

Ecuador



Guayaquil CDS1

1860 entire from Guayaquil to Burdeos, France



1860 entire from Guayaquil to Burdeos, France, with hexagonal 2F 87c 5/10 Anglo-French Accountancy mark, Calais transit stamp and "12" in manuscript on the front. The back has a Guayaquil CDS dated SP14 1860, blue London receiver Oct 13th and French cancels.

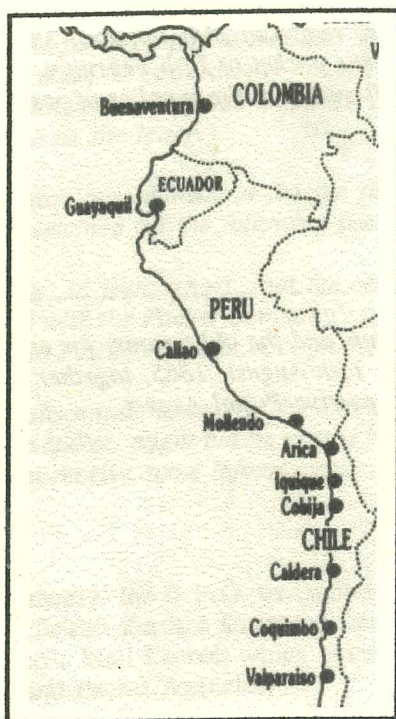
Route: by PSNC from Guayaquil to Panama, by railway from Panama to Colon, then by RMS Solent Colon 23rd Sept to St Thomas 29 Sept, RMS Atrato from St Thomas 30 Sept to Southampton 13th Oct.

Sources:

Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) *Early routes of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842- 1879*. Postal History Society, East Grinstead

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

Ecuador



The transmission of mail was so insecure that the British Government made a Convention in 1841 with New Granada (now Colombia) to establish a packet service in both oceans and to provide a transit service across the Panama Isthmus. The Admiralty made a contract with the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC) to convey mails between Panama, Callao and Valparaiso. The PSNC held a monopoly for the carriage of mails between the Pacific ports and Panama, although at times the local governments wished to overturn the monopoly.

The mail from Guayaquil went by steamers of the PSNC to Chile, Peru and Panama. Guayaquil was not always directly served from Panama and an intermediate steamer to Paita, Peru sometimes carried mail so the service could be very slow.

The Ecuadorian government and the PSNC signed a convention in 1872, binding the company to loan a steamer in times of emergency (they seized the Talca in 1865 to assist in the war against Spain). From 1875 only mail beyond Panama used British stamps and the C41 cancel.

The map shows the Pacific ports served by the PSNC. Each port had a British Packet Agency, normally the British Consulate. All of the ports except Buenaventura used British stamps with barred obliterators. The map shows the modern day boundaries between countries – Arica and Iquique were in Peru and Cobija in Bolivia until the Peru – Chile wars.

1880 cover from Guayaquil to Burdeos, France via Panama



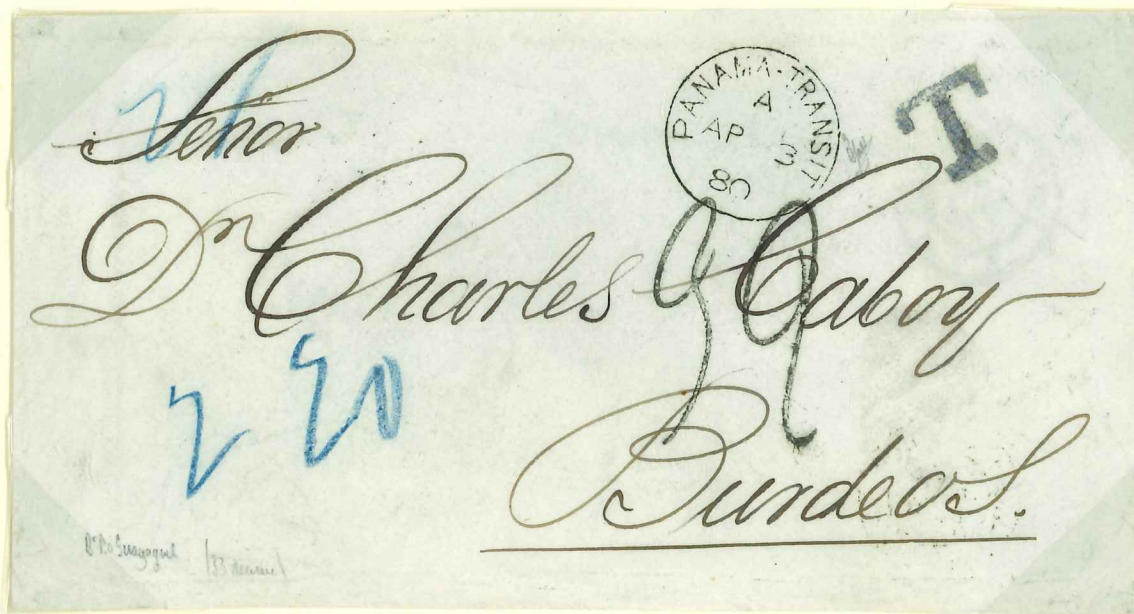
Guayaquil
CDS2



Anglo French
Accountancy mark (T)



Panama Transit
CDS



1880 envelope from Guayaquil to Burdeos, Southern France. The front has manuscript "2/-" and "2.20" in blue, PANAMA TRANSIT CDS FOR Apr 3rd 1880 and black T Anglo-French accountancy marking. The reverse has Guayaquil CDS2 code C for March 28th 1880, red London transit and indistinct French sorting and arrival cancels. The marks "T+ 2.20" comply with UGP Regulations; "2.20" indicates that there was 2f 20c to pay to GB for 15 grammes weight. The manuscript "2/-" indicates that the 2/- cost to Great Britain was unpaid, and was collected on delivery.

British Postal Agency in Guayaquil, Ecuador

In 1865 there was a major reorganisation of French mail boat routes giving rise to LIGNE A (line 'A') which operated between Colon (in Colombia) and St Nazaire (France) almost without interruption from August 1865 until 1932.

1876 envelope from Guayaquil to Paris via Panama and French Ligne A



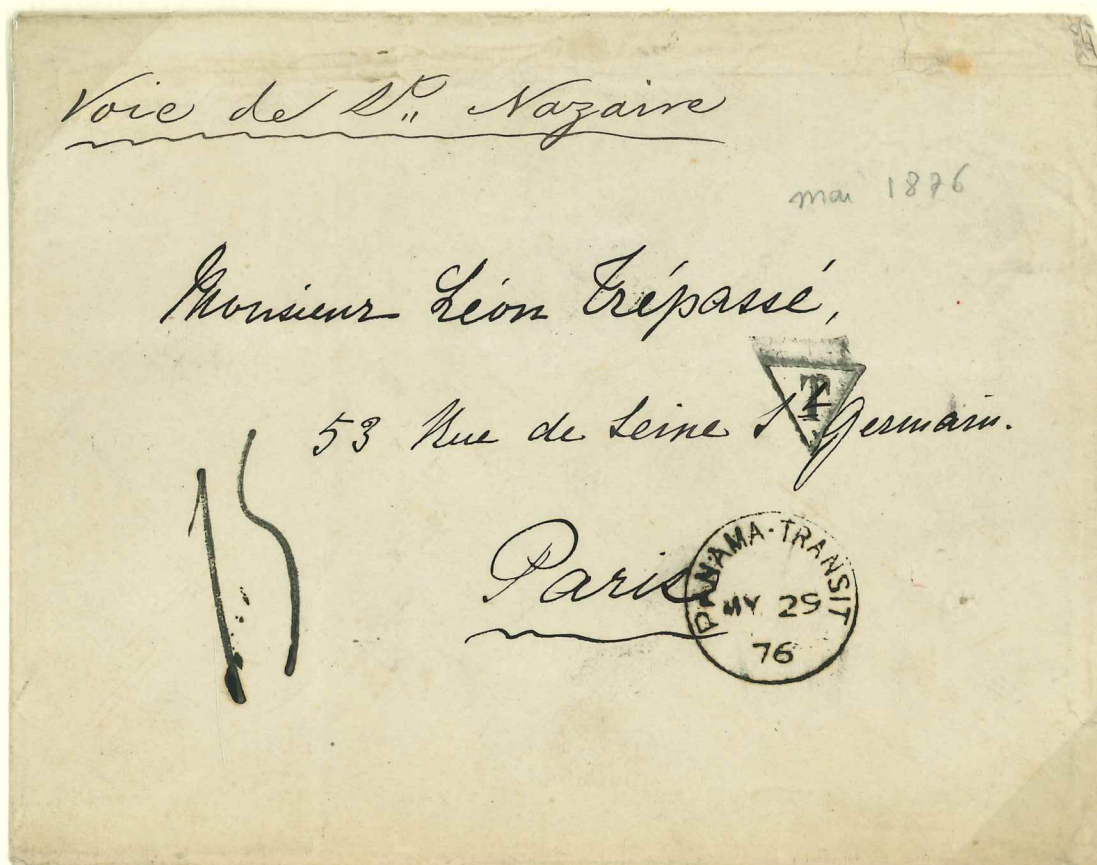
Guayaquil CDS1



Panama TRANSIT CDS



Ligne A circular CDS



Stampless 26 May 1876 envelope from Guayaquil to Paris with "T" in triangle, British Post Office "PANAMA TRANSIT" c.d.s. (29 May), manuscript "Voie de St. Nazaire" and "15" (decimes) charge mark on the front. On the back is British P.O. "GUAYAQUIL/A" c.d.s. (Ecuador) and scarce French "LIGNE-A/PAQ. FR. No.3" c.d.s. (1 June).

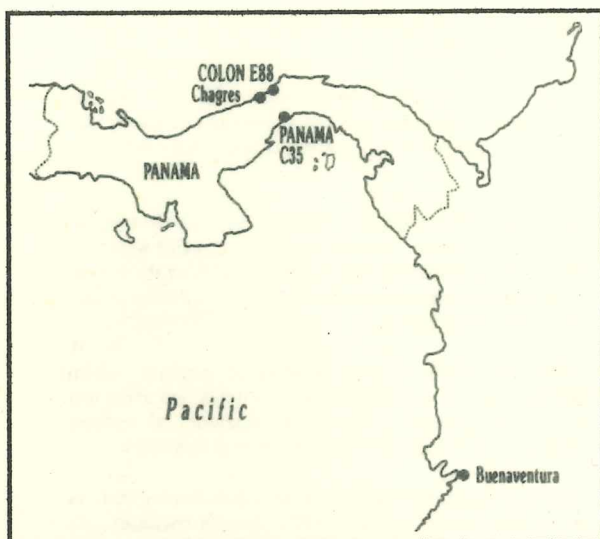
Rate / route: Between Guayaquil and Panama by the British postal system on a Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC) mail boat. Taken by railway across the Panama Isthmus to Colon, it was transferred to a French Ligne A mail boat and charged 15 decimes (1f 50c) on delivery in France.

Sources:

Salles R (1960s) ed *La Poste Maritime Française Historique et Catalogue, Tome IV, Les Paquebots De L'Atlantique Nord*, Privately published by Raymond Salles of L'Académie de Philatélie
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham

VIA PANAMA

Envelope from Guayaquil, Ecuador to Delaware USA



Steam packets operated in the Pacific from Panama (then in Colombia) from 1841 and the GPO Packet Agency at Panama was one of the most strategically important of the British Offices abroad. From 1841 mail was hauled overland to the port of Chagres on the Caribbean coast.

In 1841 the railway between Panama and Colon was opened, at a cost of millions of Spanish dollars, and thousands of lives. Chinese labourers were employed, and "every sleeper cost a life". Traffic was very heavy, and more than 20 steamers called a month by 1867, each with up to 200 bags of mail. Colon was known as Aspinwall, after Mr W. Aspinwall, one of the builders of the Trans Oceanic Railway.

Initially no charge was made for crossing the isthmus, but later letters via Panama were surcharged at 6d per ½ ounce, a huge increase on seamen's letters at 1d

Colombia joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1881, but the British Packet Agencies at Panama and Colon remained open until at least 1904 (Colon) and 1907 (Panama). The Colombian government stipulated that the railways should charge the country of origin of the correspondence for the transit.



Guayaquil CDS1
cancel on reverse.

1867 envelope from Guayaquil to Wilmington Delaware USA. It has STEAMSHIP 10 and red PAID TO PANAMA cancels on the front. The reverse has a Guayaquil double ring CDS1 cancel dated Jan 14 with final digit of the year plug missing.



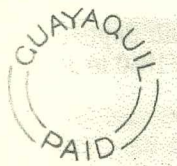
An entire folded letter from Guayaquil, Ecuador to Lanman and Kemp in New York, which entered the local British Post Office on 25 October 1869. It was in transit in Panamá on the 29th and crossed the Isthmus on the Panamá railroad to Colón where it caught the American steamship *Henry Chauncey* for New York, arriving on 24 November. The letter bears an 1867 1/- green stamp, watermark Spray, plate 4 cancelled C41 at Guayaquil, paying the British charge to Panamá; the Americans charged 10 Notes for the onward transmission.

Ecuador

1850 cover with PAID cancel from Guayaquil to Panama

Guayaquil was granted a postal agency in February 1949, when the date-stamps were dispatched. Guayaquil was a very unhealthy destination, and because of fear of infection or quarantine British mail packets only called there on the outward journey. Homeward mails were carried on the same packet to Payta and then waited for the return mail packet to Panama.

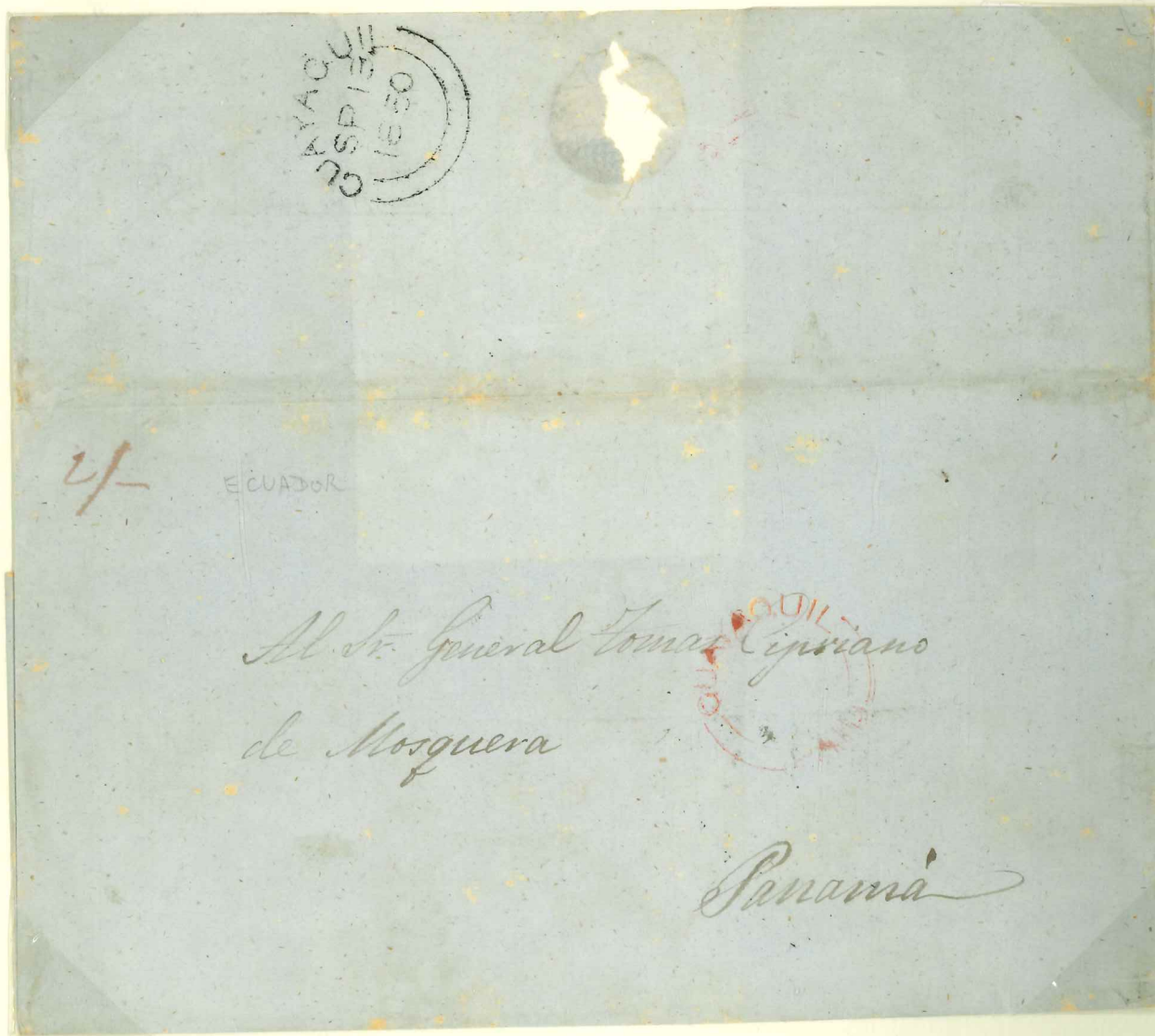
Following pressure from postal agencies, the British government sent crowned circle hand-stamps to every Latin American postal agency to take the place of adhesives to indicate prepayment for use to other British Postal Agencies outside of Great Britain. The exception was Guayaquil which received the double arc PAID cancel – the reason for this is not known.



PAID cancel



CDS1



1850(Sept 13th) wrapper to Panama with red GUAYAQUIL PAID undated circular cancel and 2/- in red manuscript on front; Guayaquil double arc CDS1 on reverse.

British Postal Agency in Guayaquil, Ecuador

1855 cover with PAID cancel from Guayaquil to Valparaiso, Chile

Guayaquil was granted a postal agency in February 1849, when the date-stamps were dispatched. The British government sent crowned circle hand-stamps to every Latin American postal agency to take the place of adhesives to indicate prepayment for use to other British Postal Agencies outside of Great Britain. The exception was Guayaquil which received the double arc PAID cancel – the reason for this is not known.



PAID cancel



CDS1



1848 wrapper to Panama with red GUAYAQUIL PAID undated circular cancel, "25" hand stamp in red and "1/-" in red manuscript on front; Guayaquil double arc CDS1 dated DE 3 1855 on reverse.

Rate: CDS "B.P.O GUAYAQUIL PAID" in red indicating the pre payment of 1/- for the transport by steam ship to Valparaiso, The mark "25" in red, indicates rate of 25 c: 20 c. for a letter of more than ½ and under 1 ounce and 5 c for overseas charge, collected in Valparaiso from the receiver effective from 20.10.1852 up to the 29.12.1874.

Source:

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