

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## October 2024



*Scott #5140a*

### Notes from our club meetings:

BIRMPEX 2024, September 13 & 14 at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights was moderately successful for our club, but overshadowed by the loss of long-time club member Christopher Crossley.



*Chris Crossley*

Chris was a member of the Birmingham Stamp Club, the Detroit Philatelic Society, and the American Philatelic Society. He will be missed.

### Upcoming events:

Club meetings - October 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at NEXT Senior Center. October 15<sup>th</sup> is our annual club banquet, 6:00 p.m. at Shield's Pizzeria, 1476 West Maple Road, Troy. Call Dana at 248.227.0956 for more information.

### Upcoming Events -

Motor City Stamp & Cover Club – Motopex 2024, October 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, at Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights.

Kent Philatelic Society, Kentpex, October 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, at the American Legion Post in Walker.

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction #523, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at their Oak Park facility.

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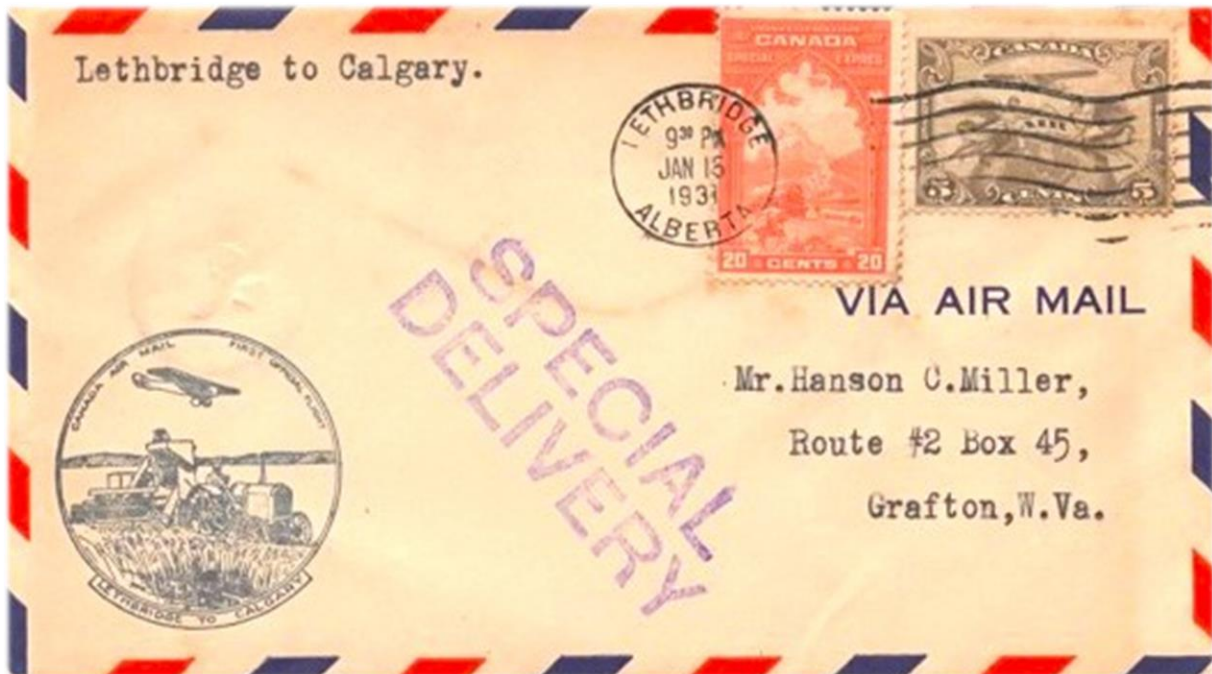
Ken Rusch, President  
Fred Como, Vice-President  
Phil Kwasny, Secretary  
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer  
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer  
Michael Swope, Editor

# Canadian Special Delivery Covers Attract Attention

Walter Koster

Two Canadian First Flight Covers (FFCs) recently caught my eye. Both were issued prior to July 1942, when Canadian airmail and special delivery services became available as a single, combined postal service. Each attracted my attention because of the special delivery stamps that frank them.

Special delivery service was introduced on July 1, 1898, “within city limits” in fourteen major cities across Canada. For a pre-paid fee of 10¢ plus the normal letter rate, postage was delivered by special messenger from the destination post office directly to the addressee. Actual hours were dictated by local circumstances. More cities were soon added and the special delivery rate increased to 20¢ in August 1922.



The first cover (above) is franked with Canada’s first air mail stamp, the 5¢ brown olive “Winged Figures over Globe” (Scott C1), and an orange 20¢ “Mail Transportation” (Scott E3) special delivery stamp, which is widely recognized as one of Canada’s most attractive early postage stamps. Beautifully designed, engraved, and printed by the Canadian Bank Note Company, it was released in conjunction with the Confederation Commemorative Issues of 1927. As the first and only Canadian special delivery stamp in vertical format, it artfully depicts five stages of mail transportation in Canada. The five stages, seen through a rising Gothic arcade, include a mounted mail courier, a dog-train, an express train, an ocean liner and two biplanes.

This cover, identified as #3101 in *Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, published by the American Air Mail Society, was issued to announce the addition of Lethbridge to the Regular Prairie Service route connecting Winnipeg, Manitoba, with Calgary, Alberta.

Front postal markings include a “Lethbridge, Alberta, 9:30 PM, January 15, 1931” circular cancel and seven wavy line machine cancel, with “Special Delivery” boldly hand-stamped diagonally over the face of the envelope.

The second cover (below) is franked with a 6¢ red brown “Daedalus in Flight” (Scott C5) air mail stamp and a red and blue 16¢ “Great Seal of United States” (Scott CE2) special delivery stamp issued by the United States Post Office.



The cover is the result of a 1923 agreement by Canada and the United States to recognize each other's special delivery stamps and provide reciprocal services. Mailers could put their own country's stamp on the envelope, and special delivery service would begin at the border. First-class postage was also required and, as this cover demonstrates, U.S. special delivery stamps were also made available at postal offices in major Canadian cities, and Canadian special delivery stamps made available in major U.S. cities. The difference in rates (20¢ in Canada versus 16¢ in the U.S.) caused little concern at that time. Canada later lowered its rate to 10¢ in March 1939, and the U.S. followed suit in April 1939.

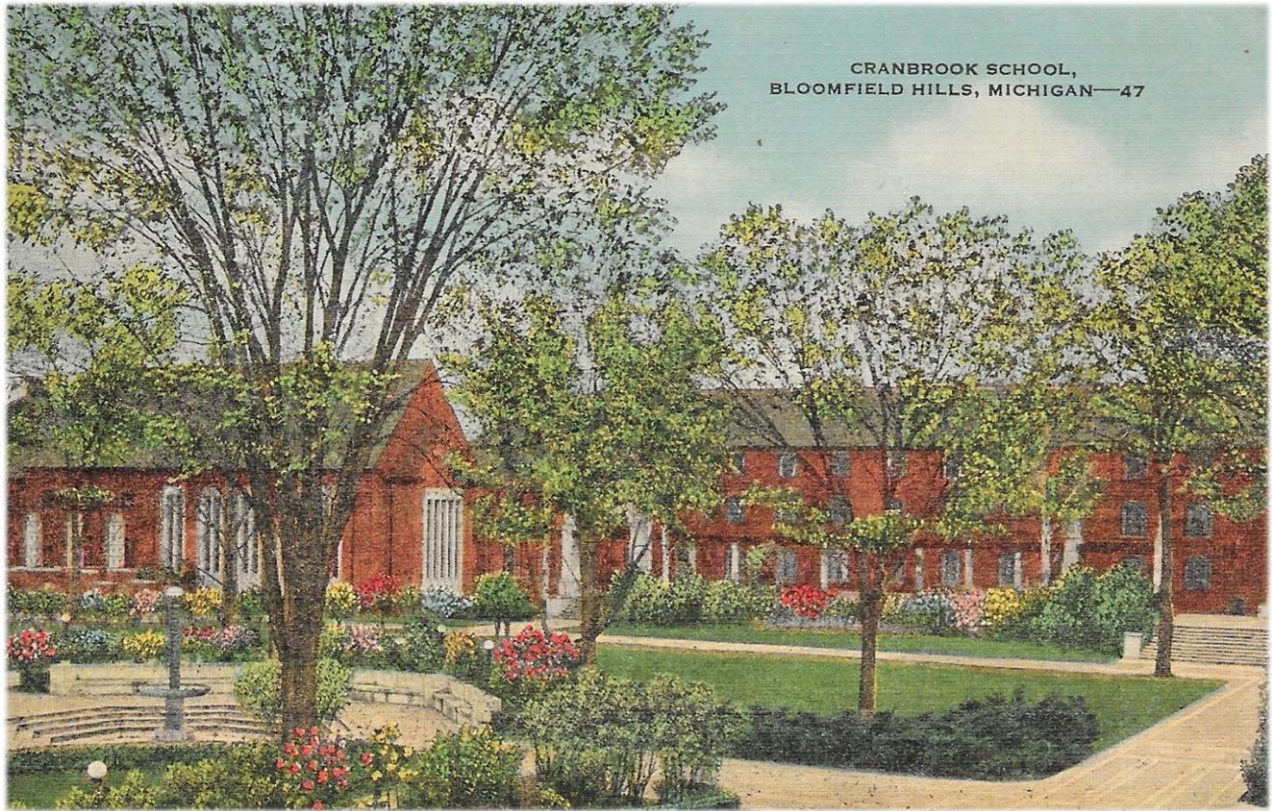
The cover was issued to announce the extension of U.S. Air Mail Route No. 1 from Boston, Massachusetts, and Burlington, Vermont, to Montreal, Quebec, and return. The front displays a “Montreal, Canada, 9 AM, 10 AU, 37” circular cancel. *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, identifies this cover as #3721b.

Ref: Covers from Author's collection; *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, published by the American Air Mail Society; A Chronology of Canadian Postal History, <https://www.historymuseum.ca>; Canada – US Reciprocal Agreement for Special Delivery Service, <https://bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2017/documents/Exh18>; Canadian Philately – An Outline, <https://bnaps.org/ore/Burnett-CanadianPhilatelyOutline>



# Cranbrook School

Michael Swope



This (c. 1945) “Natural Color Postcard” by E. C. Kropp of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and published by Dean Brothers of Pontiac, Michigan, features the Cranbrook School, a college preparatory boarding and day school for boys in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

In 1915, George and Ellen Booth opened a portion of their 319-acre Oakland County property to the general public with the construction of a small Greek Theatre. In 1918, the Booths built the *Meeting House*, which became the Bloomfield Hills School in 1922. Subsequently, the Booths decided to build the Cranbrook School for Boys which began operations in 1927. The name “Cranbrook” was chosen since Cranbrook, England was the birthplace of George Booth's father. Today, *Cranbrook Schools* is a premier, private PK-12 educational institution, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989.



The postcard is franked with the 3¢, light violet, Thomas Jefferson postage stamp (Scott # 807) and CDS cancelled at Mount Vernon, Ohio, on October 10, 1947.

Ref: Postcard from Author's collection;  
[Cranbrook Schools.edu](http://CranbrookSchools.edu)