

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## August 2024

From mighty canyons and snow-capped volcanoes to redwood forests and salt-sprayed beaches, we celebrate our sixty-three National Parks during the month of August.



*Scott #C138 (Acadia National Park)*

Notes from our club meetings:

Preparation continues for BIRMPEX 2024, September 13 & 14 at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights. Volunteers to work the greeting desk should contact VP Fred Como. We will “stuff envelopes” with show flyers at our August 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting.

The annual club dinner will again be held at Shields Restaurant in Troy (Maple Road at Crooks) on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Price is \$16 per person.

Upcoming events:

Club meetings – August 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. Meetings are currently held in room #4 at the rear of the senior center

Modern Stamps Sale #521, at their Oak Park facility on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 12:00 Noon.

Allen Park Stamp Club Show, August 10<sup>th</sup>, at Sokol Cultural Center, Dearborn Heights, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

American Philatelic Society's Great American Stamp Show, August 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, Convention Center, 100 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

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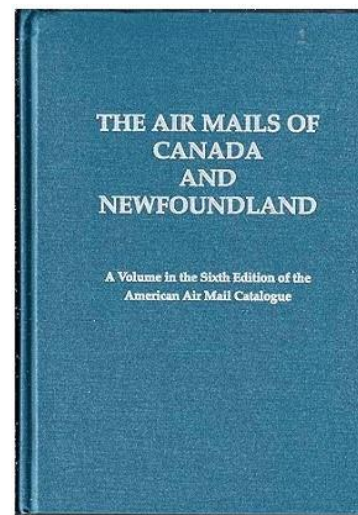
Ken Rusch, President  
Fred Como, Vice-President  
Phil Kwasny, Secretary  
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer  
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer  
Michael Swope, Editor

# Canadian First Flight Cover Resources

Walter Koster

Canadian First Flight Covers (FFCs) have always fascinated me. Maybe I simply admire the bravery of those daring young men who risked their lives in primitive flying machines delivering mail at difficult to reach points in Canada's vast landscape?

A hard-bound copy of *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*, published by the American Air Mail Society (AAMS), has been my "go to" resource for information about flights, pilots, and airlines. A searchable PDF version is also available.<sup>1</sup> Both include a sequential index of Canadian first flights from 1926 to 1997 and Newfoundland first flights from 1919 to 1947. Newfoundland was a separate country and issued its own stamps until 1949, when it became the tenth Province of Canada. Noteworthy additional listings include pioneer and semi-official flights; crash, balloon, and helicopter covers; and an alphabetical list of all pilots who carried mail in, through, to, and from Canada between 1912 and 1952, some of whom gave their lives providing this aerial service.



Canada's first flights are listed chronologically using the four-digit American Air Mail Catalog (AAMC) numbering system. Listings typically include the departure point, individual legs of the flight, and the destination; the airline, pilot or pilots, and plane type; and the number of official letters carried over each leg of the flight. Graphics of official cachets authorized by the Post Office are also included.

The online site *Aerodacious* is aptly named to honor the audacious exploits of the brave pilots of that time. The home page provides easy access to a searchable index of Contract Air Mail (CAM) and Foreign Air Mail (FAM) First Flights, U.S. Jet First Flights, U.S. Government First Flights, Canadian First Flights, and U. S. Airport Dedications.<sup>2</sup> Canadian First Flights from 1840 to 1950 are color-coded to distinguish Pioneer First Flights (pink), Semi-Official & Special First Flights (purple), Air Mail First Flights (yellow), and Air Stage First Flights (light blue).

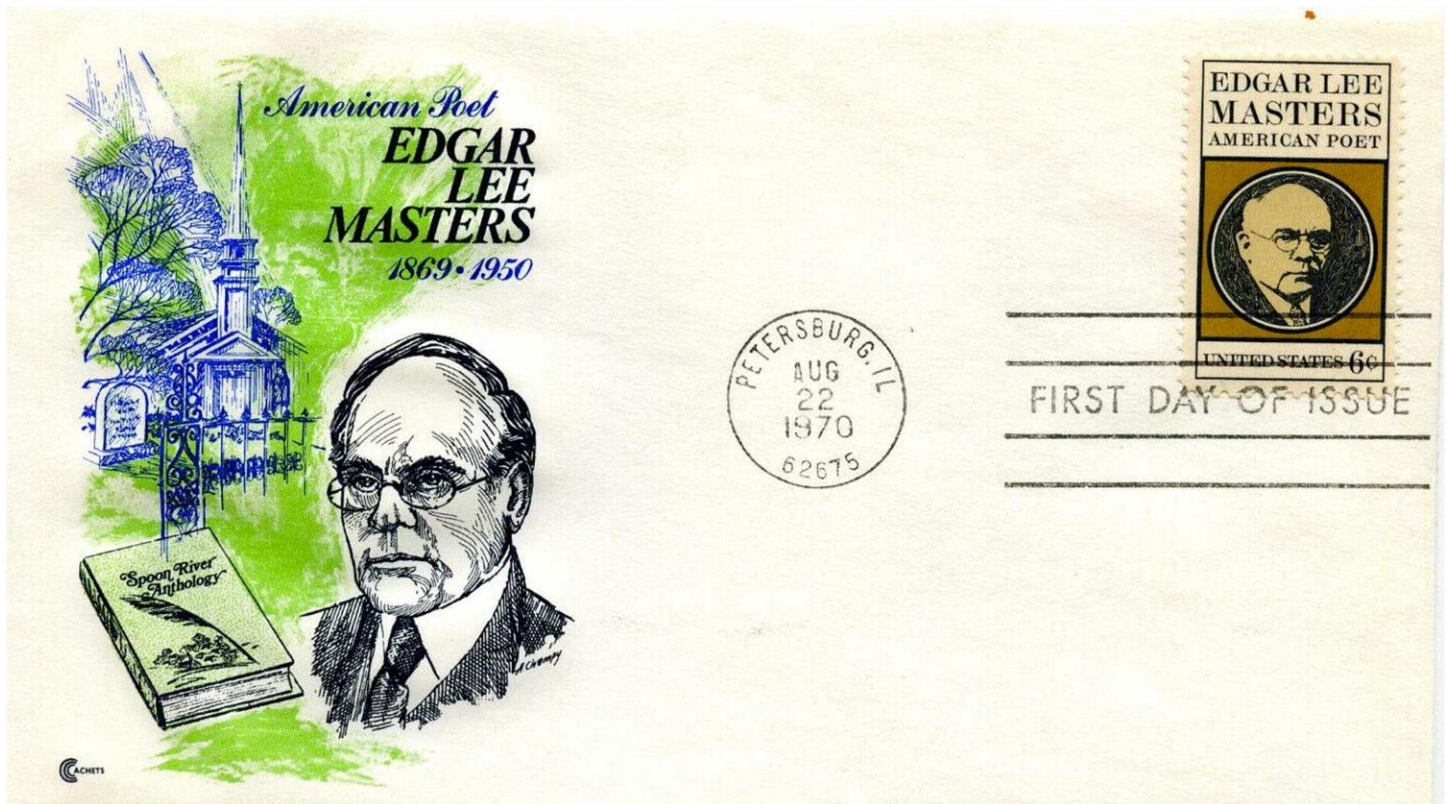
Take time to visit and bookmark the online version of *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* and *Aerodacious*. Each offers a wealth of information and hours of enjoyment. A visit to the Canadian Aerophilatelic Society (CAS) web site at is also time well spent.<sup>3</sup>

## References:

1. *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland*  
<https://www.americanairmailssociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/AMCN1-complete.pdf>
2. *Aerodacious*, <http://www.aerodacious.com>
3. *The Canadian Aerophilatelic Society*, <http://aerophilately.ca>

# Spoon River Anthology

Michael Swope



Featured here is a “Cover Craft Cachets” company (Paterson, New Jersey), First Day of Issue, Edgar Lee Masters commemorative cover and postage stamp from the American Poet Series. The 6¢, black and olive bister postage stamp, Scott #1405, was issued on August 22, 1970.

Edgar Lee Masters (1869-1950) was born in Garnett, Kansas. Later, his family moved to Lewistown, Illinois, where during his boyhood, he worked as a reporter, printer’s helper and verse writer for magazines. He abandoned his love of literature for the study of law at his father’s insistence and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1891.

In his leisure time, Masters resumed his writing career, penning articles for Chicago newspapers, authoring plays, and composing poetry. His most highly regarded effort was “Spoon River Anthology”, a chronicle of the musings of residents in a cemetery in the fictional town of Spoon River, Illinois. Each speaking from the grave about their lives, loves, and losses.

Masters revealed in his autobiography that he had created the anthology while vacationing in Spring Lake, Michigan, near the Grand Haven harbor. Many of Masters’ works were penned in Michigan during summer holidays between 1903 and 1921.

Ref:

Cover from Author’s collection

Michigan History, Volume 95, Number 3, May/June, 2011