

Incoming Mail Markings :

NA

(Applied in Havana)

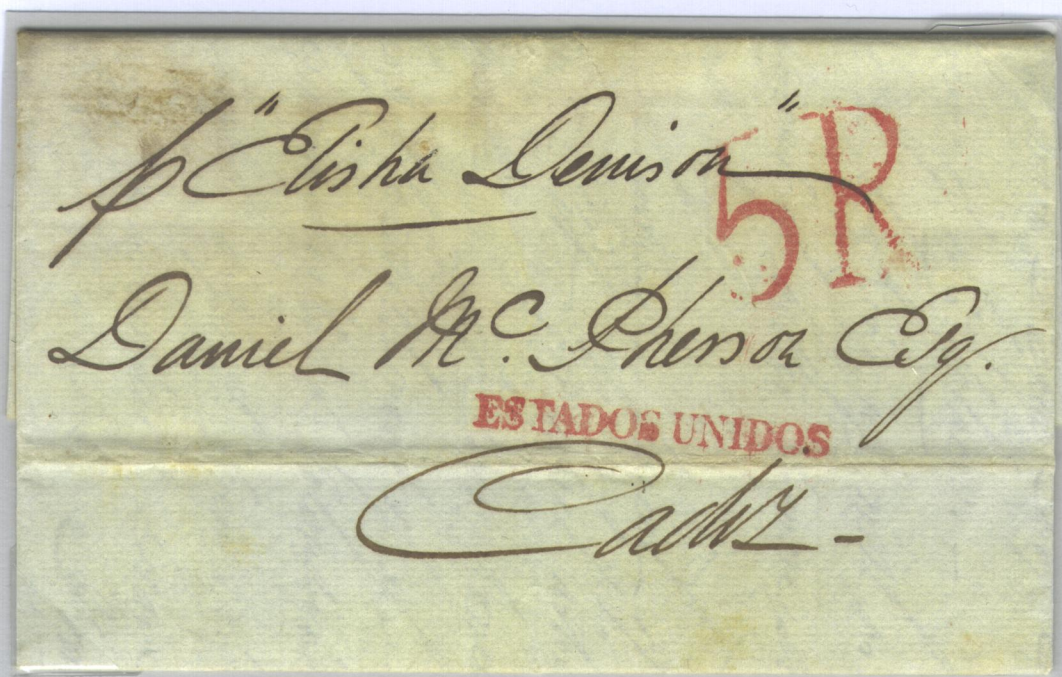
ESTADOS UNIDOS

(Applied in Cadiz)

*Hemispheric and Transatlantic Mail
USA to Cuba and Spain*

1835. West Chester, Pennsylvania to Santiago de Cuba. It was prepaid to Philadelphia and sent as a ship letter directly to Santiago. Unpaid single weight letter (in Cuba) charged one silver real.

There is one other recorded example of this marking (in red).



1840. New York to Cadiz, Spain. It was carried privately to Cadiz, where the very scarce postmark ESTADOS UNIDOS was applied to indicate its origin. Unpaid single weight letter charged five reales (vellon).

Incoming Mail Markings :
Jamayca and Santhomas
 (Applied in Santiago de Cuba)

Hemispheric and Transatlantic Mail
West Indies to Cuba

1839. Kingston, Jamaica, to Havana via Santiago de Cuba. Prepaid (4 pence) by British packet directly into Santiago. Single weight rate of one silver real due from the addressee.

Earliest use of the five recorded examples of the oval Jamayca. and the only one in black.



1859. London to Santiago de Cuba via St. Thomas. Single weight letter sent prepaid (1sh/6d) by the British steamer *Shannon* of the RMSPC. From St. Thomas, it was forwarded on board the Spanish packet *Cuba* (although it was originally endorsed by the Spanish packet *Pelayo*) into Santiago, where it was charged 2 reales postage due.

Only known black example of the five recorded oval Santhomas. markings.

Incoming Mail Markings :

"NA" and Jamayca

(Applied in Havana and Santiago de Cuba)

Transatlantic and Hemispheric Mail

1855. Galveston, Texas, to France via Havana and Spain. Sent prepaid to New Orleans and then by American steamer to Havana. In Cuba it was rated one real and it received the black "squiggle" handstamp (three examples known) used on unpaid mail to be forwarded. The addressee was charged five centimes for single weight unpaid mail via Spain.



1856. Kingston, Jamaica, to Santiago de Cuba via St. Thomas. Unpaid single weight letter charged 1 real postage due. There are six known covers with this oval marking and only one other in green.

EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

*Transatlantic Mail
Spain to Mexico via Cuba*

Oval "E".

The "Empresa Mercantil de Correos Maritimos" was a private shipping company created in 1827 by a group of merchants in Havana that operated under government contract. It was allowed to collect postage due on incoming mail regardless of how it arrived in Cuba. These fees were regulated by the government and remained the same for the 25 years in which the Empresa was in operation. They were (per ¼ ounce): North America and the West Indies, 1 real; North Europe, 2 reales; the rest of the Americas, 3 reales; and Spain, 4 reales.

The ships of the Empresa also provided regular sailings between Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Canary Islands, and Spain. All the outgoing mail handled by the Empresa had to be prepaid. The Empresa used several different styles of postmarks through the years: Oval E, S, NA, NE, and YNDIAS (1827-1839); Circular E./NA., E./NE, and E./YNDIAS (1839-1842); and Circular date stamps and FRANCO markings (1842-1851). There were also a few miscellaneous handstamps and other markings "borrowed" from the Havana post office. All of the Empresa markings shown here were applied in Havana unless otherwise noted. The Empresa changed ownership in the late 1840's but the same postmarks continued to be used.

1830s. Pamplona, Spain, to Chihuahua, Mexico, via Havana and Veracruz. It was handled by the Empresa that applied its oval E. The Empresa probably did not get compensated for this service, for which these letters usually took a long time to reach their destination. There are only a handful of transit letters handled by the Empresa during this early period.



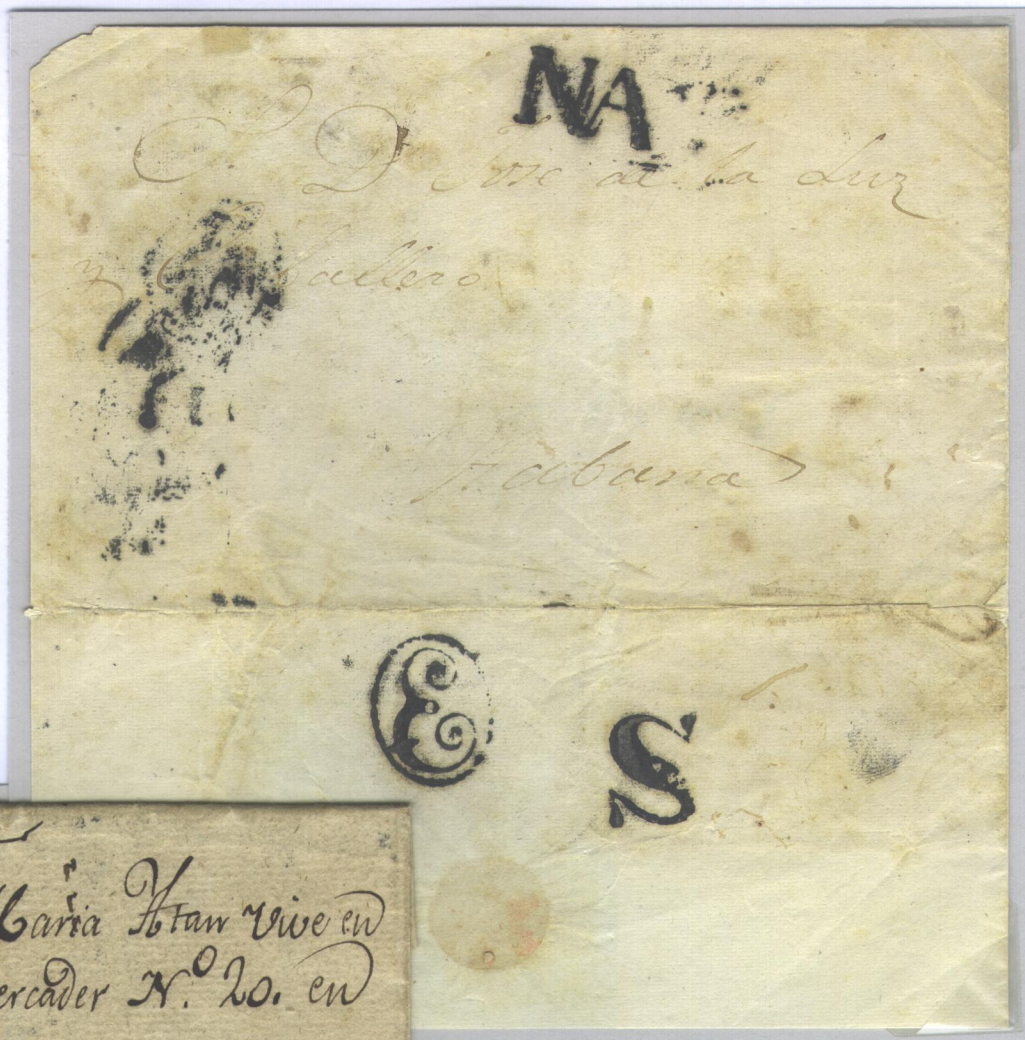
EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

*Hemispheric and Transatlantic Mail
 USA and Spain to Cuba*

Oval "E" and "S".

1830s. USA to Havana.
 Unpaid single weight letter.
 The *Empresa* applied its
 oval E (Empresa), control
 postmark S, and incoming
 mail marking NA (North
 America).

There is one other recorded
 S in this color.



1832. Santiago de Compostela,
 Spain, to Havana. Unpaid single
 weight letter. The *Empresa* applied
 its oval E (Empresa), and control
 postmark S.

There is one other recorded S in this
 color.

EMPRESA

Transit and Incoming Mail Markings :

Oval "E" and "YNDIAS"

*Transatlantic and Hemispheric Mail
Mexico to Spain and Cuba*

1828. Zacatecas, Mexico to Jerez, Spain, via Havana and Cadiz. It was initially assessed five reales postage due upon arrival in Cadiz, but this was later changed to six reales (vellon).

There are three reported examples of this YNDIAS marking used by the Empresa, and this is the only transit usage.



1838. Campeche, Mexico, to Havana. Single weight letter.

There is one other example of the old YNDIAS handstamp used by the Empresa as an incoming mail marking.

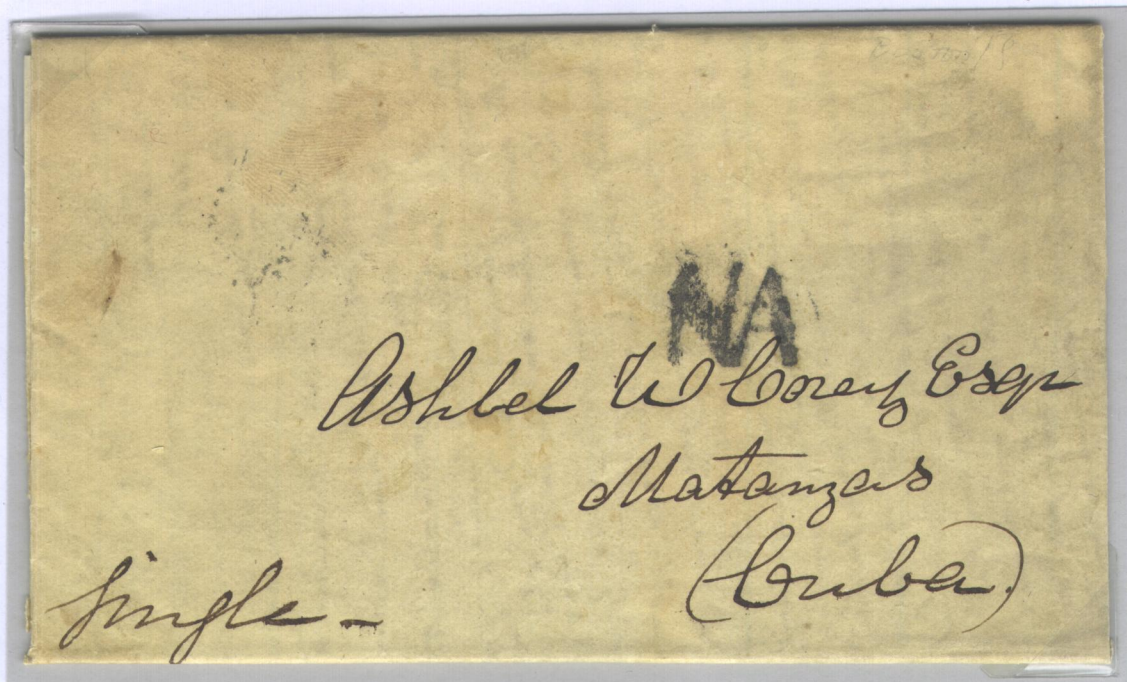


EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

Hemispheric Mail
USA to Cuba

Oval "E" and "NA".

1836. U.S.A. to
Matanzas via
Havana. Single
weight letter.



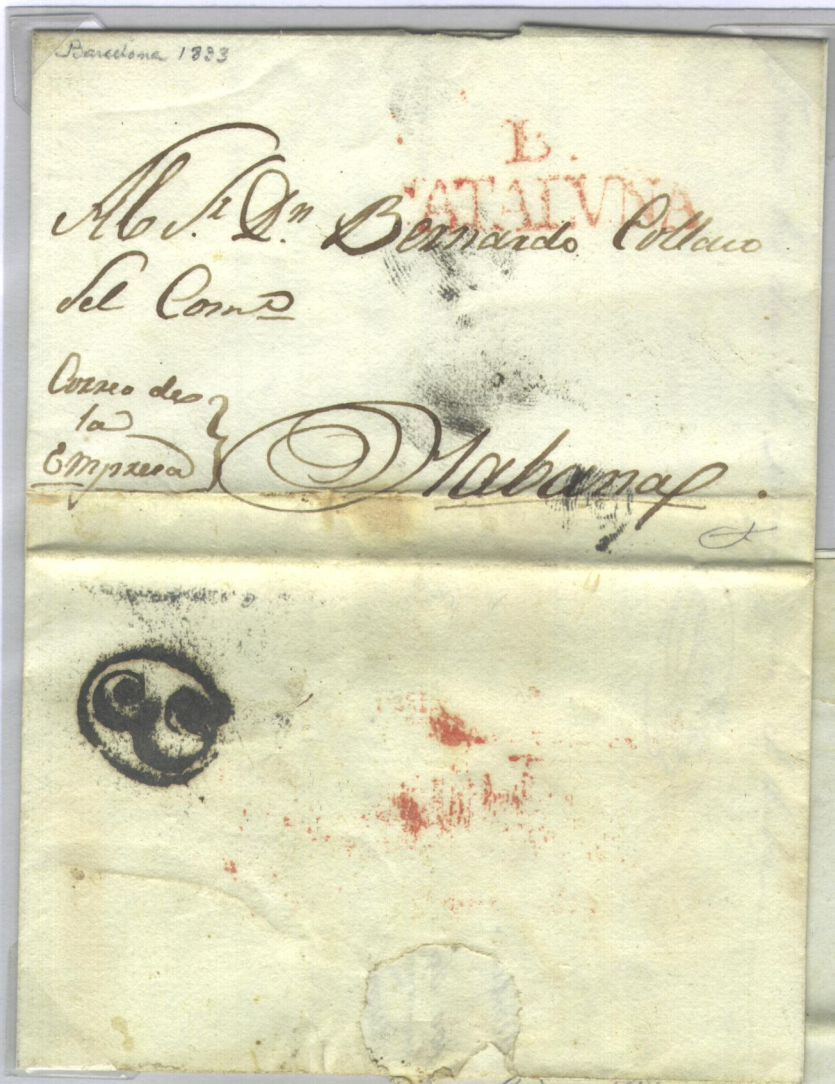
1836. New York to Havana.
Double weight letter. This
type of marking was in use
between 1828 and 1836.



EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

Transatlantic Mail
Spain to Cuba

Oval "E".



1833. Barcelona to Havana. Single weight letter.

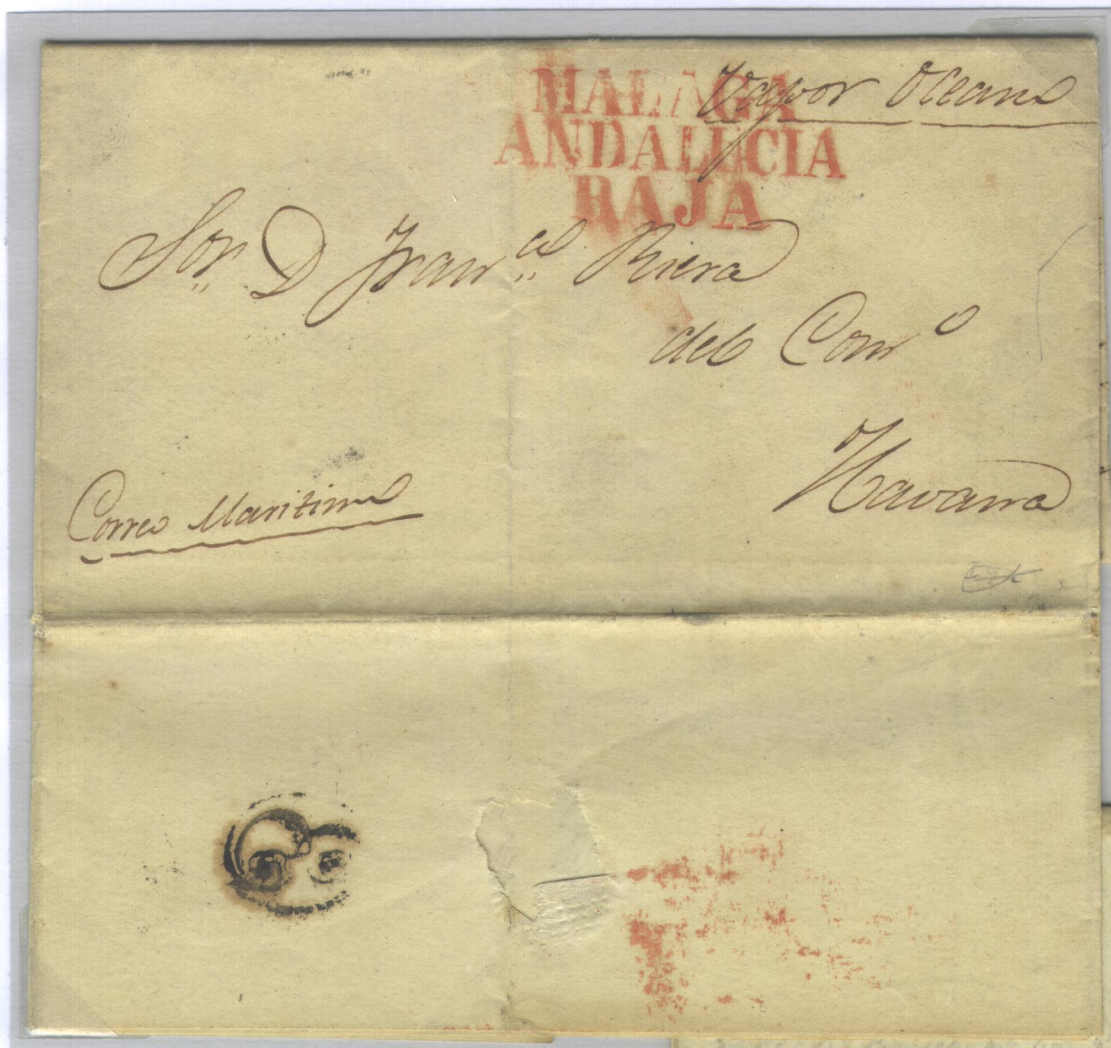
1841. Cadiz to Havana. Very unusual unpaid triple weight letter.



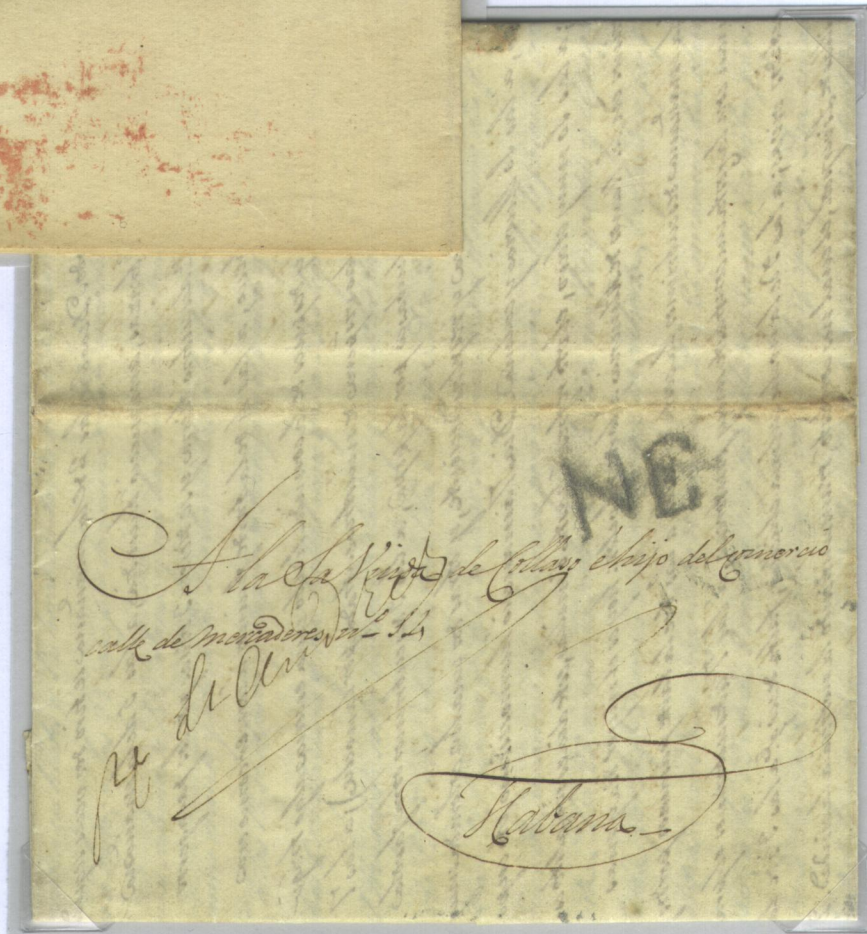
EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

Oval "E" and "NE".

Transatlantic Mail
Europe to Cuba



1836. Manchester, England, to Havana. Single weight letter. This type of NE marking was used from 1828 to 1836.

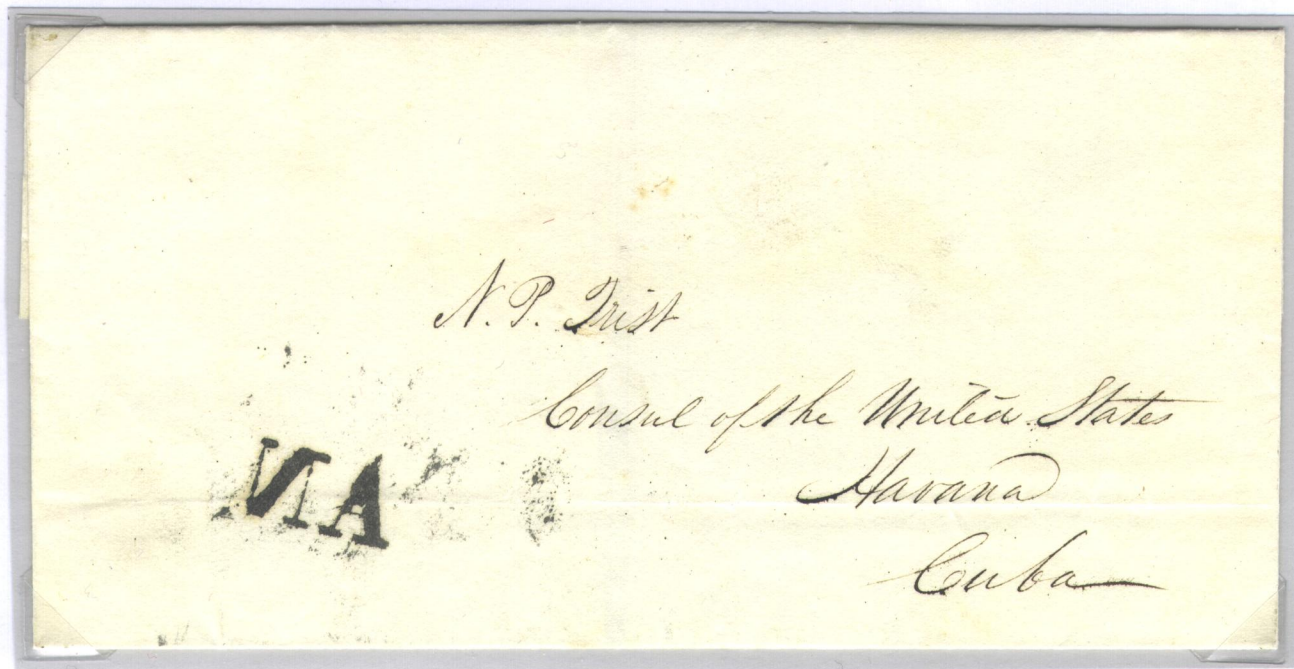


EMPRESA

Incoming Mail Markings :

“NA” and “NE”(Inverted Ns).

*Hemispheric and Transatlantic Mail
USA and France to Cuba*



Undated. U.S.A. origin to the American Consul in Havana. Single weight ship letter. This is by far the finest recorded example of the NA marking with inverted “N”, in use during 1837-38.



1837. Bordeaux to Havana. Single weight letter prepaid in France (2 decimes) and sent on the merchant ship *Ida* to Cuba. Only about 5 examples of this marking are known, all recorded in 1837.

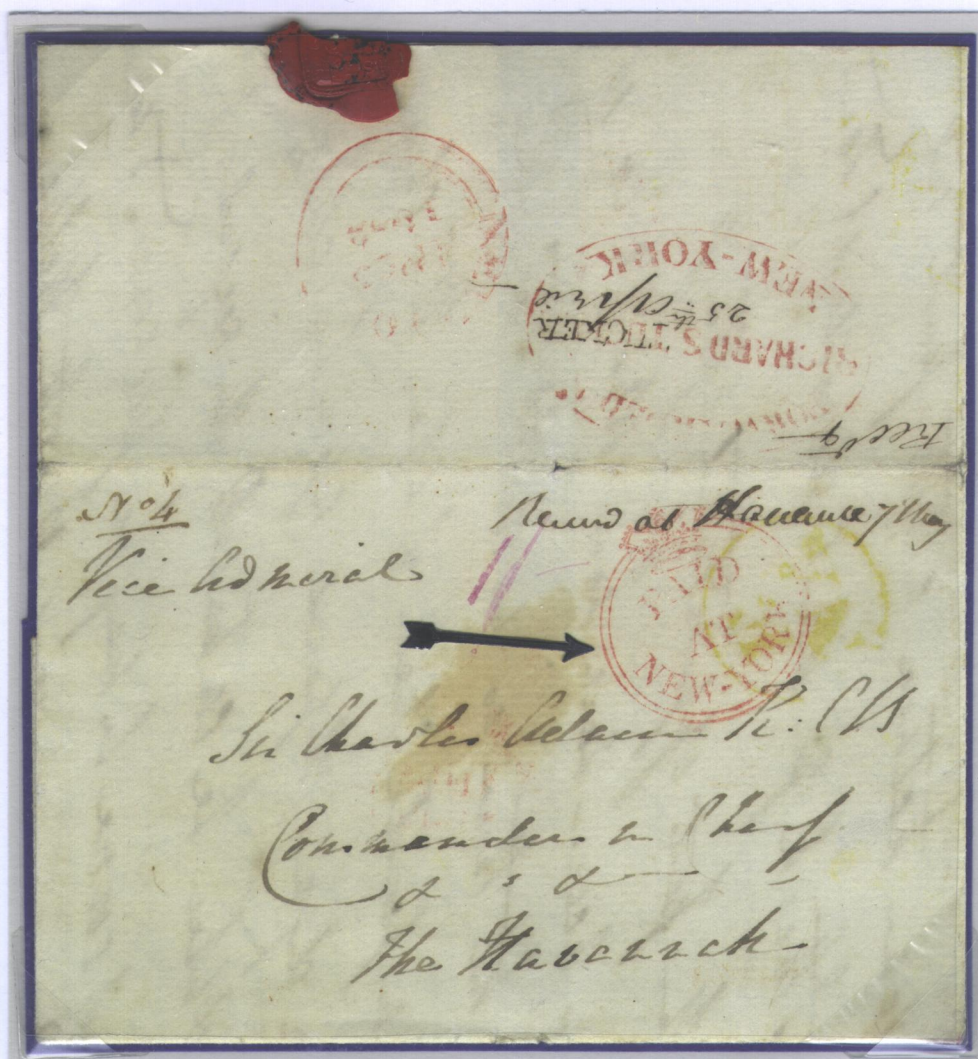
EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

Hemispheric Mail
USA to Cuba

Circular "E. / NA".

1842. New York City to Havana. Handled by a forwarding agent in New York who sent it prepaid (one shilling) by the British steamer *Medway*. Upon arrival to Cuba, on May 3rd, it was handled by the *Empresa* that applied its circular E./NA in yellow.

Of the two known crowned circle markings from New York, this is the only one addressed to Cuba. There are less than five examples recorded of the circular E./NA in yellow.



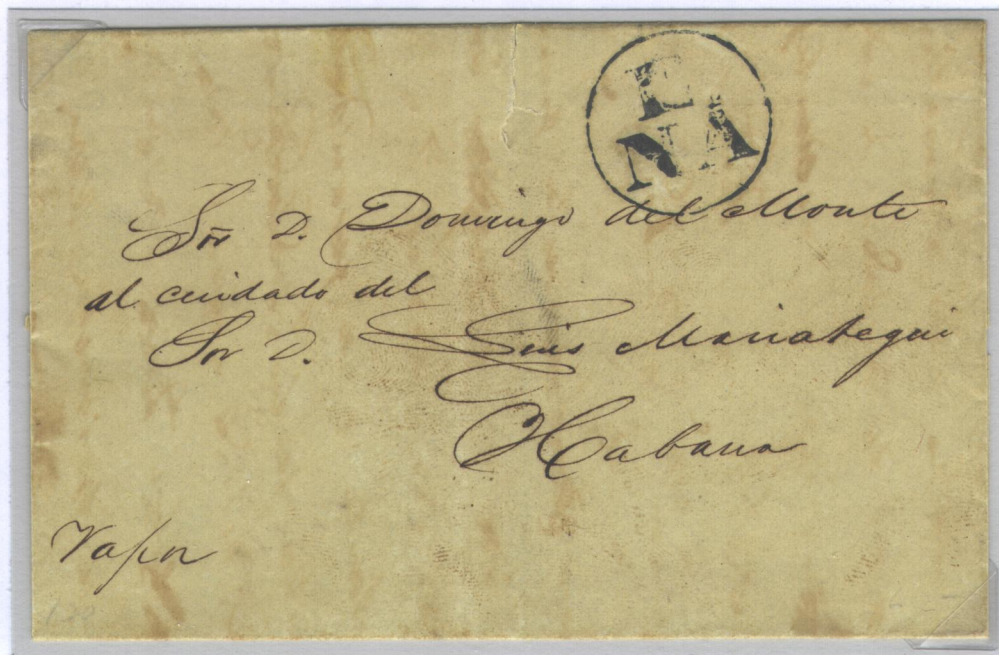
1842. New York to Havana. Unpaid single-weight letter.

EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

Hemispheric Mail
USA to Cuba

Circular "E. / N A".

1840. New Orleans to Havana. Single weight letter. This type of postmark has been recorded from 1839 to 1841.



1842. New York to Havana. Single weight letter carried on board the ship *Harriet Smith*.

There is only one other reported example of the circular E. / NA in red.

EMPRESA

Incoming Mail Markings :

Transatlantic and Cis-Atlantic Mail

Circular "E. / N E" and Oval "E".

1840. Bordeaux to Havana. Sent as a prepaid (3 decimes) French ship letter on board the *Joven Emilia*. Double weight letter charged the incoming mail fee of four silver reales. This type of marking has only been recorded between 1839 and 1840.



1844. Cadiz to Tenerife, Canary Islands. Sent unpaid on board one of the *Empresa* steamers to Tenerife. Single weight letter charged two reales (vellon) postage due.

EMPRESA
Incoming Mail Markings :

*Hemispheric and Transatlantic Mail
 Central and South America to Cuba and Canary Islands*

Circular “E. / YNDIAS” and “INDIAS”.

1842. Mexico to
 Havana. Single
 weight letter.

Only recorded
 example of the
 circular E./
 YNDIAS in yellow.



1844. La Guayra,
 Venezuela, to
 Tenerife, Canary
 Islands, via Havana.
 Sent privately to
 Havana where it was
 handled by the
Empresa. After a long
 delay of over four
 months, it was carried
 in one of the
 company's ships to
 Tenerife, and charged
 five reales postage due.

Only reported example
 of the INDIAS in
 yellow.

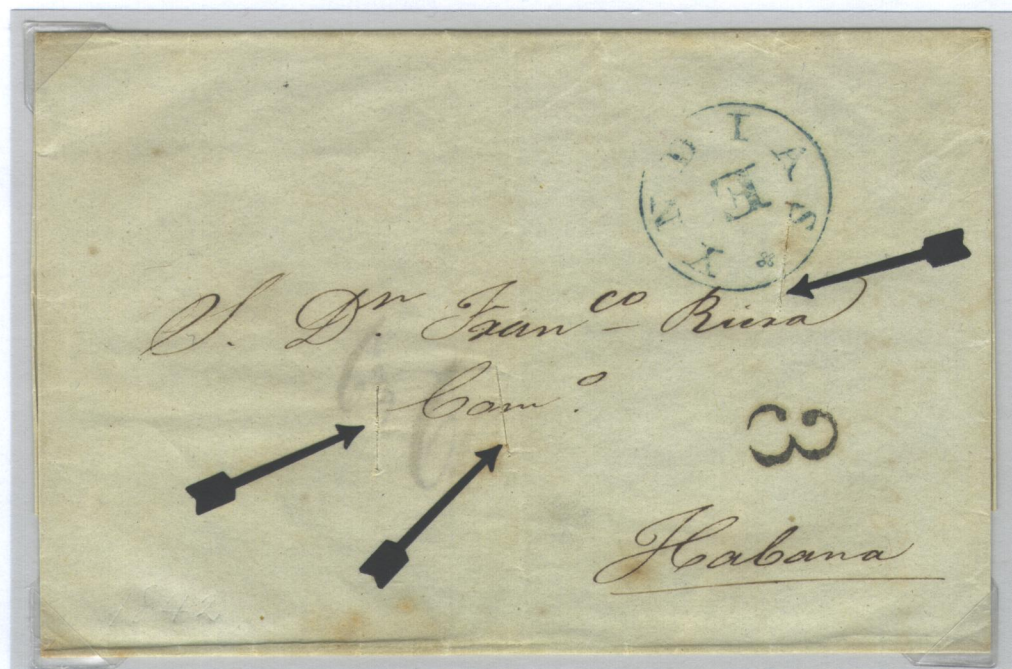
EMPRESA

Incoming Mail Markings :

Circular "E. / YNDIAS".

*Hemispheric Mail
Mexico to Cuba*

1839. Mexico City to Havana. Sent prepaid to Veracruz and then as a loose ship letter to Cuba. Single weight letter. This type of marking has only been recorded between 1839 and 1841.



1842. Mexico to Havana. Sent as a private ship letter directly to Havana where it was disinfected in the harbor (very unusual). Single weight letter.

Only recorded example of this marking in blue. There's only a handful of known letters with evidence of disinfection in Cuba.

EMPRESA

Mail to Cuba

Incoming Mail Markings :

“N. America”, “Indias”, and “N.Europa” cds

1843. Mississippi to Holguin, Cuba, via Havana. Double weight letter prepaid (25 cents) to the U.S. port of sailing, carried by American ship to Cuba where the Empresa applied one of the two recorded examples of its “N. America” cds in green. It was rated “1” which was changed to “2” and then to “3” (reales) postage due.



1843. Small cover front from Mexico to Havana. It was handled by the Empresa that applied the only reported example of the “INDIAS” cds in green. Three reales was the single weight rate from Mexico.

1844. Aurillac, France to Cienfuegos, Cuba, via Havana. Single weight letter prepaid by French ship to Havana where the Empresa applied the only recorded example of its “N. America” cds in green. It was charged two reales postage due.

