

SPANISH MAIL PACKETS WITH SPAIN

THE CIA. FRANCO-AMERICANA DE VAPOR, 1856-58

The Franco-American company of steamers owned by the Gauthier brothers, with headquarters in Lyon and Paris began its operations in 1856. This was the second attempt by a French company to enter the highly competitive world of transatlantic transportation. The Gauthier brothers' company was, at least at the outset, a completely private venture, without any governmental subsidies to provide their service.

There were eleven trips made from Havana to Cadiz starting 12th of June, 1857 and ending 16th of April, 1858. With the following covers will be mention the name of the ship, the date of departure and arrival in Spain if possible. All the covers have no watermarks, otherwise, will be indicated.

Steamship Franc-Comtois, French flag, 12th July, 1857.

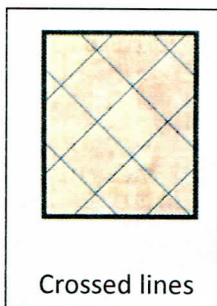
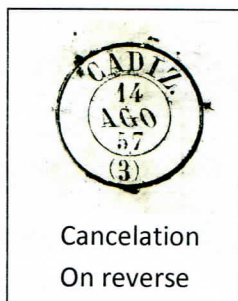
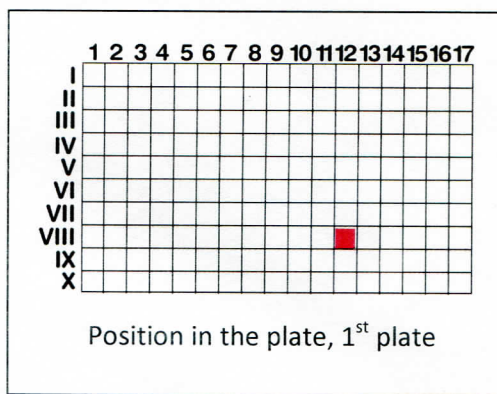
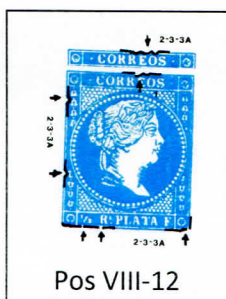
2nd trip to Spain.

Length 260 ft

Bean 36.90 ft

Moulded depth 20.00 ft

200 horse power



Cover sent from Havana origin to Cadiz, southern city in Spain, final destination bearing one stamp of ½ RPF for a single rate to Spain up to ½ ounce of weight. The cover left the harbor of Havana the 12th July, 1857 by the steamship Franc-Comtois reaching Cadiz the 14th August, 1857.

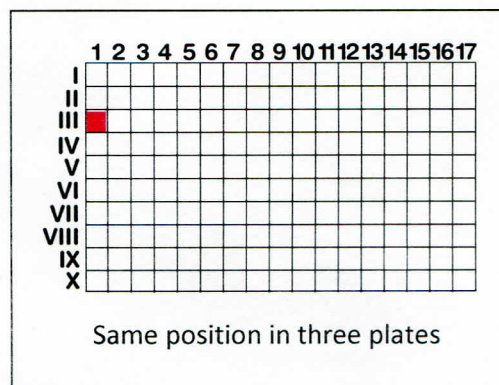
Steamship Barcelona, French flag, 12th August, 1857.

3rd trip to Spain

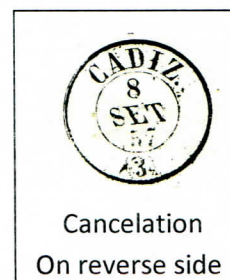
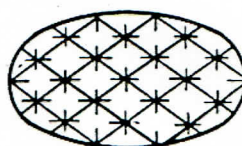
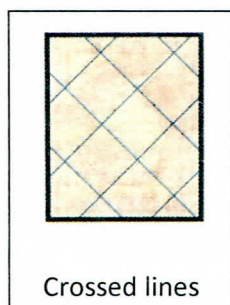
Length 392 ft

Beam 38 ft

Ship Captain "L. Marie"



Cover sent from Havana origin to Cadiz, southern city in Spain, final destination bearing one stamp of $\frac{1}{2}$ RPF for a single rate to Spain up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of weight. The cover left the harbor of Havana the 12th August, 1857 by the steamship Barcelona reaching Cadiz the 8th September, 1857.



Steamship Alma, French Flag, 12th September, 1857.

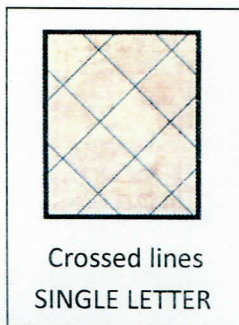
4th trip to Spain.

Length 392 ft

Beam 36 ft

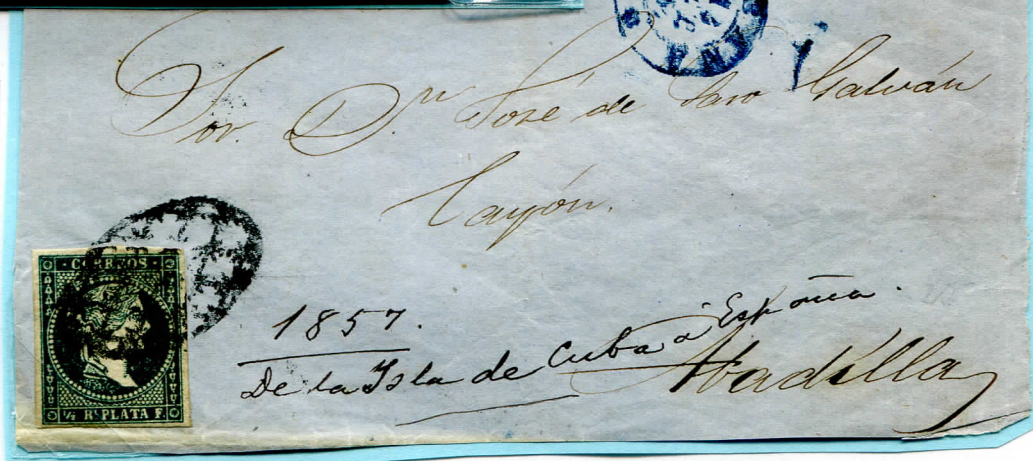
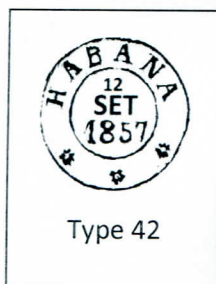
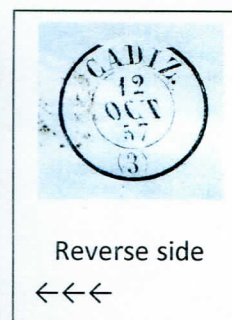
Moulded depth 18 ft

Ship Captain "Bocande"



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
I																	
II																	
III																	
IV																	
V																	
VI																	
VII																	
VIII																	
IX																	
X																	

Position on the plate, for
double rate letter
CORRFOS III-12



Front of cover from Havana origin to Abadilla (province of Santander Spain final destination) bearing one stamp ½ RPF, cross lines, for a single rate to Spain up to ½ ounce of weight.

The other cover bears two stamps of ½ RPF, no water marks, with a total fee of 1 RPF for a double rate to Spain up to 1 ounce of weight. The covers left the harbor of Havana the 12th September, 1857 by the steamship Alma reaching Santander the 11th and Cadiz the 12th of October, 1857.

Queen Isabella II

CUBA 1857

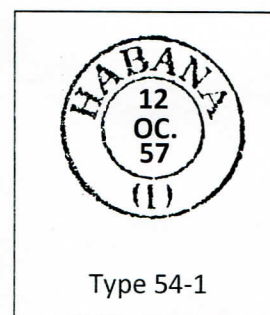
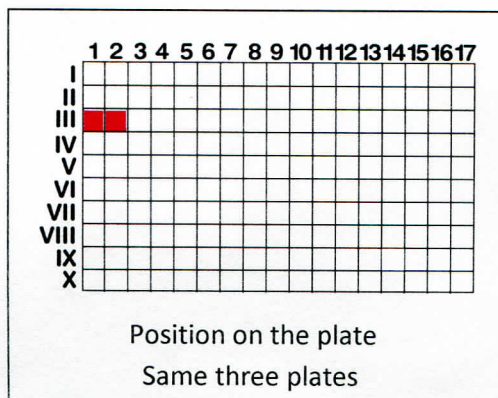
Steamship Cádiz, French flag, 12th October, 1857.

5th trip to Spain.

Length 271 ft

Beam 37 ft

Ship Captain "Suart"



Cover sent from Havana origin to Cadiz, southern city in Spain, final destination bearing two stamps of ½ RPF for a double rate to Spain up to 1 ounce of weight. The cover left the harbor of Havana the 12th October, 1857 by the steamship Cádiz reaching Cádiz the 15th November, 1857.

Steamship Alma, 12th December, 1857

7th trip to Spain.



1-2-2A

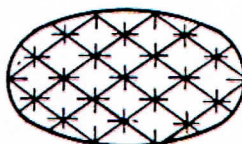
Pos, III-9



Tipo III

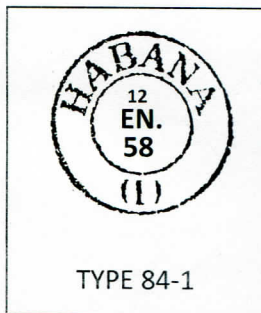
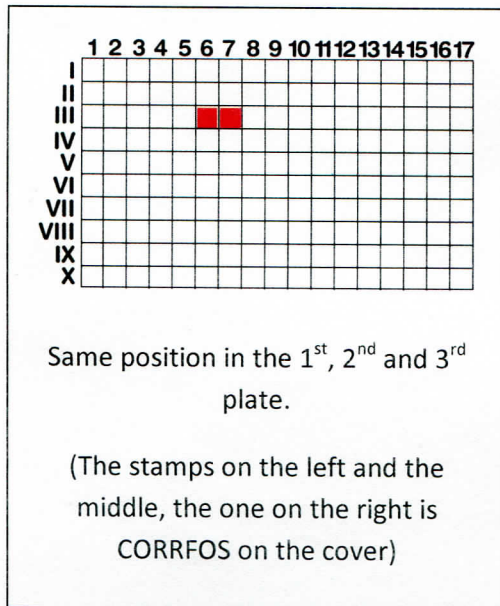


Cover from Santiago de Cuba (Principal Administration, Oriente Prov.) to Saltadero closed to Santa Cruz, Canary Islands. The cover left Santiago de Cuba to Havana to get the next steamship in schedule to Spain. Based on the information the date of departure was supposed to be the 12th of December, but some annotations indicate that the scheduled trips were not necessarily the actual departures. The cover bears one stamp of 1 RPF for a double rate to Spain up to one ounce of weight to Spain.



Steamship Cadiz, 12th of January, 1858

8th trip to Spain.



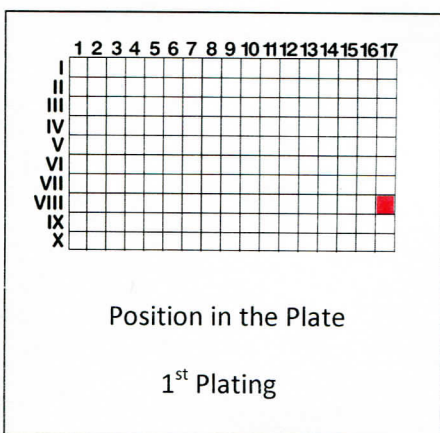
Cover from Havana origin to Cadiz final destination bearing three stamps of ½ RPF with a total of 1 ½ RPF for a triple rate to Spain up to 1 ½ ounce of weight. The cover left the harbor of Havana the 12th of January, 1858 by the steamship "Cadiz" arriving at Cadiz 31st of January, 1858.

Steamship Franc-Comtois, 12th February, 1858

9th trip to Spain.



VIII-17



Cover from Havana origin to Barcelona final destination bearing a stamp of ½ RPF for a single rate to Spain up to ½ ounce of weight. The cover left the harbor of Havana the 12th of February, 1858 by the Steamship "Franc-Comtois" arriving at Barcelona 11th March, 1858. The stamp, no water marks, is the famous "Pinocchio" just before the deformation or flaw of the noise (1st Plate).



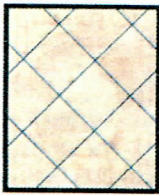
Barcelona arrival cancelation



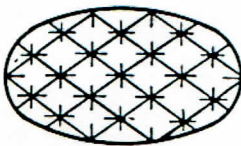
Type 84-1

Steamship Barcelona, 12th of March, 1858

10th trip to Spain.



Crossed Lines
Water mark



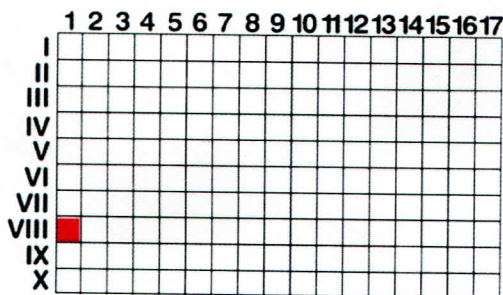
Type 1



Type 84-1



Cover from Havana origin to Villa de Orotava in Tenerife, Canary Islands final destination bearing one stamp of ½ RPF representing the single rate to Spain up to ½ ounce of weight. The cover left the harbor of Havana on the 12th of March 1858 arriving on mid of April. Note: The Canary Islands was the region of Spain with a lot of relationship with Cuba due to the large amount of immigrants.



Position in the plate



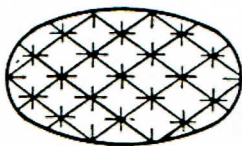
Position VIII-1
CORRFOS

Steamship Alma, 16th April, 1858

11th trip to Spain and last.



IV-6



Type 1



Cover from Havana origin to Omono (Santander Province) final destination bearing one stamp of ½ RPF for a single rate to Spain up to ½ ounce of weight. The cover left the harbour of Havana 16th of April, 1858, arriving at Santander 20th of May, 1858 being the last trip to Spain by this company.



Type 42



Santander cancelation