

## CUBA: POSTAL HISTORY

Before Cuba became a member of the **UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION** in 1877, delivery of maritime mail was dependent on the availability of ships belonging the majority to foreign powers. Gradually, the services provided by these foreign vessels became organized under government sponsored companies which provided regular schedules and routes far superior to those of the Spanish Government. Eventually, the volume of mail carried by foreign ships to foreign countries surpassed that of the Spanish, due to better and more convenient service.

In 1842 with the arrival of the British Steamer "Thames" to Havana, the **Royal Mail Steam Packet Company** which was already operating in the Caribbean, opened consular post-offices in Havana and Santiago de Cuba which lasted for 35 years. All letters carried by R.M.S.P.Co. to countries not in the British Empire has to be pre-paid, and from 1865 the use of British stamps was allowed.

In 1862 along with their military intervention in Mexico, France opened a Postal Agency in Santiago de Cuba. In 1865 the "Cie. Trasatlantique Francaise" reorganized its lines in the Americas and included two consular post-offices in Cuba: Havana (line B) and Santiago (line D). The prepayment requirements were similar to the British, and French stamps were used from the very origins of the company. Both consular post offices closed in 1877 but their shipping services continued for many years.

Mail with the **United States of America** intensified in the mid 18th century and by the late 1840's regular lines carried mail between Cuba and the Eastern States. The volume of the mails was so great that special markings were used in the busiest ports receiving Cuban correspondence since postal rates were different from other places. There were no official U.S. consular post-offices but their consuls handled and forwarded a great deal of letters. Other ship lines carried mail between Cuba, the Caribbean and South America giving rise to interesting combination covers.

**Incoming Mail** was paid by the addressee, and hand stamps to identify the origins of foreign letters were in use from the late 1810's to 1877. A tremendous diversity of markings is observed throughout that period.

**Internal Mail** was controlled by the Spanish Government and was relatively efficient and for the most part by land. A small volume of correspondence was transported by coastal steamers that completely circled the island with regular schedules and relative speed.

**Forwarding Agents** flourished in Cuba and were the link between internal mail and foreign correspondence as well as for foreign ports due to the immense volume of letters that went via Havana.

Stamps were sold in Cuba for the first time on April 24, 1855 and from then its use became generalized. Eventually, the city of Havana required a local mail service which was satisfied with the use of stamps overprinted Y 1/4 (for Ynterior mail/ 1/4 real). Covers franked with these stamps are scarce.

We show a selection of covers arranged in the following sections:

British Postal Agencies

French Postal Agencies

Incoming Mail

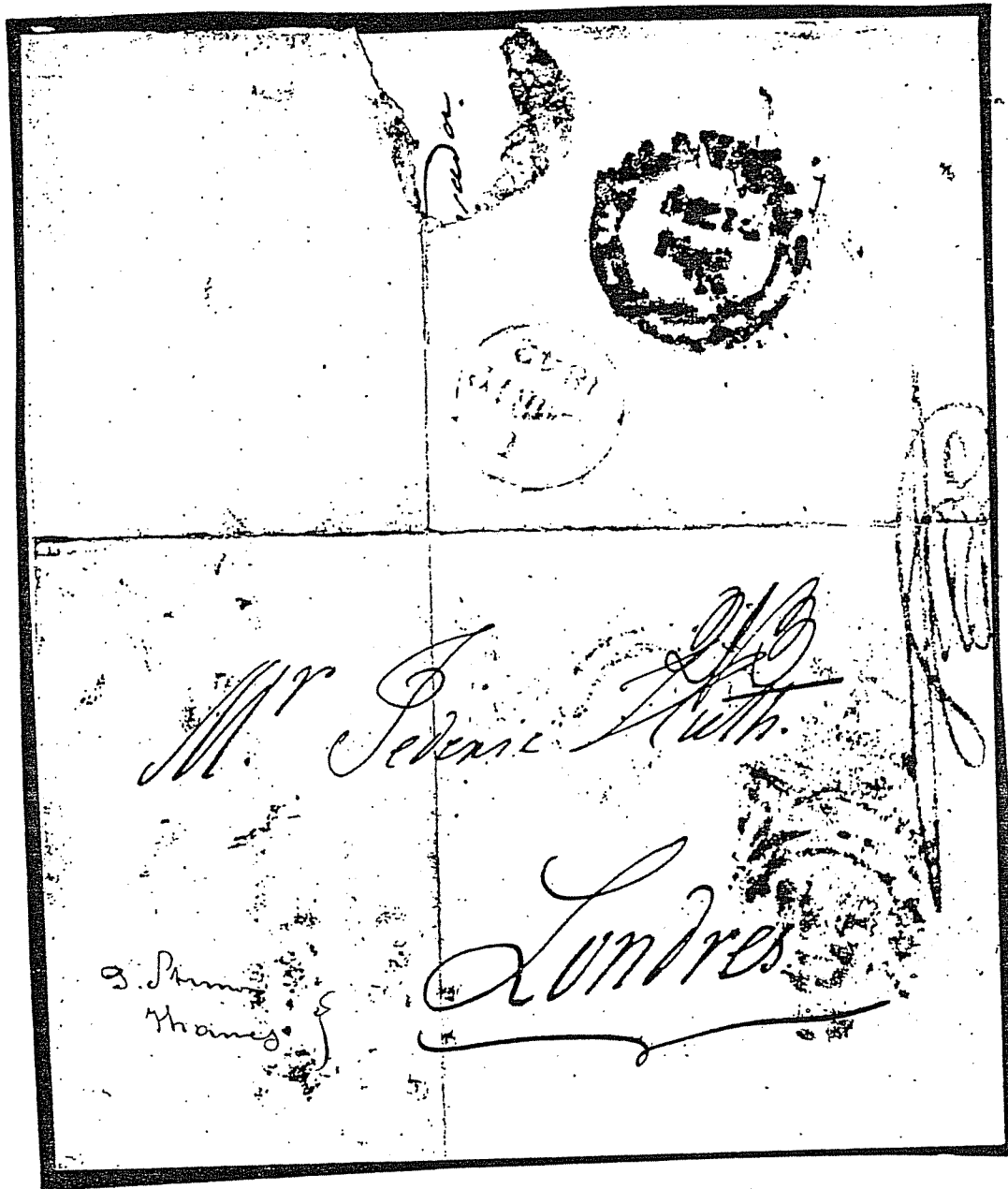
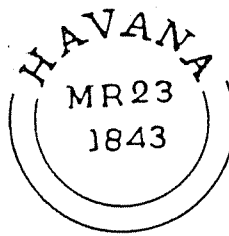
Mail to the United States

Coastal Mail

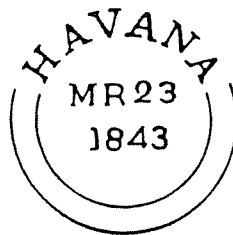
Forwarding Agents

Havana Local Mail

First Day Cover



February 14, 1842 Havana to London. First Day of the British Postal Agencies in Cuba. Carried by the steamer "THAMES". Only 2 covers recorded.



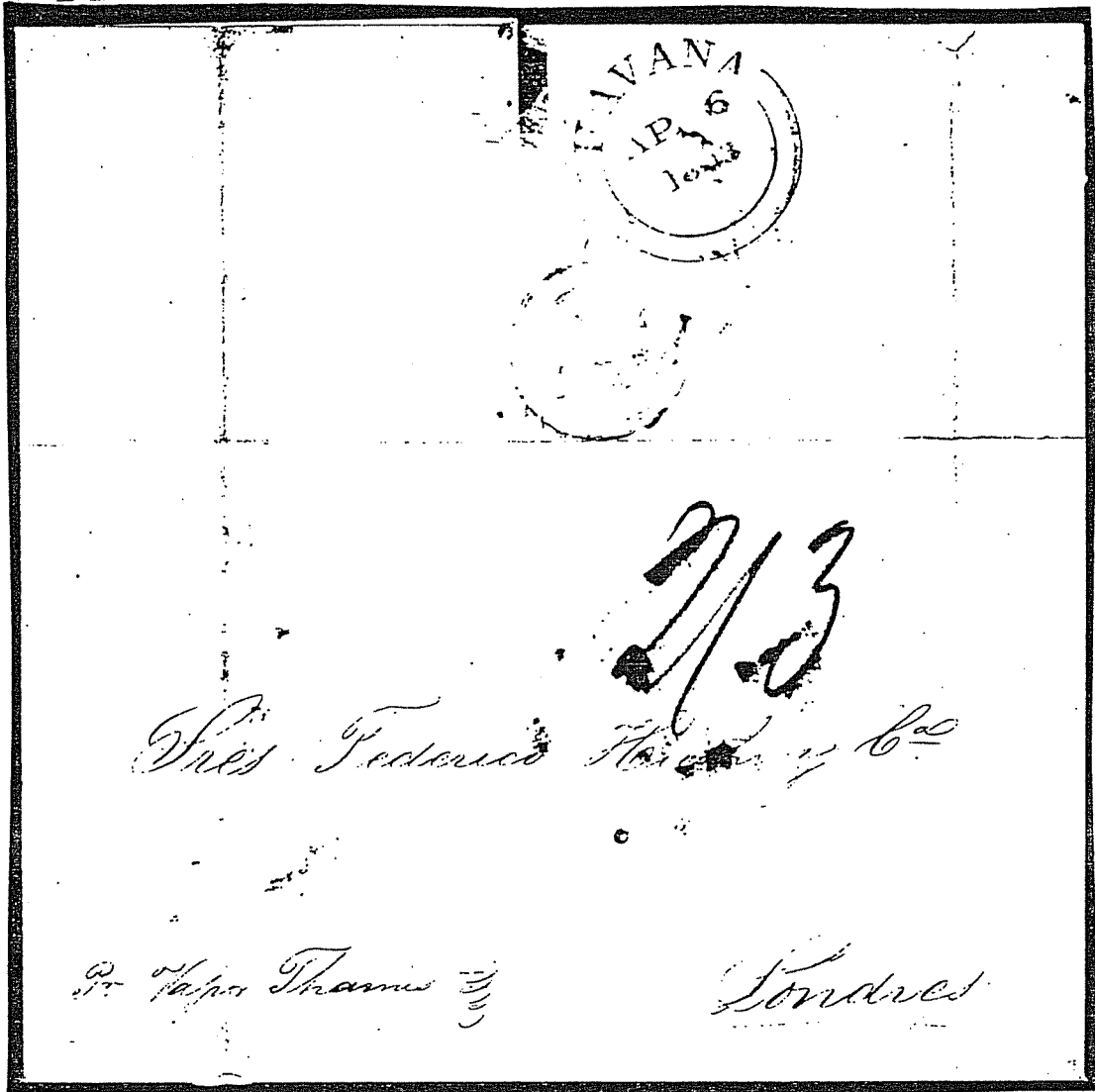
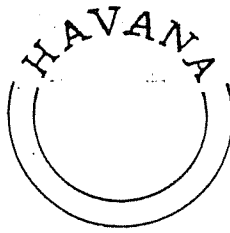
*to Mr. & Mrs. G. J. G.*

*Mr. Fred. Luth & Co*

*London*

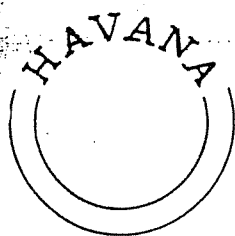
*on 7/ 11*

April 12, 1842 Havana to London with Type I "cds" in blue. Blue ink was only used during the first few months of the operation of the British Postal Agency in Havana.

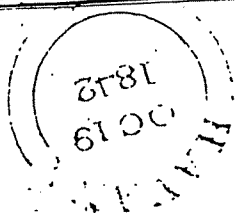


1843 Havana to London. "cds" Type I in black .





HABANA



HABANA

*Men. R. Rothschy & Son*

*London*

*R. M. Steamer*

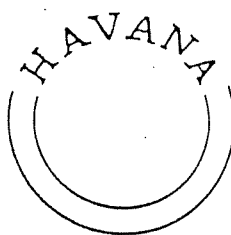
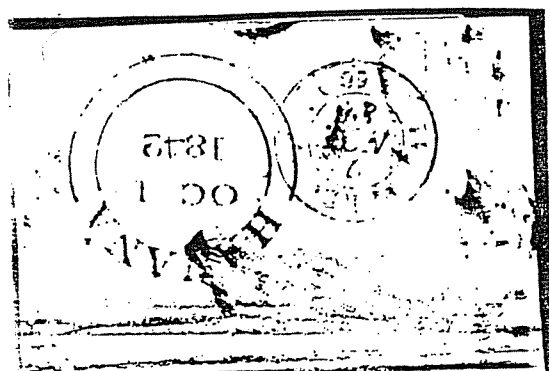
*Sp. Steamer Solway.*

*James G. M.*  
*F. Smith & Co.*

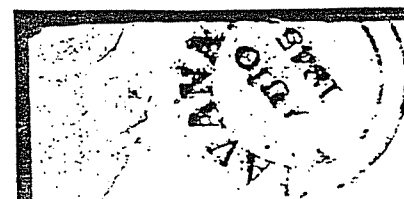
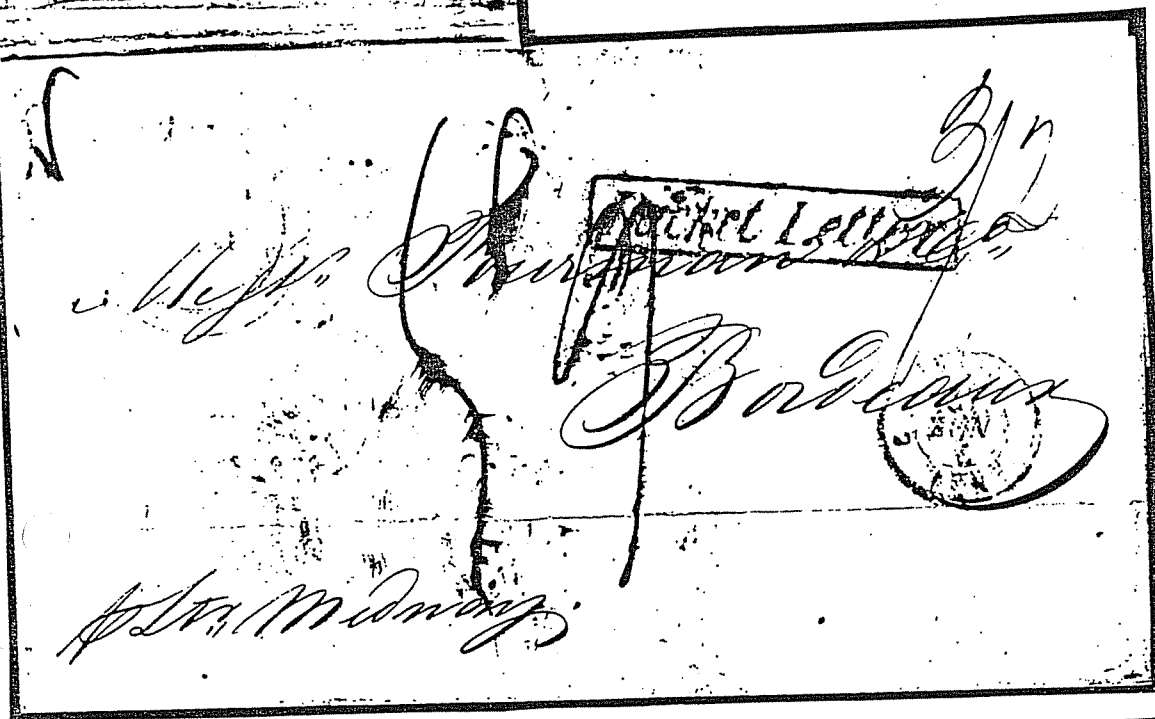
*3d. 11d.*  
*London*

1842 Havana to London w.  
Spanish straight-l:  
"HABANA" and black  
"cds" Type I.

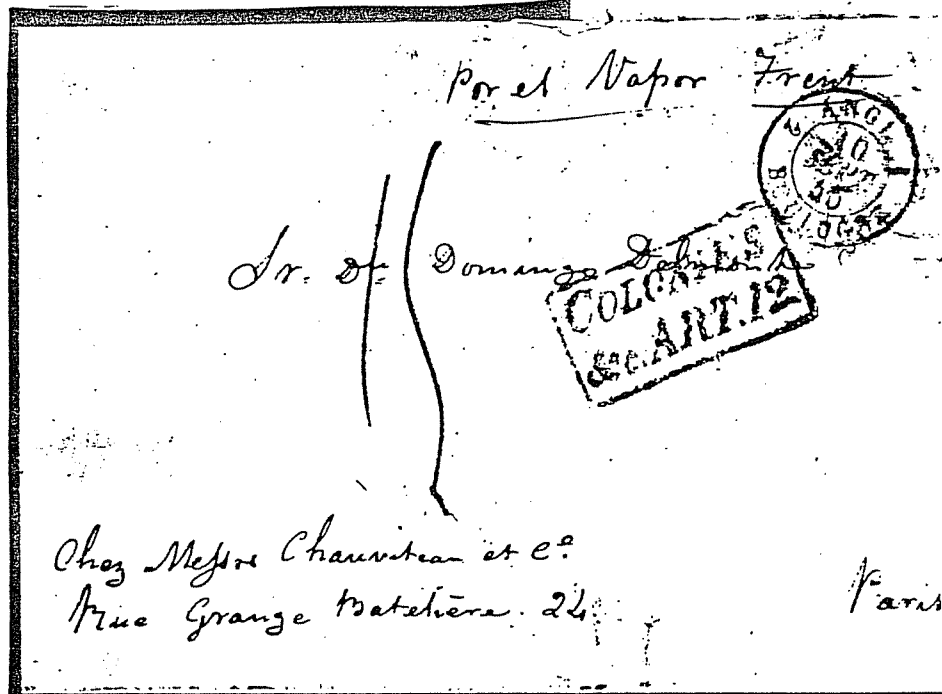
1842 Havana to London w  
red Spanish "cds"  
"HABANA" and black  
"cds" Type I.

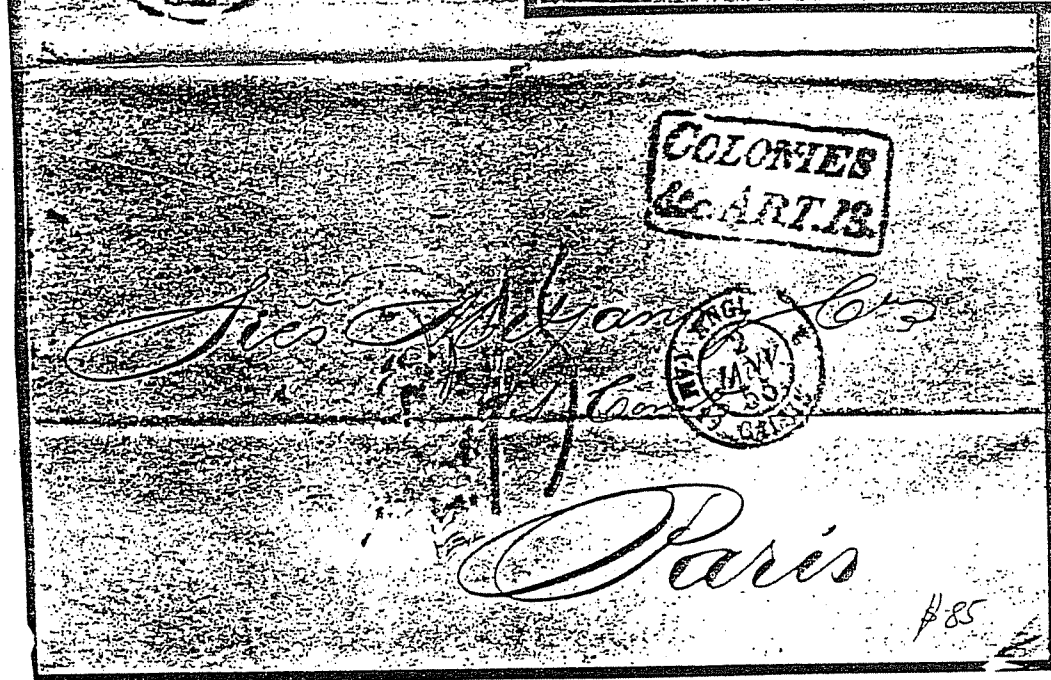
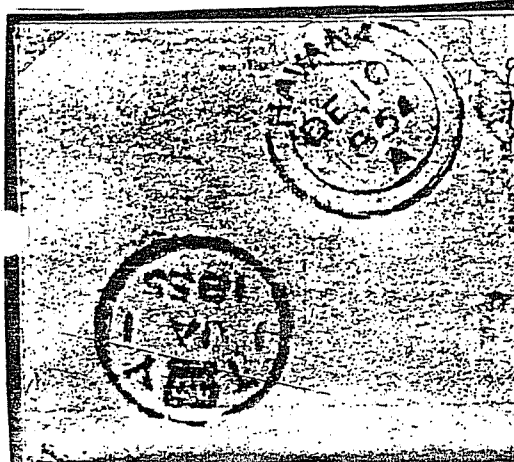
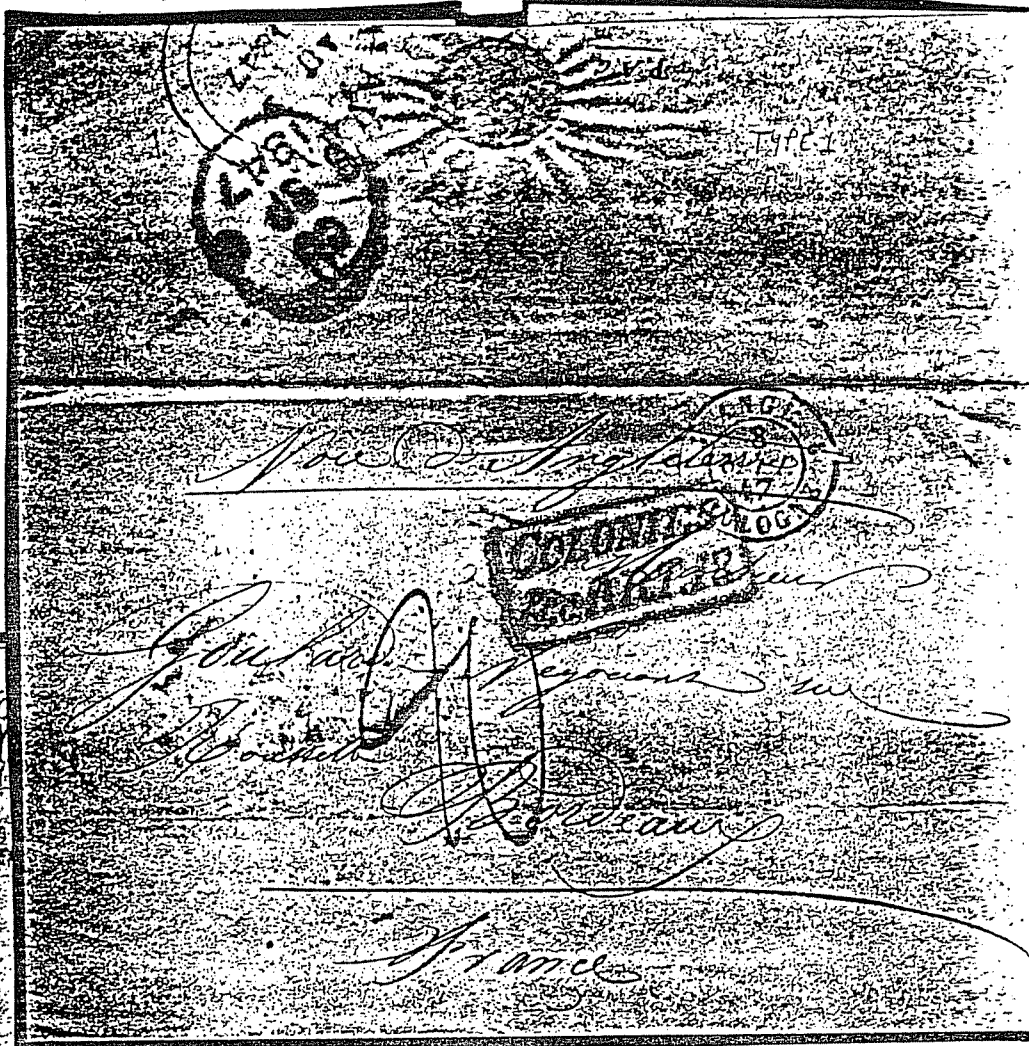
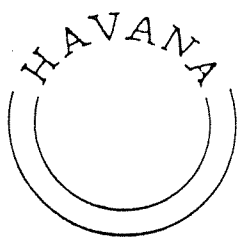


1842 Havana to Bordeaux with  
"PACKET LETTER" and T



1845 Havana to Paris with red boxed  
"COLONIES & EC. ART. 12" and  
Type I "cde"

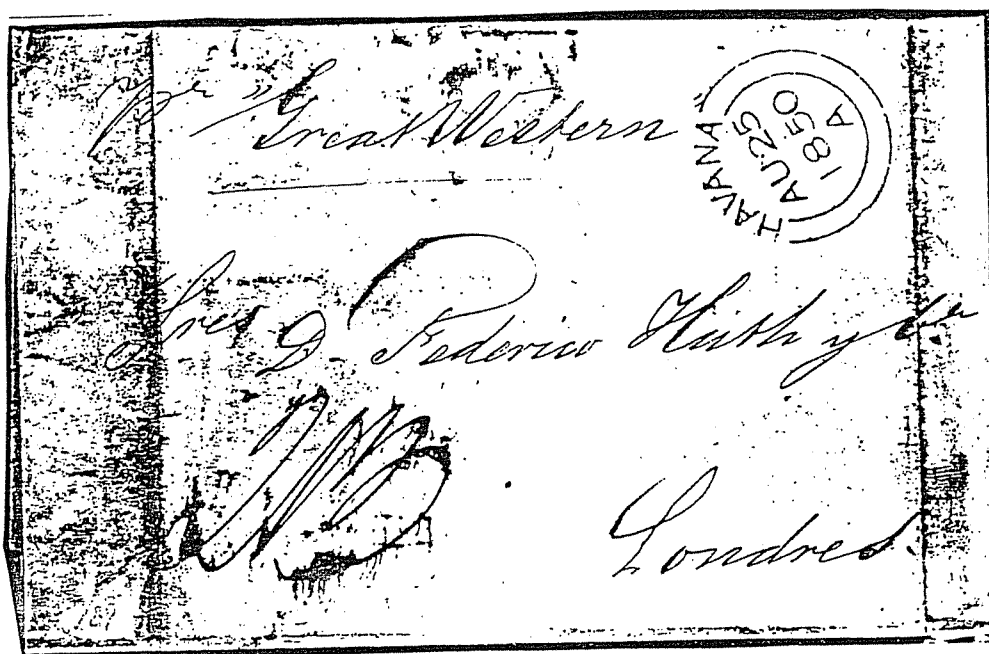
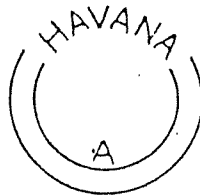




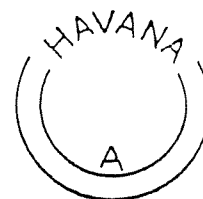
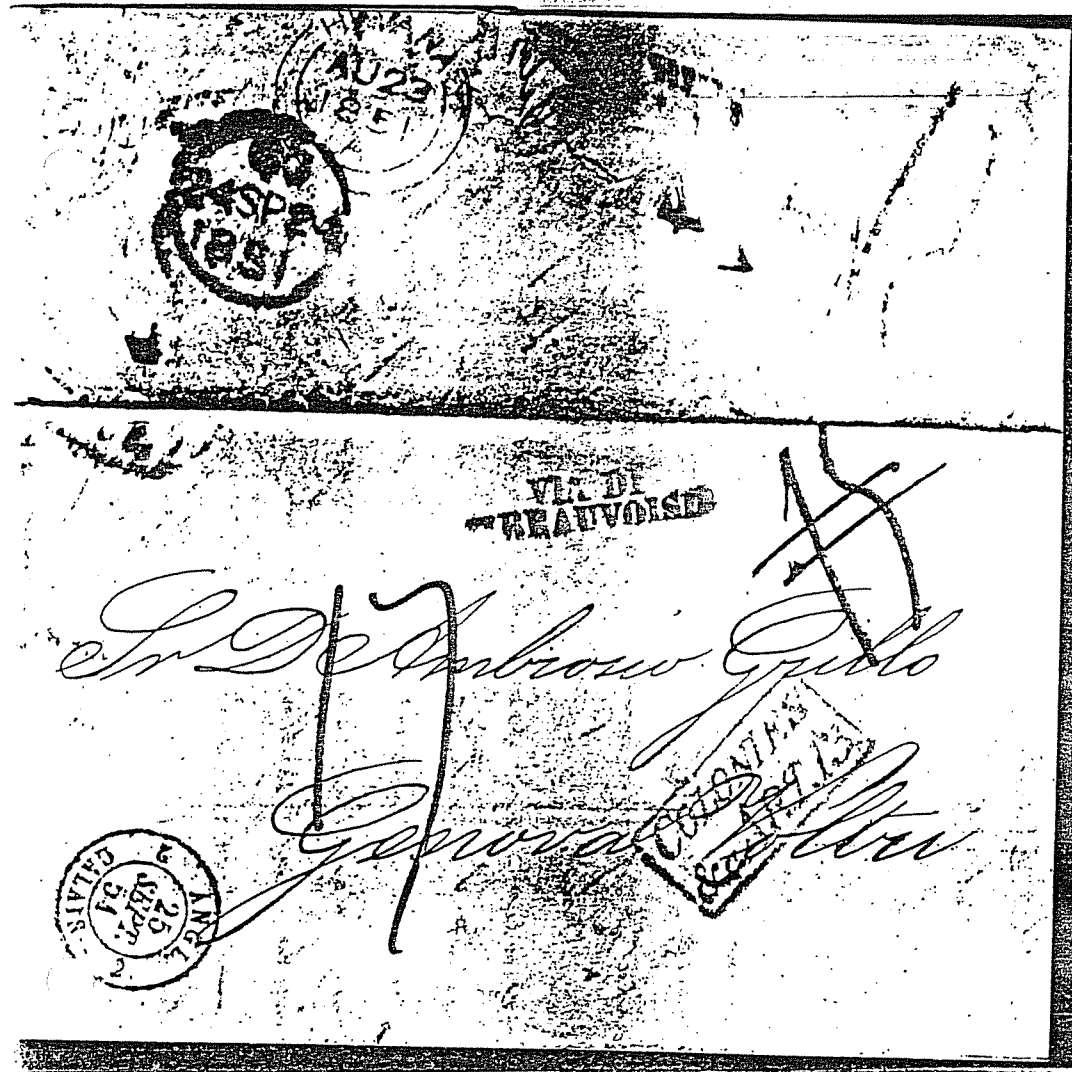
1847 Havana to Bordeaux, France  
red boxed "COLONIES SEC. ,  
and Type I "cds"

1854 Havana to Paris with red  
"COLONIES SEC. ART. 13" as  
Type II "cds"

#85



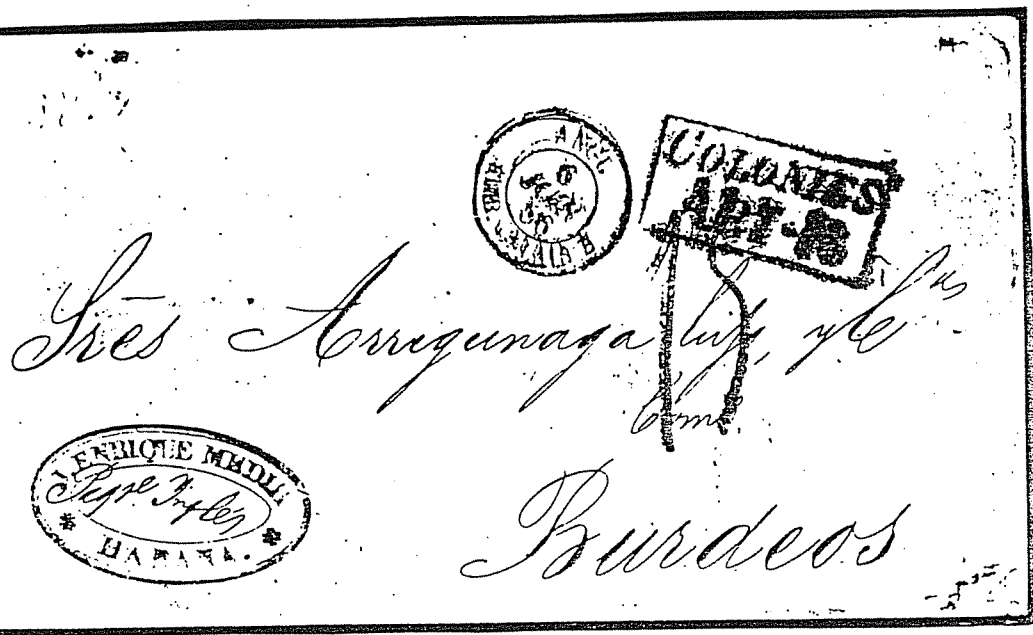
1850 Havana to London by Steamer "GREAT WESTERN" and Type II "cds" on front. Circular Date Stamps were only supposed to be stamped on the reverse of covers. Here we observe a very unusual exception because "paid" hand stamps were the only ones to be used on fronts. The Steamer "GREAT WESTERN" entered the West Indies route in 1847.



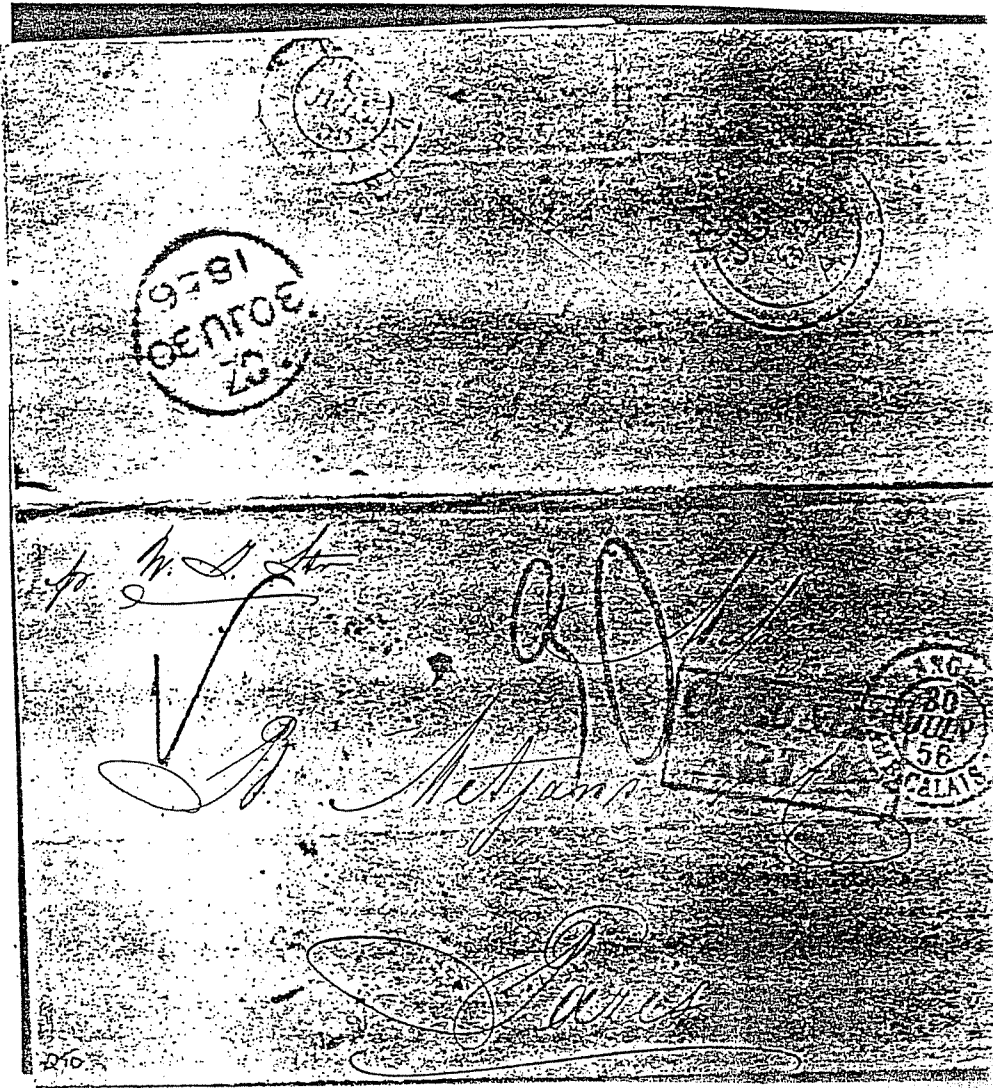
1851 Havana to Genova, Italy  
via England with "cds"  
Type II. Unusual destina-  
tion.

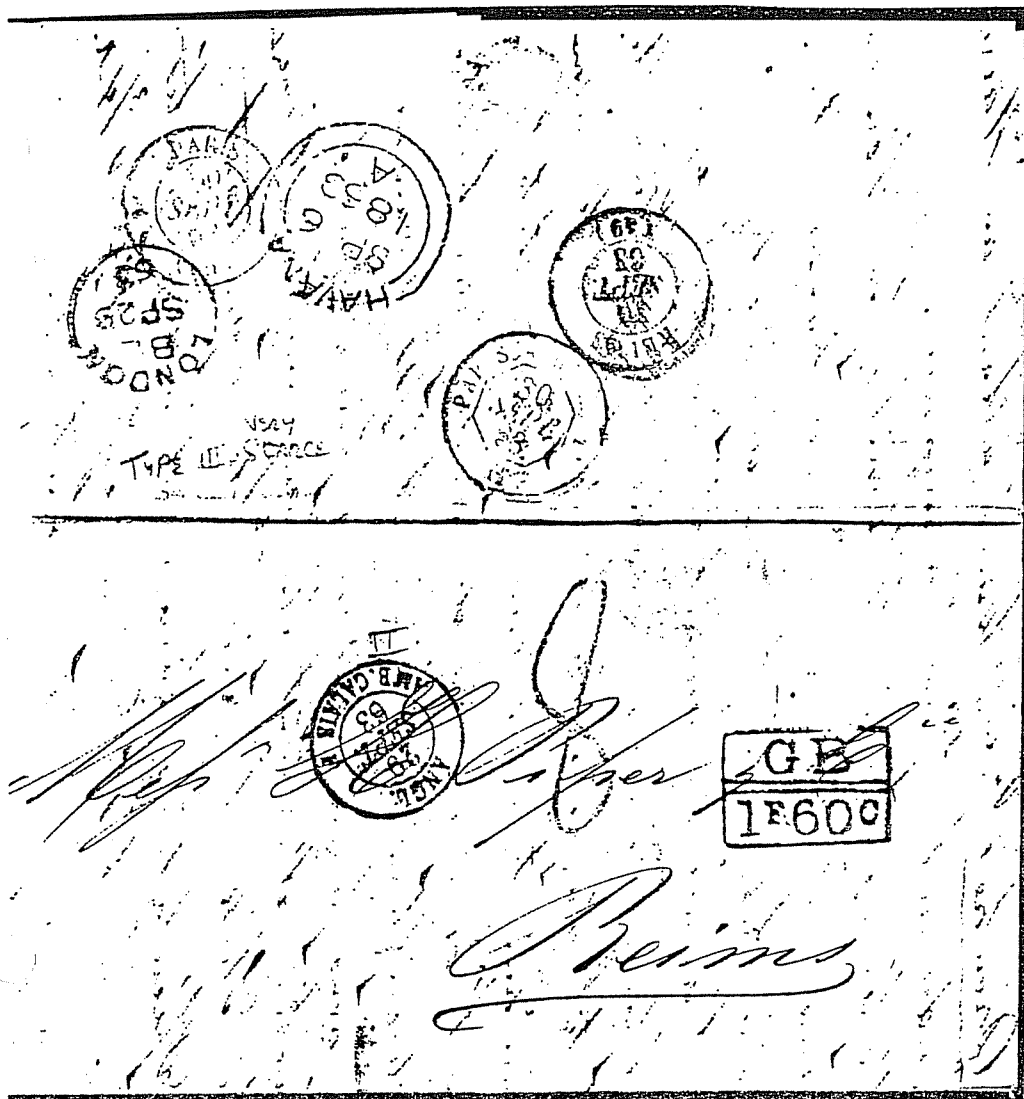
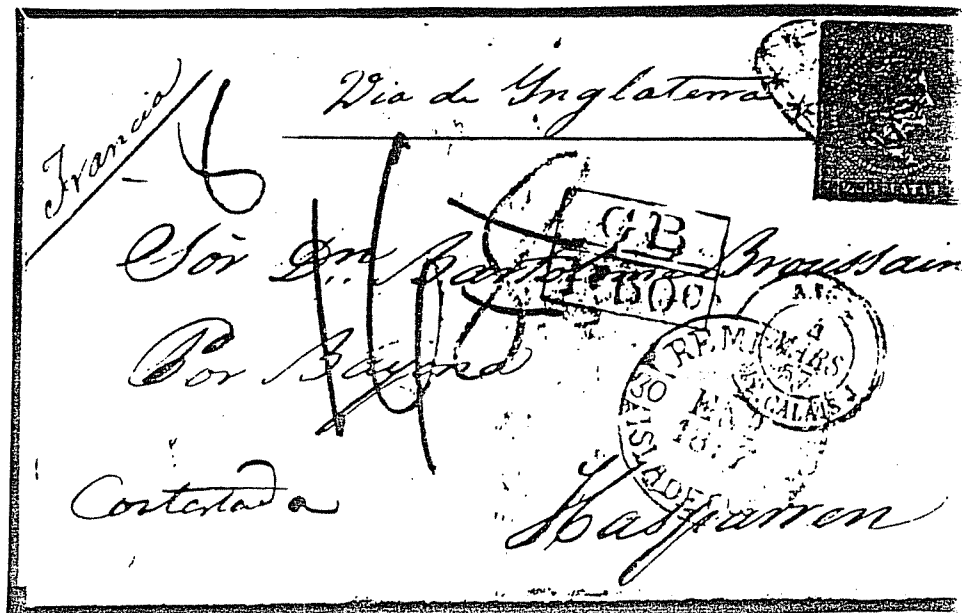
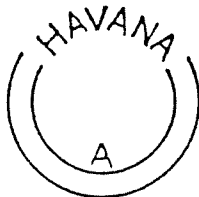
1854 Havana to Paris via Panama  
and England with red "PANAMA  
TRANSIT". Very unusual rou-  
ting.





1856 Havana to France with red boxed "COLONIES ART-18" and Type II "cbs". Single and double weight letters.

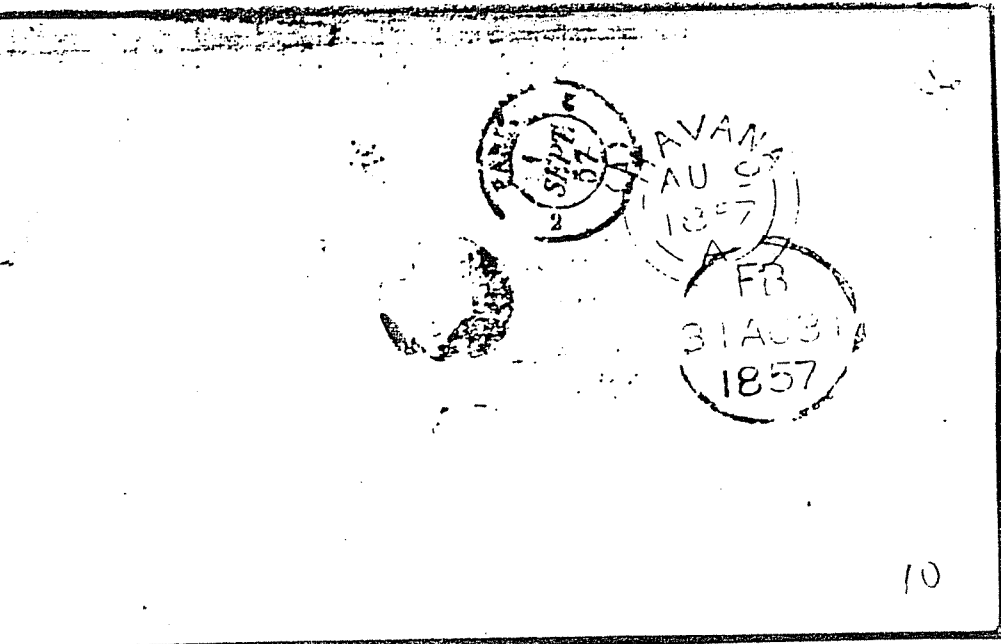




1857 Remedios, Cuba to France via and England with Type II "c". Double weight letter franked 1/2 R Cuban stamp for the Rem Havana portion. The black-b GB//1 F 60 c was used after second Franco-British Postal tion.

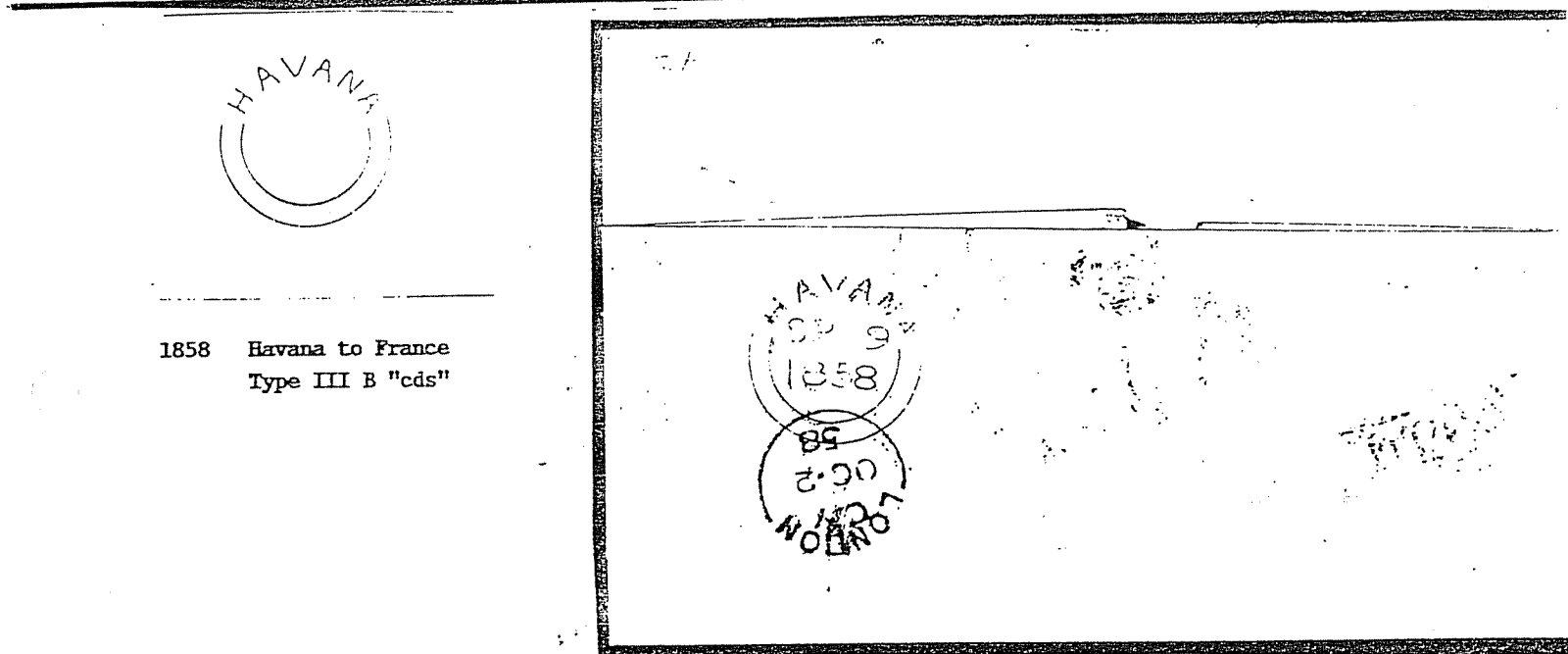
1863 Havana to France with "cbs"



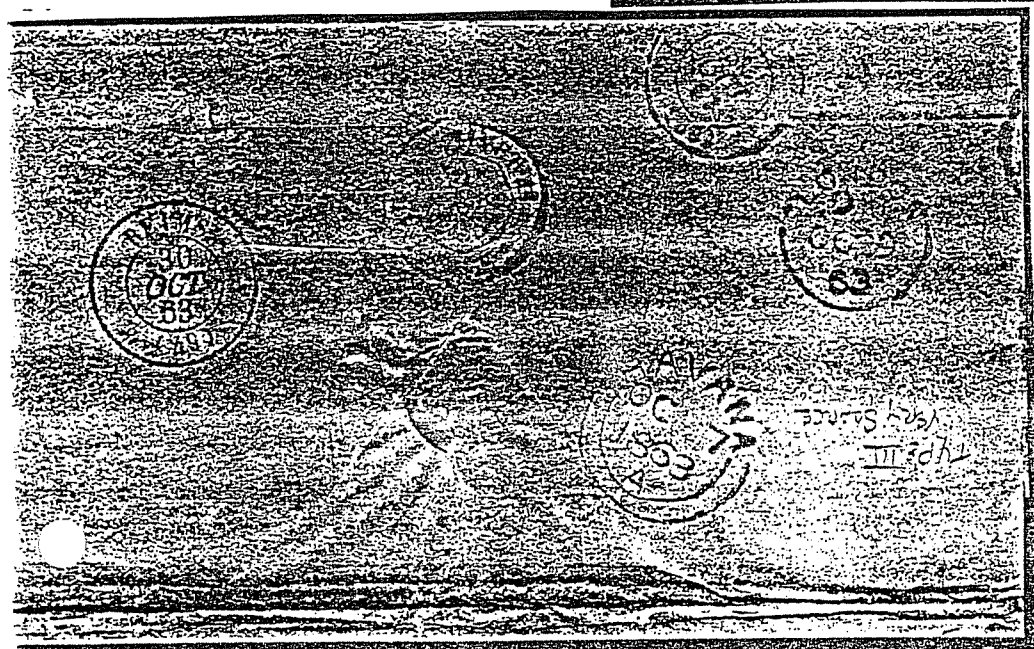


1857 Havana to France  
Type III A "cda"

10

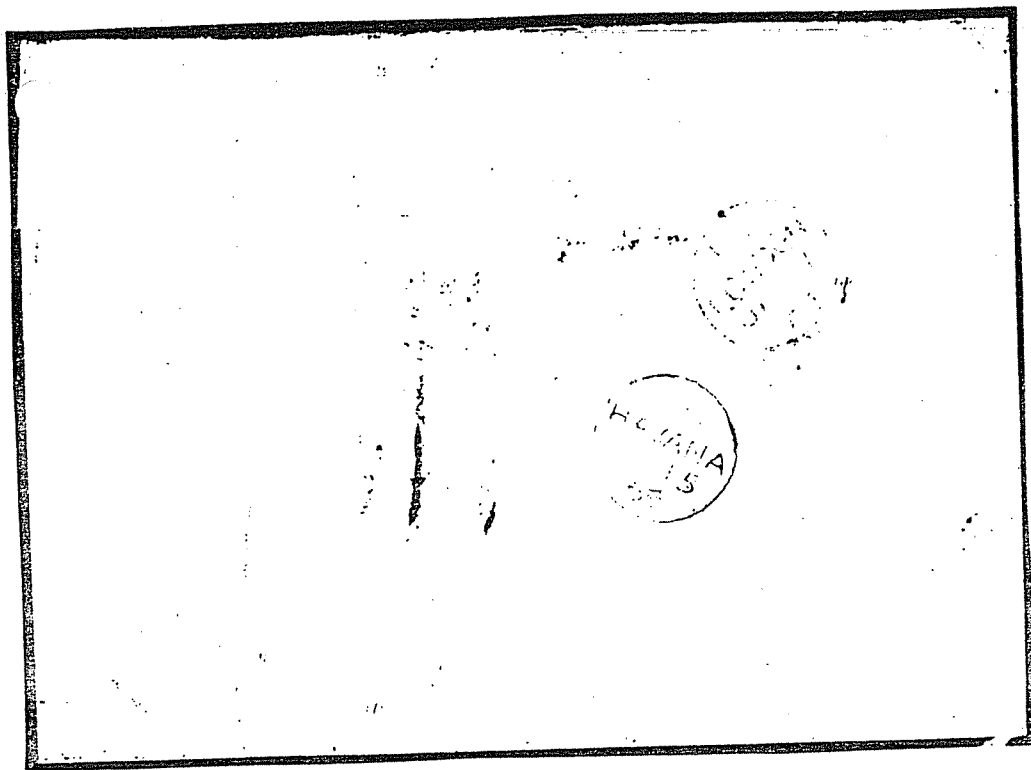


1858 Havana to France  
Type III B "cda"



1863 Havana to France  
Type III C "cda"

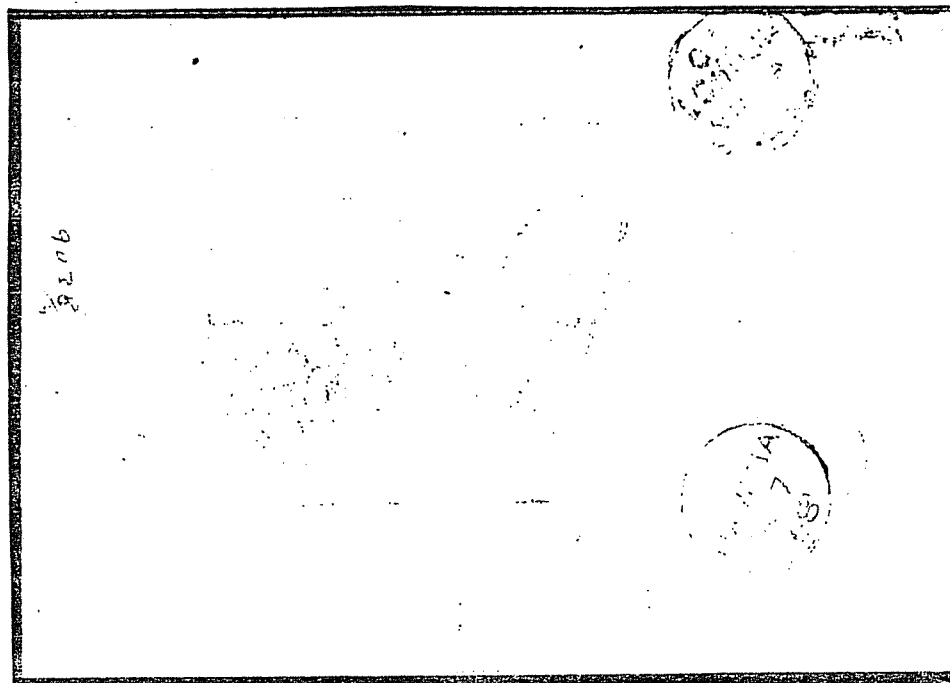


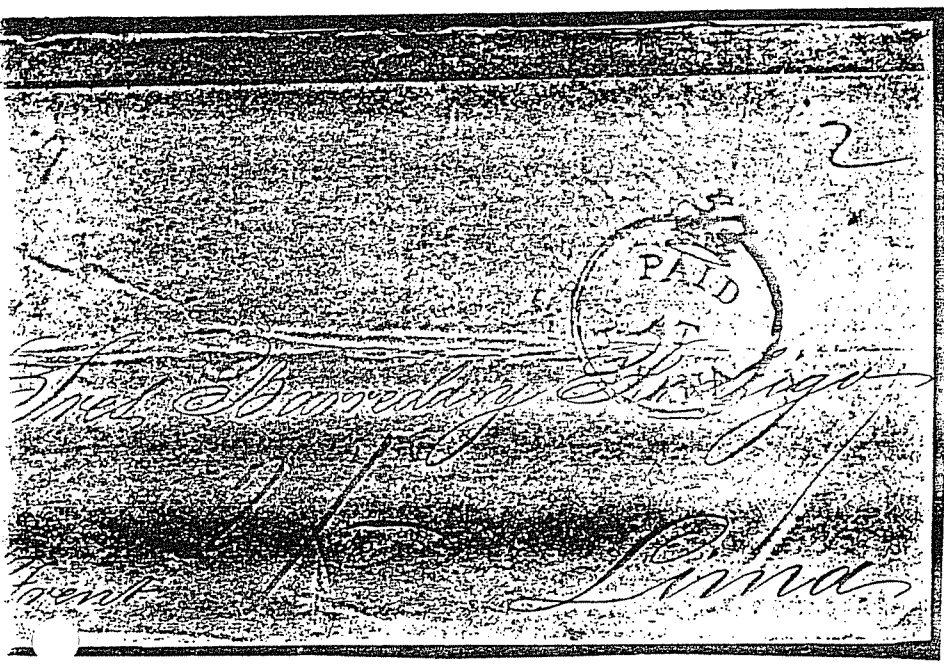


1866 Havana to France  
Type IV "cds"



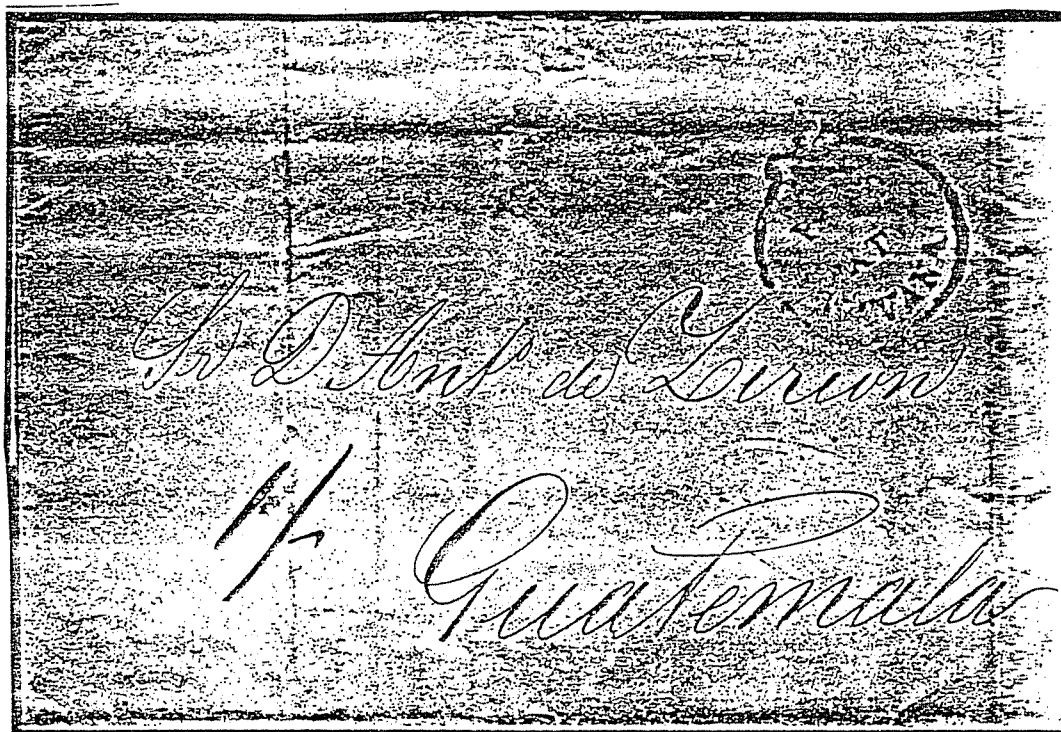
1868 Havana to France  
Type IV "cds"  
-missing A- variety.





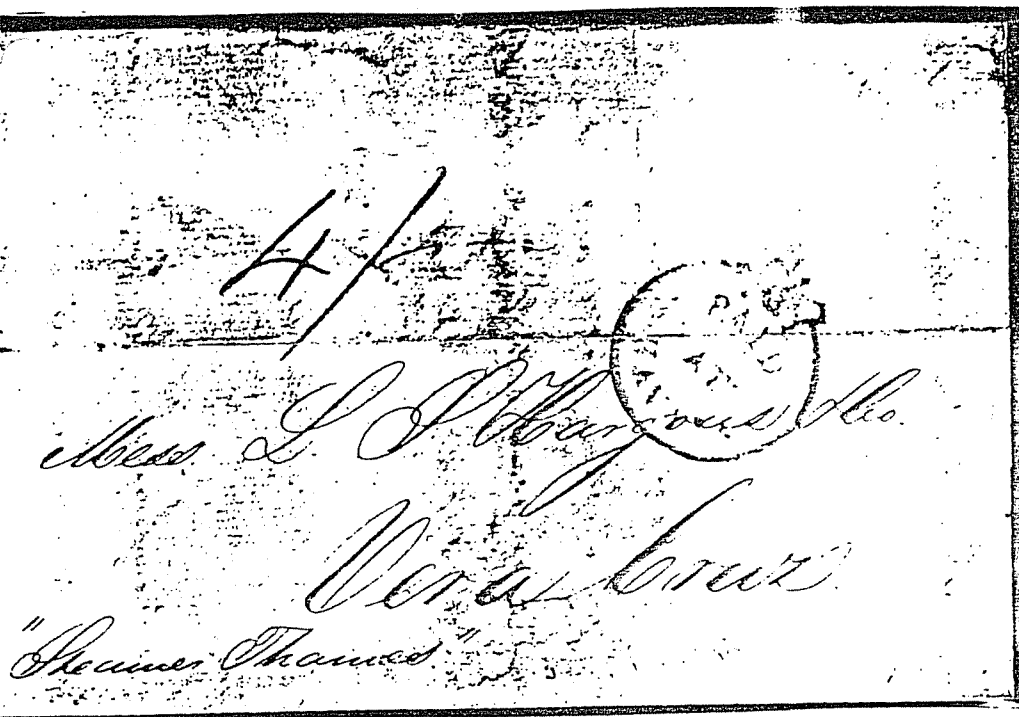
1847 Havana to Lima single weight letter with Type I "PAID AT HAVANA" crown circle.

Barcelona to Guatemala via Havana with Type I "PAID AT HAVANA" crown circle.

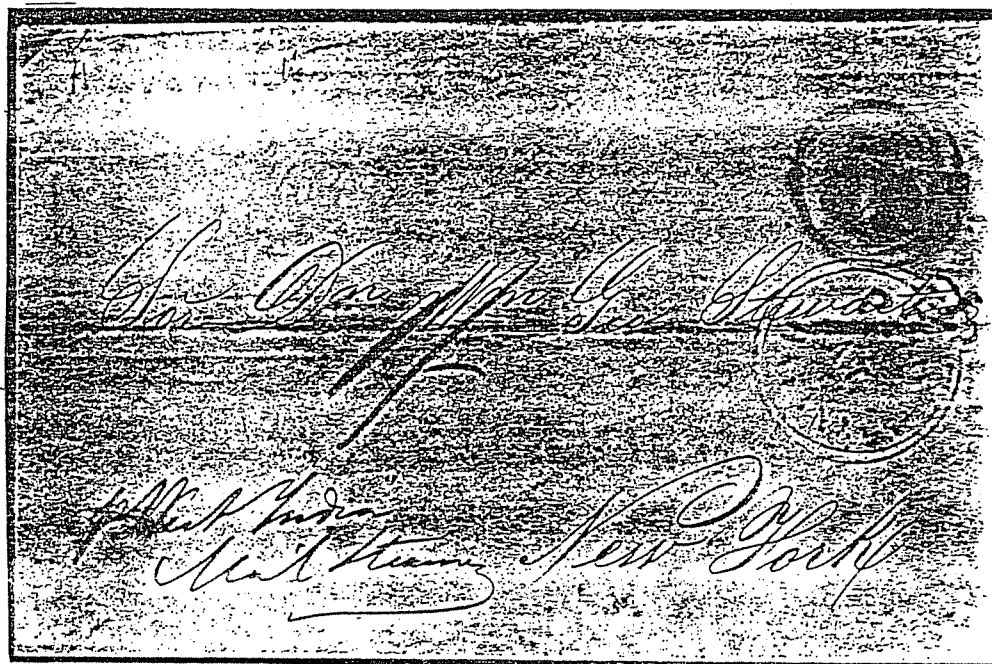


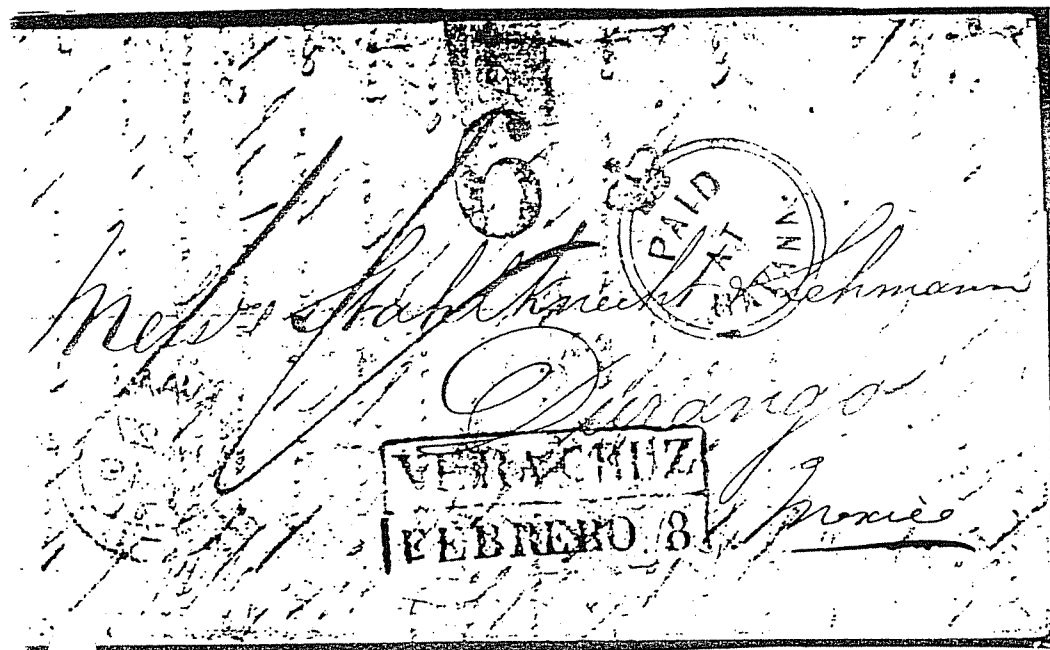


1847 Havana to Veracruz with  
Type I "PAID AT HAVANA"  
crown circle.  
Quadruple weight letter

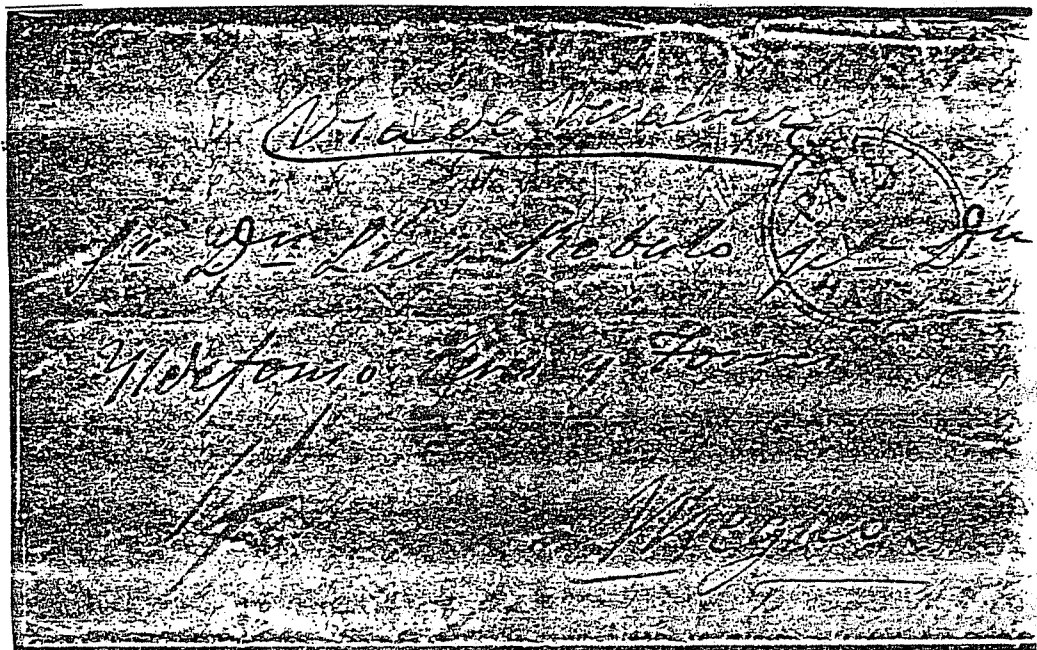


1849 Havana to New York with  
Type II "PAID AT HAVANA"  
crown circle and red circle  
"5" receiving marking which  
was usually stamped on top  
of the crown circle.

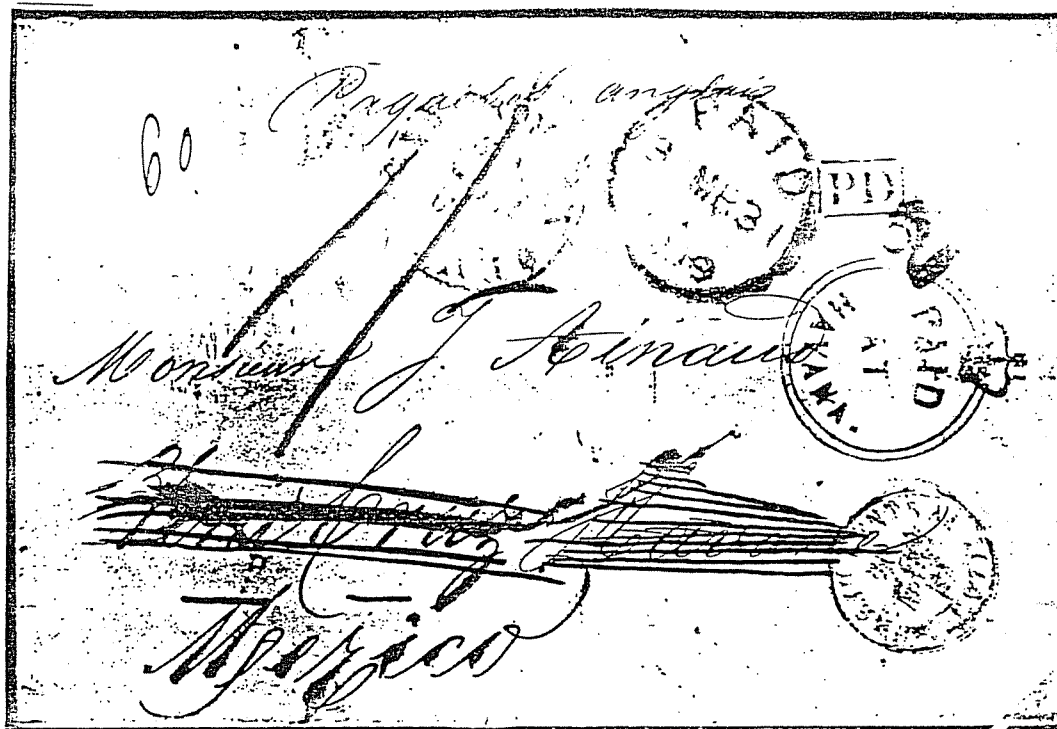




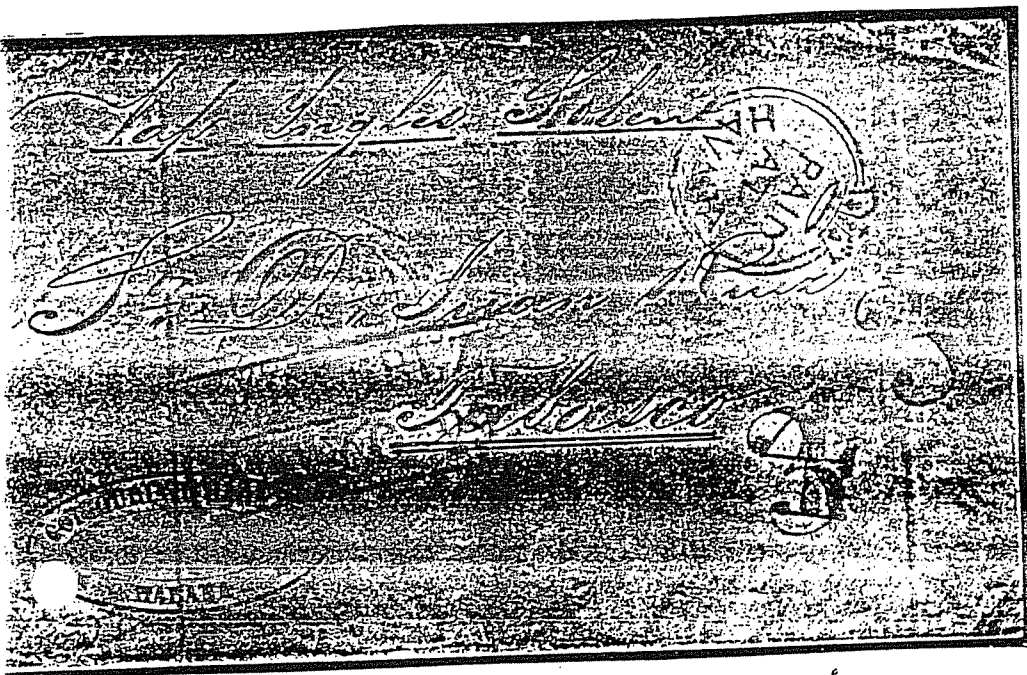
1849 Havana to Durango, Mexico,  
with type II "PAID AT HAVA-  
NA" crown circle.



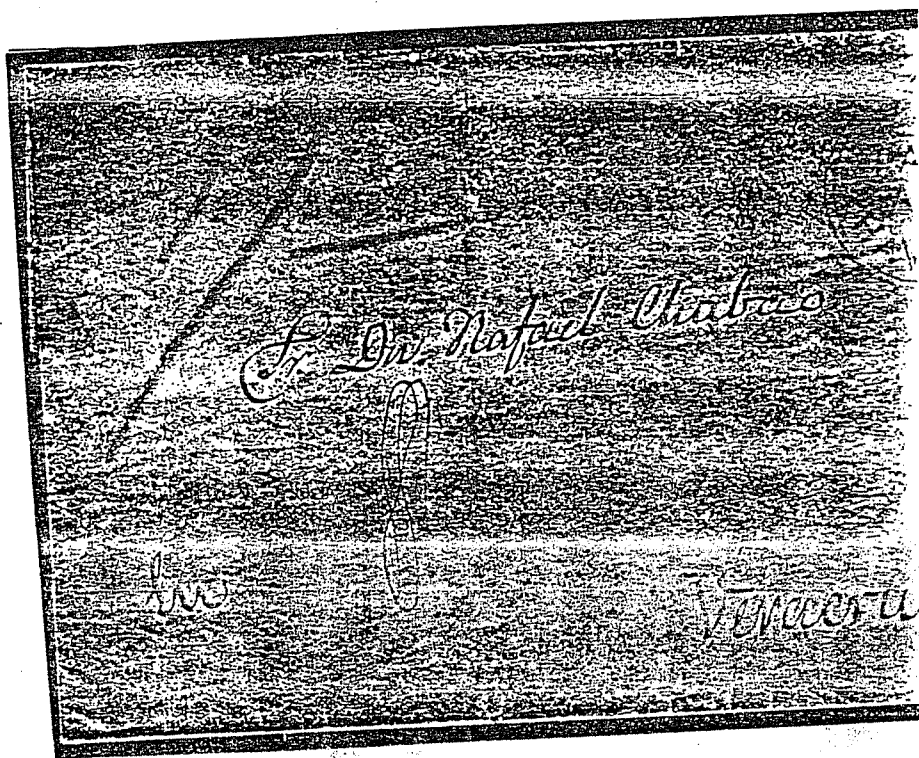
1851 Havana to Mexico via Jamaica  
with Type II "PAID AT HAVANA"  
crown circle.



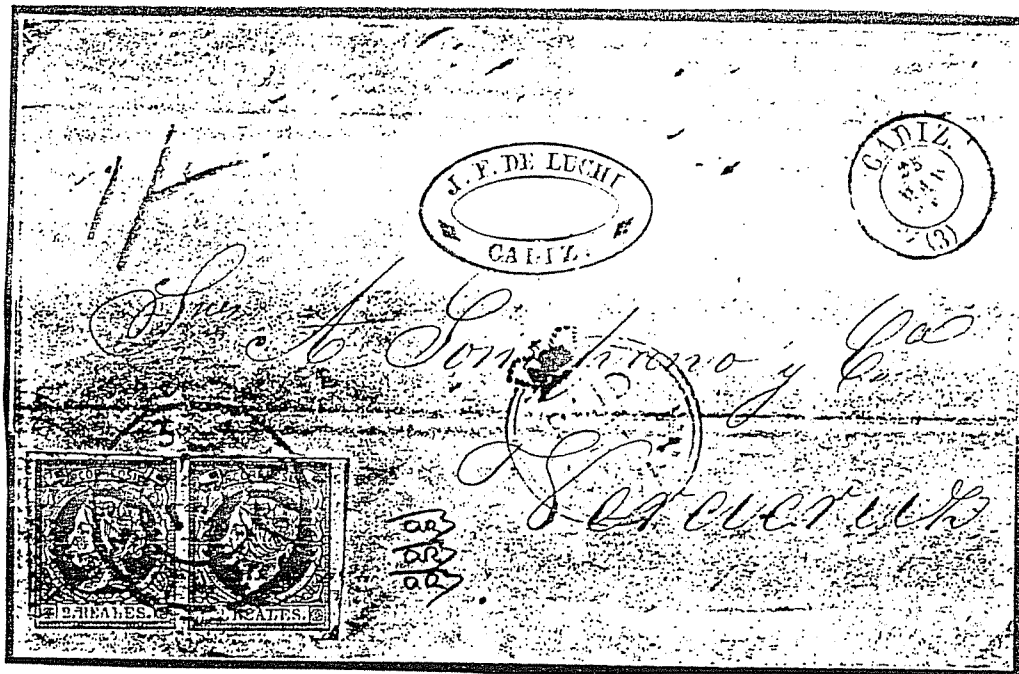
1849 France to Havana via England with Type II  
"PAID AT HAVANA" crown circle and circular  
yellow "EMPRESA N. EUROPA" marking.



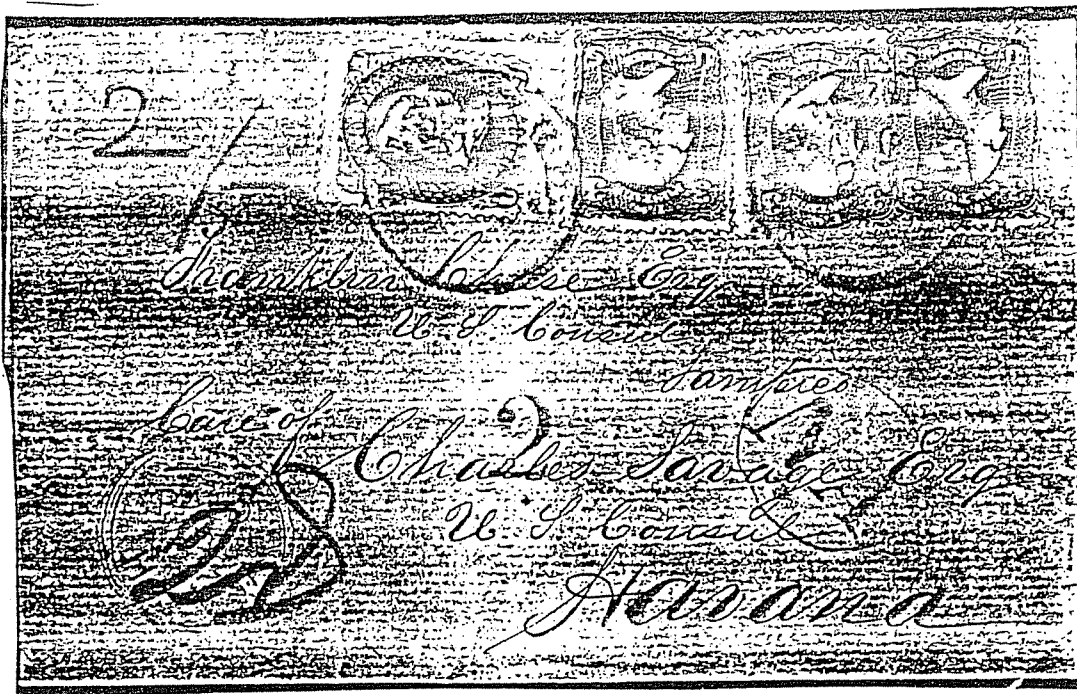
1854 Havana to Tabasco, Mexico,  
with Type III "PAID AT  
HAVANA" crown circle.



1855 Havana to Veracruz, Mexico,  
with Type III "PAID AT HAVANA"  
crown circle.

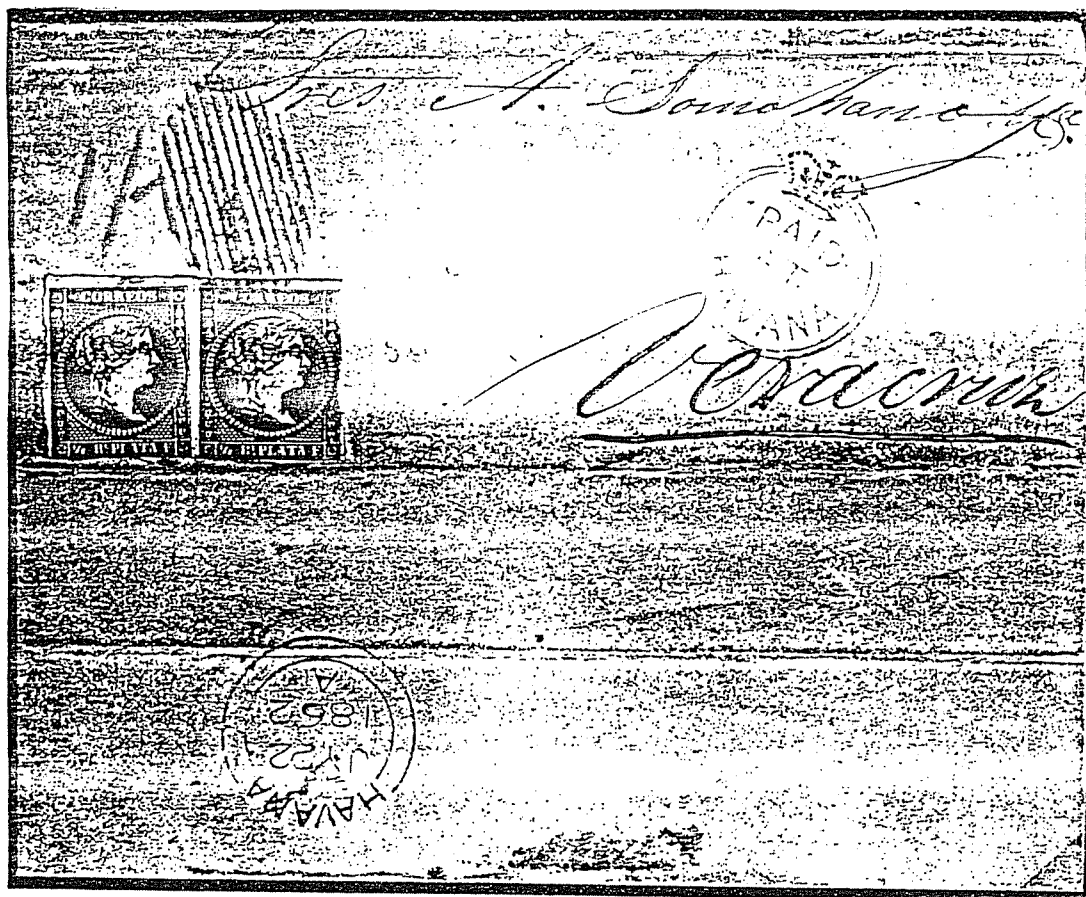


1859 Cadiz to Veracruz via Havana, franked with two 2 R Spanish stamps to Cuba and then, via British Mail, with Type III "PAID AT HAVANA" crown circle.

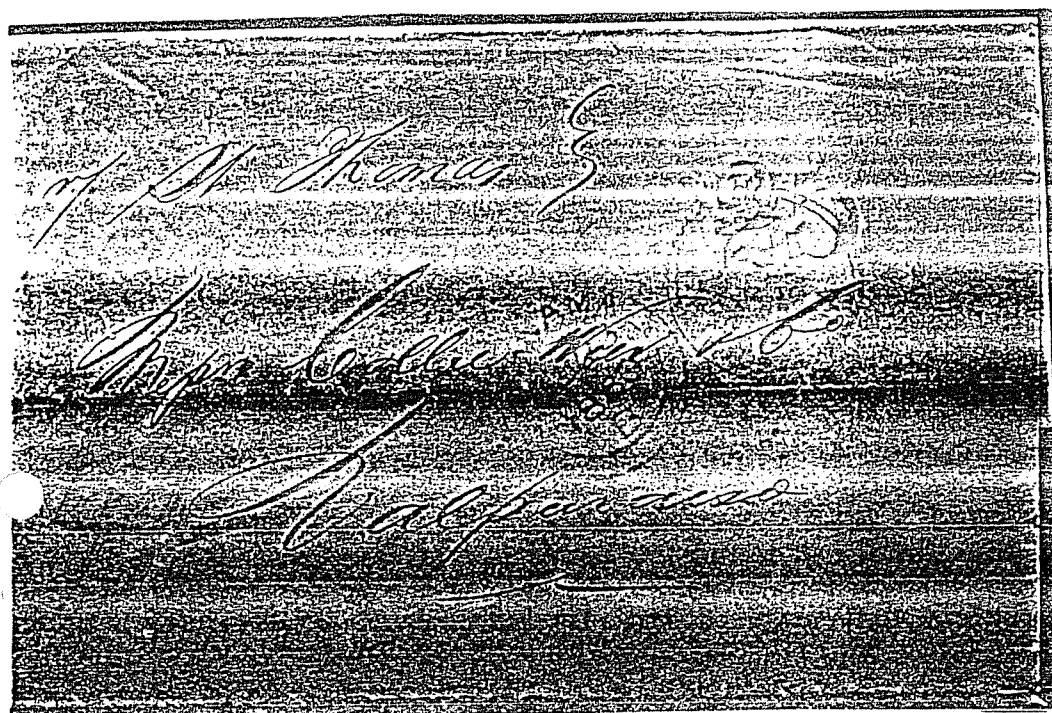


1863 New York pre-paid to Tampico, Mexico, forwarded  
by the U.S. Consul in Havana with the Type III  
"PAID AT HAVANA" crown circle.



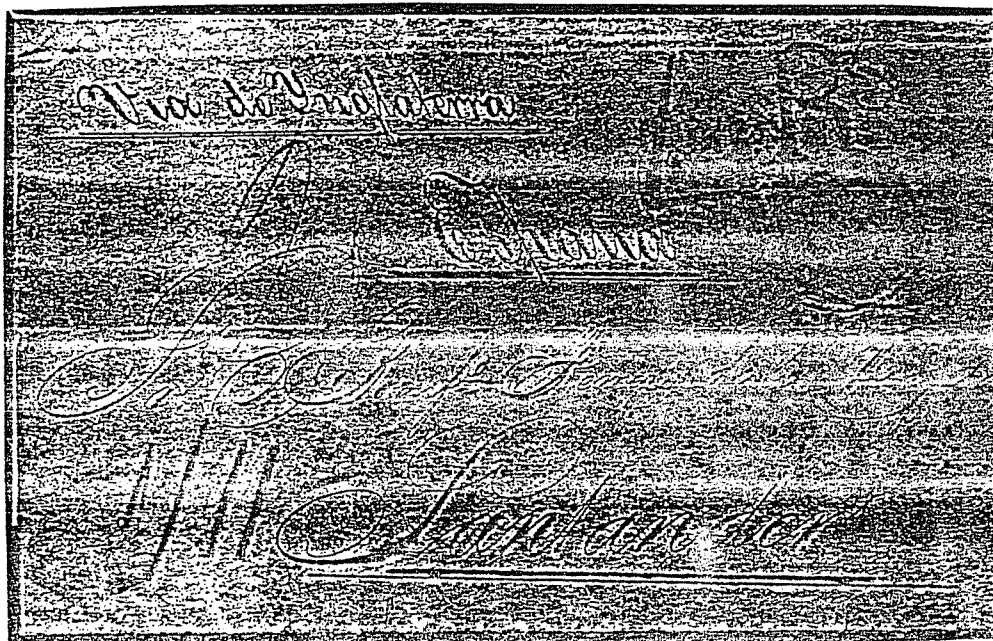


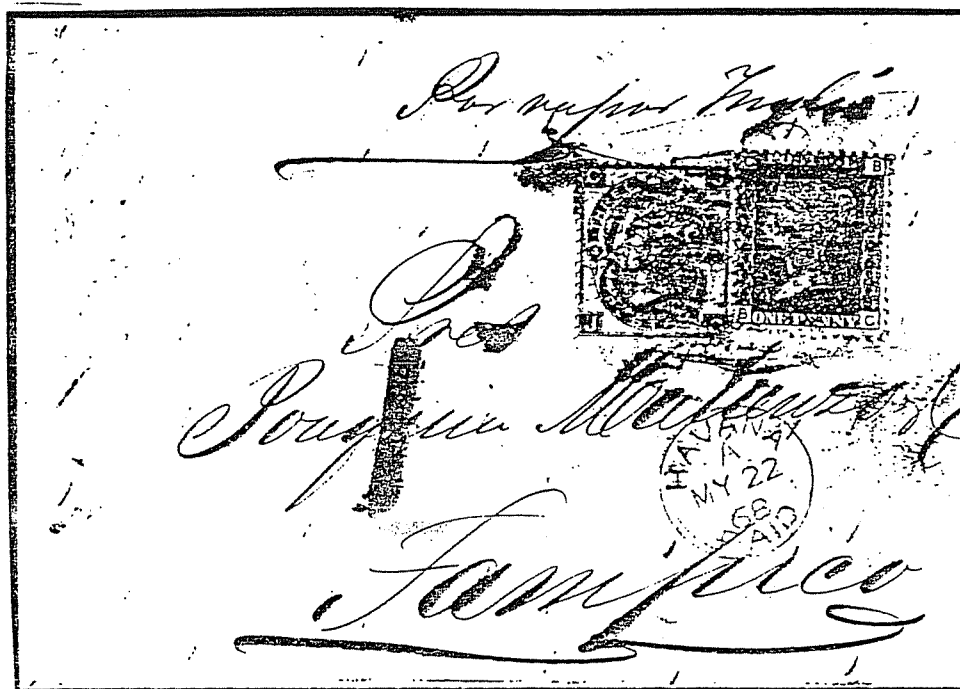
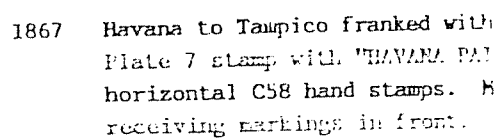
1862 Havana to Veracruz with Type III "cds" and two 1/2 R Cuban stamps. The cover apparently was meant to be sent in a Spanish vessel but finally was carried by the British Mails. Very rare combination.

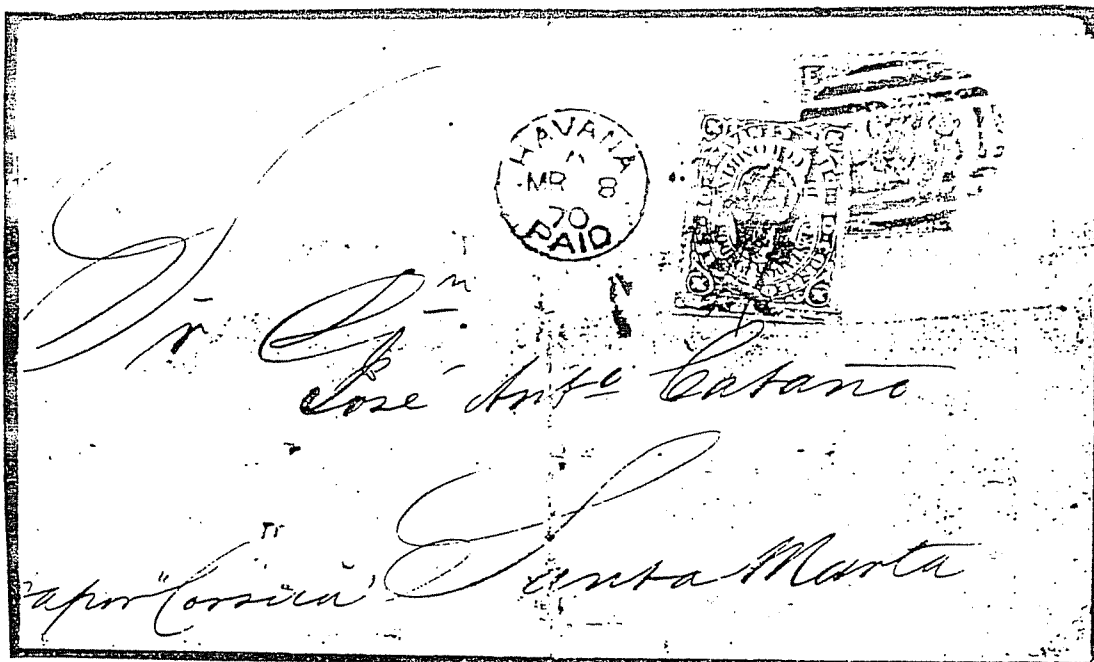


1860 Havana to Valparaiso, Chile,  
with Type III "PAID AT HAVANA"  
circle. Double weight letter.  
destination.

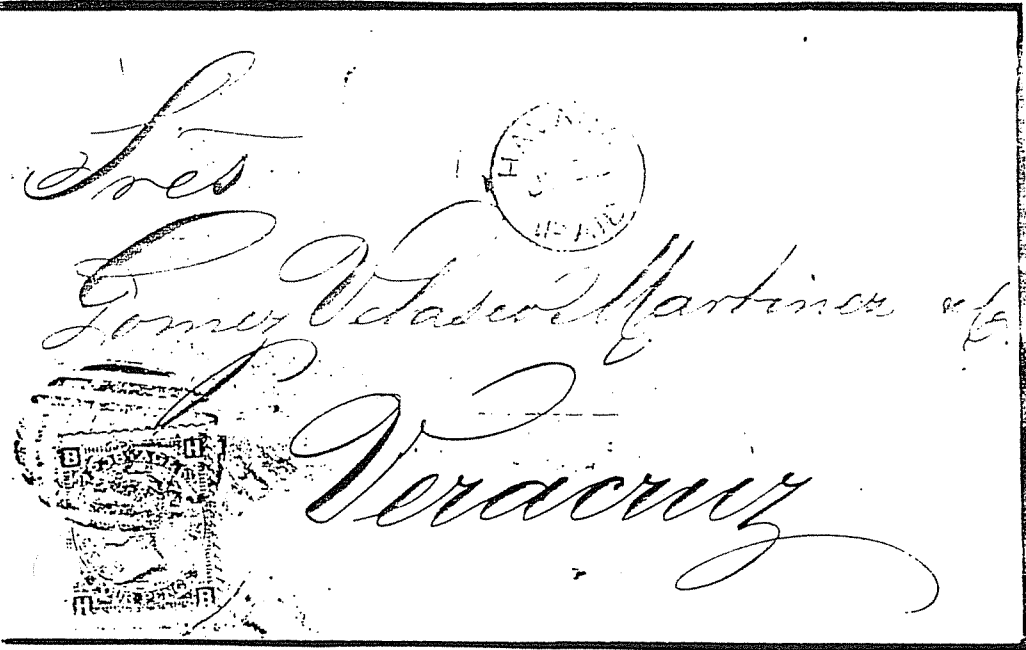
1862 Havana to Santander via London  
with Type III "PAID AT HAVANA"  
crown circle. British Mail to  
Spain was seldom used for Cuba.



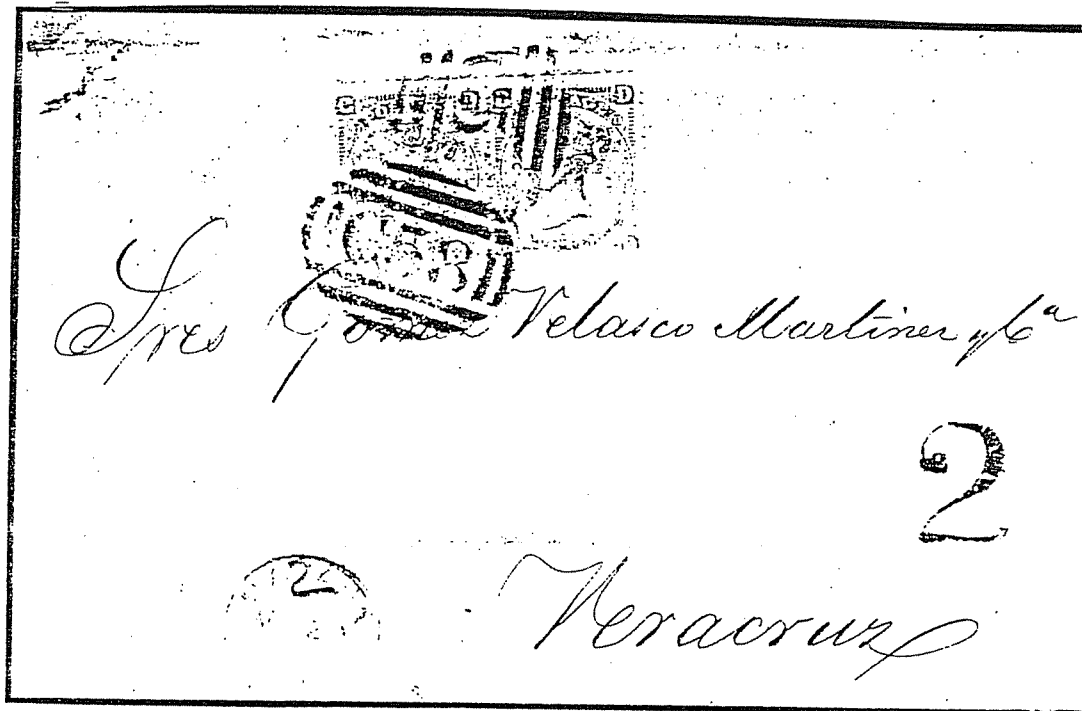




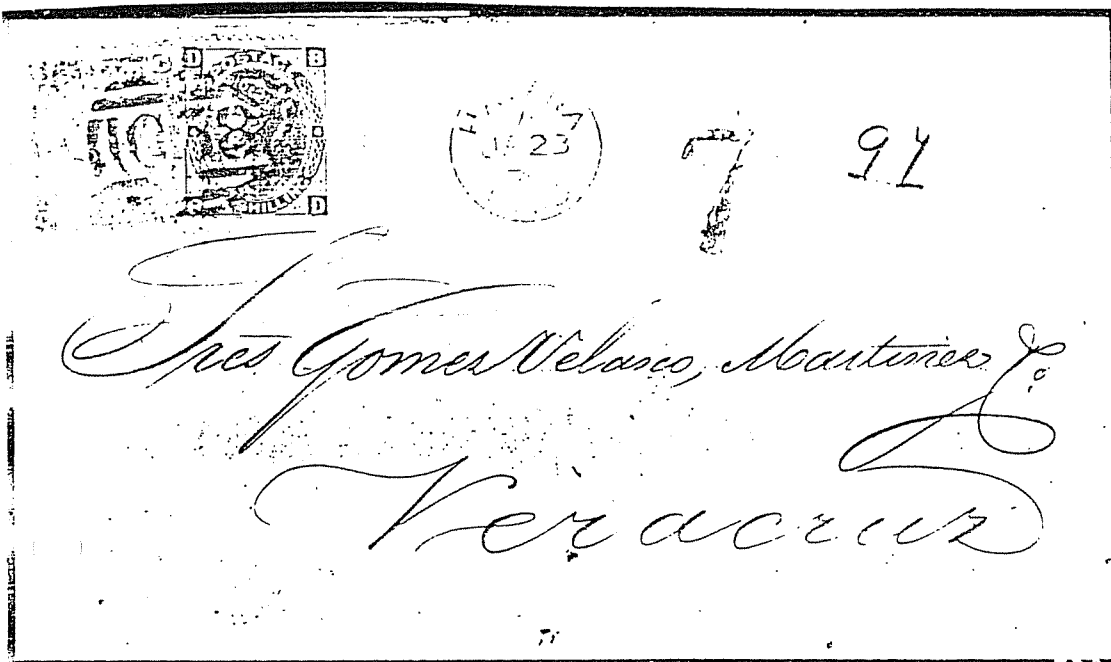
1870 Havana to Santa Marta, Colombia with "HAVANA PAID" and horizontal C58 hand stamps. Franked with GB 4d. Plate 13 and Colombia 10c local tax stamp. Unique combination.



18/0 Havana to Veracruz single rate v  
"HAVANA PAID" and horizontal C58 i  
stamps. Franked with one GB 4d. st



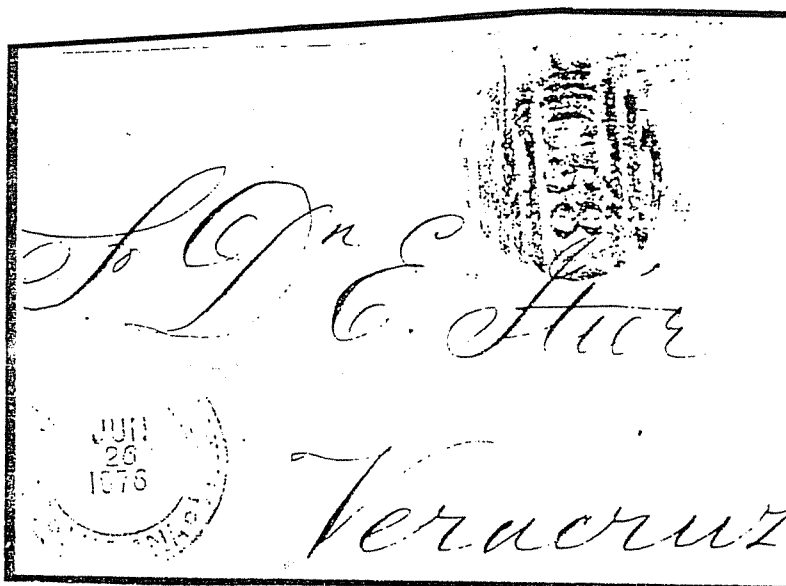
Havana to Veracruz double weight with  
"HAVANA PAID" and horizontal C58 hand  
amps. Franked with two GB 4d. stamps.

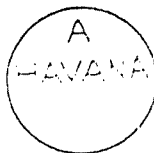


1870 Havana to Veracruz quad with "HAVANA PAID" and C58 hand stamps. Franked and lsh. stamps.



1876 Havana to Veracruz with red "HAVANA PAID" hand stamp. Only two examples of this marking in red recorded.





*Senor*

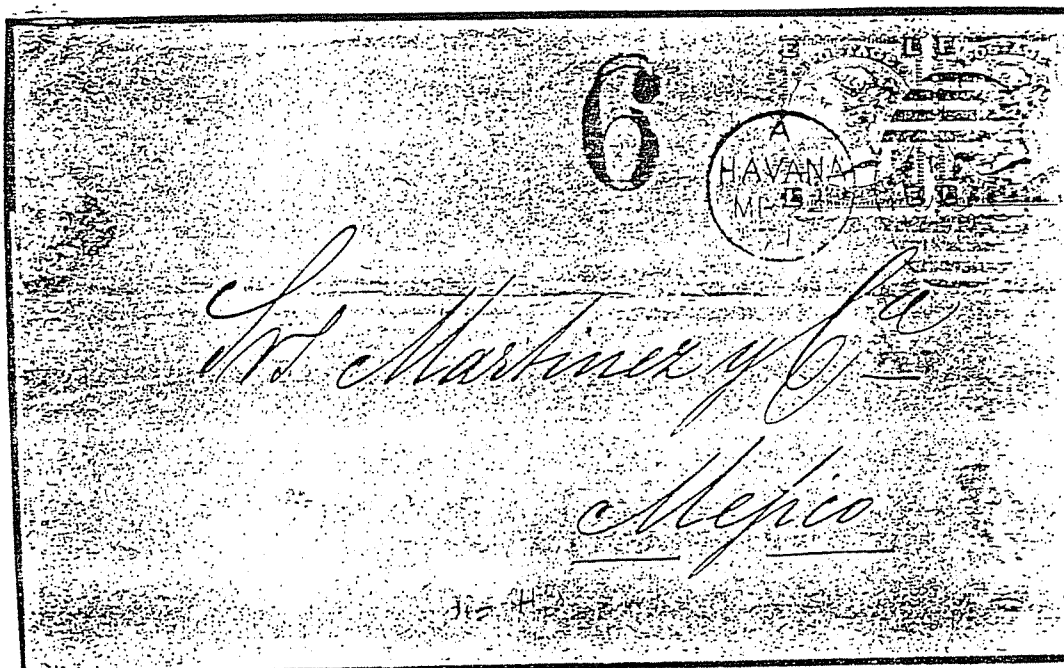
*Gomez Vilano, Martinier & Co*

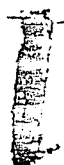
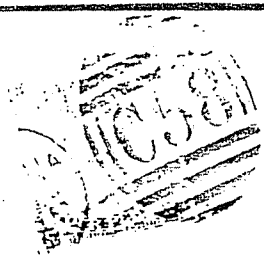
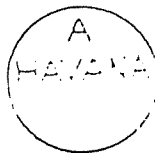
*Sacramento*



1871 Havana to Veracruz with duplex  
"Vertical C58 and Type IV cds"  
Single rate.

1871 Havana to Mexico with duplex  
"Vertical C58 and Type IV cds"  
Double rate.

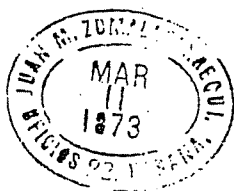




*Chas J. Matienzo y Cia*

*Tampico*

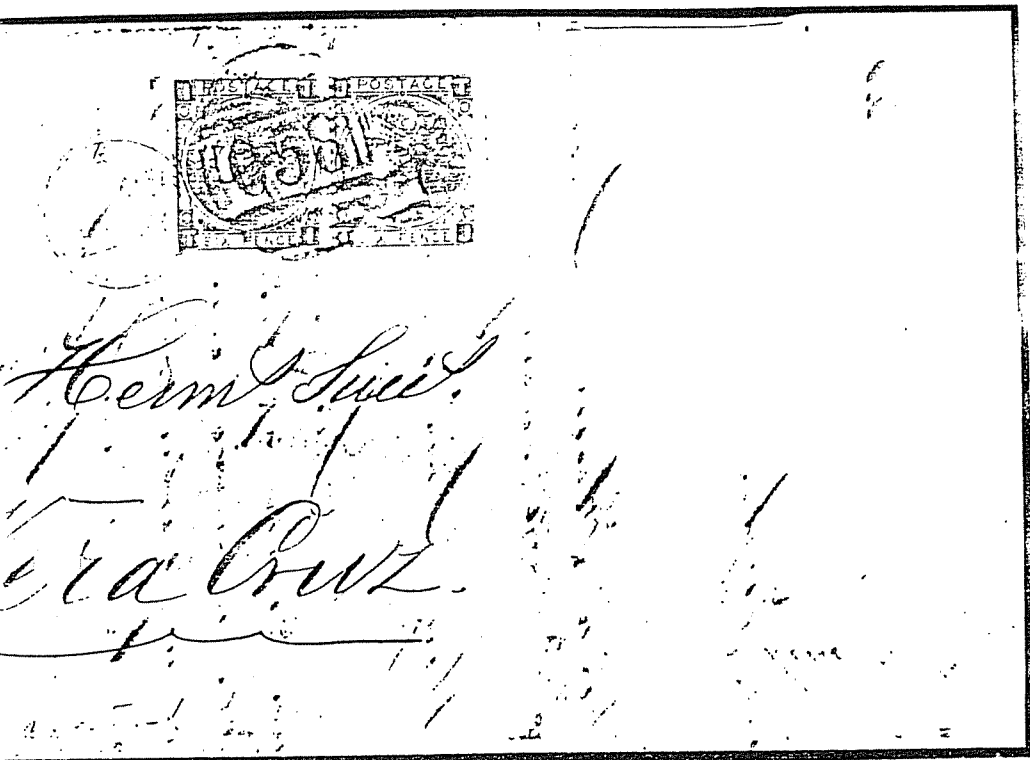
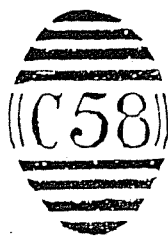
1870 New York to Tampico via Hav.  
with GB 4d. stamp canceled w  
duplex C58.



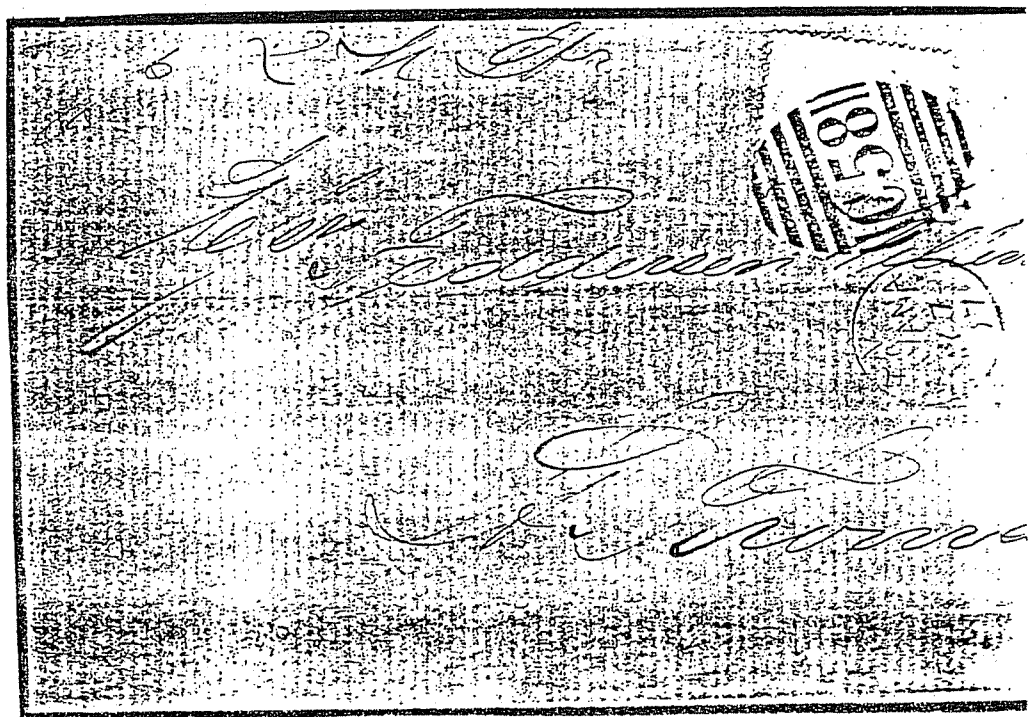
*Chas J. Matienzo y Cia*  
*Lima*

873 Havana to Lima, Peru. Franked with  
three GB 4d. stamps canceled with  
duplex C58. Single rate to South  
America.

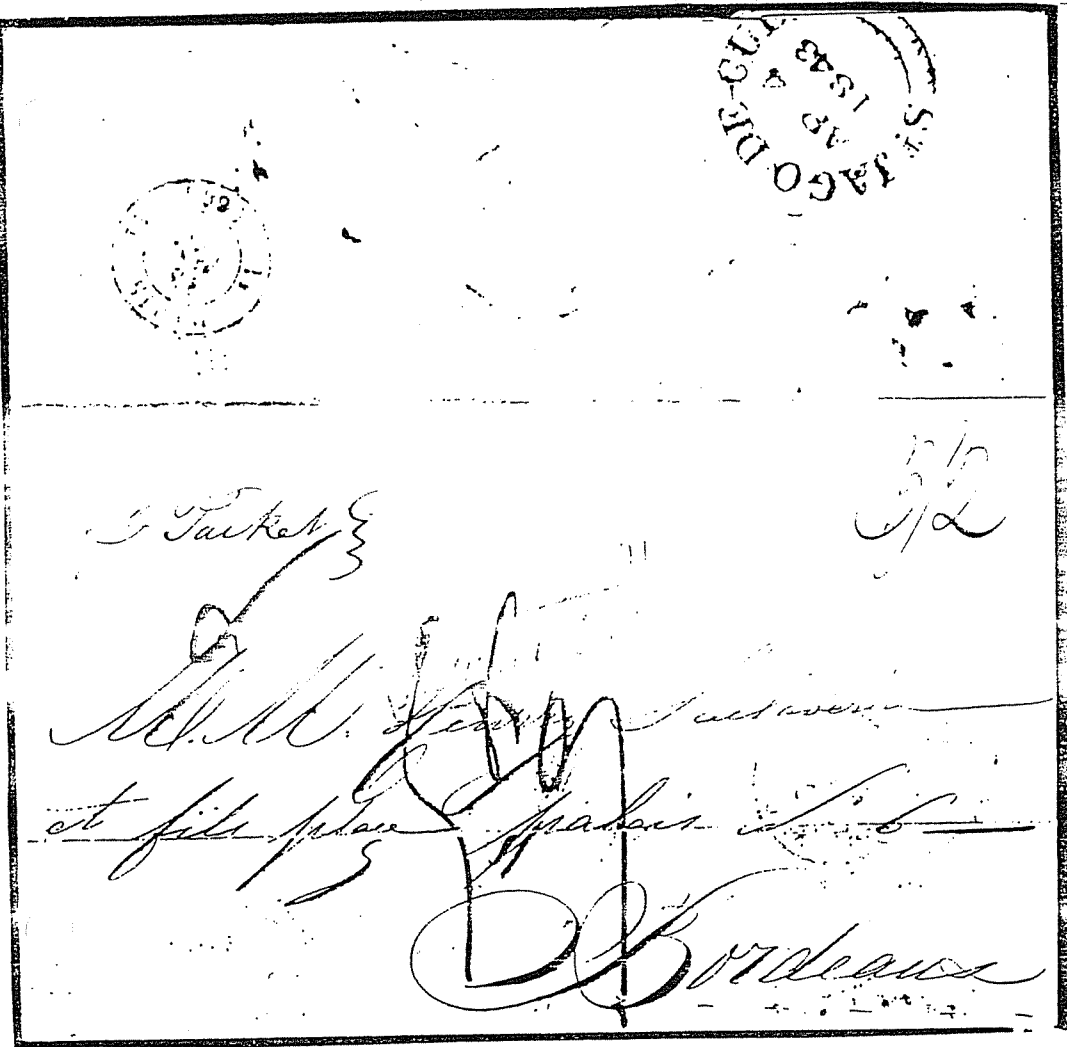




1870's Havana to Veracruz. Franked with t  
GB 6d. stamps cancelled with dupl  
C58. Triple weight cover.

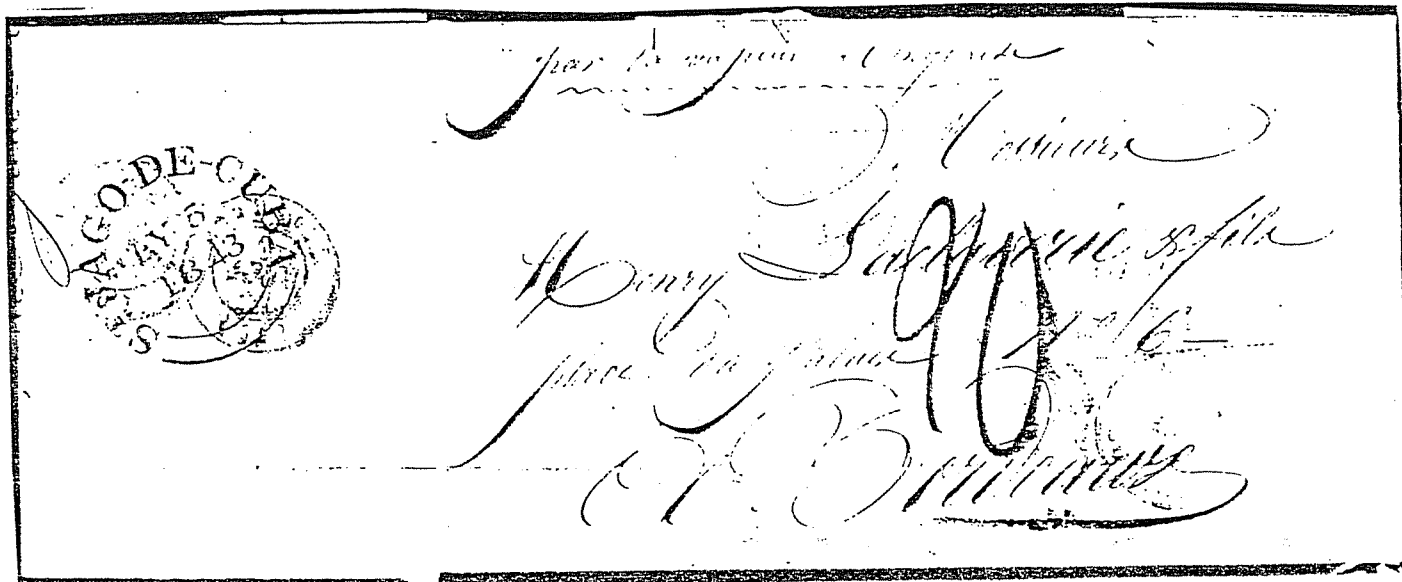


1877 Havana to St. Thomas.  
Single weight letter.



1843 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux  
with Type I "cds" and bo.  
red "PACKET LETTER"

1843 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux  
with Type I "cds" and bo.  
red "COLONIES & EC. ART. 1"





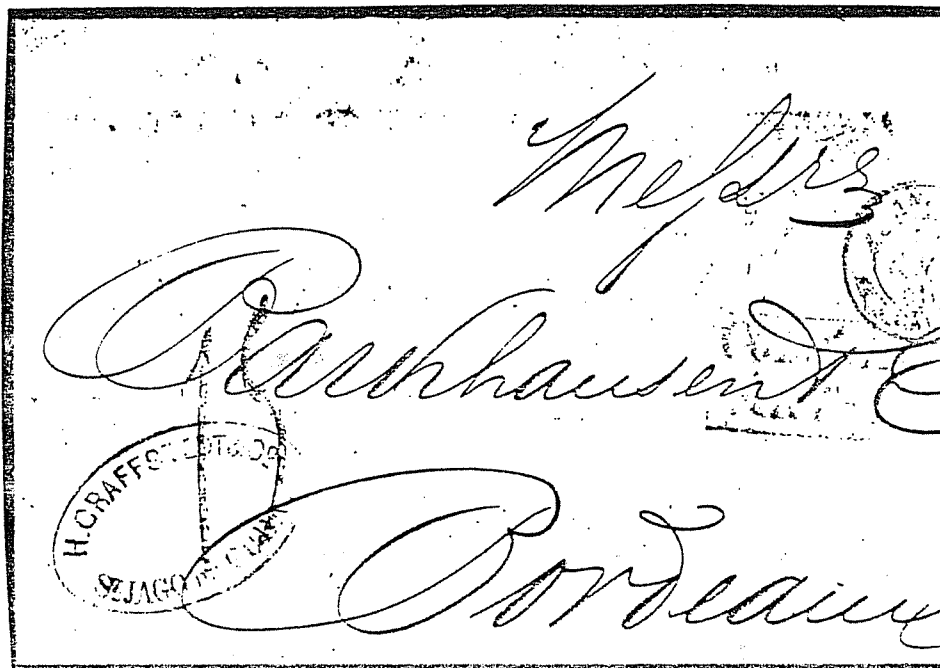
*Par le Packet anglais*

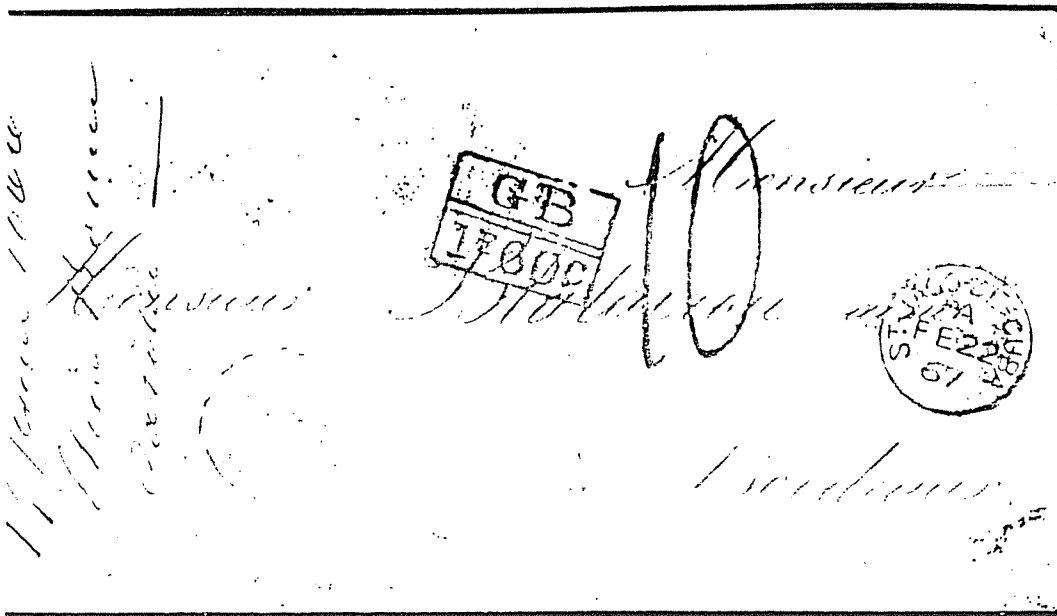
1847

*Messieurs*  
*Henry Lachavere & fils*  
*Place du Palais N° 6*  
*Bordeaux*

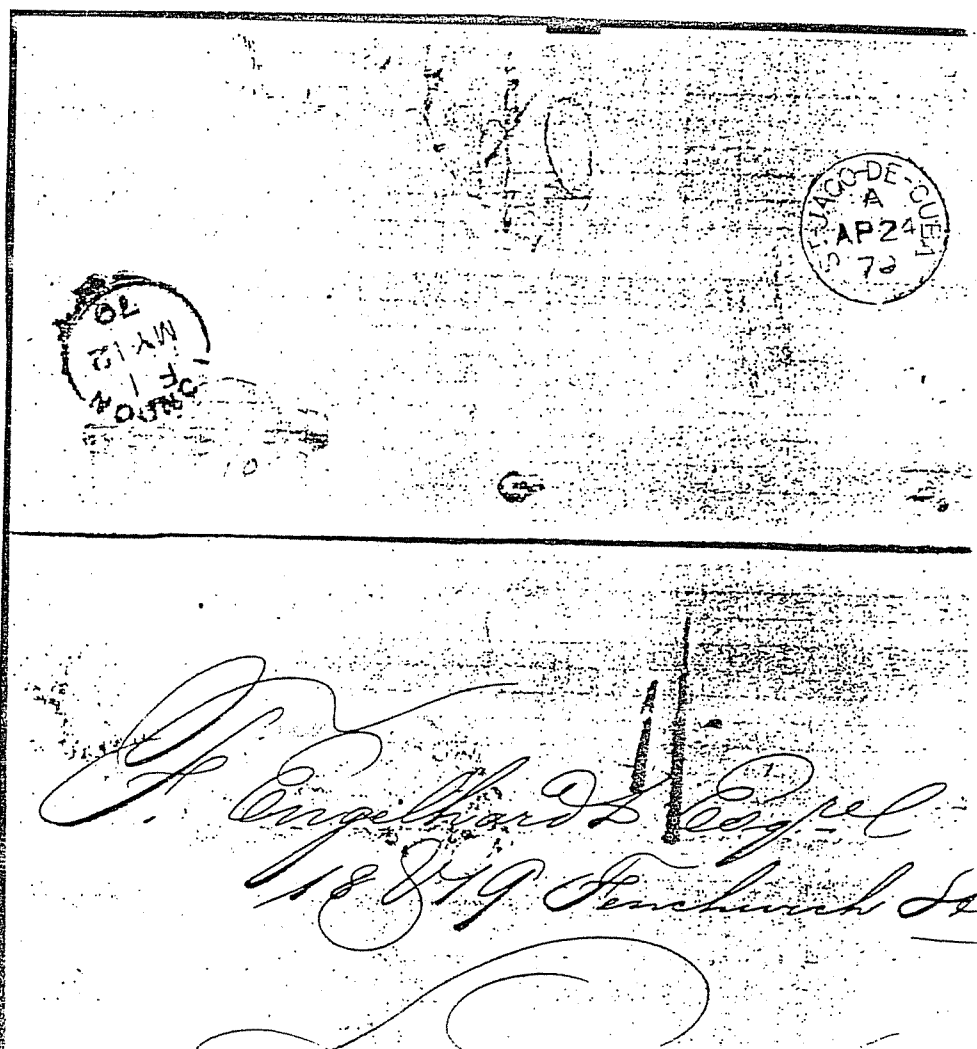
1843 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux  
with Type I "cds" and boxed  
red "COLONIES & EC. ART.]

1843 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux  
with Type I "cds" and boxed  
red "COLONIES ART-18"

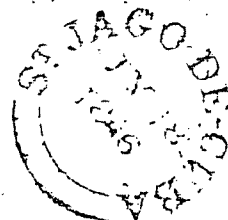




1867 Santiago de Cuba to London  
with Type II "cds"



1870 Santiago de Cuba to London  
with Type II "cds"



*vapor Engled.*

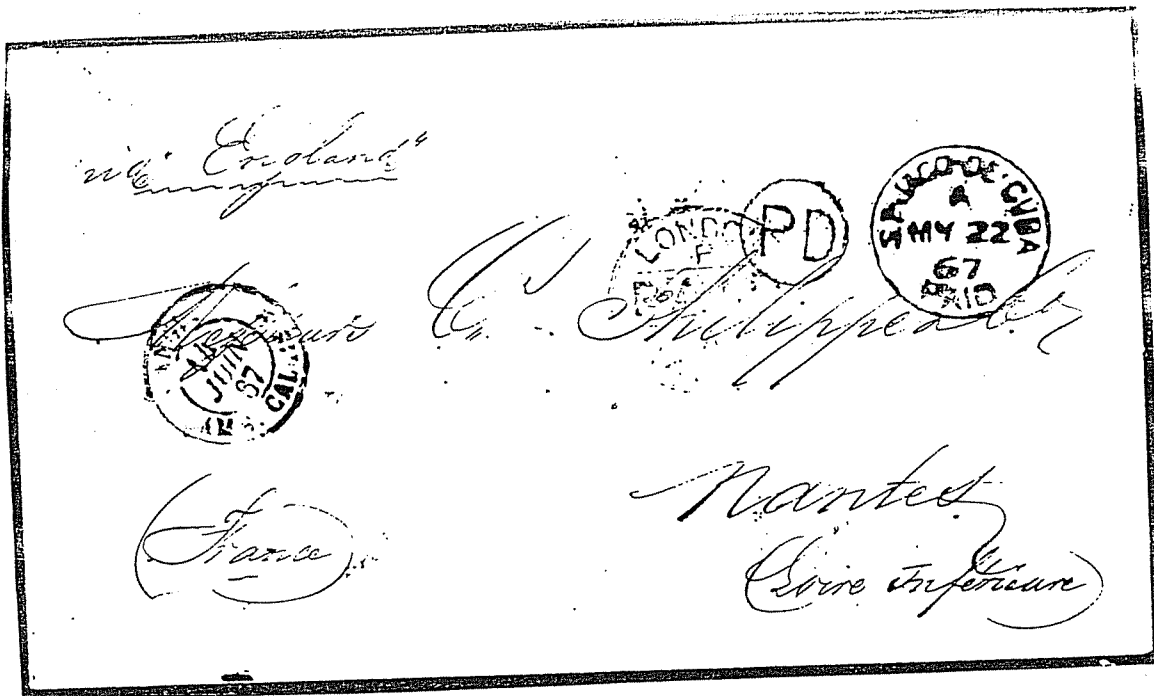
*For John W. Pinkney*



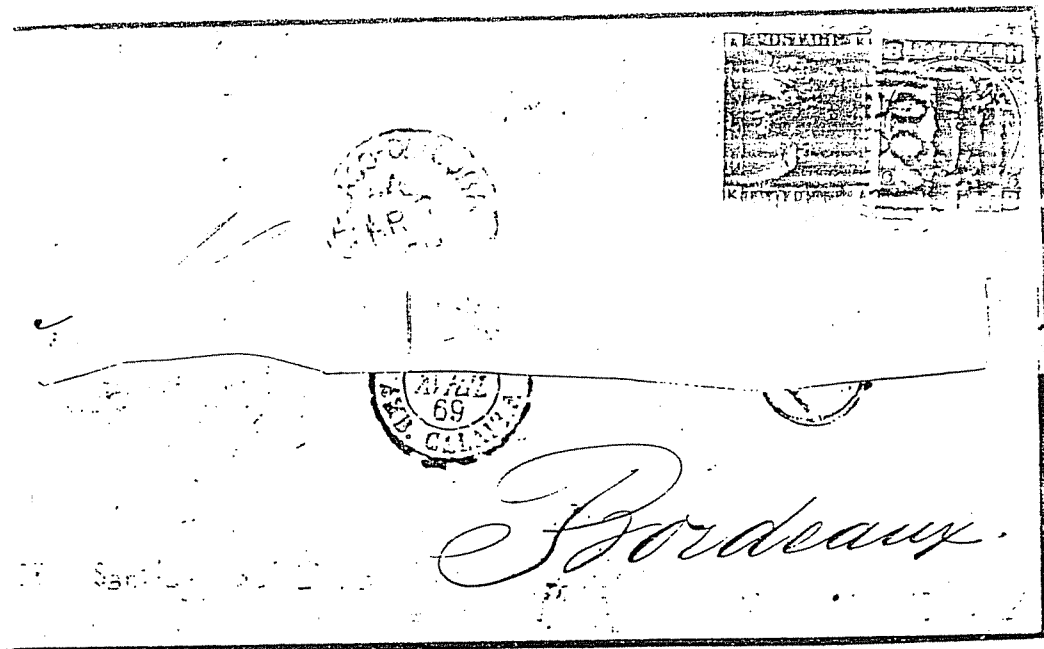
*Santhomas*

1846

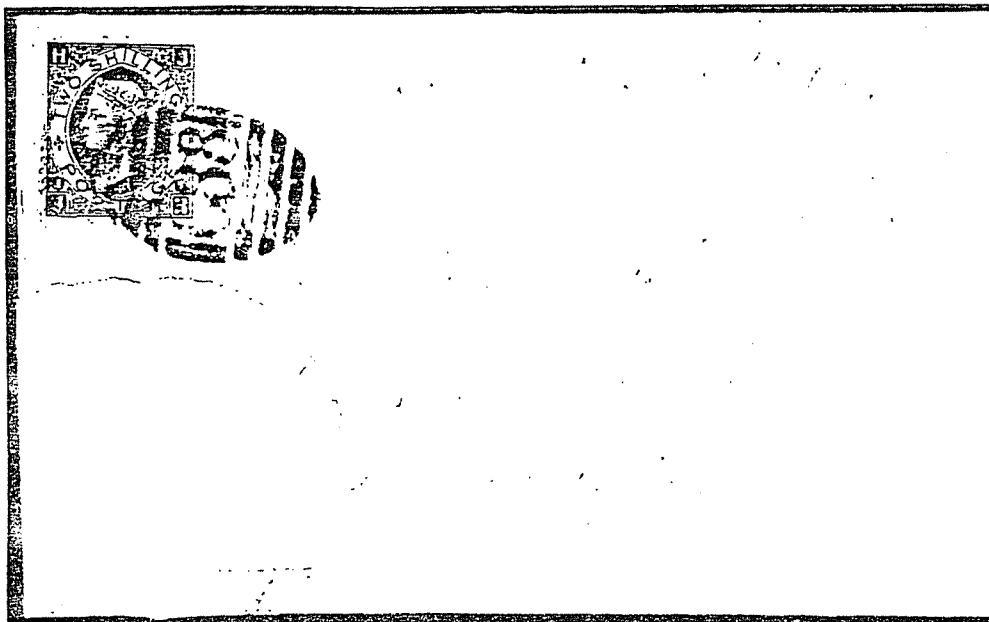
1846 Santiago de Cuba to St. Thomas pre-paid with  
red crown circle "PAID AT ST. JAGO DE CUBA"  
Very rare. Only four covers recorded.



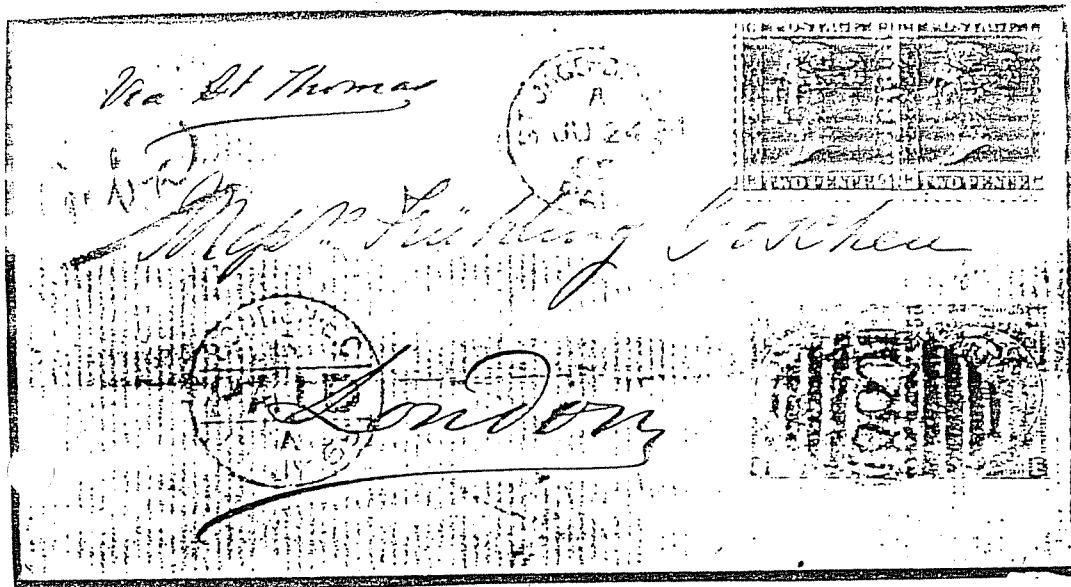
1867 Santiago de Cuba to Nantes, France with red circular "ST JAGO DE CUBA PAID".  
Very few covers recorded without stamps.



1909 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux.  
red circular "ST JAGO DE CUBA"  
Franked with one GB 6d. and  
stamps cancelled with Vertical



59 Santiago de Cuba to England. Franked  
with one GB 2 Sh. stamp cancelled  
with vertical C88.



1869 Santiago de Cuba to London  
St. Thomas with two GB  
two GB 4d. stamps cancelled  
vertical C88.



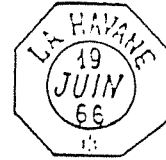
1869 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux  
Franked with two GB 1 Sh.  
stamps cancelled with  
vertical C88.







Messieurs Ford & Co  
Paris



1867 Havana to Paris with "LA HAVANE" consular marking and "HAVANE" FR. B No. 1". The 10 decimes r. was effective from January '67 June '71.



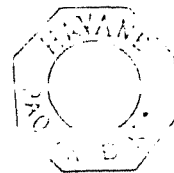
Havana to Veracruz, double rate: 1F 20c



M<sup>r</sup> A. Legrande  
61 Faubourg Poissonniere  
Paris

Consulat Général  
de France  
à la Havane

France  
Consulat Général  
de France  
à la Havane  
Méditerranée  
enveloppe de Fontaine  
à Marillet  
Par Sengnareau Bay-de-Vie  
(L. A. Fontenay) Vendée



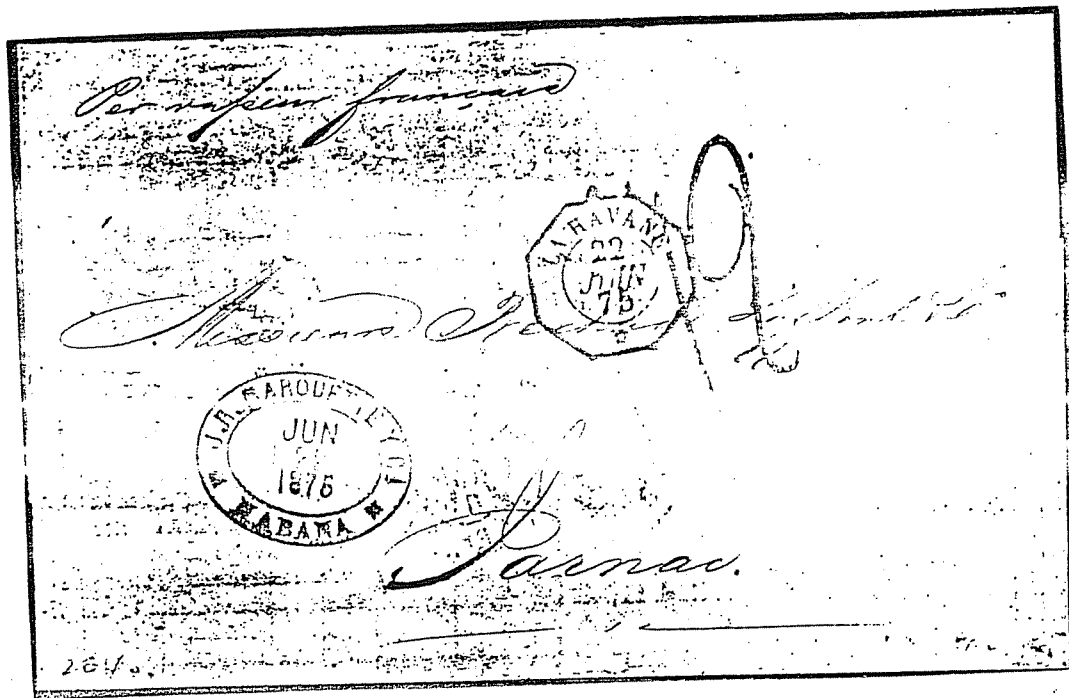
1875 Havana to France with consular  
and octagonal packetboat mar-  
kings. Single weight.



1875 Havana to France with consular  
and "LA HAVANE" octagonal mar-  
kings. Double weight.

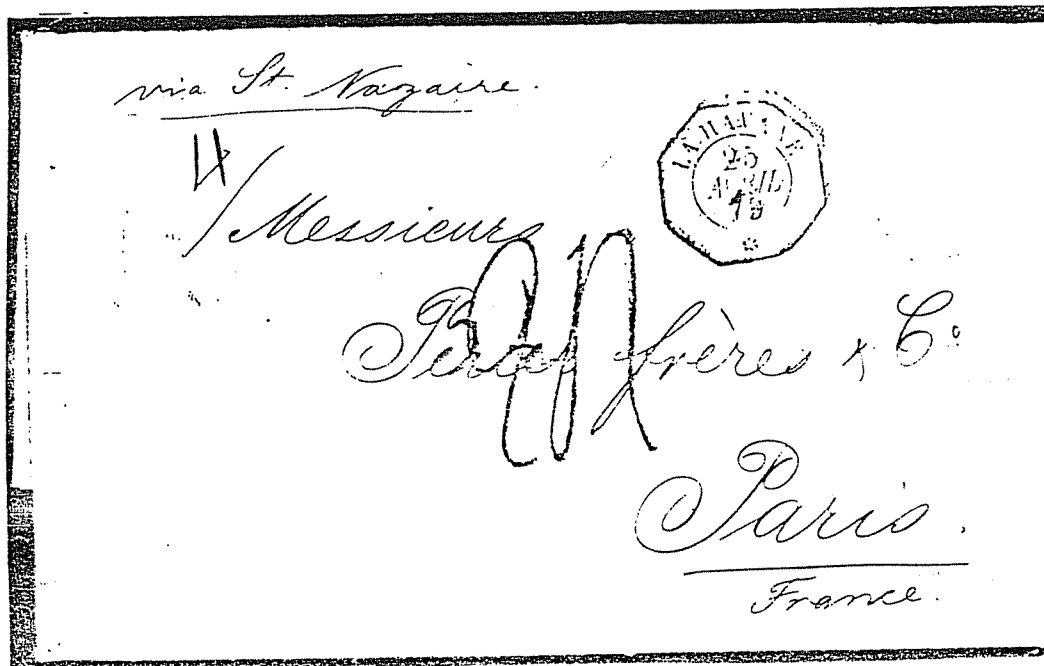
France  
Consulat Général  
de France  
à la Havane  
Méditerranée  
enveloppe de Fontaine  
à Marillet  
Par Sengnareau Bay-de-Vie  
Vendée

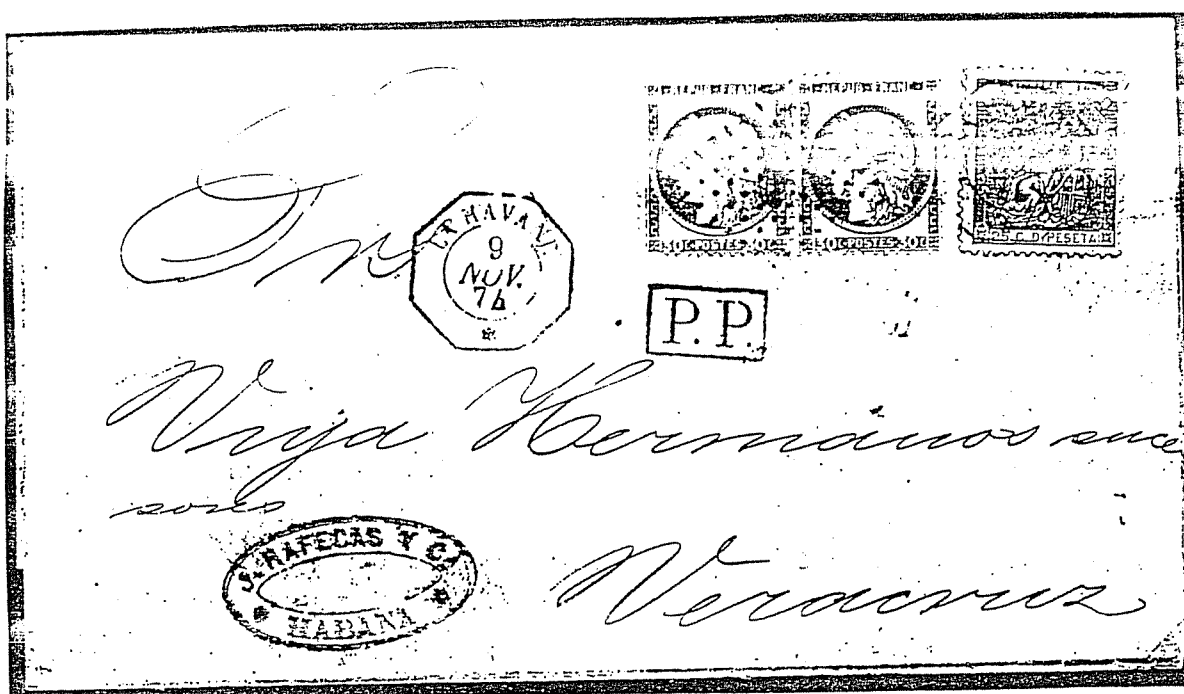
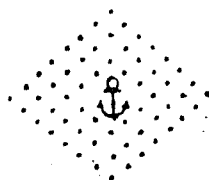




1875 Havana to France with consular hand stamp. Single weight.

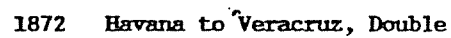
1875 Havana to Paris with consular hand stamp. Double weight.



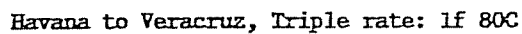


1874 Havana to Veracruz. Single weight letter franked with two 30 c French stamps and a 25 c Cuban stamp, cancelled by the "anchor and dots" and "LA HAVANE" octagonal marking which was not supposed to be used for cancelling stamps until 1876.

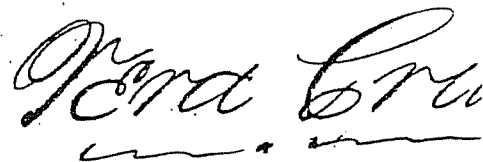
Extremely rare cover.



1872 Havana to Veracruz, Double



Havana to Veracruz, Triple rate: 1f 80C

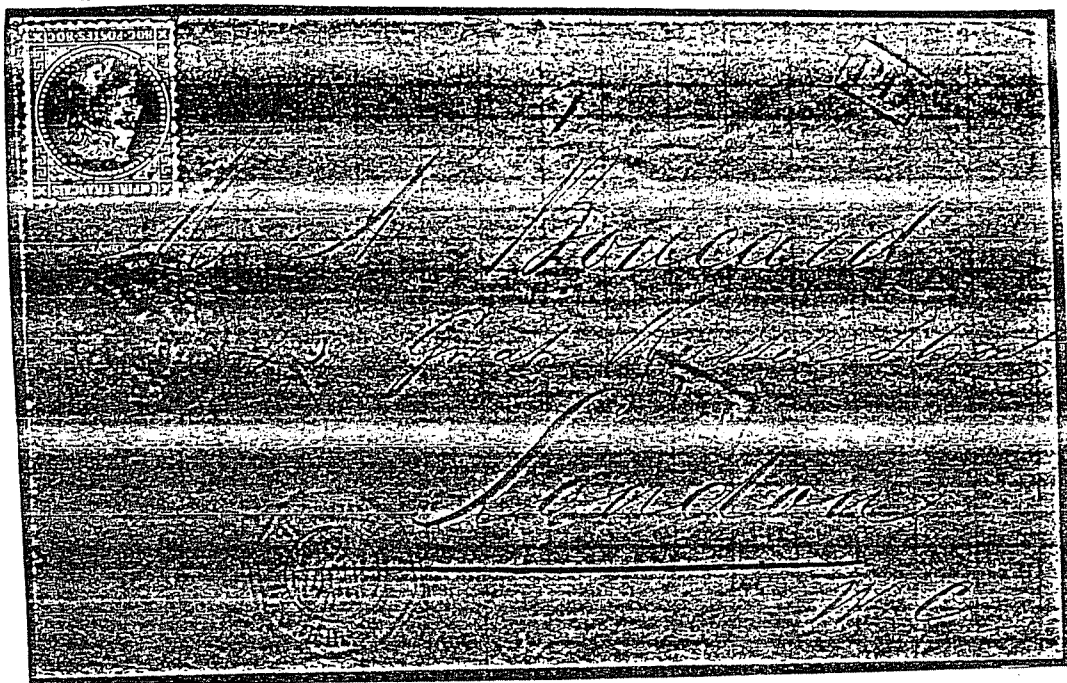
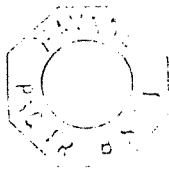


Grand Cru

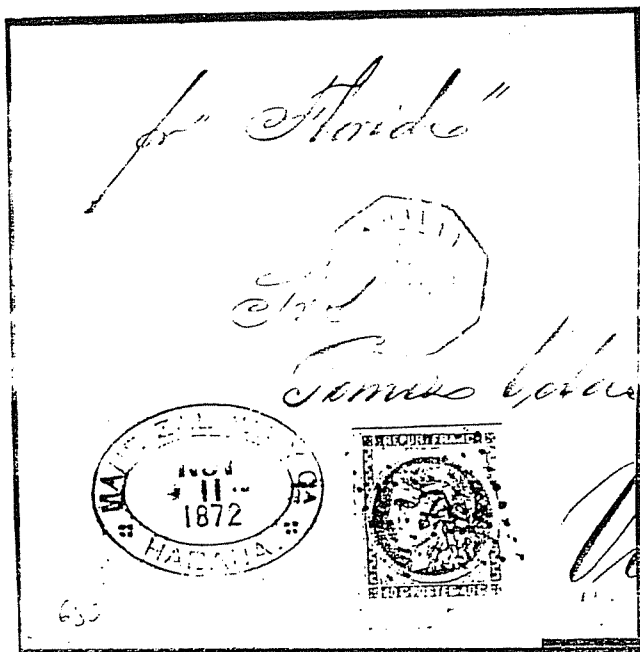


1872 Havana to Veracruz, quadruple

1872 Havana to Veracruz, quadruple

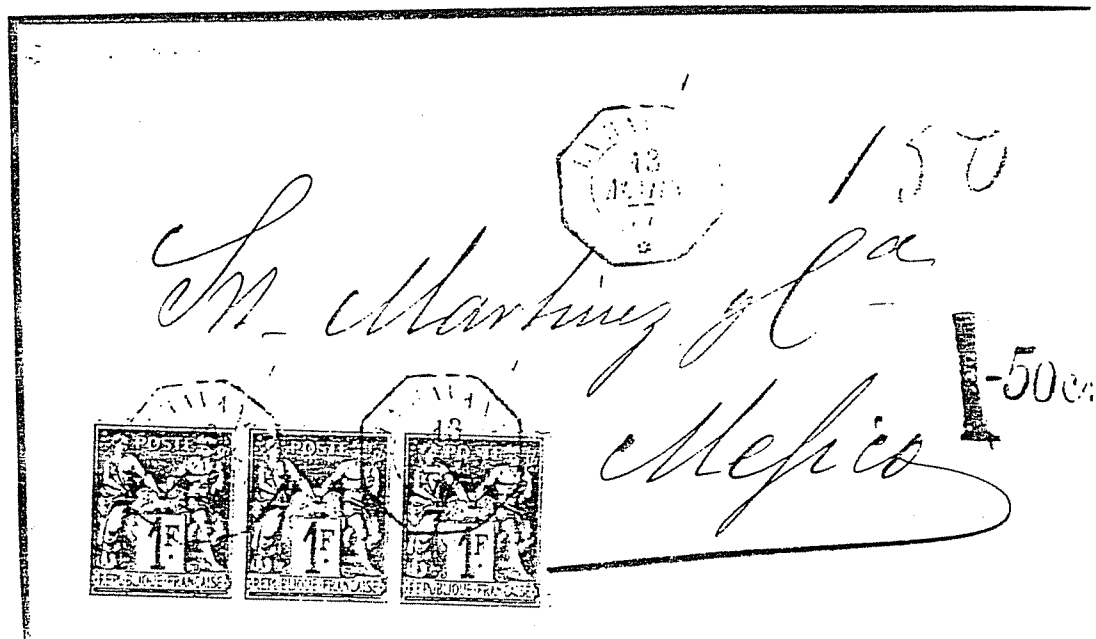


1872 Havana to London. Franked with 80c stamp (single rate), and with the very rare octagonal "HAVANE PAQ.FR.B NO.1" in red.

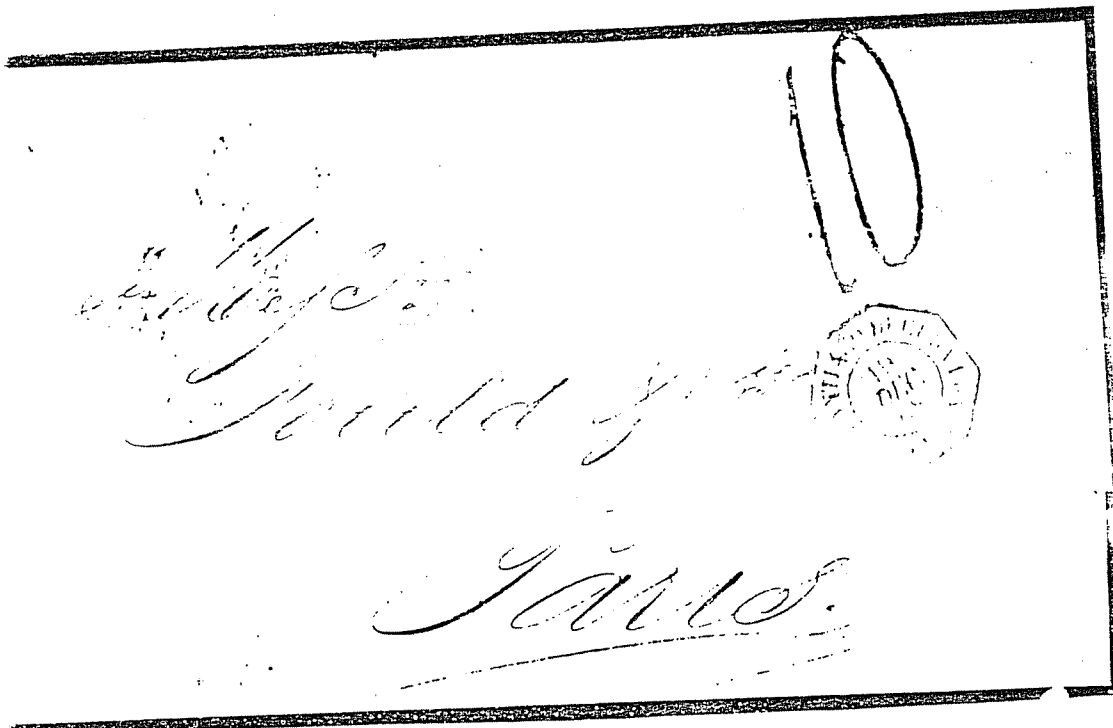


1872 Havana to Veracruz (fragment) with 40 c  
imperforate stamp cancelled by "anchor and dots"  
Endorsed "par Floride"

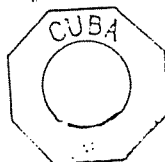
1877 Havana to Mexico. Franked  
with three 1 Fr stamps  
cancelled by octagonal  
"LA HAVANE".



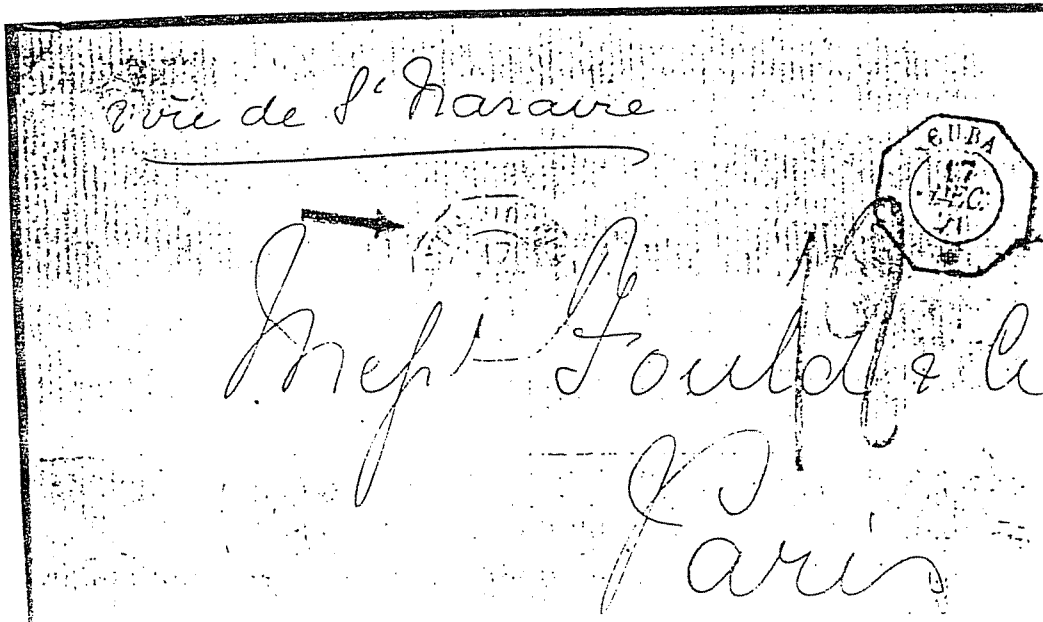


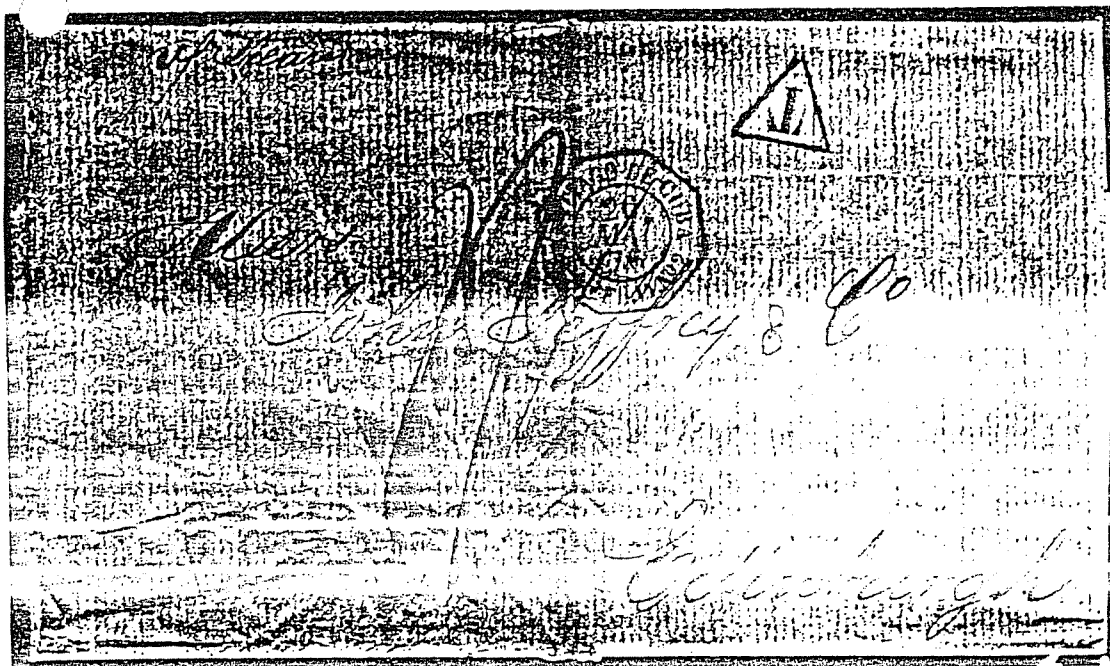


1869 Santiago de Cuba with octagonal "SANTIAGO DE CUBA PAQ. FR. D. No 1" in red.

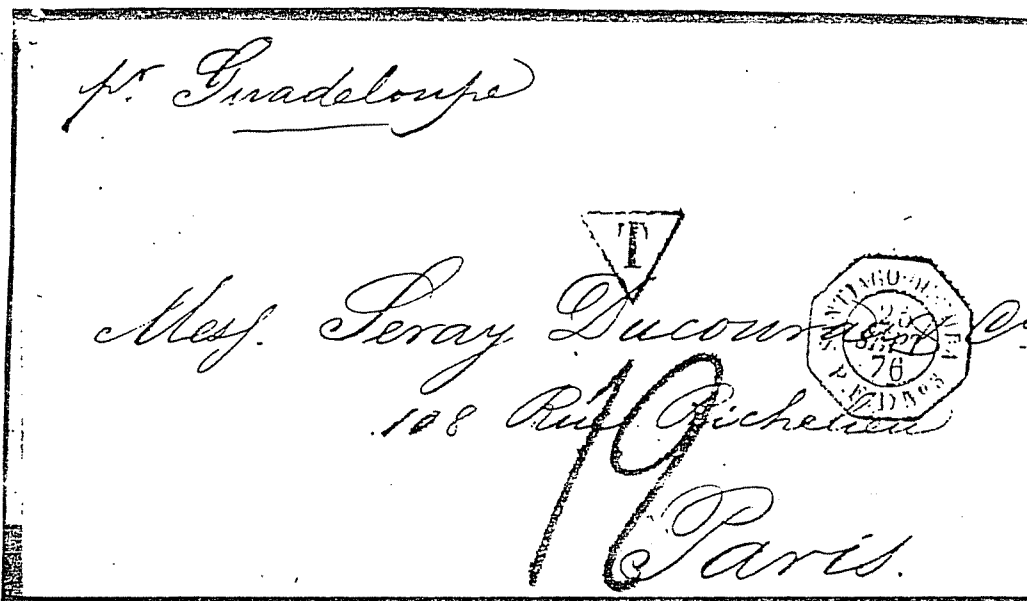


1871 Santiago de Cuba to Paris with octagonal "SANTIAGO DE CUBA PAQ. FR. D. No 1" in red. Only example recorded in this color.

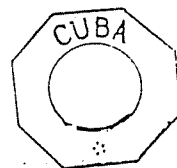
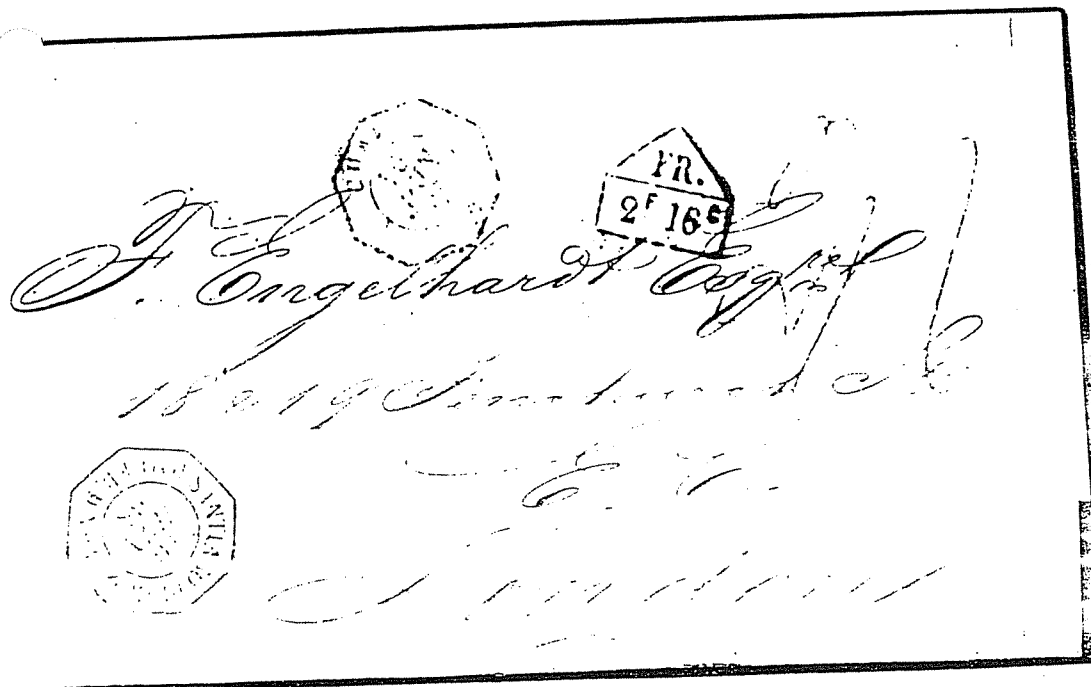




1876 Santiago de Cuba to Paris with "SANTIAGO DE CUBA PAQ. FR. D. No. 2" (large D) and triangle, both in blue, the only cover recorded color.

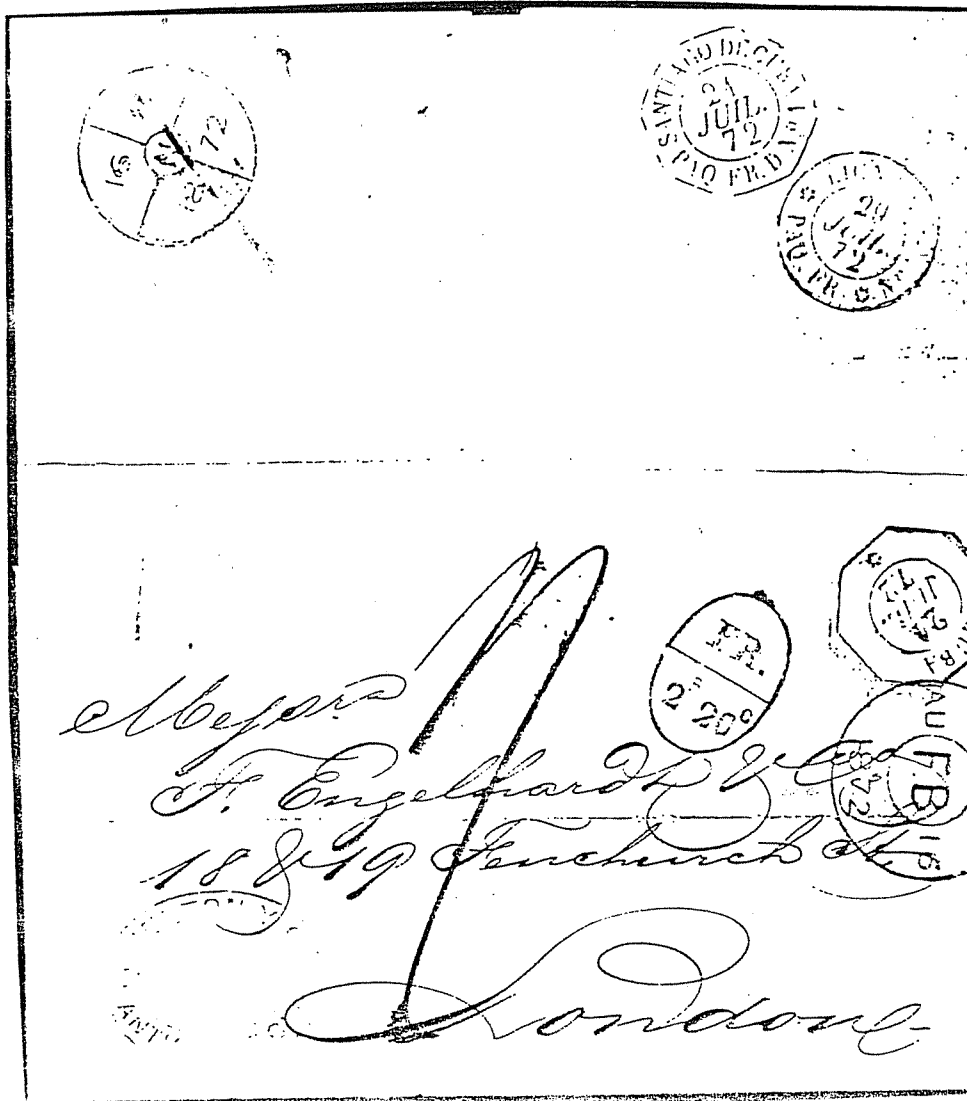


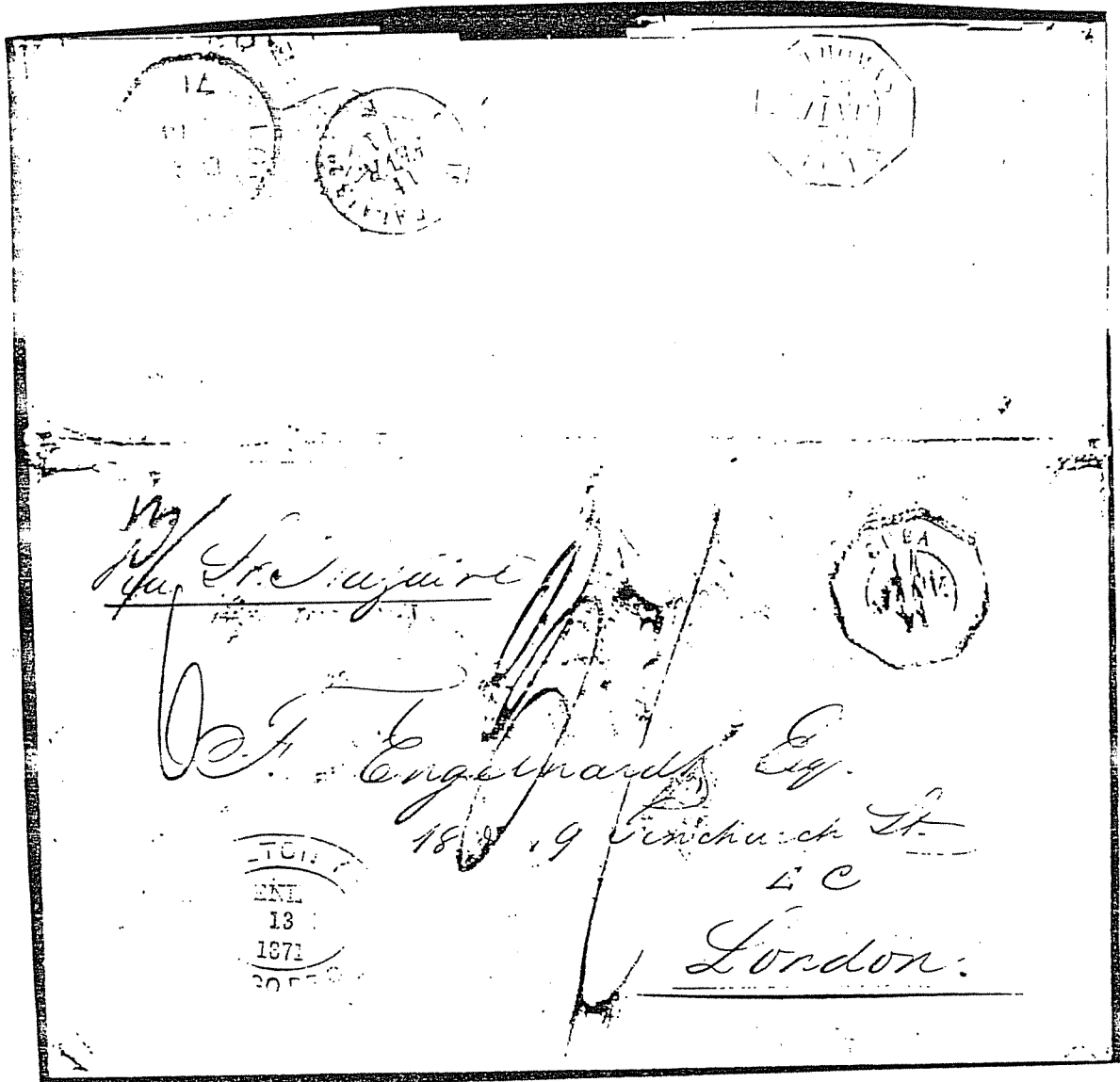
376 Santiago de Cuba to Paris with "SANTIAGO DE CUBA PAQ. FR. D. No. 3" (large D) and T in triangle, both in black.



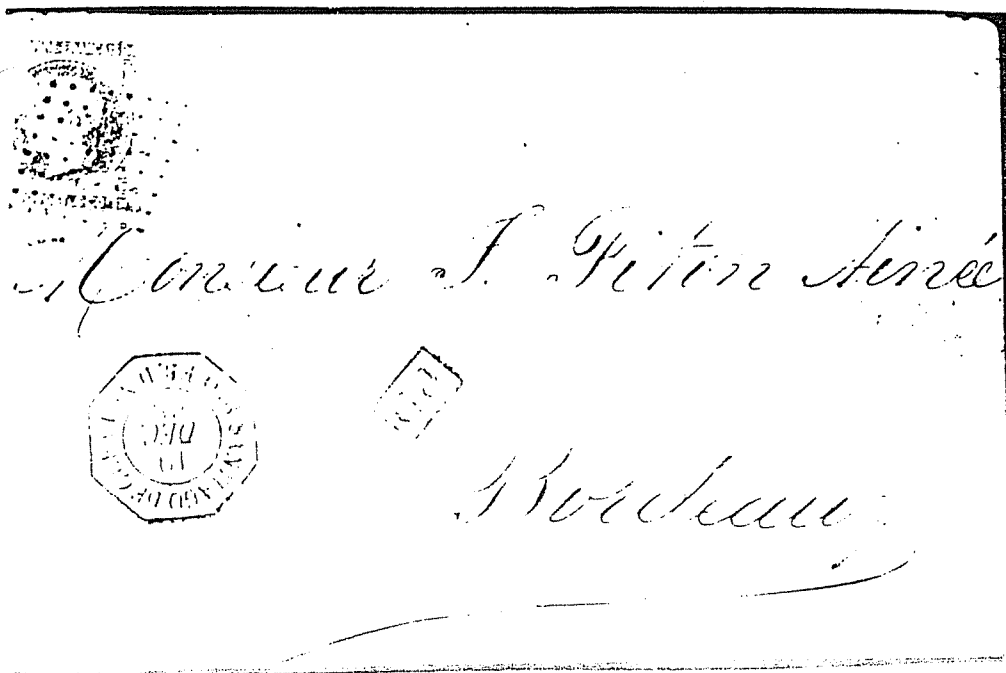
1868 Santiago de Cuba to London  
with consular and paquet boat  
markings plus very rare French  
accountancy mark FR/2 F 16c in  
a pentagon.

1872 Santiago de Cuba to London  
with consular, paquetboat,  
and route markings, plus  
French accountancy mark:  
FR/ 2F 20c in oval.

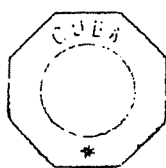




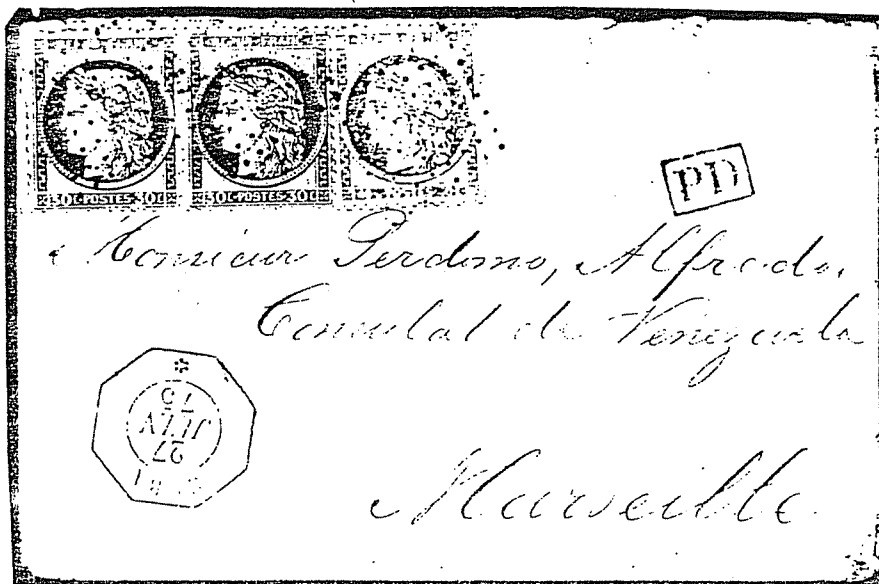
1871 Santiago de Cuba to London with consular and paquetboat markings of Santiago de Cuba plus St. Thomas paquetboat hand stamp. The cover was transferred from line D to line B at St. Thomas. Very rare.



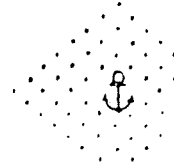
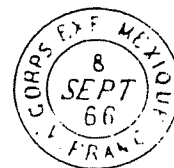
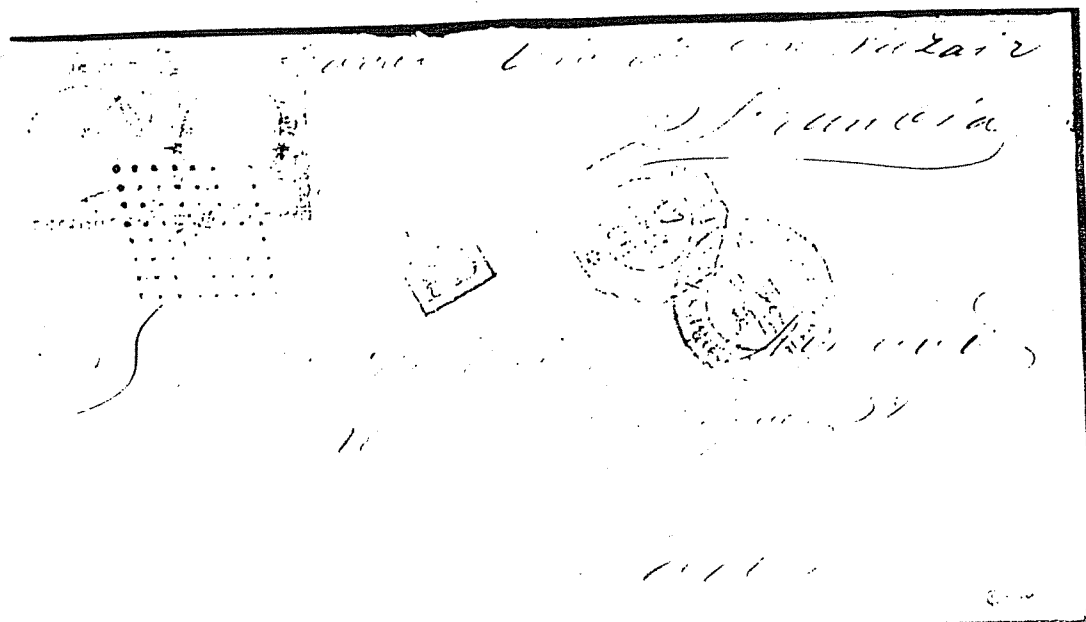
1868 Santiago de Cuba to Bordeaux  
Single rate franked with 80c  
stamp. Boxed PD (prior to des-  
tination) on front.



1875 Santiago de Cuba to Marseille  
Single rate franked with two  
30c and one 40c stamps. Red  
boxed PD on front.



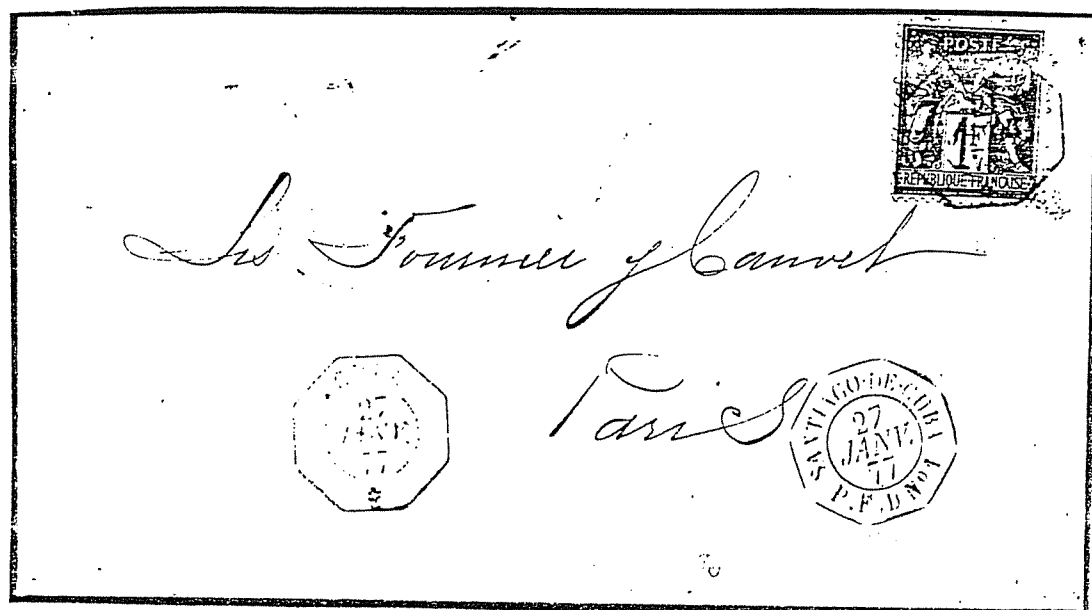




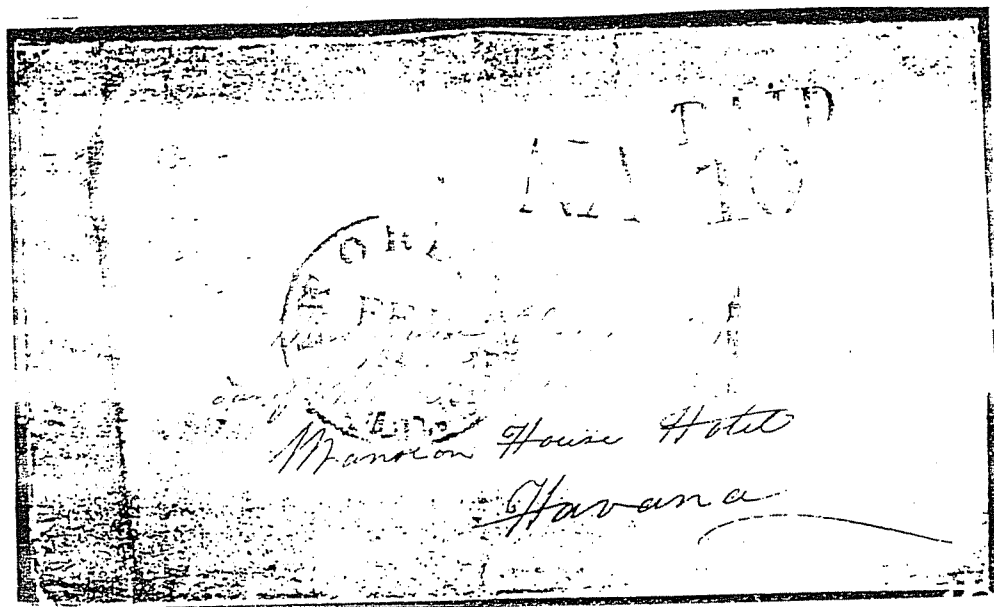
1866 Santiago de Cuba to Paris  
 Franked with two 40c  
 and red circular "CORPS  
 EXF. MEXIQUE" applied for  
 registry mail.  
 Very rare cover from (



7 Santiago de Cuba to Paris  
 Franked with 1Fr stamp can-  
 celled with octagonal con-  
 sular hand stamp which was  
 used to cancel stamps since  
 May 1876.



# INCOMING MAIL MARKINGS

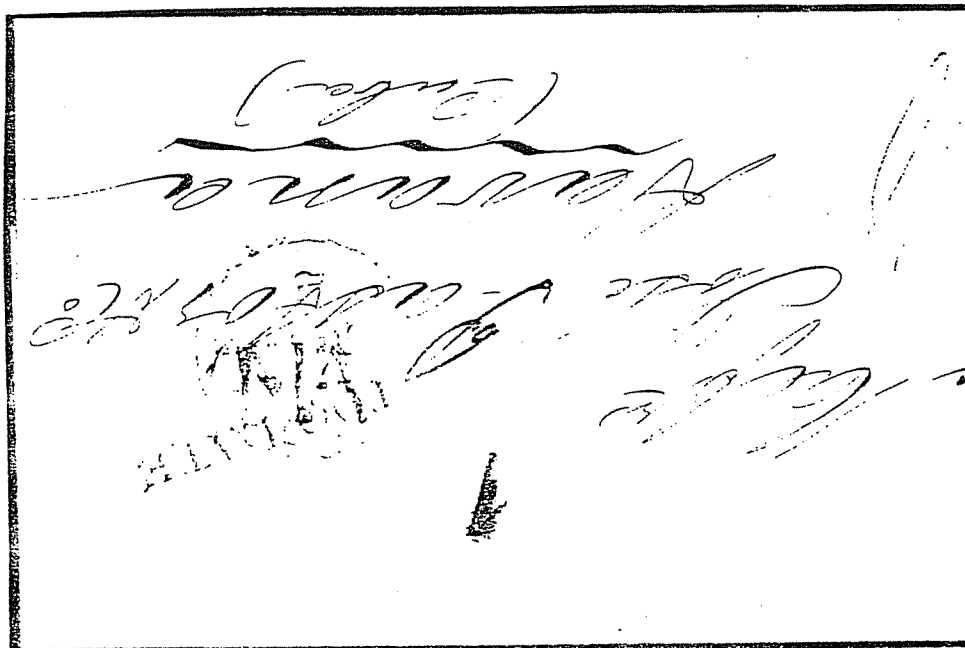


NA

1857 New Orleans to Havana  
receiving marking from  
Havana.

NA

1855 New York to Havana  
Blue "NA" previously  
used by the "EMPRESA  
DE CORREOS MARITIMOS"





NA

1858 New York to Havana  
with reception "NA"  
black, large type.

NA

1858 New York to Havana  
with reception "NA"  
green, large type.

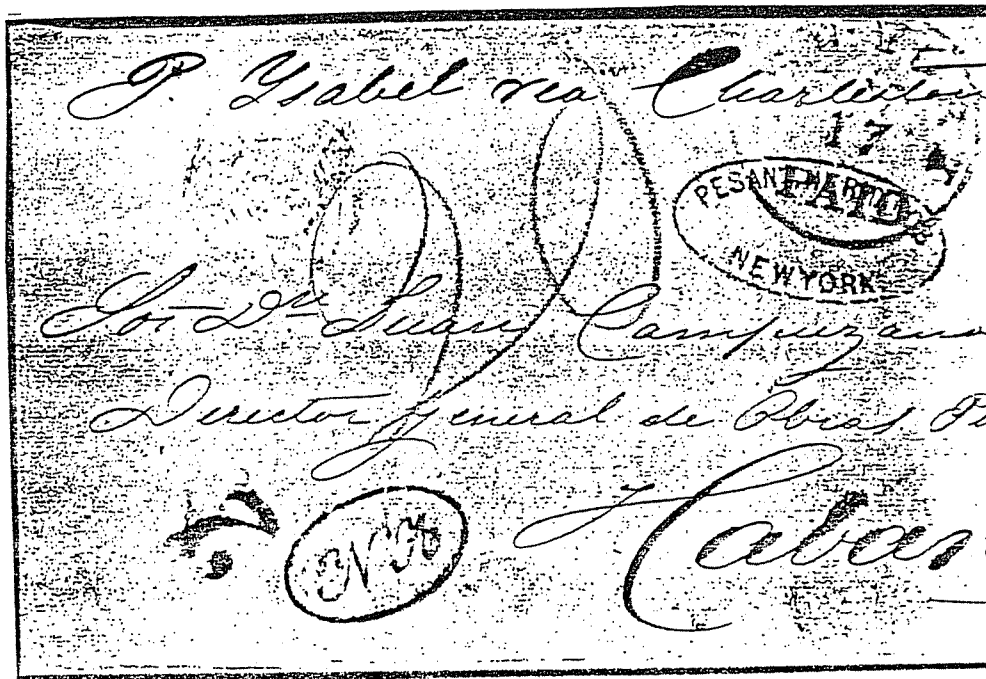


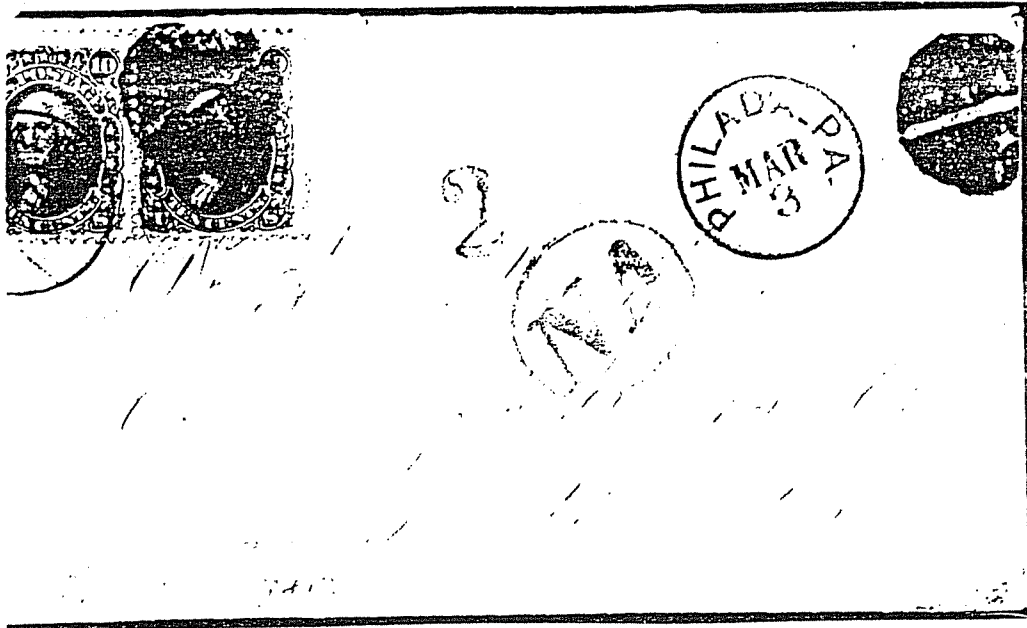
NA

1858 Philadelphia to Santiago de Cuba  
via New York and Havana. Carried  
from Philadelphia to New York by  
private company where it was put  
in the U.S. Mail.



1850's New York to Havana  
Double weight with  
oval "NA"

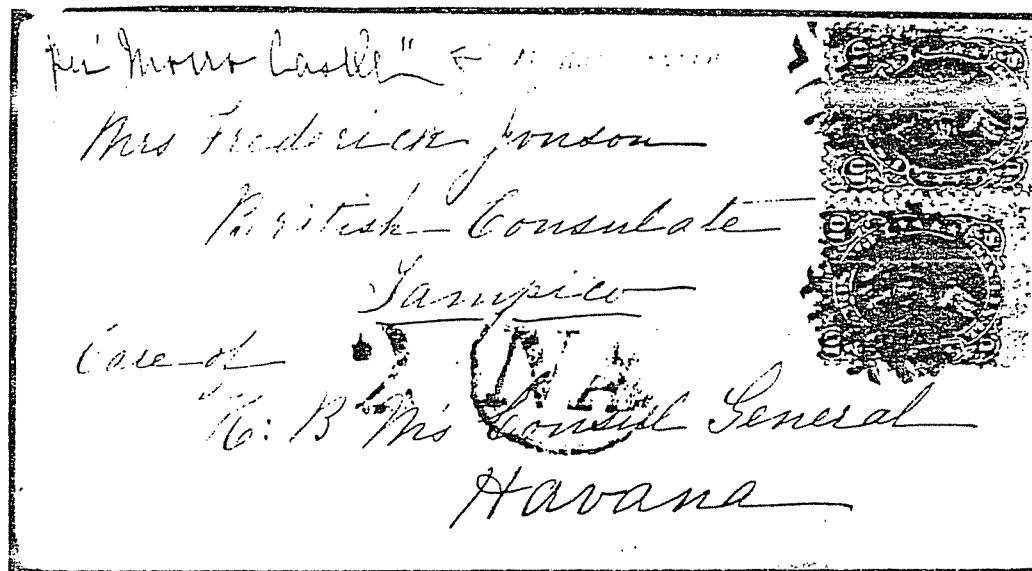


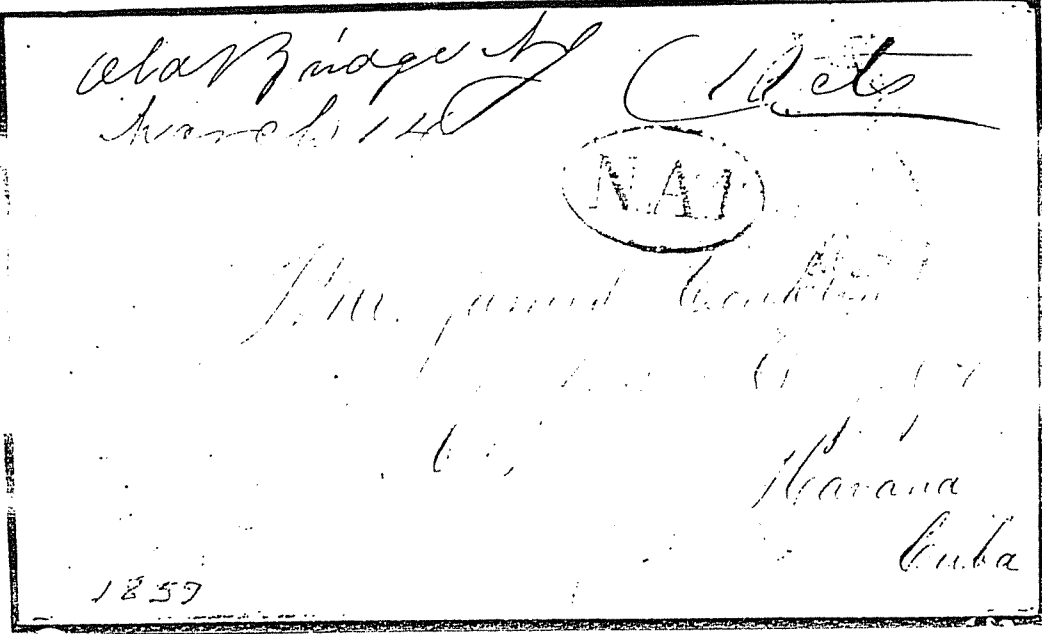


1869 Philadelphia to Santiago de  
via Havana with blue oval  
from Havana. Double weight.



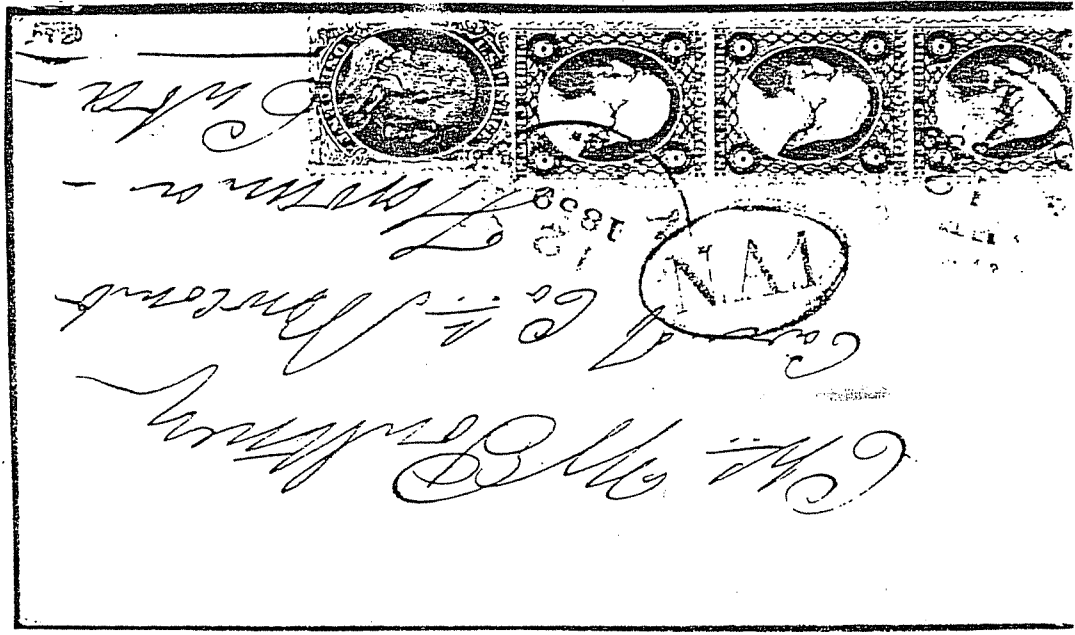
369 U.S. to Tampico forwarded  
by the U.S. Consul in Havana  
with black oval "NA" (Norte-  
america). Double weight letter.

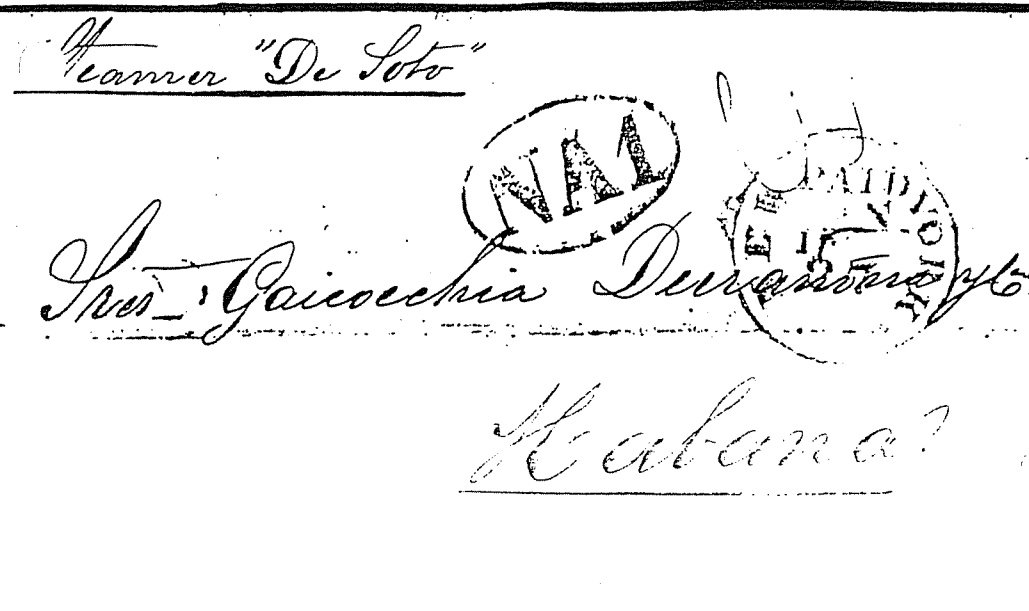




1857 New Jersey to Havana with black oval "NA1", small type.

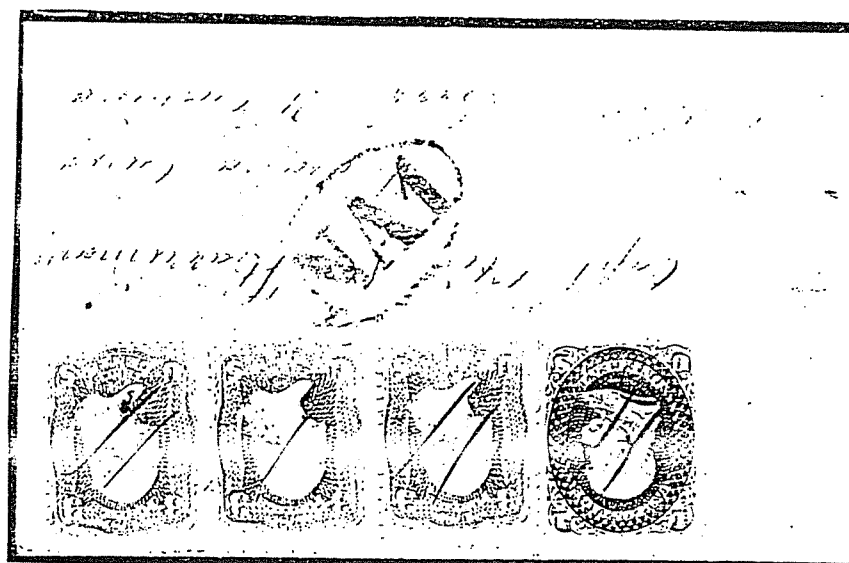
59 New Haven to Havana with black oval "NA1", small type. Franked with three 3c and one 1c U.S. stamps.



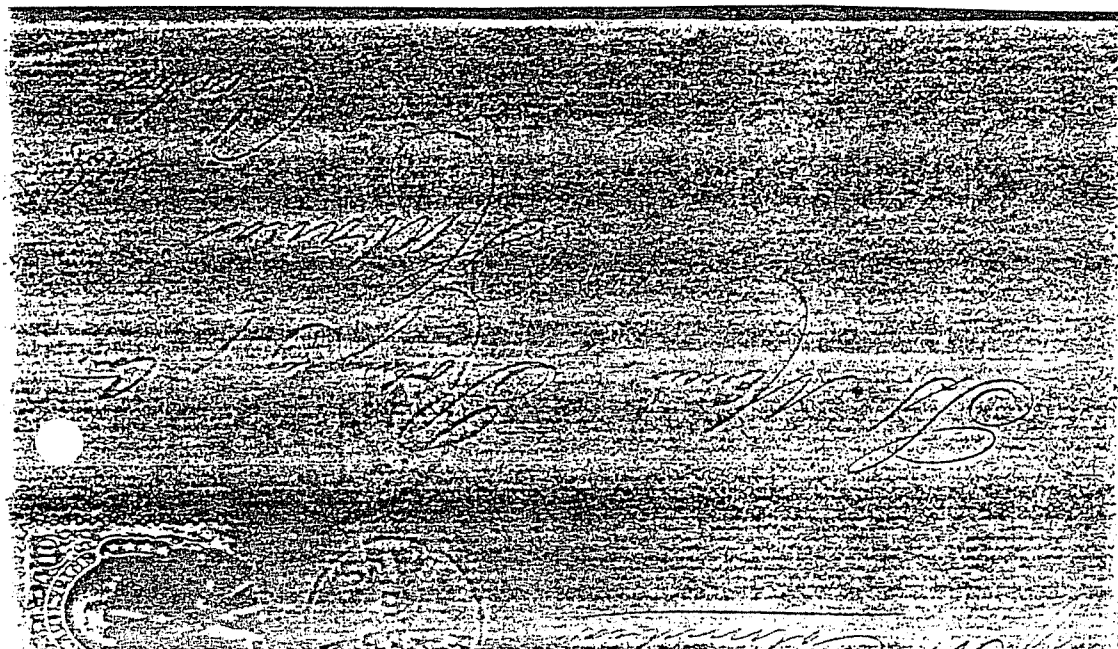


1859 New York to Havana with black oval "NA1" intermediate type.

1859 New York to Havana with black oval "NA1" intermediate type, franked with four U.S. stamps.

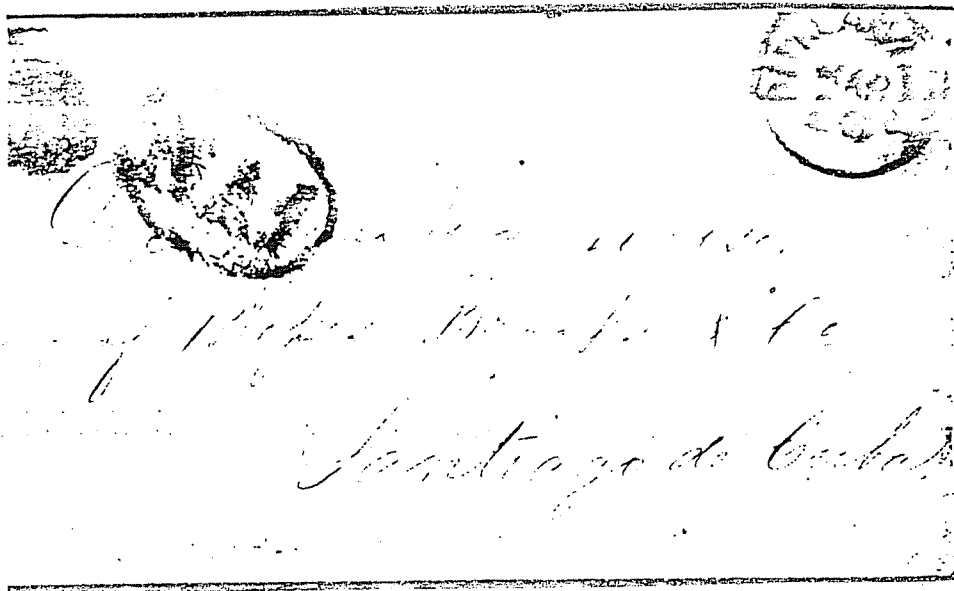
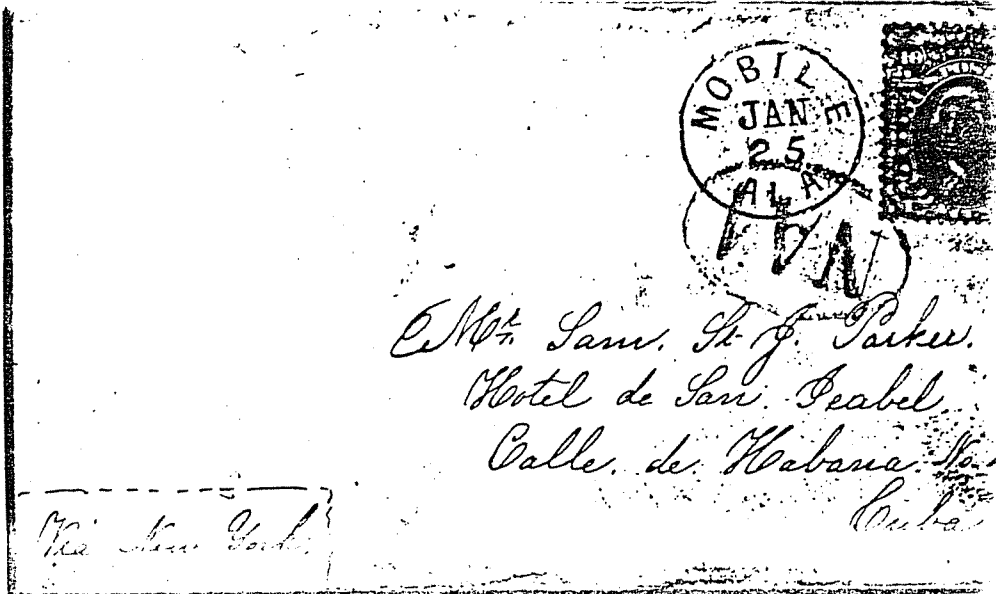


1868 Boston to Havana with oval "NA1", large typ



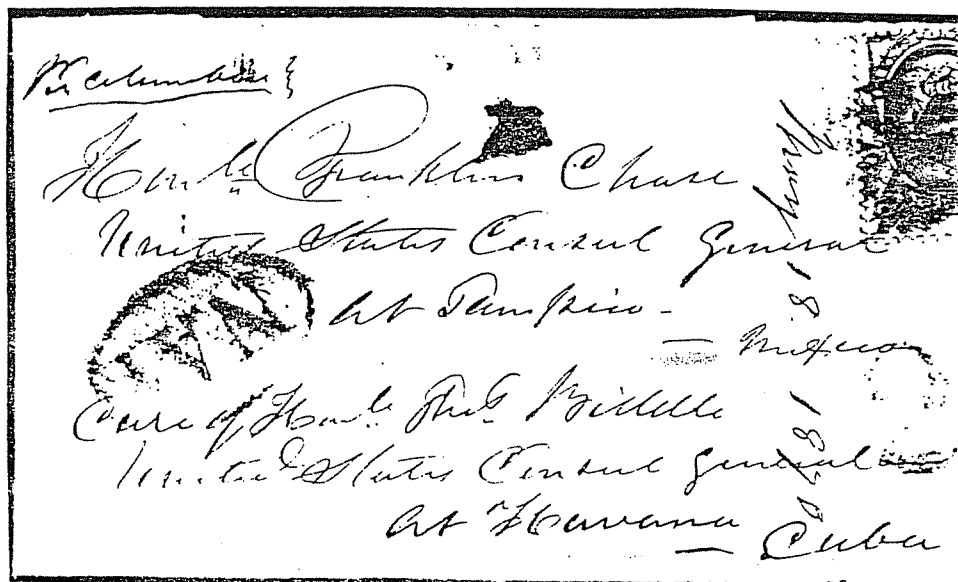


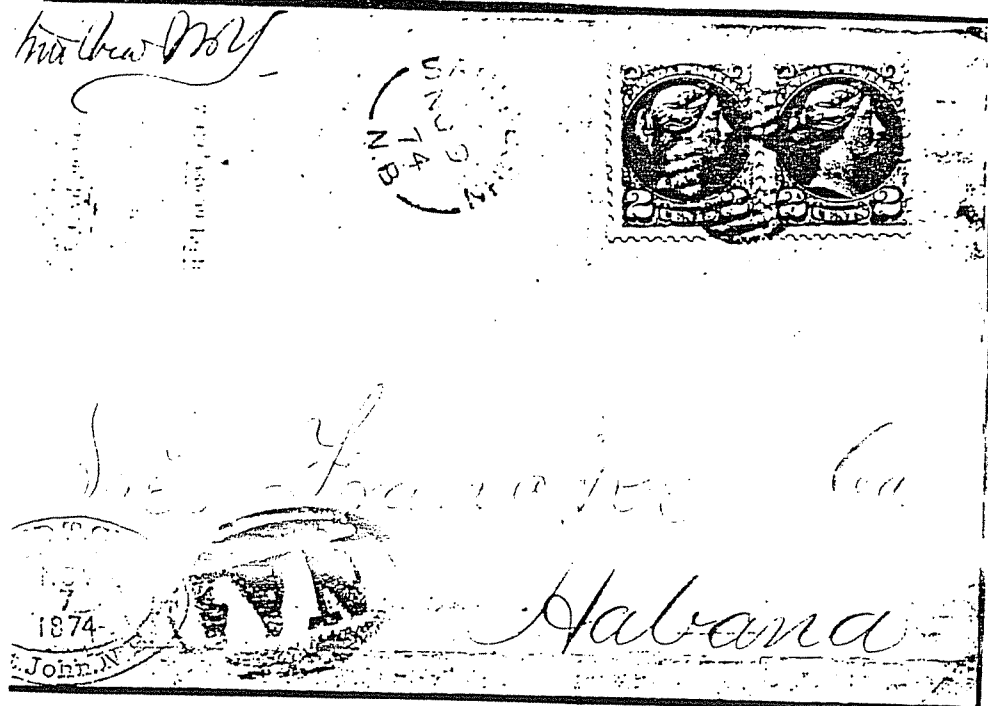
1867 Mobile, Alabama to Havana  
with black oval "NA1", large  
type, franked with one U.S.  
10c stamp.



1870 Philadelphia to Santiago de Cuba  
via Havana with black oval "NA1",  
large type, franked with one U.S.  
10c stamp.

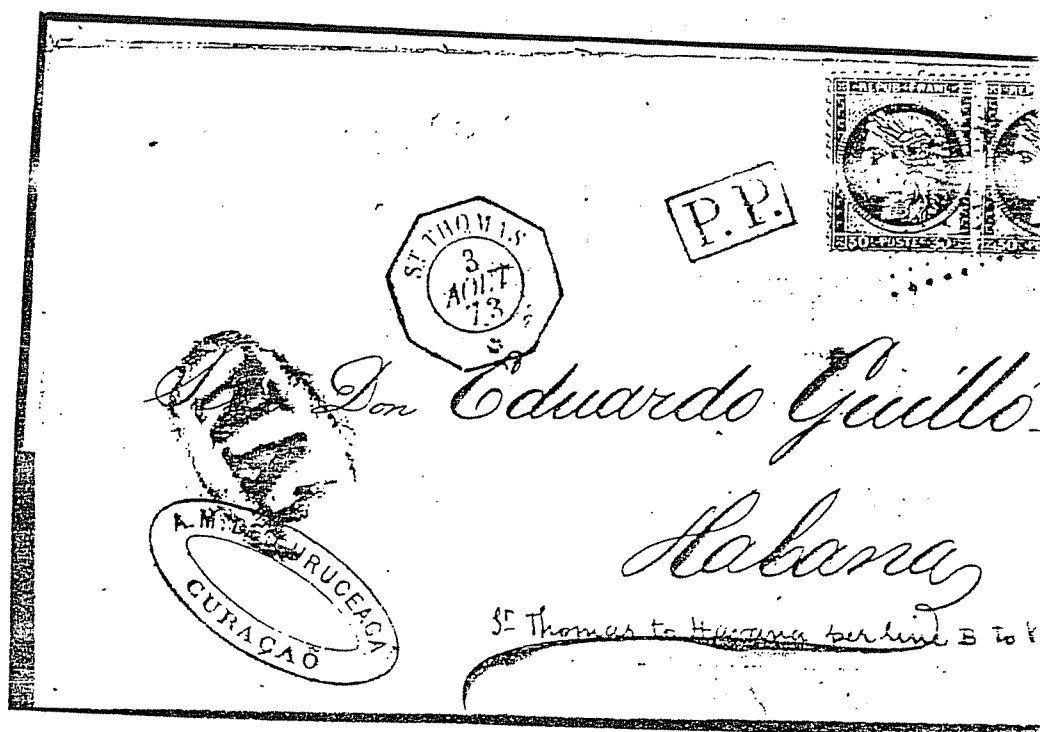
170 U.S. to Tampico, forwarded by the  
U.S. Consul in Havana with black oval  
"NA1", large type, franked with one  
U.S. 10c stamp.





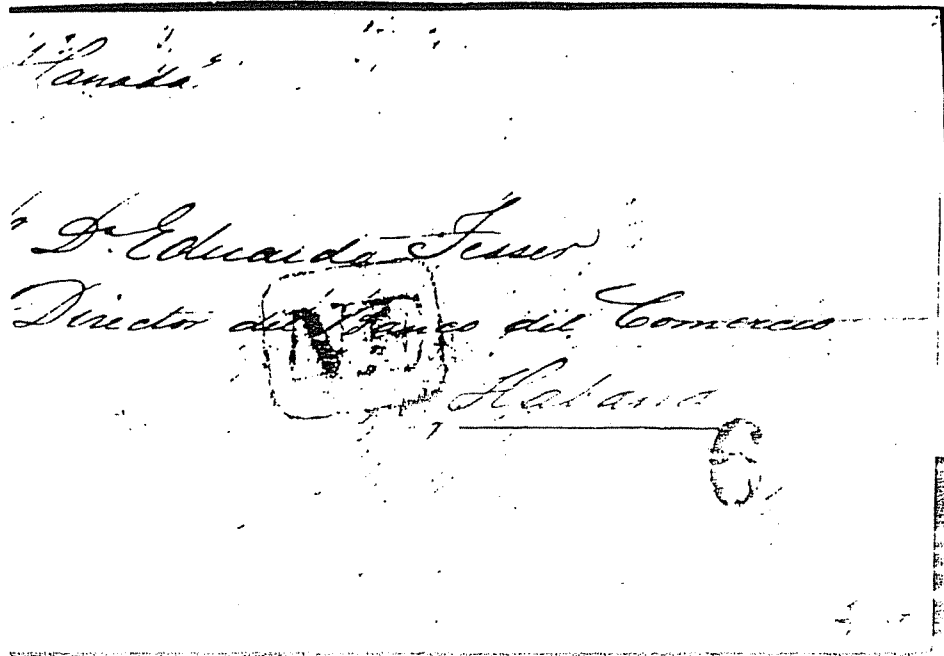
NA1

1874 St. John, New Brunswick, Canada.  
Havana, with black oval "NA1",  
type, franked with two 2c Canada  
stamps.



Curacao to Havana via St. Thomas  
by French Mail franked with two 30c  
stamps and with black oval "NA1",  
large type.

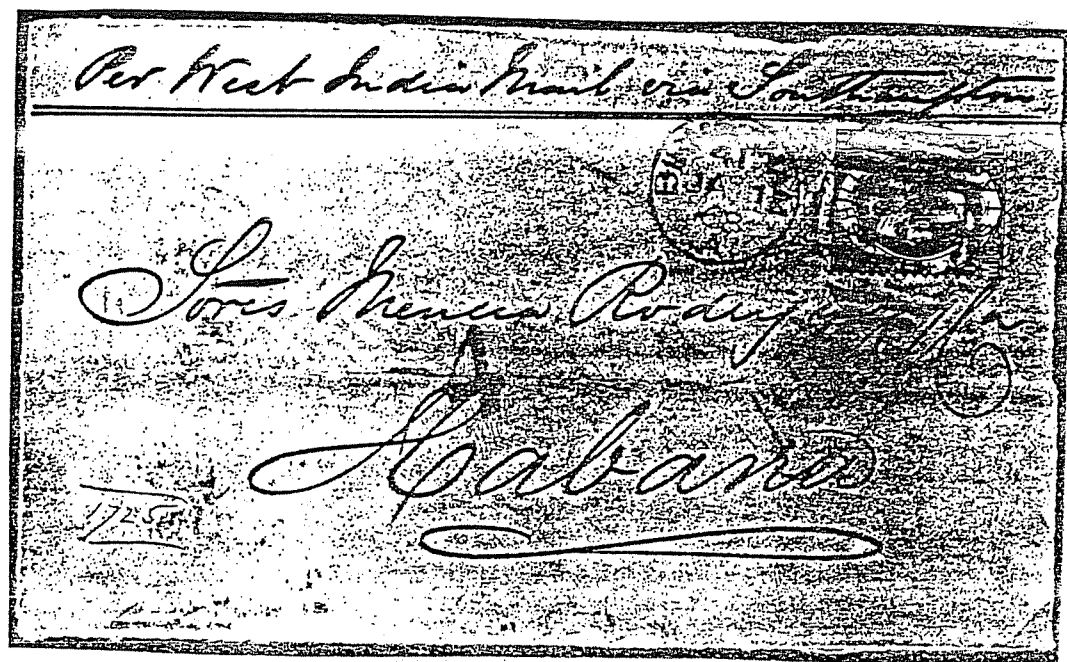
St. Thomas to Havana per line B to F.



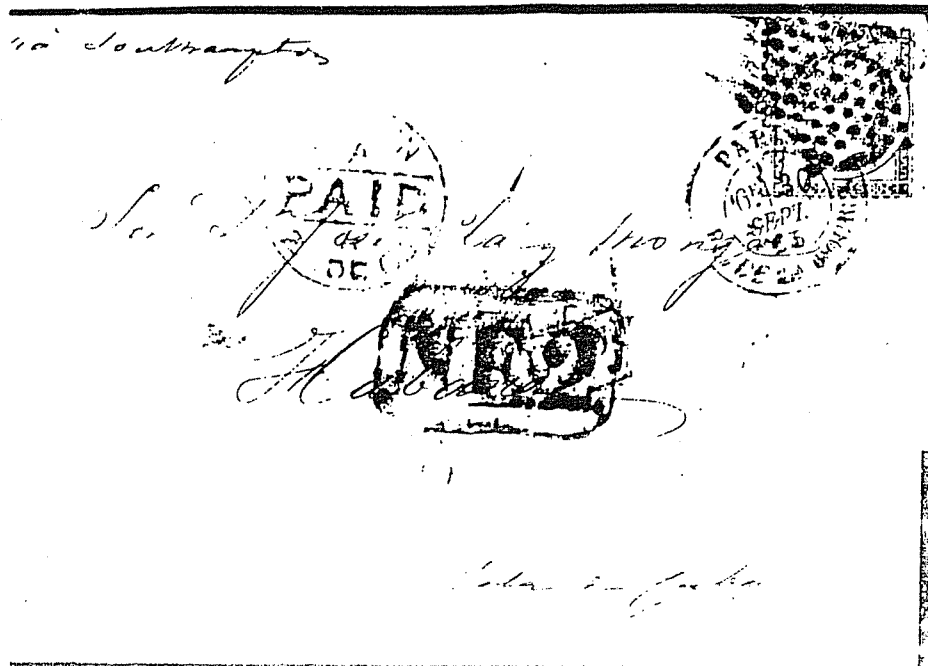
1860 England to Havana with  
black framed "NE"



1868 England to Havana with  
blue framed "NE"





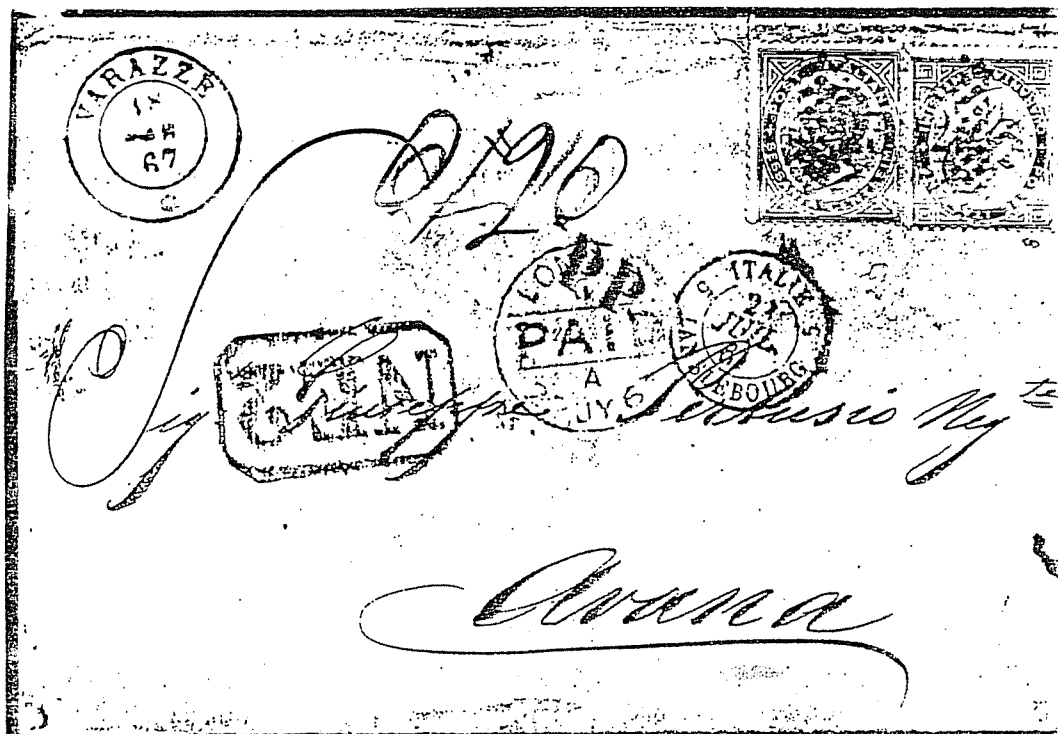


NE2

1865 Paris to Havana with black boxed "NE2" franked with one 80c French stamp.

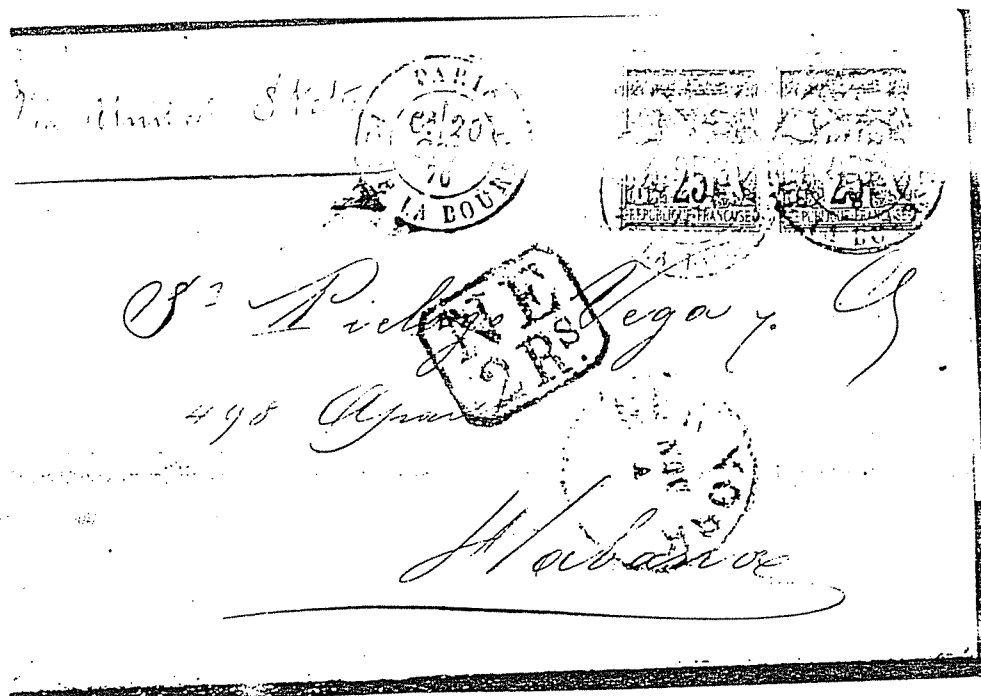
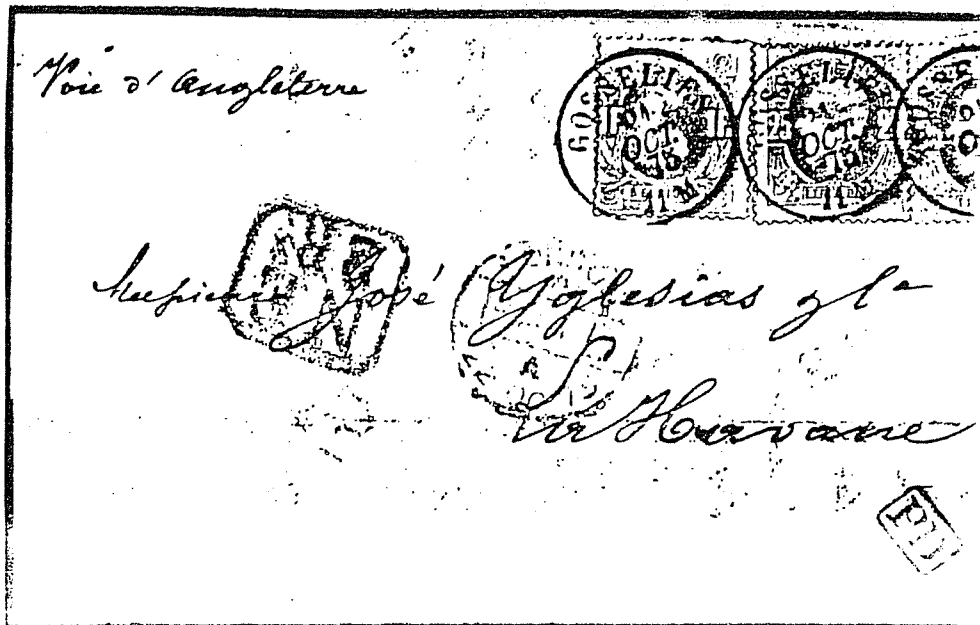
NE2

57 Italy to Havana with blue boxed "NE2" franked with two Italian stamps.



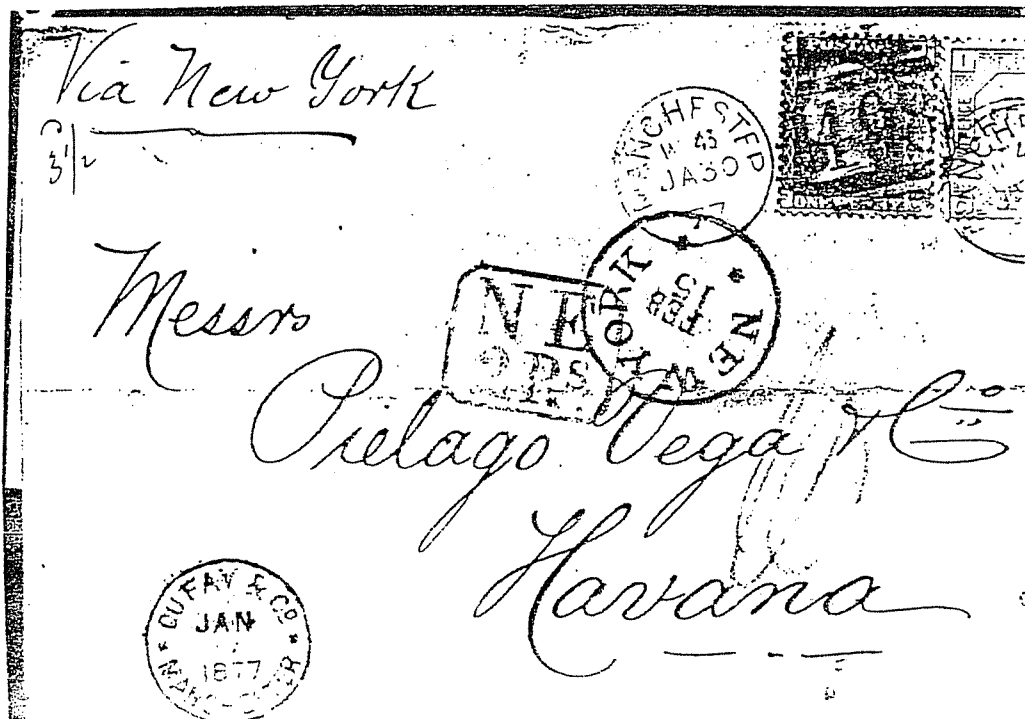


1875 Belgium to Havana with  
black framed "NE/ 2Rs."



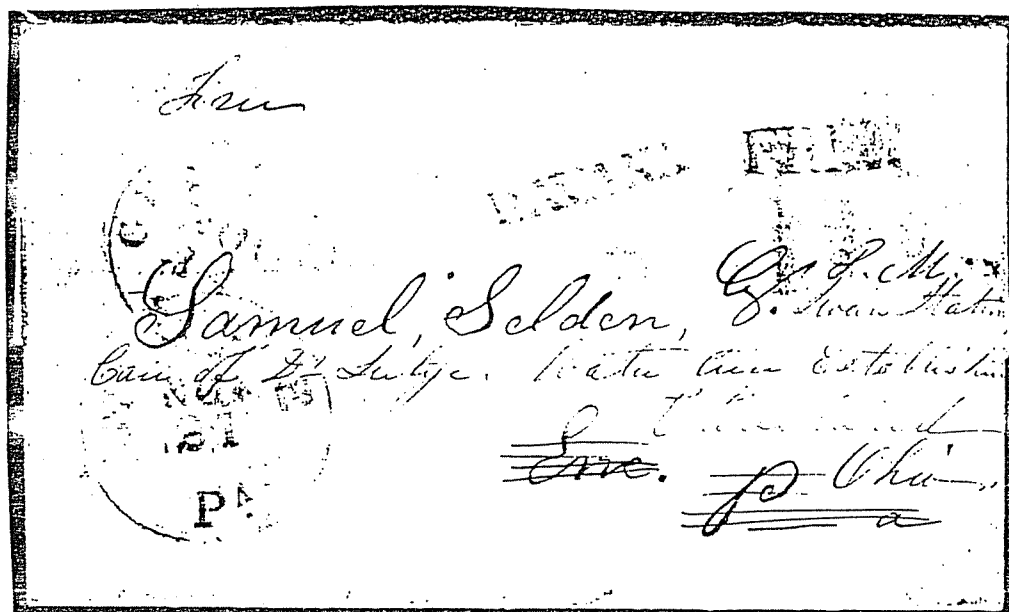
1876 Paris to Havana with  
black framed "NE/ 2Rs."

1877 England to Havana with  
black framed "NE/ 2Rs."

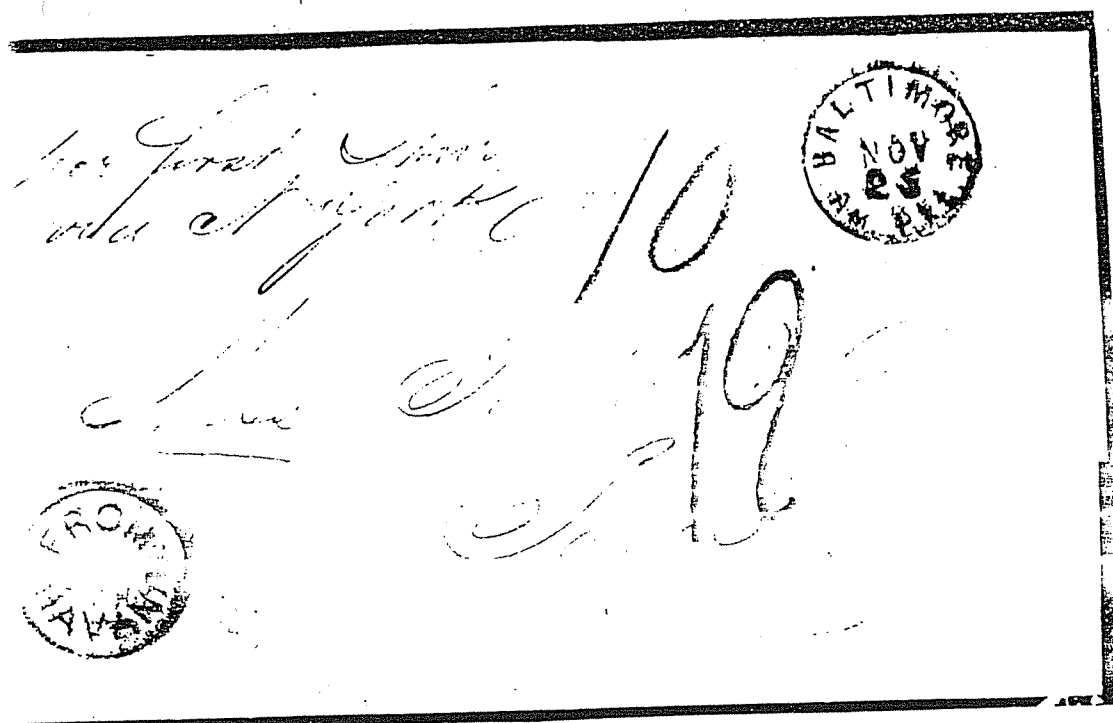




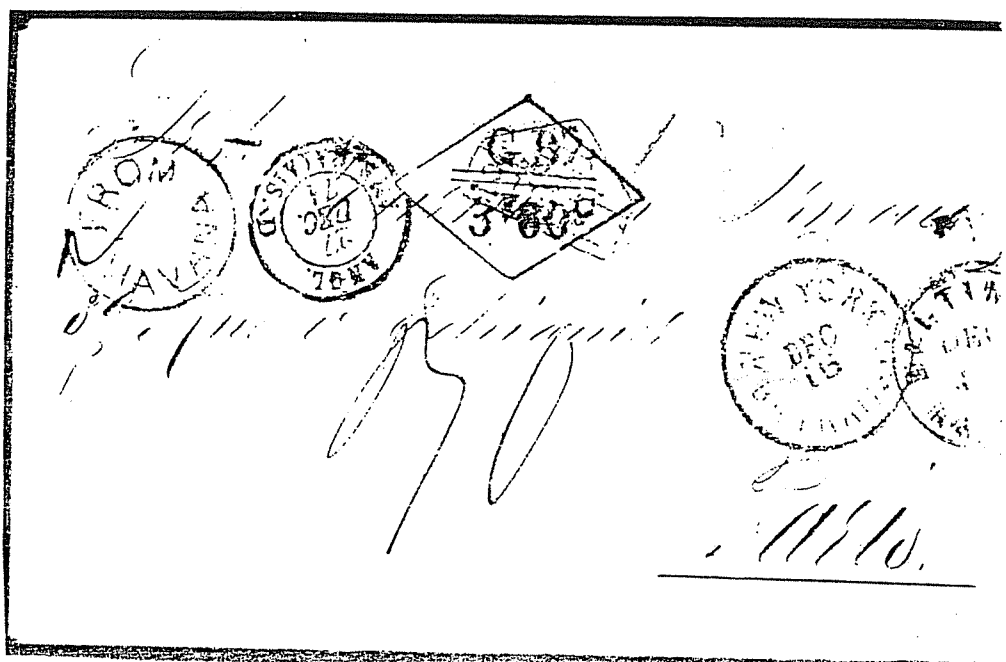
HAVANA



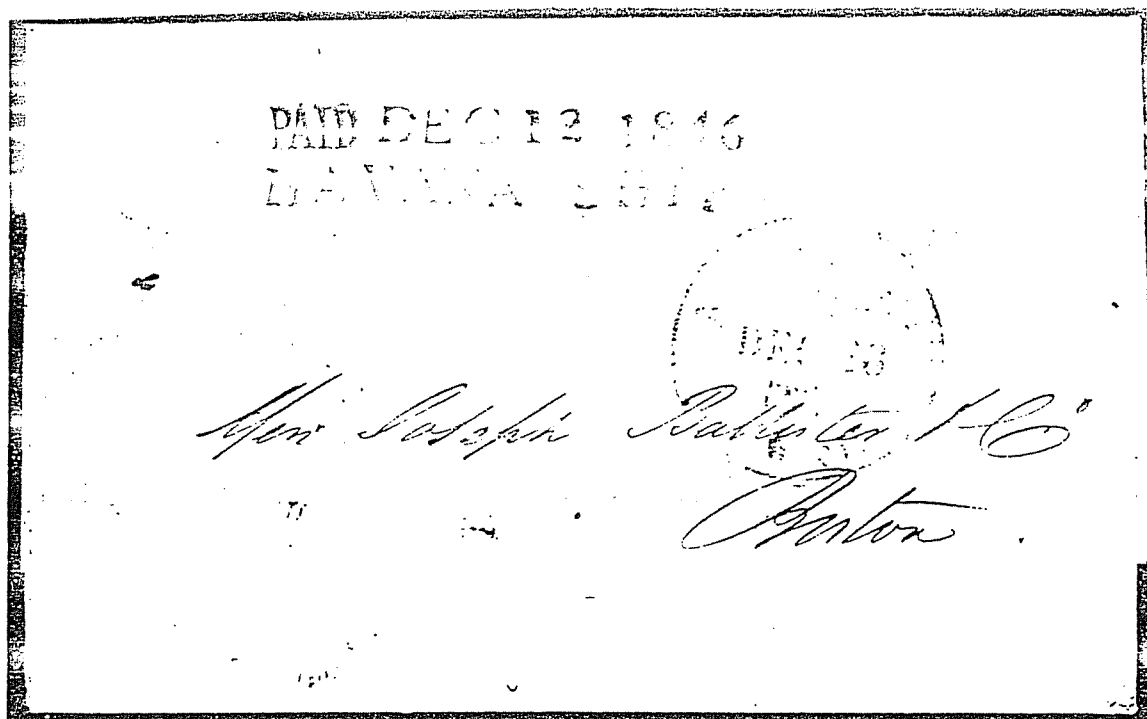
1854 Havana to Cleveland via Charleston with blue straight line "HAVANA" which was used for multiple weight letter.  
Only example recorded in blue.



1869 Havana to Paris via Ba  
with black circle "FROM  
applied in transit\* at b



371 Havana to Paris via Baltimore  
with black circle "FROM HAVANA"  
and two different French accoun-  
tancy markings. Very rare cover.



1846 Havana to Boston via New York with unique  
"PAID DEC 12 1846 / HAVANA SHIP", probably  
applied on the ship that carried the letter.

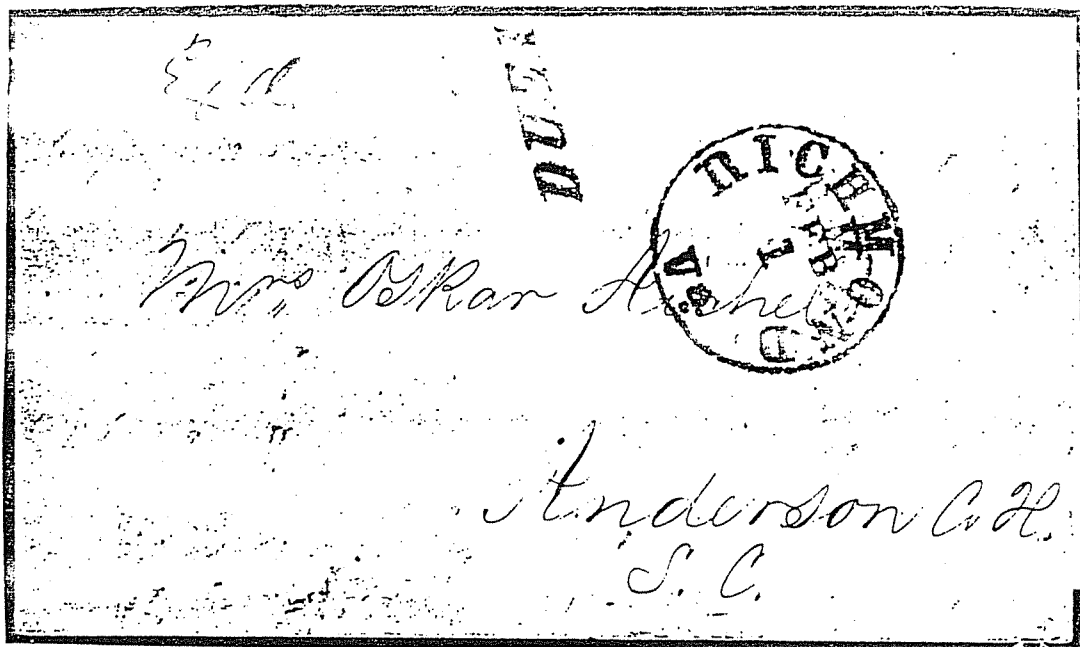
U.S. MAIL STEAMSHIP  
PAID HERE  
NOV 15 1866  
St. Jago.

PAID  
St. Jago



Messrs Lammann & Kessels  
69 Water Street  
New York  
W. S. K.

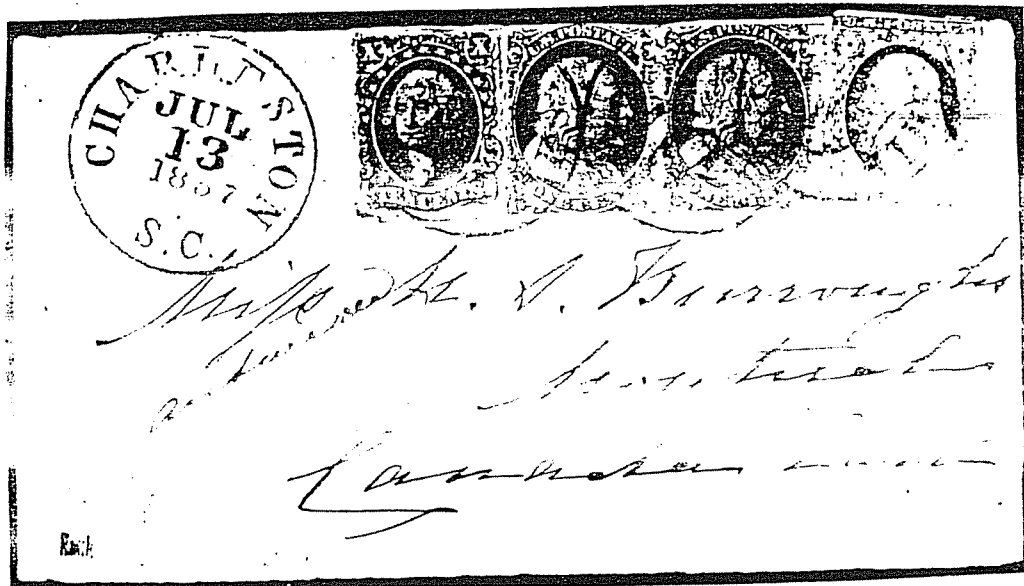
1866 Santiago de Cuba to New York by Steamer "FAHKEE"  
Original stamp was removed since mail to the U.S.  
need not be pre-paid. (U.S. Steamships only)



1864 Havana to Anderson Court House, South Carolina  
by "Flag of Truce" to Richmond, Virginia where  
it entered the mail and was examined (upper left  
corner).

Cuba-Confederate States Mail during the U.S. Civil  
War is extremely rare.





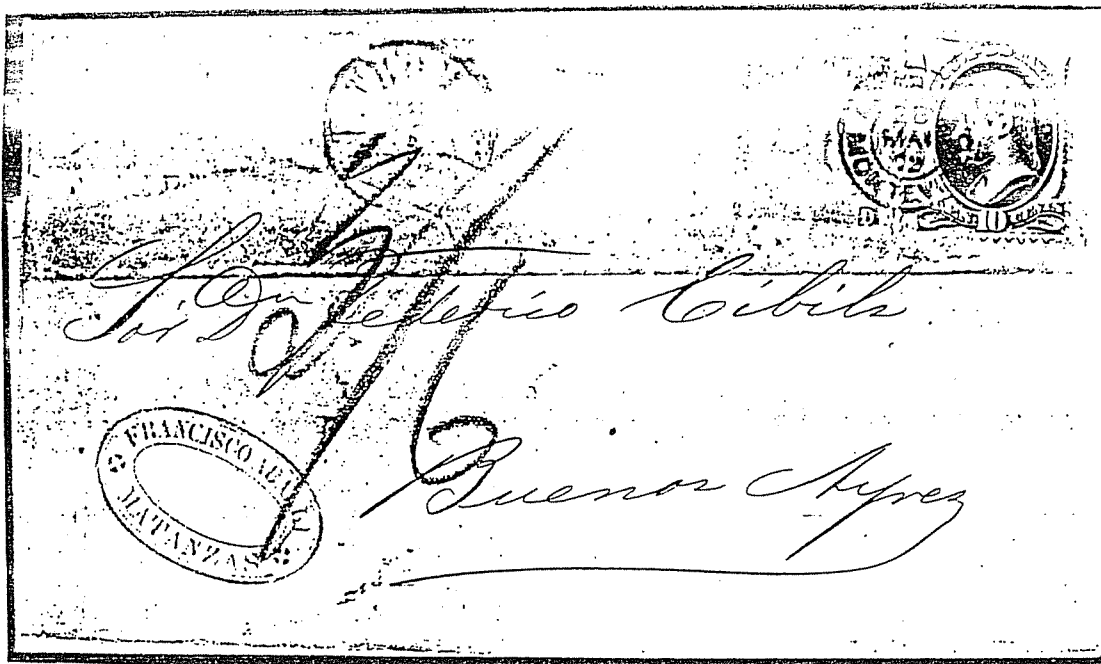
1857 Havana to Montreal via Charleston  
pre-paid with U.S. stamps. 15 c  
rate to Canada (via U.S.).  
Very rare stamp.

1862 Havana to Quebec via New York  
Double weight rate to Canada  
(30 cent rate).





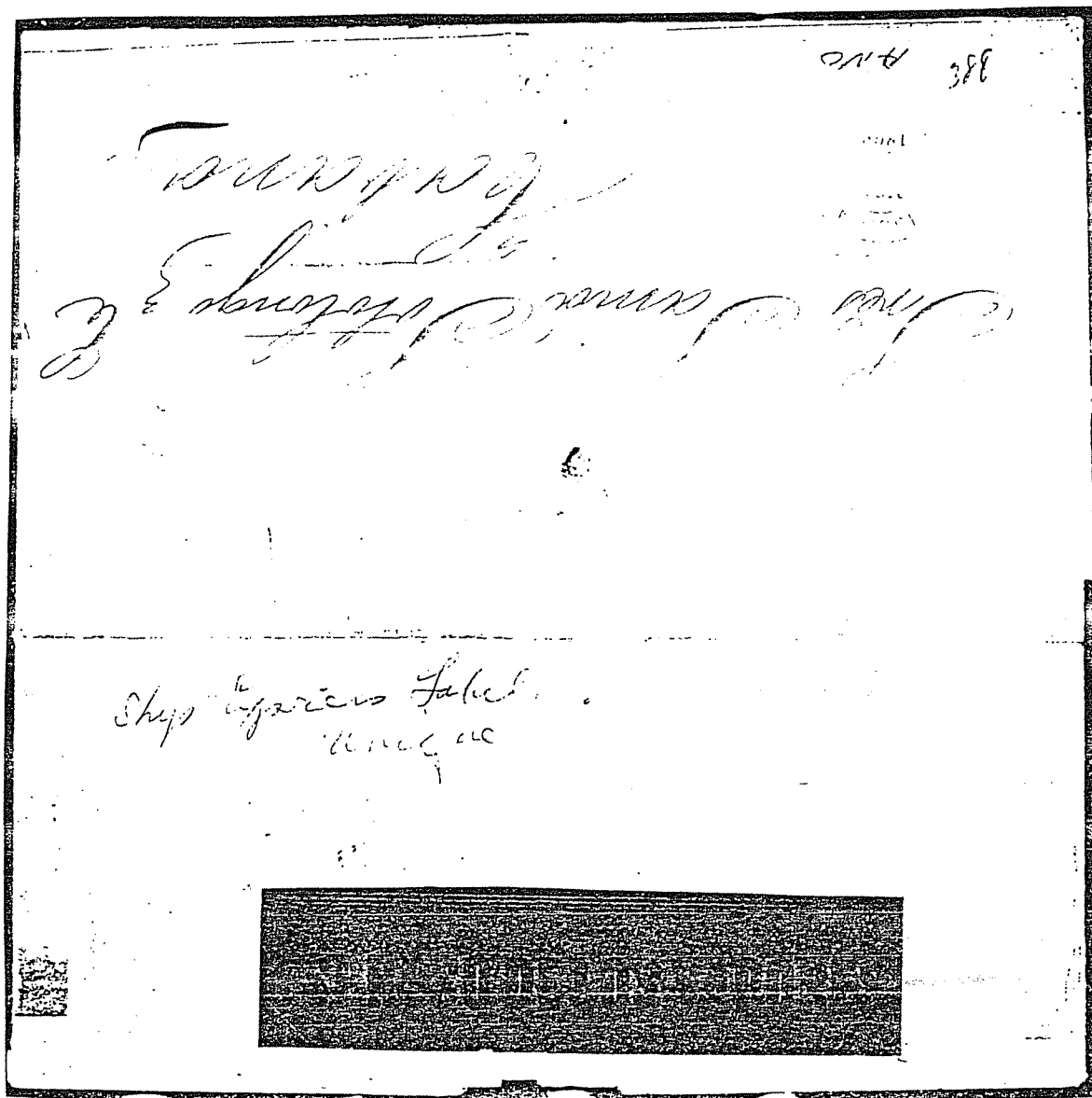
- 1874 Havana to Barcelona via New York pre-paid with four 25c Cuban stamps, six 10c and one 2c U.S. stamps, cancelled with circular black "N. YORK STEAMSHIP". Stamps were affixed in Cuba. Very few covers with this combination recorded.



1872 Matanzas to Buenos Aires, Argentina by the "United States and Brazil Steamship Company" via St. Thomas and Montevideo, Uruguay. Mixed franking from GB and U.S.

Very few covers traveled this route.

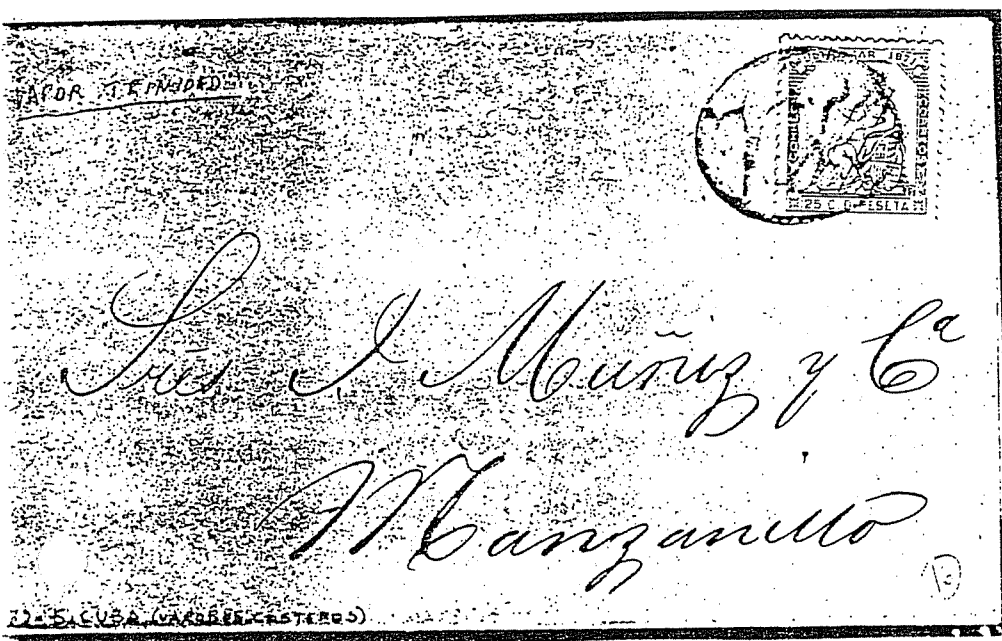
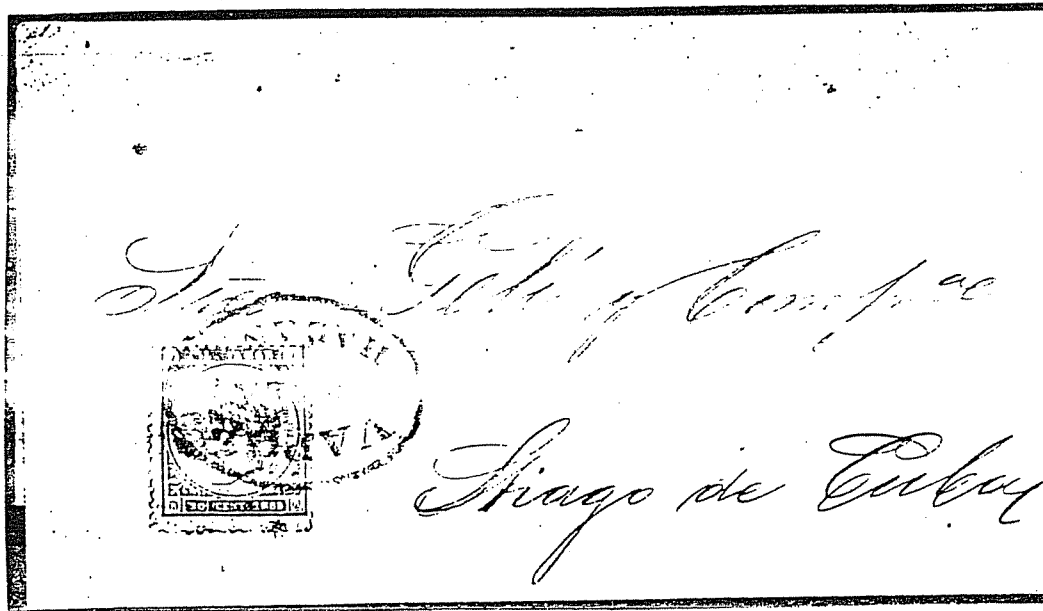
COASTAL MAIL



1866 Matanzas to Havana by Coastal Mail (North)  
with the very rare label "ESPRESSO DE LOS  
VAPORES". Very few known.



69 Havana to Santiago de Cuba  
by Coastal Mail (South)  
with oval black hand stamp  
"VAPOR DE LA HABANA" and  
10c Cuban stamp.



1872 Santiago de Cuba to Manzanillo  
by Coastal Mail (South)  
with oval black hand stamp  
and 25c Cuban stamp.

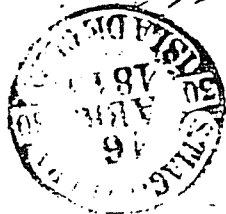
*in Florida*  
*W. H. H.*  
*W. H. H.*

11/11/11

Respirada y encasimada por

Arrest Tinsley 7/6/18

Station, Tex 22. 1842



Barana 27<sup>th</sup> March 1886

J. C. Bastian

Forwarded by E. F. Lucas major &c.  
15th Sept 1848

1842 New Orleans to Cadiz via Havana  
with manuscript forwarding agent  
"ACEVAL PINERO Y CIA". Arrived  
from Cuba to Spain by regular  
Spanish mail with black straight  
line "HABANA" marking.

1846 Mexico to St. Thomas via Havana and Santiago de Cuba with double manuscript forwarding agents in Havana: "A. BASTIAN" and "CASA MAJOR & Co.". This letter was placed in the Spanish Mail in Santiago de Cuba.

1865 Matanzas to Bremen via Havana  
and New York forwarded by  
"GUST.MEYER, HABANA"

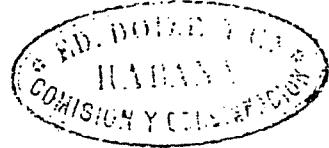
*Via New York.*

*Friedr Meyer*  
*Bremen*

1854 Cardenas to Paris via Havana  
and New York forwarded by  
"FESSER Y CO" AND "GOODEYE & CO"

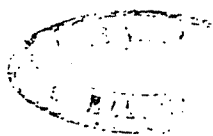
1517

1515



1862 Manzanillo to New York  
via Havana forwarded by  
"ED.DOIZE Y CIA"

*Mrs. S. S. S. S. S.*



*H. I. Lamman y Kemp*  
*Com*

*N York*

1854 Campeche, Mexico to New York  
 via Havana, forwarded by  
 "SANTOS VILLAVEERDE"



1865 Campeche to New York via Havana  
 forwarded by "SANTOS VILLAVEERDE"

*H. I. Lamman y Kemp*  
*69 Water St*  
*N York*

*via Havana*




*Merida de Arana Co*  
*Merida*


1868 England to Merida via Havana,  
 forwarded by "SANTOS VILLAVEERDE"



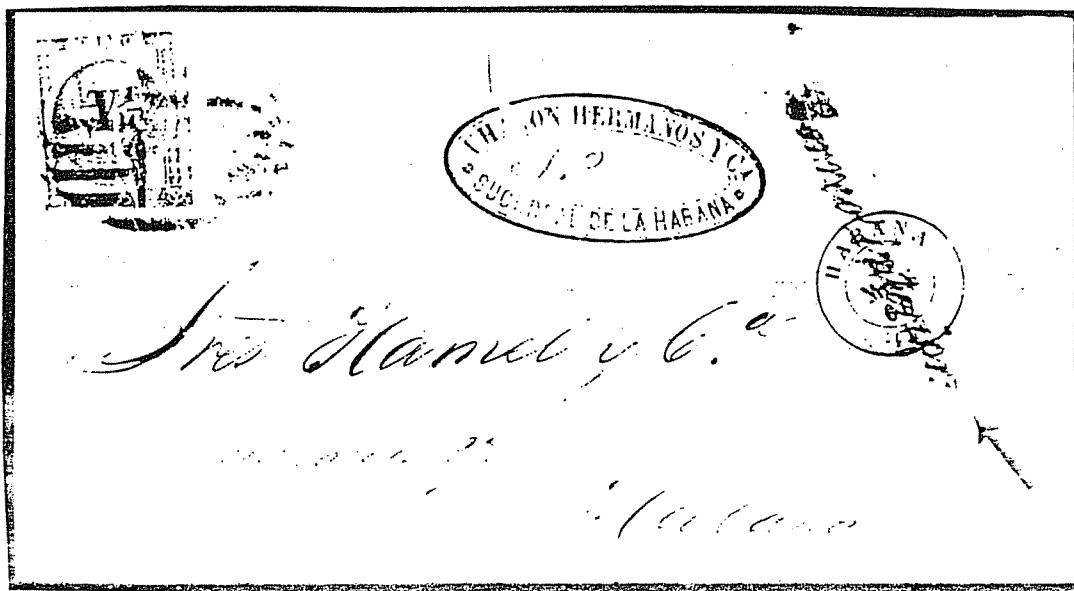
[illegible]

  
 J. P. Kennedy  
 Secretary

A circular postmark from Havana, Cuba. The text "HABANA." is in the center. The outer ring contains "ESTABLISHED BY" at the top and "FOREIGN MAILING CO." at the bottom. The date "1900" is partially visible on the right side.



FORWARDED BY  
BUSING, STAHLER & CO.  
HAVANA.

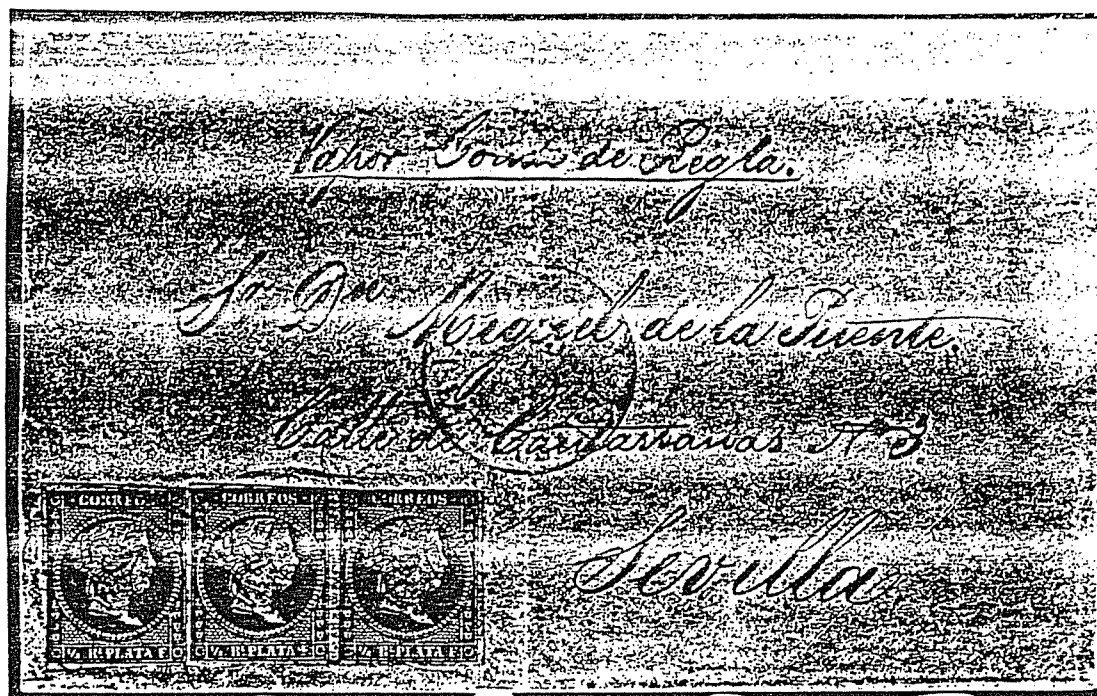


1800 Havana, Interior Mail, franked with a Y 1/4 Cuban stamp and rare straight line marking "CORREO INTERIOR".  
Very few covers recorded.



1857 Bordeaux to Havana franked with a Y 1/4 Cuban stamp for local mail.  
Very few foreign covers with this stamp.

FIRST DAY COVER



April 24, 1855    Havana to Seville by Steamer "CONDE DE REGLA"  
One of the five known First Day Covers of the  
First Cuban stamp.  
This is also the only known cover with multiple  
stamps.