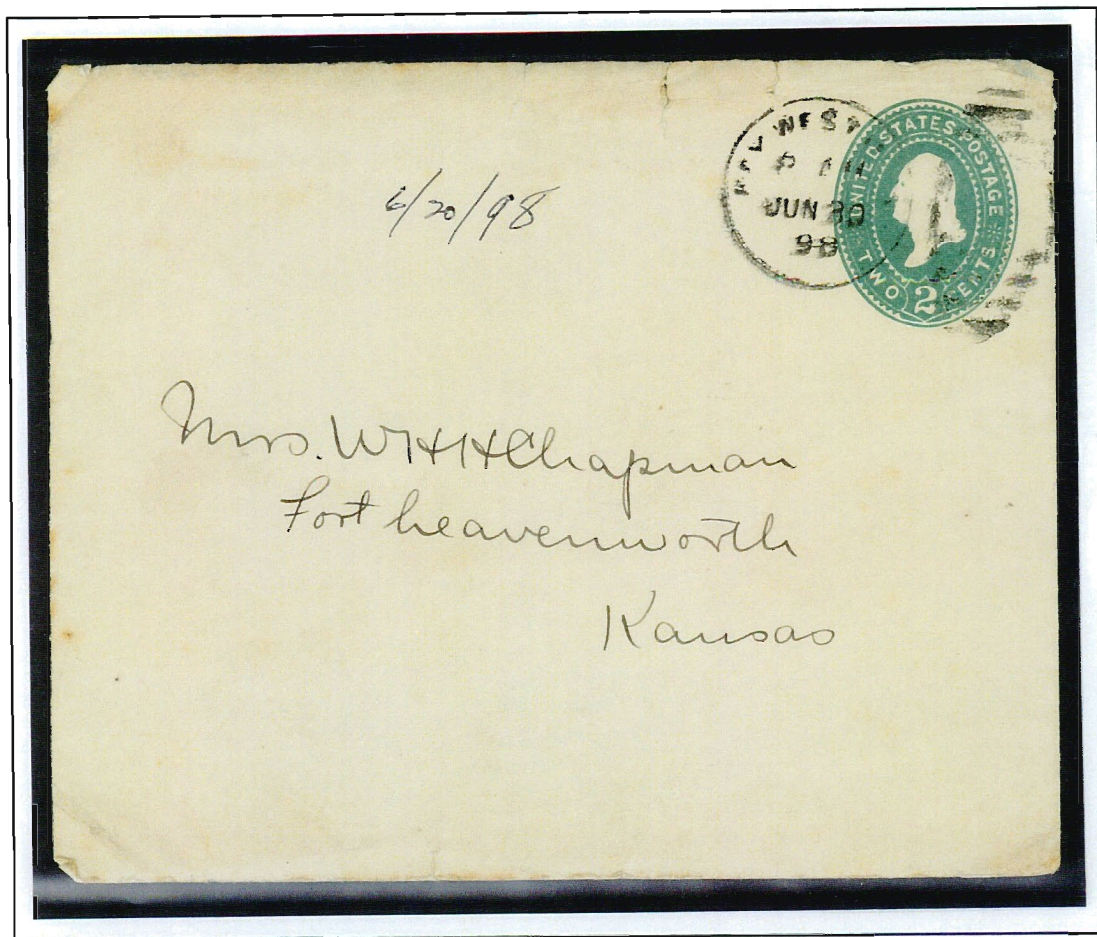


U.S. OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Following the sinking of the U.S. battleship "Maine" in February 1898, the American government demanded Spain's withdrawal from Cuba and openly supported the revolutionary forces that had previously received covert aid. On April 21, 1898, the U.S. Congress declared that a "State of War" existed with Spain. The resulting Spanish American War was brief but decisive. In a sense it completed the insurrection of 1895-8 begun by the Cubans themselves.

On June 22, 1898 U.S. forces landed at Daiquiri, about 6 miles east of the town of Santiago, Cuba. On June 24th, the "United States Post Office, Military Station No. 1" opened for business. In the first weekend of operations it processed 12,000 items, which overwhelmed the three employees. The first mail dispatch from Cuba left on June 26th on the old steamer, *U.S.S. DOLPHIN*. It reached Key West on June 30th, where mail received a duplex canceller and went on to its final destination.

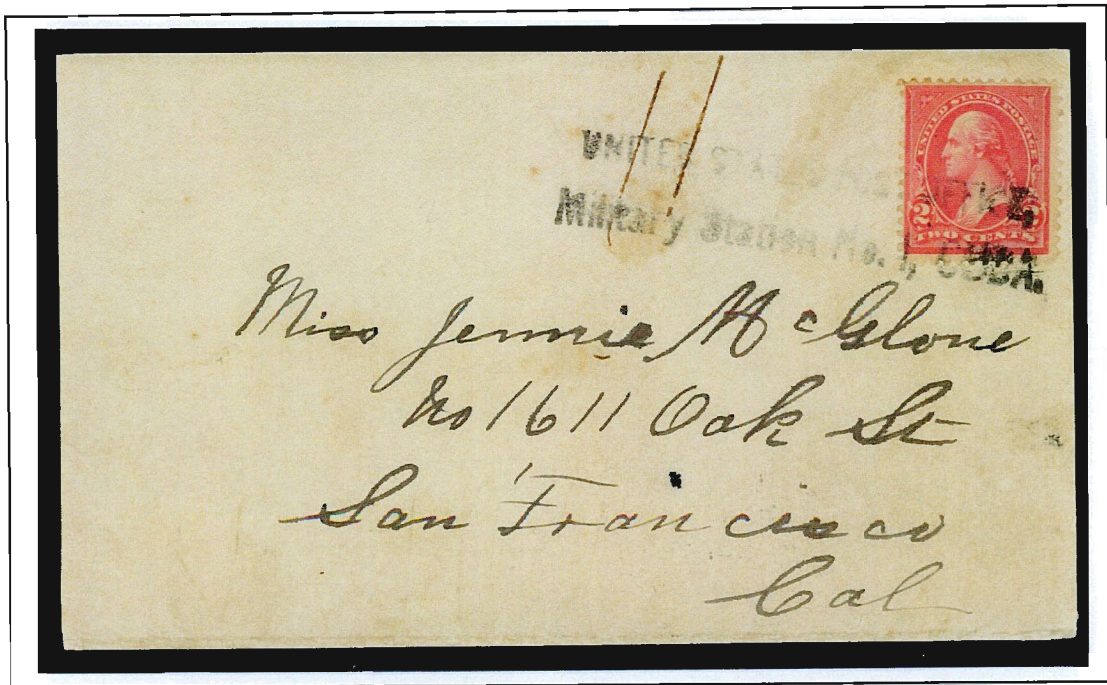
THE COVER BELOW , DATED JUNE 25TH, WAS PART OF THIS FIRST MAIL DISPATCH.



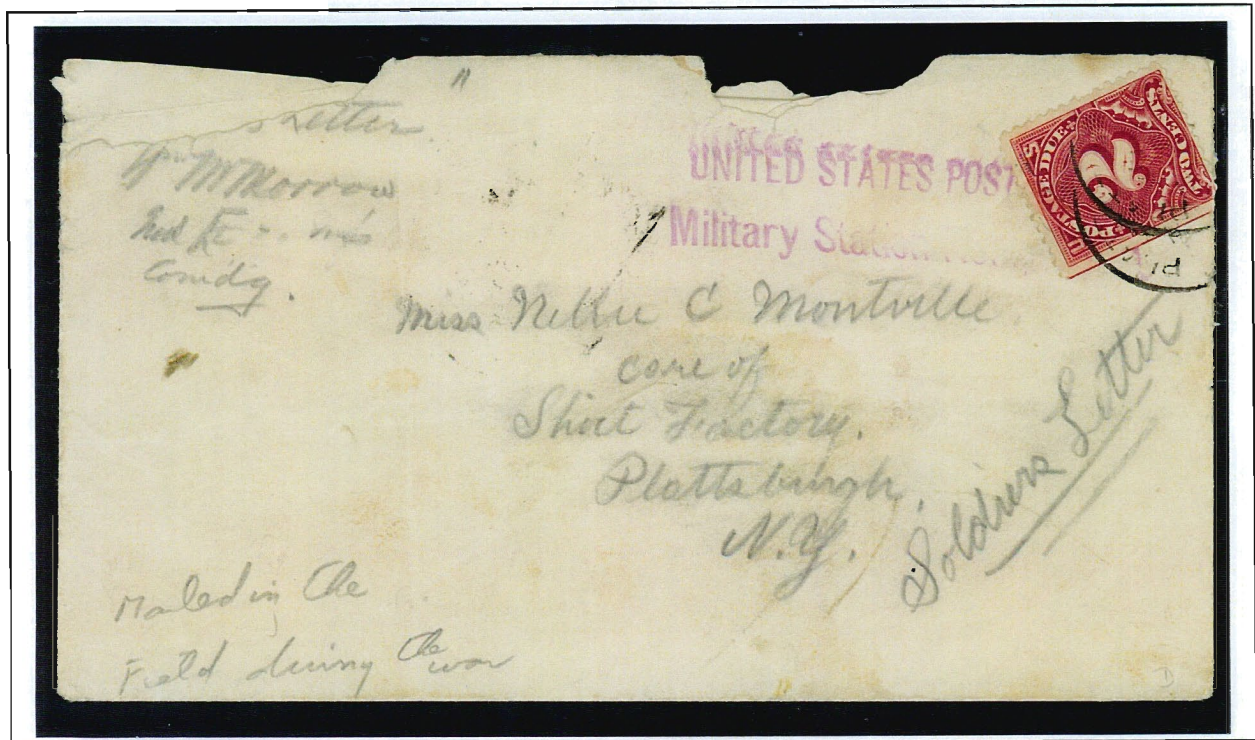
A two cent rate was extended to the troops serving in the War. This cover went to Kansas via Key West, FL., arriving at its destination July 6th, only two weeks after it was mailed.

U.S. OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION

An official canceller arrived from the U.S. and was placed in service on June 28th. The two line marking reads "United States Post Office, Military Station No. 1, Cuba". Two colors of ink were used, black and magenta, at Daiquiri until July 6th when the post office was moved to Siboney where it was used for five days until the village was burned to the ground to stop the spread of yellow fever.



Example of new cancel in black ink on cover to San Francisco, CA.



Example of new cancel in magenta ink on cover to Plattsburgh, N.Y. Lacking the two cent postage required, the recipient had to pay a two cent postage due charge.

U.S. OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION

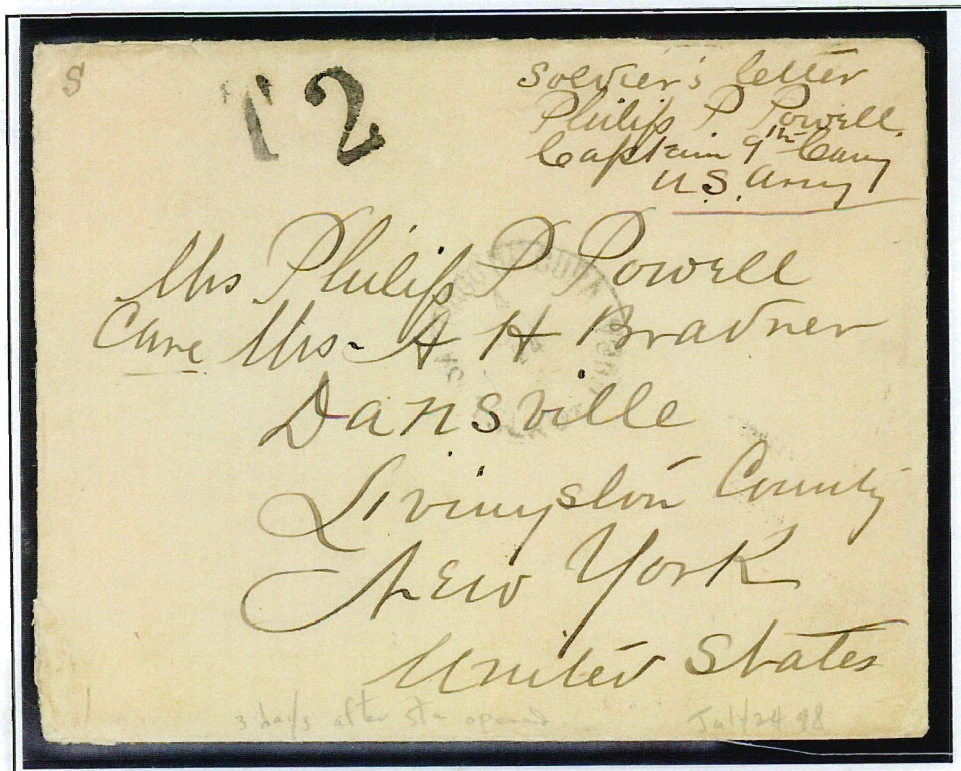
A new oval Military Station No. 1 cancel began usage on July 20th following a ten day period when mail was not picked up due to the yellow fever outbreak.



This letter was probably posted in Siboney and fumigated before being postmarked in Santiago on the 20th (postmark on rear of envelope) arriving in Clinton, Ohio August 13, 1898 some three weeks later.

FIRST DAY OF USAGE FOR NEW CANCEL.

After the fall of Santiago, the Spanish post office cancel was used for a short time on U.S. mail. This practice was stopped after a new military station cancel arrived and was placed in service on August 21st.

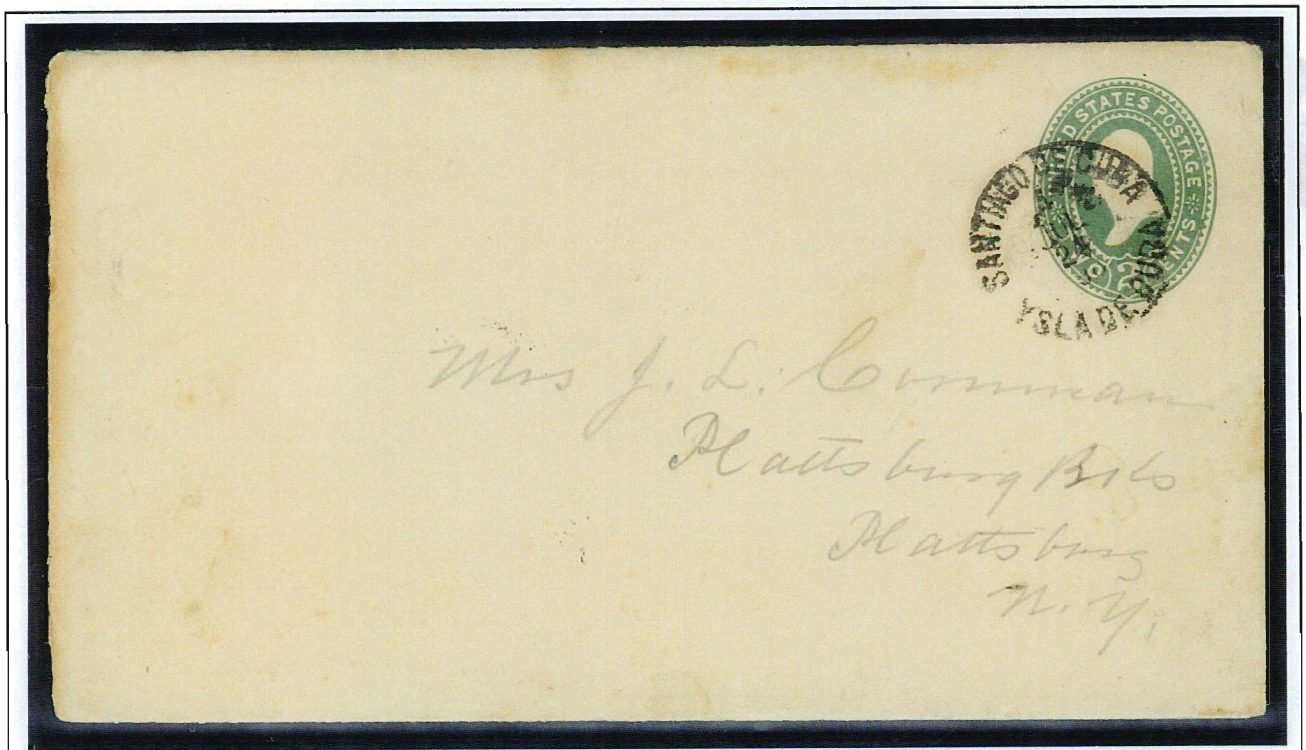


Soldier's letter to New York State with the Santiago Spanish post office cancel.

U.S. OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION



Letter from a sanitation inspector in Santiago sent to New York City during the early days of the war utilizing the Spanish Santiago cancel. The letter contains a report on conditions found in Cuba and took two weeks to arrive at its destination.



Example of use of a two cent U.S. printed envelope on a letter from Santiago to Plattsburg, N.Y. using the Spanish Santiago cancel.

U.S. OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION

New steel duplex hand stamp was placed in service.



Letter from Santiago to Caracas, Venezuela with the new hand stamp sent via New York (cancel on rear).



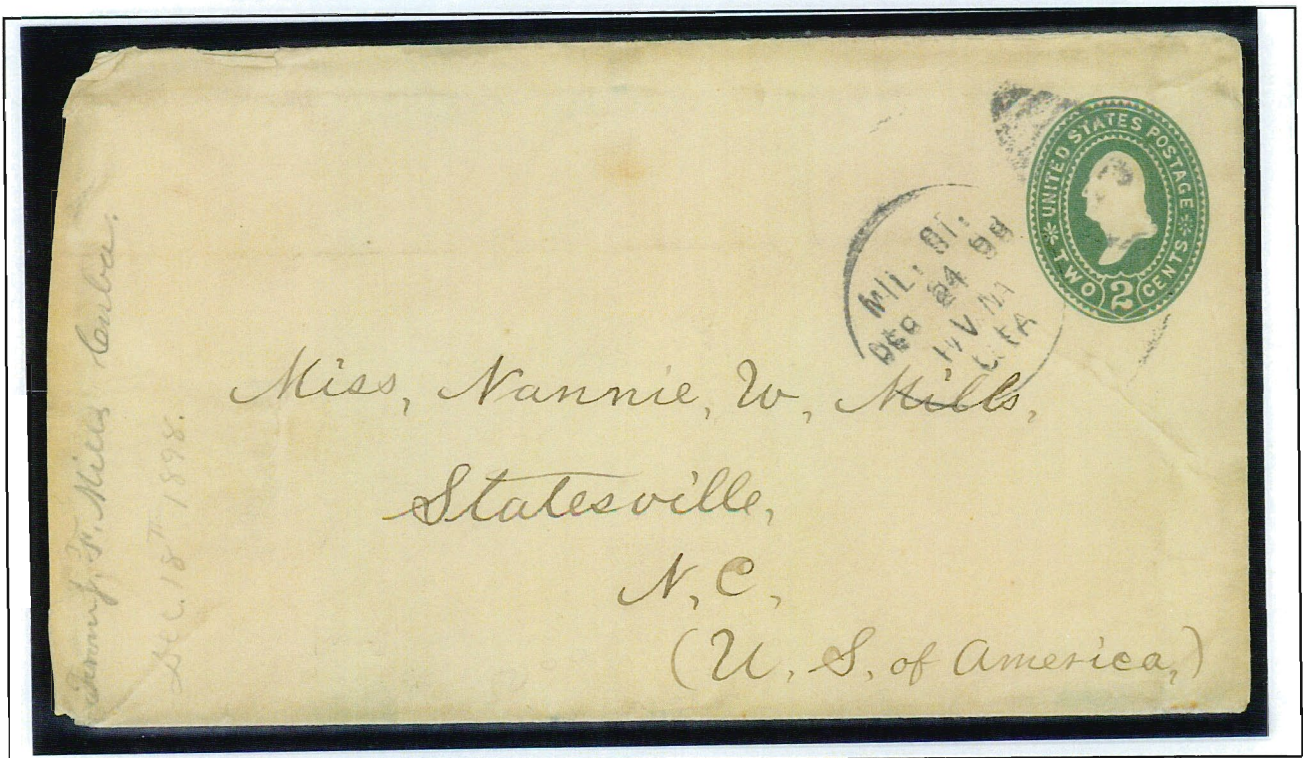
Letter from Santiago to Liverpool, England with new hand stamp and "Paid Liverpool U.S. Packet" cancel applied in New York. Rare high 5 cent value use from Cuba.

U.S. OCCUPATION AND ADMINISTRATION

As the U.S. forces occupied the island, other Military Stations opened for service.



Havana to Georgia cover with rare use of 2 cent commemorative U.S. issue (probably carried to Cuba as these were not sold in Cuba) and an early Havana Military Station cancel.



Printed envelope letter sent to Statesville, N.C. with same early Havana cancel. **THESE EARLY HAVANA MILITARY STATION CANCELS ARE BELIEVED TO BE TWO OF THE THREE KNOWN EXAMPLES.**

PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

When American and Cuban forces occupied the city of Puerto Principe on November 24th, 1898, there were no U.S. stamps available and Spanish stamps were being used with the revenue going to Spain. This intolerable situation was remedied when the U. S. military governor accepted a plan to buy the cheapest Spanish stamps and overprint them at the print shop of the local newspaper. There were five printings with known errors and varieties. The estimated total number of stamps surcharged varies between 21,400 and 28,000. These stamps were solely used in the towns of Puerto Principe, Mines del Principe, Nuevitas, and Santa Cruz del Sur. They were withdrawn from circulation when U.S. stamps overprinted with "Cuba" arrived in Puerto Principe on January 20, 1899.

ALL EXAMPLES SHOWN HERE HAVE BEEN PROPERLY AUTHENTICATED.



1 cent on 1 mil



2 cent on 2 mil



3 cent on 3 mil



5 cent on 5 mil

First printing on December 19, 1898.



Inverted surcharge of first printing 2 cent on 2 mil value.



Inverted surcharge of first printing 3 cent on 3 mil value.

PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

LESS THAN TWENTY FIVE COVERS WITH STAMPS OF THIS ISSUE ARE KNOWN AND MANY OF THESE ARE IN THE CUBAN POSTAL MUSEUM IN HAVANA. THE PIECE BELOW IS ONE OF TWO REPORTED COVERS USING A PUERTO PRINCIPE STAMP ON A CERTIFIED MAIL RECEIPT.



The certified mail receipt is franked with a two cent stamp from the fourth position of the first printing. The cover was posted on January 18, 1899. The reverse has a circular arrival date stamp from Havana dated January 22, 1899.

PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE



5 cent on 1 mil



5 cent on 2 mil



5 cent on 3 mil



5 cent on 5 mil



5 cent on 1/2 mil

Second printing on December 24, 1898.



Inverted surcharge of second printing
5C over 1/2 MIL.

PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE



1 cent on 1 mil



3 cent on 1 mil



5 cent on 1/2 mil

Third printing on December 24, 1898.



Inverted surcharge of third printing 1C over 1 MIL.

PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE



3 cent on 1 cent



5 cent on 1 cent



10 cent on 1 cent

Fourth printing on December 27, 1898.



Inverted overprint of fourth printing 3C over 1C.

PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE



3 cent on 1 mil



3 cent on 2 mil



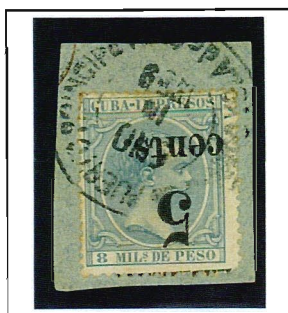
3 cent on 3 mil



5 cent on 4 mil

Fifth printing on January 11, 1899.

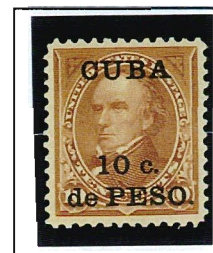
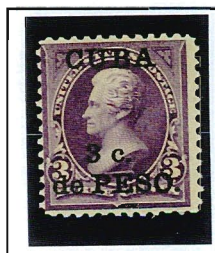
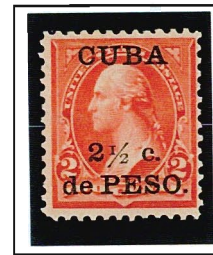
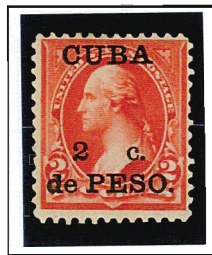
IN USE FOR ONLY NINE DAYS.



Inverted surcharge of fifth printing 5C over 8 MIL.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

From an early date the U.S. Post Office Department began to consider a separate set of stamps for Cuba under a civilian administration; by December 15, 1898, design work was well under way. However, the treaty ending the war stipulated that the Spanish would completely evacuate Cuba by December 31, 1898, and the proposed issue could not be readied by that time. It was then decided that a temporary issue of current U.S. stamps overprinted "CUBA" would be used until the definitive stamps became available. These stamps were first placed on sale on January 2, 1899.



U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - PRINTING VARIETIES



Specimen overprints.



Inverted surcharge.

ONE OF THE RARE PIECES OF CUBAN PHILATELY.



"CUBA" Surcharge on bottom.



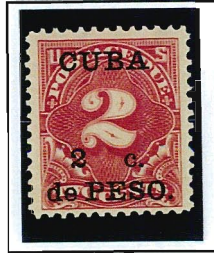
"CUPA" Surcharge.



Surcharge with no period after "CUBA".

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

Postage due stamps were also overprinted for use in Cuba.



Inverted Surcharge.



“CUPA” Surcharge.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED



A nice multiple of the 2 1/2 cent overprint.



Interesting cover with three of the overprint values on a stamped envelope from Pinar del Rio to Oakland, California sent as certified mail. The letter was sent via Jacksonville, Florida, taking twelve days to get to its destination.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED



Registered letter from Havana to Germany with complete set of U.S. overprinted stamps. Probably philatelic in nature as postal rates then in effect did not require so much postage.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

At times post offices used the local Spanish postal cancels when Military Station cancels were not available.



Two examples of local cancels used on soldier's letters to the U.S.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED



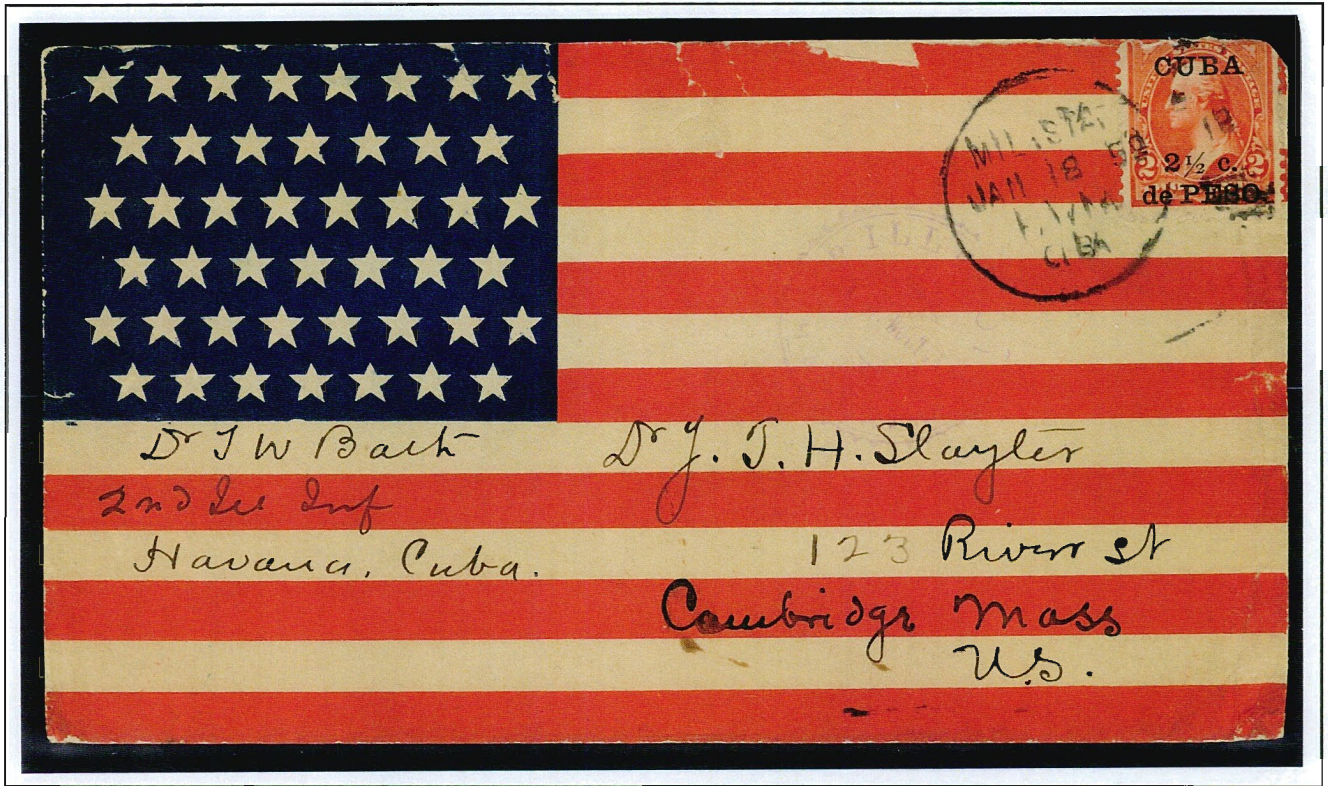
Stamped envelopes from the U.S. were also overprinted for use in Cuba. This example was used from Real de Campina to the U.S.



Nice use of the 3c overprint stamp on printed envelope.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

Patriotic covers were the rage during the war.



Flag cover sent from Havana to the U.S. with Havana Military Station cancel.



Patriotic cover from Havana to St. Louis with Havana Military Station cancel.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

REMEMBER THE MAINE.



ADOPTED APRIL 19, 1898.

RESOLVED— FIRST, THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLAND OF CUBA ARE AND OF RIGHT OUGHT TO BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT.

SECOND, THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEMAND, AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES DOES HEREBY DEMAND, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN AT ONCE RELINQUISH ITS AUTHORITY AND GOVERNMENT IN THE ISLAND OF CUBA AND WITHDRAW ITS LAND AND NAVAL FORCES FROM CUBA AND CUBAN WATERS.

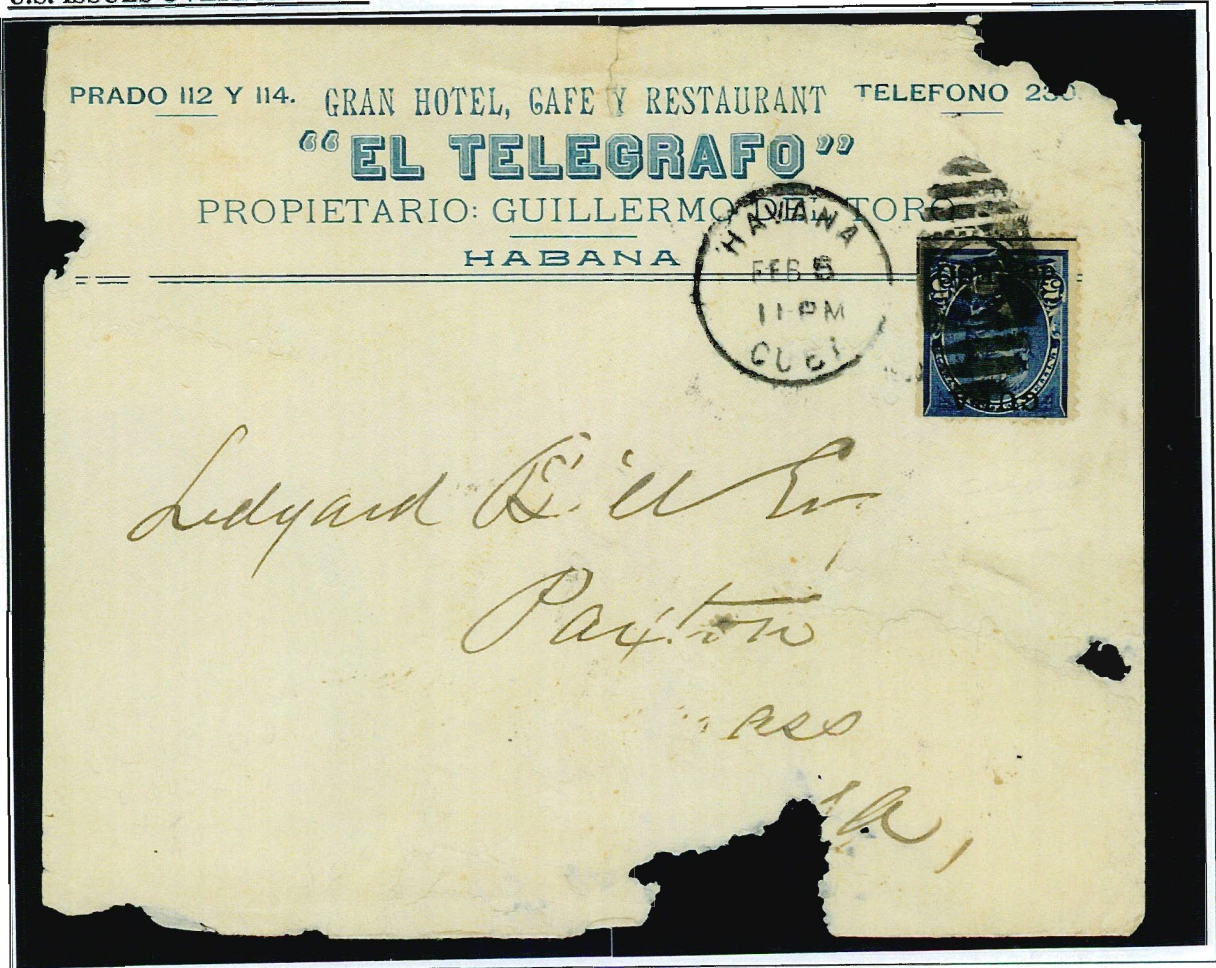
FOR HUMANITY, COUNTRY AND RIGHT.

A rarely found example of patriotic stationary in mint condition.

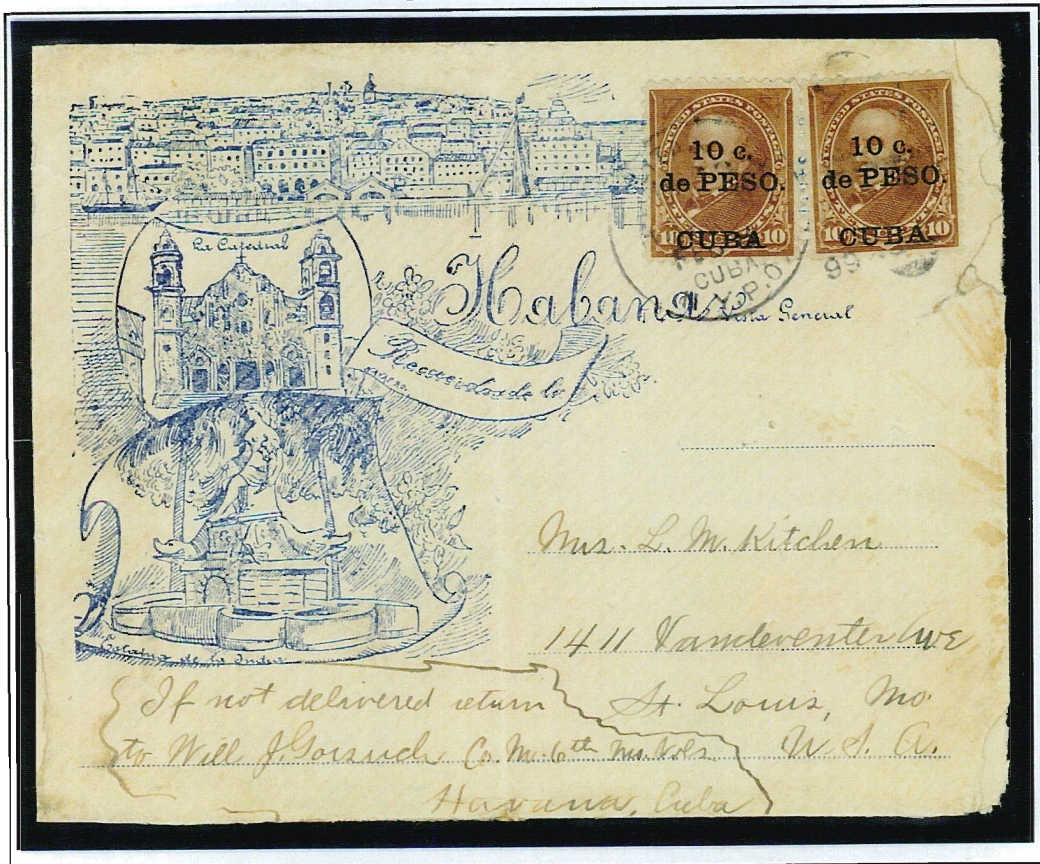
REMEMBER THE MAINE.



FOR HUMANITY, COUNTRY AND RIGHT.



"CUPA" Surcharge on cover from Havana to the U.S.A.

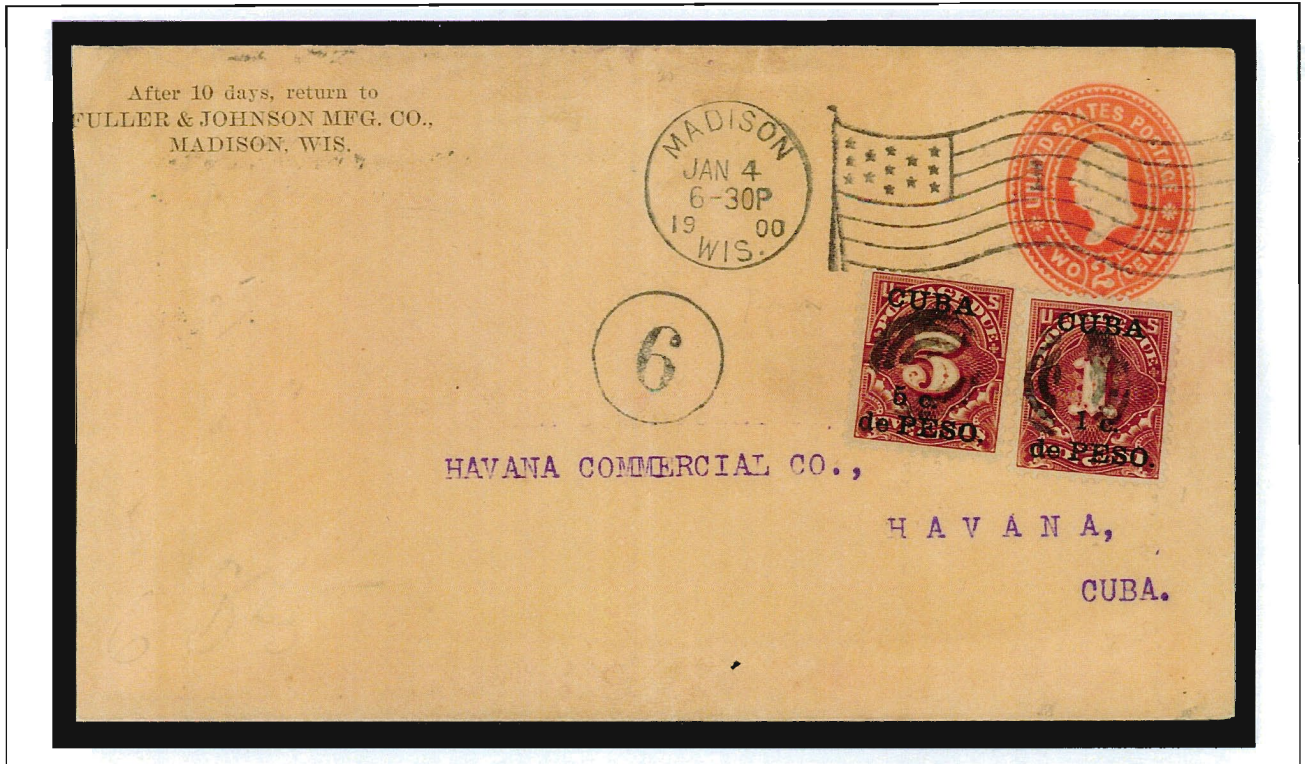


"CUBA" Surcharge on bottom of stamp. Pair on cover from Havana to St. Louis. POSSIBLY THE ONLY KNOWN COVER OF THIS PRINTING VARIETY.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED



Postcard from Zurich, Switzerland to Havana with surcharged two cent postage due stamp.



U.S. two cent stamped envelope from Madison, Wisconsin to Havana with one cent and five cent postage due stamps.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

Stamped postcards from the U.S. were also included in the overprints for use in Cuba.



One cent value post card used in Havana. Note the recipient is the hero of the revolution, General Maximo Gomez. Card is an invitation to a party celebrating secession from Spain.



Two cent value on post card from Havana to New York.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED

As the U.S. Administration spread out over the island, many numbered military stations were set up to handle the postal service.



Eagle and shield patriotic envelope from Pinal del Rio to the U.S. via Havana with "MILITARY POSTAL STATION NO. 15/PINAL DEL RIO, CUBA". This military station opened January 1, 1899 and usages are known from February 6th to March 22, 1899, the date of this letter.

U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED



Military Station No. 13 Cienfuegos cancel on letter to Chicago.



Military Station No. 6 Manzanillo cancel on letter to Baltimore.

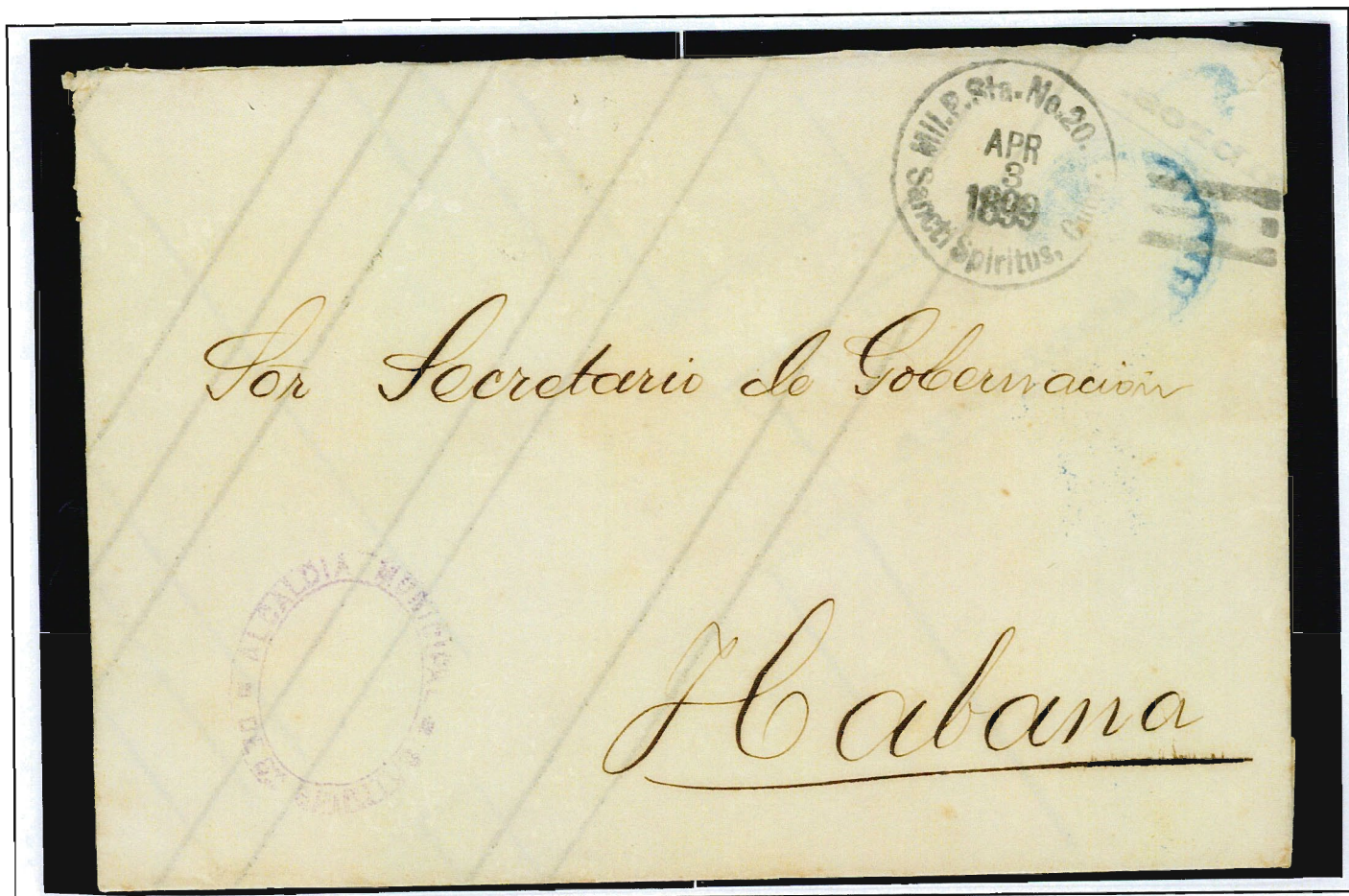
UNITED STATES OCCUPATION

Free franking privileges were granted to the civil authorities throughout the island.



Example of free franking on cover sent by the government of Santa Clara Province to the Secretary of State and Government in Havana. Note nice Military Station No. 28 cancel. The letter took only two days in transit as evidenced by receiving cancel on the back of the envelope.

UNITED STATES OCCUPATION—Examples of free franking by Civil authorities.



Free franking used by the Major's office in Sancti Spiritus on letter to Havana. Note fine "Mil. Sta. No.20" cancel.

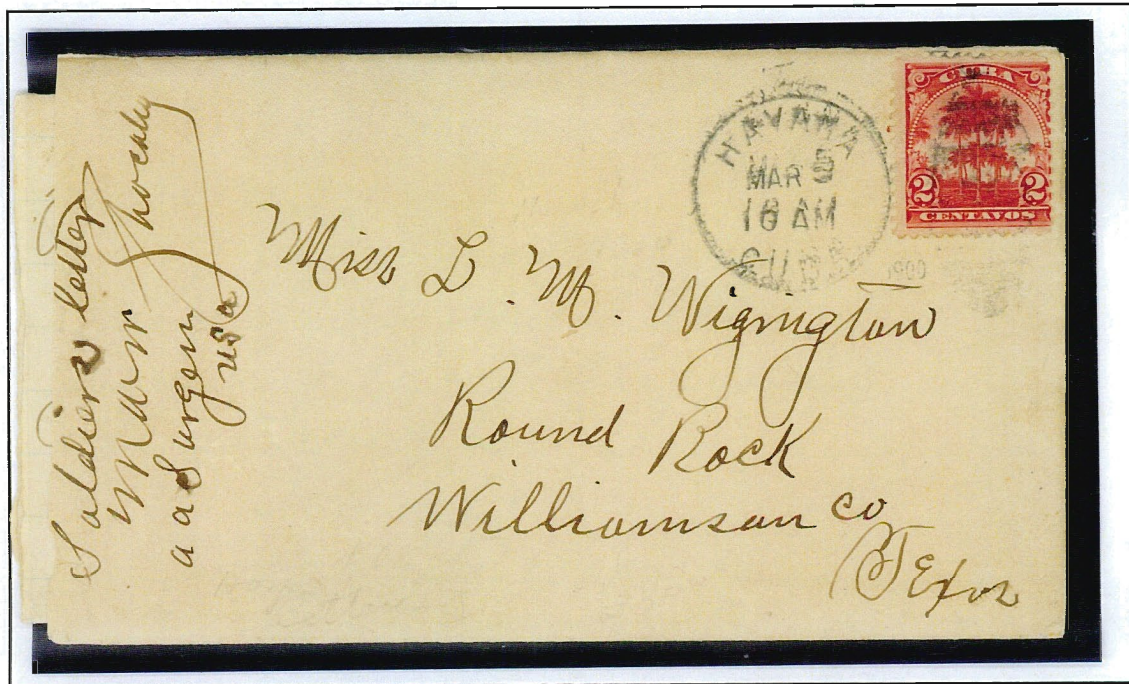
UNITED STATES OCCUPATION—Examples of free franking by Civil authorities.



Free franking used by the Provincial Civil Government of Matanzas on letter to Havana.
Note "Mil. Sta. No. 27" cancel.

UNITED STATES OCCUPATION

Sometimes revolutions produce philatelic materials with great human interest:



A soldier's letter to Texas from a surgeon in Cuba writing to his girlfriend, proposing marriage and commenting on the war:

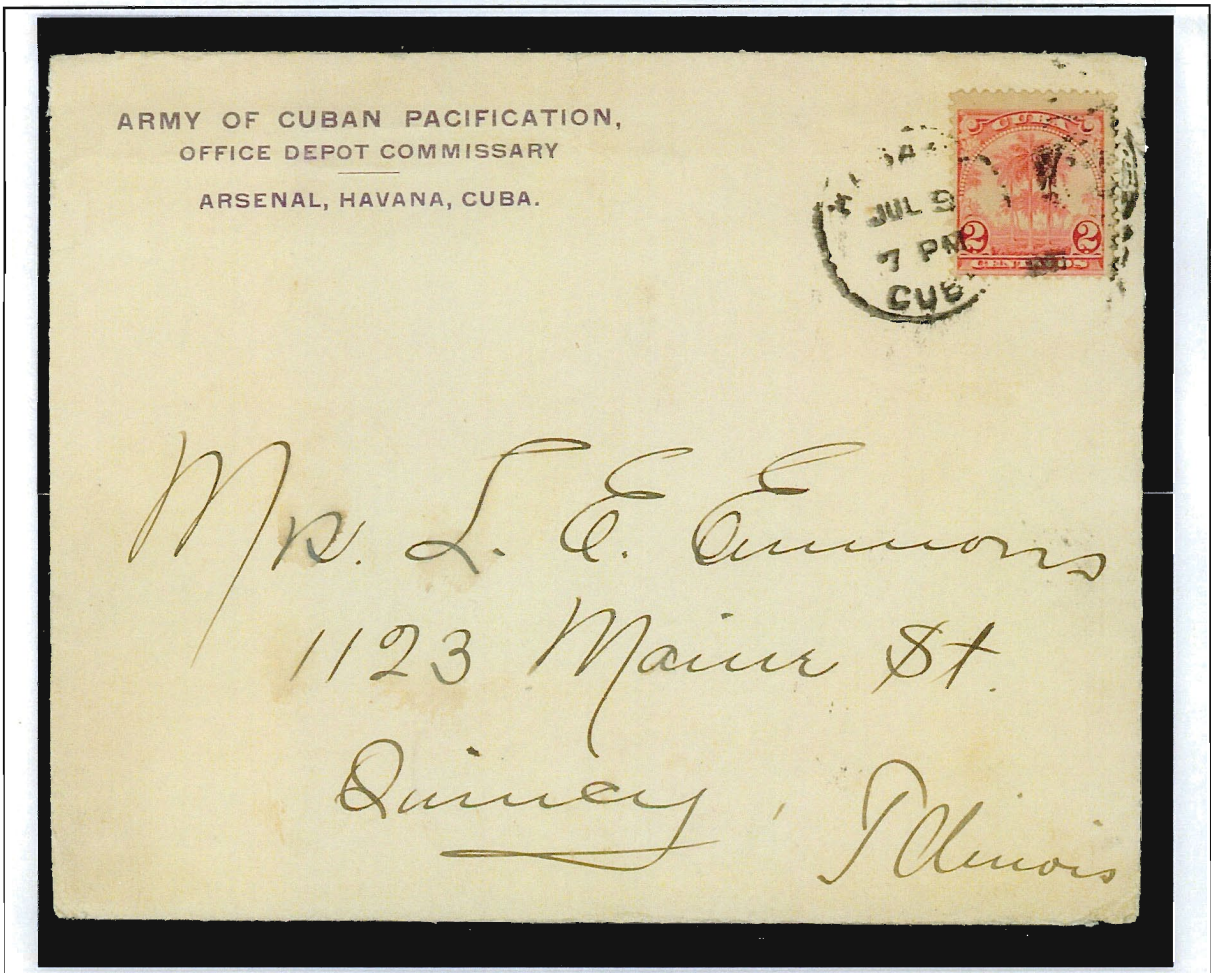
"When I left Round Rock to go to Austin I was well loaded with patriotism. But today it has all vanished away. I am no more patriotic I am only for myself and my dear friends of course. I risk my life here for the sake of heathens and know they would cut any Americans throat if they only has a chance and thought no one would see them."

UNITED STATES OCCUPATION

As the occupation drew to an end, philately reflected the fact:



This cover with postage from the new Republic of Cuba was addressed to the "Central Commission for the Liquidation of the Army of General Maximo Gomes".



The U.S. occupation was now termed the Army of Cuban Pacification.

UNITED STATES OCCUPATION

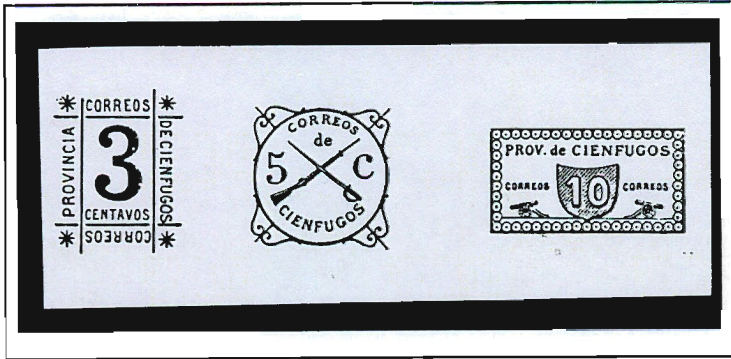
The U.S. occupation came to an end on May 20, 1902 and a new Cuban Republic was established. The hero of the revolution, Maximo Gomes, was allowed free franking privileges.



Free franking was granted to Gomes on August 8, 1899 by Mr. Estes Rathbone, the General Director of Posts for Cuba. It is believed to be the only ever granted to an individual.

1906—SECOND U.S. INTERVENTION

In 1906, during the troubles preceding the second U.S.A. intervention there appeared in the province of Santa Clara stamps surcharged with a variety of designs. The current 2 cent issue was surcharged in small type "Provisional/Govt/1906" in black. The 10 cent chestnut regular issue was surcharged "Junta del Gobierno Revolucionario" in black.



Images of the three surcharges used.



10C Value with surcharge.

DIRECCION GENERAL DE COMUNICACIONES
 Administración de Correos,
 Matanzas.

ASUNTO OFICIAL
 Multa de \$ 300 por uso particular

Modelo 1029

certificado Carta Paquete } No. 1335 Admón. de Correos Matanzas, Mat.

Este espacio está reservado para anotar los datos referentes a los expedientes relacionados con el despacho del certificado.

Recibi. *Matanzas*, 1906, de *Expreso Provincial*

1335 *de Matanzas* un { Carta Paquete

dirijido *Francisco F. Soler*

Inspector Policía

Cardenas

JOSE P. ARBURUA Admor. de Correos, por *So*

Provisional Government Postal Administration Official use cover with receipt.