

# THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE

## Moving Along

Issue #3 was probably our best newsletter to date and can be seen or downloaded on the BNAPS website in Horrace Harrison's page under Study Groups/Dead Letter Office. Issue #4 will be a shortened version for the BNAPEX show in Victoria.

I did not notice any Dead Letter Office exhibits in this year's exhibition, however, I would bet that there will be various DLO items in a few exhibits. Jack Forbes has a few large blocks from the Small Queen era with DLO hand stamps. My personal exhibit on the 1937-38 Definitive issue also includes many DLO items to foreign destinations on Mail Service Suspended covers and closes out with the final four pages showing a variety of material during this period. See how many items you can find at this year's show.

## Chairman's Desk

Welcome to this issue of the Canadian Dead Letter Office newsletter. Summer is well upon us and BNAPEX 2010 in Victoria is fast approaching. This promises to be a great event and I hope there we will be able to see several of our members attend. A DLO Study Group meeting is booked and this will provide an early opportunity to exchange information and obtain suggestions for future newsletters.

With a few exceptions, Canadian DLO material remains an uncommon commodity in dealer's stocks. Likewise, items appear infrequently on eBay and other on-line sites. When one does find a cover, the prices are generally reasonable, likely representing unfamiliarity with the scarcity of some of this material. For those interested in a new philatelic side-line, this is the time to consider the Dead Letter Office.

This writer has been working to update the three databases (Pre-1898, 1898-1953, and the UMO) and it is hoped that they will be ready for printing at Victoria. New finds are being made, many of which are filling gaps in the listings that have long been anticipated.

Material from the Undeliverable Mail Office is beginning to appear, and many markings seem to be quite scarce. As I have mentioned previously, it is likely that cancellations and hand stamps from the DLO and UMO repose in 'other' collections, where they appear as curiosities that require further explanation. We look forward to seeing you in Victoria, September 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

*Apr - Aug 2010                      Issue 4*

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Dead Letter  
Office  
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&  
Slips

*Feature Article*

*Brian Plain & Gary Steele*

*The Canadian Dead  
Letter Office Study  
Group*

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**Editor's Comments**

Just a short note to advise members of Marc Eisenberg's Exhibit at the APS Stampshow in Richmond, Virginia. Marc was awarded a Silver medal in a very toughly judged venue where a majority of exhibits received lower medals than in previous exhibitions.

Marc has exhibited and judged for many years and is an excellent example of never giving up due to health or age.

**Dead Letter Office Forms, Cards and Slips**

Brian Plain/Gary Steele

Similar to the General Post Office, the Dead Letter Office had its own regulations and with them their own Envelopes, Forms, Cards and Slips to facilitate the ease of handling Dead Letter Office mail matter.

Seen below are a few Dead Letter Office forms used specifically by the DLO or by the Post Office for items to be sent to the DLO.

**To Accompany All Articles Found Loose in the Mail**

**2D.L. (g) -25M-19-4-50** Articles found loose in the mails could either be thrown in by error or have been separated from an envelope or parcel during transit. If the items could not be returned to rightful owner they would end up in the DLO auctions. 25,000 copies of this form were printed in 1950.

TO ACCOMPANY ALL ARTICLES FOUND LOOSE IN THE MAIL  
(Bag Label, If Available, Should Be Attached)

Office Date Stamp

ARTICLE .....  
Full description

FOUND AT .....  
Give exact location

ON .....  
Date and Hour

BY .....  
Name and Staff

The above noted value was found loose in the mails and is herewith for disposal.

FOR DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Remitter

2D.L.(g)-25M-19-4-50



Monthly Return of Dead Mail Matter

Items forwarded to the Regional (decentralized) Dead Letter Offices were accompanied by a MONTHLY RETURN OF DEAD MAIL MATTER form. This form reiterated the regulation and provided instruction to local postmasters regarding transfer of undeliverable mail to the appropriate DLO.

MONTHLY RETURN OF DEAD MAIL MATTER

IF THERE IS NO DEAD MAIL MATTER TO BE FORWARDED, THIS ACCOUNT NOT TO BE SENT IN

At the close of each month, all dead mail matter (uncalled for ONE MONTH after receipt) is to be forwarded to the District Dead Letter Office, tied and wrapped up with return, in the printed Dead Letter Covers, provided for the purpose, securely gummed, and properly addressed. In the lower left-hand corner of the cover the Office Stamp must be affixed and name of Office written. The reason for non-delivery must be stated on the face of each item which must also bear the date-stamp of the despatching Office.

.....Post Office

Province of.....Canada

For month ending.....19.....

Dead Letters herewith.....
Dead Parcels herewith.....
Dead Circulars, Catalogues, etc., herewith.....
Number of DEAD REGISTERED ARTICLES returned herewith, the address of such being entered on the back of this account.....

[Empty rectangular box for stamp or signature]

Form 9 D.L. (g) - 25M - 5-4-45

Serial No.....

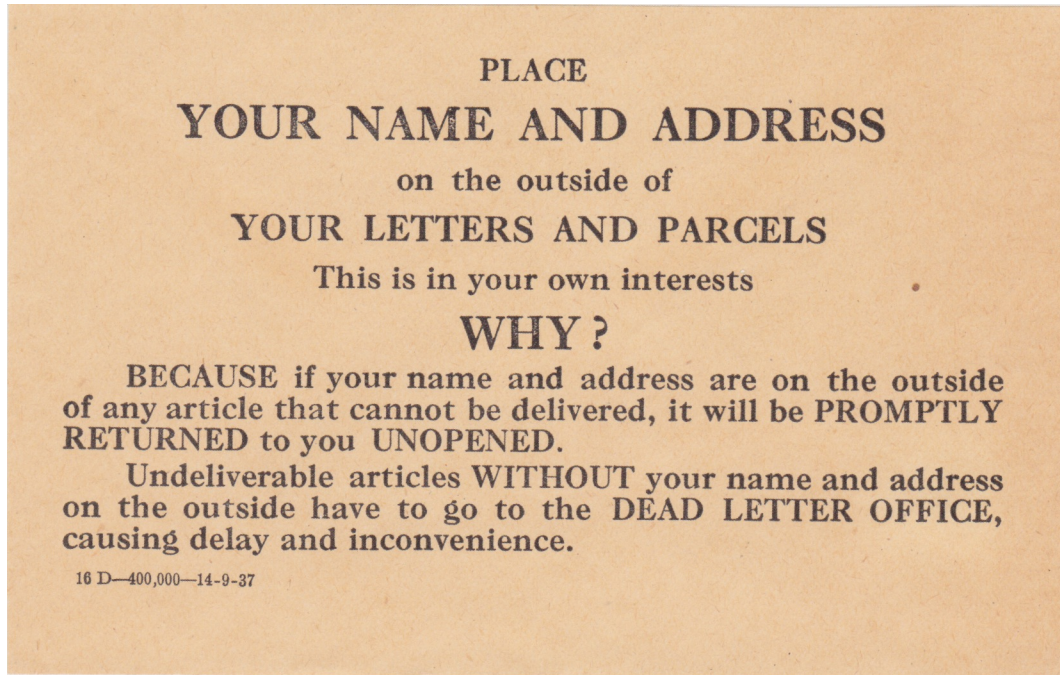
This document, designed for internal postal use, is similar to documents used throughout the period 1898 to 1952 for the return of dead mail matter to Regional Dead Letter Offices. In times past, the return of registered mail was accompanied by a separate document, however by 1945, such returns were included on the reverse of this form.

.....Postmaster

9 D.L. (g)-25M-5-4-45

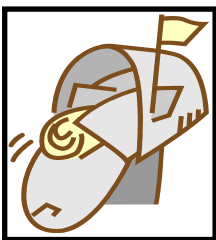
**Place Your Name and Address Slip**

#16D-400,000-14-9-37 Slip is inserted in Returned Dead Letter envelopes with mail that did not have a Return Address on the outside corner. There are varying printing quantities, this one being 400,000.



In later issues the exact usage per regulations of these items will be explained in more detail.

**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 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** - 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** - Canada covers, precancels, plate blocks and other postal history. If nothing showing in your area please email with your want list.  
[www.canadapostalhistorycovers.com](http://www.canadapostalhistorycovers.com)

**Wanted** - Documents related to the Dead Letter Office, Canada prior to 1900 [bcplain@shaw.ca](mailto:bcplain@shaw.ca)

**For Sale** - 1 Cent Jubilee 1897 precancels off cover and cancelled stamps [gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca)