

CUBA



POSTAL STATIONERY, 1878 - 1962

by Octavio Cabrera Collection presented at STAMPOREE 89, April 28-30, 1989

An exhibit of the Postal Stationery of Cuba. Starting with the first postal card, issued by Spain in 1878 for use in Cuba, proceeding through the U.S. Administration and the Republic periods, and ending with the U.S. trade embargo of 1962.

(1st. Time
exhibited)

The stationery items have been separated into two groupings, each presented chronologically, as follows:

Awarded
a silver
medal.

PART I - POSTAL CARDS.

All issues and most major varieties are represented. Also included are some rare or odd usages.

Highlights-

- Multiple impressions on early Spanish cards.
- Printing error of 1882 paid reply cards.
- Ultraamar variety on single and double cards of 1882.
- Wide spacing variety on 1898 issue.
- Private view cards on 1898 and 1899 cards.
- Miscut 1898 and 1905 1c. cards.

Original research-

- Broken type varieties of 1880-2 Alfonso XII cards.
- Varities of 1c. Marti cards.

PART II - ENVELOPES, WRAPPERS & AEROGRAMME.

Highlights-

- Misplaced Miro y Otero c/c on 1899 1c. green on buff.
- Misplaced overprints on 1899 2c. carmine on blue.
- One of only eight known, 1c. green on white, knife 81.
- Ultramar overprinted & Specimen wrappers of 1899.
- Uncatalogued 1c. Columbus on buff.
- Essay & Proofs for 1949 issue.
- Die proof of 10c. aerogramme of 1957.

Original research-

- Miro y Otero Type 3.
- Reversed imprint on 2c. envelopes of 1949.

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STAMPOREE 89 AWARDS

GRAND Presented by John J. Britt Philatelic Foundation

Kaarlo E. Anttila, "Classic Ecuador, First and Second Issues"; also gold; Cuban Philatelic Society award; Florida Stamp Dealers Association award

RESERVE GRAND

Phillip J. Stager, "Canada: Booklets and Booklet Panes, 1900-1930"; also gold

GOLD

Ernesto Cuesta, "Cuba: The Stamps of King Alfonso XII, 1876-1888"; also APS Research medal

Henry M. Gobie, "Bicycle Era Speedies - U.S. Special Delivery Service 1902-1922"; also APS 1900-1940 medal; Bureau Issues Association medal

Ignacio Prats, "Cuba: Habilitados de Puerto Principe"; also APS pre-1900 medal

Harry A. Roark, "A Chronological Presentation of Representative Examples of the 1-2-3 Cent Denominations by Vending Machine Companies."

VERMEIL

Dr. Cesar W. Rivera Carresquillo, "Date Stamps and Cancellation Markings of Puerto Rico as a Spanish Possession"

Adolph Lell, "Estonia: Postal Stationery 1918-1940"

Robert D. Reton, "Bosnia & Herzegovina - The 1906 Issue"; also American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors award

Dr. Gene Scott, "Mariana Islands: Spanish, German & United States Administrations"

S.S. Washburne, "Portugal: King Luis (1862-89)"

SILVER

Anonymous, "Without Expense to the Department - Air Mail Flown Prior to Regular Scheduled Air Mail Service"

Octavio Cabrera, "Cuba: Postal Stationery, 1878-1962"; also AAPE award

Luis Gonzalez, "Puerto Rico: Postmarks, Stamps and Postal Stationery"; also Hollywood Stamp Club Novice award

Alfredo E. Valdes, "Cuba Postal Stationery 1878-1959"; also South Miami Stamp Club award

SILVER-BRONZE

Arthur Abrams, "U.S. Stamps, Coils, Reconstructed Coils, Booklet Panes, All with Plate Numbers"

Alberta D. Curtis, "Joseph Stalin: From Peasant Beginnings to World Leader"

Harrie E. Hill, "National Air Mail Week Flown Covers, May 15-21, 1938 from Massachusetts"

Harry R. Johnson Sr., "Cancels on U.S. Revenues Used by Railroad, Steamship, and Express Companies"

Aldo Marti, "Cuba: Postal Markings on First Day Covers"

Robert N. D. McDaniel, "Come to the Pan-American Exposition"

Henry P. McGhee, "Costa Rica: The Series of 1900"

Leo Meyenberg, "Stamp Centenaries 1940-1965, Brazil & Germany"

William E. Ogden, "Upper and Eastern Silesia"

Carlos San Martin Jr., "Errors, Freaks & Oddities on U.S. Stamps"

M. Teton, "Beguiling Orbs of Beauty"; also American Topical Association award

BRONZE

John M. Hotchner, "The Little Red - The 1934 U.S. Christmas Seal"

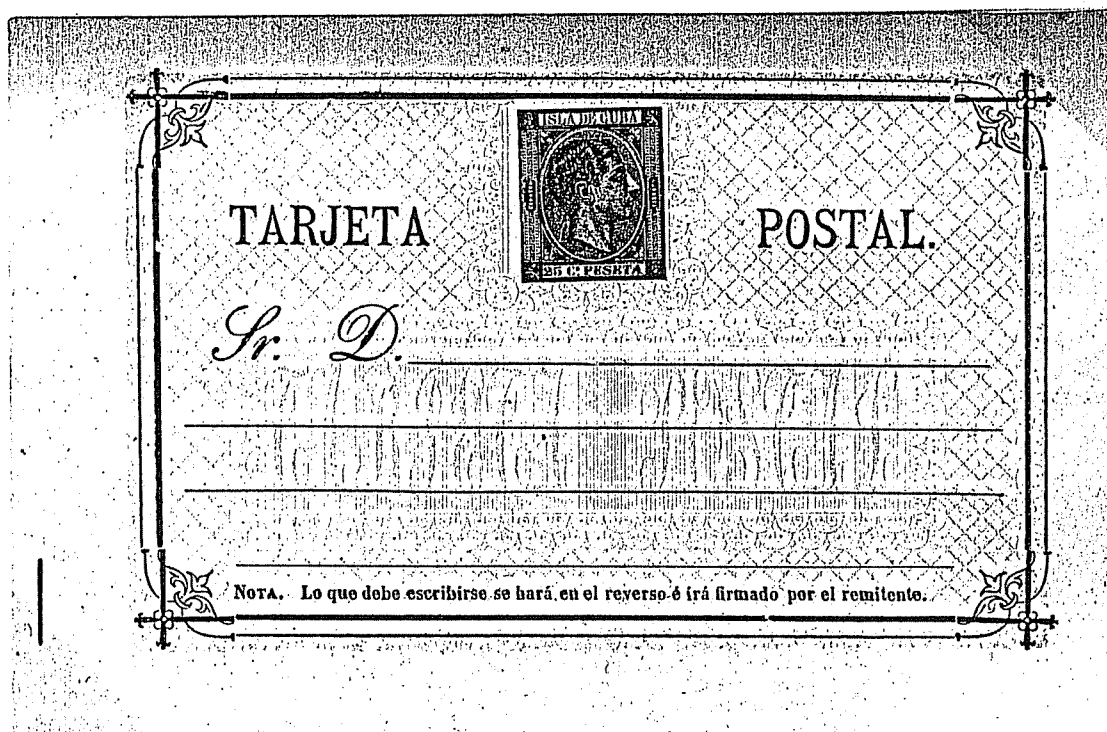
John Nigro, "Spain Republic - 1936 to 1950"

Robert L. Welky, "Russian Zemstvos, Rural Posts 1867-1896"

PART I - POSTAL CARDS

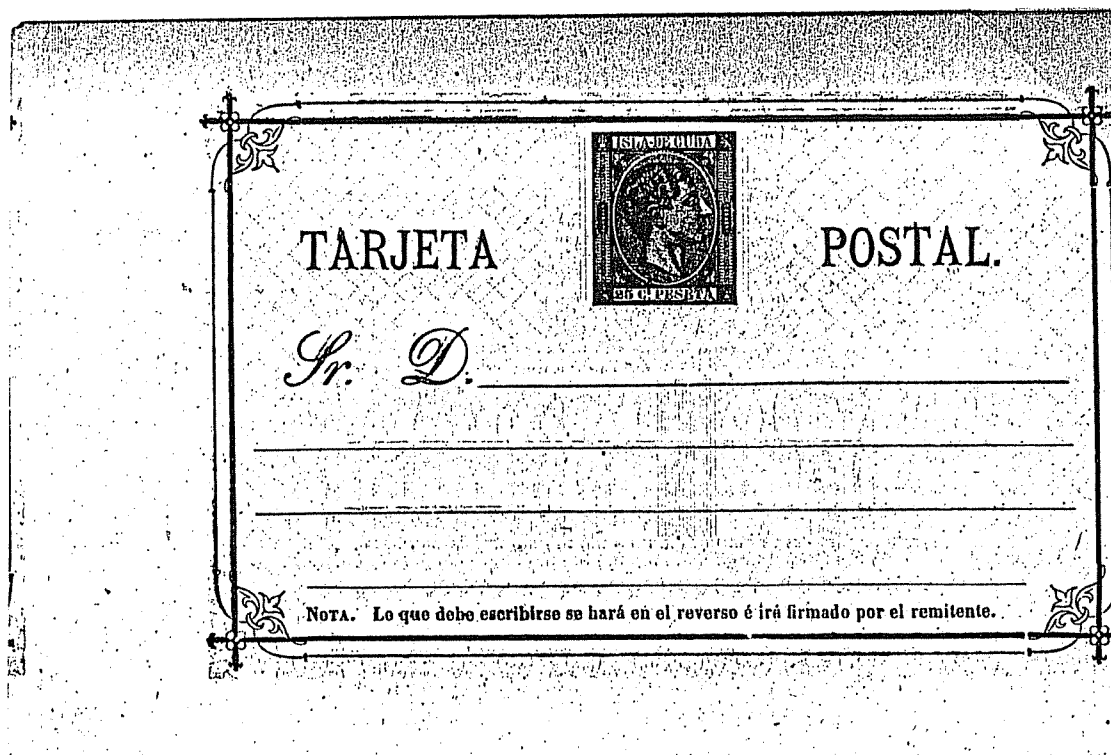
1878

This first issue consisted of one value, 25 centimos, printed in blue over an orange background.



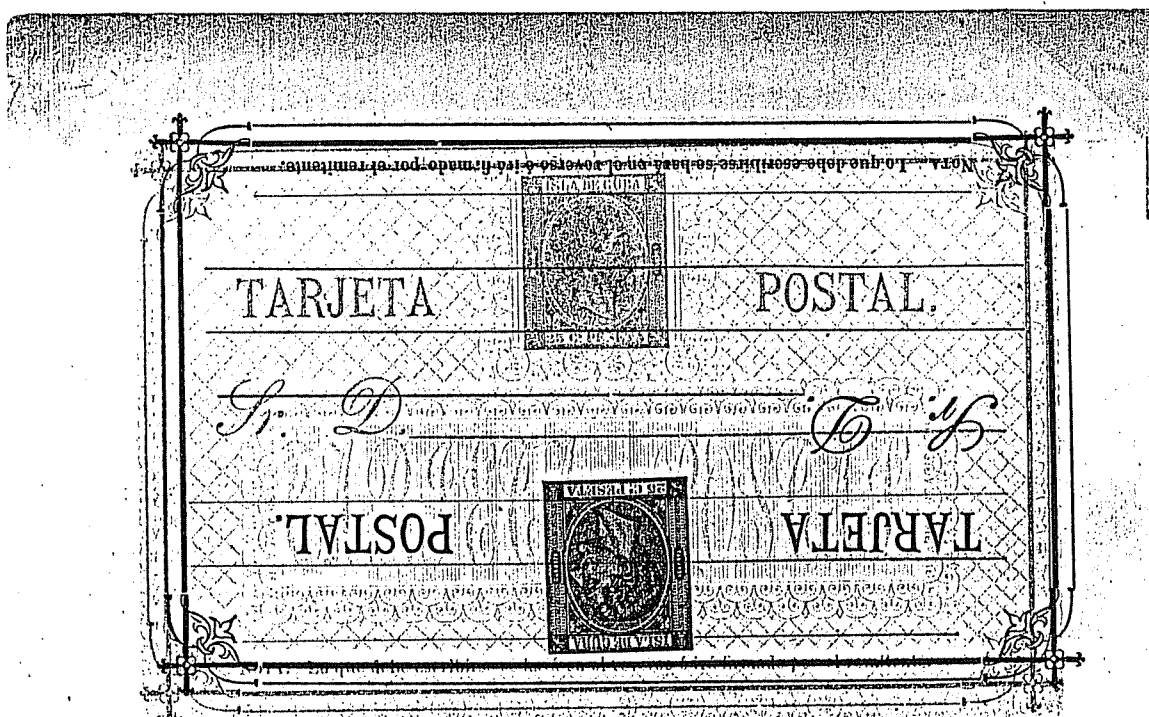
Variety- Miscut card

Note portion of adjoining card's design, at extreme left.



Variety- Double impression, one inverted.

The correct impression, presumably the first, appears faint due to underinking of the plate. This might have prompted the second pass with its obvious result.



Cards of subsequent issues are known with a variety of multiple impressions, inverted impressions, mixed cliches, etc. The more outrageous examples may be clearly labeled "printer's waste". However, given the lack of quality control evident at the Fabrica Nacional de Sellos, it is quite possible that some of those items are bona-fide errors.



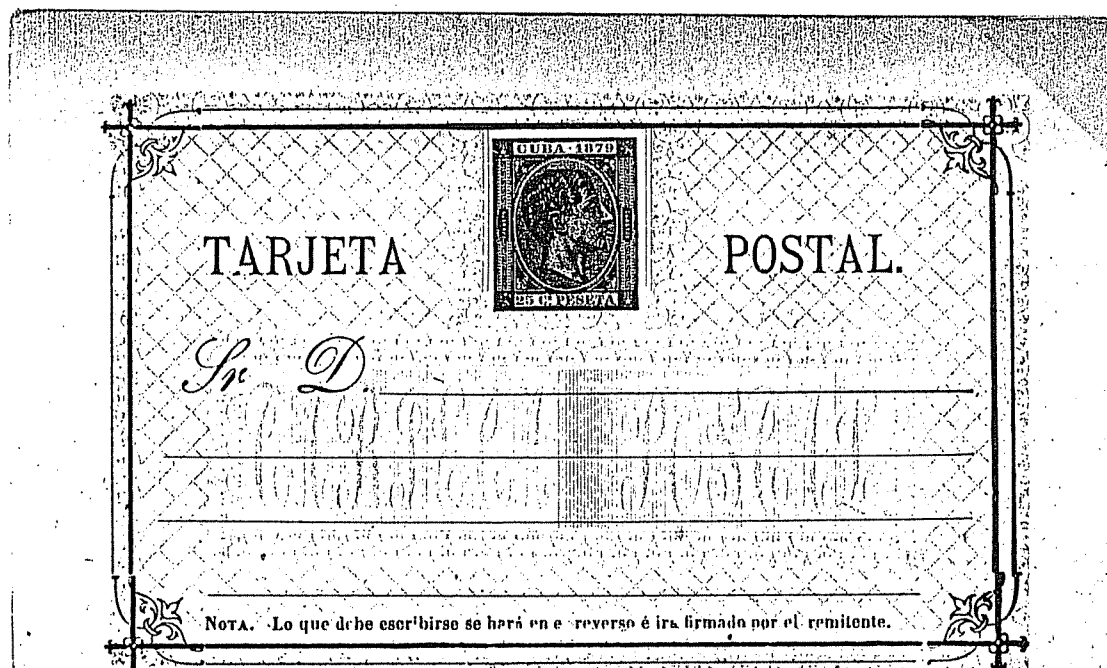
1879

Only the date (1879) and the color (red) were changed for this second issue.

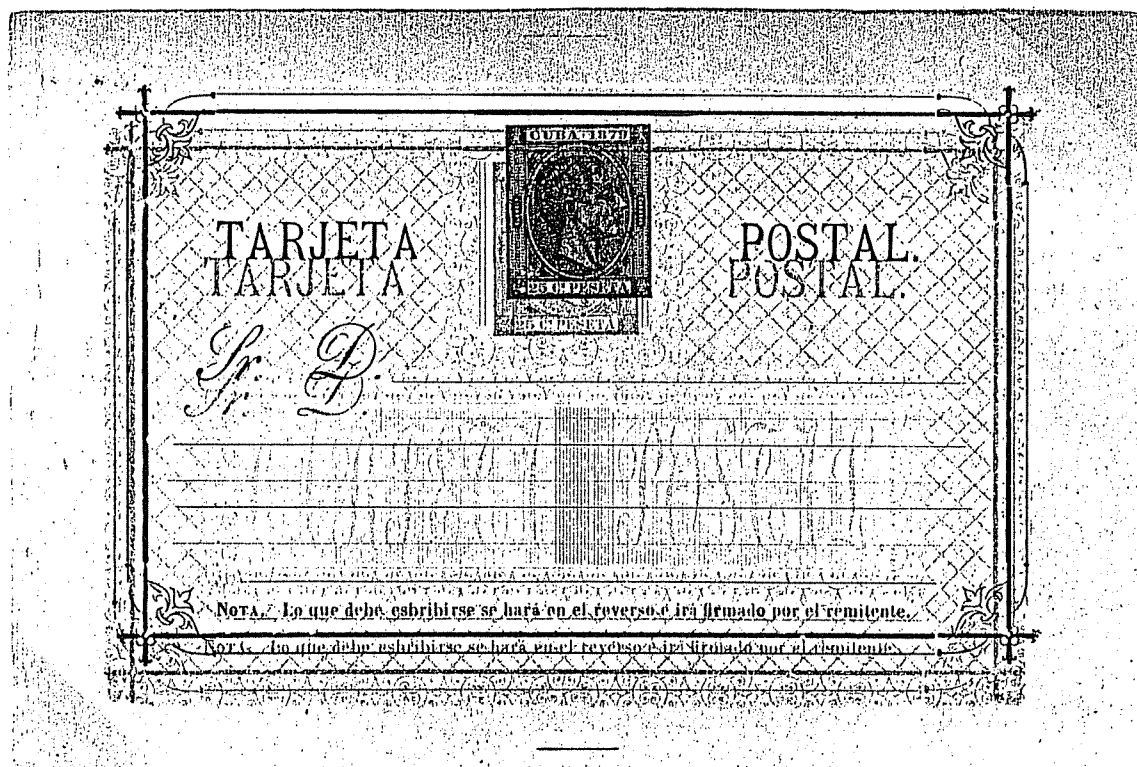


Variety- Type 2 address.

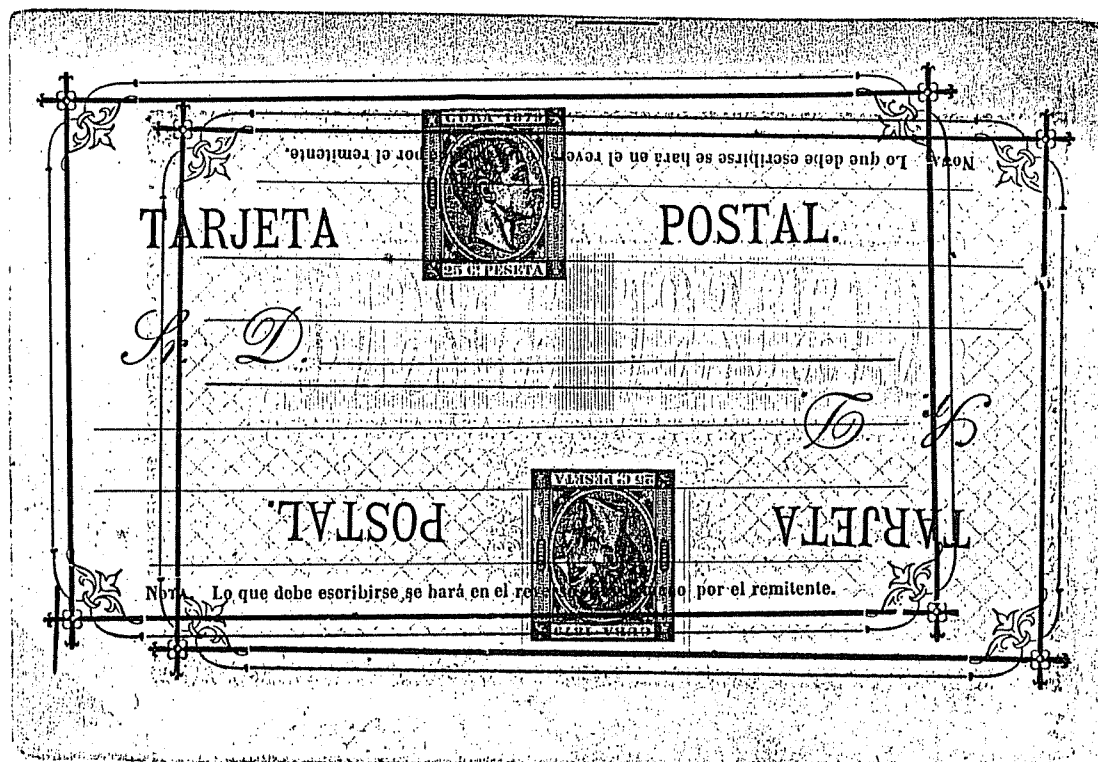
In type 1 (above) the r of Sr. ends in a ball. In type 2 (below) the r ends in a hook.



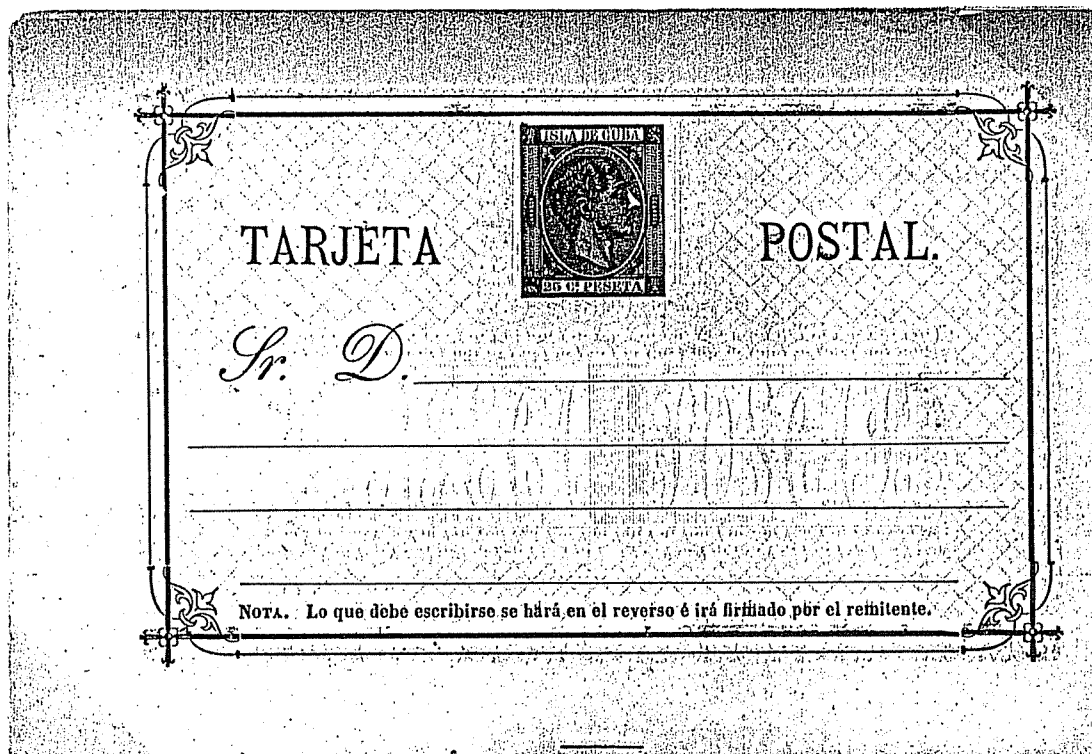
Variety- Double impression.



Variety- Double impression, one inverted.

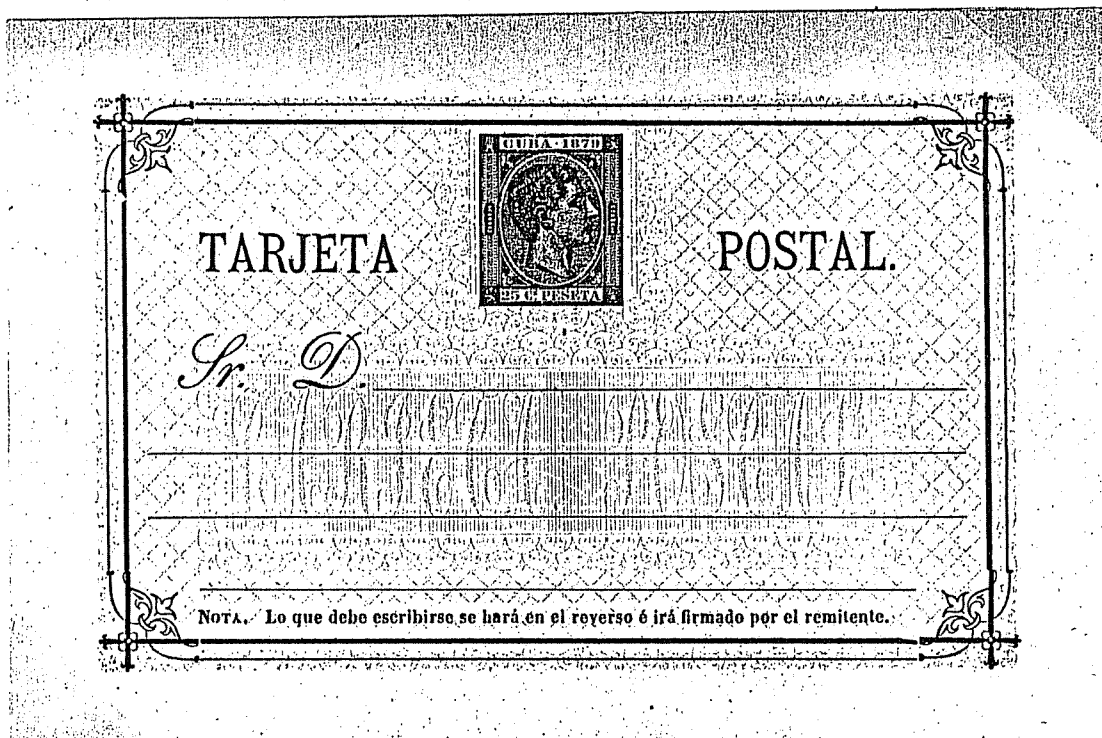


Variety- Dented "E" of TARJETA.
1878 card.



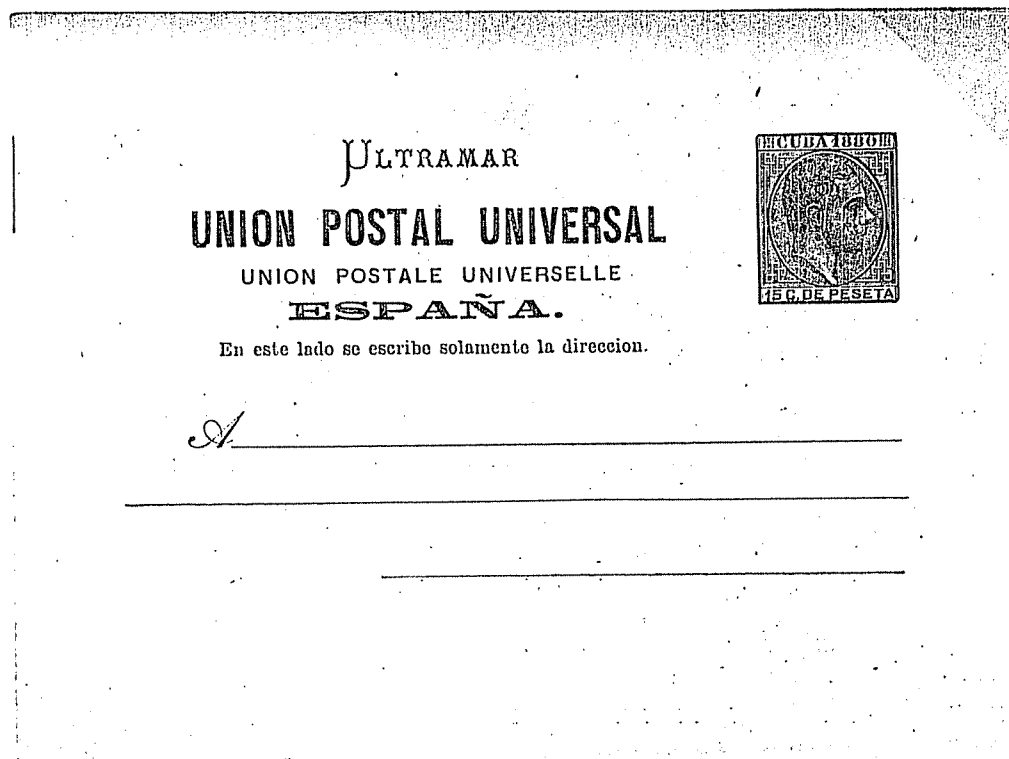
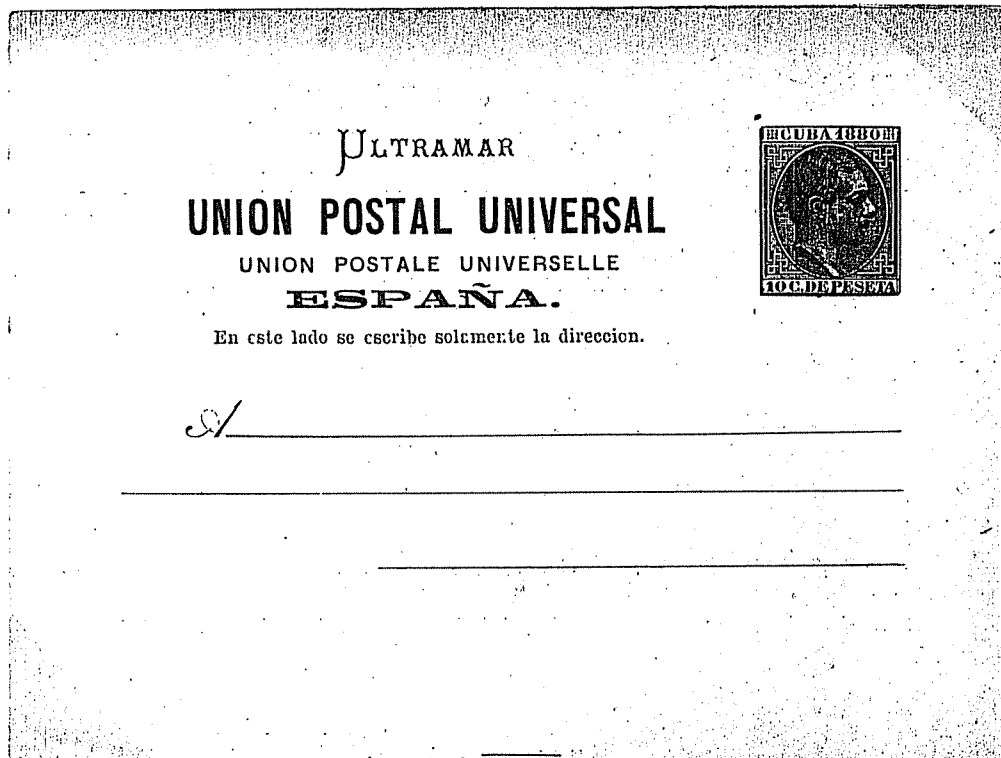
These cards illustrate the fact that damaged or broken type was seldom corrected, even for a subsequent year's printing.

1879 card.



1880

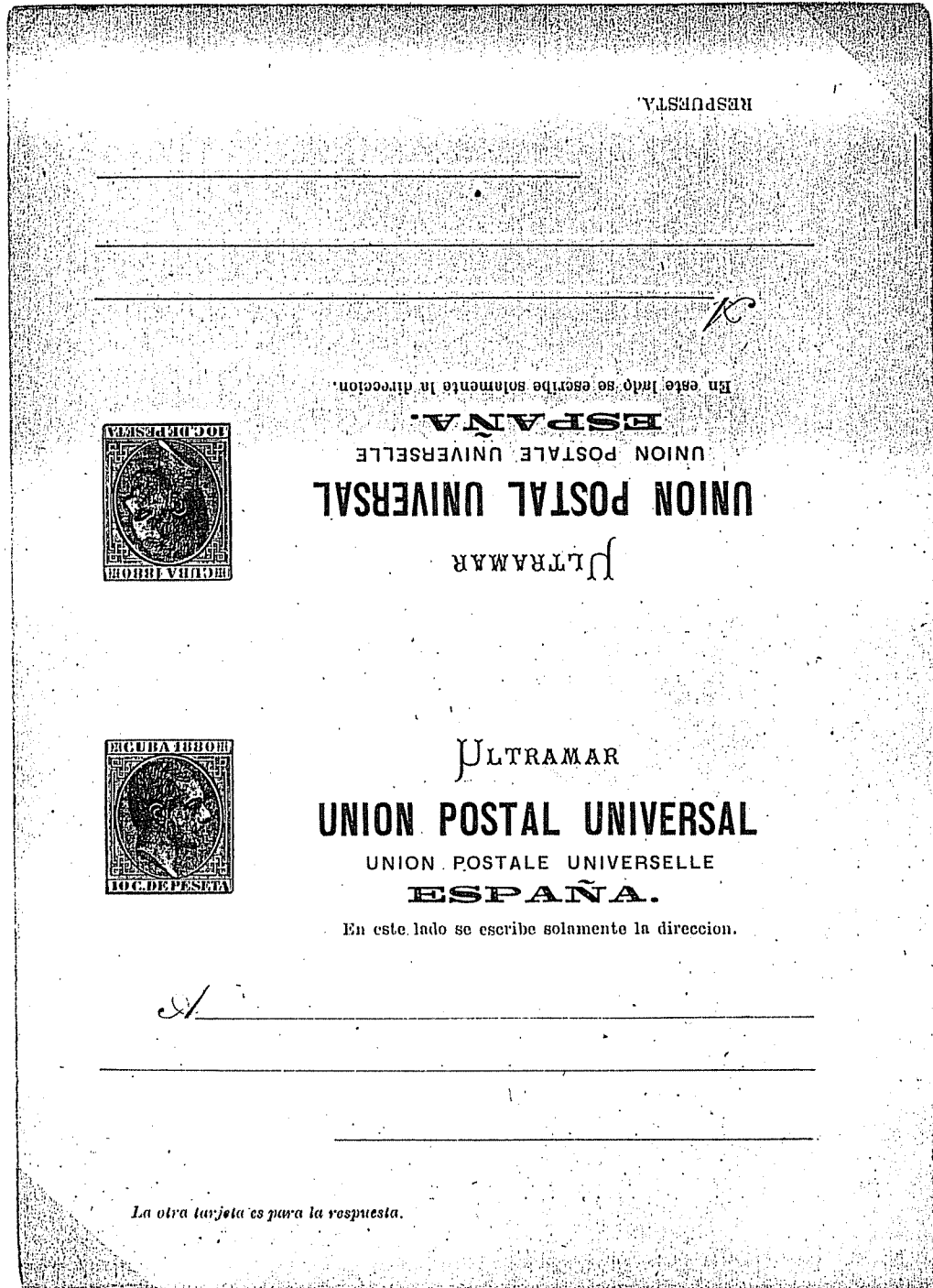
A new design was introduced this year. It consisted of two values, 10 and 15 centimos.



Paid Reply Cards.

1880 also marked the appearance of the first paid reply cards, sometimes referred to as double cards.

10 c. + 10 c.



15 c. + 15 c.

RESPUESTA



En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ULTRAMAR

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

ESPAÑA.



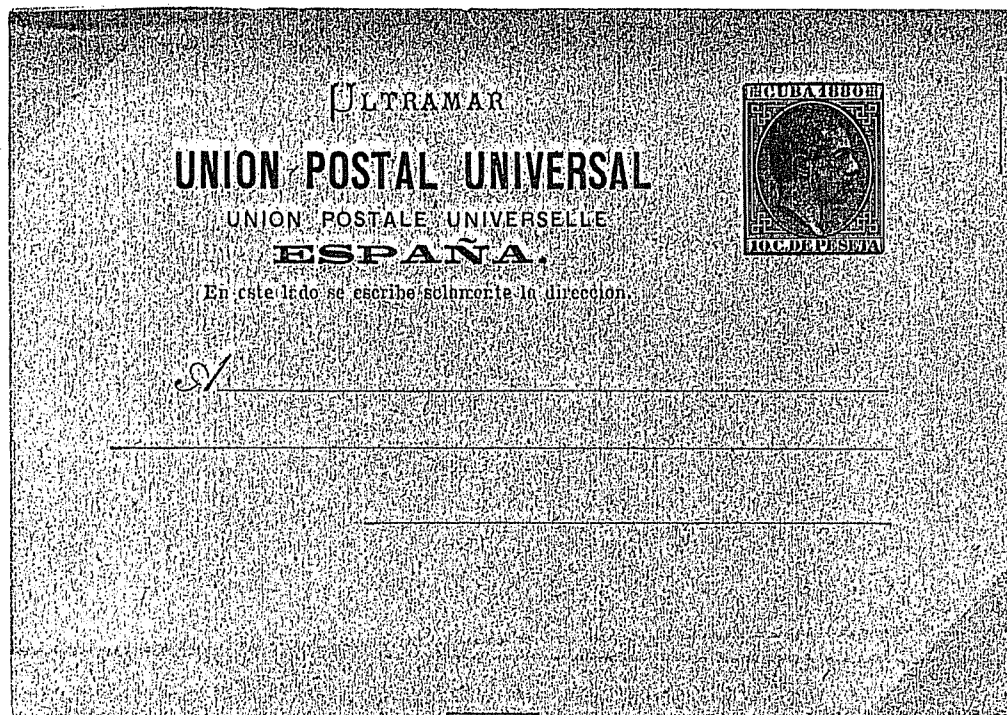
En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

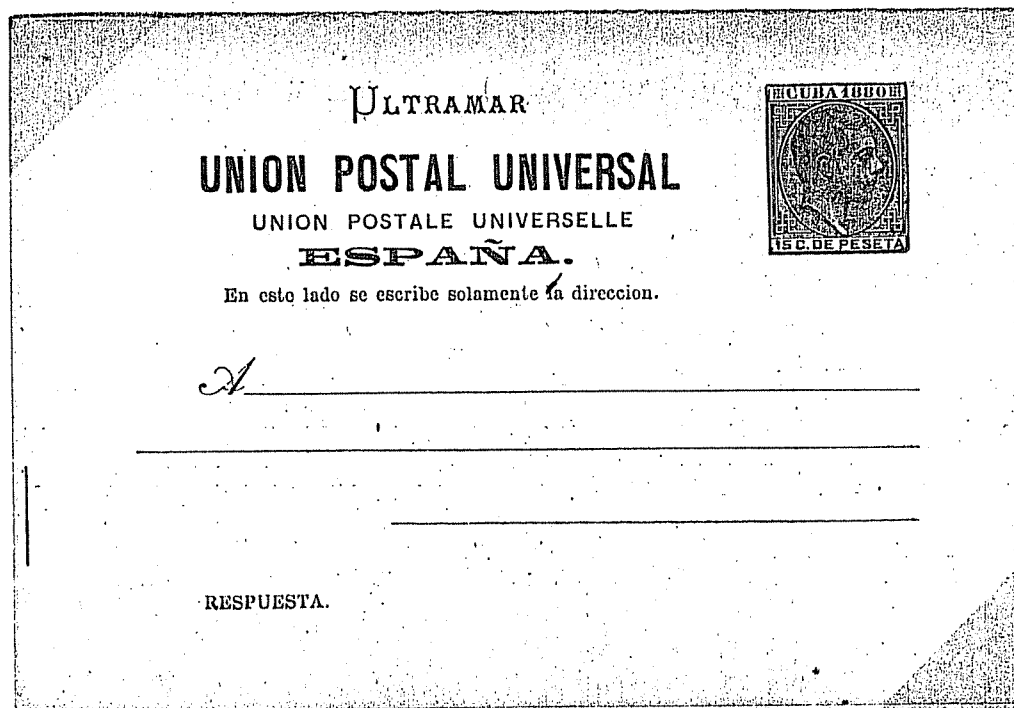
Variety- Broken U of ULTRAMAR.

This is the most common variety, occurring in all values for the issues of 1880-82. There are two types, as follows:

Type 1- Has a missing serif at the left corner.

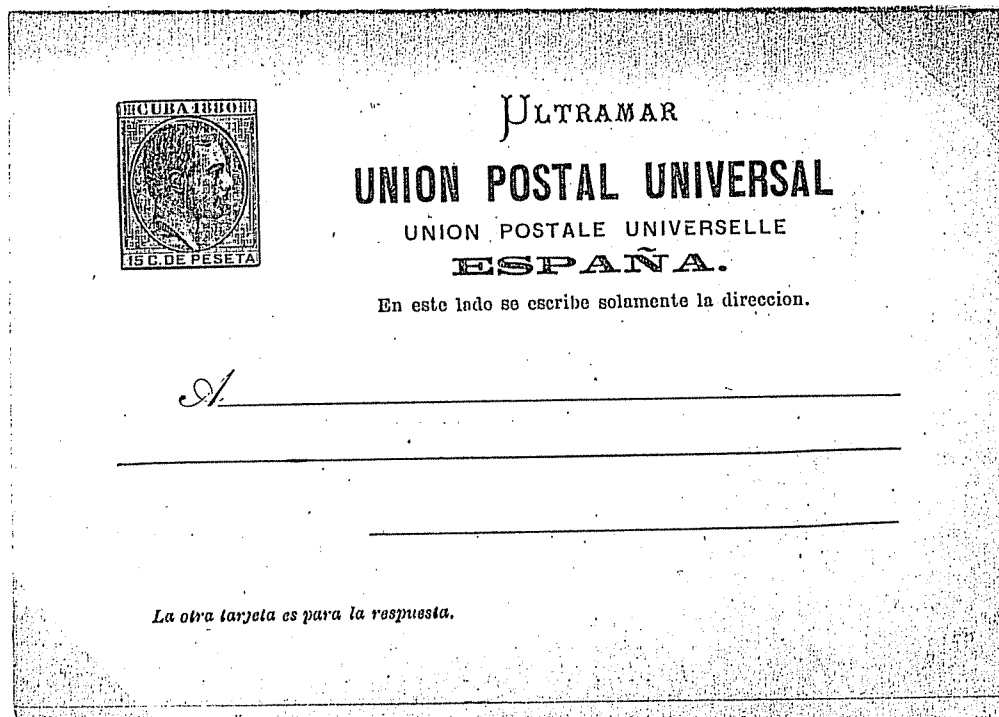


Type 2- Serif is intact. Always found with the variety S of POSTAL, ending at a point.

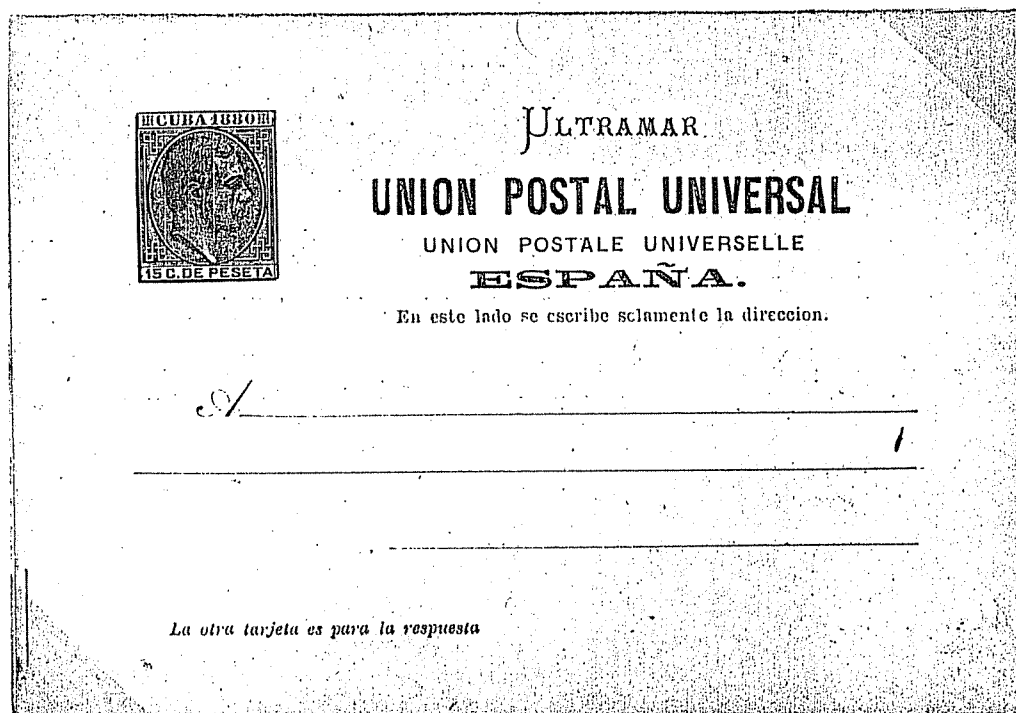


Variety- Footnote length.

The top card has a 39 mm. long footnote, with a period at the end.



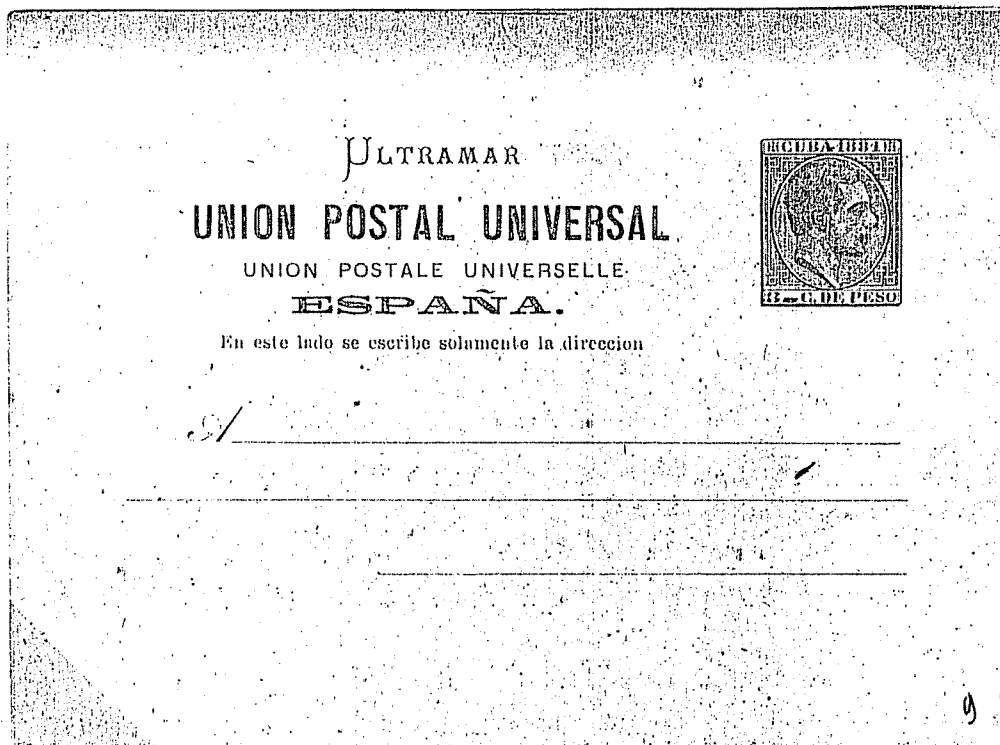
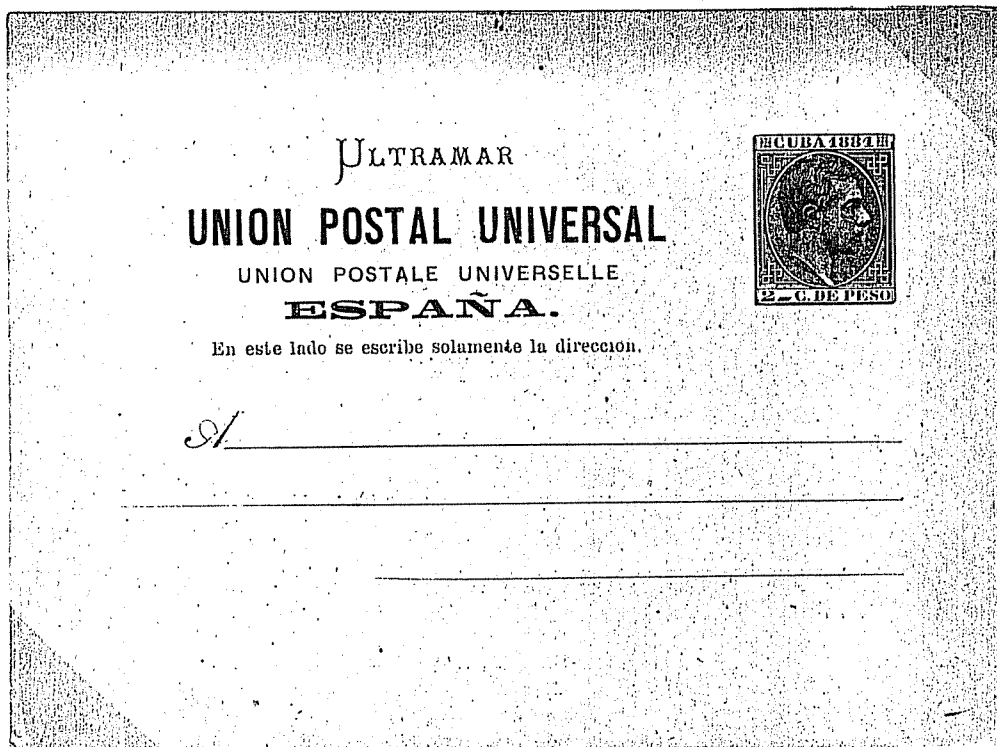
The bottom card has a 41 mm. footnote, without a period.



This variety is found on all double cards to 1882.

1881

Same format as 1880, but with new date and new currency. The issue consists of two values, 2 centavos and 3 centavos de peso.



2 c. + 2 c.

RESPUESTA

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ESPAÑA.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

ULTRAMAR



ULTRAMAR

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

ESPAÑA.

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.



La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

3 c. + 3 c.

RESPUESTA.

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ULTRAMAR
UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ESPAÑA.



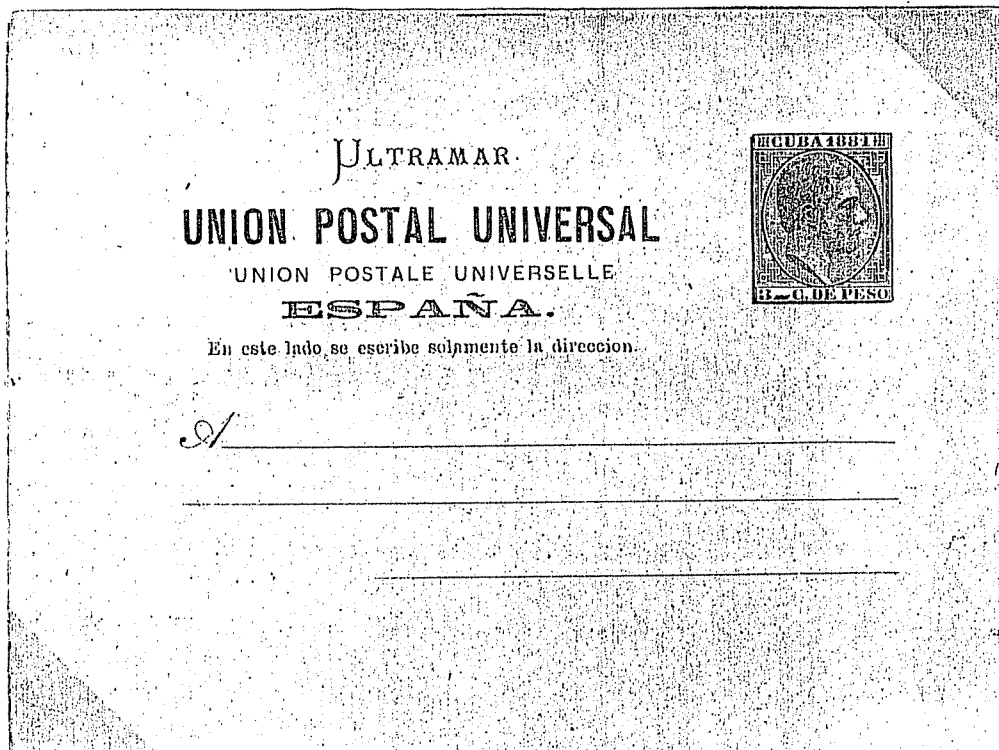
ULTRAMAR
UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ESPAÑA.



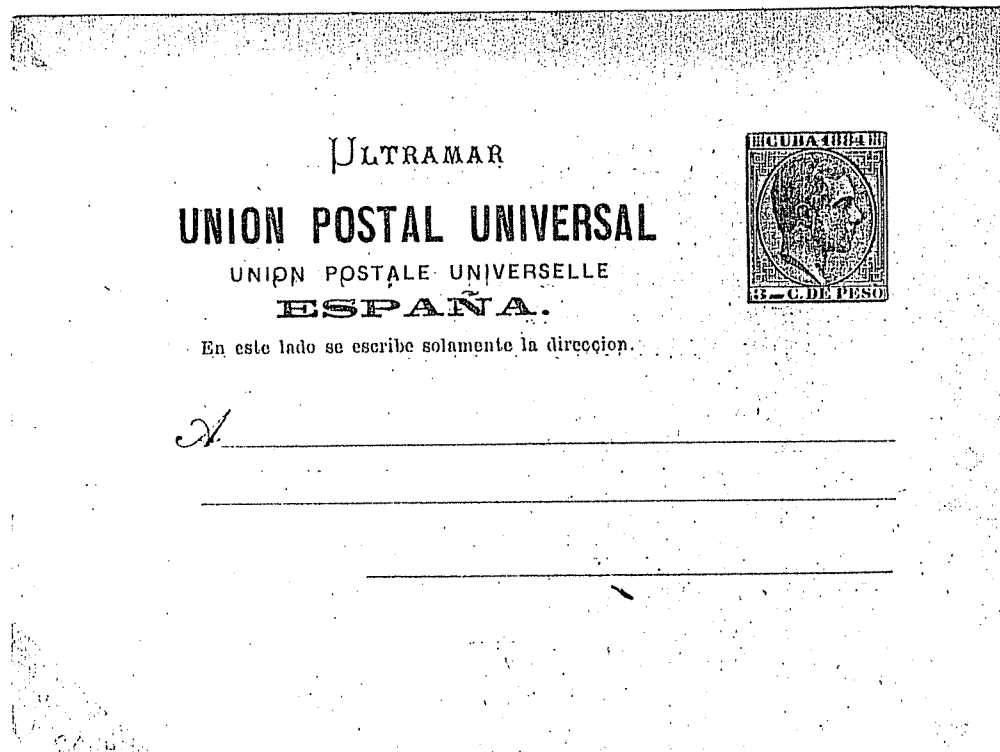
En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

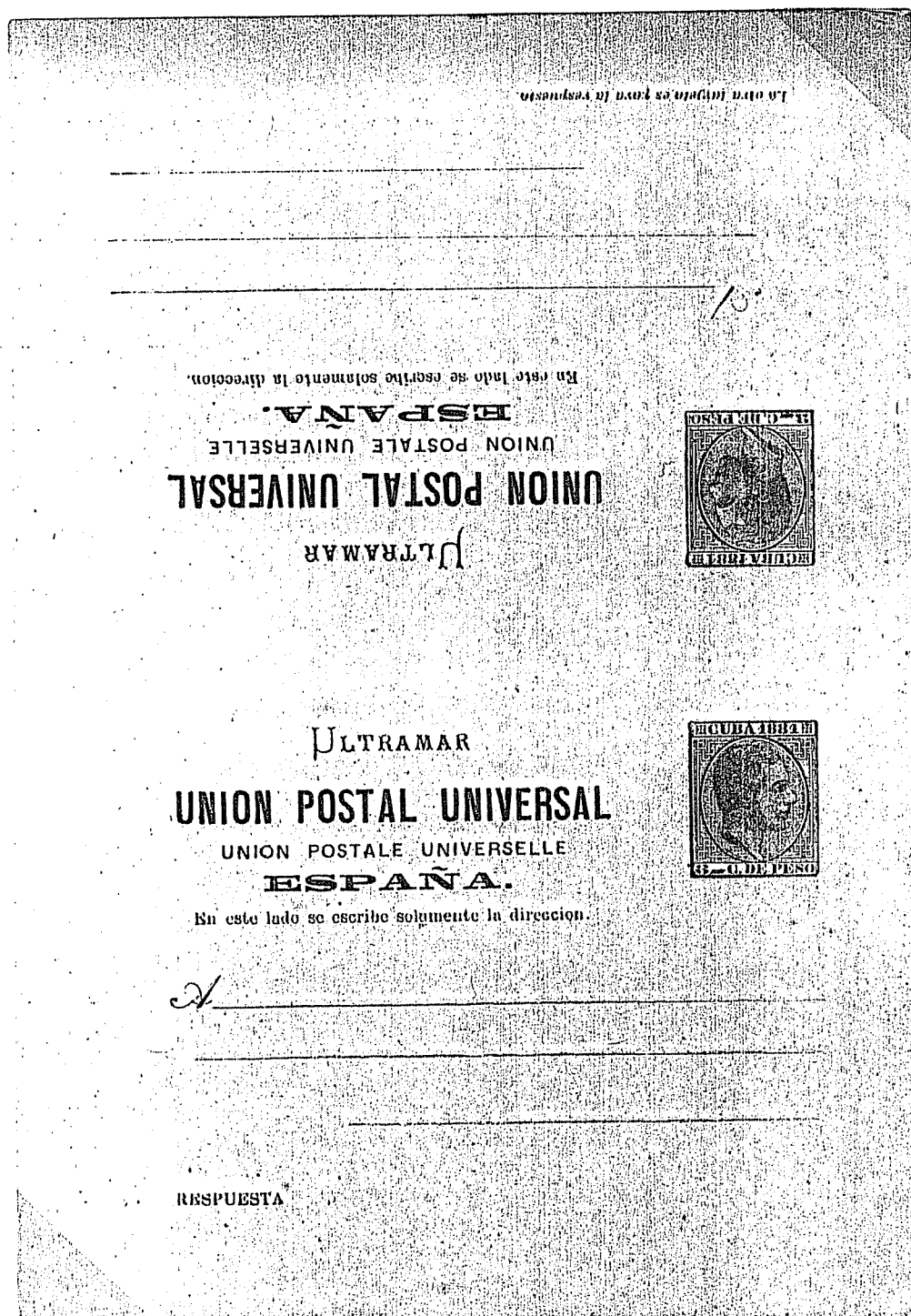
Single card with a broken second "A" of ESPAÑA. The break occurs at the top of the letter.



Single card with broken "U" of ULTRAMAR and "S" of POSTAL ending in a sharp point.

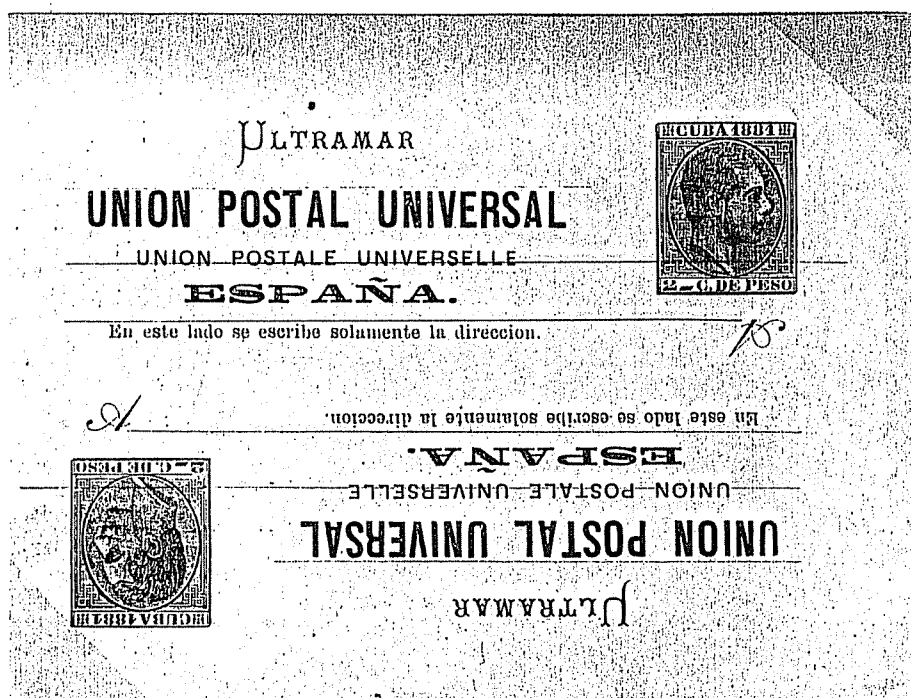


Double card with broken second "A" of ESPAÑA on message side and broken "U" of ULTRAMAR and "S" of POSTAL on reply side.

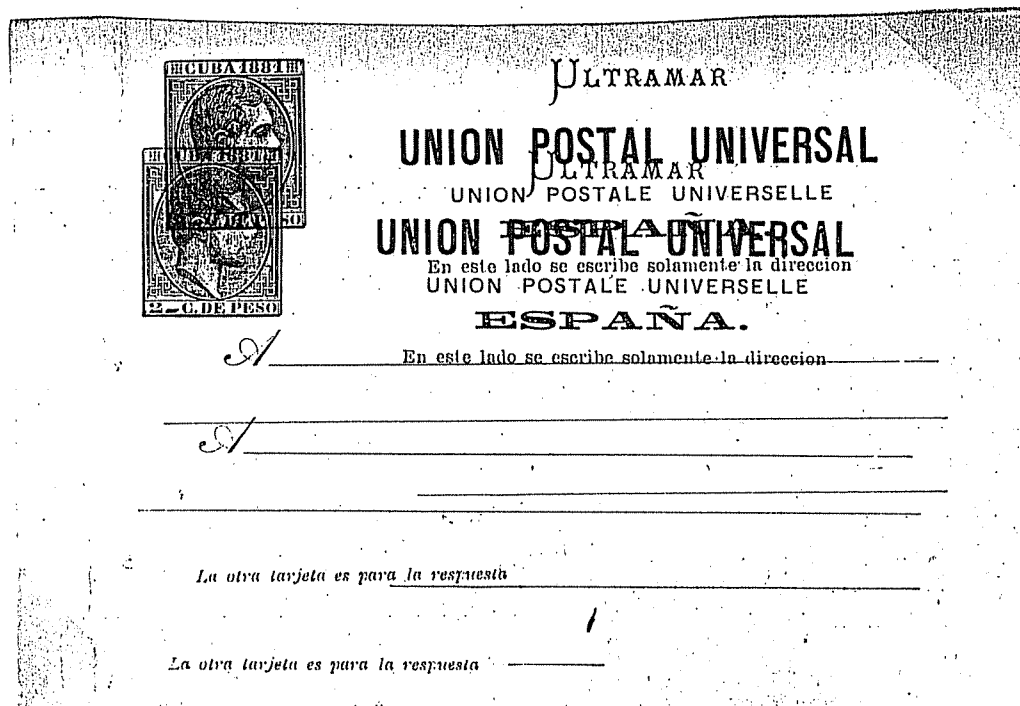
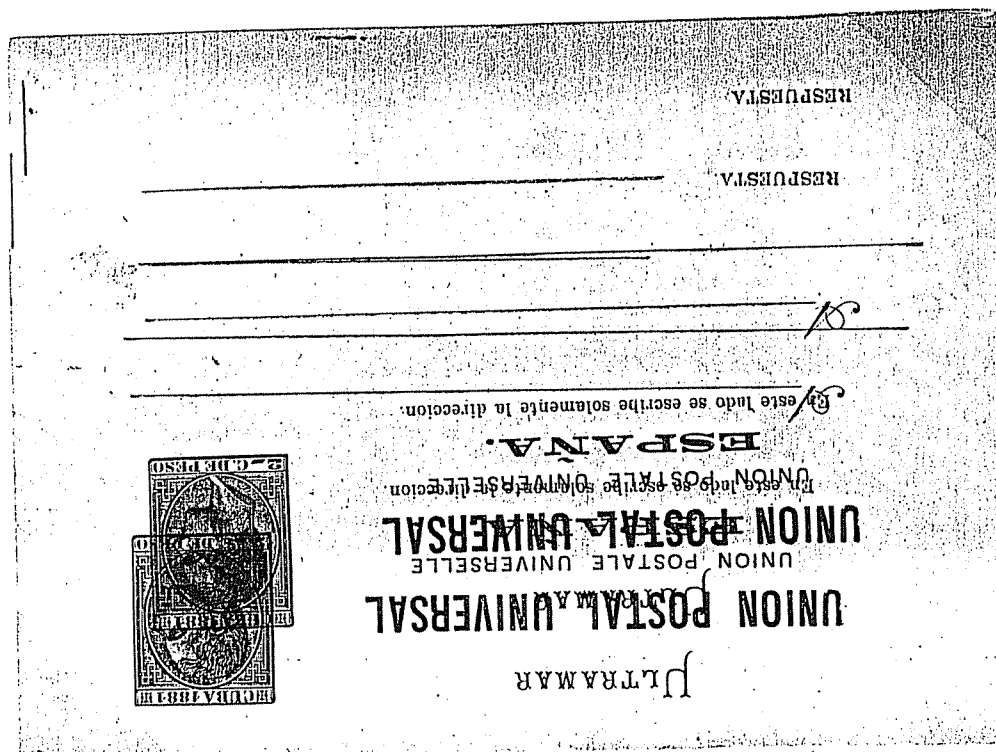


This is but one example of evidence leading to the conclusion that single card plates were used to print both, the message and reply, sides of double cards. Of course, in the case of message sides, the stamp had to be moved to the opposite side of the heading.

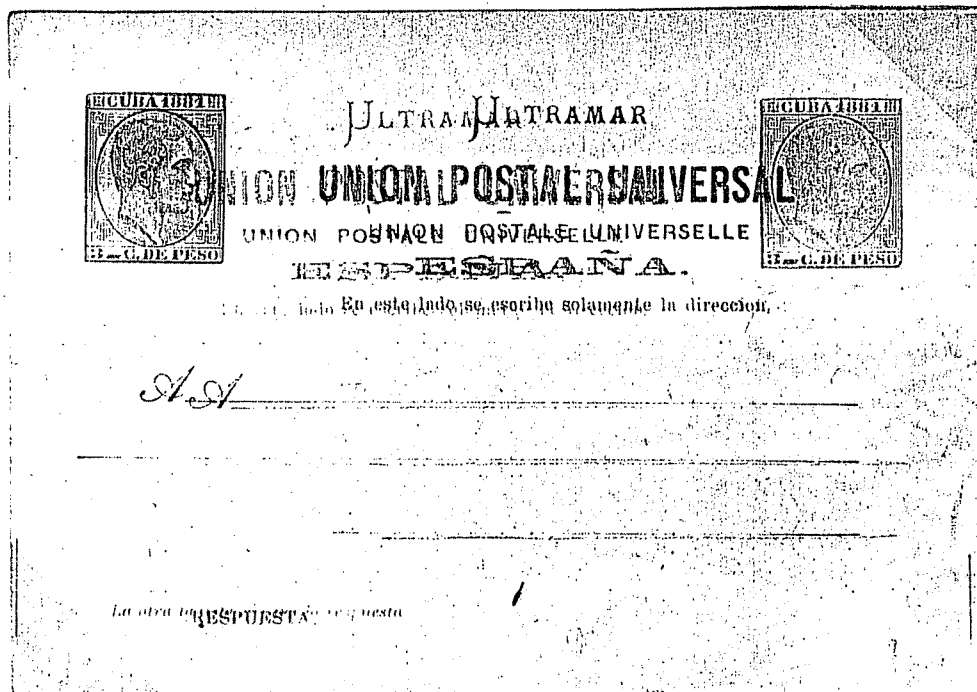
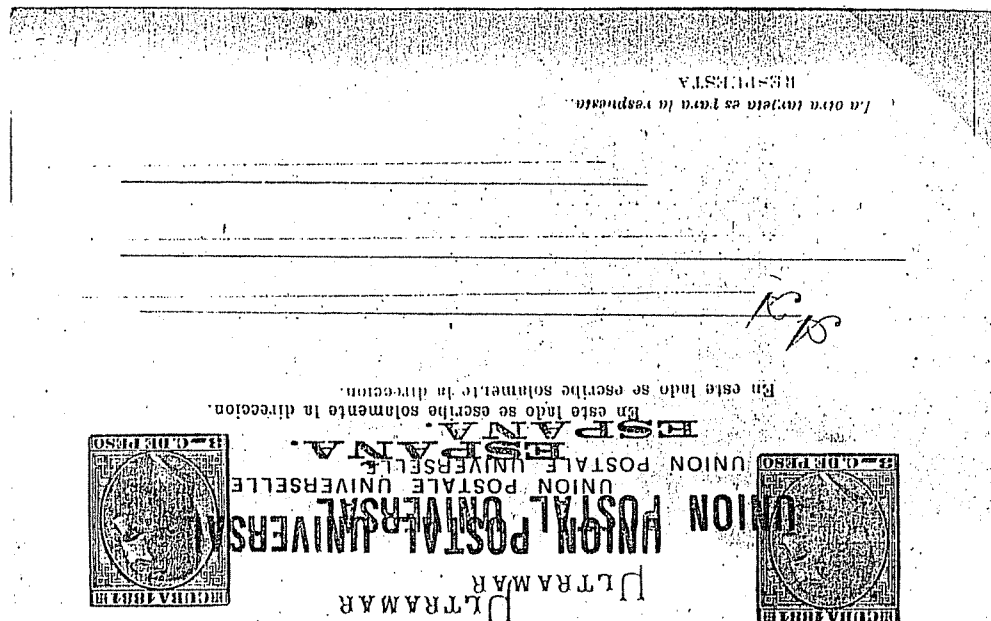
Variety- Double impression, one inverted, on 2c. single card.



Variety- Double impression, on 2c.+2c. double card.

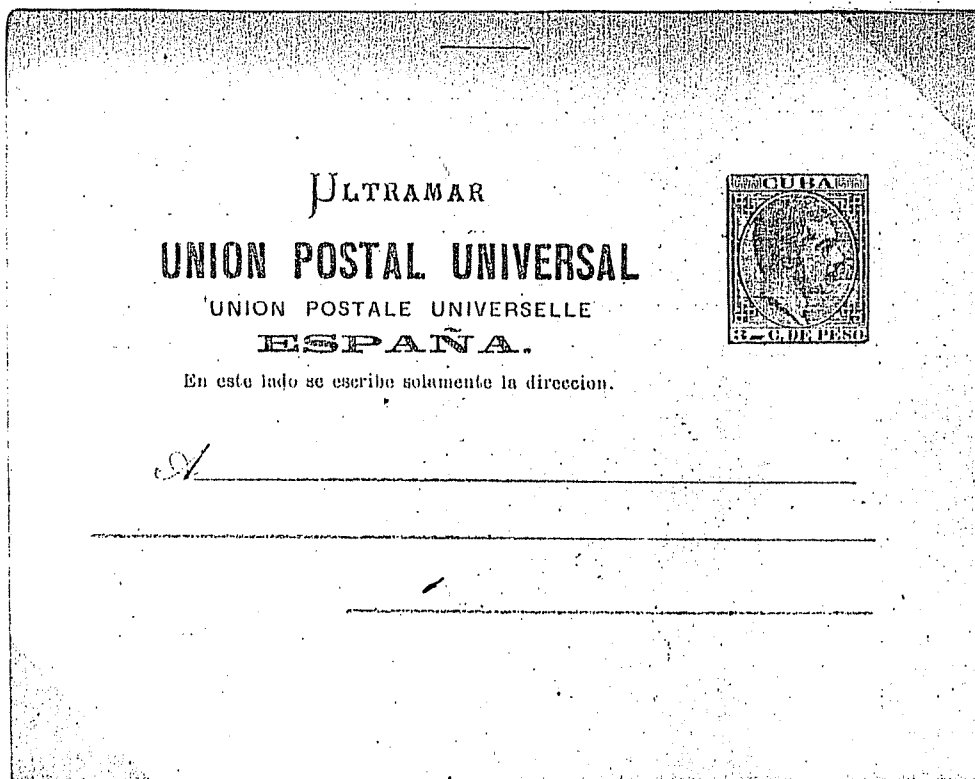
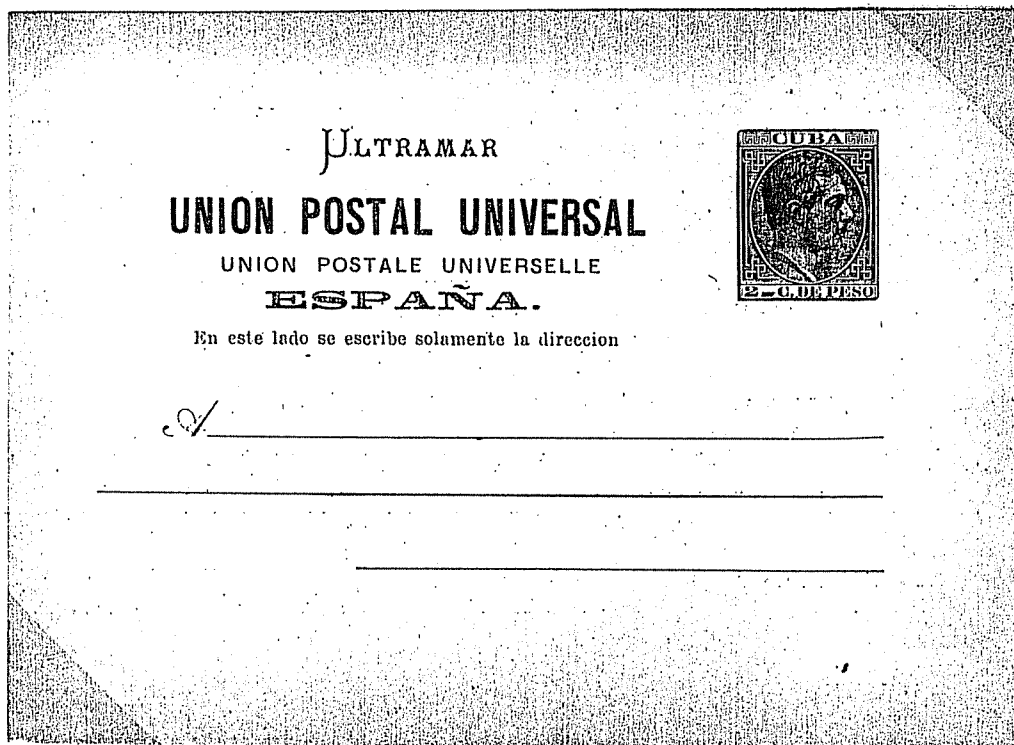


Variety- Double impression, one inverted, on 3c.+3c. double card.
Each half bears the impression of both the message and reply sides.



1882


Same format, colors and values as in 1881, but the date has been removed.



RESPUESTA

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ESPANA.
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
ULTRAMAR



CUBA
2c. DE PESO

ULTRAMAR
UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ESPANA.
En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

A

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

Note broken "E" and first "A" of ESPANA, on reply card.

3 c. + 3 c.

RESPUESTA

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ESPANA.
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

ULTRAMAR

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ULTRAMAR
UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ESPANA.

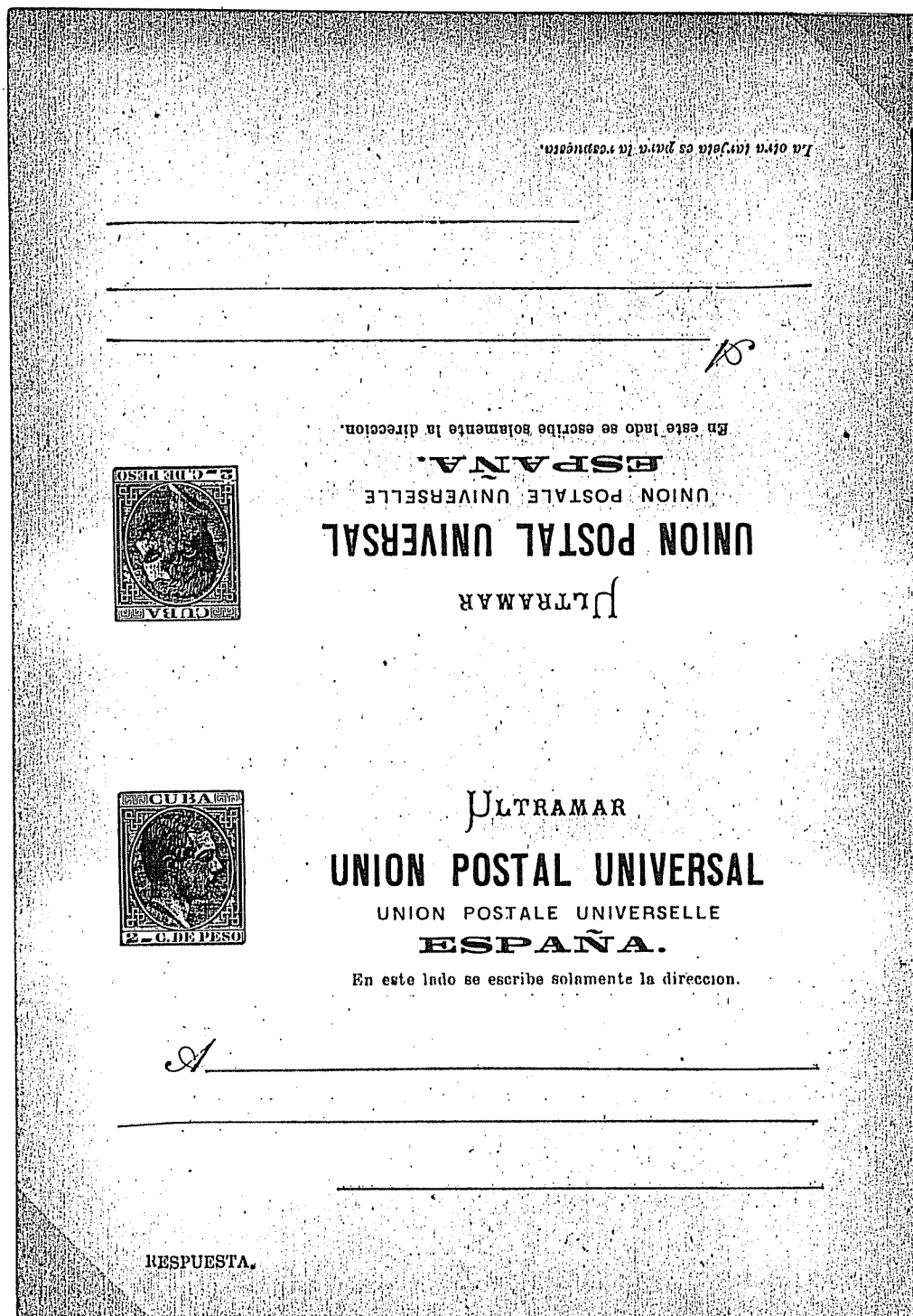
En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta

Note broken "E" and first "A" of ESPANA, on reply card.

ERROR 2 c. + 2 c.

This error has been incorrectly described in the various catalogs as having the stamp reversed from the normal. (In the normal card, the stamps are in the left side of the message card and the right side of the reply card.)



If one notes, however, the constant variety of the broken "E" and "A" of ESPANA, one may see that the error is in the location of the footnotes rather than the stamps.

ERROR 3 c. + 3 c.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.


En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ULTRAMAR.

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

ESPAÑA.




En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

ULTRAMAR.

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

ESPAÑA.

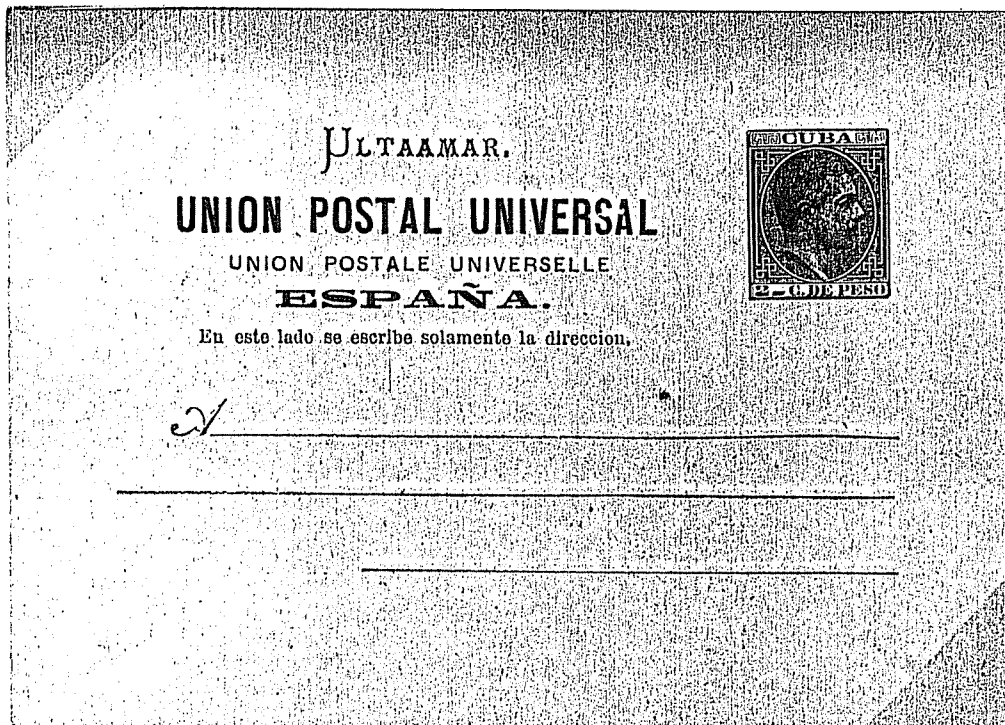


En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

RESPUESTA

ULTAAMAR ERROR

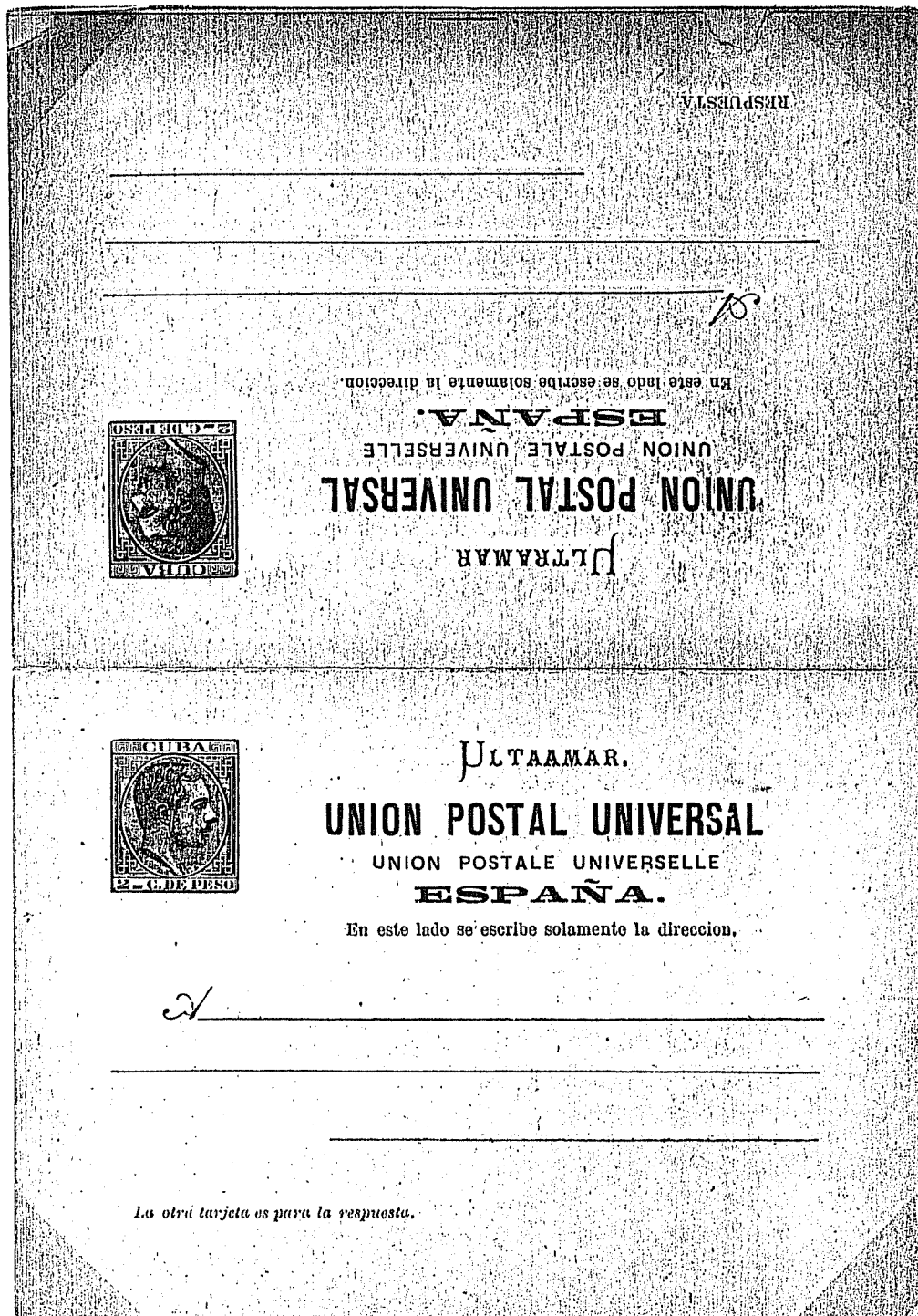
On this 2c. single card of 1882, the word ULTRAMAR has been misspelled.



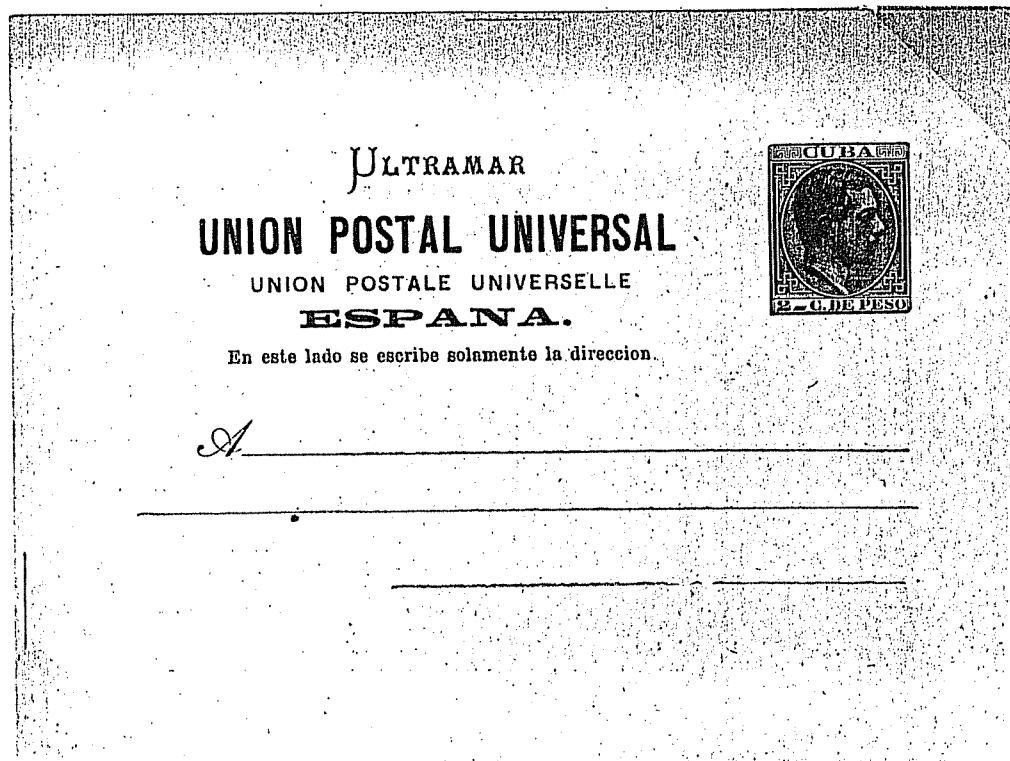
This error had been known to exist on the 2c. double card, however, single cards had not been reported. The error may yet be found to exist on other values of this issue, as well.

ULTAAMAR ERROR

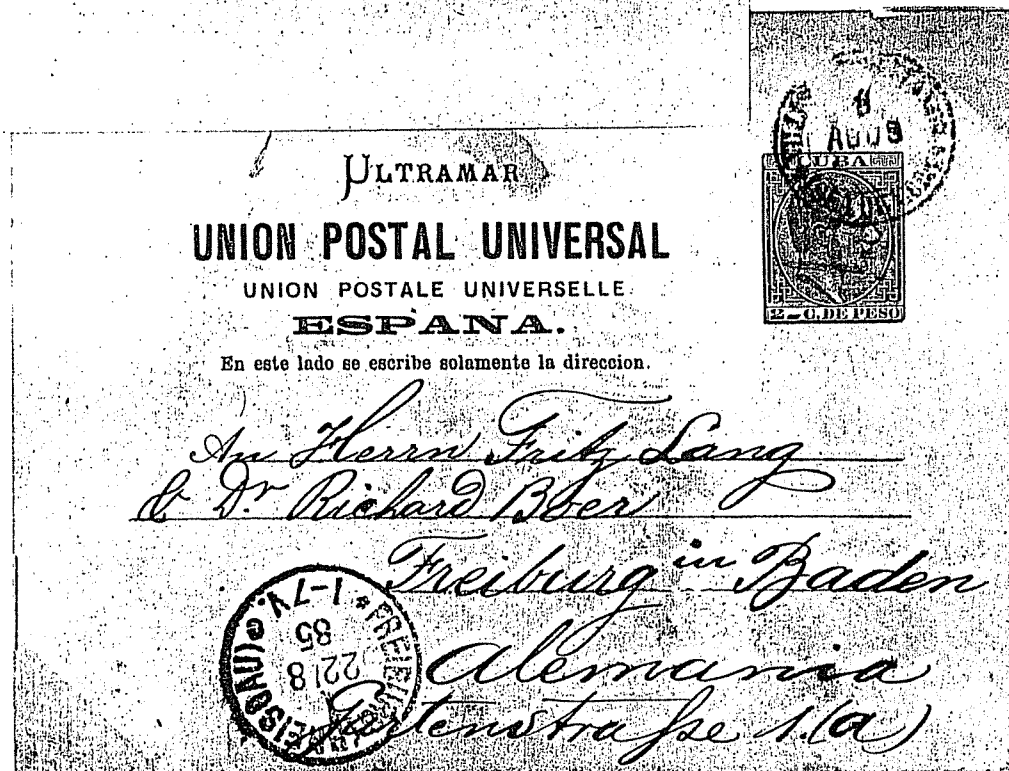
The 2c. double card of 1882 showing the misspelling on the message card. Note that this error is accompanied by the variety of the S of POSTAL ending at a point. It is clear this error occurred in the process of replacing the broken U of ULTRAMAR.



Variety- Missing tilde, on single card.



mint



used

It must be assumed that this variety saw wide circulation, since used examples are not rare.


Variety- Missing tilde, on double card.

RESPUESTA

En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ESPAÑA.


ULTRAMAR



En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion.

UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
ESPAÑA.

ULTRAMAR

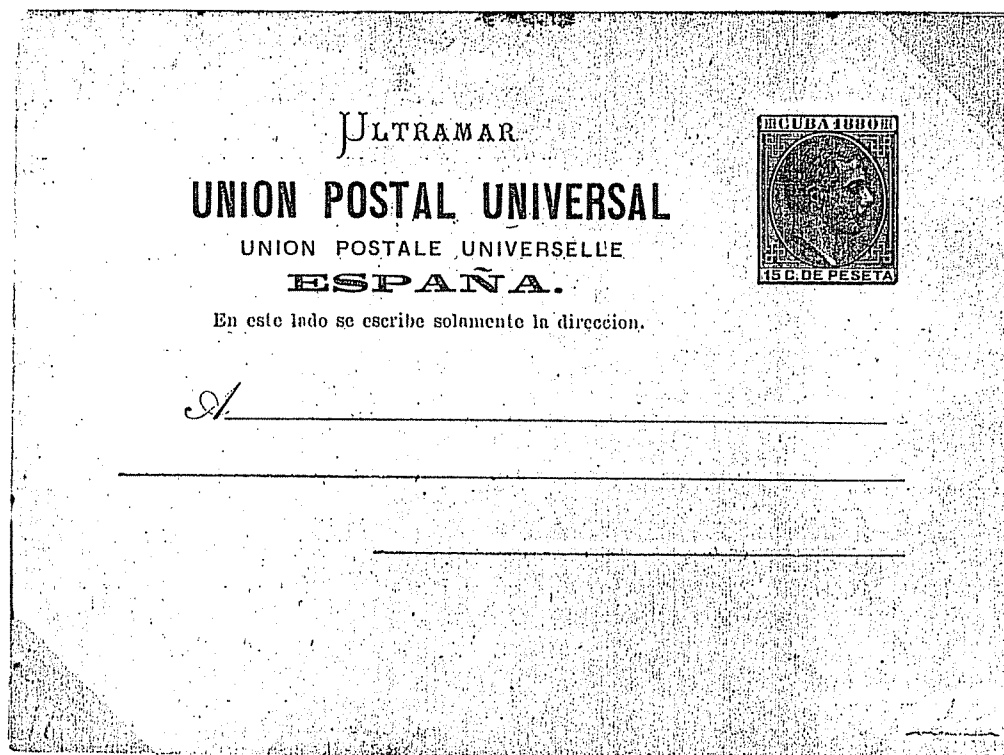


La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta

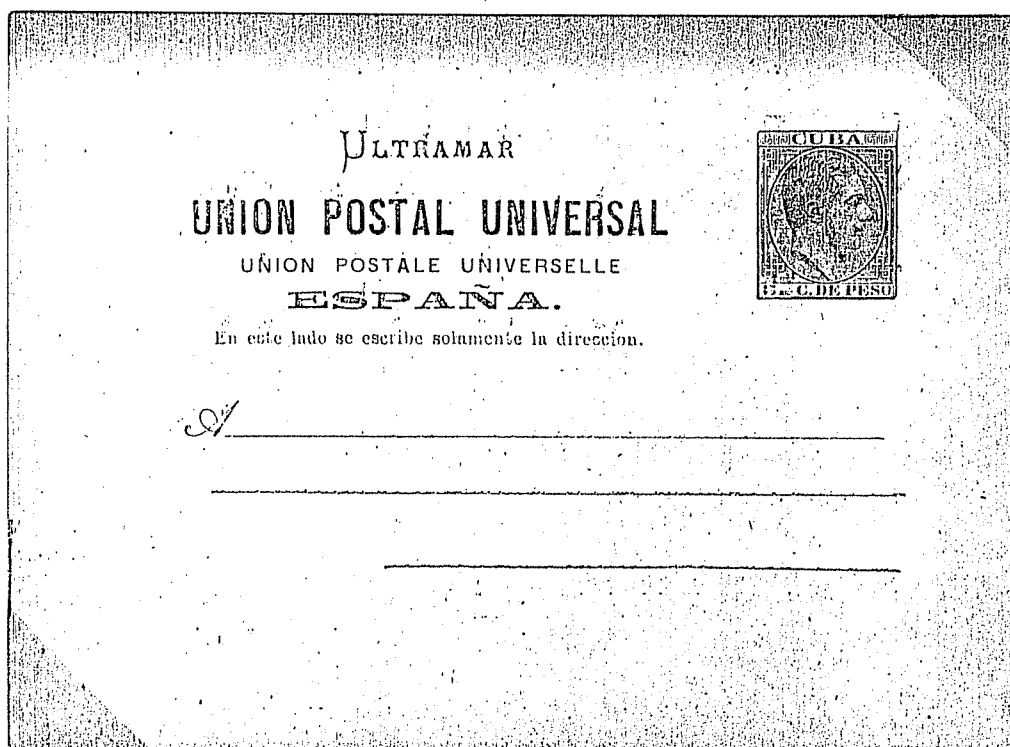
Note that this variety is always found on the message side of the double cards.

Variety- Short 2nd. address line.

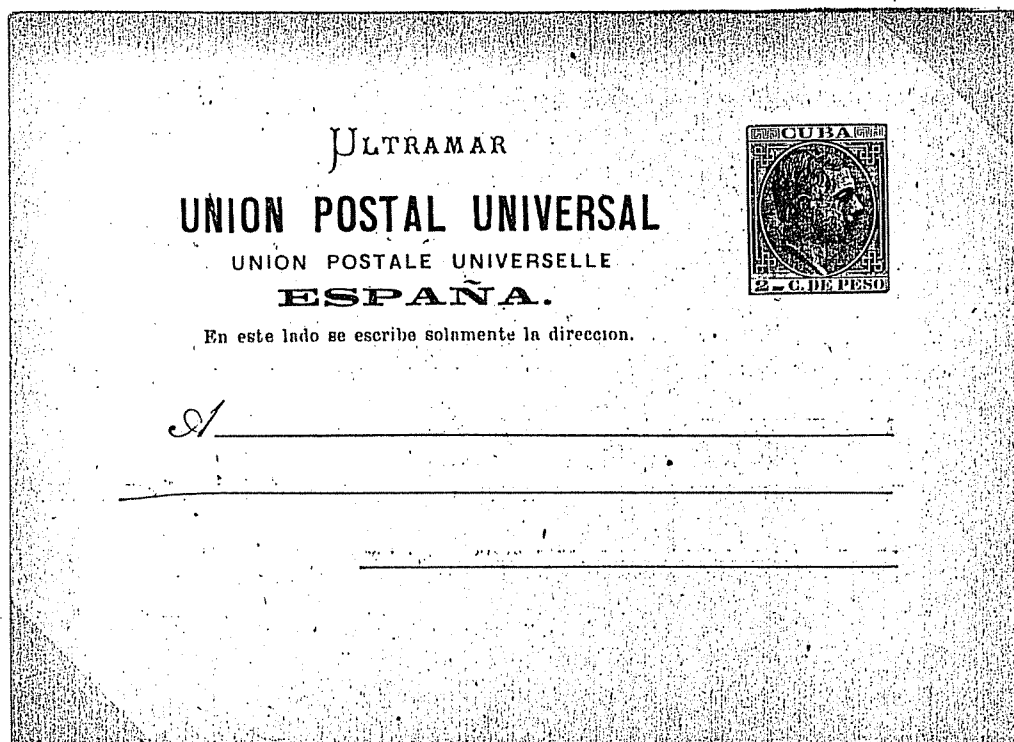
This 15 c. single of 1880 has the 2nd. address line intact. Note the "smashed U" of UNIVERSAL. (right side of U)



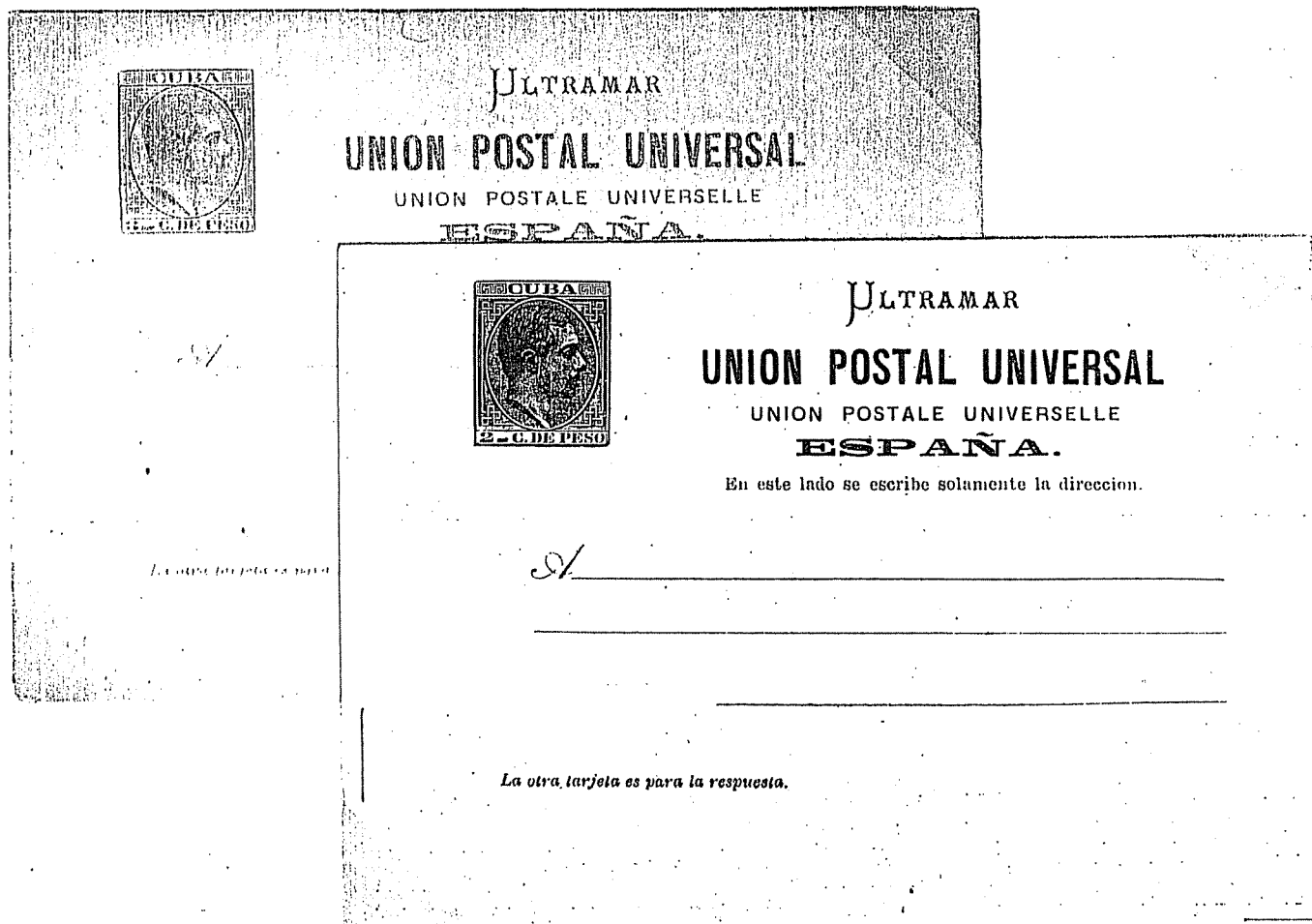
However, by the time this 3 c. single of 1882 was printed (note the same "smashed U" variety), the 2nd. line had been shortened as a result of a break.



The top card, a 2 c. single, shows a pronounced bend at the left end of the 2nd. address line.

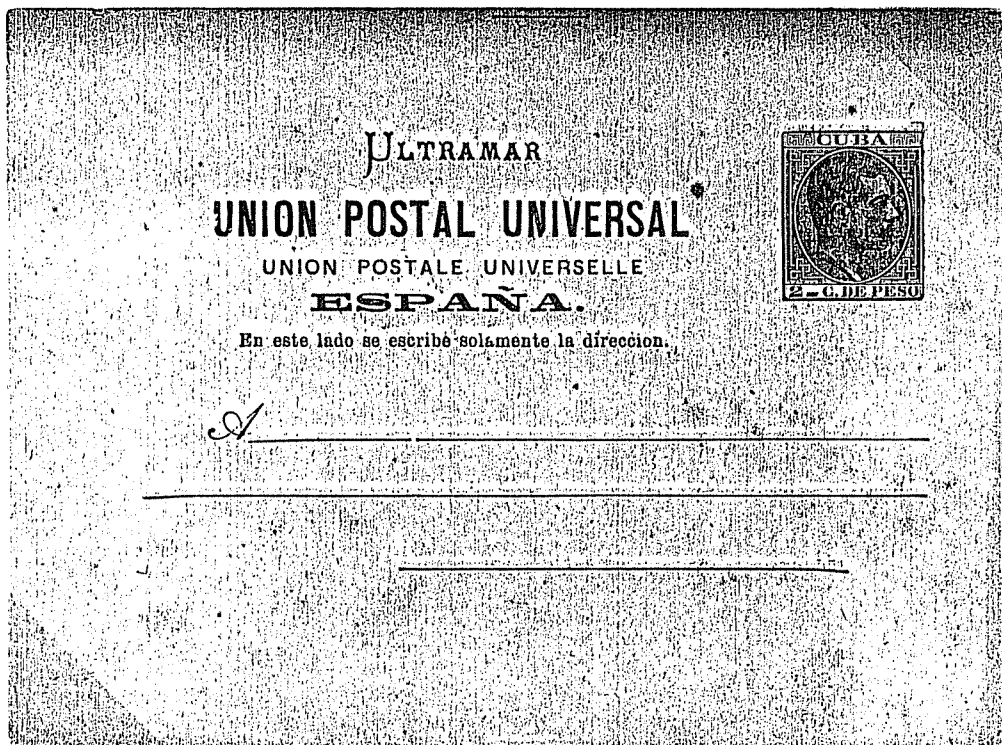


By the time the double cards were printed, the end had broken-off, causing the short line variety. Note that all three cards show the broken second "A" of ESPAÑA.

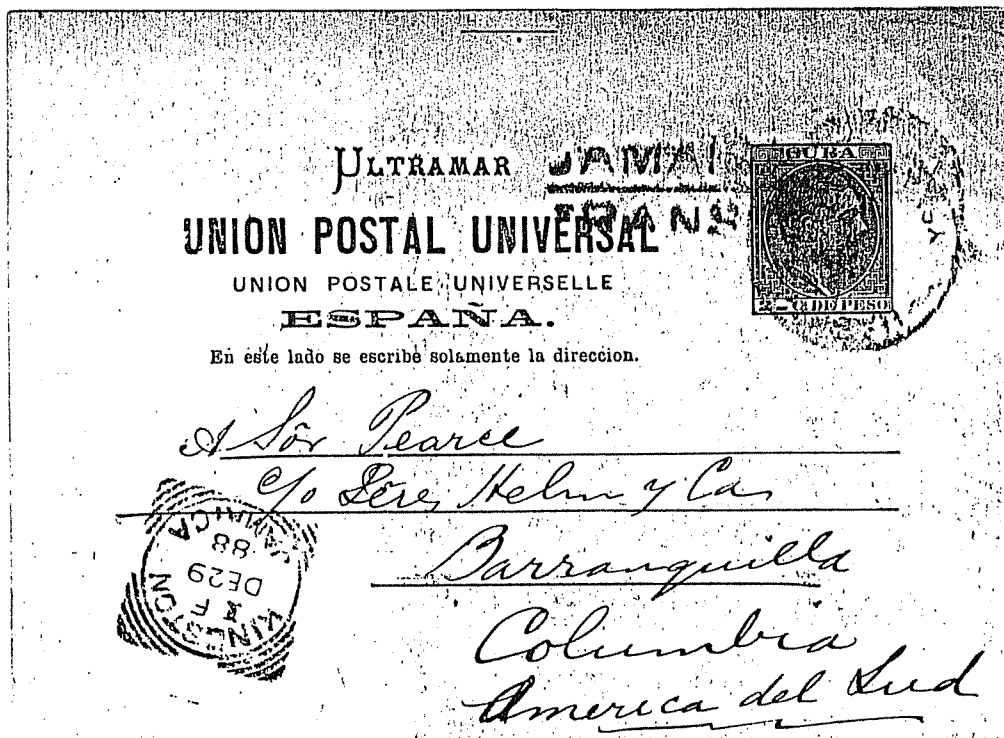


Variety- Short 3rd. address line.

This 2 c. single of 1882 exhibits the short 3rd. address line variety.
The line measures 59 mm. versus 69 mm., for the original.

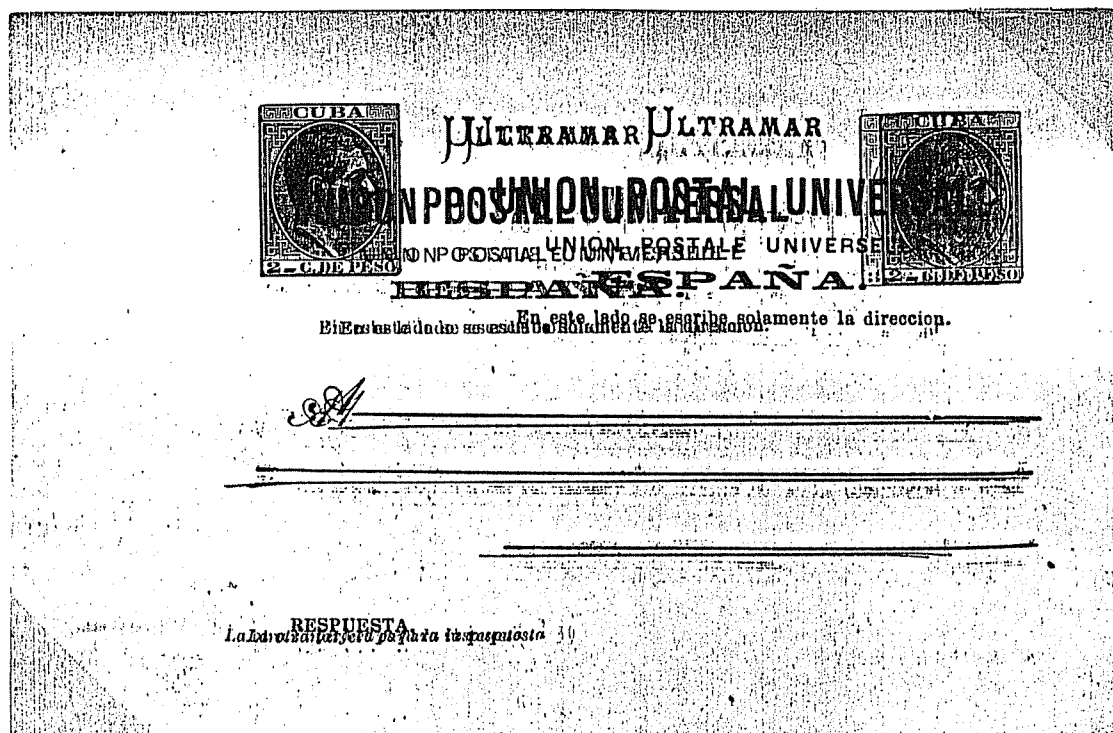


Same variety, on a card used from Havana to Barranquilla, Colombia, on Dec. 1888.



ERROR-FILLED PRINTER'S WASTE

This card shows a triple impression (message and reply sides of the 2c.+2c. error of 1882, plus the message side of 3c.+3c. error). The reverse has a double impression of the message side of the 2c.+2c. error.



This piece is a fitting way to leave behind the 1880-82 era.

Late 1882

A new design was introduced closely resembling the cards of 78-79. It consisted of three values: 2 c., 4 c., and 10 c.

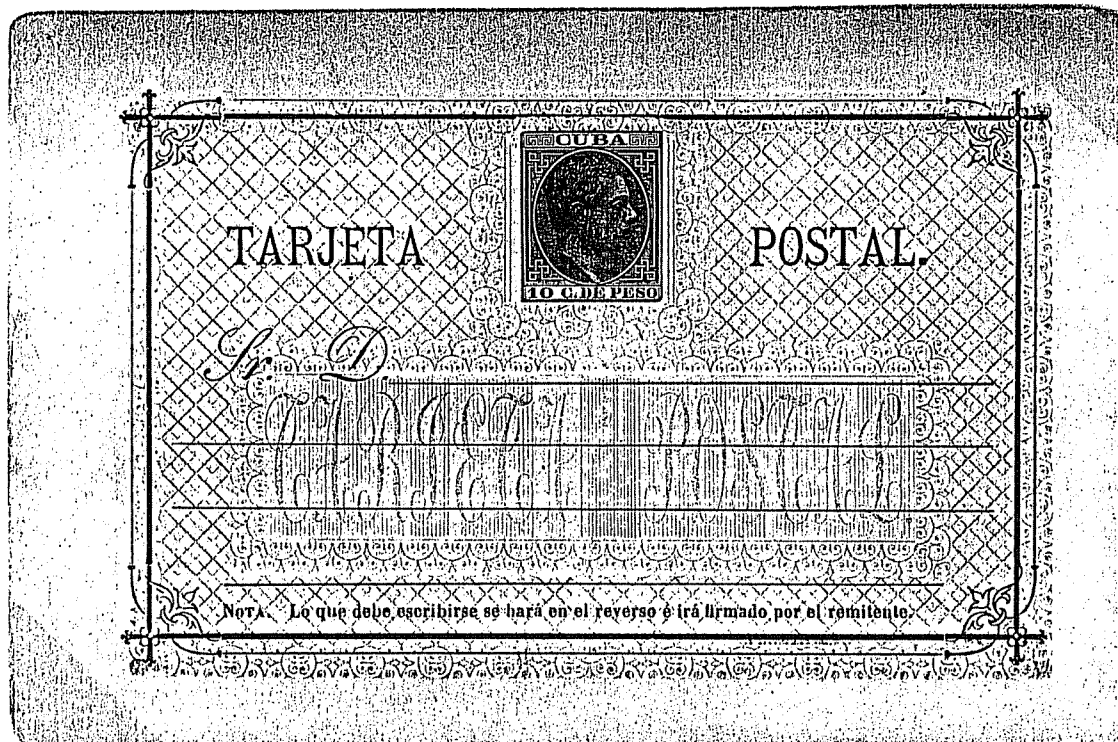
2 c. card



4 c. card



10 c. card



As with the 1879 issue, two different "r" were used for Sr.
Type 2, below, shows the "r" ending in a hook.

Type 2

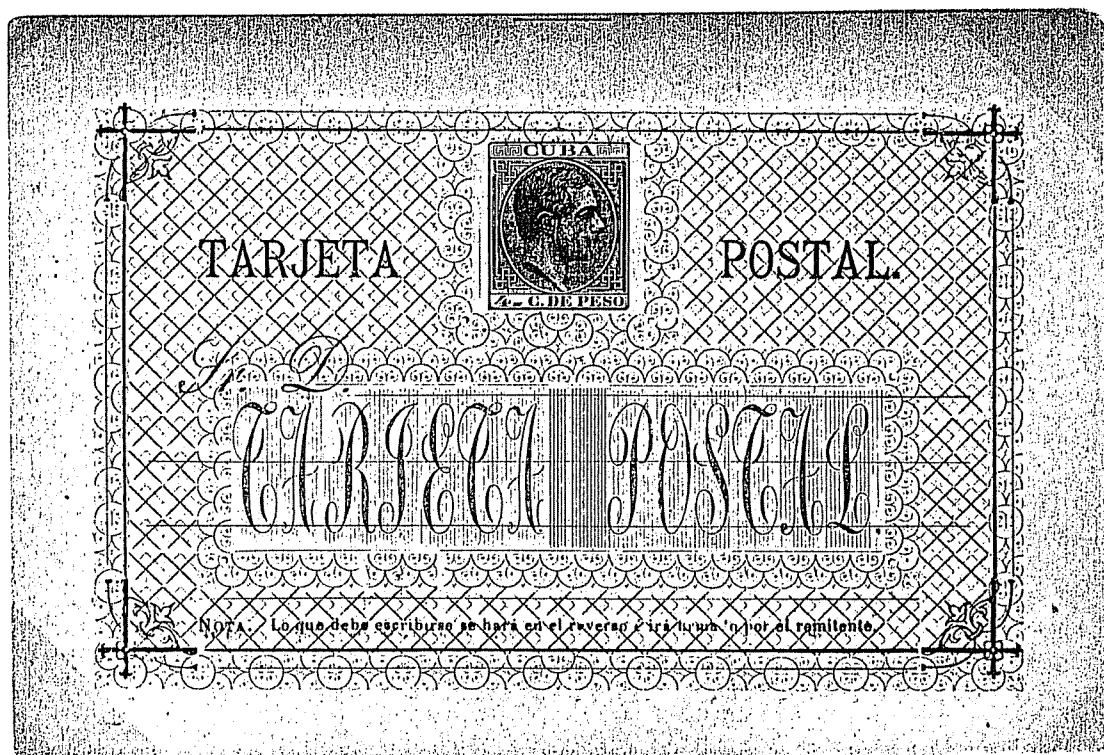
2 c. card



One further variety found in this issue, is the size of the word NOTA,
in the footnote. The top card shows a smaller NOTA than the bottom card.

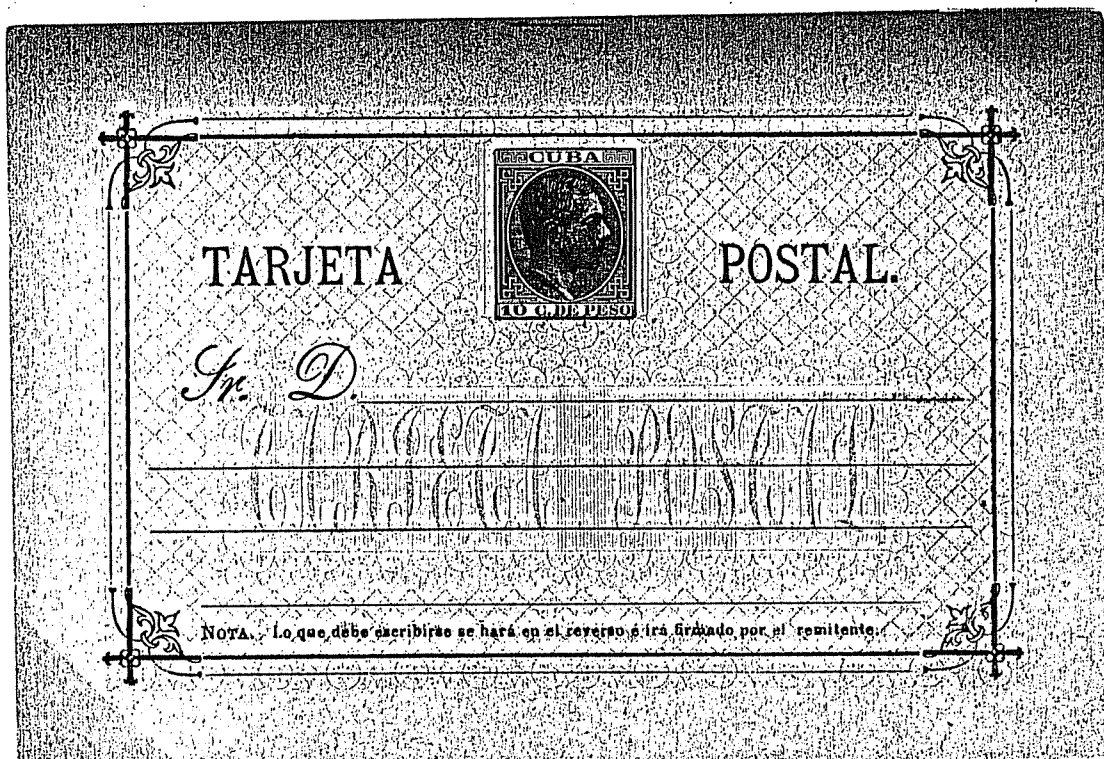
Type 2

4 c. card



Type 2

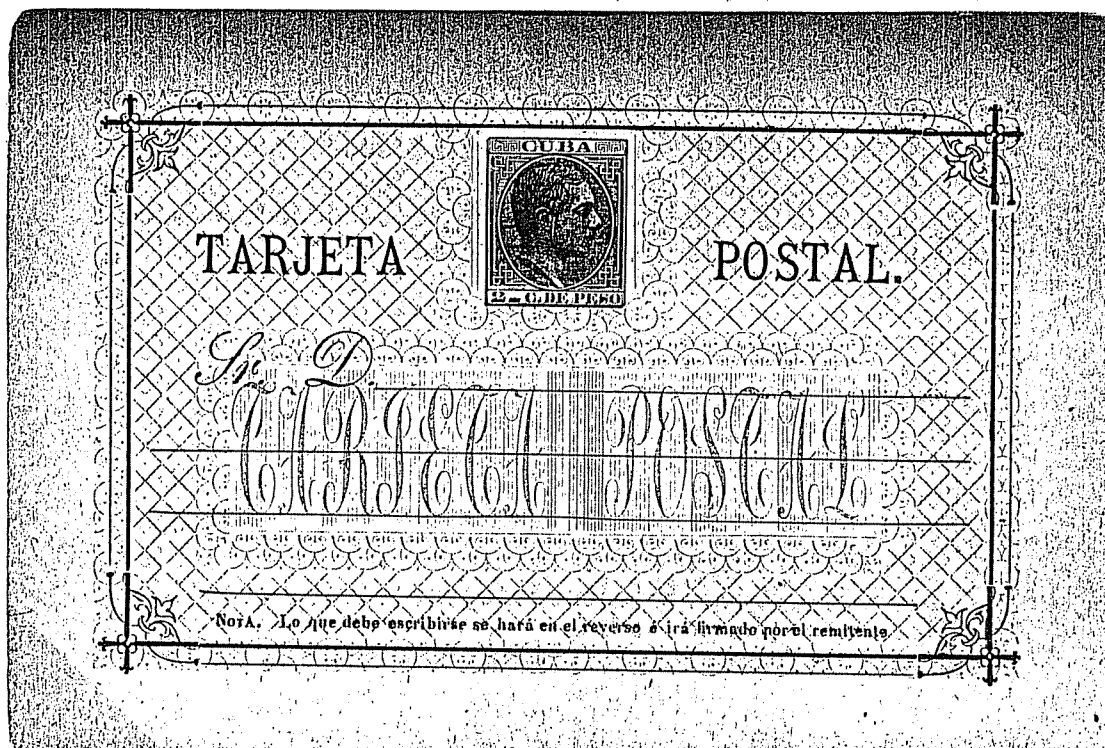
10 c. card



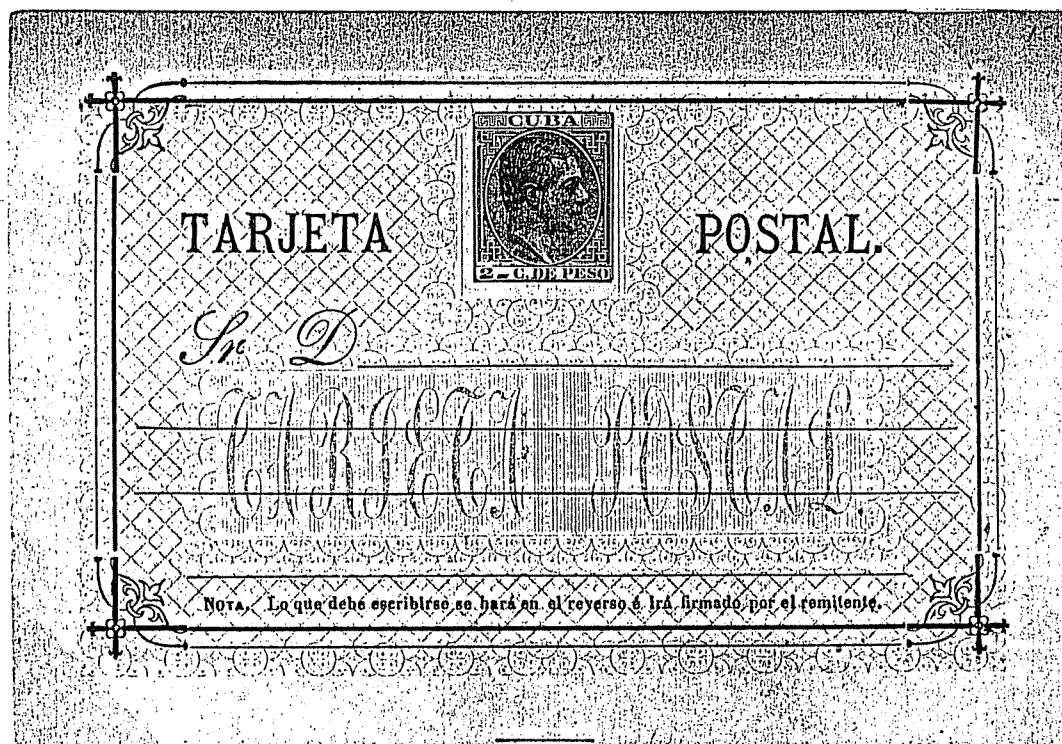
To further complicate things, the S of Sr., may be found starting to the left of the T of TARJETA (as on the preceding page) or right under it (as below). Thus, a total of four types are possible.

Type 4

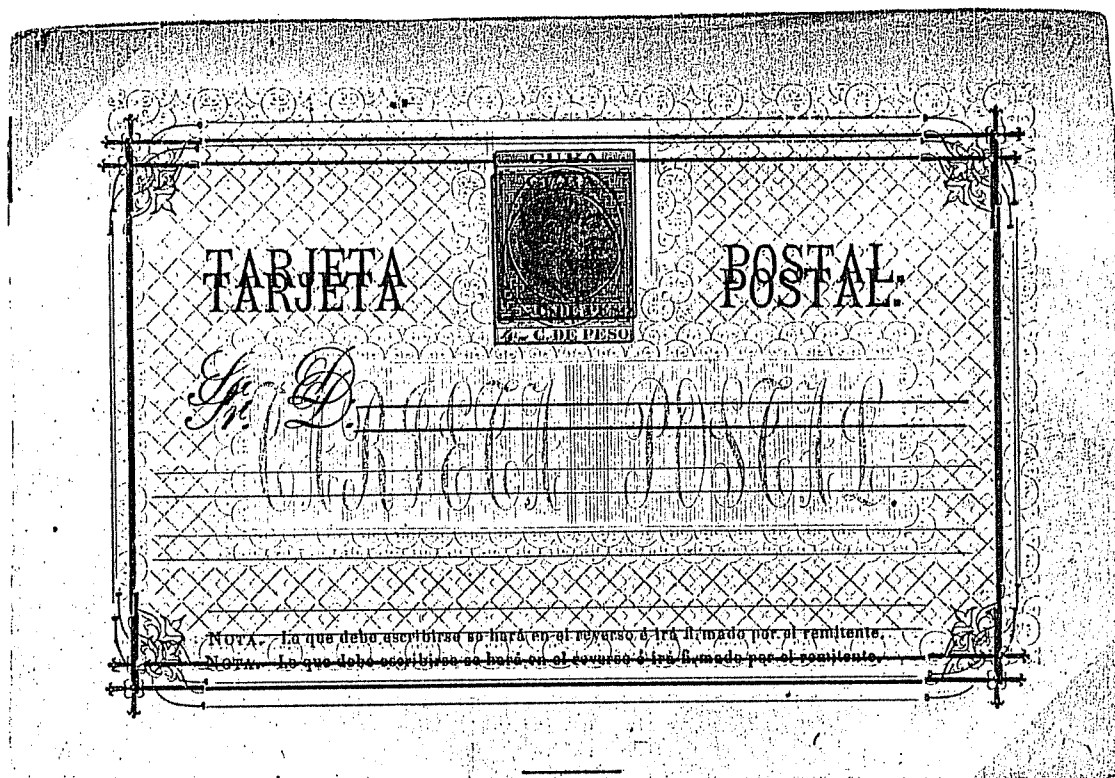
2 c. card



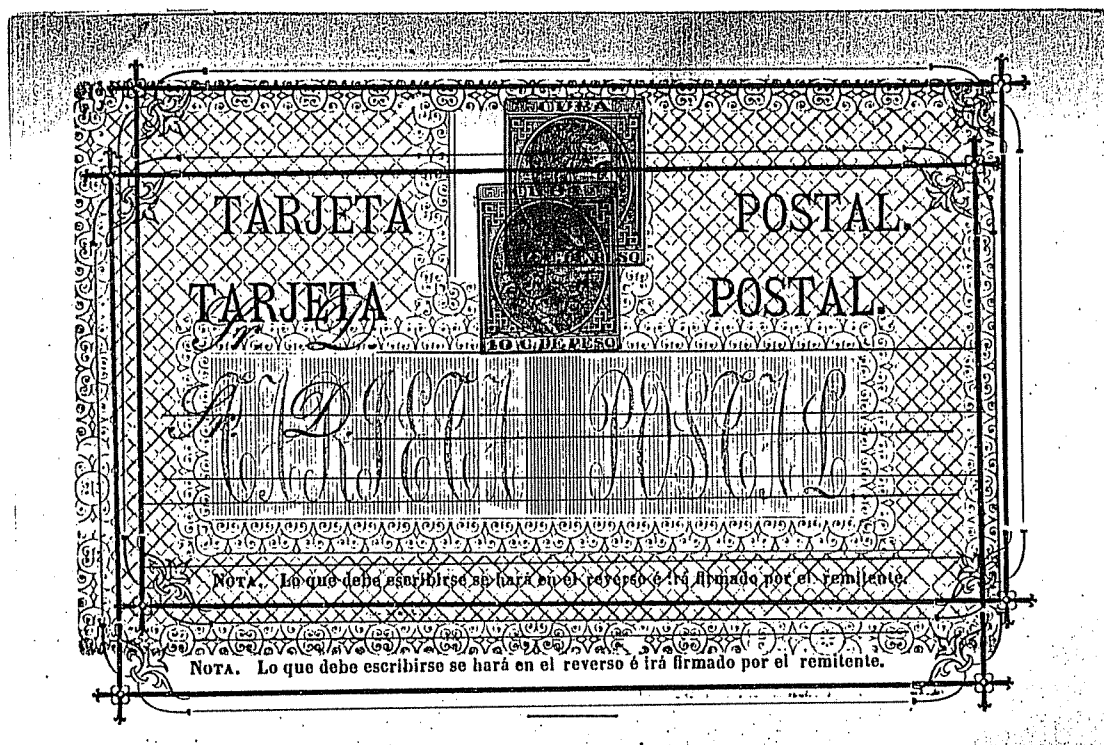
Missing periods- This card is missing the periods after Sr. and D.



Double impression, on 4 c. card.



Double impression, on 10 c. card.



1888

Similar to the late 1882 issue, however, the background has been removed. Two values, a 2 c. green and a 4 c. dark red, were printed.

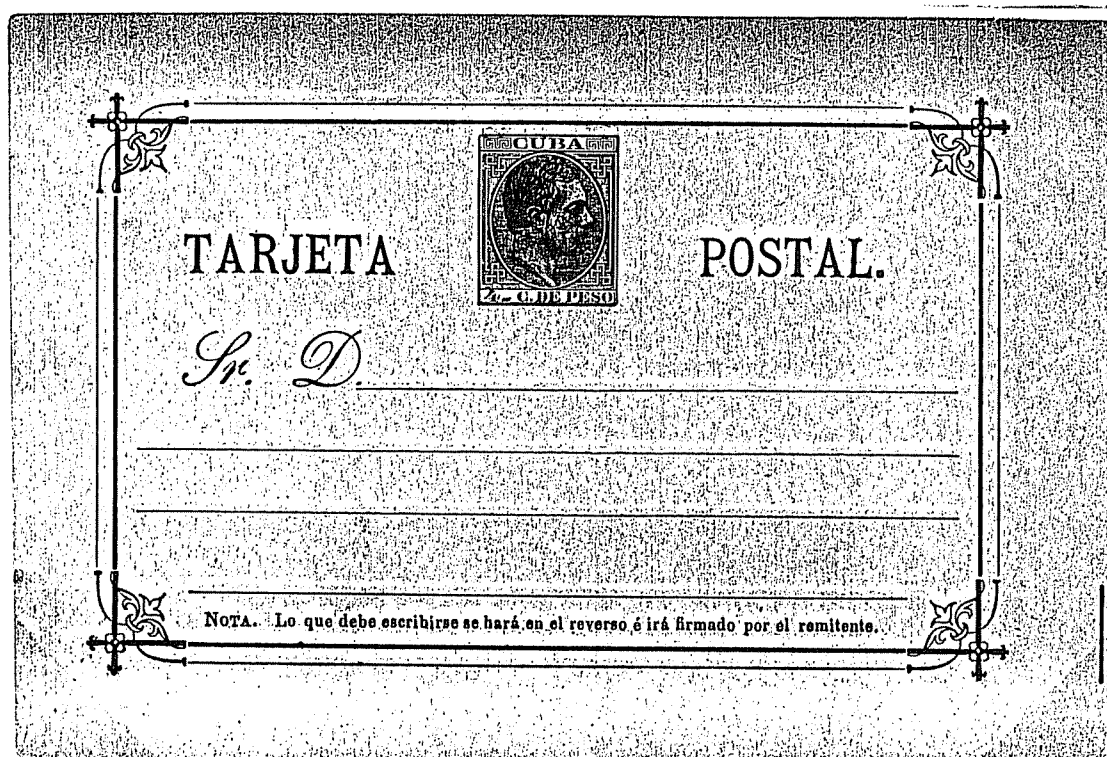
2 c. showing large "N" of Nota. (1 $\frac{4}{5}$ mm)



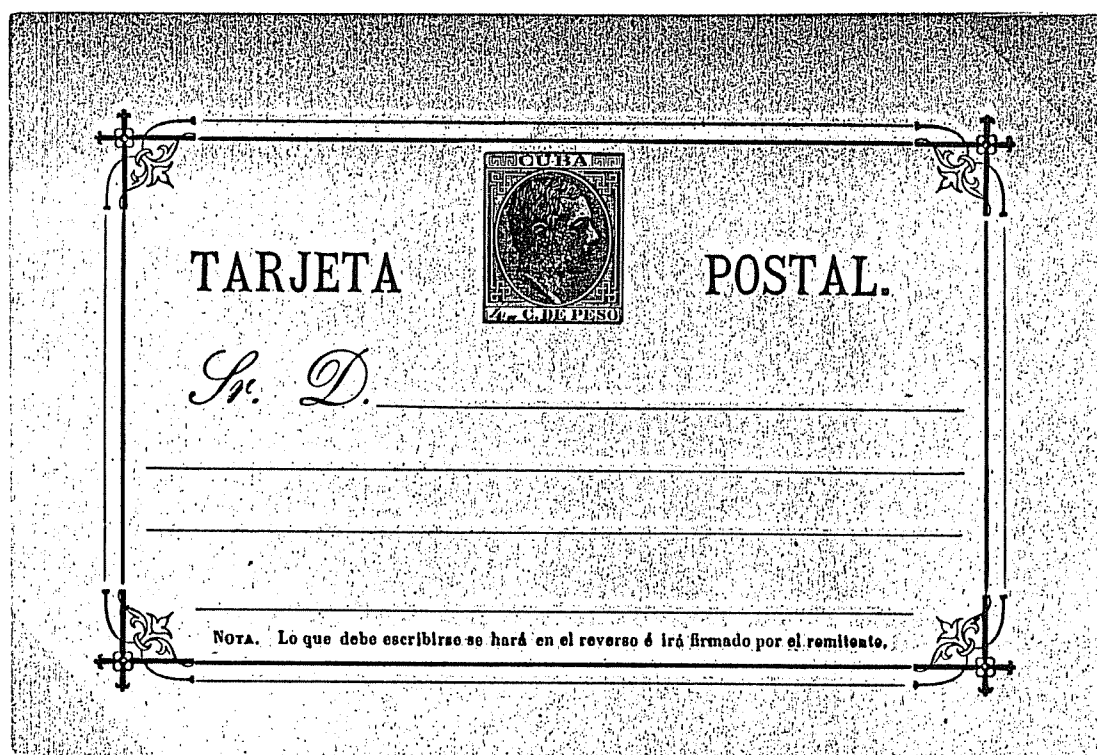
2 c. showing small "N" of Nota. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm)



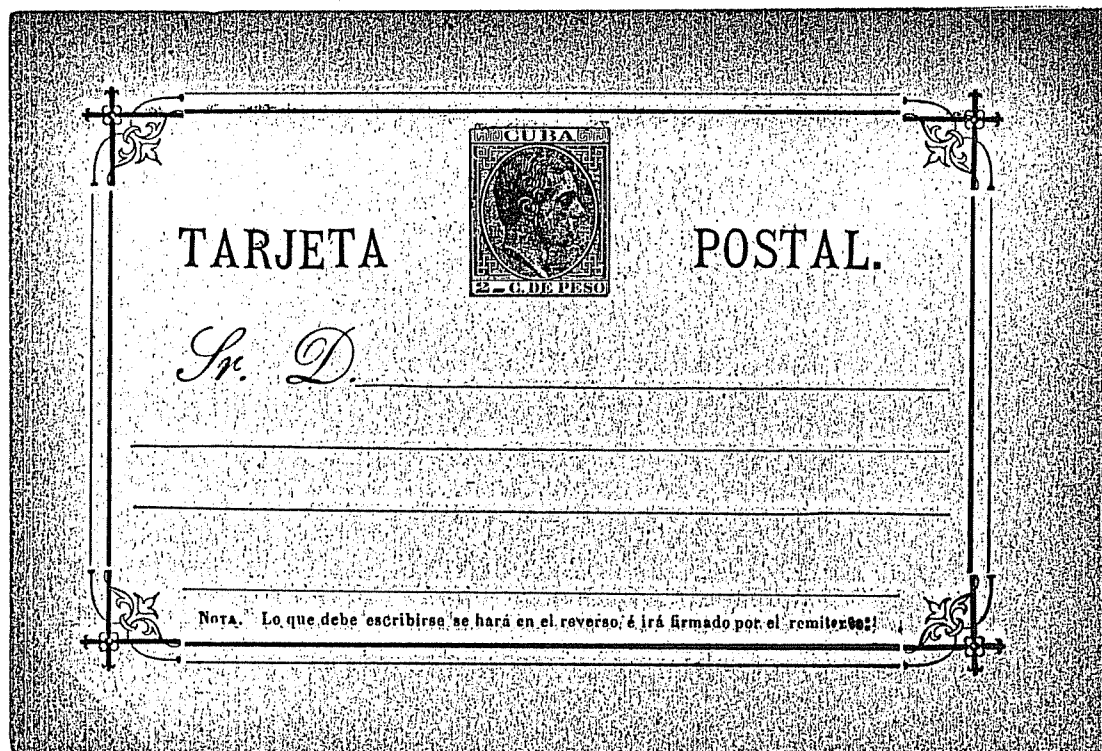
4 c. card showing large "N" of Nota. (1 4/5 mm)



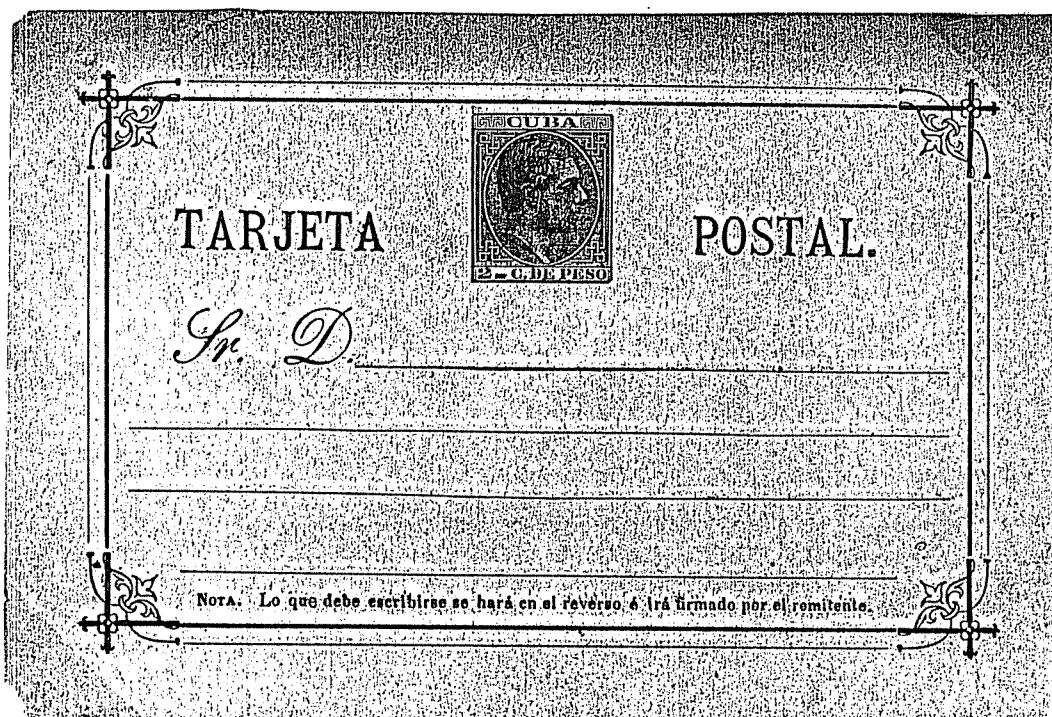
4 c. card showing small "N" of Nota. (1 1/2 mm)



Variety- Large "te" at end of remitente and period replaced by a colon.

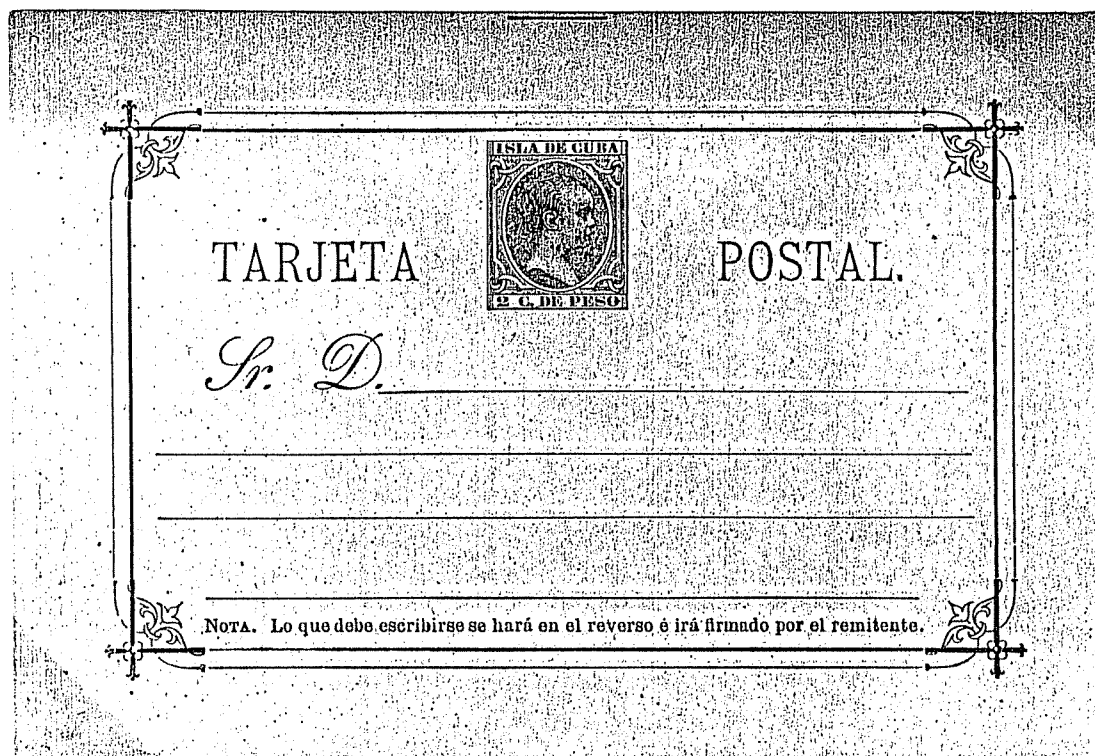


Variety- Large "e" in que, also "cn" for en, both in the footnote.



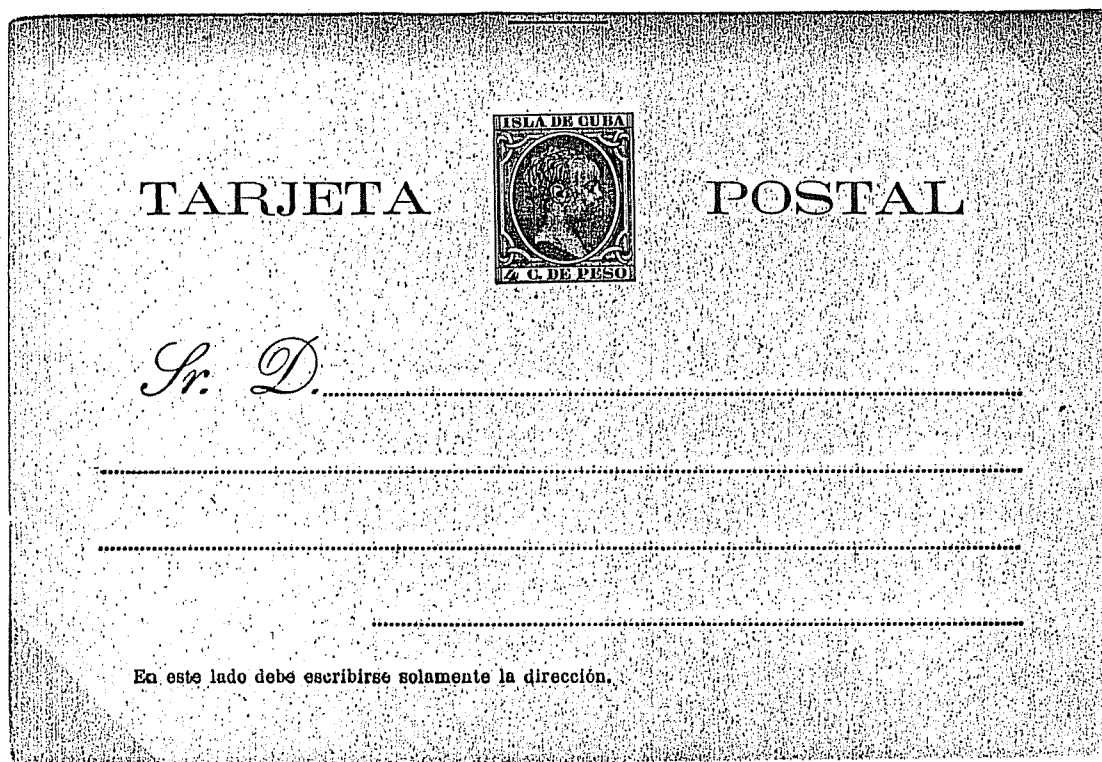
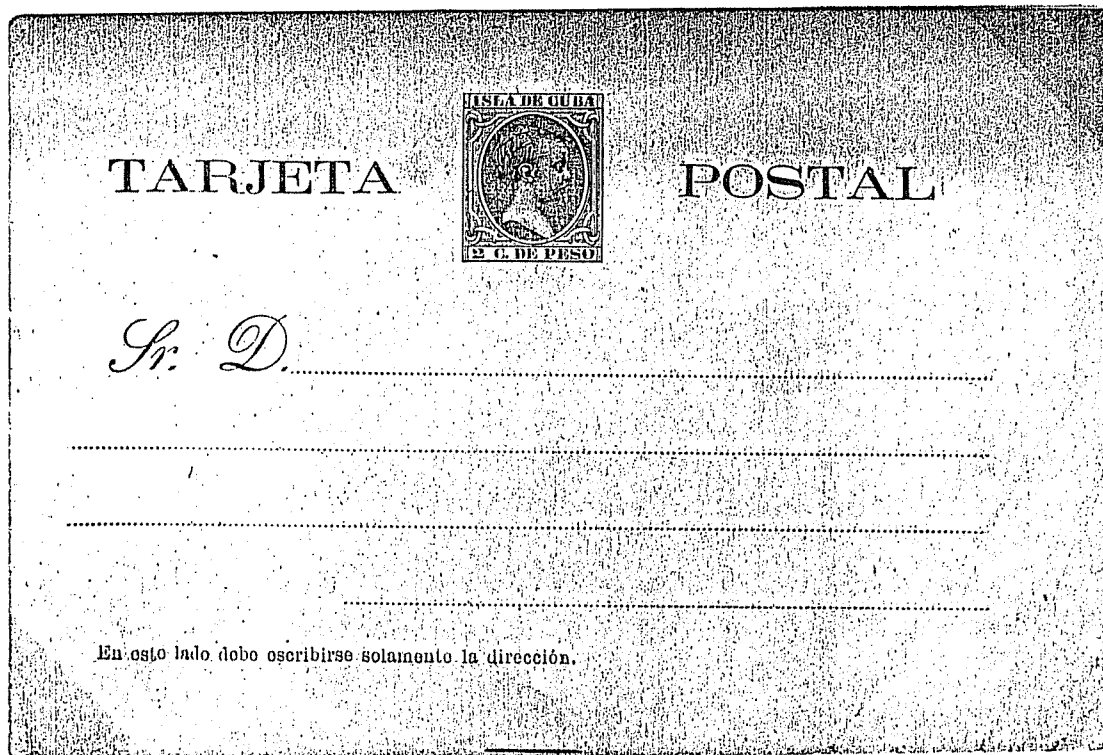
1889

Format same as 1888, however, cards now carry the stamp of Alfonso XIII. Issued in two values: a 2 c. green and a 4 c. dark red.



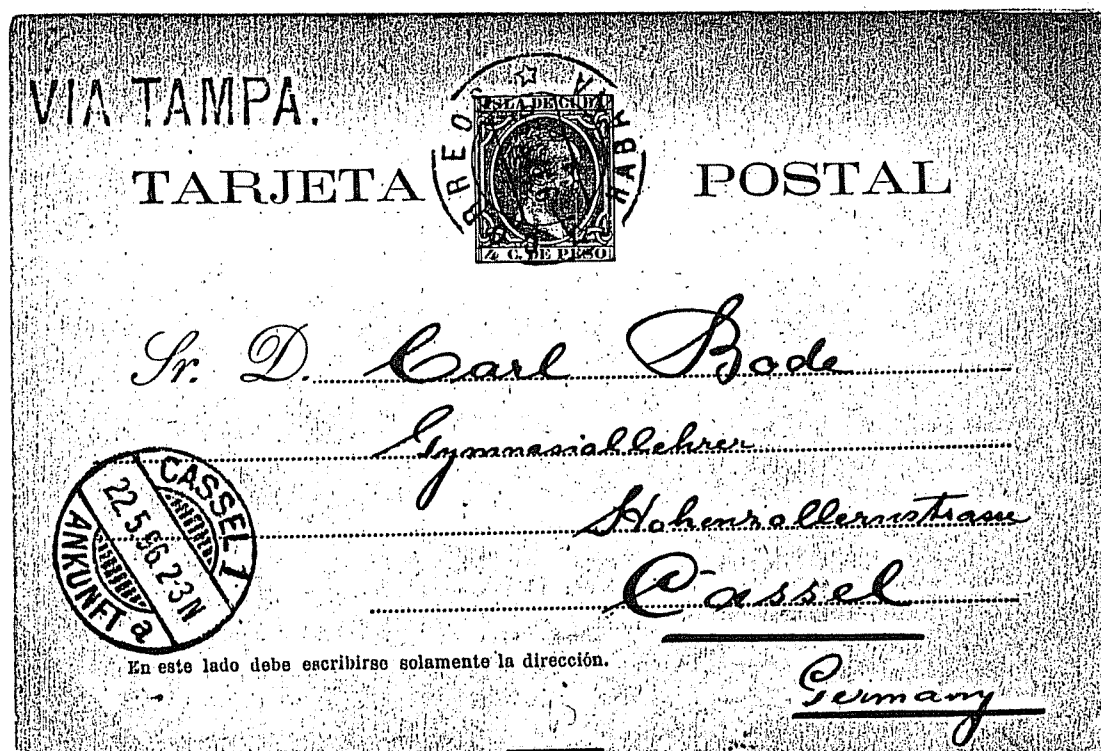
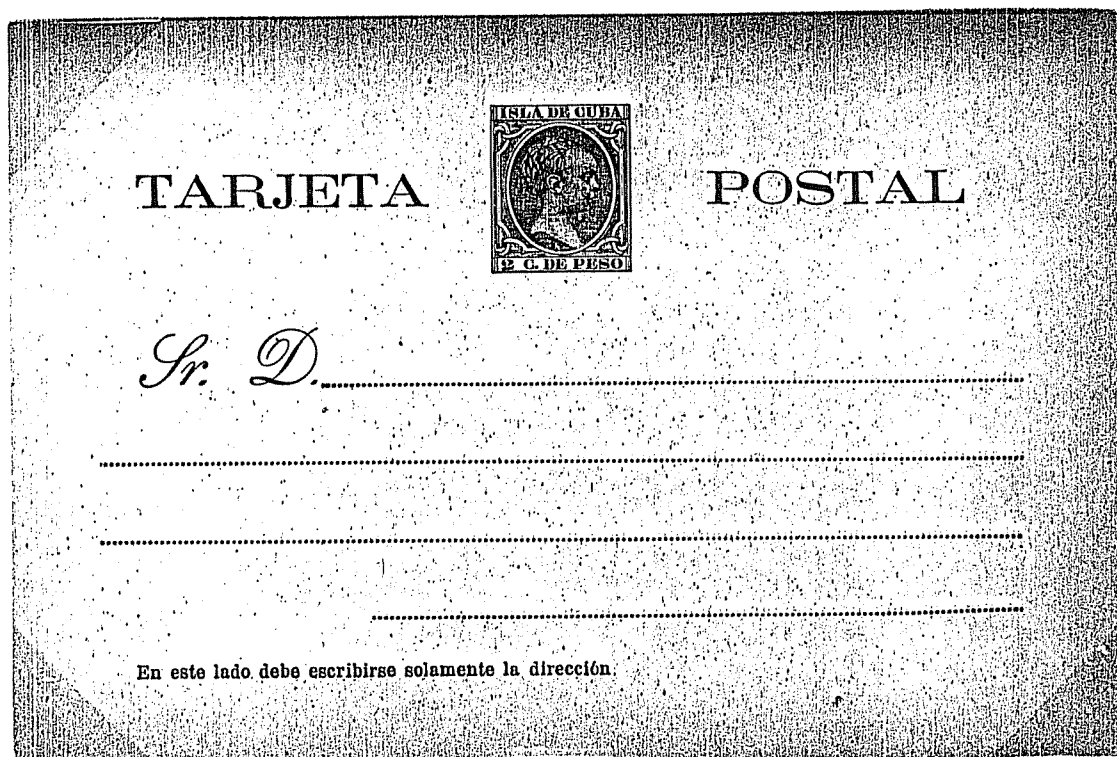
1892

This issue, with the border removed, consisted of two values: a 2 c. green and a 4 c. red brown.



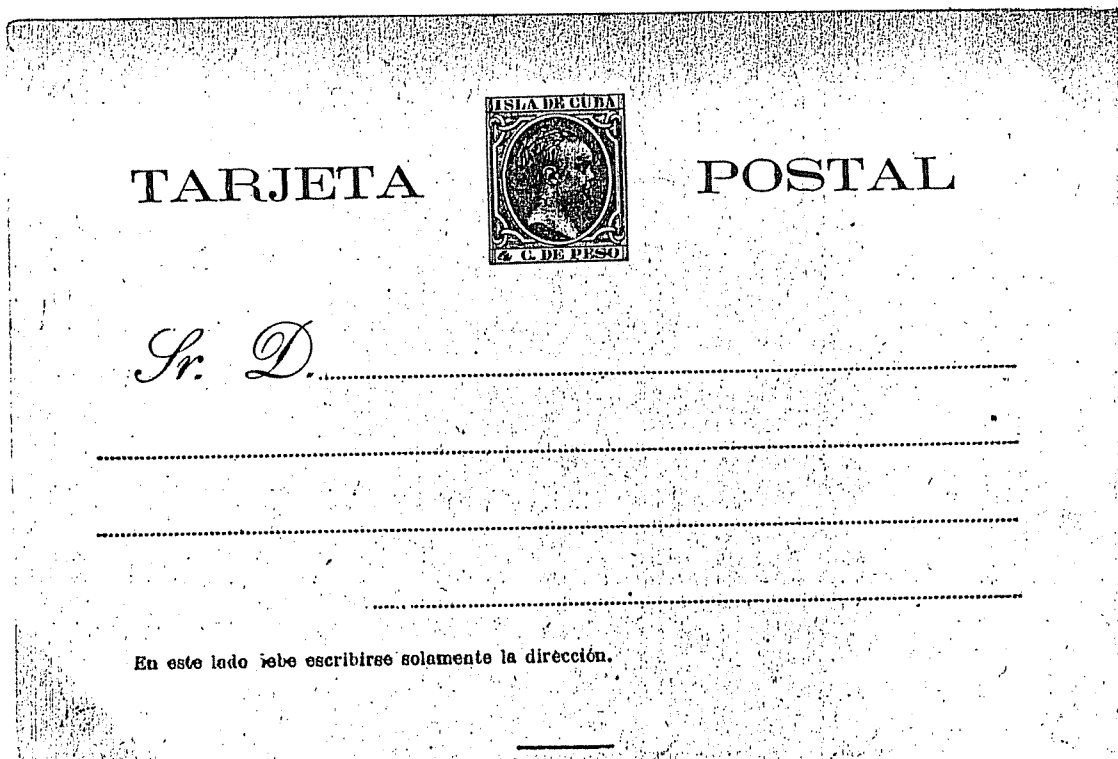
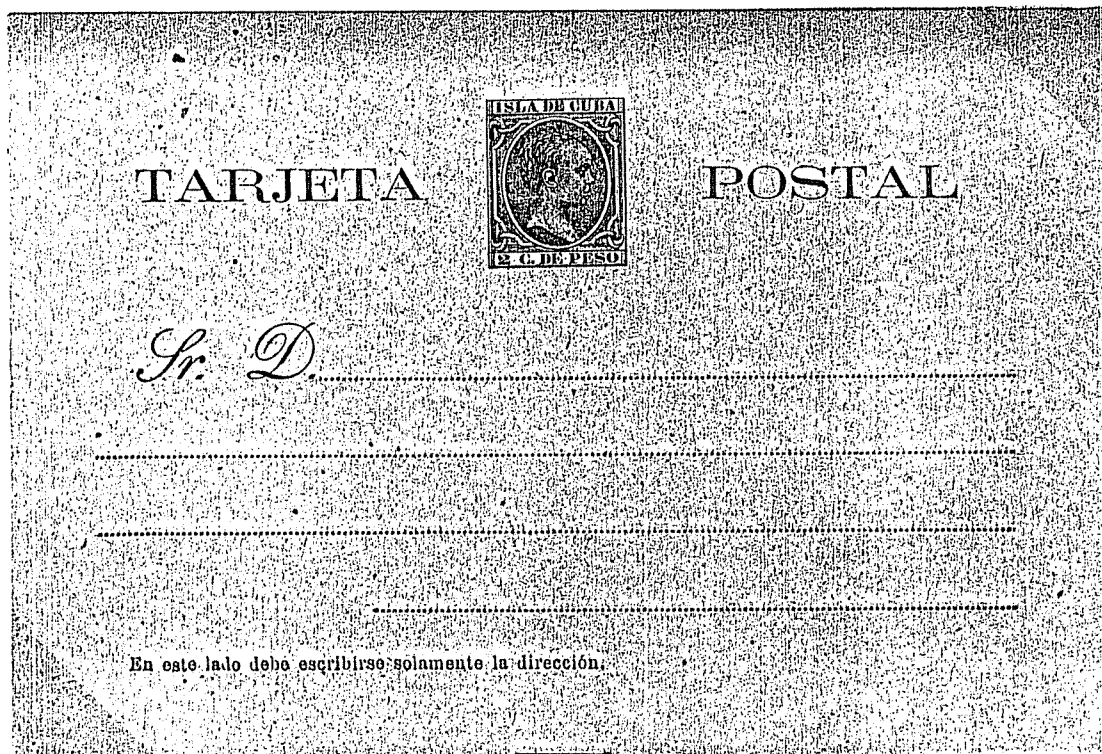
1894

Same format as 1892. This issue had two values: a 2 c. dark brown and a 4 c. dark blue. Both cards printed on buff stock.



1896

Same format as 1892 & 94. Two values, a 2 c. green and a 4 c. blue, both printed on yellowish card stock.



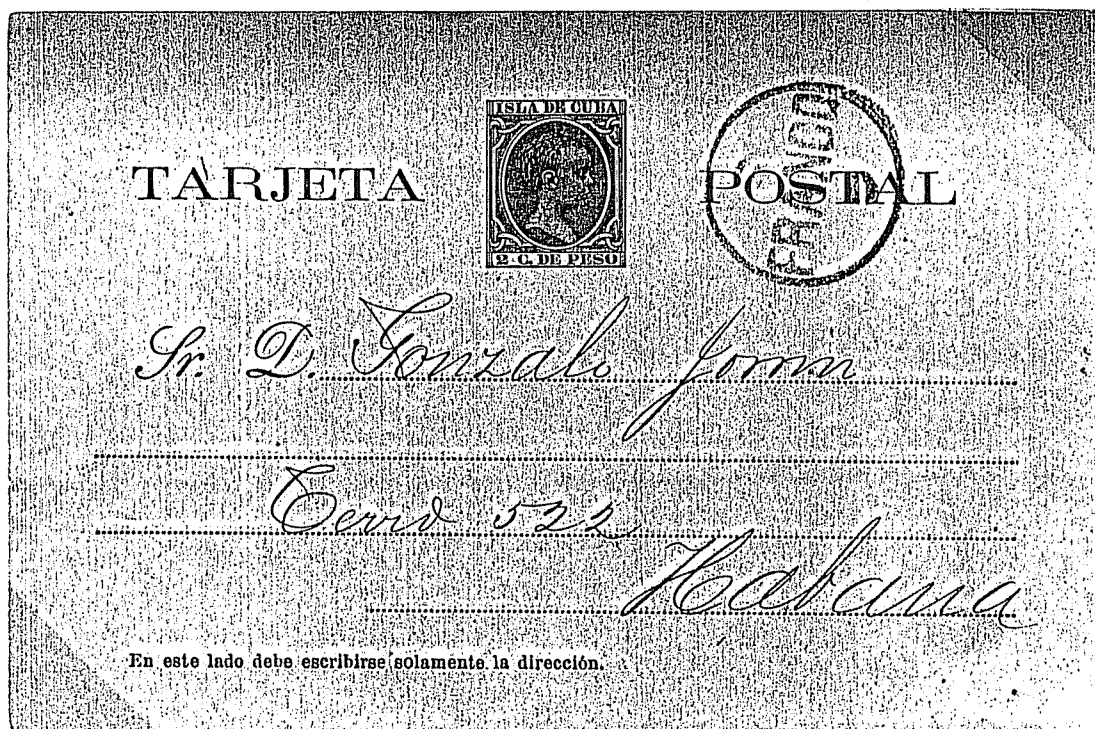
Variety- Inverted "s" in solamente.

This 2 c. brown of 1894 exhibits the inverted "s" variety, at footnote.



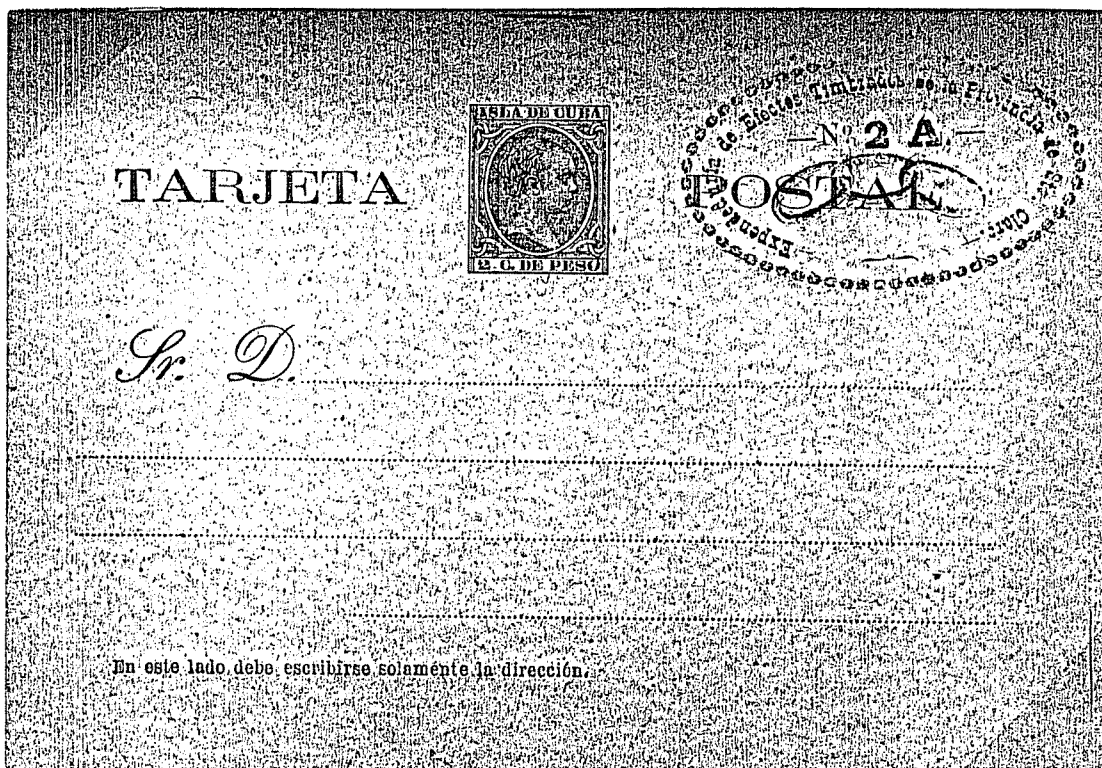
Variety- Large "0" in solamente.

In this variety, the 0 measures 1.5 mm. versus 1.25 mm. in the normal.



Retired card?

This card bears the official seal of the post office retail outlet at Santa Clara Province.

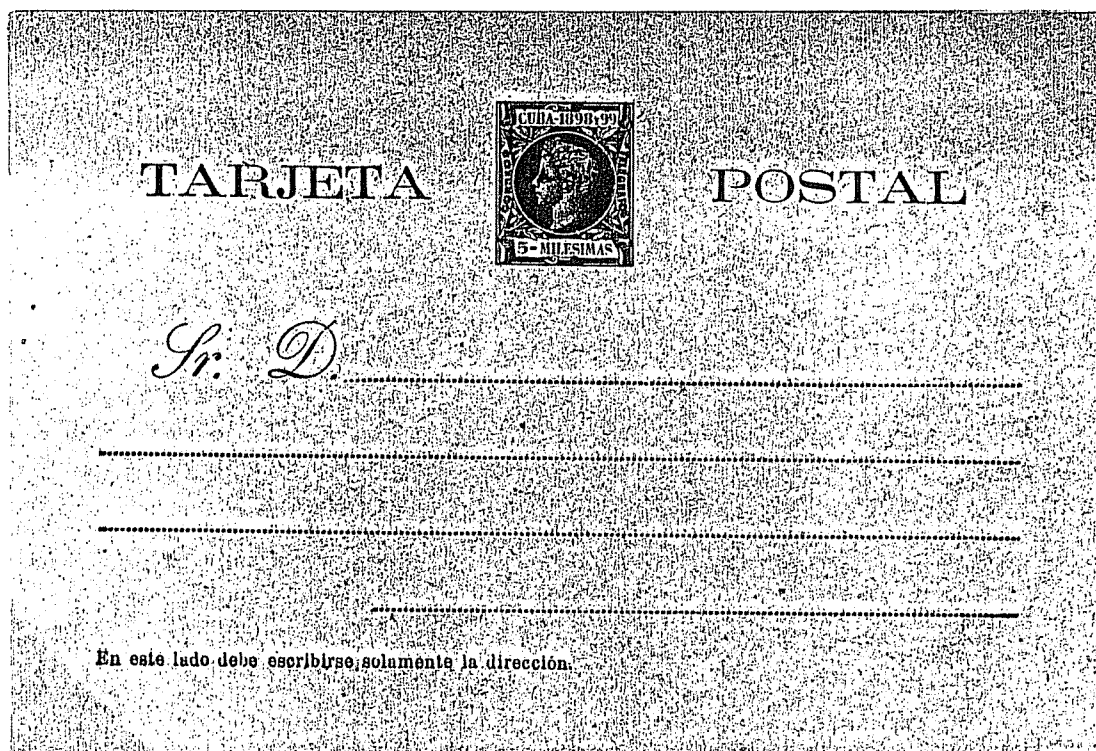


It had been speculated that these seals were applied to devalued items. The card below, however, bears a seal from outlet no. 2 (Santa Clara) and was accepted as valid postage when mailed from Cienfuegos.

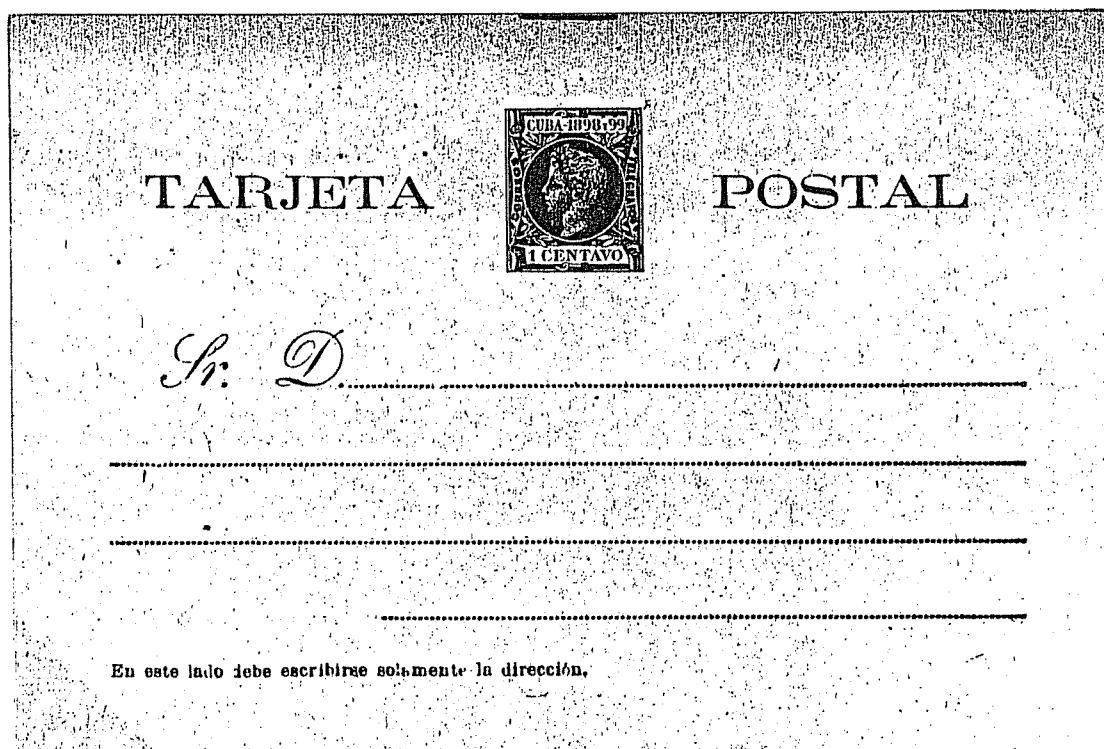


1898

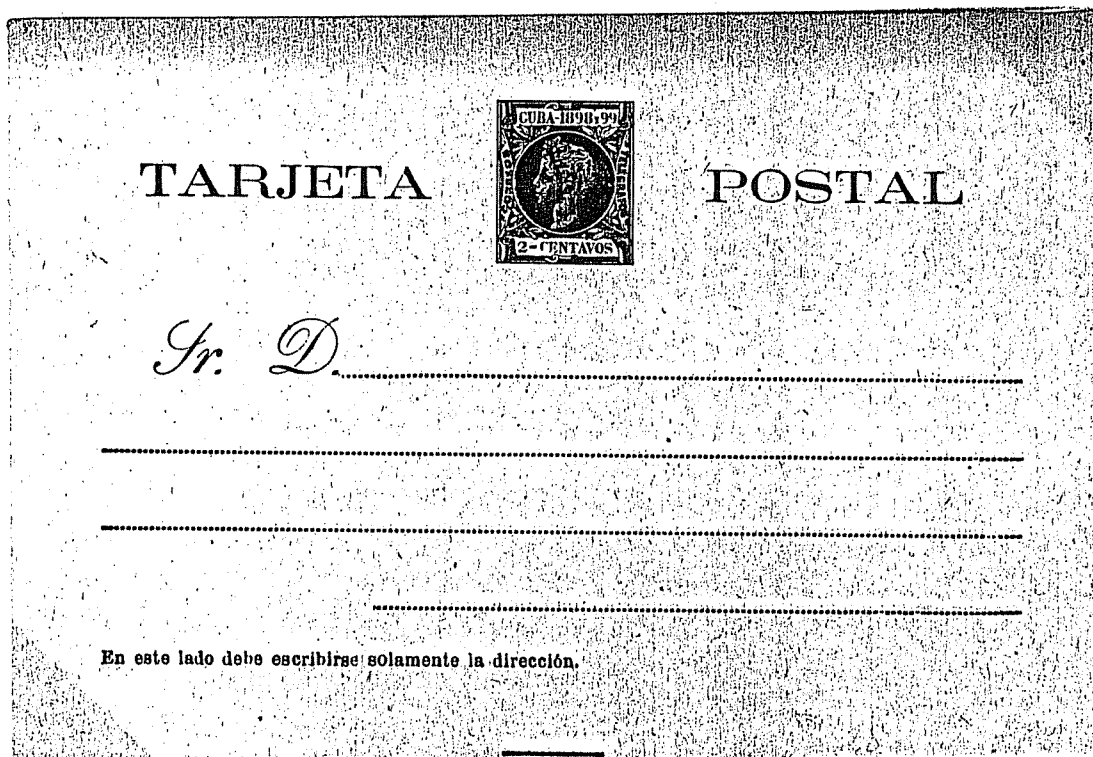
The issue of 1898 consisted of four values: 5mil., 1c., 2c., and 3c.
5 mil. dark red



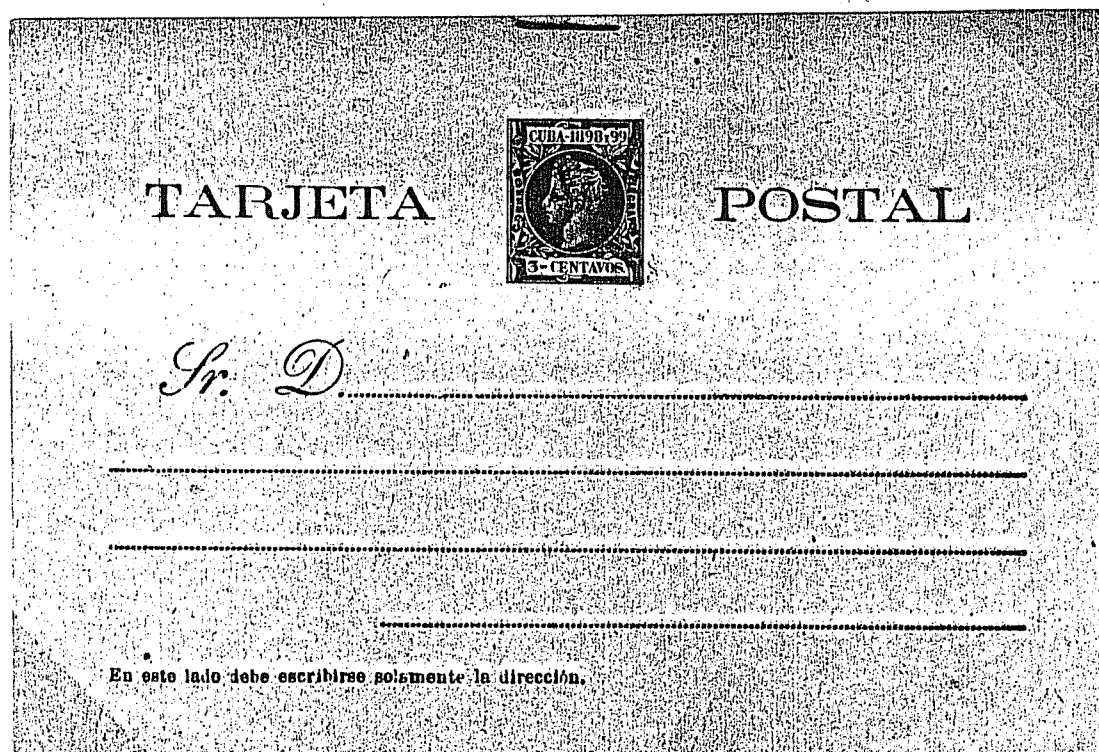
1 c. green



2 c. violet



3 c. brown



Also in 1898, the paid reply (or double) cards made a comeback.
A set of four values, in the same format and colors as the single
cards was issued.

5 mil. + 5 mil.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

RESPUESTA

.....


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.....


.....

Sr. D.

TARJETA POSTAL



TARJETA POSTAL



Sr. D.

.....

.....

.....

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

TARGET A

POSTAL

Sr. D.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

2 c. + 2 c.

RESPUESTA

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

POSTAL



TARJETA

TARJETA



POSTAL

Sr. D.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

3 c. + 3 c.

RESPUESTA

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

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Dr. J.


POSTAL

TARJETA



TARJETA

POSTAL



Sr. D.

.....

.....

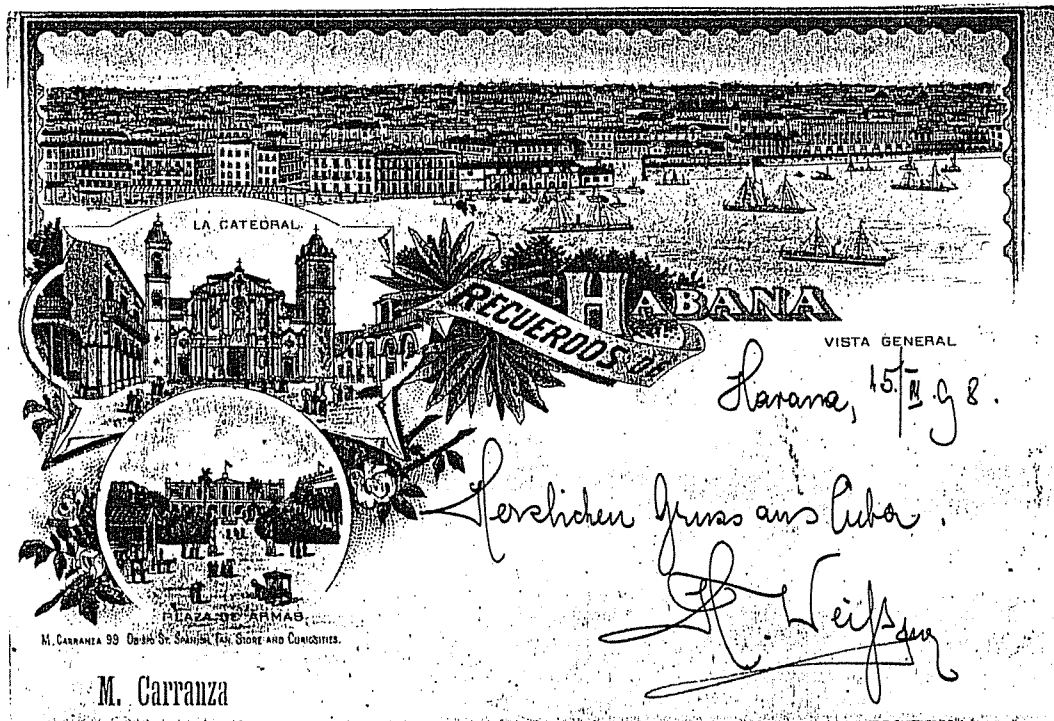
.....

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta

Private View Card.

Mr. M. Carranza, the enterprising proprietor of a gift shop in Havana, prepared these view cards by affixing them to the backs of postal cards of the 1898 issue. They proved to be very popular with his European clientele.





This example was mailed from Havana to Wein, Austria on March 15, 1898. The message reads: "Cordial greetings from Cuba."

Double cards with a 17 mm spacing between the first and second address lines. Normal spacing is 10 mm.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

D. S.

TARJETA

POSTAL

TARJETA

POSTAL

Sr. D.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

RESPUESTA

$$1 \text{ c.} + 1 \text{ c.}$$

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

.....

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.....

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Sr. D.

TARJETA

POSTAL

1 CENTAVO

1 CENTAVO

TARJETA

POSTAL

Sr. D.

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En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

RESPUESTA

Wide spacing

2 c. + 2 c.

TARJETA  POSTAL

Sr. D.


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En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección. RESPUESTA

3 c. + 3 c.

TARJETA  POSTAL

Sr. D.

.....

.....

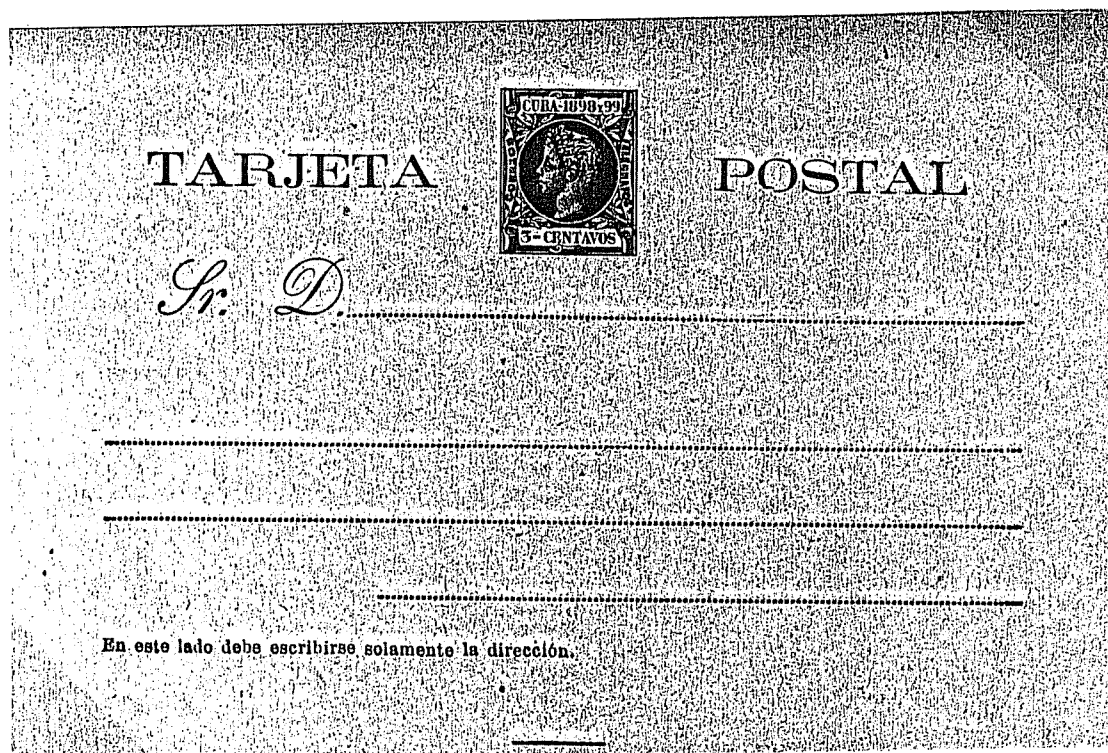
.....

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección. RESPUESTA

Note that wide spacing occurs on reply side.

Variety- wide spacing, on single card.

Contrary to the statements made on the various catalogs, this variety is found on single cards.



"El Boletín", the journal of the Cuban Philatelic Society made a survey of the existence of these cards. (two members reported the 3 c. and a correspondent in Cuba reported the 5 mil.) Additionally, the writer has personally seen the 2 c. in a collection, here in the U.S.

Variety- Salmon paper.

These cards are also found on salmon (pinkish buff) card stock.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

Sr. D.

TARJETA POSTAL

5-CENTAVOS

CUBA-1898-99

TARJETA POSTAL

Sr. D.

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

RESPUESTA