

The Philatelic Creation

REV. NATHAN

BY GORDON SMITH

As a collector of the postal history of Port Hood and Port Hood Island in Nova Scotia, I have come across a number of covers that have a similar look and feel. Some of the connections are obvious, others require small guesses, and some involve larger assumptions.

The most obvious common thread is the number of covers that are addressed to Rev. N. Cole (see Figure 1), N. Cole (see Figure 2 to 4), and Cole Stamps and Covers (see Figure 5). The latter four covers have his address professionally printed, indicating that they are some kind of return envelope that Rev. Cole would mail to himself or send to others to return to him.

The second most obvious thread connecting some of these covers is the use of the bisected air mail etiquettes which appear on the First Flight cover addressed to Rev. N. Cole dated 3 Jan. 1941 (see Figure 1), the Registered cover from Port Hood Island to N. Cole in Port Hood with the professionally printed address dated 1 Jul. 1942 (see Figure 3), and the First Day Cover from Port Hood Island to Glasgow, Scotland dated 1 Jul. 1942 (see Figure 6).

The next thread connecting these covers is the return address provided in the upper left corner of Figure 6: Box 55, Port Hood, Nova Scotia. This printed return address also appears on the cover in Figure 6 as well as the one in Figure 7, a registered envelope from Port Hood to St. John, NB dated 21 Jan. 1941.



Top-Bottom: Figures 1 - 5.



Figure 6.

tions of

DANIEL COLE

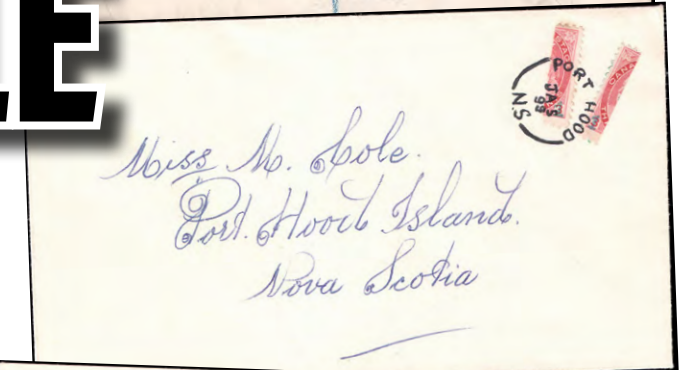


Figure 7.

Top-Bottom: Figures 8 - 12.

trations. The stylized writing is similar to the addressing on Rev. Cole's professionally printed envelopes (see Figures 2 to 4). Figure 10 is a reproduction of the other type of the Port Hood Provisional stamp in the exact same style as that is Figure 9.

The Rev. Nathaniel Cole was the United Church minister in Port Hood, NS from 1940 until 1944, the period during which all the Port Hood and Port Hood Island-related covers illustrated in the article were created. Curious about the creator of these covers, wondering where else he may have served and created other philatelic covers, I reached out to the United Church Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council and Regional Council 15 Archives in Sackville, NB. The archives were a wealth of information, providing me with his obituary, an obituary of his son who died in 1944, Rev. Cole's Attestation Paper related to his services in World War I, and various sources listing the charges in which he served.

From these sources, I learned that Nathaniel Cole was born in Victoria, Carbonear, Newfoundland on 22 November 1888. He was received on trial as a Methodist minister in Britannia Cove NL in 1911, Carmanville NL in 1912, and Glovertown NL in 1913. He then attended Victoria College in Toronto before serving in the First World War with the 9th Field Ambulance in France and Belgium from 1916 to 1918. Upon return from the war, he was ordained in Trinity NL in 1919 and served in the church in:

New Aberdeen NS from 1920 to 1921

La Have NS from 1922 to 1926

Springhill NS from 1927 to 1929

Onslow NS from 1930 to 1931

Red Bank NB from 1932 to 1935

Granville Ferry NS from 1936 to 1939

Port Hood from 1940 to 1943

Renfrew ON from 1944 to 1946

Rawdon ON from 1946 to 1947

Hastings ON from 1948 to 1954 and

Windsor from 1954 to 1967

In 1968, he retired to London ON where he passed away in 1977.

Seeking more information on the philatelic pursuits of Rev. Cole, a rapid search of the internet turned up a number of interesting covers and references. Figure 11 is a first day cover for the Coronation issue of 1937 mailed from Parker's Cove NS that has a professionally printed address to Rev. N. Cole in Granville Ferry. Figure 12, also a first day cover for the Coronation issue of 1937, with a very similar cachet, is postmarked Granville Ferry and addressed to Miss M.I. Cole in the same community; note that the philatelic reproduction of the Port Hood Provisional cover in Figure 9 is addressed to a Miss M. Cole as well. The illustrations of these covers were obtained from the First Day Cover Monographs of Gary Dickinson. Dickinson also mentions a FDC similar to Figure 12 that has two additional lines of italic text at the top reading, "Coronation/ May 12th, 1937". The address is printed in the same colour as the cachet, suggesting that Rev. N. Cole produced it.

Figure 13, also obtained from Dickinson First Day Cover Monographs which indicates that it "is a second-generation



Figure 13.

scan from a photocopy", illustrates a first day cover of the Citizenship issue of 1947 addressed to Rev. N. Cole in Stirling Ont.

The cover from 1940, illustrated in Figure 14 is addressed to Lloyd Cole in Annapolis Royal re-directed to Granville Ferry and contains a bisect of the 2 cent postage due stamp, the bisect being a signature of the Rev. Cole. The author of the article, Gib Wallace, states that this is a "contrived cover by Mr. Cole of Granville Ferry, ... a stamp dealer of repute during the thirties and forties." He goes on to say that the Rev. Cole "obviously posted a few of these to himself across the river knowing them to be sent back and the Granville Ferry postmaster, by agreement, would use bi-sected 2 cent stamps."

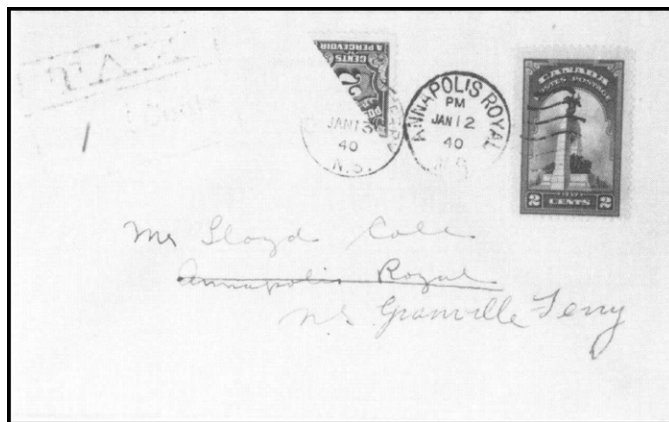


Figure 14.

The cover illustrated in Figure 15, which is for sale by City Stamp in Montreal, was postmarked in Terra Nova NL on 23 December 1939 and sent to Granville Ferry NS on 23 December 1939, the period during which Rev. Cole was resident in that community. This cover has the look and feel of a philatelic creation, given the use of a four 1¢ stamps from the Newfoundland Royal family issue of 1897 (Scott 79) and a bisect of the 3¢ stamp from the 1890 Discovery of Newfoundland issue (Scott 63) overpaying the 5¢ rate to Canada by ½¢. The handwriting is similar to that in Figure 6 (look at the 'M' of 'Mr.' on each cover and 'N' of 'N.B.' and 'N.S.'). Terra Nova is about 25km as the crow flies from Glovertown and the two communities are connected by rail, so it is con-



Figure 15.

ceivable that Rev. Cole was visiting friends or relatives in the area, although it seems unusual that a Minister would be away from his church around Christmas time.

While I have not found any other covers after 1947, the Rev. Cole appears to have remained active in his philatelic pursuits. A letter to the editor from Bob Woodall in *BNA Topics* issue 225 in 1964 mentions three Eastern Arctic Patrol covers from 1948, two addressed to the Rev. N. Cole in Hastings, Ontario, and the third addressed in the same hand to someone in England. A letter to the editor from M.W. Carstairs in *Maple Leaves*, the Journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain, issue 48 of 1957 indicates that the Rev. N. Cole provided him with some information on the Labrador T.P.O. cancellation of the Newfoundland 1890 3¢ stamp. *Maple Leaves*, issue 129 of 1971, supplies a street address correction for the Rev. N. Cole, but unfortunately does not provide a town name.

I am interested in hearing about any more information or similar covers to or from Rev. Cole of which people might be aware. Please contact me at gs@postalhistory.ca. ☐

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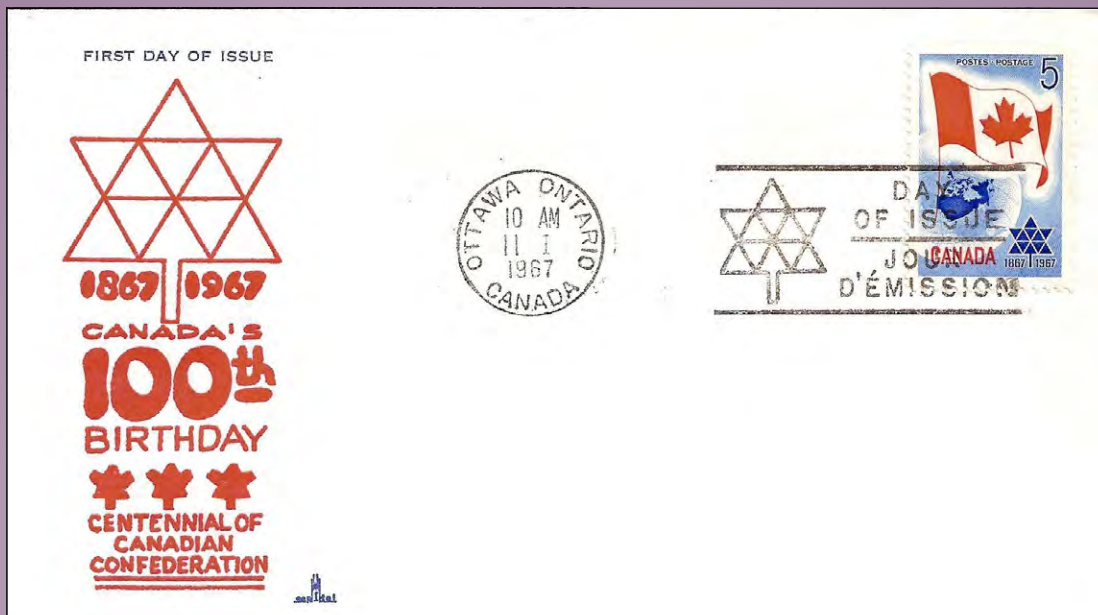


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