

THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE

The British North America

Philatelic Society

Dead Letter Office

Study Group

Newsletter

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Recent DLO Affairs:

Please excuse the long delays between issues of the Dead Letter Office Newsletter. We are hoping to get out between 2 and 3 issues a year from now on no matter how long or short.

To catch up, last year's BNAPEX convention in Fredericton was a definite success from most points of view. We had 158 registered frames of material in competition. Approximately 15 dealers were on hand had more material to help empty most pocketbooks.

However, no one showed up for the DLO Study Group meeting as it conflicted with another meeting. In spite of this, we will continue with another issue and help promote the collecting of Dead Letter Office material in other ways.

The Calgary Convention in 2017 was also a very good show with approximately 110 frames of exhibits and approximately 20 dealers. We did have five members come in to the DLO Study Group meeting to discuss the activities in the last few years. Here's hoping to more growth in the future.

Editor's Comments

I have included in this issue the final installment of Brian Plain's *The Victoria Post Office and Undeliverable Mail 1874 – 1925*.

Pages 7 to 8 show the announcement of the closing of the Sydney UMO with all mail to be handled by the Scarborough Ontario UMO from now on.

Also included are three more articles on new or interesting handstamps from across the country.

**The Victoria
Post Office Part 4**



*The Canadian Dead Letter
Office Study Group*

The Canadian Dead Letter Office Study Group comes under the sponsorship of The British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS)

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Chairman's Desk

Another year has passed and there has been little new activity on which to report. The study of the Dead Letter Office (DLO) in Canada is, sadly, hampered by a lack of available material and by a dearth of interested collectors. At recent national shows, Gary has spoken to a variety of people about the topic but the issue of how to generate more interest in the topic remains. We must find ways by which we can enhance our profile. Articles in the national and international philatelic journals may arouse the interest of some collectors and more focused articles in local philatelic publications have the potential to do the same. This is particularly true if the hometown had a DLO whose cancels add to the local postal story. One of the problems faced by all collectors is the question of where to position material in their collection. DLO markings are generally found on items collected and displayed for their more dramatic elements: rates, scarce postal markings, stamp usage, destinations, handstamps and route markings, thus the DLO component becomes lost in the story. Encouraging exhibitors to elaborate upon the DLO component of their covers to enhance their write-up would draw attention, and hopefully the interest, of the viewer.

I encourage each collector with even a passing interest in the subject to examine their collection for DLO markings and to report them to either Gary or me, preferably with a scan of the item and its dimensions. I hope that 2018 will see a growing interest in this field and that our study-group will be able to grow and become more active.

Recent Auction & Sale Listings

In Eastern Auctions most recent sale on Oct 28th 2016 lot #228 is an OX2a 1902 Officially Sealed Queen Victoria imperforate pair on Thick Blue Wove Paper. Sheet margin at foot with full margins on all sides. Estimate is at \$6500.

I am not aware of the sheet layout or pane layout for these labels as some call them.

The last installment of Brian Plain's

'The Victoria Post Office and Undeliverable Mail 1874 – 1925'

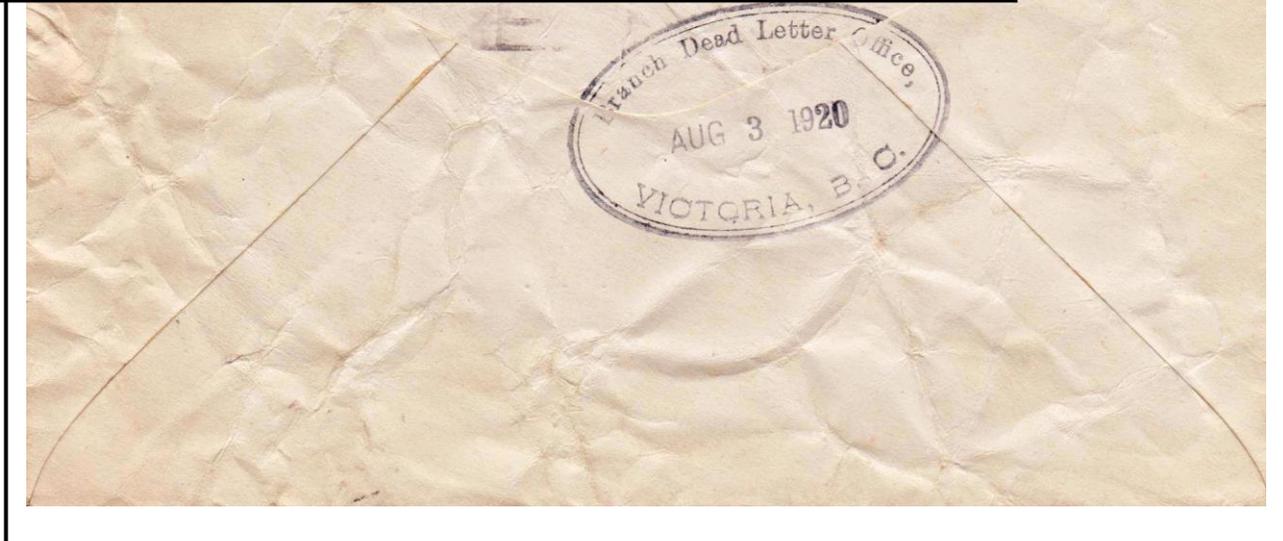
The Late Period

1913 to 1925

By 1919, another oval date stamp appears in use in Victoria, although it is not found in the proof books. This marking demonstrates lettering of mixed size and case, and full serifs.



Mailed from W. Vancouver March 20 1919, this card was undelivered. It received an advice marking before it was sent to the Dead Letter Office to be returned to the sender.

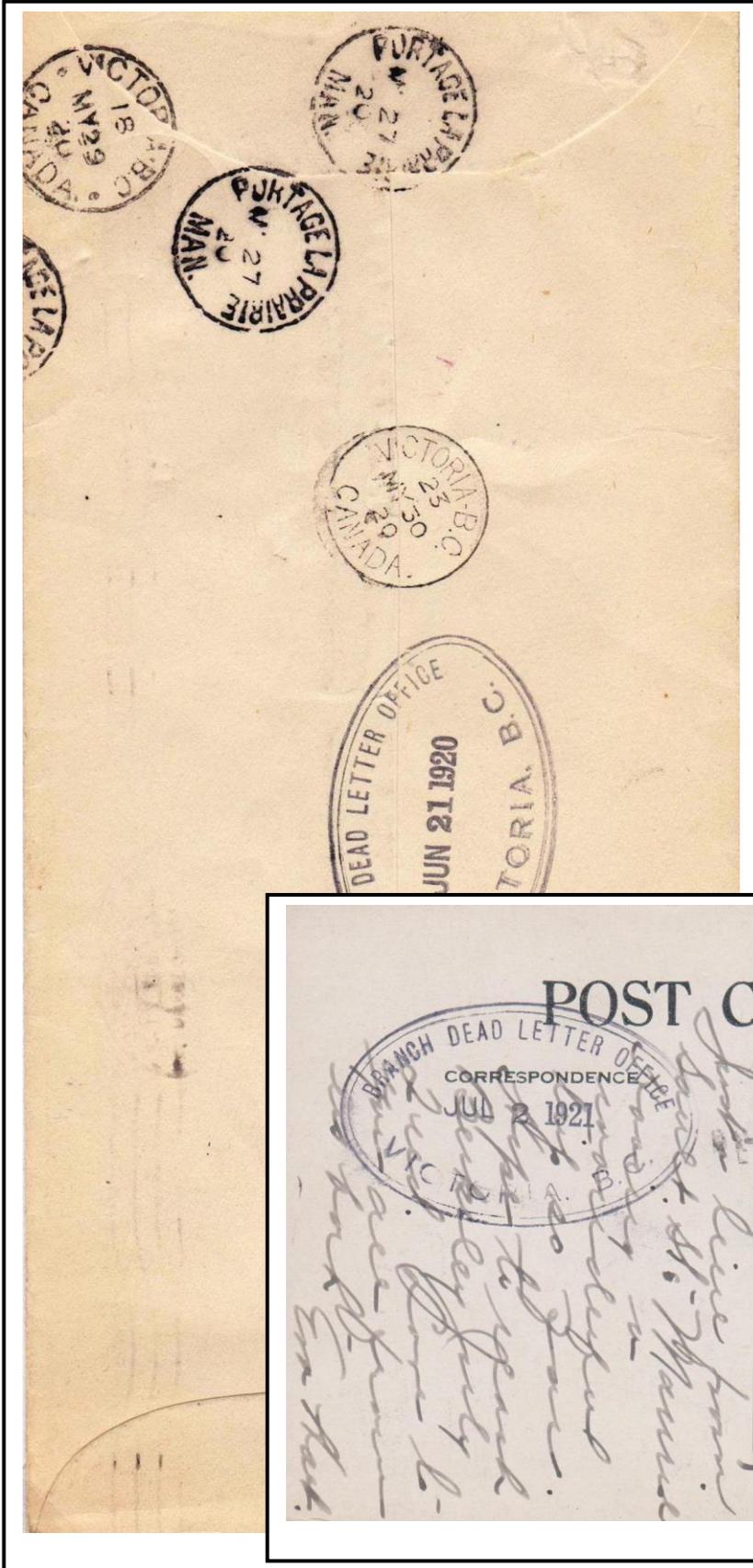


This cover was mailed at Victoria on July 31 1920. Addressed to 'Lot 3 Highland District, Victoria', it failed of delivery and three separate advice markings were applied before it was sent to the Dead Letter Office. These were:

**RETURNED FOR / BETTER DIRECTION
PLEASE HAVE YOUR MAIL/DIRECTED TO STREET AND NUMBER
Outside Letter Carrier's Delivery / Victoria, B.C.**

The Late Period

1913 to 1925



The final date stamp used by the Dead Letter Office in Victoria was proofed on February 8, 1919. It is a large, crisp, double oval with mixed-size, sans-serif letters.

This registered cover from Portage La Prairie Manitoba to Victoria was *NOT CALLED FOR*. It was so marked and sent to the Dead Letter Office where it was date stamped on arrival on June 21 1920.

The postcard shown below bears a similar date stamp.

Sent from Sault Ste. Marie Ontario to Berkley California and bearing American postage stamps, this card should have been sent to the Dead Letter Office in Vancouver. Instead it was sent to Victoria where the Dead Letter Office did the necessary processing and collection of due postage before forwarding the cover to the addressee on July 22 1921.



The Late Period

1913 to 1925

During this final period of the Dead Letter Office in Victoria, a unique, undated, instructional handstamp is known from this office. Although of unknown origin, it is similar to a marking from Winnipeg that appears in the proof book.

The handstamp is a pointing finger with the wording RETURN / TO along the back of the hand, and D.L.O. / VICTORIA B.C. in the cuff. The date line is empty.



Although one might postulate that this is a damaged DEC marking, the sequence of dates precludes this conclusion.

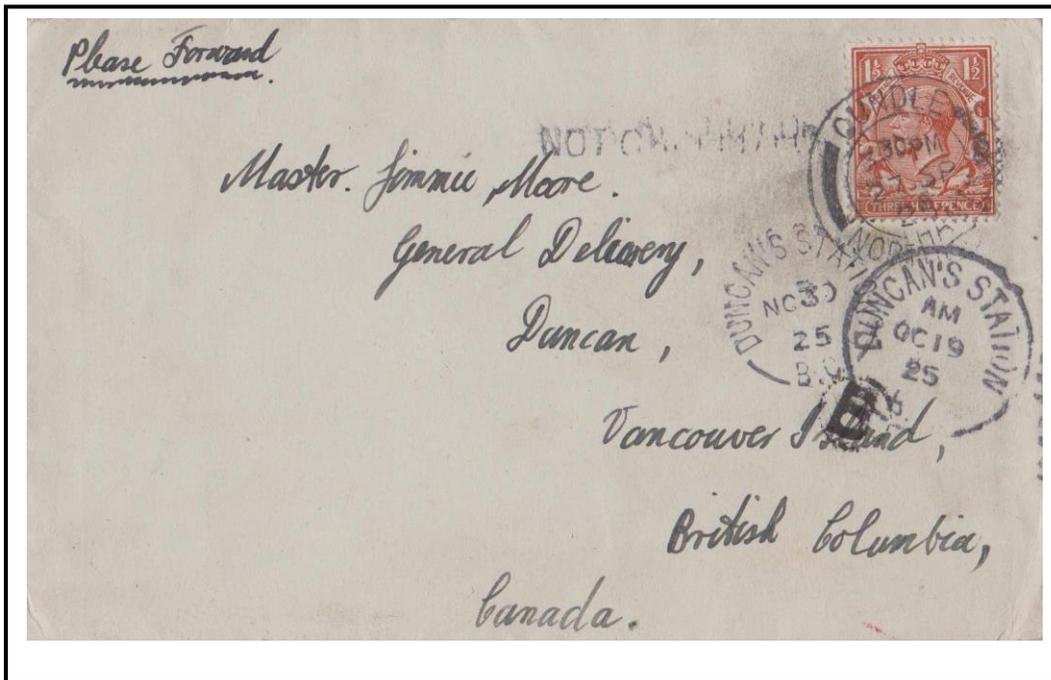
- *Victoria: November 1 1917*
- *Maywood: January 2 1918*

This cover was sent from the City of Victoria to Maywood B.C. (now in Burnaby) on November 1 1917. Undelivered, it was marked NOT CALLED FOR before being sent to the Dead Letter Office in Victoria on January 2 1918. The pointing finger handstamp was applied at this office, the marking on the front directing the postman to the reverse of the cover where a second impression points to the City of Victoria insignia.

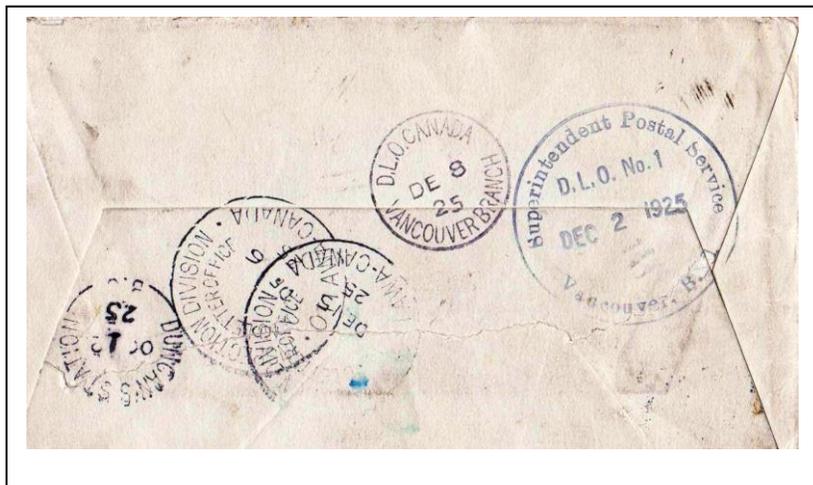
The End of the Story

1925

In the mid-1920s, a postal reorganization resulted in the closure of the Branch Dead Letter Office in Victoria and the transfer of all its functions to the Branch Dead Letter Office in Vancouver. This meant that all mail originating from Vancouver Island or addressed to Vancouver Island that failed of delivery was no longer processed there. The cover shown below illustrates this new situation and confirms the end of the Dead Letter Office in Victoria.



This cover was mailed at Oundle, Northamptonshire, England on September 17 1925. Addressed to Duncan, Vancouver Island, it arrived on October 19. Held until November 30 it was marked NOT CALLED FOR and sent to the Branch Dead Letter Office in Vancouver for processing. It was received on December 2, 1925 by clerk No.1. On December 8, 1925 it was forwarded to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa where it arrived on December 15. The following day it was returned to the British postal authorities for return to sender.



*Superintendent Postal Service / D,L,O.
No.1 / Vancouver, B.C.*

DEC 2 1925

*D.L.O. CANADA / VANCOUVER
BRANCH / DE 8 / 25*

INSPECTION DIVISION / DEAD LETTER

Scarborough Undeliverable Mail Office – Transition from Sydney UMO

In 2012 the North Sydney, N. S. UMO was closed. All undeliverable mail effective November 5, 2012 is to be sent to the Scarborough UMO.

Something new All post offices outside of Ontario

Effective immediately undeliverable mail from all post offices outside of Ontario must be sent to the Scarborough Undeliverable Mail Office (UMO)

Up until now, all post offices outside of Ontario have been sending their undeliverable mail to the North Sydney UMO in Nova Scotia, while offices in Ontario are sending their undeliverable mail to the UMO located in Scarborough Ontario.

In order to maximize our capabilities across the mail network, increase efficiencies and manage rising costs, all services provided by the UMO in North Sydney have been moved to the Scarborough UMO facility in Ontario. The consolidation of UMO activities into one centralized unit will better suit the company's operational needs.

Effective immediately, all post offices outside of Ontario **must** send their undeliverable mail to the Scarborough UMO using the enclosed tags (34-099-552). There is no change to the current process only the destination of the undeliverable mail.

Upon receipt of these new tags:

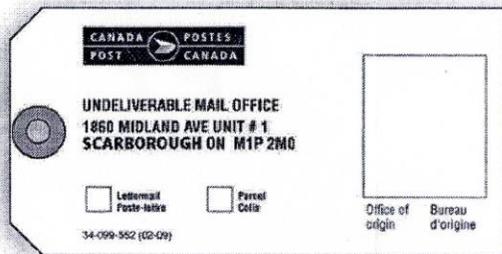
- Start to use the *Scarborough UMO tags*; and
- Destroy any *North Sydney UMO tags* (34-099-592) you have on hand.

Ordering information for additional supply of tags

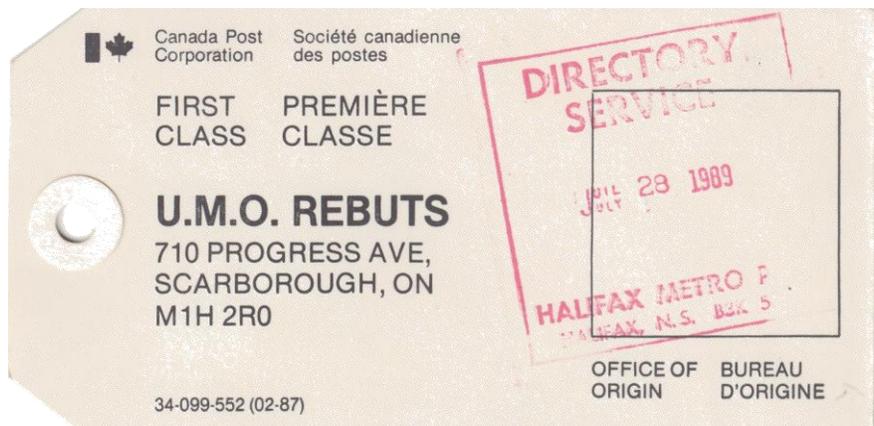
Corporate post offices	Authorized Dealer post offices
33-099-552 (02-09)	533099552 (02-09)

The following references will be updated accordingly:

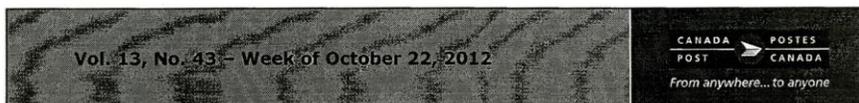
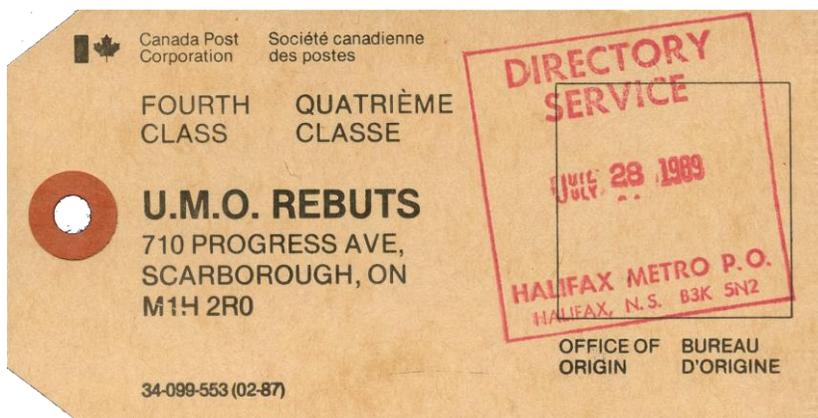
- *Corporate Manual System (CMS)/Retail Operations Manual (ROM) procedure 1618.01/D – Return to Sender and Undeliverable Mail item in a post office*
- *CMS procedure 1611.02 – Undeliverable or Non-Mailable Items found in the Mail Stream*
- *CMS/ROM procedure 1603.03/D – Damaged Mail at Post Offices*



**First Class matter
UMO REBUTS
TAG used by the
Directory Service Department
Halifax Metro PO**



**Fourth Class matter
UMO REBUTS
TAG used by the
Directory Service Department
Halifax Metro PO**



Post offices outside of Ontario

Consolidation of Undeliverable Mail Handling Into One Facility on November 5

Effective November 5, undeliverable mail from all post offices outside of Ontario must be sent to the Scarborough Undeliverable Mail Office (UMO)

Up until now, all post offices outside of Ontario have been sending their undeliverable mail to the North Sydney UMO in Nova Scotia, while post offices in Ontario are sending their undeliverable mail to the UMO in Scarborough Ontario.

In order to maximize our capabilities across the mail network, increase efficiencies and manage rising costs, all services provided by the UMO in North Sydney have been moved to the Scarborough UMO facility in Ontario. The consolidation of UMO activities into one centralized unit better suits the Canada Post's operational needs.

Effective November 5, all post offices outside of Ontario **must** send their undeliverable mail to the Scarborough UMO using the *Scarborough UMO tag* (34-099-552) as shown below. There is no change in the current process only the destination of undeliverable mail.



Important: A three-month supply of the *Scarborough UMO tags* will be sent to you with *InfoPost Vol. 17, No. 20* which will arrive starting approximately on November 5 or 6.

Note: Post offices should hold on to any undeliverable mail from November 5 until they get the new labels.

Post offices Type 1-3	Post offices Type 4-6
1 bundle of 50 tags	2 bundles of 50 tags

Upon receipt of these new tags:

- Start to use the *Scarborough UMO tags*; and
- Destroy any *North Sydney UMO tags* (34-099-592) you have on hand.

Ordering information for additional supply of tags

Corporate post offices	Authorized Dealer post offices
33-099-552 (02-09)	533099552 (02-09)

The following references will be updated accordingly:

- *Corporate Manual System(CMS)/Retail Operations Manual(ROM)* procedure 1618.01/D – Return to Sender and Undeliverable Mail Item in a post office
- *CMS* procedure 1611.02 – Undeliverable or Non-Mailable Items found in the Mail Stream
- *CMS/ROM* procedure 1603.03/D – Damaged Mail at Post Offices

Return to start

**BRANCH DEAD LETTER OFFICE
MAR 20 1918
MONTREAL, QUE.**

New Handstamp by Gary Steele

*Only reported copy, Montreal h/s
ERD's Toronto & Hamilton*

**LOCAL DEAD LETTER OFFICE,
MAR
22
1918
HAMILTON.
DEAD LETTER OFFICE
C
MAR 21 1918
TORONTO, ONT.**

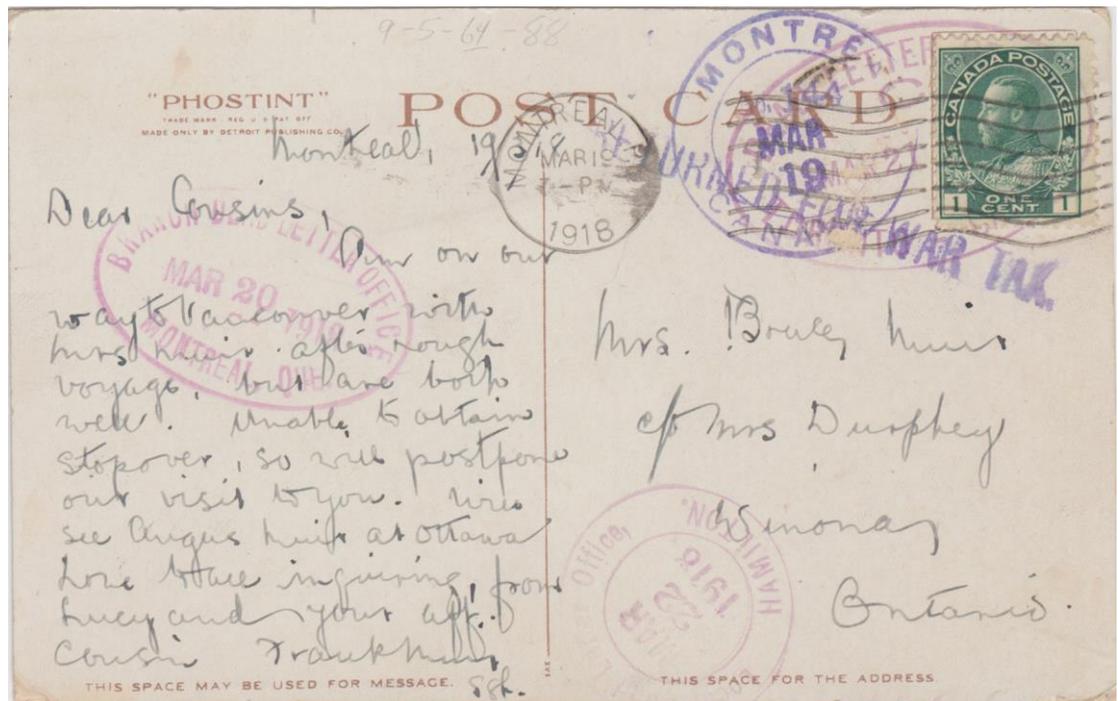
The pleasures of Postal History are that you just can't imagine what you will come across in the future. Dead Letter Office items with handstamps of two different offices occur frequently. Specimens with three different office handstamps much less.

Add to the fact that the Montreal single oval h/s was previously unknown with no proof known, and the Toronto and Hamilton handstamps are both earliest reported dates.

In addition, the Hamilton item also recently found and 1 of 2 known, has a comma after 'Office,' and a period after 'HAMILTON.'

The journey starts with an underpaid post card from Montreal, MAR 19 1918 that is **RETURNED FOR WAR TAX.**, a same date double circle h/s then a Montreal Branch DLO one day later. It appears that no payment could be received from the sender as few post cards have return addresses so it was forwarded to the addressee via the Toronto DLO Mar 21 1918 and the Hamilton Local DLO Mar 22 1918.

No additional postage for War Tax appears to have been received for this item.



DEAD LETTER OFFICE
JUN 9 1920
TORONTO, ONT.

New Handstamp by Gary Steele

Only reported copy

Sometimes you wish you could split a cover up and have it in each separate area of your collecting interest. This particular cover not only has an Only Known Copy (OKC) of a previously Only Proof Known (OPK) handstamp, but, has an excellent destination for the Admiral era to Gambia. Also of note are the official seals from London, and two different Cinderella labels attached.



“Please Rush “First Mail” “ indicates this registered cover was of some importance in communicating with Mr. S. William Droz during the Christmas season. Franked with five Admiral stamps the cover was posted on Dec 2 1919 (manuscript *Mailed 1/12/1919*). Fees totaled 10 cents: 5 cent registration fee and 3 cents for the first ounce plus 2 cents for the second ounce to a British Empire destination.

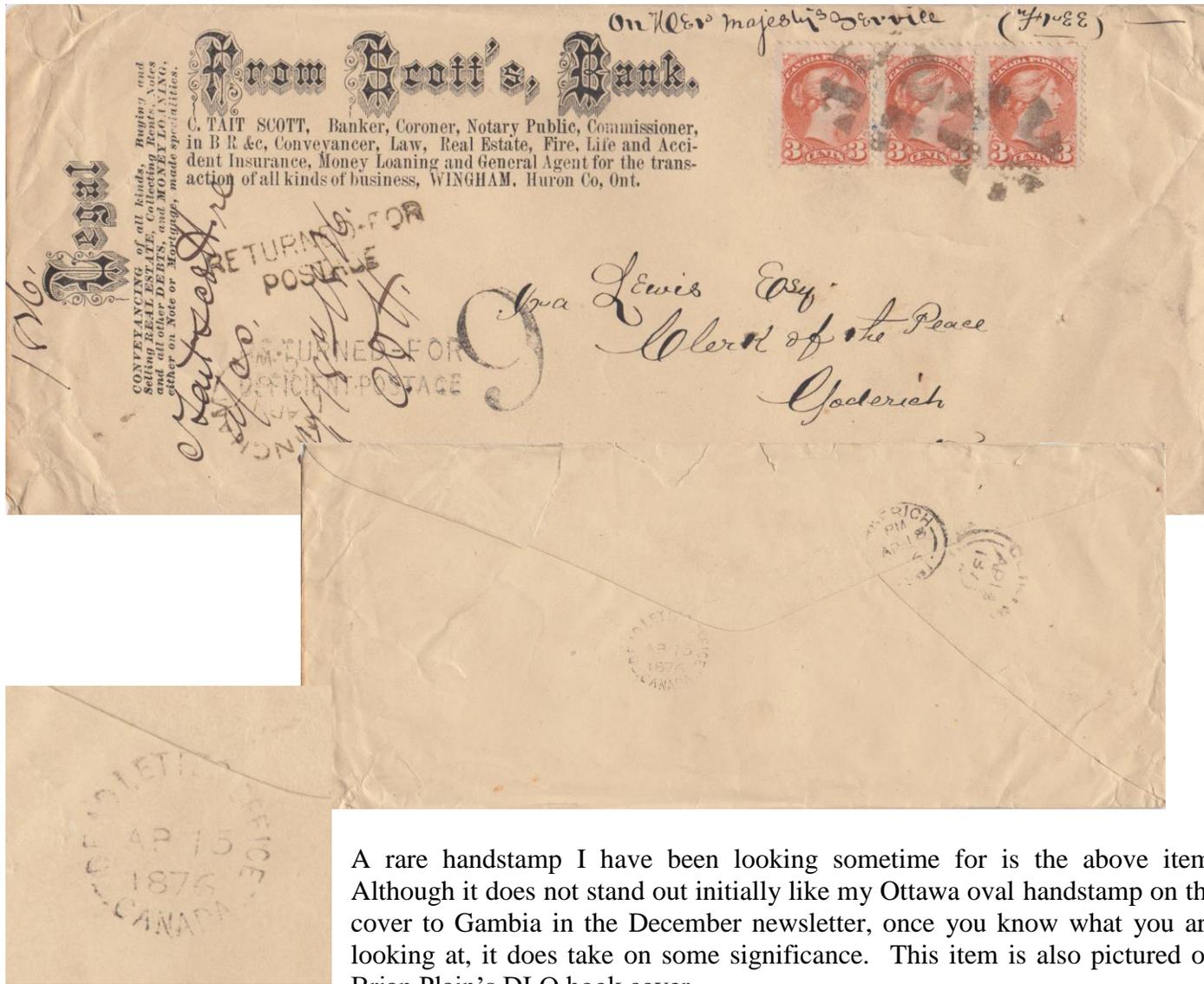
Arrival may not have taken place to Gambia until January 1920 as indicated by two Gambian handstamps. Marked *unclaimed* and *Recd in damaged condition in ...* red ink, the cover was returned to Canada via the Returned Letter Section London Postal Service per the three RLS labels (no date indicated). Seven months later the Ottawa Dead Letter Office handstamp JUN 9 1920 indicates it was examined and probably returned to the sender in a Canadian Dead Letter Office Return envelope.



**DEAD LETTER OFFICE
AP 15 1876
- CANADA -**

#16 Continuing series by Gary Steele

Latest Reported Date

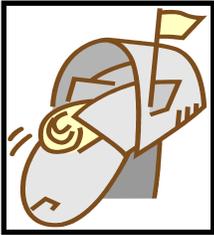


A rare handstamp I have been looking sometime for is the above item. Although it does not stand out initially like my Ottawa oval handstamp on the cover to Gambia in the December newsletter, once you know what you are looking at, it does take on some significance. This item is also pictured on Brian Plain's DLO book cover.

There are two 21mm split circle handstamps, one with dots between the words 'DEAD.LETTER.OFFICE' and one without dots 'DEAD LETTER OFFICE'. It is listed as DLOS-1 and is the Latest Reported Date (LRD). The side arcs are 2.5mm wide and all letters as usual are sans-serif and capitalized.

Originally mailed from Wingham, Ont. AP 17 1876, a fancy business cover to Goderich Ont. un-paid as assumed to be *Free On Her Majesties' Service*, RETURNED – FOR / POSTAGE and RETURNED – FOR / DEFICIENT POSTAGE imprinted with a large '9', sent to the Ottawa Dead Letter Office AP 15 1876, postage received and franked with 3 x 3 cent Small Queens, received in Goderich on AP 18 1876.

Member's Mail



We would like comments, suggestions, notes on articles, and questions posted in this section. This will be a forum for trying to use the expertise of all members. There will also be a Bulletin Board that we can use in-between newsletters to hash out certain key points and then have more concrete notes for the newsletters.



Want List and For Sale

Wanted – Documents related to the Dead Letter Office, Canada prior to 1900 bcplain@shaw.ca

For Sale - Canada covers, precancels, plate blocks and other postal history. If nothing showing in your area please email with your want list.

www.canadapostalhistorycovers.com

Wanted - DLO handstamps on cover 1954 down, Registered Ambulance/Return Letter Envelopes with Wax Seals, any DLO correspondence with handstamps and Moose Jaw Local Office. Please e-mail gwsteele57@gmail.com

Wanted – Place your ad here

Wanted – WAX SEALS from Canada Post Office
gwsteele57@gmail.com

For Sale - 1 Cent Jubilee 1897 covers with and without combinations of other stamps. Please email for list or any specific needs. Also have precancels off cover and cancelled stamps gwsteele57@gmail.com