

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Newsletter of the BNAPS

First Day Cover Study Group

Issue No. 40 July - September, 2019

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Editor's Notes

This issue of First Impressions has only three articles – not bad but we have no more articles in reserve for the next issue. Your contributions – no matter how small they may seem – are very important to the entire group. Let's all try to get something for the next issue.

Articles in this issue include a history of Allard Brophy - one of the more important early collectors of Canadian FDCs. Gary Dickinson contributes an interesting article on an Eppstadt cover that surfaced fifty years after the originals. Finally, an informative discovery by Russell Smith that explains the reason for Artcraft having two varieties of their cachet for the 1953 Karsh definitive issue.

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 George Basher at gbasher@nycap.rr.com or mailed to George Basher, 4 Foxwood Circle, East Greenbush, NY 12061, United States.

Allard Brophrey Unsung Hero of Canadian FDC Collecting

Serious collecting of Canadian First Day Covers began in the late 1920s, usually benchmarked as George Eppstadt's Confederation and Historical Issue (Scott#141-148) covers with his distinctive cachet design (Fig. 1). We might consider his efforts a Renaissance of sorts for the hobby – the Eppstadt covers are relatively plentiful and many of us have one or more of them in our collections.

Fig. 1 Eppstadt Cachet



After Eppstadt, however, we entered what I call the “Dark Ages” – from 1928 until well into 1932, when FDCs were rarely seen and are extremely hard to find.

Most of the FDCs that exist from that period can be attributed to two men – the legendary T. R. Legault, who worked for the Postage Stamp Division of the Post Office Department, and Allard Brophrey, a collector from Montreal who without fanfare did as much for this hobby as anyone during that period.

Allard Brophrey was born in the 1880s, the son of entrepreneur W. A. Brophrey. The elder Brophrey founded the Brophrey Umbrella and Suspender Company in 1924 in Montreal.

The company still exists today – as Telesco Brophy Limited. After completing college and earning a law degree, Allard became the General Manager of W. A. Brophrey in 1927.

The earliest Brophrey FDC that I have is Scott#150 George V Scroll Issue from October 17, 1928 (Fig. 2).

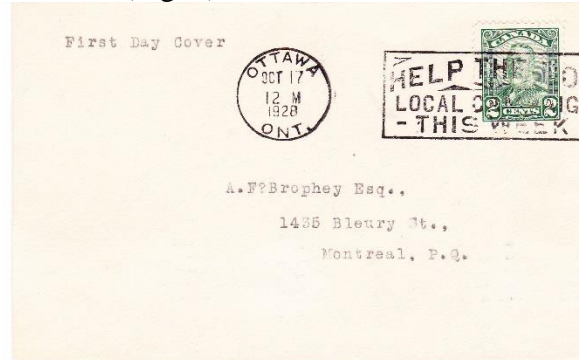


Fig. 2 George V Scroll Issue FDC

He also produced FDCs for the George V Arch/Leaf Issue, like this Scott#167 from July 13, 1931 (Fig. 3).

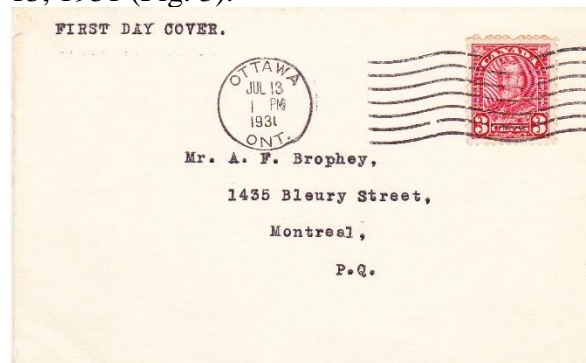


Fig. 3 George V Arch/Leaf Issue FDC

Brophrey also corresponded with fellow collectors – here is a hand addressed letter (Fig. 4) bearing Scott#191 (more on hand addressing later).

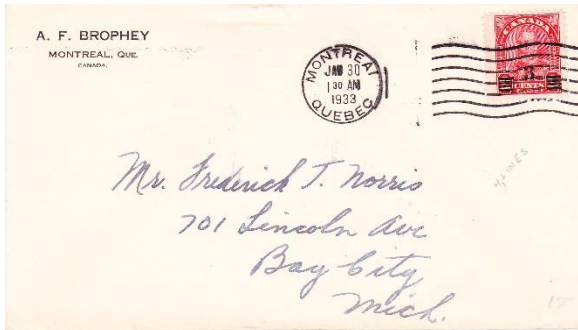


Fig. 4 Brophey Letter

For the 1932 issues, FDC collecting was becoming more popular and commercial cacheted covers were becoming available. Brophey continued his format of a simple typewritten cover for the Imperial Economic Conference issue (Scott#193) of July 12 (Fig. 5).

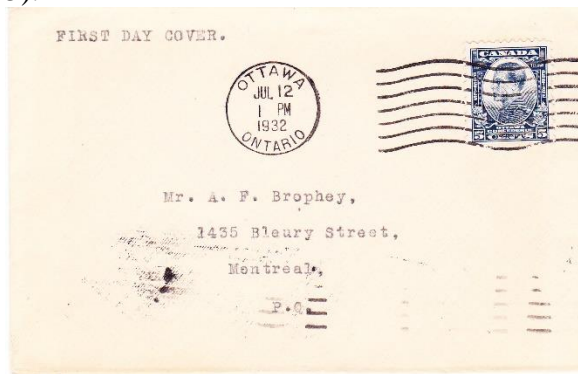


Fig. 5 Imperial Economic Conference

Brophey, like Legault, didn't confine his collecting to postage stamps, but also included postal stationery. Here are two envelopes (Scott#U46 and U48) from 1933 (Figs 6, 7).

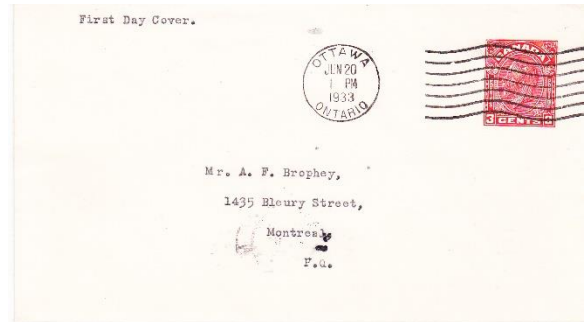
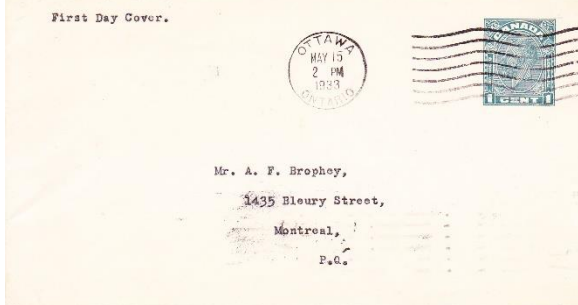


Fig. 7 U48 FDC

Moving forward into the mid-30s, Brophey

became acquainted with a haberdashery salesman and stamp collector named Joseph Rosenbaum, who lived not far away on Decarie Boulevard with his mother and brother. The two became friends, and in 1937 Rosenbaum quit selling men's apparel and hung out his shingle as a philatelist.

In 1939, Brophey made his usual typewritten cover for the new Special Delivery stamp (Scott#E9) on March 1, 1939 (Fig 8).

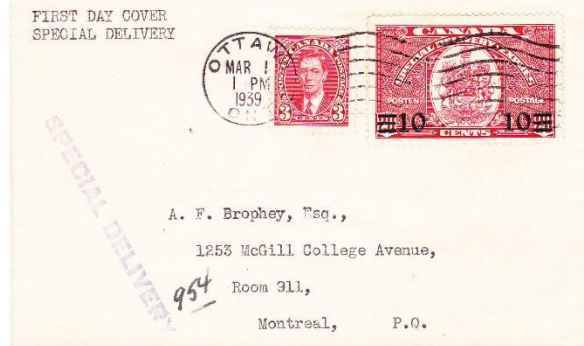


Fig. 8 E9 FDC

Shortly thereafter, Brophey learned from a friend in the Post Office Department – likely Legault – that a new Special Delivery stamp would be issued just a few days later on April 1st. Again, he prepared his usual typewritten cover (Fig. 9) for the occasion (Scott#E7)

Fig. 6 U46 FDC

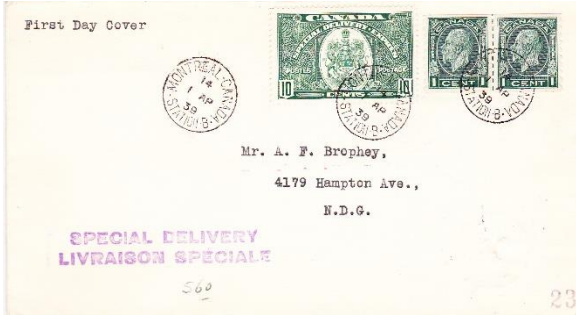


Fig. 9 E7 FDC

This also turned into the famous “April Fool’s” FDC that was Rosenbaum’s first documented FDC effort (Fig. 10).



Fig. 10 Rosenbaum E7 FDC

Not so well known is that it appears Brophey helped prepare many of these covers with Rosenbaum and addressed them to himself (Fig. 11).



Fig. 11 Rosenbaum E7 FDCs to Brophey

Brophey and Rosenbaum continued their relationship into the WWII years. When Rosenbaum prepared and sold patriotic cachets to help the war effort, Brophey used them for his correspondence (Fig. 12).

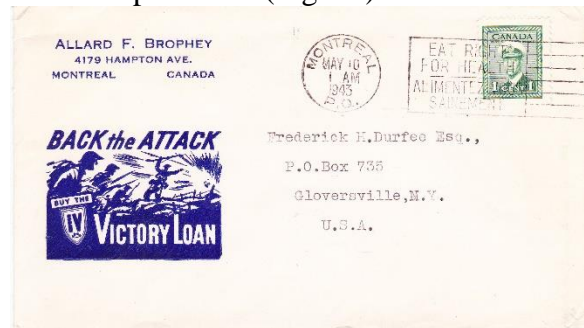


Fig. 12 Rosenbaum Patriotic cover

Brophey was an active member of the Canadian collecting community; he was one of the initial members of BNAPS (#23) in 1943, remaining active until his passing in 1968.

Although never directly producing a line of cachets or notable research, Allard Brophey was a pioneer for the hobby in many ways and certainly deserving of recognition.

ANOTHER CONFEDERATION ANNIVERSARY MARKED BY GEORGE EPPSTADT

By Gary Dickinson

George Eppstadt of Maxville, Ontario produced Canada's first cacheted FDC for the stamp set marking the 60th anniversary of confederation. He made it as a salute to his adoptive country. Today it is one of the most treasured covers of Canadian philately and is sought after by collectors. An example of the Eppstadt cachet postmarked June 29, 1927 is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Original Eppstadt FDC celebrating 60 years since confederation.

In 2012, FDC Study Group member Harold Houston shared another Eppstadt creation with readers of *First Impressions* (Issue 12, July-September). Shown in Figure 2,

This is a hand-made cover marking the 100th anniversary of confederation, although it is not a FDC.

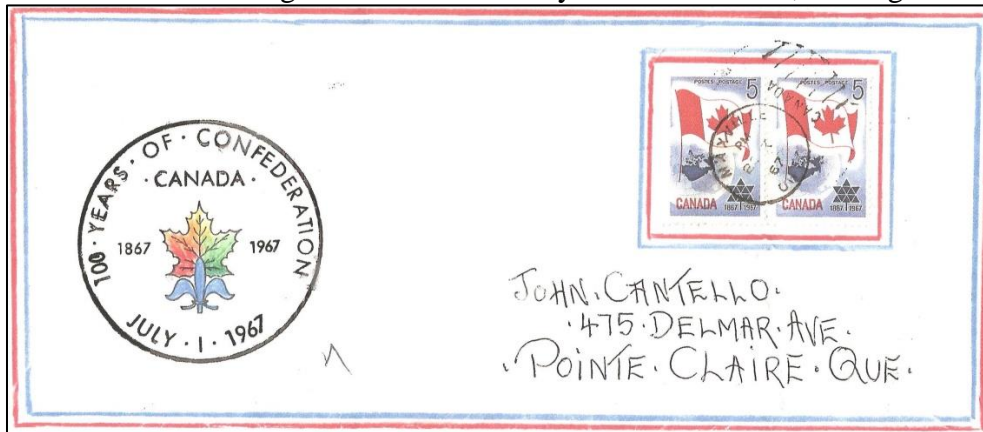


Figure 2. Eppstadt event cover marking 100 years since confederation.

Recently study group member Ken Thibault placed another Eppstadt cover (Figure 3) on sale. This is another home-made product celebrating Canada's 90th anniversary and franked with two of the original stamps, Scott 141 and 142. The cover is postmarked Maxville on July 1, 1957. An enclosed letter (Figure 4) is dated September 20, 1957, suggesting that Eppstadt may have had a supply of these covers that he was selling over a period of time.



Figure 3. Eppstadt event cover marking 90 years since confederation.

MAXVILLE ONT. Sept. 20. 1957.

Dear Mr. Deal

Thanks for your order and I hope you like the cover.

If you tell me your interest I could write what I have.

I have a corner store in this village. It is about 90 miles west of Montreal.

Thanks again

GEORGE EPPSTADT
Box 58
MAXVILLE ONT.

Figure 4. Letter enclosed in 1957 cover.

A QUESTION ANSWERED – AND A LESSON LEARNED By Russell Smith and Editor

Russell Smith, one of our fellow members, posed a question to a few of us regarding the Artcraft cachets for the 1953 Karsh definitives. While it's common knowledge that there were two varieties of the text on the cachet Russell asked us if we know the reason for the difference.

Both Gary Dickinson and I couldn't provide an answer and assumed that after sixty plus years the reason had disappeared. Russell persisted however, and not only discovered the answer but shared it with us:

“The phrase is called 'The Style of the Monarch' and has changed considerably over the years since its beginnings in the 12th century. The shortened version was in use in 1952 when Elizabeth was a princess. When she became Queen Elizabeth II in 1953 the style was changed and that is what is shown in the longer version.

So it suggests that ArtCraft in jumping the gun to get their FDC out got the first cover wrong; the cover did show her as the Queen.”

This is a great example of the value of research

– and kudos to Russell for his hard work that benefits all of us!

