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REGARDING COLONIAL POSTMARKS ON REVENUE STAMPED PAPER

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We thank all those who contributed to providing an explanation, in particular [Manuel Arango](#), who we believe has the best explanation for their application. While we entirely agree with him that the documents in question went through the mail we are still wondering why the stamp appears inside the document and not in the beginning where it should be. And this still remains an open question.

Needless to say we are dealing here with Revenue Stamped Paper and not sealed paper as wrongfully suggested. We also want to make clear that during the colonial period a large part of the Province of Popayan was administered by the Audience of Quito which also included the Provinces of Quito and Guayaquil, something modern day Colombians do not like to admit. The term Ecuador did not appear until the republican period.

We, now, would like to advance another possibility for the application of a postmark inside a document.



Police Eye, Ambato, January 12, 1861

During the republican period, between 1830-1865, there existed a stamped mark called *police eye* in public correspondence. Although the *police eye* was wrongly advertised and sold by unscrupulous dealers as postmarks they were not. The *police eye* was stamped inside a piece of correspondence usually going from one police station to another indicating that the subject matter in question was reserved only for the eyes of the destinatee. One much letter was typically mailed free of charge with the annotation *civiles* on the outside to denote its public nature and stamped by a *police eye* on the inside. These *police eyes* were of different size and color depending on its origin. *Police eyes* are rarely seen on the front of a cover.

Your comments on the subject.