

The 1949 set included three ordinary mail envelopes featuring famous Cuban journalists: José Miró Argenter, on the **1 c.** envelope, Mariano Corona, on the **2 c.** envelope, and Juan Gualberto Gomez, on the **2 c. window** envelope. All envelopes bear the Republic's Coat of Arms alongside a two-line "Republica de Cuba/Correos" printed in gray, on the inside.



The airmail envelopes in the set featured planes and included two values, a **5 c.** envelope for **domestic** use and an **8 c.** envelope for **international*** use. Both have an overall diamond-shaped security pattern, printed in gray, on the inside of the envelope.



* The 8 c. airmail rate was only applicable to mail addressed to the US, Canada and Mexico.

Circa 1945 essay for the proposed Airmail envelope. This essay was prepared by Veranes y Compañía, of Havana, Cuba (the eventual printers for the 1949 issue).



Ca. 1945, Essay.

Vignette of the actual issue.

Most of the major design elements of the essay were incorporated into the final version.



Only essay known for the 1949 issue!

From the Veranes y Cia., archives. The proofs list the ink manufacturer and stock number, at top left.



1 c. dark green. Not the issued color.



1 c. dark blue. Handwritten note identifies it as the color to be used on the airmail envelope.

Veranes y Cia. Trial Color Proofs.



2 c. dark red. Not the issued color.



2 c. black, window envelope. Not the issued color.

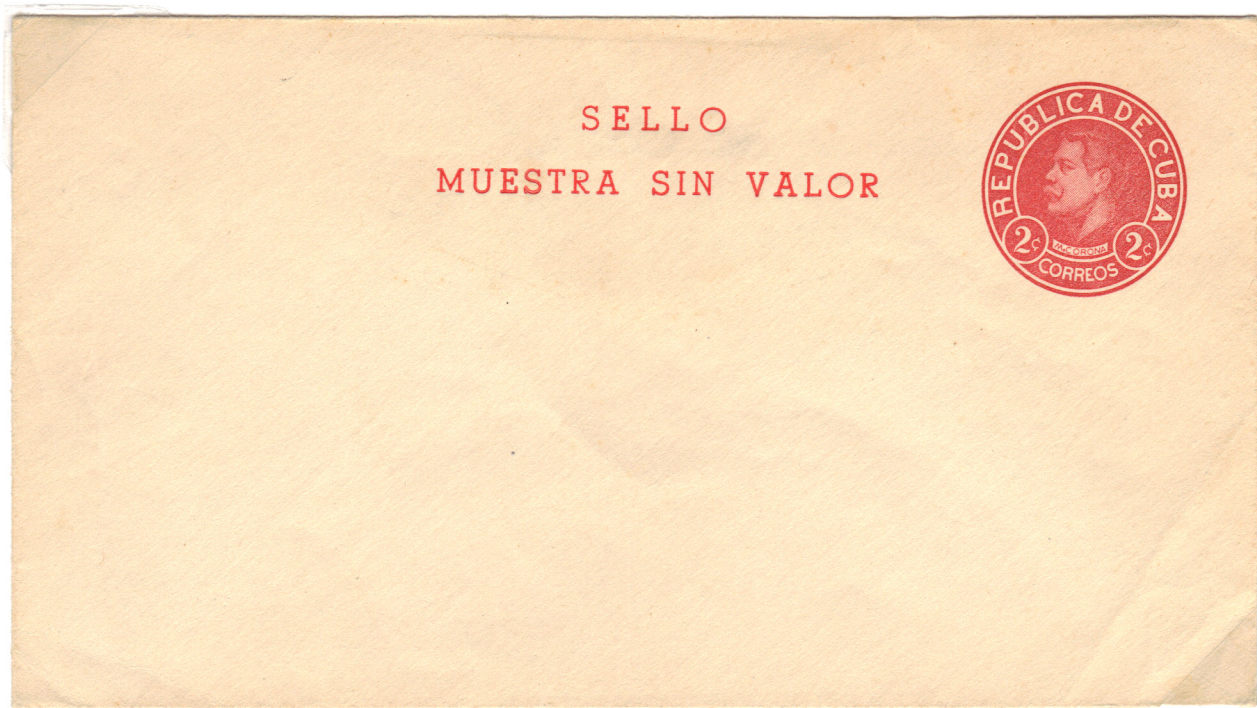
July 27, 1949
Journalists/Planes Envelopes

“Muestra” (Specimen) Envelopes.

Overprinted with a two-line “SELLO / MUESTRA SIN VALOR” (specimen with no postal value).
Even as specimen copies were being printed, we still note that some of the colors were not settled.



1 c. light green. The issued color.



2 c. reddish brown. Not the issued color.

SELLO
MUESTRA SIN VALOR



2 c. vermilion.
Window envelope.
As issued.

SELLO
MUESTRA SIN VALOR



2 c. brown.
Window envelope.
Not issued color.



CORREO AEREO

8 c. vermilion.
Airmail envelope.

Cancelada

*Muestra sin
valor
SV*

July 27, 1949
Journalists/Planes Envelopes

5 c. dark blue.
Airmail envelope.
As issued.

"Muestra" (Specimen) Envelopes.



8 c. vermilion.
Airmail envelope.
As issued.

July 27, 1949
Journalists/Planes Env.

2 c. Corona.
241 x 105 mm.

**Size Varieties,
Ordinary Mail.**



2 c. Gomez.
Window envelope.
241 x 105 mm.

July 27, 1949
Journalists/Planes Env.

5 c. Domestic.
241 x 105 mm.

Size Varieties,
Airmail.

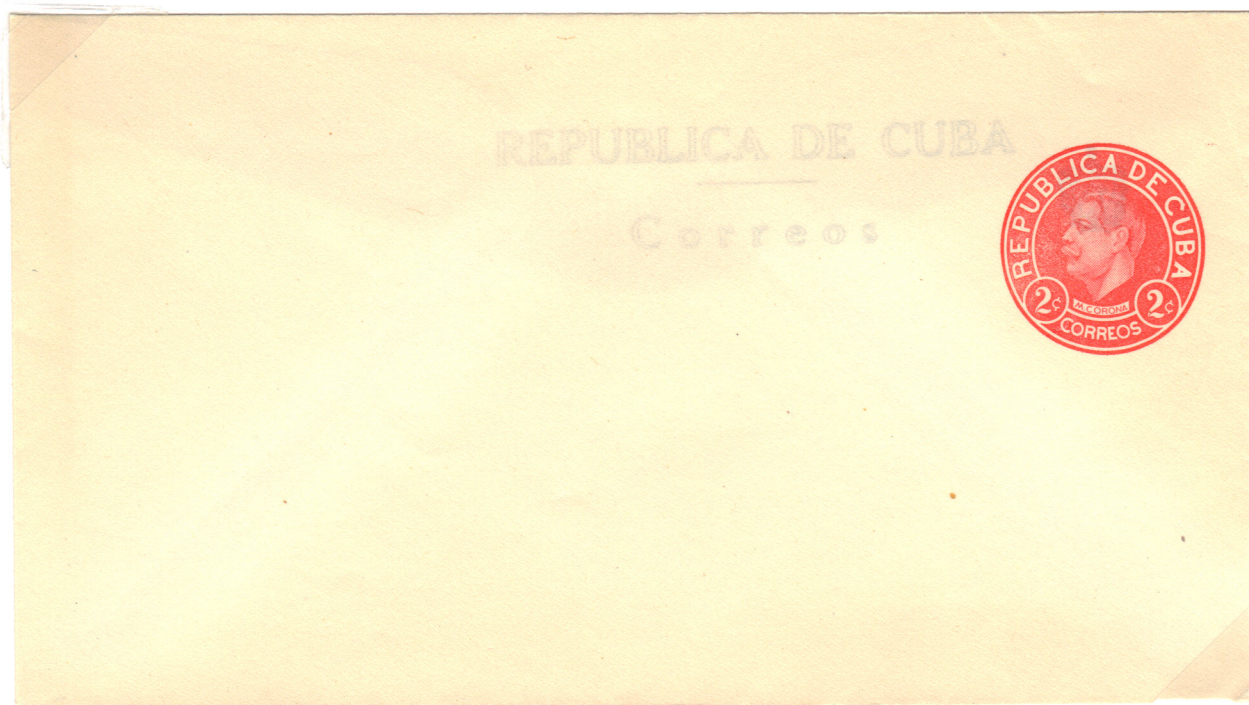


8 c. International.
241 x 105 mm.

July 27, 1949
Journalists/Planes Env.

Reversed Printing Variety,
on 2 c. envelope.

This variety was created when the printer modified the inner printing of the standard size envelopes to match the format used on the legal size envelopes. Very few copies of this variety exist.



Normal printing - The text reads normal, from left to right, when viewed from the front.



Reversed printing - Text now reads right to left. The Cuban Coat of Arms has been reversed, as well, but it is now positioned by the "R" in Republica. Both the text and the seal are **correct when viewed from the inside**.

July 27, 1949

Journalists/Planes Envelopes

First Day Covers - Ordinary Mail.

This was the first postal stationery issue for which First Day cancels were made available. The "Gomigrafo" (hand stamp) for this issue was a very plain text box. Cuba posts had been preparing these first day cancel hand stamps for every postal issue since 1928.

