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## FIRST POSTMARKS OF THE CITY OF GUATEMALA

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In my mind there has always been some mystery about the first postmarks of the capital city Guatemala. The records in the Archivo General de Indias confirm that postal marks were available to the capital city of Guatemala (Santiago de los Caballeros) as of March 1, 1768. It has been generally accepted that this was the red boxed *Guatemala* (Harris #11). Postal marks for



*Figure 1*

other cities in the Capitanía were to follow. I have recorded six examples of the red boxed *Guatemala* postmark of which only one is dated. Figure 1 is a letter sent to the Bishop of Comayagua, Honduras, with an internal date of "1770". In addition to another letter in my collection, there are two in the Gruson collection. A recent unrecorded find in the Archives by Jesus Sitja is shown here as Figure 2 [following page]. This is a letter to Viexo in Nicaragua. There is a fantastic letter pictured in Harris' book on page 58 of another example with an additional "FRANCO/UGALDE" postmaster's frank. The whereabouts of this letter is unknown today.