

**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Steamship Mail*  
*Cuba to Spain*

**“CORREO MARITIMO” (3 & 4)**

1842. Havana to Madrid.  
 Unpaid double weight  
 letter. There are about five  
 examples of the “CORREO  
 MARITIMO No. 3” in  
 yellow.



1843. Havana to  
 Madrid. It was sent  
 prepaid by a steamer of  
 the Empresa. There are  
 about a dozen examples  
 of the “CORREO  
 MARITIMO No. 4” in  
 green.



**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Cuba to Spain*

**"CORREO MARITIMO" (4)**

**1842.** Prepaid letter  
 from Havana to  
 Madrid.



**1845.** Santiago  
 de Cuba to  
 Santander via  
 Havana. It was  
 handled by a  
 forwarding agent  
 in Havana who  
 sent it prepaid to  
 Spain.



**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Steamship Mail  
between Cuba and Spain*

**"CORREO MARITIMO" (5 & 6)**

1850. Havana to Spain. It was sent prepaid by steamer number 5 of the Empresa. This is the rarest of all the eight steamship markings of the Empresa.



1849. San Sebastian, Spain, to Havana. Unpaid double weight letter. There are about five examples of the "CORREO MARITIMO No. 6" in yellow.

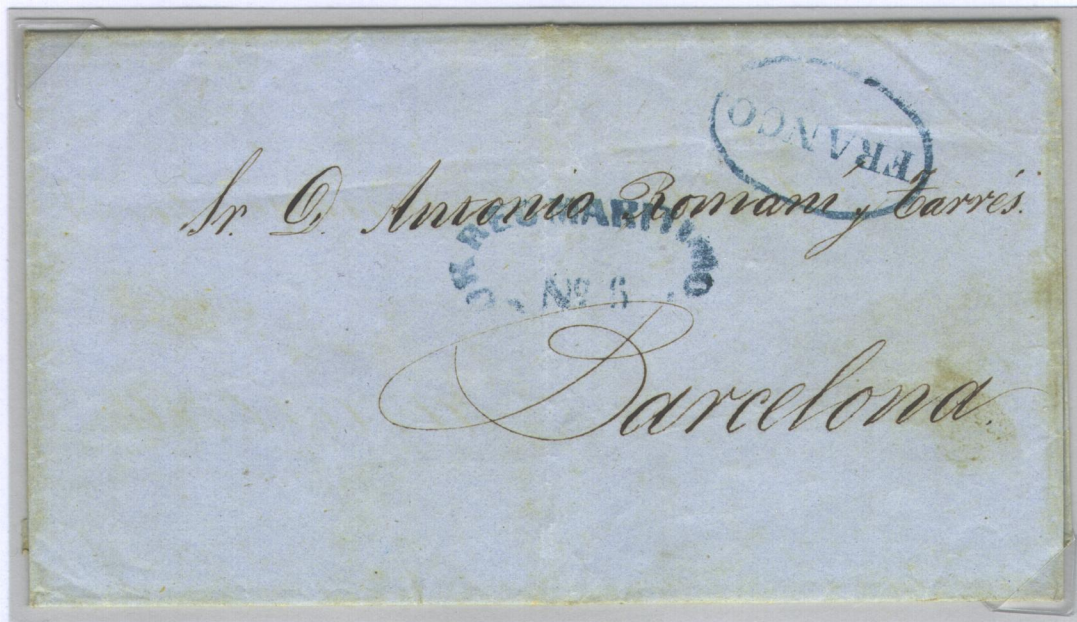


**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Cuba to Spain*

**“CORREO MARITIMO” (6)**

**1848.** Prepaid letter  
 from Havana to  
 Barcelona.



**1848.** Prepaid  
 letter from  
 Matanzas to  
 Barcelona via  
 Havana. In Spain  
 it was surcharged  
 6 *maravedis* for a  
 Catalonian road  
 tax. Unusual  
 combination of  
 markings.



**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Cuba and Mexico to Spain*

**“CORREO MARITIMO” (7)**

**1848.** Prepaid letter  
 from Puerto Principe,  
 Cuba, to Barcelona via  
 Havana. Unusual  
 combination of  
 markings.



**1850.** Puebla,  
 Mexico to Cadiz  
 via Havana.  
 Carried privately to  
 Havana where it  
 was handled by a  
 forwarding agent  
 who sent it prepaid  
 to Spain. Very few  
 letters are known  
 sent on this route.



**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Steamship Mail*  
*Cuba to Europe*

**“CORREO MARITIMO” (7 & 8)**

c1850. Cadiz to Havana. Unpaid double weight letter. There are about five examples of the “CORREO MARITIMO No. 7” in yellow.



1851. Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux. Originally intended to go by British packet but was sent prepaid from Santiago to Havana where it was taken by steamer number 8 of the Empresa to Spain. From Spain it went through St. Jean de Luz to France, where the addressee was charged five decimes, the single weight rate from Spain to France.



**EMPRESA**  
**Steamship Markings :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Cuba to Spain*

**"CORREO MARITIMO" (8)**

**1848.** Prepaid letter  
 from Matanzas to  
 Barcelona via Havana.  
 Unusual combination of  
 markings.



**1850.** Prepaid  
 letter from Havana  
 to Limpías, Spain.



## EMPRESA

Steamship and Origin Markings :

"CORREO MARITIMO" (Missing Number).

"FRANCO CUBA."

(Applied in Havana and Santiago de Cuba)

Transatlantic Mail

1846. Havana to Madrid. Sent prepaid by a steamer of the Empresa.

There are about five examples of the "CORREO MARITIMO No." without number, all in blue.



1831. Santiago de Cuba to San Sebastian, Spain. Sent prepaid (4 silver reales) on board one of the Empresa steamers to Spain. Single weight letter.

About five examples of this marking have been recorded.



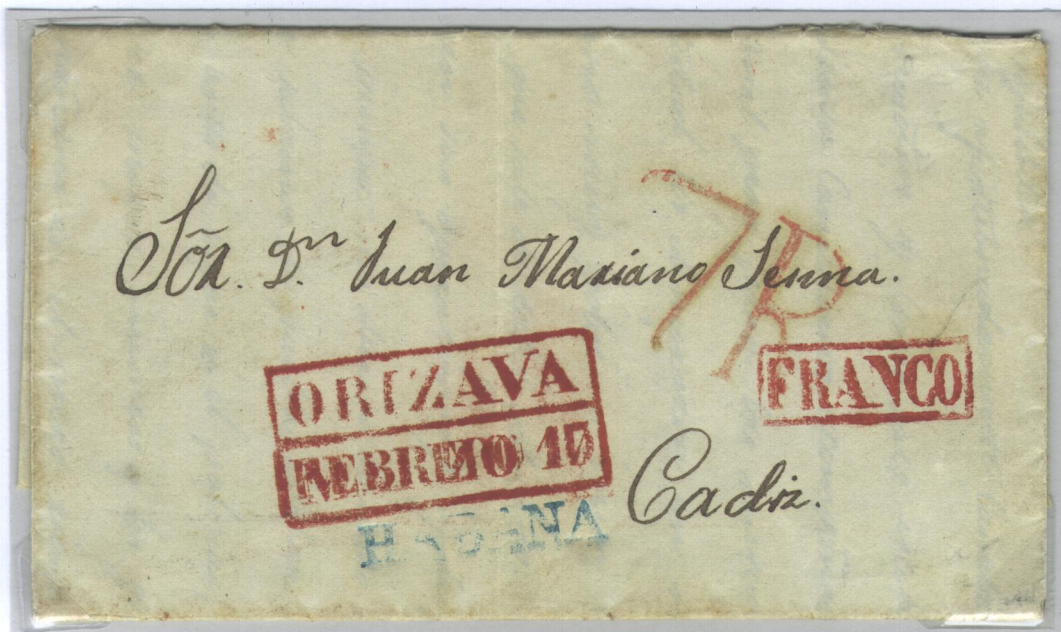
**EMPRESA**  
Transit Markings :

“HABANA”.

*Transatlantic Mail  
Mexico to Spain via Cuba*

**1842.** Veracruz to Cadiz via Havana. Sent prepaid (one shilling) by British steamer to Cuba where it was handled by the *Empresa* and later sent to Spain. Upon arrival in Cadiz it was charged seven reales (vellon), the single weight rate from Mexico.

*This is the earliest example of the straightline HABANA used by the Empresa and the only one in red.*



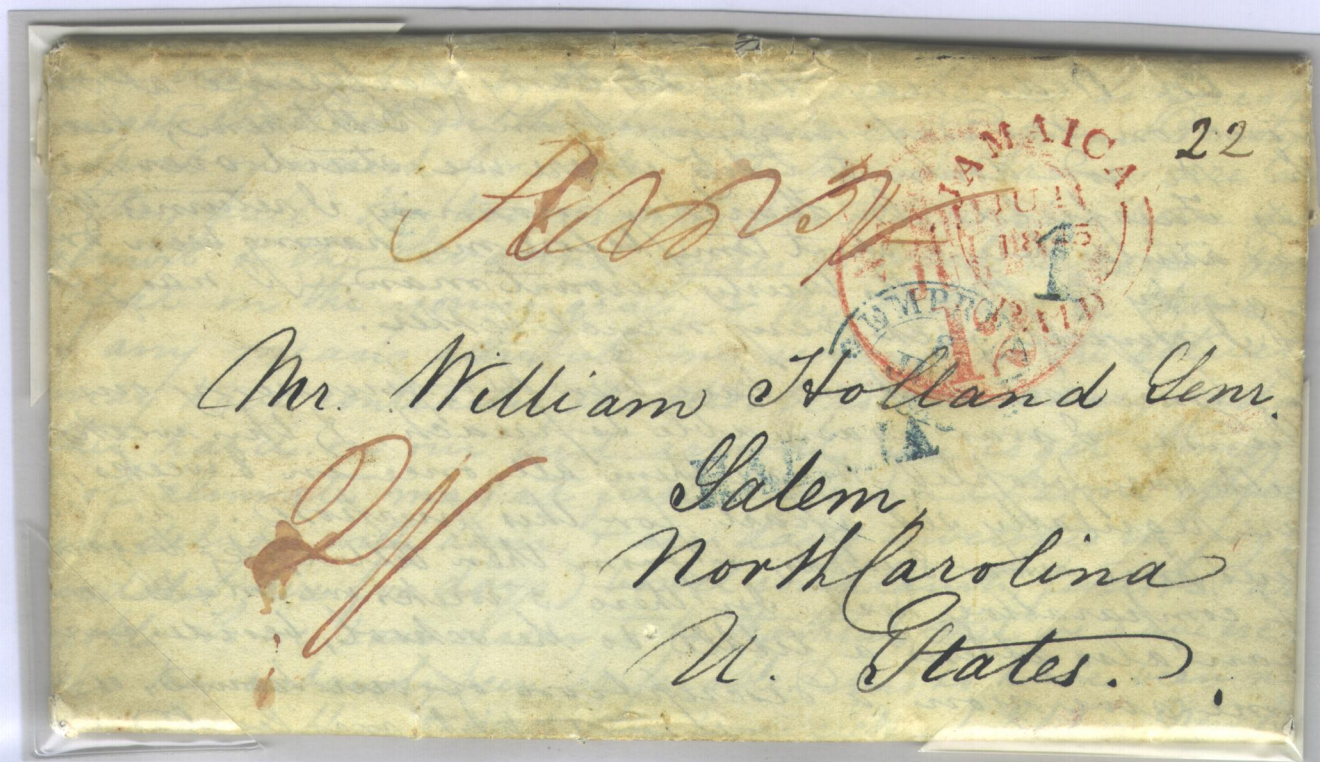
**1843.** Orizaba, Mexico, to Cadiz via Havana. Sent prepaid by merchant ship to Cuba where it was handled by the *Empresa* and later sent to Spain. Upon arrival in Cadiz it was charged seven reales (vellon), the single weight rate



**EMPRESA**  
Transit Markings :

*Hemispheric and Transatlantic Mail  
to and from the U.S.A. via Cuba*

“HABANA” and “EMPRESA” Semicircle.



1845. May Hill, Jamaica, to Salem, North Carolina, via Havana and New York. It was sent prepaid (two shillings) by the British steamer *Trent* to Cuba. It was handled by the *Empresa* that applied its semicircular marking and the straightline HABANA. It was then sent by an American ship to New York where it was charged twelve cents, the double weight ship rate beyond the port of arrival.

There are about five recorded examples of the semicircular EMPRESA marking.



1848. New York to Jerez, Spain, via Charleston, Havana, and Cadiz. Sent prepaid (12½ cents) by the American contract steamship *Isabel* to Cuba. The *Empresa* applied its “N.AMERICA” cds and the straightline HABANA. After a long delay it was forwarded to Spain. Upon arrival in Cadiz it was charged seven reales, the single weight rate from the USA.

This is one of only seven reported American contract steamship letters to Cuba during 1848.



**EMPRESA**  
**Transit Markings :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Spain to Mexico via Cuba*

**“HABANA” and “CORREO MARITIMO” (2 & 3).**

**1845.** Vizcaya, Spain, to Mexico via Havana. Sent unpaid on board one of the *Empresa* steamers (CORREO MARITIMO No. 2) to Cuba. After a long delay, it was forwarded to Mexico City via Veracruz.



**1845.** Castro Urdiales, Spain, to Mexico via Havana. Sent unpaid on board one of the *Empresa* steamers (CORREO MARITIMO No. 3) to Cuba. It was later forwarded to Mexico City via Veracruz.

*There are about five reported examples of the steamship handstamp in yellow.*



## EMPRESA

### Markings Used in Puerto Rico:

*Transatlantic Mail  
Spain to Puerto Rico*

1847. Mataro, Spain, to Ponce, Puerto Rico, via San Juan. Unpaid single weight letter.

There are five examples recorded of the oval EM (Empresa Marítima).



1848. Mataro, Spain, to Ponce, Puerto Rico, via San Juan. Unpaid double weight letter. The rectangular handstamp on the left upper corner indicates  $\frac{1}{2}$  Oz.

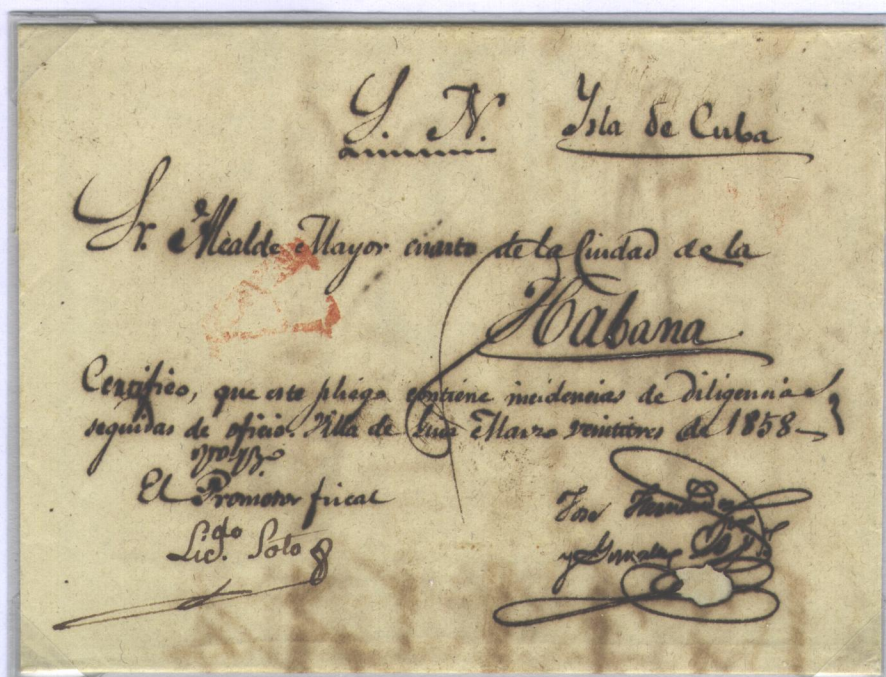
There is one other known example of the oval NEM (Nueva Empresa Marítima).



# “Abono” Markings

Mail to and from Cuba

1858. Prepaid (one real) official mail from the Canary Islands, Spain, to Havana. The orange “A” was applied in Spain.



1849. Prepaid official mail from Havana to Granada, Spain. Note large disinfection slits. The orange “A” was applied in Spain. There is one other known cover with the same combination of markings.



**AFTER THE EMPRESA**  
**Spanish Navy Steamers :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Cuba to Spain*

1852. Prepaid  
 letter from Havana  
 to La Coruña. It  
 was carried on the  
 Spanish Navy side  
 wheel steamer  
*Caledonia*.



1853. Unpaid single-weight letter  
 from Havana to Madrid. It  
 was carried on the Spanish Navy side  
 wheel steamer *Caledonia*.  
 Disinfected in Spain.



**AFTER THE EMPRESA**  
**Accountancy Markings on Multiple**  
**Weight Letters :**

*Transatlantic Mail*  
*Spain to Cuba*

1854. Malaga, Spain, to Havana. It was carried on the Spanish Navy side wheel steamer *Francisco de Asís*. The "D" was applied in Cadiz to indicate an unpaid double weight letter.



1854. Cadiz to Havana. It was carried on the Spanish Navy side wheel steamer *Blasco de Garay*. The "T" was applied in Cadiz to indicate an unpaid triple weight letter.



## The First Spanish Colonial Stamps in the Americas:

*Transatlantic Mail  
Cuba to Spain*

### First Day Cover and Earliest Certified Mail

**1855 (April 25).**  
Havana to Seville,  
Spain. Stamps were  
first sold in Cuba on  
April 24 and used  
the following day.  
Prepaid triple weight  
letter to Spain. It  
was carried on board  
the Spanish steamer  
*Conde de Regla*.

Of the five known  
"first day covers" of  
the first Cuban  
stamp (two are in the  
Cuban Postal  
Museum), this is the  
one with the highest  
franking.



**1855 (Dec. 19).**  
Havana to Madrid, via  
Cadiz. Single weight  
letter plus one real  
certified mail fee.  
The multiple 0's  
around the edges were  
used to indicate  
certified mail.

Earliest reported  
transatlantic certified  
mail cover franked  
with Cuban stamps.