

Bibliography of 1883 Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta

<ADAM1904> Adams, H. J.

"Cuba--The Surcharged Issue of 1883"

PM, No.98, 1 Apr 1919, p.100, ill., and

PM, No.99, 1 May 1919, p.134, ill.; the latter being a correction to the plating of the 10c sheet of the surcharged stamps shown in the first article and a letter to the editor from W. Dorning Beckton with comments and additional information. See <BECK1904>. (Need better copy of both).

<AJP89403> American Journal of Philately

"Cuba.—...uncataloged varieties of the 5c issue of June, 1883."

AJP, 2nd Series, Vol.7, No.3, 31Mar 1894, p.147-148, ill.

Listing of several thereto uncatalogued varieties of the 5c issue of June 1883.

<AP188812> The American Philatelist

"New Issue Notes and Chronicle: Cuba"

AP, Vol.3, No.x, Dec 1888, p.69.

Report of the existence of a 20c. 1883 surcharged stamp with double surcharge.

<AP188908> The American Philatelist

"New Issue Notes and Chronicle: Cuba"

AP, Vol.3, No.x, Aug 1889, p.326.

Report of the existence of a 10c. 1883 surcharged stamp with double surcharge.

<APP9305> A.P.P. (unknown author's initials)

"Overprinted Cuban Fiscals"

The Fiscal Philatelist, Vol.1, May 1893, pp.88-89.

The article discusses the distribution of quantities found in a large lot of 1883 overprinted Giro stamps, providing for each overprint type a listing of the values found in the lot and the quantities of each.

<BACKyymm-1> Backovitch, David

"Forgeries of the 1883 50c Giro Overprint" and

"Listing of Known Forgeries of the 50c 1883 Giro Overprint"

Unpublished, undated. Received from the author as 7 photocopied pages, illustrated, in English.

These are companion articles that discuss forgeries of the 1883 surcharges on Giro stamps using the 50c value as the focus since it was the most widely used and abused denomination. The first article consists of a three page introduction, with one page illustrating the five types of overprints used on the genuine stamps. The second article is a three page listing describing the characteristics of the genuine overprints followed by a description of the characteristics of one Type I forged overprint and four Type IV overprints. The second article contains no illustrations. The last page is a brief bibliography.

<BACKyymm-2> Backovitch, David

"The Overprinted Cuban Giros of 1883—Forgeries and Varieties"

Unpublished, undated. Received from the author as 11 photocopied pages, illustrated, in English.

This is an update of <BACKyymm-1> consisting of a five page introduction, followed by two pages describing and illustrating the characteristics of the genuine Type I and Type IV overprints, and five pages describing and illustrating the characteristics of one Type I, three Type IV forged overprints, and another Type IV overprint that the author is unsure as to whether it is genuine or bogus (the type designations are those used in <BACKyymm-1>). The last page is a brief bibliography. The bibliography lists <JONE9005>, so this article is from the early 1990s.

<BACKyymm-3> Backovitch, David

"Partial notes on *Giro* and *Recibos y Cuentas* revenue stamps"

Unpublished, undated, 4 photocopied pages of notes, in English.

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These notes seem to be part of correspondence with Pedro Rodríguez and/or Bill McP. Jones providing them with some insights on these stamps while they were working on <[JONE9005](#)>. The handwritten notes are by Pedro.

<[BARR91005](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

"Los Sellos de Cuba Remarcados en 1883"

("The 1883 Surcharged Stamps of Cuba")

RCFC, Yr.1, No.2, May 1910, pp.9-13 (5), ill., Span.

RCFC, Yr.1, No.3, Jun 1910, pp.17-21 (5), ill., Span.

RCFC, Yr.1, No.4, Jul 1910, pp.25-27 (3), ill., Span.

<[BARR91200](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

Catálogo de los Sellos Fiscales de Cuba (Catalog of the Revenue Stamps of Cuba)

Coauthor: José Gutiérrez Hernández (see <[GUTHJ1200](#)>)

Habana, Cuba: Published by the Círculo Filatélico de Cuba (Cuban Philatelic Circle), printed by J.A. Casanova, 1912, 255 pp., ill., Span. Limited edition in book form.

The most complete catalog ever published of the revenue stamps of Cuba covering the period 1856 to 1912. Originally published serially in the RSFC where the first three installments appeared from July to September 1904, but discontinued thereafter without explanation (see <[BARR90407a](#)>). The coverage of Cuban revenues provided in this catalog is more extensive than Forbin's. Includes citations from official documents. An indispensable reference for the Cuban revenues collector.

<[BARR93812](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

"Los Sellos de Cuba Remarcados en 1883"

("The 1883 Surcharged Stamps of Cuba")

FCa, Yr.I, No.IV/VI, December 1938, pp.9-21 (13), ill., Span.

One of the best studies of the surcharged stamps of 1883.

<[BARR9yymmd](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

Sellos de Cuba Remarcados en 1883

(Cuban Stamps Overprinted in 1883)

La Habana: Cooperativa de Prensa (Press Cooperative), Estudios Filatélicos Cubanos, n.d. [Need date of publication and photocopy.] Probably derived or reprinted from <[BARR91005](#)>.

<[BECK1905](#)> **Beckton, W. Dorning**

"Cuba--The Surcharged Issue of 1883. A Correction."

PM, No.99, 1 May 1919, p.134, ill.

A correction from the editor of PM to the plating of the 10c sheet of the surcharged stamps shown in <[ADAM1904](#)> and a letter to the editor from Mr. Beckton with comments to <[ADAM1904](#)> and additional information about the surcharges.

<[BUTLF2000](#)> **Butler, F. Paige**

Cuba: La Contramarca 1883 (Cuba: The Surcharge of 1883)

Color photocopy of a collection by an unknown philatelist that was purchased around the year 2000 by Mr. F. Paige Butler who kindly provided a photocopy.

<[CA90104b](#)> **El Curioso Americano**

"Variedades" ("Varieties")

CA, 3rd Epoch, Yr.2, Nos.4-5, Apr-May 1901, pp.86-93 and two unnumbered pages of photos (corresponding to the first segment in the article) that I have labeled pp.86a and 86b in my files. The article is in Spanish.

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This piece comprises several segments, some with sub-headings, some without. The first segment is titled "Cuba 1833", but should have read 1883 because it refers to two loose photos which are included in the journal showing full sheets of the 5 and 10 cent 1883 surcharged stamps with double surcharges [the sheet on p.86a is currently in my collection; it was purchased as part of lot 336 of the Soler y Llach auction of 14 Dec 1995]. The segment observes that in many cases the double surcharges of this issue present different intensities in the inking of the two surcharges and states that this is a normal occurrence and that such double surcharges should be considered genuine. The second segment is titled "Rarezas de Cuba" ("Cuban Rarities") and reports, among other things, the existence of several 1883 surcharged telegraph stamps with inverted and double surcharges.

<CANO0801> Cano, Sergio

"Philatelic Memories of Cuba (1939-1961)—Recuerdos Filatélicos de Cuba (1939-1961)"
CPa, Vol.XIX, No.53, First Third 2008, pp.20-23 (4), ill., Eng. & Span.

Philatelic reminiscences and anecdotes from Cuba by this longtime dealer son in turn of dealer Alfredo Cano covering the period when he was active in Cuban philatelic circles. Mentioned are a block of 86 stamps of the perforated Aerial Train with double surcharges (Scott C16a), a complete set of blocks of four of the 1910 inverted centers (Scott Nos. 239a, 240a, 244a, and E4a), **the 1883 surcharges commonly referred to as "Arabesques" (Scott Nos.106-120)**, a block of four of Scott 226A (Type II). This is followed by an explanation of why the sheet centers of the 1936 Matanzas perforated and imperforated issues are so rare and mention of the existence of ACNU sheets of 4 (Scott C33) with red and blue surcharges. The piece is also full references to Cuban philatelists and many anecdotes that relate to them.

<COPP9304> Coppet, Esq., F. de

Auction Catalogue of the Postal Issues of the Western Hemisphere Collected by F. de Coppet, Esq.
New York: The J. W. Scott Co., Ld. Catalog of the auction held 3-26 April 1893, Cuba lots 632 to 690 (59) covering stamps from 1855 to 1883, with prices realized; no illustrations. The collection offered was fairly complete for the period covered and consisted mostly of unused stamps except for some unusual used items. Of special interest were lots 686-690 featuring five (5) complete sheets of the 1883 surcharged stamps comprising three 5c sheets of the 1st, 3rd, and 4th settings per the Moen catalog, one 10c sheet of the 1st setting and one 20c sheet of the 4th setting.

<CORWYymm> Corwin, Charles B.

"Errors"

AP, date of publication unknown, pp.197-201 (Section subheading "Cuba and Porto Rico" on p.199).
Overview of errors found on Cuban stamps from the first issue of 1855 through the 1883 surcharged stamps.

<CUES-FILACUBA> Cuesta, Ernesto

FILACUBA Website

Bethesda, Maryland: Continuously updated website at <http://www.philat.com/FILACUBA>

The FILACUBA Website contains a section called "Pages From Cuban Collections" that contain the following subsections addressing the 1883 surcharges:

[King Alfonso XII Issues 1876-1888](#)

[Cuba: The Surcharged Stamps of 1883](#)

[The 1883 Surcharges of the Collection "Cuba, The Overprinted Stamps, 1855-1960"](#)

<CUES-1883surcharges> Cuesta, Ernesto

Bibliography of 1883 Surcharges

Bethesda, Maryland: Continuously updated section within the <CUES-Biblio> and <CUES-LBiblio> Internet Websites. This is a sub-bibliography listing only items dealing with the Cuban 1883 surcharges extracted from the main bibliography. You are presently reading this bibliography.

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<[CUES-AlfonsoXII](#)> Cuesta, Ernesto

"Cuba: the stamps of King Alfonso XII, 1876-1888 -- Study of regular issues and their main varieties with emphasis on usages" ("Cuba: Los sellos del Rey Alfonso XII, 1876-1888 -- Estudio de las emisiones regulares y sus variedades principales con énfasis en usos")

The reference is to the collection that I formed and have exhibited nationally in the United States and internationally at various philatelic exhibitions. The exhibit is in presented in English.

<[DORNvymm](#)># Dorn, J. (publisher)

The Forged Stamps of All Countries

London: J. Dorn, One Volume Stamp Library, n.d., 240 pp., 350 diagrams.

Forgeries of 1855-75 Cuban stamps covered under Spain. Other Cuban forged stamps covered on pages 203-204 and referenced with respect to Philippines' forgeries on p.205. In the Cuba section, the book only discusses Cuban forged stamps of 1878, 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1898. No illustrations are provided. The treatment is superficial and of little value.

<[ECHE9105](#)> Echenagusía García, Carlos

"La emisión resellada de Cuba en 1883"

("The Cuban Surcharged Issue of 1883")

RF, Yr.XXV, No.262, May 1991, pp.232-235 (4), ill., Span.

<[ECHE9700](#)> Echenagusía García, Carlos (Editor)

Catálogo Especializado de Sellos de Cuba (Specialized Catalog of Cuban Stamps)

Madrid, Spain: EDIFIL, S.A.; 1st edition 1997; 341 numbered catalog pages preceded by several unnumbered pages, including title, publication, and introduction pages, several pages of advertisements, and three pages of guidance in the use of the catalog. A brief section index is included at the back of the catalog. Profusely illustrated; priced in Spanish pesetas; text in Spanish. The catalog builds upon <EDIFILc>, but is so much more specialized and improved that it bears no comparison with those predecessors. This catalog is also identified as <EDIFIL9700> in this bibliography. EDIFIL hired Carlos Echenagusía García, Cuban philatelic expert and designer of numerous stamp issues of the Castro Government, as a consultant editor for the production of this catalog. Mr. Echenaguía continued in this role for the production of subsequent improved and expanded editions of Edifil specialized catalogs of Cuban stamps listed as <EDIFIL9802>, <EDIFIL0200>, and <EDIFIL0500>. References to Cuban forgeries of the stamps listed are included throughout.

<[ECHE0200](#)> Echenagusía García, Carlos (Editor)

Catálogo Unificado Especializado de Sellos de Cuba, Edición 2002, Tomo I: 1855-1958

(Specialized Catalog of Cuban Stamps, 2002 Edition, Volume I: 1855-1996)

Editor: Carlos Echenagusía García

Madrid, Spain: EDIFIL, S.A.; 2002 Edition, Volume I covering the years 1855 to 1958 only; 16 pages with roman numerals, including title, publication, and introduction pages, several pages of advertisements, three pages of guidance in the use of the catalog and five pages with an overview of Cuban postal history; followed by 256 regularly numbered pages of catalog listings. Topical and genera indexes are included at the back of the catalog. Profusely illustrated in color; priced in Euros; text in Spanish. EDIFIL also hired Carlos Echenagusía García, Cuban philatelic expert and designer of numerous stamp issues of the Castro Government, as a consultant for the production of this catalog.

The catalog builds upon <EDIFIL9700>, expanding the coverage of all sections but eliminating coverage of the Castro era issues for separate publication. All sections carry additional information on errors and varieties. In the Spanish Administration period plating information is provided for some of the platable early issues, the 1860 Y ¼ surcharges and the 1883 surcharges, and prices for blocks and stamps on cover have been added. The U.S. Administration period has also been expanded with additional detail and illustration of military station cancels. In the Republican period, pricing for blocks and covers of the early issues is also provided along with pricing for sheet center blocks and FDCs of the later issues. The back sections of the catalog comprising postage due stamps,

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semi-postal stamps, postal tax stamps, telegraph stamps, postal stationery, and stamps for officially sealing opened mail have been expanded considerably and a new section on Cuban first flights has been added. References to Cuban forgeries of the stamps listed are included throughout.

<ECHE0501> Echenagusía García, Carlos

"The *Red Forgeries*. Los Falsos *Rojos*"

CPa, No.50, Last Half 2005, pp.53-55, 87-90, 56 (in that order; 8 pp. total), ill., Eng. & Span.

<FCb7805a> Filatelia Cubana (FFC)

"Los Resellados de 1883" ("The 1883 Surcharged Stamps")

FCb, Yr.13, No.2, May-Aug 1976, pp.25-29 (5), ill., Span.

FCb, Yr.13, No.3, Sep-Dec 1976, p.32, ill., corrigendum.

<GARC4408b> García, Rafael R.

"Catálogo de Sellos Fiscales de Cuba: Sección Recibos y Cuentas"

("Catalog of Cuban Revenue Stamps: Recibos y Cuentas Section")

AF, Yr.IX, No.28, Aug-Sep-Oct 1944, p.13, ill., Span.

Listing of the 1871 through 1883 Recibos y Cuentas revenue stamps of Cuba. The listings include prices for unused and used stamps, mentions that it is not unusual to find these revenue stamps used as postage stamps and provides values for them postally used as singles, on cover, and as bisects on cover.

<HARM3506> Harmer, H.R. (Philatelic Auctioneer)

Catalogue of the Eleventh Portion of the "Arthur Hind" Collection of Postage Stamps

London: H.R. Harmer Philatelic Auctioneer, Sales 768-771, Hind Sale No.11, 24-27 June 1935, Cuba on pp.20-22, lots 207-227, selected lots illustrated on plates V-VI.

This was not a large holding of Cuban items but the sale included some outstanding rarities, including a block of 12 (4x3) of Scott #5; a block of 9 of Scott #15; an important collection of the 1883 ornamental surcharges that included three full sheets of the 5c value with different settings of the surcharges, one full sheet each of the 10c and 20c values, and a block of 45 of the 20c value with displaced surcharges; several rare Puerto Príncipe stamps; the inverted centers of 1910; and a complete set of horizontal imperforate pairs of the 1914 map issue.

<IBSE3909> Boletín Filatélico I.B.S.E.

"Los sellos de Cuba sobrecargados en el año 1883"

IBSE, Yr.1, No.1, Sep 1939, pp.4-9 (6), ill., Span. This is basically a reprint of <BARR993812> without some of the illustrations and without mention of the surcharged telegraph stamps. Both are based on <BARR91005>.

Note: IBSE started publication as a monthly in San Sebastián, Spain, on Sep 1939, but printed only two numbers, ending with the Oct 1939 issue.

<JIMEF8302> Jiménez, Frank

The 1883 Surcharges of the Collection "Cuba: The Overprinted Stamps, 1855-1960"

Black & white photocopy provided by the author, Feb 1983, 25 pp., ill.

This is the section of 1883 surcharges in Mr. Jiménez's collection Cuba: The Overprinted Stamps, 1855-1960 that he kindly provided on February 1983.

<MANN2800> Mann, Percy McGraw

"Notes on Cuba. 1883."

WPG, Vol.13, No.8, 1928.

<MANN2801> Mann, Percy McGraw

"Notes on Cuba, 1883"

CCP, Vol.7, No.1, January 1928, pp.8-10.

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Extensive discussion of the varieties and positions (types) of the surcharged stamps of 1883. The author's explanation of the surcharges, however, is erroneous.

<MANN2805> Mann, Percy McGraw

"Notes on Cuba, 1883"

WPG, Vol.13, No.8, WNo.341, 19 May 1928, pp.267-268, ill. Reprint of entry <MANN2801>.

<MP89406> Metropolitan Philatelist

"Chronicle"

MP, Vol.5, No.3, June 1894, p.42.

Report of several surcharge varieties on the 5c. blue, 1883 stamp issue.

<PETEG4104> Peterson, George A., Jr.

"The Cuban Surcharged Issue of 1883"

CSJ, Vol.13, No.25, 7 Apr 1941, pp.400-402 (3), ill.

<PRATyymmdd> Prats, Ignacio

"Sellos Sobrecargados 1883 -- Arabescos"

("Surcharged Stamps of 1883 -- Arabesques")

Unpublished notes on varieties and plating of the 1883 surcharged stamps.

<RICE1608> Rice, George W.

"Cuba. The Surcharged Issue of 1883."

AP, Vol.29, No.22, 15 August 1916, pp.567-569 (3).

<SCH18111> Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc.

136th Public Auction Sale: United States, United Nations, Worldwide Stamps and Postal History

New Jersey: Jacques C. Schiff, Jr., Inc., 136th Public Auction Sale, 21-23 Nov 1981, Cuban lots #2031-2125, ill.

This sale contained a substantial holding of Cuban material from the collection of George A. Peterson, Jr., among them a collection of 1883 surcharges (lot #2043); a collection of mint stamps, blocks of four and FDCs of the Republic (the bulk of which were lots [2079](#), [2082](#), and [2083](#)); a collection of officially sealed stamps (lot #2094) and a collection of Cuban slogan cancellations ([lot #2098](#)) that I bought at the auction. Before incorporating these collections into my own, I photocopied them and have scanned them and are available in PDF format.

Unfortunately, my photocopier was not working well at the time and some of the images are very faint, but they give an overall picture of the extent of Mr. Peterson's collection. The collection of 1883 surcharges in particular, was the basis of Mr. Peterson's article titled "The Cuban Surcharged Issue of 1883" that he published in CSJ, Vol.13, No.25, 7 Apr 1941, pp.400-402 (see [<PETEG4104>](#)).

<SCOT9304> Scott, John Walter

Auction Catalogue of the Postal Issues of the Western Hemisphere Collected by F. de Coppet, Esq.

New York: The J. W. Scott Co., Limited; Auction Sale of April 3-5, 13-14, 24-26, 1893; Cuban lots 632-690 (59 total) on pp.45-49 (5); prices realized.

The sale covered issues from 1855 through the 1883 surcharged issues.

Of the latter, a few full sheets of 100 stamps were offered, including a sheet of the 20c value which sold for \$30.

<SERR9310> Serrane, Fernand

"The Serrane Guide"

AP, Vol.108, No.3, WNo.1118, March 1994, pp.954-956, no ill. Cuban listings on p.955.

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This is the Cuba section of the American Philatelist's serialization of Serrane's classic Volume II--Vade Mecum du Specialiste-Expert en TimbresPoste hors d'Europe. Listings for Cuba include forgeries of the stamp issues of the years 1873, 1875, 1876, 1883, 1883-88, 1890, 1898, and 1899. The listings provide descriptions of forgeries some values of the cited stamp issues, but none are illustrated.

<SIEGR8210> Siegel--Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.

ESPAMER '82 Exposition Auction Catalog

New York, N.Y.: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.; catalog of the 603rd sale, held 15 Oct 1982 at the ESPAMER '82 Exposition of 12-17 Oct 1982, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Cuba on pp.36-42 plus photo plates (pages unnumbered), lots 283-390A.

<SMJ6303> Scott Monthly Journal

"V for Variety"

SMJ, Vol.43, No.12, WNo.494, March 1963, p.388.

Report of the finding of the 20c value of the 1883 issue with double surcharge (Scott 108b) and its intended inclusion in the 1964 edition of the Scott catalog.

<VANDH4601> Vanderhoof, E. R.

"A Cuban Study"

WPG, Vol.41, No.19, WNo.1262, 12 Jan 1946, pp.490-491, ill.

Good study of the surcharged Giro revenues of 1883. The article notes the existence of only four types of surcharges applied to the regular 1882 bistre Giro stamps, similar to the surcharges applied to the regular postage stamps but with the value in the center replaced by a core of facing semicircles. One interesting item in the article is the mention of the existence of a pane of the stamps in the possession of the author from which he deduces that the setting for the surcharges was done in groups of 50 consisting of 5 rows of ten stamps. The author illustrates the setting of the 50 surcharges in the article. It is not clear, however, whether the pane in his possession is a pane of 50 or 100 stamps--if it is a pane of 100 it would have been key to state that the setting repeated in the bottom half of the pane. The article mentions that the surcharges are apparently symmetrical in the four cardinal directions but with minor variations which can be identified upon careful examination. This assertion is incorrect because the symmetry only exists in two directions, the surcharges being rectangular, not square. The article goes on to note varieties in the printing of the four denominations of the surcharges consisting of missing or broken letters or numerals. Another interesting observation is that it appears that the surcharges were printed separately from the word GIRO above them and the values of the surcharges below them. Included in the auction were major rarities from the Samuel Israel Collection of Cuba and Puerto Rico which Mr. Israel donated to the Philatelic Foundation of New York (probably in the mid 1930's). The material in this sale was withheld because of its rarity and value as reference material for expertization purposes when the bulk of the Israel Collection was sold at auction by the Foundation through Harmers of New York in January of 1980. See <HARM8001> for details of that sale and <ISRA????> for further details of the contents of the Israel Collection. The Siegel sale included 48 lots of Spanish Administration issues, 36 lots of U.S. Administration issues, and 22 lots of Republic issues, plus 3 lots of stamp and cover accumulations. Among the Spanish Administration rarities in the sale were Scott Nos. 5, 7 (3), 8 (one of 3 known), and 15 all on cover, and a combination cover with 15 and 15a sent to Puerto Príncipe; a vertical pair of Nos. 6 and 8 (unique and one of the greatest rarities of Cuban philately); and 2 sheets of the 5c. and one of the 10c. 1883 surcharged stamps. Among the U.S. Administration rarities were Puerto Príncipe surcharged stamps Scott Nos. 179G, 197 Pos. 3 tied on cover, 214 Pos. 4 tied on piece, 218a Pos. 3, 219a Pos. 1, 219b Pos. 3 "eents" error, 219c Pos. 3 "eents" error inverted surcharge, and three 220a Pos. 4. Also offered were Scott No. 226A and small die proofs 227P2-231P2 and E3P2. Among the Republic period rarities were Scott Nos. 239a, 239a unused horizontal strip of 3, 240a, 244a, and E4a inverted centers; 3 lots of Chambelona overprints; and 1-10c. Máximo Gómez imperforate set. Beyond the illustrations in the catalog, photocopies of the material sold at auction may be available at the library of the Philatelic Foundation.