

## SYNOPSIS OF EXHIBIT



# Dead Letter Office Wax Seals & Boxed Registration Handstamps - on Dead Letter Return Envelopes

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### Significant items:

Although most items are rare to extremely scarce a few items are of significance due to being recent finds previously unknown being one of a kind or earliest or latest reported items.

1896 Registered to Moosomin ASSA with clear pre 1898 Ottawa oval wax seal.  
ERD post July 1<sup>st</sup> 1898 of any branch DLO wax seal, Ottawa Branch three-point crown  
New find of a Victoria branch DLO wax seal, OKC, previously unknown.  
ERD's and LRD's of boxed registration handstamps

The exhibit studies the Dead Letter Office Wax Seals and Boxed Registration Handstamps used only on Registered Canadian Dead Letter Office Return envelopes.

The words '**Dead Letter Office**' and/or initials '**D.L.O.**' or **Bureau des Rebut**s appear in each Wax Seal and Handstamp.

Canadian DLO Wax Seals and Handstamps shown in this exhibit are on only Dead Letter Return envelopes.

### Treatment

The function of the DLO is to return mail that is undeliverable to the sender in Dead Letter Office Return envelopes. Registered mail and items of value were usually returned in a Registered Dead Letter Office Return envelope. Some of these envelopes were sealed with wax by a Crown Wax Seal and/or handstamped with a Boxed Registration Handstamp.

Items shown are separated as follows:

#### **Oval & Large Circle Wax Seal** - to July 1, 1898:

The Canada Dead Letter Office / Branch was located only in Ottawa up to decentralization on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1898 into various branches across the country.

#### **Crown Wax Seals** - July 1<sup>st</sup> 1898 to late 1940's:

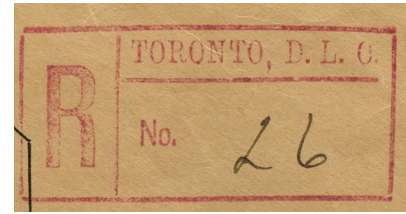
**Branch DLO offices** were created July 1<sup>st</sup> 1898 in the larger Canadian cities of Ottawa, Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Victoria. Subsequent openings occurred in Calgary, Edmonton, Regina and Vancouver.

#### **Boxed Registration Handstamps** – 1920's to 1980:

A few Branch DLO offices used boxed registration handstamps with the letters 'DLO' or words 'Dead Letter Office' in them. In the 1950's 'Undeliverable Mail Office' or 'UMO' replaced 'DLO' and 'Dead Letter Office' only seen on Montreal registered Dead Letter Return envelopes.

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 green.**



## **General DLO Study and Research**

With 40 years of collecting Dead Letter Office handstamps, original research, discovery of new Wax Seals and boxed Registration Handstamps, and detailed examination has un-earthed many new items OKC (only known copy or only known reported copy) Earliest and Latest Reported Dates. The exhibitor is a recognized authority for adding to the catalogue listings in Brian Plains DLO book. Note that Only Known Copies OKC are assumed based on reports made and will always be subject to change.

For items with no record for DLO proofs of Wax Seals & Boxed Registration Handstamps it is impossible to know which handstamps appeared before others. It is assumed that proofs existed before the use of any hammers.

These items are separated by type, size, and lettering. **Not all items are in chronological order as they are organized by type, city and size as best possible.**

Total numbers of Wax Seals are unknown. However, my estimation is that DLO Wax Seals are 35 times scarcer than DLO handstamps, and that Boxed Registration Handstamps are 5 times scarcer than DLO Wax Seals.

## **Previous exhibits**

Although this material has only been exhibited in the 2015 BNAPEX with a Gold award, parts of this material have also been exhibited in several of my other DLO exhibits with Golds and Large Golds depending upon the competition.

This exhibit previously shown is on the BNAPS ORE site linked:

<https://bnaps.org/ore/ExhibitDisplay.php?Ex=2&Id=71>

## **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

<http://bnatopics.org/hhlibrary/newsletters/n-dlo.htm>

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

P.O. Dead Letter Office Procedure Reports 1933, P.O. Postal Guides 1892, and P.O. Information Manuals

Boggs The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Canada, Quarterman reprint 1974/75