

VENEZUELA

La Guayra Prestamp 1846

Letters from the Packet Agency at La Guayra were combination covers with local postage prepaid at a rate of ½ real per ½ ounce indicated by a local Franco (paid) cancel and the unpaid packet rate of 1/- per ½ oz.

The service started in 1842 with Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) steamers, but by 1843 the Venezuelan Government took over the service to St Thomas using a schooner, the "Liffey".

In 1844 The French packet service arrived; and the Venezuelan Government handed the Postal service back to the RSMP Company, who no longer stopped at Porto Cabello. The volume increased rapidly at this time because la Guayra also served Caracas and Maracaibo and the British Consul / postal agent was paid a salary for the service.



CDS1 cancel



1846 wrapper from Larraloe, Venezuela to Huth and company London via La Guayra. Front has red undated indistinct red double arc local Franco (paid) cancel and 2/- in black manuscript.

The reverse has a clear double arc La Guayra JA 7 1846 cancel in red and 10th February receiving mark MN 10 FE1846.

VENEZUELA

Porto Cabello (Puerto Cabello)

British Postal agencies were opened at La Guayra and Porto Cabello on 1st January 1842. The RMSP Co. conveyed mails between Porto Cabello, La Guayra and St. Thomas at a rate of 1 shilling per ½ ounce, with a local rate of ½ real (or 2½d) on out-going letters. The Crown Circle hand-stamp was replaced by the CDS cancel (for unpaid mail) from 3rd August 1847 to 23rd December 1858 (source Parmenter)



1847 outer letter sheet from Porto Cabello to Bordeaux via GB Front has manuscript "steamer" and "25". Blue company handstamp, red framed Colonies & Art. 13 rectangular French accountancy handstamp, applied in London to indicate credit due to France and red French entry cds of Boulogne 23 Juin 1847, Reverse has red British Post Office Porto Cabello double arc CDS MY 18 1847, red GB transit 21 JU 1847, blue Paris transit and black Bordeaux arrival cds 25 Juin
 The date predates by 6 weeks earliest Porto Cabello CDS in Parmenter (3rd August 1847)

VENEZUELA

Porto Cabello (Puerto Cabello)

British Postal agencies were opened at La Guayra and Porto Cabello on 1st January 1842. The RMSP Co. conveyed mails between Porto Cabello, La Guayra and St. Thomas at a rate of 1 shilling per ½ ounce, with a local rate of ½ real (or 2½d) on out-going letters.. In 1844 Captain Robert Todd acquired from the Venezuelan government the right to convey letters between La Guayra, Puerto Cabello and St Thomas and printed special postage stamps for this.



CDS



1853 Pre stamp entire from Porto Cabello to Marseilles via London.

Front has green senders handstamp, red boxed Colonies and Art. 13. stamp, passage stamp, Calais transit stamp 16 Jun 1853, manuscript 15 ratemark in black and "pacquet" in bottom left corner.

Reverse has double arc British Post office black Porto Cabello cancel 25th May 1853, red British transit 18 JU 1853 and Marseilles arrival mark 18 Jun 1853

VENEZUELA

Porto Cabello (Puerto Cabello)

British Post agencies opened in the 1840s in La Guayra and Porto Cabello, using the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) to convey mails between St Thomas, La Guayra and Porto Cabello at a postage rate of 1/- per half ounce. The service was very poor and in 1843 the Venezuelan government took over the service at the request of the London GPO. In 1844 when the French packet service started, RSMP again took over the service, but only from La Guayra. To meet the needs of Porto Cabello, Captain Robert Todd acquired the rate to convey letters between St Thomas, La Guayra and Porto Cabello using special stamps.

These were turbulent years in Venezuela, and in March 1858 there was a revolution. The agency at Porto Cabello never did much business and was closed at the end of 1858, before British stamps were introduced to Venezuela.



CDS



Venezuela 1859 outer letter sheet to Bordeaux via London.

Front has manuscript "p. steamer" and "28" rate mark, blue oval framed company handstamp, rectangular framed GB/ 1f.60c accountancy / exchange mark applied in London to indicate the postage credit due to great Britain, black Porto Cabello British Post Office unframed cds of 1859 JU 21 and French entry cds of Calais 20 Juil 1859.

Reverse has red London transit and black Paris transit and black Bordeaux arrival cds 20 Juil 1859

Parmenter states that the Porto Cabello agency closed in 1858, with the last dated cover 23rd December 1858; this letter sheet is dated 6 months later.

VENEZUELA

La Guayra Prestamp 1845

Letters from the Packet Agency at La Guayra were combination covers with local postage prepaid at a rate of ½ real per ½ ounce indicated by a local Franco (paid) cancel and the unpaid packet rate of 1/- per ½ oz.

The service started in 1842 with Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) steamers, but by 1843 the mails were so overdue that at the request of the GPO London. The Venezuelan Government took over the service to St Thomas using a schooner, the "Liffey".

In 1844 The French packet service arrived; and the Venezuelan Government handed the Postal service back to the RSMP Company, who no longer stopped at Porto Cabello.



CDS1 cancel



1845 combination franking cover without content from Caracas via Chagres and British P.O. in La Guayra to Fred. Huth in London; sent by British packet to Falmouth. Prepaid 1/2 Real Venezuelan postage from Caracas to Guayra (hand-stamp) and 1/- postage due from recipient.

There is a black Caracas Franco (paid) mark on the front, with red British Postal Agency La Guayra CDS2 cancel and red London Foreign Office Code Receiver for 5th August 1845 on back.

VENEZUELA

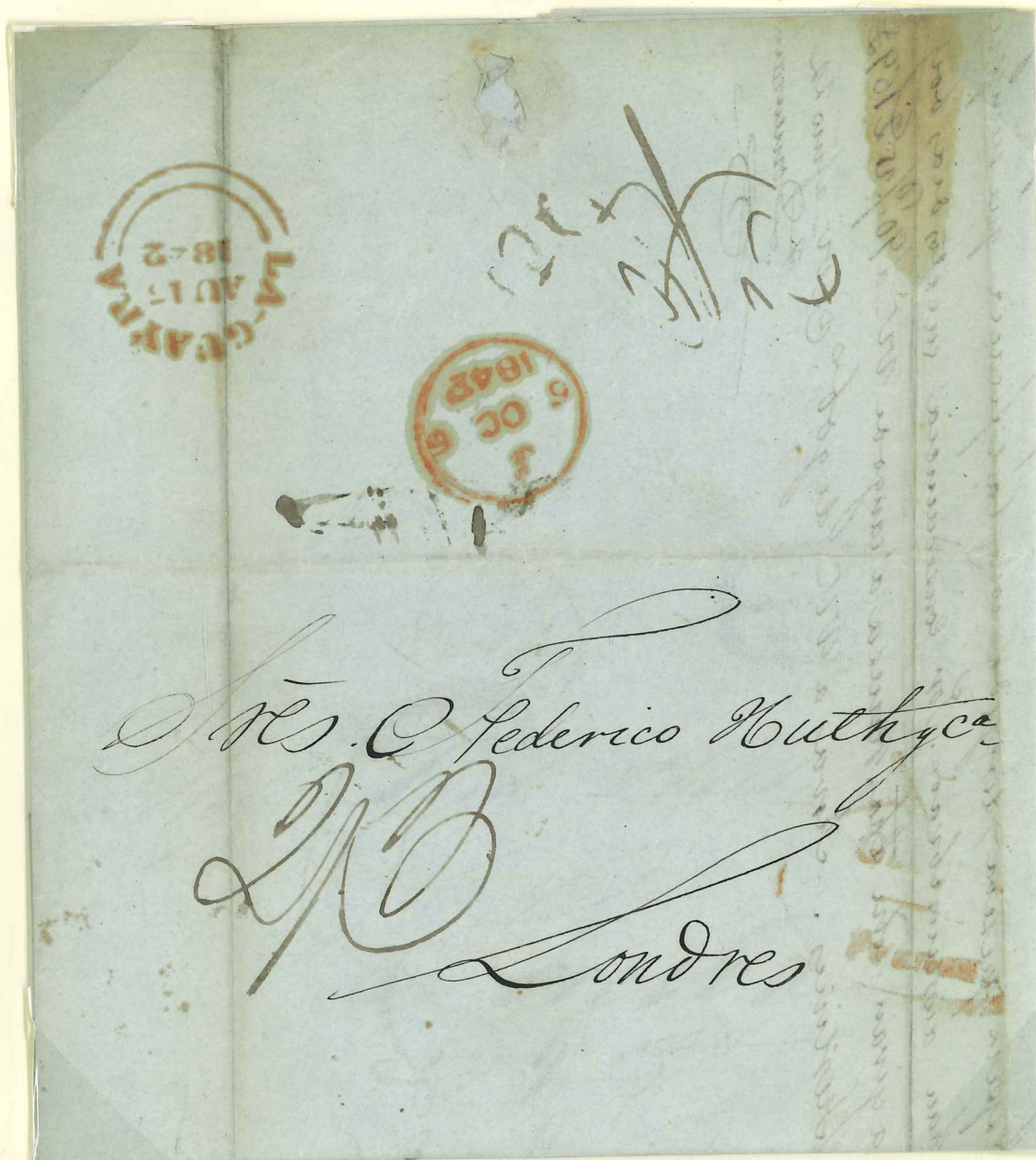
La Guayra Prestamp 1842

The British Steam Packet service to Venezuela was inaugurated in 1841; Venezuela imposed no fee or impediment to landing in Venezuelan ports. In return Great Britain reduced the packet rate to 1/- per ½ oz and opened packet agencies in La Guayra and Porto Cabello on 1st January 1842. Local postage to the Packet agency was prepaid at local rates. Unpaid covers are found with CDS cancels from 1842 to 1875.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP) conveyed the mails between St Thomas, La Guayra and Porto Cabello, the postage being 1/- per half ounce, with a local rate of ½ real (or 2½d) on all letters out.



CDS1 cancel



1842 Letter posted to Frederick Huth shipping and forwarding agents in London.
Rated 2/3 in manuscript with a faint local red oval paid (Franco) cancel on the front.
On the reverse is a LA GUAYRA Aug 13 1842 CDS1 Cancel (this is an early usage) in red and a LONDON
6 Oct 1842 arrival stamp.

British Postal Agency at Porto Cabello, Venezuela

British Postal Agencies were opened at La Guayra and Porto Cabello on 1st January 1842. The RMSP Co. conveyed mails between Porto Cabello, La Guayra and St. Thomas at a rate of 1 shilling per ½ ounce, with a local rate of ½ real (or 2½d) on out-going letters. The Crown Circle hand-stamp was replaced by the CDS cancel (for unpaid mail) from 3rd August 1847 to 23rd December 1858 (source *Parmenter*)



CDS

1847 (May 4th) outer letter sheet from Porto Cabello, Venezuela to Bordeaux



Venezuela 1847 outer letter sheet from Porto Cabello to Bordeaux via Great Britain. The front has a blue "A. BIEELNBERG & CO PUERTO-CABELLO" company handstamp, red framed Colonies & Art. 13 rectangular French accountancy handstamp, "20" in manuscript and a red French entry cds of Boulogne 10 JUIN 1847, The back has a red British Post Office Porto Cabello double arc CDS MY 4 1847, red GB transit 10 JU 1847 and black Bordeaux arrival cds 14 Juin.

The date predates by 2 months earliest Porto Cabello CDS in Parmenter (3rd Aug 1847)

Route:

By RMS Larne from Porto Cabello (1st May?) to St Thomas (11th May); RMD Dee from St Thomas (18th May) to Southampton (10th June)

Sources:

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

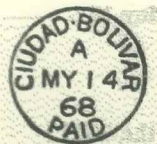
Parmenter J (1993) GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings Postal History Society, Beckenham

Venezuela

Ciudad Bolivar Paid 1877

A packet service to Ciudad Bolivar started in 1866 and the Postal agency was established in 1868; by 1878 only merchant steamers passed through Ciudad Bolivar and the service wound down as all mail had to go through the local post office.

In the last years Venezuela grew restive; mail was seized and ships were fired on when local regulations were transgressed.



CDS PAID.2



1877 (May 2nd) entire from Ciudad Bolivar to London with red single ring CDS PAID.2 on front and some filing notes. The entire is not complete, in very poor condition, opened out, separated and reinforced with parts of an old letter.

There is a letter just signed 'Laurie' inside and has interesting contents acknowledging some British Newspapers - Pall Mall Gazette, Weekly Times, Truth, Punch, Graphic, London News etc.'the poor castaways out here out of humanity's reach count a good deal on our papers....we do not take much stock in religious papers, what we want is something to cheer us up'.

The date is 2 months later than recorded in Parmenter for this cancel on stamp-less letters.

Venezuela



Since at least 1818 outgoing Venezuelan mail has been sent from La Guaira to St Thomas for onward transmission to Europe. In 1863 a private concession was granted to Captain Robert Todd to carry mail between La Guaira, Porto Cabello, and St Thomas. After many changes of hands the service eventually succumbed to the superiority of its rivals.

British Postal Agencies were established at La Guaira, Porto Cabello and Ciudad Bolivar. Letters abroad from Carupano would either go via one of the three agencies or be sent privately to St. Thomas.

Stamps of Britain were used at La Guaira in 1865-80 (cancel C60) and at Ciudad Bolivar in 1868-80 (cancel D22).

1848 entire from Carupano, Venezuela to Paris via St.Thomas



1848 entire from Carupano, Venezuela (28th November 1848) to Paris via St.Thomas and Great Britain. The front has manuscript "18", faint red framed Colonies & Art.13 rectangular French accountancy hand stamp and Boulogne 18 Fevr 49 transit mark. The reverse has British Postal Agency CDS1 St.Thomas JA 31 1849 and faint red London transit cancel.