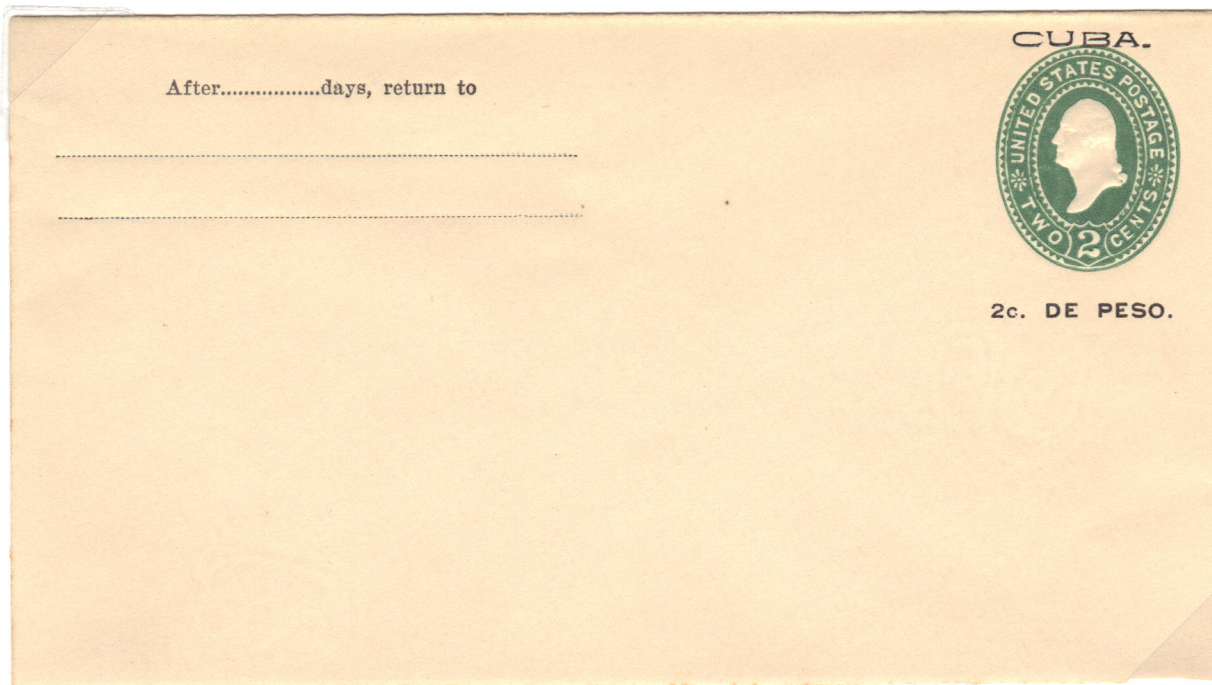
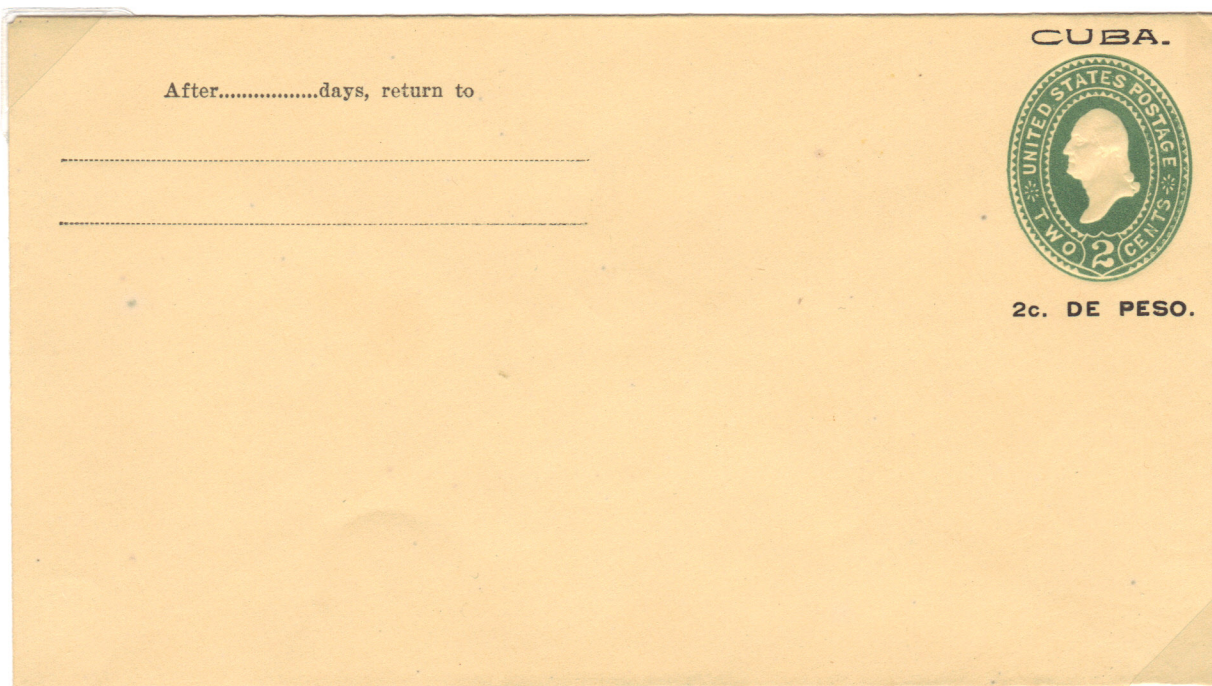


U.S. envelopes of the 1887 issue, overprinted for use in Cuba. This printing, the "thin" overprint, was produced by the printing company Ruiz Hermanos y Cia., of Havana, Cuba.



2c on 2 c. green on **white**, size 10, knife 54.

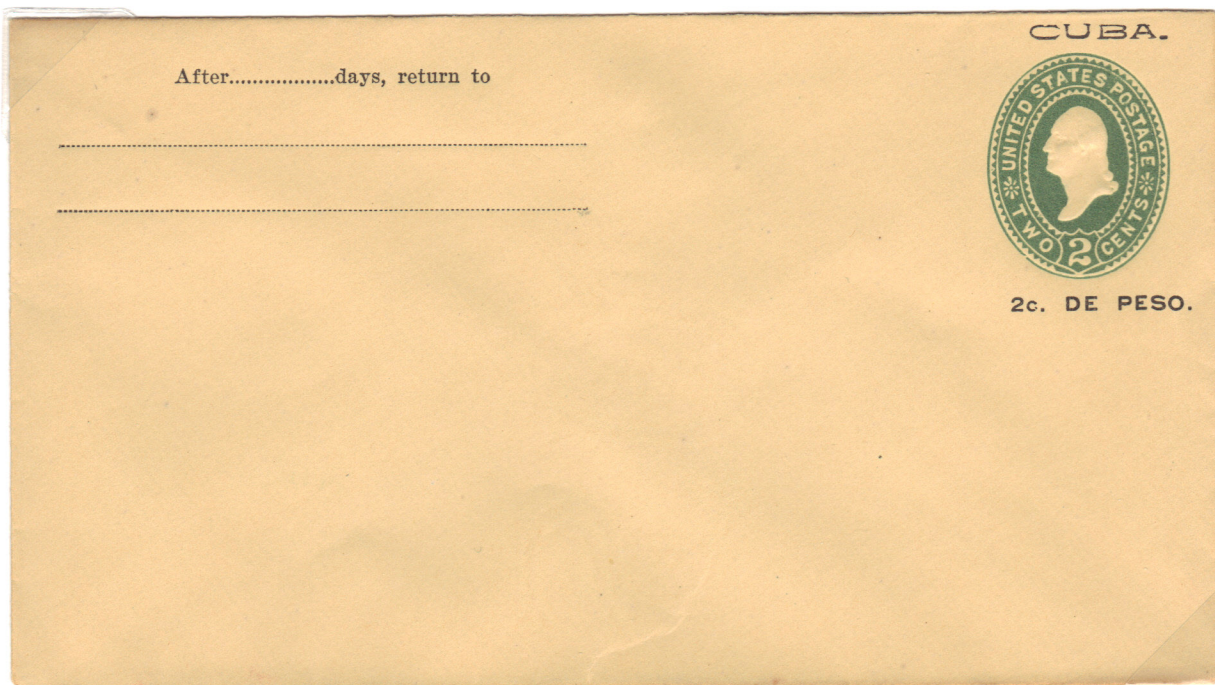
Envelope size and knife numbering used throughout this exhibit are based on "The Postal Stationery of the Possessions and Administrative Areas of the United States of America", 3rd edition, published by the United Postal Stationery Society (UPSS).



2c on 2 c. green on **amber**, size 10, knife 54.

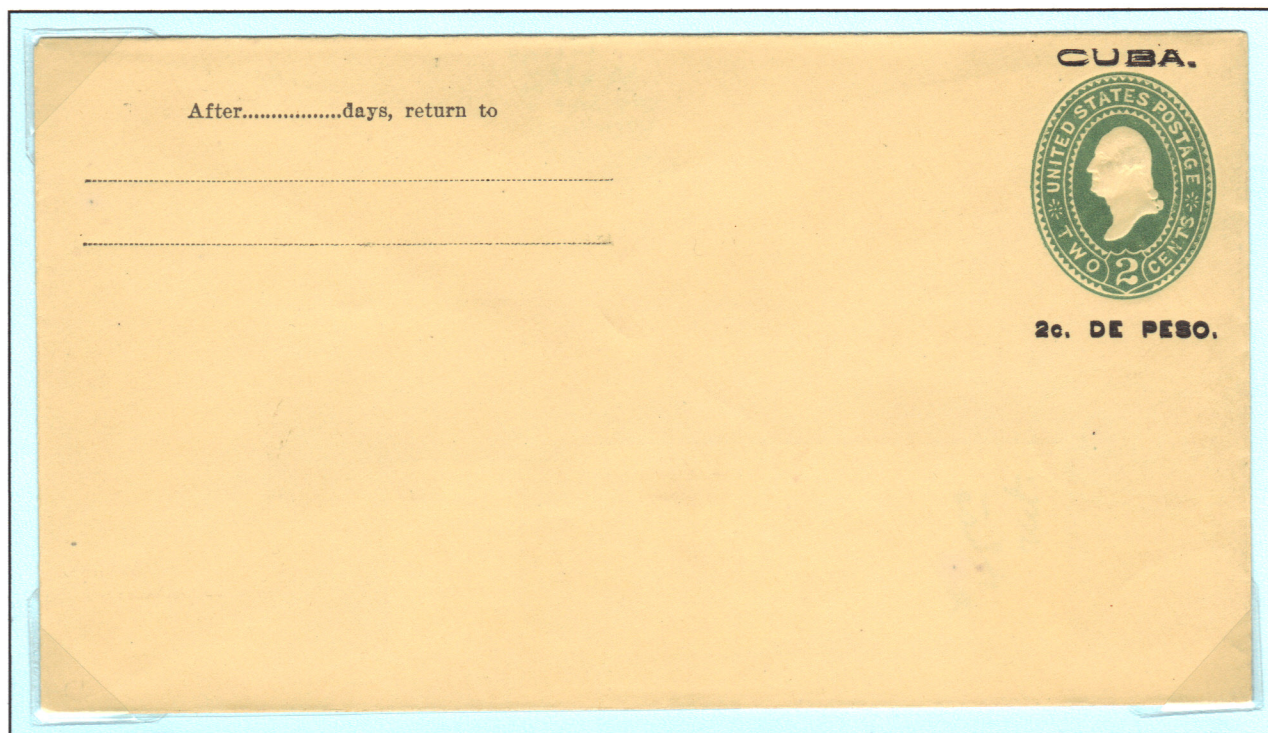


Broken "C" variety, on **white**. Mint and used Havana to Westport, WA, Oct 8, 1900.



Broken "C" variety, on **amber**.

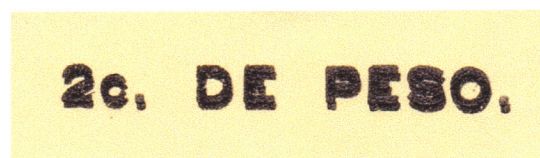
As a result of the rush to get these envelopes overprinted, a few production errors were unintentionally created. The more striking of these are the double overprints.



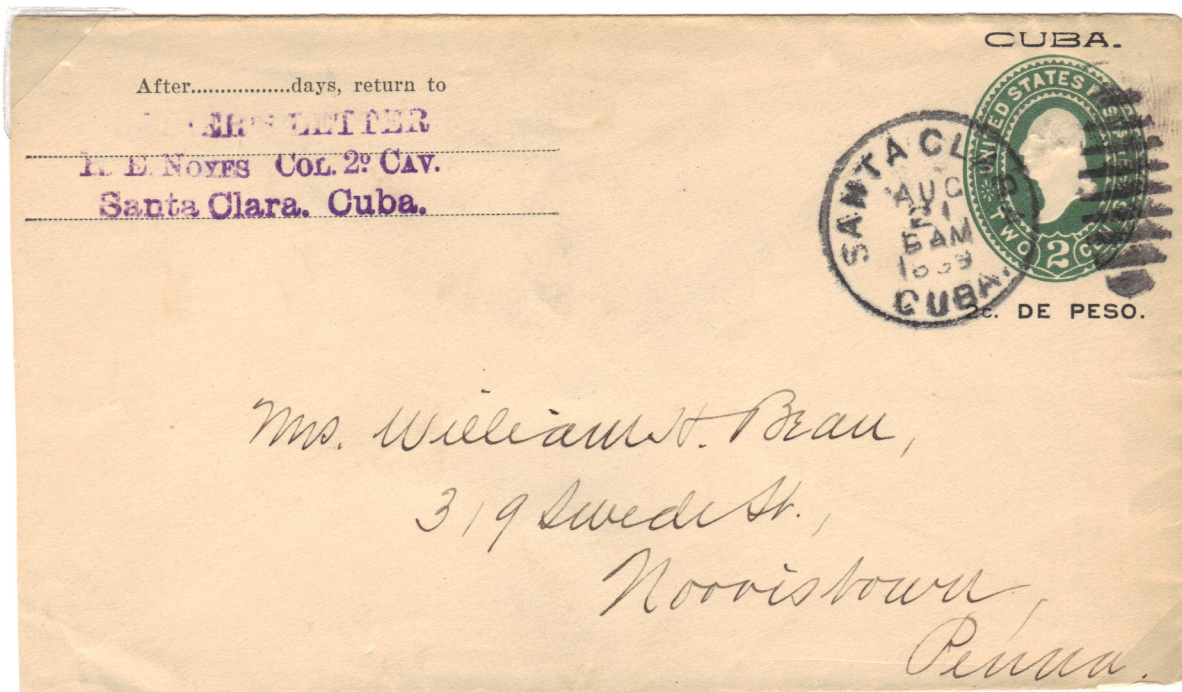
Double overprint variety on the 2c on 2 c. green on amber.
Signed Bartels, Sloane. Ex Tows, White and Drucker.

One of two examples known.

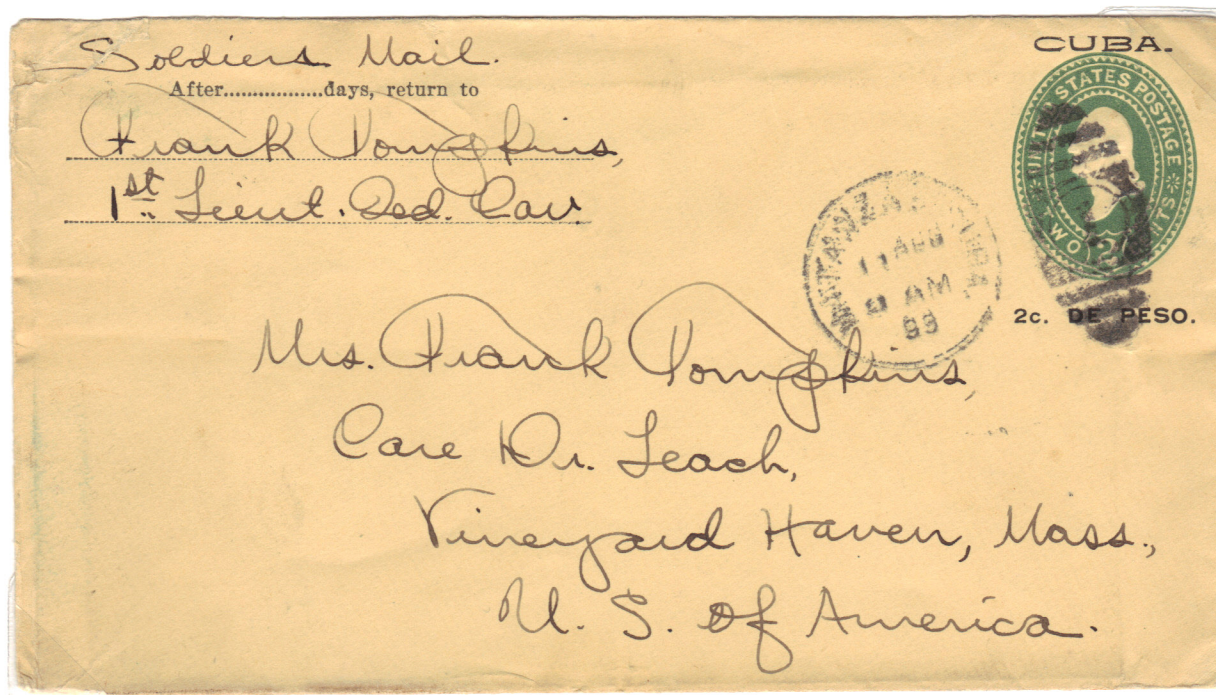
The double overprint is a **major error**. The error is most apparent on the thin type used for the word "CUBA", especially at the tips of the letters (See enlarged scans at right). By contrast, the doubling of the bolder type used on "2c. DE PESO", just gives it a blurred appearance.



US POD Order of June 1898 granted concessionary domestic rates to US armed forces in and around Cuba.
US POD Order No. 514, Dec. 20, 1898 spelled out the endorsement requirements for "Soldier Letters".



Soldier's Letter, 2 c. green on **white**. Santa Clara to Norristown, PA, August 21, 1899.



Soldier's Mail, 2 c. green on **amber**. Matanzas to Vineyard Haven, MA, August 11, 1899.

April 1899
Overprinted Washington Envelopes

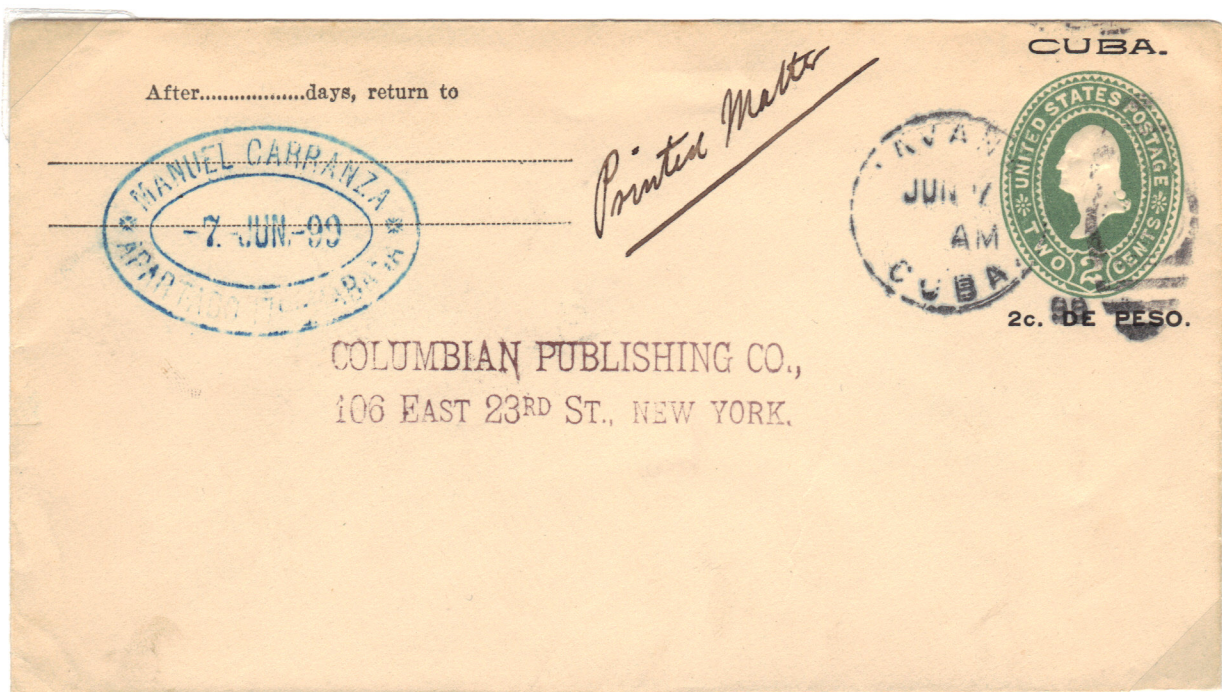
Additional Usage
of the thin overprint.

The U.S. introduced Special Delivery service in Cuba with the issuance, in April 1899, of the overprinted 10 c. on 10 c. U.S. Special Delivery stamp of 1895.



Special Delivery Use. Havana to Birmingham, AL, May, 1899.
 Backstamp: Norcross & Montgomery, RPO, May 11, 1899.
 This letter shows no evidence of special handling.

Letter (½ oz)	5¢
Special Del.	10¢
Overpaid by	2¢

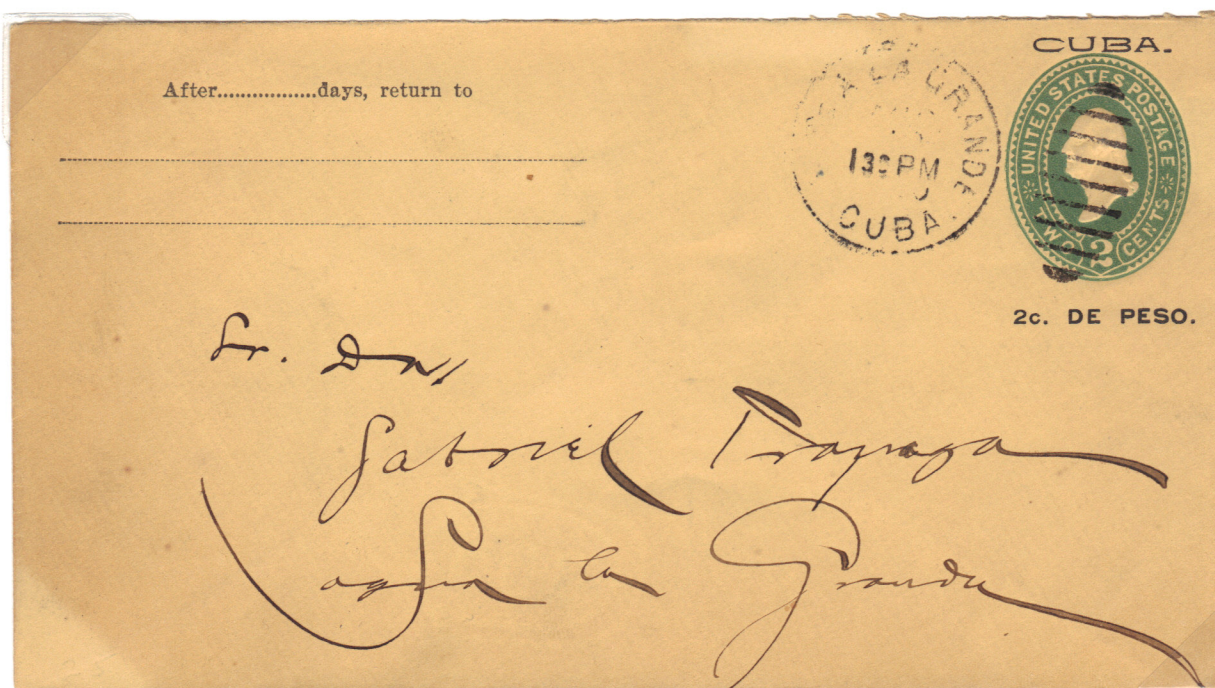


2 c. Printed Matter Rate - Havana to New York, NY, June 7, 1899.
 The "civilian" letter rate to the U.S. would have been 5c.

The reduced rates for US servicemen were not applicable to the civilian population.

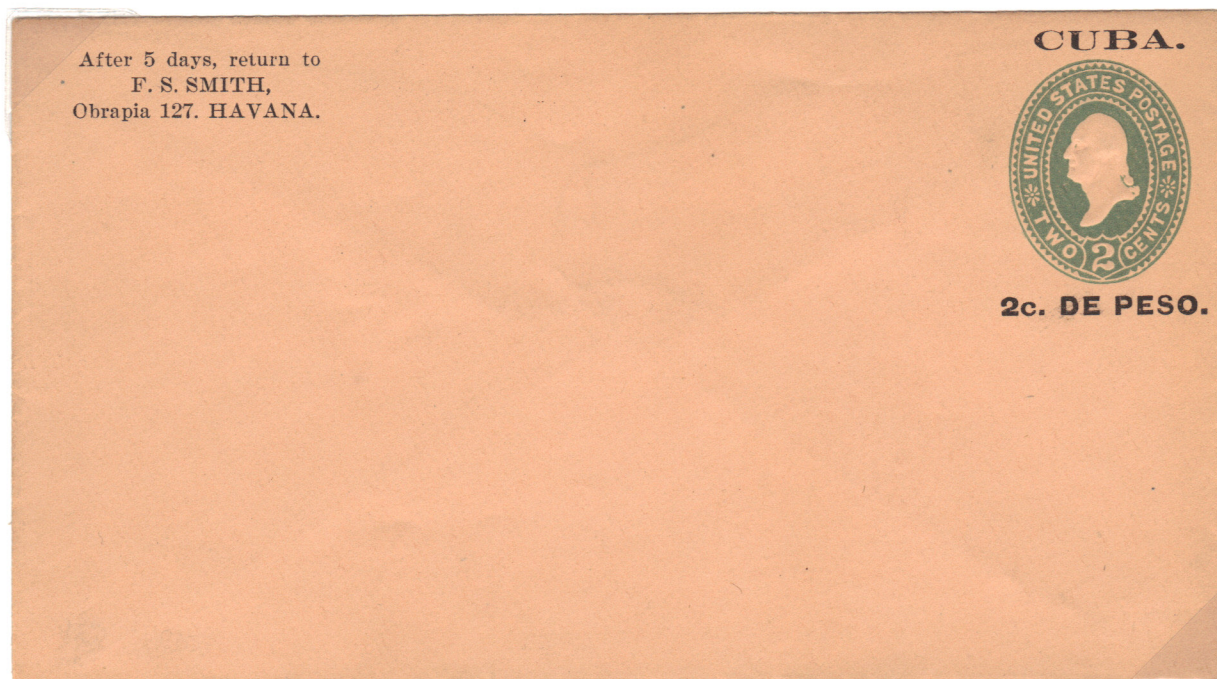


5 c. Civilian international rate - 2 c. white, Havana to New York, NY, June 16, 1899.
Additional franking: overprinted 1 c. and 2 c. stamps of 1899.



2 c. Civilian domestic rate - 2 c. amber, used within Sagua La Grande, August, 1899.

This second issue, the "thick" overprint, was printed by Plimpton & Morgan, of Hartford, Connecticut. The entire issue has the official corner card of **F.S. Smith**, a stamp dealer. Smith and J.M. Bartels carried on a lively argument, in the philatelic press, over the validity of this issue.



2 c. on 2 c. green on buff, size 10, knife 54.
All with the official c/c of F.S. Smith.



Havana to Portland, ME, July 20, 1899 (ERP), with 1 c & 2 c overprinted stamps.
The "Weekly Philatelic Era" published Smith's rebuttals to Bartels.

U.S. envelopes of 1899, overprinted for use in Cuba. This issue was also printed by Plimpton & Morgan, of Hartford, Connecticut. It consisted of two values (1 c. and 2 c.) printed on various sizes and papers, as follows:



1 c. on 1 c. green on **buff**, size 13, knife 77.
Most with the c/c of Miro y Otero.



1 c. on 1 c. green on **blue**, size 10, knife 56.

The local rate at this time was 2 c., there was no need for a 1 c. envelope!

This may account for the relative scarcity of some used 1 c. varieties.

After 5 days, return to
F. S. SMITH,
Obrapia 127. HAVANA.

CUBA.



2c. DE PESO.

After 5 days, return to
F. S. SMITH,
Obrapia 127. HAVANA.

CUBA.



2c. DE PESO.

2 c. on 2 c. carmine on **amber**, size 10, knife 56, and the much scarcer **white** paper variety.
All with the official c/c of F. S. Smith.

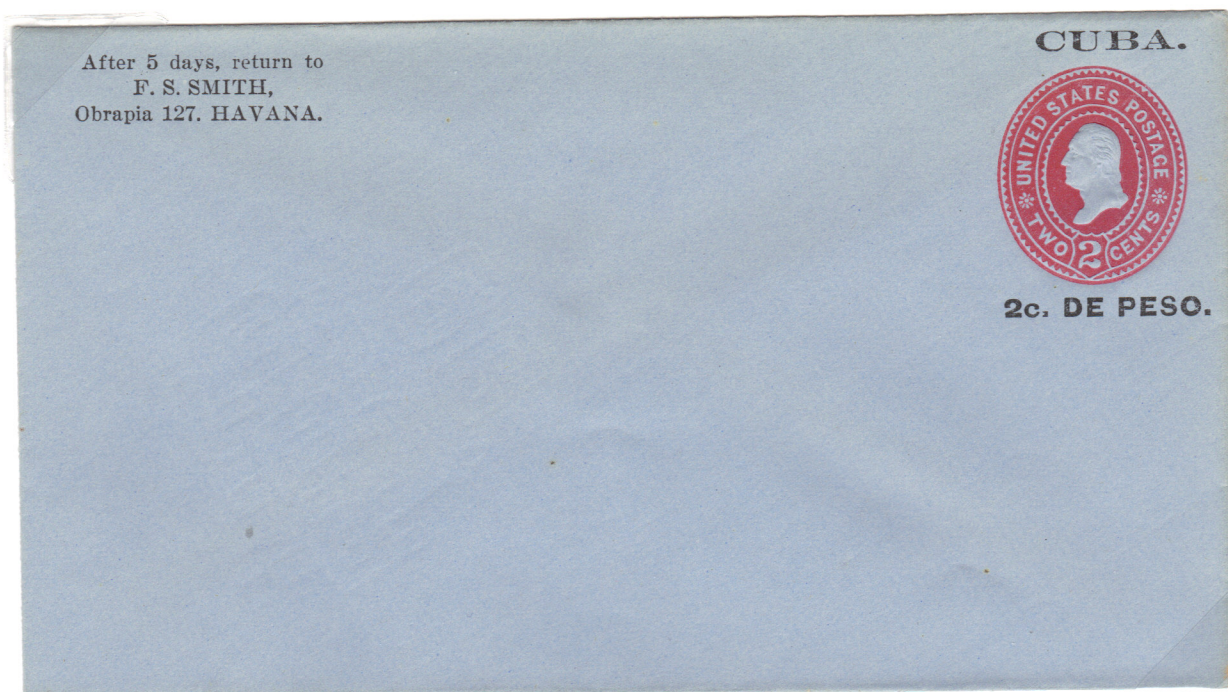


Devuélvase si no se
encuentra el interesado.

2 c. on 2 c. carmine on **buff**, size 13, knife 77.
All with the c/c of Miro y Otero.

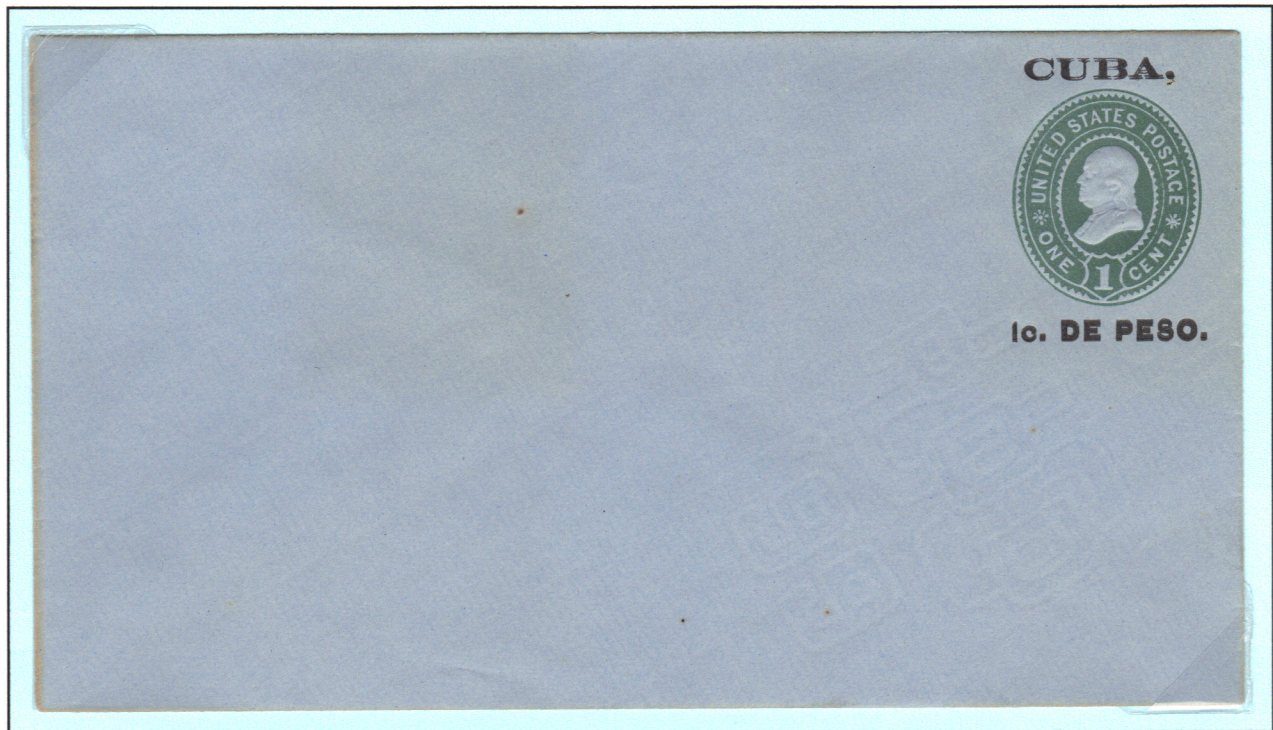


2 c. on 2 c. carmine on **blue**, size 10, knife 56.
Without a c/c.



2 c. on 2 c. carmine on **blue**, size 10, knife 56.
With the c/c of F. S. Smith.

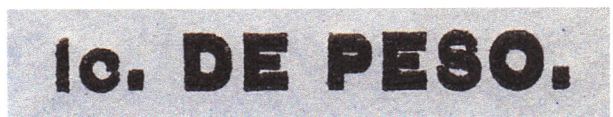
Unlike the April issue, this surcharge was applied by Plimpton & Morgan, the U.S. printers. Plimpton & Morgan proved to be slightly better than their Cuban counterparts, only one error copy of the 1 c. on 1 c. green on blue is known.



Double overprint variety on the 1c on 1 c. green on blue.
Ex White and Drucker.

Only example known.

The double overprint is a **major error**. The error is most apparent on the word "CUBA", especially at the tips of the letters (See enlarged scans at right). The bottom half of the surcharge has the same doubling, but is not as noticeable due to the font used.

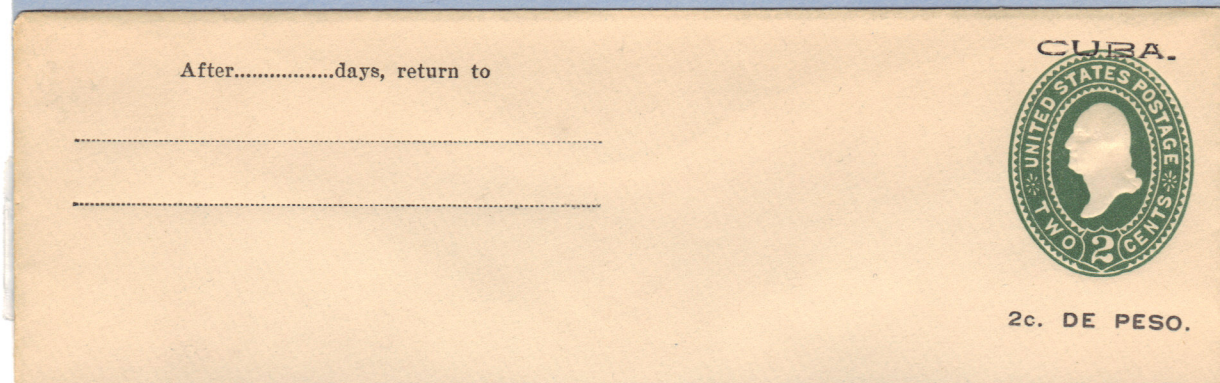




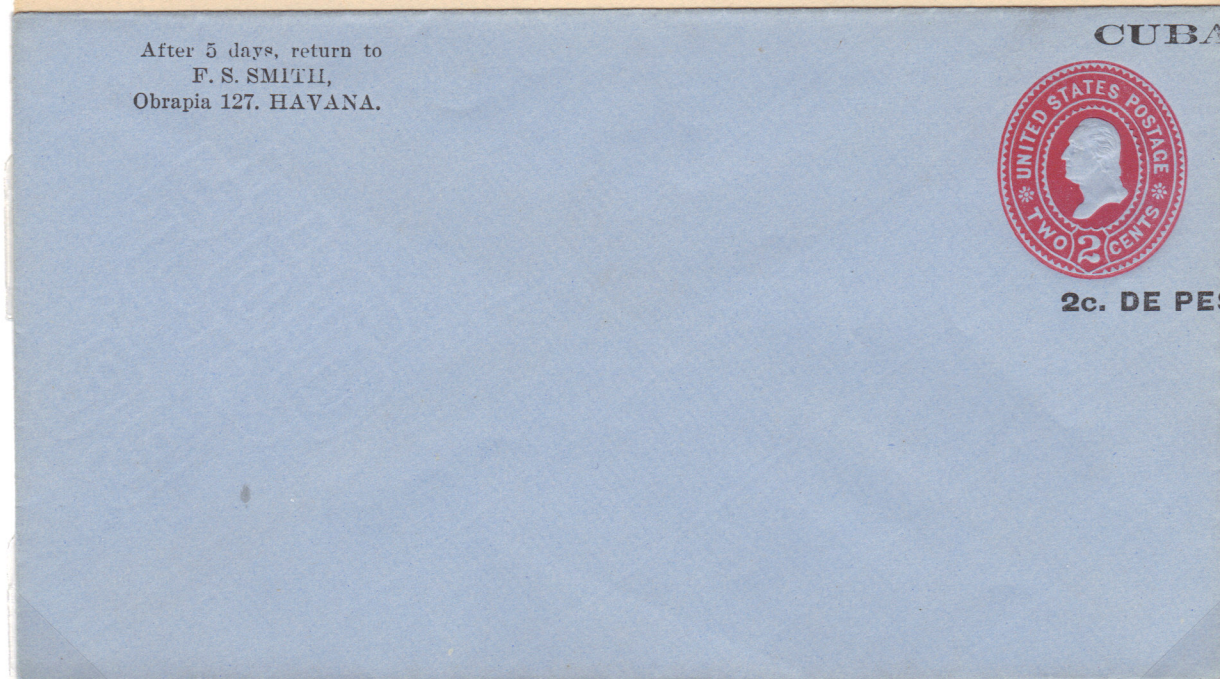
Too high.



Too high.



Too low.



Too far right.

Miro y Otero were Cuban grocers who had ordered the envelopes for use in their business. As word of their existence spread, however, much of the remaining stock was purchased by Henry F. Colman. There are three Miro y Otero corner card types (two are found on this issue).



Type 1 corner card - 1 c. on 1 c. green on buff.



Type 2 corner card - 1 c. on 1 c. green on buff.

Three key differences for Type 2: An ornate type on "Habana"; shading starts at "r" of Miro; and footnote has been revised to eliminate need for a hyphen.



Corner card shifted to the left (9 mm) - Footnote at left edge barely showing.



Rotated corner card - Rotated approx. 15° counterclockwise.



1 c. on 1 c. green on buff (Type 1 c/c) - Used within Havana, June 3, 1899.
Used at the "drop letter" rate (within same city).

Earliest Reported Postmark (ERP) !



1 c. on 1 c. green on buff (Type 1 c/c) - Used within Sagua La Grande, August 20, 1900.
By this date, the local postage had been reduced to the 1 c. rate.

June 1899
Overprinted Franklin/Washington Envelopes

Usage of the Miro y
Otero Envelopes.

1 c. on 1 c. green
on buff (Type 1 c/c)
- Special Delivery
use within Havana,
August 23, 1899.
Note the additional
1 c. stamp to pay
the local postage.



1 c. on 1 c. green
on buff (Type 1 c/c)
- Havana to
Washington, DC,
August 4, 1900.
The two 2 c. Palms
stamps make up
the 5 c. civilian rate
to the US.
Note the addressee
is the same **H. F.
Coleman** that
purchased the
remaining
envelopes.

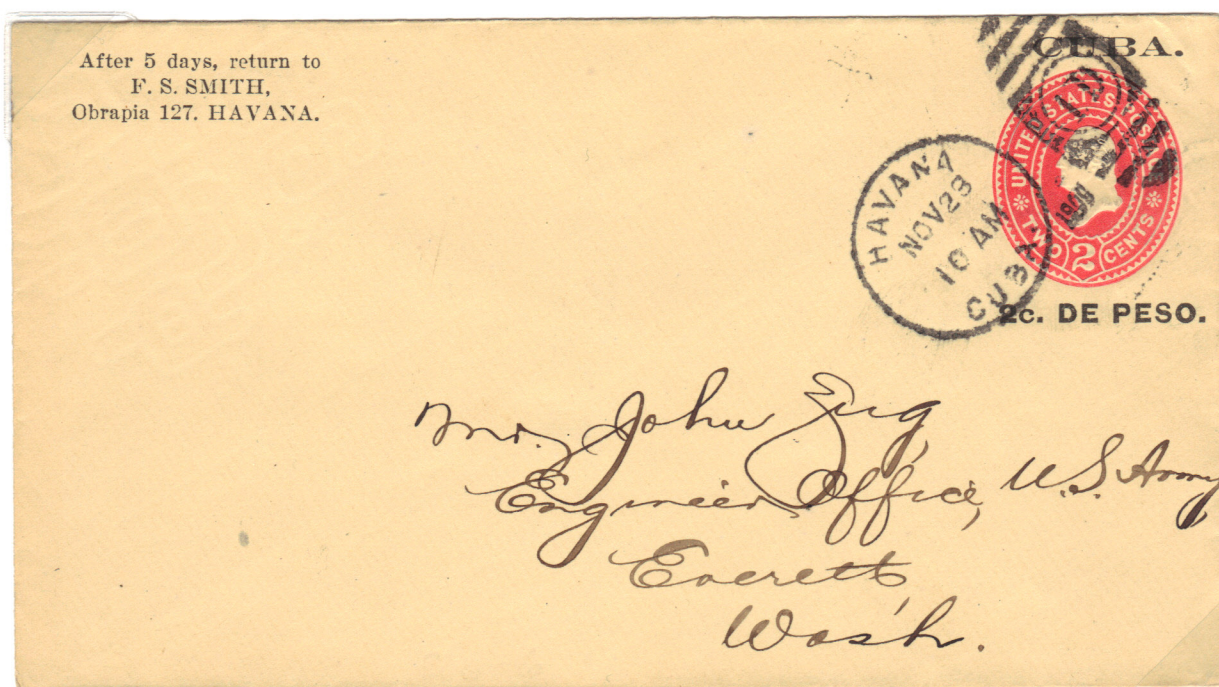
1 c. on 1 c. green
on buff (Type 2 c/c)
- Havana to Paris,
France, August 28,
1902.
The two 2 c. Palms
stamps make up
the 5 c. rate to
Europe.



Effective April 1, 1901, Cuba established a 2 c. postage rate with the US.



1 c. on 1 c. green on blue - Havana to Key West, FL, September 3, 1903.
The additional 1 c. Columbus stamp paid the 2 c. postage to the U.S.



2 c. on 2 c. carmine on amber with F. S. Smith corner card.
Havana to Everett, WA, November 23, 1900.



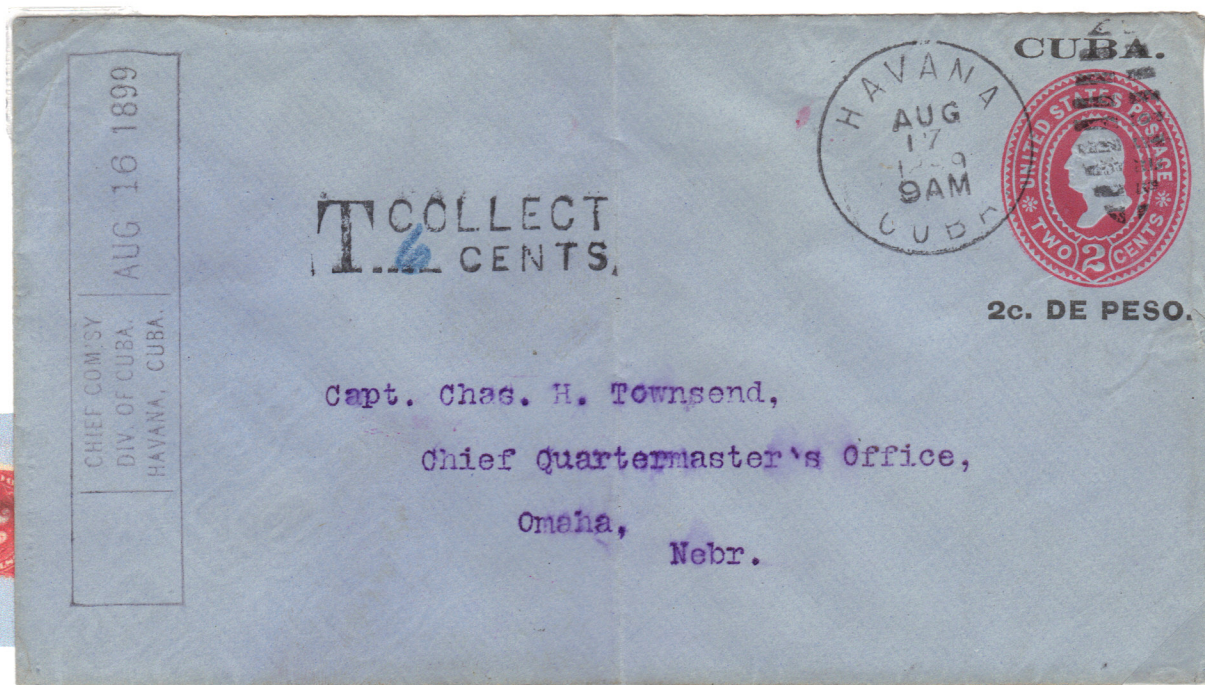
Domestic use - 2 c. on 2 c. carmine on buff (Type 2 c/c) - Used within Havana, August, 1899.



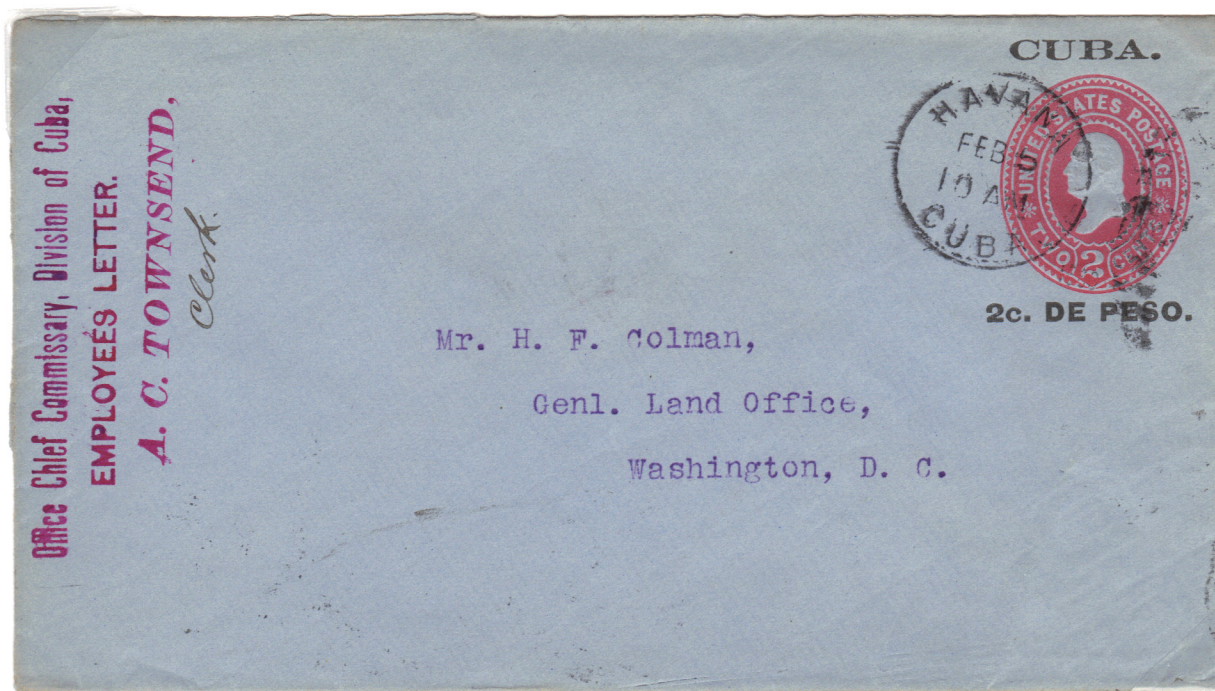
Used to U.S. at domestic rate - 2 c. on 2 c. carmine on buff (Type 2 c/c) - Havana to New York, NY, July 2, 1903.
Commercial usage by the Miro y Otero firm.

Not recognized as Soldier's Mail, assessed Postage Due. In order to qualify for the reduced rates, the writer was required to list his name, rank, and unit on the face of the envelope.

Stamps on back.



2 c. on 2 c. carmine on blue - Havana to Omaha, NE, August 16, 1899.
Was deemed short paid by three cents and charged six cents postage due.



2 c. on 2 c. carmine on blue - Havana to Washington, DC, February 5, 1900.
Hand stamped corner card of the "Office Chief Commissary, Division of Cuba".

Taking advantage of a rule that allowed Cuba's Department of Posts to order directly from the printers, through the Treasury Department, an order was placed for an additional nine overprinted varieties. The U.S. POD put a stop to their release and ordered them destroyed. According to the UPSS, all but one copy of each (except for 46 of the 2 c. size 21) were destroyed. Of the nine varieties produced, at least two are known to be in the Smithsonian Museum collection.



2 c. on 2 c. carmine on buff, size 18, knife 31.

The handwritten paper quality type (top left) is present on all POD surviving copies.

The unique, size 18, Treasury envelope.

Lot #730 in the Siegel sale of the Drucker collection contained three examples of these Treasury envelopes, including another 2 c. on 2 c. carmine on buff. None of those envelopes, however, exhibited the handwritten descriptions added by the POD. This points to the likelihood that additional copies were preserved by either the manufacturer, or the Cuban Department of Posts.