

**POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN  
1700 - 1850**

Postal communications within Spain and its once vast empire have existed for over 400 years. For the postal historian, the development of the Spanish postal system is a rich field. It presents numerous opportunities for specialization and new discoveries.

This exhibit concentrates on the one hundred years before the introduction of stamps in 1850. While the Spanish government postal authority was created in 1706, it was during the period 1750 to 1850 that significant improvements and advances in postal service were achieved. The exhibit is a general survey rather than a specialized study of particular rates or markings.

*Philippus Jacobus  
Jacobens  
J. D. Dros  
// Gen  
Larben*

*1899: 6 pauten  
of van vordach  
W. H. M. L. M. in  
28 april 1800 27 p. 5*

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN  
1750 - 1850

Private postal services operated in Spain for several centuries before the development of an official government postal service. Folded letters from the 16th and 17th century, though rare, do exist. Thus, the establishment of a government postal system in 1706 was not a revolutionary step but an attempt to improve communications at least within Spain.

Among the earliest postal markings are the Andalucia la Alta straightlines of 1720 followed by many similar straightlines usually containing the town and /or province name. Spanish collectors call these early pre-stamp markings "Primitivos". Most of these were stamped in black, red or blue ink.



1757-28th SEPT.-FLD. LETTER FROM CADIZ TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE. ANDALUCIA LA ALTA HANDSTAMP IN BLACK. CONTENTS OF LETTER MENTION SHIPS AND CARGOES FROM PERU, ETC. ARRIVING AT CADIZ, GREAT PORT CITY OF SPAIN.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1769 - 7th JULY - FLD. LETTER FROM BARCELONA TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE. CATALUÑA (CATALONIA) BLACK STRAIGHTLINE BOXED. BUSINESS LETTER.



1773 - 27th OCTOBER - FLD. LETTER FROM CADIZ TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE. RED ANDALUCIA ALTA STRAIGHTLINE. BUSINESS LETTER FROM MERCHANT.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1803 - 23rd JULY - FLD. LETTER FROM BARCELONA TO  
MONTPELLIER, FRANCE. B. CATALUÑA (B=BARCELONA)  
STRAIGHTLINE IN BLACK. 8 RATE MARK IN MANUSCRIPT.



1824 - 26th FEBRUARY - FLD. LETTER FROM LERIDA TO  
TARRAGONA, SPAIN. BLACK CATALUÑA (CNA.) LERIDA  
STRAIGHTLINE. 6 RATE MARK IN MANUSCRIPT.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1827 - 3rd NOVEMBER - FLD. LETTER FROM MALAGA TO LONDON, ARRIVED NOVEMBER 22nd VIA BAYONNE, FRANCE. RED MALAGA, ANDALUCIA BAJA (BAJA). FR. TRANSIT MARK.



1828 - 9th APRIL - FLD. LETTER FROM PAMPLONA TO LONDON, ARRIVED APRIL 21st VIA ST. JEAN-DE LUZ, FRANCE. RED PAMPLONA NAVARRA STRAIGHTLINE.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1833 - 29th JUNE - FLD. LETTER FROM BARCELONA TO GENOA, ITALY. RED "B" CATALUNA AND FRENCH "ESPAGNE PAR PERPIGNAN" TRANSIT MARK. ITALIAN MARKINGS ON BACK.



1836 - 6th NOVEMBER - FLD. LETTER FROM RIVADEO, GALICIA PROVINCE TO LONDON. ORNAMENTED BLUE BOX WITH RARE "ESPAGNE PAR OLERON" FRENCH TRANSIT MARK.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1819 - 18th JUNE - FLD. LETTER FROM CADIZ TO LONDON.  
BRITISH "2/2" RATE MARK AND RED "CADIZ".



1823 - 24th MARCH - FLD. LETTER FROM CORUNA TO  
LONDON VIA LISBON, PORTUGAL. BLACK "LISBON" BUT NO  
SPANISH MARKINGS.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1837 - 23rd JULY - FLD. LETTER FROM TARRAGONA TO BARCELONA, SPAIN. RED TE. 39 CATALUNA DOUBLE STRAIGHTLINE. BARCELONA RED "B" ON REVERSE.



1823 - 24th NOVEMBER - FLD. LETTER ESTELLA, NAVARRA PROVINCE TO LONDON, ENGLAND. RED ESTA. NAVARRA DOUBLE STRAIGHTLINE WITH BLACK "6" RATE MARK. FRENCH AND BRITISH TRANSIT MARKS; LONDON F.P.O. DEC. 8, 1823.



POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1814 - 6th APRIL - FLD. LETTER FROM SANTIAGO, GALICIA PROVINCE TO LONDON. RED SANTIAGO DE GALICIA PRIMITIVO. REVERSE MARKING IS BRITISH FOREIGN MAIL RECEIVING MARK INDICATING ARRIVAL ON MARCH 4, 1814.

THE BUSINESS LETTER ENCLOSED IS DISPLAYED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.

1750 - 1850

S.º Sr. Fructos Auth  
 ff Santiago de Ab. 1814  
 a London.

Sirba esta de decir que Recibi suya ultima  
 Duplicada en la qual debia haver  
 ya venido la primera con n.º y  
 General. conforme vnd Indica  
 en la antecedente. o ultima.

he visto Igualm.º queee Re.  
 mita exillio. los que dejara. puer  
 los n.ºs. Vinda de sede acaben de Recie  
 bin unar. 50 @ y son tan ordinari q  
 Creo pierden Dinero. ano ser que  
 vnd anter me Remita las m.ºs. y

Sere salin con todas q.ºs con  
 vnd p.º poder bidia nuevos Encarga  
 Este S.º S.º S.

Antonio Holley

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1827 - 6th JANUARY - FLD. LETTER FROM OVIEDO, SPAIN TO LONDON. BLACK ASTURIAS STRAIGHTLINE WITH MALTESE CROSS AND BLACK FRENCH TRANSIT MARK. (PORT OF BAYONNE)



1829 - 10th MARCH - FLD. LETTER FROM SANTANDER TO LONDON. M. SANTANDER STRAIGHTLINE IN RED WITH FRENCH ST. JEAN-DE-LUZ TRANSIT MARK IN BLACK.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1768 - 24th JANUARY - FLD. LETTER FROM ALMERIA TO MARSEILLE, FRANCE. RED ANDALUCIA ALTA STRAIGHT LINE.



1827 - 24th NOVEMBER - FLD. LETTER FROM MALAGA TO LONDON, ENGLAND. LARGE RED MALAGA ANDALUCIA BAXA. BAXA IS THE OLD SPELLING OF BAJA OR LOWER. VIA FRANCE.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN  
1750 - 1850

POSTAL SERVICE TO SPANISH COLONIES  
AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

During the late 18th and early 19th century, Spain's Latin American empire largely disappeared with only Cuba and Puerto Rico remaining as vestages of a once vast domain. In the Pacific, the Philippines and the Mariannas (Guam) would remain in Spanish hands until the Spanish-American War (1898-1899). Missionary, administrative activities and the merchant trade in these colonies generated the need for formal postal services.

Commerce with England and the rest of Europe also prompted expansion of postal services. Of the surviving covers from the period 1800 through 1850, a significant number are business related correspondence going to England, France, Italy, etc. Usually folded letters, these are especially interesting because of the addition of transit marks, ship names and early postal markings of other countries.



1819 - 29th JUNE - LETTER AND PRICE LIST FOR IMPORTED FOOD ITEMS TO LONDON. RED STRAIGHTLINE CADIZ WITH BAYONNE, FRANCE TRANSIT MARK AND BRITISH FPO STAMP.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850

1791

RECEIVED

Ad. Miguel  
Fernandez et pro-  
no. aurrente amproden  
Ponel Avias  
Buenos Ayres

RECEIVED

A

D. Diego de Herrera Pu. Dios  
m. d.

Conxco maxitimo

Buenos Ayres

1792

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1832 - 10th DEC. - LETTER FROM RIVADEO, GALICIA PROVINCE TO LONDON. BLUE GALICIA RIVADEO IN ORNAMENTED BOX. FRENCH ST. JEAN-DE-LUZ TRANSIT MARK.



1839 - 29th JUNE - RIVADEO BLUE IN ORNAMENTED BOX ON BUSINESS LETTER TO LONDON. FRENCH "2" AND TRANSIT MARKS. ALSO, BRITISH STEAM PACKET MARK ON REVERSE.

POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1830 - 23rd MARCH - FLD. LETTER FROM CORUÑA TO LONDON. BLUE GALICIA CORUÑA ORNAMENTED WITH ROPE OVAL. FRENCH AND BRITISH RATE/TRANSIT MARKS.



1826 - 3rd JUNE - LARGE BUSINESS LETTER FROM CORUÑA MERCHANT TO LONDON. PALE RED GALICIA CORUÑA WITH ORNAMENTED ROPE OVAL.



POSTAL HISTORY OF SPAIN

1750 - 1850



1817 - 21st MARCH - FLD. LETTER FROM SANTIAGO TO LONDON. FANCY "SANTIAGO GALICIA" WITH ORNAMENTS TOP AND BOTTOM SURROUNDED BY OVAL. COLOR IS FADED.



1825 - 20th APRIL - FLD. LETTER FROM SANTIAGO TO LONDON. RED SANTIAGO GALICIA ON OVAL WITHOUT ORNAMENTATION. GALICIAN PROVINCE CITIES USED OVALS LIKE THIS FOR MANY DECADES.