

THE PERUVIAN GUANO TRADE: BOOM AND BUST, 1845-1879

Purpose: To show through postal and relevant collateral material the boom and bust cycle of the guano trade in Peru. A second theme involves the marketing of guano. Minor sources of guano in the South Pacific and Caribbean are accorded passing treatment insofar as they were related to Peru's guano.

Scope: The first exports of Peruvian guano to Europe began in the early 1840s. The boom years encompassed 1845-1879. A much-reduced trade continued into the 1890s.

Plan: Title panel: basic information about guano and the trade: **1. Peruvian Guano Trade; 1.1 United States; 1.2. France; 1.3 Great Britain; 4. Peru; 1.5. Guano Charters. 2. Marketing Peruvian Guano; 2.1 Post-boom Marketing. 3. Blends and Alternatives to Peruvian Guano. 4. Epilogue: End of the Guano Boom.**

Challenge: Letters from ship captains at the guano islands that specifically reference the loading of guano are very difficult to locate. Without access to archive of the French-Peruvian company of Thomas Lachambre development of the French dimension of the trade would not be possible.

Highlights (importance/significance) are matted in **red**. Postal/philatelic information is in **blue**. The story line is in **italics**.



First Day Cover Berlin, December 9, 1969. Celebrates the 200th birthday of the great Prussian naturalist Alexander von Humboldt.

Humboldt ascertained the value of nitrogen-rich Peruvian guano to farmers during his 1802-04 South American trip.

