

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

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Editor's Notes:

The lead article in this issue is Leopold Beaudet's report of the discovery of a new FDC for the blue 8-cent Admiral issued on September 1, 1925 (Scott 115) and its enclosure, a letter from the Post Office Department attesting to the cover's authenticity. Leo is a first-time contributor to our newsletter and is very active in BNAPS affairs, currently serving as Webmaster, Board Director, and member or chair of several committees,

Jack Heath is also a new contributor with an article indicating that an otherwise commonplace FDC can have enhanced value by having relevant autographs. He illustrates his point with a cover signed at various times by two prime ministers, one premier, and the stamp designer. Jack is a member of the Markham, North York, and North Toronto Stamp Clubs as well as the FDC Study Group. An earlier version of his article appeared in the *GTA PhilaJournal* in September 2024.

Gary Dickinson continues his review of Canadian FDCs produced under the ArtCraft brand name. This article deals with their ten general purpose cachets issued between 1952 and 1965.

Study Group member George McGowan writes about the stamp (Scott 282) issued to celebrate Newfoundland entering confederation, with particular attention to the existence of many different types of first day town cancellations. He would be interested in receiving scans of FDCs from anyone who has examples from small towns so that he can expand his inventory of different first day locations. If you have any to contribute, please send scans to the editor at the address shown below and they'll be forwarded to him.

Finally, Mike Street advises that the late Donald LeBlanc's handbook on FDCs for the 1946 Peace Issue has now been published and is available from the Longley Auctions website.

Contributions to First Impressions are sought and welcomed, and new issues will be published quarterly or when warranted by the contributions received. They should be in Word format with each scan in jpg format at 300 dpi. Each scan should be a separate attachment rather than imbedded in the article's text. Submissions should be made to editor Gary Dickinson at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca.

An Admiral FDC Discovery

by Leopold Beaudet

The first explicitly prepared first day covers for regularly issued Admiral stamps were for the 8¢ blue issued on September 1, 1925 (Scott 115) and the 10¢ bistre brown issued on August 1, 1925 (Scott 118). They were produced by T. R. Legault, Accountant in Charge, Postage Stamp Division, Post Office Department. The two stamps were issued in advance of the reduction of the first class UPU rate from 10¢ to 8¢ on October 1, 1925. The 8¢ stamp was a new denomination. Since it was blue, the colour used for the UPU rate, the existing 10¢ blue stamp was reissued in bistre brown.

The 8¢ FDC was a registered cover postmarked Ottawa and addressed to Legault himself. It was franked with an 8¢ and a 4¢ bistre stamp, covering the 2¢ drop letter rate and 10¢ registration fee. The 10¢ cover was likewise registered, postmarked Ottawa, and addressed to Legault. It was franked with a 10¢ and a 2¢ green stamp, covering the same rate.

Only one FDC of each stamp was known to Melvin Baron and Stan Lum when they wrote about Admiral FDCs in 1993 [1]. Both covers are illustrated in their article, Part 8 of a series on FDCs of the early stamps of Canada. They were offered by Saskatoon Stamp Centre in March 2009, part of the “Jacsue” (Baron) collection and are shown below as Figures 1 and 2.

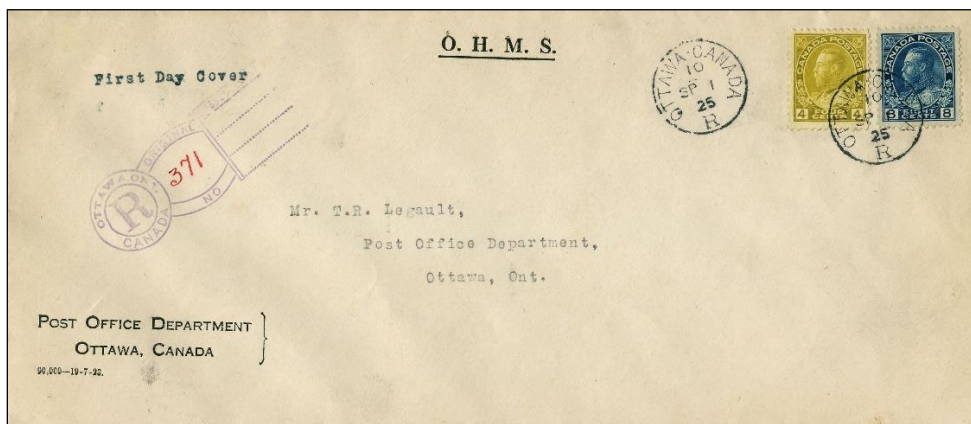


Figure 1. “Jacsue” (Baron) 8¢ First Day Cover produced by T.R. Legault. Courtesy John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre.

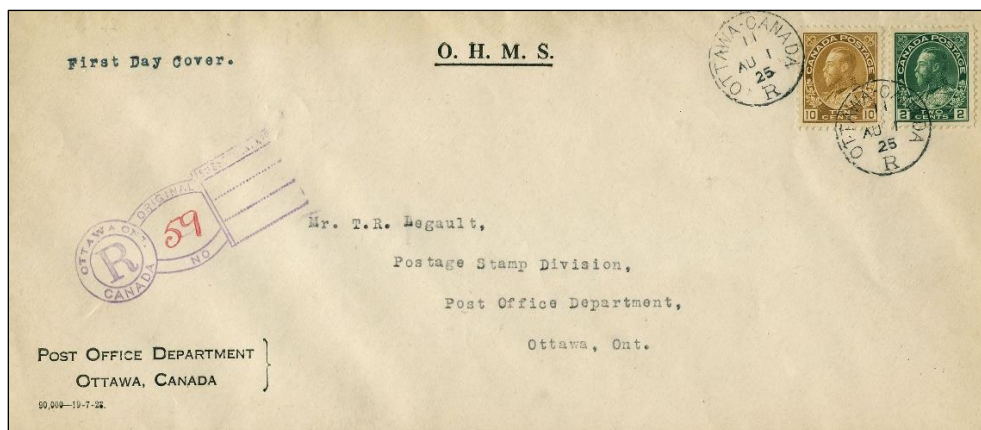


Figure 2. “Jacsue” (Baron) 10¢ bistre brown First Day Cover produced by T.R. Legault. Courtesy John Jamieson, Saskatoon Stamp Centre.

T. R. Legault had produced earlier Admiral FDCs, but they were for stamps sold to collectors by the Post Office Philatelic Agency. The stamps in question were Scott 136-138, the imperforate 1¢ yellow (issued October 6, 1924), 2¢ green (also October 6, 1924), and 3¢ carmine (January 23, 1924). They were not sold in post offices [2].

In April 2024, a cover resembling the Legault 8¢ FDC was offered on eBay (Figures 3 a and b). It is a registered OHMS cover that originated from the Post Office Dept. in Ottawa. It has an 8¢ stamp cancelled on the day of issue, 1 September 1925. There are two differences between this and the Legault cover: 1) the new cover does not have the typewritten annotation “First Day Cover”, and 2) it was mailed to a U.S. address (B. N. Gates, Worcester, Massachusetts). The franking of 13¢ pays the 3¢ first class rate to the U.S. and the 10¢ registration fee.

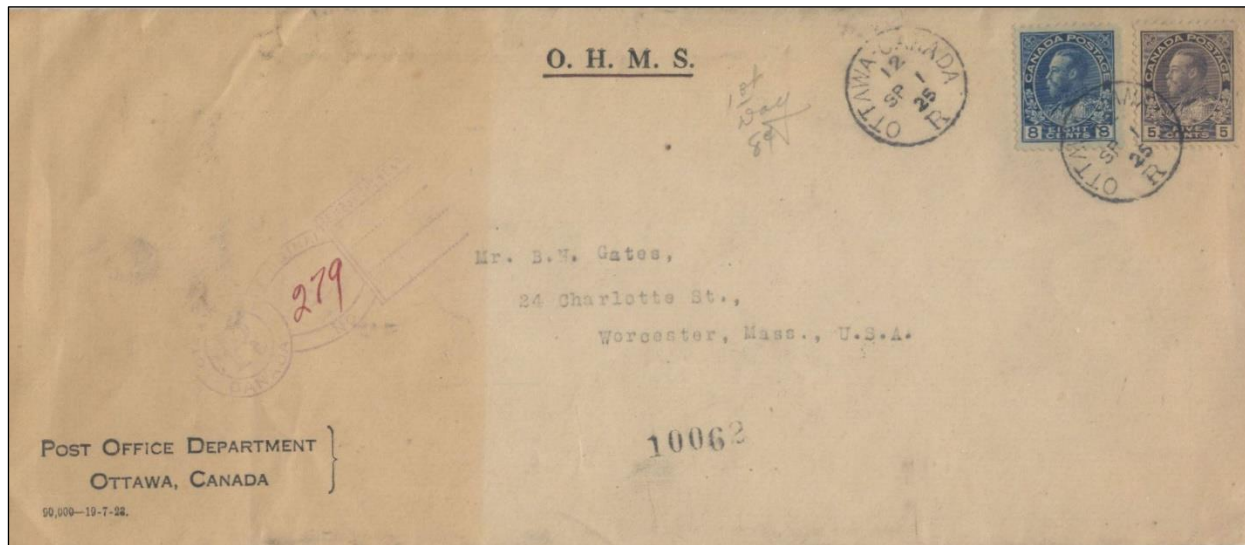


Figure 3a and 3b. Front and back of a cover from the Post Office Department in Ottawa cancelled on the day of issue of the 8¢. Offered on eBay in April 2024.

Included in the eBay lot was the cover’s enclosure (Figure 4), a letter to Gates from the Post Office Dept. The letter leaves no doubt that the 8¢ stamp was deliberately cancelled on the date of issue. It reads:

Mr. B.N. Gates
24 Charlotte St.
Worcester, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

As stated in my letter of the 1st ult., I am sending you 15 specimens of the new 8¢ stamps which are being issued today for the first time. I am using one specimen of these 8¢ stamps to prepay postage and registration fees : this being the first day of issue.

Yours truly,
W. J. Glover
Financial Superintendent

Was the U.S. recipient a collector or dealer who had advanced knowledge about the issuance of the 8¢ stamp, and requested copies from the Post Office? Someone, perhaps the original owner, annotated the cover in pencil near one of the postmarks "1st day 8¢". Judging from the paper discolouration, the cover was unfortunately stored in less than ideal conditions.

This cover and the 8¢ Legault cover described by Baron and Lum are the only ones I know of postmarked on the day of issue of the 8¢ stamp. The next earliest 8¢ cover I know of is postmarked October 5, 1925, over a month after the day of issue. This might seem like quite a gap, but of course, there would have been no demand for the stamp until the drop in the UPU rate took effect on October 1.

References

1. Melvin L. Baron and Stan Lum, "First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada Part 8 – First Day Covers of the King George V Admiral Definitive Issue of 1911-25 and 1931", *BNA Topics*, Vol. 50, No. 5, Fourth quarter 1993.
2. Melvin L. Baron and Stan Lum, "First Day Covers of the Classic Issues of Canada Part 9 – First Day Covers of the King George V Admiral Definitive Issue of 1911-25 and 1931 Section b) Sc. 136-138 - The Imperforate Issues", *BNA Topics*, Vol. 51, No. 1, Jan.-Feb.-Mar. 1994.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, CANADA
FINANCIAL BRANCH

POSTAGE STAMP DIVISION

1st September 5.
OTTAWA,.....192.....

Mr. B.N. Gates,
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Worcester, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

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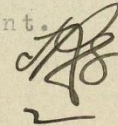


Figure 4. Letter mailed in the cover shown in Figure 3.

First Day Cover Gems

by Jack Heath

What makes a First Day Cover interesting...or not? Some are only worth a “dime a dozen,” if anything. Canada Post started their “official” FDCs in 1971 with a set extolling the Maple Leaf in Four Seasons (Scott #535-538). Over 60,000 of each were produced. A few varieties draw attention, such as the wider-than-standard cancellation on a small but unknown quantity of #536 Summer issued on June 16, 1971. But that’s it; many collectors of Canadian FDCs have the set and some of the varieties.

Figure 1 shows a Canada Post FDC for #536v1 as described in Chung and Narbonne’s *New Specialized Catalogue of Canada Post Official First Day Covers* (4th edition, 2015). The cancellation gap between “16 VI” and “1971” is 3mm, whereas it is 1.5mm for a standard FDC.

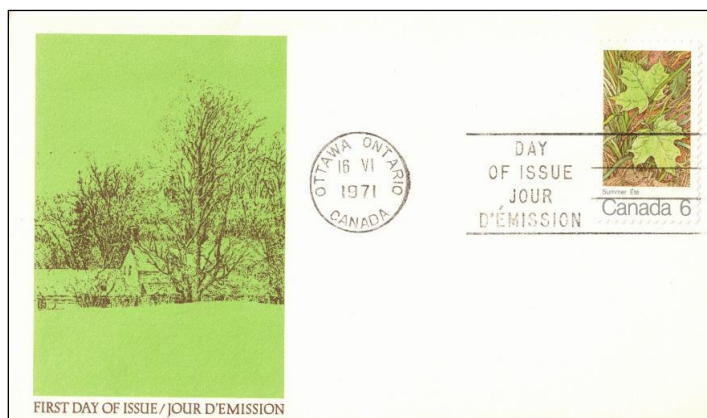


Figure 1. #536v1, June 16, 1971

However, scarcity or enhancements can draw attention, which means added value. For example, one add-on that usually evokes interest among the stamp-collecting community and others is an autograph. An FDC signed by a well-known individual, be it a sports star, elected official, artist, or entertainer, is always conversation-worthy. The cover shown in Figure 3 is such a case. It carries the autographs of two Canadian Prime Ministers, Pierre and Justin Trudeau, the father and son, plus Joey Smallwood, the first Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador after it joined Canada, and the stamp designer Philip Weiss.

A little background. Three important conferences were held before the Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867. One hundred years later, Canada Post issued commemorative stamps for each conference's anniversary.

Charlottetown. The first gathering was held in Prince Edward Island (PEI) in early September 1864. It was planned to discuss maritime union by the four British colonies on the Atlantic (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland). Although a rodeo in town made accommodations difficult, the original invitees were pleased to welcome a dozen uninvited guests from the Province of Canada led by Premier John A. Macdonald. He soon re-directed the conversation to the possibility of a union of not four but five British colonies. Everyone was interested. The 100th anniversary stamp, valued at \$0.05, (#431), came out on July 29, 1964. A FDC for the issue, shown in Figure 2, was sponsored by the PEI Centennial Committee which created an intriguing logo incorporating the province’s initials.

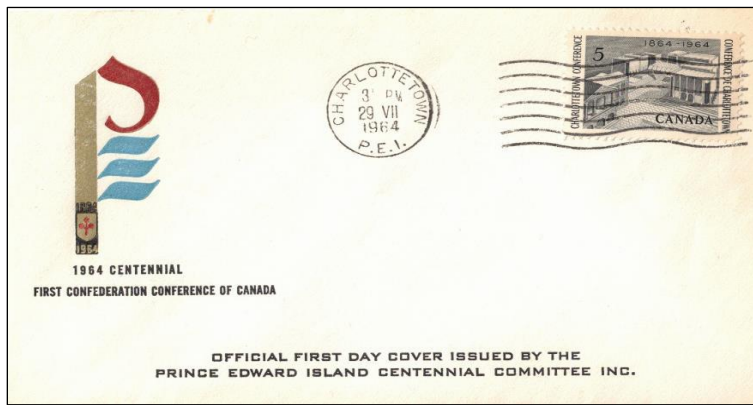


Figure 2. #431, July 29, 1964

Quebec City. The second meeting was in Quebec City in mid-October 1864. Following the success of Charlottetown, it discussed the nitty-gritty of how a new national government would work, what powers the provinces would have, and most importantly, the funding needed for an intercolonial railway. The \$0.05 stamp, #432, came out on September 9, 1964, and a FDC is shown in Figure 3. Given this article's theme, it's interesting that four individuals signed the envelope, certainly at different times.

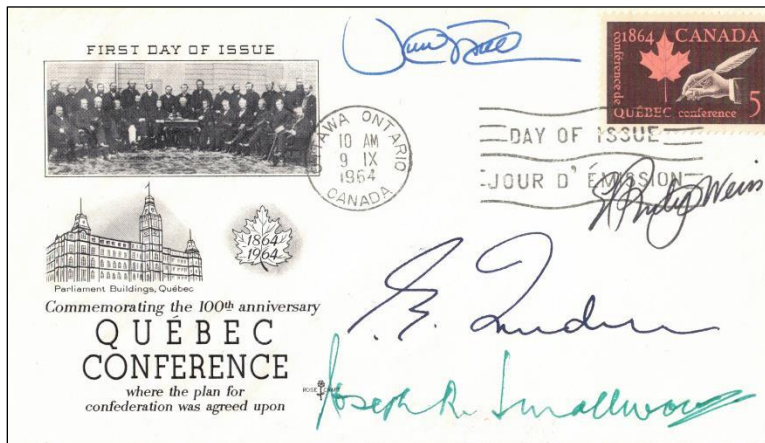


Figure 3. #432, September 9, 1964

The stamp shows a hand holding a quill pen in honour of the Quebec Conference. The designer was E. Philip Weiss. He was a Montreal-born artist who lived much of his life in Ottawa. He designed nine Canadian stamps, including those for Casimir Gzowski in 1963 and Dollard des Ormeaux in 1960. His signature can be seen above the day of issue cancellation. The FDC is from Rosecraft of Montreal, the most popular FDC company in the 1960s. Most designer signatures take place at an event held at the time of the stamp's launch. Surely, that's when Weiss signed it - September 9, 1964. I also have his signature on the #390 Des Ormeaux Rosecraft FDC from 1960; that envelope was addressed to W. M. C. Willcock, also of Montreal, who was a significant collector of stamp designer autographs in the 1950s and 60s. Can the cover in Figure 3 be traced back to Willcock? The answer is lost in time.

In the middle is the signature of Pierre Elliott Trudeau (PET), twice Prime Minister of Canada—from 1968 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984. PET wasn't even an MP when the stamp came out. He was first elected in 1965 as a Liberal from a riding in Montreal. He is known for quarterbacking the repatriation of Canada's Constitution in 1982. He brought home the 72 resolutions first adopted in Quebec City, which

became the British North America Act (BNA Act). However, it is unlikely that he or the next person attended the stamp launch in Ottawa.

The third signature belongs to Joseph “Joey” R. Smallwood, known as one of the Fathers of Confederation because he led the forces bringing Newfoundland into Canada as our 10th province on March 31, 1949. He helped complete the country. A Liberal, he was Premier from 1949 to 1972. He and Trudeau, the elder, may have signed at the same time, possibly at the federal Liberal leadership convention in April 1968. PET won, and Smallwood was a prominent supporter and attendee. Again, the answer of when they signed is lost in time.

The fourth signature, at the top, is more recent. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada since 2015, signed the FDC in June of 2024. When I showed it to him, he was astonished and told me he’d be pleased to add his name.

London, England. The London Conference was the last and most political; it took place in England between December 1866 and March 1867. The United Kingdom (UK) government was weak but supported the confederation. Storm clouds were developing at home in Canada: opposition was growing in Nova Scotia, and PEI and Newfoundland had pulled away. Protecting Catholic education was a key issue. With Macdonald’s help, the BNA Act passed the UK parliament and was signed by Queen Victoria on March 29, 1867. Canada was born on July 1st. The Queen knighted Sir John A. on the same day for his successful leadership. The commemorative stamp, #448, came out on May 26, 1966 and pays homage to the London Conference. The cachet is from the annual convention of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada held in Hamilton, ON, with the tiger on the cachet representing the home city of the Tiger Cats Canadian Football League team.

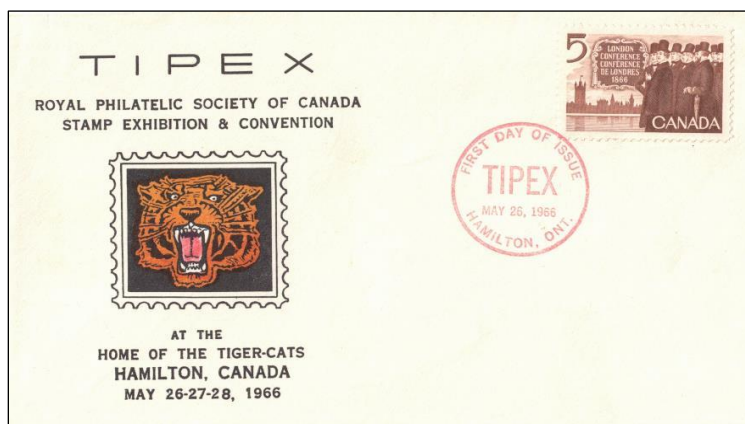


Figure 4. #448, May 26, 1966

The signatures on Figure 3 are a rarity representing a father and son, both Prime Ministers of Canada, and may be one of a kind. A few special FDCs in your collection may add conversation-worthiness. People have asked me about the value; four figures would do. But it’s not for sale. Having met the last three signatories, I can’t think of a better way to honour them than by displaying it in the entranceway of my home.

ArtCraft's General Purpose Cachets

By Gary Dickinson

Perhaps with the realization that the Canadian philatelic marketplace was not of sufficient size to warrant the expense of producing a special purpose cachet for every new stamp issue, ArtCraft developed and implemented a set of ten general purpose cachets that could be used for any Canadian stamp. They were introduced one or two at a time over the period between 1952 and 1965.

The Ten Types

Most of the ten general purpose types used by ArtCraft for Canadian stamps shared a common element: the legend "Canadian Postage Stamps" appeared on all except for Type E which had two slightly different versions. (Figures 5 and 6) The basic types of general purpose cachets are illustrated below in Figures 1 through 11.



Figure 1. Type A

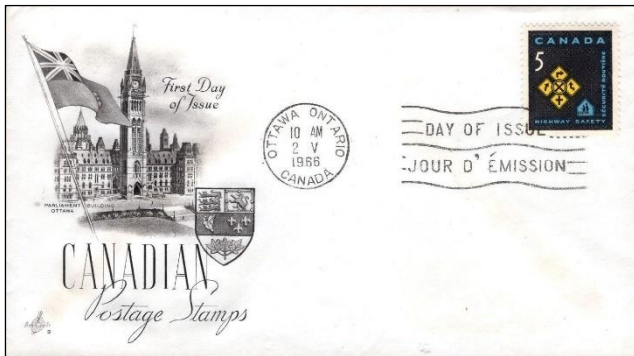


Figure 2. Type B

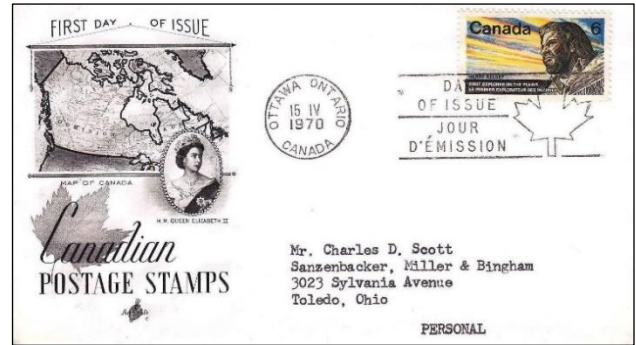


Figure 3. Type C

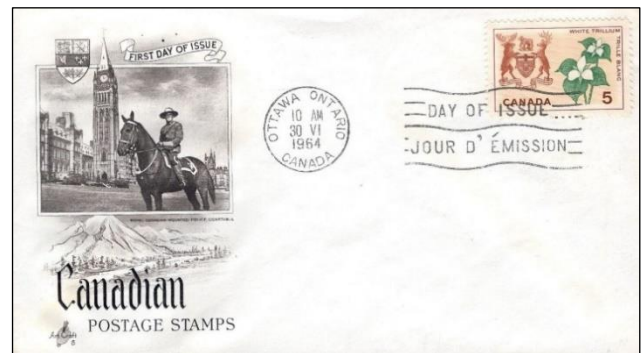


Figure 4. Type D



Figure 5. Type E1

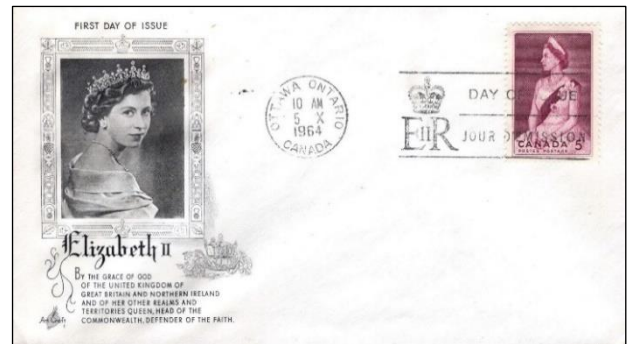


Figure 6. Type E2

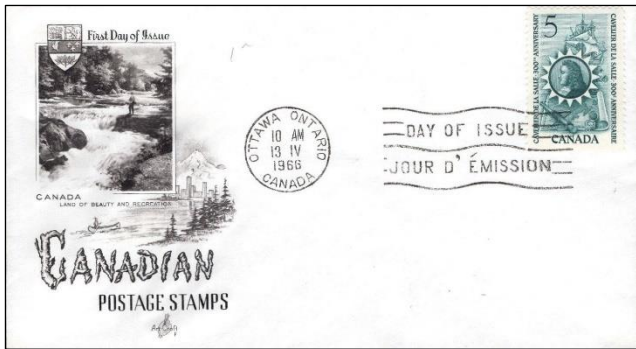


Figure 7. Type F

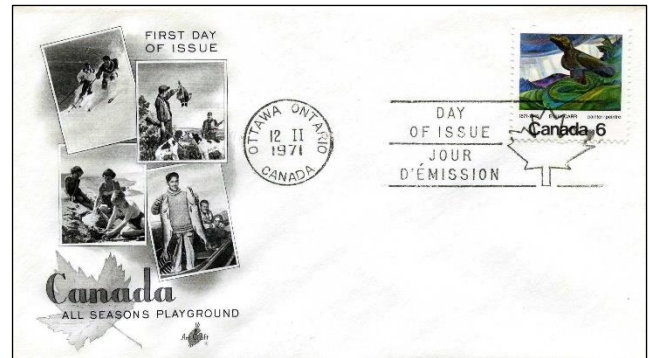


Figure 11. Type K

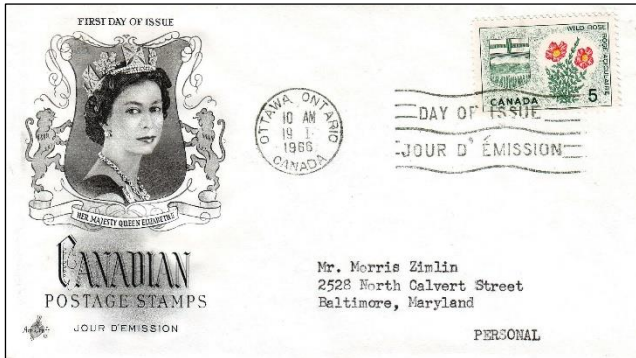


Figure 8. Type G

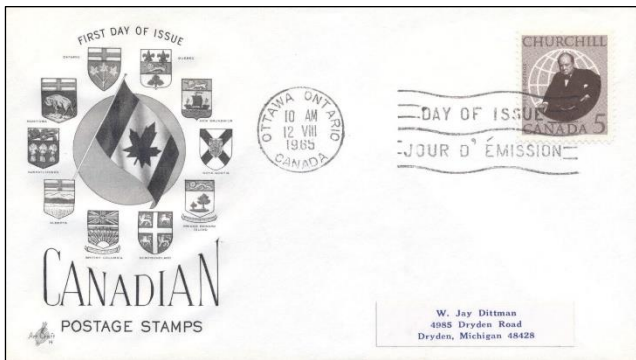


Figure 9. Type H

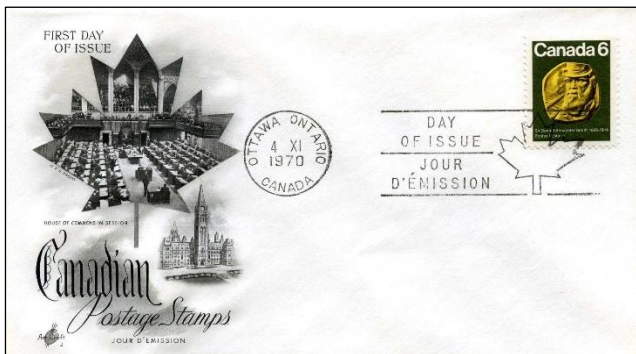


Figure 10. Type J

Variations

Although ArtCraft's general purpose cachets were in service for a lengthy period, there were very few variations that occurred in the basic designs.

A search of eBay listings for Great Britain FDCs showed that Type E2 was used for the set issued by the British postal service on June 3, 1953 to mark the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, so the cachet did not include the word "Canada" and could be used without change for the cachets of both countries. (See Figure 12)

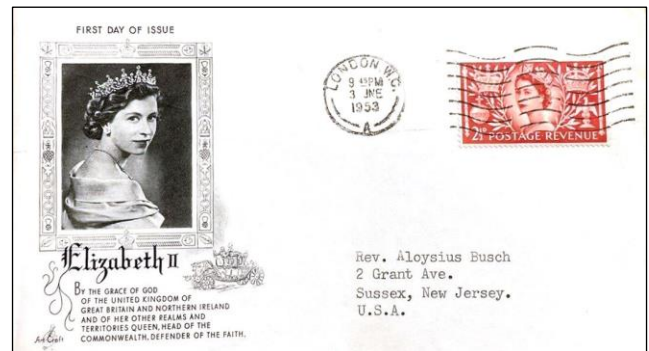


Figure 12. British use of Type E.2

The Type E1 and E2 cachets were the only ones in the general purpose set to have a significant and substantive change in their design. Type E1 had five lines of text which read as follows:

“By the grace of God/ of Great Britain/ Ireland and the British dominions/ beyond the seas/Queen and defender of the faith.”

This inscription was soon changed to a six-line version reading:

“By the grace of God/ of the United Kingdom of/ Great Britain and Northern Ireland/ and of her other realms and/ territories Queen, head of the/ Commonwealth, defender of the faith.”

Both versions were identified by Smith (2019) as “The Style of the Monarch” which had changed considerably over the years since it began in the twelfth century. The shorter version quoted above was in use when Elizabeth was a princess but was changed to the longer one when she became Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

Type K originally appeared as a special purpose cachet designed for the Four Seasons set of four stamps issued in 1957 (Scott 365-368) and shown in Figure 13. Its reappearance as a general purpose cachet occurred a decade later, on February 8, 1967, serving as a FDC cachet for stamps in the Centennial series.



Figure 13 Original use of Type K as a special purpose cachet

An unknown person or group apparently residing in Calgary, AB judging by the cover postmarks, made extensive use of the ArtCraft Type H cachet for FDCs. The cachet is identical to the ArtCraft version but lacks the company logo. The example in Figure 14 features Scott 724 from the 1978 medium-value definitive series. It is not known whether this use of Type H was authorized by ArtCraft.



Figure 14. Calgary use of Type H

Usage

A sample consisting of 400 FDCs was examined to determine the first appearance and frequency of use for each of the ten types. A summary of the findings is shown in Table I and a detailed tally of usages by Scott catalogue number is presented in Table II. The last dates of use are not reported as many would have occurred by people who had purchased quantities of unused, cacheted covers even years before they were used.

The first two covers to be used were Types A and E, both on November 3, 1952 for Scott numbers 318 to 320 followed by Type B on June 1, 1955 for Scott 354. Type F was the last general purpose cachet of the 1950s, first appearing on February 23, 1959.

The remaining cachets first surfaced at intervals during the 1960s, with the final one being Type K, the original Four Seasons special purpose cachet in its reincarnation, on February 8, 1967.

Remaining a mystery is the process by which the type identifiers were assigned when the issue dates were randomly scattered and no chronological order is apparent. For example, Type F was labeled in 1959 but Type C is from 1960.

Type A was the most frequently used general purpose cachet, accounting for 94 of the 400 (23.5%) uses tallied as shown in Table 1. This is almost double the total of the second most frequently used cachet, Type B with 13.8% of the total. The least frequently used of the 400 total uses were Type K (2.2%) and Type J (4%)

TABLE I**EARLIEST AND TOTAL USES OF GENERAL PURPOSE CACHETS**

CACHET TYPE	DESCRIPTION	SCOTT	DATE OF FIRST USE	TOTAL USES	%
A	Leaf & industry	318-319	November 3, 1952	94	23.5
B	Flag & parliament	354	June 1, 1955	55	13.8
C	Map & Queen	390	May 19, 1960	47	11.8
D	Parliament & Mountie	381	September 10, 1958	43	10.7
E	Queen in frame	320	November 3, 1952	29	7.2
F	Wild river	383	February 23, 1959	32	8.0
G	Queen in shield	422	April 28, 1965	31	7.8
H	Provincial arms & flags	417	May 14, 1964	44	11.0
J	Leaf & parliament	436	November 18, 1964	16	4.0
K	Four seasons recreation	454-465B	February 8, 1967	9	2.2
TOTAL				400	

TABLE II

USE OF GENERAL PURPOSE CACHETS BY SCOTT CATALOGUE NUMBER

- A** 318-319, 320, 321, 322-324, 325-329, 330, 334, 335, 336, 337-342, 343, 349-350, 351, 352-353, c354, 355, 356, 357-358, 359, 360-361, 362-363, 364, 365-368, 369, 370, 371-372, 373, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 381, 384, 385, 387, 388, 339, 390, 391, 392, 304, 395, 396, 398, 399, 401-405, 411, 412, 413, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 422, 423, 425, 426, 428, 429, 429A, 434, 434-435, 436, 439, 440, 445, 451-452, 453, 454-465B, 469, 472, 478, 480, 483, 486-487, 488-489, 490, 491, 494, 496-498, 499, 507, 508-511, 519-530, 537, 582-585, 616, 664-666, 726-727, 741-743
- B** 354, 355, 356, 357-358, 359, 360-361, 362-363, 364, 365-368, 371-372, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 383, 384, 385, 387, 388, 389, 391, 392, 393, 395, 396, 399, 400, 410, 411, 412, 415, 416, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 429, 432, 434-435, 436, 443-444, 445, 447, 451-452, 453, 454-465B, 476-477, 486-487, 500, 502-503
- C** 390, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400-405, 411, 412, 413, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 429A, 430, 433, 434-435, 436, 438, 440, 453, 454-465B, 469, 471, 472, 477, 478, 480, 482, 494, 512, 532, 533, 536, 538, 599-601, 769-772
- D** 381, 394, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401-405, 411, 412, 413, 415, 416, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 428, 429, 429A, 432, 433, 436, 437, 440, 445, 451-452, 454-465B, 469, 471, 472, 476-477, 488-489, 491, 492, 494, 505, 519-530, 538, 612-614, 664-666, 735-736
- E** 320, 321, 325-329, 330, 337-342, 354, 359, 383, 386, 387, 388, 399, 400, 401-405, 411, 415, 418, 420, 421, 422, 423, 425, 426, 428, 429A, 432, 433, 436, 438, 440, 445, 454-465B, 460, 471, 478, 482, 488-489, 494, 496-498, 501, 508-511, 512, 535, 606-609, 612-614, 625-628, 664-666
- F** 383, 401-405, 415, 418, 420, 421, 422, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 429A, 430, 434-435, 436, 441, 442, 445, 451-452, 454-465B, 471, 480, 491, 492, 494, 496-498, 519-530, 554-557, 582-585, 853-854
- G** 422, 423, 426, 428, 429, 445, 451-452, 454-465B, 458, 460, 469, 471, 472, 476-477, 478, 480, 484, 488-489, 492, 494, 502-503, 519-530, 538, 544, 554-557, 558, 648-649, 650-653, 674-679, 697-699, 915
- H** 417, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 429A, 438, 439, 440, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451-452, 453, 454-465B, 469, 471, 472, 476-477, 478, 479, 482, 484, 486-487, 488-489, 491, 492, 494, 502-503, 507, 508-511
- J** 429, 436, 453, 454-465B, 469, 472, 476-477, 484, 494, 502-503, 506, 538, 582-585, 599-600
- K** 371-372, 454-465B, 476-477, 532, 537, 538, 554-557, 737

The Letters

A significant presence on many of the ArtCraft general purpose cachets was a letter identifying the cachet type, from A to K excluding I to avoid confusion between the letter “I” and the number “1”. This “I” avoidance was also the practice with other publications by Washington Press. (Dickinson, 2012b)

Examples of letter identifiers have been documented for all ten of the basic cachets, but cachet Types A, B, C, E, J, and K are also known without a letter. (Dickinson, 2012a) When a letter was included in the cachet design, it was shown at the lower right corner of the ArtCraft logo, as illustrated in Figures 15 and 16 for Types G and K.

It has been suggested that the absence of letters may have been from earlier printings of the FDCs while the letters were added for later ones. No precise data are available regarding the number of copies printed, but it has been estimated in the 5,000 to 10,000 range for each of the ten types. (Devaney, 2012)

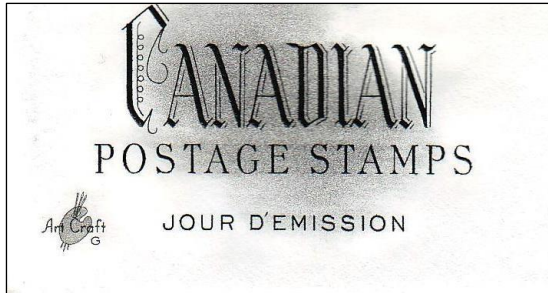


Figure 15. Letter G



Figure 16. Letter K

Color Variations

The Washington Press was apparently influenced significantly by Henry Ford's dictate

that “Any customer can have a car painted any color that he wants as long as it's black” as the overwhelming majority of their ArtCraft cachets followed it scrupulously.

The basic color for all general purpose cachets was black, but some of the FDCs for Type A were printed in other colors. Shown here in Figures 17 through 21 are cachets printed in blue, brown, green, gray-green, and red. Although the known quantities of each printing are quite limited, the red version is especially prevalent with the Prevent Fire stamp (Scott 364) of 1956.

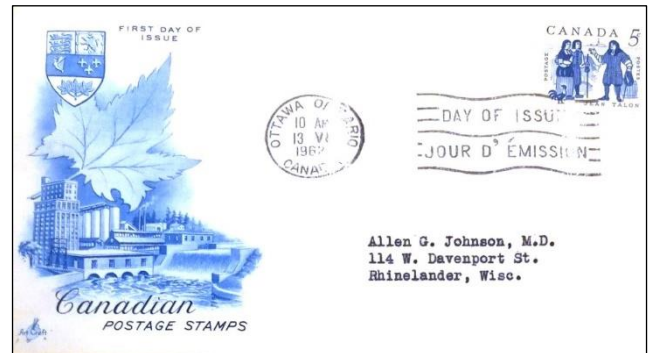


Figure 17. Blue cachet with #398

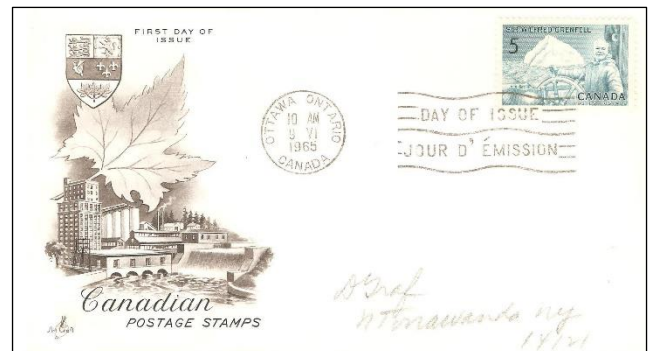


Figure 18. Brown cachet with #438



Figure 19. Green cachet with #336



Figure 20. Grey-green cachet with #336



Figure 23. Type F with #507



Figure 21. Red cachet with #364

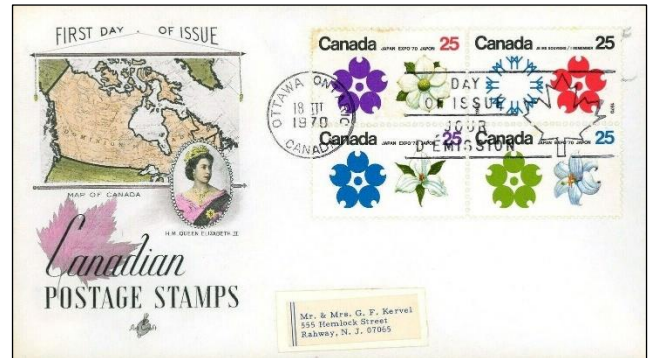


Figure 24. Type C with #508-511

Multi-color printings of the general purpose cachets were not made by ArtCraft itself but some purchasers of the envelopes subsequently made them into more decorative creations. The first four shown here in Figures 22 through 25 were all painted in 1970 by G.F. Kervel of Rahway, New Jersey.

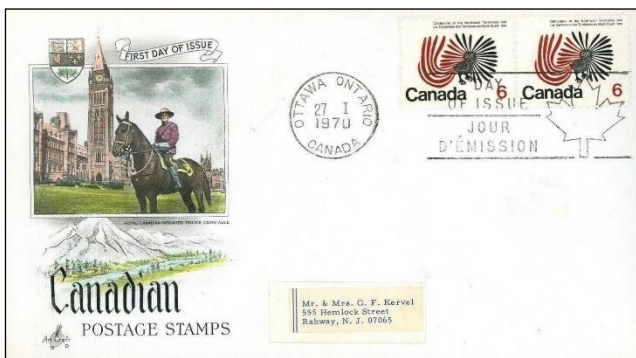


Figure 22. Type D with #506

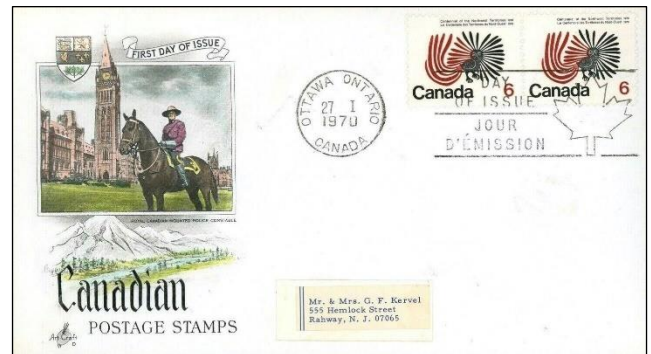


Figure 25. Type D with #506

The fifth multi-colored cachet shown here in Figure 26 is from 1955, some 15 years before the other three. It is similar in style to the Kervel covers, although the colors are not quite as brilliant, and the envelope is lacking an address.



Figure 26. Type A with #355

References

Smith, Russell. "A Question Answered—and a Lesson Learned." *First Impressions* Issue 40 (July 2019), p.7.

Dickinson, Gary. "ArtCraft General Purpose Cachets." *First Impressions*, Issue 10, (January 2012a), pp. 36-39.

Dickinson, Gary. "ArtCraft General Purpose Cachets." *First Days*, Vol. 57, No. 5 (July 2012b), pp. 36-39.

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Newfoundland Joins Canada, April 1, 1949

by George McGowan

After the WWII victory in Europe, England was in a tough position. Cities and towns had to be rebuilt, as did government buildings, railways, roads, and bridges. Adding to the problem, the Treasury was empty. At the same time many colonies were seeking independence. Parliament thought it was a good time to divest some of these colonies, especially the ones that were costing England money.

Newfoundland, England's first colony, was also seeking separation. There were three factions involved in the debate. One group wanted to take a "wait and see" approach, another wanted to join with the United States, and the third wanted to join Canada. The third group won in the second referendum, which was required because in the first vote there was no majority that surpassed the 50% requirement, and plans were made. The date of April 1st, 1949 was picked as the day for the colony of Newfoundland to become, at that time, the tenth Province of the Dominion of Canada.

The Canada post office decided to issue a stamp to commemorate the occasion, and a 4-cent stamp with the image of John Cabot's ship the 'Matthew' was its focal point as Cabot had claimed Newfoundland for England in 1497. The description of the scene on the stamp was in English and French.

Collecting First Day Covers of this stamp can be a joy. Postmarks can be found from "St John's Newfoundland Canada" and many of the island's small towns, as well as from many of the other provinces, and cachets are plentiful. Four examples are shown here.

Figure #1 is probably the most common cancel. It uses a Pitney Bowes machine and is identified as #F400 in Cecil Couatts *Slogan Postmarks of Canada*. This slogan was only used in Halifax in 1949, St John's in 1949 and Ottawa in 1949 and 1950. This is the first time the word CANADA appears in a Newfoundland cancel.



Figure 1. Common machine cancellation for St. John's, cachet by an unknown maker.

Figure 2 shows a duplex hand cancellation for St. John's which has the word CANADA between the circular date and the killer portions of the postmark rather than within the circle.



Figure 2. Duplex hand cancellation for St. John's, cachet by Michael Sanders.

The postmark on the FDC shown in Figure 3 is a circular date stamp for Tompkins, NL with a population of 114 in the 2016 census. It is located along the Trans-Canada Highway in the Codroy Valley north of Port aux Basques. The cachet is by Barrett's Print Shop Type B.

The final cover shown here in Figure 4 has a split circle cancellation from Channel, a relatively large town now called Channel-Port Aux Basques with a population of some 4,000 people. It is on another Barrett's Print Shop FDC, Type C.

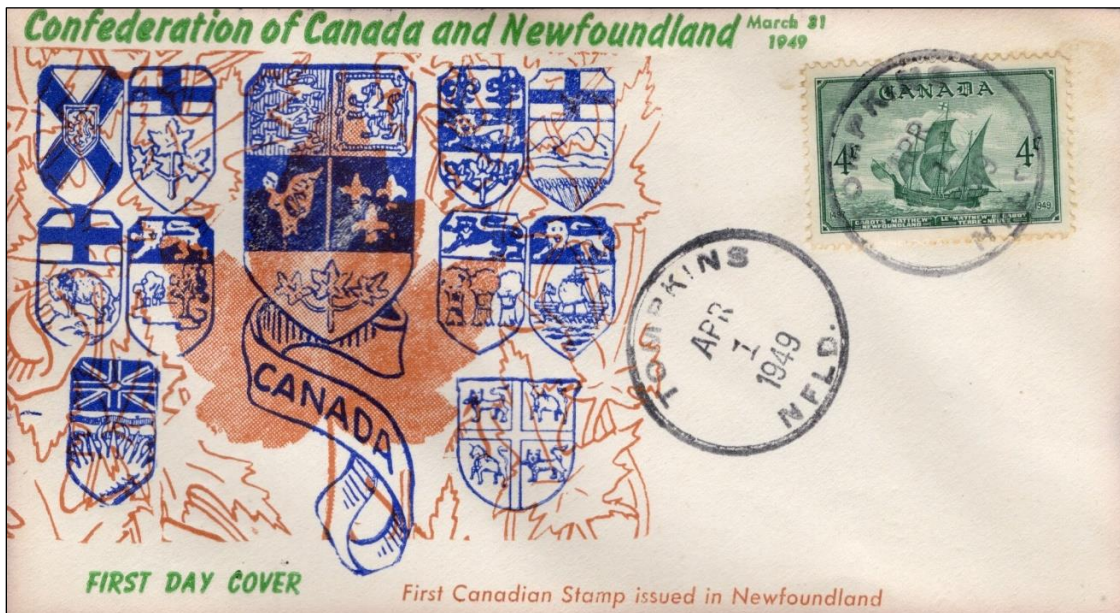


Figure 3. CDS cancellation for Tompkins on FDC by Barrett's Print Shop, Type B.

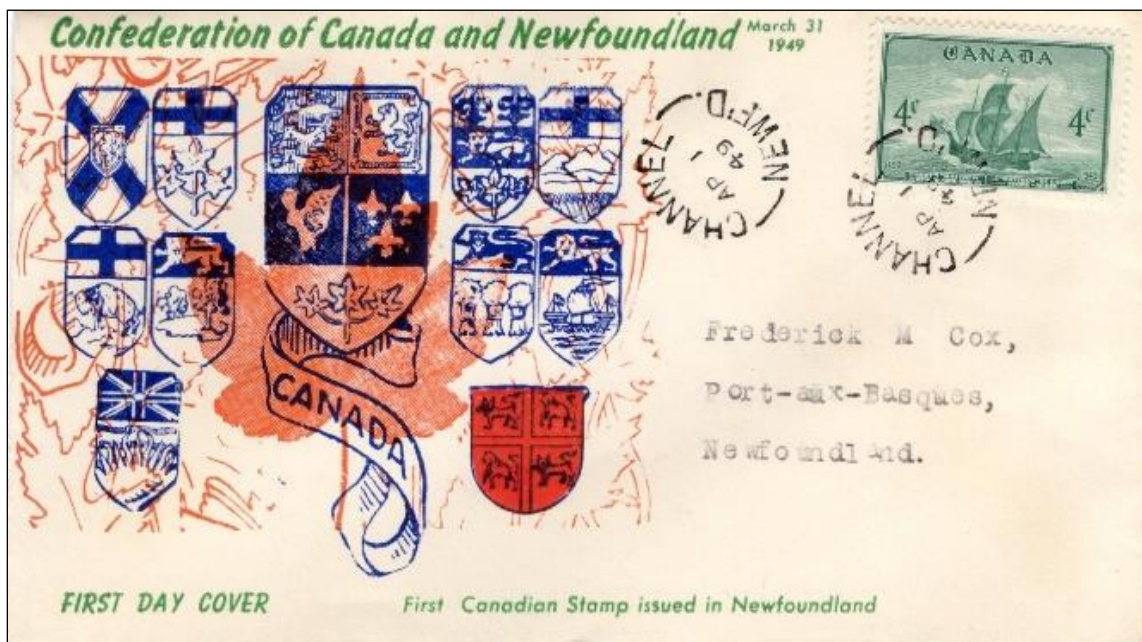


Figure 4. Split circle cancellation for Channel on FDC by Barrett's Print Shop, Type C.

There will undoubtedly be many more NL small town cancellations to document. If you can add to the list, please send scans to the Editor, Gary Dickinson, who will forward them to George.

BNAPS Book Release Note

Shortly before his passing in July 2024, the late Donald J. Leblanc completed the third and final volume of his series on Canadian First Day Covers, *First Day Covers of the 1946 Canada King George VI Peace Issue*. December 2024, Spiral bound, 222 pages, 8.5 ×11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-48-5. Stock # B4h126-1. Price: C\$53.00

Celebrating the end of World War II, in September 1946 Canada released a new set of high-value definitive stamps to replace the same values of the King George VI War Issue set. The new stamps showed different aspects of life in peacetime Canada.

Because of the large number of cachets, it would be difficult for a collector to search for and identify a particular FDC in his or her collection so the author grouped a significant number of cachets under a dominant theme. Sections of *First Day Covers of the 1946 Canada King George VI Peace Issue* cover Peace and/or Victory themes, followed by Re-conversion and/or Reconstruction themes, the Canadian Coat of Arms, text indicators of FDC status, left-over War Issue covers, hand-drawn or hand-painted, Air Mail envelopes, plus General-purpose and Business Corner Cards.