Historic early letter 27 Nov 1756 iam Wain

Br Honduras

Letter to Boston stamped with red New York straight line transit mark, rated 4d.

Hundoros Novembery 27 When and mother theas with my humble

Copy of the byline.

16 Jan 1790 LINHIGHT VIIP-L.RE Joshua Reve Canterbury ogun Ship Milliams 0110 Capt Byron |

 Letter to London carried by private ship. Docked at Falmouth and reached London on 20 April.

 rated 7d, 1d for the captain and 6d for 140 miles to destination.

 ex Harper

Br. Honduras Missent markings

Missent to Waterford



Cover from Belize bearing GB 6d cancelled AO6 to Isle of Wight, annotated "Found sticking to a letter addressed to Peter Leckie & Co. Waterford", and with Waterford cds.

1861

Misserit Hannon 10 Aug 1861 ELIN Mess" Barclays & M. Dowell lamaica



UK to Jamaica, Belize cds preceded by manuscript "Missent to" in red pencil.



GB stamps used in the BWI Br Honduras A06

The smaller size A06



17 Apr 1860

MY 60

Derwent 17 Apr Kingston 17 Apr Teviot 24 Apr St Thomas 28 Apr Shannon 29 Apr Southampton 12 May



Single rate to the Isle of Wight, addressed to a Captain attached to Queen Victoria at Osborn house.

The taller A06









Br Honduras to Bermuda Registered mail

25 Mar 1892

Registered cover routed via New Orleans (28 Mar) and New York (2 Apr) to Hamilton (4 Bernuda 48 2 assister SCHANGE NEW YORK a.S.a via. -

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13:1

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backstamps

r K

Apr), franked by the two major overprint errors "6 and bar inverted" in both red and black. Correctly rated 12 cents for the single UPU rate of 8c (ie 4d) postage plus 4c (ie 2d) reg. fee. ex Tucker

British Honduras Local stamps

The Cuthbert Bros label

Sydney Cuthbert, owner of Belize merchants Cuthbert Bros, commuted daily by steam yacht from his house on St Georges Cay, a small island just inside the coral reef in the Bay of Belize. Finding that friends increasingly asked him to carry mail to and from the island, he decided to subsidise his trips by charging 3c to carry a letter, printing this primitive label for the purpose.

27 Sep 1895

Service 3 cent Surgen Majn F.R. Barter Henge Caye SEP 27 189 Britis Hondura.

One of the few covers to St Georges Caye, from the Barker correspondence.

Although Hurt and Williams record only 8 such covers, about 15 have appeared in auction.

A mystery local production



A charity label? Not previously recorded.

BRITISH HONDURAS

. . . .

THE INLAND MAIL ROUTES.

The Northern Mail Service.

In 1907, a contract was awarded to the BRITISH HONDURAS MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. The S.S.Egerton having sunk, the contract stipulated a vessel of 40 tons, and the "CITY OF BELIZE" was specially built for the Northern run. It depended on passengers and freight for an adequate income.

The "CITY OF BELIZE" was destroyed by fire at Orange Walk on 25th January 1911, and the tenure of the British Honduras Mail Steamship company was ended. The Egerton was raised and refitted, and together with other ships continued working until the roads brought the service to an end in the late thirties.

"CITY OF BELIZE"

Miss Lulu Deliste,

7 Emporia Ave., Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Via new Orleans 11. S. a

The stamps on both covers are cancelled by the K65 killer. The purpose of this mark has never been determined, it has been thought to be a ship mark, so perhaps these covers go to support this theory.

The port of Belize on the eastern coast of what later became British Honduras was a key transit point for mail from Central America, especially Guatemala but including Honduras and San Salvador, to Europe and the East. Starting in 1829 British packets stopped at Belize en route from Jamaica to Vera Cruz and in 1841 the RMSP commenced a regular service to Jamaica and London. Other ships transported mail to New Orleans.

In order to service the mails to and from Guatemala, merchants transported mail overland to Yzabal, across the lake and down the Dulce river to Belize. In 1851 this was regularised through a monthly schooner service between Yzabal and Belize. In Belize forwarding agents collected the mails, paid the packet fees to destination and billed their Guatemalan customers.

San Geronimo, Guatemala, to London Forwarded by Marshal Bennett

Please to Sirect J. Carten

San Gorommo, in the

State of Guatimala

15 y care of Marshal Bennett Eng. Belise. How Queras.

Central America

25 Jan 1835

on the 10th of Sancary we heard of the great fin at westminster, that it was occasioned by the mob and that every thing in England had the strongs appearance of a speedy Revolution but Than since been happy to kear the contrary,

This letter was written by J Carter and H Miles on their arrival in San Geronimo to work for Henry Bennett. They relate details of their 99-day journey from London and a new life among "an uncivilised people whose Sabbaths are spent in revelling in feasts, fairs and Bullfights and who are not scrupulous at a slight provocation to stab or murder their fellow man." It asks that responses be sent to the care of Marshal Bennett in Belize, **the earliest example of a Belize forwarding instruction**. The letter arrived in London on 22 October, nine months later.

ex Guggisberg ex Madden

BRITISH HONDURAS

MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS.

por 1839.

1 1 1 × 4

Letter from Liverpool to Guatemala, pre paid at Liverpool. Rate:- 3/2d.

It is impossible to say whether this amount includes any transit fee through Belize, indeed it may well have been sent before this payment was introduced as the date of its commencement is very speculative.

Espacia Silonce Guatimala M 1 Talmouth Suchel

It is only conjecture that this letter went through Belize, but as it went by Falmouth Packet it is a fair assumption.

Letters to Belize and beyond, travelled on the Mexico Packet which left Falmouth on the third Wednesday of the month. The mail was taken to Jamaica and then transferred to a branch vessel.

There are no postal markings other than those seen and a circular Liverpool date stamp on the reverse.

Forwarded by Charles Evans

Charles Evans was one of the earliest agents in Belize



Liverpool prices current for the week ending 23 April 1839 mailed to Guatemala by private ship "Visitor" (without transit markings) addressed to "care of Charles Evans, Honduras".

Guatemala to UK

Believ. Hondunas. 13. H. Tel. 1841 A. Randolph by Charles loans. M. Mandolph by Charles loans. M. M. J. Mandolph by Charles loans. M. M. J. Mandolph by Charles loans.

ex Wood

13 Feb 1841

From Guatemala to London, landed in Liverpool. Forwarded in Belize by Charles Evans.

This letter is addressed to F Huth, an important forwarding agent based in London.

Belize transit USA to San Salvador 3 Jan 1839 a Montiur Mousiur Auguste Matretin Consul Général de France a It Salvador dans la Republique, Amorique Contrate Ex Madden

From Philadelphia to the French Consul General in San Salvador, via Belize. Carried to New York where Gilpin arranged carriage to Belize by private ship; the letter was subsequently forwarded (probably through Marshal Bennett) by schooner to Yzabal and overland to Guatemala City and San Salvador. Rated 4 reales for the Guatemala leg.

Guatemala to Spain

Guatemala 2 Jul 1864





This correspondence is usually seen cancelled by the Mathé oval handstamp. Rates charged were 1/10 to London and 4 from London to Cadiz. The "5" stamp was applied in Guatemala.

ex Proud

Guatemala to UK

Forwarded by Evans and Schurer

Two letters to Isaac Cooke in Bristol



Carried by HMS Pilot to Falmouth where the green "Leeward Islands F" cds was applied. Back-stamped Bristol 24 August 1842. Endorsed "Guatemala" on reverse.



25

Helip 12 to Hel. 1845-Hermanded M. Cophie by Jonus Hillion

ex Wood

Mailed from Guatemala on 1 January 1845 and forwarded on 12 February in the same hand as the earlier 1841 Charles Evans cover. It was carried per "Sophie" and rated on the face 2/8. The letter was landed at Cove on 28 March where the Ship Letter marking was applied.

12 Feb 1845

Belize transit Forwarded Forwarded by Evans and Schurer EO& JOHN LAURIE NEWYORK 31 Ja 1844 Two more letters to Isaac Cooke in Bristol warded vie New 2 Januar GERR MAN backstamps ex Hart Ex Madden

This letter rated 8d is marked on face "Guatemala Jan 20th 1844". It was forwarded by Evans and Schurer on 31 January and routed via New York to London. In New York, another agent, Geo and John Lawrie, forwarded it to Bristol, where it arrived on 21 March. The rate was low because it was carried by private ship as marked "Ship Letter" on arrival.



Lee 19 Jan Havana 31 Jan Medway 7 Feb Bermuda 14 Feb Forth 14 Feb Falmouth 4 Mar



The use of the red pad for the Belize cds on unpaid letters between 12 November 1842 and 20 November 1845 was irregular, as by international postal agreement red denoted prepayment. Belize was very late to use a marking of origin - this cds was not introduced until late 1842.

Guatemala to France

Forwarded by Gray Thomson & Co.

22 Mar 1844

From Guatemala City to Bordeaux, forwarded by Belize agent Gray Thomson on 16 Apr 1844.

ex Berkinshaw-Smith

This cover took an unusual route. It was first carried to Havana, which the GPO packets served at this date. It was then picked up by the Teviot that docked at Nassau, St Georges Bermuda and Fayal en route to Southampton. Here it caught a French mail-boat crossing the channel to Boulogne, where it was transferred it to another French mail-boat sailing to Bordeaux. 20 centimes was collected on arrival in Bordeaux under Article 12 of the Anglo-French accounting convention that preceded the UPU treaty. The letter mentions the slow delivery of the outward letter carried on the alternative packet route from London to Belize and Guatemala via Vera Cruz. The Belize cds using the red ink pad is scarce.

Lee 20 Apr Havana 10 May Teviot 10 May Southampton 5 Jun Boulogne 7 Jun Bordeaux 9 Jun

Br. Honduras Forwarding Agents 9 Sep 1846 Mail from F Camoyano - 1846 Inquises unternal

To Guatemala showing a transit hand-stamp for Yzabal, where the schooner from Belize via the Rio Dulce and the lake of Yzabal landed the mails.

The Anglo-French Postal Convention governed the charges for mail carried by each others' packets. No French packets called at Belize so mail for France was carried on British ships, taken to the Foreign Branch in London and bagged for France. The boxed Colonies & Art., used between 1846 and 1855, refers to the accounting marks on the way-bill for Calais.

NO13 1841 Belize 18 Jan Eagle 29 Jan Kingston 24 Jan Clyde 27 Jan St Thomas 31 Jan La Plata 31 Jan Southampton 15 Feb Calais 16 Feb

To Mitjans & Co in Paris, arriving in Calais on 16 February. The "15" in manuscript represents the 15 centimes charge from Calais to Paris.

18 Jan 1854



From Bordeaux to Guatemala via London and Belize, rated 4 reales for transit to Guatemala.

Guatemala to USA 2 Oct 1854 Febame Udga. vada for fu

Ex Madden

From Guatemala to the Consul General for the Central American States in Washington. The green "4" represents the charge of 4 reales applied in Guatemala. Onward via New Orleans. Manuscript "Escaminada" (forwarded in Spanish) and signed by F Camoyano.

France to Guatemala

29 Ja 1850

ex Madden

Avon 1 Feb Bermuda 22 Feb Avon 25 Feb Havana 5 Mar Kingfisher 6 Mar Belize 14 Mar

Par le Taquebot anglais
19 1- m. Chip Batter
strong of Joline Bontat
grara entrega: a the Jelipe Bontat
1 mm A
Bep. Id dentro - América () por Belize

From Bordeaux to Guatemala via London and Belize, rated 4 reales for transit to Guatemala.

Guatemala to Belgium 6 Jun 1875 Tha Belife Mepr Yan Alandon Canat del'amidon Jaschau An Belgian

Hand-stamped Jean Serigiers in Guatemala to Antwerp.



From Paris via Le Havre to London (2 Jan 1851) and by PO Packet to Belize. 4 reales shared between Belize and Guatemala.

UK to Guatemala 3 Aug 1861 alisman (S.S. on fore Francis orth an y

A bill of lading for 13 cases of goods supplied by Greenshields & Co of Liverpool. Carried per SS Talisman, 4 reales shared between Belize and Guatemala.

BRITISH HONDURAS

150 - . . .

MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS.

1853. Cover to Ryde, Isle of wight from Guatemala.

SETBR 853 annu

Posted in Guatemala on 1st. September 1853, and received in Ryde om 14th October 1853.

Double arc BELIZE datestamp of 12th September 1853.

Showing also, the handstruck Guatemalan 4 in black used between 1853 and 1867, the fee for a letter of 1 - 2 ozs.

It is very difficult to say where this 4 was applied if prepayment was not instituted in Guatemala until 1858. It is like others on letters stamped in Belize, but on the other hand, it is very similar to that used in Guatemala City at this time and it appears to be in the same ink as the Postmark.

Perhaps it was an accountancy mark, the money being claimed later by the Belize P.O. It does not carry a Forwarding agent's cachet.

It seems one will never know as three disastrous fires in the early 20th Century destroyed the G.P.O. in Belize City together with all the records.

Belize transit Tamar 17 Aug St Thomas 30 Aug Belgium to Guatemala Conway 2 Sep Kingston 6 Sep Derwent 7 Sep Forwarded by J Alexander Belize 10 Sep 10 Sep 1854 ELIS. NO13 1841 Wice Consulat Gerant ad interim que G(1)] \$1 -5. a Janto Comas de Guaten backstamp Care of Mr Alexander Witish Honduras :) Ex Madden Manuscript "Care of Mr Alexander" on letter of Aug 12 from the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Belgian consul in Guatemala. 11 Jun 1859 ELIZ IL B 85 Atrato 17 May St Thomas 29 May Clyde 1 Jun Kingston 4 Jun Eagle 7 Jun Belize 11 Jun moun Servit In Conment Sten & Belgigne, " "matemala backstamps A letter from the same correspondence depatched on 14 May 1859. Prepaid

8 reales for the Belize-Guatemala leg (shared between Belize and Guatemala)

BRITISH HONDURAS

MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS.

After 1839, Mail to Guatemala mostly went through official forwarding agents.

Letter from the Foreign Office in Brussels to the Consul General at Santo Tomas, Guatemala.

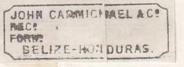
Date unknown.

Albino impression of BELIZE handstamp.



Black 4 on the front used between 1853 and 1867.

Agent's stamp on reverse:-



John Carmichael & Co. are known to have been agents between 1854 and 1856, so this gives a probable date for this cover.

BRITISH HONDURAS

2 1 . 3

MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS.

name either in manuscript or as a handstamp.

Rates for prepayment of mail were laid down somewhere about 1839 and were:-

1 real per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz if sent by commercial ship. 2 rs. " " if sent by packet.

This payment cannot always have been made as in 1847 the Belize authorities refused to handle any mail unless it was prepaid between Belize and Izabal.

Although agents were known to be forwarding mail prior to this date, it became more than ever necessary for private persons to have their own agents to see the mail on its way in either direction. Mail handled by an agent bears the normal postal markings plus his

Jor Don Jomas Medinio

Letter to Santa Ana, Salvador from Liverpool. Probably sent privately to Belize and forwarded on on payment of 4 reals. John Carmichael were agents in Belize from 1854 - 1856. Green 4 used 1855 - 1856.

15 NW. 1856

Forwarded by Antonio Mathé

The following set of accounts, reproduced in the Gaceta de Guatemala for 7 June 1860, indicates that the Guatemalan Post Office paid Antonio Mathé, the best known of the forwarding agents because of his use of handstamps, 22 pesos and 4 reales for his services in the year 1859. At the ruling postage rates this sum represented a little over 100 letters, about 8 per month. Of course, there were other agents operating within the same time-period.



Ex Madden

The number A06 was ascribed to Belize. Two oval handstamps were made in different sizes and from observation it seems that the stamp with larger size letters was used for transit mail. Only three entires of transit mail bearing GB stamps have survived.

British Honduras The French Connection

Guatemala to Paris

The Anglo-French Postal Convention governed the charges for mail carried by each others' packets. No French packets called at Belize so mail for France was carried on British ships, taken to the Foreign Branch in London and bagged for France. The boxed Colonies & Art., used between 1846 and 1855, refers to the accounting marks on the way-bill for Calais.



Dep Belize Eagle 19 Apr Kingston 23 Apr Solent 28 Apr St Thomas 2 May Parana 2 May Southampton 17 M Calais 18 May



Under a new Anglo-French Convention signed in 1856 unpaid mail carried to France by British packets was charged 1F 60 centimes per 30 grams. On 1 January 1858 this charge was increased to 2F but in May 1858 this was suspended when compulsory prepayment was introduced with the arrival of GB stamps in the British colonies. From 1858 to 1860 Antonio Mathé acted on behalf of the Guatemalan PO in franking and forwarding Guatemalan mail.





backstamps

In 1860 the rate to France from British colonies was 1F 60c. The 6 represents the 6 reales charged by Guatemala for transit to Belize.

Ex Madden

Br Honduras

Forwarding Agents

Mail to New York from B Cramer

14 Jun 1859 Honduras. anma

Mailed by B Cramer, an agent in Belize. 6 US cents due on arrival.

IZE MONDURA			2 Apr 186
	st P P P		2 11.01
5	pr. Pallas:	Λ	
	M a	1	7/
	Mest ~	anman +	Nemp
	RORAMED	14.1	
		New	Jore.
	SLIZE MONDURA	A S	

Carried privately by Pallas, hand-stamped by Cramer's rarely seen oval identifier.

UK to Guatemala

Forwarded by Antonio Mathé



In 1860 most mail to Europe was routed via Panama and a Belize routing became less usual.



Unfranked from London with the rarely seen double oval "received and forwarded by Antonio Mathé" in blue. Belize and Guatemala shared the 4 reales charge for a ½ oz weight.

UK to Guatemala

Forwarded by Antonio Mathé



Ex Barnstone

16 May 1864

Carried by private ship from London to Belize, charged the single 4 reales rate to Guatemala.

Mathé held a contract with the Guatemalan PO to handle its transit mail in the early 1860s.

Shannon 17 May St Thomas 1 Apr Tamar 11 Apr Kingston 4 Apr Derwent 7 Apr Belize 11 Apr



ex Addiss

Example from the same correspondence but prepaid (red) 8 reales by Mathé.

Omoa (Honduras) to Paris



A French company was hired to construct a new railroad in Honduras. Its representative in Omoa reported to Mr Metivier de Val in Paris on progress, or usually lack of it. The mail was normally forwarded by B Cramer, but this one letter is marked as handled by Frank Wozilla.



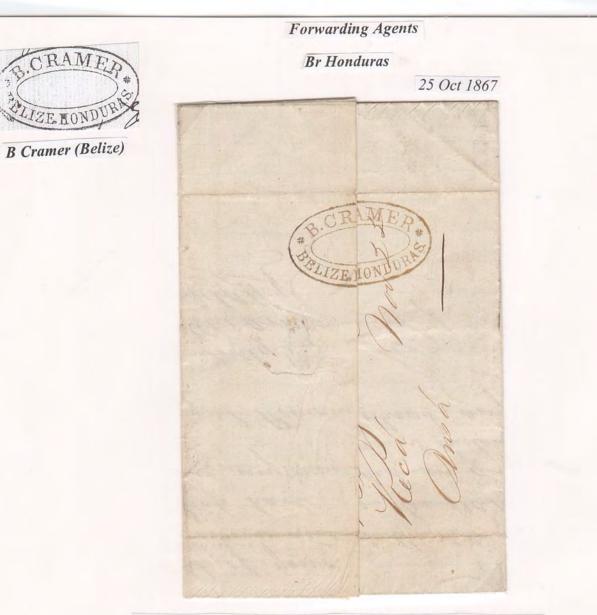
Showing the Anglo-French accountancy hand-stamp applied by London's Foreign Branch.

Only recorded example



This letter was prepaid by Cramer (denoted by the red Belize paid 4 January) to Paris. The red 4 signifies payment from Guatemala to Belize. The red PD mark was applied in London.

This letter from Mr Laurent in Omoa asks for books to be sent via Cramer.



Oval handstamp on cover from Belize to New York, per Pallas.



Belize 1 Feb Jamaica 10 Feb **Shannon** 11 Feb Plymouth 2 Mar Calais 5 Mar



ex Madden

Entire letter from Omoa to Paris, via Belize, forwarded by Cramer

backstamp AB ex Madden Guatemala 6 Oct 1875 NAM COS OF CURL This cover was sent from Guatemala to Berlin via Belize, where the Belize Paid marking was applied on 18 October. A forwarding agent paid 6d onward mail charge, 5d to GPO London. erro Forwarded in Belize where two stamps were added to pay the onward fee. 60 00-10 35 Guatemala 6 Aug 1878 nn Guatemala to Germany Belize transit Plymouth 12 Nov London 13 Nov Jamaica 24 Oct Moselle 25 Oct Belize 18 Oct 800751 DELIZA PAID



LKD 15 Dec 1861

Paid markings of the British West Indies

Br Honduras

Wye 17 Dec Kingston 22 Dec Teviot 27 Dec St Thomas 31 Dec Oneida 2 Jan Southampton 18 Jan





A double rate (1/-) cover with prepayment shown by the rare Belize Paid cds with "C" code to Liverpool. This paid mark succeeded the Crowned Circle in 1860.

In 1863 the single rate to London was raised from 6d to 1/-.



EKD 14 Feb 1862 LKD 8 Mar 1871

Derwent 15 Sep Kingston 19 Sep



SH TO

backstamp

To Jamaica, prepaid 4d for the Western hemisphere rate.

Paid markings of the British West Indies

Br Honduras

Although Br Honduras had adhesives from 1866, relatively few franked covers survive while a surprising number of unfranked covers dated from 1866-1875 are seen with PAID handstamps.

Provisional use of the PAID straight line mark				
	8 Jun 1870			
Mess, M. 650 67 Carma	Vardie Co. Vardie Co. Let Othert _ Ven Orleans			
	Louisiana JUN G			

Omoa origin

Unfranked envelope to New Orleans, prepaid 6d. The PAID handstamp was applied exclusively to mail for US destinations to signify full prepayment and hence exemption from US landing fees.

Note the red hand-stamp PAID applied in Belize – a rare mark.

ex Harper

Provisional use of the small Belize Paid cds, showing small A code

Derwent 7 Mar Kingston 10 Mar Douro 11 Mar Plymouth 28 Mar

PAID



Prepaid 1/1d to London, arriving 28 March.

ex Addiss

backstamp



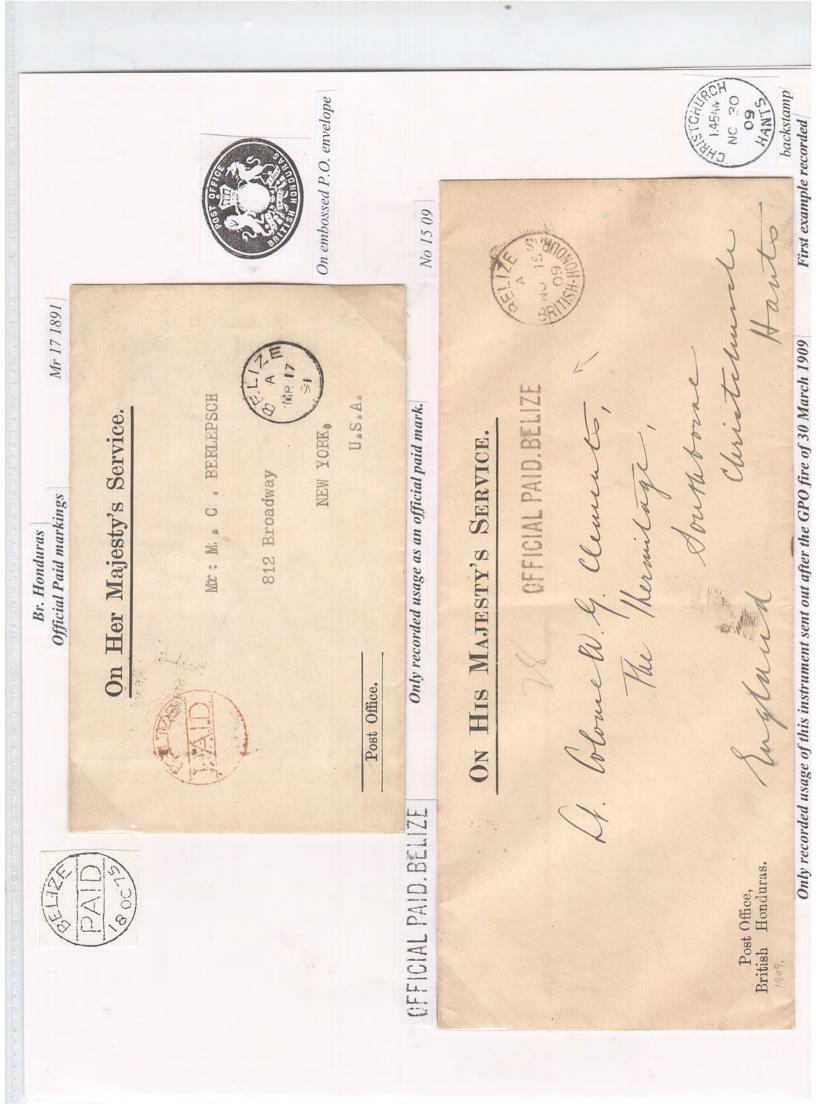
Letter to Norway from a sailor on the Norwegian ship "Oscar I". This was mailed in Belize on 12 March 1871 and prepaid 6d (1d due to ship's captain). The 3d handstamp represents the amount due from London to Bergen.



17 Mar 1891



OHMS embossed PO envelope to NewYork, Belize Paid cds confirming the validity of the usage.





Br Honduras to Germany, 10c rate so underpaid 5d. T mark and blue crayon 1/25 applied in Belize. The 5d handstamp may have been applied in Liverpool or Belize. 40 Pfennigs charged.

4 Apr 1927 Calle 62 # 409 A. Merida. yne. Mixico. Francise Balwerd Lene H. R. E. A 820 30 Via New Orleans

From Merida in the Yucatan peninsula. Underpaid 1/2d, so 2c charged and due affixed.

Br Honduras

1879 1 1/2d postcard

Artist's drawing



Hand-painted essay, stamp and legend executed in dark rose and white with pencil frame on brown tracing paper.

ex De La Rue



Die proof in sunk frame

ex De La Rue