

## EXHIBIT SYNOPSIS

This exhibit entitled "Cancellation Destinations" and "Railway Cancellation Destinations" outlines the history of the Imperial Penny Postage throughout the Confederacy of Canada. Although the official date of issue was December 25, 1898, the unofficial first Christmas stamp was distributed to some larger Post Offices as early as December 7, 1898. The actual effective date of the new 2 cent per ounce rate (which was a reduction of 1 cent per ounce from the 3 cent current rate) was January 1, 1899. The stamp was unique in many respects. It was the first stamp to ever bear a complete representation of the earth's surface by MERCATOR PROJECTION (a projection of the image in a box-like structure). It also was the first stamp to be printed in 3 colors, the British Empire possessions in red and the color of the seas in many shades of lavender, blue green, and gray, all by the lithographic printing method. Finally, the rope-like perimeters, the inscriptions and value tablets in black used the engraved "intaglio" printing method. The new reduced rate for mail to most parts of the British Empire was conceived by Postmaster General Sir William Mullock. After many years of supposed declining mail volume throughout the realm, the idea of an Imperial Penny Postage rate was introduced in a meeting with the universal Postal Union. After much debate, the idea was adopted. The stamps were printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co. of Ottawa.

The purpose of this exhibit is to outline the mail volume figures before and after the reduced rate went into effect with "cancellation destinations" and "railway station cancellation destinations"; in addition, to describe in detail some varied locations within the Canadian Confederacy using historical data, maps, postcards, stamp singles, covers and other ephemera.