

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

## NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

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### Editor's Notes by Gary Dickinson

As you'll see by the table of contents above, this is a relatively short edition of our quarterly newsletter, so my Notes for the issue are also brief. PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES!!

Don Wainwright wanted everyone who read his article "An Uncommon Streetcar" in Issue 59 to know (for sure) that ALL of the 25 cards in his set were postmarked on both sides.

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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](mailto:gandbdickinson@shaw.ca).

## Emily Pauline Johnson

by John Berg

Here is a postcard that doubles as a first day cover of the Canada Post stamp (#392) issued in 1961 to honor the centennial of the birth of the native Canadian poet and performer Emily Pauline Johnson (1861-1913). The Chiefswood family home (Figure 1) on the Mohawk Reserve where she and her four siblings were born was built by her father, a Mohawk chief and government interpreter. Her English mother was well educated and insisted that her children learn about English and American literature while her father provided a native culture that gave the children an understanding of who they were.

Her native grandfather was a great storyteller, which Pauline used to her advantage as an adult poet and performer. After her father died in 1884, the family moved to a conventional house in Brantford, ON. She wrote and toured throughout North America and Great Britain until 1909. Moving to Vancouver, she passed away in 1913 and is buried in Stanley Park. Dismissed as a minor literary figure for most of the time after her death, she is today recognized as a major figure in the native Canadian feminist movement. Canada Post authorized Brantford to use a special slogan cancellation for her centennial year, which was used to cancel her stamp (Figure 2).



Figure 1. The early Johnson home, Chiefswood

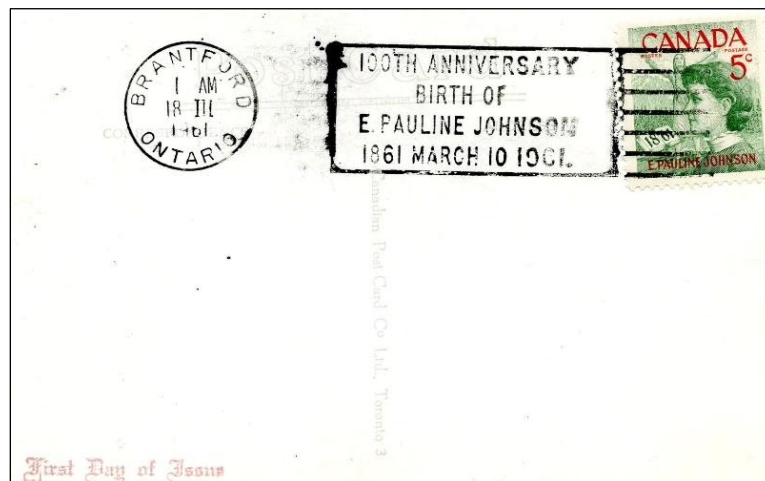


Figure 2. Brantford slogan cancellation, Coutts O-335

## An ArtCraft Mystery

by Gary Dickinson

The majority of Canadian FDCs produced under the American brand name ArtCraft appeared on ten different general purpose cachets. The firm identified them by letter from A to K, omitting an I designation lest it be confused with the numeral 1. The cachets were introduced one or two at a time beginning in 1952 and continuing until 1967.

In trying to establish dates of first use and frequency of use, a sample of 400 general purpose FDCs were examined, with the results shown in the table below. The most frequently used cachet was also the first one, Type A, which accounted for 23% of the total uses. The least frequently used was the last one introduced, Type K, with only 2% of the usage total.

One would normally expect that there would be a regular pattern established wherein Type B would be the second cachet introduced, Type C would be the third, and so on. However, that expected pattern did not occur. Instead, the second cachet initiated on November 3, 1952 was Type E and Type C was the fifth cachet. It's difficult to imagine that ArtCraft could have planned a sequence of releases fifteen years in advance, so how could this have happened?

Possible solutions will be welcomed!!

### Earliest and Total Uses of ArtCraft 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	

## A Century of First Day Covers

Gary Dickinson

June 29, 2026 marks the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the initial first day covers produced for Canadian stamp issues, the eight stamps comprising the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation and the Historical sets of June 29, 1927. Leading the way into this new philatelic era were the FDCs produced by George Eppstadt of Maxville, ON.



Eppstadt made some 2,000 copies of his FDC but only about 1,000 were actually used through the mail, many of them self-addressed. His design features portions of the coats of arms of the then nine provinces. The arms are topped by a crown, supposedly symbolizing the relationship between Canada and Great Britain, and the all-around border shows green maple leaves against a blue background.

The centenary of this achievement is an event that we might want to consider a cause for celebration, and we have almost a full year to consider how it might best be done. If you have thoughts about this, perhaps you could forward them to me and I'll publish them in an upcoming issue of *First Impressions*. For example, perhaps one or more of our readers who design FDC cachets might produce one that would evoke the memory of George Eppstadt. Or someone with a good collection of Eppsadt cachets might prepare an article about them.