

The Postal Markings St. John's General Post Office and Sub Offices 1840-1949

John Butt

Ancillary Markings

When I first began studying the Postal Markings of the St. John's, Nfld., G.P.O., it was not my intention to also research ancillary markings. While viewing the half dozen major postal history collections in St. John's, I noticed that there was a fair number of ancillary markings among them. I began to photostat any covers which contained unusual markings, for future reference. As one can see by the following lists, several years of collecting photostats of these markings has produced a surprising number.

I have divided the markings into sections. Although a fair number of obliterators are listed, there are probably several more, especially of the fancy types with town name. The parcel post section was the most difficult part, with most on stamps, and seldom, on notice cards. This section, I am sure, will be greatly expanded upon in the future. I am also sure the balance of the markings are not complete, but with time they will be expanded upon.

This preliminary listing of ancillary markings is being presented perhaps sooner than it should, but for a good reason. Some of these markings are one of a kind, so the author would like other postal history collectors in

B.N.A.P.S., to provide any new data for the markings shown and copies of any markings not listed.

Any new markings found will be posted in an addendum, when the articles are completed. I already have received ten new markings to be added to those contained in my earlier article. Also included will be acknowledgements and bibliography for the completed article. Therefore, I sincerely hope there will be response from the collectors of Newfoundland Postal History, so that all postal markings of the St. John's General Post Office will be shown in "Topics".

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"Obliterators"

The first obliterations were sent from England to the colony in 1857. The device had ten bar killer cancel, and it was a common obliterator used in all early Newfoundland Post Offices. These devices were used to cancel the stamps so that they could not be used on other mail. Other devices were used to cancel stamps by inefficient postal clerks, such as pens, crayons, thumb prints, etc.

The examples listed and illustrated were all used in St. John's from 1840-

1938. Late in 1918, electric cancelling machines began to cancel mail with a slogan and date stamp in one stroke. These machines were used to cancel mail until Confederation with Canada in 1949. The absence of "killer cancels" from 1918-1949 was caused by these machines, as I have found only two obliterations that were used during this period.

Any information other than the shown would be welcomed by the writer.

OB1 - 10 Bar Killer	1858-1881
OB2 - Quartered Cork	1862-1881
OB3 - Geometric Design	1865-1874
OB4 - Flower Design	1865-1872
OB5 - Quartered Cork with Town Name	1869-1871
OB6 - Numeral Cancel	1865-1896
OB7 - Geometric Design with Town Name	1869-1873
OB8 - Geometric Design with Town Name	1868-1873
OB9 - Quartered Cork with Town Name	1871-1881
OB10 - Leaf Design with Town Name	1871-1881
OB11 - 5 Bar Killer	1877-1890
OB12 - Geometric Design	1877-1883
OB13 - Three Ring Target	1891
OB14 - 9 Bar Killer	1888-1897
OB15 - Roller (No Number)	1890-1905
OB16 - Roller (No. 2)	1895-1905
OB17 - 10 Bar Killer	1893-1902
OB18 - 8 Bar Killer	1921-1937
OB19 - Large Sunburst	1938

"Obliterators"



OB1



OB2



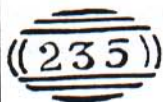
OB3



OB4



OB5



OB6



OB7



OB8



OB9



OB10



OB11



OB12



OB13



OB14



OB15



OB16



OB17



OB18



OB19

"Dead Letter Offices"

A system for the disposal of "Dead Letters" was in place at the St. John's G.P.O. as early as 1851. The first postal marking I have seen is in the Pritchard-Andrews proof books. It is a split ring dated November 6, 1907. I have found only four actual date stamps from the D.L.O. but I have included related material from the St. John's Office.

The advertised marks were stamped on "Dead Letters" to show that an advertisement had been placed in the local papers to let the public know that they were available for

pickup. After a period of time they would be dropped from the list and filed away.

The "Officially Sealed" labels were used to seal up letters that were opened at the G.P.O. by postal officials, to acquire any information on the "addressee" or the "sender".

The "Unclaimed" marking is from the late 1920's and shows that the letter should go to the D.L.O. for inspection.

If any collector has any markings other than those shown, the writer would be glad to hear from you.

DL01 - 1907	Split Ring
DL02 - 1908-1912	Rectangle (large letters)
DL03 - 1914	Rectangle (small letters)
DL04 - 1938-1947	Double Oval
DL05 - 1904	George V Label
DL06 - 1923	Rectangular Label
DL07 - 1937	Nfld. Crest Label
DL08 - 1901-1908	Rectangle (large letters)
DL09 - 1917	Rectangle (small letters)
DL10 - 1928	Unclaimed

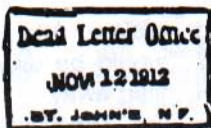
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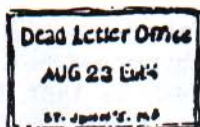
"Dead Letter Office"



DLO1



DLO2



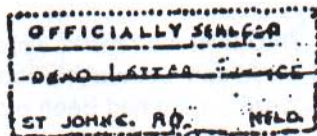
DLO3



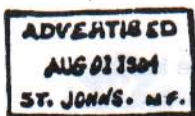
DLO4



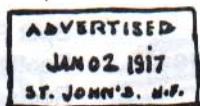
DLO5



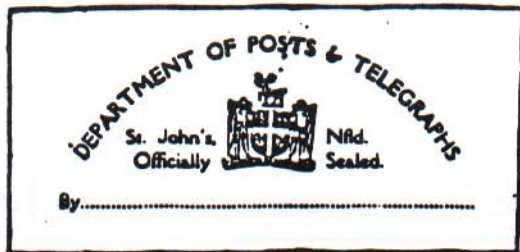
DLO6



DLO7



DLO8



DLO9

UNCLAIMED
St John's, N.F.

DLO10

"Money Order Office"

A Money Order Office was established in St. John's in 1864. The first date stamp shown (MO1) was found in an envelope full of 1863-1865 date stamps cut from a G.P.O. recording ledger. The obvious difference from the Pritchard-Andrews proof strike (MO2) being the short "T" in St. John's.

For the 1864-1949 time period, I have recorded only nine different date stamps from St. John's and one from St. John's East, obviously not an overworked department. If any date stamps are missing from the list, the writer would be appreciative of the same.

MO1 - Double Ring (23.5mm)	1864
MO2 - Double Ring (24mm)	1879
MO3 - Oval (Nfld.)	1894-1903
MO4 - Oval (NEWF'LD)	1903
MO5 - Large Double Ring (M.O.B.)	1912
MO6 - Box	1924
MO7 - Large Double Ring (M.O.D.)	1928-1932
MO8 - Oval (Sup. Office)	1926-1935
MO9 - Single Circle	1938
MO10 - Double Circle (St. Johns East)	1944

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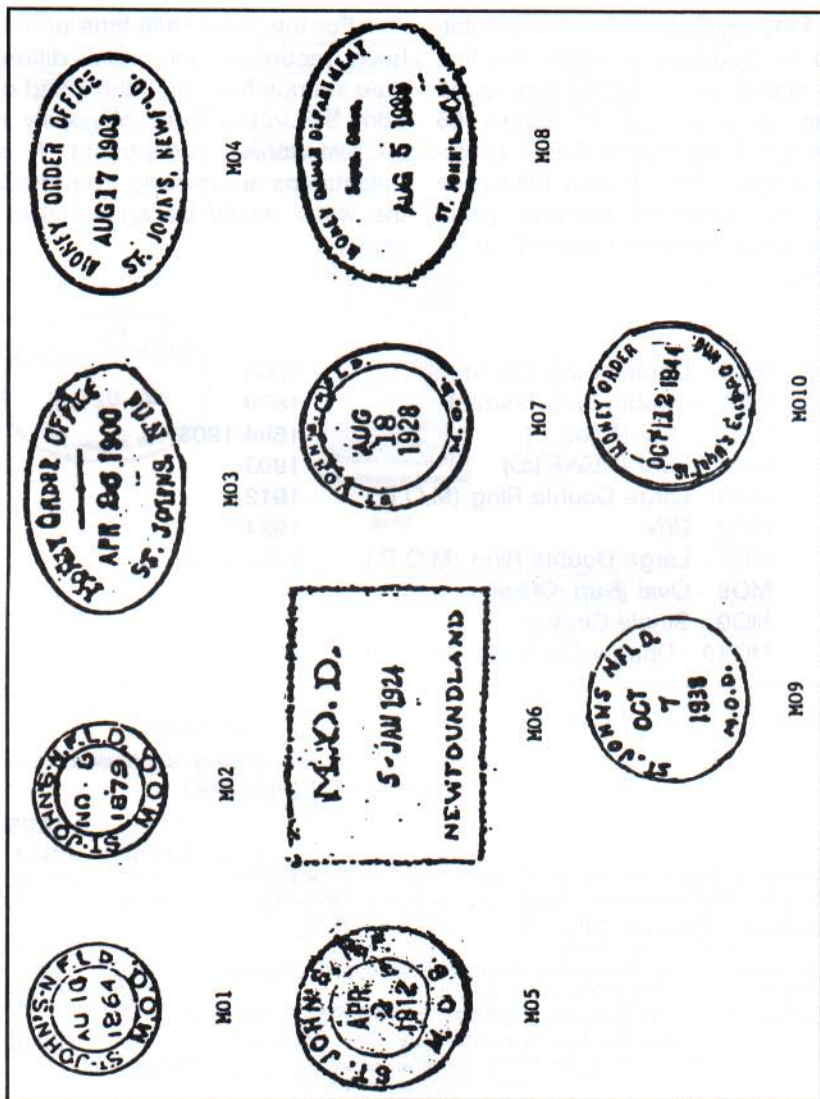
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"Money Order Office"



(to be continued)