

CUBA

Most Cuban forgeries were the work of four well-known counterfeiters: Giovanni Patroni, Miguel Segui, A. Venturi, and Francois Fournier. Each of these did their work when Cuba was a Spanish colony and when versions of classic Spanish stamps were used in the Spanish Antilles (Cuba, Puerto Rico and Fernando Po) and in the Phillipines.

The earliest stamps used in Cuba were those depicting Queen Isabella II (Scott 1-4). Numbers 3 and 4 (2r p) were surcharged "Y $\frac{1}{4}$ " which met the "Ynterior" rate for delivery within the city of Havana. Five different stamps were surcharged with the "Y $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Forgeries of the surcharge were believed to be produced by Fournier, and are shown below along with a forged cancellation. The surcharges and cancellation were cut from a page thought to be part of the special album of representative selections of Fourniers's forgeries produced by l'Union Philatelique de Geneve in 1928. The first Y $\frac{1}{4}$ on the left was surcharged on Scott 5 and 6; the second Y $\frac{1}{4}$ was used on Scott 7 and 8; and the last Y $\frac{1}{4}$ on the right was used on Scott 15. The HABILITADO POR LA NACION was overprinted in black on Scott 35, 35A, 36 and 37, and 42-45. Examples of actual stamps with these forged surcharges and overprints may be found in this collection as well as in the regular Cuba collection.



Forgeries

CUBA

Scott Design A1 (1855 and 1857) - 1/2, 1, and 2 Reales

GENUINE Key Characteristics:

- * watermarked
- * 73 all same-size pearls, same distance apart
- * In 2Rs, the top curl of "2" curls inward into a spiral
- * Postmark is small, diamond-shaped dots.

2R EAREE FORGERY 1 - Characteristics

- * No watermark
- * 78 pearls, smaller above chignon and top of head than rest and farther apart
- * Stop after "2" and "2" almost touches left-hand end of label

2R EAREE FORGERY 2 - Characteristics

- * 73 pearls, but all different sizes.
- * White circle around pearls broken in many places
- * No stop after the "2" and "2" is good distance away from left label.
- * Cancel = 5 bars or 4 thin concentric circles



E1

E1

E2

E2



Type 3:

2R - Brown

CUBA

Scott Design A1 (1855 and 1857) - 1/2, 1, and 2 Reales

GENUINE CHARACTERISTICS:

- * Same as 2R Issue of 1855 but no watermark
- * Smooth white paper (vs. bluish paper)

1/2R EAREE FORGERY

- * The slanting line dividing the fraction is not much sloped; only points upwards towards chignon.
- * Dot under little L is low down, level with bottom of R, immediately preceding it.

1R EAREE FORGERY

- * Stop after 1 much larger than one under little L or the one after the F
- * F is closer to right of label than 1 is to left

2R EAREE FORGERY

- * Same as 1855 Issue but is pink on white

Two Examples of Genuine



Heavy line under eye
Light shading around eye - No line under eye

Heavy around eye
Strong lines in hair

Thick 1/2

Thin lettering
DK. Blue color

Heavy blotches
Eye + Mouth



CUBA

Scott Design A1 (1855 and 1857) - 1/2, 1, and 2 Reales



Earee f



'A'-No stop under L 'A'-No stop under L "D" No stop after 'F' or 1 "D" No stop after 'F' or 1 "B" No stop after 'F' or 1



Earee F

Earee F

Thin oval eyebrow

Bump at end of nose