

PUERTO RICO

PRE - PHILATELIC INLAND POSTAL ROUTES

The postal system in Puerto Rico during the 18th and early 19th centuries consisted primarily of Official and Military correspondence transported via military couriers. Through the king's "Royal Order" of 1811 the first civilian internal "Postal System" was approved and put into effect in 1813 under the direction of Don Esteban De Ayala, as Postmaster.

By 1860 the population of the island consisted of 583,000 inhabitants of which only 9% were literate. This resulted in the scarcity of postal material during this period, which consisted mostly of "Official" and some "Commercial" correspondence. Also to be considered is the fact that due to the "Tropical" location of the island it is very hard to find postal material free of stains or worm holes, in other words, one should not expect pristine covers with clear postmark strikes, especially if these never left the island.

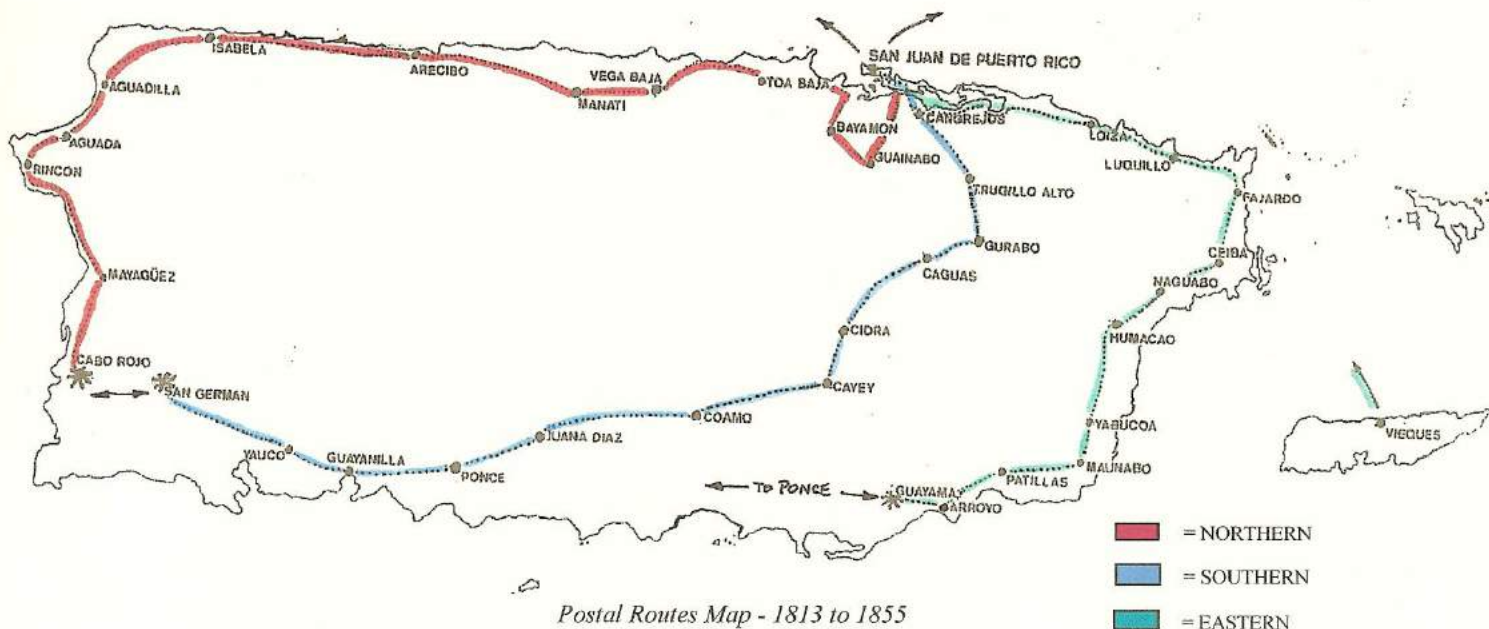
The system consisted of three major routes, all departing from San Juan, going North/West, South and East, with the *Postmen* traveling in their respective routes, stopping at the main towns before reaching their final destinations at Cabo Rojo, San German and Guayama respectively. These three towns could connect with each other via special couriers as needed. The Postmen would then journey back to San Juan picking up all return mail along the way. Special couriers designated by local authorities would service towns located out of the main routes. This procedure was repeated every 15 days..

To achieve this presentation, the exhibit has been divided into three Postal Routes as prescribed by the attached "Royal Decree of May 10, 1811" and put into effect July 14, 1813, commencing with the Northern Route, then Southern and finally Eastern Route. Later, through the "Royal Decree of 1845" several new towns were added to the list. Special couriers would service many of these that were out of the way of the main routes. These towns will be highlighted on the maps by Red markers.

Postal Rate = 2 Rs Plata - for single weight of 1/4 oz

Frames and color used to highlight the importance of items

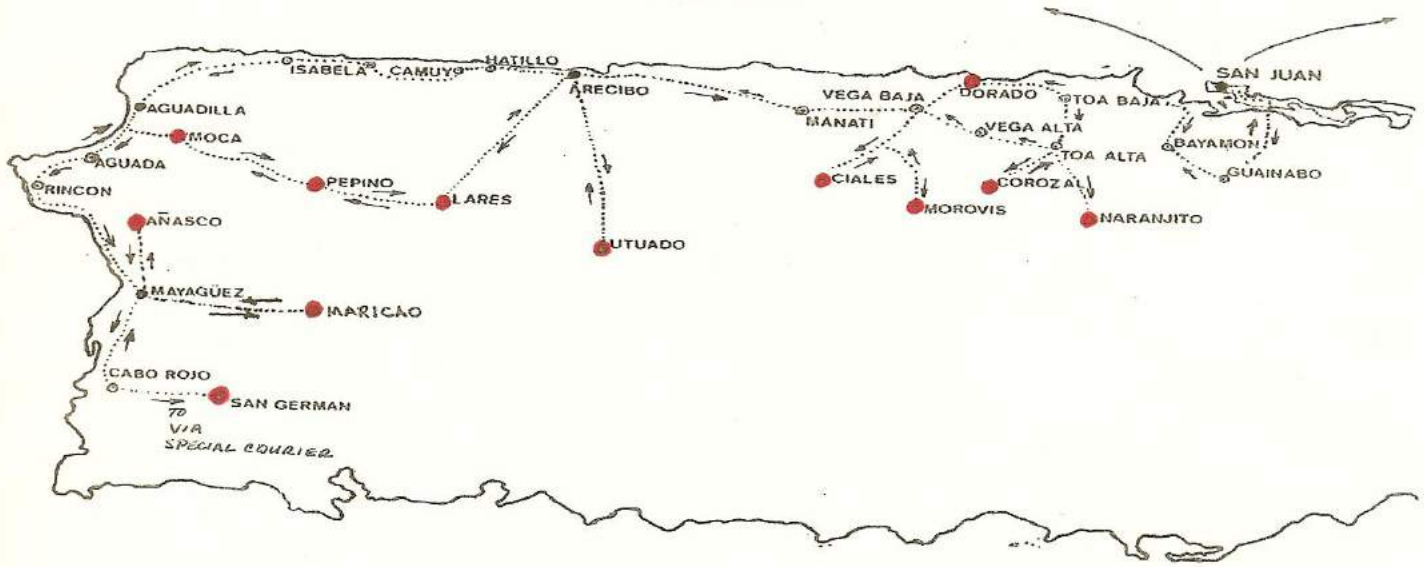
□ = Normal Item □ = Important Item □ = Unique or one of a kind ☆ = Certified



Postal Routes Map - 1813 to 1855

NORTHERN ROUTE

(NORTE)



TOWN NAMES AND DISTANCES IN LEAGUES

<u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>LEAGUES</u>
1- San Juan	11 - Ciales 2½ (1820)*	21 - Pepino3
2 - Guainabo ... 1½	12 - Morovis ... 2 (1818)*	22 - Lares 2½ (1828)*
3 - Bayamon ... 1	13 - Manati 3	23 - Aguada1
4 - Toa Baja2	14 - Arecibo 4	24 - Rincon2
5 - Toa Alta 1	15 - Utuado 7	25 - Mayaguez..1
6 - Dorado 1/2 (1848)*	16 - Hatillo 2 (1823)*	26 - Añasco3
7 - Corozal1½	17 - Camuy 3	27 - Maricao ...3 (1874)*
8 - Naranjito ... 2½ (1824)*	18 - Isabela (Tuna) 3	28 - Cabo Rojo.2 (Cavo Roxo)
9 - Vega Alta .. 1/2	19 - Aguadilla ... 5	
10 -Vega Baja ..1/2	20 - Moca2½	

* New towns year founded.

1 League (Legua) = 3.3 Miles

● Towns with red (#'s) serviced by "Special Courier"



1848-55
BLUE

BAEZA

Circular date stamp used on all incoming and out going mail out of San Juan from 1848 to 1855.



"San Juan" to "Aguadilla" w/blue Baeza, 17 Nov, 1853. Franking Pre paid per blue "FRANCO" arriving Nov 18th.



GUAINABO

BLUE - TYPE 1 - Ca. 1840



Cover from "GUAINABO" to "Caguas", departing 19 Sep, ca. 1840. Letter paid no postage per "Vo Bo" endorsement U/R, the postman picked it up on his way back to "San Juan" where it was rerouted then sent back out via the Southern Route. Guainabo (now Guaynabo) was founded in 1773 by Don Pedro R. Davila with a population of 2800.

The name "Guainabo" is from "BUINABO", Taino language for "Here is another place of fresh water". The first settlement in the island, "Villa Caparra" was established here in 1509 by the first "Governor General Don Juan Ponce De Leon."



BAYAMON

BLUE - TYPE 1 - UNRECORDED



Undated official letter to "San Juan" with a blue (*Unrecorded*) S/L from "BAYAMON" and a manuscript "R.S." (Real Servicio) on top. Picked up by postman going back to San Juan where stamped on arrival with a blue "2Rs" due mark.
Bayamon founded on May 22, 1775, with a population of 2500,
by Don Juan Ramirez Arrellano.

*Its name is derived from the Taino Indian chief "BAHAMON".
The first sugar refiner of the island was established here in the year 1548,
named "Central Santa Cruz" after the town's Patron Saint.*

ONLY ONE KNOWN



TOA·BAJA

RED - Ca. 1850 - UNRECORDED



From "Toa Baja" to "San Juan" undated legal front with an "Unrecorded" red "TOA . BAJA" town mark and a H/S red boxed "10z" paying "4Rs" Reales, correct inland rate. Founded in 1745, Toa Baja received mail from San Juan.

Known as "The City Under Water" since the "TOA RIVER" use to over flood so often during the rainy season.. This river was one of the first mentioned in the history of Puerto Rico and in whose shores "Don Juan Ponce de Leon" tried to settle the first population in the Island.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



TOA·BAJA

BLUE - Type 1 - 1855



Legal front to "San Juan" ca. 1855 with a blue S/L "TOA·BAJA".
Letter picked up by the postman on his way back to "San Juan"
there stamped with a blue "2Rs" postage due.

*Located on the North Costal Plains in the "Toa Valley".
Agricultural town, Sugarcane and Fruits.
Patron Saint "St Peter the Apostle"*



TOA·ALTA

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1855



Certified envelope to "San Juan" from the Mayor at "TOA . ALTA" dated 9 Set, ca. 1855, over struck by blue S/L "TOA . BAJA" transit. Toa Alta founded in 1751 with 1100 inhabitants, mail delivery directly from San Juan.

Toa Alta named for Taino word "THOA" for Valley. Also known as "Cradle of Poets" due to the numerous poets born there. "San Fernando Rey" is the Patron Saint with festivities in May.



DORADO

BLUE - Type 1 - 1845



Official cover to "San Juan", stamped w/a blue "DORADO", transit through "Toa Baja" by special courier, then to "San Juan" where stamped with "2Rs" due on arrival. Dorado was founded in Nov. 22, 1842 by Don Jacinto Lopez Martinez with 1700 inhabitants, all mail transactions through Toa Baja.

Dorado, Spanish for "Dolphin" due to the large amounts along it's shores. It's church called "The Sanctuary of Christ of the Reconciliation" built in 1872, has the third largest statue of Jesus Christ in the Caribbean.



NARANJITO

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Letter addressed to the "San Juan" district judge from the Mayor at "NARANJITO", sent by special courier to "Toa Alta" then to "San Juan", ca. 1845.

*Located in the Central Mountain Region of the Island, surrounded by large Orange groves.
 Founded in Dec. 3, 1824 by Don Braulio Morales.
 Named Naranjito or "Little Orange Tree".*



NARANJITO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



To "San Juan" from the Mayor at "NARANJITO" ca. 1850
 Founded on December 3, 1824 by Don Braulio Morales.
 "Naranjito" had all mail deliveries through "Toa Alta".

*A Naranjito tree or a "Little Orange Tree", the name also comes from an orange tree in the town that served as a landmark for a shortcut for people traveling to "Corozal"
 Patron Saint - St Michael The Archangel.*



COROZAL

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Official letter to the Treasurer at "San Juan" from "COROZAL", hand stamped with a "3Rs" postage due on arrival. "Corozal" a Central Mountain town founded in 1795 and officially became a town in 1804. All mail deliveries to and from "San Juan".

Corozal" takes its name from the "COROZO" Palm tree, a high African tree which abounds in the area. Also known as the "Birth Place of Volleyball", a sport that is so predominant in that part of the Island.



VEGA·ALTA

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



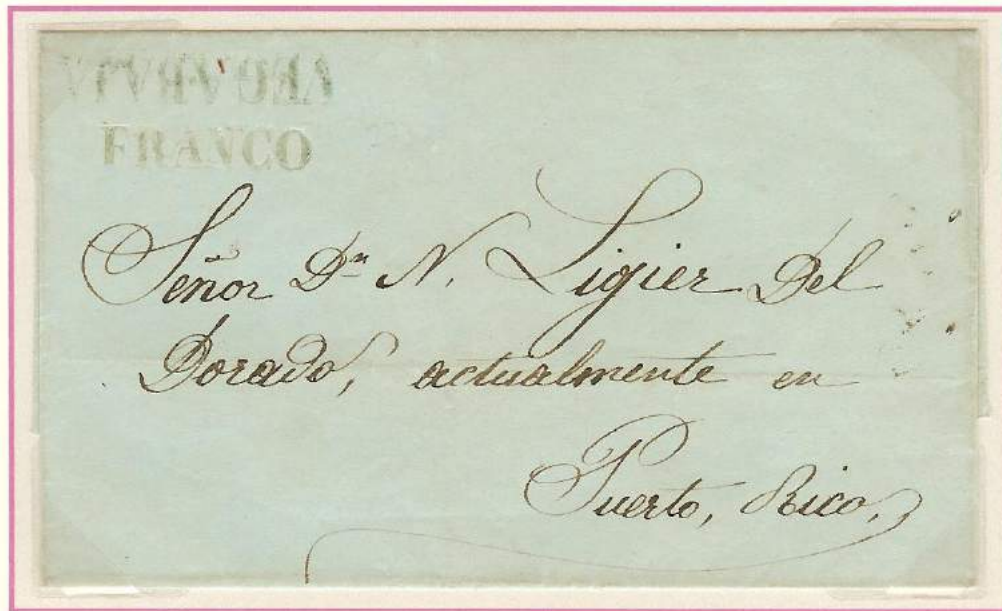
Cover to "Puerto Rico" (San Juan) from the Mayor at "VEGA.ALTA"
paying "3Rs" due on arrival. "Vega.Alta", a northern town
founded in 1775 By Don Francisco de los Olivos
with 1000 citizens, had mail delivered
from "San Juan".

*On October 12, 1898, the Mayor, "Don Francisco Vega"
received US Troops, part of Spanish /American war and assisted
them in the rising of the US Flag over City Hall.
Patron Saint festivities to "The Immaculate Conception"
are celebrated every year during the first week of December.*



VEGA·BAJA FRANCO

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1840



Personal folded letter to "San Juan" from "VEGA BAJA" with a blue "FRANCO" for pre paid. The town was founded October 3, 1776 by Don Antonio Viera with a population of 2000. Mail deliveries through "San Juan".

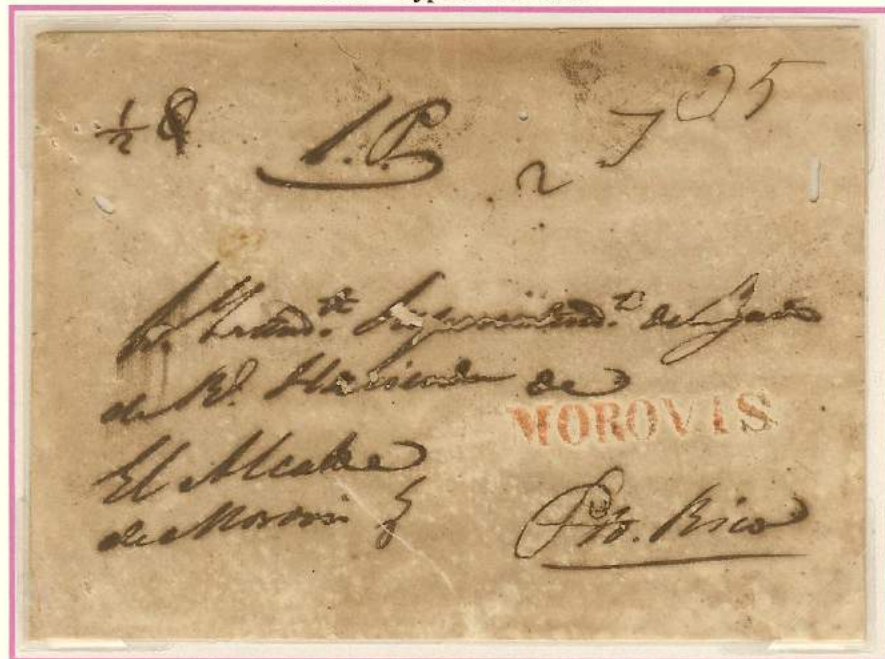
Founded at the shores of the "CIBUCO" river, named after the Regional Taino Indian Chief "Sebuco". The city was known as "La Ciudad del Melao" or "Maple Syrup City", because of the large sugar cane plantations surrounding it.

ONE OF THREE



MOROVIS

RED - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



From the Mayor at "Morovis" to "San Juan", showing an "Unusual" red "MOROVIS" town mark and an m/s 1/2 oz wt. Sent by special courier to "Vega Baja" then to "San Juan". Ca. 1845.

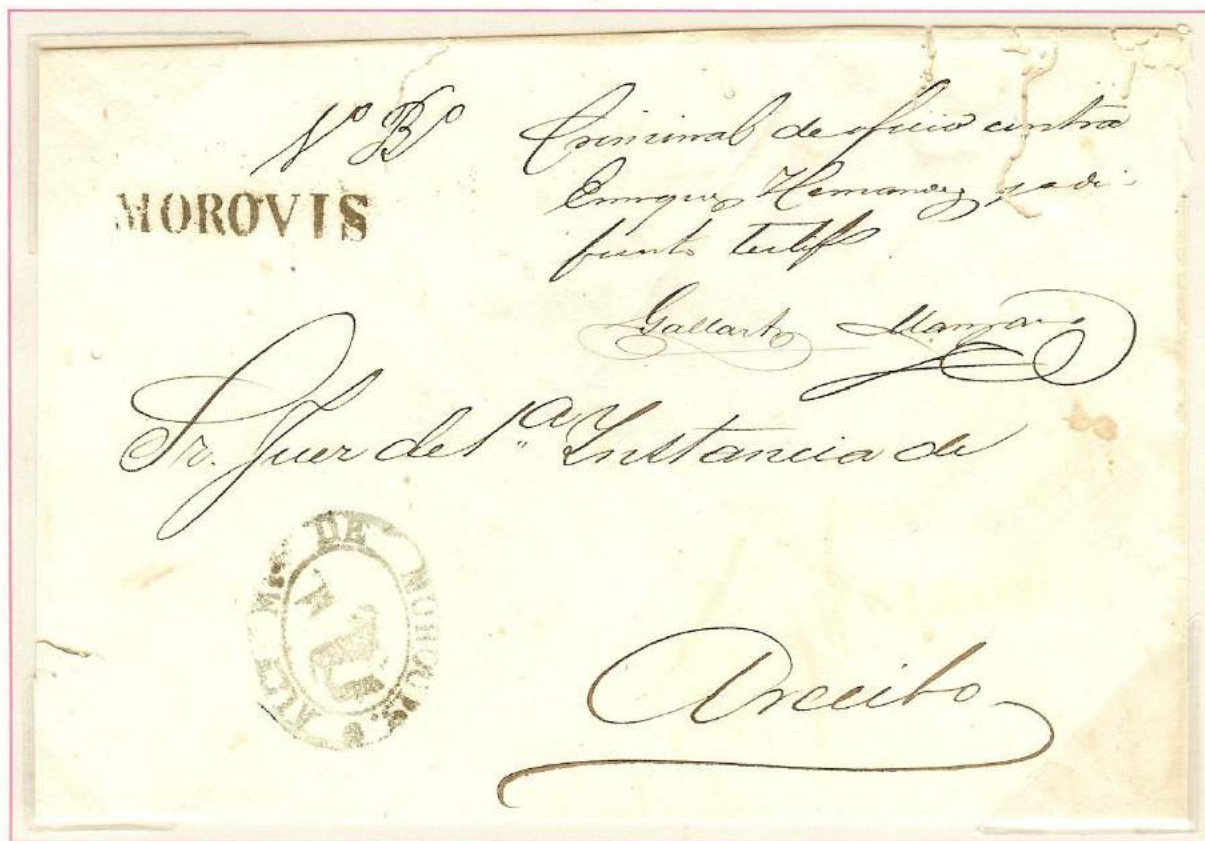
Morovis located in the Central Region, had a local Taino Indian "Cacique" called "Orocobix" and his tribe was called "Jatibonicu Taino". It was the only town in the Island that did not suffer from a "Cholera" epidemic in 1853.

ONE OF TWO KNOWN



MOROVIS

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



Judicial service letter to the district judge in "Arecibo" showing a black town mark from "MOROVIS", transit "Vega Baja" then to "Arecibo". Sent circa 1860.

The town was originally part of "Manati", it separated in 1817 under the leadership of Don Juan Jose de la Torre, officially founded in 1818 with 4800 citizens. The new church was built dedicated to "Nuestra Señora del Carmen" on lands donated by Don Juan Evangelista Rivera.



CIALES

RED - Type 1 - 1849



Legal letter to the district judge in "Arecibo" from the Mayor at "CIALES".
Letter was hand carried by special courier to "Vega.Baja"
there passed on to the postman who delivered it
to the "Arecibo" P.O., ca. 1849.

*Ciales located in the Central Mountain Range, was founded
By Don Isidro Rodriguez a coffee plantation owner.
Its Patron Saint is San Elias (Elijah)*

ONE OF TWO KNOWN



CIALES

BLUE - Type 1 - 1850 - 69



Undated military cover from "CIALES" to "San Juan", transit to "Vega Baja" via special courier then to "San Juan" handstamped on arrival with a blue "2Rs" due. Sent circa 1854.

Ciales had very large Coffee and Fruit plantations in the 19th century, with abundant fresh water provided by the Rio Cialitos and Rio Grande de Manati from which the "Doña Juana" water falls originate.



CIALES

BLACK - Type 1 - 1870 - 71



“Ciales” to “Arecibo” on Jan 29, 1871, transit “Vega Baja” via special courier, arriving the next day per cds on reverse. Ciales a north central town was founded in 1820 with 3000 inhabitants.

Ciales is the birthplace of “Juan “Pachin” Vicens”, world famous basketball player, named MVP at the 1959 World Basketball Championship at Santiago, Chile.



MANATI

BLACK - Small - "Unrecorded"



Undated letter from the Mayor in "Manati" to the district judge in "Arecibo"
Showing an "Unrecorded" small "MANATI" mark, traveling 15 Km
postage free to Arecibo, arriving the same day. Sent circa 1845.

*Founded in 1738 by Don Pedro Menendez Valdes.
Named after the "Manatee Sea Mammal",
also known as the "Atenas" (Athens) of Puerto Rico
because of the many poets born there.*

ONLY ONE KNOWN



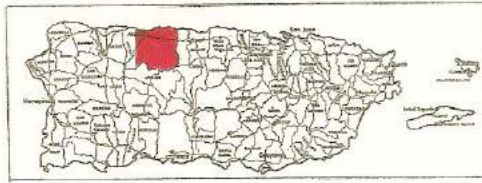
MANATI

BLUE - Type 2 - Ca. 1850 - Large



To "Puerto Rico" (San Juan) with a blue S/L "MANATI",
Sent free of franking per "SR" (Servicio Real).
Postman picked it up on his way back to
"San Juan". Ca. 1850

*The first Mayor was Don Jose Aulet, a plantation
owner, rich in pineapple, sugar cane & green bananas.
The Aulet family sold the land to the Government in the 1970's*



ARECIBO.

RED - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



Official cover sent to "Puerto Rico" from the District Court Judge in "ARECIBO", showing an m/s "1oz" on top. Letter picked up by the postman on his way back to "San Juan". Circa 1850.

Arecibo, settled in 1556, was the island's third Spanish settlement after "Caparra" and "San German". Named after Taino chief "Xamaica Arasibo" who ruled the Taino town Abacoa. Officially founded in May 1, 1616.

ONE OF FOUR



ARECIBO



BLUE - Type 2 - 1854



From the courthouse in "ARECIBO" sent "Free of Franking"
per "SINCARGO", to the head judge in "San Juan".
Arecibo founded in 1778 with 11,000 people
sent mail direct to San Juan. Ca. 1854.
"Unique SINCARGO marking"

Arecibo, also known as, "La Villa Del Capitan Correa",
after "Captain Antonio de los Reyes Correa"
a member of the Spanish Army who defended Arecibo
from the British in August 5, 1702.

ONE OF THREE KNOWN



UTUADO

RED - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



From "UTUADO" to "Ponce", transit "ARECIBO"
via special messenger, transferred to "San Juan"
then sent back out to "Ponce" via
the Southern Route, ca. 1850.

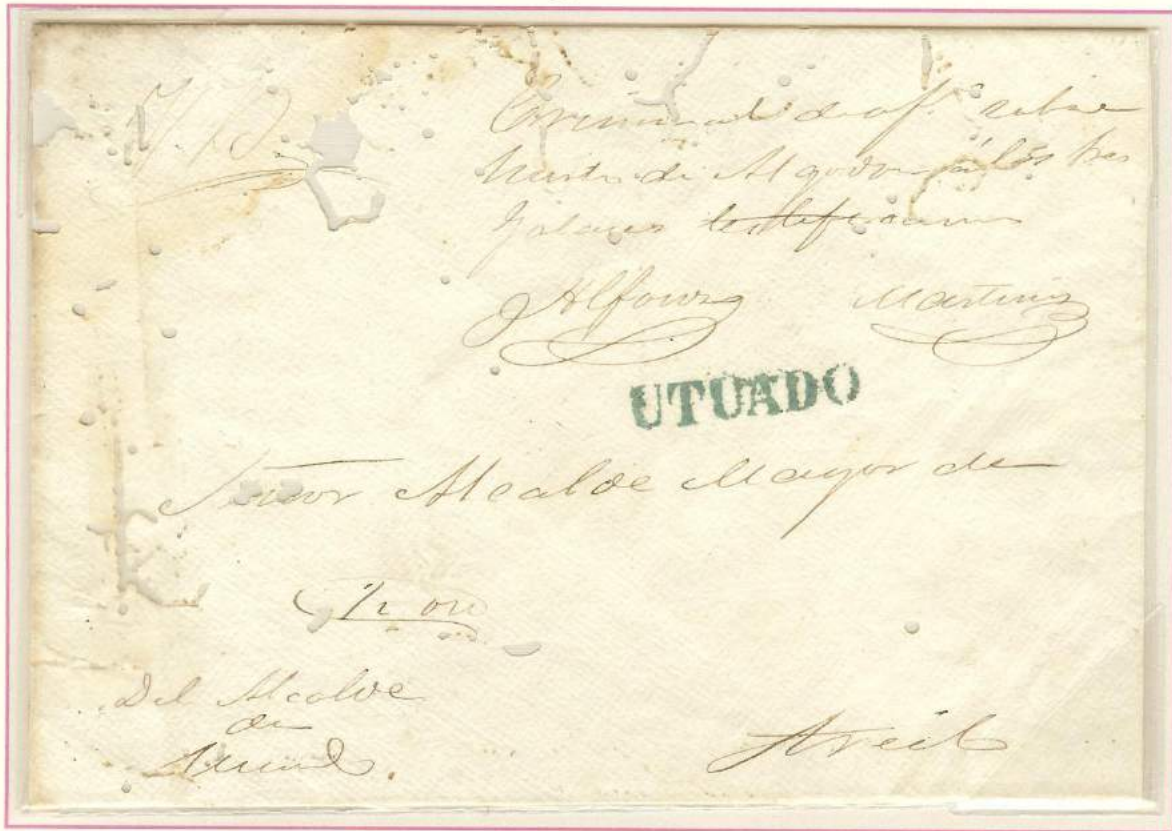
*Located in the Central Western Mountains,
the name "Utuado" derives from the Taino word
"Otoao", meaning "Between Mountains".
This region was ruled by the Taino Indian chief
"Guarionex"*

ONE OF TWO



UTUADO

BLUE - Type 2 - Ca. 1850



From "Utuado" to "Arecibo" with a blue straight line "UTUADO" arriving on October 6 per cds on reverse. With an m/s "1/2oz" and a V° B° approval. Utuado had all mail delivered from "Arecibo". Ca 1850

Founded in October 12, 1739 by "Don Sebastian de Morfi" or "Sebastian Murphy" since he was of Irish origin. This was the first town established by Spain in the interior mountainous region of the island mostly used for coffee plantations.



HATILLO

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



From the Commanding Officer in "HATILLO" to the Treasury Director in "San Juan" sent free of franking (*Sin Cargo*), transit "Arecibo" through to San Juan paying "3Rs" on arrival. Sent Ca. 1845.

Hatillo was founded in 1823 by "Don Agustin Ruiz Miranda", originally from the Canary Islands. Most people in this area were known as "Canarios."

Today this town is known as, "The Milk Capital", producing a third of all the milk consumed in the Island.

ONE OF THREE



HATILLO

BLACK - "Unrecorded"



From the Military Commanding Officer at "Hatillo" to the Treasurer at "San Juan" hand stamped with an "Unrecorded" black town mark "HATILLO" and a blue "2Rs" due on arrival. Circa 1840.

Hatillo proudly celebrates festivities to its Matron Saint "Our Lady of Mount Carmel", known as "La Virgen del Carmen" These take effect during the first two weeks of July celebrated with great pride and devotion, even today, including special processions and parades that draw many people from the nearby towns.

ONLY COVER KNOWN



CAMUY

BLACK - Type 2 - Ca. 1850



To the Head Judge in "Arecibo" from "CAMUY", paying "7½Rs" Reales to cover "2½ oz" weight. Picked up by the postman on his way back to "San Juan". Camuy founded in 1807 by Doña Petronila Matos, had mail delivered through "Arecibo". Sent circa 1850.

*The name "Camuy" comes from the Taino word for "Sun".
Just south of the town are the world famous "Cuevas de Camuy"
or the "Camuy Caverns" which together with the Camuy River form
the third largest and longest underground system in the world.*



ISABELA

BLUE - Type 2 - 1853 - 54



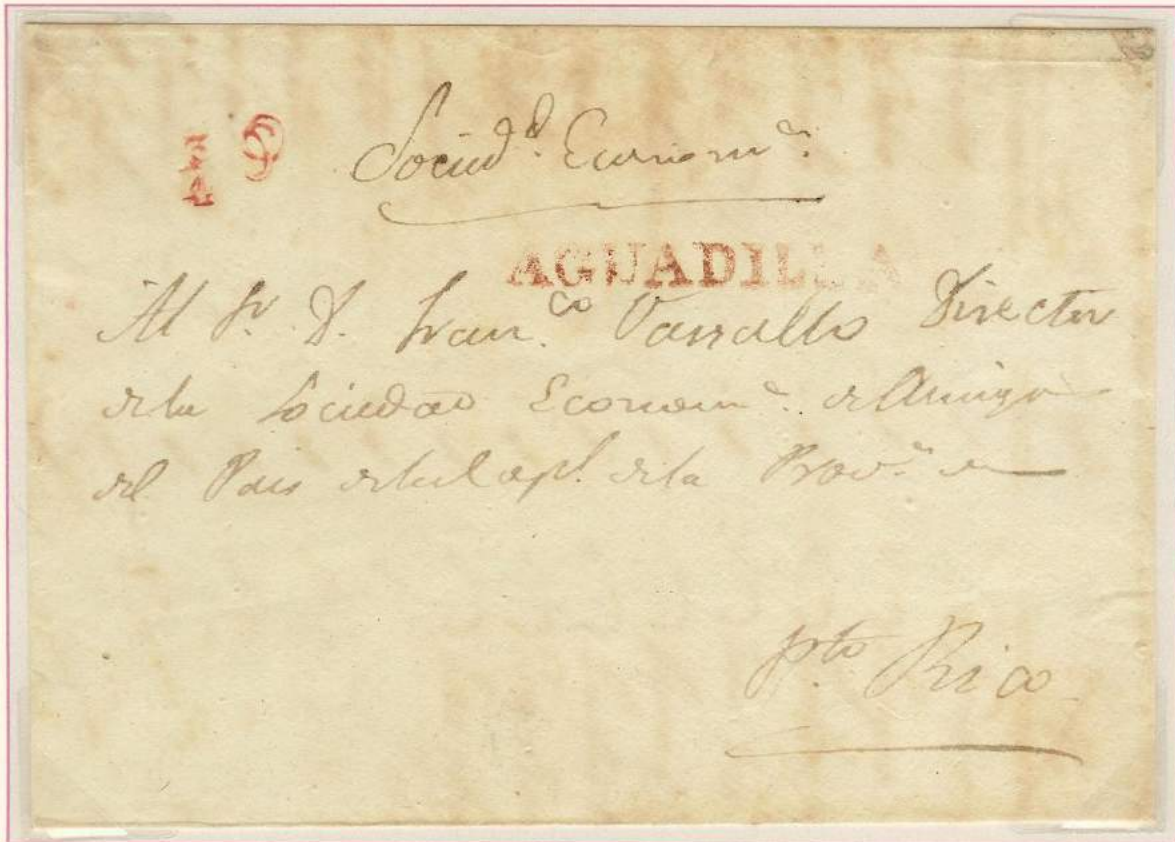
Sent by the Military Commander in "ISABELA" to the Treasurer in "San Juan" showing an oval Military cachet. Carried by the postman on his way back, stamped with "3Rs" due mark on arrival. Circa 1853.

Isabela's original name was "TUNA" in honor of the wild "Cactus" growing in the area. It was also known as "The City of Paso Fino Horses". Founded in May 21, 1819 under the authorization of the Governor "Don Salvador Melendez" and named "Isabela" after "Queen Isabela of Castile."



AGUADILLA

RED - Type 1 - 1849 - 50



Undated official cover from "AGUADILLA" addressed to "San Juan" handstamped with a red "3/4 oz" weight marking - Ca. 1850
Aguadilla, located in the northwest point of the Island had mail delivery directly from San Juan.

Originally part of "Aguada", segregated in 1775 to form the independent town of "San Carlos De Aguadilla", after its Patron Saint.
Officially founded in 1780 by "Don Luis de Cordova."



AGUADILLA

BLUE - Type 1 - 1853 - 56



Judicial front sent to "Aguada" with a town mark "AGUADILLA" in blue.
 Sent free of franking per "V^o B^o" circa 1856. The town of "Aguada" located just
one League away from "Aguadilla" received it's mail the same day.

*Aguadilla was the site of the "US Military Ramey Air Force Base" for almost five decades.
 Home to the famous "Strategic Air Command", 72d Bombardment Wing,
 equipped with B- 52s, very useful during the Cold War period.
 Handed over to the P.R. Government in 1973, serving
 now as the "Rafael Hernandez Int'l Airport."*



MOCA.

RED - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Military letter to the Head of the Treasury in "San Juan" dispatched from "MOCA" transit through "Aguadilla" then to the Capital paying "5Rs" on arrival. Moca, a northwest town founded in April 7, 1772 by Don Jose de Quiñones. Mail delivery through Aguadilla via special courier. Sent circa 1845.

The name "Moca" comes from the tree "Andira Inermis" with beautiful pink and purple flowers, very common in the region. The city's Patron Saint is "Our Lady of Monserrate" with celebrations every year in September.

ONE OF TWO



MOCA.

BLACK - Unrecorded



Unpaid letter from the Mayor at "MOCA" to the Treasury in "San Juan"
Sent by special courier to "Aguadilla" then to "San Juan"
where it paid "3Rs" for "1/2 oz" weight. Ca. 1838

*On August 14, 1898 the U.S. Army of Spanish/American War entered
and took the town of "Moca" finding no resistance.
Also known as "La Capital del Mundillo"
or "The Lace making Capital".*

ONLY ONE KNOWN



FRANCO PEPINO

BLACK - Type 1 - 1852 - 53



Civilian folded letter with contents datelined June 5, 1853, sent from "PEPINO" addressed to "Arecibo" with Pre - Paid franking (*FANCO*) . This western mountain did all postal transactions through special couriers via "Aguadilla".

"The Franco marking is UNRECORDED"

The town was founded in 1752 by Captain Cristobal Gonzalez De La Cruz who converted most of the cow farms into an Agricultural Village by the name of "Las Vegas Del Pepino" due its location. By the mid 1800's the region was a coffee powerhouse.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



PEPINO

JUNE 11, 1855



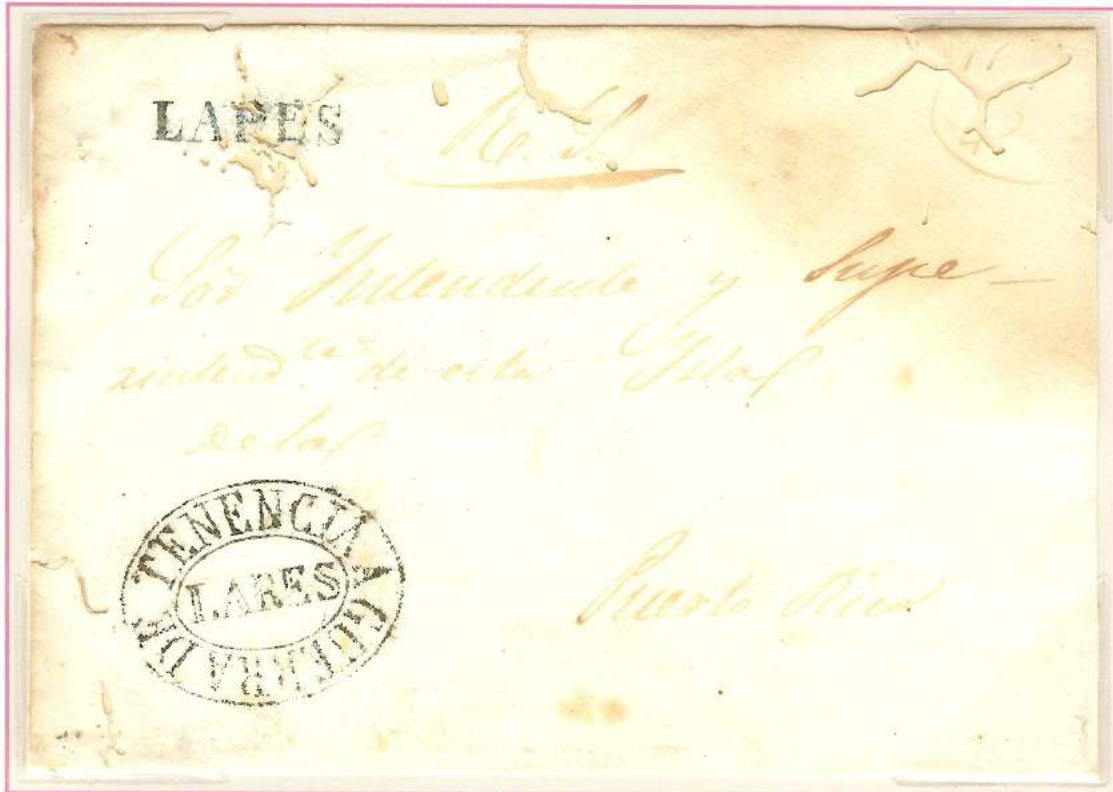
Official cover to the Mayor of "Lares" sent free of franking by the Mayor at "PEPINO" on June 11, 1855, topped with a "V^oB^o" endorsement, signed by the city clerk Sr. Lopez and dispatched via special courier.

By 1850 many wealthy Spanish immigrants arrived from Catalonia and Vizcaya and in remembrance of the old country changed the name to "San Sebastian", nevertheless, the local citizens are still called "Pepinianos".



LARES

BLUE - Type 1 - 1853-55



Official cover to "Puerto Rico" sent from the local "War Office" in the town of "LARES", sent via special courier to "Aguadilla" transit through "Pepino" and "Moca" then to San Juan. Lares located in the central mountains region.
Sent circa 1854.

Lares was founded on April 26, 1827 by Don Francisco Sotomayor and Don Pedro Velez Borrero, they then named the town after one of its settlers, "Don Amador de Laris", a Spanish nobleman who donated some land for the construction of the town.



LARES

NOV 3, 1862



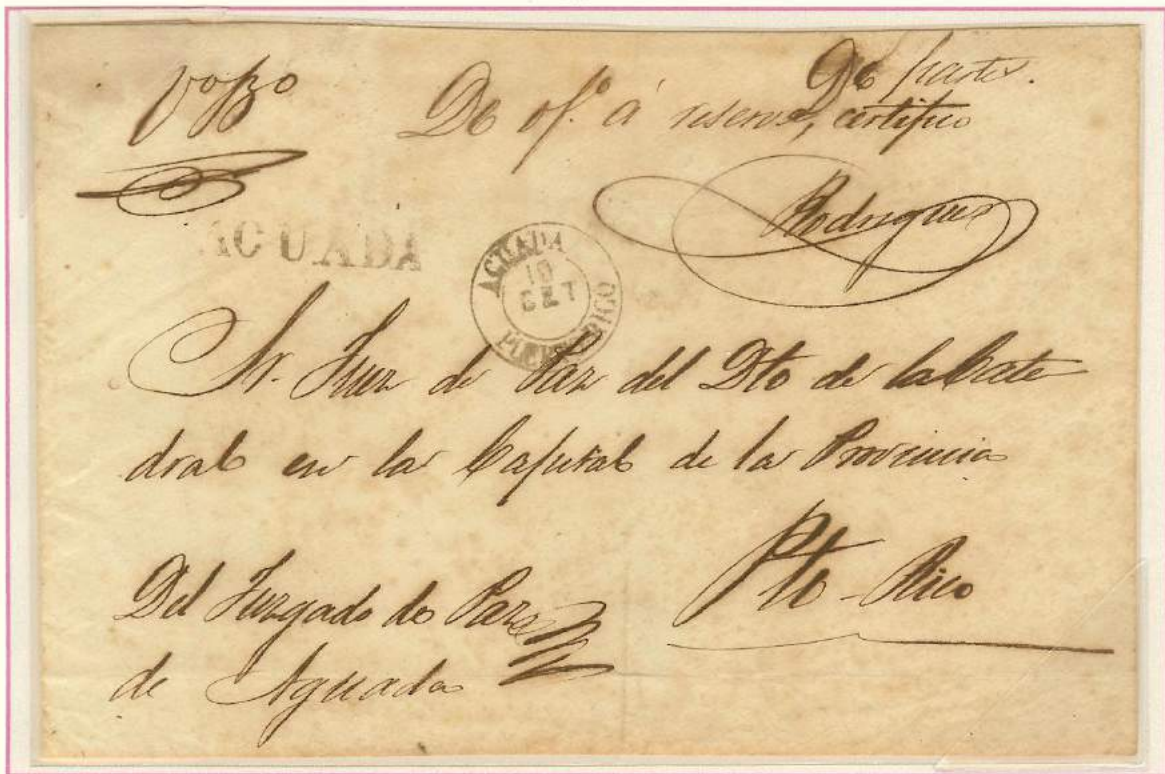
From the Mayor at "Lares" to County Judge in "Aguadilla" sent on Nov 3, 1862 , cancelled with a black "Parrilla Killer" as proof of franking , sent via special courier to Aguadilla stamped on arrival with a blue "2Rs. F" (Reales Fuerte) mark since the Judge did not have free franking privileges.

In 1868 there was an uprising by Pro - Independence rebels who wanted freedom from Spain, a moment known as "El Grito De Lares" or "Lares Revolt", was soon extinguished and all the participants were shot.



AGUADA

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



To the District Judge in "San Juan" from the "AGUADA" clerk of the court. Legal letter sent Sept 10, ca. 1850, transit "Aguadilla" by postman on his way back to "San Juan". Aguada a west coast town founded in 1510, said to be where "Columbus" landed on his second voyage of November 19, 1493.

"Aguada" was originally named "La Villa De Sotomayor" . Due to a Royal Decree of 1737, Aguada became a stopover point for ships on their way to South America which brought economic growth to the town.

ONE OF FOUR KNOWN



RINCON

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Cover front from the Mayor of "RINCON" to the District Judge in "Aguadilla" sent free of franking circa 1845. Rincon, located in the western coast valley was founded in 1771 by Don Luis De Afiasco with 300 inhabitants. All mail deliveries through "Aguadilla".

Rincon is home to the best "Surfing" beaches in Puerto Rico, accordingly it is called "El Pueblo del Surfing" or "The Surfing Town. In 1968, the first World Championship of Surfing was held at Sandy Beach, Rincon. Since then surfers from all over the world visit the town.

ONE OF TWO KNOWN



MAYAGUEZ

RED - Type 1 - 1844 - 47



Commercial letter with contents from "MAYAGÜEZ" to "San Juan" sent on July 8, 1846 arriving on the 10th. "Mayagüez" located in the west coast of Puerto Rico was officially founded on September 18, 1760 with a population of 12,000.

The founders , a group led by Don Faustino Martinez de Matos, Juan Silva and Juan de Aponte were granted the rights to self government in 1763. Originally named "Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria Del Mayaguez" after its Patron Saint, "The Virgin of Candelaria".



MAYAGUEZ

BLUE - Type 1 - 1849 - 53



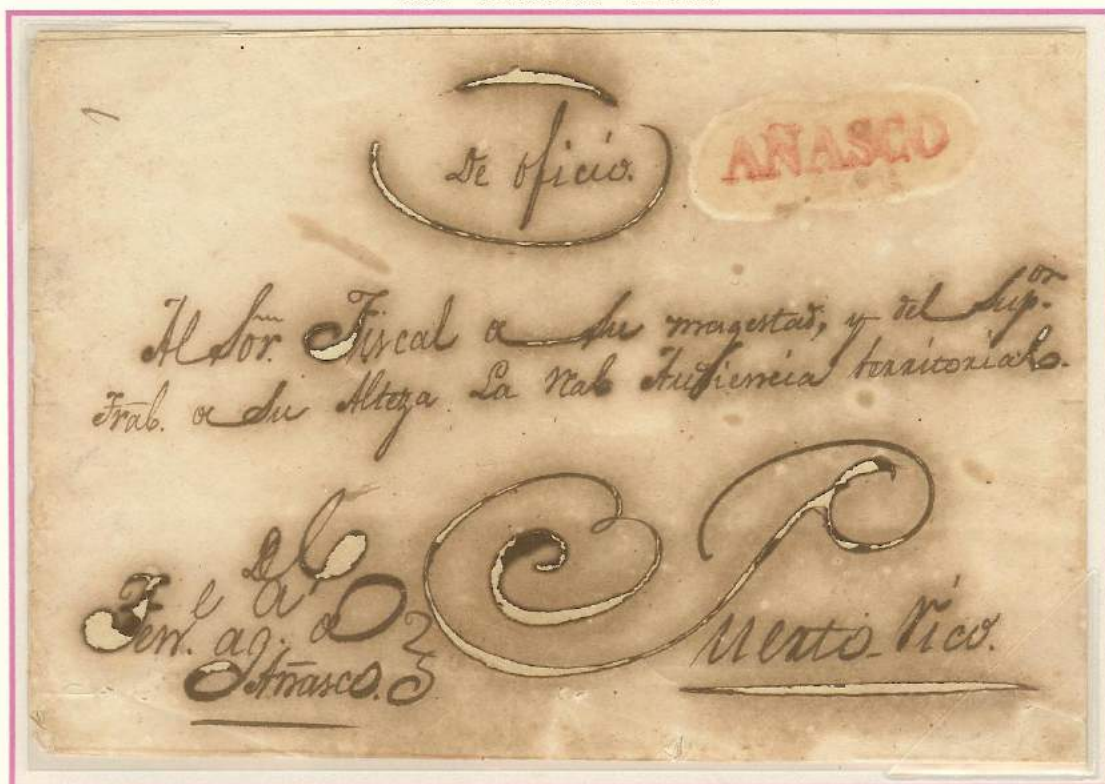
Complete folded letter to "Pamplona Spain" sent on Sep 29, 1850 from "MAYAGÜEZ", transit through "San Juan" there stamped with a blue "BAEZA" departure cds on Oct 1st, 1850, showing a red Spanish "5Rs" due stamped on arrival.

In 1911, the "College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts" was founded in Mayaguez establishing the Caribbean's leading Science and Engineering Institution.



AÑASCO

RED - Unrecorded - Ca. 1845



Cover to the Attorney General at "San Juan" from the Mayor at "AÑASCO".
Official letter transit "Mayagüez" via special courier then to the Capital.
Añasco located on the west coast just 10 miles northeast
of "Mayagüez" on the main route. Sent circa 1845.

*The town was founded on October 18, 1753 and named after one
of its settlers, "Don Luis de Añasco" who owned all of the land where the
town was founded. The property was located on the margins
of the "Rio Guorabo", a Taino name.
(Today "Rio Grande de Añasco")*

ONLY ONE KNOWN



AÑASCO

BLUE - Type 1 - 1851 - 52



Official letter to "Puerto Rico" (San Juan) from "AÑASCO" topped with "Real Servicio" for (Royal Service) free of franking, transit through "Mayaguez" then to "San Juan" where H/S with "3Rs" due on arrival. Ca. 1851

The "Rio Grande de Añasco" was also a historical site where the Indians drowned the Spaniard "Don Diego Salcedo" in 1511, proving that the Spanish soldiers were not "Gods" as had been earlier believed by the Tainos.



AÑASCO

BLACK - Unrecorded - Ca. 1851



Official legal letter to the District Judge in "Mayagüez" from the Court House in "AÑASCO", sent via special courier on Mar 2, Ca. 1851, paying "2" Reales for "1oz" weight.

In the year 1765 Añasco was the 4th most populated municipality in Puerto Rico, after "San German" (5,950), "San Juan" (4,506), "Aguada" (4,272) and "Añasco" (3,398).

ONLY ONE KNOWN



AÑASCO

BLACK - Unrecorded - Ca. 1851



Official legal letter to the District Judge in "Mayagüez" from the Court House in "AÑASCO", sent via special courier on Mar 2, Ca. 1851, paying "2" Reales for "1oz" weight.

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ONLY ONE KNOWN



MARICAO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1875



Certified official letter to "San German" with a black "MARICAO" town mark.
Delivered by special courier to "Mayaguez" on the main route on Mar 6 per cds on reverse, to "Cabo Rojo", then special courier to "San German" 7 Mar. ca. 1875

*Founded in April 10, 1874 by Don Bernardo Collado and Julian Ayala .
Maricao, also known as "La Tierra del Café" (Land of the Coffee)
because of its large, world famous, coffee production
during the 19th century.*

ONE OF TWO KNOWN



CABOROJO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



To the District Judge at "San German" from the Court House in "CABO ROJO" arriving on June 27, Ca. 1845 per cds. Cabo Rojo received its mail from "Mayagüez" with special courier service to and from "San German" on the Southern Route.

Cabo Rojo was founded on December 17, 1771 by Don Nicolas Ramirez de Arellano and Don Miguel de Mueas, together they owned most of the land surrounding the town. The first church founded in 1783 called "Iglesia De San Jose", was partly destroyed by a hurricane. Rebuilt in July 25, 1797 by Franciscans and renamed "San Miguel Arcangel" or "St. Michael Archangel", after its Patron Saint.



CABO ROJO

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



From the District Judge in "CABO ROJO", franking pre paid per blue "Parrilla Killer".
Sent to "San German" through Special Courier, arriving on
Feb 28, circa 1850.

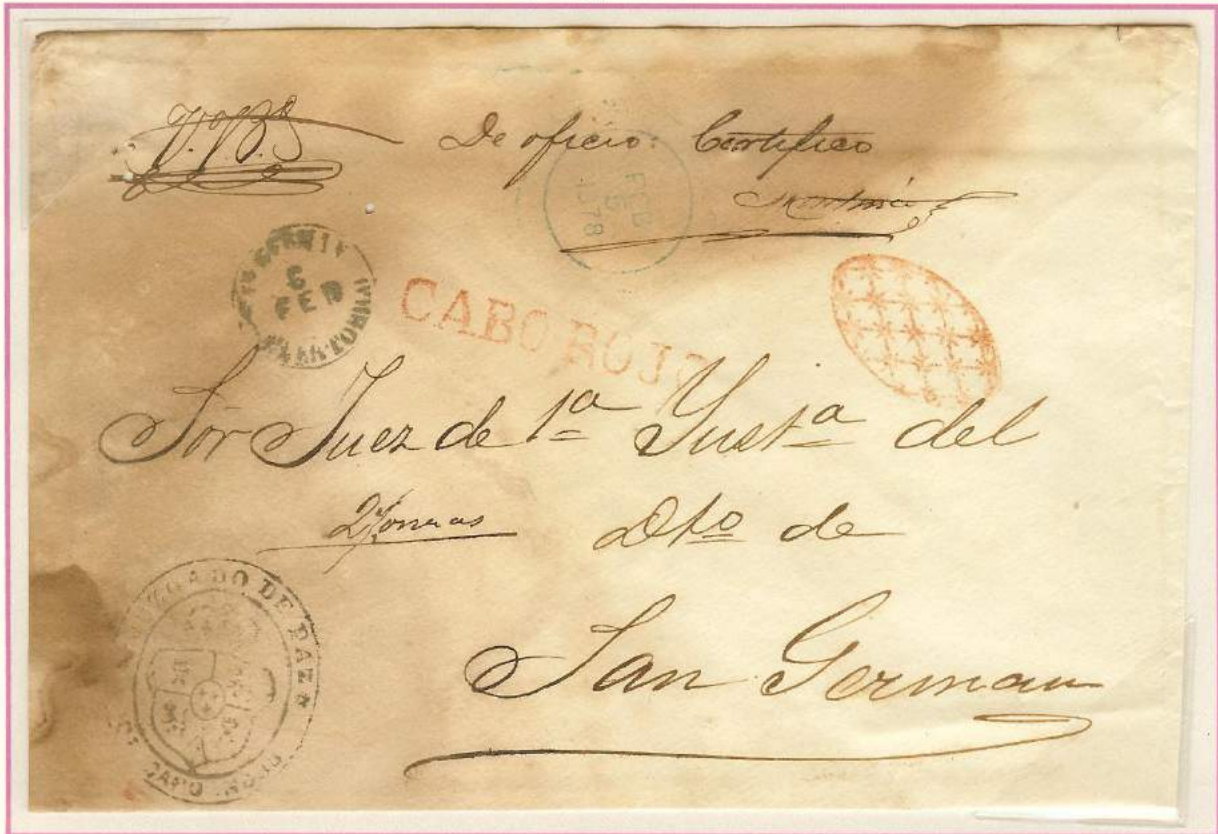
Located on the southwest tip of the island, it is said that "Cabo Rojo" or "Red Cape" obtained its name from the considerable amount of minerals found in the coast that made the waters look "Reddish".

According to legend, the name was given by "Christopher Columbus" himself.



CABO ROJO

RED - Type 1 - 1855



Legal letter sent to The District Court in "San German" was dispatch by special messenger from the District Judge in "CABO ROJO" on Feb 5, 1878, sent pre - paid per red "Parrilla Killer".

The famous Cabo Rojo lighthouse "Los Morrillos Lighthouse" or "El Faro" to the locals, was built in 1881 over limestone Cliffs that raise 200 feet above the sea level. Located near the "Salt Mines" or "Salinas". The mines are reported to be the oldest industry in the new world.

ONE OF TWO

SOUTHERN ROUTE

(SUR)



TOWN NAMES AND DISTANCES IN LEAGUES

<u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>LEAGUES</u>
1 - San Juan	10 - Sabana Del Palmar.3 (1826)	18 - Ponce3
2 - Cangrejos.....1	11 - Cidra2	19 - Adjuntas2 (1815)*
3 - Rio Piedras ...1	12 - Calley .. (Cayey) ..5	20 - Peñuelas4
4 - Trujillo Alto...1	13 - Aibonito.....1 (1825)*	21 - Guayanilla2
5 - Trujillo Baxo..1	14 - Barranquitas.....1	22 - Yauco4½
6 - Gurabo1 (1815)*	15 - Barros1 (1825)*	23 - San German2
7 - Caguas1	16 - Coamo5	24 - Sabana Grande .4 *
8 - Aguas Buenas ..1½ (1838)*	17 - Juana Diaz4 *	
9 - Hato Grande (San Lorenzo) See Eastern Route		

* New towns year founded
* No Letters known

1 League (Legua) = 3.3 Miles

• Towns with red (#'s) serviced by "Special Courier"



BLUE - Type 12 - 1850-59

"Without Charge"
since the Bishop
had free franking
privileges.



Letter sent by the
"BISHOP"
at "San Juan"
to the Monsignor
in "Ponce" on
June 11th, 1859.
Showing the blue
Bishops seal.



CANGREJO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1841



From the Mayor at “CANGREJOS” (Now Santurce)
forwarded to The Treasury Dept. in “San Juan” circa. 1841.
Cangrejos located just 3.5 miles south of “San Juan”.
“This marking was unknown prior to 2004”

*Due to the abundance of “Crabs” found in the area it was
commonly known as “Cangrejos” (Spanish for Crabs)
A group of residents led by “Don Pedro Cortijo”
founded the town on November 20, 1773,
calling it “San Mateo de Cangrejo”,
changed to “Santurce” in 1876.*

ONLY ONE KNOWN



RIOPIEDRAS

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



Front portion of an official cover to the Head Judge
in "San Juan" from "RIO PIEDRAS", showing an M/S
R.S. for "Real Servicio" and topped with a "1 oz".

Rio Piedras received mail directly from
San Juan. Ca. 1850

*Founded 1714 along the shores of the "Piedras River".
"Rio Piedras" is the largest district in the city of San Juan.
It has been home to the "University of Puerto Rico's"
main campus since 1903, earning
the town the popular name of
"University City"*

ONE OF FOUR



TRUJILLO ALTO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1860



Sent by the Mayor at “**TRUJILLO ALTO**” to the Treasury Department in “San Juan”, topped with a blue “6Rs” reales due on arrival. Trujillo Alto was the third stop on the Southern Route. Sent circa 1850.

“Trujillo Alto” located just 15 mile southeast of San Juan, was founded on January 8, 1801 along the shores of the “Loyza River”, named after “Don Alonso Trujillo”, one of its founders.

In 1953 -54, the “Carraizo Hydroelectric Dam” was constructed, forming the “Loyza Lake” a reservoir which serves as the main source of water supply for San Juan.



TRUJILLO BAJO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1847



Undated letter from "TRUJILLO BAJO" to the provincial Judge in "San Juan" topped with *R.S. free of postage* and a red "2 1/2 oz" applied on departure. Trujillo Bajo (Today part of Carolina) established in 1816. Mailman picked up returning to San Juan, ca. 1847.

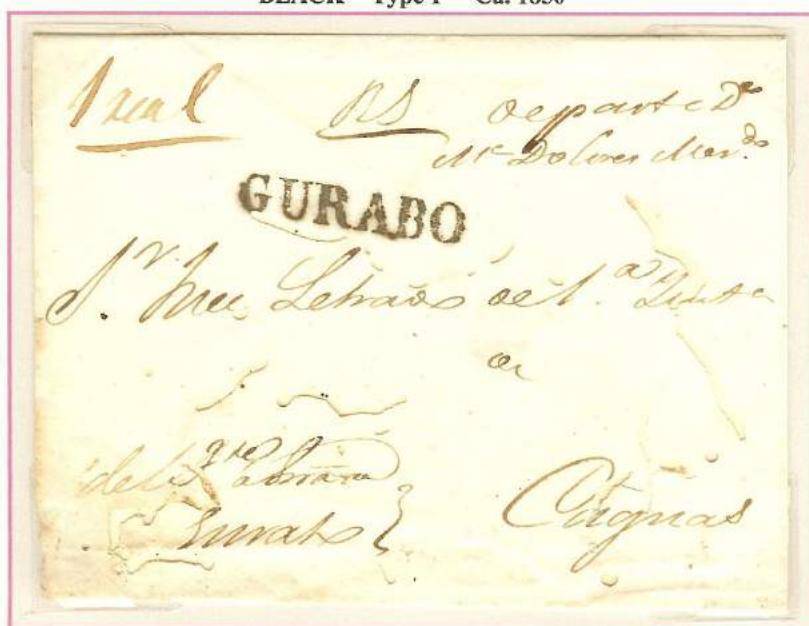
"Trujillo Bajo" a small village southeast of "Trujillo Alto" was established in 1816 with a population of 1400. Renamed "San Fernando de la Carolina" in 1857 with its territory expanded north to reach the Atlantic coast.

ONE OF FOUR



GURABO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



From the “GURABO” City Hall to the County Government office in “Caguas”, topped with a “1 Real” m/s paid at departure.

“Gurabo” a small central town founded in 1815 received all mail transactions via “Caguas”. Sent circa 1850.

Gurabo was initially part of “Caguas”, when the area was known as “Turabo”. In 1815, Gurabo became a separate municipality under the leadership of “Don Luis del Carmen Echevarria”.

In 1822 the first Catholic Church was built, named “Iglesia de San Jose” after its Patron Saint.



AGUASBUENAS

BLACK - Type 1 - Unrecorded



Official letter from "AGUASBUENAS" to the Treasurer in "San Juan", topped with a "1½ oz" H/S on departure. Transit "CAGUAS" via special courier then to "San Juan", hand stamped with "6Rs" due on arrival.

"Aguas Buenas", located in the Central Mountain Range, originally a sector of "Caguas" known as "Aguabuena". In 1798 a large group of its residents started establishing their homes near some of the rivers in the area, calling the sector "Aguas Claras"

ONLY ONE KNOWN



AGUASBUENAS

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



Undated official letter from the Mayor at "AGUASBUENAS" to the Military Treasury Superintendent in "San Juan", topped with a "1 1/4 oz" weight manuscript paying "5Rs" due on arrival. This town was founded 1838 with all postal activities conducted through "Caguas". Circa 1850

In July 25, 1832 a group of citizens lead by Don Francisco de Salas Torres and Don Ramon Diaz, began the arrangements to form a municipality. Another resident, Don Julian Lopez, offered part of his estate to build a town with a city hall and a church. In May 25, 1838 the town was founded and the name was changed from "Aguas Claras" to "Aguas Buenas".

ONE OF TWO



CAGUAS.

RED - Type 1 - 1844 - 50



Large official cover front addressed to the "Mayor of Mayagüez" showing a red town mark from "CAGUAS", paying "38" Reales for "9½ oz" per m/s on reverse. Circa 1850.
Picked up by the postman, transit through "San Juan" then rerouted and sent to "Mayagüez" via the Northern Route.

Caguas, located 20 miles south of San Juan in the Central Mountain Range, was founded in 1775 with 7800 people. It was originally called "San Sebastian del Piñal de Caguax" The name Caguas derives from the local Indian Chief "Caguax" who was an early Christian convert. The city also known as "La Ciudad del Turabo" since its located on the shores of the "Turabo River".



SABANA DELPALMAR

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



Undated letter from "SABANA DELPALMAR" to the district judge at "Caguas", showing a large blue "Municipal Shield", sent free of franking per "Vº Bº" endorsement. *This straight line marking was recently discovered.*

Originally named "Sabana del Palmar" when it was founded on June 12, 1826 with 2600 inhabitants. Later it was changed to "Comerio" after the local Taino Indian Chief. The town has a large Catholic Church named "Santo Cristo de la Salud" after its Patron Saint, with festivities every year in August.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



SABANA DEL PALMAR

BLUE - Type 2 - 1852 - 53



From the Mayor of "SABANA DEL PALMAR" to the Treasurer in "San Juan" transit "CAGUAS", paying "2Rs" in "San Juan". Sent circa 1852. All mail deliveries through Caguas via special messenger.

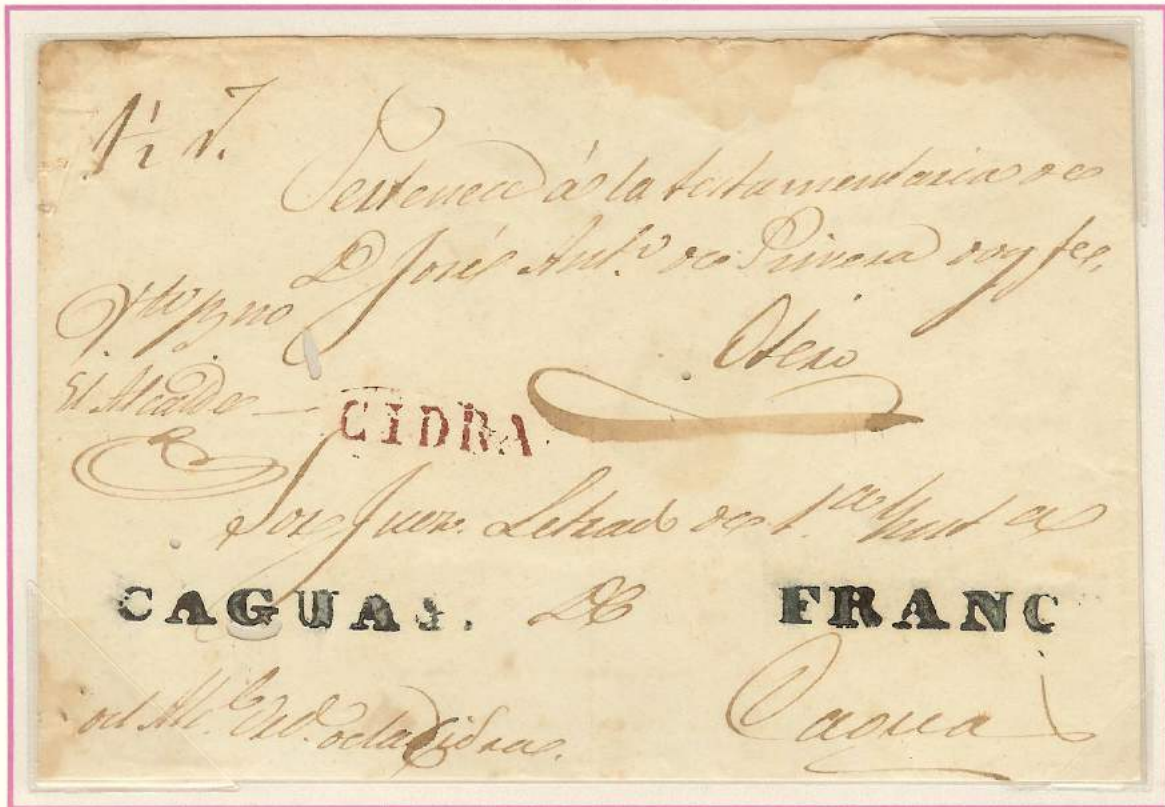
A small municipality located in the Center Eastern Region of the Island west of "Caguas". An agricultural town very rich mostly in Tobacco. It has a very important Archeological deposit known as, "Caguana Indian Ceremonial Park" Built by the Tainos some 800 years ago, showing some Stone Monoliths decorated with Petroglyphs

ONE OF FOUR KNOWN



CIDRA

RED - Type 1 - 1850



Legal case from the Mayor of "CIDRA" addressed to the district judge in the city of "CAGUAS" sent pre paid "FRANCO" circa 1850. Mail deliveries through Caguas.

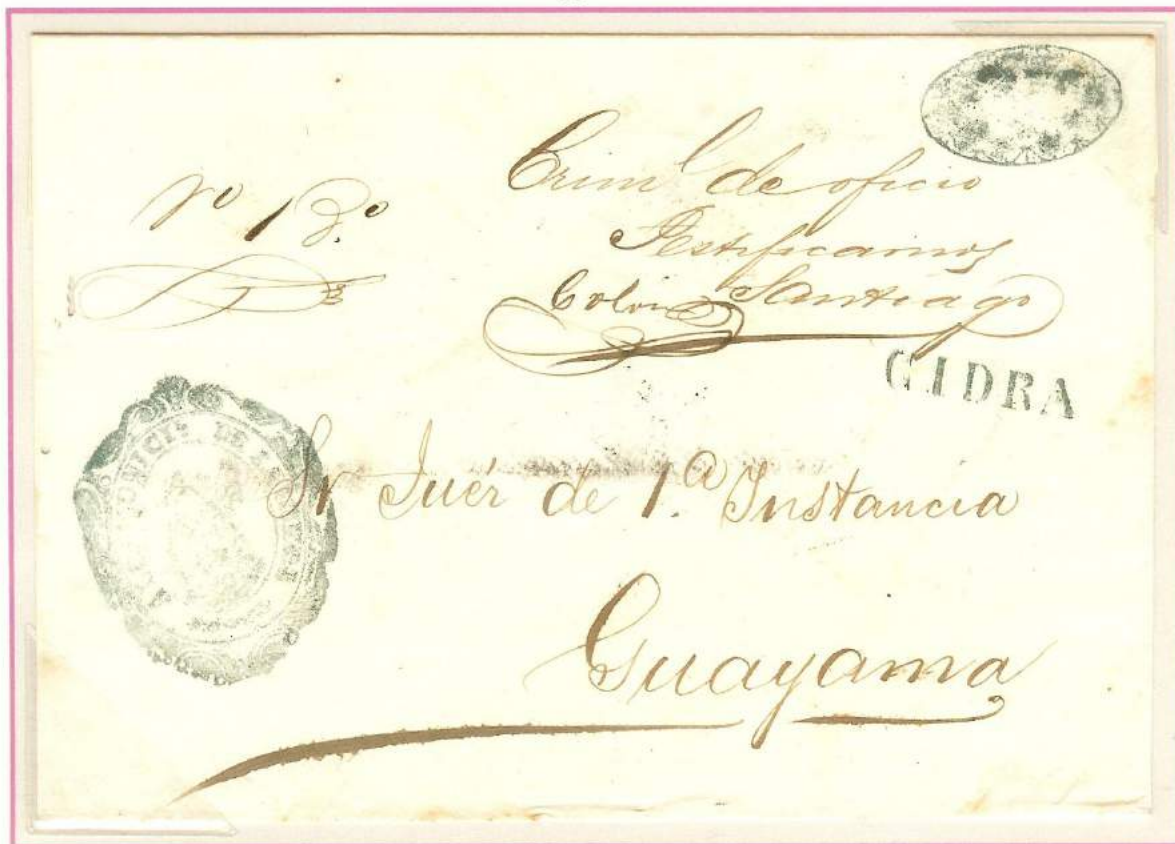
Cidra, a small central mountain town was founded in 1809 with 2100 people. Due to its location, is known as, "La ciudad de la Eterna Primavera" or "The City of Eternal Spring".

ONLY COVER KNOWN WITH THIS COMINATION



CIDRA

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1855



Legal letter addressed to the 1st District Judge in "Guayama" sent by the Mayor at "CIDRA", killed with a blue Parrilla Killer as proof of payment. Transit through "Caguas" as per cds on reverse 5 Dic. Ca. 1855. To "San Juan" then sent to "Guayama" via the Eastern Route.

Cidra is home to, "La Paloma Sabanera" or (Savannah Dove). The only bird in Puerto Rico with blue eyes, a protected species, classified as in danger of extinction.

ONE OF FOUR



**FRANCO
CAYEY**

BLUE - Type 1 - 1850



Pre paid legal letter to the 1st District Court in "Ponce" from the local judge in "CAYEY" showing an "Unrecorded" paid mark "FRANCO".
"Cayey" a small central town located off the main road of the Southern Route. Sent circa 1850.

*Cayey was founded on August 17, 1773 by "Don Juan Mata Vazquez" who became the first Mayor. The name Cayey comes from the Taino word for "A place of waters".
The town's original name was "Cayey de Mueas"*

ONLY ONE KNOWN



BARROS

GREEN - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



To the Treasury Superintendent at "San Juan" from Lieutenant Rivera in "BARROS" paying "2Rs" Reales due on arrival. Transit through "Cayey" on its way north. Circa 1845.

"Barros" located in the Central Mountain Range, founded in 1825 by Don Juan Rivera de Santiago. The original name was changed to "Orocobis" to honor the local Taino Indian Chief "Orocobix"

ONE OF FOUR KNOWN



BARROS

BLACK - Type 1 - 1850 - 51



Wrapper sent to the Provincial Superintendent at "San Juan" from "BARROS" via Special Courier to "Cayey" then to "San Juan" paying "2Rs" on arrival. Circa 1850.

"Barros" known for its nick name "El Corazón de Puerto Rico" or "The heart of Puerto Rico" because of its geographical location. Surrounded by Plantain, Bananas, Coffee, Tabacco and Wheat Plantations. "San Juan" (St. John) is its Patron Saint, with festivities in June.



BARRANQUITAS

BLUE - Unrecorded - Ca. 1876



Paid letter to the District Judge in "Ponce", leaving from "BARRANQUITAS" City Hall on Dic 21, 1876 via Special Courier to "Cayey" then to "Ponce". Barranquitas a central mountain town has mail delivered through "Cayey" and "Caguas".

The town was founded in 1803 by "Don Antonio Aponte Ramos" together with 3600 people. The local Taino Indian chief (Cacique) was called "Oracobix" and his "Yucayeque" (Tribe) was known as the "Jatibonicu Taino of Boriken"

ONLY ONE KNOWN



BARRANQUITAS

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1860



To "San Juan" from "BARRANQUITAS", by special courier to "Cayey" then transit through "CAGUAS", arriving in "San Juan" two days later paying "6Rs" Reales for "2oz" weight. Circa 1860.

Located in the central mountain region, it is nestled amid hills and Mountains. Nearby, between "Barranquitas" and "Aibonito" there lies "El Cañon de San Cristobal" or St. Christopher's Canyon, one of the deepest Canyons in the Indies.

ONE OF TWO KNOWN



AIBONITO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



From the Mayor at "AIBONITO" to the 1st District Judge in "Ponce" sent via Special Messenger paying "1½ Rs." due on arrival. Aibonito received mail through "Ponce". Ca. 1845

Founded in 1825, known as "La Ciudad de las Flores" or "The Flower City", is a small central mountain town located at a high elevation of 2400 Ft/735m, thus is cooler all year round than the rest of the Island. The name Aibonito comes from "Jatibonicu" the name of the local Taino tribe.

ONE OF THREE



COAMO

BLUE - Type 2 - 1857



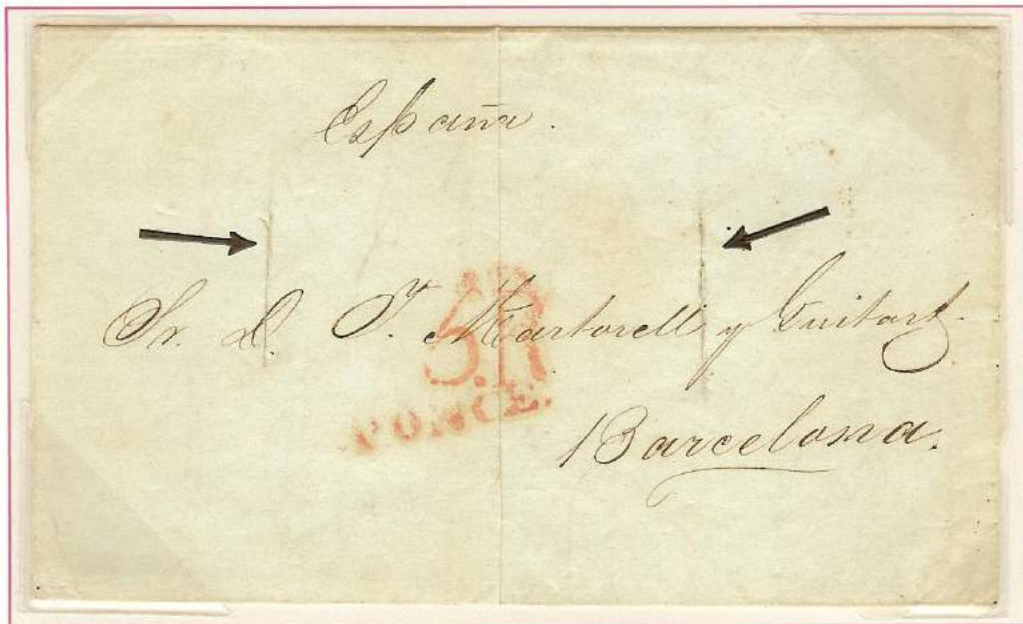
To the Head Judge at "San Juan" from the mayor at
"COAMO", letter sent free of franking per "RS".
Coamo receiving its mail from San Juan.
Sent circa 1857.

*"Coamo" was the third oldest settlement in the Island
after San Juan and San German dating back to July 15, 1579.
By 1582 there were twenty families living in the area
and was officially declared a town by 1616.
The name "Coamo" comes from the local
Taino Chief "Coamex"*



PONCE.

RED - Type 1 - 1844 - 50



Disinfected
letter

Entire letter from "PONCE" to "Barcelona", transit through "San Juan" on May 9, 1848 per departing red "Baeza" cds on reverse, arriving "Barcelona" on June 27, 1848 per cds on reverse, paying "5Rs" due in Spain.

*Founded as a Hamlet in 1692 by "Don Juan Ponce de Leon y Loayza"
grandson of the Spanish Conquistador "Don Juan Ponce de Leon"
Declared a Villa in 1848, obtained city charter in 1877.*



BACKSTAMP



PONCE. FRANCO

BLACK - Type 1 & 2 - 1850 - 53



Folded letter sent to "Madrid" from "Ponce", transit through "San Juan" on June 11, 1850 per blue "Baeza" on reverse, showing black S/L "PONCE - FRANCO" and a fancy blue "FRANCO" pre paid in San Juan.

In 1815 many immigrants from Europe and other Spanish colonies arrived in "Ponce", many made fortunes in coffee, corn, sugarcane, rum, banking and finance bringing a lot of progress to the city. Thus referred to as "La Perla del Sur" (Pearl of the South).



BACKSTAMP



ADJUNTAS

BLUE - Type 1 - 1850



“Adjuntas” official cover to “San Juan” showing a blue “ADJUNTAS” S/L, transit through “Ponce” per S/L on reverse, showing a blue “1½” Reales arrival due mark.
Sent circa 1850.

Founded in August 11, 1815 by “Don Diego Maldonado” gaining independence from Utuado. Adjuntas was one of the main cities where many “SEPHARDI” Jewish families settled, some had names such as; Torres, Perez or Peretz, Bennazzar, Benefers and Mozarabes. Adjuntas was proclaimed a “Villa” in 1894.

ONE OF FOUR



ADJUNTAS

BLACK - Type 1 - 1874



From "Adjuntas" to "Ponce", judicial front with a black "ADJUNTAS" town mark and a matching Municipal Seal. Sent via "Special Courier" All of its mail was usually received through "Ponce". Sent circa 1874.

Adjuntas a small mountain town located in the Central Midwest is also known as "La Suiza de Puerto Rico" (Puerto Rico's Switzerland) because of its chilly weather, ave 72°. Also known as being the "US Postal Area" with the lowest numerical ZIP Code (00601)

ONE OF FIVE



PEÑUELAS

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1840



Bold black "PEÑUELAS" postmarked on an official cover addressed to the Mayor at "Ponce" with a "Vº Bº". Sent circa 1840 . "Peñuelas" had all of its mail transactions through "Ponce".

Located in the southern coast of the Island, "Peñuelas" was founded in 1793 with 900 inhabitants by Don Diego de Alvarado.

*Known as "El Valle de los Flamboyanes"
or (Valley of the Poinciana Trees)*

ONE OF FIVE



PEÑUELAS

BLACK - Small - Unlisted



From the Mayor of "Peñuelas" to "San Juan" postmarked with a black "PEÑUELAS", showing a red "Ponce" transit mark on its way to the Capital.

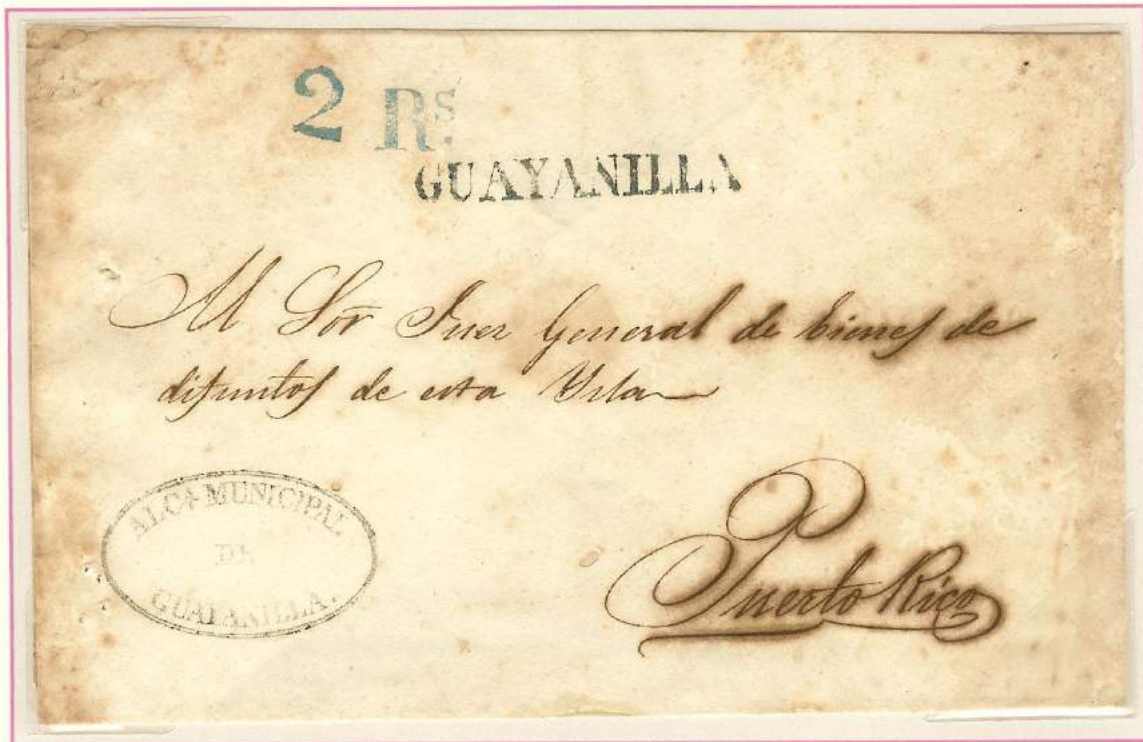
The main church in Peñuelas is called the church of "Santo Cristo de la Salud", named after their Patron Saint that stopped the sea from flooding the town, with festivities each year in November.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



GUAYANILLA

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



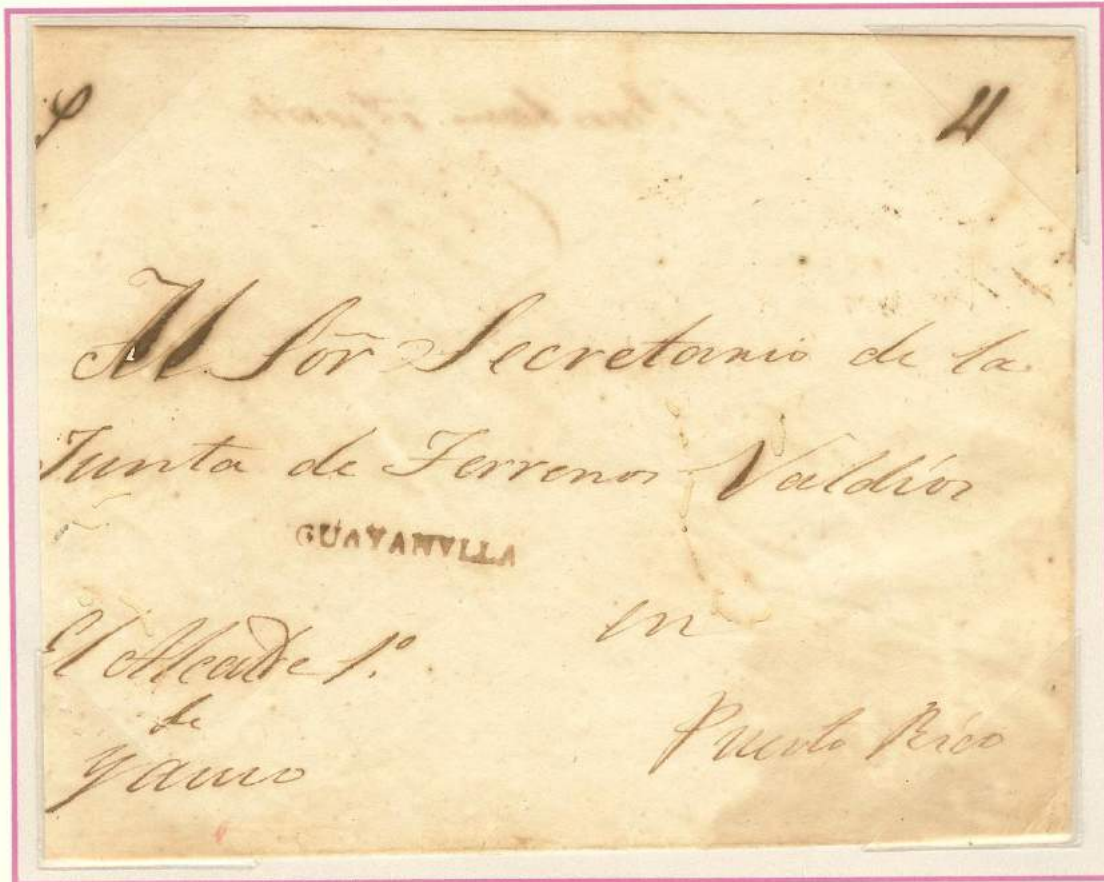
From "Guayanilla" City Hall to the Head Judge in "San Juan", official cover showing a black "GUAYANILLA" departure mark and a blue "2Rs" due applied in "San Juan" on arrival circa 1850. Mail deliveries through "Ponce".

"Guayanilla" was founded by Catalans, Italians, Corsicans, Venezuelans and Puerto Rican "Criollos". The original name was "Guadianilla" In memory of a river by the same name in Spain. Changed later on to resemble a Taino word "Guaynia".



GUAYANYLLA

RED - Unrecorded - Ca. 1845



Official cover from the Mayor of "Yauco" to the Board Secretary of Public Lands in "San Juan". Showing a small "Unrecorded" red transit S/L from "GUAYANYLLA". Ca. 1845.

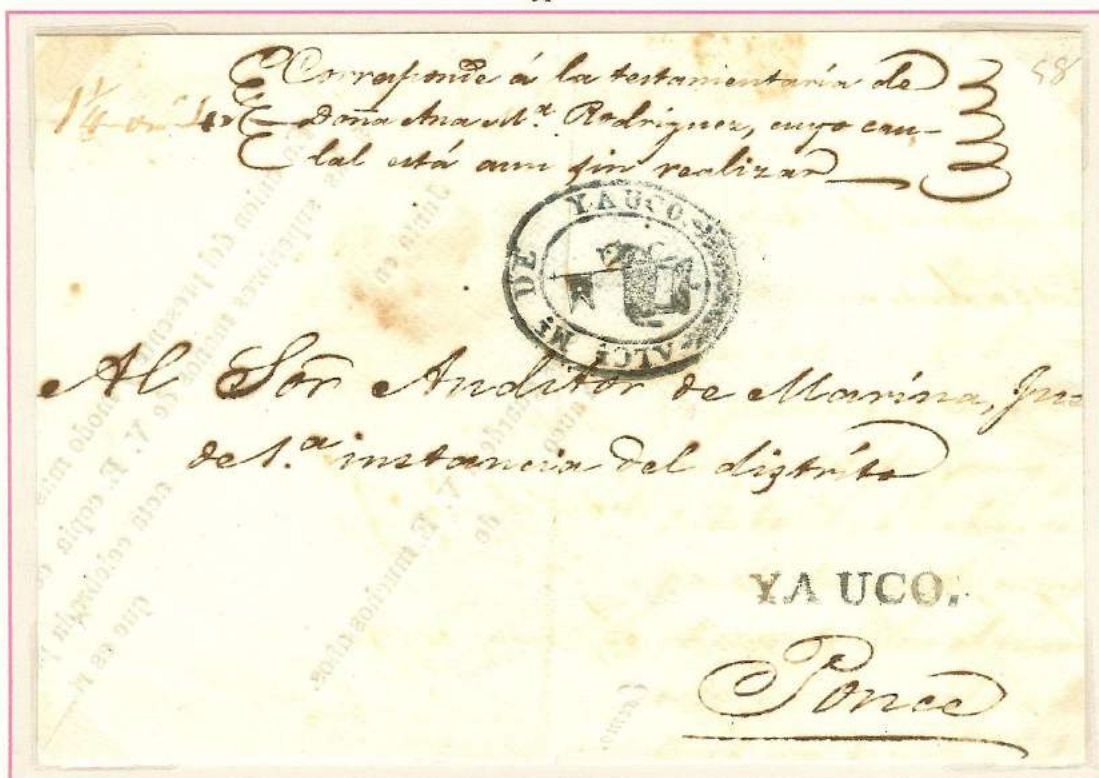
First settled by Europeans in 1511, it was part of Yauco when this one was founded in 1756. Guayanilla then became an important agricultural center, with access to a good port. It was Then established as a separate municipality on February 27, 1833 by the Governor Don Miguel de la Torre.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



YAUCO.

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



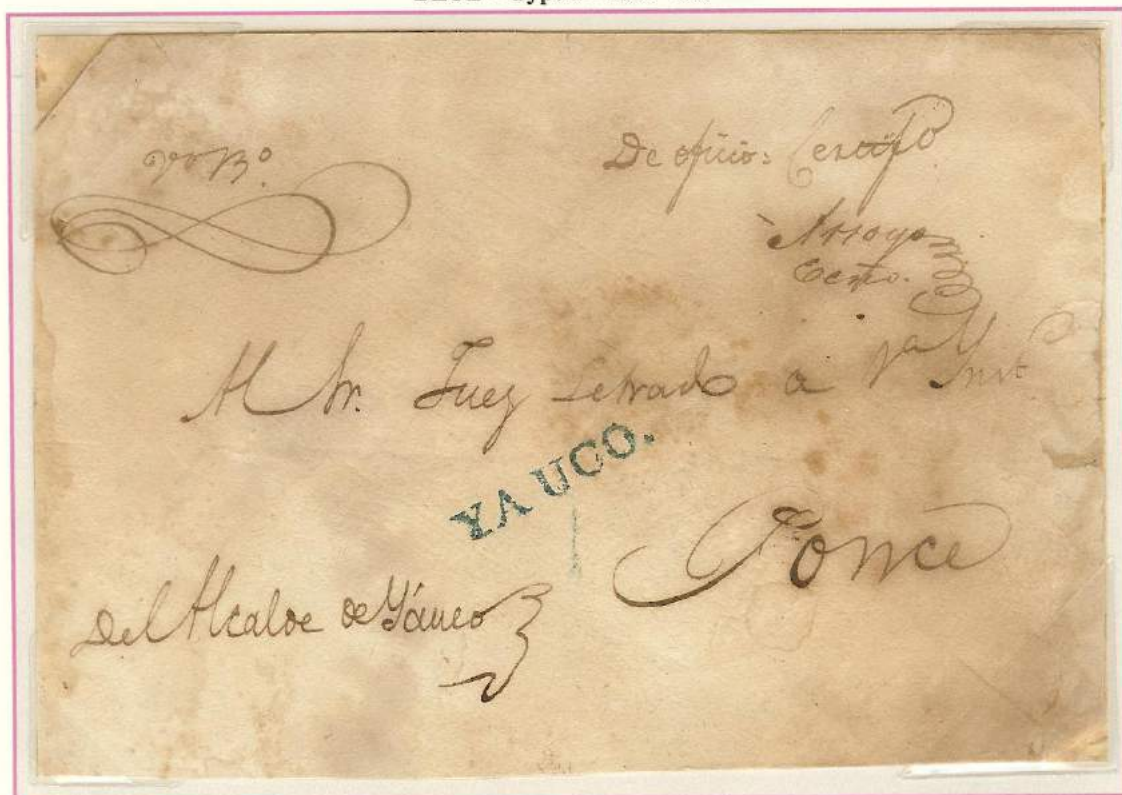
Official front to "Ponce" handstamped with a black town mark from "YAUCO" with a double oval pictorial Municipal cachet. Showing ms "1 1/4 oz" weight, paying "4Rs" on arrival. Mail delivery from "Ponce". Ca. 1850

"Yauco" was founded in February 29, 1756. Originally known as "Coayuco" which in Taino language meant "Yucca Plantation". It was once known as "The Coffee Capital of The World" since its coffee was low in caffeine but rich in flavor.



YAUCO.

BLUE - Type 1 - 1853 - 55



Legal front to the District Judge in "Ponce" from the Mayor at "YAUCO", topped with a "V^oB^o" endorsement, sent circa 1854. Yauco received mail from either Ponce or San German depending on which route it had originated from.

One of the most notable battles of the Spanish/American War "The Battle of Yauco" was fought there on July 26, 1898, between the Spanish forces led by Lt. Colonel Francisco Puig and Capt. Salvador Meca, and the Americans led by Brig. General George A. Garretson.

The Spanish losses were 5 wounded and 2 dead, as they were ordered to retreat.



SANGERMAN

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1870



Certified official cover to "Puerto Rico" from "SANGERMAN", sent via Special Courier to "Cabo Rojo", transit "Mayaguez" per S/L on reverse, then to "San Juan" via the Northern Route.

By November 1511, Don Juan Ceron ordered Lt. Miguel del Toro to create a Christian Township calling it San German established on Dec 1511 on the mouth of the "Guaorabo River", near the area of "Añasco. Because of continuous attacks by French Corsairs in August 1528, May 1538 and 1554, the people moved inland.



SANGERMAN

RED - Type 1 - Ca. 1870



Large package front from the District Judge in "SAN GERMAN" shipped free of franking to the Provincial Secretary in "San Juan". Transit through "Ponce" then north. Mail delivery from "Ponce" or "Cabo Rojo". Ca.1850.

On May 12, 1570 a new settlement was formed joining both the population of San German and Santa Maria de Guadanilla, forming a new town by 1572 called "La Nueva Villa de Salamanca" after Salamanca Spain, however the population would call the city "San German el Nuevo" and eventually the "Villa de San German".

ONE OF TWO

EASTERN ROUTE

(ESTE)



TOWN NAMES AND DISTANCE IN LEAGUES

<u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>LEAGUES</u>
1 - San Juan	10 - Piedras1	18 - Salinas4 (1851)*
2 - Carolina4 (1850)*	11 - Juncos3	19 - Sta. Isabel De Coamo ..3 (1841)*
3 - Loiza7	12 - San Lorenzo ..4	20 - Vieques10 (1843) (Nautical Miles)
4 - Luquillo6	13 - Yabucoa1	
5 - Fajardo2*	14 - Maunabo1½	
6 - Rio Grande....3 (1840)*	15 - Patillas4	
7 - Ceiba (Seiba)..2 (1838)*	16 - Arroyo2	
8 - Naguabo3	17 - Guayama1	
9 - Humacao3		

* New towns year founded
* No Letters known

1 League (Legua) = 3.3 Miles

• Towns with red (#'s) serviced by "Special Courier"

S.TOMAS
1846 - 48
RED - Type 30

ISLA DE
22
30 JUN. 30
1846
PUERTO RICO

BAEZA
RED - 1842 - 48

BACKSTAMP



"Connecticut" to "Guayama" on 16 May, 1846 transit St. Thomas Forwarded by "Whitmore & CO, ST. Thomas" Into "San Juan" on June 22/46 per red "Baeza" and a "2Rs" due both on reverse. Red octagonal "S. TOMAS" applied on arrival. Then by land to "Guayama".

ONE OF FOUR



Court case sent to the "District Mayor of San Francisco" with an "Unrecorded" blue shield with crown from "SAN FERNANDO DE LA CAROLINA" now called "Carolina". Canceled by "Parrilla Killer" for pre paid. Topped with an m/s "27" for case number. Circa 1860.

The town was founded in 1816 as "Trujillo Bajo" along with counterpart "Trujillo Alto", after Trujillo, Spain. In 1857 it was renamed to "San Fernando de la Carolina", later shorten to "Carolina" after Charles II of Spain.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



LOYZA

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1840



Undated official letter to the District Judge in "San Juan" from the Military Commander at "LOYZA", H/S with a blue "2Rs" due on arrival. Loyza, a town located on the northeast, had mail delivery from San Juan.

"Loyza", (today **Loiza**), was proclaimed a town officially in 1719 and named in honor of "Yuisa" or "Luisa", a female "Taino Indian Chief" in that area. A Section of the town called, "**Loiza Aldea**" was populated by freed or escaped African slaves during the town's first years, therefore the many "**African Traditional**" foods and dances, such as the "**Plena**" dance, exist in the area today.



LUQUILLO

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Ecclesiastic letter sent to the District Court in "Humacao" from the town of "LUQUILLO" showing the shield of the "Parish of San Jose de Luquillo". Luquillo did its mail transactions through "San Juan" or "Fajardo".

The town was founded 1797 with 2900 inhabitants by Don Cristobal Guzman. Named after the Indian "Cacique Loquillo", who died a few years after the last Indian rebellion of 1513. Luquillo is also known as "La Riviera de Puerto Rico" because of its beautiful beaches.



RIO GRANDE

BLUE - Type 1 - 1854



Undated official letter from "RIO GRANDE" to the Mayor at "Carolina".
First sent to "Fajardo" by special courier then to "Carolina" via the Postman on his way
back to "San Juan". Most of its mail comes via "Fajardo".

*"Rio Grande" was founded in July 25, 1840 with a population of 700, by
the "Deriderio Brothers" and "Don Quilimaco Escobar" with
the approval of the Governor "Don Miguel Lopez."
The town was named after "The Rio Grande" since
its situated at the base of the river.*

ONE OF FOUR



RIO-GRANDE

BLACK - Unrecorded - Ca. 1850



Undated official cover from "RIO GRANDE" to the Treasury Department in the Capital. Sent by special courier to "Fajardo" then to "San Juan" where stamped with a blue "2Rs" due on arrival.

Today "Rio Grande" is known for its beautiful beaches such as "Coco Beach" with many hotels such as, Grand Melia, Trump Int'l and Marriott Hotel. It sits just ten minutes from the "Rain Forest" known as "El Yunke", and the "PGA, Puerto Rico Open" takes place there every a year.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



SEIBA.

BLACK - Type 1 - 1856 - 73



From the local Judge in "SEIBA" (Error Ceiba) traveling just 10 Miles south to the local Judge in "Naguabo". Showing a Parrilla Killer as pre paid. Ca. 1856.

Ceiba, an eastern town was founded in 1838 with 750 people by "Don Luis de la Cruz". Ceiba derives its name from a n Indian word "Seyba" which is the name of beautiful famous tree that grows in the island "The Ceiba Pentandra", a "Silk Cotton Tree" that grows along the seashore.

ONE OF FOUR



NAGUABO

BLUE - Unrecorded - Ca. 1850



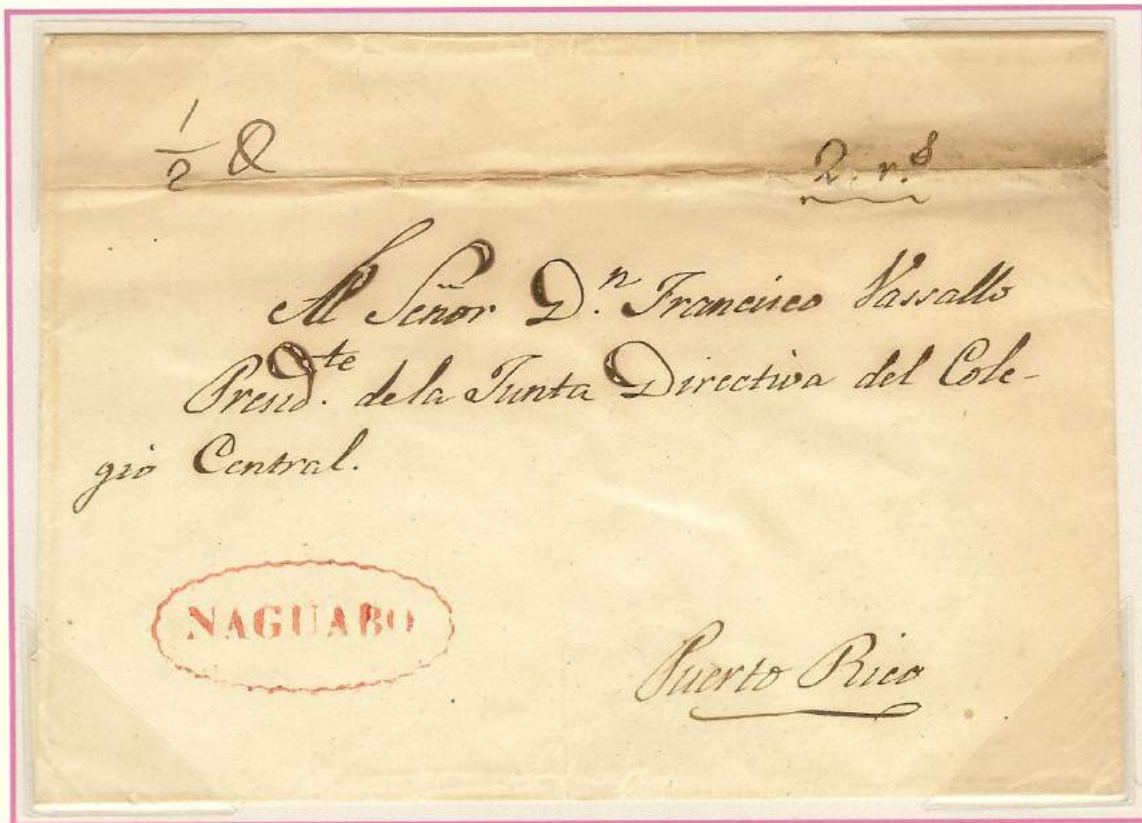
Cover from the Mayor at "NAGUABO" to the "Secretary of State" in "San Juan", stamped on arrival with "3Rs" due, circa 1850. Naguabo, located on the main road of the Eastern Route, had all its mail delivered from "San Juan" or "Humacao"

Founded in 1794 with 2400 inhabitants, located on the east coast of the Island was well known for its Seafood Specialties, such as "Pastelillo de Chapin" or "Trunkfish" wrapped in flour dough deep fried.
"Very tasty"

ONLY ONE KNOWN



RED OVAL - Type 1 - 1842



Cover addressed to the "Director of the Central College" in "San Juan" showing a "Unique" red oval town mark "NAGUABO" with ms "1/2oz" and "2Rs" paid at departure. Ca.1842

Naguabo is located at the base of the "Luquillo Mountain Ranges" with two high hills of great elevations, one is "Pico del Este" or (Eastern Tip) and "Pico del Oeste", respectively with 1,051 and 1020 meters or (3,448 & 3,346 Feet) above sea level. The rest of the area is level.



NAGUABO

BLACK - Type 2 - 1852



Judicial letter sent to the District Judge in "Humacao" on Sept 20, circa 1852 from the District Judge in "NAGUABO", cancelled with a "Parrilla" killer as proof of payment. The m/s "61" on the bottom right, indicates "Case Number".

Naguabo is said to be the birth place of the inventor of the Basketball "Three (3) Point" rule. Mr. Eddie Rios, born in Naguabo in 1929, came out with the idea in 1963, while coaching at the "Caparra Country Club" the "Baby Basketball League" for 5 to 11 year olds. Today, the P. R. Basketball Players Assoc. awards the "Eddie Rios Trophy", every year, to the best three (3) point shooter of the league.



HUMACAO

BLUE - Type 2 - 1841 - 53



Undated Official letter to the "Juez De Camara" in "San Juan" sent by the local judge in "HUMACAO". Letter weight "3oz" and paid "12 Rs". Humacao, served as relay station to "San Juan". Sent circa 1845.

The city was founded in 1722 and became autonomous in 1793. The name "Humacao" comes from the local Taino Indian Chief "Jumacao" of whom a beautiful monument was erected to welcome visitors from the east.



HUMACAO

BLACK - Type 2 - 1846



Certified official front from "HUMACAO" to the commanding officer in Island of "Vieques", showing an "Unrecorded" transit mark from "NAGUABO" from which it was sent by sea circa 1846.

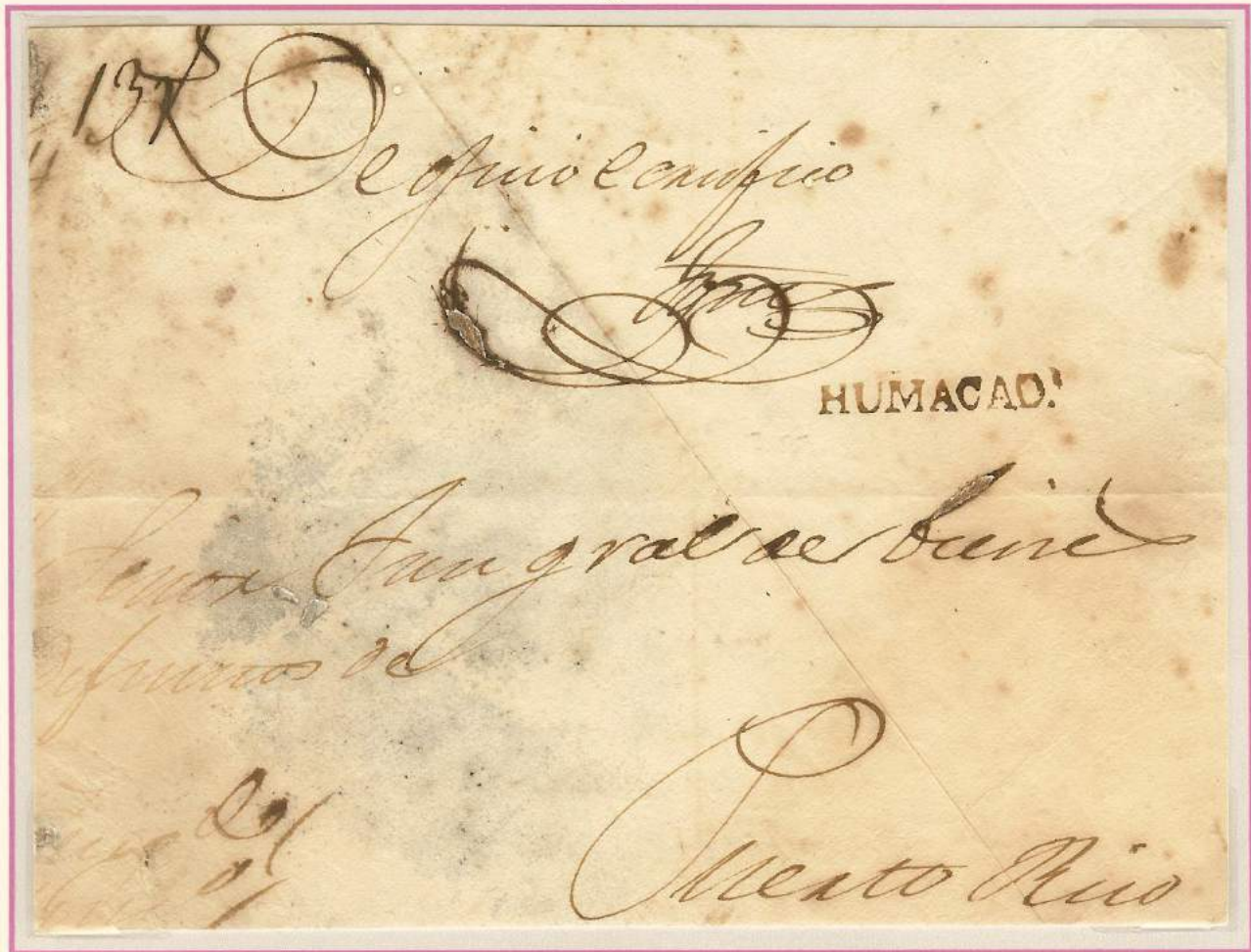
"Humacao" celebrated festivities to its Patron's Saint the "Immaculate Conception", known as "Fiestas Patronales" every year at the beginning of December, including great festivity with real live music, food, drinks and Religious Processions.

ONLY LETTER KNOWN WITH THIS COMBINATION



HUMACAO.

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1840



Large official cover sent from "HUMACAO" to "Puerto Rico" (San Juan) circa 1840. Showing an m/s "De Oficio Certifico" or "Certified Official Mail" sent free of franking and an s/m "13oz" U/L.

On March 2008, a new Roman Catholic Diocese was established as "The Fajardo - Humacao Diocese", with its first bishop "Monsignor Eusebio "Chebito" Ramos Morales" who was rector of Humacao's main parish in the 1990's.

ONE OF TWO KNOWN



JUNCOS

BLACK - Type 1 - 1845



Personal letter with contents from "JUNCOS" to "Naguabo" on Nov. 19, 1845. Sent to "CAGUAS" by error then back east to "Naguabo" via special courier.

"Juncos" was founded by "Don Tomas Pizarro" on August 12, 1797 with a population of 3600. Located on the Eastern Central Region of the island, at one time it was part of Caguas. Known as "La Ciudad del Valenciano" since it was built along the shores of "The Valenciano River".

ONE OF THREE



S.^{AN} LORENZO FRANCO

BLUE - Type 1 - 1850 - 55



Pre paid mail from "SAN LORENZO" to the Mayor
of "Caguas", traveling west by special courier.
The town had mail delivered via "Humacao".
Sent circa.1850.

*"San Lorenzo" named after "Saint Lawrence" was founded
in 1811 By "Don Valeriano Muñoz de Oneca". Its original name
was "San Miguel de Hato Grande"*

*The town church, "Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes" is a
Registered National Historic Site and Monument,
built in 1737 and renovated in 1993.*



PIEDRAS

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



Criminal case from "PIEDRAS" to the District Judge in "Humacao",
 sent via special courier Ca. 1850. Piedras, today known as
 "Las Piedras" with mail delivery through "Humacao".

*The town was founded in 1773 with a population of 1200.
 A colorful town with many natural attractions such as
 "La Cueva del Indio" or (Indian Caves) which was
 an original Indian playground with paintings
 that denote the lives of the ancient natives.*

ONE OF FOUR



YABUCOA

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Judicial letter from the Military Commander at "YABUCOA" to the District Judge in "Humacao". Topped with "1/2 oz" paying "1 1/2 Rs". Yabucoa had mail deliveries from Humacao and Guayama.

Located on the Southeast tip of the Island, "Yabucoa" was founded In 1793 with 4200 inhabitants. Its name come from the "Taino" word for "Land of Waters" due to the many rivers that water the region. Also known as "La Ciudad del Azúcar" (City of Sugar) because of the many sugar plantations in the area.



MAUNABO

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1850



From the Military Commander at "MAUNABO" to the Director of the Treasury Department in "San Juan", picked up by the Postman on his way back and there stamped "2Rs" due on arrival. Sent Circa 1850

Founded in 1799 with a population of 1000, "Maunabo" derives its name from a Taino Indian river named "Manatuabón". The town has an almost unspoiled culture, due to the high mountains that separates it from the rest of the towns in the area. It is still a very colonial city, thus many people come to the "San Pedro Festival" in May.

ONE OF THREE



PATILLAS

BLACK - Type 1 - 1873 - 77



Legal letter from the city of "PATILLAS" to the District Judge in "Guayama" date stamped on Jan 6, 1876 cancelled with "Parrilla Killer" for pre paid. Patillas founded in 1811 just 10 miles east of Guayama.

The original town was built on land that was donated by "La Señora Doña Adelina Cintron" who owned "La Finca Patilla" or (The Patilla Farm). The name "Patilla" comes from a Taino name for "Watermelon" which was abundant in the area.



PATILLAS

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1872



Undated letter to the Military Superintendent of the Treasury in "San Juan", sent by the Mayor of "PATILLAS" circa 1872.

During the mid 18th century there were over 5700 inhabitants in the valley of Patillas. At that time there was an established large "Sugar Mill" which provided a good source of income for the neighbors in the area. This situation helped attract more new comers to the valley.



**ARROYO
FRANCO**

BLUE - Type 1 & 2 - 1849 - 51



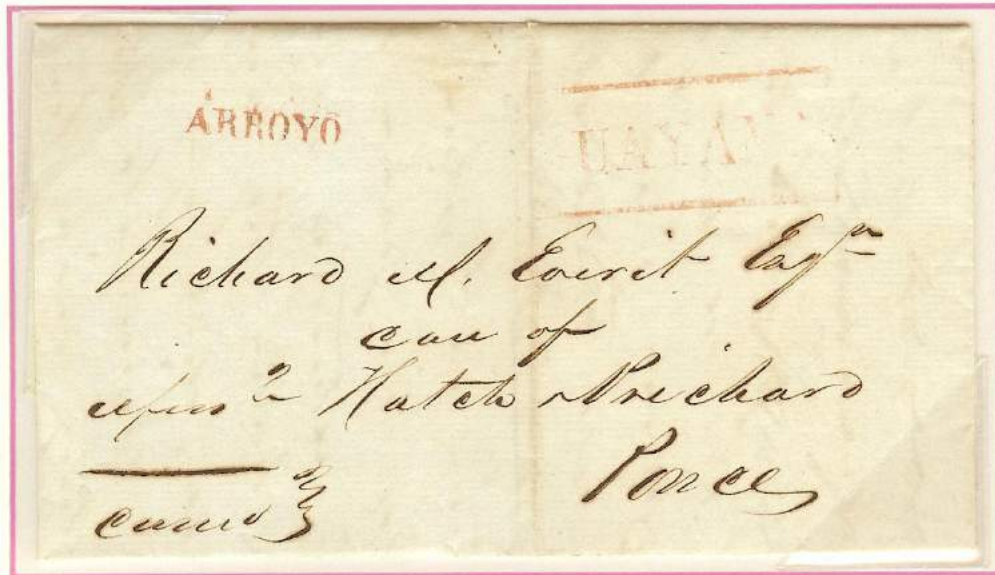
Folded wrapper from "Arroyo" to "Le Havre - France" hand stamped with a blue mark "ARROYO - FRANCO", transit "San Juan" arriving on 9 Ago, 1850 per blue "Baeza". Showing a British Agency departure mark, transit "London" via Steamer on 2 Sep/1850. To France H/S with a red boxed "Colonies Art 13", through "Calais" 3 Sept 1850 m/s "15" decimes due for transport to "Le Havre", arriving same day.

"Arroyo" (Stream), founded in December 25, 1855, derives its name from a small stream from which weary travelers in the past would stop for a drink of water and to rest.



ARROYO

RED - Types 1 - 1847 - 48



Entire personal folded letter from "ARROYO" to "Ponce" on June 22, 1848. Transit "Guayama" then "Ponce" via special messenger. Arroyo, a small SE town, had mail delivered through Guayama. *"Few letters known with this combination."*

ONE OF TWO



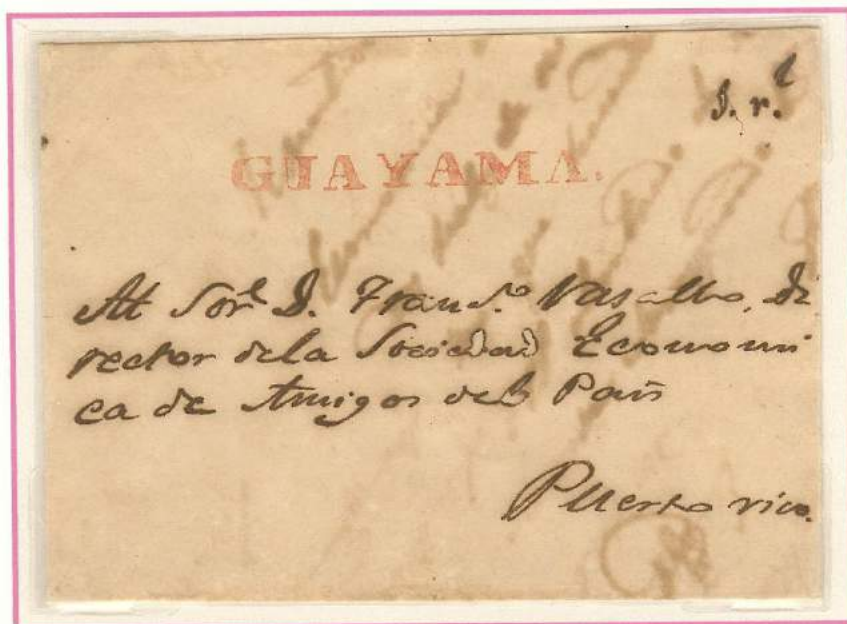
RED - Type 2 - 1848

TRANSIT MARK



GUAYAMA.

RED - Type 1 - 1846 - 47



Small personal letter from "GUAYAMA" to the Director of the Chamber of Commerce in "San Juan". Sent circa 1846.

Letter was pre paid as shown by the m/s "3Rs." U/R.

Mail from "San Juan" or "Ponce".

The town was founded on January 29, 1736 by Don Matias De Abadia. Guayama took its name from the Indian Chief in that region called "Guamani", which means "Great Place". A year later the Governor Don Tomas de Abadia officially declared Guayama a "Pueblo" with the name of "San Antonio de Padua de Guayama".

ONE OF FOUR



GUAYAMA SET. 11

BLUE — Types 3, 5 & 7 — 1849 - 57



Blue wrapper sent to "Rochelle, France" from "GUAYAMA" on Sept 11, 1853, sent pre paid per "FRANCO". Transit "San Juan", then to "London" on British Packet on Sep 29, 1853, then "Calais" 15 Oct, h/s with red boxed "COLONIES &c. ART 13" exchange mark and an ms "15" decimes due on arrival 20 Oct/53.

ONE OF FOUR KNOWN



GUAYAMA

BLUE - Types 6 & 8 - 1855 - 56



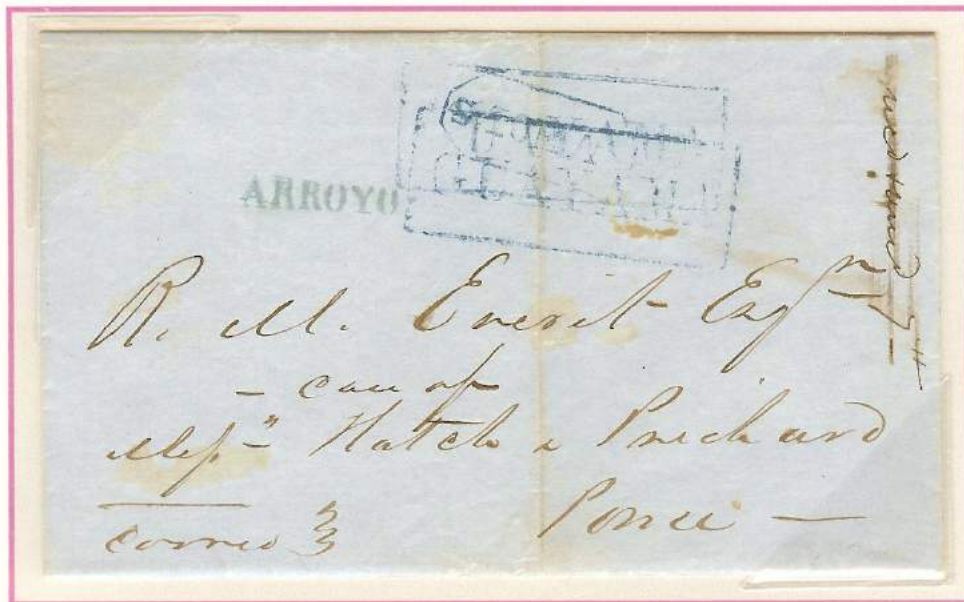
Blue folded letter with contents sent to "New York", datelined with a fancy cds "GUAYAMA/PUERTO RICO - MAY 13, 1855" struck twice. Showing "2" Reales pre paid per blue "FRANCO" hand stamp. Sent from "San Juan" per blue "Baeza 15 May, 1855", departure mark. Transit "Havana" per Cuba Baeza on top, June 2, 1855, to "New York" see black "STEAMSHIP 10".

ONE OF FOUR



GUAYAMA

BLUE - Type 2 - 1849 - 51

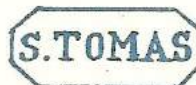


Blue wrapper with contents sent from "GUAYAMA" to "Ponce" on May 6, 1850, transit through "ARROYO" arriving "San Juan" there stamped with a blue octagonal "S. TOMAS" mark (By Error), then sent to "Ponce" via the Southern Route arriving May 9th.

ONLY ONE KNOWN WITH THESE MARKINGS

ARROYO

Type 1 - 1849 - 51



Type 30 - 1851

TRANSIT MARKS



GUAYAMA

BLACK - Type 3 - 1846



Small letter from "GUAYAMA" to the Mayor at "Salinas" sent on 10 Feb, 1846 by Special Courier.

By 1776, Guayama had 200 houses with 5000 citizens, with a church and a Plaza. By 1828 the construction of the Kings House was completed. In 1881 "Guayama" is declared a "Villa" with "San Antonio De Padua" as its Patron Saint.



GUAYAMA

TO MARTINIQUE VIA NAGUABO FORWARDER



Folded letter from "GUAYAMA" to "Martinique", sent by Special Courier to "Naguabo" on Dec 12, 1847, given to Forwarding Agent Mc Pherson, Riefkohl & Co. who shipped it on a British Packet to "St. Thomas" paying "1" Shilling, arriving Dec 22nd, then to "St. Pierre, Martinique", arriving Dec 31st.

ONE OF THREE



SALINAS

BLUE - Type 1 - Ca. 1851



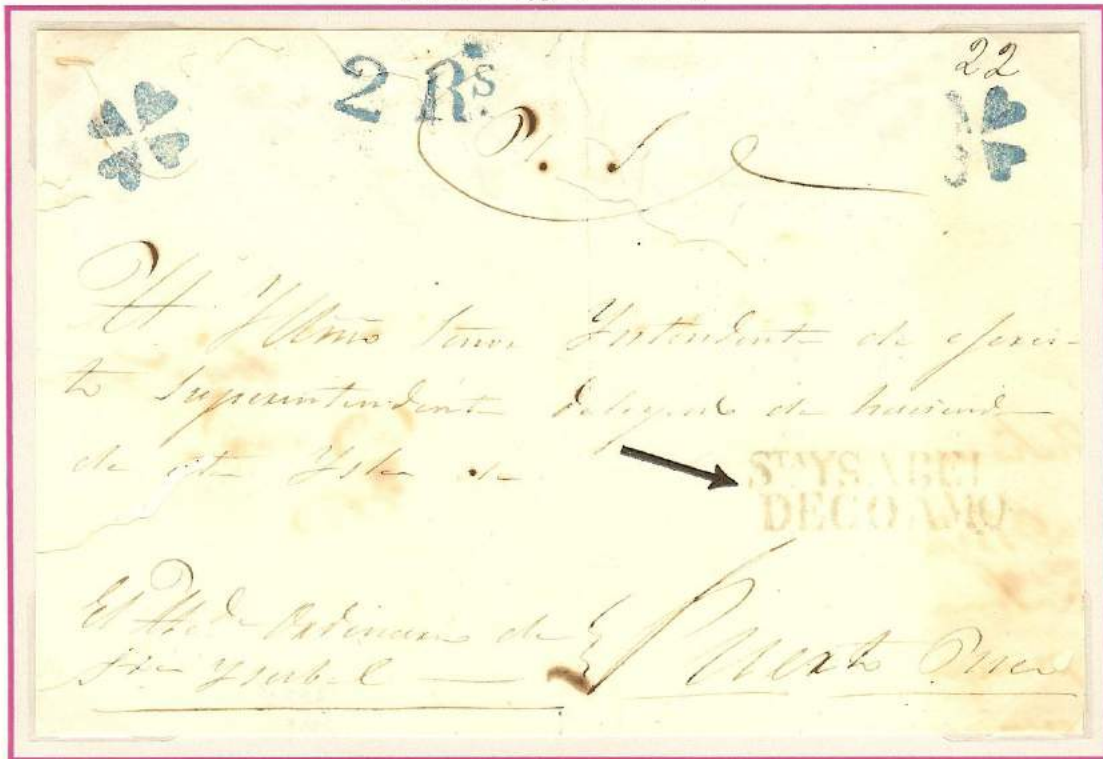
Official cover from the Mayor at "SALINAS" to the Island's Treasurer.
Sent circa 1851 via Special Courier to "Guayama" then by postman to "San Juan",
paying "4Rs" on arrival. At this time all mail came through "Guayama".

"Salinas" was founded in 1841 by "Don Agustin Colón Pacheco". The name Salinas comes from the Salt mines along its shore lines. Today Salinas has large Bananas and Papaya farms, it is also one of the island's main producer of Beef and Poultry as well as many varieties of Fish.



STAYSABEL
DECOAMO

BLACK - Type 1 - Ca. 1845



Undated package front to the "Superintendent of the Treasury in Capital" from the Mayor at "Sta YSABEL DECOAMO", transit through "Guayama" arriving "San Juan" where stamped with two scarce "Blue Trefoils" on the top corners, applied on Official Registered mail, and a "2Rs" due.

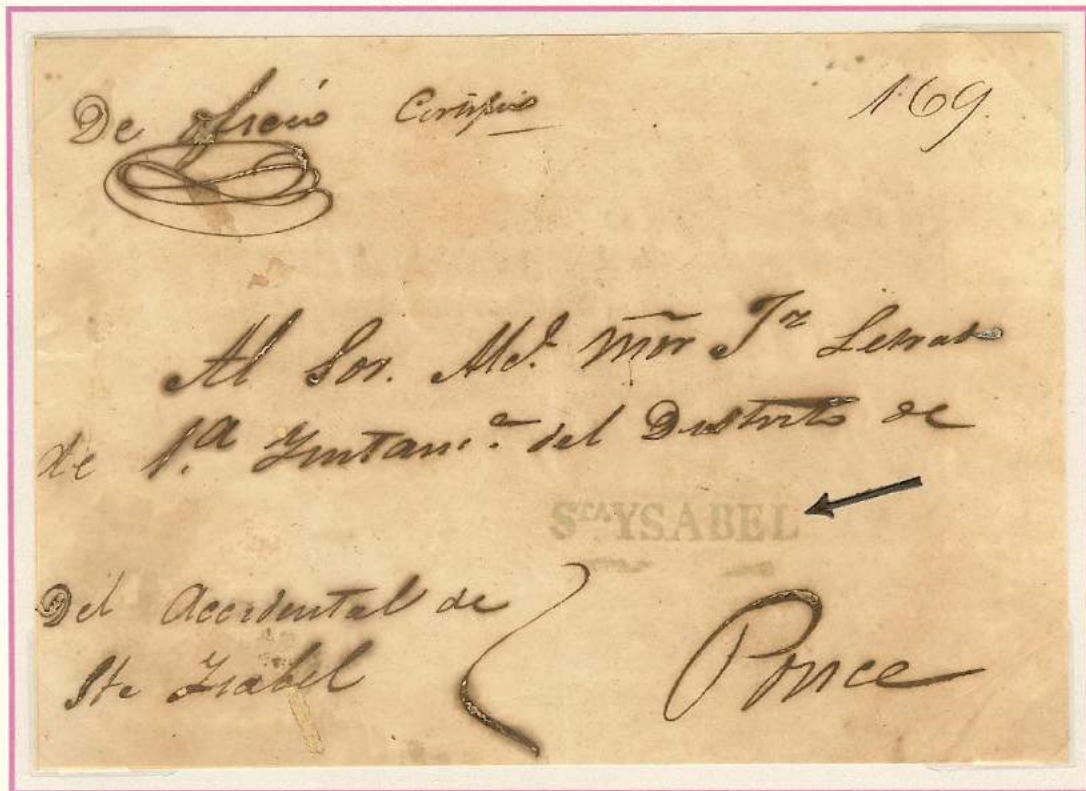
Santa Ysabel was founded on October 5, 1842 by "Don Antonio Vélez" accompanied by 1000 residents, since then the area has always been a large producer of fruits and vegetables. The town's Patron Saint has been "Saint James" with festivities in July.

ONE OF THREE KNOWN



STAYSABEL

BLUE - Unrecorded - Ca. 1850



Official package front from the District Judge at "StaYSABEL" sent by Special Courier to the District Judge at "Ponce". The name portion, "DECOAMO", was removed from the town name because of conflict with the town of "Coamo". Circa 1851

Sta Isabel is also known as "La Ciudad de los Potros" or "The City of Colts" because of its large horse breeding facilities.

ONLY ONE KNOWN



VIEQUES

BLACK - Type 1 - 1876 - 77



From City Hall in "VIEQUES" to the District Judge in "Humacao" sent on 30 June, circa 1876, showing a black Parrilla Killer as proof of payment. Sent by sea through the Village of "Cabo Santiago" then by land. The Island of "Vieques" received mail from "Humacao".

"Vieques", located about 10 mile of the east coast of Puerto Rico, was founded in 1843 by "Don Francisco Sainz" who remained there as Governor until 1852.

He founded the main town of "Isabel II" which he named after the Queen of Spain. "Vieques" was formally annexed to the main land of Puerto Rico by 1854.