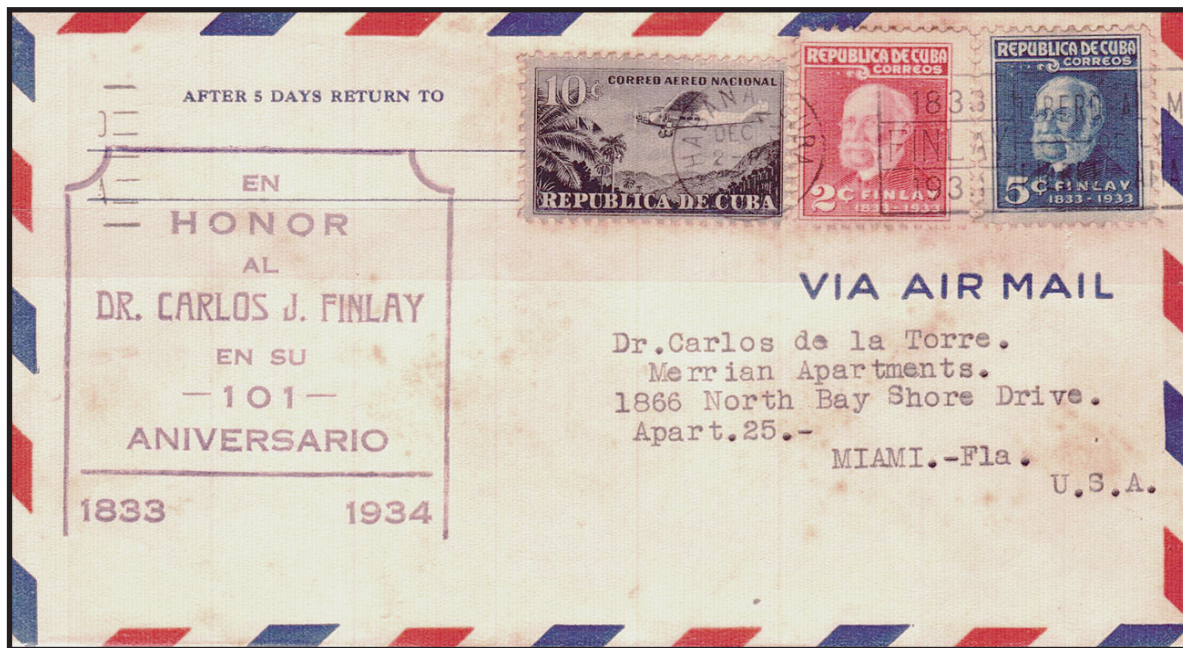


# Cuban Postal Cancellations Honoring Dr. Carlos J. Finlay (1833–1915)

By Marcos A. Iglesias

The Cuban Postal Administration has honored the memory and events related to Dr. Carlos J. Finlay and his discovery of the mosquito as the vector that transmits yellow fever on many occasions by issuing stamps as well as commemorative and slogan cancellations. Additionally, to promote each new stamp issue commemorating Dr. Finlay, the Cuban administration in some cases and the philatelic public in others, prepared what are called “cachets” to be applied on envelopes prepared for the first day of circulation of each issue (these are called first day covers by philatelists). What follows is an attempt to list, describe, and illustrate the stamps, cachets, and commemorative and slogan cancellations issued to honor Dr. Finlay that I have been able to acquire for my own postage stamp collection.

1. First Day cancellation on the stamps issued on December 3, 1934. This date commemorates his birthday which took place in the city of Puerto Principe, now Camagüey, Cuba, on December 3, 1833. The cachet reads: To honor Dr. Carlos J. Finlay in his 101 anniversary 1833 – 1934. (*Scott C13, 319, 320*)



2. This special cachet, showing his picture, reads: Convention of Latin American Medicine Dec. 3, 1987 Cuba Correos [Post Office] Sagua la Grande, V.C. [Villa Clara] Dr. Carlos Finlay (*Scott 995*)



3. 150th Anniversary birth Dr. Carlos J. Finlay. Dec. 3 1833 – 1983. Philatelic Exhibition – Medical Thematic – Correos Habana 6 [“6” is the postal district in Havana]. (*Scott 992*)



4. 150th Anniv. of the birth of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay. First Day  
3 – 12- 1983 Habana – 6 (*Scott 319, 2628*)



7. This postal station also used a regular cancellation reading:  
H. [Havana] Cuba – C.H. [City of Havana] - Carlos J. Finlay.



5. Cent[enary] Pan-American Health Organization. Habana,  
6. First Day 3-12-2002.  
[December 3 has been chosen by this organization as the Pan-  
American Health Day to honor Dr. Carlos J. Finlay.]

Note: The Cuban Postal Administration refuses to use a  
“fancy” cancel during a holiday which is why the cancel  
reads 2-12-2002 and not 3-12-2002 which must have been  
a holiday. Dr. Finlay’s birthday is definitely December 3.

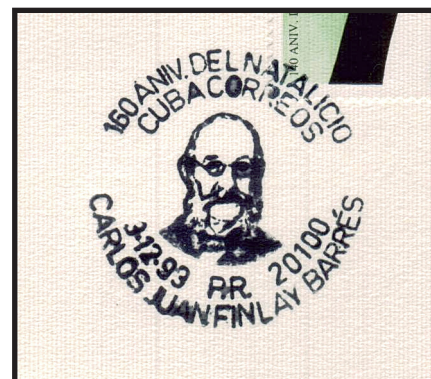
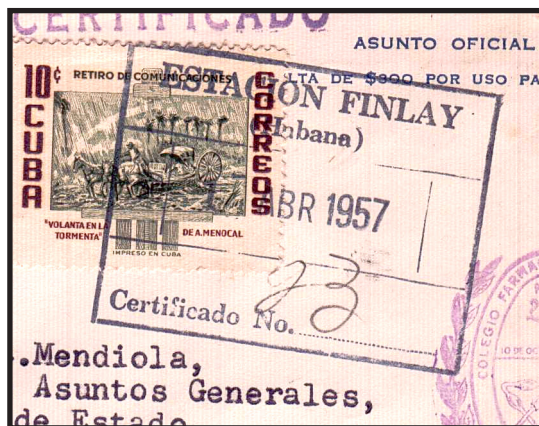


8a. The following cancellations were issued at different postal  
stations in Cuba to commemorate the 160th anniversary of  
Dr. Carlos J. Finlay’s birth. All cancellations carry the same  
legend, picture and date [03-12-1993]. Those in my collection  
were issued at the following cities: Camagüey, Habana, Jagüey  
Grande and Holguín. (*Scott 3485*)



6. “Estación Finlay” is a post office outlet in the Vedado  
residential section of Havana. The name was given to honor  
Dr. Finlay. This cancellation was used to record registered  
[certificado] mail. (*Scott 568*)

8b. The city of Pinar del Río used this cachet for the same  
purpose.



9. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of his death: The following cachets were issued by the cities of Camagüey and Jagüey G.[rande]. The cachet reads: “80 Anniversary death Carlos J. Finlay. 20 – 08 – 95 – [Name of the city] – Cuba – Correos.



10. Cachets commemorating “El Día del Médico” [Medical Doctors’ Day] instituted in Cuba to honor the medical profession on the anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Carlos J. Finlay (December 3.) Both cachets were used by the National Council of Tuberculosis to [promote the cure of TB].



11. The Cuban Philatelic Society of America issued this cancellation and cachet for the same purpose in Miami, Florida, in 1972.



12. The following cachet was used on the occasion of the issue of a Cuban stamp honoring nurse Clara L. Maass (Scott 462). The cachet reads:

50 Anniversary – Discovery of the agent that transmits yellow fever by Dr. Carlos J. Finlay.  
– Post Office – Havana – Cuba. Stamp issue commemorating the fiftieth death of Clara Louise Maass. First Day of Issue. August 24, 1951.



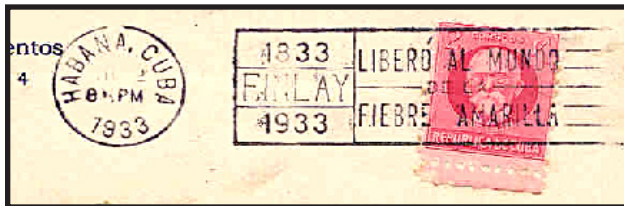
13. 100 Years of the discovery [of the agent that transmits yellow fever] by Dr. C. J. Finlay – (1881/1981) Philatelic circle “Adela Foyo” – Remedios, V.C. – 14/8/81. Notes: V.C. [Villa Clara, a province] (Scott 2431)



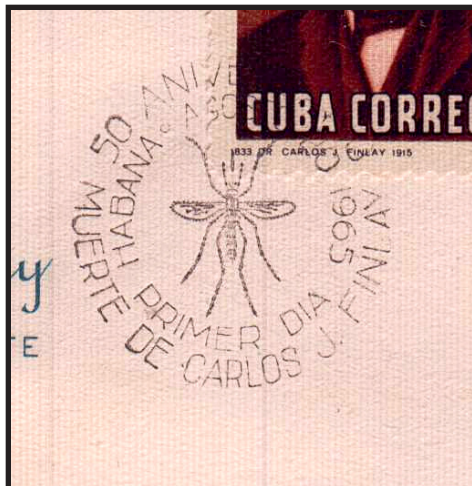
14. Slogan cancellation. This cancellation consists of two parts: a) A circle showing the name of the city and the date and b) A legend reading "1833 FINLAY 1933 Gloria de la Ciencia – Saneó el Trópico". [Glory of Science – Cured the Tropics]. This slogan cancellation was in use for many years.



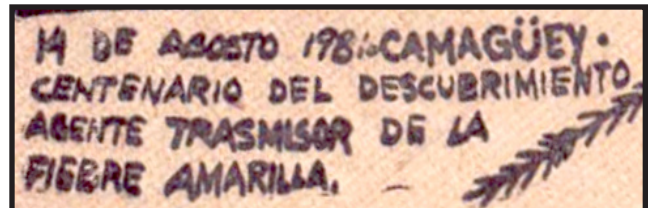
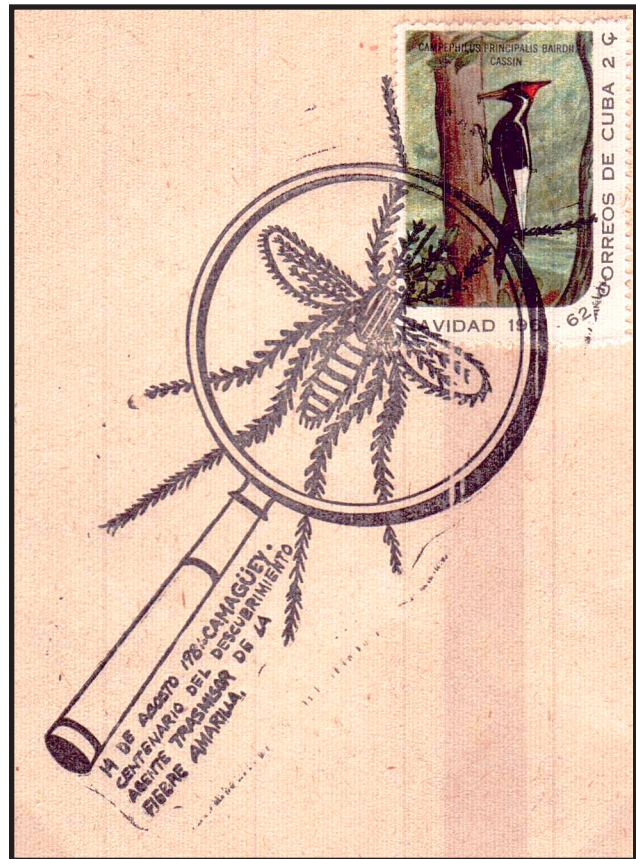
15. Slogan cancellation. This cancellation also consists of two parts: a) A circle showing the name of the city and the date, and b) A legend reading "1833 – FINLAY- 1933 –Liberated the World – of the – YELLOW FEVER". (Scott 265)  
This cancellation was also in use for many years.



16. First Day Cancellation. Set issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Finlay's death. The cancellation reads: "50 anniversary of the death – Dr. Carlos J. Finlay – Havana -1965 – First Day" (Scott 991)



17. The following unusual cachet was issued in the city of Camagüey. It reads: 14 August 1981 \*Camagüey\* Centenary of the discovery of the agent that transmits the yellow fever. (Scott 695)



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