

CUBA

1880 KING ALFONSO XII ISSUE

50 c. brown bisect



Folded letter dated 21 October 1880 at Cienfuegos in Matanzas province and addressed New York City. The letter was franked with the diagonal half of a 50 c. brown stamp used as 25 c. Postage to New York was 50 c., so the letter was handstamped with a purple T inside a circle at Cienfuegos to indicate insufficient postage had been paid. Upon arrival in New York, a black duplex DUE 10 CENTS was applied to indicate the amount of postage due and a 10 cents U.S. postage due stamp was then affixed upon payment of the amount due.

1880 KING ALFONSO XII ISSUE

POR VAPOR AMERICANO



POR VAPOR AMERICANO -- BY AMERICAN STEAMSHIP -- is actually not an official postal mark, but rather a routing mark applied by the sender to indicate that conveyance by American (U.S.) steamship was desired for these letters to New York. The specific name of the steamships was also indicated in manuscript on both letters in the top right corner: Saratoga (top) and City of Alexandria (bottom).