

CANCELS OF THE REPUBLIC

by Rudy Roy

While going through an assortment of covers, the idea occurred to me that the cancels, especially those of the Republic, would be a good study area, and, a subject for an article in the Journal. Concurrently this area might just be the specialty area one of you readers might like to follow up on, for it is an area of study I have not seen developed thus far.

Let me say that I do not intend for this to be definitive, as many of you will perceive quickly, for the information and cancels I have illustrated come from only one source -my accumulation of covers, which I do not pretend to be all inclusive. If this subject appeals to you, Bill Jones and I would be more than glad to include this area as a -- section in the catalogue, and would welcome someone coordinating this project, with appropriate credit for your work as author. Write us in care of the Editor.

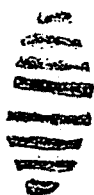
Now to the cancels. The first one (Fig. 1), is a duplex CDS with a diameter of 30mm., with the killer bar 27mm. by 11.5mm. This would appear to have been in common use throughout the island, for I have - examples used in Havana and Santiago, and have seen other towns and - cities.

Figure 2 is another common early duplex CDS with killer bar, but with the addition of a figure in the center of the killer, and the year in now outside the date circle, between it and the killer bar.

I include the figure 3 only to show the continuing use in the -- early days of the Republic of Spanish-era cancels. How many other examples one could find is open to speculation.



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Figure 4 is an early machine cancel. The date circle has a diameter of 20mm., and the flag portion is 55mm. by 20mm., with the overall width 83mm. In addition to the "1" and "T" in the flag portion, I have also seen the letter "D", and surmise that there are probably more - combinations. I have seen a similar cancel, but without the "1", used as late as 1953.

Figure 5 is the earliest airmail cancel I have seen, and I assume is use for little more than two years, for it was soon replaced by the next example.

The cancel in figure 6, with the airplane, is the only "pictorial" cancel I have seen used on ordinary mail. The slogan translates as - "Use the Airmail Service-Save time". It is the commonest airmail cancel I have seen.

Figure 7 is the first use of an advertising cancel that I have - seen, is bi-lingual, and definitely directed towards overseas customers of Cuban tobacco.

The cancel in figure 8 is directed towards residents of Cuba, and it translates as "Buy Cuban Products - Protect the National Industry".

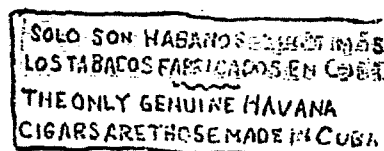
Figure 9 is self-explanatory, of good timing, for the years of it was used (1942) during the Second World War, American tourists could probably go to few other countries safely.

Figures 10 and 11 represent two cancels commemorating Doctor Finlay and his work to conquer yellow fever. Figure 11 seems, from my - collection, to have been used more than the other, and for quite some time. In fact, I would class this cancel as the most common one that I have seen.



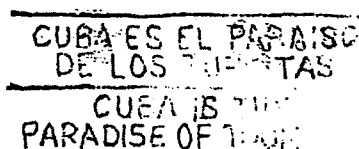
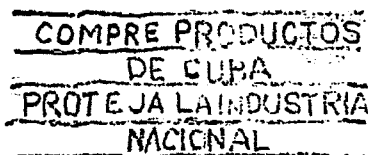
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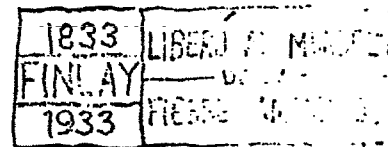
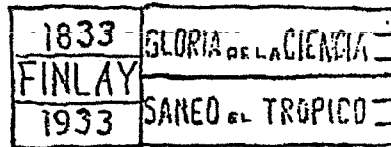
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The cancel of figure 12 saw much use after the war, due in no -- small measure to sugar being Cuba's first crop and principal export.

A rather plain datestamp with wavy lines killer appears in the - 50's, as shown in figure 13. And figure 14, again bi-lingual, promotes Cuba's second crop and export product: Cuban Cigars.

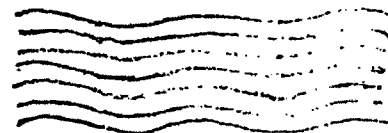
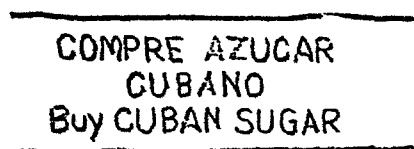
In summary, this is a very superficial treatment of a subject that can lead to in-depth research, at a modest cost. I have not discussed or illustrated all the cancels, I am sure, nor have I touched the other areas of Republic cancels - registry, certified mail, first day cancels receiving marks, etc., more areas than I have thought of.

When I speak of modest cost, all of these I have described came from very ordinary covers just accumulated in the progress of building my collection. The cancels described were in use every day, on ordinary mail, and should provide the specialist researcher a rich field for study.



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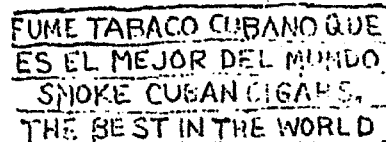
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If you have similar cancels, used in other cities, with earlier - dates of use, this confirming information would be of great benefit in determining periods of use and places where these cancels were used. - Additional cancels surely exist, and could be added to this modest beginning. Until someone assumes the leadership of this study area, - write to the author with your information.



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REUNIONES DE MIAMI:

(E) El Club celebrá sus reuniones en Miami los VIERNES de 8:00 a 10:00 P.M., en el local del First Federal, 2750 Coral Way (22nd Street), en el Community Room del 2do piso. Todos estas invitados para que asistan.

(E) The meetings are held in Miami every Friday from 8:00 P. M. till 10:00 P.M., 2750 Coral Way, First Federal Building, 2nd floor.