CANADA IMPERIAL PENNY POST 1898

INTRODUCTION

Following much controversy and consistent lobbying by the proponents of the the Penny Post namely -
HENNIKER HEATON *in the British Empire*, **ELIHU BURRITT** *in the United States* & **WILLIAM MULOCK** *in Canada*
As of December 25, 1898 the British Parliament finally inaugurated an Imperial Penny Post for ocean mail between the various Colonies and Dominions that comprised the British Empire.
The efforts of these people, and their correspondence is set out in in the early pages of Frame One.

To commemorate this event, in Canada 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 Map Stamp*" was one of the earlier, multi coloured stamps produced and utilized three printing phases

PHASE I	PHASE II	PHASE III
THE WORLD IN BLACK WAS ACHIEVED *USING AN ENGRAVED PLATE*	THE EMPIRE IN RED WAS ACHIEVED *USING A TYPOGRAPHIC PLATE*	THE BLUE OCEANS WERE *ACHIEVED ALSO USING A TYPOGRAPHIC PLATE*

FRAME - 1 There were 20 million copies of the Map stamp produced in sheets of 100 for circulation from December 1898, until December 1899. To achieve this required 4 different engraved plates for the Black copies and 2 Typographic Plates for the Red segments as well as one plate only for the Blue Oceans.

FRAME - 2 CREATING THE PLATES The method used to produce the Black engraved plate is illustrated in Frame 2. The Postal order for the 20 million stamps from The American Banknote Co. specified 10 million Blue Oceans and 10 Million Green Oceans. There were various shades of blue produced during the production, and Frame 2 illustrates these. Only one known imperforate sheet of the finished stamp exists which is also shown in Frame 2.

FRAME - 3 DOMESTIC MAIL The actual stamp was released to Postal offices prior to the December 31st inauguration approval by Parliament. There was limited early usage in some areas and examples of the Domestic Pre-inaugural Usage of Map Stamp is illustrated in the Frame 2 together with regular Domestic usage. The Queen Victoria "Numeral " issue released at the same time as the Map Stamp, and some examples of the mixed usage are also included.

FRAME - 4 U.S. MAIL FOREIGN MAIL The U.S.A. & Canada enacted reciprocal privileges regarding postal rates and Frame 4 provides examples of the mail between the United States & Canada

FRAME - 5 MAIL WITHIN THE EMPIRE Frame 5 provides examples of mail to Foreign Countrie, as well as some examples of special First Day returned covers.. Also included are some **covers which were retrieved from a sunken vessel.**

FRAME - 6 SPECIAL COVERS Frame 6 conatins covers examples of Multiple Stamp usage, mixed franking, postal messages, advertising covers with reurned mail and covers that ended their journey in the dead letter office.

FRAME - 7 CANCELLATION COVERS The Imperial Penny Post was issued in an Experimental era when a variety of Postal Cancellors were being introduced to create efficiencies and consistent standards within the Postal Systems. Frame 7 contains examples of the last of the "Fancy or Cork" cancels as well as the innovative hand and machine cancellors.

FRAME - 8 RETOUCHES & MUDDY OCEANS There were deficiencies and errors within the engraved plates that required retouching and/or repair. Frame 8 contains examples of the items and repairs of these items. Subsequent to the production of the Stamp blue and/or green oceans began changing colour, to a golden hue, or bronze while others looked brown . These very soon became known as "Muddy Oceans", and Frame 8 has examples of this phenomenon.

As the Map Stamp was a two cent postage stamp, and one cent post was still in use, there were rare examples of the stamp being used as Bisected, and examples of such covers are included.

RARE AND SPECIAL ITEMS

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