

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

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Editor's Notes by Gary Dickinson

First up in this issue is an introduction to paraphilatelic material by Gary Denis. If memory serves me (and it doesn't always at this age) this topic has not been dealt with previously in this newsletter, but a quick Google search provided an understanding of what it's all about.

John Berg provides an interesting view of a Canadian patriotic cachet for the WWII War Issue and its relationship to similar types of cachets in the United States.

Reader John Macco submitted a pair of FDCs produced for the set of eight stamps honouring Canadian astronauts, with all of them having signed the appropriate cover.

Finally, Alan Warren reviews a recent BNAPS handbook publication with the lengthy, but descriptive title, *Private Sector First Day Covers for Canadian Stamp Issues of the 21st Century*. The research for this publication had its start with a pair of articles in earlier issues of this newsletter and is already showing signs of more to come.

Written contributions to First Impressions are sought and welcomed, and new issues will be published when warranted by the contributions received. They should be in Word format with each scan a separate attachment in jpg format at 300 dpi. Contributions may be submitted to editor Gary Dickinson at gandbdickinson@shaw.ca.

Collecting Paraphilatelic Material

by Gary Denis

I'm curious – in addition to FDCs, do any of my fellow Study Group members also collect “other” material related to the production and issue of a particular stamp?

Known as “paraphilatelic” material, these may include pre-production items, such as correspondence between stamp designers and postal officials; preliminary sketches and artwork; and essays and proof printings. Paraphilatelics can also include publicity material such as press releases and photos, stamp announcements, and newspaper articles. It can also include material related to the actual first day, such as ceremony programs.

I collect topically, meaning I try to find ALL cachet and postmark varieties for just a few specific stamp issues. I'm from the USA, so most of my FDC interests are from there, but a few years ago I decided to form a specialized collection of Canada's “Legendary Creatures” stamps issued October 1, 1990 (Scott #1289-1292), in particular the Sasquatch single. (Figure 1) I am interested in anything at all related to this issue, including paraphilatelics!

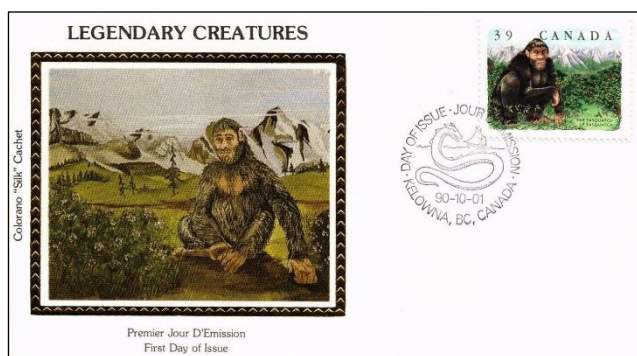


Figure 1. Colorano Sasquatch FDC

So far, I have not found any pre-production material, such as artwork or proofs. These rarities are typically found in the archives of printing companies or postal museums, but occasionally become available to the public when former high level postal or printing company employees pass away, and their heirs put their

collections up for sale. I'll continue to be on the lookout for Sasquatch material.

I have found one publicity item in the form of a "PRESENTING / En Primeur" Brochure, which was mailed to collectors on Canada Posts's mailing list. (Figure 2) Printed in both English and French, it contains a wealth of information about the stamp, including the issue date, names of the designers, printing company, and quantity printed. It also includes technical details, such as the paper type, perforation size, printing process, and tagging.

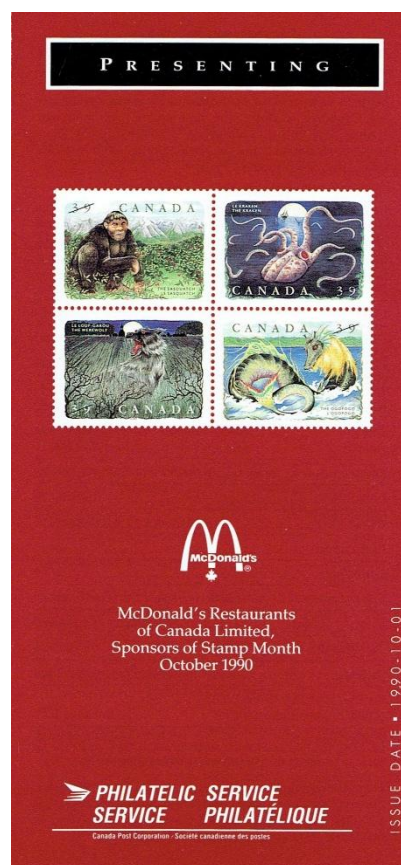


Figure 2. Sasquatch Presenting Brochure

The Presenting folders replaced the Commemorative Stamp Bulletins that had been in use for years. The Presenting brochures were replaced in February 1991 with a new postcard-style format.

My eBay searches have shown stamp announcement brochures to be plentiful, but only in mint condition; are any of them known with the matching stamps affixed and cancelled on their First Day of Issue? Had I owned one of these Presenting brochures back in 1990 when the *Legendary Creatures* came out, I surely would have sent one to Canada Post with a request to affix and postmark a Sasquatch stamp!

Another philatelic item that can add interest to a collection could be a stamp poster, which you might find tacked to your local post office bulletin board to announce an upcoming stamp. (Figure 3) In the US, these lobby posters were avidly sought after in the 1960s, with the



Figure 3. Post Office Poster

advertised stamps affixed by collectors and cancelled with the first day postmark. Their popularity led the postal service to offer them by subscription as “Souvenir Pages.” Does anyone collect the Canadian posters with the matching stamps added and postmarked?

I have not yet been able to locate a post office poster (either mint or postmarked) for Canada’s *Legendary Creatures*, but I’m still looking.

Canada Post has long published the quarterly magazine *Collections* (Figure 4), which includes information about upcoming issues. Another magazine, *Details* (Figure 5), was introduced in 1991, but transitioned from print format to digital only in late 2024. I think a Canada Post publication with “your” favorite stamp on the cover would be a fun addition to a collection!



Figure 4. *Collections* Magazine

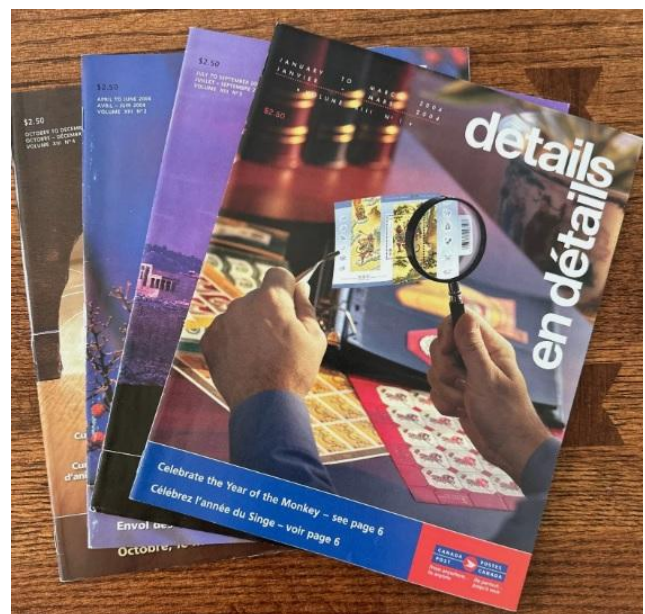


Figure 5. *Details* Magazine

Other publicity items can include official press releases sent by Canada Post to various newspapers. Published articles about the new stamp, especially those in the non-philatelic press, such as local newspapers, can also add interest. In recent years, press releases have typically been

sent electronically as PDF files to the various media. In 1990, however, I assume Canada Post was likely still mailing paper press releases with glossy publicity photos attached. In the US, our postal service hosts first day ceremonies for almost every new stamp issue. Each attendee is given a complimentary Ceremony Program containing a first day cancelled stamp and list of speakers and distinguished guests. These programs are very collectible, especially when autographed by the ceremony participants.

I understand that, except for a brief period in the late 1970s, Canada Post does not host formal ceremonies for new stamp releases. But are there ever dedication ceremonies hosted by local organizations with ties to the subject of the stamp? If so, do they hand out privately published programs to attendees? And does anyone collect them?

For the Legendary Creatures issue, the closest thing I have found to a “program” was a presentation folder, produced by Canada Post to give to dignitaries. (Figures 6 and 7) According to the Chung and Narbonne official FDC catalogue, these items were introduced in 1977. They are folded into three panels and contain an official FDC and a new issue brochure. Mine had been presented to Kelowna resident and Member of Parliament Edward Allan “Al” Horning (1939-2023), who represented the Okanagan electoral district in British Columbia, otherwise known as Ogoopogo’s back yard!

I would enjoy hearing from other Canada FDC Study Group members. My email is: garycdenis@comcast.net



Figure 6. Presentation Folder Cover



Figure 7. Opened Presentation Folder

A 1942 World War Two Combination First Day Cover with Patriotic Cachet

by John Berg

The collection of World War Two patriotic cachets is a huge field for the interested collector. Brookman's Catalog (1) lists over 500 different cachets for the period of 1941 to 1946 just for US related WWII events. This does not include all the commercial cachets designed for specific US WWII related stamps that were issued. I am not aware of a similar compilation for Canadian WWII patriotic cachets, other than what is listed in Dickinson's catalog of private cachet makers (2).

The cover displayed in Figure 1 is a combination FDC for Canada Scott #251 and US Scott #905 issued in 1942. In addition to King George VI and Franklin D. Roosevelt, the flags of Great Britain and the US are there as well. In comparing the cachets for these stamps in the Dickinson and Mellone catalogs (3), there are few that use both the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes together. None display the Canadian flag of the time with the US flag.



Figure 1

The cover is addressed to "Fidelity" at a location in Washington D.C. This happens to have been the business address for the Fidelity Stamp Company. Fidelity and other FDC servicers in the D.C. area shared a common pool of local commercial artists; an examination of covers from these servicers shows comparable artwork and typeface style. The Fidelity FDC for Scott #905 is shown in Figure 2. Our combination cover does not share any commonality with this style at all but resembles more the patriotic cachets from Britain and Canada for the War Issue. Figure 3 is an example of such a cachet.

Other values of the 1942 War Issue may have been serviced with this cachet. This envelope is a No. 8 size, so the entire set would have taken at least a No. 10 size. A watchful eye for auctions and dealer sales may produce such a treasure.

References

1. *2021 Brookman Price Guide*. Brookman Stamp Company, Vancouver, Washington, pp. 257-258.

2. *Catalog of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1989*. BNAPS, June 2023, pp. 31-35.
3. *Mellone's Specialized Cachet Catalog of First Day Covers of the 1940s, Volume One*. FDC Publishing Co., June 1984, pp. 41-44.

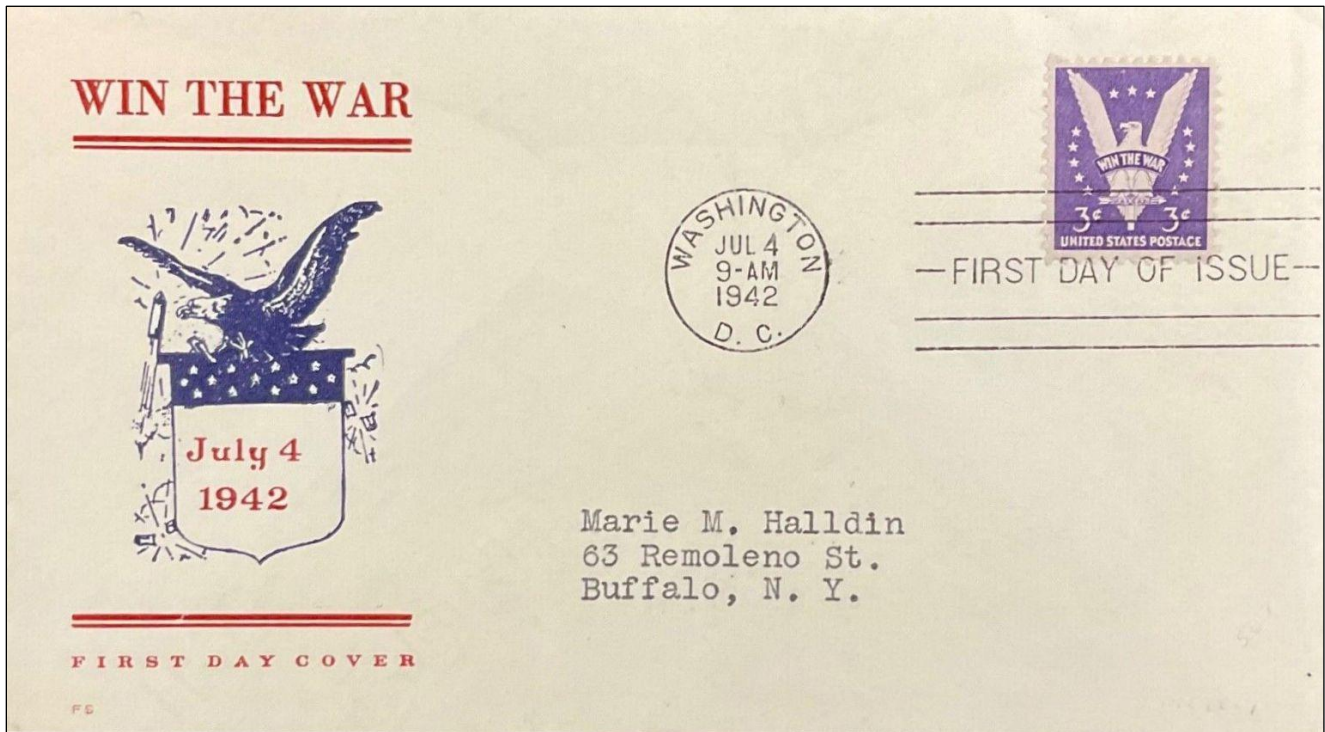


Figure 2



Figure 3

Autographs by Canadian Astronauts

Submitted by John Macco

A couple of recent issues of *First Impressions* have noted that autographs by people connected in some way with the stamp subject would increase substantially the value of the FDC. Reader John Macco submitted scans of the two covers shown below that feature the autographs of the eight Canadian astronauts shown on the stamps issued on October 1, 2003 and catalogued as 1999a through 1999h. Here are the official Canada Post FDCs with the added bonus of the signatures.



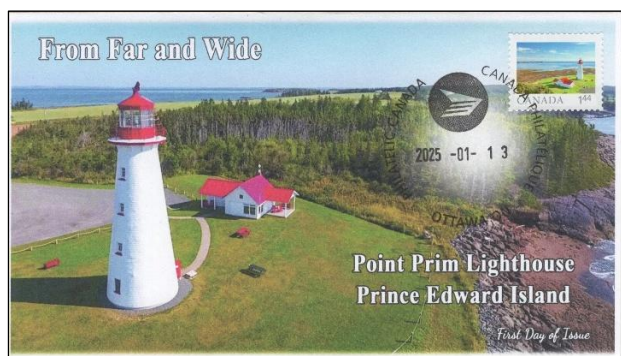
Some Newer FDCs

by Gary Dickinson

While I was doing the research for my BNAPS handbook on privately produced FDCs in the 21st century, I found only three people who were currently producing them. This select group included Kevin Colton of Seneca Falls, NY, Robert Goyette of Blainville, QC, and Gary and Carol Ridge of Carrying Place, ON. All of them market their covers on eBay through their listings and eBay Stores.

Shown here are four selections (in alphabetical order) of their current products for some 2024 and 2025 stamp issues.

Kevin Colton (KSC Cachets)



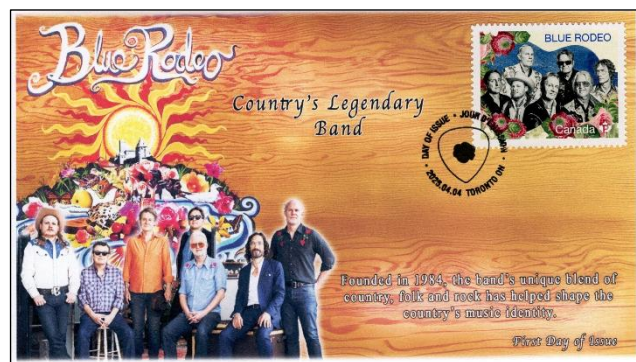
January 11, 2025 (made 10 different cachets for the Far and Wide issue)



March 3, 2025

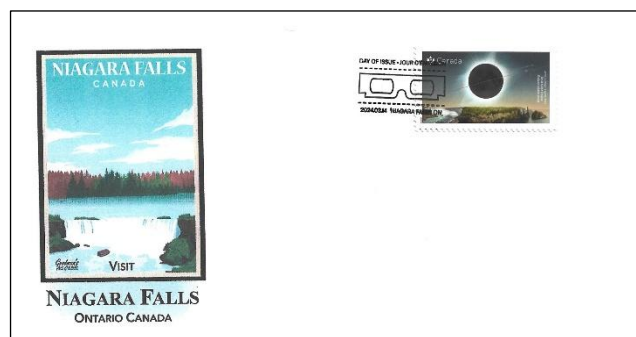


April 4, 2025



April 4, 2025 (often makes multiple cachets for the same issue)

Robert Goyette (robertstamps)



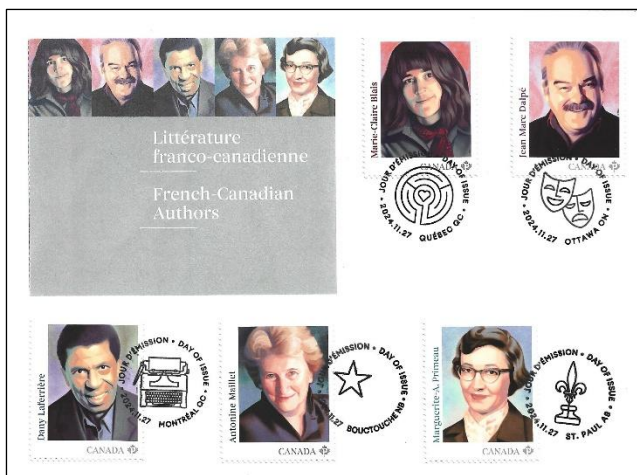
#3418



#3420-3422 (specializes in FDCs for souvenir sheets)



#3467



#3472-3476

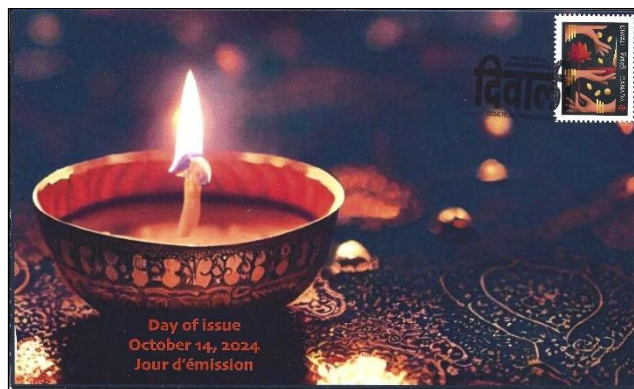
Gary and Carol Ridge (3 AngryCats)



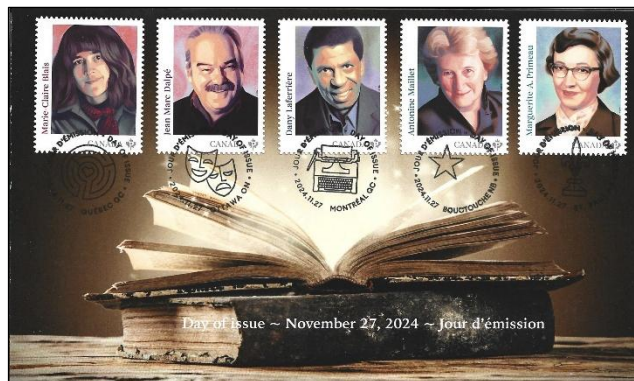
#3446-3449



#3455



#3461



#3472-3476

Book Review by Alan Warren

Private Sector First Day Covers for Canadian Stamp Issues of the 21st Century by Gary Dickinson. 8 ½ by 11 inches, spiral bound, 56 pages, card covers, British North America Philatelic Society, London, Ontario, Canada, 2025. ISBN 978-1-989280-50-8, \$28 CAD plus postage from BNAPS Book Department, c/o Longley Auctions, PO Box 620, Waterdown ON L0R 2H0, Canada, or BNAPS@longleyauctions.com.

For many years cacheted FDCs were produced by private individuals and organizations in Canada, just as in the United States. However, in 1971 Canada Post decided to compete in this field and introduced “official” FDCs. The number of private producers fell rapidly and only a handful existed by the end of the 20th century. In his new book Dickinson describes the work of a few producers who began just before the turn of the century and some others that have appeared since 2000. These niche cachet makers often attract collectors who seek their production. Dickinson starts with a summary of cacheted Canadian FDCs that began in 1927 with the 60th Anniversary of Confederation and Historical sets prepared by George Eppstadt and T. R. Legault. These were followed by the work of H.D. Hubbard and J.C. Rosenbaum in the 30s and 40s. By the 1950s there were 40 different cachet makers including some American producers like Ralph Dyer, Charles George, and Dargis Velvatone.

With Canada Post’s entry into the official FDC field in 1971, most cachet makers dropped from the scene, although major American firms like Fleetwood and Colorano maintained a presence for some years. The first of the newer Canadian cachet designers was Fred Oelhaupl of Calgary. For many years he used two designs that were general purpose cachets.

The first one was like an ArtCraft design with emblems of the ten Canadian provinces and the wording “First Day of Issue / Canadian Postage Stamps.” The second one used the same text, but the image was a pair of crossed Canadian flags. This second design was in use for more than 20 years.

The other holdover who began in the 20th century and continued into the 2000s was Terry Brewster. His approach was not to use a general purpose design but a different one for each issue. For a while he used photographs of post offices and then moved on to line art and text cachets.

Brewster experimented with different types of paper and sometimes used an all-over background design of wispy or feathery clouds on both the front and back of the envelope. He also obtained unofficial cancels by traveling quite a distance from home. The last known Brewster cachet was made in 2015.

Dickinson continues with other 21st century cachet designers such as Harvey Shuter, Robert Goyette, Gary and Carol Ridge, and Kevin Colton. He shows examples and points out characteristics that help identify the makers. His concluding chapter of “Some Other Makers” includes Lloyd de Vries and his Dragon Cards, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Peter Lepold, Derwin Mak, and Bob Sharpe.

Dickinson also shows some designs that are “unknown” and need more research. An appendix shows the values of many of these cachet makers from eBay and dealer records. The prices are very affordable and offer collectors some new areas of specialization that won’t break their bank accounts.

The illustrations throughout the book are of good quality and the layout is a 2-column format. The spiral binding allows for the open book to lie flat for ease of use. Dickinson’s book should attract collectors seeking some new names in the Canadian cachet field.