

CUBA

1883 KING ALFONSO XII ISSUE



Surcharge Type a



Surcharge Type b

Surcharge Type c



Surcharge Type d

Overprint Type e

During the night of April 9-10, 1883, a postal administration building in the city of Habana was set on fire to cover up a large theft of 5, 10, and 20 c. de peso 1882 stamps which were still being used to pay postage since no new stamp issue had been planned for 1883. Upon discovery of the theft and cover up scheme, the government decreed the 5, 10, and 20 c. 1882 stamps invalid for the payment of postage and ordered all the remaining stock of those stamps in the hands of the postal authorities in the island to be sent to Habana to be surcharged for postal use until new stamps could be ordered and received from Spain. Citizens were given until July 10 to exchange their regular 1882 stamps for surcharged ones provided they were small quantities or could justify the exchange of large quantities. It is not known exactly when and where the surcharged stamps were first made available to the public for use, but they probably were first used in Habana a few days or maybe weeks after the fire. The 5 c. stamps were valid for postage until September 15, 1883 when they were replaced with some retouched 5 c. stamps (Scott No. 125) received from Spain. The 10 and 20 c. stamps were used until the end of 1883.