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.
He tenido diferentes ordenes, y despachos de la Reyna nuestra Señora, en que manda que por orden de Fracisco publicado la guerra con la Corona de España, y hecho embargó y reprendería en sus reynos de los bienes de los subditos y vasallos del Rey nuestro Señor (que Dios guarde) que asistirían en ellos, se haga también en ellos de todos los bienes, que pertenezcan en qualquiera manera a Franceses, aunque tengan cedulas de naturaleza, o hayan pasado a las Indias con licencia de contratar en ellas, o de los que poseyeran, como los que estuvieren en cabeza de los corregimientos, o encomenderos, sin que se remedie cosa alguna. Y por cedula de 9 de Noviembre de 1673, ordena, que todo lo que se les embargare entre en poder de los oficiales Reales de cada distrito donde se hiciere el embargo, con intervención del Presidente de la Audiencia donde le huiere, y en las demás partes con la de las justicias por cuya mano corriese, como se contiee en la dicha cedula. En cuya conformidad, en la instrucción que se ha remitido con despacho general a los ministros nombrados para este efecto se ha prevenido, que haciéndose los embargos donde huiere caxas Reales, se hayan de entregar los bienes de los Franceses a los Oficiales Reales de ellas, con la dcha intervención, y haciéndose hecho algunos embargos en lugar en que no haya Oficiales Reales, se les vaya remitiendo lo procedido de ellos, para que por la misma no corra la administración: y por lo que toca a las caxas de vuestro cargo efectuarse en advirtiendo a los bienes y hizienda de Franceses que se huiere embargado, y les se entregaren por los dichos ministros, poniendo cuenta a parte en vuestros libros, y lo que efectúe en dinero, genero, que con facilidad se pudiere vender, le hará luego, y lo que procediere de ello lo remitireis a la caxa Real de esta ciudad, con toda distinción, y claridad: y lo que no se pudiere vender, y fueren bienes raíces, lo tendréis y administrareis con toda cuenta y razón, auxiliando al Gouierno de los generos, que fueren, y de la cantidad que valieren, y por ser esta materia de tanta importancia al servicio de su Magestad, relatar en ella como contiene, y fin de vuestras obligaciones. Guadé Dios, &c. Lima, de Noviembre de 1674.

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 portrait, 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.
Señor, D. Thomas Pacuruco Casique de la Péctoral de mi Alcaldía, de mi edad de veintiuno años, de mi nación de Tízam, en la ciudad de Querétaro, jefe de mi Alcaldía, por ser uno de los mejores, a mi entender, de las que existen en el virreinato de Nueva España.

Mi Alcaldía se encuentra en el pueblo de Tlaxco, a unos 200 kilómetros al norte de la ciudad de México. Mi responsabilidad es garantizar la seguridad y el bienestar de la comunidad local.

Hace unos años, durante una expedición militar, sufrimos varios ataques de pueblos indígenas hostiles. Aunque rechazamos sus ataques, nos hemos visto obligados a defender nuestra ciudad.

Desafortunadamente, nuestras fuerzas no son suficientes para protegernos de manera efectiva. Necesitamos un aumento en我们的 budget, así como en nuestra fuerza militar. Los guías indígenas (Indio Couriers) son esenciales para comunicar rápidamente con el resto de la nación, pero su número actual es insuficiente.

Por lo tanto, solicito que se aumente el número de guías indígenas a 100, lo que permitiría tener un mayor control sobre la situación. También pido que se aumente el número de armas y suplir la escasez de comida y ropa.

Por favor, considere esta solicitud y haga lo que esté al alcance de sus manos para mejorar nuestra situación. Quiero que mi Alcaldía pueda proteger a mi pueblo y a la región de cualquier amenaza futura.

Gracias por su atención.

[Señal del firma]

PACURUCO'S PETITION - 1763
Según tenia forma que en el Cacique, Núñez, por sex 1763 conforme afirmaron y dijeron: "Dios pochir"

30 de 1763

[Signature]

El corregidor y gobernador a su Magestad, su medicina y policia, y acción y servicio, que a mi cargo, se me pide para el servicio de su Magestad, y para el asiento y gobernación de esta Tierra, y para el enriquecimiento de esta provincia de esta parte, y para el bienestar de sus habitantes, que en este tiempo, se me encomienda el gobierno de este territorio, y para que se me pida el servicio de su Magestad, y para el bienestar de sus habitantes, que en este tiempo, se me encomienda el gobierno de este territorio, y para que se me pida el servicio de su Magestad.

[Signature]

[Note]: This manuscript, pertinent parts of which are shown on this page, constitute the Petition to the Real Audiencia (or royal court) of one Don Thomas Ayurco, an Indian cacique. This Petition, dated December 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.
he mail circuits referred
to in Pacuruco’s Petition
covered the Audiencia from
orth 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 REESTRO
AUTENTICO NACIONAL.
(AÑO DE 1830)

CIRCULAR.

Pronunciando que los indígenas que están en servicio de postas o de
guías, sean eximidos del pago de tributos.

República de Colombia——Prefectura del departamento del Ecuador.
Quito, 25 de mayo de 1830—30.—Al Hon. Gobernador general.

Habiendo en conocimiento de S. E. el Jefe Supremo el
expediente seguido por la administración departamental de correos,
especificado en varios de los pueblos de tributos a los indígenas que sirven en
deportes de postas y guías, el siguiente decreto con fecha 12 del corriente
mes de mayo de 1830, debiendo en consideración: 1.° Que el
almacen que se ha establecido en Quito, resolvió en 24 de
febrero de 1830 un decreto en el cual se dictaba una reglamentación para
el pago de tributos a los pueblos de la Audiencia; 2.° Que en este mismo
decreto, se especificó que los indígenas que sirven en el servicio de guías
y postas deberían ser eximidos de la misma contribución; 3.° Que en la
misma reglamentación se especifica que los indígenas que sirven en el
servicio de postas y guías no deberían pagar tributos, siendo esta
medida la que se quiere poner en práctica.

1.° Que el almacén establecido en Quito, que se ha
conocido en el decreto de 24 de febrero de 1830, se debe
continuar y aplicar con la misma reglamentación y
medidas que se han establecido en la Audiencia.

El Sr. Prefecto departamental de
el Ministerio de Hacienda, se declara que los
indígenas que sirven en el servicio de postas y guías,
que no sean eximidos de la contribución.

—José María Scens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tambo</th>
<th>Leagues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sechura</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piura</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heda, Lenguas</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estancia de Guros</td>
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<td>Macará</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Las Juntas</td>
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<td>Pomasqui</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Túpaccai</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quinua</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heda, San Vincente</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolívar</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guaza</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulcan</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
Men 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 pertenencias a ella Elasteta, que se expresaran al pie: de cuya conformidad espero me dará Vm. aviso, y remitirá el recibo de las certificadas.

Nuestro Señor guarde á Vm. muchos años. Lima 20 de Aguiño de 1774.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Encomiendas, que lleva el Conductor en Carta Cuenta.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cánonaco ... 10/4 Lata forzado en Grado corriente</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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.
According to the 1794 Yearbook, a further portion of which is illustrated above, the road from Bogota onward to Cartagena on the Caribbean Sea took an additional 10 days to travel. Mail convoys left Bogota on the 9th, 19th, and 29th of each month, and left Cartagena on the 8th, 18th, and 28th of each month. Mail boats for Spain departed from Cartagena the first day of each month. Shown above is a wrapper, circa 1810, carrying the boxed "CARTAGENA/ DE INDIAS./ FRANCA" postmark, which surely was carried on the Cartagena to Bogota road, and thence to its addressee in Quito.
Este es un pedido de entrega para el Royal Post Office de 1,000 Pesos en silver doubloons, una moneda de oro española equivalente a 16 dólares. En este momento el Post Office transmitía dinero a demanda. El remitente de dinero, Don José María Mosquera, era el abuelo del Presidente de Colombia. El pedido de entrega está dirigido al postmaster de Quito.

REAL RENTA DE CORREOS.

Señor Administrador de los de Quito

Se sirva Ud. tener a disposición de Don Vicente de Lobos la cantidad de 1,000 pesos en Dobles, que por el presente Correo remite el Do. Teo. María Mosquera, cuya cantidad, con recibo del interesado, será bien entregada.

Popayan, 23 de Enero de 1791

Són los de Dobles  Eduardo Alonso

During 1794, the date of this order, the Audiencia of which Quito was the capital, was administratively a part of Nueva Granada, administered from Bogota. Popayan was the principal city on the road from Bogota to Quito, and was the city at which the delivery order originated.
The city of Quito was founded by Captain Sebastian de Benalcazar, a Spanish Conquistadore, on December 6, 1534. The territory comprising the Audiencia of Quito was in turn administered by the Spanish Viceroy in either Peru or Nuevo Granada. Quito, a beautifully sited city, which in Colonial days was a center of learning and of the arts, is depicted on this 18th century map, attributed to Don Dionisio de Alcedo y Herrera, one-time President of the Real Audiencia of Quito. Postmark devices are known from cities and towns located in the Audiencia of Quito from the year 1780.

Selected folded letters or wrappers from this Spanish Colonial era are shown on a few of the pages which follow.

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 Benalcazar, 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.
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.
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.
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 ½", 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.
As best as can now be determined, postal rates commencing in 1754 were separately determined, based on both weight and distance. For instance, between 1783 and 1790 it is recorded that it cost 3 ½ 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?
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.
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 Batallion", probably refers to honors achieved by the Batallion at an earlier Royalist victory, at Tanizahua on January 21, 1821.
REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

EJERCITO LIBERTADOR.

COMANDANCIA GENERAL
DE LA
DIVISION DEL SUR.

Cuartel-General en Litu

d e l d e 


EL 5 DE AGOSTO DE 1822.

PARA el día cinco del corriente, tendrán que proveerse en el Bato el almácigo suficiente, y mil tróvagas
de carne, fideos, azúcar, sopa, y en abundancia, trigo para hacer pan, y en abundancia, trigo, harina, aceite, vinagre, aceite comestible, y cualquier otro alimento que no falte por causas alguna cual de este a la tropa cuando llegue, y que me permita de su actividad, y pericia, que independientemente de lo que se pide.

Días que a la mañana.

F. de S.
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.
REPÚBLICA DE COLOMBIA.

ESTADO-MAYOR
GENERAL LIBERTADOR.

Cuartel General en Guayaquil
6 de Agosto de 1822

Mtro. Excelentísimo Señor General de División
Antonio José de Sucre
Secretario del Departamento de Quito,

Con el honor de acompañar la presentación del Capitán Grande y Licenciado... de Quito

mando que se notifique al General Sucre, junto con la presente, en su ciudad natal.

Dios guíe tus días.

El General

Wrapper addressed to General Sucre, along with its enclosed letter, signed by Juan José Flores, to be later the first President of Ecuador, dated August 29, 1822. Carries the "GUAYAQUIL/ DEVE" postmark.
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.
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.
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 Guayaquil, and later the President of Colombia from 1845 - 1848 and again in 1864.
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.
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 ½" indicates the postal rate in reales.
Sr. Administrador de Correos de...

Conduce el Correo ordinario la correspondencia que se ha presentado en esta principal, en lo sucesivo.

Dios le bendiga.

Peces de servirio
1 d. para extravagantes
Paquetes de impresos
1 d. para extravagantes
Paquetes de otras cajas
Certificados.

FRANCAS
3 Solesillas 4½
Dobles
Triples
Pliegos con onzas
Autos con onzas
Para extravagantes 2
De extravagantes

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Shown is a folded letter from Quito which is addressed to Señor 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, Imberndero 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.
Epiutibo

Corte Superior del Distrito

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.
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.
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.
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 "12½" indicate the weight and postage due in reales.
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.
Legal wrapper from Latacunga, dated inside June 4, 1838, addressed to Francisco Xavier Cruz, the Secretary of the Court of Appeals, in 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.
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 Ecuadorian 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.
Undated legal wrapper from Otavalo, addressed to the Principal Alcalde of Ibarra. The manuscript notations "9 3/4" and "3 1/4" indicate the postage due in reales, and the weight of the wrapper.
Undated legal wrapper from Otavalo, addressed to the President of the Supreme Court, in Quito.
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.
Undated letter fragment from Quito, addressed to Senor Tomas Rodrigues of Guano. The manuscript "3" indicates the postage paid in reales.
Undated legal wrapper from Riobamba, addressed to Don Francisco Xavier Cruz, Secretary of the Supreme Court, in Quito. The manuscript notations of "7\(\frac{1}{2}\)" 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 Aimore, 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Hc. Sr. Jose Caspe, Juez de Cordero en la Capital de la Republica

Del juzgado 2.° Municipal del Cantón 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.
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.
PARA LOS AÑOS DE MIL OCHOCIENTOS CINCUENTA Y SEIS, Y CINCUENTA Y OCHO.

La República del Ecu

 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.

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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.
It is still an open question whether the black "SELLO DE/ LA POLICIA" mark, as shown here on the inside of a folded letter, dated January 29, 1856, from Quito to a police lieutenant at Puellaro, was an indication of postage payment or merely a symbol of official status.
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.
An American Consul, resident at Guayaquil, acted as a forwarding agent. The folded letter shown above, from Philadelphia to Valparaíso, 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.
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.(owner) 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.
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.
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.
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 datetamp 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 datetamp, 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 Ecuadorian postal authorities, in conjunction with the mail services of the Consulate.
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.

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 (1865-1875), and George Chambers (1876-1880).
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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<th>To what place</th>
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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.
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 datetamp of July 13, 1867. The letter was carried via London and Calais, as is noted from the respective postmarks of these cities.
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.
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.
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.
Shown is an undated wrapper from Guayaquil to the city of Quito, which carries the oval "GUAYAQUIL/FANCA" 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.
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.
Shown is a wrapper from Latacunga to a court official at Quito, which is dated inside June 12, 1842. The wrapper carries the "LATAUNGIA" and the "LATAUNGIA/ 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
OTHER POSTAL SERVICES

(a) The Transmission of Money

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.
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/FANCA" 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.
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.
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 Ecuadorian 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.

![Image of postmark and letter fragment]

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.
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.
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.
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.