

POSTAL CARDS OF SPANISH COLONIAL CUBA, PHILIPPINES AND PUERTO RICO

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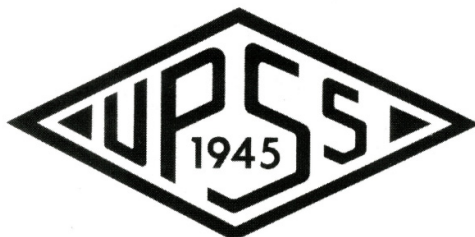
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PHILIPPINES — DONALD PETERSON

PUERTO RICO — BYRON MITCHELL

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Publisher's Preface

The United Postal Stationery Society is an international organization of collectors of worldwide postal stationery. A major objective of the Society is to publish books and other reference materials of value and importance to the philatelic community. These publications represent significant contributions to philatelic knowledge and are devoted primarily, but not exclusively, to postal stationery.

This book represents one of the many publications supported by the Lewandowski Fund. The Fund is a result of a generous bequest of the United Postal Stationery Society from Arthur Lewandowski, a member of the Society.

Dan Undersander
UPSS Publication Manager

Publications of the United Postal Stationery Society currently in print include the following:

- The United States Postal Card Catalog
- Postal Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition
- United States Multiple Advertising and Discount Postal Cards
- Historical Catalog of U.S. Postal Card Essays and Proofs
- Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States
- Catalog of the 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States
- Catalog of United States Envelope Essays and Proofs
- Cutting Knives of the 19th and 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States
- U.S. Specimens: Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers
- Thomas Leavitt, History and Postal Markings, 1875-1892
- Catalogue of Propaganda-Advertising Postal Cards of the U.S.S.R., 1927-1934
- The Postal Stationery of the Possessions and Administrative Areas of the United States of America, 3rd Ed., 2009

Three additional UPSS publications currently out of print but usually available through philatelic literature dealers that provide valuable collateral material:

- A Contemporary Account of the First United States Postal Card 1870 - 1875
- Plating of the First United States Postal Card
- The United States International Postal Cards of 1879-1897-1898, Volume 1 Plating

For additional information on these and other publications and activities of the Society write to:

UPSS Publications Office
P.O. Box 3982
Chester, VA 23831

or go to the UPSS website at: <http://www.upss.org/>

Editor's Notes:

This project got off the ground in Pittsburgh at the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society in August, 2009. Several people I talked to were in favor of doing a work on Spanish colonial period cards. Ronald Gonzáles mentioned to me that Byron Mitchell had published in the area of Puerto Rico. George Krieger, the Editor with whom I had worked on the *Postal Stationery of the Possessions of the U.S.A.*, Cuban Section, was supportive. He followed it up with an email to me saying he had confirmed that the UPSS would be interested in publishing a book on the postal cards of the Spanish period of Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico. Ernesto Cuesta then pointed me in the direction of Donald Peterson to work on the Philippines. The knowledgeable and professional team was assembled.

Donald Peterson lives in Washington, D.C. He retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004. He is an international authority on Spanish Philippine philately topics. He has had many articles and three books published in this area. Don worked with the Philippine Consulate in Washington, DC, and with the Philippine Bureau of Posts, on a trip to Manila in 2002 to promote Philippine stamp collecting. In 2008, Don became the Overseas Coordinator of the International Philippine Philatelic Society, which led to re-organization of the Society, implementation of new efforts to promote Philippine stamp collecting, expanded the awards program, and issued a color technical journal. He was President of the Collectors Club of Washington and led the formation of the Washington Stamp Collectors Club in 2006, where he served as its first President.



Byron Mitchell was born and raised and continues to reside in Puerto Rico where he recently retired after managing an AM/FM Radio broadcasting concern for over thirty years. He started stamp collecting at the age of twelve and has been at it ever since. In the late seventies he decided to specialize only in Puerto Rico postal history with emphasis on the postal stationery that Spain issued for the island. He served as president of the Puerto Rico Philatelic Society in 2006-07 and has exhibited cards a few times in the States. He writes articles for his monthly bulletin. He tells me he likes discovering a card which has traveled to an unusual destination.



I am retired too. I refer to myself as a “recovering attorney”. I have come to the field of postal stationery more recently than my brethren on this project. Like Don, I am not Hispanic, but I love Cuba philately and have poured myself into its study for a number of years and now claim a degree of expertise. My most recent project for UPSS was co-authoring the *Postal Stationery of the Possessions of the U.S.A.*, Cuban Section. I manage a website which deals exclusively with the postal stationery of Cuba. I would like to thank **Octavio Cabrera** with whom I have collaborated on a couple of published articles on the U.P.U. cards of Cuba and who has provided valuable editing suggestions.

Thanks also to **Ernesto Cuesta**, Cuban collector extraordinaire, who has provided most of the new positions of Cuba UPSS 1 and 2 not identified by Laiz, translated and refined the definitions and characteristics of the plate positions from Edifil, encouraged me to plate all Cuban issues and then help me identify new plate positions on those issues, provided lots of scans from his extensive collection and assisted me in the editing with countless hours of effort. Finally, thanks go to Jim O'Donnell of the National Postal Museum, Jose L. Gonzales and Mark Tyx for their contributions to the cause.

This book cannot be the last word on the subject. Discoveries and research reveal new information and, alas, humans do err. Please feel free to contact me if you have new or different information. My email: robert.littrell@comcast.net

Robert Littrell, Editor

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The authors of this volume welcome you to what we consider an interesting pursuit: the study of postal stationery. In this case, postal cards produced in Spain for their colonies of Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico. The term “postal card” is purposefully employed to denote prepaid franking of cards purchased from postal authorities, as opposed to “postcard” which has no prepaid franking and which would apply to any commercially available outlet and most likely illustrated by pictures. Before we diverge into the separate colonies, some words are in order about things in common. Because all stamps and postal cards for Spain and her colonies were printed at the *Fábrica Nacional del Sello* and, after 1893, the *Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre* in Madrid, Spain, and because in most instances the same printing plates were used to print all the cards in a year by changing the denominations and print color, and were similarly reused for other colonies by replacing the colony’s name in the indicia, one often observes the same plate defects across colonies in any given year’s issues. To the extent possible, we have tried to minimize the duplication of efforts. Some of the common topics follow:

Postal Cards and the Universal Postal Union

It was in 1869 that Austria produced the first postal card in the world. Many other European countries followed that lead in the first years after that. The U.S. issued its penny post card in 1873 and Spain joined their company that year also.

Spain was an early proponent of uniform standards and participated in the Postal Convention of Paris in June 1863, an early precursor of the eventual General Postal Union. The G.P.U. was the result of the Treaty of Berne signed on 9 October 1874. Spain signed the treaty along with the United States and 19 other countries. This, likewise, was a forerunner of the series of multilateral conventions and came into force in the following year, when the union was formally established on 1 July 1875 to administer its operative regulations. On 1 June 1878, the Second Congress changed the name to "Universal Postal Union". It was this Congress in Paris which instigated the use of postal cards by Spain’s colonies. It provided uniform postal procedures for transmitting international mail among its member nations. It established rules for sending and receiving mail, as well as the postal rates. Indirectly, it also affected procedures and postal rates for international mail between non-member countries and for interior mail as well (Peterson and Lewis, 2000).

In Spain, the new treaty rates and procedures were promulgated on 1 July 1876 as a result of a royal order from Madrid dated 15 July 1875. Inclusion in the G.P.U. and subsequent changes to rates and procedures were not immediately applicable to the colonies. On 18 January 1876, the G.P.U. members called for a special conference in Berne, Switzerland to consider the admission of new applicants. At that conference, the Spanish delegate announced the intention of his government to request admission for the Spanish colonies. Although British India and most French colonies were admitted, the British refused to discuss the admission of any additional colonies. However, restrictions were relaxed and a number of colonies were allowed to join. Although the G.P.U. allowed each colony to join independently, in reality, it was the authorities in Spain that made this decision for her colonies. On 1 May 1877 all Spanish colonies including Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines joined the G.P.U.

It was in 1878 that the postal card was introduced in Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico. Its use was sparse, though, and used postal cards of the early years are exceedingly rare. The reasons for the lack of use were that people were loath to print their personal matters open to the public view and the fact that there was no initial difference between letter and postal card rates making it even less attractive.

In 1880 U.P.U. postal cards were printed in Spain for use in Cuba and the Philippines to take advantage of the new treaty. Puerto Rico was not furnished with them until 1885. The benefits provided by the treaty included:

- there should be a more or less uniform flat rate to mail a letter or postal card anywhere in the world;
- postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail; and
- each country should retain all monies it collected for international postage.

On 21 March 1885 the Congress of Lisbon dealt with, among other things, paid reply postal cards. The U.P.U. countries agreed that the Convention of Paris of 1 June 1878 would be altered as follows:

- All the contracting countries were not bound to issue cards with paid reply halves, but they assume the obligation of returning the reply halves of cards received from other countries of the Union.
- Correspondence consisting of the reply halves of double postal cards, returned to the country of origin, were exempt from all charges for territorial or sea transit.
- The tariff for post cards was 10 centimes (2 cents in U.S. currency) for single cards or for each of the two halves of cards with reply paid.

In the Vienna Congress of 1891 it was determined that the sender could add his own name and address to the address side of the card relaxing previous restrictions. But it was not until 1 October 1907 when the U.P.U. Congress in Rome made it permissible to send cards with a communication on the address side to any country in the world at the postcard rate.

Card Stock, Color and Time

People purchasing postal cards these days can expect a certain uniformity in the card stock color, thickness, size and stiffness. Not so in the 19th century and, in particular, 19th century Spain. First of all, the card stock varied in all of these attributes. Catalogs sometimes attempt to classify the cards into “buff” or “cream” or “amber” or “yellow”. To some extent this was necessary because quite distinct cards can be and were produced on different colored paper. But add to that the element of time and today, over 100 years later, we are dealing with a different situation. Each of our countries is in the tropics. Tropicalization of cards is the result of heat and humidity. To that add sunlight, acidity and quality of the original cardstock used. All affect the way the cards appear today. Identically produced cards may appear drastically different today depending on their conditions of storage. Likewise, the color of the indicium also is affected by these same processes. Although such differences may be substantial, cards are not generally collected for these differences.

Printing Conditions

Lithography was not available to the printers at the Fábrica Nacional del Sello. Each card was individually typeset and engraved from bins of individual letters which were sorted by size, letter, and case. Twenty of these cards were then assembled in a pattern four cards across and five cards down. Because each card was individually typeset, variations are inevitable. Study of whole sheets that have survived have allowed us to state with certainty where a particular card was in the scheme of things. Whole sheets exist for 1878, 1879 (plate 1 of 2) and 1899 Fernando Poo which turned out to be the same as 1898 Cuba and Puerto Rico. (As we will see later, the 1892 - 1898 cards of Cuba and Puerto Rico were printed in sheets of 10 instead of 20).

There are double and triple impressions on a single card from printer's waste or trials that are useful for plating studies when the multiple impressions are inverted with respect to one another since such cards identify the relative position of two cards on the plate. If the paper was turned around by 180 degrees and placed under the same press (as would happen with an inverted printing), then Position 20 would be the inverted printing on Position 1. Position 19 would be the inverted printing on Position 2. This would continue all the way down to Position 11 being the inverted printing on Position 10. Thus one can see why a number of inverted cards could be used to help reconstruct original plating positions.

Position 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

Scheme for printing 20 cards on a single sheet

As earlier stated, the printers in Madrid saved time by merely substituting the indicia (with a different colony's name) and ran the next batch. This is why there is so much similarity between a number of the issues of the three colonies. Similarly, they substituted different indicia for the same country and changed the color of the ink used to change from one denomination to the next. Later on when they produced double cards they took it one step further by inverting every other row of cards to print the tête-bêche double cards. It was after printing so many cards that the quality deteriorated to the extent that a new plate was needed and the process of substitution started all over again.

Condition and Prices

Prices for mint and used cards are listed for all issues and major variations of those issues at the end of each colony's section. A more complete listing of variations can be found with the presentation of each issue in the tables with the yellow background.

It is important for the collector to keep two very important considerations in mind when estimating the value of any of the postal stationery listed and priced in this catalog:

1. **CONDITION.** Mint or unused prices are for fresh, clean, not creased and all corners perfect condition. Used copies are priced not only for showing postal service with a clear legible strike, but bearing full postal markings and properly franked. Items that are torn, soiled, creased or "dog-earned" are worth only a fraction of the listed prices except those unique items that exist only in these conditions or where the known number is so small as to make the above rigid standard on condition inapplicable.

2. **PRICES.** Prices are normally based on current market prices, with a small markup to cover minor fluctuations in dealers' prices. On items never before catalogued, prices are weighted average valuations, being the opinion of the experts in the field, based on the latest and best information concerning known quantities, and as such, should not be considered as a "fixed" price but rather as a guideline. Used prices are for the most common cancellation. Small towns, instructional markings, added stamps for added fees (such as for registration) usually command a premium to the price listed.

Special Acknowledgment

Ángel Laiz Castro was and remains the preeminent authority on the postal cards of Spain and her colonies. His detailed and well illustrated publications, which include the Spanish Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico, are a source of much of the information contained in this book and are listed in the References at the back of this volume.

POSTAL CARDS ISSUED BY SPAIN FOR USE IN CUBA

by Robert Littrell, with Octavio Cabrera on the U.P.U. cards

Recently in the mail I received three used postal cards from Cuba during its colonial period. Registered items from Spain. I was thrilled. That thrill is a continuation of many years of collecting stamps. I still have the album I started when I was in junior high school. I can tell that because the date of the last illustrated stamps in the album was 1959. I continued after that faithfully for a few years, but then got busy earning a living. That doesn't mean that I did not regularly tear off the mint plate block of four every time I went to the post office for the years after that.

I went to Cuba in 1998. Though the trip had absolutely nothing to do with stamp collecting, I found myself on my return collecting some baby-head (Alfonso XIII) stamps at first, then almost everything from 1855 to 1958 after that. Postal stationery wasn't far behind.

Upon my retirement five years ago, things got into full swing. Among the things I collect are the different plate positions of the postal cards of all Spanish issues. That collection is reflected in what I present to you in this section. It is also what is reflected on the International Cuban Philatelic Society website (<http://www.philat.com/ICPS/MemberPages/Littrell/PC/Frameset.html>) Not only do I collect just each card, I endeavor to collect all twenty (or ten, as the case may be) of the variations in each card.

There is a wide variety of collecting interests. Some collect plate varieties as I do. Some collect different franking, or destinations, or time periods, or specimens, or advertising cards. It is my hope to inspire you, whatever collecting you do. Better yet for you to start out in new directions. I hope that you find collecting postal stationery as fascinating and thrilling as I do.



Cuba's first postal card - 1878

A series of postal cards was issued for use in Cuba from 1878 to 1898. The issues will be discussed and illustrated in as much detail as possible:

1. 1878 Interior (meaning within Cuba or Spanish empire)
2. 1879 Interior
3. 1880 - 1881 - 1882 Universal Postal Union single and double (paid reply) cards
4. 1882 Interior
5. 1888
6. 1890
7. 1892 (and 1896 reprint of the 2 centavos card)
8. 1894 (and 1896 reprint of the 4 centavos card)
9. 1898 single cards and double (paid reply) cards

1878—Cuba's First Postal Card

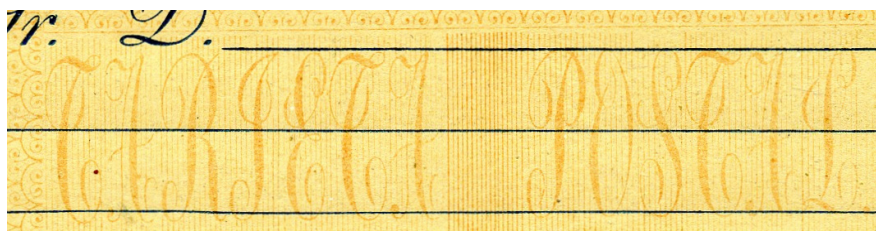
It was a beautiful card indeed. A stunning blue foreground and orange background on yellowish buff card. Some of its features include:

- An outer thin frame line and an inner thick frame line;
- A background (probably there to discourage counterfeiting) which displayed the words *TARJETA POSTAL* (postal card) repeat the words printed in the foreground;
- An indicium which, for the one year only, read “*ISLA DE CUBA*”
- A note on the bottom: “*Lo que debe escribirse se hará en el reverso é irá firmado por remitente*” or “the message shall be on the reverse side and signed by the sender”;
- “Sr. D.” for “Señor / Señorita / Doña” as a prefix to the addressee;
- The portrait on the indicium was Alfonso XII who ruled Spain from 1875-1885;
- The reverse was blank for the message.



UPSS 1, Position 6 — April 1880, to Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland. Ernesto Cuesta collection

UPSS No.	Denomination	Color / Paper	Circulation
1	25 céntimos de peseta	blue & orange on buff	1878—1879
1-D	Same as 1, but with double impression		
1-DI	Same as 1, but with double impression, one inverted		
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello — Size: 144 x 96 mm; Issue date: 1878			






Mid-section of the card showing **TARJETA POSTAL** printed in the background with extensive design work covering the card.


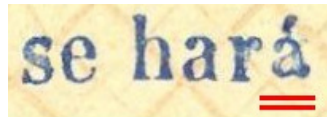


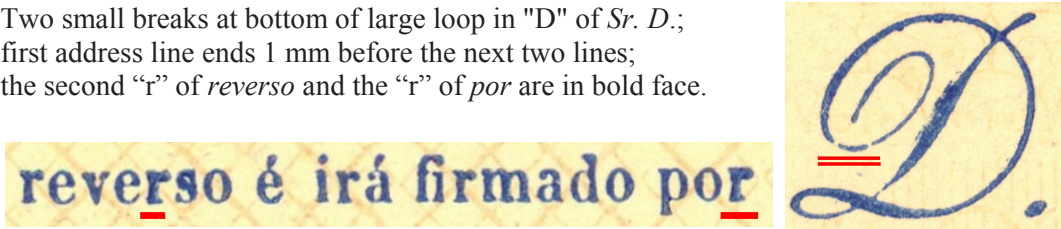


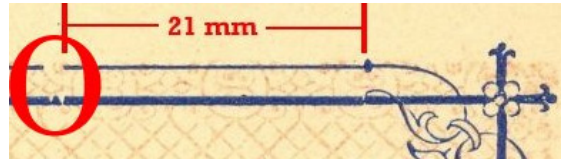
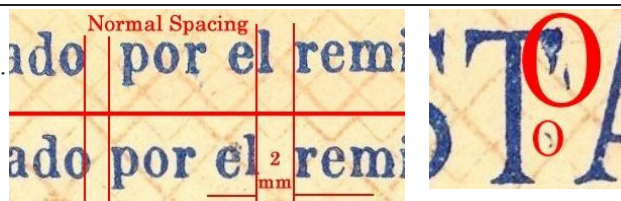
Right: The 25 céntimos de peseta indicium showing the elaborate detail of this design by José García Morago


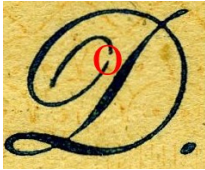

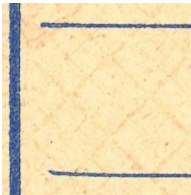

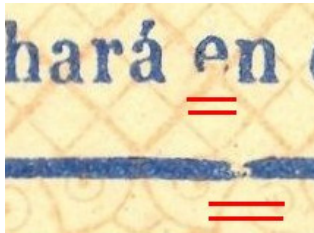
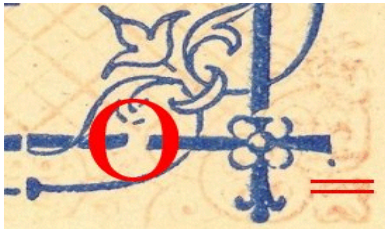

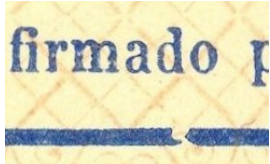


Another word about color is in order. Exposure to light, a tropical climate and acidity of the paper stock cause wide variations in the color of the paper over time. This is called toning. Also the printers used varying colors of paper. Although all catalogs list the foreground color as “blue”, there is a wide range to blue-black since the control of the inks used was not strict and they, too, may vary with time.

As stated previously, each of the 20 cards printed on one sheet of card stock has individual variations. Due to the survival of a complete sheet of the 1878 cards, we can identify unique variations for all twenty positions. They are as follows:

Position	Characteristics and Variations of the 1878 Postal Cards	
1	Tiny or non-existent period after <i>Sr</i> and broken top thick frame line above “C” of CUBA in the indicium.	
2	Broken base of “en” in <i>remitente</i> .	
3	Broken right foot of the first “A” in <i>TARJETA</i> .	

Position	Characteristics
4	Broken right side of the foot of the first “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> . 
5	Beginning of first address line slightly bent downwards and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> (1 mm high) in the note. 
6	Broken left side of the foot of the second “T” in <i>TARJETA</i> and break in the left thick frame line to the left of the second address line. 
7	In the note there is a smaller font in the “á” in <i>hará</i> and a broken “e” in <i>en</i> which looks like a “c”. 
8	Two small breaks at bottom of large loop in “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> ; first address line ends 1 mm before the next two lines; the second “r” of <i>reverso</i> and the “r” of <i>por</i> are in bold face. 
9	The period after <i>Sr</i> is twice as large as adjacent one after <i>D</i> . 
10	Worn upper left corner of the indicium and broken “b” in <i>debe</i> . 
11	In the note there is a broken “e” in <i>en</i> which looks like “c” (see Pos. 7). Also there are breaks in both frame lines above The “OS” in <i>POSTAL</i> . 
12	The first address line ends 1 mm before the second and third lines.
13	Spacing between <i>el</i> and <i>remitente</i> is 2 mm versus 1 mm normal spacing. Also, there are extraneous colored specks near the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> . 

Position	Characteristics
14	Deformation in the upper part of the “E” in <i>TARJETA</i> . 
15	Broken inside loop in the “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> and nick in the top thick frame line above the left corner of the indicium.  
16	Beginning of the third address line in bent upwards slightly. 
17	Small break in the top left serif of the “J” of <i>TARJETA</i> and breaks in the “e” of <i>en</i> in the note and in the thick frame line below it.  
18	The adornment on the end of the lower thick line is absent and the lower thick frame line is broken 4 mm to the left of the corresponding vertical line. 
19	The letters “scribirse” in <i>escribirse</i> are in bold face type. 
20	Break in the bottom thick frame line below the “d” in <i>firmado</i> . 

Compared to later issues, the 1878 card was quite elegant. Its engraver (at least of the indicium) was José García Morago whose initials, JG, appear at the base of the bust.

Mint copies are plentiful, but used copies are exceedingly scarce.

1879 - Cuba's Second Postal Card

Cuba's second postal card was printed in a reddish brown color with an orange background on buff card stock. The same indicium was used as in 1878, but it has "Cuba · 1879" instead of "*Isla de Cuba*". Two plates of almost entirely different cards were used. The first plate was essentially the plate used in 1878 with a changed indicium title. The second plate was essentially produced from scratch.



UPSS 2, Plate 1, Position 12 – 1879 – 25 céntimos de peseta

UPSS No.	Denomination	Color / Paper	Circulation
2	25 céntimos de peseta	reddish brown & orange on buff	1879
2-D	Same as UPSS 2, but with double impression		
2-DI	Same as UPSS 2, but with double impression, one inverted		
2-TI	Same as UPSS 2, but with triple impression, one inverted		
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello — Size: 144 x 96 mm; Issue date: 1879			

Except for the attributes just noted, all other attributes of the 1878 card apply to this as well. Since the first plate used in its printing was the same as before, only those plate positions that differ in some major respect from 1878 will be noted. Those four plate positions showing differences are:

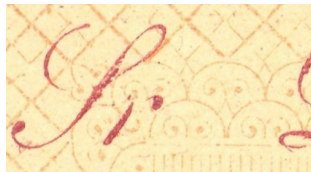
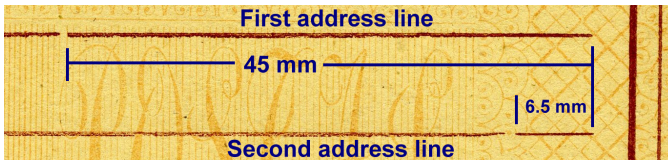
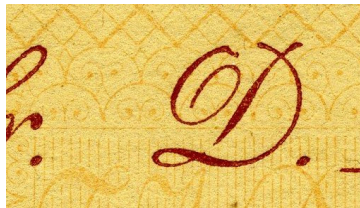
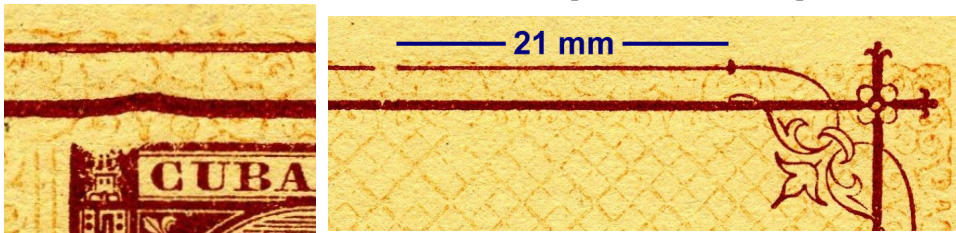

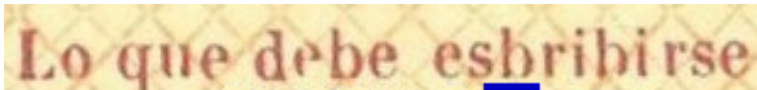


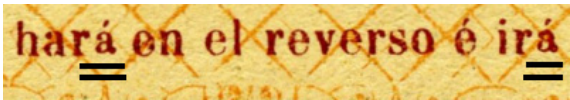


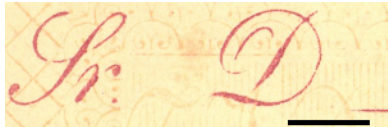

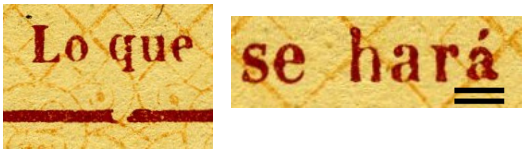







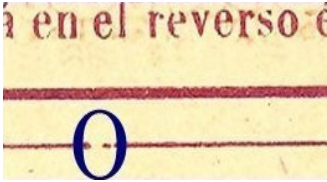


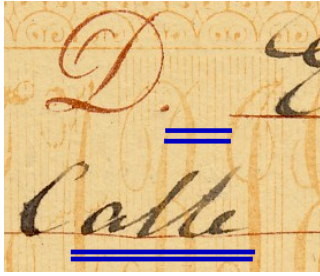
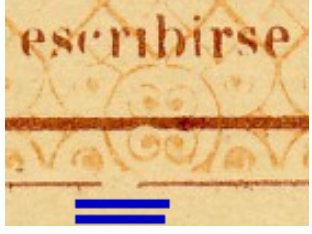

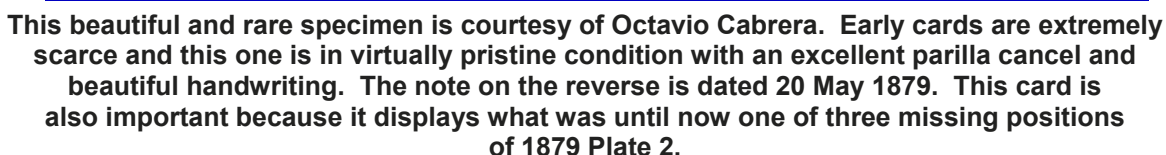
Position	Characteristics of 1879 Plate 1 (if different from 1878)	
1	Same squiggle in the thick frame line over the indicium, but no period after “ <i>Sr</i> ”.	
3	First address line is broken 45 mm from the end and the second address line is broken 6.5 mm from the end.	
10	The top of the “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> is broken.	
11	Same “cn” instead of <i>en</i> , but there is now an upwards bump in the thick frame line above the indicium and a dent in the indicium below the bump. Also break in <u>top thin</u> frame line.	

Plate 2 was almost entirely different. No full sheet survives, only partial multiples. Consequently one cannot be certain where a variety appeared on the plate. I have, therefore, added letters after the numbers to avoid the perception of designation as a plate position. They are described as follows:

Position	Characteristics of 1879 Plate 2	
A	Type II “r” in <i>Sr</i> ; no period after <i>Sr</i> .	 Type II “r” ends with a hook
B	“esbribirse” in place of <i>escribirse</i> in the note.	

Position	Characteristics of 1879, Plate 2	
C	Smaller font of “á” of both <i>hará</i> and <i>irá</i> and two breaks in the right thick frame line to the right of the second address line.	
D	Break 7 mm from the beginning of the first address line and 6 - 8 breaks in the bottom thick frame line.	
E	Break in the first address line below the middle of the indicium and smaller font of “á” of both <i>hará</i> and <i>irá</i> .	
F	Position not yet identified. What was formerly classified as Plate II, Position F, has been shown to be Plate I, Position 3, before a break occurred in the top thick frame line.	
G	Missing accent on the “á” of <i>irá</i> in the note.	
H	Dot of “i” of <i>remitente</i> displaced to the right.	
I	No period after the “D” in <i>Sr. D</i> and shortened first address line at its start.	
J	Missing 6 mm section of left thin frame line towards the top.	
K	Break in the bottom thick frame line below the “q” in <i>que</i> and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> .	
L	There is a missing first “i” and larger font for the “b” in <i>escribirse</i> (1.5 mm).	

Position	Characteristics of 1879 Plate 2	
M	Missing left half of the “o” in <i>Nota</i> and missing accent on a small “á” in <i>hará</i> and small “á” of <i>irá</i> .	 
N	Second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> is smaller and broken “N” in <i>Nota</i> and “L” in <i>Lo</i> .	 
O	Small “á” and missing accent in <i>hará</i> and break in the thick frame line below the “el” of <i>el reverso</i> .	
P	Broken top of “L” of <i>Lo</i> and break in the thin frame line below “el” of <i>el reverso</i> and small “á” of <i>hará</i> .	 
Q	No period after <i>Sr.</i> ; break in the bottom <u>thick</u> frame line below the “sc” in <i>escribirse</i> ; two breaks in the left thin frame line to the left of <i>Sr</i> and <i>TARJETA</i> .	 
R	The first address line is about 2 mm short on <u>both</u> ends. <u>Bottom thin</u> frame line is broken below the “sc” in <i>escribirse</i> . The second address line dips below the <i>D</i> (somewhat obscured in illustration by the handwriting).	 
S	Position not yet identified.	
T	First address line is 2mm shorter than the next two address lines with two breaks in it under the “Cs” and first “E” of <i>PESETA</i> in the indicium.	



hará and *irá*

Plate 1, Pos. 5	
Plate 1, Pos. 7	
Plate 2, Pos. C	Plate 2, Pos. C
Plate 2, Pos. E	Plate 2, Pos. E
Plate 2, Pos. K	
Plate 2, Pos. M (also w/o accent)	Plate 2, Pos. M
Plate 2, Pos. O (also w/o accent)	
Plate 2, Pos. P	
Plate 2, Pos. G: Missing accent on the “á” of <i>irá</i>	

Plate 2, Pos. C
Plate 2, Pos. E

Right:	none
Left:	Plate 2, Pos J
	Plate 2, Pos Q
Top:	Plate 1, Pos 11
Bottom:	Plate 2, Pos P
	Plate 2, Pos R

Top: Plate 1, Pos 1
Plate 1, Pos 3
Plate 1, Pos 11
Plate 1, Pos 13
Plate 1, Pos 15

Bottom: Plate 1, Pos 17
Plate 1, Pos 18
Plate 1, Pos 20
Plate 2, Pos D
Plate 2, Pos K
Plate 2, Pos O
Plate 2, Pos Q

1880 - 1881 - 1882: Cuba's Universal Postal Union Cards

Cuba's admittance to the benefits of the U.P.U. were utilized by the series of cards started in 1880. Successive printings in 1881 and multiple printings of the 1882 series followed. They are considered as a group because the 20 card plate positions were used in all three years.

In 1878 through 1880 the currency in use in Cuba was the peseta. One-hundredth of a peseta was one céntimo de peseta. To comply with U.P.U. postal rates for cards, rates dropped from 25 to ten and fifteen céntimos de peseta in 1880. In 1881 and subsequent years the currency in use was the peso. Since 10 céntimos de peseta = 2 centavos de peso (and 15 céntimos = 3 centavos), the 1881 change did not reflect a lowering of the postal rates.

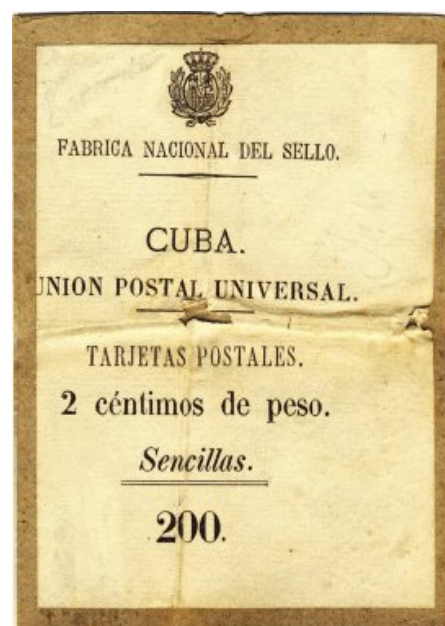


1880 indicium
10 céntimos de peseta

Left: UPSS 8, variety 17. Used within Matanzas in April, 1881. Octavio Cabrera collection.

A new indicium was engraved for the U.P.U. cards. It's designer was Eugenio Juliá y Jover whose surname, Juliá, appears at the base of the bust. Manufacture took place in Spain at the *Fábrica Nacional del Sello*. In the final stages of card production, the printed sheets would be massed in stacks of 100 sheets and cut into cards. Two sets of 100 would be packaged together with a cardboard separator. Protecting cardboards were then placed at the top and bottom of each stack of 200 cards and a cover plate was glued to the top cardboard. Besides identifying the card value and the quantity of cards contained, this cover plate also functioned as a security seal to prevent tampering. Finally the bundles were tied string and sealed with a drop of wax. This cutting and packing method resulted in at least 100 of the cards, and in most cases all 200, being from the same plate position. The author has personally observed this described packaging in the collection of the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. which has numerous packaged bundles in its Cuban collection.

Right: Cover plate for 200 U.P.U. single cards



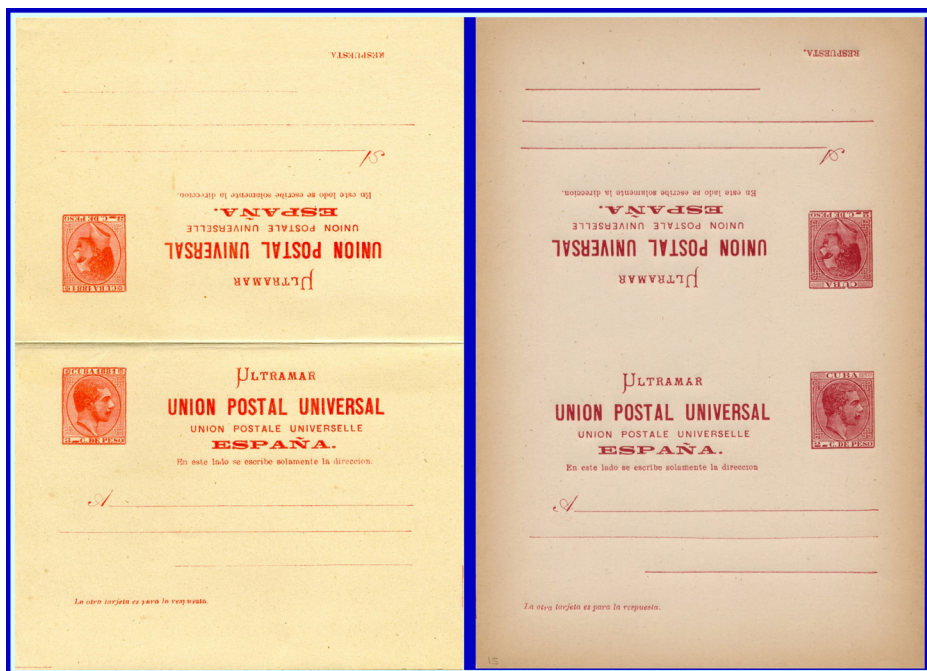
UPSS No.	Denomination	Color / Paper	Circulation
3	10 céntimos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream	1880
4	15 céntimos	Rose or rose carmine on cream	1880
5	10 + 10 céntimos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream	1880
6	15 + 15 céntimos	Rose or rose carmine on cream	1880
7	2 centavos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream	1881
7-DI	Same as UPSS 7, but with double impression, one inverted		
8	3 centavos	Rose or rose carmine on cream	1881
8-D	Same as UPSS 8, but with double impression		
9	2 + 2 centavos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream	1881
9-DI	Same as UPSS 9, but with double impression, one inverted		
10	3 + 3 centavos	Rose or rose carmine on cream	1881
10-DI	Same as UPSS 10, but with double impression, one inverted		
11	2 centavos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream	1882 — 1896
11a	2 centavos	Same, but without tilde on Ñ in <i>ESPAÑA</i>	
11b	2 centavos	Same, but with <i>ULTAAMAR</i> spelling error	
12	3 centavos	Rose or rose carmine on cream	1882 — 1896
12a	3 centavos	Same, but without tilde on Ñ in <i>ESPAÑA</i>	
13	2 + 2 centavos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream	1882 — 1896
13a	2 + 2 centavos	Same, but without tilde on Ñ in <i>ESPAÑA</i>	
13b	2 + 2 centavos	Same, but with <i>ULTAAMAR</i> spelling error	
13-D	Same as UPSS 13, but with double impression		
14	3 + 3 centavos	Rose or rose carmine on cream	1882 — 1896
14a	3 + 3 centavos	Same, but without tilde on Ñ in <i>ESPAÑA</i>	
14b	3 + 3 centavos	Same, but with <i>ULTAAMAR</i> spelling error	
15	2 + 2 centavos	Carmine or dark carmine on cream. New composition of UPSS 13 with the positions of the indicia laterally transposed	ERP May, 1890 - 1896
16	3 + 3 centavos	Rose or rose carmine on cream; New composition of UPSS 14 with indicia laterally transposed	(?) - 1896
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello — Size: 144 x 96 mm			

Some salient features of these cards are:

- The word *ULTRAMAR* (overseas) (i.e. not Cuba or Spanish empire);
- The words *UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL* in both Spanish and French to show that the cards were to be subject to U.P.U. regulations;
- The word *ESPAÑA* (Spain) to indicate that Cuba was a Spanish colony;
- “En este lado se escribe solamente la direcccion” (Only write the address on this side) (accent missing on *dirección* on all positions);

- Double cards had the legends: Message card: *La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.* (The other card is for the reply). Reply card: *Respuesta.* (Response);
- Issues of 1880 and 1881 had the year in the indicium; 1882 did not.

1882 U.P.U. 2 centavos indicium

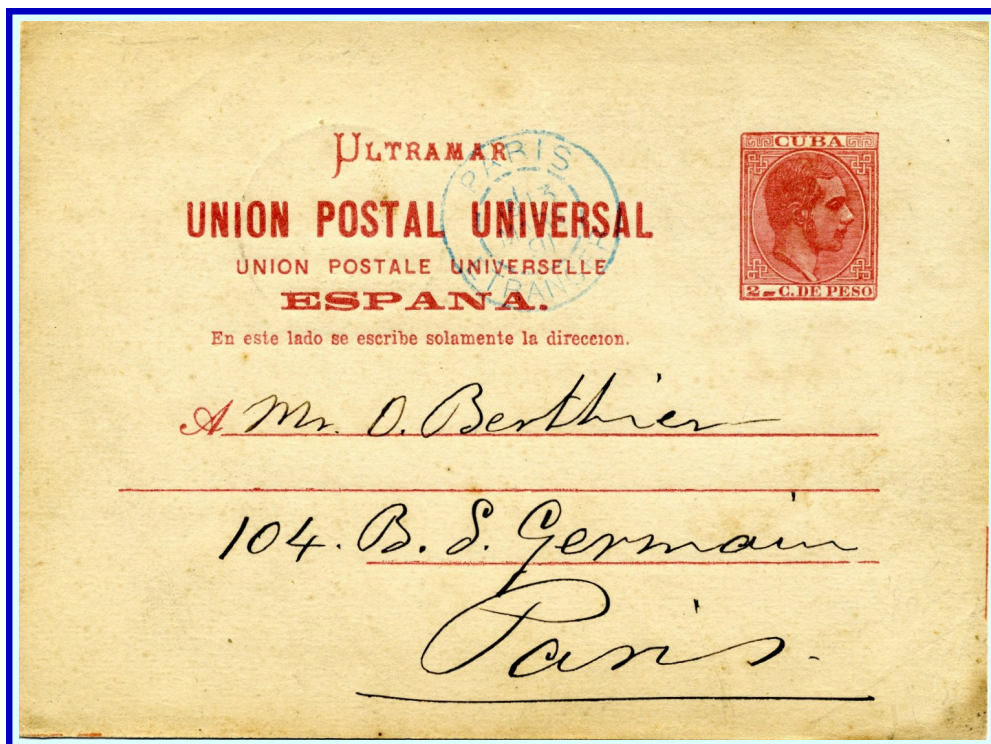


Double (paid reply) cards. A 3 + 3 centavos from 1881 (left, UPSS 10) and an “new composition” card of 1882 (right, UPSS 15) with the stamps reversed from the normal position. Note the extreme range of color of the paper which is normal. The message card is below and the reply card “*RESPUESTA*” is above.

UPSS 11a – 1882
2 centavos
“No tilde
on Ñ in *ESPAÑA*
(T-2) variety

26 February 1891
from Havana (per
backstamp) to
Paris.

Robert Littrell
collection



Early research by others on the varieties found in these cards had concentrated on detailed line and spacing measurements. We found those techniques to be of little help given the typesetting printing process used for these cards. The Linotype machine was able to produce a line of type in one piece, thus the name. The Linotype machine was first used in New York in 1886. In Spain, meanwhile, the government printing office was still using the old moveable printing type and a flat press to produce their cards. All text had to be assembled manually one character at a time, sorting the type from wooden cases containing the individual letters. The assembled type for each card was placed in an adjustable frame and tightened in place. This tightening would have continued at intervals during the printing process, that is one reason we chose not to rely on exact measurements. A “plate” was made up of several of these card assemblies brought together in a rectangular pattern (i.e. four across by five down, for the 1878 - 1890 cards).

Knowing the printing method used, we concentrated our efforts in spotting typesetting varieties instead. To date we have found eighteen constant varieties (nineteen if we include the “no-defects” variety) along with four transitory (part of 1882 series only, believed to be in a subsequent printing around 1885) varieties: the ULTAAMAR spelling error and the missing tilde in the Ñ of *ESPAÑA* which were quickly replaced; plus the raised period behind *ULTRAMAR* and the more prevalent broken “SA” of *UNIVERSAL*. We have also found two double card varieties (missing periods in the footnotes). Refer to pages 20 and 21 for a word and visual description of the above mentioned varieties.

Some of these varieties are apparent to the naked eye while others require a bit of magnification. All of the listed varieties (with the exception of the two double card footnote varieties) have been found on the single cards as well as on the reply cards. This leads us to conclude, beyond a doubt, that the same settings were used for printing both the single cards and the double cards. In order to format the plates for the paid reply cards, the following steps had to be taken with the full plate of 20 single cards:

- the reply half (every other row) was rotated 180 degrees (placed upside down with respect to the message half);
- the first five lines of text and the stamp die switched places on the message half (moved from left to right and vice versa); and,
- the footnotes were added to each half.

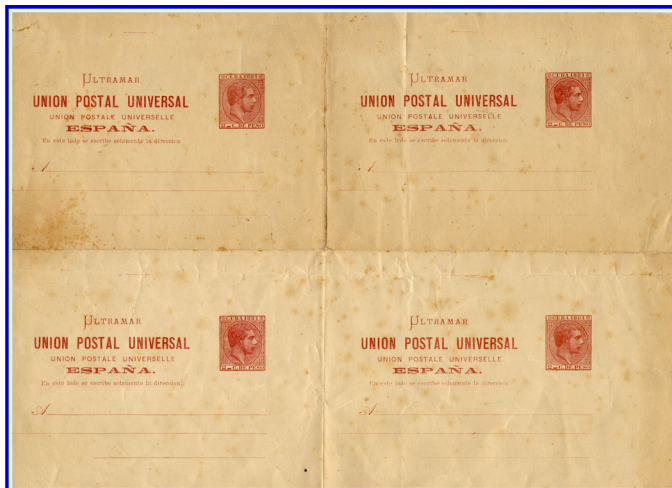
Borrowing from the earlier work by Laiz, we assume that the single cards were printed in sheets of 20 subjects (four across by five down), just as the 1878 and 1879 cards were made. A similar reasoning was used in our assumption that the double cards were printed in sheets of eight subjects. One of the rows of single cards would have been removed (as was later done in the printing of the 1898 cards), leaving sixteen single cards from which eight double cards were prepared. While there is some sound reasoning behind these assumptions, we stress that they are assumptions nevertheless. They do, however, fit in quite nicely with our findings based on personal observation of a large number of samples. Those findings are summarized in the double cards matrix listed on page 22. The matrix shows the different cards found for each of the two paid reply values printed in each of 1880, 1881, and 1882. For the years 1880 and 1881 eight card types were found, as expected. The 1882 issue, however, was in circulation until 1896. It is certain that these cards were reprinted. That is the most plausible explanation for the transitory varieties found on this issue. Also in the 1882 issue we have found two Variety 12 (nicked second “A” of *ESPAÑA*). We know that they are the same position because they both have a sawed off “A” of *UNIVERSAL* and a shortened top serif on the “U” of *ULTRAMAR*, but one has a large period after *ULTRAMAR*. We also found two 1882 Variety 5 (smashed “U”) cards: one with a regular and one with a shortened (91mm) second address line. How else could those be explained other than multiple printings with some changes effected? When were the reprints made? A clue lies in the **1885 — 1886** Puerto Rican cards. It is then that the two positions appear with a period after *ULTRAMAR* (with one elevated somewhat, just like in Cuba’s cards: see varieties T-3 and T-4).

Finally, there is the matter of the new composition cards, UPSS 15 and 16 (where the stamp is on the right side of the message half and on the left side of the reply half - reversed from the 1882 original). We know from examination of the matrix found on page 22 that there were eight varieties of UPSS 15 - a whole new sheet. What is more, they are all *completely* different from the earlier 1882 sets which were similar to 1881 and 1880. That means they created this new set from scratch. The earliest reported postmark is May 1890, some eight years after the initial printing. Because of the foregoing, we have chosen not to denominate them as “error” cards as did H&G and Edifil. It was a brand **new composition** of the 1882 cards. They were not isolated errors occurring in the original printing, nor were they reprints since the plates were entirely new arrangements of the earlier card varieties.

The only multiple reported to date for the 1880 - 1882 cards is this block of four of the 2 c. single cards of 1881. It contains the following varieties: (clockwise from top left) Varieties Nos. 3, 2, 10 and 19.

Octavio Cabrera collection

When using the matrix, one must keep in mind that some of these varieties may have occurred during the printing process. For instance, the 1880 cards that exhibit Varieties #6 & #7 on the reply half are also known without the broken “U” of *ULTRAMAR* (without Variety #7). This is the result of the break occurring during the printing of the 1880 cards. Variety #7 is known to be accompanied by a short (91 mm) second address line, but this address break only occurs in 1881 cards. Did the line break occur during printing? If so, there would be 1881 cards that do not exhibit this break, though we have not seen them.



Typesetting from tray of letters

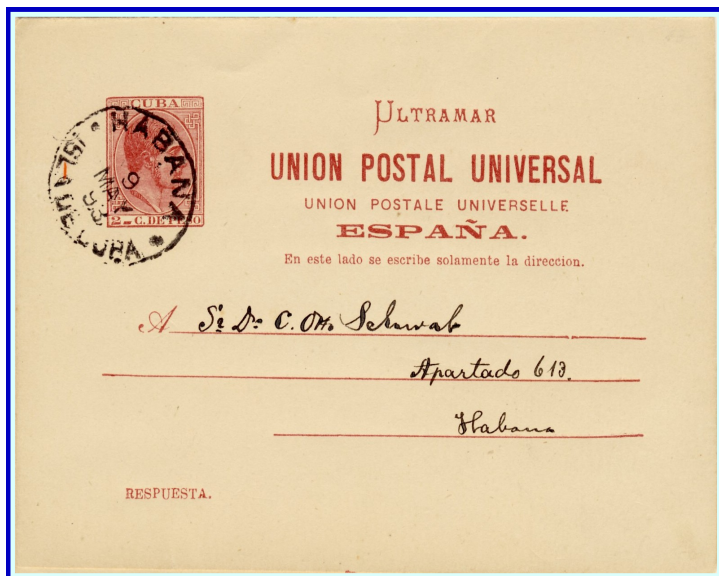
Variety #T1 (*ULTAAMAR*) was recently reported on a used 3c message half of UPSS 16. Since that was the discovery copy of the variety on the 3c value, we do not know what variety exists on the reply half, though we suspect it would be #4, as it is on the 2c+2c card with the T-1 variety.

Given the effort required to assemble the type, it is understandable that replacement or repairs were seldom made (except from year to year and denomination). The two notable exceptions are transitory varieties T-1 and T-2.

The misspelling of *ULTRAMAR* (T-1) was so egregious that they probably either stopped the presses to fix it in mid run or destroyed part of the existing stock after production. In any event, this resulted in the scarcest variety of the entire colonial period.

Pages 20 and 21 identify the varieties that, for the most part, appear in all three years. Transitory varieties appeared for only a part of the 1882 issues. Double varieties appear only on double cards and have to do with whether or not a period is placed after the note at the bottom. It is especially important to note that there has been no attempt to list every irregularity, even those which are constant varieties. Instead we have attempted to list those varieties that clearly differentiate one plate position

from another. When looking at any given single card, one can almost certainly find its variation in the table that follows. However, too much or too little ink on the card may complicate the search by obfuscation of the variety detail.



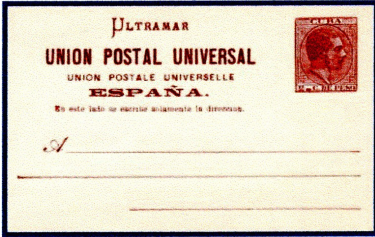

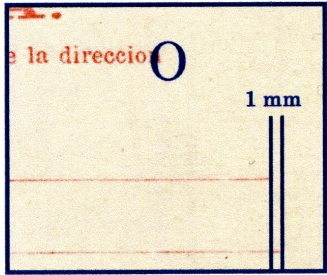

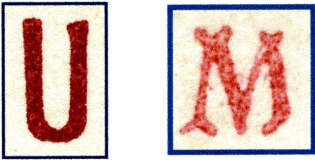

UPSS 15, Variety 17.
Correct use within
Havana in April, 1893 of
a reply card on a scarce
used "new composition"
card of 1882.

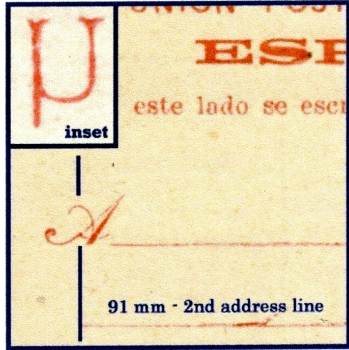
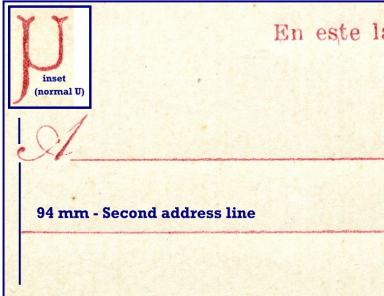

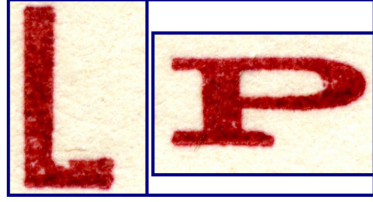
Octavio Cabrera
collection.


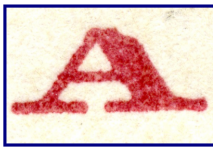
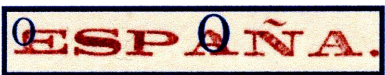




**UPSS 15, Varieties 4 and
D1 on the reply card and
variety 16 on the message
card. Havana to Hamburg,
Germany, December, 1897.**


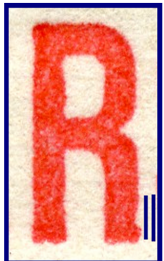

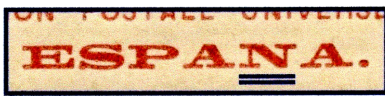

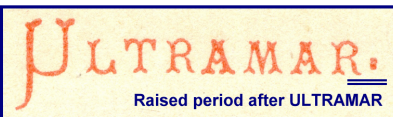
Octavio Cabrera collection.



No.	Graphic / Variety description
1	 <p>No defects recognized</p>
2	 <p>Nicked "N" and "V" of UNIVERSAL</p>
3	 <p>No period behind "direccion" sometimes in conjunction with short first address line by 1 mm</p>
4	 <p>Multiple nicks on "U" of UNION</p>
5	 <p>Smashed top right end of "U" of UNIVERSAL & missing right serif of right leg of "M" of ULTRAMAR</p>
6	 <p>"S" of POSTAL ends in a point</p>

No.	Graphic / Variety description
7	 <p>"U" of ULTRAMAR broken on the bottom only – sometimes in conjunction with second address line of 91mm commencing below the middle of the "A"</p>
8	 <p>Second address line short, 94 mm, commencing below the left side of the "A"</p>
9	 <p>"s" of este upside down, and "UN" of UNIVERSAL damaged</p>
10	 <p>A hole on the inner side of the angle of the L of UNIVERSAL and a taper or downward bent of the right base on the P of ESPAÑA</p>

No.	Graphic / Variety description
11	Rounded off second "A" of ESPAÑA 
12	Nicked second "A" of ESPAÑA at top right 
13	 Nicked first "A" of ESPAÑA at top right and broken top serif of "E" of ESPAÑA
14	 First "R" & "M" of ULTRAMAR broken
15	 Broken "U" of ULTRAMAR on top and bottom
16	 Broken second "A" of ULTRAMAR
17	 "M" of ULTRAMAR is missing the left serif of its right leg

No.	Graphic / Variety description
18	 Nick in "Ñ" of ESPAÑA
19	 Small indentation towards the bottom of the right leg of "R" in UNIVERSAL
T-1	 Transitory — part of 1882 only "ULTRAMAR" error
T-2	 Transitory — part of 1882 only ESPAÑA without tilde
T-3	 Transitory — part of 1882 only "SA" of UNIVERSAL broken and large period after ULTRAMAR
T-4	 Transitory - part of 1882 only
D-1	Double reply cards only No period behind "RESPUESTA"
D-2	Double message cards only No period behind "respuesta"

U.P.U. Double Card Matrix

Double Cards		Varieties (These numbers refer to the varieties described on the preceding two pages)										
1880 10+10c UPSS 5	Reply	6	2 ^b	D1	19	9	15 ^d	10	13 ^e			
	Message	12	11	16	14	18+ D2	3 ^c	5	17+D2			
1880 15+15c UPSS 6	Reply	6+7 ^a	2 ^b	D1	19	9	15 ^d	10	13			
	Message	12	11	16	14	18+D2	3 ^c	5	17+D2			
1881 2+2c UPSS 9 and 3+3c UPSS 10	Reply	6+7+ D1	11+D1	4+D1	19	9	15	10	13			
	Message	8+12	2	16	14	18	3+D2	5	17+D2			
1882 2+2c UPSS 13 and 3+3c UPSS 14	Reply	6+7	11	11	4+ D1	12	18+ D1	15+ D1	2	13	1	4
	Message	8+ 12	D2+ T2 ^f	3	16	18+ D2	9	5	10	14+ D2	17	T-3+6 +T1
1882 2+2c New Composition UPSS 15	Reply	9	17	14	5	2	11	1	1			
	Message	13	18	4	15	12	16	T-3	10			
1882 3+3c New ^g Composition UPSS 16	Reply	13	2	T-3+ D1	12 ^h + T-4	— ⁱ	—	—	—			
	Message	9	17	5	16	—	—	—	—			

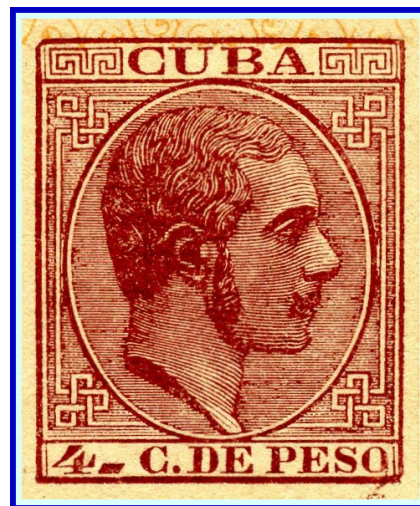
- a. Some 15c cards exist without the broken “U” of *ULTRAMAR* (an early printing, before the break).
- b. Some early cards exist without the distinctive butterfly shaped hole in the “V” and just damage to the “N”
- c. Some early cards exist with a faint or partial period behind *dirección*.
- d. Some cards exist without the top left serif of the U of *ULTRAMAR* being broken. Some have a partial break and some are missing the left serif entirely, as the type degraded during the printing process.
- e. Some 10c cards exist without the broken “E” of *ESPAÑA* (an early printing, before the break).
- f. Only a small percentage of cards exhibit the missing tilde variety.
- g. The 3+3c cards in the New Composition series (i.e. the indicium on the right side of the message card and the left side of the reply card) were completely different from the 2+2c: witness the first card shown which shows the message and reply cards reversed.
- h. Large raised period after *ULTRAMAR* (not in conjunction with broken “SA” [Variety T-3]).
- i. The plating of UPSS 16 is incomplete due to the scarcity of the cards.

1882 - Cuba's Third Interior Postal Card

While Spain was producing the U.P.U. cards for international use out of Cuba, it also produced cards for use within the Spanish Empire. The same basic format was used as in the 1878 and 1879 cards except for a changed indicia and new denominations. The same background was used as well as the two sets of frame lines and note. The note's reference to a "signature" being necessary on the reverse side was kept even though the U.P.U. cards had dispensed with that suggestion or requirement two years earlier.

The color of the background for all three cards remained the same: orange (less frequently yellow). With the new denominations, however, came new colors for the frames, foreground and indicia. The 2 centavos was dark green, the 4 centavos was red and the 10 centavos card was dark blue. The 10 centavos card is enigmatic: it did not meet any published postal card rate and there were no other postal cards of this denomination issued thereafter. Additionally, no used examples have been reported to date; even philatelic use is absent. The portrait of Alfonso XII shown on these 1882 postal cards is the same as the one used on the U.P.U. series and shows the king as an older person than in the 1878-79 cards. The portrait was by Eugenio Juliá y Jover whose surname, Juliá, appears at the base of the bust.

UPSS No.	Denomination	Variety of "Sr" (see p. 24)	Foreground and Background Color / Paper
17	2 centavos	Type I	Green & orange on buff
17a	2 centavos	Type II	Green & orange on buff
17a-D	Same as 17a, but double impression		
17b	2 centavos	Type II	Green & yellow on buff
17c	2 centavos	Type II-A	Green & orange on buff
18	4 centavos	Type I	Carmine & orange on buff
18a	4 centavos	Type II	Carmine & orange on buff
18a-D	Same as 18a, but double impression		
18b	4 centavos	Type II	Carmine & yellow on buff
19	10 centavos	Type I	Blue & orange on buff
19-D	Same as 19, but double impression		
19a	10 centavos	Type II	Blue & orange on buff
19b	10 centavos	Type II	Blue & yellow on buff
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: 1882 - 1888			



1882 Interior — 4 centavos de peso indicium

It was this year that another variation was introduced. Not only was there a re-introduction of the "Type II *Sr*." (with the "r" ending in a hook) first found in the 1879 cards, but also Type II was additionally found displaced to the right approximately 3 mm with respect to the word *TARJETA* above it so that the left side of the loop in the "S" of *Sr* pretty much lines up with the vertical trace of the first "T" in *TARJETA*. The illustration on page 24 shows the types of "r" and the 3 mm displacement to the right. Further, the various catalogs have different nomenclature and that is set forth in the lower part of that illustration.

Plating of the 1882 Interior issues is significantly harder since full sheets have not survived and new plates were made after 1879, so that none of the 1879 plate characteristics transfer to these issues. How many plates were made? At least three, maybe more. There were three types of *Sr.*: Types I and II, and in the case of the 2 centavos cards only, Type II-A. This last anomaly is interesting because it could indicate that they produced another new plate just for the 2 centavos cards due to greater demand. In that plate, at least six of the “*Sr. D.*” got shifted to the right by 3 mm (Type II-A). I have found up to 18 varieties of Type I



UPSS 17a — Position AA — 2 centavos 1882 Interior

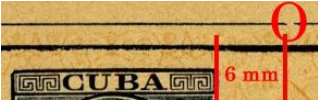
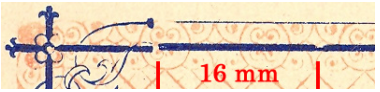
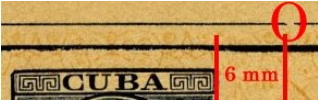
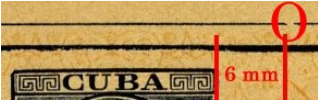
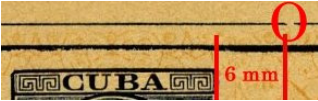
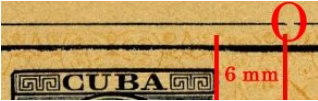


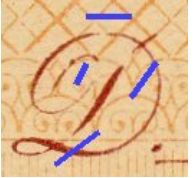


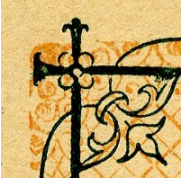










and 20 varieties of Type II. Another thing we know about the plates used is that all of the Type II and Type II-A cards were printed separately from the Type I cards. We know this for two reasons: because a different size font was used for the *Nota* in each (see illustration on page 29) and because there are no yellow backgrounds reported for Type I cards.

Catalog Nomenclature	TAR		TAR	
	BALL	HOOK	BALL	HOOK
UPSS	Type I	Type II	Type I-A	Type II-A
Edifil	Type I	Type II	Type I-A	Type II-A
Jones & Roy	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Higgins & Gage	Type 1	Type 2	Not Listed	Type 3
"Sr." not displaced to the right // "Sr." displaced to the right				

It is difficult to definitely identify all plate varieties for this issue due to the limited number of cards examined and the nature of the printing process itself. We know that the printer changed the indicia and color to print the three denominations. Sometimes the typesetter would pull from the type tray a defective letter or one of a different font, such as the second “A” of *TARJETA*, and use it throughout the printing of all three denominations. However, sometimes it appears that in the middle of a printing run a frame or letter would break or get notched or otherwise deteriorate without being replaced. Additionally, some of the varieties one finds may be due to over-inking or under-inking of the plates during printing runs, making it difficult to ascertain whether there is a break in a letter or whether that letter did not get enough ink.



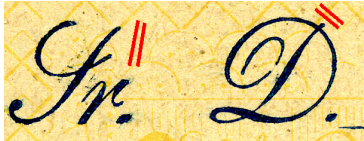
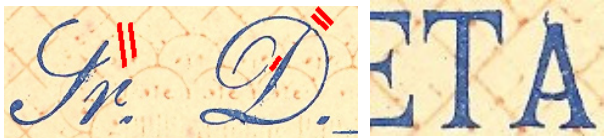


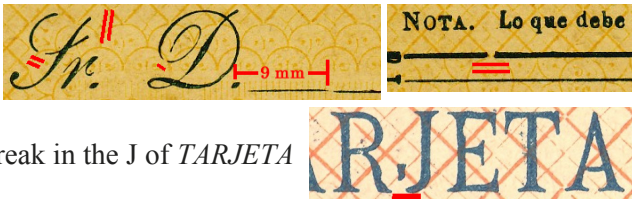


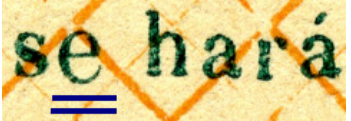
It is with all of the these caveats that the author attempts to list the varieties of the 1882 interior series. Shown on pages 25 - 29 are those varieties that are thought to represent constant varieties and not just vagaries of the printing process.



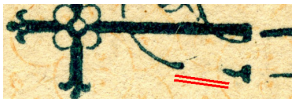
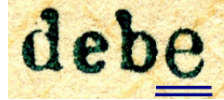




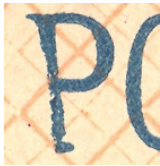










1882 INTERIOR PLATING		
POS.	Edifil	TYPE I Description
A	15cc 17cc	Nick in top right of second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> ; break in <u>left thick</u> frame line half way between the second and third address lines 
B		Breaks in both <i>Sr.</i> and <i>D.</i> ; break 16mm from start of first address line 
C	15cd 17ce 19cc	No period after <i>Sr</i> and break at the top of the <i>D</i> ; small á in <i>hará</i> ; “e” of <i>en</i> broken: looks like “cn” 
D		<i>D</i> is slightly dented down on top; “b” in <i>debe</i> broken at bottom; some cards have “O” in <i>POSTAL</i> nicked on the inside right 
E	15ce 19cd	No period after “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> 
F		Top of <i>D</i> has 2 breaks; “o” in <i>Nota</i> is broken top and bottom; “é” missing accent and “i” of <i>é ira</i> missing dot; 
G	15cg 17cf 17cl	Top of <i>D</i> is broken and bent downwards; small nick in the <u>top thick</u> frame line directly above the right corner of the indicium; both top and bottom ornaments on the horizontal thick lines are mashed on the left. 
H	17cj	“o” of <i>firmado</i> broken on top; bold face type in the “r” of <i>por</i> ; no period after <i>remistente</i> ; <u>bottom</u> <u>thin</u> frame line broken below the “p” in <i>por</i> 
I		Break on the curved line at the top of “D”; break in the <u>bottom thick</u> frame line below the “ent” in <i>remistente</i> ; 
J	17ca	Break in the <u>top thick</u> frame line slightly to the right of the right side of the indicium; first address line goes under the period behind <i>D</i> 
K	15c	Notch in the <u>top thick</u> frame line to the left of the indicium; <i>D</i> broken on top 
L		“S” in <i>Sr</i> broken at base and no period behind it; break in first address line; no period after <i>Nota</i> 

POS.	Edifil	TYPE I (Continued)	Description
M	15cb 19c	Notch in the <u>top thick</u> frame line above the “JE” of <i>TARJETA</i> ; break in the <u>top thin</u> frame line to the right of the indicium and it is thinner over the indicium; “b” of <i>debe</i> thin or broken;	     
N		Upper left ornament mangled; multiple breaks in <i>D</i> ; spacing between <i>firmado</i> and <i>por</i> is slightly greater than other word spacings	  
O		Break in the top of <i>D</i> ; lower half of the “e” in <i>en</i> is missing; first address line is 1 mm shorter than others	 
P		Flattened or smashed left uppermost ornament; second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> either blunted or missing right serif of right leg; small bulge on to of E of <i>TARJETA</i> ; top of <i>D</i> bent down and thin	  
Q	17ck	Right serif of second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> curves downwards like ballet slipper; space between words “ <i>el remitente</i> ” is 2 mm, somewhat more than normal and in some cards the “l” is missing the top half.	 
R	15cf 17c 17cg	Multiple breaks in <i>Sr. D.</i> and 6 mm gap before start of first address line (although in some cards this gap is much smaller); broken “m” in <i>remitente</i> ; detached middle crossbar in “E” of <i>TARJETA</i> . In some cards there is a break above the left portion of the indicium, although in others it is a barely noticeable notch.	     

The following are Type I positions described by Edifil, but not verified nor assigned a position:

- 15ca — Dent in the top thick frame above the “A” of *CUBA*
- 15ci — Break in right thick frame line at top and bottom
- 17cb & 19cb — Bulge or dent at the top of the “E” of *POSTAL* (*sic*) (a typographical error: did Laiz mean *TARJETA*, in which case it would be described by Position P?)
- 17ch — Small á in *hará* and small é of *é irá*

POS.	Edifil	TYPE II	Description
AA	16ci		Smaller sized font in first “e” in <i>debe</i> ; <i>D</i> broken above the bottom loop 
BB	16fcc 18cb 20ca		Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> (see p. 29); right half of “é” and much of <i>firmado</i> missing; some cards have nick in bottom inner curve of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> 
CC	16fcd 18cb 20ca 20fca		Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; line that crosses top of <i>D</i> is short, .4 mm 
DD	16ck		Break in “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; vertical trace does not cross top of <i>D</i> ; second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> is broken on top; break in <u>top thin</u> frame line over the “ST” of <i>POSTAL</i> 
EE	16c 16fc		Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; some cards have breaks in the <u>top thick</u> frame line above the left corner of the indicium 3 mm to right of its right corner; “o” of <i>reverso</i> in a slightly larger sized font 
FF	16fci		Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; breaks in <u>bottom thick</u> frame line below the first “e” of <i>remitente</i> 
GG	16ch 16cd 16fcb		Breaks in <i>Sr. D.</i> ; break in the first address line 9 mm after period; breaks in <u>bottom thick</u> frame line below the space between <i>Nota</i> and <i>Lo que</i> . Some cards have a large break in the J of <i>TARJETA</i> 
HH	18fca		Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; break in <u>top thick</u> frame line above the second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> and <u>bottom thick and thin</u> frame line below <i>reverso</i> ; missing “e” in <i>reverso</i> . 
II	18fc 20fc		Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; break in the bottom thick frame line below the space after <i>escribirse</i> ; broken top left serif in the “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> 
JJ			“e” of <i>se hará</i> and “o” of <i>reverso</i> are in a larger sized font; some cards have break in the <u>top thick</u> frame line 3.5 mm to right of indicium and a short first address line by 13 mm 

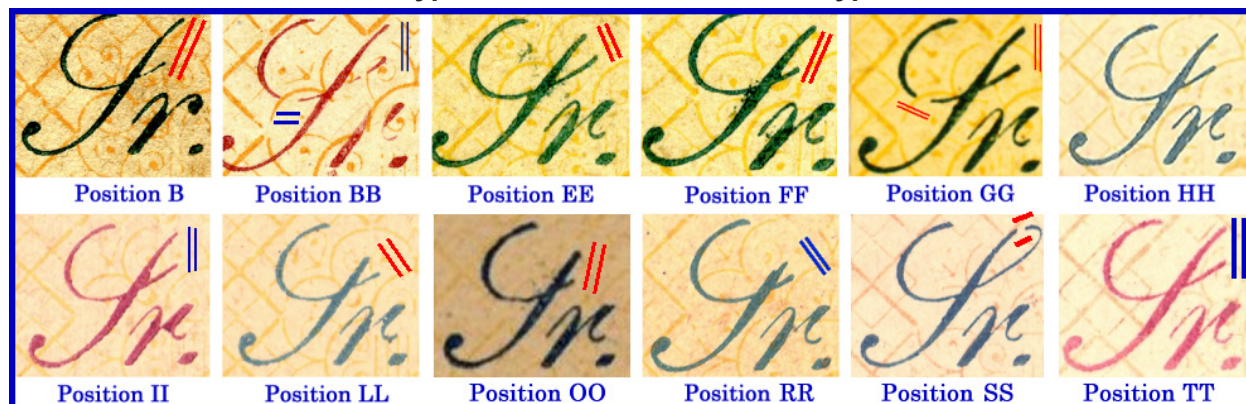
POS.	Edifil	TYPE II (Continued)	Description
KK			Nick in <u>bottom thick</u> frame line below the period after <i>remitente</i> ; dip in first address line under the indicium  
LL	16cm		Second “e” of <i>debe</i> is in a larger size font; last “e” in <i>remitente</i> is lower; break in curved portion of left <u>bottom thin</u> frame line; some cards have break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ;  
MM			Upper left part of “T” of <i>POSTAL</i> damaged; both “e”s of <i>en el</i> are missing the bottom part  
NN			Breaks in <i>Sr. D.</i> ; space between <i>el</i> and <i>remitente</i> is 50% larger than normal  
OO	16fca 18c		“P” of <i>POSTAL</i> is missing most of left side of upright stroke. <u>In some cards</u> there are breaks in both frame lines above this damage to the “P”; the “R” of <i>TARJETA</i> has right leg separated by small break; break in the “S” of <i>Sr.</i> as shown on page 29  
PP	16ce		“s” in <i>se hará</i> is inverted; “o” of <i>reverso</i> in slightly larger font (like Pos. EE); bulge at the top of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>  
QQ			Break in “S” of <i>Sr.</i> closely resembling Pos. EE; double break in the <u>right thick</u> frame line near top ornament  
RR	16cc		Loop of “S” in <i>Sr.</i> severely damaged; break in <u>top thick</u> frame line over the “A” in <i>POSTAL</i> ; in some cards the indicia is broken as shown  
SS			Break in the “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ; first address line ends 2 mm short and is bent upwards at the start; break in the <u>lower thin curved</u> frame line; right half of “é” of <i>é ira</i> is missing; small break in the “l” of <i>el</i>  
TT			Break in the loop of the “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ; start of first address line dips down slightly. 

The following are Type II positions described by Edifil, but not verified nor assigned a position:

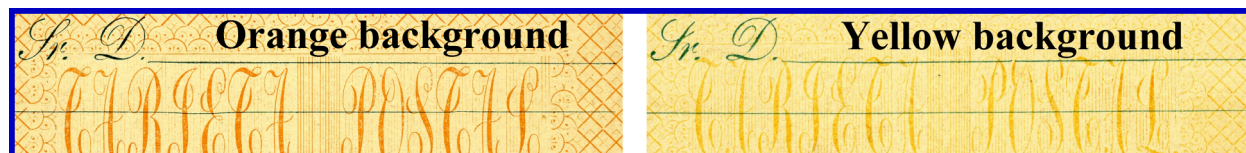
- 16ca — Break in the top thick frame line above indicium
- 18ca — Broken left stroke of “T” of *POSTAL*
- 18cc — Breaks at the start and end of first address line
- 20c — Break in the “R” and dent in the “E” of *TARJETA*

POS.	Edifil	TYPE II-A	Description
AAA			Pointed ends to both thick frame lines where they join the bottom right corner piece
BBB	16Aca		First address line extends all the way under the period after <i>D</i> ; double dip curve in second address line below <i>D</i> and the ; break 2 mm from start of fourth address line
CCC	16Ac		“S” of <i>Sr.</i> broken; missing tip of rising trace of <i>D</i> ; large “a” in <i>Nota</i> ; missing period after <i>remitente</i>
DDD	16Acb		Breaks at center of second address line
EEE	16Acd		First address line dips down at the beginning; “e” in <i>reverso</i> is broken: it looks like a “c”; larger font in “a” of <i>Nota</i>
FFF			No period after both <i>Sr</i> and <i>D</i> ; “o” in <i>Nota</i> is in a larger font

Break varieties in *Sr.* — Type I “r” in ends with a ball - Type II “r” ends with a hook



Twelve types of breaks in the loop of *Sr* are shown for comparison. The first is a Type I “r”. All others are Type II. Below are comparisons of background colors and the *Nota* for Types I and II.



NOTA. Lo que debe escribirse se hará

The *Nota* on Type I cards (above) were 91 mm long including the period and had taller lettering. The *Nota* on Type II and II-A cards (below) measured 88 mm including the period. Upper case lettering was 95% as high and lower case lettering was 86% as high as on Type I cards.

NOTA. Lo que debe escribirse se hará



UPSS 17a (Type II) Position GG, of 1882. Internal use from Santiago to Nuevitas, Cuba, with printed commercial announcement on reverse. Octavio Cabrera collection



UPSS 18 (Type I) Position Q, of 1882 — Overseas use 11 October 1883 to Görlitz, Germany. Octavio Cabrera collection



1888 - Alfonso XII, deceased

Alfonso XII was not on the throne when he was portrayed on the 1888 issue of Cuba's cards. He died just short of his 28th birthday in November, 1885 from tuberculosis. A tragic end to a young king who had ruled Spain since ascending the throne at age 15. Alfonso's posthumously born son, Alfonso XIII, was king from the moment of his birth until his death in February, 1941. His mother, María Cristina, served as regent until 1902.

The effigy of Alfonso XII is the same as in 1882. The differences from the 1882 issue are:






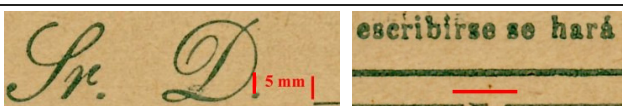

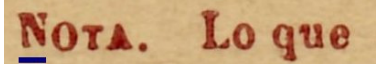





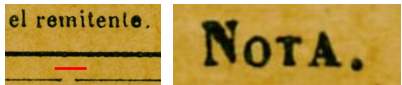
- Removal of the orange or yellow colored background with its cross hatch fancy design and the colored *TARJETA POSTAL*;
- Type II cards are now absent;
- The 10 c card was not reissued;
- The typesetting was new, yielding different varieties.

UPSS No.	Denomination	Variety of "Sr"	Color / Paper
20	2 centavos	Type I	Green on buff
20a	2 centavos	Type II-A	Green on buff
20a-TI	Same as 20a, but triple impression, one inverted		
21	4 centavos	Type I	Carmines on buff
21a	4 centavos	Type II-A	Carmines on buff
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1888 - 1889			

The 2 and 4 centavos cards remained, using the same color scheme as in the 1882 issue. Of the two denominations that remained, Type I and Type II-A, the Type I is decidedly more scarce than the Type II-A. Full sheets do not survive, so it is anyone's guess as to how many of the presumed 20 were one type or the other, but I have been only able to identify three positions of the Type I.



UPSS 20a – June 1888 – Internal use from Caibarien to Placetes, Cuba. Two centavos card. Note the absence of the previous orange background and Type II-A Sr. Octavio Cabrera collection.

1888 PLATING	
POS.	TYPE I Description
A	Second address line bends under the <i>Sr. D.</i>
B	Second address line broken 15 mm from the right side and bends down slightly from that point
C	Multiple breaks in the “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> 
POS.	TYPE II-A Description
AA	The “TA” ending TARJETA is elevated; the “te” ending <i>remitente</i> is big and blotched and the “e” is missing the right half 
BB	The “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> is missing the left serif of its foot; the “e” of <i>que</i> is in a larger font; broken “e” in <i>en</i> 
CC	The first address line extends under the period after “D”; the “o” of <i>Nota</i> is either thin (some cards) or completely broken top and bottom 
DD	First address line extends under the period after “D” (see CC); break in the right thin frame line and upper serif of “p” of <i>POSTAL</i> broken 
EE	5 mm gap behind the period after <i>D</i> before first address line starts; breaks in <u>lower thin</u> frame line below the “rse” of <i>escribirse</i> 
FF	No period behind either <i>Sr</i> or <i>D</i> and “O” of <i>NOTA</i> is in a larger font 
GG	“N” of <i>Nota</i> elevated above the rest of the word and “O” is in a larger font 
HH	Nick in the top serif of “L” of <i>POSTAL</i> 
II	Top loop of “S” of <i>Sr. D.</i> is almost completely missing 
JJ	Left serif in the foot of the “T” of <i>POSTAL</i> broken; “o” of <i>Nota</i> in larger font 
KK	Third address line is wavy and is broken 13 mm from left
LL	Both upright strokes of “N” of <i>Nota</i> heavily damaged 
MM	“i” of <i>ira</i> broken 
NN	“A” in a larger font than the “OT” of <i>NOTA</i> ; start of first address line is bent upwards; unlike DD the <u>bottom thin</u> frame line is <u>not</u> broken
OO	“i” of <i>irá</i> missing both the dot and the entire lower serif
PP	Break in the <u>lower thin</u> frame line below the “m” in <i>remitente</i> ; small break below <i>en</i> ; “A” of <i>NOTA</i> in a larger font 

1890 - A Baby King Portrayed

Alfonso XIII was less than five years old when this portrait was engraved by Eugenio Juliá y Jover whose name, Juliá, appears at the base of the bust. This "baby head" effigy of King Alfonso XIII depicting him in his childhood is irreverently known as "el pelón" meaning "the baldie" due to the large forehead on the king's effigy. The term ISLA DE CUBA replaced the plain CUBA of the Alfonso XII issues at the top of the indicium.

UPSS No.	Denomination	Variety of "Sr"	Color / Paper
22	2 centavos	Type I	Green on buff
22a	2 centavos	Type I-A	Green on buff
22aD	Same as 22a, with double impression		
22DI	22 <u>and</u> 22a double impression, one inverted		
22aTI	Same as 22a, with triple impression, one inverted		
23	4 centavos	Type I	Carmines on buff
23a	4 centavos	Type I-A	Carmines on buff
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1890 - 1894			



1890 — 4 centavos indicium

The paper probably was of high acidity and not of high quality, resulting in its aging into a buff tone and brittle nature that often results in tears and breaks, making some of these cards unattractive. The size is approximately 145 x 98 mm. Since the cutting of these cards was not very exact evidenced from marked deviations from the cutting lines observed in many of these cards. There were two denominations, a green 2 centavos and a red 4 centavos. There was a Type I and a Type I-A for both denominations (illustrated in 1882 Interior section, p. 24). All other attributes of the 1888 card remain. The cards had new type set for them, as evidenced by the fact that in 1888 there was Types I and II-A, but in 1890 you find Types I and I-A. No Type II are found in 1890.


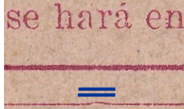

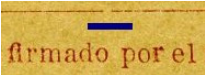
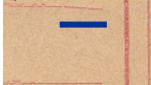

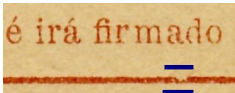
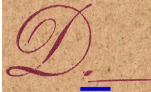

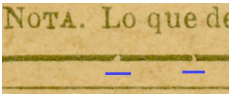


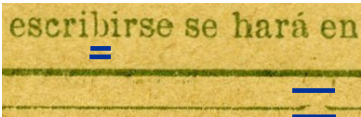


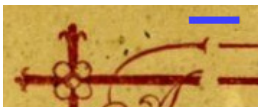
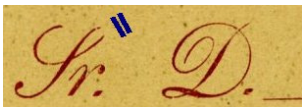
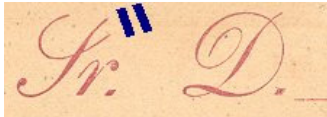
UPSS 22a —

2 uprated to 3
centavos. Type
I-A "r" in Sr.

Used March
1892 from
Nuevitas, Cuba
to Leipzig,
Germany.

Robert Littrell
collection.



1890 PLATING		
POS.	TYPE I	Description
A		Broken curved portion of upper left thin frame line; small dent in lower thin frame line below “ar” of <i>hará</i>  
B		Break in first address line under “O” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; chip in <u>top thick</u> frame line above “B” in <i>CUBA</i> ; start of first address line bend down slightly 
C		Break in the fourth address line above the “o” in <i>firmado</i> ; start of first address line bent down slightly 
D		Second address line is bent down at the right end 
E		Notch or break in the <u>bottom thick</u> frame line below the “a” in <i>firmado</i> ; break in the loop of “S” or <i>Sr.</i>  
F		The first address line extends under the period after <i>D</i> ; thin or break in the upright trace of <i>D</i> 
G		Broken curved portion of <u>lower left</u> frame line; break in the first address line below the “ST” of <i>POSTAL</i> with a smaller break under <i>PESO</i> 
H		Breaks in the <u>bottom thick</u> frame line below the “L” and the “e” of <i>Lo que</i> ; some cards have break in the second address line 16 mm from the right 
I		Second “i” of <i>escribirse</i> without a dot; broken top of “o” of <i>reverso</i> ; break in the <u>left thick</u> frame line to the left of <i>TARJETA</i>  
J		“b” of <i>escribirse</i> broken twice and third address line broken 22 mm from the right; dent in <u>bottom thin</u> frame line below space between <i>hará</i> and <i>en</i> 
POS.	TYPE I-A	Description
AA		First address line goes underneath period following <i>D</i> ; thin or broken loop of <i>D</i> ; some cards have break in left thin frame line 4 mm from bottom; some cards have break in <u>right thin</u> frame line below the third address line 
BB		The upright trace of <i>D</i> is very short on top; break 17mm from start of third address line 
CC		Deformed end piece on curved portion of <u>top thin</u> frame line; some cards have tip of loop broken on “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ;  
DD		Broken “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ; broken second address line 1 mm from start 

1890 PLATING (continued)		
POS.	TYPE I-A	Description
EE		Small break in the top of <i>D</i> ; first address lines bent down at the start; fourth address line broken 11 mm from right end
FF		<i>D</i> has break or thin loop and the address line after it is bent up at the start; lower left curved line end piece is chipped or deformed
GG		Break in the second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> ; breaks or thins in the “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> and the first address line bends up at the start
HH		Breaks in <i>Sr. D.</i> and break in the right side of the <u>top thin</u> frame line 2 mm from the right end
II		Breaks in the <u>bottom thin</u> frame line below the “e” in <i>escribirse</i> and the second address line below the “2 c.” of the indicia; break in <u>left thick</u> frame line 16 mm below the top frame line some cards have breaks in both “S” and “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i>



UPSS 22DI — An interesting 1890 double printing with one impression inverted. What is unusual about this is that it contains both *Sr.* Type I (Pos. B) and I-A (Pos. II, inverted) which means that the two types were not made in separate printings. Octavio Cabrera collection

1892 - Variations on the Baby King

The major change for 1892 was the stripping of the thick and thin frame lines from the cards and printing of ten to a sheet instead of twenty. In the old cards, the total length of *TARJETA POSTAL*, including a period after it, was about 92 mm. Because of a new font used with the new cards, the length increased to about 108 mm although the height was less and the period was dropped. This new format continued through the 1898 cards which we know were printed ten to a sheet. With the previous disappearance of the background, what now remains is fairly stark by comparison. Gone too was the language requesting a “signature”, replaced by the more terse: *En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección* or “write only the name and address on this side”.

UPSS No.	Pos.	Variety Descriptions UPSS 24 is 2c green on <u>buff</u> ; UPSS 25 is 4c carmine on <u>buff</u>
24a / 25a	1	“s” of <i>solamente</i> inverted and P of <i>POSTAL</i> missing serif and loop fails to close.
24b / 25b	2	Same as 1896: “e” of <i>este</i> elevated above rest of word
24c / 25c	3	No defects observed
24d / 25d	4	Broken third address line 25 mm from the left
24e / 25e	5	“P” of <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close
24f / 25f	6	Same as 1896 except “d” of <i>debe</i> is not broken
24g / 25g	7	Same as 1896: “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is shaved off on the bottom right
24h / 25h	8	Same as 1896 except first address line is not broken
24i / 25i	9	Same as 1896 with large “o” in <i>solamente</i> except “O” of <i>POSTAL</i> not broken
24j / 25j	10	Same as 1896 except address lines are not broken
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1893 - 1897		

* See the corresponding position in the 1896 chart, page 39, for illustrations



UPSS 24 — 1892 — 2 uprated to 3 centavos — Used January, 1895 from Havana, Cuba, to Leipzig, Germany. Jose L. Gonzalez collection

1894 - More Variations on the Baby King

The only changes in 1894 were in the color of the indicia, as shown below. The 2 centavos indicium changed from an yellow-green to dark brown and the 4 centavos indicium changed from carmine to dark blue.



1892 — 2 centavos

1892 — 4 centavos

1894 — 2 centavos

1894 — 4 centavos

As you can see, the 2 centavos green on buff was a disaster from a design point of view even though the baby head was distinctive and attractive. The design of dark brown and blue on buff was better in 1894. They looked even better in the 1896 reprints on yellow card stock.

UPSS No.	Pos.	Variety Descriptions* UPSS 26 is 2c dark brown on <u>buff</u> ; UPSS 27 is 4c dark blue on <u>buff</u>
26a / 27a	1	Same as 1896 except “s” of <i>solamente</i> inverted and address lines are normal
26b / 27b	2	Same as 1896: “e” of <i>este</i> elevated above the rest of the word
26c / 27c	3	Same as 1896: “t” of <i>este</i> broken; second “e” of <i>debe</i> and “se” of <i>escribirse</i> elevated
26d / 27d	4	Same as 1896 except second “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> is intact
26e / 27e	5	Same as 1896: “te” of <i>solamente</i> elevated
26f / 27f	6	Same as 1896 except “d” of <i>debe</i> is not broken
26g / 27g	7	Same as 1896: bottom right of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> shaved
26h / 27h	8	Same as 1896 except first address line is not broken
26i / 27i	9	Same as 1896 with large “o” in <i>solamente</i> except “O” of <i>POSTAL</i> not broken
26j / 27j	10	Same as 1896 except address lines are not broken
Typography by Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre; Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July 1894 - 96		

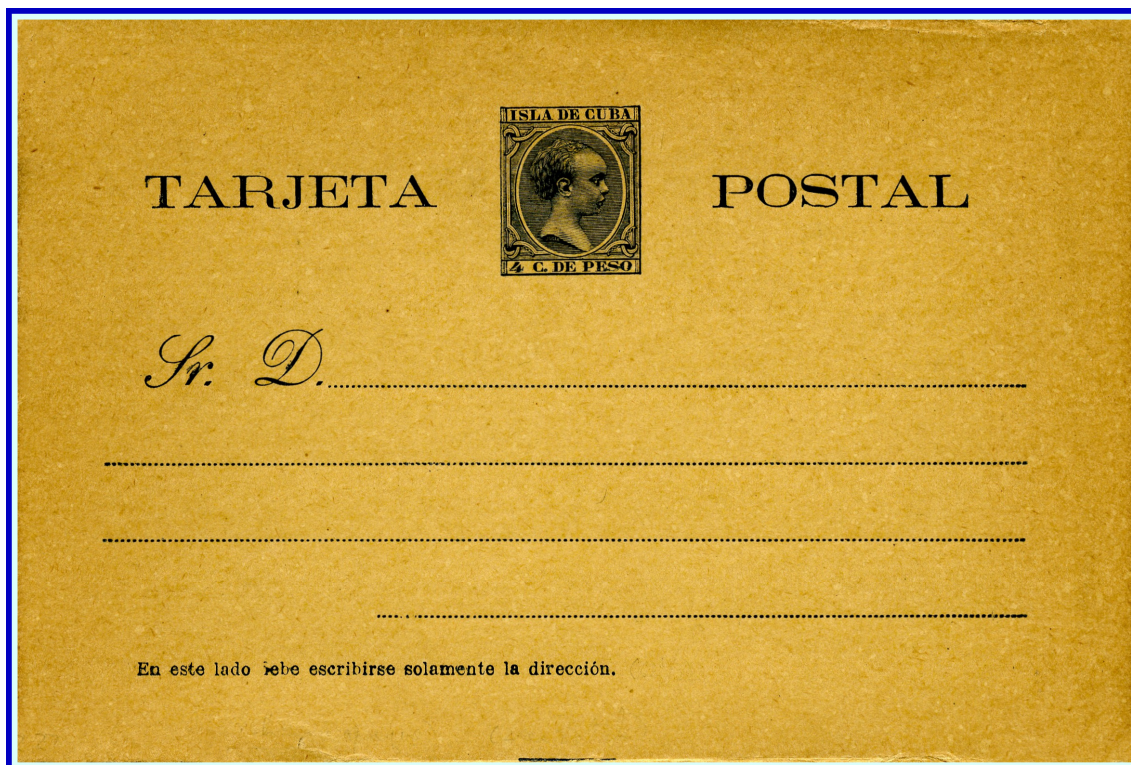
* See the corresponding position in the 1896 chart, page 39, for illustrations

"s" of <i>solamente</i> inverted	"o" of <i>solamente</i> in larger font

The cards had two major (and other minor) variations: the “s” of *solamente* was inverted in Position 1 (this was corrected in 1896, contrary to what Edifil shows for its Nos. 27Ac and 30c) and the “o” was in a larger font in Position 9.





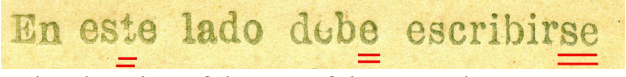
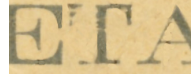
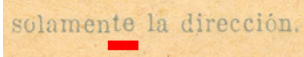
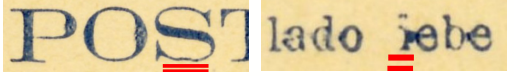

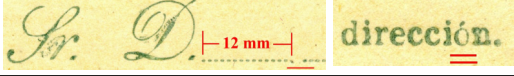

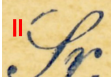
UPSS 26, Position 8 — Used 30 October 1895 from Cienfuegos to Henry Gremmel, a stamp dealer in New York City. Robert Littrell collection.



UPSS 27, Position 6 — This 4 centavos on dark buff from 1894 is decidedly more rare than its yellow counterpart, the 1896 reprint. Robert Littrell collection.

1896 Reprints — Two Repeats on Different Colored Paper

The only time that Cuban cards were reprinted on different card stock in a different year was in 1996. It may have been for convenience or expense, but the 2 centavos card of 1892 and the 4 centavos card of 1894 were reprinted in the same color ink, but on different (yellow) cardstock.

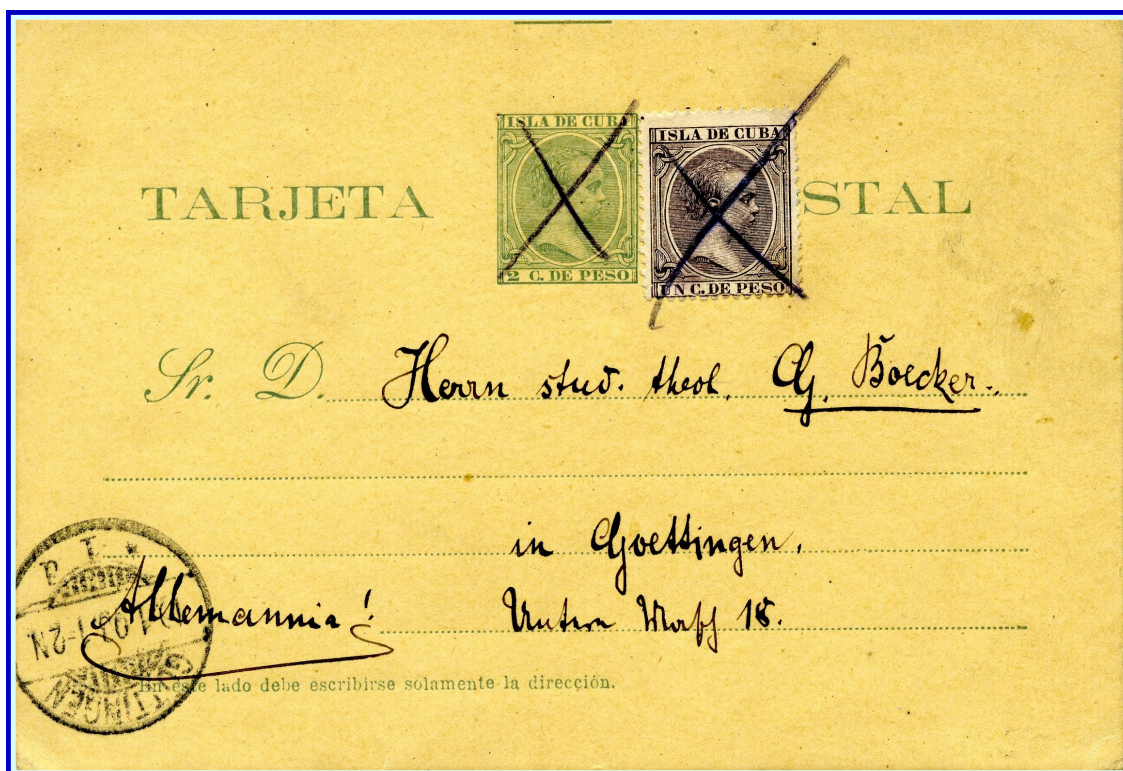
UPSS No.	Pos.	Variety Descriptions UPSS 24A is an 1896 reprint on yellow of 2 centavos 1892 UPSS 24 UPSS 27A is an 1896 reprint on yellow of 4 centavos 1894 UPSS 27
24Aa / 27Aa	1	Missing top serif of “P” and broken bottom of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; second and third address lines are 2 mm short and fourth ends with periods run together 
24Ab / 27Ab	2	“e” of <i>este</i> is elevated over rest of word 
24Ac / 27Ac	3	“t” of <i>este</i> broken in half; “e” of <i>debe</i> and “se” of <i>escribirse</i> are slightly below the elevation of the rest of those words. 
24Ad / 27Ad	4	Shattered left arm of second T of <i>TARJETA</i> ; broken third address line 25 mm from left 
24Ae / 27Ae	5	“te” of <i>solamente</i> is elevated over rest of word 
24Af / 27Af	6	Dented bottom of “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> ; left half of “d” of <i>debe</i> missing 
24Ag / 27Ag	7	“P” fails to close and “S” has a shaved part in the bottom right loop in <i>POSTAL</i> 
24Ah / 27Ah	8	Broken first address line after <i>D</i> ; right half of “ó” of <i>dirección</i> is thin 
24Ai / 27Ai	9	Broken bottom of “O” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; <i>D</i> broken; “o” of <i>solamente</i> in larger font 
24Aj / 27Aj	10	Broken “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ; break at beginning of second address line and breaks 3 mm and 40 mm from start of third address line 
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1896 - 1897		

Note: Beginning with UPSS 24A and continuing through the 1898 series, a capital letter “A” has been added to the UPSS number to denote a change in the card stock color.

In 1892 they set up a new type of card to be printed in sheets of ten. They stripped the design of frames and changed the note (*nota*). They then continued to use this plate setup for both Puerto Rico and Cuba for 1894, 1896 and 1898. Over the years there was progressive deterioration of the lines and letters and a few defects migrated. For instance, in 1896 the “PSTL” defects in *POSTAL* were combined with the short second and third address lines in Position 1, yet in 1898 those address line defects migrated to Position 2. The dent in the base of the “S” of *POSTAL* in Position 6 of 1896 migrated to Position 4 of 1898. Some of the only defects that ever got corrected in all of this process was the inverted “s” in *solamente* of Position 1 of 1894 got turned back around in 1896 and the broken *D* of 1896 Position 9 that was fixed in 1898.



UPSS 27A, Pos. 4 — This 4c card on yellow card stock is more attractive than the buff card. Used April, 1897 to New York. C.E. Beck was a cigar manufacturer. Ernesto Cuesta collection.



UPSS 24A, Pos. 5 — This 2 centavos card was uprated by 1 centavo, then hand cancelled and sent from Havana to Göttingen, Germany, in December, 1896. Robert Littrell collection.

1898 - The Sun Sets on Spanish Cuba

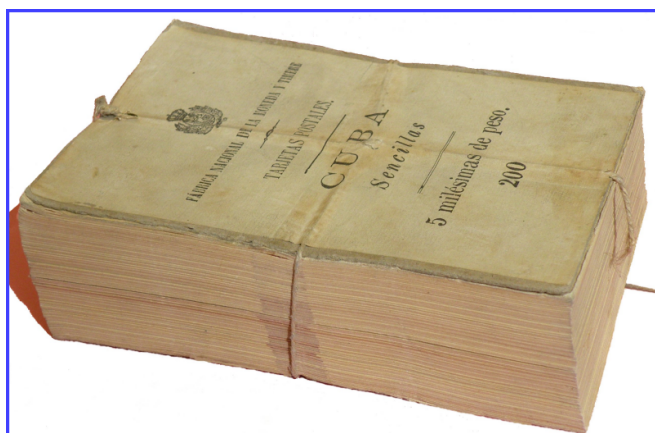
The Spanish relinquished their hold on Cuba, but not before the release of the final multiple issues of 1898. Four denominations in single cards, 4 in double cards, each with two colors of paper. Alfonso XIII has gained a few years and his “infante” or “*el cadete*” picture shows it. Engraver Bartolomé Maura put his surname MAURA at the base of the bust.

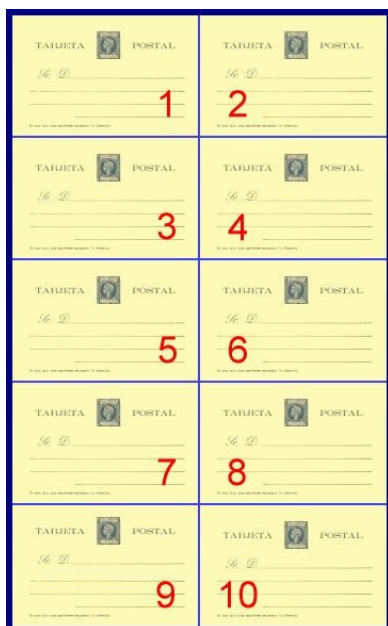
Instead of Isla de Cuba, the top of the indicium now reads CUBA-1898 y 99, as the cards were intended for use during those two years. Of course the cards never made it to 1899 due to the Spanish-American War, but continued to be used throughout 1898 during the first part of the U.S. Administration until they were replaced by the U.S. postal cards surcharged for use in Cuba. Manufacture of the cards was done by *Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre*. Besides the new indicia, little else changed from 1894.

Ángel Laiz Castro is a Spanish dealer and expert on postal stationery of Spanish colonies. He came across complete set of sheets of 1899 single and double postal cards of Fernando Poo, a small Spanish island off the coast of west Africa. They were printed from the same plates as were used for Cuba in 1898. In his article entitled *Plancheo de las Tarjetas Entero Postales de Cuba de 1898, Tipo Infante* (Plating of the 1898 Postal Cards of Cuba, Child Type) in *Revista de Filatelia*, he describes the plate positions for both single and double cards. Printing was done in sheets of ten single cards: two cards across by five cards down. All four denominations are essentially identical. Double cards were printed by using the bottom four rows of the same plate used to print the single cards by flipping over rows 3 and 5 as deduced from the plate varieties, thus obtaining four double cards per sheet plus two single cards.

Packet with top cover for shipment of 200 single 5 milésimas cards to post offices

UPSS No.	Denomination	Color / Paper
28	5 milésimas (½ centavo)	Carmine on yellow
28A	5 milésimas	Carmine on buff
29	1 centavo	Green on yellow
29A	1 centavo	Green on buff
30	2 centavos	Violet on yellow
30A	2 centavos	Violet on buff
31	3 centavos	Reddish brown on yellow
31A	3 centavos	Reddish brown on buff
32	5m + 5 milésimas	Carmine on yellow
32A	5m + 5 milésimas	Carmine on salmon
33	1c + 1 centavo	Green on yellow
33A	1c + 1 centavo	Green on salmon
34	2c + 2 centavos	Violet on yellow
34A	2c + 2 centavos	Violet on salmon
35	3c + 3 centavos	Reddish brown on yellow
35A	3c + 3 centavos	Reddish brown on salmon
Typography by the <i>Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre</i> Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: 1898		



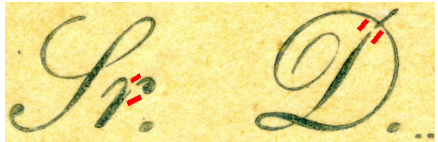



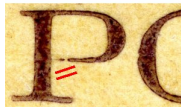
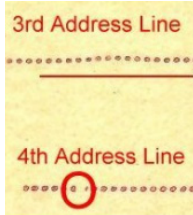

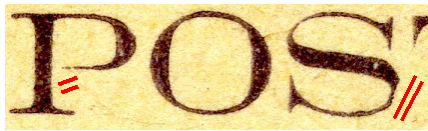
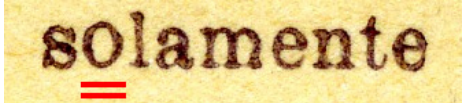
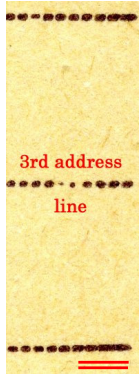


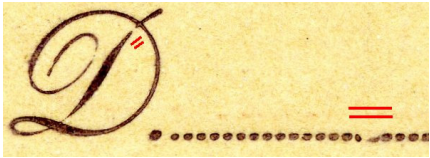
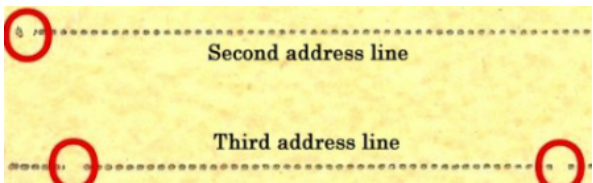
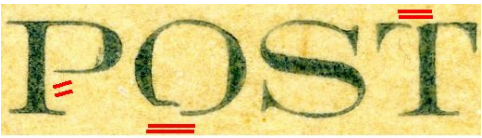




Scheme showing how 10 cards were printed on a single sheet



Four indicia for 1898

Position	Characteristics of the 1898 Single Cards	
1	Various defects to the P, S, T and L of <i>POSTAL</i> ; the “S” break being most notable.	
2	“S” in <i>Sr.</i> broken at top; second and third address lines are 2 mm shorter; fourth line ends with the periods run together.	
3	Very small break in “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ; notch in left side of “t” in <i>este</i> ; third address line has break 46 mm from the right and fourth address line has break 50 mm from the right	
4	Small break in serif of “R” top left of second “T” in <i>TARJETA</i> is shattered; the straight upright of the “D” in <i>Sr. D.</i> does not cross the curved portion; “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> deformed on the bottom; break near beginning of third address line.	

Position	Characteristics of the 1898 Single Cards	
5	Broken “r” and upright of “D” in <i>Sr. D.</i> ; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close; break in “b” of <i>debe</i> ; “o” of <i>solamente</i> broken and its “e” is closed.	  
6	Notch in right leg of second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> ; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close; fourth address line is broken near the beginning and third line undulates above it.	  
7	Break (some cards have two breaks) in top of “S” of <i>Sr.</i> ; first address line undulates; dent in right curve of “S” and “P” fails to close in <i>POSTAL</i> ; “o” of <i>solamente</i> in larger font (a Pos. 9 defect in 1896); third address line broken near the end and periods on at the end of the fourth line are smashed together.	   
8	Break in top of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; notch in the right middle of the “I” of <i>solamente</i> ; upright of <i>D</i> is broken as is following line.	  
9	Break in the bottom of “O” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; 17 mm gap between first and second address lines; “d” of <i>lado</i> broken twice and the “b” of <i>debe</i> fails to close.	  
10	Small break in top of “E” of <i>TARJETA</i> ; breaks at beginning of second address line and two breaks in the third address line 4.5 mm and 41 mm from the start of that line.	

UPSS 29 — 1898 single card of 3 centavos sent 12 December 1898 to St. Petersburg, Russia, an unusual destination. Late usage, almost 5 months after the end of the Spanish-American War on July 17 and two days after the signing of the peace treaty whereby Spain ceded control of Cuba to the U.S.

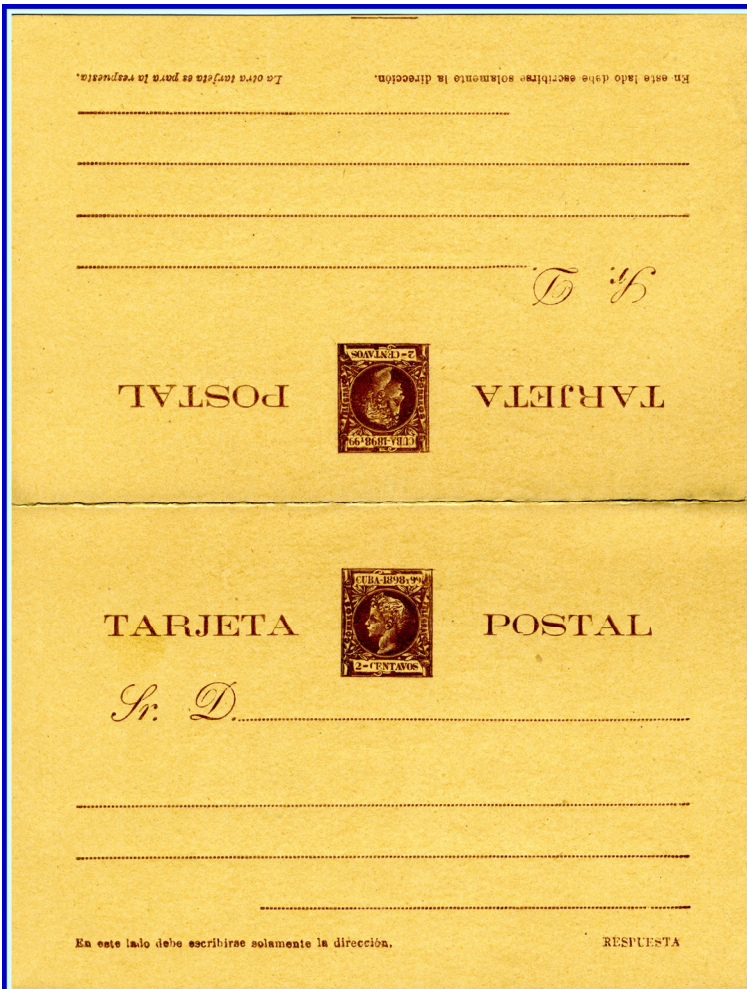
Robert Littrell collection

At right is plate position two of the ten printed. The varieties at this level of magnification make it difficult to discern the position. A small magnifier comes in handy for plating.



This illustrates the difference between the salmon and yellow colors on the double cards

UPSS 34, Position 3 — 1898 double card of 2 centavos



Single card No. 7 was turned 180 degrees to print the message card (shown on top) and single card No. 9 printed the reply card. Altogether, double card Position No. 3 was produced. Note that this is the "Error" card with extra space, 17 mm, between first and second address lines instead of the usual 10 mm. This identical error also shows up in the cards printed in Spain for Puerto Rico and in 1899 for the island of Fernando Poo.

So how do you get from the single cards to the double cards? Remember that we numbered the single positions 1...10 going across and down? After the printers changed the indicia to print all four denominations they flipped cards numbered 3, 4, 7 and 8 over 180 degrees so they had 8 single positions transformed into 4 double tête-bêche cards. They then proceeded to add the note at the bottom of each card and then print all four denominations of the double cards by substituting the indicia and ink color. Thus one type setting yielded four single and four double cards.



1898 Card Plating

Double card No. 1 =
Single card 3 message &
Single card 5 reply

Double card No. 2 =
Single card 4 message &
Single card 6 reply

Double card No. 3 =
Single card 7 message &
Single card 9 reply

Double card No. 4 =
Single card 8 message &
Single card 10 reply

Single cards 1 and 2 were not
utilized in the making of the
double cards.

Salmon colored cards are decidedly more rare than yellow cards. They were apparently printed after the yellow cards because more deterioration of the plates is reflected in the cards. The card additional damage is shown in the following table:

1898 salmon double cards — Additional Varieties	
No. 1 – Message (Single No. 3)	Additional break in first address line; new break in loop of “S” of <i>Sr.</i>
No. 1 – Reply (Single No. 5)	New break in the middle of the second address line
No. 2 – Message (Single No. 4)	Second address line begins 5 mm after the others; new break in the base of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>
No. 2 – Reply (Single No. 6)	Undulation in the third address line; break near the beginning of the fourth address line
No. 3 – Message (Single No. 7)	Deformation near the start of first address line in 5m and 1c cards
No. 3 – Reply (Single No. 9)	Break in the bottom part of the “O” of <i>POSTAL</i>
No. 4 – Message (Single No. 8)	The P in <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close
No. 4 – Reply (Single No. 10)	No significant differences

Thus comes to a close the almost 400 year rule of Cuba by Spain. Another chapter starts, that of the American intervention and its many postal wonders and oddities. But that is a story for another day. For the postal stationery history of that time, please see UPSS’s *The Postal Stationery of the Possessions and Administrative Areas of the United States of America* which has sections on Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico, among others.

UPSS 31 — An unusual cross
between a 3 centavos postal
card and a picture postcard by
Carranza printed on the back.
Used March 1898 from Havana
to Vienna, Austria.

Octavio Cabrera collection



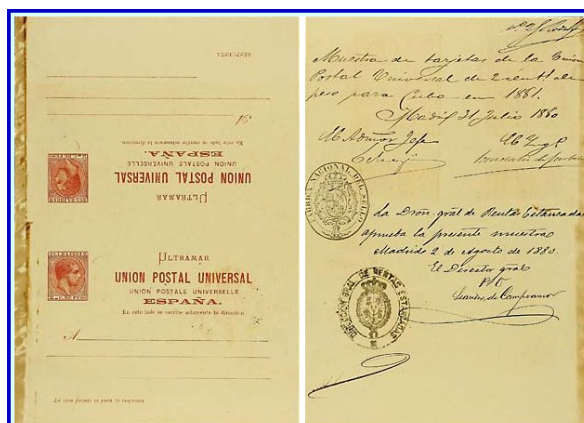
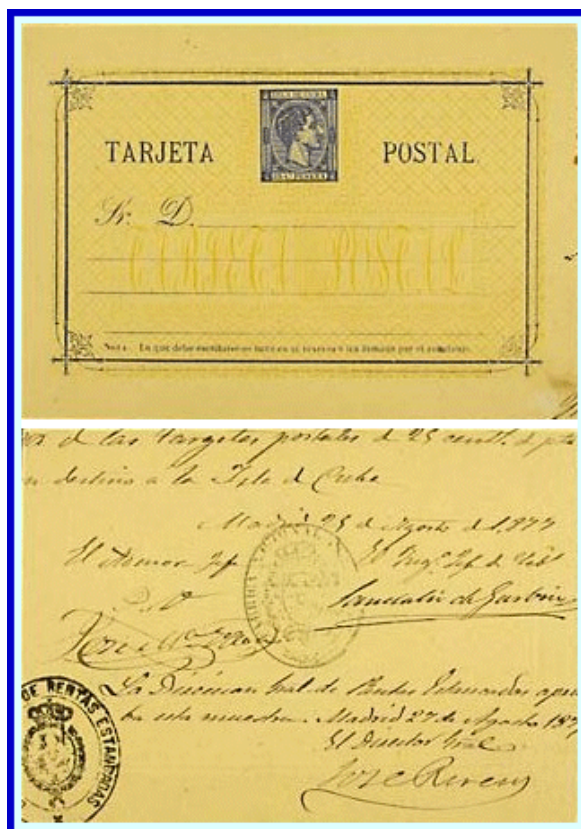
UPSS 33, Position 3 —
1 centavo paid reply postal
card uprated by 2 centavos
and sent by the Italian
Consulate in Havana to
Rome, Italy. Late use (after
the U.S. invasion, but while
the cards were still on sale)
on 19 September 1898.

Octavio Cabrera collection

Pre-Production Material

As a prelude to the issuance of a card, it must first have legitimacy and official blessing. Beginning with the earliest cards the process was well established. The card is approved by the National Stamp Factory (and later the National Factory of Currency and Stamps) and a seal is placed on it. Then it is approved by the Director General of Finance and his seal is placed on it, agreeing to production. Below is a list of existing archival proofs known to the author:

UPSS No.	Archival Proof	Approval Date
(Capital "P" added to UPSS number to indicate Proof)		
1P	1878 25c blue	27 Aug 1877
2P	1879 25c red	11 Oct 1878
3P	1880 2c carmine	2 Dec 1879
5P	1880 2c + 2c carmine	2 Dec 1879
6P	1880 3c rose	2 Dec 1879
7P	1881 2c carmine	19 Jul 1880
9P	1881 2c + 2c carmine	2 Aug 1880
10P	1881 3c + 3c rose	27 Aug 1880
17P	1882 2c green	11 Sep 1881
19P	1882 10c blue	7 Sep 1881
21aP	1888 4c carmine	11 Nov 1887
22P	1890 2c green	12 Sep 1889
23P	1890 4c red	12 Sep 1889
28P	1898 5m carmine	27 Sep 1897
29P	1898 1c green	28 Sep 1897
30P	1898 2c violet	1 Oct 1897
31P	1898 3c reddish brown	1 Oct 1897
32P	1898 5m + 5m carmine	Sep 1897
33P	1898 1c + 1c green	Sep 1897
34P	1898 2c + 2c violet	Sep 1897
35P	1898 3c + 3c reddish brown	Sep 1897

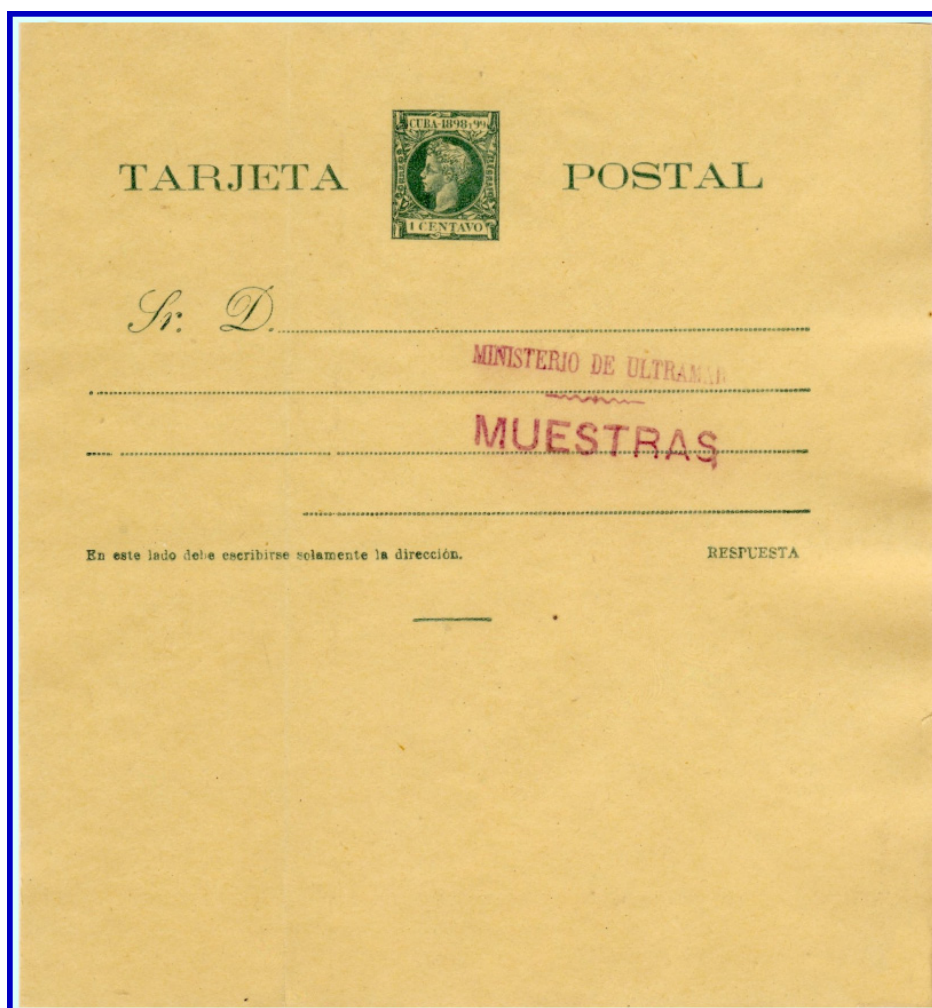


At some point after its approval by the powers that be (in the case of Cuba and other Spanish colonies it was the Ministerio de Ultramar), specimens were made by stamping on them some language that it is a specimen and that, accordingly, it has no postal value. These specimens (in Spanish: *muestras*) are then distributed to other countries to show postal officials what to expect to see. On page 49 are a couple of examples of specimens or *muestras*:



UPSS 28S
Specimen

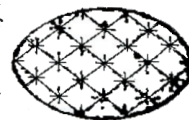
UPSS 33S
Reply Half
Specimen



Other Factors Concerning Collectability



Cancellations or lack thereof — Most used cards have a postmark bearing the date and place of sending, but others have other styles of cancellation such as a “parilla” shown at right or some other “killer” cancellation. They may have a Franco (meaning pre-paid) or “Paquebot” handstamp (ship marking) or railroad postmaster’s marking. Each is scarce which makes it all the more desirable.



Destinations — For Cuba, the most frequent destinations are internal to Havana, the United States and to Germany. Secondary to that would be Spain, the rest of Europe, Canada, Mexico and the balance of Latin America. Uncommon destinations would be Africa and Asia, with the sole exception as the Philippines being another Spanish colony.

Franking — One occasionally sees adhesive stamps applied to postal cards which were applied for the purpose of “uprating” (in Spanish: *franqueos complementarios*) the card to a higher value necessary to travel to a distant destination. Also one sees adhesive stamps applied to pay for registration (and, later, special delivery). Other interesting franking occurs when one overpays or underpays the required rate. Finally, stamps could be added to dress up the card for philatelic purposes.

Private overprints — Advertising cards or announcement forms command a premium and are rare in this period. Less common but still collectable are corner cards (in Spanish: *sobreimpresiones privadas*) where a business or individual has the card imprinted (perhaps on the reverse side) his business name and address such as this one appearing on a 2 centavos card from 1882: “**Faustino Faes. Importadores de Sedería, Quincalla y Perfumería. Muralla, 27. Habana**” (importer of silk, metal goods and perfume).

Significant Postal Rate Changes

15 June 1877

Cuba joined the Universal Postal Union – The rate of 25 céntimos was established for every postal card which happened to be the same basic rate for a one ounce domestic letter (a letter to a foreign country was 50 céntimos).

1 January 1880

Effective this date, postal card rates were reduced as follows:

Postal Card Rates in Cuba in 1880		
Destination	Single Cards	Double Cards
Within the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the United States	10 céntimos	20 céntimos
Elsewhere abroad	15 céntimos	30 céntimos

1 January 1881

Modification of tariffs because of the change in currency yielded the following:
1 peseta (old currency) = 100 céntimos = 20 centavos de peso (new currency). 1 centavo = 5 céntimos

Postal card rates were established at the following rates:

- Inside the same city of Cuba – 1 centavo de peso
- Between cities in Cuba – 2 centavos
- To the United States – 2 centavos
- To Spain, Balearics and Canary Islands – 4 centavos de peso
- Elsewhere abroad – 4 centavos

1881 to 1897

The above listed postal rates notwithstanding, the 1881 and 1882 U.P.U. postal card issues consisted of two values: a 2¢ (intended for use in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States) and a 3¢ (intended for use elsewhere abroad). All subsequent issues consisted of two values: a 2¢ and a 4¢. During most of that time, however, the rate to western Europe remained at 3¢ (as a result of side treaties between the US, Germany and others). That is why used copies of the 4¢ cards are so scarce, since most correspondence used a 2¢ card with a 1¢ adhesive stamp to make up the 3¢ rate.

8 October 1897

A royal decree established a general tariff for the mail that circulates within the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines; which goes from one to another one of the these islands; and to the Peninsula (Spain), Balearic Islands, Canaries, and Spanish possessions of the North of Africa, western coast of Morocco and Gulf of Guinea. Mail was divided into six general classes, as follows: First class, letters; second class, postal cards; third class, newspapers; fourth class, printed matter; fifth class, samples of merchandise and medicines; sixth class, registered letters.

Postal Card Rates in Cuba in 1898		
Destination	Single Cards	Double Cards
Mail within towns and cities of the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Philippines	5 milésimas	1 centavo
Within the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines	1 centavo	2 centavos
From the island of Cuba to that of Puerto Rico and vice versa	1 centavo	2 centavos
From the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico to the Philippines and vice versa	3 centavos	6 centavos
From the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the Peninsula, Balearics, Canaries and Spanish possessions of the North of Africa, western coast of Morocco and Gulf of Guinea	2 centavos	4 centavos

Excerpt from royal decree of 1897:

Postal Cards. These will be single and double or with paid return message; on the front they may only bear routing instructions and the name, last name, and address of the intended recipient. Privately prepared postal cards made out of card stock of good quality and of the same size as the officially issued postal cards will also be acceptable when properly franked with adhesive stamps paying the postage corresponding to official postal cards to the same destinations; the size of the official cards is 14 centimeters wide by 9 centimeters high.

APPENDIX 1: Cuban Price List in U.S. Dollars

Note: All issues are listed with major variations. Markets have changed for cards available on online auctions: expect to pay about 30-50% less for mint cards which are readily available. A “—” means sales of the item are rare. A “-NK-” means they are not known to exist.

UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used	UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used
1	1878 - 25c blue	25	2000	19a	1882 - 10c blue type II	145	-NK-
2	1879 - 25c red	20	2400	19b	1882 - 10c blue and yellow	300	-NK-
2 II-1	25c red plate 2, pos. 1	145	—	20	1888 - 2c green type I	200	600
3	1880 - 10c carmine U.P.U.	20	1000	20a	1888 - 2c green type II-A	53	300
4	1880 - 15c rose U.P.U.	24	1200	21	1888 - 4c carmine type I	300	-NK-
5	1880 - 10+10c carmine	24	-NK-	21a	1888 - 4c carmine type II-A	60	400
6	1880 - 15+15c rose U.P.U.	27	-NK-	22	1890 - 2c green type I	10	150
7	1881 - 2c carmine U.P.U.	15	150	22a	1890 - 2c green type I-A	15	150
8	1881 - 3c rose U.P.U.	18	150	23	1890 - 4c carmine type I	15	220
9	1881 - 2+2c carmine U.P.U.	24	-NK-	23a	1890 - 4c carmine type I-A	20	220
10	1881 - 3+3c rose U.P.U.	27	-NK-	24	1892 - 2c green on buff	15	150
11	1882 - 2c carmine U.P.U.	12	60	24A	1896 - 2c green on yellow	35	150
11a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	45	75	25	1892 - 4c brown on buff	18	300
11b	Same - ULTAAMAR error	275	500	26	1894 - 2c dk brown on buff	20	150
12	1882 - 3c rose U.P.U.	15	120	27	1894 - 4c blue on buff	180	400
12a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	60	120	27A	1896 - 4c blue on yellow	50	300
13	1882 - 2+2c carmine U.P.U.	20	300	28	1898 - 5m carmine	15	300
13a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	70	300	28-9	Same, position 9	22	300
13b	Same - ULTAAMAR error	500	800	29	1898 - 1c green	15	300
14	1882 - 3+3c rose U.P.U.	22	300	29-9	Same, position 9	22	300
14a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	100	300	30	1898 - 2c violet	12	300
14b	Same - ULTAAMAR error	600	900	30-9	Same, position 9	25	300
15	1882 - 2+2c carmine NEW	60	600	31	1898 - 3c reddish brown	12	300
16	1882 - 3+3c rose NEW	80	800	31-9	Same, position 9	40	300
17	1882 - 2c green type I	42	200	32	1898 - 5+5m carmine	25	600
17a	1882 - 2c green type II	42	200	32-3	Same, position 3	40	600
17b	1882 - 2c green and yellow	82	400	33	1898 - 1+1c green	20	600
17c	1882 - 2c green type II-A	40	200	33-3	Same, position 3	30	600
18	1882 - 4c carmine type I	40	220	34	1898 - 2+2c violet	25	600
18a	1882 - 4c carmine type II	45	220	34-3	Same, position 3	50	600
18b	1882 - 4c carmine and yellow	85	400	35	1898 - 3+3c reddish brown	25	600
19	1882 - 10c blue type I	45	-NK-	35-3	Same, position 3	50	600

APPENDIX 2: Cuban Postal Card Cross Index - Spanish Domination 1878 - 1898

With UPSS numbering in this book, a capital letter “A” following a number means the same print color was employed on a different color card stock. A lower case letter following the number means a variation in the typesetting process. A capital “S” following the UPSS number means specimen. A “—” means not listed.

UPSS No.	Edifil No.	H&G No.	Ascher No.	Description
1	1	1	1	1878 – 25 céntimos de peseta , blue & orange – Alfonso XII
2	2	2	2	1879 – 25¢ , reddish brown & orange
3	3	3	3	1880 – 10¢ carmine UPU
4	4	4	4	15¢ carmine UPU
5	5	5	5	10¢ + 10¢ carmine UPU
6	6	6	6	15¢ + 15¢ carmine UPU
7	7	7	7	1881 – 2 centavos de peso , carmine UPU
8	8	8	8	3¢ salmon pink UPU
9	9	9	9	2¢ + 2¢ carmine UPU
10	10	10	10	3¢ + 3¢ salmon rose UPU
11	11	11	11	1882 – 2¢ carmine UPU
12	12	12	12	3¢ rose UPU
13	13	13	13	2¢ + 2¢ carmine UPU
14	14	14	14	3¢ + 3¢ salmon rose UPU
15	13E	15	15	2¢ + 2¢ carmine UPU – New composition with stamp positions reversed
16	14E	16	16	3¢ + 3¢ salmon rose UPU – New composition with stamp positions reversed
17	15	17	17 I	1882 domestic – 2¢ green & orange - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i> (ends in a <u>ball</u>)
17a	16	17a	17 II	2¢ green & orange - type II “r” in <i>Sr.</i> (ends in a <u>hook</u>)
17b	16f	—	—	2¢ green and yellow background - type II
17c	16A	17b	17III	2¢ green & orange - type II-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
18	17	18	18 I	4¢ carmine & orange - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
18a	18	18a	18 II	4¢ carmine & orange - type II “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
18b	18f	—	—	4¢ green & yellow background - type II
19	19	19	19 I	10¢ blue & orange - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
19a	20	19a	19 II	10¢ blue & orange - type II “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
19b	20f	—	—	10¢ green & yellow background - type II
20	21	20	20 I	1888 – 2¢ green - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
20a	22	20a	20 II	2¢ green - type II-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
21	23	21	21 I	4¢ green - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
21a	24	21b	21 II	4¢ carmine type II-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
22	25	22	22a	1890 – 2¢ green type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i> - Alfonso XIII <i>pelón</i> or bald
22a	25A	—	22b	2¢ green type I-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
23	26	23	23a	4¢ carmine type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
23a	26A	—	23b	4¢ carmine type I-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
24	27	24	24a	1892 – 2¢ green on buff
25	28	25	25	4¢ brown on buff
26	29	26	26	1894 – 2¢ dark brown on buff
27	30A	—	—	4¢ dark blue on buff

Cuban Postal Card Cross Index - Spanish Domination 1878 - 1898 (Continued)

UPSS No.	Edifil No.	H&G No.	Ascher No.	Description
24A	27A	24a	24b	1896 - 2¢ green (1896 reprint of 1892 issue on yellow card stock)
27A	30	27	27	4¢ dark blue (1896 reprint of 1894 issue on yellow card stock)
28	31	28	28 I	1898 - 5 milésimas carmine on yellow card stock – Alfonso XIII child
28A	31A	—	—	Same as UPSS 28, on buff stock
28S	31M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
28-Pos9	31E	—	28 II	Same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines
29	32	29	29 I	1¢ green on yellow card stock card
29A	32A	—	—	Same as UPSS 29, on buff stock
29S	32M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
29-Pos9	32E	—	29 II	Same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines
30	33	30	30 I	2¢ violet on yellow card stock
30A	33A	—	—	Same as UPSS 30, on buff stock
30S	33M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
30-Pos9	33E	—	30 II	Same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines
31	34	31	31 I	3¢ reddish brown on yellow card stock
31A	34A	—	—	Same as UPSS 31, on buff stock
31S	34M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
31-Pos9	34E	—	31 II	Same, with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines
32	35	32	32 I	5m + 5m carmine on yellow card stock
32A	35A	—	—	Same as UPSS 32, on salmon card stock
32S	35M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
32-Pos3	35E	—	32 II	Same as 32 with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
32A-Pos3	35AE	—	—	Same as 32A with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
33	36	33	33 I	1¢ + 1¢ green on yellow card stock
33A	36A	—	—	Same as UPSS 33, on salmon card stock
33S	36M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
33-Pos3	36E	—	33 II	Same as 33, with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
33A-Pos3	36AE	—	—	Same as 33A with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
34	37	34	34 I	2¢ + 2¢ violet on yellow card stock
34A	37A	—	—	Same as UPSS 34, on salmon card stock
34S	37M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
34-Pos3	37E	—	34 II	Same as 34, with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
34A-Pos3	37AE	—	—	Same as 34A with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
35	38	35	35 I	3¢ + 3¢ reddish brown on yellow card stock
35A	38A	—	—	Same as UPSS 35, on salmon card stock
35S	38M	—	—	Same, with “Ministerio de Ultramar / Muestras” (Specimen) handstamp
35-Pos3	38E	—	35 II	Same as 35, with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.
35A-Pos3	38AE	—	—	Same as 35A with 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card.

Postal Cards of the Spanish Philippines, 1878-1898

by Donald Peterson

Introduction

After 24 years of using postage stamps (first issued in 1854), the Manila correspondent experienced another postal innovation – the postal card. The first known usage of a 50 milésimas de peso postal card was on 2 March 1878 (UPSS 1). On 1 September 1879, the 50 milésimas de peso card, with a 3 céntimos de peso U.P.U. surcharge, was issued in Manila (UPSS 2).



UPSS 2 — October 31, 1884, Manila to Kiel, Germany, via Naples.
David Chiong collection

The focus of the Philippine section of this book is on the postal history of the cards, to the extent it can be compiled from existing or obtainable records, including information on usage, printing formats, listing of key varieties and errors, and MUESTRAS (specimens).

Much of the information in this book, particularly with regard to plate varieties of Spanish Philippine postal cards, comes from several detailed catalogs and books by Angel Laiz, the preeminent authority on postal cards of Spain and colonies. These include catalogs listing Spanish Philippines postal cards (Laiz, 1994 and 2006), a study of the plating and varieties of the 1878-1879 cards (Laiz, 1998), and a study on the plating and varieties of the 1898 postal cards (Laiz, 1998). The postal history information, including postal card rates, primarily comes from Peterson (1984) and Peterson and Lewis (2000, as amended 2009).

Establishment of Spanish Philippine U.P.U. Rates

On 1 May 1877, the Philippines joined the General Postal Union (renamed the Universal Postal Union in 1878). The establishment of postal card rates and procedures was directly tied to the establishment of the U.P.U. letter rates and procedures for the Spanish Philippines. Therefore, it is paramount to understand how the overseas U.P.U. rate was established and what the overseas U.P.U. letter rate was in order to know how the postal card rate was established. According to Article 3 of the 1874 Treaty of Berne, the overseas rate for a single-weight letter was to be the equivalent of 25 centimes, based on the French gold franc. When the Philippines joined the U.P.U., one Philippine céntimo de peso was equal to 5 French centimes. Thus, the overseas single-weight letter rate for mail from the Philippines would have been $5 \times 1 \text{ céntimo} = 5 \text{ céntimos de peso}$, equivalent to the 25 centimes standard. However, Article 3 also allowed a member nation to levy a slightly higher rate “in order to suit its monetary or other requirements.” An upper limit on the levy was also specified whenever the mail was carried over the seas more than 300 nautical miles. In those instances, an additional charge, not to exceed one half of the U.P.U. rate fixed for a paid letter, could be added to the ordinary postage. Since from the Philippines, nearly all member nations were farther than 300 nautical miles, Spanish officials took advantage of the 50 percent surtax rule and set the overseas single weight letter rate (under $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) for Philippine mail to member nations at $5 \text{ céntimos} + 2\frac{1}{2} \text{ céntimos (surtax)} = 7\frac{1}{2} \text{ céntimos}$, which was rounded up to 8 céntimos.

Establishing the Spanish Philippine U.P.U. Postal Card Rate

According to U.P.U. procedures as set forth by the 1874 Treaty, the postal card was to be one half the single letter overseas rate. At the time the Philippines joined the U.P.U. in 1877, the single weight overseas rate was 10 centavos. Thus, the postal card rate would have been 5 centavos de peso or 50 milésimas de peso. The first postal card with this rate (UPSS 1) was used in Manila on 2 March 1878 (Laiz, 1998). However, as a result of the Postal Congress, held in Paris, 2 May – 4 June 1878, the postal card basic rate was reduced from $12\frac{1}{2}$ centimes (one half the single letter U.P.U. rate, based on the French franc) to 10 centimes (Coddington, 1964). This author is of the opinion that the news of the U.P.U. postal card rate reduction prompted Spanish postal authorities to reconsider the postal card rate for the Philippines – lowering the rate from 50 milésimas de peso (5 céntimos de peso) to 3 céntimos de peso. Céntimos and centavos were used interchangeably during this period.

In 1879, four postage stamp issues of 1878-1879 were surcharged with the words, “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 2 cents. de peso” for the single letter interior rate, and 8 cents. de peso for the single letter U.P.U. rate. The words CONVENIO and CORREOS in the surcharges on both stamps were issued in two formats: narrow spaced letters (Type 1), and wide spaced letters (Type 2). The 50 milésimas postal cards were subsequently surcharged only with the Type 2 surcharge, and at the 3 céntimos postal card rate. The surcharge was “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso” (UPSS 2). The new card rate was implemented with the issuance of the surcharged postal card in Manila on 1 September 1879; along with the issuance of surcharged postage stamps.

Implementation of the Spanish Philippine U.P.U. Postal Card Rates

Until the Philippines joined the G.P.U. in 1877, postage stamps of the Spanish Philippines were not accepted for payment of mail to foreign countries. They were only used for postage on internal mail and on mail to Spain and her colonies. Most covers from the Philippines to countries outside the Spanish empire until 1877 were affixed with the adhesives of India, Hong Kong, or Straits Settlements. Supplies of these stamps were maintained by business firms in the Philippines. The stamps were affixed to out-bound mail, which was carried directly to a departing ship, by-passing Philippine post offices. In all cases, the mail was cancelled at Hong Kong or Singapore.

The immediate effect of the Philippines joining the G.P.U. on 1 May 1877, was that its mail was readily accepted by member nations of the U.P.U., and vice versa. The Philippines officially implemented new U.P.U. postal rates and procedures for letters and postal cards on 1 September 1879. No orders or regulations have been found promulgating the new U.P.U. rates and procedures in the Philippines. The earliest known Philippine government document describing the new U.P.U. rates and procedures is a Manila Treasury Ordinance signed by Calvo Nuñez, dated 27 October 1881.

Mail to non-member countries was also affected by the U.P.U. procedures and rates. Unless there were existing treaties in effect, such mail was usually conveyed at the same U.P.U. rate. Since no postal treaties were known to be in effect after 1877 between the Philippines and other countries, the Philippines generally applied the same U.P.U. rates and procedures to all countries, whether they were members or not, as a matter of convenience and consistency.

Spanish Philippine Postal Card Rates, 1878 - 1898 *			
	Postal Card Rate	Registration Fee	Registered Postal Card Rate
Overseas Mail, Except to Spain and Colonies			
1878 – 1879	50 milésimas	?	?
1879 – 1898	3 c	8c	11c
Overseas Mail to Spain and Colonies			
1878 – 1879	50 milésimas	?	?
1879 – 1897	3c	15c	18c
1898	2c	15c	17c
Interior Mail			
1878 – June 1889	3c	15c	18c
July 1889 – 1897	2c	15c	17c
1898 (within same town)	5m	5c	5½c
1898 (between towns)	1c	5c	6c

* Peterson and Lewis (2000) as amended (2010).

Overall, the issuance of the postal card was an economic advantage to the Philippine correspondent. For example, at the time of joining the U.P.U. in 1877, the postal rate in the Philippines was 10 céntimos for an overseas single weight letter, and 2 céntimos for a single weight interior letter. The 3 céntimos overseas postal card would therefore have been attractive for corresponding overseas, with a savings of 7 céntimos per piece. When the single letter U.P.U. rate changed to 8 céntimos in 1879, use of the 3 céntimos U.P.U. postal card would still have been a significant savings of 5 céntimos. However, it would have been slightly more costly to use the postal card for interior correspondence, which was 2 céntimos (1 céntimo more). Expectedly, use of the first postal card for interior correspondence is rare. However, philatelic use was relatively common. It wasn't until July 1889, when a cheaper 2 céntimos card for interior use was issued in the Philippines, which was slightly less than the 2½ céntimos interior single weight letter. The lower postal card rate did not last. From 1 January 1890 through 31 December 1897, the postal card rate and single weight letter rate were the same – 2 céntimos. In 1898, Spanish authorities finally realized the benefits of the postal card, and reduced their rates to ½ and 1 céntimo (within same town and between towns), compared to the 2 and 3 céntimos letter rates, respectively. The most common destination of commercially used cards was to Germany.

Spanish Philippine Postal Cards

Printing and Plate Variations

All Spanish Philippine postal cards were printed at the Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid, Spain. Each card was individually typeset. The 1878-1896 cards were printed in plates of 20, whereas the 1898 cards were printed in plates of 10, except for the 1898 message-reply cards, which were printed in plates of eight (see photograph on page 80).

Uncut plate for the printing of 20 cards on a single sheet used in the 1878 - 1896 card issues.

Position 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

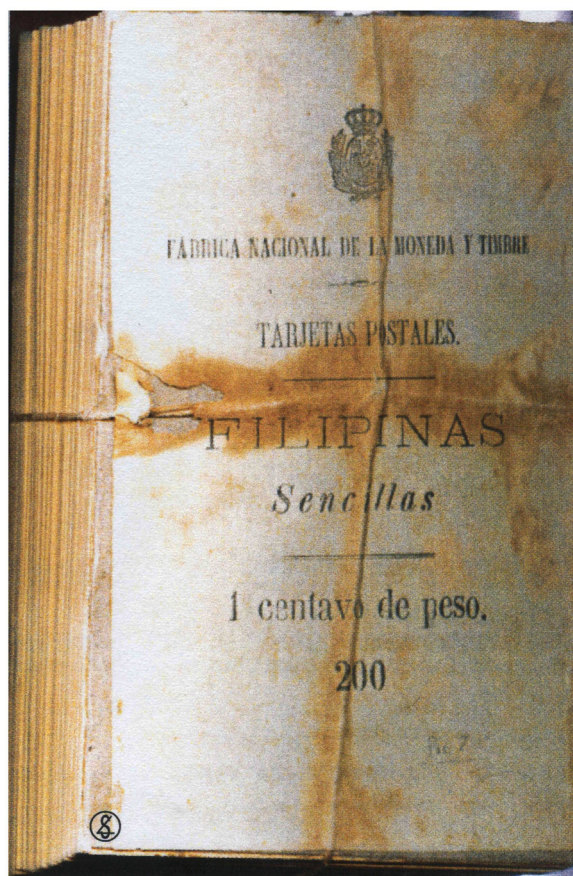
The Fábrica Nacional del Sello used an antiquated movable printing type (typographic plate) and a flat press to produce postal cards from 1878 through 1898. Variations were common, including distances between letters and lines, since the letters were manually placed in an adjustable frame and tightened in place. Given the effort required to assemble the type, replacements or repairs were seldom made. However, major flaws, if found, were often repaired during the printing process. These plate repairs should not be considered second, third, etc. printings. The variations are considerable and include:

- nicks and spots in any portion of the design,
- missing accents, such as over the second “a” in *hará* in the Nota inscription,
- broken letters, such as the many different break locations in the “S” of *Sr*,
- different letter types and sizes,
- missing letters, such as missing “r” in *firmado* in the Nota inscription,
- missing periods after “Sr” and “D” in *Sr. D*.

- word shifts, such as different locations of *Sr* under the first “T” of *TARJETA*,
- line breaks,
- varying locations of short pane “marker” lines on card edges used as a gauge for cutting,
- varying distances between address lines,
- broken or under inked letters that appear as “CORDEOS”, etc. on UPSS 2,
- line or phrase length differences,
- indicia color differences,
- cardstock color differences, and
- varying cardstock thicknesses.

Due to the large number of variations on these cards and the fact that a combination of many variations can be found on every Spanish Philippine card, only those variations deemed significant or notable, as well as major errors, are specifically listed in this study. For detailed listings of variations, refer to the Laiz references.

The inscription within the frame lines on the bottom of all Spanish Philippine cards from 1878 through 1898 (UPSS 1 through 19) cards within the frame lines reads “*Nota. Lo que debe escribirse se hará en el reverso e irá firmado por el remitente.*” This translates “the message shall be on the reverse side and shall be signed by the sender.” Note that each half of the message-reply cards is from a different position on the pane, and therefore, each presents a different set of plate variations. Most of the plate variations were repetitive, albeit those subject to repair during the printing process.



Hard cardstock cover on bundle of 200 cards (UPSS 13) shipped to the Philippines for the 1 céntimo issue of 1898. Only two covers reported. From Laiz (2006)

Bundling of Cards

After the plates were printed, they were cut in stacks of 100. Two stacks were bundled together, separated by a cardboard. Interestingly, all the cards in each stack of 100 were of the same plate position on the pane. Each bundle of cards was shipped to the colonies with a cover glued to the cardboard on top, a cardboard in the center separating two stacks of 100 cards, and a cardboard on the bottom of the bundle. Only two Philippine cardstock covers are known, both for the 1898 one céntimo postal card (UPSS 13). The message-reply cards were cut in Madrid and sent unfolded to the Philippines.

Source of Issuance Numbers

Issuance numbers, when available, are from the primary reference, Mencarini (1896). Juan Mencarini was an avid stamp collector and resided in Manila in the 1890s. As a result, he had first-hand

knowledge of the issuance dates and issuance numbers of the postal cards, which he included in his 1896 catalog. In fact, he sent several 1890s postal cards to himself on the first day of issue, which for most of the 1890s cards, was January 1 of the year of issue. A word of caution. Doubts exist regarding some of the production numbers provided by Mencarini (1896) and others. Where these numbers are believed to be too high, a statement to that effect is included in the description of such cards.

Period of Use

The period of use refers to the “official” period. However, many cards were commercially and philatelically used many years later.

Stamp and Card Stock Colors

There is a considerable range of stamp and card stock colors. Problems on interpreting color are noteworthy. For example, different catalogs variably call some cards buff, yellow-buff, or yellow. Different words are used in different catalogs to describe the same color. This is particularly confusing when comparing the description of colors between Edifil (Spanish), Ascher (German), Higgins & Gage (U.S.), and Bartels (U.S.). In reality, there is no “standard” color guide, past or present, which provides a uniform international standard. In addition to what the original color may have been, the effects of time, light, paper acidity and tropical conditions in the Philippines more often than not altered the original color of the card stock and stamp / portrait on the card (hereafter referred to as indicium). If the card colors “buff” and “yellow” can be easily distinguished, they are listed separately; otherwise they are listed as “yellow-buff”.

Although U.P.U. procedures recommended use of certain stamp colors for overseas use versus interior use, the indicia colors on Spanish Philippines cards were indifferent to U.P.U.’s recommended color schemes. There was also no consistency between the colors of stamps and postal card indicia for a given year issue.

Specimens (MUESTRAS)

For the 1880-1898 postal card issues, there are MUESTRA (specimen) postal cards handstamped in violet:

MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR
~~~~~  
MUESTRAS

Specimens are indicated with an "S" after the UPSS number (e.g., UPSS 3S). Variations in the handstamp and its color exist. Archival proofs also exist of the cards and of full plates (see archival proofs of 3S, 12S, and 16S). In addition to the MUESTRAS marking, they include additional handstamps in the margins of the pane, or on the card, or both. These markings show approval at the National Stamp Factory, and approval for production by the Director General of Finance, with the approval signatures. By their very nature, archival proofs only exist uncirculated.

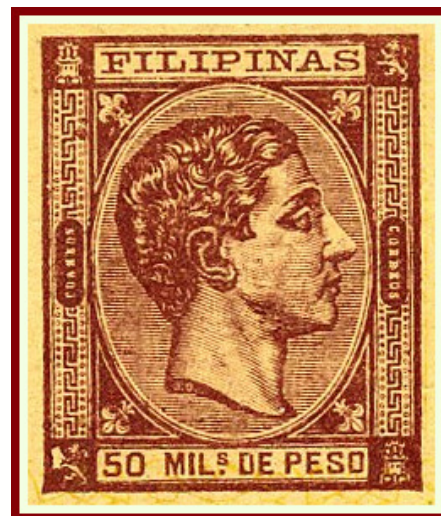


## 1878 – First Philippine Postal Card

### UPSS 1    1878

The indicium of Alfonso XII is between *TARJETA* on the left and *POSTAL* on the right. The words *TARJETA POSTAL* are in tall scroll letters and an orange groundwork or background underlies the entire design, lines, and words. The engraver was José García Morago, whose initials JG, appear at the base of the indicium. The pane size of this issue is 20 cards (4 across and 5 down), as confirmed by an existing full pane of a similar Cuban issue. We know for certain that the same plate that was used to produce the 1878 Cuban cards was used for Puerto Rico and the Philippines as well.

Ascher (1928) indicated that “there obviously was a second printing edition for use in overprinting, distinguished by a completely white nose, lighter colored cardboard, and a darker value mark”. However, in this author’s opinion, it is unlikely that another printing was done (or needed), given the low usage of these first cards in the Philippines. The “nose” variations were more likely variations on the original plate and/or in the printing process.



**Indicium of King Alfonso XII  
on UPSS 1 and overprinted on 2.**

The position of each card on the pane of 20 can be identified by its plate variations (sometimes referred to as flaws) as described by Laiz (1998). The plates were cut in Madrid and were assembled in packs of 100 cut cards. Each pack of 100 cards was the same plate position on the pane. Two packs of 100, sometimes, but infrequently with two different plate positions, were placed on top of each other to form a bundle of 200 cards (with a cover on top).

No postal records have been found indicating when the cards were shipped to Manila, and philatelic references are not in agreement whether the cards were officially issued, or issued in error. The earliest record of a used postal card is one mailed from Manila to London, dated 2 March 1878 (Laiz 1998). A total of only six used cards have been recorded. A total of three used cards exist prior to the issuance of the surcharged card on 1 September 1879. All six used cards contain commercial messages, were addressed to overseas destinations, and show no indication of being philatelic.

This author believes it is plausible that the first cards were officially shipped to Manila and were officially issued. Additional evidence that supports this conclusion is that: (1) the same U.P.U. surcharge (Type 2) was applied to both the card and on the 1878-1879 postage stamps, and (2) there is no evidence that a second printing was done in Madrid and was sent to Manila for surcharging either the postal card or postage stamps. Thus, the 50 milésimas de peso postal cards (UPSS 1) had to have been sent to Manila. There is no record of the number of cards sent to Manila. Postal usage of the first card was low. This author believes that most of the cards were kept in Manila (not distributed to the provinces) and remained in their original bundles of 200 due to low usage until the time they were surcharged (UPSS 2).

The six reported UPSS 1 used cards are:

1. 2 March 1878 — Manila to London (Laiz, 1998)
2. 14 December 1878 — Manila to Cologne, Germany (Afinza Auction, 8 May 2000)
3. 27 April 1879 — Manila to Switzerland, via French paquebot from Saigon (David Chiong collection)
4. 1 July 1881 (date-line) — Manila to Hong Kong (Don Peterson collection)
5. 20 January 1883 — Manila to Koln, Germany (Antonio Cuesta collection)
6. 7 September 1883 (date-line) — Iloilo to Dresden, Germany (Laiz, 1998)

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1878 Variety Description                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 50 milésimas de peso reddish brown or dark reddish brown on thick or thin buff card                                                                              |
| <b>1a</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Same, with crossbar of “e” was broken, appearing as “cn” instead of <i>en</i> and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> , both in <i>Nota</i> inscription (Pos. 7). |
| <b>1b</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Same, with bold face “r” in both <i>por</i> and <i>reverso</i> in the note (Pos. 8)                                                                              |
| <b>1c</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Same, with period after <i>Sr</i> twice as large as that after <i>D</i> (Pos. 9).                                                                                |
| <b>1d</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Same, with extraneous colored lines by the crossbar of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> (Pos. 13)                                                                        |
| <b>1e</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Same, with deformation of the top part of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i> (Pos. 14)                                                                                    |
| <b>1f</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Same, with printers waste double impression with one impression inverted                                                                                         |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): Earliest reported postmark is 2 March 1878 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Number Issued: no information; Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm<br>Period of Use: 2 March 1878 through 7 September 1883 (Laiz, 2006) |                                                                                                                                                                  |

The following illustrate four of the plate variations listed for UPSS 1 and 2:



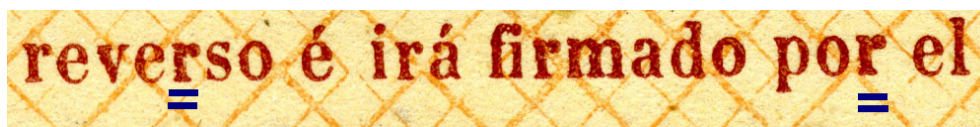
Smaller font in second “a” of *hará* and broken “e” looking like “cn” instead of *en*.



Extraneous lines around the “T” of *POSTAL*

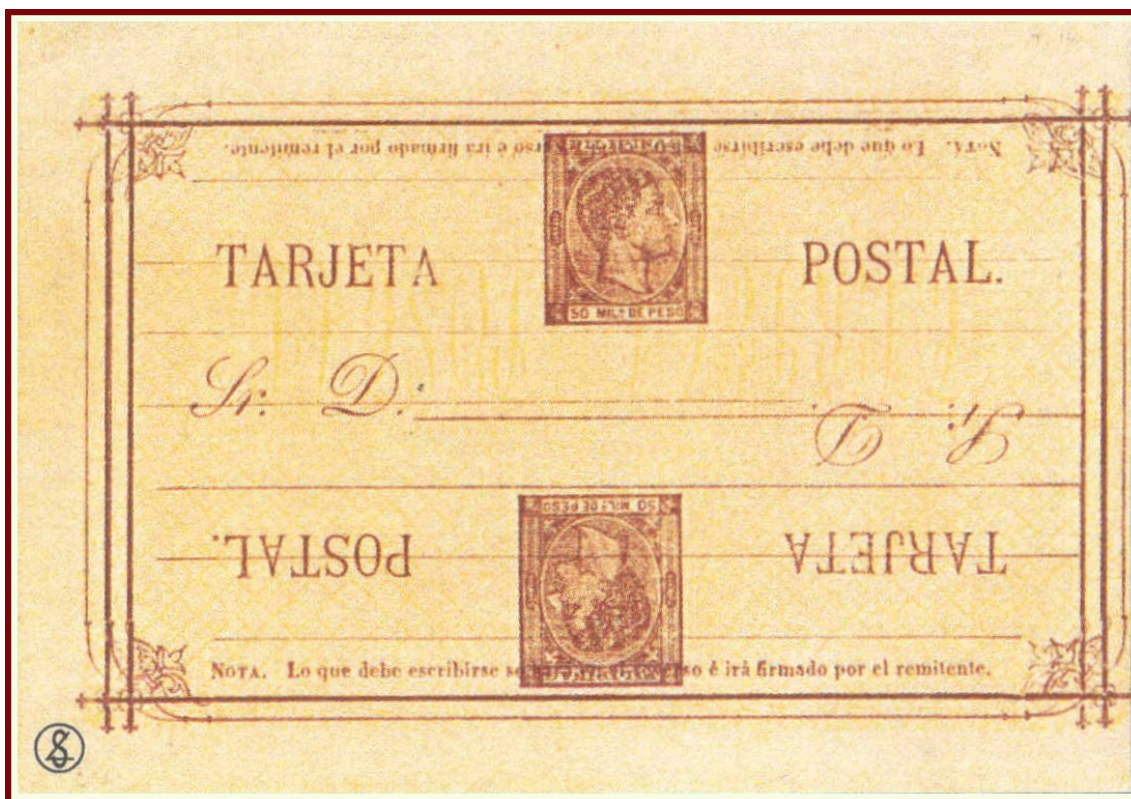


Deformed top of “E” in *TARJETA*



Letter “r” of both *reverso* and *por* are in bold face type.





UPSS 1f — Printer's waste - double impression with one inverted. From Laiz (2006)



UPSS 1a — 1881 (July 1 date-line) Manila to C.S. Buff, Butterfield Devine, Hong Kong, via the steamer *Manila* listing various agricultural products shipped to Spanish and British ports. Only 6 used cards are known. Don Peterson collection



## 1879 – Surcharged Philippine Postal Card

### UPSS 2 1879

UPSS 2 — 1879  
**“CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS”  
 and “HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso”  
 are surcharged on the indicium**

UPSS 2 is the same as UPSS 1, except with “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cénts. de peso” surcharged in black around the inside periphery of the indicium. Although early references are in conflict as to whether the value units were in céntimos or centavos, the likely correct value was céntimos. However, céntimos and centavos were essentially equivalent and were used interchangeably until the 1890s, when centavos became the standard term.

This issue was printed in plates of 20 cards (4 across and 5 down), as confirmed by the finding of a full pane by Laiz (1998). Harradine (1977)



| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1879 Variety Description                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                       | UPSS 1 surcharged in black “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cénts. de peso” on 50 milésimas de peso reddish brown or dark reddish brown indicium on thick or thin buff card. |
| <b>2a</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, with crossbar of “e” was broken, appearing as “cn” instead of <i>en</i> and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> , both in <i>Nota</i> inscription (Pos. 7).                        |
| <b>2b</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, with bold face “r” in both <i>por</i> and <i>reverso</i> in the note (Pos. 8)                                                                                                     |
| <b>2c</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, with period after <i>Sr</i> twice as large as that after <i>D</i> (Pos. 9).                                                                                                       |
| <b>2d</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, with extraneous colored lines by the crossbar of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> (Pos. 13)                                                                                               |
| <b>2e</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, with deformation of the top part of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i> (Pos. 14)                                                                                                           |
| <b>2f</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, with misaligned surcharge error                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>2g</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, except proof with green surcharge                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>2h</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, except proof with red surcharge                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>2i</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, except proof with blue or violet surcharge                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>2j</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Same, except proof with yellow surcharge                                                                                                                                                |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): 1 September 1879 (Peterson and Lewis, 2000)<br>Number Issued: no information.<br>Period of Use: 1 September 1879, through August 1881 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm |                                                                                                                                                                                         |

states that 3,050 cards were issued in Manila on 1 September 1879, for overseas use. This high number is doubtful, based on the few cards, both mint and used, that are known. The use of the surcharged card was not particularly popular, as less than 25 used cards of UPSS 2 are known to exist. Approximately 100 mint cards are known.

Following the reduction of the U.P.U. postal card by the Postal Congress of 2 May – 4 June 1878, Spanish postal authorities must have sent instructions to Manila to withdraw the existing stocks of un-surcharged cards and to have them surcharged. Ultimately, the 1878 postal cards and two 1878-1879 postage stamps were surcharged with the same Type 2 U.P.U. surcharge. It is not logical to assume, nor is there any evidence that a second printing was done in Madrid of both the postal cards and stamps for the purpose of surcharging them. This author believes that on-hand supplies of the 1878 postal cards from un-opened bundles, and sheets of the 1878-1879 postage stamps in the Manila post office were surcharged in Manila. The surcharging of the postal cards and stamps was of high quality. Since most of the postal cards were kept in their original bundles, due to low usage; and because each pack of 100 cards was the same plate position; the type setting and positioning of the surcharge could easily be adjusted for each pack of 100 cards to provide the high quality of surcharging we note on UPSS 2.

An interesting bogus usage exists of this card (UPSS 2). At least two cards are known, addressed to the same address in “Manilla”, with a stunning black parilla cancel on the indicium, with identical messages in Portuguese on the reverse side, and with the date, 23 November 1879, in the message. The message also indicates the cards were from Alcobaca to Evora, both in Portugal. There are no dated cancels on the cards. Both cards are believed to have been philatelic usage, and were probably never sent through the mail to or from the Philippines.



**UPSS 2f — Misaligned surcharge error. Only one card known.  
Don Peterson collection**



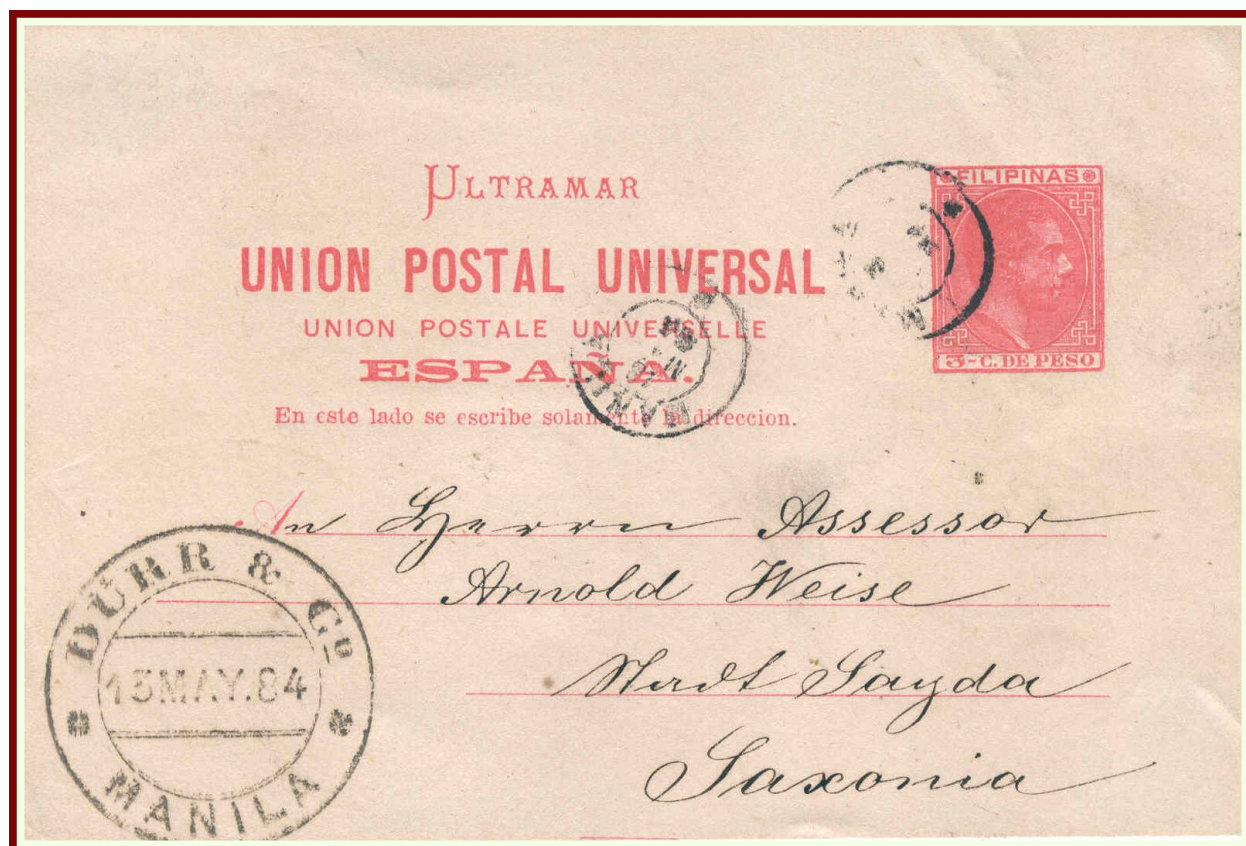
## 1880 – Philippine Universal Postal Union Postal Card

### UPSS 3 1880

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1880 — 3 Céntimos Variety Description                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 3 céntimos de peso vermillion or bright vermillion on thin or medium white card |
| 3a                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Proof of same with green indicium                                               |
| 3S                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Same as 3 with violet handstamp MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR /MUESTRAS (specimen)     |
| <p>Date of Issue (in Manila): 15 April 1880 (Mencarini, 1896)<br/> Number Issued: 10,000 (Mencarini, 1896)<br/> Period of Use: January 1881 through June 1889 (Laiz, 2006)<br/> Card Size: Approx. 131 x 90mm</p> |                                                                                 |

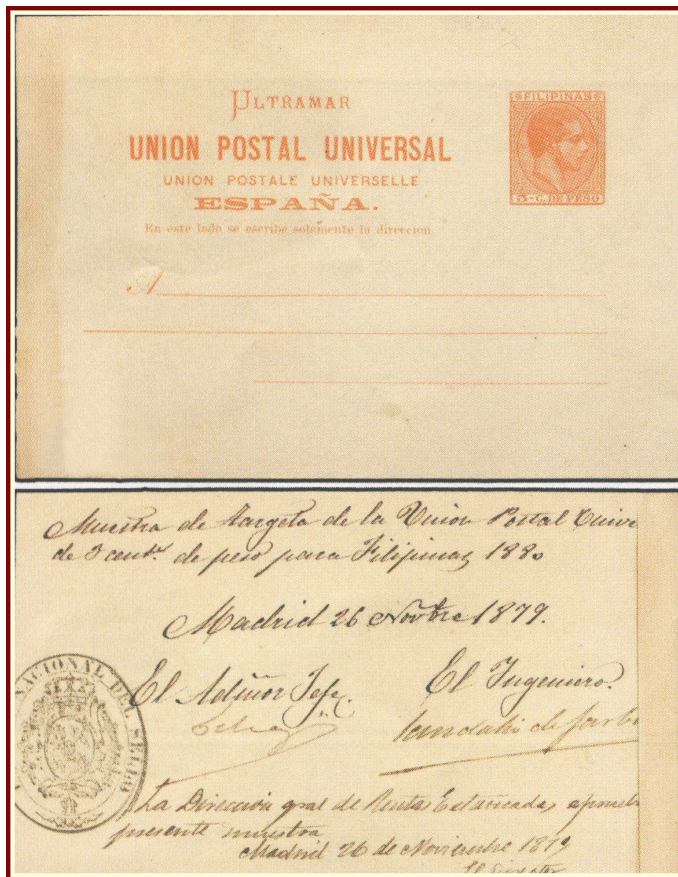


UPSS 3 — 1880  
3 céntimos vermillion indicium



UPSS 3 — 18 May 1884 Manila to Germany with Durr & Company business handstamp at the 3 céntimos overseas rate. Don Peterson collection





**Archival Proof — UPSS 3S**  
**Muestra (specimen), dated Madrid,**  
**26 November 1879 and signed.**  
**Front and reverse sides shown.**

**From Soler y Llach auction**  
**5 October 2009.**

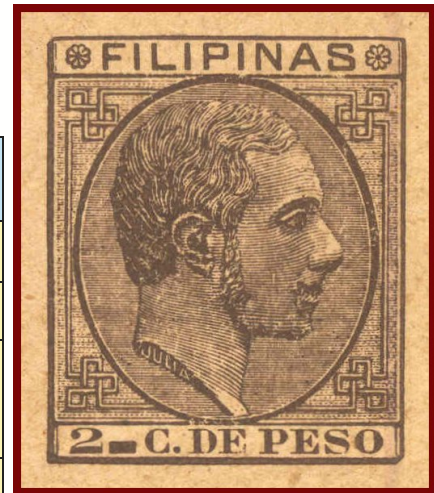
Mencarini (1896) stated that the card was issued on 19 April 1880, but subsequent cataloguers, including Laiz (2007), have stated the date to be January 1, 1881. Inspection of the above archival proof shows that the card was intended to be used in the Philippines in 1880 and the final approval came in November, 1879. This means a lag time of about five months from approval of production to use in the colony which, based on the dates of other archival proofs, would be about the right amount of time necessary.

A new indicia was engraved by Eugenio Juliá y Jover, whose name Juliá, appears at the base of the indicia. The indicia of King Alfonso XII is in the upper right corner. This is also the only card containing the words ULTRAMAR / UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL (in Spanish) and UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE (in French) in the center, thus giving it the distinction of being a “U.P.U.” card issued for overseas use. The issue was printed in plates of 20 cards (4 across and 5 down). The phrase, “*En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion*” was on the front, meaning “Only write the addressee and address on this side.” Note that the accent in “dirección” is missing in all plate positions.

## 1889 – Philippine Interior Postal Card

**UPSS 4    1889**

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 1889— 2 Céntimos Variety Description                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2 céntimos de peso dark brown on thick or thin buff card                                                                   |
| 4a                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Same except with divided “POST AL” error in heading                                                                        |
| 4b                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Same except with “UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL” handstamp in red, and “CINCO PESO” (sic) surcharge on the indicium in blue-green |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): July 1889 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Number Issued: no information<br>Period of Use: July 1889 through December 1891 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 98mm<br>Issued for interior use |                                                                                                                            |



**UPSS 4 — 1889**  
2 céntimos dark brown indicium



**UPSS 4a — 1890 Manila to Cebu with divided “POST AL” error at the 2 céntimos interior rate.**  
Only five used cards are known. Don Peterson collection.



The indicium of King Alfonso XII has *TARJETA* on the left and *POSTAL* on the right in tall scroll letters. We assume the pane size of this issue was 20 cards (4 across and 5 down). This is the first card issued for interior use. Only five used UPSS 4a (*POSTAL* variety) are known.

UPSS 4g is believed to have been prepared by some individual rather than an official postal unit and only one used card, albeit philatelic, is known. It is pictured below:

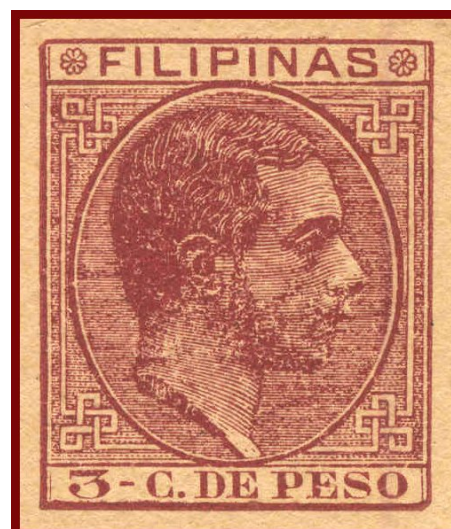


**UPSS 4g — UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL in red and CINCO PESO in blue-green on card with 1890 Manila cancel to order (philatelic). Only one card known.  
From Laiz (2006)**

## 1889 - First Philippine Message - Reply Card

UPSS 5 1889

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 1889 Double Card Variety Description                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 3 céntimos de peso reddish brown + 3 céntimos de peso reddish brown on thick or thin buff card stock |
| 5a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Same except top address line on the message card is 71mm long instead of 79mm                        |
| <p>Date of Issue (in Manila): July 1889 (Mencarini, 1896)<br/> Number Issued: no information<br/> Period of Use: July 1889 through December 1891 (Laiz, 2006)<br/> Card Size: Approx. 144 x 192-209mm<br/> Issued for overseas use</p> |                                                                                                      |



1889 — 3 céntimos indicium



UPSS 5 — 1889 Munich to Manila reply card. Only known correct use of a reply card.  
From Laiz (2006)



Although the pane size of this issue was 20 cards (4 across and 5 down), the 20-card format could only produce 8 two-part message-reply cards from 16 positions. One row of 4 cards could not be used. We believe that the top row of 4 cards in the pane was discarded during the cutting process. No full plates of this issue are known. The inscription on the bottom of the message card outside the frame lines reading “*La otra tarjeta es para la contestación*” means “The other side is for the reply” and the inscription on the bottom of the reply card outside the frame lines reading “*Contestación pagada*” means “Paid reply”.

Although the primary reference (Mencarini, 1896) states that the first day of issue was in July 1889, several cards are known with a 16 April 1889 date, 2½ months earlier. The cancels appear to be genuine, but the usage is philatelic. A total of 8 cards have been reported with the 16 April 1889 date (Peterson, 1984). Most used message-reply cards were philatelic and were sent un-separated with the reply card indicium also cancelled with the same Manila departure date. Only one correctly used reply card is known.



**UPSS 5 —  
1890 Manila to Erfurt,  
Germany at the 3  
céntimos overseas  
message-reply card rate.**

**Don Peterson collection**

## 1892 - 1896 — King Alfonso XIII Postal Cards

Alfonso XII died just short of his 28th birthday in November 1885, from tuberculosis, a tragic end to a young king who had ruled Spain since ascending the throne at age 15. Alfonso's posthumously born son, Alfonso XIII, born 17 May 1886, was king from the moment of his birth until his death in February 1941. His mother María Cristina, served as regent during his younger years until 1902. Alfonso XIII was less than 5 years old when his portrait was engraved by Eugenio Juliá y Jover, whose surname, Juliá, appears at the base of the indicia. UPSS 6 and 7 cards were printed from the same settings as the 1890 Cuba cards with the indicia switched to the Philippines. No full plates of these cards are known. UPSS 5 through 11 have the baby-head indicia of King Alfonso XIII, which faces to the right, between the words *TARJETA* and *POSTAL*.

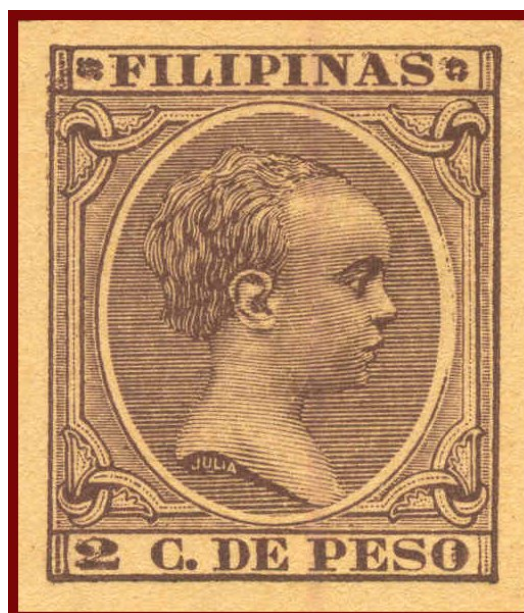
There are several card stock color variations of the 1892 and 1894 cards (UPSS 6-9). It is believed the printers used whatever card stock was available to meet their needs. The card stock color differences should not be considered "separate" printings, but they are distinct varieties. They are the result of using the various card stock on hand. When the variety is obvious difference in the color of the card stock, a capital letter "A" is used to denote this.

### UPSS 6      1892

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Variety of "Sr" | 1892— 2 Céntimos Variety Description                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Type I          | 2 céntimos de peso brown on thin <b>buff</b> card stock       |
| <b>6A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Type I          | Same as UPSS 6, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock  |
| <b>6a</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Type I-A        | Same as UPSS 6, but with "Sr." displaced 3 mm to the right    |
| <b>6aA</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Type I-A        | Same as UPSS 6a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1892 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Number Issued: 1,000 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Period of Use: January 1, 1892, through December 1893 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm; Issued for interior use |                 |                                                               |



The varieties of Sr. displacement on  
UPSS 6 through 11



**UPSS 6 — 1892**  
**2 céntimos brown indicium.**  
Alfonso XIII is known in this portrait in Spanish as *el pelón* or "the baldie" due to his hairline.

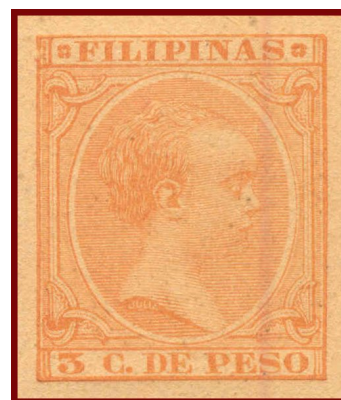




UPSS 6a — 10 January 1892 Manila local to Pablo MacKay & Company at the 2 céntimos interior rate. Don Peterson collection

UPSS 7      1892

UPSS 7 — 1892  
3 céntimos orange indicium



| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Variety of "Sr" | 1892— 3 Céntimos Variety Description                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Type I          | 3 céntimos de peso orange on thin <b>buff</b> card stock      |
| 7A                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Type I          | Same as UPSS 7, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock  |
| 7a                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Type I-A        | Same as UPSS 7, but with "Sr." shifted 3 mm to the right      |
| 7aA                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Type I-A        | Same as UPSS 7a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1892 (Mencarini, 1896); Number Issued: 1,000 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Period of Use: Jan. 1, 1892, through Dec. 1893 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm; Issued for overseas use |                 |                                                               |



UPSS 7a — 12 January 1892 Manila to Erfurt, Germany at the 3 céntimos overseas rate.  
Don Peterson collection

UPSS 8      1894

UPSS 8 — 1894  
2 céntimos reddish brown indicium



| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Variety of "Sr" | 1894 — 2 Céntimos Variety Description                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Type I          | 2 céntimos de peso reddish brown on thin <b>buff</b> card stock |
| 8A                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Type I          | Same as UPSS 8, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock    |
| 8a                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Type I-A        | Same as UPSS 8, but with "Sr." displaced 3 mm to the right      |
| 8aA                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Type I-A        | Same as UPSS 8a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock   |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1894 (Mencarini, 1896); Number Issued: 5,000 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Period of Use: 1 Jan. 1894, through Dec. 1895 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm; Issued for interior use |                 |                                                                 |





UPSS 8a — 1895 Manila to Hamburg, Germany at the 11 céntimos overseas registered rate according to Article 5 of the Treaty of Berne. Certificado handstamp and number faint. Only eight overseas registered cards recorded. Don Peterson collection



UPSS 8 — 1895 Iloilo to Manila at the 17 céntimos interior registered rate. Only two interior registered cards recorded. Don Peterson collection



**UPSS 9      1894**

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Variety of “Sr”                                                                   | 1894 — 3 Céntimos Variety Description                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Type I                                                                            | 3 céntimos de peso dark blue on thin <b>buff</b> card stock   |
| 9A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Type I                                                                            | Same as UPSS 9, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock  |
| 9a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Type I-A                                                                          | Same as UPSS 9, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right    |
| 9aA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Type I-A                                                                          | Same as UPSS 9a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock |
| 9S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Same, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |                                                               |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): 1 January 1894 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Number Issued: 2,000 (Mencarini, 1896)<br>Period of Use: 1 January 1894, through December 1895 (Laiz, 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm<br>Issued for overseas use |                                                                                   |                                                               |



**UPSS 9 — 1894**  
**3 céntimos de peso**  
**indicium**



**UPSS 10      1896**

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Variety of “Sr”                                                                   | 1896 — 2 Céntimos Variety Description                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Type I                                                                            | 2 céntimos de peso blue on thin <b>buff</b> card stock         |
| 10A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Type I                                                                            | Same as UPSS 10, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock  |
| 10a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Type I-A                                                                          | Same as UPSS 10, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right    |
| 10aA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Type I-A                                                                          | Same as UPSS 10a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock |
| 10S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Same, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |                                                                |
| <p>Date of Issue (in Manila): 1 January 1896 (Bartels et al., 1904)</p> <p>Number Issued: Mencarini (1896) states that 10,000 cards were issued. Bartels, et al. (1904) states that 18,000 were issued, which is believed to be a typographical error.</p> <p>Although this card is relatively common, it is doubtful that even 10,000 cards were issued.</p> <p>Period of Use: 1 January 1896, through December 1897 (Laiz, 2006)</p> <p>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm;</p> <p>Issued for interior use</p> |                                                                                   |                                                                |



**UPSS 10Aa — 1897 Manila to Berlin, Germany, with two 5 milésimas (1 céntimo) newspaper stamps added to make up the 3 céntimos overseas rate. Don Peterson collection**



UPSS 10 — 1896 2 céntimos indicium.  
Blue printing and 2 céntimos as opposed to the  
UPSS 9 indicium which was dark blue printing and  
3 céntimos.

UPSS 11      1896



UPSS 11 — 1896  
3 céntimos brown indicium

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Variety of “Sr”                                                                  | 1896 — 3 Céntimos Variety Description                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Type I                                                                           | 3 céntimos de peso brown on thin <b>buff</b> card stock        |
| 11A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Type I                                                                           | Same as UPSS 11, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock  |
| 11a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Type I-A                                                                         | Same as UPSS 11, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right    |
| 11aA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Type I-A                                                                         | Same as UPSS 11a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock |
| 11S                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Same except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |                                                                |
| <p>Date of Issue (in Manila): 1 January 1896 (Bartels et al., 1904)</p> <p>Number Issued: Mencarini (1896) states that 10,000 cards were issued. Bartels, et al. (1904) states that 18,000 were issued, which is believed to be a typographical error. Although this card is relatively common, it is doubtful that even 10,000 cards were issued.</p> <p>Period of Use: 1 January 1896, through December 1897 (Laiz, 2006)</p> <p>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm; Issued for overseas use</p> |                                                                                  |                                                                |



## 1898 – Philippine Postal Cards

A total of eight postal cards were issued in 1898 (UPSS 12-19), the last year of Spanish control of the Philippines. On 8 October 1897, a royal order revised the postal rates for mail that circulated within Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines; mail from one to another of these islands; and mail to the Peninsula (Spain), Balearic Islands, Canaries, and Spanish possessions of North Africa, western coast of Morocco, and Gulf of Guinea. Mail was divided into six general classes, one of which was postal cards. The new postal card rates became effective in the Philippines on 1 January 1898 and are reflected in the 1898 cards. Refer to the rate table on page 57.

The 8 October 1897 royal order also stated that privately prepared postal cards (e.g., private mailing cards) made from card stock of good quality and of the same size as the officially issued postal cards were also acceptable, when properly franked with adhesive stamps paying the postage corresponding to official postal cards to the same destination. Although no privately-prepared postal cards are known from 1898 (when the above royal order applied), one such card exists posted with postage stamps equaling the correct 3 céntimos rate from Manila to Paris, France, dated 1896 (Soler y Llach auction of 8 May 2000). The card has a privately printed design, which is slightly different than the official design. It was printed on card stock of the same size and thickness as the official postal cards at that time. Apparently, use of privately prepared postal cards must have been authorized prior to 1897, although no record of this has been found.



**Indicia of King Alfonso XIII  
on 1898 cards (UPSS 12-19)**

UPSS 12 through UPSS 19 bear the indicia of King Alfonso XIII facing to the left between the words *TARJETA* and *POSTAL*. The 1898 cards were printed at the *Fábrica Nacional de la Moneda y Timbre* in Madrid. Previous printings were at the *Fábrica Nacional del Sello* (National Stamp Factory) before the merger in 1893 with the Casa de la Moneda (Mint). However, although the pane size of the single cards was 10 cards (2 across and 5 down) (UPSS 12-15), the pane size was changed to 8 cards for producing message-reply cards (UPSS 16-19). The 10-card

format could produce 4 two-part message-reply cards from 8 positions, leaving one extra horizontal row of 2 cards. Instead of cutting the top row of 2 cards and disposing of them, as they did with the 1889 message-reply card pane (UPSS 5), the 1898 pane for message-reply cards was re-formatted to include only 8 cards (2 across and 4 down) on the pane, leaving the top portion of the sheet blank where the two cards would have been. Illustrated below is a full pane of 8 message-reply cards of the 5 milésimas de peso issue, which was also marked with approval handstamps and signatures and MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS handstamps. Most used message-reply cards are philatelic.

**Archival Proof — UPSS 16S — Full pane of four 1898 message reply cards (8 single cards) with MUESTRAS handstamps, approval handstamps and signatures. Regular (single) cards were printed in plates of ten. Only one MUESTRAS plate of 8 is known. From Laiz (2006)**

Commercially used examples of the 1898 cards are rare because:

- use of the cards primarily occurred for only 4 months from 1 January to 30 April 1898 from the Manila post;
- mail to all countries was restricted at Manila and nearby post offices after 1 May 1898, due to a U.S. Naval blockade, but later was lifted in early June 1898 for all countries, except Spain;
- the use of open, readable mail, especially interior mail, declined significantly in 1898, due to increasing armed conflicts between Filipino insurrectionists, the U.S. Army, and Spanish Army during this period. (Peterson and Lewis, 2000).

Used postal cards processed through the Spanish-controlled Manila Post Office are rare between 1 May and 13 August 1898, when U.S. forces occupied and closed the Manila post office.



Although the Manila post office was reopened on 14 August under U.S. control, the processing of local and overseas Spanish mail was slow and delayed. Between May and July, 1898, many outbound letters and postal cards were hand-delivered outside the Manila post office to foreign vessels in Manila harbor, carried to Hong Kong, or occasionally to Singapore, where the postal cards and letters with Philippine stamps were first cancelled at that post office. Occasionally, Hong Kong postage was added to the mail to make up the required U.P.U. postage rate.



Spanish Philippine postal cards used after 13 August are generally philatelic, were occasionally used as souvenirs, have U.S. military station cancels, and are not considered Spanish period usage. However, there are exceptions. For example, a few post 13 August cards may have been in bags of unprocessed Spanish mail in the Manila post office at the time U.S. authorities took over. These mail bags were later processed. In this case, this mail should be considered Spanish period usage. A few such genuine cards exist. Additionally, many Spanish controlled provincial post offices remained in operation in 1898, and some as late as May, 1899 (e.g., Zamboanga) before being occupied and reopened under U.S. control. Some of these cities, such as Zamboanga, were not affected by U.S. naval blockades. Mail could come and go to any foreign destination, including Spain and colonies, and by any vessel, including Spanish. Used postal cards from provincial towns under Spanish control from 14 August 1898 to May, 1899 are rare, but a few do exist.

| UPSS No.                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1898 — Single Card Variety Description                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>5 milésimas</b> de peso red brown on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br><i>Issued for interior use within the same town</i>          |
| 12A                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 12, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                                                                |
| 12S                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 12, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                     |
| 13                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>1 céntimo</b> de peso green on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br><i>Issued for interior use between towns</i>                       |
| 13A                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 13, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                                                                |
| 13S                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 13, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                     |
| 14                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>2 céntimos</b> de peso dark violet on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br><i>Issued for overseas mail to Spain and colonies</i>       |
| 14A                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 14, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                                                                |
| 14S                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 14, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                     |
| 15                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>3 céntimos</b> de peso red brown on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br><i>Issued for overseas mail, except to Spain and colonies</i> |
| 15A                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 15, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                                                                |
| 15S                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Same as UPSS 15, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                     |
| Date of Issue (in Manila): 1 January 1898 (Bartels et al., 1904)<br>Number Issued: no information<br>Period of Use: 1 January 1898, through August 1898 (Laiz, 1994 and 2006)<br>Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm |                                                                                                                                  |



Archival Proof —  
UPSS 12S  
Muestra (specimen)  
Madrid  
18 August 1897

From Soler y Llach  
Auction, 5 October  
2009

UPSS 14A — 1898 (date-lined 6 March) to Zurich, Switzerland by Spanish naval steamer  
ISLA DE LUZON via Barcelona, Spain. Only 14 used cards, within the Spanish period,  
are known. Don Peterson collection







UPSS 16 — 5 milésimas + 5 milésimas de peso red brown. The additional inscription on the bottom of the message card reading "*La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta*" means "The other card is for the reply", and the added inscription on the bottom of the reply card reading "*RESPUESTA*" means "reply". Don Peterson collection

| UPSS No. | 1898 Double Card Variety Description                                                                                                     |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16       | <b>5 milésimas</b> de peso + 5 milésimas de peso red brown on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br>Issued for interior use within the same town   |
| 16A      | Same as UPSS 16, except printed on <b>salmon</b> card stock                                                                              |
| 16S      | Same as UPSS 16, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                             |
| 17       | <b>1 céntimo</b> de peso + 1 céntimo de peso green on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br>Issued for interior use between towns                  |
| 17A      | Same as UPSS 17, except printed on <b>salmon</b> card stock                                                                              |
| 17S      | Same as UPSS 17, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                             |
| 18       | <b>2 céntimos</b> de peso + 2 céntimos de peso dark violet on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br>Issued for overseas mail to Spain and colonies |
| 18A      | Same as UPSS 18, except printed on <b>salmon</b> card stock                                                                              |
| 18S      | Same as UPSS 18, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                             |
| 19       | <b>3 céntimos</b> de peso + 3 céntimos de peso red brown on <b>yellow</b> card stock<br>Issued for overseas use.                         |
| 19A      | Same as UPSS 19, except printed on <b>salmon</b> card stock                                                                              |
| 19S      | Same as UPSS 19, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                             |

## Final Thoughts

During the first three decades of the 20th century, Spanish Philippine postal cards were highly sought after and were much more popular to collect than they are today. However, I sincerely hope that this book will be a catalyst to re-inspire greater interest in collecting these cards. Challenges are always exciting. The challenge of collecting 19 different cards and their innumerable plate variations will be fun and rewarding in many ways. The mint cards, in particular, are still quite available and relatively reasonable to obtain. My final thought — enjoy the challenge.

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## APPENDIX 1: Philippine Price List in U.S. Dollars

All prices are in US \$ and are for non-philatelic use. Philatelic use and some mint cards available through online auctions may be purchased for 50% or less. Archival proofs run at least three times the cost of specimens with only the “Muestras” handstamp. A “—” indicates that the price is unknown or the card does not exist.

| UPSS No.   | Description                                                                                     | Price Mint | Price Used |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>1878 — 50m reddish brown or dark reddish brown</b>                                           | 2,500      | 7,000      |
| <b>1a</b>  | Same, with crossbar of “e” broken, and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> , both in <i>Nota</i> | 3,000      | 7,000      |
| <b>1b</b>  | Same, with bold face “r” in both <i>por</i> and <i>reverso</i> in the note                      | 3,000      | —          |
| <b>1c</b>  | Same, with period after <i>Sr</i> twice as large as that after <i>D</i>                         | 3,000      | —          |
| <b>1d</b>  | Same, with extraneous colored lines by the crossbar of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i>                 | 3,000      | —          |
| <b>1e</b>  | Same, with deformation of the top part of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>                             | 3,000      | —          |
| <b>1f</b>  | Same, with printers waste double impression with one inverted                                   | 7,000      | —          |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>1879 — 3c U.P.U. surcharge on UPSS 1 in black</b>                                            | 50         | 2,000      |
| <b>2a</b>  | Same, with crossbar of “e” broken, and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> , both in <i>Nota</i> | 100        | 2,500      |
| <b>2b</b>  | Same, with bold face “r” in both <i>por</i> and <i>reverso</i> in the note                      | 100        | 2,500      |
| <b>2c</b>  | Same, with period after <i>Sr</i> twice as large as that after <i>D</i>                         | 100        | 2,500      |
| <b>2d</b>  | Same, with extraneous colored lines by the crossbar of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i>                 | 100        | 2,500      |
| <b>2e</b>  | Same, with deformation of the top part of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>                             | 100        | 2,500      |
| <b>2f</b>  | Same, with misaligned surcharge error                                                           | 5,000      | —          |
| <b>2g</b>  | Same, except proof with green surcharge                                                         | 2,500      | —          |
| <b>2h</b>  | Same, except proof with red surcharge                                                           | 2,500      | —          |
| <b>2i</b>  | Same, except proof with blue or violet surcharge                                                | 2,500      | —          |
| <b>2j</b>  | Same, except proof with yellow surcharge                                                        | 2,500      | —          |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>1880 — 3c vermillion or bright vermillion</b>                                                | 30         | 200        |
| <b>3a</b>  | Same, except green indicium proof                                                               | 2,500      | —          |
| <b>3S</b>  | Same as UPSS 3 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                              | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>1889 — 2c dark brown</b>                                                                     | 40         | 400        |
| <b>4a</b>  | Same, with divided <i>POST AL</i> error                                                         | 1,500      | 4,000      |
| <b>4b</b>  | Same, but with “UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL” & “CINCO PESO” red handstamp                            | —          | 500        |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>1889 — 3c+3c reddish brown</b>                                                               | 40         | 400        |
| <b>5a</b>  | Same, with top address line on the message card 71mm long instead of 79mm                       | 80         | 500        |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>1892 — 2c brown on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                                         | 50         | 400        |
| <b>6A</b>  | Same as UPSS 6 in denomination and design, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)        | 80         | 500        |
| <b>6a</b>  | Same as UPSS 6, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                           | 50         | 400        |
| <b>6aA</b> | Same as UPSS 6a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                        | 80         | 500        |

| UPSS No.    | Description                                                                              | Price Mint | Price Used |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>7</b>    | <b>1892 — 3c orange on thin buff card stock</b>                                          | 50         | 400        |
| <b>7A</b>   | Same as UPSS 7 in denomination and design, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I) | 80         | 500        |
| <b>7a</b>   | Same as UPSS 7, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                    | 50         | 400        |
| <b>7aA</b>  | Same as UPSS 7a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                 | 80         | 500        |
| <b>8</b>    | <b>1894 — 2c reddish brown on thin buff card stock</b>                                   | 40         | 400        |
| <b>8A</b>   | Same as UPSS 8 in denomination and design, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I) | 60         | 500        |
| <b>8a</b>   | Same as UPSS 8, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                    | 40         | 400        |
| <b>8aA</b>  | Same as UPSS 8a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                 | 60         | 500        |
| <b>9</b>    | <b>1894 — 3c dark blue on thin buff card stock</b>                                       | 40         | 300        |
| <b>9A</b>   | Same as UPSS 9 in denomination and design, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I) | 60         | 400        |
| <b>9a</b>   | Same as UPSS 9, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                    | 40         | 300        |
| <b>9aA</b>  | Same as UPSS 9a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                 | 60         | 400        |
| <b>9S</b>   | Same as UPSS 9 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                       | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>10</b>   | <b>1896 — 2c blue on thin buff card stock</b>                                            | 40         | 150        |
| <b>10A</b>  | Same as UPSS 10 in denomination & design, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)  | 60         | 200        |
| <b>10a</b>  | Same as UPSS 10, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                   | 40         | 150        |
| <b>10aA</b> | Same as UPSS 10a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                | 60         | 200        |
| <b>10S</b>  | Same as UPSS 10 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                      | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>11</b>   | <b>1896 — 3c brown on thin buff card stock</b>                                           | 40         | 100        |
| <b>11A</b>  | Same as UPSS 11 in denomination & design, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)  | 60         | 125        |
| <b>11a</b>  | Same as UPSS 11, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                   | 40         | 100        |
| <b>11aA</b> | Same as UPSS 11a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                | 60         | 125        |
| <b>11S</b>  | Same as UPSS 11 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                      | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>12</b>   | <b>1898 — 5m red brown on yellow card stock</b>                                          | 60         | 900        |
| <b>12A</b>  | Same denomination and design, but on <b>buff</b> card stock                              | 70         | 1,000      |
| <b>12S</b>  | Same as UPSS 12 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                      | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>13</b>   | <b>1898 — 1c green on yellow card stock</b>                                              | 70         | 800        |
| <b>13A</b>  | Same denomination and design, but on <b>buff</b> card stock                              | 80         | 900        |
| <b>13S</b>  | Same as UPSS 13 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                      | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>14</b>   | <b>1898 — 2c dark violet on yellow card stock</b>                                        | 70         | 700        |
| <b>14A</b>  | Same denomination and design, but on <b>buff</b> card stock                              | 80         | 800        |
| <b>14S</b>  | Same as UPSS 14 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                      | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>15</b>   | <b>1898 — 3c red brown on yellow card stock</b>                                          | 70         | 800        |
| <b>15A</b>  | Same denomination and design, but on <b>buff</b> card stock                              | 80         | 900        |
| <b>15S</b>  | Same as UPSS 15 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)                      | 1,000      | —          |



| UPSS No.   | Description                                                         | Price Mint | Price Used |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>16</b>  | <b>1898 — 5m+5m red brown on yellow card stock</b>                  | 100        | 1,500      |
| <b>16A</b> | Same denomination and design, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock       | 130        | 2,000      |
| <b>16S</b> | Same as 16 with handstamp with “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen) | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>17</b>  | <b>1898 — 1c+1c green on yellow card stock</b>                      | 150        | 2,000      |
| <b>17A</b> | Same denomination and design, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock       | 175        | 2,500      |
| <b>17S</b> | Same as 17 with handstamp “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen)      | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>18</b>  | <b>1898 — 2c+2c dark violet on yellow card stock</b>                | 150        | 2,000      |
| <b>18A</b> | Same denomination and design, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock       | 175        | 2,500      |
| <b>18S</b> | Same as 18 with handstamp with “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen) | 1,000      | —          |
| <b>19</b>  | <b>1898 — 3c+3c red brown on yellow card stock</b>                  | 150        | 2,000      |
| <b>19A</b> | Same denomination and design, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock       | 175        | 2,500      |
| <b>19S</b> | Same as 19 with handstamp with “MINISTERIO ... MUESTRAS” (specimen) | 1,000      | —          |

## APPENDIX 2:

### Philippines Postal Card Cross Index — Spanish Dominion 1879 - 1898

Catalog numbering errors in Edifil have been corrected. With UPSS numbering in this book, a capital letter “A” following a number means the same color printing but on a different color card stock; a lower case letter following a number means any other variation such as occurs in the typesetting process. A capital “S” following the number indicates “specimen”.

| UPSS No.           | H&G No.  | Edifil No. | Description                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>1878</u></b> |          |            |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1</b>           | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>50 milésimas de peso reddish brown or dark reddish brown indicium on thick or thin buff card issued without surcharge</b>                           |
| <b>1a</b>          | —        | <b>1a</b>  | Same as UPSS 1, except crossbar of “e” was broken, appearing as “cn” instead of <i>en</i> and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> , both in <i>Nota</i> |
| <b>1b</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 1, with bold face “r” in both <i>por</i> and <i>reverso</i> in the note                                                                   |
| <b>1c</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 1, with period after <i>Sr</i> twice as large as that after <i>D</i>                                                                      |
| <b>1d</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 1, with extraneous colored lines by the crossbar of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i>                                                              |
| <b>1e</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 1, with deformation of the top part of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>                                                                          |
| <b>1f</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 1, with printers waste double impression with one inverted                                                                                |
| <b><u>1879</u></b> |          |            |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>2</b>           | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b>   | <b>3 céntimos de peso U.P.U. black surcharge “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cénts. de peso” on UPSS 1</b>                                 |
| <b>2a</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, with crossbar of “e” was broken, appearing as “cn” instead of <i>en</i> and smaller font in “á” of <i>hará</i> , both in <i>Nota</i>   |
| <b>2b</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, with bold face “r” in both <i>por</i> and <i>reverso</i> in the note                                                                   |
| <b>2c</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, with period after <i>Sr</i> twice as large as that after <i>D</i>                                                                      |
| <b>2d</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, with extraneous colored lines by the crossbar of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i>                                                              |
| <b>2e</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, with deformation of the top part of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>                                                                          |
| <b>2f</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, with misaligned surcharge error                                                                                                        |
| <b>2g</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in green                                                                                                   |
| <b>2h</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in red                                                                                                     |
| <b>2i</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in blue or violet                                                                                          |
| <b>2j</b>          | —        | —          | Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in yellow                                                                                                  |

**Philippines Postal Card Cross Index — Spanish Dominion 1879 - 1898**  
(Appendix 2, Continued)

| UPSS<br>No.        | H&G<br>No. | Edifil<br>No. | Description                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>1880</u></b> |            |               |                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>3</b>           | 3          | 3             | <b>3 céntimos de peso vermillion or bright vermillion on thin or medium white card</b>                                            |
| <b>3a</b>          | —          | —             | Same as UPSS 3, except green proof indicium                                                                                       |
| <b>3S</b>          | —          | —             | Same as UPSS 3, with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                              |
| <b><u>1889</u></b> |            |               |                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>4</b>           | 4          | 4             | <b>2 céntimos de peso dark brown on thick or thin buff card stock</b>                                                             |
| <b>4a</b>          | 4a         | 4a            | Same as UPSS 4, except with divided <i>POST AL</i> error in heading                                                               |
| <b>4b</b>          | —          | —             | Same as UPSS 4, except with red handstamp “UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL” and “CINCO PESO” (sic) surcharge on the indicium in blue-green |
| <b>5</b>           | 5          | 5             | <b>3 céntimos + 3 céntimos de peso paid reply reddish brown on buff card stock</b>                                                |
| <b>5a</b>          | —          | 5a            | Same as UPSS 5, except top address line on message card is 71mm long , not 79mm                                                   |
| <b><u>1892</u></b> |            |               |                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>6</b>           | 6          | 6             | <b>2 céntimos de peso brown on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                                                                  |
| <b>6A</b>          | 6a         | 6B            | Same as UPSS 6, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)                                                                     |
| <b>6a</b>          | —          | 6A            | Same as UPSS 6, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                                                             |
| <b>6aA</b>         | —          | 6C            | Same as UPSS 6a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                                                          |
| <b>7</b>           | 7          | 7             | <b>3 céntimos de peso orange on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                                                                 |
| <b>7A</b>          | 7a         | 7B            | Same as UPSS 7, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)                                                                     |
| <b>7a</b>          | —          | 7A            | Same as UPSS 7, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                                                             |
| <b>7aA</b>         | —          | 7C            | Same as UPSS 7a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                                                          |
| <b><u>1894</u></b> |            |               |                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>8</b>           | 8          | 8             | <b>2 céntimos de peso reddish brown on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                                                          |
| <b>8A</b>          | 8a         | 8B            | Same as UPSS 8, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)                                                                     |
| <b>8a</b>          | —          | 8A            | Same as UPSS 8, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                                                             |
| <b>8aA</b>         | —          | 8C            | Same as UPSS 8a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                                                          |
| <b>9</b>           | 9          | 9             | <b>3 céntimos de peso dark blue on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                                                              |
| <b>9A</b>          | 9a         | 9B            | Same as UPSS 9, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)                                                                     |
| <b>9a</b>          | —          | 9A            | Same as UPSS 9, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                                                             |
| <b>9aA</b>         | —          | 9C            | Same as UPSS 9a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                                                          |
| <b>9S</b>          | —          | —             | Same as UPSS 9, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                       |
| <b><u>1896</u></b> |            |               |                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>10</b>          | 10         | 10            | <b>2 céntimos de peso blue on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                                                                   |
| <b>10A</b>         | 10a        | 10B           | Same as UPSS 10, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)                                                                    |
| <b>10a</b>         | —          | 10A           | Same as UPSS 10, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                                                            |
| <b>10aA</b>        | —          | 10C           | Same as UPSS 10a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                                                         |
| <b>10S</b>         | —          | —             | Same as UPSS 10, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen)                                      |



**Philippines Postal Card Cross Index — Spanish Dominion 1879 - 1898**  
(Appendix 2, Continued)

| UPSS<br>No.                    | H&G<br>No. | Edifil<br>No. | Description                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>1896 (continued)</u></b> |            |               |                                                                                              |
| <b>11</b>                      | 11         | 11            | <b>3 céntimos de peso brown on thin buff card stock (Type I)</b>                             |
| <b>11A</b>                     | 11a        | 11B           | Same as UPSS 11, but on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I)                               |
| <b>11a</b>                     | —          | 11A           | Same as UPSS 11, but with “Sr.” displaced 3 mm to the right (Type I-A)                       |
| <b>11aA</b>                    | —          | 11C           | Same as UPSS 11a, but printed on thin <b>yellow</b> card stock (Type I-A)                    |
| <b>11S</b>                     | —          | —             | Same as UPSS 11, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b><u>1898</u></b>             |            |               |                                                                                              |
| <b>12</b>                      | 12         | 12            | <b>5 milésimas de peso red brown on yellow card stock</b>                                    |
| <b>12A</b>                     | —          | 12A           | Same as UPSS 12, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                            |
| <b>12S</b>                     | —          | 12M           | Same as UPSS 12, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>13</b>                      | 13         | 13            | <b>1 céntimo de peso green on yellow card stock</b>                                          |
| <b>13A</b>                     | —          | 13A           | Same as UPSS 13, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                            |
| <b>13S</b>                     | —          | 13M           | Same as UPSS 13, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>14</b>                      | 14         | 14            | <b>2 céntimos de peso dark violet on yellow card stock</b>                                   |
| <b>14A</b>                     | —          | 14A           | Same as UPSS 14, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                            |
| <b>14S</b>                     | —          | 14M           | Same as UPSS 14, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>15</b>                      | 15         | 15            | <b>3 céntimos de peso red brown on yellow card stock</b>                                     |
| <b>15A</b>                     | —          | 15A           | Same as UPSS 15, except on <b>buff</b> card stock                                            |
| <b>15S</b>                     | —          | 15M           | Same as UPSS 15, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>16</b>                      | 16         | 16            | <b>5 milésimas + 5 milésimas de peso paid reply red brown on yellow card stock</b>           |
| <b>16A</b>                     | —          | 16A           | Same as UPSS 16, except on salmon card stock                                                 |
| <b>16S</b>                     | —          | 16M           | Same as UPSS 16, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>17</b>                      | 17         | 17            | <b>1 céntimo + 1 céntimo de peso paid reply green on yellow card stock</b>                   |
| <b>17A</b>                     | —          | 17A           | Same as UPSS 17, except on salmon card stock                                                 |
| <b>17S</b>                     | —          | 17M           | Same as UPSS 17, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>18</b>                      | 18         | 18            | <b>2 céntimos + 2 céntimos de peso paid reply dark violet on yellow card stock</b>           |
| <b>18A</b>                     | —          | 18A           | Same as UPSS 18, except on salmon card stock                                                 |
| <b>18S</b>                     | —          | 18M           | Same as UPSS 18, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |
| <b>19</b>                      | 19         | 19            | <b>3 céntimos + 3 céntimos de peso paid reply red brown on yellow card stock</b>             |
| <b>19A</b>                     | —          | 19A           | Same as UPSS 19, except on salmon card stock                                                 |
| <b>19S</b>                     | —          | 19M           | Same as UPSS 19, except with violet handstamp “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) |

# Postal Cards of Puerto Rico during the Spanish Colonial Period 1878 - 1898

by Byron Mitchell

## 1878 card — UPSS 1

In May of 1871 an order was given to the Fábrica Nacional del Sello to begin the process of designing and printing a postal card for use in Spain. It took a couple of years for this order to be accomplished. Finally in November of 1873 the order was given for the cards to be printed and begin circulating on the following first of December.

It took another five years for the cards of Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines to be issued. When issued we can see that they were similar to the ones being used in Spain at the time.






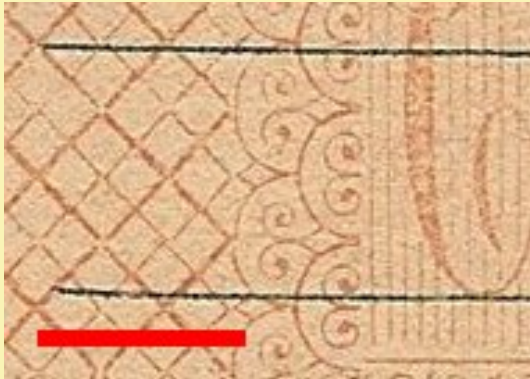
**This first card could be said to be the most attractive of all the cards issued for Puerto Rico**

These cards were supposed to be used from 1878 on until the next issue arrived. This did not happen. In an 1894 catalog published by Rudolf Frederick, he states that the card was removed from use at the end of June of 1878 and not replaced until 1885. This raises some questions regarding the cards. Why was the card not overprinted with the correct rate after the rate change of 1 January 1881? Why did it take seven years for the card to be replaced? In those seven years 17 different cards were issued for Cuba and two for the Philippines.



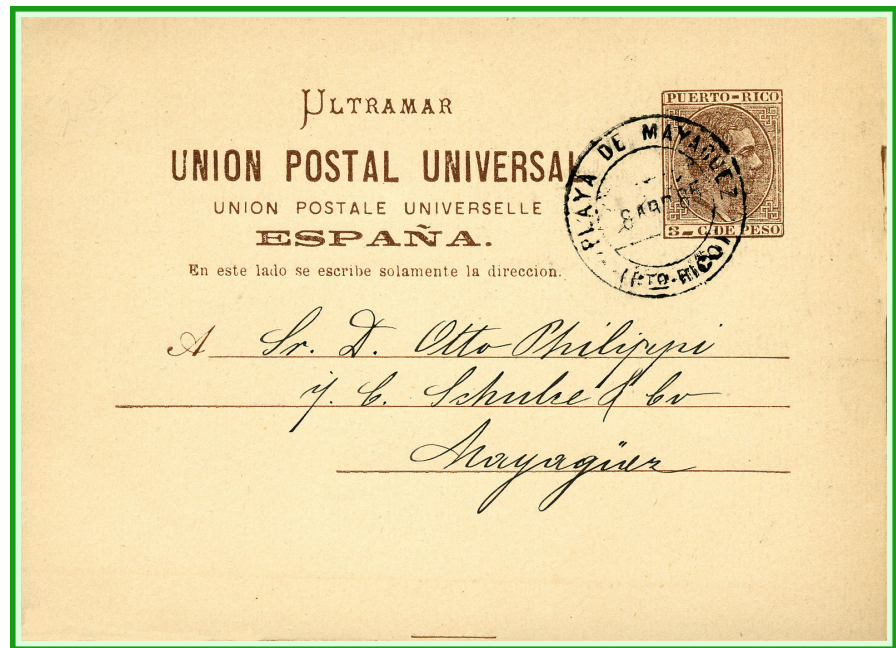
The cards were printed in panes of twenty (five down by four across). One whole 1878 pane is known from Cuba from which the twenty positions have been plated. Only four positions corresponding to the 1878 Cuban plate are known for the cards of Puerto Rico. They are positions 3, 12, 14, and 16. Where are the rest? Were they destroyed after the order to remove them was given?

Puerto Rico had entered the Universal Postal Union in 1877 and the standard rate for postal cards was 25 céntimos de peseta which happened to be the same rate for mailing a domestic letter. Taking this into consideration it made no sense to send a post card; not much could be written on a card in comparison to a letter. We also have to take the matter of privacy into consideration. A postcard was essentially a public document. Only two circulated cards are known.

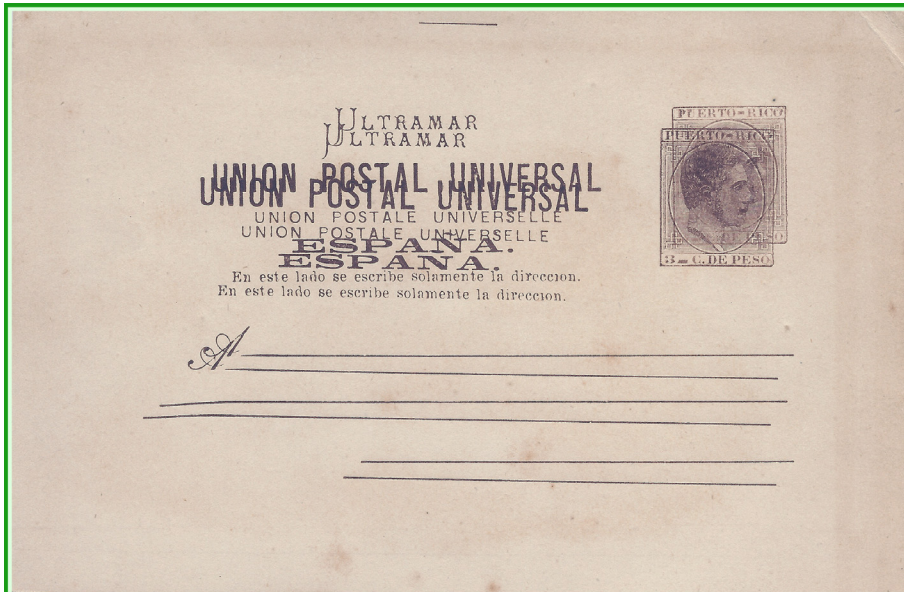
| UPSS No. | Plate Position | 1878 — 25 céntimos de peseta — Variation illustrations and descriptions of the four known plate positions |                                                                                      |
|----------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1a       | 3              | Second address line is broken 7 mm from the end.                                                          |    |
| 1b       | 12             | “T” in POSTAL is broken.                                                                                  |   |
| 1c       | 14             | Upper right corner of the indicia is worn or broken.                                                      |  |
| 1d       | 16             | Beginning of the third address line is bent upwards slightly.                                             |  |

## 1885 Card — UPSS 2

1885 brings us a U.P.U. 3 centavos de peso card identical in design to the 1882 U.P.U. issue being used in Cuba. This card was printed in brown on “white” card stock from a plate of twenty (4 across and 5 down). Most cards appear cream colored or tan. The portrait of Alfonso XII was the same as the one being used on the 1882 stamps. Most of the varieties that appear on the Cuban cards also appear on the Puerto Rico cards.



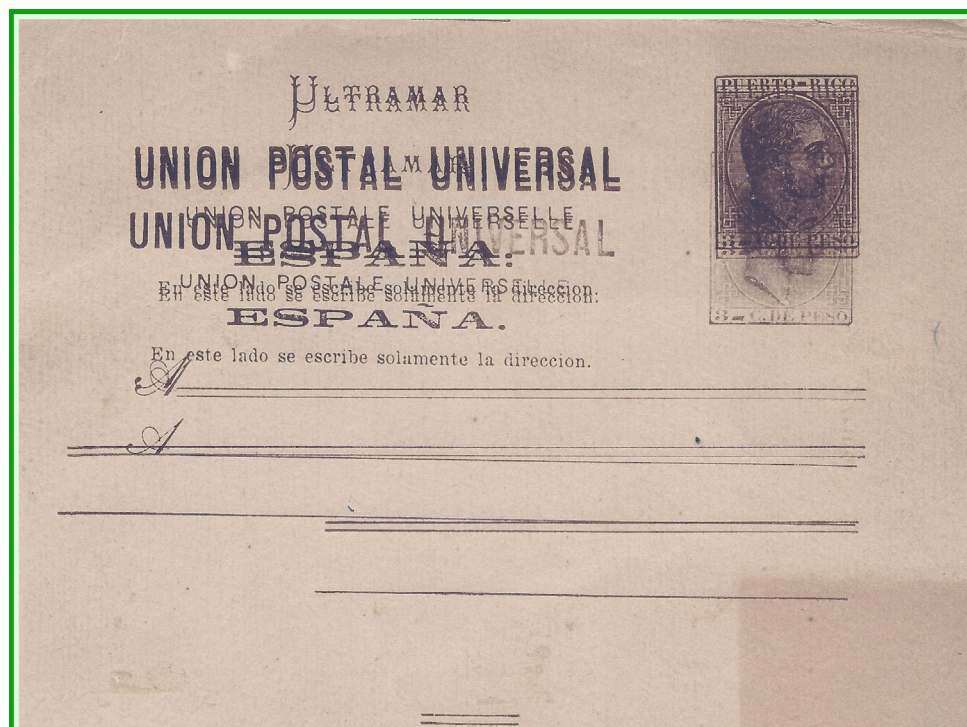
The card above is addressed to Otto Phillipi. It comes from the extensive Michel collection at the National Postal Museum. Mr. Phillipi was a German merchant born in Bremen and established in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. He married locally and his descendants still live in Puerto Rico. Mr. Philippi was a collector for, or a representative of, the Senf Brothers (authors of the *Illustrated Postage Stamp Catalogue*, 1892) in Leipzig, Germany. I have seen a few cards addressed to him. Some time ago I noticed something curious. The cards I have seen addressed to him are Puerto Rico UPSS 2, 3 and 5. They all have the Playa de Mayagüez cancellation: 8 April 1885 for the UPSS 2 card; 8 April 1887 for the UPSS 3 card and 8 April 1893 for the UPSS 5 card. This makes me believe that Mr. Philippi went to the post office on 8 April 1893 with a number of cards addressed to himself and had them cancelled on 8 April while having the postal clerk change the year according to the card. Probably after doing this he sent the cards to the Senf Brothers for sale to collectors as none of these cards was really circulated.



**UPSS 2 —**  
double impression,  
sometimes referred  
to as printer's waste



| UPSS No.                                                        | 1885 — 3 centavos de peso — Variety Descriptions                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2a                                                              | Upper left serif of “U” in <i>ULTRAMAR</i> is broken, with bottom of letter intact.                                             |
| 2b                                                              | Second address line is broken 10 mm and 23 mm from the left. Third address line is broken 13 mm and 35 mm from the right.       |
| 2c                                                              | Period after <i>ULTRAMAR</i> (UPSS 2j also shows this peculiarity). The letters “SA” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i> are broken.            |
| 2d                                                              | Top right horizontal portion of the “T” of <i>POSTAL</i> is broken.                                                             |
| 2e                                                              | First address line is broken 19 mm from the left.                                                                               |
| 2f                                                              | Right part of the “U” of <i>UNION</i> very deteriorated.                                                                        |
| 2g                                                              | The “s” in <i>este</i> is inverted in the note.                                                                                 |
| 2h                                                              | First address line is 77mm long. The third address line has a break at 2mm from the right.                                      |
| 2i                                                              | Second address line has a break 38mm from the left.                                                                             |
| 2j                                                              | Raised period after <i>ULTRAMAR</i> (UPSS 2c also has period). Second address line is 93 mm.                                    |
| 2k                                                              | Smashed top right end of “U” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i>                                                                                |
| 2l                                                              | The “N” of <i>UNIVERSAL</i> has a knick at bottom right and the “V” has a butterfly shape knick in the middle of the right leg. |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 133 x 99 mm |                                                                                                                                 |



UPSS 2 —  
Triple impression





UPSS 2h — 5 January 1885 — very early local use

These images show the main differences between UPSS 2 and 3.

The first indicium, printed in 1885, bore the original stamp likeness of Alfonso XII from 1882. UPSS 3, however, changed over to the second retouch.

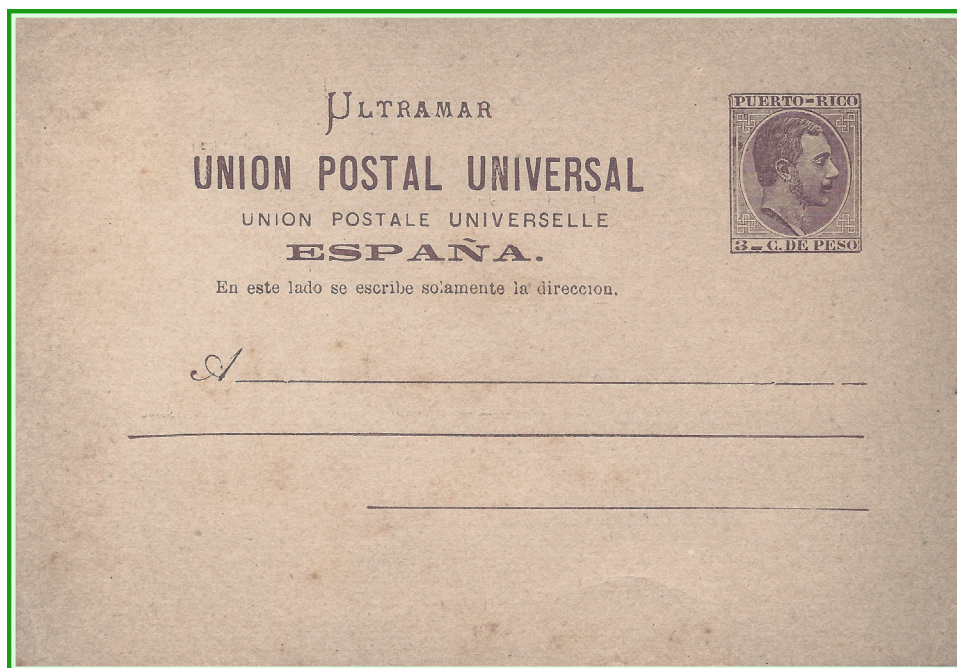
Observe closely the differences.





## 1886 card – UPSS 3

In 1886 (according to Laiz) or 1887 (Ascher, Higgins & Gage) a new 3 centavos de peso card was issued for use in Puerto Rico. The main difference from UPSS 2 is that it was printed on a buff cardstock and the indicium of Alfonso XII was the one being used on the 3 centavos de peso 1886 stamp (the second retouch). However, the typesetting for most cards was redone and therefore there were different varieties from 1885.



UPSS 3a —  
second retouch  
on 3 centavos de  
peso indicium

UPSS 3k —  
Phrase “En este  
lado...” is displaced  
10 mm to the left —  
used in 1891 to  
Stockholm, Sweden

Note:  
All of the used  
cards illustrated in  
the Puerto Rico  
section are from the  
collection of Byron  
Mitchell

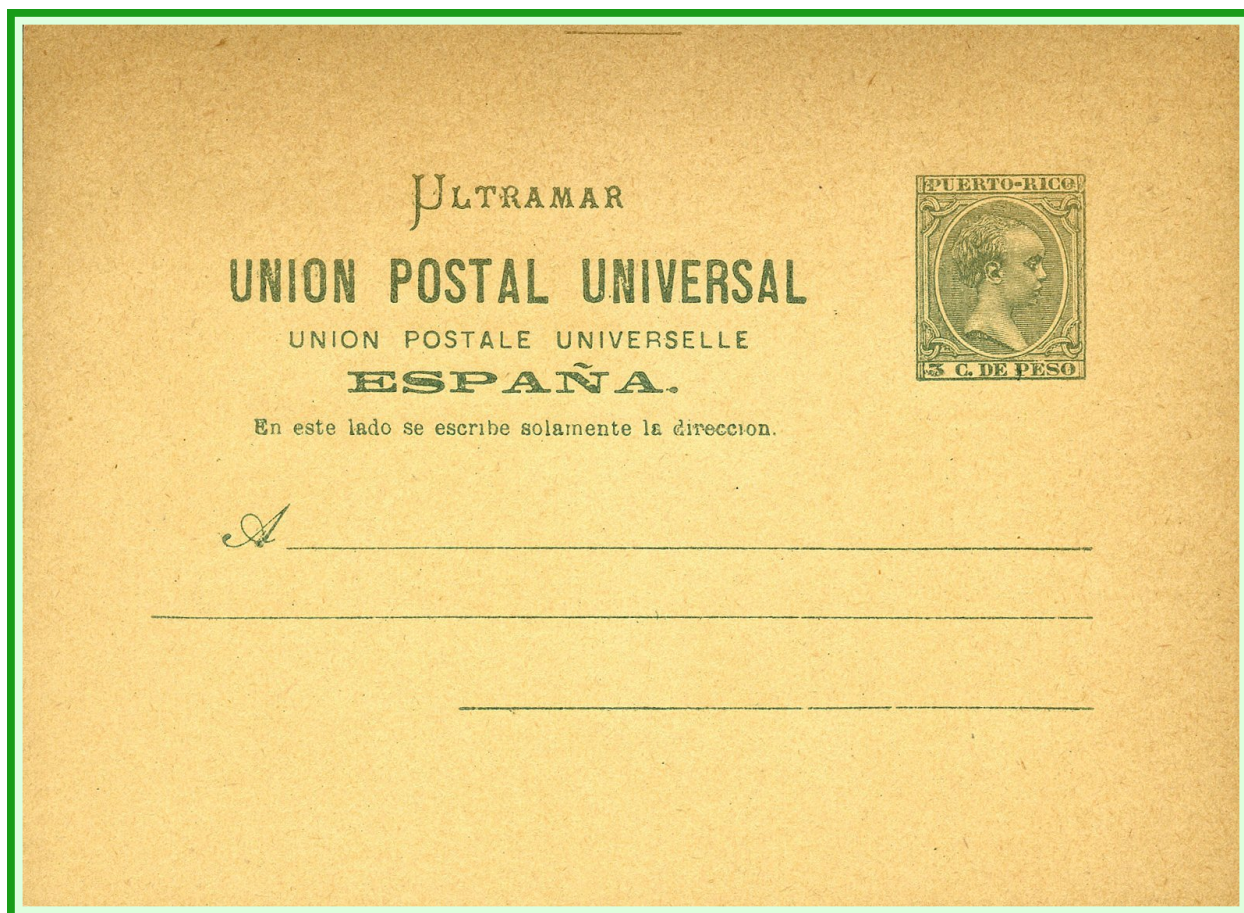


| UPSS No.                                                        | 1886 — 3 Centavos de Peso — Variety descriptions of UPSS 3                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3a</b>                                                       | First address line broken 3mm from right; top left serif of “U” of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> broken; “I” of <i>solamente</i> broken in half; second “A” of <i>ESPAÑA</i> is nicked at the top right. |
| <b>3b</b>                                                       | Left leg of “U” of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> broken at the bottom and top; short first address line measures only 60 mm.                                                                             |
| <b>3c</b>                                                       | Break on top right of the second “A” of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> ; the note has no period at the end.                                                                                               |
| <b>3d</b>                                                       | Second address line broken at 10 mm and 23 mm from the left; third address line broken at 13 mm and 35 mm from the right (Same as in UPSS 2b).                                             |
| <b>3e</b>                                                       | Period at end of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> (also found in UPSS 3o). The letters “AS” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i> broken; the “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> comes to a point at the top end (Same as in UPSS 2c).      |
| <b>3f</b>                                                       | Break at top right of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> (Same as in UPSS 2d).                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3g</b>                                                       | Second address line broken 27 mm from the left; break on top left of the “V” of <i>UNIVERSELLE</i> ; only the bottom half of the “I” of <i>solamente</i> exists.                           |
| <b>3h</b>                                                       | The horizontal section of the “T” of <i>POSTALE</i> reduced in size.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3i</b>                                                       | Third address line broken at 29mm, 25mm and 20mm from the right; second “R” in <i>ULTRAMAR</i> broken at top left.                                                                         |
| <b>3j</b>                                                       | The top serif of the letter “E” in <i>ESPAÑA</i> broken.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>3k</b>                                                       | The note is displaced 10mm to the left. This could be said to be a true typesetter’s error.                                                                                                |
| <b>3l</b>                                                       | The “s” in <i>este</i> is inverted in the note (Same as in UPSS 2g).                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3m</b>                                                       | The second address line is bent down at the start.                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>3n</b>                                                       | The third address line is shorter, 59mm.                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>3o</b>                                                       | Period at the end of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> (also found in UPSS 3e); it is elevated above the rest of the word. Second address line is 93 mm and begins under the “A” (Same as UPSS 2j).          |
| <b>3p</b>                                                       | First address line broken at 44 mm from the right.                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>3q</b>                                                       | First address line broken at 21 mm from the left; the “U” of <i>UNION</i> broken at the left.                                                                                              |
| <b>3r</b>                                                       | The right leg of the second “R” in <i>ULTRAMAR</i> is broken: it looks like a “P” with a period at the end. Second address line is broken at 34 mm from the left.                          |
| <b>3s</b>                                                       | The second “E” in <i>UNIVERSELLE</i> has its bottom leg broken.                                                                                                                            |
| <b>3t</b>                                                       | First address line is 86 mm; right leg of the “U” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i> is crushed at the right top (Same as in UPSS 2k).                                                                    |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 133 x 99 mm |                                                                                                                                                                                            |



## 1890 Card – UPSS 4

The new 3 centavos de peso card issued for 1890 had its indicium changed. A new King Alfonso XIII (although only a baby) was on the throne and all new stamps honored him. With exception of the indicium, all the rest of the card was the same as UPSS 2 and 3, but printed in green on buff cardstock. Most of the varieties found on UPSS 3 can also be seen in them.



None of these cards is known contemporaneously circulated. In unused condition they are harder to find than the previous ones. It is said that some time after the cards arrived at the island, the storage facility where these and other postal materials were being stored suffered a fire and most of the cards were destroyed. Something had to happen to the cards because the cards we find circulated between 1890 and 1891 are the **1886** cards.

| UPSS No.                                                        | 1890 — Description of UPSS 4       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4                                                               | 3 centavos de peso — green on buff |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 133 x 99 mm |                                    |



1890 — 3 centavos  
green indicium



## 1892 Card – UPSS 5 and 5A



A new completely redesigned 3 centavos de peso card was issued in 1892. It was printed in blue and in ultramarine. Laiz (2007) says the blue was printed first and the ultramarine in the following year. In regard to circulated cards, most of the ones found are addressed to European countries. The issue was printed in plates of 10 cards so we can find different plate varieties to identify the different plate positions.

| UPSS No.                                                           | Pos. | 1892 — 3 centavos — Variety descriptions of UPSS 5 (ultramarine) and 5A (blue)       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 / 5A                                                             |      | 3 centavos <b>Blue (5)</b> or <b>Ultramarine (5A)</b> on buff                        |
| 5a / 5Aa                                                           | 1    | Same, with “s” in <i>solamente</i> inverted.                                         |
| 5h / 5Ah                                                           | 8    | Same, with right half of the “ó” in <i>dirección</i> is much thinner.                |
| 5i / 5Ai                                                           | 9    | Same, with “o” in <i>solamente</i> in a larger font. Right side of <i>D.</i> broken. |
| 5j / 5Aj                                                           | 10   | Same, with break on the left side of the “S” of <i>Sr.</i>                           |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello;<br>Size: 145 x 98 mm |      |                                                                                      |



Blue indicium  
on UPSS 5



Ultramarine  
Indicium on  
UPSS 5A



1894 Cards –  
UPSS 6 and 7



Position a detail

UPSS 6a —  
2 centavos  
issue of 1894

Two cards were issued for 1894, a 2 centavos de peso ultramarine card and a 3 centavos de peso rose card. The 3c was used for overseas and, specifically, European countries. The 2c card, which was to be used internally, is more difficult to find in circulated condition.

Printed on plates of ten, we can find varieties in each card which can help us identify the ten cards. The plate position of each was ascertained by working backwards from the known positions of 1898.



Position e detail  
showing short serif  
in *TARJETA*



| UPSS No.                                                                 | Value    | Pos. | 1894 — Variety description of both<br>UPSS 6 (2c dark blue on yellow)<br>and UPSS 7 (3c red on yellow) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6a<br>7a                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 1    | The “s” in <i>solamente</i> is inverted. (See ill. this page)                                          |
| 6b<br>7b                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 2    | Fourth address line is short 4 mm on the right.                                                        |
| 6c<br>7c                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 3    | Third address line has breaks at 28mm and 45mm from the right.                                         |
| 6d<br>7d                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 4    | Third address line has break 22 mm from the left.                                                      |
| 6e<br>7e                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 5    | Right serif of the “J” in <i>TARJETA</i> is short. (Illustrated this page)                             |
| 6f<br>7f                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 6    | Bottom of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed. (Illustrated on page 102)                              |
| 6g<br>7g                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 7    | Small dent at bottom right of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> . (Illustration on page 101)                    |
| 6h<br>7h                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 8    | Right half of the “ó” in <i>dirección</i> is much thinner. (Illustration on page 102)                  |
| 6i<br>7i                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 9    | The “o” in <i>solamente</i> is in a larger font. (Ill. p. 100)                                         |
| 6j<br>7j                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 10   | Break on the left side of the “S” of <i>Sr.</i> (Ill. p. 103)                                          |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre; Size: 145 x 98 mm |          |      |                                                                                                        |





UPSS 6b (short fourth address line) — 2 centavos — 1894 used to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico



UPSS 7i — 3 centavos de peso — for overseas use





UPSS 7g – 3 centavos de peso – 1895 used to Amsterdam, Netherlands

### 1896 Cards — UPSS 8 and 9

This issue is identical as UPSS 6 and 7 except in the printing colors. The 2 centavos de peso card was printed in green and the 3 centavos de peso in reddish brown. They were printed on yellow or cream card stock.

UPSS 8g –  
2 centavos de peso  
– green on yellow  
card stock

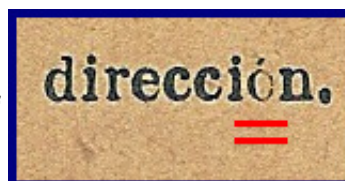






Position a detail showing defects in **POSTAL**

Position h  
detail showing  
thin right half  
of "o" in UPSS  
6, 7, 8 and 9

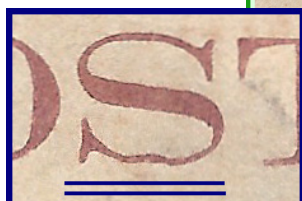


UPSS 8e – 1896 used to Alt Kischau, Germany



Position e  
detail of dented  
top left corner  
of indicium  
(variety found  
only in UPSS 8  
and 9)

UPSS 9f – 1898 used to Triest, Austria



Position f detail  
of bottom of "S"  
in **POSTAL**  
which is bent  
upwards  
(variety found in  
UPSS 6, 7, 8 & 9)





| UPSS No.                                                                 | Value    | Pos. | 1896 — Variety description of both UPSS 8 (2c green) and UPSS 9 (3c reddish brown) on yellow or buff                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8a<br>9a                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 1    | Missing upper left serif of “P” and broken bottom of “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> ; second and third address lines are 2 mm shorter than first and fourth. (See ill. p. 102)   |
| 8b<br>9b                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 2    | Second address line has a break 2 mm from right end; “e” in <i>este</i> elevated above the rest of the word.                                                           |
| 8c<br>9c                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 3    | Third address line has break 45 mm from the right end; “t” of <i>este</i> broken.                                                                                      |
| 8d<br>9d                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 4    | Third address line has a break 25 mm from the left.                                                                                                                    |
| 8e<br>9e                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 5    | The upper left corner of the indicia is dented; letters “te” of <i>solamente</i> are elevated in comparison to the rest of the word . (See illustration on page 102)   |
| 8f<br>9f                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 6    | Bottom of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is bent upwards; left half of “d” of <i>debe</i> missing. (See illustration on page 102)                                            |
| 8g<br>9g                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 7    | Small dent at bottom right of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close; both ends of the third address line are short by 1 mm. (See ill. p. 101) |
| 8h<br>9h                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 8    | Right half of the “ó” in <i>dirección</i> is much thinner. (See illustration on p. 102)                                                                                |
| 8i<br>9i                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 9    | The “o” in <i>solamente</i> is in a larger font; bottom of “O” of <i>POSTAL</i> broken. (See illustration on page 100)                                                 |
| 8j<br>9j                                                                 | 2c<br>3c | 10   | Break on the left side of the “S” of <i>Sr.</i> (Illustrated on this page)                                                                                             |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre; Size: 145 x 98 mm |          |      |                                                                                                                                                                        |





UPSS 9b – 1896 used to Liege, Belgium

EL DÍA 30 DE ABRIL APARECERÁ

**“EL PUERTO-RICO FILATELICO.”**

Revista dedicada á los coleccionistas y negociantes

— DE —

**SELLOS DE CORREOS.**

0:0

**PRECIOS DE SUSCRIPCION:**

|                       |         |       |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| Un año en España..... | pesetas | 07.00 |
| “ “ Unión Postal..... | “       | 02.00 |

**PRECIOS DE ABONOS:**

|                      |         |       |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| 1 página.....        | pesetas | 15.00 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ “..... | “       | 08.00 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ “..... | “       | 04.75 |
| línea.....           | “       | 00.20 |

Para anuncios y suscripciones dirigirse á C. Coll Cuchí ó á Juan Pérez González. Apartado 41, San Juan de Puerto-Rico.

Para sumas menores de 10 pesetas se admiten sellos nuevos.

Deseamos agentes activos en todos los paises.

Todo periódico que reproduzca este anuncio tendrá derecho á uno igual en

**“El Puerto-Rico Filatélico.”**

*Un. N.º 41 E. A. IV. 96.*

This is the only advertising known printed on a Puerto Rico card while the cards were valid for postal use. This philatelic advertisement was mailed on 18 March 1896.



# **1898 Cards – UPSS 10 and 17**

The final year of Spanish domination brought eight newly designed cards. This new design was used in Puerto Rico and Cuba and later, in 1899, Fernando Poo. (Note that in 1898 in the Philippines they continued to use double frame lines to surround the cards.)

Printed were four single cards and four paid reply cards with King Alfonso XIII as a young boy portrayed on the indicium, now facing to the left. Their values were 5 milésimas, 1c, 2c and 3 centavos. These same values were utilized for the reply cards. The colors used were claret for 5 milésimas, green for the 1c., violet for the 2c. and red brown for the 3c. They were printed in (or aging and climate have resulted in) yellow or buff card stock which are not differentiated with separate catalog numbers. The reply cards are also known printed in a salmon color stock, but are very scarce.

The 1898 cards circulated fewer than ten months and are very scarce appropriately used. I only know of three circulated whole uncut reply cards whose reply side remained unused. Some detached reply sides are also known used to send back an answer to the original message sender. The single cards were printed ten per sheet while the reply cards were printed on plates of four double cards per sheet.

The scheme shown on page 107 shows ten single cards printed per sheet. They eliminated positions 1 and 2 (or, perhaps they used them

| UPSS No.                                                                                        | Value                | Pos. No. | 1898 — Variety description of single cards                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10a<br>11a<br>12a<br>13a                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 1        | Top right of “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> is broken; bottom of “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed; lower left serif of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> is missing.              |
| 10b<br>11b<br>12b<br>13b                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 2        | Top of “S” of <i>Sr.</i> is broken; second and third address lines are indented at right.                                                                      |
| 10c<br>11c<br>12c<br>13c                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 3        | Break in first address line 12 mm from the left; break in third address line 45 mm from the right; break in fourth address line 35 mm from the left.           |
| 10d<br>11d<br>12d<br>13d                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 4        | Left arm of the “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> is shattered; break in third address line 25 mm from the left; “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed or dented on the bottom. |
| 10e<br>11e<br>12e<br>13e                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 5        | The “r” in <i>Sr.</i> is broken at the top; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> does not close; two breaks in the “b” of <i>debe</i> in the note.                             |
| 10f<br>11f<br>12f<br>13f                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 6        | Break in fourth address line 5 mm from the left; undulation starting 40mm from the left on third address line; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> has 2 breaks in the curve. |
| 10g<br>11g<br>12g<br>13g                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 7        | Larger font of “o” in <i>solamente</i> ; small deformation or nick of outer right curve of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> .                                          |
| 10h<br>11h<br>12h<br>13h                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 8        | Break at the top of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; the “l” and “a” of <i>solamente</i> are broken.                                                                 |
| 10i<br>11i<br>12i<br>13i                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 9        | Separation of 17 mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10 mm.                                                                               |
| 10j<br>11j<br>12j<br>13j                                                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 10       | Break in second address line 1 mm from the left; breaks in third address line 4 mm and 41 mm from the left.                                                    |
| Typography by the <i>Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre</i> ;<br>single card size: 145 x 98 mm |                      |          |                                                                                                                                                                |

as single cards) and inverted positions 3, 4, 7 and 8 to print the double cards. Consequently, the double cards have the same printing varieties as positions 3 to 10 of the single cards.

On a personal note, back in the early 1980's when I began collecting the postal stationery cards of Puerto Rico there was not much information written about them. The plating of the cards was not even mentioned in the few articles available. I remember that for the 1898 cards the basic differences mentioned were the measurements of the bottom note (a less than valuable tool in plating these cards) and the wide space between the first and second address line of what turned out to be position 9 in the single cards.

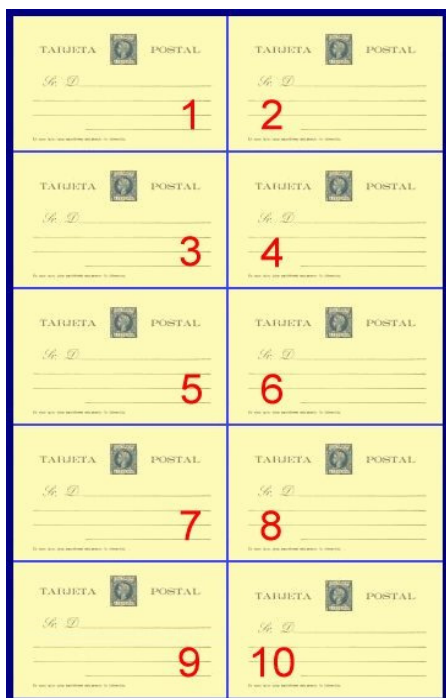
At that time I felt that the best way to differentiate them was by the printing flaws each card had. I contacted two persons who had great knowledge about the cards. These were E. Norman Lurch and Theodore W. Bozarth. I wrote to them regarding the plating of the 1898 cards and in the following years we identified most plating positions using the printing flaws as a guide. Eventually, of course, Ángel Laiz acquired whole plates of the 1899 Fernando Poo cards which were the same as Puerto Rican and Cuban 1898 cards and the correct plating was published. In a few instances there is more plate damage in the Puerto Rican cards such as additional line and letter breaks, so the Puerto Rican cards must have been printed after the Cuban cards.



UPSS 13i, Position 9 — 3 centavos overseas rate to Holland. Note the separation of 17 mm of the first address line from the second instead of the usual 10 mm.

All used cards shown in the Puerto Rico section, except as noted, are from the Byron Mitchell collection





### 1898 Card Plating

Double card No. 1 = Single message card 3 & single reply card 5

Double card No. 2 = Single message card 4 & single reply card 6

Double card No. 3 = Single message card 7 & single reply card 9

Double card No. 4 = Single message card 8 & single reply card 10

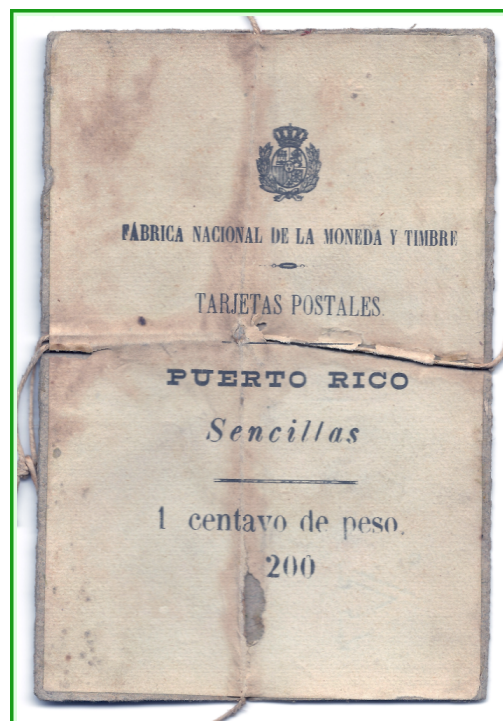
Single card positions 1 and 2 were not utilized in the making of the double cards.

10 single cards  
printed on a single sheet



4 double cards printed on single sheet after  
discarding 2 single cards and inverting 4 others

After printing the cards, they were cut into single cards and packaged with protective cardboard on top and bottom in lots of 200. A cardboard was also added in the middle to separate 100 cards from the other 100. A cover to the package (shown at right) was pasted on the top cardboard and the package was tied crosswise with string and wax to prevent tampering in transit. They were then shipped to the destination post offices.



| UPSS No.                                                                                        | Value                | Position No. | Variety description of double cards of 1898                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14a or 14Aa<br>15a or 15Aa<br>16a or 16Aa<br>17a or 17Aa                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 1            | <b>Message Card:</b> Break in first address line 12 mm from the left; break in third address line 45 mm from the right; break in fourth address line 35 mm from the left.<br><b>Reply Card:</b> The “r” in <i>Sr.</i> is broken at the top; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> does not close; two breaks in the “b” of <i>debe</i> in the note.                                   |
| 14b or 14Ab<br>15b or 15Ab<br>16b or 16Ab<br>17b or 17Ab                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 2            | <b>Message Card:</b> Broken right leg of the first “A” in <i>TARJETA</i> ; left arm of the “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> is shattered; break in third address line 25 mm from the left. “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed on the bottom.<br><b>Reply Card:</b> Break in fourth address line 5 mm from the left; undulation starting 40mm from the left on third address line. |
| 14c or 14Ac<br>15c or 15Ac<br>16c or 16Ac<br>17c or 17Ac                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 3            | <b>Message Card:</b> Large “o” in <i>solamente</i> ; small nick at right curve of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> .<br><b>Reply Card:</b> Separation of 17 mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10 mm.                                                                                                                                                  |
| 14d or 14Ad<br>15d or 15Ad<br>16d or 16Ad<br>17d or 17Ad                                        | 5m<br>1c<br>2c<br>3c | 4            | <b>Message Card:</b> Break at top of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; the “l” and “a” of <i>solamente</i> are broken.<br><b>Reply Card:</b> Break in second address line 1 mm from the left; breaks in third address line 4 mm and 41 mm from the left.                                                                                                                    |
| Typography by the <i>Fábrica Nacional de la Moneda y Timbre</i> ; double card size: 290 x 98 mm |                      |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**NOTE:** The capital letter “A” after the UPSS number denotes printing on **salmon** card stock instead of **yellow**. There are no significant typesetting differences between the two paper colors.



UPSS 10j, Position 10, 5 milésimas uprated by 2½ centavos in postage stamps to a 3 centavos overseas rate to Germany — 13 July 1898



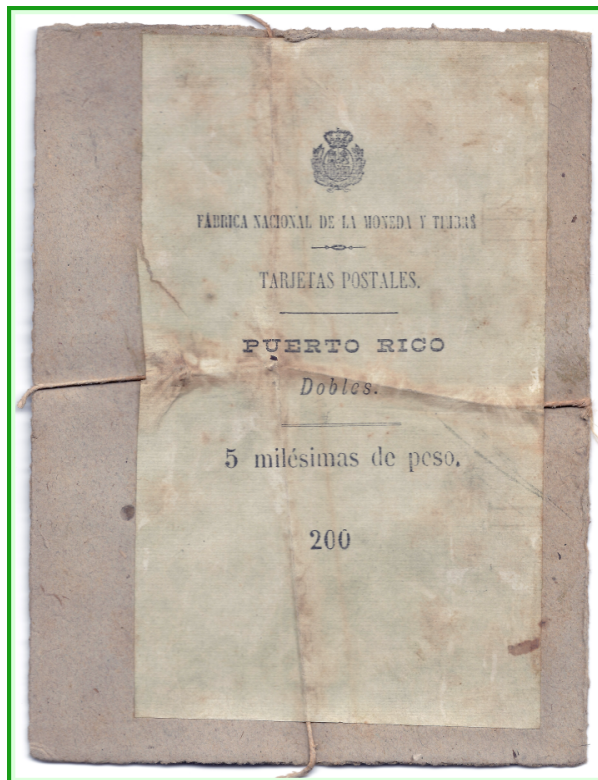


This half (front shown above and back below) of a 3 + 3 centavos double card was used as a single card to Switzerland and uprated with ten 5 milésimas adhesive stamps to pay the 5c registration fee. It was sent 7 October 1898, just eleven days before the U.S. took San Juan.





1, 2 and 3 centavos single card headers from 1898 shown for comparison with the salmon colored double card. Note the great variations in the color of the paper which ranges from reddish yellow to buff to yellow. Selection of different cardstock was responsible, together with some aging and climate changes to the cards in the 110 years since printing.

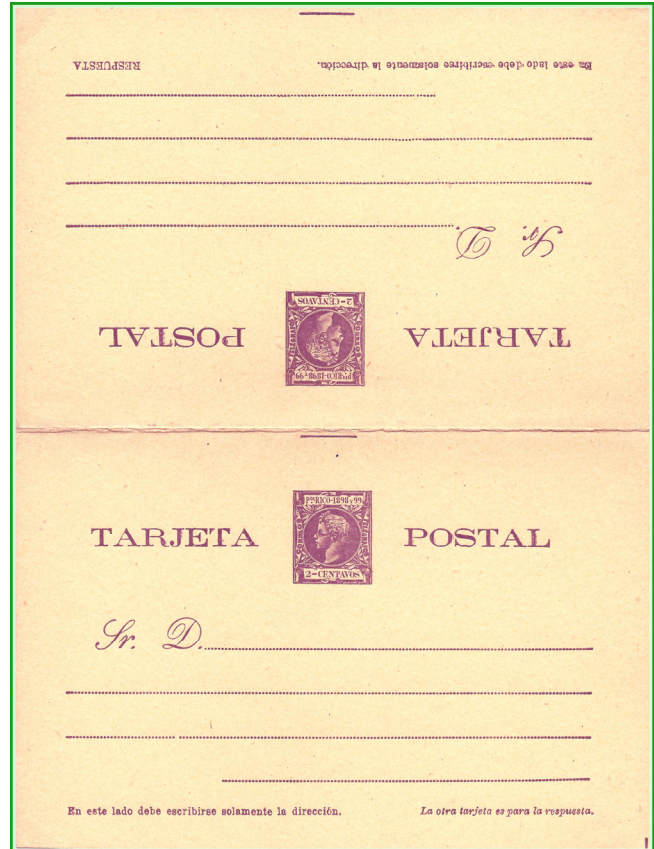


Double cards were likewise packed, tied with string and sealed for shipment in packs of 200 cards. They were shipped unfolded. It is therefore possible to find unfolded double cards, although these are decidedly more rare than folded. Shown is the top paper which was glued to the cardboard protecting the bundle. The top paper bears the name of the company that made it: Fábrica Nacional de la Moneda y Timbre. This particular cover held 5 milésimas double cards.





Detail of a card showing a fold in the cardstock before the printing which caused this most unusual printing flaw.



UPSS 16b — Position 2 (of 4)  
2c + 2 centavos yellow colored  
double card . One of four card  
denominations, each with four  
plate positions



UPSS 17Aa — Position 1 (of 4)  
3c + 3 centavos paid reply double  
card.

Some of the double cards were printed on a salmon colored stock as shown here. They are scarcer than the yellow ones, but they have the same plate positions and flaws.



En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.



*D. F.*

POSTAL



TARJETA

via St. Thomas.

# TARJETA



# POSTAL

Fr. Hermann Silberker,  
Briefmarkenhandlung,  
Hannover.  
Altenstein

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta

112





UPSS 10S — Shown above are the 5 milésimas single cards in a pane of four. (Positions 5, 6, 7 and 8).



All eight single and double 1898 cards exist with the following handstamp:

MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR

MUESTRAS

“Overseas Ministry — Specimens”

All four single card specimens are shown on these pages ranging from a single card to multiples of 2 and 4.

UPSS 11S — A pair of 1 centavo single card specimens (Positions 6 and 8)



**UPSS 12S — Shown here are a pair of the 2 centavos specimen cards. (Positions 7 and 8)**

**UPSS 13S — To complete the set of single card specimens is a 3 centavos specimen. (Position 6)**



**An 1889 archival proof which was the go-ahead to start production of the 1890 card. This proof recently sold at a Solar y Llach auction for 600 Euros.**

The process of issuing a postal card begins when its design is sent to the printer who fabricates the typeset into a set of 10 or 20 cards on a large press. As a preliminary step to production, a sheet is run to examine for flaws and approve for production. At right is such an archival proof. The National Stamp Factory (and later the National Factory of Currency and Stamps) placed a seal on it indicating such approval. Numerous specimens are then run and sent around the world to indicate to foreign postal operations what the cards will look like. Once the approval and specimen process is effected, full production can begin.



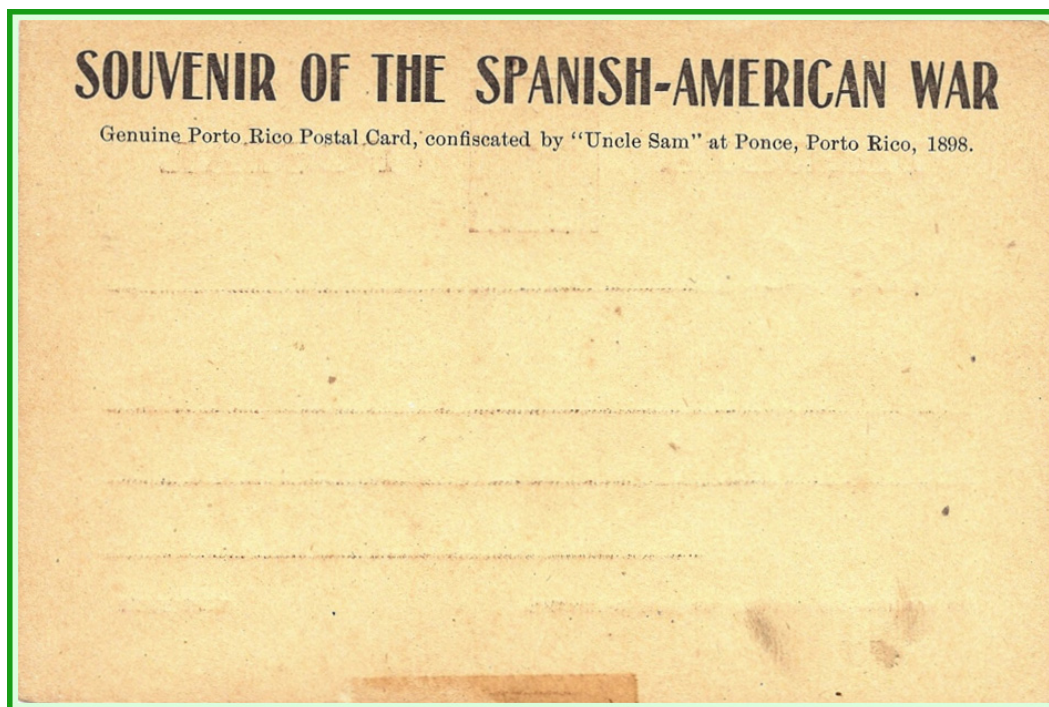
The Spanish American war ended the Spanish control of Puerto Rico. At the end of the war the remainders of all postage material were sold. There were thousands of stamps and postal cards. One person bought them all. Regarding the cards, these were the amounts that were sold at auction:

|                    |       |                        |      |
|--------------------|-------|------------------------|------|
| 5 Milésimas single | 7220  | 5 + 5 Milésimas double | 3308 |
| 1 Centavo single   | 15473 | 1 + 1 Centavo double   | 3449 |
| 2 Centavos single  | 2000  | 2 + 2 Centavos double  | 1310 |
| 3 Centavos single  | 715   | 3 + 3 Centavos double  | 1451 |

We do not know how many of each card were printed for Puerto Rico, but by knowing the quantities printed for Spain we can guess that the amounts for the island were not many. In regard to circulated cards, the 1898 cards had a life of less than 10 months, until 17 October 1898. San Juan was the last city captured by the Americans on 18 October. During the final five months the island was engaged in a war and not much mail was being sent. Most of the circulated 1898 cards have San Juan cancels; local circulation was practically non-existent.

In 1984, I was on a business trip to Miami and went into the store of a stamp dealer and asked to see if he had any Puerto Rico cards. He invited me to the back of the shop where he opened a file drawer. There were no fewer than twenty five originally sealed packs of 200 cards neatly stacked. I tried to purchase one of the packs, but he wanted to sell them all together, not just one. I kick myself now thinking of the lost opportunity, but at the time wondered what I could possibly do with 5,000 cards! Sometimes I wonder what ever happened to them...

The following 1898 single card with the printing on the back "SOUVENIR OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR" is attributed to a Major Brewster C. Kenyon, an army paymaster at the time. We find these cards occasionally in auctions.



Thus ends our brief journey through the postal cards of Spanish colonial Puerto Rico. I find it fascinating and I look forward to the next used card I might find for sale.

## APPENDIX 1: Puerto Rico Price List in U.S. Dollars

**Note:** Markets have changed for mint cards available on online auctions: expect to pay about 30-50% less for mint cards which are readily available. Some cards with salient printing varieties command higher prices. Circulated cards within the island are scarce and cards to exotic destinations command even higher prices.

| UPSS No.   | Description                                                      | Price Mint | Price Used |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>1878</b> — 25 céntimos de peseta dark green                   | 200        | 2 known    |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>1885</b> — 3 centavos de peso brown on white                  | 50         | 300        |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>1887</b> — 3 centavos brown on buff                           | 50         | 250        |
| <b>3k</b>  | Same, with fifth line displaced 10 mm to the left                | 125        | 400        |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>1890</b> — 3 centavos green                                   | 100        | Not known  |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>1892</b> — 3 centavos blue                                    | 30         | 150        |
| <b>5A</b>  | 3 centavos ultramarine                                           | 30         | 150        |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>1894</b> — 2 centavos dark blue                               | 15         | 150        |
| <b>7</b>   | 3 centavos red                                                   | 15         | 150        |
| <b>8</b>   | <b>1896</b> — 2 centavos green on yellow or buff                 | 15         | 150        |
| <b>9</b>   | 3 centavos reddish brown on yellow or buff                       | 15         | 150        |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>1898-99</b> — 5 milésimas claret on yellow card stock         | 15         | 150        |
| <b>10i</b> | Same, with second address line 17 mm from first instead of 10 mm | 30         | 200        |
| <b>11</b>  | 1 centavo green on yellow card stock                             | 15         | 150        |
| <b>11i</b> | Same, with second address line 17 mm from first instead of 10 mm | 30         | 200        |
| <b>12</b>  | 2 centavos violet on yellow card stock                           | 15         | 150        |
| <b>12i</b> | Same, with second address line 17 mm from first instead of 10 mm | 30         | 200        |
| <b>13</b>  | 3 centavos reddish brown on yellow card stock                    | 15         | 150        |
| <b>13i</b> | Same, with second address line 17 mm from first instead of 10 mm | 30         | 200        |
| <b>14</b>  | 5 + 5 milésimas claret on <b>yellow</b> card stock               | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>14c</b> | Same, with reply card second address line is 17 mm from first    | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>14A</b> | Same as 14, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock                      | 60         | unknown    |
| <b>15</b>  | 1 + 1 centavo green on <b>yellow</b> card stock                  | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>15c</b> | Same, with reply card second address line is 17 mm from first    | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>15A</b> | Same as 15, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock                      | 60         | unknown    |
| <b>16</b>  | 2 + 2 centavos violet on <b>yellow</b> card stock                | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>16c</b> | Same, with reply card second address line is 17 mm from first    | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>16A</b> | Same as 16, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock                      | 60         | unknown    |
| <b>17</b>  | 3 + 3 centavos reddish brown on <b>yellow</b> card stock         | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>17c</b> | Same, with reply card second address line is 17 mm from first    | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>17A</b> | Same as 17, but on <b>salmon</b> card stock                      | 60         | unknown    |



## APPENDIX 2: Puerto Rico Postal Card Cross Index — Spanish Domination 1878 - 1898

A capital letter “A” following the UPSS number indicates a different printing color (1892) or different color card stock (1898). A lower case letter following the UPSS number indicates any other variety such as occurs in the type setting. A capital letter “S” after the UPSS number indicates a specimen.

| UPSS No. | H&G No. | Edifil No. | Description                                                                                        |
|----------|---------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1        | 1       | 1          | <b>1878</b> – 25 céntimos de peseta – Dark green on buff – Alfonso XII on indicium.                |
| 2        | 2       | 2          | <b>1885</b> – 3 centavos de peso – Brown on white. The indicium was the original 1882 stamp.       |
| 3        | 3       | 2A         | <b>1887</b> – 3 centavos – Brown on buff. Indicium was the second retouch of 1882 stamp.           |
| 3k       | —       | —          | Same as above with fifth printed line displaced to the left by 10 mm.                              |
| 4        | 4       | 3          | <b>1890</b> – 3 centavos – Green on buff. New indicium: Alfonso XIII <i>el pélon</i> (the baldie). |
| 5        | 5       | 4          | <b>1892</b> – 3 centavos – Blue on buff.                                                           |
| 5A       | —       | 4A         | 3 centavos – Ultramarine on buff (1893– Laiz).                                                     |
| 6        | 6       | 5          | <b>1894</b> – 2 centavos – Dark blue on yellow.                                                    |
| 7        | 7       | 6          | 3 centavos – Red on yellow.                                                                        |
| 7S       | —       | —          | 3 centavos – Ultramarine (Proof or essay)                                                          |
| 8        | 8       | 7          | <b>1896</b> – 2 centavos – Green on yellow or buff.                                                |
| 9        | 9       | 8          | 3 centavos – Reddish brown on yellow or buff.                                                      |
| 10       | 10      | 9          | <b>1898</b> – 5 milésimas – Claret on yellow – New indicium: Alfonso XIII <i>infante</i> (child).  |
| 10i      | 10a     | 9E         | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 10S      | —       | 9M         | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 11       | 11      | 10         | 1 centavos – Green on yellow.                                                                      |
| 11i      | 11a     | 10E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 11S      | —       | 10M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 12       | 12      | 11         | 2 centavos – Violet on yellow.                                                                     |
| 12i      | 12a     | 11E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 12S      | —       | 11M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 13       | 13      | 12         | 3 centavos – Reddish brown on yellow.                                                              |
| 13i      | 13a     | 12E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 13S      | —       | 12M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 14       | 14      | 13         | 5 milésimas +5 milésimas double (paid reply) – Claret on <b>yellow</b> .                           |
| 14c      | 14a     | 13E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 14A      | —       | 13A        | 5 milésimas +5 milésimas double (paid reply) – Claret on <b>salmon</b> .                           |
| 14S      | —       | 13M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 15       | 15      | 14         | 1 centavo + 1 centavo double (paid reply) – Green on <b>yellow</b> .                               |
| 15c      | 15a     | 14E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 15A      | —       | 14A        | 1 centavo + 1 centavo double (paid reply) – Green on <b>salmon</b> .                               |
| 15S      | —       | 14M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 16       | 16      | 15         | 2 centavos + 2 centavos double (paid reply) – Violet on <b>yellow</b> .                            |
| 16c      | 16a     | 15E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 16A      | —       | 15A        | 2 centavos + 2 centavos double (paid reply) – Violet on <b>salmon</b> .                            |
| 16S      | —       | 15M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |
| 17       | 17      | 16         | 3 centavos + 3 centavos double (paid reply) – Reddish brown on <b>yellow</b> .                     |
| 17c      | 17a     | 16E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm            |
| 17A      | —       | 16A        | 3 centavos + 3 centavos double (paid reply) – Reddish brown on <b>salmon</b> .                     |
| 17S      | —       | 16M        | Same, except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRA (Specimen) handstamp                            |

## Fernando Poo

A word is in order about Fernando Poo, a small island off the west coast of Africa. It is part of Equatorial Guinea, now called Bioko. It's importance to the subject matter of this book is because of the discovery of four complete single card sheets and four double card sheets from the year 1899 when it was a Spanish colony. This was determined to be the same set of plates as used the previous year for both Cuba and Puerto Rico. The authors were unable to find a collector of this country's postal stationery, although we are sure somebody is out there, somewhere. In any event, here is what we know about the issuance of postal cards there under Spanish colonialism. The source of the information comes from Ascher and Higgins & Gage, both found in the Reference section.



**“El Cadete” portrait  
from 1899**

| UPSS No.                                                                 | 1898 — 1899 Issues                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| —                                                                        | <b>1898</b> — UNISSUED card bearing the portrait of Alfonso XIII ( <i>Pelón</i> - looking right) based on one single card posted from Barcelona (!) to Vienna. Authenticity suspect. |
| <b>1</b>                                                                 | <b>1899</b> — 5m brown carmine on dark buff (Portrait “ <i>el cadete</i> ” looking left)                                                                                             |
| <b>2</b>                                                                 | 1 centavo blue green on dark buff                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>3</b>                                                                 | 2 centavos dark violet on dark buff                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>4</b>                                                                 | 3 centavos brown on dark buff                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>5</b>                                                                 | 5m + 5m brown carmine on dark buff                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>5 Pos 3</b>                                                           | Same. 17 mm spacing between first and second address lines                                                                                                                           |
| <b>6</b>                                                                 | 1 centavo blue green on dark buff                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>6 Pos 3</b>                                                           | Same. 17 mm spacing between first and second address lines                                                                                                                           |
| <b>7</b>                                                                 | 2 + 2 centavos dark violet on dark buff                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>7 Pos 3</b>                                                           | Same. 17 mm spacing between first and second address lines                                                                                                                           |
| <b>8</b>                                                                 | 3 + 3 centavos brown on dark buff                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>8 Pos 3</b>                                                           | Same. 17 mm spacing between first and second address lines                                                                                                                           |
| Typography by the Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre; Size: 145 x 98 mm |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

| UPSS No.  | 1900 — 1907 Issues                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>9</b>  | <b>1900</b> — Same as 1899 issue except indicium shows “1900”. 5 milésimas on light buff card stock. Address line spacing was corrected. |
| <b>10</b> | 1 <b>centavo</b> dark chocolate on light buff                                                                                            |
| <b>11</b> | 2c carmine on light buff                                                                                                                 |
| <b>12</b> | 3c dark gray on light buff                                                                                                               |
| <b>13</b> | 5m + 5m dark blue on light buff                                                                                                          |
| <b>14</b> | 1c + 1c dark chocolate on light buff                                                                                                     |
| <b>15</b> | 2c + 2c carmine on light buff                                                                                                            |
| <b>16</b> | 3c + 3c dark gray on light buff                                                                                                          |
| <b>17</b> | <b>1903</b> — Same as before except indicium shows “1903”. 10 <b>céntimos</b> dark blue on cream stock                                   |
| <b>18</b> | 10c + 10c dark blue on cream                                                                                                             |
| <b>19</b> | <b>1905</b> — Same as before except indicium shows “1905”. 10 <b>céntimos</b> claret on yellowish stock                                  |
| <b>20</b> | 10c + 10c claret on yellowish stock                                                                                                      |
| <b>21</b> | <b>1907</b> — Same as before except indicium shows “1907”. 10 <b>céntimos</b> black olive on yellowish stock                             |
| <b>22</b> | 10c + 10c black olive on yellowish stock                                                                                                 |



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