

Dead Letter Office

Wax Seals & Boxed Registration Handstamps

- on Dead Letter Return Envelopes

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

EXHIBIT BREAKDOWN:

Pre 1898 DLO Wax Seals -

The Canada Dead Letter Office / Branch was located only in Ottawa up to decentralization on July 1st 1898 into various branches across the country thus the only city of usage previous to this date.

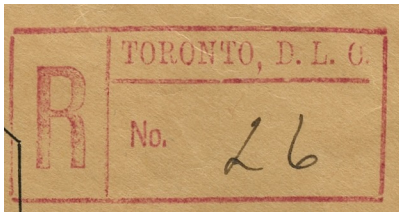


Crown Wax Seals - July 1st 1898 to late 1940's:

Branch DLO offices were created July 1st 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' as they were only

DLO Background:

The Dead Letter Office received and treated mail matter that could not be forwarded to its final destination. This included mail addressed for delivery in Canada, mail posted outside of Canada and addressed for delivery in Canada, and Canadian mail originally addressed to foreign countries then returned because it bore insufficient forwarding information. The returns were made in Dead Letter Return envelopes.

DLO Wax Seals and Boxed Registration handstamps almost always only appear on Registered Dead Letter Return envelopes, but not on every Registered DLO Return Envelope. An envelope with a Wax Seal may not have a boxed registration handstamp and not every registered DLO Return envelope may have a wax seal.

RESEARCH

Throughout the exhibit are previously unknown, unreported, earliest and latest reported dates discovered by the exhibitor. To prepare this exhibit extensive original study, cataloguing and listing of types were used.

STRUCTURE

The listing for each item includes the lettering on the Wax Seal and/or handstamp, dimensions, and important variations. Also noted if a strike proof was taken, and importance such as Previously Unknown, Only Known Copy (**OKC**) or Earliest (**ERD**) and Latest (**LRD**) reported dates.

Fewer than five of each item is known to exist or have been reported.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

