

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

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Please send new information {always welcome} to watson@waitrose.com]

The new capital of British Honduras was named Belmopan, in August 1970. Postal handstamps were altered as a result of this early step towards national independence (Figure 1). It is debatable how many of these cancels were actually used in the short period between Belmopan being named and British Honduras becoming Belize in June 1973. Certainly the smaller registration mark shown in Figure 1 (but not the larger one) has been recorded by Matheson as being in use between 1969 & 73 (his classification: type 1.2.8).

Once British Honduras had become Belize, a very wide range of cancels came into use. This review describes those found in use between June 1973 & 1983, using detailed information from 300+ items of mail, thus expanding considerably on my initial study (Watson, 2008). The main events in the history of Belize during this period have been summarised (www.belizenet.com/history):

- 1973** - Country's name legally changed to 'Belize'. Aliens Landholding Ordinance passed [Foreigners had to get a licence from the Minister after showing how they would develop the land].
- 1975** - First pro-Belize resolution passed by General Assembly of United Nations.
- 1976** - Belize given "special status" in Non-Aligned Movement.
- 1981** - Independence. Belize joins Commonwealth, United Nations and Non- Aligned Movement.'

Progress towards independence was slow, allowing time for improving communication across Belize, e.g. upgrading the 'phone system and developing Belmopan as the new capital. Postal markings changed:

- Replacement of 'British Honduras' with 'Belize' in circular postal datestamps.
- The use of smaller type in some post office datestamps.
- Official cancels, in many different formats, were used by a wide range of Government departments, many of which were using their own cancels in Belmopan, the new Capital, before Belize achieved independence.
- New types of handstamps & registration labels.
- Several new machine cancels.

Surprisingly few of the new cancels had common formats. So rather than illustrate all of the cancels, they are described in detail.

Government Departmental Cancels

Government departmental cancels can be put into three groups, depending on where they were used: Belize City (Table 1), the new capital Belmopan (Table 2), or elsewhere in Belize (Table 3). At least a few of these handstamps had previously been used in British Honduras: District Officer, Stann Creek [1968]; Ministry of Agriculture, Lands & Co-op [1972]; & The Treasury [January 1973].

Three types of cancel were used in more than one department:

- # 1: round 2-ring; outer circle: 48-50mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-7mm in diameter (scan 3 in Fig. 2).
- # 2: oval 3-ring; 49-50mm x 29.5-33mm (scan 1 in Fig. 2); also in use before British Honduras became Belize, e.g. in 1971 for *EASTERN POLICE DIVISION/BELIZE CITY*.
- # 3: round 3-ring; outer circle: 43mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-1mm in diameter (scan 4 in Fig. 2).

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

Virtually all of the departmental cancels, in ovals, circles or boxes, may be found either initialled or signed. The vast majority are either dated manually or with a separate datestamp. Covers from Government departments were sometimes endorsed top, front with 'OHMS' (latest date found: 8/10/76) or 'OSGB' (earliest date found: 10/5/76).

All of the Government Ministries named in this study changed their titles over the next quarter of a century. Their current (2008) titles (from *governmentofbelize.gov.bz*) are as follows:

Attorney General's Ministry
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Ministry of Defence, Youth & Sports
Ministry of Finance, National Development and the Public Service
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Ministry of Health, Local Government, Transport and Communication
Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Utilities and Housing
Ministry of Human Development
Ministry of Labour, Education and Culture
Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment
Ministry of Tourism and National Emergency Management
Ministry of Works

Roller-Type Machine Cancels

Several new machine cancels appeared between British Honduras becoming Belize, and independence. These were all in black and for Belize City, Belize. Apparently this was the only location where this type of machine was installed. A common cds (dater) was used, apparently: 21mm diameter; time/date & month/year. Where there was a message in the cancel, the words were contained in a three-sided box. The following messages were found in machine cancels:

- APARTHIED/DENIES/HUMAN RIGHTS: in 3 lines [1978].
- BELIZE CELEBRATES/NATIONAL DAY/SEPTEMBER 10th: 3 lines [1978, 81].
- B.T.A. CELEBRATES/WORLD TELECOMMUNICATIONS/DAY 17 MAY: 3 lines & picture of 'phone & radio mast [1978].
- HELP TO PREVENT/BLINDNESS: 2 lines [1975].
- REMEMBER TO/USE YOUR/RETURN ADDRESS: 3 lines [1978, 80, 82, 83].
- WE UNITE TO BUILD A NATION: 2 lines; similar to Proud M2 State 2 but with Belize dater [1981].
- 50th ANNIVERSARY/1928 1978/CROSS COUNTRY/CYCLING: 4 lines [1978].
- BELIZE/(clover leaf symbol)/ASSOCIATION {left part off cancel}; 40 Years/of/Guiding {right part off cancel} [1978]
- 1980's/Decade/FOR BELIZEAN/SELF-SUFFICIENCY/N.A.T.S.* [1983]
*National Agriculture & Trade Show

Two 'blind' cancels were also found:

- BELIZE CITY/BRITISH HONDURAS: in cds. Three sets of 7 wavy lines [like Proud M2 State 1; found used in July 1973 - latest date 30th].
- BELIZE CITY/BELIZE: in cds. Three sets of 7 wavy lines [1974, 6-80].

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

Post Office Datestamps

An apparently standard two ring cds (26.5-27mm outer ring; 16-16.5mm inner ring; separators at the sides) was used, generally in black. This was similar to Addiss type DC-3 for British Honduras, but with 'BELIZE' in place of 'BRITISH HONDURAS':

- Type A - large letters:
Baking Pot, Belize [1978-83]
Belize City, Belize [#1: wide space between 'BELIZE' and 'CITY'; 1973-76, 78]
Belize City, Belize [#2: narrow space between 'BELIZE' and 'CITY'; 1975-83]
Belmopan, Belize [1974-83]
Benque Viejo del Carmen, Belize [1978] in blue
Caledonia, Belize [1974]
Caye Caulker, Belize [1983]
Corozal Town, Belize [1978, 81]
Crooked Tree, Belize [1983]
Dangriga, Belize [formerly Stann Creek; 1973, 8, 9, 80]
Gales Point, Belize [1976]
Independence, Belize [1980]
International Airport, Belize [1978, 80]
Maskall Northern River, Belize [1981]
Mullins River, Belize [1982]
Orange Walk Town, Belize [1976, 8]
Rancho Dolores, Belize [1983]
Registration GPO, Belize [1977-8]
Roaring Creek, Belize [1983]
San Ignacio, Belize [1978]
Santana, Belize [1976]
Sartenenja, Belize [1976]
Stann Creek, Belize [1974]
United Ville, Belize [1976]

In the early 1980's smaller type (2.2mm instead of 3mm) was used in the apparently standard cds:

- Type B - smaller letters:
Belmopan, Belize [1982, 3]
Biscayne, Belize [1983]
Corozal, Belize [1982]
Dangriga [1981]
Democracia, Belize [1982]
Double Head Cabbage, Belize [1983]
Hill Bank, Belize [1982]
Lucky Strike, Belize [1983]
Monkey River, Belize [1983]
Registration GPO, Belize [1978-83]
St. Ann, Belize [1983]

Both sizes of letters may be found on one cancel: San Pedro Ambergris Caye (2.2mm), Belize (3mm) [1981].

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

Excluding 1st day cancels, which range from the simple to the very fancy, four other cancels have been found:

- 1) a 2-ring cds for BELIZE CITY, BRITISH HONDURAS (Proud D30; latest usage found: 19/9/73);
- 2) a 2-ring cds for BEL MOPAN, BRITISH HONDURAS (similar to Proud D2 but a solid, uneven inclusion between 'L' & 'M'; latest usage found: 5/10/73); &
- 3) a single circle (25mm diameter) temporary rubber datestamp for BELMOPAN, BELIZE [1978] in black & GRACE BANK VILLAGE/BELIZE [1983] in blue.
- 4) a 2 ring cds for (dot) BELIZE CITY (dot) BELIZE - these words between the 28mm outer ring & a 15mm inner ring; date in centre: '800 AM/14 NO/73'.

The most frequently detected cancels were for Belize City, Belize & Belmopan, Belize (both type A cds).

Based on datestamps, transit times were quite rapid:

- 1 to 2 days (Dangriga, formerly Stann Creek, to Belize City)
- 1.5 hours (!) to 2 days (Belmopan to Belize City)
- 1 day (Baking Pot to Belize City)

Usage of type A datestamps and single circle temporary rubber datestamps (trds) continued for a long time, at least into the early 2000's, in parallel with the introduction of double ring trds and a segmented cds for Belize GPO similar to one used in the Netherlands Antilles.

Slogan Cachets

- BELIZE INDEPENDENCE: black; with map of the country, all in a box with rounded ends (50mm x 28mm) [1981]
- CRIME PREVENTION/BEGINS WITH YOU: black, 2 lines [1981]
- DIAL 114/FOR/EL SALVADOR: black, 3 lines, with 45mm bars above and below [1981]
- DIAL 114/FOR/MEXICO: blue, violet or black, 3 lines, in box (18.5-19mm x 50mm) [1979, 82, 83]
- Support Law and Order: mauve, 1 line (56mm) [1976]

Labels

There was quite a wide range of registration labels:

1. Similar to the type recorded by Matheson for Belize: registration label with box (33mm x 56mm) with cap. 'R' (8 mm high) on left-hand side & to right 'BELIZE' (15mm x 3mm) above 'No.' followed by 6 digit number [1974].
2. No office stamp; black on white label, no box, varying in size: inscribed 'Reg. No.' ('Reg.' in line with [1977-8] or higher than 'No.' [1978-80]). Hand stamped in violet at Belmopan [1977-9], Cayo [1978] or Dangriga [1980].
3. Black on white label, no box, varying in size: inscribed 'R No.' ('Reg.' in line with 'No.') followed by a five digit number & 'BELIZE' in black [1981]).
4. No box on registration label 'Reg.' (sans serif; 3.5mm high x 9mm wide) gap (10mm) 'No. ----- (20mm)' sometimes with hand stamped name of post office in purple or black capital letters. Hand stamped at Belmopan, Dangriga & Orange Walk [1978-80].
5. As no. 4 but different font 'Reg.' (serif; 4mm high x 11mm wide) used at Baking Pot [1978].
6. Registration label with faint blue box (22mm x 55mm) with cap. 'R' (4 mm high) on left-hand side & to right 'No.' (4 mm high) 5 digit number & below 'BELIZE' added in black (20mm x 3mm; used at Belize City) [1981] or (15mm x 3mm; used at Dangriga - no blue box) [1981].

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

Three other types of label were found:

- Economy labels: black on white, either 'O.H.M.S.' (88 x 81mm) [1974] or 'O.S.G.B.' (125-9 mm x 76-7.5 mm) [1978].
- Receipt for registered packet: black on pink, single capital letter and 1, 2 or 3 number code at the top, 40mm square or 36-37.5 mm x 42-6 mm [1974-7].
- Found open or damaged/and officially secured: black text on buff label used to seal packages (1970)

Other marks

- Boxed cancel in blue: DAMAGED BY/STAMP CANCELLING/MACHINE (Box: 45mm x 19mm) [1983]

Acknowledgements

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References

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Ted Freitag provided much of the new information in the second version of this article.

Table 1: Government Departmental Cancels: Belize City

Notes:

WORDING

- Reported in lower or upper case, italics or normal font - as found.
- Breaks between lines are indicated by ‘/’.

DESCRIPTION

- Colour: generally described as it was more difficult to judge cancels on covers that were buff .
- Size: diameter of outermost ring for circular cancels, or longest and shortest outer diameters for oval cancels.
- Years in which cancels were used are given in square brackets.

TYPES OF CANCEL

- # 1: round 2-ring; outer circle: 48-50mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-7mm in diameter (scan 3 in Fig. 2).
- # 2: oval 3-ring; 49-50mm x 29.5-33mm (scan 1 in Fig. 2); also in use before British Honduras became Belize, e.g. in 1971 for *EASTERN POLICE DIVISION/BELIZE CITY*.
- # 3: round 3-ring; outer circle: 43mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-1mm in diameter (scan 4 in Fig. 2).

WORDING	DESCRIPTION
BANANA CONTROL/BOARD	• boxed (40mm x 16mm) in purple [1976]
BELIZE JUNIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL/SCHOOL NO. 1	• # 2 type of Govt. dept. cancel in black [1981]
BELIZE SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD	• round 2-ring: 47mm diameter in violet [1983] (2 parallel horizontal lines in middle of inner circle)
BELIZE TEACHERS COLLEGE/ BELIZE CITY	• inscription between outer & inner boxes (52.5mm x 25mm outer box; 44.5mm x 14mm inner box) in purple [1978]
CUSTOM HOUSE/BELIZE CITY	• round 2-ring: 38.5mm diameter in violet [1977]
O.H.M.S./ EDUCATION DEPT. - BELIZE CITY	• # 3 cancel in violet; 'FREE' in centre [1974]
Education Office O.S.G.B. Belize City	• # 1 cancel in black [1977, 80]; changed to capitals with '+' separator between 'CITY' & 'EDUCATION', in type # 3 cancel in black [1982]
General Post Office/Belize City, Belize C.A.	• oval 3-ring (50-1mm x 34.5-35mm) in black [1978]
HEADQUARTERS/BELIZE/DEFENCE FORCE	• 3 lines (36mm 1 st line - longest line) in violet [1978]
INCOME TAX OFFICE/BELIZE	• boxed (45-6mm x 21-2mm) in purple [1973] or violet [1974; part of 2 nd line cut away after BELIZE]
INCOME TAX OFFICE/BELIZE CITY	• boxed (57mm x 21-2mm) in black or blue [1976, 7, 80] or violet [1975-7 & 80-2]
Information Dept.	1 line (40-1mm) in purple [Feb. 1976] or violet [1975-6]
INFORMATION DEPT./BELIZE CITY	• # 2 cancel in purple or blue (reclining 'l' in INFORMATION) [March - October 1976] or violet [July 1976]
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT/BELIZE CITY, BELIZE	• # 2 cancel in black [1979]
Medical Department/Public Health Bureau/ Belize City - Belize	• 3 lines (35-7mm 2 nd line - longest line) in blue [1976] or black [1980]

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH/ Public Health Bureau/BELIZE CITY, BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 lines (63-4mm 1st line - longest line) in violet [1978] or black [1981]; changed to initial capitals & 'BELIZE' omitted, in # 1 cancel in purple [1982]
MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY/BELIZE CITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> oval 3-ring (50mm x 34mm): all caps. (3mm high) in blue [1982]
NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY/BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 cancel in black [1978]; changed to # 1 cancel 'BELIZE PORT AUTHORITY' in violet [1981].
OFFICE OF THE PREMIER/BELIZE CITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 cancel in violet [1974]
OFFICIAL PAID /INFORMATION DEPT./BELIZE CITY, BRIT. HOND [or BELIZE].	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 1-ring: 44mm diameter in black; text at end: BRIT. HOND intact [1/6/1973] or crossed out [27/10/1973] or BELIZE [28/8/1974].
OFFICIAL PAID/BELIZE/ Private/Secretary (in two lines in centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 2-ring: 30mm diameter in violet [1973]
OFFICIAL PAID/BELIZE/ Broadcasting/Dept. (in two lines in centre)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 2-ring: 33.5mm diameter in violet [1978]
SECRETARY WATER &/SEWERAGE AUTHORITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 line cancel (35mm 2nd line - longest line) in black, blue or violet [1980-3]
THE TREASURY/BELIZE CITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> oval 3-ring (43-4mm x 27.5-8mm) in violet [1974-6] + date handstamp in centre.

Table 2: Government Departmental Cancels: Belmopan

Notes:

WORDING

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DESCRIPTION

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- Size: diameter of outermost ring for circular cancels, or longest and shortest outer diameters for oval cancels.
- Years in which cancels were used are given in square brackets.

TYPES OF CANCEL

1: round 2-ring; outer circle: 48-50mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-7mm in diameter (scan 3 in Fig. 2).

2: oval 3-ring; 49-50mm x 29.5-33mm (scan 1 in Fig. 2); also in use before British Honduras became Belize, e.g. in 1971 for *EASTERN POLICE DIVISION/BELIZE CITY*.

3: round 3-ring; outer circle: 43mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-1mm in diameter (scan 4 in Fig. 2).

WORDING	DESCRIPTION
BELIZE GOVERNMENT PRINTERY/BELMOPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 cancel in violet [1982]
ESTABLISHMENT DEPT./Belmopan, British Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 cancel in blue [1973]
ESTABLISHMENT DEPT./BELMOPAN, BELIZE [40 mm long]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 in black, blue, violet or purple [1974-80, 82]
ESTABLISHMENT DEPT./BELMOPAN, BELIZE [29 mm long]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 in violet [1979] or blue [1981]
GOVERNMENT PRINTING DEPARTMENT/BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 in violet, cancelled at Belmopan [1977]

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

INFORMATION DEPT./BELMOPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 (Fig. 2 scan 1) dent in rings at right end from 1978 (Fig. 2 scan 2) in purple or violet (vertical 'I' in INFORMATION) [1974, 78-83]
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS & CO-OP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 in blue, violet or purple [1973-6]
MINISTRY OF/AGRICULTURE, LANDS/& CO-OPERATIVES/AMOUNT COLLECTED/ ... Dollars... Cents/BRITISH HONDURAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> one lined box: 57 x 41mm in violet [1978]
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS & SURVEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 in black, purple, violet or blue (in centre: BELMOPAN twice) [1977-9]
Ministry of Defence & Home Affairs/Belmopan, Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 in blue-black or violet (in centre: O.S.G.B.) [1982-3]
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING/-BELMOPAN-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 in violet [1978, 80]
MINISTRY OF ENERGY/AND COMMUNICATIONS/BELMOPAN, BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 lines (42mm 2nd line - longest line) in black [1976]
Ministry of Energy/Belmopan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 lines (27mm 1st line - longest line) in violet [1981]
Ministry of Finance & Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 3-ring (in centre: BELMOPAN): 46-7mm diameter, purple or black [1978-9]; # 1 in black [1983]
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT [BELMOPAN]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 1 in black [1982-3] - Fig. 2 scan 3
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/Belmopan, Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 in black or purple (in centre: O.S.G.B.) [1980-1] - Fig. 2 scan 4
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS & HEALTH/ Belmopan, Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 1 in purple or violet (in centre: O.S.G.B.) [1978-9] - Fig. 2 scan 5
Ministry of Natural Resources Lands Survey & Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 in blue-black or violet; BELMOPAN BELIZE C.A. across centre [1980-3]
Ministry of Social Services Labour & Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 cancel in blue or violet; BELMOPAN - BELIZE centre bottom [1978]
MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY/BELMOPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 3 all in capital letters in blue, violet, mauve or purple [1973-78]; initial caps. in purple or blue [1979-82].
MINISTRY OF WORKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # 2 in mauve; BELMOPAN/BELIZE in 2 lines inside inner circle [1976]
MINISTRY OF WORKS/Belmopan, BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> single lined box 48 x 26 mm in violet [1978: smaller lettering 2mm high] or in blackish lilac [1981: lettering 2.5mm high] - Fig. 2 scan 6
OFFICE of the PREMIER/BELMOPAN/Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 3-ring: 46 mm in violet [1974]
POLICE HEADQUARTERS/BELMOPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 2-ring: 38.5mm diameter in mauve [1976] or # 3 or 37mm diameter single ring in black [1981]
OFFICIAL PAID BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 2-ring: 30mm diameter, carmine or purple ('Private Secretary' in centre) [1975, 6]
OFFICIAL PAID/INFORMATION/DEPT./ BELMOPAN, BELIZE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> single lined box 46 x 43 mm in black [1974]
OFFICIAL/INFORMATION/DEPARTMENT/ BELMOPAN [smaller lettering]/BELIZE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> single lined box 44 x 34 mm in black [1977]
OFFICIAL PAID BELIZE/Secretary [in centre]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> round 2-ring: 33-4mm diameter, blue or violet [1982] - Fig. 2 scan 7

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

Office of/THE GOVERNOR GENERAL/Belmopan, Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 lines (51mm 2nd line - longest line) in violet [1982] - Fig. 2 scan 8
POLICE HEADQUARTERS/BELMOPAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • round 2-ring: 49mm diameter, violet [1976] with handstamp 'Support Law and Order' in violet.
POST OFFICE HEADQUARTERS/BELMOPAN BRITISH HONDURAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # 2 in blue [1973]

Table 3: Government Departmental Cancels: Other Locations

Notes:

WORDING

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DESCRIPTION

- Colour: generally described as it was more difficult to judge cancels on covers that were buff .
- Size: diameter of outermost ring for circular cancels, or longest and shortest outer diameters for oval cancels.
- Years in which cancels were used are given in square brackets.

TYPES OF CANCEL

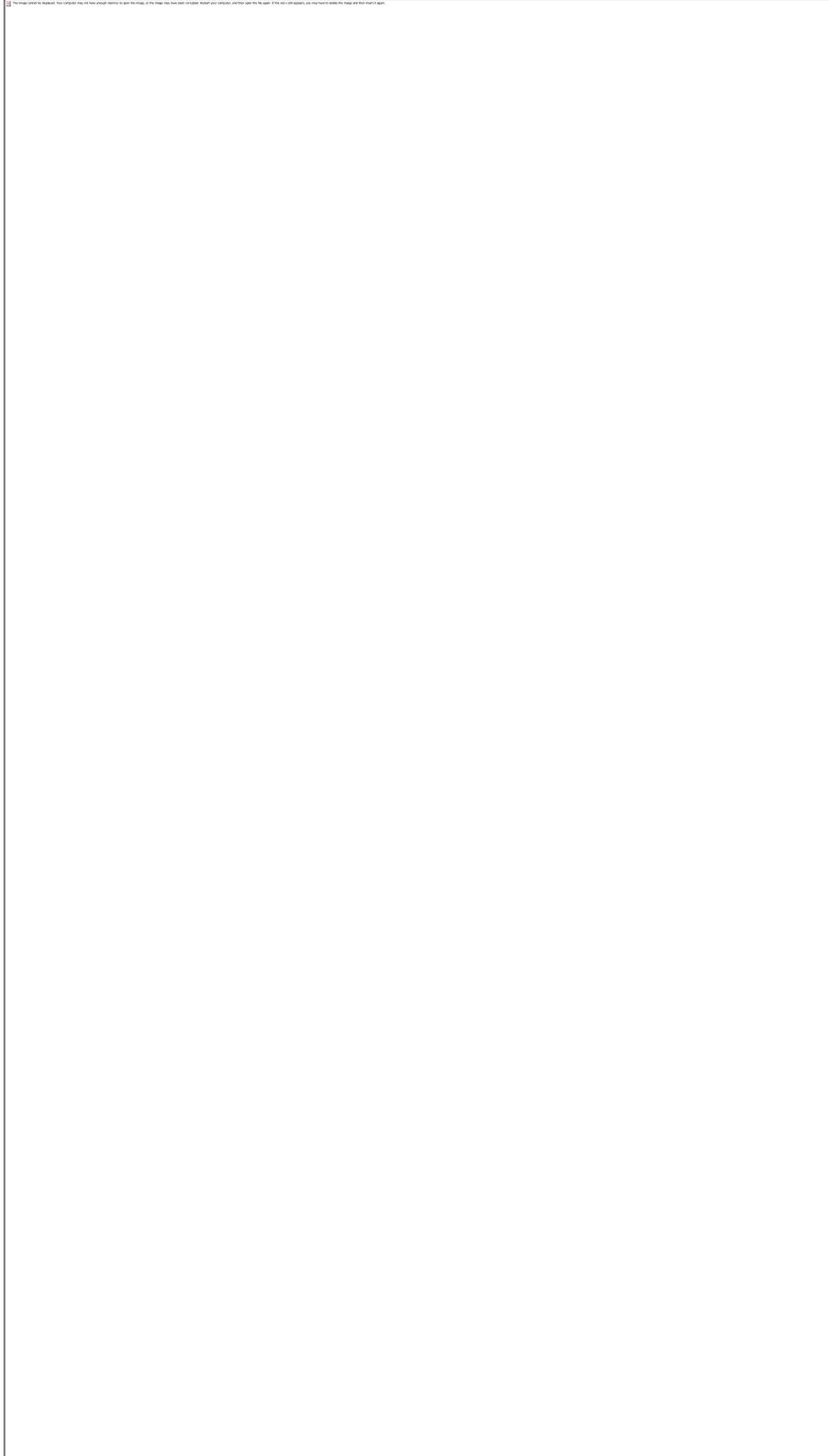
- # 1: round 2-ring; outer circle: 48-50mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-7mm in diameter (scan 3 in Fig. 2).
- # 2: oval 3-ring; 49-50mm x 29.5-33mm (scan 1 in Fig. 2); also in use before British Honduras became Belize, e.g. in 1971 for EASTERN POLICE DIVISION/BELIZE CITY.
- # 3: round 3-ring; outer circle: 43mm in diameter; inner circle: 30-1mm in diameter (scan 4 in Fig. 2).

WORDING	DESCRIPTION
AGRICULTURE OFFICE/ COROZAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • boxed (78 x 15mm) two lines in blue [1982]
Chief Clerk/STANN CREEK TOWN BOARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two lines (2nd line: 51mm x 7mm): in black or purple [1978,9,]
CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT [around outside of ring] BELIZE [in centre]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • round single ring: 32mm diameter (including text outside ring), blue-black or black [1978, 1980] cancelled @ International Airport
DISTRICT OFFICER STANN CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # 2 cancel in purple or blue [1974]
LABOUR OFFICE/Corozal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-line (32mm 1st line - longest line) in violet [1981]
Ministry of Agriculture & Lands/Central Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • round 2-ring (43-4mm or 46 mm diameter) in black, violet or purple [1978-81] cancelled @ Baking Pot
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES [in centre] Agric. Dept. Mechanical C/F Cayo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # 1 cancel in blue or black [1981] cancelled @ Baking Pot
Ministry of Natural Resources/Central Farm [all round inner edge]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • round single ring (34-5mm diameter) in black [1981]; dot separators either side of 'Central Farm'; cancelled @ Baking Pot
NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE / BELIZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • round 3-ring (46mm) in purple [1976] cancelled @ International Airport

BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.

Figure 1: Post Office cancels (1970-3)

Given the text of these apparently proof cancels, they must date between August 1970 (when British Honduras' New Capital was renamed Belmopan) & June 1973 when British Honduras was renamed Belize.



BRITISH HONDURAS TO AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE: 1970-83.



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Figure 2: Some of the wide range of cancels used at Belmopan (1973-83)

