

## EXHIBIT SUMMARY

### Canadian Dead Letter Office Re-Organization Handstamps

#### Significant items:

A large portion of this exhibit are either Only Known Copies (OKC) or Earliest Reported Dates (ERD) or Latest Reported Dates (LRD). Many items especially Ottawa and Toronto are extremely rare sometimes taking two to three years just to find one item.

#### Treatment and structure:

- The words '**Dead Letter Office**' and initials '**D.L.O.**' or **Bureau des Rebut**s appear in each handstamp.
- All handstamps are organized by City Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver with the handstamps wording, dates and clerk number in bold.
- Dimensions and any other notable differences are listed in the city header as to proofs and known copies or within the exhibit to allow the research to filter throughout.
- Any additional pertinent data is then disseminated and presented accordingly.
- Although most items are scarce to very rare as in one of kind, those in red frames are noted for specific reasons as compared to the material overall.

#### History and general information:

- As stated on the Title page this particular variety of DLO rectangle handstamp is very specific in its design and introduction within the four remaining Dead Letter Offices **due to restructuring of the Post Office in 1948**. This exhibit hopes to simplify this subject by the known number of proofs and reported items.
- Canadian DLO handstamps includes a variety of postal matter both domestic and foreign, printed matter, first class, registered, insufficient postage, unpaid, fraudulently used postage stamps on cover, unclaimed, mail service suspended, unknown and Returned Dead Letter envelopes etc. Each cover tells a lengthy story (5 to 10 handstamps or more) sometimes being held for a period of over several months or years as per regulations of the Post Office and Dead Letter Office.
- Due to limited space, details on each item are kept at a minimum, concentrating on the handstamps.
- The function of the DLO is to receive these letters and apply a receiving handstamp owing to failure of delivery, for any reason, under regulations that cannot be forwarded to final destination.
- For larger offices in April of each year, items are to be serially numbered (file#) starting at #1. No specific date rule started. Not all offices followed this procedure.
- Items are then examined and opened to try to find the sender's name and address, or to receive and affix proper postage, forward to addressee's proper address and/or return said items in a Returned Dead Letter Envelope date stamping each item.

Without the Dead Letter Office, the postal system would slow to a crawl. The postal system is designed to work smoothly. However, it is the small percentage of material that fails delivery, and requires the expertise of the DLO to allow the rest of the postal system to function.



**Items of special interest are bordered in red.**

### **General DLO Study and Research:**

- 30+ years of collecting Dead Letter Office handstamps, original research, discovery of new handstamps and detailed examination has un-earthed many new items
- Recognized authority for adding new finds and critique to the catalogue listings, including research and material in the next edition of the Webb's Canada Postal Stationery Catalogue on Dead Letter Office Return covers. Editor of the Dead Letter Office Newsletter and author of 46 articles initiated in the Nova Scotia Post Newsletter by the NS Stamp Club.
- Only Known Copies (OKC) are assumed based on reports made, subject to change.
- Characteristics surface from different dimensions and date formats of these handstamps including proofs.
- Many items are poorly handstamped having been handled many times or having been "damaged in the mails". This may also be a result of many handstamps on one item making interpretations difficult. Magnification of handstamp measurements were used many times to confirm dimensions.

### **Exhibit Plan:**

See title page.

### **Previous Awards:**

This specialist exhibit is new. It dives deep into the differences of types and dates stated used for each of the four cities. All previous DLO exhibits single and multi-frame since 2008 have obtained Gold medals and higher awards.

### **Bibliography**

The Dead Letter Office in Canada 1830 - 2002 July 2006 Brian C. Plain

The Dead Letter Office 1874 – 1954 BNAPS exhibit handbook Gary W. Steele

BNAPS Dead Letter Office Study Group Newsletter - Editor of the newsletter  
<http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/n-dlo.htm>

46 articles continuing series Nova Scotia Post and Mail newsletter (some are yet to be posted), online [www.nsstampclub.ca](http://www.nsstampclub.ca) These are also being run over time in the Maple Leaves Journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain as reprints with slight changes.

Proof strikes are from the Proof Strikes of Canada Volume XXIII by Robert A. Lee