

Guatemalan Auxiliary Markings, 1898-1967



This exhibit introduces the range of auxiliary postal markings in use within Guatemala from 1898 to the nadir of the 36-year-long civil in 1967. It allows one to see a small country's social, political, and economic history reflected in these postal markings. Additionally, the exhibit seeks to spur others to explore Guatemalan marcophily, by demonstrating just how much remains to be learned and documented.

Period Studied

This exhibit focuses on the Golden Era of Guatemala's postal system, which commenced in 1898 under the 'liberal' rule of President José Estrada Cabrera, as the country began to develop a modern infrastructure. The era ended in January 1967, with the introduction of unrestricted State-sponsored terrorism six years into Guatemala's 36-year-long civil war, leading to the collapse of postal and other public services.

Key to Symbols

- ◆ Numerous markings displayed in this exhibit have not been specifically identified in the philatelic literature. A red diamond indicates each such cover.
- ⌘ Several other markings are displayed on covers which predate or postdate the period in which these markings previously were documented as having been in use. These covers are identified with a stylized red hourglass.
- Covers which warrant special note are matted in the light blue of the Guatemalan flag. Each matted cover is one of no more than a handful of extant item of its type.

Plan of the Exhibit

Accountability Markings	
Buzónes	1:2 – 2:1
Carteros	2:2-9
Anomalies	2:10 – 3:3
Censorship	3:4-6
Registered Mail	3:7-15
Directional & Instructional Markings	
Routing Markings	3:16 – 4:1
Special Delivery & Express Markings	4:2-6
Printed Matter	4:7
Parcels	4:8-11
Official Mail	4:12 – 5:5
Air Mail	5:6 – 6:2
Promotional Markings	6:3
Coffee	6:4-8
Local Fairs	6:9-15
Raffles and Lotteries	6:16 – 7:2
Foreign Tourism	7:3-7
Misuse of Promotional Markings	7:8
Patriotic Themes	7:9-14
Concluding Note: Provenance	7:15
Afterword	7:16