



# EL QUETZAL



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GUATEMALA COLLECTORS

Editorial Review Board – David Lindwall, Jack Jonza, Gabriel Ramirez

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**David Reitsema**

**Editor**

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## THE LONG-MISSING 1872 ONE PESO BLOCK OF FOUR

By David E. Lindwall ISGC 446

In July, 1932 the German philatelic journal *Illustriertes Briefmarken-Journal* printed a picture of a block of four of the yellow one peso stamp of 1872 in a very short article correcting an earlier article that reported that no multiples larger than pairs were known of this stamp.



Continued on page 2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi all,

We will be meeting once again for our annual Board / Membership meeting during the WESTPEX stamp show in San Francisco, California from April 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Our meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. If you plan on attending the meeting and/or the show please send me a note, and I will send you updates by text message or email regarding any ISGC social gatherings during the show.

Elections are just around the corner and if you would like to be more involved with the society, now will be a good time. We are looking for a Membership Chairman at the present moment. If you would like more information regarding the duties involved, please send me a message, and I can answer any questions of you may have. You are welcome to enter you name in any of the other positions that make up the ISGC Board. The elections will be one of our main topics during our meeting.

I will begin working on archiving the Cécile Gruson research material sometime in the month of May. As mentioned before help will be needed in translating some of the text. I will reconnect with those of you who have already graciously offered to help out in this venture soon after our meeting in April.

Until next time, Happy Stamping!

**Jaime Marckwordt**

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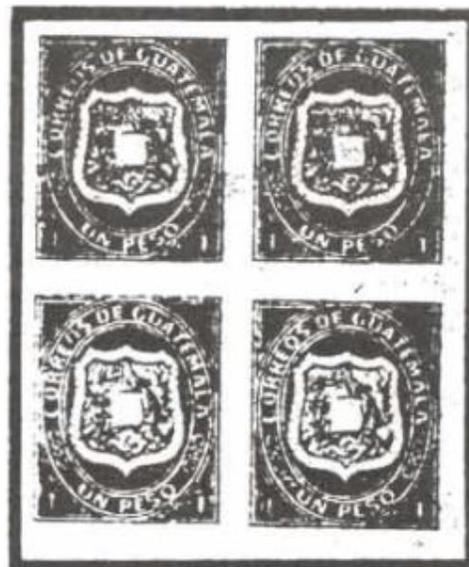
(Continued from page 1)

The March, 1995 edition of *El Quetzal* (Vol. 45, No. 281, p. 8) reproduced a very grainy copy of this illustration [see image here on the right] with a note speculating that the unique block, which was reported to be in the hands of a German collector when last seen in 1932, may have been destroyed in WWII.

Eighty-four years later, the block re-emerged unscathed in the stock of a European stamp dealer that was liquidated in 2016. While the 1932 photograph is hard to make out, it is clear that the upper perforations of the lower stamps touch the stamp design, exactly in the same way they do in the recently discovered block, making it almost certainly the same block.

*Guatemala* - I quotes Walter Lind, who was the foremost researcher of the 1872 series, as knowing of the existence of eight pairs of the one peso stamp. *El Quetzal* illustrates these eight pairs in Vol. 21, No. 177 (p.60-64) and 178 (p.11-12). Two additional previously unlisted pairs were sold in the April, 2016 Spink auction of the José Castillejo collection.

The 1995 *El Quetzal* article concludes "The quality of the IBJ illustration reproduced herewith is poor, but it is all we have left...unless the present owner can supply us with a good photo!" Well, here is that photo and the mystery of the long-missing block of four has now been solved. ↪



## SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Recently two of the most important Society publications have been added to the website and are available to all members. *The Postal Markings of Guatemala* ("PMG") by Cécile Gruson has been uploaded to the society website and is available to members there. PMG is the culmination of Gruson's philatelic studies and an invaluable resource for postal historians.

Jickling's *Guatemalan Philately 1971-1990* has also been added to the website. This contains information not available in any other Society publication, including updated rate tables, postal stationery, papel sellado, fiscal issues and postal reply coupons.

These join *Handbook 1* ("G1") and all issues of *El Quetzal* including the *EQ Supplements* on the website. The goal is to make these available to all members and enrich members' collecting experience. Most of them are out of print and because of the high cost of mailing them it is unlikely they will be reprinted although they may be reproduced on compact disks. These on-line publications are not accessible on the website by non-members.

If you have not yet looked at these at the website please take time to do that and also give your feedback and suggestions.

The Society still needs volunteers to help update the *El Quetzal* cumulative index from 2007 to 2017. That would be a great opportunity to become familiar with the last 10 years (and the best!) issues of the journal – and to help contribute to our Society!

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### MEMBER NEWS



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**New Member:** #1028 **Jeff Lough**, 2612 Redbud Lane, Apt C, Lawrence, KS 66046 USA  
jeffydplough@gmail.com . Jeff collects Latin American revolutions,  
postal history and cinderellas.

**Special Thanks:** to Members **Eric Dyck**, **Jonathan Topper**, and to volunteer Joe Costen for their  
help in preparing and mailing this issue of *El Quetzal*.

**Exhibit Awards:** Congratulations to Michael Bloom (#1010) for his accomplishment with his exhibit  
*Guatemala. The UPU Quetzal. 1881 to 1886* at Ameristamp Expo. Michael won LARGE GOLD! He  
also was presented with the Novice Award for his successful first exhibiting effort.

## THE 1920 OVERPRINT VARIETIES ON THE 1902 WATERLOW 2 PESO

Kerry Kearton-Gee ISGC 658

After studying the 1902/7 Waterlow issues for over 35 years I recently and finally got round to the 2 Peso black and orange value. One of the first things I did was to carry out a brief survey of the many overprints appearing on this stamp. I have accumulated a reasonable selection of these over the years with perhaps half coming from the Ricoy collection many years ago.

I was a bit surprised to find that there were no illustrations in G2 of the fairly extensive range of overprint varieties produced with the 25c on 2p Provisionals of 1920 and therefore they are easily overlooked. Admittedly G2 draws attention to the fact that these “errors” were probably produced deliberately. I agree, although they were almost certainly made using the original or adopted overprint plate and the overprinted stamps seem to be contemporary with the stamps issued without surcharges issued at the time.

My own view is that most if not all of the “errors” found on the 1902/7 Waterlow issues are suspicious and I treat them as such. This is not to suggest that they are not interesting or worth collecting. Perhaps we should describe suspect “errors” printed from the original plates and on contemporary stamps as “unofficial” as all or most of them seem to have been produced by operatives from or at the government printing works.

The terms “fake” or “forgery” can be reserved for creations which are more or less copies of issued overprints produced by third parties working on their own. This would apply to examples designed to defraud collectors or the postal authorities. “Bogus”, as suggested in G2, best describes creations, or flights of imagination, which do not exist in genuine form.

### The Overprints

1. “35” for “25” Position 61. ISGC 215a. Large “5” in “25” Position 58. ISGC 215b.



Figure 2a



Figure 1

These are routine “errors” no doubt familiar to most collectors and therefore I illustrate only 215a with an inverted overprint shown in Figure 1.

I have not found either of these “errors” with the more exotic overprints described below but agree with G2 that they exist or must have existed.

Someone somewhere is in possession of some extremely rare material unless it has been destroyed, perhaps during the 1939-1945 war.

Straight-forward inverted overprints are quite common and the only forgery I have found is described in section 6 below.



Figure 2b

2. Double Inverted Overprints. ISGC 215f.

Figures 2a, 2b and 2c show three different alignments of the double overprints indicating that at least three sheets of this "error" were produced.



Figure 2c



Figure 3a

The overprints shown in Figures 2a and 2b are not in the same vertical alignment and therefore I cannot see how they could be from the same sheet. The radically different arrangement illustrated in Figure 2c hardly requires comment.

3. Double overprint, One Diagonal. ISGC 215g.

These are illustrated in Figures 3a and 3b. The latter illustrates a block of 24 of this "error" on which I have underlined the respective overprint alignments. The angle produced is

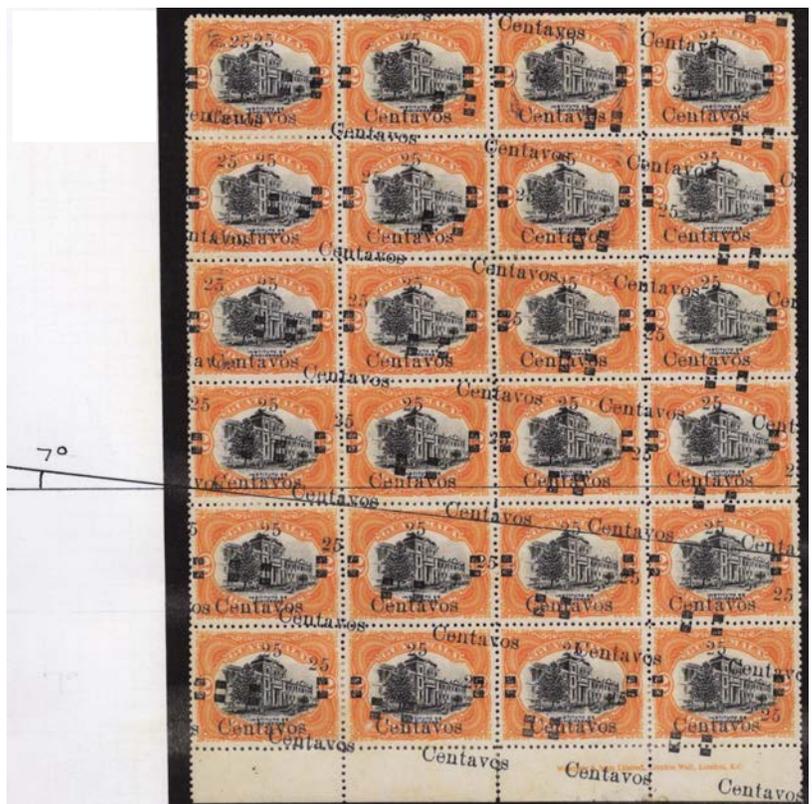


Figure 3b



Figure 4

7 degrees which is probably diagnostic in identifying this particular sheet.

If a second or more sheets of this error were printed it seems to me that reproducing the 7 degree angle would be difficult (and pointless) if the sheets were fed into the printer by hand.



Figure 5a

If any stamps turn up with the second overprint aligned at a different angle I think we can assume that it is from another sheet.

4. Double Overprint, One Inverted. ISGC 215h.

This is illustrated in Figure 4. The spacing of the two overprints is quite distinctive and constant on all the examples of this "error" I have seen. As above, if a specimen of this double overprint with a different alignment turns up it is likely to be from another sheet.

5. Misplaced Overprints.

Two examples of this "error" are illustrated in Figures 5a and 5b. 5a may be accidental (doubtful) but 5b is so far removed from normal that it was almost certainly created deliberately.



Figure 5b

6. Fakes/Forgeries.

G2 advises that "no deceptive forgeries have been reported". I take this rather hedged statement to mean that no forgeries have been found rather than that easily spotted forgeries exist but not deceptive ones. Despite this, one obvious forgery has turned up and is illustrated in Figure 6. The basic stamp appears to be contemporary although the forgery should fool no one. This forgery is definitely not "deceptive" so the statement in G2 is still theoretically correct!



Figure 6

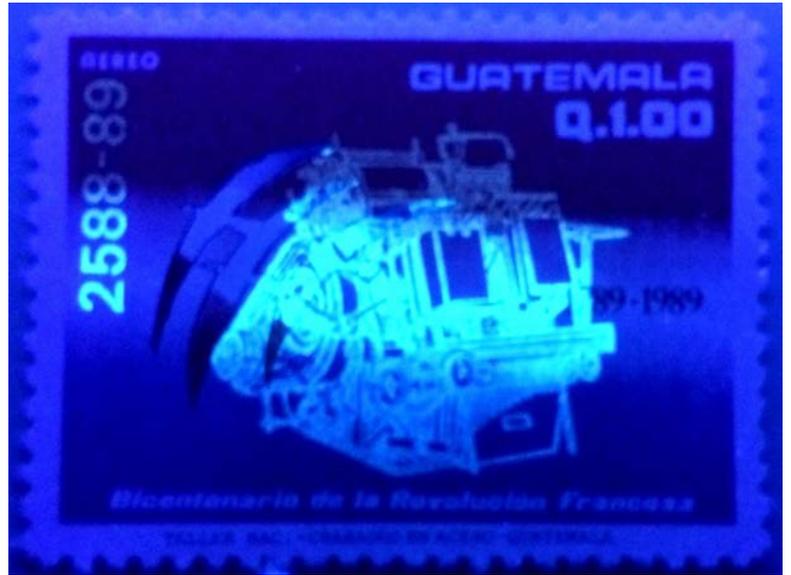
**Summary**

Despite their suspicious origins I found these "errors" or unofficial printings interesting to study. It seems quite possible that there are other printings with the overprints arranged differently which would indicate that two or more sheets were printed at the time. If any members have examples of these "errors" or unofficial printings I would be happy to hear from them. ∞

SCOTT C833 FLUORESCENCE AND OTHER NOTES

David Reitsema ISGC 803

In 1989 Guatemala issued a stamp commemorating the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution (Scott C833). In the March 1992 issue of *El Quetzal*, number 269 page 4, David Jickling noted the unique fluorescence of this issue. The fluorescent image is shown here. It depicts a printing press and the numbers 2588-89. The purpose of the numbers is unknown but may have indicated the plate number and printing date.



I have also included here two curious errors on Guatemalan stamps. The first is the 6c stamp issued in 1950, Scott 334. The inscription on the lower right reads 'Puente Internacional Rio Paz'. The correct name is "Puente Internacional".

Also, in 1959 Guatemala issued a stamp recognizing the formation of a joint Guatemalan-Honduran



merchant fleet. The stamp depicted a large ship with the name *Quetzaltenango*, a misspelling of the ship's name which was *Quezaltenango*. The spelling of the city's name was established long ago, and is not spelled with the 't' as is the bird's name.

**GUATEMALAN POSTAL SYSTEM.** As of the printing of this issue the Guatemalan postal system has still not reopened. Gabriel Ramirez reports that there are rumors that the government may open a few regional offices but nothing is certain as of now. Obviously, there are no new stamp issues either.

## WATERLOW EMBOSSED 1892 'CORREOS DE GUATEMALA' ENVELOPE

Werner F. Hintze ISGC 550



I recently found an interesting cover which may have been intended for official use by the Post Office, but I have been unable to find any reference to this in philatelic literature.

The cover has identical characteristics to EN16, the 1890 5c embossed posthorn postal stationery envelope. It is printed on cream colored laid-paper as is EN16. The embossed imprint "WATERLOW & SONS, LIMITED, LONDON WALL" is EN16 Type C2 (see 'Imprint Varieties of the Posthorn Envelopes', J. Andrews, *El Quetzal* (1983) No. 238, p. 30-1).

The back flap of the envelope has an embossed seal which, although damaged, appears to read "CORREO NACIONAL / GUATEMALA". It may have been defaced to avoid detection of an improper private use of an envelope intended for official use.



The cover has a star obliterator and straight line 'LIVINGSTON' linear marking (see *Postal Markings of Guatemala*, page 30.2). The 2c franking paid the impresos (printed matter) rate, and the black lines on the upper left front of the cover suggest that there was a fairly thick enclosure in the envelope. The Vienna, Feb 2, 1892, backstamp indicates that the cover predates the order for the second printing of the 1890 envelopes.

I am unaware of any of these Waterlow imprinted covers with this embossed imprint on the reverse. If any readers can provide additional information about this cover please contact either myself or the Editor.

## SCOTT 54 STRIP OF 5

Dr. Andrew Cheung FRPSL ISGC 999



I was shown the attached strip of five examples of Scott 54, the rare surcharge of which 1,000 copies were printed, 500 being reserved for the UPU. A copy of Scott 51 with black surcharge is shown here to provide a contrast to the blue of the rarer variety. The strip was reported in 2016 by Richard Gurevitch of Canberra, Australia.

The strip comes from positions 16 to 20 and shows the damaged '9' in position 16 as well as the broken shoulder of 'T' in position and thick "1" in "10" in position 20



This strip is undoubtedly the one discovered in 1970 and subsequently in the Miguel Ricoy collection.. It was sold in the Christie's Robson Lowe auction of Ricoy's collection in 1986. As Lot 1696 it was described as positions 16-20 with an estimate of S.F.2500, and the catalogue states that previously the only known multiple had been a block of four. That block is pictured in *Handbook 1* ("G1").

Jack Jonza remembers being at the 1970 auction along with Roger Frigstad when Ricoy obtained the strip.

This stamp is the rarest of Guatemalan regular issues. G1 states that the stamp was printed to fulfill Guatemala's required submission of the issued surcharged stamps to the UPU and suggests that the limited printing of these 10c on 75c surcharges may not have been intended to be sold to the public. This strip is a beautiful Guatemalan rarity.

SCOTT NUMBER 5 ATYPICAL CDT3 POSTMARK COVER

Robert Lee ISGC 866

Ebay is probably the biggest philatelic marketplace in the world. A recent check showed 5,239,981 lots of philatelic items listed for bidding at this moment of which there are only 1,982 lots of Guatemala stamps and covers offered. Despite the low number of Guatemalan offerings I do sometimes find unusual Guatemala stamps and covers on eBay such as this “rare” cover offered last year in October.

The cover is franked with a 1873 four reales stamp (Scott #5) tied by what appears to be a Type CDT3 postmark. (Figure 1). The letter was sent to Thomas Lachambre & Co in Lima, Peru, which was a legitimate firm in Lima at that time. Unlike all the other covers with 4-reales which are normally accompanied by a red circular “PAQUETES” marking, this cover bears no other postal marking.



What intrigued me is the atypical look of the CDT3 circular datestamp. What is that “spider” caught between the year date and the lower part of the rim of the postmark? Why was it there? A skillful forger would never add anything to the original to arouse suspicion.



Figure 1



Figure 2

Let’s examine this cancel and compare it with one that is on an authenticated cover (Figure 2). The mathematically extrapolated size of this cancel is within +/- 1% which is quite acceptable. The general impression of this cancel (see enlargement) is “heavy” in that the lines of the letters, numbers and the rim are thicker as compared to the genuine. The last “A” in ‘GUATEMALA’ is bigger and the cross bar is much lower thereby forming a larger triangle in the letter “A”. The circle of the cancel is thick and is uniform in thickness. The “spider” is quite symmetrical. Could it be some fibrous materials got caught in the slugs or perhaps a printer’s ‘wingding’?

I am not an expert but believe there are enough questions that this cover should be expertized.

## READERS RESPOND

In the December 2016 issue David Goodman wrote about the 1897 Exposition Essays he had recently purchased. The following is a response from **Kerry Kearton-Gee** to that article:



I was interested in the 1897 Expo sheets as I once owned them. Understandably David does not have the full facts behind their history so far and I can fill in a few gaps here.

Three sets of full sheets were purchased by me (not a dealer) at the Christies sale of the American Bank Note specimens in the late 1990's I think it was. There were three sets of sheets arranged with the three 1c stamps on the top of the pile, the three 2c stamps next and so on down to the three copies of the highest value at the bottom. The top three sheets of the 1c had been knocked about while in storage and there was a fair bit of separation, the third sheet being in fair order.

I traded the first set with Brian Moorhouse just after the auction and the second set went to the late Roger Schnell. Roger told me he consulted with Jack Jonza when trying to decide what the set was worth. I do not know what happened to this set after Roger died. The third set was sold at auction by Brian Moorhouse on my instructions and it is obvious that this is the set that David owns.

My main interest at the time was the specimen sheets of the 1886 lithographed and the later engraved Large Q issues. I was interested in plating the lithos and the specimen sheets represented the last chance to be able to do this. I bid by telephone and on this lot for some inexplicable reason the Christies representative thought that the highest room bid was mine. To my eternal grief it was not and the lot went to a now dead Canadian dealer Bileski. Despite offers to buy at his price and requests to study these sheets before they were broken up the dealer refused and seemed to enjoy the attention all this brought him. He broke up the sheets and the last chance to plate these stamps was gone permanently. As far as I am concerned this was the worst case of wanton philatelic vandalism that I have ever come across and I curse the dealer to this day. He is at least beyond an ability to cause more damage now.

Also in the December 2016 issue, Kerry Kearton-Gee wrote about the 1913 1p Waterlow essays, which elicited a response from long-time member and Waterlow expert **John Peters**. Kerry reports that:



In response to my article on these in the September edition of *El Quetzal*, John Peters kindly sent me a pair of type A normal stamps and a pair of type B normal stamps, increasing the totals known to 6 examples and 10 examples respectively.

John's stamps were exactly the same as the ones I described in both colour and toning and probably came from the same sheet. John explained that these stamps were from the Roland Goodman collection. These may have been the stamps described in G2, of which Goodman was Editor. Apparently he was not impressed by these, which he labelled "wrong color proofs or something".

## SCOTT C234 PERFORATION VARIETIES

David Lindwall ISGC 446

Just as *Guatemala II* was going to press, a discovery was made of a perforation 12.4 copy of the Honduran Presidential visit air mail issue of 1959. The stamp was issued in perforation 11.1 (or 10.8 depending on the gauge you use) and *Guatemala II* heralded the 12.4 as a unique variety. Since then many copies of the 12.4 perforation have emerged and, while still more rare than the perforation 11.1 variety, it is far from unique.

I have five covers bearing the 12.4 perforation in my collection and all but one bear the cancel of the international mail desk of the main post office in Guatemala City (Figure 1) with dates between May, 1970 and February, 1971. I also have a commercial mail postal card to a journalism school bearing a perforation 12.4 stamp posted in Antigua on July 16, 1971 (Figure 2). This is the latest use of the 12.4 I have come across and the only one bearing a cancel other than the international mail desk at the main post office in Guatemala City.



The relative scarcity of the stamp, the fact that only one mint copy is known and the fact that virtually all of the known stamps were affixed to outgoing mail at the international desk of the main post office in Guatemala City during a span of less than a year in the early 1970's would suggest that the perforation 12.4 variety of this stamp was either a later printing aimed at addressing a specific shortage or, as Cécile Gruson believed, that imperforate remnants of the 1959 series were pulled out of storage, perforated to the 12.4 standard of 1970 and affixed to outgoing mail at the main post office. In any event, there was never a decree authorizing its release and it was not advertised to collectors.

Cécile Gruson and David Jickling in *Postage Stamps of Guatemala 1871-2007* noted that they had chosen to use in their listings the perforation measurements that were printed in the original research, notably on pre-1971 issues, though they acknowledge that these were "measured with old (yellowish) Instanta gauge which has not proved stable and now measures .1 to .2 mm too low compared to the more recent gauges. This is one plausible explanation for the literature continuing to use 10.8 as the standard perforation for ISCG 829 (Scott C234) when I could not find a perforation 10.8 in a lot of over 100 examples.



Figure 1

As to the listings of perforations measuring 10.8 appearing in ISGC publications, one of the earliest students of this issue, Vernon Turnburke, Jr., wrote in *El Quetzal* (No. 226, p.6, from April, 1980) that after examining over 100 copies of the Honduran Presidential visit issue, he had not found a single perforation 10.8 and believed that this issue did not exist in 10.8. His research convinced him that the 1959 printing was issued in perforation 11.1. Oscar Diaz Echeverria (in *El Quetzal* No 338 of May 2009, p.29) expressed doubts that Grabados en Acero used a 10.8 perforating machine in the late 1950's and speculated that measurements of 10.8 were based on perforation gauges no longer in use or to shrinkage of soaked stamps.

It is hard to comment on the relative scarcity of the perforation 12.4 version with scientific confidence as I have not gone through enough copies to make that judgment, but that is also why science requires

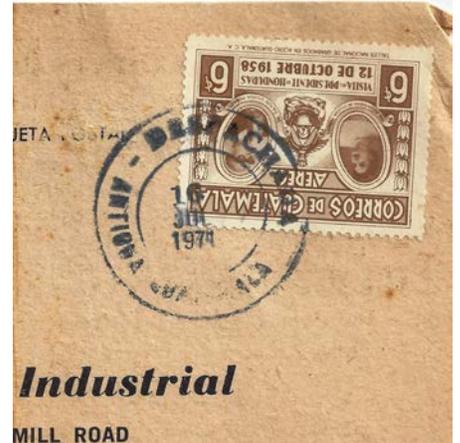


Figure 2

PERFORATION	NO. OF STAMPS
11.1	93
11.4 x 11.1	1
12.4	7
12.4 x 12.8	5
12.8	5

proof of the fact asserted. There are a number of variations within the 11.1 and 12.4 perforation measurements which may be a product of shrinkage or expansion when stamps are soaked. I recently acquired a lot of 111 of the used stamps, of which 94 were of the 11.1 family and 17 were of the 12.4 family. Their exact breakdown, using the Linn's multi-gauge perforation gauge is shown in the table on the left.

*[David intends to continue his study of perforation varieties on late 20th century issues and the results will be published in El Quetzal. If you are interested in these varieties and would like to work with David on this please contact the Editor and he will put you in contact with him.]*



**\*\*\*\*\* 2017 DUES ARE DUE \*\*\*\*\***

You can pay your **DUES** using PayPal at the website **WWW.GUATEMALASTAMPS.COM** or you may use your PayPal account (**use our email address: isgc1948.org@gmail.com**). You may also pay by your check payable to ISGC in \$US drawn on a US bank, or an International Postal Money Order (no other types of money orders!) mailed to **ISGC Treasurer, Robert Lebow, 1322 East Brooklake, Houston TX 77077**

Regular Membership—USA, Canada, Mexico & Guatemala—\$20. All other countries—\$25. Electronic Membership (*El Quetzal* online)—**\$10**. Sustaining Membership [in addition to the rates shown above] — \$5.

Payments for society **PUBLICATIONS** are to be made as described on the back cover of this issue.

→ **NOTE: Failure to pay your dues may result in loss of membership privileges**

## QSL POSTCARDS FROM THE 1930's

David Reitsema ISGC 803

In 1994 Jack Jonza wrote an article in *El Quetzal* (No. 277 p.13) titled "An Unusual Official Card." Jack recently sent that card to me, shown in Figure 1, noting that since 1994 he had heard nothing more about these.



In the 1920's and 30's shortwave radios were quite popular and it was exciting and challenging to receive radio broadcasts from distant locations. Radio listeners could mail a "reception report" to the broadcasting station stating that they had heard the station's broadcast and requesting verification of the broadcast. Stations began sending postcards containing a form acknowledging the listener's reception which is what the term "QSL" signifies. These also became

used by broadcasters to gauge the range of their transmissions, the size of their audiences, and the quality of their transmitters. Amateur radio operators also exchange QSL cards confirming radio contact between their stations.

Collecting these postcards became popular with radio listeners. QSL cards can also serve as publicity tools for the shortwave broadcaster, and sometimes the cards will include cultural information about the country. At the bottom of the reverse side of figure 1 is an example of using the card to publicize Guatemala. The light blue half-tone is a view of Lake Atitlan.

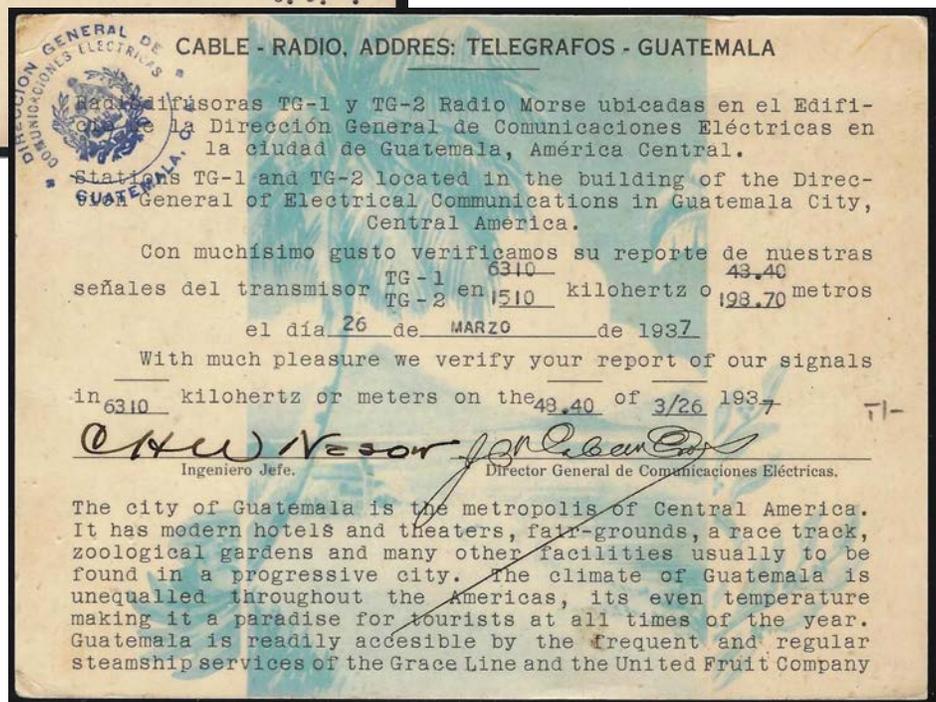


Figure 1

Jonza referred to this as an official card because it was used by Guatemalan state radio stations TG-1 and TG-2 and because it was printed by Zadik & Co. (see imprint at lower left on front), a local printer which held many printing contacts with the government. He noted Jim Andrews, the foremost

Guatemalan postal stationery expert as well as a ham radio operator, as saying that he had never seen one of these cards. It seems to me that while this is a card used by a government agency, that does not equate to it being official postal stationery as

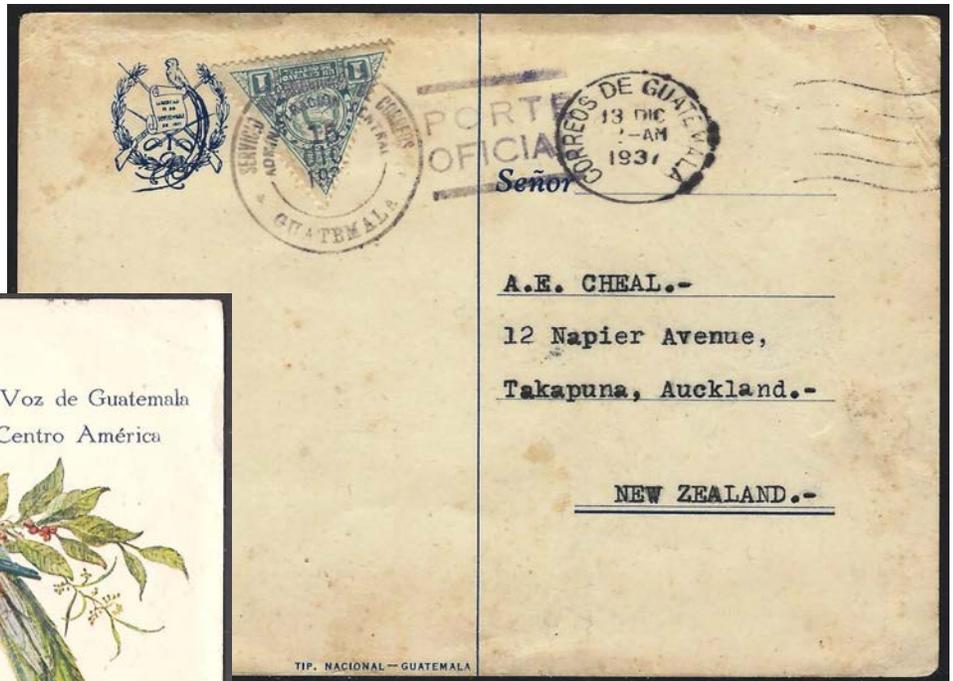
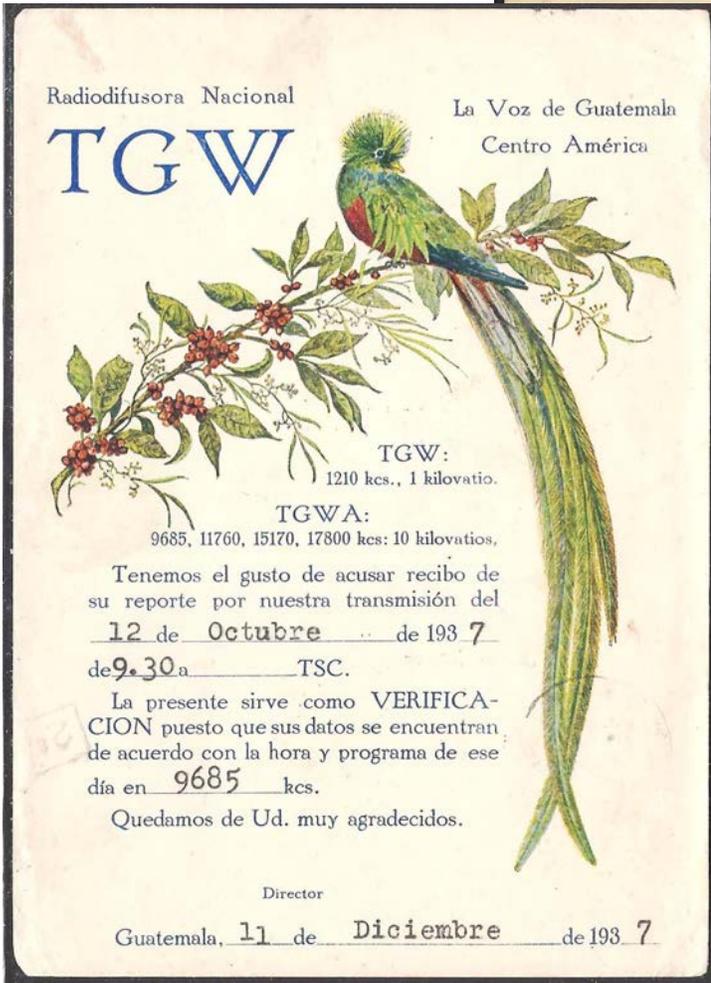


Figure 2

the postal department was not involved in either its manufacture or distribution.

Each QSL card contains details about one or more contacts, the station and its operator. At a minimum, this includes the call sign of both stations participating in the contact, the time and date when it occurred, the frequency used, the mode of transmission used, and a signal report.

Figure 2 shows a similar card, also dated in 1937, from Radiodifusora Nacional TGW sent to New Zealand. This card was printed by the official government printing office Tipografía

Nacional which also was printing Guatemalan postal and revenue stamps. This is one step closer to the 'official card' status referred to by Jonza.

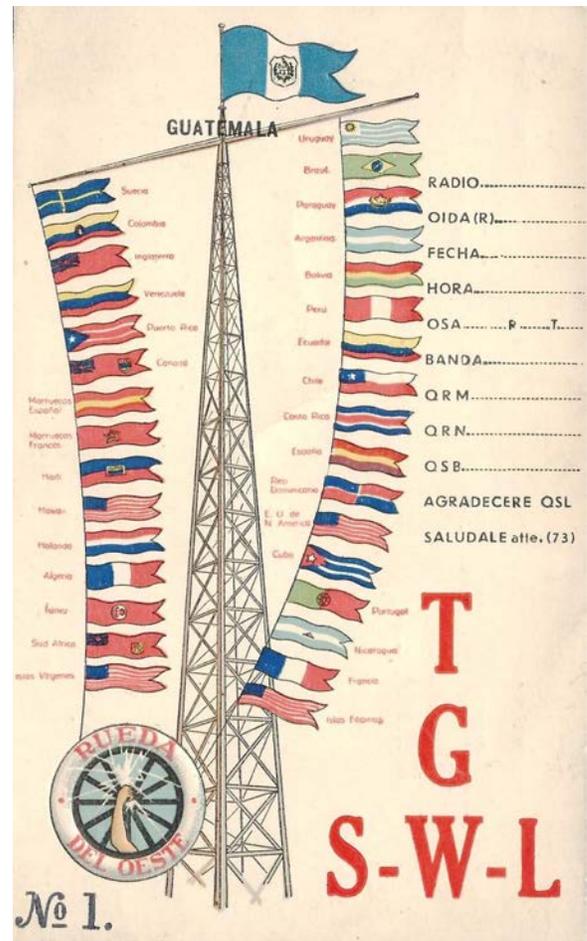
From a philatelic viewpoint it differs in that it is franked with a 1c official stamp. Both were entitled to official franking privileges, but the card in Figure 1, sent to a UPAE member, did not require the postage stamp while the card to New Zealand was subject to the UPU requirement of affixing an actual stamp.

Gabriel Ramirez contributed the following information. TGW was founded on September 15, 1930. TGW was a long-wave transmitter and TGWA was a short wave transmitter. TGW was known initially as "Radio Nacional" (National Radio), and then as "La Voz de Guatemala" (The Guatemala's Voice). TG1 (long-wave) and TG2 (short-wave) was a different radio station (see Figure 1). Gabriel believes that

it was known as "Radio Morse", perhaps indicative of the frequency on which it broadcast. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the UN, and is in charge of the use of the radio spectrum around the world. The code for Guatemala according to the ITU is "TG", explaining the use of these letters in these station names.

The card shown in Figure 3 is the front of a private QSL card dated 1939. It was created by a private ham radio operator in Guatemala City. These were prepared by the radio operators and became collectible for their artistic merit as well as point of origin.

As no Guatemalan member ever responded to Jonza's 1994 request for additional information about these cards and the stations, it is not clear how many more types of these postcards or even if stations TG-1 and TG-2 merged into station TGW. Most likely there are many more. In any event they are interesting postal history items.



Special thanks to Gabriel Ramirez, who despite moving from one home to another, found time to make significant contributions to this article regarding the early radio stations in Guatemala. Also, much of the information about QSL cards is taken from Wikipedia.

→ **I.S.G.C. 2017 AUCTION** ←

Good News! We have receive enough interesting Guatemala material to hold the next ISGC Auction! It will be listed on our website ([www.guatemalastamps.com](http://www.guatemalastamps.com)) and will start on April 15, 2017. Every lot will be scanned. Lots will be offered at reasonable minimum bids, and any material that did not sell in the previous auction will be re-listed at bargain prices. We will also send an email to ISGC members when the lots are listed. Good Luck in your bids. You can contact our ISGC Auction Manager (contact information below) for more information.

**Jonathan Topper**  
11210 Steeplecrest Drive, Suite 120; Houston, TX 77065  
Secretary "Kathy": 281.890.3006  
[www.topperstamps.com](http://www.topperstamps.com)

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTENNIAL ISSUES

By Oscar Díaz Echeverría ISGC 782 AFG 1781

On December 13th 1968 an issue was made to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union, founded in 1865. Six stamps, engraved by Arnaldo Chavarry with imprint GRABADOS EN ACERO GUATEMALA C.A., were printed:

7c royal blue	ISGC 1082 - 1,000,000 printed	Fluorescent
15c gray and light green	ISGC 1083 - 400,000 printed	Low Fluorescent
21c deep magenta	ISGC 1084 - 500,000 printed	Low Fluorescent
35c rose and emerald	ISGC 1085 - 300,000 printed	Low Fluorescent
75c deep green and bright scarlet	ISGC 1086 - 200,000 printed	Low Fluorescent
3q sepia and bright scarlet	ISGC 1087 - 100,000 printed	Low Fluorescent

The six stamps were perforated 11.5 in sheets of 30 (five by six), Scott C425 - C430.

Several years later, on November 29, 1973 (15c) and on October 1975 (21c) two additional stamps with the same design were reissued:

15c brown and orange	ISGC 1279 - 1,000,000 printed	perforated 11.5	Not Fluorescent
21c deep magenta	ISGC 1280 - 500,000 printed	perforated 12.5	Not Fluorescent



Figure 1 - Clean Background



Figure 2 - Dirty Background

But all this is history and it is well documented in *Guatemala 2* and *Guatemalan Philately (1971-1990)* and also in catalogues by Scott, Stanley Gibbons and Yvert.

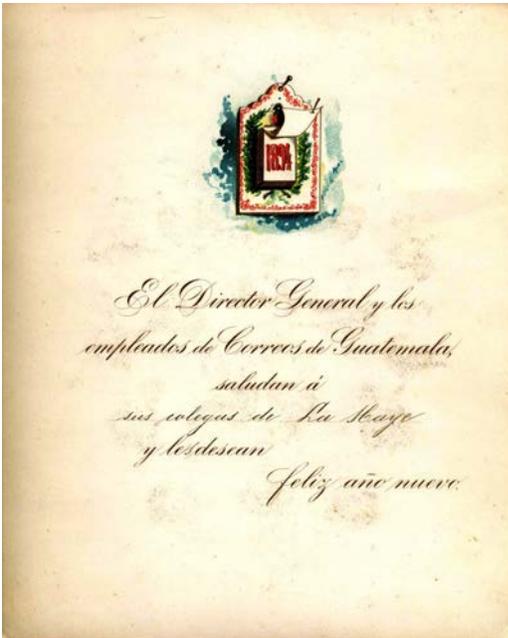
What is not mentioned in any of these sources is that there are two varieties of the 15c brown and orange (Scott calls it violet brown and orange), they are both perforated 11.5 but one variety has the background clean (Figure 1) while the other has a background that looks dirty (Figure 2). This is due to the shading of these backgrounds. In the clean one the shading of the background is made by very thin and subtle vertical lines, some stronger than others, distributed at random distances from each other and the stamps have a dull mate gum on their backs, the paper on which it is printed is thicker than the other, about 0.12 mm thick. In the dirty one the shading is made by a uniform but dirty looking brownish color. This stamp has a glossy brownish gum that presents straight horizontal ridges separated about 0.5 mm from each other. Since the paper on which this stamp is printed is thinner, about 0.09 mm thick, those horizontal lines formed by the ridges of the gum can sometimes be seen from the front.

Gruson and Jickling in their manual of Guatemala stamps published by the ISGC in 2008, notice that there are two varieties of this stamp, but for them, the only difference is in the gum, one glossy and the other dull. They called the one with dull gum, which is our clean one, ISGC 1279a. The previous findings and descriptions suggest that there were two printings of these stamps. ↻

1894 SOUVENIR GREETING CARDS

By Michael Bloom ISGC 1010

In 1894 postal officials prepared a set of three souvenir cards used to send New Years greetings. Goodman says: "Three of these sets are reported to have survived, but we knew the whereabouts of only two when this was written" (G-1, p. 136). The illustrations in G-1 are in black and white and I don't think many collectors have seen the card in full color. These are scans of the cards which are in my collection. The last page, with the portraits, was issued in black and white.



Card 1 with New Years Greeting



Card 3 with reproductions of postal issues



Card 2—Means of communication



Card 2 (reverse) Postal officials with Director General E. Ubico in center

EL QUETZAL – 50 YEARS AGO

– Except from the January-February, 1967 issue (Vol. 18, No. 160)

H. Summerfield "Pete" Day – Editor

Harold Greenman — President

**Jim Andrews** reported on his recent three month stay in Guatemala working for the Ford Foundation. Among other interesting details, he sent the following information. "Thanks to Ricardo Quiñones [then President of AFG and ISGC member] I have a photo copy of an interesting folder made by American Bank Note Co. It is a single folded sheet of heavy off-white stock with a folded size of 10 1/2" high by 8 1/2" wide. The front cover has three scenes of Guatemala on top of a conglomeration of telegraph wires, grass, mail and other things around the border. Inside the left side there are portraits of 17 officials with a miniature replica of the signature of each. Inside on the right side is '1894 El Director General y los empleados de Correos de Guatemala saludan á y le desean feloz ano Nuevo [sic]'. On the back cover are reproductions of Scott #31 to 41 full size in color around a center with reduced reproductions of two envelopes, 4 postal cards, and one wrapper. It was lithographed. Ricardo's copy is the only one the fellows in Guatemala have seen, and even Leon Bilak seemed to know nothing about it. Any comment from our other members?"

*[See Michael Bloom's article about this greeting card on page 18, opposite, of this issue]*

THE BOURSE

These listings are free for Members – Contact the Editor for information

**EXPERTIZING**

**Guatemala Expertizing Service:**

Jack M. Jonza - jmj7434@yahoo.com  
58 DeLand Acres Drive, Fairport, NY 14450

**TRADING**

**Guatemala picture postcards:** Trading Partners wanted. William J. Cornwell Jr., 3 Tara Drive Unit 10, Weymouth, MA 02188-3232. (781) 335-2130.

**BUYING & SELLING**

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**Quetzal Covers and Stamps.** Buying and appreciate your help. Werner Hintze, Auf dem Berg 11A, Schlagenbad 65388, Germany hintzewerner@aol.com.

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**Buying Guatemala and Central America.** Stamps, postal history and collections. Contact David Reitsema at DReitsema@gmail.com

**1902/07 Waterlow Stamps Sought.** I will pay 40c ea for normal values and 30c ea for overprinted examples. Strips of 3, etc at a minimum 25% premium. Errors by agreement. Reasonable mailing costs paid. Kerry Kearton-Gee, The Windrush, Stoke Row Road, Peppard Common, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 5JD England. f.keartongee@btinternet.com.

**Guatemala Share Certificates,** government bonds, ephemera and pre-1940 banknotes **wanted.** Contact Chris Bettis, 44 Brackley Crescent, Basildon, Essex SS13 1RA, England.

**1984 Coffee Jumbo sheets of 6.** Scott cat. \$1,500. For sale at \$500 plus shipping and insurance. Contact Gabriel Ramirez, gabrame1969@hotmail.com.

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Guatemala Telegraph Stamps and Stationery (1994) J.C. Andrews	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$5.00
The Postage Stamps of Guatemala 1871-2007 Gruson and Jickling, ed.			**** OUT OF PRINT ****	
The Postal Markings of Guatemala (English/Spanish) Cécile Gruson—cd format			**** OUT OF PRINT ****	
El Quetzal DVD (every issue 1949-2006 with searchable index)			**** AVAILABLE ON REQUEST ****	
Guatemala, The Postal History and Philately, Vol. II; ["G2"] 2nd Ed. (1974), Goodman, ed.	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$20.00

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