

GUATEMALA: THE UPU RESPLENDENT QUETZALS

1881-1886



Forerunner: a quetzal set, denominated in reals, was issued before joining the UPU. This is a color trial sunken die proof.*

Approximately 250 covers exist for these stamps. Eight of them are in this exhibit showing various uses and rates.

Many of the rarities of the small quetzal stamps are included in this exhibit: the 2c inverted quetzal in a block of four, the 5c inverted quetzal, the 20c inverted quetzal in a block of four, a 1c inverted quetzal essay block of six, a unique 1c frame essay, discovery blocks of the frame plate proofs and a full sheet of the 2c. The cover rarities are: a local use showing the 1 centavo rate, aa cover to El Salvador and a 20 centavos stamp on cover.

The purpose of this exhibit is to tell the story of some of the most beautiful stamps in all of philately—the “**UPU Resplendent Quetzals**.” In 1881, Guatemala joined the Universal Postal Union and in November of the same year issued a set of five stamps featuring the resplendent quetzal, a bird native to that country. Guatemala had previously issued a set of similar stamps (see above) featuring the quetzal, however, the UPU issue included the words “UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL—GUATEMALA” in an oval surrounding the central image. This exhibit covers these stamps from their date of issue (November 7, 1881) until their demonetization (July 1, 1886).

This exhibit includes essays, proofs, the regular issue, postmarks and postal history.

These stamps were used in the most colorful of the Guatemala cancel periods. Here you will see some of the most striking postmarks.

FRAME LAYOUT

P1 Title Page	P2 Essays	P3 Die Proofs	P4 Die Proofs & Plate Proofs
P5 Plate Proofs	P6 The Regular Issue	P7 The Inverts	P8 Invert Forgeries The Bisect
P9 Sheet lay- out, and the plates	P10	P11 Postmarks	P12
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Rarities are highlighted in red. A red asterisk (*) denotes certification.