

CUBA

1876 KING ALFONSO XII ISSUE



The first stamps of Cuba bearing the profile of King Alfonso XII of Spain were issued in 1876. Although they are labelled ULTRAMAR (overseas) at the top, they were used exclusively in Cuba. A year later in the 1877 issue, the word ULTRAMAR was replaced with CUBA to make their dedicated use for Cuba obvious. The quality of this first printing of Alfonso XII stamps was poor and great variety in shades of color and clarity of impressions exist. The issue consisted of four values: 12 1/2, 25, and 50 céntimos de peseta (hundredths of a peseta) and 1 peseta. These were used to pay the following single weight postage rates:

Intra-city or short distance domestic rates

Letters	12 1/2 c. de pta.
Printed matter (circulars)	6 c. de pta.

Inter-city domestic rates

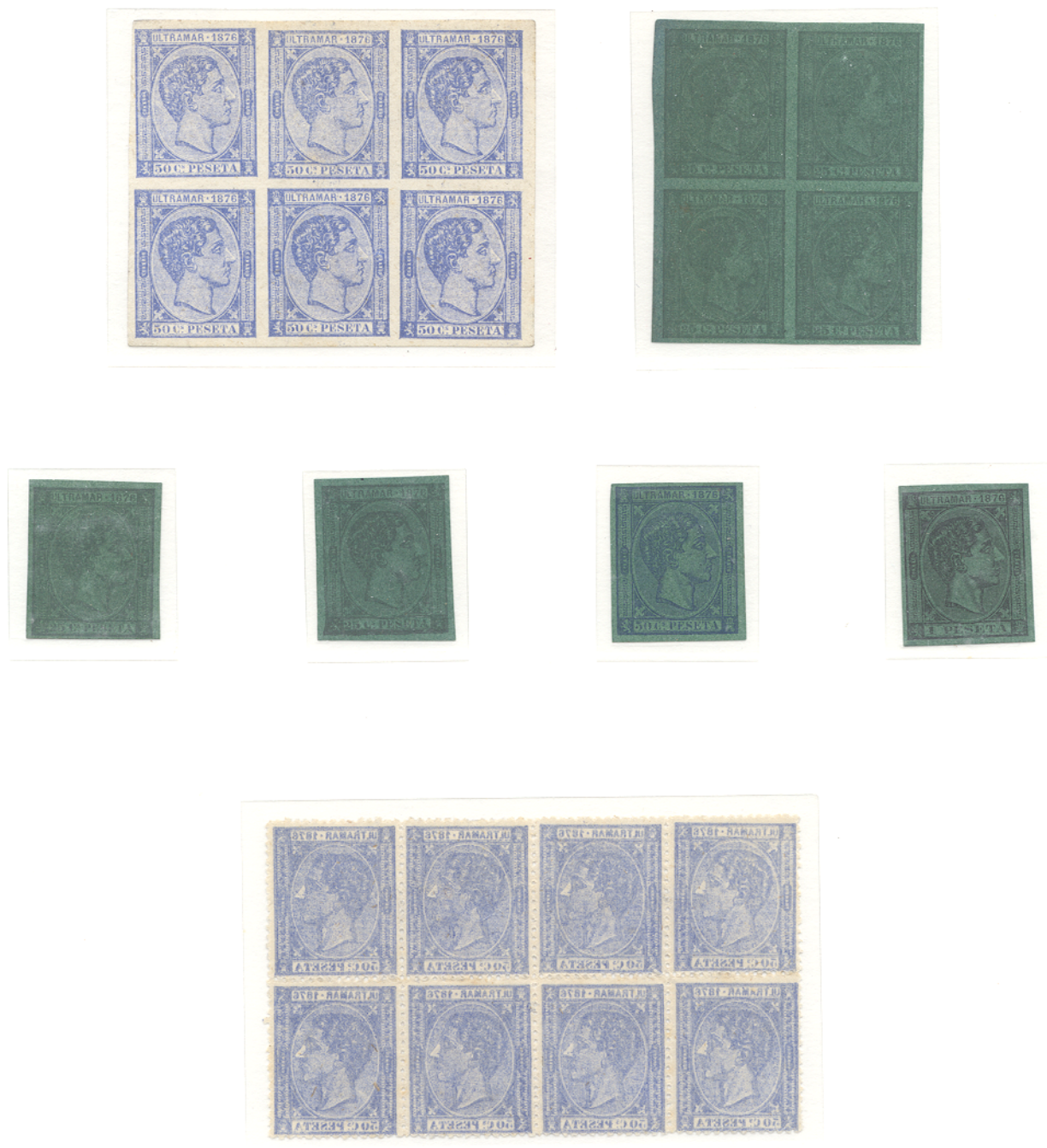
Letters	25 c. de pta.
Printed matter (circulars)	12 1/2 c. de pta.

Foreign rates

Letters to Spain & possessions	50 c. de pta.
Letters to U.S. & Canada	50 c. de pta.
Letters to Europe	50 c. de pta.

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Plate proofs and printing offset



Shown are a plate proof block of 6 of the 50 c. de peseta ultramarine stamp, trial color plate proofs on green wove paper of the 25 and 50 c. de peseta and 1 peseta values, and a printing offset (reverse impression) on the back of a block of 8 of the 50 c. de peseta ultramarine stamp.

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Various Cancellations

