1896 KING ALFONSO XIII ISSUE

Registered cover from Matanzas to Italy
Via La Habana and France



Registered cover from the city of Matanzas, Matanzas province, to Milano, Italy, bearing five 1c de peso dark violet stamps, two 2½c rose stamps, and three 5c slate blue stamps for a total of 25c paying the 20c double weight letter rate to Italy plus the 5c registry fee. The stamps are tied by black "Matanzas" 19 Mar 1897 datestamps and a black oval "CERTIFICADO \* MATANZAS \*" registry mark. The cover was routed via La Habana and France as evidenced by transit marks.



Registered cover from La Habana to New York city franked with three 1c., one 5c., and five 10c. stamps of the 1896 issue for total postage of 58c. of which 5c. paid the registry fee and the remaining 53c. paid postage. The single weight letter rate to the U.S. was 5c., so 50c. was ten times the single weight rate and the additional 3c. are unexplained. The letter is postmarked at La Habana on 5 May 1897, the year date being established by an 8 May 1897 receipt backstamp.