

1860'S REVOLUTIONS OUTSIDE CUBA

The earliest example of this exhibit's theme is actually the result of revolutions outside Cuba. In response to revolutions in Mexico and Santo Domingo, the Spanish authorities tried to re-exert their dominion over the respective countries. The Mexican expedition initiated late in 1861 lasted only a few months before General Prim withdrew his forces in early 1862. The annexation of Santo Domingo also began in 1861 and lasted longer, until 1865, when after years of trying to pacify the country, Spanish troops were withdrawn and the annexation annulled.

BELOW ARE TWO OF THE RARE PIECES OF CUBAN PHILATELY, COVERS FROM EACH OF THE EXPEDITIONS.



Cover from Santo Domingo to Habana with "Ejército de Operaciones, Santo Domingo" cancel.



Mexico to Sta. Catalina de Guantánamo cover with Veracruz and "Division Espedicionaria a Mejico" cancels

1860'S REVOLUTIONS OUTSIDE CUBA

1868 - HABILITADO POR LA NACION OVERPRINT

Another example of this exhibit's theme occurred when Queen Isabella II was overthrown as Spanish ruler on September 18, 1868 by the Spanish military. Thirty four hand stamps with "Habilitado por la Nacion" were sent to Cuba with an order to overprint all stamps. The overprint hand stamps did not arrive in Cuba until mid November



Because the overprints were applied one at a time by hand, many variations such as these appear.



1860'S REVOLUTIONS OUTSIDE CUBA

1868 - HABILITADO POR LA NACION OVERPRINT



Clever forgery using genuine used cover and applying overprint after the fact. Note the cancellation dates do not work as they predate the arrival of the hand stamps in Cuba.



Another forgery with overprint poorly done and easily distinguished from the genuine ones.

1860'S REVOLUTIONS OUTSIDE CUBA

1868- HABILITADO POR LA NACION OVERPRINT



The overprints were used on the 1869 issue which had already arrived on the island for use in the coming year.



Overprints were also used on telegraph stamps of the day.



Cover to Guantánamo with overprint issue tied by Santiago double ring cancel.
COVERS OF THE OVERPRINT ISSUES ARE VERY SCARCE.

1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR

The first truly Cuban revolution has come to be called the Ten Years War. It began with Carlos Cespedes' uprising at his sugar mill on the morning of October 10, 1868. The next ten years saw bitter fighting all over the island. The uprising eventually came to an unsuccessful end in 1878 with Cuba remaining a Spanish colony.



Bayamo to Manzanillo with receiving cancel.

On October 20, 1868, the city of Bayamo was captured by Cespedes and his revolutionary force. The city became the provisional capital of the Revolutionary Cuban Government. The city was lost to Spanish troops on January 15, 1869 but not before being burned to the ground. The Spaniards established a permanent camp on the site and civilians began to return to the town. Spanish troops had been granted postal franchise and did not need any stamps. For civilian use, a provisional stamp such as that used on the cover above was issued by the Spanish authorities.

BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF THREE KNOWN EXAMPLES ON COVER.

1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR—FREE FRANKING

All Spanish troops were granted postal franchise and thus did not need stamps. They could also receive mail from Spain free of charge. Examples are scarce and difficult to find.



Example of free franking used on domestic mail with "COMANDANCIA MILITAR DE BAYAMO" cancel on 1870 cover to Havana via Manzanillo.



Free franking on domestic mail from Puerto Principe to Bayamo with "COMANDANCIA GENERAL DE OPERACIONES, EM" cancel

1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR—FREE FRANKING



Example of free franking used on international mail to Spain with "COMANDA GRAL DE LAS TROPAS EN OPERACIONES EN EL DEPTO ORIENTAL" cancel.



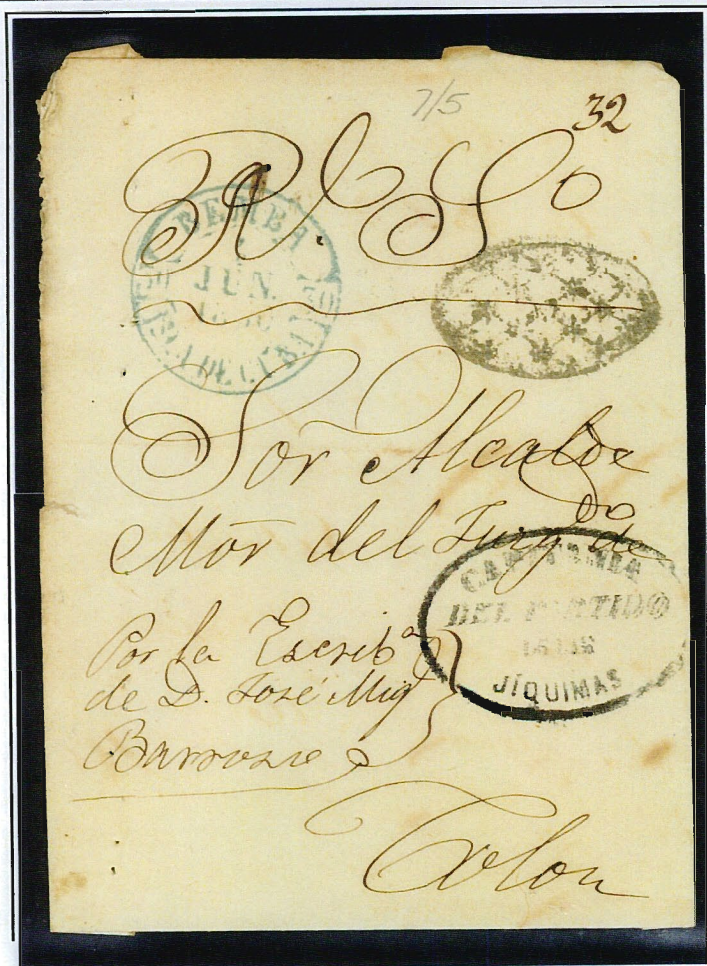
Free franking on international mail from Puerto Principe to Spain with "COMANDANCIA MILITAR DE MANZANILLO" cancel.



Free franking used on international mail from Marianao to Spain via steamship. Note military hospital cancel.



Free franking on letter to Holguin with "COMANDANCIA DE MARINA DE NUEVITAS" cancel.



Free franking with "GABINETE PARTICULAR DEL MINISTERIO DE LA GUERRA" cancel.

Free franking on letter to Colon with "CAPITANIA DEL PARTIDO DE LAS JIQUIMAS" and Benba "baeza" cancels.

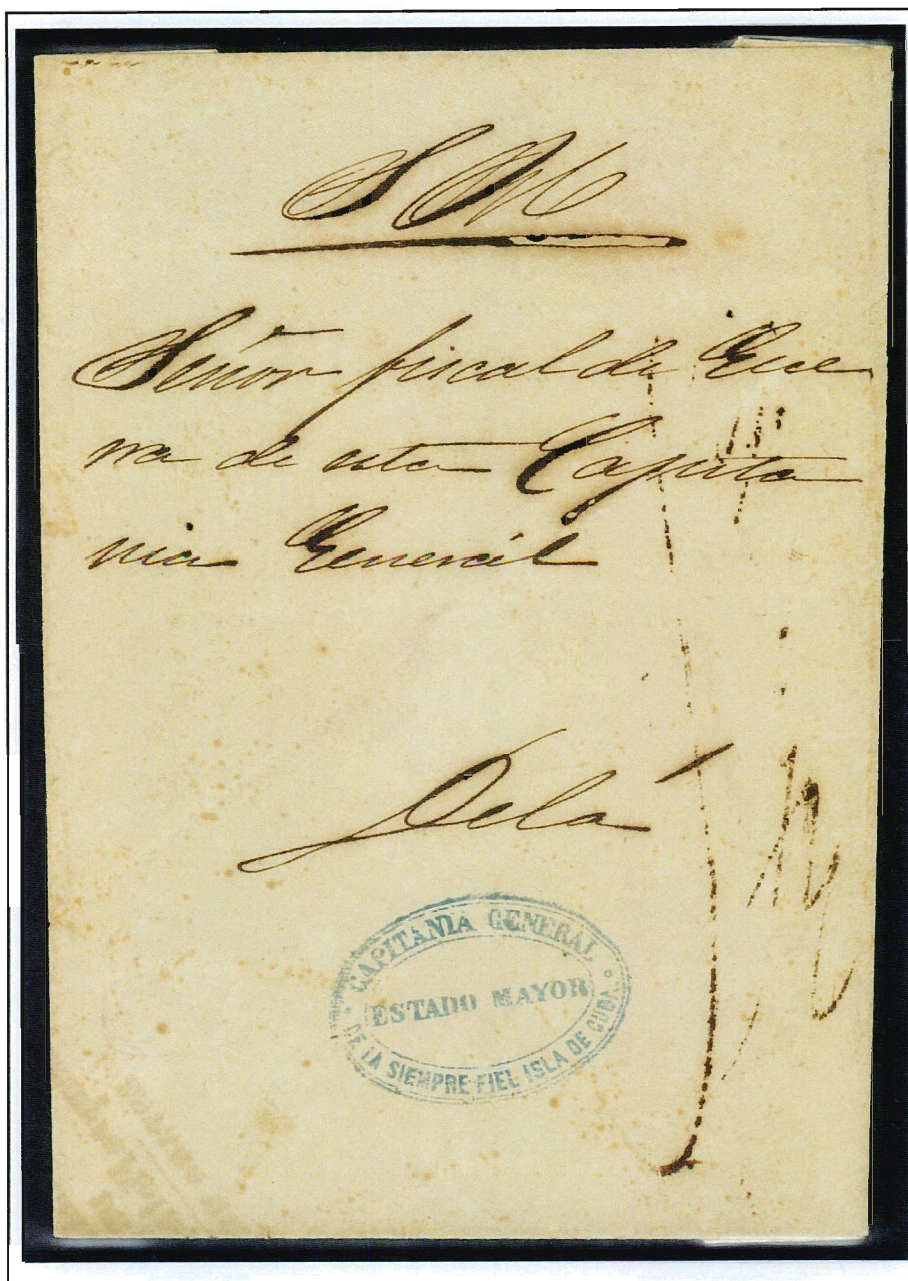


Free franking with "PRESIDENCIA DEL CONSEJERO MINISTRO SECRETARIA PENINSULAR" cancel.



Front piece with free franking and "COMANDANCIA GENERAL DE MARINA/HABANA" cancel. Free franking was not recognized outside Spanish domain, hence postage due charge applied in New York.

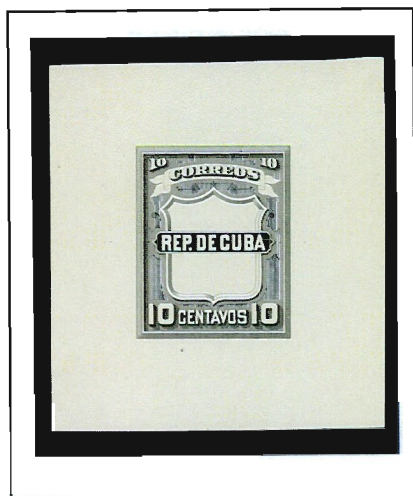
1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR—FREE FRANKING



Free franking with "CAPITANIA GENERAL/ESTADO MAYOR/DE LA SIEMPRE FIEL ISLA DE CUBA" cancel. The ironic translation of the last part of the cancel reads "...of the always loyal Isle of Cuba".

1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR

In 1874, the revolutionary government of Cuba operating in the field authorized the Revolutionary Junta in the USA to have a stamp printed. It served two purposes. First, to pay postage on correspondence in the territory controlled by them, and second, to be sold as a means of raising money for the cause. The stamp was used throughout the rebel held areas but mostly around the city of Holguin in the eastern end of the island. Very few of the revolutionary stamp are found in used condition. Only two used singles are known—both are in the Cuban Postal Museum in Havana. No stamped covers are known from this war. Multiple pieces are also uncommon.



Revolutionary issue.

Proof. - **BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF ONLY THREE COPIES KNOWN.**

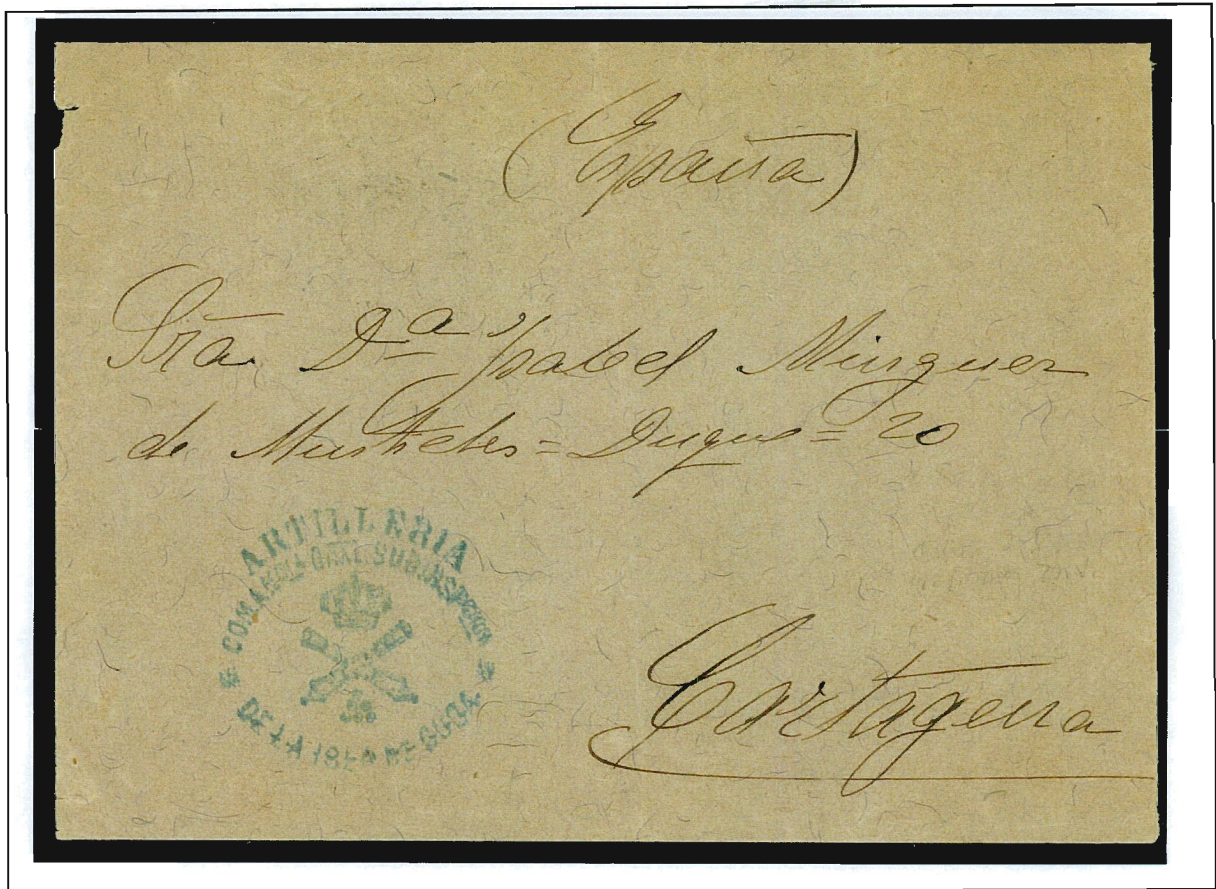


This partial sheet of twelve is from the Garcia-Frutos collection and is **THE SECOND LARGEST MULTIPLE KNOWN.**

INSURRECTION OF 1895

The Ten Years War ground to a halt by 1878, but the nationalistic sentiments and wish for independence were still strong in Cuba. On February 24, 1895, Jose Marti, a Cuban patriot living in the U.S., called for an uprising against the Spanish government. By September 16, 1895, a constitution has been drafted, authority placed in a "Council of Government" and five armies placed in the field. Under the able command of General Calixto Garcia and others, the Spaniards were driven from the interior of the island and retained control of only the port cities. Near the end of the revolution, the U.S. intervened and the war came to be called the "Spanish American War".

Free franking was again granted to Spanish troops in the field.



Spanish soldier's mail from an artillery regiment in the field to Cartagena, Spain.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Printed envelope sent from Cuba to Brazil in 1807. On the upper left is the Spanish Coat of Arms and the indication that it was sent by a Spanish soldier. On the upper right the usual destination of "Penninsula" was scratched out and most unusual is the indication "Franquia Postal" or postal franchise on the lower left.



Free franking example on cover to Escorial, Spain with Military Government and Expeditionary Battalion cancels. Handwritten "Ejercito de Operaciones". Back stamped in Madrid.



Free franking example to Cartagena with "REGIMIENTO INFANTERIA DE ESPAÑA" cancel.



Free franking on letter to Barcelona with "2nd CUERPO DE EJERCITO BRIGADA DE CAZADORES, COMISARIA DE GUERRA" cancel.

INSURRECTION OF 1895

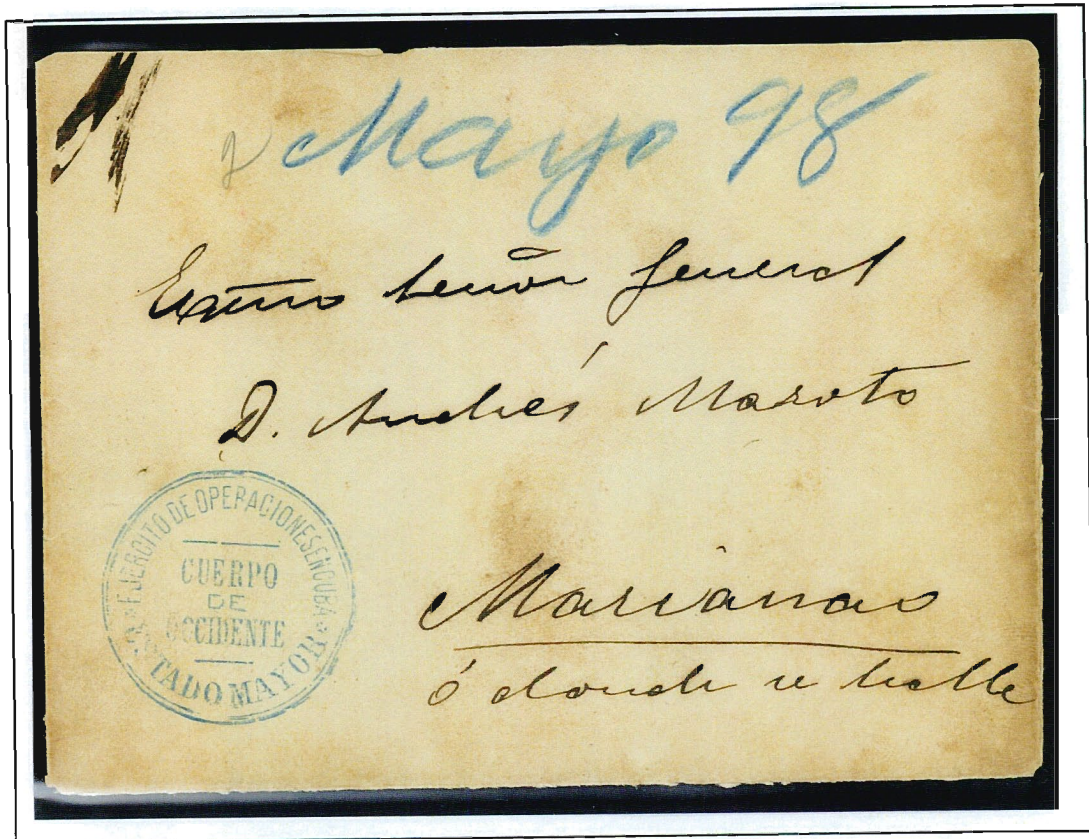


Spanish soldier's mail from an infantry regiment serving in the field to Santiago, Cuba.



Example of free franking on cover from Mayari to Cartagena, Spain with "COMANDANCIA MILITAR DE MAYARI" cancel.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Free franking cover sent from the "EJERCITO DE OPERACIONES EN CUBA, CUERPO DE OCCIDENTE" to a General Maroto in Mariano or "where ever he may be".



Free franking cover to Algeciras, Spain showing cancels from Santiago de Cuba, Cadiz (on back of envelope) and the "EJERCITO EN OPERACIONES, COMANDANCIA DE ARMAS DE DAIQUIRI". Daiquiri was the location of the U.S. Army landings in 1898.



Free franking on letter to Cartagena , Spain with "REGIMIENTO YNFANTERIA DE GUADALAJARA—NO.20" and a blue "JARUCO" cancel.



"COMANDANCIA DE ARMAS" cancel on official "Peninsular Mail" envelope.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Free franking cover to La Campana, Spain showing cancels from Pinal del Rio, Havana, Seville and the "EJERCITO DE OPERACIONES EN CUBA, DIVISION PINAL DEL RIO, BRIGADA OCCIDENTAL".

INSURRECTION OF 1895

The insurrection of 1895-8 was a much more extensive affair than the earlier revolution. The revolutionary government had a well organized postal network throughout the island. On November 1895 the first printing of revolutionary stamps was approved. They went on sale on March 11, 1896. Initially, stamps were bought by sympathizers and philatelic speculators and collectors. Shortly after, the stamps were put in use in Cuba for internal mail and also on foreign covers, both to and from Cuba between the various foreign agencies of the republic. Only a small number of used stamps have survived. Due to the difficult circumstances in which they were used, **STAMPED COVERS ARE SELDOM SEEN. THERE ARE ABOUT 25 KNOWN TO EXIST, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOW IN THE CUBAN POSTAL MUSEUM.**



Various proofs on thick card stock.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Official revolutionary stamps issued by the Republic during the Insurrection of 1895.



Imperforate on left side variety.

ONE OF ONLY TWO KNOWN.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Examples of four of the five regional cancels used during the war. Used examples usually reflect the difficult tropical jungle conditions under which they were used. Tropical staining is common.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Letter to a battalion chief serving in General Calixto Garcia's headquarters. Flag cancel and additional cancel "Republica de Cuba Agencia de Comunicaciones—Santiago de Cuba". The cover was sent from New York to Santiago from where it was forwarded to Bayamo.

ONE OF THE 25 KNOWN COVERS OF THIS REVOLUTIONARY ISSUE.

MAY BE THE ONLY EXAMPLE WITH A PAIR OF THE 5 CENT VALUE ON COVER.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Example of the revolutionary government "Mambi" issue on cover from the Insurrection of 1895-8 with Las Villas circular cancel in front and Cubitas circular cancel on back. Signed Bartells.

ONE OF TWENTY FIVE KNOWN COVERS OF THIS ISSUE.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Letter to the Sanitation Commander of the
"Brigade North of Matanzas".

Small Flag Cancel variety. **ONE OF TWO KNOWN COVERS WITH SUCH CANCELLATIONS.** The other is in the Garcia-Frutos collection. May represent a true variety or may be a very well done forgery. More work is necessary to determine which.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Patriotic cover from Havana to the USA sent in 1899 after the war, with stamps from Spain, the U.S. and the revolutionary Government—perhaps an effort to create a philatelic souvenir.

Shown on the next page is an example of these issues being used to promote the cause of the Revolutionary Government. Note that the letter is addressed to Mrs. Henry Cabot Lodge, an ardent supporter of the independence movement, and was sent by Gonzalo de Quesada, Secretary of the Cuban delegation in Washington, D.C.



Washington March 25/96

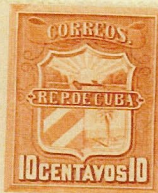
My dear Mrs. Lodge:

Please accept these tokens of
my sincere regard for your noble sympathy.

We are triumphing in Cuba and
we must not be defeated here.

Do not abandon our cause now!

Yours gratefully
Joaquín Guzmán



To Mrs Henry Cabot Lodge

INSURRECTION OF 1895



The 5th Corps, 1st Division in the field apparently had no access to the Revolutionary Government stamps and thus used rubber stamps for franking of its correspondence. **LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THIS USAGE AND FURTHER RESEARCH IS WARRANTED.**

INSURRECTION OF 1895

Revolutions have a way of generating interesting philatelic material. It is believed that during the Insurrection of 1895 this set of stamps was printed by the order of Marcos Morales, President of the Cuban junta in Philadelphia. They are said to have been rejected because the inscription "Cuba Libre" had been incorrectly spelled as "Cuba Libra". The whole lot was sold to a stamp dealer who then marketed the full set for 25 cents (a discount from the 86 cent face value). It is possible that sale was made to raise funds for the cause. Because of their history, these can only be considered "Cinderella's" and not proper postage stamps.



INSURRECTION OF 1895



Imperforate blocks

ONLY ONE SHEET FROM WHICH BLOCKS WERE CUT IS KNOWN FOR EACH VALUE.

INSURRECTION OF 1895



Imperforate block.



There is no evidence that this issue was ever placed into postal use. This cover is most likely a forgery. Note the incorrect date and the misspelling of Marcos Morales' name.