



THE CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE



Recent DLO Affairs:

I cannot emphasize enough the importance for all Postal History collectors, historians, and researchers to ferret out material that may be important to other specialists. While visiting a philatelic friend for the first time at his residence I was able to dig through a few boxes of material. In one box was an understated Dead Letter Return Envelope with a previously unreported handstamp from Ottawa. Inside was the actual returned envelope with another handstamp of a different # as the Earliest Reported Date (ERD).

It is possible that no one may have ever found these items or at least for a few more decades. Who will be around to look in 20 to 30 years I do not know. Thus, it is imperative that over the next decade or two, collectors try to get the items or copies for research purposes in the right hands.

Editor's Comments

This issue has been a long time coming to print or posting in modern terms. A slew of changes has occurred around the world impacting most of the people on the planet. This includes philately and most collectors of stamps and postal history.

I will try to get out several issues this year to catch up on a lot of past and current events. Many articles on DLO items have been posted on the Nova Scotia Stamp Club's website within their newsletter at <https://www.nsstampclub.ca>


If anyone reading this issue has something interesting, just send me a scan and comments and I will respond with comments and feedback to you.

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

June 2024 Issue 14

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CPO Equipment and
Supply Branch
Listings of DLO
Items to Order

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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<https://bnaps.org/studygroups/DLO/newsletters-dlo.php>

Chairman's Desk

I will be taking over the duties of Chairman of the study group as well and doing the newsletter while Brian Plain steps down to continue working on all known reports of DLO handstamps.

We would like to thank Brian for his support and long-term diligence of maintaining an encyclopedic file on most things DLO.

Although Brian is no longer actively collecting DLO material, he will still be tracking data and doing his best to keep the databases up to date. Mention should be made when sending information, he requires: **Full wording, case and text, accurate dimensions of the marking and, if possible, a clear scan.**

Recent Auction & Sale Listings

The Maresch Nov. 2018 auction has a small selection of Dead Letter Office material available. Items of note are early Quebec stampless Return Dead letters from the DLO office, a nice ambulance cover from Moose Jaw and several other smaller individual items.

Since 2018 there have been numerous auctions of DLO material especially Brian Plain's Sparks 2020 auction of his whole DLO collection including scans and reports of which I believe I have most of the material now.

Since some of his collection slipped through the cracks of bidders, many items reappeared by other dealers and collectors.

BNAPEX 2024 Kingston

This year's show is in Kingston, Ontario. The last one in Kingston was in 2009, ironically after the Halifax show in 2008.

The link to the show is <https://bnaps.org/bnapex/bnapex2024-Kingston>

Exhibits and dealers have already been lined up with special functions that many will remember for years.

I do not plan on having a DLO Study Group meeting at the show unless I get some responses by any BNAPS members that are willing to attend.

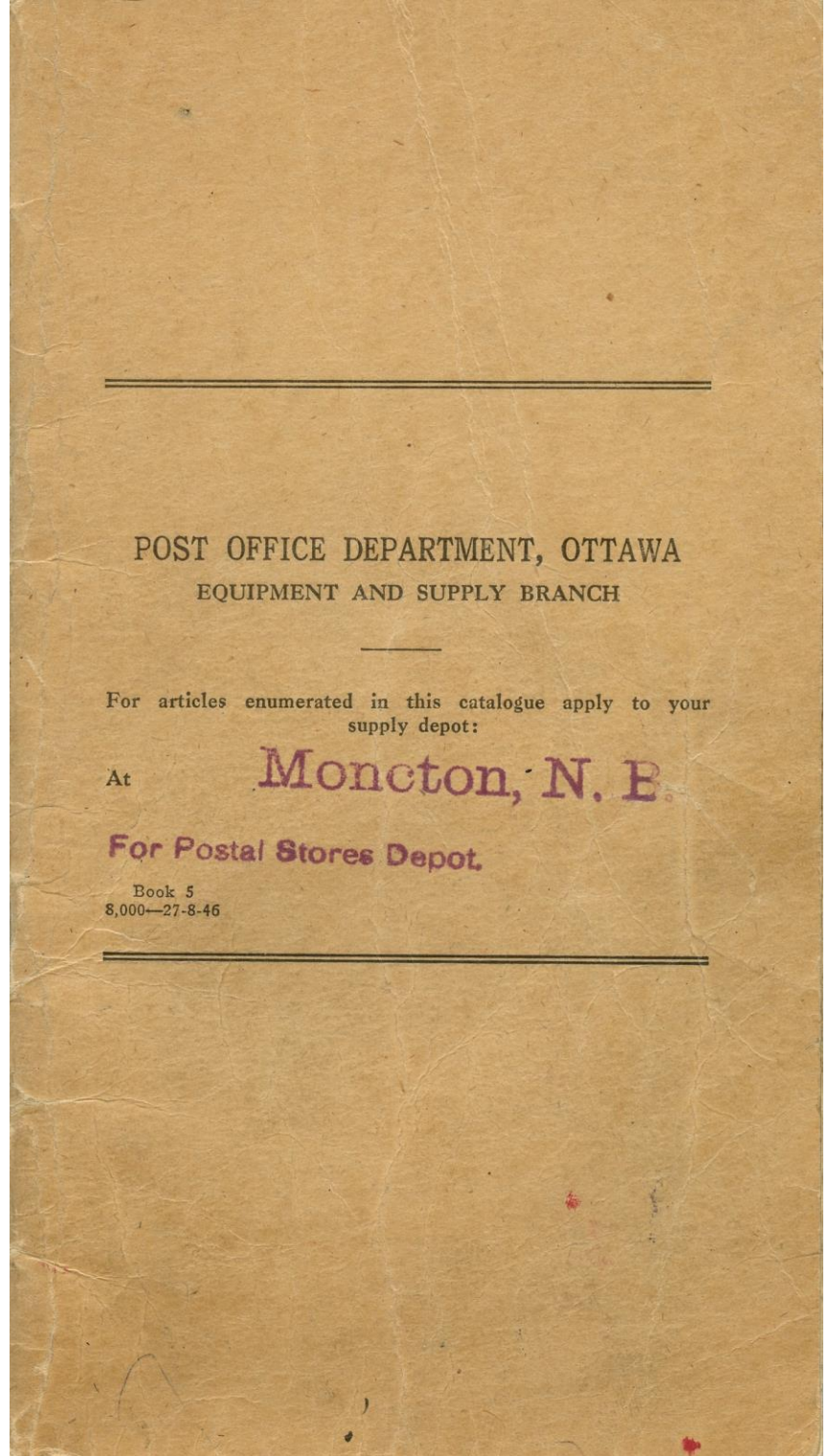
I am available at any time for discussions etc. so feel free to contact me or tap me on the shoulder at the show.

CPO Equipment and Supply Branch Listings of DLO Items to Order

by Gary Steele

Hugh Rathbun of Nova Scotia was given this catalogue by a local Post Office:

Book 5 – 5,000-27-8-46 order number from the **CPO Equipment and Supply Branch**. On pages 6 & 7 are a list of Dead Letter Office envelopes for both internal and external use from 1. D. L. G. to 19. D. L. G. that can be ordered or used by various offices for a variety of reasons.



Note on page 7 the manuscript (I D. L. G.) Undeliverable Mail Label. This term could have ensued after several years during the changeover of the Dead Letter Office (DLO) name to Undeliverable Mail Office (UMO).

50½-B Pad—Certificate of Post Office Registration (Pads of 30 leaves)—French.
~~61-B—Re-Direction Notice.~~
~~61½-B—Re-Direction Notice—French.~~
 X 67-B Pad—Notice to Editor & Publisher (In Pads of 50 Forms).
 X 67½-B Pad—Notice to Editor & Publisher (In Pads of 50 Forms)—French.
 X 77-B—Report of Missing Mail—Postmaster to District Director.
 77½-B—Report of Missing Mail—Postmaster to District Director—French.
 78-B—Acknowledgment of Missing Mail—Postmaster to Director.
 78½-B—Acknowledgment of Missing Mail—Postmaster to Director—French.
 X 83-B(a)—Post Office Notice, Office Hours (For Revenue Offices).
 83½-B(a)—Post Office Notice, Office Hours (For Revenue Offices)—French.
 84-B—Notice—Smoking, Spitting, Etc., Prohibited.
 84½-B—Notice—Smoking, Spitting, Etc., Prohibited—French.
 X 91-B—Customs Declaration for Parcel Post (Large and Small).
 91½-B—(Large) Customs Declaration for Parcel Post—French.
 91¾-B—(Small) Customs Declaration for Parcel Post—French.
 C.O.D. 1—Tag—For C.O.D. Parcel.
 X C.O.D. 2—Card—Amount Due on C.O.D. Parcel—English. 10
 C.O.D. 2½—Card—Amount Due on C.O.D. Parcel—Bilingual.
 C.O.D. 4—Sticker—C.O.D. (Bilingual).
 C.O.D. 5—Tag (Bilingual) to be used in conjunction with 11-B and 11½-B.
 X S.D. 4—Label—Special Delivery Letter—Bilingual.
 X S.D. 8—Yellow Sticker for Special Delivery Letters.
 X 1 D.L.G. (Env.) (Large)—Envelope to enclose Dead Letter Account—English.
 X 1 D.L.G. (Env.) (Small)—To enclose Dead Letter Account.
 1½ D.L.G.—Envelope to enclose Dead Letter Account—French.
 3 D.L.G.—Envelope to enclose Special Dead Letter Account.
 4 D.L.G.—Envelope for correspondence on Dead Letter Business—English.

Space hereunder for Additions and Corrections

X 59 B - Bilingual - Change of address note

X 7 P Label 6 Household matter

X Cost 22 Form Statement of N.H. mailings

4½ D.L.G.—Envelope for correspondence on Dead Letter Business—French.
 9 D.L.G. Form—Monthly Dead Letter Account—English.
 9½ D.L.G. Form—Monthly Dead Letter Account—French.
 16 D.L.G. Form—Special Registered Dead Letter Return—English.
 16½ D.L.G. Form—Special Registered Dead Letter Return—French.
 17 D.L.G. Form—Special Dead Letter Return.
 18 D.L.G.—List of Registered Packets returned from Customs.
 19 D.L.G.—List of Ordinary Packets returned from Customs.
~~Book 25—Registered Letters Delivered (150 leaves).~~
~~Book 25½—Registered Letters Delivered (150 leaves)—French.~~
~~Book 27—Registered Letters Mailed at (150 leaves).~~
~~Book 27½—Registered Letters Mailed at—(150 leaves)—French.~~
~~Book 29—Registered Letters Passing Through (150 leaves).~~
 X Book 29½—Registered Letters Passing Through (150 leaves)—French.
 X Book 42 (150 leaves)—General Record of Registered Letters.
 Book 42½ (150 leaves)—General Record of Registered Letters—French.
 Book 43 (75 leaves)—General Record of Registered Letters.
 Book 43½ (75 leaves)—General Record of Registered Letters—French.
 Official Postal Guide—English—Full Volume.
 Official Postal Guide—French—Full Volume.
 31 Card—Registered Letters.
 X 31½ Card—Registered Letters—Bilingual.
 X 32 Card—Notice re non-delivery of Parcels.
 32½ Card—Notice re non-delivery of Parcels—French.
 33 Card—Ask at Wicket for Unpaid Matter.
 33½ Card—Ask at Wicket for Unpaid Matter—French.
 34½ Card—Package Cannot Be Delivered for the Following Reason—Bilingual.
 80 B 35 Card—Attention Boxholders.
 35½ Card—Attention Boxholders—French.

Space hereunder for Additions and Corrections

(I D.L.G.) Undeliverable Mail Label 185 Label

X 86 B Change of Address Notice

X 99 B Form. Undeliverable Matter

73862-3 7

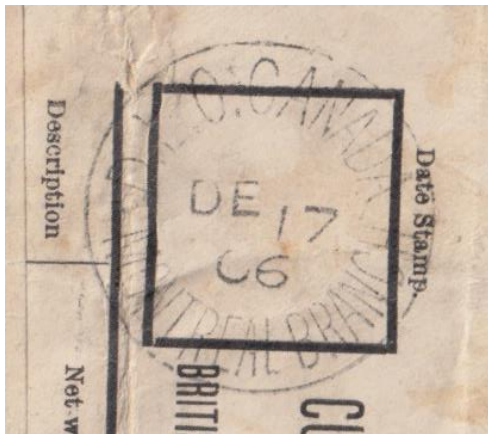
**D. L. O. CANADA
DE 17 / 06
MONTREAL BRANCH**

D.L.O. Parcel to England by Gary Steele

Treasures are sometimes in the stories one is able to ascertain in various postal history items. They do not always contain all the answers, but it is the pieces of the puzzle that get recognized while others pass them over.

Although I miss many things sometimes right under my nose, I was fortunate to have noticed this parcel piece with a customs label to England. A fondness for parcel post items, my amazement when I saw the Montreal D.L.O. cds in the Date Stamp section of form 91 B -1000,000- 13-12-05.

Dead Letter Office handstamps are seldom seen on Parcel Post items, especially on Customs labels (my first).



One can only speculate on the whole story here, but what we do know is that 16 cents of the Edward issue stamps were placed on a Canadian parcel weighing 7 ounces. An assumption here is that no Customs label was attached, the parcel may have been opened, a customs label attached with a note 'Pr of sl.... g....' and #1481 marked on the label.

Forwarded to England, a British PO label specifically for Canada was attached, also marked No. '1481' and Inland Postage of '3d' due.

With no other information, we can only assume the item was delivered after the Christmas season.

The DLO sometimes handled underpaid material, received payment and forwarded the items, however, they were required to cancel the stamps (if attached) with a DLO handstamp that was not done in this case.

District Director of Postal Services

D. L. O.

OCT 22 1946

2

Edmonton, Alta.

New Handstamp (OKC) by Gary Steele



This is a totally new handstamp a mere four months after being proofed, previously only proof known dated June 29.

In today's environment most people would not know what GENERAL DELIVERY was. However, in the past many letters and parcels were sent to a post office marked "General Delivery" resulting in many items not being picked up, forwarded to another address or sent to the Dead Letter Offices.

The letter could not find its destination at 1010 Broad St. Victoria forwarded to Edmonton, Alta., NOT CALLED FOR at the Edmonton Post Office on Oct 7 1946 and sent to the Edmonton Dead Letter Office Oct 22 1946. As usual it would have been opened up, if a return address was included, the DLO clerk would have returned it to the sender in a Dead Letter Office Return envelope.

**D.L.O. CANADA
FEB
14
1908
TORONTO BRANCH**

New Handstamp (OKC) by Gary Steele

Someone was in trouble on Valentine's Day. On February 14th 1908 a Valentine was sent to a Miss Myrtle Watson in Toronto with no postage. It was thus sent to the Toronto Dead Letter Office on Feb 14 1908 per large 34mm black handstamp.

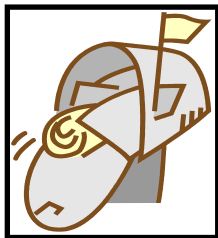
A note would have been sent to the addressee asking for payment per file #16692 on the left. Once payment was received the 1c Edward was applied and cancelled by a Toronto DLO oval handstamp Feb 17 1908, the File # crossed out per regulations and forwarded through the postal system the same day being three days late.



This is a very interesting previously unknown handstamp. Although it is a circle type single frame, the outside is shaped like a bottle cap. There is no proof known. All letters are sans-serif and large caps 5mm in height. There are no other similar handstamps that I am aware of.



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

For Sale - Canada covers, precancels, plate blocks and other postal history. If nothing showing in your area please email with your want list.
https://www.ebay.com/str/canadapostalhistoryandstamps?_sop=10

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 – WAX SEALS from Canada Post Office
gwsteele57@gmail.com

For Sale -