

POSTAL HISTORY OF ECUADOR

THE VICEROY'S MAIL - 1674

Mos f.º de la S.ª M.ª, alal.º &
Q

Jimenez

O

Quito

This is a wrapper which is addressed to the officers of the Royal Hacienda of the Audiencia of Quito, from the Viceroy of Peru. The Viceroy was appointed by the King of Spain, and governed an area then including Peru, and parts of Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chile. The enclosure to this wrapper, shown in the following page, is dated November, 1674. As far as is presently known, this wrapper and its enclosure constitute the earliest known piece of correspondence in private hands to have been sent to Quito. An impressed seal, perhaps of the Viceroy, is seen at the right hand side of the wrapper.

Leo Harris
1982

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H Etenido diferentes ordenes, y despachos de la Reyna nuestra Señora, en que manda, que por auer el Rey de Francia publicado la guerra con la Coróná de España, y hecho embargo y represalia en sus Reynos de los bienes de los subditos, y vassallos del Rey nuestro Señor (que Dios guarde) que asistían en ellos, se haga tambien en estos de todos los bienes, que pertenezcan en qualquiera manera a Franceses, aunque tengan cédulas de naturaléza, o ayan passado a las Indias con licencia de contratar en ellas, assi de los que possieieren, como los que estuuieren en cabeças de sus correspondientes, o encomenderos, sin que se oculte cosa alguna. Y por cédula de 9. de Nouiembre de 1673, ordena, que todo lo que se les embargare entre en poder de los oficiales Reales de cada distrito donde se hiziere el embargo, con interuencion del Presidente de la Audiencia donde le huuiere, y en las demas partes con la de las justicias por cuya mano corriere, como se contiene en la dicha cédula. En cuya conformidad, en la instruccion que se ha remitido con despachos generales a los ministros nombrados para este efecto se ha prevenido, que haziendose los embargos donde huuiere caxas Reales, se ayan de entregar los bienes de los Frances a los Oficiales Reales de ellas, con la dicha interuencion. Y auendose hecho algunos embargos en lugar en que no aya Oficiales Reales, se les vaya remitiendo lo procedido de ellos, para que por su mano corra la administracion: y por lo que toca a las caxas de vuestro cargo es-tareis señores aduertidos de esta resolucion, y en su conformidad recibireis todos los bienes y hacienda de Frances que se huuieren embargado, y se os entregaren por los dichos ministros, poniendolo cuenta a parte en vuestros libros, y lo que estuuiere en dineros, generos, que con facilidad se puedan vender, se hará luego, y lo que procediere de ello lo rimitireis a la caxa Real de esta Ciudad, con toda distincion, y claridad: y lo que no se pudiere vender, y fueren bienes raizes, lo tendreis y administrareis con toda cuenta y razon, auisando al Gouierno de los generos, que fueren, y de la cantidad que valieren. Y por ser esta materia de tanta importancia al seruicio de su Magestad, velareis en ella como conuiene, y fio de vuestras obligaciones. Guarde Dios, &c.

Lima, a de Nouiembre de 1674.

*Don Baltasar de la Cuerva
Marques de Malagon*

This is the enclosure to the wrapper shown on the previous page. Dated and signed at Lima, Peru by the then Viceroy, Don Baltasar de la Cuerva, the Count of Castellar and Marques of Malagon (whose protrait, copied in a Lima museum, is shown to the upper left), it concerns certain maritime sanctions to be taken by the Spanish against the French shipping. The address upon the enclosure, in the usual diplomatic fashion of the times, is repeated at the lower left corner thereof.

Los Señores dequito

SELO OVARO, UN QUARTI-
LLO, AÑOS DE MIL SESENTA
TOS Y CINQUENTA Y CUATRO,
Y CINQUENTA Y CINCO.

POR
EL SR. D.
CARLOS
III.

Dⁿ Thomas Lauruco Casique de la Dⁿdad de indias Chas-
queros de la Ciudad de Cuenca, puseo ante V^{ra} como a defensor
gral, en aqu^{ta} via, y forma que me combenga = Digo que mi Dⁿ-
cialidad seña sinbuafo las Mitas del Chasque antiguamente
quando el caoon de Pliego lo transportava un Indio a sus espaldas
de tambo, a tambo, por que bastaban solos cinco Mitayos en los cinco
tambo de mi Dⁿcialidad, desde el de Canax hasta el de Navon, y
despues que la Estafeta se mudo en Posillon de a Cavallo, no hera
tambien intoloxable el entozo de los Mitayos, aunque se acusento al
numero de los Indios en cada Jornada, y dos en la Ciudad, por que
el soldado Correo se contentava con carga, y Carguilla, y a los Indios
de cada estacion se les pagavan tres ps. por año, mas despues que los

INDIAN COURIERS:

PACURUCO'S PETITION - 1763

se alzaron con esta paga, y el soldado de posta se
conduciendo muchas Mulas cargadas de sus ne-
cesidades de Pueblo de N^{ra} S^{ra}, o tras a las Haz^{as} de Espanoles,
de donde Mayo el trabajo, y el gasto en el miserable Casique, quien
para manteneza azientos los tres Mitayos, de cada termino despues
que los existentes en el Pue. satisfacen su turno se vé presiado a
pagar de su bolsa a los Indios que se alquilan de las verindades de los
tambo para suplir las faltas que son siete de las quinze Carreteras
q^{ta} al año debe servir mi Dⁿcialidad, en cuyo Omeio de ha de servir
unmo de pedir a su M^{te}za lo mas combeniente a esta inoportable carga
que sea libando ami Dⁿcialidad dos tambo de los cinco, o mediendo
algunos de añadir a los Indios forasteros, o lo que parezca mas

4
Segun genda forma que ene Cacique. Thura, por
sea todo conforme a jurmua q se de. Luis p Ocu.
Bo de 1763

Quinones

El soldado q llevase el correo satisfaga conforme
a arancel el trabajo, a los indios lo q cuidaran
las justicias de Cuenca, y para q por falta de mita
por no se suspenda el curso de los correos haxan la
mita los forasteros a q se les previene a este reu-
cio señalandoles tierras de comunidad.

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manuscript, pertinent parts of which are shown on this
and the preceding page, constitute the Petition to the
Real Audiencia (or royal court) of one Don Thomas
a uruco, an indian cacique. This Petition, dated
October 30, 1763, complains first of the encroachment
of mounted soldier-tradesmen upon his franchise to
carry the mail, and second, that full payment had not
been made to the indian mail couriers under his
jurisdiction for their work. From this and related
historical documents we learn that indians, residing
in the vicinity of the cities, were liable to be impressed
into compulsory mail service, for which payment was
made to their cacique or "chief". There were from 7
to 15 "runs" each year over the mail circuits referred
to in the Petition, for which the indians were paid
three reales each, per year, as a retainer.

Los Señores Presi-
tando en la Sala
la Licencia de
Don Luis de
el ord. de Cala-
San. del Auto
de mill Ptes.

he mail circuits referred to in Pacuruco's Petition covered the Audiencia from north to South. The chart below shows these Tambos, as they existed during July of 1769, along with the intervening distances. Thirteen of these Tambos would be towns with their own postmark devices in the following century.

PRIMER REGISTRO AUTENTICO NACIONAL (AÑO DE 1830)

CIRCULAR

Declarando que los indigenas que están en servicio de postas ó de guías, sean eximidos del pago de tributos.

República de Colombia—Prefectura del departamento del Ecuador. Quito á 25 de mayo de 1830-20.º—Al Sor. Contador jeneral.

Habiendo puesto en conocimiento de S. E. el Jefe Supremo el expediente seguido por la administración departamental de correos, para la eximición del pago de tributos á los indigenas que sirven de mensajeros, decretado con fecha 12 del corriente

Tambo	Leagues	Tambo	Leagues
Sechura	1	Paredones	6
Piura	10	Pomallagta	6
Heda. Lengua	12	Tixan	6
Suipira	8	Guanujo	6
Estancia de Guros	8	Riohamba	4
Macara	7	Mocha	8
Sablango	5	Ambato	6
Zozoranga	2	Latacunga	7
Colaisaca	7	Machachi	9
Carlamanga	7	Quito	7
Gonzanama	6	Pomasqui	4
Ria Catamayo	6	Tocachi	10
Loja	7	Tupigachi	5
Las Juntas	6	Otavalo	4
Saraguro	7	Ilarra	6
Ona	6	Heda. San Vincente	5
Nahon	6	Bolivar	6
Nativina	7	Heda. Tusa	4
Cuenca	10	Gusca	4
Burgay	8	Tulcan	5
Canara	7		

haciendo en consideración 1.º Que el Sr. Jefe de Quito, resolvió en 24 de mayo de 1830, en virtud de las facultades de la administración de correos, eximir de tributo a los indigenas que sirven de guías y mensajeros. 2.º Que en esta misma resolución se declara que los indigenas que sirven de guías y mensajeros en los postos de correos, jamás se les ha permitido cobrar tributo. 3.º Que aun la misma equidad les da derecho a que se les pague por su servicio, y que el producto de los tributos que se les asigna por su servicio deben estar muy proporcional al ramo, es claro que no puede mucho menos conseguir fácilmente la contribución personal; se declara que los tales guías, ó que sirvan de postas, es- tán eximidos de tributo. El Sr. Prefecto departamental declara el cumplimiento de este decreto. Intendencia, para que haciendolo trasmitir al Sr. Jefe de Quito, tenga su efecto. U.—José María Saenz.

The initial document published in the first National Register of Ecuadorean laws and decrees was this Circular, dated May 25, 1830, addressed to the chief accounting officer. This Circular reaffirmed that the indians who served to carry letters were to be exempted from the payment of personal services or tributes. Once again, the importance of the indian couriers, previously considered in the Petition of Don Pacuruco to the Spanish Audiencia, was reaffirmed by the first President of Ecuador, Dr. Don Juan Jose Flores.

6) Francas.

13 sem. a 48. - - - 52
 7 dobl. a 5 - - - 35
 1 trip. a 6 - - - 06
 1 dobl. a 7 - - - 25
168.
28.

Mien esta Administracion General las Correspondencias, y Encomiendas, que cita el aviso de Vm. de 19 de Julio del año corriente, y le dirijo por este Correo las pertenecientes a esta Estafeta, que se expresaran al pie: de cuya conformidad espero me dara Vm. aviso, y remitira el recibo de las certificadas.

Nuestro Señor guarde a Vm. muchos años. Lima 20 de Agosto de 1774

Signatura en el libro de intervencion a fo 105.

FRANCAS.		Num. de Cartas, y Pliegos.		Precios	Rs. de plata.
D E Lima a Huiz					
Sencillas hasta 1/2 onza exclusive...	5	20	a	4	80
Dobles hasta 1/4 exclusive.....	5	6	a	5	30
Triples hasta onza exclusive...	5	2	a	6	12
Onzas, y demás peso.....	5	00	a	7	00.
SUMA.		5	28.		122.

D. Joseph Antonio de Pando.

ENCOMIENDAS, que lleva el Conductor en Carta Cuenta.

1 Caxoncito de Osa & Lata forrado en Cuero contiene 20 cartas y 2 pliegos de valor de 23 1/2 p. remite D. Torref

1774 MAIL MANIFEST

From July 1, 1769 the mails came under royal authority (the "Real Renta de Correos"). On Jose Antonio de Pando y Riba, the future Marques of Casa Pando, was named as the Administrator General de la Renta for the Vice-royalty of Peru, charged with authority over the Cartagena to Bogota to Quito to Lima mail routes. He assumed his duties in May of 1772, and served until his death in 1802. This is an actual manifest of mail carried on April 20, 1774 from Lima to Quito. It shows that 28 letters at the postal rate of 122 silver reales, and 5 packages at the rate of 166 1/2 silver reales, were included with this particular shipment of mail.

032 x.
 a D. Y. a Polico, y
 Decillas 8
 060.
 0 comp. de 23 1/2 p
 023.2
 Legueyxa, y Mendi
 008.
 008.
 043.
25 - 466 1/2

J. Adm. de Carr. de Huiz.



Dio diez re, el Carigue a el Duoble del sigre al Don
 de la Ciudad Don Buenaventura Santa, para la ayu
 da de el transporte de el correo ordinario; lo que dio
 los diez, donoso salmas, para ayuda de un mes de el
 Servicio. Cuenca y Julio 25 de 1773.

Maqueda

One of the important mail stops on the Lima to Quito mail circuit was at Cuenca, one of the then foremost Colonial cities of the Audiencia. An 18th century map of the city is shown above. Partly superimposed over the map is a handwritten receipt, dated July 25, 1773 at Cuenca, documenting the payment of ten reales to an indian cacique for the carrying of mail during a one-month period. Surely the indian couriers travelled on the very streets shown on the old map.

1712 Sr. An. Gil de
Ferrada ou. D. m. a.

Quito

ESTADO

GENERAL DE TODO EL
VIRREYNATO
DE
SANTAFE DE BOGOTA

VALORES DE LAS REALES RENTAS, EM-
PLEADOS, SOLDADOS, FERRICITO, Y OTRAS
INDUSTRIAS CUBIERTAS QUE DAN UNA
IDEA DE SU POBLACION Y
COMERCIO.

EN EL PRESENTE AÑO DE
1794

LODA A LUZ

DON JOAQUIN DURAN Y DIAZ
Capitan del Batallon de Infanteria
Auxiliar de la Ciudad de Santa Fe
de Bogota Capital del Reyno.

Con licencia del Superior Gobierno

Por D. ANTONIO ESPINOSA DE LOS
MUNICIPIOS.

UNAVESIA DE CARTAGO A POPAYAN

De Cartago a Bogota 2 dias 1/2
A Cali 1/2
A Popayan 1/2
A Quilichao 1/2
A Popayan 1/2

TOTAL 6 dias 1/2

De Cartago a la Vega de Santa Fe
A la Vega de Santa Fe 1/2
A la Vega de Santa Fe 1/2
A la Vega de Santa Fe 1/2

CARRERA DE QUITO

Los de esta carrera parten de esta Capital
los dias 1 y 15, llevando
las correspondencias de Popayan, Bogota,
Cali, Guayaquil, y Viceroyato de Nueva
Granada, y Lima.

De Quito a Lima 15 dias
De Lima a Quito 15 dias
De Quito a Lima 15 dias
De Lima a Quito 15 dias

TOTAL 60 dias

ITINERARIO

De Santa Fe a Bogota 2 dias 1/2
A Bogota 1/2
A Popayan 1/2
A Quilichao 1/2
A Popayan 1/2
A Ibarra 1/2
A Quito 1/2

TOTAL 10 dias 1/2

NOTA

De Quito a Lima es igual dis-
tancia, y el año que se dan los
nombres de las Administraciones.

SE OMBRECE A LOS ASESORES

De Quito a Lima es igual dis-
tancia, y el año que se dan los
nombres de las Administraciones.

Just as there was a well-developed system for the delivery of mail between Quito and Lima, a like system during the Spanish Colonial era extended from Quito North to the Caribbean Sea. According to the 1794 Yearbook of the Viceroy of New Granada, portions of which are illustrated above, the road from Quito to Bogota, passing through the cities of Ibarra, Popayan, and Tocayma, took 26 days to travel. In that year, mail convoys to the South departed on the 5th and 20th of each month, while those from the South arrived on the 3rd and the 18th. Shown above is a folded letter from Popayan to Quito, dated inside December 6, 1808, which undoubtedly traveled on this road system.

10

This is a delivery order of the Royal Post Office for 1,000 Pesos in silver doubloons, a Spanish coin originally equal to sixteen dollars. At this time the Post Office transmitted money on demand. The remitter of the money, Don Jose Maria Mosquera, was the grandfather of Tomas Cipriano Mosquera, later to be the President of Colombia. The delivery order is addressed to the Quito postmaster.

REAL RENTA DE CORREOS.

Señor Administrador de los de Quito

Sírvase Ud. tener a disposición de D.^a M.^a Vicioxina de Lora la cantidad de Mil pesos en Dobl.^{tes} de a diez, y seis que por el presente Correo remite el D.^o Jose M.^a Mosquera cuya cantidad, con recibo del interesado, será bien entregada Popayan. 21^a de Enero de 1794

SON 1000 p en Dobl^{tes}

Eduardo Alonzo
Mena

During 1794, the date of this order, the Audiencia of which Quito was the capitol, was administratively a part of Nueva Granada, administered from Bogota. Popoyan was the principal city on the road from Bogota to Quito, and was the city at which the delivery order originated.

La ciudad de Quito, fundada "de iure" por el mariscal don Diego de Almagro el 28 de agosto de 1534 en la llanura de Riobamba y "de facto" por el capitán Sebastián de Benalcázar, sobre el antiguo poblado indígena, el 6 de diciembre de 1534. Plano atribuido a Dionisio de Alcedo y Herrera, que fue presidente de la Real Audiencia en el siglo XVIII.

CUENCA
DEBE



Shown is a folded letter from Cuenca, dated inside on October 12, 1813, addressed to the Clerk of the Royal Hacienda at Barbacoas, carrying the rectangular boxed "CUENCA/ DEBE" postmark in red-orange. Barbacoas was then in the so-called "Patria Boba" of Nueva Granada, as it was known in the period between 1811 and 1816, before Bogota fell to the Royalists. The manuscript rate mark "4" is noted.

(13)

LACUGA
FRANCA

Op. n. Para de Beta, y
Batibieso. u. m. d.
en
Guaxaranda.
LACUGA
FRANCA

Shown is a folded letter from Puxillo to the city of Guaranda, which is dated inside January 1, 1811. The letter carries the old-style run on "LACGNA/FRANCA" postmark of Latacunga in a faded orange shade.

OTAVO

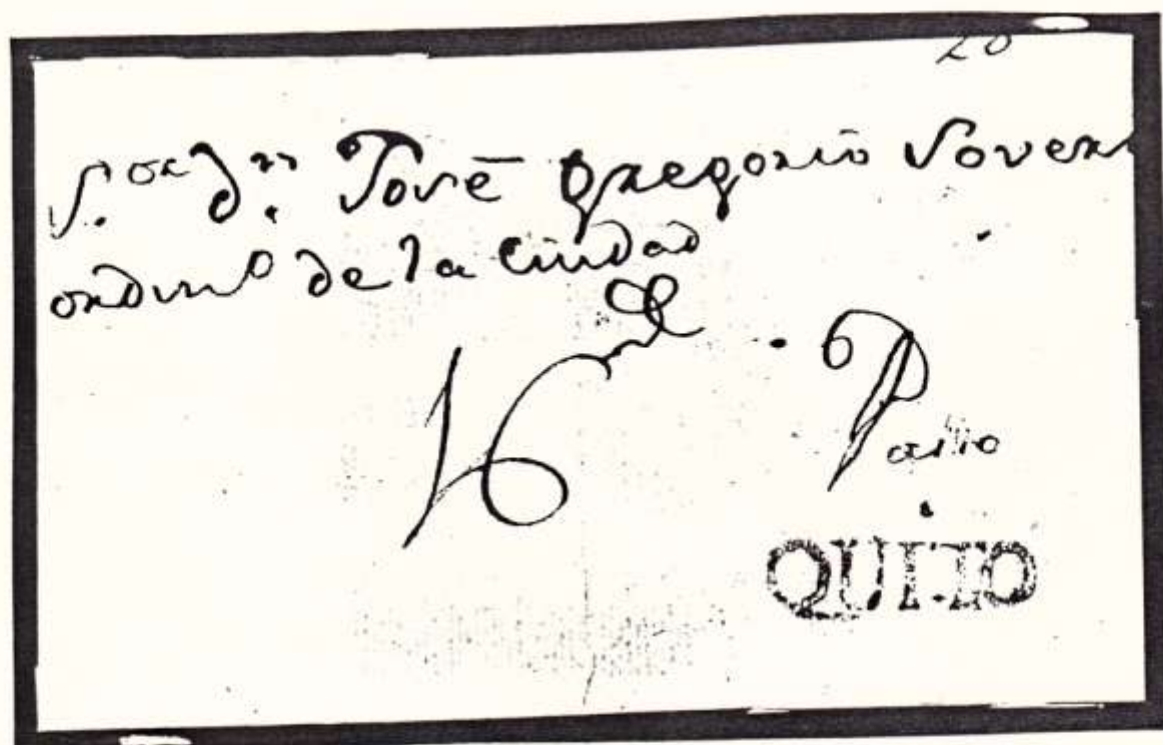


Shown is an undated fragment from Otavalo, which is addressed to an individual at San Juan de Pasto, which is on the highway to the North of Quito, on the way to Bogota. The fragment, circa 1795, carries the abbreviated "OTAVO" postmark in faded red, and a manuscript "4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", which indicates the weight.

The system of weights prescribed by Spain for its Colonies, in the Real Orden of August 31, 1731, was the "Onza Castellana". This ounce was the equivalent of 27.064 grams.

15

QUITO



As best as can now be determined, postal rates commencing in 1764 were separately determined, based on both weight and distance. For instance, between 1783 and 1790 it is recorded that it cost $3\frac{1}{2}$ reales for a simple folded letter to be sent from Quito to Lima, and 5 reales for a simple folded letter to be sent from Quito to Guayaquil. To seek at this time from visual inspection of a fragment or folded letter to determine the postage is nearly impossible. The undated fragment shown above, circa 1795, from Quito and addressed to an individual at Pasto, carrying the bold "QUITO" postmark in red, also has a manuscript "16". Is this an indication of weight, or postage paid for this fragment alone, or for a number of like items, bundled together as was the custom at that time?

16
RIBABA

DEVE

DEVE
Para el S. D. Juan
Moreno de Abendaño, del
concejo de S. M. S. J. Oydor de
la R. Aud. y Jues privativo
de bien de difunto en
Del con. J. Juito

Shown is an undated fragment from Riobamba, which is addressed to Señor Don Juan Moreno de Abendaño, of the Council of His Majesty, His Judge of Probates of the Royal Audiencia. The fragment, circa 1790, carries the one line "RIBABA" and "DEVE" postmarks in faded orange. Compare the pristine state of the postmarks on this fragment, with the same postmarks in a later page of this frame. The manuscript rate mark "3" is noted.

(17)
LETTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

San. de la Cruz.

En oficio anterior del corr. me

J. N. M.

Al Excmo Sr Cap. n Sr.
Don Melchor Aymerich.

Del Gen. de Lano. } M

Quito.

ATALLON LIGERO
(B) TANISAGUA

Pr Sef de E. M. de las Dis.

of. embro con la ma

actuand el punto de la

condiciona en

p. los enemigos tra

interceptar los comu

en con la Dis. n. V. E.

de m. andar me

hay en un corrop.

no puede ser repa

The addressee of this folded letter, Don Melchor Aymerich, a distinguished Spanish general, was the final Captain General (or President) of the Royal Audiencia of Quito, who served until May 24, 1822 when he was defeated by General Antonio Jose de Sucre, Liberator of Ecuador, at the battle of Pichincha. This letter, signed by a Spanish officer in the field, was written on May 15, 1822, only 9 days before the battle of Pichincha, and described preparations for the battle. The handstamped address "(B)atallon Ligero/ (d)e Tanisagua" or "Light Battalion", probably refers to honors achieved by the Battalion at an earlier Royalist victory, at Tanizahua on January 21, 1821.

25.2

REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

EGERCITO LIBERTADOR.

COMANDANCIA GENERAL

DE LA

DIVISION DEL SUR,

Cuartel-General en Quito

6 de Junio de 1822. 12.º

el Sr. Fr. de Ibarra.

Para el día cinco del corriente, tendrá V. preveni-
do en el Puño alojamiento suficiente a mil truen-
tos hombres que estarán allí en día, otros tantos hie-
nos de Carne, Papas o Menestra y Sal, Leña correspon-
diente, truenos vaciones de Tierra y Mantenciones elulas
Vn. provision que no falta por exorta alguna modo
de esto a la Tropa cuando llegue, y V. me promete de
su certidada y Pasionismo, que infaliblemente me
asistirá con lo que se pide.

Dis. que a Vn. m. an.

J. de Sucre.

Folded letter dated June 10, 1822, just sixteen days after the revolutionary victory over the Royalists, which is signed by the Liberator of Ecuador, General Jose Antonio de Sucre. The letter, carrying the pink two-line "FRANCA/ QUITO" postmark, requests town officials of Ibaracundo to supply meat, potatoes, salt, tea, and 25 mules, for the 1300 troops which would be travelling through the town in the near future.

Al Sr. General del Puño de

el Sr. Fr. de Ibarra.

el Sr. Fr. de Ibarra.

Servicio.

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

ESTADO-MAYOR

Lib. de lib.

Cuartel-General en Guayaquil

4 Ma. de Agosto -- de 1822-1823

Don General

Servicio } *Ex. Mor. Grat.*

Al Benemto. Señor Grat de Divi-
-cion Antonio José de Sucre, Insind.
Del Departamento de

Quito.

Folded letter, dated August 24, 1822, addressed to Ecuadorean liberator General Jose Antonio de Sucre, and from Juan Jose Flores, later to be the first President of Ecuador. Carries the two-line "GUAYAQUIL/DEVE" postmark in scarlet red.

Don Juan José Flores
de Q. de Guayaquil.

Insustentable
Al. el lib. de Sucre y en mi nombre de los
ocupados de la guerra, le admitiré en la
misma medida, mi obediencia y respeto
y le doy la bienvenida a
Q. de Guayaquil el día de hoy
por la victoria de Ayacucho y a los Comand.
en jefe condecorados.

Don Juan José Flores
de Q. de Guayaquil

El Excmo. Sr.

Manuel de
...

20

REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

ESTADO-MAYOR
GENERAL LIBERTADOR.
OFICINA / N.º

Cuartel General en Guayaquil
429 de Agosto de 1822

X
M. D. D. General de Div.
Antonio José de Sucre
del Departam. de Guayaquil

C. M. D.

C. M. D. Gral.

Al Comd. Gral Intend. del
GUAYAQUIL
DEVE
quito.

El honor de acompañar
representación del Cap. Ma.
L. P. D. G. de Guayaquil
la de un de S. E.
establecer el decreto

mando poner.

Div. que da V. M. de
40000
El Jefe int.
Man. José Flores

Wrapper addressed to General Sucre,
along with its enclosed letter, signed
by Juan Jose Flores, to be later the
first President of Ecuador, dated August
29, 1822. Carries the "GUAYAQUIL/ DEVE"
postmark.

FRANCA

[Faint handwritten notes, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side.]

Ayer en la tarde me llegó a este pueblo
algun 6. de la man.

aprendido el Bar^u ler
a una hora el
Yndio. Las
Fersachs y
dixé en
no han
y sang.
estas Cargas

Wm
 Comm^{to} Anos General
 Jesus Christo en
 Del Cor^o Marcha
 Santa

During November and December of 1822 it was necessary for the new revolutionary government to quell Royalist uprisings in the Pasto district. This folded letter, dated at Otavalo November 6, 1822 at "6 A.M." is addressed to General Jesus Barreto, "On the March". The red-orange "FRANCA" postmark is that of the city of Otavalo. General Barreto, along with Generals Salom and Maza, served directly under Simon Bolivar in these punitive expeditions.

Ex vivo

DEBE

DEBE

Al Sr. Coron. D. V. Aguirre
Intendente de Quito

Del Sr. D. V. Frías,
Ibarra

Ibarra Dic. 17 de 1822-
120

Al Sr. Intendente de Quito.

En el punto como me pido el
P. D. E. M. ocho botellas de Vinagre en
Castilla, p.º de buce Delgado en la
en la Division, y no en contram de
aqui le serviré S.º. Kmita en la
p.º parando al Eto.

Dios a V.º

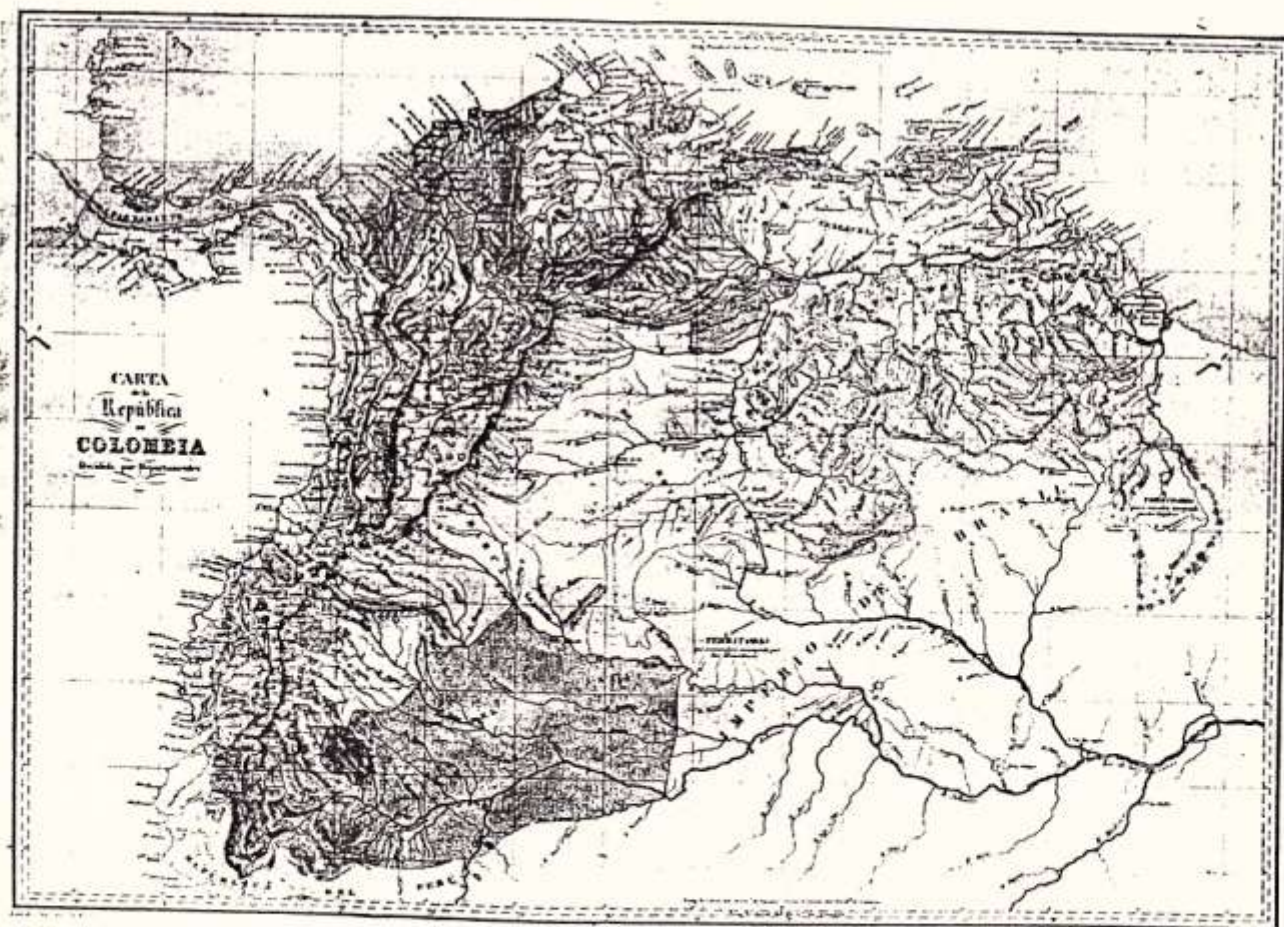
Colonel Don Vicente Aguirre, to whom this letter is addressed, was the aide-de-camp to Simon Bolivar. In 1822 Aguirre was the "Intendente" of Quito, which earlier that year had been incorporated into Gran Colombia. The wrapper carries the "DEBE" postmark of Ibarra, while the letter is dated December 17, 1822.

GRAN COLOMBIA POSTMARKS (1822-1830)

After the defeat of the Spaniards at the battle of Pichincha on May 24, 1822, the territory then comprising Ecuador was annexed to Gran Colombia. This annexation was confirmed on June 9, 1824. On June 23, 1824, the Colombian Congress formally divided this territory into three Departments, that of Ecuador, headquartered at Quito; that of Azuay, headquartered at Cuenca; and that of Guayaquil, headquartered in the city of the same name. These divisions are depicted on the circa 1827 map, shown below.

On August 10, 1830, the three Departments formally adopted a separate Constitution, calling themselves the State of Ecuador in the Republic of Colombia. This nomenclature continued until June 22, 1835, at which time a further Constitution was adopted, declaring the territory to be the Republic of Ecuador.

With the exception of several minor laws and decrees, one of which is considered in the pages which follow, few changes were made in this time period to the Colonial postal system then in place, which was structured upon an Ordinance adopted on June 8, 1794 by the then King of Spain.



24



Al Sr. Tomas Cipriano Mosquera
Intendente del Departamento de



L
Guayaquil

General Francisco de Paula Santander, Vice President of Gran Colombia, promulgated a new decree on June 12, 1826, establishing four monthly mail runs for Caracas, Quito and Cartagena. The runs left Popoyan (the origin of the wrapper shown above) on the 21st, 28th, 5th and 12th of each month and succeeding month, at 6 P.M., stopping at Trapiche and Pasto for fresh horses, and arriving at Quito on the 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th of each month, at noon. From Quito, runs would then be made the following day to Cuenca and Guayaquil, the latter being the destination of the wrapper shown above. Surely carried on this particular mail run, the addressee of the wrapper is Tomas Cipriano Mosquera, one-time aide-de-camp to Simon Bolivar, at the time of this wrapper (November 9, 1826) the Intendente of Quayaquil, and later the President of Colombia from 1845 - 1848 and again in 1864.

FRANCA
AMBATO



Shown is a folded letter from Ambato to the city of Barbacoas, which is dated inside on March 8, 1825. The letter carries the faded orange "FRANCA/AMBATO" postmark, with the letter "O" superimposed over the letter "T".

This letter would have first been carried to Quito, a distance of 24 leagues, and then on the "Carrera Jeneral" towards Bogota. The highway goes through Tabacundo, Otavalo, Ibarra, and Tulcan, all in the Department of Ecuador, to Tuquerres, in the Department of Cauca. From there it was 25 further leagues to Barbacoas. Mail arrived at Barbacoas on the 4th and 19th of each month, and was carried South on the same highway on the 6th and 21st of each month.

(26)

BHO

1 1/2
A. S. Torre su Vela y
Vedivicio Inter politicos su
BHO
Guaranda

Shown is a folded letter from Babahoyo to Guaranda, which is dated inside June 11, 1829. The letter carries the fancy "BHO." postmark in faded red. The manuscript mark "1 1/2" indicates the postal rate in reales.

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

ADMINISTRACION DE CORREOS DE

Guaranda 17 de Julio 1823

Sr. Administrador de Correos de

Conduce el Correo ordinario la correspondencia ha presentado en esta principal, en siguiente.

Piezas de servicio
Id. para extravagantes
Paquetes de impresos
Id. para extravagantes
Paquetes de otras cajas
Certificados.

FRANCAS

3 Sencillas . . . 4%
Dobles
Triples
Pliegos con onzas
Autos con onzas
1 Para extravagantes . . . 2
De extravagantes

Sr.
Al Sr. Cor. Vicente Aguirre
Intendente del Depto de Quito
Del Puesto de
de las de
FRANCA
QUITO

Under the 1826 decree of General Santander, the administration of the mails in the Department of the South was divided into administrations of Quito, Cuenca and Guayaquil. Mail runs ran from Quito to the South, through Cuenca, and onward to Peru; from Quito West to Guayaquil; and from Quito North to Popoyan. Mail manifests, such as are inset under the wrappers on this and the following two pages, accompanied each mail bag. The folded letter shown above, dated inside on January 17, 1823, and addressed to the Intendente of the Department of Quito, Colonel Don Vicente Aguirre, carries the "FRANCA" and "GUARANDA" postmarks in red. The mail manifest likewise is for mail which was carried from Guaranda to Quito.

Manifiesto p. la Administracion de Quito
Manifiesto p. la Administracion de Quito

GUAIAQUIL FRANCA

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

ADMINISTRACION DEPARTAMENTAL DE CORREOS } Señor Administrador de Correos
GUAYAQUIL Nov. 14 de 1830 } de Quito

Actura de la correspondencia que remito á V. por el presente correo.

Sencillas, Dobles, Triples, Pliegos, Su valor total.

FRANCAS..... 33. 5. 1.

SIN FRANQUEAR..... 2

Autos.....

Estravagantes para otros destinos.....

Idem de otros destinos.....

Pliegos de servicio.....

Impresos de esta.....

Idem para otros destinos.....

Idem de otros destinos.....

S. P. de Quito del Sr. D. S. S.

S. P. de Quito del Sr. D. S. S.

S. P. de Quito del Sr. D. S. S.

S. P. de Quito del Sr. D. S. S.

CERTIFICADOS Y ENCOMIENDAS.

pliego
con peso de 1/2 p. cerro
La fuerte

de diez pesos en plaza
Largo

de cuatro pesos por el correo de Quito
Alto

Superimposed over a copy of a mail manifest for the carriage of mail from Guayaquil to Quito is a folded letter, dated inside on January 4, 1829. The letter carries the "GUAIAQUIL/ FRANCA" postmark in orange. The mail manifest is dated November 14, 1830, less than two years later than the date of the letter. Each mail bag was accompanied by a manifest such as the one illustrated.

29

RIBABA

FRANCA

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA

ADMINISTRACION PRINCIPAL DE CORREOS
DEL CHIMESRAZO

Riobamba 18 de Nov.
de 1830. -- 2.º

Sr. Administrador de Correos de Quito

Factura de la correspondencia que remito a U. por el presente correo.

Julian M.

Piezas de servicio
En presos

FRANCAS

1 Sencillas	16
2 Dobles	18
3 Triples	16
4 Pliegos con 2 onzas	26
Autos con 4 onzas	27

126

Al Sr. D. Manuel Larrea

UMA

Autos con 4 onzas

ENCOMIENDAS Y

1 de 80 pesos en pta. p. el Sr. D.
1 de treinta pesos en pta. y M. de
1 de sesenta y cuatro p. en doce p. de
1 de veintidós p. en doce p. de
1 de seis p. en 3 p. de la Ciudadana
1 de dos pesos en pta. p. la Cind.ª Joa.ª Fabara
1 de diez p. en pta. p. el Procurador Manuel Echegarria

Superimposed over a copy of a mail manifest for the carriage of mail from Riobamba to Quito is an undated fragment, circa 1825-1830, which carries the large "RIBABA" and "FRANCA" postmarks of Riobamba, and is addressed to an individual in Quito. These particular postmark devices were in use for over 35 years! The manifest lists those items for which postage was, and was not paid, and those items which were sent by registered mail. The manifest is dated november 18, 1830.

IBARRA

DEBE

Capital del Departamento del Ecuador, en.

IBARRA

SJ 24 v.

DEBE

Quito.

Shown is an undated legal fragment from the city of Ibarra to the Alcalde of the city of Quito, in the then "Departamento del Ecuador", thereby placing the date of the fragment in the period from 1822 to 1830. Identical run-on style "IBARRA" and "DEBE" postmarks are known in the years 1823 and 1825. The fragment is indicated to have weighed 8 ounces, and is rated at 24 reales postage. Presumably this rating was for a bundle of letters, rather than a single item.

It was 22 Leagues from Ibarra to Quito on the "Carrera de Valles" (Highway of the Valleys). Stops by the mail courier would be made enroute at San Pablo, Tupigachi, and Quyllamba. The Spanish "Legua" or League varied, but one League would probably approximate 4.83 Kilometers.

31

PORTOBIEJO
FRANCA

Servicio. 12

Al Sr. Secret. de la Corte Superior -
de Justicia del Departam^{to}

Del Alc. 5.º Municip.
de Portor.

**PORTOBIEJO
FRANCA**
Guayaquil.

Shown is a folded letter from Portoviejo which is addressed to a court official at the city of Guayaquil. The letter is dated inside May 26, 1826, when Ecuador was still a part of Gran Colombia, and carries the vivid "PORTOBIEJO/ FRANCA" postmark in red.

FRANCA
QUITO



Shown is a folded letter from Quito which is addressed to Senor Manuel Villacis, a businessman at Guayaquil. The letter is dated inside April 21, 1826, and carries the two line "FRANCA/ QUITO" postmark in scarlet.

From Quito to Guayaquil was a distance of 84 Leagues. Stops by the courier would be made at Machachi, Mula hallo, Tacunga, Ambato, Mocha, Casa redonda, Guaranda, Churipongo, Puerto de Mosquitos, Imbernadero and Bodegas, with the remaining 24 Leagues being made by river boat. The information in this frame concerning distances and place names was taken from Juan Azaldegui's "Itinerario General", originally published in Lima in 1825.

POSTMARK STANDARDIZATION

On May 25, 1822 the territory comprising the now Republic of Ecuador was annexed to Gran Colombia. Standardization of postmark devices began in the middle 1820's for all of Gran Colombia (including Ecuador and Venezuela), and many Ecuadorean cities started to use postmark devices with the legend "Republica de Colombia" and either "Debe" or "Franca". While Ecuador declared its independence in 1830, it was only on June 22, 1835 that the name "Republic of Ecuador" was formally adopted. The so-called Colombian styled postmarks continued in use through approximately 1844. What follows is an examination of such postmarks from ten different cities. Three more cities, Asogues, Gonzanama, and Sororanga, had like postmark devices.



Undated legal wrapper from Alausi to Don Xavier Saens, a lawyer resident in Riobamba. Manuscript notations of "3" and "12" indicate the weight and postage paid in reales.



Ejecutivos

9½ 28½

Corte Superior del Distrito



Quito

Undated legal wrapper from Ambato to the Secretary of the Supreme Court, in Quito. The manuscript notations "9½" and "28½" indicate the weight and postage paid in reales.



1½ 4½
 Sor. Alcalde V. M. Dr. Pedro Zambrano.

Aserox. 2



Riobamba.

Undated legal fragment from Ambato, addressed to the Principal Alcalde of Riobamba, Doctor Pedro Zambrano. The manuscript notations "1½" and "4½" indicate the weight and postage due in reales.

36



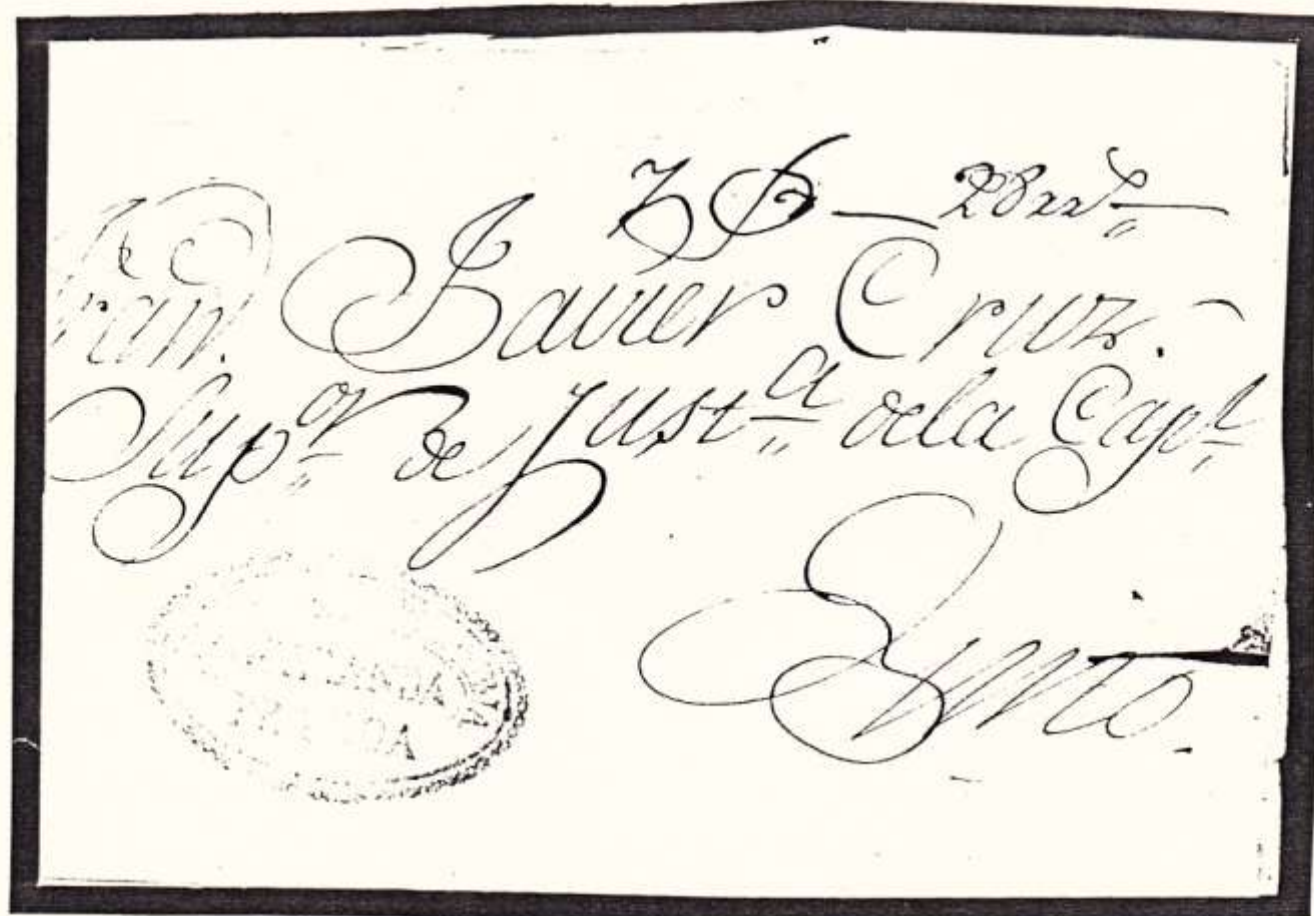
Deposito 30
H. S. Presidente de la Corte de ape-
laciones del Distrito



Del Al. S. Municipal
del Canton Cuenca

Quito

Undated legal wrapper from Cuenca to the President of the Court of Appeals, in Quito. the manuscript notations "3" and "18" indicate the weight and the postage paid in reales.



Undated legal wrapper from Guaranda to Francisco Xavier Cruz, Secretary of the Court of Appeals, in Quito. The manuscript notations of "7" and "28" indicate the weight and postage paid in reales.



12 1/2 S.
 de separado de la com bución pública q. se practica en esta ciudad. Tratándose
 en A.D. 1832 q. ha existido en esta oficina haya un fin. y se practica
 tanheno se practica en esta oficina. y se practica en esta oficina. y se practica
 en esta oficina. y se practica en esta oficina. y se practica en esta oficina.
 Mariano Paredes y Palacios Fin. Central

2

4 r.

Otavalo.

Undated (but circa 1832) legal wrapper from Ibarra, addressed to Señor Mariano Paredes y Palacios, in the center of the city of Otavalo. The manuscript notations "4" and "12 1/2" indicate the weight and postage due in reales.

A circular postmark with a decorative border. The text "REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA" is curved along the top inner edge. In the center, the words "IBARRA" and "FRANCA" are stacked vertically.

apelaciones del Distrito de.

2 3/4 p
82.



Quito.

Undated legal wrapper from Ibarra to the Secretary of the Court of Appeals, in Quito. The manuscript notations of "2 3/4" and "8" indicate the weight and postage paid in reales.

40



Envío por Posta.
Ex. Corte Superior del Distrito - Don Francisco Xavier Cruz



E. M.

Legal wrapper from Latacunga, dated inside June 4, 1838, addressed to Francisco Xavier Cruz, the Secretary of the Court of Appeals, in Quito.

(41)



Tantos Civiles 6 p. 18 r.

Don Ignacio Ochoa Jefe de la Provincia



Quito

Undated legal wrapper from Latacunga, addressed to Don Ignacio Ochoa, Judge of the Province, at Quito. The manuscript notations "6" and "18" indicate the weight and postage due in reales.



Autor en Apelacion—

3½

M. S. Secretario mas antiguo de la Corte Superior de
Apelaciones del Distrito.

21

Loja - S



Quito.

Undated legal wrapper from Loja, addressed to the most senior secretary of the Court of Appeals, in Quito. The manuscript notations "3½" and "21" indicate the weight and postage paid in reales. Following the Ecuadorean declaration of independence from Colombia it was customary, as shown above, for postal officials to deface the postmark devices, removing the "REPUBLICA de COLOMBIA" legend.

43



Sr. Múnde primero Municipal

Según enbe el vñdo
rester del Lp. i
P. p. Múnde Ay. de

9 $\frac{3}{4}$ 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ f



Y
Herrera

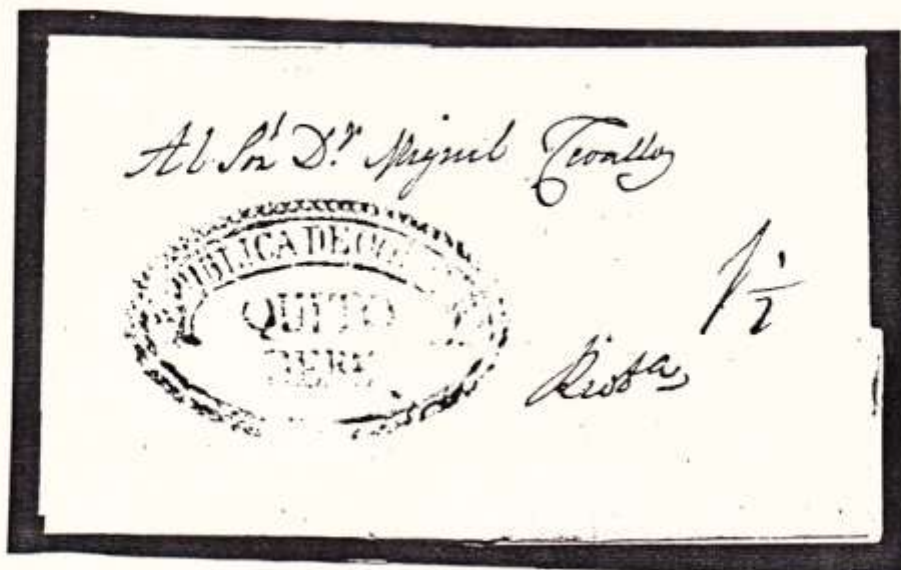
Undated legal wrapper from Otavalo, addressed to the Principal Alcalde of Ibarra. The manuscript notations "9 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and "3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " indicate the postage due in reales, and the weight of the wrapper.



Al Excmo S. N.º Presid. de la
 Corte Sup.ª & Just.ª de
 el Al.º Sup.ª } Quito
 de Otavalo }

Undated legal wrapper from Otavalo, addressed
 to the President of the Supreme Court, in Quito.

45



Folded letter from Quito, dated inside September 2, 1835, addressed to Senor Don Miguel Tualloy, at Riobamba. The manuscript "1½" indicates the postage due in reales.

46



Undated letter fragment from Quito, addressed to Senor Tomas Rodrigues of Guano. The manuscript "3" indicates the postage paid in reales.

47



7½ 30 r

Secretario de la Corte Superior del Distrito

Quito

Undated legal wrapper from Riobamba, addressed to Don Francisco Xavier Cruz, Secretary of the Supreme Court, in Quito. The manuscript notations of "7½" and "30" indicate the weight and postage paid in reales.



Folded letter from Riobamba, dated inside on January 18, 1834, addressed to Senor Rafael de Aimero, in business at Quito. Manuscript notations indicate "1½" reales postage was due.

The sixteen letters and wrappers shown in this frame, used in perhaps a ten year period of time, are instructive to determine postage rates then in effect. From the farthest distant cities to Quito (Loja and Cuenca) the postage rate in reales is weight times 6; from intermediate cities (such as Guaranda and Riobamba) the multiple is 4; and from the closer cities (Latacunga, Ambato and Guano) the multiple is 3.

PAPERMAKERS' WATERMARKS



G M



FCO FERRER

The paper used for the folded letters or wrappers the subject of this exhibit were made from a combination of rag, fiber and other organic materials. Such paper, being very expensive, often carried papermaker's watermarks. These watermarks are collected per se for their beauty. The watermarks are doubly interesting for postal historians, however, because they can be used to identify the approximate date and place of the use of the paper. Many watermarks give the name of the papermaker, the date or place of manufacture, and in addition, a symbol or trademark. Copies of such watermarks, used in Colonial and Republican Ecuador, are shown on this and the following page.

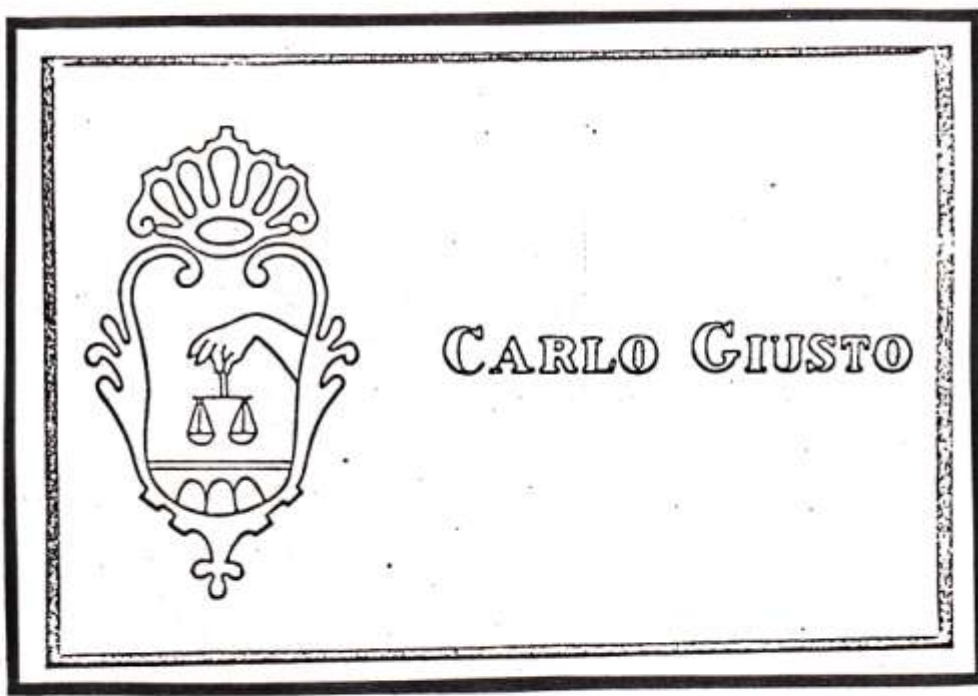
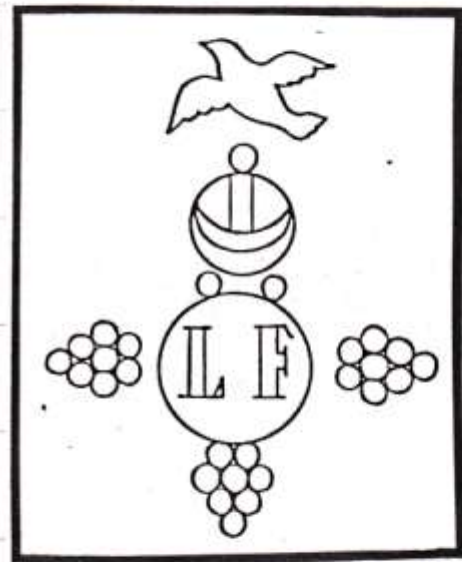
BEN^{TO}

CHIGLIOTTI

FS

©GIOR^O MAGNANI©

G.C.CINI.



POLLERI



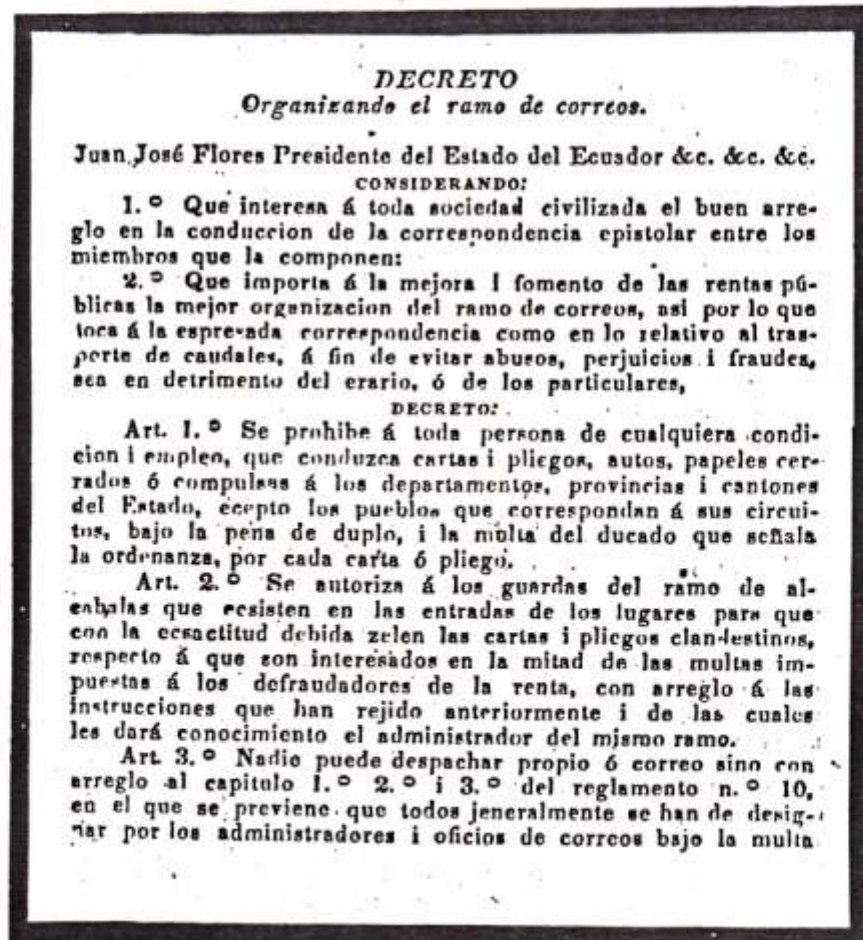
S. LORENZO

B. GHIGLIOTTI

GAGGIERO

REPUBLICAN POSTMARKS (1830-1864)

Shown below is a portion of the first page of the definitive, January 16, 1833 postal law of the new Republic of Ecuador. Twenty six different articles made extensive provision for the organization and operation of the now independent postal service.



On the remaining pages of this frame will be seen examples of postmark devices from a number of different Ecuadorean cities. The markings carry either the word "Debe" or the word "Franca", meaning respectively, postage due or postage prepaid. These postmarks are noted in green, violet, blue, black, orange and red inks, on folded letters or wrappers made of cloth or paper. During this era, ink was not commercially available. The inks normally used by postal officials was made from ochre or indigo vegetable dyes, dissolved in an oil base. The ink was then applied to the postmark device from a cloth pad.

52

ALAVSI
FRANCA

Despacho.

*Al Sr Secretario Relator de S. E.
del Consejo Superior del Distrito -*

ALAVSI

FRANCA

*Del pape 1º de mayo
del 1858 en el
con 1858*

Quito

Shown is a folded legal wrapper from Alausi to Quito, dated inside May 5, 1858, carrying the two-line "ALAVSI/ FRANCA" postmark in faded brown. The use of the letter "v" for the letter "u" in "ALAVSI", in the old Spanish style, is noted.

53

ESMERALDAS
FRANCA.



Shown is a fragment addressed to an individual in Quito, which once contained a letter dated April 24, 1864. The fragment carries the "ESMERALDAS/ FRANCA." postmark in blue.

54

GUANO
FRANCA



Shown is a legal wrapper from Guano, addressed to the Supreme Court in Quito. The wrapper, circa 1850, carries two strikes of the "GUANO/ FRANCA" postmark in brilliant red.

95

IBARRA
DEBE



Shown is an undated fragment of a wrapper, addressed to an Alcalde at Tulcan. The fragment carries two strikes of the "IBARRA/ DEBE" postmark in blue.

90

JIPIJAPA
DEBE

~~30-1~~

[Signature]

El Sr. Alcalde Municipal 20

JIPIJAPA
DEBE

2. 1/2

2

*Del of. 20 Municipal
& Jipijapa*

Shown is a wrapper from the town of Jipijapa to the capital of Quito, whose enclosure was dated September 30, 1859. The wrapper carries the two line "JIPIJAPA/ DEBE" postmark in blue green, and the manuscript rate indication of 2 reales.

51

LATACUNGA
DEBE

*Al Sr Mariano Gato y Barrios
Ayudante Municipal de Cañar*

LATACUNGA
DEBE

1854
Ambato

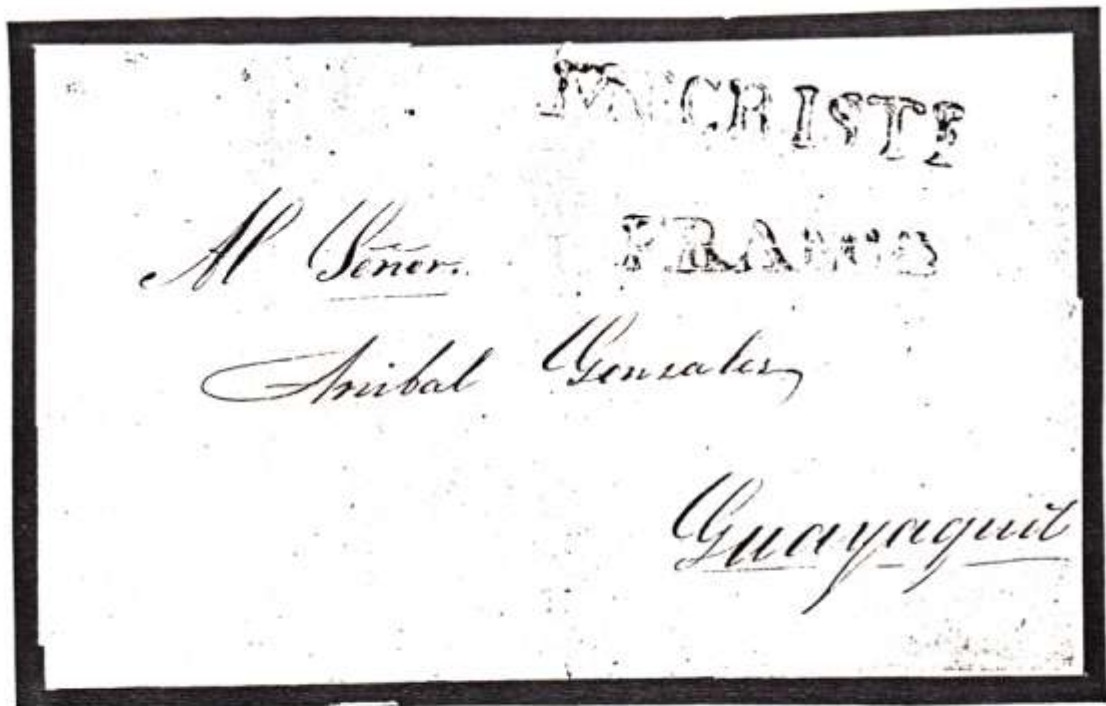
*A. J. de la Cruz
Ayudante Municipal de Latacunga*

Shown is an undated fragment from Latacunga to a government official in the city of Ambato, which carries the two line "LATACUNGA/ DEBE" postmark in orange. This postmark is also noted on a letter dated July 18, 1854.

(96)

MNECRISTI

FRANCA



Shown is an undated wrapper from Montecristi to an individual in the city of Guayaquil. The postmark abbreviates the city name to "MNECRISTI", a practice usual during these times. The postmark is in faded orange.

OTAVALO
DEBE

1/2 L. 1/2
Al Sr. Alcalde de ...
Al Sr. Jefe de ...

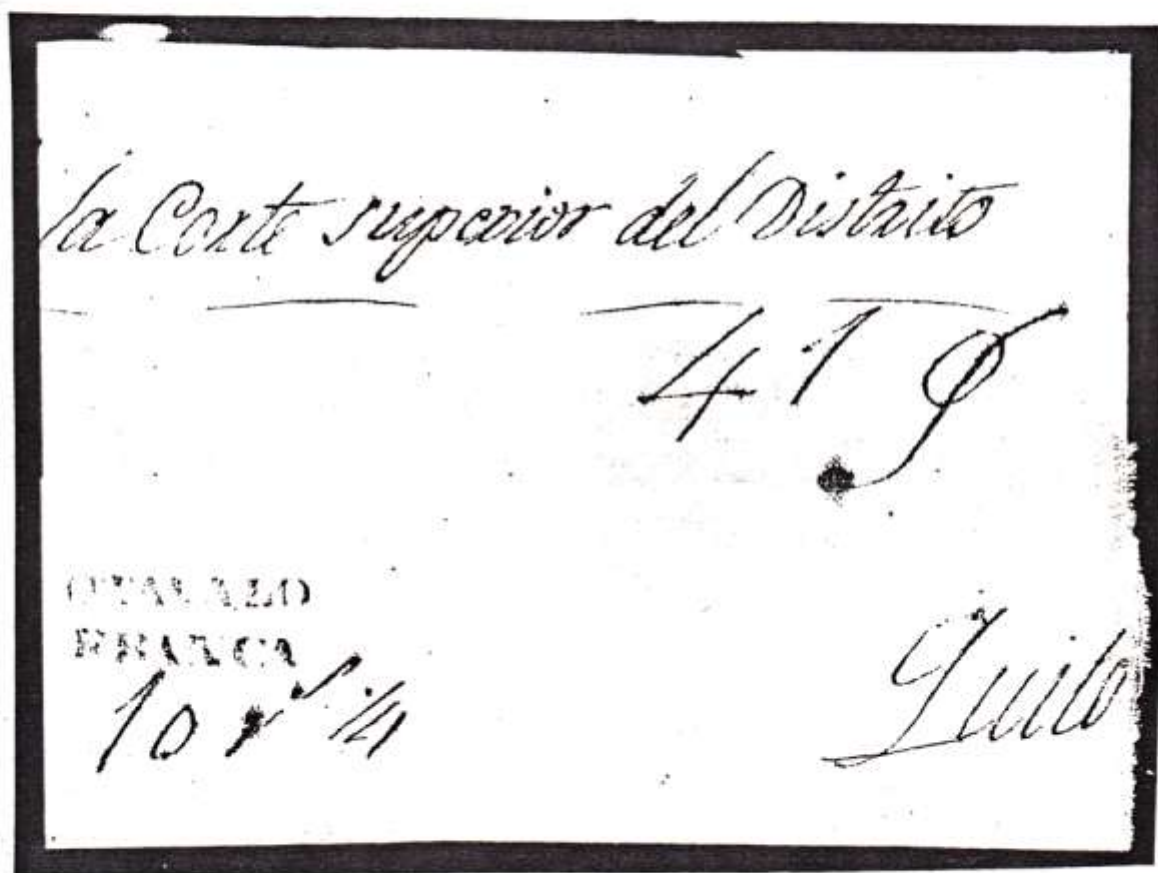
1/2
Al Sr. Jefe de ...
en la Capital de la Republica
del juzgado 2.º Municipal
del Canton de Otavalo } Quito

Shown are two undated fragments, one with the completed, two line "OTAVALO/ DEBE" postmark in orange; the other with the error "...AVAL./ DEBE" in faded brown.

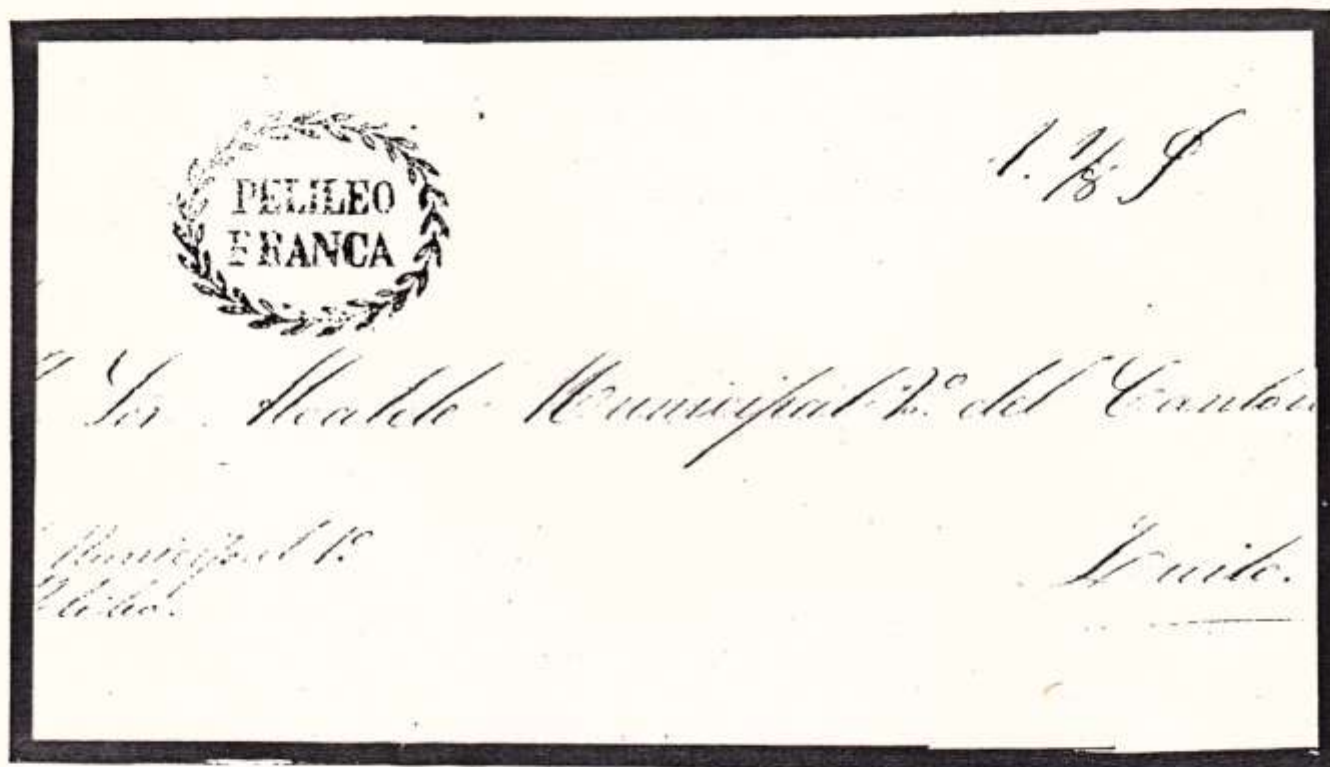
Writing paper was scarce and expensive in early Ecuador. The fragment shown above is a "turned cover", that is, it has been used twice. The earlier usage, inside, was from Quito to Otavalo.

(60)

OTAVALO
FRANCA



Shown is a cloth wrapper from Otavalo, addressed to a court official in Quito. The enclosed letter is dated May 23, 1857. The 41 ounce parcel required prepayment of 10 reales postage. The wrapper carries the two line "OTAVALO/FRANCA" postmark in orange.



Shown is a fragment from Pelileo, dated inside August 20, 1864, which is addressed to a court official at the city of Quito. The fragment carries the wreathed oval "PELILEO/ FRANCA" postmark in bluish violet.

162

QUITO
FRANCA

379



PARA LOS AÑOS DE MIL OCHOCIENTOS CIN-
CUENTA Y SEETE Y CINCUENTA Y OCHO.

*La República del Ec
su suando y por autoridades
rei, Manuel A. Angulo e
segundo, Manuel A. Angulo e*

Postal officials utilized early postmarks for other purposes. Here, the "QUITO/FRANCA" postmark is seen as a control on Papel Sellado (revenue paper) used for judicial purposes. The same postmark is also noted on an undated fragment which is addressed to the Judge of the Province of Leon, located at Latacunga. The Papel Sellado is dated 1857-1858, while the fragment is undated.

Algunos

Secretaria de L. G.

*A. Sor. Juan Letrado de la
Prov^a de Leon.*

1

Latacunga

63



El Consejo pr
nicipal en Subro
Tuzgado pr



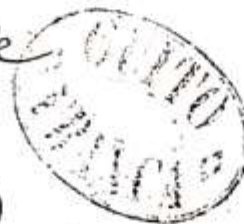
A cualquiera de los Señores
Municipales del
Canton de
Patate
Ramon
Dices libranco sobre el pae

Another example of a Quito postmark being used on Papel Sellado is shown here. The undated fragment is from a court official at Quito, addressed to the Alcalde of the town of Patate. The Papel Sellado is dated 1863-1864.

20⁹⁶
A cualquiera de los Señores Al
caldes Municipales del Canton de

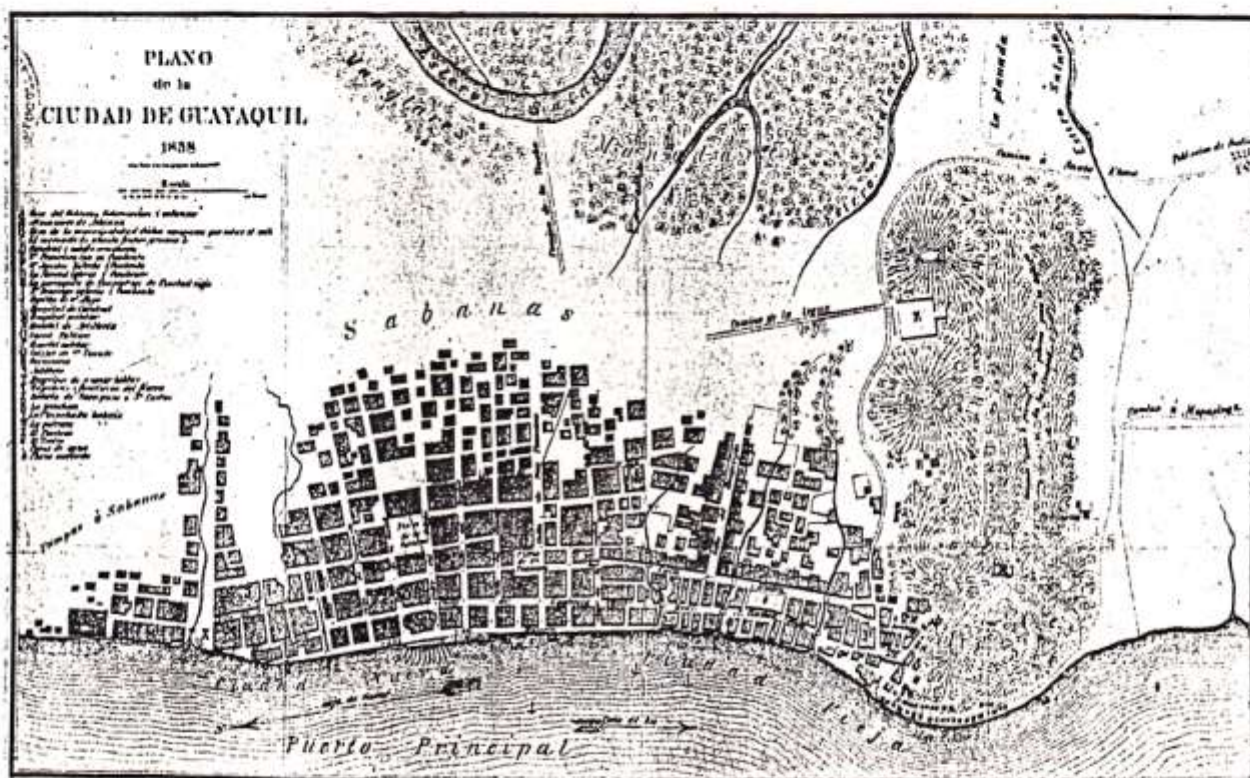
Del Juzg. 2º
Mun. de Quito

Patate



65

Guayaquil was and is the largest city, the principal port, and the commercial center for Ecuador. Historically it was the center of liberalism, and control of the Government moved from Conservative Quito to Liberal Guayaquil. Shown below is an 1858 map of the city of Guayaquil.



Guayaquil was also the unhealthiest spot on the Pacific Ocean. It is recorded that an Andean naturalist once made a collection of fifty different species of vermin in his Guayaquil bedroom. His enthusiasm apparently was not shared by his companions. Guayaquil was generally avoided by foreign steamers under fear of quarantine. Yet, it was the principal trans-shipment point for all mail addressed to the interior, from Europe and North America. Mail boats of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, carrying mail under contract to the Government of Ecuador and to the British Postal system, mail boats of the French South Pacific Steamship Company, and other companies and crew members who carried mail on a courtesy basis, all landed at Guayaquil. Mail carried by such mail boats will be considered in the remaining pages of this frame.

EARLY FORWARDING AGENTS



G. W. Aspinwall
Phil^a Jan^y 20th 1836
The Guayaquil 13 July

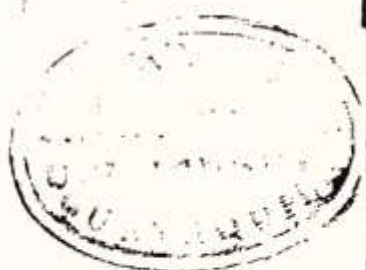
Messrs. Alport & Co.

per.

Saml. W. Comstock, Esq.

Valparaiso

Factor



An American Consul, resident at Guayaquil, acted as a forwarding agent. The folded letter shown above, from Philadelphia to Valparaiso, Chile, carries the mark of this Consul, Seth Sweetser. Sweetser was commissioned as the American Consul Resident at Guayaquil on May 5, 1834, and died at his post on September 7, 1848. The mark reads "FORWARDED/ S. SWEETSER/ U. S. CONSUL/ GUAYAQUIL". Manuscript notations indicate the letter was received in Guayaquil on July 13, 1836.

67

paid \$1.

Edward H. Loringwell M D
Care of Messrs Robinett & Wheelwright
Guayaquil
republic of Colombia

Care of Messrs Munson & Barnard
Boston

This folded letter, dated inside October 10, 1825, was sent from New Haven, Connecticut, to its addressee, care of agents Messrs. Munson & Barnard of Boston, Massachusetts, and care of agents Messrs Robinett & Wheelwright, of Guayaquil, which was then a part of Gran Colombia. The letter reached Guayaquil, presumably after crossing Cape Horn, during June of 1826. The reverse of the letter is marked as having been forwarded from Chagres, Colombia "... by yr. obt. Servant Geo. O. Lawson, Sch.(ooner) Thorn - Beverly, Massa." on December 12, 1825, and from Guayaquil on June 29, 1826 "... by yr. friend Charles Glueck". Manuscript notations indicate that the letter was finally received by its addressee on July 21, 1826, at Panama City. The sum of \$1.00 was paid for the carriage of the letter, it was sent care of two different persons, and two different forwarders were utilized. It is interesting to note one part of the letter, written by a mother to her son. She said "... the way back will be shorter than the way you went. The communication across the isthmus is more frequent than formerly, and will be more comfortable travelling when the canal is cut through..." This was written more than 85 years before the Panama Canal was completed.

68

THE FRENCH POSTOFFICE

The French Consulate in Guayaquil, Ecuador, was a part of the Valparaiso (Chile) to Colon (then a part of Colombia) to St. Nazaire (France) circuit of the French South Pacific Steamship line, and provided international mail service from April 25, 1872 to March 4, 1874. French adhesive postage stamps prepaid the international postal tariff, while Ecuadorean adhesive postage stamps covered any inland fees.



The Consulate applied both a six-sided date stamp, and a "killer", comprising an anchor in a lozenge of dots. The lozenge of dots "killer" is shown above upon a pair of the then current French 5 Centime green stamps.



The six-sided Guayaquil date stamp is shown above, tying the French 5 centime green stamp to a piece. Covers to France were always postmarked on the 24th or 25th of each month, while letters to Callao (Peru) and other points south were always postmarked from the 4th of each month.



The partial Guayaquil postmark upon the French 40 Centime orange stamp is to this date unlisted. Since the postmark is in the same shade of blue as that then utilized for other Consulate postmarks, it may also have originated there.

6A



The cover shown above, postmarked with the French Guayaquil datestamp of April 24, 1873, and bearing 1 Franc, 30 Centimes French postage stamps, cancelled with the lozenge of dots and anchor "killer", was carries from Guayaquil to Panama City on the steamship Ville de Brest. The cover was backstamped on receipt at Paris on May 26, 1873. Note that the addressee of this cover is the same as that of the fragment shown on the following page.

70



The fragment of a cover shown above, used from Guayaquil to Paris, with 1 Franc, 30 Centimes French postage prepaid, carries the black lozenge of dots with anchor obliterator and the black six-sided date stamp of Colon-Aspinwall. According to Raymond Salles, the majority of covers posted at the French Guayaquil Consulate carried either the regular six-sided datestamp of that place, or the postmark of a subsequent port, which in this instance was Colon-Aspinwall. The cover was then carried from Colon-Aspinwall on the steamship "Floride" to St. Nazaire, France, on February 3rd.






The cover also carries the unlisted Guayaquil datestamp, a further example of which is shown above, with the proper date for a sailing by the French South Pacific Steamship line to the south. It is believed, therefore, that this Guayaquil date stamp was applied either by the Consulate or by the Ecuadorean postal authorities, in conjunction with the mail services of the Consulate.

71

THE BRITISH POST OFFICE

The British Postal Agency at Guayaquil, the port city of Ecuador, accepted international mail for outward transmission from 1849 through 1880, when Ecuador joined the Universal Postal Union. The mail was carried, pursuant to contract, by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company. Shown below are the initial two postmark devices used, as copied from the Book of Postmarks of the General Post Office in London, England. These postmark devices were sent to Guayaquil on February 6, 1849.

To what Place	Date when sent	Stamps
<i>M. Pae</i> <i>6 Feb 1849</i>		  

The Pacific Steam Navigation Company, a Chilean Company, was formed in the year 1840. It initially acquired two wooden paddle steamers, the Chile and the Peru, of 680 and 690 tons, respectively. The Company owned more than 80 vessels by the year 1879, when it was absorbed into the Royal Mail Steam Ship Company. The following were the British Postal Agents at Guayaquil: Horace H. Cox (1848-1854), F. F. Mocatta (1855-1864), John Harman (1865-1866), Charles T. Smith (1865-1876), and George Chambers (1876-1880).

(72)



The Book of Postmarks of the General Post Office in London indicates that the first two datestamps, shown above, were sent from London to Ecuador on February 6, 1849. Hence, the May 3, 1849 Guayaquil postmark on this folded letter, addressed to Lima, Peru, is very early usage indeed. The letter is dated inside at Quito on April 5, 1849, and according to manuscript notations, was received in Lima on May 9, 1849.

73



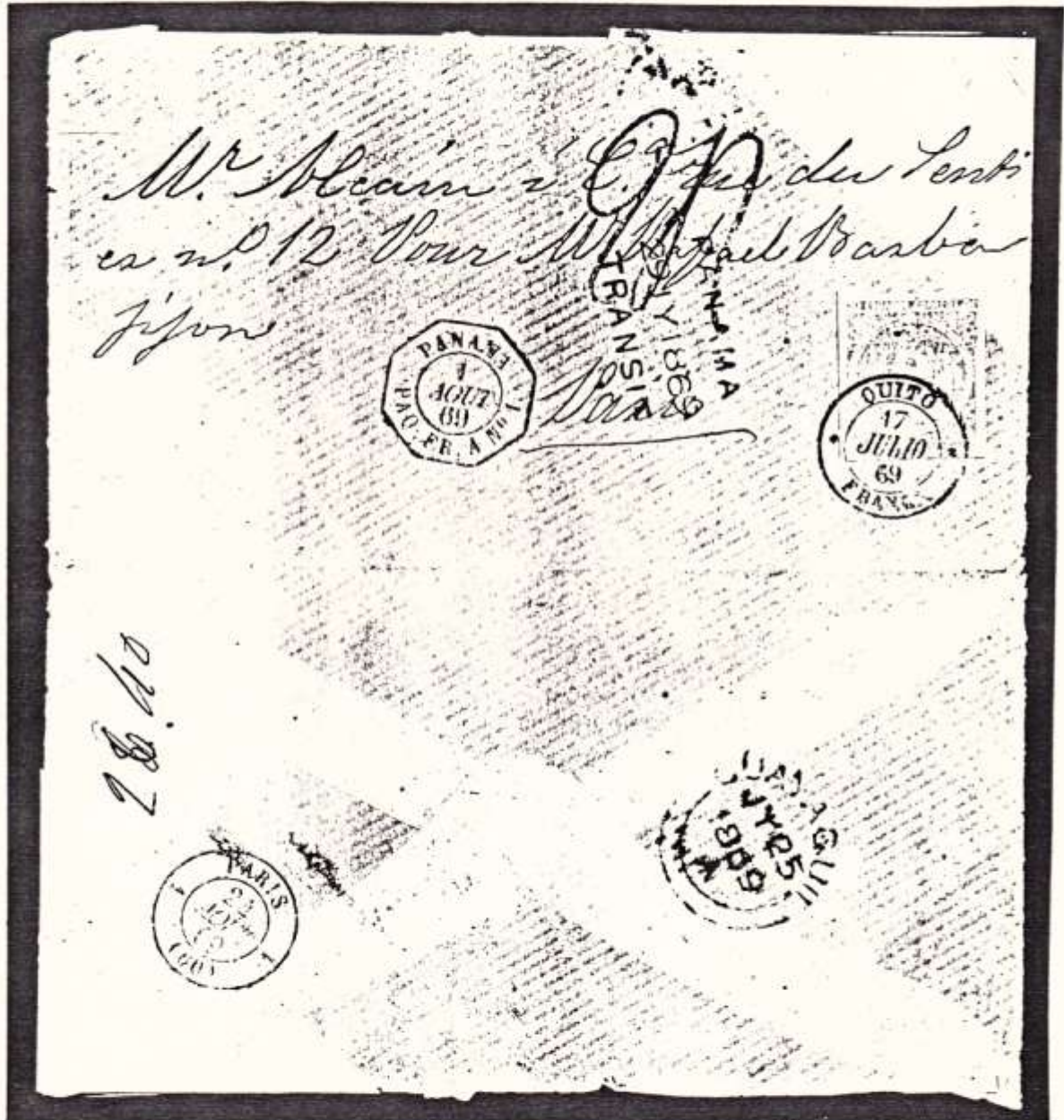
Señor Tomas Lachambre & Co.

Lima







The oval Guayaquil datestamp of August 1, 1852, and the oval "Guayaquil/ Paid" marking are shown on this folded letter to Lima, Peru. The addressee of the letter, the firm of Thomas Lachambre & Company, was a large trading firm with offices in Lima and elsewhere. Many old letters from its archives have been preserved for philatelists.

74



The Un Real, yellow Ecuadorean first issue stamp prepaid the mailing of this cover from Quito to Guayaquil, where the British datestamp of July 25, 1869 was applied. Carried by the Pacific Steamship Navigation Company to Panama, the cover was then transferred to a French packet boat for carriage to its destination.

To what place	Date when sent	Stamps
<i>Guayaquil</i>		 
<i>La Cruz</i>	<i>Sent 25</i>	
<i>La Cruz</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	
<i>La Cruz</i>	<i>13th Jan</i>	
<i>La Cruz</i>	<i>1863</i>	

For m.
 Olfen
 Thompson
 Smith
 C. L.
 Callan
 Eby
 Brown
 Green
 Blay

10. one impression
on the

[illegible]

The next two postmark devices used by the British Guayaquil Postal Agency, as copied from the Book of Postmarks, are shown above. To this date, only one use of the "INSUFFICIENTLY/PAID" indicator has been noted. These devices were shipped to Guayaquil on January 13, 1863, and January 25, 1865, respectively.




Sr. Thomas La Chambre y Ca-
Lima


Sr. Thomas La Chambre y Ca-
 Lima

There were two ways to send mail to Peru and other ports to the South. The first was through the British Postal Agency. The folded letter at the top, with the oval Guayaquil "Paid" datestamp, took four days in passage, being backstamped at Lima on March 4, 1864. The second, addressed in the same handwriting, to the very same addressee, was sent through the regular Governmental mailbags, for which the Pacific Steam Navigation Company received an annual subsidy from the Ecuadorean Government. The second folded letter took 9 days in passage, being backstamped at Lima on January 9, 1864. The oval "CONDUCCION/ DEL CARTERO/ GRATIS" handstamp indicates postpaid delivery in the city of Lima.

38

To what place

Date when sent

Stamps

1865

Caldera
1200

Callar
1200

Cobija
1200

Cosquima
1200

Guayaquil
1200

Islay
1200

Payto
1200

The C-41 postmark of the British Postal Agency at Guayaquil was, along with its initial allotment of British adhesive stamps, sent from London on January 26, 1865. The illustrated copy of the relevant page from the Book of Postmarks of the General Post Office at London, clearly records the C-41 strike, along with its destination, the city of Guayaquil, and the date of shipment.



78



The practice whereby British adhesive postage stamps could be sold at the Guayaquil Postal Agency was established by diplomatic notes during June and July of 1864. Shown above is a folded letter to Paris, France, with the "C-41" killer on 4 and 6 pence British stamps, with the Guayaquil datestamp of July 13, 1867. The letter was carried via London and Calais, as is noted from the respective postmarks of these cities.

79



PANAMA
APR 1874
TRANSIT
Calleja Brothers Ltd



*Vera Cruz
Mexico*




PANAMA
14 APR 1873
TRANSIT
St Calleja Brothers Ltd

*Vera Cruz
Mexico*

Two folded letters to the firm of Calleja Brothers in Vera Cruz, Mexico, whose British adhesive stamps have the Guayaquil "C-41" killer. The letters, postmarked respectively April 9, 1873 and April 4, 1874 at the British Postal Agency at Guayaquil, were each carried via St. Thomas, B.W.I., where backstamps of April 28, 1873 and April 13, 1874, respectively, were applied.

57 1022 1

To what place	Date when sent.	Stamps
Guayaquil	1878	

The final circular datestamp of the British Guayaquil Post Office is as illustrated above in the Book of Postmarks of the General Post Office in London. This datestamp was shipped to Guayaquil on November 25, 1878.



The reverse of the above cover, addressed to Bordeaux, France, carries the British Guayaquil datestamp of April 26, 1880, as well as postmarks of London, Paris, and Bordeaux.

LATACUNGA
DEBE

M. S. Mariano Gato y Barrios
Alcald Municipal de Canton

LATACUNGA
DEBE

D^{ca} Bg
Ambato

A J. de M. M. M. M. M.
de Latacunga

Shown is an undated fragment from Latacunga to a government official in the city of Ambato, which carries the two line "LATACUNGA/ DEBE" postmark in orange. This postmark is also noted on a letter dated July 18, 1854.

37
CERTIFICACION
AGUAYAQUIL

GUAYAQUIL
FRANCA

CERTIFICACION
AGUAYAQUIL

118



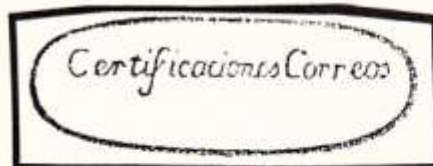
Gobernador de la Arquidiocesis de *Quito*

Porte --- p. 5%
Dro. --- 1-"
1-5%

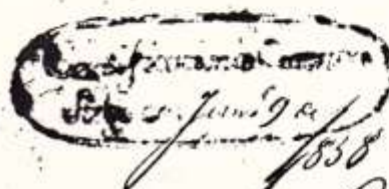
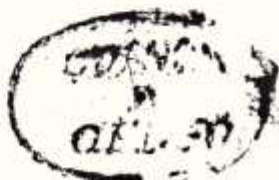
Quito

Shown is an undated wrapper from Guayaquil to the city of Quito, which carries the oval "GUAYAQUIL/FRANCA" and "CERTIFICACION/ A GUAYAQUIL" marks in orange and blue green, respectively. The wrapper is addressed to the Governor of the Archdiocese of Quito. The postage and registration rates are noted in the lower left hand corner of the wrapper.

43



11 J.



Crimina

*Al Excmo Señor. Abogado
de S. G. la Corte Suprema.*

Del Excmo. Sr. D. J. de Cuenca

Shown is a registered wrapper from Cuenca to the Supreme Court in Quito, dated June 9, 1858. The wrapper carries the oval "CUENCA/DE/ OFICIO" postmark and the oval "Certificaciones Correos" indicator, with space to be filled in by the postal authorities. The postmarks are in red.

(84)

LATACUNGA
FRANCA

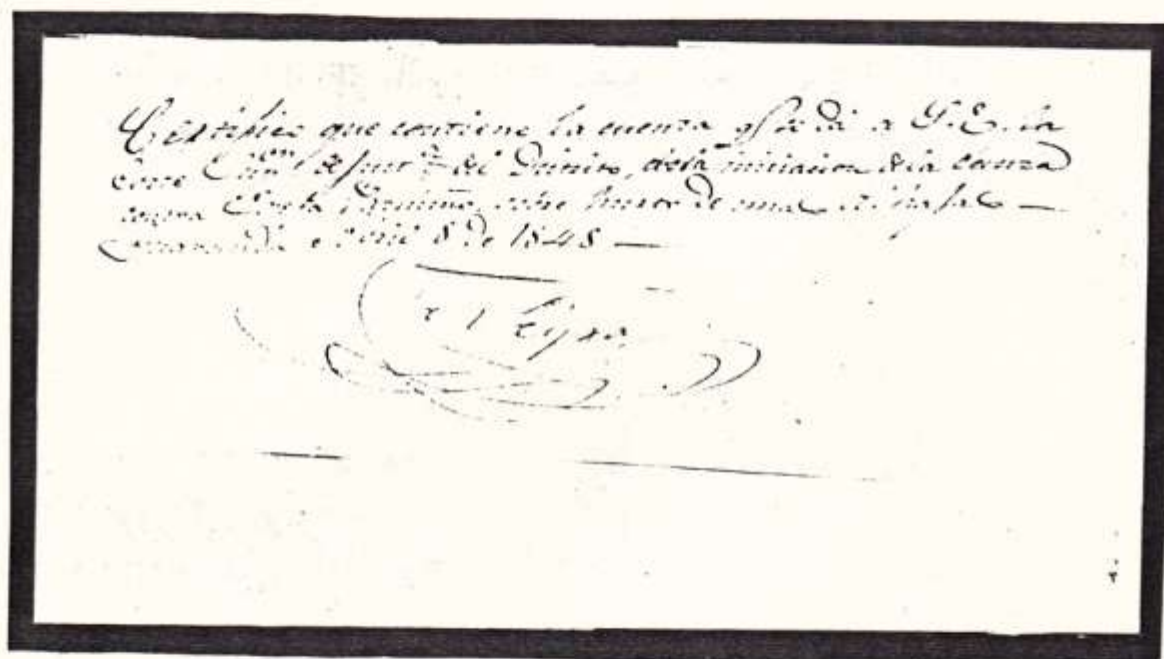


Shown is a wrapper from Latacunga to a court official at Quito, which is dated inside June 12, 1842. The wrapper carries the "LATACUNGA" and the "LATACUNGA/ FRANCA" postmarks in orange. The latter postmark is amended with the manuscript "Certificacion" notation, indicating registered mail.

It was still customary, at this date, to distinguish registered mail from other mail by drawing a double line, with three intersecting lines, in a rectangular format surrounding the address.

REPUBLICAN OFFICIAL MAIL

Articles 8 and 9 of the Ecuadorean January 16, 1833 law, concerning the organization of the postal service, provided that legal documents or court processes of an official character, with an indication on the outside of its content, and signed by the judge, secretary or notary, indicating its special character, would be carried postage free in the mails. Such wrappers (and those of most Church officials) were essentially entitled to the "De Oficio" or official postmark when they carried a certification such as is shown on the April 8, 1848 wrapper shown immediately below.



This certification, as roughly translated, provides "I certify that this contains the proceedings before His Excellency the Supreme Court of the District of the initiation of the cause against. . . . Dated at Guaranda April 8, 1848. . . . /s/. . . .".

All other legal documents, whether civil or criminal, which were sent to appellate courts, or which were returned therefrom, were to be postage prepaid.

The following pages contain a selection of "De Oficio" letters or wrappers.

49



Shown is an undated legal fragment from Guano, which is addressed to the supreme court in Quito. The oval "GUANO/ DE/ OFICIO" postmark was in use from approximately 1829 through 1854.

87

YBARRA
DE OFICIO

Al Sr. Jefe de la Corte Superior

YBARRA
DE OFICIO

Quito.



Shown is an undated legal wrapper addressed to the superior court at Quito, carrying the two line large "YBARRA/ DE OFICIO" postmark in red. The spelling of the town name of Ibarra occasionally was "YBARRA" in the middle 19th century and before.

55b

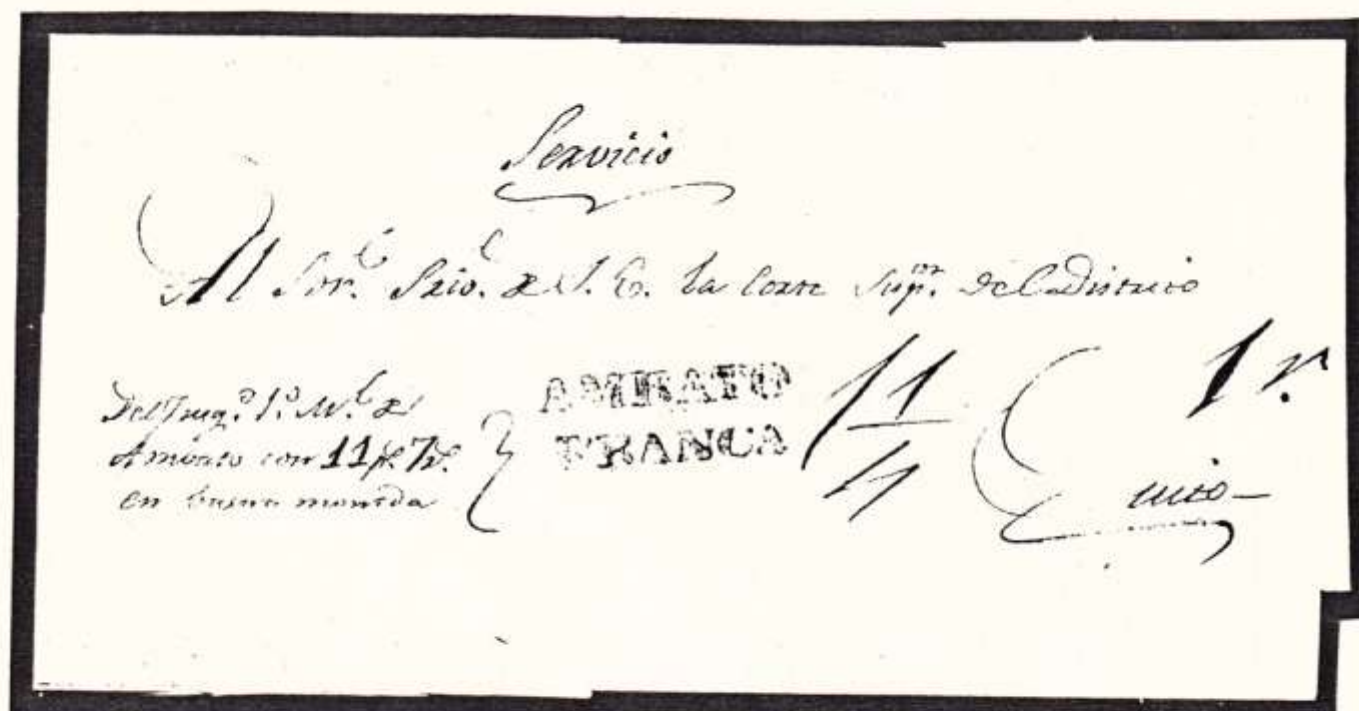


Shown is a fragment addressed to a court official in the city of Quito, whose contents were dated May 17, 1851. The fragment carries the oval "LOJA/DE/ OFICIO" postmark in reddish orange.

69
OTHER POSTAL SERVICES

(a) The Transmission of Money

AMBATO
FRANCA



Shown is a legal fragment from Ambato to the Secretary of the Supreme Court at Quito, dated inside January 9, 1851, and carrying the two line "AMBATO/FRANCA" postmark in orange. The fragment constitutes an early form of money order. The subscription at the lower left hand corner states "...with 11 pesos, 7½ reales in good money". The cash was entrusted to the postal service. The fragment is rated at 1 1/4 ounces, for which the postage was 1 real.

(b) Parcel Post



Shown is an undated wrapper from a Church official in Cuenca, addressed to the Bishop of the Diocese of Quito. The wrapper carries two strikes of the oval "CUENCA/FRANCA" postmark in faded orange. The wrapper contained two folios and is subscribed "como encomienda" or, with package. The weight was 12 ounces in total; the wrapper was rated at 16 reales postage. The wrapper is circa 1840.

(91)
(c) Maritime Mail

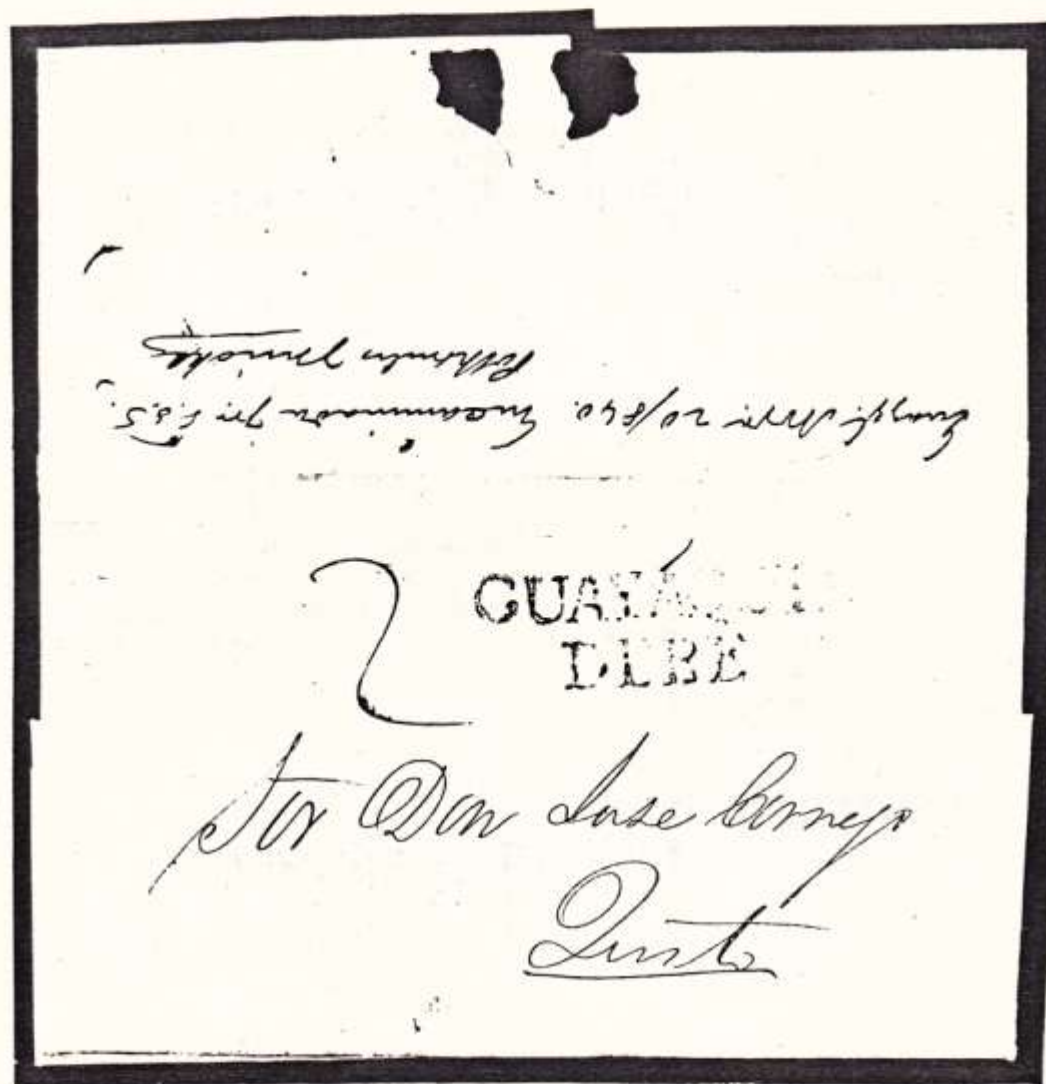


Shown is a folded letter addressed to Lima, Peru, dated inside November 29, 1862, carrying the oval "GUAYAQUIL/FRANCA" postmark in faded orange. The letter carries the Lima backstamp of December 3, 1862, but no indicia of foreign mail carriage. However, the postal treaty of 1848 among Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Chile established in Article 3 thereof the postal rate of 2 reales for any maritime letter less than one-quarter ounce. Thus, the domestic postage on this letter was paid in Guayaquil at time of mailing (witness the "FRANCA" marking), and the 2 reales was obviously paid by the addressee in the first post office to which it was received at its place of destination, according to the treaty provisions.

(92)

(d) Forwarded Mail

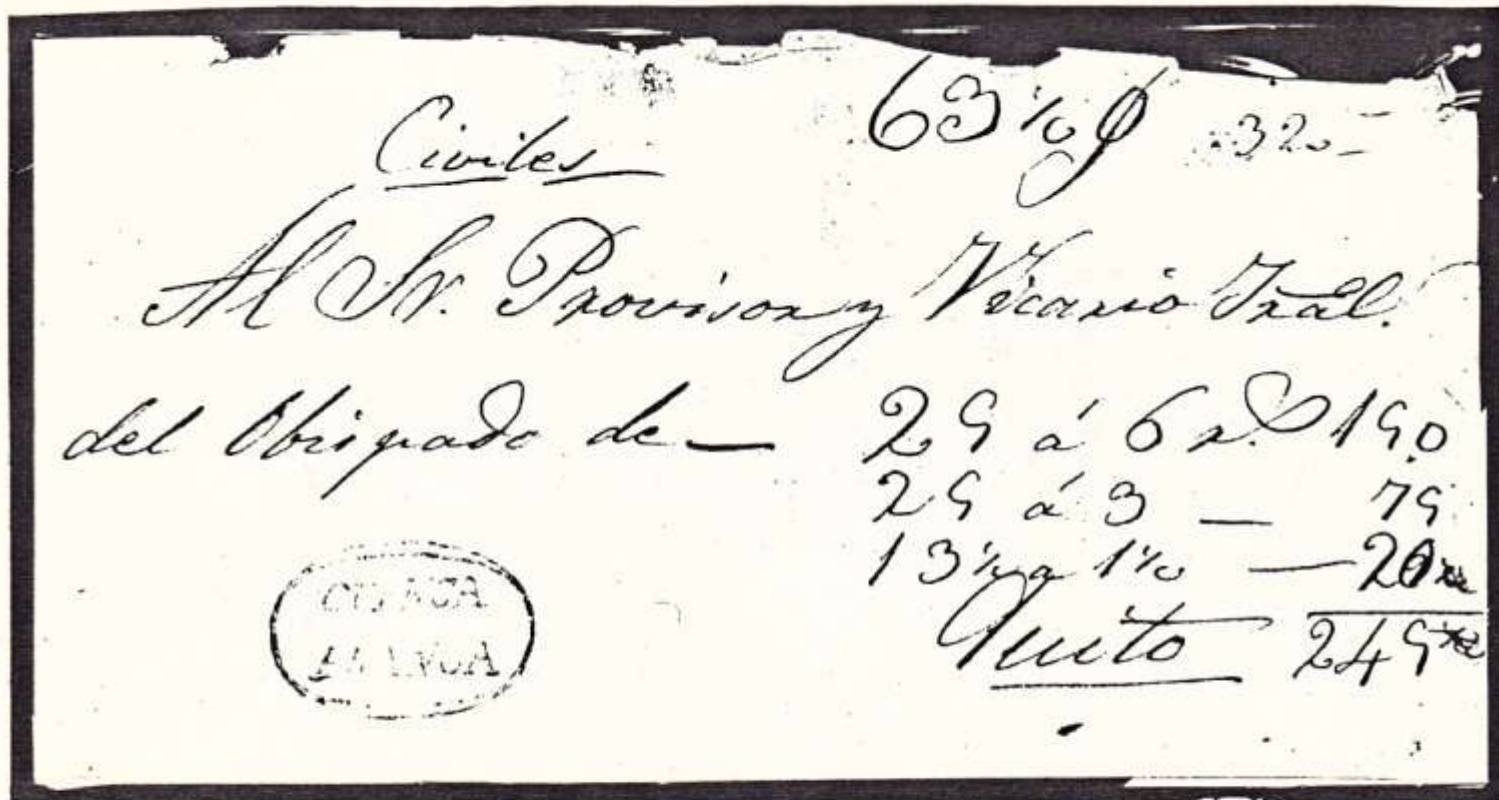
GUAYAQUIL
DEBE



Shown is a folded letter from Lima, Peru to Quito, dated inside November 10, 1840, which carries the "GUAYAQUIL/DEBE" postmark in red. The letter was placed in the Ecuadorean mails on November 20, 1840 at Guayaquil. The legend at the top of the fold, "Encaminado por... (or, Forwarded by)..." indicates how it was carried from Lima. Sea transit from Callao to Guayaquil was accomplished in ten days.

LATE USE OF EARLY POSTMARKS

In a number of instances postmarks found upon the stampless letters and wrappers of Ecuador during the period from 1790 to 1864 are also found obliterating stamps of the first, second and third postal issues. Selected examples of such usage, showing both stamp and wrapper, are seen on the following pages.



Shown above is an undated fragment, circa 1849, addressed to the Vicar General of Quito, carrying the oval "CUENCA/ FRANCA" postmark in orange-red. The same postmark is noted upon the Medio Real, Blue stamp of the first postal issue, also shown above.

94



IBARRA
FRANCA



77
La Republica del
i a' su nombre i por
de la ley el Sr. Sr.
Jeron Alcala primero

This "IBARRA/ FRANCA" postmark is found on the folded letter addressed to the Superior Court at Quito, dated inside February 2, 1847. The same postmark is found upon Papel Sellado dated 1859-1860, and upon the Un Real, Yellow stamp of the first issue, used approximately 1866.

1349

Al Sr. Sr. de la corte superior
de justicia del distrito.

Del cargo de Comisario
del canton de Ibarra.

IBARRA.

FRANCA

Quito.



The double oval "QUITO / FRANCA." postmark, shown on an undated fragment addressed to the Canton of Cotacachi, near Otavalo, came into use in the early 1860's. The same postmark was used upon stamps of the first issue from 1865 through 1873, and is shown above on a bisected Un Real, Orange, stamp of the second issue.

96



PORTOVIEJO
FRANCA



Shown above is an undated fragment from Portoviejo, which is addressed to an individual at Guayaquil, carrying the two-line "PORTOVIEJO/ FRANCA" postmark in orange. The same postmark is found applied in black, upon the five centavo denomination of the 1881 issue, also shown above.