



THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE

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

Jan – Oct 2012

Issue 9

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BNAPEX 2012 Calgary

This year's meeting took place in Calgary. Several BNAPS members attended, which was very encouraging. As a group, we were able to review past newsletters on the BNAPS Horace Harrison Study Groups website. Thanks go to Peter MacDonald for setting up the online link.

We discussed previous newsletter articles sent to other publications, future articles on new DLO handstamps to be published in the Nova Scotia Stamp Club Newsletter, and in the CPS of GB.

As a member and dealer I have found one of the best means of promoting BNAPS and study groups is to send out older copies or links to newsletters and articles. Even if a reader does not collect Dead Letter Office material reading previous newsletters may spark a latent interest.

Chairman's Desk

Summer 2012 has come and gone, and the fall season is well upon us. By all accounts, BNAPEX 2012 in Calgary was a great success, and Gary reports that several interested people attended the DLO Study Group meeting. Unfortunately, events conspired to keep me from attending the show, but hopefully next year!

The next newsletter will begin a short sequence of articles illustrating a single frame exhibit shown at Calgary. This exhibit, outlining the history of processing undeliverable mail at Victoria garnered a Vermeil in competition. Gary and I are always seeking input and articles from others who collect material related to Canada's Dead or Undeliverable Mail Office(s). This study remains very much in its infancy, as new finds are continually being made, items known only in proof are being discovered, and periods of use are constantly being expanded, in some instances by several years. Please send scans of any new or interesting item to either Gary or me so the databases can be kept up to date.

A recent newspaper article has indicated the intended closure of the North Sydney, N.S. Undeliverable Mail Office. I have written to the postmaster of that office to confirm the closure and date on which services will be transferred to the UMO in Scarborough. I have also requested proof strikes of all the relevant handstamps that are currently in use and will illustrate them in a subsequent article once I have firm information to report.

I wish all of the best for the fall season – and good stamping.

DLOS-5

DEAD . LETTER . OFFICE

..... CANADA



Article by

Brian Plain & Gary Steele

***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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Editor's Comments

Issue #9 is late this year for a variety of reasons, however, we will try to get three issues to print, and posted to the Internet on the BNAPS site.

A joint article will be done on Handstamp DLOS-5, a unique type of handstamp.

A New Handstamp article is included explaining the minute differences in dimensions of the handstamp.

Next issue will be the start of an in-depth study of the Victoria DLO by Brian Plain as exhibited in a single frame at BNAPEX 2012 in Calgary.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate David Handelman for his Gold medal at Orapex 2012 with his five frame DLO exhibit titled "Returned from the Dead Letter Office". In addition he received the APS-Research medal.

Dead Letter Office exhibits seem to do well due to a high level of exhibitor knowledge and the depth of material that is being shown. The fact that the DLO crosses all aspects of postal services adds greatly to the potential of this facet of collecting.

Recent Auction & Sale Listings

Received today Saskatoon's latest publication with a pair of OX 2P plate proof. Of note is that 115 sound proofs in the ABN sale were recorded.

Very little new material has appeared on eBay lately.

At the Calgary BNAPS show it was also dry except for two covers I picked up. Hope to include one later on in this issue.

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DLOS – 5

by Brian Plain & Gary Steele

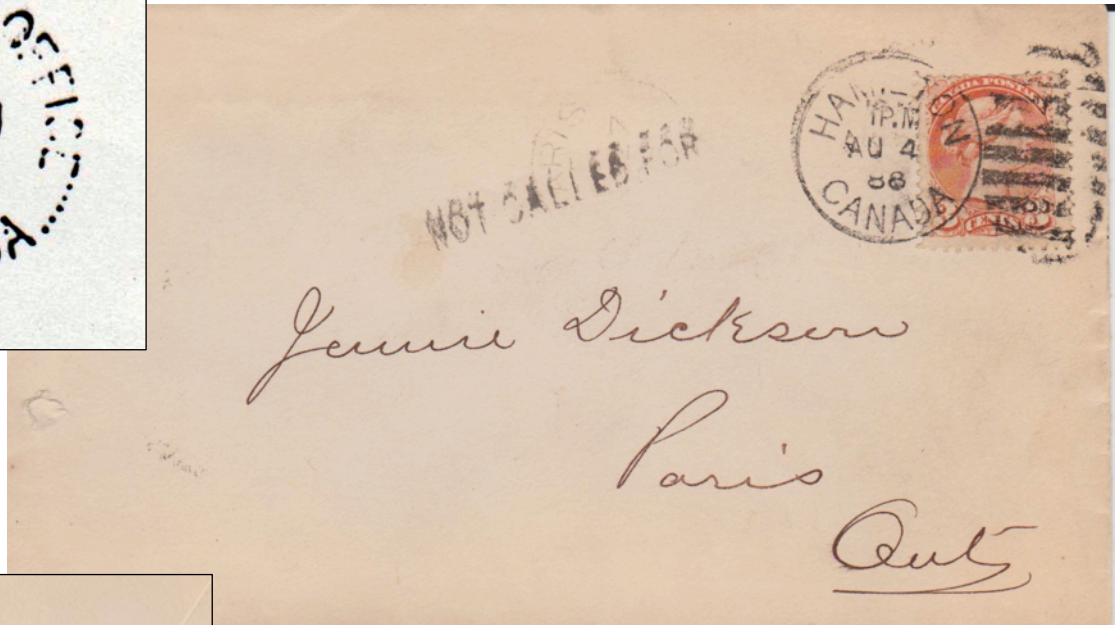
In a close examination of the proof book¹ one may find an interesting deviation from the normal; a strike in which the side arcs are not solid but rather consist of a series of five small dots. This pattern is not repeated in any other proof. The proofing date (Figure 1) appears to be FE 1 (18)83. The database listing is shown below.

Listing	Wording	Proof	ERD	LRD
DLOS-5	DEAD·LETTER·OFFICE / CANADA	1/02/1883	5/6/1888	28/12/1888

(Figure 1)



The cover shown below (Figure 2) bears an example of this rarely seen marking.



(Figure 3)



This cover was mailed at Hamilton on August 4th 1888. Sent to Paris (Ontario) it was held for three months before being declared undeliverable. In keeping with postal regulations, the reason for non-delivery was marked on the front of the cover [NOT CALLED FOR] before it was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa. It arrived at the DLO on November 1st and was processed by clerk #1. Following completion of activity by the DLO it was returned to the regular mail stream on November 17th. The completion of DLO involvement is signified by the application of the DLOS-5 handstamp.

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Figure 4 is the earliest reported date June 5 1888 of this handstamp, on an unclaimed, advertised cover in the United States. All reported copies appear to be from 1888 as handstamps may not have been put into use when they were proofed.

(Figure 4)



(Figure 5)



Posted Toronto March 1 1888 to Brooklyn, New York, Figure 4. Advertised a month later as 'UNCLAIMED' with postage due applied for advertising fee (not paid) Figure 5, and forwarded to the US DLO Apr 19 - 88, then to the Ottawa DLO JU 5 1888.

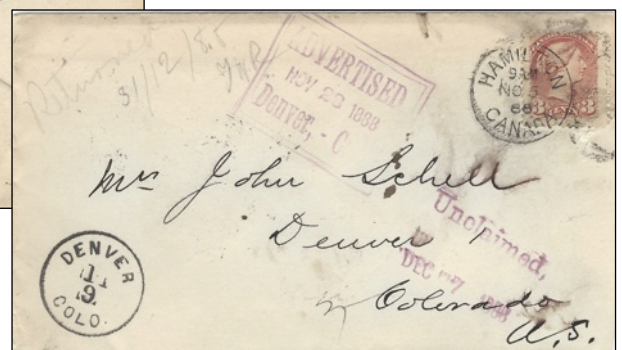
Figure 6

LRD DE 28 1888

Figure 7



Similar cover to the U.S. NO 5 / 88, Advertised and forwarded to the Ottawa DLO DE 7 1888.



THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE

**BRANCH DEAD LETTER OFFICE,
DEC 23 1907
VANCOUVER, B.C.**

New Handstamp by Gary Steele

Small things become big things.



Left 42mm wide

Right 44mm wide

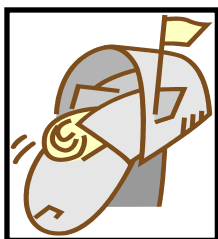
44mmx28mm >

Many handstamps have similar appearance, however, the dimensions can be significantly different. Some may vary by 10mm or more whereas others may be by just a few millimeters. In the illustration shown above, the upper post card the 2nd oval to the right is overlaid with the left oval of the lower post card. Clearly the letters do not match up and the ovals now show three lines. The upper item is 2mm less in width causing this difference.

With rubber handstamps there is always the possibility that they can stretch due to wear and the force behind the strike. In this case I do not think this is the reason. Both items are from 1907 so one would assume there to be little change in wear if they were the same handstamp. One may then assume this to be a previously unknown handstamp.

Franked with a U.S. stamp, on Dec 23 1907, this post card was RETURNED FOR / POSTAGE due and sent to the Vancouver DLO. Upon receipt of the missing postage, it was franked with a 1 cent Edward Jan 6 1908 and returned to the regular mail stream for dispatch to Montana where it was received on Jan 6 1908.

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 gary.steele@ns.sympatico.ca

Wanted – Place your ad here

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

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