



# The Prestamp Period of El Salvador (1525 – 1866)



1809 Cojutepique to Guatemala with Patriotic Marking supporting Ferdinand VII

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The Royal Philatelic Society London

9 November 2017

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## Front Cover Illustration

1809 Cojutepeque to Guatemala with Patriotic Marking supporting Ferdinand VII. After Napoleon invaded Spain and deposed King Fernando (Ferdinand) VII, several entities in Spanish America made slogan postmarks proclaiming loyalty to the “rightful” king Ferdinand VII. This is the only known prestamp patriotic marking from El Salvador, with less than 5 examples recorded.

## Introduction

### Background

I started collecting stamps around 1986, and, a few months later, I joined the El Salvador Philatelic Society. Although I was born in El Salvador and have dual Mexican-Salvadorian nationalities, I was not initially interested in the philately of either country. As almost everybody else, I started collecting the world, and then developed some emphasis in Germany and Spain. After some years, I stopped as my college student budget was not enough to have a comprehensive collection of these countries!

Due to different circumstances, some of them because of plain good luck, I managed to meet in the late 1990s four individuals that shaped my philatelic interest for El Salvador: Joe Hahn, co-author of the Salvadorian Postal History Handbook; Abraham Luspo, curator of David Chiong's collection (only El Salvador collection -so far!- to win FIP Large Gold medals); Pierre Cahen, who although we first met in the 1980s significantly supported my El Salvador interest since those years; and Brian Moorhouse FRPSL, from whom I bought the first important items in my collection. Thanks to their help, I "officially" started collecting El Salvador in 1998, and I have remained with it, having a special focus on the prestamp period, postal history and proofs. In later years, I also met two significant experts in the prestamp field, Leo John Harris FRPSL and Dr. James Mazepa RDP FRPSL who heavily contributed to the El Salvador Postal History Handbook and recommended me for the Royal in 2013.

The prestamp collection was first displayed competitively at national exhibitions in Mexico, and its first international exhibition was NY2016, where it received a FIP Large Vermeil medal. Since then, new items have been added with the aim of reaching for Gold at some point. The collection was also a significant source for *The Prestamp Period of El Salvador (1525-1866)*, the first book about the postal history of the country, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago in 2015, and awarded a FIP Gold Medal at NY2016, the 2015 CG International Philatelic Promotion Award and the FIAF Bonilla Lara Award in 2016.

### Structure of Display

The prestamp exhibit is a survey of the postal history of El Salvador from the 1780s, when the first postal markings were introduced, to 1867, year of issue of the postage stamps. El Salvador was, at first, part of the Kingdom of Guatemala, a Spanish Colonial entity, and then of the Central American Federation before becoming an independent Republic. As such, the date range can be divided in three periods:

- **Spanish Colony (1780s-1821).** The Spanish Bourbon Kings made several reforms of the postal system in their empire to improve the communications and increase the state revenue. Some of these reforms included the nationalization of the mail service of the Kingdom of Guatemala in 1768, and the introduction of postal

markings during the 1780s to ease the identification of mail origin and set the proper rates to be paid. The following decades saw the consolidation of the colonial postal service until independence was declared in 1821.

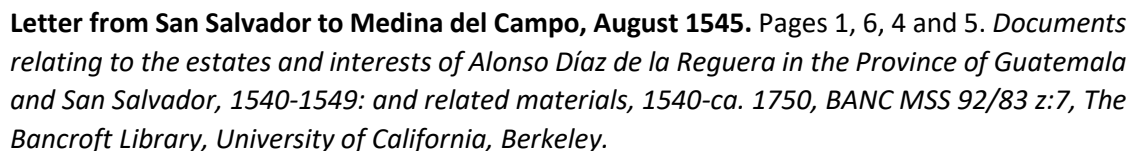
- **Early Post-Independence Period (1821-1823) and The Central American Federation (1823-1839).** After some unstable years that included a brief annexation to the First Mexican Empire, the former Kingdom of Guatemala became the Central American Federation, which was marked by political turmoil and a constant lack of resources that severely crippled the new postal system and communications in general.
- **Independent Republic (1840-1866).** After the Federation broke up in 1839, each new state, including El Salvador, slowly assumed the responsibilities of running a stand-alone postal system. It was not until the 1850s that the postal routes within El Salvador were reestablished and regular couriers were exchanged throughout the Central American countries. The Prestamp Period of El Salvador formally ended in 1867 when postage stamps became available and mandatory.

As El Salvador has been seldom covered in philatelic literature, with its scant appearances at the London Philatelist being no exception to this rule; and, since this is the first display of the country at the RPSL, proofs from the first issues of El Salvador (1867 to 1899) have been included in the display as an appendix to give a broader view of the country's philately.



View of San Salvador published in the *Illustrated London News* on 15 January 1859.





As no Salvadorian postal items before the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century exist in private collections, the prestamp exhibit starts in the 1780s when the first postal markings were introduced in the territory. However, it is important to briefly present the origins of mail in present-day El Salvador both to provide the historical context under which these markings were introduced, and a better understanding of how during the Colonial Period its mail was part of the larger Spanish America Postal System.

### **El Salvador before and during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.**

The territory that is now El Salvador was first settled between the years 11,000 and 9,500 B.C. by migrant tribes coming from the north. The earliest known permanent settlements started around 1400 B.C., and the area subsequently developed similar cultural development patterns as the rest of Mesoamerica, with strong influence from the Maya and Central Mexico.

The first European explorers arrived in the area in 1522. The conquest of the Kingdom of Cuzcatlán, the main pre-Columbian culture at that time, was done in the following years, but it was a lengthy affair that started in 1525. That same year, San Salvador was founded as the first permanent Spanish settlement, subordinated to Guatemala, which in turn was a dependent of Mexico. Indian resistance forced the abandonment of the town from 1526 to 1528 until it was founded again at another location in 1528. The first decades of the colony were very precarious, with constant threats of indigenous rebellion and the occasional arrival of competing Spanish factions coming from Panama. By the 1540s, the situation had stabilized and San Salvador was moved to its current location in 1545.

The first known letter from Central America was sent on 11 April 1524 by conqueror Pedro de Alvarado to Hernan Cortes, conqueror of Mexico, relating his expeditions in Guatemala. By 1527, the government of Santiago de los Caballeros, capital of Guatemala, had assigned a space in its building for the administration of mail, which was transported by individual messengers as there was no organized land mail service until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Regarding maritime mail, during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century the authorities in Guatemala could send ships to Spain without the knowledge of the authorities in Mexico, until this practice was forbidden by a Royal Order on 9 October 1612.

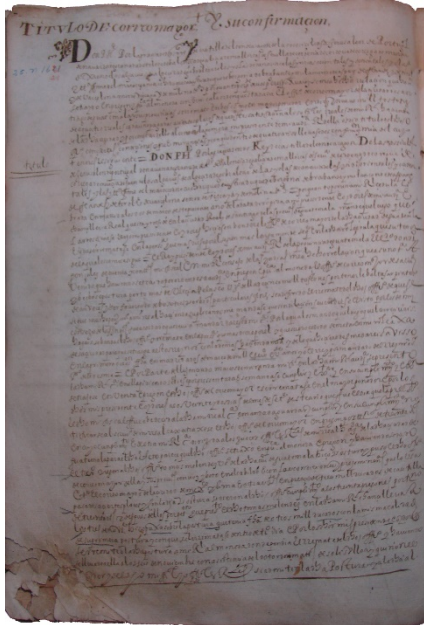
It is assumed that San Salvador exchanged mail at least with Santiago de los Caballeros in Guatemala since its founding, although the first reference of a letter sent from San Salvador appears in a record of the Guatemalan *Cabildo* (government) on 12 February 1530. The letter, which is not known, mentioned the arrival of Spanish troops coming from Panama, and requested help to defend the town. Some other letters were exchanged as part of the settlement before the retreat of the invading Spanish faction. The death of Pedro de Alvarado in July 1541 was the direct cause of the earliest recorded surviving letter coming from San Salvador. It was sent from the San Salvador *Cabildo* to Emperor Charles I on 5



November 1541, requesting the appointment of a certain individual as a substitute of the deceased Alvarado. The request was not granted.

The relocation of San Salvador was also mentioned in three official letters sent in 1548 to Emperor Charles, Prince Philip (later Emperor Philip II) and the Council of Indies. The earliest examples of private mail known sent from the present-day territory of El Salvador are two letters sent from San Salvador to Medina del Campo in Spain in 1545 and 1548. In total, there are twenty-two 16th Century letters recorded originating from El Salvador. It is not an exhaustive list as definitely more correspondence should exist at the different archives in Spain, Guatemala, etc.

### The *Correo Mayor* (Postmaster) in the Kingdom of Guatemala (1602 – 1768).



**Confirmation of the appointment of *Correo Mayor* in favor of Pedro Crespo X Suarez (1621), AGCA**

The efficient distribution of mail was one of the priorities for the Spanish authorities since the beginning of the Colonial Period. For this purpose, the first *Correo Mayor de las Indias* (Postmaster of the Indies), Lorenzo Galíndez de Carvajal, was appointed in Spain as early as 1514. Organized transportation of mail to and from Spain started in 1525. During the 1570s, the Viceroy Martin Enriquez de Almanza set up the first organized mail service in the New Spain (Mexico), and the first *Correo Mayor de la Nueva España*, Martin de Olivares, was appointed in 1579.

The *Correo Mayor* office was also replicated in Guatemala at the start of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, although it was not officially recognized by New Spain until 1619, when, as customary, it was auctioned to the highest bidder.

The first *Correo Mayor*, Pedro Crespo X Suarez, was confirmed in 1620. Crespo was the title holder until 1646, and he was followed by Francisco de Lira y Cárcamo (1646 – 1682), Jose Agustín de Estrada (1682 – 1729) and Pedro Ortiz de Letona (1730 – 1768). During most of this period, all communications inside and beyond the Kingdom of Guatemala were done through extraordinary couriers or private messengers, as no organized service existed, only delegates to receive the mail at the main cities like San Salvador. It was not until the 1740s that the first organized mail routes were created: Guatemala-Oaxaca (1748) and Guatemala-Leon (1749). The *Correo Mayor* system ended in Spanish America because of the Bourbon Reforms enacted during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century.

## The Late Colonial Period. The Bourbon Reforms (1763 – 1821).

Charles III (1759-1788), fourth King of the Bourbon dynasty, initiated a strong effort to modernize the Spanish Empire and reinforce its power. Some of his reforms were the reorganization of the army, the introduction of measures to foster the growth of the agricultural and industrial sectors, the development of new educational programs, the improvement of communications, a significant fiscal reform to end the erosion of the State income and the focus on increased commerce between Spain and its Colonies. The reorganization of the Spanish Postal Service was extremely important to achieve Charles III's goals of improving the communications within his Empire, and it focused on two main aspects: The nationalization of the Maritime Mail and the *Correos Mayores* and the definition of their attributes to improve the service.



**1805 Letter from Cadiz to Sonsonate.** Only two known items sent by Maritime Mail from Spain to present-day El Salvador during the Colonial Period.

The first major initiative was the creation on 6 August 1764 of a monthly maritime mail service from Spain to the Indies under Crown supervision and headed by Jeronimo Grimaldi, Marquis of Grimaldi, who was appointed as General Superintendent of Mails inside and outside of the Kingdom. This service was regulated first by the *Reglamento Provisional del Correo Marítimo* (Provisional Ordinance for Maritime Mail) issued in 1764, and afterwards by the *Real Ordenanza del Correo Marítimo* (Royal Ordinance of Maritime Mail) issued on 26 January 1777, which codified all prior mail legislation related to maritime mail. In 1794, a Mail Ordinance regulating the service for both Spain and the Indies was issued to have a single directive for all aspects of the inland Mail Service.

The monthly maritime service between La Coruna and Havana started in November 1764, with two intermediate stops in Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo. The Postal Administrator at La Coruna had to assemble the mail for the Indies and sort it into boxes for the different destinations. The box for New Spain included the mail for the Kingdom of Guatemala. Once in Spanish America, Havana was the postal office where all mail coming from and going to the Colonies was assembled. This exclusivity lasted until 1767 when the Crown created a



second maritime mail route from La Coruna to Buenos Aires. For New Spain and the Kingdom of Guatemala, a monthly maritime service was created on 19 June 1766 between Havana and Veracruz. The new maritime mail regulations required markings identifying the origin for all correspondence: ESPAÑA, for mail sent from Spain to the Indies; YNDIAS for correspondence from the Indies to Spain and for mail within the continental Spanish administrations; YSLAS, for mail from the Spanish Caribbean islands to the continental Spanish territories. On 22 February 1768, a proclamation was issued requiring that all the mail should be stamped and initialized as evidence of payment of the required rate. In 1778, the Indies were split into nine demarcations with specific rates that considered the distance of each one from Spain. To ease the identification of the mail origin, linear postmarks were produced for each demarcation.

The nationalization of all the *Correos Mayores* started in September 1764, but it was not until 22 February 1768 that the incorporation of the *Correo Mayor* de Guatemala into the Spanish Crown was formally announced. The nationalization created on 1 March 1768 the new office of *Administrador General de Correos y Maestre de Hostes, Postas y Correos* (General Administrator of Mail and Master of Posts), a position first occupied by Captain General Pedro de Salazar Herrera Natera y Mendoza (1768-1771) and then by all subsequent Captains General until Gabino Gainza (1821). To aid in the management of the royal mail, the position of *Administrador Principal* (Main Administrator) was created. Seven administrators served during the Colonial Period: Jose de Garayalde, Jose Melchor de Ugalde, Simon de Larrazabal, Francisco Perez Lebron, Juan Manuel de Yzaguirre, Pedro Gomez de la Peña, and Miguel de Ateaga.

### **Salvadorian mail during the Colonial Period.**

The Kingdom of Guatemala, to which El Salvador belonged, was a Spanish colonial entity formed in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, which extended from Chiapas (currently part of Mexico) to Costa Rica. During the late Colonial Period (1780s-1821), present-day El Salvador was divided in three territories: The *Intendencia* de San Salvador, the *Alcaldia Mayor* de Sonsonate and Ahuachapan (part of Guatemala).

The Bourbon Reforms, together with the economic support provided by the Crown, stimulated the expansion of the postal system in the Kingdom of Guatemala. This included the creation of dozens of offices across the region, and the definition of tariffs according to origin that were implemented in 1778, 1794, 1807 and 1814.

The first *estafetas* (postal offices) in El Salvador were created in 1768: Santa Ana, Sonsonate, San Salvador, San Miguel and San Vicente. In 1779 the postal administration at Madrid requested the manufacture in Nueva Guatemala of a set of 21 postal markings for its offices; they were distributed in November 1783. Fourteen *estafetas* in present-day El Salvador are known with Colonial postal markings, for a total of 40 different.



As the service consolidated, permanent routes were created between the offices. The primary routes were called **Carreras** (served by mounted couriers), while the secondary ones were called **Hijuelas** (usually served by foot couriers), which were coordinated with the **Carreras** to speed up the mail delivery.

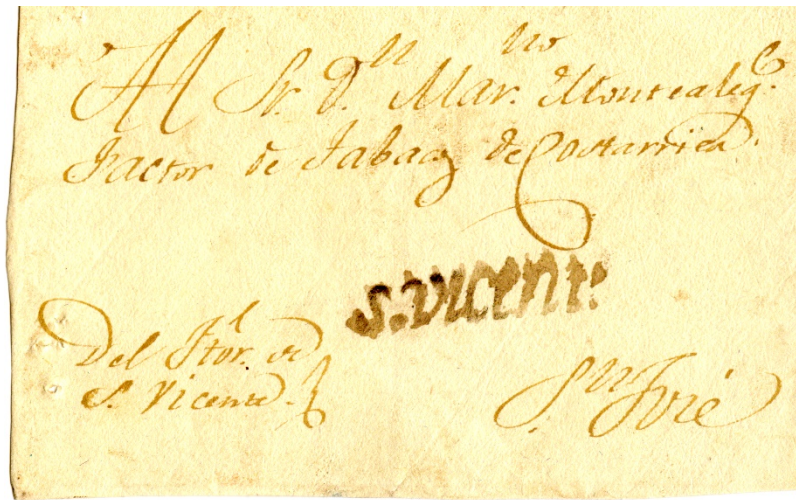
### **Carrera de Leon.**

The main route during these years was the **Carrera de Leon**, going from Nueva Guatemala, the Capital, to Leon; the extension of this route continued to Granada (Nicaragua) and Cartago (Costa Rica). During most of the period between the 1780s and 1821, couriers departed on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of each month. The Salvadorian towns crossed by the **Carrera de Leon** were Santa Ana, San Salvador, Cojutepeque, San Vicente and San Miguel. Several **Hijuelas** originated from them, while smaller towns were served by foot couriers from the nearest important town.



**Letters sent via the Carrera de Leon.** Top: Santa Ana to Nueva Guatemala, circa 1806. Four known with this marking used during the Colonial Period. Middle: San Salvador to Quesaltenango, 1807. Three known items with this marking. Bottom: San Miguel to Havana, 1811. Sent to Guatemala via the Carrera de Leon and then by maritime mail to Havana.



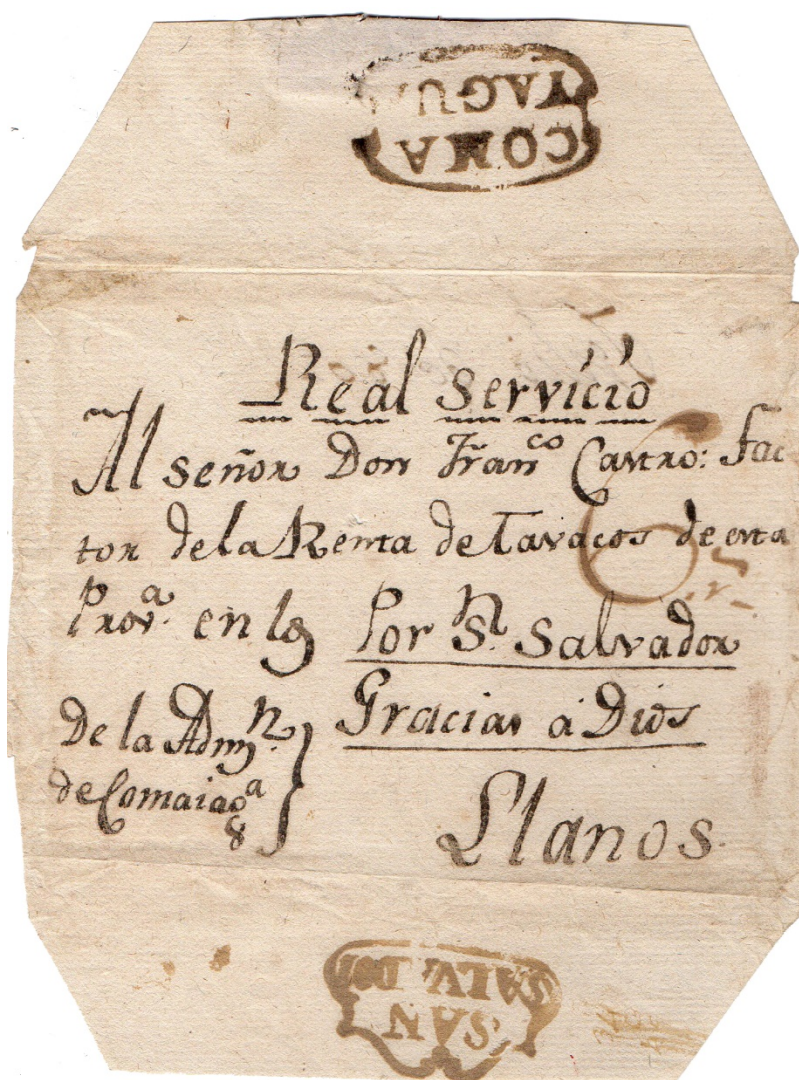


**Letters sent via the *Carrera de Leon*.** Top: San Vicente to San Jose (Costa Rica), circa 1818. Bottom: San Miguel to Leon, circa 1810. *Real Servicio* (Royal Service) inscription at top.

### ***Carrera de Comayagua.***

The *Carrera de Comayagua* left from San Miguel on the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month directly to Comayagua, capital of Honduras. It returned to San Miguel on the 27<sup>th</sup> to connect with the *Carrera de Leon*. From Comayagua, a *Hijuela* went up to Trujillo in the Caribbean coast on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month.

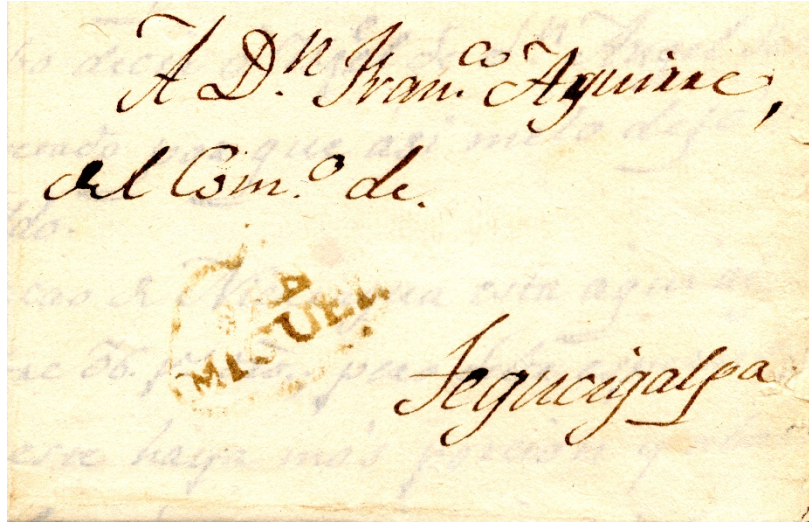




**Comayagua to Llanos via San Salvador, circa 1804.** With Comayagua origin marking and San Salvador transit marking. Note the *Real Servicio* (Royal Service) inscription at top. Only two known items with a Salvadorian marking sent via the *Carrera de Comayagua* and the *Hijuela de Gracias*, and two known items with Salvadorian and Honduran markings.

### The *Hijuelas* of Tegucigalpa and Gracias.

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the *Hijuela de Tegucigalpa* left from San Miguel on the 12<sup>th</sup> of every month directly to Tegucigalpa, returning on the 27<sup>th</sup> to connect with the *Carrera de Leon*. The *Hijuela de Gracias* left from San Salvador, via Suchitoto and Chalatenango, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of every month, returning on the 27<sup>th</sup> to connect with the *Carrera de Leon*.



**San Miguel to Tegucigalpa, 1818.** Four known prestamp items from El Salvador sent via the *Hijuela de Tegucigalpa*.

### The *Hijuela de Ahuachapan*.

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the foot couriers of the *Hijuela de Ahuachapan* left from Santa Ana to Sonsonate and Ahuachapan on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of every month. The *Alcaldia Mayor* of Sonsonate was a political entity separate from the *Intendencia* of San Salvador, which originated from a Pre-Columbian Kingdom that the Spanish recognized. It was nominally under the Guatemalan authorities, but was connected by postal routes only to the *Intendencia* via the *Hijuela de Ahuachapan*.



**Ahuachapan to Guatemala, circa 1805.** The *FRANCO* marking indicates that the letter was prepaid at origin by the sender.



## The Federation Period (1821 – 1839).

### The Early Post-Independence Period (1821-1823).

Although the 1810s were characterized by independence movements across Spanish America, there were no significant uprisings in the Kingdom of Guatemala. By 1821, it became clear that the territory could not maintain its status as a Spanish colony when all the surrounding territories were free. Therefore, on 15 September 1821, a group of notables from all the provinces in the Kingdom proclaimed in Nueva Guatemala the Independence of Central America, forming a *Junta Provincial Consultativa* (Provincial Consultative Junta) for maintaining the government functions.

In October 1821, several Central American cities began manifesting their desire to be annexed to the Mexican Empire, which was seen as a stable, prosperous nation. A few months later, most of the region with the exception of San Salvador and San Vicente, favored the union, which was formalized on 5 January 1822. To finish the rebellion in San Salvador, Guatemala, aided by Santa Ana and San Miguel, sent an army to besiege it, but was defeated. Emperor Iturbide then sent a Mexican army, which finally did capture the city on 9 February 1823. A month after, Iturbide was deposed in Mexico City and the Mexican Army retreated, allowing the local authorities to summon a National Constitutional Congress that resulted in the creation of the Central American Federation.



**1822 letter sent from San Miguel to Tegucigalpa.** At the time San Miguel was formally annexed to the Mexican Empire. A prepaid marking has been overstruck to state that the rate had not been paid.

## The Central American Federation (1823-1839).

The Central American Federation was formed in July 1823 from all the territories formerly belonging to the Kingdom of Guatemala, except Chiapas which remained with Mexico. It issued its first postal law in 1824, and basically maintained the Colonial regulations and routes in a desire to keep the communications structure set up by Spain. However, the lack of resources of the new state clearly impacted in the functioning of the service. This situation was made worse by the political instability and constant state of war that started in 1826 and finally ended in 1839 with the dissolution of the Federation.

The struggles faced by the postal service during these years is clearly reflected in the fact that only 6% of the known Salvadorian prestamp items recorded are from the Federation, making it impossible to reconstruct the routes due to the very few existing items. Mail sent during the Federation period has been identified for eight out of the ten offices registered in 1830: Cojutepeque, Metapan, San Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Santa Ana, Sonsonate and Zacatecoluca.



**Letters sent during the Federation Period.** Top: San Miguel to San Salvador, 13 July 1824. Two known used with red ink. Bottom: San Salvador to Ciudad Real Mexico, circa 1837. 2 reales postage due marking from Guatemala in red, corrected to 3 reales for rate to Mexico. Only known Salvadorian prestamp item sent to Mexico.





**Letters sent during the Federation Period.** Top: Metapan, circa 1825. Only known item during the Federation Period. Center: 1836 Santa Ana to Guatemala, "2" handstamp marking added in Guatemala to indicate postage due for a single letter. Bottom: 1839 San Miguel to San Salvador, with a "2" handstamp marking from San Salvador to indicate the postage due rate for a single letter.

## Republican Period (1840 – 1866).

El Salvador began as an independent country economically ruined after ten years of constant warring among the different Central American factions. Upon the breakdown of the Federation, each State assumed the full responsibilities of handling its own mail system while maintaining most of the Federal regulations until they were superseded by the respective local legislation. El Salvador did not define regular routes for the delivery of internal mail until 1847, so postal communications mostly depended on couriers from the other Central American states or on private messengers. It was not until 19 November 1849 that a separate administration was created to manage the postal system.

The first regular route for Republican El Salvador was established in March 1847, when it was agreed a weekly exchange of mail with Honduras at San Miguel. Couriers departed from San Salvador to San Miguel via San Vicente, at first twice a month, and then weekly (every Thursday) from August 1847. This was the start of the **Eastern Courier**.

In August 1849, a weekly route was created to Sonsonate, Ahuachapán and Santa Ana, departing every Monday at 4PM. This **Western Courier** connected with the mail coming from Guatemala, and became the major postal route based on mail volume. Gradually, smaller towns were connected with these main routes until most of the country was again covered by the mail service by the late 1850s.



**1847 Santa Ana to San Salvador.** Prepaid letter sent to Senator Tomas Medina, who the following year became Provisional President. His surviving correspondence is one of the major sources for Salvadorian prestamp items and pre-UPU stamp issues.



### The Western Courier.

During the 1850s and 1860s, this Courier departed on Mondays and Fridays at 3PM from San Salvador going to Sonsonate, Ahuachapan, Santa Ana, with extensions to Metapan and Acajutla.



**Letters sent through the Western Courier.** Top: 1866 San Salvador to Santa Ana. Printed matter was frank free according to the valid rates. Only known used with green ink. Two Printed Matter Salvadorian prestamp items known. Bottom: 1860 Sonsonate to Guatemala. The "2" handstamp marking was added in Guatemala to indicate postage due for a single letter (2 reales) between Central American countries.





**Letters sent through the Western Courier.** Top: 1859 Santa Ana to San Salvador, two known items used with green ink. Bottom: 1859 Metapan to Santa Ana, two known items.

### **The Eastern Courier.**

During the 1850s and 1860s, this Courier departed on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 3PM from San Salvador going to Cojutepeque, San Miguel and La Union.





**Letters sent through the Eastern Courier.** Top: 1857 Cojutepeque to Santa Ana, three known items. Bottom: 1859 La Union to New York, only known item in red.

## Steamship Mail.

The start of the California Gold Rush in 1848 accelerated the development of a route between New York and San Francisco. Panama (then part of Colombia) soon became a hub for the exchange of passengers, merchandise and mail between the ships operating on both Oceans. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company (PMSSC), and its subsidiary, the Panama Railroad Company (PRC) took a dominant position in this route.

During the 1850s, an alternative maritime route was created via Nicaragua, which was short lived due to the political instability of the country and the invasion of American mercenaries led by William Walker who seized power in 1855. The late 1860s saw the zenith of the PMSSC New York – Panama – San Francisco route. Volume came down with the opening of the Saint Louis – San Francisco overland route and lost its preeminent role when the transcontinental railroad was finished on 10 May 1869.

Salvadorian ports (Acajutla and La Union) did not benefit significantly in the beginning from all the maritime traffic going through Panama and for some time in Nicaragua. The main objective of the PMSSC and its competitors was to transport passengers and merchandise as soon as possible to California and back, so most ports in between were bypassed. Even if travel time would not have been an issue, most harbors in the region generated only a small volume of trade that was not attractive enough for inclusion in the important Panama - San Francisco route. Salvadorian ports started receiving regular steamer visits in 1858 when the PRC created a supplementary route from Panama to the other Central American ports. Despite not being part of the major itineraries, for El Salvador the Panama and Nicaragua routes provided a regular way to connect with Europe and the United States.



**Letter sent through the Steamship Mail.** 1855 Cojutepeque to New York Letter sent by Postmaster Manuel Irungaray, and prepaid at origin identified by the *FRANQUEADO* marking. As periodic steamer service was not available until 1858, the letter was probably sent through a ship stopping in El Salvador to Panama City, from where it was forwarded via the Panama Railroad to Colon on the Atlantic coast of Panama. From Colon it was sent on a PMSSC steamship to New Orleans, one of the stops in the Panama –New York route. Only known Salvadorian maritime mail via New Orleans.



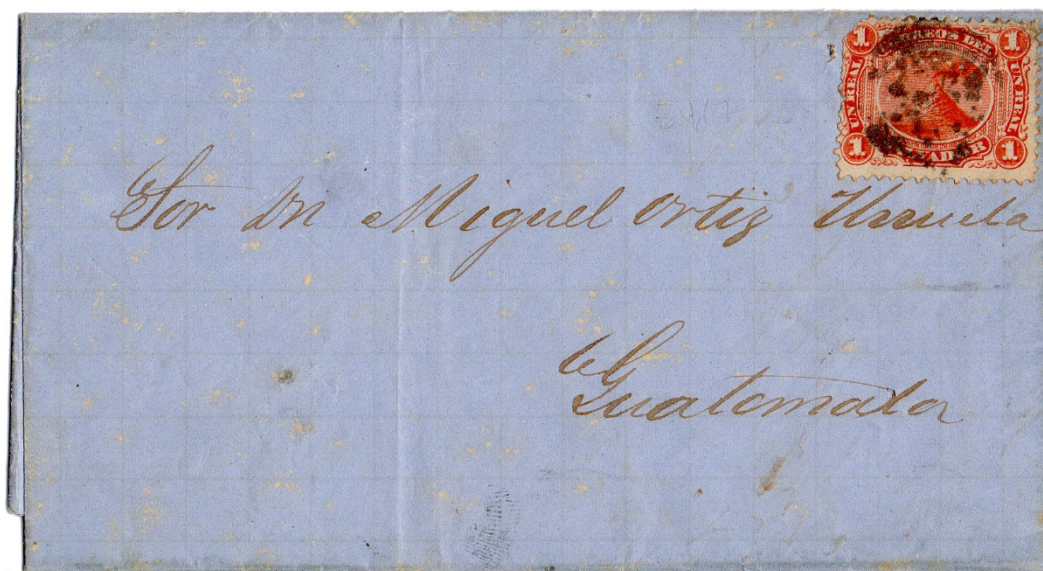


**Letter sent through the Steamship Mail.** Top: 1853 San Salvador to Washington via Nicaragua. According to the reciprocity convention between El Salvador and Nicaragua, the prepaid rate covered the land transit leg up to San Juan del Norte. From San Juan del Norte it was sent to New York. As it did not enter the US mail, it was either carried privately or inside a bundle once it reached the USA. Bottom: 1861 La Union to New York via Panama. Internal rate prepaid at origin. Sent by PRC steamship to Panama City, and then to New York City via Colon.



## The End of the Prestamp Period in El Salvador (1867).

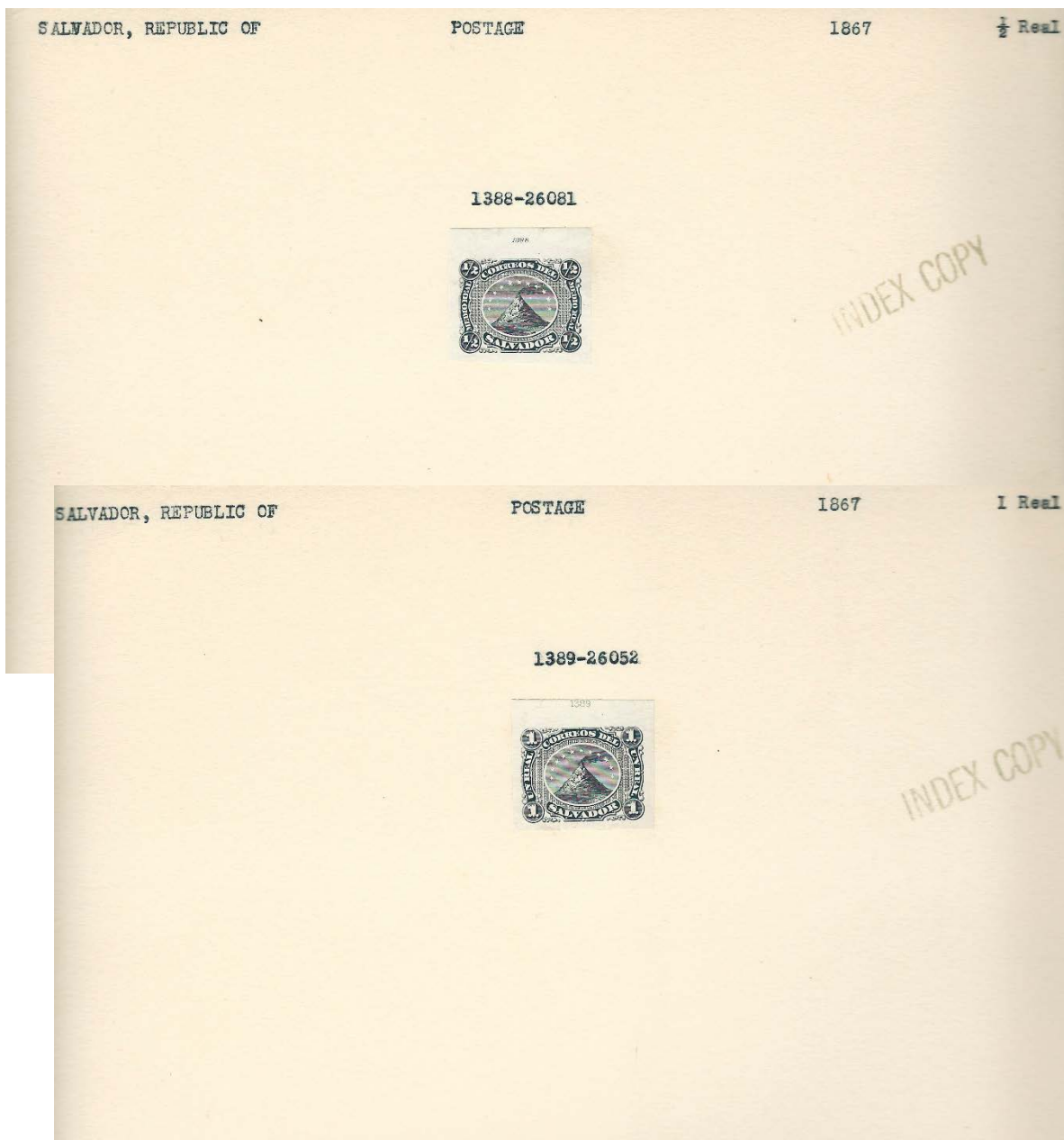
On 15 January 1867, the Salvadorian Government issued a new Mail Ordinance that introduced the use of postage stamps in El Salvador. The following month, the Postal Service announced that, from 1 March onwards, all mail had to carry postage stamps, thus effectively ending the prestamp period in the country.



**The End of the Prestamp Period.** Top: 1867 Sonsonate to New York. Sent on 19 February 1867 after the issuance of the postal ordinance introducing postage stamps and before their official issue on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Only two items known sent during this period. Bottom: 1869 Ilobasco to Guatemala. One real stamp to cover single-letter rate for Central America (same as *Interior* mail) decreed in the 1867 Postal Ordinance.

## Appendix 1. 19<sup>th</sup> Century Salvadorian Proofs.

As selection of proofs from the first issues of El Salvador (1867 to 1899) have been included in the display as an appendix to give a broader view of the country's philately.



**1867 1/2 real and 1 real die proofs mounted on American Bank Note Company (ABNC) Index Cards.** During the 1930's ABNC mounted examples of their die proofs on Index Cards for reference in their archives. These cards were usually stamped with the "INDEX COPY" legend. The numbers above the proof are the die numbers according to the ABNC classification system. The number on the right refers to the system used in the 19th Century, while the left one is the renumbered according to the system implemented in the 1920s. Only one set of Index Copies were prepared for each stamp issue printed by the ABNC.

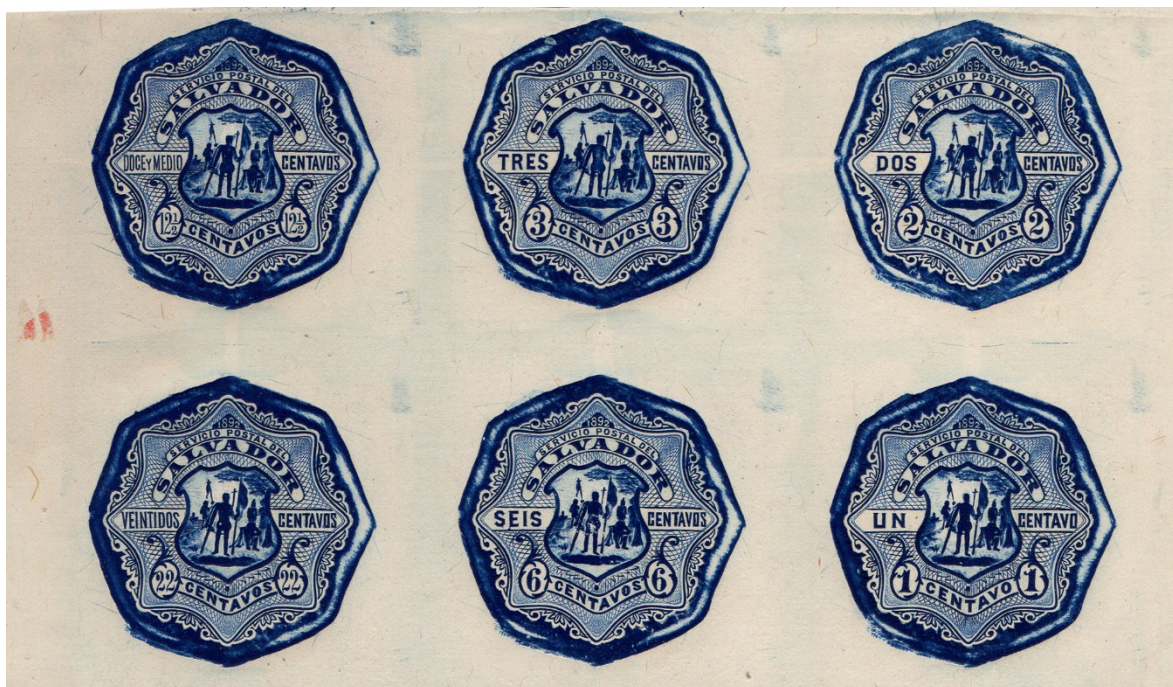




**1879 Possible color trial for the 1c value.** Type 1 first printing on very thin paper, imperforated. The item was analyzed with spectroscopy at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington DC and the red ink in it matched the ink used in the issued 2c stamps. Only known trial or proof from the first issue produced in El Salvador.



**1887 – 1888 die proofs for the 5 and 10 cents values produced by American Bank Note Company.** Original ABNC die numbers used from 1879 to 1923 ("C" Prefix).



**1892 Composite die proof in blue for the postal envelope issue.** Printed by Hamilton Bank Note Company.





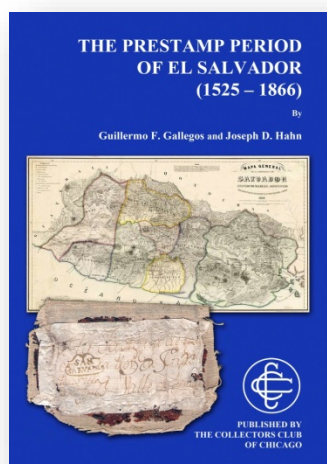
**1894 Progressive die proofs for the 10 peso value.** Printed by Hamilton Bank Note Company to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbus arrival to America.



**Left: 1895 Die proofs for the Parcel Post stamp issue.** Printed by Hamilton Bank Note Company. Proof of center in blue and of finished stamp without value.

**Top: 1898 Artist drawing for the 1898 postal issue commemorating the proclamation of the Greater Republic of Central America.** Approved on the back by the Salvadorian government.

## Appendix 2. Selected Philatelic Bibliography



Readers interested in this topic should look for *The Prestamp Period of El Salvador (1525-1866)*, published by Collectors Club of Chicago in 2015 (ISBN 978-0-9827357-3-2). This is the only book solely devoted to the topic, and it is the first book ever written about the postal history of El Salvador. It is also useful for understanding the postal operations of Spanish America and Central America up to 1840. Information about this topic can also be found at works with a Central American or a Spanish America scope, like the following:

- Alcazar, Cayetano, *Historia del Correo en América, Notas y Documentos para su Estudio*, Madrid: Sucesores de Rivadeneyra S.A., 1920.
- Archivo General de Indias, *El Correo Español en America*, Barcelona: Lunweg Editores, 1996, ISBN 84-7782-389-8.
- Carrera Stampa, Manuel, *Historia del Correo en México*, México: Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transporte, 1970.
- Garay Unibaso, Francisco, *Correos Marítimos Españoles. Correos Marítimos Españoles a la América Española (Yndias Occidentales), Vol. I: De 1514 a 1827*, Bilbao: Ediciones Mensajero, 1988, ISBN 84-271-1495-8.
- Otte, Enrique, *Cartas privadas de emigrantes a Indias 1540-1616*, México City: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1996, ISBN 84-505-7803-5.
- Schimmer, Karl H, Heath, John, *Mexican Maritime Mail, A Postal History from Colonial Times to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, Cyprus: James Bendon LTD, 1997.
- Soler y Llach Subastas Internacionales S.A., *Marcas Postales del Período Colonial Español en América. Siglos XVIII-XIX*, Barcelona: Soler y Llach Subastas Internacionales S.A., Auction Catalogue dated 19 June 1991.
- Tizon, Manuel & Guinovart, Jorge, *Prefilatelia Española*, Vol. 4, Third Edition, Madrid: EDIFIL, 2004, ISBN 843980136x.
- Various, *Los Correos Mayores de Yndias*, Madrid: Federación Española de Sociedades Filatélica, 2014, ISBN 978-84-89406-35-3.