

CENTRAL AMERICA

PRE-STAMP POSTAL MARKINGS

Synopsis:

This exhibit follows the Central American postal system during its infancy. The period shown is from the Colonial Period during the crown's administration (1767-1821) and post independence (1821-1874).

Normally during this period several pieces of correspondence were dispatched at a time being wrapped together by a sheet of paper upon which the origination marking was impressed. The pre-stamp postal markings in this exhibit are mostly on part wrappers (identified as fronts in the exhibit). The markings are arranged geographically by country. Central America has always had a very high illiteracy rate with very little assimilation between Spaniards and the mainly Indian population thereby limiting use of the mail system to mainly correspondence that was official in nature.

Maps in this exhibit show the make-up of Central America just before independence (known as the Kingdom of Guatemala) and the approximate locations of most of the known pre-stamp postal markings. The countries of Central America were provinces of the Kingdom during Spanish Rule. When independence came about in 1821 Chiapas aligned with México while Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica formed the Central American Confederation that existed until 1839.

The terrain varies between hot damp lowlands, tropical rain forest, chilly mountainous regions, and coastal plains, thus making mail delivery difficult and slow not withstanding other barriers. Consequently, wheeled transport was not practical; the mail most often was carried by horse or on foot.

The Decree of 1716 required all official mail to bear the royal coat-of-arms on incoming mail from Spain. These crown markings are found up until Independence in 1821. Examples of these crown markings on incoming mail showing the different sizes of stamps used are included in this exhibit. Some of the fronts indicate the sailing vessel the correspondence travelled aboard. The main port of entry prior to arrival in Central America was Veracruz, México. Mail from Veracruz then proceeded overland through Oaxaca or by sea to Caribbean ports such as El Golfo or Santo Tomás, Guatemala or Trujillo, Honduras. Mail from Cuba also entered via the Caribbean coast.

Included is an original printed document containing the postal law amendments by the Federal Congress of the Republic of Central America shortly after independence. Also, several fronts in poor condition are shown because they're the best examples available. Some interesting items of note are a receiving mark in Guatemala City (scarce), markings from remote sites such as Ystacomitan (Chiapas), Salamá (Guatemala) and Usulután and Sensuntepeque (El Salvador).

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PRE-STAMP POSTAL MARKINGS (1767-1874)

During the Spanish colonial period from the mid 16th Century until Independence in 1821 Central America was known as the Kingdom of Guatemala. The establishment of the first Correo Mayor de Guatemala was on March 2, 1620 by King Philip II of Spain when the office of Correo Mayor was auctioned by the crown, and continued by contract under private control until the crown took over the postal services on February 27, 1767.

This exhibit is a study of the pre-stamp postal markings of Central America, beginning with the colonial period during the Spanish Crown's administration (1767-1821) and post independence (1821-1874). It is arranged geographically by province, and within the province alphabetically by town.

The Spanish Decree of 1716 required all official mail from Spain to bear the royal coat-of-arms on incoming mail to the Americas. These crown markings were in use until Independence in 1821 and examples on incoming mail are included in this exhibit. Some of the fronts indicate the sailing vessel the correspondence travelled aboard.

Pre-stamp postal markings are usually found on part wrappers (fronts) rather than individual letters as correspondence was usually bundled by a wrapper upon which the postal marking was stamped. There is very little evidence of actual date of use since most correspondence was wrapped and the wrapper was marked but undated. Most wrappers during the colonial period were addressed to governmental agencies of the Kingdom (Audiencia). Most dated fronts have been determined by the title and name of the addressee. Pre-stamp postal markings on correspondence are very scarce.

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Central America (formerly the Kingdom of Guatemala) was conquered for the Spanish Crown by Alvarado, who defeated the Quiché Mayan chieftain Tecum near present-day Quezaltenango in 1524. The Kingdom of Guatemala existed until Central American independence on September 15, 1821.



Central America (Colonial Guatemala) showing the area (outlined in yellow) of the postal system just prior to independence including the provinces of Chiapas (joined México - 1823) and present-day Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Veragua (now the northern half of Panama).

SECRETARIA DE ES-
TADO Y DEL DESPA-
CHO DE HACIENDA

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA me ha dirigido el decreto siguiente.

*El Presidente de la República federal de Centro america —
Por cuanto el congreso decreta y el Senado sanciona lo que sigue:*

EL congreso federal de la República de Centro america, considerando: que aplicada, como se halla, la renta de correos à los gastos del gobierno general, es necesario dictar reglas que aseguren la recaudacion de sus productos y la mejor administracion de la misma renta: ha tenido à bien decretar y decreta:

Art.º 1.º —Cesarà en lo subsecivo la franquicia y exèmpcion de portes en las cartas y pliegos de oficio, concedida à las autoridades, y funcionarios de que habla la ley dada por la A. N. C. en 24. de abril de 1824.

Art.º 2.º —Se restablece en consecuencia el sistema que antiguamente regia sobre el particular; y conforme à él, la hacienda pública abonará à la renta de correos, los portes de la correspondencia de oficio.

Art.º 3.º —Es y se entenderà de esta clase, la correspondencia de las autoridades y funcionarios de la federacion que menciona el titulo 3.º de la citada ley; comprendiendose tambien la del director del establecimiento del credito público.

Art.º 4.º —Los gobiernos, autoridades y funcionarios de los estados deberán satisfacer los portes de su correspondencia; y los pagos se harán mensualmente.—La tesoreria general verificarà los suyos, pasando cada dos meses à la renta las sumas, que en este tiempo hubiese importado la correspondencia de las autoridades de la federacion.

Art.º 5.º —Los productos de la renta en toda la República se remitiràn precisamente à la administracion general, por las principales de los estados, y por las de los demas puntos en que fueren establecidas.

Art.º 6.º —En cada Estado habrá una administracion principal dependiente de la general. Los administradores seràn nombrados por el gobierno federal, à consulta de la administracion general: à satisfaccion de esta daràn las fianzas correspondientes; y gozaràn de las exènciones que las leyes conceden ò en adelante concedieren à dichos destinos.

Art.º 7.º —Se estableceràn tambien administraciones subalternas en los puntos que el gobierno estime conveniente; y el nombramiento de los administradores se arreglarà à lo prevenido en el articulo anterior

CENTRAL AMERICA

Art.º 8.º —Los papeles impresos, que vengan de países extranjeros, solo pagarán un real por cada pieza ó paquete, cuyo peso no exceda de cuatro onzas; y los que tengan mayor peso, pagarán además un real por cada onza de aumento.—Los que salgan fuera de la República, irán del todo francos.

Art.º 9.º —Los impresos de que habla el artículo anterior para gozar de la gracia que en él se concede, han de correr fajados de manera que puedan ser reconocidos de las estafetas.—Los que vengan de países extranjeros y no trahigan aquel requisito, deberán abrirse por las personas á quienes se dirijan, á presencia del administrador respectivo; y si los interesados no se convinieren en este medio, podrán sacar los pliegos, pagando los portes correspondientes á la correspondencia comun.

Art.º 10. —La ley determinará los correos que deban establecerse para la mas facil, pronta y segura comunicacion de todos los puntos de la República, y fijará los días y horas de sus salidas, en que no podrá hacerse alteracion alguna.

Art.º 11. —Ni el gobierno general, ni los de los estados, podrán detener los correos, en ningun caso, ni por motivo alguno; y quando el interes y urgencia de un negocio demanden pronta comunicacion, despachará correos extraordinarios.

Art.º 12. —Los gobiernos de los estados no podrán mezclarse en el manejo y regimen de la Administracion de correos.—Cuando los administradores cometieren alguna falta, los mismos gobiernos darán cuenta al Supremo de la República para la providencia que corresponda, segun los casos, acompañando la certificacion necesaria.

Art.º 13. —Para que tenga efecto lo prevenido en el artículo 10. del presente decreto, el gobierno Supremo, oyendo á los de los estados, informará á la mayor brevedad al Cuerpo legislativo.

Art.º 14. —Quedan derogadas todas las disposiciones anteriores relativas á la renta de correos, en cuanto fueren opuestas á la presente.

Pase al Senado. Dado en Guatemala á 13 de abril de 1826.—*José del Valle*, Presidente.—*Doroteo Vasconcelos*, diputado secretario.—*Calixto José Arevalo*, diputado secretario.—Al Senado.

Sala del Senado. Guatemala 13. de junio de 1826. Al Poder Ejecutivo.—*Mariano de Beltranena*.—*José Miguel Alvarez*, Secretario.

Por tanto: executese.—Palacio nacional de Guatemala junio 14. de 1826.—*Manuel José Arce*.—Al secretario de Estado y del despacho de hacienda.

Y lo comunico á V. para su inteligencia y cumplimiento. —Dios, Union; Libertad. Guatemala junio 19. de 1826.

Argüello.

original printed copy (front page) and reduced photocopy (backpage)
of the postal law amendments dated 13 June 1826
by the Federal Congress of the Republic of Central America

CHIAPAS
Ciudad Real

N.º 35. Julio 27. - Pape 12.º.
Hos S. S. de la Real Audiencia, por mano
del oficial encargado de la Contaduría General
de propios y arbitrios D. Fernando Palomo,
2.º
Ciudad Real.
Goatemala

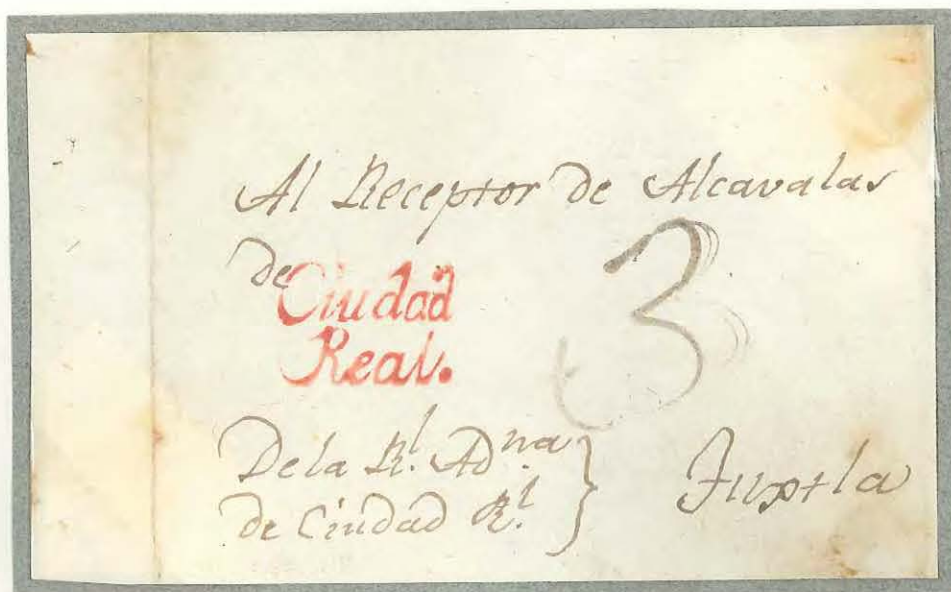
cover with two-line "Ciudad Real" (red)
c. 1802-21 rated "12" (reales)

to the most trusted servant of the Royal Court
for the hand of the officer in charge of
General Accounting, Fernando Palomo,
"Goatemala" (Guatemala City)

CHIAPAS
Ciudad Real



front with two-line "Ciudad Real" (red) c. 1810 rated "7" (reales)
to Francisco Medina, Director General of Tobacco at Guatemala



front with two-line "Ciudad Real" (red) c. 1810 rated "3" (reales)
to Tuxtla

CHIAPAS
Tapachula



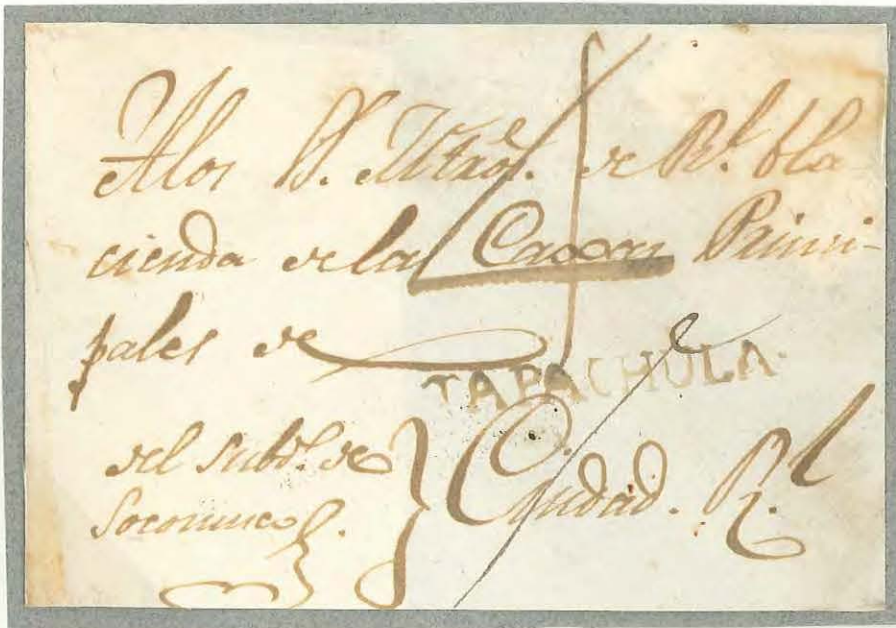
front with "TAPACHULA" c. 1815

to Luis Garcia and Pedro Corona, Ministers of the Royal Treasury at Ciudad Real

CHIAPAS
Tapachula



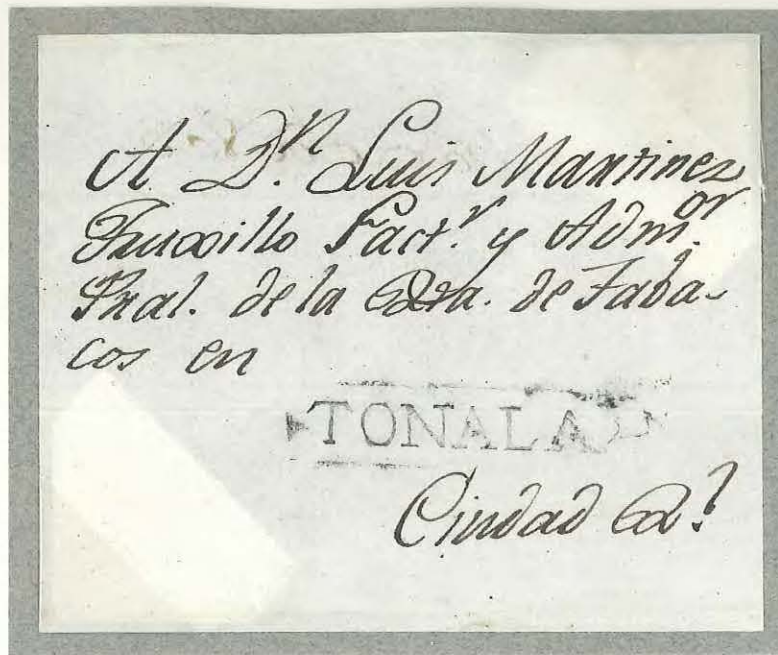
front with "TAPACHULA" c. 1815
to Don Miguel Palomo agent of the National Revenues of Tobacco from Quezaltenango



front with "TAPACHULA" (brown) c. 1808
to the ministers of the Royal Treasury at Ciudad Real

CHIAPAS

Tonalá



front with "TONALA" c. 1803

to Luis Martinez Truxillo Agent and General Manager of the Tobacco Revenue in Ciudad Real



front with "TONALA" c. 1815

to the Senior Official Principals of the Royal Treasury of the "Intendencia" (Province) at Ciudad Real

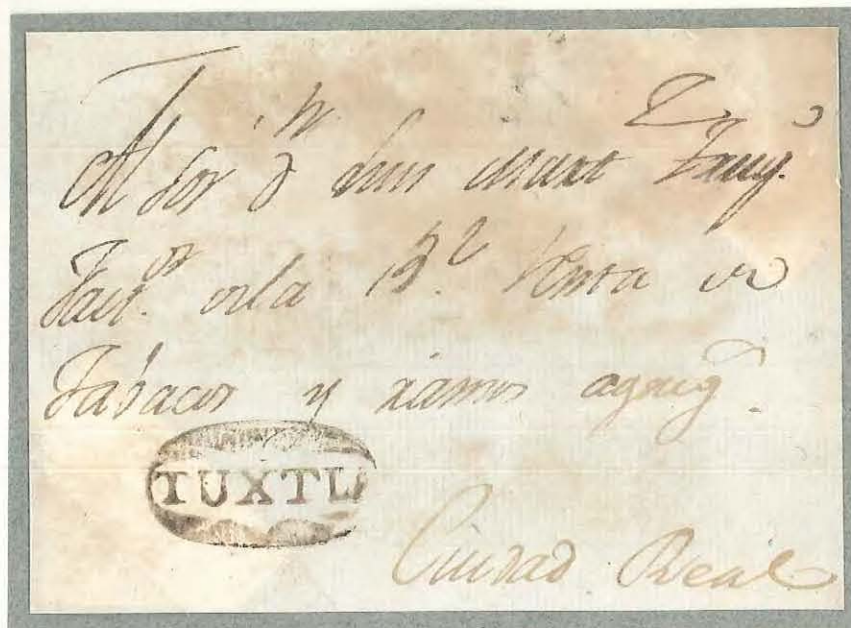
CHIAPAS
Tonalá



entire with enclosed oval "TONALÁ" rated (large handstamp) "2" reales, dated May 29, 1854 to Tuxtla
(note that the À has a distinctive accent mark unlike Harris Chiapas #52 or YB #CP71)

CHIAPAS

Tuxtla

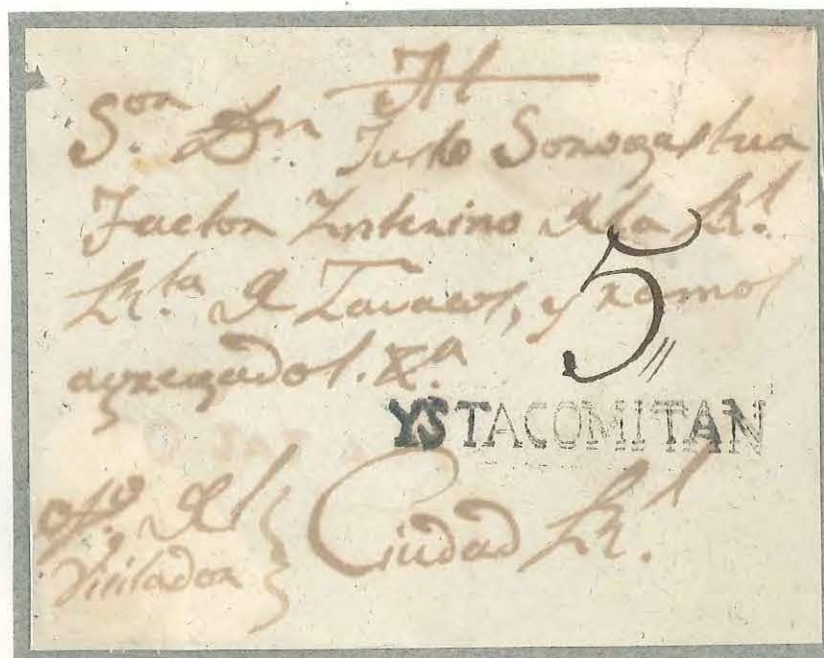


front with "TUXTLA" within oval c. 1805 rated "3" (reales)
to Luís Martinez Truxillo Agent of Tobacco Revenues in Ciudad Real

CHIAPAS
Ystacomitan



front with straight line "YSTACOMITAN" c. 1810 rated "3"
to Luís Martinez Truxillo: Agent of the Royal Revenues at Ciudad Real



front with straight line "YSTACOMITAN" c. 1815 rated "5"
to internal agent of the Royal Tobacco Revenue at Ciudad Real

CHIAPAS
Incoming Mail (España)



front with straight line "ESPANA" (red) c. 1815-20

unidentified mark with some characteristics of types VII & VIII (Camino)
from Coruña (a port city in northwestern Spain) to Chiapa

ESPAÑA

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City

Don J. B. O.
Alc. M. y M. O. de la
Prov. ~~GUATEMALA~~
Totonicapam

Remito á Vn la Relación
cada semestra de los Rcs. q. es
ten en estas cárceles y est. d.
mis causas p. q. se sirva
quenta con ella á la M. S.
y acusarme el recibo.

Dios 4^a Febr. ^{am} 10. de
no de 1803.

Verde mayor de
1802

J. M. Don Francisco
Savarretez

reverse side
(reduced)

front with straight line "GUATEMALA" dated January 10, 1803 (uncommon with date) to Totonicapam (Totonicapán)

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



front with straight line "GUATEMALA" rated 8 reales
to Omoa (Honduras)

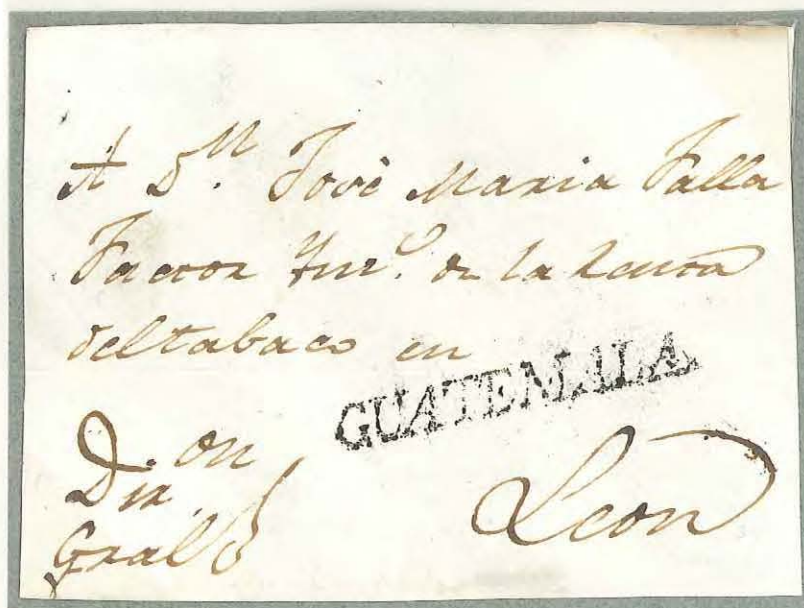
GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



front with straight line "GUATEMALA" c. 1797-1820
rated "20" (reales) for 5 ounces (8 rs.-1st oz. & 3 rs.ea. add'l oz

to José Maxiano Valenzuela
Tobacco Agent of the Province of León

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City

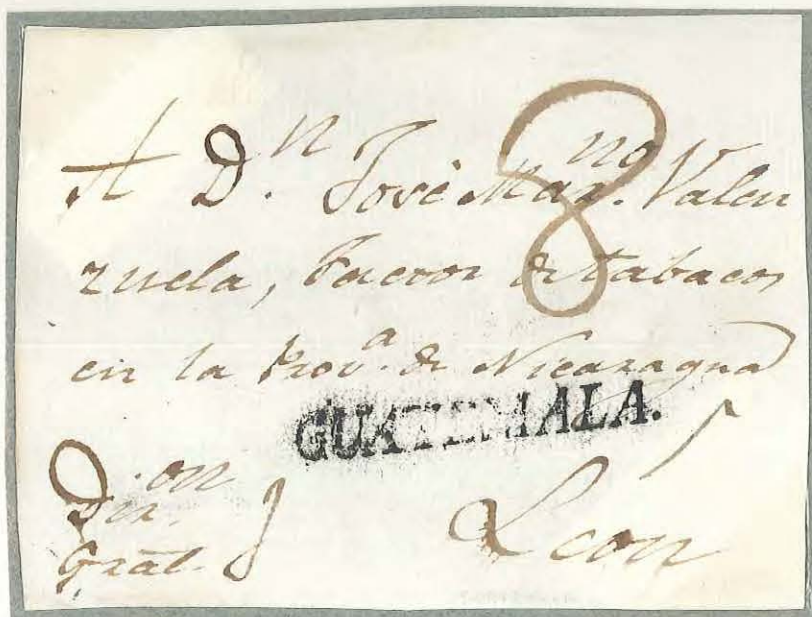


front with straight line "GUATEMALA" c. 1797-1820
to José Maria Tallor, Interior Agent of Tobacco Revenues in León



front with straight line "GUATEMALA" c. 1797-1820 from the Administrator General
to José de Aguilar, Military Commissioner of the Ammunition Works and ... , to Ciudad Real

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



front with straight line "GUATEMALA" c. 1797-1820 rated "8"(reales) denoting one full ounce
to José Maxiano Valenzuela, Tobacco Agent in the Province of Nicaragua, León



front with straight line "GUATEMALA" c. 1797-1820 rated "11"(reales) denoting two ounces
on watermarked paper to the Agency of Tobaccos, León

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



front with straight line "GUATEMALA" rated 4 reales
from the Justice of the Court to the Ministers of the Royal Treasury of Ciudad Real (Chiapas)

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



straight-line "GUATEMALA" and two-line "Factoria pral. de tabaca./del Estado De Guata."
to the Agent General of Tobacco at Mazatenango



straight-line "GUATEMALA" and three-line "DIR. GRAL./DEL TABACO/DE GUATEM." to Juan Miguel, administrator of Tobacco at Chiquimula

GUATEMALA
Official Mail



front with "R. AUDIENCIA/EN GUATEMALA" to Ahuachapán

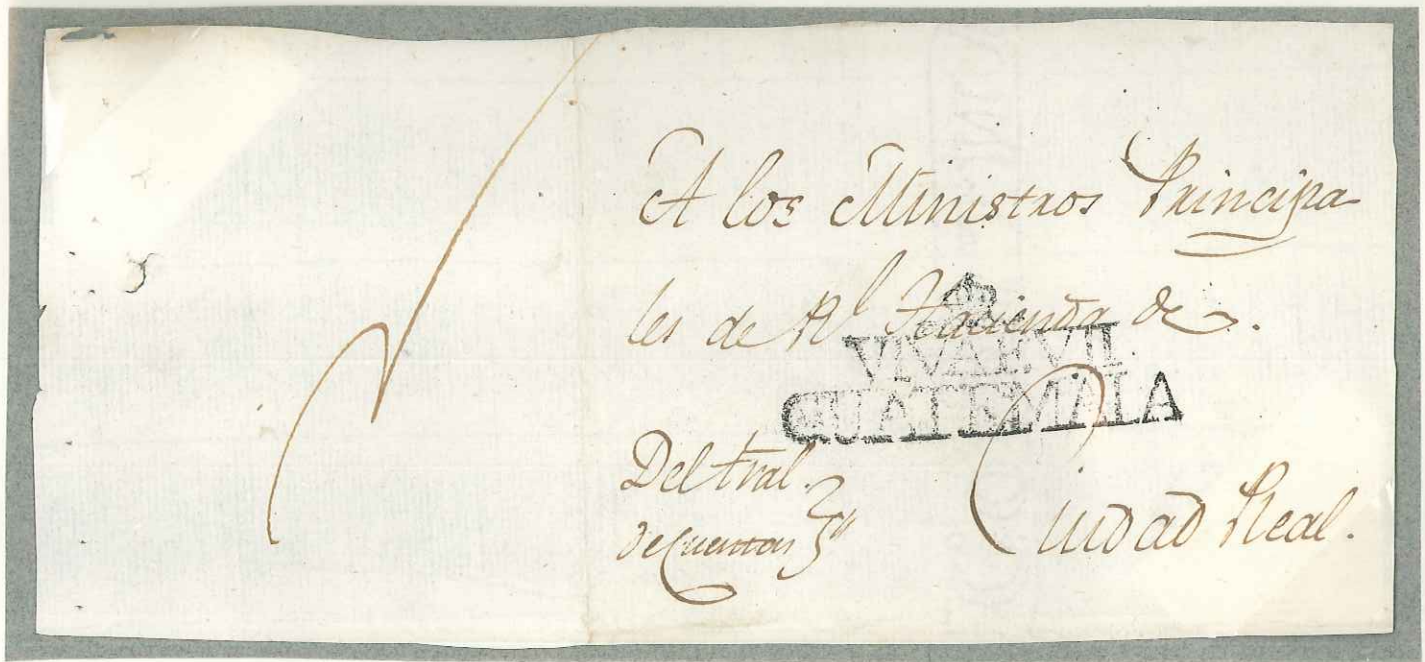
GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



front with patriotic marking (crown) over "VIVA F. VII GUATEMALA" c. 1812
symbolizing opposition to the forced abdication of the Spanish king, Fernando VII, by Napoleon in May, 1808.
to the Governor of the Treasury of Sonsonate (now part of El Salvador)

During the Napoleonic separation of Spain (1808-1814), Napoleon placed his brother Joseph on the Spanish throne; however, the Spaniards revolted causing the Peninsular War. The Central American colonies remained loyal to the Spanish Crown.

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



front with patriotic marking (crown) over "VIVA F. VII GUATEMALA" c. 1812
on watermarked paper to the Prime Ministers of the Royal Treasury at Ciudad Real



front with patriotic marking (crown) over "VIVA F. VII GUATEMALA" (red) c. 1812
to the Prime Ministers of the Royal Treasury at Ciudad Real

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



entire with boxed "GUATEMALA" dated August 24, 1849 to Antigua

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



entire with c.d.s. "GUATEMALA/6/MAR/1857" (green)
to Tomás Medina in Santa Ana (El Salvador)



entire with c.d.s. "GUATEMALA/19/FEB/1858" (green) and boxed script "FRANCO" (red)
to Tomás Medina in Santa Ana (El Salvador)

GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



entire with c.d.s. "CORREOS GUATEMALA/ABR/8/1868" (blue) and boxed "FRANCO" (red)
with rating mark "1" on back to Eduardo Wright in Santa Ana (El Salvador)



GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



entire with c.d.s. "CORREOS GUATEMALA/NOV/22/1867" (blue) and boxed "FRANCO" (red)
with rating mark "1" on back to Tomás Medina in Santa Ana (El Salvador)



GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



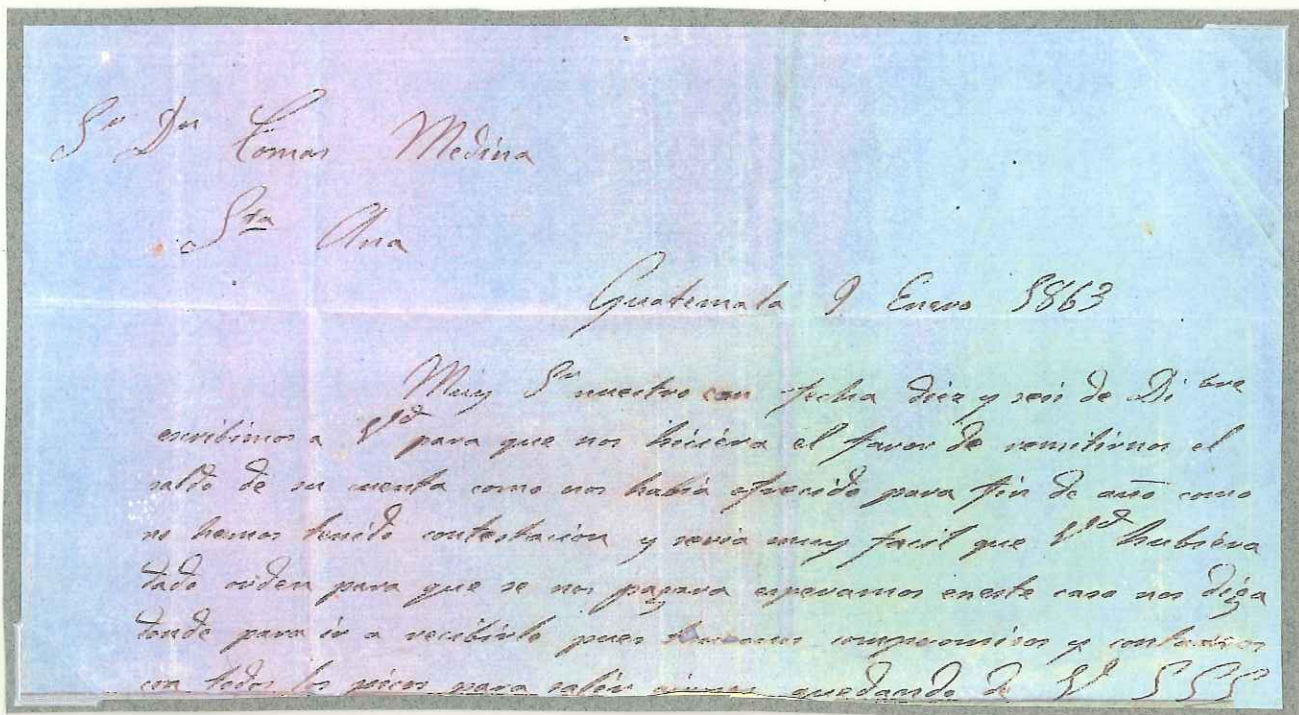
entire with c.d.s. "CORREOS GUATEMALA/FEB/28/1870" (blue) and boxed "FRANCO" (brown [oxidized red])
with New York receiving mark "N Y STEAMSHIP 10/APR/9" and rating mark "1" on back



GUATEMALA
Guatemala City



entire dated January 9, 1863 c.d.s. "GUATEMALA 1863/ENE/12" (a later date than in the CAPH book)
to Tomás Medina in Santa Ana (El Salvador)

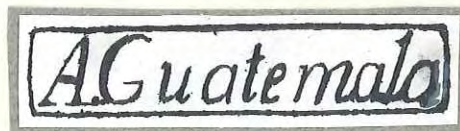


reverse side (reduced)

GUATEMALA
Antigua



front with boxed "A. Guatemala" c. 1807-1862 on watermarked paper
to Miguel Palomo, the Tobacco Agent in Quesaltenango



GUATEMALA
Chimaltenango



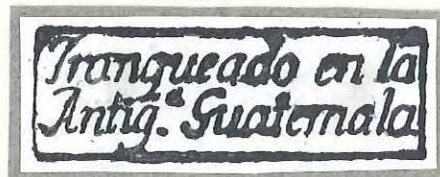
front with "Franco" and "Chimalt^{go}" and Official Correspondence marking on watermarked paper dated 1855 to Guatemala City



GUATEMALA
Antigua



front with two-line boxed "Franqueado en la/Antig. Guatemala" c. 1815-1861
with Official Correspondence marking to the Supreme Court of Guatemala in Guatemala City



GUATEMALA
Chiquimula



front with boxed "Chiquimula" c. 1798-1822 rated "9" (reales) on watermarked paper
to the Director General of Administration in Guatemala from the Administration of Chiquimula



GUATEMALA
Chiquimula



front with boxed "CHIKIMULA" c. 1822-1858 and boxed "FRANCO" with Official Correspondence marking to the Officials of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Guatemala



GUATEMALA
Chiquimula



front with boxed "CHIKIMULA" c. 1822-1858 and boxed "FRANCO" with Official Correspondence marking to the Officials of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Guatemala

GUATEMALA
Chiquimula



front with boxed "CHIQUIMULA" c. 1822-1858 and boxed "FRANCO" with Official Correspondence marking to the Officials of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Guatemala

GUATEMALA
Huehuetenango



front with "Guégüet." and "Franco" and Official Correspondence marking c. 1855
to the Scribe of the Supreme Court of Justice, Guatemala City



GUATEMALA
Mazatenango



front with boxed "Mazatenango" c. 1808-1860 rated "8" (reales) denoting one ounce
on watermarked paper to the Clerk of the Chamber of Joaquín José de Calvo from the Court of Suchitepéquez

GUATEMALA
Quezaltenango

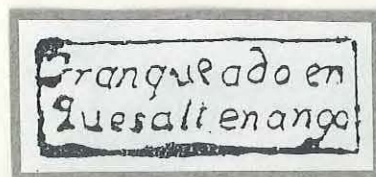


front with (crown) over "V F.7" with two line framed oval "QUEZAL/TENANGO" (red) c. 1809-1815
to "Goatem. a" (old spelling of Guatemala City)

GUATEMALA
Quezaltenango



front with two line boxed "Franqueado en/Quesaltenango" c. 1833-1861 and Official Correspondence marking on watermarked paper to the Supreme Court in Guatemala City



GUATEMALA

Salamá



front with boxed script "Franco" and boxed "SALAMA" c. 1854 and Official Correspondence marking on watermarked paper to the Legislative Scribe of the Supreme Court of Justice, Guatemala City



GUATEMALA
Zacapa



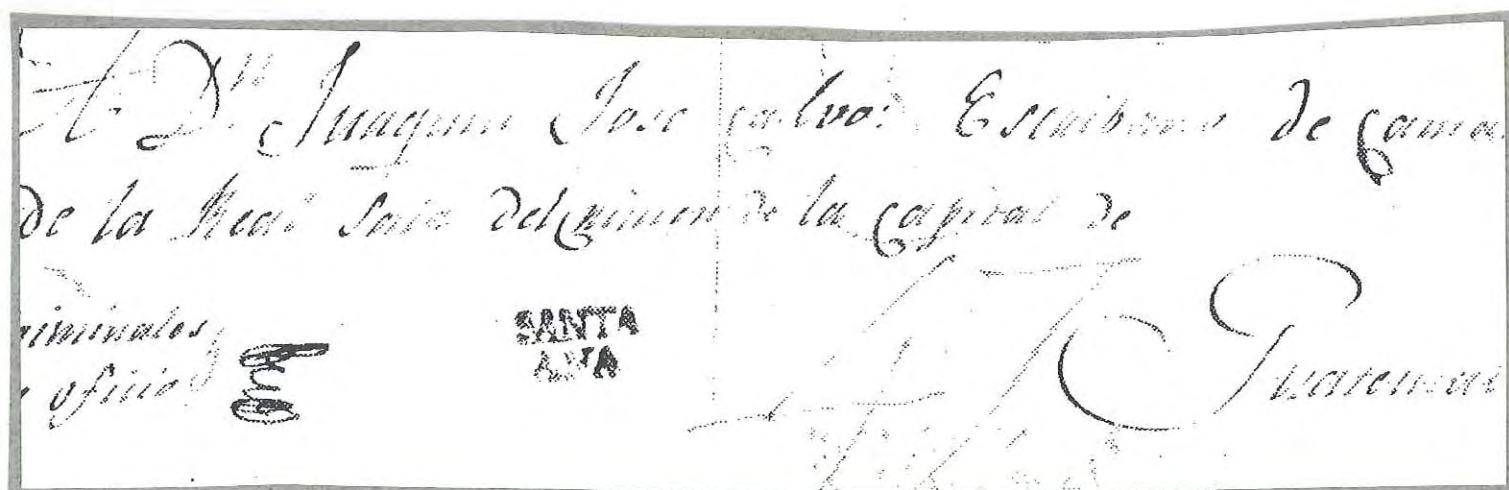
front with boxed "ZACAPA" c. 1815-1858 and rate marking "4" (red) and Official Correspondence marking to the Director General of Tobaccos in Guatemala City



GUATEMALA
Official Mail



turned' wrapper with "R. AUDIENCIA/EN GUATEMALA" and framed "Franqueado/en Guatemala" to Santa Ana on front (c. 1809)



and "SANTA/ANA" to Guatemala City on reverse (reduced copy)

GUATEMALA
Registered Mail (Guatemala City)

Registered package front dated June 20 1874 with
two-line boxed "Certificacn. a Guatemala/Sale en" (red)
This new registration handstamp is almost an exact
copy of those used in 1814.



Certificac.ⁿ a Guatemala.
Sale en

the 1814 registration handstamp

GUATEMALA
Receiving Mark (Guatemala City)



straight-line "GUATEMALA." as receiving mark
to "N."(ew) "Guatemala." (City)

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (crown marking)



Spain to Guatemala City c. 1815 with coat-of-arms seal [25mm x 28½mm] (official mail)

A decree of December 7, 1716 required the royal coat-of-arms in black on official mail.
About 20 different versions are known.

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (crown marking)



Cadiz to Guatemala City c. 1803-1813 with coat-of-arms seal [25mm x 28mm] (official mail)
carried by the Brigantine Cazador

The Cazador was a mail-carrying vessel serving Cadiz-Havana, Vera Cruz
and other ports during the time frame noted above

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (crown marking)



Spain to Guatemala City c. 1815 with coat-of-arms seal [22mm x 25mm] (official mail)

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (crown marking)



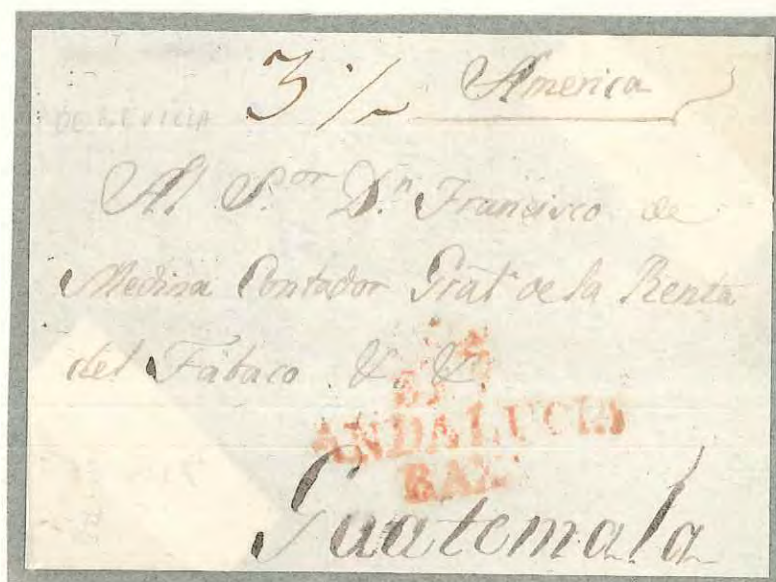
Spain to Guatemala City c. 1815 with coat-of-arms seal [24½mm x 28½mm] (official mail)

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (crown marking)



Spain to Guatemala City c. 1815 with coat-of-arms seal [23mm x 27mm] (official mail)

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (origination marking) - Andalucia Baja



Incoming mail from Seville "(crown)/SEVA/ANDALUCIA/BAXA" (Baja), Lower Anadalucía province, c. 1813, probably via Cádiz to Guatemala, rated 3½ reales upon arrival to Francisco Medina, Accountant of Tobacco



GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (origination marking) - Cadiz



cover with straight-line "CADIZ" (red) dated September 17, 1819
noted "Yndias" (to the Americas) via Veracruz to "Goatemala" (old spelling for Guatemala City)

CADIZ

GUATEMALA

Incoming Mail (origination & transit markings) - Lumbreras Soria



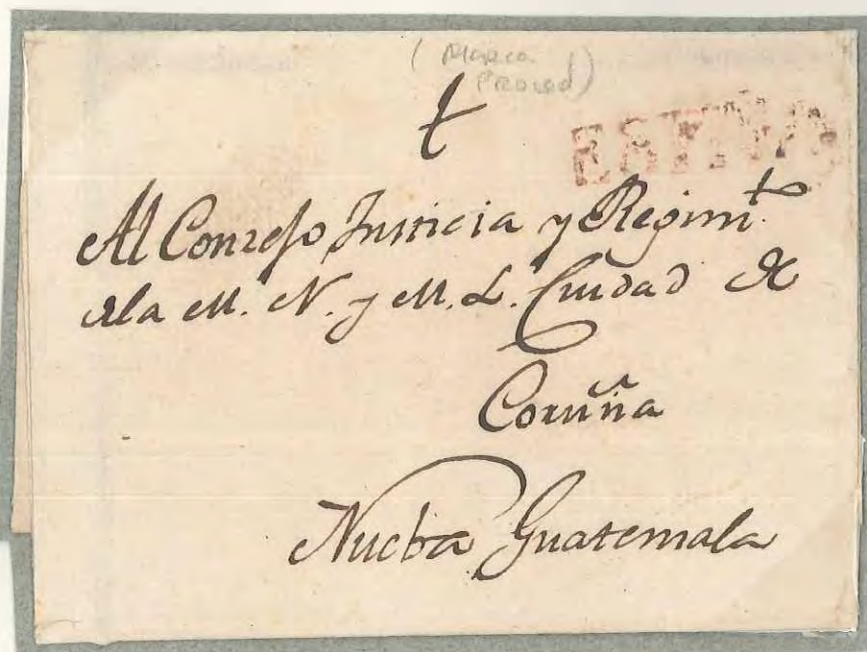
Incoming mail from "LUMB.S SORIA", the town of Lumbreras in the province of Soria, marked "ESPAÑA" (possibly at Havana) via Coruña to Guatemala dated December 28, 1802 (uncommon with date) (earlier than in Tizón & Guinovart)



reverse side (reduced)

GUATEMALA

Incoming Mail (origination or transit marking) - España



Incoming mail marked "ESPAÑA" (possibly at Havana) via Coruña to Guatemala with an Inquisition "t" (cross) mark (a customary marking during the colonial period)

GUATEMALA

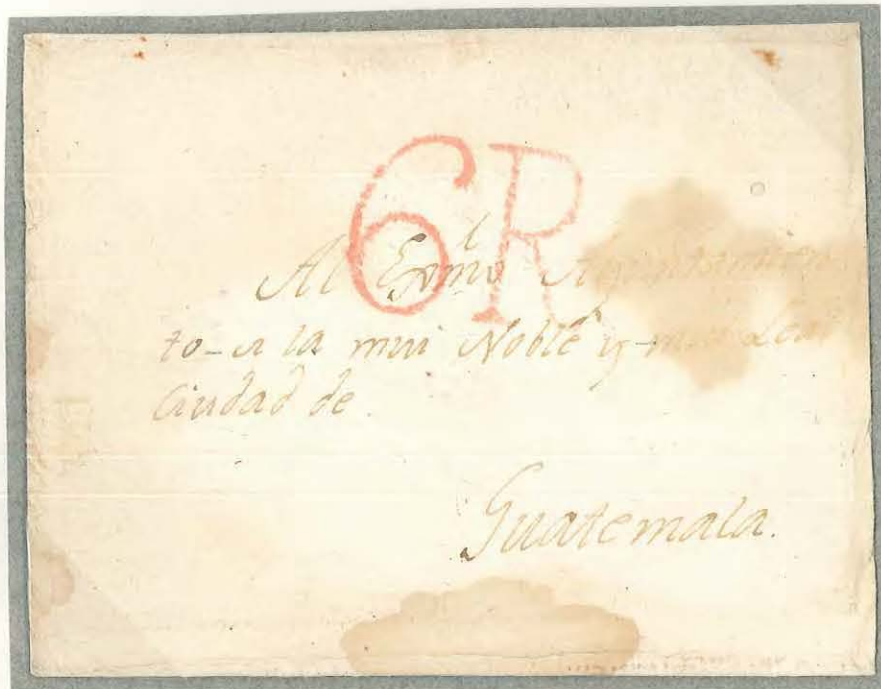
Incoming Mail (origination or transit marking) - Islas de Barlovento



two-line "ISLAS DE/BARLOVENTO" (brown) c. 1820 (Camino type IV)
from Havana via the ship "...enda Carolina" to "Goatemala" (old spelling for Guatemala City)

ISLAS DE
BARLOVENTO

GUATEMALA
Incoming Mail (rate marking)



rate marking "6 R" (red) (probably originating in Spain) to Guatemala City

GUATEMALA
Outgoing Mail (transit markings)



letter dated June 20, 1860 from "F. DEJEAN" (personal handstamp) in Guatemala to Bordeaux,
received by British P.O. at "PANAMA/JY 7/1860/A" then via Royal Mail Steam Packet
to "60/JY 28/LONDON/JS" rated with G. B. accountancy stamp "GB/1F 60"
and entry mark "ANGL. CALAIS D/29/JUIL/60" via "PARIS (60)/29/JUIL/60" to "BORDEAUX (32)/30/JUIL./60"

GUATEMALA
Outgoing Mail (receipt rate markings)



folded letter sheet dated December 31, 1867 and received in New York February 6, 1868 from Guatemala City via overland at Panamá and postmarked "STEAMSHIP 20" upon arrival at N.Y.



folded letter sheet dated July 26, 1864 and received in New York September 5, 1864 from Guatemala City via forwarding agent at San José, Guatemala overland at Panamá and postmarked "STEAMSHIP 10" upon arrival at N.Y.

HONDURAS
Comayagua

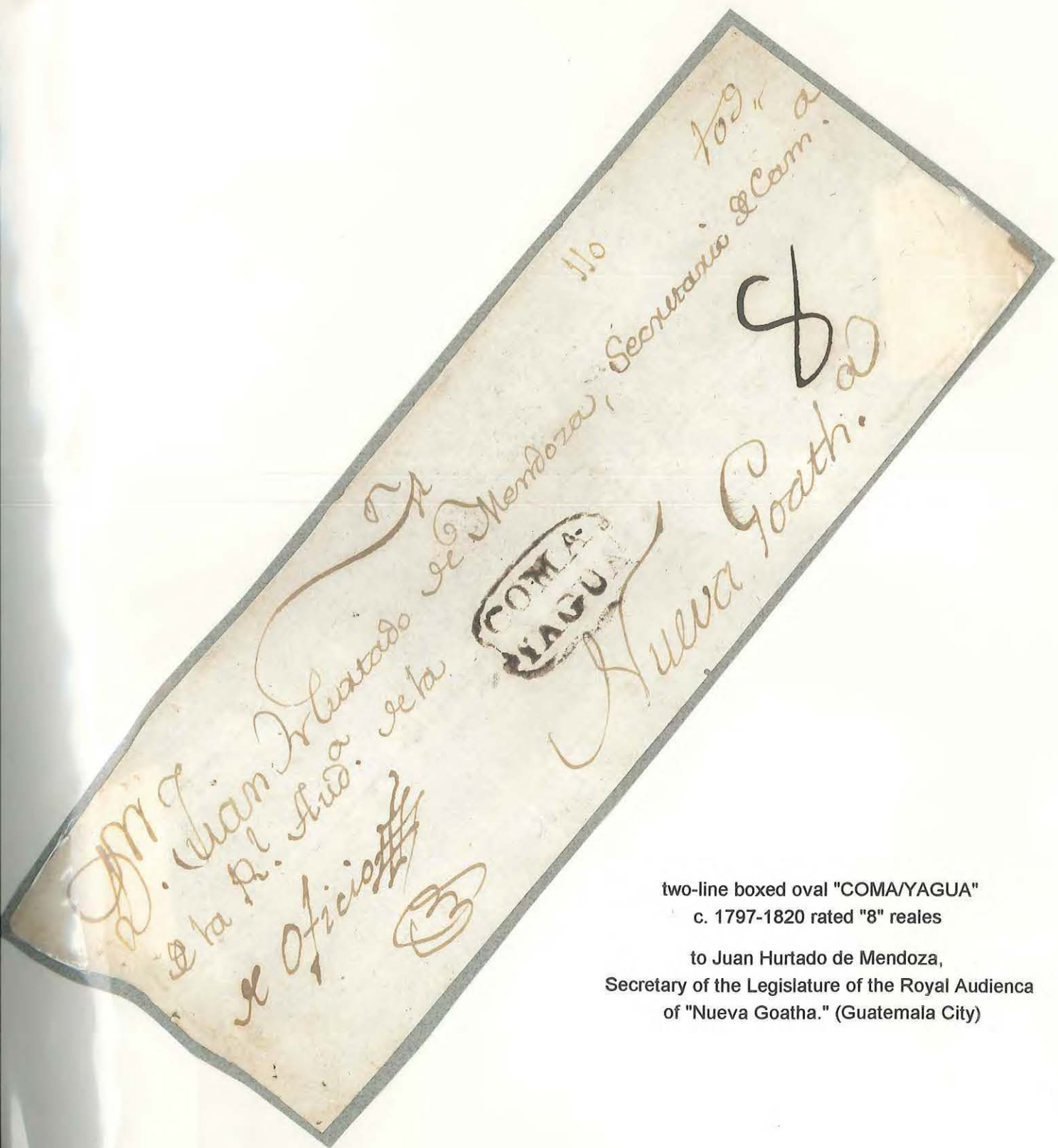
two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA"

c. 1797-1820 rated "16" reales

to José Velasco
Director of the Royal Revenue
of Tobaccos and Gunpowder of Guatemala City



HONDURAS
Comayagua



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA"

c. 1797-1820 rated "8" reales

to Juan Hurtado de Mendoza,
Secretary of the Legislature of the Royal Audiencia
of "Nueva Goatha." (Guatemala City)

HONDURAS

Comayagua



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA" c. 1797-1820 rated "9" reales
to Francisco Medina, Director of the Royal Revenue of Tobaccos and Gunpowder, Guatemala City



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA" c. 1797-1820 rated "6" reales
to Francisco Medina, Director of the Royal Revenue of Tobaccos and Gunpowder, Guatemala City

HONDURAS
Comayagua



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA" c. 1797-1820 rated "12" reales
to Antonio Jurado, Administator of Tobaccos of Truxillo



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA" c. 1797-1820 to Ciudad Real

HONDURAS
Comayagua



two-line boxed oval "COMA/YAGUA" c. 1797-1820 rated "4" reales
to the Administator of the Royal Revenue of Tobaccos of Olancho (now Juticalpa)

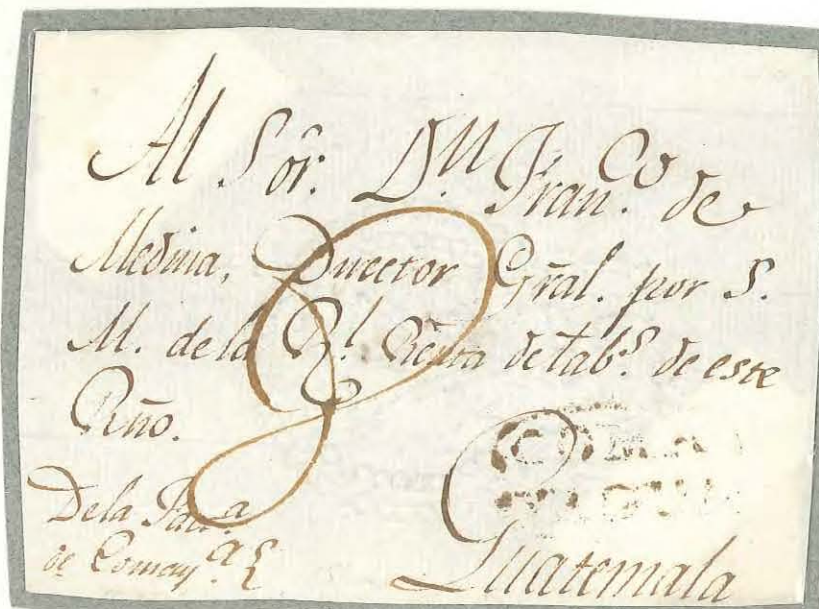


two-line boxed oval "COMA/YAGUA" c. 1797-1820
to the Administator of the Royal Revenue of Tobaccos of Olanchito

HONDURAS
Comayagua



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA" c. 1797-1820 rated "11" reales
to Francisco Medina, Director of the Royal Revenue of Tobaccos and Gunpowder, Guatemala City



two-line boxed oval "COMAYAGUA" c. 1797-1820 rated "8" reales
to Francisco Medina, Director of the Royal Revenue of Tobaccos, Guatemala City

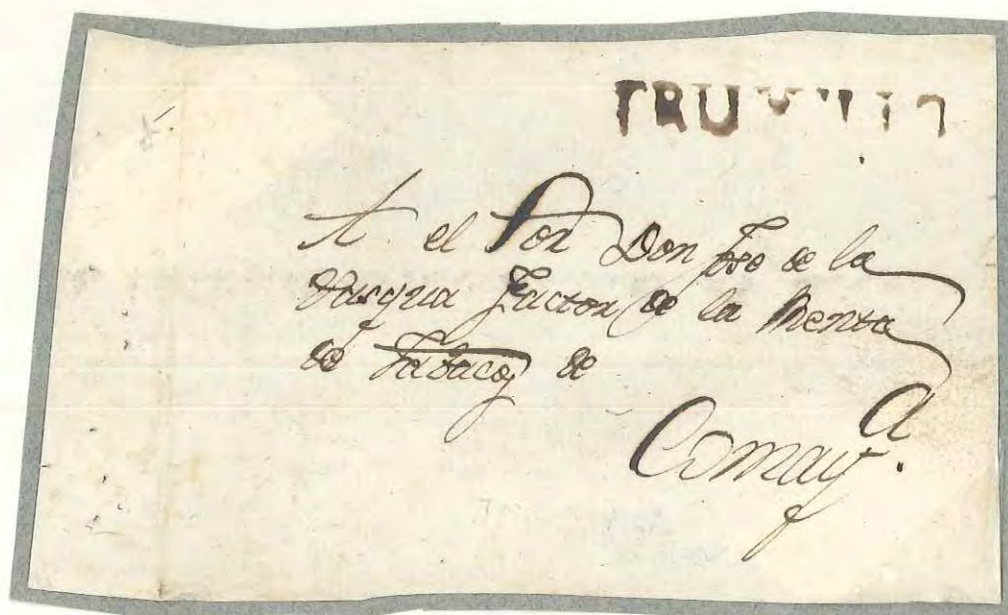
HONDURAS
Tegucigalpa

two-line boxed oval "TEGU/SIGALPA" c. 1810

to Felipe de Alvarado,
Legislative Scribe to the Supreme Government, Guatemala City



HONDURAS
Trujillo



straight-line "TRUXILLO" c. 1811-1821 to José de la Vasquez, Revenue Agent of Tobacco, Comayagua

TRUXILLO

HONDURAS

Incoming Mail (origination or transit marking) - Islas de Barlovento

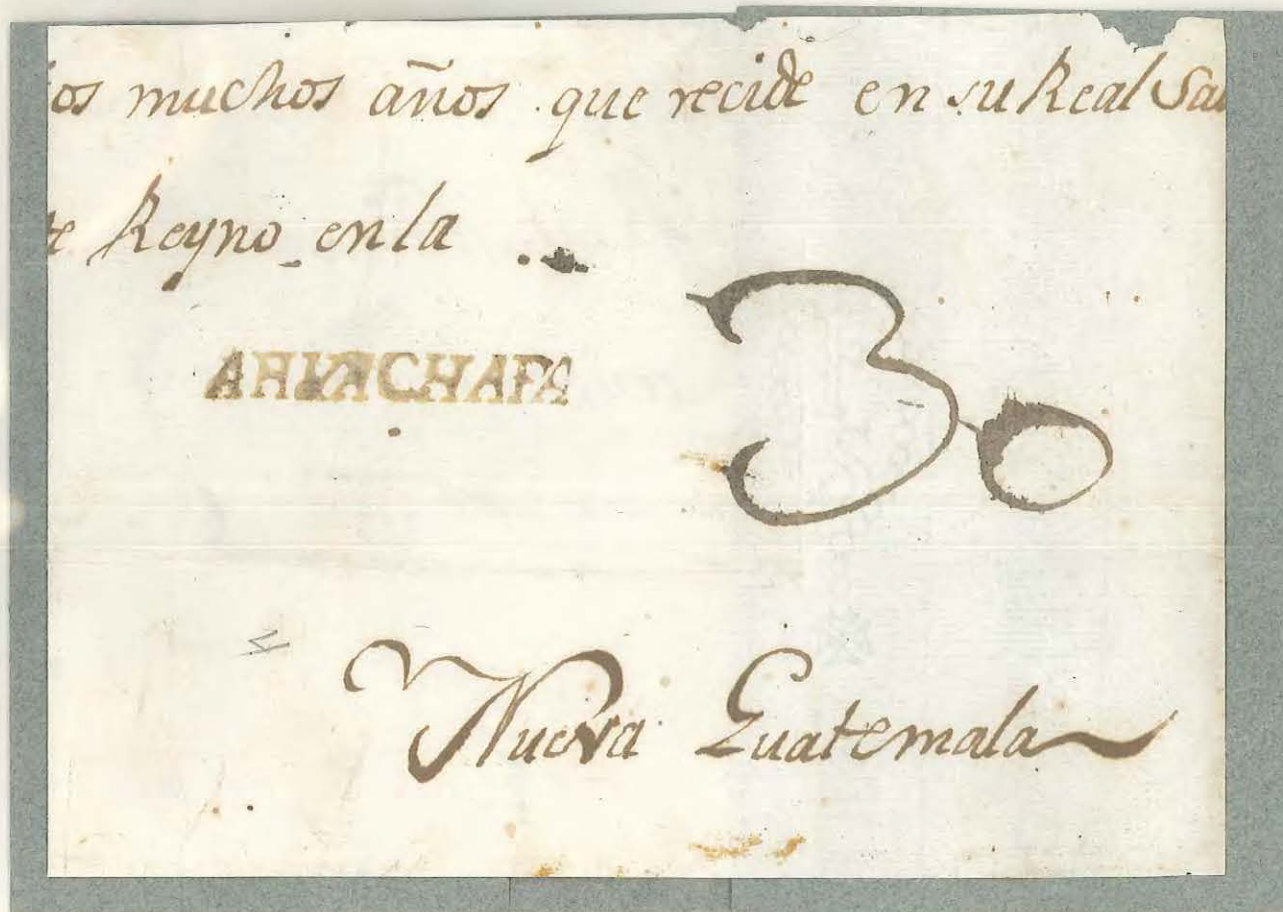


front with "ISLAS DE BARLOVENTO" ('faded' red), [type III-Camino], c. 1798-1803,
(probably indicating a West Indies origin, possibly Havana)

to Juan Ortíz de Letora, our renown seaman, in Trujillo, Honduras

**ISLAS DE
BARLOVENTO.**

EL SALVADOR
Ahuachapán



front with "AHVACHAPA" c. 1800 (now in El Salvador) rated "30" (reales)

to Our King's Official long-time Guardian residing in our Royal Palace of Criminal Justice
for the hand of the Legislative Scribe Juakin José Calvo
"Nueva Guatemala" (Guatemala City)

EL SALVADOR
Ahuachapán



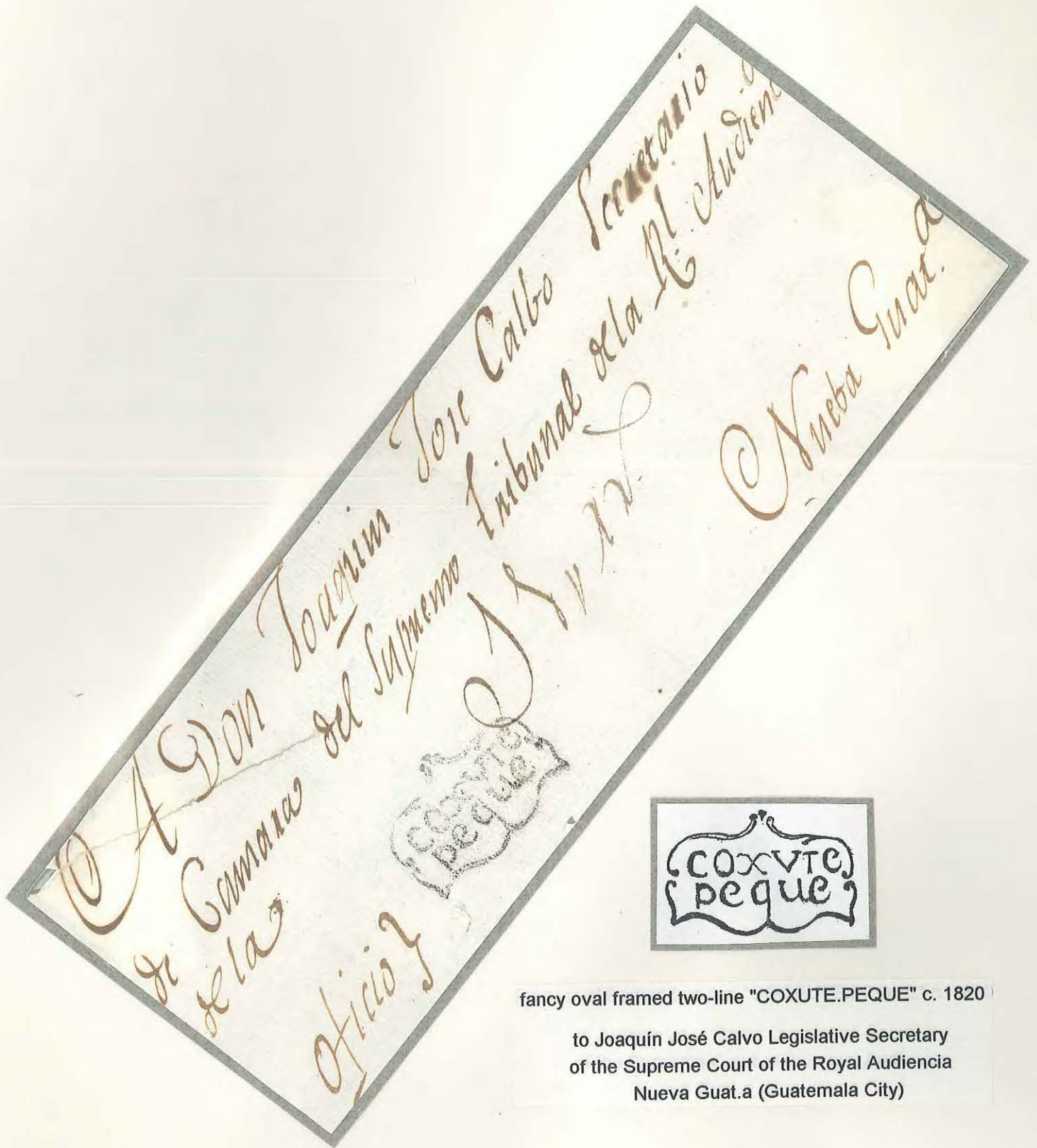
front with "AHVACHAPA" (now in El Salvador) rated "14" (reales)
via Asunción to New Guatemala (Guatemala City) c. 1800

EL SALVADOR
Chalatenango



front with straight-line "Chalatenango" c. 1810
to the Secretary of the Criminal Court of the Royal Audiencia, Joaquín Calvo, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
Cojutepeque



fancy oval framed two-line "COXUTE.PEQUE" c. 1820

to Joaquín José Calvo Legislative Secretary
of the Supreme Court of the Royal Audiencia
Nueva Guat.a (Guatemala City)

EL SALVADOR
Metapán



front with "METAPAN" rated "11" (reales)
on watermarked paper

to Jose Francisco Garanuete Legislative Scribe
New Guatemala (Guatemala City) c. 1778-1808

EL SALVADOR
Metapán



front with "METAPAN" c. 1778-1808
rated "12" (reales)

to Juan Hurtado, Legislative Scribe
Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
Metapán

Al Sr. D. Manuel Vela Jacón rla Real
Renta r Jacón
Dominio
r Metapán
METAPAN
San Vicente

front with "METAPAN" c. 1778-1808, rated "28" (reales)

to Manuel Vela
Royal Accountant of Tobacco Revenues
San Vicente (El Salvador)

EL SALVADOR
San Miguel



fancy oval framed two-line "SAN/MIGUEL" c. 1820
rated "23" (reales)

for José Maria Martínez, Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
San Miguel



oval framed two-line "SAN/MIGUEL" to (New) Guatemala City c. 1820 rated "6" (reales)



oval framed two-line "SAN/MIGUEL" to (New) Guatemala City c. 1820 rated "16" (reales)

EL SALVADOR
San Miguel



straight-line "S. MIGUEL" c. 1810

to the Provincial Magistrate
San Salvador (?)

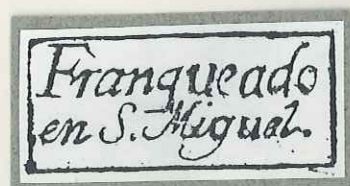
EL SALVADOR
San Miguel



straight-line "S. MIGUEL" to (New) Guatemala City
c. 1810 rated "22" (reales)

to our King's General Director in the Royal Audiencia (court)

EL SALVADOR
San Miguel



boxed two-line "Franquizado/en S. Miguel." c. 1820

for the Legislative Secretary Joaquín Calvo
Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with fancy oval two-line "SAN/SALVADOR"
c. 1790-1807 rated "6" (reales)

from the Government in San Salvador
to José Díaz González
Scribe of the Royal Tribunal, Guatemala (City)

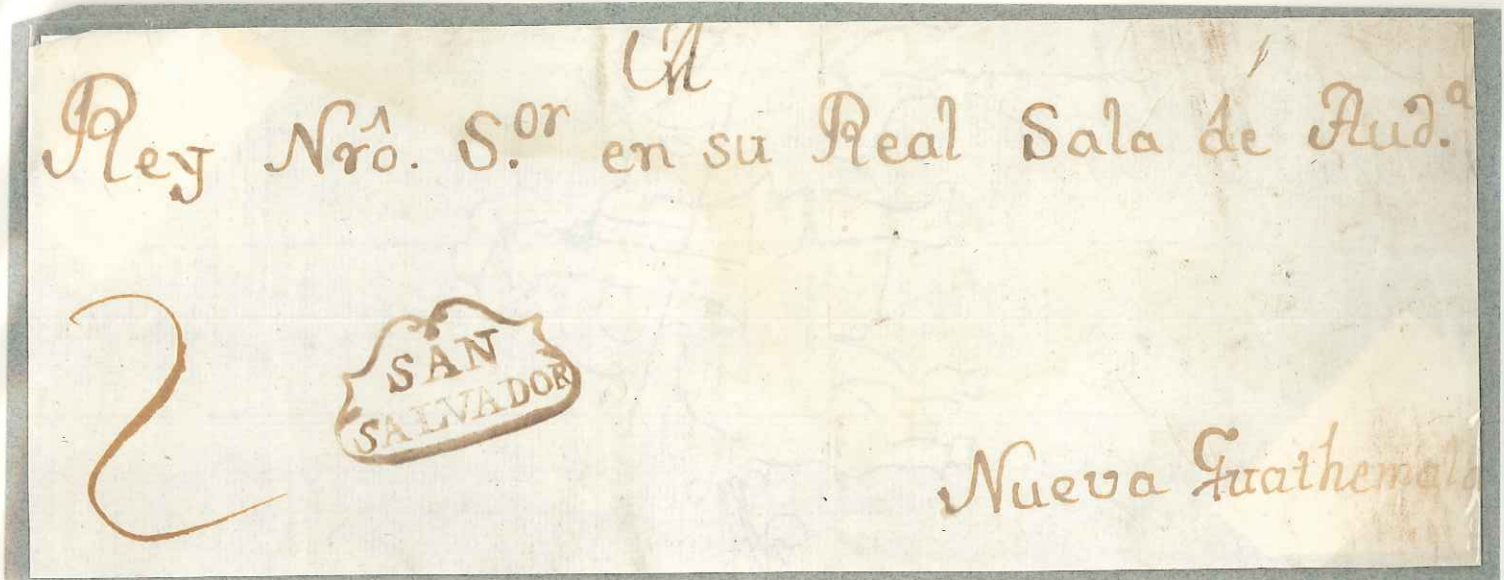
EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with fancy oval two-line "SAN/SALVADOR"
c. 1790-1807 rated "14" (reales)

from the "Yntend.a" (Province) of San Salvador
to the Royal Palace of Criminal Justice
for the hand of Juan Torro
Legislative Scribe, Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with fancy oval two-line "SAN/SALVADOR", c. 1790-1807
to Our King's Officials in the Royal Palace, "Nueva Guathemala" (Guatemala City)



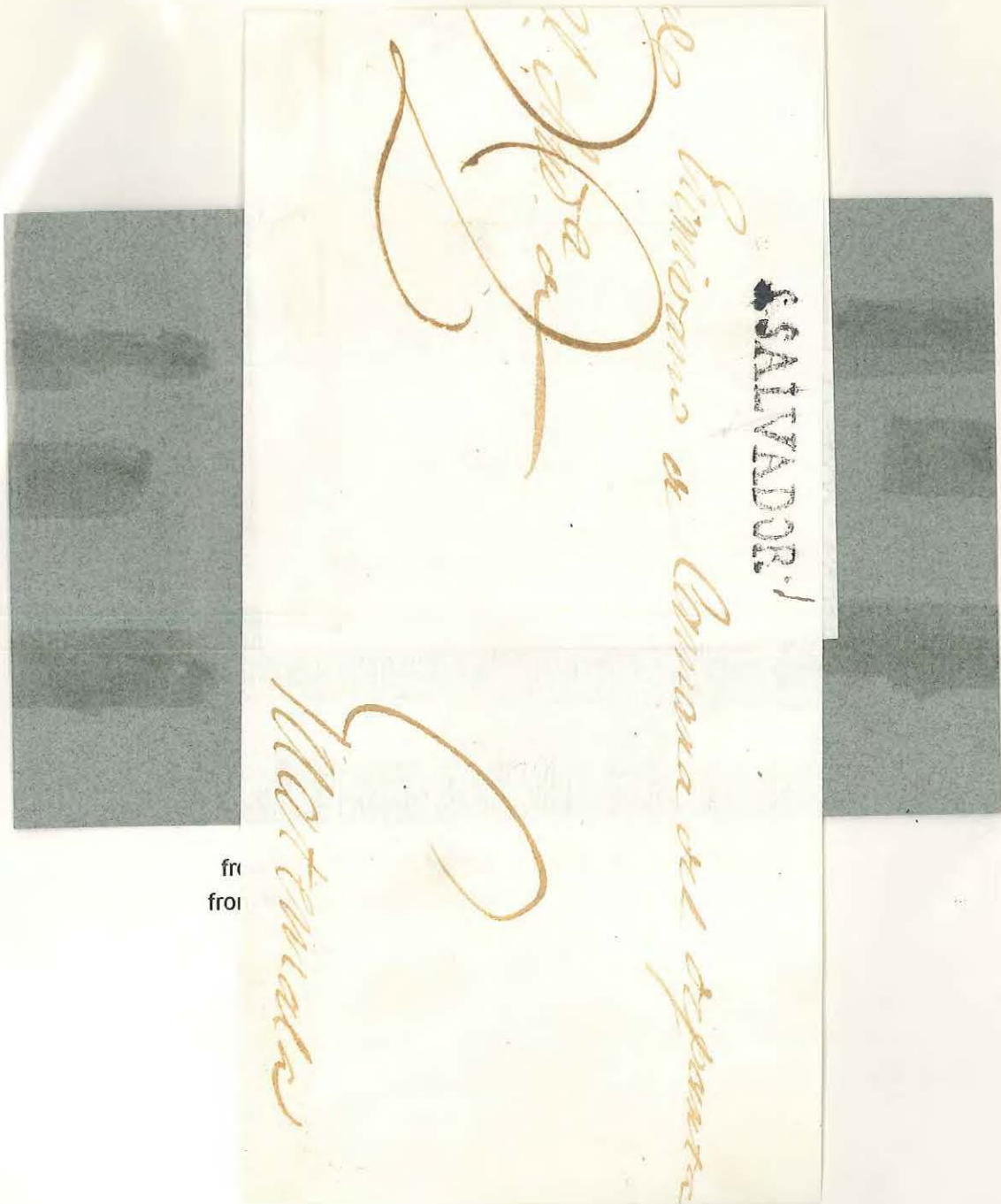
front with fancy oval two-line "SAN/SALVADOR", c. 1790-1807 rated "20" (reales)
to Juan Bartolome Torro, Legislative Secretary of the Royal Palace of Criminal Justice, "Goat.a" (Guatemala City)

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with oval two-line "SAN/SALVADOR", c. 1790-1807 rated "14" (reales)
to Rafael de San Juan, Subdelegate of the Governor and Receiver of Excavations of San Miguel

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



fr
froi

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with boxed two-line "Franqueado en/San Salvador to Guatemala City, c. 1807
to the Secretary of the Legislature of the Royal Audiencia, Juquin Calvo, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



FRANQUEADO:
EN SAN SALVADOR

front with boxed two-line
"FRANQUEADO/EN SAN SALVADOR", c. 1820
to the Supreme General of the Royal Audiencia
for the Legislative Secretary Joaquín Calvo
Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with boxed two-line "FRANQUEADO/EN SAN SALVADOR" to Guatemala City, c. 1820
to the Secretary of the Legislature of the Royal Audiencia, Joaquín Calvo, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



front with boxed two-line
"FRANQUEADO/EN SAN SALVADOR"
to Guatemala City, c. 1820

to Francisco de Paula Vildres,
Regent of the Royal Audiencia territory
and judge of sales at Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
San Salvador



cover with boxed "S. SALVADOR" with framed ornamental "FRANQUEADO", c. 1851-1865
and Official Correspondence fancy mark to Antigua Guatemala

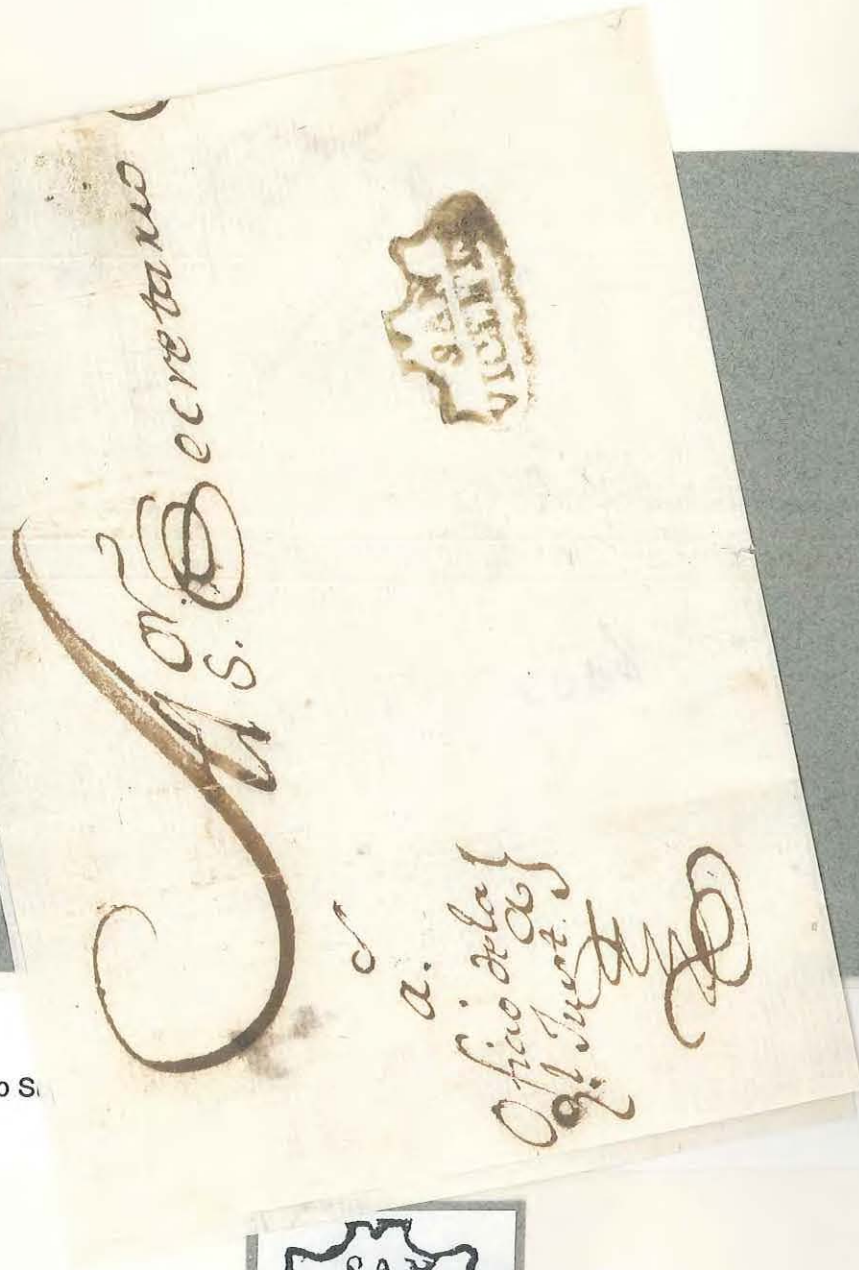
EL SALVADOR
San Vicente



"S. VICENTE", c. 1820 rated "42" (reales)
to Francisco de Medina, Director General of the Royal Tobacco Revenues, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
San Vicente

to S.



EL SALVADOR
Santa Ana



front with fancy oval two-line "SANTA/ANA"
c. 1805 rated "11" (reales)

for Juaoquin Calvo, Secretary of the Legislature
"N. Guatemala" (City)

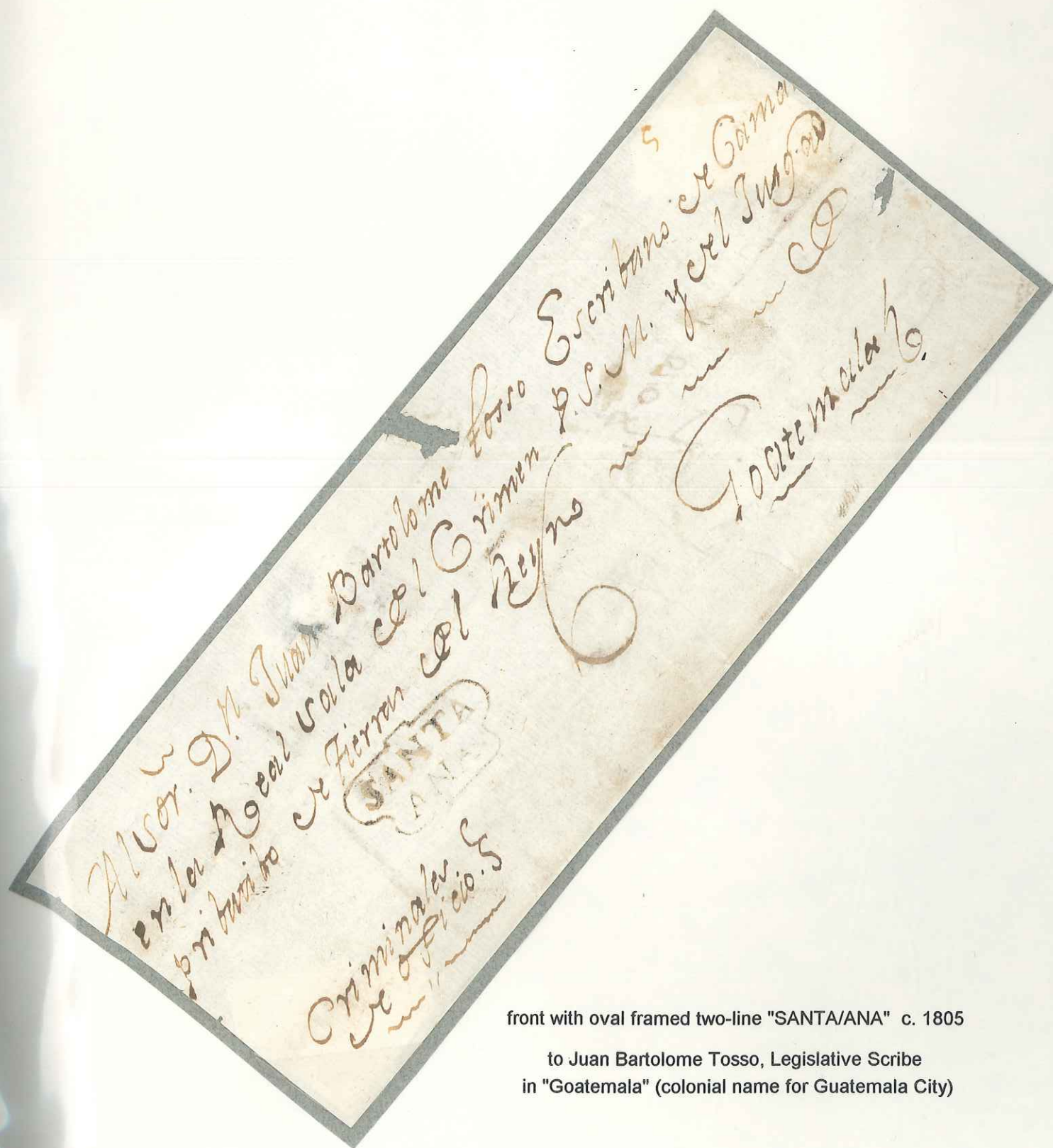
EL SALVADOR
Santa Ana



front with oval framed two-line "SANTA/ANA" c. 1807

to the Royal Master in the Hall of Justice by hand
to the Secretary of the Legislature, Joaquin Calvo, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
Santa Ana



front with oval framed two-line "SANTA/ANA" c. 1805

to Juan Bartolome Tosso, Legislative Scribe
 in "Goatemala" (colonial name for Guatemala City)

EL SALVADOR
Santa Ana



boxed two-line "Franqueado/en Santa Ana" c. 1820

for the Legislative Secretary Joaquín Calvo
 Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
Santa Ana



front with two-line "SANTA/ANA" c. 1815
to Joaquín Calvo, Secretary of the Legislature, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
Sensuntepeque



boxed two-line "Sensun./tepeque", c. 1816
rated "8" reales

to Francisco Bendigo
Royal Legislative Secretary of Criminal Justice
to "Goatemala" (City)

EL SALVADOR
Sonsonate



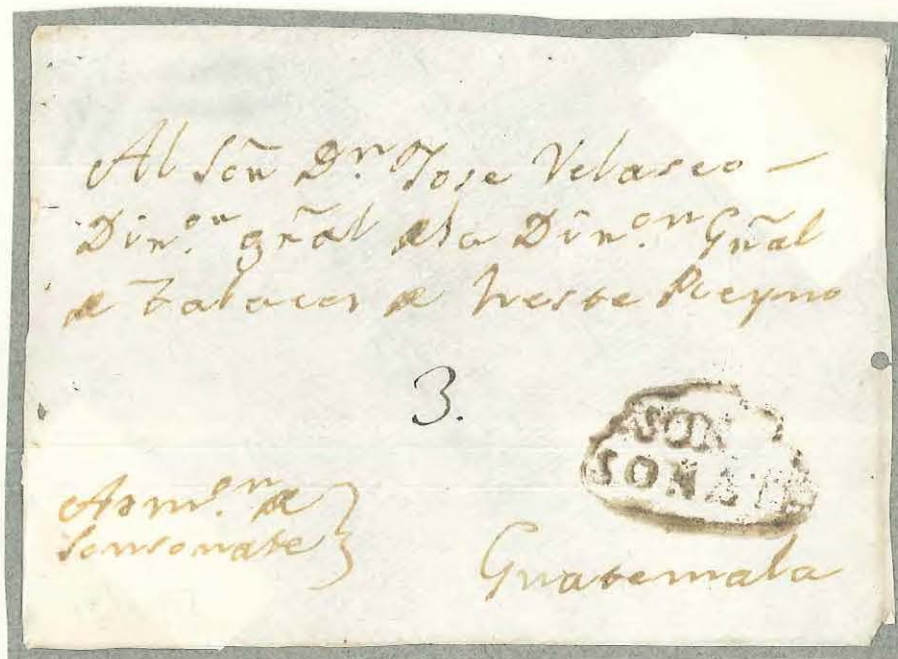
oval framed two-line "SON/SONATE", c. 1781-1807
to José Velasco, Director General of Tabaccos from Guatemala City



Santa Ana

front with two-line "SANTA/ANA" (brown) c. 1815
to Pedro Miguel Lopez of Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
Sonsonate



oval framed two-line "SON/SONATE", c. 1781-1807
to José Velasco, Director General of Tabaccos, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
Sonsonate



oval framed two-line "SON/SONATE"
c. 1781-1807 rated "32" (reales)

to Francisco Bendigo
Royal Legislative Secretary of Criminal Justice
Guatem.a (Guatemala City)

EL SALVADOR
Usulután



front with "USULUTAN", c. 1815 rated "12" (reales)
to Juan Hurtado de Mendoza Civil Secretary in the Royal Audiencia of this Kingdom, Guatemala City

EL SALVADOR
Zacatecoluca



boxed two-line "ZACATE/COLVCA." c. 1810
rated "6" (reales)

to Juan Miguel Rubio y Gemmir.
Chancellor of the Royal Audiencia of this Kingdom
N.va (New) Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
Zacatecoluca

Al Rey Nuestro Señor en
su Real Sala del Crimen q. reside en
Guatemala

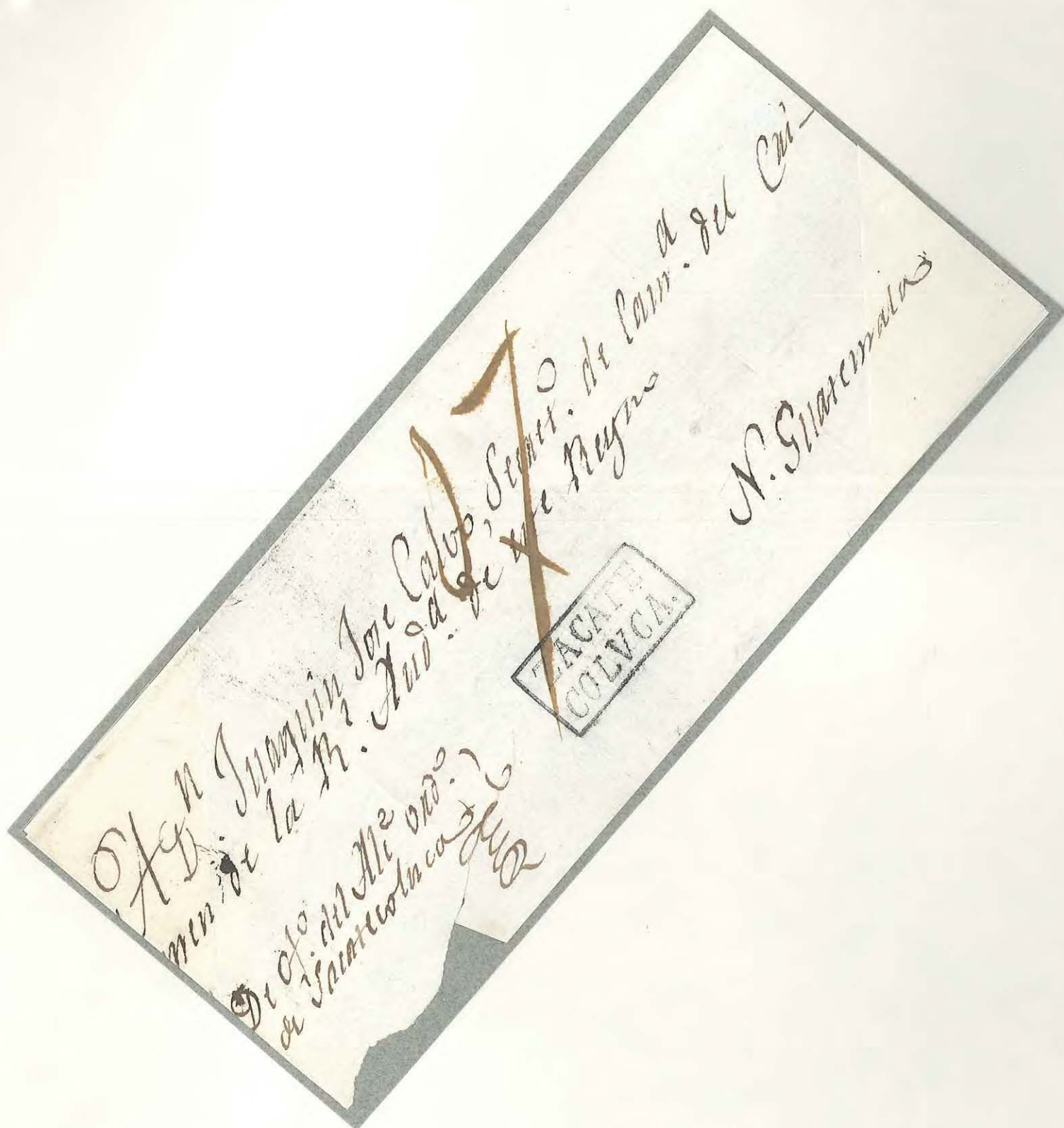
Por mano de su Ex.
de Cam. D. Juan José
Criminal de Of. del
Jurg. de Zacatecoluca

ZACATE
COLVCA

boxed two-line "ZACATE/COLVCA" c. 1810
rated "15" (reales)

to Our King's Official in his Royal Palace of
Criminal Courts residing in Guatemala (City)

EL SALVADOR
Zacatecoluca



boxed two-line "ZACATE/COLVCA" to (New) Guatemala City c. 1820 rated "17" (reales)
to the Secretary of the Legislature of the Royal Audiencia, Juakin Calvo, (New) Guatemala City

Zacatecoluca



boxed two-line "ZACATE/COLVCA" c. 1810 rated "13" (reales)
to Juan José Sanavia, Secretary of the Legislature of the Royal Audiencia, Guatemala City

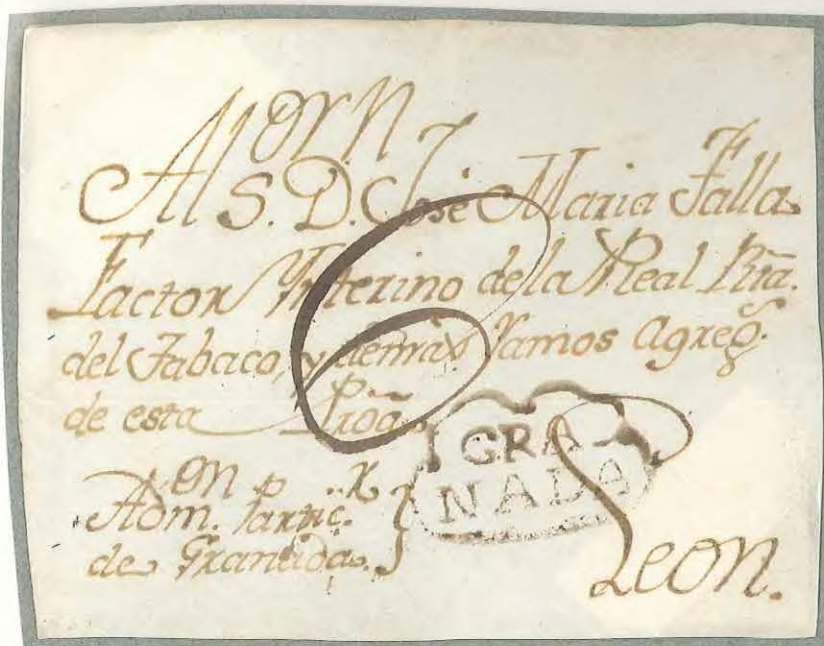
NICARAGUA
Granada



front with framed oval two-line "GRANADA"(sepia) c. 1810
rated "16" reales (2 pesos)

to Francisco Medina, Director General of the Royal
Tobacco Revenues of the King, Guatemala City

NICARAGUA
Granada



front with framed "GRA/NADA"(sepia) c. 1810 rated "6" reales
to José María Falla, Director General of the Royal Tobacco Revenues of the King in León



front with framed "GRA/NADA"(sepia) c. 1810 rated "8" reales
to Manuel de Vela, Agent of the Royal Tobacco Revenues in this Province, León

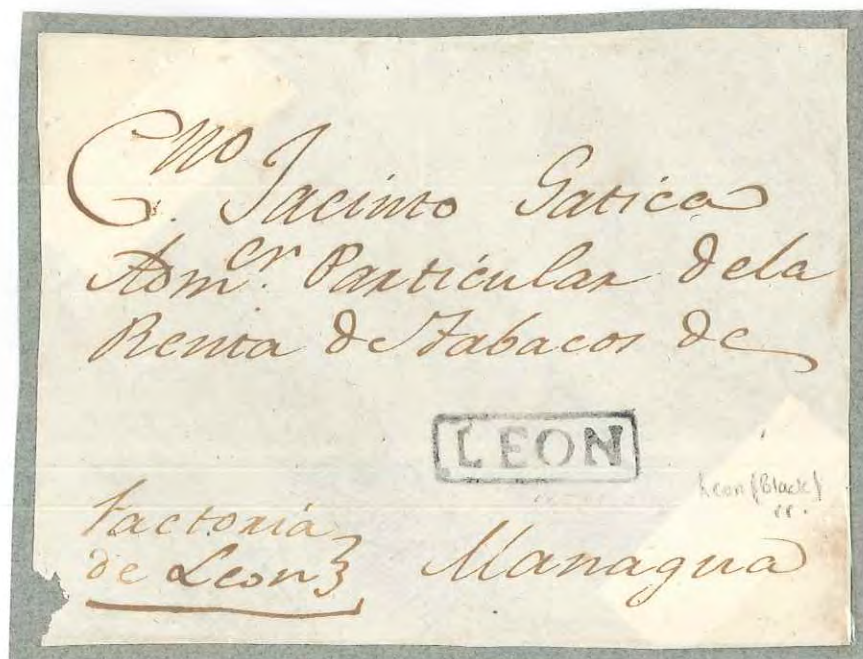
COSTA RICA
Villa Nueva (San José)



oval framed "VILLANUEVA" c.1803-1818 rated "4" (reales)
 to Ysidoro Menendez, tobacco agent of the Royal Audiencia, León



NICARAGUA
León



front with boxed "LEON" c. 1811-1815
to Jacinto Gatica, Administrator of the Tobacco Revenues at Managua

NICARAGUA
León



front with boxed "LEON" (blue) c. 1811-1815

to Francisco Medina, Director General of the Royal
Tobacco Revenues of the King, Guatemala City

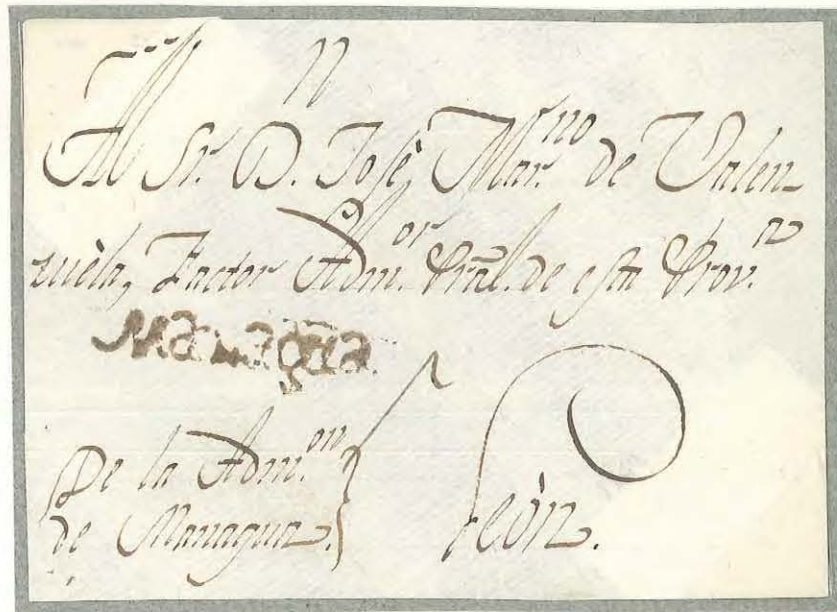
NICARAGUA

León



front with boxed "LEON" (blue-black) c. 1811-1815
to José Bolanos, Administrator of the Tobacco Revenues of the town of Masaya

NICARAGUA
Managua



"Managua" (brown-black) c. 1812-1815
to José Mariano de Valenzuela: Agent General Administrator of the Province of León

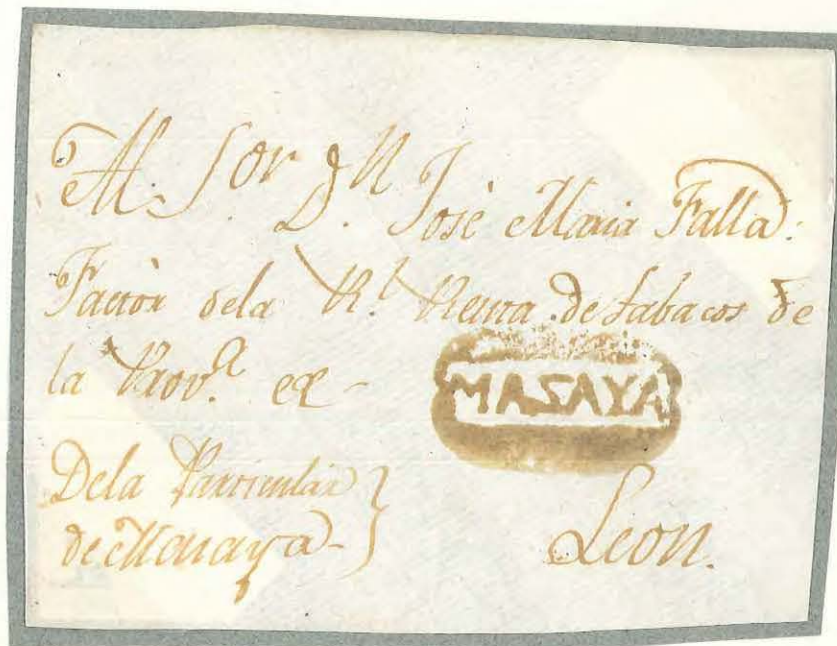
NICARAGUA
Managua

Al Sr Cño José Mariano de
Valenzuela Jefe Gñal de la Ho
v.ª de
de la Adm.ª
de Manag.ª } Managua León

"Managua" (brown-black) c. 1820
to José Mariano de Valenzuela: Agent General Administrator of the Province of León

NICARAGUA

Masaya



front with framed "MASAYA"(sepia) c. 1810
to José María Falla, Director General of the Royal Tobacco Revenues of the King in León

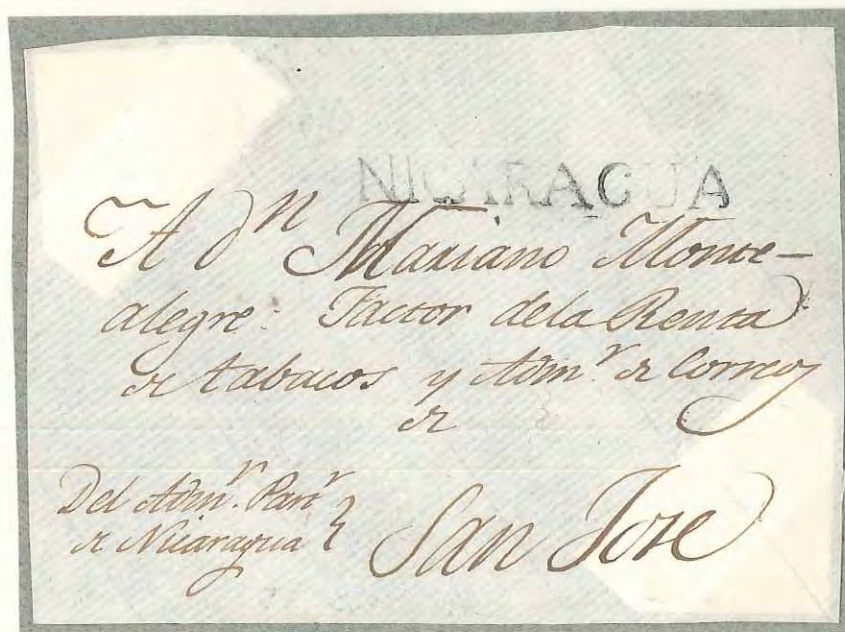
NICARAGUA

Masaya



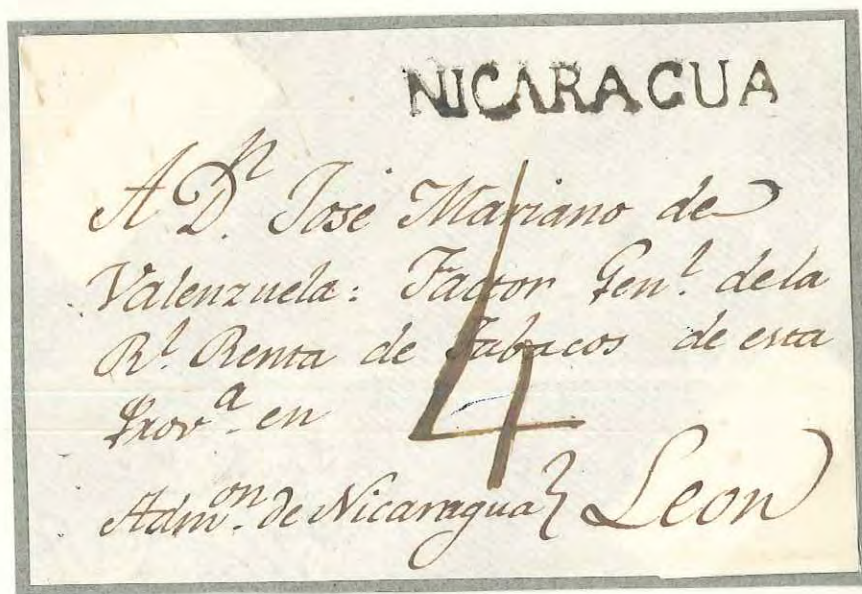
front with framed "MASAYA"(sepia) c. 1810 rated "14" reales
to José Maxiano Valenzuela,
Agent of the Royal Tobacco Factory of the province of León

NICARAGUA
Nicaragua (Rivas)



straight-line "NICARAGUA" c. 1790-1820
to Maxiano Montealegre, Agent of the Tobacco Revenues and Royal Mail, San José (Costa Rica)

NICARAGUA
Nicaragua (Rivas)



straight-line "NICARAGUA", c. 1810-1814 rated "4" reales
to José Mariano de Valenzuela: Agent General of the Royal Tobacco Revenue in León

NICARAGUA
Nicaragua (Rivas)



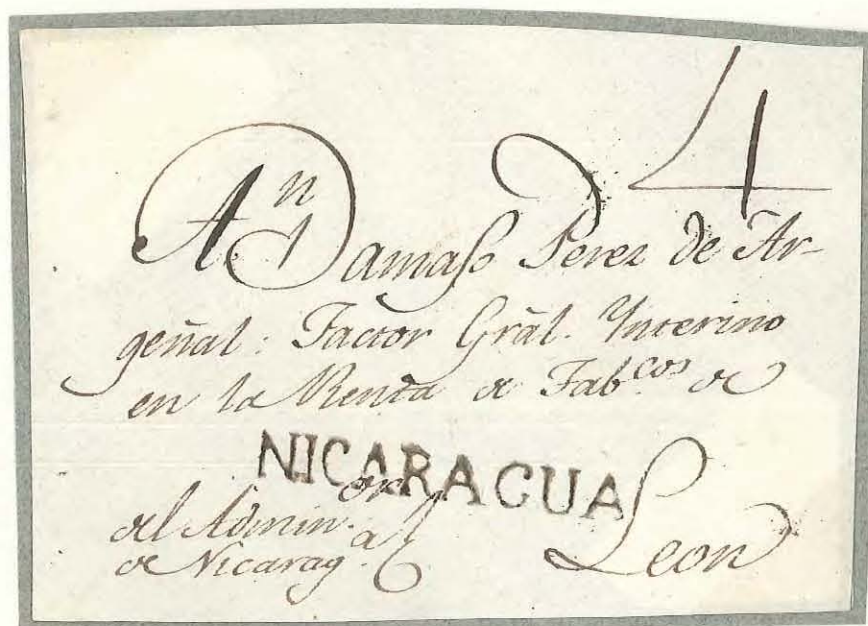
straight-line "NICARAGUA" (blue-black) c. 1790-1820 rated "4" reales
to Manuel de Vela, Administrator General of the Revenues in this Province in León

NICARAGUA
Nicaragua (Rivas)



straight-line "NICARAGUA" (blue-black), c. 1810-1814
rated "10" reales to the Agent
of the Royal Tobacco Factory in the province of León

NICARAGUA
Nicaragua (Rivas)



straight-line "NICARAGUA" (brown-black) c. 1790-1820 rated "4" reales
to Damalo Perez de Argeñal: Internal Agent General of the Tobacco Revenue, León

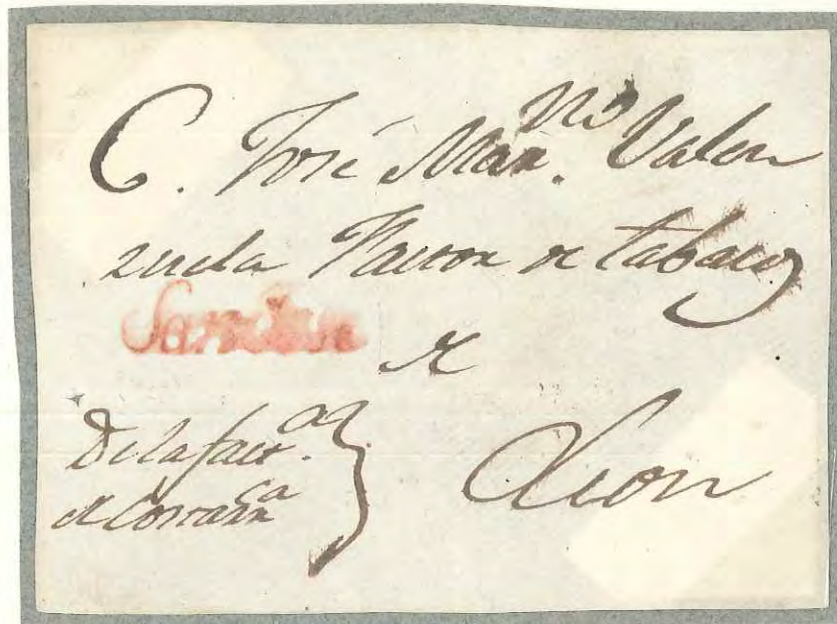
COSTA RICA
Cartago



front with oval "CORREOS/DE/CARTAGO" (an official post office department postal marking) dated October 20, 1846 and a hand stamped rectangular boxed way-bill "F S D E T" described as follows:
F' (franco - postage paid), 'S' (sencillo - single letter), 'D' (doble - double letter), 'E' (equipaje - parcel), 'T' (todo - total)

COSTA RICA

San José

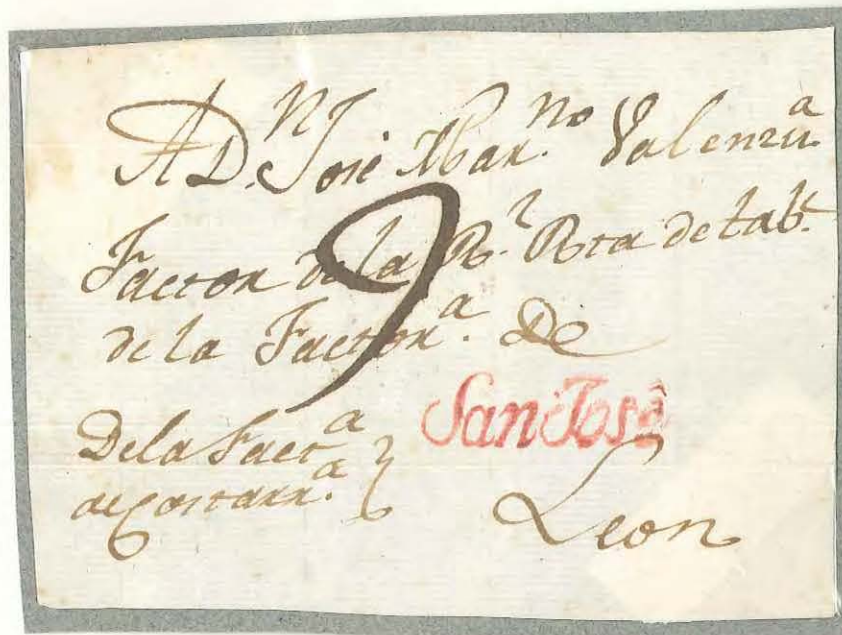


"SAN JOSE" (red) c.1818-1825
to Jose Marino Valenquela, tobacco agen, León

San Jose

COSTA RICA

San José



"SAN JOSE" (red) c.1818-1820

to José Marino Valenzuela, Royal Tobacco Agent, León

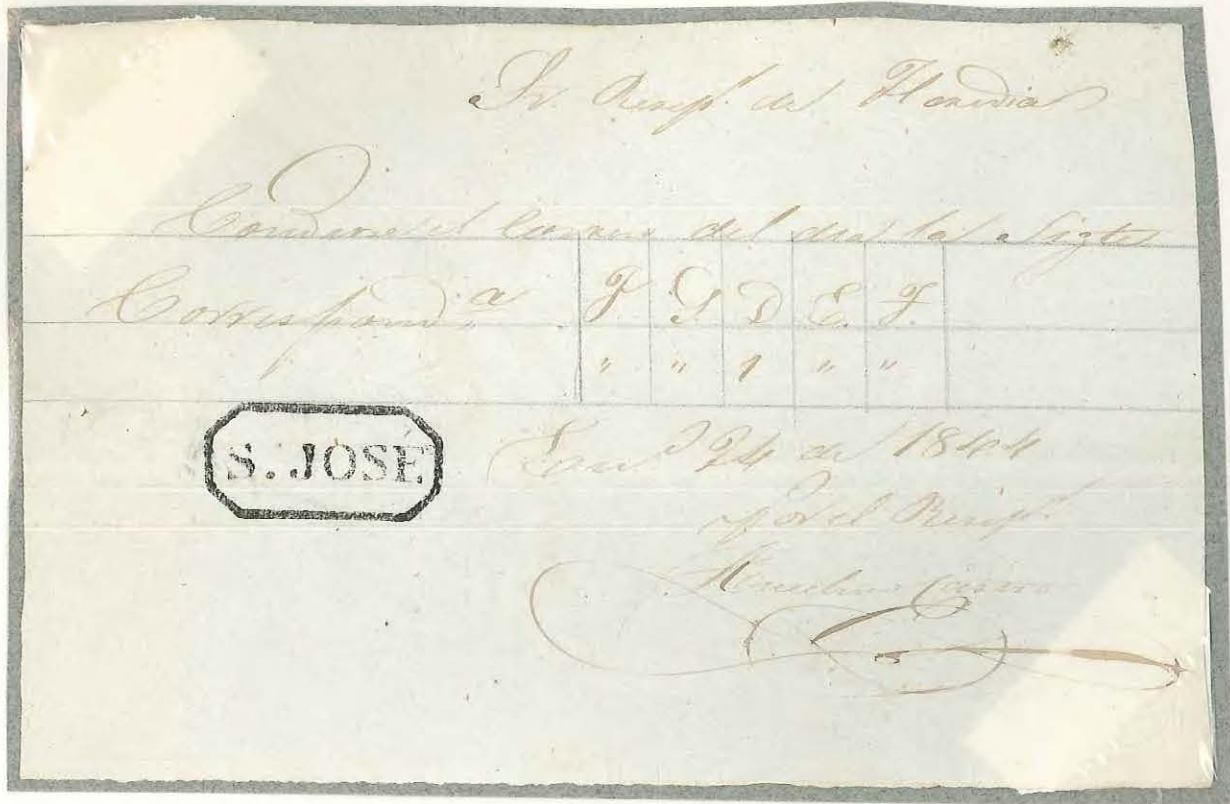
COSTA RICA

San José



front with "San José" c.1822-1826
to the Administrator of Tobaccos of Guanacaste

COSTA RICA
San José



front with octagonal boxed "S. JOSE" dated January 24, 1844

and a hand drawn rectangular boxed way-bill "F S D E T" described as follows:

F' (franco - postage paid), 'S' (sencillo - single letter), 'D' (doble - double letter), 'E' (equipaje - parcel), 'T' (todo - total)

Official Correspondence

Correspondence of various governmental bodies used special hand stamp markings to indicate their official status. This official correspondence was used by municipal courts, the Jefetura Political (political chief), the various government ministries, the Corregimientos (magistrates) and several colleges and schools. These markings exist from early 19th century into the first decade of the 20th century.



"DEPOSITO DE AGUARDIENTE NOV 22 1881 SAN MARTIN"

Official Correspondence

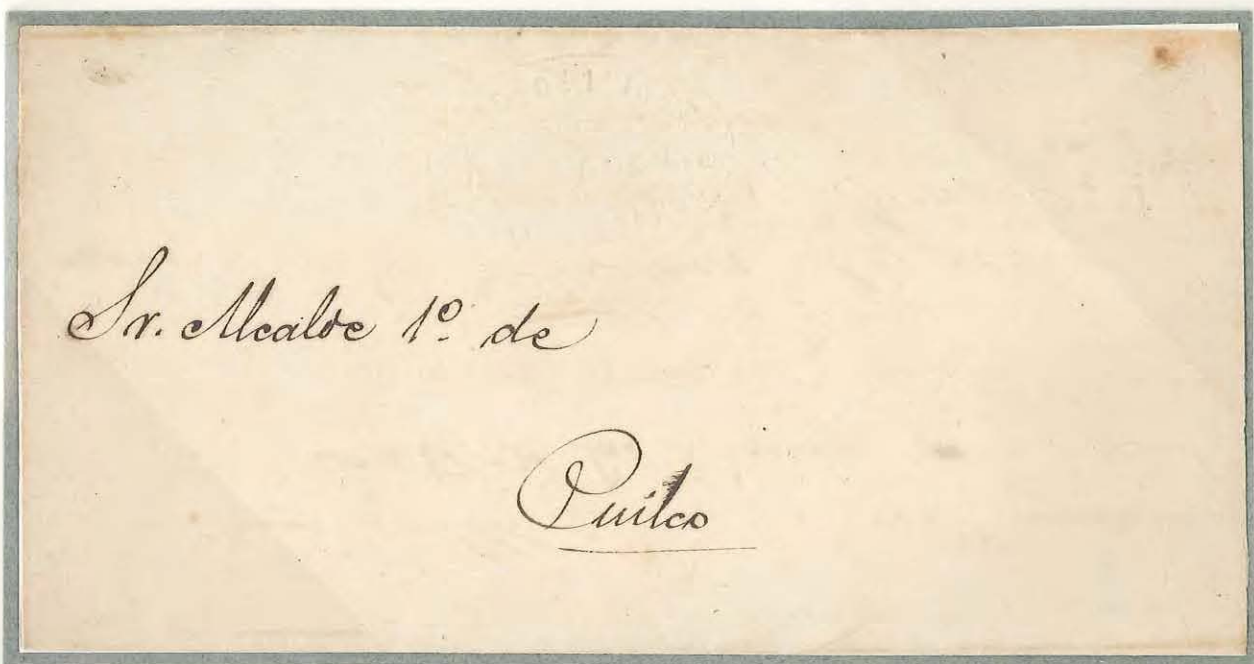


"ADMINIST(RACION). G(ENE)RAL DEL GOB(ERNO) DEL EST(A)DO DE GUAT(EMALA)."
to the president of the board of education - Guatemala City

Official Correspondence



"MUNICIPALIDAD DE AMATENANGO DEPARTAMENTO DE HUEHUETENANGO REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA"
(c. 1878) (now part of Chiapas, México)
to the municipal judge of Cuilco (Huehuetenango)



"JUZGADO DE 1ª INSTANCIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE HUEHUETENANGO" (albino embossed mark)
to the alcalde of Cuilco (Huehuetenango)

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE SAN FELIPE QUEZALTE(NANG)O." c. 1874
 (later became part of Retalhuleu, now part of Chiapas, México)
 to the respectable alcalde of San Felipe (probably delivered by local messenger)



"CORREGIMIENTO Y JUZGADO DE 1ª INST(ANCI)ª de CHIMALTEN(AN)GO" c. March, 1844 - December, 1845
 to the alcalde of San Martín (Chimaltenango)

Official Correspondence



Al Alcalde 1º de

Quesaltepeque

"JUZG(A)DO DE 1ª INST(ANCI)ª DEL DEP(ARTAMEN)TO DE CHIQUIMULA" dated July 2, 1877

(in use until at least 1881)

to the alcalde of Quesaltepeque (Chiquimula)



*Al Sr. Secret. de la Suprema Corte
de Justicia de*

Guatemala

"COMAND(ANCI)A DE LOS DEPART(AMENTO)S DE AMAT(ITLÁN) Y ESQUINTLA"

to the Secretary of the Supreme Court Justice of Guatemala

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO CORR(ECCIONAL) DEL ANTIGUA JOCOT.(ENANGO)"
to the magistrate of Sacatepéques (in) Antigua



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE CHACHACLUM" (red mark on laid paper) c. February, 1884
(Chachaclum changed to San Francisco, October 7, 1927)
to the political chief of Flores (Petén)

Official Correspondence



01-6

"MUNICIPALIDAD de la Villa de Guadalupe." (probably in México) (now Zona 10 in Guatemala)
to the magistrate of the Republic of Guatemala

01-7

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO 1° Municipal de JOCOTENANGO"
to the magistrate of Guatemala

"Presente" indicates this may have been delivered by messenger rather than the postal system

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO DE 1ª INST(ANCI)ª DE JUTIAPA" dated May 7, 1882
to the alcalde of Jalpatagua (Jutiapa)

Official Correspondence



"..OLOOT.. P(O)L(I)T(IC)ª METAR DIST(RI)TO DE JOYABAJ" c. 1877
to the municipal leader of Chinique (Quiché)



"JI
to th "JUZGADO DE 1ª YNSTANCIA DEL DEPART(AMENT)O DE JUTIAPA" 384
(on ruled paper) dated October 17, 1884 (897)
to the alcalde of Chingo (now Jerez)
(probably due to the vulgar conotation, this town name was changed in 1897)

Official Correspondence



"CORREGIMIENTO Y JUZGADO DE 1ª INST(ANCI)ª DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE JUTIAPA"
dated September 28, 1854 (in use between 1854 and 1862)
to the appointed leader of Mita (Jutiapa)



"CORREGIMIENTO DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE JUTIAPA" dated February 14, 1870
to the alcalde of Zapotitlán (Jutiapa)

Official Correspondence



"MUNICIPALIDAD DE MAZAPA DEP(ARTAMEN)TO DE HUEHUET(ENAN)GO R(EPUBLI)CA DE GUAT(EMAL)A" (today Frontera Comalapa, Chiapas, México)
to the leader of the municipality of the district of Cuilco (Huehuetenango)



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE QUEZALTEPEQUE" (Chiquimula) dated July 22, 1857
to the municipal leader of Cubiletes (?)

Official Correspondence

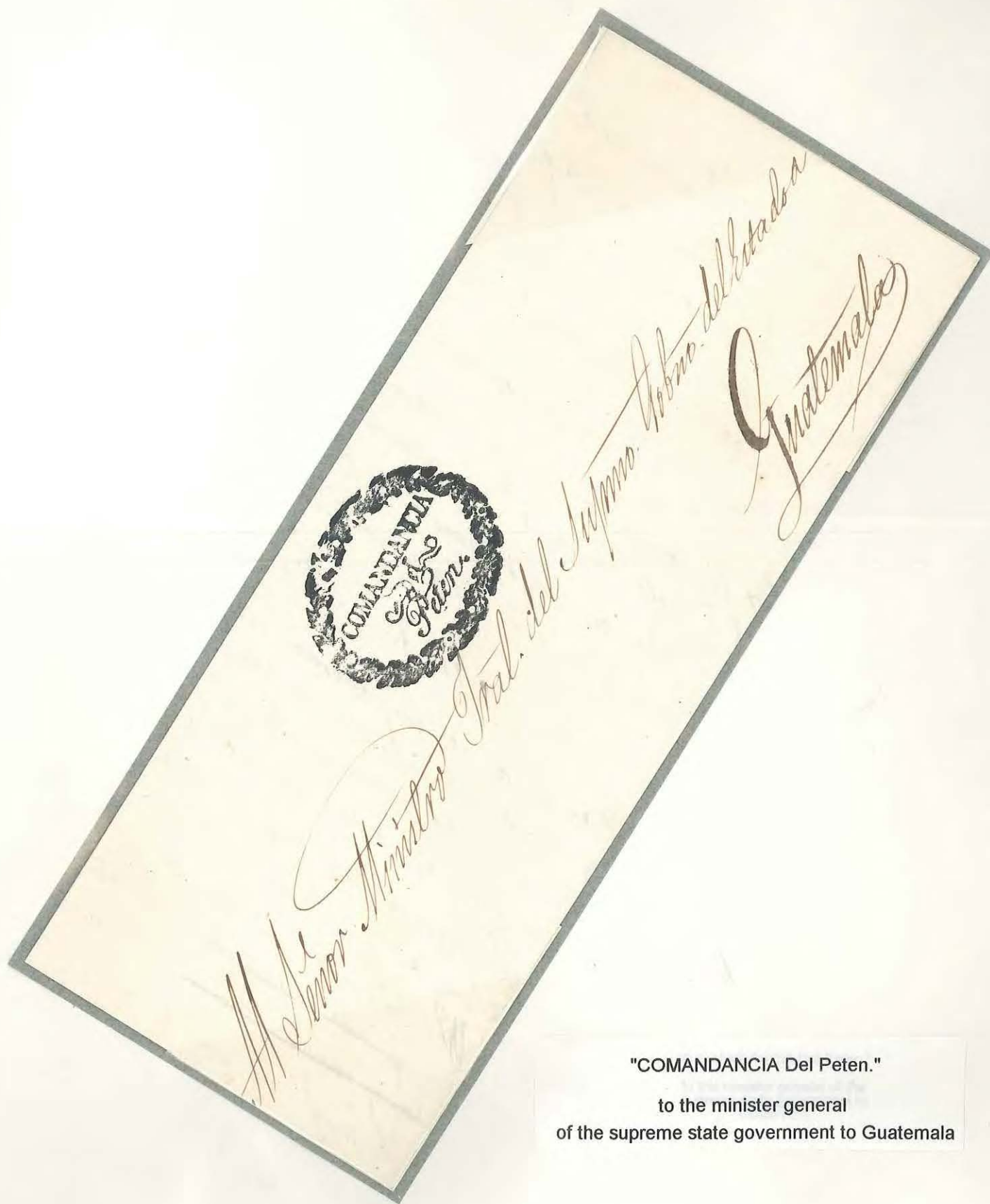


"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE SAN ANDRES" (laid paper)
to the Chief of the Political Department of La Libertad (Petén)



"CORREGIMIENTO DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE SACATEPEQUEZ." (in use at least between 1849 and 1865)
to the alcaldes of the united towns of Santa Catarina and (San Antonio Aguas) Calientes

Official Correspondence



"COMANDANCIA Del Peten."

to the minister general
of the supreme state government to Guatemala

Official Correspondence



"JEFATURA POLITICA DEL DEPART(AMENTO). DEL PETEN." c. 1881 (on ruled paper)
to the alcalde of San Benito and forwarded to San Andres and San José

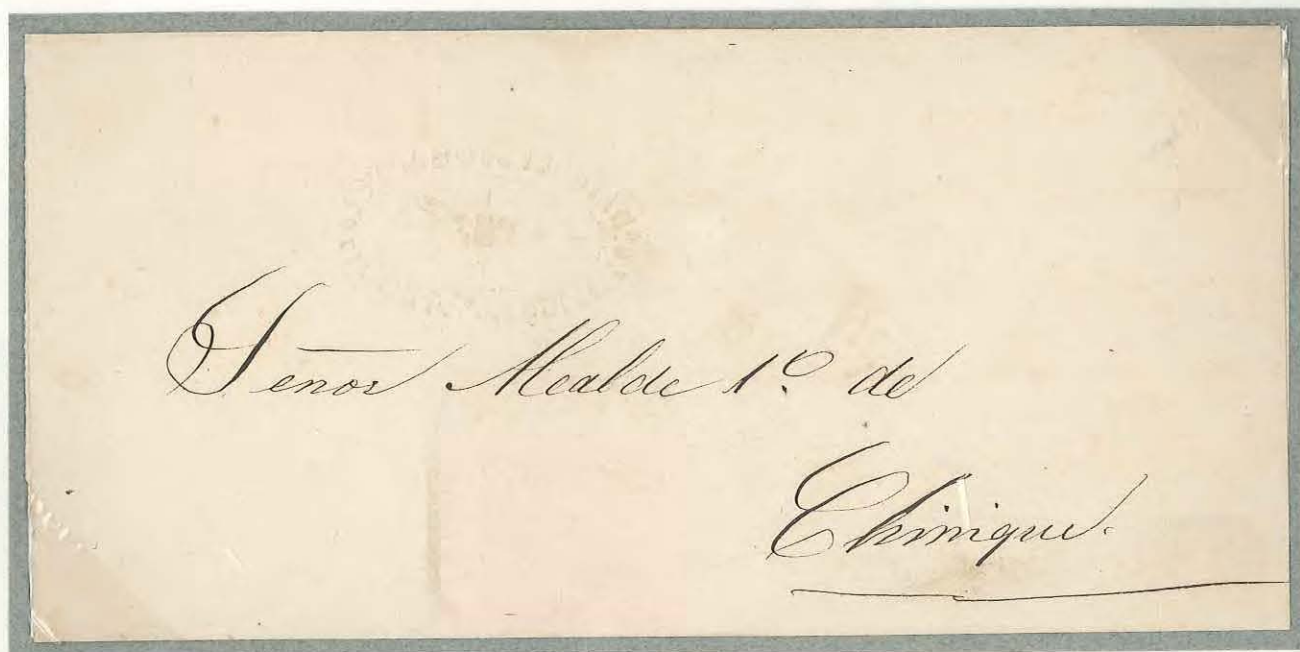


"COMAN(DANCIA). G(ENE)RAL. DE LOS DEPART(AMENTO). DE LOS ALTOS" (c. 1848)
(the highlands of western Guatemala declared itself the independent state of Los Altos on January 31, 1838
but was forced to rejoin Guatemala on January 29, 1840)
to the magistrate of Tonicapán

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO PREVENTIVO DEL QUICHE" dated August 21, 1857
to the leader of the municipality of Chinique (Quiché)



"JUZGADO DE 1ª INSTAN(CI)ª DEL DEP(ARTAMEN)TO. DEL QUICHE" (albino embossed mark) c. July, 1874
to the leader of the municipality of Chinique (Quiché)

Official Correspondence



"CORREJIMIENTO DE SACATEPEQUEZ" c. October 1865
to the alcalde of Santa Lucia (Sacatepéquez)

Official Correspondence

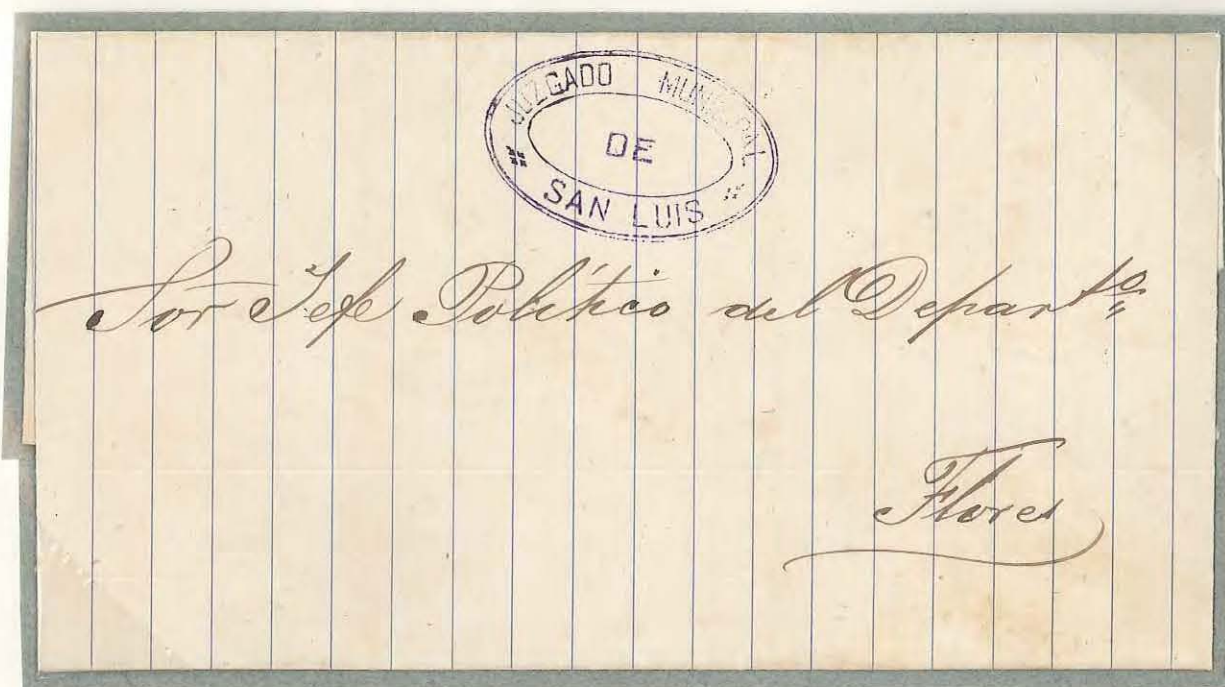


"JUZGADO MUNICIP(A)L DE Totonicapam"
to the leader of the municipality of Chinique



"CORREGIMIENTO DEL DISTRITO de S(AN)TA ROSA."
to the Supreme Court Justice of Guatemala

Official Correspondence

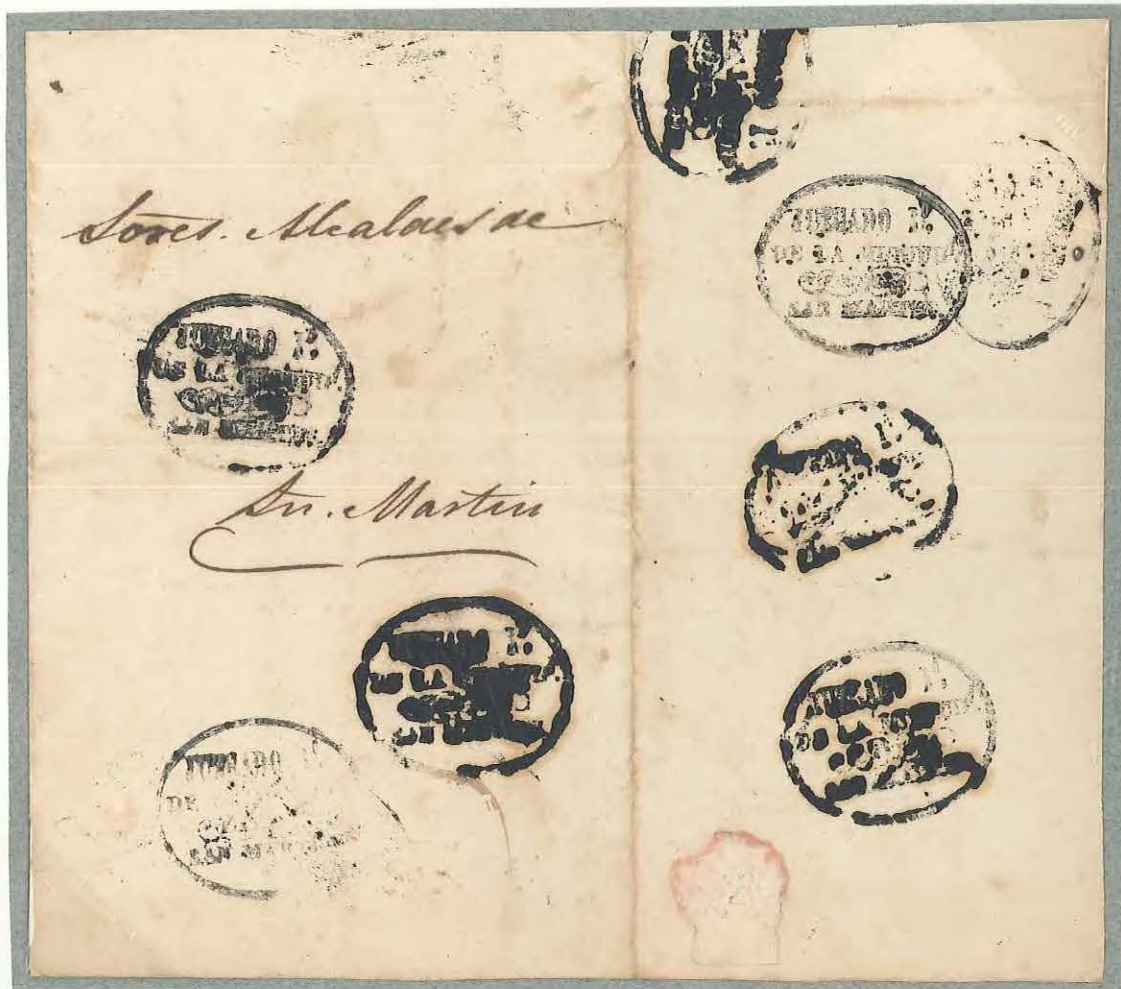


"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE SAN LUIS (Petén)" (purple mark) (probably late 19th century usage on ruled paper) to the political chief of the department Flores (Petén)



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE SAN LUIS (Petén)" dated June 28, 1881 (on laid paper) to the political chief of the department La Libertad (Petén)

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO 1A DE LA MUNICIPALIDAD SAN MARTIN" to the alcalde of San Martín

Official Correspondence

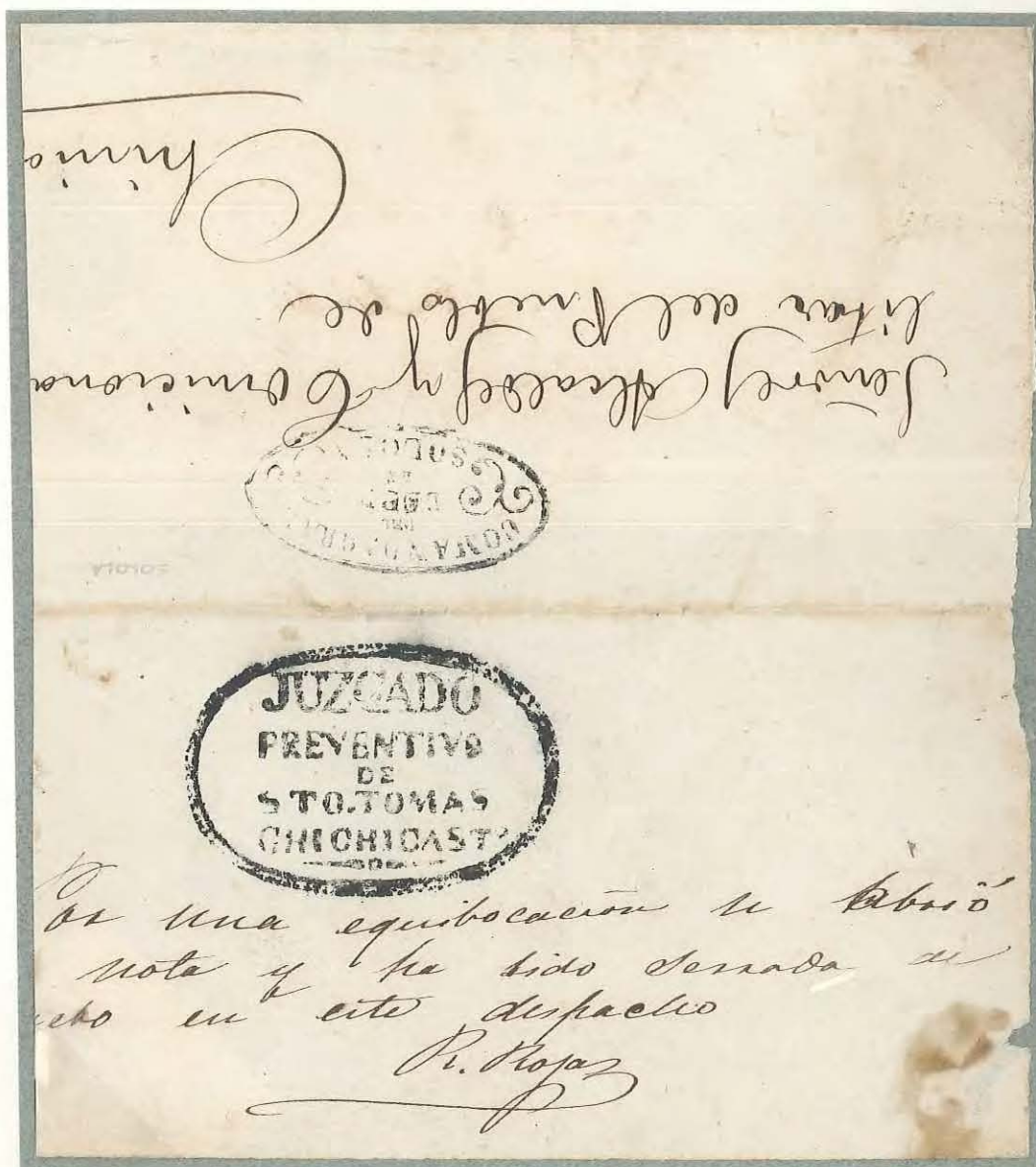


"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE S(A)N BE(N)IT(O), OC (Petén c. 1880 ?)
to the head of the Liberty Party "cabecera" (district seat)



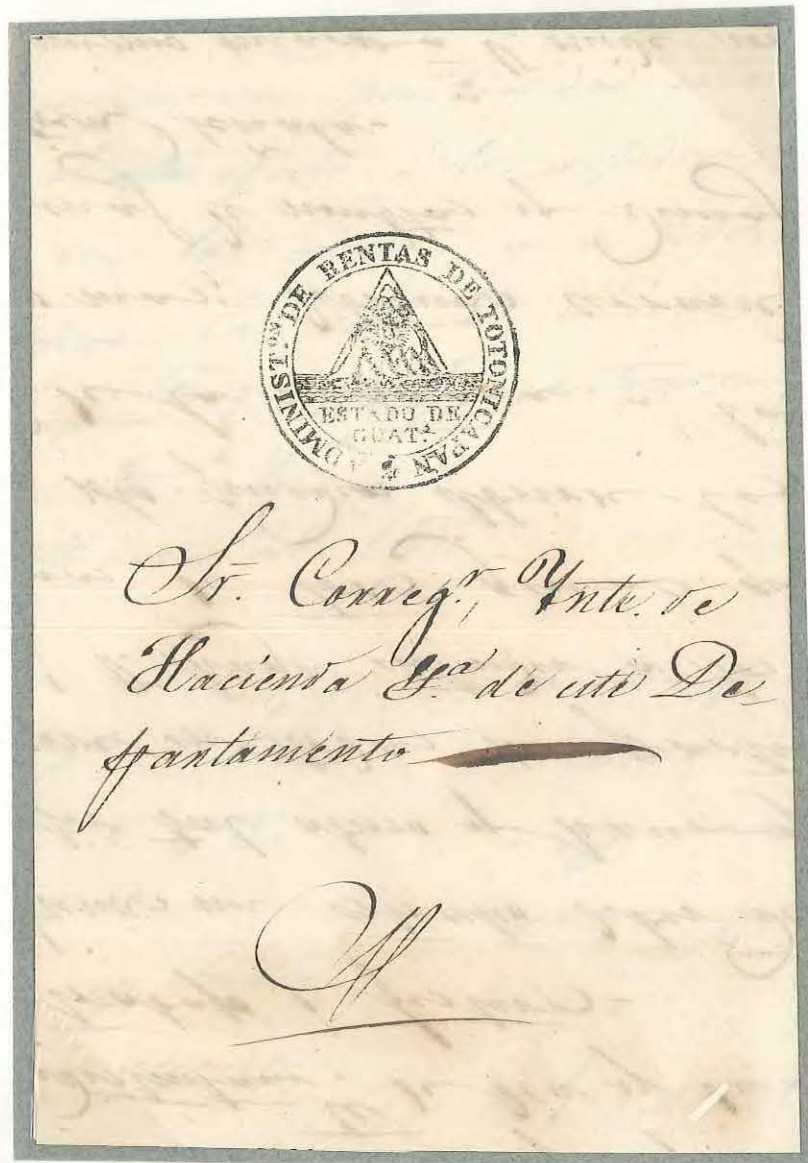
JUZGADO DE 1ª INST(ANCI)ª DE SANTA ROSA."
to the Supreme Court Justice of the Republic of Guatemala

Official Correspondence



"COMAND(ANCI)A G(ENE)RAL DEL D(E)P(ARTAMEN)TO DE SOLOLA"
and "JUZGADO PREVENTIVO DE S(AN)TO. TOMAS CHICHICAST(ENANGO)."
to the alcalde and commissioner registrar of the town of Chinique (Quiché)

Official Correspondence



"ADMINISTRACION DE RENTAS (revenues) DE TOTONICAPAN" dated March 26, 1850

Official Correspondence



"GOBIERNO DEPARTAM(ENTA)L DE TOTONICAPAM." c. January, 1830

Official Correspondence



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE SAN JOSE" (Petén) (purple mark)
to the political chief of the department Flores (Petén)



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE SAN LUIS" (Petén)
to the political chief of this department La Libertad (Petén)

Official Correspondence



"JUZG(AD)O MUNISIPAL DE MANI (SAN) FRAN(CISC)O SAPOT(ITLÁ)N" (Suchitepéquez)
dated February 24, 1874 to the alcalde of San Felipe (Retalhuleu)



"JUZGADO PREVENTIVO DE S(AN)TO. TOMAS CHICHICAST(ENANGO)" c. December, 1864
to the alcalde of Chinique (Quiché)

Official Correspondence



"CORREGIMIENTO DE DISTRITO DE S(AN)TA MONICA"
to the governor of Alsatate (Jalapa) dated July 31, 1869



"JUZGADO MUNICIPAL DE (YZAVAL ?)."
to the alcalde of Cuilco (Huehuetenango)

Official Correspondence



Chimalt. Julio 2 de 1883.

Al Alcalde

San Martín

Hayan q. mañana
comparecer a este dpto
Juan ~~Amador~~ Estrada, Ignacio
Cardenas y Domingo Medina
sin credito alguno.

L. i R.

El juez accidental
R. Arroyas

En la misma fecha to del correo
te, se notificó a Juan Estrada lo an
terior a firmó

Inana Estrada
En la misma
fecha quedo notificado para
cumplimiento el q. fir

"JUZGADO DE 1ª INSTANCIA DE CHIMALTENANGO. REPUBLICA DE GUATEMALA." dated July 2, 1883
to the alcalde of San Martín with replys at bottom