

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 35 April-June, 2018

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## Editor's Notes

The four main articles in this issue examine different aspects of the products of four makers of Canadian FDC cachets ranging from the very familiar to the almost unknown. Leading off is George Basher's exploration of the origins of Caneco cachets followed by Gary Dickinson's review of the general purpose cachets produced by the U.S. firm Artopages for Canadian stamp issues. John van der Ven and Mark Lerner provide information on additional Overseas Mailers covers that were not included in their published catalogue, and John returns with an examination of White Rock, B.C. resident E.M. Rickson's short-lived output of FDCs.

Chairman and Treasurer Bob Vogel's report for the 2017 year indicates that the FDC Study Group currently has 48 members and a bank balance of \$345. Thus, he sees no need to collect annual dues for 2018.

## Submitting Articles to First Impressions

Articles may be submitted in writing or MS Word, and scans should be in JPEG format at 300 dpi. E-mail submissions should be sent to Gary Dickinson at [gandbdickinson@shaw.ca](mailto:gandbdickinson@shaw.ca) or mailed to Gary at 648 San Michelle Road, Kelowna, B.C., Canada, V1W 2J1.

## CANECO COVER CONUNDRUM

by George Basher

One of my current projects is an effort to catalogue the FDCs produced by the Canada Envelope Company, mostly under the CANECO brand. The company was active for at least two decades starting in the early 1950s and produced unique covers for most Canadian issues during that time. One of my earliest discoveries is how little information is available about Canada Envelope Company in the philatelic literature as well as Internet-accessible corporate records. I would appreciate any of my fellow collectors with any helpful information to kindly get in touch with me.

One of the first mysteries encountered in this journey is determining which cover was the first produced by CANECO. The Prime Ministers issue of 1954 (Scott #349-350) is the first to carry the CANECO name (Figure 1), but there is some evidence linking CANECO to the earlier production of cachets for the 1953 Karsh portrait definitives (Scott #325-329) and the 1953 Coronation issue (Scott #330). These FDCs carry as part of the design identical engraved portraits of Queen Elizabeth seen on CANECO covers for the 1957 (Scott #374) and 1959 (Scott #386) Royal Visit issues. Bruce Perkins' encyclopedic catalogue of 1950s cachets lists the earlier cachets as possible CANECO products.

With the material I have on hand I've come to the tentative conclusion that the earlier cachets are not CANECO – but in researching the issue the mystery only got a little deeper. Here is what I've discovered so far:

1. The early CANECO cachets that are identified as such are all printed on bond paper. The Karsh and Coronation cachets are both printed

on watermarked parchment paper produced by the same manufacturer.

2. The Coronation cover (Figure 2) came with a commemorative insert (Figure 3) that does not identify the maker.
3. Later (1960s) CANECO covers with inserts occasionally refer to the First Day Cover service being provided “since 1954” (Figure 4).
4. The Royal Visit cachets (Figures 5 and 6) are unmistakably made with the identical engraved portrait of Queen Elizabeth. One variety of the 1959 cover however bears the following inscription: “Steel die embossed by Gourlay Engraving Company” beneath the CANECO logo on the reverse of the envelope (Figure 7).
5. I have not yet found any information about Gourlay Engraving, but it seems likely that they may have produced the earlier cachets and then subsequently provided the die to CANECO.

Any further insight from the community is more than welcome with my thanks!



Figure 1.



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 5



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

## ARTOPAGES GENERAL PURPOSE CACHETS FOR CANADIAN STAMPS

by Gary Dickinson

The brand name Artopages, derived from a contraction of **Art Topic Pages**, has been present on first day covers for Canadian stamp issues since 1967. The firm, consisting of a partnership between Alton Weigel and Jim Novotny, was established in 1964 to produce pages for American stamp albums, but diversified to include FDCs for U.S. stamps in 1966 and Canadian issues the following year.

The Artopage Covers firm published special and general purpose cachets for Canadian stamps from 1967 until 1977 when Alton Weigel had to stop his involvement for health reasons, and he died in 1980. Jim Novotny continues to publish general purpose cacheted covers for sale to collectors who use them for their own purposes.

*Special purpose* cachets which are relevant for only one stamp issue were plentiful during the decade they were produced by Artopages. Two examples are shown here, with Figure 1 from 1967 and Figure 2 from 1970. The distinctive Weigel design made this and subsequent Artopages cachets easily identifiable.

The Artopages brand name was also applied to a much smaller number of *limited purpose* cachets relevant to a restricted range of stamp issues. The two examples below are for Christmas stamps in any year (Figure 3) and for the many stamps in the Centennial series of 1967 (Figure 4).

*General purpose* cachets suitable for use with any Canadian stamp issue were made by antecedent companies long before the Artopages brand existed, beginning with Alfred Boerger and his A.B.C. (Alfred Boerger Covers) cachets. Three examples from the early 1960s are shown in Figures 5 through 7.

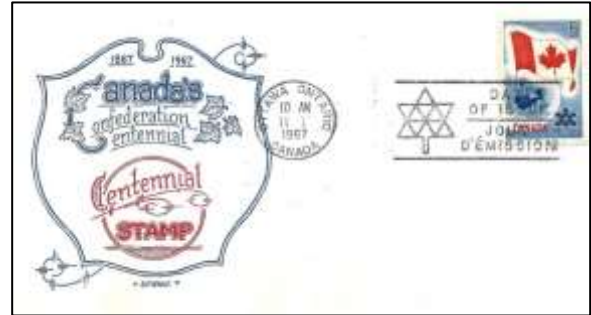


Figure 1. #453 January 11, 1967



Figure 2. #505 January 27, 1970

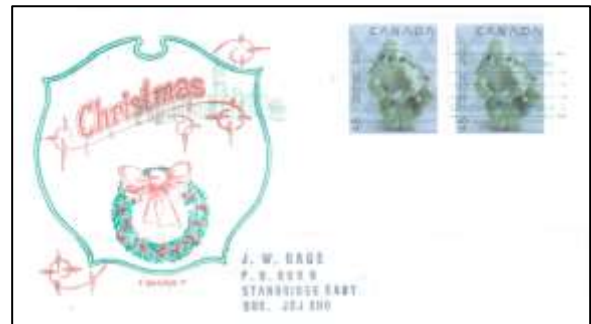


Figure 3. #1295 October 25, 1990

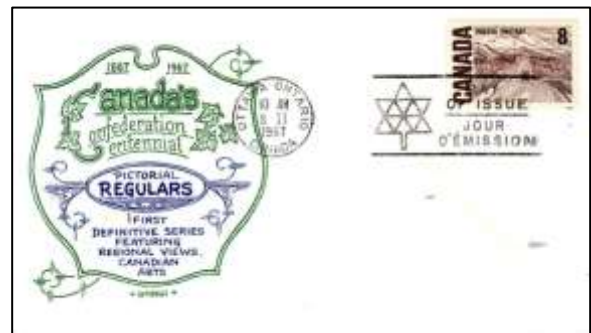


Figure 4. #461 February 8, 1967



Figure 5 features a cachet signed “Boerger” with a black-printed cachet that is a precursor to the eventual frame that would become a part of virtually every Artopages cachet. The featured stamp (Scott #393) commemorates a former Canadian prime minister, Arthur Meigen, and was issued on April 19, 1961. The cover design also includes a secondary frame around the stamp

Figure 6 signed “Boerger/ A.B.C.” is printed in two colours, has an outline map of Canada, and includes text similar to that of the earlier cachet. The stamp (Scott #396) issued on February 28, 1962 pays tribute to education.

A third version of the Dominion of Canada general purpose cachet shown in Figure 7 substitutes the Canadian coat of arms for the outline map, and the text describes the country as an “independent and sovereign member of the British Commonwealth of nations.” The cachet is again signed “Boerger/ A.B.C.”



Figure 5. Boerger Dominion of Canada cachet A for #393



Figure 6. Boerger A.B.C. Dominion of Canada cachet B for #396



Figure 7. A.B.C. Dominion of Canada cachet C for #413

The first, and longest-serving, Artopages-signed cachet is the red and blue flag design illustrated in Figure 8. This was likely employed for the first time with the flag stamp (Scott #439) issued on June 30, 1965 to mark the adoption of a new Canadian flag, and it is still available today. The flag on the stamp, and on the Canadian flag, has eleven points while the flag on the Artopages cachet has thirteen.



Figure 8. Artopages flag cachet with #439

The second documented general purpose cachet in the Artopages period features a green and brown depiction of a leaf in white with brown lettering and a green background. (Figure 9) It is shown here franked with two 1966 stamps from the provincial flowers and emblems series of the mid-1960s.

A general purpose cachet with the legend “Canada is Beautiful” first appeared with the centennial of confederation stamp (Scott #453) which was issued on January

11, 1967. Light brown and green colours were used with rays emanating from the centre of the cachet towards the frame, with three maple leaves at the bottom of the design. (See Figure 10)



Figure 9. Artopages leaf cachet with #428-429



Figure 10. Canada is Beautiful cachet with #453

In the 1967 to 1977 period when Artopages was producing special purpose cachets for Canadian stamp issues, there appears to have been infrequent use of the three extant general purpose cachets. The last special purpose cachet documented, for Scott #764, was published near the end of 1977, but there is an occasional limited purpose cachet for Christmas stamps in the years following.

After 1977 and the dissolution of the Novotny-Weigel partnership, Artopages continued to print a selection of general purpose cachets although it did not market its own FDCs for Canadian stamp issues. This practice has continued to the present day, and their October, 2017 price list has

five cacheted covers as listed in Figure 11, including two (Figures 12 and 14) that had been in production as early as 1965.

Jim Novotny has continued to print these five general purpose Artopages cachets on the same printing press (See Figure 17) which was made in 1902.

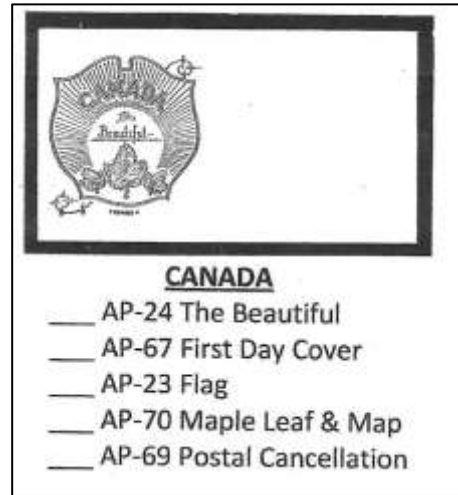


Figure 11. October, 2017 catalogue



Figure 12. AP-24 The Beautiful



Figure 13. AP-67 First Day Cover



Figure 14. AP-23 Flag



Figure 15. AP-70 Maple Leaf & Map

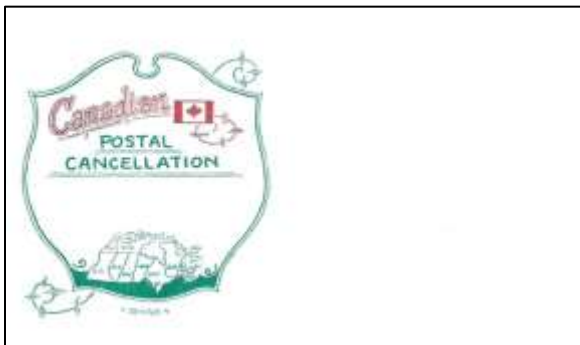


Figure 16. AP-69 Postal Cancellation



Figure 17. Artopages printing press

Authors Note:

My appreciation and thanks go to Jim Novotny and Mark Goodson, both of whom dug deeply into their files to uncover and share information about Artopages cachets for Canadian stamp issues.

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## CANPEX 2018, OCTOBER 13-14

CANPEX 2018 will be held at the Hellenic Community Centre, 133 Southdale Road West in London, ON. Admission and parking is free. A lunch counter and youth table will be provided. CANPEX 2018 qualifies as a WSP show. The website is at [www.canpex.ca](http://www.canpex.ca).

## NOTES ON NEW CANADIAN OVERSEAS MAILERS

### CACHETED FIRST DAY COVERS

By Jan Pieter van der Ven and Mark Lerner

When our *Overseas Mailers First Day Covers of Canada* handbook was published in December 2014, we invited readers to let us know about any errors or omissions that they might know, or might come to discover about Canadian Overseas Mailers (OM) FDCs. Somewhat surprisingly, we have received very little in the way of such feedback in the intervening years. Happily, in recent months, we have received two important notes that we would like to pass on to members of the BNAPS First Day Cover Study Group.

#### **Scott 446 – 5c De La Salle**

A correction has been noted for our Page 84, Scott 446, the 5c De La Salle issue of 13 April 1966. The OM FDC for this issue was identified as Type F, with both handpainted embellishments of the base cachet and a rubber stamp auxiliary cachet embellishment. The base cachet was correctly identified as a Jackson/Chickering design.

The careful eye of an anonymous FDC client of Roy Houtby has detected that two slightly different base cachets were produced by the Jackson Cover Service, one including and one omitting the words “First Day of Issue” at the top of the cachet. In our handbook, we illustrated the base cachet with that text, and the OM cachet with the text omitted. Our subsequent investigation has determined that both versions were used to service Jackson customers, and both versions were used to create OMs.

The inclusion of “First Day of Issue” is a characteristic on most, but not all Jackson Cover Service cachets. In all probability, printing was begun before the omission was noted, and the print run was completed after it was determined that the omission should be corrected. We have no basis for suggesting that one version is any more scarce or valuable than the other.

#### **Scott 559 – 8c World Figure Skating Championships**

An omission has been noted with regard to Scott 555, the 8c World Figure Skating Championships issue of 1 March 1972.

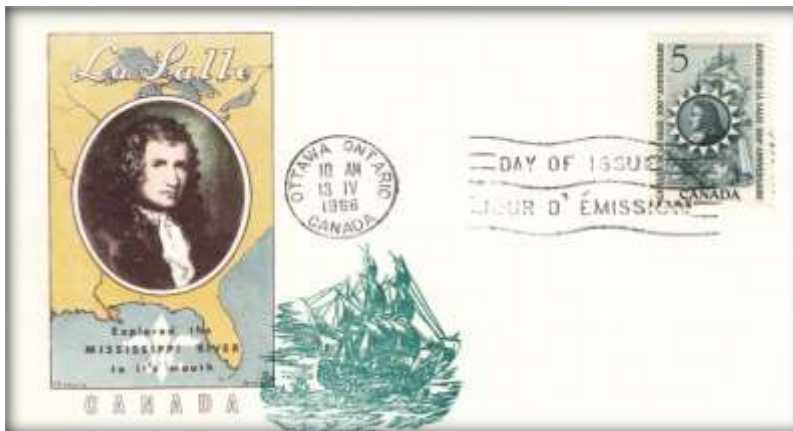
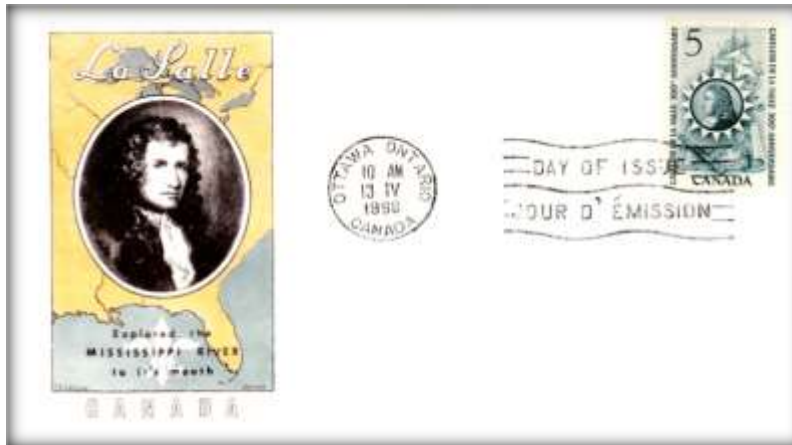
Study Group Member Bob Vogel has provided scans of the base cachet, OM embellishment and the insert for this issue which were not included in our handbook. The base cachet is a Jackson/Sweeney design. The OM FDC is a Type E, with a rubber stamp auxiliary cachet embellishment, but without hand-painted embellishments. We have assigned a Market Level 1 for this issue, in line with comparable OM FDCs of that period.

The following pages are presented as they might have appeared in the handbook.





# Overseas Mailers FDC's of Canada



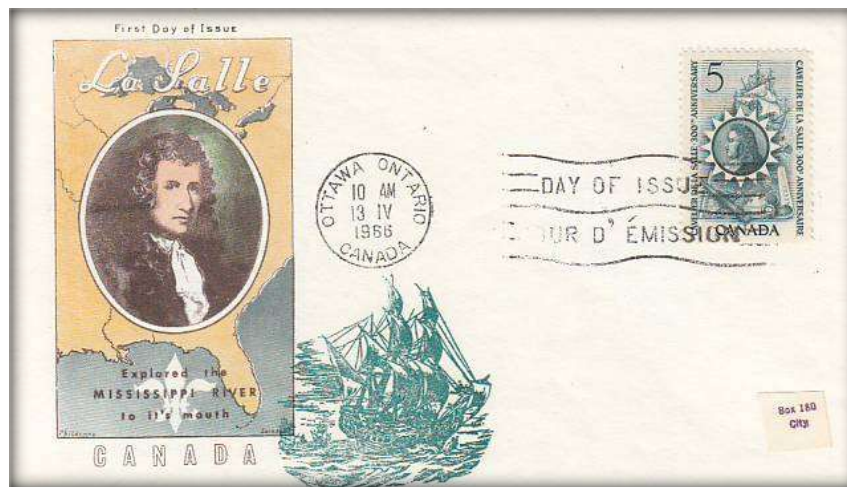
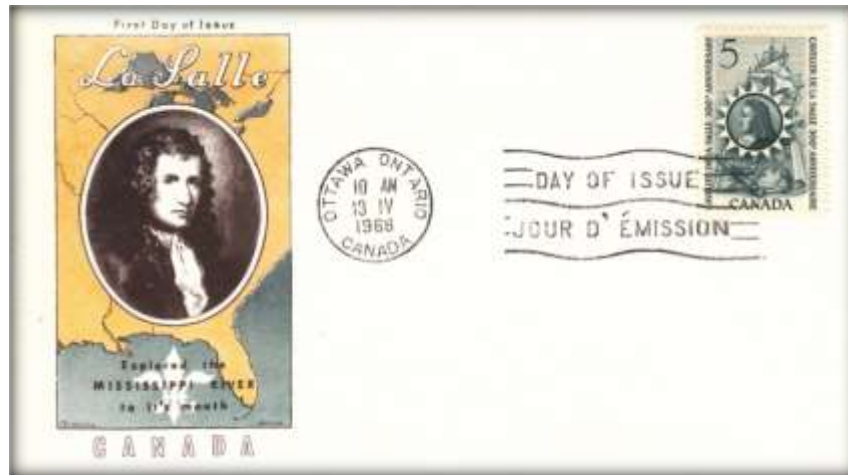
CANADA "LA SALLE"- Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, left a wealthy home in France to trap furs in Canada. At first thinking he would reach China, he became obsessed with the Ohio-Mississippi River complex and his daring explorations blazed trails for later settlers. He himself made the first settlement in Illinois near present-day Peoria (Fort Crèvecoeur or Heartbreak). He claimed the entire Mississippi River basin for France (Louisiana Territory) and lost his life at the mouth of this river he so loved. Ship on auxiliary cachet is the "Griffon" which La Salle built at Niagara Falls and lost returning from the Straits of Mackinac. Portrait panel is tinted by hand. Stamp shows symbols of his lifework: spyglass, compass map of 17th century Canada.....

Two production varieties exist, nominally Var 1 (this page) and Var II (next page).

Scott	Date of Issue	Description	Base Cachet	OM Type	Market Level
446	13 April 1966	5c De La Salle	Jackson/Chickering	F	2



# Overseas Mailers FDC's of Canada



CANADA "LA SALLE"- Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, left a wealthy home in France to trap furs in Canada. At first thinking he would reach China, he became obsessed with the Ohio-Mississippi River complex and his daring explorations blazed trails for later settlers. He himself made the first settlement in Illinois near present-day Peoria (Fort Crèvecoeur or Heartbreak). He claimed the entire Mississippi River basin for France (Louisiana Territory) and lost his life at the mouth of this river he so loved. Ship on auxiliary cachet is the "Griffon" which La Salle built at Niagara Falls and lost returning from the Straits of Mackinac. Portrait panel is tinted by hand. Stamp shows symbols of his lifework: spyglass, compass map of 17th century Canada....

Two production varieties exist, nominally Var II (this page) and Var I (previous page).

Scott	Date of Issue	Description	Base Cachet	OM Type	Market Level
446	13 April 1966	5c De La Salle	Jackson/Chickering	F	2

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Overseas Mailers FDC's of Canada
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CANADA, WORLD FIGURE SKATING- Steel skates were a Dutch invention (1250). Until mid-19th century, rigid English-style prevailed, but in 1864 a ballet master, Jackson Haines, stunned Europe by the beauty and flowing ease of his movements over ice, and international figure skating was born. This litho stamp of overlapping figure skaters is the work of Design Workshop, Toronto. Meet was sponsored by Canadian Figure Skating Association, member of the International Skating Union..... 30¢

Scott	Date of Issue	Description	Base Cachet	OM Type	Market Level
559	1 March 1972	8c Figure Skating	Jackson/Sweeney	E	1

## E.M. RICKSON'S CANADIAN FIRST DAY COVER CACHETS

by Jan Pieter (John) van der Ven

If you have a copy of Bruce Perkins's *Canada First Day Cover Cachet Catalogue 1947-1959* that was subsequently published by the American First Day Cover Society, then you no doubt have come across several listings for E.M. Rickson cachets in the 1940s and 1950s.

The listings for Rickson cacheted covers appear to have started with the Peace issue of September 16, 1946 and ended with the Wildlife stamps issued on April 4, 1955 although there was very little productivity after 1951. So far no cachets have been recorded for any stamp issues after 1955 or before 1946.

My first Rickson acquisition was a post card that I bought with a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer on horseback depicted on it. When I came home and looked at the back of it I almost fell out of my chair. There was a faint rubber-stamped cachet, a Type C frame design (see Figure 3), and it was addressed to L.S. Rickson in White Rock, B.C. The stamp on it was a 10 cent green Great Bear Lake Peace Issue (Scott #269) from September 16, 1946. The green ink for the rubber stamp was similar to the colour of the stamp.

I had always thought this to be an American cachet maker, but this post card established that cachet maker was a Canadian. Rickson covers are hard to find and come by. Over all these years collecting Canadian FDC's, I have rarely come across any of them in dealer's stock, auctions, or e-Bay.

Eugene Morris Rickson was borne in Aspen, Colorado in the USA on December 11, 1904 and came to Canada in 1907 with his family when he was three years old. He became a Canadian citizen and was a carpenter until 1958. He lived with his

brother Leander S. Rickson at 1257 Stayte Road in White Rock, BC. Eugene passed away in 1967.

Most Rickson FDC cachets were made with rubber hand-stamps and have been reported in the colours black, purple, red, dark blue, pale blue, and green. The majority of his FDCs are postmarked White Rock but smaller numbers are known for White Rock Hilltop, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, and New Westminster.

Cachet Types A and B are both hand-drawn although the date at top centre appears to be rubber-stamped. These cachets were produced for the back-of-the-book stamps in the Peace issue in 1946. Each cachet includes in its design the central visual element of the stamp, a Canada Goose for the airmail and a plane for airmail special delivery. (Figures 1 and 2)



Figure 1. Type A with C9, 1946 09 16.



Figure 2. Type B with CE3, 1946 09 16.



Rickson also produced his first rubber-stamped cachet for the Peace issue as shown in Figure 3. The design has the appearance of an old-style mirror but the frame is empty. This design was used fairly often for his FDCs in the early period and the same design is found in green, blue, purple, and black. This example is addressed to Rickson's brother, L.S. Rickson.



Figure 3. Type C with #269, 1946 09 16.

A variation of the Type C cachet is shown in Figure 4. It includes a rubber-stamped, purple portrait of Bell.



Figure 4. Type C modified with #274, 1947 03 03.

The Type D cachet shown in Figure 5 had quite limited usage. It has a six-ring circle within a double-lined square box. The example has a block of four stamps of the Royal Wedding issue and is self-addressed as are many of his FDCs.

The remaining cachet types are relatively uncommon and might, in fact, be considered rare.

For example, Rickson designed two different cachets for the Responsible

Government issue as shown in Figures 6 and 7. Type E has a plain window design with a scroll at the top and the words "First Day Cover" occupying a large portion of the frame. Type F has a more complex design with portions having solid colouring with "First Day Cover" text in a band near the top.



Figure 5. Type D with #276, 1948 02 16.



Figure 6. Type E with #277, 1948 10 01.

Type F has a more complex design with portions having solid colouring with "First Day Cover" text in a band near the top.

Although the first use of Type F was recorded for the Responsible Government issue of 1947, the same cachet was recycled in 1953 for the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation issue (Figure 8) and then again in 1955 for a stamp in the Wildlife series (Figure 9). In that final appearance of Type F, it appears that the rubber stamp may have been damaged at some point as the centre section is no longer present.





Figure 7. Type F with #277, 1948 10 01.



Figure 8. Type F with #330, 1953 06 01.



Figure 9. Type F error with #352, 1955 04 04.

There are two Rickson designs for the Stamp Centenary issue of 1951 and these are identified as Types G and H in Figures 10 and 11. There are several common elements of the pair, including the circular outline, a maple leaf background, and most of the text. Type G includes a Rickson signature line, “Designed by E.M. Rickson,” in the bottom portion of the circle.

The last new Rickson cachet design is the one produced for the October 26, 1951 Royal Visit of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip to Canada. (Type I, Figure 12) This appears to be a combination rubber stamp

for the purple portion and a hand-lettered date in two colours.



Figure 10. Type G with #311-314, 1951 09 24.



Figure 11. Type H with #311, 1951 09 24. (No reliable colour scan was available)



Figure 12. Type I with #315, 1951 10 26.

#### Author’s Note:

I would like to thank Kathy Hartley, the Reference Librarian for the VGG Philatelic Research Foundation in Toronto, for the information she was able to find and verify for me on E.M. Rickson. If any of our members have further information on E.M. Rickson or have covers in their collection, then it would be appreciated if you could share that with all of us. Please forward the information to our Editor, Gary Dickinson.

BNAPS FIRST DAY COVER STUDY GROUP 2017 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

	Debit	Credit	Balance
Balance as of December 31, 2016			370.56
Membership dues & donations received		80.00	
Sales ad		50.00	
Newsletter expenses etc.	145.81		
Balance as of December 31, 2017			345.75

As of December 31, 2017 we have 48 members in our Study Group and as we are reasonably solvent I see no need to collect dues for this year.

If you haven't checked out our web-site at <http://canadafdc.org> please do so. I am sure you will find it very rewarding. While you are there, why not upload scans of some of your FDCs? Let others know what you collect. Gary [gandbdickinson@shaw.ca](mailto:gandbdickinson@shaw.ca) is always in need of articles for the newsletter, so please contribute something from your research, new finds or your collection.

Bob Vogel