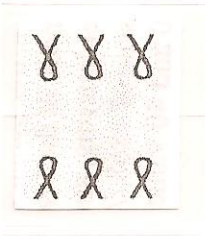


Spanish Antilles

The first official mention of the proposed issue of West Indian stamps is to be found in the Royal Decree dated at Madrid, September 1, 1854, which, however, without having been put into effect, was modified by further decree of December 18th. Stamps were to be used for the payment of postage beginning March 1, 1855. The stamps were engraved by Don Jose Perez Varela. The die was assembled into plates of 170 plates arranged in 17 columns of the 10 rows. The size is 18.5 mm by 22.5 mm and bears a portrait of Queen Isabella II facing right.

FIRST ISSUE, April 24, 1855.

Typographed on greenish blue, hand made paper watermarked "loops"



1/2 Rl Plata F.
greenish blue



1 Real
green



2 Reales
carmine

SECOND ISSUE, September 13, 1855

Typographed on Yellowish white-blue hand made paper watermarked "loops"



1/2 Rl Plata F.
greenish black



1 Real
bronze green



2 Reales
dull orange



Two 1/2 Real stamps of
1855 issue used from
Havana on Dec. 16, 1856
With destination to
Malaga, Spain.
Cancellation "Parrilla".

THIRD ISSUE, September 1856.

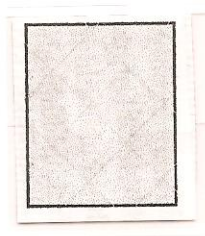
Spanish stamps with the watermark loops were being counterfeited in Spain, so a new issue was placed in circulation in Spain on January 1, 1856. This issue is on rough hand made paper of a yellowish shade, watermarked with cross lines. The patterns of the crossed lines a lattice of perfect squares 7mm on a side. The issue date of the stamp use in Cuba, is estimated to be September 1856 and the earliest date of use as yet noted for Puerto Rico is October 1857.

We find three different values, 1/2r.de Plata Fuerte, 1 R de Plata Fuerte and 2 R. of Plata fuerte. Also, the type of paper goes from thin, medium to thick.

½ REAL DE PLATA FUERTE



Green blueish



green



olive green



blue greenish



Thin Paper



Medium Paper



Thick Paper

Spanish Antilles

1 REAL DE PLATA FUERTE



lite green



green yellowish



green olive



grey greenish



dark green



Thin paper



thick paper

2 REALES DE PLATA FUERTE



red orange

Spanish Antilles

FOURTH ISSUE, late 1856

The fourth printing, called the issue of 1857, was printed on white, wove, machine made, unwatermarked paper. The paper is the same as that used for the Spanish Issue of April 11, 1856, and varies from a very rough paper to a smooth shiny paper in later issues.

There were 3 denominations $\frac{1}{2}$ Real de Plata Fuerte, 1 Real de Plata Fuerte and 2 Reales de Plata Fuerte.

TABLE OF MAILING FEES

	Up to $\frac{1}{2}$ onze	More than an Onze
From Cuba or Puerto Rico To Interior or Spain	$\frac{1}{2}$ R. Plt F.	1 Real de Plt. F.
From Cuba or Puesrto Rico To Philippines	1 Real de Plt. F.	1 Real de Plt for each additional onze

Letter sent from Banamo to Manzanillo using one stamp of $\frac{1}{2}$ Real de Plata Fuerte.
Obliteration of "Parrilla con Cruces"



$\frac{1}{2}$ Real de Plata
Fuerte
Position on all three
Printings

III-1

½ REAL DE PLATA FUERTE

There were different colours found on this stamp. The amount of chemicals and colorants when making the impression on the sheets offered different tones of colors which varies from vary lite blue to a dark blue. Bellow, a list of colors. Note their position number on the plate indicated right underneath.

COLORS

Blue



VII-16

dark blue



VII-14

ultramarine



II-5

Blue greenish



VIII-6

grey blue



III-17

SOME TYPE OF CANCELATIONS USED

THICK LINES
PARRILLA
7 LINES



V-3

PARRILA WITH
STARS



VIII-14

PARRILLA
WITH
9 LINES



IX-2

Spanish Antilles

½ REAL DE PLATA FUERTE



Date-post mark from Veracruz, Mexico
Reverse side

"L. J. Chorro/Veracruz" in front, was the private who took it from Mexico to Cuba

Cover from Veracruz, Mexico. Jan. 31, 1861 to New York, US
Via Habana, Cuba, where it was forward February 16, 1861 with
½ Real Plata Fuerte, blue and sent to NY, where a Steamship # 10
due Marking was applied.
Position on the plate V-10

I-3



I-4



II-3



III-3



IV-4



VI-2



IX-9



CORRFOS
VI-2



VII-2



CORRFOS
I-12



CORRFOS
IV-4



VIII-8



MISSING
A PEARL

½ REAL DE PLATA FUERTE



VI-4

A Puerto Rico cover front from 1861 sent from San Juan (Administracion Central cancel of January 8, 1861), using a ½ Real stamp (Cuba Scott #12, used also in **Puerto Rico**). The stamp was cancelled with a blue parrilla.

The front also has a nice franchise mark from the Tribunal Superior Territorial y Cuentas de Puerto Rico. Since this government agency had a franchise permit they were not required to use stamps on the mailing. However, the Mayor of Rio Grande (addressee) did not have a franchise privilege, was required to pay for the postal service, so the stamp was applied in Rio Grande and cancelled there.

Fragment with
2 ½ Real de Plata Fuerte.

IX-10 VI-15
Left Right



1 REAL DE PLATA FUERTE, late 1856

White paper without watermarks



Dark green



Green



Light green



Yellowish



Green Olive



Parrilla Cancellation black

Cover from HABANA
To REUS, Spain.

1 R. was the fee to Spain
With less than ½ onze



2 REALES DE PLATA FUERTE, late 1856



Orange Rose



Rose Carmin



Parrilla Cancellation

ISSUE OF JANUARY 1, 1864

In January, 1864 a new definitive issue was placed on sale differing from the issue for Spain of January 1, 1864, only in the currency used. This issue became necessary owing to the extensive falsification of the 1855 design issues and the deterioration of the plates used in the many printings. The dies were engraved by Don Jose Perez Varela. This issue was typographed on unwatermarked, moderately thick, wove paper. Printed at the Fabrica Nacional de Sellos, Madrid. The issue includes a ¼ Real value to provide for the local delivery fee.

½ REAL DE PLATA FUERTE

On white paper



Dark Green



Thin Paper



Wove Paper



Salmon Paper

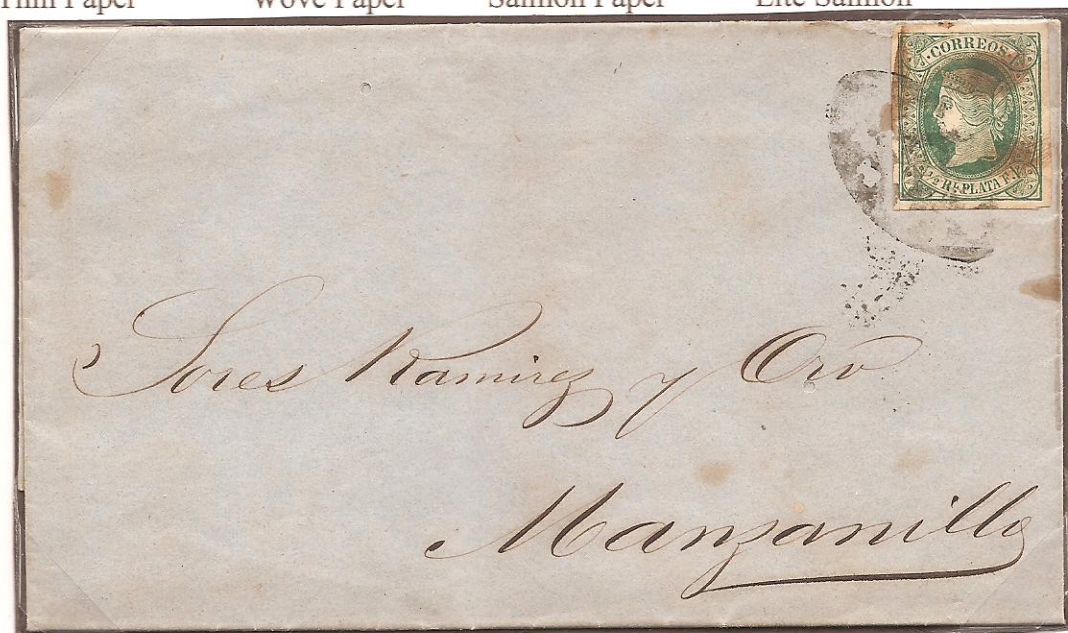


Lite Salmon

Cover to Manzanillo
Parrilla Cancellation
Local delivery



½ R. P. F. Salmon
Fragment to Havana
From Cardenas
Baeza tipe II
Cancellation
Dec. 7



PARRILLA



PARRILLA MATANZAS



PARRILLA

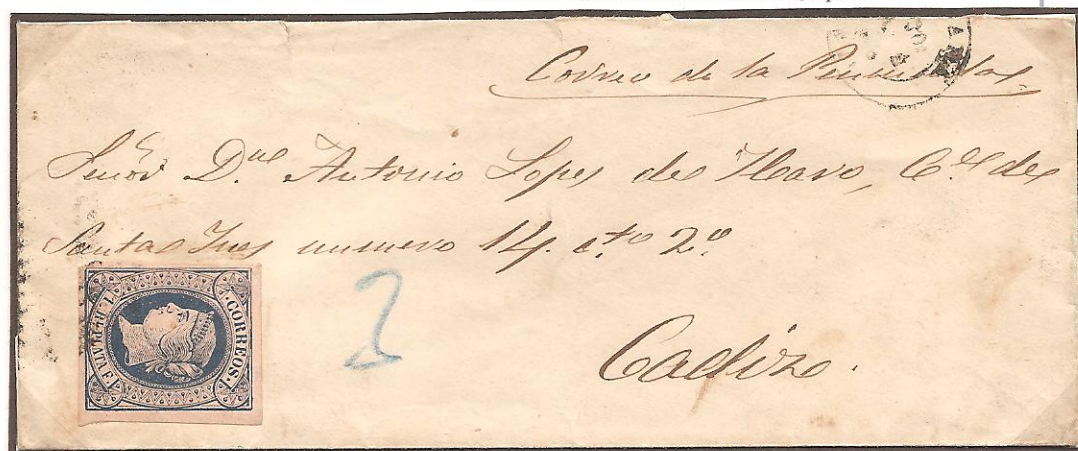
Cancellation Types:
LINEAR

Spanish Antilles

1 REAL DE PLATA FUERTE, 1864



Cover from HAVANA to CADIZ, Spain.



PARRILLA
1855-1883



USED IN STG DE CUBA
1864-1879



USED IN STEAMSHIP
HABANA-MANZANILLO 1873



Cover From Habana
To Spain through St. Domingo

2 REALES DE PLATA FUERTE, 1864



ISSUE OF 1868

Stamps of a new design carrying the title "ULTRAMAR" at the top were, designed by Don Perez Varela typographed by the Fabrica de Sellos, Madrid, on unwatermarked thin soft paper, perforated 14.

There are three values:



10 c, blue



Cancellation
Cardenas
Baeza, type II



20 c, green



Oval Cancellation
with paralel
lines

In reverse, stamp
10 c, blue used as
Letter Seal



40 c, rose
Cancellation
Parrilla-Stars



40c, rose
Cancellation
from PUERTO RICO
BULL WITH FLAG

Letter sent from
Vereda Nueva to
Matanzas.
(Domestic fee, up to
1/2 onze weight)



Letter sent from Cuba to
Barcelona, Spain. 20 c, green
were the fees to Spain up to
½ onze of weight.



ISSUE OF 1869

We have another three values for this year, 10 c. red brown or brown, 20 c. orange or orange pale and the 40 c. violet or red violet. The type of paper used varies from thick to very thin and also from white to transparent paper. The value of 5c has not been seen used either postally or fiscally in Puerto Rico, it has been restricted only to Havana local post.

Characteristics of these stamps are the following:

- 1- The entire lettering in the upper label is new. In the 1868 issue, The first "A" in "ULTRAMAR" is much taller than the balance of the letters, while in the 1869 issue, the first "R" in "ULTRAMAR" is the tallest letter in the word. The word is longer than the 1868 issue, while the period is omitted.
- 2- In the 1868 issue, the white frame lines over and under "ULTRAMAR" are not connected; in the 1869 issues, vertical lines at the ends of the label connect upper and lower frame, placed "ULTRAMAR" in a panel.
- 3- Same thing in the lower panel, the value and date in a panel.
- 4- We see changes made in the lower panel on the 10, 20 and 40 centimos, "CENT. 1869" in new and heavier lettering, and minus the final period after the date; "CENT" is much shorter than the issue of 1868. Also the number 10 was left unchanged from the 1868 issue while the 20 and 40 values the numbers are new. In addition, on the 40 c. the "R" in the lower right corner is new.



10 cent, brown



20 cent, orange



40 c. violet



20 cent canceled
With Parrilla



40 cent violet
Canceled with
The bull and Flag
From Puerto Rico

Letter from Havana to
Matanzas franked with
10 cent. brown, 1869
Local mailing fees



A **Puerto Rico** cover front sent to **Ceiba**, using a 10 cent. 1869 brown stamp from Queen Isabel II, note the Queen had been overthrown from the Monarchy the issues of 1869 with the head of the ex-Queen had already been dispatched to the colonies. The stamp was cancelled with writing ink cross, which was very normal.

The front has a nice franchise mark from **Puerto Rico**. Since the government agency had a franchise permit they were not required to use stamps on the mailing. However, the mayor of Ceiba (addressee) did not have a franchise privilege, was required to pay for postal service, so the stamp was applied into Ceiba and cancelled there.

S.N. stands for "**SERVICIO NACIONAL**" National Service instead S.R. "**SERVICIO REAL**" Royal Service since the Queen was overthrown.



ISSUES OF 1868-69 "HABILITADOS POR LA NACION"

The overthrow of the royalty in Spain having taken place in September of 1868, it was impossible to prepare designs representative of the new type of government. At any rate the new government was apparently content with having ordered the 1868 and 1869 stamps royal design overprinted "HABILITADOS POR LA NACION". The electrotypes were made in Madrid and were sent to Cuba (34 types), Philippines (26) and Puerto Rico (13). Very seldom the issues of 1868 were used and the 1869 issues need to be certified. The employees of Postal Service in Antilles were loyal to the Morachy.

1868			1869	
10 c. blue	20 c. green	40 c. rose	10 c. brown	20 c. orange

Fake surcharge



ISSUE OF 1870, perforated 14 unwatermarked.

In this year we find three values 10 centimos green or light green, 20 centimos red brown or brown and 40 centimos rose. The type of paper varies from thick white paper to very thin transparent paper.

There is another value of 5 centimos which was restricted only to Cuba.

Green	Dark Green	Brown	Light Brown	Rose
10 c.	10 c.	20 c.	20 c.	40 c.



Block of four 20 c. Brown
Cancelled in **Puerto Rico**.



Letter sent to Guira from Matanzas with a Stamp of 10 c. green cancelled with a parrilla with 8 thick parallel lines and mechanic cancellation from Matanzas 19 of Jul. 1870.

ISSUE OF 1871, perforated 14 unwatermarked.

The design of 1871 issue shows a matronly figure representing Spain, facing to the left, holding in her right hand an olive branch, meaning that peace reigned in Spain once again. On top the label of "ULTRAMAR" (BEYOND SEAS) 1871; the bottom label the value, the labels at right and left "CORREOS" (MAILS). Engraved by Eugenio Julia y Jover with the initial of "EJ" on the lower right hand corner below the shield.

We have three values 25 centimos ultramarine or blue, 50 centimos green or dark green (printer waste) and 1 peseta pale brown or brown.

Ultramarine	Pale blue	Green	Pale Brown	Ultramarine P.R. CRUZ DE MALTA
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ISSUE OF 1873, perforated 14.

There are three values 25 centimos grey, 50 centimos brown or lite brown and 1 peseta brown yellowish. They were designed by Eugenio Julia Jover and the impression was typograph made in Madrid, Spain. The period known as Spanish Antilles finishes in the middle of 1873.

Grey
25 c.



Grey
**MALTA CROSS
PUERTO RICO**



light Brown
50 c.



Brown
50 c.



Brown Yellowish
1 peseta
PUERTO RICO



Letter from Habana to Ciudadela, city on the west side of the Island Menorca, Balearic Islands, Spain. Franked with a stamp of King Amadeo of 50 centimos brown, cancelled in Habana and transported on the 30 June of 1873 by a private company "LLampallas y Cia". In the reverse side Baeza cancellation of the city of Mahon, Menorca on the 24, Jul.1873 arriving finally at Ciudadella, now days is known as Ciutadella of Menorca.

Ciudadela now is the capital of the Island of Menorca, was originally the island's capital but the British occupation in the 18th century moved it to Mahon, which was named after General Magon (Hannibal's brother) a Carthaginian invader, and Has one of the world's largest harbours.



FORGERIES OF THE FIRST FOUR ISSUES

The forgeries of Spanish Stamps used in Cuba range from the crude to the expert, and considering the lack of quality control at the Stamp Printing Office in Madrid, were often accepted by the postal clerks. Since some of the forgeries were so good, if not better than the genuine it is important to list as many Postal and Philatelic fakes as possible. I do follow the Instructions of Gerra Aguiar, GA, notes from the Cuban Postal Museum, La Havana 1976.

Postal Fakes

GA TYPE 1



GA TYPE 2



GA TYPE 4



GA TYPE 5



GA TYPE 6



GA TYPE 7



GA TYPE 8



GA TYPE 15



Philatelic Fakes

FOURNIER



SPIRO

