

CUBA'S STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL AND PHILATELIC INDEPENDENCE (1868-1914)

APRIL 2009

Background:

This exhibit provides a comprehensive view of the philately of the period in Cuba's history when it struggled to free itself from Spanish and then American domination. This process began with the Ten Year's War which began in 1868. It continued with the Spanish American War in 1898 and culminated with the withdrawal of the U.S. forces in 1902 and the subsequent weaning of dependency on the U.S. for stamp printing needs twelve years later in 1914.

Exhibit plan and highlights:

Spanish Mail

The exhibit begins with the Spanish viewpoint. It covers the two major insurrections and includes one of the three recorded examples of the Bayamo provisional stamp (*Prats and Kouri, 1997, Cuban Philatelist*). Also included are franked covers from Spanish troops and two examples of the elusive Prisoner of War covers - one with all three known POW frankings.

Cuban Revolutionary Mail

The exhibit then turns to the viewpoint of the Cuban revolutionaries. Included is one of three known proofs of the Cuban revolutionary stamp of 1874 (*Kouri, 2005*). The second and third largest multiples of this same stamp are shown (*Garcia Frutos, 2001, Kouri, 2007*). Three of the six recorded imperforate on the left side errors of the 1895 five centavo revolutionary stamp are included (*Kouri, 2007*). Finally, shown are four examples of covers of the revolutionary stamps used in the field. There are only twenty five recorded covers of these stamps with many in the Cuban Postal Museum. (*Kouri, 2006, Cuban Philatelist*)

Transitional Period

The brief transitional period when no single postal administration held sway over the entire island is the source of some of the rarest Cuban stamps - the Puerto Principe Provisional Issue and the Gibara Provisional Postmark. Included in this exhibit is the largest assemblage of these stamps and covers put together to date (*Y. Kouri, P. Robertson, and I. Prats, 2008*).

U.S. Administration

The exhibit then turns to the philatelic material generated by the U.S. involvement in Cuba's affairs. It begins by showing two examples of mail delivery prohibition covers and follows with one of the earliest recorded covers mailed from the invasion beach in Cuba. The exhibit covers this period separating the material into U.S. issues used in Cuba, U.S. issues overprinted for use in Cuba, stamps issued by the U.S. for use in Cuba and finally free franking examples. Included in this section of the exhibit are four very scarce U.S. overprinted stamps: Type II variety of the 10c overprint (Scott #226A), the missing "Cuba" 10c value (Scott #226b), 2c on 2c inverted overprint (Scott #222Ad) and the inverted overprint of the 2c postage due stamp (Scott #J2a). Also shown is the only recorded cover with the 10c overprint displaced so that the "Cuba" is on the bottom. The 1900 "Special Printing" full set is included and one of the scarce items in Cuba's philately, the 2 cent booklet pane of the Issue of 1899 (Scott #228b), is also shown.

Cuban Republic

The exhibit ends with the efforts of the Cuban Republic to wean itself from the U.S. influence over its postal system. The small die proofs of the Issues of 1905-7 shown include the only recorded example of the 3 cent value and one of two known examples of the 10c Special Delivery stamp (*Iglesias, 2007*). Other rare items include one of two recorded covers with a 2 cent bisect of the issue of 1905-7 and the 2 cent imperforated value of the same issue on cover (*Iglesias, 2007*). A complete set of the inverted center Patriots Issue stamps is included. The exhibit finishes with a selection of sunken die proofs of the first stamps printed in Cuba, the Mapita Issue.

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EXHIBIT ARE INDICATED BY A RED DOT.



A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - BAYAMO PROVISIONAL

Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain started with minor insurrections in 1823, 1829, 1835, and 1844 but is commonly thought to have truly begun with what has come to be called the Ten Years War. Carlos Cespedes' uprising at his sugar mill on the morning of October 10, 1868 initiated the hostilities. 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. We begin by examining the topic of this exhibit from the viewpoint of the Spanish.



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.

**ONE OF THREE RECORDED
EXAMPLES ON COVER.***



* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2007

A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - SPANISH 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 from this period 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.

A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - SPANISH 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.

A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Free franking letter to New York. It was charged 10 cents double weight postage due as free franking was not recognized outside the Spanish domain.



Free franking letter to Spain. Given the state of revolution underway at the time, the cancellation marking that translates in part as " ...from the always loyal island of Cuba" is ironic.

A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - MISCELLANEOUS

POSTAL USE OF REVENUE STAMPS

Throughout the Ten Years War rebel activities in the countryside made supplying Spanish post offices very difficult. Shortages of stamps occurred often. Several enterprising post masters began using revenue stamps for normal postage. Below are two examples of this use.



Tax revenue stamp used to frank double weight letter from Havana to Santiago de Cuba mailed in 1872.



Police revenue stamp bisected on letter to Santiago de Cuba from Cienfuegos mailed in 1874.

A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - MISCELLANEOUS

POSTAL USE OF REVENUE STAMPS



Two more examples of postal use of revenue stamps. The first is use of a Police revenue stamp on a cover to Manzanillo and the second a commercial books tax stamp used on a letter to Santiago.

A. SPANISH MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR - MISCELLANEOUS

SOLDIER'S DEATH NOTICE



2.º BATALLON.

Habiendo fallecido el día 9 de Febrero de 1869 el soldado que fué de este Batallón, *Señor Lolo Arce* natural de *Moche*, hijo de *Rosendo* y de *Vicente* y alcanzando en su ajuste final la cantidad de 16 escudos 272 milésimas que se remiten oportunamente á la Caja General de Ultramar establecida en Madrid, tengo el gusto de participárselo á V. para que llegue á conocimiento de sus padres ó parientes mas próximos los cuales puedan cobrar dicha cantidad por sí ó por apoderado, de la referida Caja General de Ultramar.

Dios guarde á V muchos años.

Habana 7 de Abril de 1869

El T. C. Comandante 1.º Jefe.

Antonio de Martiny

Dr. Alcalde constitucional de *Moche*

Soldier's death notice form letter to mayor of town in Spain asking him to notify parents of soldier killed in Cuba explaining how to recover balance of soldier's pay.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING

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 had been drafted, authority placed in a "Council of Government" and five armies fielded. 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.

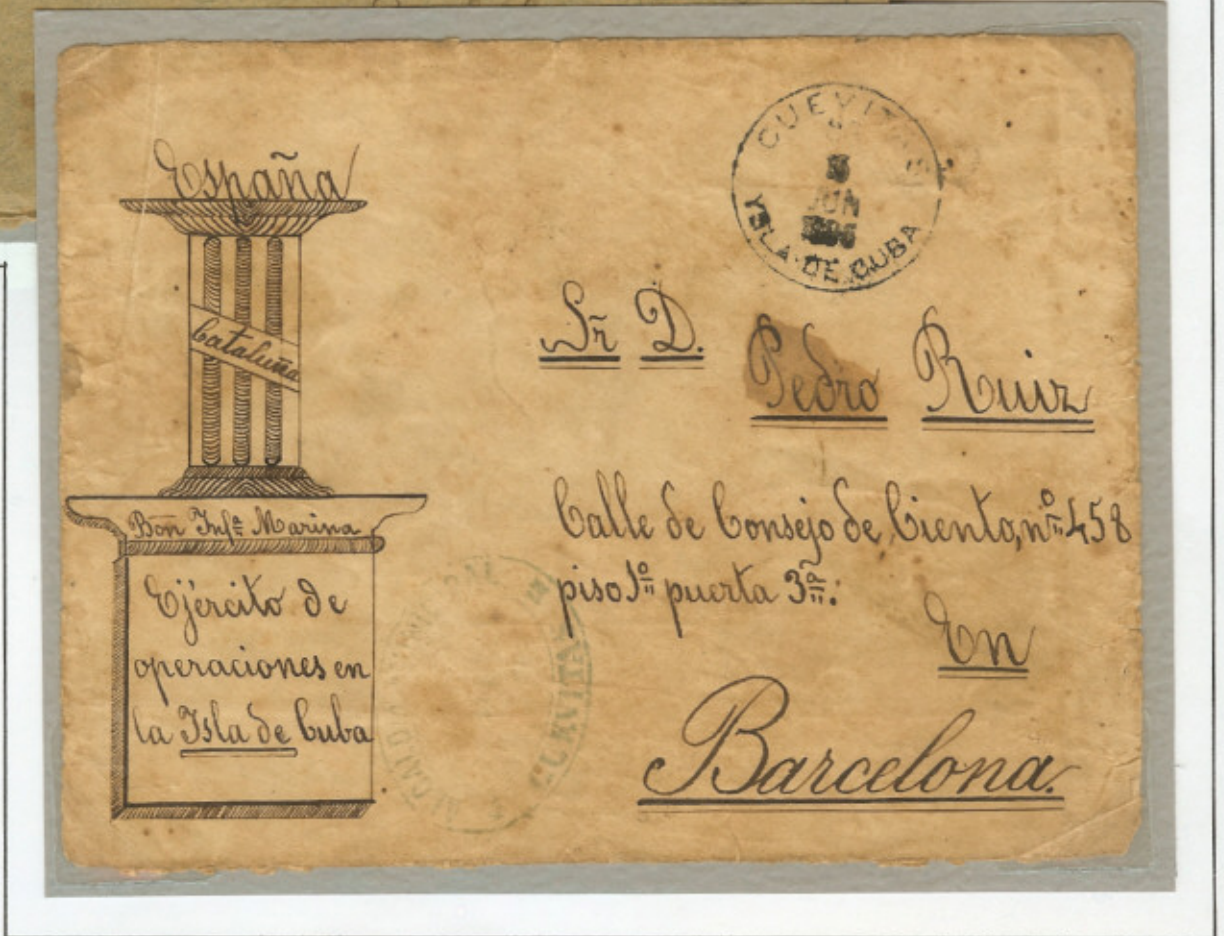
Free franking was again granted to Spanish soldiers and sailors in the field.



Spanish soldiers mail from Cuba to Barcelona, Spain.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Hand drawn regimental covers to Spain.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING

Some soldiers had access to stationary bearing "Ejercito de Operaciones en Cuba" or "Army Operations in Cuba". Note "Franquicia Postal" marking indicating free franking privilege.



Letter from San Cristobal to Spain with San Cristobal cancellation and regimental marking "Regimiento Infanteria de Baleares No.47".

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



THE ONLY RECORDED USE TO ARGENTINA DURING THIS WAR.* On the upper right the usual destination of "Peninsula" was scratched out. Free franking was honored as Argentina was a Spanish colony.



Letter to Costa Rica sent in 1896. **ONLY RECORDED USE TO COSTA RICA DURING THIS WAR.*** There is uncertainty as to why postage was paid on this regimental cover.

* Yamil Kouri, 2008.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Printed envelope sent from Cuba to Brazil in 1897 - **THE ONLY RECORDED USE TO BRAZIL DURING THIS WAR.*** 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 "Peninsula" was scratched out. Postage due charge of 300 riales was assessed in Brazil as they did not recognize the free franking privilege given by Spain to its soldiers.

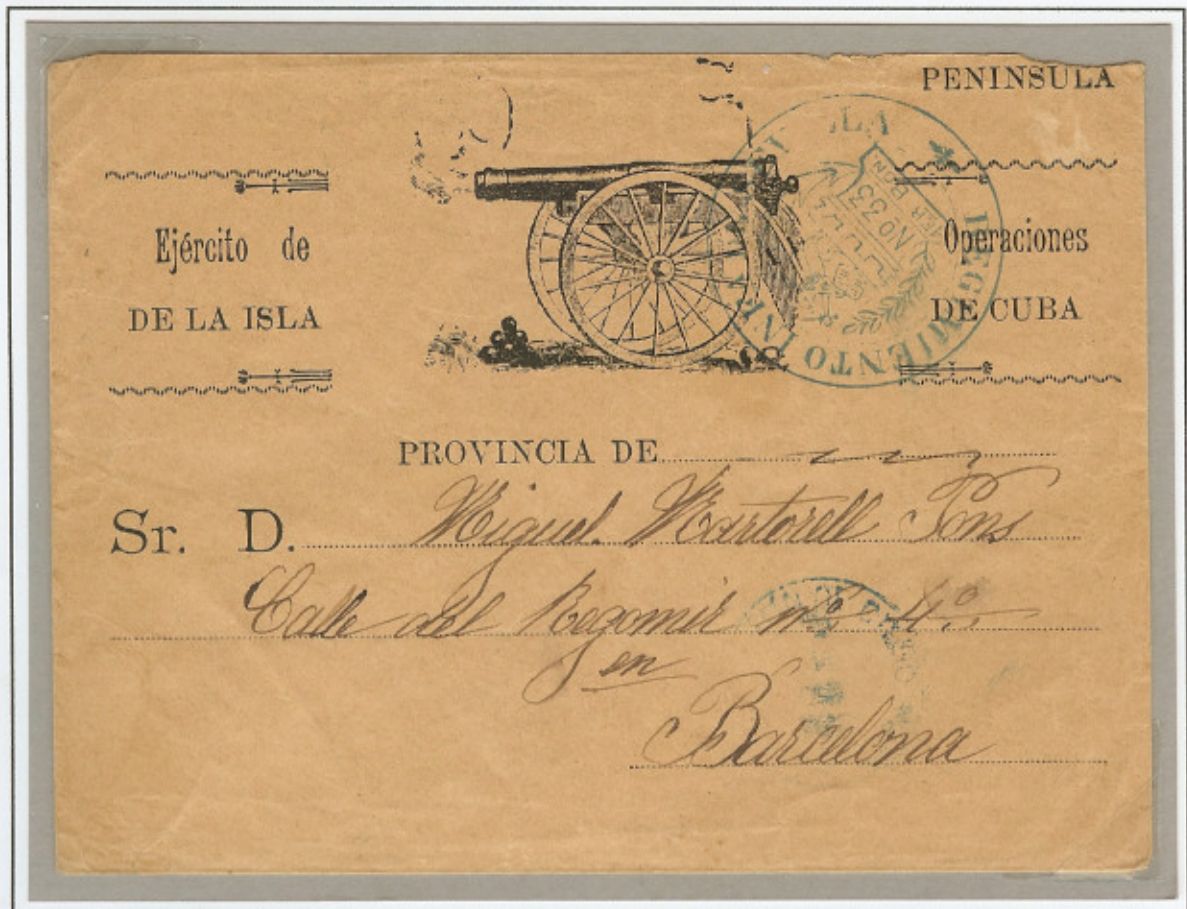


Free franking example on cover to Barcelona, Spain with infantry regimental cancel.

* Yamil Kouri, 2008

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Examples of free franking on letters to Spain from soldiers serving in Cuba with different regimental stationary and cancels.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Free franking on letters to Spain with different styles of pre-printed stationery.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Free franking cover sent to Spain by soldier in an artillery regiment.



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.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



Free franking on letter to Cartagena, Spain with "REGIMIENTO INFANTERIA DE ESPAÑA—NO.46".



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

A. SPANISH MAIL

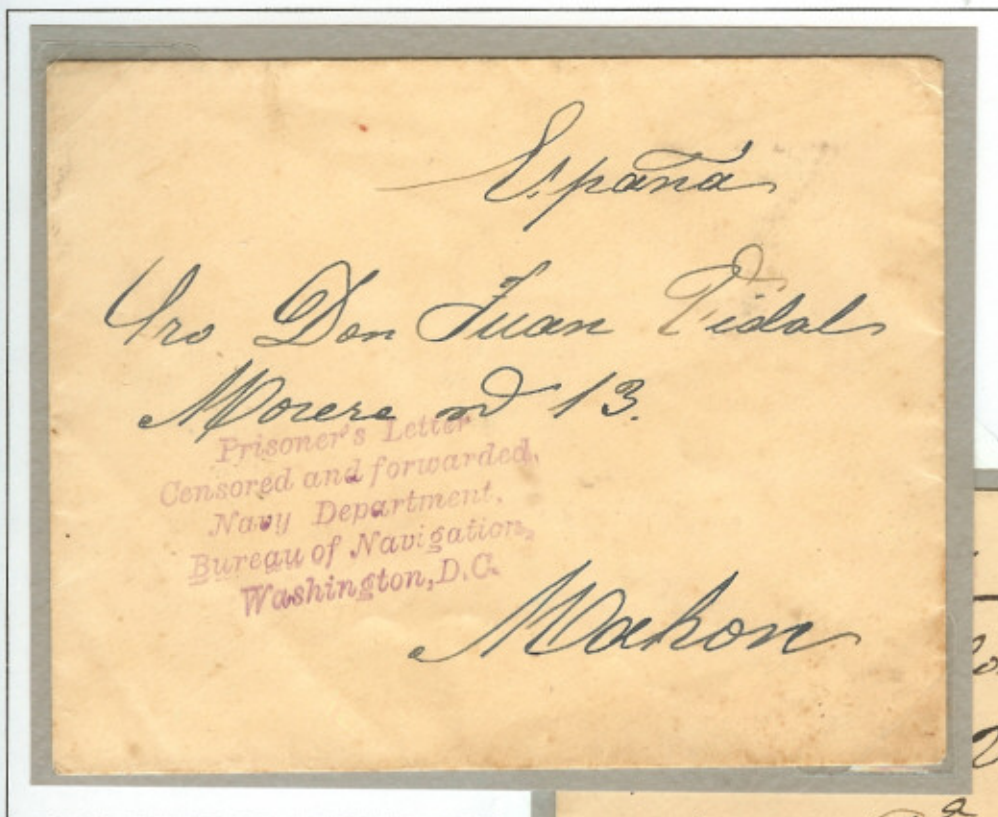
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - SPANISH FREE FRANKING



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

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - PRISONER OF WAR MAIL



Stampless cover from the POW camp in Portsmouth, New Hampshire routed through Washington, D.C. to Mahon, Spain (Balearic Islands) with fine hand stamp in violet. Arrival back stamp of August 28, 1898 indicating early usage only one month after fall of Santiago.



Prisoner of War mail to Barcelona originating at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where a small group of officers were housed. The cover has all three of the known markings of Spanish POW mail from the U.S.. And the censor's, Leroux, signature. It is not known why a five cent rate was charged from this location.

U. S. N. A.
CENSORED.



*Prisoner's Letter
Censored and forwarded,
Navy Department,
Bureau of Navigation,
Washington, D.C.*

The three known markings of Spanish POW mail from the U.S.*

* Kouri Y. Cuban Philatelist, 2002.

A. SPANISH MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8 - WAR FUNDRAISING STAMPS



Cover from Cuba to Cartagena, Spain with voluntary war fundraising stamp added. **ONLY RECORDED USAGE IN CUBA.***



War is an expensive enterprise. Voluntary war fundraising stamps in various designs were printed by stationary houses to aid in the war effort.

* Yamil Kouri, 2008

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL

I. 1868 - 1878 TEN YEARS WAR

We will now examine the exhibit's theme from the perspective of the Cuban revolutionaries. In 1874, the revolutionary government of Cuba operating in the field authorized the Revolutionary Junta in the U.S. 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. A total of 100,000 stamps were printed by the American Bank Note Co. about half of which were actually used during the war. The remaining stamps were eventually sold during the subsequent Insurrection of 1895-8. 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 stamps are found in used condition. Only two used singles are known; both are in the Cuban Postal Museum in Havana. No stamped covers have been recorded from this war. Multiple pieces are also uncommon.



Proof. - ONE OF ONLY FIVE RECORDED
EXAMPLES.* ●



Revolutionary issue.



Large multiples are rare. This is the third largest multiple reported.

* Yamil Kouri, Personal communication, 2008

B. CUBAN
REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
I. 1868 - 1878 TEN
YEARS WAR

Block of fifty with full original gum from a sheet of one hundred.

THE SECOND LARGEST MULTIPLE RECORDED.*



* Garcia Frutos and Kouri,
Personal communication, 2001.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8

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 and carried out by the New York Bank Note Co. 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 RECORDED EXAMPLES, MANY OF WHICH ARE NOW IN THE CUBAN POSTAL MUSEUM.***



Various proofs on thick card stock.

* Prats and Kouri, Personal communication, 2006

DELEGACION DE LA REPUBLICA DE CUBA.

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
Gonzalo de Quesada



To Mrs Henry Cabot Lodge

SPECIMEN 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.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



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

Printing quantities were as follows:

- 2 cent - 40,000
- 5 cent - 40,000
- 10 cent - 25,000
- 25 cent - 30,000



Scarce multiples of Revolutionary Stamp issue in blocks of six.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



Imperforate on left side variety.
THREE OF ONLY SIX RECORDED EXAMPLES.* ●

** Kouri, Personal communication, 2004.*

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



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.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



Cover from the Insurrection of 1895-8 with Las Villas circular cancel in front and Cubitas circular cancel on back.
Signed Bartells.



Letter to the Sanitation Commander of the "Brigade North of Matanzas". One of two recorded small flag cancels.

TWO OF TWENTY FIVE RECORDED COVERS OF THIS ISSUE.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



Letter to a battalion chief serving in General Calixto García's headquarters. Flag cancel and additional cancel "República de Cuba Agencia de Comunicaciones—Santiago de Cuba". The cover was sent from New York to Santiago from where it was forwarded to Bayamo. Only a handful of covers posted abroad are recorded.

**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.***



Patriotic cover from Havana to the U.S. 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.

* Kouri, *Personal communication*, 2006.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



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 IT HAS BEEN SPECULATED THAT THIS WAS ANOTHER FUND RAISING EFFORT BY THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. FURTHER RESEARCH IS WARRANTED.*

* *Cuban Philatelist*, 1992.

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL

II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8

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. The issue was intended as a fund raising mechanism to support the revolution. The stamps 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.



"Libra" set.



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

**Garcia Frutos, S. Personal communication, 2001.*

B. CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY MAIL
II. INSURRECTION OF 1895-8



Imperforate blocks

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

*Garcia Frutos, S. Personal communication, 2001.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

The exhibit's theme continues during the period of transition when U.S. troops were occupying the island. In 1898, the U.S. declared war on Spain and thus began the Spanish American War. 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 situation was remedied when the U.S. commander on the site, Brigadier General R. Carpenter, 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 stamps were surcharged in strips of five so vertical pairs and blocks do not exist. Each of the five surcharges in each strip are sufficiently different from each other that plating is possible. These stamps were solely used in the towns of Puerto Principe, Minas 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 22, 1899.



Example of Spanish stamp cancelled the day the city was occupied by the American troops. This is the type of usage that led to the provisional issue.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIRST PRINTING - DECEMBER 19, 1898



Strip with complete setting of the 1 cent on 1 mil.
(3,000 printed)



INVERTED surcharge
of first printing
1 cent on 1 mil value.
Position 2.

**THIS PROVISIONAL ISSUE IS ONE OF THE RAREST IN CUBAN
PHILATELY. MANY FORGERIES EXIST AND CARE MUST BE TAKEN
WHEN REVIEWING THE AUTHENTICITY OF THESE ITEMS.**

**ALL EXAMPLES SHOWN HERE HAVE BEEN AUTHENTICATED
BY THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
OR ARE FROM THE IGNACIO PRATS AND PETER ROBERTSON
COLLECTIONS - NOTED EXPERTS OF THIS ISSUE.**

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIRST PRINTING - DECEMBER 19, 1898



Proof of 2 cent on 2 mil.

ONE OF THREE RECORDED PROOFS OF THE PUERTO PRINCIPE ISSUE.*



Strip with complete setting
of the 2 cent on 2 mil.
(3,900 printed)



Complete setting of the
2 cent on 2 mil.
INVERTED

* I. Prats, P. Roberston, and Y. Kouri, Personal communication, 2008

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

THERE ARE TWENTY EIGHT COVERS WITH STAMPS OF THIS ISSUE RECORDED AND MANY OF THESE ARE IN THE CUBAN POSTAL MUSEUM IN HAVANA.*

FIRST PRINTING - DECEMBER 19, 1898



These are the only two recorded registered mail receipts. The first one on a letter sent from New York and the second from Yaguachi, Ecuador. The handwriting on these rare documents is the same, probably from a postal clerk. The stamps were cancelled in Puerto Principe and both pieces were back stamped in Havana in mid January. They were probably equivalent to acknowledgements of receipt and paid for a return card to the senders. The 2 cent stamp on the first cover is from position 4 and on the second from position 3. Rate: evidently 2 cents.

THE PIECES ABOVE ARE THE TWO RECORDED REGISTERED MAIL RECEIPTS WITH PUERTO PRINCIPE FRANKINGS.**

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

** Kouri and Thompson, *Cuban Philatelist*, 1998.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE



Cover addressed within Cuba with complete strip of five of displaced two cent overprint stamps. Rate overpaid by 1 cent.

ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF AN INTACT STRIP OF FIVE ON COVER FROM PUERTO PRINCIPE OVERPRINT*



Large fragment sent by Francisco Parras to France with 2 cent from position one. Rate could be for foreign printed matter but more likely other stamps missing from piece.

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIRST PRINTING - DECEMBER 19, 1898



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 3 mil.
(3,000 printed)



Used strip of three.



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 3 mil.
INVERTED

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

THERE ARE TWENTY EIGHT COVERS WITH STAMPS OF THIS ISSUE KNOWN AND MANY OF THESE ARE IN THE CUBAN POSTAL MUSEUM IN HAVANA.

FIRST PRINTING - DECEMBER 19, 1898



Internal letter to Havana with first printing 3 cent on 3 mil. position 4.

**ONLY RECORDED 3 CENT STAMP OF
FIRST PRINTING ON COVER.***



* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIRST PRINTING - DECEMBER 19, 1898



Strip with complete setting of
the 5 cent on 5 mil.
(1,000 printed)



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 5 mil. **INVERTED**



Interesting usage of 5 cent on 5 mil. stamp with U.S. 2 cent carmine on piece.



3 cent on 2 mil.

Apparently some 2 mil. stamps were overprinted in error.

THIS IS ONE OF THE TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THIS ERROR.*

* I. Prats, Y. Kouri, 2008

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

SECOND PRINTING - DECEMBER 24, 1898



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 1/2 mil.
(800 printed)



5 cent on 1/2 mil. pair with
one overprint on selvage.



5 cent on 1/2 mil. pair with one stamp
missing the overprint.



5 cent overprint on selvage.



5 cent on 1/2 mil. positions four and five with the
latter on selvage and an unsurcharged stamp.



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 1/2 mil. **INVERTED.**

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

SECOND PRINTING - DECEMBER 24, 1898



Complete setting of 5 cent on 1 mil.
(500 printed)



Two of the five positions of the
5 cent on 1 mil. **INVERTED**



Four of the five positions of the 5 cent on 2 mil.
(500 printed)
ONLY RECORDED STRIP OF THIS VALUE.*



* I. Prats, 2008

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

SECOND PRINTING - DECEMBER 24, 1898



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 3 mil.



5 cent on 3 mil. with one surcharge on margin.

Positions 1 and 2 of the
5 cent on 3 mil. **INVERTED**



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 5 mil.
(1,000 printed)



Two of the five positions of the 5 cent on 5 mil. **INVERTED.**

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

THIRD PRINTING - DECEMBER 24, 1898



Complete setting of the 1 cent on 1 mil.
(900 printed)



Four of the five positions of the 1 cent on 1 mil. **INVERTED.**



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 1 mil.
(200 printed)



DOUBLE OVERPRINT ●
of 3 cent on 3 mil.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

THIRD PRINTING - DECEMBER 24, 1898



Positions one and three of 3 cent on 1 mil. on letters to Havana.

TWO OF ONLY FIVE COVERS RECORDED FROM THE THIRD PRINTING.*

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

THIRD PRINTING - DECEMBER 24, 1898



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 1/2 mil.
(800 Printed)



5 cent on 1/2 mil. Strip with center surcharge on margin.
Positions 2, 3 and 4.

FOURTH PRINTING - DECEMBER 27, 1898



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 1 centavo.
(3,500 printed)



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 1 centavo. **INVERTED.**

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FOURTH PRINTING - DECEMBER 27, 1898



Letter to Spain from Santa Cruz del Sur with two overprinted stamps, a 3 cent on 1 centavo position 1 from fourth printing, and a 2 cent on 3 mil. position 1 from first printing.

ONLY RECORDED PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL COVER TO SPAIN.*

ONE OF FOUR RECORDED COVERS ORIGINATING IN SANTA CRUZ DEL SUR.*

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FOURTH PRINTING - DECEMBER 27, 1898



Letter from Santa Cruz del Sur to Puerto Principe with
3 cents on 1 centavo position 1 from fourth printing.

**ONE OF FOUR RECORDED COVERS ORIGINATING IN
SANTA CRUZ DEL SUR.***

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FOURTH PRINTING - DECEMBER 27, 1898



Letter to Havana with
3 cents on 1 centavo position 5 from fourth printing.

**ONE OF FIVE RECORDED DOMESTIC COVERS
FRANKED WITH SINGLE 3 CENT STAMP
FROM FOURTH PRINTING.***

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FOURTH PRINTING - DECEMBER 27, 1898



Strip with the complete setting of the 5 cent on 1 centavo.
(3,500 printed)



Positions three and four with printing on
selvage of the 5 cent on 1 centavo.



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 1 centavo. **INVERTED.**



Strip with complete setting of the 10 cent on 1 centavo.
(800 printed)

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FOURTH PRINTING - DECEMBER 27, 1898



Letter to U.S. from Puerto Principe with
5 cents on 1 centavo position 3 fourth printing.
Late usage but evidently accepted as postage.

**ONE OF ONLY TWO PUERTO PRINCIPE FRANKINGS ON A
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR PATRIOTIC ENVELOPE.***

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIFTH PRINTING - JANUARY 11, 1899 - IN USE FOR ONLY NINE DAYS.

After the earlier printings, there remained 800 Spanish stamps of different values in inventory. It was decided that 500 of them (1 mil, 2 mil, and 3 mil values) would be overprinted with the 3 cent value. It is unknown exactly how many were printed of each of the values only that the total was 500.



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 1 mil.

TWO OF THE THREE RECORDED PAIRS OF THIS VALUE.*



Complete setting of the **INVERTED** overprint of 3 cent over 1 mil.



INVERTED PAIR overprint of 3 cent on 1 mil. With printing on selvage.



Pair of 3 cent on 1 mil.
With printing on selvage.



Misplaced overprint of 3 cent on 1 mil.

* Prats, I. Personal communication, 2006.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIFTH PRINTING - JANUARY 11, 1899 - IN USE FOR ONLY NINE DAYS.



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 2 mil.



3 cent on 2 mil. With surcharge on margin.



INVERTED
3 cent on 2 mil.



Complete setting of the 3 cent on 3 mil.



3 cent on 3 mil. **INVERTED.**



3 cent on 3 mil. pair with surcharge on the margin.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIFTH PRINTING - JANUARY 11, 1899 - IN USE FOR ONLY NINE DAYS.

The balance of the inventory numbering 300 stamps of 1 mil, 2 mil, 3 mil, 4 mil and 8 mil denominations were overprinted with the 5 cent value. There is no record of how many of each were printed.



ONLY RECORDED complete setting of the 5 cent on 1 mil.*



ERROR position 2 of the 5 cent on 1 mil. Incorrectly applied to 1 mil red brown stamp.*

Three of the five positions of the 5 cent on 2 mil.



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 3 mil.



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 4 mil.

* Prats, I. Personal communication, 2006.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIFTH PRINTING - JANUARY 11, 1899 - IN USE FOR ONLY NINE DAYS.



Pair (positions 4 and 5) of 5 cent on 4 mil. On registered cover to New York.

ONE OF FOUR COVERS RECORDED FROM THE FIFTH PRINTING.*

ONE OF ONLY TWO RECORDED COVERS FRANKED WITH A PAIR.*

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2005.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

FIFTH PRINTING - JANUARY 11, 1899 - IN USE FOR ONLY NINE DAYS.



Complete setting of the 5 cent on 8 mil.



Complete setting of the INVERTED surcharge of 5 cent on 8 mil.

C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

I. PUERTO PRINCIPE PROVISIONAL ISSUE

Military Station No.11 Puerto Principe was opened in the city during the time the Provisional issue was in use.



Complete setting of the first printing 2 cent on 2 mil. with Military Station No.11 Puerto Principe cancels.



Third printing 1 cent on 1 mil. with Military Station cancel.



Four of the five positions of the fourth printing 5 cent on 1 centavo with Military Station cancels.



Fifth printing 3 cent on 1 mil. with Military Station cancel.



99



C. TRANSITIONAL PERIOD
II. GIBARA PROVISIONAL ISSUE



Cover from Gibara to Pto. Principe with 2 cent provisional postmark of Gibara. This mark was used briefly due to lack of stamps. Second mark in violet ink with
*"No stamps available
Postage paid Military
Govt."*

ONE OF THREE RECORDED COVERS USING THIS PROVISIONAL POSTMARK.*



*No stamps available
Postage paid Military
Govt.*

* Prats and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 1997.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

We continue to examine the exhibit's theme - this time from the viewpoint of the United States. The U. S. had been watching the Cuban struggle for independence since its beginnings giving covert support where it could. Following the sinking of the *U.S.S. Maine* in February 1898, the American government demanded Spain's withdrawal from Cuba and openly supported the revolutionary forces. 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.

WAR TIME MAIL DELIVERY PROHIBITION

When the U.S. declared war on Spain it banned mail to the Spanish colonies. The ban lasted nearly four months from the middle of April 1898 until the peace protocol was signed on August 12, 1898



The New York post office handled most of the mail from the U.S. to Cuba. It applied labels to letters that could not be delivered because of the ban. The label on the cover above was the first used and has been recorded on letters mailed between April 18 and 24. The examples above were postmarked April 22 and April 24, 1898.

SELDOM SEEN LABEL IN USE FOR ONLY ONE WEEK.*

* Kouri, Personal communication, 2007.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - WAR TIME

U.S. postal authorities set a rate between Cuba and the U.S. of 2 cents. Initially U.S. stamps were allowed as no alternative was available at the time. Troops were also exempted from the unpaid letter penalties - a reflection of the scarcity of stamps in the field.

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, MILITARY STATION No. 1

On June 22, 1898 U.S. forces landed at Daiquiri, about 6 miles east of the town of Santiago, Cuba. On June 24th, the only official post office in use during war time, 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 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. Due to lack of an official canceller, no local post mark was applied in Cuba.

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



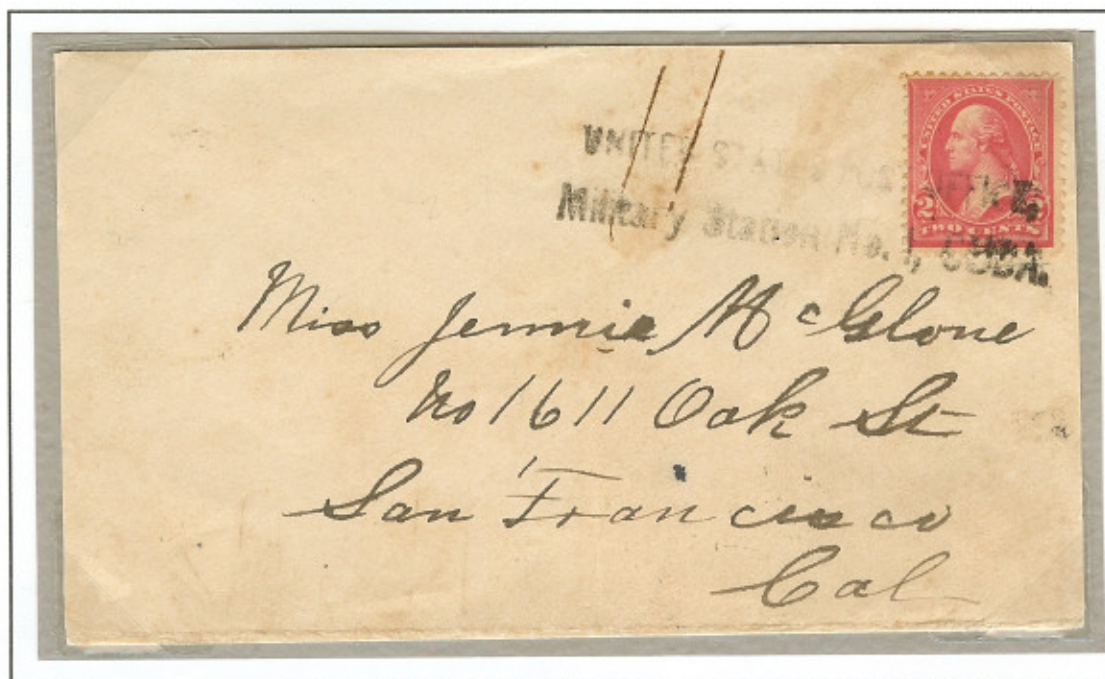
A two cent rate was extended to the troops serving in the War. This cover went to Kansas via Key West, FL., arriving at its destination July 6th, only two weeks after it was mailed.

* Thompson and Kouri, *Cuban Philatelist*, 2003.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - WAR TIME

An official canceller arrived from the U.S. and was placed in service on June 28, 1898. 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.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - WAR TIME



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.

Following a ten day period when mail was not picked up due to the yellow fever outbreak, a new oval Military Station No.1 cancel began usage on July 20, 1898.



This letter to Clinton, Ohio was probably posted in Siboney and fumigated before being postmarked in Santiago on the 20th (postmark on rear of envelope).

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - WAR TIME

After the fall of Santiago, the Spanish post office cancel was used from July 24 until August 21, 1898, when a new military station cancel arrived and was placed in service.



Soldier's letter to New York State with the Santiago Spanish post office cancel.
Contents disinfected and envelope resealed with thread.
FIRST DAY OF USAGE FOR NEW CANCEL.



An 1898 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.

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - WAR TIME

A new circular steel duplex hand stamp was placed in service on August 21, 1898.



Letter from Santiago to Caracas, Venezuela using the new duplex with year, sent via New York.



Letter from Santiago to Liverpool, England using new duplex without year and "Paid Liverpool U.S. Packet" cancel applied in New York. Rare high 5 cent value use from Cuba.

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - WAR TIME

Registered mail received its own Military Station No. 1 cancel.



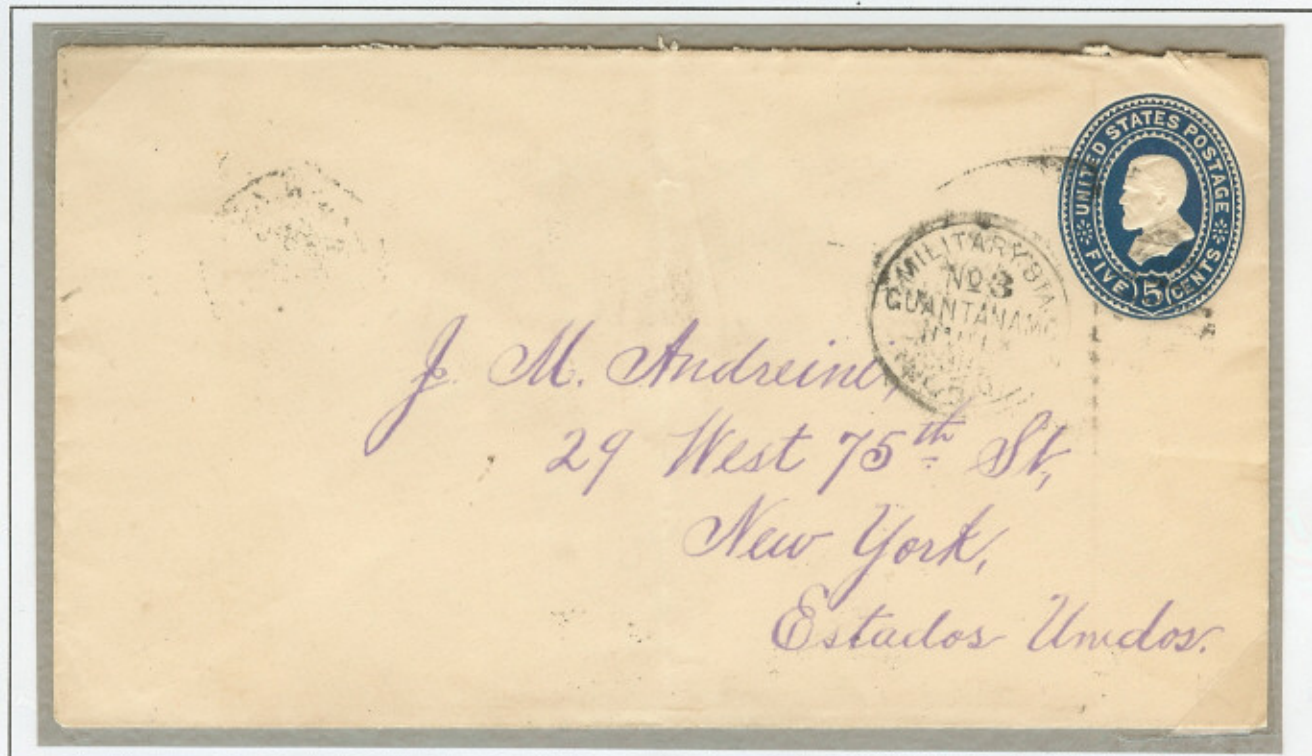
Cover from Santiago to New York City with the first registered mail cancel used at Military Station No. 1, Santiago de Cuba.

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - PEACE TIME

After hostilities ceased, U.S. forces occupied the island and opened other Military Stations for postal 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 with "1" on oval cancel



U.S. 5 cent envelope to noted stamp collector Andreini with Military Station No.3 Guantanamo cancel.

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - PEACE TIME



Military Station No.5 San Luis registered letter cancel on cover to France.



Military Station No.6 Manzanillo letter cancel on U.S. preprinted envelope to West Virginia.

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - PEACE TIME



Two different styles of Military Station No. 7 Gibara.

FEWER THAN 25 ITEM REPORTED FROM THIS STATION.*

* Kouri, Personal communication, 2006.

I. U.S. ISSUES USED IN CUBA - PEACE TIME



Military Station No. 11 Puerto Principe on letter to the U.S.



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

OTHER MILITARY STATION CANCELS CAN BE SEEN IN
THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF THIS EXHIBIT.

I. U.S. ISSUES - PEACE TIME

Military Stations were also set up in the U.S. to service training and mobilization efforts for the war. Letters from these camps frequently featured patriotic envelopes that reflect the mood of a country



Two covers from camps located in Chickamauga National Park, GA..

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE

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.



Set as issued.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



Strips of three with the plate numbers of the overprinted issue.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



Blocks of six of the Postage Due stamps of the set.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE

PRINTING VARIETIES



INVERTED surcharges.

MISSING "CUBA" variety..

AMONG THE RAREST ITEMS OF CUBAN PHILATELY.**



Variety five dots in curved frame above messenger's head and missing period after "PESO".

"CUPA" Surchage.



Surcharges with no period after "PESO".



"CUBA" Surchage on bottom. The 10c variety is **ONE OF 90 RECORDED.***

* P. Robertson, Personal communication, 2008.

** Scott Catalog, 2008.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



First stamp on left is the variety no period after "CUBA".



Second printing with corrected missing period after "CUBA".



Natal UPU overseas "Specimen" overprints.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE

- SPECIAL PRINTING OF 1900

In March 1900 as part of the celebration of the new century, the U.S. Post Office Department exhibited at the Paris and Pan American Expositions all of the postage stamps overprinted for use at post offices on the island possessions of Cuba, Guam, Philippines and Puerto Rico, the newly acquired spoils of the Spanish American War. Although supplies of the originally overprinted stamps were not available, the Bureau of Engraving provided one ordinary sheet of each value that was then overprinted with the original electrotype plates. For the 10c value the Type II design was used and it is only known as a Special Printing.

H.G. Mandel, who was associated with the American Bank Note Co. and was appointed to arrange the U.S. stamp exhibit, decided to show a single and block of each value. Upon delivery from the Bureau, two sets of singles and block were mounted in separate frames for display at the two Exhibitions. Most of the few copies saved from each sheet were stamped "Special Surchage" in red on the back. As compensation for his services, Mandel was permitted to retain additional copies from the same sheets. Some he stamped in black, similar to those in the exhibit, and others were stamped in red. All examples shown here have been authenticated by the Philatelic Foundation.



Special Surchage marking on back of Special Printing.



Type II stamp with circles crossing frame.



Special Printing as issued.



D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

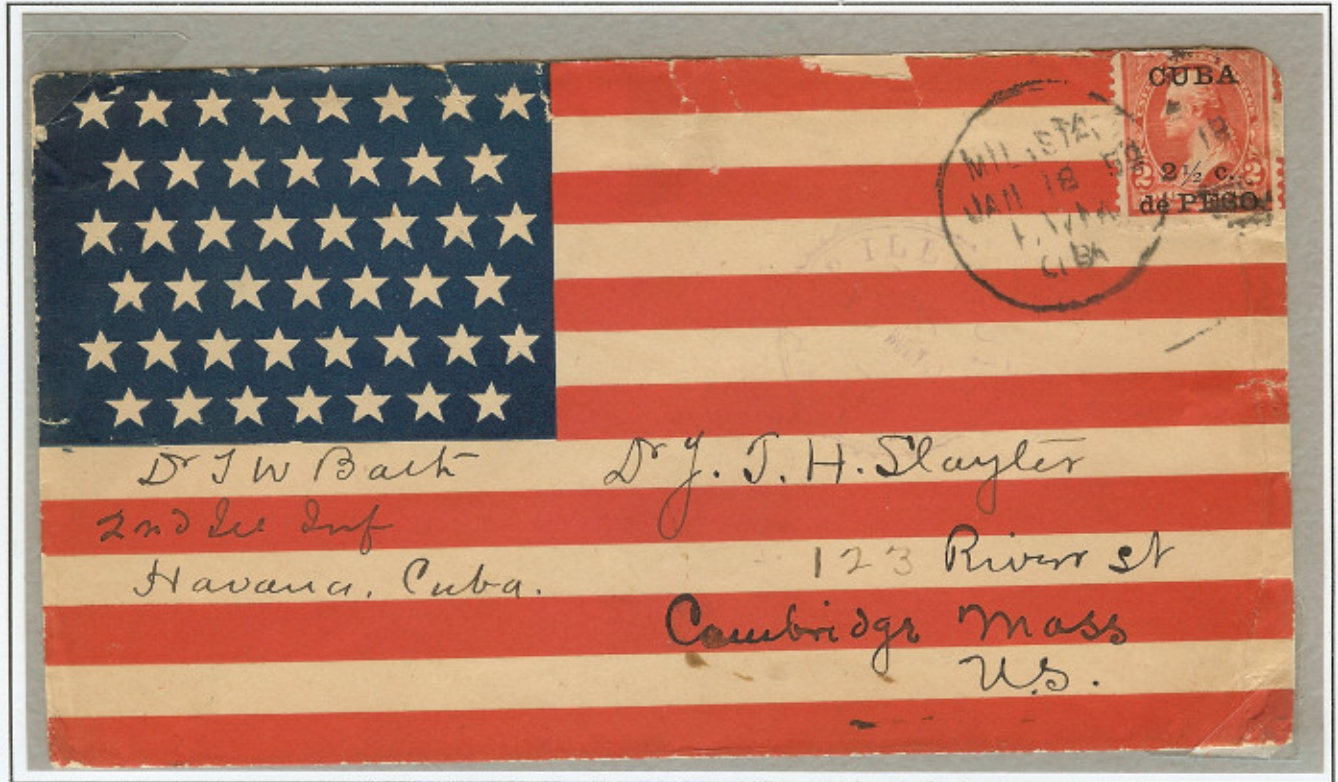
II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



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.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



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



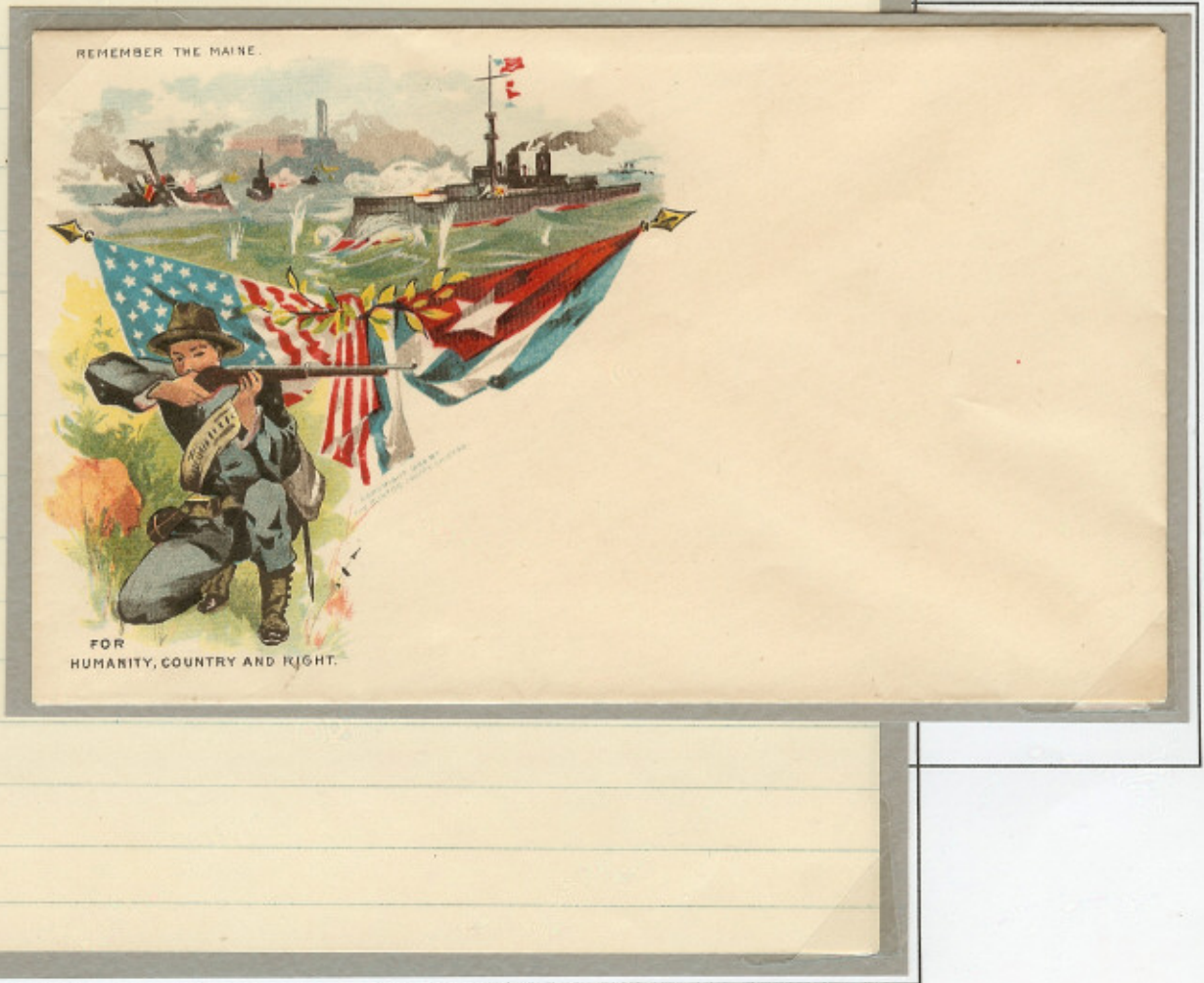
Patriotic cover from Havana to St. Louis with Havana Military Station cancel.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



A rarely found example of patriotic stationary in mint condition.



D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



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.



Three cent overprint stamp on letter to Paris, France.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

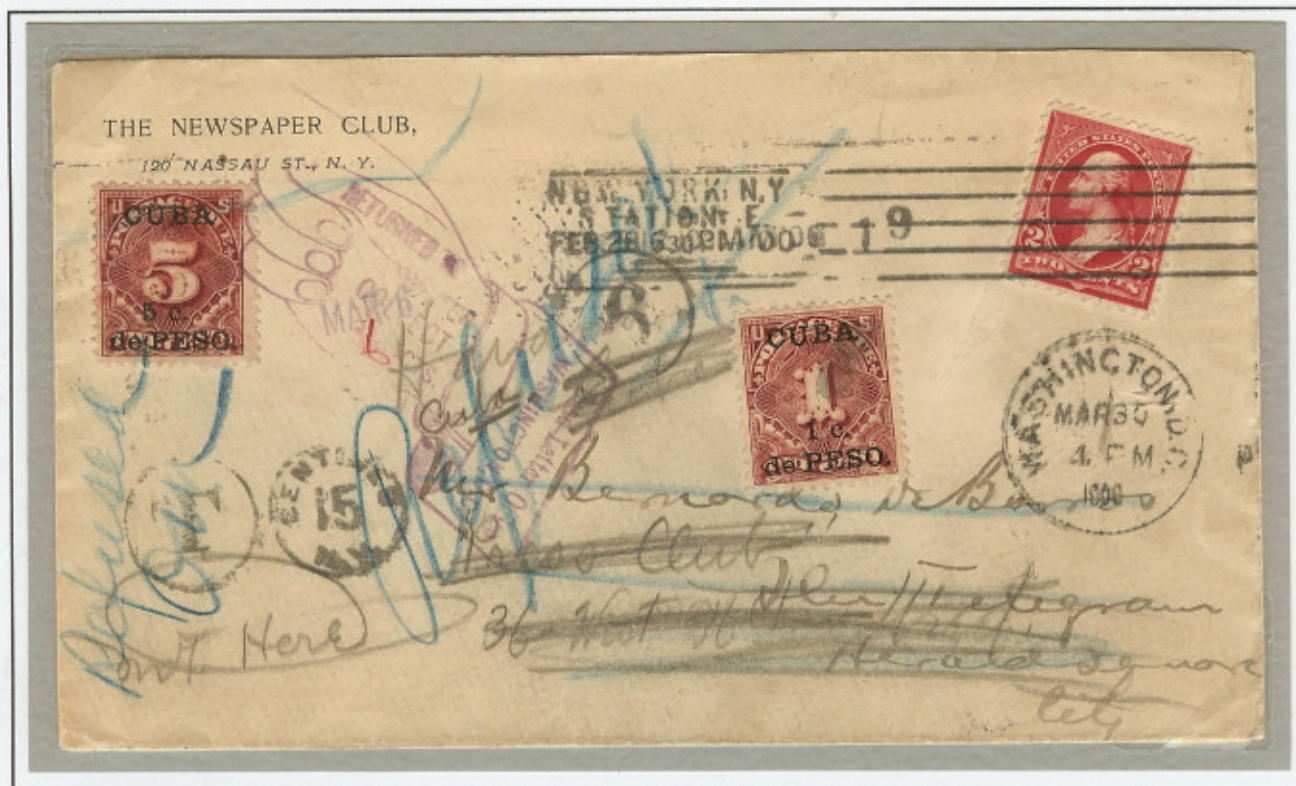
II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



Examples of the 5c and 10 c values of overprinted issue on cover.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



Postage due cover sent locally in New York. Redirected to Havana with "T" marking and on arrival, circular "6" due and added 1c and 5c surcharged stamps. Letter was seemingly refused and returned to the U.S.



Postage due cover incoming from Chicago to Havana with pair of U.S. 2c underpaid with "T" marking and on arrival, two aligned circular "2" due marks and added 2c and pair 10c surcharged postage due stamps reflecting a double weight letter.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - JANUARY 2, 1899 ISSUE



"CUPA" variety on letter to Santiago.



"Cuba" overprint on bottom of stamp on cover to St. Louis from Havana.

POSSIBLY THE ONLY KNOWN COVER
OF THIS PRINTING VARIETY.

* Roberston, P. and Kouri, Y., Personal communication, 2008.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS

Examples of overprinted U.S. issues with Military Station cancels.



Military Station No.4 Baracoa on letter to Savannah, GA.



Military Station No.6 Manzanillo on letter to Baltimore.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS



Military Station No. 10 Havana on letter to Florida.



Military Station No. 11 Camaguey on letter to St. Louis.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS



Military Station No.12 Nuevitas on letter to New York.



Military Station No.13 Cienfuegos on letter to New York.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS



Military Station No.15 Pinal del Rio on letter to Canada.



Military Station No.18 Trinidad on piece.

ONLY FOUR ITEMS RECORDED FROM THIS STATION.*



Military Station No.21 Cardenas on letter to Habana.

* Kouri, Y. Personal communication, 2008.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS



Military Station No.26 Buena Vista on letter to Philadelphia.



Military Station No.28 Santa Clara on letter to Ohio.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS



Military Station No. 31
cancel on 2 c. stamp.

**ONLY FOUR ITEMS
RECORDED FROM
THIS STATION - ALL
LOOSE STAMPS
WITH THIS
CANCEL.***



Military Station No. 32 Gibara on piece.

**ONLY SIX ITEMS RECORDED FROM
THIS STATION.***



Military Station No. 33 Sagua la Grande on letter to Pennsylvania.

* Kouri, Y. Personal communication, 2008.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - MILITARY STATION CANCELS



Letter to New York with Military Station No. 34, Caibarien postmark.



For a short while the overprinted stamps were allowed for use on mail originating in the U.S.
This cover uses one overprinted stamp together with a regular U.S. 1 cent stamp.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - POSTAL STATIONARY

Postal cards from the U.S. were also overprinted 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.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - POSTAL STATIONARY

Postal stationary envelopes from the U.S. were also overprinted for use in Cuba.



One cent overprinted postal stationary with added postage on letter to Chicago.



Example of two cent overprinted postal stationary with additional postage to meet the Antilles single weight rate on letter from Real de Campina to the U.S.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - REGISTERED MAIL



U.S. overprinted stamps on registered mail from Puerto Principe. Note addressee is noted collector Andreini. Both letters were overpaid by one 1 cent. Rate should have been the total of the 5 cent single rate plus the 8 cent registry fee.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

II. U.S. ISSUES OVERPRINTED - REGISTERED MAIL



Registered Mail cancel from Military Station No. 10, Havana.



Registered mail from Military Station No. 1, Santiago de Cuba to Philadelphia.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899

The long promised separate "Special Design" issue for Cuba was finally prepared and shipped on July 19, 1899. These stamps continued to be used after independence which came on May 20, 1902. Cuba continued to purchase its stamps from the US Bureau of Engraving and Printing until December of 1904.



Large Die Proofs on heavy card stock.



D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA

- ISSUE OF 1899



Large Die Proofs on heavy
card stock.



D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



Small Die Proofs.

EX ROOSEVELT COLLECTION - ONLY 86 RECORDED.*



Issue of September 1899.



Correction of "Immediata" spelling. The earlier die had a spelling error that was corrected in 1902.

* Robertson, P. Personal communication, 2008.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



Booklet pane sheet.
**ONE OF THE RARE PIECES OF CUBAN
PHILATELY.**



After the United Postal Union was formed, examples of official issues were sent to post offices of other countries for identification of proper postage. The stamps were usually stamped "Specimen". The "Ultramar" was the equivalent marking used by the Portuguese Post Office when it re-sent examples of new issues to its colonies.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



The Issue of September 1899 also included stamped envelopes with one, two and five cent rates.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



Registered letter to Germany with three of the new issue values..



Two cent value from booklet pane on letter to New York.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



Various values of the September 1899 Issue on registered letters.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



"Inmediata" misspelling as originally printed on cover to Havana.



The corrected "Inmediata" spelling on cover addressed to the "Central Commission for the Liquidation of the Army of General Maximo Gomes".

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION

III. STAMPS ISSUED BY U.S. FOR CUBA - ISSUE OF 1899



Bisected two cent value on letter to Havana. Shortages of stamps were usually behind such bisects.
This issue was printed in great quantities, so bisects are rare.

**ONE OF THREE RECORDED BIASECTED 2 CENT STAMPS
OF THIS ISSUE.***

* Robertson, P. Personal communication, 2008.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION
IV. FREE FRANKING

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



Two examples of free franking by civil authorities with Military Station cancels.

D. U.S. ADMINISTRATION
IV. FREE FRANKING

The hero of the revolution, Maximo Gomes, was allowed free franking privileges.



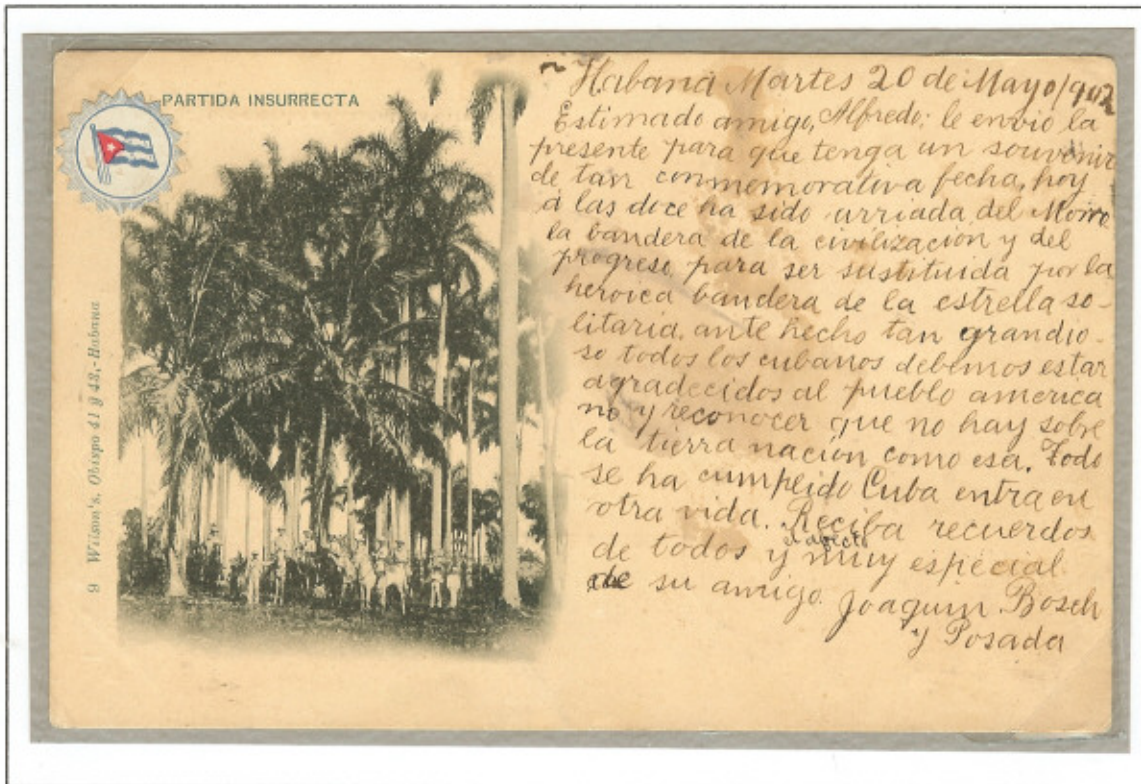
Free franking was granted to Gomes on August 8, 1899 by Mr. Estes Rathbone, the General Director of Posts for Cuba. It is believed to be the only free franking ever granted to an individual.

**ONE OF THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF
THIS FREE FRANKING.*** ●

* Robertson, P. and Garcia Frutos, S. Personal communication, 2008.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

In this final section, we shall examine the exhibit's theme from the viewpoint of the Cuban Republic. The U.S. occupation came to an end on May 20, 1902 and a new Cuban Republic was established.



The event was seen as significant by the Cubans and many philatelic inspired items were produced. This patriotic postcard sums it all up in a few words. Translated, the card reads as follows:

"Havana, Tuesday May 20, 1902.

Dear Friend Alfredo,

I am mailing you this so that you may have a souvenir of this important date. Today at noon over the Morro a flag of civilization and progress was taken down and substituted by the heroic flag with one star. Before

the Cubans become too self satisfied we should give thanks to the American people and recognize that no such nation as that rules over our country. All has been accomplished. Cuba now enters another life. My best to all... "

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

I. FIRST ISSUE BY CUBAN POST OFFICE

The first Cuban official issue was an emergency overprinting of the 3 cent value from the Issue of 1899. This overprinting, released for use in September 30, 1902, was necessitated when the Havana newspaper, "El Figaro", ran a picture postcard contest and the demand for one cent stamps was exhausting the available inventory. Additional stamps were ordered from the U.S. but the delivery date was unknown. A local printer was authorized to surcharge 200,000 stamps. He used a plate of 40 which was used three times for each pane of 100 leading to many varieties in the overprinting.



Overprinted issue.



SPECIMEN marking.



Plate strip with extra selvage overprint.



Pair one without overprint.



DOUBLE
overprint.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

I. FIRST ISSUE BY CUBAN POST OFFICE



INVERTED
overprint.



SIDWAYS
overprint.



"Habilitado" on top
and bottom.



"Habilitado" on
center of stamp.



Scarce block of four of
INVERTED overprint.



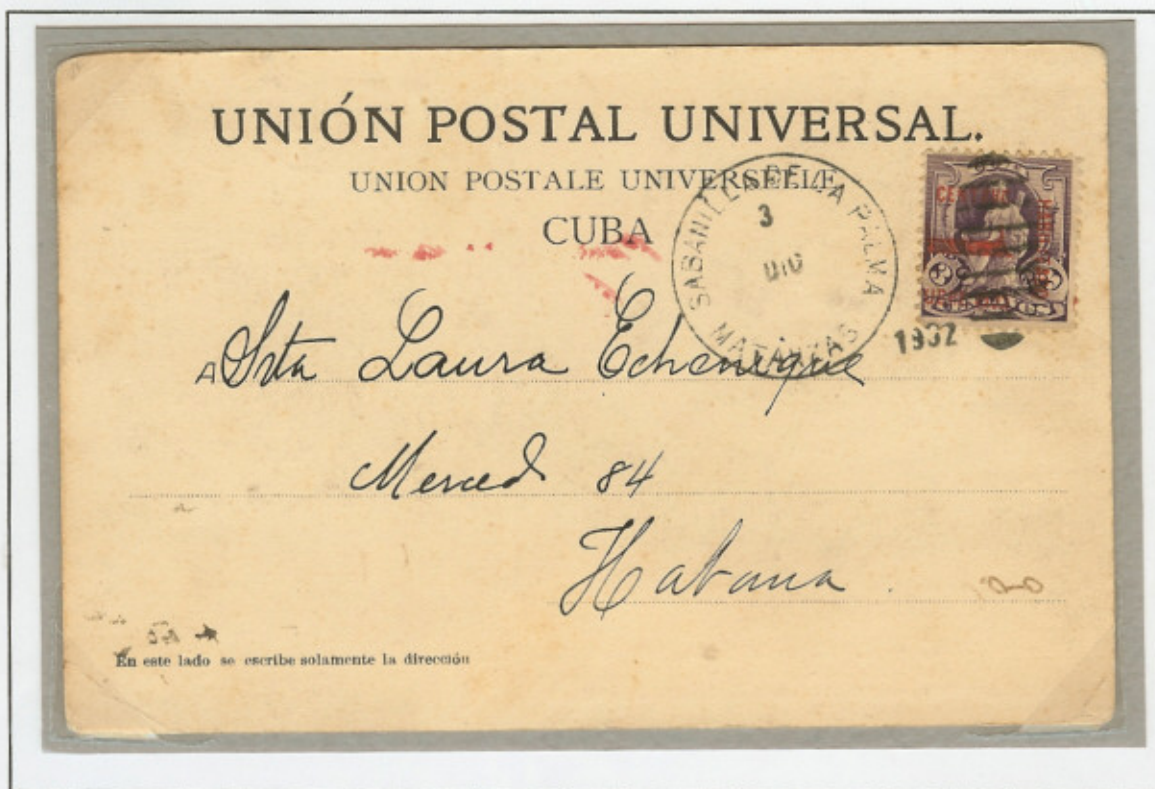
Shifted and double overprint
on top stamp.



First day cover. One cent was the circular rate for
2nd class letters with unsealed envelopes.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

I. FIRST ISSUE BY CUBAN POST OFFICE



SIDEWAYS overprint tied by 1902 duplex on postcard .



Overprint issue on registered letter to the U.S. with overprint on selvage.
Cancellation of July 14, 1903 is after the last day of official usage.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7

On May 20, 1902, the same day of independence, the postal affairs of Cuba were turned over to the Republic. By Presidential decree, all postal agreements and rates set under U.S. rule were confirmed. By prior arrangement, Cuba was allowed to continue ordering its "postal cards, stamped envelopes, ordinary postage stamps, postage due stamps and special delivery stamps" through the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing until it "could make other arrangements". Cuba did so for many years.

In 1904, Cuba bought the dies, roller and plates of the Issue of 1899 and had them sent to the American Bank Note Company. Before the Bureau of Engraving and Printing delivered them, a small secret mark was made in each design to distinguish BEP production from any made later.

ISSUES OF 1905-7



Small die proofs of re-engraved stamps as issued.



Rounded corners to background of "centavos".

Deleted adornment inside oval.

Small angle added to "Cuba" background.

Dot added to design.

Characteristics of new design.



Rose color.



Deep scarlet color.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.

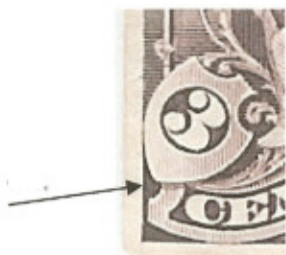
The three cent value and the special delivery stamps of 1899 were also re-engraved. The post office, having sufficient stocks on hand of those values, never issued them.



**ONLY RECORDED
EXAMPLE.***



**ONE OF TWO RECORDED
EXAMPLES.***



Ornament removed.



Corner ornaments
added.

Die proofs of re-engraved stamps in values never issued.

** Iglesias, F. Personal communication, 2006.*

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.

American Bank Note Co. specimen proofs of 1905 issue.





E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7



American Bank Note Co. specimen proof.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7



Scarlet.



Rose.

American Bank Note Co. specimen proofs in two colors.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7



American Bank Note Specimen set.



The re-engraved stamps as issued.



American Bank Note
Company specimen
proof.



Single.



Specimen from London
Post Office files of
UPU supplied samples.

A new 50 cent value was produced in 1907 by the American
Bank Note Company.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.



Registered letter to Paris franked 18 cent rate
with the new issue complete set.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.



As common as these stamps were there should be few if any bisects. Above is a letter to Paris, France with the proper five cent rate achieved with the use of a bisected two cent and two full two cent stamps.

ONE OF TWO RECORDED BISECTS OF THIS ISSUE.*.

* Iglesias, F. *Personal communication*, 2006.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.



Listed in only one catalog is an imperforate variety of the two cent value of this issue.



Guanajay to San Luis letter with imperforate two cent value.

SCARCE - PARTICULARLY ON COVER.*

* Iglesias, F. and Rpbertson, P. *Personal communication, 2006 and 2008.*

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.

Also a part of the re-engraved issue was a new booklet pane.



Die proofs of 25 cent and 49 cent booklet pane covers.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.

American Bank Note specimen proofs of 25 cent booklet pane cover in three different colors.



SPECI



SPECI



SPECI



SPECI





To be held for reference
SPECIMEN



SPECIMEN



EC

PEC

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7



American Bank Note specimen proofs of 49 cent booklet pane covers in red color.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs of 25 cent booklet with two panes of six stamps each also with specimen overprint.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7.



First booklet issued by the Republic containing four panes of six two cent stamps each. Price of booklet of forty nine cents included one cent for cover.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7

After running short of one cent postal cards, the post office revalued the overprinted U.S. 2 cent postal card while it waited for a new set of Cuban postal cards.

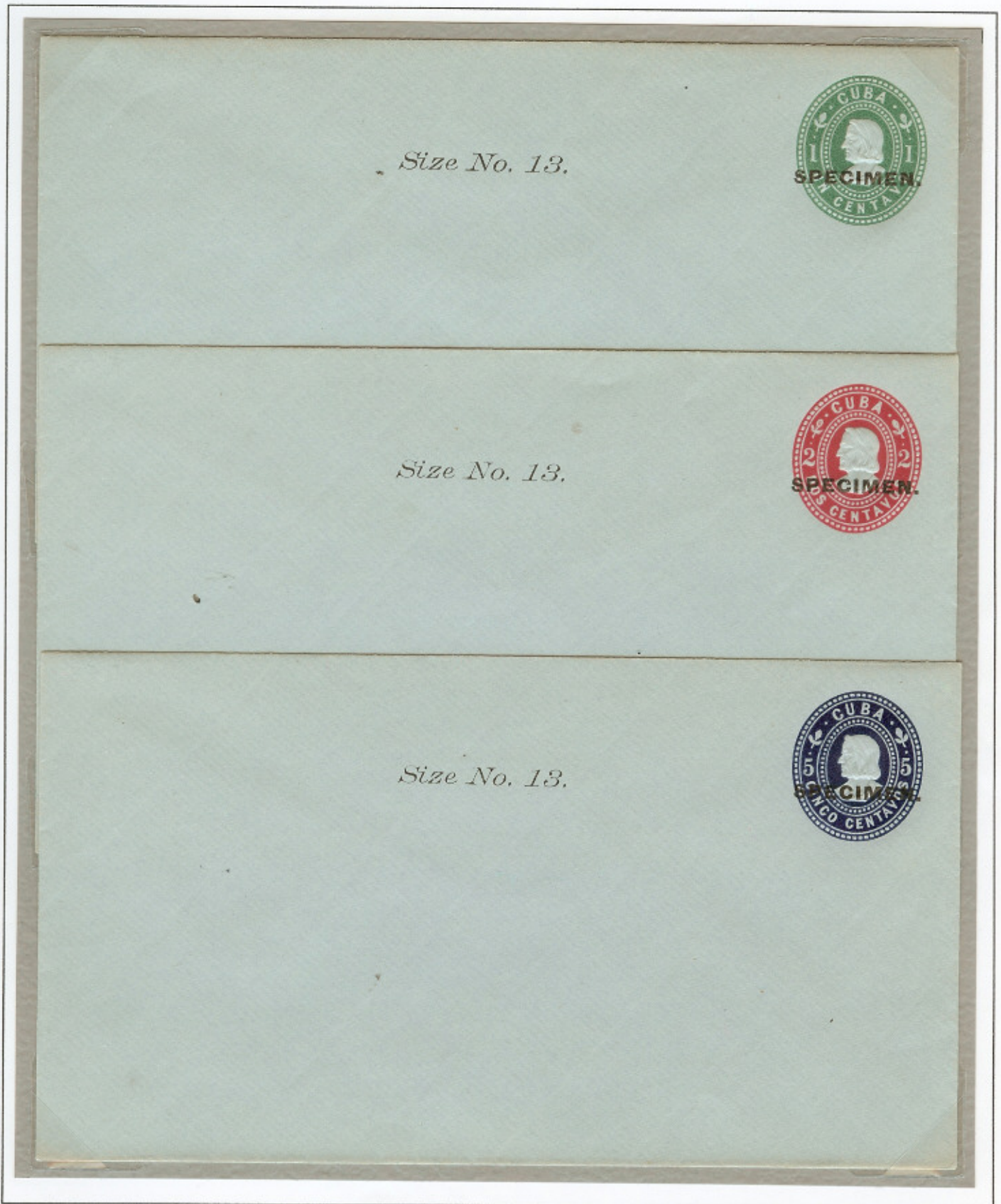


Revalued postal card and the new postal card issue for Cuba.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

II. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - ISSUES OF 1905-7

A new printing of the postal stationary envelopes was made.



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs in blue paper.

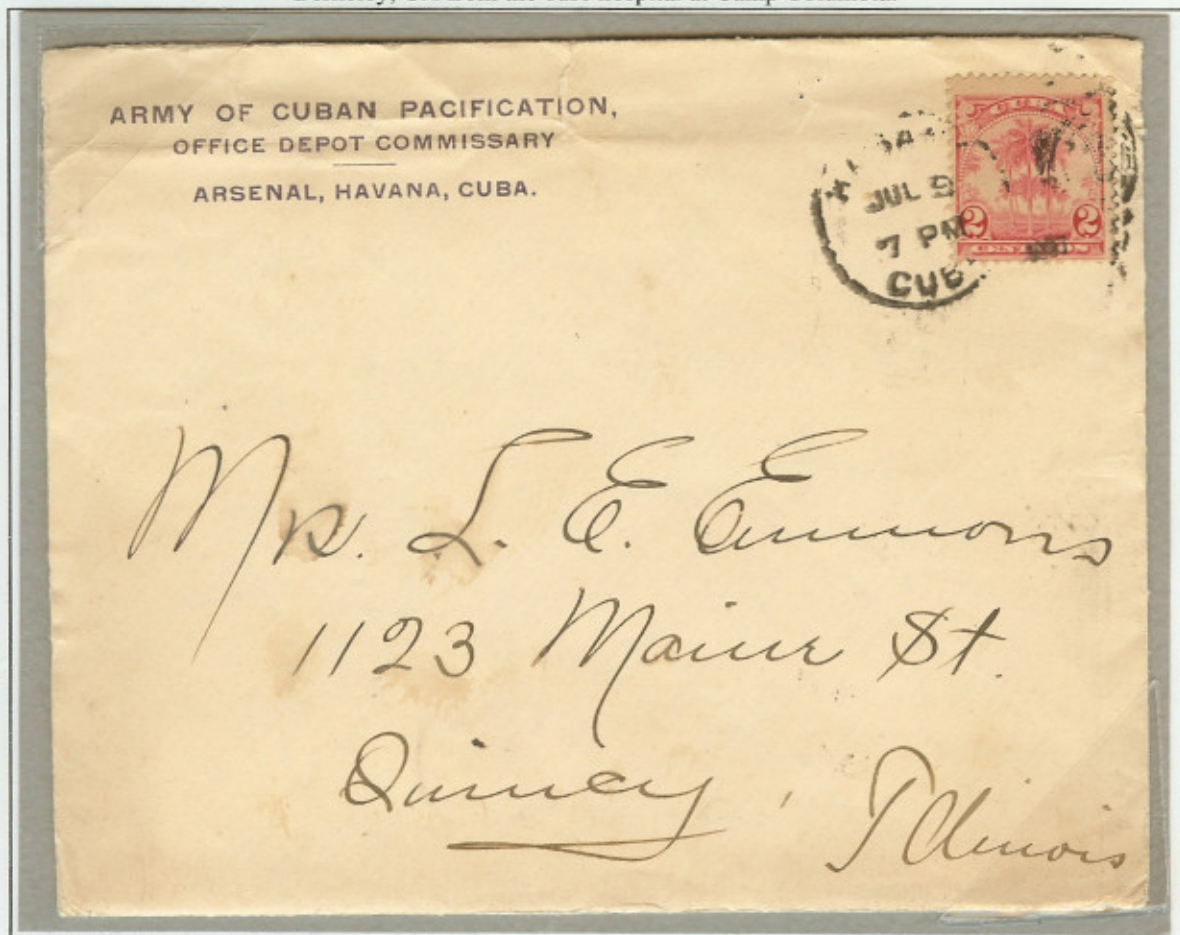
E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

III. SECOND AMERICAN INTERVENTION

As if to underscore Cuba's lack of full independence, a second American intervention occurred when marines landed in various parts of the island to quell an armed uprising following the controversial election of President Estrada Palma. The U. S. troops arrived in late October 1906 and stayed until January 1909.



Camp Columbia in Havana became the major barracks of the U.S. troops while in Cuba. Above is a letter to Berkeley, CA from the base hospital at Camp Columbia.



The occupying army was named "Army of Cuban Pacification".

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

IV. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - CARNIVAL STAMP (1909)

50 on 2 R



Handwritten in blue ink:
C921
12/6/09

Handwritten in red ink:
C921
12/6/09

Handwritten in red ink:
C921
12/6/09

Handwritten in red ink, enclosed in a red rectangular border:
Stamp
C921



Handwritten in blue ink:
Hab



ms
2356

2267

Havana Stamp. Dec. 1909

1921

Cuban Carnival Stamp

3 values
Rep. of Cuba
42267

In 1909 work was done at the American Bank Note Co. on a new Cuban stamp to celebrate the Carnival. The stamp was never issued. Perhaps because of the nude figure?

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)

Proposed by the Cuban Philatelic Society and based on photos of the individuals, a number of Cuban heroes of the revolution were selected to be honored by a "Patriots" issue. Unable to produce the issue in Cuba, it was engraved and recess printed by the American Bank Note Co. in the U.S. It was a step closer to philatelic independence but not quite there yet.



Die proofs on heavy card stock.



Die proofs on India paper.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



Sunken die proof of the two cent value.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



Sunken die proof of the vignette from the special delivery stamp.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs
of Patriots Issue.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



Small "SPECIMEN" overprint.



Large "SPECIMEN" overprint.

American Bank Note Company specimen proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



Large "SPECIMEN" overprint.



Small "SPECIMEN" overprint.



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



American Bank Note Company
specimen proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



Patriots set as issued.



Two cent Patriots value bisected on cut square.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



Paper fold. →



Inverted center errors of Patriots Issue. ●

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

V. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1910)



One and two cent values of Patriots Issue used as postage due on letter originally sent to Nassau, Bahamas and re routed to Havana and ultimately New York via Miami. "T" cancellation for postage due collected in Cuba..



Ten cent value of the Patriots Issue on registered letter to Philadelphia.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VI. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1911)

Faced with increasing cost for printing, especially bicolor stamps, Cuba filled its 1911 needs with an order for single color stamps of the Patriots Issue.



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs of new single color issue.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VI. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY- PATRIOTS ISSUE (1911)

American Bank Note specimen proofs of single color issue.



Return to

MEMPHIS & PINNACLES DIST. 2828



F-3245

APR 17 1912

F3245

AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY, NEW YORK.



E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VI. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1911)



American Bank Note Company specimen proofs of new single color issue.



Die proof on India paper.



Single color re-issue of Patriots Issue.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VI. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1911)



American Bank Note Co. proofs for
new 49 cent booklet with four
panes.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VI. AMERICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY - PATRIOTS ISSUE (1911)



Twenty five cent booklet as issued.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)

It was not until 1914 that Cuba achieved the capability of printing its own stamps. A modern print shop, "La Moderna Poesia", received an initial five year contract to print Cuban postal stamps, postal stationary and other postal items. Engraving was still done outside the country, but under various names and owners, "La Moderna Poesia" printed Cuba's stamps until the recess method was abandoned in 1962.



Sunken die proofs.

For its 1914 regular issue, Cuba chose a design submitted by a Cuban professor of the Academy of Science and Arts in Havana, Jaime Vais Henares. Separately, a design showing a "Morane" monoplane was chosen for the Special delivery stamps. Collectively known as the "Mapita" (Little Map) issue, these were the first postage stamps printed in Cuba. Thus was true "philatelic" independence achieved.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Sunken die proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Sunken die proofs.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Proofs on heavy card stock in unissued colors.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Set as issued.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Sheets of the "Mapita" issue were printed imperforate for the delegates to an Universal Postal Union Congress held in Havana in 1914. Somehow all of them reached a dealer in Spain who put them on the market.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Imperforate blocks of four.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS



Ten of the one cent value used to cover registered mail charge of ten cents.



Imperforate pair on cover to Havana.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



Bisect used as one cent stamp to meet postcard rate.



Ten cent value on registered mail letter to Rockford, U.S. Envelope used is a commercial envelope from Guatemala used in Cuba.

E. CUBAN REPUBLIC

VII. FIRST CUBAN PRODUCED STAMPS

- "MAPITA" (LITTLE MAP) ISSUE (1914)



New postage due stamp on cover from London with six sided "T" marking and "OPENED BY CENSOR" tape with, on arrival, "Havana/T/Cuba" mark with "6" alongside and added six of the 1c postage due stamp.



London post office specimen stamps on original album page from UPU sample book.

This exhibit was meant as an in-depth examination of Cuba's struggle for political and philatelic independence. From early efforts to obtain freedom from the Spanish to its first Cuban printed issue shown above, the story is an interesting one with a rich lode of philatelic material to mine.