PURPOSE is to illustrate with postal documents the relevant Historical and/or Postal landmarks of the Colonial Brazil. It starts in 1606 with the Postmaster contract and ends with Independence in 1822.

This COLLECTION is divided in two CHAPTERS each one presenting one Postal Document related to one HISTORICAL ISSUE:

**1606/1798 - THE DA MATTA POSTMASTER CONTRACT**

- The Jesuits in the colonization
- The Dutch Brazil (1630/1654)
- Dom Afonso VI (1656/1683)
- Dom Pedro II (1668/1706)
- Gold Mining
- Marques de Pombal (1750/1777)
- The end of the Da Matta contract

**1798/1822 - THE STATE RUN PORTUGUESE POST**

- The Dona Maria I Decree (1798)
- A new era in communication
- The Court moves to Brazil (1808)
- Opening of Brazilian Ports (1810)
- Slavery
- Dom João VI
- Dom Pedro I
- The Independence (1822)

**WHY ONE FRAME** - This collection presents postal documents with a close relation with the historical landmarks of the Colony. It is not possible to build a much larger collection with the same scope.
THE JESUITS

In 1544 King João III sent the first six Jesuits to Bahia under the leadership of Manoel da Nobrega. In this initial effort to colonize Brazil the Society of Jesus, a Catholic order proved very useful. In two hundred years the Jesuits monopolized indigenous agricultural and cattle labor and enjoyed autonomy circumventing royal control on their earnings and funds remittances. Jesuits lost almost all their power in 1759 when Marques de Pombal was in power.

1641 - EARLIEST RECORDED TRANSATLANTIC BRAZILIAN MAIL IN PRIVATE HANDS.

Folded letter from a Jesuit in Bahia dated 25.6.1641 to the Companhia de Jesus at Porto. It was carrying a bond of 37$000 réis and accompanying 2 boxes of merchandise. This is a testimony of the autonomy and financial resources of the Jesuits.
DUTCH BRAZIL

Dutch Brazil was the northern portion of the Country during the Dutch colonization which started in 1630. The main city of the so-called Brazillian New Holland was Mauritsstad, today Recife. The tide turned against the Dutch when of the BATTLE OF GUARARAPES in 1649. In this battle the 500 soldiers sent as ordered by the letter bellow played a decisive role.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Folded letter dated 16.12.1647 and signed by Dom João IV - King of Portugal from 1640 to 1656. This letter is the most important order related to the war against the Dutch in Brazil. It is the Royal mandate to the Army located at Oporto to send 500 soldiers to Pernambuco. The final Battle of Guararapes took place on April 1848, four months after the signature of this "mercy shot" letter.

DOM JOAO IV SIGNATURE

1647 - KING'S ORDER TO SEND 500 PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS TO FIGHT THE DUTCH COLONIZERS AT PERNAMBUCO.
DOM AFONSO VI - (1656/1683)

Afonso VI was King from 1856 until his death. Initially under the regency of his mother until 1662 when moved her to a Convent and took power. Afonso's reign saw the end of the Restoration War and Spain's recognition of Portugal's independence in 1668. However Afonso was physically and mentally weak. In the very same year of 1668 his brother Pedro conspired to have him declared incapable.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Royal letter to the Governor of the Province of Maranhão carried by the Seventh Correio-Mor. Written at Lisbon on 4.12.1665 it was signed by King Afonso VI

ONLY RECORDED SIGNATURE OF A KING MENTALLY INCAPABLE
DOM PEDRO II – (1668/1706)

Pedro II banished his brother Afonso VI to the Azores and appointed himself Regent. Afonso died in 1683 and Pedro inherited the throne. He also took possession of Afonso's wife. Pedro formed an alliance with England in which Portugal would cede some Colonies and England would provide military support to the Crown.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Royal letter from the Portuguese Kingdom to the Ouvidor Geral at Rio de Janeiro and carried by the Ninth Correio Mor. Written on 9.11.1699 it was signed by Dom Pedro II.

PEDRO II APPROPRIATED TO THE THRONE AND HIS BROTHER'S WIFE
GOLD MINING

The Brazilian Gold Rush started in the 1690s. By 1760 nearly half of the world’s gold was from Brazil. Villa Rica, presently Ouro Preto was in the center of the action and the Portuguese Court in full control of it.

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Folded letter written at Lisbon, dated 7.8.1704 and addressed to the Superintendent of the God Mines in Brazil. It is a death sentence to a goldwasher who was stealing gold destined to Portugal. Catarina de Bragança, widow of Charles II of Great Britain and sister of Dom Pedro II signed it during the few days her brother was fighting for the succession of the Spanish Crown. The front face shows a manuscript “Pella Raynha”

CATARINA DE BRAGANÇA

1704 - CATARINA SENTENCING A GOLDSWASHER TO DEATH
MARQUES DE POMBAL (1750/1777)

On November 1, 1755 Lisbon was awakened by one of the most devastating earthquakes ever. Pombal, Prime Minister for King José I survived and made history. He rebuilt Lisbon, reformed the educational and communication systems for Portugal and the Colonies, created several companies to regulate commercial activities, confiscated jesuits assets and more. A legend!!

1764 - GUIDELINES TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT NETWORK WITHIN BRAZIL

Folded letter from the Portuguese Court regulating the transport of mail and merchandise within the Province of Minas Gerais in Brazil. Signed by King José I is probably one of the many decisions taken by the Prime Minister Marques de Pombal.
1797
THE END OF THE COREIO MOR

In 1797 Maria I, Queen of Portugal, decided the Post should be managed by the State. The Decree on the side made it official. A fortune was paid to break the contract with the Da Matta family.
The Decree signed on 20.1.1798 created 2 lines for the Brazilian route: The NORTH LINE to serve the north coast from Pernambuco and the SOUTH LINE to serve the east coast from Bahia and Rio. 80 réis was determined to be the single rate which last for 55 years.
A NEW ERA IN COMMUNICATION

The expensive rates of the Correio Mor was a privilege for the Royalty. The advent of regular navigation lines, fixed and lower rates implemented in 1798 opened a non-existing communication possibility for the public in general.

1798 - EARLIEST TRANSATLANTIC MAIL UNDER THE 1798 DEGREE

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Folded letter written at Lisbon on 4.8.1878 to Maranhão. PORTUGUESE NORTH LINE galera AZIA and "80" réis due. It shows the earliest postal mark and tax under the new regulation.
THE PORTUGUESE COURT MOVES TO BRAZIL - 1808

The partnership between Great Britain and Portugal strengthened to a point that when the Portuguese Court abandoned Portugal they were escorted by the British Navy. A regular packet line was then established between Falmouth and Rio with a UK/Brazil Convention signed in 1810. This was the opening of the Brazilian ports.

1810 - EARLIEST RECORDED MAIL AFTER THE OPENING OF THE PORTS

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

14.11.1810 - Rio de Janeiro to Guernsey.
Packet MANCHESTER on her 1st voyage from South America. "Falmouth Packet Lre" entry mark. "3s/5d" due being: 2s/5d for the maritime voyage, 9d from Falmouth to Weymouth and 3d from Weymouth to Guernsey.
SLAVERY

During the Colonial era almost 4 million African slaves were taken to Brazil. This is ten times as many as were trafficked to North America. Slavery was formally abolished in 1888 making Brazil the last nation in the Western Hemisphere to formally abolish it.

1819  -  MOZAMBIQUE TO PERNAMBUCO ABOARD A SLAVERY VESSEL

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

Written at Mozambique on 25.2.1819 and addressed to Lisbon via Brazil in a double crossing of the Atlantic. At Pernambuco the surviving slaves from such a dramatic journey were disembarked to work at sugar cane plantations. The Brazilian post office applied an 80 réis rate alongside with a unique “POR PERNAMBUCO” mark. The document followed to Lisbon to the owner of the company in charge of transporting the slaves. The text describes that several slaves and the cooker have died.
DOM PEDRO I

Born in Portugal Dom Pedro I was the fourth child of King Dom João VI and moved to Brazil in 1808 with his family. Dom Pedro I was named Regent when his father returned to Portugal on 21.4.1821 and remained with this title until the Independence on 22.9.1822 when acclaimed Brazilian Emperor.
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INDEPENDENCE

José Bonifácio, Minister for Kingdom and Overseas Affairs was de facto the Prime Minister. As such he urged Dom Pedro I to resist the recalls to move to Portugal. He has played a most crucial role for the Independence which happened on 22.9.1822.