## Br Honduras

Historic early letter
27 Nov 1756


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


Copy of the byline.


Letter to London carried by private ship. Docked at Falmouth and reached London on 20 April. rated Td, Id for the captain and Gd for 140 miles to destination.

## Br. Honduras

Wisent markings

## Missent to Waterford

17 Apr 1859


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


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


The smaller size A06


17 Apr 1860
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
$\square$



Cancelled by the only known use of the Colonial Secretary's Office British Honduras cds.


## 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 decidèd to subsidise his trips by charging 3 c to carry a letter, printing this primitive label for the purpose.

27 Sep 1895


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.

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"


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.

## Belize transit

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


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
ex Guggisberg ex Madden 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.

## BRITISH HONDURAS

## MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS．

## ロ゙ロ 1839 ．

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．


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．

## Belize transit

## Forwarded by Charles Evans

Charles Evans was one of the earliest agents in Belize

## UK to Guatemala

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
13 Feb 1841

ex Wood
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.


## USA to San Salvador.

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


Derwent 15 Jul Jamaica 20 Jul
Tamara 25 Jul
St Thomas 28 Jul
Seine 1 Aug Southampton 12 A Cadiz 17 Aug


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

## Belize transit

## Guatemala to UK



## Cove <br> 



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.

## Belize transit

Forwarded by Evans and Schurer


backstamps
ex Hart
Ex Madden

This letter rated $8 d$ is marked on face "Guatemala Jan $20^{\text {th }} 1844$ ". 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.

## Belize transit

## Guatemala to France

## Lee 20 Apr

 Havana 10 MayTeviot 10 May
Southampton 5 Jun
Boulogne 7 Jun
Bordeaux 9 Jun

## Forwarded by Gray Thomson \& Co.



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 AngloFrench 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.

## Forwarding Agents

Mail from F Camoyano


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.


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

## Belize transit

## France to Guatemala

## Forwarded by F Camoyano

?29 Apr 1850

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

Guatemala to USA
2 Oct 1854


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.

## Belize transit

## France to Guatemala

29 Ja 1850

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


ex Madden

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


## Guatemala to Belgium

6 Jun 1875


Hand-stamped Jean Serigiers in Guatemala to Antwerp.

## Belize transit

Severn 2 Jan (from Southampton)
St Thomas 24 Jan
Great Western 25 Jan
Jamaica 28 Jan
France to Guatemala

Conway 12 Feb Belize 18 Feb
 IVan 1851


backstamp

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


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

## MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS.

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


Posted in Guatemala on 1st. September 1853, and received in Ryde om 14th October 1853.
Double arc BELIZE datestamp of 12 th 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

Samar 17 Aug
St Thomas 30 Aug
Conway 2 Sep Kingston 6 Sep Derwent 7 Sep Belize 10 Sep

## Belgium to Guatemala

0 Sep 1854


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


Atrato 17 May St Thomas 29 May Clyde 1 Jun Kingston 4 Jun Eagle 7 Jun Belize 11 Jun
A letter from the same correspondence depatched on 14 May 1859 . Prepaid
8 rales 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.

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Letter from the Foreign Office in Brussels to the Consul General at Santo Tomas, Guatemala.
Date unknown.
Albino impression of BELIZE handstamp.
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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

## MAIL GOING THROUGH BRITISH HONDURAS.

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 name either in manuscript or as a handstamp.


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.

## Belize transit

## 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.
dico se publica dos reces á la seprecio de la suscricion es: doce loce nùmeros, en la Capital; capara los departamentos y dos pesos - República.


Guatemala, Junio 7 de 1860.


Cargo................. . 4, 4777 $7 \frac{1}{2}$
Data . . . . . . . . . . . . . $1,1007 \frac{1}{2}$
Exist. en dinero y deudas 3,87700
Guatemala, Mayo 31 de 1860.-Dom?
go Castillo.-José Justo Millu.-V. E
Cerezo.
$6 d$ rate to the UK
No 141859

GB stamps used in Belize 1858-60

Guatemala origin, 1/- double rate to London
2•Jul 1858


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.


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 $2 F$ 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.


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

## Br Honduras

Forwarding Agents

## Mail to New York from B Cranmer



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



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

Belize transit

## UK to Guatemala

## Forwarded by Antonio Mathé



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

## La Plata 17 Jan

 St Thomas 2 Feb Wye 3 Feb Kingston 6 Feb Derwent 8 Feb Belize 12 Feb

## Ex Madden

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 $1 / 2$ oz weight.

## Belize transit

## UK to Guatemala

## Forwarded by Antonio Mathé



Ex Barnstone

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.

16 May 1864


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

## Belize transit

## 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.


Belize 4? Apr Jamaica? Apr Atrato 9 Apr Plymouth 28 Apr

Paris 2 May

4 Apr 1868


backstamps
ex Wood

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

30 De 1868

Belize 31? Dec Jamaica? Jan Atrato 10 Jan Plymouth 28 Jan

London 29 Jan
Calais 30 Jan
Paris 30 Jan
Only recorded example


## Forwarded by B Cramer



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.

## Forwarding Agents



B Cramer (Belize)

Br Honduras
25 Oct 1867


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
$\left.\begin{array}{l}\text { BELRE } \\ \hline \text { PAID } \\ \text { Boc } 1^{5}\end{array}\right)$


EKD 17 Jul 1860
LKD 15 Dec 1861

## Paid markings of the British West Indies

## Br Honduras



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.

Derwent 15 Sep
Kingston 19 Sep
In 1863 the single rate to London was raised from $6 d$ to 1/-.

15 Sep 1864

backstamp
To Jamaica, prepaid $4 d$ 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



Unfranked envelope to New Orleans, prepaid 6d. The PAID handstamp was applied exclusively
Omoa origin 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

backstamp


## Br Honduras

Kingston
Nile 25 Mar Plymouth 10 Apr


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

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


$$
\begin{array}{cc|}
\substack{\text { Br. Honduras } \\
\text { Official Paid markings }} & \text { Mr } 171891 \\
\text { On Her Majesty's Service. } \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$



- पy0x man

Post Office.


## $\frac{(5208}{01 \nabla d}$

 Кемреотя $\mathrm{\imath I8}$e
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0FFICIAL PAID. BELIZE Only recorded usage as an official paid mark.
On His Majesty's Service. OFFICIAL PAID. BELIZE A. Colone W. M. Clements, the /her

OFFICIAL PAID. BELIZE A

Only recorded usage as an official paid mark.



Br. Honduras<br>Underpaid Mail

7 Jan 1898


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.


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

## Br Honduras



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


Die proof in sunk frame

