



THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Recent DLO Affairs:

A story to tell.

Over the last couple of years there have been many stories about Dead Letter Office material from Canada that seem to attract the non-DLO collector.

Each item has a distinct story to tell. Why was it sent to the DLO? Was it redirected to the addressee? Or was it sent back to the originator? Where is the rest of the info?

We do not have all the answers but this Newsletter can help all members and non-members to at least try to find the answers or learn something new that can apply to other items of interest.

This issue is very long overdue as there are basically no contributors other than myself and Brian Plain. I have been busy over the last few years but am hoping to get back to a few issues a year.

We had a good meeting in Niagara Falls at the last BNAPS convention, seems like forever so let's try and keep things active.

Editor's Comments

I appreciate anyone reading this journal. However, it will not survive with only two people writing the articles. We need half page, full page or more, any size is accepted.

The BNAPS show is late September this year in Fredericton, New Brunswick for the first time ever.

New Brunswick had one Dead Letter Office at St. John, N.B. for which there is a scarcity of items and still new finds.

I will try to include as much as possible for this issue. Time has been at a premium this summer and early fall with shows, exhibits and other duties for the local clubs and BNAPS.

For Issue #11 we start with Part 3 on Brian Plain's Victoria Dead Letter Office exhibit.

The British North America

Philatelic Society

Dead Letter Office

Study Group

Newsletter

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**The Victoria
Post Office Part 3**



*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)

Chairman:

Brian Plain
Unit 4 132 Michigan St.
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1R1 Canada

250-380-2820
bcplain@shaw.ca

Editor:

Gary Steele
83 Baker Drive
Middle Sackville,
Nova Scotia B4E 1V2
Canada

902-864-3976
gwsteele57@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Chairman's Desk

We are back after a somewhat lengthy hiatus in publication and I am grateful to Gary for putting together this instalment of the newsletter. I would like to reiterate his comment that with only two individuals writing articles, the cupboard is more than bare, it is empty! For those of you who are interested in the study of Canada's Dead Letter Office, I encourage you to write articles on any aspect of the topic that interests you. It may be that you collect only the postal history of a single city or town, or study a particular type of cancelling device, all articles will be gladly received.

On another note, new items are showing up, although infrequently, and items previously known only as proofs occasionally appear. All changes are being listed in the updated databases which I am hoping to have ready for submission to Mike Street by the beginning of January 2017.

Now, as we enter the fall season of stamp shows, I wish you all the best of success in your quest for new and interesting material – and don't forget to share your good fortune with the readers of this newsletter.

Recent Auction & Sale Listings

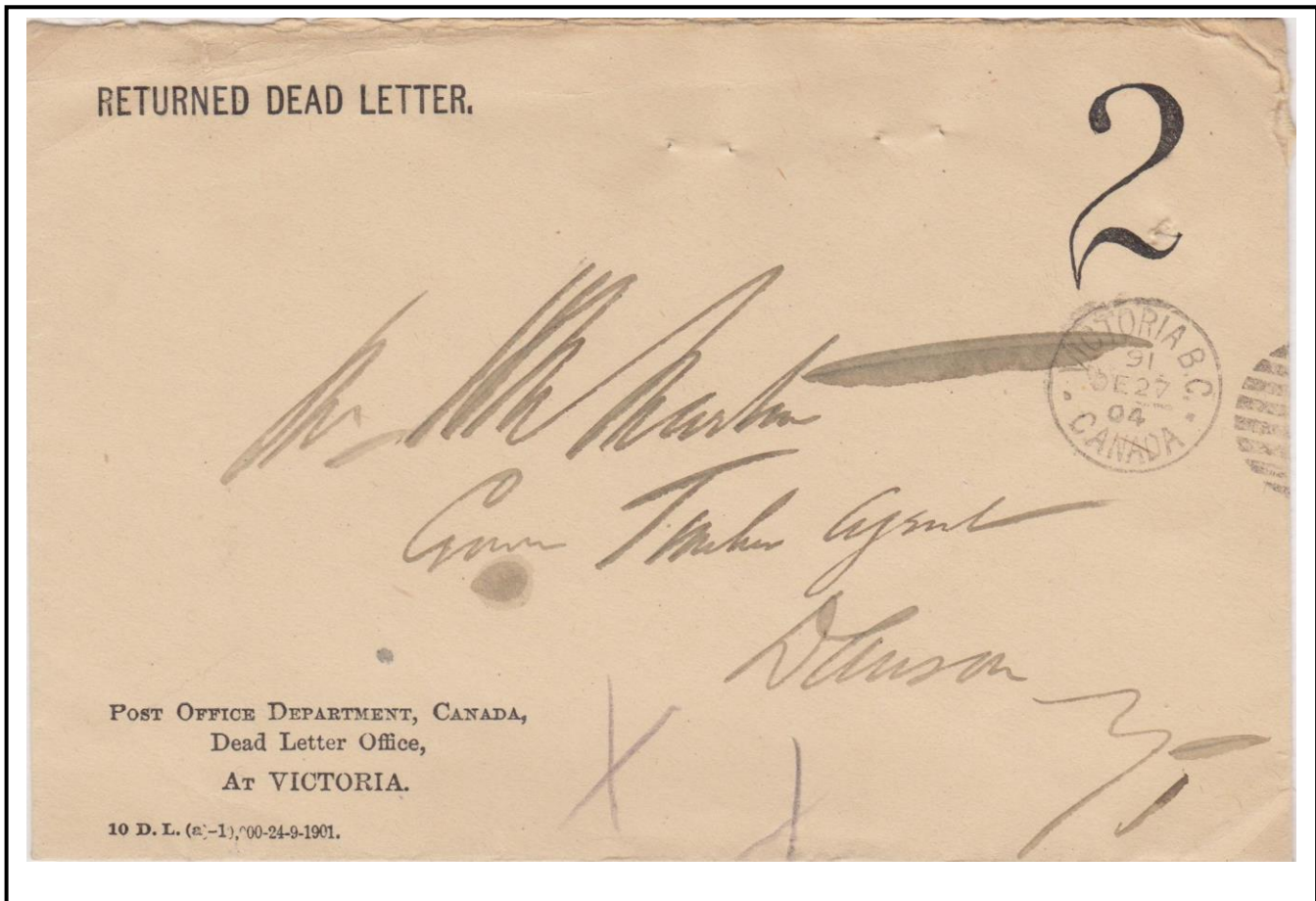
There appears to be a variety of DLO labels on cover on the market in the last couple of years. OX 1 to OX 4 are definitely uncommon. However, the numbers mentioned known are dubious at best. Just what I have seen in person, friends collections and auctions there are more than those numbers being stated. At some point this is an excellent area that I think we can obtain a copy of each and every item to maintain a census of what exactly exists. When they come up in new auctions then we will have a better idea of where they are and known reported quantities.

Yukon Mail

The Victoria Connection

When the Branch Dead Letter Office opened in Vancouver in 1902, it was widely anticipated that undelivered Yukon mail would be processed in that city. In spite of this expectation, the Post Office Department decided that Victoria should retain the function of processing such Yukon mail.

The item shown below illustrates this service.



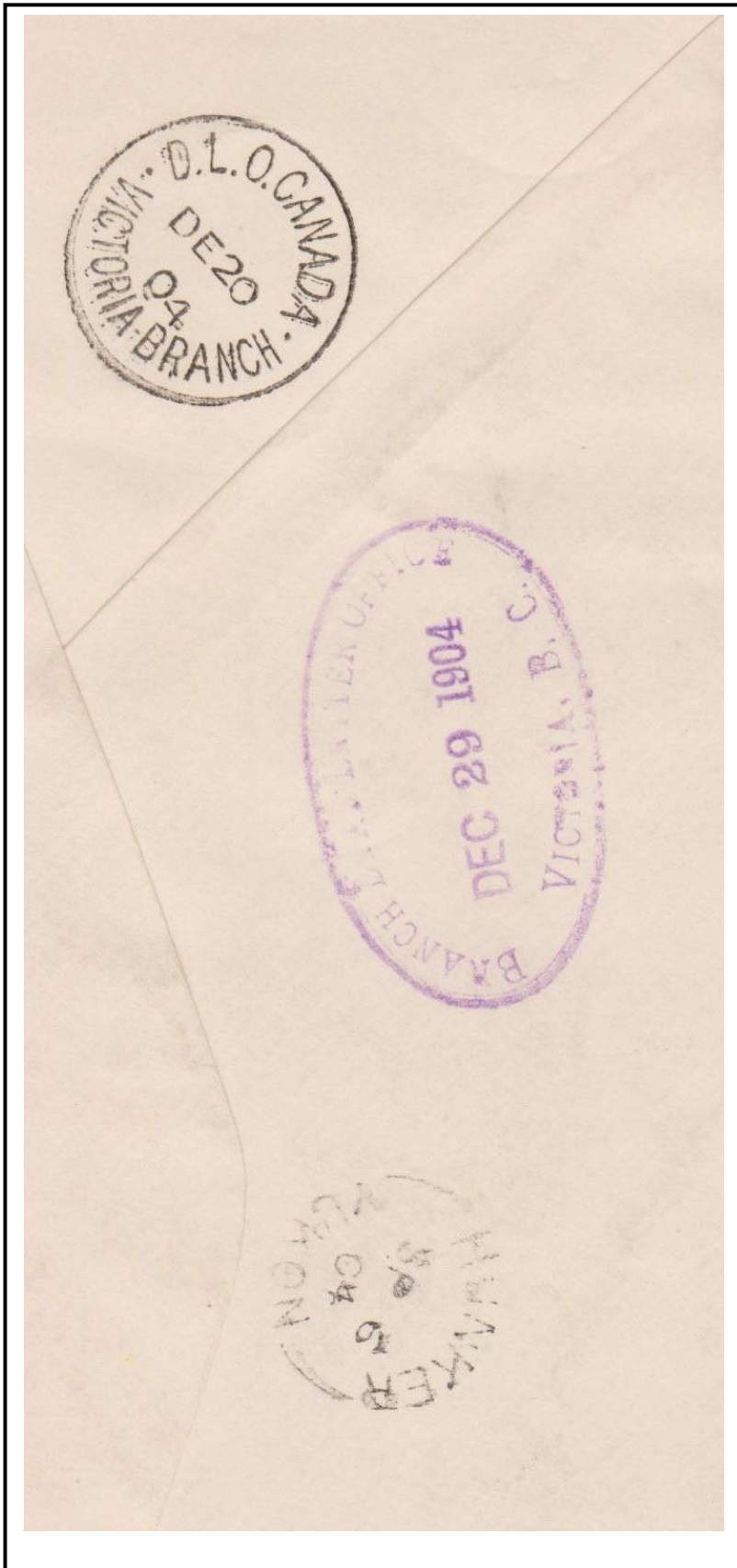
This RETURNED DEAD LETTER cover, 10 D.L. (a) – 10,000-24-9-1901, was used at Victoria on December 27, 1904 to return undelivered mail processed at the Dead Letter Office in Victoria to Dawson, YT. It was received on January 6, 1905. The fee of 2 (cents) was the only charge levied, and represents a service charge for the return of the letter. Had the enclosure been short-paid, the fee would have included a double short-paid tariff.

*The enclosed Dead Letter is returned by direction of the Postmaster General
for the reason thereon assigned.*

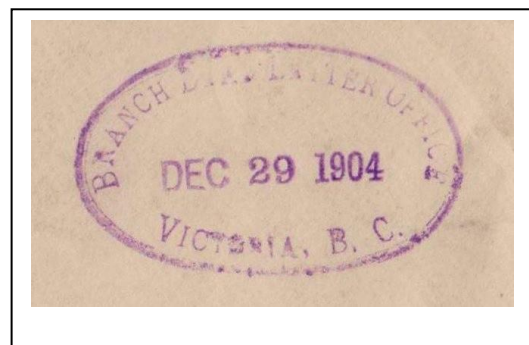
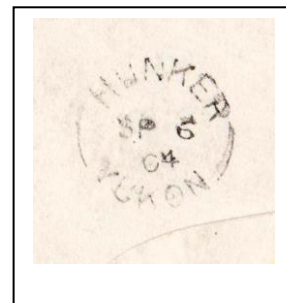
Wording on the reverse flap of the above cover

Yukon Mail

The Victoria Connection



This letter was mailed in Dawson on September 3, 1904. Addressed to Gold Bottom YT it was sent to the nearest post office at Hunker. It was not called for, and after three months, was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Victoria for return to sender. No reason for its being sent to the DLO is noted. It was received at the DLO on December 20 and returned on December 29, 1904.



The Late Period

1913 to 1925

The final period of operation of the Dead Letter Office in Victoria is characterized by a variety of different dated handstamps and one unique instructional marking. The oval marking that appeared in 1908 was gradually replaced by a new oval marking with two outer rims and a third inner rim, between which appeared the wording and two Maltese crosses. This marking, which was proofed in mid-1912, saw extensive use until its disappearance in 1918.

The cover shown below demonstrates the overlapping use of both date stamps in July 1912. The card shows a clear example of the new marking.



The cover, mailed at Victoria, bore American stamps, and was sent to the Dead Letter Office for collection of postage. It was date stamped on June 27 1912 using the new device. Upon receipt of postage, a stamp was added and the cover returned to the regular mail stream on July 8 1912, the old dater being used to signify completion of DLO activity.

The postcard, mailed in Victoria on June 10, 1916 and addressed to the United States, was short-paid. The advice marking RETURNED FOR WAR TAX was applied and the item sent to the Dead Letter Office where it was received on June 13. In compliance with regulations, it was forwarded to the Dead Letter Office in Ottawa, the office closest to its destination, where final processing took place and appropriate postage was collected.

The Late Period

1913 to 1925

In June 1915 another date stamp was issued to the Dead Letter Office in Victoria. This rectangular device was only used for a short period of time between July 1915 and July 1917.



Mailed at Slocan to an addressee in Victoria June 12 1917, this cover was undelivered for the reasons noted above. It was sent to the Dead Letter Office in Victoria for processing.



This postcard was mailed at Victoria on July 12 1916. Addressed to Meadowdale Washington, it was short paid by 1 cent. No advice or regulatory marking was appended before it was sent to the Dead Letter Office for collection of the required postage. The postage having been received, the item was forwarded to the addressee on July 19, 1916. To be continued next issue...

Dead Letter Office - Rebuts
No. 12
JAN 8 1954
MONTREAL, P.Q.

New Handstamp by Gary Steele

Only Reported Copy

One has to sit and take their time trying to decipher the full story of this cover. A 20 cent registered 1st class UPU 5 cent rate cover for up to one ounce, mailed Dec 1953 from Toronto Sub #73 to Austria.

Addressee address crossed out marked 'return Toronto' after being received in Wien on Dec 14 1953 where a label was attached adresse insuffisante. Upon arrival in Canada it was sent to the Montreal Dead Letter Office whereby a DLO tape was attached and an unreported DLO handstamp applied both before and after the DLO tape Jan 8 1954. In addition a boxed TAXE CHARGES 3 cents was applied for the Dead Letter Return fee.



The reason there are no additional handstamps were that the item was returned in a Dead Letter Office Return envelope where handstamps were applied. As this was a registered envelope the Return Envelope would also have to have been registered, with or without a Wax Seal. Wax Seals were not used at this late date, as the last year for DLO reported handstamps is 1954.



The single frame boxed handstamp #12 has not been previously reported. The upper lettering is small and sans-serif, and the lower lettering 'MONTREAL, P.Q.' is seriffed and all caps.

No proof has been made of this handstamp. If one looks at similar proofs and the dimension of 45 x 30mm, it matches with a few but not with others. The question is, are there similar handstamps of varying sizes or at least 12 different handstamps all with these dimensions.

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This item is of interest to many for the Registration handstamp, auxiliary markings, wilding issue, foreign destination, labels and of course DLO items.

**Inspection Division
Dead Letter Office
JUN 12 1933**

**No- 4
Ottawa, Canada.**

New Handstamp by Gary Steele

Only Reported Copy

This particular cover has so many elements it fits into three of my collecting interests.

The boxed Dead Letter Office handstamp from Ottawa is key as it is the only reported copy of this listing. The copy in the proof books is dated April 17 1923 a full ten years before the reported item.

Of note for this handstamp is the dash in 'No- 4' instead of a period.

The story starts at Viceroy Saskatchewan on May 2 1933 as an underpaid cover with a 3 cent Medallion stamp to Tunis Africa. In Canada the circle T 20 CENTIMES postage due handstamp was applied (2 cents short-paid x double deficiency x 5 centimes per cent = 20 centimes due.

Upon arrival in Tunisia 2 x 60c Tunis postage due stamps were applied and tied to cover on May 22 1933.

The straight-line handstamp RETOUR A L'ENVOYEUR and Not called for / Non – reclame in black ink were added by the Tunisia post office. The letter was sent back to Canada per large red X with arrow and circle pointing to Viceroy, Sask. It was received in Montreal on 7 June 1933. Clerk 311 forwarded it to the Canadian Dead Letter Office, received on 12 June 1933, over a period of two weeks it was opened and inspected on 30 June 1933. The Canadian Dead Letter Office forwarded the cover to the New Zealand Dead Letter Office.

Upon receipt at the New Zealand Dead Letter Office, 8 August 1933 it was sent out in a Dead Letter Return envelope with 2d to be collected from the addressee on the back flap. Note the cut-outs of the postage due and TO PAY marking from the Dead Letter Return envelope. Most were used internally.



Branch Dead Letter Office

JUL 22 1940

Steele

WINNIPEG, MAN.

New Handstamp by Gary

Only Reported Copy

While at the Ottawa show I acquired this particular item not really knowing if it was a duplicate. It turned out to be a handstamp that was only known in the proof books.

Taking into consideration this handstamp there are now sixteen different oval handstamps for Winnipeg with 11 reported known and 5 OPK (only proof known) and left to be discovered.

This item was proofed on OCT 1922 (no day date), a full 18 years prior to this handstamp being used. Until other copies surface the details of usage will still be unclear.



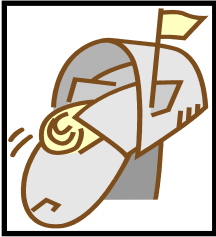
As previously mentioned there are six colour inks used on DLO mail with this being a nice clear green that stands out against the purple, red and black U.S. handstamps.

Mailed from Winnipeg, Man. on Jun 2 1940 to the Brownsville, USA Jun 5 1940 it was unclaimed and marked RETOUR on Jun 8 1940.

From Brownsville it was sent to the Washington, D.C. Dead Letter Branch on Jul 19 1940. From there it was forwarded to the Winnipeg Branch DLO on Jul 22 1940.

As with other DLO covers they were then placed in a Dead Letter Return Envelope and to send to the sender.

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 - 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: 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