

The Third Printing of the First Issue for the Spanish Antilles

PURPOSE & SCOPE

This traditional exhibit presents a comprehensive study of the third printing of the first stamps of the Spanish Antilles and their postal uses. These were printed and distributed for use in Cuba and Puerto Rico. This exhibit covers the eight-year period from their issuance in 1857 to their replacement in 1864.

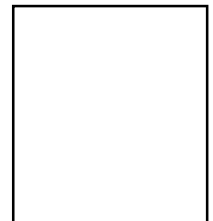
BACKGROUND

In May 1840, Great Britain issued the first postage stamp. Other countries soon followed. Spain, following the Postal Decree of 1849, issued its first stamp on January 1850. On December 19, 1854, a Royal Decree called for the use of stamps to prepay postage in the Antilles, i.e., Cuba and Puerto Rico, starting in March 1855. The first Spanish Antilles stamps were placed in circulation in late April 1855.

ORGANIZATION The exhibit consists of four chapters, covering the years 1857-1864

Chapters

- I Precursors
- II 1857 Isabel II Issue
- III 1857 Isabel II Postal Forgeries
- IV 1864 The End of an Era



IMPORTANCE

The 1857 printings of the Isabel II issues were the longest running issues of all the stamps printed for the Cuba and Puerto Rico under Spain's monarchy. They were the first postage stamps printed on un-watermark machine made paper for Spain and its possessions. These were issued during the classic period of the most important Spanish possession, and the most revenue productive colony at the time.

HIGHLIGHTS

Printed matter correspondence, usage from Guara, combination cover of Spain & Antilles stamps, Oval Certificado canceler cover, earliest example of the 1/2 Real damage upper corner, and one of the largest postal franking of the Spanish Antilles for the exhibit period.

Shorten Bibliography

Some of the reference material used in the exhibit includes;

"Catálogo Especializado Sellos De Cuba Tomo I, 1855 – 1958"; third edition; Edifil SA

"Postal History of Cuba, The First Issue of Spanish Antilles and Isabelinas Emissions 1855. 1864 – 1869", Echenagusia Garcia, Carlos; Philatelic Society of Madrid (SOFI)

"A Handbook of Cuban Stamps"; McP. Jones, William & Roy Jr., Rudy J.; Cuban Philatelic Society of America

"Cuban Postal History Guide". Iglesias, Fernando J. Cubapostalhistory, 2017

¡Catálogo Histórico Postal de Cuba (1855-1898)", Abreu-Pérez, José-Ignacio, Federación Española de Sociedades Filatélicas, (FESOFI), 1996

Designator Keys

Rare items are framed in **Red**, scarce items are framed in **BLUE**

Rarity is based on published philatelic literature and/or on the opinion of members of the Cuban Philatelic Societies.

Route & Rate boxes.

Dates in **GREEN** are estimated; RD stands for Royal Decree; **GREEN BOX** used for Domestic rates; **BLUE BOX** Overseas rates.



Exhibitors research are shown in **VIOLET**

'e' = Expertizing certificate