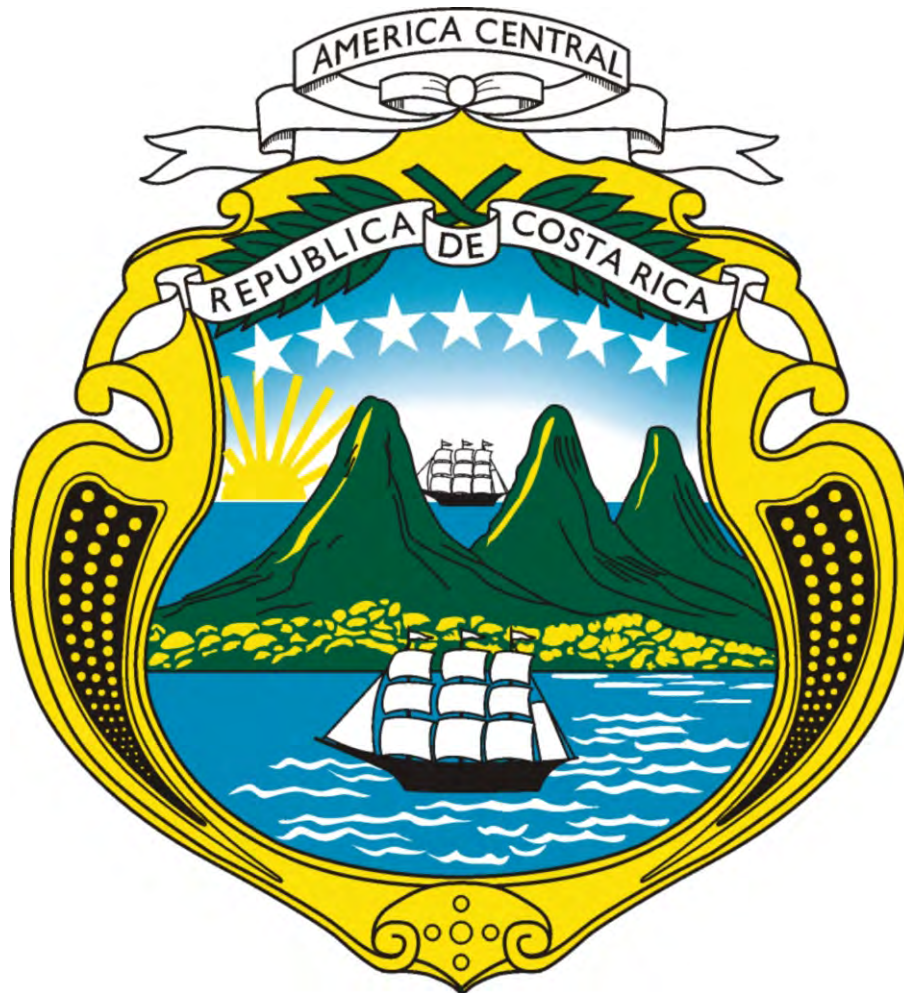


The Postal History of Costa Rica to 1883



Richard C. Frajola
Frederick R. Mayer

**The Postal History
of Costa Rica
to 1883**

The Frederick R. Mayer Collection

**Richard C. Frajola
Frederick R. Mayer**

The Collectors Club

2008



Copyright 2008 by
The Collectors Club
All rights reserved

Published by The Collectors Club
22 East 35th Street
New York, NY 10016
Printed in the United States of America

First Edition

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008930805

ISBN 0-912574-496

The contents of this book are protected by copyright. Collectors and philatelic authors are hereby authorized to make use of the information contained in this book without specific permission of the publisher, provided that proper acknowledgment of the source is made.

Contents

<i>Foreword</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>ix</i>
Chapter One: Introduction	1
History of Costa Rica to 1863	
Mail in the Colonial Period	
Postal Regulations of the Central American Republic	
Postal Affairs of the State and Republic of Costa Rica	
The 1862 Decree	
The 1863-Issue of Stamps	
Remainders of the 1863-Issue Stamps	
The Post Offices of Costa Rica (1863-1883)	
Chapter Two: Pre-Adhesive and Stampless Covers	15
Alajuela, Bagaces,	
Cartago, Esparta (Esparza)	
Grecia, Guanacaste	
Heredia, Liberia	
Moin, Nicoya	
Puntarenas (Punta-Arenas)	
San Jose	
Villa Nueva, Villa Vieja	
Chapter Three: Official Mail	53
Regulations for Free Mail	
Franking from the Executive Branch	
Alajuela, Bagaces	
Camino al Atlantico	
Cartago	
Escasu, Esparta	
Grecia	
Guanacaste and Province of Moracia	
Guanacaste (Commander of the Frontier)	
Heredia, Liberia	
Matina and Moin	
Paraiso	
Puntarenas	
San Jose	
San Ramon, Santa Cruz, Sarapiquí	

Chapter Four: Interior Mail to 1883	73
Dating 1863-Issue Interior Covers	
Earliest Reported Usage	
The "Reales" Period	
Mails by Origin	
Way Mail	
Alajuela	
Atenas	
Bagaces	
Cartago	
Desmonte	
Esparta	
Grecia	
Heredia	
Liberia	
Limon	
Palmares and Naranjo	
Puntarenas	
San Jose	
San Mateo	
San Ramon	
Chapter Five: Exterior Mail to 1883	101
Earliest Reported Usage	
Principal Mail Routes	
Exterior Mail - United States	
Exterior Mail - France	
Exterior Mail - Italy	
Exterior Mail - Great Britain	
Exterior Mail - Germany	
Exterior Mail - Switzerland	
Exterior Mail - Spain	
Exterior Mail - Canada	
Exterior Mail - Peru and Chile	
Exterior Mail - Guatemala	
Exterior Mail - El Salvador	
Appendix A: Postal Markings to 1883	143
Appendix B: Public Cachets to 1883	161
Appendix C: Census of 1863 - Issue Exterior Usages	175
Bibliography.	181
Newspaper Publication of 1862 Decree and Maps	183

Foreword

Work on this book began after the Mayer collection of Costa Rica was exhibited at the international stamp show held in Washington, D.C. in 2006, where it received a large gold. At that time, it was anticipated that this would be a leisurely project that would engage us both for many years. This all changed when Frederick Mayer passed away in February 2008 of complications following heart surgery.

In the foreword to our previous book on the United States five-cent stamp of 1856, Mr. Mayer described why the Costa Rica collection was his favorite:

“After I left Dallas for prep school and college in the East, I began to dispose of most of my general collection, keeping only Costa Rica because it seemed rather uncomplicated and did not have a lot of expensive early issue. When I ran across interesting pieces, large multiples, and covers I began, in the late forties, to purchase them. Naturally, this led to a continued increase in my interest in Costa Rica, its stamps and postal history.

.... In the middle sixties, my wife Jan and I were invited by a friend in Costa Rica, who was a part-time stamp dealer and the American Consul, to spend several weeks driving around Costa Rica. We visited many of the towns I was familiar with from observing the cancels and postmarks on covers I had acquired. This interest in Costa Rica manifested itself fully when we began to build an important collection of Costa Rican Pre-Columbian art which has been donated to the Denver Art Museum. It is now considered to be the largest study collection of Costa Rican pre-Columbian art extant outside of Costa Rica. The seed was the stamp collection.”

As well as the pre-Columbian art collection, the Mayer collection of Costa Rica stamps and postal history is the largest study collection ever formed. Several intact collections were purchased. This pattern of acquisition began with the purchase of the R.J. Mechin collection in the early 1960s. This nucleus collection was unquestionably the finest Costa Rica collection ever formed to that date. Since then, Mr. Mayer voraciously purchased important Costa Rica individual rarities and collections, both publicly and privately.

In the years before a small part of the collection was shown in 1997, the collection had become both “mythical” and “legendary” in the minds of many Costa Rica collectors who were unaware of the true scope of the collection. When the postal history portion was first shown, in February 1999 at the “AMERICAS” show in Florida, it received the grand award. That was the first glimpse that many collectors had of some of his treasures.

Later when shown at the Washington 2006 stamp show Mr. and Mrs. Mayer hosted a small dinner party for a few collector and dealer friends as well as for several collectors who had come to Washington specifically to view the collection. Although the gathering brought a smile to Mr. Mayer’s face, the full breadth of his beaming smile was reserved for those same collectors when they gathered in front of his Costa Rica stamp collection to discuss the nuances of the material.

For those who were fortunate enough to have spent time with Mr. Mayer, however briefly, the experience was unforgettable. A true renaissance man who had vast knowledge in many areas, he was able to communicate his ideas, thoughts and visions concisely and with ease. His passion for collecting was contagious. It didn't matter whether he was relating a recent find plucked from a stock book of inexpensive stamps, or a philatelic treasure, he enjoyed the hunt as well as the discussion equally.

I consider it an honor to have been able to work with Mr. Mayer on this, his favorite collection. However, I am deeply saddened that he was not able to see this project to its conclusion.

I am sure that the dispersal of the full Costa Rica collection will enable a new generation of collectors to share in some of the pleasure that Mr. Mayer derived from his period of ownership. The many hours spent assorting stamps by cancel, covers by town and date, clipping relevant auction catalogs and journals were hours that Mr. Mayer enjoyed enormously as both relaxation and stimulation.

It is hoped that in some small way this book will help promote the collecting of Costa Rica stamps and postal history so that others may share similar enjoyable experiences.

Richard Frajola
Taos, June 2008

Preface

Although material in print about the stamps and postal history of Costa Rica is abundant, much of the most reliable information appears only in journal articles or pamphlets, some in Spanish. For an English-only audience, the monthly publication of the Society for Costa Rica Collectors, the *Oxcart*, continues to be the major resource. The journal, which was first published in 1960, has been thoroughly indexed and is highly recommended by the authors. Please see the Bibliography for additional literature.

The present book is not intended to replace previous references, but rather to gather together in simplified form the most important information needed to understand and interpret the postal artifacts. It deals only with Costa Rica postal history in the period before 1883 at which time the first adhesive postage stamp issue was demonetized and Costa Rica joined the Universal Postal Union. After a brief outline of the history of Costa Rica, the Introduction includes overviews of postal regulations and maps. There is also a brief discussion of the 1863 issue of postage stamps. The stamps themselves are discussed only to the extent that their use on cover may be more fully understood. For example, the two plates used to print the medio real value can help date postal artifacts because the plate two stamps were not shipped to Costa Rica until August 11, 1875. Covers bearing a plate two stamp must have been used after that date.

An important objective of the book is to record and summarize the postal history material contained in the Mayer collection. After the dispersal of this collection in October 2008, it is unlikely that such a vast array of important Costa Rica items will again be concentrated in one place. To illustrate this point, of the approximately 320 Costa Rica first issue covers believed extant, the Mayer collection contains 262. The ones not in the collection are limited almost entirely to the more common, interior uses of the medio real stamp.

For the period before the first issue of adhesive postage stamps in 1863, there were relatively few post offices operating in Costa Rica. Chapter 2 illustrates typical examples from the known offices, presented in alphabetical order, and gives a summary of the various postal markings used by each office. Tracings of these postal markings are included in Appendix A. Each distinct type is given a unique number and approximate dates of use. The numbering system includes the abbreviated town name in upper case followed by the designation “pmk” for postmark, “can” for cancel, or “aux” indicating an auxiliary marking. These designations are not always strictly applied in the normal meaning of the words because some devices were used both as postmarks and as cancels. The appendix includes more specific dates in some cases. These do not necessarily indicate dates observed on cover, as clearly dated strikes on loose stamps were also included. A notes column includes additional information.

Costa Rica had very liberal regulations regarding which public servants were entitled to send and receive mail without postal charge. The markings on such mail, with cachets of office applied by the sender, makes for a visually attractive, and interesting sub-specialty within Costa Rica postal history. Because these markings were applied privately rather than by the post office, they have not been as widely studied or recorded. Chapter 3 presents the various regulations regarding the free mail privilege. After illustrating several covers with the fancy executive level cachets which incorporate the state coat of arms, additional examples are presented by the town from which the cachet was used. Images of the markings are included in Appendix B, excluding the executive marks which are all shown on full covers in the chapter. The free-mail markings in Appendix B have been given reference numbers with a “Pub” (public) suffix. The text that appears in the marking is repeated in a more readable form in a separate column.

The following chapters present the use of 1863-issue stamps used on cover during the period from 1863 until 1883. Mail was classified as either “interior,” for mails sent within Costa Rica, or “exterior” for mail going to, or coming from, foreign countries. That distinction has been used to divide the chapters. Interior covers are presented in Chapter 4 in alphabetical order by town of origin. Exterior covers are presented in Chapter 5 organized by country of destination. Since inbound mail was also classified as “exterior,” such mail is included under each country. Appendix C includes, in tabular form, a listing of all first issue covers to and from foreign destinations in the Mayer collection.

The authors would like to extend their particular thanks to Jane Dallison for providing the numerous tracings in the book and to Irene Bromberg for editorial assistance. We would also like to thank the following individuals who have assisted with this book. If any names are omitted in error, please accept our apology.

Jack Blanc	Tom Mazza
Francisco De Napoli	Hector Mena
Francine Frajola	Brian Moorhouse
Armando Grassi	Sandy Mugglestone
Keith Harmer	Roland Nordberg
L.J. Harris	Guido Palacino
Juan Herrera	Steve Walske
Yamil Kouri	Giana Waymans
Jan Mayer	



Chapter One

Introduction



This chapter discusses the historical background of Costa Rica, as well as basic information regarding its postal rates and post offices, the mail routes connecting those offices, and the introduction of the 1863 issue of adhesive postage stamps.

History of Costa Rica to 1863

A brief summary of the history of Costa Rica in the period before 1863 will serve to put the postal service in context. For our purposes, it begins with the fourth voyage of Christopher Columbus. Upon arriving on the east coast of Costa Rica on September 18, 1502, he was reportedly greeted by friendly Carib Indians, one of the four primary indigenous groups in the area, and he wrote in his journal, “I saw more signs of gold in the first two days than I saw in Espanola during four years.”

Attempts at colonization began in 1522, when Gonzalez Davila organized an expedition from Panama to the area, which he named Costa Rica, meaning “rich coast” in Spanish. Catholic priests accompanied the force. It is reported that the expedition lost 1,000 men to disease, and additional efforts to settle the coastal areas, including a colony near Puntarenas on the west coast, were short-lived.

In 1523 Pedro de Alvarado, who had accompanied Cortes in Mexico, was sent south to subdue the area now known as Guatemala. He reached El Salvador in 1524, while the Davila faction of Spanish conquistadors from Panama headed north and entered Costa Rica and Nicaragua from the opposite direction.

Although the forces of Cortes prevailed in the area, Spanish interest lessened after the 1532 conquest of Peru by Pizarro and the discovery of rich silver mines in Mexico. In 1543 the Captaincy General of Guatemala was established to administer all of Central America, under the wider auspices of the viceroy of New Spain residing in Mexico City. The city of Antigua (Guatemala), destroyed by an earthquake in 1773, was selected as the capital and political affairs were regulated from that city. Religious affairs were administered by the bishop of Leon in Nicaragua. It should be noted that the province of Guanacaste, which included Nicoya, was governed as part of Nicaragua rather than Costa Rica.

The first permanent Spanish settlement in Costa Rica, the inland city of Cartago, was founded by Juan Vasquez de Coronado, who had been sent there in 1562 from Guatemala to act as colonial governor. Cartago became the capital of the province the following year.

During this earliest period there was little need for communication between Costa Rica and the other provinces. There were no taxable mining operations and the Ticos, the name by which the Costa Ricans called themselves, were largely self-sufficient, with their economy based on tobacco and cacao production. In short, Costa Rica was composed of a conglomeration of small landowners with nothing of value to export and no reason for close scrutiny by the Spanish crown. This situation continued

INTRODUCTION

throughout most of the Spanish colonial period, changing only with the growing wealth of some of the larger estate owners.

Unlike the hacienda and feudal systems that developed in other Spanish areas of Latin America, Costa Rica was populated primarily in the interior by small farmers working their land. In the early eighteenth century an ecclesiastical edict that ordered people to resettle near churches helped to centralize the widespread population and to establish new villages. Eventually the colonial economy improved, as tobacco and wheat began to be exported.

In 1665 Spain closed the eastern ports of Costa Rica because they had become havens for pirates. Although this move effectively shut down all legal trade by water routes, smugglers continued to ship some wood products from the area. Generally conditions remained the same in Costa Rica until the early nineteenth century.

Meanwhile, the state of affairs in Mexico became more volatile. In February 1821, after a protracted war against Spanish loyalists, military leaders Agustín de Iturbide and Vicente Guerrero issued their Plan de Inguala, which called for an independent Mexico. Other portions of Central America joined in the rebellion and, by attaching themselves to Mexico, gained their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. Although it took a month for the news to reach Costa Rica, this date marks the end of the Spanish colonial period for the purposes of this study.



Figure 1-1. Map of the Captaincy General of Central America

In July 1823, the former provinces of Guatemala (including Chiapas, now part of Mexico), Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador joined to form a federation known as the United Provinces of Central America (Provincias Unidas del Centro de America), with Guatemala City as the capital (see Figure 1-1).

In the same year a brief civil war erupted in Costa Rica between the republican faction centered in Alajuela and San Jose and the pro-Mexico faction in Cartago and Heredia. After a victory by the republican faction, Costa Rica joined the newly formed confederation, though retaining complete autonomy for internal affairs, and elected Juan Mora Fernandez as its head of state in 1824. It then acquired the additional province of Guanacaste, which seceded from Nicaragua in 1825.

Fernandez is credited with establishing a sound judicial system, founding a newspaper, and expanding public education. More controversial, however, were the free grants of land to coffee growers that served to create a powerful group of coffee barons. In September 1835 a brief War of the League broke out when San Jose defended itself from rival towns.

On May 31, 1838, the Federal Congress met to declare that the provinces were free to create their own independent republics. This resolution prompted Braulio Carrillo, who had taken power in Costa Rica, to proclaim complete independence. Carrillo was subsequently deposed, in an 1842 attempt by Honduran general Francisco Morazon to realign the federation. He in turn was soon overthrown and executed. Finally on August 31, 1848, after being in, and out, of the federation several times, Costa Rica decreed its complete separation and proclaimed the *Republica de Costa Rica*.

Soon the coffee barons entered the political arena: in 1849, the *cafetaleros* overthrew the nation's first president, Jose Maria Castro, and chose one of their own, Juan Rafael Mora, as successor. Mora ruled during a period of economic growth and is credited with taking the lead in Central America's resistance to the 1855-56 incursions of William Walker, an American with ambitions to turn the area into an extra-territorial slave state.

Nevertheless, some of Mora's measures, such as the founding of a national bank, brought criticism and, after a devastating outbreak of cholera in 1859, he was removed from office and replaced by Jose Maria Montealegre Fernandez. The new president was in office at the time of the 1862 Decree authorizing the issuance of postage stamps.

Mail in the Colonial Period

The postal rates in the colonial period, prior to 1821, are thoroughly discussed in *Central America Postal History and a Listing of Prephilatelic Postmarks* by Leo J. Harris, published by the Collectors Club, New York, 1986 (Harris). The Order of 1796, illustrated in Harris, mentions two supply trips a month from Spain, via Mexico, southward to Leon, Nicaragua, and then a monthly trip farther south terminating in Cartago, Costa Rica. It is apparent from postal artifacts that there were cross-mails in operation in Costa Rica in addition to the regular mail route to Leon. Post offices in Costa Rica during the colonial period were located in Alajuela, Cartago, Punta Arenas, Villa Nueva (San Jose), and Villa Vieja (Heredia).

Harris states, page 7, that "On November 3, 1796, Miguel de Ateaga, the then Postmaster of Guatemala, adopted a new general tariff for postal rates. A simple letter of less than one-half ounce was two reales for delivery within Central America ... Heavier letters cost proportionally more." This rate was altered on October 1, 1814, by an order stipulating that a simple letter of less than one-half ounce be charged three reales if sent within Central America.

Postal Regulations of the Central American Republic

The first postal decree following independence from Spain dates from April 24, 1824 (see Figure 1-2) and defines its purpose in the introductory paragraph: "Tariff which should be observed in the General Administration of Posts of the United Provinces of Central America for the collection of postage on terrestrial and maritime mails; approved by the National Constituent Assembly."

The rates specified in the body of the text apply to Costa Rica as a member of the United Provinces of Central America. Section 1 pertains to letters sent within Latin America: two reales if the weight is less than one-half ounce, double postage for a letter of one-half ounce, triple for three-quarters ounce, and quadruple for each ounce. Higher weight rates are given in the text below the table: "For each ounce exceeding the first three on pieces circulating within the provinces and states comprised under No.1, 3 reales will be charged, the first three being charged at the rate of 8." The "Certificados" (registered) section indicates that "The registration fee on pieces circulating between points of No. 1 (Latin America) will be 8 reales when less than one ounce, and if exceeding this at 12 reales, this must be paid, whatever class any registered may be." Section 2 deals with ocean mails of which none are known from Costa Rica in this era.

TARIFA QUE DEBE OBSERVARSE EN LA
Administración general de correos de las provincias unidas de centro América
 para el cobro de los portes de la correspondencia terrestre y marítimas aprobada
 por la Asamblea nacional constituyente.

	Varios sueltos de cinco al no- vea onzas.	La doble de media onza.	Tríplice de tres cuartillos o	Cuadruple de una de las otras o
NÚMERO 1.º				
Estados unidos de centro América.	} 2,, 4,, 6,, 8,	}	}	}
Provincia de Chiapa.				
República Mexicana.				
Id. de Colombia.				
Id. del Perú.				
Id. de Chile.				
Id. de Buenos-ayres.	} 4,, 6,, 8,, 12,	}	}	}
Islas del continente.				
NÚMERO 2.				
España é Islas adyacentes.	} 4,, 6,, 8,, 12,	}	}	}
Islas Filipinas.				
Estados Unidos del norte.				
Los demás países extranjeros.				

POR cada onza de las excedentes á las tres primeras, en los pliegos que circulen en las provincias y estados que se comprenden bajo el número 1. se cobrará á 3 reales, cobrándose las tres primeras á 8.
 Por cada onza de las excedentes á las tres primeras de los pliegos comprendidos en el número 2. se cobrará á 4 reales, y las tres primeras á 12.

Certificados.

POR el derecho del certificado en las piezas que circulen en los puntos del número 1.º se cobrará á razon de 8 reales, no llegando á una onza; y si pasare se cobrará á 12. reales, debiéndose franquear sea de la clase que tuere todo certificado.
 Por todo certificado comprendido bajo el número 2.º, no llegando á onza se cobrará á razon de 12 reales, y si pasare á 16.

Gostuzama abril 24 de 1824.—José Domingo Estrada Secretario.—Toribio Arguello Secretario.

Figure 1-2. Table of postal rates April 24, 1824

In addition to the postal rate table, the 1824 Decree granted free postal franking to all officials. This topic is more fully discussed in Chapter 3.

Postal Affairs of the State and Republic of Costa Rica

After the state of Costa Rica adopted its first constitution on January 22, 1825, postal affairs continued much as they had during the preceding period. In addition to the irregular government-operated mails, at least one private mail service began operations. The November 21, 1834 issue of the San Jose newspaper *La Tertulia* included an announcement of a private mail service that was to commence on December 1, 1834. This daily mail service, except weekends, was to operate between San Jose, Cartago, Heredia, and Alajuela. The rate was advertised as a medio real per piece to one ounce. Unfortunately, no artifacts from this service have been identified, but the mere fact that private enterprise was willing to operate is testament to the poor quality of government mail services available at the time.

An important decree, the first to create a postal service in Costa Rica, was issued by the Finance Department on December 10, 1839. Postal rates remained largely as they had been previously, that is: two reales for letters to one-half ounce within Central America; over one-half ounce up to three-quarters, four reales; over three-quarters but less than one ounce, eight reales; each additional ounce or portion thereof, three reales. The charge for registered letters up to one ounce was set at ten reales and for any letter or package that exceeded this weight, twenty reales. This decree remained operative beyond the proclamation of the Republic of Costa Rica on August 31, 1848, until the 1862 Decree superseded it.

In addition to the setting of postal rates, this decree proscribed other postal functions. This included how mails were to be collected, how *receptorias* (offices) were to function in the assorting of mail, the office hours of operation, instructions to offices to mark all letters with the *marquilla* of that office before dispatch, penalties for interfering with a mail carrier, and other related matters. For example, regarding registered mail, it instructed: "When a registered letter or package is received, the receiving clerk is obliged to put on the cover his respective stamp with date and place, signing underneath and obtaining from the person to whom it is addressed a receipt properly signed before such a letter can be delivered."

In the following years postal service improved very slowly. A decree from June 9, 1841, addressed mail services to Puntarenas and Moin: "To establish interior relations with the ports, the Supreme Chief orders that in the future the mailman who makes his run to Guanacaste will stop at Puntarenas on his way there and back. For Moin, there will be two mail runs per month, arranged so that there will be an arrival and departure on the first and 15th of each month. The customs inspectors will carry the mail to the post office in accordance with the rules established by the Decree of December 10th, 1839. The mailmen who make the trip to Moin will be paid eight reales additional for each trip."

However, the Costa Rica ports of Moin on the Caribbean side and Puntarenas on the Pacific side were not efficient, especially for ocean-going steamships, which required coaling stations. So, in spite of the above postal arrangements for better service, the bulk of the ocean mail in the 1840s was handled privately, using forwarding agents, via the Nicaraguan port of San Juan del Norte (San Juan de Nicaragua, Greytown).

INTRODUCTION

Finally, on December 29, 1847, in response to growing pressure from the coffee and tobacco traders, Costa Rica appointed a mail agent to serve at Greytown (San Juan del Norte), to send and receive international mails. Mail was carried from San Jose, via Sarapiquí to Greytown. This agent was then responsible for making mail connections with the British packet boats, operated by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP), which stopped there. An early example of a letter handled by the agent is shown in Figure 1-3.



Figure 1-3. An 1848 cover to Costa Rica sent to the care of the mail agent at Greytown

This cover, dated from Liverpool on September 16, 1848, was carefully addressed to “San Jose, Costa Rica, care of the Mail Agent at San Juan de Nicaragua” and endorsed to be carried by Royal West India Mail at the top. It was postmarked in London as prepaid with a manuscript 4 shilling 6 pence rate for packet service to Nicaragua for a letter weighing to one ounce. The RMSP steamers stopped at Jamaica and mail was transferred to a branch line steamer that operated, via Santa Martha, Carthagena, and Chagres before arriving in San Juan de Nicaragua.

An outbound usage from the Pacific coast of Costa Rica to California that was handled via the Caribbean Sea, by the mail agent in Greytown is shown in Figure 1-4.

This May 15, 1851, letter originated in Puntarenas and is addressed to San Francisco, California. It is endorsed at the top “Via San Juan de Nicaragua, Chagres & Panama” to the attention of forwarding agents Smith & Lewis in Panama. It was carried by post with a “Punta De Arenas” origin postmark (PUN-Pmk4) to the mail agent at Greytown, where it was delivered in time to catch the June 2 departure of the RMSP steamer *Chyde* bound for Chagres. Arriving there on June 9, 1851, the letter was then carried across the Isthmus of Panama and delivered to the forwarding agents, Smith & Lewis, at Panama. They applied their backstamp and passed it on to the U.S. mail agent, who placed it onboard the American owned and operated, Pacific Mail Steamship Company, steamer *Northerner* departing on June 16. Upon arrival at San Francisco on July 7, 1851, it was struck with the red “30” due rate handstamp of that city.

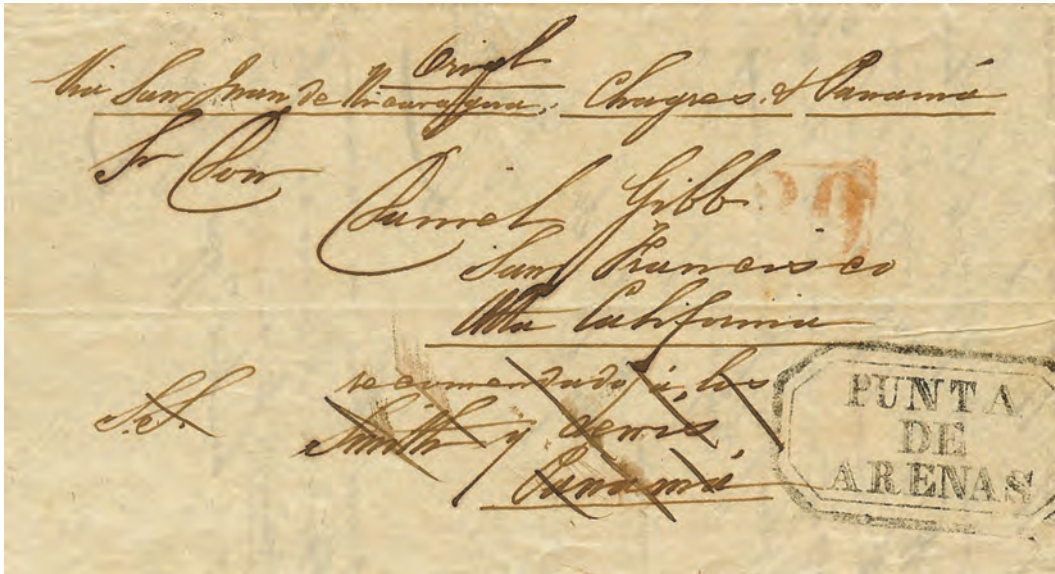


Figure 1-4. Letter from Puntarenas, via Greytown, to San Francisco in 1851

In April 1856, due to the activities of Walker’s filibusters, mail service for Europe via Sarapiquí and Greytown was suspended, not to be reestablished until May 1857. During this suspension of service, some mails were evidently routed via Moin or Puntarenas. For internal routes of communication, developed before 1883, as well as the principal towns in Costa Rica in this era, see the map in Figure 1-5.



Figure 1-5. Map of principal towns and routes within Costa Rica

INTRODUCTION

The next major development in postal service in Costa Rica was the 1862 Decree.

The 1862 Decree

A major postal reform law was signed on September 1, 1862 (1862 Decree). This decree, with minor alterations, remained the basis for postal operations beyond January 1, 1883, when Costa Rica became a member of the Universal Postal Union. The original decree, as published in the *Gaceta Oficial*, is shown on page 183. Because of its importance, the complete text of the 1862 Decree follows:

Article 1. – Correspondence is interior or exterior; interior is that which passes between inhabitants of towns of the Republic; and exterior that which is sent to other nations or arrives from them.

Article 2. – Letters which arrive from the exterior or which are sent outside the Republic shall, for the collection of postage be classified according to their weight. If not reaching half an ounce, they are single; double if weighing half an ounce but not reaching three-quarters; triple if weighing three-quarters but not reaching an ounce; and they shall be called letters under cover (pliegos) or parcels (paquetes) when weighing one ounce or more.

Article 3. – The postage on letters which are dispatched by the interior posts shall be at the rate of two reales per ounce in the same proportions as set for exterior correspondence by articles 2 and 4.

From the publication of this law, no small packages (encomiendas) of currency nor of other classes will be admitted to the Administration of Posts.

Article 4. – The rates on exterior correspondence shall be two reales for single letters, four for double ones, six for triple; for letters under cover (pliegos) or parcels (paquetes) of one ounce, eight reales, and for those exceeding this at the rate of eight reales per ounce. Loose or banded printed matter at two reales per pound. Printed matter which is received or dispatched closed shall be considered as letters.

Article 5. – For the purpose of paying postage fees there shall be two stamps, the first red in color (actually printed in orange), of two reales (dos reales) value, and the second in blue of the value of half a real (medio real). These stamps shall be delivered by the Sub-secretariat of the Treasury to the Administrator General of Posts as a cash charge for sale in his office and in those of his subordinates, and accounts will be kept in the manner of those for stamped paper, or in such manner as the Government may dispose.

Article 6. – All letters deposited or delivered in the Post Offices and printed matter destined for the exterior must be franked, that is must carry stamps according to their value. The said letters and printed matter introduced by the mail box or brought to the post offices without the corresponding stamps shall always be detained by the Administrators until such are affixed by the person interested in their dispatch or by their representatives. For this purpose, these same Administrators shall publish in the Official Gazette the addresses of letters or printed matter detained whether for complete absence of stamps or because they do not carry sufficient to cover their value according to destination and weight.

Article 7. – Nor can letters, small packages (encomiendas) and printed matter from the exterior leave the Post Offices without the necessary stamps according to their value. In order to avoid

the error, as well as for reasons of more expeditious dispatch, the Administrators of San Jose and Puntarenas shall weigh correspondence which they receive from without the Republic, first, in the presence of the Collector of Revenue and, second, in the presence of the Collector of Customs, and shall affix to each piece the respective stamps except for those which are remitted to other Administrations, collecting their value from the interested parties. Should these not desire to pay for any reason, or for any reason should not come to receive their correspondence, it shall be considered as “dead” after one year and the Administrators will credit themselves with its value under required formalities.

Article 8. – In addition to the red and blue stamps destined for the payment of postage fees, there will be a marker of black ink to be used by the Administrators of Posts, always placing it upon the red and blue stamps on letters and printed matter which they receive or dispatch in order to render them useless, thus preventing the fraud of their being used again for franking or that other pieces may be handed in with stamps which have already served.

Article 9. – Interior correspondence shall be taken through the public mails franked with the blue stamp, and freely by express messengers or by private persons who travel from one town to another. Exterior correspondence shall be considered as a fiscal monopoly and for that reason can neither be received or dispatched without payment in advance of the postage fees.

Article 10. – Port Captains before dispatching vessels, and upon their boarding visit, shall exact from the Captains, Pursers, Supercargoes and other members of the crew, as well as from passengers, correspondence which they carry from the Republic and which they may be bringing thereto, and shall detain letters going without the necessary stamps and all those coming from the exterior, delivering both kinds, subject to receipt, in the Administration of Posts of the same port, in order that there may be published the names of the persons and places to which those that are leaving the Republic were directed, as so that there may be remitted to their town of destination those addressed thereto, in order that the first may be dispatched legally, the necessary stamps being affixed by the interested party or someone else in his behalf, and so that the second may be removed by their owners, paying the corresponding postage.

Article 11. – Captains of vessels, Pursers, Pilots, Supercargoes & other members of the crew, as well as passengers, who fraudulently introduce letters into the Republic or carry them therefrom to the exterior, shall be penalized by double (the amount) of the postage for each letter so carried. Letters of recommendation are exempt from this disposition and may be carried freely provided they are carried open.

Article 12. – The Administrators of Posts at Ports shall deliver to the Captains thereof together with the correspondence to be taken on board, a sufficient number of red stamps in order that this employee may place upon each unfranked letter presented to him the corresponding stamps according to their weight subject to the payment of their value by the interested parties; delivering correspondence received on board as well as mail received from the Administration to the employee who is supposed to assume charge thereof. Amounts so collected by the Port Captains shall be delivered with computation and accounting to the Administrators, returning the surplus stamps so as to make up the amount they may have received from the Administrator.

Article 13. – Captains of vessels, Pursers, Supercargoes and other members of the crew, who at any time are found violating, or found to have violated, any of the dispositions in the two

INTRODUCTION

foregoing articles, and passengers and private persons who do not deliver to Port Captains (including letters) shall pay double the postage fee for each letter; and those who receive letters for carriage and those sending correspondence to the exterior by any means and in whatever amount shall incur the double fine before mentioned for each occasion on which defraudation of the treasury fees is discovered. The same Port Captains shall demand from those who have been found guilty payment of the fines mentioned in this article.

Article 14. – When any person desires to send mail outside the Republic, he must present to the Administrator General, or to the subordinate of the province or town of his residence, the messenger he has engaged and the correspondence he is to carry together with the respective stamps; the functionary shall detain the letters not having them or on which some are lacking according to weight until the necessary ones have been affixed by the interested party; and, after administering the oath to the messenger as to whether he carries correspondence other than that he has declared, providing none such is carried, he shall dispatch him as a public mail carrier without requiring any other fee or contribution. Any messenger who shall fraudulently carry letters other than those declared, in addition to suffering the penalties of perjury, shall suffer the punishment prescribed in Article 11.

Article 15. – The official correspondence of the supreme authorities of the Republic, and of the office of the Commandant General, of the Bishop and his Vicars, and generally of all civil, military, ecclesiastical and treasury department public functionaries, shall be free of postage provided that official letters carry the seal of the respective office. Loose or banded printed matter dispatched by the interior mails shall also be exempt from postage. The abuse of seals or marks of public offices committed by the Chiefs thereof, or by their subordinates, placing them on their private letters for the purpose of avoiding the payment of postage fees, shall cause the punishment of the violator with a fine of ten pesos for the first offence, twenty for the second and fifty, with removal from office and prohibition from holding any other public office or post for the third.

Article 16. – The registration fee on letters belongs to the National Treasury; four reales shall be charged for interior letters and eight for those of the exterior, when it is desired to register them in addition to the postage fee.

Article 17. – Since fixed and unalterable rules cannot be given in the growing country, and in continuous expectation of its progress, on the organization of the public service in the postal branch, because thus the number and duties of the employees of the offices, as well as the routes which should be established, the hours of arrival and departure of the mails, their celerity, the frequency of communications, and even the different means of attaining them, have to be adapted to the progress and requirements of the country itself, the Executive Power is authorized to arrange this branch of the Administration as required by distinct circumstances and, consequently, to incur the necessary expenses. Meanwhile, the dispositions contained in Chapters 16 to 19 of the Treasury Regulations remain in force insofar as they are not in conflict with the present decree.

To the Chamber of Senators. Be it passed to the Executive Power. Given in the Hall of Sessions, National Palace, San Jose, August eighteen of eighteen hundred sixty two.

Signed: Julina Volio, President
Demetrio Iglesias, Secretary
Jacinto TreJose, Secretary

The 1863-Issue of Stamps

Article 5 of the 1862 Decree specifies that two postage stamps, a dos reales (two reales) in red and a medio real (one-half real) in blue, will be available to pay postage. Article 8 specifies that black should be used to cancel the stamps.

According to the article of R.J. Mechin and Alex Cohen, which appeared serially in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 1948 (“Costa Rica, First Postage Stamps of 1863” Vol. XXVII, Nos. 3 and 4), the American Bank Note Company acknowledged receipt on October 11, 1862, of the initial order for medio real and dos reales stamps, 250,000 stamps of each, to bear the “arms of the republic,” and to be engraved. The stamps were printed in sheets of 100 subjects and ready for shipment on January 17, 1863. Upon payment of the bill by the Costa Rica Post Office Department, the stamps were shipped, via Puntarenas, on February 7, 1863, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at San Jose.

On September 30, 1863, the American Bank Note Company acknowledged an order for two additional denominations: the un peso (one peso) stamps in orange and the cuatro reales (four reales) in green. This initial order, for 20,000 copies of the cuatro reales and 10,000 copies of the un peso, was completed and shipped on November 2, 1863. The set of four denominations is shown in Figure 1-6.



Figure 1-6. The Costa Rica 1863 issue of stamps. Initial two values and added values

According to the American Bank Note Company correspondence cited in Mechin (op. cit.), additional shipments of stamps were made to Costa Rica between September 1865 and October 1875. On July 19, 1875, the original plate 1 used to print the medio real was cancelled and shipments of that denomination sent after August 11, 1875, were examples from plate 2. The total number of stamps shipped is given in Table 1-1 below:

Denomination	Printed and Delivered	Estimate of Actually Used (Mechin)
medio real, plate 1	3,000,000	1,973,000
medio real, plate 2	2,750,000	1,082,000
dos reales	750,000	355,000
cuatro reales	70,000	42,000
un peso	35,000	24,500

Table 1-1. Quantities of the 1863 issue stamps printed, delivered, and sold

INTRODUCTION

Some additional notes on the medio real stamps are in order. The earliest printings are in a very deep, rich shade of blue and were probably included in the first shipment of stamps, which would have been received in San Jose on March 11 or March 12, 1863. The earliest reported usage of a medio real, shown in Figure 4-1, originated in Cartago on April 21, 1863.

At some point prior to July 1875 the medio real plate 1 developed a serious crack. Figure 1-7 shows corner blocks of six from this plate before the crack (left) and after the crack had extended to affect three positions on the plate (positions 1, 11 and 21). Note also the paler color of the late-state block.



Figure 1-7. Medio real, corner blocks showing before and after plate crack

After plate 1 was canceled, plate 2 was utilized to complete the June 1875 order and the first medio real stamps printed from this plate were shipped on August 11, 1875. All positions in the plate show a weakness at the top left of the design. Further, the stamp color is usually a lighter and brighter blue than previously. Two blocks, earlier and later shades, are shown in Figure 1-8.

As with the medio real stamps, the earliest printing of the dos real is in a deep, rich shade. The earliest reported use is the exterior cover, shown in Figure 5-1, which was sent from San Jose to El Salvador on May 15, 1863. This denomination required three printings from a single plate and there are no major plate flaws of note.



Figure 1-8. Medio real stamps from plate 2, early and late shades

The cuatro reales denomination was printed from a single plate used over two print runs (1863 and 1865). The earliest reported use on cover is the June 10, 1867, letter from San Jose to New York shown in Figure 5-5. There is one very pronounced double transfer which shows clearly on stamps from position 8 in the sheet. A positional block of six (positions 8 to 10 above 18 to 20) as well as a diagram of the flaw is shown in Figure 1-9.



Figure 1-9. Cuatro reales double transfer, position 8 in corner block, flaw diagram

The un peso denomination was also printed from a single plate and used over two print runs (1863 and 1865). The earlier of the two reported usages on cover is the December 11, 1877, interior cover, shown in Figure 4-25, sent from Puntarenas to Alajuela. There are no significant plate or shade varieties.

INTRODUCTION

Following a change to decimal currency in Costa Rica, the medio real stamp was sold for 5 centavos. The dos reales stamp continued at the equivalent reales value of 25 centavos, the cuatro reales at 50 centavos and the un peso at one peso (100 centavos) effective from June 9, 1866 (see also Chapter 4).

Remainders of the 1863-Issue Stamps

Costa Rica was admitted to the Universal Postal Union effective January 1, 1883, and the stamps of the 1863 issue were demonetized effective the same day. After demonetization, late in 1883, the Costa Rica government sold a Mr. Ross of San Jose the surplus stock of the 1863 issue that remained on hand as well as some of the January 1883 surcharges on medio real stamps. In addition to the approximately 3,046,890 stamps delivered to him, according to Mechin, Ross also managed to acquire various postal devices. Calculated estimates made by Mechin of the number of 1863-issue stamps actually sold by the Costa Rica post office are listed as estimates in Table 1-1.

Ross then proceeded to manufacture numerous bogus overprints and surcharges in an attempt to sell his stock. He also canceled stamps using the devices he had purchased from the post office. Most of these products, however, are usually not too difficult to spot with experience and reference material. For example, the ink on his cancelled stamps is frequently of different composition than that used during the earlier period. Several of the cancel devices known used by Ross and others after demonetization are annotated in the notes column of Appendix A.

The Post Offices of Costa Rica (1863-1883)

In his series of articles (*op. cit.*), Mechin mentions the official lists of post offices that were published in 1875 and 1879, as well as a list of offices in operation in 1863-1864 derived from post office reports. I have included the information below.

1863-1864 post offices (12 with postmasters; others may have had mail service):

Aguacate, Alajuela, Atenas, Cartago, Grecia, Heredia, Liberia, Moin, Puntarenas, San Jose, San Ramon, and Terraba

1875 post offices (31):

Alajuela, Aserri, Atenas, Bagaces, Barba, Boruca, Cartago, Desamparados, Desmonte (Aguacate), Esparza, Golfo Dulce, Grecia, Guadalupe, Heredia, Liberia, Limon, Moin, Naranjo, Orosi, Paraiso, Puntarenas, Puriscal, San Isidro, San Jose, San Joaquin, San Juan, San Mateo, San Ramon, San Vicente, Santo Domingo, and Sta. Barbara.

1879 post offices (16):

Alajuela, Atenas, Bagaces, Cartago, Desmonte (Aguacate), Esparta, Grecia, Heredia, La Union (now Tres Rios), Liberia, Limon, Puntarenas, San Jose, San Mateo, San Ramon, Santa Cruz

All of the offices listed for 1879 have been found as postmarks on the 1863 issue adhesives, while many of the offices that appear on the 1875 list have not been found. It may be that the 1875 list includes towns that were served by tax officials or other public servants and did not have full post office status.



Chapter Two

Pre-Adhesive and Stampless Covers



This chapter discusses the postal markings applied by the post office during the period before the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1863, including those found on free mail prior to 1883. The chapter is arranged by office, presented in alphabetical order.

Alajuela

Now the capital of Alajuela province, Alajuela is located in the Barva valley of Costa Rica to the northwest of San Jose. It was founded as the parish of La Lajuella in 1782, following an influx of people who had moved westward from Cartago and Heredia. By 1813 the place-name had evolved into Alajuela, although it was also known as Villa Hermosa, “beautiful village.”

In time, Alajuela came to play an important role in Costa Rica’s history. During 1823, its population became the most vocal element supporting independence from Spain, and for a brief period in the 1830s it was even the capital of the country.

The earliest postmark from Alajuela (ALA-Pmk1) is reported in black used in 1808. An undated example, circa 1817, on a front is shown in Figure 2-1. Addressed to Guatemala, it bears the manuscript “Franco” endorsement and signature of Postmaster Silvestre Ramos.



Figure 2-1. Alajuela to Guatemala ca. 1817

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

The Mayer collection includes an example in brown, circa 1830, used to Nicaragua, as well as an 1843 example in green, pictured in Figure 2-2, used to Guanacaste.

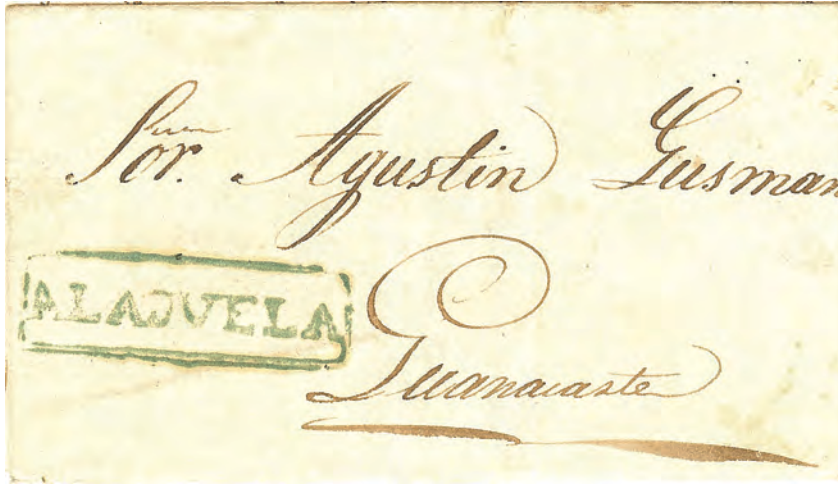


Figure 2-2. 1843 Alajuela to Guanacaste

A variation on the standard name-in-oval style postmark (ALA-Pmk2) was introduced before 1852, when the folded letter shown in Figure 2-3 was mailed.

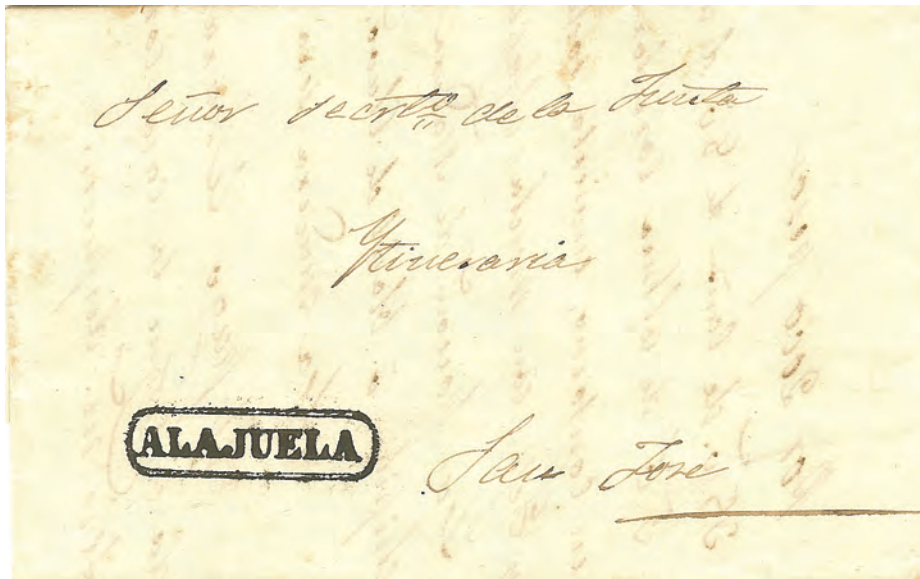


Figure 2-3. February 10, 1852, folded letter from Alajuela to San Jose

This marking continued to be used into the adhesive stamp period. Late examples occur on a July 1863 public service letter to San Jose and on a postal form in 1877.

A third type of postmark (ALA-Pmk3) inscribed “Franqueado En Alajuela,” is known to have been used from March 1852 until 1862, concurrently with the previous style. The example shown in Figure 2-4 was used in May 1860 to San Jose.

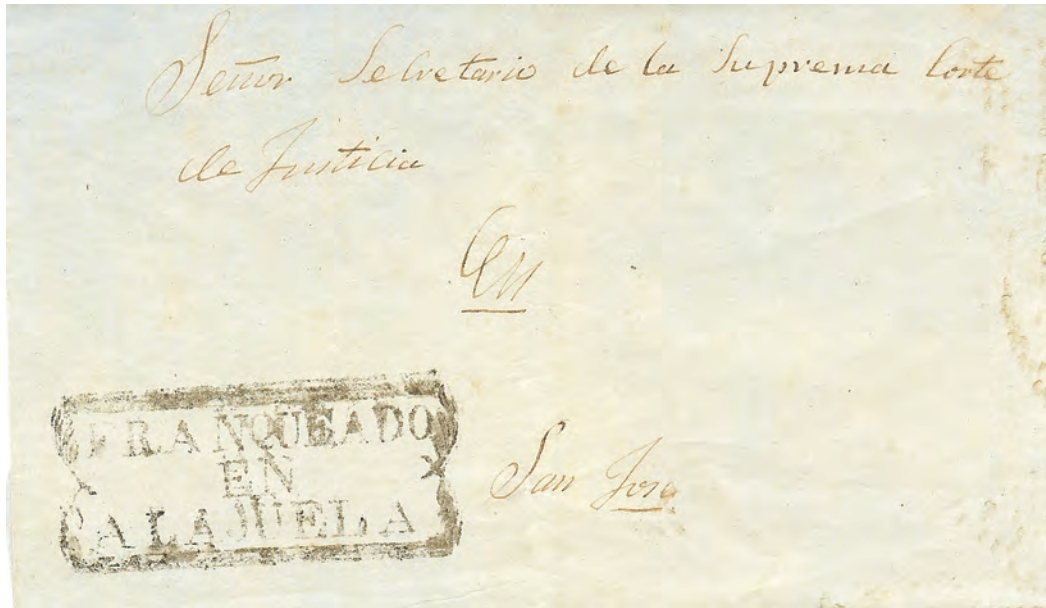


Figure 2-4. May 1860 Alajuela to San Jose

In addition, Harris reports (p. 43) an auxiliary “Franco” handstamp (ALA-Aux1) used circa 1821 in conjunction with a manuscript “Alajuela” town endorsement on a letter, but this item has not been seen by the authors.

Alajuela also produced, in addition to the regular postmarks, numerous public service handstamped marks both for the city and the province. See Chapter 3 for a listing.

Bagaces

Bagaces is the capital of the canton of Bagaces in the province of Guanacaste in northwest Costa Rica. During the colonial period Guanacaste was aligned with Nicaragua until annexation to Costa Rica on July 25, 1825. The town was on the main postal route connecting Nicaragua, via Guanacaste, Bagaces, and Esparta to San Jose.

The earliest postmark used here is of the typical colonial boxed style (BAG-Pmk1) with the name spelled “Bagases.” Reported as being struck in brown, greenish black, blue, and black, ink the marking exists both on transit mail received from Nicaragua as well as on mail originating in Bagaces between 1803 and 1824. The earliest dated example in the Mayer collection is shown in Figure 2-5.

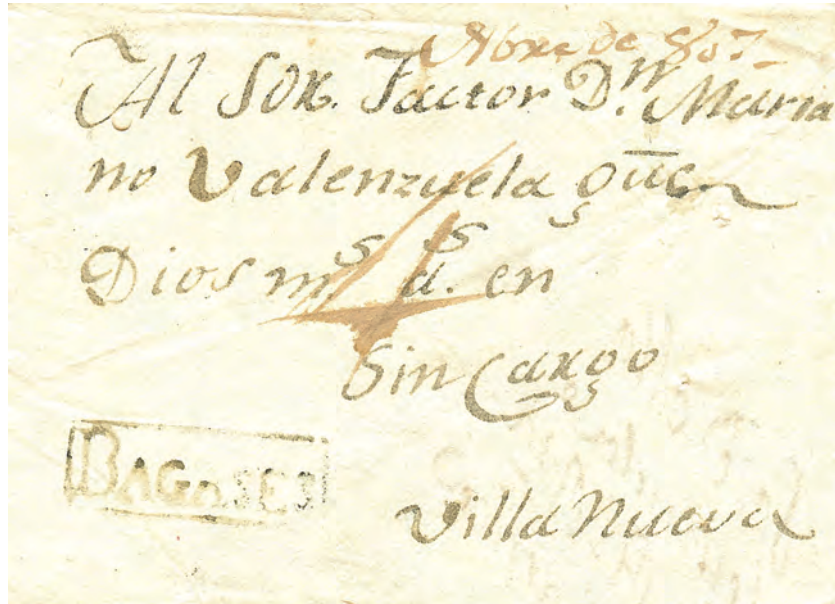


Figure 2-5. 1807 Bagaces cover to Villa Nueva, manuscript “4” reales due

This cover, dated 1807, with the postmark in greenish black, is addressed to the Tobacco Factor at Villa Nueva (later San Jose) and has a manuscript “4” reales rate. Two 1812 examples, Figure 2-6, to the same addressee show the marking struck in brown and in blue, but without a rate endorsement.



Figure 2-6. Two 1812 usages from Bagaces to Villa Nueva

There are no reported Bagaces postmarks in the period between 1825 and 1845. Although the Mayer collection does contain a letter from Bagaces to San Jose dated 1833, it was postmarked at Esparza in transit.

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

A new style of boxed postmark (BAG-Pmk2) is reported from circa 1845. It now shows the town name as “Bagaces” and is known in only a few examples. The Mayer collection includes two, both used in 1848, to the same addressee. One is shown in Figure 2-7.

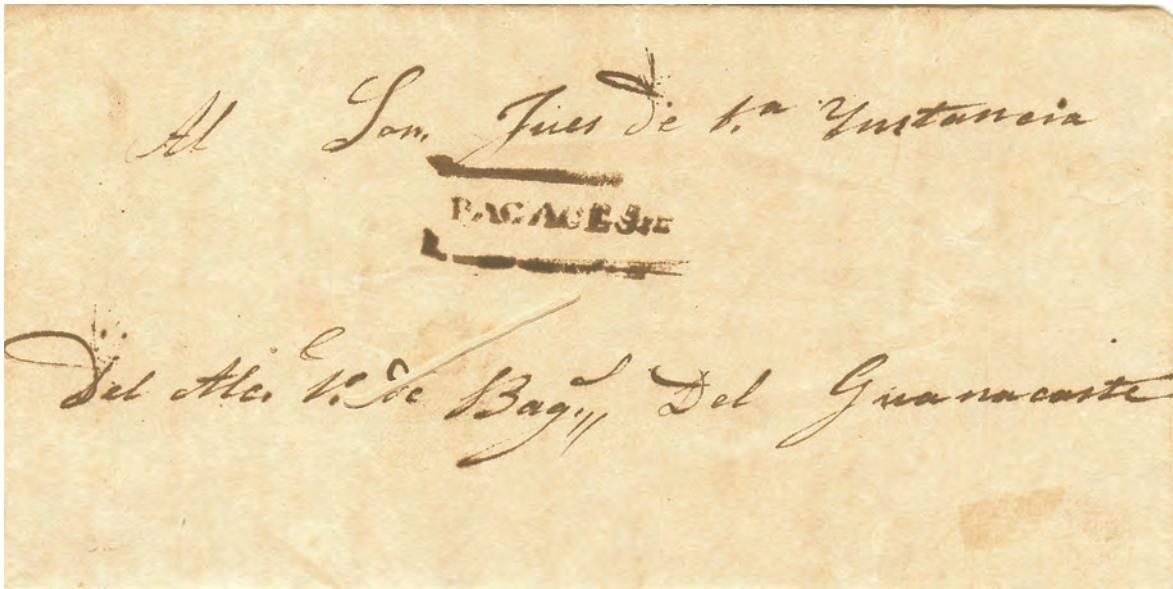


Figure 2-7. April 30, 1848, Bagaces to Guanacaste

These two folded letters are important because they show the use of regular postal markings at Bagaces during the time frame of 1846-49, when the famed “Bagaces tree” handstamp (BAG-Tree) was supposedly in use. All the known letters with the tree handstamp bear dates between May 3, 1846, and September 17, 1849 (see Figure 2-8), and come from a single correspondence addressed from Bagaces to Don Jose Maria Castro in San Jose.



Figure 2-8. Example of the fake Bagaces tree handstamp on December 3, 1846 folded letter to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

However, a close examination of the four Bagaces tree covers in the Mayer collection has led the authors to conclude that the handstamp is a later fabrication. We suspected that in all cases the ink used was water-based rather than the proper oil-based ink found in genuine Costa Rican postmarks of the period. A light application of a regular pencil eraser confirmed our suspicions, as the marking was quite easily removed, something that would not have happened with genuine oil-based markings.

The next genuine postmark to be used is reported only in the single example shown in Figure 2-9, a March 14, 1854, folded letter to Puntarenas. It shows an octagonal, double-line boxed Bagaces postmark, with the name spelled “Bagases” again (BAG-Pmk3). It also bears a red crayon “1” real rate marking.



Figure 2-9. March 14, 1854, Bagaces to Puntarenas

Finally, a small oval Bagaces postmark (BAG-Pmk4) was introduced after postage stamps became available. A stampless folded letter with the marking, pictured in Figure 2-10, is known from 1875; it is also known used on a postal form of 1878.

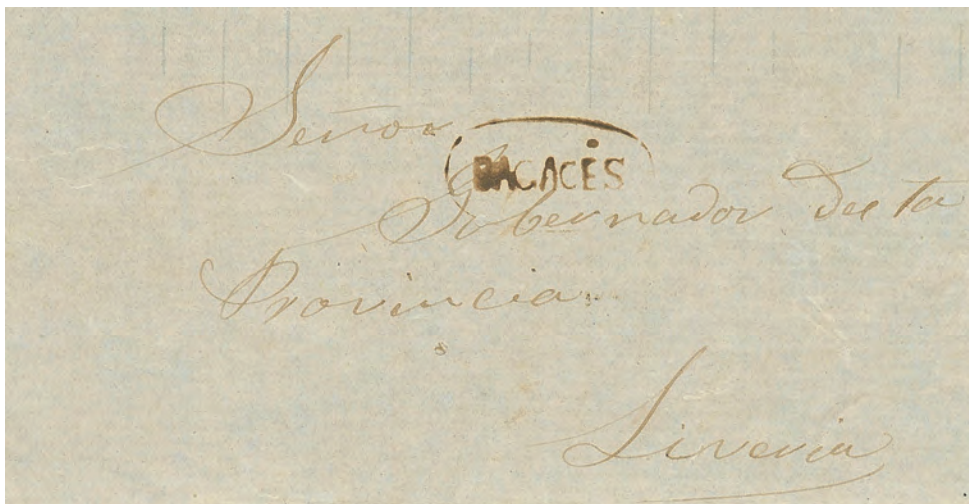


Figure 2-10. August 10, 1875, Bagaces public service usage to Liberia

Cartago

Founded in 1563, Cartago was the first permanent Spanish settlement in Costa Rica. It served as the country's capital until its transfer to San Jose in 1823. Today it is the capital of the province of Cartago in central Costa Rica.

The earliest reported usage from Cartago bearing a postmark is shown in Figure 2-11. It is a folded cover dated "1797" which shows the ornately framed postmark type (CAR-Pmk1).

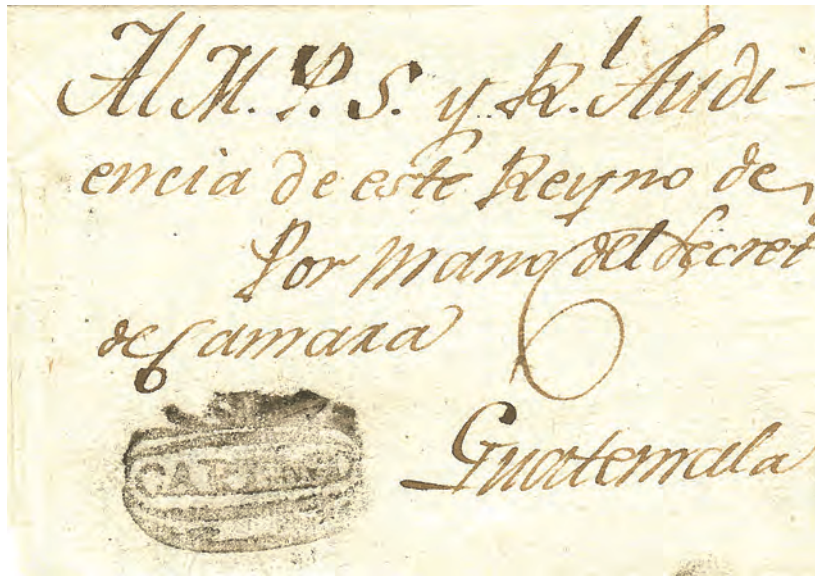


Figure 2-11. 1797 cover from Cartago to Guatemala

It is addressed to Guatemala City and has a manuscript "6" reales rate endorsement. The strike on this cover is very black, where later strikes are usually in brownish shades. An example with a clearer strike in brown is shown in Figure 2-12.

This cover is rated in manuscript "4" reales due. The latest dated example in the Mayer collection is from 1813.

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS



Figure 2-12. Undated folded cover, ca. 1800, from Cartago to Leon

In concurrent use with postmark CAR-Pmk1 for at least the period after 1802 was a paid postmark (CAR-Pmk2) with “Franqueado en Cartago” text. The Mayer collection includes an 1807 example and several dated between 1815 and 1820, all struck in brown. An example of this paid postmark pictured in Figure 2-13 is dated April 1, 1815.

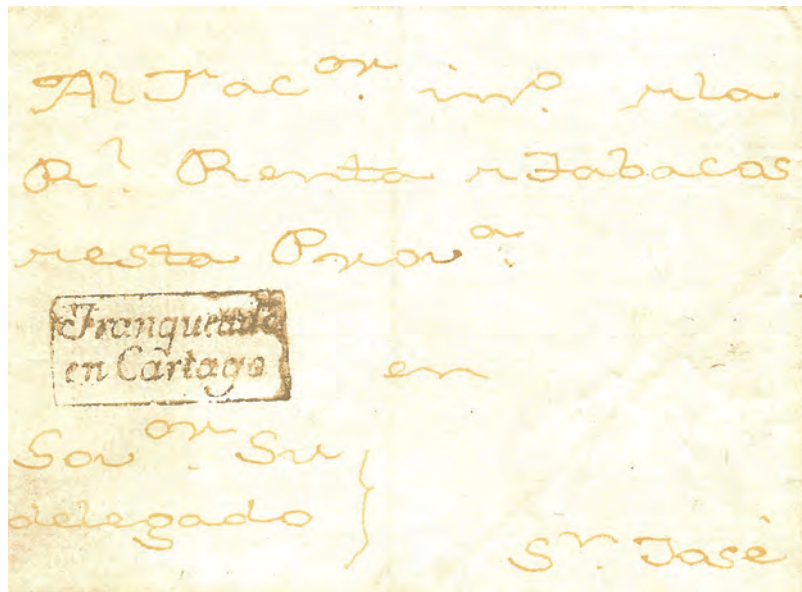


Figure 2-13. Folded letter, dated April 1, 1815, from Cartago to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

One undated cover front in the collection is addressed to Don Ramon Zelaya, Secretary of the Supreme Government of Guatemala. That this form of address would not have been used in the colonial period, when the government was referred to as Royal Government, suggests that this cover is a late usage of the marking, circa 1824.

A rather scarce type of boxed, straight-line postmark (CAR-Pmk3) is reported used between 1843 and 1853. The item shown in Figure 2-14 is the only example in the collection, a folded cover with the original letter dated September 20, 1843, addressed to Guanacaste. The marking, with slanted letters, is struck in dark brown.

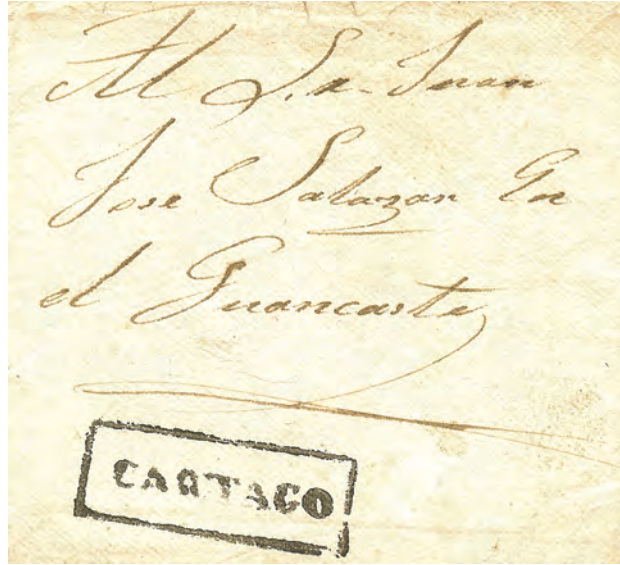


Figure 2-14. September 20, 1843, Cartago to Guanacaste

A second style of paid marking, with “Franqueado Cartago” text in a large oval (CAR-Pmk4) is reported between 1844 and 1870, although the latest example in the Mayer collection is 1863. A typical example, an 1859 folded letter from Cartago to San Jose, is pictured in Figure 2-15.



Figure 2-15. July 27, 1859, folded letter from Cartago to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

The next variety of straight-line Cartago postmark requires a more detailed description. Its earliest reported usage (CAR-Pmk5) can be seen on the waybill shown in Figure 2-16.

Para Santa Cruz.

SEÑOR ADMINISTRADOR DE CORREOS DE

Con el del día dirijo à U. la correspondencia i encomiendas siguientes.

CORRESPONDENCIAS.	Sencillas.	Dobles.	Triples.	Pliegos.	Valor.	Total en Rs.
De este oficio para ese.	1					
De particulares.						
Ultramarinas.						
Certificados						
Piezas francas						
Para U.						
Impresos.						
Encomiendas.						

Receptoría de Correos de **CARTAGO** *Octubre 5 de 1847*
José Joaquín Prieto

Figure 2-16. October 5, 1847, waybill from Cartago

It is a boxed strike; the height of the letters is 5 mm and the length of the text is 35.5 mm. The Mayer collection includes similar boxed strikes on letters dated between November 1849 and April 1854, one of the more interesting of which is shown in Figure 2-17.

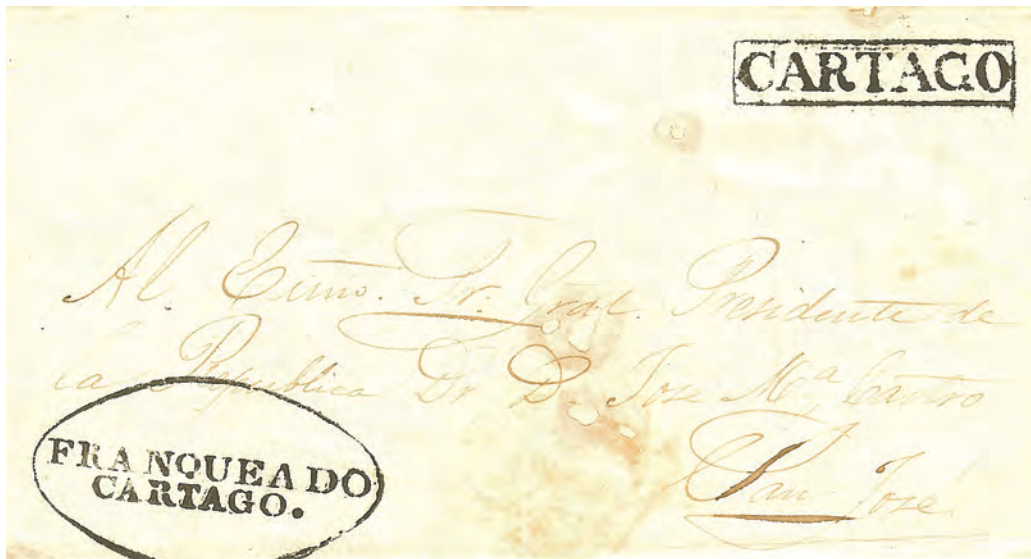


Figure 2-17. November 9, 1849, prepaid letter from Cartago to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

This folded letter bears both the oval paid handstamp and the boxed straight-line postmark. Although it is addressed to the president and should have been allowed to go free, it was prepaid.

It is interesting to note that, at some point after 1854, the straight-line Cartago marking seems to have been altered to remove the outer rectangle on three sides. The text of the altered device (CAR-Pmk5a), when overlaid onto the boxed-style mark, is identical, the only difference being the absence of the top and side lines. An example showing the alteration is shown in Figure 2-18.

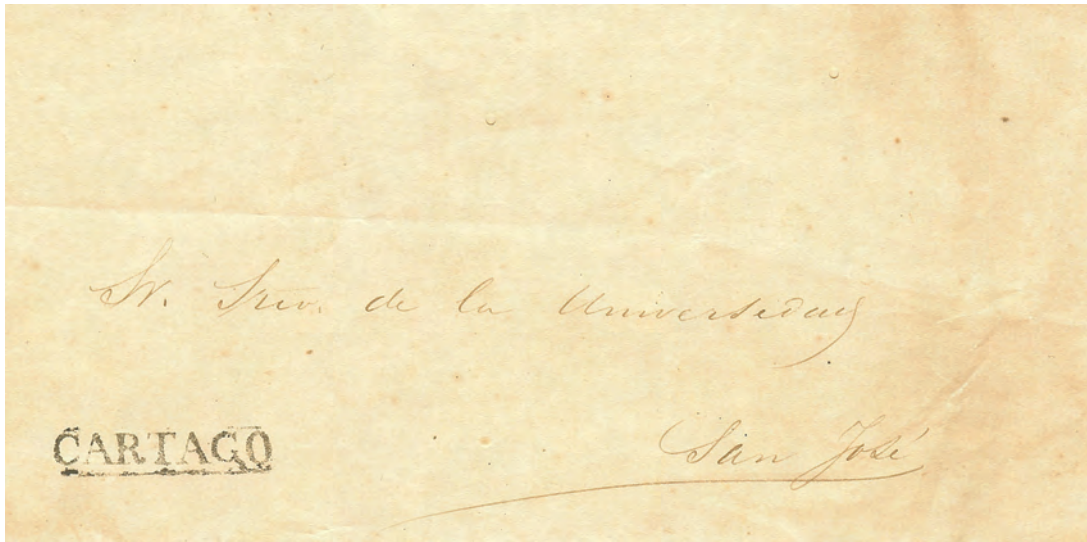


Figure 2-18. Altered device postmark on cover, circa 1860, to San Jose

Unfortunately all the stampless examples of this altered device marking that the authors have seen are undated. However, an example of the marking on a cover with an 1863-issue medio real (see Figure 4-10) adhesive confirms the use of the device in that period.

Finally, a small oval Cartago handstamp (CAR-Pmk7) was evidently introduced sometime after the 1863 issue was released. However, since it is known on public service mail, it is included here. An example is shown in Figure 2-19.

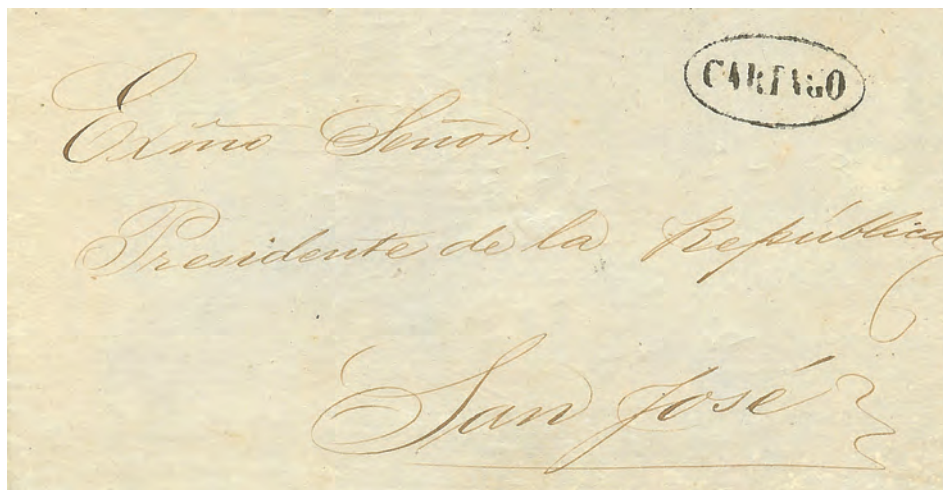


Figure 2-19. Undated cover, ca. 1865, from Cartago to the president at San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

In closing this section on Cartago markings it should be noted that Harris reports (p. 47) a mark with “Cartago / Franca” text in upper-case letters enclosed in an oval measuring 21 by 34 mm. It was not illustrated and has not been seen by the authors.

Esparta

Esparta, or “Esparza,” as it was officially known before September 3, 1879, is located in the province of Puntarenas, inland from the Gulf of Nicoya. One of the oldest towns in Costa Rica, it was founded in 1554 by the Spanish, before colonization of the Central Valley had begun. It was located on the main road that connected the four plateau cities and Puntarenas.

The earliest reported postmark from Esparta is the boxed straight-line (ESP-Pmk1) reported by Harris (p.47) as being known from 1807. The earliest example in the Mayer collection is from a later period and is shown in Figure 2-20.

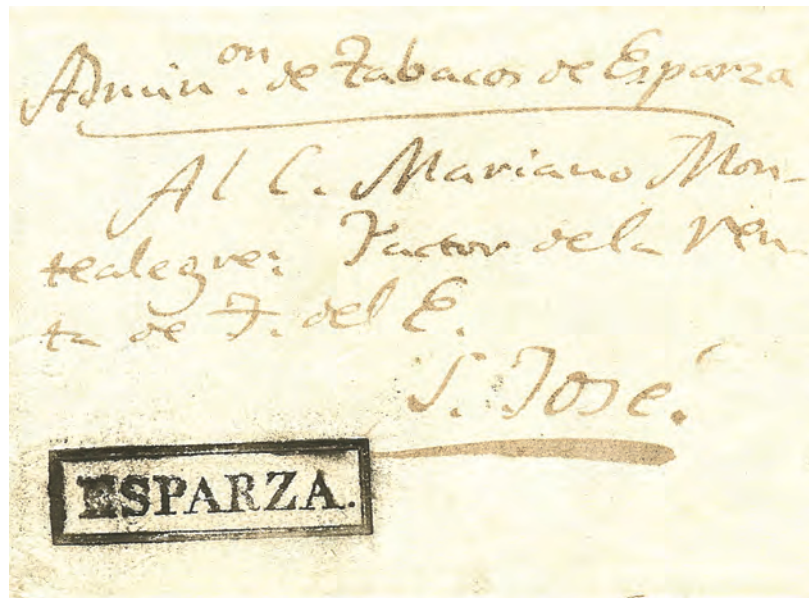


Figure 2-20. Front from Esparta to San Jose and returned, ca. 1825

This item is a front only and is addressed to San Jose with the Esparta postmark on one side. The reverse is addressed to Esparta, with a San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk1) and Franco (SJ-Aux1) handstamp, both in black. The date can be estimated as circa 1825 because of the San Jose postmark. The double-lined box marking, which often appears to be single-lined on later examples when over-inked, continued to be used at the Esparta post office into the early 1860s, as evidenced by a cover (Figure 4-14) bearing an 1863-issue medio real with this postmark used as a cancel.

The Mayer collection contains four manuscript postmarks (ESP-Pmk2) inspired by the boxed straight-line handstamp. Figure 2-21 shows an example on a public service letter to Cartago dated August 24, 1832.



Figure 2-21. Hand-drawn manuscript Esparta postmark on 1832 letter to Cartago

The three additional examples are all very similar, two with dotted rather than dashed horizontal lines. All of the dated examples are 1832 usages.

Two auxiliary paid markings are also known from Esparta. The earlier style, with a single example reported, is a boxed “Franqueado” handstamp shown in Figure 2-22 used on an 1837 folded letter to Guanacaste. This marking is identical to the one used in San Jose (SJ-Aux3) and similar marking devices were possibly supplied to additional offices as well.



Figure 2-22. November 3, 1837, letter from Esparta to Guanacaste with boxed paid handstamp

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

A second style, with “Franco” in an oval, is reported in fewer than four examples. The 1866 folded letter pictured in Figure 2-23 shows it used in conjunction with the boxed Esparta (Esparza) postmark (ESP-Pmk1), while a second example in the collection, an 1870 folded letter from Esparta to San Jose, shows it used without an additional postmark.



Figure 2-23. July 8, 1866, folded letter from Esparta to San Jose with additional paid handstamp

Grecia

Grecia is located in the Central Valley and is the capital of the canton of Grecia in the province of Alajuela. It was founded in 1828 after being settled by people from Alajuela, San Jose, and Heredia.

The earliest reported marking from Grecia is a straight-line postmark (GRE-Pmk1) that is rarely found on mail during the pre-adhesive period. The example shown in Figure 2-24 appears on a folded cover addressed to the governor of the province of Alajuela in Grecia.

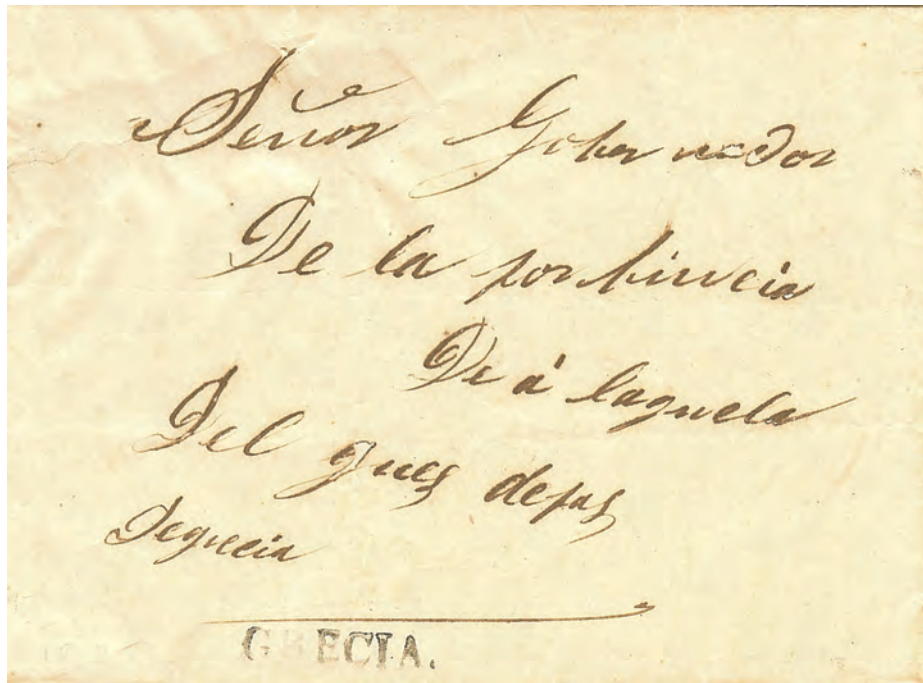


Figure 2- 24. Undated folded cover, ca.1862, with Grecia straight-line postmark

A second example in the Mayer collection, shown in Figure 2-25, shows the same postmark with additional straight-line “Franqueado” (paid) marking (GRE-Aux2). This is the only reported example and, because it is such a poor strike, the tracing is incomplete.

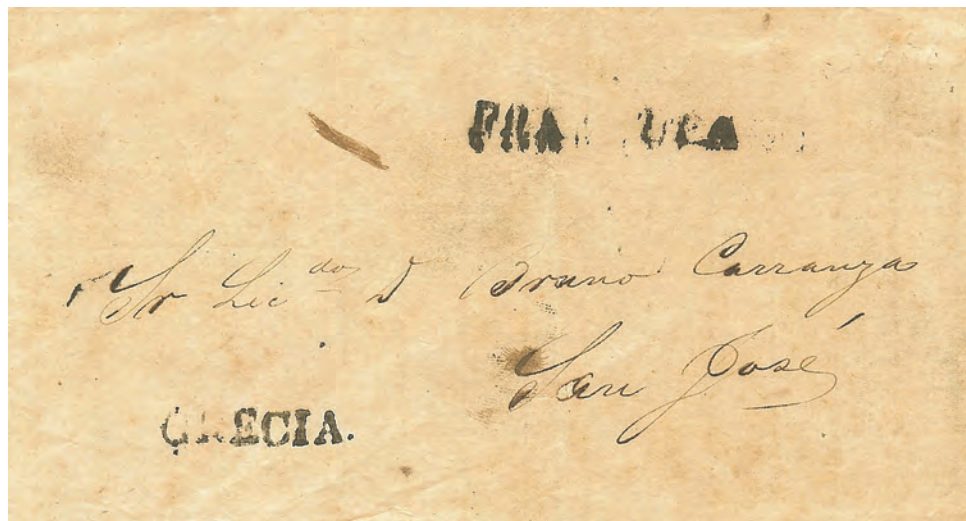


Figure 2-25. Undated folded cover, ca. 1862, from Grecia to San Jose with paid marking

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

Guanacaste

One of the early towns in what is now the province of Guanacaste in northwest Costa Rica, Guanacaste, like Bagaces, was aligned with Nicaragua during the colonial period before being annexed to Costa Rica on July 25, 1825. The town was on the main postal route connecting Nicaragua, via Guanacaste, Bagaces, and Esparta to San Jose.

A boxed, straight-line postmark (GUA-Aux1) was introduced here in the colonial period and is frequently found on undated cover fronts. Harris reports usage from 1799 (p. 48), but the earliest reliably dated item in the Mayer collection is from 1806. It continued to be used through 1847, and is reported in greenish black, brown, and black. Figure 2-26 illustrates this postmark on a cover dated 1808 addressed to San Jose, (Villa) “Nueva.”

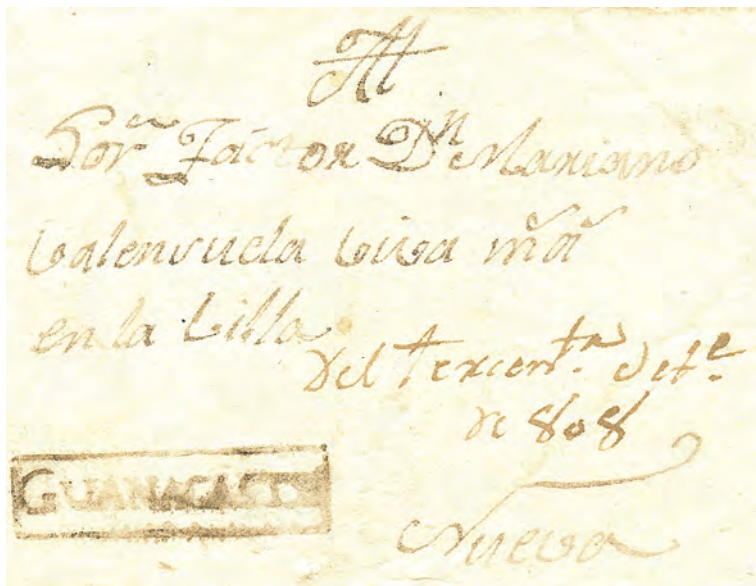


Figure 2-26. 1808 cover from Guanacaste to San Jose

An additional example, shown in Figure 2-27, illustrates the same marking on an 1837 folded letter from Guanacaste to Alajuela and redirected to Esparza. In addition to the postmark this letter bears a manuscript “Franco.”

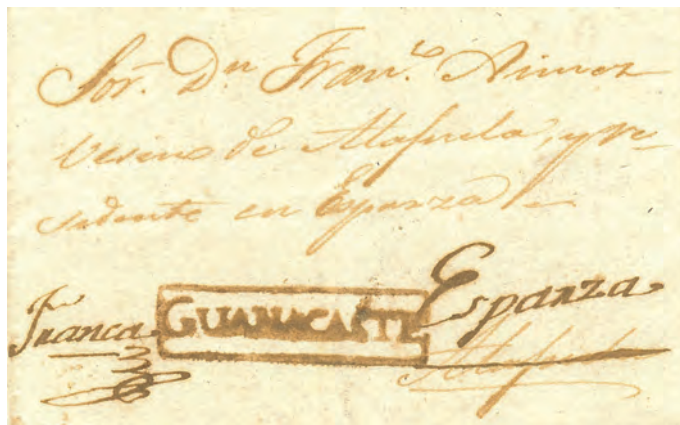


Figure 2-27. October 1837 Guanacaste to Esparza and redirected with “Franco”

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

Although the boxed straight-line marking is relatively common, the large boxed paid marking (GUA-Pmk2) is reported in fewer than three examples. Unfortunately, the only example in the Mayer collection, shown in Figure 2-28, suffers from ink erosion. This is a front only which is dated 1841 on the reverse. Harris records 1841-1842 dates (p. 48).



Figure 2-28. Prepaid cover front from Guanacaste to San Jose in 1841

A new postmark device of the standard style but with the town name in a double-line octagon (GUA-Pmk3) is reported as being used in 1848. This rare marking is shown in Figure 2-29 on an undated cover to San Jose, which also bears an interesting manuscript endorsement at top indicating that the letter weighed one-quarter ounce.

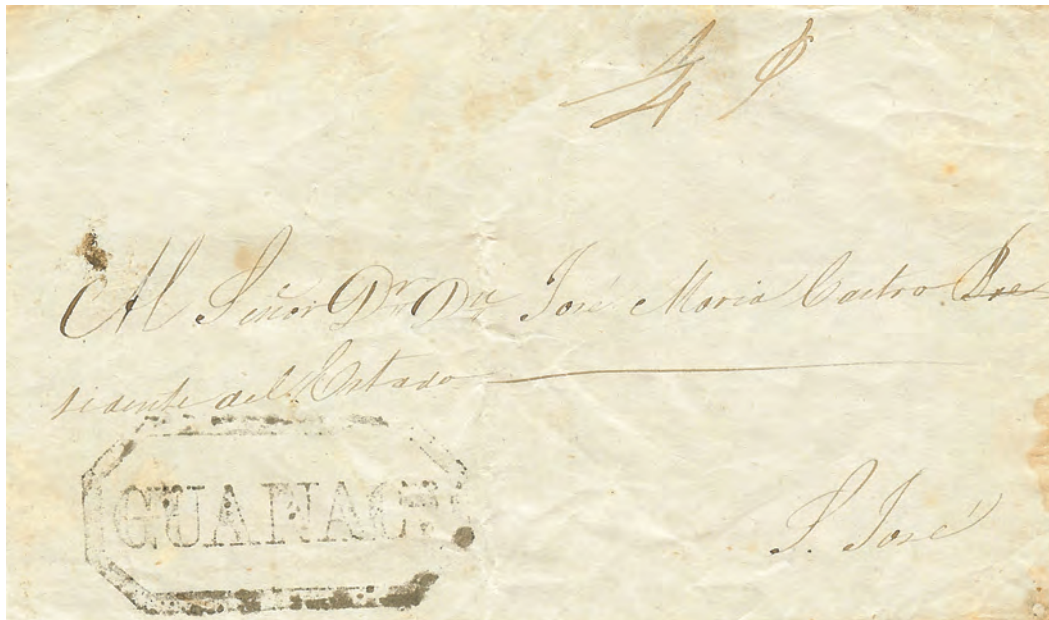


Figure 2-29. Guanacaste ca. 1850 to San Jose with manuscript weight designation of one-quarter ounce

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

In addition to the cover use shown, the collection includes the handstamp on a receipt dated January 5, 1849.

Heredia (see also Villa Vieja)

Located in the Barva valley north of San Jose, Heredia is the capital of the canton and the province of the same name. During the colonial period what is now Heredia was known as Villa Vieja or Cubujuque. After Don Gonzalo Fernandez de Heredia obtained title for the town, the name was changed to Heredia.

Predating any reported examples of the 1848 standard-style postmark used from Heredia is the paid handstamp shown in Figure 2-30. In fact, the use of the standard double-line octagonal style of this marking (HER-Aux1) is earlier than any reported examples of the standard-style town postmarks. Although very close to the paid markings used in other towns such as Puntarenas, this marking is slightly larger (48 by 26 mm).



Figure 2-30 October 9, 1848, letter from Heredia to San Jose

The first reported town postmark from Heredia is of the 1848 standard style with the town name in a double-lined octagonal box (HER-Pmk1). The earliest dated example in the collection is on an 1851 folded cover to Alajuela. An attractive strike is shown in Figure 2-31, on an undated folded cover to San Jose.



Figure 2-31. Cover from Heredia to San Jose, ca. 1855

A combination paid and town name postmark for Heredia was introduced at roughly the same time, consisting of a double-lined oval with “Franqueado En Heredia” in the center (HER-Pmk2). The earliest reported example in the Mayer collection is a January 1851 usage to England. The latest example, dated May 13, 1862, is on a folded letter to San Jose, shown in Figure 2-32.

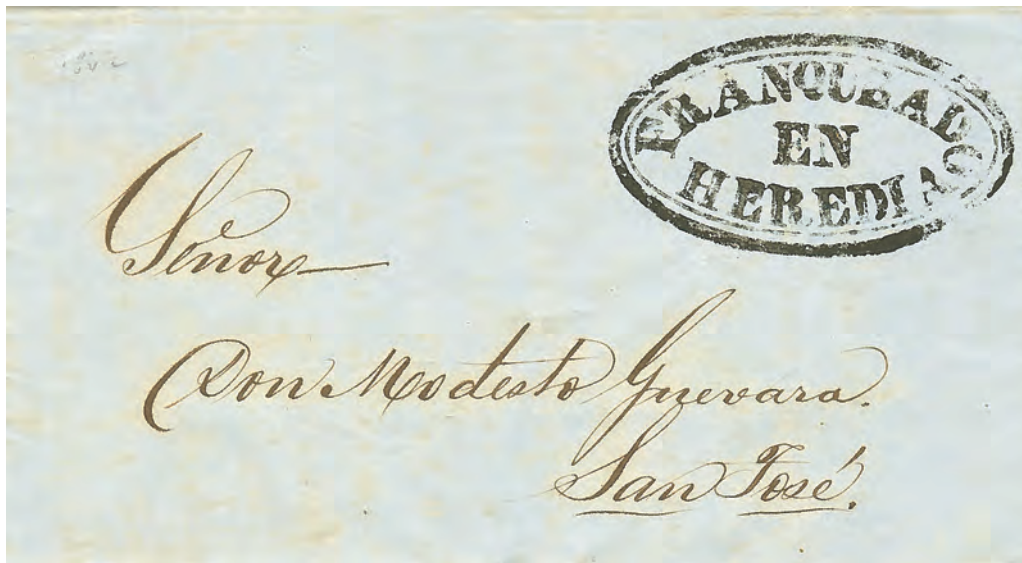


Figure 2-32. 1862 prepaid letter from Heredia to San Jose

The small oval postmark of Heredia (HER-Pmk3) that can be found used on covers bearing 1863-issue adhesives is also known used on public service free mail. The earliest date of such usage in the collection is 1867. An example dated 1870 is pictured in Figure 2-33.

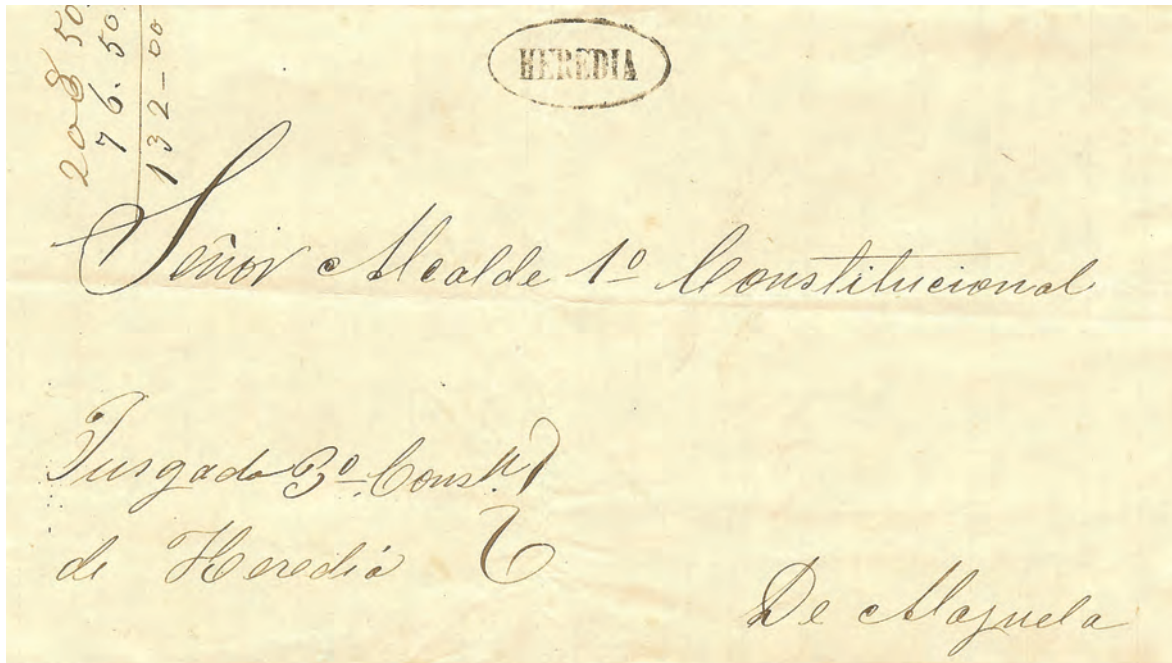


Figure 2-33. 1870 folded letter on public service cover from Heredia to Alajuela

Liberia

The capital of the canton of Liberia and the province of Guanacaste, Liberia is situated on the plain east of the Gulf of Nicoya. It thrived in the late colonial period because of its location along the key route between San Jose and Guatemala.

Liberia used a series of atypical postmarks that were possibly made locally rather than supplied by the postal administration. The earliest of these may be the straight line surrounded by a double oval of dots (LIB-Pmk1). An undated folded letter sheet to San Jose with this marking, Figure 2-34, is the only example known, and its date is uncertain. It bears a numeral “1” rate handstamp which was applied as a due designation at San Jose. It is listed first for convenience.



Figure 2-34. Undated cover from Liberia to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

A second oval type, with the town name in upper- and lower-case letters (LIB-Pmk2), is also reported in only a single example, the December 6, 1854, folded letter from Liberia to San Jose shown in Figure 2-35.

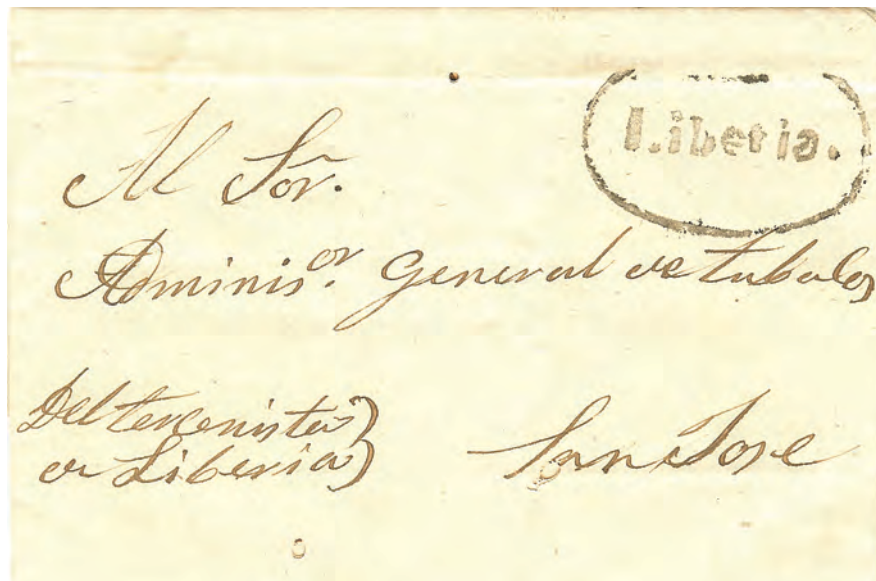


Figure 2-35. December 6, 1854, letter from Liberia to San Jose

A different style of large oval postmark with large capital letters (LIB-Pmk3) is known in two examples in the Mayer collection. Both are March 4, 1858, usages from Liberia to Nicoya; one is pictured in Figure 2-36. One of these, however, was previously dated in error to 1857.

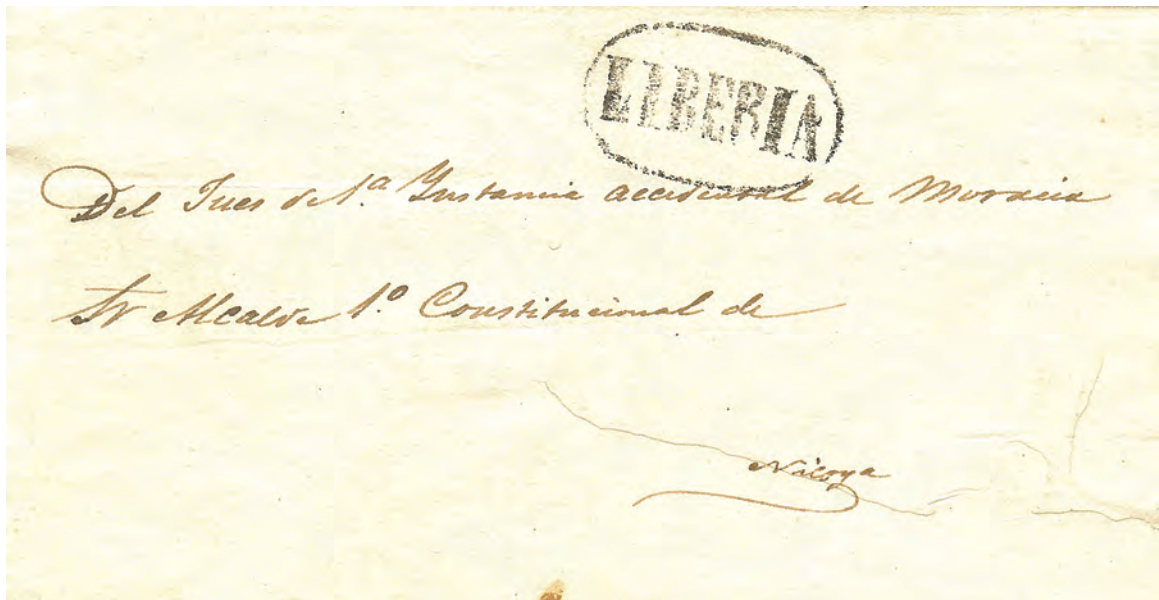


Figure 2-36. March 4, 1858, Liberia to Nicoya

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

A straight-line postmark (LIB-Pmk5), reported as existing only in the single undated example in Figure 2-37, shows very faint evidence of an outer oval visible at foot. This cover has been misdated in the past as being from 1857 and the two listings in Harris (75 and 76, p. 50) are likely of the same marking, which probably indicates the existence of two different covers.

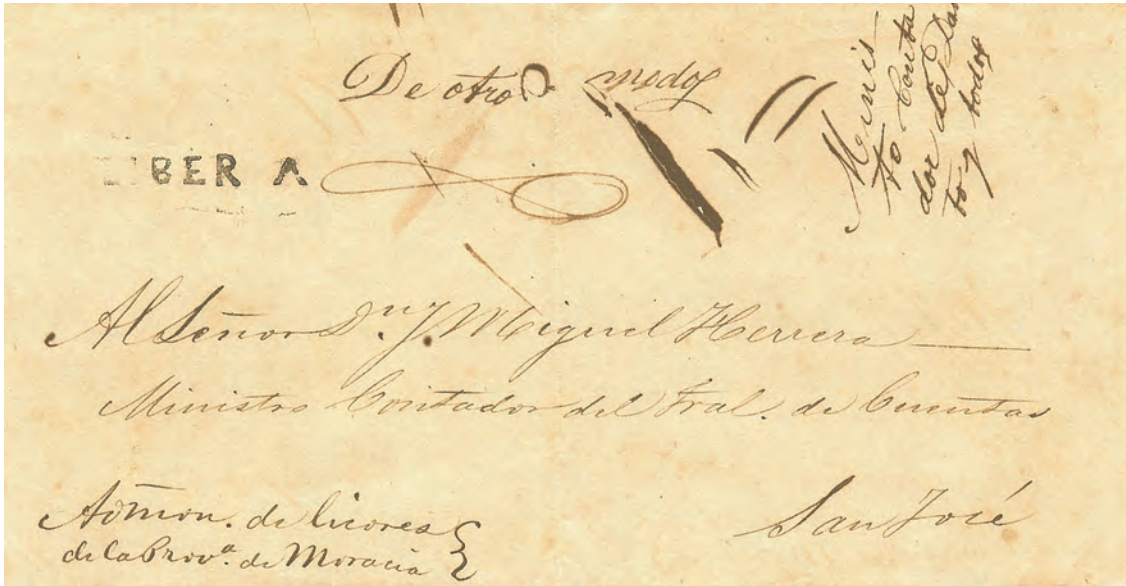


Figure 2-37. Undated entire, ca. 1859, from Liberia to San Jose

A standard small oval postmark (LIB-Pmk6) was introduced close to the time of the release of the 1863-issue stamps and is found primarily on covers bearing adhesives. A public service use is shown in Figure 2-38. Another example in the collection, also with an administrative cachet, is dated 1868.

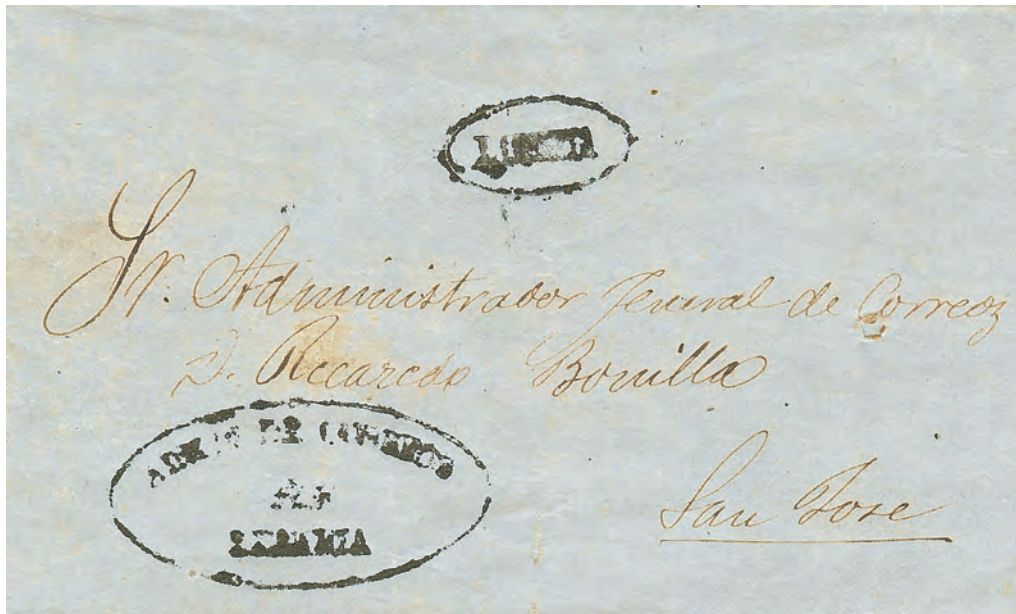


Figure 2-38. Undated cover, ca. 1868, from Liberia, "Admon. De Correos" to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

The standard style of circular postmark (LIB-Pmk7) is rarely found on stampless covers. The example shown in Figure 2-39 is an 1880 public service usage.



Figure 2-39. February 20, 1880, from Liberia to Santa Cruz

Moin

Moin was a shallow port on the Caribbean where the Matina lagoon enters the sea, only a short distance north of the present-day port of Limon. Along with Matina, the center for customs, it was the principal east coast port for Costa Rica during the period before 1850.

All postal artifacts from Moin are rare. The Mayer collection includes two letters and a document with the 1849 standard-style, double-line octagon handstamp (MOI-Pmk1). Shown in Figure 2-40 is a March 11, 1849, folded letter from Moin to San Jose with a boxed arrival postmark, the earliest dated use of any of the standard devices that were distributed in late 1848 or early 1849.

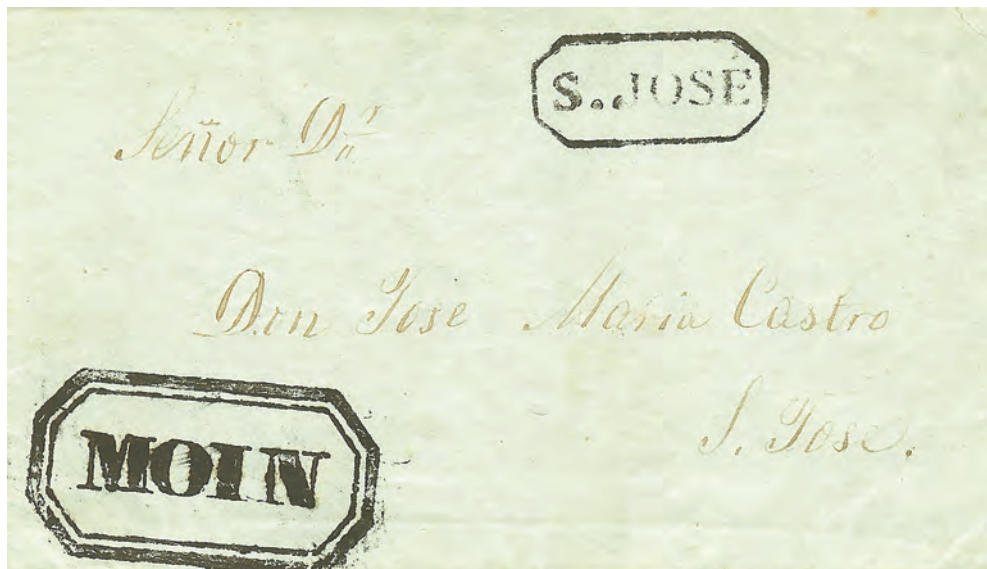


Figure 2-40. March 11, 1849, Moin to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

This letter is addressed to President Don Jose Maria Castro and is a confidential report on the conditions at Moin. Written by F. Alvarado, it reports that neither guard can write, that Figueroa is not attending to his duties and is otherwise occupied by his own interests, and that the smuggling of tobacco and gunpowder is flourishing. The Figueroa mentioned in the letter was serving as the postmaster as evidenced by the postal waybill shown in Figure 2-41, which is signed by Jose Figueroa.

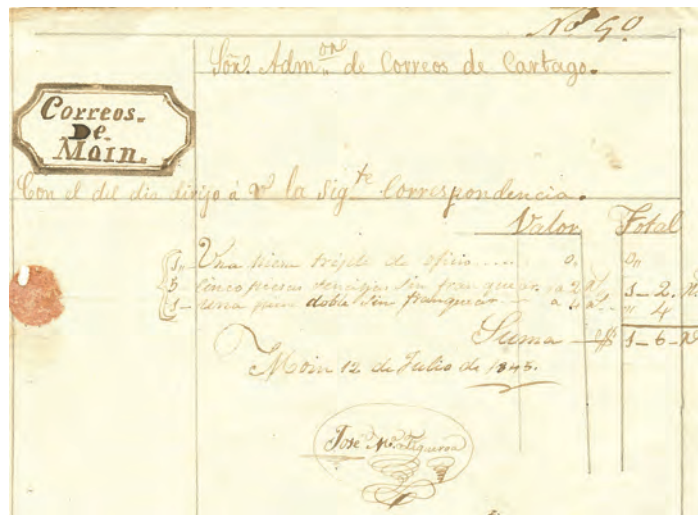


Figure 2-41. July 12, 1845, post office waybill from Moin signed by Jose Figueroa

A second letter bearing the octagonal Moin postmark, as well as a fancy paid handstamp (MOI-Aux1), is shown in Figure 2-42. Dated from Moin on December 15, 1853, and addressed to San Jose, it is the only reported example of the paid handstamp.

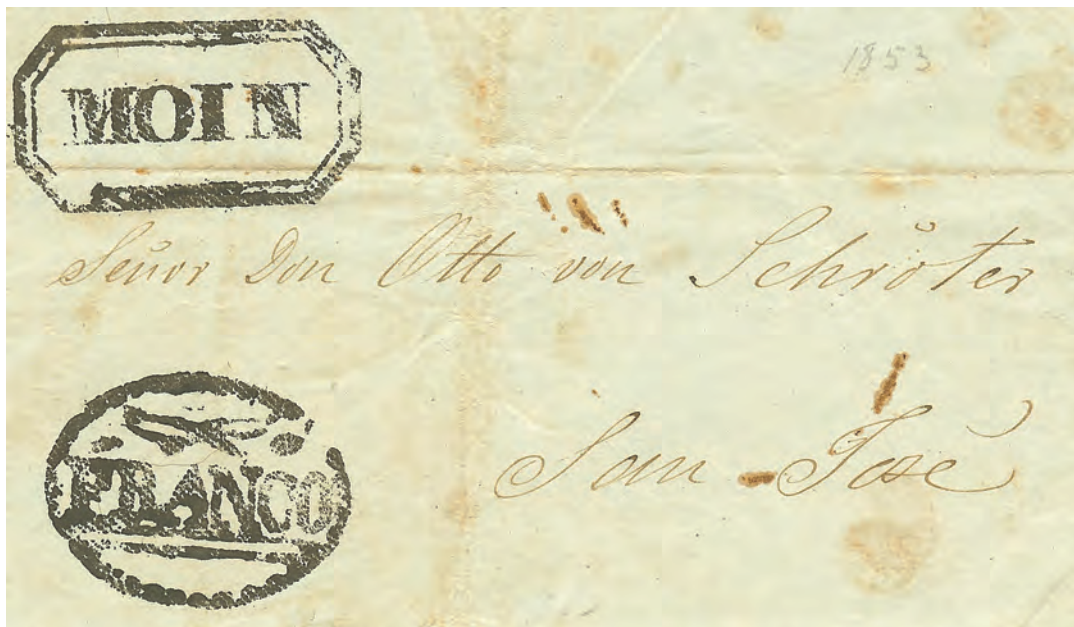


Figure 2-42. December 15, 1853, Moin prepaid to San Jose

The collection also includes a manuscript document with a MOI-Pmk1 handstamp that is dated September 27, 1862.

Nicoya

Nicoya is located in the center of the Nicoya peninsula and is the capital of Canton of Nicoya in the province of Guanacaste. In 1519 Hernan Ponce de Leon and Juan de Castaneda sailed in and explored the Gulf of Nicoya on an expedition from Panama. Following the penetration of the interior in 1523 by Gil Gonzalez Davila, settlement began and rapidly accelerated, leading to the founding of a parish circa 1544.

The earliest usage from Nicoya in the Mayer collection is the undated front shown in Figure 2-43. Probably dating from circa 1780, it is endorsed "From the Administrator of the Posts at Nicoya" and is addressed to Guatemala City. It has a manuscript "19" reales due notation and a red boxed Leon transit postmark that is reported in use between 1771 and 1780 by Harris (p. 106).

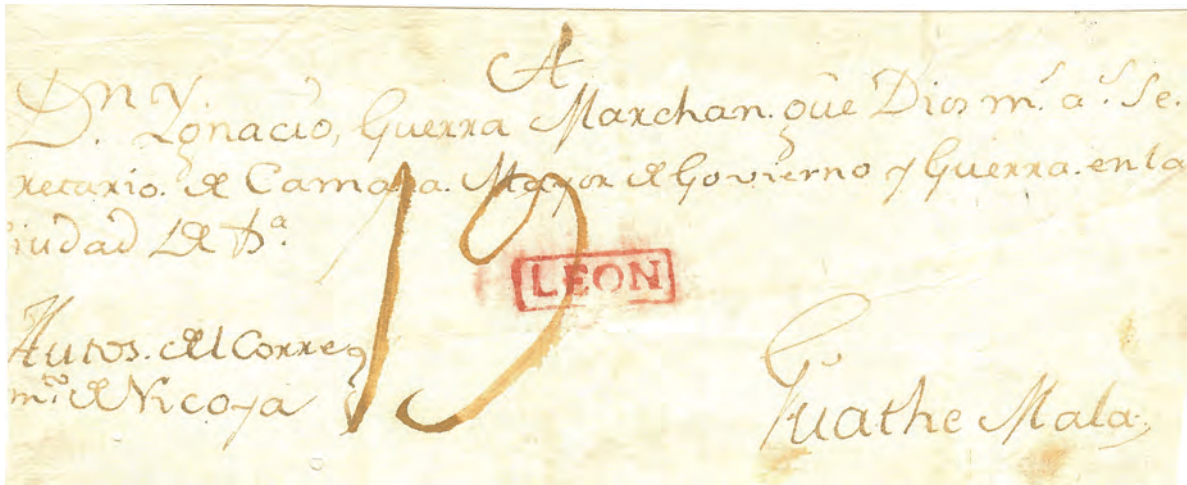


Figure 2-43. From Administrator of the Posts at Nicoya to Guatemala City

Introduced during the colonial period, the only reported postmark of Nicoya is a boxed straight line (NIC-Pmk1) known in brown and black that is relatively common, particularly on undated fronts. The earliest dated example in the collection is 1806 and the latest is the 1820 folded letter shown in Figure 2-44.



Figure 2-44. February 20, 1820, Nicoya to San Jose

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

The undated folded cover to Liberia shown in Figure 2-45 bears an otherwise unknown oval paid handstamp from the Administrator of Posts at Nicoya. The “Franco” handstamp (NIC-Aux1) is struck twice in very oily ink.



Figure 2-45. Undated cover from Nicoya to Liberia with paid handstamps

Puntarenas

Capital of the canton and province of the same name, Puntarenas is located on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Nicoya. The town's name is known in use by 1720 and it had developed into the major port of Costa Rica by 1814. Although Caldera was designated the principal port between 1834 and 1837, Puntarenas regained the title after 1837 and was then declared a free port in 1847.

Given its prominence as an early port, it is surprising that the earliest reported postmarks date to 1848, although the population was not large. The brigantine illustrated marking (PUN-Pmk1) is certainly the most spectacular of Costa Rican postmarks of the period. The Mayer collection includes two examples of this marking, dated November 13, 1848, as pictured in Figure 2-46, and November 18, 1848, as shown in Figure 2-47. An additional fake example in the collection is dated 1863, which accounts for the error regarding the period of use reported in Harris (p. 51). The authors are not aware of any other genuine examples.



Figure 2-46. November 13, 1848, Puntarenas to San Jose

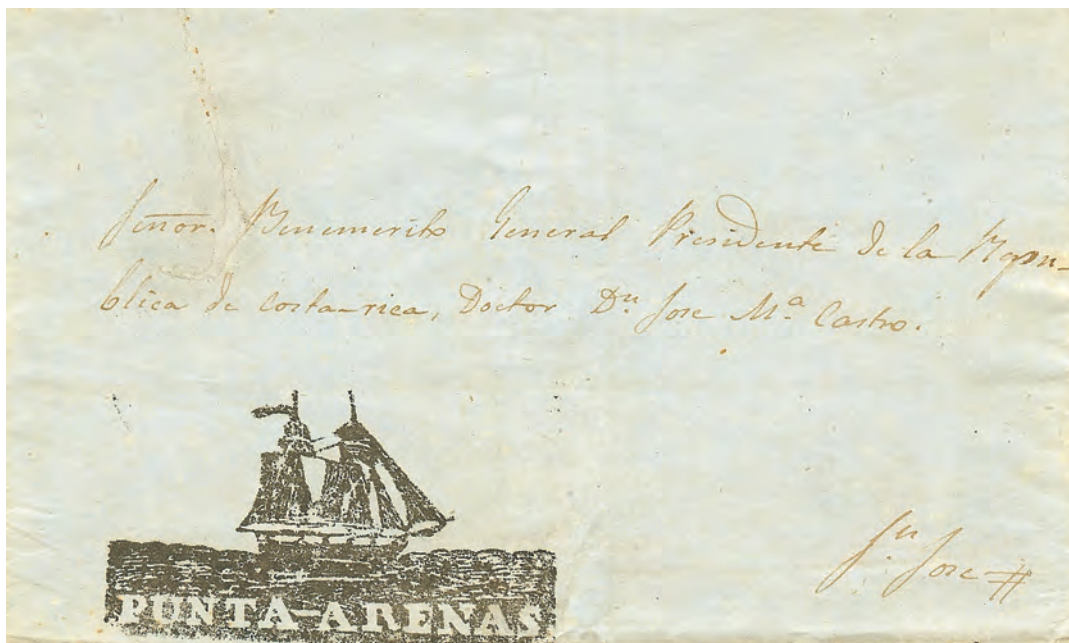


Figure 2-47. November 18, 1848, Puntarenas to San Jose

The earliest use of the 1848 standard-style, octagonal boxed town postmark from Punta Arenas (PUN-Pmk2) in the collection is a usage on a letter dated January 25, 1850, shown in Figure 2-48. The manuscript endorsement at top left indicates a letter of one-quarter ounce and a rate of 1 real. The latest reported example of the marking in the collection is a February 1863 usage.

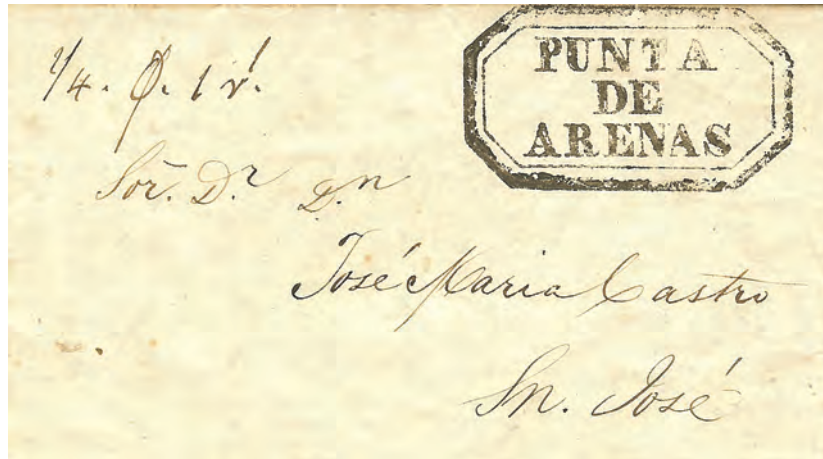


Figure 2-48. Puntarenas to San Jose in 1850, manuscript weight and rate

In addition to the standard 1848-style town mark, a matching paid handstamp is found. Similar to the handstamp used at Heredia (HER-Aux1), the Puntarenas paid marking (PUN-Aux1) is slightly smaller at 47 by 25 mm. The earliest example in the collection is dated May 30, 1851. The two latest examples, dated February 18 and March 2, 1863, show the use of the paid marking without any town mark present. A typical example of the combination town and paid marking is shown in Figure 2-49.



Figure 2-49. Undated cover, ca. 1855, from Puntarenas to San Jose

In the 1850s, Puntarenas also employed a series of rare weight and rate markings in addition to the paid handstamp. Figure 2-50 shows a one-quarter ounce weight handstamp (PUN-Aux2), which would serve to indicate that the letter weighed less than one-quarter ounce and was single rate. Compare the handstamped version with the manuscript shown in Figure 2-48.

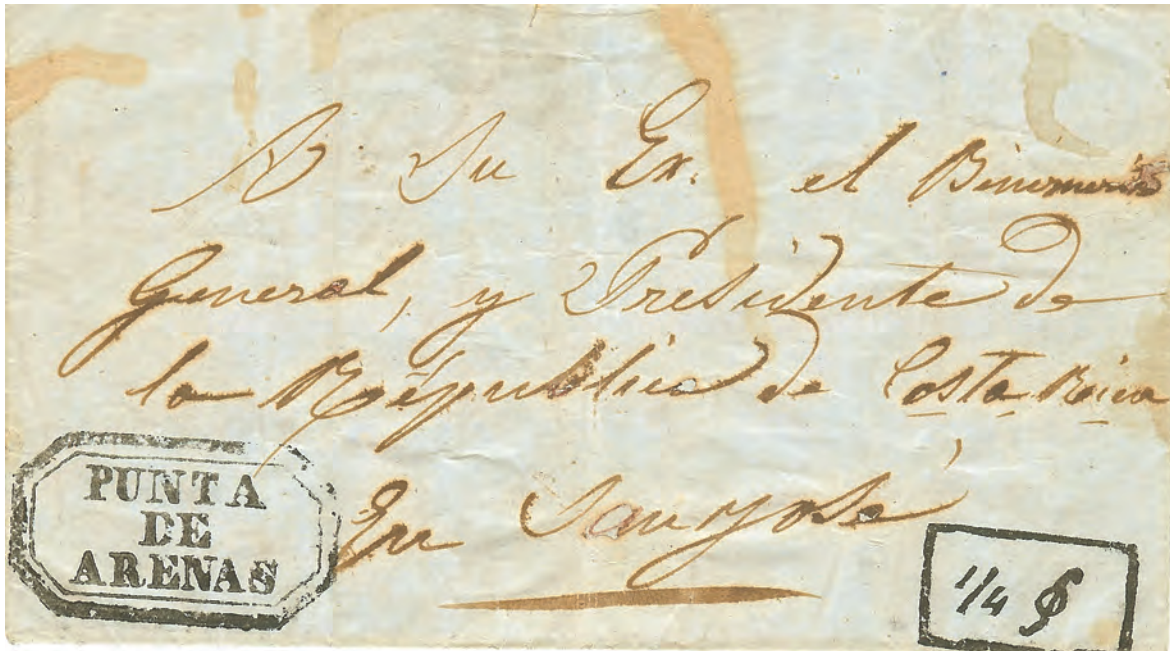


Figure 2-50. Undated cover, ca. 1850, to San Jose with Puntarenas one-quarter ounce rate handstamp

Rate handstamps employed at Puntarenas are reported for the single rate of 1 real, the double rate of 2 reales, and the one and one-half ounce packet rate of 5½ reales. Other than the numeral “1” handstamp (PUN-Aux3), which exists in about three examples, the others are unique. The numeral “1” appears on the September 27, 1858, folded letter shown in Figure 2-51. The numeral “2” handstamp (PUN-Aux4) is shown in Figure 2-52 on a November 14, 1854, letter with a red crayon “½” indication of one-half ounce.



Figure 2-51. Puntarenas numeral “1” rate handstamp on 1858 letter to San Jose



Figure 2-52. Puntarenas numeral “2” rate handstamp on 1854 letter to San Jose

The numeral “5½” handstamp (PUN-Aux5) is pictured in Figure 2-53 and appears on a June 7, 1855, folded letter that mentions enclosures and is used to San Jose. The red crayon “½” notation indicated the total weight, which corresponds to double rate, dos reales due.



Figure 2-53. Puntarenas numeral “5½” rate handstamp on 1855 letter to San Jose

Based on these usages, it would not be surprising to find that additional unrecorded numeral rate handstamps were also used in Puntarenas.

San Jose (see also Villa Nueva)

San Jose is the capital of the canton and province of the same name, as well as the capital of Costa Rica and its principal city since 1824. Located in the Central Valley, it was founded in 1737 as Villa Nueva (de la Boca del Monte del Valle de Abra). By 1800 the population had grown to over 8,000; then the name was changed to San Jose in 1818. In 1823, following a brief civil war between a faction from Heredia and Cartago, which wanted to merge Costa Rica with the new Central American Federation led by Mexico, and forces from Alajuela and San Jose, which wanted independence and which prevailed, San Jose was made the capital of the newly independent country.

For the postal markings in use before 1818, see the Villa Nueva section. After the name change to San Jose in 1818, a new device (SJ-Pmk1) was introduced. Although it is a comparatively common marking, most examples are found on undated cover fronts, struck in red or black. It seems probable that red was primarily used in the earlier colonial period, followed by black, due to a later difficulty in securing supplies of red ink from Spain. An example struck in red on a cover front to Guatemala, rated in manuscript with “6” reales due, is shown in Figure 2-54. An example struck in black, used to Guanacaste, is shown in Figure 2-55.

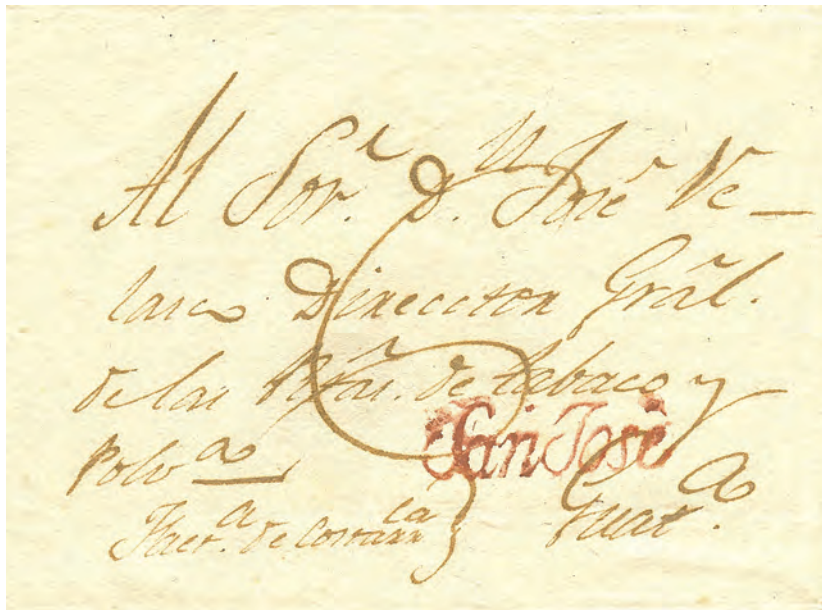


Figure 2-54. San Jose, ca. 1820 cover front to Guatemala

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

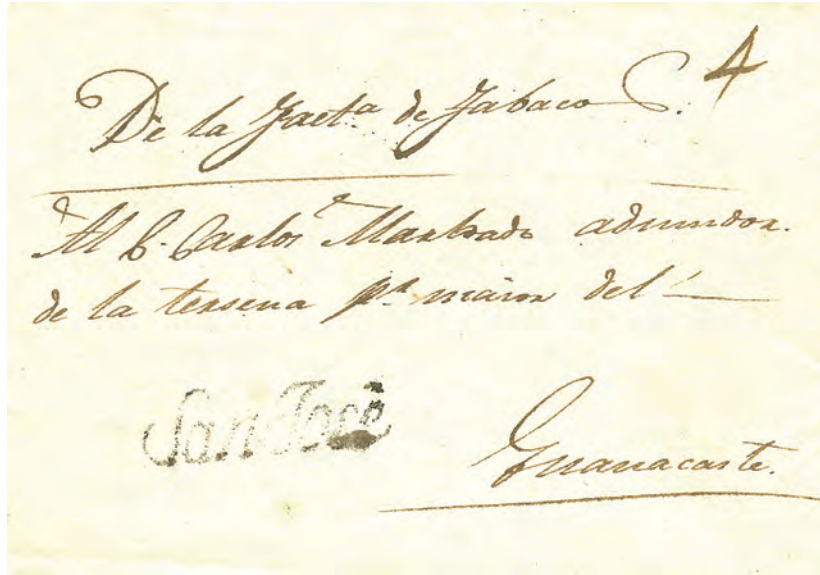


Figure 2-55. San Jose to the Tobacco Factor at Guanacaste, ca. 1830

This town name struck in red is also rarely found used with a similar script-style paid handstamp (SJ-Aux1). The example pictured in Figure 2-56 shows a certified front, dated 1822, used to Granada with manuscript “19” reales due rate. The address panels of these certified letters were signed by the recipient and returned to sender as proof of delivery.



Figure 2-56. Certified address panel used in 1822 from San Jose to Granada and returned

A rare postal marking that combined the town name and paid indication (SJ-Pmk2) is known used in 1839. The example shown in Figure 2-57 is from the Roland Norberg collection.



Figure 2-57. 1839 prepaid usage from San Jose to Alajuela (Norberg collection)

An octagonal box San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk3) saw a long period of use, being introduced in 1840 and known used in 1863. The example shown in Figure 2-58 was used in conjunction with a matching paid handstamp (SJ-Aux2) on a cover circa 1852 from San Jose to Heredia. Note the manuscript “Urgente” notation at the top. The Mayer collection includes examples of this auxiliary paid marking dated between 1848 and 1852.

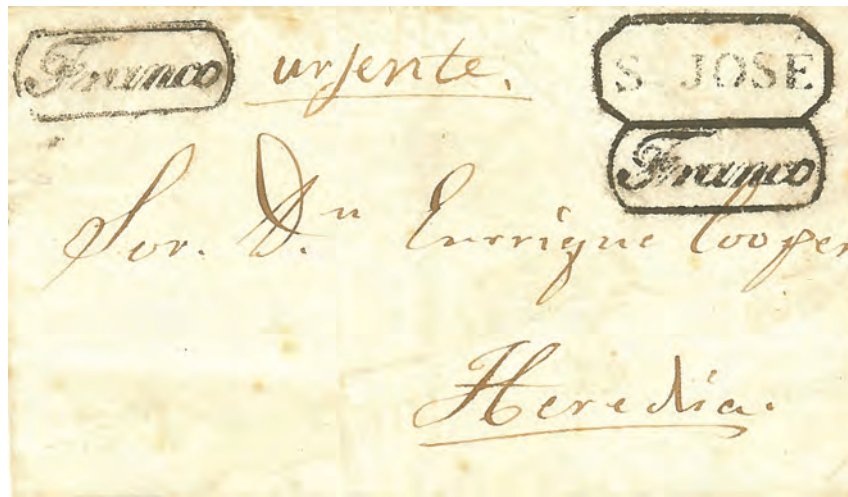


Figure 2-58. Urgent cover from San Jose to Heredia, ca. 1852

This paid marking was still in use when the first circular postmark (SJ-Pmk4) reading, “Republica De Costa – Rica San Jose,” was introduced. While Harris reports usage in 1850 (p. 53), the earliest dated example in the Mayer collection is July 10, 1851. An example of this new circular postmark is shown in Figure 2-59. This marking continued in use well into the period after adhesives were introduced in 1863.

It should be noted here that Harris lists an oval marking with “Franca” (catalog number 116, *ibid.*) as used from San Jose in this period. The listing cover, with an “Admon. De Tabacos” official handstamp, is in the Mayer collection, and the “Franca” marking is a fake added to an otherwise genuine cover.



Figure 2-59. February 4, 1852, San Jose to Cartago with circular postmark and paid handstamp

A larger variety of the “Franqueado” (paid) marking (SJ-Aux3) is the next used at San Jose. This is a rather scarce marking, which Harris reports used in 1851-52 (p. 53). The Mayer collection also includes an example on a February 27, 1854, folded letter to San Francisco. An additional example, used domestically in conjunction with the octagonal San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk4), is shown in Figure 2-60, on a November 14, 1860, folded letter from San Jose to Puntarenas. This is a “turned” letter that was mailed twice. The inside of the address leaf bears a Puntarenas octagonal postmark (PUN-Pmk2) and a “2” rate handstamp (PUN-Aux4), both of which show through slightly and are visible in the image.



Figure 2-60. November 14, 1860, San Jose to Puntarenas with large paid handstamp

The only rate handstamp reported used at San Jose is the rare numeral “1” marking (SJ-Aux4) that is shown in Figure 2-61 on a May 11, 1856, folded letter from San Jose to Puntarenas. Other rate markings are typically found on mail from San Jose to Guatemala during this period, but such markings are invariably Guatemalan due handstamps.

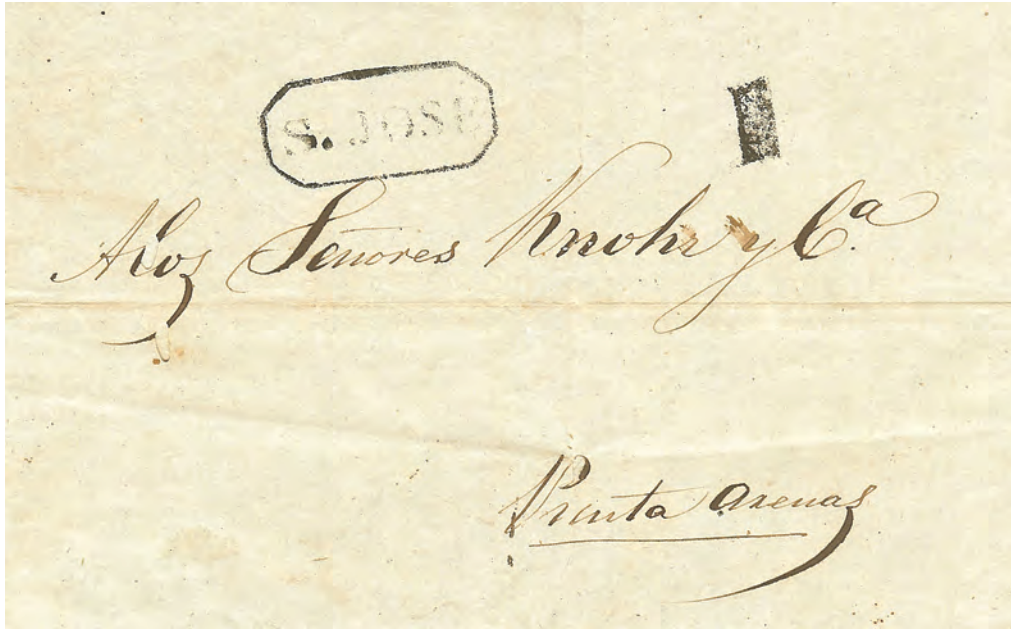


Figure 2-61. May 11, 1856, San Jose numeral “1” rate handstamp on letter to Puntarenas

Later San Jose postmark types are occasionally found on stampless official mail well into the 1870s and are discussed in the relevant chapters.

Villa Nueva (see also San Jose)

As mentioned in the preceding discussion, Villa Nueva (de la Boca del Monte del Valle de Abra) was the early name of the settlement that became San Jose in 1818.

The earliest dated item in the Mayer collection with a Villa Nueva postmark is the August 2, 1800, folded letter to Granada in Figure 2-62, which shows a poor strike in brown of the boxed two-line handstamp with “Villana Franca” text (VLN-Pmk1). This is a rare marking that also exists in a clear black strike on a September 30, 1808, cover front shown in Figure 2-63.



Figure 2-62. Earliest reported Villa Nueva postmark on 1800 letter to Granada



Figure 2-63. Villa Nueva postmark in black on 1808 cover front

An oval postmark with the “Villanueva” town name (VLN-Pmk2) is much more common. The earliest of some twenty-three examples, mostly on undated fronts, in the Mayer collection is an item used July 4, 1803, to Leon. A clear strike on an undated folded cover to Leon is shown in Figure 2-64. It bears a manuscript “4” reales due endorsement. The latest dated example reported by Harris is from 1818 (p. 53), but the latest in the Mayer collection is dated 1814.

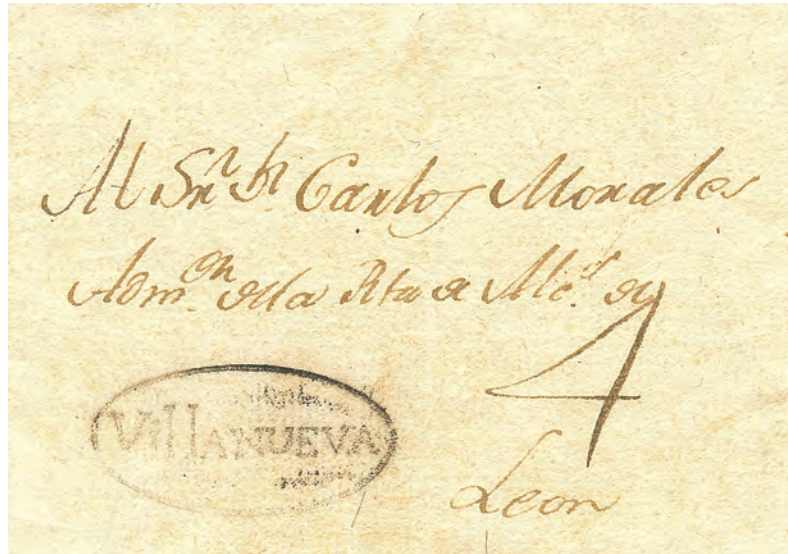


Figure 2-64. Villanueva oval postmark on cover to Leon

Villa Vieja (see also Heredia)

This town had its beginning when a parish church that had been established in 1706 in Lagunilla moved northward to the site of what is now Heredia. During the colonial period it was known as Villa Vieja or Cubujuqui, but after Don Gonzalo Fernandez de Heredia obtained title for the villa, circa 1824, the name was changed to Heredia.

Covers bearing Villa Vieja postmarks are extremely rare, with possibly as few as three examples known in total and is missing from the Mayer collection. However, the Roland Norberg collection contains the example of the boxed “Villa Vieja” postmark (VLV-Pmk1) shown in Figure 2-65. This item has been assigned a year date of 1800 by the owner.

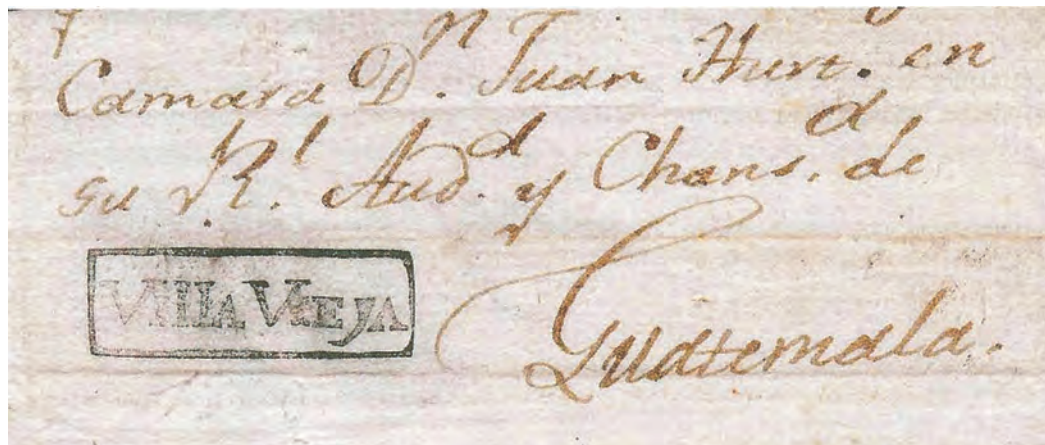


Figure 2-65. Villa Vieja postmark on large part cover to Guatemala

PRE-ADHESIVE AND STAMPLESS COVERS

The only Villa Vieja postmarked item in the Mayer collection is the 1813 folded cover shown in Figure 2-66. This cover to Guatemala, marked “Oficio” at top, is postmarked with a large boxed “Franqueado en Villa Vieja” handstamp (VLV-Pmk2). The interior is endorsed as being from Heredia and includes the date.



Figure 2-66. Official 1813 cover from Villa Vieja to Guatemala



Chapter Three

Official Mail



This section deals with the free mail of Costa Rica prior to 1883. Because of the large number of administrative cachets that were privately applied to this class of mail, it cannot be comprehensive in scope but will instead illustrate selected examples. Some cacheted free mail items that bear additional post office markings, deemed of greater significance for tracing postal changes in a particular office, have been shown previously in Chapter 2. Appendix B. illustrates the markings contained in the Mayer collection excluding the executive branch markings illustrated in this chapter.

After a brief outline of the important regulations regarding free mail and subsequent regulation changes, free mail markings that incorporate the Costa Rica coat of arms will be shown, followed by city of origin descriptions of additional markings.

Regulations for Free Mail

Following independence from Spain, the Decree of April 24, 1824, set out the first comprehensive postal regulations for the Republic of Central America and granted, in Articles 17 through 30, title III, the privilege of free mail to the supreme executive, virtually all officials of the five-member states, as well as most clergy. This privilege extended to personal as well as official letters.

The June 13, 1826, Decree, however, retracted the 1824 provisions and decreed that:

Art.1. Henceforth there will cease the ... exemptions from postage of official letters and mails, granted to authorities and officials mentioned in the law ... (of) April 24, 1824 (and)

Art. 2. Consequently there is re-established the previous existing system (Colonial) on the subject; and in conformity therewith the public treasury will credit the postal revenue with postage on official mail.

Payments by officials of the various member-states were to be made monthly to the Ministry of the Treasury as postal revenue. Costa Rica, a member state, objected to this change, as most officials had not been paid their salaries. As a result, the September 29, 1826, Decree of the State Treasury of Costa Rica allowed the reimbursement of postage on the official and private correspondence of the Supreme Chief, and on official correspondence of the Superior Command, the Revenue Office, and the Office of Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

The provisions of the Decree of June 13, 1826, account for the postal charges marked on some obviously official mail of the period. They also suggest that the colonial regulations regarding free franking of mails require further study and research.

OFFICIAL MAIL

To date, only the following regulations governing free-franked mail during the period from 1836 to the 1862 Decree have been found:

(1836) By Order XI, addressed to the “Intendente General” - “... that the official correspondence of the Government and its subordinates, of the Secretaries of the Council, Assembly and Court of Justice and subordinates thereof, that with this same Court also being official, or reciprocal among them are free of postage...” San Jose, January 27, 1836.

(1838) Circular V. “On this date the Principal Administrator of Posts of this city states what I copy. The Supreme Chief having observed the injustice of charging the Public Treasury of the State in reimbursement of postage of official correspondence of the Supreme Authorities, higher and subordinate commands, he has disposed that hereafter no postage be charged on correspondence of the Supreme Powers of the State (i.e., be official) ...” San Jose, July 30, 1838.

(1859) Ministry of the Treasury. Regulations for the Public Exchequer. Chapter XVIII – Regarding Postal Fees. Art. 171. Official mail of the Executive Authorities of the Republic and, generally (speaking) of all public, civil, ecclesiastical, military and treasury officials is free between themselves and their subalterns; all such pieces must bear the imprint of the respective office or at least (give) the reasons of being on public service. Requisitorial judicial papers in criminal matters ... are also free ...” (From “Cronica de Costa Rica” San Jose, March 19, 1859).

(September 9, 1862, Decree) Article 15. – The official correspondence of the supreme authorities of the Republic, and of the office of the Commandant General, of the Bishop and his Vicars, and generally of all civil, military, ecclesiastical and treasury department public functionaries, shall be free of postage provided that official letters carry the seal of the respective office. Loose or banded printed matter dispatched by the interior mails shall also be exempt from postage. The abuse of seals or marks of public offices committed by the Chiefs thereof, or by their subordinates, placing them on their private letters for the purpose of avoiding the payment of postage fees, shall cause the punishment of the violator with a fine of ten pesos for the first offence, twenty for the second and fifty, with removal from office and prohibition from holding any other public office or post, for the third.

While some form of marking to indicate official use was not specified until the 1859 regulations, there is reason to believe that these regulations were a codification of existing rules, regulations, and practices.

Franking from the Executive Branch

All positions of the executive branch of government were allowed to send mail free of postage. In 1851, those positions were: President, Vice President, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of the Treasury and War, Superintendent of Treasury, Commander of the Military at San Jose, Senior Auditors of the Ministry of Treasury, Factor of the Tobacco Industries, Auditor of the Tobacco Industries, Administrator of the Liquor Industries, Supervisor of the Liquor Industries, Administrator of the Mint, Assayer of the Mint, Metallurgist of the Mint, Engraver of the Mint, Postmaster General, Administrator of Customs of La Garita, Auditor of the Customs of La Garita, Administrator of Ports of Matina resident in Cartago, Administrator of Customs at Sarapiquí resident in San Jose, Military Commander at Matina, Military Commander at Sarapiquí resident in San Jose, Auditor of Customs of Sarapiquí, Governor and Judge of Puntarenas, Commander of Puntarenas, and Governors of the Departments of San Jose, Cartago, Heredia, Alajuela, and Guanacaste.

Several of the higher positions used very elaborate cachets that incorporated the coat of arms of Costa Rica. The earliest example, shown in Figure 3-1, probably dates to shortly after the June 13, 1826, Decree.

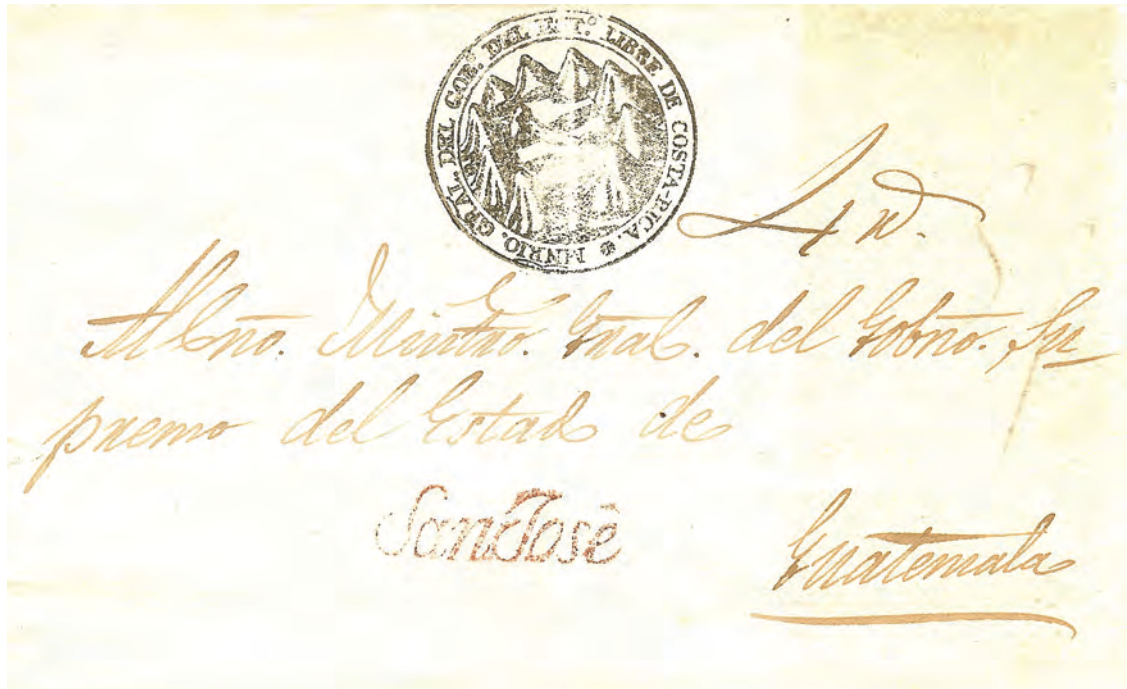


Figure 3-1. Ministry of the Posts cachet on ca. 1826 cover to Guatemala

The text surrounding the coat of arms reads, in translation, “General Ministry of the Posts of the Free State of Costa Rica.” The cover is addressed to the Citizen Minister General of the Supreme Government of the State of Guatemala and bears a red San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk1) as well as a manuscript “4R” four reales rate indication. According to the April 24, 1824, rate schedule, the cover enclosed a letter, not a packet, weighing over one-half ounce but not as much as three-quarters of an ounce. Under provisions of the 1826 Decree, the postage collected would have been credited to the appropriate department.

A letter sent on November 2, 1859, by President Jose Maria Castro is shown in Figure 3-2. This holographic letter by President Castro is addressed to Francisco Oreamuno, the governor of the province of Cartago, and urges him to assist in electing Don Juan R. Mora Vice President in the upcoming election. Less than two weeks after writing this letter, on November 15, 1849, Castro was removed from office.



Figure 3-2. Cachet of the President (Castro) on 1849 letter to Cartago

An example of the handstamp used by the Ministry of Foreign and Internal Affairs, pictured in Figure 3-3, is shown on an undated front only used to Guatemala. The boxed “S. Jose” postmark (SJ-Pmk3), first reported in 1840, and the use of “State of Costa Rica” in the marking itself, indicate a usage in the 1840s during the Federation period before 1849.



Figure 3-3. Ministry of Foreign and Interior Affairs cachet on ca. 1840s front to Guatemala

Also from the 1840s and addressed to the Secretary General of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala is the cover shown in Figure 3-4. The cachet indicates that the sender was in the Office of the Government, State

of Costa Rica. This cover bears red numeral due handstamps of Guatemala re-stating the manuscript “14” reales due applied that hand been applied at San Jose.



Figure 3-4. Office of the Government of the State of Costa Rica cachet on ca. 1840s cover to Guatemala

There are several known examples of the attractive cachet used by the Ministry of the Interior. The example shown in Figure 3-5 is addressed to Vice President Francisco Oreamuno, who died on May 23, 1856, after serving in the post from February 3, 1850.

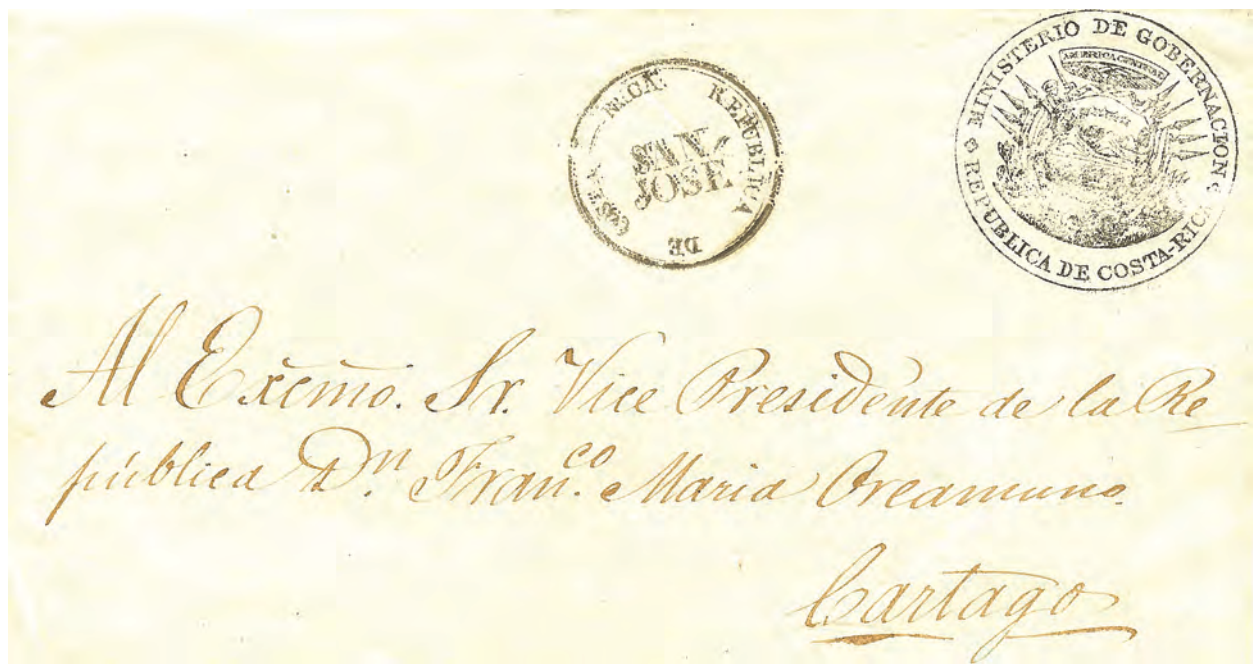


Figure 3-5. Cachet of the Ministry of the Interior on 1850s cover to Cartago

OFFICIAL MAIL

An exceptionally clear strike of the marking used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pictured in Figure 3-6. This cover is addressed to Tomas Manning, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the State of Nicaragua at Leon.

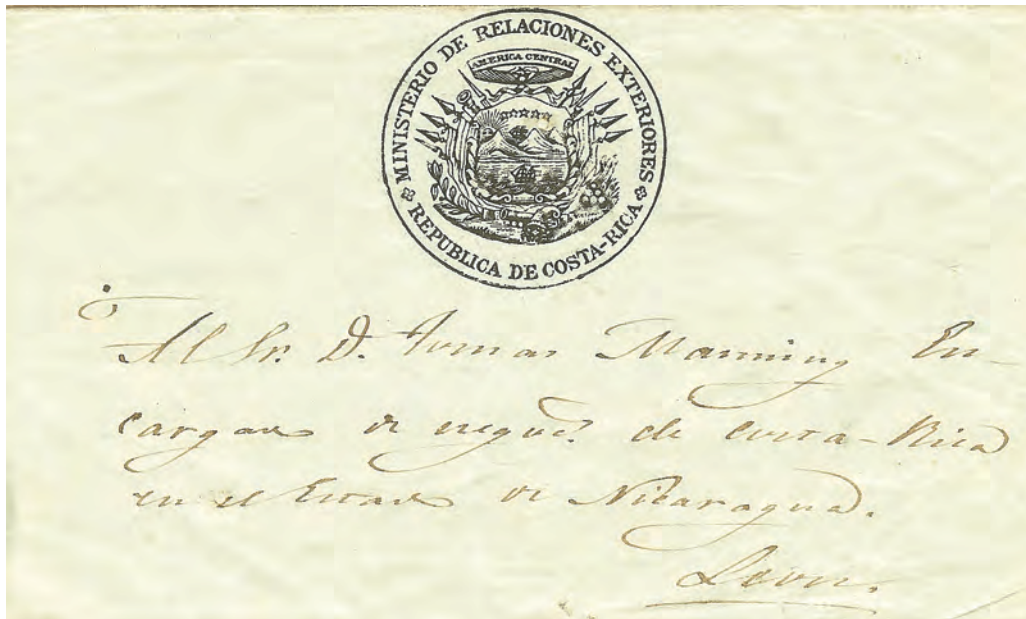


Figure 3-6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs cachet on cover to Leon

An example of the cachet used by the Secretary of the Supreme Court of Justice for Costa Rica is shown in Figure 3-7. It is a large part cover addressed to Guanacaste.

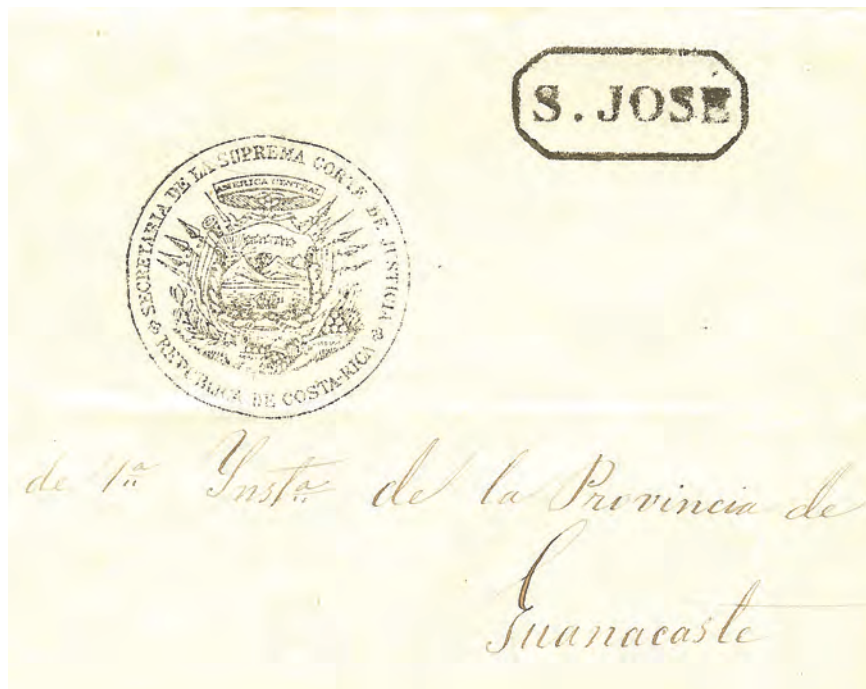


Figure 3-7. Secretary of the Supreme Court cachet used to Guanacaste

The Secretary of the Congress of Costa Rica used a similar cachet, but with changed text, which is shown in Figure 3-8. This cover probably dates to the late 1850s and is from the Jimenez correspondence.



Figure 3-8. Office of the Secretary of Congress cachet

A coat of arms cachet for the Secretary of the Court of Justice of Costa Rica is shown in Figure 3-9. This is a usage from 1873 addressed to Cartago with San Jose datestamp (SJ-Pmk6).



Figure 3-9. Secretary of the Court of Justice cachet used in 1873 from San Jose

OFFICIAL MAIL

The final example of a coat of arms cachet to be illustrated here, that of the Municipality of the Province of Cartago, is shown in Figure 3-10.



Figure 3-10. Municipality of the Province of Cartago cachet used in 1874

The letter, dated December 18, 1874, at Cartago and addressed to the President of the Municipality Jesus Jimenez, deals with affairs at the College of San Luis Gonzaga. The unusual language of the cachet is correct, as at the time of use the province of Cartago had but one municipality, the city of Cartago. The cachet may have been applied upon receipt.

Alajuela

Twelve different public service cachets used on free mail at Alajuela, with dates reported, are shown in Appendix B. These items are from the Mayer collection.

The “Admon. De Correos De Alajuela” marking was used both as a cachet for free mail and as a postal marking. An example of that marking used on a postal receipt is shown in Figure 3-11.

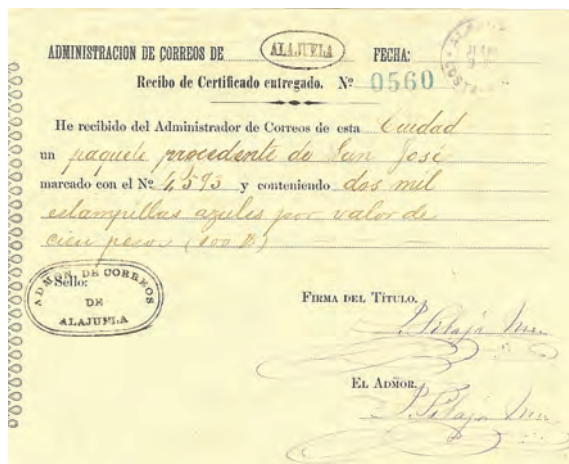


Figure 3-11. Receipt for stamps at Alajuela dated July 9, 1877

This document is a receipt for two thousand blue medio real stamps of the 1863 issue at the current value of five centavos each, the shipment having a total value of one hundred pesos. It bears the “Admon. De Correos Alajuela” cachet, which is known on official mail and as a postmark on certified mail. It also bears the oval postmark (ALA-Pmk4) and the datestamp (ALA-Pmk5) at top.

Bagaces

There are three administrative cachets from Bagaces in the Mayer collection, shown in Appendix B. Two are from the political headquarters: the first reads, “Jefatura Polit Del Canton Bagaces,” and the second, “Jefatura Politica Del Canton Bagaces.” In addition, there is a cachet of the post office, reported only on postal forms, which reads, “Administracion De Correos De Bagaces.”

Camino al Atlantico (Road to the Atlantic)

In 1865 an attempt was made by the government to construct an oxcart road connecting the Caribbean coast with the Central Plateau. Construction on the “Camino al Atlantico” was attempted in sections but was soon abandoned due to difficult terrain and flood damage to bridges. The earliest related cover in the Mayer collection is an August 13, 1865, folded letter from Cartago and Angostura with a “Proveduria Del Camino Al Atlantico” manuscript endorsement authorizing free carriage.

Three different handstamps were eventually used, including two similar double-oval handstamps for the major section headquarters (CAM-Pub2, CAM-Pub3). The first reads, “Camino Al Atlantico Seccion Angostura,” and the second reads “Camino Al Atlantico Seccion Pacuare.” In addition to the section handstamps, a central government cachet exists used from Cartago, which is shown in Figure 3-12.

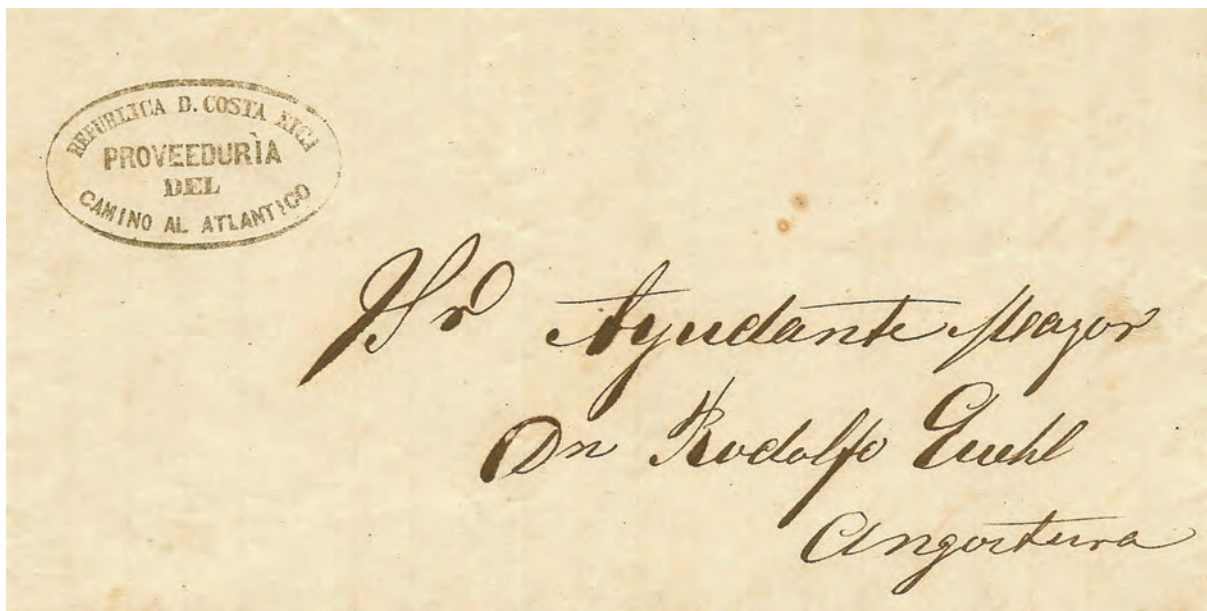


Figure 3-12. An 1865 letter from Cartago with Camino Al Atlantico cachet

This cachet includes “Republica D. Costa Rica Proveduria Del Camino Al Atlantico” in the oval (CAM-Pub1). The letter, dated September 6, 1865, from Cartago is addressed to Angostura.

OFFICIAL MAIL

Cartago

The Mayer collection contains ten different administrative cachets from Cartago, half of which, including the “Receptoria” and “Correos” styles, were used by postal officials. These markings are shown, with dates reported, in Appendix B.

One of the more interesting examples not used by a postal official is illustrated in Figure 3-13. This is a letter dated at Cartago on January 17, 1870, and directed to the President of Costa Rica (Jimenez) at San Jose. It has an ornate cachet of the Director of the College of Cartago (CAR-Pub2).

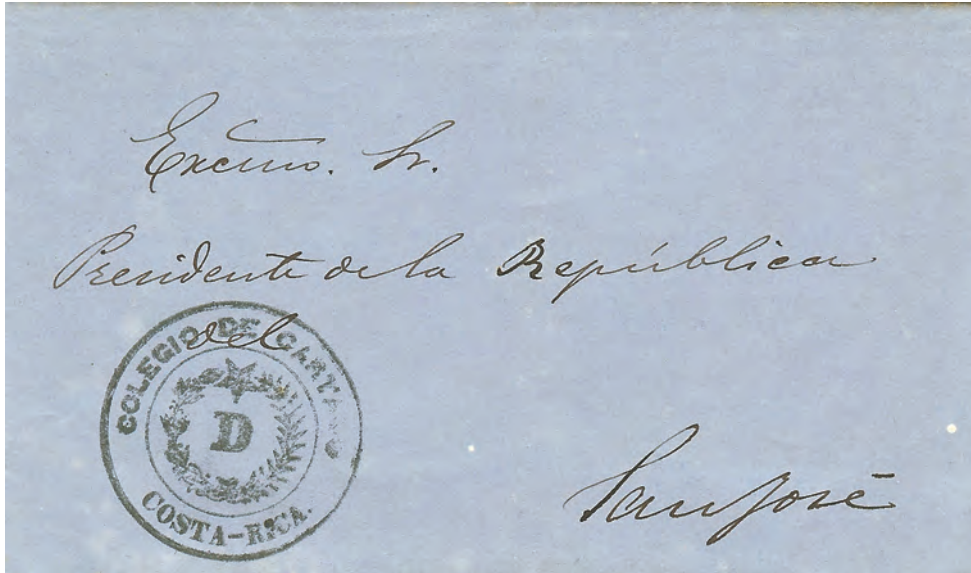


Figure 3-13. Director of College of Cartago cachet used in 1870

It would appear from a normal reading of Article 15 of the 1862 Decree that the Director of the College would not have been entitled to the privilege of free mail. However, sometime between the date of the decree and 1870, the privilege must have been granted to the staff of the College of Cartago and its students. It was discontinued, at least where the students were concerned, due to abuses by the end of 1872. Also in that year, the name of the school was changed to the College of San Luis Gonzaga.

Escasu

An example of the only reported administrative cachet known from Escasu is shown in Figure 3-14. This "Gafata Polita De Escasu" marking is listed in appendix as ESC-Pub1. There are no reported postmarks from this small city northwest of San Jose, and this 1850 use to Pacaca is one of the few postal artifacts known, the others being inbound letters.

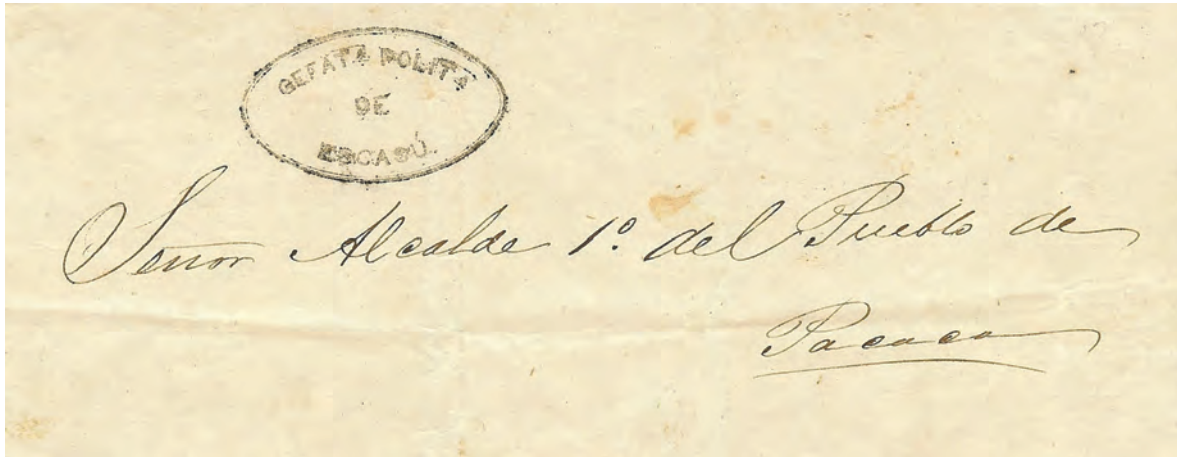


Figure 3-14. Cachet of the Political Chief of Escasu on cover to Pacaca in 1850

Esparta and Grecia

Surprisingly, the Mayer collection contains no administrative cachets used from Esparta. From Grecia there are two cachets of the Political Chief (Jefatura Política De Grecia). One, dated 1870, is an oval handstamp (GRE-Pub1) similar to that of Escasu and the other is an elaborate albino embossed cachet used in 1870 (GRE-Pub2).

Guanacaste and the Province of Moracia

Administrative cachets to denote free mail are relatively abundant used from Guanacaste, largely due to the city's being both the capital of the province of Guanacaste and the administrative center of the area. The markings are shown, with dates reported, in Appendix B.

On May 29, 1854, the province of Guanacaste was renamed "Moracia" in honor of the new President Rafael Mora, but the name reverted to "Guanacaste" after Mora left office in 1860. An interesting pair of letters to Nicoya, shown in Figures 3-15 and 3-16, illustrates this temporary name change from Guanacaste (GUA-Pub6) to Moracia (GUA-Pub7).

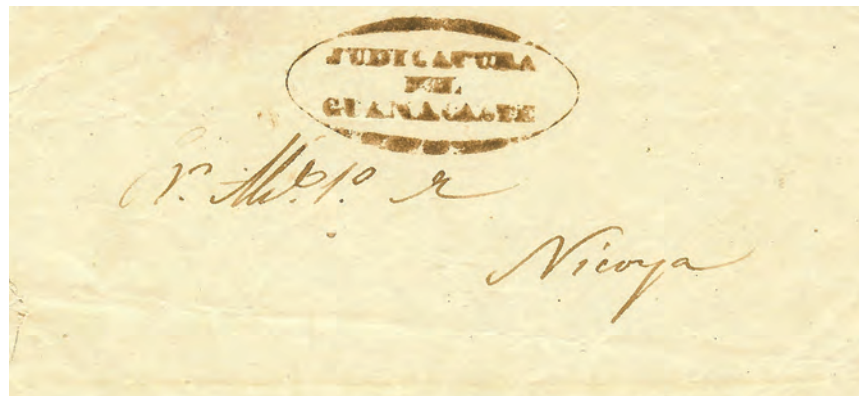


Figure 3-15. Jurisdiction of Guanacaste cachet on February 12, 1854, letter to Nicoya

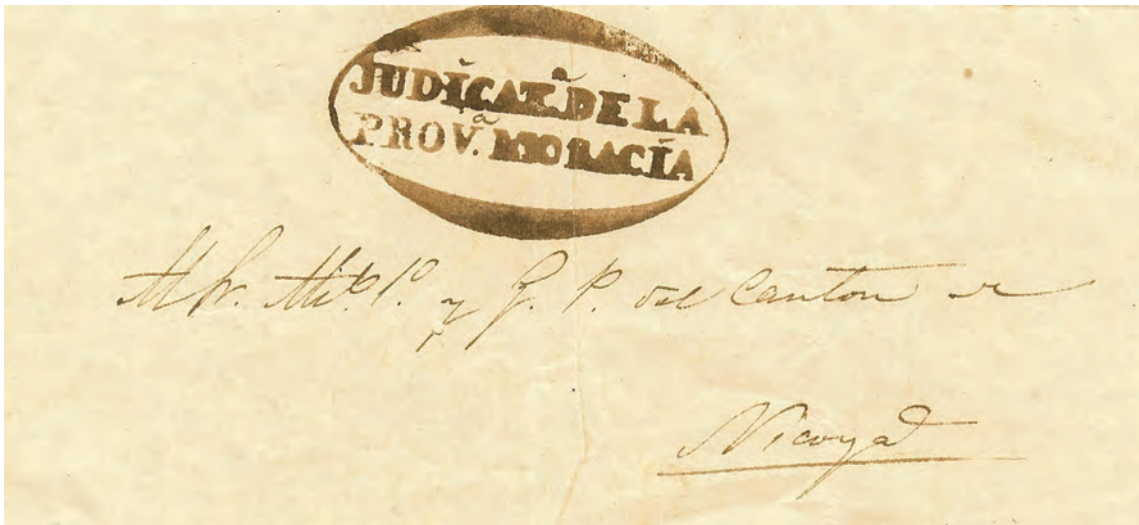


Figure 3-16. Jurisdiction of Moracia cachet on December 10, 1854, letter to Nicoya

Guanacaste (Commander of the Frontier)

Properly included with Guanacaste are two reported cachets used by the Commander of the Frontier (Comandancia de las Fronteras) who was stationed there. One of the more interesting examples from the collection is shown in Figure 3-17.

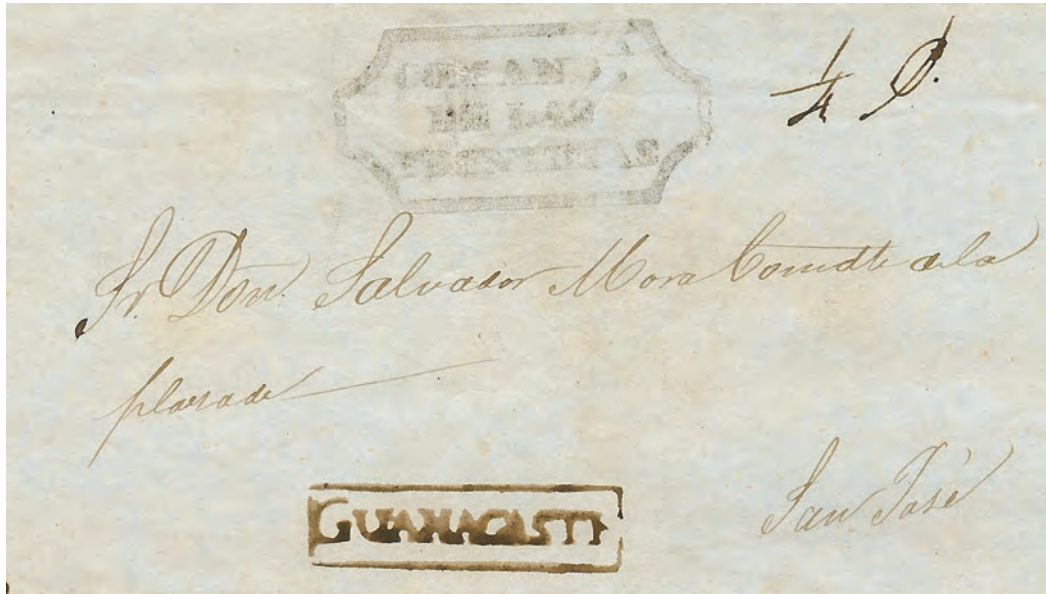


Figure 3-17. Commander of the Frontier cacheted cover used from Guanacaste to San Jose

This is an undated address leaf sent to San Jose and bears, in addition to the cachet (GUA-Pub12), a Guanacaste postmark (GUA-Pmk1). It also has a manuscript endorsement that the letter weighed one-quarter ounce. The only dated example of this marking is from 1847, and it was preceded by another, more elaborate style of cachet that has been reported only on letters but that is nevertheless included as GUA-Pub11 in Appendix B.

Heredia

While the Mayer collection includes only three different free mail cachets, there are four additional post office (Receptoría) handstamps that exist on waybills of the era. Because these may also exist on cover, they are included in Appendix B. A cachet used from the government agent of the province of Heredia in 1861 is shown in Figure 3-18.



Figure 3-18. An 1861 official letter from the government of the province of Heredia to San Jose

Earlier examples from the 1850s show the "department" of Heredia text in the handstamp which preceded the "province" of Heredia.

Liberia

In addition to the two public mail cachets from the Province of Guanacaste that are known used from Liberia (GUA-Pub2 and GUA-Pub4), there are only two cachets reported from Liberia. One is a "Secretaría Municipal" ornamented handstamp seen on a locally used 1868 letter and the other is an "Admon De Correos De Liberia" marking that is known on an 1877 postal receipt.

Matina and Moin

Moin was a shallow port on the Caribbean located where the Matina lagoon enters the sea. Matina, however, was the name used by customs officials for the port, though the city proper was named Moin. As mail with official cachets is datelined from Moin, the markings will be considered together. An example of the Matina marking on a letter datelined Moin, September 13, 1845, is shown in Figure 3-19. The cachet was used by the collector of customs.

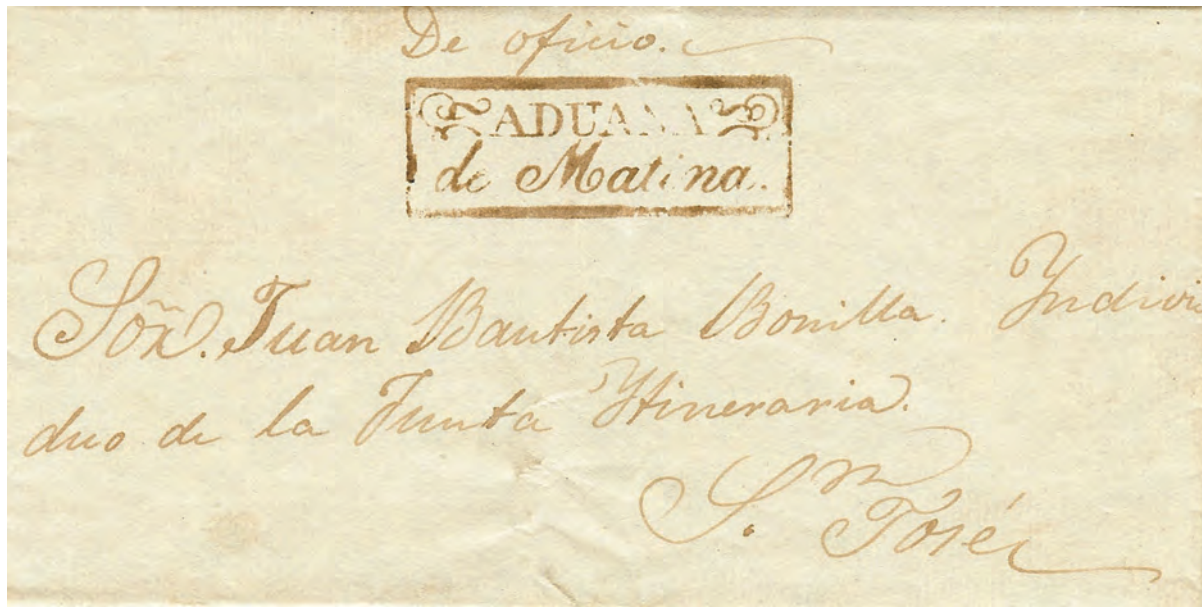


Figure 3-19. Customs House Matina cachet on 1845 letter to San Jose

An interesting cover inbound to the collector of customs at Matina is shown in Figure 3-20. The wrapper, with a boxed paid in San Salvador postmark and a matching “4” reales rate handstamp on reverse, encloses the original December 11, 1838 Decree of Jimenez of San Salvador announcing an embargo against the chief ports of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The Nicaraguan port cities of Realejo and San Juan del Norte and the Costa Rican port cities of Caldera and Matina (Moin) were included. Both Nicaragua and Costa Rica ignored the embargo, which proved ineffective.



Figure 3-20. Letter enclosing 1838 Decree of embargo

Nicoya

Although the city of Nicoya, capital of the province of the same name, was an important early center for trade in Costa Rica, there is only one style of cachet known used there. Most of the early mail from provincial officials, postal officials, and tobacco factors bears manuscript endorsements. The Mayer collection includes five examples of the cachet of the Political Chief, one of which is shown in Figure 3-21.



Figure 3-21. Cachet of Political Chief in Nicoya on 1851 letter

Paraiso

The hamlet of Paraiso, located southeast of Cartago, apparently never had a post office in the period under discussion. However, a “Gefata Polita Del Paraiso” cachet is known (PAR-Pun1). It is illustrated in Appendix B.

Puntarenas

Cachets indicating free mail privilege are abundant from Puntarenas. There are seven different types shown in Appendix B. The port required a customs house and, like the Matina office, used an ornate boxed handstamp, as illustrated by the cover in Figure 3-22. Although this one does not bear a date, the marking is known on documents that are dated between 1850 and 1857.



Figure 3-22. Customs House cachet of Puntarenas on postmarked cover to San Jose

In a later period, from 1862 to 1864, a second style of marking with “Repub. De Costa – Rica” at top and the name spelled as a single word (PUN-Pub4) was used. An 1862 letter to San Jose is shown in Figure 3-23.

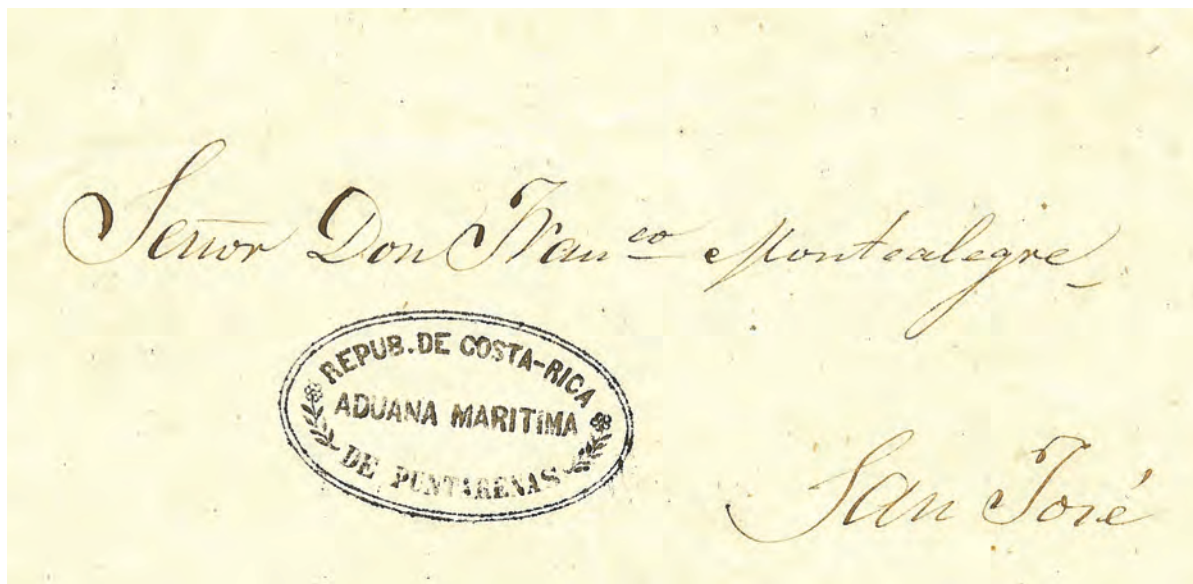


Figure 3-23. Customs House cachet of Puntarenas on 1862 folded letter to San Jose

San Jose

As expected, there is a large number of free mail cachets known used from San Jose. Twenty-eight are listed in Appendix B, not including those of the national government illustrated with the coat of arms; there are certainly more that are not listed. As several uses from San Jose were shown previously in this chapter, a single example will suffice here, Figure 3-24.

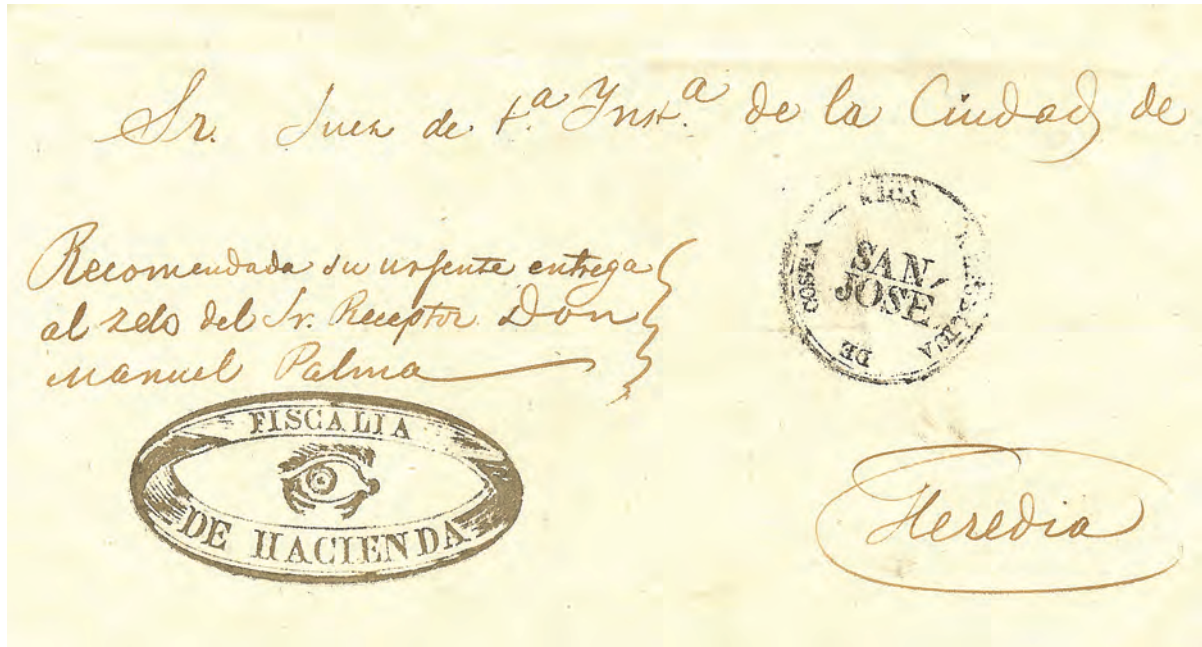


Figure 3-24. An undated letter with cachet of the State Revenue Agent

This cover is addressed to Heredia and has a San Jose postmark. It bears a cachet with a central illustration of a “seeing eye,” which seems appropriate for the Treasury Department and is the only reported example of its kind.

San Ramon

Although covers with 1863-issue adhesives used from San Ramon are extremely rare, the Mayer collection includes five different free mail cachets used from this small town on the peninsula of Nicoya. Two of the cachets from the Political Chief of San Ramon bear central illustrations of a large tree (the “Guanacaste” tree) and a town. These cachets (SR-Pub2, SR-Pub3) are of different sizes. An example of the larger size, shown in Figure 3-25, appears on an undated cover addressed to the local mayor.



Figure 3-25. Illustrated cachet of the Political Chief of San Ramon

It is possible that this cachet was the inspiration for the fake Bagaces tree markings (BAG-Tree) discussed in Chapter 2.

Santa Cruz

In the 1820s Santa Cruz was the second most important town in the “Partido de Nicoya,” behind only the capital city of Nicoya. Although the inhabitants of the district of Nicoya had decided to join Costa Rica, the exact status of the area was not finalized until December 9, 1825, when the Congress of the Federation of Central America decreed that the “district of Nicoya should continue separate from Nicaragua and joined to Costa Rica.” The earliest reported postal artifact from Santa Cruz in the Mayer collection, shown in Figure 3-26, was sent during the interim period before the 1825 Decree.

Marked Santa Cruz, June 14, 1825, the letter is addressed to “Citizen Cupertino Briceno, First Mayor and Subordinate Political Chief in Nicoya.” It relays an invitation to a June 26 Corpus Christi celebration there and is signed by Jose Gabriel Rios, the Political Chief of Santa Cruz. The letter closes with “Dios Union Libertad” (God, Union, Freedom), a motto of the Federation.

The cachet on the cover reads, “S Cruz Libre D O P N,” which stands for “Santa Cruz Libre De Oficio Partido Nicoya.” The manufacture of the device must predate the 1824 decision to join Costa Rica, as it refers to official (business) of the Partido. The central image is of the Phrygian cap, worn by freedmen in ancient Rome and adopted as a symbol of liberty during the French Revolution. Every indication on the letter points to the pervasive liberal atmosphere of the time. In fact, the addressee’s brother, Manuel Briceno, was a leader of the movement for Nicoya to join Costa Rica and was a signer of the document that accomplished the transfer.

A second letter from this correspondence, not shown, does not have any postal markings or a cachet but does have interesting content regarding mails. The letter is dated April 3, 1825, and states: “It has been officially decided by the this judicature to contribute one peso monthly for the payment of the mail carrier – which I remit to you with the bearer and I will not excuse myself from forwarding it each month. I give notice that the mail carrier should pass here, in case we have to forward some letter, or parcel, for the Government, this being double expense for us.” Basically, the Political Chief of the Santa Cruz area was volunteering to contribute one peso to insure regular postal service for his district.

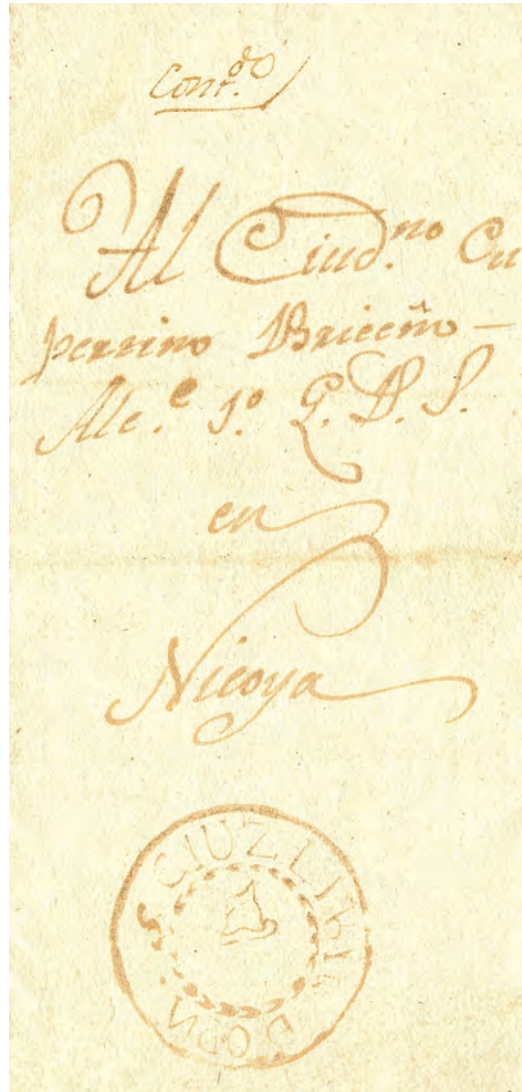


Figure 3-26. June 14, 1825, cover from Santa Cruz

An additional cachet (SC-Pub2) that is recorded seems likely to be from the Santa Cruz located in Costa Rica, but cannot be confirmed as such. Stylistically, it is similar to a cachet used at nearby Nicoya (NIC-Pub1) shown previously in Figure 3-21.

Sarapiqui

Sarapiqui, a small town in the north of the province of Heredia, does not appear in any of the post office lists of the period; its only known covers are those with administrative cachets. The earlier of the two letters in the Mayer collection is shown in Figure 3-27. It is an 1850 folded letter from the Head of Defenses at Sarapiqui to the customs officer at San Jose marked with an attractive cachet using negative lettering.

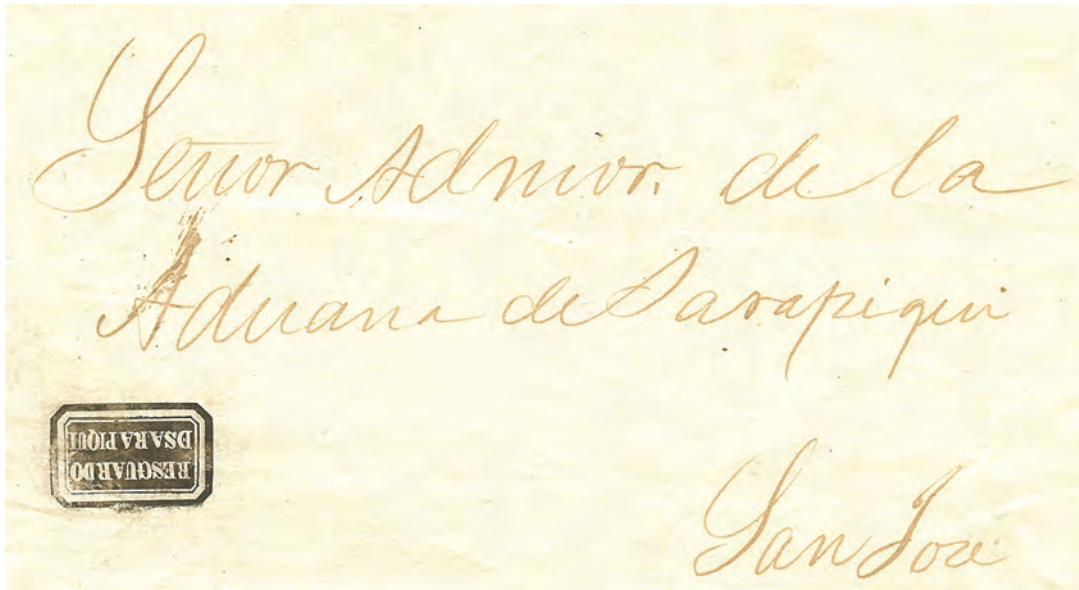


Figure 3-27. Cachet of Defenses at Sarapiquí on 1850 letter to San José

The second item is an 1853 letter from the Commander of the Detachment of Sarapiquí addressed to San José. It is shown in Figure 3-28.

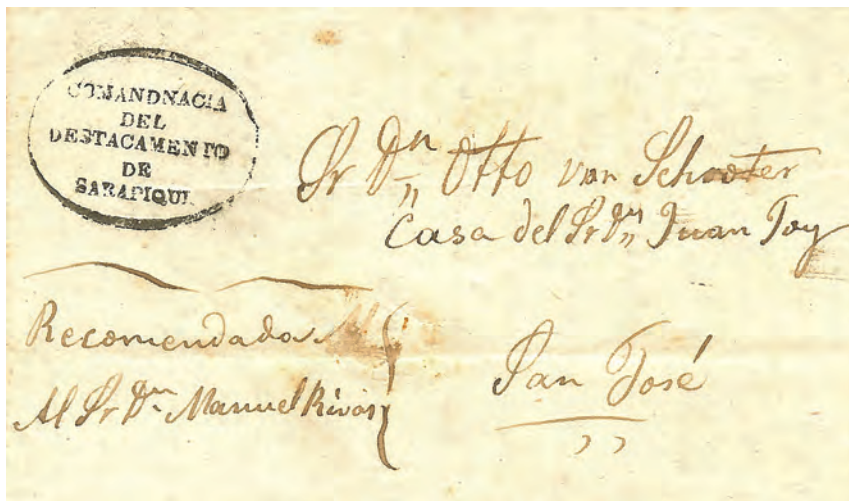


Figure 3-28. Cachet of the Commander at Sarapiquí on 1853 letter to San José



Chapter Four

Interior Mail to 1883



This chapter examines mail not subject to free transmission sent within the borders of Costa Rica during the period when the 1863-issue adhesives were current.

Article 1 of the 1862 Decree, which appears in full in Chapter 1, defined interior mail as being that “which passes between inhabitants of towns of the Republic,” which was not considered to be a fiscal monopoly. The important points of the Articles that deal specifically with interior mail are excerpted below.

Article 2. – Letters...classified according to their weight. If not reaching half an ounce, they are single; double if weighing half an ounce but not reaching three-quarters; triple if weighing three-quarters but not reaching an ounce; and they shall be called letters under cover (pliegos) or parcels (paquetes) when weighing one ounce or more.

Article 3. – The postage on letters which are dispatched by the interior posts shall be at the rate of two reales per ounce in the same proportions as set for exterior correspondence by articles 2 and 4. From the publication of this law, no small packages (encomiendas) of currency nor of other classes will be admitted to the Administration of Posts.

Article 5. – For the purpose of paying postage fees there shall be two stamps, the first red in color, of two reales (dos reales) value, and the second in blue of the value of half a real (medio real)....

Article 6. – All letters deposited or delivered in the Post Offices and printed matter destined for the exterior must be franked, that is must carry stamps according to their value...

Article 8. – In addition to the red and blue stamps destined for the payment of postage fees, there will be a marker of black ink to be used by the Administrators of Posts, always placing it upon the red and blue stamps on letters and printed matter which they receive or dispatch in order to render them useless, thus preventing the fraud of their being used again for franking or that other pieces may be handed in with stamps which have already served.

Article 9. – Interior correspondence shall be taken through the public mails franked with the blue stamp, and freely by express messengers or by private persons who travel from one town to another.

Article 16. – The registration fee on letters belongs to the National Treasury; four reales shall be charged for interior letters and eight for those of the exterior, when it is desired to register them in addition to the postage fee.

Dating 1863-Issue Interior Covers

The fact that less than one-third of the 186 interior covers in the Mayer collection can be firmly dated, and many of those only by postmarks dated in the 1870s, makes an accurate chronology of postmark use and stamp distribution both difficult and tentative. The largest group of these interior covers is addressed to Jesus Jimenez or family members. The contents of all but one of these ninety-two have been removed and none were docketed upon receipt. Only one, which bears a San Jose dated postmark of November 23, 1872, can be accurately dated. However, seventeen letters are addressed to Jimenez as president. Since his first term in office extended from May 8, 1863, to May 8, 1866, and his second term from November 1, 1868, to April 27, 1870, letters addressed to him as president can at least be assigned to the proper decade.

A second major correspondence accounts for a further thirty-eight items. These letters and covers are addressed to the commercial firm of Napoleon Millet at San Jose. They are mostly full folded letters, with dates, used from Putarenas to San Jose. The earliest dated letter in this group is August 6, 1868, and most date between 1870 and 1875.

Earliest Reported Usage

The earliest reported interior usage of a Costa Rica adhesive stamp is shown in Fig 4-1. It is also the earliest dated usage of any Costa Rican stamp.



Figure 4-1. April 21, 1863, use of medio real from Cartago, the earliest use of an adhesive stamp

This folded letter, dated April 21, 1863, was sent from Cartago to San Jose using a medio real from the recent shipment (February 7, 1863) of medio real and dos reales stamps from New York City. The stamp, from this early printing, is cancelled by the large Cartago postmark of the style used in the pre-stamp era (CAR-Pmk5a).

The “Reales” Period

The 1862 Decree required that letters to one-half ounce weight be mailed using one medio real stamp and those to one ounce with dos reales postage. These rates remained in effect until June 9, 1866, when the rate became 5 centavos and 25 centavos respectively. The medio real stamp was sold for 5 centavos and the dos reales stamp for 25 centavos. Interior covers that can be firmly dated to the “reales” period are very rare; the Mayer collection includes only eight examples of the medio real and none of the dos reales. The eight examples of the dos reales stamp used during this period are discussed in the section on exterior mail, Chapter 5.

Interior Mails by Origin

Way Mail

One style of cancel that has been a puzzle to many students is the oval of dots. It is very common on loose stamps, particularly the three high values, and is usually clearly struck on those stamps. The interesting item shown in Figure 4-2, a folded letter docketed as originating in Aguacate (Desmonte) in April 1863 and addressed to San Jose, goes a long way in explaining the use of the cancel.

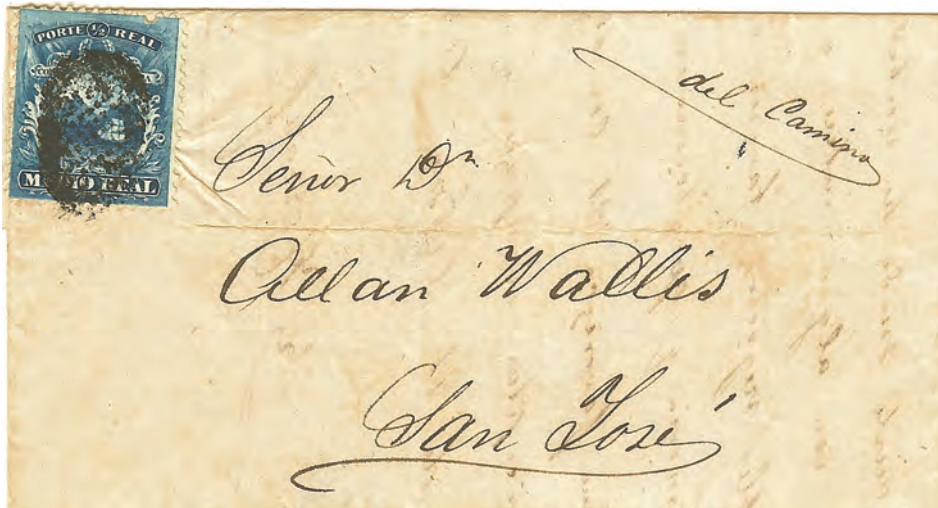


Figure 4-2. Medio real way usage to San Jose in 1863

Aguacate is a small town in Guanacaste that did not have a post office. The letter is endorsed “del Camino” (from the road) at top right and is equivalent to a way letter picked up between offices. The medio real stamp is cancelled by an unusual oval of dots (SJ-Way1) believed to have been applied to loose letters upon arrival at San Jose. The authors believe this item gives the clearest idea of the actual use of this cancel.

The Mayer collection includes three additional examples of the cancel on medio real covers. The one shown in Figure 4-3 is a letter dated from Paris, France, on January 1, 1873.

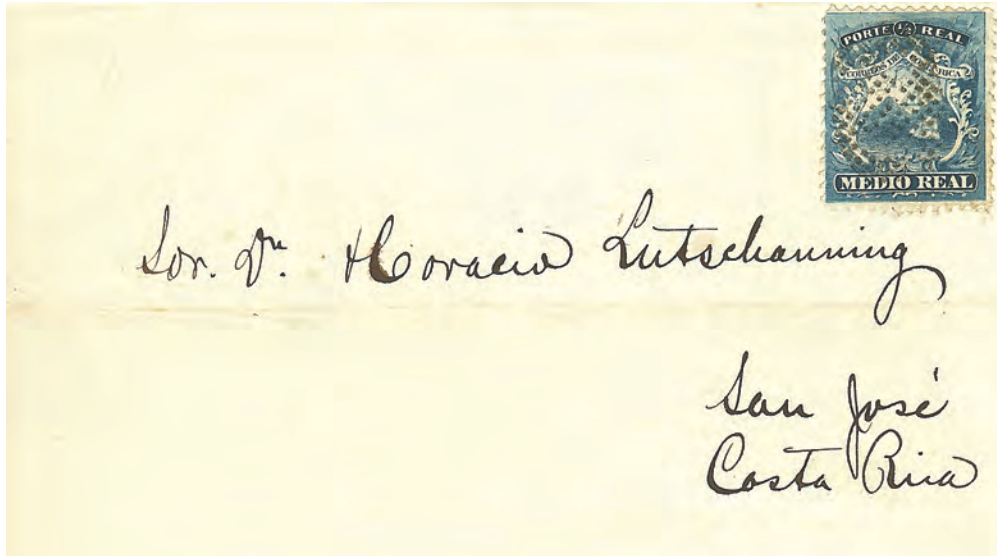


Figure 4-3. 1873 usage carried under cover into Costa Rica, a way usage to San Jose

This letter was probably carried under cover into Costa Rica, placed in the mail with a carrier on his way to San Jose, and presumably cancelled on arrival there. The other two examples are undated; both are used to Cartago and one bears an additional San Jose oval postmark.

The question why this cancel is so common on loose stamps of higher denomination is easily answered; the canceling device was almost certainly one of those sold by the government to Ross with the 1863-issue stamp remainders and was applied after the stamps were no longer current.

Alajuela

The first Alajuela cancel that was likely used on 1863-issue stamps was the framed straight line previously used in the stampless period, type ALA-Pmk2. Although this cancel is not reported on cover, it is known on loose stamps. This marking was replaced by an oval marking of the standard type (ALA-Pmk4), as well as the barred numeral cancel (ALA-Can1).

The earliest dated usage from Alajuela is the registered cover shown in Figure 4-4. This cover, which is franked with a single cuatro reales adhesive, is also the earliest reported use of the stamp and the only use of this stamp during the “reales” currency period.

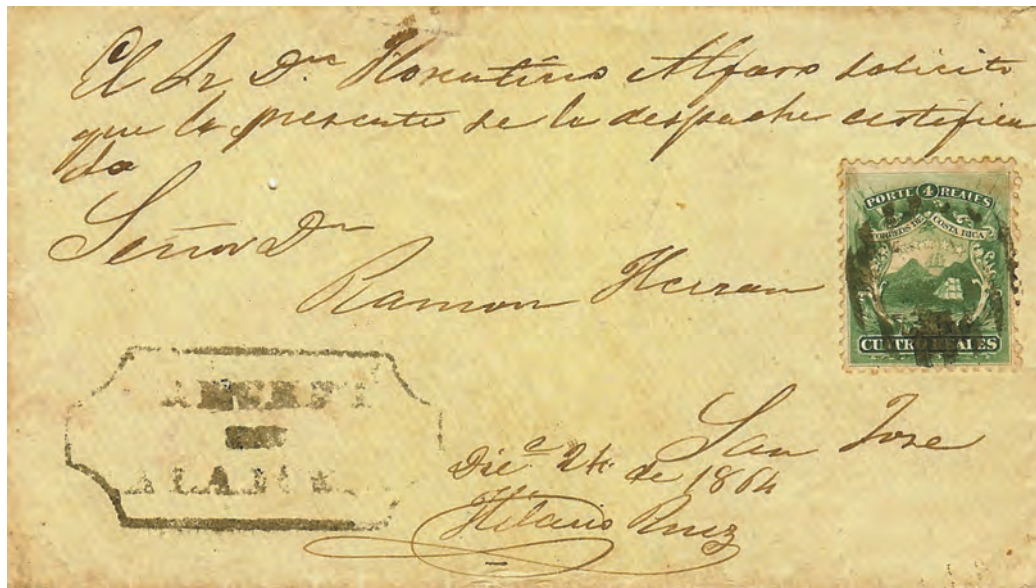


Figure 4-4. Registered usage from Alajuela in 1864, earliest use of cuatro reales

The stamp on this cover is tied by a barred numeral cancel (ALA-Can1). The post office administrative cachet “Recepto De Alajuela” at left (ALA-Aux2) had been in use since 1842 and appears frequently on postal documents and free mail. The cover was certified by Postmaster Ruiz on December 24, 1864, and sent to San Jose. Then, in the old method of handling certified mail, the recipient signed the inside back flap with his name as received and the cover was returned to sender as proof of delivery.

Although the 1862 Decree specified, in Article 16, that the registry fee of four reales was in addition to the postal charges, neither of the known registered uses from Alajuela shows payment of the postal rate (nor does a similar registered usage from San Jose). Under the 1839 regulations relating to certified mail that preceded the 1862 Decree rules for registered mail, certified mail was not subject to additional postage. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that the postmaster of Alajuela operated under the provisions of the old regulations and may have incorrectly considered that a difference existed between registered and certified mail. It should also be noted that the 1862 Decree did not specify the exact procedures to be used on registered mail. No indemnity was provided, as is evidenced by the fact that there was but a single fee for interior registered mail rather than a fee that increase with value.

INTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

Another early usage from Alajuela is the cover in Figure 4-5. Although undated, the adhesive is of the distinctive early shade and impression.



Figure 4-5. Usage ca.1864 with spelling error “Alajusla” postmark

The medio real stamp on this cover is cancelled by the Alajuela barred numeral device. The oval postmark, however, shown enlarged in Figure 4-5a, reads “ALAJUSLA” rather than the correct “ALAJUELA.”



Figure 4-5a. Enlargement of postmark on the cover shown in Figure 4-5

This cover, previously in the R.J. Mechin collection, descended directly from Don Carlos Echeverria, the grandson of the addressee, to Mechin and then to the Mayer collection, and has not been tampered with. The error of “S” for “E” appears to be the result of an artifact stuck to the postmark device, rather than a true error of spelling, as the lower leg of the “E” is clearly visible and is lighter than the diagonal portion that makes it appear as an “S.” Presumably the device was cleaned shortly afterwards and no additional examples are reported either on or off cover.

As for the barred numeral cancel of Alajuela, ALA-Can1, it is of the standard type distributed to the larger offices in Costa Rica shortly after the 1863 issue became current. The variant used at Alajuela, very similar to that used in San Jose, bit with 2.5 mm spacing between the bars, is known on covers dated between 1864 and circa 1872.

An unusual example of an administrative cachet used as a cancel device at Alajuela is shown in Figure 4-6.



Figure 4-6. 1869 folded letter from Alajuela with administrative cachet used as cancel

The letter, addressed to Vuelta (de Jorco) and dated at Alajuela on July 24, 1869, bears a medio real adhesive tied by a blurred strike of the boxed “Adminstn. Gral D Correos D Costa Rica” administrative cachet (ALA-Aux4). It should be noted that this device apparently survived long after the 1863 issue was current and exists used as favor strikes on loose stamps as well as on blank envelopes.

Figure 4-7 shows another single franking of the cuatro reales stamp used on a certified letter to Esparza.



Figure 4-7. Certified letter from Alajuela to Esparza in 1875

The cover bears a manuscript certification of the postmaster stating that the envelope contained “\$12.75” in cash. The cuatro reales adhesive, valued at 50 centavos, paid the registration fee; the postage was not collected. As in the previous registered example, the cover was signed on the reverse as received

INTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

and returned to the sender. The “Admon. De Correos De Alajuela” cachet (ALA-Aux3) on the cover is also known used as a cancel on off-cover examples.

A typical Millet correspondence cover from Alajuela in the later period is shown in Figure 4-8.



Figure 4-8. Cover from Alajuela to San Jose in 1879 (105)

This cover, franked with a medio real from plate 2, is tied by the fancy “Alajuela star” cancel (ALA-Can2) and bears a double-circle Alajuela postmark of January 21, 1879. Of the eleven interior usages from Alajuela in the Mayer collection, this is one of two Millet correspondence pieces; the majority of the covers addressed to Millet originated in Puntarenas.

Atenas

The Mayer collection includes the two reported usages from Atenas; the interior use is shown in Figure 4-9, while the exterior use is discussed in Chapter 5.

This address leaf bears a medio real used to San Jose tied by a clear Atenas oval (ATE-Pmk1). Although the item is undated and Atenas does not appear in the official list of post offices for 1875, it does appear as an office in the 1879 *Gaceta Oficial*. The usage shown is consistent with the period from about 1876 to 1882, as the stamp is from the worn state of plate 2. The earliest dated Atenas postmark (ATE-Pmk2) found on a loose stamp is September 21, 1879.

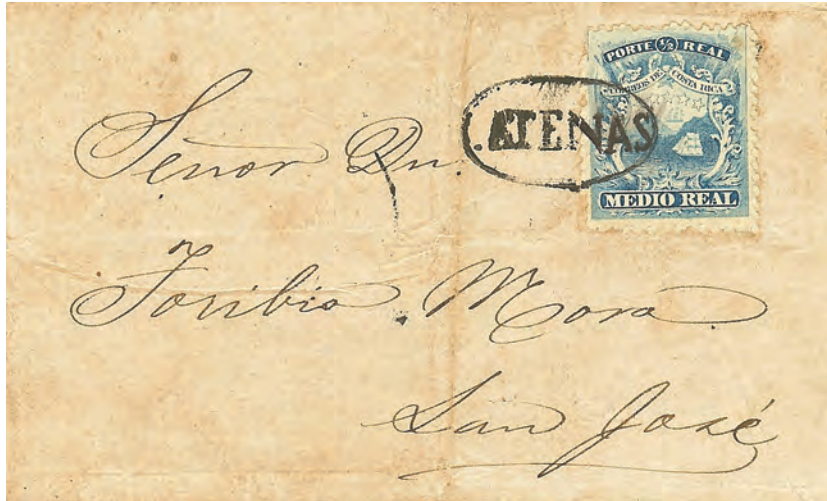


Figure 4-9. Undated letter sheet from Atenas to San Jose

Bagaces

There are no reported examples of first-issue adhesives used on cover from Bagaces. A listing of postmarks that appear on loose stamps is compiled in the Appendix A.

Cartago

The majority of Costa Rica 1863-issue interior covers extant are from Cartago. Of the 186 such usages in the Mayer collection, seventy-nine are from Cartago, with seventy-four of those addressed to Jesus Jimenez family members. Unfortunately only one still has original contents. Several are addressed to Jesus Jimenez as president and can therefore be dated to the 1868 to 1871 period.

The earliest reported usage of a Costa Rica adhesive stamp, previously shown in Figure 4-1, bears the Cartago large-style postmark (CAR-Pmk5a) used on April 21, 1863. Another example with the same postmark but with a pair of medio real stamps is shown in Figure 4-10. This usage is from the “reales” period prior to the currency change in 1866.



Figure 4-10. Pair of medio real paying the double rate ca. 1863

The Mayer collection includes a total of eight covers bearing the CAR-Pmk5a cancel, which was evidently replaced between 1864 and 1866 with the smaller straight-line postmark (CAR-Pmk6). A typical example of the new marking on cover is shown in Figure 4-11.

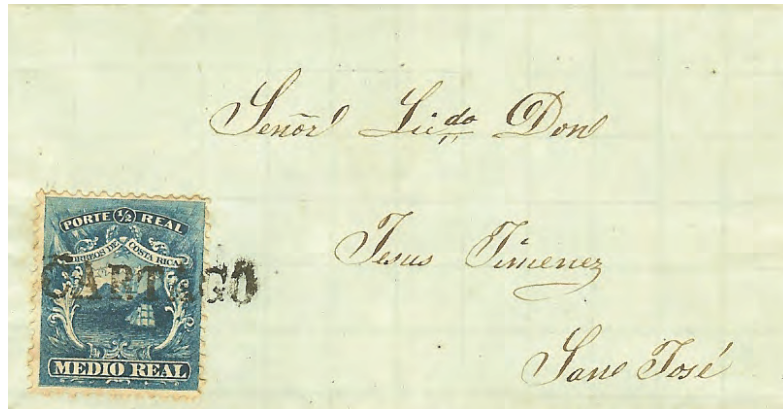


Figure 4-11. Address leaf from Cartago addressed to Jesus Jimenez, ca. 1865

Of the eleven examples of this smaller straight-line postmark on cover in the Mayer collection, none are dated but several are addressed during the presidency of Jimenez.

Numerous covers from Cartago bear stamps cancelled by the standard-style barred numeral marking (CAR-Can1). Many of these also bear the oval Cartago postmark (CAR-Pmk7) as a supplemental marking, with a typical example shown in Figure 4-12.

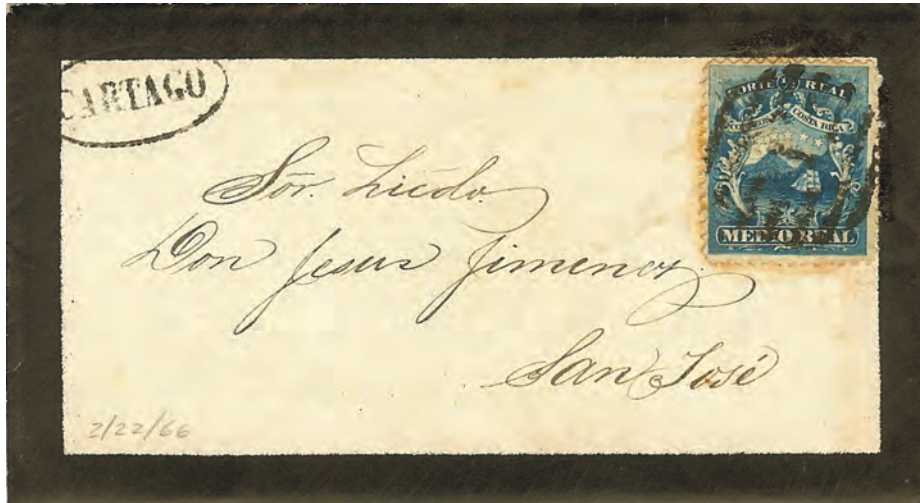


Figure 4-12. Mourning cover from Cartago to San Jose from Jimenez correspondence

This is a visually arresting mourning cover with matching enclosure dated February 22, 1866, used to Jesus Jimenez. The medio real stamp is cancelled by the barred numeral and an additional Cartago oval is used as a postmark of origin. In fact, the practice of using the barred numeral as a cancel and the oval as a postmark continued well into the period of the Jimenez presidency. The Mayer collection includes a dos reales usage with this combination of markings as well.

Additional permutations, apparently of a somewhat later date, show the oval postmark (CAR-Pmk7) but with adhesives cancelled with a diagonal pen stroke, or just the oval postmark used once as a cancel. An example of the last form is shown in Figure 4-13.

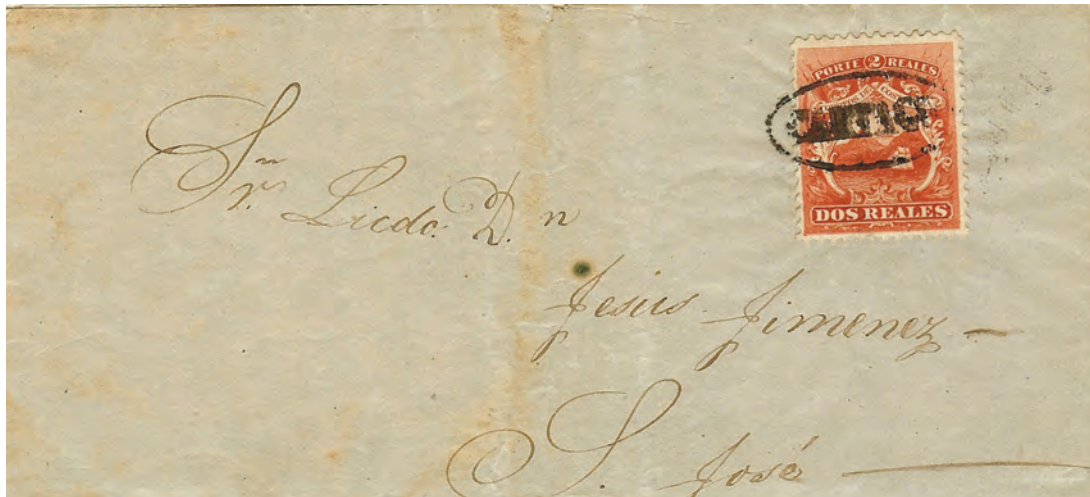


Figure 4-13. Dos reales used on undated Jimenez correspondence cover with Cartago postmark

This address leaf has a dos reales adhesive, paying the double rate, neatly tied by the oval Cartago postmark. It is one of only two reported usages of the dos reales from Cartago on interior mail.

Desmonte

Although Desmonte appears in both the 1875 and the 1879 lists of post offices, there are no reported first-issue covers unless the way letter dated from Aguacate (Desmonte) shown in Figure 4-2 is counted. In fact, the Mayer collection includes only four examples of an oval Desmonte postmark (DES-Pmk1) used on first-issue stamps. All are medio real adhesives, one on a plate 1 stamp and the other three on plate 2 stamps.

Esparta

There is only a single reported interior usage from Esparta bearing stamps, but that letter, shown in Figure 4-14, is one of the most striking medio real covers extant.

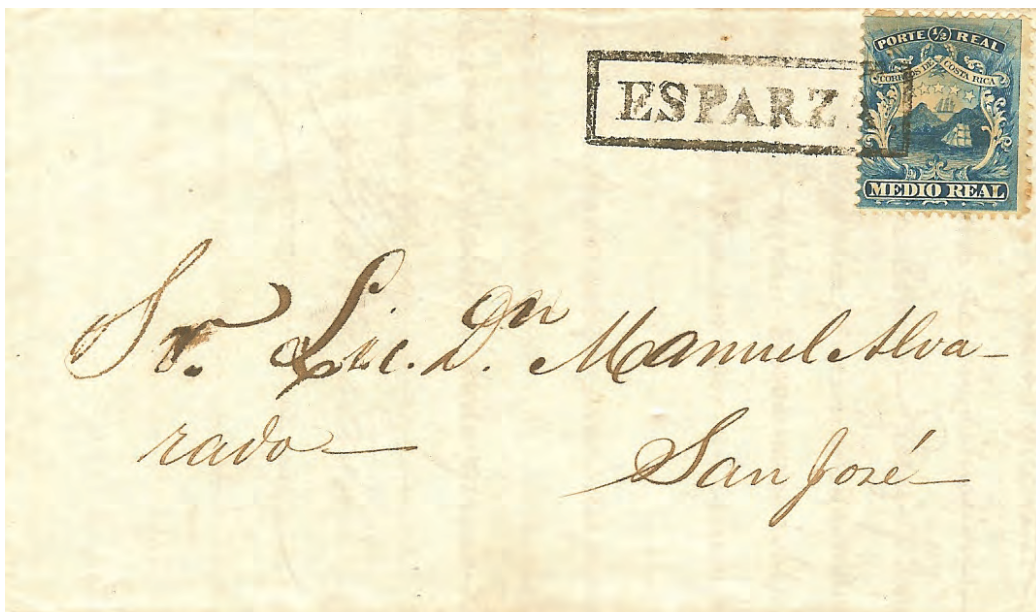


Figure 4-14. 1871 folded letter with boxed Esparza postmark generally used in stampless period

The letter is dated from “Esparza” on November 24, 1871, and was franked with a single medio real stamp paying the postage to San Jose. The stamp is tied by a clear strike of the boxed Esparza postmark (ESP-Pmk1) that first appears used circa 1825 on an address leaf (Figure 2-20). From the limited available material available for study, it would seem that this postmark continued in use before being replaced by the standard oval type (ESP-Pmk3) that appears rarely on loose stamps that are all late printings from medio real plate 1, or plate 2 stamps. The post office is listed as “Esparza” on the 1875 list of post offices but as “Esparta” on the 1879 list. The standard-style double-circle with stars postmark (ESP-Pmk4) still used the original spelling (see exterior cover, Figure 5-9) but the double-circle type without stars (ESP-Pmk5) has the new “Esparta” spelling.

Grecia

Unlike the case with Esparta, there are two interior use covers reported from Grecia with first-issue stamps, as well as one exterior cover. One of the interior usages is shown in Figure 4-15.



Figure 4-15. May 1878 usage from Grecia to San Jose

This cover bears a medio real from plate 2 used from Grecia to San Jose. The stamp is tied by the standard-style Grecia oval postmark (GRE-Pmk2) and bears an additional strike of the customary double-circle datestamp (GRE-Pmk3) dated May 8, 1878. The second cover, postmarked January 8, 1877, is similar except that it bears a San Jose arrival backstamp. Most off-cover stamps found from Grecia bear this oval cancel, which is found on medio real stamps from both plates as well as on dos and cuatro reales adhesives.

Heredia

The Mayer collection includes only three first-issue covers used from Heredia, all interior uses. The only dated example is pictured in Figure 4-16.



Figure 4-16. May 1866 medio real used from Heredia to San Jose

This is a folded letter, dated May 11, 1866, addressed to Don Jose Castro at San Jose. The medio real adhesive is tied by a barred numeral cancel and the oval Heredia handstamp is used as a postmark (HER-Pmk3). This is the only example of the numeral cancel used from Heredia on cover; the strike is not clear enough to make the marking identifiable on loose stamps. A second, undated, folded letter bears the oval postmark used as a cancel.

The third of the known covers from Heredia is shown in Figure 4-17. This is a folded address leaf from the Jimenez correspondence and is undated. The handwriting is very similar to that of the previous letter.



Figure 4-17. Cover from Heredia with unusual straight-line postmark

The medio real adhesive is tied by a straight-line “Correos De Heredia” marking (HER-Aux2) in the style used primarily for internal post office correspondence. Such markings would normally have been used on the facing slips or way bills that accompanied mail pouches. Additional examples of the marking on loose stamps are known.

Liberia

Seven interior usages from Liberia, of which four are dated, are included in the Mayer collection. The earliest of these is a July 31, 1864, folded letter that shows the standard-issue oval marking (LIB-Pmk6) used as both a postmark and a cancel

An interesting example of the use of this marking is shown in Figure 4-18. This is a packet front that was sent certified (registered) for \$1,000 from Liberia to Puntarenas in July 1872. The money letter was franked with a single copy of the medio real and three copies of the dos reales, which paid the four reales registry fee (50 centavos), plus the 30 centavos postage for a twelve-ounce package. The registry rate of four reales was specified in Article 16 of the 1862 Decree, while the postal rate for small packets was paid in accordance with Resolution V of 1872, which specified 5 centavos for each two ounces, 2½ centavos per ounce. The stamps were cancelled by the oval postmark, the post office “Admon De Correos De Liberia” administrative cachet (LIB-Pub2) was applied, and the packet was endorsed by the postmaster. Upon receipt at Puntarenas the address leaf was removed, signed by the recipient on July 15, and sent back to Liberia as proof of delivery.



Figure 4- 18. Certified cover front from Liberia to Puntarenas in 1872

An unusual “mute” cancel (LIB-Can1) is found used at Liberia on two covers in the Mayer collection. One, not shown, has a defective adhesive, but the letter sheet bears an embossed crest from Liberia. The other example, shown in figure 4-19, is undated. Although it is also found on loose medio real and dos reales stamps, this cancel is scarce.

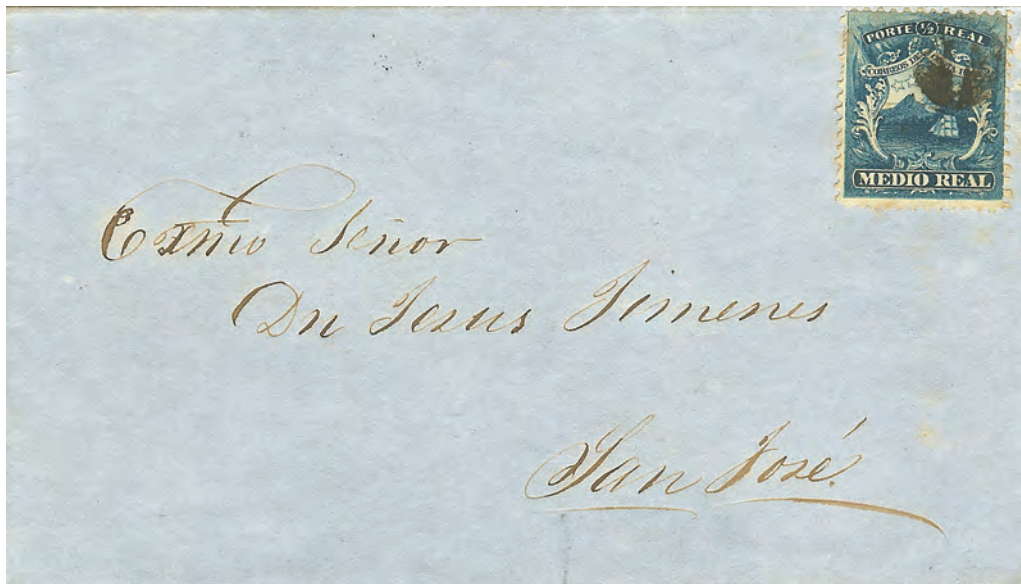


Figure 4-19. Mute cancel of Liberia on medio real on undated cover to San Jose

The cover in Figure 4-20 is the latest reported interior use of the 1863-issue stamps.



Figure 4-20. December 25, 1882, double-rate cover that is latest known usage

This double-rate cover is franked with two copies of the medio real stamp tied by the small oval postmark (LIB-Pm6). Its double-circle, no stars datestamp (LIB-Pmk8) is clearly struck at left. The only examples of the earlier double-circle Liberia postmark (LIB-Pmk7) with stars is found on official stampless mail and off-cover stamps.

Limon

There are no reported interior use covers originating in Limon, though two exterior usages are shown in Figure 5-10 and 5-16 in the next chapter. There are two variants of the standard oval marking usually found as a cancel on loose stamps as well as two standard double-circle datestamps reported; these are illustrated in Appendix A. It should be noted in addition that Limon replaced Moin as the principal port on the Caribbean and its post office appears in both the 1875 and 1879 post office lists.

Palmares and Naranjo

Although there are no reported covers from either of the above two towns, loose stamps with postmarks are known. From Palmares, the Mayer collection contains a medio real stamp with a clear manuscript "Palmares Mar 24 1882" postmark. Although the Palmares office does not appear in the post office list for 1875 or 1879, it was possible an office that was added between 1879 and 1882. The Naranjo office appears in the 1875 list, but not in the one from 1879. The Mayer collection includes three examples of administrative cancels from Naranjo on 1863-issue stamps. The strikes are incomplete and are not included in the Appendix.

Puntarenas

Thanks largely to the survival of the correspondence from Carlos Bevers in Puntarenas to F. Napoleon Millet in San Jose, there are forty-four interior uses from Puntarenas in the Mayer collection. Of these, fully thirty-six are dated.

There are no reports of dated covers with 1863-issue stamps from Puntarenas in the period before 1867. However, from an examination of Puntarenas cancels on loose stamps that appear to be early printings, it would appear that a standard small oval device, as distributed in 1863, was sent to Puntarenas but rarely used. Fewer than five examples of the cancel (PUN-Can1) have been seen and the scant evidence available suggests that this cancel was soon replaced by the barred numeral. A typical example from the Millet correspondence is the letter shown in Figure 4-21.

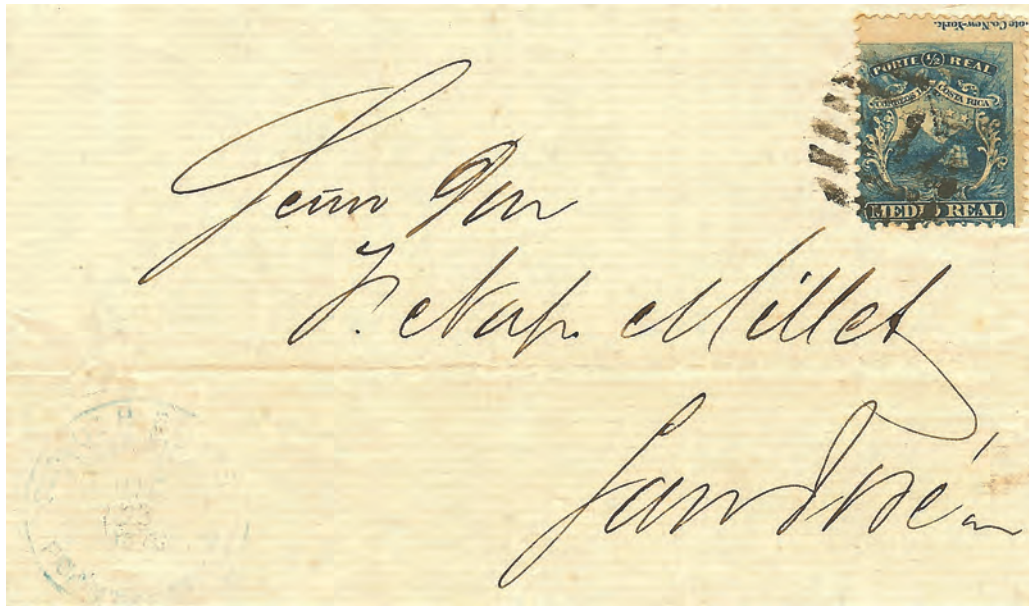


Figure 4-21. Letter from Puntarenas to San Jose in 1870

This letter has the sender's datestamp of December 23, 1870, and is addressed to Millet in San Jose. The medio real stamp, which shows a partial imprint of the American Banknote Company, is tied by the barred numeral cancel (PUN-Can2).

An exceptional franking for a letter from the Millet correspondence is shown in Figure 4-22. Unlike most of the correspondence, this letter, dated July 5, 1871, was sent by Jose Millet to his father. Millet mentions that accompanying the letter he is sending is a small packet of seeds. This accounts for the additional postage. The dos reales plus medio real tied by the numeral cancel is an extremely rare franking, used here to pay the 30 centavos rate for a twelve-ounce packet. This letter represents the highest reported postage on a interior cover that was not registered.



Figure 4-22. Letter from Puntarenas sent in 1871 with enclosed packet of seeds

By January 20, 1872, the office started using the oval handstamp (PUN-Can3) as a cancel. This marking now shows the office name abbreviated to “Parenas” and is similar to the second generation oval markings used in some of the smaller offices such as Atenas and Grecia. The earliest reported example of the use of this device is January 2, 1872. A particularly clear strike used as a cancel is shown in Figure 4-23.

On this folded letter the medio real stamp is tied by the abbreviated oval Puntarenas (PUN-Can3) mark and has an additional town postmark which was struck at left. The postmark is the standard double circle with stars device, but it has already deteriorated so that the inner circle is missing. The only example of this datestamp with a complete inner circle (PUN-Pmk4) is dated February 6, 1874. By April of the same year only traces of the inner line are visible and by the June usage shown above (PUN-Pmk4a), the inner circle has disappeared. The oval device also wore quickly, as evidenced by numerous off-cover examples on adhesives that show the nail heads used to make the device on the strikes. The pattern of these nail heads can be clearly seen by examining the variant strikes (Pun-Can3a through PUN-Can3d) in Appendix C.

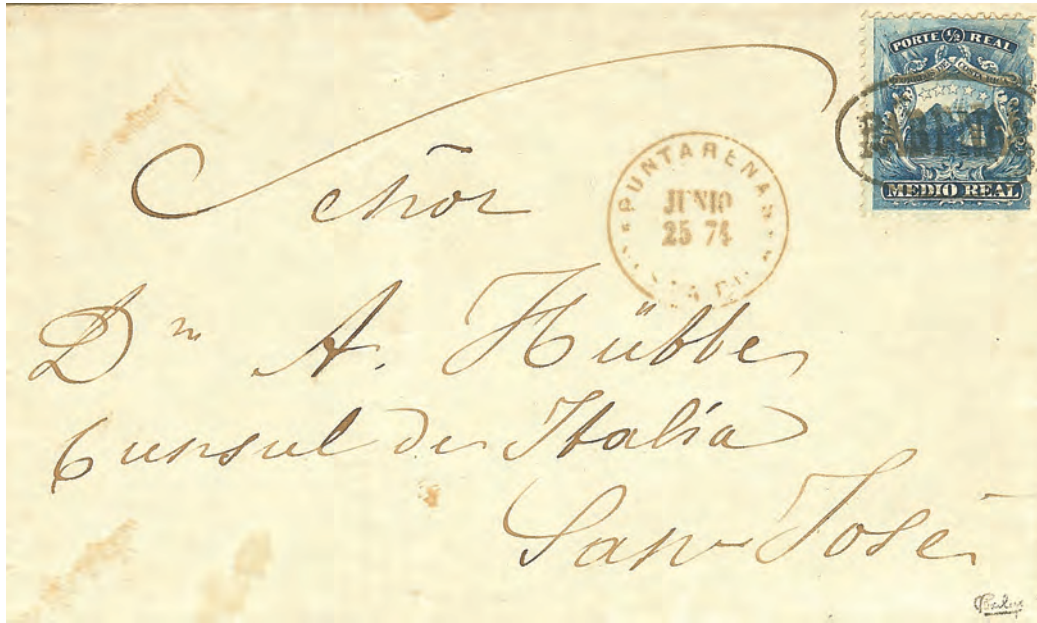


Figure 4-23. Medio real used from Puntarenas to San Jose in 1874

The earliest reported use of the Puntarenas “sunburst” fancy cancel (PUN-Can4) is shown in Figure 4-24. Although numerous examples are known on loose stamps, there are few covers reported.



Figure 4-24. Certified cover from Puntarenas to Liberia with medio real and cuatro reales stamps

This is a full cover franked with five copies of the medio real from plate 2, one wrapped around the side, as well as a single cuatro reales stamp. The cuatro reales stamp paid the registry fee and the five medio reales stamps paid the 25 centavos postage. The cover is endorsed in manuscript by the postmaster at left as being a packet weighing one pound, five and one-half ounces, and is dated November 16, 1877.

INTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

The following two covers from Puntarenas are highlights of the Mayer collection, as they represent the only two examples of the 1863-issue un peso known on cover. The earlier of the two usages is shown in Figure 4-25.



Figure 4-25. Certified cover from Puntarenas with un peso and medio real stamps

This cover to Alajuela is franked with an un peso stamp and a medio real from plate 2, both tied by the distinctive manuscript cancels used by Postmaster Onesade. At the left of the cover the postmaster certified it as accompanying a packet weighing one pound, ten ounces, with a value of \$5,000 (5,000 pesos) and dated it December 11, 1877. The postage prepaid the four reales (50 centavos) registry fee plus 55 centavos postage for a money packet of this weight. The cover also bears the oval handstamp (PUN-Pmk3) administrative cachet as a postmark.

The second example of the un peso on cover is shown in Figure 4-26. Also a certified usage, this example is addressed to Liberia and is a single franking.

The stamp is also cancelled by the same fancy manuscript cancel. At the left of the cover the postmaster certified it as accompanying a packet weighing one pound, five ounces and dated it January 22, 1878. It is interesting to note that the ledger number on this cover is "2005" while the one sent a little over a month earlier is "1945," indicating roughly two certified packets a day average from this office. The postage of one peso (100 centavos) represents a 5 centavos overpayment of the 4 reales (50 centavos) registry fee plus 45 centavos postage. As with the previous example, the cover also bears the oval handstamp (PUN-Pmk3) administrative cachet as a postmark.



Figure 4-26. Un peso single franking on certified cover to Liberia

The latest reported interior use from Punatrenas is illustrated in Figure 4-27. This cover, from the Millet correspondence to San Jose, is franked with a pair of the medio real from plate 2. The stamps are postmarked with the double-circle postmark (PUN-Pmk5) dated May 18, 1881.



Figure 4-27. Pair of medio real, plate 2, used from Punarenas in 1881

This postmark shows the post office name spelled “Punta-Arenas” rather than “Puntarenas” as used previously. The cover arrived at San Jose the following day, as indicated by the arrival postmark.

San Jose

As would be expected from the capital of Costa Rica, there are a significant number of interior uses from San Jose available for study. Of the twenty-three San Jose covers in the Mayer collection, eleven can be dated. The earliest use is almost certainly the address leaf shown in Figure 4-28, even if undated.

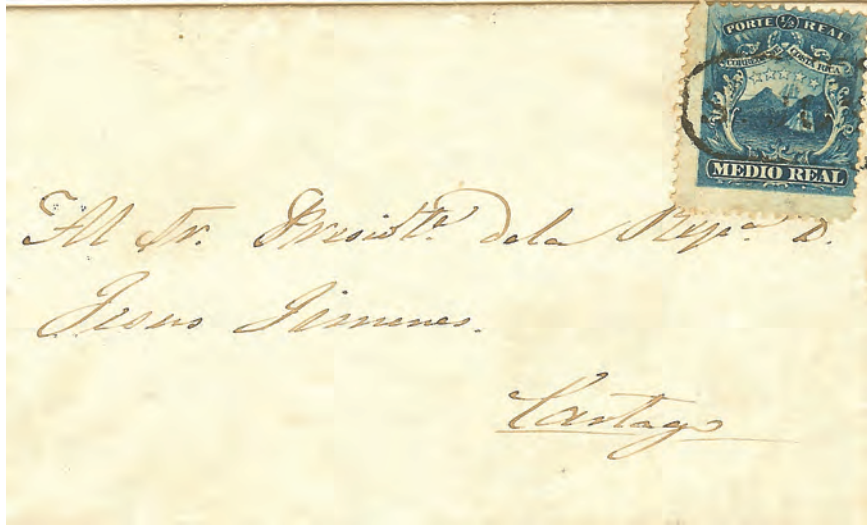


Figure 4-28. San Jose pre-stamp postmark on ca. 1864 cover to Cartago

This cover is addressed to President Don Jesus Jimenez and, given the early shade and impression of the medio real adhesive, certainly dates to the May 1863 to May 1868 period when Jimenez was president. The stamp is tied by the octagonal boxed “S. Jose” postmark (SJ-Pmk3) that had been used extensively at San Jose since the 1840s, and it the only example of this postmark on an interior use cover. On loose stamps, the cancel appears primarily on dos reales denominations; an example used on an exterior cover is shown in Figure 5-1.

This marking was apparently replaced at an early date by the barred numeral obliterator. A folded letter, dated December 10, 1864, shown in Figure 4-29 is the earliest use of this cancel (SJ-Can1) on cover in the Mayer collection.

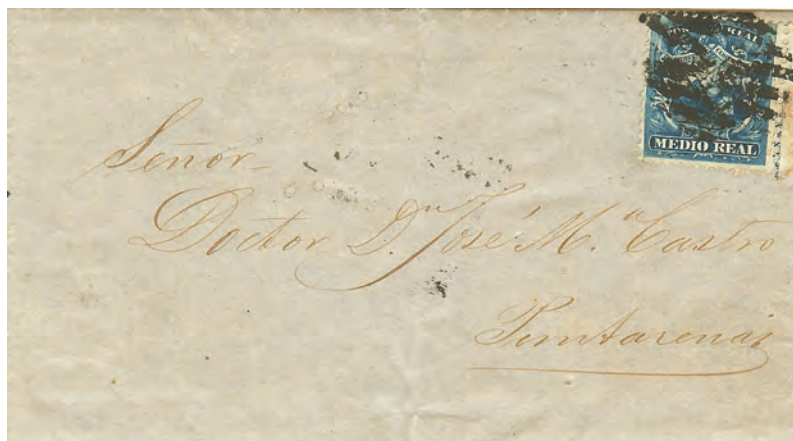


Figure 4-29. Medio real used from San Jose in 1864 with barred numeral cancel

This letter is also the earliest dated use of a barred numeral cancel from any of the cities that received similar devices. The San Jose barred numeral is slightly different: the total height of the mark is 22.5mm rather than 23.5 to 24mm and there is a 1.75mm space between the bars rather than the normal 2mm spacing. However, such differences cannot be reliably used to differentiate the various barred numerals as the impressions are usually too poor. The device continued to be used at San Jose as a cancel at least until July 1879.

The standard-style, small oval San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk5) was probably introduced at about the same time as the barred numeral or only slightly later. A scarce double-rate usage is shown in Figure 4-30.

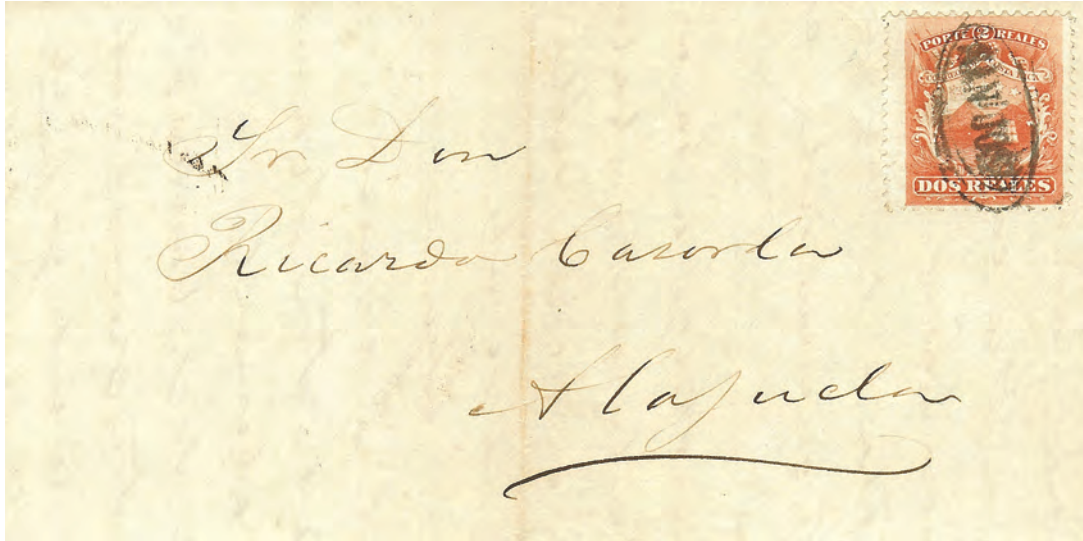


Figure 4-30. Dos reales used from San Jose to Alajuela in 1870

This folded letter, dated December 2, 1870, is franked with a dos reales adhesive paying the postal rate for a double-weight letter to Alajuela. The stamp is cancelled by a clear strike of the small oval postmark.

The registered cover shown in Figure 4-31 has a different set of markings. The cuatro reales adhesive is tied by a boxed datestamp (SJ-Pmk6) and bears a standard-style double-circle with stars San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk7) of April 13, 1874.

The letter bears a manuscript endorsement dated and signed by Manuel Castro, the postal administrator of San Jose. The cuatro reales adhesive paid the fee for interior registration and postage was not collected. For similar examples of postage waived, see comments under Alajuela in this chapter (page 77).

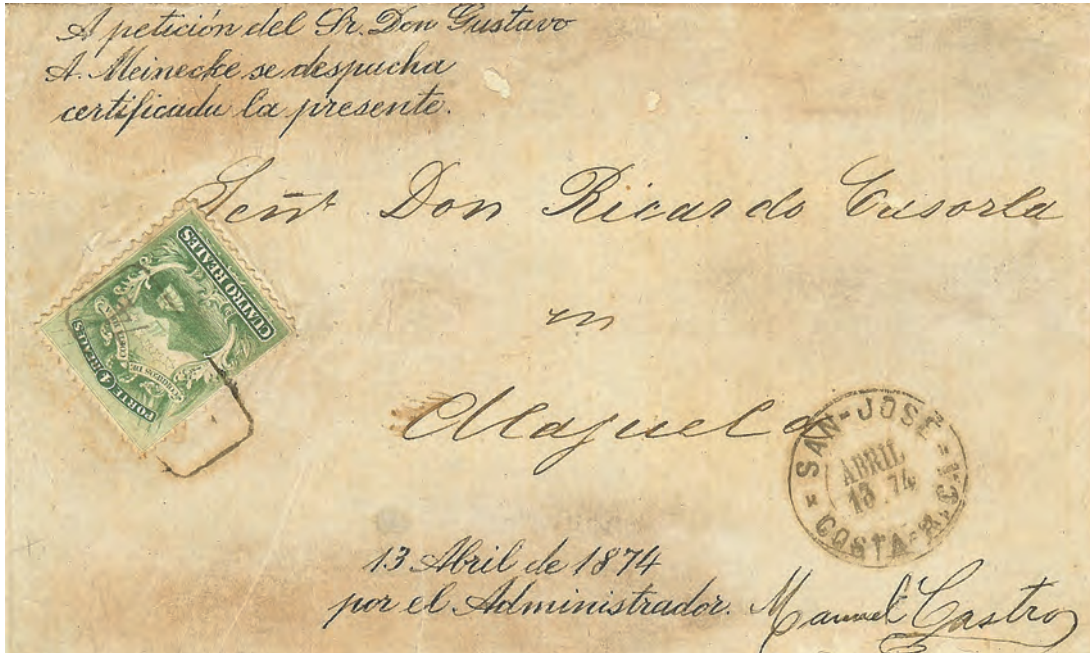


Figure 4-31. Cuatro reales used on registered cover from San Jose to Alajuela in 1874

The Mayer collection includes all three of the reported bisect uses of the medio real on interior mail. The earliest of these is shown in Figure 4-32.

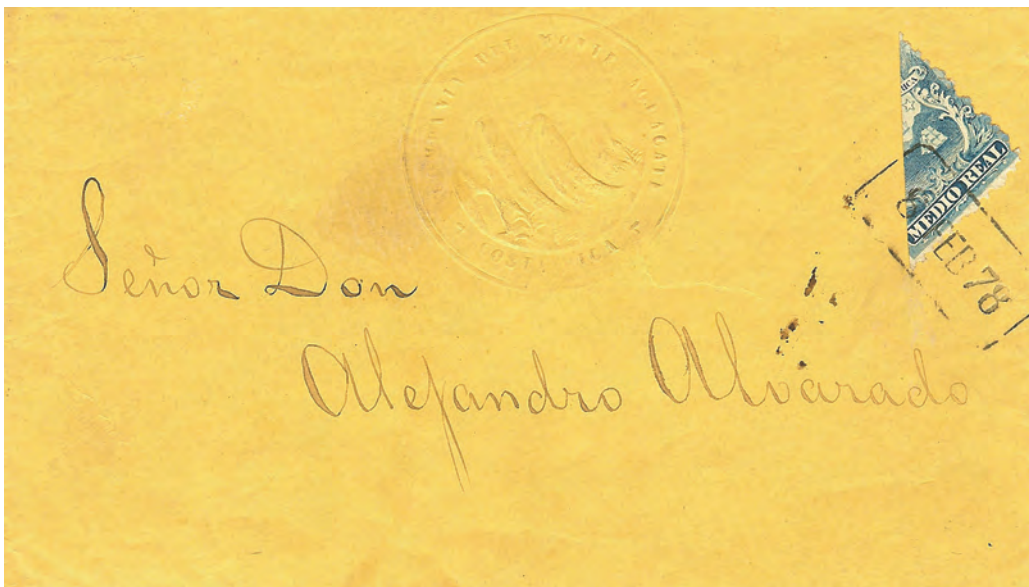


Figure 4-32. Bisected medio real paying printed matter rate from San Jose in 1878

The Resolution of 1872 specified that printed circulars could be sent at a rate of 5 centavos for each two ounces and that, at the postmaster's discretion, circulars less than one ounce could be sent for 2½ centavos. The bisecting of medio real stamps, which had a value of 5 centavos at the time, was permitted. Later, the 1883 Decree specifically prohibited this practice.

The unsealed cover bears an albino embossed cachet of the “Compania Del Monte Aquacate,” which was a gold-mining company operating in Alajuela Province. The bisected medio real stamp is tied by a San Jose boxed datestamp (SJ-Pmk6) of February 8, 1878, and bears an additional strike of the large double-circle San Jose postmark (SJ-Pmk8) on the reverse.

A second example of the circular rate paid with a bisected medio real adhesive is shown in Figure 4-33.



Figure 4-33. Circular rate use of medio real bisect from San Jose in 1879

Also an unsealed cover, this example is endorsed by hand “Impresos” (printed forms) in magenta ink. It has a blue double-oval senders imprint on the flap of “Montealegre & Co. San Francisco” and is addressed to Millet in San Jose. It was probably sent in a large package, along with several other circulars from the same sender in California, to a forwarding agent in San Jose, who then placed them all in the mail for further transmission. The bisected medio real, plate 2, adhesive is tied by the barred numeral and a San Jose postmark (SJ-PMK8) of June 4, 1879, appears to the left.

Although no interior use covers are reported that bear the later San Jose postmarks introduced after 1880, this is an appropriate place to discuss them. Two styles of double-circle markings without stars at the sides are known, as shown in Figure 4-34.



Figure 4-34. San Jose postmarks (SJ-Pmk9 and SJ-Pmk10) used in 1880s

The earlier style, shown at the left (SJ-Pmk9), is 22.5 to 23.5 mm in diameter with letters that are 2.5 mm high. From postmarks found on loose stamps, this device is known used from February to October 1881 and then again from June through August 1882. In addition, a piece of a cover known from

1886 shows that this marking was also used in later periods at San Jose. The marking shown at the right (SJ-Pmk10) is slightly larger, being 24.5 to 25 mm in diameter with the letters somewhat taller at 3 mm. Again from evidence on loose stamps, the device is known used between January and March 1882 and then again between September and December 1882. These dates dovetail nicely with dates of the smaller style use, suggesting that only one device was used on a particular day.

The larger postmark device (SJ-Pmk10) was almost certainly given to Ross when he purchased remainders of the 1863-issue stamps from the government, while the other device remained at the San Jose post office. As a result, there exist loose stamps with impossible dates, such as 1879, as well as cancelled remainders with appropriate dates. Although most of these are cancelled with a characteristic dark black ink used by Ross and are centrally struck, they cannot always be absolutely differentiated from cancels properly applied during the period of stamp validity before 1883.

In addition to the marking (SJ-Way1) used in San Jose as an arrival marking, discussed at the beginning of this chapter, there is another enigmatic target marking that the authors believe was used in San Jose. This target marking is reported on two folded letters addressed to Millet in San Jose, both originating in Puntarenas. The earlier of the two, dated August 6, 1868, is shown in Figure 4-35. The other example is dated May 16, 1871.



Figure 4-35. Unusual target cancel on folded letter from Putarenas to San Jose in 1868

The four-ring target cancel, 18 mm wide, is not in the same ink as the barred numeral of Puntarenas tying the stamp. And, although there are several somewhat similar fake target cancels on loose stamps, examples that match this style and dimension are rare, with only two examples in the Mayer collection. The marking is not included in the listings of San Jose markings in the Appendix because of the possibility that it is not a genuine marking of the period.

San Mateo

There are no covers from San Mateo reported, although the office is listed in both the 1875 and 1879 list of offices. The markings that are found on loose stamps are shown in the Appendix. It should be noted that the oval “SMATEO” cancels (SM-Pmk1) are frequently found applied fraudulently to bisects of the medio real, tying them to the piece.

San Ramon

There are two reported uses of first-issue adhesives from San Ramon. Both are undated interior uses present in the Mayer collection. One, shown in Figure 4-36, is a cover to Alajuela with a pen-cancelled medio real stamp. It has a matching manuscript “S. Ramon” postmark on the reverse.



Figure 4-36. San Ramon manuscript postmark on reverse of cover to Alajuela

The second example, also addressed to Alajuela, is shown in Figure 4-37.

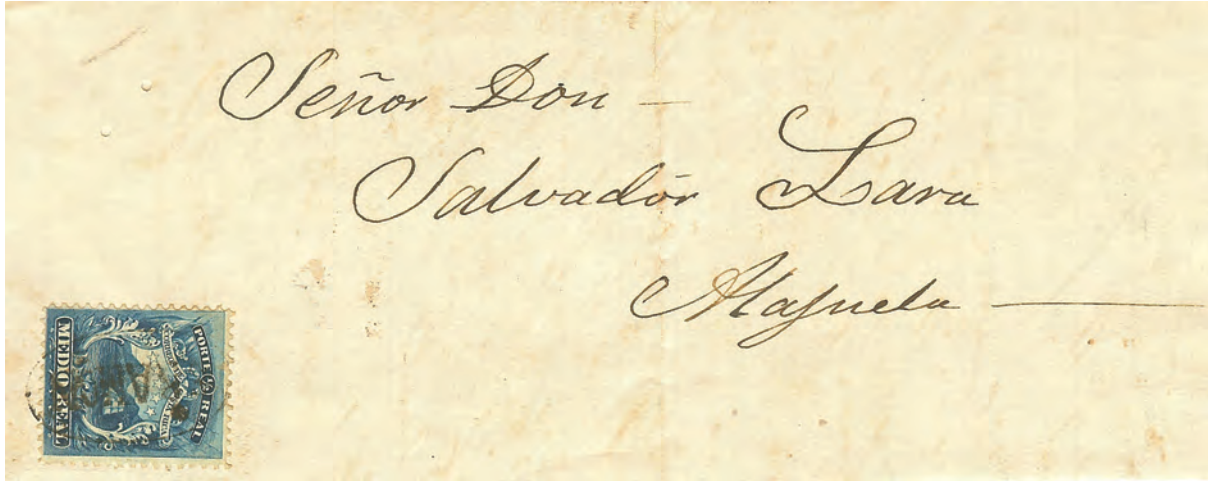


Figure 4-37. San Ramon oval postmark tying medio real to cover

This cover bears a medio real stamp tied by the oval “SRAMON” postmark (SR-Pmk1). The device evidently wore rapidly, as strikes found on loose stamps often show the characteristic nail heads seen with these devices used at other cities. Three additional postmarks of San Ramon are shown in the Appendix, but none of them have been found on cover.



Chapter Five

Exterior Mail to 1883



This chapter examines exterior mail, defined as mail sent both from Costa Rica to foreign destinations and to Costa Rica from abroad, during the period when the 1863-issue adhesives were current. The first shipment of stamps for this purpose was dispatched from the printer in New York City on February 7, 1863, and included medio ($\frac{1}{2}$) real and dos (2) reales stamps. Two additional denominations, cuatro (4) reales and un (1) peso, were dispatched on November 3, 1863. All stamps of this issue were demonetized effective January 1, 1883, when Costa Rica joined the Universal Postal Union.

The genesis of this issue lies in a major postal reform directive that was signed into law on September 1, 1862, referred to as the 1862 Decree. (For the complete text of the 1862 Decree, see Chapter One.) In the first five articles, this decree clearly defined two classes of mail, interior and exterior; classified exterior mail according to weight; established mail rates; and authorized the issuance of two adhesive postage stamps, the medio real and the dos reales. The important points of the Articles that deal specifically with exterior mails are excerpted below:

Article 2. – Letters which arrive from the exterior or which are sent outside the Republic shall, for the collection of postage be classified according to their weight. If not reaching half an ounce, they are single; double if weighing half an ounce but not reaching three-quarters; triple if weighing three-quarters but not reaching an ounce; and they shall be called letters under cover (pliegos) or parcels (paquetes) when weighing one ounce or more.

Article 4. – The rates on exterior correspondence shall be two reales for single letters, four for double ones, six for triple; for letters under cover (pliegos) or parcels (paquetes) of one ounce, eight reales, and for those exceeding this at the rate of eight reales per ounce. Loose or banded printed matter at two reales per pound. Printed matter which is received or dispatched closed shall be considered as letters.

Article 5. – For the purpose of paying postage fees there shall be two stamps, the first red in color (actually printed in orange), of two reales (dos reales) value, and the second in blue of the value of half a real (medio real).

Article 6. – All letters deposited or delivered in the Post Offices and printed matter destined for the exterior must be franked, that is must carry stamps according to their value.

Article 7. – Nor can letters, small packages (encomiendas) and printed matter from the exterior leave the Post Offices without the necessary stamps according to their value. In order to avoid the error, as well as for reasons of more expeditious dispatch, the Administrators of San Jose and Puntarenas shall weigh correspondence which they receive from without the Republic, first, in the presence of the Collector of Revenue and, second, in the presence of the Collector of Customs, and shall affix to each piece the respective stamps except for those which are remitted to other Administrations, collecting their value from the interested parties.

Article 8. – In addition to the red and blue stamps destined for the payment of postage fees, there will be a marker of black ink to be used by the Administrators of Posts, always placing it upon the red and blue stamps on letters and printed matter which they receive or dispatch in order to render them useless, thus preventing the fraud of their being used again for franking or that other pieces may be handed in with stamps which have already served.

Article 10. – Port Captains before dispatching vessels, and upon their boarding visit, shall exact from the Captains, Pursers, Supercargoes and other members of the crew, as well as from passengers, correspondence which they carry from the Republic and which they may be bringing thereto, and shall detain letters going without the necessary stamps and all those coming from the exterior, delivering both kinds, subject to receipt, in the Administration of Posts of the same port, in order that there may be published the names of the persons and places to which those that are leaving the Republic were directed, as so that there may be remitted to their town of destination those addressed thereto, in order that the first may be dispatched legally, the necessary stamps being affixed by the interested party or someone else in his behalf, and so that the second may be removed by their owners, paying the corresponding postage.

Article 11. – Captains of vessels, Pursers, Pilots, Supercargoes & other members of the crew, as well as passengers, who fraudulently introduce letters into the Republic or carry them therefrom to the exterior, shall be penalized by double (the amount) of the postage for each letter so carried. Letters of recommendation are exempt from this disposition and may be carried freely provided they are carried open.

Article 12. – The Administrators of Posts at Ports shall deliver to the Captains thereof together with the correspondence to be taken on board, a sufficient number of red stamps in order that this employee may place upon each unfranked letter presented to him the corresponding stamps according to their weight subject to the payment of their value by the interested parties; delivering correspondence received on board as well as mail received from the Administration to the employee who is supposed to assume charge thereof. Amounts so collected by the Port Captains shall be delivered with computation and accounting to the Administrators, returning the surplus stamps so as to make up the amount they may have received from the Administrator.

Article 13. – Captains of vessels, Pursers, Supercargoes and other members of the crew, who at any time are found violating, or found to have violated, any of the dispositions in the two foregoing articles, and passengers and private persons who do not deliver to Port Captains (including letters) shall pay double the postage fee for each letter; and those who receive letters for carriage and those sending correspondence to the exterior by any means and in whatever amount shall incur the double fine before mentioned for each occasion on which defraudation of the treasury fees is discovered. The same Port Captains shall demand from those who have been found guilty payment of the fines mentioned in this article.

Article 14. – When any person desires to send mail outside the Republic, he must present to the Administrator General, or to the subordinate of the province or town of his residence, the messenger he has engaged and the correspondence he is to carry together with the respective stamps; the functionary shall detain the letters not having them or on which some are lacking according to weight until the necessary ones have been affixed by the interested party; and, after administering the oath to the messenger as to whether he carries correspondence other than that he has declared, providing none such is carried, he shall dispatch him as a public mail

carrier without requiring any other fee or contribution. Any messenger who shall fraudulently carry letters other than those declared, in addition to suffering the penalties of perjury, shall suffer the punishment prescribed in Article 11.

Article 16. – The registration fee on letters belongs to the National Treasury; four reales shall be charged for interior letters and eight for those of the exterior, when it is desired to register them in addition to the postage fee.

The portion of the 1862 Decree that pertains to exterior mails was modified by the 1866 Decree, first published in the *Gaceta Oficial*, no. 372, June 9, 1866. It specified in Article 3 of Decree XV that:

"For the purpose of expediting the dispatch and delivery of correspondence arriving from the exterior, the placing of the necessary stamps on each letter or parcel will be omitted, the presence of a representative of the Treasury Department being sufficient for the preparation of the accounts of the Administration."

Another portion of the 1866 Decree, dated June 5, 1866, changed the currency used for payment of postal fees and will be discussed in the United States section.

Earliest Reported Usage

In compliance with the specifications of the 1862 Decree, a letter sent from San Jose to El Salvador on May 15, 1863, had the new dos reales stamp affixed to it, becoming what is now both the earliest reported exterior use of a Costa Rica adhesive stamp and the earliest reported use of the dos reales stamp. It is shown in Figure 5-1.

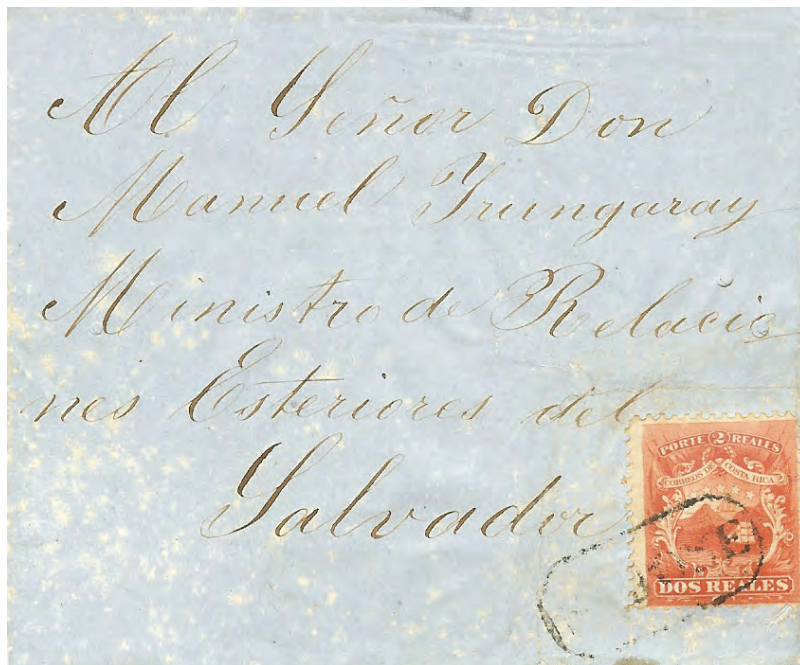


Figure 5-1. May 15, 1863, letter from San Jose to El Salvador, earliest reported use of the dos reales

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

This letter is addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in El Salvador and is correctly franked with an example of the new dos reales stamp. It is canceled by the box “S. Jose” postmark of the style used in the pre-stamp period (SJ-Pmk3). In accordance with Article 7 of the 1862 Decree, which specified Puntarenas and San Jose as offices for handling exterior mail, the letter was weighed and sent from San Jose overland to Puntarenas, and thence by water to its destination.

In addition, this item is also one of only two known exterior usages to El Salvador during this period. The other is an address leaf from the same correspondence, docketed August 14, 1863, with identical franking and San Jose postmark, to be discussed below.

Principal Mail Routes

Figure 5-2 shows the principal steamship mail routes used for Costa Rica exterior mails in the period between 1863 and 1883. The routes shown in red represent American steamship lines, those in blue represent British lines, and those in green French lines. While the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) branch route that connected Limon with Greytown and Colon did not begin operating until 1872, the other routes were already functioning before 1866.



Figure 5-2. Map of principal Costa Rica steamship routes: American-operated lines shown in red, British lines in blue, and French in green

It should be noted that the port city of what is now Colon, Panama, was called Colon by the British and Aspinwall by the Americans, the British mail agency being close to but separate from that of the United States. Both names will be used here to differentiate the two mail-handling facilities: Colon when referring to the British office and Aspinwall when referring to the American office.

During this period, mails were carried by several American companies. The Panama Railroad Company (PRC) operated between the Pacific Ocean port of Panama City and the Caribbean port at Colon/Aspinwall, and, under the control of William H. Aspinwall, also ran steamers between Panama, Puntarenas, and San Jose de Guatemala. In addition, the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company (PMSS) operated from Panama, via Acapulco, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, to San Francisco and back.

Great Britain and France were also involved in mail transport in the area. British steamships in the Caribbean were run by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP), while those in the Pacific Ocean were operated by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC). Two French steamship lines stopped at Colon: Line A, which in 1865 began operating from Colon, via Fort-de-France (Martinique) and the West Indies to Saint Nazaire, France; and Line D, which in 1872 began a service connecting Colon with Venezuela and additional South American ports.

Exterior Mail - United States

Exterior mail to the United States is well represented in the Mayer collection, which features seventeen covers from Costa Rica to the United States bearing first-issue adhesives; it also includes one inbound cover. The earliest of these, shown in Figure 5-3, is the only example used prior to the June 5, 1866, currency change decree.



Figure 5-3. Cover from San Jose, October 25, 1865, to New York

This folded cover bears a docket indicating that it originated in San Jose on October 25, 1865, as well as a dos reales adhesive tied by the San Jose barred numeral cancel. It was carried westward from San Jose to the port of Puntarenas, then to Panama on the Puntarenas route (see Figure 5-2). In this case, it was likely transported aboard the Panama Railroad Company's twice-monthly steamer, which usually departed around the twenty-eighth of the month (see Mechin, *CCP*, 27:4 (1948), p. 29). From Panama, the cover proceeded by rail to Aspinwall and thence by steamer to New York City. According to the docket, it arrived on December 4, and was postmarked in New York with a "Steamship 10" due handstamp. This postmark represented the blanket steamship rate of ten cents per one-half ounce that was applied to mail arriving in port between July 1, 1864, and June 30, 1875.

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

Examples of United States exterior mail illustrate the postal rate changes brought about by Decree XV, dated June 5, 1866, which also affected the cost of medio real stamps. The Decree states, in part:

Article 1. Postage of interior mail will hereafter be charged as follows: Single letters five centavos, double ten, triple fifteen, and parcels at the rate of twenty centavos per ounce. Consequently, the blue stamps, notwithstanding their legend (medio real), will be sold at the rate of five centavos each.

Article 2. Postage on printed matter received from the exterior, shall be but one centavo for each ounce. . . . Printed books shall pay the same postage rate of one centavo per ounce. . . .

The decree provides an interesting solution to the problem of reconciling the currency change to a decimal system with the fact that stamps available are denominated in the old "reales" currency. From June 5, 1866, the peso was divided into 100 centavos instead of eight reales. Under the new system, therefore, one real coin became equal to 12½ centavos, one-half real coin (medio real) equal to 6¼ centavos, two reales (dos reales) equal to 25 centavos, and four reales (cuatro reales) equal to 50 centavos. As the exterior postal rate of two reales per half ounce, now equal to 25 centavos, did not change, there was no visible effect on such mail and the dos reales stamps continued to be used. The only obvious difference was in the use of medio real stamps which were now being sold for five centavos each. Therefore, to prepay the dos reales rate, five stamps, each purchased for five centavos, would be required.

Presented slightly out of chronological order, Figure 5-4 shows the only reported example of five medio real stamps used to pay the dos reales exterior rate.



Figure 5-4. Strip of five medio real stamps correctly prepaying exterior rate in 1868

This folded address leaf is docketed as having originated in San Jose on March 5, 1868. It was correctly prepaid, using an imprint strip of five medio real stamps; the five medio real adhesives having the same value as a single dos reales adhesive. After being canceled by the barred numeral of San Jose, it was carried via Puntarenas, Panama, and Aspinwall, and arrived at New York, where it was struck with an April 10 "New York U.S. Notes 10" due postmark. This depreciated currency marking, stating that the steamship rate of 10 cents due could be paid with paper currency rather than silver coin, is found on

insufficiently prepaid mail arriving from British packets. Accounting between the United States and Great Britain on such mail was in silver only.

The Mayer collection contains two overweight covers carried on the same steamship sailing to New York in 1867. The first, shown in Figure 5-5, is franked with a cuatro reales stamp for a letter weighing over one-half but less than one ounce.



Figure 5-5. Earliest use of cuatro reales stamp from San Jose, June 10, 1867, on letter to New York

Like the previous example, this letter was sent on the Puntarenas route via Panama and Aspinwall to New York. Upon arrival it was struck with the steamship due 20 cents marking used for double-weight letters. The docket indicates that it reached the recipient on July 5, 1867.

The companion overweight piece, sent to the same addressee, is shown in Figure 5-6. Dated four days later, this cover was assessed at triple rate in Costa Rica and prepaid with three copies of the dos reales stamp. After carriage on the Puntarenas route via Panama and Aspinwall, it arrived at New York, where it was rated as double-weight and marked with a steamship due 20 handstamp. The letter probably weighed very close to, or just over, the one-ounce limit for double rate. It is docketed by the recipient as received on July 5, 1867, indicating arrival in the same mail as the cuatro reales cover in Figure 5-5.



Figure 5-6. Puntarenas, June 14, 1867, multiple-rate cover to New York

Prior to the gradual opening of the Limon route in the first half of the 1870s, mail to the eastern portion of the United States continued to be carried via the Puntarenas, Panama, Aspinwall, and New York route. Such mail invariably shows New York steamship due markings whose dates correspond to the arrival dates of steamers from Aspinwall. An interesting example with the corner card of the railroad, "Ferro-Carril De Costa-Rica," is shown in Figure 5-7.



Figure 5-7. Corner card cover of the Costa Rica railroad used to Virginia

Originating in Cartago, this cover was sent, correctly prepaid, via the Puntarenas route to New York. The style of steamship postmark it bears, with the centered stars at foot, is reported in *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875*, by Theron Wierenga (page 301) as having been used between May 31, 1872, and December 18, 1873, which helps date this item.

Mail from Costa Rica to California was also carried via Puntarenas to Panama, but upon arrival there was routed northward on PMSS steamers rather than across the isthmus to Aspinwall. The earliest reported example of such a usage was sent from San Jose on December 17, 1872. A more spectacular example, used in 1874, is shown in Figure 5-8.



Figure 5-8. Steam Panama handstamp on cover from San Jose to California in 1874

This cover was sent from San Jose on June 5, 1874, and was routed via Puntarenas to Panama, where it was placed on the Pacific Mail Steamship Company steamer for carriage to San Francisco. It bears the “Steam Panama” oval handstamp applied in San Francisco to denote steamship mail that had been bagged at the Panama office. It was also postmarked there with a due 10 datestamp of July 2. This item holds the distinction of being the only reported example of a Steam Panama handstamp on a cover originating in Costa Rica. The other four known covers with first-issue stamps addressed to California show only the San Francisco due 10 postmarks. It is also the latest reported usage of the Steam Panama marking on any cover.

After 1873, the Puntarenas route was evidently used less frequently in favor of the newly opened route via Limon. Mechin reports (*ibid.*):

The next mention we find regarding mail steamers on the Pacific (in Costa Rica Documents) and the first mails via steamers calling at Limon, occurs in the Report of the Postal Service for 1873 which goes on to state, With the exterior our mails have been quite irregular due to the breaking down of the steamers of the Panama Railroad Company. The detriment this caused . . . forced the government to adopt the Limon route for dispatching mails for Europe and North America, taking advantage of the opportunity (offered by) the monthly call of the steamers of

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

the Royal Mail at that port ... the difficulties presented by the road (to Limon) at some points have caused us to take advantage of this route to send mails, printed matter still being sent via the Panama route.

An example of a cover carried on the Limon route is shown in Figure 5-9. This cover bears a dos reales stamp tied by a fancy geometric cancel (ESP-Can1) that is otherwise unknown on cover. It also bears a matching Esparza September 26, 1879, postmark.



Figure 5-9. Esparza fancy cancel tying dos reales stamp to cover sent to Wisconsin

This cover was most likely carried across Costa Rica to the port of Limon. There it caught the Royal Mail steamer to Colon (Aspinwall), where it was transferred to the Aspinwall Line steamer for carriage to New York, arriving on October 14, 1879. As the blanket steamship rate had been lowered to five cents per one-half ounce effective July 1, 1875, it was then rated as “Due 5 Cents” and a pre-cancelled postage due adhesive stamp of that denomination was applied. The cover was then carried by rail to its destination in Wisconsin.

The final exterior use cover addressed to the United States is illustrated in Figure 5-10.



Figure 5-10. Free mail usage from Limon with British adhesives

This interesting cover addressed to Virginia is the only pre-1883 example bearing a Limon Costa-Rica origin postmark (LIM-Pmk3), although the cancel is known on loose Costa Rica stamps. The origin postmark is dated January 17, 1877. It bears a corner card of the “Costa-Rica Rail-Road. Atlantic Division” and, unlike the cover shown in Figure 5-6, was evidently allowed to go as mail free of Costa Rica postage. Such free mail use was granted under Article 15 of the 1862 Decree: to the official correspondence of generally all civil department functionaries, provided these official letters carried the mark of the respective office (see Chapter One). The imprint on this cover served that capacity.

Commencing with the arrival of the steamship *Tagus* on October 12, 1872, Limon became a regular monthly stop for Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ships operating on the branch line from Greytown to Colon. This cover was carried by the RMPS steamship *Moselle*, which departed Limon on January 17, 1877, and arrived in Colon on the next day.

It is also interesting that this cover was franked with a pair of Great Britain two-pence blue perforated stamps from Plate 15, as there was no British post office in Costa Rica. Perhaps the stamps were charged to the sender’s account in Colon or a supply of British stamps was kept by the railroad. These stamps were cancelled with the barred “E88” cancel of Colon and the cover received a matching Colon January 18, 1877, postmark and “Transit” handstamp. On January 25 the cover left Colon on the British steamship *Andes* from Aspinwall, arriving in New York on February 3, 1877. The stamps prepaid the eight cents British portion of the thirteen-cent rate in effect at the time for British steamship carriage between Colon and the United States. The remaining five cents was postage due, as denoted in the New York February 3 due postmark.

A summary of usages from Costa Rica to the United States is shown in Appendix C.

In addition to outbound mail addressed to the United States, there is a single inbound example bearing a Costa Rica first-issue adhesive known. This stunning combination cover is shown in Figure 5-11.

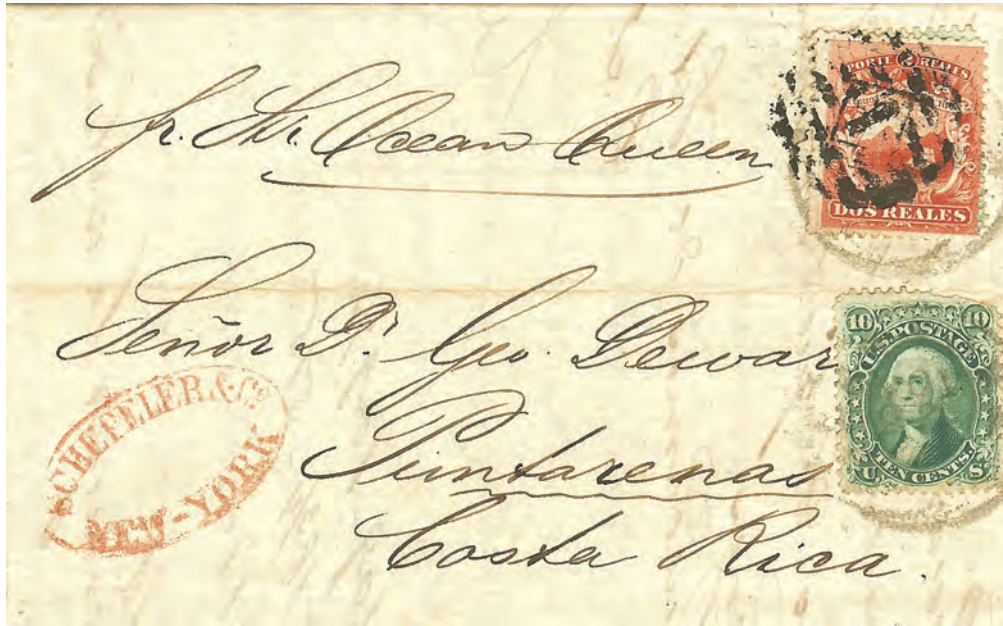


Figure 5-11. Combination franking with dos reales and two examples of United States ten-cent 1861-issue adhesives on 1864 letter to Puntarenas

This complete letter, which weighs slightly over one-half ounce, was posted from New York on November 22, 1864, for carriage by American steamship to Puntarenas. It was correctly prepaid for double weight with two copies of the ten-cent green 1861-issue adhesives and carried on the *Ocean Queen* to Aspinwall. After a trip across the isthmus, the letter was taken from Panama to Puntarenas by Panama Railroad Company steamer. Upon arrival it was franked with a single dos reales stamp as postage due, which was placed over one of the original ten-cent United States stamps and tied with the Puntarenas barred numeral cancel (Pun-Can2). Apparently the scale used to weigh the letter at Puntarenas was slightly off, or the postmaster was in an accommodating mood as it was rated as single weight.

One additional inbound cover from the United States deserves mention. Shown in Figure 5-12, it is addressed to Cartago but does not bear a Costa Rica stamp.

The cover is endorsed to be sent “Via Panama” by American steamer and is correctly prepaid with a ten-cent 1870-issue stamp. Its August 20 New York duplex postmark permits accurate year-dating, for a check of shipping records in the *New York Times* reveals that the *Ocean Queen* departed on that date in 1873.

After the cover reached Aspinwall, it was carried across the isthmus to Panama, by Panama Railroad Company steamer to Puntarenas, and then overland to Cartago. There is an enigmatic red crayon notation at the top of the cover; the “25” most likely corresponds to 25 centavos postage due. However, the use of Costa Rica stamps on inbound exterior mail had been discontinued by the 1866 Decree. If that marking does represent 25 centavos due, the correct amount equal to dos reales, it is one of the few covers that show such accounting for postage due. By contrast, an 1874 inbound letter addressed to the Millet firm in San Jose shows no evidence of any postage due.



Figure 5-12. August 20, 1873, cover from New York to Cartago

Exterior Mail - France

Fourteen pieces of mail from Costa Rica to France comprise the second-largest category of exterior covers in the Mayer collection. The earliest of these, shown in Figure 5-13, is a September 10, 1868, usage from San Jose to Montpellier, France, franked with a dos reales stamp that prepaid the single rate of 25 centavos for an exterior letter.



Figure 5-13. Letter from San Jose, September 10, 1868, to Montpellier, France

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

With its stamp tied by the barred numeral cancel of San Jose, the letter was carried via Puntarenas to Panama and Colon and thence to London, where it was backstamped on October 14. It bears the “GB 1f 90c” accountancy handstamp, indicating that the French post office was to pay Great Britain 1 franc 90 centimes for each 30 grams of letters to cover the cost of British conveyance and transit. It entered the French mails at Calais with an October 15, 1868, postmark and was rated 12 decimes due with a handstamp.

On October 1, 1865, French "Ligne A" (Line A) service began operations, running between Colon, via Venezuela and Guadeloupe, to Saint Nazaire, France, and back again to Colon. Figure 5-14 shows a cover that was carried along this route.



Figure 5-14. Letter from San Jose via French Line A to France, cuatro reales stamp paying double rate

This letter, dated San Jose, July 24, 1869, is franked with a cuatro reales stamp for the double-weight rate, and the stamp is tied by the barred numeral cancel of San Jose. It is endorsed by the sender to go via the Saint Nazaire route. From San Jose it was carried to Puntarenas, then to the British office at Panama where it received the three-line “Panama Transit” July 30, 1869, postmark. The following day it was postmarked with the octagonal “Panama Paq. Fr. A. No. 1” datestamp of the French postal agent at Panama and placed on the French steamship *Imp. Eugenie* for carriage to Saint Nazaire. The steamer arrived at Saint Nazaire on August 23, 1869, and reached its destination on August 25, as recorded with an arrival backstamp. It was rated at 12 decimes due.

Of these fourteen first-issue stamp usages to France in the Mayer collection, French steamers carried only five. Four of these bear dos reales adhesives and one, the example above, was franked with a cuatro reales stamp. Two have the octagonal “Panama Paq. Fr. A. No. 3” datestamps of Line A, one in red, and were carried via Puntarenas to Panama in 1877 and 1879 (see Appendix C).

One cover, Figure 15-15, bears a dos reales stamp with a rare Grecia oval cancel (GRE-Pmk2), and a “Via Panama” directive. Postmarked in transit with a San Jose February 23, 1880, datestamp, it also shows a British post office Panama transit datestamp. The double-circle “Ligne A Paq. Fr. No. 2” backstamp, dated March 3, 1880, indicates carriage on the *St. Germain* via Venezuela to Saint Nazaire, France.



Figure 5-15. 1880 cover from Grecia, via French Line A to Paris

The last of the Mayer collection covers carried on French Line steamers, shown in Figure 5-16, is the only example that used the Limon route rather than the Puntarenas route to exit Costa Rica.



Figure 5-16. Limon to France by French Line D steamer, last month of validity of 1863-issue stamps

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

This large part cover to Paris, which was used in the last month of validity of the 1863-issue stamps, originated with a Limon, Costa Rica December 18, 1882, postmark (LIM-pmk4). Upon arrival in Colon, it received the next day's Colon, Colombia, postmark. It was then turned over to the French postal agent and marked with an "Aspinwall Paq. Fr. D. No. 2" postmark dated for the December 23, 1882, departure of the Line D steamship *F. De Lesseps*. As mentioned above, these French Line D steamers operated from Colon, via Kingston, Santiago de Cuba, Port au Prince, Cap Haitien, Mayaguez, and St. Thomas to Bordeaux. Service had previously commenced with a trip from Colon on April 4, 1875. The cover bears a faint blue French entry marking and was rated "12" decimes due.

The majority of covers to France, however, including the first shown in this section, utilized British mail service from Limon to Colon and onward, via London, to France. In addition, later covers in the Mayer collection that were carried via London no longer bear the accountancy handstamps, for the amount owed by France to England on transit mail was calculated in bulk and not shown on individual covers.

A typical example of such mail is the 1878 cover shown in Figure 5-17. Sent with a dos reales stamp prepaying the exterior rate from San Jose on June 25, the cover was carried to Limon, where it caught the RMPS branch line steamship *Larne* to Colon.



Figure 5-17. Cover from San Jose to Paris by British mails in 1878

There it was struck with the British office Colon datestamp of July 5, 1878, as well as their black "Transit" marking, and was placed aboard the steamship *Moselle* for England. The steamer, after stops in Jamaica, Jacmel, and St. Thomas, arrived at Plymouth, England, on July 28. On July 29 the cover was struck with a red London transit backstamp, then sent across the Channel to Calais, France, where the red entry stamp was applied. It was rated at 16 decimes due to recipient, which reflects the domestic postage, plus 12 decimes to cover the transport by Great Britain from Limon to Calais. This postage rate is restated with the blue "T / 1-10" handstamp for Taxe 1 franc, 10 centimes.

Similarly, the cover illustrated in Figure 5-18 was carried from San Jose via Limon to Paris by British mails, but at the double rate.



Figure 5-18. Double-weight cover from San Jose via British mails to France in 1881

This cover shows a cuatro reales stamp prepaying the 50 centavos rate for a double-weight letter to one ounce. It originated with a San Jose June 11, 1881, postmark (SJ-Pmk9) and boxed date cancel and was endorsed “Via Limon” by the sender. In Limon it caught the RMSP branch line steamer to Colon, where it acquired a Colon transit datestamp. It was then carried by RMSP steamer to England; it has a red London transit backstamp and a “T” indicating unpaid mail. Upon arrival at Calais on July 12, 1881, it was marked with a “32” decimes due handstamp (double the 16 decimes due for single weight), and a blue crayon “220.”

The Mayer covers to France include three 1882 examples that bear French postage due stamps. The earliest is shown in Figure 5-19.



Figure 5-19. Cover from San Jose to Paris in October 1882 with postage due adhesives

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

This cover, which originated in San Jose on October 25, 1882, was carried by British mails via the same route as the one previously described. It has a red London November 25, 1882, transit backstamp. Upon arrival, French postage due adhesives were added: a one franc 1882-issue in combination with a 60-centimes 1878-issue. This amount corresponds to the old 16 decimes due.

A change in rating can be seen in the later uses to France. The first is shown in Figure 5-20. Posted from San Jose on November 25, 1882, and carried by British mails, it arrived in France on December 25 and was marked with the black "T" indicating due mail. A one-franc 1882-issue postage due stamp was applied to correspond with the red crayon "100" indicated. A second cover from the same correspondence, sent on the same day, but with a cuatro reales stamp paying double rate, is also in the collection. This cover was rated as single weight in France and has the same one-franc postage due stamp.

A summary of usages from Costa Rica to France is shown in Appendix C.



Figure 5-20. An 1882 cover from San Jose to France with one franc postage due

Finally, an example of an inbound cover from France during the period before 1883 is shown in Figure 5-21.



Figure 5-21. An 1872 usage from France to Costa Rica by French mails

This cover, franked with a total of one franc, 30 centimes, was sent from Paris to San Jose on December 6, 1872. It is endorsed to be sent “via St. Nazaire” by French mail packet and correctly franked for that route. According to schedule, the Line A steamship *Martinique* departed Saint Nazaire on December 8. After arrival in Colon, the letter was taken, via Limon, to San Jose. It is used after the period when evidence of the 25 centavos postage due appears on inbound letters.

Exterior Mail - Italy

Some of the most visually stunning covers in the Mayer collection appear in the group of ten from Costa Rica to Italy. Included here are three registered covers to Rome that bear combination frankings with Great Britain stamps representing single-, double-, and triple-weight usages. All are addressed to Ludovico Frapoli, a Freemason of note, while he was serving in Parliament.

The uses to Italy were sent through the British postal service via Central America, and the postal rates for these offices are found in a March 1871 broadside, reproduced in *Early Mail Routings of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company*, by Kenton & Parsons on pages 428-429. This broadside specifies a rate to one-quarter ounce of one shilling, four pence; to one-half ounce of one shilling, nine pence; to three-quarters ounce of three shilling, one pence; and to one ounce of three shilling, six pence.

The earliest of the three is the single-rate usage shown in Figure 5-22.



Figure 5-22. Single-rate registered cover to Italy with combination franking

This cover was posted in San Jose on August 12, 1873, with a single dos reales stamp prepaying the single-weight rate of dos reales to one-half ounce. It was endorsed in the hand of Postmaster Henry Twight, with “Fo. 61 N. 404 Registered 12/08/73” representing his entry in the logbook of foreign registered mail. He also applied the oval “Admon. General De Correos De Costa-Rica” handstamp as Postmaster General of Costa Rica.

It seems probable that the Great Britain stamps were applied at origin and that Twight transmitted this cover, as well as the following two covers, in a sealed bag through Colon. This piece bears a single one-shilling stamp, plate 7, and eight copies of the one penny stamp, plate 123. The total franking of one shilling, eight pence, corresponds to the one-quarter ounce rate to Italy of one shilling, four pence, plus a four-pence incomplete registration fee that covered only the registration from London to Rome. At London the stamps were cancelled with the barred “R34” cancels of the registry and the cover was struck with the red oval “Registered London E.C.” datestamp and oval “PD.” The cover also has a September 16, 1873, Italian railway transit backstamp.

The second by weight in this series of covers is shown in Figure 5-23. This example was sent from San Jose on March 11, 1874, franked with a pair of dos reales stamps, which covered the letter postage of four reales to a weight of one ounce. Again, it is endorsed in Spanish by Postmaster Twight at left with a number and has his cachet as Postmaster General. It is interesting to note, however, that on this cover he signed his name in Spanish, Enrique Twight, while in the following example he used the English form, Henry Twight.

Upon arrival at London, the two one shilling Great Britain stamps, plate 8, were canceled with the barred “R10” numeral, but the cover did not receive the red London Registered datestamp seen in the previous example. It also shows two Italian railway transit backstamps and a Rome May 1, 1874, arrival. If the rate schedule dated March 1871 was still in effect at the time of mailing, this item would appear to have been short-paid by one penny for a cover weighing to one-half ounce, prepaid to destination and registered only from London to Rome.



Figure 5-23. Double-weight registered cover from San Jose to Italy

The triple-weight cover from the same correspondence (Figure 5-24) is also short-paid by one penny, so it is possible that there was a rate change that has not been documented, or a misapplication of the correct rates.



Figure 5-24. Triple-weight registered cover from San Jose to Italy

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

This cover was sent from San Jose on August 24, 1873, and is franked with single dos reales and cuatro reales adhesives for triple-rate postage. Postmaster Twight endorsed it at left in English with a registry number and date, and struck it with his cachet as Postmaster General. It bears Great Britain stamps, some on reverse, including three copies of the one shilling green, plate 7, a strip of three one penny rose, plate 149, and a single from plate 120 for a total postage of three shillings, four pence. This represents a payment that is one penny short of the three shilling, one penny, rate plus four pence registry. The cover also has a red oval Registered London transit datestamp and Rome arrival backstamp.

The earliest reported cover from Costa Rica to Italy dates from September 1867 and is shown in Figure 5-25.



Figure 5-25. Cover to Italy postmarked on board French Line A steamer

The dos reales adhesive on this cover to Florence was postmarked in transit with a “Panama Paq. Fr A No 1” octagonal datestamp of September 1, 1867. This marking was applied by the French postal agent on board the French Line A steamship *Nouveau-Monde* on the trip that departed Colon on September 1 and arrived at St. Nazaire on September 22, 1867. It was struck with a French due “10” decimes handstamp and has a Paris transit backstamp.

Addressed to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, this cover has the remnants of an officially sealed adhesive on reverse, which is tied by a red arrival postmark, as well as a manuscript endorsement that translates, “Received in this state (damaged),” with signature.

Another cover in the Mayer collection bears a postmark of the French Line A, but the example shown in Figure 5-26 was postmarked in Costa Rica.



Figure 5-26. An 1882 cover to Italy carried by French Line A steamer

Franked by a dos reales adhesive and postmarked San Jose, March 25, 1882, this cover proceeded via Punta Arenas to the British post office in Panama, where it was postmarked on March 31. Then, after a trip across the isthmus, it was put on board the French Line A steamship *Lafayette*, which departed Colon on April 1 and arrived at St. Nazaire on April 26. The agent on the steamer postmarked the cover and rated it in manuscript as “2” decimes due. Upon arrival in Rome, two 10 centesimi postage due stamps, equal to the two decimes, were applied and tied by their postmark.

The five remaining covers to Italy show use via Great Britain rather than France. One of these, an April 1882 example from the same correspondence as the cover in Figure 5-26, is endorsed “Via Limon” and does not bear any Italian postage dues. The others bear postage due stamps in varying amounts. One, shown in Figure 5-27, from the same correspondence as previous examples, is also endorsed “Via Limon” by the sender.

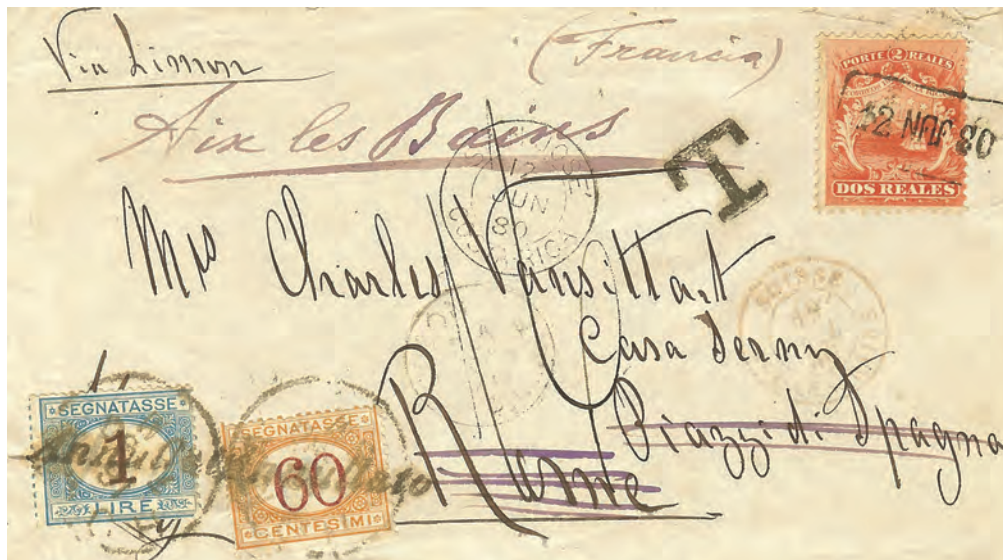


Figure 5-27. An 1882 cover to Italy, via Limon, with 1 lire, 60 centesimi due

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

This cover, franked with a dos reales stamp, was posted at San Jose on June 12, 1880. It was handled through Limon and Colon, where it was struck with the “Colon Transit” datestamp, then carried by British steamer to England. It has a red London transit backstamp. Upon arrival in Rome it was stamped with 1lire and 60 centesimi postage due stamps and cancelled by “Annullato” cancels and Rome postmarks. The cover was then forwarded to Aix les Bains, France.

This correspondence produced another usage from San Jose, postmarked on February 25, 1882, rated at 1 lire 20 centesimi due, and paid with Italian postage due stamps. One more example to Rome in the Mayer collection was sent from San Jose on October 10, 1877, and rated with 70 centesimi postage due.

The final cover to be discussed was also sent from San Jose but is addressed to Naples. It is shown in Figure 5-28.



Figure 5-28. An 1882 cover to Italy with 2 lire, 20 centesimi postage due

This cover was posted from San Jose with a dos reales adhesive on October 25, 1882. It bears a red London transit backstamp and was rated as 2 lire, 20 centesimi due. The appropriate due stamps were applied and postmarked upon arrival in Naples. The reverse bears a lengthy manuscript endorsement in Italian stating that the tax due should have been 1 lire 60 rather than 2 lire 20.

Exterior Mails - Great Britain

Somewhat surprisingly, the six covers to England in the Mayer collection include four bisect examples of the medio real. These four covers represent circular-rate usages under the provisions of an 1872 resolution specifying that circulars could be sent at a rate of five centavos (a medio real stamp) for each two ounces and that, at the postmaster's discretion, under-one-ounce circulars could be sent at 2½ centavos. The bisecting of stamps was prohibited by an 1883 decree. These four covers represent all of the reported examples.

The bisected medio real circular-rate item shown in Figure 5-29 is one of three bisect usages to England that was carried via the port of Limon rather than Puntarenas.

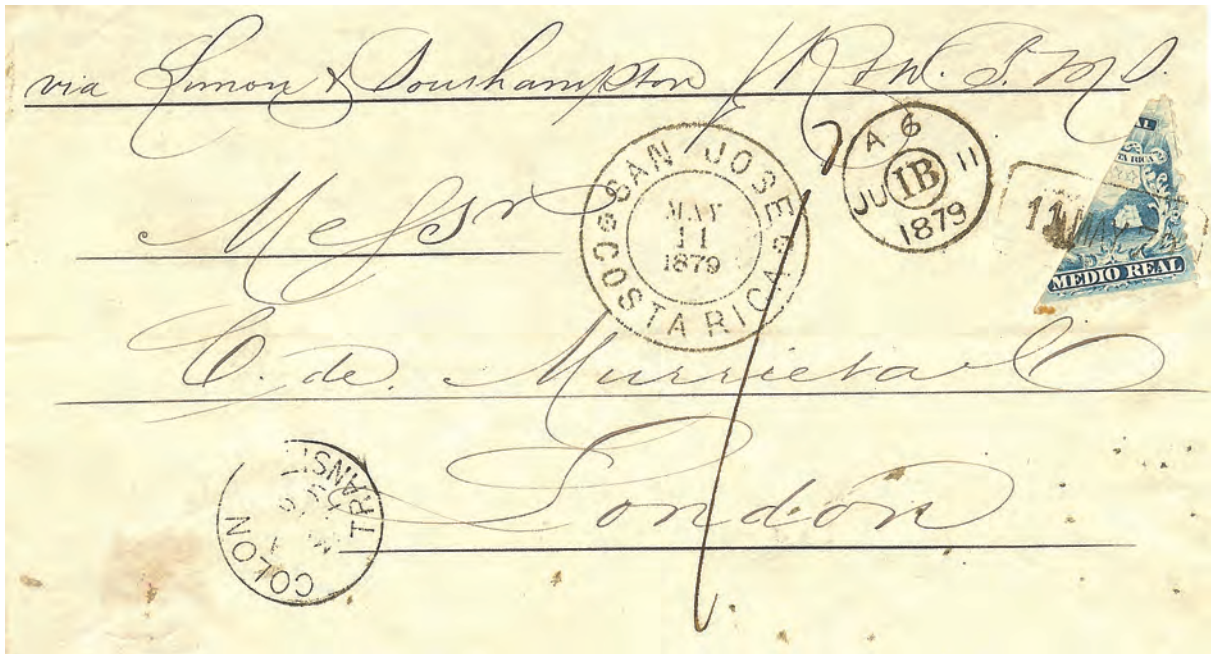


Figure 5-29. Bisect medio real used to pay circular rate on cover to London in 1879

This cover, with unsealed back flap indicating circular enclosure, was franked with a bisect of the medio real that was tied by the San Jose “11 May 1879” boxed datestamp. It was endorsed by the sender “via Limon & Southampton per R & W.I. M.S.” for carriage to Limon, connecting with the Royal West Indies Mail Steamer for carriage to Southampton. The cover bears a “Colon Transit” postmark of May 18, 1879, and was carried by the steamship *Para*, which departed Colon on May 21 and arrived in England on June 11, 1879. There it acquired an arrival backstamp as well as a double-circle datestamp on the front. It was also rated as one pence due in manuscript.

The other two bisect usages to England carried via Limon and Colon are dated January 20, 1876, and December 9, 1877. Each bears a Colon postmark, a straight-line “Transit” handstamp, a London Foreign Branch arrival, and a one-pence due rate.

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

The only reported example that was carried via Panama City is shown in Figure 5-30. It originated in Puntarenas on October 12, 1879, and its bisected medio real stamp is tied by the barred numeral cancel.



Figure 5-30. Medio real bisect used from Puntarenas to London in 1879

This cover, with residual gum on the partial flap indicating that it was sent unsealed, bears a Panama transit postmark of October 20, 1879. After crossing the isthmus to Colon, it was carried on the Royal Mail steamship *Para*, which departed on October 21 and arrived in England on November 12, 1879. It bears the Foreign Branch arrival mark of November 13 and was marked with one pence due.

It should be noted that all the bisected medio real usages to England show the one-pence due. The two covers not illustrated were both used from San Jose. The first was postmarked on January 9, 1876, and bears a Colon datestamp, a “Transit” handstamp, and the London Foreign Branch arrival mark. The other was postmarked on December 9, 1877, and has similar markings.

The Mayer collection includes two usages of the dos reales stamp to Great Britain. The earlier of the two, shown in Figure 5-31, was sent from San Jose on February 12, 1881. It has a London arrival backstamp of March 14 and was rated one shilling postage due.

The next item illustrated, in Figure 5-32, was posted during the week preceding Costa Rica’s January 1, 1883, entry into the Universal Postal Union. It represents the latest reported usage of a Costa Rica 1863-issue adhesive.



Figure 5-31. Dos reales used to England in 1881, one-shilling due

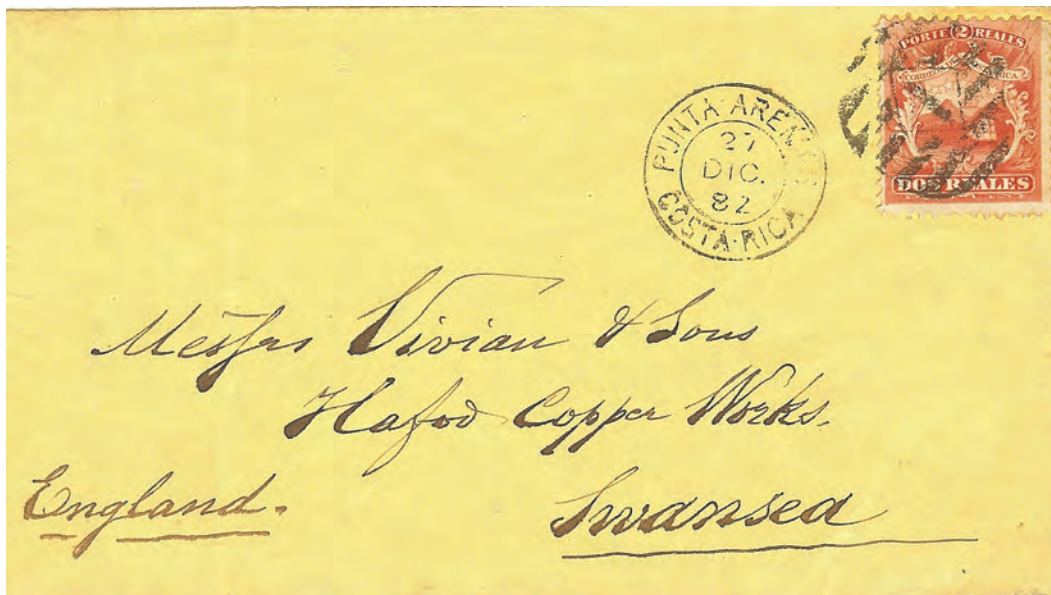


Figure 5-32. Cover to England, December 27, 1882, the latest reported usage of a dos reales adhesive

This cover was franked with a dos reales adhesive, paying only the required exterior postage. It is tied by the barred numeral cancel of Puntarenas and bears the matching postmark of December 27, 1882 (PUN-Pmk5). Presumably, it was carried via Panama to Colon and thence by Royal Mail steamer to England. It has a Swansea arrival postmark of January 28, 1883. Upon arrival, after Costa Rica had joined the Universal Postal Union, it was treated as sufficiently prepaid and no postage due was assessed. It is presumed that the British postal clerks were confused by the amount represented by the prepayment, as the new Universal Postal Union convention called for a ten centavos postal rate.

At least some merchants in Costa Rica were able to circumvent paying Costa Rica postal charges on their correspondence to England. The folded letter shown in Figure 5-33 is an example of this practice.



Figure 5-33. Letter from San Jose to London that entered the mails at Colon in 1874

This letter, from the Anglo Costa Rican Bank in San Jose, is dated October 8, 1874, and is addressed to the famous Frederick Huth banking firm in London. It enclosed a draft of exchange and was carried outside the mails via Limon to Colon. It is franked with a Great Britain one shilling green, plate 9, which was tied by the barred “E83” cancel of Colon, and bears a matching October 19, 1874, postmark. The cover was carried on the Royal Mail steamship *Elbe*, which departed Colon on October 21 and arrived in England on November 13, 1874. It was postmarked in London the following day.

Covers inbound to Costa Rica from Great Britain in the pre-1883 period are abundant, thanks to the preservation of a few large correspondences, most notably letters addressed to Otto Schroeter & Co. and Don Millet, both located in San Jose. Only two, however, are known prior to the 1866 Decree requiring Costa Rica exterior postage to be paid by adhesive stamps. But since both of these were addressed to President Jimenez they were allowed to go free.

None of the twenty letters in the 1866 to 1880 period in the Mayer collection show evidence of accounting for Costa Rica postage. They were all franked in Great Britain at the one-shilling packet rate, or multiple rates, that were in effect. A somewhat atypical example is shown in Figure 5-34.

It is atypical only in that it bears a St. Thomas transit backstamp. It is a letter from London to San Jose franked with a Great Britain one-shilling stamp used on March 16, 1875. It was carried by the Royal Mail steamship *Tasmanian*, which departed Southampton March 17 and arrived at St. Thomas April 1. It is unclear why this letter received a St. Thomas backstamp, as this same ship carried onward to Colon, departing on the same day and arriving at Colon on April 7, 1875. Possibly the letter had been placed in an incorrect bag, which required re-sorting at St. Thomas.



Figure 5-34. An 1875 letter from London to San Jose with St. Thomas backstamp

The next two covers, remarkably preserved together, demonstrate the vagaries that awaited poorly addressed letters. The first, illustrated in Figure 5-35, is a letter addressed to San **J**ose, Porto Rico, in error for San **J**uan, Porto Rico. Other covers from the Hernais correspondence are correctly addressed to San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Figure 5-35. Cover franked in three countries, sent from England, via Costa Rica, to Porto Rico in 1872

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

The letter was posted from Manchester, England, on November 30, 1872, correctly prepaid with a British one shilling stamp. But in England the address was misread as Costa Rica rather than Porto Rico - there was no San Jose in Porto Rico - and the letter was bagged with the mail to Colon. It was carried on the Royal Mail steamship *Nile*, which departed Southampton on December 2 and arrived in Colon on December 25, 1872.

Upon arrival in San Jose, Costa Rica, the mistake was noted and the letter held by the postmaster. He applied his "Adm^{ON} G^{RAL} De Correos De Costa Rica / San Jose" (Post Office Department of Costa Rica) two-line datestamp of January 10, 1873, and corrected the day in manuscript to "14" to note receipt and that he was sending his request to addressee to supply the required forwarding postage. He then sent the second cover, shown in Figure 5-36, which evidently enclosed a printed circular requesting payment for additional postage, to the original addressee in Porto Rico.



Figure 5-36. Cover sent by the Postmaster of Costa Rica to Porto Rico

The postmaster endorsed this cover with his Public Service, notice of missent letter message at the top and postmarked it with his “Adm^{ON} G^{RAL} De Correos De Costa Rica/ San Jose” two-line datestamp of January 10, 1873, correcting the day in manuscript to “14.” Then, paying printed matter rate, he franked the cover with two copies of Great Britain one penny stamps, plate 149, which were cancelled in transit at Panama with the barred “C35” cancels and postmarked on February 5, 1873. After carriage by rail across the isthmus to Colon, the cover was transferred to the Royal Mail steamship *Elbe*, which departed the same day and arrived at St. Thomas on February 13, 1873. It was then sent by the Royal Mail steamship *Mersey* from St. Thomas to Porto Rico. Upon arrival in Porto Rico it was rated as 1 real due with their handstamp struck twice.

After the Costa Rica postmaster received the postage requested, he forwarded the original cover (Figure 5-35) along to Porto Rico, via Panama and Colon, with an additional four pence British stamp, plate 13, prepaying the letter rate of four pence between West Indian countries. The stamp was postmarked at Colon on April 5, 1873, and cancelled with a barred “E88” cancel. From Colon the letter was carried on the steamship *Tasmanian* to St. Thomas, where it arrived on April 13 and was backstamped that same day. Amazingly, the letter was then returned in error from St. Thomas to Colon. It received an additional St. Thomas backstamp and was transmitted on the Royal Mail steamship *Moselle* leaving for Colon on the next day. There the mistake was spotted and the letter, now bearing a Colon April 23 postmark, was sent back again on the *Moselle*'s return trip, which departed on May 7 and arrived at St. Thomas on May 13, 1873. It was postmarked again at St. Thomas with the following day's date and was correctly carried to Porto Rico on the Royal Mail steamship *Eider*, which departed St. Thomas on May 17 and arrived at Porto Rico on May 18, 1873. A Spanish West Indies (Cuba) 25 centavos stamp of 1873 was applied upon arrival and tied by a maltese-cross cancel with a one real handstamp, equal to 25 centavos, struck above indicating postage due to recipient.

This pair of covers documents mail-handling procedures applied to missent and poorly addressed letters in spectacular fashion.

It should be noted that the Great Britain stamps used from the post office department in San Jose had been purchased in Panama by the government for such situations. In the *Report of the Postal Service of Costa Rica for the year 1880*, as reported by Mechin (op. cit.), there appears, under the heading of “Receipts,” the following: “English stamps - I must state that the small benefit which the government was able to secure in this matter just consists in the lesser exchange for English money secured in Panama.” Under the heading “Expenditures” there appears: “English Stamps - Those supplied to the Supreme Government for the franking of its correspondence to the exterior have been covered by receipts of the postal service itself, which amounted to \$ 232.07.” Although this report is dated 1880, it seems certain that such provisions had been in effect for some time. This was necessitated by the British postal regulation that required mails handled through the British Postal Agency to be franked with British stamps.

Exterior Mail - Germany

The Mayer collection includes two covers used to Germany with first-issue dos reales adhesives, both from the same correspondence to Frankfurt in 1873. The earlier is shown in Figure 5-37.



Figure 5-37. Cover from San Jose, via Colon, to Germany in 1873

This folded address leaf bears a dos reales stamp that is tied by a San Jose datestamp of July 15, 1873. It proceeded via Panama to the British office at Colon, where it was marked with their August 3 transit. After carriage on the Royal Mail steamship *Tagus*, which departed Colon on August 6 and reached England on August 27, it was postmarked in London on August 28, 1873. It was sent via Belgium, with an 11 pence debit handstamp, onward to Germany. There it was rated as 50 groschen due on arrival in blue crayon.

The second cover from this correspondence, Figure 5-38, was sent from San Jose with a dos reales stamp on August 4, 1873. Similar to the previous example, this folded address leaf was sent on August 4, 1873. After arrival at Colon, it was transported on the Royal Mail steamship *Nile*, which departed on August 21 and arrived in England on September 12, 1873. It was marked in London with their 1sh 5d due handstamp. Upon arrival in Frankfurt it was rated at 50 groschen due in blue crayon.



Figure 5-38. Cover from San Jose, via Colon, to Germany in 1873

There are also two known usages from Germany to Costa Rica prior to 1883 in the Mayer collection, neither of which shows evidence of postage due having been collected. The first, shown in Figure 5-39, was sent from Hamburg on October 28, 1869.



Figure 5-39. Letter from Hamburg, Germany, to San Jose in 1869

This folded letter sheet was sent prepaid at the rate of $14\frac{1}{4}$ groschen, as denoted in red crayon. It transited London on October 30, 1869, and was marked paid with the one shilling two pence rate. It traveled on the Royal Mail steamship *Seine* from Southampton, which departed on November 18 and arrived in Colon on November 24. Although it does not have either a Colon or a Panama backstamp, it

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

was carried on that route and the recipient docketed the item as being received in San Jose on November 30, 1869.

The second cover was sent in June 1875, after Germany and Great Britain had joined the Postal Union. It traveled from Hamburg to Cartago, and was franked with the 10pf and 20pf German issue of 1875. It bears no transit markings.

Exterior Mail - Switzerland

The only reported usage of a first-issue adhesive to Switzerland is shown in Figure 5-40. It is an October 24, 1865, folded letter from a son in San Jose to his mother in Panbio, Switzerland.



Figure 5-40. Folded letter from San Jose to Switzerland in 1865

The letter is franked with a dos reales stamp that is tied at bottom left by the barred numeral cancel of San Jose. Although there are no transits from the Isthmus of Panama, it was carried via Panama and Colon. From there it probably proceeded by the Royal Mail steamship *Ruabne*, which departed Colon on November 21 and arrived at St. Thomas November 28, 1865. The next day the letter left St. Thomas on the Royal Mail steamship *Atrato*, reaching England on December 14, 1865, which is the date of its London transit backstamp. Sent as an unpaid letter via France for carriage to Switzerland, it was struck with the “GB 1f 60c” accountancy marking and a French entry postmark. The item also bears additional transit backstamps of Paris, Lugano, “Schiffs Bureau Luzern,” and “Basel A Olten.”

Exterior Mail - Spain

One of the highlights of the Mayer 1863-issue collection is the only reported usage to Spain during the period, shown in Figure 5-41. Unfortunately, it is a front only, but is one of only three 1863-issue usages abroad with the cuatro reales stamp. The stamp is the major double transfer from position 8 in the sheet as illustrated previously in Figure 1-9.



Figure 5-41. Cover front to Spain with dos and cuatro reales (double transfer)

Both adhesives were neatly struck with the “San Jose Costa Rica” June 24, 1874, circular postmark, which was repeated on the front. After carriage via Colon, it arrived in Spain, where it was marked with the one peso due handstamp.

Exterior Mail - Canada

Of western hemisphere exterior mail, the Mayer collection includes two covers to Canada, both addressed to Henry Hechler in Halifax, Nova Scotia, a well-known stamp dealer of the era. The return address on both items identifies the same person, Samuel L. Maduro of Puntarenas, as the sender. They are virtually identical except that one bears a printed address. The other, shown in Figure 5-42, has a manuscript address.

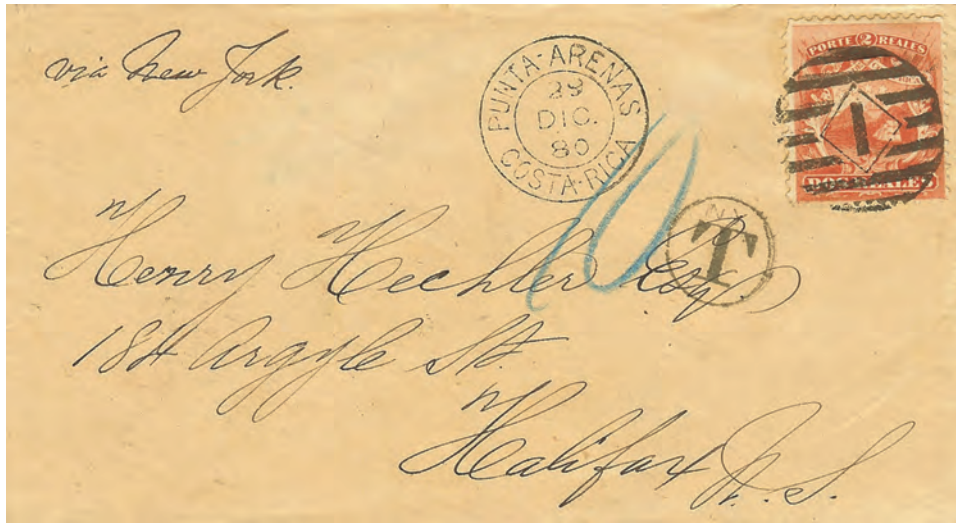


Figure 5-42. Cover from a stamp collector in Punarenas to Halifax, Canada, in 1880

This cover shows a dos reales stamp neatly tied by the barred numeral “1” cancel and a clear “Punta-Arenas Costa-Rica” postmark of December 29, 1880. It was endorsed to go via New York and would have been carried via Panama and Aspinwall before reaching New York on board the American-contracted steamship *Alvo* on January 23, 1881. It has a New York Foreign Division backstamp of the next day and was rated as postage due 10 cents before it was carried onward to Halifax.

Exterior Mail - Peru and Chile

In addition to the cover to El Salvador shown in Figure 5-1, the Mayer collection includes several interesting covers to and from countries in Central and South America. The most handsome of these is the folded letter to Lima, Peru, shown in Figure 5-43.



Figure 5-43. Combination franking on letter from San Jose to Lima, Peru

This letter, dated from San Jose on September 4, 1872, was franked with the dos reales adhesive to pay the Costa Rica exterior postage and a Great Britain six pence, plate 11, adhesive, which was required for British mail service from Panama to Peru. The dos reales stamp was cancelled with the oval San Jose cancel, but the British stamp was left uncanceled until it reached Panama, where it was cancelled with the barred “C35” cancel and postmarked with a Panama September 17, 1872, postmark.

From Panama, such items as the letter above would be carried by Pacific Steam Navigation Company steamers, which operated from Panama southward to Payta, Ecuador, Callao, Peru (connecting port for Lima) and onward to additional ports in Peru, and Bolivia, terminating at Valparaiso, Chile. These steamers departed Panama on a fortnightly schedule.

The only other stamped usage to or from a South American country in the Mayer collection during this period is the folded address sheet from Chile, inbound to Costa Rica, shown in Figure 5-44.



Figure 5-44. Letter from Valparaiso, Chile, to San Jose in 1869

This triple-weight letter, addressed to the Minister of Affairs, was franked with a strip of three Great Britain one shilling stamps, plate 4, and posted at the British post office in Valparaiso, Chile, where it was backstamped with a split-ring January 9, 1869, datestamp. The stamps were cancelled with an error date January 30 (instead of January 10) 1869 postmark and placed on a Pacific Steam Navigation company steamer heading north to Panama. There it received a Panama transit postmark of January 20, 1869, and was sent onward, via Puntarenas to San Jose.

A most interesting feature of this letter is the blue crayon “6 rs” postage due indication at lower left. It corresponds to the correct exterior postage of six reales that would have been due on a triple-rate letter had it not been addressed to a government official, who was allowed to send and receive mail without additional charge. As a result, the due amount was correctly crossed out.

Exterior Mail - Guatemala

The Mayer collection of pre-1883 exterior mail includes four covers outbound to Guatemala as well as four covers inbound from Guatemala to Costa Rica. The earliest of the outbound usages is shown in Figure 5-45.

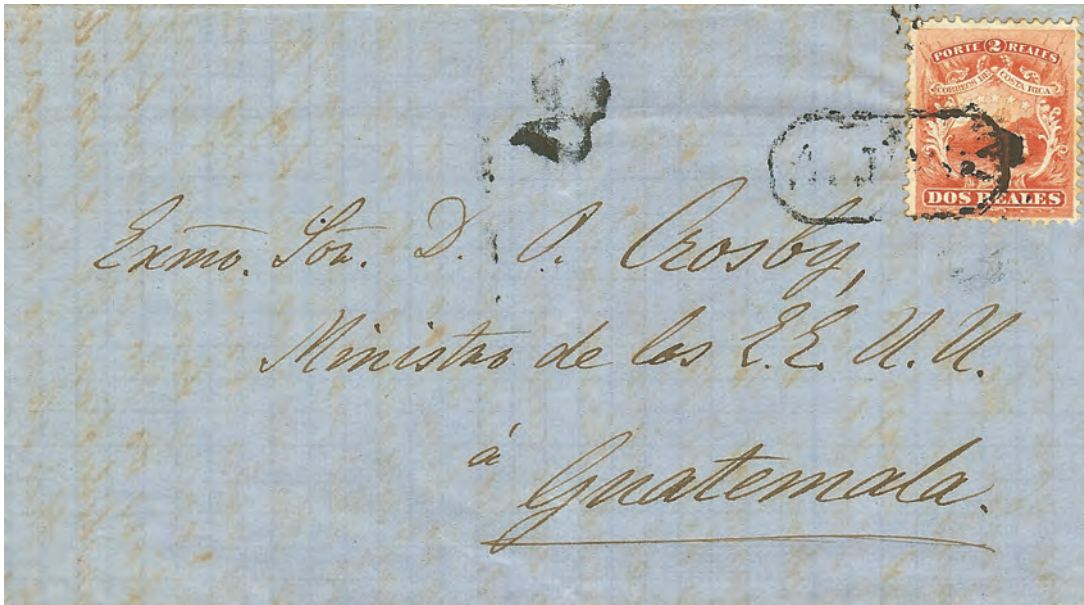


Figure 5-45. Folded letter from San Jose to Guatemala in 1863

This folded letter, dated September 29, 1863, is addressed to Elisha O. Crosby, the United States Consul in Guatemala City, and is franked with a dos reales stamp that is tied by the early-style, large oval San Jose cancel (SJ-Pmk3). After carriage from Puntarenas north to San Jose de Guatemala by Panama Railroad Company steamer, it was marked as two reales due for additional inland postage to Guatemala City.

The second usage to Guatemala is a folded address leaf bearing a dos reales stamp tied by the barred numeral cancel. It is undated and was rated in Guatemala with a one real due handstamp. The third usage to Guatemala is the double-rate folded letter shown in Figure 5-46.

Addressed to the Italian Minister of Affairs in Guatemala City, this letter is franked with a cuatro reales adhesive paying the double rate. It bears a San Jose February 21, 1874, postmark (SJ-Pmk7) and the stamp is tied by a boxed datestamp of the same day. After carriage via Puntarenas to Guatemala, it was first marked with red "4" reales due, which was then corrected to "2" reales due.



Figure 5-46. Double-weight folded letter with cuatro reales used in 1874 to Guatemala

The final outbound usage to Guatemala is the exceptional mourning cover shown in Figure 5-47.



Figure 5-47. Mourning cover sent to Guatemala at reduced rate in 1882

It illustrates the requirement of a decree made effective on August 31, 1882, only four months before the first-issue stamps were demonetized on January 1, 1883, that correspondence to other Central American republics be charged no more than domestic internal rates. Under the new schedule, therefore, the postal rate for a single-weight letter to Guatemala became five centavos. This cover was sent on November 1, 1882, from San Jose to Guatemala City and is the only reported example showing this brief-lived rate. It was correctly prepaid with a medio real adhesive, which had a value of five centavos at

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

this date. The stamp bears the boxed datestamp, and a San Jose postmark of the same date is at left. Upon arrival in Guatemala it was rated as ten centavos due.

Three of the four examples of first-issue usages on mail inbound from Guatemala to Costa Rica are dated 1864, during the period when incoming mail required use of the dos reales adhesives for exterior postage. The earliest is dated at Guatemala on May 21, 1864, while the other two are folded letters sent by the same person to two different addressees on June 7, 1864. One of these, addressed to Cartago, is shown in Figure 5-48.



Figure 5-48. Letter sent in 1864, with cash, from Guatemala and returned

The sender endorsed the letter at front left, “con 3 tersios” (a misspelling of tercios), which translates “with 3 (units of money).” The word “tercios” is a colonial-era term for a unit of money, possibly equivalent to one real. Upon receipt the postmaster took the money, applied the dos reales adhesive, and wrote “2” in blue crayon next to the stamp. Additional endorsements appear on the reverse, as shown in Figure 5-49.

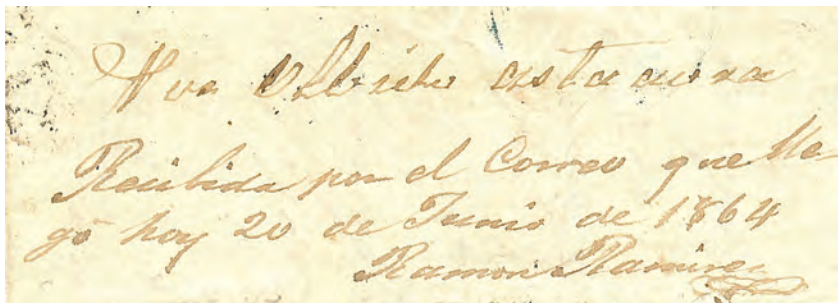


Figure 5-49. Endorsement on the reverse of letter shown in Figure 5-48

The lower endorsement, signed by postmaster Ramon Ramirez, states that the letter was received from the post on June 20, 1864. The letter was apparently returned to the sender as unclaimed, for the endorsement above the Ramirez signed two-line note states, “Por olvido hasta ahora” which roughly translates, “for now, due to oversight, or passage of time, the letter was not claimed.” This additional note was written by the sender after he had received the letter back in Guatemala.

The second letter from this same sender and mailed on the same day, but addressed to Puntarenas, is shown in Figure 5-50.



Figure 5-50. Companion letter to Figure 5-48, from Guatemala to Puntarenas

This second letter, endorsed “with 8 tercios” by the sender, is addressed to Puntarenas. It was postmarked in Guatemala on the same date, June 7, 1864, as the previous letter. The dos reales adhesive that had been applied was cancelled at Puntarenas. And while this letter was also returned to sender and bears the same “Por olvido hasta ahora” docket, it has no postmaster endorsement.

This pair of folded letters illustrates that a sender who wished to prepay all postal fees on a letter to Costa Rica could do so by prepaying the exterior postage in cash. This was probably accomplished by giving the ship’s captain the cash for his purchase of Costa Rica stamps under the provisions of Article 12 of the 1862 Decree. It is quite remarkable that these two returned covers were preserved together.

The fourth inbound cover to Costa Rica, Figure 5-51, shows a dos reales stamp usage after the 1866 Decree specified that stamps were no longer required on inbound covers.



Figure 5-51. Cover from Guatemala to Cartago in 1868 with postage due paid by adhesive

EXTERIOR MAIL TO 1883

The cover bears a blue “Correos Guatemala” October 16, 1868, double-circle datestamp, which appears beneath the adhesive, now affixed only by the sheet selvage. It was posted prepaid with a red boxed “Franco” handstamp at top right and a Guatemala “1” real rate handstamp on the reverse.

Under the 1862 Decree, Treasury Department agents had been established in San Jose and Puntarenas to account for postage on inbound mail. Apparently the above cover made it to Cartago without being correctly accounted for at Puntarenas. The postmaster in Cartago crossed out the paid handstamp, endorsed the cover as “2 rs” due, and affixed the dos reales stamp as indication of payment of the postage owed. This is the only cover received in Costa Rica after the 1866 Decree that shows the use of an adhesive paying the postage due on inbound mail.

Exterior Mail - El Salvador

The final exterior cover to be discussed, Figure 5-52, is the second of the two usages to El Salvador (the other example is shown in Figure 5-1).

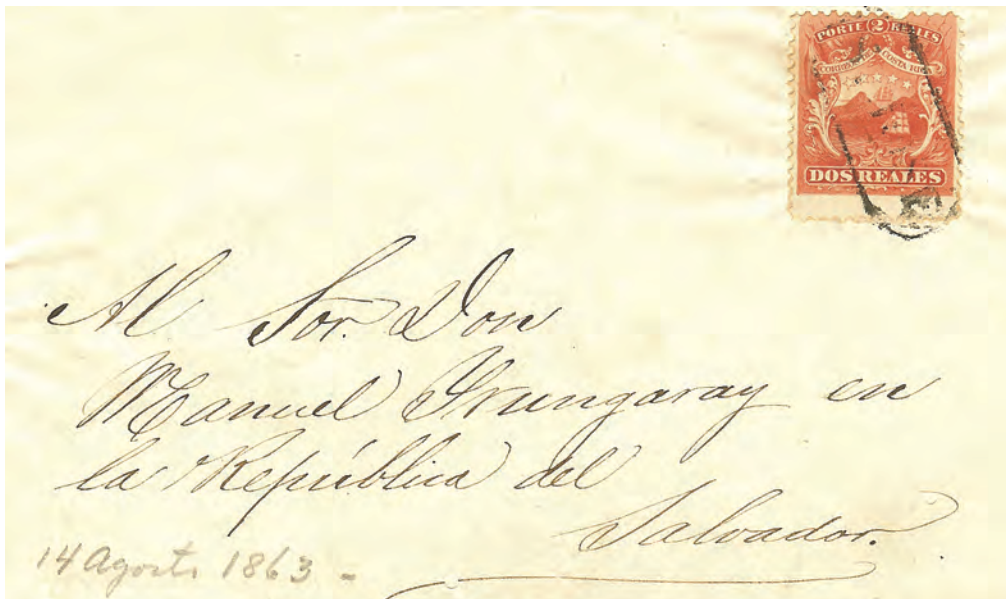


Figure 5-52. Folded letter from San Jose to El Salvador sent August 14, 1863

This August 14, 1863, letter, like the example shown earlier, is franked with a dos reales adhesive tied by the oval San Jose cancel (SJ-Pmk3) that was used in the pre-adhesive era. It was carried by the Panama Railroad Company steamer from Puntarenas to El Salvador.







A summary of the exterior covers bearing Costa Rica first-issue adhesives in the Mayer collection may be found as Appendix C.

Appendix A




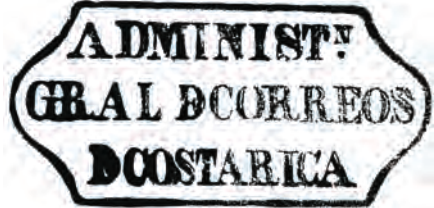



Postal Markings to 1883

Postal markings identified in the body of the book are listed here for convenient reference. The illustrations are not of sufficient quality to be used for exact matching. Please see cover illustrations in the individual chapters for that purpose. The date of earliest reported usage (EKU) is given as well as latest reported usage (LKU) when available. Suffixes used indicate primary use of the marking as either a postmark (pmk), cancel (can), or auxiliary (aux) marking.






Alajuela

Marking	Type	Notes
	ALA-Pmk1	EKU: 1808 LKU: 1843
	ALA-Pmk2	EKU: 1852 LKU: 1877 (postal form) known also as a cancel on loose stamps
	ALA-Pmk3	EKU: March 1852 LKU: 1862
	ALA-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1866 LKU: ca. 1875 also used as a cancel
	ALA-Pmk5	EKU: November 15, 1875 LKU: January 30, 1879 usually used in conjunction with ALA-Can-2 or as a cancel
	ALA-Pmk6	EKU: November 24, 1872 LKU: February 14, 1873 only reported on off-cover stamps


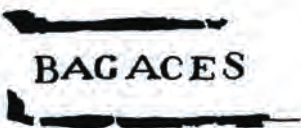
APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	ALA-PMK7	EKU: March 8, 1882 not seen on cover but on a piece with 1863-issue
FRANCO	ALA-Aux1	EKU: ca. 1821 reported by Harris
	ALA-Aux2	EKU: ca. 1842 LKU: 1864
	ALA-Aux3	EKU: ca. 1875 found used as an official cachet on cover as well as a cancel
	ALA-Aux4	EKU: ca. 1869 known used as a genuine cancel but the device was also used after 1882 applied by favor
	ALA-Can1	EKU: ca. 1864 LKU: ca. 1875 widely spaced bars cannot be distinguished reliably from other numeral types
	ALA-Can2	EKU: ca. 1874 LKU: ca. 1879 usually found in conjunction with ALA-Pmk5
	ALA-Can3	unconfirmed on cover but apparently of the period






Atenas

Marking	Type	Notes
	ATE-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1870 LKU: ca. 1880 exists on cover and loose stamps, strikes from worn device show one or more "nail heads"
	ATE-Pmk2	EKU: September 21, 1879 known only on a loose stamp
	ATE-Pmk3	EKU: June 25, 1881 LKU: December 10, 1882
	ATE-Can1	known on loose stamps only
	ATE-Can2	known on loose stamps only


Bagaces

Marking	Type	Notes
	BAG-Pmk1	EKU: 1803 LKU: 1824 reported in brown, blue, black and greenish black
	BAG-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1845 LKU: 1849









APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	BAG-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1849 LKU: March 1854
	BAG-TREE	this marking is fraudulent, it exists on privately carried letters dated between May 3, 1846 and September 17, 1849, see page 19
	BAG-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1865 LKU: 1879
	BAG-Pmk5	EKU: July 17, 1880 LKU: November 1, 1881 found on loose stamps only, known in purple dated 1881
	BAG-Pmk6	EKU: ca. 1882 found on a single loose 1863-issue stamp and primarily used after 1883

Cartago


Marking	Type	Notes
	CAR-Pmk1	EKU: 1797 LKU: 1813 early uses in black, later examples in brown

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883







Marking	Type	Notes
	CAR-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1802 LKU: ca. 1824 used concurrently with CAR-Pmk1, all examples in brown
	CAR-Pmk3	EKU: 1843 LKU: 1853 struck in dark brown
	CAR-Pmk4	EKU: 1844 LKU: 1870
	CAR-Pmk5	EKU: 1849 LKU: 1854 text is 35.5mm long, 5mm high
	CAR-Pmk5a	EKU: 1854 LKU: 1863 device altered removing most of 3 frame lines
	CAR-Pmk6	EKU: ca. 1864 text is 28mm long, 4.5mm high
	CAR-Pmk7	EKU: ca. 1864 LKU: 1882 device among those used by Ross to manufacture "used" stamps after 1882
	CAR-Can1	EKU: ca. 1866 widely spaced bars cannot be distinguished reliably from other numeral types

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883


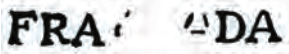



Desmonte

Marking	Type	Notes
	DES-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1879 known only on loose stamps, all are medio real from plate 2




Esparta

Marking	Type	Notes
	ESP-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1825 LKU: 1871 reported by Harris as 1807
	ESP-Pmk2	EKU: 1832 manuscript postmark that exists in several variations
	ESP-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1871 LKU: ca. 1878
	ESP-Pmk4	EKU: January 19, 1878 LKU: September 26, 1879 found on loose stamps and one exterior cover with stamp tied by ESP-Can1
	ESP-Pmk5	EKU: March 12, 1881 LKU: October 2, 1882 (name changed) found only on loose stamps
	ESP-Can1	EKU: ca. 1864 found on one exterior cover and rarely on loose stamps

Grecia







Marking	Type	Notes
	GRE-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1862
	GRE-Aux1	EKU: ca. 1879
	GRE-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1863 LKU: ca. 1882
	GRE-Pmk3	EKU: January 8, 1877 LKU: May 8, 1878 used as a postmark in conjunction with GRE-Pmk2 used as a cancel
	GRE-Pmk4	EKU: February 4, 1881 LKU: December 21, 1882

Guanacaste










Marking	Type	Notes
	GUA-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1799 LKU: 1847
	GUA-Pmk2	EKU: 1841 LKU: 1842
	GUA-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1848 LKU: ca. 1850

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Heredia (see also Villa Vieja)





Marking	Type	Notes
	HER-Aux1	EKU: 1848 marking is 48 by 26mm and larger than the similar marking used at Puntarenas
	HER-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1848 LKU: 1862 earliest dated example is 1851 and no further dated examples known
	HER-Pmk2	EKU: 1851 LKU: 1862
	HER-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1863 LKU: ca. 1870 text is 35.5mm long, 5mm high
CORREOS DE HEREDIA	HER-Aux2	EKU: ca. 1865 41 by 2mm, not an accurate tracing
	HER-Can1	EKU: May 11, 1866 single example known on cover and cannot be distinguished from other numerals
	HER-Pmk4	EKU: July 28, 1880 LKU: after 1883 known on piece only, no examples of "with stars" style postmark has been reported

Liberia



Marking	Type	Notes
	LIB-Pmk1	EKU: undated single example reported
	LIB-Pmk2	EKU: December 6, 1854 single example reported
	LIB-Pmk3	EKU: March 4, 1854 two examples known, both same day
	LIB-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1859 reported by Harris but not seen
	LIB-Pmk5	EKU: ca. 1859 probably worn device of LIB-Pmk4
	LIB-Pmk6	EKU: ca. 1863 LKU: ca. 1882
	LIB-Can1	EKU: ca. 1863 seen as cancel on covers from Liberia
	LIB-Pmk7	EKU: ca. 1875 LKU: February 20, 1880
	LIB-Pmk8	EKU: March 27, 1882 LKU: after 1883

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883


Limon

Marking	Type	Notes
	LIM-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1877 LKU: 1882 large letters (5mm)
	LIM-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1877 LKU: 1882 squat letters (3mm)
	LIM-Pmk3	EKU: January 17, 1877 LKU: March 17, 1878
	LIM-Pmk4	EKU: January 21, 1882 LKU: December 18, 1882




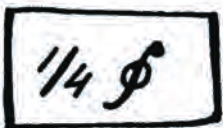

Moin

Marking	Type	Notes
	MOI-Pmk1	EKU: February 11, 1849 LKU: 1862 large letters (5mm)
	MOI-Aux1	EKU: December 15, 1853 single example known









Nicoya

Marking	Type	Notes
	NIC-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1797 LKU: 1820 earliest dated example is 1806, marking exists in black and brown
FRANCO	NIC-Aux1	EKU: ca. 1855 one undated example known







Puntarenas

Marking	Type	Notes
	PUN-Pmk1	EKU: November 13, 1848 LKU: November 18, 1848 brigantine illustrated marking, two genuine examples known
	PUN-Pmk2	EKU: 1850 LKU: 1863
	PUN-Aux1	EKU: 1851 LKU: 1863 marking is 47 by 25mm
	PUN-Aux2	EKU: ca. 1850 weight handstamp for one-quarter ounce
	PUN-Aux3	EKU: ca. 1858 a one real rate handstamp




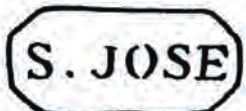
APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	PUN-Aux4	EKU: November 1854 two reales rate handstamp, one example reported
	PUN-Aux5	EKU: June 1855 packet rate handstamp, one example reported
	PUN-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1877 found on certified letters and loose stamps
	PUN-Pmk4	EKU: February 6, 1874 LKU: April 1874 full inner circle which quickly deteriorated to traces only by April 16, 1874
	PUN-Pmk4a	EKU: April 16, 1874 LKU: December 12, 1879 inner circle missing or only minor traces
	PUN-Pmk5	EKU: December 29, 1880 LKU: December 27, 1882 no stars at sides, different spelling of name
	PUN-Can1	EKU: ca. 1863 fewer than five reported examples, all on loose stamps
	PUN-Can2	EKU: June 29, 1867 LKU: December 27, 1882 widely spaced bars and taller but cannot be distinguished reliably from other types









APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	PUN-Can3	EKU: January 20, 1872 LKU: January 25, 1874
	PUN-Can3a	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3
	PUN-Can3b	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3
	PUN-Can3c	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3 showing nail head
	PUN-Can3d	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3 showing nail heads
	PUN-Can4	EKU: November 16, 1877 LKU: ca. 1882 the only dated example on cover is 1877 but evidently used till end of period




San Jose

Marking	Type	Notes
	SJ-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1818 LKU: 1830 struck in red in early period and then in black
	SJ-Aux1	EKU: 1822 LKU: ca. 1825 exists in red and black
	SJ-Pmk2	EKU: 1839 one example reported
	SJ-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1840 LKU: ca. 1863 used into the adhesive era




APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	SJ-Aux2	EKU: 1848 LKU: 1852
	SJ-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1850 LKU: ca. 1873 exists in red and black
	SJ-Aux3	EKU: ca. 1851 (also Guancaste in 1837) LKU: ca. 1860 device has survived into 20th century
	SJ-Aux4	EKU: ca. 1856
	SJ-Can1	EKU: December 10, 1864 LKU: July 24, 1879 narrow spaced bars and shorter but cannot be reliably distinguished from other types
	SJ-Pmk5	EKU: ca. 1864 LKU: December 1878
	SJ-Pmk6	EKU: November 9, 1872 LKU: October 25, 1882
	SJ-Pmk7	EKU: October 15, 1873 LKU: April 11, 1878 date in two lines
	SJ-Pmk8	EKU: February 8, 1878 LKU: September 25, 1880 replaced SJ-Pmk7

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883




Marking	Type	Notes
	SJ-Pmk9	EKU: February 1881 to March 1882 and again June 1882 until LKU: August 1882 diameter is 22.5 to 23mm and letters are 2.5mm tall, marking also used genuinely after 1883
	SJ-Pmk10	EKU: January 1882 to March 1882 and again from September 1882 until LKU: December 1882 diameter 24.5 to 25mm and letters 3mm tall, device given to Ross and applied later remainders
	SJ-Way1	EKU: 1863 LKU: 1874 marking applied at San Jose to incoming loose letters, device also used out of period by Ross

San Mateo



Marking	Type	Notes
	SM-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1865 LKU: ca. 1879 fakes exist, particularly on bisects tied to piece
	SM-Pmk2	EKU: March 25, 1880 LKU: November 9, 1880
	SM-Pmk3	EKU: April 5, 1882

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883



San Ramon

Marking	Type	Notes
	SR-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1865 LKU: ca. 1879 fakes exist, particularly on bisects tied to piece
ADMON DE CORREOS DE SAN RAMON	SR-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1870
	SR-Pmk3	EKU: March 8, 1876 LKU: March 3, 1878
	SR-Pmk4	EKU: May 4, 1880 LKU: December 26, 1882






Villa Nueva (see San Jose)

Marking	Type	Notes
	VLN-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1800 LKU: ca. 1808 exists in brown and black
	VLN-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1803 LKU: ca. 1818





Villa Vieya (see Heredia)

Marking	Type	Notes
	VLV-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1800
	VLV-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1813

Genuine cancels not confirmed on cover

Marking	Type	Notes
	G1	Costa Rica maintained an agency in Panama and most examples are on dos reales stamps; genuine cancel exists struck in black and purple
	G2	genuine, city of use unknown but possibly applied at San Jose to way mail
	G3	genuine, attributed to Puntarenas, but that seems unlikely
	G4	apparently genuine, possibly from Santa Cruz, but none of the four examples seen show anything but the "CRUZ"
	G5	almost certainly genuine, a reverse impression of a coin with coat of arms of Costa Rica

Fraudulent Cancels

Marking	Type	Notes
	F1	almost certainly fake as always perfectly struck in incorrect dark black ink
	F2	apparently fake or applied out of period
	F3	doubtful and probably applied out of period
	F4	doubtful and probably applied out of period




F5 - This piece shows markings from devices that were found in the San Jose post office circa 1924 and was produced as a record by Postmaster Noreiga at that time. The two markings at left exist genuine as well as applied well out of period. The two markings at right may exist genuine but all examples seen on 1863-issue stamps were applied out of period.

Appendix B





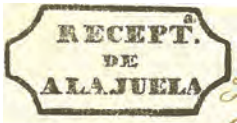
Public Cachets to 1883

Cachets used by public service officials to mark their mail for free postal service are shown here with a "Pub" suffix. The elaborate executive department cachets are illustrated on full covers in Chapter 3 and are not included. All images are from actual covers or receipts and reduced to a uniform size. They are listed in alphabetical order. The dates given are from examples on dated covers in the Mayer collection.



Alajuela

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	ALA-Pub1	1877	Admon. De Correos De Alajuela (also listed as ALA-Aux3)
	ALA-Pub2	1874	Ajencia Pral. De Policia De La Prova. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub3	1873	G D Polia. De Alejuela
	ALA-Pub4	1858	G D Polica. De Alejuela
	ALA-Pub5	1850-52	G. Polita. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub6	1850-51	Gobern. De La Prova. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub7	1868-72	Gobernn Del Depart. De Alajuela




APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	ALA-Pub8	1860	Judicata De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub9	1862-73	Juzgado Civil Y D Comercio En 1a Instancia De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub10	1868	Juzgado Del Crimen De La Prova. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub11	nd	Juzgado Del Crimen Del De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub12	1842-46	Recepta. De Alajuela (also listed as ALA-Aux2)






Bagaces

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	BAG-Pub1	nd	Jefatura Polit Del Canton Bagaces
	BAG-Pub2	1867	Jefatura Politica Del Canton Bagaces






Camino Al Atlantico

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	CAM-Pub1	1865	Republica D. Costa Rica Proveduria Del Camino Al Atlantico (used from Cartago)
	CAM-Pub2	1865-66	Camino Al Atlantico Seccion Angostura
	CAM-Pub3	1865-66	Camino Al Atlantico Seccion Pacuare.


Cartago

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	CAR-Pub1	1878	Admon. De Correos De Cartago
	CAR-Pub2	1870	Colegio De Cartago Costa-Rica
	CAR-Pub3	1844-49	Correos De Cartago
	CAR-Pub4	nd	Gefatura en 1ra Instancia De La Provin de Cartago
	CAR-Pub5	1847-56	Gobernno DL Departto De Cartago



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	CAR-Pub6	nd	Juzgado Mila De Cartago
	CAR-Pub7	1855	Juzgado So. C De Cartago
	CAR-Pub8	1840	Receptoría De Cartago
	CAR-Pub9	1865	Receptoría De Cartago
	CAR-Pub10	1841-54	Receptorya De Cartago



Escasu

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	ESC-Pub1	1850	Jefatura Polita De Escasú

Grecia

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GRE-Pub1	1871	Jefatura Política De Grecia
	GRE-Pub2	1877	Jefatura Política De Grecia (albino embossed cachet)


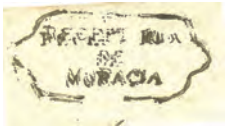


Guanacaste (Commander of the Frontier)

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GUA-Pub11	1840	Comandancia de las Fronteras
	GUA-Pub12	1847	Comanda de las Fronteras (reported on letters only)






Guanacaste and Province of Moracia (1854-1860)

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GUA-Pub1	1847-52	Gefata Polita Del Guanacaste
	GUA-Pub2	1872-80	Gobernacion de la Provincia de Guanacaste (known used from Liberia)
	GUA-Pub3	1847-50	Gobernn DL Dpartto De Guancaste
	GUA-Pub4	ca. 1858	Judiaa La 1a Insta de Moraca
	GUA-Pub5	1863-64	Judicato en 1a Insta De La Prove De Guanacaste (known used from Liberia)
	GUA-Pub6	1842-54	Judicatura Del Guanacaste



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GUA-Pub7	1854	Judicata Prova Moracia
	GUA-Pub8	ca 1859	Recept Prov De Moracia
	GUA-Pub9	1872-79	Recepta Del Guanacaste
	GUA-Pub10	1866	Receptoría De Guanactase



Heredia

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	HER-Pub1	1851-53	Gobernacn de Departto. de Heredia
	HER-Pub2	1860-63	Gobernacn de la Prova de Heredia
	HER-Pub3	ca. 1878	Juzgado 2d Constituc De Heredia
	HER-Pub4	1840	Receptoría De Heredia (seen on way bills only)
	HER-Pub5	1842	Receptoría De Heredia (seen on way bills only)



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	HER-Pub6	1846-54	Receipta De Heredia (seen on way bills only)
	HER-Pub7	1841	(Receptoría De) Heredia (seen on way bills only)

Liberia




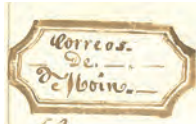

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	LIB-Pub1	1868	Secretaria Municipal (used at Liberia)
	LIB-Pub2	1877	Admon De Correos De Liberia (reported on postal receipt only)

Matina


Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	MAT-Pub1	1842-43	Admon Marita De Norte (at Matina) (found on documents)
	MAT-Pub2	1845	Aduana de Matina

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883


Moin

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	MOI-Pub1	1860	Comanda De Moin (on documents only)
	MOI-Pub2	1843-48	Comanda Del Norte (at Moin)
	MOI-Pub3	1845	Correos De Moin (manuscript) (on postal documents)
	MOI-Pub3a	1845	Correos De Moin (manuscript) (on postal documents)
	MOI-Pub4	nd	Jefatura Politica De Moin

Nicoya

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	NIC-Pub1	1851-52	Jefatura Polita DL Cantn D. Nico

Paraiso

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	PAR-Pub1	1864	Jefatura Po lita Del Paraiso

Puntarenas

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	PUN-Pub1	1864-78	Admon De Correos De Puntarenas
	PUN-Pub2	nd	Admon De Licores De Punta-Arenas
	PUN-Pub3	1850-57	Aduana de Punta-Arenas
	PUN-Pub4	1862-64	Aduana Maritima de Punta-Arenas / Repub. De Costa-Rica
	PUN-Pub5	1840	Comanda Del Puerto De Pun/ta De Arenas
	PUN-Pub6	nd	Gobernacion De La Comarca De Punatrenas
	PUN-Pub7	1851-53	Gobernacion De Punta Arenas

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

San Jose

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SJ-Pub1	1878	Administracion Del Diario Oficial Costa-Rica
	SJ-Pub2	1852-57	Administn Gral D Correos D Costa Rica (exists applied to stamps out of period)
	SJ-Pub3	1872	Admon Gral De Correos De Costa Rica / San Jose (plus date)
	SJ-Pub4	1853-56	Admon. Gral De Licores Del Pais
	SJ-Pub5	1847-58	Admon. De Tabacos.
	SJ-Pub6	1844	Correos De Costa Rica
	SJ-Pub7	1864	Costa Rica Imprenta Nacional
	SJ-Pub8	1848-51	Direccion De Camino Grales
	SJ-Pub9	nd	Fiscalia De Hacienda






APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SJ-Pub10	1843	Gefa Polita De San-Jose
	SJ-Pub11	nd	Gobern De La Prova De San Jose
	SJ-Pub12	1864	Gobern De La Prova De San Jose
	SJ-Pub13	nd	Inspectoria De Tesorias Subalternas
	SJ-Pub14	1853	Judagado De Minas (from Aguacate)
	SJ-Pub15	1842	Judicatura De S. Jose
	SJ-Pub16	1863-70	Judicatura Civil Y De Comercio En La 1a Instancia De La Provincia De San Jose
	SJ-Pub17	1867-76	Juzgado de 1a Ensta De La Provincia De San Jose
	SJ-Pub18	1849	Juzgado del Crimen.
	SJ-Pub19	ca. 1867	Juzgo D 1a Insta. El Crimen De San Jose



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SJ-Pub20	1860	Juzgado Militar De San Jose
	SJ-Pub21	nd	Ministerio De Hacienda
	SJ-Pub22	1842-56	Recepta De San-Jose
	SJ-Pub23	1840	Receptoria De S. Jose
	SJ-Pub24	1878	Republic De Costa Rica Inspeccion General De Tesorencias Subalternas
	SJ-Pub25	nd	Sec .. Consy De Instra Pubca
	SJ-Pub26	1841	Seria Mupal De San Jose
	SJ-Pub27	1882	Spia Del Gobno Ecco De La Diocesis De C. Rica
	SJ-Pub28	nd	Tesora D Pecpa De S Jose

San Ramon




Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SR-Pub1	nd	Coma De S Ramon
	SR-Pub2	1857	Gefatura Politica D Sn Ramon (33mm wide)
	SR-Pub3	nd	Gefatura Politica D Sn Ramon (40mm wide)
	SR-Pub4	1863	Gefatura Politica De La Villa De S Ramon
	SR-Pub5	1868	Gefatura Politica De S Ramon

Santa Cruz

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SC-Pub1	1825	S. Cruz Libre D PON
	SC-Pub2	nd	Geffata Polita De Santa Cruz

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Sarapiqui

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SAR-Pub1	1852	Comandancia Del Destacamento De Sarapiqui (44mm, on document only)
	SAR-Pub2	1853	Comandancia Del Destacamento De Sarapiqui (30mm)
	SAR-Pub3	1850	Resguardo D Sarapiqui

Appendix C

Census of 1863 - Issue Exterior Covers

This is a textual census of all the exterior covers (used to and from foreign countries) contained in the Mayer collection. Outbound usages are organized by destination, from most to least numerous. The inbound covers bearing adhesives are summarized in the last table.

Covers to the United States

#	Date	Stamp	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Oct 25 1865	2r	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	(NYC) Steam 10	Marcial
2	Jun 10 1867	4r	San Jose dateless	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	(NYC) Steam 20	Marcial
3	Jun 14 1867	2r (3)	Puntarenas numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	(NYC) Steam 20	Marcial
4	Mar 25 1868	½r (5)	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Apr 10 "US 10 Notes"	Marcial
5	Aug 25 1868	2r	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Nov 14 steamship 10	Marcial
6	Jun 25 1869	2r	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Jul 10 steamship 10	Marcial
7	May 11 1870	2r	San Jose dots	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Jun 29 steamship 10	Marcial
8	ca. 1872	2r	Cartago oval	Alexandria, VA	Puntarenas via Panama (?)	NYC Sep 25 steamship 10	Snowden railroad imprint
9	ca. 1872	2r	Alajuela numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama (?)	NYC Feb 28 steamship 10	Lanman Kemp
10	ca. 1876	2r	Antenas oval	Alexandria, VA	Puntarenas via Panama (?)	NYC Mar 4 steamship 10	Snowden
11	Dec 17 1872	2r	San Jose boxed date	San Francisco, CA	Puntarenas via Panama	SFC Jan 30 (steam) due 10	Montealegre
12	May 23 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Sacramento, CA	Puntarenas via Panama	SFC Jun 25 "10" due	Nelson

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to United States (continued)

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
13	Jun 5 1874	2r	San Jose boxed date	San Francisco, CA	Puntarenas via Panama	SFC Jul 2 "10" due	Montealegre "Steam Panama"
14	Mar 25 1878	2r	San Jose boxed date	New York, NY	Limon via Colon	NYC Apr 16 Due 5 duplex	Lanman Kemp
15	Sep 26 1879	2r	Esparza fancy cancel	Lone Rock, WI	Limon via Colon	NY Oct 14 Due 5 duplex	Johnson 5c due stamp
16	Mar 20 1882	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Port Chester, NY	Limon via Colon	NYC Apr 13 Due 5 duplex	Smith 5c US stamp
17	Oct 10 1882	2r	San Jose numeral	Springfield, MA	Limon via Colon	NYC Nov 3 Due 5 duplex	Stiles

Covers to France

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Sep 10 1868	2r	San Jose numeral	Montpellier	Puntarenas via Panama	London Calais	Blouquier & Leenhardt
2	Jul 24 1869	4r	San Jose numeral	Montpellier	Puntarenas via Panama	Panama Transit FR Line A	Blouquier & Leenhardt
3	Sep 26 1877	2r	San Jose boxed date	Nantes	Limon via Colon	FR Line A (Panama)	Briand
4	Jun 25 1878	2r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Puntarenas via Panama	Colon Transit Calais Jul 30	del Pont
5	Aug 1 1878	2r	Cartago oval	Bordeaux	Puntarenas via Panama	Colon Transit Calais Sep 12	Chauvier
6	Aug 1879	2r	San Jose numeral	Paris	Limon via Colon	FR Line D (Panama)	Istria
7	Feb 23 1880	2r	Grecia oval	Paris	Puntarenas via Panama	Panama (Brit) Line A circle	Dambron
8	May 25 1879	4r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	London Calais	Tavolara

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to France (continued)

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
9	Jun 11 1881	4r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit Calais Jul 12	Millet
10	Jul 14, 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	Calais	del Pont
11	Oct 25 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	London	del Pont 1f + 60c dues
12	Nov 25 1882	4r	San Jose double circle	Paris	Limon via Colon	Calais	del Pont 1f due stamp
13	Nov 25 1882	2r	San Jose double circle	Paris	Limon via Colon	Calais	del Pont 1f due stamp
14	Dec 18 1882	2r	Limon double circle	Paris	Limon via Colon	FR Line D (Aspinwall)	del Pont

Covers to Italy

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	(Sep 11 1867)	2r	Panama FR Line A	Florence	Puntarenas via Panama	Paris	Sec. of Foreign Affairs
2	Aug 12 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London Registered	Frapolli GB 1sh + 1d (8)
3	Aug 24 1873	2r + 4r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London Registered	Frapolli GB 1sh (3) + 1d (4)
4	Mar 11 1874	2r (2)	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	(Registered)	Frapolli GB 1sh (2)
5	Oct 10 1877	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon		De Angelis 30c + 40c Dues

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to Italy (continued)

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
6	Jun 12 1880	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome Fwd to France	Limon via Colon		Vansittart 1L + 60c Dues
7	Feb 25 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London	Vansittart 1L + 10c(2) Dues
8	Mar 25 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Puntarenas via Panama	BR Panama FR Line A	Vansittart 10c(2) Dues
9	Apr 14 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London	Vansittart
10	Oct 25, 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Naples	Limon via Colon	London	Mearico 1L(2) + 10c(2) Dues

Covers to Great Britain

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Jan 9 1876	½r bisect	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit	Barclay Bevan due 1d
2	Dec 9 1877	½r bisect	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit	obliterated due 1d
3	May 11 1879	½r bisect	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit	Murriet Co. due 1d
4	Oct 12 1879	½r bisect	Puntarenas numeral	London	Puntarenas via Panama	GB Panama	obliterated due 1d
5	Feb 12 1881	2r	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon		Gruat & Bonn due 1sh
6	Dec 27 1882	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Swansea	Limon via Colon		Vivian & Sons (accepted)

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to Additional Destinations

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Sep 29 1862	2r	San Jose oval	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Crosby due 2r
2	Feb 21 1874	4r	San Jose boxed date	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Licignano due 2r / 4r
3	ca. 1870's	2r	San Jose numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Brenes. due 1r
4	Nov 1 1882	½r	Puntarenas numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Arzu red "10" c
5	May 15 1863	2r	San Jose oval	Salvador	Puntarenas		Yrungaray
6	Aug 14 1863	2r	San Jose oval	Salvador	Puntarenas		Yrungaray
7	Dec 29 1880	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Nova Scotia (Halifax)	Puntarenas	New York "T" due	Hechler
8	Jul 18 1881	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Nova Scotia (Halifax)	Puntarenas	New York "T" due	Hechler
9	Jul 15 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Germany (Frankfurt)	Limon via Colon	Colon London	Buttel
10	Aug 4 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Germany (Frankfurt)	Limon via Colon	Colon London	Buttel
11	Jun 10 1874	2r + 4r	San Jose cds	Spain (Barcelona)	Limon via Colon	Colon	Marti & Codolar 1p due (front only)
12	Oct 24 1865	2r	San Jose numeral	Switzerland (Panbio)	Limon via Colon	London Calais	Michella
13	Sep 4 1872	2r	San Jose oval	Peru (Lima)	Puntarenas via Panama	GB Panama	Chavez BG 6d "C35"

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Inbound Covers

#	Date	Stamps	Cancel	Origin	Entry Port	Origin Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	May 21 1864	2r	San Jose numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala	Jimines
2	Jun 7 1864	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala	Hedsa
3	Jun 7 1864	2r	Cartago oval	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala	Rojas
4	Oct 16 1868	2r	Cartago numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala red "Franca"	Gurman ms 2 rs
5	May 15 1863	2r	Puntarenas numeral	United States	Puntarenas	New York	Dewar

Bibliography

Books

Harris, Leo J. *Central America, Postal History and a Listing of Prephilatelic Postmarks*. New York, NY: The Collectors Club, Inc., 1986.

Hubbard, Walter and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-75*. Canton, OH: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1988.

Fossum, Earl G. and Hector H. Mena, *The Index to Costa Rican Philatelic Literature (1863-1993)*. Baton Rouge, LA: Society for Costa Rica Collectors, 1993.

Goodman, Roland A. (Editor). *Guatemala, A handbook of the postal history and philately of Guatemala*. London, UK: The International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 1969.

Howat, The Rev. J.N.T. *South American Packets*. London, UK: The Postal History Society, Inc., 1984.

Kenton, Phil J. and Harry G. Parsons, *Early Mail Routings of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, 1842-1879*. Surry, UK: The Postal History Society, 1999.

Mata, Dr. Carlos Saenz Mata, *Catalogo de Sellos Postales de Costa Rica*. Marble Falls, TX: Society for Costa Rica Collectors, 1978.

Mena, Hector H. *Costa Rica Postal Catalog*. Marble Falls, TX: Society for Costa Rica Collectors, Third Edition, 2004.

Molina, Felipe. *Bosquejo de la Republica de Costa Rica*. New York, 1851.

Moubray, Jane and Michael. *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations, 1840-1875*. London, UK: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1992.

Salles, Raymond. *La Poste Maritime Francaise, Tome IV*. Limassol, Cyprus: Reprint by James Bendon, 1992.

Stone, Robert. *A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19th Century*. New York, NY, The Philatelic Foundation, 1993.

Wierenga, Theron. *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875, Second Edition*. Austin, TX: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 2000.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles and Journals

Costa Rica Filatelica, publication of the Sociedad Filatelica de Costa Rica (published irregularly, 1933-71).

Filatelía Costarricense, quarterly publication of the Club Filatelico de San Jose (1951-65).

Mechin, R.J., and Alex A. Cohen. "Costa Rica, First Postage Stamps of 1863," *The Collectors Club Philatelist* XXVII (1948), no. 2: 7--17, no.3: 23--41, no.4: 15--35.

Mitchell, H. Dana., ed. *Costa Rican Philatelist*, in English (1952-55).

The Oxcart, quarterly publication of the Society for Costa Rica Collectors.

Government Publications

(Republica de Costa-Rica) *Gaceta Oficial* (September 15, 1862 issue shown opposite)

(Spain, Superintendencia) *Ordenanza General De Correos, Postas, Caminos y Demas Ramas*, Madrid, Spain, 1794.

Websites

<http://www.socorico.org> (Society of Costa Rica Collectors)

<http://www.rfrajola.com/mcr/mcr.htm> (Mayer Costa Rica as shown at Washington 2006)

<http://babelfish.yahoo.com> (translation website)

<http://www.davidrumsey.com> (David Rumsey map collection)

<http://query.nytimes.com/search> (*New York Times* archive of articles from 1851 onward)

SUSCRIPCION.

En precio de el de diez reales adelantados por semestre y se recibe en esta imprenta. Las personas de las demas provincias de la Republica que deseen suscribirse, pueden hacerlo en las Administraciones de Correos, o en los puntos que se indican en un real cédula uno.

GACETA OFICIAL.

OBSERVACIONES.

Se admiten gratis las comunicaciones de interés público, y las de particular á un período convencional.—Se insertan sobre á medio real la línea por cada tres líneas, siempre que pague de cada línea, por no llegarse á ellas, en precio será el de cuatro en el año.

ADVERTENCIA.—El S. Gobierno, con el fin de proteger y hacer efectiva la libertad de la prensa, y en atención á que en Costa Rica no se publica hoy otro periódico que la Gaceta, ofrece las columnas de este á la libre discusión; advirtiéndole que, solo debe reputarse como oficial lo que bajo este título se publica, no debiendo tenerse como tal, ni como semi-oficial todo lo demas que el periódico contenga.

SEMESTRE: 7.

San José, Sábado 13 de Setiembre de 1862.

NUMERO 165.

OFICIAL.

Nº 2.

El Senado y Cámara de Representantes de la República de Costa-Rica, reunidos en Congreso.

Para facilitar el pago y la recaudación de los derechos sobre el porte de correspondencia.

DECRETAN:

Art. 1º La correspondencia es interior ó exterior; es interior la que se cruza entre los habitantes de los pueblos de la República; y exterior la que se despacha á otras naciones ó venga de ellas.

Art. 2º Las cartas que vengán del exterior, ó que se despachen para fuera de la República, deben calificarse para la exención de los derechos de porte, según su peso. Si no llegan á media onza, son sencillas; dobles si pesan media onza y no llegan á tres cuartos; triples si pesan tres cuartos y no alcanzan á una onza; y se llaman pliegos ó paquetes, cuando pesan una onza ó más.

Art. 3º El porte de las cartas que se despachen por los correos del interior, será á razón de dos reales la onza en las mismas proporciones que para la correspondencia exterior señalaban los artículos 2º y 4º.

§ único.—Desde la publicación de esta ley no se admitirán en la Administración de Correos encomiendas de dinero, ni de ninguna otra clase.

Art. 4º Los derechos de porte en la correspondencia exterior serán: por las cartas sencillas dos reales, por las dobles cuatro, por las triples seis, por los pliegos ó paquetes de una onza, ocho reales, y por los que pasan de ella, á razón de ocho reales onza. Por los impresos sueltos ó fajillados á dos reales libra. Los impresos que se reciban ó despachen cerrados, serán considerados como cartas.

Art. 5º Para satisfacer los derechos de porte, habrá dos sellos, el 1º de color rojo valor de dos reales, y el 2º azul valor de medio real. Estos sellos se entregarán por la Subsecretaría de Hacienda al Administrador general de correos, como cargo objetivo, para el expendio en su oficina y en la de sus subalternos, y se llevarán las cuentas á la manera que la del papel sellado, ó en la forma que el Gobierno disponga.

Art. 6º Todas las cartas que se pongan ó entreguen en las oficinas de correos y los impresos que se destinan para el exterior deben franquearse: esto es, deben tener los sellos que correspondan á su valor. Las cartas ó impresos dichos que se introduzcan por el buzón ó se lleven á las oficinas de correos sin los sellos correspondientes, serán siempre detenidos por los Administradores hasta que se les pongan por las personas ó quienes interese su despacho ó por sus recomandados. Al efecto los mismos Administradores publicarán por la Gaceta oficial la dirección de las

cartas ó impresos detenidos, sea por falta absoluta de sellos ó por que no tengan los bastantes á cubrir su valor según su destino y peso.

Art. 7º Tampoco podrán salir de las oficinas de correos las cartas, encomiendas ó impresos del exterior, sin los sellos necesarios según su valor. Para evitar equivocaciones, como para el mas expedito despacho, los Administradores de San José y Puntarenas pesarán la correspondencia que reciban de fuera de la República, á presencia del Fiscal de Hacienda el primero y del Contador de la Aduana el segundo; y pondrán á cada pieza los sellos respectivos á excepción de las que haya que remitir á otras Administraciones, cobrando su valor á los interesados. Si estos no quisieren satisfacerlo, ó no ocurriera por cualquier motivo á recibir su correspondencia, pasado un año se tendrá por rozagada, y los Administradores se datarán su valor, bajo las formalidades requeridas.

Art. 8º Además de los dos sellos rojo y azul destinados para la satisfacción de los derechos de porte, habrá una marquilla de tinta negra de la que usarán los Administradores de correos, poniéndola siempre sobre los sellos rojos y azules de las cartas ó impresos que reciban ó despachen para inutilizarlos; previniendo así el fraude de que vuelvan á franquearse ó á entregarse otras piezas con sellos que ya han servido.

Art. 9º La correspondencia interior puede tenerse por los correos públicos franqueada con el sello azul y libremente por expresos ó por los particulares que viajan de un pueblo á otro. La correspondencia exterior se considera como monopolio fiscal; y por lo mismo no puede recibirse ni despacharse sin la previa satisfacción de los derechos de porte.

Art. 10. Los Capitanes de puerto antes de despachar los buques, y en la visita de fondo, exigirán á los Capitanes, Contadores, Sobre-cargos y demás individuos de la tripulación como también á los pasajeros, la correspondencia que lleven de la República ó que conduzcan á ella, y detendrán las cartas que rayan sin los sellos necesarios, y todas las que vengán del exterior entregando estas y otras bajo recibo, en la Administración de Correos del mismo puerto, para que se publiquen el nombre de las personas y lugares á que se dirijan las que iban de la República, y para que se remitan á la Administración del pueblo de su destino, las que se conducían á ella, á fin de que las primeras puedan despacharse legalmente, poniéndoles los sellos necesarios el interesado ó otro á su recomendar, y que las segundas se saquen por sus dueños pagando el porte correspondiente. Las mismas obligaciones desempeñarán los Comandantes de las fronteras, y de las Garitas y resguardos que haya en ellas, respecto á los viajeros ó caminantes y gentes de su servicio y á la correspondencia que puedan conducir, la cual en el caso de ser detenida deberán de remitir á la Administración de

Correos mas inmediata, para los efectos que se han expresado.

Art. 11. Los Capitanes de buques, Contadores, Pilotos, Sobre-cargos y demás individuos de la tripulación, lo mismo que los pasajeros que introduzcan cartas á la República, ó las lleven de ella al exterior fraudulentamente, serán penados con el duplo del porte por cada carta que así conduzcan. De esta disposición se exceptúan las cartas de recomendación, las cuales pueden ser llevadas libremente, siempre que las conduzcan abiertas.

Art. 12. El Administrador de correos de los puertos entregará á los Capitanes de los mismos junto con la correspondencia que se debe conducir a bordo el número que se considere suficiente de sellos rojos, para que este empleado ponga á cada carta que se le presente sin franquear, los sellos que correspondan según su peso, previa satisfacción de su valor por los interesados; entregando la correspondencia recibida a bordo, igualmente que la mala recibida de la Administración, al empleado que deba hacerse cargo de ella. Las cantidades así recaudadas por los Capitanes de puerto, serán entregadas con cuenta y razón á los Administradores, y devolverán los sellos sobrantes hasta completar la cantidad que hubiesen recibido del Administrador.

Art. 13. Los Capitanes de buque, Contadores, Sobre-cargos y demás individuos de la tripulación á quienes en cualquier tiempo se averigüe que infringen ó han infringido cualesquiera de las disposiciones de los dos artículos anteriores, satisfarán dobles los derechos de porte de cada carta; y los pasajeros y particulares que no entreguen á los Capitanes de puerto al tiempo de la visita; los que reciban cartas para conducir, y los que remitan al exterior correspondencia por cualquier conducto y en cualquier cantidad que sea, incurrirán en la pena del duplo de que antes se ha hecho mérito por cada oncia que se descubra que se han defraudado los derechos del fisco. Los mismos Capitanes de puerto exigirán efectivamente de aquellos que se declaro estar incurso en ellas, las multas de que habla este artículo.

Art. 14. Cuando alguna persona quisiera mandar correo para fuera de la República, ha de presentar al Administrador general ó al subalterno de la Provincia, ó del pueblo de su ciudadanía, el comitador que tenga buscado, y la correspondencia que deba llevar con los sellos respectivos; el funcionario detendrá las cartas que no tengan ó en que falten algunos, entendido el peso, hasta que se les ponga por el interesado los necesarios y después de juramentado el expreso sobre si lleva ó no otra correspondencia que la manifestada, le despachará si no la llevase, como á los correos públicos, sin exigir otro derecho ó contribución. El expreso que conduce fraudulentamente otras cartas que las manifestadas, además de sufrir la pena como perjurio, sufrirá la prescrita en el artículo 11.

Art. 15. Es libre de porte la correspondencia oficial de los Supremos Poderes de la República, de la Co-

mandancia General, del Obispo y sus Vicarios, y generalmente de todos los funcionarios públicos, civiles, eclesiásticos, militares y de hacienda, con tal que las cartas de oficio tengan la marquilla de la oficina respectiva; también están exentos de porte los impresos sueltos ó fajillados que se despachan por el correo del interior. El abuso de los sellos ó marquillas de las oficinas públicas que se cometa por los jefes de ellas ó por sus subalternos, poniéndolos en sus cartas particulares para defraudar los derechos de porte, será castigado en el defraudador con diez pesos de multa por la primera vez, veinte por la segunda y cincuenta con destitución de empleo é inhabilidad para ejercer otro destino ó cargo público, por la tercera.

Art. 16. El derecho de certificación de cartas correspondirá al Tesoro Nacional, debiéndose cobrar cuatro reales por las cartas del interior, y ocho por las del exterior, cuando se quieran remitir certificadas; sin perjuicio de los derechos de porte.

Art. 17. No pudiendo dictarse reglas fijas é inalterables en este país naciente y en continua expectación de su adelanto, sobre la organización del servicio público en el ramo de correos, porque así el número y las atribuciones de los empleados de las oficinas, como de las carreras que hayan de establecerse, las horas de entrada y salida de correos, su celeridad, la frecuencia de las comunicaciones y aun los distintos medios de obtenerlas, se han de adaptar á los progresos y necesidades del mismo país; se autoriza al Poder Ejecutivo para que arregle este ramo de la Administración según lo exijan las distintas circunstancias, y por consiguiente para hacer los gastos necesarios; mientras tanto quedan vijentes las disposiciones contenidas en los capítulos 16 á 19 del Reglamento de Hacienda en todo cuanto no se opongan al presente decreto.

Á LA CÁMARA DE SENADORES.

Dado en el Salon de Sesiones del Palacio Nacional, San José, Agosto dieciocho de mil ochocientos sesenta y dos. — *Julian Volio*, Presidente. — *Demetrio M. Iglesias*, Secretario. — *Jacinto Trejos*, Secretario.

PASE AL PODER EJECUTIVO.

Salá de la Cámara de Senadores, en el Palacio Nacional, San José, Setiembre primero de mil ochocientos sesenta y dos. — *Mmanuel J. Carazo*, Presidente. — *J. S. Ramirez*, Secretario. — *Manuel Castro*, Secretario.

Palacio Nacional, San José, Setiembre nuevo de mil ochocientos sesenta y dos.

EDICTOSE.

JOSÉ MARIA MONTEALEGRE.

El Secretario de Estado en el Despacho de Hacienda.

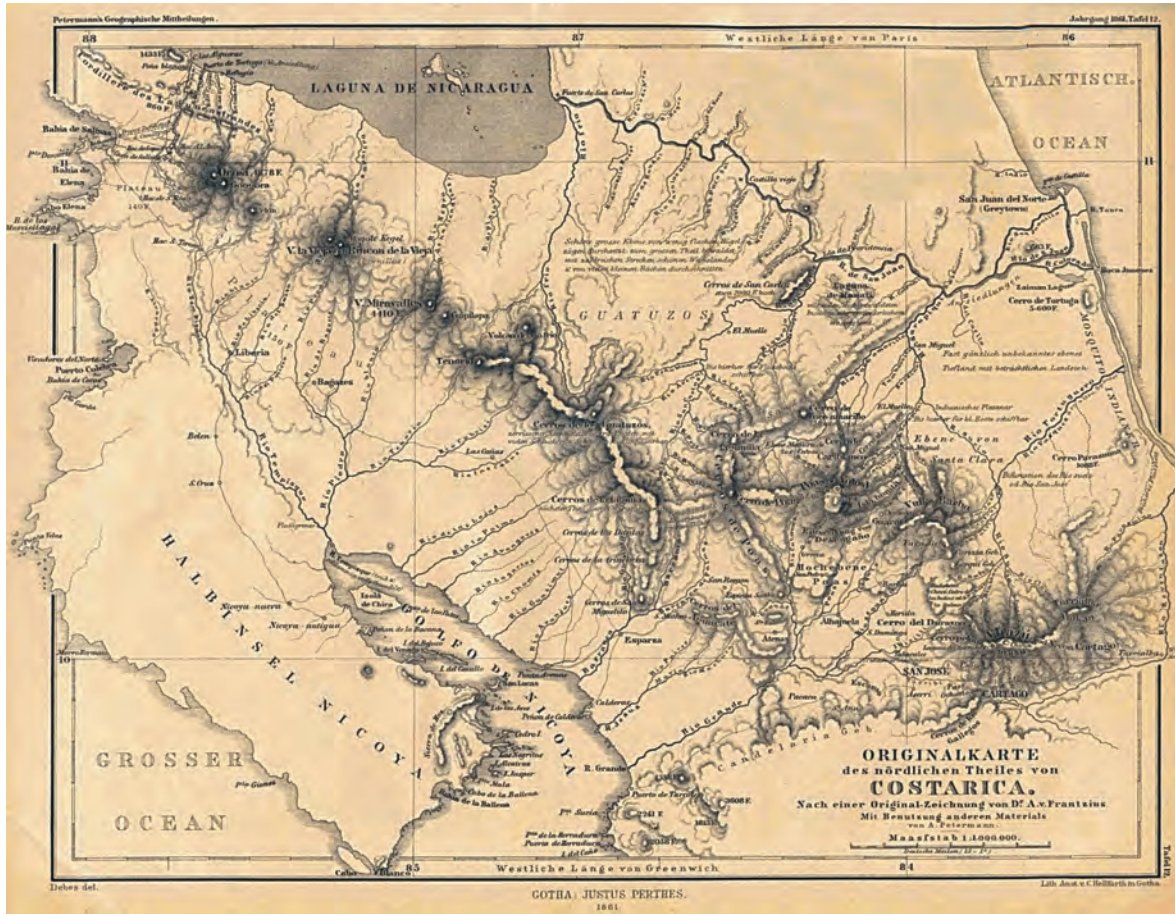
FRANCISCO MONTEALEGRE.

MINISTERIO DE INSTRUCCION Pública.

N. — Honorable Sr. Secretario de Instrucción Pública. — Gobernación de la



1764 map



1861 map



1862 map





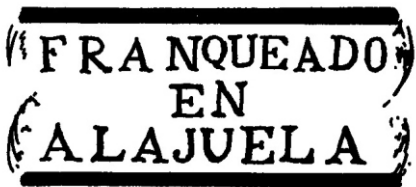


1862 map detail

Appendix A




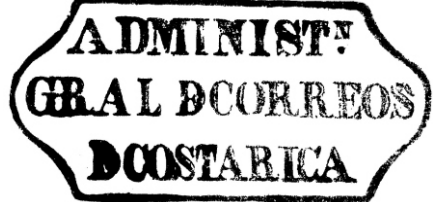



Postal Markings to 1883

Postal markings identified in the body of the book are listed here for convenient reference. The illustrations are not of sufficient quality to be used for exact matching. Please see cover illustrations in the individual chapters for that purpose. The date of earliest reported usage (EKU) is given as well as latest reported usage (LKU) when available. Suffixes used indicate primary use of the marking as either a postmark (pmk), cancel (can), or auxiliary (aux) marking.






Alajuela

Marking	Type	Notes
	ALA-Pmk1	EKU: 1808 LKU: 1843
	ALA-Pmk2	EKU: 1852 LKU: 1877 (postal form) known also as a cancel on loose stamps
	ALA-Pmk3	EKU: March 1852 LKU: 1862
	ALA-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1866 LKU: ca. 1875 also used as a cancel
	ALA-Pmk5	EKU: November 15, 1875 LKU: January 30, 1879 usually used in conjunction with ALA-Can-2 or as a cancel
ALAJUELA 25 NOV. 72.	ALA-Pmk6	EKU: November 24, 1872 LKU: February 14, 1873 only reported on off cover stamps


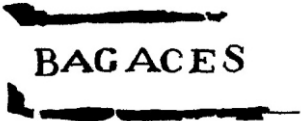
APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	ALA-PMK7	EKU: March 8, 1882 not seen on cover but on a piece with 1863 issue
FRANCO	ALA-Aux1	EKU: ca. 1821 reported by Harris
	ALA-Aux2	EKU: ca. 1842 LKU: 1864
	ALA-Aux3	EKU: ca. 1875 found used as an official cachet on cover as well as a cancel
	ALA-Aux4	EKU: ca. 1869 known used as a genuine cancel but the device was also used after 1882 applied by favor
	ALA-Can1	EKU: ca. 1864 LKU: ca. 1875 widely spaced bars cannot be distinguished reliably from other numeral types
	ALA-Can2	EKU: ca. 1874 LKU: ca. 1879 usually found in conjunction with ALA-Pmk5
	ALA-Can3	unconfirmed on cover but apparently of the period






Atenas

Marking	Type	Notes
	ATE-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1870 LKU: ca. 1880 exists on cover and loose stamps, strikes from worn device show one or more "nail heads"
	ATE-Pmk2	EKU: September 21, 1879 known only on a loose stamp
	ATE-Pmk3	EKU: June 25, 1881 LKU: December 10, 1882
	ATE-Can1	known on loose stamps only
	ATE-Can2	known on loose stamps only


Bagases

Marking	Type	Notes
	BAG-Pmk1	EKU: 1803 LKU: 1824 reported in brown, blue, black and greenish black
	BAG-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1845 LKU: 1849






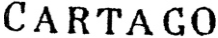


APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	BAG-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1849 LKU: March 1854
	BAG-TREE	this marking is fraudulent, it exists on privately carried letters dated between May 3, 1846 and September 17, 1849, see page 19
	BAG-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1865 LKU: 1879
	BAG-Pmk5	EKU: July 17, 1880 LKU: November 1, 1881 found on loose stamps only, known in purple dated 1881
	BAG-Pmk6	EKU: ca. 1882 found on a single loose 1863-issue stamp and primarily used after 1883

Cartago


Marking	Type	Notes
	CAR-Pmk1	EKU: 1797 LKU: 1813 early uses in black, later examples in brown

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883


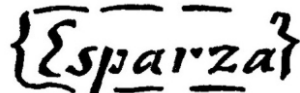




Marking	Type	Notes
	CAR-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1802 LKU: ca. 1824 used concurrently with CAR-Pmk1, all examples in brown
	CAR-Pmk3	EKU: 1843 LKU: 1853 struck in dark brown
	CAR-Pmk4	EKU: 1844 LKU: 1870
	CAR-Pmk5	EKU: 1849 LKU: 1854 text is 35.5mm long, 5mm high
	CAR-Pmk5a	EKU: 1854 LKU: 1863 device altered removing most of 3 frame lines
	CAR-Pmk6	EKU: ca. 1864 text is 28mm long, 4.5mm high
	CAR-Pmk7	EKU: ca. 1864 LKU: 1882 device among those used by Ross to manufacture "used" stamps after 1882
	CAR-Can1	EKU: ca. 1866 widely spaced bars cannot be distinguished reliably from other numeral types

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883


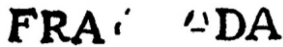



Desmonte

Marking	Type	Notes
	DES-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1879 known only on loose stamps, all are medio real from plate 2


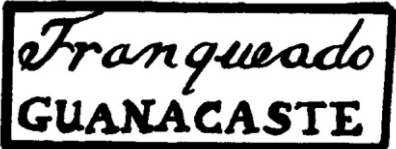

Esparta

Marking	Type	Notes
	ESP-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1825 LKU: 1871 reported by Harris as 1807
	ESP-Pmk2	EKU: 1832 manuscript postmark that exists in several variations
	ESP-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1871 LKU: ca. 1878
	ESP-Pmk4	EKU: January 19, 1878 LKU: September 26, 1879 found on loose stamps and one exterior cover with stamp tied by ESP-Can1
	ESP-Pmk5	EKU: March 12, 1881 LKU: October 2, 1882 (name changed) found only on loose stamps
	ESP-Can1	EKU: ca. 1864 found on one exterior cover and rarely on loose stamps

Grecia







Marking	Type	Notes
	GRE-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1862
	GRE-Aux1	EKU: ca. 1879
	GRE-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1863 LKU: ca. 1882
	GRE-Pmk3	EKU: January 8, 1877 LKU: May 8, 1878 used as a postmark in conjunction with GRE-Pmk2 used as a cancel
	GRE-Pmk4	EKU: February 4, 1881 LKU: December 21, 1882

Guanacaste









Marking	Type	Notes
	GUA-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1799 LKU: 1847
	GUA-Pmk2	EKU: 1841 LKU: 1842
	GUA-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1848 LKU: ca. 1850

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Heredia (see also Villa Vieja)





Marking	Type	Notes
	HER-Aux1	EKU: 1848 marking is 48 by 26mm and larger than the similar marking used at Puntarenas
	HER-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1848 LKU: 1862 earliest dated example is 1851 and no further dated examples known
	HER-Pmk2	EKU: 1851 LKU: 1862
	HER-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1863 LKU: ca. 1870 text is 35.5mm long, 5mm high
CORREOS DE HEREDIA	HER-Aux2	EKU: ca. 1865 41 by 2mm, not an accurate tracing
	HER-Can1	EKU: May 11, 1866 single example known on cover and cannot be distinguished from other numerals
	HER-Pmk4	EKU: July 28, 1880 LKU: after 1883 known on piece only, no examples of "with stars" style postmark has been reported

Liberia



Marking	Type	Notes
	LIB-Pmk1	EKU: undated single example reported
	LIB-Pmk2	EKU: December 6, 1854 single example reported
	LIB-Pmk3	EKU: March 4, 1854 two examples known, both same day
	LIB-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1859 reported by Harris but not seen
LIBER A	LIB-Pmk5	EKU: ca. 1859 probably worn device of LIB-Pmk4
	LIB-Pmk6	EKU: ca. 1863 LKU: ca. 1882
	LIB-Can1	EKU: ca. 1863 seen as cancel on covers from Liberia
	LIB-Pmk7	EKU: ca. 1875 LKU: February 20, 1880
	LIB-Pmk8	EKU: March 27, 1882 LKU: after 1883

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883


Limon

Marking	Type	Notes
	LIM-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1877 LKU: 1882 large letters (5mm)
	LIM-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1877 LKU: 1882 squat letters (3mm)
	LIM-Pmk3	EKU: January 17, 1877 LKU: March 17, 1878
	LIM-Pmk4	EKU: January 21, 1882 LKU: December 18, 1882




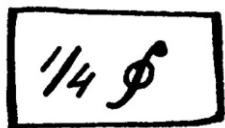

Moin

Marking	Type	Notes
	MOI-Pmk1	EKU: February 11, 1849 LKU: 1862 large letters (5mm)
	MOI-Aux1	EKU: December 15, 1853 single example known









Nicoya

Marking	Type	Notes
	NIC-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1797 LKU: 1820 earliest dated example is 1806, marking exists in black and brown
FRANCO	NIC-Aux1	EKU: ca. 1855 one undated example known







Puntarenas

Marking	Type	Notes
	PUN-Pmk1	EKU: November 13, 1848 LKU: November 18, 1848 brigantine illustrated marking, two genuine examples known
	PUN-Pmk2	EKU: 1850 LKU: 1863
	PUN-Aux1	EKU: 1851 LKU: 1863 marking is 47 by 25mm
	PUN-Aux2	EKU: ca. 1850 weight handstamp for one-quarter ounce
	PUN-Aux3	EKU: ca. 1858 a one real rate handstamp




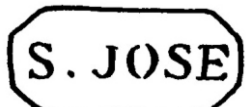
APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	PUN-Aux4	EKU: November 1854 two reales rate handstamp, one example reported
	PUN-Aux5	EKU: June 1855 packet rate handstamp, one example reported
	PUN-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1877 found on certified letters and loose stamps
	PUN-Pmk4	EKU: February 6, 1874 LKU: April 1874 full inner circle which quickly deteriorated to traces only by April 16, 1874
	PUN-Pmk4a	EKU: April 16, 1874 LKU: December 12, 1879 inner circle missing or only minor traces
	PUN-Pmk5	EKU: December 29, 1880 LKU: December 27, 1882 no stars at sides, different spelling of name
	PUN-Can1	EKU: ca. 1863 fewer than five reported examples, all on loose stamps
	PUN-Can2	EKU: June 29, 1867 LKU: December 27, 1882 widely spaced bars and taller but cannot be distinguished reliably from other types



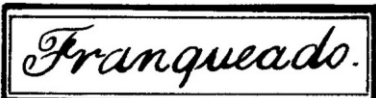



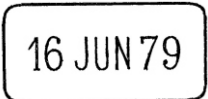


APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	PUN-Can3	EKU: January 20, 1872 LKU: January 25, 1874
	PUN-Can3a	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3
	PUN-Can3b	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3
	PUN-Can3c	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3 showing nail head
	PUN-Can3d	EKU: ca. 1873 LKU: 1882 variant of PUN-Can3 showing nail heads
	PUN-Can4	EKU: November 16, 1877 LKU: ca. 1882 the only dated example on cover is 1877 but evidently used till end of period



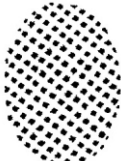
San Jose

Marking	Type	Notes
	SJ-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1818 LKU: 1830 struck in red in early period and then in black
	SJ-Aux1	EKU: 1822 LKU: ca. 1825 exists in red and black
	SJ-Pmk2	EKU: 1839 one example reported
	SJ-Pmk3	EKU: ca. 1840 LKU: ca. 1863 used into the adhesive era




APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Notes
	SJ-Aux2	EKU: 1848 LKU: 1852
	SJ-Pmk4	EKU: ca. 1850 LKU: ca. 1873 exists in red and black
	SJ-Aux3	EKU: ca. 1851 (also Guancaste in 1837) LKU: ca. 1860 device has survived into 20th century
	SJ-Aux4	EKU: ca. 1856
	SJ-Can1	EKU: December 10, 1864 LKU: July 24, 1879 narrow spaced bars and shorter but cannot be reliably distinguished from other types
	SJ-Pmk5	EKU: ca. 1864 LKU: December 1878
	SJ-Pmk6	EKU: November 9, 1872 LKU: October 25, 1882
	SJ-Pmk7	EKU: October 15, 1873 LKU: April 11, 1878 date in two lines
	SJ-Pmk8	EKU: February 8, 1878 LKU: September 25, 1880 replaced SJ-Pmk7

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883




Marking	Type	Notes
	SJ-Pmk9	EKU: February 1881 to March 1882 and again June 1882 until LKU: August 1882 diameter is 22.5 to 23mm and letters are 2.5mm tall, marking also used genuinely after 1883
	SJ-Pmk10	EKU: January 1882 to March 1882 and again from September 1882 until LKU: December 1882 diameter 24.5 to 25mm and letters 3mm tall, device given to Ross and applied later remainders
	SJ-Way1	EKU: 1863 LKU: 1874 marking applied at San Jose to incoming loose letters, device also used out of period by Ross

San Mateo



Marking	Type	Notes
	SM-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1865 LKU: ca. 1879 fakes exist, particularly on bisects tied to piece
	SM-Pmk2	EKU: March 25, 1880 LKU: November 9, 1880
	SM-Pmk3	EKU: April 5, 1882

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883



San Ramon

Marking	Type	Notes
	SR-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1865 LKU: ca. 1879 fakes exist, particularly on bisects tied to piece
ADMON DE CORREOS DE SAN RAMON	SR-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1870
	SR-Pmk3	EKU: March 8, 1876 LKU: March 3, 1878
	SR-Pmk4	EKU: May 4, 1880 LKU: December 26, 1882





Villa Nueva (see San Jose)

Marking	Type	Notes
	VLN-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1800 LKU: ca. 1808 exists in brown and black
	VLN-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1803 LKU: ca. 1818

Villa Vieya (see Heredia)





Marking	Type	Notes
	VLV-Pmk1	EKU: ca. 1800
	VLV-Pmk2	EKU: ca. 1813

Genuine cancels not confirmed on cover

Marking	Type	Notes
	G1	Costa Rica maintained an agency in Panama and most examples are on dos reales stamps, genuine cancel exists struck in black and purple
	G2	genuine, city of use unknown but possibly applied at San Jose to way mail
	G3	genuine, attributed to Puntarenas but that seems unlikely
CRUZ	G4	apparently genuine, possibly from Santa Cruz but none of the four examples seen show anything but the "CRUZ"
	G5	almost certainly genuine, a reverse impression of a coin with coat of arms of Costa Rica

APPENDIX A - POSTAL MARKINGS TO 1883

Fraudulent Cancels

Marking	Type	Notes
	F1	almost certainly fake as always perfectly struck in incorrect dark black ink
	F2	apparently fake or applied out of period
	F3	doubtful and probably applied out of period
	F4	doubtful and probably applied out of period




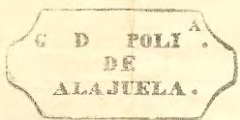


F5 - this piece shows markings from devices that were found in the San Jose post office circa 1924 and was produced as a record by Postmaster Noreiga at that time. The two markings at left exist genuine as well as applied well out of period. The two markings at right may exist genuine but all examples seen on 1863 issue stamps were applied out of period.

Appendix B





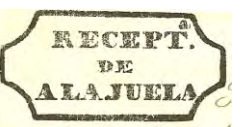
Public Cachets to 1883

Cachets used by public service officials to mark their mail for free postal service are shown here with a "Pub" suffix. The elaborate executive department cachets are illustrated on full covers in Chapter 3 and are not included. All images are from actual covers or receipts and reduced to a uniform size. They are listed in alphabetical order. The dates given are from examples on dated covers in the Mayer collection.



Alajuela

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	ALA-Pub1	1877	Admon. De Correos De Alajuela (also listed as ALA-Aux3)
	ALA-Pub2	1874	Ajencia Pral. De Policia De La Prova. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub3	1873	G D Polia. De Alejuela
	ALA-Pub4	1858	G D Polica. De Alejuela
	ALA-Pub5	1850-52	G. Polita. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub6	1850-51	Gobern. De La Prova. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub7	1868-72	Gobern Del Depart. De Alajuela




APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	ALA-Pub8	1860	Judicata De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub9	1862-73	Juzgado Civil Y D Comercio En 1a Instancia De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub10	1868	Juzgado Del Crimen De La Prova. De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub11	nd	Juzgado Del Crimen Del De Alajuela
	ALA-Pub12	1842-46	Recepta. De Alajuela (also listed as ALA-Aux2)




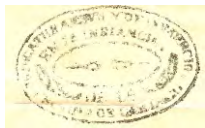

Bagaces

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	BAG-Pub1	nd	Jefatura Polit Del Canton Bagaces
	BAG-Pub2	1867	Jefatura Politica Del Canton Bagaces






Camino Al Atlantico

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	CAM-Pub1	1865	Republica D. Costa Rica Proveduria Del Camino Al Atlantico (used from Cartago)
	CAM-Pub2	1865-66	Camino Al Atlantico Seccion Angostura
	CAM-Pub3	1865-66	Camino Al Atlantico Seccion Pacuare.


Cartago

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	CAR-Pub1	1878	Admon. De Correos De Cartago
	CAR-Pub2	1870	Colegio De Cartago Costa-Rica
	CAR-Pub3	1844-49	Correos De Cartago
	CAR-Pub4	nd	Gefatura en 1ra Instancia De La Provin de Cartago
	CAR-Pub5	1847-56	Gobern DL Departto De Cartago



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	CAR-Pub6	nd	Juzgado Mila De Cartago
	CAR-Pub7	1855	Juzgado So. C De Cartago
	CAR-Pub8	1840	Receptoría De Cartago
	CAR-Pub9	1865	Receptoría De Cartago
	CAR-Pub10	1841-54	Receptorya De Cartago


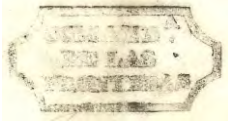
Escasu

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	ESC-Pub1	1850	Jefatura Polita De Escasú


Grecia

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GRE-Pub1	1871	Jefatura Política De Grecia
	GRE-Pub2	1877	Jefatura Política De Grecia (albino embossed cachet)


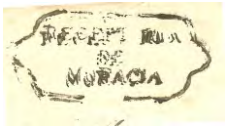


Guanacaste (Commander of the Frontier)

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GUA-Pub11	1840	Comandancia de las Fronteras
	GUA-Pub12	1847	Comanda de las Fronteras (reported on letters only)






Guanacaste and Province of Moracia (1854-1860)

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GUA-Pub1	1847-52	Gefata Polita Del Guanacaste
	GUA-Pub2	1872-80	Gobernacion de la Provincia de Guanacaste (known used from Liberia)
	GUA-Pub3	1847-50	Gobernn DL Dpartto De Guancaste
	GUA-Pub4	ca. 1858	Judiaa La 1a Insta de Moraca
	GUA-Pub5	1863-64	Judicato en 1a Insta De La Prove De Guanacaste (known used from Liberia)
	GUA-Pub6	1842-54	Judicatura Del Guanacaste

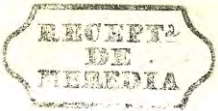

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	GUA-Pub7	1854	Judicata Prova Moracia
	GUA-Pub8	ca 1859	Recept Prov De Moracia
	GUA-Pub9	1872-79	Recepta Del Guanacaste
	GUA-Pub10	1866	Receptoría De Guanactase



Heredia

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	HER-Pub1	1851-53	Gobernacn de Departto. de Heredia
	HER-Pub2	1860-63	Gobernacn de la Prova de Heredia
	HER-Pub3	ca. 1878	Juzgado 2d Constituc De Heredia
	HER-Pub4	1840	Receptoría De Heredia (seen on way bills only)
	HER-Pub5	1842	Receptora De Heredia (seen on way bills only)



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	HER-Pub6	1846-54	Receipta De Heredia (seen on way bills only)
	HER-Pub7	1841	(Receptoría De) Heredia (seen on way bills only)

Liberia




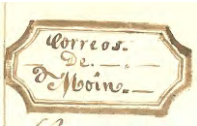

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	LIB-Pub1	1868	Secretaria Municipal (used at Liberia)
	LIB-Pub2	1877	Admon De Correos De Liberia (reported on postal receipt only)

Matina


Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	MAT-Pub1	1842-43	Admon Marita De Norte (at Matina) (found on documents)
	MAT-Pub2	1845	Aduana de Matina

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883


Moin

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	MOI-Pub1	1860	Comanda De Moin (on documents only)
	MOI-Pub2	1843-48	Comanda Del Norte (at Moin)
	MOI-Pub3	1845	Correos De Moin (manuscript) (on postal documents)
	MOI-Pub3a	1845	Correos De Moin (manuscript) (on postal documents)
	MOI-Pub4	nd	Jefatura Politica De Moin

Nicoya

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	NIC-Pub1	1851-52	Jefatura Polita DL Cantn D. Nico

Paraiso

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	PAR-Pub1	1864	Jefatura Po lita Del Paraiso

Puntarenas

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	PUN-Pub1	1864-78	Admon De Correos De Puntarenas
	PUN-Pub2	nd	Admon De Licores De Punta-Arenas
	PUN-Pub3	1850-57	Aduana de Punta-Arenas
	PUN-Pub4	1862-64	Aduana Maritima de Punta-Arenas / Repub. De Costa-Rica
	PUN-Pub5	1840	Comanda Del Puerto De Pun/ta De Arenas
	PUN-Pub6	nd	Gobernacion De La Comarca De Punatrenas
	PUN-Pub7	1851-53	Gobernacion De Punta Arenas

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

San Jose

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SJ-Pub1	1878	Administracion Del Diario Oficial Costa-Rica
	SJ-Pub2	1852-57	Administn Gral D Correos D Costa Rica (exists applied to stamps out of period)
	SJ-Pub3	1872	Admon Gral De Correos De Costa Rica / San Jose (plus date)
	SJ-Pub4	1853-56	Admon. Gral De Licores Del Pais
	SJ-Pub5	1847-58	Admon. De Tabacos.
	SJ-Pub6	1844	Correos De Costa Rica
	SJ-Pub7	1864	Costa Rica Imprenta Nacional
	SJ-Pub8	1848-51	Direccion De Camino Grales
	SJ-Pub9	nd	Fiscalia De Hacienda






APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SJ-Pub10	1843	Gefa Polita De San-Jose
	SJ-Pub11	nd	Gobern De La Prova De San Jose
	SJ-Pub12	1864	Gobern De La Prova De San Jose
	SJ-Pub13	nd	Inspectoria De Tesorias Subalternas
	SJ-Pub14	1853	Judagado De Minas (from Aguacate)
	SJ-Pub15	1842	Judicatura De S. Jose
	SJ-Pub16	1863-70	Judicatura Civil Y De Comercio En La 1a Instancia De La Provincia De San Jose
	SJ-Pub17	1867-76	Juzgado de 1a Ensta De La Provincia De San Jose
	SJ-Pub18	1849	Juzgado del Crimen.
	SJ-Pub19	ca. 1867	Juzgo D 1a Insta. El Crimen De San Jose



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SJ-Pub20	1860	Juzgado Militar De San Jose
	SJ-Pub21	nd	Ministerio De Hacienda
	SJ-Pub22	1842-56	Recepta De San-Jose
	SJ-Pub23	1840	Receptoria De S. Jose
	SJ-Pub24	1878	Republic De Costa Rica Inspeccion General De Tesorerias Subalternas
	SJ-Pub25	nd	Sec .. Consy De Instra Pubca
	SJ-Pub26	1841	Seria Mupal De San Jose
	SJ-Pub27	1882	Spia Del Gobno Ecco De La Diocesis De C. Rica
	SJ-Pub28	nd	Tesora D Pecpa De S Jose

San Ramon




Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SR-Pub1	nd	Coma De S Ramon
	SR-Pub2	1857	Gefatura Politica D Sn Ramon (33mm wide)
	SR-Pub3	nd	Gefatura Politica D Sn Ramon (40mm wide)
	SR-Pub4	1863	Gefatura Politica De La Villa De S Ramon
	SR-Pub5	1868	Gefatura Politica De S Ramon

Santa Cruz

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SC-Pub1	1825	S. Cruz Libre DPON
	SC-Pub2	nd	Geffata Polita De Santa Cruz

APPENDIX B - PUBLIC CACHETS TO 1883

Sarapiqui

Marking	Type	Dates	Text
	SAR-Pub1	1852	Comandancia Del Destacamento De Sarapiqui (44mm, on document only)
	SAR-Pub2	1853	Comandancia Del Destacamento De Sarapiqui (30mm)
	SAR-Pub3	1850	Resguardo D Sarapiqui

Appendix C

Census of 1863 - Issue Exterior Covers

This is a textual census of all the exterior covers (used to and from foreign countries) contained in the Mayer collection. Outbound usages are organized by destination, from most to least numerous. The inbound covers bearing adhesives are summarized in the last table.

Covers to the United States

#	Date	Stamp	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Oct 25 1865	2r	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	(NYC) Steam 10	Marcial
2	Jun 10 1867	4r	San Jose dateless	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	(NYC) Steam 20	Marcial
3	Jun 14 1867	2r (3)	Puntarenas numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	(NYC) Steam 20	Marcial
4	Mar 25 1868	½r (5)	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Apr 10 "US 10 Notes"	Marcial
5	Aug 25 1868	2r	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Nov 14 steamship 10	Marcial
6	Jun 25 1869	2r	San Jose numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Jul 10 steamship 10	Marcial
7	May 11 1870	2r	San Jose dots	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama	NYC Jun 29 steamship 10	Marcial
8	ca. 1872	2r	Cartago oval	Alexandria, VA	Puntarenas via Panama (?)	NYC Sep 25 steamship 10	Snowden railroad imprint
9	ca. 1872	2r	Alajuela numeral	New York, NY	Puntarenas via Panama (?)	NYC Feb 28 steamship 10	Lanman Kemp
10	ca. 1876	2r	Antenas oval	Alexandria, VA	Puntarenas via Panama (?)	NYC Mar 4 steamship 10	Snowden
11	Dec 17 1872	2r	San Jose boxed date	San Francisco, CA	Puntarenas via Panama	SFC Jan 30 (steam) due 10	Montealegre
12	May 23 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Sacramento, CA	Puntarenas via Panama	SFC Jun 25 "10" due	Nelson

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to United States (continued)

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
13	Jun 5 1874	2r	San Jose boxed date	San Francisco, CA	Puntarenas via Panama	SFC Jul 2 "10" due	Montealegre "Steam Panama"
14	Mar 25 1878	2r	San Jose boxed date	New York, NY	Limon via Colon	NYC Apr 16 Due 5 duplex	Lanman Kemp
15	Sep 26 1879	2r	Esparza fancy cancel	Lone Rock, WI	Limon via Colon	NY Oct 14 Due 5 duplex	Johnson 5c due stamp
16	Mar 20 1882	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Port Chester, NY	Limon via Colon	NYC Apr 13 Due 5 duplex	Smith 5c US stamp
17	Oct 10 1882	2r	San Jose numeral	Springfield, MA	Limon via Colon	NYC Nov 3 Due 5 duplex	Stiles

Covers to France

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Sep 10 1868	2r	San Jose numeral	Montpellier	Puntarenas via Panama	London Calais	Blouquier & Leenhardt
2	Jul 24 1869	4r	San Jose numeral	Montpellier	Puntarenas via Panama	Panama Transit FR Line A	Blouquier & Leenhardt
3	Sep 26 1877	2r	San Jose boxed date	Nantes	Limon via Colon	FR Line A (Panama)	Briand
4	Jun 25 1878	2r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Puntarenas via Panama	Colon Transit Calais Jul 30	del Pont
5	Aug 1 1878	2r	Cartago oval	Bordeaux	Puntarenas via Panama	Colon Transit Calais Sep 12	Chauvier
6	Aug 1879	2r	San Jose numeral	Paris	Limon via Colon	FR Line D (Panama)	Istria
7	Feb 23 1880	2r	Grecia oval	Paris	Puntarenas via Panama	Panama (Brit) Line A circle	Dambron
8	May 25 1879	4r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	London Calais	Tavolara

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to France (continued)

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
9	Jun 11 1881	4r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit Calais Jul 12	Millet
10	Jul 14, 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	Calais	del Pont
11	Oct 25 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Paris	Limon via Colon	London	del Pont 1f + 60c dues
12	Nov 25 1882	4r	San Jose double circle	Paris	Limon via Colon	Calais	del Pont 1f due stamp
13	Nov 25 1882	2r	San Jose double circle	Paris	Limon via Colon	Calais	del Pont 1f due stamp
14	Dec 18 1882	2r	Limon double circle	Paris	Limon via Colon	FR Line D (Aspinwall)	del Pont

Covers to Italy

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	(Sep 11 1867)	2r	Panama FR Line A	Florence	Puntarenas via Panama	Paris	Sec. of Foreign Affairs
2	Aug 12 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London Registered	Frapolli GB 1sh + 1d (8)
3	Aug 24 1873	2r + 4r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London Registered	Frapolli GB 1sh (3) + 1d (4)
4	Mar 11 1874	2r (2)	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	(Registered)	Frapolli GB 1sh (2)
5	Oct 10 1877	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon		De Angelis 30c + 40c Dues

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to Italy (continued)

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
6	Jun 12 1880	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome Fwd to France	Limon via Colon		Vansittart 1L + 60c Dues
7	Feb 25 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London	Vansittart 1L + 10c(2) Dues
8	Mar 25 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Puntarenas via Panama	BR Panama FR Line A	Vansittart 10c(2) Dues
9	Apr 14 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Rome	Limon via Colon	London	Vansittart
10	Oct 25, 1882	2r	San Jose boxed date	Naples	Limon via Colon	London	Mearico 1L(2) + 10c(2) Dues

Covers to Great Britain

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Jan 9 1876	½r bisect	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit	Barclay Bevan due 1d
2	Dec 9 1877	½r bisect	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit	obliterated due 1d
3	May 11 1879	½r bisect	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon	Colon Transit	Murriet Co. due 1d
4	Oct 12 1879	½r bisect	Puntarenas numeral	London	Puntarenas via Panama	GB Panama	obliterated due 1d
5	Feb 12 1881	2r	San Jose boxed date	London	Limon via Colon		Gruat & Bonn due 1sh
6	Dec 27 1882	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Swansea	Limon via Colon		Vivian & Sons (accepted)

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Covers to Additional Destinations

#	Date	Stamps	Origin Postmark	Destination	Exit Port	Transit Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	Sep 29 1862	2r	San Jose oval	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Crosby due 2r
2	Feb 21 1874	4r	San Jose boxed date	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Licignano due 2r / 4r
3	ca. 1870's	2r	San Jose numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Brenes. due 1r
4	Nov 1 1882	½r	Puntarenas numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas		Arzu red "10" c
5	May 15 1863	2r	San Jose oval	Salvador	Puntarenas		Yrungaray
6	Aug 14 1863	2r	San Jose oval	Salvador	Puntarenas		Yrungaray
7	Dec 29 1880	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Nova Scotia (Halifax)	Puntarenas	New York "T" due	Hechler
8	Jul 18 1881	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Nova Scotia (Halifax)	Puntarenas	New York "T" due	Hechler
9	Jul 15 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Germany (Frankfurt)	Limon via Colon	Colon London	Buttel
10	Aug 4 1873	2r	San Jose boxed date	Germany (Frankfurt)	Limon via Colon	Colon London	Buttel
11	Jun 10 1874	2r + 4r	San Jose cds	Spain (Barcelona)	Limon via Colon	Colon	Marti & Codolar 1p due (front only)
12	Oct 24 1865	2r	San Jose numeral	Switzerland (Panbio)	Limon via Colon	London Calais	Michella
13	Sep 4 1872	2r	San Jose oval	Peru (Lima)	Puntarenas via Panama	GB Panama	Chavez BG 6d "C35"

APPENDIX C - CENSUS OF 1863 - ISSUE EXTERIOR COVERS

Inbound Covers

#	Date	Stamps	Cancel	Origin	Entry Port	Origin Postmark	Addressee/ Notes
1	May 21 1864	2r	San Jose numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala	Jimines
2	Jun 7 1864	2r	Puntarenas numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala	Hedsa
3	Jun 7 1864	2r	Cartago oval	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala	Rojas
4	Oct 16 1868	2r	Cartago numeral	Guatemala	Puntarenas	Guatemala red "Franca"	Gurman ms 2 rs
5	May 15 1863	2r	Puntarenas numeral	United States	Puntarenas	New York	Dewar

Bibliography

Books

Harris, Leo J. *Central America, Postal History and a Listing of Prephilatelic Postmarks*. New York, NY: The Collectors Club, Inc., 1986.

Hubbard, Walter and Richard F. Winter, *North Atlantic Mail Sailings, 1840-75*. Canton, OH: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 1988.

Fossum, Earl G. and Hector H. Mena, *The Index to Costa Rican Philatelic Literature (1863-1993)*. Baton Rouge, LA: Society for Costa Rica Collectors, 1993.

Goodman, Roland A. (Editor). *Guatemala, A handbook of the postal history and philately of Guatemala*. London, UK: The International Society of Guatemala Collectors, 1969.

Howat, The Rev. J.N.T. *South American Packets*. London, UK: The Postal History Society, Inc., 1984.

Kenton, Phil J. and Harry G. Parsons, *Early Mail Routings of The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, 1842-1879*. Surry, UK: The Postal History Society, 1999.

Mata, Dr. Carlos Saenz Mata, *Catalogo de Sellos Postales de Costa Rica*. Marble Falls, TX: Society for Costa Rica Collectors, 1978.

Mena, Hector H. *Costa Rica Postal Catalog*. Marble Falls, TX: Society for Costa Rica Collectors, Third Edition, 2004.

Molina, Felipe. *Bosquejo de la Republica de Costa Rica*. New York, 1851.

Moubray, Jane and Michael. *British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations, 1840-1875*. London, UK: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1992.

Salles, Raymond. *La Poste Maritime Francaise, Tome IV*. Limassol, Cyprus: Reprint by James Bendon, 1992.

Stone, Robert. *A Caribbean Neptune: The Maritime Postal Communications of the Greater and Lesser Antilles in the 19th Century*. New York, NY, The Philatelic Foundation, 1993.

Wierenga, Theron. *United States Incoming Steamship Mail, 1847-1875, Second Edition*. Austin, TX: U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, Inc., 2000.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles and Journals

Costa Rica Filatelica, publication of the Sociedad Filatelica de Costa Rica (published irregularly, 1933-71).

Filatelia Costarricense, quarterly publication of the Club Filatelico de San Jose (1951-65).

Mechin, R.J., and Alex A. Cohen. "Costa Rica, First Postage Stamps of 1863," *The Collectors Club Philatelist* XXVII (1948), no. 2: 7--17, no.3: 23--41, no.4: 15--35.

Mitchell, H. Dana., ed. *Costa Rican Philatelist*, in English (1952-55).

The Oxcart, quarterly publication of the Society for Costa Rica Collectors.

Government Publications

(Republica de Costa-Rica) *Gaceta Oficial* (September 15, 1862 issue shown opposite)

(Spain, Superintendencia) *Ordenanza General De Correos, Postas, Caminos y Demas Ramas*, Madrid, Spain, 1794.

Websites

<http://www.socorico.org> (Society of Costa Rica Collectors)

<http://www.rfrajola.com/mcr/mcr.htm> (Mayer Costa Rica as shown at Washington 2006)

<http://babelfish.yahoo.com> (translation website)

<http://www.davidrumsey.com> (David Rumsey map collection)

<http://query.nytimes.com/search> (*New York Times* archive of articles from 1851 onward)

SUSCRIPCION.

En precio de diez reales adelantados por semestre y se recibe en esta imprenta. Las personas de las demas provincias de la Republica que deseen suscribirse, pueden hacerlo en las Administraciones de Correos. Los números sueltos se venden a un real cada uno.

GACETA OFICIAL.

OBSERVACIONES.

Se admiten gratis los comunicados de interés público, y los de particular á un precio convencional.—Se insertan avisos á medio real la línea por cada tres inserciones, siempre que pasen de ocho líneas, por no llegarse á estas en precio será el de cuatro rs. el aviso.

ADVERTENCIA.—El S. Gobierno, con el fin de proteger y hacer efectiva la libertad de la prensa, y en atencion á que en Costa Rica no se publica hoy otro periódico que la Gaceta, ofrece las columnas de este á la libre discusion; advirtiéndole que, solo debe reputarse como oficial lo que bajo este título se publica, no debiendo tenerse como tal, ni como semi-oficial todo lo demas que el periódico contenga.

SEMESTRE: 7.

San José, Sábado 13 de Setiembre de 1862.

NUMERO 165.

OFICIAL.

Nº 2.

El Senado y Cámara de Representantes de la República de Costa-Rica, reunidos en Congreso.

Para facilitar el pago y la recaudacion de los derechos sobre el porte de correspondencia.

DECRETAN:

Art. 1º La correspondencia es interior ó exterior; es interior la que se cruza entre los habitantes de los pueblos de la República; y exterior la que se despacha á otras naciones ó venga de ellas.

Art. 2º Las cartas que vengán del exterior, ó que se despachen para fuera de la República, deben calificarse para la exencion de los derechos de porte, segun su peso. Si no llegan á media onza, son sencillas; dobles si pesan media onza y no llegan á tres cuartos; triples si pesan tres cuartos y no alcanzan á una onza; y se llaman pliegos ó paquetes, cuando pesan una onza ó más.

Art. 3º El porte de las cartas que se despachen por los correos del interior, será á razon de dos reales la onza en las mismas proporciones que para la correspondencia exterior señalan los artículos 2º y 4º.

§ único.—Desde la publicacion de esta ley no se admitirán en la Administracion de Correos encomiendas de dinero, ni de ninguna otra clase.

Art. 4º Los derechos de porte en la correspondencia exterior serán: por las cartas sencillas dos reales, por las dobles cuatro, por las triples seis, por los pliegos ó paquetes de una onza, ocho reales, y por los que pasen de ella, á razon de ocho reales onza. Por los impresos sueltos ó fajillados á dos reales libra. Los impresos que se reciban ó despachen cerrados, serán considerados como cartas.

Art. 5º Para satisfacer los derechos de porte, habrá dos sellos, el 1º de color rojo valor de dos reales, y el 2º azul valor de medio real. Estos sellos se entregarán por la Subsecretaria de Hacienda al Administrador general de correos, como cargo efectivo, para el expendio en su oficina y en la de sus subalternos, y se llevarán las cuentas á la manera que el Gobierno disponga.

Art. 6º Todas las cartas que se pongan ó entreguen en las oficinas de correos y los impresos que se destinen para el exterior deben franquearse: esto es, deben tener los sellos que correspondan á su valor. Las cartas ó impresos dichos que se introduzcan por el buzon ó se lleven á las oficinas de correos sin los sellos correspondientes, serán siempre detenidos por los Administradores hasta que se les pongan por las personas á quienes interesen su despacho ó por sus recomandados. Al efecto los mismos Administradores publicarán por la Gaceta oficial la direccion de las

cartas ó impresos detenidos, sea por falta absoluta de sellos ó por que no tengan los bastantes á cubrir su valor segun su destino y peso.

Art. 7º Tampoco podrán salir de las oficinas de correos las cartas, encomiendas ó impresos del exterior, sin los sellos necesarios segun su valor. Para evitar equivocaciones, como para el mas espedito despacho, los Administradores de San José y Pastorenas pesarán la correspondencia que reciban de fuera de la República, á presencia del Fiscal de Hacienda el primero y del Contador de la Aduna el segundo; y pondrán á cada pieza los sellos respectivos á excepcion de las que haya que remitir á otras Administraciones, cobrando su valor á los interesados. Si estos no quisieren satisfacerlo, ó no ocurrieren por cualquier motivo á recibir su correspondencia, pasado un año se tendrá por rezagada, y los Administradores se datarán su valor, bajo las formalidades requeridas.

Art. 8º Ademas de los dos sellos rojo y azul destinados para la satisfaccion de los derechos de porte, habrá una marquilla de tinta negra, de la que usarán los Administradores de correos, poniéndola siempre sobre los sellos rojos y azules de las cartas ó impresos que reciban ó despachen para inutilizarlos; previniendo así el fraude de que vuelvan á franquearse ó á entregarse otras piezas con sellos que ya han servido.

Art. 9º La correspondencia interior puede tenerse por los correos públicos franqueada con el sello azul y libremente por expresos ó por los particulares que viajan de un pueblo á otro. La correspondencia exterior se considera como monopolio fiscal; y por lo mismo no puede recibirse ni despacharse sin la previa satisfaccion de los derechos de porte.

Art. 10. Los Capitanes de puerto antes de despachar los buques, y en la visita de fondo, exijirán á los Capitanes, Contadores, Sobre-cargos y demas individuos de la tripulacion como tambien á los pasajeros, la correspondencia que lleven de la República ó que conduzcan á ella, y detendrán las cartas que rayan sin los sellos necesarios, y todas las que vengán del exterior entregando unas y otras bajo recibo, en la Administracion de Correos del mismo puerto, para que se publiquen á que se dirijan las que iban de la República, y para que se remitan á la Administracion del pueblo de su destino las que se conducian á ella, á fin de que las primeras puedan despacharse legalmente, poniéndoles los sellos necesarios el interesado ó otro á su recomendacion, y que las segundas se saquen por sus dueños pagando el porte correspondiente. Las mismas obligaciones desempeñarán los Comandantes de las fronteras, y de las Garitas y resguardos que haya en ellas, respecto á los viajeros ó caminantes y gentes de su servicio y á la correspondencia que puedan conducir, la cual en el caso de ser detenida deberán de remitir á la Administracion de

Correos mas inmediata, para los efectos que se han expresado.

Art. 11. Los Capitanes de buques, Contadores, Pilotos, Sobre-cargos y demas individuos de la tripulacion, lo mismo que los pasajeros que introduzcan cartas á la República, ó las lleven de ella al exterior fraudulentamente, serán penados con el duplo del porte por cada carta que así conduzcan. De esta disposicion se exceptuan las cartas de recomendacion, las cuales pueden ser llevadas libremente, siempre que las conduzcan abiertas.

Art. 12. El Administrador de correos de los puertos entregará á los Capitanes de los mismos junto con la correspondencia que se debe conducir a bordo el número que se considere suficiente de sellos rojos, para que este empleado ponga á cada carta que se le presente sin franquear, los sellos que correspondan segun su peso, prévia satisfaccion de su valor por los interesados; entregando la correspondencia recibida a bordo, igualmente que la mala recibida de la Administracion, al empleado que deba hacerse cargo de ella. Las cantidades así recaudadas por los Capitanes de puerto, serán entregadas con cuenta y razon á los Administradores, y devolverán los sellos sobrantes hasta completar la cantidad que habiessen recibido del Administrador.

Art. 13. Los Capitanes de buque, Contadores, Sobre-cargos y demas individuos de la tripulacion á quienes en cualquier tiempo se averigüe que infringen ó han infringido cualesquiera de las disposiciones de los dos artículos anteriores, satisfarán dobles los derechos de porte de cada carta; y los pasajeros y particulares que no entreguen á los Capitanes de puerto al tiempo de la visita: los que reciban cartas para conducir, y los que remitan al exterior correspondencia por cualquier conducto y en cualquier cantidad que sea, incurrirán en la pena del duplo de que antes se ha hecho mérito por cada ocasion que se descubra que se han defraudado los derechos del fisco. Los mismos Capitanes de puerto exigirán ejecutivamente de aquellos que se declaro estar incurso en ellas, las multas de que habla este artículo.

Art. 14. Cuando alguna persona quisiere mandar correo para fuera de la República, ha de presentar al Administrador general ó al subalterno de la Provincia, ó del pueblo de su vecindario, el conductor que tenga buscado, y la correspondencia que deba llevar con los sellos respectivos; el funcionario detendrá las cartas que no tengan ó en que falten algunos, atendido el peso, hasta que se les ponga por el interesado los necesarios y despues de juramentado el expreso sobre si lleva ó no otra correspondencia que la manifestada, le despachará si no la llevase, como á los correos públicos, sin exigir otro derecho ó contribucion. El expreso que conduzca fraudulentamente otras cartas que las manifestadas, ademas de sufrir la pena como perjuro, sufrirá la prescrita en el artículo 11.

Art. 15. Es libro de porte la correspondencia oficial de los Supremos Poderes de la República, de la Co-

mandancia General, del Obispo y sus Vicarios, y generalmente de todos los funcionarios públicos, civiles, eclesiásticos, militares y de hacienda, con tal que las cartas de oficio tengan la marquilla de la oficina respectiva; tambien están exentos de porte los impresos sueltos ó fajillados que se despachan por el correo del interior. El abuso de los sellos ó marquillas de las oficinas públicas que se cometa por los jefes de ellas ó por sus subalternos, poniéndolos en sus cartas particulares para defraudar los derechos de porte, será castigado en el defraudador con diez pesos de multa por la primera vez, veinte por la segunda y cincuenta con destitucion de empleo ó inhabilitad para ejercer otro destino ó cargo público, por la tercera.

Art. 16. El derecho de certification de cartas corresponderá al Tesoro Nacional, debiéndose cobrar cuatro reales por las cartas del interior, y ocho por las del exterior, cuando se quieran remitir certificadas; sin perjuicio de los derechos de porte.

Art. 17. No pudiendo dictarse reglas fijas é inalterables en este pais naciente y en continua expectation de su adelantamiento, sobre la organizacion del servicio público en el ramo de correos, porque así el número y las atribuciones de los empleados de las oficinas, como de las carreras que hayan de establecerse, las horas de entrada y salida de correos, su celeridad, la frecuencia de las comunicaciones y aun los distintos medios de obtenerla, se han de adaptar á los progresos y necesidades del mismo pais: se autoriza al Poder Ejecutivo para que arreege este ramo de la Administracion segun lo exijan las distintas circunstancias, y por consiguiente para hacer los gastos necesarios; mientras tanto quedan vijentes las disposiciones contenidas en los capítulos 16 á 19 del Reglamento de Hacienda en todo cuanto no se opongan al presente decreto.

Á LA CAMARA DE SENADORES.

Dado en el Salon de Sesiones del Palacio Nacional, San José, Agosto dieziocho de mil ochocientos sesenta y dos.—Julian Valto, Presidente.== Demetrio M Iglesias, Secretario.== Jacinto Trejos, Secretario.

PASE AL PODER EJECUTIVO.

Salida de la Cámara de Senadores, en el Palacio Nacional, San José, Setiembre primero de mil ochocientos sesenta y dos.—Manuel J. Carazo, Presidente.== J. S. Ramirez, Secretario.== Manuel Castro, Secretario.

Palacio Nacional, San José, Setiembre nuevo de mil ochocientos sesenta y dos.

EDICTESE.

JOSÉ MARIA MONTEALEGRE.

El Secretario de Estado en el Despacho de Hacienda.

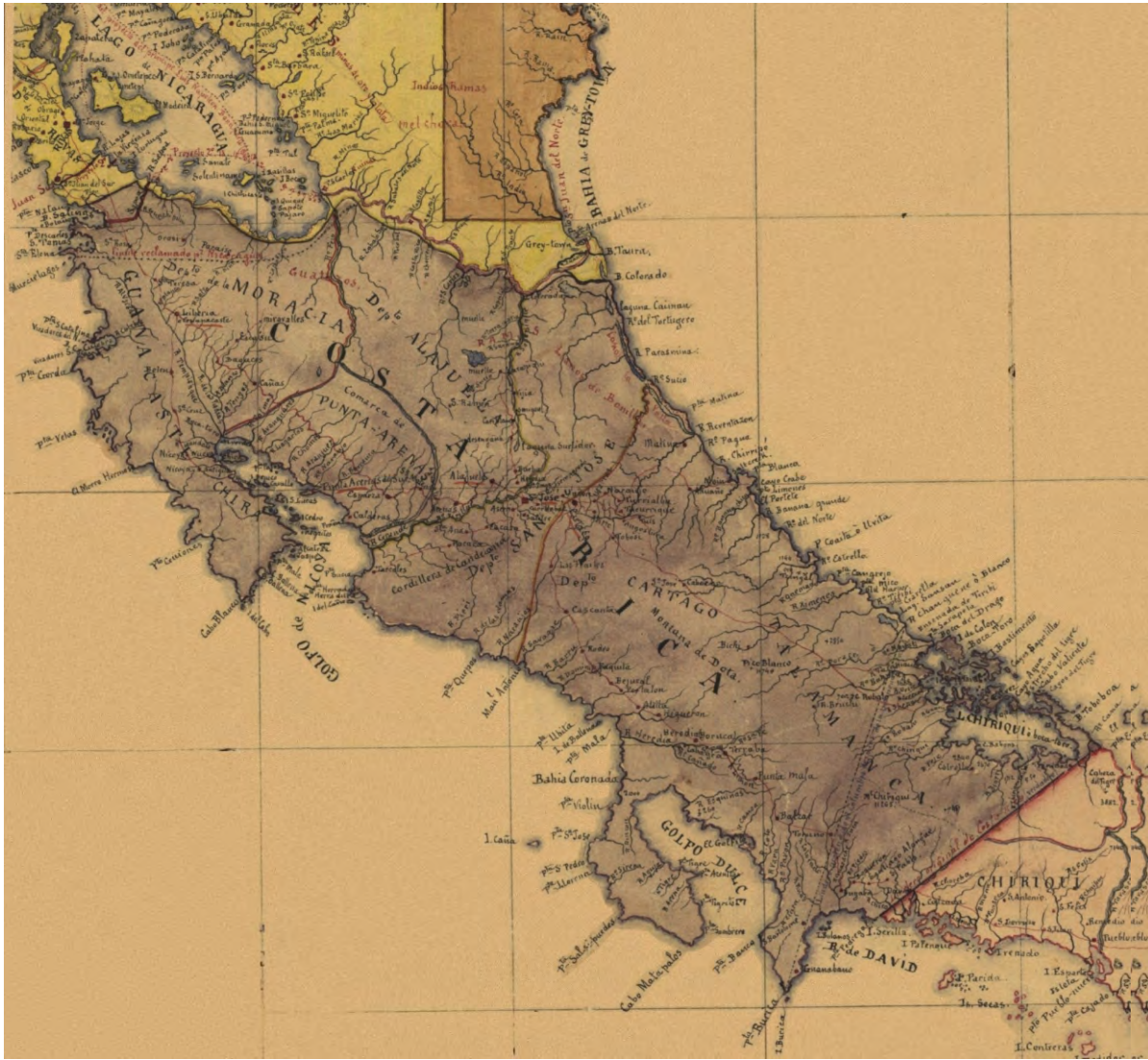
FRANCISCO MONTEALEGRE.

MINISTERIO DE INSTRUCCION PÚBLICA.

N. —Honorable Sr. Secretario de Instruccion Pública.—Gobernacion de la



1861 map



1862 map



1862 map detail

