

# COLONIAL CENTRAL AMERICA

## CAPITANÍA GENERAL Y REAL AUDIENCIA DEL REINO DE GUATEMALA

### BACKGROUND

The “*Capitancy General and Royal Council of the Kingdom of Guatemala*,” today known as Central America, was established by the Spanish Crown in May 1544. The Kingdom included the Provinces of Chiapas, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. These provinces were the “back water” of Colonial Spain because of their lack of natural resources. The Kingdom of Guatemala ended when Independence was declared in September 1821 and the Federated States of Central America established in 1823. Mail to or from the Kingdom of Guatemala is the most difficult of all Spanish Colonial mail.

### PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBIT

This postal history exhibit will show the development of the postal system in the Kingdom of Guatemala with examples of mail coming into, going out of, and within the Kingdom. This will be documented in four chapters by the various rates, routes, and postal markings that were used up to the establishment of the Central American Federation in 1823.

### EXHIBIT PLAN

A. *CORREO MAYOR PERIOD*: 1620 to 1767- Mail carried privately or by messenger.

B. MARITIME MAIL - RATES AND ROUTES:

1. English Maritime Mail in the 18th century in the Gulf of Honduras.

2. Spanish Maritime Mail (*CORREO MARITIMO*): Mail rates/routes from 1764 when the *Correo Maritimo* was established to 1802 when it was abolished and mail then delivered by the Spanish Navy.

C. OVERLAND MAIL (*CORREO RENTA DE CORREOS*): The Spanish Crown established the Royal Overland Mail Service in 1768 and it ended with Independence in 1821.

1. Rates and Routes

4. Cordillera Mail

2. Postmaster FRANCA Marks

5. Official Mail

3. Introduction of Town Postmarks

6. Patriotic Marks

D. PRE-FEDERATION MEXICAN PRESENCE: 1821-1823





## CORREO MAYOR PERIOD 1620 TO 1767

The King of Spain established the office of "Correo Mayor" (Postmaster General) for the Kingdom of Guatemala on March 2, 1620. With this franchise was the right to profit from the administration and distribution of Royal Mail between Spain and Guatemala and within the Kingdom of Guatemala. Only four individuals held this office until 1767, and it was abolished on September 23, 1768.

However, during this time, most of the mail was carried personally or by private courier.

*There are no surviving examples of mail carried by the Correo Mayor system in Guatemala*

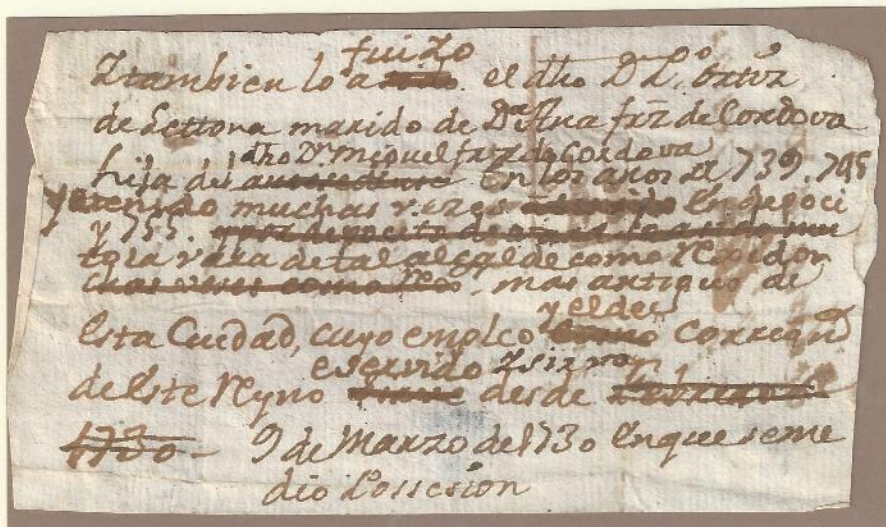
### The Correo Mayores of the Kingdom of Guatemala

1620 - 1646 Pedro Crespo Suarez

1646 - 1682 Francisco de Lyra y Carcamo

1682 - 1728 José Agustín de Estrada

1728 - 1767 Pedro Ortiz de Letona



Fragment of a document signed by Don Perdo Ortiz de Letona, c. 1755, last Correo Mayor

"I, Don Ortiz de Letona, husband of Ana Fernandez de Cordova, daughter of the said Miguel Fernandez de Cordova, in the years 1739, 1745, and 1755, I was the senior alcalde and performed the office of regidor of this city, and that of the Correo Mayor of this Kingdom since March 9, 1730"



MAIL PRIVATELY CARRIED

Province of Guatemala  
Guatemala City

Dated "Wednesday 8th April 1655"

One of the earliest letters in  
Private Hands

Mis Sr. Diego de Escovar

Amo - Si no es en oracion en  
Bien de amo. no quiero en fadar a  
y conoq mi patria dermas lo hago y afe  
vidos los tiempos Medela salud y tanto  
mea en los q. Saue dios y es parte  
peores no cobra de el beme contantamag  
Comue lo quem de fletes. y auer cono diu  
ben muy pocas y en gratitud y diuin correspondencia y  
lo que debo a amo berguena tomarlo en boca = supplico a vms  
aguardando estos. Mi dieno y Sr. Mechagam de berga p  
mistri butillor y en tarlo der q. deuice y q. sea con piedad  
tonas y y a la ta. Lo demas lo oirre me conelo. y si vms. q. u  
de la q. ta. que lo debo. tare de honrrarme. Contra su quenta. In  
no puede ser de n. Me hicier camino Pasara pa aqui lo apus  
portaria a quando taremos vn exermo licencia. Siene p  
a esto porque no ten suplicar. y yo soy quien abia de yr per  
go espelan ca de cobr no puedmas a q. Guadris como de fco  
do va ra a unque me de sta su casa y miera de la v. de l. en  
deben muchos de 1655  
de recos y tra bado personal, n. de. do a b. e. a  
a amo sumando porque an do tambien con muy pota. l. d. de l. e. a  
medie q. gulle a amo con toda salud como me uie. de m. reu.

Sr. Don Diego de Escovar  
Pior Comodoro

A cara

Privately carried business  
letter for local delivery

Addressed to "Sr. Don  
Diego de Escovar "My  
wish that God keep you  
well" (abbreviated form)

"At his home"

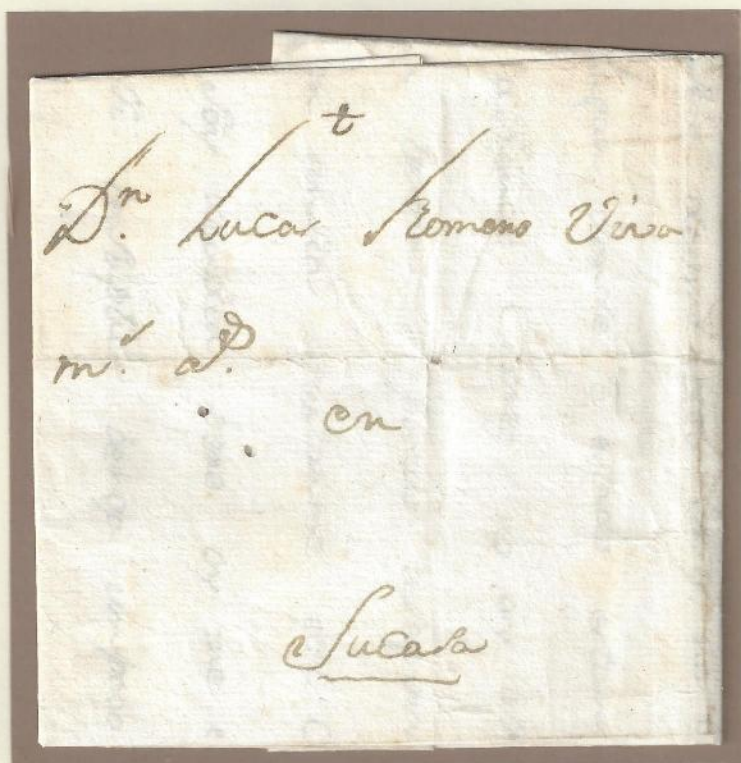
Over written with return  
response



# MAIL CARRIED BY PRIVATE MESSENGER

Province of Honduras  
Province of Guatemala

A deputy Correo Mayor was resident in Comayagua, Honduras, by 1758. Prior to that no organized postal services existed in Honduras. However, even after the establishment of the Correo Mayor system, usually Indian messengers ("propios") were hired privately for the delivery of letters, and this private system continued for well over a hundred years. To hire a private messenger with horse in 1748 cost 16 pesos (64 reales) for each 20 leguas; a messenger on foot cost 2½ reales per legua. Waiting time was 12 reales each day. After 1778 and rate for a foot messenger was ¼ real for each legua, and 3 reales for each day of waiting.



Tegusigalpa (Honduras) May 23, 1740

Addreses to: "Don Lucas Romano/

"Viva ms. As. En su Casa" (May he live many years in his house)

Guatemala City

February 20, 1743

"Given in hand two letters to Don Miguel Rodriguez Velasquez, in Guatemala or Mexico, by Don Lenardo Gallardo"

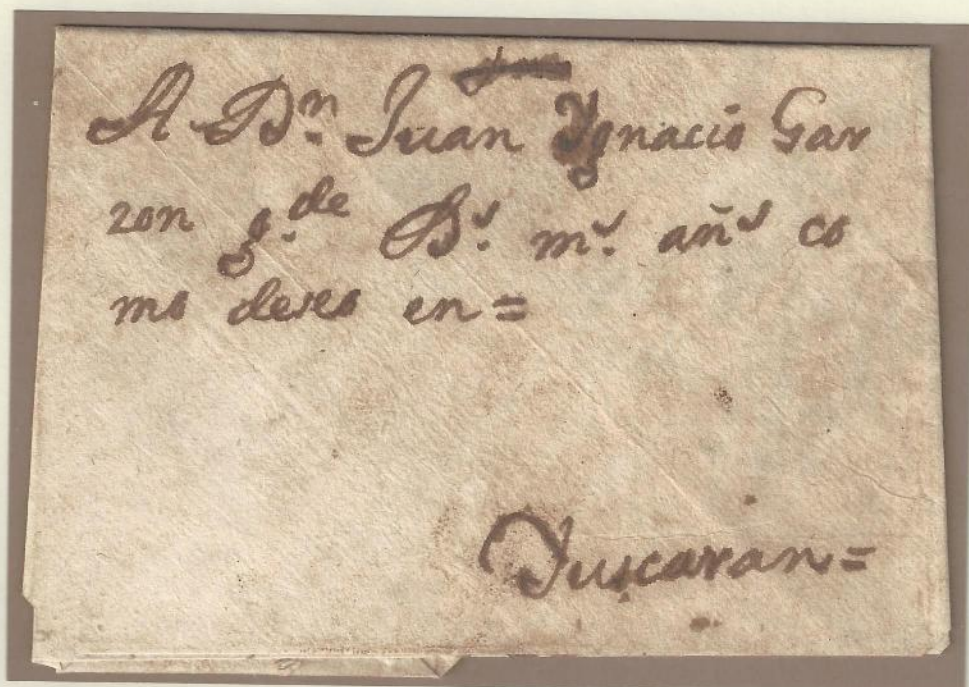




MAIL CARRIED BY PRIVATE  
MESSENGER

Province of Honduras

Since the letters were carried by private messengers, the addresses were strictly informal.



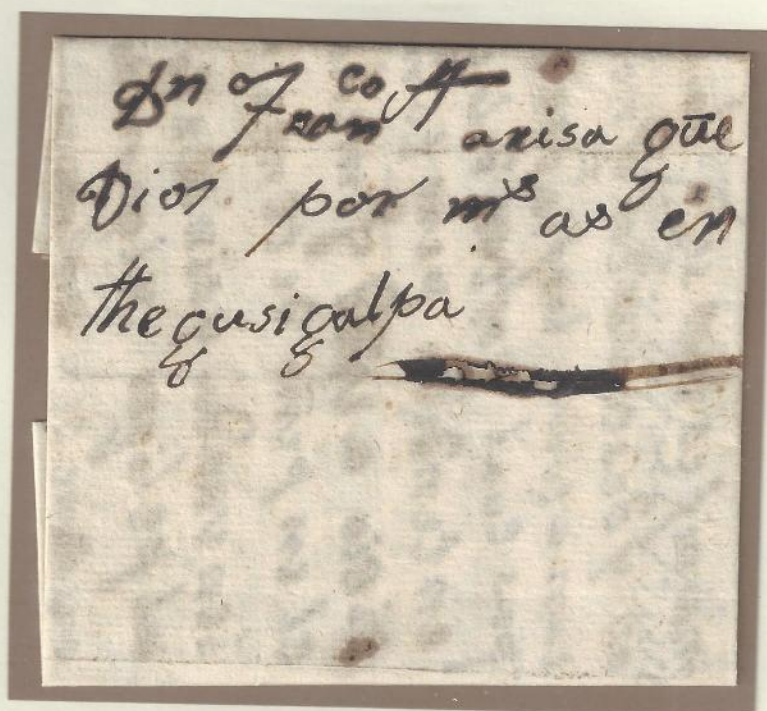
Tegusigalpa (?) to Yuscaran

August 18, 1759

To Don Juan Ignacio Garzon

"Gde. Ds. Ms. Añs. Como deseo  
(May God grant him as many  
years as he wishes)"

Yuscaran to Tegusigalpa  
September 26, 1763  
"Don Francisco Anisa, May  
God Grant Many Years"  
"In Tegusigalpa"





## MARITIME MAIL - RATES AND ROUTES

- 1) ENGLISH MARITIME MAIL IN THE GULF OF HONDURAS 18th CENTURY
- 2) SPANISH MARITIME MAIL (CORREO MARITIMO) 1764 TO INDEPENDANCE

1. English Maritime Mail: In the eighteenth century England attempted to expand its empire into present day Central America. Settlements were made on the Bay Islands (*Islas de Bahía*) in the Gulf of Honduras and on the coast of what is present day Honduras and Nicaragua. England did not provide regular mail service. Mail was picked up by passing English vessels and sent onward via Jamaica. No French mail is recorded from the Kingdom of Guatemala.

2. Spanish Maritime mail (*Correo Marítimo*) was established in 1764 by King Carlos III to handle mail between Spain and the Americas. The first maritime post offices in Spain were established in La Coruña and Cadiz. From these offices mail destined for the Americas was sent first to Havana and then forwarded to the Caribbean Islands, Mexico, Central America and South America. The *Correo Marítimo* was abolished in 1802 and from that time until Independence mail was carried by the Royal Navy.



April 24, 1771

The faint black framed CATALUÑA was used in Barcelona in 1771 and 1772. Sent to Guatemala with the **ESPAÑA** demarcation mark of Cadiz applied in transit.

The earliest recorded letter from Spain to Guatemala carried  
on the *Correo Marítimo*.

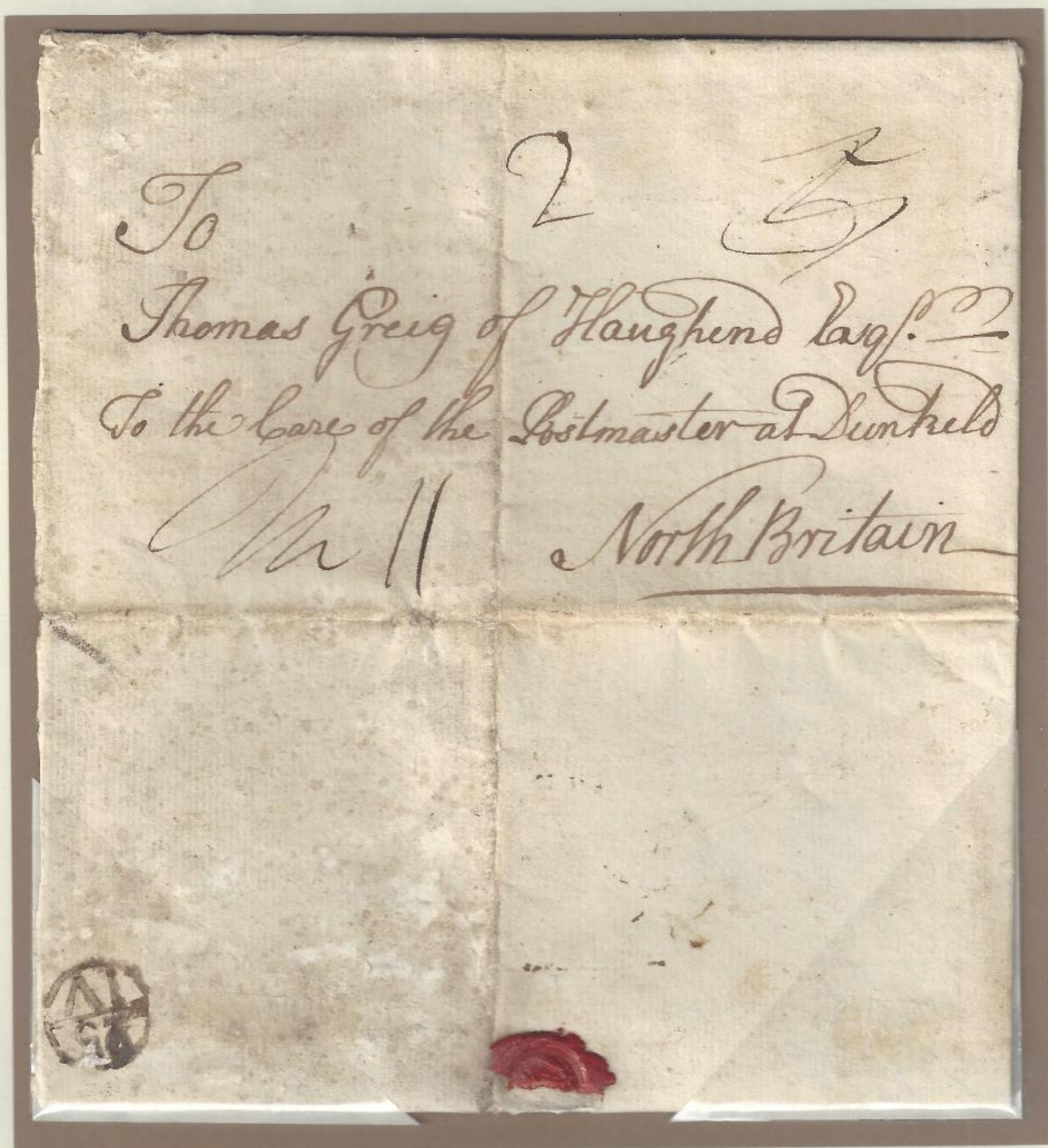


## English Mail Services

Roatan, Islas de Bahia, Province of Honduras

March 9, 1743

During the eighteenth century, English settlers and garrisons were located throughout the Caribbean and the Americas. In 1743 England controlled the Bay Islands (Islas de Bahia) in the coastal waters of the Province of Honduras. Control of these islands changed several times between the English and Spanish authorities.



Roatan, Islas de Bahia, March 7, 1743, via Jamaica and Falmouth to London, April 25, 1743,  
to Dunkeld, Scotland

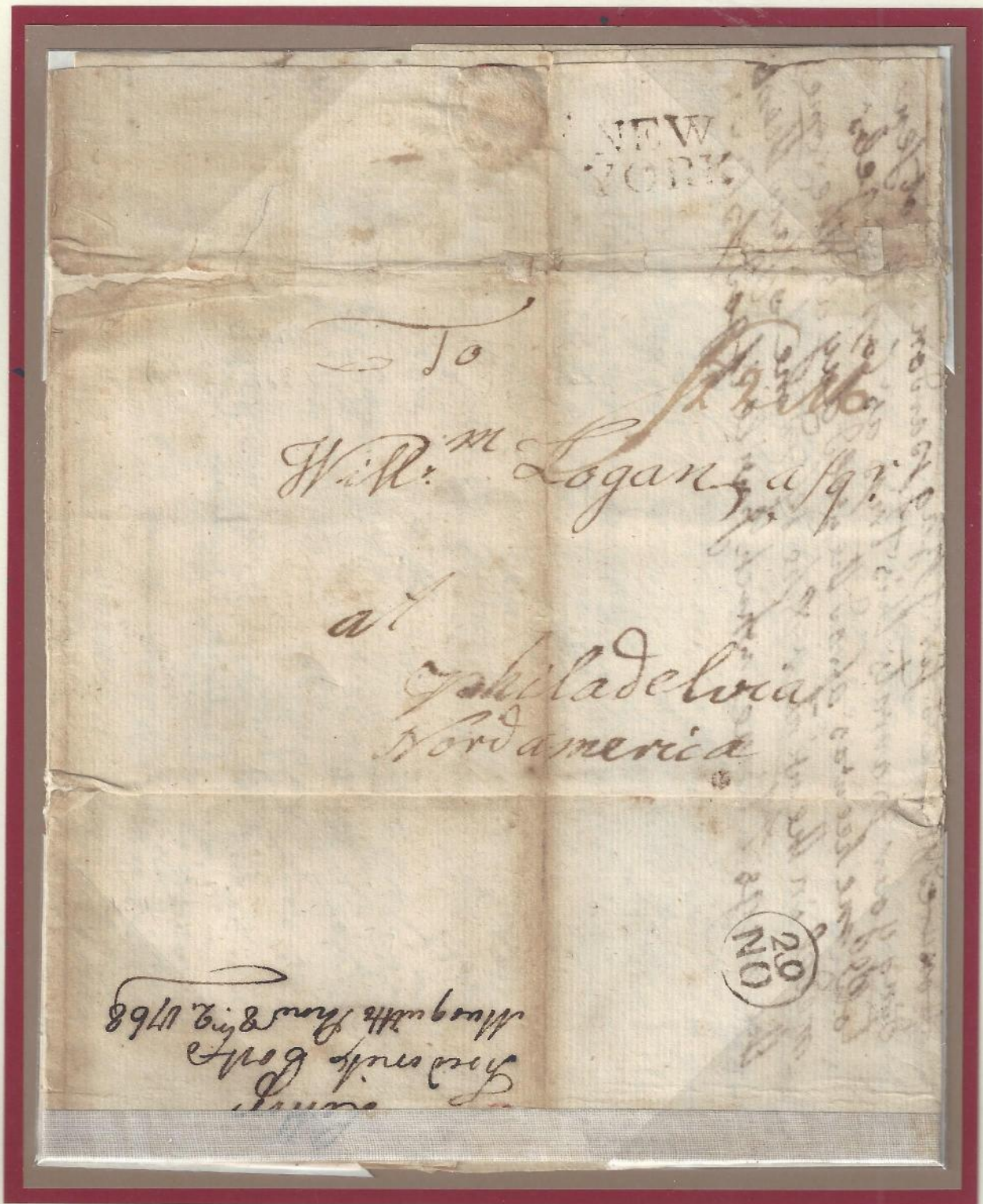
Captain's fee for carriage to Falmouth, 1d, Falmouth to London Royal Mail fee, 4d, London to Edinburgh, 6d, for a total of 11d as noted in the lower left. The additional 2d at the top is the fee from Edinburgh to Dunkel.



English Mail Services

Bluefields, Mosquito Coast  
Province of Nicaragua

Only Recorded letter to North America



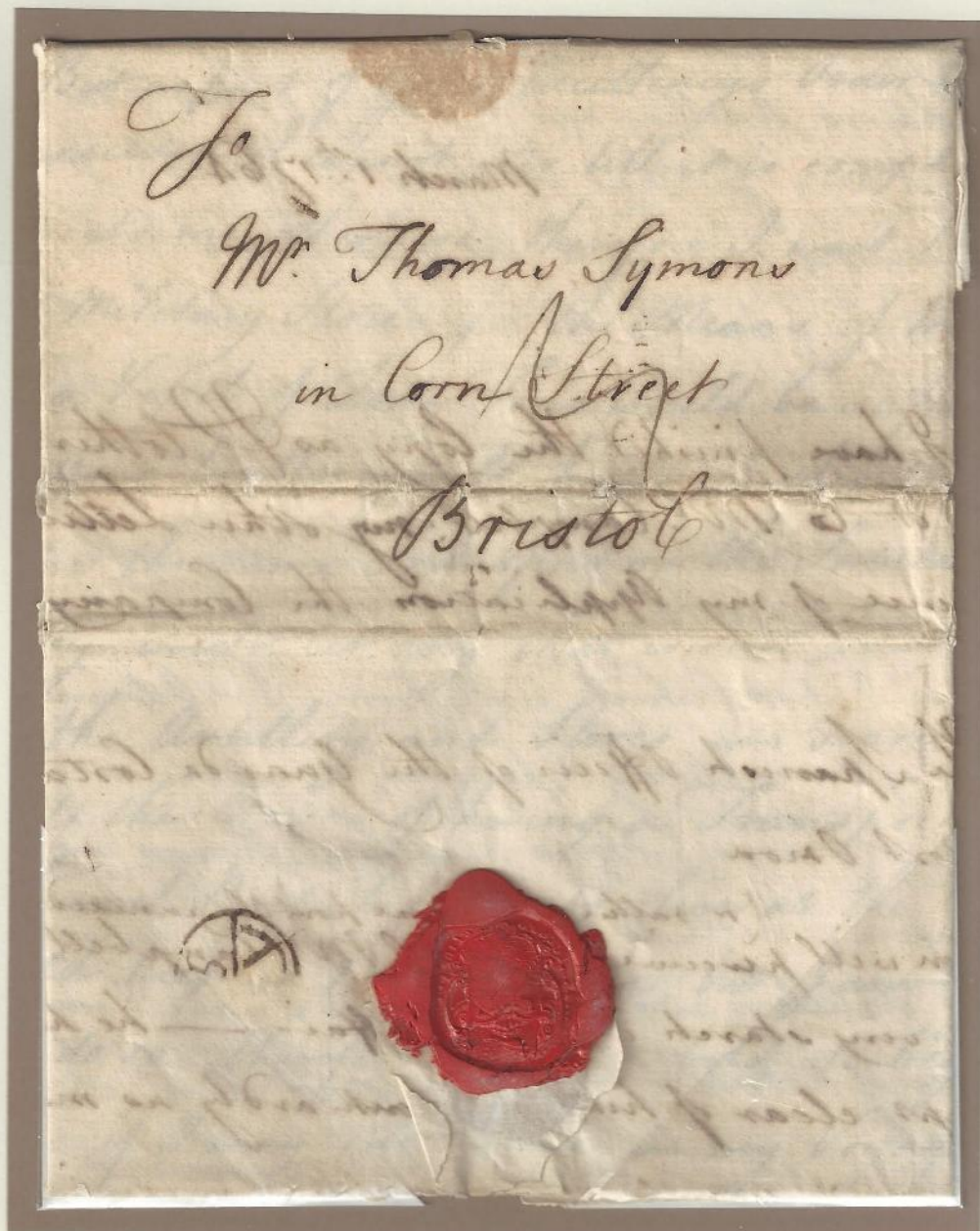
Bluefields, Mosquito Coast, October 2, 1768, via Jamaica to Philadelphia, North America

Missionary letter carried by passing merchant vessel from the Mosquito Coast to Jamaica where it entered the British mail system, to New York and on to Philadelphia (Franklin style receiving mark of 29/NO).

Manuscript rate "Sh. 2.16" for a double weight letter 60 to 100 miles, plus ship fee of 16 silver grains.



February 20, 1764



Written February 20, 1764, in the British settlement of Black River, *Rio Tinto* in Spanish, and carried by a passing ship to Jamaica where it entered the British postal system. From Jamaica it was sent by packet to Falmouth, via London (Bishop's Mark JY/5) to Bristol. Rated 4d, 1d for transatlantic ship carriage according to the 1711 rates, and 3d inland rate.

There was no mail service in Black River/*Rio Tinto* until the Spanish established a post office in 1788.



**CORREO MARITIMO**  
Spanish Maritime Mail Service

*Reglamento Provisional del Correo Martimo  
España a Sus Yndias Occidentales*

**Transatlantic Rates**

In 1764 King Carlos III created the Maritime Postal System and established a post office at the port of La Coruña to handle mail between Spain and Latin America. Mail was sent by packet boat to Havana where it was sorted for destinations in Nueva España (Mexico), the Kingdom of Guatemala, the Caribbean, and most of South America.

**SPAIN TO THE KINGDOM OF GUATEMALA AND ALL THE INDIAS**

*September 11, 1764 - November 2, 1796*

Single letter	Double letter	Triple Letter	"Onza" de Paquete
Up to ¼ Ounce	Over ¼ Ounce up to ½ Ounce	Over ½ Ounce up to ¾ Ounce	Over ¾ Ounce up to 1 Ounce
3 Reales Plata	5 Reales Plata	7 Reales Plata	10 Reales Plata

With the formation of the Maritime Postal System, new rates were established. From 1723 to 1764 mail between Spain and the Americas was carried free of charge.



**Cadiz, December 4, 1773, to Guatemala City**

Carried on the Registro (Merchant Ship) *Trinidad*. Maritime mail demarcation mark **ESPAÑA** and boxed rate mark **3 Pta** (Three Silver Reales). The letter discusses the earthquake of July 29, 1773.

One of the three earliest recorded letters from Spain to Guatemala sent by the *Correo Maritimo*



## MARITIME MAIL

Earthquake of July 1773

### Transatlantic Mail to the Provisional Capital and Transatlantic Mail to Nicaragua

### Relocation of Capital City

On July, 29, 1773, a massive earthquake destroyed the capital city *Santiago de los Caballeros*. The site of a new capital was moved to the valley of La Hermita with the title of *Establecimiento Provisional de La Hermita*. On October 22, 1776, the King approved a new name for the city, *Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción*. The former capital received the name *Antigua Guatemala*.



Cadiz, Spain, December 16, 1773, to La Hermita

Rated 3 silver reales for a single rate letter

Sent on the Frigate "J.M.J." (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) through Havana.

Only four letters are recorded addressed to the Provisional Capital of La Hermita

Spain via La Coruña to Masaya, Province of Leon (Nicaragua), c. 1782

5 silver reales double rate transatlantic service and 2 reales for overland "sobreporte" via Vera Cruz, Oaxaca, and Guatemala

Earliest recorded letter from Spain to Nicaragua





## MARITIME MAIL

Postal Rates of September 1, 1779

### Transatlantic Postal Rates

#### KINGDOM OF GUATEMALA TO SPAIN

*September 1, 1779 to July 26, 1807*

Weight in Adarmes (16 adarmes = 1 ounce) - One Hard Silver Real = app. Two Reales de Vellon.

After 1807 the rates in Spain were increased by 1 Real de Vellon

Up to 5	6 to 7	8 to 9	10 to 11	12 to 13	14 to 15	16
6 Reales de Vellon	9 Reales de Vellon	12 Reales de Vellon	15 Reales de Vellon	18 Reales de Vellon	21 Reales de Vellon	24 Reales de Vellon



Guatemala City to Madrid, c. 1807

15 reales de vellon for a letter of 10/11 adarmes

The letter is addressed to a Colonel in the *National* Army rather than the *Royal* Army, an unusual designation, probably at the beginning of the War of Independence from France.



## MARITIME MAIL

Leon, Province of Nicaragua  
November 23, 1791

Exchange of mail between the Spanish  
and English postal authorities

Via Falmouth Packet

Spanish and English packets operated between La Coruña, Spain, and Falmouth, England. However, the *Colonial Spanish Americas Maritime Mail Rates* of September 1, 1779, make no mention of an exchange rate with the English postal system, only rates for mail to the Iberian Peninsula and Italy.



Leon, Province of Nicaragua, November 23, 1791, to Bristol, England, received April 9, 1792

Carried by the Royal Mail Service from Leon to Guatemala City, then overland via Vera Cruz to Havana. From Havana by Spanish Royal Mail packet (*Servicio de Correo Marítimo*) to La Coruña, there transferred to the Falmouth Packet. On the reverse, London Bishop mark of April 6, and Bristol April 9, 1792.

Rated 1sh.11p., 1 shilling for transatlantic carriage, 8p for land carriage to London, and 3p to Bristol.

Three Spanish/English exchange letters are recorded



MARITIME MAIL

Bluefields, Province of Nicaragua  
April 17, 1792

Exchange of mail between the Spanish  
and English postal authorities

Via Bordeaux



Bluefields, Province of Nicaragua, April 17, 1792, to Bristol, England, received September 7, 1792

Carried privately to Havana where it received the *Islas de Barlovento* demarcation cachet, by Royal Mail Packet to La Coruña, and overland mail to Bordeaux. Rated 16 sous in France and onward to Portsmouth. In England the 16 sous crossed out and rerated 1sh.11p., 1 shilling for transatlantic carriage, 8p for land carriage to London and 3p to Bristol.

One of three Spanish /English exchange letters recorded and the only letter to  
England with the *Islas de Barlovento* demarcation cachet



## MARITIME MAIL

### Transpacific Mail

## Galleon Mail from the Philippines to Guatemala

January 1803

Between 1564 and 1815 the Royal Navy made 108 transpacific galleon trips between Manila and Mexico, usually Acapulco and at times San Blas. A private trading company, the *Real Compañía de Filipinas* also carried mail by galleon beginning in 1787. Most of the mail was destined for Spain or Rome, Italy, where Spain maintained a post office.



Manila, January 1803, via Acapulco and Mexico City to Guatemala City

The letter was originally rated "4V" (4 Reales de Vellon, the currency used in Spain) and then rerated "3P" (3 Reales de Plata, the currency in use in the Philippines and the Americas). The letter was forwarded to its destination of Guatemala City where an additional 3 Reales "sobreporte" for carriage from Mexico City was added and 3 Reales for a double weight letter as shown by the manuscript "6 Reales" due applied in Guatemala City.

Probably carried on the *Real Compañía de Filipinas* galleon "*Puerisma Concepción*"

One of three recorded Galleon Letters to the Kingdom of Guatemala



MARITIME MAIL

Lima to Guatemala

Spanish Pacific Coast Mail

c. 1770

*OK*  
*Al S. Oydor Juez m. del Ing. do*  
*Grat de bien de Difuntos de la*  
*ci. Acad. de la Ciudad de Ho.*  
*or do or*  
*Ing. m. de bien*  
*ci. Dif. de la ci.*  
*Acad. de Lima.*  
**LIMA**  
*Guatemala.*

Lima, Capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru, to Guatemala

The letter is not dated; however this **LIMA** is recorded used between 1769 and 1773. The 16 Reales rate corresponds to a letter of 1½ oz. sent to Guatemala. This suggests an official or unofficial inter-coastal route was established by this time because an overland route would have been impossible.

This is the earliest recorded letter from South American to Central America

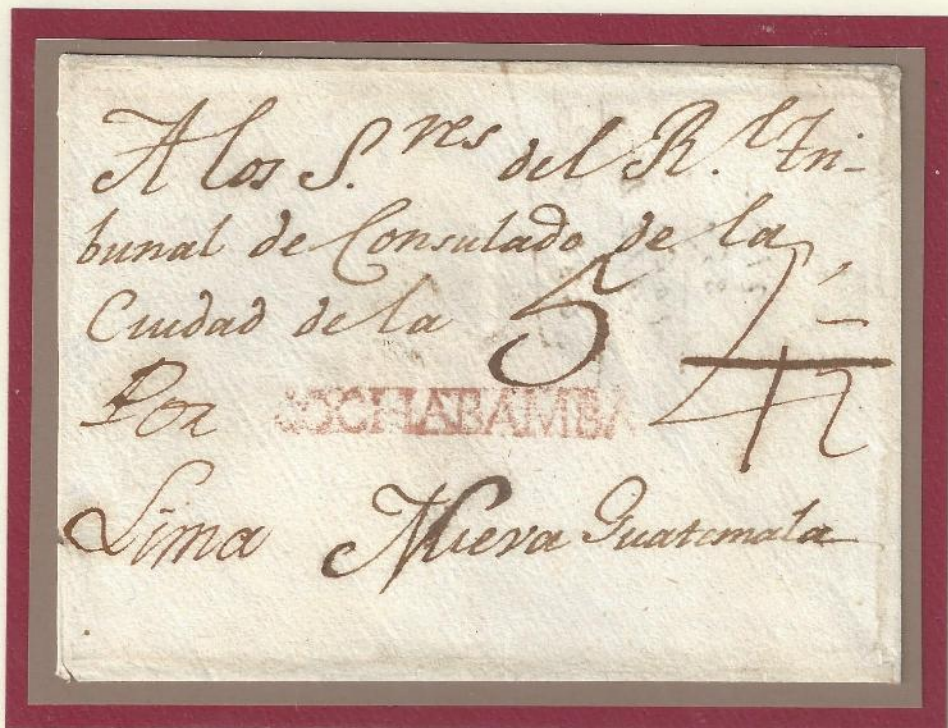


## MARITIME MAIL

Service Guayaquil, Audiencia of Quito,  
via Packet to Iztaapa, Guatemala

### Spanish Pacific Coast Packet Service

Scheduled packet service between Guayaquil, Audiencia of Quito, and Iztaapa, Province of Guatemala, began on March 10, 1810. Two 80 ton frigates were purchased to carry cargo and mail on this line. Mail destined for Guatemala was probably carried in a closed mail bag. However, it has been suggested that most of the mail was off loaded at Realejo, Province of Nicaragua, and sent over land to Guatemala City.



**Cochabamba**, Intendencia of Charcas (now Bolivia), to Guatemala City, c. 1812

The letter originated in Cochabamba, via Oruro and La Paz to Lima. From there it traveled north on the costal highway to Guayaquil in the Audiencia of Quito (Ecuador) and placed on the packet.

Rated 4½ Reales, then rerated 5 Reales, probably at La Paz, the correct rate for a double letter to Guatemala City.

Only recorded letter from Bolivia to Guatemala in the Colonial period.

Guayaquil, June 29, 1819, to Madrid, Spain, arrived February 3, 1820.

**GUAYAQUIL/FRANCA** confirms the postage paid of 6 reales. The **PERU** demarcation mark was used for mail destined for the packet service.

Sent on the packet to Realejo, via **Leon** and Guatemala City (**PAID IN GUATEMALA**) transit postmarks, then by sea or overland to Vera Cruz, by ship to Havana, to Cadiz or La Coruña to Madrid. The "X" indicates no postage due in Madrid.





## MARITIME MAIL

## MAIL THROUGH AND FROM PANAMA

### Pacific Inter Coastal Mail - Panama

### Coastal and Overland Routes

Mail from or through Panama during the Colonial Period is extremely difficult to find. Some authorities suggest there was a postal road from San Jose, Costa Rica, to David, Panama, but there is no evidence to confirm this. The jungles and rivers were impassible. Most likely, mail was transported to a port and carried by private fishing boats which stopped at the coastal villages along the way, then overland to its destination.



San Salvador, via Panama, to Lima,  
Audiencia of Quito

February 1, 1820

Most likely, this letter was carried from San Salvador to Realejo, Nicaragua, and placed on an inter coastal fishing boat to Parita, Panama. Here it could connect with the postal road north to Portobello, then by ship to Cartagena, or possibly carried privately from Panama to Lima as the lack of due marks suggests.

### Panama City to Guatemala

Docketed October 30, 1812

Most likely this letter was carried to the port of Panama City then via inter coastal fishing boat to Realejo and overland via Sonsonate to Guatemala.

One of two recorded letters from Panama to Guatemala.





## MARITIME MAIL

Postal Rates of November 3, 1796  
Rates in Silver Reales

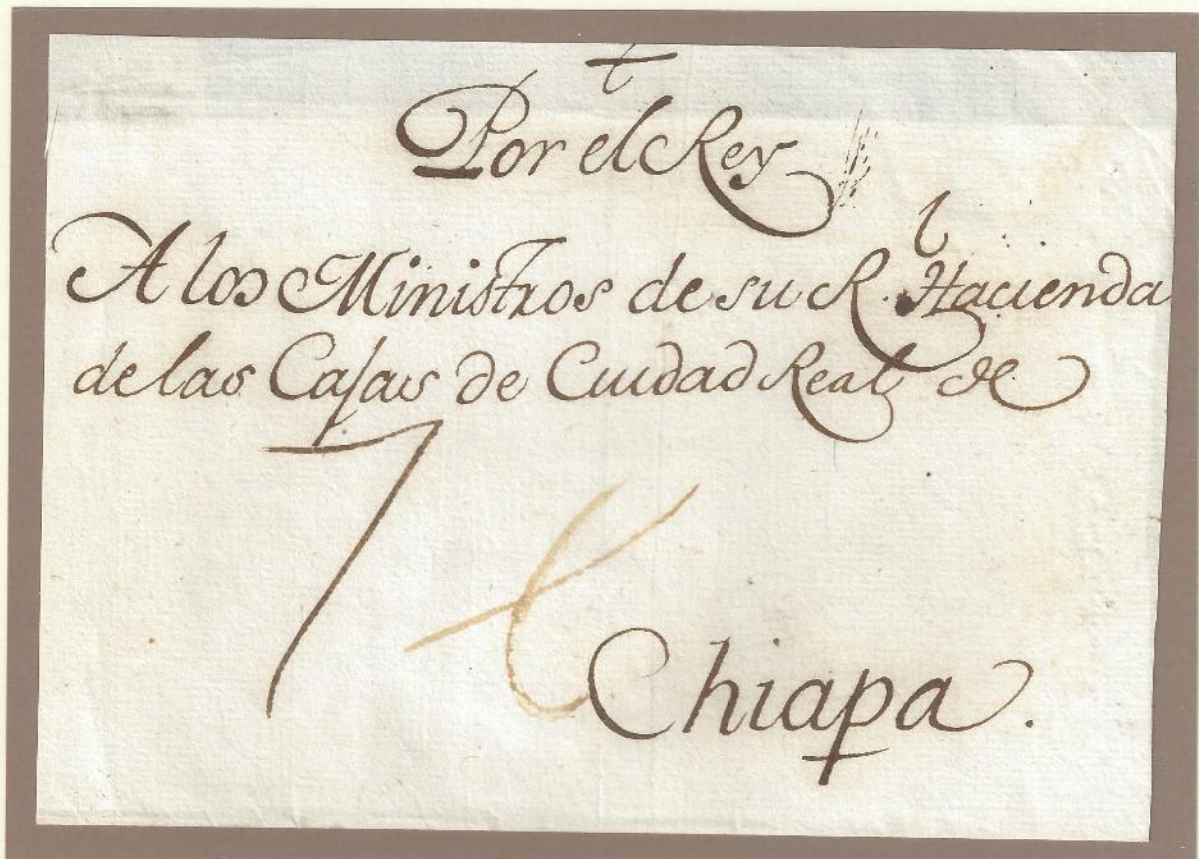
### Transatlantic Postal Rates

In November 1796 the Postmaster of Guatemala, Miguel de Ateaga, imposed his own rates on mail which were higher than the rates established by the Royal Mail in 1779.

### RATES FOR INCOMING AND INTERNAL MAIL IN THE KINGDOM OF GUATEMALA

November 3, 1796 - July 26, 1807

Single letter	Double letter	Triple Letter	"Onza de Paquete"				
Up to ½ Ounce	Over ½ Ounce up to ¾ Ounce	Over ¾ Ounce up to 1 Ounce	1 Ounce	1¼ Ounces	1½ Ounces	1¾ Ounces	2 Ounces
3 Reales Plata	5 Reales Plata	7 Reales Plata	10 Reales Plata	13 Reales Plata	15 Reales Plata	16 Reales Plata	20 Reales-Plata



Spain to Chiapas, c. 1802

7 Reales Plata for a letter over ¾ ounce and under 1 ounce



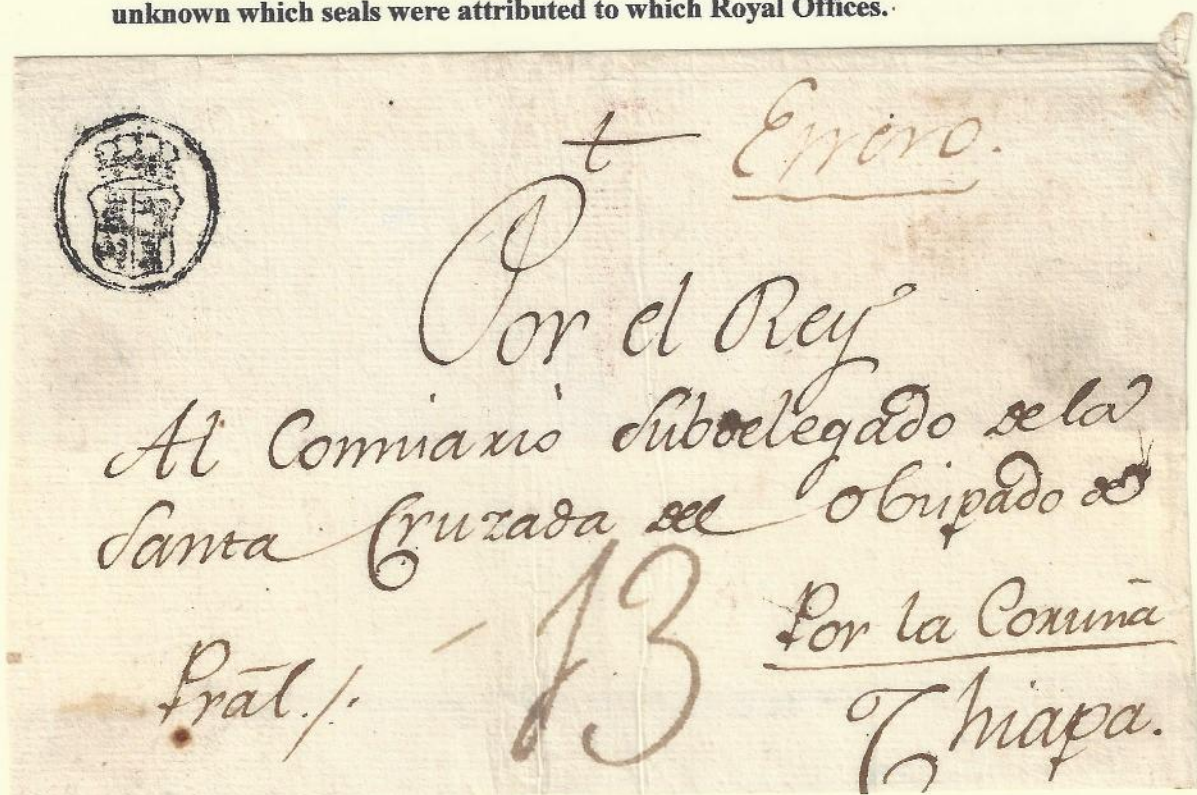
MARITIME MAIL

Postal Rates of November 3, 1796

Transatlantic Postal Rates

Spain to Guatemala

As of January 7, 1800, most government agencies lost their free franking privilege. These Royal Offices continued to use their "Sello Negro" seals and the designation "Por el Rey," (for the King). However, it is unknown which seals were attributed to which Royal Offices.



13 Reales for a letter of  
1¼ ounces



30 Reales of a letter of  
3 ounces



## MARITIME MAIL

Postal Rates of November 3, 1796

### Transatlantic Postal Rates

Spain to Guatemala City with  
Overland Transit Marks

Spain via La Coruña packet to Havana, Vera Cruz (red oval), Oaxaca (straight line postmark), Ciudad Real, to Chiapa. The mail was sent twice monthly from Oaxaca to Guatemala City.



Spain to Province of Chiapas, c. 1800

Rated 33 Reales for a letter of 3½ ounces



**MARITIME MAIL**

**Postal Rates of November 3, 1796**

**Transatlantic Postal Rates**

**International Parcels**



Via Cadiz, to Guatemala City, c. 1798

40 ounce package calculated at 10 Reales de Plata per ounce = 400 Silver Reales due

This the highest amount of postage due recorded in the Kingdom of Guatemala

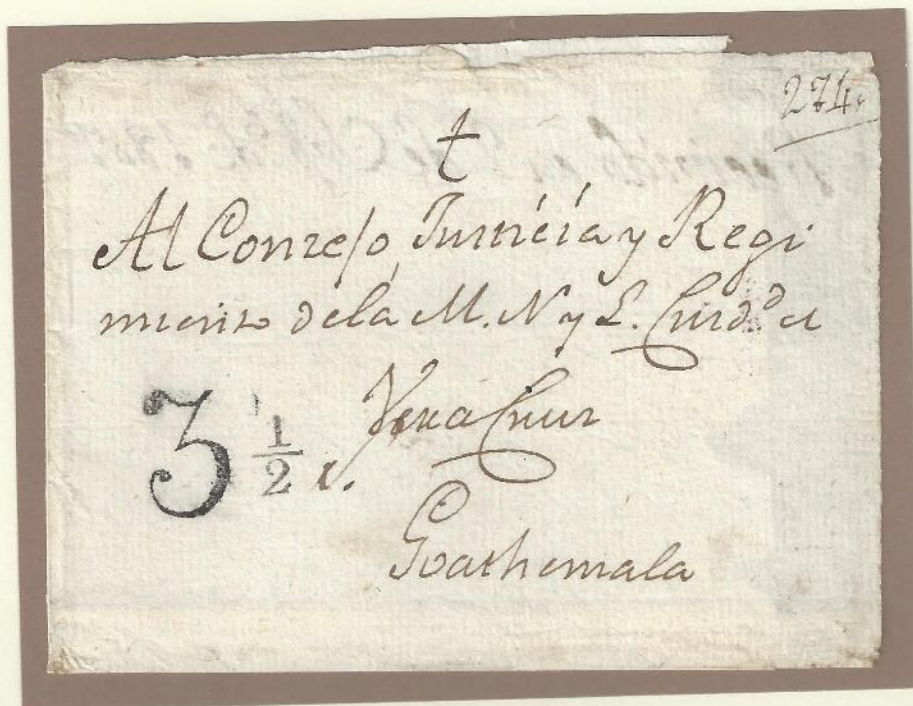


MARITIME MAIL

Increased Postal Rates of July 26, 1807

Transatlantic Postal Rates

INCREASED RATES FOR INCOMING AND INTERNAL MAIL IN THE  
KINGDOM OF GUATEMALA



Rates increased by  $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata per  
ounce within the Kingdom of  
Guatemala

Spain via Vera Cruz to Guatemala

September 2, 1807

$\frac{1}{2}$  Real increase for a letter < 1 ounce



Spain to Nueva  
Guatemala,  
c.1810

Double weight  
letter (2 ounces),  
1814 rate, 2x 12  
Reales + 2x  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Real increase = 25  
Reales Plata due



## MARITIME MAIL

Postal Rates of October 1, 1814

### Transatlantic Postal Rates

### Incoming International Letters

#### Rates Within the Americas for Incoming Letters and Parcels *October 1, 1814 to Independence*

Up to ½ Ounce	Up to ¾ Ounce	Up to 1 Ounce	1 Ounce
4 Reales Plata	6 Reales Plata	8 Reales Plata	12 Reales Plata



Spain to Guatemala City, c. 1816

6 Silver Reales for a letter weighing up to ¾ ounce. Rate applied in Cadiz.



# MARITIME MAIL

Postal Rates of October 1, 1814

## Transatlantic Postal Rates

## International Parcels

Rates Within the Americas for Incoming Letters and Parcels  
October 1, 1814 to Independence

Up to ½ Ounce	Up to ¾ Ounce	Up to 1 Ounce	1 Ounce
4 Reales Plata	6 Reales Plata	8 Reales Plata	12 Reales Plata



Official Mail, Spain to Guatemala City, c. 1815

24 ounce parcel calculated at 12 Silver Reales per ounce = 288 Silver reales due

Rate also calculated in Pesos (8 Silver Reales = 1 Peso) = 36 Pesos. This conversion was often done in the final accounting. Carried on the Frigate *Velos*.



## MARITIME MAIL

## Alternative Routes to Central America from Havana

### Transatlantic Mail

Mail from Spain to all Central American destinations went via Havana. Depending on military, political, and weather conditions, mail was forwarded via Vera Cruz, Nueva España, or Trujillo, Gulf of Honduras.



Spain to Guatemala City, "by way of Havana and the Gulf of Honduras, Trujillo"



Spain to Guatemala City, "by way of Vera Cruz"



## MARITIME MAIL

## Demarcation Marks Used to Calculate Postage

### Transatlantic Demarcation Marks

### Used 1764 - To Post Independence

With the establishment of the *Correo Marítimo* in 1764, the postal reform decrees divided the New World into nine postal demarcations and created new postal rates from the New World to and from Spain, as well as new rates between the Colonies. Maritime Demarcation Marks were to be applied at the port of dispatch so the receiving office would know the correct amount of postage to charge. Three Demarcation Marks were created: **ESPAÑA** for mail from the Peninsula, **YNDIAS** for mail from the Americas to Spain, and **YSLAS** for mail from the West Indies to the American continent and to other islands.



Demarcation Marks were not always used according to regulations or used at all, so they were also supplied to transit and receiving offices. At times these marks were used interchangeably.

Sevilla, Spain, to Guatemala City  
March 19, 1777

**ESPAÑA** of Cadiz on dispatch

Spain to Guatemala City, c. 1815

**ESPAÑA** applied in transit at the  
port of Vera Cruz

Less than five examples of this  
transit mark are recorded





## MARITIME MAIL

## Demarcation Marks Used to Calculate Postage

### Transatlantic Postal Rates

### ESPAÑA of Guatemala City

Major cities were issued Demarcation Marks which were to be added to letters at the point of receipt if the port of origin failed to apply one.



Demarcation Mark used in Guatemala  
City for mail originating in Spain

Three recorded letters with this mark

Spain to Guatemala City

Docketed November 16, 1819

Spain to Guatemala City  
c. 1815

Note the unusual  
destination designation  
*America Septentrional*  
which included Nueva  
España and most of  
Central America.





## MARITIME MAIL

## Demarcation Marks Used to Calculate Postage

### Postal Rates Within the Indies

### YNDIAS of Cuba to Honduras

#### MARITIME MAIL WITHIN THE AMERICAS (YNDIAS)

##### WEIGHT IN ADARMES

SEPTEMBER 1, 1779,

Up to 5	6 to 7	8 to 12	14 to 15	16 (one ounce)
1/2 Real	1 Real Plata	1½ Reals Plata	2 Reales Plata	2 Reales Plata



Havana, Cuba, to Truxillo, Honduras, c. 1790

The letter was originally rated 1½ reales due, but rerated 9 silver reales due for a letter of 4 ounces 6 adarmes and sent within the Indies, which included the Windward Islands, to the main land.



## MARITIME MAIL

### Demarcation Marks Used to Calculate Postage

### Postal Rates Within the Indies

### First Demarcation Mark Used in Guatemala

*Yndias of Guatemala City, c. 1793*



**Ciudad Real (Chiapas) to Guatemala City, c. 1793**

The *YNDIAS* was to be used as a demarcation mark for maritime mail, but here is used for overland mail. This is the only recorded example of such use and illustrates the confusion surrounding the use of these postal marks.

**The Guatemala City origin of this mark is confirmed because it is in the same style as the early circular postmark of Guatemala City. The black ink matches the “4” reales due rate mark on the front.**

While one other example of this mark is recorded in the literature, its whereabouts is unknown.



## MARITIME MAIL

## Demarcation Marks Used to Calculate Postage

### Postal Rates Within the Indies

### YNDIAS of Cuba to the Province of Guatemala and the Province of Honduras



Havana to the port of Truxillo,  
Honduras, c. 1808

2½ reales plata rate for a letter  
of 1 ounce 5 adarmes according  
to the postal rates of 1779.



Havana, Cuba, via the port of Golfo, to Guatemala City, docketed June 10, 1810

13½ reales plata due according to the 1779 rates for a letter of 6 ounces 8 adarmes



**MARITIME MAIL**

**Demarcation Marks Used to Calculate Postage**

**Postal Rates Within the Indies**

**ISLAS DE/BARLOVENTO of Cuba**



**Havana to Guatemala City, c. 1815**

***ISLAS DE/BARLOVENTO* applied in Havana for mail originating in the Windward Islands and New Orleans.**

**½ ounce weight noted and 4 Reales due according to the postal rates of 1814.**

**This letter and the letters on the previous page document that the *ISLAS* and *INDIAS* demarcation marks were used interchangeably on mail to Central America.**



## MARITIME MAIL

## CORREO MARITIMO Abolished

### Royal Navy Mail Delivery System

By the early 1800 only a few packet boats remained, primarily due to the Napoleonic Wars. With the shortage of private ships to carry the mail, the Royal Decree of April 14, 1802, charged the Spanish Royal Navy to carry mail between Spain and the Americas, and the *CORREO MARITIMO* was abolished.



Mail carried by the Royal Navy

Manuscript notation "Extraordinary Mail Service of July 29, 1807"

Mail carried from Cadiz on the  
bark *Golondrina*

Docketed November 16, 1807

Rated 5 reales for a double rate  
letter plus ½ real "sobreporte"





## REAL RENTA DE CORREO - OVERLAND MAIL

### RATES AND ROUTES

### Province of Honduras

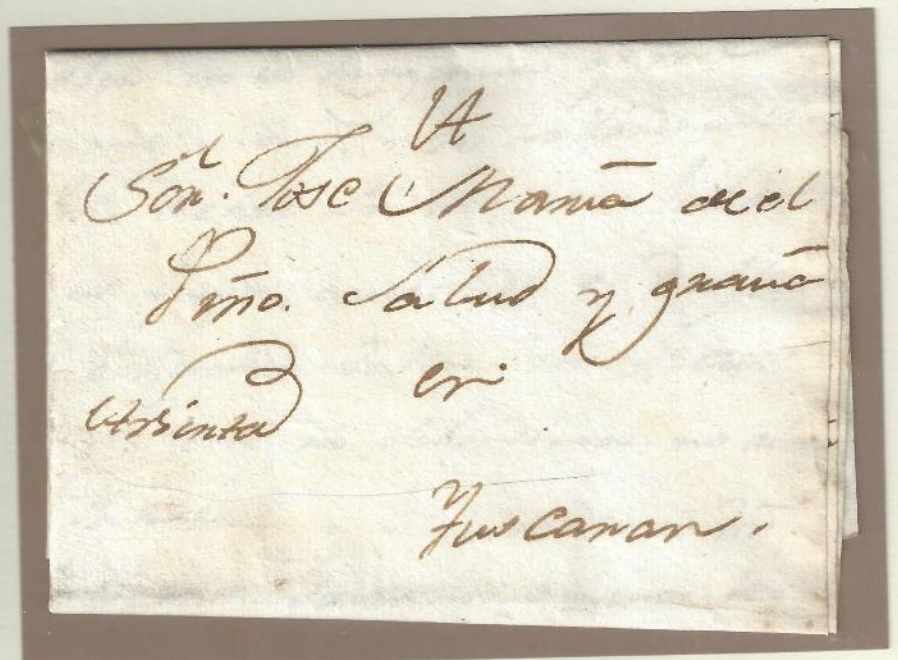
#### Privately Carried "Con Propio"

After the *Correo Mayor* system was abolished, the Spanish Crown established the *REAL RENTA DE CORREO* in 1768 for the transport of mail. However, during the 18th century, and even later, much mail was privately carried by Indian messengers called "Propios." Because of its private nature, no postmarks or rate marks were used.



La Concepción to Cedros

September 23, 1773



La Estancia to Yuscaran

March 16, 1796



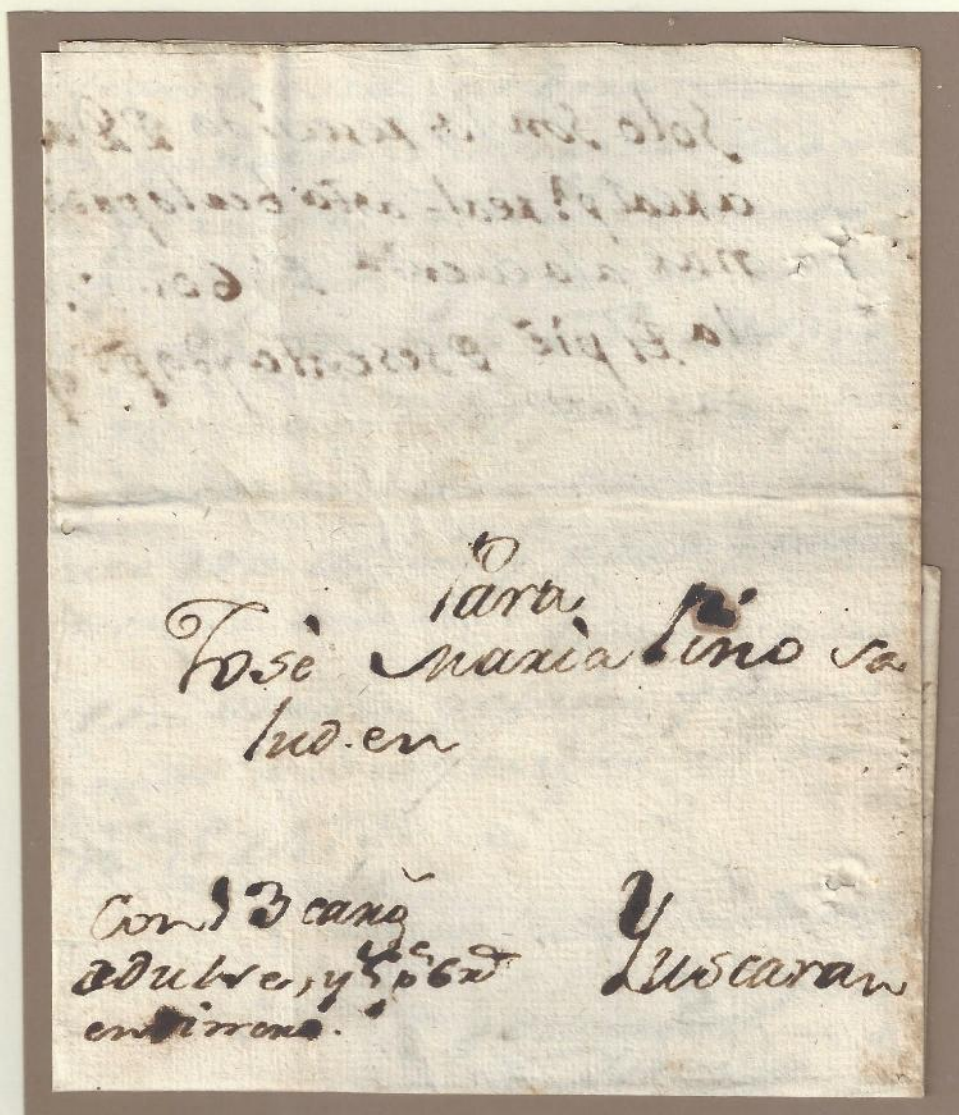
OVERLAND MAIL

Province of Honduras

Privately Carried "con Propio"

Parcel Service

This is the only recorded letter documenting the "con Propio" service also carried parcels



Comayagua to Yuscaran, December 15, 1795

The sender made the notation at the bottom of the letter:

"With 3 cargas (a 200 pound weight) of hardened sugar cane juice, (in small blocks of about four pounds each), plus 2 pesos, 6 reales in coins"

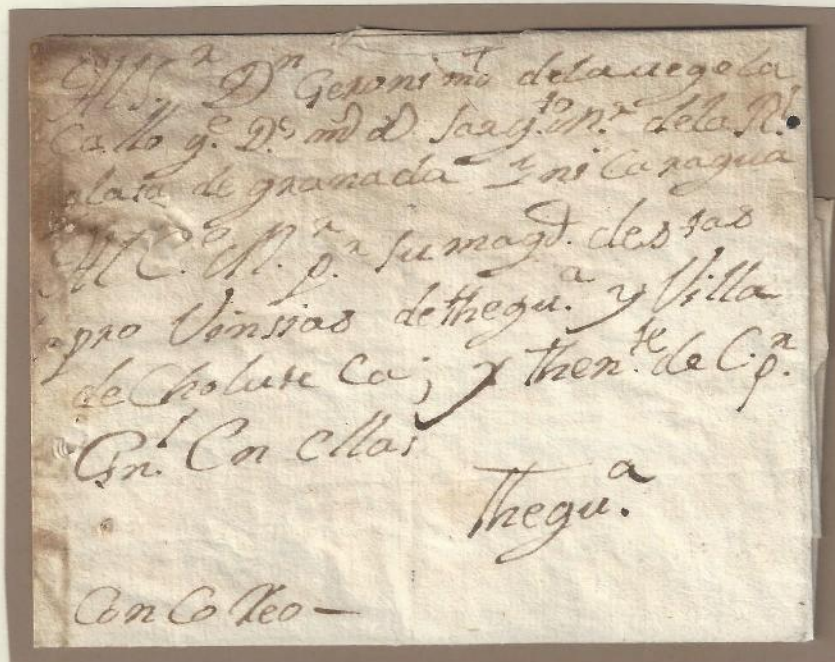


## OVERLAND MAIL

## Province of Honduras

### Royal Mail Office

The Spanish Crown established the *Real Renta de Correo* (Royal Office for (Overland) Mail) on September 23, 1768. This made the postal service a Royal governmental institution rather than a private franchise. In Madrid the new director, General Natera y Mendoza, promulgated various regulations dealing with postal rates, routes, and the establishment of post offices. One of his first orders was that mail was to be stamped with the dispatch office as proof that the required amount of postage had been paid. However, the delivery of the postal devises from Madrid was slow in coming.



San Geronimo, July 20, 1777, to Tegucigalpa, Province of Honduras

Postmarks were not introduced in the Province of Honduras until the 1780's

Manuscript endorsement "Con Coreo" (by the post). A very early acknowledgment of the new postal system.



# OVERLAND MAIL

Postal Rates of November 3, 1796

## Postal Rates

### WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF GUATEMALA AND TO MEXICO

Single letter	Double letter	Triple Letter	"Onza" de Paquete	Over 1 Ounce
Up to ½Ounce	Over ½Ounce up to ¾ Ounce	Over ¾Ounce up to 1 Ounce	1 Ounce	Per Ounce
2 Silver Reales	4 Silver Reales	6 Silver Reales	8 Silver Reales	3 Silver Reales per ounce



Nicaragua (Rivas) Wood Block  
rate marks



## OVERLAND MAIL

## Nueva España to Guatemala

### Postal Routes and Rates

Mail from Vera Cruz was sent on the postal road via Puebla to Hacienda de Soto. Here the route to Oaxaca and Mexico City separated. Mail from Mexico City arrived here and joined with mail from Vera Cruz destined for Guatemala and was forwarded via Oaxaca and Ciudad Real to Guatemala City.



Both letters rated 2 Silver Reales  
according to the postal rates of 1796.

Vera Cruz to Guatemala City

c. 1800

Mexico City to Guatemala City

Oaxaca transit, c. 1800



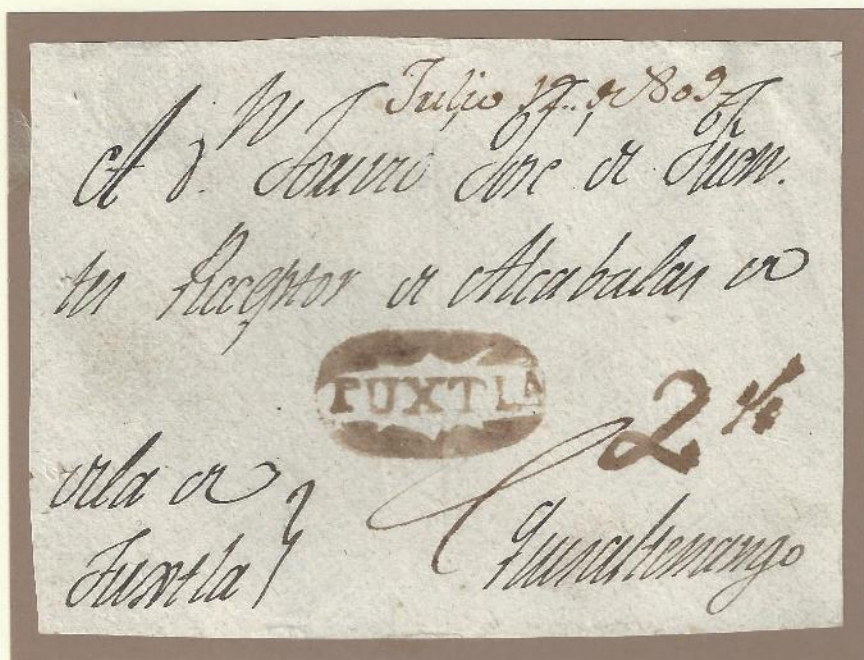


## OVERLAND MAIL

Increased Postal Rates of July 26, 1807

### Postal Rates

On July 26, 1807, Postmaster Manuel de Ateaga increased postal rates by 1/2 Real per ounce



Small towns all used manuscript marks to indicate the 1/2 Real increase

Tuxtla, Province of Guatemala, to  
Quetzaltenango, July 12, 1809

Omoa, Province of Honduras, to  
the Commander of the Auxiliary  
Troops in Santo Domingo, a  
small mountain village,

April 13, 1814





## OVERLAND MAIL

## Accounting Methods

### Postal Rates

Because the mail was sent only once or twice a month, accountants often simply noted the month of receipt.

*Agosto-*  
 A los Sres. Minis-  
 tros piales de N.<sup>a</sup> Har.  
 de la Intend.<sup>a</sup>  
 of. del Ind.<sup>a</sup> TAPACHULA  
 de Vocomis. Ciudad R.

“(Mail of) August” Tapachula to Ciudad Real, c. 1810

Conce de Octubre.  
 A D. Luis Martínez Trujillo  
 Factor de la R.<sup>a</sup> del tabaco de la  
 Prov. de GUATEMALA  
 Dir. on. gral.  
 del tabaco Ciudad Real

“(Mail of October)” Guatemala to Ciudad Real, c. 1810



## OVERLAND MAIL

## Ecclesiastical Mail

### Postal Rates

Prior to January 7, 1800, ecclesiastical mail within the Kingdom of Guatemala was exempt from postage.  
After this date normal postage rates applied.



Ecclesiastical mail exempt from postage.

From the "Monte Pio" Society, a church sponsored charitable institution.

to Totonicapam, c. 1795

### Guatemala City to Ciudad Real, c. 1805

The letter was originally sent **FRANQUEADO EN GUATEMALA**, the postmark used on Official free mail in Guatemala City, from the treasurer of the Diocese. The postal authorities realized the error and obliterated the postmark with two strikes of the **GUATEMALA** post mark.





## OVERLAND MAIL

*Cartero* (Postman) Fee

### Postal Rates

Guatemala City 1807

The *Ordenanza General de Correos* of 1794 provided that cities of certain importance provide a *cartero* or postman service if mail had not been called for at the post office after one week. At that point it was compulsory to deliver the mail to the addressee's home, and this carried an additional 1/4 Real fee.



Three examples recorded of the 1/4  
Real surcharge fee

Spain to Guatemala City

"3/4 Postage Paid September 30, 1807"

Mazatenango to Guatemala City

"August 16th Paid 2 3/4 Reales





# OVERLAND MAIL

Rate Change of October 1, 1814

## Postal Rates

### WITHIN THE KINGDOM OF GUATEMALA

Single letter	Double letter	Triple Letter	One Ounce	Over 1 Ounce
Up to ½ Ounce	Over ½ Ounce up to ¾ Ounce	Over ¾ Ounce up to 1 Ounce	1 Ounce	Per Ounce
3 Silver Reales	4 Silver Reales	6 Silver Reales	8 Silver Reales	8 Silver Reales per ounce



Guatemala City Wood Block Rate Marks



## OVERLAND MAIL

## Printed Matter Rate

### Postal Rates

Based on the evidence, printed matter (*impresas*) was sent at the package rate plus the "sobreporte."

Guías impresas para 18  
la Administración de Alca-  
balas de  
GUATEMALA  
Sonsonate.

Guatemala to Sonsonate, c. 1815

Rate of a 2 oz. package, 16 Reales + 4x the  $\frac{1}{2}$  Real "sobreporte" = 18 Reales due

*Guías* were similar to the travel guides of today



# OVERLAND MAIL

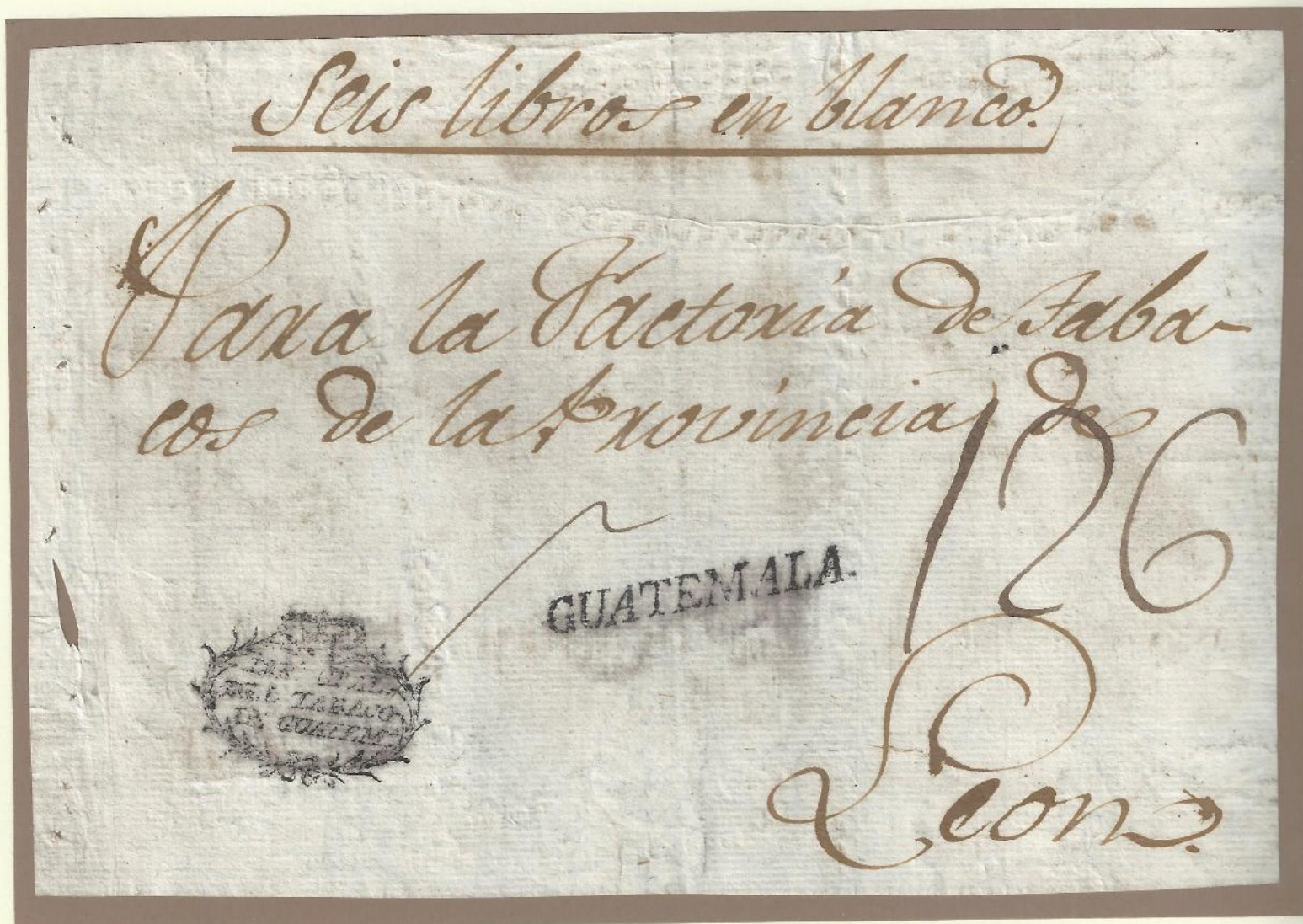
## Rates for Packages

### Postal Rates

Decree of October 14, 1814  
Implemented in 1815

#### RATES FOR PACKAGES - 1815

1 to 5 ounces	6 to 10 ounces	11 to 20 ounces	21 to 40 ounces	41 ounces and up
8 Reales per ounce or fraction	4 Reales per ounce or fraction	2 Reales per ounce or fraction	1 Real per ounce or fraction	½ Real per ounce or fraction



Guatemala City to Leon, Province of Nicaragua, c. 1816

126 Reales to send a package with six ledger books weighting 92 ounces



## OVERLAND MAIL


Province of Guatemala

## Postal Documents

## Totonicapam Postal Report

Sr. Admin. del Correo de *Totonicapam*

**CERTIFICADOS.**



Con el Correo del día dirijo a Vm. la correspondencia y encomiendas procedentes de este oficio para ese, al que le queda echo cargo segun esta Factura.

N Guatemala *5* de *Diciembre* de 18*42*

CORRESPONDENCIAS	Sencil.	Dobles.	Triples.	Pliegos.	Valor.	Total.
De este oficio para ese.	8	1		1	8	
De otros.						
Ultramarinas.						
Piezas Francas.	2					

**ENCOMIENDAS.**

*Miguel de Ateaga*

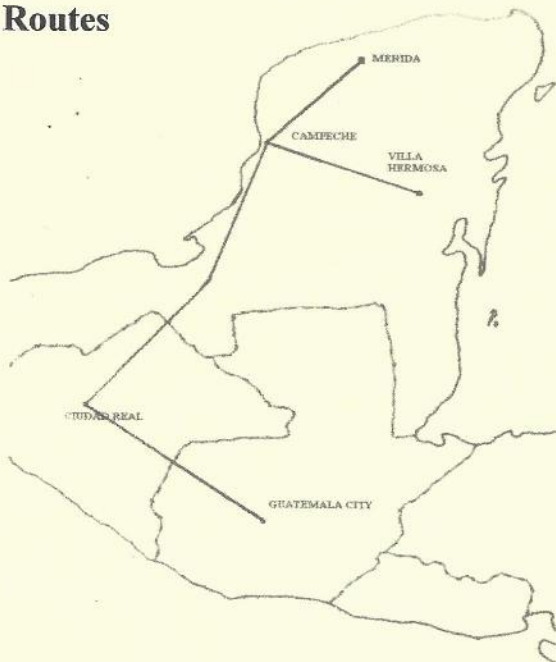
Report of Totonicapam, December 3, 1819

Suboffices reported their activities twice monthly to the main post office in Guatemala City. This report was sent to the Royal Administrator of Posts, Miguel de Ateaga who held this post from 1796 to 1823.



## OVERLAND MAIL

### Postal Routes



## Opening of the Postal Road from Yucatan (Nueva España) to Ciudad Real

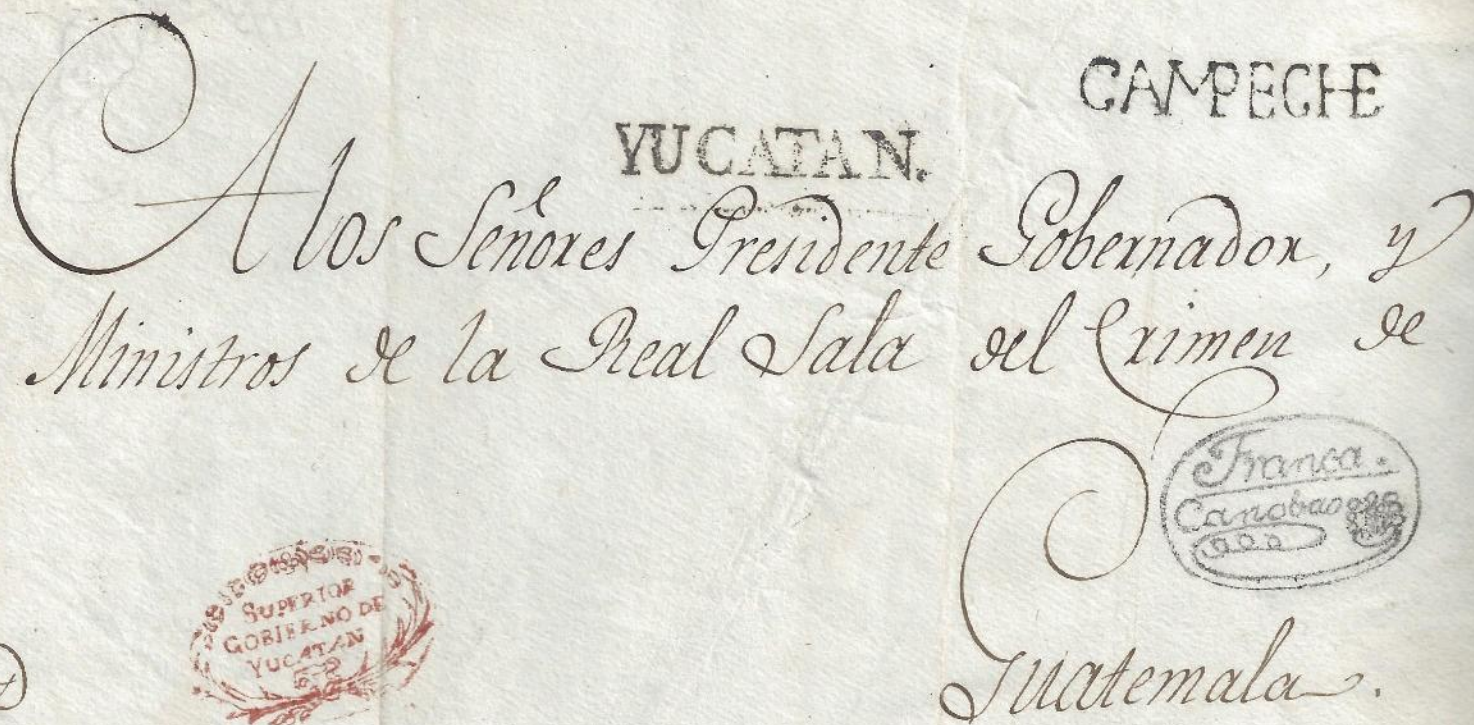
Opened c. 1802

Merida, via Campeche and Ciudad Real to  
Guatemala City, c. 1810

YUCATAN (type 1-block letters) and  
*SUPERIOR GOBIERNO DE YUCATAN*  
were applied in Merida.

The letter was carried on the new postal  
road to Campeche where it received the  
"FRANCA/Canovas" postmaster's cachet,  
and sent on to Ciudad Real to Guatemala.

Only five "Franca/Canovas" postmaster  
marks are recorded.





## OVERLAND MAIL

### Postal Routes

Opening of the Postal Road from  
Yucatan (Nueva España)  
to Ciudad Real

Opened c. 1802

Prior to the opening of this postal road, mail from Yucatan had to be sent by sea to Vera Cruz, then via Oaxaca and Ciudad Real to cities in Central America.

A  
D Luis Maximino de Angilla  
Factor de la Rta del Tabaco en

YUCATAN

Ciudad Real

Merida YUCATAN (type 2- slant  
letters) dispatch mark to Ciudad Real

September 8, 1807

Villa Hermosa de Tabasco  
to Tuxtla via Ciudad Real

c. 1810

A la Perceptoría & Real-  
rentas &

$\frac{3}{4}$

VILLA HERMOSA  
DE TABASCO

Adm. p[ro]p[ri]a  
de Tabasco

Tuxtla



## OVERLAND MAIL

Postal Road Oaxaca - Ciudad Real - Guatemala City

### Postal Routes

*ORDINARIO* and *EXTRAORDINARIO* Mail Service

In 1748 the Correo Mayor of Oaxaca, Don Cristobal Muños Cano, and the Correo Mayor of Guatemala, Don Pedro Ortiz de Letona, established a monthly mail service in each direction. By the end of the century this was expanded to a twice monthly *ORDINARIO* service. If the volume of mail on hand became substantial, or if important government mail need to be sent, an additional *EXTRAORDINARIO* service was implemented on both primary and secondary roads.



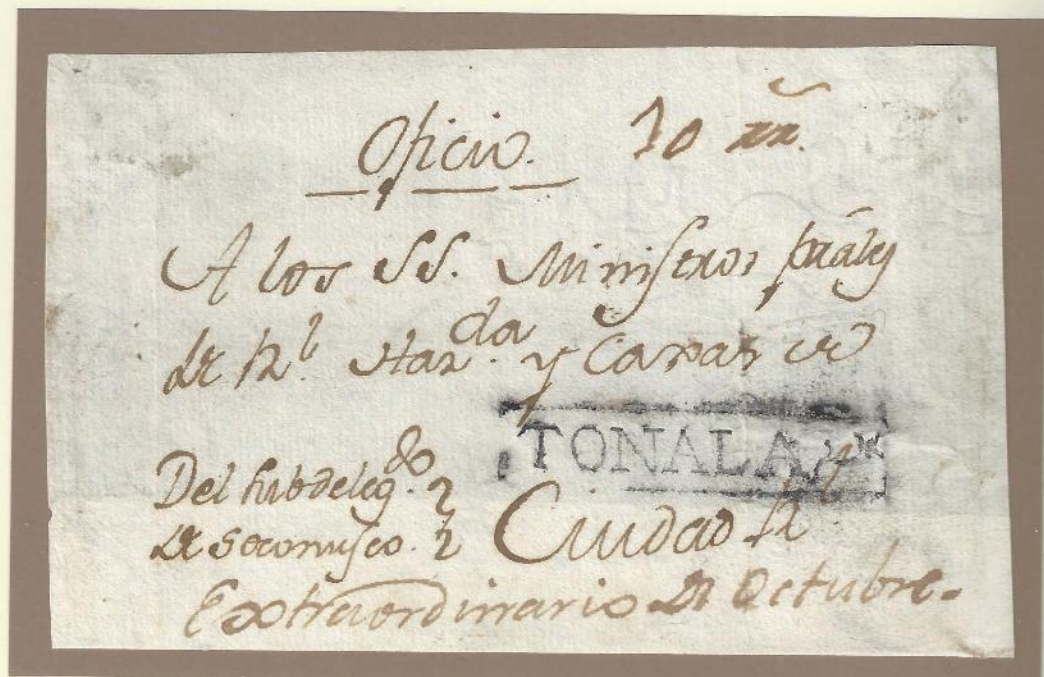
Oaxaca to Guatemala City

c. 1819

Official mail from the Tobacco Factory in Oaxaca to the Tobacco Factory in Guatemala City

Official mail sent in the *EXTRAORDINARIO* mail of October, Post Road Tonalá-Tuxtla-Chiapa-Ciudad Real

c. 1805



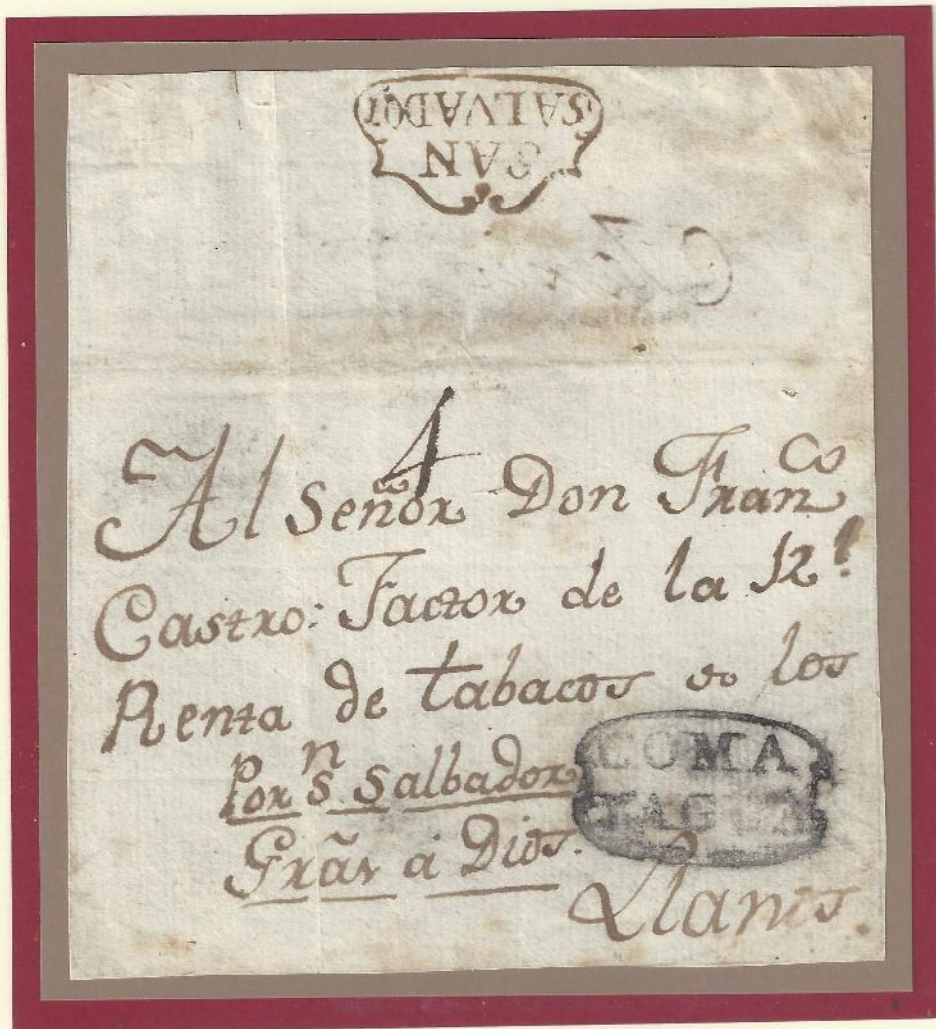


## OVERLAND MAIL

### Postal Routes

## Use of an Alternate Postal Road During an Indian Rebellion

### Honduras-El Salvador-Honduras



### Comayagua to Los Llanos, 1802

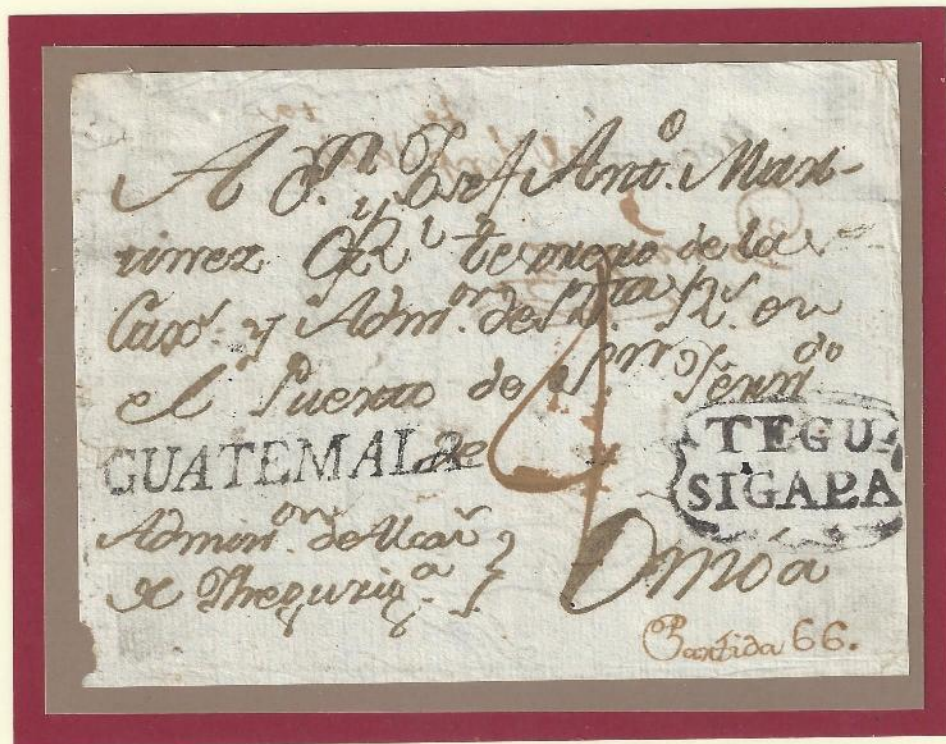
During 1802-1803 there was a rebellion by various Indian tribes in the Santa Rosa valley which disrupted communications between Comayagua and towns to the west. A temporary alternate postal route was established to maintain communications with the capital. The route went south through San Salvador and then north to Gracias a Dios to Los Llanos

There are two recorded letters that used this route with *San Salvador* as a transit. Transit marks were seldom applied to letters.



## OVERLAND MAIL

### Postal Routes



## Province of Honduras Intercoastal Vessel to Omoa

### Tegucigalpa Transit Office

The postal decree of 1793 established a mail route between Golfo and Omoa by intercoastal vessel.

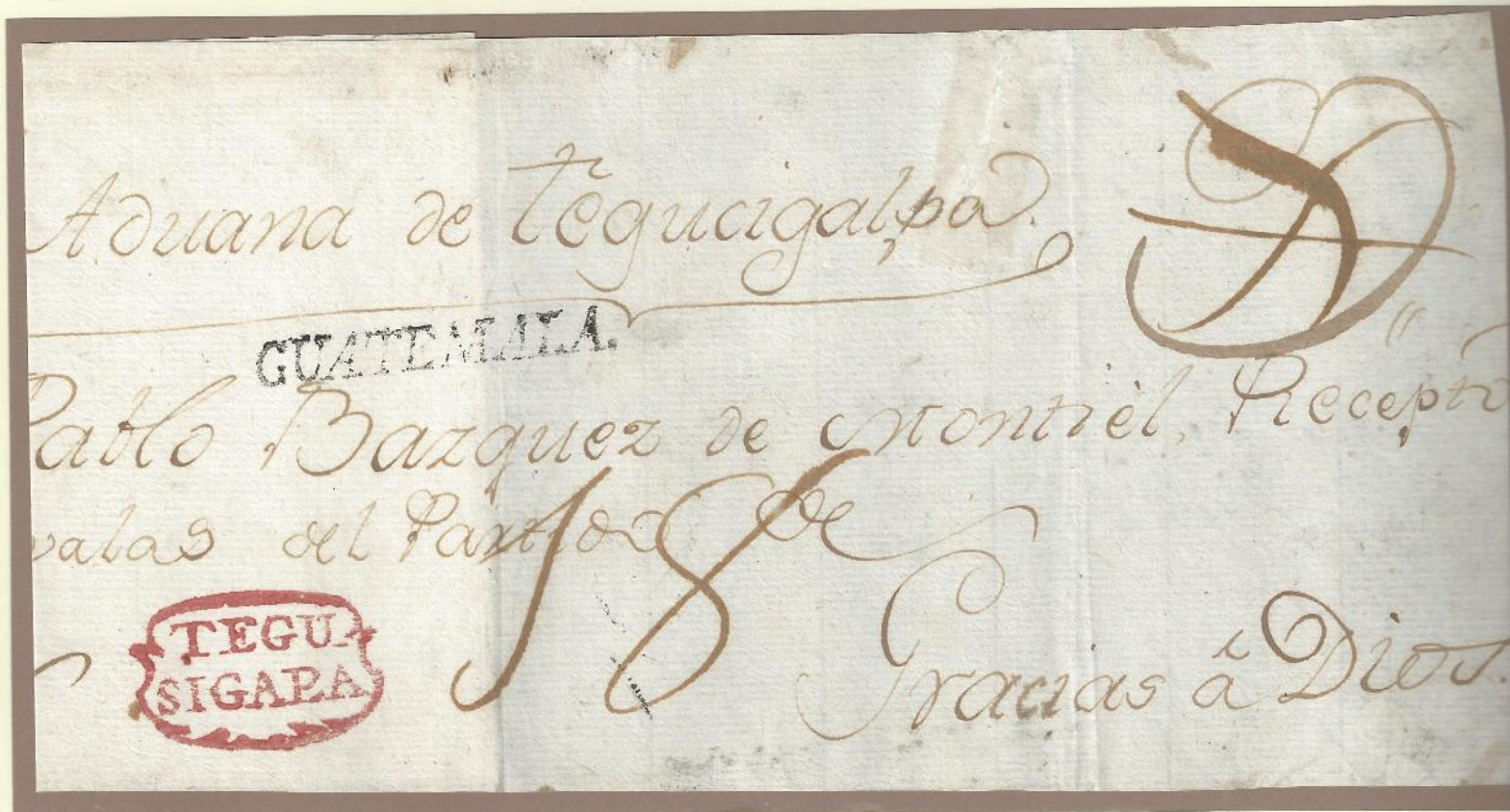
Tegucigalpa via Guatemala, Golfo then by intercoastal vessel to Omoa. No land route existed at this time between Tegucigalpa and Omoa.

One of two recorded letters

Guatemala to Gracias a Dios, undated

Tegucigalpa transit

Transit marks were seldom used





## OVERLAND MAIL - POSTMASTER "FRANCA" MARKS

PROVINCE OF GUATEMALA  
GUATEMALA CITY

Simón de Larrazabal  
Postmaster (Interim or Principal)  
March 1, 1768 - 1782

The *BANDO* (decree) of February 22, 1768, provided that postmasters could apply their signature to letters to verify postage had been paid. This could be done either with a manuscript signature or with a hand stamp. These marks were replaced with *FRANCO* and *FRANQUEADO* marks from about 1795 onwards. The postmasters of only four cities in the Kingdom of Guatemala used these marks. With the exception of Leon in the Province of Nicaragua, only one example of each is recorded.



"FRANCA" of Simón de Larrazabal, Guatemala City to Quito, Nueva Granada, docketed 1782.

This letter has an attached *PAPEL SELLADO* and letter front from Spain requesting an invoice to pay a debt from the estate of a deceased gentleman. This request was forwarded to Quito.

The letter was sent on the land route via Puebla - NE (Nueva España) in a circle, to Vera Cruz, red oval, where it also received two strikes of the *FRANCA* hand stamp of Postmaster Vincente Nievez Oroposa.

There the letter was put on a packet boat to Havana, (faint red *YNDIAS*), to Cartegena, and overland via Bogotá and Popoyan to Quito.

Only recorded example of the Larrazabel "FRANCA" and one of the most important letters of Colonial Guatemala

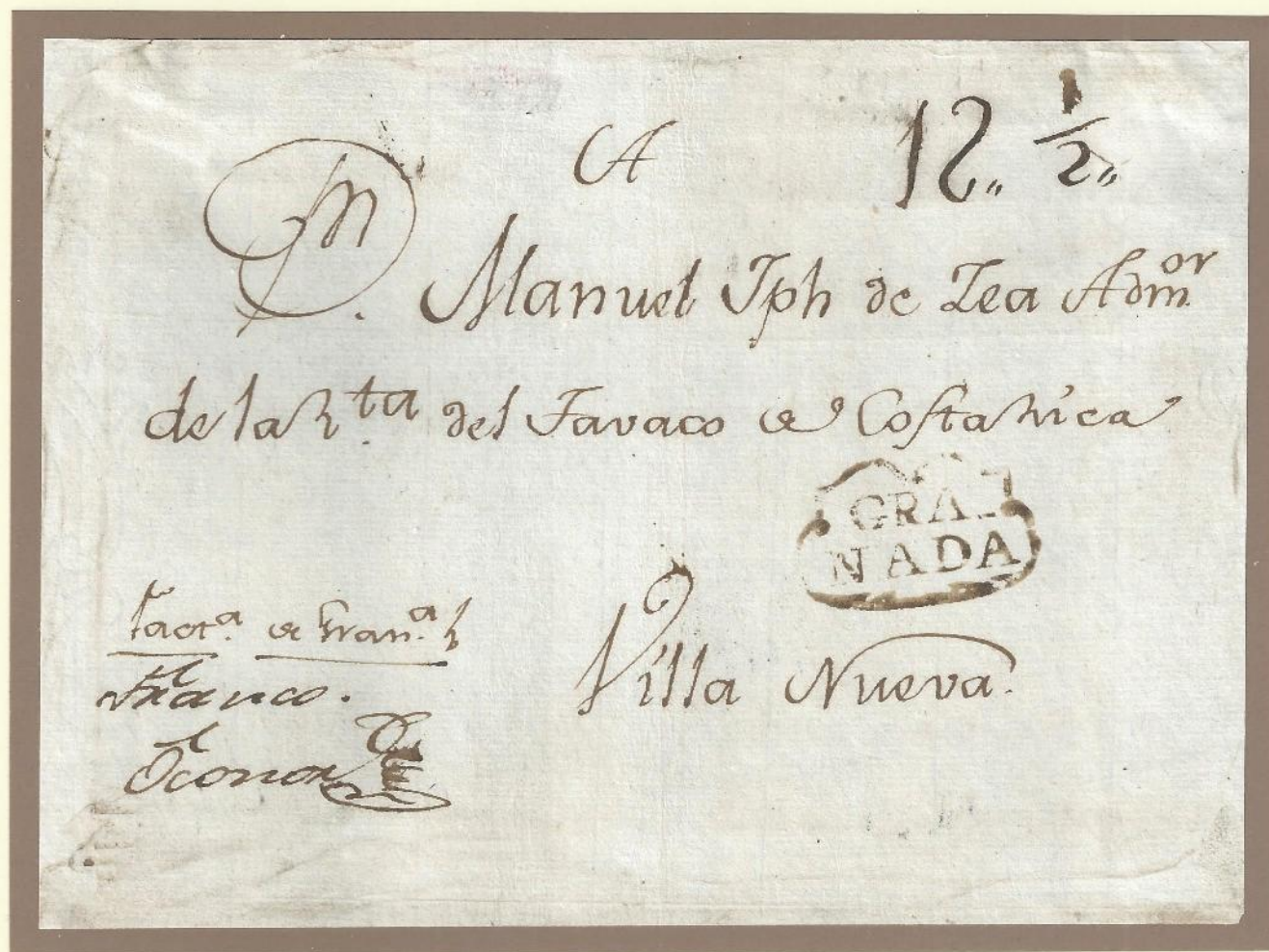


POSTMASTER "FRANCO" MANUSCRIPT

Felipé O'Conor

Granada, Province of Nicaragua

Postmaster c. 1778 - 1788



Sent from the Tobacco Factory in Granada, Province of Nicaragua, to the Tobacco Factory in Villa Nueva (now San José), Costa Rica, c. 1779.

Postmaster's manuscript "Franco. Oconor" and his rubrica

Only recorded example of this manuscript *FRANCO* and the second earliest recorded example of this *GRANADA* postmark.

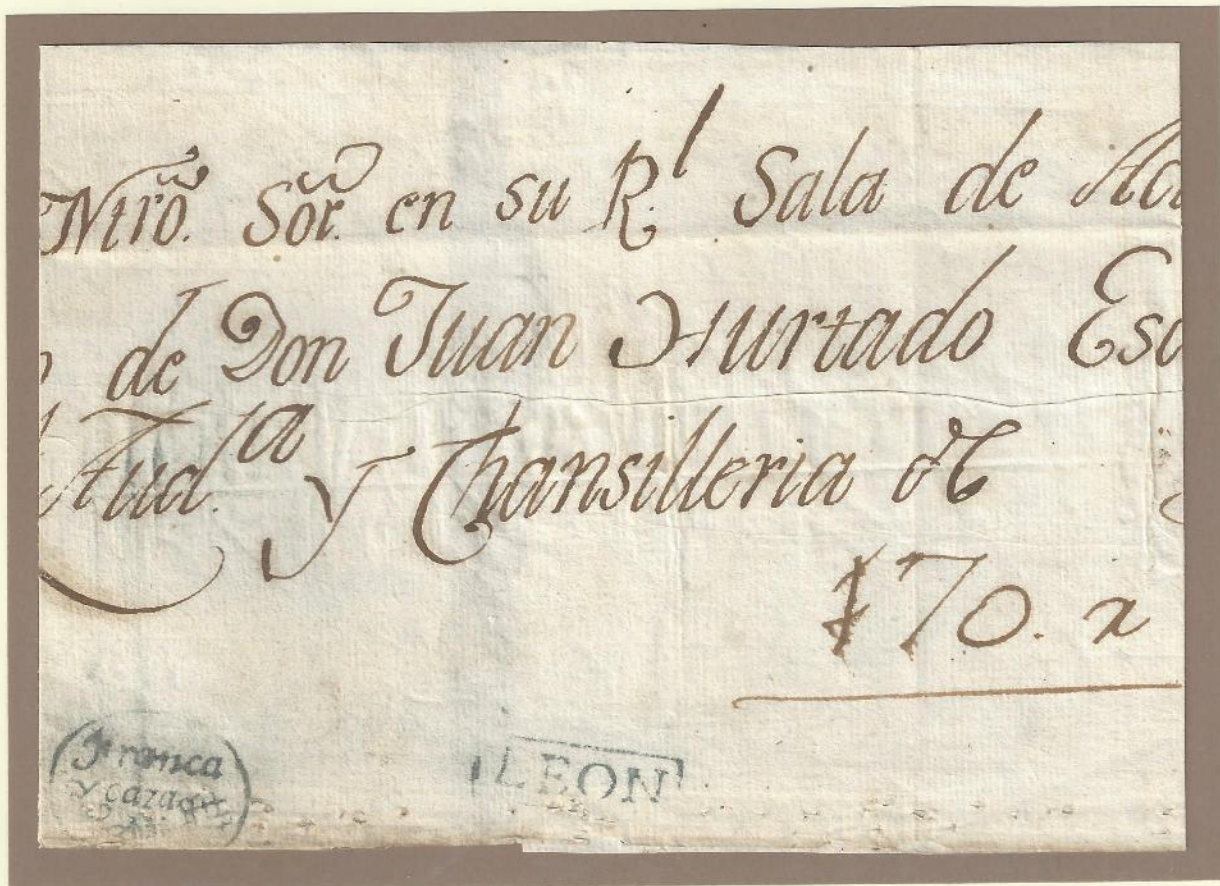


POSTMASTER "FRANCA" HANDSTAMPS

José Vincente de Ycasa

Leon, Province of Nicaragua

Postmaster 1791 - 1823



Leon, Province of Nicaragua, to Guatemala City, with manuscript 70 reales, and blue *FRANCA/YCASA* handstamp c. 1810

José Vincente de Ycasa was appointed postmaster in 1791.

One of two recorded examples of this *FRANCA* mark



## OVERLAND MAIL - INTRODUCTION OF TOWN POSTMARKS

Guatemala City (later Antigua)

Province of Guatemala

The first postmark of the Kingdom of Guatemala



Recorded used 1768 - 1773

Five examples recorded

Guatemala City to Comayagua-  
docketed 1770

To the Bishop of Comayagua  
Province of Honduras

Guatemala City c. 1770

To San Miguel,

Province of El Salvador





## POSTMARKS

Registered Mail

Without "CERTIFICACIÓN" handstamp

Province of Guatemala  
Guatemala City - 1798

Earliest Recorded Registered letter in the Kingdom of Guatemala



Registered mail was available since 1768, however, it was rarely used.

Sent *FRANQUEADO* (paid) from-Guatemala City to the Commander of the Port of Omoa in the Province of Honduras.

Manuscript notation "Certificación a Guatemala" and "sent 20 October 1798"

Postage calculated on the reverse

Postage: 4 silver reales (< 1 oz.)

Registration paid: 10 silver reales

Note crossed xxx in the corners to indicate registration

This letter confirms that the boxed "Certificación" handstamp was introduced sometime after 1798.



# POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala  
Guatemala City - 1814

## Registered Mail with Handstamp

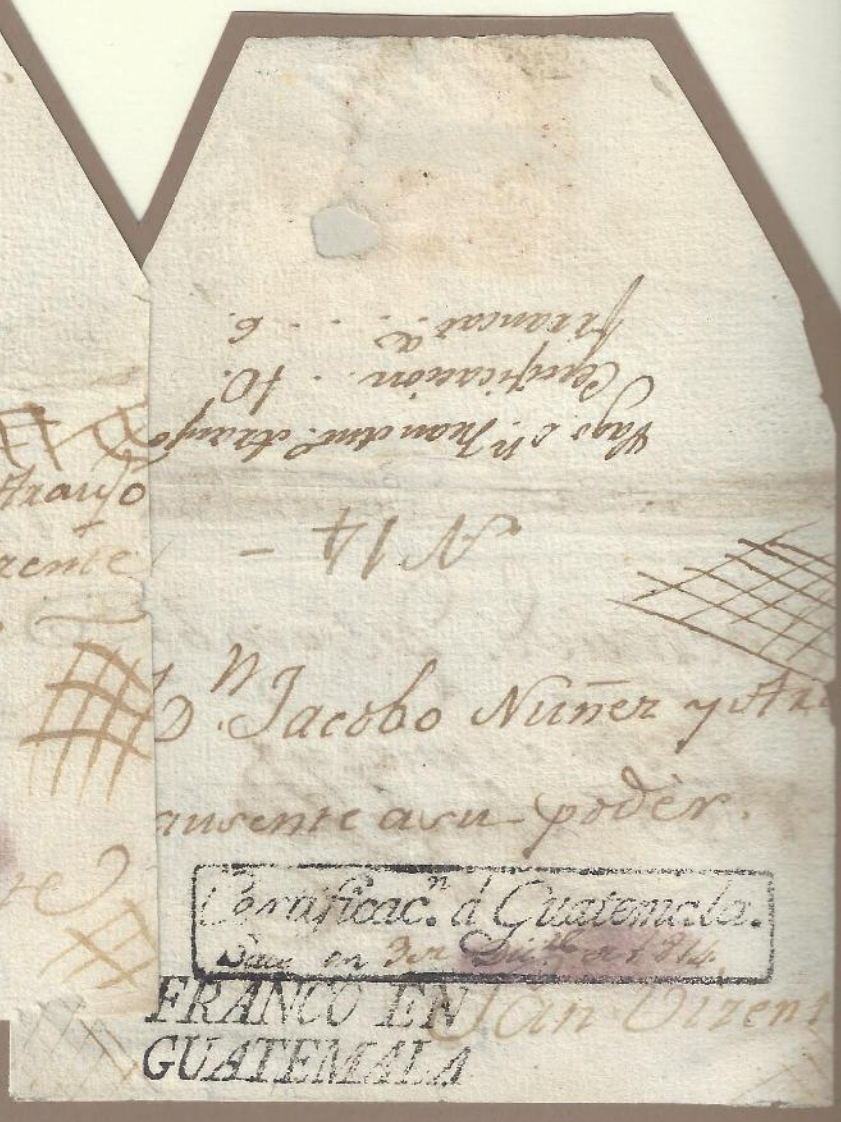
Six registered letters are recorded in Guatemala in the Colonial period. Three are in the exhibit. Guatemala was the only province to provide a registered mail handstamp.



Guatemala City to San Vicente, Province of El Salvador

November 11, 1814

Charged 11 reales postage and 20 reales for registration



Guatemala City to San Vicente, Province of El Salvador

December 3, 1814

Charged 6 reales postage and 10 reales for registration

Both letters charged according to the new postal rates of October 1, 1814. Note the manuscript numeral notation of "N.13" and "N.14" which probably indicates the sequence of registered letters for the year.



## POSTMARKS

## Province of Guatemala

## Guatemala City

**Straight line red - Recorded c.1810 (?) - 1820**



## Guatemala City to Suchitepeque

**Docketed September 7, 1820**

**This is the only recorded dated use of the red postmark**

**No official documentation has been found prohibiting the use of red inked postmarks in Guatemala City.**

Here the red postmark has been overstruck with a black postmark that has been repeated at the top.

Only three of the straight line *Guatemala* postmarks are recorded in red.





POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

Guatemala City

"Franqueado en Guatemala" 37mm x 15mm  
Black Recorded 1798 - 1832

"Franqueado Guatemala" 40mm x 17mm  
Red Recorded - 1800 - 1818 (?)



Guatemala City to Totonicapam, c. 1799

Guatemala City *Franqueado* with  
flower to Totonicapam, c. 1816,  
official letter with the cachet of  
"El Presidente"

Turned letter from Totonicapam  
with Patriotic cachet Crown/Viva  
Fernando VII





POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

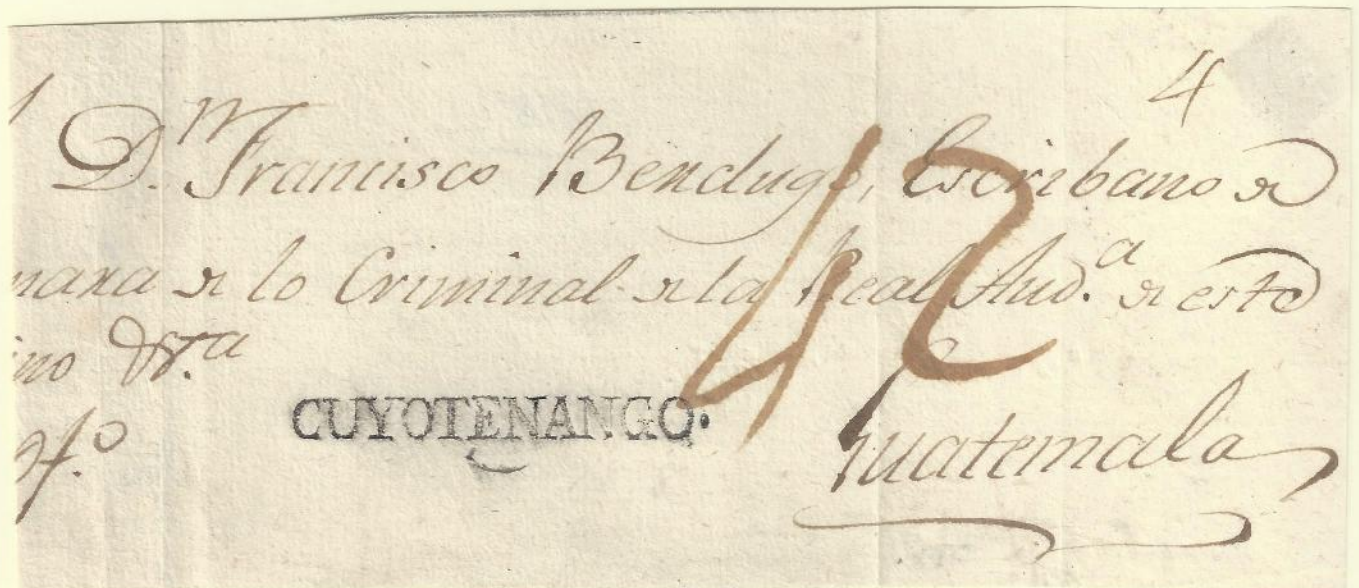
Chiquimula and Cuyotenango

Chiquimula oval - Recorded 1798 - 1822

Cuyotenango straight line - Recorded 1814 - 1818



Chiquimula to Guatemala City, c. 1802



Cuyotenango to Guatemala City, c. 1815



## POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

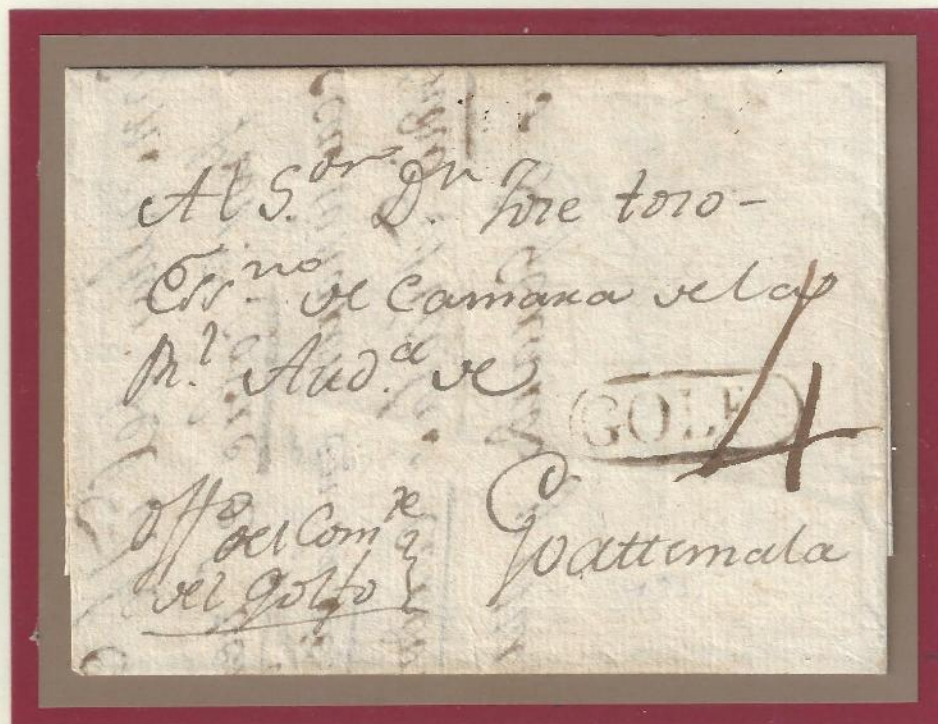
Izabal and Golfo

Izabal straight line - Recorded 1813 - ?

Golfo oval - Recorded 1802



Izabal to Guatemala City, c. 1813, two recorded examples of this postmark



Golfo to Guatemala City, docketed 1802

The fort of San Filipe de Golfo protected Guatemala's maritime outlet to the Caribbean from pirates. It seems much of the mail was carried by hand or private courier .

Only recorded example of this postmark



## POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

Huehuetenango and Peten

Huehuetenango script - Recorded 1817 - 1842

Peten script - Recorded 1813 - c.1860



Huehuetenango to Guatemala City

c. 1818

The first postmark of Huehuetenango

Peten, c. 1815  
to Guatemala City

The First postmark of Peten





# POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

Quetzaltenango

Solid border red - Recorded 1802 - 1803  
Border of dots black - Recorded 1815 - 1845  
Border of dots red - Recorded 1810 - 1815





POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

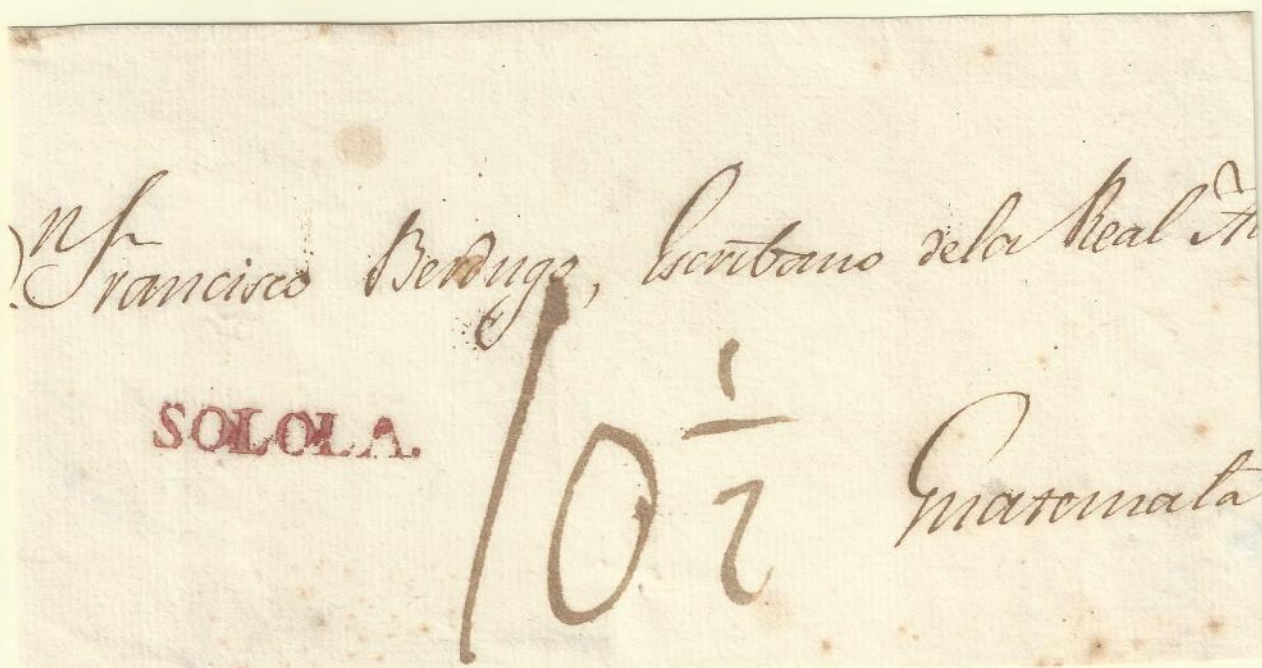
Sololá

Straight line 37mm - Recorded 1812 - 1816

Straight line 35mm - Recorded 1813 - 1865



The 37mm straight line postmark is the first postmark of Sololá. This is the earliest of the three or four recorded examples; it is docketed February 10, 1812, to Guatemala City.



The 35mm straight line postmark, c. 1813, sent to the "Royal Court" in Guatemala City confirms Colonial usage.



POSTMARKS  
Mazatenango

Province of Guatemala  
Pointed box - Recorded 1796 - 1801

Al  
Rey Nro S.<sup>o</sup> Que Dios m.a. En sus  
Corte y Real Chancilleria que esta y reside  
en la Nueva Ciudad de Guatemala de la  
Asuncion.

QUEZAL  
TENANGO

Por mano de su Secretario de Camara  
D.<sup>o</sup> Juan Hurtado.

MAZATE  
NANGO

de oficio

N. a. Guat. a

Mazatenango to Guatemala City, Quezaltenango transit, c. 1799

Al  
D.<sup>o</sup> Sr. Joseph Maria Martinez de Levallos:  
Sup.<sup>r</sup> Gov.<sup>no</sup> N.<sup>o</sup> a.  
de Suchitepequez.

MAZATE  
NANGO

MAZATE  
NANGO

Suchitepeque, a small village, Mazatenango transit to Guatemala City, c. 1799,



# POSTMARKS

Mazatenango and Retaluleu

Province of Guatemala

Mazatenango Red box - Recorded 1802 - 1809

Mazatenango Black box - Recorded 1808 - 1860

Retaluleu - Black Circle Recorded 1812-1856

A Don Buaguir Joseph  
Calbo. Secret. & Camara del  
Supremo Tribunal de la R.  
Aud. del Reyno de

Mazatenango

Oficio

Red Mazatenango to Guatemala City,  
docketed 1802. Earliest recorded use.

Escrivano de  
la Cibil de  
Guatemala  
de Oficio

Mazatenango

Guatemala

Retalaleu to Guatemala City  
c. 1815

A Don Francisco Mendigo Escrivano de Camara  
la Cima. Sala del Primer

De oficio.

RECEIVED  
JAN 18 1815  
GUATEMALA

Guatemala



## POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

Sololá

Sololá +Franco - 1816? - ?



Prior to the discovery of this wrapper, the red "Franco" was believed to be from the Republic period. This turned letter was originally sent as Official Mail and has the large "El Presidente" seal and *Franco en Guatemala* on the obverse. It is addressed to a Royal Office in Guatemala City, clearly dating this mark in the Colonial period.

Only recorded use of the "Franco" in the Colonial Period



## POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

Totonicapam

Unrecorded Proof or Sample Impressions  
Probably 1809



Totonicapam proof or sample sheet in green, c. 1809

This sheet includes the recorded "*Totonicapam*" in oval and the "*VV F. VII*" patriotic mark as well as an unrecorded script *FRANCO* and what appears to be an oval *Totonicapam/Franco*.

Several of these marks are repeated on the obverse.

This is the only proof or sample sheet recorded from any of the Provinces



## POSTMARKS

Province of Guatemala

### Totonicapam

Black oval - Recorded 1788 - 1855

Red oval - Recorded 1804 - 1813

This is the only postmark used in Totonicapam in the Colonial period



Totonicapam to Guatemala City, c. 1815



Totonicapam to Guatemala City, c. 1805

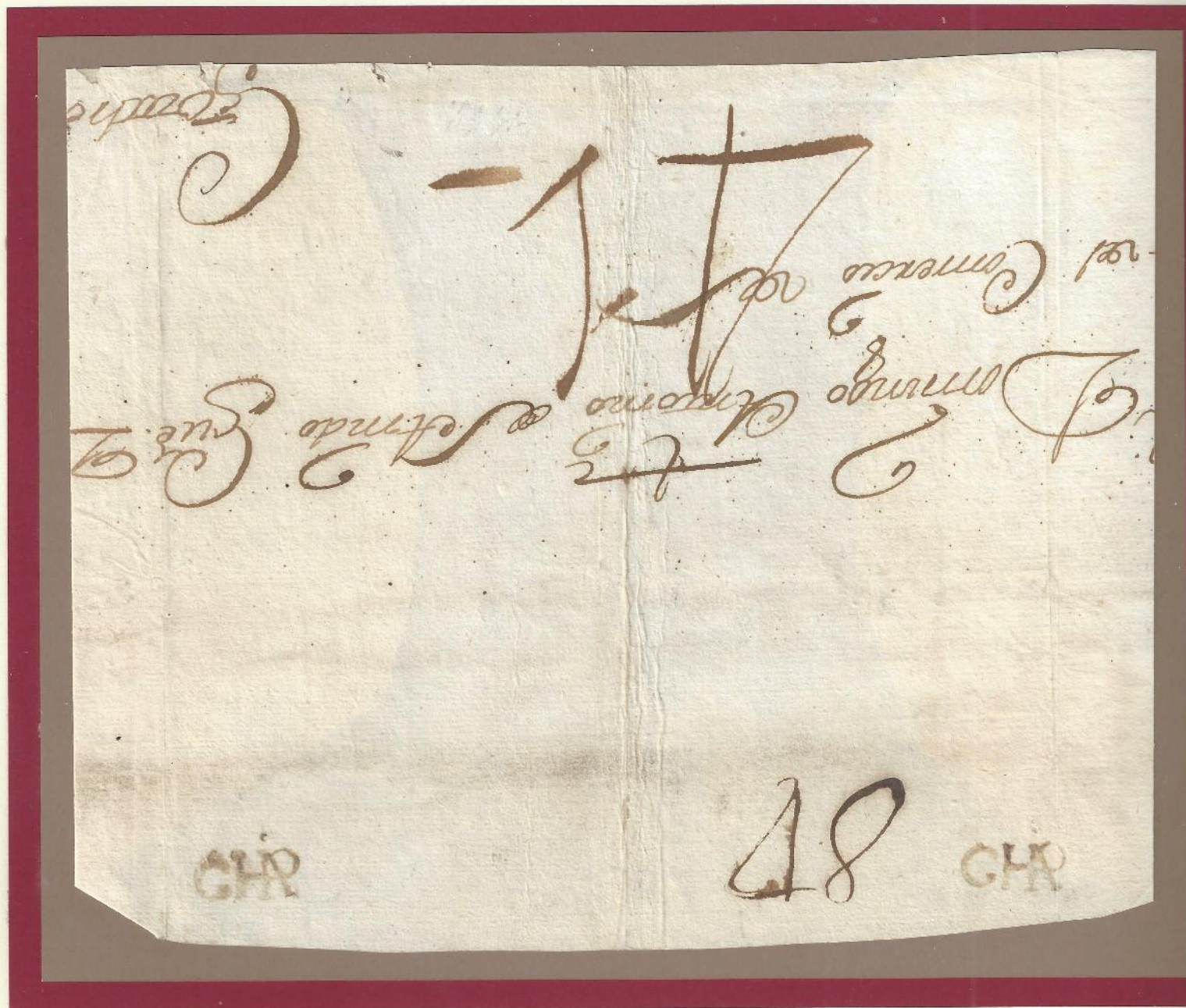


# POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Chiapa

Abbreviated Style Recorded 1779



Chiapa "run on style" postmark to Guatemala City c. 1779

The first postmark of the Province of Chiapas

Two recorded examples

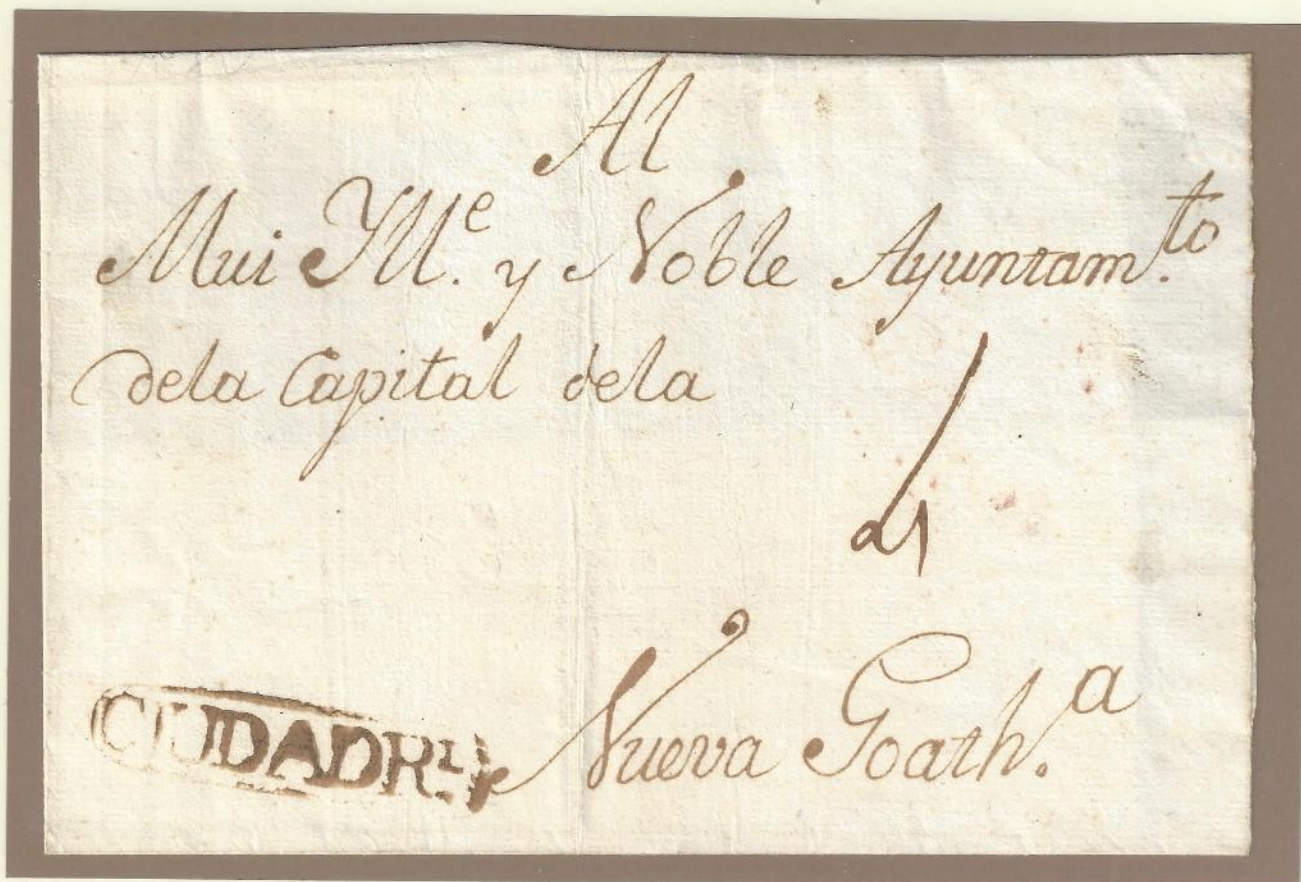


POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Ciudad Real

Oval - Recorded use 1795 -1803



Ciudad Real (now San Cristobal) to Guatemala City, c. 1796

The earliest postmarks are in the brown (writer's ink) rather than black.

The first postmark of Ciudad Real



POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Ciudad Real

Red - Recorded use 1802- 1821

"Franqueado/Ciudad Real" -Recorded use 1802 - 1816

Four examples of the  
"Franqueado / Ciudad  
Real" are recorded

Ad. Rafael Valenzue-  
la, Adm. <sup>on</sup> particular de  
Favacora, y Tam. agregad.  
del Partido de  
de la Real y  
Pactoria de }  
Ciudad  
Real.  
Tonalá

Franqueado  
Ciudad Real



POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Ciudad Real

Black - c. 1810 ?



No dated letters are recorded with the black postmark.

Turned Official Letter with the free frank of El Presidente in Guatemala City

Five examples of the black postmark are recorded



# POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Comitan

"Franqueado en Comitan" - Recorded use 1811 - 1820

Black box - Recorded use 1800 (?) - 1807

Red box - Recorded use 1802 - 1812



Red Franqueado en Comitan  
without date

Three recorded



Black Comitan docketed  
March 14, 1807

Three recorded in black



Red Comitan docketed  
March 13, 1809



POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Ixtacomitan

Straight line - Recorded use 1807 - 1821

Straight line boxed - Recorded use ?



Straight line postmark

To Ciudad Real



Boxed postmark

To Ciudad Real

This may be a worn impression of the postmark



# POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Tapachula

Straight line - Recorded use 1807 - 1821

"Franqueado en Tapachula" - Recorded use 1809 - 1830

Postmarks known in black and brown

TAPACHULA-  
A los Srs. Ilustres de Real  
Hacienda de las Casas reales de

Ciudad. A los Srs. Ilustres de  
las Casas Principales de  
TAPACHULA-  
Ciudad B.

De la Real Audencia de este Reyno.

18

Franqueado  
en Tapachula

Del Intendente de Comercio.

Guatemala



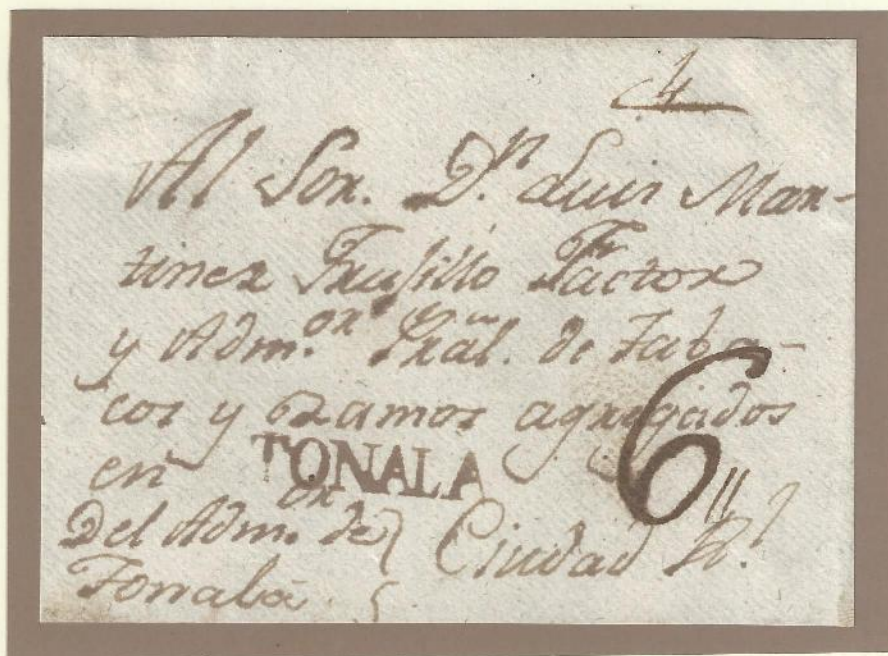
# POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Tonala

Straight Line - Recorded use 1816 - 1849

Tonala + "Flower" - Recorded use 1797 - 1840



Tonala to Ciudad Real, without date



Tonala + Flower to Ciudad Real, Docketed May 1802



# POSTMARKS

Province of Chiapas

Tuxtla

Tuxtla + FRANCO - Recorded 1820 (?)

Oval "shell" - Recorded 1788 - 1814

Straight line script - Recorded 1818 (?) - 1821



Two examples of the FRANCO  
are recorded



Docketed July 1806





## POSTMARKS

Province of Costa Rica

Cartago

Cartago fancy - Recorded use 1801 -1808

"Franqueado en Cartago" - Recorded use 1802 - 1820

Postmarks were introduced somewhat later in Costa Rica than in the other Provinces due to the difficulty of communications within Costa Rica



Cartago to Guatemala City c. 1802



Franqueado en Cartago to Guatemala City, docked 1802



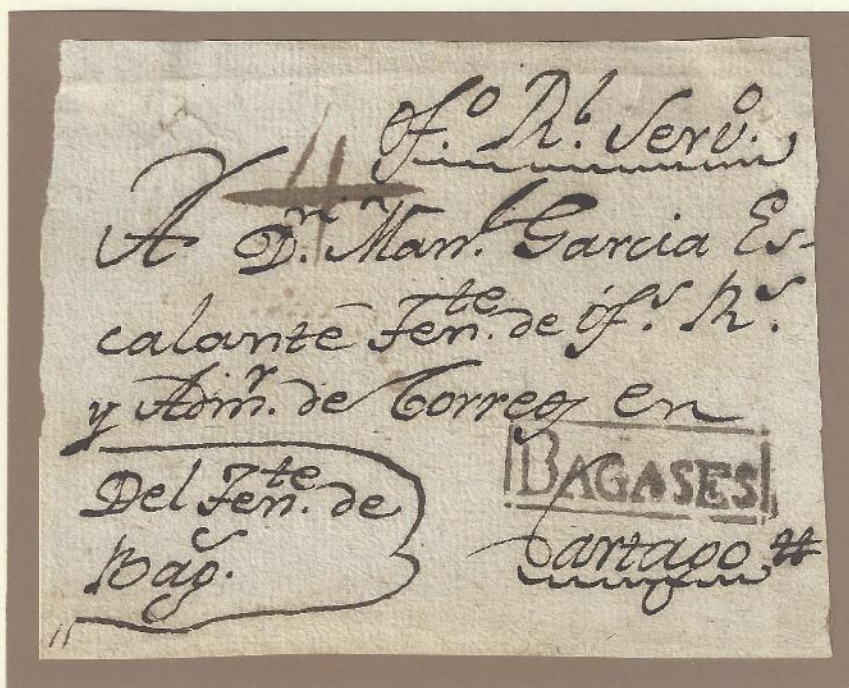
# POSTMARKS

Province of Costa Rica

Bagases and Guanacaste

Bagases box - Recorded use 1803 - 1813

Guanacaste box - Recorded use 1799 - 1810



Bagases to Cartago c. 1810



Guanacaste to San Jose "Costa Rica," c. 1810



# POSTMARKS

Province of Costa Rica

Nicoya and Villa Vieja

Nicoya box- Recorded used 1799 - 1820  
Villa Vieja box - Recorded used 1800 - 1815

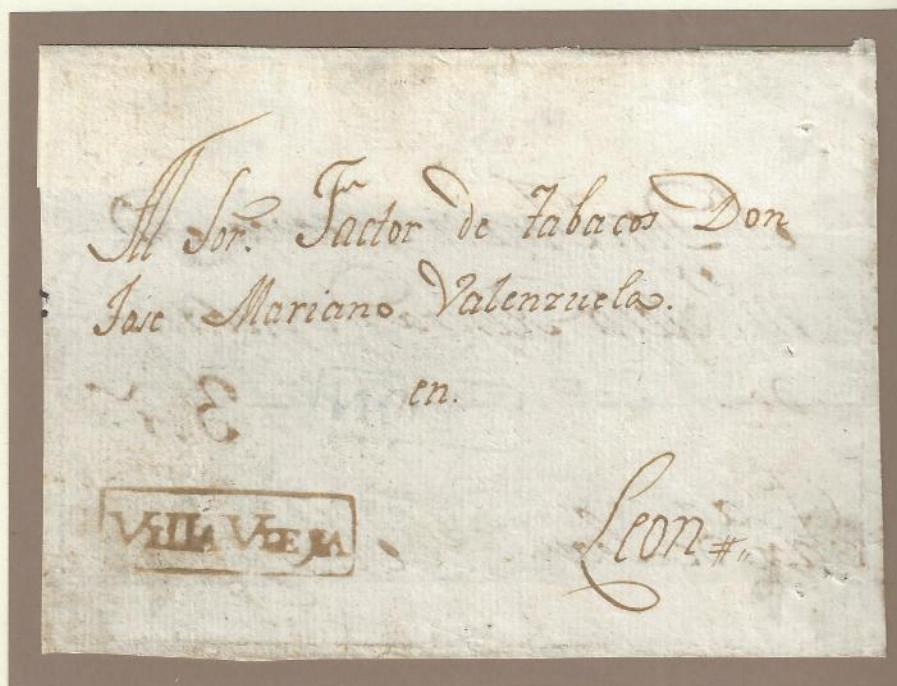


Nicoya c.1803

To Cartago, forwarded  
to San José

Villa Vieja, c.1805, to Leon  
Turned letter, reverse blue Leon to  
Managua

Three examples recorded





POSTMARKS

Province of Costa Rica

San José

Red script - Recorded use 1818 - 1825

From the Tobacco Factory in San Jose to the Tobacco Factory in Guatemala City. High rates

suggest these are fronts of parcels.

At Sor. D<sup>na</sup> Jose Velasco Director g.<sup>l</sup> de las Rtas. de  
tab.<sup>co</sup> y Polbora de el Rmo. de  
De la Fac. de <sup>ca</sup>Costa Rica. } *San José* 32x  
Guatemala

At Sor. D<sup>na</sup> Jose Velasco Director g.<sup>l</sup> de las Rtas. de  
tab.<sup>co</sup> y Polb.<sup>a</sup> de el Rmo. de  
De la Fac. de *San José* } 40  
Guatemala



# POSTMARKS

Province of Costa Rica

Villa Nueva (now San José)

"Villa Nueva/Franca" - Recorded used 1811 - 1813

Oval - Recorded used 1811 - 1813



Villa Nueva Franca on turned letter to Guatemala City , c. 1813

Three recorded examples



Villa Nueva to Leon, Province of Nicaragua, c. 1811



## POSTMARKS

Province of Honduras

Comayagua and Gracias a Dios

Comayagua oval - Recorded use 1789 - 1810  
Gracias a Dios oval - Recorded use 1789 - 1807



Comayagua to Guatemala City

Docketed 1789

One of the earliest letters from Comayagua



Gracias a Dios to Comayagua - Docketed September 9, 1789

Earliest recorded letter from Gracias a Dios



# POSTMARKS

Province of Honduras

Gracias a Dios, Choluteca  
and Llanos

Gracias a Dios oval - Recorded use 1789 - 1807

Choluteca straight line - Recorded use 1820 - ?

Llanos straight line - Recorded use 1806 - ?

*Al Sr. D. José Velasco Director Gral.  
de la R.ª Rentas & Tabacos del  
Reyno de*



*A D. Francisco Beas  
go. Enarb.º del cuimen en la R.  
stus.ª de*

CHOLUTECA

*Al Sor. D. José Velasco Director  
Grat. de las R.ª Rentas del Ta-  
baco Pto.ª & Gr.ª del Pno.  
de*

LLANOS

Guatemala

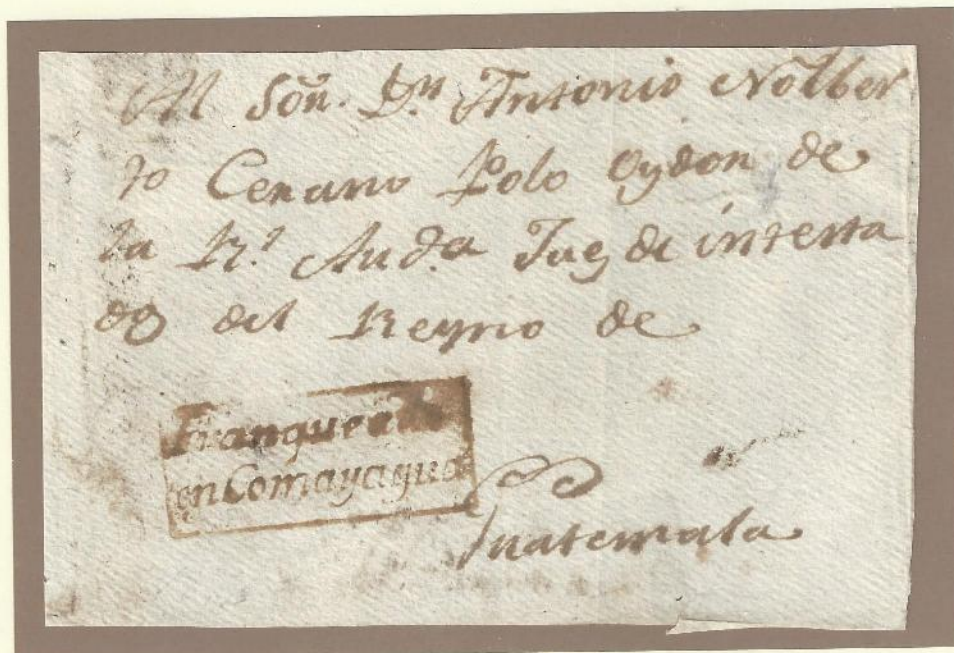


POSTMARKS

Province of Honduras

Comayagua

"Franqueado en Comayagua" - Recorded used 1801 - ?  
Straight line red - Recorded 1820 - ?



Franqueado en Comayagua to Guatemala City - c. 1801

Four recorded



Comayagua to Guatemala City - c. 1820



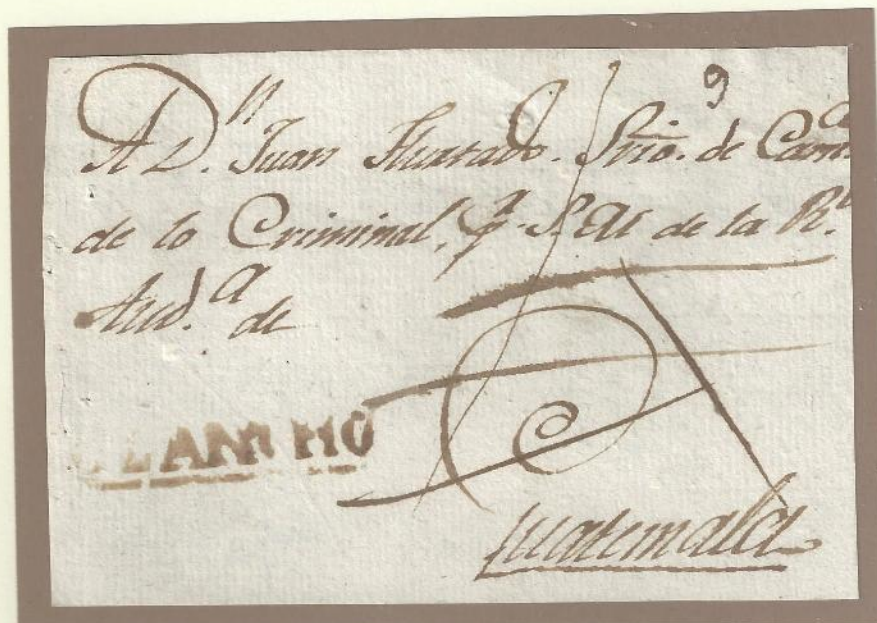
# POSTMARKS

Province of Honduras

Olancho

Straight line - Recorded use 1806 - ?

Box - Recorded use 1811 - 1819



Olancho to Guatemala City - c. 1810



Olancho to Guatemala City, November 19, 1811, Tegucigalpa transit confirms the postal route went via Tegucigalpa

Earliest recorded use of this postmark



# POSTMARKS


Province of Honduras

Tegucigalpa

Red recorded used 1790 - 1810

Black recorded used 1810 - 1835

Brown recorded used 1811 - ?

N.º 50  
Al sr. Superintend.<sup>te</sup> de  
R.<sup>l</sup> Casa de Moneda de  
este Reyno. 25  
  
De la Casa de Rerc.<sup>h</sup>

Al s.<sup>or</sup> Superintend.<sup>te</sup>  
de la R.<sup>l</sup> Casa de Moneda  
de este Reyno.



Guatemala.

189  
A. M. N. y M. L.  
Ayuntam.<sup>to</sup> A la  
N. Cind.<sup>l</sup> A  
 Guat.



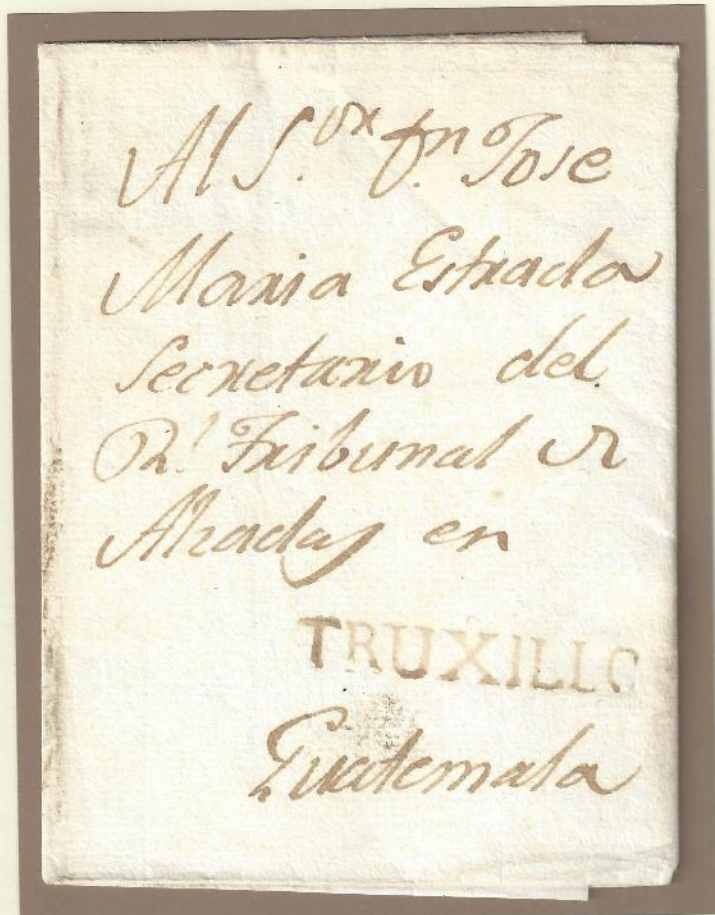
# POSTMARKS

Province of Honduras

Trujillo

Straight line - Recorded use 1811 - 1822

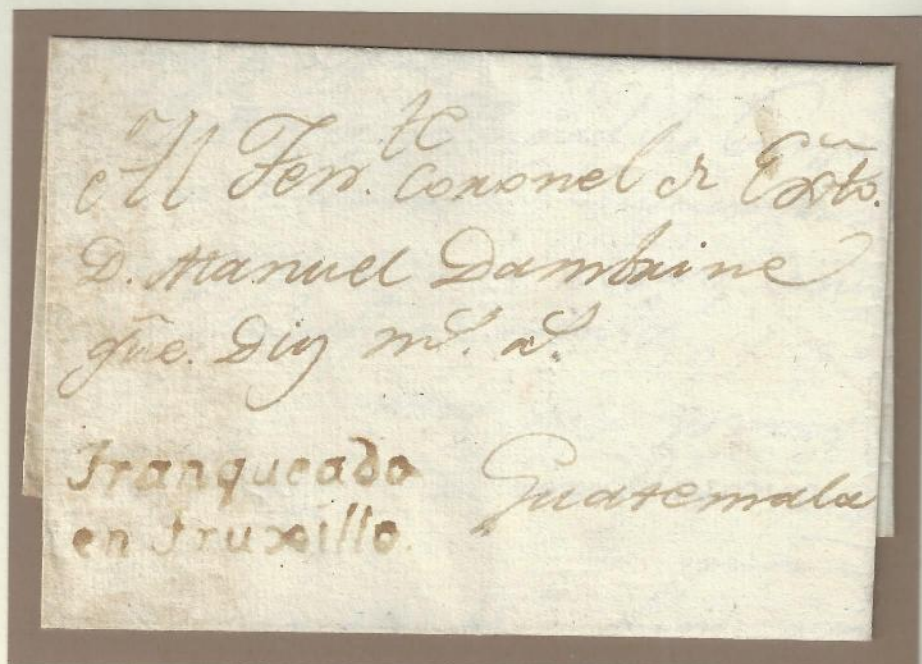
"Franqueado en Trujillo" - Recorded use 1801 - 1811



Trujillo to Guatemala City - c. 1812

Franqueado en Trujillo to  
Guatemala City

Docketed March 5, 1811  
Latest recorded use





# POSTMARKS

Province of Nicaragua

Leon

Small red box - Recorded 1771

Large red box - Recorded 1786



Small red boxed LEON - The first postmark of Leon, c. 1771, three recorded



Large red boxed LEON, c. 1786 (triple strike) three examples recorded



## POSTMARKS

## Province of Nicaragua

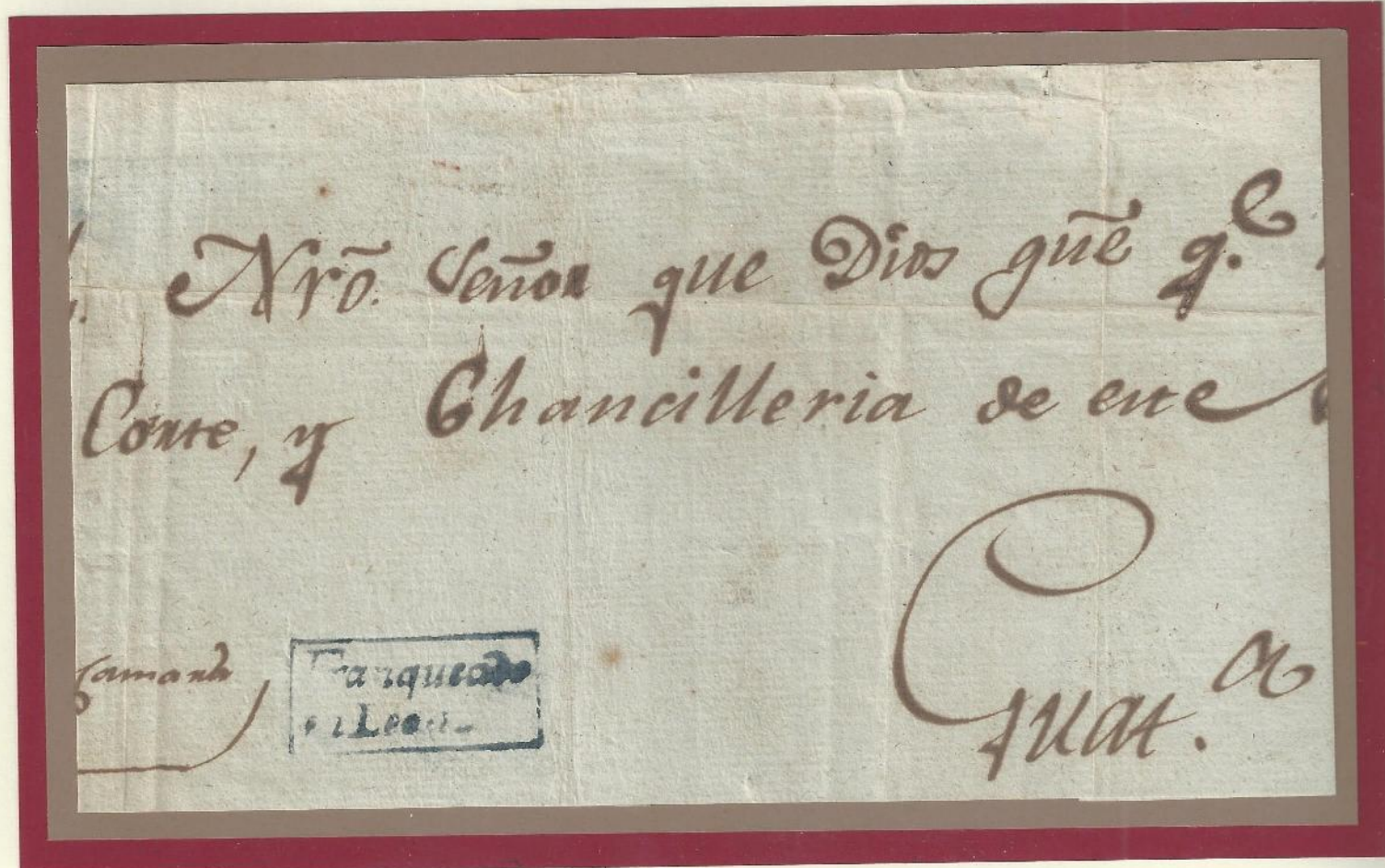
## Nicaragua and Leon

**“Franqueado en Nicaragua” - Recorded 1816 -1817**

**"Franqueado en Leon" - Blue Not Recorded**



**Nicaragua (now Rivas) to Llanos docketed  
1817 - Probably less than five exist**



*Franqueado en Leon - unrecorded in blue - to Guatemala City c. 1800*



# POSTMARKS

Province of Nicaragua

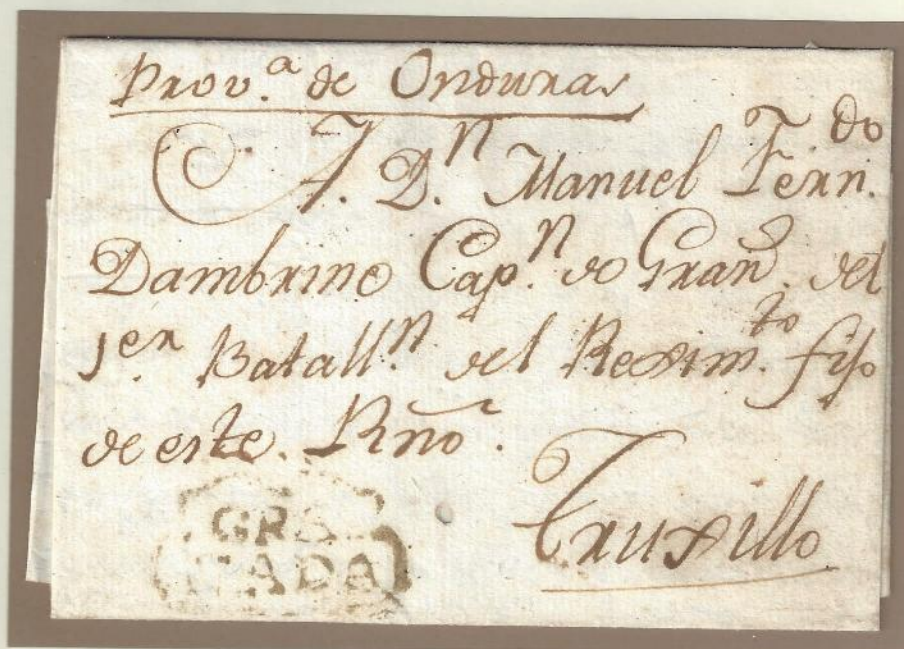
Leon and Granada

Leon blue box - Recorded use 1798 - 1819

Granada shell - Recorded use 1798 - 1820



Leon to Granada, December 18, 1803



Granada to Truxillo, August 22, 1798

Personal letter addressed to Don Manuel Dambrine congratulating him on his promotion to General of the 1st Company of Grenadiers



**POSTMARKS**

**Province of Nicaragua**

**Granada**

**Straight line - Recorded use 1810 - 1821**

**"Franqueado en Granada" - Recorded use c. 1805**



**Granada to Leon - c. 1812**



**Franqueado en Granada to Guatemala City, c. 1805 - no dated letters known, four recorded**



# POSTMARKS

Province of Nicaragua

Managua and El Viejo

Managua straight line script - Recorded 1800 - 1815

Viexo oval - Recorded 1790 - 1822



Managua to Leon c. 1810



El Viejo to Guatemala City c. 1800



# POSTMARKS

## Province of Nicaragua

Nicaragua (now Rivas)

Black/Brown - Recorded 1790 - 1820

Blue - Recorded use 1806 - (?)

Red - Recorded use 1808 - (?)

NICARAGUA

A. D. José Mariano de Valenzuela: Factor Gral. de la Rta.  
Renta de Tabacos de

Adm. on Part. de Nicaragua

Stannell Vela: Domin. general  
en la Rta. Renta a Pol. a

Adm. on Part. de Nicaragua

NICARAGUA

Leon

A. D. José Mariano de Valenzuela: Factor Gen.  
de la Rta. de Tabacos de esta Prov. a

Adm. on Part. de Nicaragua

NICARAGUA

Leon



# POSTMARKS

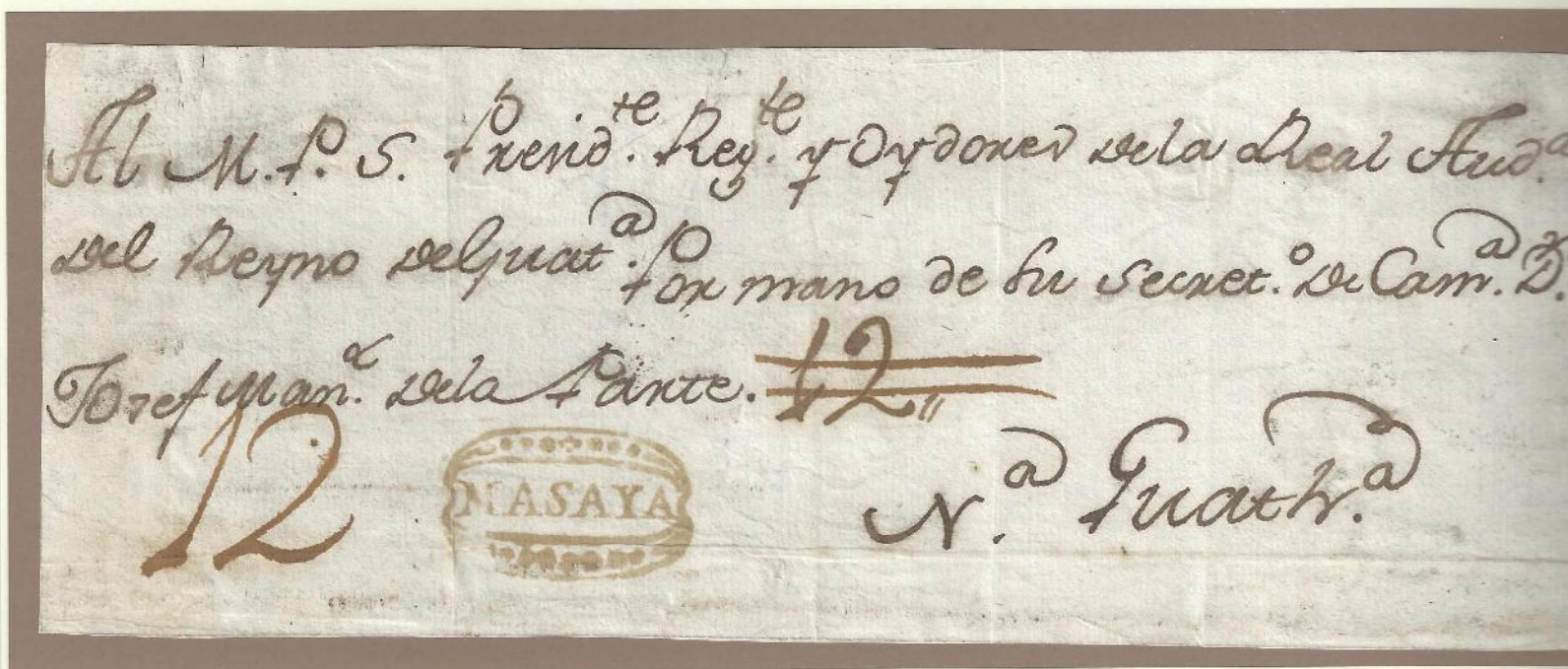
Province of Nicaragua

Masaya

Solid border - Recorded use c. 1786 - 1819  
Border With Dots - Recorded use 1798 - 1802



Masaya to Guatemala City - c. 1809



Masaya to Guatemala City - c. 1800



POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

San Salvador

Large "shell" - Recorded use c. 1800 - 1820



San Salvador to Guatemala, 1800, dated without month.

Signed by Sr. Opico with his rubrica. Believed to be the earliest recorded use.



POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

San Salvador

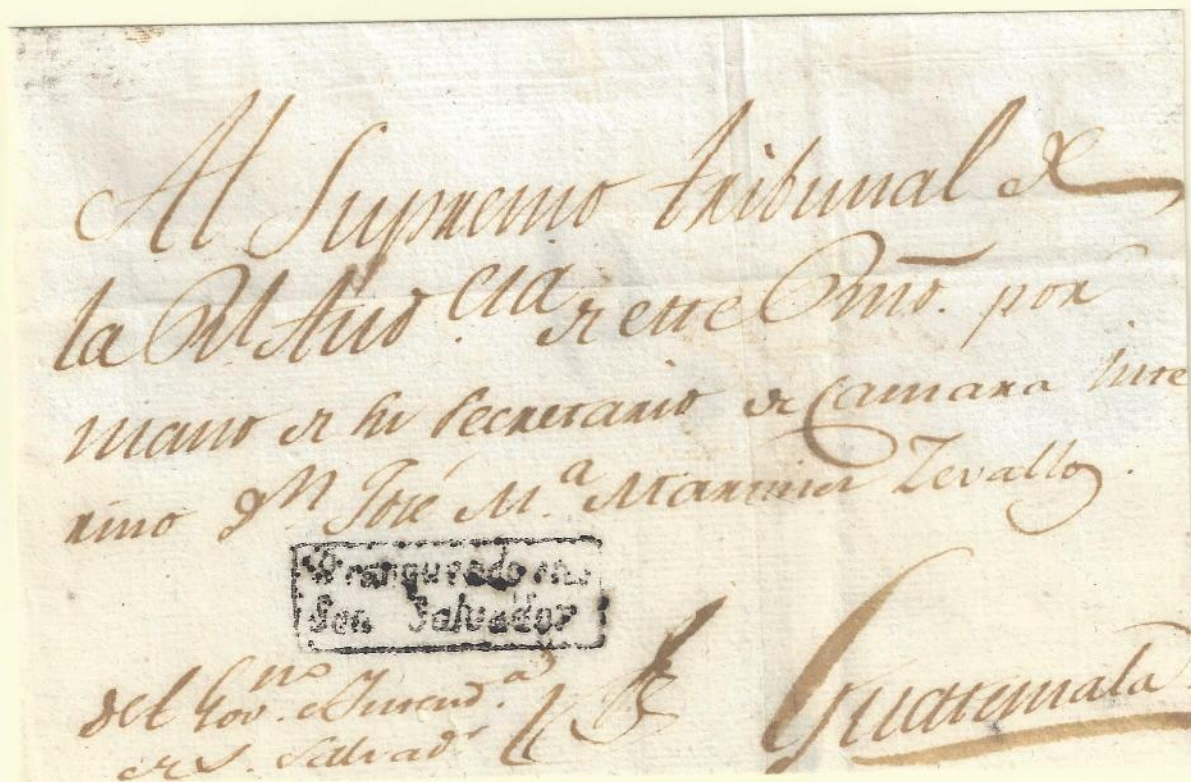
"Franqueado en San Salvador" 54mm x  
18mm - Recorded use 1807 - 1834

"Franqueado en San Salvador" 40mm x  
15mm - Recorded use c. 1802



San Salvador to  
Guatemala City

c. 1815



San Salvador to Guatemala City, c. 1802

Only two or three known



POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

San Salvador

Small "shell" letters 4½mm

Small "shell" letters 4mm

Recorded 1790 - 1807



Letters 4½mm high, to San Miguel



Letters 4mm high, to Guatemala City

Both types seems to have been used simultaneously. Other minute differences can be seen in the letters.

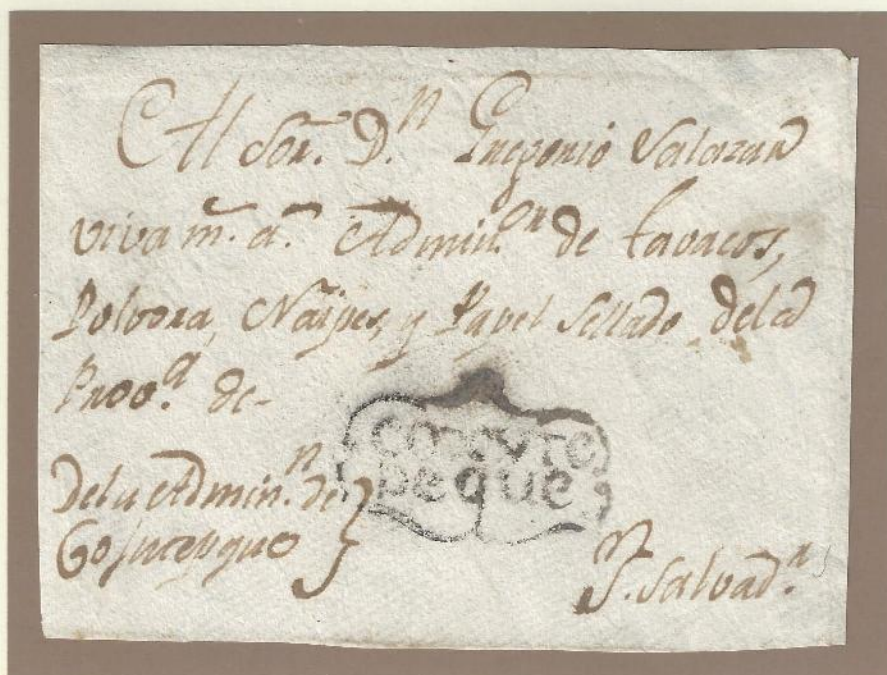


# POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

Ahuachapán and  
Cojutepeque

Ahuachapán straight line - Recorded use 1798 - 1809  
Ahuachapán "FRANCO" - Recorded use 1800 - 1809  
Cojutepeque fancy - Recorded use 1805 - 1851





# POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

Chalatenango

Straight line Roman Letters - Recorded use 1805 - 1818

Straight line script letters - Recorded use 1799 - 1813



Chalatenango to San Vicente



Chalatenango to Guatemala City

Pague 2r de su porte (Paid 2r of postage) with postmaster's rubrica



# POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

Metapan

Straight line - Recorded use 1778 - 1808

"Franco Metapan" - Recorded use 1807 - 1815

These are the only two postmarks used in Metapan. Both are on parcel fronts with very high postage due fees. There exists probably between five and ten examples of each of these marks.

*Al Sr. D. Fran. Berduco Escribano &  
Camara de la N. Sala al Excmo. Sr. D. D. D.  
METAPAN  
al Sr. D. D. D. 2.º  
en Metapan  
Guatemala.*

*Al Sr. D. D. Miguel de Aragon, Arce. de  
del numero 8  
50  
Chiquimula*



**POSTMARKS**

**Province of El Salvador**

**Santa Ana**

**S. Ana oval - Recorded 1786**



**Santa Ana to Guatemala City - October 3, 1786**

**The earliest recorded letter from Santa Ana, one other example of this postmark recorded**



POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

Santa Ana

Two line 26mm long - Recorded c.1805  
Santa Ana fancy - 1790 - 1807



Santa Ana to Nicaragua (now Rivas)

Docketed October 10, 1805

One of two recorded examples

A. D. Juan Maria Valdez, Com. del Tribunal de  
Bienes de Difuntos, de este Reyno de la



J. Guzman

Santa Ana to Guatemala City - September 19, 1797



POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

Santa Ana

Two line 22mm long - Recorded use 1814 - 1849  
"Franqueado en Santa Ana" - Recorded use 1804 - 1849



Santa Ana to Guatemala City, c. 1818



Franqueado en Santa Ana to Guatemala City, c. 1815



# POSTMARKS

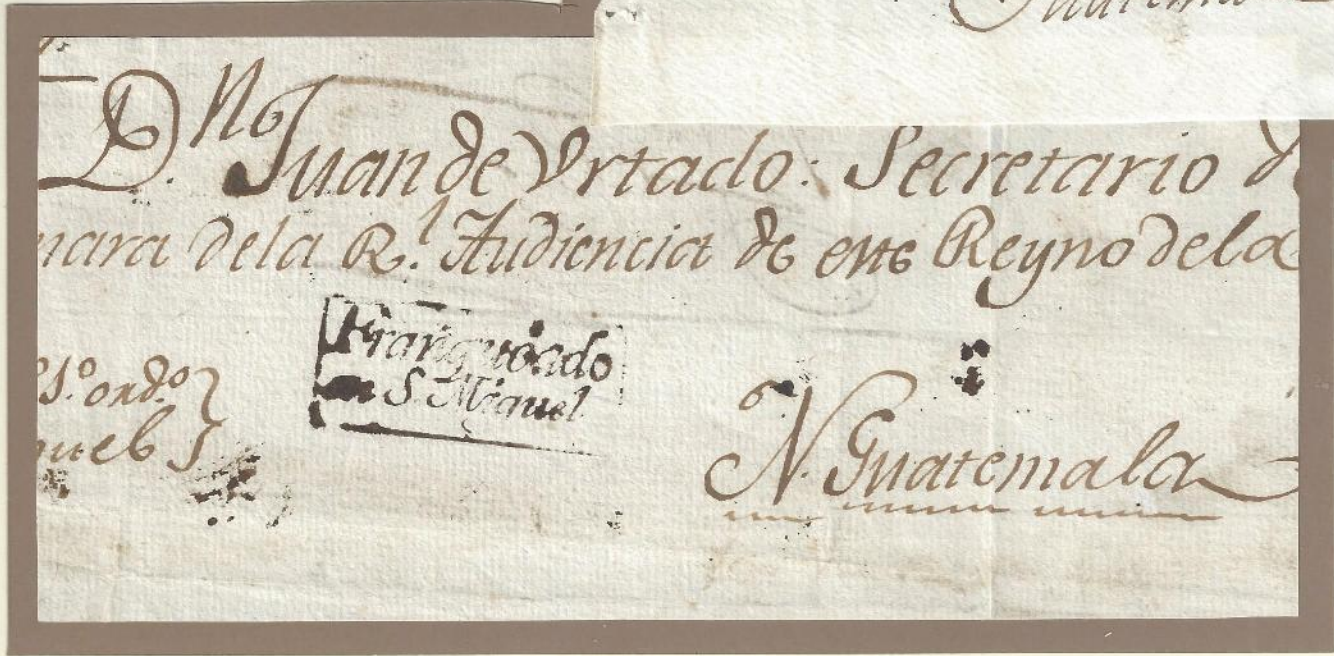
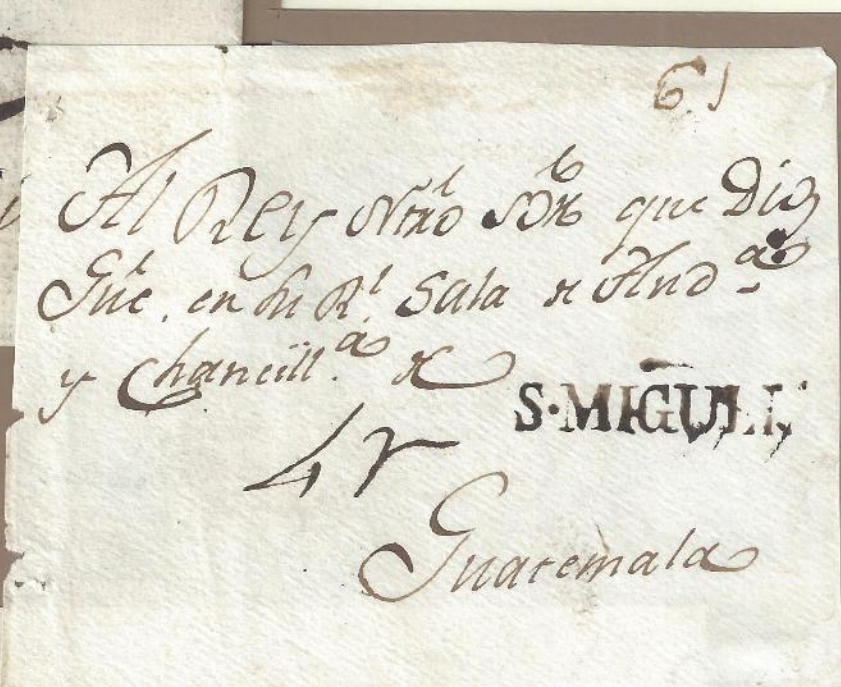
Province of El Salvador

San Miguel

Shell type - Recorded 1786 - 1825

Straight line - Recorded 1805 - 1815

"Franqueado en S. Miguel"- Recorded use 1808 - 1826





## POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

San Vicente and San Miguel

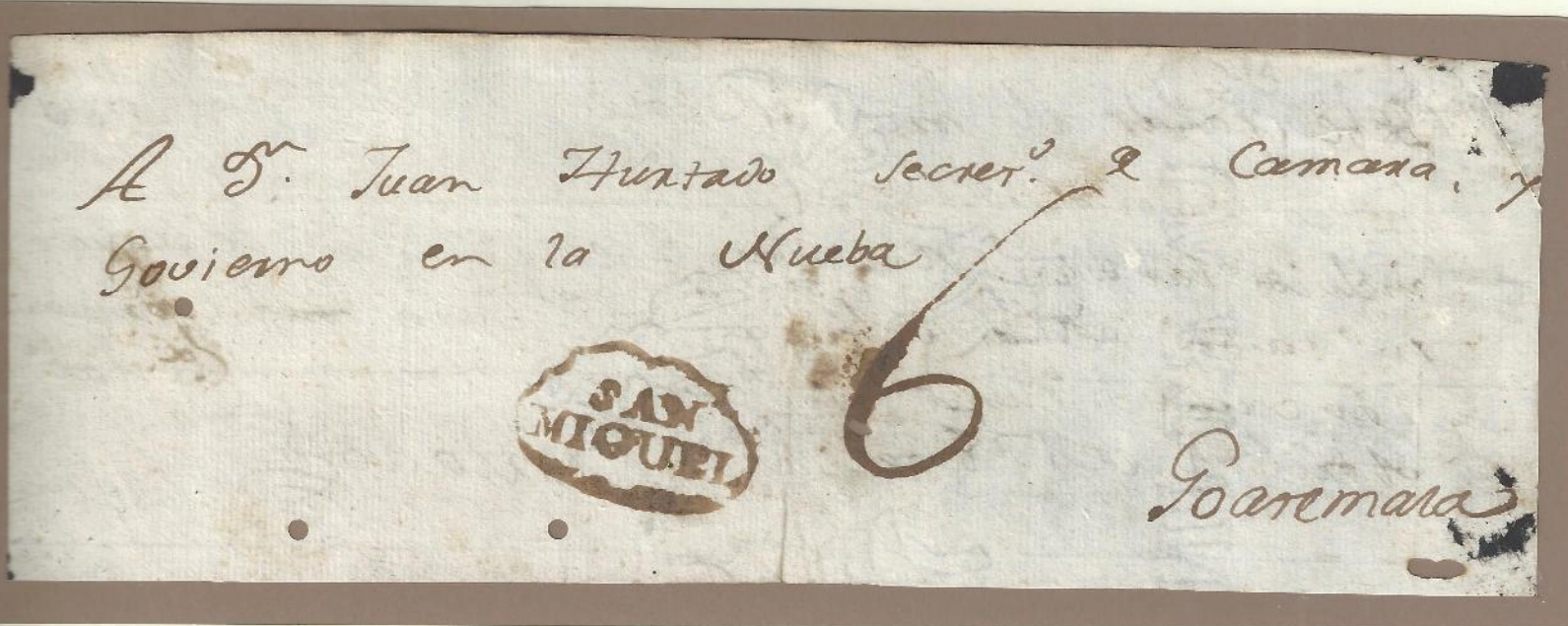
San Vicente fancy - Recorded use 1786 - 1830

San Miguel shell - Recorded use 1786 - 1825



San Vicente to Guatemala City-  
March 25, 1786

Earliest recorded letter from  
San Vicente



San Miguel to Guatemala City - April 4, 1786

Earliest recorded letter from San Miguel



POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

San Vincente and San Salvador

S. Vincente - Recorded use - 1807 - 1834

S. Salvador - Recorded use - 1813 - 1834

*Al Sr. D. Francisco de Medina Director Genl  
de Armas de Tabaco y Polvora del Reyno.  
Incl. a  
Vr. 6*

**S. VINCENTE**

**1812**

*Guatemala*

San Vincente to Guatemala City, c. 1810

*quin José Calvo Esno. de la Real Sala  
supremo tribunal de la R. Audiencia de*

*J. C.*

**SSALVADOR;**

*Guatemala.*

San Salvador to Guatemala City, c. 1815

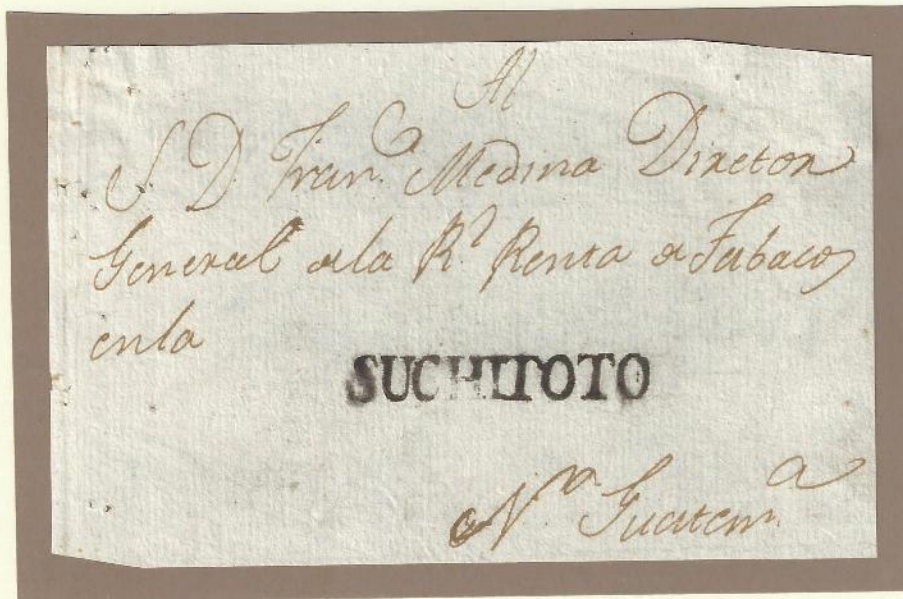


# POSTMARKS

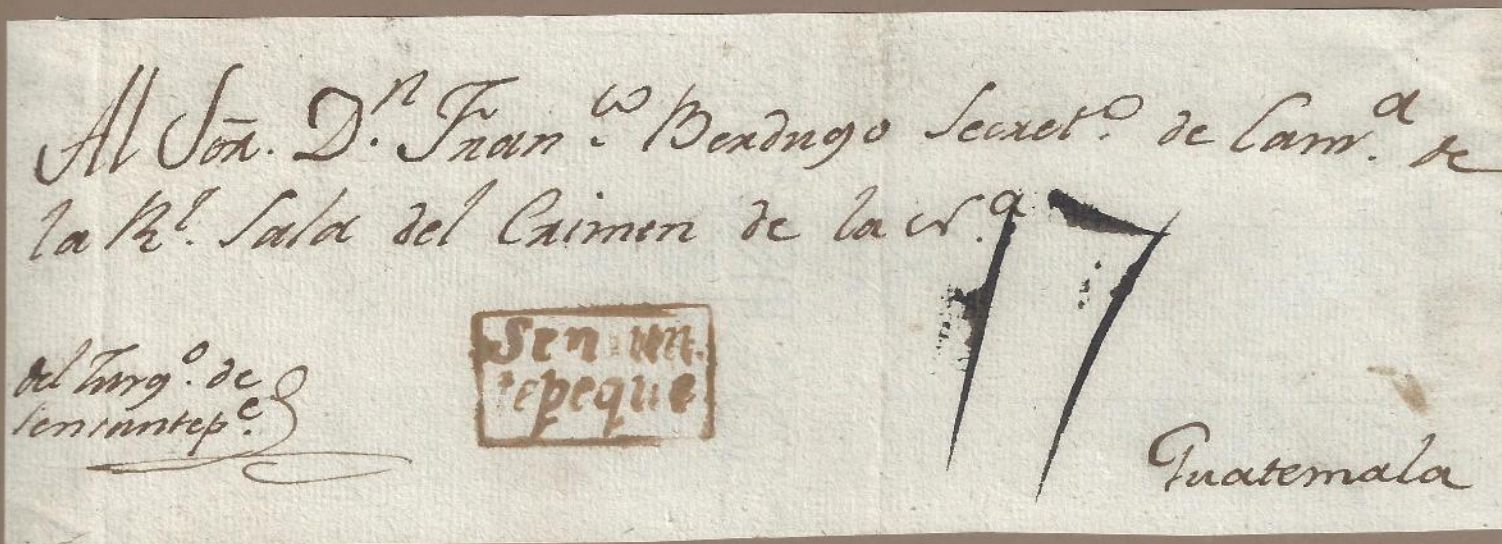
Province of El Salvador

Suchitoto and Sensuntepeque

Suchitoto - Recorded use 1810  
Sensuntepeque - Recorded use 1800 - 1815



Three recorded examples



Less than five believed to exist



# POSTMARKS

Province of El Salvador

Usulután and Sonsonate

Usulután - Recorded use 1810-1815

Sonsonate shell - Recorded use 1781 - 1807

Al Sr. Juez Gral. de Intestados, de ex-  
Reyno,  
del Alzgado  
de Usulután

USULUTAN

14<sup>11</sup>

Guatemala

Al Rey Nro. Sr. que reside en su A.<sup>l</sup> Sala del  
Carmon, R.<sup>l</sup> Chancilleria y Correo de la R.<sup>l</sup> Aud.<sup>a</sup> de este  
Reyno de -

Por mano de su Escribano de Cam.<sup>a</sup> del Carmon. D.<sup>n</sup> Francisco  
Escudero =

Primeral de oficio de los  
Sup.<sup>tes</sup> de Sonsonate.

SON  
SONATE

Guatemala.

Sonsonate to Guatemala City, docketed 1790, only postmark used in this town in the Colonial Period



# POSTMARKS

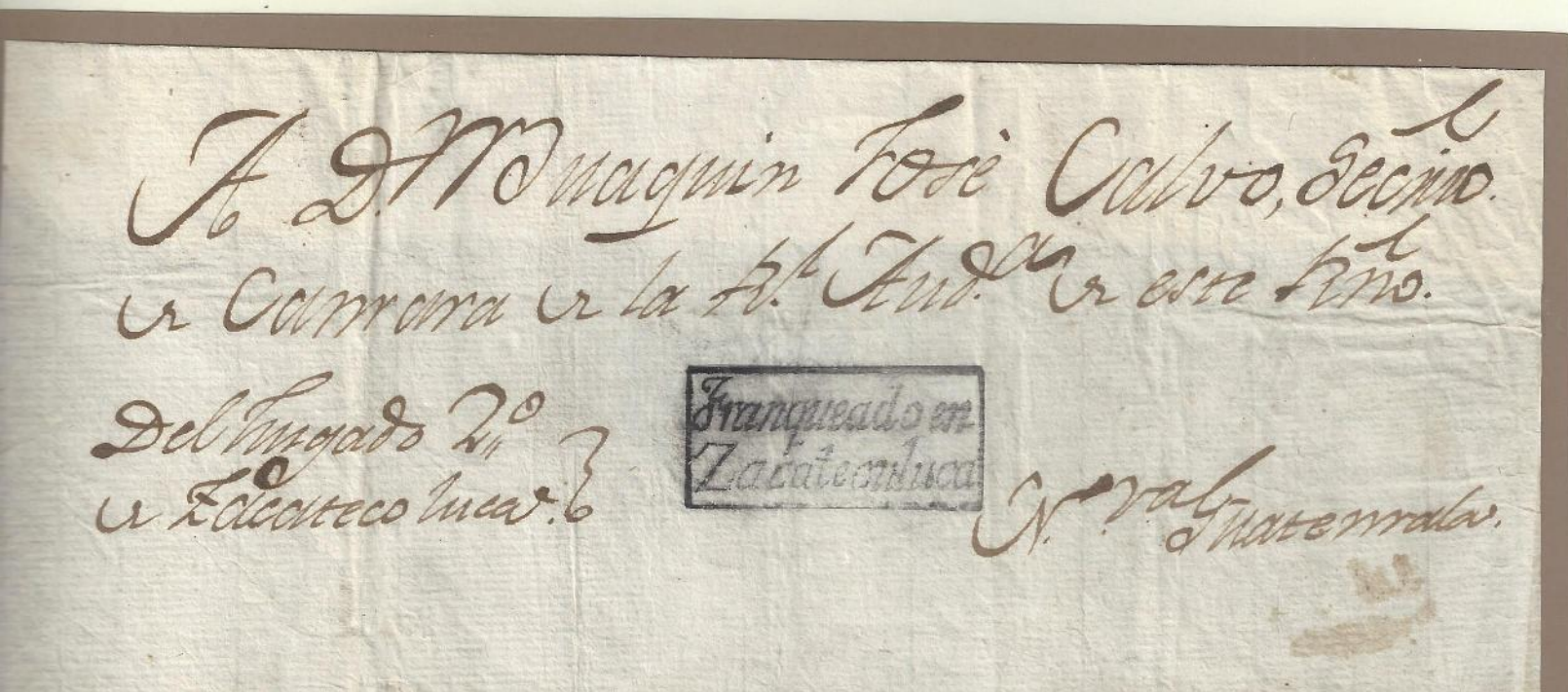
Province of El Salvador

Zacatecoluca

Boxed - Recorded 1803 - 1825

"Franqueado en Zacatecoluca" - Recorded 1810 - 1815

These are the only two postmarks known in Zacatecoluca



Only two or three of the "Franqueado" postmark are known

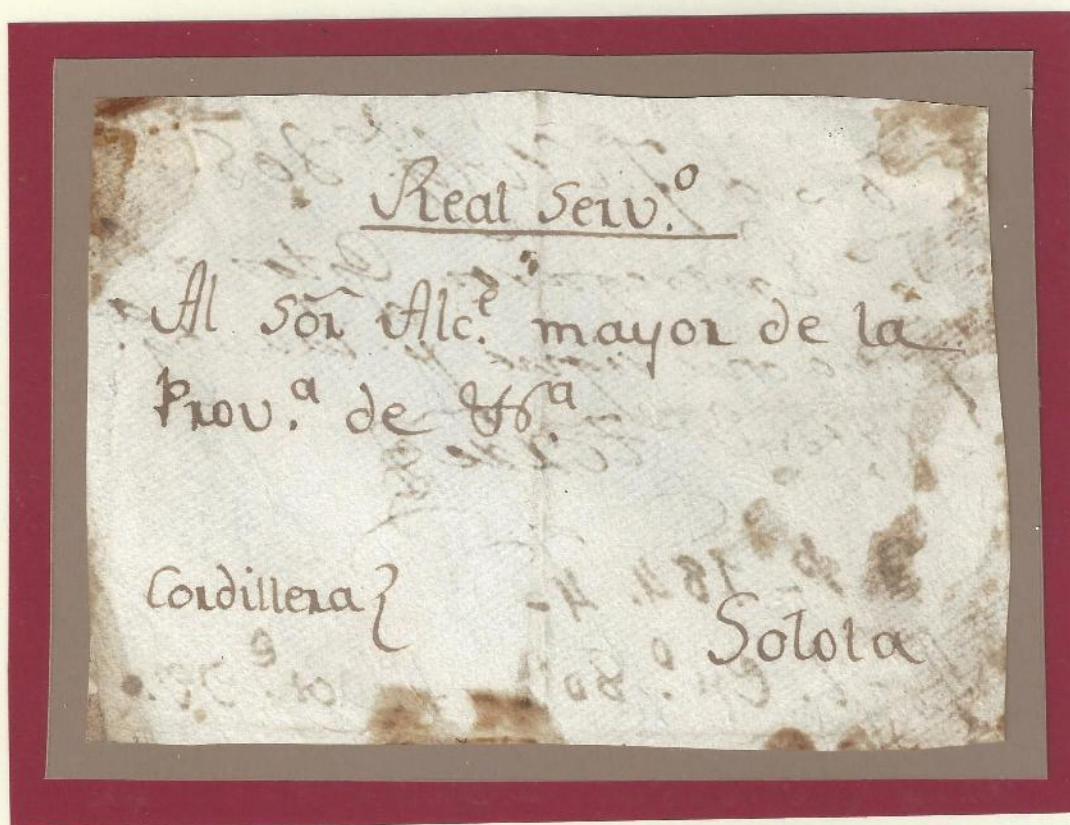


## OVERLAND MAIL - CORDILLERA MAIL SYSTEM

The term *CORDILLERA* in Guatemala refers to a private system of mail couriers, usually Indians, that provided an express mail service out side of the Royal Mail system. These runners could cover distances of 120km in 24 hours. It was generally used by government agencies due to the infrequency of the normal mail service.

There are two types of Cordillera mail, urgent messages sent *between individuals*, and *circuit mail* which carried government orders to a number of towns and villages.

No inked marks were used, however, many are endorsed "*CORDILLERA*."



Antigua to Sololá, docketed received August 7, 1805.

An urgent letter sent between two gentlemen.

Earliest recorded CORDILLERA letter



## CORDILLERA MAIL

## Guatemala City

November 1808

**The Indian runners would often carry the Cordillera to the officials of several towns that would be noted on the letter, and these officials would have to sign to document indicating they read the letter.**

los hare traer a esta cabecera y manten  
dre dos mester al quillete.

Al pie de esta vñ me con-  
tenta, y vñ hara la averigua-  
cion de los pueblos del margen.

Toton am 23. d. Nov. 1808.

S.<sup>n</sup> D.<sup>n</sup> Migl. Ochoa { S.<sup>n</sup> Fran<sup>co</sup>  
Aguacal. C.

*J. P. Taut. Arg- ta Guequet.  
Chiantlos  
Todos SS.  
v. Martin*

*Sr gn Naz. Arg*

The President is writing to town officials that "Mail carriers are complaining that there is a delay in their getting food and lodging, and what is worse, they are charged for the food and more than what is customarily charged. ....I order this be resolved with maximum efficiency!"



CORDILLERA MAIL

Totonicapan

August 1809

Only recorded cordillera letter with the *Crown/VIVA FERNANDO 7º* patriotic slogan



This Cordillera was sent by an official in Totonicapan to government officials in nine towns and villages as noted on the left side of the letter, beginning with Huehuetenango where it was received on August 15, 1809.



## CORDILLERA MAIL

Quetzaltenango

July 1820



*M*  
D. Juan José de Recheverria  
Correg.<sup>o</sup> por D. At. de la Prov. de V. M.  
Quetzaltenango &c.

*A. V. Señor Dile. m. del Barrio*  
de Totonicapam le hago saber q. voy si-  
guiente Carta criminal contra Gerardo de  
tuia y Conduccion de la Batisa ultima q.  
deguar. y Dile. m. la ciudad de Oaxaca, por  
haber escapado en este Pueblo y en el de  
S. Martin. Mintepique de mi mando la Pedicacion No-  
concepcion. ticia de q. los Indios ya no pagaban tri-  
butos, ni ninguna otra contribucion por q.  
S. Marcos. asi lo mandaba el Rey: q. por dar esta  
Yalispam y noticia hacia largos contribuciones de  
Yuebra los mismos Indios, y no ha pagado base  
un proceso los avisos de para su carrera.

This Cordillera/Papel Sellado was sent to the towns of Agua Caliente, Huehuetenango, Chimaltenango, and onward, and asked the mayors for information about a mail carrier who is accused of inciting the Indian population against Spain.



## OVERLAND MAIL - OFFICIAL MAIL

### OFFICIAL MAIL

#### Spain to The Kingdom of Guatemala

The Royal Decree of December 7, 1716, mandated that all official mail originating in Spain be identified by an oval *SELLO NEGRO*, or "black stamp," and were to be carried post free. After January 7, 1800, government agencies lost the free franking privilege, with a few exceptions. At this time the Royal Agencies were required to include their name in the periphery of the mark for accounting purposes.



Official Mail "*POR EL REY*," (For the King)

Sello Negro without inscription

c. 1796 to Chiapa, Province of Chiapas

Coruña demarcation mark "*ESPAÑA*"



Official Mail

Sello Negro with inscription

c. 1802 to Chiapa, Province of Chiapas



OFFICIAL MAIL

Uprising and Mexican Incursion  
In Chiapas, 1813

Military Mail

Military mail did not have any special hand stamps and was carried by the normal postal service



Sent to the "Captain Commander of the Company of the Militia of Ciudad Real, in Macuilapa." Macuilapa is a small village in the mountains of western Chiapas.

Sent from Quezaltanango with additional patriotic mark *Crown/VV F 7º* (Viva Fernando Septimo)



## OFFICIAL MAIL

## Uprising and Mexican Incursion in Chiapas, 1813

### Military Mail

Military mail was considered part of the *Real Servicio* and used the normal postal services. No special hand stamps were used, and postage had to be paid according to the established rates.

A D<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup> Francisco Jose Sumera  
Cap<sup>o</sup> Comandante de las Milicias  
Disciplinadas de  
del Com<sup>o</sup> Dambrine D<sup>o</sup> /  
QUEZAL  
TENANGO  
Ciudad Real

Quezaltenango to Ciudad Real,  
Province of Chiapas, c. 1813

Sent and endorsed by General  
Manuel Dambrine, Commander of  
the forces in Chiapas

Real Servicio  
A los S<sup>os</sup>. Ministros de Exército, y de Hacienda  
y la casa Real de  
Del Comand<sup>o</sup> Subalt<sup>o</sup> en  
San Fernando }  
Ciudad Real

Sent by the *Comandante Subalterno en San Fernando*, to the Minister of the Army in Ciudad Real. San Fernando de Guadalupe is a very small village in the mountains of Chiapas. Endorsed "Real Servicio" (Royal Service).



## OVERLAND MAIL - PATRIOTIC MARK: *VIVA FERNANDO SEPTIMO*

Napoleon forced the abdication of the Spanish King Fernando VII in 1808. Special handstamps were created in the Americas to protest the abdication. The handstamps incorporated the Royal Crown and the initials of the deposed King . In Central American inked marks were used in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras. In only two instances these were done in manuscript. These marks are known used between 1809 and 1819.

### The first Patriotic Mark of Guatemala City



Guatemala City Crown/Viva F. VII to Granada, Province of Nicaragua

January 7, 1809

Five examples recorded



**PATRIOTIC MARK-VIVA FERNANDO VII**

**Province of Guatemala**

**Totonicapam**

**Red - Recorded 1809 - 1810**  
**Green - Year Not Recorded**

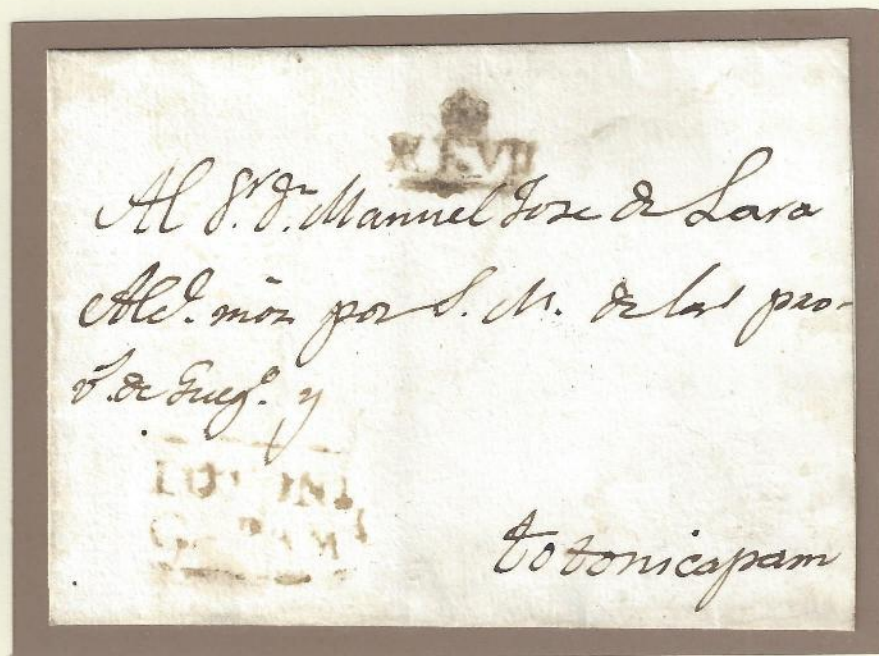


**Totonicapam to Guatemala City**

**The Patriotic mark in red seems to have only been used in 1809 and 1810**

**It is unclear if this letter was postmarked on arrival, or, more likely, is a local letter.**

**Two examples recorded in green**





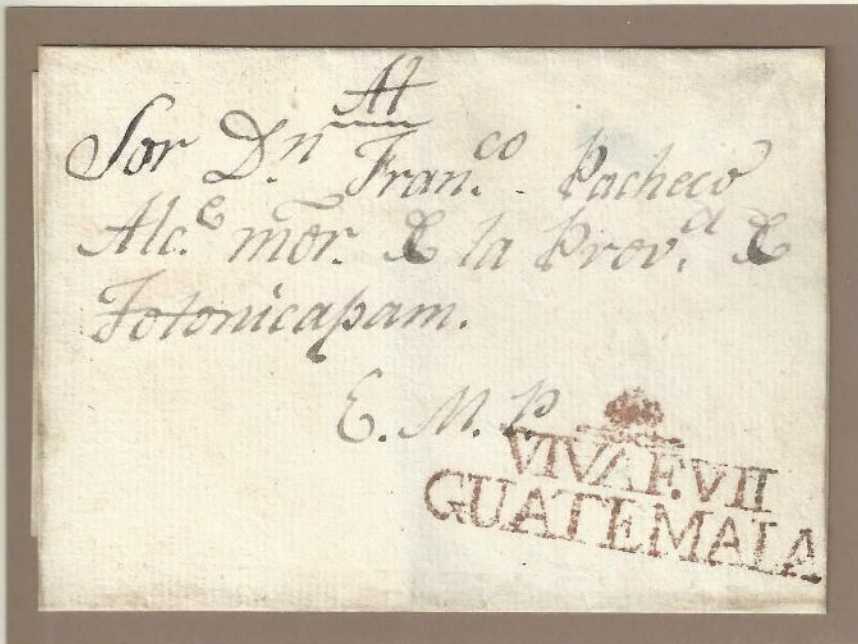
**PATRIOTIC MARK- VIVA FERNANDO VII**

**Province of Guatemala**

**Guatemala City**

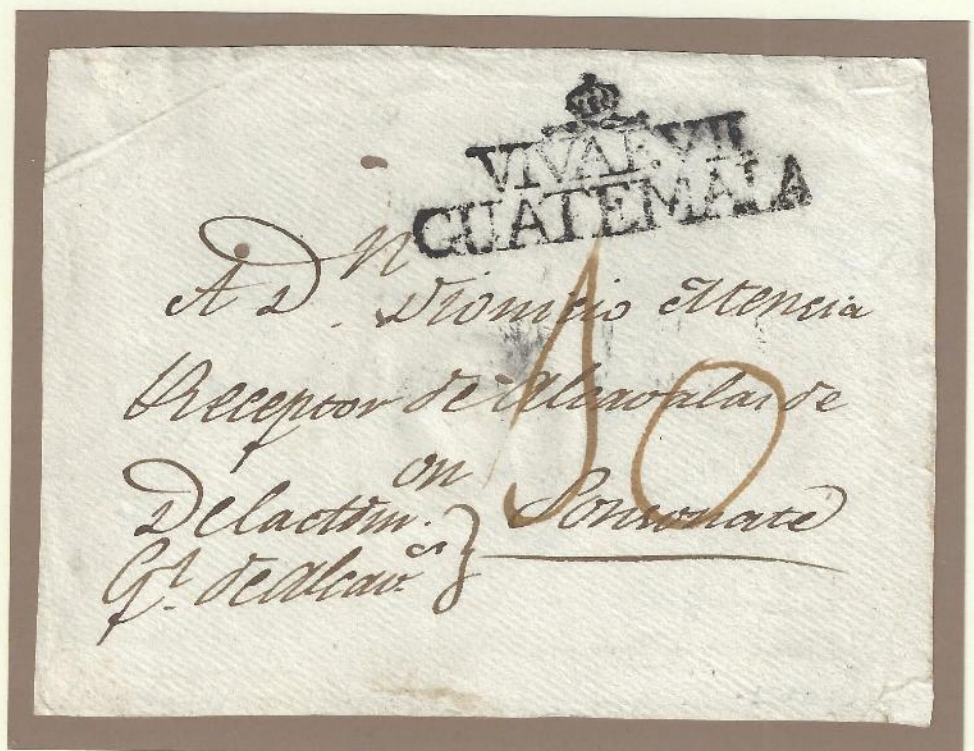
**Red - Recorded used 1809**

**Black - Recorded 1809 - 1819**



**Guatemala City to Totonicapam**

**The patriotic mark in red seems to have only been used in 1809**



**Guatemala City to Sonsonate,  
Province of El Salvador**

**The patriotic mark in black was  
used for about ten years**



**PATRIOTIC MARK-VIVA FERNANDO VII**

**Province of Honduras**

**Tegucigalpa and Comayagua**

**Recorded 1808 - 1810**



**Tegucigalpa - Small Box**

**Black Viva F. VII**



**Comayagua**

**Fancy Crown and Circle VF 7°**



**Tegucigalpa - Large Box Viva F. VII**



**PATRIOTIC MARK-VIVA FERNANDO VII**

**Quezaltenango and Cojutepeque**

**Province of Guatemala  
Province of El Salvador**



**Quezaltenango, Province of  
Guatemala**

**Red Crown/ VV F 7° c. 1810**

**Cojutepeque, Province of El  
Salvador**

**Black Crown/F. 7° c. 1810**

**Three recorded examples**





**PATRIOTIC MARK-VIVA FERNANDO VII  
MANUSCRIPT MARKS**

**Santa Ana and Masaya**

**Province of El Salvador**

**Province of Nicaragua**

**The two recorded manuscript marks**



**Santa Ana, Province of El Salvador  
unrecorded manuscript VV F.7**

*Viva Fernando VII*  
Al Sr. D. José María Falla:  
Factor Interino, y Contador Propie-  
tario de la A. Pta. de Tabacos de la  
Provincia de X. Co.  
De la Garra. 4. MASAYA  
de Masaya. 3. 1012.

**Masaya, Province of Nicaragua  
unrecorded manuscript Viva F.7**



OFFICIAL MAIL

Province of Guatemala

Mail from the *CAPITÁN GENERAL*

Small and Large Free Frank Mark  
Recorded 1802 - 1820

The Captain General was also *El Presidente* of the *Real Audiencia* (Royal Court) and as such enjoyed free franking privileges.



Small size *El Presidente*, to Totonicampam,  
August 27, 1802.

Four Examples Recorded

Large size *El Presidente* to  
Totonicampam, C. 1810

Note both letters have the  
"PAID IN GUATEMALA"  
postmark





OFFICIAL MAIL

Province of Guatemala

Mail from the *CAPITÁN GENERAL*

Letter with customs house enclosure documents the small and large size *El Presidente* were used simultaneously

2 112  
7 811  
-1 102

GUIA  
ADMINISTRA-  
VALAS DE



NUM. 9011  
CION DE ALCA-

Concedese licencia á  
vecino de *Hecueigal*  
conducir, y entregar en  
á *San Juan, o aq* con  
numerados, y marcados como

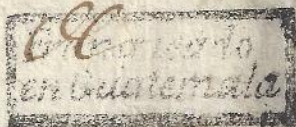
*Quarenta y cinco*  
*por cada una*  
*que introduzcan los*  
*ge. de la*  
*arrivada a este*  
*del Comandante y de*  
*por cada una*

Los que manifestará el inter  
cavalas de dicha *adm.*  
los mismos que se expresan,  
naguia, que acredite quedar cubierta la Real Hacienda, cu-  
yo documento ha de presentar dentro del termino de *tres*  
meses *hacia* *San Juan* - vecino de

*segun la obligacion que otorgó en este dia.*  
*Quarenta y cinco de Enero - de 1820 -*

Tomada razon.

Al Comandante y  
Oficial Real del Puerto



Omoa.

To the Port of Omoa  
January 25, 1820



*no 9*  
*Ala bta*



## OFFICIAL MAIL

## "ABONO" Letter to Guatemala

### Spain to the Kingdom of Guatemala

An "ABONO" account indicates that the postage is to be paid by the recipient, usually a legal entity, which has an account at the post office to which the postage is debited.



This letter was sent from Madrid to Cadiz (correct nine quartos rate) and forwarded to the Royal Court in Guatemala City, c. 1820.

The notation at the top reads "*De Asunto Del Excelentísimo Ayuntamiento*" (About Matters of the Most Excellent City Hall). The "A" (ABONO) of Cadiz was applied on dispatch to Guatemala and the postage debited to the account of the Royal Court in Guatemala.

This is the only recorded "ABONO" letter sent to Guatemala



OFFICIAL MAIL

Royal Court Mail

Mail Carried by the Post Office  
And Mail Carried Privately

R. AUDIENCIA  
DE GUATEMALA  
A Bartolo Orosco.  
una m.<sup>a</sup> en  
FRANCO EN  
GUATEMALA  
Leon.

"REAL AUDIENCIA DE GUATEMALA"

Royal Court of Guatemala

Carried by the postal service

To Leon, Province of Nicaragua

No dated examples known

Real. Servicio  
Al S. Doc. y Mro. D.<sup>n</sup> Juan.  
Torres Lara. Abog. al Trib. vna  
Pl.<sup>a</sup> Audencia, y Alcaldes. p.<sup>a</sup> el R.  
N. S. D. Tonicapa.  
Presisada

Guatemala City (?) to Tonicapam, c. 1810

Endorsed "REAL SERVISIO" and "PRESISADA" which probably indicates the letter  
also received special private messenger service.



## OFFICIAL MAIL

## Hand Stamp and Manuscript Identification

### The Tobacco Monopoly

In 1766 the Spanish Crown established the *Dirección General de la Renta de Tabaco*, which became a government monopoly for the growing and processing of tobacco. Because of its economic importance, letters of the Renta received special treatment by the postal service. The Tobacco Factory in Guatemala City had its own identifying hand stamp, others in the Kingdom used a manuscript endorsement.



Handstamp of the *Director General del Tabaco* in Guatemala City

Guatemala City to Ciudad Real

c. 1812



Manuscript "Factory in Ciudad Real"

Sent to the Director of the *Renta del Tabaco* in Guatemala City, c. 1810



# PRE-FEDERATION MEXICAN PRESENCE: 1821 - 1823

## Military Mail

Independence from Spain was declared on September 15, 1821. Because of the turmoil and indecision that followed, several cities in the Kingdom of Guatemala Provinces invited the self-proclaimed Mexican Emperor Augustin Iturbide to annex them to Mexico. The Mexican army then occupied, not always peacefully, much of the former Kingdom of Guatemala except for Costa Rica which simply ignored the entire matter.



To the "Most Excellent Constitutional  
Municipal Government of Guatemala  
City"

From the "Commander General of  
Imperial Troops"

c. 1822 Rated 3 reales

"The General in Chief of  
Mexican Army Operations in  
Mexicanos"

Ministry of the War and  
Navy" Cachet (Unrecorded)

Boxed "Paid in Guatemala"  
3" reales noted on reverse

Salvador refused to  
recognize annexation by  
Mexico. The Mexican Army  
under General Filisola  
defeated the Salvadorian army  
at the town of Mejicanos on  
the outskirts of San Salvador  
on February 23, 1823.





**POST INDEPENDENCE/PRE-FEDERATION  
MEXICAN PRESENCE 1821 -1823**

**Official Mail of General Filisola**

**July 11, 1823**

General Vincente Filisola was sent by Emperor Iturbide to occupy Central America. After the Emperor was overthrown in 1823, General Filisola remained and assisted the five Provinces to form a Federation. He departed Guatemala City on August 3, 1823.



**Guatemala City to Chimaltenango, July 11, 1823**

**Free franked Official Mail (*Franqueado en Guatemala*) with the seal of the Mexican Eagle surrounded with the words "CAPTAINIA GENERAL DE GUATEMALA"**

**Two letters are recorded from General Filisola with his seal, however, the whereabouts of the second letter is unknown**



POST INDEPENDENCE/PRE-FEDERATION  
MEXICAN PRESENCE 1821 - 1823

"Viva la Independencia" Patriotic  
Nicaragua Mail

Normal postal services struggled to continue during the period of the Mexican presence  
and very few letters are recorded.



Viexo, Nicaragua to Tegucigalpa

March 29, 1822

Only recorded letter from  
Nicaragua during the Mexican  
presence

"Viva la Independencia" Guatemala  
Tobacco Factory to Chiquimula

Only recorded example





**POST INDEPENDENCE/PRE-FEDERATION  
MEXICAN PRESENCE 1821- 1823**

**Registered Mail,  
San José, Costa Rica**

Costa Rica never fully accepted Mexico's attempted annexation of the Central America Provinces. The country was divided between those favoring independence and those favoring Emperor Iturbide. At the battle of Las Lagunas near Cartago, the Independents defeated the Imperialists on March 29, 1823.

During this period the mail services struggled and few letters are recorded from any of the provinces because of the unstable governmental and military conditions.



San José, registered, November 18, 1822, to Granada, Province of Nicaragua

The finest of three registered letters from Costa Rica in the Colonial/Pre-Federation period.

One of the most outstanding letters of Costa Rican philately.

Earliest recorded use of the red *FRANCO*