

April 8th One Day Show Pictures by Newton Kulp



**Kenneth
Connors'**

**90th
Birthday!**

**Congratulations from
the membership of the
CFSC.**

Dead letter Return Mail

by Jerry Eller

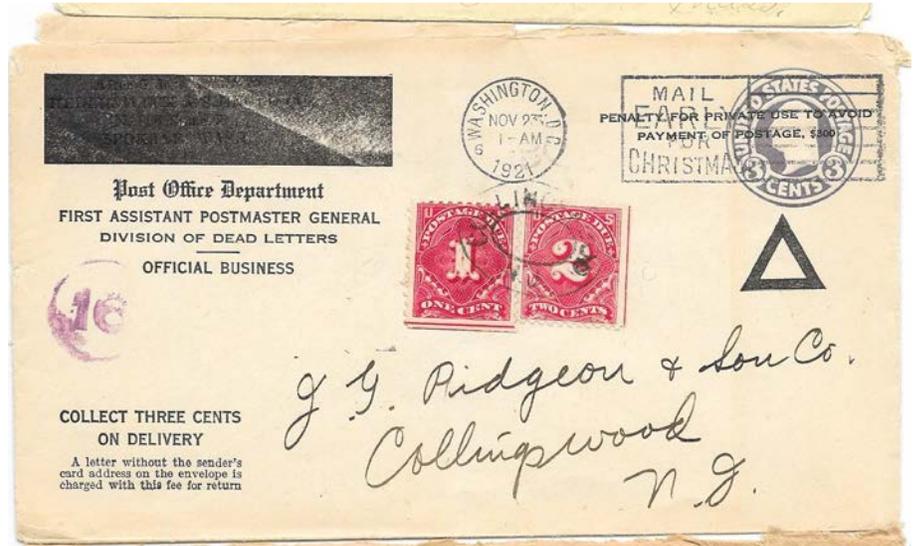
A dead letter return envelope comes from the (The Dead letter office –DLO) a facility within a postal system where undeliverable mail is dealt with. Mail is considered to be undeliverable, when the address is invalid so it cannot be delivered to addressee, and there is no return address for a return to sender.

Dead letter offices go by different names in different countries. (Returned Letter Office or undeliverable Mail Office).

In the United States the Postal Service started a Dead letter office in 1825 in Washington D.C. to deal with undeliverable mail; by 1893, it handled about 20,000 items every day. Before 1917 there was only one Dead Letter office. After 1917 there were anywhere from three to hundreds of dead letter branches (the official records are inconclusive at best). And all required a returned fee (Postage Due fee). In 2006 approximately 90 million undeliverable as addressed items ended up in the DLO. These facilities are now known as mail recovery centers. The USPS maintains mail recovery centers in: St. Paul, Minn., Atlanta, Georgia, and San Francisco.

The symbols on The U.S. Dead letter covers first appeared on a dead letter in 1877 and have been used as late as 1956, and so far, none has been seen on any Dead Letter Return mail since.

The triangle symbol indicates the Returning Division Branch returned



the dead letter, with a postage due rate of the time. The six pointed Star of David symbol indicated that the Minor Division of the Dead Letter Office or branch handled the return of a dead letter. The Minor Division also used a circle to identify letters that had been opened and found to contain on enclosure of value.

Finally, the property Division of the dead Letter Office or branch used a square to identify items of a bulky sort. This division handled letters not advertised and marked unclaimed and undeliverable parcels, except those that were registered mail.