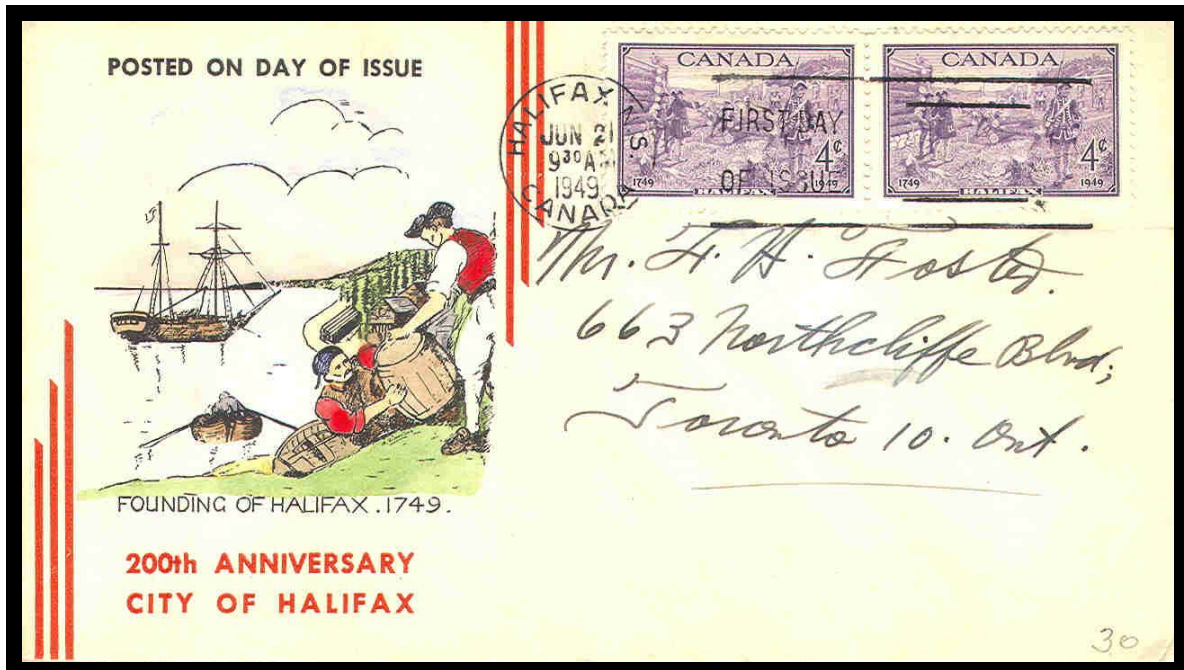


**FIRST DAY COVERS OF THE 1949 CANADA
HALIFAX BICENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE**

by
GARY DICKINSON



FDC MONOGRAPH NO. 2
EDITION 2 APRIL, 2007

PREFACE

This is the second monograph in a series of six dealing with the First Day Covers of the commemorative stamps issued by Canada from 1947 to 1949. Several collectors have contributed to an updated version of this monograph since the first edition was published in December, 2006. Further contributions would be welcomed and will result in ongoing improvements to this record of FDC's for the 1948 stamp commemorating the Bicentennial of Halifax.

Several collectors were especially helpful in the preparation of this second edition. Most notably, scans, photocopies, and comments were received from Harold Houston, Ivan Croteau, and George Basher. I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to Stephen Prest for his encouragement, support, and assistance from the beginning of this project as well as my series of articles on FDC's he has edited for the *King George VI Post and Mail*.

Gary Dickinson

gandbdickinson@shaw.ca

INTRODUCTION

This is the second in a series of monographs presenting detailed inventories and studies of First Day Covers published for stamps issued during the reign of King George VI. This monograph deals with FDC's for the stamp issued on June 21, 1949 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the founding of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The stamp, Scott No. 283, (See Figure 1) was printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited. It was designed by Herman Herbert Schwartz from a picture



Figure 1. Reproduction of Scott No. 283, Halifax Bicentennial.

engraved by Silas Robert Allen. The original artwork was a painting by Charles William Jefferys titled "The Founding of Halifax, 1749." The painting is copyrighted but may be viewed at the website, www.canadiana.org/citm/imagepups/c000125e.html. The stamp was printed in sheets of 200 which were cut into panes of 50. Plate numbers 1 and 2 were used, and the stamps were perforated 12. A total of 25,450,000 stamps were printed.

In 1949 the Canadian Post Office Department began to keep records of the number of FDC's processed for each new issue as they began to charge a 5 cent per cover fee for servicing. The Halifax Bicentenary issue was the second stamp so tallied, and Strauss reported that 46,444 FDC's were serviced. This was a typical number of covers for commemorative issues of this period.

THE CACHETS

One prior attempt to identify the cachets produced for the Halifax Bicentennial issue was noted in the philatelic literature, and that was an article in an extended series by Melvin L. Baron which appeared in the periodical *First Days*. Baron described the fourteen FDC's known to him in 1981, although only six were illustrated, and he also listed twelve cities known to be sources of day-of-issue postmarks. In contrast, the current inventory includes 38 different cachets, all of which are illustrated, as well as 34 different day-of-issue cancellations.

Baron assigned each cachet a distinct number even if it differed only slightly from another cachet. Here the variations on a basic design are assigned sub-types for ease of identification. As is the case in the other studies in this series of monographs, the numbering method used consists of the three-digit Scott catalogue number for the issue (ie. 283) followed by a three-digit type number (eg. 203), and then a two-digit number (eg. 03) for a minor variation in colour, text, or design. A typical entry would therefore be 283.203.03.

CACHET DESIGN ELEMENTS

There are several recurring elements in the designs of the various cachets produced for this issue. Most of those elements are concerned with various aspects of the history of Halifax, as befits a bicentenary issue. These include:

1. Coat of Arms

The Halifax Coat of Arms has several sub-elements. It is structured around a blue shield divided by a St. Andrew's Cross, with a Kingfisher as a symbol of industry at the centre. Above the shield is a coronet topped with four mayflowers, the provincial flower of Nova Scotia. Two sea horses stand on either side of the shield holding flags, with the provincial flag on the left and a municipal flag on the right. The shield rests on a grassy mound with wheat sheaves and spruce trees, while the Latin Halifax motto E Mari Merces (Wealth from the Sea) is shown in a banner at the bottom. The City's Coat of Arms, granted in 1860, showed a fisherman on the right side of the shield, holding a cod fish in his right hand. A sailor was shown on the left side of the shield.

2. The Old Town Clock

The Old Town Clock, located in downtown Halifax and visible from a wide area, was commissioned in 1800 and went into service in 1803. It is featured on a number of Halifax Bicentennial cachets.

3. Edward Cornwallis

Edward Cornwallis (1713-1776) founded Halifax upon his arrival with 2,500 settlers in June, 1749 and served as Governor of Nova Scotia for three years before departing in ill health. Cornwallis is featured on several cachets.

The themes noted above were used as the basis for structuring the categories of FDC's for the Halifax issue, as shown in Table I below. A total of 21 different

TABLE I
CLASSIFICATION OF FDC'S FOR SCOTT NO. 283

CATEGORY	CAT. NO.	NO. OF CACHETS
Thematic Categories of Cachets:		
Coats of Arms	283.100	6
Old Town Clock	283.200	10
Edward Cornwallis	283.300	5
Miscellaneous themes	283.500	8
Standard Categories of Cachets:		
Predominantly text	283.800	5
Rubber stamp	283.850	1
General purpose	283.900	3
Uncacheted Covers:		
Business cover, typed message	283.994	NA
Business cover, hand-written or printed message	283.995	NA
Business cover, FD dated only	283.996	NA
Personal cover, typed message	283.997	NA
Personal cover, hand written or printed message	283.998	NA
Personal cover, FD dated only	283.999	NA
Total		38

cachets featured one (or more) of the three historical themes described earlier while eight had miscellaneous, generally historically-related, themes. Five cachets were comprised

primarily of text and three were general purpose cachets. These are standard categories for cachets used in each study in this series.

Uncacheted FDC's are listed in the above table and several examples are shown in this monograph. As these covers were not generally produced in quantity, and as many of them may be unique, any attempt to classify and describe them in detail would likely prove futile. An approach that collectors might consider would be to sort them in two stages, first according to their use as a business cover, (advertising cover or corner card), or their use for personal correspondence. As a secondary classification, uncacheted covers could be sorted by the type of first-day message they displayed, either typewritten, hand-written or printed, or no message. In every case the covers concerned would have a first day cancellation to warrant classification as a FDC. For collecting purposes, each uncacheted cover could be assigned a unique identification number by the collector. For example, the third FDC among several personal-use cover with a hand-written "First Day of Issue" message would be identified in that collection as 283.998.03.

DAY OF ISSUE LOCATIONS

Halifax was the designated official first day of issue city, and the slogan postmark "FIRST DAY/ OF ISSUE" was used for only the second time. Post offices in other centres had supplies on hand on June 21 as first day postmarks appeared at a number of other locations apart from Halifax. Baron listed eleven such centres, but many additional locations are known. All of the known first day of issue cancellations are shown below in alphabetical order.

Batawa, ON
Belleville, ON
Brantford, ON
Calgary, AB (CDS)
Cobourg, ON
Edmonton, AB
Fort William, ON
Gainsville
Guelph, ON (machine, 7 wavy lines)
Halifax, NS (Official First Day)
Halifax, NS (CDS)
Hamilton, ON
Ingersoll, ON
London, ON
Montreal, QC (machine, 7 wavy lines)
Montreal St. Henri, QC (CDS)
Moose Jaw, SK
Niagara Falls, ON
Ottawa, ON
Pender Island, BC
Peterborough, ON
Regina, SK
Roblin, MB
Rothwell, NB
St. Anne de Bellevue, QC
Saint John, NB
Stratford, ON
Toronto, ON
Toronto, Postal Station D (CDS)
Vancouver, BC (CDS)
Victoria, BC
Winnipeg, MB (machine, 6 wavy lines)
Winnipeg, MB (CDS)
Woodstock, ON

REFERENCES

Anonymous. "Official C.P.S. First Day Covers." *The C.P.S. Bulletin*, May, 1949, p. 5.

Baron, Melvin L. "FDC's of the Canadian Postal Issue of 1940-1950 Part V-Sc. 283-Halifax Bicentennial Commemorative Issue of 1949." *First Days*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (May-June, 1981), pp. 446-7.

Ethier, Pierre (Mr. FDC). First Day Covers Under George VI. Website at the following address: http://members.tripod.com/~mr_fdc/283/283.htm

Strauss, Gerald H. "Canadian FDC Sales Figures." *First Days*, Vol. 4, No. 6 (July-August, 1959), p. 9.

FDC No.: 283.101 (Baron Type 10)

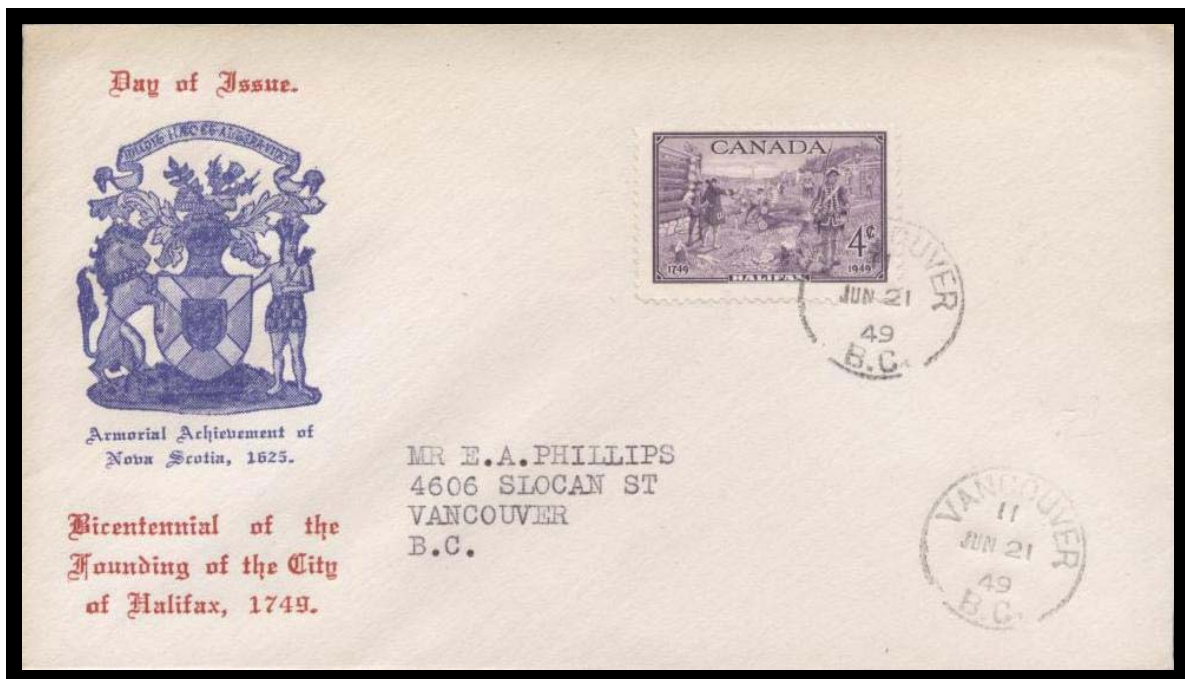
Cachet By: Nova Scotia Stamp Club

Description: A multi-coloured cachet that was produced by the Nova Scotia Stamp Club and “adopted” by the Canadian Philatelic Society as noted in the May, 1949 issue of *The C.P.S. Bulletin*. The cachet is multi-coloured and the design shows the complete Halifax Coat of Arms as adopted in 1860. The text reads, “OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER/ NOVA SCOTIA STAMP CLUB” above the graphic. Below the graphic it says, “COMMEMORATING/ THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY/ OF THE/ FOUNDING OF HALIFAX/ 1749-JUNE 21ST.-1949/ ADOPTED BY CANADIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY. The last line is in red and the bulk of the text is in black.

Photo:



Photo:

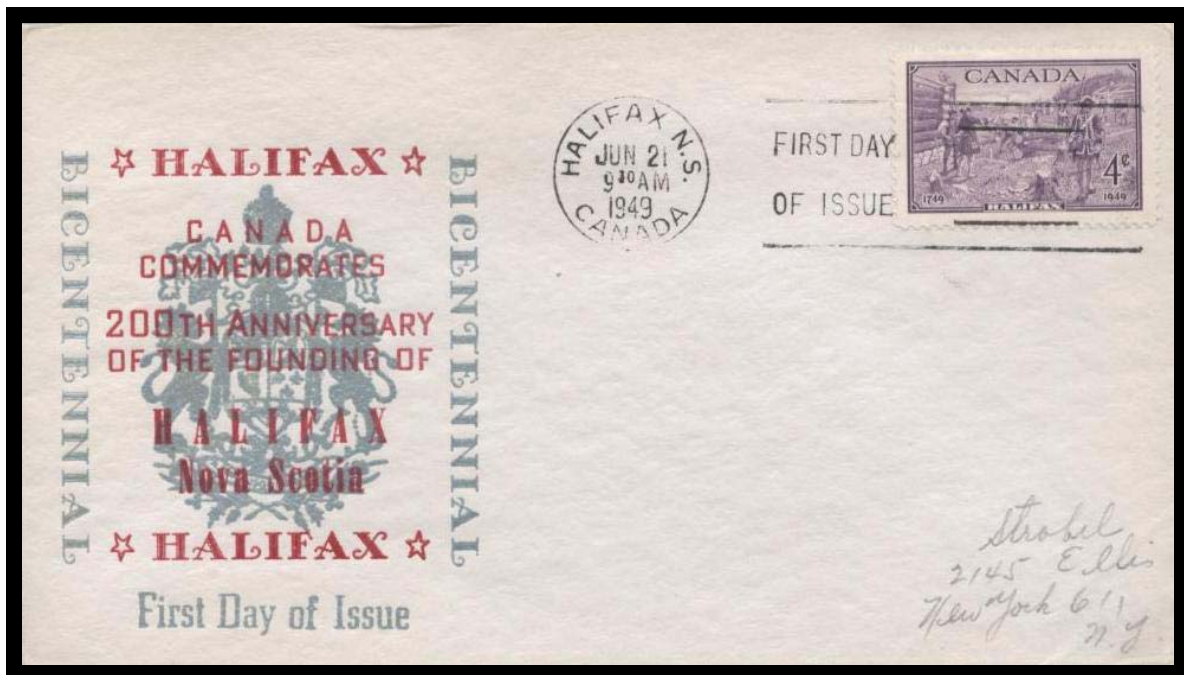


FDC No.: 283.103.01 (Baron Type 14)

Cachet By: Michael Sanders

Description: This typical Sanders cachet is in grey-green and red and was thermographed. The Nova Scotia Coat of Arms is at the centre of the design, with "HALIFAX" printed in red forming the top and bottom of the frame around the Coat of Arms and "BICENTENNIAL" in grey-green forming the sides of the frame. Red lettering is superimposed on the centre of the design, reading "HALIFAX/ CANADA/ COMMEMORATES/ 200TH ANNIVERSARY/ OF THE FOUNDING OF/ HALIFAX/ Nova Scotia." "First Day of Issue" appears in grey-green at the bottom of the cachet.

Photo:

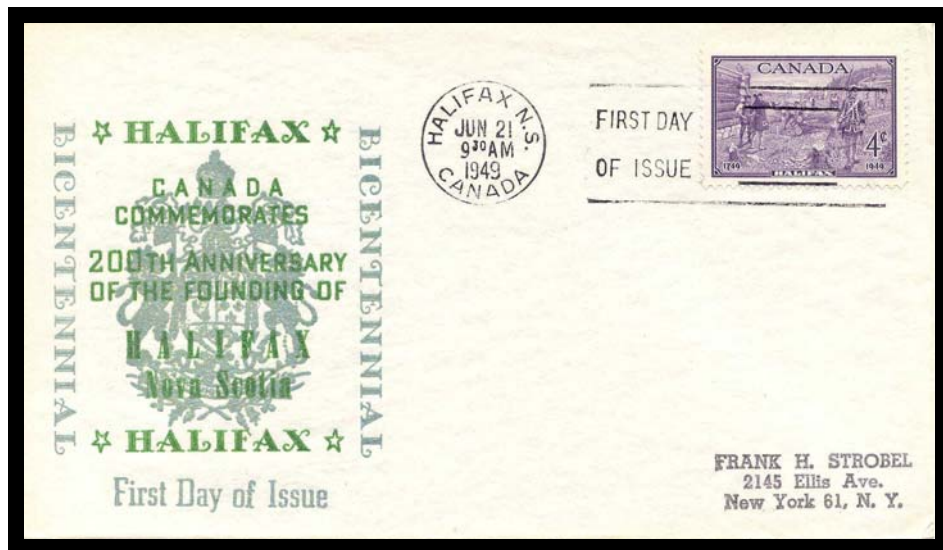


FDC No.: 283.103.02

Cachet By: Michael Sanders

Description: The design of this Sanders cachet is identical to 283.014.01 but the colour is entirely green rather than green combined with red.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.103.03

Cachet By: Michael Sanders

Description: This Sanders maxi-card has some elements in common with the FDC cachets shown earlier, including the Canadian Coat of Arms and the text shown here within the right hand leaf. The wording “HALIFAX BICENTENNIAL” above an ornament appears in the lower left quadrant of the card.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.103.04

Cachet By: Michael Sanders

Description: Another Sanders maxi-card shares some elements of the previous card, including the Canada Coat of Arms and a pair of leaves. The wording in the right hand leaf is the same as on 283.014.03 with the addition of “JUNE/ TWENTY-FIRST” at the top of the text. The colours are the same as the previous card except that the text is lettered in green.

Photo:

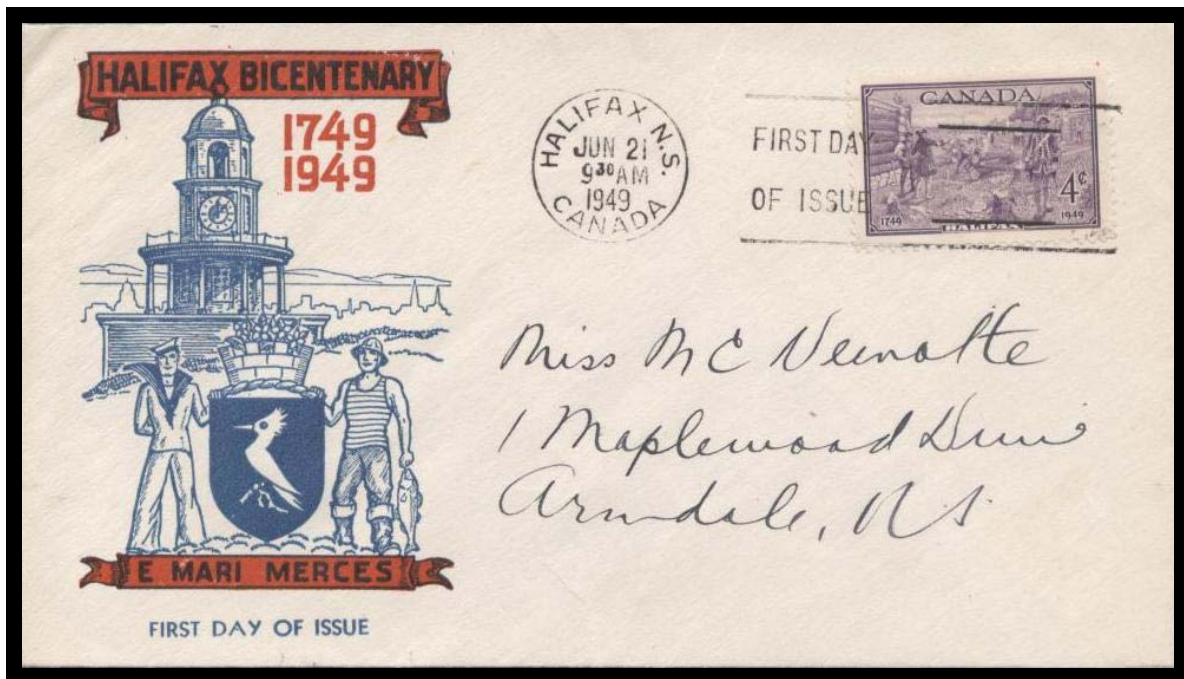


FDC No.: 283.201 (Baron Type 13)

Cachet By: King

Description: This blue and red cachet shows a reduced rendition of the Halifax Coat of Arms in the foreground and the Old Town Clock in the background. The text includes the words "HALIFAX BICENTENARY" in black lettering on a red background in a banner at the top, and the dates "1749/ 1949" in red letters underneath the banner. At the bottom of the design is the city motto in black letters within a red banner, and at the bottom of the cachet in blue lettering is "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE."

Photo:

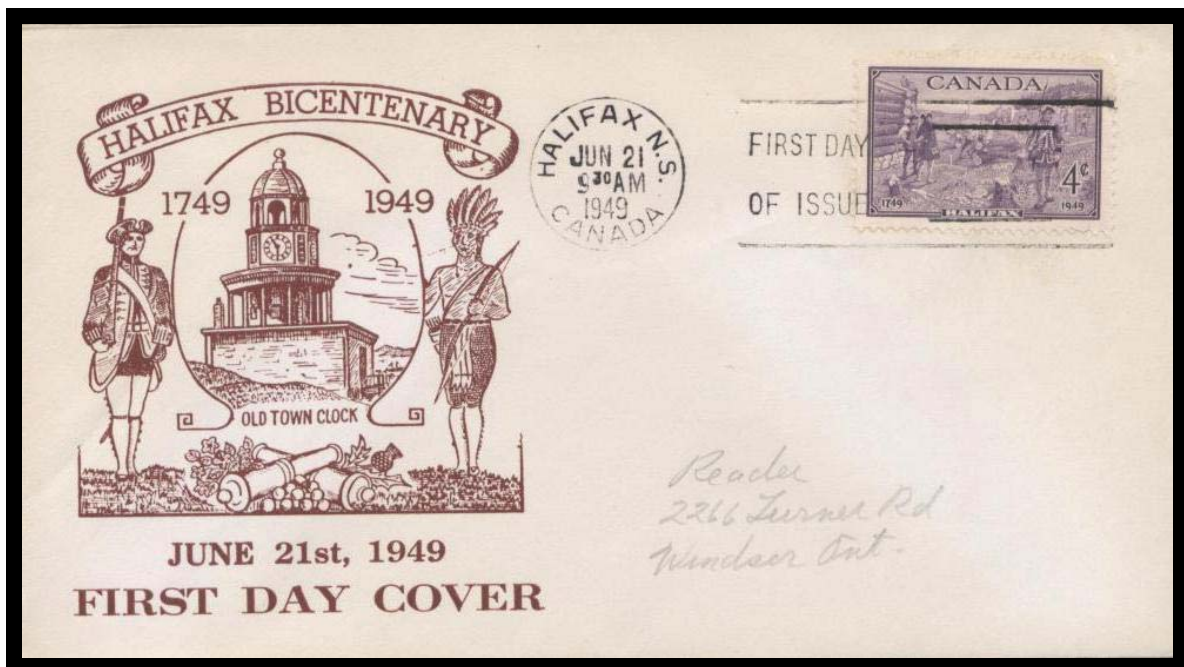


FDC No.: 283.202.01

Cachet By: Grover

Description: This dark-brown cachet, attributed to Grover, has the Old Town Clock at the centre of its design and is flanked by a soldier with a musket on the left and an aboriginal with bow and arrow on the right. A pair of crossed cannons rests on a field beneath the clock. A banner at the top indicates "HALIFAX BICENTENNIAL" and the dates 1749 and 1949 flank the Old Clock Tower. The bottom of the cachet has the text, "JUNE 21ST, 1949/ FIRST DAY COVER."

Photo:

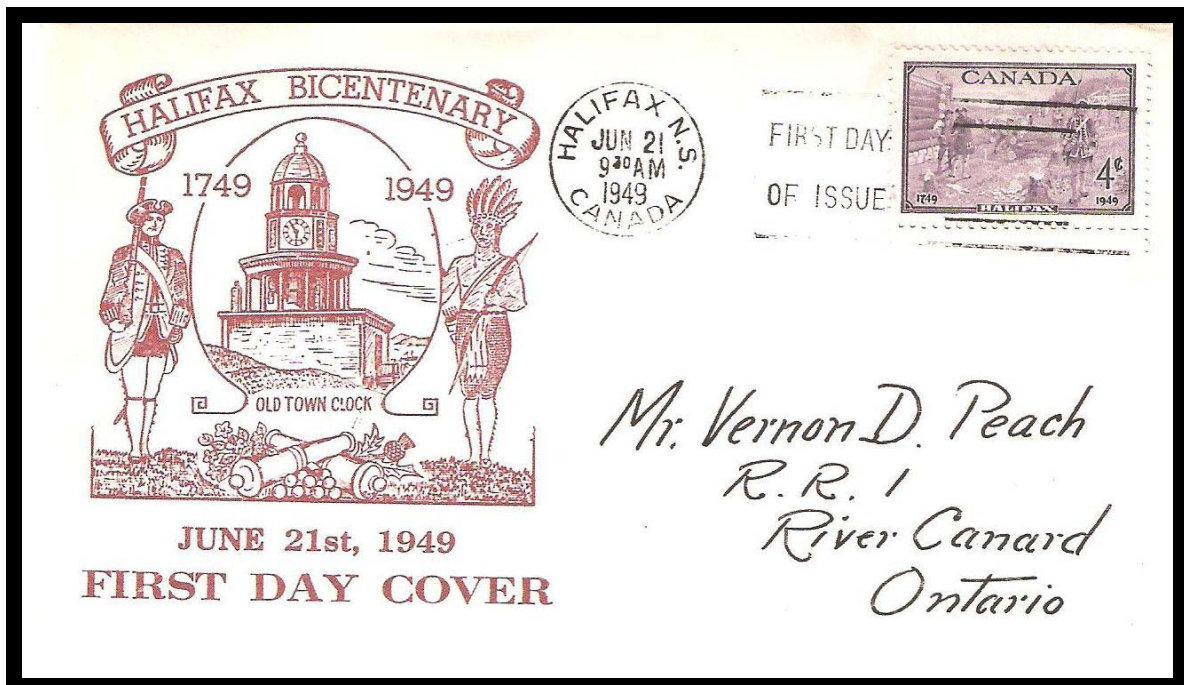


FDC No.: 283.202.02

Cachet By: Grover

Description: This colour variation of the previous cachet was printed in a reddish-brown tone.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.202.03

Cachet By: Grover

Description: This is the same design as the previous cachets, but it is printed on an air mail cover.

Photo:

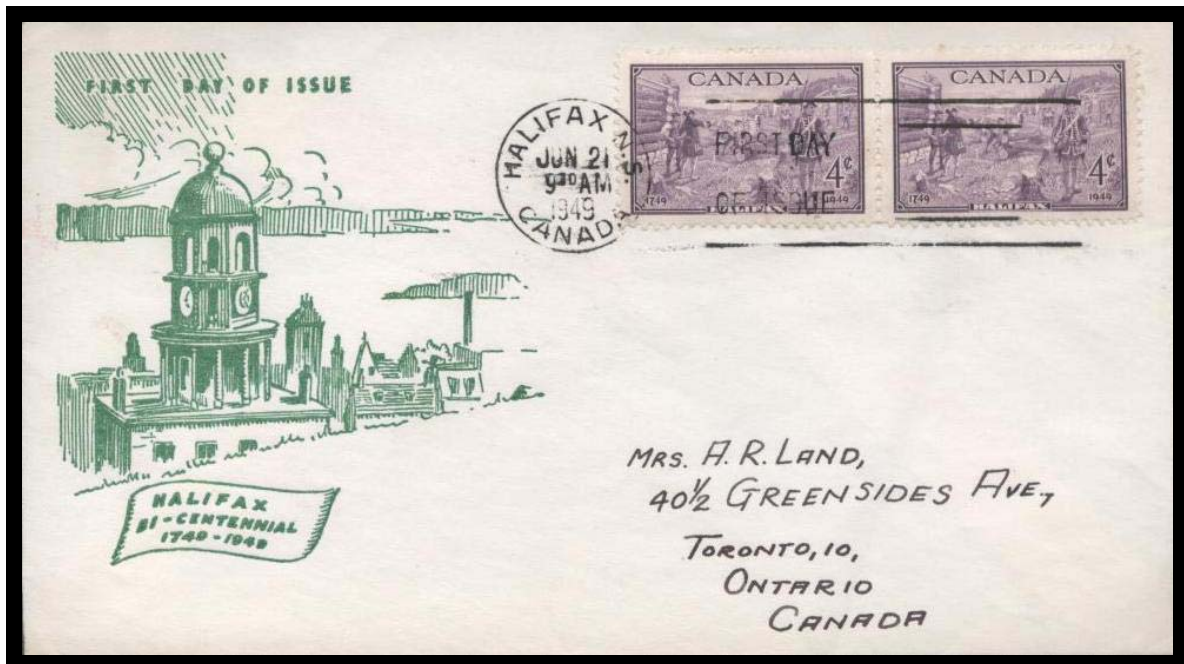


FDC No.: 283.203.01 (Baron Type 4)

Cachet By: Jacobi

Description: This green cachet is the first of several by Jacobi that have the same design but different colours. All of them feature the Old Town Clock. The text is simple, with "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" at the top left corner and a banner below the Clock reading "HALIFAX/ BI-CENTENNIAL/ 1749-1949."

Photo:

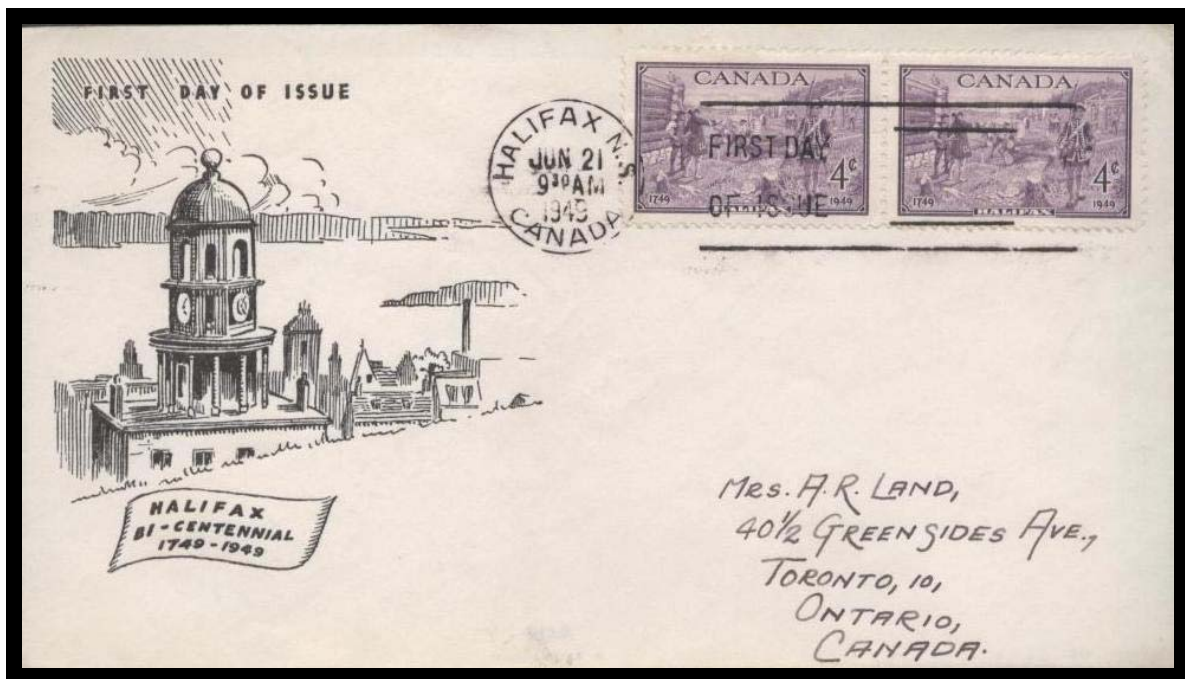


FDC No.: 283.203.02 (Baron Type 5)

Cachet By: Jacobi

Description: This variation of the Jacobi cachet is black.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.203.03

Cachet By: Jacobi

Description: The third cachet in the Jacobi series was produced in brown.

Photo:

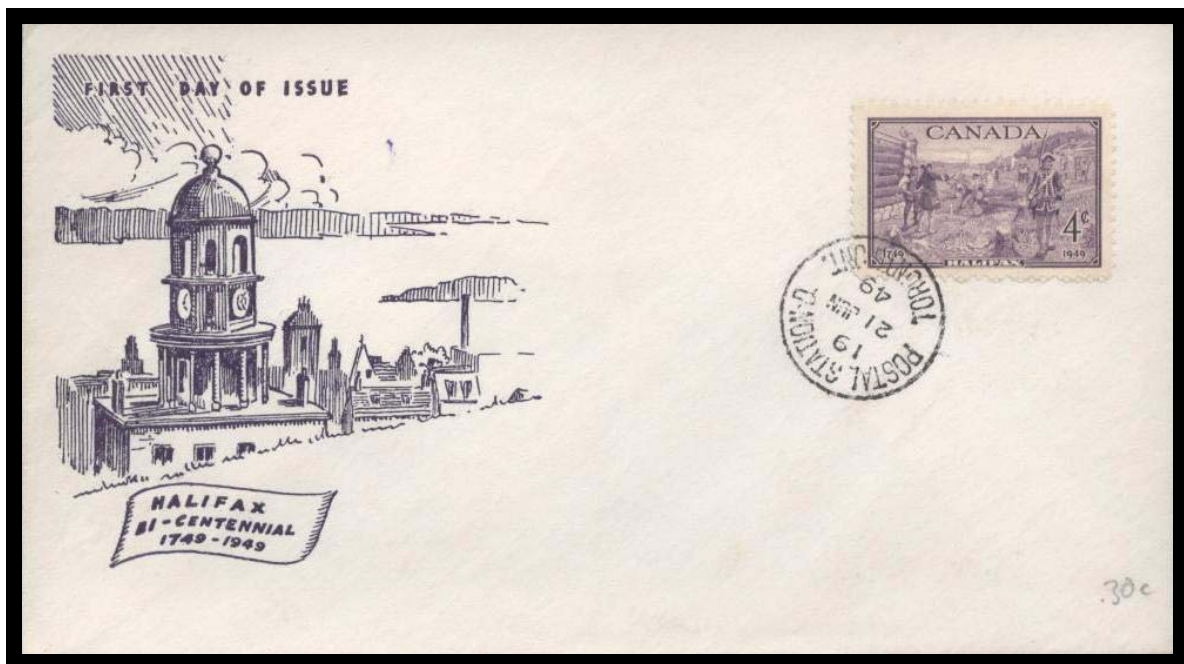


FDC No.: 283.203.04

Cachet By: Jacobi

Description: This fourth Jacobi cachet is purple.

Photo:

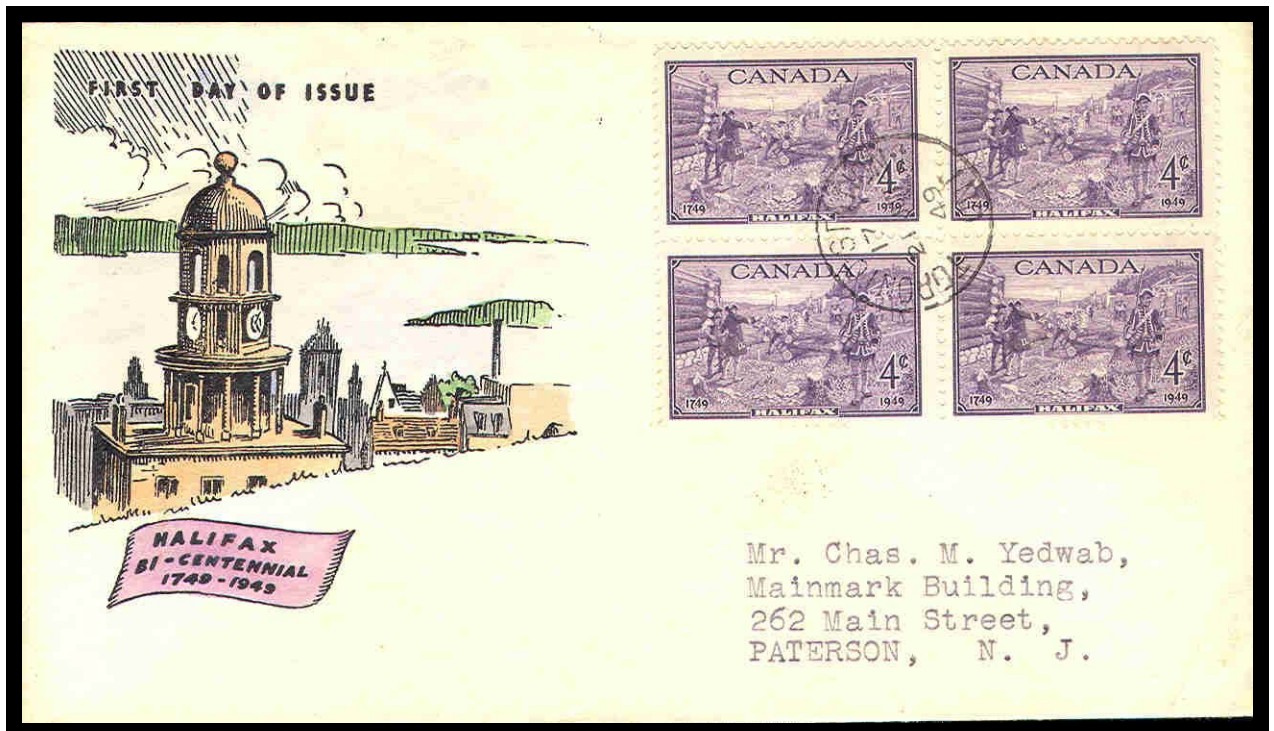


FDC No.: 283.203.05

Cachet By: Jacobi

Description: Finally, here is a multi-coloured Jacobi cachet with the same design as the others.

Photo:

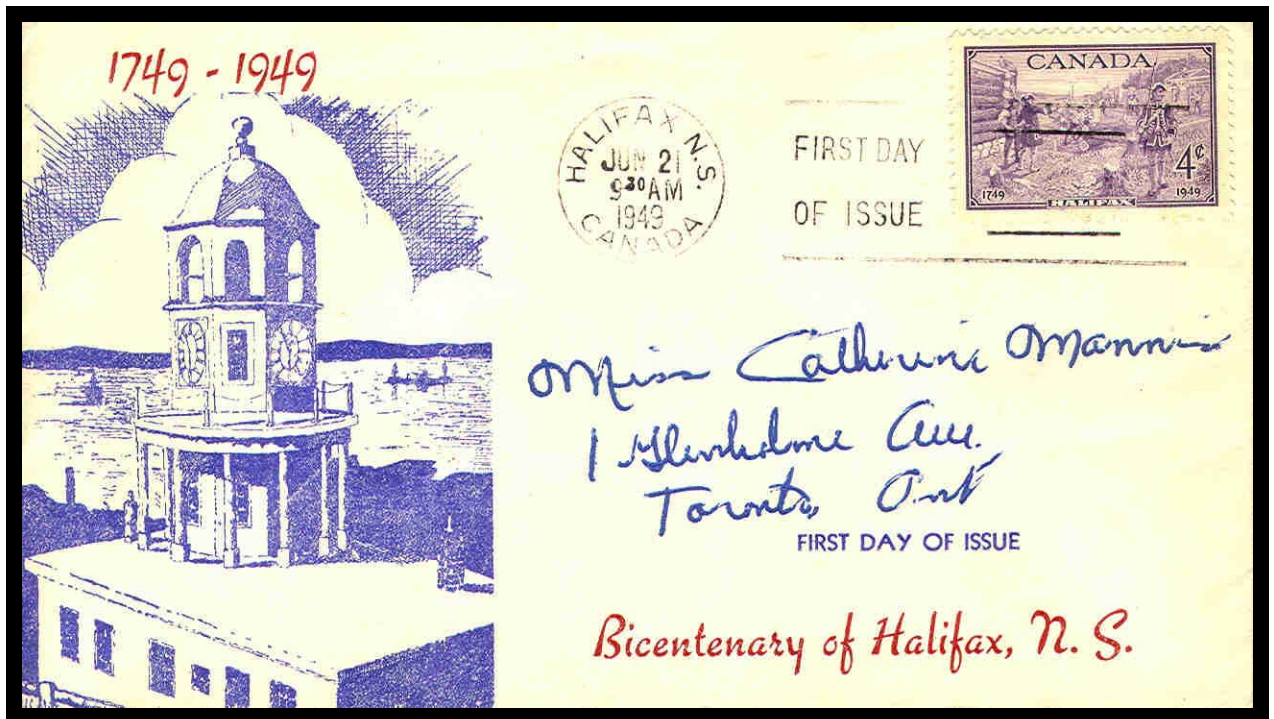


FDC No.: 283.204

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: The colours of this cachet are red and blue, and the design shows the Old Clock Tower with the harbour in the background. The dates "1749-1949" appear at the top of the design. At bottom right is lettered in italics, "Bicentenary of Halifax, N.S."

Photo:

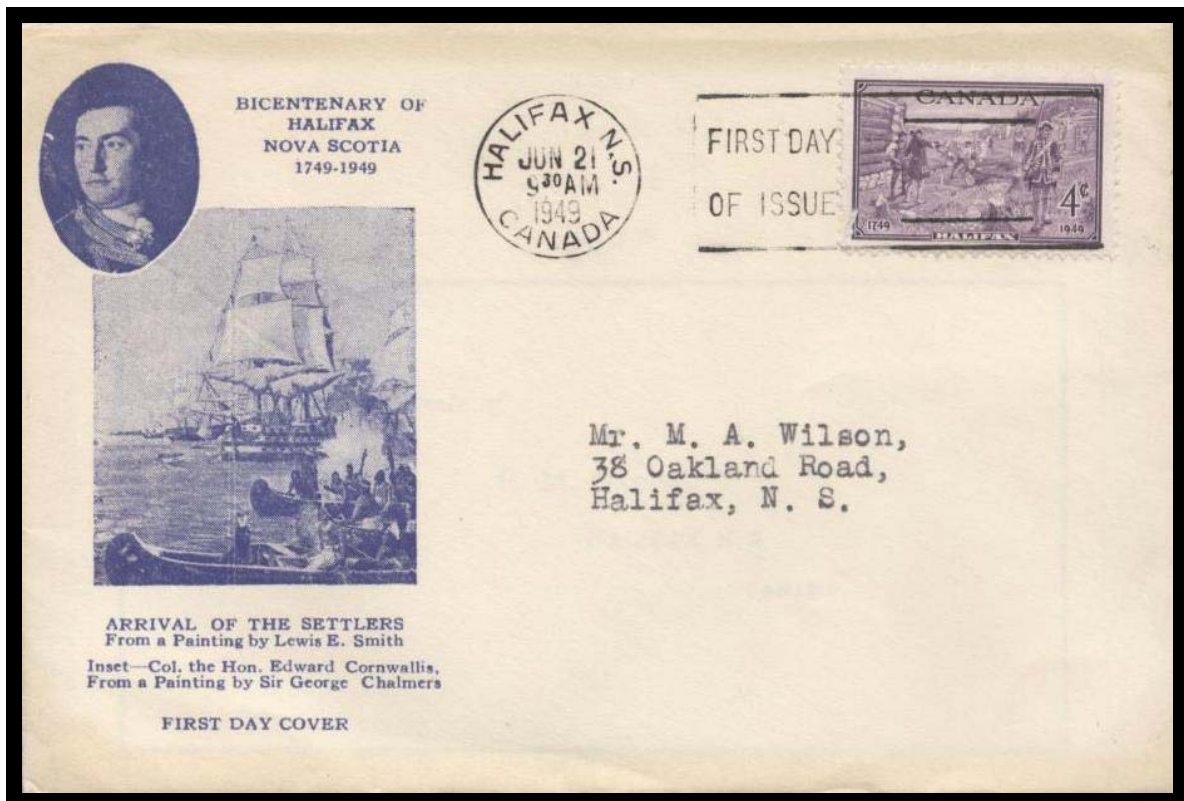


FDC No.: 283.301

Cachet By: Nova Scotia Stamp Club

Description: This blue cachet is based on a painting by Lewis E. Smith, a member of the Nova Scotia Stamp Club, which shows the arrival of the settlers on June 21, 1749. At top left is a portrait of Edward Cornwallis from a painting by Sir George Chalmers. Nine lines of text present information concerning the two paintings upon which the cachet is based as well as the relevant dates. A staffer provided additional details and a note that the cover was "of very limited edition."

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.302 (Baron Type 12)

Cachet By: Robert Fulton

Description: The central feature of this purple cachet depicts the port of Halifax in 1764, including a number of ships anchored in the harbour. A portrait of Edward Cornwallis is shown at upper right, the Nova Scotia flag at upper left, and the Halifax Coat of Arms at lower right. Wording within the frame of the picture says, "HALIFAX/ BICENTENARY/ 1749-1949." Underneath the picture is: "HALIFAX—1764/ FROM A PRINT IN THE NEW YORK/ PUBLIC LIBRARY" followed by eight lines of text describing the origin of Halifax. .

Photo:

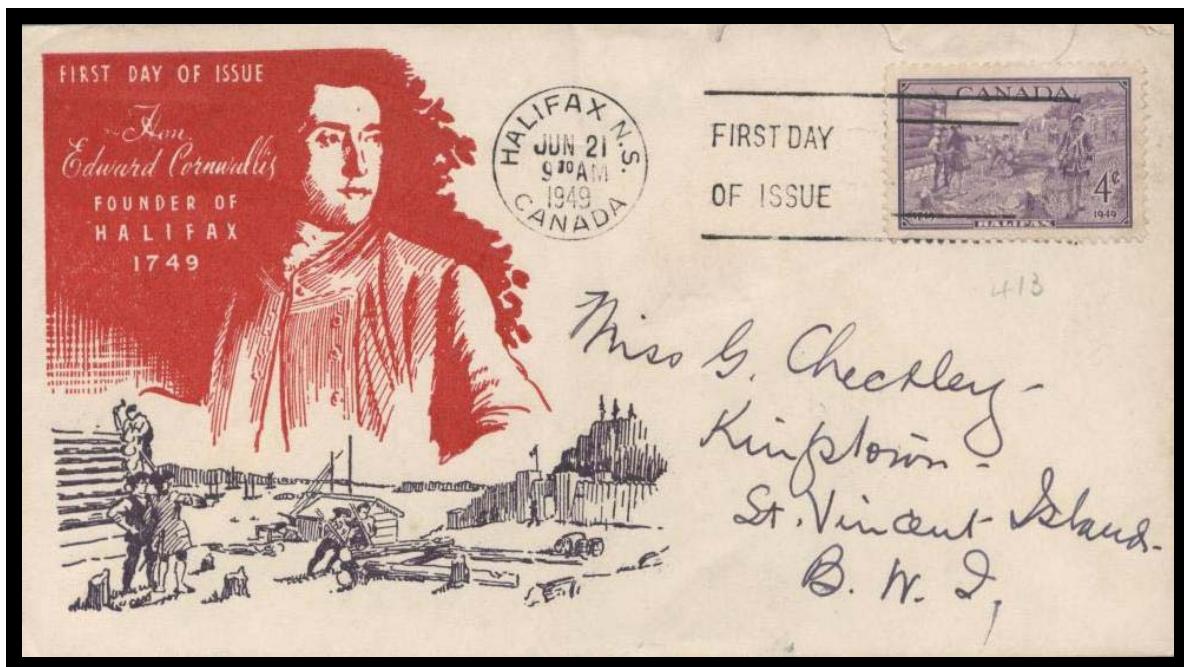


FDC No.: 283.303.01 (Baron Type 7)

Cachet By: Overseas Mailers

Description: This red and black cachet shows a line drawing of Edward Cornwallis looming over a sketch of the early Halifax town. The sketch is modeled after the painting on the stamp although it differs in detail. Text at the top left of the cachet says: "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE/ HON./ EDWARD CORNWALLIS [in italics]/ FOUNDER OF/ HALIFAX/ 1749."

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.303.02

Cachet By: Overseas Mailers

Description: This cachet has the same design as the previous one but the colours are green and purple rather than red and black.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.303.03

Cachet By: Overseas Mailers

Description: This colour variation of the Overseas Mailers has been noted by several observers and appears to be a lighter tone than the previous cachet, sufficient to warrant a separate listing.

Photo:

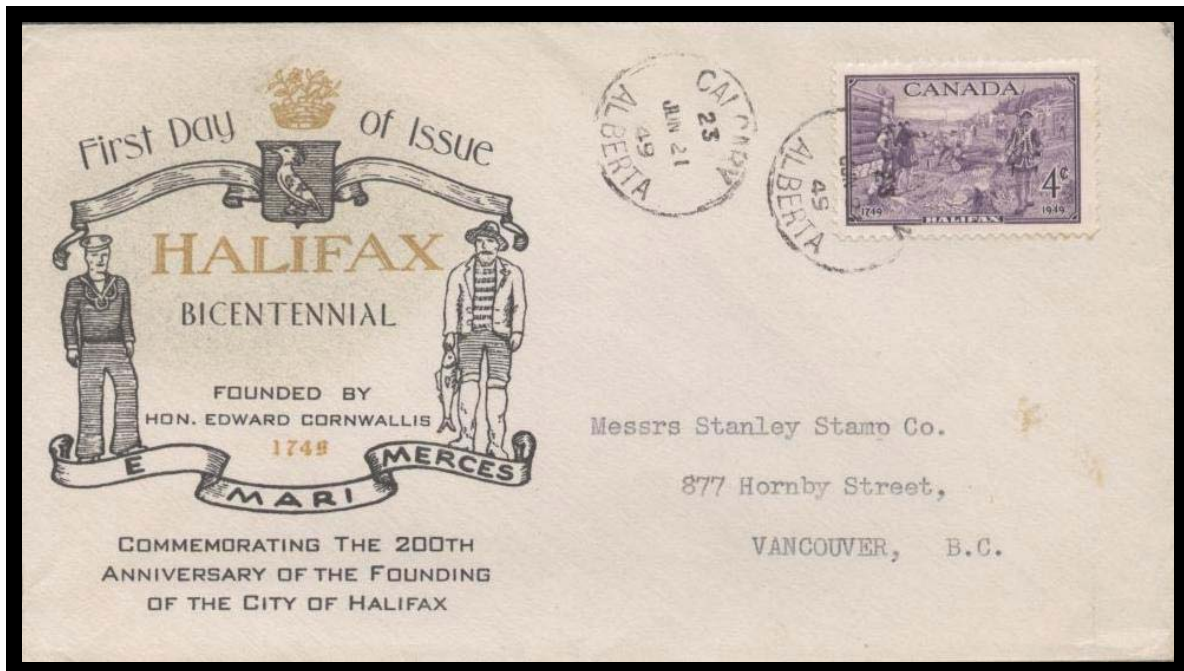


FDC No.: 283.501 (Baron Type 8)

Cachet By: Philatelic Supply Company

Description: Several portions of the Halifax Coat of Arms are included in the design of this gold and black cachet including the shield, the coronet, the sailor and fisherman, and the motto. These are shown in a different configuration than usual. The text is mostly in black except as noted, and reads as follows: "First Day of Issue/ HALIFAX [in gold]/ BICENTENNIAL/ FOUNDED BY/ HON. EDWARD CORNWALLIS/ 1749[in gold] COMMEMORATING THE 200TH/ ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING/ OF THE CITY OF HALIFAX."

Photo:

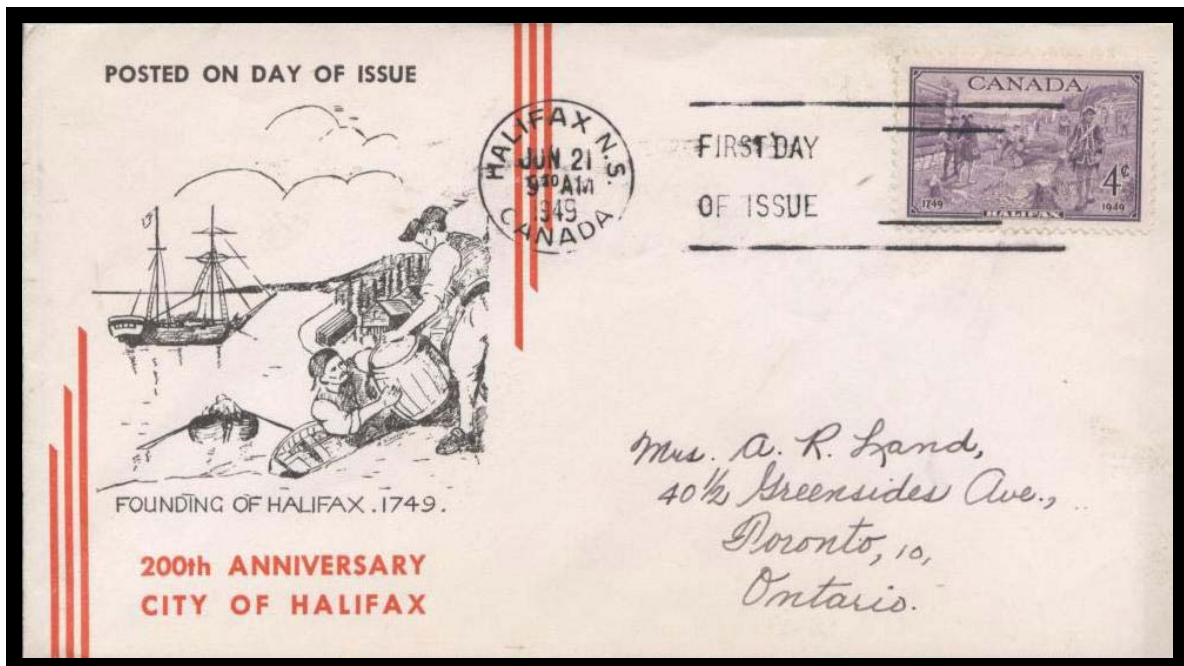


FDC No.: 283.502.01 (Baron Type 3)

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This black cachet with orange highlights shows two seamen bringing ashore a casket of rum (what else could it possibly be?) in the early days of the settlement at Halifax. A sailing ship is anchored in the background and a sailor is rowing back to it from the shore. The text is: "POSTED ON DAY OF ISSUE" at the top. At the bottom of the design is: "FOUNDING OF HALIFAX, 1749" followed by orange lettering for "200th ANNIVERSARY/ CITY OF HALIFAX."

Photo:

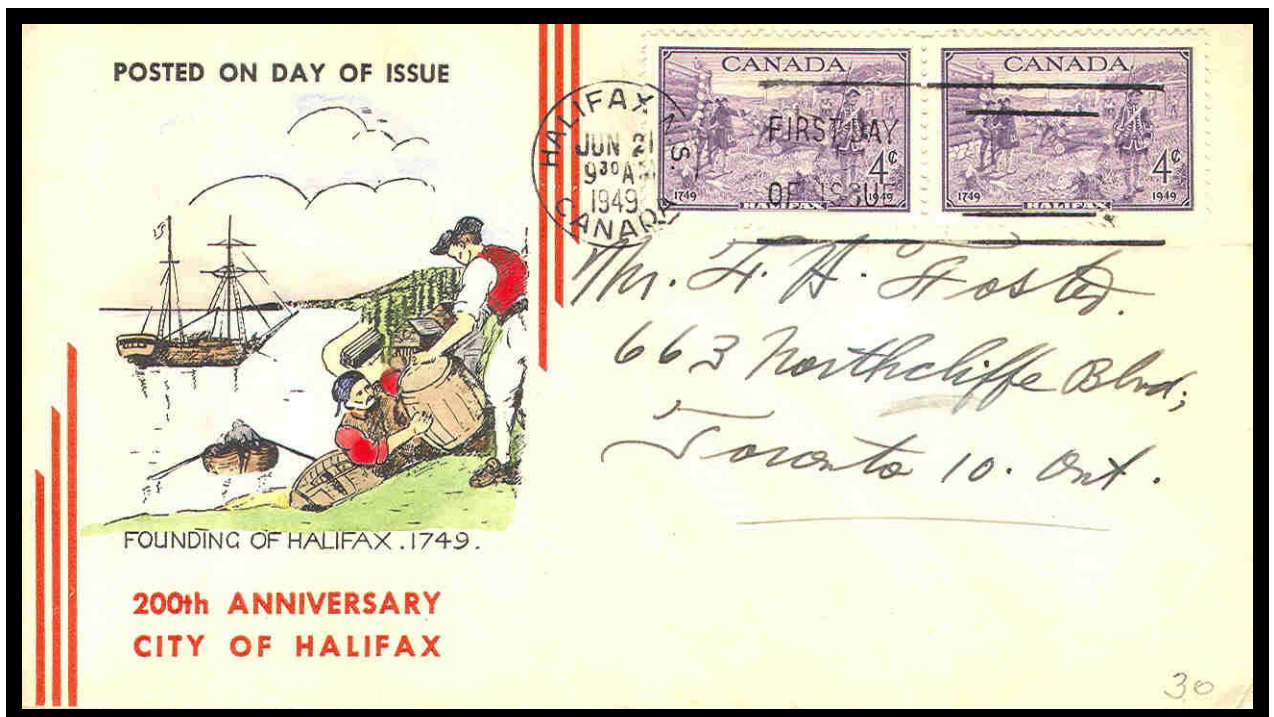


FDC No.: 283.502.02

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This cachet has the same design as the previous one but has been coloured in red, green, and yellow.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.503

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This green cachet features a sketch map prepared by surveyors in 1749 showing the proposed layout of the City of Halifax. There is a contemporary male figure in the foreground which does not appear to be Cornwallis. The text below the map is in capitals and underlined, and reads: "1749-1949/ COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY/ OF THE CITY/ OF/ HALIFAX N.S./ FIRST DAY OF ISSUE/ JUNE."

Photo:

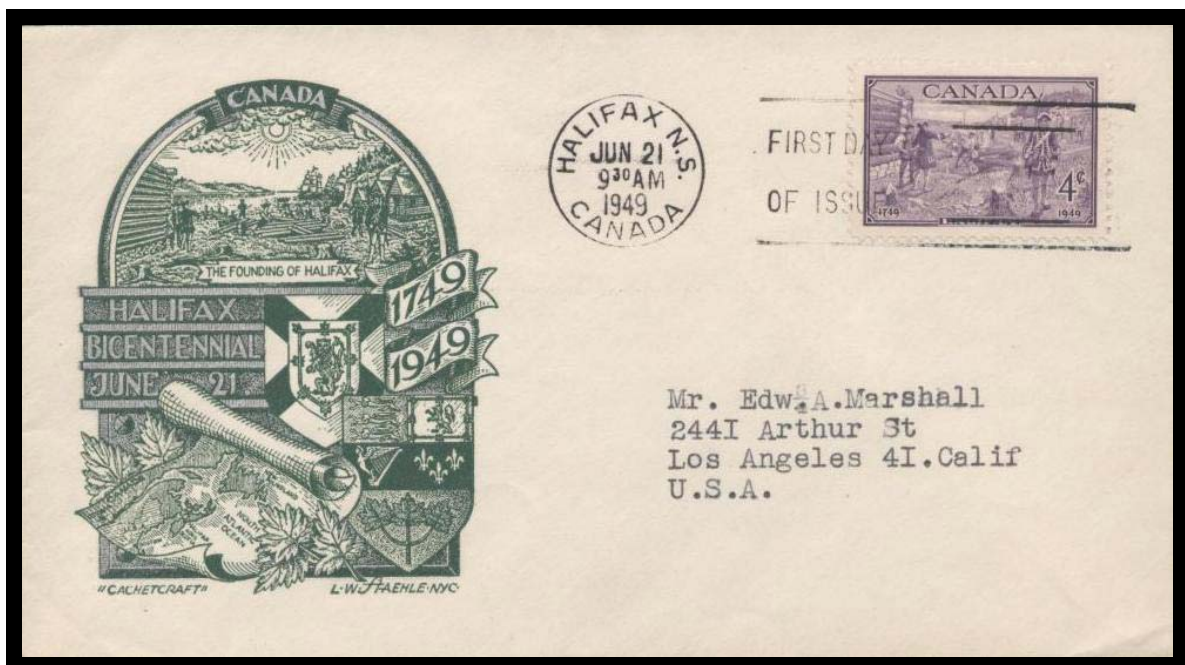


FDC No.: 283.504 (Baron Type 6)

Cachet By: Cachetcraft (L. W. Staehle)

Description: This complex cachet by L. W. Staehle was reproduced in hunter green with flourishes of silver. From the top, an arch with "CANADA" in the keystone position is above a sun peeping through clouds. Below that is a rendering of the painting shown on the Halifax Bicentennial stamp, including the lettering "THE FOUNDING OF HALIFAX." At the centre of the cachet is the silver text, "HALIFAX/ BICENTENNIAL/ JUNE 21" in silver at the left and the years "1749/ 1949" in green at the right. The shield from the Nova Scotia Coat of Arms is shown above and to the left of the shield from the Canadian Coat of Arms, and to the left of the shields is a partially unfurled map of the east coast of Canada and several leaves.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.505

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This purple cachet by an unknown maker shows a military scene and the text, "First Day of Issue [in italics]/ HALIFAX/ Nova Scotia." The dates 1749 (lower left) and 1949 (upper left) also appear as does a sketch of the Nova Scotia coastline.

Photo:

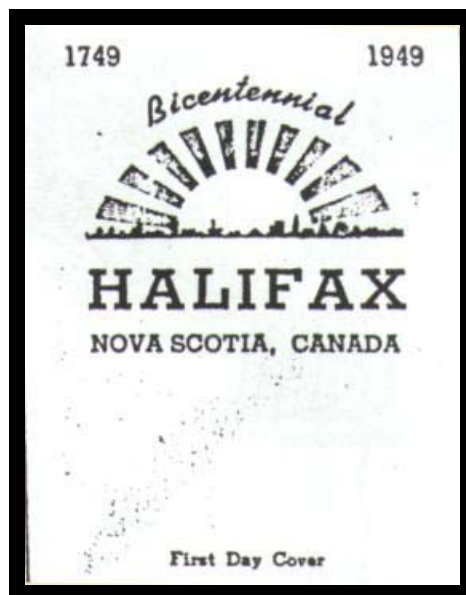


FDC No.: 283.506

Cachet By: Doak

Description: The colours of this cachet by Doak are not known, but the design features a modern city skyline with an arch above. In the upper left corner is the date 1749 and the upper right has 1949. “Bicentennial” is shown in italic lettering above the arch and “HALIFAX/ NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA” below it. “First Day Cover” appears at the bottom of the cachet.

Photo: This is a second generation scan from Ethier.



FDC No.: 283.507

Cachet By: Oxford Philatelic Society

Description: This design shows two crossed flags with a maple leaf at the top between them. The text is all in italics and reads, "Halifax Bicentennial/ Commemorative/ First Day Cover/ June 21st, 1949/ Oxford Philatelic Society."

Photo:

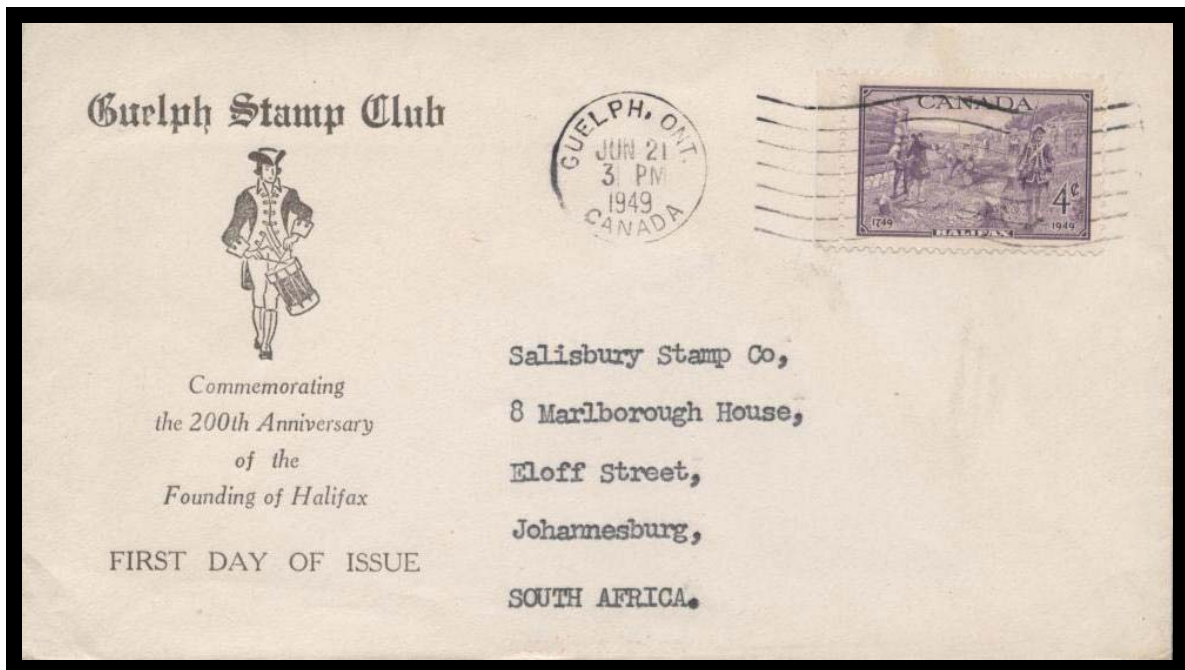


FDC No.: 283.801

Cachet By: Guelph Stamp Club

Description: A black and white cachet featuring a drummer was produced by the Guelph Stamp Club for this issue. The Club name is above the graphic and lettering below the graphic is in italics and reads, "Commemorating/ the 200th Anniversary/ of the/ Founding of Halifax", with a bottom line indicating "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE."

Photo:

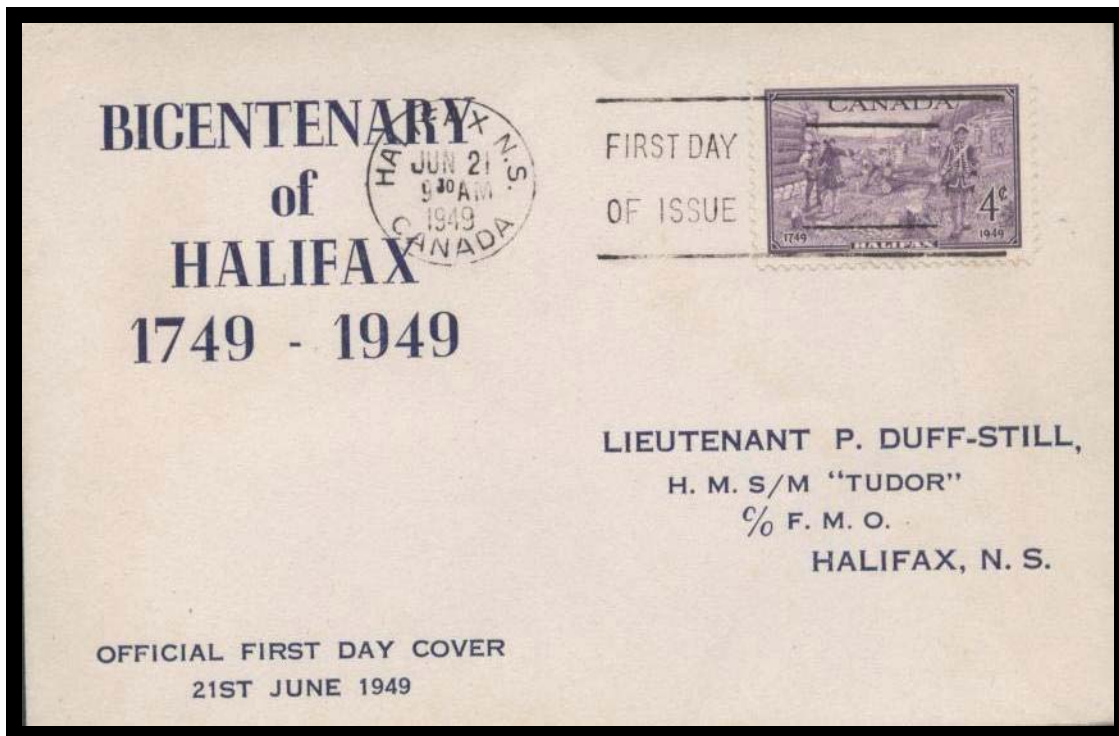


FDC No.: 283.802 (Baron Type 9)

Cachet By: Duff-Still

Description: This simple, all-text cachet is in black and reads as follows:
“BICENTENARY/ of/ HALIFAX/ 1749-1949/ OFFICIAL FIRST DAY COVER/ 21ST
JUNE 1949.”

Photo:

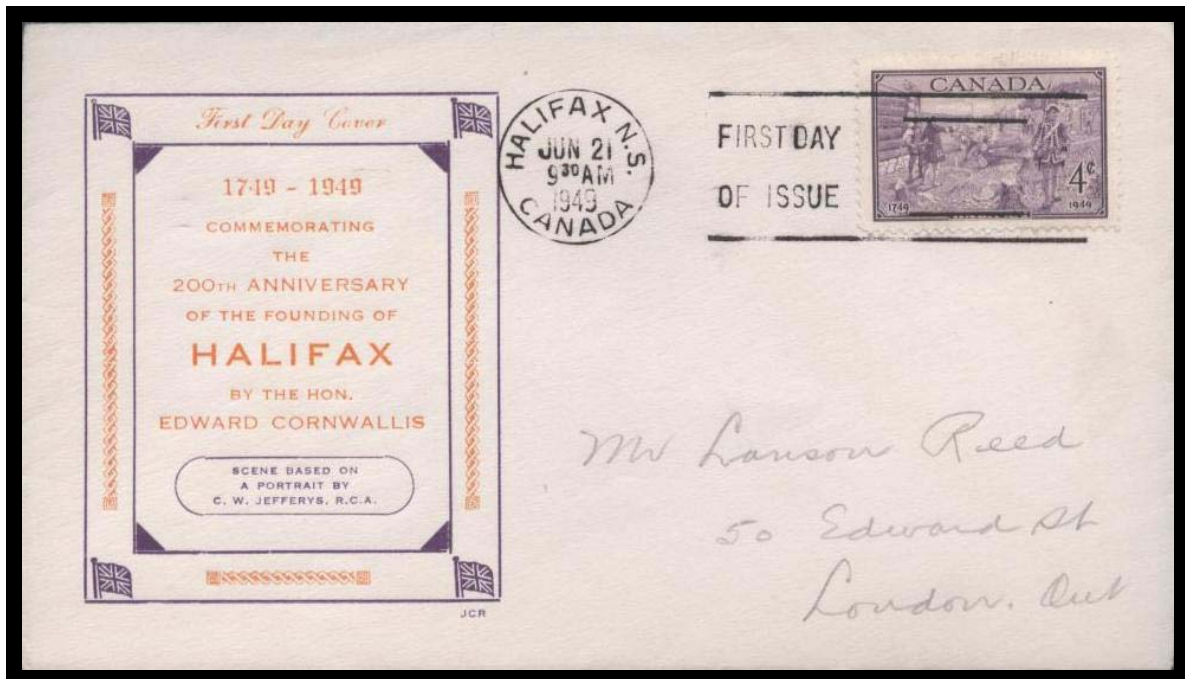


FDC No.: 283.803.01 (Baron Type 1)

Cachet By: JCR (J. C. Rosenbaum)

Description: This blue and orange cachet by J. C. Rosenbaum was the first cachet listed by Baron. The cachet has a decorative frame with flags at the four corners and "First Day Cover" in italics within the frame borders at the top. Orange lettering at the centre reads, "1749-1949/. COMMEMORATING/ THE/ 200TH ANNIVERSARY/ OF THE FOUNDING OF/ HALIFAX/ BY THE HON./ EDWARD CORNWALLIS." A note above the frame at the bottom of the design indicates, "SCENE BASED ON/ A PORTRAIT BY/ C.W. JEFFRIES, R.C.A."

Photo:

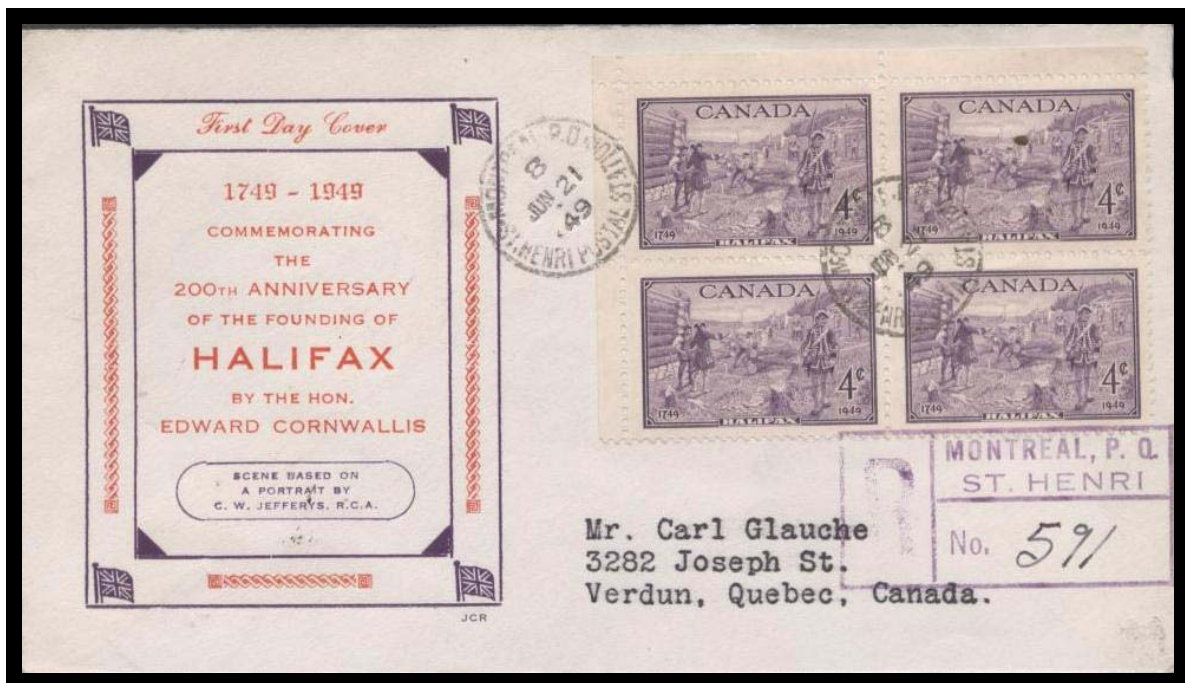


FDC No.: 283.803.02

Cachet By: JCR (J. C. Rosenbaum)

Description: This second cachet by JCR has the identical design to the previous one but the colours are red and blue rather than orange and blue.

Photo:

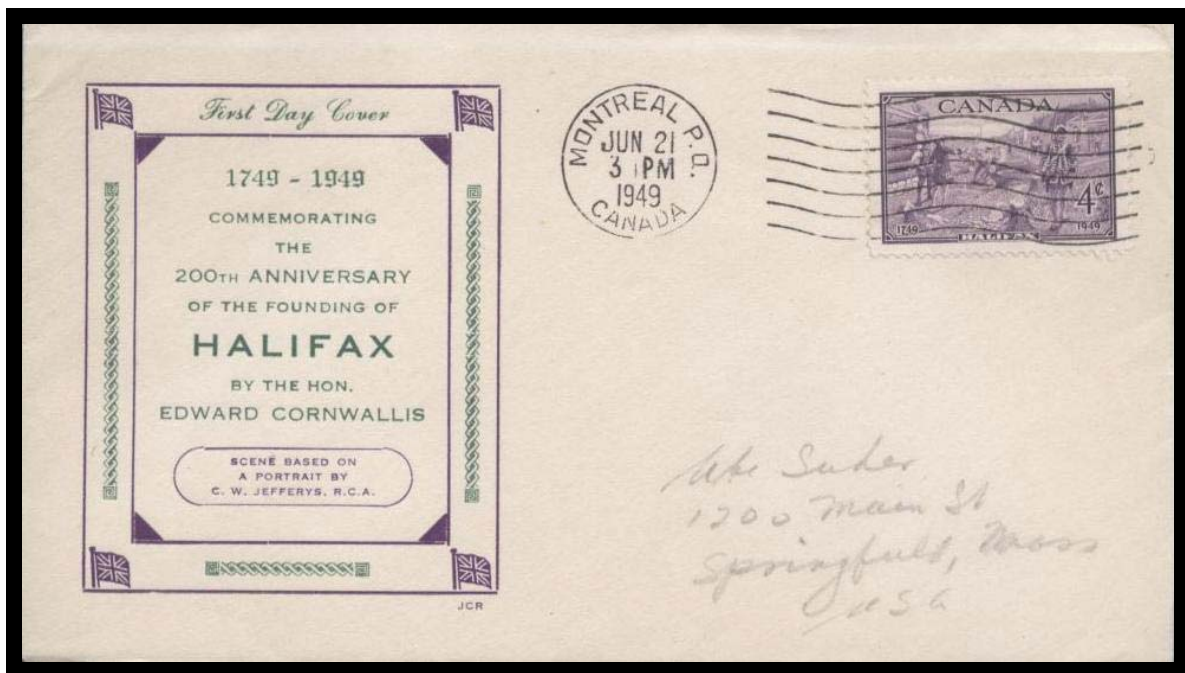


FDC No.: 283.803.03 (Baron Type 2)

Cachet By: JCR (J. C. Rosenbaum)

Description: This third variation on the JCR cachet design is in green and blue.

Photo:

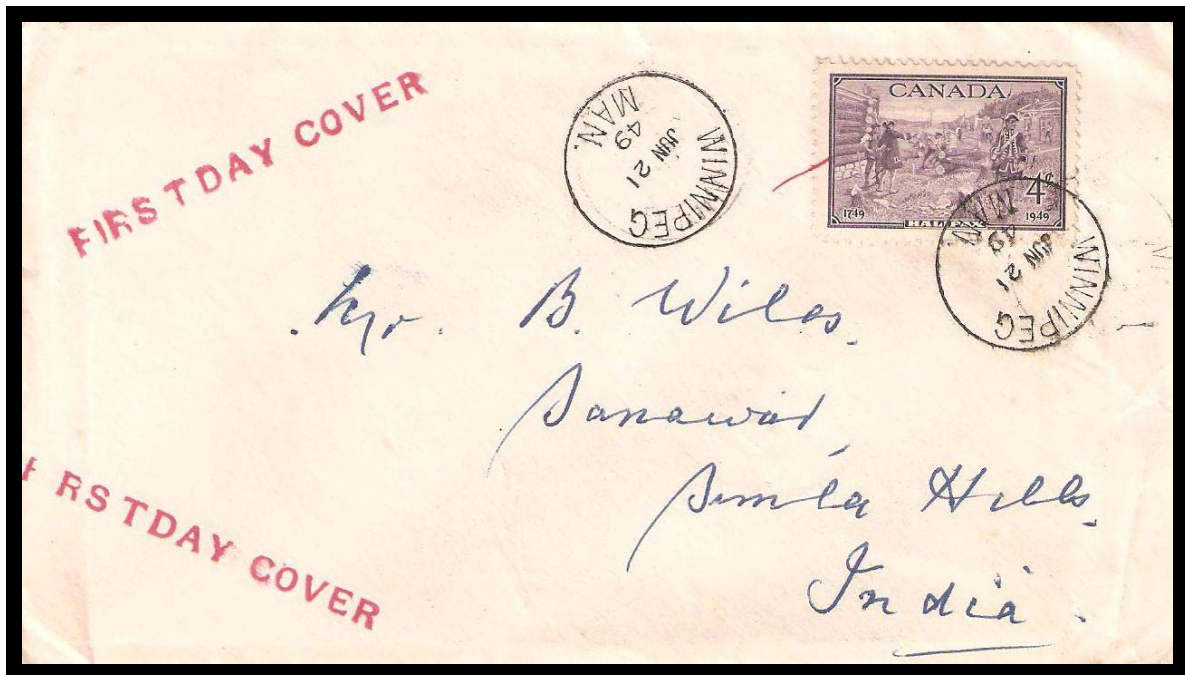


FDC No.: 283.851

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This rubber-stamped cachet has two impressions of a straight-line
"FIRST DAY COVER."

Photo:

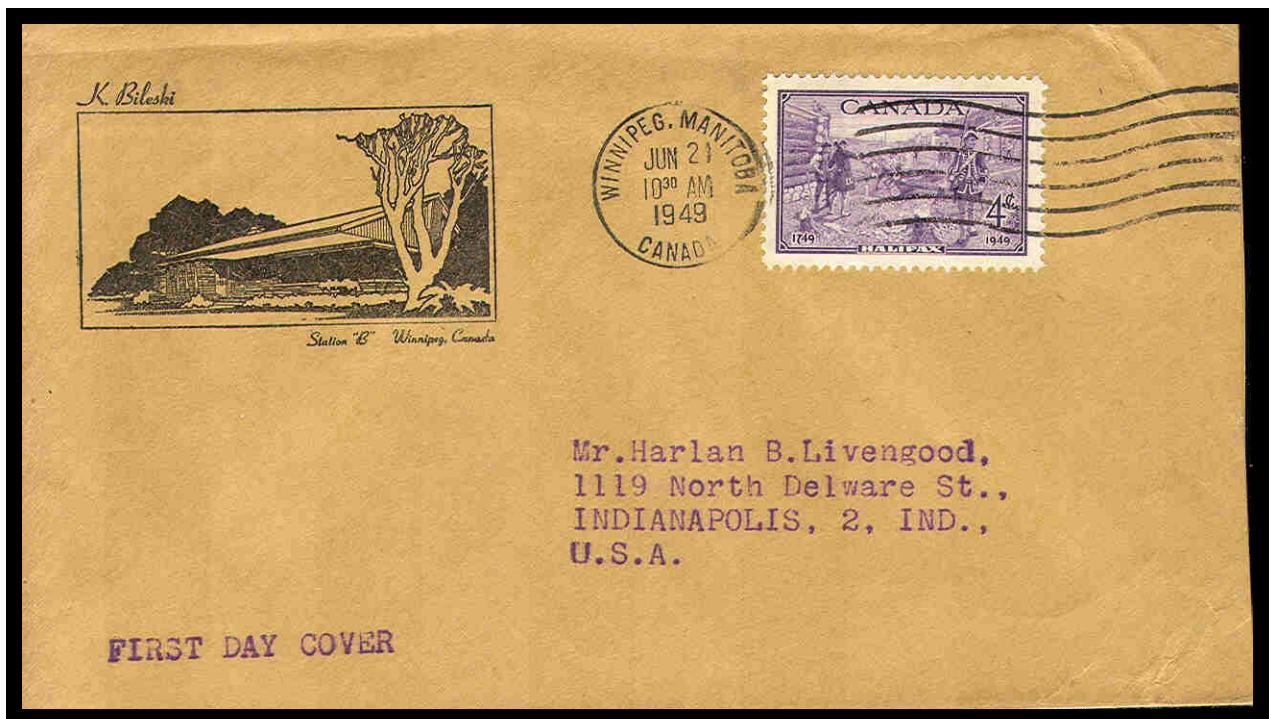


FDC No.: 283.901

Cachet By: K. Bileski

Description: This black cachet shows the standard cachet used for FDC's by Winnipeg stamp dealer K. Bileski. "FIRST DAY COVER" is stamped in purple ink in the lower left corner.

Photo:

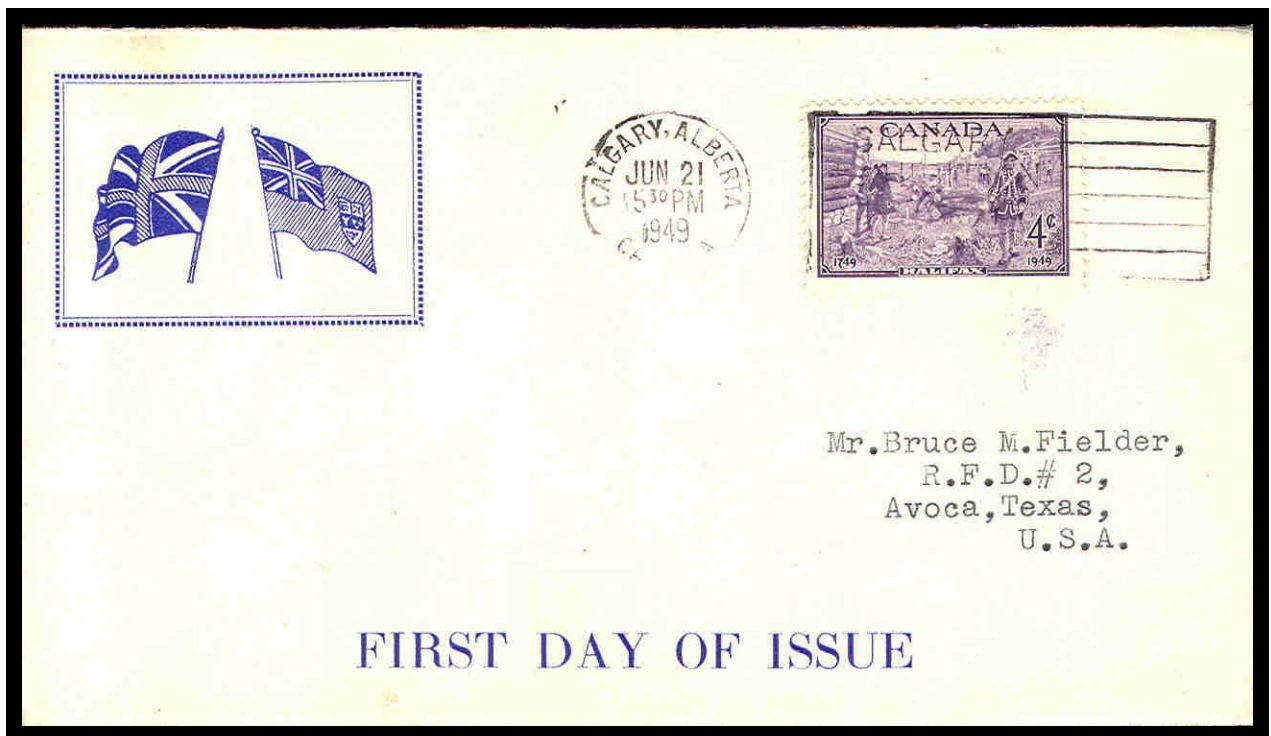


FDC No.: 283.902

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: Here is a blue, general purpose cachet showing a pair of flags inside a rectangular box, with the legend "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" at bottom centre of the cover.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.903

Cachet By: Talbot

Description: This multi-coloured cachet featuring Canada's Coat of Arms has the legend "First Day Cover" in italics at bottom left.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.994.01

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This Bank of Toronto corner card has a FDC typed message in red reading, "Halifax Bicentennial Commemorative/ Day of Issue Cover. June 21/1949." This is but one example of a business envelope with typed first day message.

Photo:

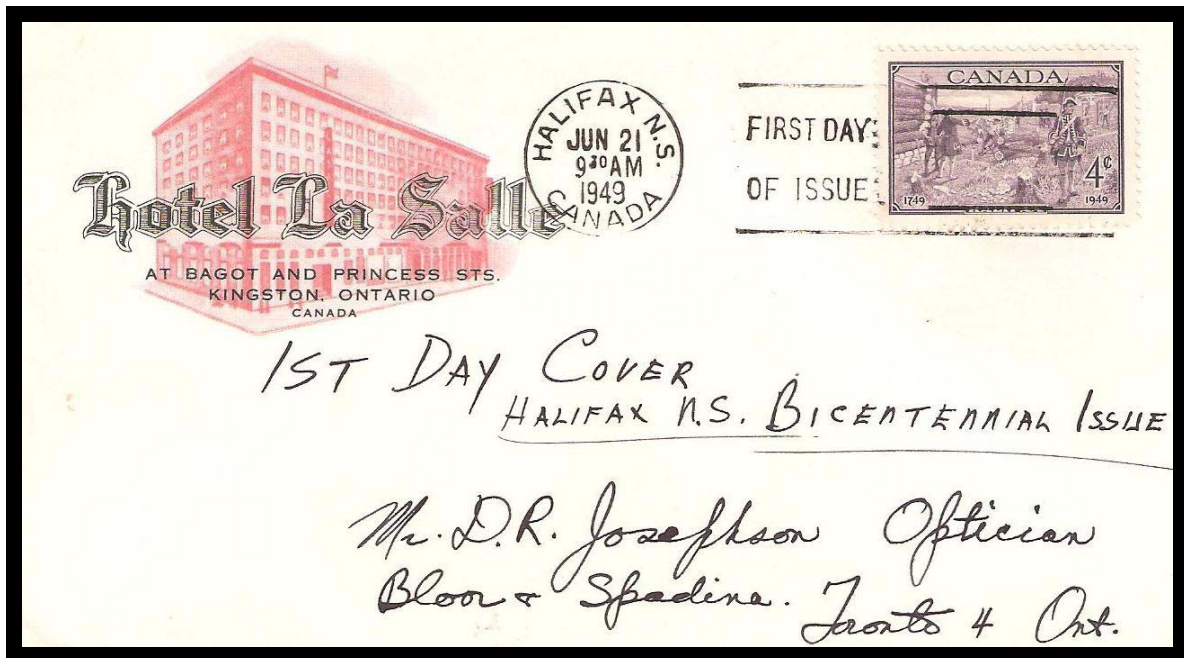


FDC No.: 283.995.01

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: Here is a Hotel La Salle advertising cover with a hand-written message, "1st DAY COVER/ HALIFAX N.S. BICENTENNIAL ISSUE." It is an example of a business envelope with hand-written first day message.

Photo:

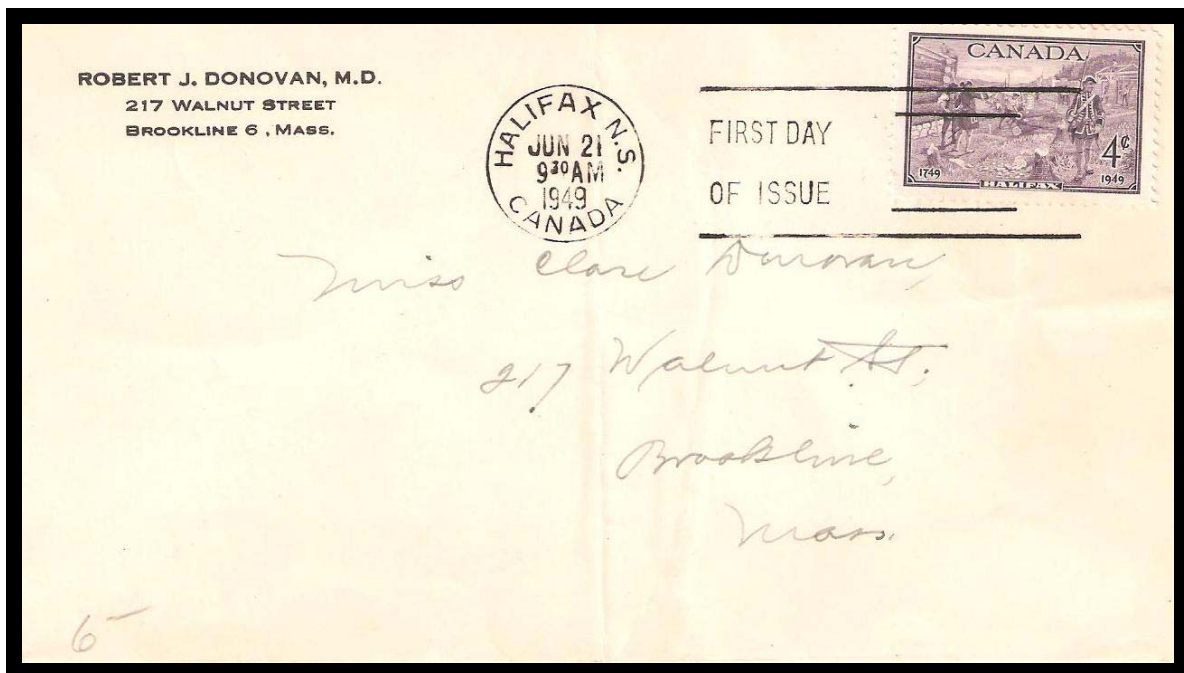


FDC No.: 283.996.01

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This corner card is an example of an uncacheted FDC showing only the first day cancellation with no other reference to the event.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.998

Cachet By: J. C. Houston

Description: Here is an example of a cover for personal correspondence with a hand-written "First day of issue" message.

Photo:



FDC No.: 283.999

Cachet By: Unknown

Description: This personal-use envelope has only the Halifax first day of issue cancellation to identify it as a FDC.

Photo:

