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Firm de Juan Antonio

de Santa de la Cruz



Mexico

Amo de Heras Antonio de Larra I. C. 1739

Saludo amn H.º con todo afecto, y digo que
en dia pasado vino una buya, cuya N.º
he recordado por que los Cabos p.ª Lucayan, cae
varon muchos. Por ultimo llegaron y segun el
tpo. que ha que los embarque, estaran ya en Mer.

W.ª en MA.º
1739.

Hora vino amn H.º en el Galea, q.ª en la
me en... y pienso es de la familia de...
Remito amn H.º por si no tubiera ahí esto
Donacion, q.ª escribiere valdels de mi parte y de...

N.º de G.º amn H.º m.ª. en cuyas oras
Veracruz y Ag.º de 1739

Man.º de...
Marco Tardio

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through or a second draft.]

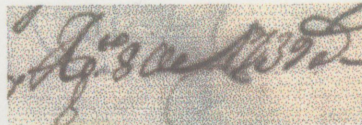
Early Postmarks of Mexico and the Establishment of the First Domestic Postal Routes in 1791

The focus of this exhibit is the establishment of the first official domestic postal routes in Mexico in 1791, which was the result of abandoning the *Correo Mayor* private mail system in 1766. Without private money, the Viceroy's government had to take on the organization, scheduling, construction and support of postal routes. At the time, only 5% of the 5.6 million inhabitants lived in the largest 11 cities, so the government's takeover of the postal system gave the rest of the population and smaller businesses access to the mails. This exhibit illustrates this story with very early and often unique covers with colonial postmarks. The focus of this exhibit is only on domestic routes within Mexican territory. The rarest items are indicated ★

Correos Mayores- First Postal Markings

The postal system during colonial times started in 1580 as a private monopoly called "*Correo Mayor*". From 1604 on, this monopoly was auctioned by the Viceroy to the highest bidder, who would run it without investment or intervention from the state. This business was inheritable. The first postmark appeared in 1730's in Veracruz. This system ended in 1766 when the monopoly reverted to the state. There are 13 different *Correo Mayor* postmarks known on less than 40 covers. So few exist because service was limited to a handful of large cities, it was expensive, the population was illiterate and postmarks were applied only to the top cover in a bundle. The Veracruz *Correo Mayor* postmark is second in Latin America only to a 1735 Lima cover.

★ Correo Mayor de Veracruz 1739 Earliest Mexican Postmark : 4 Recorded



Veracruz to Mexico . Entire dated August 8, 1739. Transit 6 days. Only 4 are recorded. One of them may be an earlier cover. However its year "1736" is mentioned as part of the text and not in the docketing so some experts believe such cover is undated. The only earlier postal markings in the American Continent are from New York (1707) and Lima (1735). Experts do not agree if the 1707 New York marking was applied in the UK or in America. Veracruz, the 4th largest city, had only 17,000 inhabitants.