

Guatemalan Auxiliary Markings, 1898-1967



This exhibit explores the markings applied to the mails in Guatemala, *other than* postmarks, receiving marks, and marks associated with the ordinary course of handling or with special services (such as official mail, registered mail, *encomiendas*, and *fardos* (i.e., domestic and international parcels). Emphasis is given to the presentation and explanation of previously unrecorded markings, and to expanding knowledge of periods of use of the various markings.

Period Studied

This exhibit focuses on the heyday of Guatemala's postal system, which commenced with the growth of trade and infrastructural development under the "liberal" rule of President José Estrada Cabrera (commencing in 1898). The study's term concludes in January 1967, with the introduction of unrestricted State-sponsored terrorism six years into Guatemala's thirty-six-year-long civil war, leading to a precipitous decline in postal and other public services.

Highlights and Key to Symbols

- ◆ Numerous markings displayed in this exhibit have not been specifically identified in the philatelic literature. These are identified with a red diamond.
- ✂ Several other markings are displayed on covers which predate or postdate the period in which these markings are known to have been in use. These markings are identified with a red hourglass symbol.
- Additionally, covers which warrant special note are matted in the blue of the Guatemalan flag. Each matted cover is one of no more than a handful of extant item of its type.

Exhibit Plan

1. PROMOTIONAL MARKINGS: Markings applied to the mail in order to promote events, causes, or industries.
 - a. Local Fairs
 - b. Raffles and Lotteries
 - c. Foreign Tourism
 - d. Patriotic Themes
 - e. Coffee
 - f. Private Enterprises
 2. ACCOUNTABILITY MARKINGS: Markings allowing items to be traced through the mail stream; or associated with damaged, delayed, misdirected or mishandled mail.
 - a. *Buzón*es (collection boxes)
 - b. *Carteros* (letter carriers)
 - c. Anomalies in the Postal Service
 3. DIRECTIONAL AND INSTRUCTIONAL MARKINGS: Markings associated with the intended routing of mail, or showing the kind of service prepaid by the sender.
 - a. Routing Markings
 - b. Special Delivery and Express Mail
 - c. Printed Matter
 - d. Air Mail
- *. Afterword