

WESTPEX COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

(Grand Ballroom)

****Frames denoted in *Red* contain topics related to guest societies:
*ARA, SRS, Classics, or Cuban***



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Jose Marti
Apostle of Cuban Independence
Recognition of his life in the Cuban philately between 1902 & 1958

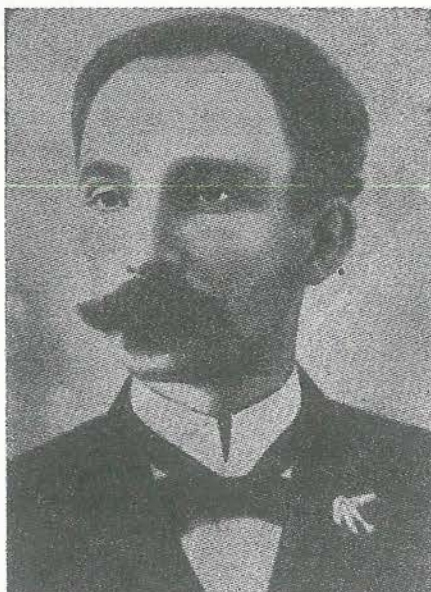
Jose Julian Marti y Perez, Cuban national hero, poet, essayist, journalist, translator, professor, publisher, philosopher and founder of the Cuban Revolutionary Party and considered as one of the greatest and one of the most influential intellectuals of Latin America of the Nineteen Century. He was born January 28 of 1853 in the city of Havana in the house located at Paula Street Number 41. The house is located in "Old Havana Section", it is also known as "Marti's cottage", its treasures many personal belongings, manuscripts and books. The street name was changed to "Leonor Perez" in memory of his mother.

The son of Spanish parents, his father Mariano Marti Navarro, was a Sergeant in Spanish Army, from Valencia and his mother, Leonor Perez Cabrera, a homemaker from the Canary Islands. Marti was the oldest of eight children and the only male.



This stamp was issued on January 28, 1953
on the Centennial of his Birth.

CENTENARIO DEL NACIMIENTO DE JOSE MARTI



1853 - 28 DE ENERO - 1953



CORREOS - 28 DE ENERO, 1953

In 1953 on the centennial of his birth a collection of different stamps was issued for his devotion to his country. There were also stationary envelopes carrying Martí's effigy were sold with the stamp of the "Centennial of his Birth" This envelope have a stamp that shows Martí's birthplace and is cancelled January 28, 1953

He started his education in the local Public School and the Municipal Superior School for Boys. The School was headed by Rafael Maria de Mendive an educator who is considered by many as the guiding force in Martí's social and political philosophies. In 1866 at Mendive's request the Director of Havana High School allowed Martí to take the admission test, which he passed and started his High School studies. In September entered "San Alejandro" (Professional School of Art and Sculpture) where he took painting classes.



Stamp with the same photo of Martí and behind him the effigy of his teacher Mendive



Martí (Circa 1867)

At the start of the Ten Years' War he joined one of the many groups called Clubs that supported Cuban Independence. He wrote several poems that projected his desire for an Independent Cuba. In 1869 at the tender age of 16, in his intense desire for independence he published his first political article in the only edition of a newspaper "El Diablo Cojuelo" published by his friend Fermín Valdés Domínguez.



Martí the writer
Stamp issued in 1953 on the Centennial of his Birth

His poems, articles and pamphlets distributed in the city of Havana attracted the attention of the authorities which considered Martí's writings "disturbing".

During a search by the police of a house occupied by the brothers Fermín and Eusebio Valdés a letter was found signed by Fermín and Martí and addressed to a friend in which they accused him of being a traitor, for joining the Spanish army to fight against the Cuban insurgents. This letter plus his writings that had circulated in Havana was sufficient to consider them to be insubordinate against the government and were placed under arrest for insubordination, the ground for their arrest.



Stamp honoring Martí and his poems
Inside reads: "Martí Poet"

Six months after their arrest they were taken before a Military Court. During the Court Martial Martí confessed that he was the sole author of the letter. The Court found him guilty of bribery, sedition and treason and was sentenced to six years of Hard Labor. The Valdés brothers were sentenced to six months in jail and to be banished from the Island.

While imprisoned in shackles he sent his mother a self-portrait portraying himself in chains. In 1953, the centennial of his birth, a stamp was issued portraying him in those chains.



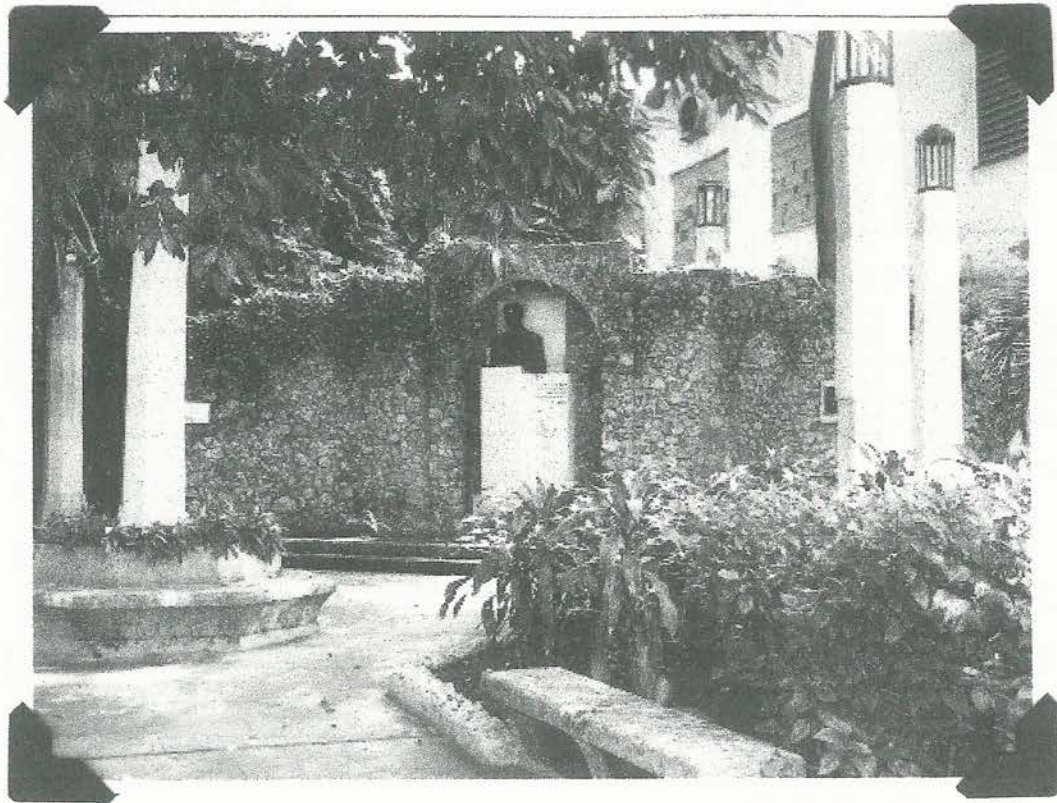
Copy of the sketch



1953 Stamp with the inscription
"In Prison"

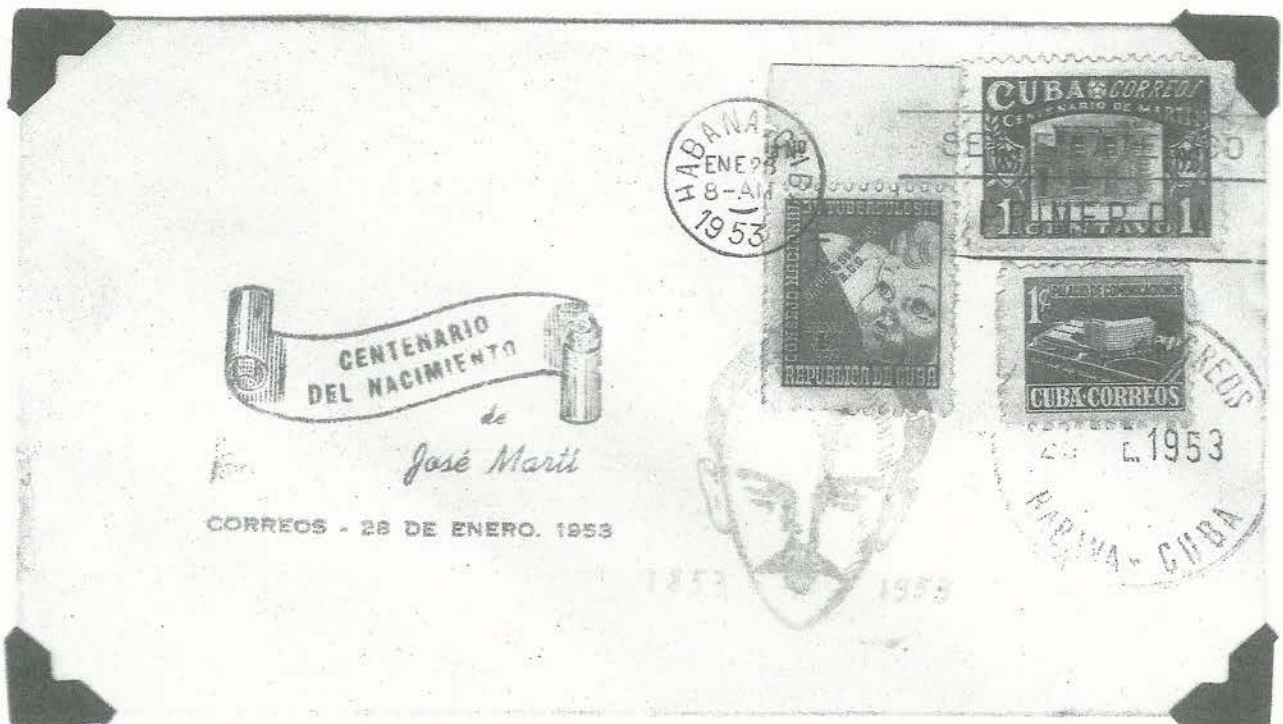


Envelope carrying the three cent stamp showing Martí in prison with a one cent Postal Tax for the construction of the Communication Palace. The envelope shows the two First Day rubber stamps. The one on the bottom left that reads "Birth Centennial of Jose Martí" January 28, 1953 and the one in the right side that reads First Day of the 1-3-5-&10 Regular Mail and 8 cent Air Mail August 25, 1953



Monument of Marti in the location where the Quarry was located

In December thanks to the appeal of his father the authorities decided to repatriate (exiled) him to Spain. On January 15 of 1871 he left Cuba and few weeks later arrived in Cadiz, Spain.



This envelope with the third rubber stamp used in 1953 that shows the effigy of Martí has a one cent stamp with picture of Martí's birth place, a one cent Postal Tax stamp and stamp to fight tuberculosis, and two round rubber stamps that read "January 28, 1953" and another that reads "Be a philatelist" "First Day"



This stamp was issued in August 25, 1953 in the Centennial of his Birth
There is an Inscription that reads:
"Where he suffered Hard Labor"

He left Cuba in January of 1871 and arrived in Cadiz, Spain and from there he traveled to Madrid where he settled. A few months later a newspaper published his article "Castillo" (Castle) in which described the torments suffered by two fellow inmates, one a very young boy. Later he published his paper "Political Imprisonment in Cuba" based on the brutalities he suffered while in prison.



Monument of Martí in the City of Cadiz
by sculptor Pablo Avanzini

During his exile in Spain that lasted from 1871 to the last part of 1875, Martí wrote and published numerous pamphlets and articles in favor of Cuban independence. Some of this articles were published in several important newspapers of Spain

When the First Spanish Republic was proclaimed by the "Cortes" (Spanish Parliament) they declared that Cuba was inseparable from Spain and its political status should not be changed. As the result of this decision Martí responded by issuing an essay calling hypocritical the proclamation of democracy while failing to grant Cuba its freedom.

Few months after his arrival in Madrid he applied to be admitted at the School of Law of the University of Madrid. He was accepted and commenced his studies. Two years later his friend

Fermín Valdes took him to the city of Zaragoza. Once settled in that city he transferred his studies to the University of Zaragoza.

In June 1874 graduated with a degree in Civil Law and Canon Law. In October University granted him a degree in Philosophy. At the end of the year he traveled to France on his way to Mexico. While in Paris he met poet Auguste Vacquerie and Victor Hugo. A year later Martí would translate Victor Hugo's "Mes Fils" to Spanish

Martí departed France and traveled to Mexico where he reunited with his parents and sisters in Mexico City. Within a few weeks he started writing for the newspaper "Revista Universal" and in May became part of the Editorial Board.

In December he met Francisco de Zayas-Bazán y Varona. During one of the many visits to the Zayas-Bazán residence Martí met Carmen Zayas-Bazán Hidalgo (1853–1928) and eventually the two fell in love and got engaged. Carmen's father was not completely happy with the engagement, he was an autonomist while Martí was opposed for nothing but independence.



This stamp issued in 1953 on the Centennial of his birth is a replica of the monument in Central Park in the City of Havana



Martí's monument in Central Park, Havana

In 1876 Martí left Mexico and traveled to Cuba under the name of Julian Perez with the idea to get permission for his family to return from Mexico. A few weeks later he departed Cuba and traveled to Guatemala. Shortly after his arrival he became a professor at the National University where he taught literature, history and philosophy. He also taught at the Academy for Central American Girls.

One of his students was Maria Garcia Granados y Saborio (1860-1878) She was immortalized in Marti's poem "La niña de Guatemala" (The girl from Guatemala).



María García Granados

I want under shadow of a wing
Tell this story in bloom
The Girl of Guatemala
The one who died of love

She gave the forgetful
A perfume sachet
He returned, returned married
She died of love

She went into the river at dusk
The doctor took her out dead
They say she died of coldness
I know she died of love

No stamp has been issued in Cuba or Guatemala
in memory of Maria

The above three stanza, out of the total of nine in the poem, are the ones in which Marti describes her death as a product of suicide, result of her deep love for him.

In 1891, Carmen, realized that Marti's devotion for the Cuban cause was far superior that his own family, Carmen abandoned him and returned with her son to Cuba, Marti wrote to a friend: "And to think I sacrificed poor thing Maria, for Carmen.

Maria was described as a tall, slender and graceful girl with deep black hair. Two of Marti's friend, years later stated that there were "electrical sparks" from the minute Maria and Marti met.

She was attracted to him by his charisma, him by her beauty and cosmopolitan way. Apparently the romance never went too far, Marti was already engaged to marry Carmen Zayas Bazan. In 1878 at the end of the Ten Years War Marti left Guatemala with his family and returned to Cuba.

For the following sixteen years Marti traveled through several Latin American countries, writing for newspapers and magazines in all the different countries that he visited. Finally he settled in the United States in New York City.

During his years in the United States he was appointed Consul for the Republic of Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.



From New York he traveled several times to "Ybor City" (Tampa) and Key West where he obtained the support of the cigars workers and was able to raise funds for the Cuban cause. It was in Key West that the Cuban Revolutionary Party was founded.

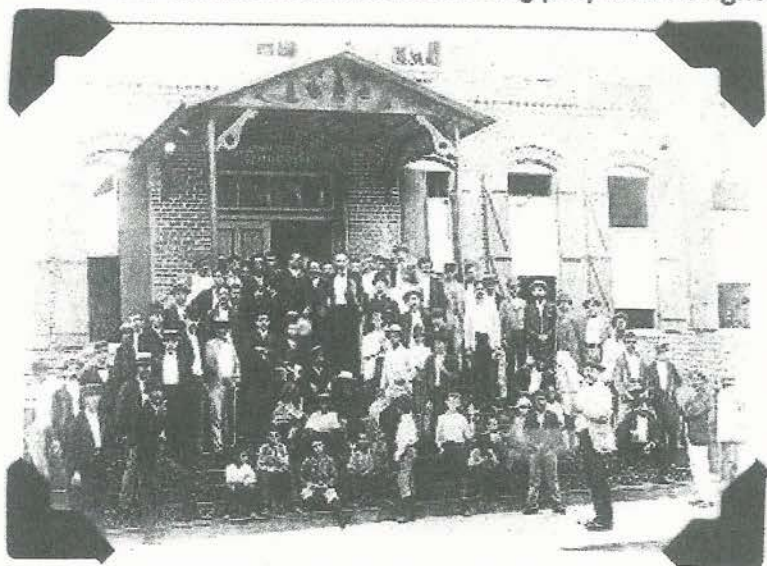


At the Cuban Lyceum in Ybor City he delivered one of his most famous speeches.

The two stamps shown on the left were issued in remembrance of the two locations

The 13 cent stamp of 1953 showing the house where the Cuban Revolutionary Party was founded (Key West) and the 12 cent stamp in 1955 portraying the Cuban Lyceum in Ybor City (Tampa).

The 1955 stamp was issued to commemorate the centennial of Ybor City where Marti spent months working in favor of Cuban independence and raising funds to obtain arms and supplies for the Cuban forces that was being prepared to fight the Spanish forces in the island.



Picture taken in Ybor City (circa 1893) showing Marti surrounded by cigar workers



Stamp issued in the centennial of Marti's Birthday with a replica of the picture

Marti continued his works and travels for Cuban independence and in the year 1892 launched a publication dedicated to Cuba independence. The first edition of the newspaper "Patria" (Fatherland) the official voice of the Cuban Revolutionary Party appeared in the City of New York in March 16 of 1892. Marti was the Publisher and Director.

The expenses to cover the first issue was financed by the Cigars workers in Florida. On the centennial of Marti's birth (1953) a thirteen cent stamp was issued portraying the first issue of the newspaper "Patria" *



The stamp represents the number one issue of the newspaper and shows as follows:

PATRIA

Number 1 New York, March 16, 1892

*The above notation is shown to help the reader of this stamp to know what is written on it

On 1892 Marti traveled through several countries in Latin America meeting with Cuban exiles. Jamaica was one of them. It was here in Jamaica, where his best known photo was taken. The photo was reproduced in a 1953 stamp issued to commemorate the centennial of his birth.



The inscription in the stamp reads:

Martí in Kingston Jamaica



Martí in Jamaica



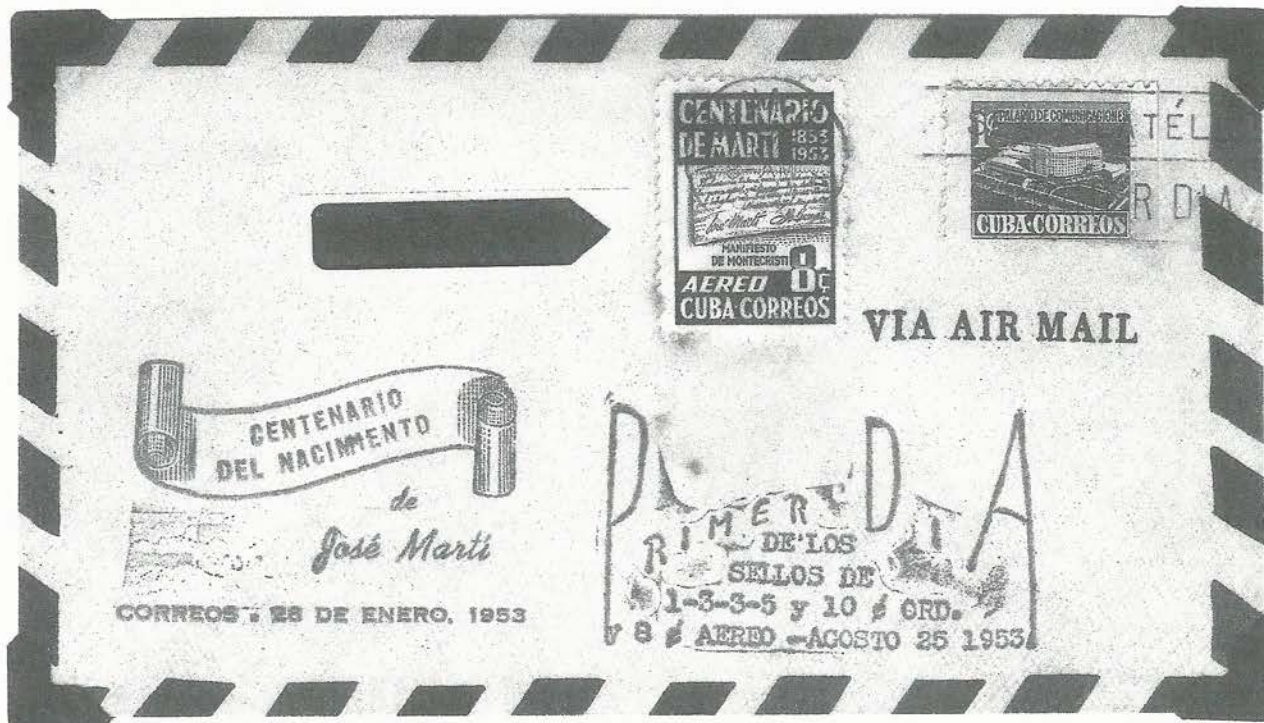
This envelope has the stamp of Martí in Jamaica, was mailed from Havana to Germany in 1953 by Dr. Bravo Acosta to one Fred Voigt. The two other stamps show Martí in Tampa, and the other stamp is dedicated to his poems. There is one cent Postal Tax stamp for the construction of the Communication Palace.

In 1893 Martí traveled to Santo Domingo to meet with Máximo Gómez, the General of the Cuban forces in the Ten years War (1868-1878). In the small town of "Monte Cristi" the men met and Martí offered Gómez to become the commander in chief of the "Cuban Army", which he accepted. Three years later they will meet again and will sign a document known as "The Montecristi Manifesto".

The greatness of this document is that expressed the reason and cause of why the Cubans were fighting for but also it was also an offer and assurance to Spaniards in the island that the war was not against them but against the Spanish Colonial Government and that after the war, they will be respected. When Cuba became a free nation the promise was fulfilled. A peaceful transition was accomplished. The Spaniards remained in the island and both Cuban and Spaniards built a strong nation.



Air Mail Stamp issued on the Centennial of his Birth
The inscription reads: Manifiesto de Montecristi



The envelope have the Air Mail stamp of the previous page. First Day Issue (August 25 of 1953), with a one cent Postal Tax stamp. There is a rubber stamp "Jose Martí's Birth Centennial".

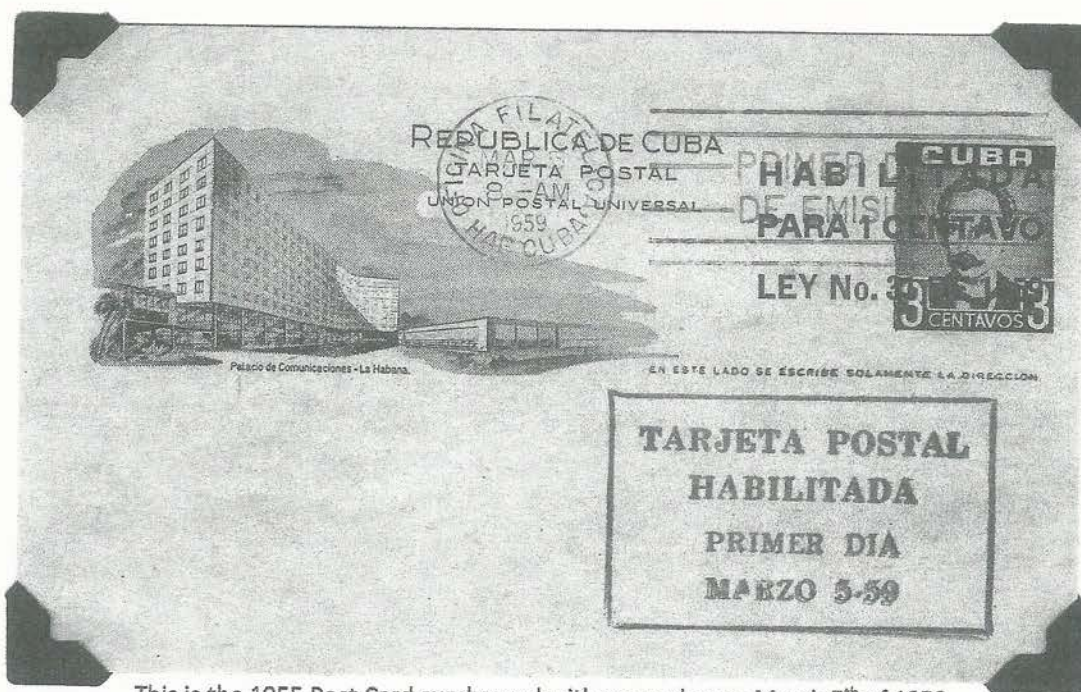
In 1904 a one cent card was issued with the portrait of Martí this card was reprinted until 1955 when a new card worth three cents was placed in circulation. The card was subject to the change on the postal rates and the government decrees creating a Stamp tax to fight Tuberculosis and the tax for the construction of the Communication Palace. The difference with 1904 card was that a different effigy was used.



Above is the first Post Card issued by the Republic in 1904.



The 1955 3 cents Post Card with a new effigy of Martí. The face is from the picture of Martí in Jamaica.

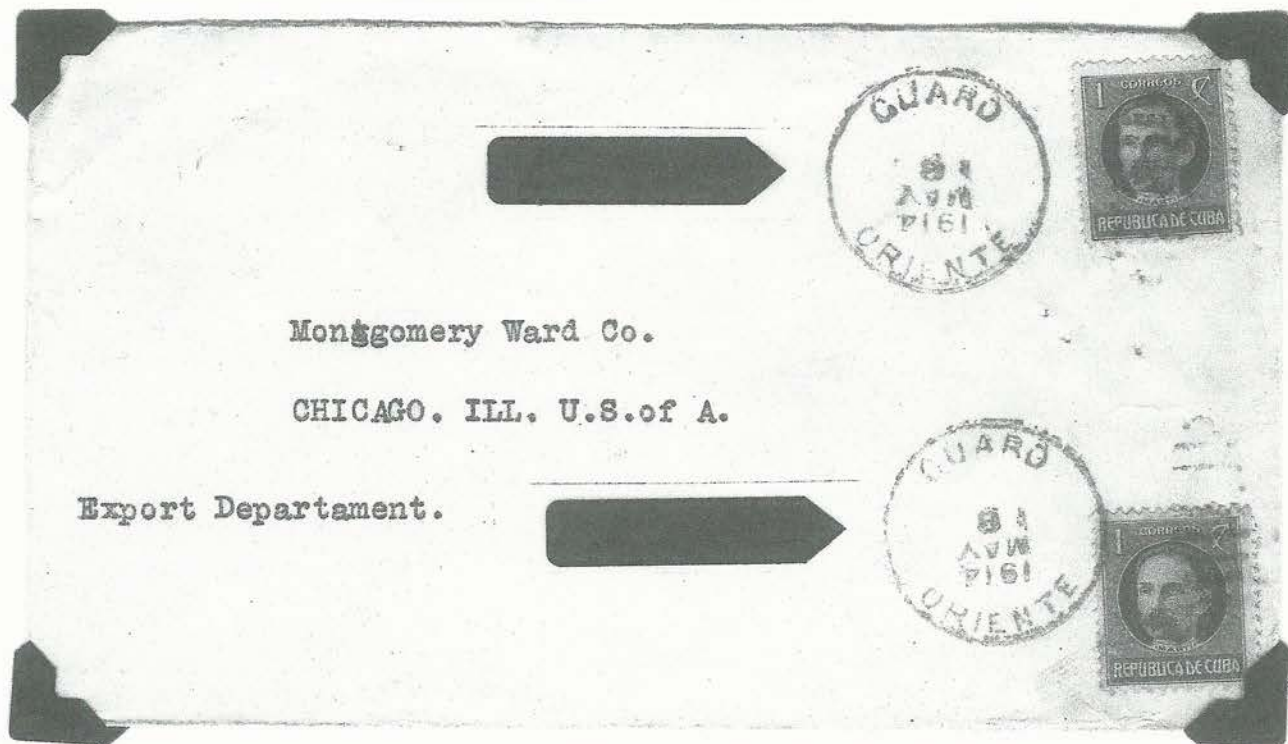


This is the 1955 Post Card surcharged with new value on March 5th of 1959

In 1917 a set of nine stamps known as "The Cuban Patriots" was issued in recognition of their devotion for their country. The one cent stamp with Martí's effigy was placed in circulation in June of that year. The stamp was reprinted with the same color and value in 1925, 1926 and 1930. The 1926 stamp issued imperforated



In December of 1933 the 1917 stamp was issued with an overprint reading up and down
"Revolutionary Government 4-9-1933.



The above letter was mailed from Guaro, Oriente a very small town with a very small population in 1917, the letter was erroneously Post Marked May 8 1914. There is an error is because a stamp with the effigy of Marti was not was not issued until in 1917. This envelope is one of the few in existence mailed that day from Guaro carrying the wrong date in the Post Mark.

An interesting point of Marti's life is, when his wife abandoned him and returned to Cuba in 1891, after she realized that Marti's dedication and conviction for Cuban independence was such that he could not support and maintain a family life, Marti found solace on Carmen Miyares a lady that ran a boarding house where Marti was a boarder. It is said that out of the relationship a girl was born, Maria Mantilla who was in turn the mother of Cesar Romero a very well-known Hollywood actor of the 1930th and 40s and who proudly claimed to be Marti's grandson.

Marti continued his travels and work for Cuban independence and finally in 1894 met with Maximo Gomez who was to become the Commanding in Chief of all the Cuban Forces and the finally details for the War were completed.

At the end of 1894 the Revolutionary Council decided that uprising should take place in 1895 and the message was sent to Cuba and on February 24th of that year in the small town of Baire, Oriente, Province the uprising took place on what is known as "Grito de Baire" (Battle Cry of Baire). In the first days of April Marti arrived in Cuba accompanied with Gomez and other patriots at "Playitas" in the northern part of Oriente.



The above 1953 symbolized the arrival at Cuba
There is an inscription in the stamp that reads: Marti's landing at Playitas

On April 15 Marti was informed by Gomez that the Generals of the Cuban Forces in recognition of his services to Cuba have decided to give him the rank of General of the Army. In May 5th Marti, Maceo (General in Chief of the Ground Forces) and Gomez met in "La Mejorana" sugar mill and the last details regarding the invasion of the western section of the island were completed.

On May 19 the several days after arriving at "Dos Rios", General Gomez decided to attack the Spanish forces in the area and ordered Marti to stay in the rearguard. Soon Gomez realized that the Spanish forces had strong position and ordered to disengage.



Monument at Dos Rios

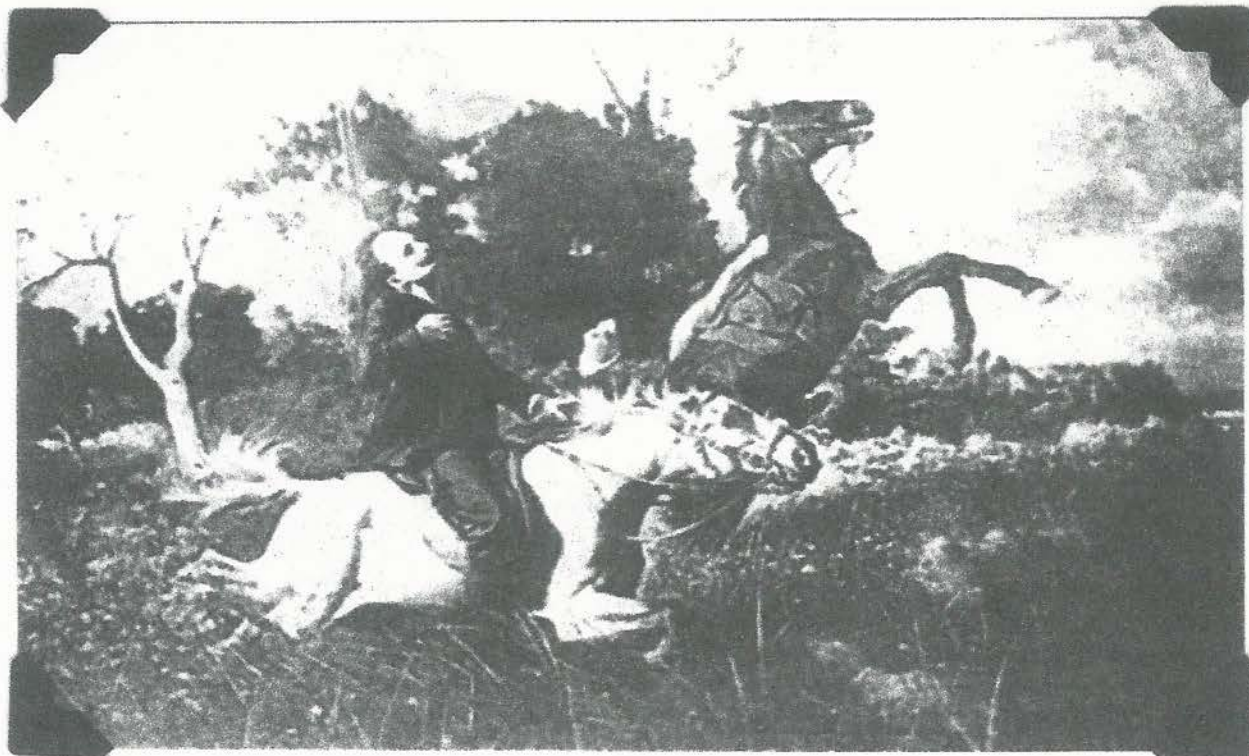


First Grave



Actual Mausoleum

Some historians are of the opinion that Martí and a courier were surprised by a Spanish detachment and killed. Others claimed that Martí had been spurned by some of the commanders for never having participated in combat and that was the compelling reason for Martí's ill-fated suicidal charge.



Picture of the Oleo done by Cuban painter Esteban Valderrama representing Martí's death at Dos Rios

Note: In 1995 on the centennial of Martí's death a stamp with a copy of the painting was issued



The above stamps represent Martí as Orator and the other stamp shows the day of his death, both are part of the complete series of 21 stamps issued in 1953 on the Centennial of his Birth.