

The first issue bearing the bust of the new monarch, Alfonso XIII, born in 1886, a few months after the death of his father Alfonso XII.



2 c. green, Type I.

Type I cards have the S of Sr starting under the T of Tarjeta.



4 c. carmine, Type I.

The Type I-A cards have the "S" of Sr starting to the right of the first "T" of Tarjeta.



2 c. green, Type I-A.

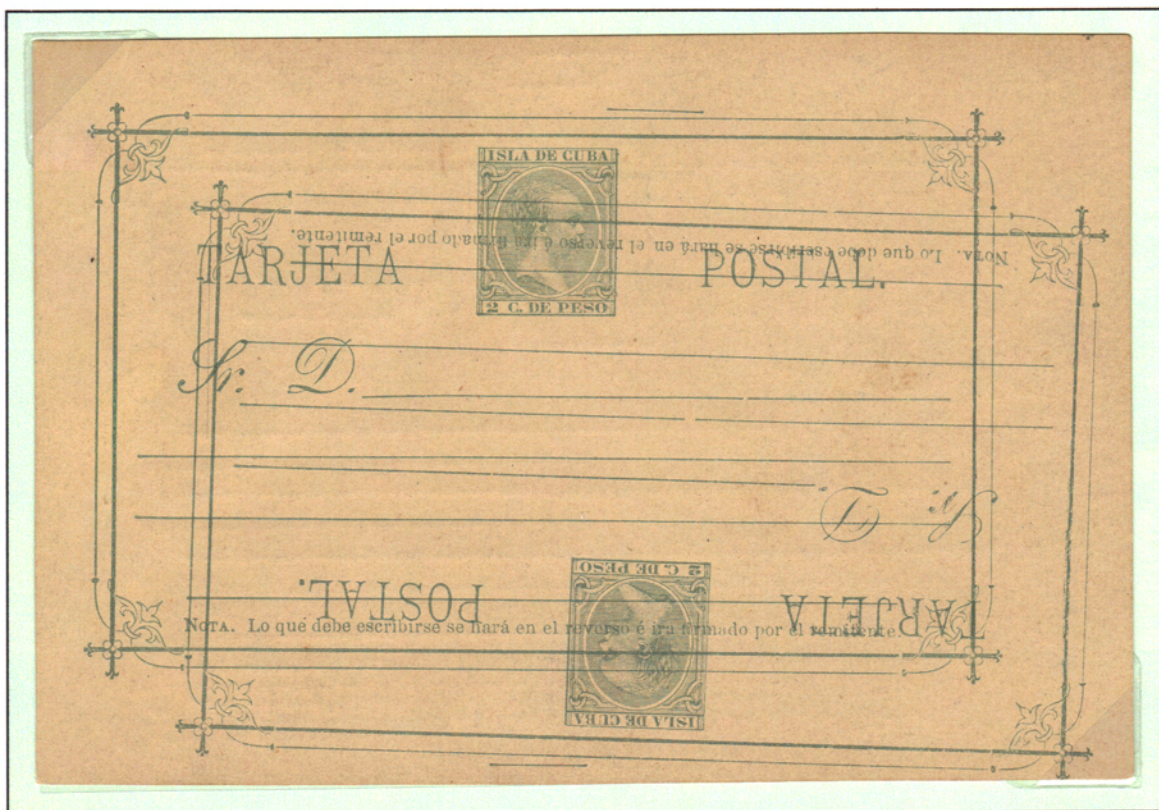


4 c. carmine, Type I-A.

1890

"El Pelón" - Alfonso XIII

Double Impression, one inverted



Upright impression, Type I 2 c. card: inverted impression, Type I-A 2 c. card.

Type I and Type IA are varieties within the same plate.

Usage of 2 c. Postcard



2 c. Type I-A, Sagua La Grande to Habana, August 2, 1891.



Cienfuegos to Habana, May 5, 1893.



Cardenas to Paris, France, February 17, 1893.
Transit mark: New York, February 22, 1893.

1890

"El Pelón" - Alfonso XIII

Usage of 2 c. Postcard



At top right:
Circular "expendeduría"
marking from the Province
of Santa Clara, in blue.

Tunas de Zaza to St. Gallen, Switzerland, October 17, 1891.



Puerto Principe to Leipzig, Germany, February 10, 1895.
Additional 1 c. blue stamp of 1894 paid the rate to Europe.

"El Pelón" - Alfonso XIII

The Habana firm of Schwab y Tillmann (Beer Importers) used a rudimentary form of a "Rolodex", years before the card filing system was patented in the United States.



Used in Habana, January 20, 1894.



Puerto Principe to Leipzig, Germany, January 4, 1895.

Similar to the 1890 issue, but the frame has been removed.



2 c. green.



4 c. chestnut.

The two typesetting varieties shown below are known for all cards of the 1892 - 1896 issues.



Large "O" of solamente, 1.5 mm instead of 1 mm.



Inverted "s" of solamente.

1892

"El Pelón" - Alfonso XIII

Usage of the 2 c. Postcard

Habana to Mazorra
(Habana's Mental
Hospital),
September 30,
1893.



Remedios to New
York, NY, April 8,
1897.

Puerto Principe to
Leipzig, Germany,
January 4, 1895.

The 1 c. blue stamp
of 1894 made up
the 3 c. rate to
Germany.



En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.



Tunas de Zaza to Boston, MA, May 17, 1897.
 This card shows a "clasped hands" expendeduría marking from Santa Clara Province office No. 2.



Yet a different purple handstamp from Expendeduría No. 2A, Santa Clara Province.
 This is a similar oval design showing three chain links, signifying Unity/Strength.

During the major portion of the 1880's and 1890's the UPU rate to Europe was 3 c. In spite of this, the Spanish Fabrica Nacional del Sello kept printing just 2 c. & 4 c. cards.

Most mail to Europe used either the "old" (1882) 3 c. UPU cards or the 2 c. cards, with an added 1 c. stamp. Thus, used 4 c. cards are extremely hard to find.



Habana to Hertogenbosch, Paises Bajos (Netherlands), September 9, 1895.
 Transit mark: Paris, France Sept. 25, 1895. Receiving mark: sHertogenbosch, Sept. 26, 1895.



Habana to London, England, June 28, 1894.
 Red receiving marks: London, July 11, 1894.