

some notes on the history of the

# Chaves Post

Luís Frazão



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## **Preface**

The first edition of this book was the result of a partnership between Chaves City Council and the National Philately Club of Portugal and was one of the initiatives accomplished during the City Festival of 2001.



In response to the kind invitation extended to me by the National Philately Club, I have gathered some information concerning the post in Chaves in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Why have I focused on such a short period of time when we know that the origin of the town of Chaves dates back to the Roman era, and there has certainly been an exchange of correspondence between the neighbouring areas, the provincial capital and the capital of the kingdom since ancient times?

The reason for this choice lies in the appearance of the first postmarks at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These were commonly known as rubber stamps and were put on the letters that were taken to the post office to be delivered. They will enable us to illustrate the actions of the successive postmasters in the city as they performed one of the functions for which they were responsible. It is these marks that will allow us to identify a letter that comes from Chaves and, thus, we can begin the postal history of the city.

Prior to 1798, the year in which the postal service was incorporated into the Crown, it was run by the *Correio Mor do Reino* (the Postmaster General of the Realm), which had assistants and representatives all over the kingdom, and was exclusively responsible for carrying correspondence. To do so, it charged postage according to weight and the distance covered by the letter from source to destination. Although there are no doubts as to whether this service operated in Chaves from at least 1767<sup>1</sup>, we cannot document it with letters marked by the postal service as no such marking was performed anywhere in the Kingdom<sup>2</sup>. We can, however, illustrate (in figure 1) an insurance release from the Chaves post, dated September 9 1794, concerning a remittance of 33\$600 réis, sent by the Chaves post to that of Aveiro, which in turn delivered it to its addressee, who had to sign the declaration that appears on the document (picture 1).

Some notes can be taken from this document:

- a) The amount charged for the service provided is not

<sup>1</sup> It had post in 1767. *Portugal Sacro-Profa-no.*

<sup>2</sup> The only three marks that are known prior to 1798, applied by the Postmaster General in Lisbon, are **A** for letters from the Kingdom of the Algarve, **E** for letters arriving by land from Europe and **C**, the use of which is still unclear.

indicated.

b) The addressee only received the amount sent on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

c) The person in charge of the Chaves post was called Abreu.

d) The Chaves post was entirely responsible for the safe delivery of this remittance, and the Postmaster General was free of responsibility in the event of loss.

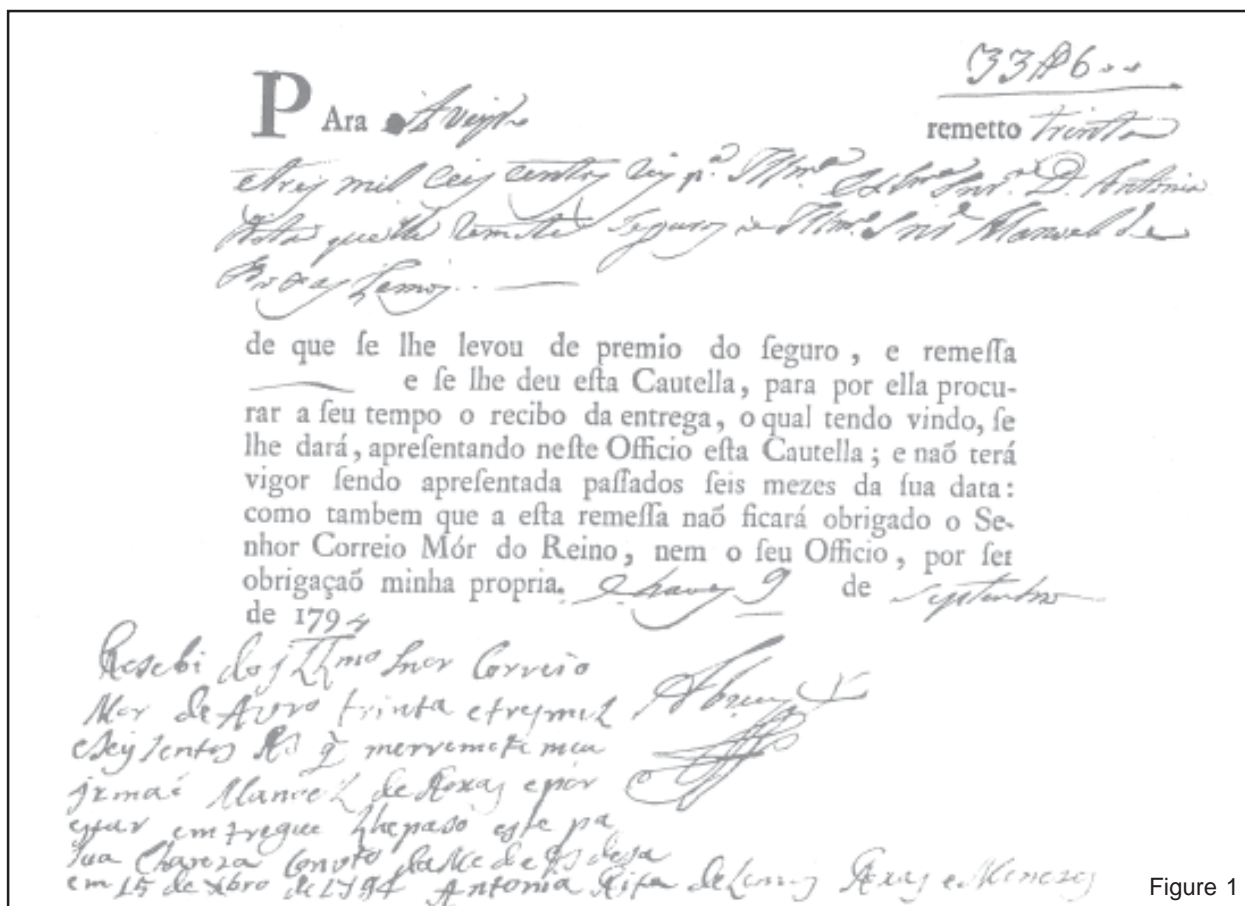


Figure 1

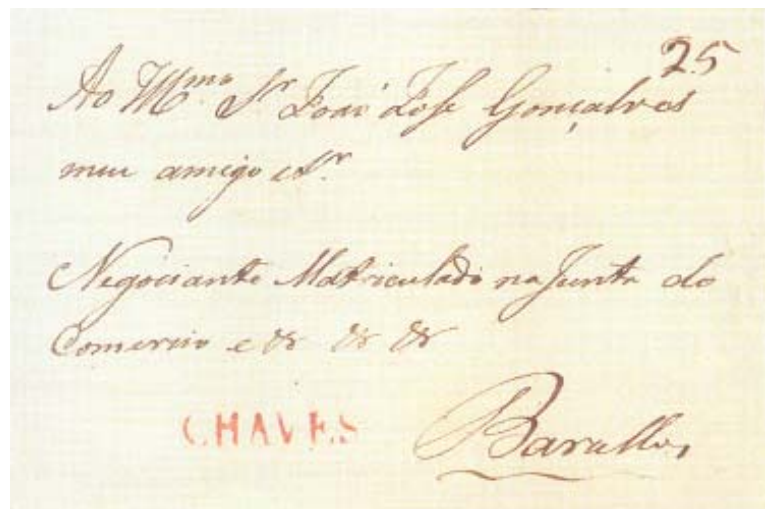
## §1 The marks used by the Chaves post

In 1989, the reference work “**Marcas postais de Portugal utilizada no período pré adesivo**” (Portuguese postmarks used in the pre-adhesive period) was republished. In it, the renowned writers A. Guedes de Magalhães and M. Andrade e Sousa duly highlighted the macrophilately of Chaves. Eleven years later, we have taken this opportunity to bring the work of these authors up-to-date and have tried to establish a closer relationship between the postmarks, their forms, the colours in which they were applied and the people that performed the task or had it performed, that is to say the postmasters and those that worked for them. We will also see that the disturbances caused by the French invasions, by the liberal struggles and by the Patuleia Civil War gave rise to situations that are reflected in the running of the post, in the appointments and resignations of its postmasters and in the emergency postmarks used.

The table below shows an updated version of the Chaves chart from the aforementioned work and an illustration of letters with the said postmarks.

Number	Rubber stamp	Colour	Limit dates	Postmaster	Rarity
CHV 1	CHAVES Fig.2	Red	May 10 1802 to March 13 08	<u>Abreu_Ferreira</u> <sup>3</sup>	5
CHV 2	CHAVES Fig.3	Red	2Oct 29 1807 to 1827	José Joaquim <u>Abreu_Ferreira</u> <sup>4 5</sup>	2
CHV 3	<i>Ch. Es</i> Fig.4	Writing ink	March 4 1827 to March 24 1827	José M. Ferreira Sousa <sup>6</sup>	8
CHV 4	CHAVES (oval with pearls) Fig.5	Red	Sept 15 1827 to Oct 2 27	Jorge Luís Pinto Queirós <sup>7</sup>	8
“	“	Sepia	Oct 10 1827 to 1831	Idem	5
CHV 2	CHAVES Fig. 3	Red	Dec 15 1831 to June 2 32	??	4
CHV 4	CHAVES (oval with pearls)	Sepia	1832 to 1834	??	2

“	“	Blue	Nov 16 1834 to Dec 2 1837	Jacob JoséPinto Barbosa <sup>8</sup>	2
CHV 5	CHAVES (simple oval)	Blue	Sept 18 1838 to 1840	o mesmo	1
CHV 6	Chaves Fig. 6	Writing ink	Oct 9 1840 to ???	Cristovão Mota Teixeira <sup>9</sup>	Only known exam.
CHV 6a	Chaves	Writing ink	Sept 14 1841	???	Only known exam.
CHV 5	CHAVES (simple oval) Fig.7	Blue	1841 to July de 1853	João Monteiro CabralVasconcello <sup>10 11</sup>	1



Figures 2 e 3

<sup>3</sup> He must already have been postmaster in the previous postal era.

<sup>4</sup> Appointed on 03.07.1807 and very probably a relative of the former.

<sup>5</sup> Between March 1824 and May 1832, the Chaves Insurance notes were initialled by “Oliveira”.

<sup>6</sup> Appointed on 17.06.1826

<sup>7</sup> Appointed on 9.06.1827

<sup>8</sup> Appointed on 17.04.1834

<sup>9</sup> Appointed on 07.01.1841

<sup>10</sup> Appointed on 01.04.1842

<sup>11</sup> Between 1843 and 1848, the signature of the insurance assistant is always the same and appears to be “Ribeiro”. It is clearly “Ribeiro” in June 1850, changes again in 1851 and remains the same until 1853.







Figure 4

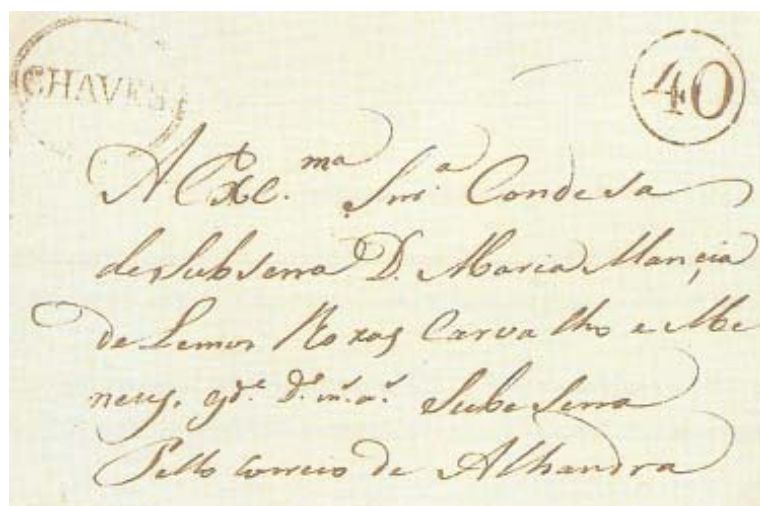


Figure 5

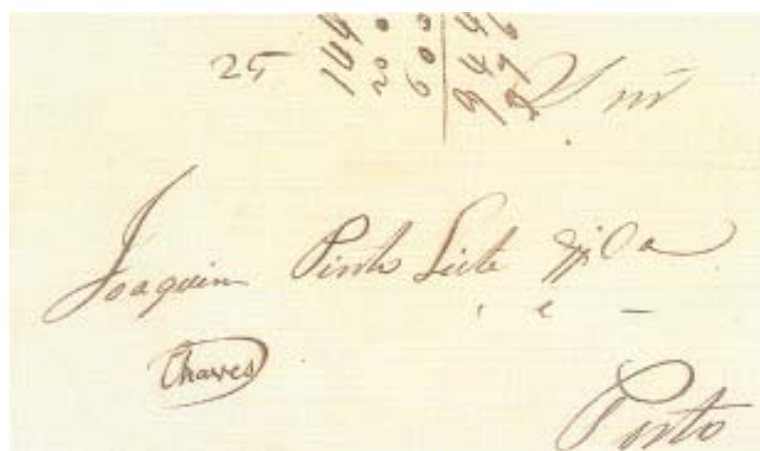


Figure 6

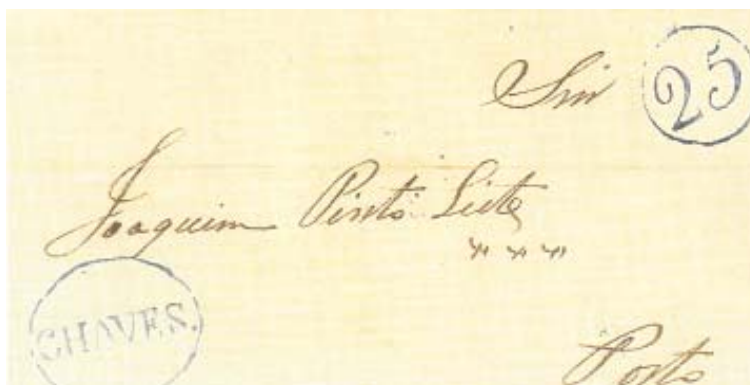


Figure 7

Some considerations arise on analysis of this table:

- 1) The number of different marks that Chaves used as well as the use of handwritten marks.
- 2) On three occasions the postmasters were in office for only one year (or even less).
- 3) Red ink was used from 1802 to 1827, in contrast to the other post offices in the Kingdom, constituting a notable exception to the rule together with Penafiel, Viana do Minho and Guarda<sup>12</sup>.

4) Several of the cases of a change in postmark occurred at the same time as a change in postmaster.

Apart from these points, it is also important to point out that:

- 5) The question marks instead of the postmaster's name do not exclude the possibility that it may have been the same person as the previous period.
- 6) The underlined name indicates that it is this name that appears on the insurance releases.
- 7) The scale of rarity goes from 1 to 9, where 9 indicates the rarest; 10 is only used when only one example of the rubber stamp is known.

Before we continue, we will see how the postage on letters sent through the Chaves Post was marked. The postage to be applied to letters was regulated by the instructions sent to the postmasters in 1799 and modified in 1801, as shown in the table below.

The scales for calculating postage were also complemented by an easy-to-use map of distances that the General Post

<sup>12</sup> The use of red is only known from 1807.

From 24 April 1801 to 30 June 1853, postage varied according to weight and distance:

DISTANCE	WEIGHT				
	2/8	4/8	6/8	1 Ounce	2 Ounces
1° Up to 10 leagues	20	30	40	50	100
2° From 10 to 20 leagues	25	40	50	60	120
3° From 20 to 30 leagues	30	50	60	70	140
4° From 30 to 40 leagues	35	60	70	80	160
5° Over 40 leagues	40	70	80	90	180

**MAPPA DAS DISTANCIAS QUE DEVEM CONTAR-SE DE**  
*Chaves*  
**PARA OS CORREIOS DO REINO.**

1.ª DISTANÇIA	2.ª DISTANÇIA	3.ª DISTANÇIA	4.ª DISTANÇIA	5.ª DISTANÇIA
Até 10 LEGOAS	DE 10 Até 20	DE 20 Até 30	DE 30 Até 40	MAIS DE 40.
1. Vila Rica 2. Vila Rica 3. Vila Rica 4. Vila Rica 5. Vila Rica 6. Vila Rica 7. Vila Rica 8. Vila Rica 9. Vila Rica 10. Vila Rica 11. Vila Rica 12. Vila Rica 13. Vila Rica 14. Vila Rica 15. Vila Rica 16. Vila Rica 17. Vila Rica 18. Vila Rica 19. Vila Rica 20. Vila Rica 21. Vila Rica 22. Vila Rica 23. Vila Rica 24. Vila Rica 25. Vila Rica 26. Vila Rica 27. Vila Rica 28. Vila Rica 29. Vila Rica 30. Vila Rica 31. Vila Rica 32. Vila Rica 33. Vila Rica 34. Vila Rica 35. Vila Rica 36. Vila Rica 37. Vila Rica 38. Vila Rica 39. Vila Rica 40. Vila Rica 41. Vila Rica 42. Vila Rica 43. Vila Rica 44. Vila Rica 45. Vila Rica 46. Vila Rica 47. Vila Rica 48. Vila Rica 49. Vila Rica 50. Vila Rica 51. Vila Rica 52. Vila Rica 53. Vila Rica 54. Vila Rica 55. Vila Rica 56. Vila Rica 57. Vila Rica 58. Vila Rica 59. Vila Rica 60. Vila Rica 61. Vila Rica 62. Vila Rica 63. Vila Rica 64. Vila Rica 65. Vila Rica 66. Vila Rica	1. Vila Rica 2. Vila Rica 3. Vila Rica 4. Vila Rica 5. Vila Rica 6. Vila Rica 7. Vila Rica 8. Vila Rica 9. Vila Rica 10. Vila Rica 11. Vila Rica 12. Vila Rica 13. Vila Rica 14. Vila Rica 15. Vila Rica 16. Vila Rica 17. Vila Rica 18. Vila Rica 19. Vila Rica 20. Vila Rica 21. Vila Rica 22. Vila Rica 23. Vila Rica 24. Vila Rica 25. Vila Rica 26. Vila Rica 27. Vila Rica 28. Vila Rica 29. Vila Rica 30. Vila Rica 31. Vila Rica 32. Vila Rica 33. Vila Rica 34. Vila Rica 35. Vila Rica 36. Vila Rica 37. Vila Rica 38. Vila Rica 39. Vila Rica 40. Vila Rica 41. Vila Rica 42. Vila Rica 43. Vila Rica 44. Vila Rica 45. Vila Rica 46. Vila Rica 47. Vila Rica 48. Vila Rica 49. Vila Rica 50. Vila Rica 51. Vila Rica 52. Vila Rica 53. Vila Rica 54. Vila Rica 55. Vila Rica 56. Vila Rica 57. Vila Rica 58. Vila Rica 59. Vila Rica 60. Vila Rica 61. Vila Rica 62. Vila Rica 63. Vila Rica 64. Vila Rica 65. Vila Rica 66. Vila Rica	1. Vila Rica 2. Vila Rica 3. Vila Rica 4. Vila Rica 5. Vila Rica 6. Vila Rica 7. Vila Rica 8. Vila Rica 9. Vila Rica 10. Vila Rica 11. Vila Rica 12. Vila Rica 13. Vila Rica 14. Vila Rica 15. Vila Rica 16. Vila Rica 17. Vila Rica 18. Vila Rica 19. Vila Rica 20. Vila Rica 21. Vila Rica 22. Vila Rica 23. Vila Rica 24. Vila Rica 25. Vila Rica 26. Vila Rica 27. Vila Rica 28. Vila Rica 29. Vila Rica 30. Vila Rica 31. Vila Rica 32. Vila Rica 33. Vila Rica 34. Vila Rica 35. Vila Rica 36. Vila Rica 37. Vila Rica 38. Vila Rica 39. Vila Rica 40. Vila Rica 41. Vila Rica 42. Vila Rica 43. Vila Rica 44. Vila Rica 45. Vila Rica 46. Vila Rica 47. Vila Rica 48. Vila Rica 49. Vila Rica 50. Vila Rica 51. Vila Rica 52. Vila Rica 53. Vila Rica 54. Vila Rica 55. Vila Rica 56. Vila Rica 57. Vila Rica 58. Vila Rica 59. Vila Rica 60. Vila Rica 61. Vila Rica 62. Vila Rica 63. Vila Rica 64. Vila Rica 65. Vila Rica 66. Vila Rica	1. Vila Rica 2. Vila Rica 3. Vila Rica 4. Vila Rica 5. Vila Rica 6. Vila Rica 7. Vila Rica 8. Vila Rica 9. Vila Rica 10. Vila Rica 11. Vila Rica 12. Vila Rica 13. Vila Rica 14. Vila Rica 15. Vila Rica 16. Vila Rica 17. Vila Rica 18. Vila Rica 19. Vila Rica 20. Vila Rica 21. Vila Rica 22. Vila Rica 23. Vila Rica 24. Vila Rica 25. Vila Rica 26. Vila Rica 27. Vila Rica 28. Vila Rica 29. Vila Rica 30. Vila Rica 31. Vila Rica 32. Vila Rica 33. Vila Rica 34. Vila Rica 35. Vila Rica 36. Vila Rica 37. Vila Rica 38. Vila Rica 39. Vila Rica 40. Vila Rica 41. Vila Rica 42. Vila Rica 43. Vila Rica 44. Vila Rica 45. Vila Rica 46. Vila Rica 47. Vila Rica 48. Vila Rica 49. Vila Rica 50. Vila Rica 51. Vila Rica 52. Vila Rica 53. Vila Rica 54. Vila Rica 55. Vila Rica 56. Vila Rica 57. Vila Rica 58. Vila Rica 59. Vila Rica 60. Vila Rica 61. Vila Rica 62. Vila Rica 63. Vila Rica 64. Vila Rica 65. Vila Rica 66. Vila Rica	1. Vila Rica 2. Vila Rica 3. Vila Rica 4. Vila Rica 5. Vila Rica 6. Vila Rica 7. Vila Rica 8. Vila Rica 9. Vila Rica 10. Vila Rica 11. Vila Rica 12. Vila Rica 13. Vila Rica 14. Vila Rica 15. Vila Rica 16. Vila Rica 17. Vila Rica 18. Vila Rica 19. Vila Rica 20. Vila Rica 21. Vila Rica 22. Vila Rica 23. Vila Rica 24. Vila Rica 25. Vila Rica 26. Vila Rica 27. Vila Rica 28. Vila Rica 29. Vila Rica 30. Vila Rica 31. Vila Rica 32. Vila Rica 33. Vila Rica 34. Vila Rica 35. Vila Rica 36. Vila Rica 37. Vila Rica 38. Vila Rica 39. Vila Rica 40. Vila Rica 41. Vila Rica 42. Vila Rica 43. Vila Rica 44. Vila Rica 45. Vila Rica 46. Vila Rica 47. Vila Rica 48. Vila Rica 49. Vila Rica 50. Vila Rica 51. Vila Rica 52. Vila Rica 53. Vila Rica 54. Vila Rica 55. Vila Rica 56. Vila Rica 57. Vila Rica 58. Vila Rica 59. Vila Rica 60. Vila Rica 61. Vila Rica 62. Vila Rica 63. Vila Rica 64. Vila Rica 65. Vila Rica 66. Vila Rica
10	25	13	7	66

As distancias são contadas pela direção mais curta.

*C. Reis 1810*

Figure 8



Figure 9

sent to each postmaster, which in the case of Chaves was shown in the figure 8:

In terms of the distances from Chaves to the towns and cities to which there would have been more correspondence, the postmaster thus had at his disposal printed or handwritten postmarks, depending on each case. (See figure 9)

With regard to the postage marks, we can consider two periods, the first from 1799 to 1827, from which we have examples of printed and handwritten marks, and the second from 1827 to 1853, when the marks were mainly printed with a circle around the value. 1827 was the year that Pinto Queiróz was appointed postmaster and he was certainly responsible for the introduction of new nominative marks for insurance and postage as well as the mark of Postage Paid in negative, which we will now study.

From the very start, regulations for the Post contemplated the possibility that the sender of a letter could take it by hand to its destination, as long as the respective postage had been paid at the post office of origin. As proof of this payment, some postmarks appeared which had to be placed on the letters with the caption "**Pagou o porte do Correio**" (postage paid), but there is no known example from the Chaves post. A little later, around 1812, pre-payment of postage<sup>1</sup> began to appear in some cases, though the letter was transported by the Post Office. The mark "**Franca**" (free) was therefore created and two different types are known to have been used in Chaves. It should be noted that the first type "in negative" is the only one in Portuguese Postal History.

Number	Rubber stamp	Colour	Limit dates	Rarity
CHV-PP1	<i>Franca</i> in negative Fig.10	Blue	3/1841 to 5/4/1841	9
CHV-PP2	<i>Franca</i> with oval circum- ference Fig.11	Blue	14/7/1842 to 30/11/52	7

Apart from the post that we have been dealing with (the normal post, which was put into the post-box that was generally at the door of the postmaster's house<sup>1</sup>), there was another



Figure 10



Figure 11

category of correspondence – the **Segura** – the name that was given to what we now call registered post. In contrast to normal post, it could not be placed in the post-box, but had to be handed in at the post office so that certain formalities could be performed. These were essential for the service to function correctly and for the sender's guarantee. Apart from marking with a specific mark containing the word "**Segura**" or "**Seguro**", these formalities involved pre-payment of the insurance premium, to the value of 240 réis in the case of a letter, or 1% of the value of any money being sent. Postage of the letter would have to be added to this figure, and this could be paid in advance (in which case, it went *franca*), or could be paid by the addressee.

The following table shows the different types of *Seguro* marks that were used in Chaves:

<sup>13</sup> This practice was not held in high esteem since it attested to the poverty of the addressee, who was not able to pay postage of the letter. It gradually came into general use, until it became normal practice from 1853, when the adhesive stamp was introduced.

<sup>14</sup> It would be interesting to know where the post house(s) was/were located in Chaves. Chaves City Council kindly sent us a 19<sup>th</sup>-century map, on which we can find Rua Nova, which already had the name "Rua do Correio Velho" (Old Post Street).

Number	Rubber -stamp	Colour	Limit dates	Rarity
CHV-S1	SEGURA Fig.12	Red	16.02.1808 to 13.03.1808	8
CHV-S1m	<i>Segura Chaves</i>	Handwritten	04.06.1809	Only known
CHV-S2	SEGURA Fig. 13	Red	1812 to 1815	6
CHV-S3	SEGURA/ CHAVES (oval surround with pearls) Fig.14	Blue	17.03.1835 to 1853 <sup>15</sup>	8

In terms of the CHV-S1 mark, the few known examples are from a period in which the Portuguese post offices were under French administration<sup>1</sup>, as a result of the Napoleonic invasions. This fact is confirmed by the inscription “*Do serviço I. e R.*” of the Imperial and Royal Service, in contrast to the national formula which merely said “*Do Real Serviço*”. Nevertheless, Abreu continued to be the postmaster, as shown by the signature on the back of the letter.

The second postmark listed is dated June 4 1809, shortly

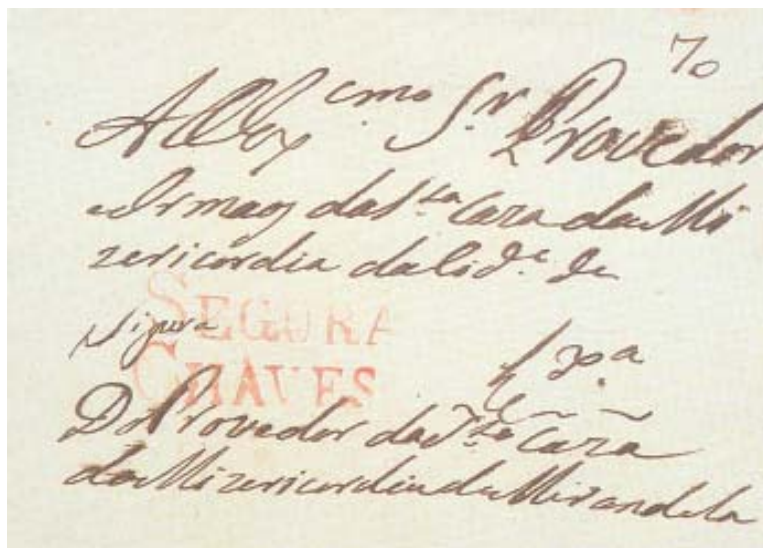


Figure 12

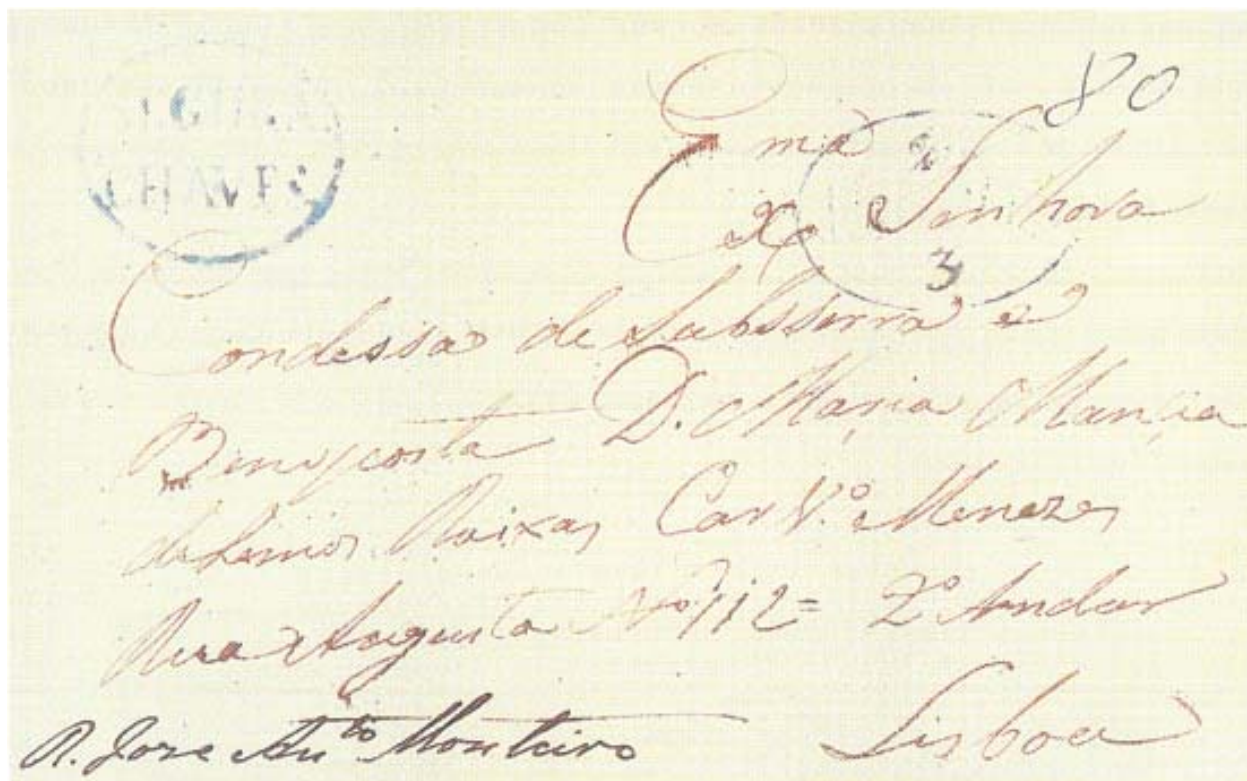
<sup>15</sup> Although there are only two known examples of this postmark, it was in use until the end of the pre-adhesive period, and was used in the following period, as shown in the letter in figure 15, dated 1859.

<sup>16</sup> Luís Frazão – O Correio Português sob Administração Francesa (1807-1808).

after Chaves had been liberated from French occupation by Silveira Pinto at the time of General Soult's 2<sup>nd</sup> invasion. It was probably during this troubled period that the postmaster resorted to handwritten marking as he had no competent mark.



Figures 13 e 14



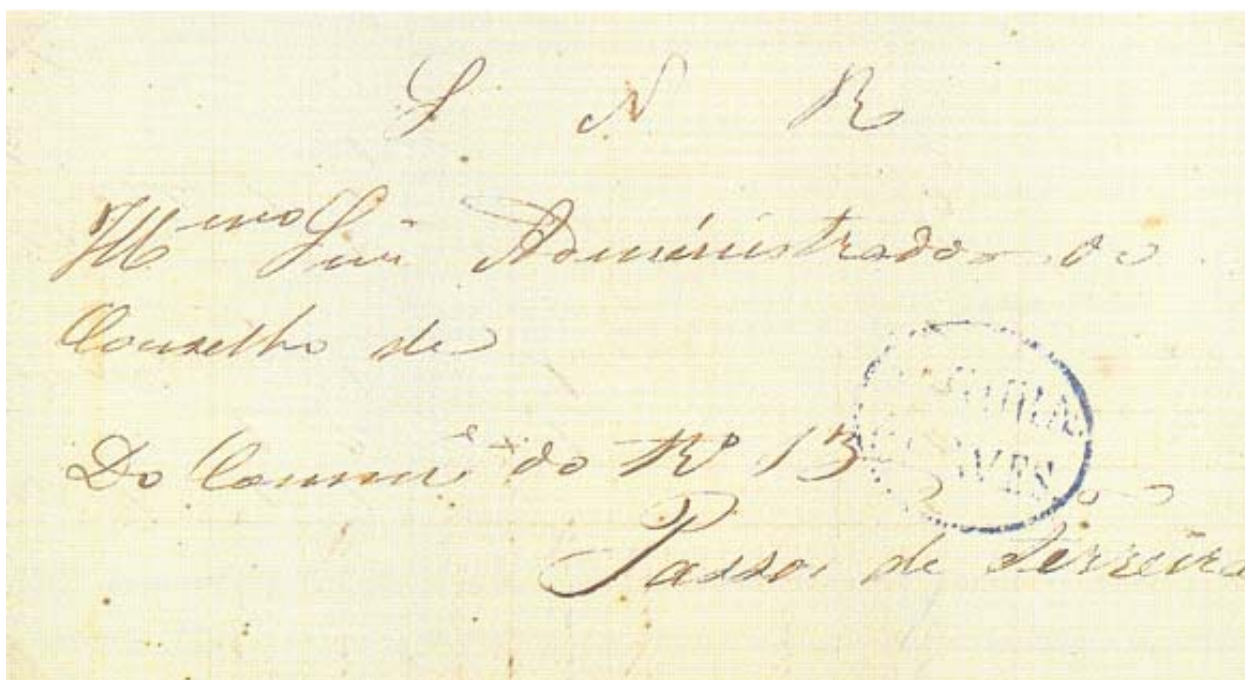


Figure 15

The third insurance mark, with the S larger than the other letters, is illustrated below. This appeared at the same time as the corresponding mark of Chaves CVH2, known from October 1807, and its entry into use is associated with the appointment of the postmaster that occurred some months earlier, shown in the figure 13.

The last known mark, of type CHV-S3, on two lines with a pearl oval surround (fig. 14), was most certainly introduced at the same time as the CHV 4 mark in 1827, also as a result of the appointment of a new postmaster. Although we only know of it in 1835, we do know that it was in use until at least 1859, as we can see from the letter shown in figure 15.

The other formality consisted of recording the insured object in the insurance book, inscribing the nature of the object, the date, the name of the sender as well as the addressee, the cost of the insurance (or not, if it were exempt) and the amount of postage paid.

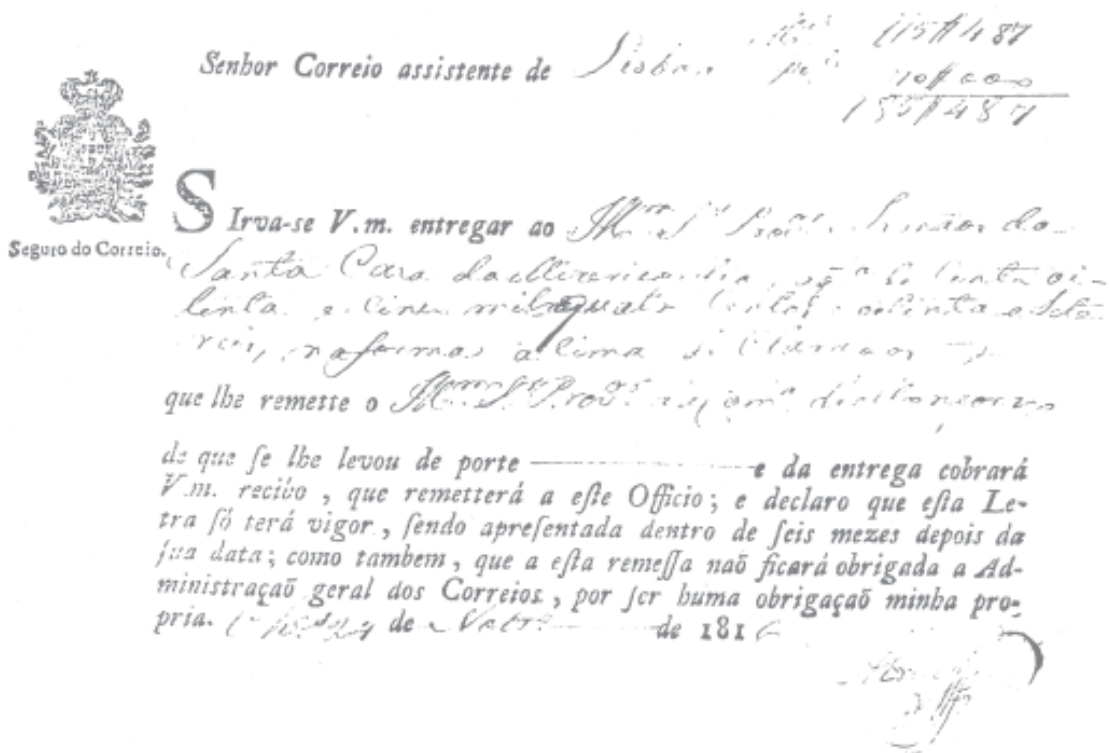
This operation was accompanied by the issue of two documents, **the insurance receipt and release**, the former was sent to the addressee together with the insured object so that it could be signed as a record that it had been received, after which it was sent to the sender. The second document, the Insurance Release, remained in the hands

<sup>17</sup> Chaves was occupied on March 12th.



of the sender and was proof that he had sent a certain object. Within six months the sender could exchange the note for the letter as proof that his correspondent had received what he had sent.

Below are some examples of insurance releases written by the Chaves post office during the pre-adhesive period.



The document is a handwritten insurance release on aged paper. At the top right, there is a date and some numbers: "15/11/87", "10000", and "1557487". Below this, the text reads "Senhor Correio assistente de Sobral". On the left side, there is a royal coat of arms and the text "Seguro do Correio". The main body of the document is handwritten in cursive, starting with a large "S" and containing the text: "Srva-se V.m. entregar ao Sr. D. João Antonio de Santa Clara da Ilha de São Pedro, Santa Clara da Ilha de São Pedro, com mil e quatrocentos e oitenta e sete réis, no freguesia da Ilha de São Pedro, que lhe remette o Sr. D. João Antonio de Santa Clara da Ilha de São Pedro de que se lhe levou de porte e da entrega cobrará V.m. recibo, que remetterá a este Officio; e declaro que esta Letra só terá vigor, sendo apresentada dentro de seis mezes depois da sua data; como tambem, que a esta remessa não ficará obrigada a Administração geral dos Correios, por ser huma obrigação minha propria. de 1816". There is a signature and a circular stamp at the bottom right.

Figure 16



SEGURO  
DO CORREIO.

Para o Correio de *Lisboa*

Remetto *M. J. de S. M. Manoel da  
vinte e duas de Junho e Mapas  
def.*

que lhe remette o *Senhor Paulo Teodoro Card. da  
de que se lhe levou de premio do Seguro na razão de 1 por 100  
e se lhe deu esta Cautella, para por ella procurar a seu tempo o recibo da entrega,  
o qual tendo vindo se lhe dará, apresentando-a nesta Administração; e não terá  
vigor sendo passados seis mezes depois da sua data; como tambem que a esta re-  
messa não ficará obrigada a Administração Geral, por ser huma obrigação minha  
propria. Lisboa de 11 de Junho de 1852*

*Alvimar*

CAUTELA.



SEGURO  
DO CORREIO

Para o Sr. Administrador do Seguro do Correio de *Borto*

Remetto *o Sr. J. de S. M. Manoel da  
humas cartas lidas e d'outras em que hi o nome  
de S. M. de S. M. no qual se descreve a sua  
propriedade e o valor de cada uma*

que lhe remette o *Senhor Sr. Augusto Alves Ferraz  
de que pagou o premio do Seguro na razão de um por cento  
e se lhe passou esta Cautella, para com ella haver o respectivo recibo, apresentando-a no  
termo de seis mezes, findos os quaes não terá vigor: como tambem que a esta remessa não  
ficará obrigada a Administração Geral do Correio, por ser uma obrigação minha propria.*

*Lisboa de 11 de Junho de 1852*

*J. B. de S. M.*

Satisfeita  
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de 185

Ptzo. 3  
Seg. 3

Figures 17 e 18

## §2. Forwarding correspondence to and from Chaves

The first document that explains the way in which

Tabella dos dias em que partem os Correios da Administração Geral, em que chegam ás diferentes Terras dos seus destinos, em que partem destas, e em que devem chegar as respostas á dita Administração.

	Expedição de Segunda feira				Expedição de Quarta feira				Expedição de Sabbado.			
	Partida de Lisboa	Chegada das Terras	Partida das Terras	Chegada a Lisboa	Partida de Lisboa	Chegada das Terras	Partida das Terras	Chegada a Lisboa	Partida de Lisboa	Chegada das Terras	Partida das Terras	Chegada a Lisboa
Abrantes	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.
Aguada (1)	Seg. t.	Quart. t.	Sab. m.	Seg. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Sab. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Sext. m.
Albufeira	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quint. m.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Terç. t.	Sext. m.	Quart. m.
Alcobaça	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quint. m.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Dom. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Terç. m.	Quart. m.
Alcoentre	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Alcoutim	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sab. t.	Quart. m.	Terç. m.	Quart. 2. <sup>a</sup> seg. <sup>12</sup> m.
Aldougallega	Seg. t.	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Alcunquer	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Alhandra	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Almada (2)	Seg. m.	Seg. m.	Sext. m.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Almeida	Seg. t.	Sext. t.	Sab. m.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Seg. m.
Almodovar (3)	Seg. t.	Quart. t.	Sab. m.	Seg. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Seg. m.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Sext. m.
Alter	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Sab. m.	Dom. m.	Quart. m.	Sab. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Seg. m.
Alvaiázere	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Quint. m.	Seg. m.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Alverca	Seg. t.	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Alvito	Seg. t.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Dom. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Quart. m.
Amarante	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Seg. m.
Arouca	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Seg. m.
Arraiolos	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quint. m.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Dom. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Terç. m.	Quart. m.
Assumar	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Sab. m.	Dom. m.	Quart. m.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Aveiro	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Sab. t.	Terç. m.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Terç. t.	Sext. t.	Seg. m.
Aviz	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Sab. t.	Terç. m.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Seg. m.
Azumbuja	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Barcellos	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Dom. t.	Terç. m.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Seg. m.
Basto	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Seg. t.	Quint. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Quint. t.	Seg. m.	Sext. m.
Béja	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.
Bemposta (4)	Seg. t.	Quart. t.	Sab. m.	Seg. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Sab. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Sext. m.
Borba	Seg. t.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Seg. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. t.	Seg. m.	Quart. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Sext. m.
Braga	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Seg. m.
Bragança	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Sext. 2. <sup>a</sup> seg. <sup>10</sup> m.	Sab. t.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. m.
Cabeceiras	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Quint. t.	Dom. m.	Sext. m.
Caldas (5)	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.
Curraçadas	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sab. t.	Sab. m.	Terç. t.	Seg. m.
Cartaxo	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Carvalhos	Seg. t.	Terç. t.	Quint. m.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. t.	Dom. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. t.	Terç. m.	Quart. m.
Cascaes	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Sab. m.	Sab. m.	Sab. m.	Sab. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. m.
Castanheira	Seg. t.	Terç. m.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Quint. m.	Quint. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Dom. m.	Dom. t.	Seg. m.
Castello-branco	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Dom. t.	Quart. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Quint. t.	Dom. m.	Sext. m.
Castroaire	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Sab. t.	Quint. t.	Seg. m.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Castromarim (6)	Seg. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Dom. m.	Terç. t.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Quart. m.	Quint. t.	Seg. m.
Ceja	Seg. t.	Quint. m.	Dom. m.	Quart. m.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cezimbra (7)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chaves	.....	.....	.....	.....	Quart. t.	Terç. t.	Quart. m.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Sext. t.	Dom. m.	Sext. m.
Ciutua	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Sab. m.	Sab. t.	Sext. t.	Sab. m.
Cóimbra	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.
Coudeixa	Seg. t.	Quart. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Quart. t.	Sext. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Sab. t.	Seg. m.	Seg. t.	Quart. m.

**TABELLA**  
D O S  
DIAS DA PARTIDA E CHEGADA DOS CORREIOS,  
ACOMPANHADA DE HUM MAPPA QUE DEMONSTRA  
**O GIRO DO CORREIO**  
E SUA MUTUA CORRESPONDENCIA.



L I S B O A :  
NA IMPRESSÃO REGIA. XXXV III.  
Cua Livraria.

correspondence was forwarded between the capital and provinces of the North (north of the river Douro) is the “*Tabela dos dias de partida e chegada dos correios, acompanhada de hum Mappa que demonstra o Giro dos correios e a sua mutual correspondência*” (Table of the days of departure and arrival of the post, accompanied by a map that shows the circuit of post offices and correspondence between them), published in Lisbon in the year 1818. From this document, we will reproduce the frontispiece, part of the table and the map.

We can see that in 1818, Chaves had two dispatches a week, on Wednesdays and Sunday mornings, arriving in Lisbon 5 days later. The map shows that the mailbags were dispatched from the capital to Porto by the courier paid by

«Dias em que os Correios partem de Lisboa para as diversas terras do Reino; e daquelles, em que chegam á Capital.

N. B. As cifras 1 até 7 indicam os dias de Semana desde Domingo até Sabbado. O signal \* em lugar de numero, indica posta diaria: o signal (\*) indica posta diaria, além dos Correios ordinarios: o signal (\*\*) indica duas postas diarias.

TERRAS	Partida de Lib.	Chegada a Lib.
Abrantes, Agueda, Albergaria .....	2.4.7	2.4.8
Alburela .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Alcobaça, Alcochete, Alcoente .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Alcoitim .....	2.4.7.	2.4.
Aldegalega, Almquer .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Alhandra (*) .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Aljustrel .....	4.7.	2.4.
Almada .....	*	*
Almeida, Almodovar .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Alter .....	4.7.	2.4.
Alvaiázere, Alverca, Alvito .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Amarante, Arcos .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Angelim .....	2.4.7.	2. 8.
Arouca .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Arayolos, Armada, Atougua .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Aveiro .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Aviz .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Azambuja (*) .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Azeitão .....	2.4.8.	2.4.8.
Barcelos, Barquinha .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Basto .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Batalha .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Basto Antonio .....	*	*
Bája .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Belém (**) .....	.....	.....
Belas .....	*	*
Bemfica .....	*	*
Bemposta, Benedicta, Borba, Braga .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Bragança .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Cabeceiras .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Caldas .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Caminha .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Campo Grande .....	*	*
Campo Maior .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Canizade .....	2.4.7.	2. 8.
Canizade .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Caraxo, Carvalhos .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Cascaes .....	2.4.8.	3.5.7.
Casimheira, Castello Branco .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Castro Daire .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Castromarim .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Cêa, Cend .....	4.7.	2.4.
Cezimbra .....	3.8.	3.8.
Chamusca .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Chaves .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Ciêra (*) .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Coimbra, Condeixa, Constança .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.
Covilhã .....	4.7.	2. 8.
Crato .....	4.7.	4.8.
Cuba .....	2.4.7.	2.4.8.

<sup>18</sup> Doc. 63/68 5th volume of 1835.

the Royal Treasury, but from Porto, transportation was paid for by the City Councils or by the postmasters. We can also see that the mailbags left Porto for Vila Real and then went via Vila Pouca to Chaves. From there, they continued to Vinhais and Bragança.

Some changes were made over the years to respond better to the public's demands, as we can see from the document at the Communications Foundation entitled: "Processo sobre as reformas a implementar na distribuição do correio na província de Trás os Montes" (Process on the reforms to be implemented in the distribution of post in the province of Trás-os Montes), dated 1835.<sup>1</sup>

However, until the end of the pre-adhesive period, there was no change in the frequency or speed of the Post to Chaves, as can be seen from the chart below, concerning 1852.



### §3 Correspondence received at the Chaves Post

We have already said that the postmaster of any land in the kingdom was responsible for a certain number of functions concerning the receipt, dispatch and forwarding of mailbags as well as the postal distribution in the region. For this purpose, he had a set income, which corresponded to payment for the number of letters from the Kingdom that he received for distribution (with the exception of the Royal Service letters, which were exempt from payment), as well as 20% of the payment on letters for the overseas colonies. He also received the premium from the insurance of letters, parcels and money, but in terms of this type of correspondence, he had to answer for a pre-determined amount, in case the correspondence went missing. In order to enjoy this position and income, he had to pay the postal workers and contribute or pay from his own pocket the courier that took the letters to their addressee, or who forwarded them to neighbouring lands.

He also had a commitment towards the General Post to pay an annual rent, in quarterly payments, and calculated in terms of his estimated income.

We have no knowledge of the Chaves accounts, so it is difficult to judge this income, but considering the zeal with which candidates applied for this position, it is not difficult to guess that it must have been considered a well-paid job.

In 1799, when the post became part of the civil service, the rent (also known as pension) for the Chaves post was set at 240\$000, changing to 160\$000 réis in 1811 and 200\$000 in 1820.

In the Historical Archive of Mepat, there is a set of books that helps to illustrate the postal movement as well as the income of the Postmasters, namely the:

a) Books of foreign letter accounts with the postmasters<sup>19</sup>

b) Books of the letters from the overseas colonies accounts with the postmasters<sup>20</sup>

All these books have monthly entries of the value of the letters sent to the postmaster, as well as the money for these that was paid into the coffers of the general post.

We can see that for the Chaves post and for the case of foreign letters, the movement was practically non-existent,

<sup>19</sup> Books with the annotation SUB-C3

<sup>20</sup> Books with the annotation SUB-C4

with only two entries a year. In the case of the overseas colonies, there was more postal movement, which gave the postmaster an income of 25\$760 réis in 1826, which was 20% of the payment of the letters received, the other 80% of which was sent to the General Post.

In order to have a clearer idea of this amount, the table below shows the amounts found for the other postmasters in the province of Trás-os Montes.

Year of 1826 Accounts of letters from the overseas colonies sent to the post office of:, Value in Réis	
Villa Real	41.365
Ruivães	27.208
Chaves	25.760
Carrazeda	1.360
Moncorvo	18.080
Villa Pouca	12.360
Mezão	4.856
Mondim	8.560
Mirandella	5.758
Bragança	5.018
Miranda	3.612
Peso da Régoa	2.880
Vinhais	896

It is easy to say that the greatest source of income from overseas colonies was the letters from Brazil, which had a lot of emigration from the northern provinces and in 1826 was still considered part of the Portuguese colonies in postal terms!

The best proof of this can be obtained by comparing the data concerning 1826 with the income of the two economic years of 1843/4 and 1851/2, where the most important amount is now from foreign letters (Brazil moved to this category in 1829), with the respective values of 41\$220 and 218\$795, compared to 129\$500 in 1826. Nevertheless, this led to a loss of income for the postmaster since he still earned nothing from the postage of foreign letters.

*Chaves, João Antonio Cabral*  
1826

Month	Description	Receitas	Despesas	Saldo
Jan 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jan 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jan 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Feb 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Feb 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Feb 28	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Mar 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Mar 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Mar 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Apr 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Apr 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Apr 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
May 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
May 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
May 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jun 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jun 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jun 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jul 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jul 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jul 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Aug 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Aug 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Aug 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Sep 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Sep 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Sep 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Oct 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Oct 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Oct 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Nov 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Nov 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Nov 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Dec 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Dec 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Dec 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Total		25,760	25,760	0

*Chaves, João Antonio Cabral*  
1844

Month	Description	Receitas	Despesas	Saldo
Jan 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jan 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jan 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Feb 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Feb 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Feb 28	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Mar 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Mar 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Mar 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Apr 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Apr 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Apr 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
May 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
May 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
May 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jun 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jun 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jun 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jul 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jul 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Jul 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Aug 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Aug 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Aug 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Sep 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Sep 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Sep 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Oct 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Oct 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Oct 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Nov 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Nov 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Nov 30	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Dec 1	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Dec 15	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Dec 31	10 cartas para Portugal	1000	1000	0
Total		41,220	41,220	0

*Alvará de José Antonio Lobos Navarro*  
*1820*

Item	Descrição	Valor	Debitos	Saldo
1	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...
11	...	...	...	...
12	...	...	...	...
13	...	...	...	...
14	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...
16	...	...	...	...
17	...	...	...	...
18	...	...	...	...
19	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...
21	...	...	...	...
22	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	...	...
24	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...
26	...	...	...	...
27	...	...	...	...
28	...	...	...	...
29	...	...	...	...
30	...	...	...	...
31	...	...	...	...
32	...	...	...	...
33	...	...	...	...
34	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...
36	...	...	...	...
37	...	...	...	...
38	...	...	...	...
39	...	...	...	...
40	...	...	...	...
41	...	...	...	...
42	...	...	...	...
43	...	...	...	...
44	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...
46	...	...	...	...
47	...	...	...	...
48	...	...	...	...
49	...	...	...	...
50	...	...	...	...
51	...	...	...	...
52	...	...	...	...
53	...	...	...	...
54	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...
56	...	...	...	...
57	...	...	...	...
58	...	...	...	...
59	...	...	...	...
60	...	...	...	...
61	...	...	...	...
62	...	...	...	...
63	...	...	...	...
64	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...
66	...	...	...	...
67	...	...	...	...
68	...	...	...	...
69	...	...	...	...
70	...	...	...	...
71	...	...	...	...
72	...	...	...	...
73	...	...	...	...
74	...	...	...	...
75	...	...	...	...
76	...	...	...	...
77	...	...	...	...
78	...	...	...	...
79	...	...	...	...
80	...	...	...	...
81	...	...	...	...
82	...	...	...	...
83	...	...	...	...
84	...	...	...	...
85	...	...	...	...
86	...	...	...	...
87	...	...	...	...
88	...	...	...	...
89	...	...	...	...
90	...	...	...	...
91	...	...	...	...
92	...	...	...	...
93	...	...	...	...
94	...	...	...	...
95	...	...	...	...
96	...	...	...	...
97	...	...	...	...
98	...	...	...	...
99	...	...	...	...
100	...	...	...	...

We have already said that the income for the Chaves post is unknown, in particular the most significant amount, which was undoubtedly from the letters of the realm. Although this income was enough to pay the expenses of the postmaster and his employees, he was sometimes late paying the pension to the General Post. As a result of this, after a series of warnings, the payment of a deposit upon appointment was introduced, which is what happened to the Chaves postmaster in 1820.

*Alvará de José Antonio Lobos Navarro*  
*1820*

Item	Descrição	Valor	Debitos	Saldo
1	...	...	...	...
2	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...
4	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...
6	...	...	...	...
7	...	...	...	...
8	...	...	...	...
9	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...
11	...	...	...	...
12	...	...	...	...
13	...	...	...	...
14	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	...
16	...	...	...	...
17	...	...	...	...
18	...	...	...	...
19	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...
21	...	...	...	...
22	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	...	...
24	...	...	...	...
25	...	...	...	...
26	...	...	...	...
27	...	...	...	...
28	...	...	...	...
29	...	...	...	...
30	...	...	...	...
31	...	...	...	...
32	...	...	...	...
33	...	...	...	...
34	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	...
36	...	...	...	...
37	...	...	...	...
38	...	...	...	...
39	...	...	...	...
40	...	...	...	...
41	...	...	...	...
42	...	...	...	...
43	...	...	...	...
44	...	...	...	...
45	...	...	...	...
46	...	...	...	...
47	...	...	...	...
48	...	...	...	...
49	...	...	...	...
50	...	...	...	...
51	...	...	...	...
52	...	...	...	...
53	...	...	...	...
54	...	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...
56	...	...	...	...
57	...	...	...	...
58	...	...	...	...
59	...	...	...	...
60	...	...	...	...
61	...	...	...	...
62	...	...	...	...
63	...	...	...	...
64	...	...	...	...
65	...	...	...	...
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73	...	...	...	...
74	...	...	...	...
75	...	...	...	...
76	...	...	...	...
77	...	...	...	...
78	...	...	...	...
79	...	...	...	...
80	...	...	...	...
81	...	...	...	...
82	...	...	...	...
83	...	...	...	...
84	...	...	...	...
85	...	...	...	...
86	...	...	...	...
87	...	...	...	...
88	...	...	...	...
89	...	...	...	...
90	...	...	...	...
91	...	...	...	...
92	...	...	...	...
93	...	...	...	...
94	...	...	...	...
95	...	...	...	...
96	...	...	...	...
97	...	...	...	...
98	...	...	...	...
99	...	...	...	...
100	...	...	...	...



## §4 – Mirandella, a branch of the Chaves post office?

One of the most interesting points, and one which has yet to be clarified, is the relationship between the Chaves post and that of Mirandella from 1807 to 1820. Prior to 1807, the Mirandella Post was received via Moncorvo and from 1820, it had its own postmaster. However, in the period from 1807 to 1820, “*it used the Chaves post*” to receive and send correspondence. In order to understand this situation, let us hear what the postmaster of Chaves said in 1820, when he was consulted by the General Post as to his opinion on the creation of a position of postmaster in Mirandella.

Finally the postmaster of Chaves, José Joaquim Abreu Ferreira, also gives the following assessment in March 1820:

“It seems that the position of Mirandella, almost in the centre of this Province, is the reason for justifying a new Post Office. If this circumstance were worthy of attention, other Towns would also be considered, such as D. Chama, Cortiços, Frechas, Lamas de Orelhão, which are equally central but do not have, nor could sustain a Post Office. In fact, this central quality makes the intended establishment entirely unnecessary in Mirandella, which is bordered on the east by the city of Bragança and on the south by Villa Flor and Alfandiga da Fé: the correspondence from these Towns is dealt with by the Moncorvo Post Couriers and the correspondence from that City by its own Post Office, which is connected to this one and the rest in the Realm. In this way, there is nowhere for the correspondence to go beyond the boundary of Mirandella, which has such little correspondence, as can be deduced from the fact that there are no more than 200 inhabitants in the Town, most of whom are Bakers and Farmers, and from the size of the Municipality, which is three leagues long and 2 leagues wide, sparsely populated by poor inhabitants.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why the Town Council has not requested such an establishment. Moreover, it made great efforts in 1807 to move its correspondence from the Moncorvo Post Office to this one. It is highly likely that the Council itself believes the intended Post Office to be not only undesirable but even unsustainable since in July 1815 it responded negatively to a similar request from the applicant, as you must be aware. Even if there were good reason for the creation of such an Office, the applicant is not even qualified to fill the post since he has been Friar at the Congregation of S. Elloy and is still considered a secular Presbyterian, which inhibits him from working for the Justice and the Royal Treasury, at least until he has been released from duty by the Sovereign.

This situation is at the source of a series of letters dated and dispatched from Mirandella with a handwritten “Mirandella” written by the postal worker that handled the letters either upon their receipt in Mirandella or in Chaves. (fig.19)

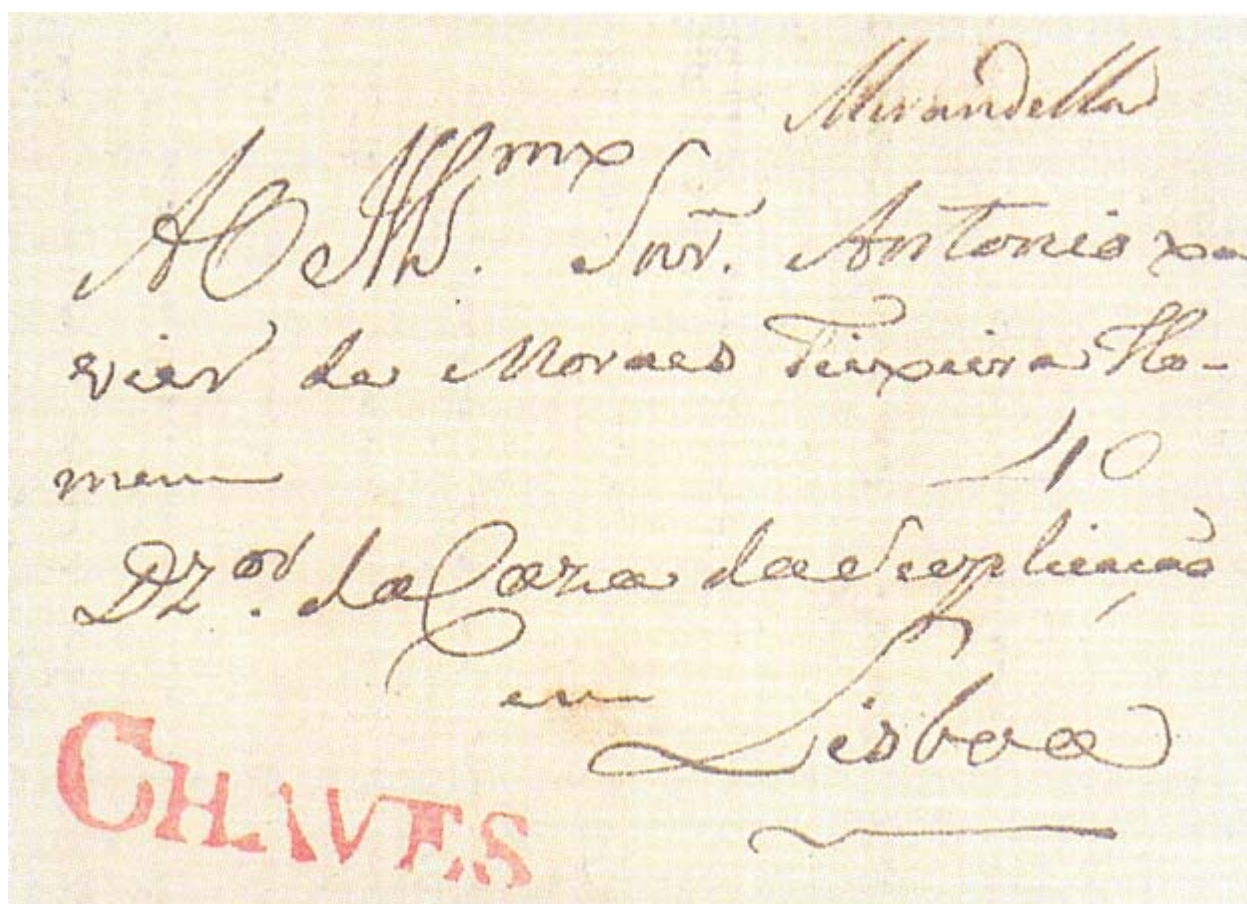
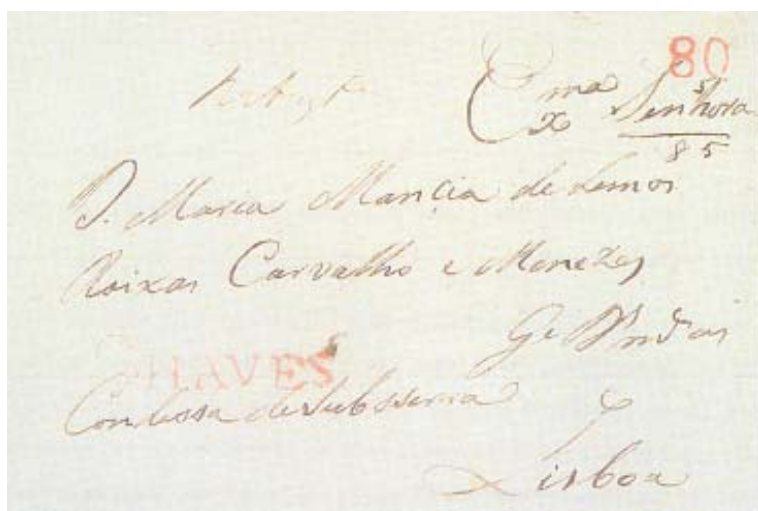
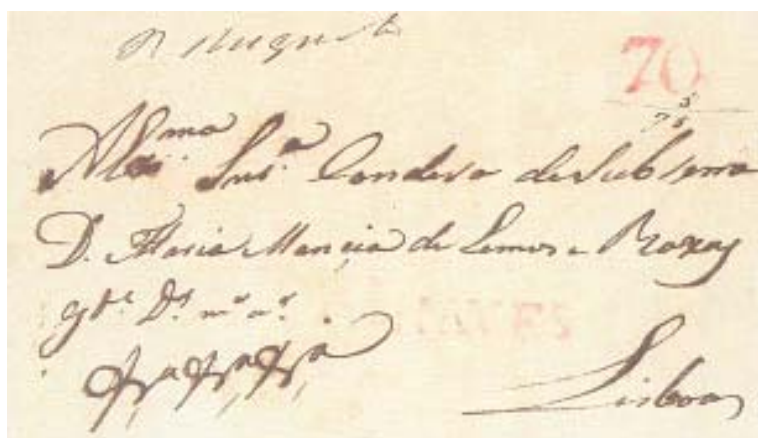


Figure 19

## §5- Three letters from Chaves to Lisbon

The episode from postal history we are about to describe is illustrated by three letters, all from Chaves and addressed to the Countess of Suberra in Lisbon. They were written in 1830/31 by António Laiz Pereira, who was responsible for managing the Countess's business affairs. The first of the letters, shown in figure 20, is dated December 21 1830 from Adães and was charged postage of 70 réis, corresponding to a letter weighing between 4 and 6 eighths of an ounce and for the 5<sup>th</sup> distance (over 40 leagues). What makes this letter special is the fact that, in Lisbon, it was charged another 5 réis, which covered delivery to the house, in this case in the Rua Augusta. This house delivery of correspondence,



Figures 20 e 21

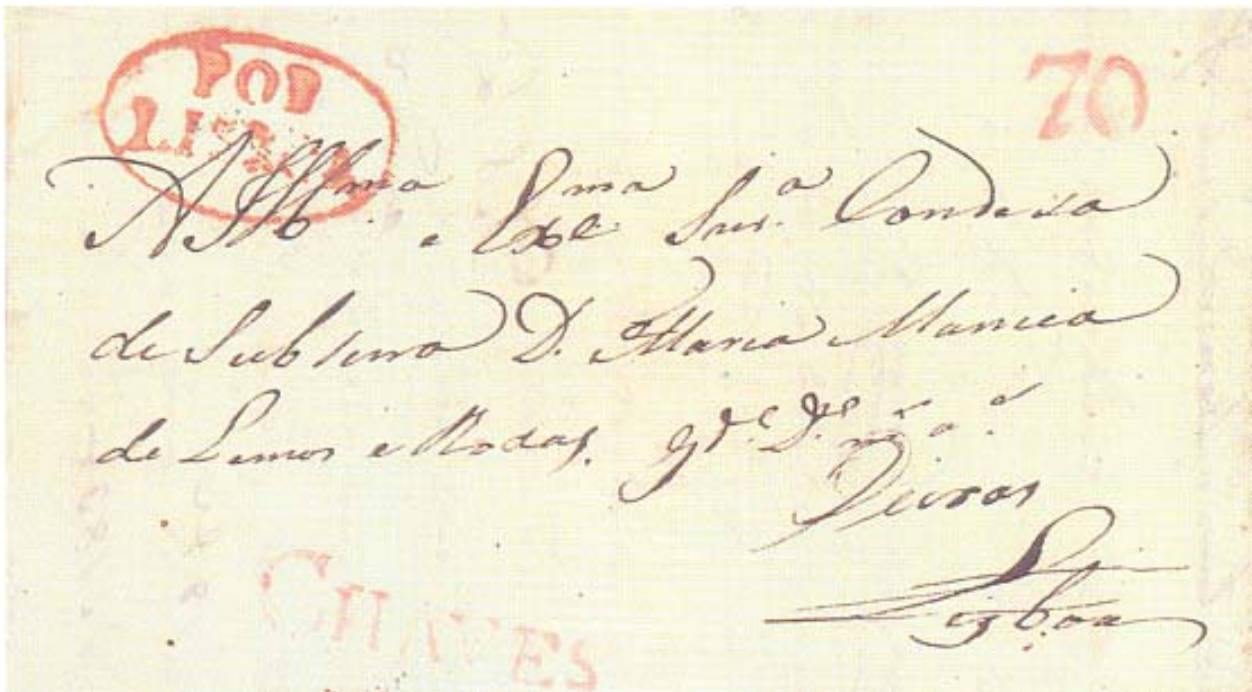


Figure 22

recorded in the regulations of the daily post of Lisbon 1821, was not very popular, as we can see from the few examples that exist of its use. Instead, the public preferred the system of collecting letters from the lists of the General Post Office, or the system of post-office boxes, since no extra charge was made.

The third letter, dated July 18 1831, is addressed to the Countess of Suberra's summer residence in Oeiras, and the Lisbon post applied the mark "POR LISBOA" (via Lisbon). The application of this mark used to justify compound postage was extremely rare and known only on letters that passed through Lisbon and onto other final destinations. In fact, it was so unexpected that, in this case, no compound postage was applied.

## §6 - Various

We will end these notes on the Chaves post with a comment on two letters, and two insurance releases.



Figure 23

**a) A dated precursor** Letter sent from Brazil, Cachoeira on April 1 1849, with transit via Bahia on April 17, arrival in Lisbon on June 24, from where it was forwarded to Chaves. In Lisbon, postage of 160 réis was applied, corresponding to a Foreign Letter by Boat. It therefore bore the respective mark as well as a postage fee of 40 réis to cover the journey from Lisbon to Chaves. Once in Chaves, the Chaves postmark was applied, *“upon which was written the date of arrival, 30 of the 6th”*. The need to put a dated postmark on the letter, thereby avoiding any criticism concerning the delay of correspondence, was felt from the early days of the postal organisation and was implemented in Lisbon in 1821. This Chaves postmark may have arisen

from the same need.

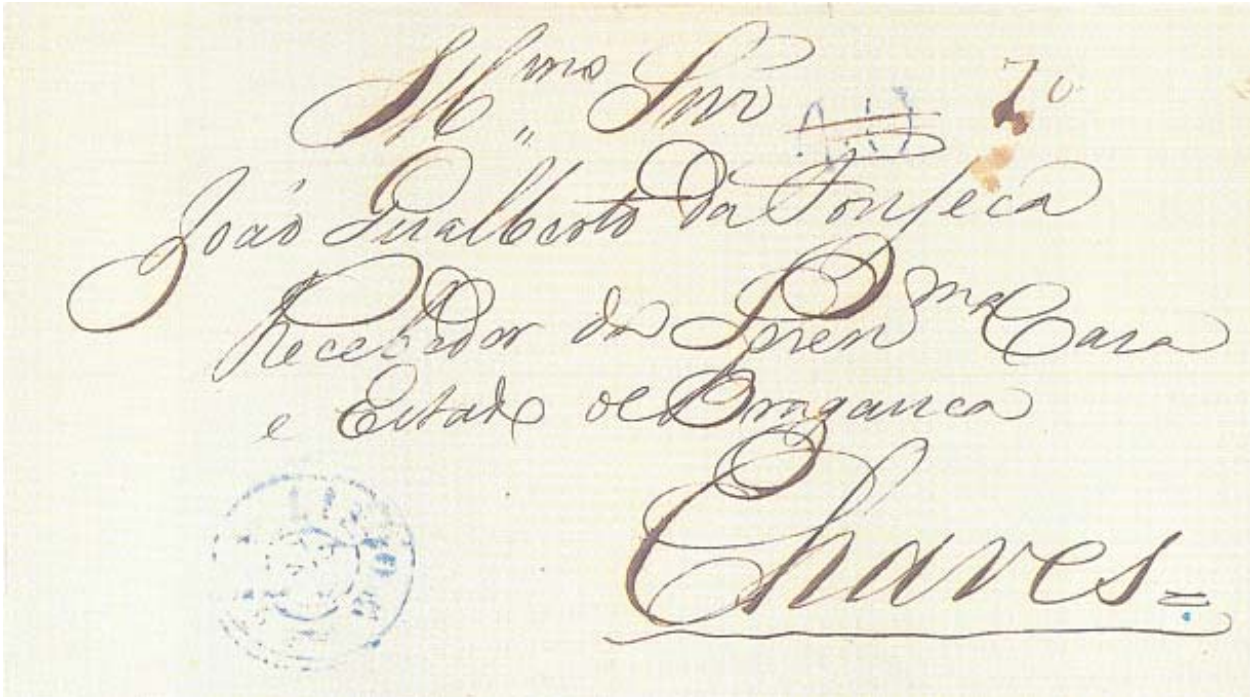


Figure 24

b) **An amendment to the postage** Let us consider the letter in the figure below. It was sent from Lisbon, where it was postmarked and charged 40 réis. On its arrival in Chaves, the postage was amended to 70 réis, showing that the postmaster was attentive in weighing the letter and correcting its weight..

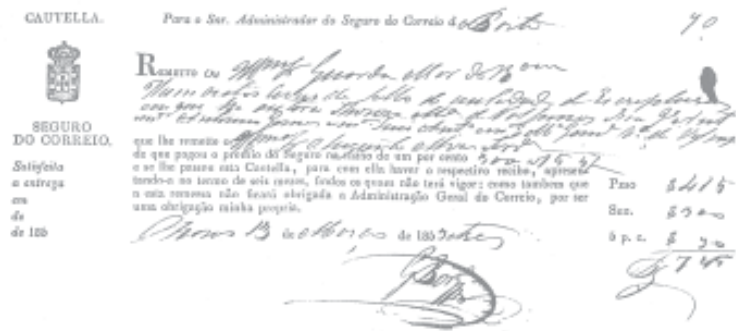


Figura 25

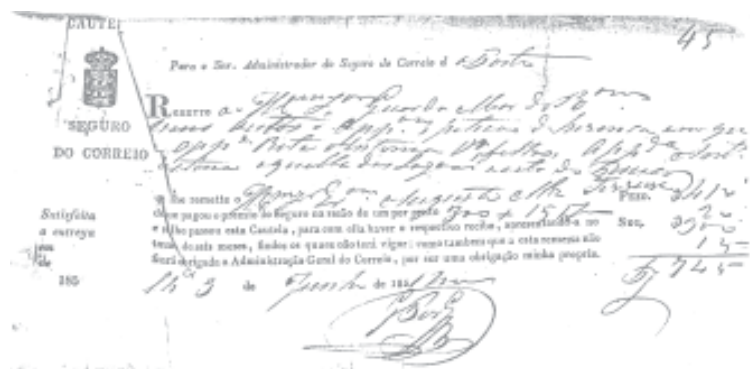


Figure 26

**c) 5% tax in application of the law of April 20 1850**

We can see on the two insurance releases shown below that the above law was applied: This obliged correspondence of over 100 réis to be charged 5% in order to amortise the notes of the Bank of Portugal. Though this was not a postal tax, it was charged by the post office as the examples in figures 25 and 26 show.

### §7 Epilogue

In 1853, as a result of a great postal reform, postage stamps were introduced, of the D. Maria II issue. It is from this period that we show a famous letter fragment, on which the postage of 25 réis was obtained by applying 5 stamps of 5 réis, all cancelled by the Chaves rubber stamp from the previous postal era. This was certainly resorted to in the absence of a rubber stamp with the number 180, which was attributed to Chaves. It is a rare document and thus a perfect way in which to end these short notes on the Chaves post.

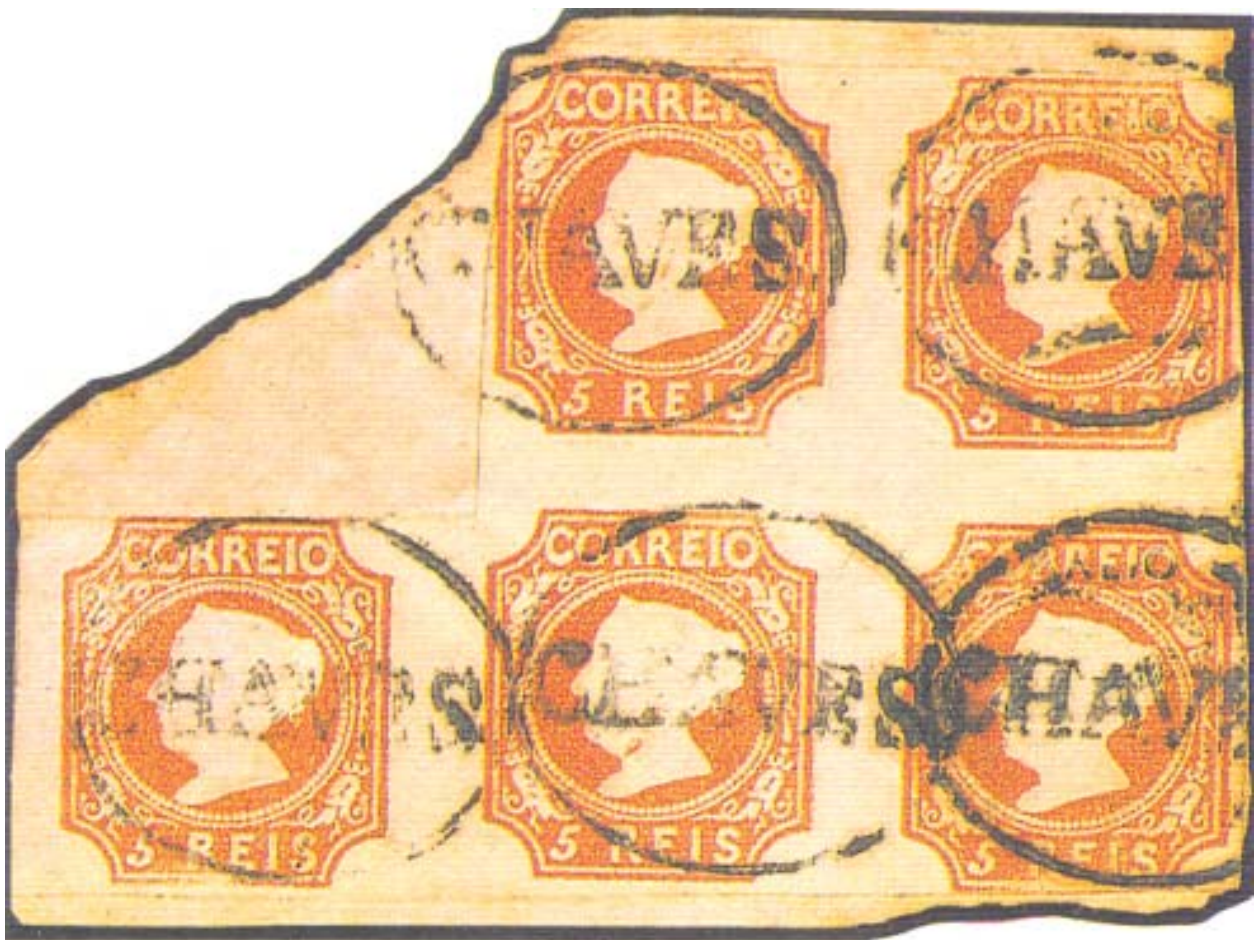


Figure 27



