

Recorded usage.

For the 1867 issue, the valid postal rates were the following :

- 1 r single internal and local rate.
- 2 r for single external rate to Panama. If the letter was going somewhere else, in Panama it was handed over to British Postal Authorities who charged 1/ as transit fee. Mail going to Europe usually was accountancy marked upon arrival.
- Inbound mail charged with 2 r per ½ oz. for inland delivery charges.

On July 20, 1870, the first Postal Treaty between the USA and El Salvador was signed. This was followed next year by a further agreement for the exchange of mail via Panama to New York or San Francisco, which enabled their respective Consulates to receive and dispatch mail between the two countries. Other postal treaties were signed with Nicaragua and Honduras in 1872, setting up regular mail dispatches between the countries.

Probably only about 70 to 80 genuinely used 1867 & 1874 issue covers exist. Some of these covers have combination franking, inbound mail with volcano issues to pay for local postal charges. In most of these covers, the stamps are not properly tied to the cover, so it could be argued that they were added to make them appear as if they were used to pay for local charges, and enhance the value of the cover. However, since all of them have been brought up on auctions as genuine items, they will also be included on the listing, until definite proof invalidating their authenticity is found. Upon publication, we have been able to record 35 covers belonging to the 1867 issue. Covers illustrated have their number in blue.

1867-1. Date unknown. To Guatemala. Pair of ½r untied by mute cancel. Mail to Guatemala treated as Interior Mail (1r rate).



Figure 2-27. 1867-1

1867-2. 1877 La Libertad to Bordeaux, France. Administración General de Correos official mail with July 12 cds. Via Panama, July 17 and London, August 14. Received Bordeaux, August 15. and taxed "17" (decimes). 2 Reales Single Outbound Rate with ½ Real Penalty for Late Posting. This is the only known combination of ½r first issue and 2r "Contrasello".



Figure 2-28. 1867-2

1867-3. 1867 San Salvador to Santa Ana. 1r internal rate tied by Double S's inside a circle cancel. Earliest recorded use of the 1867 issue (Mar. 11).



Figure 2-29. 1867-3

1867-4. 1867 Sonsonate to Santa Ana. 1r tied by mute cancel.

1867-5. 1868 letter from Sonsonate to Santa Ana. 1r untied by a heavy central ink cancel.

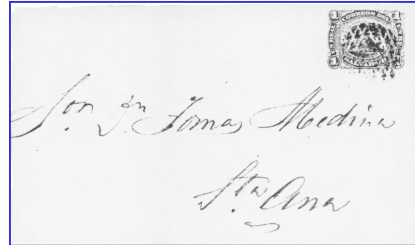


Figure 2-30. 1867-4

1867-6. 1868 Sonsonate to San Salvador. 1r tied by mute cancel alongside Sonsonate date stamp.

1867-7. 1869 letter from Sonsonate to Santa Ana. 1r tied by Sonsonate Sep. 29 date stamp.



Figure 2-31. 1867-5

1867-8. 1869 Sonsonate to Santa Ana. 1r untied by mute cancel.



Figure 2-32. 1867-6



Figure 2-34. 1867-8

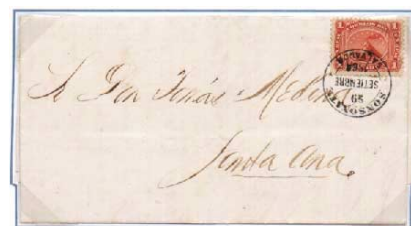


Figure 2-33. 1867-7



Figure 2-35. 1867-9



Figure 2-36. 1867-10



Figure 2-37. 1867-12

1867-9. 1872 San Miguel to Guatemala. Dated April 12. Mail to Guatemala treated as Interior Mail, thus having the 1r rate tied by a dumb cancel.

1867-10. 1872 San Salvador to Guatemala, Jun. 22. Stamp untied by 'FRANCO' cancel alongside San Salvador cds. Again, mail to Guatemala treated as Interior Mail, thus having the 1r rate tied by a diamond cancel.

1867-11. 1867 La Union to New York. 1r just tied by mute cancel. Another 1r. has been removed.

1867-12. 1867 San Salvador to London. 1r horizontal pair tied by mute cancels. Via Panama Aug. 20, and backstamped London, Sep.14. Charged 2/- on arrival.

Who was Tomás Medina?

Any collector with the opportunity to study surviving covers from or to El Salvador around the 1850's to the 1880's, will notice that a great percentage of them were addressed to Mr. Tomás Medina of Santa Ana.



Photograph of Tomás Medina.



Some covers sent to Medina from France.

Tomás Medina was born in Santa Ana on June 21, 1803, becoming initially a merchant. Tempted by politics, he became a deputy in 1833, senator in 1848, and vice-president of the republic in 1852 during the Francisco Dueñas administration (who later again became president and introduced the first postage stamps). In 1854, he occupied the governorship of Sonsonate for 8 months, and in 1859, he was elected again senator for Santa Ana. Incarcerated when General Carrera from Guatemala invaded El Salvador in 1863, he lost most of his fortune, which he later rebuilt during the 1870's with the help of his British associates. He died on February 13, 1884.

1867-13. 1867 to London. 1r horizontal pair untied by mute cancels. Via Panama, Aug. 20. Charged 2/- on arrival.



Figure 2-38. 1867-13

1867-14. 1867 San Salvador to London. 1r pair charged by mute cancels. Via Panama, Aug. 30. Charged 2/- on arrival.



Figure 2-39. 1867-14

1867-15. 1872 San Salvador to Paris. 1r vertical pair cancelled and just tied by mute type with adjacent September 23 cd's. Via Panama, Oct. 3, and GB/1F.90c accountancy handstamp.

1867-16. 1872 Cojutepeque to Paris. 1r horizontal pair tied by mute type with adjacent September 19 cd's. San Salvador transit datestamp, via Panama, Oct. 3, and GB/1F.90c accountancy handstamp.



Figure 2-40. 1867-15

1867-17. 1872 La Union to Bordeaux. 1r horizontal pair tied by mute cancel with February 4 date stamp. Via Panama, Feb. 12, and GB/1F.90c accountancy handstamp. Backstamped Nancy, Mar. 14, and taxed "15" (decimes) at Bordeaux.

1867-18. 1872 La Union to Bordeaux. 1r horizontal pair tied by mute cancel. Via Panama, and GB/1F.90c accountancy handstamp. Received in Calais during April.

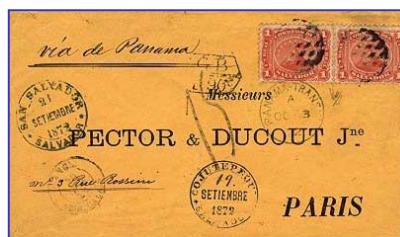


Figure 2-41. 1867-16



Figure 2-43. 1867-18



Figure 2-42. 1867-17



Figure 2-44. 1867-19



Figure 2-45. 1867-20

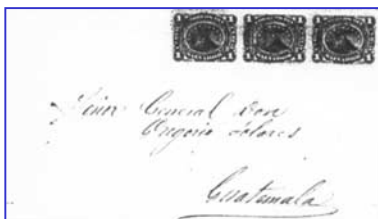


Figure 2-46. 1867-21



Figure 2-47. 1867-22



Figure 2-48. 1867-24

1867-19. 1873 San Salvador to Paris. 1r horizontal pair untied by pen cancel alongside San Salvador cds, Dec. 10. Via Panama, Jan. 3, 1874, and GB/1F.90c accountancy handstamp. Taxed "15" (decimes) upon arrival.

1867-20. 1874 San Salvador to Guatemala. 1r horizontal pair lightly tied. San Salvador cds, Apr. 13. Unlike previous covers to this destination, it has the standard 2r outbound rate.

1867-21. 1867. San Salvador to Guatemala. Strip of three 1r. tied by Double S's inside a circle cancel. Only known cover with a 3r. rate to Guatemala.

1867-22. 1867 San Miguel to New York. 2r untied by a mute cancel in blue. Adjacent 'NY Steamship 10' Oct. 1 c.d.s.

1867-23. 1869 (Dec). Mourning cover to London. 2r. Tied by mute cancel. Via Panama (Dec. 21), and charged 1/6' due in arrival.

1867-24. 1872 Suchitoto to New York. 2r tied by dumb cancel with adjoining Feb. 8 1872 c.d.s. San Salvador transit datestamp and 'NY Steamship 10' c.d.s. Mar. 1 c.d.s.

1867-25. 1872 to Paris. 2r green tied by blind cancel. Panama transit datestamp, Oct. 3, GF/1F.90c. Received Oct. 30, and charged 15 decimes on arrival.

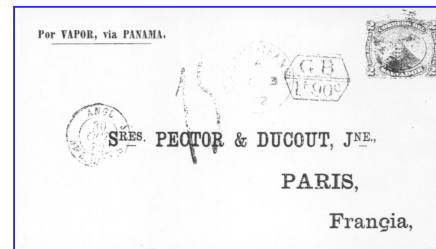


Figure 2-49. 1867-25

1867-26. 1873 Suchitoto to New York. 2r tied by prephilatelic cancel 'Franco' with adjoining Oct. 9 1872 c.d.s. San Salvador transit datestamp (Oct. 11, 1873 [?]), and 'NY Steamship 10' c.d.s. Nov. 3 c.d.s.



Figure 2-50. 1867-26

1867-27. 1873 to Paris. 2r tied by pen-stroke. Via Panama, May 13, and GB/1F.90c. accountancy handstamp. Charged 15 (decimes) on arrival.



Figure 2-51. 1867-27

1867-28. 1878 La Libertad to Bordeaux. 2r tied by mute cancel. Via Panama, Apr. 12, and London Apr. 27. Taxed "17" (deci) upon arrival.



Figure 2-52. 1867-28

1867-30. Undated to New London, Connecticut. Pait of 2r tied by mute cancel. 'NY Steamship 10' c.d.s. 4 reales double outbound rate charged 10c for inland delivery.



Figure 2-54. 1867-30

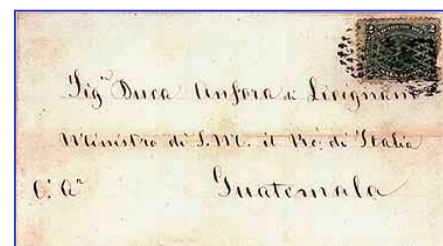


Figure 2-53. 1867-29



Figure 2-55. 1867-31

Stamps used as Postage Due.



Figure 2-56. 1867-32



Figure 2-57. 1867-33



Figure 2-58. 1867-34

1867-31. 1877 La Libertad to Bordeaux France. 4 r tied by mute cancel with adjoining Apr. 23 c.d.s. Via Panama, May 2, and backstamped Bordeaux, May 30. 4 r double outbound rate taxed "23" (deci) upon arrival. Only known 4r single franked cover.

1867-32. 1867 NY to El Salvador. 1861 USA 10c. Green envelope bearing Wells Fargo & Co. paid frank with the blue Wells Fargo NY datestamp used as a 'pasteup' cover with 3 2r. cancelled on arrival.

1867-33. 1868 San Francisco to El Salvador. No transit marks or manuscript due markings. 4r untied by mute cancel used as postage due.

1867-34. 1869 New York to La Libertad. 1rx2 and 4 r used to pay inland delivery charges of 6r for 1 1/2 oz. Weight at 2r per 1/2 oz. Manuscript "6" dues marking covered by 4 r.

1867-35. 1868 Paris to San Salvador. 20 & 80c. Napoleon III issue with mute cancels alongside datestamp (Jan. 1). Panama Transit Mark, and charged 4r due upon arrival. 4r. cancelled in blue.



Figure 2-59. 1867-35

Bogus Issues and Counterfeits.

A. Bogus Issues.



Emission details :

Printing Method : Typography.

Perforation : Imperforate.

No Watermark.

Colors Known : Blue, Black, Green.

Figure 2-60. Bogus issue, private printing, or local proof?

These stamps were first reported on the February 1867 issue of 'Le Timbre-Poste,' where it was also mentioned that the ABN issue would be intended for foreign mail. However, they were denounced shortly as a dubious issue of no genuine postal value. Nevertheless, there is no definite proof of their origin, and collectors have found three different explanations for them:

- **Boston Gang bogus issue.** The "Boston Gang" was a group of dealers who produced bogus and fake stamps, and included S. Allan Taylor, F. Triffet, and James Chute among its members. This group is also credited with producing bogus issues of several other countries, among them Guatemala, Haiti, and Paraguay. Some collectors believe that these stamps are Boston Gang creations prepared prior to the issue of the 1867 definitives. However, almost all of the Boston Gang creations were fine engravings totally different to the crude typographic printing of these stamps, so there is no conclusive information to attribute their printing to this group.
- **Local proofs.** Some collectors think that prior to ordering the first issue stamps from the ABN, El Salvador Government tried to locally print the stamps. Since the results were not satisfactory enough, they dropped the idea and ordered the stamps from abroad. No record has been found that could document these local printings.
- **San Salvador Private Printing.** When El Salvador ordered from the ABNC its first stamps in 1866, a private individual in San Salvador (of unknown identity) printed a few samples of these stamps and offered them to the government so they could be used before the arrival of the ABN issue. Since the government refused, they never came into use, and today only a few copies remain. Like the above theory, no record has been found of this proposal.

Since most collectors discarded these items because of their dubious origin, over the years, they have become very scarce.

B. Counterfeits.

1867 issues have been counterfeited at least two times.

First Counterfeits : Done by the Spiro Brothers in the first few years after the original issue, they can be identified because they are lithographed (instead of engraved) on porous thin and soft wove paper, and the background outside the oval is made up of tartan-like crossed wavy lines. All four values were counterfeited, and are found in various perforations : 13 ½ bad pin perforation, 12 pin perforation, 12 ½ perf. with oblong holes, 12 ½ x 13 ½, and even some with rough pin perforation which cannot be gauged.

There are several color varieties for all values, and some can be found cancelled. The workmanship is very rough and this is especially noticeable in the stars above the mountain. These are not uniform as to shape and size and are not distributed evenly. On some forgeries the stars inside the oval have shading lines.



Figure 2-61. Spiro Brothers counterfeit stamps. Between 1860 and 1880, the Spiro brother printed lithographic forgeries of stamps until they were denounced in the 'Spud Papers.'

Second Counterfeits : Also lithographed, but instead of the crossed wavy lines, they have a background of multiple numbers or letters like the genuine stamps. However, the value inscriptions are crudely drawn and the stars above the mountains resemble botches rather than stars. The gauge is 8 ½.

Only the ½ r and the 1r value have been reported, and their scarcity suggests they could be postal forgeries rather than counterfeits for collectors. No information regarding their origin is known.



Figure 2-62. Second counterfeit.

C. Fraudulent Cancels.

So far, four different counterfeit cancels for the 1867 issue have been detected.

- **Franco** : Has shorter corner lines and a different letter style when compared to the original.



Figure 2-63.

- **Fleur-de-lis** : The fleurs-de-lis are formed by lines instead of small diamonds.

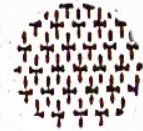


Figure 2-64.

- **Dots** : Formed by rows of very small lines, instead of dots.



Figure 2-65.

- **Star** : Unframed star with a 16mm diameter.



Figure 2-66.

D. Counterfeit Covers.

There are also several fake 1867 issue covers, such as the ones illustrated below. Both of them are pen cancelled, don't bear any transit postmarks, and are addressed to José Marco del Pont (a famous argentinian collector). It has been suggested that they may be the work of Raoul de Thuin.



Figure 2-67. Counterfeit cover, pen-cancelled and no transit stamps. There is no record to prove that the 1 ½ r rate really existed.



Figure 2-68. Counterfeit cover with fake 'Franco' cancel..