Le Directeur Général
des Postes du Salvador
et les Employés de son Département vous prient
de bien vouloir agréer leurs souhaits
et leurs vœux sincères pour la nouvelle année.
San Salvador, le 1er Janvier 1893.
Dear Colleagues,

As you will probably read this issue in the first days of 2015, we thought appropriate to use one of the 1893 New Year greeting cards for the cover.

Of course we would like to wish you the best for 2015, and we would also like to point out that this year will be full of celebrations for AFISAL and for Salvadorian philately in general.

In 2015 we celebrate the anniversaries of both AFISAL and ACES. In January, AFISAL turns 75! And in May, it will be 40 years since a group of American collectors formed ACES!

Perhaps the best way to commemorate this twin anniversary will be with the forthcoming issue of the first Postal History Handbook for El Salvador, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago and covering the Prestamp Period (1525-1866). The book is already in print, and we hope to share very soon with you all the information about its release.

Regarding this issue, we continue having collaborations about two topics that have been enthusiastically received: Small Town Cancels and Used Postal Stationery Wrappers. Please continue sharing with these pages your interests, collaborations and items from your collections!

Cordially,

Guillermo F Gallegos

El Salvador Philatelist is the on-line, quarterly journal of AFISAL. Requests for reprinting articles can be sent to ggallegos@elsalvadorphilately.org
On December 8, 2014, Correos de El Salvador, part of the Government Ministry, and the Culture Secretariat of the Presidency presented the research titled Sellos Postales de El Salvador en el Siglo XIX (El Salvador Postage Stamps during the 19th Century), done by the philatelist and researcher Carlos Quintanilla.

The presentation was attended by the Secretary of Culture, Dr. Ramon Rivas, the General Director of Correos de El Salvador, Lic. Elsa Margarita Quintanar de Ortez, and the researcher Carlos Quintanilla.

The research is composed of several sections:

- Correspondence of the Intendant Jose Maria Peinado between 1812 and 1814.
- Testimonies of the Tazaciones (Valuations) of Sonsonate from 1796.
- Census of Spaniards and mestizos of Ahuachapan and other towns from 1810.
- Requests from Indians of the Ataco and Tacuba Commons from 1812.
- Book of minutes from Sonsonate from 1821.
o Collection of El Salvador Postage Stamps in the 19th Century.

All the contents have been digitalized from the holdings of the Archivo General de la Nación (National Archive), with the objective of making them more accessible to the Salvadorian public.

Mr. Quintanilla has demonstrated great dedication to collecting stamps and antiques, since his childhood, when he could only see them in books. Currently, he collects stamps, postcards (up to 1930) as well as coins and antique engravings of El Salvador.

He is member of the Salvadorian Philatelic Association (AFISAL), which will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on January 5, 2015.

About four years ago, some AFISAL members worked on the documentation of the postal issues of the 19th Century. For two years they studied the Diarios Oficiales (Official Gazettes) of the period that were kept in several repositories, including the Archivo General de la Nación. The Archive opened its holdings to the researchers, and in appreciation, Mr. Quintanilla donated to the Archive in 2013 a collection of 19th Century postage stamps along with the decrees referring to them. This is the collection that has been digitalized.

Several of these documents describe important historical events of El Salvador, which are generally unknown by the public. Because of this, the research becomes a tool for every person interested in the Colonial Period and promotes the use of new technologies for future researches.

The General Director of Correos de El Salvador supports Mr. Quintanilla in this project, as it documents the important role our institution has played in our country’s history. Correos de El Salvador has existed for more than 165 years and will continue increasing its prominence in years to come.
Top: The General Director of Correos de El Salvador, Lic. Elsa Margarita Quintanar de Ortez, and AFISAL President, Dr. Santiago Yudice.
Bottom: Attendees to the presentation, among them Honorary AFISAL President Jose Luis Cabrera, Santiago Yudice and Leonel Barrillas.
AFISAL PARTICIPATION AT EXFIL 125 & CG INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC PROMOTION AWARDS

Guillermo F. Gallegos

In celebration of its 125th Anniversary, the Chile Philatelic Society organized EXFIL 125, an international Philatelic Exhibition with FIAF recognition. The exhibition was at the National Aeronautic and Space Museum in Santiago de Chile, from October 20th to the 24th, 2014. Fourteen FIAF member countries participated with 162 entries, including 40 participations in the Philatelic Literature Classes.

As a member of FIAF, AFISAL participated in two Philatelic Literature Classes, corresponding to Philatelic Periodicals and Websites.

AFISAL also participated with the El Salvador Philatelist in the 2nd CG International Philatelic Promotion Awards held in October 2014 at the Briefmarken Börse Sindelfingen, Germany. We participated in the Digital Category alongside 14 other entries, obtaining 7th place with 22 points, tied with Stichting Nederlandsch Maandblad voor Philatelie from the Netherlands and AFITECOL (Friends of Thematic Philately in Colombia).

www.elsalvadorphilately.org. In both cases, we won Silver Medals.
THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS OF EL SALVADOR

Guillermo F Gallegos
This article was originally published in the Revista FIAF No. 25, June 2014.

The introduction of postage stamps in El Salvador was formalized by the issuance of a Postal Ordinance on 15 January 1867. However, it seems that the stamps were not placed in circulation until March 1st when their use became mandatory.

The first postage stamps of El Salvador were ordered from the American Bank Note Company of New York (ABNC). The stamp values were ½ real, 1, 2 and 4 reales.

The four stamps have the same central design: A horizontally lined oval encircling a smoking volcano rising above the sea, surmounted by eleven stars representing the departments existing at the time (Chalatenango, La Paz, Cuzcatlan, La Libertad, La Union, Santa Ana, Miguel, San Salvador, San Vicente, Sonsonate and Usulutan). Above and below the oval were ornamental scrolls with the legends CORREOS DEL and SALVADOR respectively, in unshaded capital letters. Other scrolls on each side had the value in smaller capitals and each corner had small disks with the value in numerals. The background between the oval and the scrolls was composed of numerous tiny figures of value in the ½r and the 4r values and of letters in the 1r (UN) and two (DOS) reales.

It has been traditionally considered that the volcano in the central oval is the San Miguel volcano. However, the central oval is an allegorical representation of the coat of arms existing at the time. As such, the volcano depicted would be the Izalco volcano (popularly known as El Faro del Pacífico - The Lighthouse of the Pacific), because the decree creating the coat of arms specifically mentions the Izalco volcano as the inspiration for its design.

The stamps were engraved and recess printed in sheets of 100 arranged in 10 rows of 10, each stamp measuring 24½ x18½ mm. No plate or control numbers were used during the printing.

There are no major errors recorded for this issue. However, misperforated stamps can be occasionally found.
Proofs.

½ real & 1 real die proofs.

2 & 4 reales Plate proofs overprinted SPECIMEN by ABNC.

½ real printed in green (unissued color).

Several sketches, essays, die proofs, and plate proofs made by ABNC are known.

Rates.

The first postage stamps were used according to the rates stated in the 1867 Postal Ordinance. The rates for Interior Mail were the following:

- Single letters (less ½ Onza): One real.
- Letters ½ up to ¾ Onza: Two reales.
- ¾ up to one Onza; Three reales
- One Onza up to 1 ½ Onza: Four reales

The proportion was followed for the first three Onzas, with the exceeding Onzas charged at 1 real each. Newspapers and loose printed matter were free for internal mail.

The rates for letters, registered mail and printed matter received or sent to the other four Central American Republics (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica) were the same as those for Interior Mail. Prepaid mail coming from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua was accepted as valid for reciprocity purposes. They were the only countries for which paid mail at origin was accepted as valid.

The tariff for correspondence received or sent to the other Latin American Republics was twice the Interior Mail rate. The tariff for mail sent to the rest of the world was twice the one for Interior Mail. Although these rates were set, in practice all outgoing Salvadorian mail was sent through the postal services of other nations, usually via Panama. In this case, the prepayment at origin covered the journey only to Panama City, and from then on the usual pre-UPU multi-step rate structure applied. As Panama was part of Colombia, the tariff for a single letter was two reales, twice the Interior rate.

For received mail from the rest of the world, the rate was as follows:

- Single letters (less ½ Onza): Four reales.
- Letters ½ Onza: Six reales.
- ¾ Onza; Eight reales
- One Onza: Twelve reales.

Following in proportion.
Newspapers and printed matter from outside Central America would be free up to one Pound; any additional Pound to be charged at one real.

Very few intact covers from the 1867 issue have survived. We have recorded fewer than 50. The scarcity of covers is in contrast to the abundance of used stamps, mostly due to the philatelic custom prevalent for many years of removing stamps from their covers. This fact applies not only to El Salvador but to the majority of 19th century stamp issuing entities.

**Forgeries.**

The 1867 issue has been counterfeited two times.

*Type I Counterfeits:* Done by the Spiro Brothers in the first few years after the original issue. All four values were counterfeited. They can be identified because they are lithographed instead of engraved, and the background outside the oval is made up of tartan-like crossed wavy lines. The workmanship is very rough and this is especially noticeable in the stars above the volcano.

*Type II Counterfeits:* Also lithographed, but instead of the crossed wavy lines, they have a background of multiple numbers or letters like the genuine stamps. The value inscriptions and the stars are crudely drawn, the figures and rows are irregular, and the 'C' of 'Correos' merges into the border design. The gauge varies from 8½ to 12½. The known values are ½ Real, 1 Real and 2 reales.

*Left: ½r Spiro forgery. Right: 1r Type II counterfeit.*

1 real stamp used for Internal mail (Top), mail to Central America (Right)
1 real stamps used to London via Panama (Top). 2 reales stamps used for mail to Bordeaux via Panama (Center) and New York (Bottom).
SMALL TOWN CANCELS (3)

Michael Peter

In this third instalment of ‘Small Town Cancels’, we are happy to pass the ‘writing pen’ to our colleague Michael Peter:

Cover sent by Michael Peter in 1990 from Cuisnahuat to Konstanz, Germany.
From 1987 to 1992 I had the pleasure to live in El Salvador. I use the word ‘pleasure’ with full consciousness, because despite the political situation and civil war I really enjoyed my stay.

The Salvadorian people received me with warmth and friendliness and made me feel at home. One of my collaborators in this time was Salvador Cañas, a marvelous friend who introduced me to the Salvadorian Philately.

During my stay I wished to combine 2 things: Learning and experiencing more about the country and Salvadorian Philately. For this reason I traveled together with my girlfriend or with Salvador Cañas to small towns and villages in order to see the country and to send registered letters to my address in San Salvador or even to my mother in Germany.

From this small collection I present a registered letter from Texistepeque, Department of Santa Ana and one from Cuisnahuat, Department of Sonsonate.

Texistepeque (blue star on map) is located 17 km north of Santa Ana and was founded in the middle of the 18th century. Today the population is around 20,800 people. On July 10th 1991 I sent the letter to San Salvador and it arrived on July 17th as

Map of El Salvador with the 14 departmental divisions (Names in upper case blue are for the departments that do not have the same name of their capital).
shown in the backstamp. The registered letter label on a simple grayish paper with no perforation is commonly found in smaller towns at this time. The town name is filled in by hand and for the registration number a red stamp was applied. The same red stamp is applied on the receipt.

The registered letter label on a simple grayish paper with no perforation is commonly found in smaller towns at this time. The town name is filled in by hand and for the registration number a red stamp was applied. The same red stamp is applied on the receipt.

Cuisnahuat (red star on map) is located south of Sonsonate in the coastal mountain area. It is an old village which had been founded already by the end of the 16th century. Today the population is around 13,000 people. On May 26th 1990 I sent the registered letter by airmail to Germany. Unfortunately it is not recorded when the letter arrived at my mother’s. In those days it took approximately 4 to 6 weeks. The airmail label "PAR AVION" was printed in December 1978 and was still in use which leads us to the interpretation that not many airmail letters were sent from this village.

Some words about the postmarks:

In those days it was common to make the cancelling devices out of rubber which was glued on a wooden handle. This caused most of the postmarks to be difficult to read. The digits for day, month and year were inserted by hand and changed daily. The postmark of Texistepeque shows the year on top with smaller and different type of digits than day and month. The one of Cuisnahuat shows the year at the bottom with different type of digits. It seems there was no rule on how to put the digits. On the other hand this observation demonstrates that the digits for the year were delivered to the post office at a different time than the postmark and the day and month digits. Maybe they even were produced and acquired in the village.

During one of my visits to a small post office (I don't remember anymore which one) I found a whole sheet of "CIERRE OFICIAL" labels which were in use in the 1970's and at this small post office 20 years later were still available. It is the same one which is shown on the letters in the article of Small Town Cancels (2). The scan shows only the top part of the total sheet which consists of 50 labels and measures 273 x 376 mm.
Cover sent by in 1991 from Texistepeque to San Salvador.
Registration receipts from Cuisnahuat (Top) and Texistepeque (Bottom)
Top part of a *Cierre Oficial* sheet which consists of 50 labels (5 labels per row)
MORE ON USED POSTAL STATIONERY WRAPPERS

Peter Bamert.

1893 2c wrapper uprated to 9c with a 5c and two one cent stamps for triple foreign printed matter rate. Sent on 20 March 1893 from Santa Ana to Switzerland.

I read with interest Mr. Hahn's article about postal stationery, *Some Comments And Additional Examples Of Used Postal Stationery Wrappers Of El Salvador*. Collecting postal stationery of El Salvador myself, I didn't realize that wrappers were scarce in used condition.

Therefore, I wanted to share two used wrappers from my collection.

*Editor’s Note: To complement Mr. Bamert’s note, I have added a third used wrapper, which was addressed to the same person and was received in Munich on the same date as Mr. Bamert’s second one. This wrapper was formerly in Bill Welch’s Seebeck collection.*

El Salvador, truly one of the last frontiers in philately. Where can you find such an impressive array of complex issues still waiting for new discoveries to be made? Whatever your interest, El Salvador has it all. Let us help you build your collection!
Top: 1897 6c wrapper, sent from San Salvador to Munich (double foreign printed matter rate).
Bottom: 1897 2c wrapper uprated to 3c with a 1c stamp for the single foreign matter printed rate.
SHOW-N-TELL
This section presents an illustration of an interesting item from the collection of one of our member or collaborators.

![Image of Hamilton Bank Note Specimen card with the 5 values of the 1895 Mercury Parcel Post issue and the 1896 Cierre Oficial seal.](image)

 Hamilton Bank Note Specimen card with the 5 values of the 1895 Mercury Parcel Post issue and the 1896 Cierre Oficial seal.

*(ex Bill Welch Collection)*

We would appreciate if you could send your comments, suggestions, and contributions for El Salvador Philatelist to our e-mail address:

sfes-aces@elsalvadorphilately.org or elsalvadorphilatelist@elsalvadorphilately.org
**ADLETS**

Our adlet service allows members to publish their philatelic interests on each ‘El Salvador Philatelist’ so they can buy, sell, or exchange with other collectors. Every member is eligible to place one adlet in the journal. In order to send us the adlet you want published, please send us an email to elsalvadorphilatelist@elsalvadorphilately.org.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Looking for El Salvador stamps Scott #’s: 57, 229, 247, 252, 257, 293, 558, C31, O223, O224, O226, 1 of (O227, O228, O230, O231), O355. If you have any of these, please e-mail price to <a href="mailto:CraigLensen@msn.com">CraigLensen@msn.com</a> -- will respond promptly.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wanted: Errors, proofs, oddities of El Salvador. If you have any of these for sale or exchange, please send an e-mail to: <a href="mailto:gfgallegosc@hotmail.com">gfgallegosc@hotmail.com</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Looking for Scott #’s: 25E, 190, 191A, 211, 212A, 225, 227, 230B, 232, 237H, 240A, 297 y 311B; Officials O66, O67 y O68/O72. All of them either mint or used. Please contact at <a href="mailto:kikoaro@cableonda.net">kikoaro@cableonda.net</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wijesena, a lawyer from Sri Lanka &amp; a keen philatelist, interested in contacts with fellow collectors from El Salvador and other Latin countries for the exchange of stamps, fdcs, s/s, m/s, etc. Email: <a href="mailto:wijebyp@sltnet.lk">wijebyp@sltnet.lk</a> or <a href="mailto:pkdwijesena@hotmail.com">pkdwijesena@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays, Color Trials, Proofs, Fakes, Fakes, Oddities. Your offers most welcomed to Pierre Cahen: <a href="mailto:pcahen@tutopia.com">pcahen@tutopia.com</a> or POB 483 San Salvador, El Salvador.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interested in trading revenue stamps of El Salvador. Bryon Batjiaka, e-mail: <a href="mailto:BryonBat@hotmail.com">BryonBat@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interested in covers with Cierre Oficial or Servicio de Valores Declarados / Cierre Oficial labels. Please send a scan and asking price. If you have covers like this, but are not interested in selling, I would be interested in 300dpi scans for my files. Michael Peter, email: <a href="mailto:michael.mpeter@gmail.com">michael.mpeter@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
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</table>
AFISAL regularly meets every Saturday at 3PM (local time) in the premises of the National Museum of Anthropology (MUNA) in San Salvador. The meetings are characterized by the informal exchange of material and information between the members.

MUNA is located at Avenida Revolución, Col. San Benito, in front of the Centro Internacional de Ferias y Convenciones (CIFCO). It is the largest museum in El Salvador, with an extensive collection of Pre-Columbian artifacts and ethnographic material.

New Issues Service

Collectors interested in having all recent issues of El Salvador can subscribe to our New Issues Service. The general conditions are as follows:

a. The Society will provide the members subscribed to the "New Issues Service" all the stamps issued by El Salvador from the date of the subscription onwards until the collector requests the end of the service or leaves the Society.

b. The stamps will be sold at face value + 10% commission to the Society in order to cover administrative costs.

c. Shipping costs will be based on current postal rates to the country of residence of the collector. In order to save on shipping costs, the new issues will be sent every three months in a single package.

d. In order to subscribe to the New Issues Service, members will have to send US$30 in cash or check from US or Salvadorian banks made payable to Pierre Cahen (checks from other countries are not accepted), along with the new issue service agreement filled out and signed (New Issues Service.doc or New Issues Service.pdf) to the following address:

   Pierre Cahen
   Vipsal 1342
   POB 02-5364
   Miami Florida 33102
   USA

The payment is a deposit in the Society which is debited every time a new issue is purchased or sent to the collector. Every member will receive a statement of his deposit along with each New Issues package. When the deposit reaches a level of US$5 or less, the Society will request a further advance to increase the deposit.

e. Members may cancel the New Issues Services by sending a letter or an e-mail to elsalvadorphilatelist@elsalvadorphilately.org at least a month in advance from the date they wish to end the service.