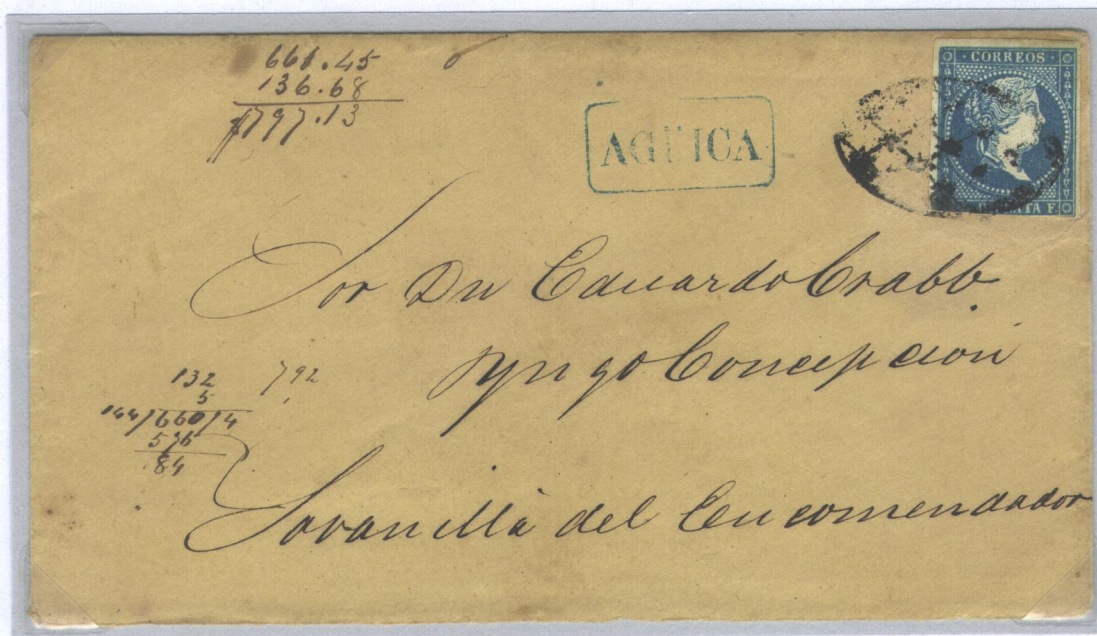


**Straightline Markings used in the Philatelic
Period:**

*Matanzas Province
Carteria*

AGÜICA

Only ten different "straightline" town markings have been recorded on covers franked with adhesives. Most of them are from very small post offices which never received "Baeza" circular date stamps. The postmarks from Agüica, Hoyo Colorado, La Ysabel, Montalvo, and Sierra Morena are not known on stampless covers.



Undated. Single-weight letter from Agüica to Sabanilla del Encomendador. This is the only known postmark from this town, recorded in 1859. EXT.

**Straightline Markings used in the Philatelic
Period:**

*Havana Province
Cartería*

BAINOA

*Pinar del Rio Province
Cartería*

HOYO COLORADO

1857. Single-weight letter from Bainoa to Havana. This postmark is much more common on stampless covers. RR.



1860. Single-weight letter from Hoyo Colorado to Navajas. This is the only postmark of any kind ever recorded from this town. UNLISTED.

**Straightline Markings used in the Philatelic
Period:**

*Havana Province
Fourth Class*

CEIBA DEL AGUA

*Matanzas Province
Fourth Class*

LA MACAGUA

1859. Double-weight official mail letter from Ceiba del Agua to San Antonio. It had a population of 400. This is the only type of postmark from this town, recorded from 1855 to 1860. UNLISTED (in green).



Undated. Double-weight official mail letter from La Macagua to Colon. This is the only type of postmark from this town, recorded in 1855. EXT.

**Straightline Markings used in the Philatelic
Period:**

*Matanzas Province
Fourth Class*

LA YSABEL

*Matanzas Province
Fourth Class*

MONTALVO

1858. Single-weight letter from La Ysabel to Havana. Its population was only 140. This is the only type of postmark from this town, recorded from 1857 to 1860. RRR.



1857. Single-weight letter from Montalvo to Matanzas. This is the only type of postmark from this town, recorded between 1856 and 1861. RRR.

**Straightline Markings used in the Philatelic
Period:**

*Las Villas Province
Fourth Class*

S. MORENA

*Las Villas Province
Fourth Class*

SANTA YSABEL DE LAS LAJAS

1860. Double-weight letter from Sierra Morena to Havana. Its population was only 79. This is the only type of postmark from this town, recorded from 1859 to 1860. RRR.



1857. Double-weight letter from Santa Ysabel de las Lajas to New York via Havana. The internal postage to Havana was apparently underpaid by ½ real but it was accepted anyway. This town had 240 inhabitants. This is the only type of postmark from this town, recorded between 1855 and 1861. RRR.

FERRO-CARRIL HABANA.

1847. Bejucal to Jaruco. Unpaid single-weight letter. This marking was used on mail collected along the northern railroad and has been recorded between 1847 and 1850. In this case it was used on mail dispatched from Havana. EXT.

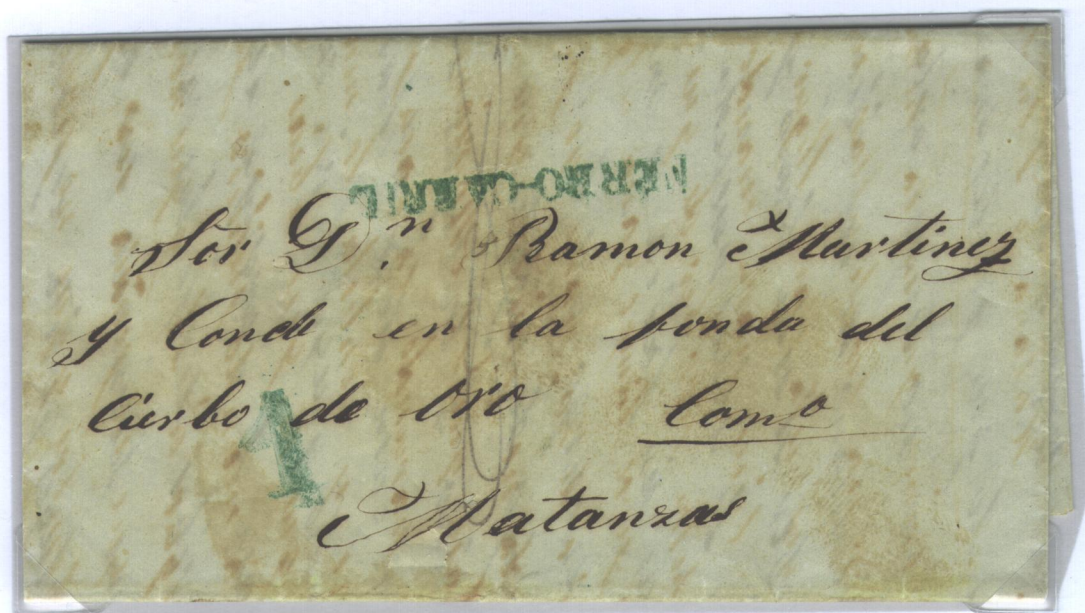


1848. Güines to Havana. In this case the marking was applied in Havana to incoming mail. There are only four different railroad markings known used during the stampless era in Cuba. RRR.

FERRO-CARRIL



1846. Official mail wrapper from Cabezas to Matanzas by railroad. It must have weighed 2 ounces. This marking was used on mail collected along the northern railroad and was likely applied in Matanzas. It has been recorded between 1846 and 1856. RRR.



1850. Havana to Matanzas. Unpaid single-weight letter. UNLISTED (in green).

Railroad Markings:

Matanzas Province

F.C.D. CARDENAS

F.C.D. LA MACAGUA.

1856. Cardenas to Havana. Unpaid single-weight letter. This marking is known used between 1850 and 1859. RRR.



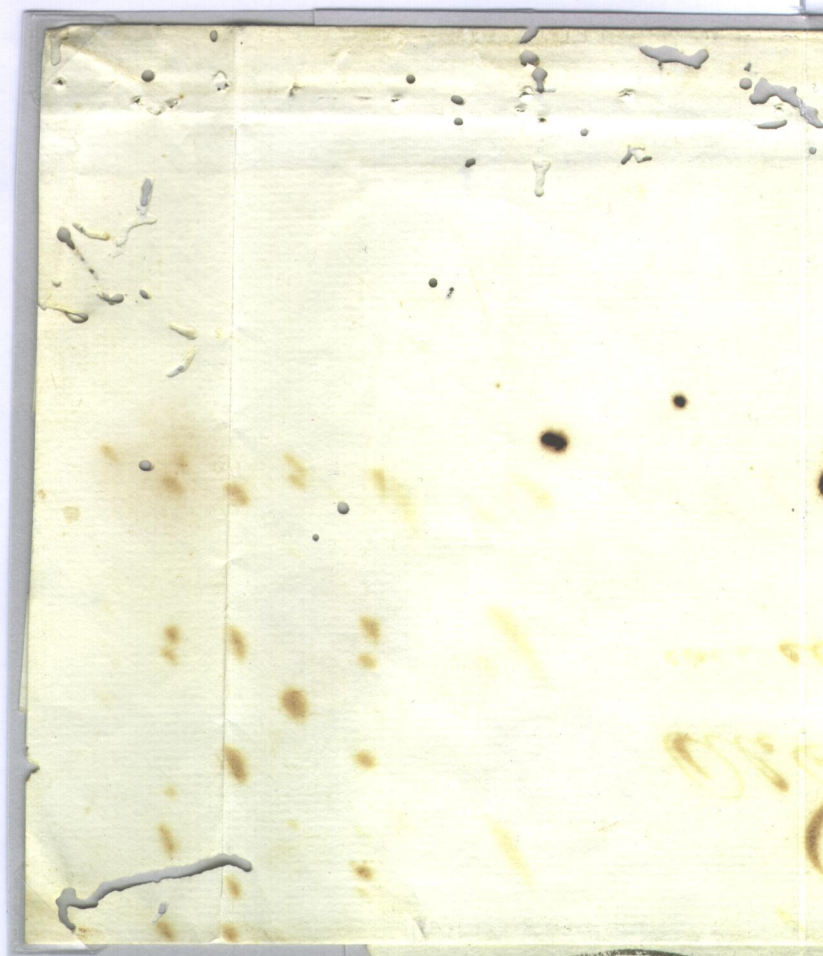
1855. Union de Reyes to Havana. This marking has also been recorded on stampless mail and is only known used in 1855. EXT.

Mail by Cordillera

The postal term "Cordillera" in the Spanish Americas referred to a private system of mail couriers providing an express service that was generally used by government agencies although at times was available to private individuals as well. These covers never have any rate markings.

So far, only six covers from Cuba marked "cordillera" have recently been reported. They generally originate in small towns that probably were not regularly served by the postal system.

1856. Official mail from Jiquimas to Colon. No postmarks have been recorded from this town during the stampless era.



P. J. Cordillera
Sr. alcalde ^{de} mor
de
Colon



R. P. G. Cordillera

Por Alcaide mór

de

Colon

16.

y mayo 22 de 1859

Continua a disposicion del tór.
de mór. de Colon el Oidjinto piego
el Cuero que se cita

Candido T. Davila

1859. Official
mail from Roque
to Colon.

This official mail wrapper is very unusual because the attached document indicating that a leather pouch had been included with the mail has been saved. Its contents dealt with the proceedings initiated after the discovery of a black man's corpse in a local farm.

FRANCO DE OFICIO

1857. Cienfuegos, Cuba, to Santiago, Galicia (Spain), via Havana. In Havana the 0 was used to obliterate the 4 since this type of official mail enjoyed postal franchise if it was sent to Spain, but not if it was addressed within the Island of Cuba. The oval FRANCO / DE OFICIO was applied to indicate this privilege. EXT.

There is one other reported example of the FRANCO / DE OFICIO marking.



Official Mail Markings:

Oriente Province

CUBA de OFICIO

HOLGUIN
DE OFICIO

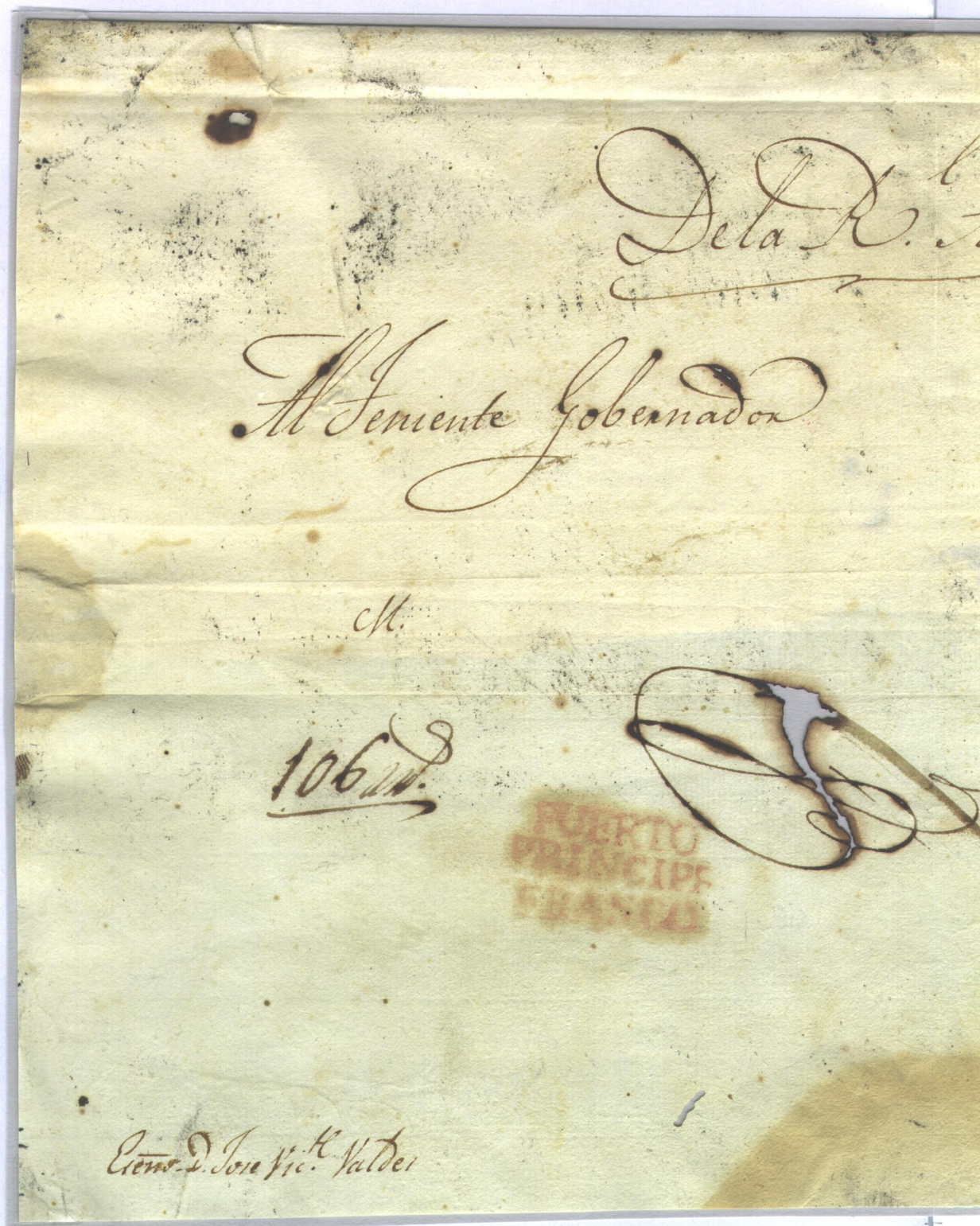
1852. Santiago de Cuba to Mayari.
This is a letter under $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce sent
to the military governor of Mayari.
The Santiago post office treated it as
official mail. This marking has
been recorded between 1843 and
1852. RRR.

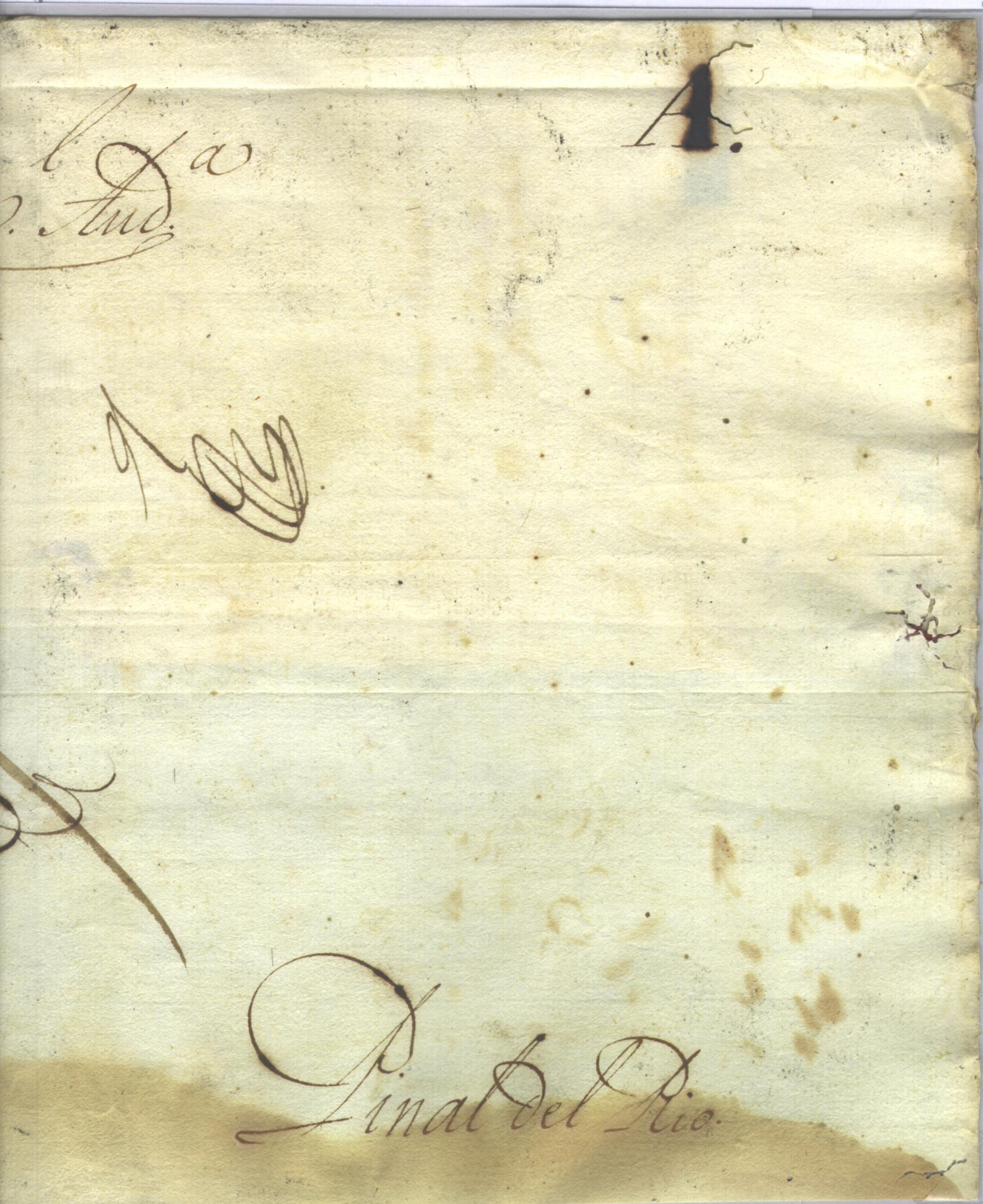


1866. Official certified mail from Holguin to Santiago de Cuba. This marking has also been recorded on stampless covers and is known used from 1850 to 1866. This is the latest reported example of this postmark. RR.

"Abono" Markings

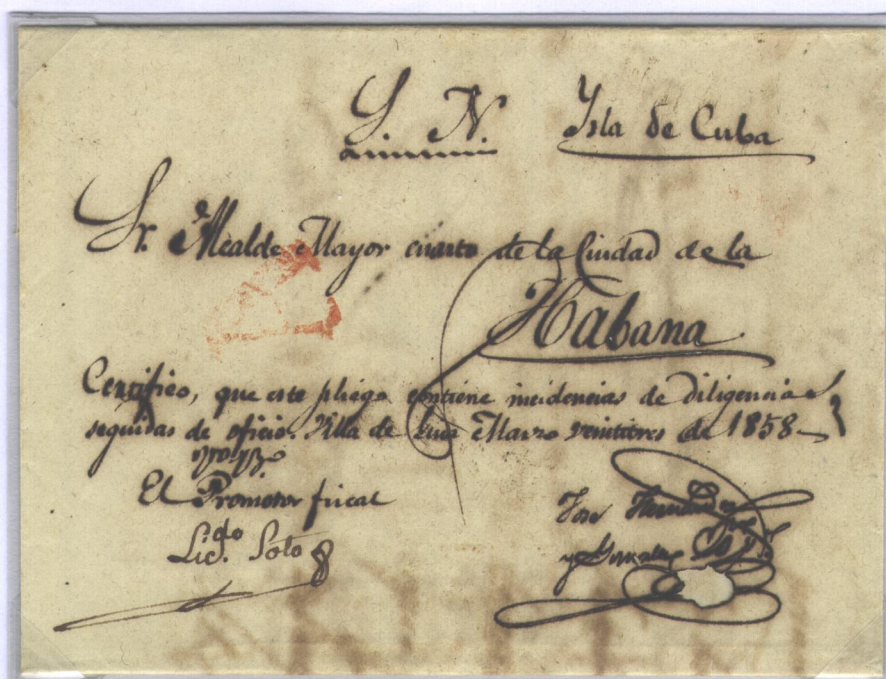
For many decades "Abono" markings were used on official mail throughout Spain and its territories to indicate an institutional credit in special accounts kept by the post office. For unknown reasons, only about half a dozen of these markings have been recorded on Cuban mail and nearly all of them were applied elsewhere.





1830s. Very large prepaid official mail wrapper from Puerto Principe (Camagüey) to Pinar del Rio. The sum of 106 silver reales was later credited to the sender. This is the earliest *Abono* marking on Cuban mail (indicated by the manuscript "A" in the right upper corner) and the only one applied in the island.

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.

HABANA

In 1842 the Spanish Director of Posts, Juan Baeza, reformed the postal system in Spain and its possessions. The kingdom was divided into 31 postal demarcations and the first Spanish uniform circular date stamps were created to be applied at the place of origin, transit, and destination of every letter. These postmarks gradually replaced the straightline town markings. Cuba and Puerto Rico formed postal demarcation number 30. The first "Baeza" handstamps arrived in Cuba late in 1842.



October 19, 1842. Havana to London via British packet (*Solway*). This unpaid single-weight cover was posted at the Spanish post office in Havana which handed it over to the local British consular postal agency. Only a handful of covers are known with the combination of "Baeza" and British consular markings from Cuba. The addressee was charged two shillings and three pence.

Earliest recorded "Baeza" marking from Cuba.