

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

ISSUE 59 APRIL-JUNE, 2026

In This Issue

A Challenge From the New Chair	Jack Heath	2
Newfoundland FDCs by Rev. N. Cole	Gordon Smith	3
ORAPEX 2026		5
Slogan Cancellations on Canadian FDCs	John Berg	6
An Uncommon Streetcar	Don Wainwright	8
Picture Postage on First Day Covers	Gary Dickinson	9

Editor's Notes by Gary Dickinson

Our FDC Study Group Chairperson and Treasurer, Bob Vogel, had to resign recently due to ill health. Bob was instrumental in establishing the Study Group some 18 years ago and has played a key role in its continuation since then, for which we are most appreciative.

Jack Heath has agreed to serve as Chairperson and Mark Oakley as Treasurer, effective immediately. I will continue to serve as Editor of the newsletter. Jack has a message for our members on page 2.

This edition includes four relatively short articles and a note from Ian Smillie regarding ORAPEX 2026 being held in Ottawa on the May 2-3 weekend. An internet link to exhibition information is included in the notice.

Gordon Smith concludes his two-part study of Rev. Nathaniel Cole's FDCs with his Newfoundland contributions while John Berg discusses slogan cancellations on Canadian FDCs. Don Wainwright seeks information about an unusual maximum card and Gary Dickinson introduces the use of Picture Postage stamps on FDCs.

Written contributions to First Impressions are sought and welcomed, and new issues of the newsletter will be published when warranted by the contributions received, hopefully on a quarterly basis. Articles 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.

A Challenge from the New Chair

Hi everyone! I'm Jack Heath, the new chair of the BNAPS FDC Study Group. I am not certain how that happened, but I'm pleased to serve. What I am certain of is that Gary Dickinson will remain as the invaluable editor of our very important, *First Impressions*. I always enjoy reading every word – thank you Gary.

Thanks Bob. My thanks also go to the previous chair, Bob Vogel of Barrie, Ontario, who also operated as treasurer. Mark Oakley has agreed to take on that role, much appreciated. Apparently we have about \$500 in an account, but in these days of email delivery of the newsletter, its purposes need to be better understood. Mark is in Vernon BC, with Gary in Kelowna, not an hour away. I have relatives in Penticton; maybe we'll hold an executive meeting someday on the shores of Lake Okanagan!

A little about me. I've been collecting Canadian and Newfoundland FDCs for about two decades. Downstairs, there are more than 100 binders of 100 covers each, with an ever expanding 500 or more still to be entered – don't you feel that one can never catch-up in our hobby? I live in Markham, Ontario where I am executive member of the Markham Stamp Club. Occupation? I was a Councilor in Markham for 25 years, 11 of those as Deputy Mayor. While there I arranged for one of Canada Post's stamp launches of their Chinese New Year stamp to be held at City Hall. Check out 2010! There are even 200 copies of the FDC out there with my signature on them.

What's the challenge Jack? I believe we'd all like to know more about our members. Gary and I have discussed this. We both believe that there are some interesting stories out there. I would like to invite you to submit a short entry to *First Impressions*, a few per issue will be published, to answer the following questions: #1, What FDCs do you collect and why? #2, How did you get started? And #3, What is your most prized FDC? With a picture of that last one please. I'll do an entry for the next issue which Gary tells me should be in July, but we need two or three more to start off. Let me know your interest in advance; I can be reached at jackheath@rogers.com.

All the best, Jack.

Newfoundland First Day Covers by Rev. Nathaniel Cole

by Gordon Smith

This article continues to describe first day covers created by Rev. Nathaniel Cole. The previous article published in Issue 59 of *First Impressions*, illustrated his Canadian covers and this article shows FDCs he created for Newfoundland stamp issues.

Dickinson (2023) states that Rev. Cole used the cachet illustrated in Figure 1 for his first day covers for Newfoundland stamps #230 to 232, the Coronation Omnibus issue of May 12, 1937. Rev. Cole also used this cachet in 1937 on first day covers for Canadian stamps in the Mufti and Coronation issues #231 to 237.

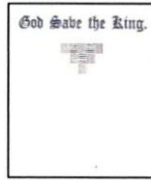


Figure 1

Figures 2a and 2b show both sides of a FDC that Rev. Cole created for Newfoundland stamps #233 to 243, the King George VI Newfoundland Long Coronation issue. The cover contains all the stamps of the issue from one to 48 cents. The cover, postmarked in “CLARKE’S BEACH, NEWF’D” on May 12, 1937, contains a professionally printed address that is identical to other covers created by Rev. Cole addressed to Granville Ferry NS; however, the envelope is



Figure 2a



Figure 2b

larger than other preprinted envelopes of same style. The backflap provides a professionally printed return address to Rev. Cole’s P.O. box in Granville Ferry, the only such return addressing that I have seen. The professionally printed cachet “Coronation, May 12th, 1937, God Save the King” with a hatched triangle below is the same as cachets used for the Canadian Mufti and Coronation issues.

Figure 3 shows a cachet illustrated in the *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927 – 1989* (Dickinson, 2023) for Newfoundland stamps #245 to 248, the Royal Family issue of May 12, 1938. The professionally printed cachet contains the text “Newfoundland Regular issue of the reign of Their Majesties George and Elizabeth First Day

Cover” in blue with a triangular hatched pattern below. The illustration also shows the professionally printed address to Lloyd E. A. Cole, Granville Ferry NS.

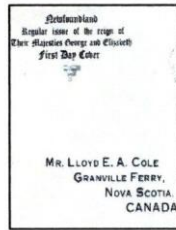


Figure 3

Figure 4 illustrates a FDC for the Newfoundland Royal Visit stamp, #249. This cachet is similar to the one shown as Figure 9 in the previous article, except that “Newfoundland” has been substituted for “Canada”, making this Figure 4 the same as the one illustrated in Figure 10 of the previous article which was used on a first day cover for the Canada Royal Visit issue, Canada #246 to 248. This cachet (on Figure 4 in this article) says “May” for the month despite the postmark and first day of issue for stamp being June 17, 1939. The cover is marked with a special postmark from Holyrood, Newfoundland for the Royal Landing. The cover has a handwritten address to Miss M.I. Cole in Rev. Cole’s script.



Figure 4

Figure 5 is also a first day cover for the Newfoundland Royal Visit stamp, #249 and has the same cachet as Figure 4, except a cut out containing professionally printed word “June” has



Figure 5

been pasted over the month “May” on a small piece of paper. The address in Rev. Cole’s handwriting is to “The Parsonage, Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia, Canada. The cover is marked with a special postmark from St. John’s, NFLD, dated June 17, 1939, stating “ISSUED TO COMMEMORATE VISIT OF THEIR GRACIOUS MAJESTIES VISIT TO BRITAIN’S OLDEST COLONY”.

Figure 6 is a scan from Dickinson (2023) illustrating a cachet commemorating the 450th anniversary of Jean Cabot’s arrival in Newfoundland, Newfoundland #270, issued on June 23, 1947. This was the last stamp issued by Newfoundland before it joined the Canadian confederation.

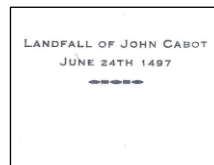


Figure 6

Reference: Dickinson, Gary. *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927 - 1989*, second edition. The British North American Philatelic Society, 2023

ORAPEX 2026

2026 will mark the 63rd anniversary of ORAPEX, the Ottawa philatelic exhibition. ORAPEX is one of only a few national-level stamp shows held annually in Canada. Our show has two themes this year: “Aerophilately” and “Bytown”—the original name of Ottawa—which was founded in 1826, 200 years ago.

Date and time:

Saturday, May 2, 10am-6pm

Sunday, May 3, 10am-4pm

Venue:

Nepean Sportsplex

1701 Woodroffe Avenue

Ottawa, Ontario

K2G 1W2

The show features a wide range of competitive exhibits, society and study group meetings, and about 35 dealers from across Canada. Free admission and parking.

For more information, see our website at orapex.ca

Ian Smillie

Slogan Cancellations on Canadian First Day Covers

by John Berg

Slogan cancellations on domestic mail have been used since the late 1800s in both Canada and the United States. For more information on the cancels themselves, the reader is directed to Cecil Coutts *Slogan Postmarks of Canada, Catalogue and Guidebook*, Third Edition, 2007 published by Agassiz-Harrison Printers & Stationers Ltd.

Canadian collectors have had the advantage of access to new stamps on their first day of sale across the country, whereas American collectors have had to use a friend or dealer in the first day city or town to obtain any slogan cancels in that locale or to have stocks of stamps shipped to a location where a slogan cancel is available. It would seem reasonable, then, that there should be many more slogan cancelled Canadian FDCs in the marketplace. However, in shopping the usual online stamp and cover dealers, such an abundance does not seem to exist. A few examples of FDCs with slogan cancellations are shown here, with Coutts' catalogue numbers indicated.

Figure 1 is for the 1937 Coronation Issue; this slogan cancel was widely available across Canada. Figure 2 was used at the World Scout Jamboree held at Niagara Falls Ontario in 1955. Figure 3 was offered at the Canadian Olympic hockey training sit in Kitchener Ontario. Figure 4 for the Northern Development was cancelled in 1961 at Whitehorse, NWT. Finally, Figure 5 for the 1963 Gzowski stamp uses a slogan cancel from Niagara Falls, the location of Niagara Falls National Park That Gzowski had a hand in creating.



Figure 1. Scott #237, May 10, 1937 with Coutts #C-1710



Figure 2. Scott #356, August 20, 1955 with Coutts #E-150



Figure 3. Scott #359, January 23, 1956 with Coutts #T-165

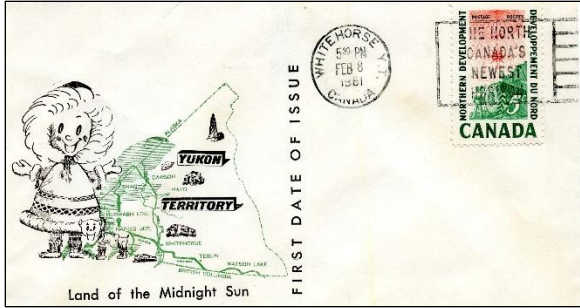


Figure 4. Scott #391, February 8, 1961, Coutts #T-200

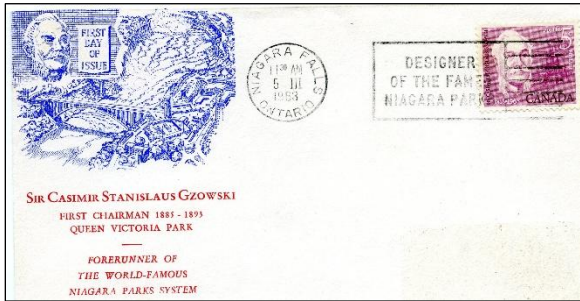


Figure 5. Scott #410, March 5, 1963, Coutts #D-95

Note: John has indicated that the USPS has recently changed its policy so that cover servicers can buy and cancel FDCs with new stamps on the day of release anywhere there is a post office with stock, as soon as the formal first day ceremony is completed. This is advantageous for western collectors as most ceremonies tend to be held in the eastern and central time zones.

An Uncommon Streetcar

by Don Wainwright

I have shown three scans. The first (Figure 1a) is of the front of one of the maximum cards (#1527e) from this set of 25 cards. That is the side the cancelled stamp should be on like all other sets. The second scan (Figure 1b) shows the back of the same card where an additional stamp and cancellation can be found. You can see that it comes from set #95560. There is a complete set of 25 different, all with the same number.

I have also shown in Figure 2 one of the regular card backs for #1527e with no stamp or cancel. The front of this card has the canceled stamp like the rest of that set. I don't know if any of these maximum cards were ever sold without the stamp attached.

I have a couple of questions: How unique is the set that I have with stamp and cancel on both sides? Has anyone else heard of a set like it? The big question is how did it come about? As I mentioned, it would seem to me to be unlikely that it was an honest mistake. How could an employee that had worked on thousands of these (10,000 numbered sets issued) not know that they were applying the stamp on the wrong side? What do you think it's worth? One knowledgeable member thought it might be valued at \$500.00 or more.

Comments from the study group members would be appreciated and addressed to the Editor for forwarding to me.

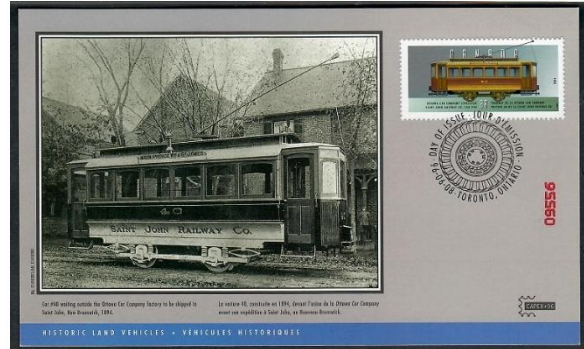


Figure 1a. Normal front



Figure 1b. Back of above 1a

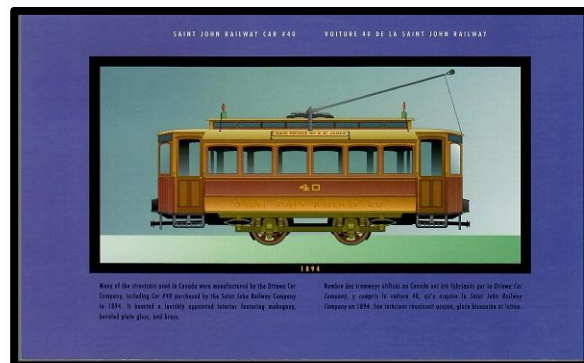


Figure 2. Normal back

Picture Postage on First Day Covers

by Gary Dickinson

Canada Post's (CP) Picture Postage program, which was in effect from 2000 until 2022, gave its customers an opportunity to design and use stamps of their own creation if they fit within the parameters of the frames that CP produced.

The program had its antecedents as early as 1994 with a series of Greetings Booklets that allowed purchasers to place one of a series of labels on a CP frame. The history of those opportunities over the years has been well-traced in a tribute to Darlene Burt's *Canadian Picture Postage Collectors Catalogue* which is obtainable on the internet at the following site:

[Canadian Picture Postage – Collectors Catalogue](#)

Although the CP frames have been listed in Scott, Unitrade, and Trajan catalogues, the existence of legitimate FDC usages of the frames is difficult to document given their unofficial nature as few of the proponents of Picture Postage designs have attempted to identify them as such. There are a couple of producers, however, who have made FDC cachets that are clearly associated with their stamp designs and which are marked as first day covers: Derwin Mak of Toronto and Peter Lepold of Kelowna, BC.

A few examples of their products are shown here, with the catalogue numbers of the frames indicated following a number assigned by Gary Dickinson in the forthcoming BNAPS publication *Catalogue of Unofficial First Day Covers for Canadian Stamp Issues of the 21st Century*. All of the frames shown here are from the last set of twelve (Scott #2586-2597) issued by CP.

The Mak FDC cachets tend to echo the stamp's design, as is the case on all three covers illustrated here. They usually (except for Figure 2 below) have the identifying "Derwin Mak Cachet" in the corner of the envelope and the words "First Day of Issue" or "Picture Postage First Day of Issue." His sense of humour is often demonstrated as in Figure 3's note that the cachet shows "Self-haircut due to closure of barbershops during the Covid 19 pandemic."

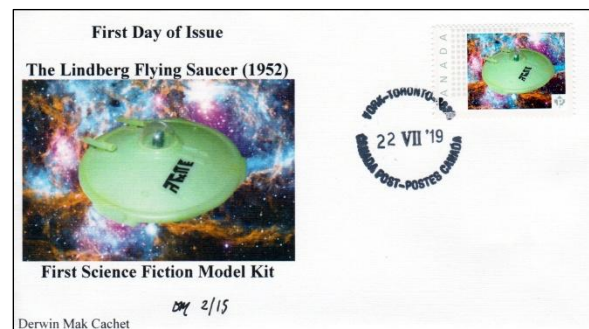


Figure 1. MAK 2019.3, #2586

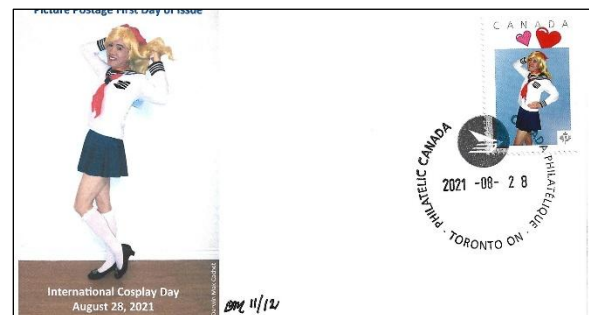


Figure 2. MAK 2021.1, #2588

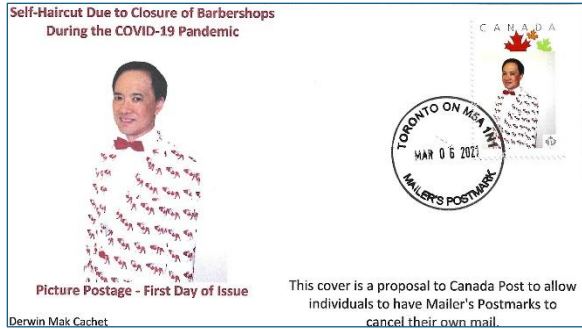


Figure 3. MAK 2021.3, #2591

Peter Lepold's stamp designs usually require larger than usual envelopes as they often feature a multiplicity of detailed information regarding the purpose of the issue or of his stamps. The envelopes include the bilingual "Day of Issue/Jour d'émission," and most were mailed at the Towne Centre Post Office in Kelowna. Themes of the cachets and stamps often deal with local situations or sporting events. Of particular interest is the FDC shown in Figure 6 which says goodbye to the Picture Postage program and was posted on its last day.

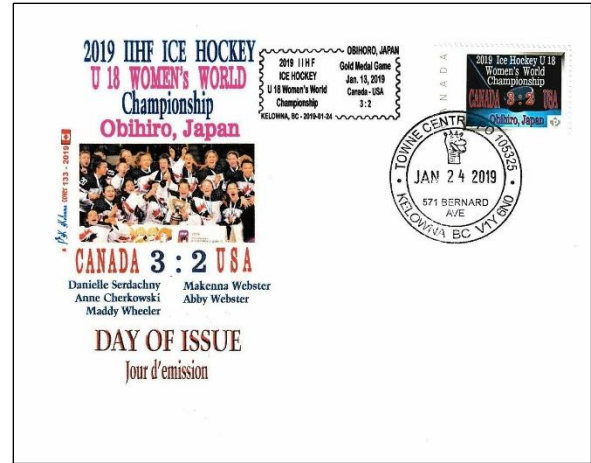


Figure 5. LEP 2019.1, #2587

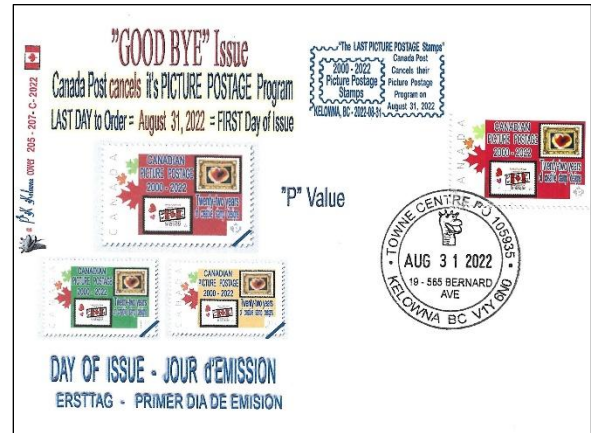


Figure 6. LEP 2022.7, #2591

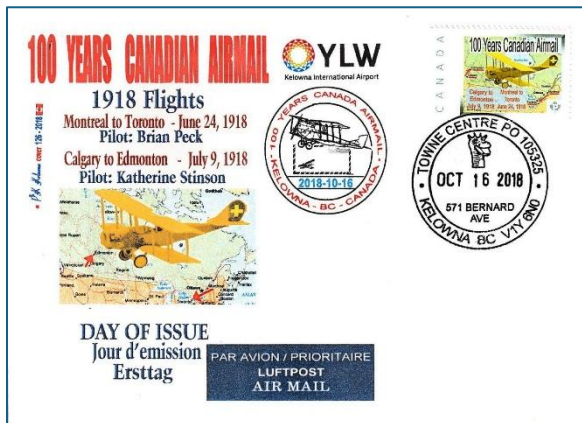


Figure 4. LEP 2018.1, #2587

I would appreciate it if readers of this article would let me know of any other FDC makers who would have contributed to what appears to be a limited number of first day uses of unofficial stamp designs.