

## CANADIAN IMPERIAL PENNY POST INTRODUCTION

Following much controversy and lobbying by various members of the British Empire, the British Parliament finally agreed to institute an Imperial Penny Post for ocean mail between the various Colonies and Dominions that comprised the British Empire in 1898.

To commemorate the inauguration of this event, which was to be implemented on December 25, 1898, the Canadian Postmaster General, Sir William Mulock, proposed the issuance of a special stamp, which became known as the Canada Christmas Map Stamp. The stamp was so named for its design which consisted of a map of the world outlined in black, with the British Empire depicted in red, and the oceans in blue, and the appellation "XMAS 1898" along the base of the oceans.



*THE WORLD IN BLACK*



*THE EMPIRE IN RED*



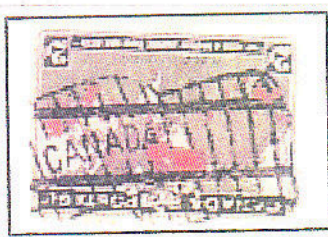
*THE OCEANS IN BLUE*

This exhibit contains historic details which stimulated the implementation of the Penny Post including copies of documents that demonstrate the lobbying efforts by the three principal proponents for the Penny Post, including propaganda that was circulated during the years prior to the two cent rate being officially implemented by the British Imperial Parliament.

The details surrounding the proposal by the Canadian Postmaster General for the production of a Canadian Commemorative stamp, includes the various designs, the die proofs as well as full sheets of the final printing of the Imperial Penny Post or Two Cent stamp produced as well as the first stamp used on a cover

This Canadian commemorative stamp, often referred to as "*The Map Stamp*" was one of the earlier, multi coloured stamps produced, and required three passes through a press and three plates per printing. The method used to produce the plates for printing, and the rationale for the "centre cross" that appears in the centre of the full sheets is the subject of one frame which also displays the Colour varieties produced from the three needed plates. the varieties of the stamp produced and examples of certain anomalies that arose both during and subsequent to the production of the stamp.

Various early usages of the Map Stamp are displayed including domestic mail, special mail as well as mail to areas of the commonwealth, mail to the United States and various countries around the world including Turkey, Shanghai China, Austria, and Moravia. There were some very unique first day Map Stamp covers mailed by F.R. Latchford to those 32 countries which were members of the British Commonwealth. These letters requested return to the sender. Examples of the returned Latchford Letters are in this exhibit.



*MUDDY OCEANS*

Subsequent to the printing of the stamps being completed some very strange reaction took place with some of the stamps both used and mint. What transpired was that the blue and/or green oceans began changing colour, and strange hues began appearing, some in a golden hue, others in bronze while others looked brown. These very soon became known as "Muddy Oceans", and there is one frame devoted to analysing this phenomena.

As the Map Stamp was a two cent postage stamp, and one cent post was still used, there were rare examples of the stamp being used as Bisected, and examples of such covers are included, as well as some covers which were retrieved from a sunken vessel. The stamp was issued at a period of time when machine cancels were being introduced and the hand made Fancy cancels were disappearing. A selection of these fancy cancels is included together with a variety of other cancels such as Perforated or "Perfins", precancels and roller cancels.

### RARE AND SPECIAL ITEMS

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF RARE AND VERY SPECIAL ITEMS THAT ARE HIGHLIGHTED BY RED BORDERS