

DE BARRUEL BROTHERS,

Greystown,

CENTRAL AMERICA.

19

Messrs J. P. & Binin & Co

1
a Rotterdam - Holland

Nieuw Englands.

LONDON
PAID
12 30

KEY-TOWN
PAID
16

PD

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British Postal Agency in Grey-Town, Nicaragua

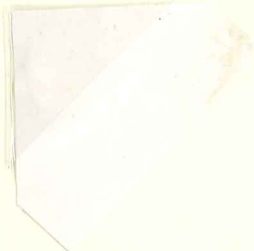
The British Postal Agency in Grey-Town, Nicaragua was the last Agency in the Americas to close, with the exception of the Panama Agency, which remained open for transit mail for another twenty years. It closed on 1st May 1882, when Nicaragua joined the UPU (Universal Postal Union). In later years a CDS cancel (Parmenter CDS3) was used to cancel mails, rather than the barred obliterators normally used at British Postal Agencies.



Grey-town CDS3

1881 (Mar 15th) envelope from Grey-town to London

The 1/- orange-brown was issued on spray watermarked paper in October 1880, but was replaced with a crown watermark in May 1881. With limited use it is catalogued (2012) at £600 for the GB stamp and £1800 on cover.



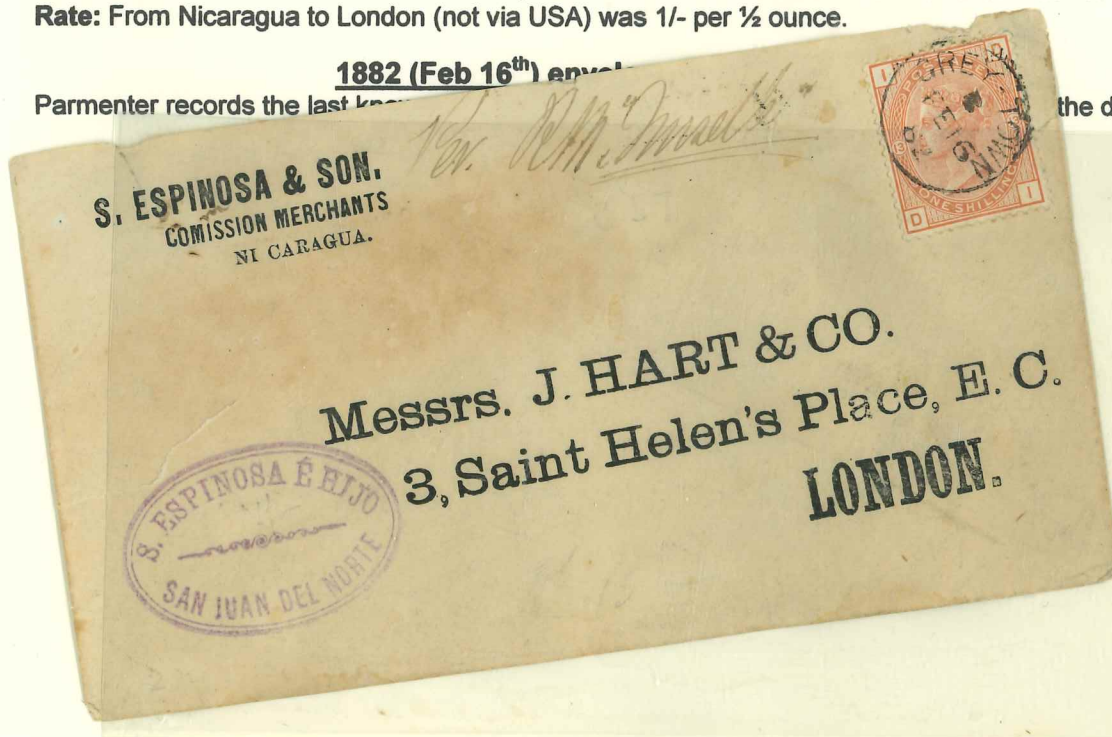
1881 (Mar 15th) envelope to London with 1/- orange-brown plate 13 (spray watermark) cancelled Grey-Town CDS Code B and "S ESPINOSA E HIJO , SAN JUAN DEL NORTE" merchants oval cancel.

Rate: From Nicaragua to London (not via USA) was 1/- per ½ ounce.

1882 (Feb 16th) envelope

Parmenter records the last known

the date of this cover.



1882 ((Feb 16th) envelope to London with 1/- orange-brown plate 13 (crown watermark) cancelled Grey-Town CDS Code B and "S ESPINOSA, SAN JUAN DEL NORTE" merchants oval cancel.

Rate: From Nicaragua to London (not via USA) was 1/- per ½ ounce.

Sources

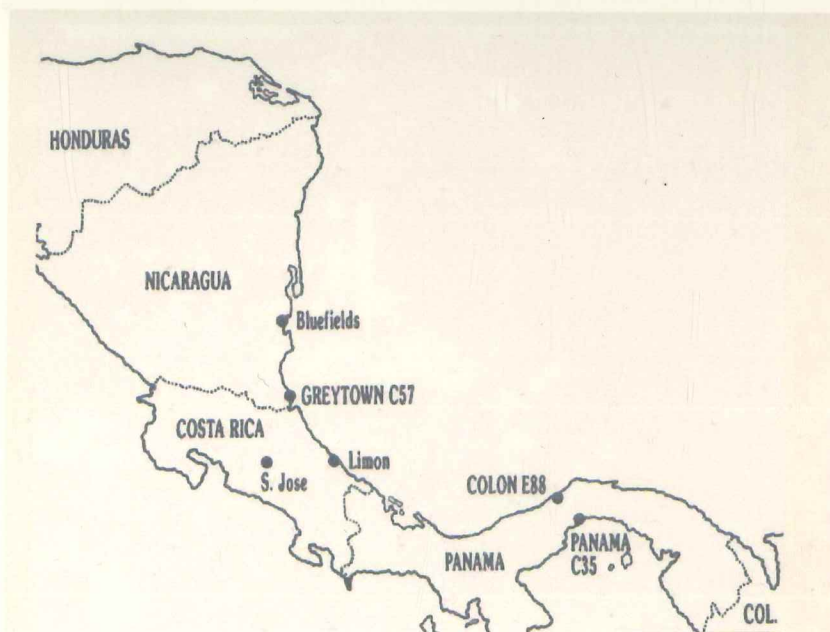
Parmenter J (1993) *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings* Postal History Society, Beckenham
Tabart, C 2nd ed (2003) *United Kingdom Letter Rates Inland and Overseas* HH Sales Bradford

Nicaragua.

Caribbean ports
1866-76.

Granada, Nicaragua
to New York.

Nicaragua was a British Protectorate from 1655 to 1850. In 1852 the Government abandoned all authority and a Municipal Council of British and American citizens was set up under the British Consul. Conditions were so chaotic that there was a great reluctance to set up a Post Office but a date stamp was sent out in 1855.



A paid 20 mm. diameter date stamp in red recorded in use earliest from 15th April 1864 to latest March 1870 - this is a year later. There is a written 4d in red ink in the top right hand corner denoting payment. This reflected the rate for mail between Caribbean ports from April 1866 until 1876. Trans-shipped to Colon as per the single ring date stamp in black. From there it would have been put on an American ship bound for New York where it was charged 10¢ at the 'blanket rate'.

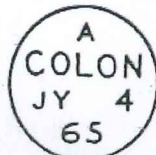
British Postal Agency in Grey-Town, Nicaragua

The British Postal Agency in Grey-Town, Nicaragua opened in 1855, and a date stamp was sent out in January, but there was initially very little usage. The Crowned Circle (Parmenter CC) PAID AT GREY TOWN was sent by the GPO in 1859 but is not known used. British adhesive stamps and a C57 obliterator were sent to Grey-Town in 1865, but were withdrawn the next year. Paid mail after that date was stamped with the CDS PAID cancel, which was not recorded in the GPO proof books and which is known used from 1864 to 1871.

1868 (January 16th) paid cover from Grey-Town to New York,



Grey-town CDS PAID



Colon CDS2



1868 (January 16th) cover from Grey-Town to New York, with GREY- TOWN PAID JA16 68 cds in red with manuscript "4" in red and "N.Y. STEAMSHIP 10" in black. On the back is a COLON JA 17 68 transit cds.

Rate: The rate between Caribbean ports (from Nicaragua to Colon, Colombia) was 4d per ½ ounce, and from Colon to New York by US mail boat was 10 cents per ½ ounce, to be collected.

Route: By RMS Solent (Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) from Grey-town (January 16th) to Colon (January 17th) and then by US Mail-boat to New York.

Sources

Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) *Early routings 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

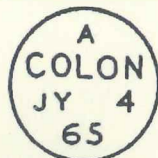
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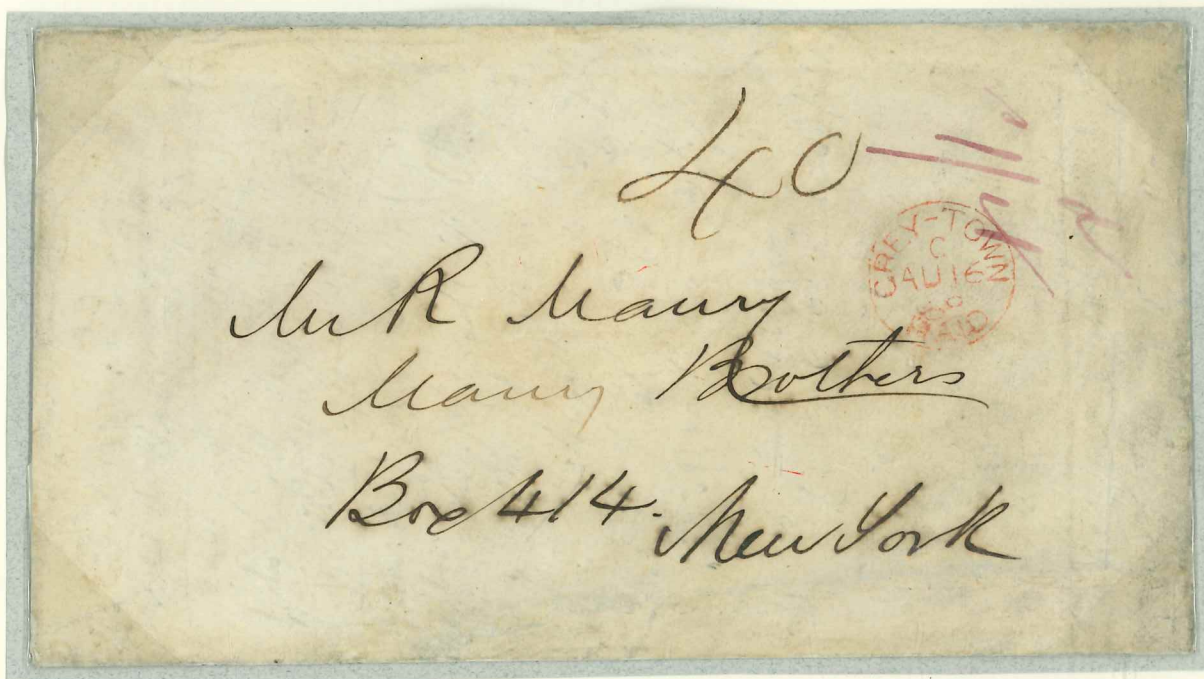
1868 envelope from Grey-town to New York,



Grey-town CDS PAID



Colon CDS2



1868 envelope from Grey-town to New York, with GREY- TOWN PAID AU 16 68 cds in red with manuscript "1/4" in red and "40" in black. On the back is a COLON AU 17 68 transit cds.

Rate: This was a quadruple rate packet (1½ - 2oz). The rate between Caribbean ports (from Nicaragua to Colon, Colombia) was 4d per ½ ounce, and from Colon to New York by US mail boat was 10 cents per ½ ounce, to be collected.

Route: By RMS Conway (Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) from Grey-town (August 16th) to Colon (August 17th) and then by US mail boat to New York.

Sources

Kenton PJ and Parsons HG (1999) *Early routings 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