



EL QUETZAL



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David R. Reitsema
Editor

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1932 AIRMAIL RARITIES SCOTT 21

David E. Lindwall ISGC 446

In 1929, when regular domestic air mail service in Guatemala began, there were few roads and railroads connecting major cities in the interior of the country, making air mail service a big success. But it took six revisions



Figure 1 Scott 21a - Inverted Overprint

to air mail postal rates between 1928 and 1933 to find a formula that would eventually allow the postal service to recover their costs while keeping postal rates low enough to convince patrons to use this new, more expensive service. Perhaps because of that, early air mail stamp issues did not always correspond neatly to existing rates.

On January 1, 1929 Guatemala changed its currency from the Peso to the Quetzal, stranding postal authorities with stocks of literally millions of stamps in the old currency. Between 1928 and 1932, postal authorities overprinted the remaining stocks with new values in the Quetzal currency. In early 1932, postal authorities overprinted the final remainders of the 1926 Waterlow pictorial stamps with new values for air mail service. Two hundred thousand of the three peso stamp were revalued Q0.03 with a dark violet overprint (Scott C21, ISGC 387), though by the time this stamp was issued, the domestic air mail rate for a 10 gram letter had gone up to Q0.06.