

Matanzas Issue of 11 May 1936 – The first centros de hoja with horizontal and vertical gutters

Ten years were to pass before these next centros de hoja were produced. It was 1936, just 3 years after the U.S. production of the cross gutter “Proclamation”. It was truly a departure in design for Cuba and an extensive one at that. The set was to commemorate the first anniversary of the opening of the free port of Matanzas.



11 May 1936 – 2 centavos, used block of 9
Map of Matanzas Bay
12,300 sheets printed

Using the London based Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. for the production, fourteen perforate stamps and 14 identical, but imperforate, stamps were issued all on one day. They included regular postage, airmail, special delivery and airmail special delivery. All had a vertical and a horizontal gutter, 28mm in width, with a pair of dashed lines down the middle. There were 25 stamps (5 x 5) in each of the four panes for a total of 100 stamps on the sheet. That same design was to be used with one major and several minor variations over the next 16 years.

Matanzas Issue

Series of 14 perforated and 14
imperforate stamps

1 centavo
Geographical situation
of Cuba on a map
9,800 sheets printed



2 centavos
Map of Matanzas Bay
12,300 sheets printed

4 centavos
Ship "Rex" in Matanzas Bay
1,300 sheets printed





Matanzas Issue

Series of 14 perforated and 14 imperforate stamps

5 centavos

Free trade zone and ship
4,300 sheets printed

8 centavos
Bellamar caves
550 sheets printed



10 centavos

Yumuri valley

1,300 sheets printed

Matanzas Issue

Series of 14 perforated and 14 imperforate stamps

50 centavos – Matanzas coast
300 sheets printed



Philatelic Memories of Cuba (1939-1961) by Sergio Cano.

Sergio Cano is the oldest active Cuban stamp dealer following on his father's footsteps, Alfredo Cano, who introduced him to the family business. Here is an excerpt from an interview: "In the 1940s my father bought from engineer Mr. Marcet, six complete sets of sheets of 75 stamps (not 100 as in a full sheet) of the Matanzas issue, perforated and imperforated. The missing 25 stamps had been sold in panes of 25 stamps, which was a common practice at the time. In that way the corresponding sheet centers were eliminated because nobody was interested in them in those days. The printing consisted of 30,000 full sets perforated and 20,000 imperforated, which resulted in 300 complete perforated sheet center sets and 200 imperforated. In this way most of these sheet centers were destroyed and I calculate that only between 5 and 6 sets may have survived. Paradoxically, it is very possible that the imperforated ones are easier to find."



How many centros de hoja survived is anybody's guess – but not very many.

10 centavos special delivery
Mercury
600 sheets printed

Matanzas Issue

Series of 14 perforated and 14 imperforate stamps

5 centavos airmail
Aerial vista of Matanzas
2,200 sheets printed



10 centavos airmail
Concordia bridge and the
U.S. airship "Macon"
400 sheets printed

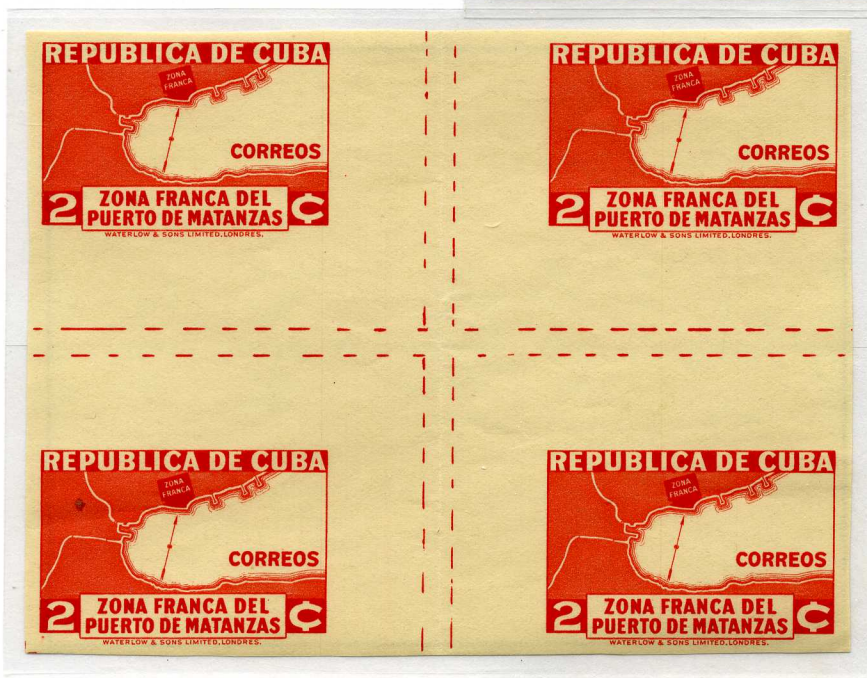
15 centavos
airmail special delivery
Maya Lighthouse
300 sheets printed
used



Matanzas Issue

Series of 14 perforated
and 14 imperforate
stamps

1 centavo – imperforate
Geographical situation
of Cuba on a map
200 sheets printed



2 centavos – imperforate
Map of Matanzas Bay
200 sheets printed

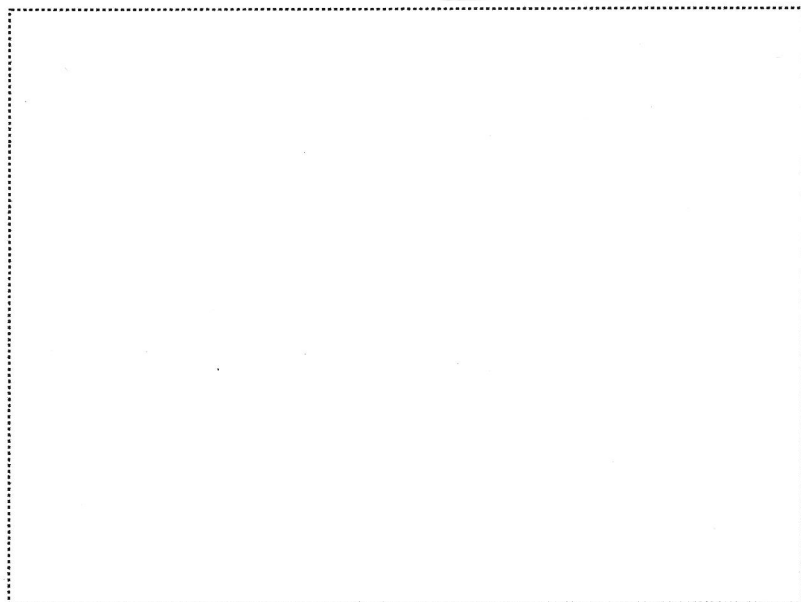
4 centavos – imperforate
Ship *Rex* in Matanzas Bay
200 sheets printed



Matanzas Issue

Series of 14 perforated and
14 imperforate stamps

5 centavos – imperforate
air mail
air view of Matanzas Bay
200 sheets printed



15 centavos – imperforate
airmail special delivery
Maya Lighthouse
200 sheets printed
used

