

A cover from the French Consulate at Santa Marta, Colombia, to Sancergues, South of Paris. It entered the local British Post Office on 7 December 1855, and was carried by a local vessel to Cartagena, continuing via the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's service in the *Teviot*, arriving at the Danish island of St. Thomas on the 17th. The next day it continued aboard the *Tyne* to Southampton where it docked on 4 January 1856. It reached London the same day, in transit, receiving the Anglo/French "Colonies Art. 18" accountancy mark. The "Colonies Art. 18" mark was applied under the 3 April 1843 Anglo/French Convention (effective 1 June 1843), Replacing Art. 12 and Art. 13, Art.18 was effective from 3 January to 31 December 1856, so that this cover was the very first to receive the new handstamp. There are also transit marks for Calais and Paris, before arrival at Sancergues on the 6th. The French charged 30 decimes, confirmed by the manuscript 3 Francs. The "8" represents grams, i.e. between 7.5 and 15 grams and hence double the 1 August 1849 15 decimes rate.



A wrapper addressed from Santa Marta, Colombia, to Paris, which entered the local British Post Office on 22 October 1859. It proceeded immediately in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer *Solent* to Cartagena, and then via the *Trent* to St. Thomas, where it arrived on the 30th. There, it picked up the *Tasmanian* on its first return voyage to the Caribbean, and although it had to call in at Bermuda for repairs. it arrived at Southampton on 23 November. At London the next day it received the Anglo/French accountancy mark for 1f 60c before proceeding via Calais to Paris, where it arrived on the 25th. The French charged 8 decimes under the 1 January 1857 Anglo/French Convention.

British Postal Agency in Savanilla / Barranquilla, Colombia

The mail from Bogota via the mighty Magdalena River went through Barranquilla, Colombia's largest river port to Savanilla on the coast, where the British Postal Agency operated. A short railway was constructed between Barranquilla and Savanilla in 1871 and the joint handstamp (CDS.SB) was issued by the General Post Office in London in June 1878.

This envelope was sent less than two months before the British Postal Agency in Savanilla / Barranquilla closed, when Colombia joined the UPU on 1st June 1881.

1881 envelope from Barranquilla to London



CDS.SB

1881 envelope from Barranquilla to London with Savanilla / Barranquilla British Postal Agency MY 2 81 date stamp, circled "1s" due on arrival in London and crowned "R" handstamp (Registered) on Pemberton correspondence cover to London, with London arrival back stamps dated MY 30 81. Redirected in London to Goldhawk Road, Shepherds Bush.

Rate: The rate from Colombia to London was 1/-, pre-paid

Sources

Bentley, M (2010) The British Post Office in Colombia 1821-1881 The Postal History Society

Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham

Tabcart, C 2nd ed (2003) United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas HH Sales Bradford

British Postal Agency in Savanilla / Barranquilla, Colombia

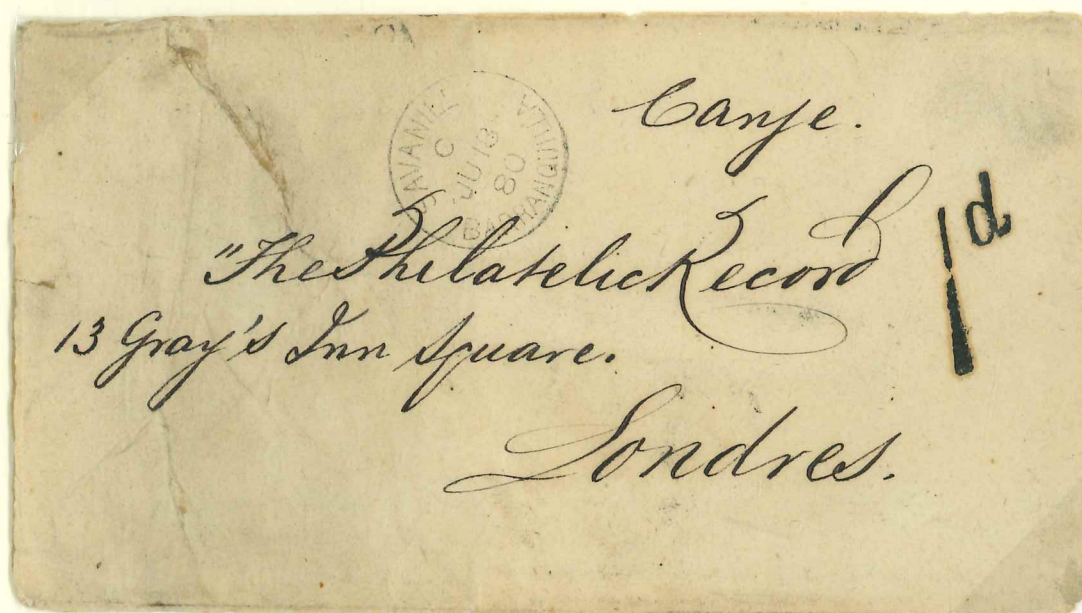
The mail from Bogota via the mighty Magdalena River went through Barranquilla, Colombia's largest river port to Savanilla on the coast, where the British Postal Agency operated. A short railway was constructed between Barranquilla and Savanilla in 1871 and the joint handstamp (CDS.SB) was issued by the General Post Office in London in June 1878.

This wrapper, sent to "The Philatelic Record" in London is an example of the rare 1d newspaper rate.

1880 newspaper wrapper from Barranquilla to London



CDS.SB



1880 newspaper wrapper from Barranquilla to London with British Postal Agency in Columbia, Savanilla / Barranquilla JU 10 80 postmark and "1d" handstamp on newspaper wrapper addressed to "The Philatelic Record" in London, with a variety of arrival back stamps dated JY 13/14 80.

Sources

Bentley, M (2010) *The British Post Office in Colombia 1821-1881* The Postal History Society

Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

British Postal Agency in Colon, Colombia

The TRANSIT.2 (boxed IN TRANSIT) cancel was sent from the GPO in London to the British Postal Agency in Colon on the 14th March 1872. It has not been recorded in use by the best authorities Robson Lowe (1938), De Voss (1978), Parmenter (1993) or Bentley (2010)

1875 cover to Bordeaux via Colon



IN TRANSIT

Colon TRANSIT.2



COLON CDS2



Source:

Bentley, M (2010) *The British Post Office in Colombia 1821-1881* The Postal History Society

DeVoss, Colonel James T. *Collection of Via Panama Postal History Auction Catalogue 25th October 1978* Sotheby Parke Bernet New York

Lowe, R. 2nd ed (1938-9) *Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680 - 1900* Robson Lowe, London

Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

Colombia

Panama : GB stamps and C35 obliterator



3TH.HOS



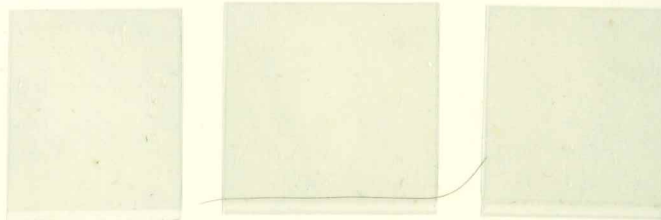
4VOD



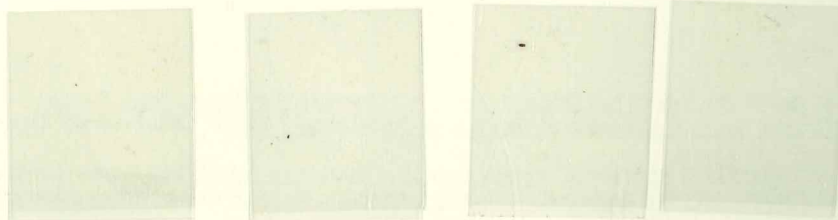
3VOD

Panama, despite the considerable trade in mail and other goods, was a miserable town without lighting, pavements or drainage. It had nearly 20 000 inhabitants, two fifths of whom were British subjects, mostly from the West Indies. 45% of all goods transported across the isthmus were from Great Britain. In 1867 there were twenty mail steamers arriving each month at Panama and Colon, and each might carry 200 bags of mail.

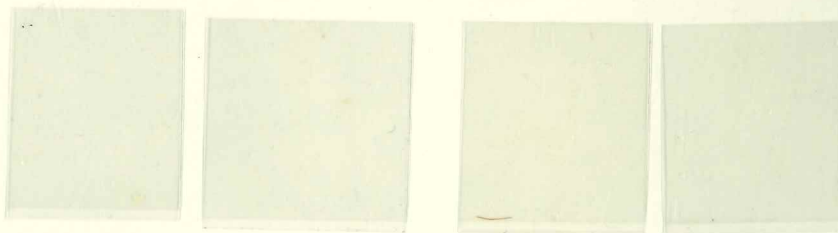
Initially no postage charges were made for mail carried across the Panama Isthmus, but later letters via Panama were surcharged 6d per ½oz, plus the British rate, so that a seaman's concessionary letter increased from 1d to 7d.



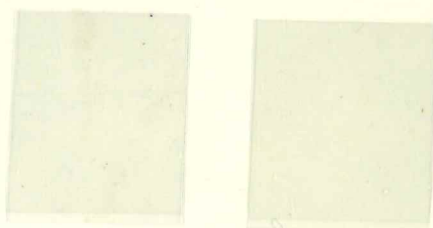
6d plates 2-6



6d plates 8-9



6d plates 11-16



9d and 10d stamps

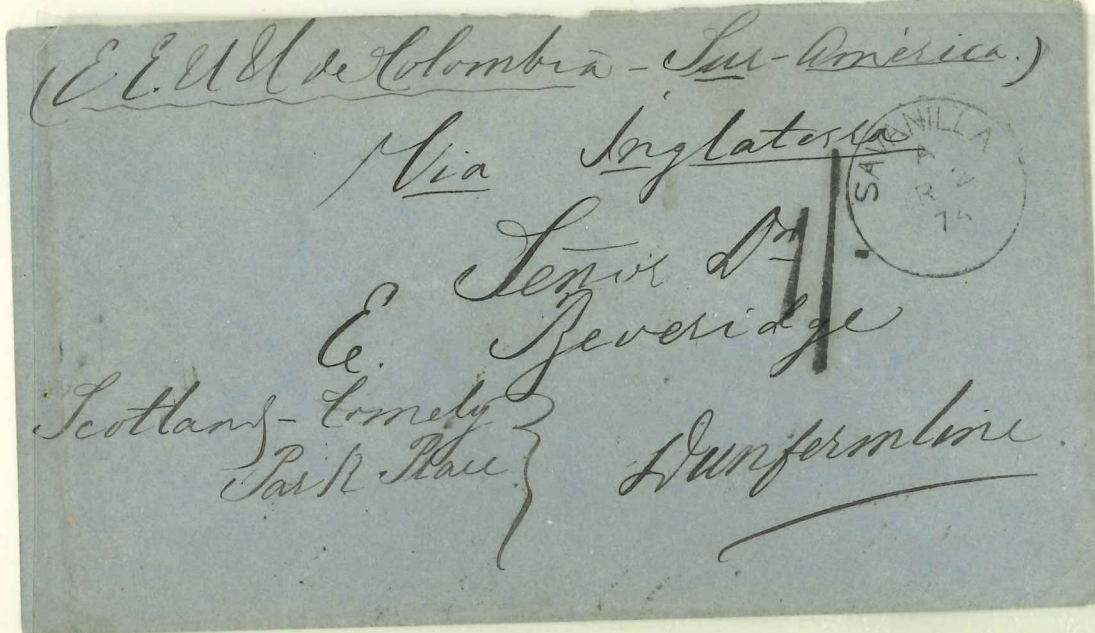
British Postal Agency in Savanilla, Colombia

A short railway was constructed between Barranquilla (serving the Magdalena River and the major inland cities of Colombia) and Savanilla (on the coast) in 1871. A British Postal Agency in Savanilla was established in 1872, although little mail was sent before 1875, when Savanilla was raised to full consulate level. The Savanilla CDS.S date stamp is known used from 1873 until 1878.



Savanilla CDS.S

1874 and 1876 covers from Savanilla, Colombia to Great Britain



1874 envelope from Medellin, Colombia to Dunfermline, Scotland which entered the local British Postal Agency at Savanilla on 2nd March 1874. It was carried on the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's Elbe for Plymouth, arriving on 29th March; it is back stamped with a Dunfermline arrival date stamp on 30th March. The 1/- To Pay hand stamp was applied in Great Britain.



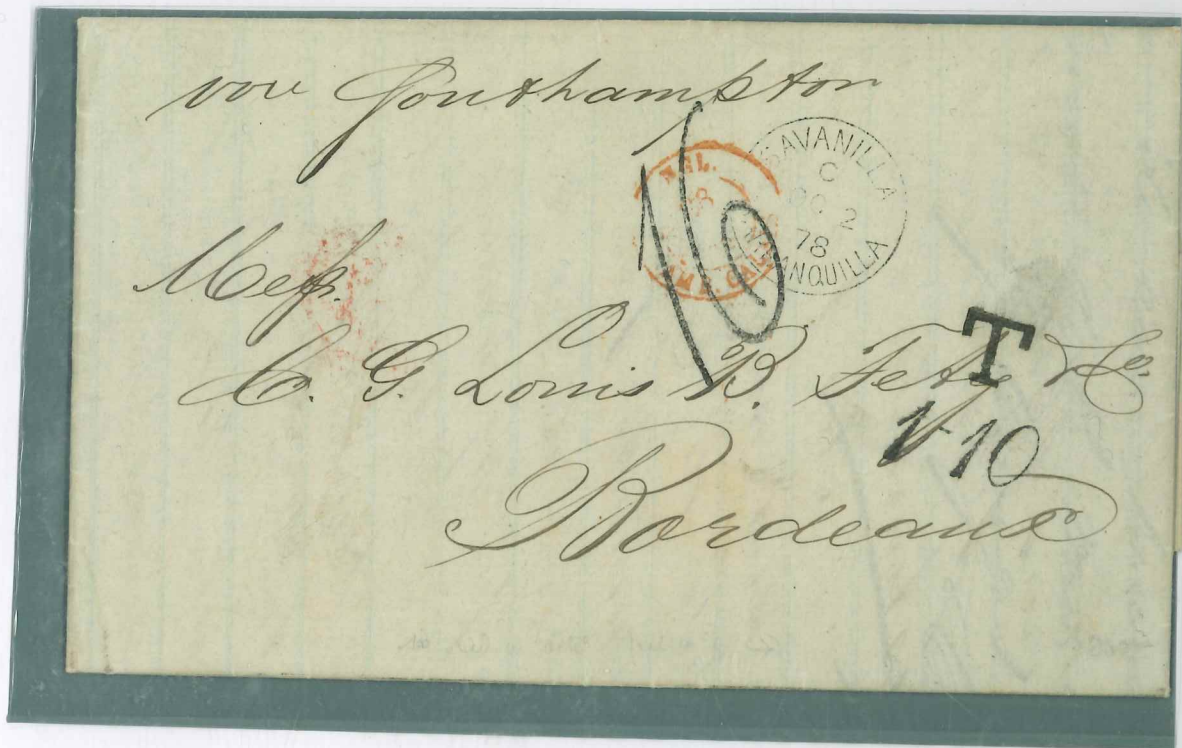
1876 cover addressed to London which entered the local British Postal Agency at Savanilla on 31st March 1876. It was carried to Colon in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer Nile. Arriving on 3rd April and transferred to the Tasmanian for Plymouth It berthed on the 28th, arriving in London the next day. The 1/- To Pay hand stamp was applied in London. **Provenance:** Investphila Malcolm Bentley sale 2011.

Sources

- Bentley, M (2010) *The British Post Office in Colombia 1821-1881* The Postal History Society
- Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham
- Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) *Early routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879.* Postal History Soc, E Grinstead



A trimmed cover from Savanilla, Colombia to Bordeaux which entered the local British post office on 15 September 1876. It proceeded to Colón where it boarded the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer *Nile* which left on the 21st for Plymouth, arriving on 14 October. The cover reached Bordeaux on the 17th after transiting in London on the 14th and Calais a day later. There is an Anglo/French accountancy mark for 1f 10 centimes and a final French charge of 17 decimes, the 1f 10 centimes plus 6 decimes for unpaid mail from countries which had not signed the 1873 "Union General de Postes".



An entire folded letter addressed from Barranquilla, Colombia to Bordeaux dated 30 September 1878 and which entered the local British post office on 2 October. It was carried to Colón in the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's steamer *Nile* arriving on the 5th before boarding the *Para* and continuing on the 7th to Plymouth where it arrived on the 27th. In London the next day it received the relevant transit stamp and the Anglo/French accountancy mark for 1f 10c, reaching Calais the same day and Bordeaux on the 29th. The UPU rate in this case, effective 1 January 1876, was 1f 10c but as Colombia had not yet joined the UPU there was an additional 5 decimes payable on unpre-paid mail delivered in France i.e. total 16 decimes.