

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

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Editor’s Notes:

This issue begins with an article by Vince Chermishnok which sorts through a complex sequence of FDCs from 1983 variously attributed to NR Covers, KWA Covers, and Ken Covers.

A challenge to our readers is issued by Gary Dickinson, who first wrote about the products of cachet maker Terry Brewster in Issue 51. At that point his identity was unknown, but he soon became identified, and the wide range of his FDCs grew clearer. Some of his cachets were based on earlier products of different makers. Readers are invited to identify the original sources of six of them, with the answers shown on p. 12.

Two readers who are not members of the FDC Study Group, Gilles Morel and Brian Wolfenden, share information about two producers of FDCs. If you have any further information, you could send it to me and I’ll forward it to the contact people.

John Berg looks back to the origin of Great Britain’s Penny Black in his article celebrating its 185th anniversary, and looks forward to its bicentennial in 15 years. Forewarned is forearmed!

Mike Street notified me a while back that my 20th BNAPS handbook would be available in April. It summarizes and expands on a couple of articles I wrote in *First Impressions* about the private FDC cachet makers who have been active in the 21st century. Separate chapters discuss and illustrate the products of Fred Oehlhaupl, Terry Brewster, Robert Goyette, Gary and Carol Ridge, Harvey Shuter, and Kevin Colton while the final chapter explores FDCs from makers who published less than ten covers.

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.

KWA COVERS: A “New” Cachet Maker

by Vince Chermishnok

While organizing my collection of First Day Covers (FDCs) featuring Canada’s Locomotive series, issued by Canada Post from 1983 to 1986, I discovered a set of the 1983 Locomotives by an unlisted cachet maker, ‘KWA COVERS.’ (Figure 1)

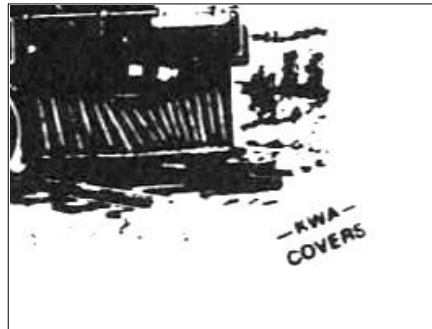


Figure 1. “KWA COVERS” logo

A search through the current index of the BNAPS group's newsletter, *First Impressions*, found only three entries under the letter ‘K’ but no references to ‘KWA COVERS’. A query of *The Horace W. Harrison Online Library* linked to the BNAPS website also yielded no results.

The FDCs produced by KWA COVERS bear a striking resemblance to those of ‘NR COVERS’ by Norman Rosenbloom. This similarity could easily cause confusion between the two. Both designers use the same layout on their cachets, including the text “First Day of Issue / Jour d’Emission” at the top. The black-and-white cachet style and the format of their logos suggests a possible relationship, whether it be collaboration, succession, or simply imitation. (Figure 2 below) The fact that ‘KWA COVERS’ uses a similar logo style, including hyphens (i.e., -KWA-), which replaced the earlier use of colons (:NR:) by ‘NR COVERS’ in the late '70s, indicates at least an awareness of the earlier designs.



The similarities between the two logos are evident, but questions remain regarding the origins of the 'KWA COVERS' and their creator. The use of a matching mailing label as found on this next cover, shown in Figure 3 with its 'NR COVERS' cachet, might suggest that Mr. Koester himself produced the 'KWA COVERS.' Although this is possible, the lack of synergy between his initials and the logo make it seem unlikely. Another possibility is that it was created by an unknown maker who independently adopted a similar style and catered to the same collector. However, the use of the same mailing labels strongly supports the idea of at least some level of collaboration between the two makers.

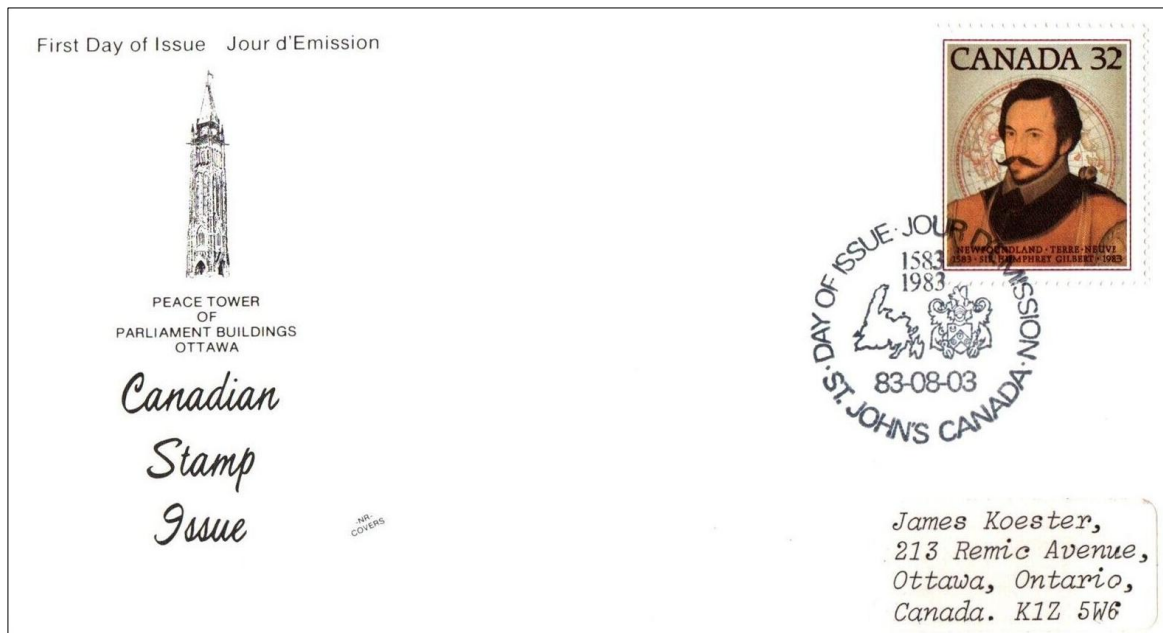


Figure 3. NR COVERS cachet for #995.

Returning to previous editions of the FDC Study Group newsletters, *First Impressions*, several articles by Bruce Perkins provided additional information and possibly the key to identifying the origins of the 'KWA COVERS.' In his article, "The Demise of Private FDC Cachet Making in Canada," the last record of an NR Covers FDC is noted for Canada Post's Tall Ships issue (#1012) of 1984. It is here that one finds reference to the cachet maker, 'Ken Covers'. The example provided in the article is an FDC created for the Canada Post stamp release (#1003) celebrating the centenary of the Dalhousie Law School. (Figure 4)

In the same article, the author notes that the Dalhousie Law School issue is the earliest known FDC from Ken Covers. However, given the similarity between the Canadian Locomotive series cachet and the Dalhousie Law School example attributed to Ken Covers, it is possible that the Canadian Locomotive series from the same year is also by the same maker. Additionally, the font used for the text "First Day of Issue / Jour d'Emission" and its spacing are identical between the two covers. Given that Ken Covers is believed to have begun production in 1983, it seems plausible that this is one of his earlier signed covers. In that case, could the "K" of KWA be one of the initials of its creator, Ken?

Whether this 'new' cachet maker 'KWA COVERS' is a successor or imitator of 'NR COVERS' produced by Norman Rosenbloom, an earlier work of the individual responsible for 'Ken Covers', or an unknown or unrecognized maker requires further research. Discovering similar material, consulting specialized FDC catalogues, and tapping into the knowledge of various collector communities may provide the additional insights needed. At this time, however, the identity of the individual responsible for these 'KWA COVERS' remains unknown, having only been found with the first Canadian Locomotive series (Figures 5-7).

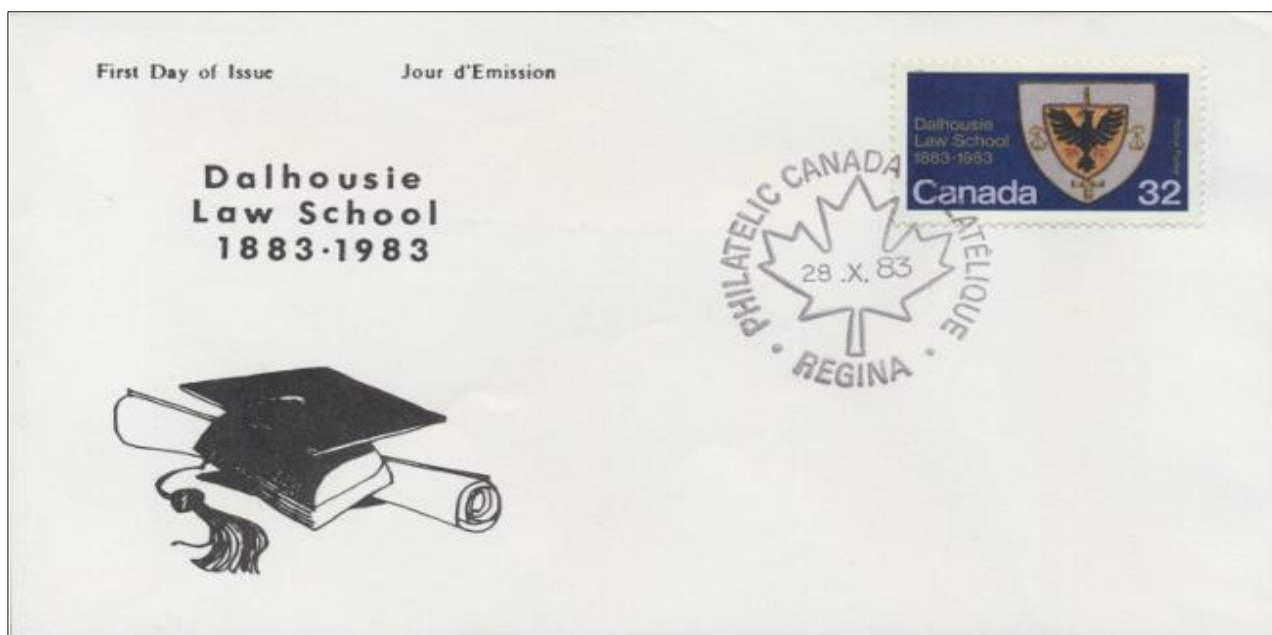


Figure 4. "KEN COVERS" cachet for #1003.

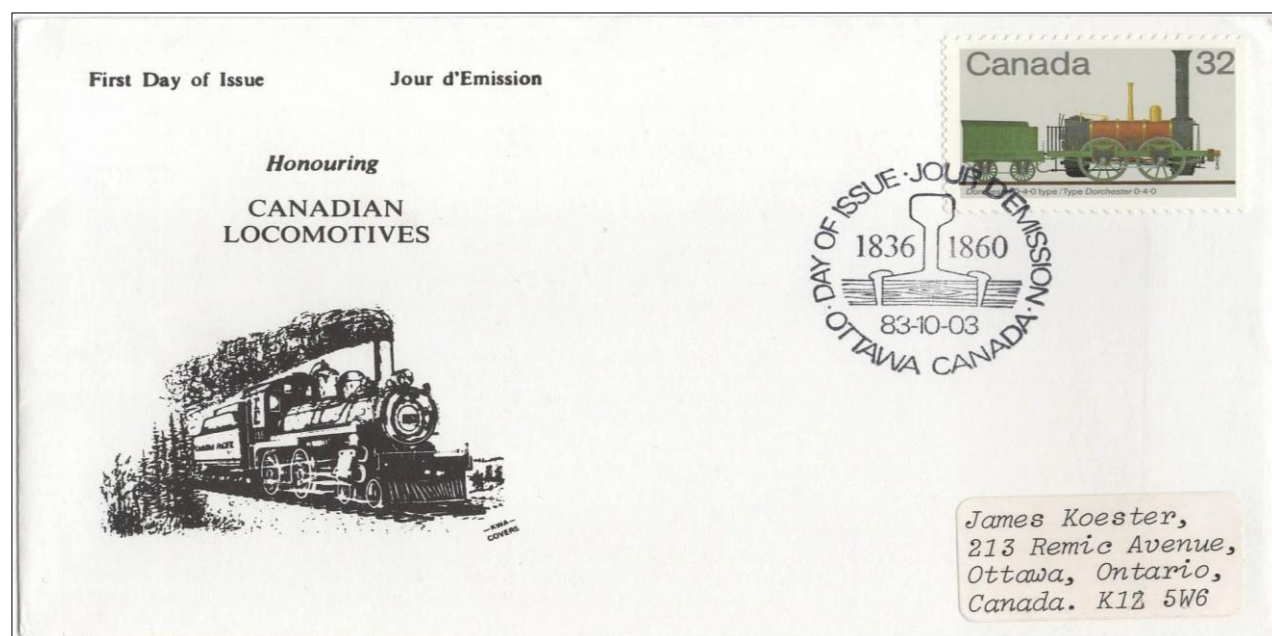


Figure 5. "KWA COVERS" cachet for #1000.

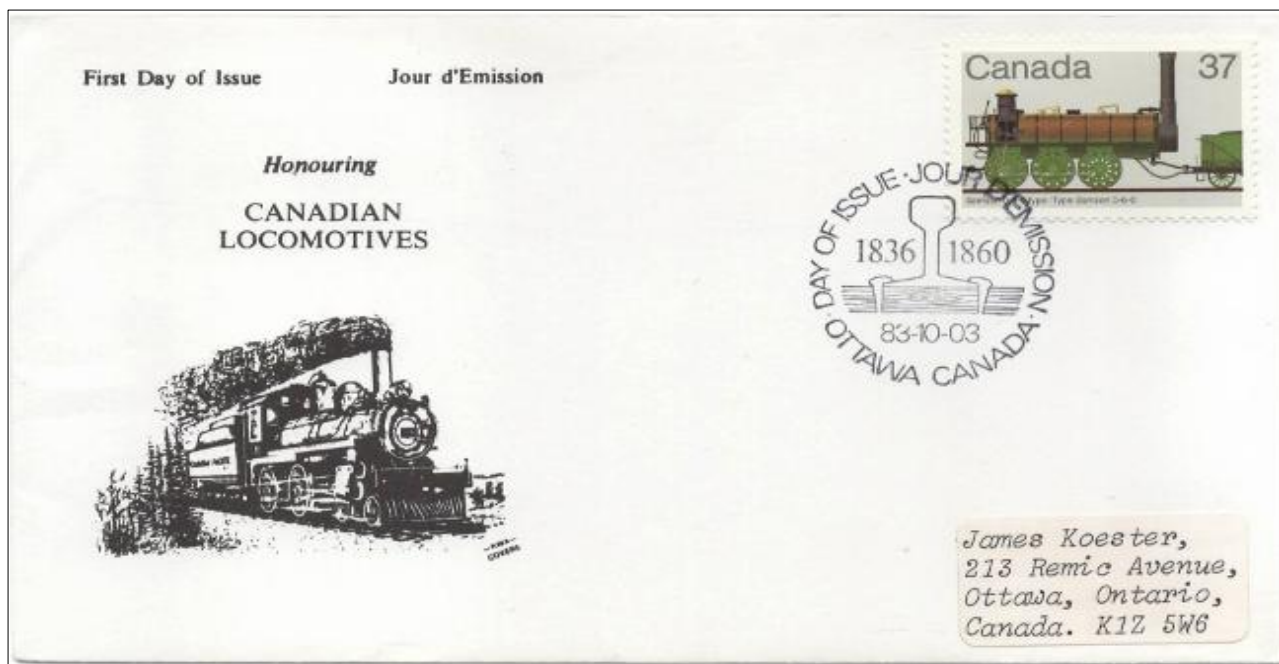


Figure 6.
“KWA

COVERS” cachet for #1001.

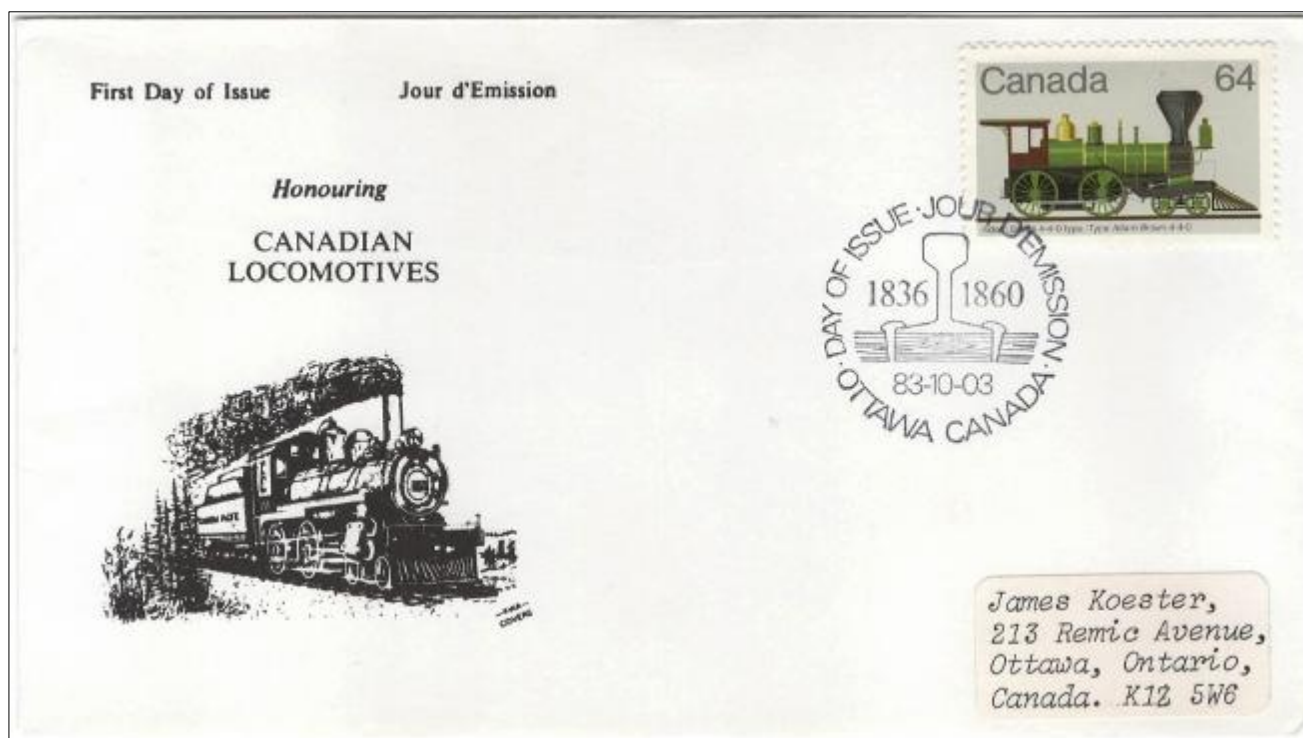


Figure
7.
“KWA

COVERS” cachet for #1002.

A single set, along with the other examples shown, is not enough to provide a conclusive story regarding the identity of the cachet maker discussed and certainly requires further research. However, I am encouraged to believe that additional First Day Covers celebrating the Canada Locomotive series issued between 1983 and 1986, beyond those published by Canada Post and the other well-known cachet

makers, are just waiting to be discovered. For now, any updates, additional thoughts, or further information regarding this currently unlisted cachet maker would be most welcome.

Many thanks to both Roy Lingen and Bob Vogel, who kindly responded to my initial email queries about the 'KWA COVERS' and their origins.

References

Perkins, Bruce. 'The Demise of Private FDC Cachet Making in Canada', *First Impressions*, Issue No. 14. (January-March 2013), pp. 2-9.

Perkins, Bruce. (2013) 'Canadian FDC Collecting in the Modern Era', *First Impressions*, Issue No. 14. (January-March 2013), pp. 10-14.

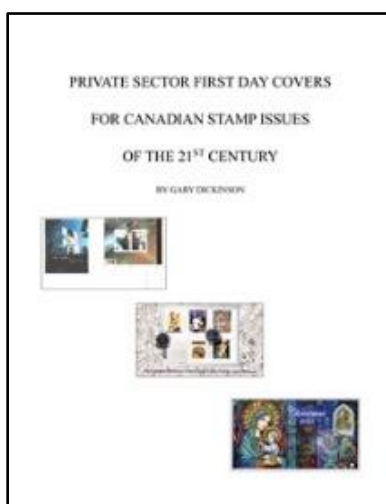
BNAPS Book Release Note

Private Sector First Day Covers for Canadian Stamp Issues of the 21st Century, Gary Dickinson, March 2025. Spiral bound, 58 pages, 8.5 × 11, colour. ISBN: 978-1-989280-50-8. Stock # B4h128-1. Price: C\$28.00

The onset of "official" FDCs by Canada Post in 1971 resulted in a fairly rapid and substantial shift by collectors away from the products of private makers in favour of the official versions. By the end of the 20th century, private cachet makers barely existed. In his new BNAPS handbook, Gary Dickinson presents a few enterprising individuals who continued in the market with boutique-type operations. Some attempted to compete with Canada Post while others sought niche markets for product types that the post office did not generate.

WEB PAGE: <https://longleyauctions.com/product-category/bnaps-books/>

EMAIL: BNAPS@longleyauctions.com



Terry Brewster's Borrowed Cachets

by Gary Dickinson

Major Terry Brewster made hundreds of FDCs for Canadian stamp issues from the late 1980s until 2015. Initially his cachets were general purpose Artopages productions accompanied by photographs of the far-flung post offices where they were mailed. The earlier covers were posted near his station in Canadian Armed Forces Base Gagetown, NB while later efforts emanated from post offices near CFB Edmonton after his transfer there.

Brewster began creating his own cachets after retiring to Nanaimo., BC in 2000. He made at least one design, occasionally two or more, for each stamp issue, and used a multiplicity of envelope colours. He was apparently quite knowledgeable about other makers of FDCs and was not averse to borrowing their designs for his own covers.

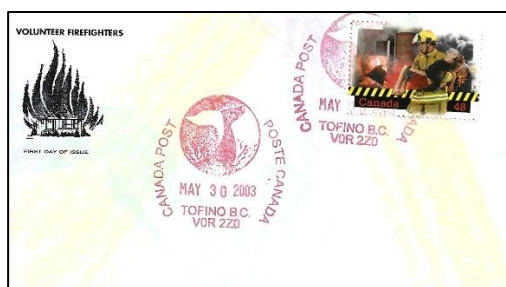
Following are a half-dozen of Brewster's FDCs with borrowed cachets. The stamp designation is also shown, and you're invited to identify the maker and where the original cachet was used. All of the original uses are included in my catalogue of privately produced FDCs, or check them against the original versions on the last page of this issue.



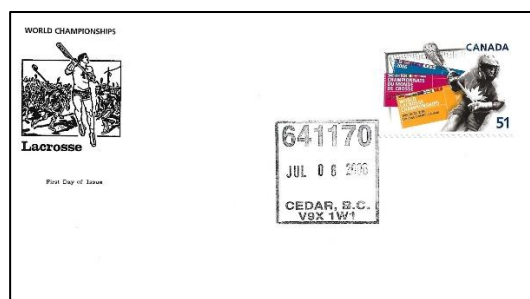
1. #1935d



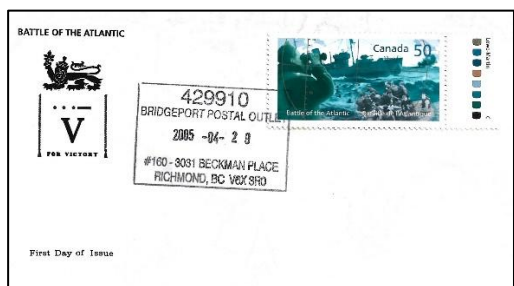
4. #1987



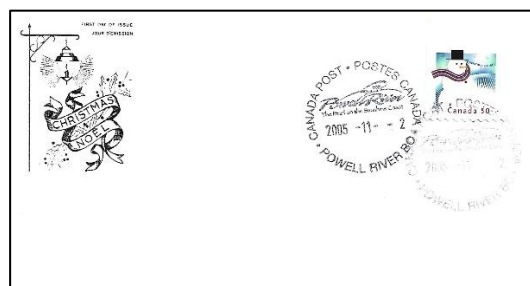
2. #1986



5. #2161



3. #2107



6. 2124i

Postal History at ICAO

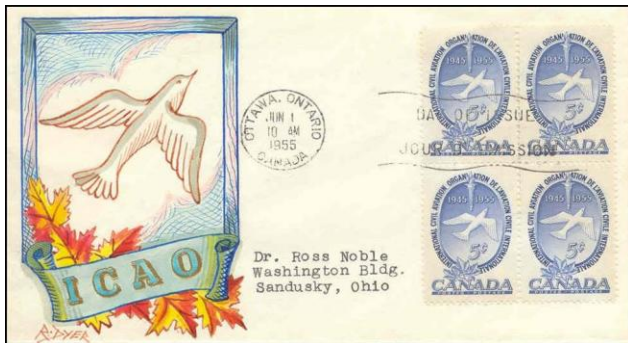
Courtesy of Gilles Morel

Gilles Morel served for more than a decade as the representative of a petroleum industry organization to the International Civil Aviation Organization on matters pertaining to aviation fuels. During that period (2010 to 2021) he had access to the ICAO's museum and store where philatelic souvenirs were available to delegates. He also noted that the ICAO has a postal history section which "contains a ton of useful information and stamps, covers, pictures and stories."

Part of that section deals with FDCs for the ICAO tenth anniversary commemorative stamp (#354) Canada Post issued on June 1, 1955. It may be viewed at the following website address:

https://applications.icao.int/postalhistory/10th_anniversary_commemorated_by_canada.htm

It describes the background and development of the stamp and shows scans of 120 covers, many of which are unique. A couple of examples are shown below.



Ralph Dyer cachet



Philatelic Supply cachet with embellishments



Overseas Mailers cachet



Fluck cachet

A Look Back at the Penny Black

by John Berg

This year is the 185th anniversary of the first postage stamp. Those of us who are still around in 2040 can celebrate the bicentennial of the Penny Black with all the FDCs that are likely to be available with all the stamps that will probably be issued.

The first centennial was not simple as it was 1940, and Britain and its allies were anticipating a European war with the Axis. The British Post Office in 1939 had announced that six stamps would be issued to celebrate the centennial of the Penny Black in conjunction with an exhibition in London in 1940. It was assumed in the philatelic world that other countries would issue stamps as well.

Great pressure was brought by the American philatelic public on the US Post Office to issue a stamp for the Penny Black Centennial. The American president Franklin D. Roosevelt, an avid stamp collector, was all for it. His Postmaster General, James Farley, thought that it was a bad idea, since America was diplomatically neutral in the European conflict at the time and any indication of support for Britain would be seen as favoritism. Nevertheless, FDR ordered a proposed design for the stamp but was unhappy with the submissions since they displayed the image of a monarch (Queen Victoria) and those designs without the Penny Black on them were unsuitable. In the end, the whole proposed stamp idea was discarded. Nevertheless, many American cachet makers went ahead with envelopes for the proposed stamp which were ultimately used to celebrate the centennial by many local and national organizations.

I am unfamiliar with The Canadian Post Office's plans for the Centennial; perhaps those who have access to Canada Post Archives can find information on the subject. Certainly, a

slogan postmark was available and used with not only the American cachets, but also ones issued by local stamp organizations.

Figures 1 through 5 illustrate some postal history for the centennial. Figure 1 is the GBPO six-stamp FDC, Figure 2 a US cachet with a special meter cancel, Figure 3 a Canadian PO slogan postmark with a US cachet, Figure 4 the slogan postmark with a Canadian cachet, and finally Figure 5 shows a special Canadian meter cancel.

I would like to encourage those of you who have material or thoughts on this subject to contact the Study Group. Remember, you only have 15 years to make plans for the Penny Black Bicentennial!



Figure 1



Figure 2 (only scan available)



Figure 3

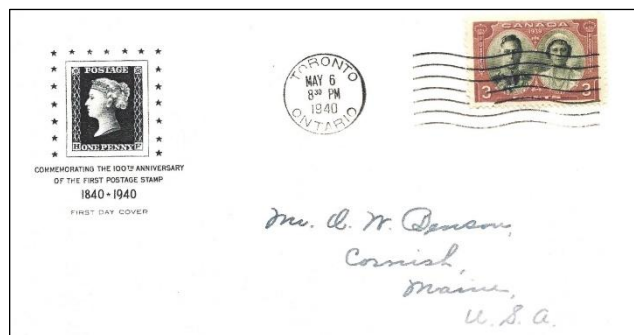


Figure 4



Figure 5

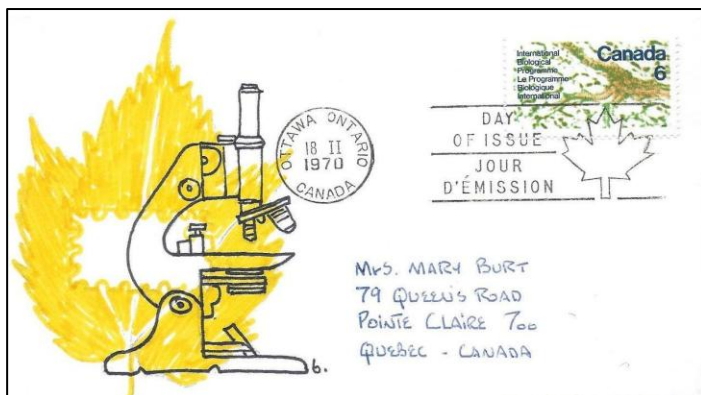
Three FDCs by Mrs. Burt

Submitted by Brian Wolfenden

I received the three FDCs shown here from Brian Wolfenden, who had not seen previously anything like them in his own collection or documented in any catalogue. All of them are addressed to the same residence in Pointe Claire, QC, with one to Mrs. Andrew Burt and two to Mrs. Mary Burt. It's likely that Mrs. Burt made the cachets, but any additional information or other similar FDCs would be welcomed. Please contact the editor if you have anything to add and I'll forward your information to Brian Wolfenden.



#504

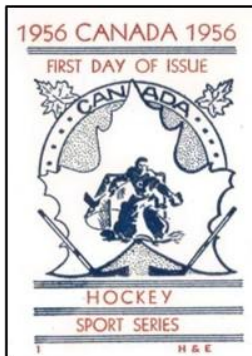


#507



#511

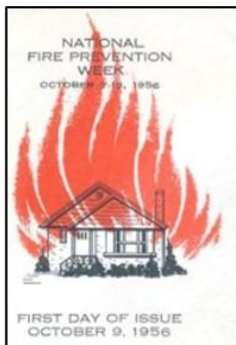
Brewster's Cachet Models



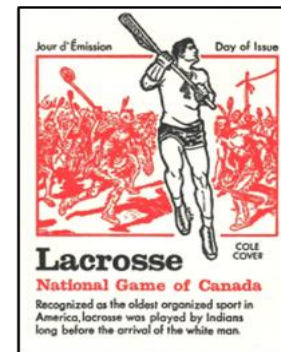
1. #359 H&E



4. #330 Jacobi



2. #364 Personal Stationery



5. #483 Cole



3. #249-262 Patriotic 12



6. #444 Rosecraft