

EL QUETZAL



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The 1985 COMMEMORATIVE COFFEE ENVELOPES

By David R. Reitsema, ISGC #803

In 1984, Guatemala issued a series of stamps commemorating its coffee production industry and in 1985 followed with the issuance of two commemorative envelopes. Guatemala had begun issuing these types of postal stationery in 1976 after a period of over 50 years without issuing any postcards or envelopes. Fourteen subjects were portrayed on envelopes issued in the years from 1976 through 1986. All of the envelopes were issued in limited quantities. For example, the two coffee envelopes of 1985 were issued in quantities of just 15,000 each.

The only reference to these of which I am aware is in Guatemala Philately 1971-90 Issues & Special Studies ("Guatemala Philately"). That resource indicates



Figure 1 – 1985 Coffee Envelope



Figure 2 – 1984 Coffee Stamp

that these were typically bought for special (bulk) mailings but not bought in quantity by either the public or business entities and that both used and mint copies of some are hard to find.

There were two designs for this issue. One was a brightly colored envelope picturing red coffee berries (Figure 1) supporting the theme of the corresponding stamps promoting Guatemalan coffee production (Figure 2). [continued on page 9]