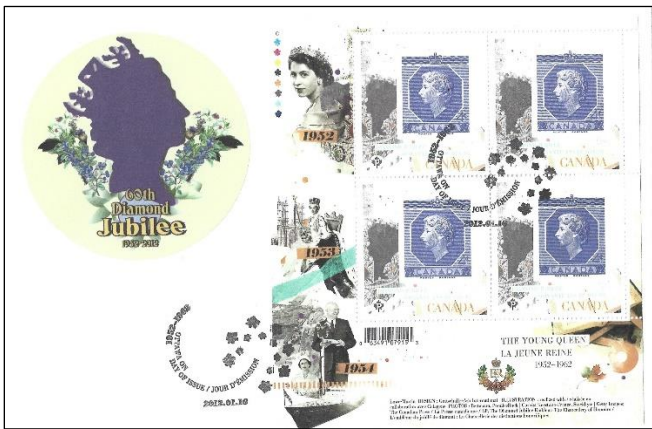


Figure 3. #2513i, January 16, 2012

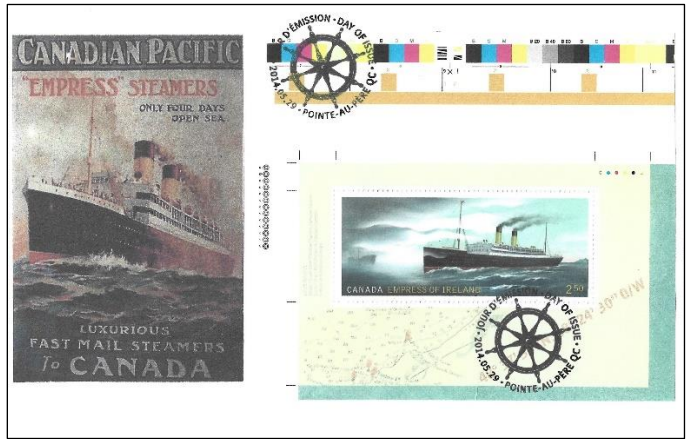


Figure 6. 2746i, May 29, 2014



Figure 4. #2540a, May 7, 2012

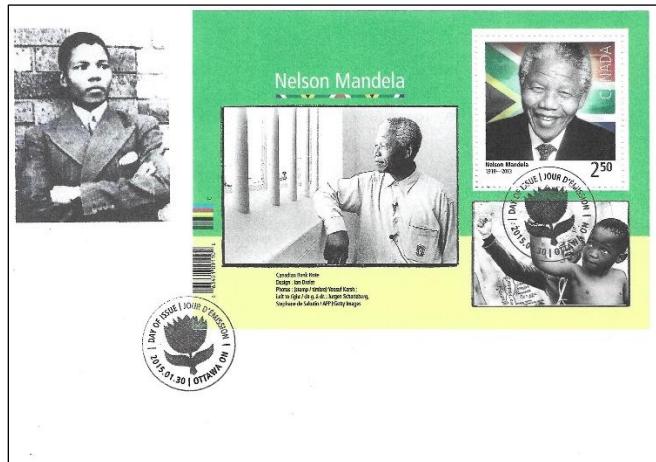


Figure 7. #2805, January 30, 2015

Harvey Shuter

Toronto-area philatelist Harvey Shuter is noted for his stamp and cover designs, one of which received first place in the Canadian Stamp News 2019 Cover Contest. His winning cover featured a custom-designed Picture Postage stamp on a cover celebrating Nations Stamp Collecting Month. Harvey is also Vice-President of the North York Philatelic Society.

The most accessible of his FDCs were produced in the early years of the second decade of the 21st century, with some notable cachets memorializing earlier stamps and others depicting methods of mail delivery, flowers, and artists. In some cases, he did several different cachets for the same stamp. Some examples of Shuter's FDCs are shown below.



Figure 8. #2513, January 16, 2012. Cachet with #330 from 1953.

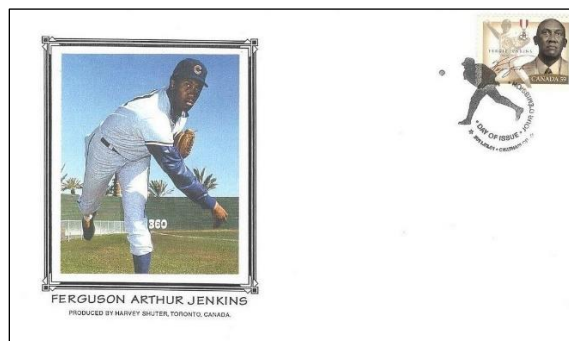


Figure 11. #2434, February 11, 2011.



Figure 9. #2402, July 8, 2010. Cachet with #389 from 1960.

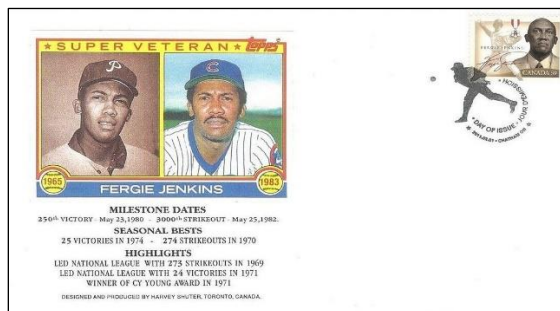


Figure 12. #2434, February 11, 2011.

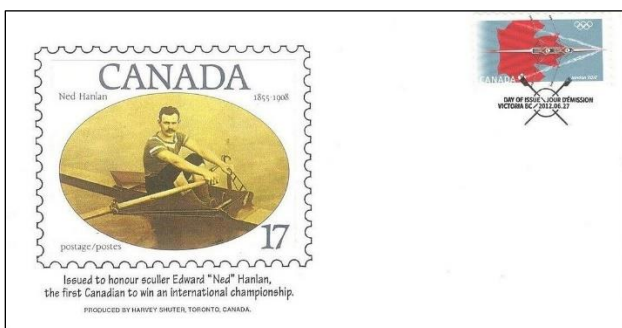


Figure 10. #2556, June 27, 2012. Cachet with #862 from 1980.

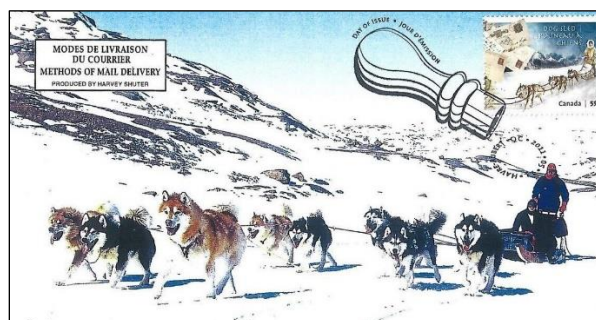


Figure 13. #2469, May 13, 2011.

GROVER AND MIDDLESEX STAMP CLUB FIRST DAY COVERS

The Grover Stamp Exchange operated by G.L. Kilpatrick was located in Windsor, ON and was one of the more prolific and long-lived producers of FDCs for Canadian stamp issues. Grover FDCs were produced from 1948 (Scott 277) until 1982 (Scott 975), a span of 34 years.

One of the more frequent contributors to *First Impressions*, John van der Ven, has recently published a study of the Grover cachets in the March 2024 issue of the Markham Stamp Club's newsletter. John traced the development of the Grover series through personal interviews and documentary records, and presented a detailed list of the cachet designs.

The Grover covers were unsigned by the maker or producer so that identification of their source is sometimes difficult to establish. A key to their origin is usually found in the postmark, most commonly from one of the post offices in the Windsor area including Windsor, Windsor-Walkerville, and Windsor-Sandwich, although some envelopes have the official Ottawa day of issue cancellations.

Throughout most of the period of operation, Grover cachets featured a unique design for most stamp issues although general purpose cachets were relied on from 1978 until 1982 as the popularity of the FDCs from private makers diminished with the expansion of the official Canada Post covers.

Two printing methods were used for Grover cachets, with lithography (flat printing) and thermography (raised printing) being more prominent at various times. Lithography was used exclusively (with one exception, Scott 315), between 1948 and 1955 and again in the final years of 1981 and 1982. Thermography was used exclusively from 1976 to 1980, but accounted for 49% of the overall total of 426 different cachet designs while lithography was the only printing process for 21% of the Grover products. Unlike most other cachet makers, Grover used both raised and flat printing for 30% of the total number of cachet designs.

If you are a collector of Grover cachets, John's article and checklist total 15 pages, and he is willing to send them to you as e-mail attachments if you request them at cjvanderven@sympatico.ca. He would also appreciate receiving information from you about any cachets that are missing from his checklist.

John followed his Grover article with a review of the FDCs produced by the Middlesex Stamp Circle from 1956 to 1971 in the Markham Stamp Club's May 2024 issue. The nine page article began with a history of the group followed by examples of the eight main types of cachets (plus variations) that appeared on their covers over the period of their existence. A detailed appendix listing all of their FDCs by year and Scott catalogue number was also included.

John will also forward his Middlesex information to interested collectors.

ABOUT F.R. RICE

In Issue 51 of our newsletter, Member Jon Berg submitted an FDC for the 1937 definitive issue, and asked if anyone had seen any other cachets by this maker, F.R. Rice of Ballston, Virginia. Member Allan Warren was quick to reply:

“Frederick Rogers Rice (1895-1993) was a well-known U.S. cachetmaker and dealer. His cachets appeared during 1931-1941 for U.S. stamps. The airplane logo was one of three popular designs that he used and is seen on the attached image of his newsletter. Another one is the ship seen on the attached cover. His most common image was a medallion with the central part revised for each issue to reflect the subject of the stamp.”

Allan also sent a scan of a 1933 Rice cover commemorating the Byrd Antarctic Expedition II together with his *Rice's Weekly Postal News* which was used sometimes as a stuffer in his covers.

Mark Lerner added that:

“Fred (along with his wife Wilma) was one of the most important cachet makers in the U.S. from 1932 through 1941. They were especially influential because Fred was the Washington correspondent for *Western Stamp Collector* in the 1930s while Wilma had the same job at *Linn's Weekly Stamp News*. Their readership and advertising reach was very wide and very large.

While I have never seen and Rice specific purpose cachets for Canadian first days, they produced many general purpose and limited purpose (e.g. airmail) cachets for the U.S. It is not unreasonable to believe that there are a good number out there that were used in that way for Canadian issues, but I do not have, or even seen one listed, that I can scan.”

