

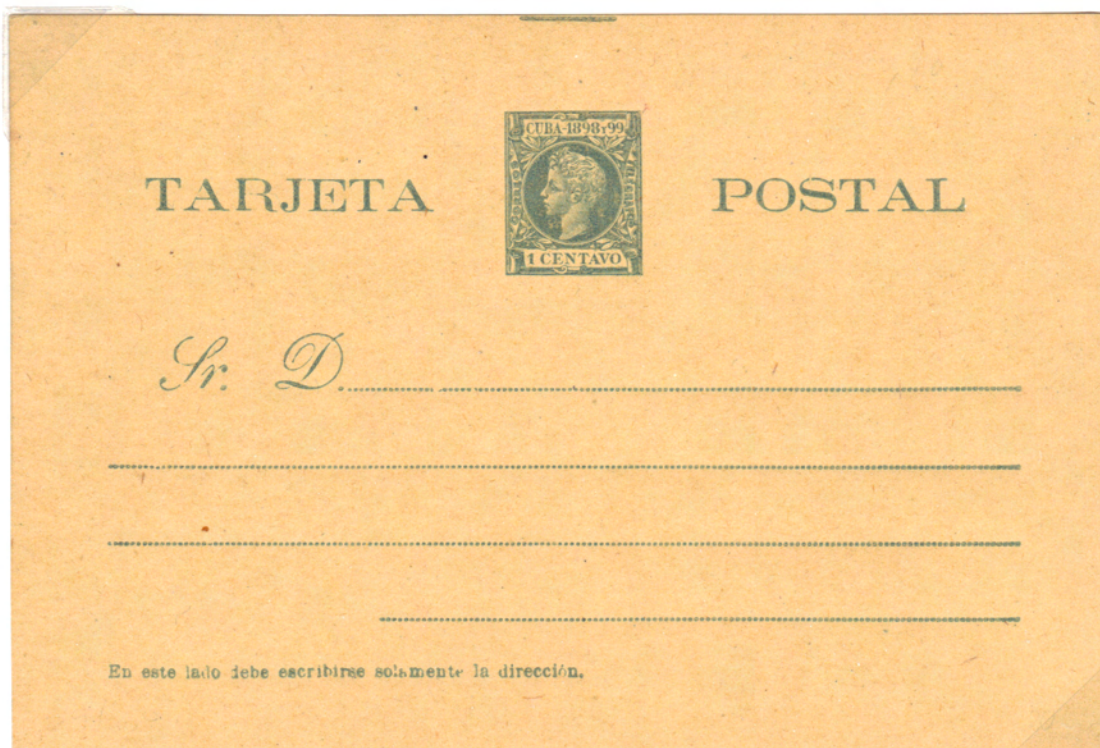
This issue consisted of four values, to meet the new rates effective January 1, 1898. Plating information based on the exhibitor's co-authored original research that resulted in a revised plating of the 1898 single cards.



Card Type # 5.

The single cards were printed in sheets of ten subjects.

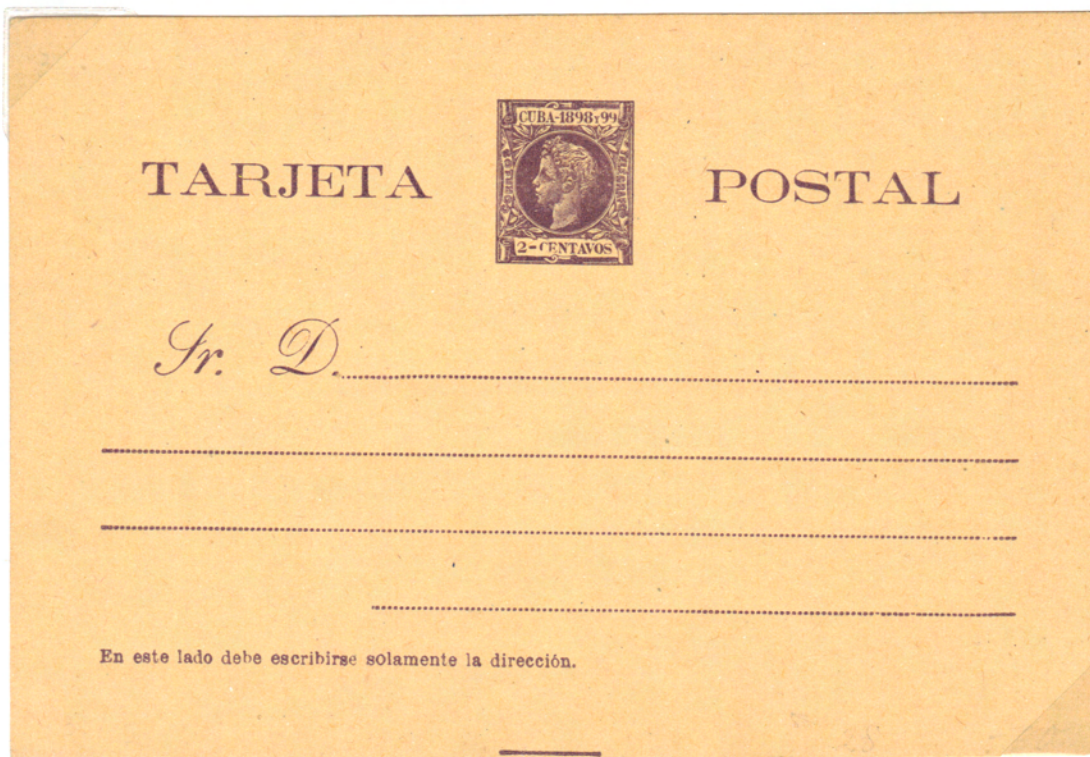
5 mil. Card. Intended for in-city use.



Card Type # 8.

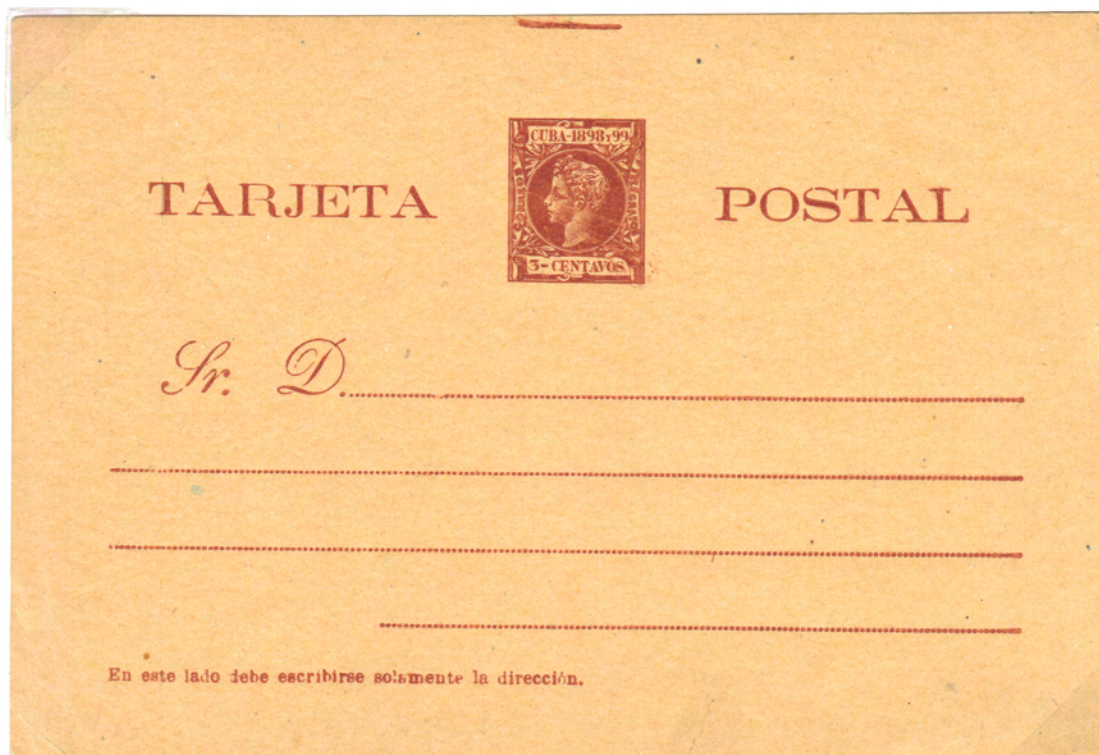
1 c. card. Intended for use within Cuba and to Puerto Rico.

The rates to destinations outside the Spanish Empire, continued as per the U.P.U.



Card Type # 8.

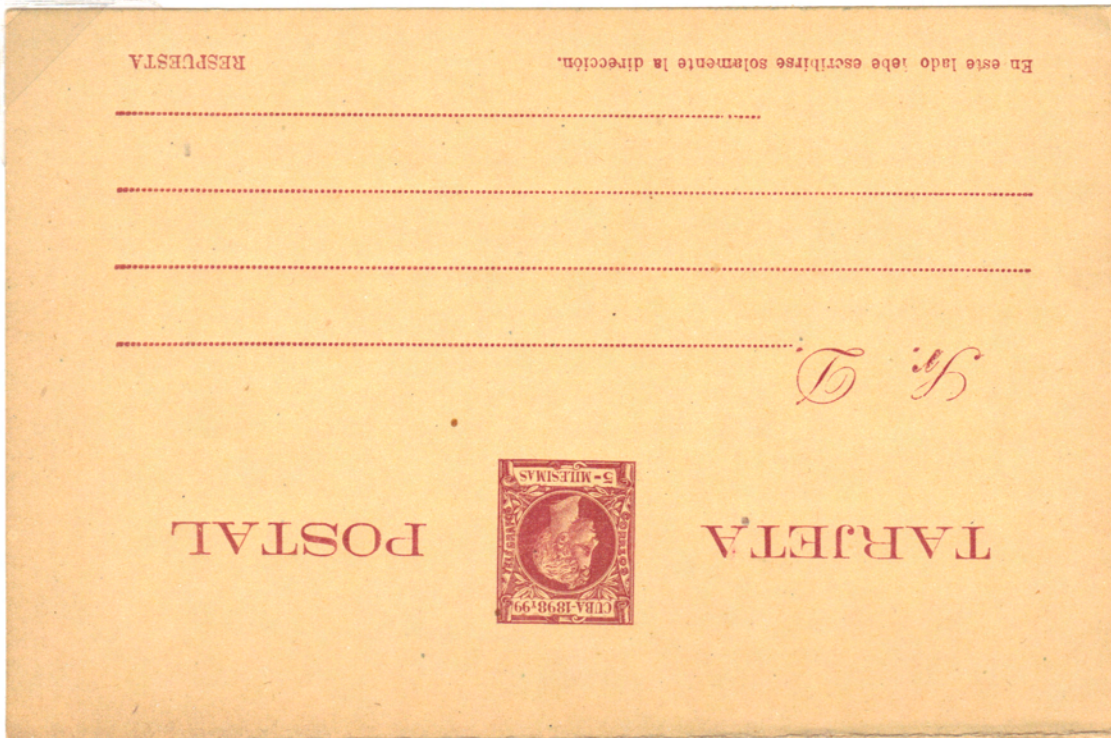
2 c. Card. Intended for use to the rest of the Spanish Empire, except the Philippines.



Card Type # 7.

3 c. card. Intended for use to the Philippines.

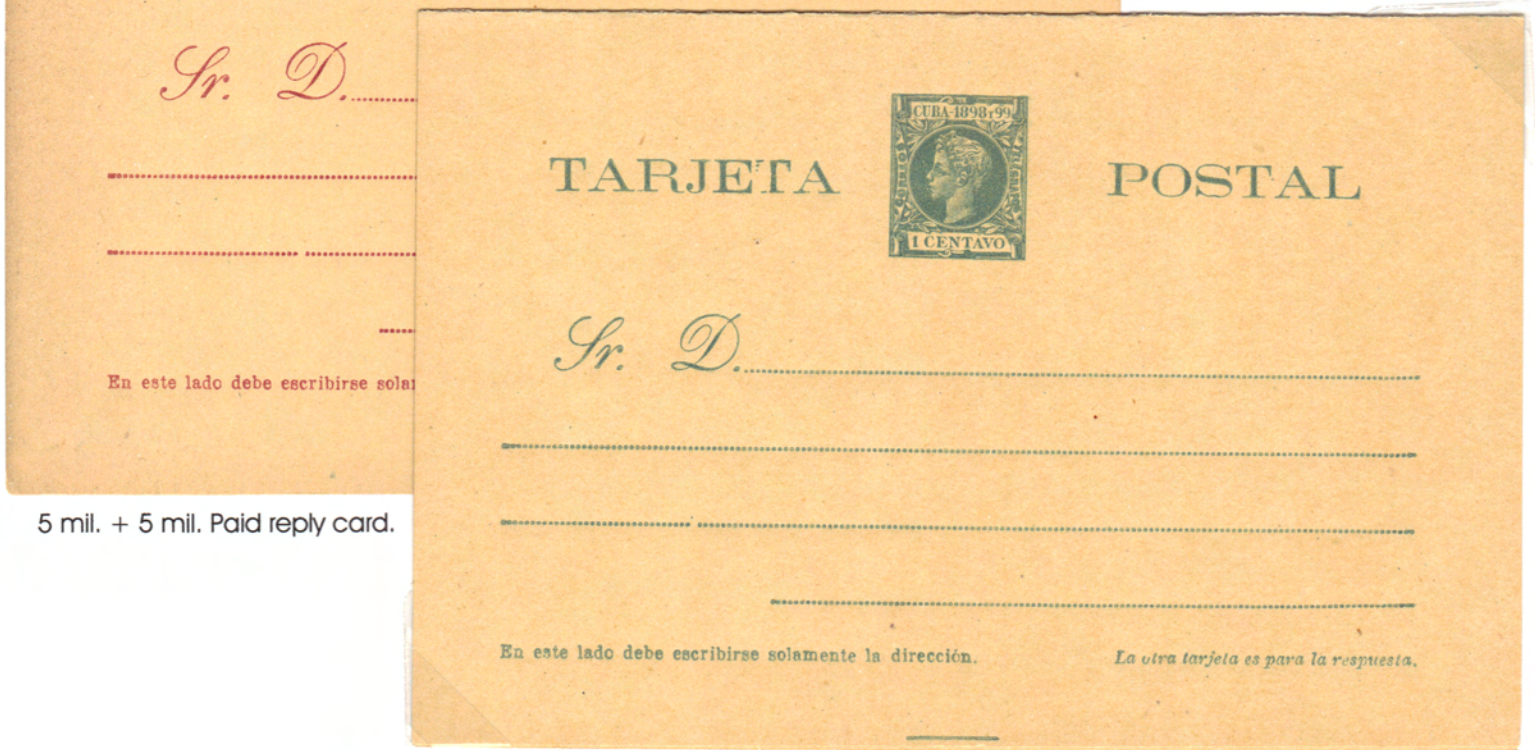
The 1898 issue included paid reply cards, in the same four values as the single cards.



The card at left is from Plate position # 2. These cards have a damaged 2nd "T" of TARJETA and "S" of POSTAL, on the message side.

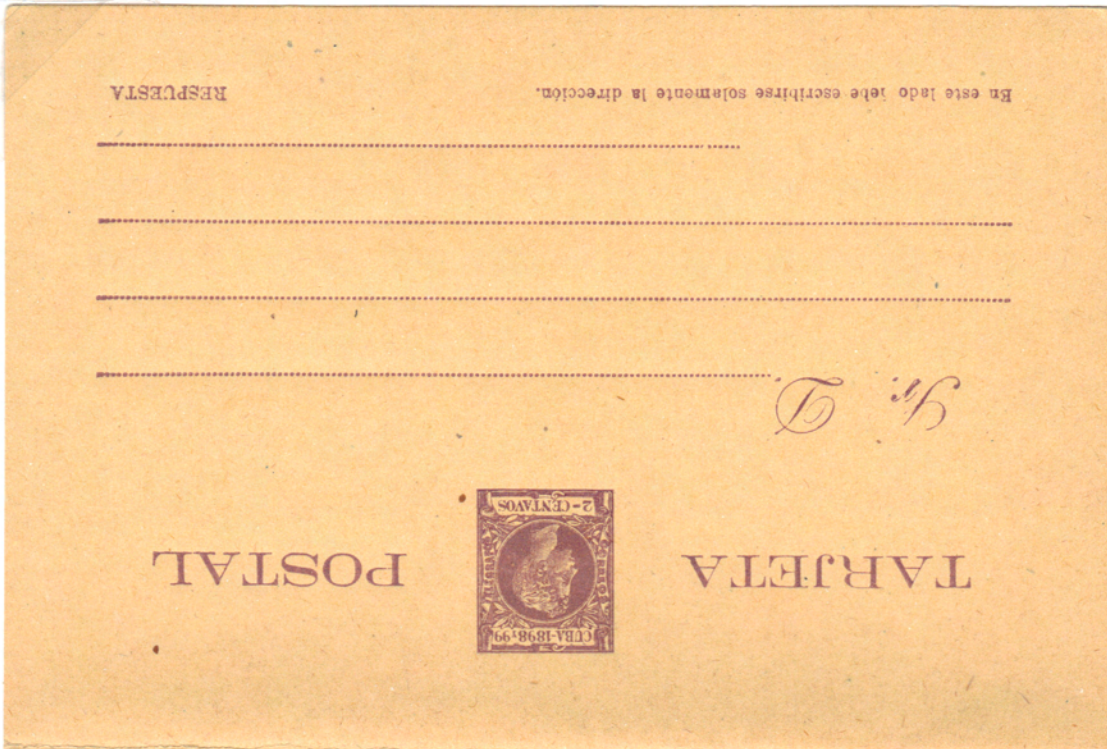


1 c. + 1 c. card, also from Plate position # 2.



5 mil. + 5 mil. Paid reply card.

1 c. + 1 c. Paid reply card.



The card at left is from Plate position 2. These cards have a damaged 2nd "T" of TARJETA and "S" of POSTAL, on the message side.



3 c + 3 c card (below) is from Plate position # 4.

2 c. + 2 c. Paid reply card.



3 c. + 3 c. Paid reply card.

Specimen cards bearing a two-line purple handstamp reading "Ministerio de Ultramar/Muestras".



Card Type # 2.

5 mil. "Muestra" card.



Card Type # 2.

1 c. "Muestra" card.

Original Research - The vertical cut guidelines led the exhibitor to conclude that Card Types 1 & 2 were at the bottom of the plate, not the top, as had been previously thought.

Until recently, only the single cards were known with the "Muestra" handstamp.



Card Type # 3.

The vertical cut guidelines on these cards prove Card Types 3 & 4 were positioned at the top of the plate.

2 c. "Muestra" card.



Card Type # 3.

3 c. "Muestra" card.

Though cut as an individual card, we can tell from the footnote that this "Muestra" is from a Paid Reply Card.

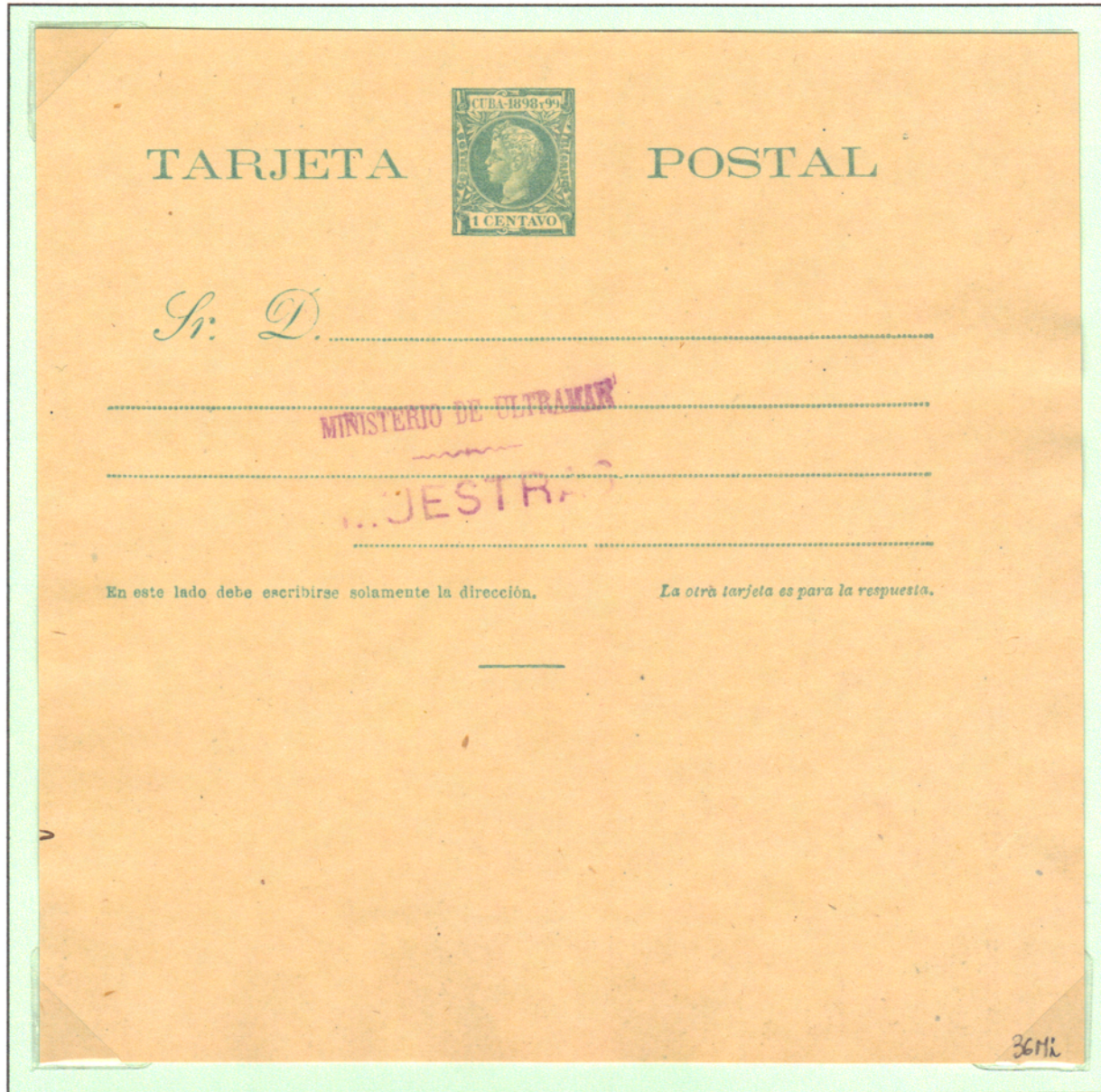


Plate
pos. #
1i (3)*.

Message side of 1 c + 1 c Paid Reply "Muestra" Card..

* The number in parenthesis refers to the Card Type of the single card used in the printing of the Paid Reply cards.

This card is from the opposite side of the sheet as that shown on the previous page. Additional subjects from this sheet are known to exist. Other values on the set may exist, as well, with the "Muestra" overprint.

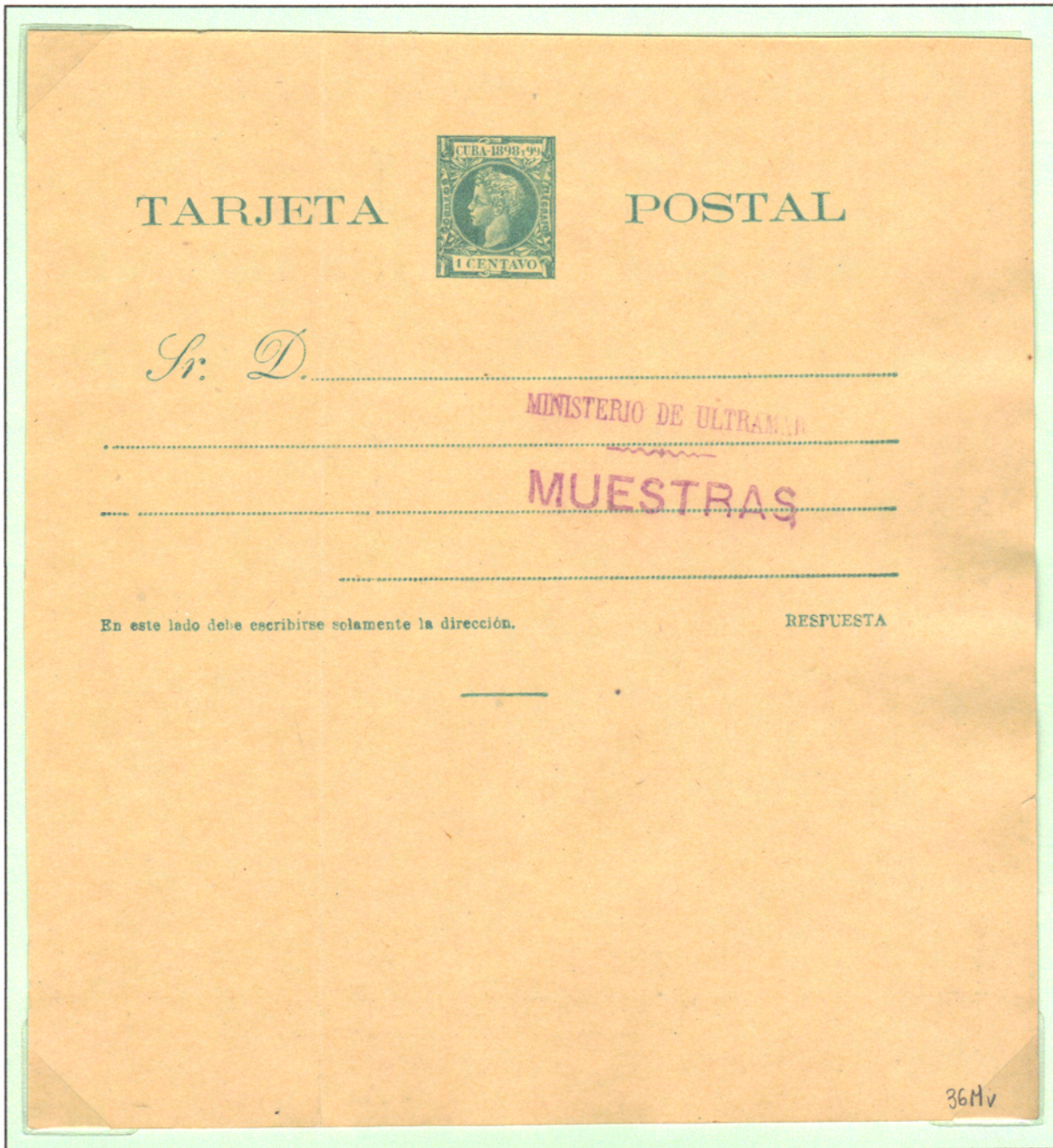


Plate pos.
4v (10)*.

Reply side of 1 c + 1 c Paid Reply "Muestra" Card..

* The number in parenthesis refers to the Card Type of the single card used in the printing of the Paid Reply cards.

The wide spacing (17 mm vs. 10 mm) variety is found in all four values of the Paid Reply cards of 1898, and always on the reply side, Plate position # 3 v (9).



Wide spacing on 5 mil + 5 mil card.



Wide spacing on 1 c. + 1 c. card.



Wide spacing on 2 c. + 2 c. card.
Note that these cards also have the broken "O" of Postal.



Wide spacing on 3 c. + 3 c. card.

Original research co-authored by the exhibitor has conclusively shown that the cards printed on salmon stock were printed after those on yellow stock. These salmon cards are not known used.

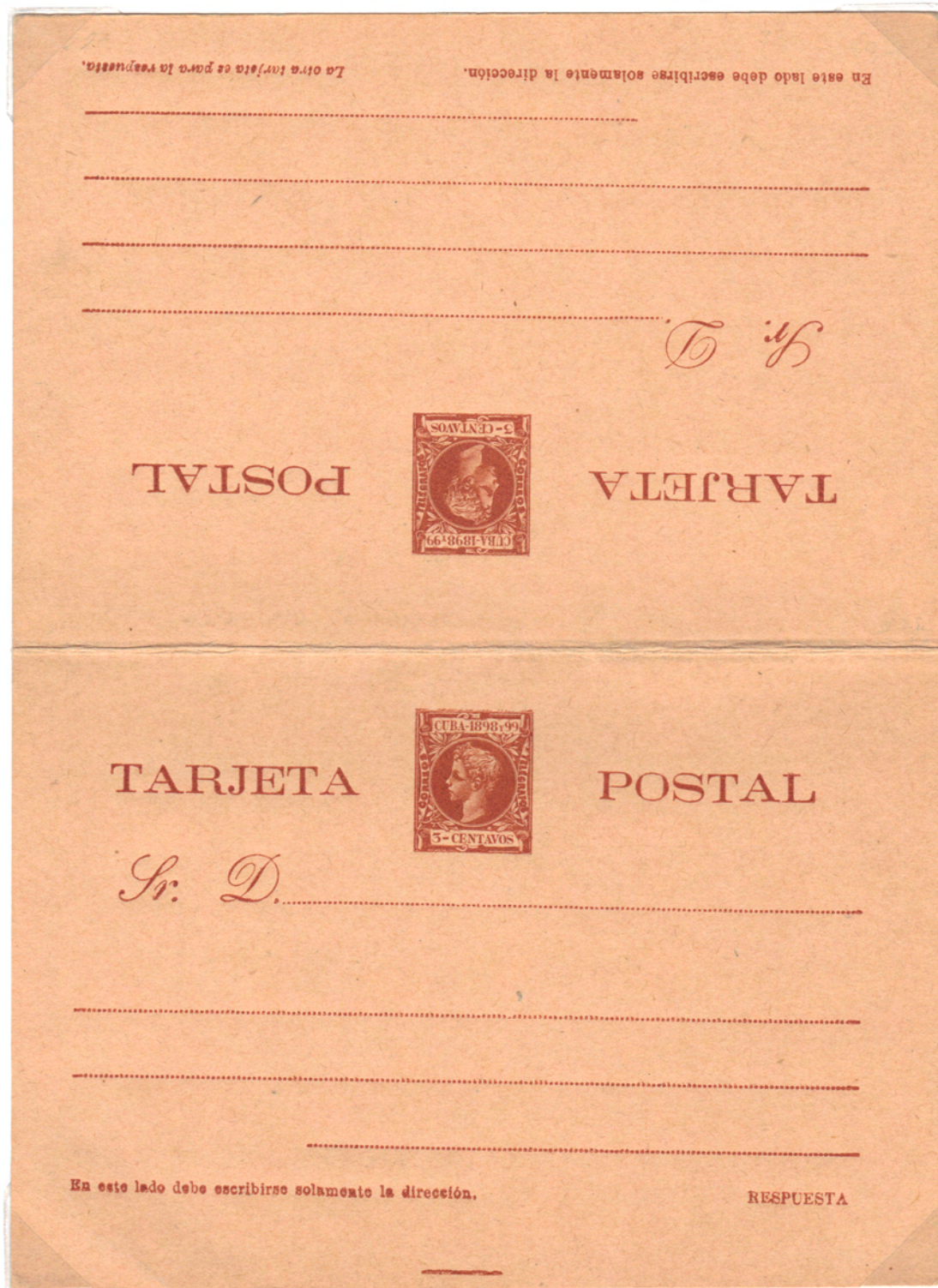


Plate pos. # 3

3 c. + 3 c. salmon stock card with wide spacing on reply side.

Note that the damage to the "O" of Postal has been corrected. The damage was present on the yellow stock cards, the original printing, and repaired prior to this printing on salmon stock.

This variety is much scarcer on the single cards than on the paid reply cards.



2 c. card
Card
Type # 9.

Ascher listed it unpriced, due to doubts about its existence.



5 mil card
Card Type # 9.



3 c. card.
Card Type # 9.



Card Type # 4.

Used within Habana, June 7, 1898.
The US mail embargo, in place since April 16th, had no impact on domestic mail.



Card Type # 4.

Used within Puerto Principe, March 17, 1898.
Use of the 5 mil. Card was not limited to Habana.

Domestic use -

Used in the vicinity of Bolondron, to Matanzas, bears an illegible cancel, on back, (?) Feb. 1898 - Message talks of delivering 2018 arrobas (25 tons) of sugar cane from Ingenio Dos Felices to Central San Rafael.

Card Type # 5.



International use -

Habana to Paris, France,
Feb. 26, 1898.

Card Type # 5.

Special service (?) -

Matanzas to Alexandria, VA, Feb. 5, 1898, via Jacksonville, FL. Additional franking a 5 c. rose stamp of 1898. In spite of the 6c franking, there are no markings to indicate this was a **Registered** use.

Card Type # 3.



1898

"El Infante" - Alfonso XIII

Usage of the 2 c. Postcard

Posted on the day of the battleship Maine incident.



Card Type # 8.
(Both cards)

Matanzas to Porto Alegre, Brazil, February 15, 1898,
via New York & Rio de Janeiro, arrived March 23, 1898.



Partial strike of red
straight line MANILA

Matanzas to Manila, Philippines, February 22, 1898, via New Orleans, LA, February
25 & San Francisco, CA, March 2. Additional 1 c. dark violet stamp of 1898.



Card Type # 7.

Habana to Elberfeld, Germany, March 11, 1898.
Additional franking, 2 c. green stamp of 1898, overpaid the rate to Europe.



Card Type # 1.

Habana to Germany, February 5, 1898.

Mr. Carranza, the enterprising proprietor of a gift shop in Habana, prepared these cards by affixing them to the backs of postal cards of the 1898 issue. Mr. Carranza had used the same design since 1895 (see below). This was the first time, however, he had used government issued postal cards to prepare his souvenirs.



Scan of message side.



Habana to Vienna, Austria, March 15, 1898. Card Type # 10.



Scan of message side.



Previously prepared Private Post Cards mimicked the 1890 Postcards.

1898
"El Infante" - Alfonso XIII

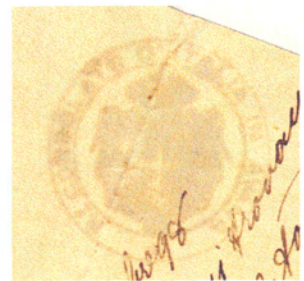
Post-War Use of a
1 c. + 1 c. Paid Reply Card

U. S. POD Order No. 351, lifted the previously imposed mail embargo, effective August 19, 1898. The Habana post office continued to accept Spanish postage until the arrival of U.S. postage, overprinted for use in Cuba, on January of 1899.

Mail from the Italian Consulate in Habana



Plate position # 3.



Seal of the Italian
Consulate.

Habana to Rome, Italy, September 19, 1898.
Additional franking, 2 c. green stamp of 1898.

In the aftermath of the Maine, sentiment for war against Spain was reaching a fever pitch. Given these circumstances, the U.S. post office allowed the reply to be mailed to Bohemia without further charges.

Reply reads: "I suppose you have heard of the terrible incident on board the U.S. man of war Maine. It was very sad indeed, for our brave sailors."

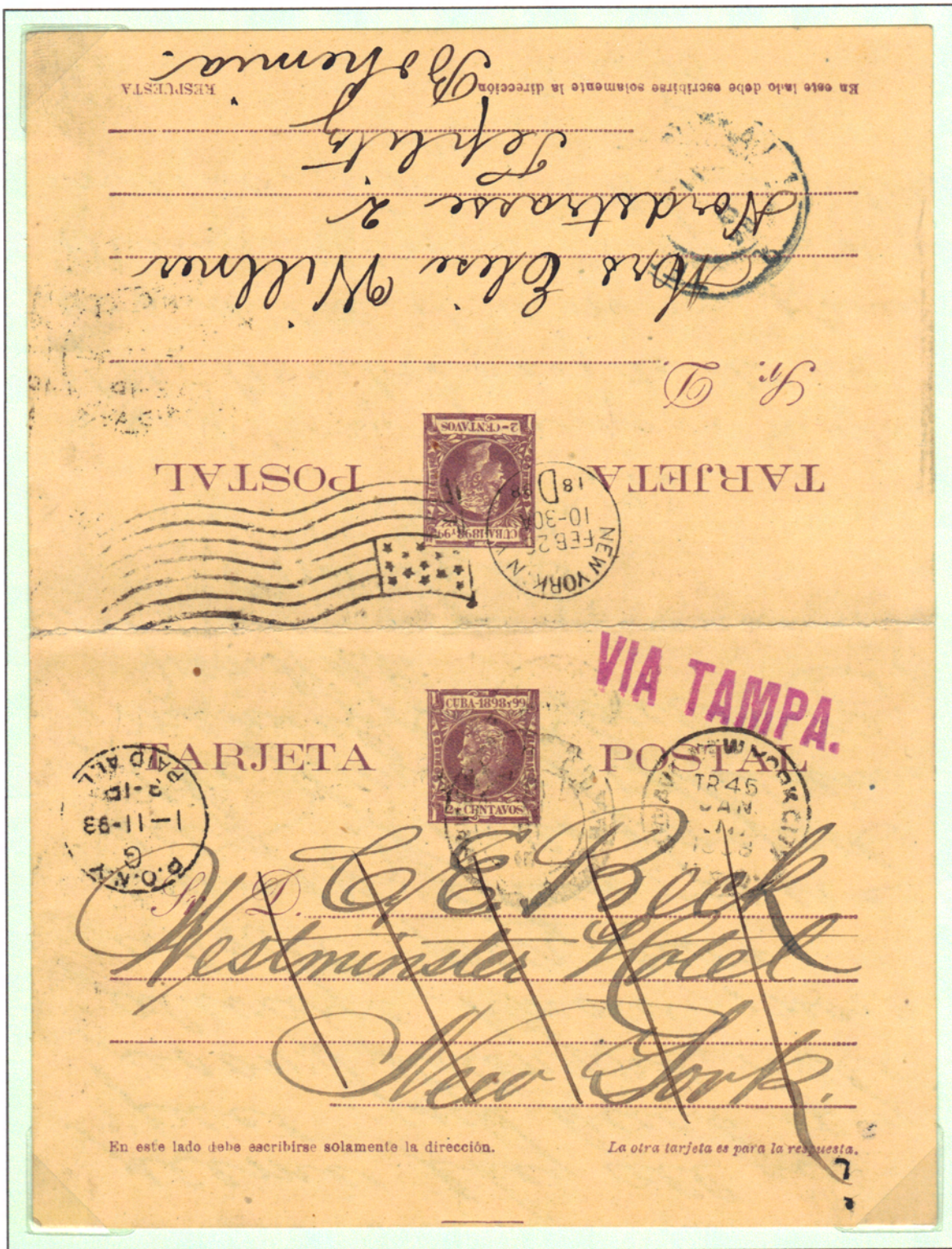


Plate pos.
3.

Message - Habana to New York, NY, January 8, 1898.
Reply - New York, NY to Teplitz, Bohemia (Czech Rep.), February 26, 1898.

1898

"El Infante" - Alfonso XIII

Usage of the 2 c. + 2 c.
Paid Reply Cards

Pre-embargo, barely! The card shown below, made it through to Spain just ahead of U.S. POD Order No. 161. That order, dated April 16 1898, called for discontinuing the despatch of mails to/from Spain and the Spanish Colonies.



Plate position # 41(8).

This security marking was not known to have been used on the 1898 cards.

Message half - Cienfuegos to Barcelona, Spain, April 12, 1898.

Post-war use of Colonial postal stationery, just prior to U.S. take-over of the civilian postal operations.



Plate position # 11(3)

Habana to Berne, Switzerland, November 1898.

Cuba had a large number of German citizens and German businesses, that Germany wanted to protect. There was some concern on the part of the U.S. that Germany would enter the war on the side of Spain.

Message reads: "We expect two German man of war here this week."



Plate pos.
3.

Message - Habana to New York, NY, January 15, 1898.
Reply - New York, NY to Teplitz, Bohemia (Czech Rep.), February 26, 1898.

THE END