

# THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE

*The British North America  
Philatelic Society  
Dead Letter Office  
Study Group  
Newsletter*

*Jan - Sept 2009 Issue 1*

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## Superintendent's Oval D.L.O. Handstamp



*Feature Article  
Gary W. Steele*

## A New Beginning

After many years of debating whether to take another crack at editing a newsletter based on the Canadian Dead Letter Office I have decided to put fingers to keyboard and keys to screen.

With a new beginning the question is where do we start? What is it that collectors are looking for? Are they looking for all the answers or will many be willing to share with us their material and research.

Many may not think that what they are doing is research, but when putting together a collection, the collecting and collating of material is the first step. The next step is just breaking down the material into smaller and smaller groups and organizing the sections.

The first business matter will be to find someone who is willing to be president and treasurer? Second is how are we planning on getting this product out to the masses? I would like to have BNAPS be the Web Host to post up the newsletters for all to see. If someone wants hard copies I feel that \$20 per year would be appropriate for copies printed in black and white and mailing costs.

Once a choice is made, I believe most will choose the color version as the price is right. They can also immediately print a color version off their own printers once a newsletter is posted up on BNAPS Study Group web site.

## Chairman's Desk

Since this newsletter is a trial run, before we figure out enough interest is sufficient to vote a Chairman in and any other positions of note, this space is devoted to important matters or thoughts by the elected president. Many times I have just started typing something for the King George VI Study Group Newsletter without knowing what I was going to say. Not the greatest style, however, having interests in various other philatelic matters there is always something to mention. No one has complained yet.

So any other members out there, this is your chance to get the President to bring up any matters that you think could be of a benefit to us all.

On another matter there are many other organizations out there that could have many people interested in our side venture, please pass this along.

**Editor's Comments**

My first task will be on what articles we can start with. As this issue hopes to have more than my ramblings I have asked a few BNAPS members to help out and get us started. The end result is what we are looking for, that being a **Great Product**.

I am always open to new suggestions and many new ideas will be tried over time. Hopefully the best of the best from early issues and minor changes over time. The George VI Study Group Newsletter is a great example of a great product right from the start. Stephen Prest did a great job and I hope he does not mind me using a few ideas.

One area that is not overly complicated but brings out new research and interesting items is the 'Superintendent's Oval D.L.O. Handstamp. So this will be a starting point to jump into other material. This handstamp is not the only one that creates interest, but it's cousin the Chief Superintendent's Oval Handstamp. In particular, what were these handstamps used specifically for. If I can get a few to help out with material we might be able to knock this one off in only one or two issues. Not that we don't want new items of interest for this handstamp, just that it has specific uses, types and interesting features.

**Past D.L.O. Editorials and Printings**

There has not been a lot of specific Dead Letter Office material written in the past. Although, they do appear in some of Canada's greatest postal history treasures due to the fact so much takes place while trying to place an undeliverable piece of mail outside the ordinary postal system.

Of note are a few articles over the years in BNAPS Topics by Roger Grigson and Stanley C. Calder, and in the Canadian Philatelist (CP) by J.C. Arnell and George Arfken.

More substantial studies are noted in Brian Plain's 'The Dead Letter Office in Canada 1830 - 2002 and Gary Steele's 'Dead Letter Office Handstamps 1874 - 1954' BNAPS Exhibit series book.

As is always the case, information in the future has the benefit of quantity and quality. More quantity from research and finds of new material to support documentation. More quality due to accessibility and fact checking available via the un-relentless information highway. Archives and organizations of all types are slowly getting documentation and research posted for all to see. All that remains is the time to search through all the material given on any subject.

**Recent Auction & Sale Listings**

Items of interest will be posted in past or future auctions so please email the editor with anything you might see or hear about.

***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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**Treasurer:****Dues 2009:**

\$20.00 CDN

**BNAPS**

[www.bnaps.org](http://www.bnaps.org)

**DEAD + LETTER + BRANCH  
SUPERINTENDENT**

**JAN**

**19**

**1892**

**•P.O.DEPT•CANADA•**



No known strike proof

37mm x 27mm Double Oval



Swedish post card Tidakoln Dec 14 1891 incorrectly addressed thus misdirected to the United States, sent by U.S. DLO/Inspection Division January 5, 1892 (on reverse) to the Ottawa DLO Superintendent's Office Jan 19 1892.

Note space between the 'D and L' and the 'R and B' is actually a '+' as indicated by an enlargement of a high resolution scan.





'Stamp previously used'



Manuscript '⊗' to indicate non-payment thus 'RETURNED - FOR DEFICIENT POSTAGE 3c



The line under 1898 is one complete unit slightly narrowed in the middle.

This is much different than the line in the Chief Superintendent's handstamp used after 1898 decentralization under the numbers '1898'

Details:

- Dimensions: 37mm x 27mm double oval
- Lettering: sans-serif, all caps
- Proofed: Unknown
- ERD: JAN / 19 / 1892
- LRD: JUN / 27 / 1898

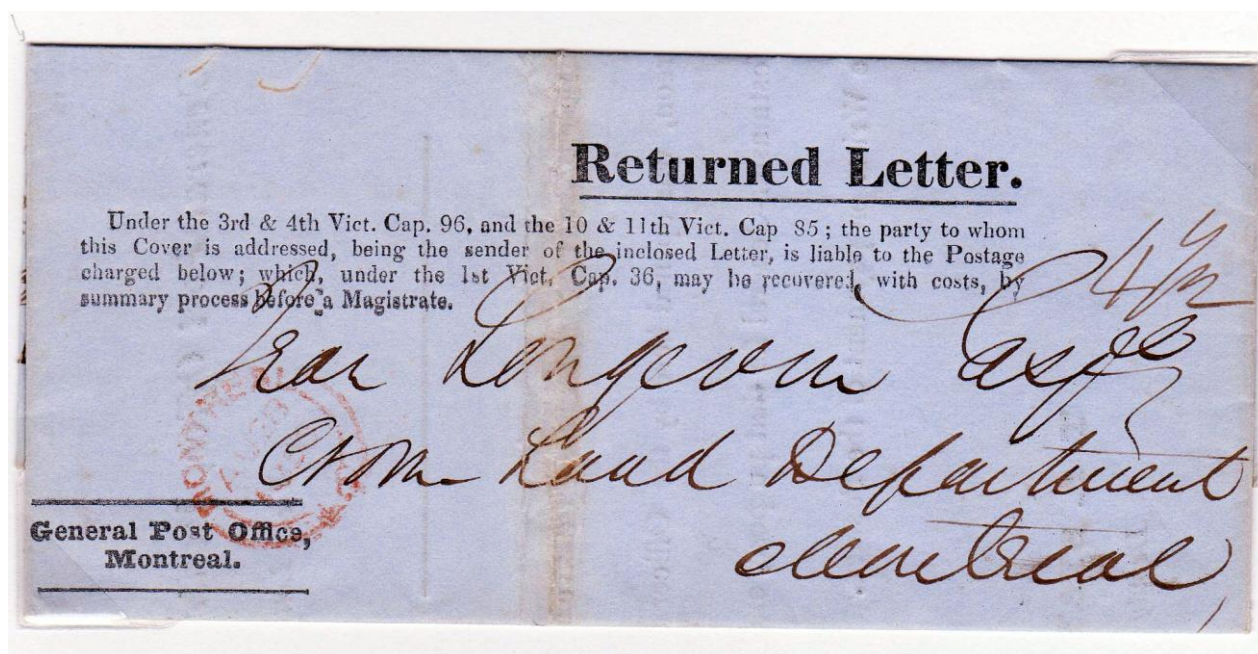


3 piece line after July 1<sup>st</sup> 1898

## Returned Letter Wrapper 1850

by Brian C. Plain

General Post Office, Montreal



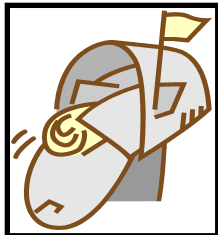
This wrapper bearing, a postage due rate of 4 ½d was mailed in Montreal on August 28<sup>th</sup> 1850, and docketed as having been received the following day. It is unique in that it references three British Postal Statutes:

1<sup>st</sup> Vict. Cap. 36: No letter sent by Post should be opened or delayed without express warrant under the hand of one of the principal Secretaries of State.

10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Vict. Cap. 85: An Act for giving further Facilities for the Transmission of Letters by Post and for regulating the Duties of Postage thereon and for other Purposes relating to the Post Office.

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Vict. Cap. 96: An Act for the Regulation of Postage [Promulgated in 1840].

## 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.



## Dead Letter Office Per Postmaster's Information Book 1940

This section will have an ongoing listing and commentary of various sections in the Post Master's Postal Guides and Post Master's Information Books. Most will be self explanatory, however, an example or discussion may come up by various members and how it is interpreted. Not all notes will be in an orderly fashion with many overlapping from one period to another.

## Want List and For Sale List

**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 [gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca)

**Wanted** -

**Wanted** - Mail Service Suspended covers from the Second World War with or without DLO handstamps, please e-mail and I will advise if any particular country is still required: [gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca)

**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 [gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca)