



Canadian Dead Letter Office Re-Organization Handstamps

Purpose:

The exhibit shows the **new style rectangle Dead Letter Office handstamps** due to a major **Post Office re-organization in 1948**. Onward, all mail directed to several Dead Letter Offices **were to be sent only to Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver** depending upon the point of origin and destination. Mail containing valuables that could not be redirected and mail suspected of being illegal or of a fraudulent nature would be forwarded to the Dead Letter Office in **Ottawa**.

Treatment:

In January 1948 Ottawa was the first Dead Letter Office to be restructured according to the dates on proofs, followed by Montreal, Toronto and finally Vancouver in July 1948. The Dead Letter Offices will be shown in this order. Additional proofs were made at subsequent dates up to November 1948, including replacement proofs up to 1952. A gradual reduction in use occurred in 1953 and 1954. There are a few proofs after 1948 but not of this particular design, thus not included in this study.

Items are usually listed by type, dimensions, lettering including periods, commas and dashes. This will result in a general chronological order, but not for every item.

The listing for each item includes the lettering of the handstamp and indicia, major and subtype of handstamp, dimensions, important variations as compared to similar handstamps, if a strike proof was taken and importance such as Previously Unknown, Only Known Copy (**OKC**) or Earliest (**ERD**) and Latest (**LRD**) reported dates of use. Throughout the exhibit are numerous previously unknown, unreported, earliest and latest reported dates discovered by the exhibitor.

The Dead Letter Office is an important division of the Canadian Post Office as it would not be able to function without the clearing of undeliverable items. These handstamps are new and the last mainly used by the DLO before the name change to the Undeliverable Mail Office (UMO).

Plan:

Page:

- 1 - Title Page
- 2 - 4 Ottawa DLO
- 5 - 9 Montreal DLO
- 10 - 12 Toronto DLO
- 13 - 16 Vancouver DLO

Proof Strikes:

Restructuring of DLO to four offices including replacement handstamps:

Ottawa	January 11, 1948	#1, 3, 4, 6, 8
	March 21, 1948	#2
	July 16, 1948	#9
	September 21, 1948	#5
	November 21, 1948	#10
	November 23, 1948	#7, 11
	September 8, 1950	#10 Replacement proof
Montreal	July 3, 1948	#1-12
	October 25, 1950	#2, 9 Replacement proof with month spelled out
	No proof known	#3 Replacement handstamp with month spelled out
Toronto	July 3, 1948	#1-7
	No proof known	#10 New Subsequent number handstamp
Vancouver	July 3, 1948	#1-7
	September 25, 1952	#6 replacement proof with month spelled out