

# DEADLINE D.L.O. NEWSLETTER

No. 1

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Treasurer: Brian Plain

Here is the first newsletter for the Dead Letter Office Study Group for members of the British North America Philatelic Society. All members are invited to join so please make a copy and spread it around.

There are too many questions to bring up in the first issue but we will try and get in as much as possible. Many sections will be included for each issue but will not have to appear in every issue. If they are, great, and if not maybe next time. As of the first issue they are as follows:

- a: Title
- b: Editor's notes.
- c: Feature article
- d: Updates
- e: This "n" That
- f: Sample cover
- g: Auction News
- h: Question Period
- i: Membership List
- j: Buy-Sell-Trade

1st Newsletter  
Give feedback to your  
hungry editor.

## FEATURE ARTICLE

Bogg's reference book lists fourteen D.L.O. handstruck stamps with the earliest known in 1851. The wording was simply **DEAD-LETTER**. The big question will be: how will we organize all the different DLO handstamps (both handstruck and machine impressions) in an orderly fashion so that each member will know where a new one will fit to indicate that we will be talking about the same items?

The key questions starting off will be related to **listing numbers, wording and type** along with other information relating to size, borders, periods of use with latest and earliest usage, ink colours etc..

There are various catalogues and handbooks out on Duplex Cancellations, R.P.O.'s, Roller Cancels and various other machine and hand cancellations that we can use to determine the most equitable, efficient and long lasting catalogue that will be used and referred to for many years on DLO handstamps.

First requirement is the **DEFINITION** of a Dead Letter Office handstamp to be included for study...ie. any postmark that contains the words "Dead, Dead Letter, Dead Letter Office, D.L.O. or equivalent french version."

Secondly, should be the separation of listings into sections. There are various ways to list all handstamps, however certain ones must be better than others. Listed below are several examples:

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1) Alphabetically | 2) Chronologically |
| By City           | 4) Type            |

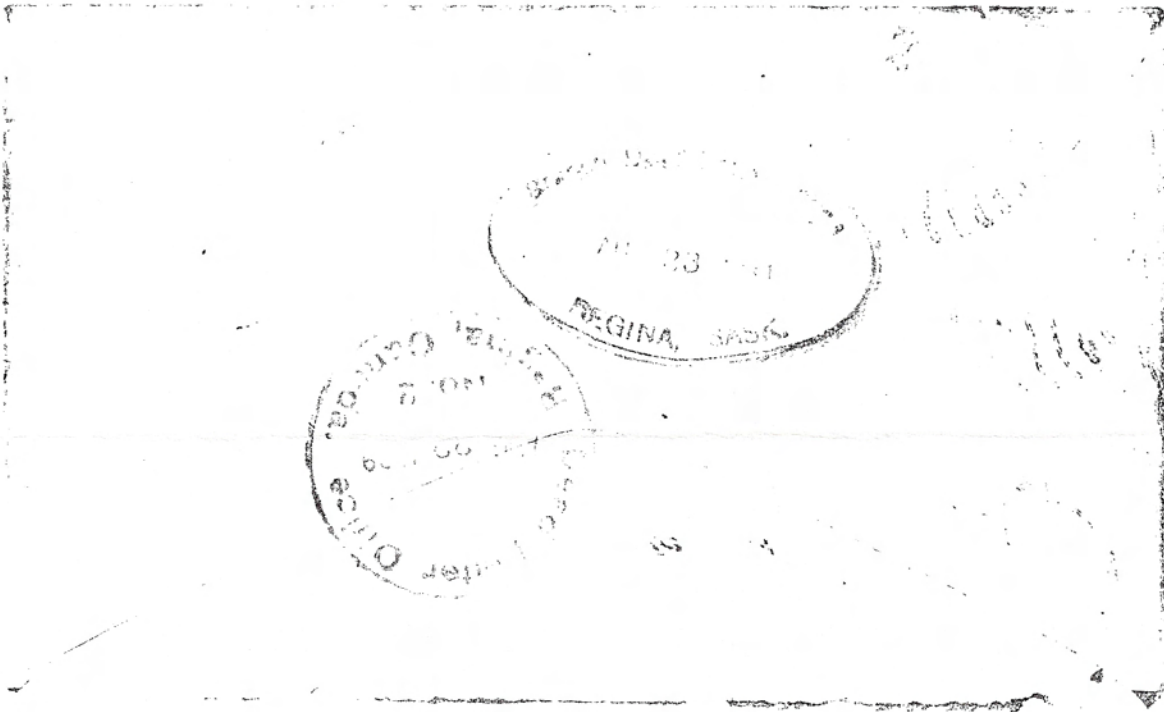
Shown below are three varieties of a Regina Branch Dead Letter Office oval handstamp. All have similar designs and lettering: Oval, **Branch Dead Letter Office/REGINA, SASK./**(date in the middle), all appear to be double outside border (thick on the outside and thin on the inside).

I will list below each example how I would catalogue these items.



Branch Dead Letter Office/REGINA, SASK./Oct 2 1940  
purple, 50mm wide, 31mm high, 31mm from left bottom of "R" in REGINA to right  
period "." in SASK..

There are a couple of reasons for this order. First Capital letters come after small letters ie. if "BRANCH" had all capital letters it would put a hammer after the above. All wording is in order on the outside of circles or ovals keeping the continuity. Anything added extra such as other lettering, periods, commas, etc. would put the hammer after this item. All items go from smaller to larger so if another hammer was 45mm wide and 28mm high but all other items were the same then I would put this new hammer in front.



Branch Dead Letter Office/REGINA, SASK./AUG 23 1939  
purple, 53mm wide, 30mm high, 29mm from left bottom of "R" in REGINA to  
right period "." in SASK..

This is the larger hammer and all other items are the same except the smaller lettering in "REGINA, SASK." This is a tough one, do I put the larger oval behind the other item, I believe so but if there was an exact same size hammer but larger lettering in "REGINA, SASK." then I would put this new one behind the example #2, and if the lettering was smaller in "REGINA, SASK." than this example it would go before.



Branch Dead Letter Office/REGINA, SASK./OCT 28 1940/H.T.A.

blue ink, 52mm wide, 32mm high, 37mm from left bottom of "R" in REGINA to right period "." in SASK..

Larger hammer than the first one, but the most important reason is the initials "H.T.A." under the date.

Using the above examples would create the following order:

- #1. City - Regina
- #2. Type - Oval (#    )
- #3. Alphabetical - "H.T.A." handstamp last.
- #4. Size - Width first, height second. Smaller to larger. Includes total handstamp size, and the size of letters and numbers within.

Please drop a line of all cities that you may have D.L.O. items from, the number and types that you would like listed, and how you feel about #3 and #4.

## SAMPLE COVER

This is a sample of how this particular item would be

DEAD LETTER OFFICE/OTTAWA, CANADA/AUG 13, 1909

categorized in a written form. The slashes would dictate a break in the wording either from another line or area of the handstamp. All lettering from the outside would come first and then the inside as with some circular handstamps they don't always conform to an exact pattern where the lettering would be either above or below the lettering in the middle. Also the lettering on the outside has a

greater degree of importance usually. The middle section usually only has a Dead Letter Office employee or inspector's number and a date or other indica.

This handstamp is in black ink and is 37mm wide. Later on the type might come under "Circular, single outside ring".

If anybody has any similar items I would like to know so that we may be able to advise all members of this specific type and all other characteristics. There is a triangular handstamp which appears that it might be a DLO handstamp but is not fully readable. Does anybody have any examples or any info to shed some light on this.

If anybody has a cover that they want to put in please send a high quality photocopy and maybe we may be able to continue a small study of this item.



## AUCTION NEWS

If you see anything of interest please write asap and I will get it in or at least let all members know for reference purposes.

## QUESTION PERIOD

In each issue we will try and include an item of interest that very few have seen or know about, or that any member will require information on. If you have a item that fits the bill please send a good photocopy and your notes and I will put it in the next available spot. If there is a need for more than one item each newsletter we can certainly change to the groups' needs.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| #1 Gary W. Steele #4224<br>51 Sidhu Drive<br>Beaverbank, N.S.<br>B4G 1B8           | #2 Brian Plain<br>230 Robson Road West<br>Kelowna, B.C.<br>V1X 3C8                    |
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| #5 Michael Rixon<br>749 Agnes<br>Montreal, Que<br>H4C 2P9                          | #6 George Lafontaine<br>Apt 17, 37 Kensington Rd.<br>Charlottetown, P.E.I.<br>C1A 5H6 |
| #7 Yves Baillargeon<br>4900 Cornwall<br>St-Hubert, Quebec<br>J3Y 7P3               | #8 Paul M. Burega<br>16 Aldgate Cres.<br>Nepean, Ont.<br>K2J 2G4                      |
| #9 Al Steinhart<br>35 Church St.<br>Suite 305<br>Toronto, ON<br>M5E 1T3            | #10 Walter Plomish<br>#703 - 69 Jameison Court<br>New Westminster, B.C.<br>V3L 5R3    |
| #11 Charles Verge<br>PO Box 2788<br>Ottawa, ON<br>K1P 5W8                          |   |

**All BNAPS Membership numbers are required.**

**If your number does not show beside your name please send it to me.**

Please address any mail  
to: Gary Steele  
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Beaverbank, N.S.  
B4G 1B8

A membership list will be published each year with new members included in the next issue of **DEADLINE DLO NEWSLETTER (DDN)**.

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW ADDRESS

## BUY-TRADE-SELL

Any member who is looking for additional material to purchase or has any material that they want to trade or sell, please send a short note and it will be included in the next newsletter. Maximum space is ten lines and they will run for one year.