



CANADIAN DEAD LETTER OFFICE HANDSTAMPS

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.

Purpose:

The marcophily exhibit shows the evolution of **Canadian Dead Letter Office (DLO) handstamps** from 1872 up to the introduction of Undeliverable Mail Office handstamps in 1954.

Treatment:

Exhibit begins in **Ottawa** when the **Canadian Dead Letter Office/Branch** was located only in Ottawa up to decentralization on July 1st 1898, when additional DLO's were established.

It continues with **Ottawa** in 1898 onward, followed by **Branch and Local DLO Offices** created after decentralization and used until a major Post Office reorganization was made in the late 1940's. This resulted in the words: **Dead Letter Office, D.L.O.** and **Bureau des Rebutis** no longer being used past 1954.

Structure:

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.

EXHIBIT BREAKDOWN:

1898 down:

- Split Circle Handstamps
- Closed Circle Handstamps > Dead Letter Office Dead Letter Branch
- Closed Circle RECD Numbered Handstamps
 - > at Dead Letter Office 1-3 at Dead Letter Branch 4-6
- Shift Markings > Circular Shift Markings 1-3 Diamond Shift Markings 1-3
- Dead Letter Branch Superintendent P.O. Dept. Canada Handstamp, Parcel Post & Wax Seal.

Decentralization July 1, 1898:

Branch offices:	Opened after	Local offices:
Ottawa	July 1, 1898	Charlottetown
Halifax	Calgary	Hamilton
Montreal	Edmonton	Kingston
Toronto	Moose Jaw	London
Winnipeg	Regina	Quebec
Victoria	Vancouver	St. John & Sherbrooke

Not all DLO's were created on July 1, 1898. Quebec changed from Local to Branch.

DLO Branch handstamps are divided into the following for each city:

Major types

- 1) Steel Circle 3) Circular or Rubber Circle 5) Registration
- 2) Oval 4) Rectangle

Subtypes exist of all major types. Not all major types and subtypes exist for each city.

Special use handstamps: Advice Marking and Wax Seal Handstamps Significant items:

Research:

