

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

NEWSLETTER OF THE BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP

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Editor's Notes by Gary Dickinson

I was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Bob Vogel, who was a founding member of the FDC Study Group in 2009 and served as Chair for much of the time from then until last year. Bob was an active and valued participant and contributor to the Group's activities and will be missed by all of us. The next page reprints the tribute that appeared on the BNAPS website on August 31.

Photos of the current group leaders are shown on the last page of this issue. We rarely have opportunities to see each other "live", so the photos will at least give you a chance to see what we look like.

The lead article for this newsletter is the story of Gary Denis's search for material related to the Sasquatch stamp of 1990. There are some interesting twists and turns to the story, and Gary invites your participation in assisting for the hunt for additional philatelic material.

Mark Oakley follows with a study of the E6 Special Delivery stamp, including some uncommon FDCs.

Other, shorter, pieces include a request for more information about FDCs created by Keith Manser and a teaser about FDCs postmarked at ghost towns.

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.

Robert (Bob) D. Vogel



For more than five decades, Bob Vogel shaped Canadian philately as a researcher, exhibitor, author, mentor and volunteer leader. He passed away on 11 June 2026.

Bob had a fulfilling career with Ontario Hydro. He enjoyed the outdoors, and undertook many camping and canoeing excursions across the Canadian wilderness, including a memorable journey to the Yukon.

A collector since the mid-1960s, Bob began with Canadian stamps before turning to postal history, drawn by its rates, routes and social history. He first researched Ontario's Muskoka region, then shifted to Kitchener, his hometown. His exhibit *Berlin to Kitchener*, on machine cancellations from Kitchener and its earlier name, Berlin, earned local and national recognition and appeared in the Court of Honour at the 2016 Royal Philatelic Society of Canada convention in Waterloo, ON.

He also collected and researched Second World War patriotic meter slogans, sepia view cards, Canadian Christmas seals, postal stationery, and first day covers, saying collectors need "fun collections."

Bob authored or co-authored several BNAPS publications, including:

- ▶ *Arthur Klass' Christmas Seal Ads on Canadian Post Cards*
- ▶ *The Caneco Connection — A Study of the First Day Covers of the Canada Envelope Company*
- ▶ *The National Christmas Seals of Canada* (co-authored with Andrew Chung and Cliff A. Beattie)
- ▶ *Canada Post Office Replacement and Publicity First Day Covers* (co-authored with Andrew Chung)

Bob was deeply committed to organized philately, supporting exhibiting, research, literature, specialized collecting and active participation in the hobby. He was an Honorary Life Member of the Barrie & District Stamp Club, which he served as Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and President. He served many years as a Director of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada and as its President from 2020 to 2024. He chaired the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group. At CAPEX 22, he helped oversee youth and beginner activities aimed at introducing new generations to philately.

Bob's family called his passing a devastating loss and remembered him as an approachable favourite uncle who preferred simply being called "Bob." Across Canadian philately, Bob will be remembered for his research, exhibits, leadership, generosity and encouragement.

Edited from *Canadian Stamp News* and the *Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada Newsletter*

IN SEARCH OF SASQUATCH

by Gary Denis

Sasquatch, also known as Bigfoot, is a legendary, hairy, ape-like creature said to inhabit the forests of North America, especially the Pacific Northwest. The term “Sasquatch” is a Native American word meaning “wild man.”

I admit it, I have been fascinated by the subject since I was a youth after seeing the 1975 Sunn Classics documentary *The Mysterious Monsters*, hosted by actor Peter Graves of the 1960s TV series *Mission: Impossible*. Not long after that I saw *The Legend of Boggy Creek* and I was hooked!

In spring of 1990 Canada Post announced it would be issuing a set of four Legendary Creatures stamps, including a Sasquatch, to kick off Stamp Collecting Month in October. In a partnership with Canada Post, McDonald's Restaurants would be the National Sponsor of Stamp Month, and the familiar McDonald's “golden arches” logo would appear in the margins of the stamps.

In addition to the Sasquatch, the other three stamps would depict a Loup-Garou, or Werewolf; the Ogopogo, a sea monster said to inhabit Lake Okanagan in British Columbia, and the Kraken, which is a type of giant squid. The stamps were designed by Ralph Tibbles based on artwork by Allan Cormack and Deborah Drew-Brook, a husband and wife team of children's book illustrators.

Being a kid at heart, I of course had to have a block of stamps, along with a set of official First Day Covers and a souvenir book, which I ordered directly from Canada Post. I also serviced a couple of my own Sasquatch FDCs.

The Official Canada Post cachet (Figure 1) pictures the Kraken, and the official FDOI postmark from Kelowna, British Columbia, pictures Ogopogo. I recently had the cover autographed by Bernard “Bernie” Reilander, Canada Post graphic designer from 1974 until his retirement in 2003. During that

period Reilander designed most of their Official First Day Cover cachets and postmarks, including Legendary Creatures. I also have a cover autographed by stamp artists Cormack and Drew-Brook: stamp designer Ralph Tibbles died in 2022 before I had a chance to ask him for an autograph.



Figure 1. Canada Post Official FDC signed by Bernard Reilander

The reverse of the Canada Post cover pictures an engraving of a different lake monster in blue, with black text describing the four stamp subjects in both English and French (Figure 2). The same design was used for all FDC formats, blocks as well as single stamps.



Figure 2. Reverse of Canada Post Official FDC

These items were added to my Miscellaneous FDC album, but I didn't do much else with them for many years. Then about three years ago I re-discovered my fledgling Sasquatch collection and thought it might be fun to try to add to it.

My first task was to find out what else was out there. Searches on eBay turned up very little, mainly the same official Canada Post items I already owned.

I consulted Gary Dickinson's *Catalogue of Privately Produced First Day Covers of Canada, 1927-1989*, which ends at the end of 1989, 10 months before the *Legendary Creatures* were issued. Just my luck! I compiled a checklist of cachetmakers active during the second half of 1989, under the assumption that many of them were probably still active through the following year. However, finding contact information for these "possible" FDC sources more than 30 years later proved to be nearly impossible.

By 1990, most commercial private cachetmakers were no longer in business. Their decline can be traced back to 1971 when Canada Post began offering Official First Day Covers. Unable to compete, one by one the private cachetmakers ceased production. By the end of 1989, there were only five or six different cachets being made per stamp issue. Most privately produced FDCs were collector-made for their personal use and were usually postmarked at their local post offices.

One such collector-made FDC is pictured in Figure 3. This was serviced by Calgary, Alberta FDC collector Ferdinand "Fred" Oelhaupl (1927-2016). Sometimes incorrectly attributed to the Calgary Stamp Club, Oelhaupl had these General Purpose cachets printed to obtain first day postmarks from Calgary for his personal collection. Oelhaupl's mostly one-of-a-kind covers, all postmarked Calgary, are known from 1982 through mid-2012. For the *Legendary Creatures* set he serviced covers for each individual stamp, plus one for a block of four.

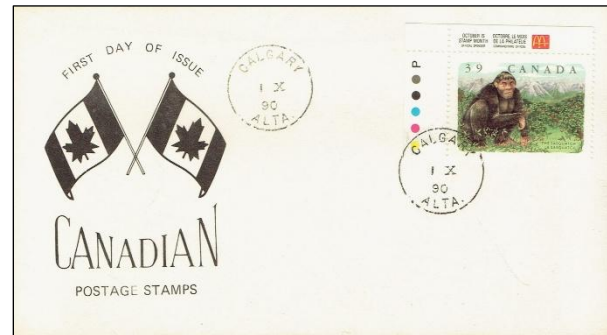


Figure 3. Oelhaupl general purpose cachet

Oelhaupl, a retired Captain of the Calgary Fire Department, was a member of the Calgary Philatelic Society, but does not appear to have ever been an AFDCS member. Calgary stamp dealer Philip Wolf, of Select Stamps & Covers, knew Oelhaupl from the stamp club and recalls that he collected Canada first day covers, Canada mint, and Disney stamps. Following Oelhaupl's death in 2016, Wolf purchased his collection from his son, and many of his covers can be found on eBay.

Another collector-made FDC can be seen in Figure 4, serviced by the addressee, J. W. Gage of Stanbridge East, Quebec. This one uses an Artopages general purpose cachet and bears a Sasquatch single and the official Kelowna First Day postmark. Artopages was an American company established in 1964 by Alton Weigel (artist) and Jim Novotny (printer) to produce album pages. They began producing cacheted FDCs for U.S. issues in 1966, and Canadian issues in 1967.

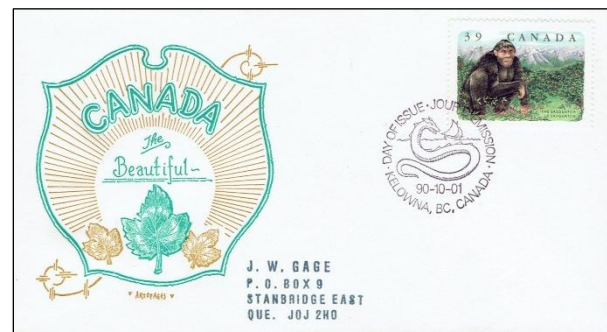


Figure 4. Artopages general purpose cachet

Over the next ten years Artopages produced 245 different issue-specific cachets for Canadian stamps, plus eight different

general purpose designs sold to collectors to service their own covers. Following Weigel's retirement in 1977, Jim Novotny continued to market five of their general purpose cachets as late as 2021, including the Figure 4 "Canada the Beautiful" design, designated type AP-24 on the Artopages price list.

According to Gary Dickinson, author of the catalogue *Canadian First Day Covers by Artopages* (BNAPS, 2021), J. W. Gage serviced many such FDCs in the late 1980s and early 1990s using general purpose Artopages cachets. However, very little is known about Gage as his (her?) name does not appear in APS, BNAPS, or AFDCS membership records, and online searches have turned up no information. Can any *First Impressions* readers tell me anything about J. W. Gage?

Well-known U.S. cachetmaker ArtCraft produced 10 different general purpose designs for Canadian issues from 1952 through the late 1960s. Each design was given a brief descriptive title and assigned a letter designation from A through K (excluding letter I), which was printed at the bottom of the cachet next to the ArtCraft logo.

The ArtCraft general purpose design in Figure 5 is Type H, "Provincial Arms and Flag," which was introduced in 1964. A rubber stamp on the reverse states that this FDC was serviced by David E. Adam, AFDCS #6929.



Figure 5 ArtCraft general purpose Type H cachet

The uncached FDC pictured in Figure 6 is postmarked Galiano, British Columbia. Bearing a margin block of the Legendary Creatures issue, it was serviced by Drs. Gilbert and Elizabeth "Betty" Kennedy, a

well-known husband and wife team of Canadian FDC collectors.



Figure 6, Kennedy FDC from Galiano Island

Gilbert Kennedy was a retired law professor, as well as former Deputy Attorney General for British Columbia. Betty taught mathematics at Victoria College and was active in numerous community and academic organizations. Following their retirements in the early 1980s, the Kennedys spent most of their time at their cottage on Galiano Island, where they serviced FDCs for most new stamp issues.

Gilbert Kennedy had been collecting FDCs since the 1930s. He was known for his strong opinion that a "true" First Day Cover should have gone through the mail service. This aptly describes the covers they serviced at Galiano as they were self-addressed to Betty in pencil (most of them later erased by the eBay sellers) and clearly went through the mail system.

The FDC in Figure 7 was created as an Event Cover to commemorate the October 1, 1990 opening of the Coquihalla Okanagan Connector Highway. The cover was conceived by Kelowna resident Harold Langham, a retired postal clerk and longtime stamp collector.

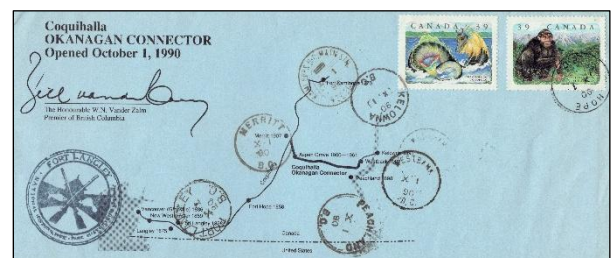


Figure 7. Coquihalla Connector event cover

It was only by happy coincidence that the Legendary Creatures stamps were to have their first day on the same day as the highway opening, including one with a direct tie to the Okanagan region, the Ogopogo single. Along with Ogopogo, a Sasquatch stamp was affixed to each cover, presumably due to the long history of reported sightings of the creature in British Columbia.

The front of the envelope shows a map of the highway route and the reverse provides a history of mail delivery in the region. A limited edition of 1,000 was printed, with each signed by Bill Vander Zalm, Premier of British Columbia. All proceeds from cover sales were donated to the Central Okanagan School District.

Langham personally carried the envelopes along the route of the new highway, obtaining October 1 hand cancels from seven post offices: Kelowna, Hope, Westbank, Peachland, Kamloops, Merritt, and Fort Langley.

My FDC Study Group and BNAPS memberships gave me access to back issues of their publications, *First Impressions* and *BNA Topics*, respectively. In addition to placing several want ads for First Day and related material, I also found contact information for several Canadian stamp and cover dealers.

One dealer informed me of the existence of two additional varieties of the official Canada Post FDCs for the Legendary Creatures. One somewhat hard to find variety has a line at the bottom of the reverse printed in red (Figure 8), rather than the more commonly seen black text.

Another even harder to find variety (Figure 9) has a special McDonald's cachet at the lower left, of which Canada Post only produced 5,000. The additional cachet is designed to resemble a rubber stamp, but it is printed on the envelope.



Figure 8. Red text on back of official FDC

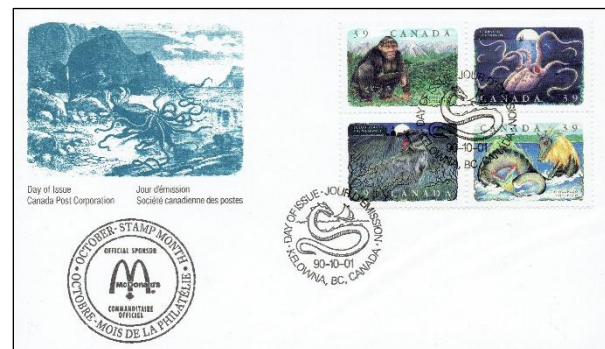


Figure 9. McDonalds version of official FDC

The sponsor of Stamp Month, McDonald's restaurants, offered two different 5 ½ by 5 ¼ inch mini albums (Figure 10) as their "Treat of the Week." As part of their effort to interest children in stamp collecting, these were given free to kids who visited the restaurant between October 8 and October 22.

Available in either English or French language, one album highlighted the Sasquatch and Werewolf, and the other featured Ogopogo and the Kraken. They unfolded into strips of five color panels (Figure 11), which included a "stories behind the stamps" section, a space to affix a pair of stamps, and games to fold or cut out.

Each mini album included a white card (Figure 12) with a vertical pair of stamps affixed and cancelled with a special Ottawa "October is Stamp Month" First Day postmark featuring the McDonalds logo.

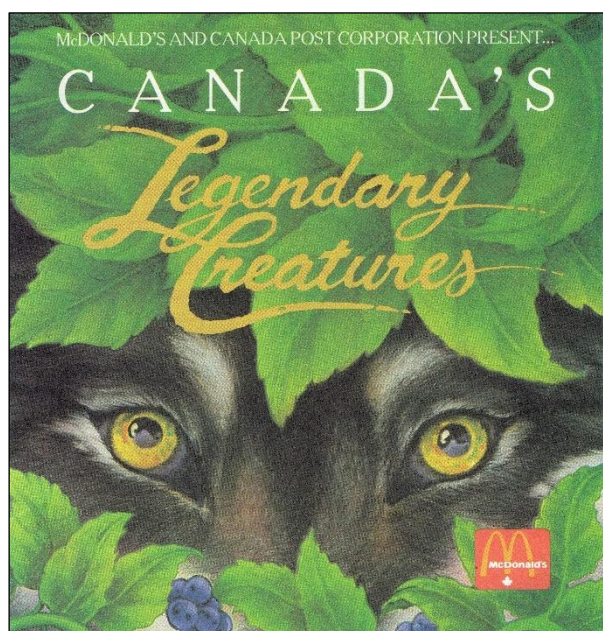


Figure 10. McDonalds mini-album cover



Figure 11. McDonalds album unfolded to show panels

Canada Post and McDonald's Restaurants co-hosted a "stamp launch" at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (since renamed the Museum of History) in Hull-Gatineau, Quebec. The event appears to have been geared towards children; according to a very brief article in the *Ottawa Citizen* newspaper, there were about 200 school children in attendance, with costumed actors portraying the four creatures pictured on the stamps. By any chance did any *First Impressions* readers attend this stamp launch back in 1990? Can you provide any additional information, and maybe a picture or two?



Figure 12. Card enclosure in mini album

It seems odd that Canada Post would host the primary first day event at a location other than the official First Day City, which was Kelowna, British Columbia. Might there have been more than one ceremony, the "official" one in Kelowna, and a second one at the museum in Hull-Gatineau? So far, I have found no documentation that any such First Day ceremony took place in Kelowna. Can any *First Impressions* readers provide additional information?

Other than the Official Canada Post products, the only contemporaneous issue-specific commercial cachet designs I have found were produced, ironically, by three American cachetmakers.

The first (Figure 13) was made by Colorano Silk Cachets. Colorano was

established in 1965 by Ray Novak, and began by producing maximum cards but changed to cachets printed on silk-like fabric in 1970. They were relatively late to join the other U.S. cachetmakers producing Canadian FDCs, beginning in January 1973. They were the last of the major U.S. cachetmakers still producing Canadian covers, ending in November 1994.

The Colorano cover bears a Sasquatch single stamp, with the “silk” cachet picturing a seated Sasquatch with mountains in the background like the stamp design. In addition to a set of four covers for the four individual stamps, Colorano typically would have produced a fifth design for the block of four. However, I have not yet located one.

The second issue-specific design was by K.M.C. Venture (Figure 14), an American cachet line established by William J. “Bill” Olvey in 1977. The “K.M.C.” initials were for his daughters Kathleen, Maureen, and Colleen. He stopped making FDCs in 1993.

Olvey produced only six issue-specific cachets for Canadian stamps, beginning with the August 1986 Discoverers of Canada issue. The Legendary Creatures set was his final Canadian design. Serviced with a block of four stamps, the cachet depicts a sea monster printed in bright fuchsia, with a sentence for each of the four stamp subjects.

A hallmark of K.M.C. Venture cachets was their use of 19th century engravings. Five of their six Canada FDCs had a nautical theme, including shipwrecks, schooners, and in this case, a sea serpent. I can’t help but wonder if Olvey had long had this unusual engraving in his files, just waiting for an opportunity to finally use it!

The third issue-specific cachet I found was by Western Cachets (Figure 15), produced by Michael O. Hoffman of Vancouver, Washington. Hoffman produced his first Western Cachet in January 1986.

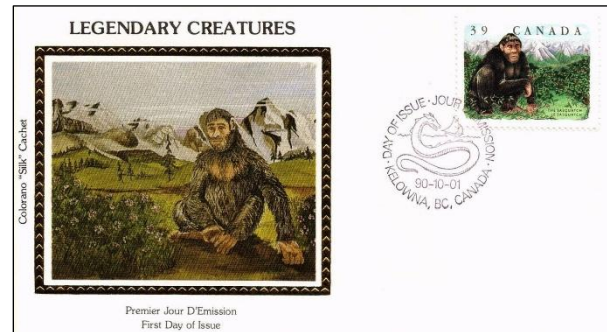


Figure 13. Colorano Silk FDC for Sasquatch

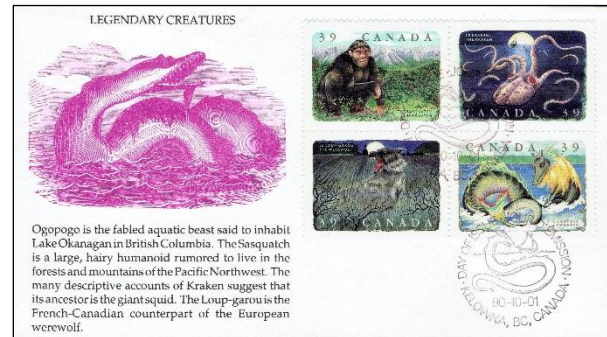


Figure 14. K.M.C. Venture FDC for Legendary Creatures.



Figure 15. Western cachet for Sasquatch

The line drawing of the Sasquatch pictured on the Western Cachet was reproduced from the *Washington Environmental Atlas*, published in 1975 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The 144-page *Atlas* contained information about the native plants and wildlife found in Washington State. The Sasquatch illustration appears on page 73 of the *Atlas*, which became the subject of a debate: was this an official recognition by a government agency of Sasquatch as a real species? Or was it simply a tongue-in-cheek

addition to the book that the publishers thought readers would find humorous?

Another Canadian dealer I contacted, Roy Houtby of Roy's Stamps, offered me seven different Legendary Creatures FDCs with add-on cachets by British artist Jack Follows (1927-1997), including three Sasquatch covers. Of course, I had to have them all!

Follows did mainly cartoon style add-ons, usually by special request. He was especially known for airplanes and risqué, often nude, images of women. These Legendary Creatures cachets were probably added-on circa 1995.

The first Jack Follows Sasquatch cachet (Figure 16) is a nod to McDonalds sponsorship of the stamps. It pictures a Sasquatch carrying off – or should I say *carrying out*? – a female McDonalds employee. The McDonald's "golden arches" are prominently displayed on the building behind them, as well as on the unfortunate employee's hat. This cover was cancelled on the First Day with a pictorial Maple Leaf postmark from London, Ontario.

The second Jack Follows cachet (Figure 17) is reminiscent of a scene from the 1933 movie version of *King Kong* starring Fay Wray. The enormous Kong-sized Sasquatch in the cachet is shown holding a blonde woman, with a city skyline and World War I era biplanes flying in the background. Perhaps, being from England, Follows was not familiar with the North American Sasquatch, and when commissioned to add this cachet, he assumed the creature to be a King Kong type giant gorilla?

The third Follows cachet (Figure 18) pictures a woman wearing thigh-high boots, with a dragon in the background. This cachet does not include a Sasquatch, but I suppose the dragon does count as a "legendary creature." Both the Figure 17 and 18 FDCs were cancelled with the official first day of issue postmark from Kelowna.



Figure 16. Follows cachet with McDonalds employee abducted



Figure 17. Follows cachet with King Kong



Figure 18. Follows cachet with dragon

Near the beginning of this article, I mentioned that I had serviced a couple of my own FDCs for the Sasquatch stamp. One of them (Figure 19) used a hand-made miniature envelope. I had started making this style of cachet in 1989 with Disney stamps of a related theme affixed to serve as cachets; however, I didn't know of any Disney stamps that would have worked with the Sasquatch theme, so instead I used a picture of a Sasquatch cut from a magazine, which I glued to the front of the envelope.

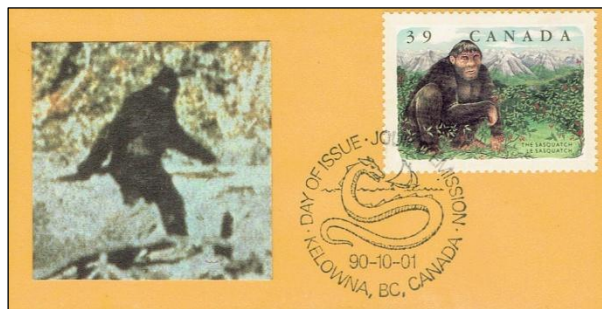


Figure 19. Denis cachet with Sasquatch

I'm hoping to someday exhibit my Sasquatch collection, but there are too many "holes" in the collection. The most glaring omission is the lack of postal usages on cover. To date I have yet to find a single Sasquatch stamp used to mail a letter, much less any more exotic rates or destinations. I hate to see used *Legendary Creatures* stamps listed on eBay,

because that means someone took the time to soak them from their envelopes rather than offering the postally used covers intact.

Also, I have not found any stamp (or FDC) pre-production material, such as artwork or proofs. Nor have I located an official Press Release, with glossy publicity photos attached, which would have been sent by Canada Post to various newspapers to announce the upcoming stamp release. Without these items, any philatelic exhibit is a non-starter. And so, my search for Sasquatch continues!

First Impressions readers are invited to write to me at garycdenis@gmail.com.

Canada E6 1935 Special Delivery

by Mark Oakley

The 1935 Special Delivery is one of my favourite Canadian stamps based on the quality of the engraving, the bold and dramatic image, and a large format so that we can see the engraving detail easily and bold colour.



Figure 1. E6 issued June 1, 1935



Figure 2. FDC Special Delivery & 3 cent for international rate

Printer: Canadian Bank Note Company, Limited

Quantity: 883,814

Artist: Alonzo Earl Foringer

Designer: Herman Herbert Schwartz

Engraver: William Jung

This stamp was issued for two primary reasons:

1. Transition of CPO security printing operations from British American Bank Note Company to Canadian Bank Note company in 1934 necessitated new designs for stamps (Figure 4) and currency (Figure 3), hence new issues of the 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee issue, “Dated Die” definitive issues, C5 airmail (also a Foringer design) and a new set of bank notes.

2. To serve as an “Inspirational symbol” during the great depression (1929 – 1939)



Figure 3. New currency design



Figure 4. New Airmail stamp FDC

The artwork was inspired by a painting by American artist Alonzo Earl Foringer. It was chosen to convey a message of economic resilience and modernization.



Figure 5. Original oil painting circa 1915, 27x38"

A central male figure is shown manually turning a heavy flywheel. In engineering, a flywheel absorbs and stores energy to increase a machine's momentum symbolizing human effort driving industrial recovery and progress. The Roman messenger of the Gods, holding a caduceus—the traditional symbol of commerce, transport, and logistics—pointing the way forward. This represented the speed, efficiency, and forward movement of the Canadian postal service.

The final design of the Canadian issue was different from the original engraving. In 1978 CAPEX issued a commemorative printing of the E6 design (See Figure 6). Note that in the original design (centre image) there are two figures omitted from the final design (top image). These figures represented the intellectual and creative forces that drive progress forward. They are flying directly behind Mercury, which represented the swift transmission of commerce and communication akin to the speed of the mail service. The two following cherubs showed that intellect, thought and innovation follow behind communication and commerce to inspire the worker toiling at the wheel. To save space and simplify the design, intellect, thought and innovation were eliminated-- a management decision.

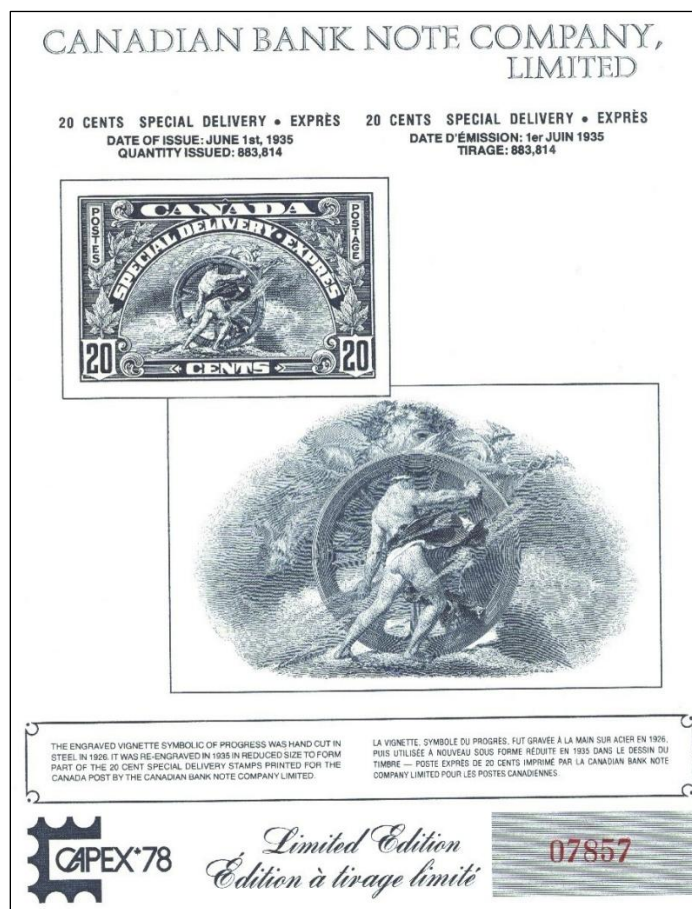


Figure 6. CAPEX 78 tribute for E6

Three examples of uncached FDCs for E6 follow, with each indicating usage under special circumstances.

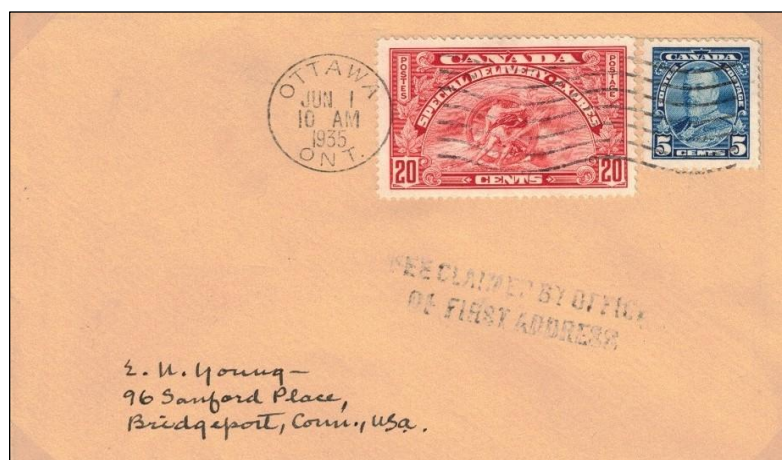


Figure 7. Addressed to a U.S. destination with “fee claimed by office of first address” marking, rate overpaid by 2 cents.



Figure 8. No local postage applied, and no backstamp showing receipt, so may be philatelic and not placed in the mail system

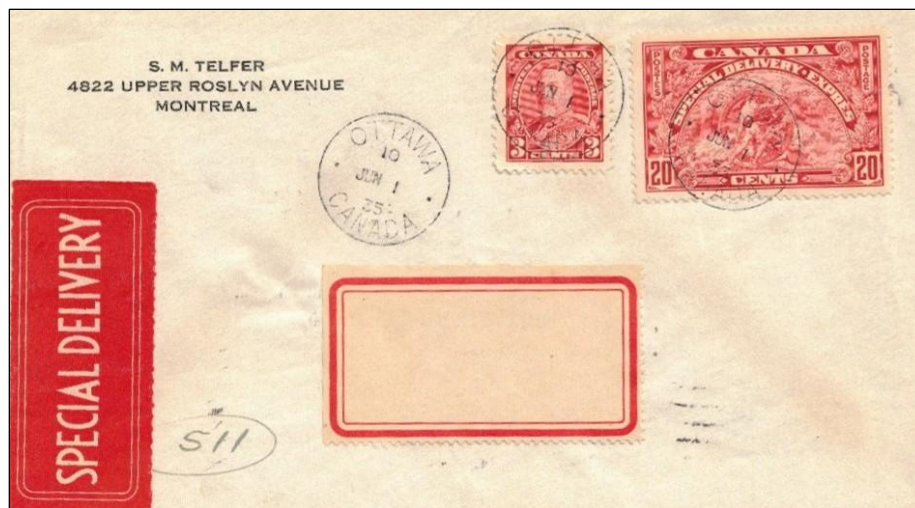


Figure 9. Use of the Special Delivery etiquette with address obscured but observable by holding the envelope up to a window.

The use of E6 was short lived and it was replaced on April 1, 1939, with a new issue (E7) reflecting a reduction in the special delivery rate from 20¢ to 10¢ cents.

Keith Manser FDCs

Member Rick Stankiewicz has been in touch with Keith Manser recently about the FDCs that a former fellow Kawartha Stamp Club member Keith produced for most Canada Post stamp issues from 2000 to 2003. Manser produced them in editions between six and 400 per issue, mostly in small quantities. Most were his own cachet designs (Figures 1-3) but a few were on the stationery of a company or place related to the stamp (Figures 4-5). Manser has been out of the stamp hobby for a couple of decades, but it would be interesting to document his covers. If you have any, please send scans to the editor.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

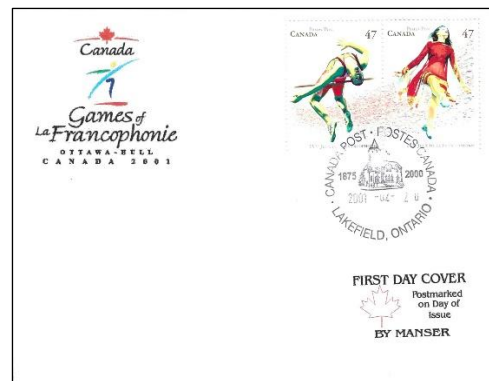


Figure 4

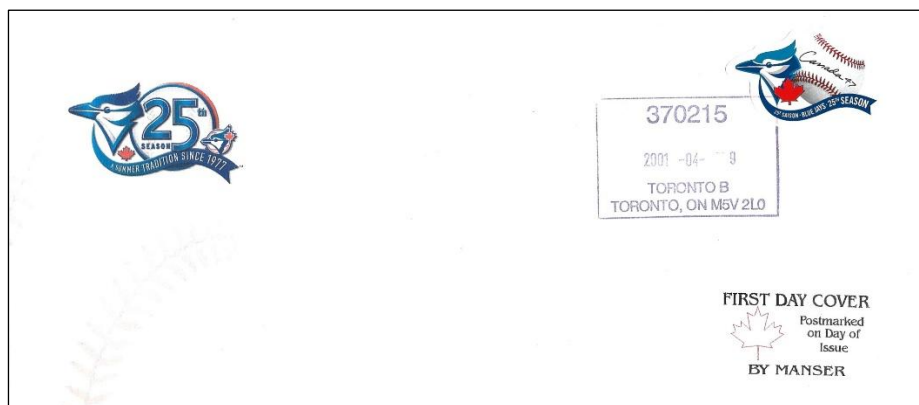


Figure 5

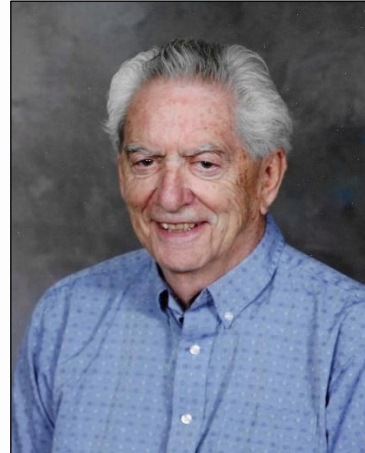
FDC Study Group Leaders



Jack Heath, Chair



Mark Oakley, Treasurer



Gary Dickinson, Editor

First Day Cancellations from Ghost Towns?

Reader Al Schlosser submitted this official Canada Post FDC from 2008 (#2291, souvenir sheet) which was postmarked at Snowflake, MB, an Official Ghost Town in Manitoba. He's wondering if any other Canada Post stamp issues have used a ghost town cancellation. If you find one, please send a scan to the Editor.

