

1. STAMPS

Issue of a new design with a bust of King Alfonso XIII as a youth and the legend "CUBA 1898 y 99" in the cartouche at the top. Known to philatelists as the "Boy King" issue, it is also known as the "Autonomia" (Autonomy) issue as it appeared at the time when the Spanish government, in an attempt to end the Cuban War of Independence, issued a Royal decree granting an autonomous government to Cuba. The effort failed, and this is the last issue which circulated in Cuba under Spanish Dominion.

The dies were engraved by Bartolome Maura and the issue typographed on thick, very white, wove paper in sheets of 200 arranged in two panes of 100 (10 x 10) separated by a gutter. The printing was of very poor quality and the perforations are very inaccurate. On genuine stamps, the name of the engraver, Maura appears in the shading under the right of the bust of King Alfonso.

Because of the brief time of usage, barely a year, postally used copies of the higher values of this issue are very rare. Forgeries of this issue are dangerous and extreme caution should be exercised when obtaining the rarer values.

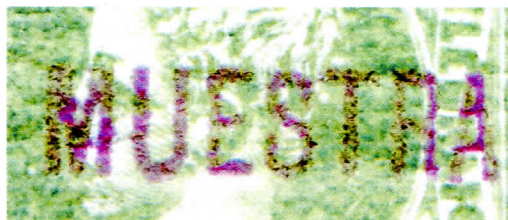
| | |
|-----|--------------|
| 1m. | Yellow brown |
| 2m. | Yellow brown |
| 3m. | Yellow brown |
| 4m. | Yellow brown |
| 5m. | Yellow brown |



| | | | |
|------|--------------|------|--------------|
| 1c. | Black violet | 15c. | Olive green |
| 2c. | Blue green | 20c. | Dark carmine |
| 3c. | Violet brown | 40c. | Dark lilac |
| 4c. | Orange | 60c. | Black |
| 5c. | Rose | 80c. | Red brown |
| 6c. | Blue | 1P. | Yellow green |
| 8c. | Gray brown | 2P. | Dark blue |
| 10c. | Orange red | | |



SURCHARGE "MUESTRA"



Original Type



These stamps with the surcharge "MUESTRA" were sent to other country members of the UPU.

ORIGINAL

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Top length | 12.5 mm |
| Bottom length | 13 mm |
| high | 3 mm |



Possible a Philatelic Forgery



Philatelic forgery

Bottom Length 13.5 mm

Top length 12.5 mm

High 2.75 mm

2. BLOCKS

1mil. (4), 2mil. (4), 3mil. (4), 4mil. (4), 5mil. (4)



Two 3mil. (2)

5mil. (4)

Two strips 5mil. (5)



King Alfonso XIII (Autonomy)

CUBA

1898

5m. with header, gutter and sheet control number

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| I | | | | | | | | | | |
| II | | | | | | | | | | |
| III | | | | | | | | | | |
| IV | | | | | | | | | | |
| V | | | | | | | | | | |
| VI | | | | | | | | | | |
| VII | | | | | | | | | | |
| VIII | | | | | | | | | | |
| IX | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | | | | | | | | | | |

Position on the sheet

0.012.423

CUBA.—COMUNICACIONES.—50 sellos de 5 milésimas de peso.

CUBA.—COMUNICACIONES.—50 sellos de 5 milésimas de peso.



1c. (4)

1c. (4) with inter panel

1c. (4) with right margin

1c. (4) with left margin

1c. (4) with lower left corner sheet margin

1c. (4) with lower right corner sheet margin



2c. (4), 2c. 2(2) with gutter



Darker tone



lighter tone



made of two (10 x 5).

0.000.625

CUBA. -- COMUNICACIONES. -- 50 sellos de 2 centavos de peso.

CUBA. -- COMUNICACIONES. -- 50 sellos de 2 centavos de peso.

[illegible]

4c. (4)

3c. (4) with right margin

3c. (4) with left margin

3c. 2(2) with gutter



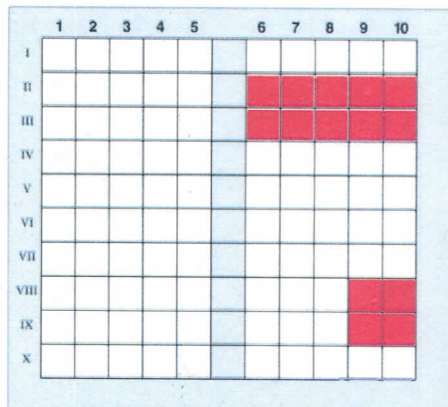
5c. (12)

5c. strip of 4 and 5



6c. (4) with right margin

6c. (10)



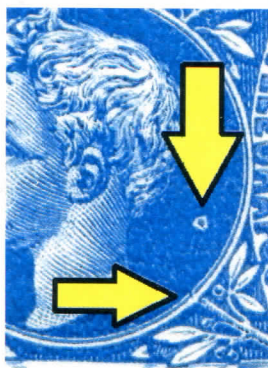
Positions in the plate

Characteristics:



Pos. VIII-10

Blue inner circle is broken at 10 o'clock



Pos. III-6

Small white circle behind the head

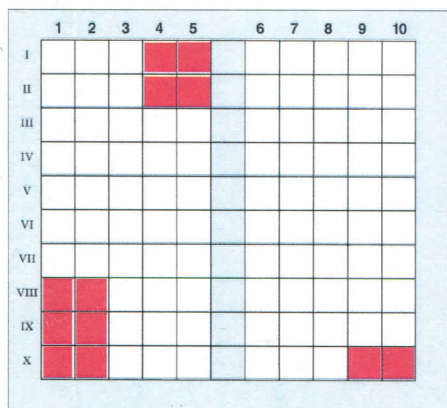


Pos. IX-10

Just below "T" of CENTAVOS there is a white line



6c. (4) and another 6c. (4) with left margin
Two pairs 6c. (2) lower left and lower right corners.



Positions in the plate



Pos. I-5 Broken lower margin under "6"

Pos. II-4 and II-5 ink dot between



Pos. IX-1 Dot in the neck and on the
Outer left margin



(25) with gutter, header in both blocks and sheet control number

0.006.980

CUBA.—COMUNICACIONES.—50 sellos de 6 centavos de peso.



CUBA.—COMUNICACIONES.—50 sellos de 6 centavos de peso.



King Alfonso XIII (Autonomy)

CUBA 1898

8c. (20) with header,

right margin,

the sheet control number.

Note: In this value there was not

a gutter between (10 x 10).



| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| I | | | | | | | | | | |
| II | | | | | | | | | | |
| III | | | | | | | | | | |
| IV | | | | | | | | | | |
| V | | | | | | | | | | |
| VI | | | | | | | | | | |
| VII | | | | | | | | | | |
| VIII | | | | | | | | | | |
| IX | | | | | | | | | | |
| X | | | | | | | | | | |

Position in the plate

8c. (4) with right margin

10c. (10)

10c. (4) with right margin

10c. strip of 4 and 3

10c. pair



15c. (12),

20c. (4),

20c. strip of 4 and 5



40c. (30), 40c. (8)

40c. strip of 5



60c. (8), 80c. (4),

1p. (4),

1p. strip of 5



5. POSTAL HISTORY

5.1 COMPLETE SET USED STAMPS

Periodicals or Newspapers stamps



Postal stamps.



Cancellation projects



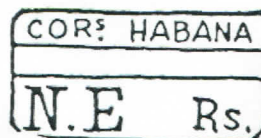
Type 340



Type 309



Other cancellations



Type 205

Fiscal use

Ferrocarril (By train) use



Historical cancelations



20th of April, 1898
Spanish government
5 days before the war begun



11th of May, 1898
Spanish Government
during the war



30th of Nov, 1898
US Administration
after the war, 10 days
before the Treaty of Paris

Philatelic Forgeries vs genuine.

The following blocks are considered Philatelic Forgeries. The perforation is 14 the same like the genuine but was made by a sewing machine. The separation between the stamps individually did not occur in the genuine.

Genuine



Philatelic forgeries



Philatelic forgeries

The following stamps represent the philatelic forgeries which most have been produced to deceive or defraud the collectors. The images represent the difference between the forgeries vs the genuine stamps.



The forgery represents different type of letters also on top of "Y" is missing or has a different type of shade. Between "CUBA" and "1898" there is a different line or sometimes missing.

4 MILESIMAS

With this face value is found two different type of shades.



Light shade



Dark shade

15 CENTAVOS

No perforation between stamps



Postal Forgery

6 CENTAVOS stamp has been found in a cover from Havana to Leipzig (Germany) during the last year of the Spanish Administration. The same type of forgery is shown:



Postal forgery



Genuine



Perforations

Moved downwards



Moved upwards



Moved to the right



Moved to the left



Santiago de Cuba (Principal Administration)

Oriente Province

Barcelona

Cataluña Region, Spain

Four 1 milesima



Cover with a total fare of 4 milesimas from Havana to Barcelona final destination. The envelope was never sealed in order to prove the Post Office the printing matter contents. The stamps were canceled with a numbered circular datestamp from Santiago bearing the number "4" with date of 19th of March 1898.

Havana (Central Administration)
Barcelona
2c and 3c

Havana Province
Cataluña Region, Spain



Two cover fronts from Havana origin to Barcelona final destination bearing two stamps one of 2 milesimas and another of 3 milesimas with a total amount of 5 milesimas for a printed matter to Spain. The stamps were canceled with a circular obliteration from the Post Office of Havana on 18th October 1898. The reason of one extra milesima might have been considered as penalty for the usage of spanish stamps.

Havana (Central Administration)
Barcelona
Two 2 milesimas

Havana Province
Cataluña Region, Spain



Cover front from Havana origin to Barcelona final destination bearing two stamps of 2 milesimas with a total fare of 4 milesimas for a printed matter to Spain. The stamps were canceled with a circular obliteration from the Post Office of Havana on 18th November 1898.



Type 271

Havana (Central Administration)

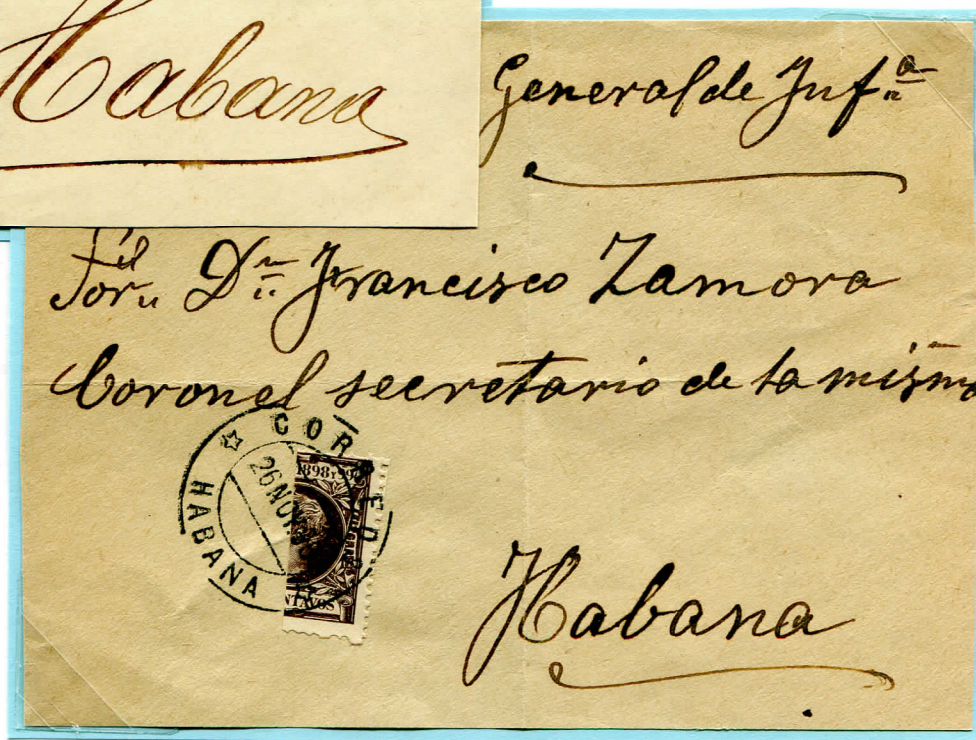
Havana Province

Havana (Central Administration)

Havana Province



Type 309



Two front of covers from Havana post office to Havana final destination. On both there is a bisected stamp of 3c to reduce its value to 1.5c for the service within the same city called "drop". The stamps were cancelled with the same date with a circular date stamp cancel. It is very unusual to find a stamp bisected horizontally.

New York

New York State, USA

2c



Envelope from unknown location to New York final destination. The cover has a two cent stamp representing the printed matter to USA, therefore explains why never was sealed in order to let the employees of the post office to verify to contents. There is a "5" on blue crayon on the front which could explain that was a single rate of 5c for normal delivery instead of a printed matter.

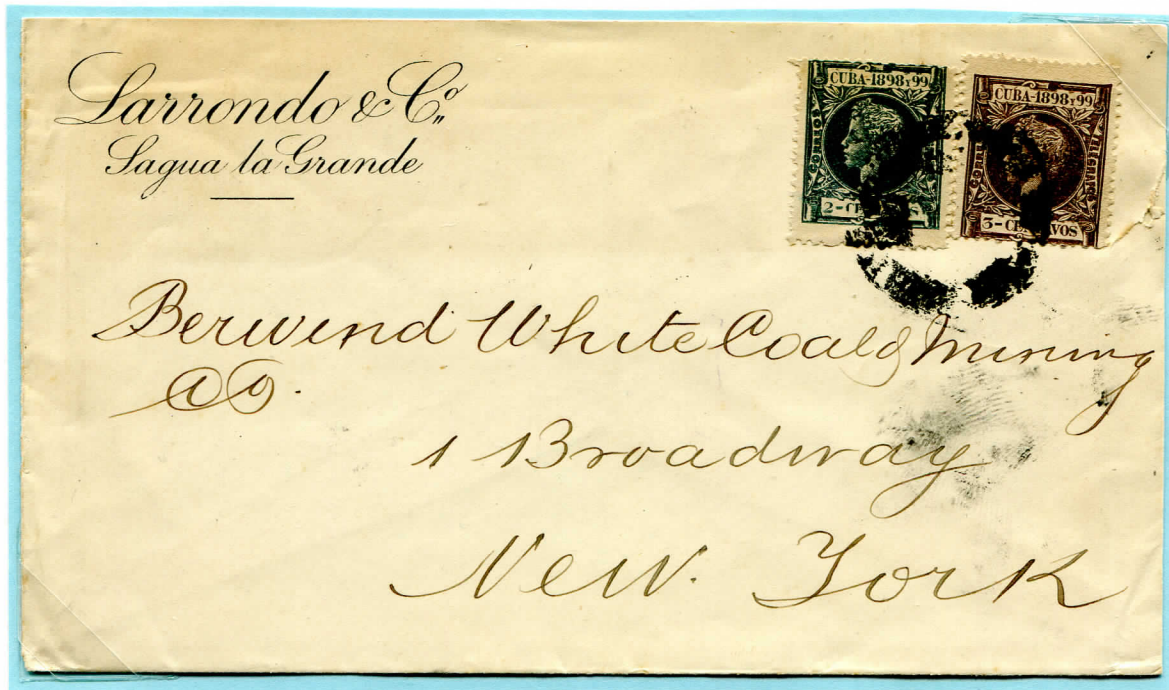
Sagua La Grande (2nd Class Administration)

Villa Clara Province

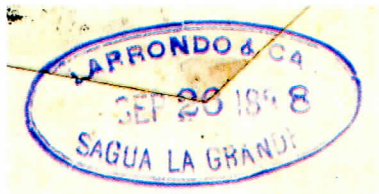
New York

New York State, USA

2c and 3c



Cover bearing one stamp of 2c and 3c with a total amount of 5c from Sagua La Grande to New York final destination up to ½ ounce of weight for a single rate to USA. The cover was cancel with a numbered circular datestamp from Sagua la Grande with number 210 on the 26th of September and arrived at New York on the 1st of October 1898.



Merchant's cancel



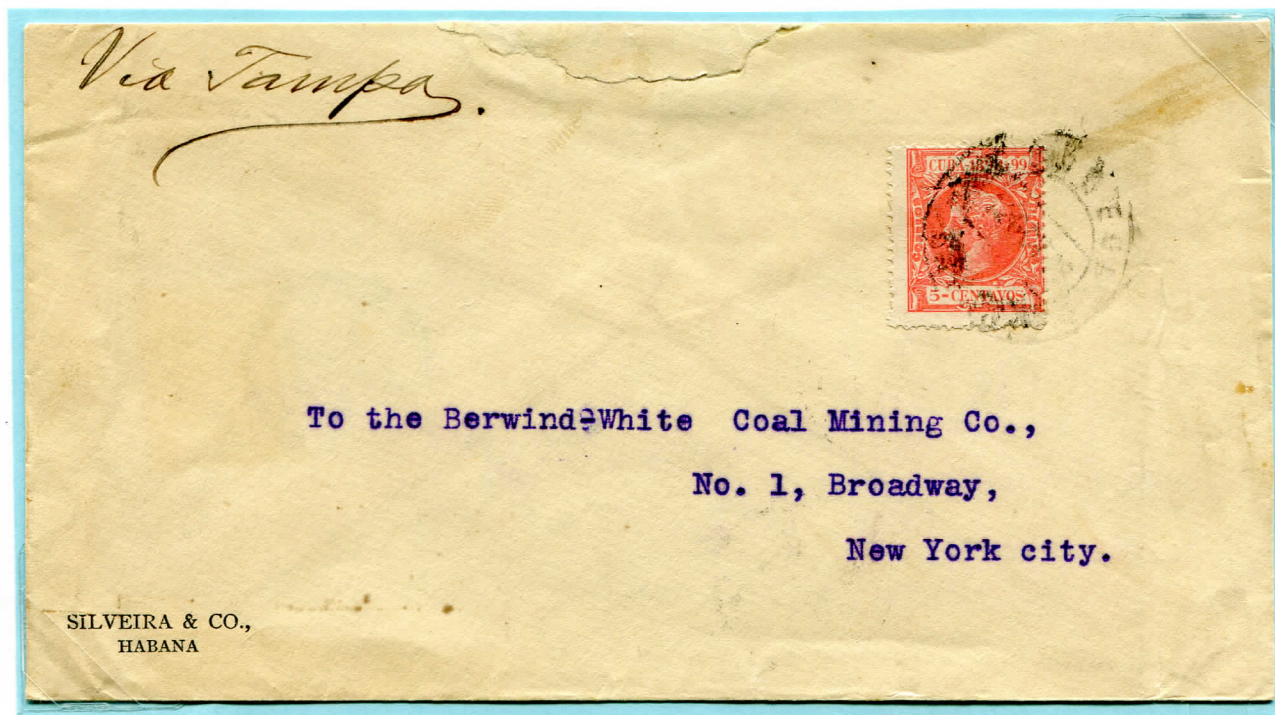
New York's cancel

Havana (Central Administration)

Havana Province

New York

New York State, USA



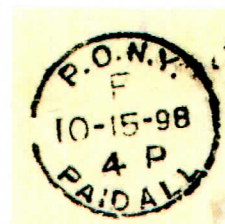
Cover bearing a stamp of 5c from Havana origin to New York final destination for a single rate up to ½ ounce of weight to USA. The stamp was canceled at the Post Office of Havana on the 12th of October went "Via Tampa" and arrived at New York on the 15th of October 1898. The cover did not receive a penalty fee for using Spanish stamps.



TYPE 309



Havana merchant's cancelation



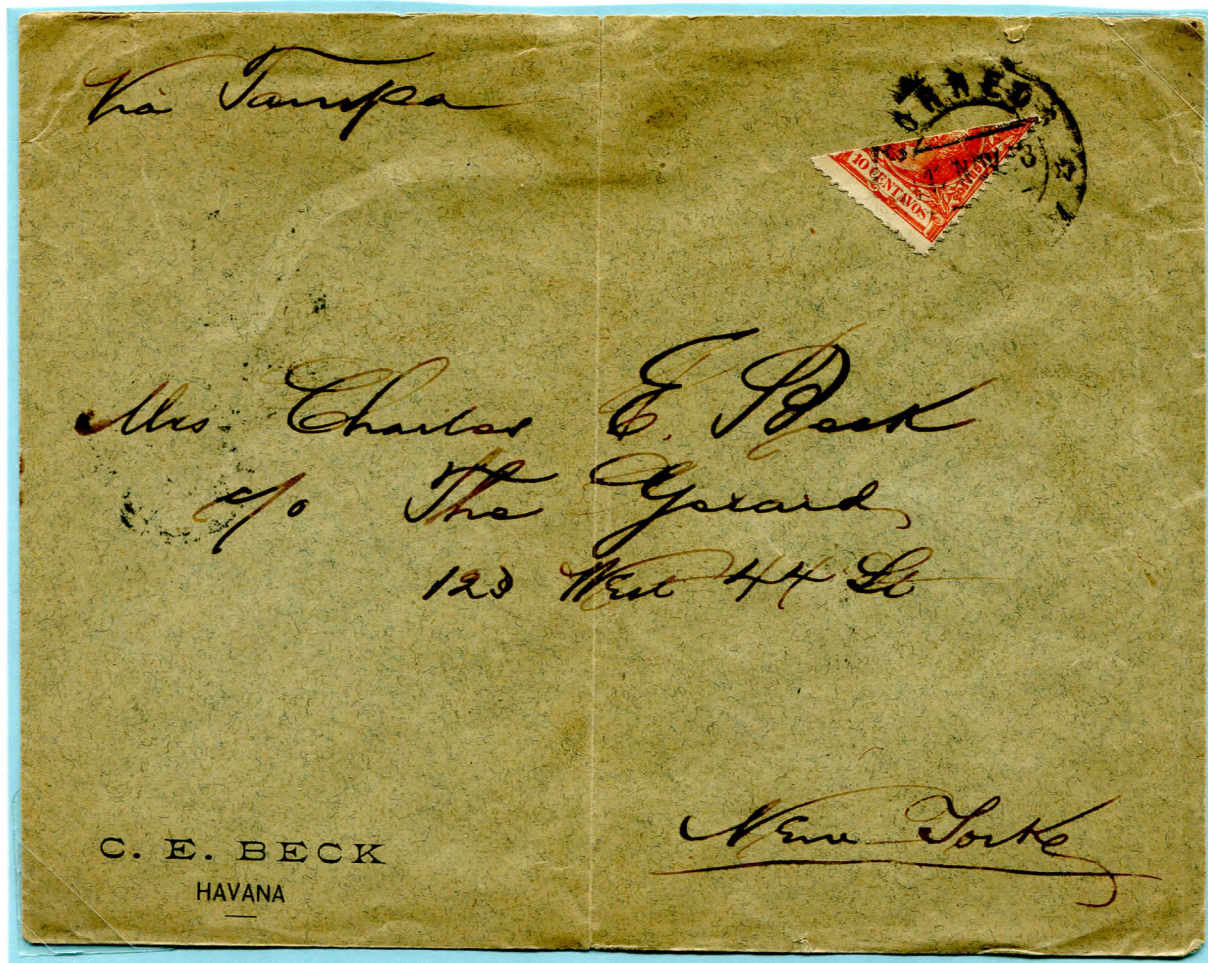
New York cancel

Havana (Central Administration)

Havana Province

New York

New York State, USA



Cover with a bisected stamp of 10c to reduce the value down to 5c from Havana to New York final destination up to ½ ounce of weight for a single rate. The cover left Havana on the 1st of November and was sent "Via Tampa", from Florida State went by train until final destination in New York arriving on the 7th of November 1898. The cover did not receive a penalty fee for using Spanish stamps.



Type 309



On reverse, cancelation from NY.

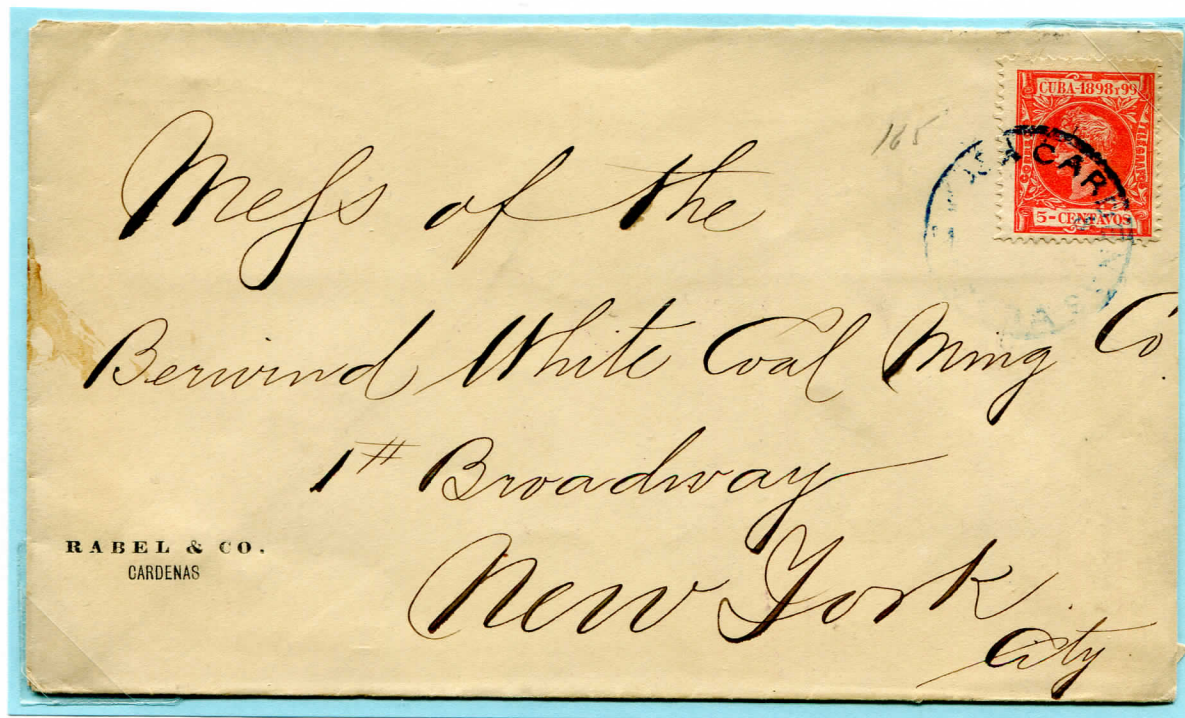
Cardenas (2nd Class Administration)

Matanzas Province

New York

New York State, USA

5 c.



Cover bearing one stamp of 5c from Cardenas to New York final destination with Havana transit. The 5c represent the single rate to USA up to ½ ounce of weight. The stamp was canceled with a numbered circular datestamp from Cardenas with a number "5", the cover arrived at Havana Post Office on 16th of November 1898 (observe inside the cancellation "10-11 M" which could be represented as at 11 past 10 in the morning). The cover doesn't have any penalty fee for using spanish stamps.



Cancellation from sending merchant's office



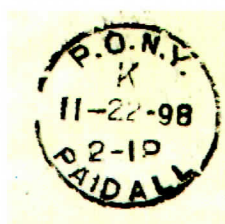
Type 355

Havana (Principal Administration)
New York
3c and 2c

Havana Province
New York State, USA



Cover with two stamps one of 2c and another of 3c with a total fare of 5c from Havana origin to New York final destination. The stamps were cancel with a numbered circular datestamp with number "1" which corresponds to Havana Post Office. The 5c represented the single rate to USA up to ½ ounce of weight without any penalty for using Spanish stamps. The cover arrived on the 22nd of November 1898.

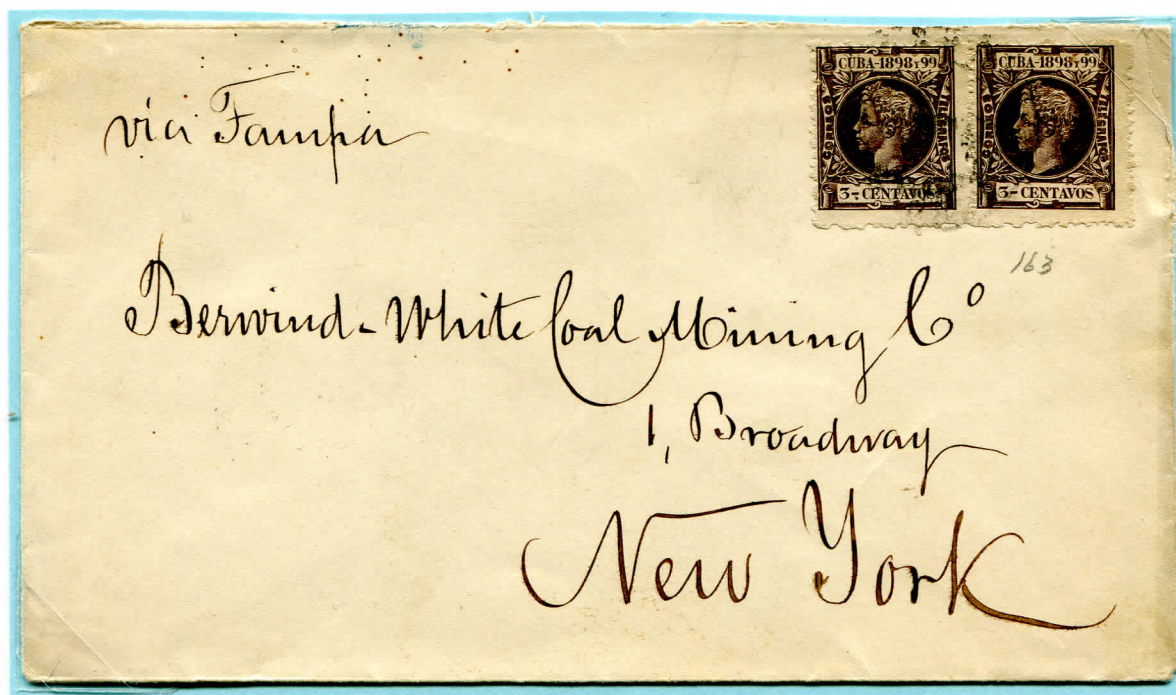


Reverse side shows the cancel made at New York.

Havana (Principal Administration)
New York
Two 3c

Havana Province
New York State, USA

Cover with two 3c with a total of 6c from Havana origin to New York final destination. The cover went "Via Tampa" and from Florida State went on train to New York Post Office. The cover was originated at the sending merchant's office on the 2nd of December who turned it to the post office of Havana and arrived on the 7th of December 1898. The normal rate to USA was 5c for a single rate up to ½ ounce of weight, the extra 1c was applied as penalty fee for the usage of Spanish stamps.



New York's cancelation



Merchant's cancelation

Santiago de Cuba (Principal Administration)
Madrid
40c, 10c, 5c and 4c.

Oriente Province
Castilla la Nueva, Spain



Cover with four stamps one of 40c, 10c, 5c and 4c with a total fare of 59c from Santiago de Cuba to Madrid final destination with transit in New York. The stamps were canceled at Santiago on the 3rd of April receiving the rectangular cancellation with and "R" of Registered. Arrived in New York on 11th of April shown with and oval cancellation and being registered as well. Finally, the cover arrived in Madrid on 2nd Of April 1898.



Cancelation used in New York on reverse side.

Cienfuegos (1st Class Administration)

Santa Clara Province

Barcelona

Cataluña Region, Spain

Two 1c two 3c



Cover front bearing two stamps of 1c and two stamps of 3c with a total fare of 8c from Cienfuegos to Barcelona final destination representing double rate up to 100 grams for printed matter to Spain. The stamps were canceled on the 18th of September 1898. The name of Victor Salcines does not represent the steamer which took the cover to Spain represents the new name of the sender who sent the letter.

Havana (Central Administration)
Gravenhage
Four 3c and one 1c.

Havana Province
Holland

Cover from Havana to Gravenhage, Holland final destination with transit in Paris. The cover was canceled with a total fare of 13c which were represented by 5c single rate plus another 5c for registration plus 2c for a "A.R." (Acknowledge of receipt) and probably 1c for penalties for the usage of Spanish stamps. The cover arrived in Paris Post office and received a circular date cancel dated on the 8th of November and arrived at final destination on the following day 9th of November 1898.



Cancellation in Holland.



Reverse side to show the "A.R." on blue crayon

Cienfuegos (1st Class Administration)

Santa Clara Province

Barcelona

Cataluña Region, Spain

One 2c two 3c



Cover front bearing one stamp of 2c and two stamps of 3c with a total fare of 8c from Cienfuegos to Barcelona final destination representing double rate up to 100 grams for printed matter to Spain. The stamps were canceled on the 13th of December 1898.