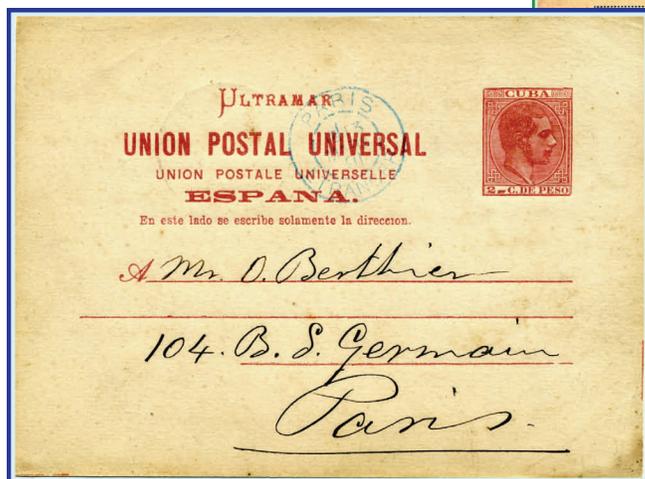
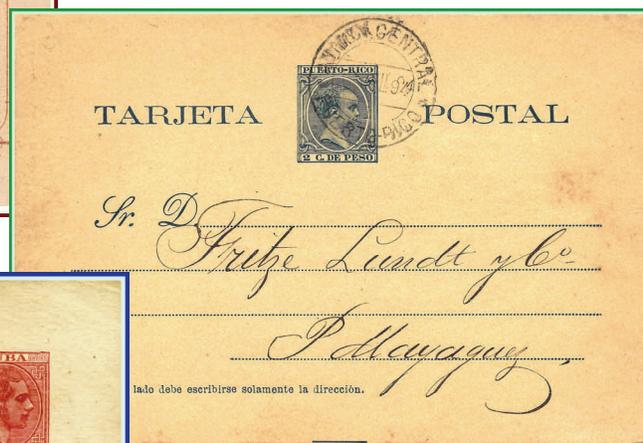


UNITED POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY



POSTAL CARDS OF SPANISH COLONIAL CUBA, PHILIPPINES AND PUERTO RICO



ROBERT LITTRELL — CUBA

DONALD PETERSON — PHILIPPINES

BYRON MITCHELL — PUERTO RICO

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Publisher's Preface

The United Postal Stationery Society is an international organization of collectors of worldwide postal stationery. A major objective of the Society is to publish books and other reference materials of value and importance to the philatelic community. These publications represent significant contributions to philatelic knowledge and are devoted primarily, but not exclusively, to postal stationery.

This book represents one of the many publications supported by the Lewandowski Fund. The Fund is a result of a generous bequest of the United Postal Stationery Society from Arthur Lewandowski, a member of the Society.

Dan Undersander
UPSS Publication Manager

Publications of the United Postal Stationery Society currently in print include the following:

- The United States Postal Card Catalog
- Postal Cards of the World's Columbian Exposition
- United States Multiple Advertising and Discount Postal Cards
- Historical Catalog of U.S. Postal Card Essays and Proofs
- Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States
- Catalog of the 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States
- Catalog of United States Envelope Essays and Proofs
- Cutting Knives of the 19th and 20th Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States
- U.S. Specimens: Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers
- Thomas Leavitt, History and Postal Markings, 1875-1892
- Catalogue of Propaganda-Advertising Postal Cards of the U.S.S.R., 1927-1934
- The Postal Stationery of the Possessions and Administrative Areas of the United States of America, 3rd Ed., 2009

Three additional UPSS publications currently out of print but usually available through philatelic literature dealers that provide valuable collateral material:

- A Contemporary Account of the First United States Postal Card 1870 - 1875
- Plating of the First United States Postal Card
- The United States International Postal Cards of 1879-1897-1898, Volume 1 Plating

For additional information on these and other publications and activities of the Society write to:

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or go to the UPSS website at: <http://www.upss.org/>

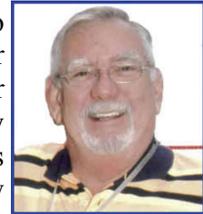
Editors Notes:

This project got off the ground in Pittsburgh at the annual convention of the American Philatelic Society in August, 2009. Several people I talked to were in favor of doing a work on Spanish colonial period cards. Ronald Gonzáles mentioned to me that Byron Mitchell knew a lot and had published in the area of Puerto Rico. George Krieger, the Editor with whom I had worked on the U.S. Possessions, Cuban Section, was supportive. He followed it up with an email to me saying he had confirmed that the UPSS would be interested in publishing a book on the postal cards of the Spanish period of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Ernesto Cuesta then pointed me in the direction of Donald Peterson to work on Philippines. Soon the team was assembled. I can't imagine assembling more knowledgeable and professional persons for the subject matter at hand.

Donald J. Peterson lives in Washington, D.C. He retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004. He is an international authority on Spanish Philippine philately topics. He has had over 270 articles and three books published in this area. Don worked with the Philippine Consulate in Washington, DC, and with the Philippine Bureau of Posts, on a trip to Manila in 2002 to promote Philippine stamp collecting. In 2008, Don became the Overseas Coordinator of the International Philippine Philatelic Society, which led to reorganization of the Society, implementation of new efforts to promote Philippine stamp collecting, expanded the awards program, and issued a color technical journal. He was President of the Collectors Club of Washington and led the formation of the Washington Stamp Collectors Club in 2006, where he served as its first President.



Byron Mitchell was born and raised and continues to reside in Puerto Rico where he recently retired after managing a AM/FM Radio broadcasting concern for over thirty years. He started stamp collecting at the age of twelve and been at it ever since. In the late seventies he decided to specialize only in Puerto Rico postal history with emphasis on the postal stationery that Spain issued for the island. He served as president of the Puerto Rico Philatelic Society in 2006-07 and has exhibited cards a few times in the States. He writes articles for his monthly bulletin. He tells me he likes discovering a card which has traveled to an unusual destination.



I am retired too. I refer to myself as a “recovering attorney”. I have come to the field of postal stationery more recently than my brethren on this project. Like Don, I am not Hispanic, but love Cuba philately and have poured myself into its study for a number of years and now claim a degree of expertise. My most recent project for UPSS was co-authoring the Cuba section of *U.S. Possessions*. I manage a website which deals exclusively with the postal stationery of Cuba. I would like to thank **Octavio Cabrera** with whom I have collaborated on a couple of published articles on the UPU cards of Cuba. Thanks also to **Ernesto Cuesta**, Cuban collector extraordinaire, who has provided most of the new positions of Cuba UPSS 1 and 2 not identified by Laiz, translated and refined the definitions and characteristics of the plate positions from Edifil, and provided lots of scans and other guidance.



This catalog cannot be the last word on the subject. Discoveries and research reveal new information and, alas, humans do err. Please feel free to contact me if you have new or different information. My email: robert.littrell@comcast.net

Robert Littrell, Editor

POSTAL CARDS OF SPANISH COLONIAL CUBA, PHILIPPINES AND PUERTO RICO

Introduction

The authors of this volume welcome you to what we consider an interesting pursuit: the study of postal stationery. In this case, postal cards produced in Spain for their colonies of Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico. Before we diverge into the separate colonies, some words are in order about things in common. Because all stamps and postal cards were printed at the *Fabrica Nacional del Sello* (National Stamp Company) in Madrid, Spain, and because in many instances plates were used and reused interchangeably from one colony to the next by substituting indicia with a different colony name for each printing, the reader will see some duplication of efforts. To the extent possible, we have tried to minimize that. Some of the common topics follow:

Postal Cards and the Universal Postal Union

It was in 1869 that Austria produced the first postal card in the world. Many other European countries followed that lead in the first years after that. The U.S. issued its penny post card in 1873 and Spain joined their company that year also.

Spain was an early proponent of uniform standards and participated in the Postal Convention of Paris in June 1863, an early precursor of the eventual General Postal Union. The G.P.U. was the result of the Treaty of Berne signed on 9 October 1874. Spain signed the treaty along with the United States and 19 other countries. This, likewise, was a forerunner of the series of multilateral conventions and came into force in the following year, when the union was formally established, on 1 July 1875, to administer its operative regulations. On 1 June 1878, the Second Congress changed the name to "Universal Postal Union". It was this Congress in Paris which instigated the use of postal cards by Spain's colonies. It provided uniform postal procedures for transmitting international mail among its member nations. It established rules for sending and receiving mail, as well as the postal rates. Indirectly, it also affected procedures and postal rates for international mail between non-member countries and for interior mail as well (Peterson and Lewis, 2000).

In Spain, the new treaty rates and procedures were promulgated on 1 July 1876 as a result of a royal order from Madrid dated 15 July 1875. Inclusion in the G.P.U. and subsequent changes to rates and procedures were not immediately applicable to the colonies. On 18 January 1876, the G.P.U. members called for a special conference in Berne, Switzerland to consider the admission of new applicants. At that conference, the Spanish delegate announced the intention of his government to request admission for the Spanish colonies. Although British India and most French colonies were admitted, the British refused to discuss the admission of any additional colonies. However, restrictions were relaxed and a number of colonies were allowed to join. Although the G.P.U. allowed each colony to join independently, in reality, it was the authorities in Spain that made this decision for her colonies. On 1 May 1877 all Spanish colonies including Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines joined the G.P.U.

It was in 1878 that the postal card was introduced in Cuba, Philippines and Puerto Rico. Their use was sparse, though, and used postal cards of the early years are exceedingly rare. The reasons for the lack of original use were that people were loath to print their financial or personal matters open to the public view and the fact that there was no initial difference in letter and postal card rates making it

even less attractive.

In 1880 U.P.U. postal cards were printed in Spain for use in Cuba to take advantage of the new treaties. It was in 1881 that the Philippines were provided with U.P.U. cards, but Puerto Rico was not furnished with them until 1885. The benefits provided by the treaty included:

- there should be a more or less uniform flat rate to mail a letter or postal card anywhere in the world;
- postal authorities should give equal treatment to foreign and domestic mail; and
- each country should retain all monies it collected for international postage.

On 21 March 1885 the Congress of Lisbon dealt with, among other things, paid reply postal cards. The U.P.U. countries agree that the Convention of Paris of 1 June 1878 would be altered as follows:

- All the Contracting Countries are not bound to issue cards with reply paid, but they assume the obligation of returning the reply halves of cards received from other countries of the Union.
- Correspondence consisting of the reply halves of double postal cards, returned to the country of origin, are exempt from all charges for territorial or sea transit.
- For post cards, 10 centimes (2 cents in U.S. currency) for single cards or for each of the two halves of cards with reply paid.

In the Vienna Congress of 1891 it was determined that the sender could add his own name and address to the address side of the card relaxing previous restrictions. But it was not until 1 October 1907 when the U.P.U. Congress in Rome made it permissible to send cards with communication on the address side to any country in the world at the postcard rate.

Card Stock, Color and Time

People purchasing postal cards these days can expect a certain uniformity in the card stock color, thickness, size and stiffness. Not so in the 19th century and, in particular, 19th century Spain. First of all, the card stock varied in all of these attributes. Catalogs sometimes attempt to classify the cards into “buff” or “cream” or “amber” or “yellow” and to some extent they had to because quite distinct cards can and were produced on different colored paper. But add to that the element of time and today, over 100 years later, we are dealing with a different situation. Each of our countries is in the tropics. Tropicalization is the result of heat and humidity. To that add sunlight, acidity and quality of the original cardstock used. All affect the way the cards appear today. Identically produced cards may appear drastically different today depending on their conditions of storage. Likewise, the color of the indicium also is affected by these same processes. Although such differences may be substantial, cards are not generally collected for these differences.

Printing Conditions

Lithography was not available to the printers at Fabrica Nacional del Sello. Each card was individually typeset and engraved from bins of individual letters which were sorted by size, letter, and case. Twenty of these cards were then assembled in a pattern four cards across and five cards down.

Because each card was individually typeset, variations are inevitable. Study of whole sheets that have survived have allowed us to state with certainty where a particular card was in the scheme of

things. Whole sheets exist for 1878, 1879 (plate 1 of 2) and 1899 Fernando Poo which turned out to be the same as 1898 Cuba and Puerto Rico. (As we will see later, the 1892 - 1898 cards of Cuba and Puerto Rico were printed in sheets of ten instead of twenty.) Several uncut sections of cards exist. There is also “printers waste” consisting of double printing with one of the printings inverted which gives further clues as to the positions on the plate.

Position 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

As earlier stated, the printers in Madrid saved themselves hours of time by merely substituting the indicia with a different denomination, changed the color of the ink and ran the next batch. Likewise, after they printed one countries’ cards, they could use the same setup with different indicia and run another colony’s cards. It was after printing so many of a card that the quality deteriorated to the extent that a new plate was needed and the process of substitution started all over again.

Condition and Prices

It is important for the collector to keep two very important considerations in mind when estimating the value of any of the postal stationery listed and priced in this catalog:

1. **CONDITION.** Mint or unused prices are for fresh, clean, not creased and all corners perfect condition. Used copies are priced not only for showing postal service with a clear legible strike but bearing full postal markings and properly franked. Items that are torn, dirty or soiled, creased or "dog-earned" are worth only a fraction of the listed prices except those unique items that exist only in these conditions or where the known number is so small as to make the above rigid standard on condition inapplicable.

2. **PRICES.** Prices are normally based on current market prices, with a small percentage markup to cover minor fluctuations in dealers' prices. On items never before catalogued, prices are weighted average valuations, being the opinion of the experts in the field, based on the latest and best information concerning known quantities, and as such, should not be considered as a "fixed" price but rather as a guideline. Used prices are for the most common cancellation. Small towns, instructional markings, added stamps for added fees (such as for registration) usually command a premium to the price listed.

Special Acknowledgment

Ángel Laiz Castro was and remains the preeminent authority on the postal cards of Spain and her colonies. His detailed and well-illustrated publications, which include the Spanish Philippines, Cuba and Puerto Rico, are a source of much of the information contained in this book and are listed in the References.

Terminology

The term “postal card” is purposefully employed to denote prepaid franking of cards purchased from postal authorities, as opposed to “postcard” which would apply to any commercially available outlet and most likely illustrated by pictures.

No prepaid postal envelopes or wrappers were printed by Spain for use in any of the three colonies. That would have to await the United States occupation of the islands in 1899.

POSTAL CARDS ISSUED BY SPAIN FOR USE IN CUBA

by Robert Littrell with Octavio Cabrera on U.P.U. cards

A series of postal cards was issued from 1878 to 1898. The issues will be discussed and illustrated in as much detail as possible:

1. 1878 Interior
2. 1879 Interior
3. 1880 - 1881 - 1882 U.P.U. single and double (paid reply) cards
4. 1882 Interior (meaning within the Spanish empire and the United States)
5. 1888
6. 1890
7. 1892 (and 1896 reprint of the 2 centavos card)
8. 1894 (and 1896 reprint of the 4 centavos card)
9. 1898 single and double (paid reply) cards

1878—Cuba's First Postal Card

UPSS 1, Position 1



UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination	Circulation
1	blue & orange on buff	25 céntimos de peseta	1879
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello — Size: 144 x 96 mm; Issue date: 1878			

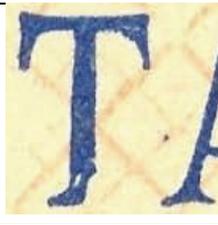
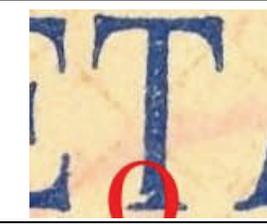
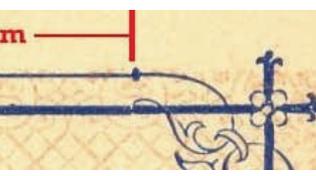
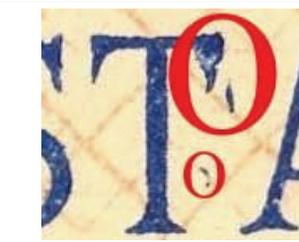
Some of its features include:

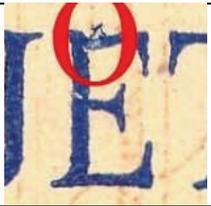
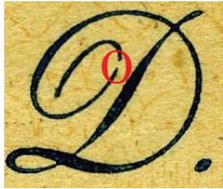
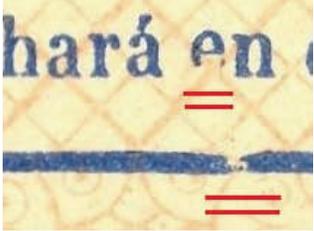
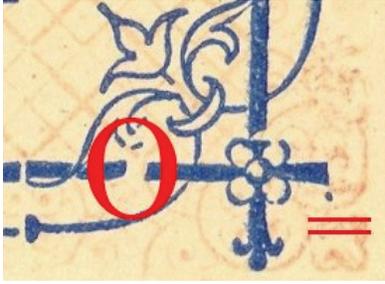
- an outer thin frame line and an inner thick frame line;
- the background (probably there to discourage counterfeiting) which displayed the words “*TARJETA POSTAL*” or postal card which repeat the words printed in the foreground;
- an indicium which, for the one year only, reads “*ISLA DE CUBA*”
- A note on the bottom: “*Lo que debe escribirse se hará en el reverso é irá firmado por remitente*” or “the message shall be on the reverse side and signed by the sender”;
- “Sr. D.” for “Señor / Doñor Señorita / Doña” as a prefix to the addressee;
- The portrait on the indicium was Alfonso XII who ruled Spain from 1875-1885;
- The reverse was blank.

Another word about color is in order. Tropicalization, toning and exposure to the sun cause wide variations in the color of the paper. Although all catalogs list the foreground color as “blue”, there is a wide range to blue-black. Additionally, paper color greatly varies. As stated previously, each of the 20 cards printed on one sheet of card stock has individual variations. We can identify all twenty positions. They are as follows:



Position	Characteristics of 1878 Postal Cards	
1	Tiny on non-existent period after <i>Sr</i> ; broken top thick frame line above “C” of Cuba.	
2	Broken base of “en” in <i>remitente</i> .	
3	Broken right foot of the first “A” in <i>TARJETA</i> .	

Position	Characteristics	
4	Broken right side of the foot of the first “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> .	
5	Beginning of first address line slightly bent downwards and small “á” of <i>hará</i> (1 mm high).	
6	Broken left side of the foot of the second “T” in <i>TARJETA</i> and break in the left thick frame line to the left of the second address line.	
7	Broken “e” looks like "c" instead of <i>en</i> in the note; <i>hará</i> has a small “á”	
8	The second letter “r” in <i>reverso</i> & “r” in <i>por</i> are bold face.	
9	The period after <i>Sr</i> is twice as large as adjacent one behind <i>D</i> .	
10	Worn upper left corner of the indicium and broken “b” in <i>debe</i> .	
11	Broken “e” looks like "c" instead of in <i>en</i> in the note; breaks in both frame lines above the “OS” in <i>POSTAL</i> .	
12	The first address line ends 1 mm before the second and third lines.	
13	Spacing between "el" and "remitente” is larger: 2 mm compared to 1 mm normal spacing; extraneous colored lines near the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> .	

Position	Characteristic
14	Deformation in the upper part of the “E” in <i>TARJETA</i> . 
15	Broken inside loop in the “D” of <i>Sr. D.</i> and white spot in the top thick frame line above the left corner of the indicium. 
16	Beginning of the third address line in bent upwards slightly.
17	Break in the top left part of the first “J” of <i>TARJETA</i> and breaks in the “e” of <i>en</i> in the note and in the thick frame line below it. 
18	The adornment on the end of the lower thick line is absent and the lower thick frame line is broken 4 mm to the left of the corresponding vertical line. 
19	The letters “scribirse” in <i>escribirse</i> are in bold face type. 
20	Break in the bottom thick frame line below the “d” in <i>firmado</i> . 

Compared to later issues, the 1878 card was quite elegant. Its engraver was José García Morago whose initials, JG, appear at the base of the bust.

Mint copies are plentiful, but used copies are exceedingly scarce. Its circulation continued into 1879.

1879 - Cuba's Second Postal Card

Cuba's second postal card was printed in a reddish brown color with an orange background on buff card stock. The same indicium was used as in 1878, but it has "Cuba · 1879" instead of "Isla de Cuba". Two plates of almost entirely different cards were used. The first plate was essentially the plate used in 1878 with a changed indicium title. The second plate was essentially produced from scratch.



UPSS 2, Plate 1, Position 12 – 1879 – 25 céntimos de peseta

UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination	Circulation
2	reddish brown & orange on buff	25 céntimos de peseta	1879
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello — Size: 144 x 96 mm; Issue date: 1879			

Except for the attributes just noted, all other attributes of the 1878 card apply to this as well. Since the first plate used in its printing was the same as before, only those plate positions will be noted which differ in some major respect from 1878. Those differences are:

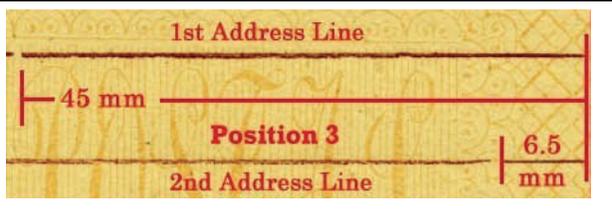
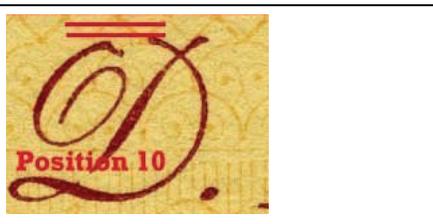
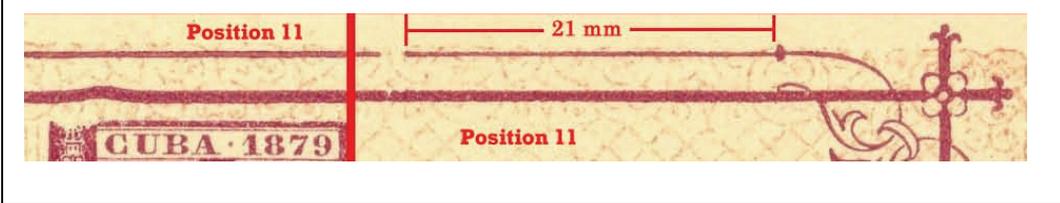
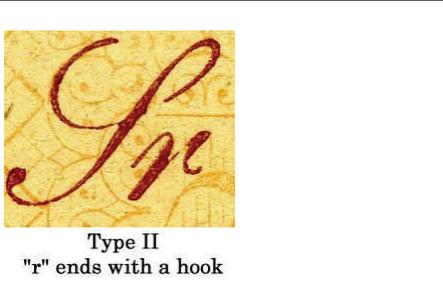
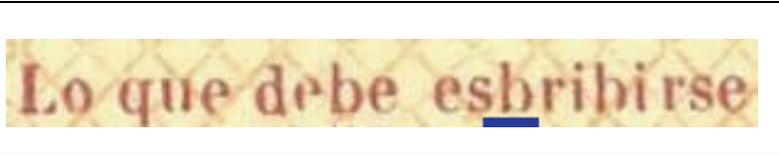
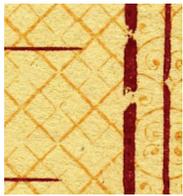
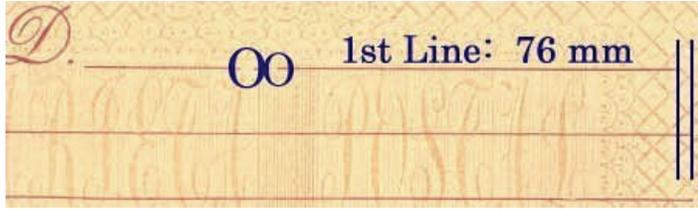
Position	Characteristics of 1879 Plate 1 (if different from 1878)	
1	Same squiggle in the thick frame line over the indicium, but no period after “ <i>Sr</i> ”.	
3	First address line is broken 45 mm from the end and the second address line is broken 6.5 mm from the end.	
10	The top of the “D” of “ <i>Sr. D.</i> ” is broken.	
11	Same “cn” instead of en, but there is now an upwards bump in the thick frame line above the indicium and a dent in the indicium below the bump.	

Plate 2 was almost entirely different. No full sheet survives, only partial multiples. Consequently one cannot be certain where a variety appeared on the plate. I have, therefore, added letters after the numbers to avoid the perception of designation as a plate position. They are described as follows:

Position	Characteristics of 1879 Plate 2	
A	Type II “r” in <i>Sr</i> ; no period after <i>Sr</i> . Break in the first “A” of TARJETA.	
B	“esbribirse” in place of <i>escribirse</i> in the note.	

Position	Characteristics of 1879, Plate 2	
C	Small “á” of both <i>hará</i> and <i>irá</i> and two breaks in the right thick frame line to the right of the second address line.	
D	Break 7mm from the beginning of the first address line and 6 - 8 breaks in the bottom thick frame line.	
E	Break in the first address line below the indicium and small “á” of both <i>hará</i> and <i>irá</i> .	
F	Position not yet identified. What was formerly classified as Plate II, Position F, has been shown to be Plate I, Position 3 (before a break occurred in the top thick frame line).	
G	“ira” instead of <i>irá</i> (no accent).	
H	Dot of “i” of <i>remitente</i> displaced to the right.	
I	No period behind the “D” in <i>Sr. D.</i>	
J	Missing 6 mm section of left thin frame line towards the top.	
K	Break in the bottom thick frame line below the “q” in <i>que</i> and small “á” of <i>hará</i> .	
L	There is a large “b” in <i>escribirse</i> (1.5 mm).	

Position	Characteristics of 1879 Plate 2	
M	<p>Left half of the “o” is missing in <i>Nota</i> and small “á” of both <i>hará</i> and <i>irá</i>.</p>	
N		
O	<p>Small “á” of <i>hará</i> and break in the thick frame Line below the “el” of <i>el reverso</i>.</p>	
P	<p>“L” of <i>Lo</i> is capitalized, but broken on top; break in the thin Frame line below “el” of <i>el reverso</i> and small “á” of <i>hará</i>.</p>	
Q	<p>No period after <i>Sr.</i>; break in the bottom thick frame line below the “sc” in <i>escribirse</i>; two breaks in the left thin frame line to the left of <i>Sr</i> and <i>TARJETA</i>.</p>	
R	<p>Lower thin frame line is broken below the “sc” in <i>escribirse</i>. The second address line dips below the <i>D</i>. The first address line is about 2 mm short on both ends.</p>	
S	<p>Position not yet identified.</p>	
T	<p>First address line is 76mm with breaks under “Cs” and first “E” of <i>PESETA</i>.</p>	



This beautiful and rare specimen is courtesy of Octavio Cabrera. Early cards are extremely scarce and this one is in virtually pristine condition with an excellent parilla cancel and excellent handwriting. The note on the reverse is dated 20 May 1879. This card is also important because it displays what was until now one of three missing positions of 1879 Plate 2.

GUIDANCE AND HELP IN THE PLATING OF 1879 CARDS

(1878 cards generally, but not always,
are similar to the 1879 Plate I cards)

hará and irá

hará has small á

Plate 1, Pos. 5
 Plate 1, Pos. 7
 Plate 2, Pos. C
 Plate 2, Pos. E
 Plate 2, Pos. K
 Plate 2, Pos. M
 Plate 2, Pos. O
 Plate 2, Pos. P
 Plate 2, Pos. G: "ira" instead of *irá* (no accent)

irá has small á

Plate 2, Pos. C
 Plate 2, Pos. E
 Plate 2, Pos. M

Thick line breaks / nicks / bumps / spots

Right: Plate 2, Pos C
 Left: Plate 1, Pos 6
 Top: Plate 1, Pos 1
 Plate 1, Pos 3
 Plate 1, Pos 11
 Plate 1, Pos 13
 Plate 1, Pos 15

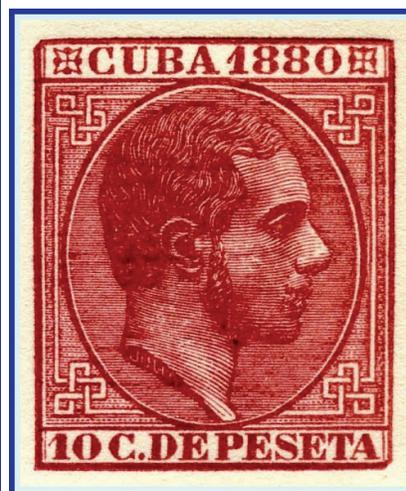
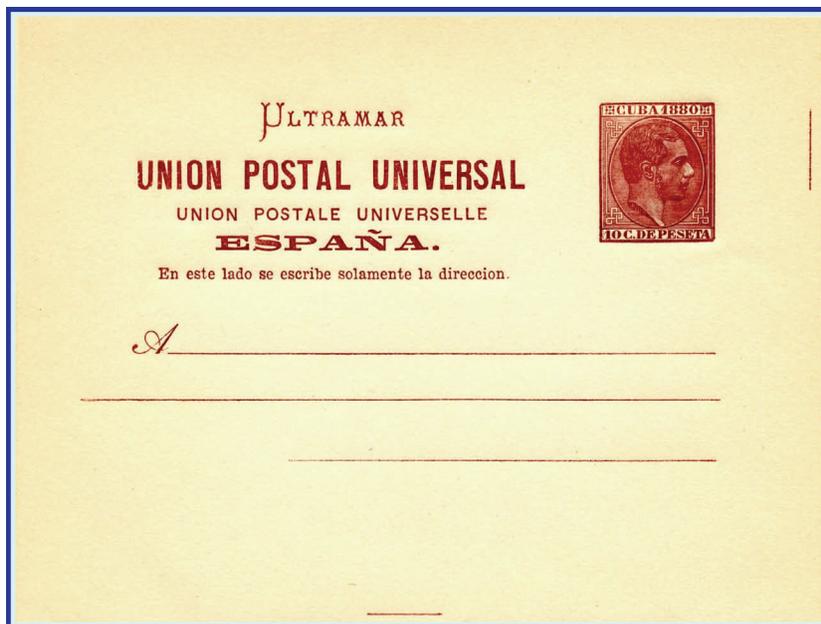
Thin line breaks / nicks / bumps / spots

Right:	none	Bottom:	Plate 1, Pos 17
Left:	Plate 2, Pos J		Plate 1, Pos 18
	Plate 2, Pos Q		Plate 1, Pos 20
Top:	Plate 1, Pos 11		Plate 2, Pos D
Bottom:	Plate 2, Pos P		Plate 2, Pos K
	Plate 2, Pos R		Plate 2, Pos Q

1880 - 1881 - 1882: Cuba's Universal Postal Union Cards

Cuba's admittance to the benefits of the U.P.U. were utilized by the series of cards started in 1880. Successive printings in 1881 and multiple printings of the 1882 series followed. They are considered as a group because the 20 card plate positions were used in all three years.

In 1880 the currency in use in Cuba was the peseta. One-hundredth of a peseta was a céntimo de peseta. A lower postal rate from the previous two years is shown by denominations of ten and fifteen céntimos de peseta. In 1881 and subsequent years the currency in use was the peso. Since 5 céntimos de peseta = 1 centavo de peso, the 1881 change did not reflect a lowering of the postal rates.

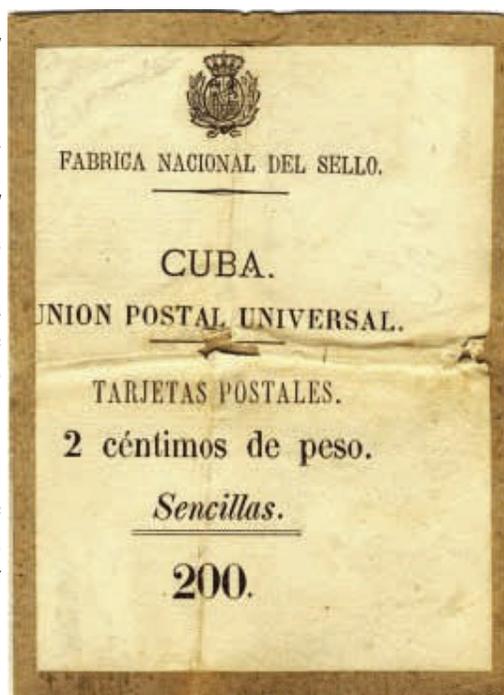


1880 Indicium
10 céntimos de peseta

Above: UPSS 3, variety 4.

Right: Cover plate for
200 UPU postal cards

There is a new indicium, engraved by Eugenio Julia y Jover whose name, Julia, appears at the base of the bust. Manufacture occurred in Spain at the *Fábrica Nacional del Sello*. In the final stages of card production, the printed sheets would be massed in stacks of 100 sheets and cut into cards. Two sets of 100 would be packaged together with a cardboard separator. Each stack of 200 cards would then be tied up in a bundle using string and a cover plate glued to another cardboard on the top of the stack. Besides identifying the card value and the quantity of cards contained, the cover plate also functioned as a security seal to prevent tampering. This cutting method resulted in the cards in a bundle, at least to the packs of 100 and in most cases all 200, being from the same plate position. The author has personally observed this described packing in the collection of the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. which has numerous packs in its Cuban collection.



The features of this card were:

- the indication that this was an overseas (not the interior of Cuba or Spanish empire) card with the word “ULTRAMAR” and the additional UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL in Spanish and French;
- “ESPAÑA” or Spain (a term many at which some Cuban colonials might bristle)
- “En este lado se escribe solamente la direccion” or “Only write the addressee and address on this side”.
- Double cards had the legend: Message card: “*La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.*” or The other card is for the reply; Reply card: “*Respuesta*” or Response;

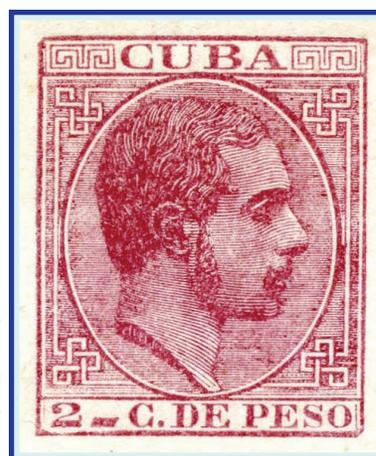
UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination	Circulation
3	carmines or dark carmines on cream	10 céntimos de peseta	1880
4	rose or rose carmines on cream	15 céntimos	1880
5	carmines or dark carmines on cream	10 + 10 céntimos	1880
6	rose or rose carmines on cream	15 + 15 céntimos	1880
7	carmines or dark carmines on cream	2 centavos de peso	1881
8	rose or rose carmines on cream	3 centavos	1881
9	carmines or dark carmines on cream	2 + 2 centavos	1881
10	rose or rose carmines on cream	3 + 3 centavos	1881
11	carmines or dark carmines on cream	2 centavos	1882 — 1896
12	rose or rose carmines on cream	3 centavos	1882 — 1896
13	carmines or dark carmines on cream	2 + 2 centavos	1882 — 1896
14	rose or rose carmines on cream	3 + 3 centavos	1882 — 1896
15 ERROR	carmines or dark carmines on cream	2 + 2 centavos	1882 (?) — 1896
16 ERROR	rose or rose carmines on cream	3 + 3 centavos	1882 (?) — 1896

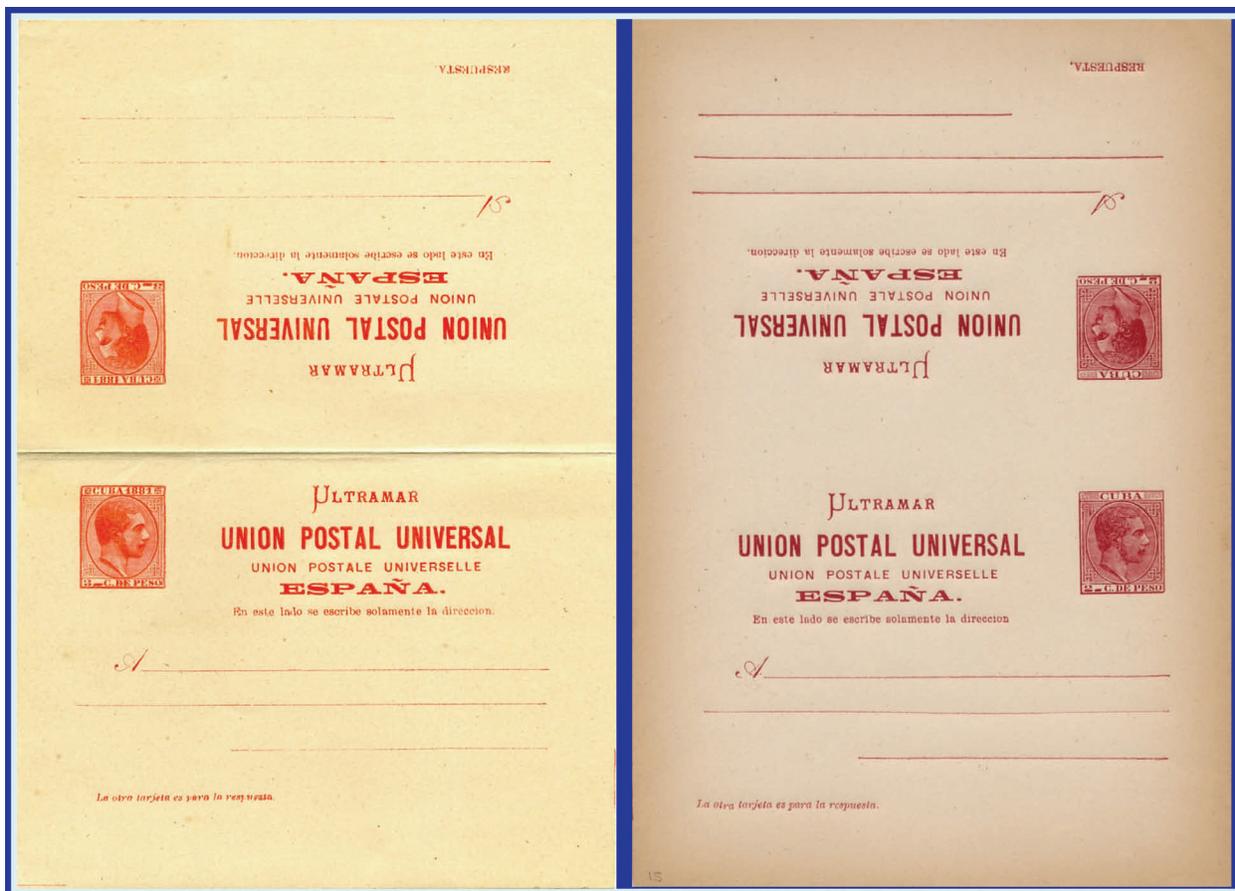
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello — Size: 144 x 96 mm



1881 – 3 centavos indicium.

1882 – 2 centavos indicium.
Notice the year has been deleted.
This year’s series stayed in circulation until 1896.





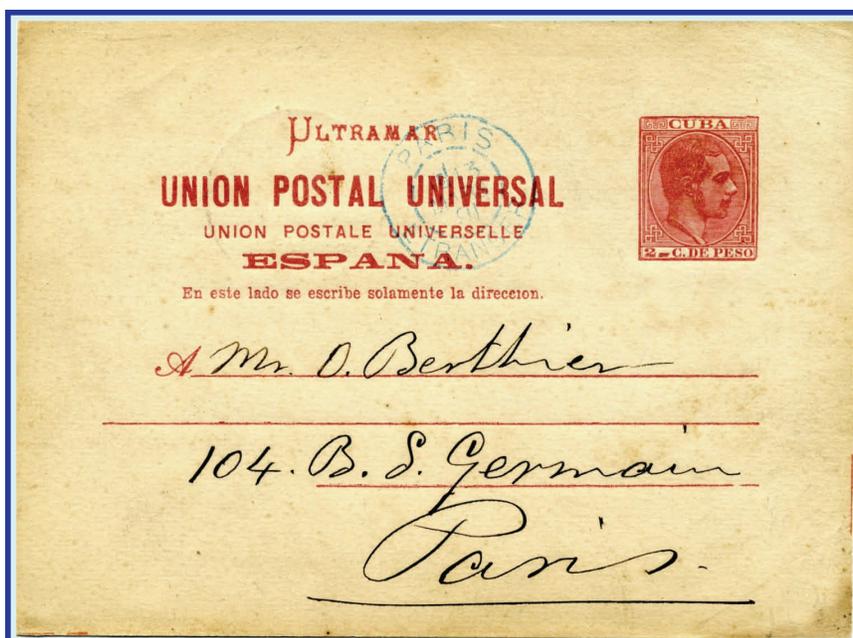
Double (paid reply) cards. A 3+3 centavos from 1881 (left, UPSS 10) and an “error” card of 1882 (right, UPSS 15) with the stamps reversed from the normal position.

Note the extreme range of color of the paper which is normal.

The message card is below and the reply card “RESPUESTA” is above.

UPSS 11a – 1882
2 centavos “No tilde on Ñ
in ESPAÑA” variety

26 February 1891
from Havana to Paris



Early research by others on the varieties found in these cards had concentrated on detailed line and spacing measurements. We found those techniques to be of little help given the printing process used for these cards. The Linotype machine was able to produce a line of type in one piece, thus the name. The Linotype machine was first used in New York in 1886. In Spain, meanwhile, the government printing office was still using the old moveable printing type and a flat press to produce their cards. All text had to be assembled manually one character at a time, sorting the type from wooden cases containing the individual letters. The assembled type for each card was placed in an adjustable frame and tightened in place. This tightening would have continued at intervals during the printing process, that is one reason we chose not to rely on exact measurements. A “plate” was made up of several of these card assemblies brought together in a rectangular pattern (i.e. four across by five down, for the 1878 cards).

Knowing the printing method used, we concentrated our efforts in spotting typesetting varieties instead. To date we have found nineteen constant varieties (twenty if we include the no-defects variety) along with two transitory varieties (the ULTAAMAR and missing tilde varieties) which were quickly replaced plus two double card varieties (missing periods in the footnotes). Refer to the following pages for a word and visual description of the above mentioned varieties.

Some of these varieties are apparent to the naked eye while others require a bit of magnification. All of the listed varieties (with the exception of the two double card footnote varieties) have been found on the single cards as well as on the reply cards. This leads us to conclude, beyond a doubt, that the same settings were used for printing both the single cards and the double cards. In order to format the paid reply cards, the following steps had to be taken:

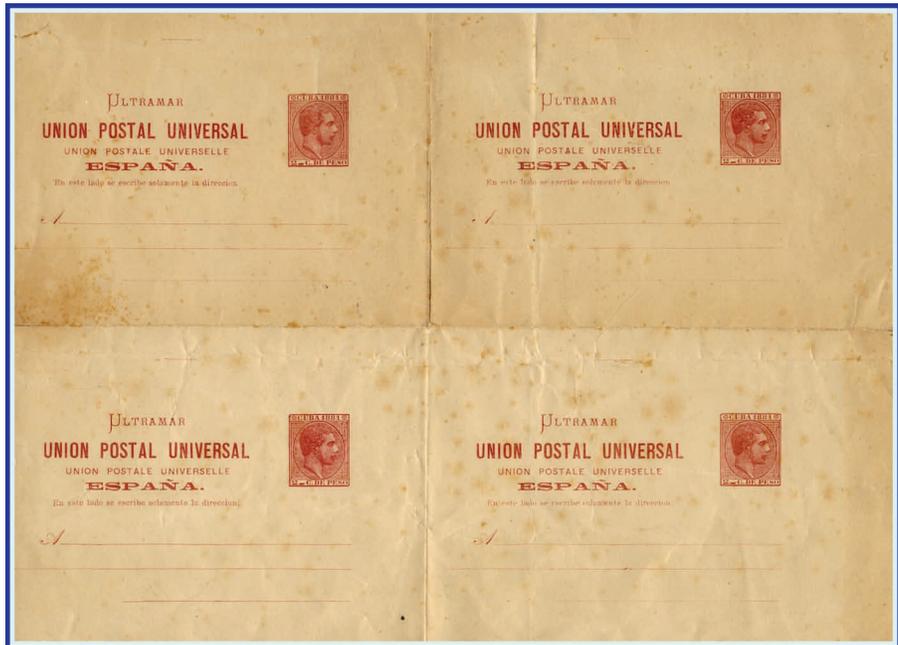
- the reply half was rotated 180 degrees (placed upside down on the message half);
- the first five lines of text and the stamp die switched places on the message half (moved from left to right and vice versa); and,
- the footnotes were added to each half.

Borrowing from the earlier work by Laiz, the authors assume that the single cards were printed in sheets of twenty subjects (four across by five down), just as the 1878 and 1879 cards were. A similar reasoning was used in our assumption that the double cards were printed in sheets of eight subjects. One of the rows of single cards would have been removed (as was later done in the printing of the 1898 cards), leaving sixteen single cards from which eight double cards were prepared. While there is some sound reasoning behind these assumptions, we stress that they are assumptions nevertheless. They do, however, fit in quite nicely with our findings based on personal observation of a large number of samples. Those findings are summarized in the double cards matrix listed at the end of this section. The matrix shows the different cards found for each of the two paid reply values printed in each of 1880, 1881, and 1882. For the years 1880 and 1881 eight card types were found, as expected. The 1882 issue, however, was in circulation until 1896. It is likely that these cards were reprinted. That is the most plausible explanation for the “error” cards (showing the stamp on the right side of the message half and on the left side of the reply half - reversed from the original) as well as the transitory varieties found on this issue. Also in the 1882 issue we have found two Variety 12 (nicked second “A” of ESPAÑA). We know that they are the same position because they both have a sawed off “A” of UNIVERSAL and a shortened top serif on the “U” of ULTRAMAR, but one has a large period after ULTRAMAR. We also found two 1882 Variety 5 (smashed “U”) cards: one with a regular and one with a shortened (91mm) second address line. How else could those be explained other than multiple printings with some changes effected?

The only multiple reported to date for the 1880 - 1882 cards is a block of four of the 2 c. single cards of 1881. The block of four of 1881 pictured above contains the following varieties: (clockwise from top left card) Varieties # 2, #1, # 10, and # 19.

The only known U.P.U. multiple

When using the matrix, one must keep in mind that some of these varieties may have occurred during the printing process. For instance, the 1880 cards that exhibit Varieties # 6 & 7 on the reply half are also known without the broken “U” of ULTRAMAR (without Variety #7). This is the result of the break occurring during the printing of the 1880 cards. Variety #7 is known to be



accompanied by a short (91 mm) second address line, but the address break only occurs in 1881 cards. Did the line break occur during printing? If so, there would be 1881 cards that do not exhibit this break.

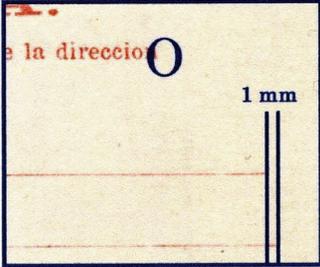
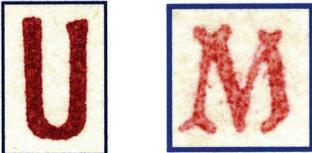


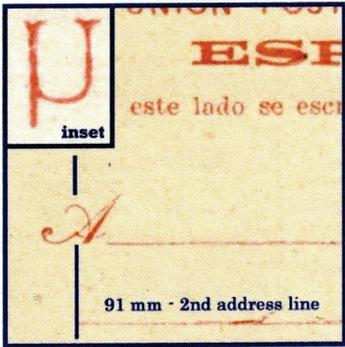
Type setting illustration

Variety # T1 was recently reported on a used 3 c message half of UPSS 16. Since that was the “discovery” copy of the variety on the 3 c value, we do not know what variety exists on the reply half, though we suspect it would be Variety # 4, as it is on the 2 c + 2 c card with the same T-1 variety.

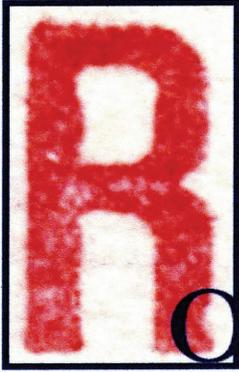
Given the effort required to assemble the type, it is understandable that replacement/repairs were seldom made (except from year to year and denomination). The two notable exceptions are the two transitory varieties. The misspelling of ULTRAMAR was so egregious that they must have stopped the presses to fix it or destroyed existing stock after production. This resulted in the scarcest variety of the colonial period.

The following two pages set out the varieties which, for the most part, appear in all three years. Transitory varieties appeared for only a part of 1882's issues. Double varieties appear only on double cards and have to do with whether or not a period is placed after the note at the bottom. It is especially important to note that there has been no attempt to list every irregularity, even those that are constant varieties. Instead we have attempted to list those varieties that differentiate one plate position from another. When looking at a single card, one can almost certainly find the variation below, subject to too much or too little ink on the card.

No.	Graphic / Variety description
1	 <p>Nicked "N" and "V" of UNIVERSAL</p>
2	 <p>No period behind "direccion" sometimes in conjunction with short first address line by 1 mm</p>
3	 <p>"SA" of UNIVERSAL broken and large period after ULTRAMAR</p>
4	 <p>Multiple nicks on "U" of UNION</p>
5	 <p>Smashed top right end of "U" of UNIVERSAL & missing right serif of right leg of "M" of ULTRAMAR</p>
6	 <p>"S" of POSTAL ends in a point</p>

No.	Graphic / Variety description
7	 <p>"U" of ULTRAMAR broken on the bottom only – sometimes in conjunction with second address line of 91mm commencing below the middle of the "A"</p>
8	 <p>Second address line short, 94 mm, commencing below the left side of the "A"</p>
9	 <p>"s" of este upside down, and "UN" of UNIVERSAL damaged</p>
10	 <p>A hole on the inner side of the angle of the L of UNIVERSAL and a taper or downward bent of the right base on the P of ESPAÑA</p>

No.	Graphic / Variety description
11	 <p>Rounded off top of 2nd "A" of ESPAÑA</p>
12	 <p>Nicked 2nd "A" of ESPAÑA at top right</p>
13	 <p>Nicked first "A" of ESPAÑA at top right and broken top serif of "E" of ESPAÑA</p>
14	 <p>First "R" & "M" of ULTRAMAR broken</p>
15	 <p>Broken "U" of ULTRAMAR on top and bottom</p>
16	 <p>Broken second "A" of ULTRAMAR</p>
17	 <p>"M" of ULTRAMAR is missing the left serif of its right leg</p>

No.	Graphic / Variety description
18	 <p>Nick in "Ñ" of ESPAÑA</p>
19	 <p>Small indentation towards the bottom of the right leg of "R" in UNIVERSAL</p>
20	 <p>No defects recognized</p>
T-1	 <p>Transitory — part of 1882 only "ULTAAMAR" error</p>
T-2	 <p>Transitory — part of 1882 only ESPAÑA without tilde</p>
D-1	<p>Double reply cards only No period behind "RESPUESTA"</p>
D-2	<p>Double message cards only No period behind "respuesta"</p>

U.P.U. Double Card Matrix

Double Cards		Varieties (These numbers refer to the varieties described on the preceding two pages)										
1880 10+10c UPSS 5	Reply	6	1 ^b	D1	19	9	15 ^d	10	13 ^e			
	Message	12	11	16	14	18+ D2	2 ^c	5	17+D2			
1880 15+15c UPSS 6	Reply	6+7 ^a	1 ^b	D1	19	9	15 ^d	10	13			
	Message	12	11	16	14	18+D2	2 ^c	5	17+D2			
1881 2+2c UPSS 9 and 3+3c UPSS 10	Reply	6+7+ D1	11+D1	4+D1	19	9	15	10	13			
	Message	8+12	1	16	14	18	2+D2	5	17+D2			
1882 2+2c UPSS 13 and 3+3c UPSS 14	Reply	6+7	11	11	4+ D1	12 ^h	18+ D1	15+ D1	1	13	20	4
	Message	8+ 12	D2+ T2 ^f	2	16	18+ D2	9	5	10	14+ D2	17	3+6 +T1
1882 2+2c Error UPSS 15	Reply	9	17	14	5	1	11	20	20			
	Message	13	18	4	15	12	16	3	10			
1882^g 3+3c Error UPSS 16	Reply	13	1	3+ D1	12	—	—	—	—			
	Message	9	17	5	16	—	—	—	—			

- a. Some 15c cards exist without the broken “U” of *ULTRAMAR* (an early printing, before the break).
- b. Some early cards exist without the distinctive butterfly shaped hole in the “V” and just damage to the “N”
- c. Some early cards exist with a faint or partial period behind *direccion*.
- d. Some cards exist without the top left serif of the U of *ULTRAMAR* being broken. Some have a partial break and some are missing the left serif entirely, as the type degraded during the printing process.
- e. Some 10c cards exist without the broken “E” of *ESPAÑA* (an early printing, before the break).
- f. Only a small percentage exhibits the missing tilde variety.
- g. The 3+3c cards in the Error series (i.e. the stamp on the right side of the message card and the left side of the reply card) were completely different from the 2+2c: witness the first card shown which shows the message and reply cards reversed. The plating of UPSS 16 is incomplete due to the scarcity of the cards.
- h. Large period after *ULTRAMAR*.

1882 - Cuba's Third Interior Postal Card

While Spain was producing the U.P.U. cards for international use out of Cuba, it also produced cards for use within the Spanish empire. The same basic format was used as in the 1878 and 1879 cards, except for a changed indicia and new denominations. The same background was used as were the two sets of frame lines and note. The note's reference to a "signature" being necessary on the reverse side was kept even though the U.P.U. cards had dispensed with that suggestion or requirement two years earlier.

The backgrounds for all three cards remained the same: orange (rarely yellow). With the new denominations, however, came new colors for the frames, foreground and indicium. The 2 centavos was dark green, the 4 centavos was red and the 10 centavos card was dark blue.

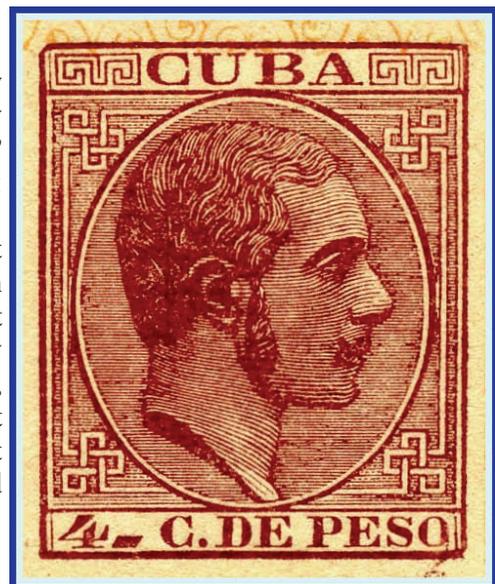
UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination
17 (Type I)	Green & orange on buff	2 centavos
17a (Type II)	Green & orange on buff	2 centavos
17b (Type I-A)	Green & orange on buff	2 centavos
18 (Type I)	Carmine & orange on buff	4 centavos
18a (Type II)	Carmine & orange on buff	4 centavos
19 (Type I)	Blue & orange on buff	10 centavos
19a (Type II)	Blue & orange on buff	10 centavos
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: 1882 - 1888		

Alfonso XII has his portrait wherein a slightly older person is depicted. It is the same indicium (before retouch) that was used on the U.P.U. series, engraved by Eugenio Julia y Jover whose name, Julia, appears at the base of the bust.

It was this year that another variation came into being. Not only was the "Type I" and "Type II" "r" of *Sr.* involved (see page 8), but also the Type II was additionally found in a position of

being displaced to the right approximately 3 mm with respect to the word *TARJETA* above it. In 1890 this was further complicated by the Type I also being displaced to the right. The illustration shows the types of "r" (the "r" ending in a ball or a hook) and the displacement. Further, the various catalogs have different nomenclature and that is set forth in the bottom illustration.

Plating of the 1882 Interior series is significantly harder since full sheets do not survive and, apparently, new plates were made after 1879. How many plates were made? At least two, maybe more. There were three types of "Sr. D.": Types I, II and in the case of the 2 centavo only, Type II-A. This last anomaly is interesting because it could indicate that they produced another new plate just for the 2 centavos which would be more numerous due to demand. In that plate, at least some of the "Sr. D." got shifted to the right by 3 mm. By my current count, that number is five. With respect to the Type I, that number stands at up to 19 varieties and for Type II, that number stands at up to 18 varieties. What this tells us is that there must be at least two plates of 20 cards used for the 4 and 10 centavos issues plus a third for the 2 centavos issue.





UPSS 17a — 1882 Interior — 2 centavos de peso — Type II “r” in Sr.

	TAR	TAR	TAR	TAR
	BALL	HOOK	BALL	HOOK
Catalog	<i>Sr.</i>	<i>Sr.</i>	<i>Sr.</i>	<i>Sr.</i>
Nomenclature				
Edifil	Type I	Type II	Type I-A	Type II-A
Jones & Roy	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Higgins & Gage	Type 1	Type 2	Type ---	Type 3
	"Sr." not displaced to the right //		"Sr." displaced to the right	

It would be presumptuous of me at this point to definitely state the exact nature of all plate varieties. This is due to the limited number of cards studied and the nature of the printing process itself. We know that they changed the indicia and color to print the three denominations. Sometimes they would pull from the type tray a defective letter, such as the second “A” of *TARJETA*, and use it throughout the printing of all three denominations. However, sometimes it appears that in the middle of the printing run a frame or letter breaks or is notched or otherwise deteriorates. Other cards are problematic because they have either received too much or too little ink on the plate before the paper is set down making it difficult to ascertain whether there is a break in a letter or whether that letter did not get enough ink.

It is with all of the these caveats that the author attempts to list varieties of the 1882 interior system. I have illustrated those varieties that I think represent constant varieties and not just vagaries of the printing process. I have, however, listed all of what I now know to be possible varieties:

1882 INTERIOR PLATING		
Type	Position	Description
I	A	Nick in top right of 2 nd A of <i>TARJETA</i> ; break in left thick frame line 21 mm from the bottom horizontal thick frame line
	B	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; break 16mm from start of 1 st address line
	C	No period after <i>Sr</i> ; small á in <i>hará</i> ; break at the top of the <i>D</i> ; “e” of <i>en</i> broken: looks like “cn”
	D	“O” in <i>POSTAL</i> is nicked on the inside right; “D” is slightly dented in on top; “b” in <i>debe</i> broken at bottom
	E	Top of “o” of <i>firmado</i> broken; no period after <i>remitente</i> ; thin frame line broken 31 mm left of the thick upright frame
	F	“é” missing accent and “i” of <i>ira</i> missing dot; top of D has 2 breaks; “o” in <i>Nota</i> is broken top and bottom
	G	Top of D is broken and bent downwards; small nick in the thick frame line directly above the right corner of the indicium; both top and bottom ornaments on the horizontal thick lines are mashed on the left.
	H	Break in the <u>thick</u> frame line above and slightly to the right of the right side of the indicium; break in inner loop of <i>D</i> .
	I	No period after “D” of <i>Sr. D</i> .
	J	Break in the <u>thick</u> frame line below the “nt” in <i>remitente</i> ; break on the curved line at the top of “D”
	K	Dent in the top <u>thick</u> frame line to the left of the indicium
	L	Break in the top <u>thick</u> frame line to the left of the indicium
	M	Dent in the top <u>thick</u> frame above the “A” of <i>CUBA</i>
	N	Break in the top <u>thin</u> frame line to the right of the indicium
	O	Break in the top <u>thick</u> frame line to the right of the indicium
	P	Break in the top <u>thin</u> frame line to the right of the indicium and top <u>thick</u> frame line to the left of the indicium
	Q	Break in the right <u>thick</u> frame line at top and bottom
	R	Bulge or dent at the top of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>
	T	Small á in <i>hará</i> and small é of <i>é irá</i>

Type	Position	Description
II	AA	Smaller sized font in first “e” in <i>debe</i> ; “D” broken above the bottom loop
	BB	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; nick in lower inner curve of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i>
	CC	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; line that crosses top of “D” is short, .4 mm
	DD	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; line doesn’t cross top of “D”; break in <u>upper thick</u> frame line 24 mm to the right of the indicium
	EE	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; breaks in the <u>upper thick</u> frame line 3 mm to right of indicium and above left corner of indicium; “o” of <i>reverso</i> in a slightly larger sized font
	FF	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; breaks in <u>lower thick</u> frame line below the 1 st “e” of <i>remitente</i>
	GG	“e” of <i>se hará</i> and “o” of <i>reverso</i> are in a larger sized font; break in the <u>upper thick</u> frame line 3 mm to right of indicium
	HH	Break in the loop of “S” of <i>Sr</i> ; break in <u>upper thick</u> frame line above “A” of <i>TARJETA</i> and <u>lower thick and thin</u> frame line below <i>reverso</i> ; missing “e” in <i>reverso</i> .
	II	Nick in <u>lower thick</u> frame line below the period after <i>remitente</i> ; dip in first address line under the indicium
	JJ	“e” of <i>debe</i> is in a larger size font
	KK	“P” of <i>POSTAL</i> is missing most of left side of upright stroke; “R” of <i>TARJETA</i> has right leg separated
	LL	Break in the <u>upper thick</u> frame line above the indicium
	MM	Break in the <u>upper thick</u> frame line above the “A” in <i>POSTAL</i>
	NN	Bulge at the top of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>
	OO	Break at the bottom of the “J” of <i>TARJETA</i>
	PP	Broken left stroke of “T” of <i>POSTAL</i>
	QQ	Breaks at the start and the end of first address line
	RR	Break at top of “P” of <i>POSTAL</i>
	SS	Missing “e” in <i>reverso</i>
	TT	Break in the “R” and dent in the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>
II-A	AAA	Pointed ends to both thick frame lines where they join the lower right corner piece
	BBB	Downwards curve in second address line below “D”; break 2 mm from start of 4 th address line
	CCC	Missing tip of rising trace of <i>D</i> and missing period after footnote
	DDD	Breaks at center of second address line
	EEE	First address line dips down at the beginning

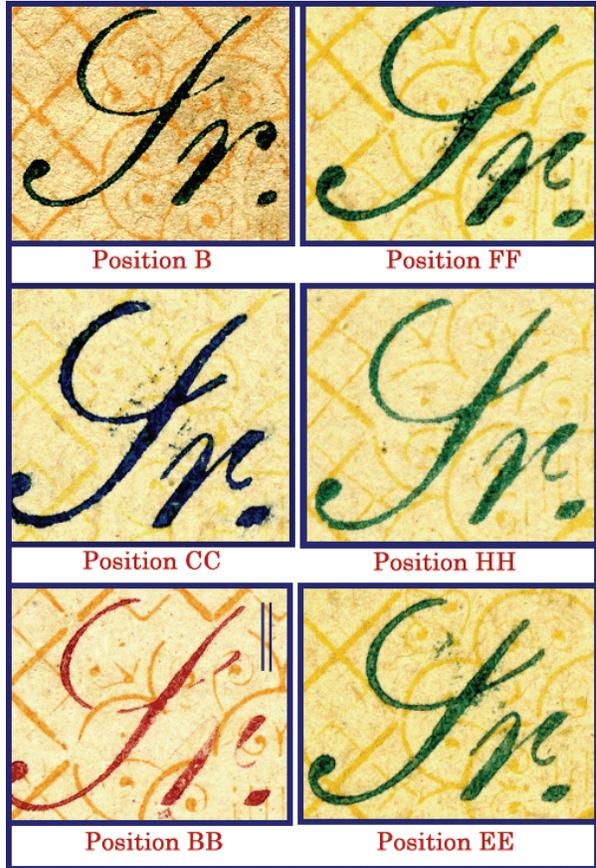
Illustrations of the 1882 Varieties
Type I “r” in Sr. (r ends with ball)

Position	Illustration
A	
C	
D	
E	
G	
J	

Type II “r” in Sr. (r ends with hook)

Position	Illustration
AA	
EE	
JJ	

I find it more useful to illustrate the several types of the break in the loop of Sr. all together. The first is a Type I “r”; the others are Type II.





1888 - A Dead King Still Portrayed

Alfonso XII was not on the throne when he was portrayed on the 1888 issue of Cuba's cards. He died just short of his 28th birthday in November, 1885 from tuberculosis. A tragic end to a young king who had ruled Spain since ascending the throne at age 15. Alfonso's posthumously born son, Alfonso XIII, was king from the moment of his birth until his death in February, 1941. His mother, Maria Cristina, served as regent until 1902.

His effigy is as before in 1882. So, too, was just about everything else on the card except for just two things: there was no 10 centavos card and the orange background of the earlier issues was gone. Removed were the cross hatch fancy design and the orange *TARJETA POSTAL*. The note imploring a signature remained, as did the two colors: green for 2 centavos and red for 4 centavos. Both denominations came in two varieties: Type I and Type II-A (see page 19). The Type I is decidedly more scarce than the Type II-A. Full sheets do not survive, so it is anyone's guess as to how many of the presumed 20 were one type or the other.

His effigy is as before in 1882. So, too, was just about everything else on the card except for just two things: there was no 10 centavos card and the orange background of the earlier issues was gone. Removed were the

UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination
20 (Type I)	Green on buff	2 centavos
20a (Type II-A)	Green on buff	2 centavos
21 (Type I)	Carmine on buff	4 centavos
21a (Type II-A)	Carmine on buff	4 centavos
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1888 - 1889		



UPSS 21a – 1888 – 4 centavos card showing the absence of the previous orange background and Type II-A Sr.

1890 - A Baby King Portrayed

Alfonso XIII was less than five years old when this portrait was engraved by Eugenio Julia y Jover whose name, Julia, appears at the base of the bust. Since he was king from birth, he never held any other Spanish titles such as Infante or Prince.

The indicium is different not only with the new portrait, but the term ISLA DE CUBA has returned, having been absent since 1878. The paper is a darker buff, cheap, brittle and unattractive. The size is 145 x 98 mm, but keep in mind that is only approximate. The cutting of all of these cards left a lot to be desired. Margins are

all over the block and the cutting lines were rarely hit right on.



1890 — 4 centavos indicium

UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination
22 (Type I)	Green on buff	2 centavos
22a (Type I-A)	Green on buff	2 centavos
23 (Type I)	Carmines on buff	4 centavos
23a (Type I-A)	Carmines on buff	4 centavos
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1890 - 1894		

Four varieties exist. First there were two denominations, a green 2 centavos and a red 4 centavos, and, second, there was a Type I and a Type I-A (see page 19) for both denominations. All other attributes of the 1888 card remain.



UPSS 22a — 1890 – 2 centavos – Type I-A “r” in Sr.

1892 - Variations on the Baby King

The major change this year was the stripping of the thick and thin frame lines from the cards and printing of ten to a sheet instead of twenty. The total length of the TARJETA POSTAL including a period after it under the previous cards was about 92 mm. Under the new cards the period was dropped and the length was about 108 mm due to a shorter but wider font. This new format continued through the 1898 cards which we know were printed ten to a sheet. With the previous disappearance of the background, what now remains is fairly stark by comparison. Gone too was the language about a “signature”, replaced by the more terse: *En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección* or “write only the name and address on this side”.

The cards had two major (and other minor) plate variations: the “s” of *solamente* was inverted in one plate position and the “o” of *solamente* was in a larger font in another plate position.

UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination
24	Green on buff — brittle card stock	2 centavos
24a	Green on yellowish card stock (1896 reprint)	2 centavos
25	Carmine on lighter buff card stock	4 centavos
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1893 - 1897		



UPSS 24 — 1892 — 2 centavos — an unattractive, brittle card

1894 - More Variations on the Baby King

The only changes in 1894 are in the color of the indicia. The 4 centavos card on yellowish card stock is a 1896 reprint.

UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination
26	Dark brown on buff	2 centavos
27	Dark blue on buff	4 centavos
27a	Dark blue on yellowish card stock (1896)	4 centavos
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: July, 1894 - 1896		

The cards had three major variations: the “s” of *solamente* was inverted in plate position 1, the “o” was in a larger font in plate position 7, and the “O” of POSTAL was broken at the bottom in position 9.



UPSS 26 — From a design point of view, this 1894 card was not so bad.

1896 Reprints



UPSS 24a — This 2 centavos card is more attractive than the buff card. It is printed on yellowish card stock and is a 1896 reprint



UPSS 27a — This 4 centavos on buff is decidedly more rare than its yellow counterpart and is a 1896 reprint

1898 - The Sun Sets on Spanish Cuba

The Spanish relinquished their hold on Cuba, but not before the release of the final multiple issues of 1898. Four denominations in single cards, 4 in double cards, each with two colors of paper. Alfonso XIII has gained a few years and his "infante" picture shows it. Engraver Bartolome Maura put his name MAURA under the head of the bust. Instead of *Isla de Cuba*, the design of the indicia now is titled "*CUBA - 1898 y 99*". Of course the cards never made it to 1899. The last distribution was in November, 1898. Manufacture of the cards was done by *Fabrica Nacional de la Moneda y Timbre*. Besides the new indicia, little else changed from 1894.

UPSS No.	Color / Paper	Denomination
28	Carmines on yellow	5 milésimas (½ centavo)
28a	Carmines on buff	5 milésimas
29	Green on yellow	1 centavo
29a	Green on buff	1 centavo
30	Violet on yellow	2 centavos
30a	Violet on buff	2 centavos
31	Reddish brown on yellow	3 centavos
31a	Reddish brown on buff	3 centavos
32	Carmines on yellow	5 milésimas
32a	Carmines on salmon	5 milésimas
33	Green on yellow	1 centavo
33a	Green on salmon	1 centavo
34	Violet on yellow	2 centavos
34a	Violet on salmon	2 centavos
35	Reddish brown on yellow	3 centavos
35a	Reddish brown on salmon	3 centavos
Typography by the <i>Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre</i> Size: 145 x 98 mm; Circulation: 1898		

Ángel Laiz Castro is a Spanish dealer and expert on postage of Spanish colonies. He came across complete set of sheets of 1899 single and double postal cards of Fernando Poo, a small Spanish island off the coast of west Africa. They were printed from the same plates as was for Cuba in 1898. In his article entitled *Planchéo de las Tarjetas Entero Postales de Cuba de 1898, Tipo Infante* ("Plating of the 1898 Postal Cards of Cuba, Infant Type") in *Revista de Filatelia*, he describes the plate positions for both single and double cards. Printing was done in sheets of ten single cards: two cards across x 5 cards down. All four denominations are essentially identical. Double cards were printed by flipping over every other row and then discarding the top row. That makes four double cards per sheet.

Top label glued on cardboard to serve as packaging and sealing with string and wax for shipment of 200 cards to post offices.



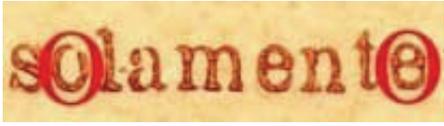
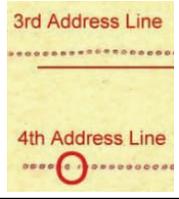
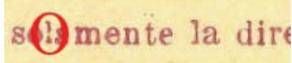
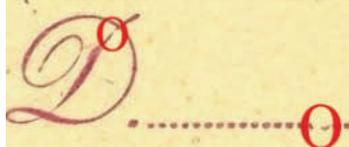
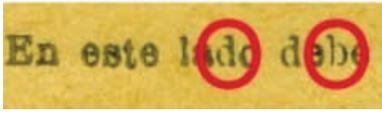
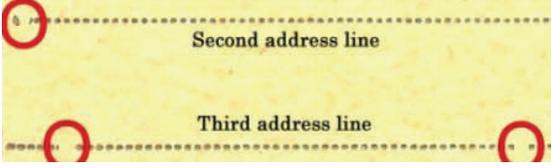
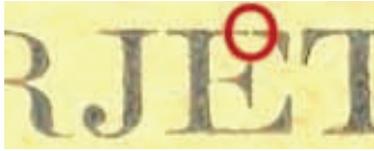


Scheme showing how 10 cards were printed on a single sheet



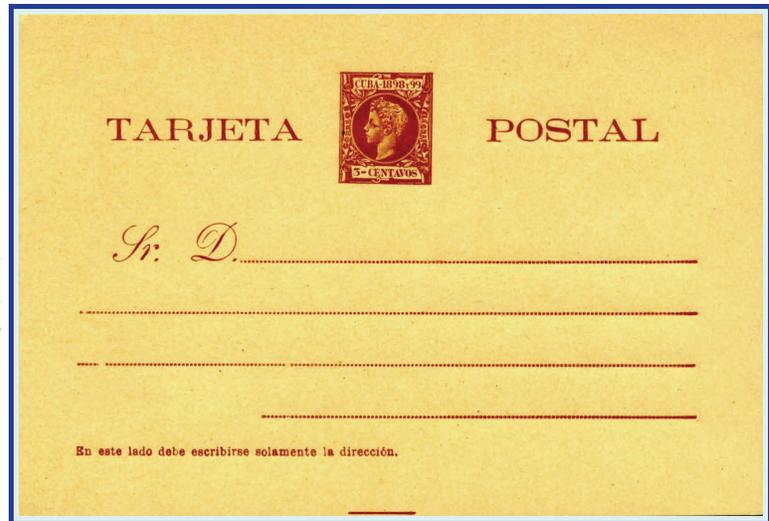
Four indicia for 1898

Position	Characteristics of the 1898 Single Cards	
1	Various defects to the P, O, S, T and L of <i>POSTAL</i> ; the "S" break being most notable.	
2	"S" in <i>Sr.</i> broken at top; 2 nd and 3 rd address lines are 2 mm shorter; 4 th ends with smudge.	
3	Breaks in 3 rd and 4 th address lines; middle left side of "t" in <i>este</i> is notched	
4	Top left of second "T" in <i>TARJETA</i> is shattered; the straight upright of the "D" in <i>Sr. D.</i> does not cross the curved portion; break near beginning of 3 rd address line.	

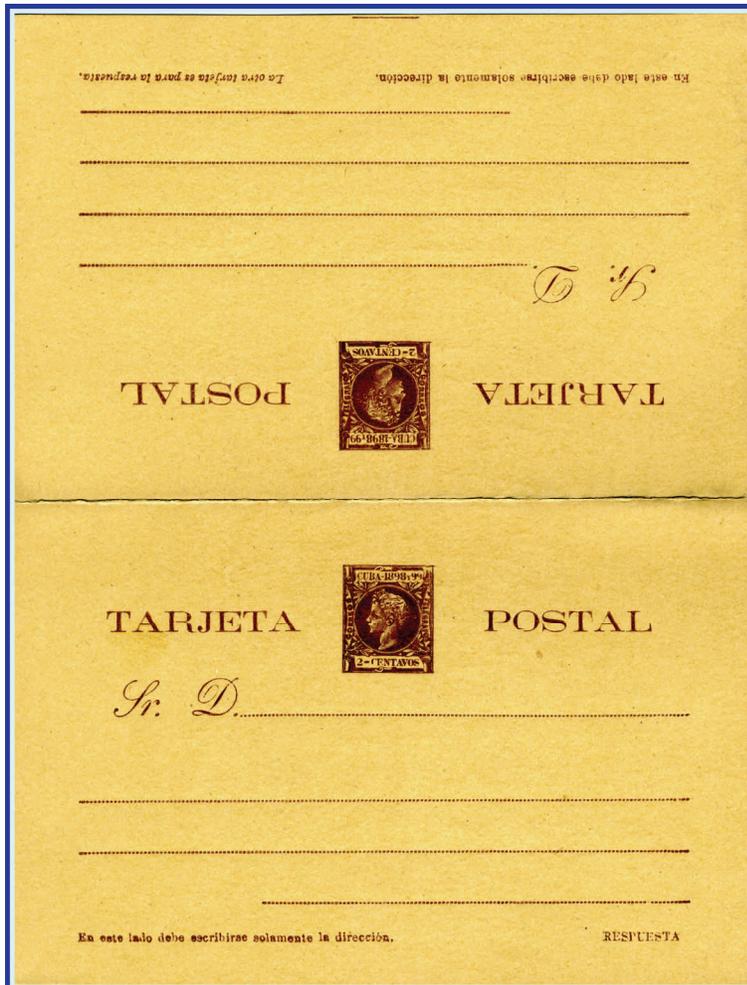
Position	Characteristics of the 1898 Single Cards	
5	<p>Broken “r” and upright of “D” in <i>Sr. D.</i>; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close; break in “b” of <i>debe</i></p>	  
6	<p>Notch in right leg of second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>; “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close; 4th address line is broken near the beginning and 3rd undulates above it.</p>	  
7	<p>Two breaks in top of “S” or <i>Sr.</i>; dent in right curve of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i>; “o” of <i>solamente</i> large.</p>	  
8	<p>Break in top of “S” of <i>POSTAL</i>; notch in the right middle of the “l” of <i>solamente</i>.</p>	  
9	<p>Break in the bottom of “O” of <i>POSTAL</i>; 17 mm gap between 1st and 2nd address lines.</p>	 
10	<p>Small break in top of “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>; breaks at beginning of 2nd address line and two breaks in the 3rd address line 4.5 and 41 mm from the start of that line.</p>	 

1898 Single Card of 3 Centavos

This is plate position 10 of the 10 printed. The varieties at this level of magnification make it difficult to discern the position. A small magnifier comes in handy for plating.



This illustrates the difference between colors on the double cards



1898 Double Card of 2 Centavos

Single card No. 7 was turned 180 degrees to print the message card (shown on top) and single card No. 9 printed the reply card. Altogether, double card No. 3 was produced. Note that this is the “Error” card with extra space, 17 mm, between first and second address lines instead of the usual 10 mm. This identical error also shows up in the cards printed in Spain for Puerto Rico and in 1899 for the island of Fernando Poo.

So how do you get from the single cards to the double cards? Remember that we numbered the single positions 1...10 going across and down? After the printers changed the indicia to print all four denominations they flipped cards numbered 3, 4, 7 and 8 over 180 degrees so they had 8 single positions transformed into 4 double tete-beche cards. They then proceeded to add the note at the bottom of each card and then print all four denominations of the double cards by substituting the indicia and ink color.



1898 Card Plating

Double card No. 1 =
Single card 3 message & Single card 5 reply

Double card No. 2 =
Single card 4 message & Single card 6 reply

Double card No. 3 =
Single card 7 message & Single card 9 reply

Double card No. 4 =
Single card 8 message & Single card 10 reply

Single cards 1 and 2 were not utilized in the making of the double cards.

Salmon colored cards are decidedly more rare than yellow cards. They were apparently printed after the yellow cards because more deterioration of the plates is reflected in the cards. The card additional damage is shown in the following table:

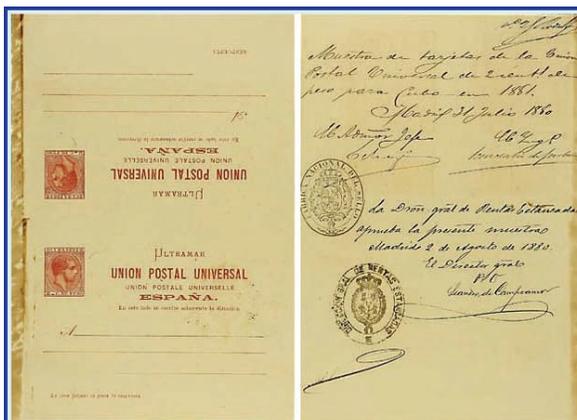
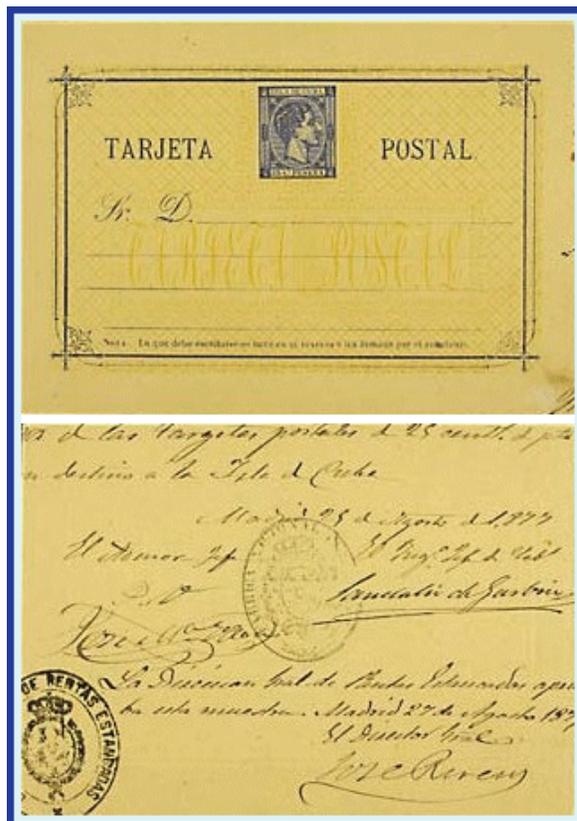
1898 salmon double cards — Additional Varieties	
No. 1 – Message (Single No. 3)	Additional break in first address line; new break in loop of “S” of <i>Sr.</i>
No. 1 – Reply (Single No. 5)	New break in the middle of the second address line
No. 2 – Message (Single No. 4)	Second address line begins 5 mm after the others; new break in the base of the “E” of <i>TARJETA</i>
No. 2 – Reply (Single No. 6)	Undulation in the third address line; break near the beginning of the fourth address line
No. 3 – Message (Single No. 7)	Deformation near the start of first address line in 5m and 1c cards
No. 3 – Reply (Single No. 9)	Break in the lower part of the “O” of <i>POSTAL</i>
No. 4 – Message (Single No. 8)	The P in <i>POSTAL</i> fails to close
No. 4 – Reply (Single No. 10)	No significant differences

Thus comes to a close the almost 400 year rule of Cuba by Spain. Another chapter starts, that of the American intervention and its many postal wonders and oddities. But that is a story for another day.

Pre-Production Material

As a prelude to the issuance of a card, it must first have legitimacy and official blessing. Beginning with the earliest cards the process was well established. The card is approved by the National Stamp Factory (and later the National Factory of Currency and Stamps) and a seal is placed on it. Then it is approved by the Director General of Finance and his seal is placed on it, agreeing to production. Below is a list of existing archival proofs known to the author:

UPSS No.	Archival Proof	Approval Date
1	1878 25c blue	27 Aug 1877
2	1879 25c red	11 Oct 1878
3	1880 2c carmine	2 Dec 1879
5	1880 2c + 2c carmine	2 Dec 1879
6	1880 3c rose	2 Dec 1879
7	1881 2c carmine	19 Jul 1880
9	1881 2c + 2c carmine	2 Aug 1880
10	1881 3c + 3c rose	27 Aug 1880
17	1882 2c green	11 Sep 1881
19	1882 10c blue	7 Sep 1881
21a	1888 4c carmine	11 Nov 1887
22	1890 2c green	12 Sep 1889
23	1890 4c red	12 Sep 1889
28	1898 5m carmine	27 Sep 1897
29	1898 1c green	28 Sep 1897
30	1898 2c violet	1 Oct 1897
31	1898 3c reddish brown	1 Oct 1897
32	1898 5m + 5m carmine	Sep 1897
33	1898 1c + 1c green	Sep 1897
34	1898 2c + 2c violet	Sep 1897
35	1898 3c + 3c reddish brown	Sep 1897

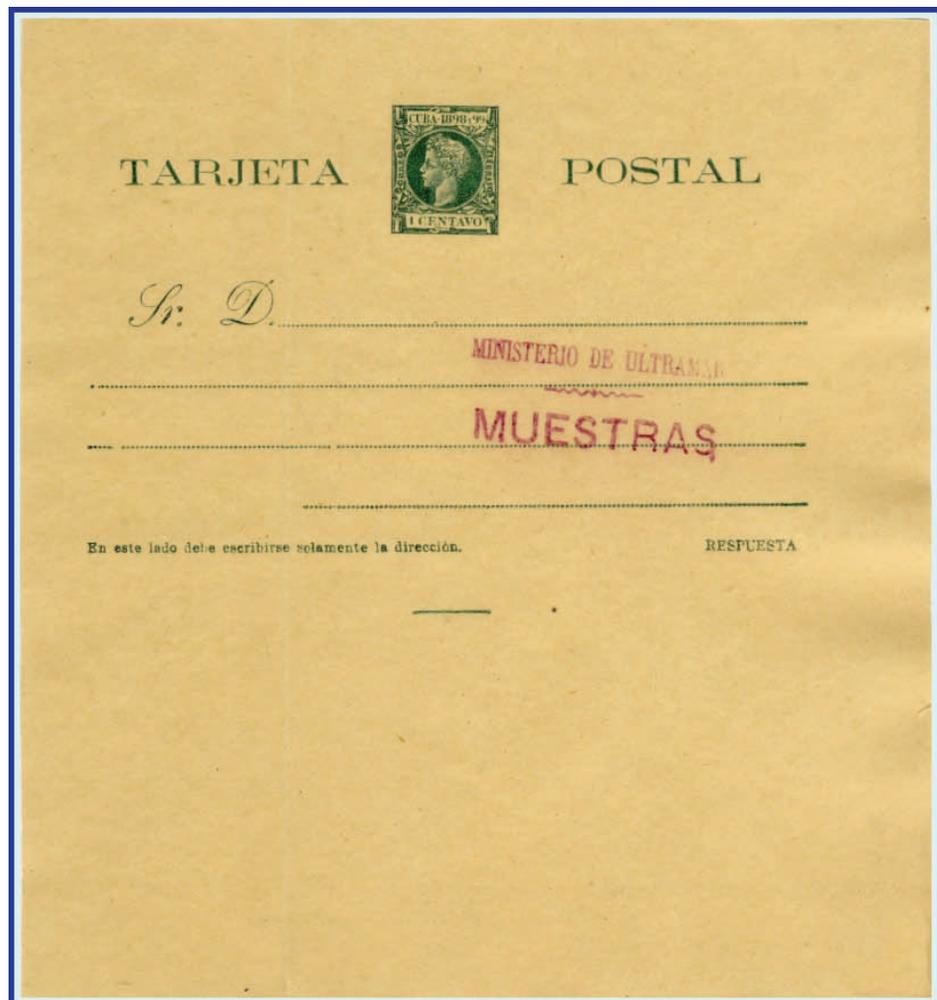


At some point after its approval by the powers that be (in the case of Cuba and other Spanish colonies it was the Ministerio de Ultramar), specimens were made by stamping on them some language that it is a specimen and that, accordingly, it has no postal value. These specimens (muestras in Spanish) are then distributed to other countries to show postal officials what to expect to see. On the following page are a couple of examples of specimens or muestras:



UPSS 28
Specimen

UPSS 33
Reply Half
Specimen



Significant Postal Rate Changes

15 June 1877

Cuba joined the Universal Postal Union – The rate of 25 céntimos was established for every postal card which happened to be the same basic rate for a domestic letter (a letter to a foreign country was 50 céntimos).

1 January 1880

Effective this date, postal card rates were reduced as follows:

Destination	Single Cards	Double Cards
Within the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico and the United	10 céntimos	20 céntimos
Elsewhere abroad	15 céntimos	30 céntimos

1 January 1881

Modification of tariffs because of the change in currency yielded the following:
1 peseta = 100 céntimos = 20 centavos de peso; 1 centavo = 5 céntimos

Postal card rates were established at:

- Inside the same city of Cuba – 1 centavo de peso
- Between cities in Cuba – 2 centavos
- To the United States – 2 centavos
- To Spain, Balearics and Canary Islands – 4 centavos de peso
- Elsewhere abroad – 4 centavos

1881 to 1897

The above listed postal rates notwithstanding, the 1881 and 1882 UPU postal card issues consisted of two values: a 2¢ (intended for use in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Spain and the United States) and a 3¢ (intended for use elsewhere abroad). All subsequent issues consisted of two values: a 2¢ and a 4¢. During most of that time, however, the rate to western Europe remained at 3¢ (as a result of side treaties between the US, Germany and others). That is why used copies of the 4¢ cards are so scarce, since most correspondence used a 2¢ card with a 1¢ stamp to make up the 3¢ rate.

8 October 1897

A royal decree established a general tariff for the mail that circulates in the Islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, which goes from one to another one of the these islands and of these to the Peninsula, Balearic Islands, Canaries, and Spanish possessions of the North of Africa, western coast of Morocco and Gulf of Guinea. Mail was divided into six general classes, as follows: First class, letters; second class, postal cards; third class, newspapers; fourth class, printed matter; fifth class, samples of merchandise and medicines; sixth class, registered letters.

Postal card rates were established as follows:

Destination	Single Cards	Double Cards
Mail within towns and cities of the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Philippines	5 milésimas	1 centavo
Within the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines	1 centavo	2 centavos
From the island of Cuba to that of Puerto Rico and vice versa	1 centavo	2 centavos
From the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico to the Philippines and vice versa	3 centavos	6 centavos
From the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines to the Peninsula, Balearics, Canaries and Spanish possessions of the North of Africa, western coast of Morocco and Gulf of Guinea	2 centavos	4 centavos

Excerpt from royal decree of 1897:

Postal Cards. These will be single and double or with paid return message; on the front they may only bear routing instructions and the name, last name, and address of the intended recipient. Privately prepared postal cards made out of card stock of good quality and of the same size as the officially issued postal cards will also be acceptable when properly franked with adhesive stamps paying the postage corresponding to official postal cards to the same destinations; the size of the official cards is 14 centimeters wide by 9 centimeters high.

APPENDIX 1: Cuba Price List in U.S. Dollars

Note: Markets have changed for cards available on online auctions: expect to pay about 30-50% less for mint cards which are readily available.

UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used	UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used
1	1878 - 25c blue	25	2000	20	1888 - 2c green type I	200	600
2	1879 - 25c red	20	2400	20a	1888 - 2c green type II-A	53	300
2 II-1	25c red plate 2, pos. 1	145	—	21	1888 - 4c carmine type I	300	—
3	1880 - 10c carmine UPU	20	1000	21a	1888 - 4c carmine type II-A	60	400
4	1880 - 15c rose UPU	24	1200	22	1890 - 2c green type I	10	150
5	1880 - 10+10c carmine	24	—	22a	1890 - 2c green type I-A	15	150
6	1880 - 15+15c rose UPU	27	—	23	1890 - 4c carmine type I	15	220
7	1881 - 2c carmine UPU	15	150	23a	1890 - 4c carmine type I-A	20	220
8	1881 - 3c rose UPU	18	150	24	1892 - 2c green on buff	15	150
9	1881 - 2+2c carmine	24	—	24a	1896 - 2c green on yellow	35	150
10	1881 - 3+3c rose UPU	27	—	25	1892 - 4c brown on buff	18	300
11	1882 - 2c carmine UPU	12	60	26	1894 - 2c dk brown on buff	20	150
11a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	45	75	27	1894 - 4c blue on buff	180	400
11b	Same - ULTAAMAR error	275	500	27a	1896 - 4c blue on yellow	50	300
12	1882 - 3c rose UPU	15	120	28	1898 - 5m carmine	15	300
12a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	60	120	28-9	Same, position 9	22	300
13	1882 - 2+2c carmine UPU	20	300	29	1898 - 1c green	15	300
13a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	70	300	29-9	Same, position 9	22	300
13b	Same - ULTAAMAR error	500	800	30	1898 - 2c violet	12	300
14	1882 - 3+3c rose UPU	22	300	30-9	Same, position 9	25	300
14a	Same - w/o tilde on Ñ	100	300	31	1898 - 3c reddish brown	12	300
14b	Same - ULTAAMAR error	600	900	31-9	Same, position 9	40	300
15	1882 - 2+2c carmine ERROR	60	600	32	1898 - 5+5m carmine	25	600
16	1882 - 3+3c rose ERROR	80	800	32-3	Same, position 3	40	600
17	1882 - 2c green type I	42	200	33	1898 - 1+1c green	20	600
17a	1882 - 2c green type II	42	200	33-3	Same, position 3	30	600
17b	1882 - 2c green type II-A	40	200	34	1898 - 2+2c violet	25	600
18	1882 - 4c carmine type I	40	220	34-3	Same, position 3	50	600
18a	1882 - 4c carmine type II	45	220	35	1898 - 3+3c reddish brown	25	600
19	1882 - 10c blue type I	45	—	35-3	Same, position 3	50	600
19a	1882 - 10c blue type I	145	—				

APPENDIX 2: Cuban Postal Card Cross Index - Spanish Domination 1878 - 1898

UPSS No.	Edifil No.	H&G No.	Ascher No.	Description
1	1	1	1	1878 – 25 <u>céntimos de peseta</u> , blue & orange – Alfonso XII
2	2	2	2	1879 – 25¢, reddish brown & orange
3	3	3	3	1880 – 10¢ carmine UPU
4	4	4	4	15¢ carmine UPU
5	5	5	5	10¢ + 10¢ carmine UPU
6	6	6	6	15¢ + 15¢ carmine UPU
7	7	7	7	1881 – 2 <u>centavos de peso</u> , carmine UPU
8	8	8	8	3¢ salmon pink UPU
9	9	9	9	2¢ + 2¢ carmine UPU
10	10	10	10	3¢ + 3¢ salmon rose UPU
11	11	11	11	1882 – 2¢ carmine UPU
12	12	12	12	3¢ rose UPU
13	13	13	13	2¢ + 2¢ carmine UPU
14	14	14	14	3¢ + 3¢ salmon rose UPU
15	13E	15	15	2¢ + 2¢ carmine UPU – stamp positions reversed
16	14E	16	16	3¢ + 3¢ salmon rose UPU – stamp positions reversed
17	15	17	17 I	1882 domestic – 2¢ green & orange - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i> (ends in a <u>ball</u>)
17a	16	17a	17 II	2¢ green & orange - type II “r” in <i>Sr.</i> (ends in a <u>hook</u>)
17b	16A	17b	17 III	2¢ green & orange - type II-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
18	17	18	18 I	4¢ carmine & orange - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
18a	18	18a	18 II	4¢ carmine & orange - type II “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
19	19	19	19 I	10¢ blue & orange - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
19a	20	19a	19 II	10¢ blue & orange - type II “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
20	21	20	20 I	1888 - 2¢ green - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
20a	22	20a	20 II	2¢ green - type II-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
21	23	21	21 I	4¢ green - type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
21a	24	21b	21 II	4¢ carmine type II-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
22	25	22	22a	1890 2¢ green type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i> - Alfonso XIII <i>pelón</i> or bald
22a	25A	—	22b	2¢ green type I-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
23	26	23	23a	4¢ carmine type I “r” in <i>Sr.</i>
23a	26A	—	23b	4¢ carmine type I-A “r” in <i>Sr.</i> , displaced to the right
24	27	24	24a	1892 - 2¢ green on buff
24a	27A	24a	24b	2¢ green on yellow (1896 reprint)
25	28	25	25	4¢ brown on buff
26	29	26	26	1894 - 2¢ dark brown on buff
27	30A	—	—	4¢ dark blue on buff
27a	30	27	27	4¢ dark blue on yellow (1896 reprint)
28	31	28	28 I	1898 - 5m carmine on yellowish card stock (buff = UPSS 28a) – Alfonso XIII
28-Pos9	31E	—	28 II	same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines (buff = 28a-Pos9)
29	32	29	29 I	1¢ green on yellowish card stock card (buff = UPSS 29a)
29-Pos9	32E	—	29 II	same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines (buff = 29a-Pos9)
30	33	30	30 I	2¢ violet on yellowish card stock (buff = UPSS 30a)
30-Pos9	33E	—	30 II	same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines (buff = 30a-Pos9)
31	34	31	31 I	3¢ reddish brown on yellowish card stock (buff = UPSS 31a)
31-Pos9	34E	—	31 II	same with 17 mm between the 1 st and 2 nd address lines (buff = 31a-Pos9)
32	35	32	32 I	5m + 5m carmine on yellowish card stock (salmon = UPSS 32a)
32-Pos3	35E	—	32 II	same w/ 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card. (salmon = 32a-Pos3)
33	36	33	33 I	1¢ + 1¢ green on yellowish card stock (salmon = UPSS 33a)
33-Pos3	36E	—	33 II	same w/ 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card. (salmon = 33a-Pos3)
34	37	34	34 I	2¢ + 2¢ violet on yellowish card stock (salmon = UPSS 34a)
34-Pos3	37E	—	34 II	same w/ 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card. (salmon = 34a-Pos3)
35	38	35	35 I	3¢ + 3¢ reddish brown on yellowish card stock (salmon = UPSS 35a)
35-Pos3	38E	—	35 II	same w/ 17 mm between 1 st and 2 nd address lines on reply card. (salmon = 35a-Pos3)

Postal Cards of the Spanish Philippines, 1878-1898

by Don Peterson

Introduction

After 25 years of using postage stamps (first issued in 1854), the Manila correspondent experienced another postal innovation – the postal card. On September 1, 1879, the official first postal card was issued in Manila – a 3 centavos de peso value surcharged on an earlier, but unissued (except in error) 50 milesimas de peso card.



October 31, 1884, Manila to Kiel, Germany, via Naples.
From the David Chiong collection (UPSS 2)

The focus of the Philippine section of this book is on the postal history of the cards, to the extent it can be compiled from existing or obtainable records, including information on usage, printing formats, listing of key varieties and errors, and MUESTRAS (specimens).

Much of the information in this catalog, particularly with regard to plate varieties of Spanish Philippine postal cards, comes from several detailed catalogs and books by Angel Laiz, the preeminent authority on postal cards of Spain and colonies. These include catalogs listing Spanish Philippines postal cards (Laiz, 1994 and 2006), a study of the plating and varieties of the 1878-1879 cards (Laiz, 1998), and a study on the plating and varieties of the 1898 postal cards (Laiz, 1998). The postal history information, including postal card rates, primarily comes from Peterson (1984) and Peterson and Lewis (1984).

(2000, as amended 2009).

Establishment of Spanish Philippine UPU Rates

On May 1, 1877, the Philippines joined the GPU (renamed the Universal Postal Union in 1878). The establishment of postal card rates and procedures was directly tied to the establishment the UPU letter rates and procedures for the Spanish Philippines. Therefore, it is paramount to understand how the overseas UPU rate was established and what the overseas UPU letter rate was in order to know how the postal card rate was established. According to Article 3 of the 1874 Treaty of Berne, the overseas rate for a single-weight letter was to be the equivalent of 25 centimes, based on the French gold franc. When the Philippines joined the UPU, one Philippine centavo de peso was equal to 5 French centimes. Thus, the overseas single-weight letter rate for mail from the Philippines would have been $5 \times 1 \text{ centavo} = 5 \text{ centavos de peso}$, equivalent to the 25 centimes standard. However, Article 3 also allowed a member nation to levy a slightly higher rate “in order to suit its monetary or other requirements.” An upper limit on the levy was also specified whenever the mail was carried over the seas more than 300 nautical miles. In those instances, an additional charge, not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the UPU rate fixed for a paid letter, could be added to the ordinary postage. Since from the Philippines, nearly all member nations were farther than 300 nautical miles, Spanish officials took advantage of the 50 percent surtax rule and set the overseas single-weight letter rate (under $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce) for Philippine mail to member nations at $5 \text{ centavos} + 2 \frac{1}{2} \text{ centavos (surtax)} = 7 \frac{1}{2} \text{ centavos}$, which was rounded up to 8 centavos.

Establishing the Spanish Philippine UPU Postal Card Rate

According to UPU procedures, as set forth by the 1874 Treaty, the postal card was to be one-half the single-letter overseas rate. At the time the Philippines joined the UPU in 1877, the single-weight overseas rate was 10 centavos (the 8 centavos UPU rate was not implemented until September 1, 1879). Thus, the postal card rate would have been 5 centavos de peso or 50 milésimas de peso. As a result, Spanish postal authorities printed a 50 milésimas de peso postal card (UPSS 1) for the Philippines, in 20-card panes (4 across and 5 down). However, at the time the card was printed, probably in January or February 1878, but before the 20-card panes were cut, the *Fabrica Nacional del Sello* (National Stamp Factory) in Madrid, Spain, received news that the Postal Congress, held in Paris, May 2-June 4, 1878, had reduced the basic rate of the postal card from $12\frac{1}{2}$ centimes (one-half the single-letter UPU rate, based on the French franc) to 10 centimes (Coddington, 1964). I am of the opinion that the news of the UPU postal card rate reduction prompted Spanish postal authorities to reconsider the UPU post card rate for the Philippines—lowering it from 50 milésimas de peso (5 centavos de peso) to 3 centavos de peso. Fortunately, this could be done with a surcharge, since the 50 milésimas cards were still in uncut panes at the National Stamp Factory in Madrid.

In 1879, four postage stamp issues of 1878-1879 were surcharged with the words, “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO with value at 2 centavos for the single-letter interior rate and 8 centavos for the single-letter UPU rate. Both stamps were issued in two formats – one with narrow spacing (Type 1) and one with wide spacing (Type 2) of the words CONVENIO and CORREOS. The 50 milésimas postal cards, in panes of 20, were subsequently surcharged only with the Type 2 surcharge, “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso” (UPSS 2). Of course, the value was 3 centavos for the postal card rate, rather than the 2 or 8 centavos postage stamp values.

Implementation of the Spanish Philippine UPU Postal Card Rates

Until the Philippines joined the GPU in 1877, postage stamps of the Spanish Philippines were not accepted for payment of mail to foreign countries. They were only used for postage on internal mail and on mail to Spain and her colonies. Most covers from the Philippines to countries outside the Spanish empire until 1877 were affixed with the adhesives of India, Hong Kong, or Straits Settlements. Supplies of these stamps were maintained by business firms in the Philippines. The stamps were affixed to out-bound mail, which was carried directly to a departing ship, by-passing Philippine post offices. In all cases, the mail was cancelled at Hong Kong or Singapore.

The immediate effect of the Philippines joining the GPU on May 1, 1877, was that its mail was readily accepted by member nations of the UPU, and vice versa. The Philippines officially implemented new UPU postal rates and procedures for letters and postal cards on September 1, 1879. No orders or regulations have been found promulgating the new UPU rates and procedures in the Philippines. The earliest known Philippine government document describing the new UPU rates and procedures is a Manila Treasury Ordinance signed by Calvo Nunez, dated October 27, 1881.

Mail to non-member countries was also affected by the UPU procedures and rates. Unless there were existing treaties in effect, such mail was usually conveyed at the same UPU rate. Since no postal treaties were known to be in effect after 1877 between the Philippines and other countries, the Philippines generally applied the same UPU rates and procedures to all countries, whether they were members or not, as a matter of convenience and consistency.

Overall, the issuance of the postal card was an economic advantage to the Philippine correspondent. For example, at the time of joining the UPU in 1877, the postal rate in the Philippines was 10 centavos for an overseas single-weight letter, and 2 centavos for a single-weight interior letter. The 3 centavos overseas postal card would therefore have been attractive for corresponding overseas, with a savings of 7 centavos per piece. When the single-letter UPU rate changed to 8 centavos in 1879, use of the 3 centavos UPU postal card would still have been a significant savings of 5 centavos. However, it would have been slightly more costly to use the postal card for interior correspondence, which was 2 centavos (1 centavo more). Expectedly, use of the first postal card for interior correspondence is rare. However, philatelic use was relatively common. It wasn't until July 1889, when a cheaper 2 centavos card for interior use was issued in the Philippines, which was slightly less than the 2 ½ centavos interior single-weight letter. The lower postal card rate did not last. From January 1, 1890 through December 31, 1897, the postal card rate and single-weight letter rate were the same – 2 centavos. In 1898, Spanish authorities finally realized the benefits of the postal card, and reduced their rates to ½ and 1 centavos (within same town and between towns), compared to the 2 and 3 centavos letter rates, respectively.

Spanish Philippine Postal Cards

Printing and Plate Variations

All Spanish Philippine postal cards were printed at the National Stamp Factory in Madrid, Spain. Each card was individually typeset. The 1878-1896 cards were printed in panes of 20, whereas the 1898 cards were printed in panes of 10, except for the 1898 message-reply cards, which were printed in panes of 8.

Position 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

Uncut plate of 20 cards for the 1878 - 1890 card issues.

The National Stamp Factory used an antiquated movable printing type (typographic plate) and a flat press to produce postal cards from 1878 through 1898. Variations were common, including distances between letters and lines, since the letters were manually placed in an adjustable frame and tightened in place. Given the effort required to assemble the type, replacements/repairs were seldom made, except from year to year and for the next issue. However, major flaws, if found, were often repaired during the printing process. These plate repairs should not be considered second, third, etc. printings. The variations are considerable and can include:

- nicks and spots in any portion of the design,
- missing accents, such as over the second “a” in *hará* in the Nota inscription,
- broken letters, such as at least six different break locations in the “S” of *Sr*,
- different letter types and sizes,
- missing letters, such as missing “r” in *firmado* in the Nota inscription,
- word shifts, such as different locations of “Sr” under the “T” of *TARJETA*,
- line breaks,
- varying locations of short pane “marker” lines on card edges,
- varying distances between address lines,
- broken or under-inked letters, such as “CORDEOS”, “CONVINEO”, etc., on UPSS 2,
- line or phrase length differences,
- indicia color differences,
- cardstock color differences, and
- varying cardstock thicknesses.

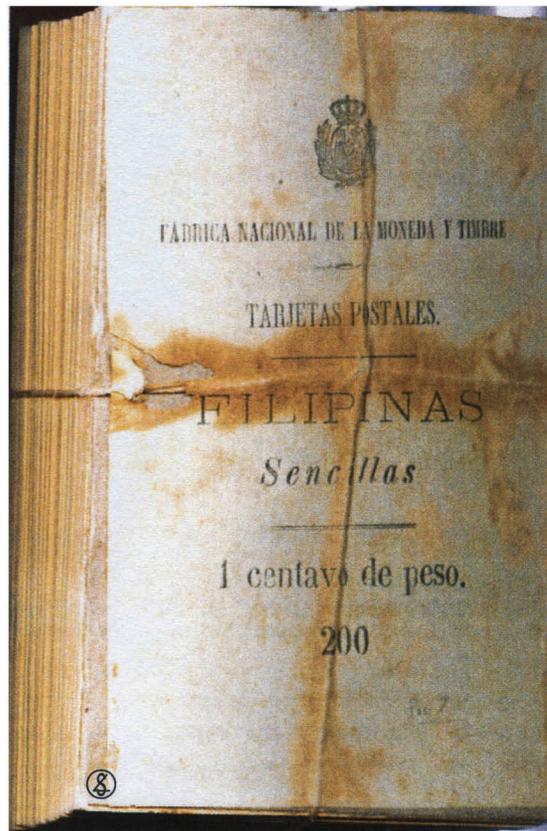
Due to the large number of variations on these cards, and the fact that a combination of many variations can be found on every Spanish Philippine card, only those variations deemed significant or notable, as well as major errors, are specifically listed in this study. For detailed listings of variations, refer to the Laiz references.

The inscription on the bottom of all Spanish Philippine cards from 1878 through 1898 (UPSS 1 through 19) cards within the frame lines reads “*Nota. Lo que debe escribirse se hara en el reverso e ira firmado por el remitente.*” This means “the message shall be on the reverse side and signed by the sender.” Note that each half of the message-reply cards are from different positions on the pane, and therefore, each will have a different set of plate variations. Most of the plate variations were repetitive, albeit those subject to repair during the printing process.

Bundling of Cards

After the panes were printed, they were cut and stacked in bundles of 200. Interestingly, all the cards in each bundle were of the same plate position on the pane. Each stack of 200 cards was shipped to the colonies with a cover glued to the cardboard on top, a cardboard in the center separating two stacks of 100 cards, and a cardboard on the bottom of the bundle. Only two Philippine hard cardstock covers are known, both for the 1898 1 centavo postal card (UPSS 13). The message-reply cards were cut in Madrid and sent unfolded to the Philippines.

Hard cardstock cover on bundle of 200 cards shipped to the Philippines for the 1898 1 centavo issue. Only two covers reported. From Laiz (2006) (UPSS 13).



Source of Issuance Numbers

Issuance numbers, when available, are from the primary reference, Mencarini (1896). Juan Mencarini was an avid stamp collector and resided in Manila in the 1890s. As a result, he had first-hand knowledge of the issuance dates and issuance numbers of the postal cards, which he included in his 1896 catalog. In fact, he sent several 1890s postal cards to himself on the first day of issue, which for most of the 1890s cards, was January 1 of the year of issue. A word of caution. Doubts exist regarding some of the production numbers provided by Mencarini (1896) and others. Where these numbers are believed to be too high, a statement to that effect is included in the description of such cards.

Period of Use

The period of use refers to the “official” period. However, many cards were used years later, both commercially and philatelic use. Philatelic usage of postal cards is quite common, particularly of UPSS 5 through 19.

Stamp and Card Stock Colors

There is a considerable range of stamp and card stock colors. Problems on interpreting color are noteworthy. For example, different catalogs variably call some cards buff, yellow-buff, or yellow. Different words are used in different catalogs to describe the same color. This is particularly confusing when comparing the description of colors between Edifil (Spanish), Ascher (German), Higgins & Gage (U.S.), and Bartels (U.S.), for example. In reality, there is no “standard” color guide, past or present, which provides a uniform international standard. In addition to what the original color may have been, the effects of time, light, and tropical conditions in the Philippines more often than not altered the original color of the card stock and stamp/portrait on the card (hereafter referred to as *indicia*). If the card colors “buff” and “yellow” can be easily distinguished, they are listed separately; otherwise they are listed as “yellow-buff”.

Although U.P.U. procedures recommended use of certain stamp colors for overseas use versus interior use, the *indicia* colors on Spanish Philippines cards were indifferent to U.P.U.’s recommended color schemes. There was also no consistency between the colors of stamps and postal card *indicia* for a given year issue.

Specimens (MUESTRAS)

For the 1881-1898 postal card issues, there are MUESTRA (specimen) postal cards, usually marked MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS in violet. Variations in the handstamp and color exist. Some specimen cards have additional handstamps, indicating approval at the National Stamp Factory, and approval for production by the Director General of Finance, with the approval signatures. The approval handstamps and signatures were normally applied in the margins of the pane, and rarely on the card itself. However, the handstamp, MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS, was usually applied on the card. Refer later in this section to an illustration of a full pane of the 1898 MUESTRAS card (UPSS 16S). Specimens are indicated with an “S” after the UPSS number (e.g., UPSS 3S).

1878 – First Philippine Postal Card – Issued in Error

UPSS 1 1878

UPSS No.	Variety Description
1	50 milésimas de peso reddish brown or dark reddish brown on thick or thin buff card issued in error. (It was supposed to have the surcharged overprint)
1a	Same except small second “A” of “TARJETA”
1b	Same except “cn” instead of “en” in Nota inscription
1c	Same except smaller font in “a” of “hara” in Nota inscription
1d	Same except no period after “Sr”
1e	Same except missing “r” of “firmado” in Nota inscription
1f	Same except printers waste double impression, with one inverted
Date of Issue (in Manila): Earliest reported postmark is March 2, 1878 (Laiz, 2006) Number Issued (in error): no information Period of Use: March 2, 1878, through September 7, 1883 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm	



Indicium of King Alfonso XII on UPSS 1 and 2.

The indicium of Alfonso XII is between TARJETA on the left, and POSTAL on the right. The words “TARJETA POSTAL” are in tall scroll letters, and an orange groundwork underlies the entire design, lines, and words. The engraver was Jose Garcia Morago, whose initials JG, appear at the base of the indicium. The pane size of this issue is 20 cards (4 across and 5 down), as confirmed by an existing full pane of a similar Cuban issue. Although there were three different plates of 20 for the Cuba cards (e.g., 1878 plate, 1879 plate 1, and 1879 plate 2), whereby each card on the plate can be individually identified, we find that the

Philippine cards do not conform to the Cuba plates. A new plate of 20 was prepared to produce the 1878 Philippine cards. Ascher (1928) indicated that “there obviously was a second printing edition for use in overprinting, distinguished by a completely white nose, lighter colored cardboard, and a darker value mark”. However, in this author’s opinion, it is unlikely that another printing was done (or needed), given the low usage of these first cards in the Philippines. The “nose” variations were more likely variations on the original plate and/or in the printing process. Ultimately, all of the panes, surcharged and un-surcharged in error, were cut and bundled in stacks of 200 and sent to the Philippines.



Printers waste double impression, with one inverted.
From Laiz (2006) (UPSS 1f).

The following are three of the plate variations listed for UPSS 1-2 and 4-5.



Small second “a” of “hara”, and “cn” instead of “en”.

Missing period after “Sr”



Small second “A” of “TARJETA”



Only 6 used un-surcharged cards (UPSS 1) have been recorded:

1. 1878 (March 2) Manila to London (Laiz, 1998)
2. 1878 (December 14) Manila to Cologne, Germany (Afinsa Auction, May 8, 2000)
3. 1879 (April 27) Manila to Switzerland, via French paquebot from Saigon (David Chiong collection)
4. 1881 (July 1) Manila to Hong Kong (Don Peterson collection)
5. 1883 (January 20) Manila to Koln, Germany (Antonio Cuesta collection)
6. 1883 (September 7 date-line), Iloilo to Dresden, Germany (Laiz, 1998)

The earliest UPSS 1 card known is from Manila to London, dated March 2, 1878, used prior to the official shipment of the surcharged cards to the Philippines after June 18, 1878, when the UPU Convention changed the basic card rate. We are uncertain as to how this early card reached the Philippines. This suggests that a small number of un-surcharged cards were removed from the stack of uncut panes in Madrid and somehow, un-officially appeared in Manila in early 1878. Whereas, the December 1878, 1879, 1881, and 1883 un-surcharged cards could have been included, in error, in the shipment of surcharged cards officially sent to the Philippines after June 1878. Interestingly, the December 14, 1878, and the April 27, 1879, cards were used prior to the official release on September 1, 1879. In any event, all 6 used cards contain commercial messages, were addressed to overseas destinations, and show no indication that they were philatelic.



1881 (July 1 date-line) Manila to C.S. Buff, Butterfield Devine, Hong Kong, via the steamer MANILA listing various agricultural products shipped to Spanish and British ports. Only 6 used cards known. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 1a).

The un-surcharged cards known after September 1, 1879, probably occurred as a result two panes stuck together during the surcharging process, so that the bottom pane was not surcharged. The panes, un-surcharged and surcharged, were cut and shipped to the Philippines. The unsurcharged 50 milésimas cards are considered issued in error.

1879 – First Official Philippine Postal Card – Surcharged

UPSS 2 1879

**Surcharge “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE
CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso”
on indicium (UPSS 2).**

UPSS 2 is the same as UPSS 1, except with “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso” surcharged in black on indicium. Like UPSS 1, the pane size of this issue was 20 cards (4 across and 5 down), as confirmed by a full pane by Laiz (1998). Harradine (1977) states that 3,050 cards, including cards issued in error (UPSS 1), were issued in Manila on September 1, 1879, for overseas use. This high number is doubtful, based on the few cards, both mint and used, that are known. The use of these first cards was not particularly popular, as less than 25 used cards are known to exist.



UPSS No.	Variety Description
2	Surcharged in “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso” in black on 50 milésimas de peso reddish brown or dark reddish brown indicium on thick or thin buff card on UPSS 1.
2a	Same except small second “A” of “TARJETA”
2b	Same except “cn” instead of “en” in Nota inscription
2c	Same except smaller font in “á” of “hará” in Nota inscription
2d	Same except no period after “Sr”
2e	Same except missing “r” of “firmado” in Nota inscription
2f	Same except with misaligned surcharge error
2g	Same except proof with surcharge in green
2h	Same except proof with surcharge in red
2i	Same except proof with surcharge in blue or violet
2j	Same except proof with surcharge in yellow
Date of Issue (in Manila): September 1, 1879 (Peterson and Lewis, 2000) Number Issued: no information. Period of Use: September 1, 1879, through August 1881 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm	

An interesting questionable usage exists of this card (UPSS 2). At least two cards are known, addressed to "Manilla", with a stunning black parilla cancel on the indicium, with identical messages in Portuguese on the reverse side, and with the date, November 23, 1879, in the message. The message also indicates the cards were from Alcobaca to Evora, both in Portugal. There are no dated cancels on the cards. Both cards are believed to have been philatelic use, and doubtless were sent through the mail to the Philippines.

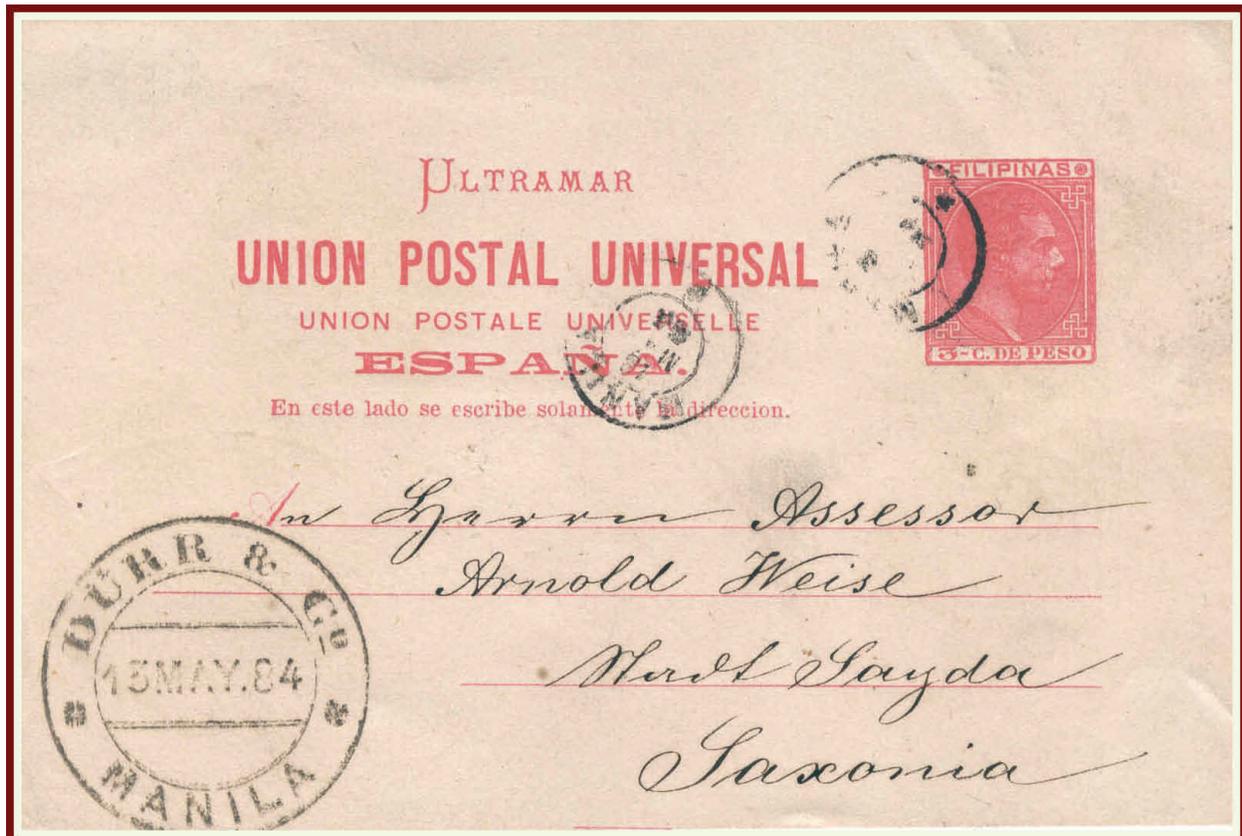
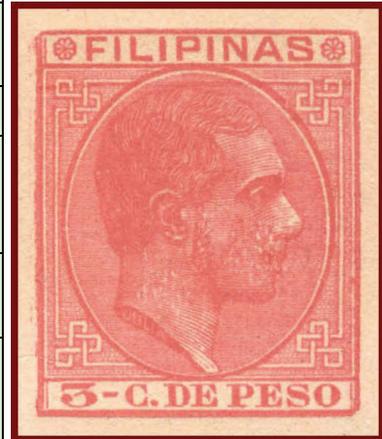


Misaligned surcharge error. Only one card known. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 2f).

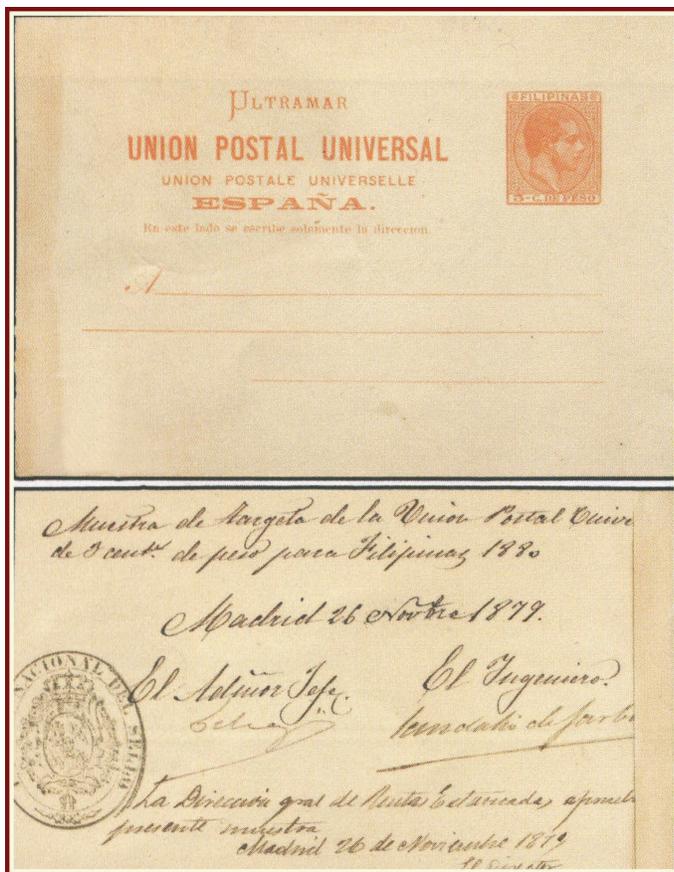
1881 – Philippine Universal Postal Union Postal Card

UPSS 3 1881

UPSS No.	Variety Description
3	3 centavos de peso vermilion or bright vermilion on thin or medium white card
3a	Same except green proof indicium
3S	Same except with “Muestras” (specimen) in manuscript and ADMINISTRADORES DE LA FABRICA DEL SELLO seal handstamp in black
3Sa	Same except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/ MUESTRAS (specimen) handstamp in violet
<p>Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1881 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: 10,000 (Mencarini, 1896) Period of Use: January 1881 through June 1889 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 131 x 90mm</p>	



1884 (May 18) Manila to Germany with Durr & Company business handstamp at the 3 centavos overseas rate. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 3).



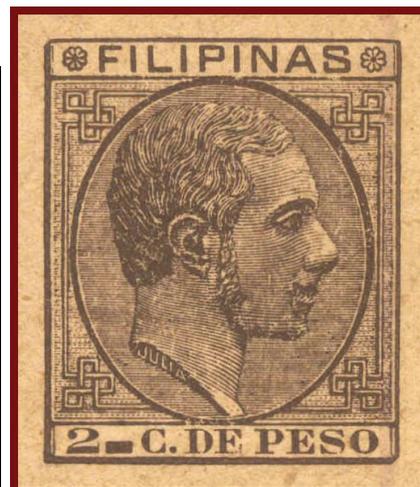
Muestra (specimen), dated Madrid, October 26, 1879, and signed. Front and reverse side. From Soler y Llach Auction, October 5, 2009 (UPSS 3S).

A new indicia was engraved by Eugenio Julia y Jover, whose name Julia, appears at the base of the indicia. The indicia of King Alfonso XII is in the upper right corner. This is also the only card containing the words ULTRAMAR / UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL (in Spanish) and UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE ESPANA (in French) in the center, thus giving it the distinction of being the “UPU” card. We assume the pane size of this issue was 20 cards (4 across and 5 down). Issued for overseas use. Mencarini (1896) stated that the card was issued on April 19, 1880, but subsequent cataloguers have accepted the 1881 date. The phrase, “*En esta lado se escribe solamente la direccion*” was on the front, meaning “Only write the addressee and address on this side.”

1889 – Philippine Interior Postal Card

UPSS 4 1889

UPSS No.	Variety Description
4	2 centavos de peso dark brown on thick or thin buff card
4a	Same except with divided “POST AL” error in heading
4b	Same except small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>
4c	Same except “cn” instead of “en” in Nota inscription
4d	Same except smaller font in second “a” of <i>hará</i> in Nota
4e	Same except no period after <i>Sr</i>
4f	Same except missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in Nota inscription
4g	Same except with proof “UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL” handstamp in red, and “CINCO PESO” surcharge on the indicium in blue-green
Date of Issue (in Manila): July 1889 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: no information Period of Use: July 1889 through December 1891 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 98mm Issued for interior use	



1889 Indicium

1890 Manila to Cebu with divided POST AL error at the 2 centavos interior rate. Only five used cards known. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 4a)



The indicium of King Alfonso XII has TARJETA on the left and POSTAL on the right in tall scroll letters. We assume the pane size of this issue was 20 cards (4 across and 5 down). This is the first card issued for interior use. Only 5 used UPSS 4a are known. UPSS 4g is believed to have been prepared for the UPU, and only one used card, albeit philatelic, is known.

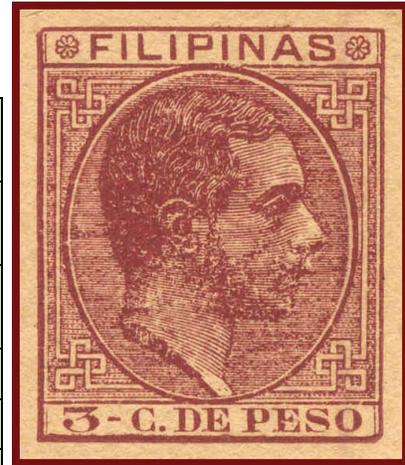


UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL in red and CINCO PESO in blue-green on card for the U.P.U. with 1890 Manila cancel (philatelic). Only one card known. From (Laiz, 2006) (UPSS 4g).

1889 – Philippine Message-Reply Postal Card

UPSS 5 1889

UPSS No.	Variety Description
5	3 centavos de peso reddish brown + 3 centavos de peso reddish brown on thick or thin buff card
5a	Same except top address line on the message card is 71mm long instead of 79mm
5b	Same except small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>
5c	Same except “cn” instead of “en” in Nota inscription
5d	Same except smaller font in second “a” of <i>hará</i> in Nota
5e	Same except no period after <i>Sr</i>
5f	Same except missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in Nota inscription
Date of Issue (in Manila): July 1889 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: no information Period of Use: July 1889 through December 1891 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 192-209mm Issued for overseas use	



1889 3 centavos indicium

1889 Munich to Manila on correct use of reply card. Only known correct use of reply card. From Laiz (2006) (UPSS 5).



Although the pane size of this issue was 20 cards (4 across and 5 down), the 20-card format could only produce 8 two-part message-reply cards from 16 positions. One row of 4 cards could not be used. We believe that the top row of 4 cards in the pane was disposed of during the cutting process. No full panes of this issue are known. The inscription on the bottom of the message card outside the frame lines reading “*La otra tarjeta es para la contestacion*” means “The other side is for the answer”; and the inscription on the bottom of the reply card outside the frame lines reading “*Contestacion pagada*” means “Paid answer”.

Although the primary reference (Mencarini, 1896) states that the first day of issue was in July 1889, several cards are known with an April 16, 1889, cancel date, almost three months earlier. The cancels appear genuine, but the usage is philatelic. A total of 8 cards have been reported with the April 16, 1889, date (Peterson, 1984). Most used message-reply cards were philatelic and were sent un-separated. Only one correctly used reply card is known.



1890 Manila to Erfurt, Germany at the 3 centavos overseas message-reply card rate. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 5).

1892 – 1896 King Alfonso XIII Postal Cards

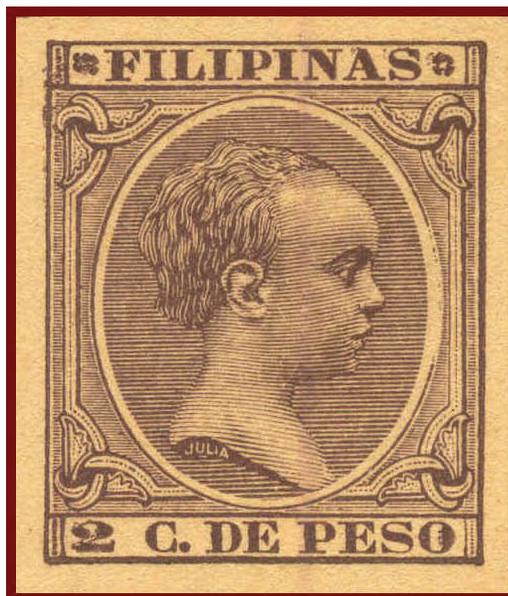
Alfonso XII died just short of his 28th birthday in November 1885, from tuberculosis, a tragic end to a young king who had ruled Spain since ascending the throne at age 15. Alfonso's posthumously born son, Alfonso XIII, born 17 May 1886, was king from the moment of his birth until his death in February 1941. His mother Maria Cristina, served as regent during his younger years until 1902. Alfonso XIII was less than 5 years old when his portrait was engraved by Eugenio Julia y Jover, whose name, Julia, appears at the base of the indicia. All cards, 1892 through 1896 (UPSS 5 through 11), are believed to have been printed on a pane of 20 cards (4 across and 5 down). No full panes of these issues are known. UPSS 5 through 11 have the indicia of King Alfonso XIII between the words TARJETA and POSTAL and the indicia faces to the right.

There are several card stock color variations of the 1892 and 1894 cards (UPSS 6-9). It is believed the printers used whatever card stock was available to meet their needs. The card stock color differences should not be considered "separate" printings, but are the result of using the various card stock on hand.

UPSS 6 1892

UPSS No.	Variety Description
6	2 centavos de peso brown on thin buff card
6a	2 centavos de peso brown on thin yellow card
Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1892 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: 1,000 (Mencarini, 1896) Period of Use: January 1, 1892, through December 1893 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm Issued for interior use	

1892 — 2 centavos indicium

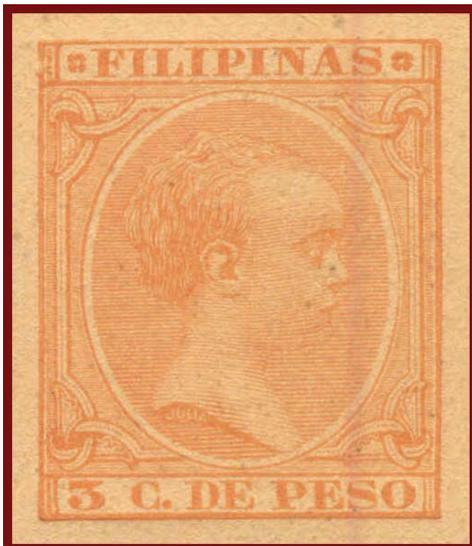




1892 (January 10) Manila local to Pablo MacKay & Company at the 2 centavos interior rate. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 6).

UPSS 7 1892

UPSS No.	Variety Description
7	3 centavos de peso orange on thin buff card
7a	3 centavos de peso orange on thin yellow card
Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1892 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: 1,000 (Mencarini, 1896) Period of Use: Jan. 1, 1892, through Dec. 1893 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm Issued for overseas use	



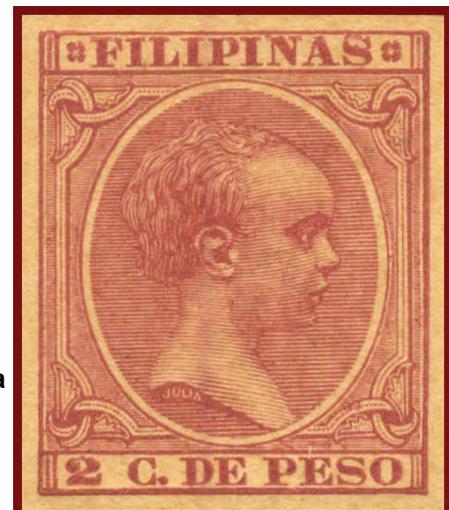
1892 — 3 centavos indicium



1892 (January 12) Manila to Erfurt, Germany at the 3 centavos overseas rate. Issued for overseas use. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 7).

UPSS 8 1894

UPSS No.	Variety Description
8	2 centavos de peso reddish brown on thin buff card
8a	2 centavos de peso reddish brown on thin yellow card
Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1894 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: 5,000 (Mencarini, 1896) Period of Use: Jan. 1, 1894, through Dec. 1895 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm Issued for interior use	



1894 — 2 centavos indicia



1895 Manila to Hamburg, Germany at the 11 centavos overseas registered rate according to Article 5 of the Treaty of Bearn. Certificado handstamp and number faint. Only 8 overseas registered cards recorded. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 8).



1895 Iloilo to Manila at the 17 centavos interior registered rate. Only 2 interior registered cards recorded. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 8).

UPSS 9 **1894**

UPSS No.	Variety Description
9	3 centavos de peso dark blue on thin buff card
9a	3 centavos de peso dark blue on thin yellow card
9S	Same except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS (specimen) handstamp in violet on thin buff or yellow card
Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1894 (Mencarini, 1896) Number Issued: 2,000 (Mencarini, 1896) Period of Use: January 1, 1894, through December 1895 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm Issued for overseas use	



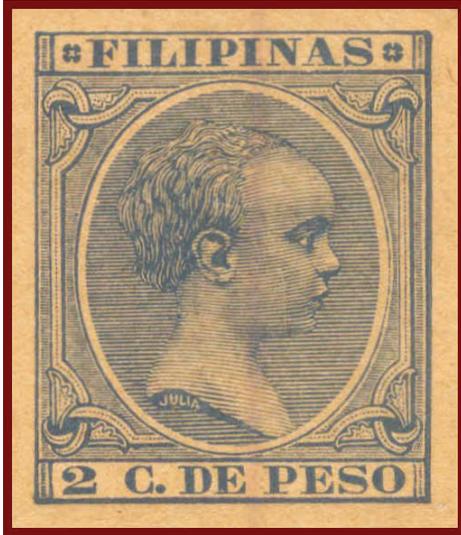
**1894 — 3 centavos
indicium**

UPSS 10 1896

UPSS No.	Variety Description
10	2 centavos de peso blue on thin buff card
10a	2 centavos de peso blue on thin yellow card
10S	Same except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS (specimen) handstamp in violet on thin buff or yellow card
<p>Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1896 (Bartels et al., 1904) Number Issued: Mencarini (1896) states that 10,000 cards were issued. Bartels, et al. (1904) states that 18,000 were issued, which is believed to be a typographical error. Although this card is relatively common, it is doubtful that even 10,000 cards were issued. Period of Use: January 1, 1896, through December 1897 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm; Issued for interior use</p>	

1897 Manila to Berlin, Germany, with 10 milésimas (1 centavo) newspaper stamps added to make up the 3 centavos overseas rate. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 10).



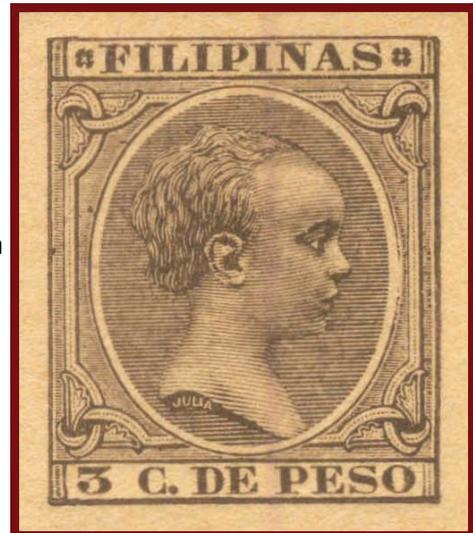


1896 — 2 centavos indicium — Light blue and 2 centavos as opposed to the UPSS 9 indicium which was dark blue and 3 centavos.

UPSS 11 1896

UPSS No.	Variety Description
11	3 centavos de peso brown on thin buff card
11a	3 centavos de peso brown on thin yellow card
11S	Same except with MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS (specimen) handstamp in violet on thin buff or yellow card
<p>Date of Issue (in Manila): January 1, 1896 (Bartels et al., 1904) Number Issued: Mencarini (1896) states that 10,000 cards were issued. Bartels, et al. (1904) states that 18,000 were issued, which is believed to be a typographical error.. Although this card is relatively common, it is doubtful that even 10,000 cards were issued. Period of Use: January 1, 1896, through December 1897 (Laiz, 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm Issued for overseas use</p>	

1896 — 3 centavos brown indicium



1898 – Philippine Postal Cards

A total of eight postal cards were issued in 1898 (UPSS 12-19), the last year of Spanish control of the Philippines (and then only from January to May). On October 8, 1897, a royal order revised the postal rates for mail that circulated within Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines; mail from one to another of these islands; and mail to the Peninsula (Spain), Balearic Islands, Canaries, and Spanish possessions of North Africa, western coast of Morocco, and Gulf of Guinea. Mail was divided into six general classes, one of which was postal cards. The new postal card rates became effective in the Philippines on January 1, 1898. Refer to the rate table.

The October 8, 1897, royal order also stated that privately-prepared postal cards (e.g., private mailing cards) made from card stock of good quality and of the same size as the officially issued postal cards were also acceptable, when properly franked with adhesive stamps paying the postage corresponding to official postal cards to the same destination. Although no privately-prepared postal cards are known from 1898 (when the above royal order applied), one such card exists posted with postage stamps equalling the correct 3 centavos rate from Manila to Paris, France, dated 1896 (Soler y Llach Auction, dated May 8, 2000). The card has a privately-printed design, which is slightly different than the official design. It was printed on card stock of the same size and thickness as the official postal cards at that time. Apparently, use of privately-prepared postal cards must have been authorized prior to 1897, although no record of this has been found.



**Indicia of King Alfonso XIII
on 1898 cards (UPSS 12-19)**

UPSS 12 through UPSS 19 show the indicia of King Alfonso XIII between the words TARJETA and POSTAL and it faces to the left. The 1898 cards were printed at the *Fabrica Nacional de la Moneda y Timbre* (previously called the *Fabrica Nacional del Sello*) in Madrid in panes of 10 (2 across and 5 down). However, although the pane size of the single cards was 10 cards (2 across and 5 down) (UPSS 12-15), the pane size was changed to 8 cards for producing message-reply cards (UPSS 16-19). The 10-card format could produce 4 two-part message-reply cards from 8 positions, leaving one

horizontal row of 2 cards. Instead of cutting the top row of 2 cards and disposing of them, as they did with the 1889 message-reply card pane (UPSS 5), the 1898 pane for message-reply cards was re-formatted to include only 8 cards (2 across and 4 down) on the pane, leaving the top portion of the sheet blank, where the two cards would have been. Illustrated below is a full pane of 8 message-reply cards of the 5 milésimas de peso issue, which was also marked with approval handstamps and signatures and MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS handstamps. Most used message-reply cards were philatelic.

Full pane of four 1898 message reply cards (8 single cards) with MUESTRAS handstamps and approval handstamps and signatures. Regular (single) cards were printed in panes of 10. Only one full MUESTRAS pane of 8 is known. From Laiz (2006) (UPSS 16S).

Commercially used examples of the 1898 cards are rare for three reasons: (1) use of the cards primarily occurred for only 4 months (January 1-April 30, 1898) from the Manila post office (2) mail to all countries was restricted at Manila and nearby post offices after May 1, 1898, due to a U.S. Naval blockade, but later was lifted in early June 1898 for all countries, except Spain, and (3) the use of open, readable mail, especially interior mail, declined significantly in 1898, due to increasing armed conflicts between Filipino insurrectionists, the U.S. Army, and Spanish Army during this period (Peterson and Lewis, 2000). Used postal cards processed through the Spanish-controlled Manila Post Office are rare between May 1 and August 13, 1898, when U.S. forces occupied and closed the Manila post office.



Although the Manila post office was reopened on August 14 under U.S. control, the processing of local and overseas Spanish mail was slow and delayed. Between May and July 1898, many out-bound letters and postal cards were hand-delivered outside the Manila post office to foreign vessels in Manila harbor, carried to Hong Kong, or occasionally to Singapore, where the postal cards and letters with Philippine stamps were first cancelled at that post office. Occasionally, Hong Kong postage was added to the mail to make up the required UPU postage rate.

Spanish Philippine postal cards used after 13 August are generally philatelic, were occasionally used as souvenirs, have U.S. military station cancels, and are not considered Spanish period usage. However, there are exceptions. For example, a few post 13 August cards may have been in bags of unprocessed Spanish mail in the Manila post office at the time U.S. authorities took over. These mail bags were later processed. In this case, this mail should be considered Spanish period usage. Additionally, many Spanish-controlled provincial post offices remained in operation in 1898, and some as late as May 1899 (e.g., Zamboanga) before being occupied and re-opened under U.S. control. Some of these cities, such as Zamboanga, were not affected by U.S. naval blockades, and mail could come and go to any foreign destination, including Spain and colonies; and by any vessel, including Spanish. Used postal cards from provincial towns under Spanish control from 14 August 1898 to May 1899 are rare.

UPSS No.	1898 Single Card Variety Description
12	5 milésimas de peso red brown on yellow-buff card Issued for interior use within the same town
12a	Same as UPSS 12, except on salmon card
12S	Same as UPSS 12, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
13	1 centavo de peso green on yellow-buff card Issued for interior use between towns
13a	Same as UPSS 13, except on salmon card
13S	Same as UPSS 13, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
14	2 centavos de peso dark violet on yellow-buff card Issued for overseas mail to Spain and colonies
14a	Same as UPSS 14, except on salmon card
14S	Same as UPSS 14, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
15	3 centavos de peso red brown on yellow-buff card Issued for overseas mail, except to Spain and colonies
15a	Same as UPSS 15, except on salmon card
15S	Same as UPSS 15, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
<p style="text-align: center;">Date of Issue (in Manila): 1 January 1898 (Bartels et al., 1904) Number Issued: no information Period of Use: 1 January 1898, through August 1898 (Laiz, 1994 and 2006) Card Size: Approx. 144 x 96mm</p>	

UPSS No.	1898 Double Card Variety Description
16	5 milésimas de peso + 5 milésimas de peso red brown on yellow-buff card Issued for interior use within the same town
16a	Same as UPSS 16, except printed on salmon card
16S	Same as UPSS 16, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
17	1 centavo de peso + 1 centavo de peso green on yellow-buff card Issued for interior use between towns
17a	Same as UPSS 17, except printed on salmon card
17S	Same as UPSS 17, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
18	2 centavos de peso + 2 centavos de peso dark violet on yellow-buff card Issued for message-reply use for overseas mail to Spain and colonies
18a	Same as UPSS 18, except printed on salmon card
18S	Same as UPSS 18, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
19	3 centavos de peso + 3 centavos de peso red brown on yellow-buff card
19a	Same as UPSS 19, except printed on salmon card
19S	Same as UPSS 19, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR/MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card

Final Thoughts

During the first three decades of the 20th century, Spanish Philippine postal cards were highly sought after, and were much more popular to collect than they are today. However, I sincerely hope that this catalog will be a catalyst to re-inspire greater interest in collecting these cards. Challenges are always exciting. The challenge of collecting 19 different cards and their innumerable plate variations will be fun and rewarding in many ways. The mint cards, in particular, are still quite available and relatively reasonable to obtain. My final thought — enjoy the challenge.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Geoffrey Lewis, Ray L. Coughlin, Richard Miggins, Nigel Gooding, David Chiong, Craig Eggleston, and Antonio Cuesta for providing comments or postal cards for the study. I thank Jim O'Donnell of the National Postal Museum for providing access to the Eugene Michel postal stationery collection, reference books, and other postal card holdings. I especially thank Robert Littrell for his excellent editorial comments and guidance. Robert was also gracious to allow me to plagiarize some of his excellent findings regarding Cuba cards, which also applied to Philippine cards. Finally, a very special thanks is extended to Angel Laiz, the preeminent authority on the postal cards of Spain and colonies. His detailed studies of these cards, as published in several excellent books, made my work easier. Thank you all.

Don Peterson



5 milésimas + 5 milésimas de peso red brown. From the Don Peterson collection (UPSS 16)
The additional inscription on the bottom of the message card reading "*La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta*" means "The other card is for the reply", and the added inscription on the bottom of the reply card reading "*RESPUESTA*" means "response".

APPENDIX 1: Philippine Price List in U.S. Dollars

All prices are in US \$ and are for non-philatelic use. Philatelic use and some mint cards available through online auctions may be purchased for 50% or less.

UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used
1	1878 — 50m reddish brown or dark reddish brown	2,500	7,000
1a	50m small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>	3,000	8,000
1b	50m “cn” instead of “en” in <i>Nota</i> inscription	3,000	—
1c	50m small “á” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	3,000	—
1d	50m no period after <i>Sr</i>	3,000	—
1e	50m missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	4,000	—
1f	50m printers waste double impression , with one inverted	8,000	—
2	1879 — 3c U.P.U. surcharge in black on 50m	50	2,000
2a	3c small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>	100	2,500
2b	3c “cn” instead of <i>en</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	100	2,500
2c	3c smaller font in the second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	100	2,500
2d	3c no period after <i>Sr</i>	100	2,500
2e	3c missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	200	3,000
2f	3c misaligned UPU surcharge error on 50m	5,000	—
2g	3c UPU surcharge in green proof on 50m	2,500	—
2h	3c UPU surcharge in red proof on 50m	2,500	—
2i	3c UPU surcharge in blue or violet proof on 50m	2,500	—
2j	3c UPU surcharge in yellow on 50m	2,500	—
3	1881 — 3c vermilion or bright vermilion	30	200
3a	3c green indicium proof	2,500	—
3S	3c with ADMINISTRACION MUESTRAS	3,000	—
3Sa	3c with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS	1,000	—
4	1889 — 2c dark brown	40	400
4a	2c divided <i>POST AL</i> error	1,500	4,000
4b	2c smaller font in second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>	80	600
4c	2c “cn” instead of <i>en</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	80	600
4d	2c smaller font in the second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	80	600
4e	2c no period after <i>Sr</i>	80	600
4f	2c missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	100	800
4g	2c with proof UPU handstamp	—	6,000

UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used
5	1889 — 3c+3c reddish brown	40	400
5a	3c+3c top address line on the message card 71mm long instead of 79mm	80	500
5b	3c+3c smaller font in second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>	80	600
5c	3c+3c “cn” instead of <i>en</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	80	600
5d	3c+3c smaller font in the second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription	80	600
5e	3c+3c no period after <i>Sr</i>	80	600
5f	3c+3c missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i>	100	800
6	1892 — 2c brown on thin buff card	50	400
6a	2c brown on thin yellow buff	80	500
7	1892 — 3c orange on thin buff card	50	400
7a	3c orange on thin yellow card	80	500
8	1894 — 2c reddish brown on thin buff card	40	400
8a	2c reddish brown on thin yellow card	60	500
9	1894 — 3c dark blue on thin buff card	40	300
9a	3c dark blue on thin yellow card	60	400
9S	3c dark blue with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on thin buff or yellow card	1,000	—
10	1896 — 2c blue on thin buff card	40	150
10a	2c blue on thin yellow card	60	200
10S	2c blue with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on thin buff or yellow	1,000	—
11	1896 — 3c brown on thin buff card	40	100
11a	3c brown on thin yellow card	60	125
11S	3c brown with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on thin buff or yellow	1,000	—
12	1898 — 5m red brown on yellow-buff card	60	900
12a	5 milésimas red brown on salmon card	70	1,000
12S	5m red brown with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—
13	1898 — 1c green on yellow-buff card	70	800
13a	1c green on salmon card	80	900
13S	1c green with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—
14	1898 — 2c dark violet on yellow-buff card	70	700
14a	2c dark violet on salmon card	80	800
14S	2c dark violet with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—
15	1898 — 3c red brown on yellow-buff card	70	800
15a	3c red brown on salmon card	80	900
15S	3c red brown with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—

UPSS No.	Description	Price Mint	Price Used
16	1898 — 5m+5m red brown on yellow-buff card	100	1,500
16a	5m+5m red brown on salmon card	130	2,000
16S	5m+5m red brown with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon	1,000	—
17	1898 — 1c+1c green on yellow-buff card	150	2,000
17a	1c+1c green on salmon card	175	2,500
17S	1c+1c green with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—
18	1898 2c+2c dark violet on yellow-buff card	150	2,000
18a	1898 2c+2c dark violet on salmon card	175	2,500
18S	1898 2c+2c dark violet with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—
19	1898 3c+3c red brown on yellow-buff card	150	2,000
19a	1898 3c+3c red brown on salmon card	175	2,500
19S	1898 3c+3c red brown with MINISTERIO MUESTRAS on yellow-buff or salmon card	1,000	—

APPENDIX 2: Philippines Cross Index — Spanish Dominion 1879 - 1898

Catalog numbering errors in Edifil have been corrected. “FN” means a footnote in Edifil, rather than a catalog number.

UPSS No.	H&G No.	Edifil No.	Description
1878			
1	1	1	50 milésimas de peso reddish brown or dark reddish brown indicium on thick or thin buff card issued in error
1a	—	1a	Same as UPSS 1, except small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>
1b	—	—	Same as UPSS 1, except “cn” instead of “en” in <i>Nota</i> inscription
1c	—	—	Same as UPSS 1, except smaller font in second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
1d	—	—	Same as UPSS 1, except no period after <i>Sr</i>
1e	—	—	Same as UPSS 1, except missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
1f	—	—	Same as UPSS 1, except printers waste double impression, with one inverted
1879			
2	2	2	3 centavos de peso black UPU surcharge “CONVENIO UNIVERSAL DE CORREOS HABILITADO 3 cents. de peso” on UPSS 1
2a	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>
2b	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except “cn” instead of “en” in <i>Nota</i> inscription
2c	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except smaller font in second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
2d	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except no period after <i>Sr</i>
2e	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
2f	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except with misaligned surcharge error
2g	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in green
2h	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in red
2i	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in blue or violet
2j	—	—	Same as UPSS 2, except proof with surcharge in yellow

**Philippines Postal Card Cross Index – Spanish Dominion 1879-1898
(continued)**

UPSS No.	H&G No.	Edifil No.	Description
<u>1881</u>			
3	3	3	3 centavos de peso vermillion or bright vermillion on thin or medium white card
3a	—	—	Same as UPSS 3, except green proof indicium
3S	—	—	Same as UPSS 3, except with <i>Muestra</i> (specimen) in manuscript and “ADMINISTRADORES DE LA FABRICA DEL SELLO” seal handstamp in black
3Sa	—	—	Same as UPSS 3, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet
<u>1889</u>			
4	4	4	2 centavos de peso dark brown on thick or thin buff card
4a	4a	4a	Same as UPSS 4, except with divided <i>POST AL</i> error in heading
4b	—	—	Same as UPSS 4, except small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>
4c	—	—	Same as UPSS 4, except “cn” instead of “en” in <i>Nota</i> inscription
4d	—	—	Same as UPSS 4, except smaller font in second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
4e	—	—	Same as UPSS 4, except no period after “Sr”
4f	—	—	Same as UPSS 4, except missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
4g	—	—	Same as UPSS 4, except with proof <i>UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL</i> handstamp in red, and “CINCO PESO” surcharge on the indicium in blue-green
5	5	5	3 centavos de peso reddish brown + 3 centavos de peso reddish brown on thick or thin buff card
5a	—	5a	Same as UPSS 5, except top address line on message card is 71mm long , not 79mm
5b	—	—	Same as UPSS 5, except small second “A” of <i>TARJETA</i>
5c	—	—	Same as UPSS 5, except “cn” instead of “en” in <i>Nota</i> inscription
5d	—	—	Same as UPSS 5, except smaller font in second “a” of <i>hará</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
5e	—	—	Same as UPSS 5, except no period after <i>Sr</i>
5f	—	—	Same as UPSS 5, except missing “r” of <i>firmado</i> in <i>Nota</i> inscription
<u>1892</u>			
6	6	6	2 centavos de peso brown on thin buff card
6a	6a	—	2 centavos de peso brown on thin yellow card
7	7	7	3 centavos de peso orange on thin buff card
7a	7a	—	3 centavos de peso orange on thin yellow card
<u>1894</u>			
8	8	8	2 centavos de peso reddish brown on thin buff card
8a	8a	—	2 centavos de peso reddish brown on thin yellow card
9	9	9	3 centavos de peso dark blue on thin buff card
9a	9a	—	3 centavos de peso dark blue on thin yellow card
9S	—	—	Same as UPSS 9, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on thin buff or yellow card
<u>1896</u>			
10	10	10	2 centavos de peso blue on thin buff card
10a	10a	—	2 centavos de peso blue on thin yellow card
10S	—	—	Same as UPSS 10, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on thin buff or yellow card

Philippines Cross Index – Spanish Dominion 1879-1898 (continued)

UPSS No.	H&G No.	Edifil No.	Description
11	11	11	3 centavos de peso brown on thin buff card
11a	11a	—	3 centavos de peso brown on thin yellow card
11S	—	—	Same as UPSS 11, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on thin buff or yellow card
<u>1898</u>			
12	12	12	5 milésimas de peso red brown on yellow-buff card
12a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 12, except on salmon card
12S	—	—	Same as UPSS 12, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
13	13	13	1 centavo de peso green on yellow-buff card
13a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 13, except on salmon card
13S	—	—	Same as UPSS 13, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
14	14	14	2 centavos de peso dark violet on yellow-buff card
14a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 14, except on salmon card
14S	—	—	Same as UPSS 14, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
15	15	15	3 centavos de peso red brown on yellow-buff card
15a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 15, except on salmon card
15S	—	—	Same as UPSS 15, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
16	16	16	5 milésimas de peso red brown + 5 milésimas de peso red brown on yellow-buff
16a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 16, except on salmon card
16S	—	—	Same as UPSS 16, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
17	17	17	1 centavo de peso green + 1 centavo de peso green on yellow-buff card
17a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 17, except on salmon card
17S	—	—	Same as UPSS 17, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
18	18	18	2 centavos de peso dark violet + 2 centavos de peso dark violet on yellow-buff card
18a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 18, except on salmon card
18S	—	—	Same as UPSS 18, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card
19	19	19	3 centavos de peso red brown + 3 centavos de peso red brown on yellow-buff card
19a	—	FN	Same as UPSS 19, except on salmon card
19S	—	—	Same as UPSS 19, except with “MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR / MUESTRAS” (specimen) handstamp in violet on yellow-buff or salmon card

Postal Cards of Puerto Rico during the Spanish Colonial Period 1878 - 1898

by Byron Mitchell

1878 card — UPSS 1

In May of 1871 an order was given to the Fábrica Nacional del Sello to begin the process of designing and printing a postal card for use in Spain. It took a couple of years for this order to be accomplished. Finally in November of 1873 the order was given for the cards to be printed and begin circulating on the following first of December.

It took another five years for the cards of Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines to be issued. When issued we can see that they were similar to the ones being used in Spain at the time.

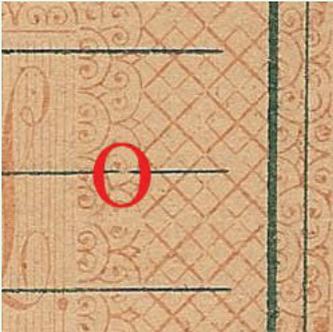
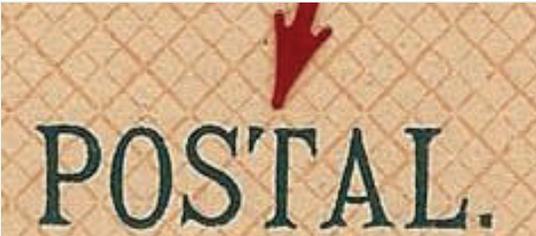
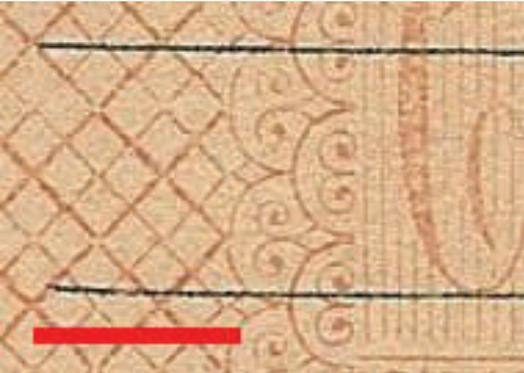


This first card could be said to be the most attractive of all the cards issued for Puerto Rico

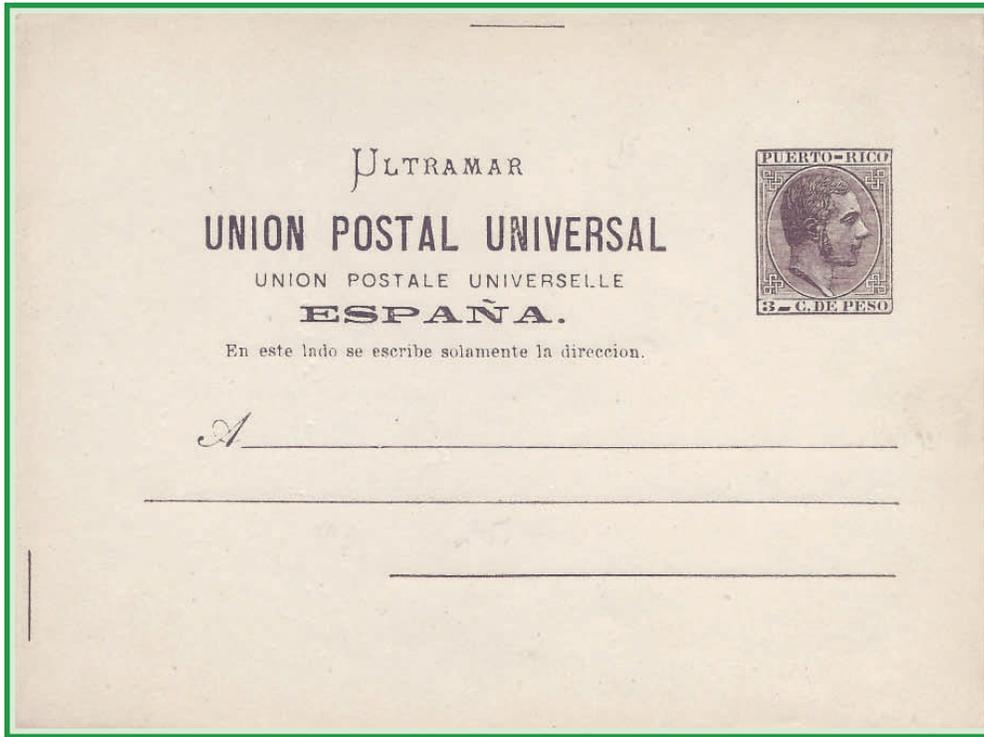
These cards were supposed to be used from 1878 on until the next issue arrived. This did not happen. Puerto Rico had entered the Universal Postal Union in 1877 and the standard rate for postal cards was 25 céntimos de peseta which happened to be the same rate for mailing a domestic letter. Taking this into consideration it made no sense to send a post card; not much could be written on a card in comparison to a letter. We also have to take the matter of privacy into consideration. A postcard was essentially a public document. Only two circulated cards are known.

In an 1894 catalog published by Rudolf Frederic, he states that the card was removed from use at the end of June of 1878 and not replaced until 1885. This raises some questions regarding the cards. Why was the card not overprinted with the correct rate after the rate change of 1 January 1880? Why did it take seven years for the card to be replaced? In those seven years 17 different cards were issued for Cuba and two for the Philippines.

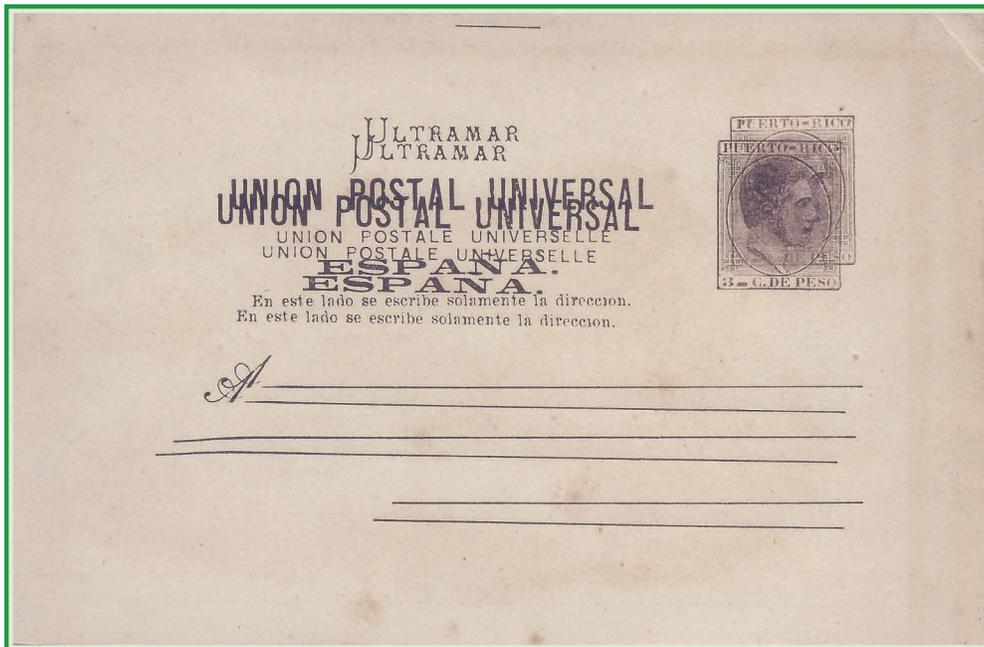
The cards were printed in panes of twenty (five down x four across). One whole 1878 pane is known from Cuba from which the twenty positions have been plated. Only four positions are known for the cards of Puerto Rico #'s 3, 12, 14 and 16. Where are the rest? Were they destroyed after the order to remove them was given?

UPSS No.	Plate Position	Variation illustration and description of the four plate positions known
1a	3	<p>Second address line is broken 7 mm from the end.</p> 
1b	12	<p>“T” in POSTAL is broken.</p> 
1c	14	<p>Upper right corner of the indicia is worn or broken.</p> 
1d	16	<p>Beginning of the third address line is bent upwards slightly.</p> 

1885 Card — UPSS 2

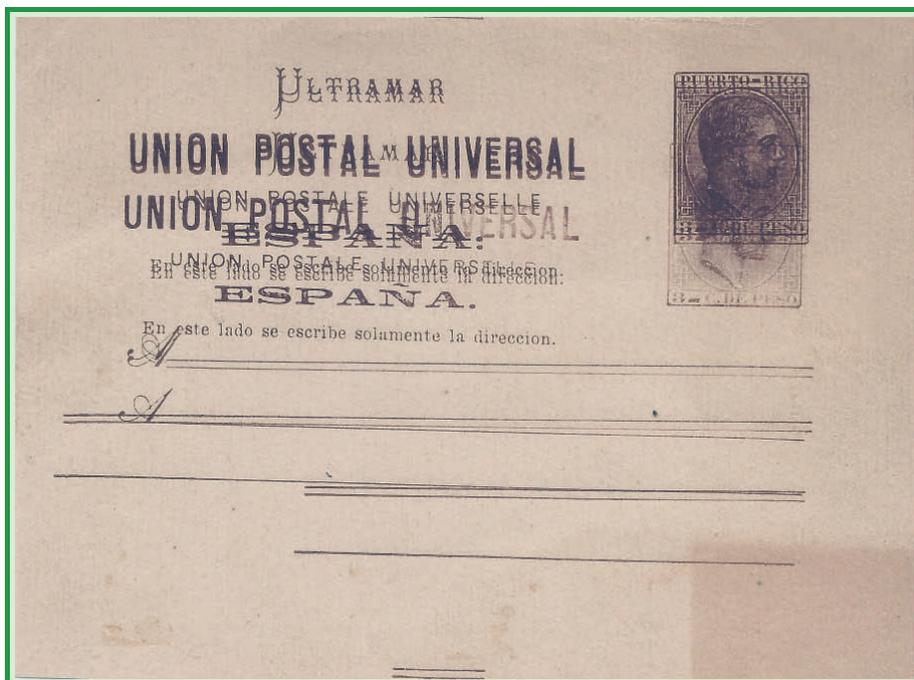


1885 brings us a 3 centavos de peso card, identical in design as the 1882 issue being used in Cuba. This card was printed in brown on “white” from a plate of twenty. Most cards appear cream colored. The portrait of Alfonso XII was the same as the one being used on the 1882 stamps. Most, but not all, of the flaws that appear on the Cuban cards also appear on the Puerto Rico cards.

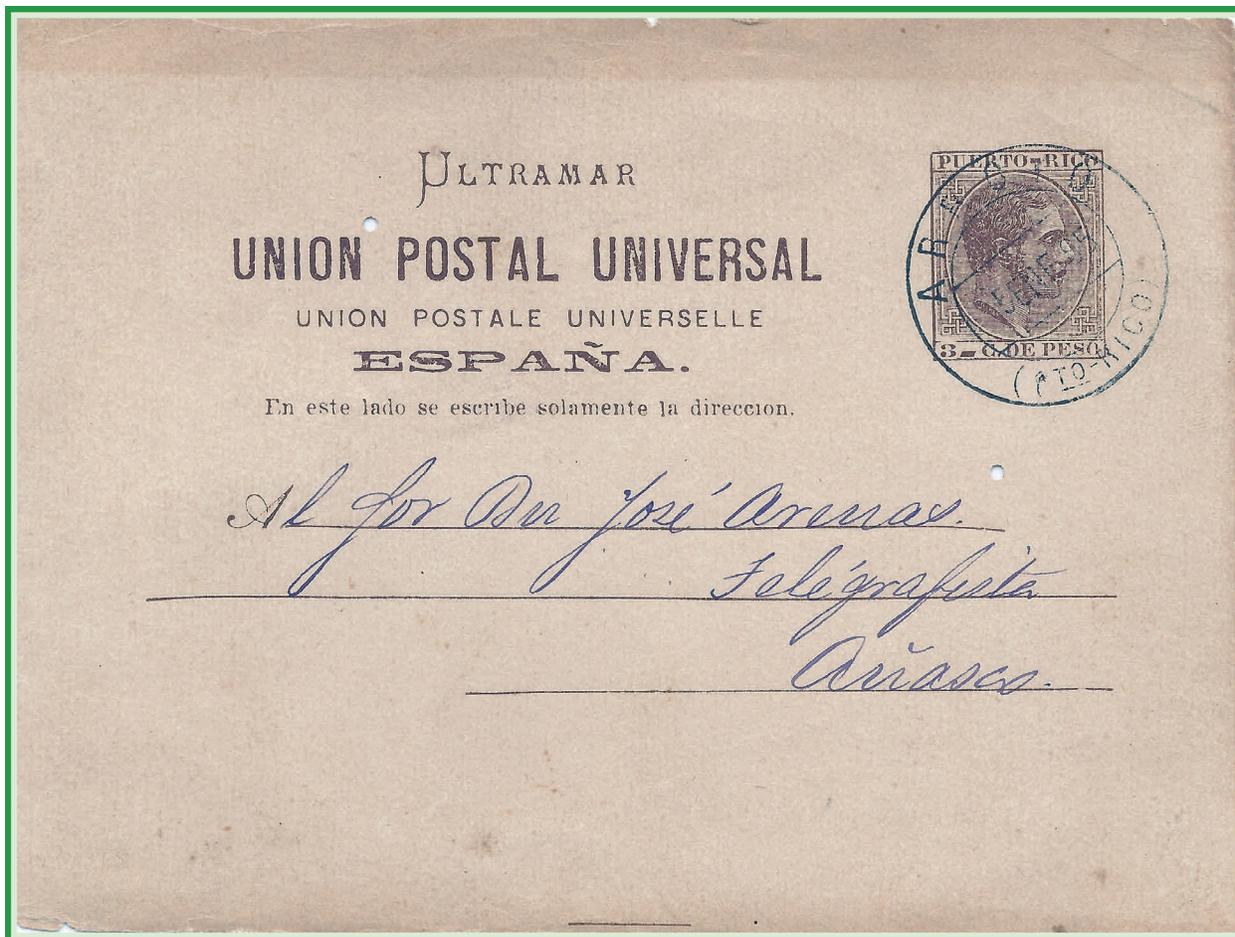


UPSS 2 — double impression

UPSS No.	Variety Description
2a	Upper left serif of “U” in <i>ULTRAMAR</i> is broken.
2b	Second address line is broken 10 mm and 23 mm from the left. Third address line is broken 13 mm and 35 mm from the right.
2c	Period after <i>ULTRAMAR</i> (another card also shows this peculiarity); the letters “A” and “S” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i> are broken.
2d	Top right horizontal portion of the “T” of <i>POSTAL</i> is broken.
2e	First address line is broken 19 mm from the left.
2f	Right part of the “U” of <i>UNION</i> very deteriorated.
2g	The “s” in <i>este</i> is inverted in the note.
2h	First address line is 77mm long. The third address line has a break at 2mm from the right.
2i	Second address line has a break 38mm from the left.
2j	Period after <i>ULTRAMAR</i> ; second address line is 93 mm long.
2k	The right part of the “U” of <i>UNIVERSAL</i> is smashed at the top.
2l	The “N” of <i>UNIVERSAL</i> has a knick at bottom right and the “V” has a butterfly shape knick in the middle of the right leg.
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 133 x 99 mm	



**UPSS 2 —
Triple impression**



UPSS 2 — 5 January 1885 — very early local use

These images show the only differences between UPSS 2 and 3. The first indicium, printed in 1885, bore the original stamp likeness of Alfonso XII from 1882. UPSS 3, however, changed over to the second retouch.

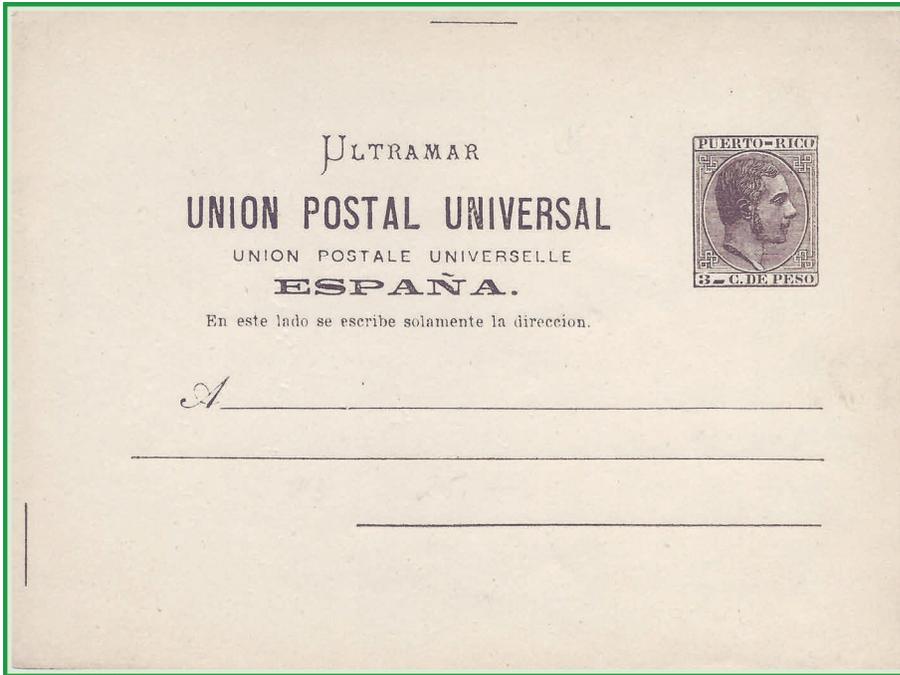
Observe closely the differences.



1887 card – UPSS 3

In 1887 a new 3 centavos de peso card was issued for use in Puerto Rico. The only difference from UPSS 2 is that it was printed on a buff card and the indicia of Alfonso XII was the one being used on the 5 centavos de peso 1886 stamp (the second retouch). They were printed in plates of 20 cards in which we can easily notice the different flaws therefore identifying the twenty positions.

Ascher and Higgins and Gage both report the issuance of this card as 1887, although Laiz reports it at 1886.



UPSS 3 –
second retouch
on indicium

UPSS 3 –
1891 use to
Stockholm, Sweden



UPSS No.	Variety description of UPSS 3 — 1886
3a	First address line has a break 3mm from the right; top left serif of “U” of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> broken.
3b	Left leg of “U” of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> broken at the bottom; first address line measures only 60 mm.
3c	Break on top of the second “A” of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> ; the bottom note has no dot at the end.
3d	Second address line broken at 10 mm and 23 mm from the left; third address line broken at 13 mm and 35 mm from the right.
3e	Period at end of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> ; the letters “A” and “S” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i> broken; the “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> comes to a point at the top end.
3f	Break at top right of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i>
3g	Second address line broken 27 mm from the left; break on top left of the “V” of <i>UNIVERSELLE</i> ; only the bottom half of the “l” of <i>solamente</i> exists.
3h	The horizontal section of the “T” of <i>POSTALE</i> reduced in size.
3i	Third address line broken at 29mm, 25mm and 20mm from the right; second “R” in <i>ULTRAMAR</i> broken at top left.
3j	The top serif of the letter “E” in <i>ESPAÑA</i> broken.
3k	The note is displaced 10mm to the left. This could be said to be a true typesetter’s error.
3l	The “s” in <i>este</i> in the note is inverted.
3m	The second address line starts in a sloping angle.
3n	The third address line is shorter, 59mm.
3o	Period at the end of <i>ULTRAMAR</i> (only two cards like this); second address line measures 93 mm and begins under the “A”.
3p	First address line broken at 44 mm from the right.
3q	First address line broken at 21 mm from the left; the “U” of <i>UNION</i> broken at the left.
3r	The right leg of the second “R” in <i>ULTRAMAR</i> is broken: it looks like a “P” with a dot at the end. Second address line is broken at 34 mm from the left.
3s	The second “E” in <i>UNIVERSELLE</i> has its bottom leg broken.
3t	First address line measures 86 mm; the right leg of the “U” in <i>UNIVERSAL</i> is crushed at the right top.
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 133 x 99 mm	

1890 Card – UPSS 4

The new 3 centavos de peso card issued for 1890 had its indicia changed. A new King Alfonso XIII (although only a baby) was on the throne and all new stamps honored him. With exception of the indicia, all the rest of the card was the same as UPSS 2 and 3, but printed in green. Most of the varieties found on the previous two cards can also be seen in them.



None of these cards are known circulated. In unused condition they are harder to find than the previous ones. It is said that some time after the cards arrived at the island, the storage facility where these and other postal material were being stored suffered a fire and most of the cards were destroyed. Something had to happen to the cards because the cards we find circulated between 1890 and 1891 are the **1886** cards.

1890 — 3c green indicium

UPSS No.	Description of UPSS 4 — 1890
4	3 centavos de peso — green on buff
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 133 x 99 mm	



1892 Card – UPSS 5 and 5A



A new completely redesigned 3 centavos de peso card was issued in 1892. It was printed in blue and in ultramarine. We do not know which color was used first, but both are easily identified. In relation to circulated cards, most of the ones found are addressed to European countries. The same was printed in plates of 10 cards so we can find different plate flaws to identify the different plate positions.

UPSS No.	Variety description of UPSS 5 (ultramarine) and 5A (blue) — 1892
5a	The “s” in “solamente” is inverted.
5b	The “o” in “solamente” is larger.
5c	Top left serif of the “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> is broken.
5d	Top horizontal section of the “E” in <i>TARJETA</i> is separated by a break.
5e	Leg of the “L” in <i>POSTAL</i> separated by a break.
5f	Right cross section of the “J” of <i>TARJETA</i> is separated by a break.
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 145 x 98 mm	

Blue indicium



Ultramarine Indicium



1894 Cards – UPSS 6 and 7

Two cards were issued for 1894, a 2 centavos de peso ultramarine card and a 3 centavos de peso rose card. The 3c was used for overseas and, specifically, European countries. The 2c card, which was to be used internally, is more difficult to find in circulated condition.

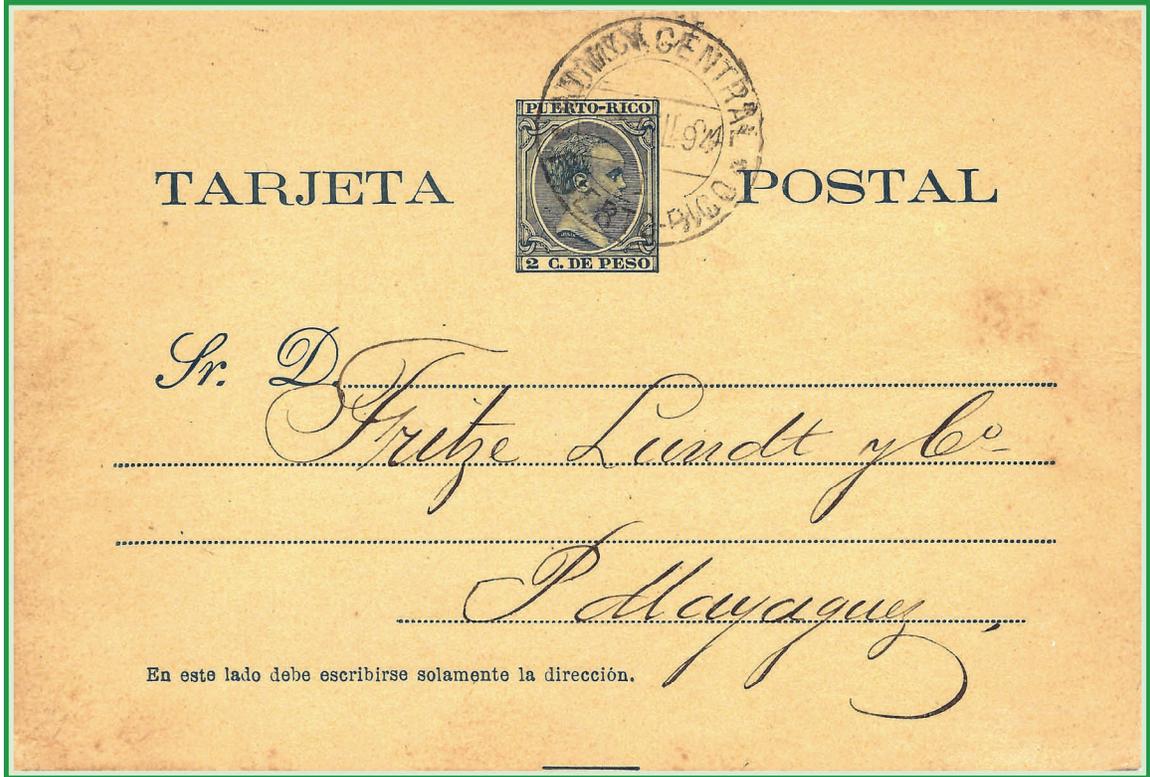


Printed on plates of ten, we can find flaws in each card which can help us identify the ten cards. What we do not know at this time is the plate position of each.

UPSS No.	Variety description of both UPSS 6 and 7 — 1894
6 / 7 a	The “s” in <i>solamente</i> is inverted.
6 / 7 b	The “o” in <i>solamente</i> is in a larger font.
6 / 7 c	Small break at bottom right of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> .
6 / 7 d	Right serif of the “J” in <i>TARJETA</i> is missing.
6 / 7 e	Bottom of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed.
6 / 7 f	Break on the left side of the “S” of <i>Sr.</i>
6 / 7 g	Third address line has break 22 mm from the left.
6 / 7 h	Half of the “ó” in <i>dirección</i> is thinner.
6 / 7 i	Fourth address line is indented 4 mm on the right.
6 / 7 j	Third address line has breaks at 28mm and 45mm from the right.
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 145 x 98 mm	



UPSS 7 — 3 centavos de peso — for overseas use



UPSS 6 — 2 centavos de peso — 1894 used to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico



UPSS 7 – 3 centavos de peso – 1895 used to Amsterdam, Netherlands

1896 Cards — UPSS 8 - 9

This issue is identical as UPSS 6 and 7 except in the colors. The 2 centavos de peso card was printed in green and the 3 centavos de peso in reddish brown. They were printed on yellow or cream card stock.



UPSS 8 –
2 centavos de peso
– green on yellow
card stock

UPSS No.	Variety description of UPSS 8 and 9 — 1896
8 / 9 a	The “s” in <i>solamente</i> is inverted.
8 / 9 b	The “o” in <i>solamente</i> is larger.
8 / 9 c	Small break at bottom right of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> .
8 / 9 d	Right serif of the “J” in <i>TARJETA</i> is missing.
8 / 9 e	Bottom of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed.
8 / 9 f	Break on the left side of the “S” of <i>Sr.</i>
8 / 9 g	Third address line has a break 22 mm from the left.
8 / 9 h	Half of the “ó” in <i>dirección</i> is thinner.
8 / 9 i	Fourth address line is indented 4 mm on the right.
8 / 9 j	Third address line has breaks at 28mm and 45mm from the right.
Typography by the Fábrica Nacional del Sello; Size: 145 x 98 mm	



UPSS 9 – 3 centavos de peso – reddish brown on yellow card stock

The printing varieties on these cards (UPSS 8 and 9) are basically the same as the previous ones (UPSS 6 and 7). We find only two minor differences regarding the ten positions mentioned for 1894:

- 8 / 9 e – The “J” in *TARJETA* was fixed but the upper right corner of the indicia is broken.
- 8 / 9 i – The fourth address line was fixed, but we find a small break on the second address line 2 mm from the right.



UPSS 8 – 1896 used to Alt Kischau, Germany

UPSS 9 – 1898 used to Trieste, Austria





En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

UPSS 9 – 1896 used to Liege, Belgium

EL DÍA 30 DE ABRIL APARECERÁ

“EL PUERTO-RICO FILATELICO.”

Revista dedicada á los coleccionistas y negociantes

— DE —

SELLOS DE CORREOS.

0:0

PRECIOS DE SUSCRIPCION:

Un año en España.....	pesetas	07.00
“ “ Unión Postal.....	“	02.00

PRECIOS DE ABONOS:

1 página.....	pesetas	15.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ “.....	“	08.00
$\frac{1}{4}$ “.....	“	04.75
línea.....	“	00.20

Para anuncios y suscripciones dirigirse á C. Coll Cuchí ó á Juan Pérez González. Apartado 41, San Juan de Puerto-Rico.

Para sumas menores de 10 pesetas se admiten sellos nuevos.

Deseamos agentes activos en todos los paises.

Todo periódico que reproduzca este anuncio tendrá derecho á uno igual en

“El Puerto-Rico Filatélico.”

Ann. N.º 41 E. A. IV. 96.

This is the only advertising known printed on a Puerto Rico card while the cards were valid for postal use. This philatelic advertisement was mailed on 18 March 1896.

1898 Cards – UPSS 10 - 17

The final year of Spanish domination brought eight newly designed cards. This new design was only used in Puerto Rico and Cuba and, later, Fernando Poo. It consisted of four single cards and four paid reply cards with the King as a young boy portrayed on the indicia. Their values were 5 milésimas, 1, 2 and 3 centavos. These same values were utilized for the reply cards. The colors used were for the 5 milésimas, claret; the 1 c. green, the 2 c. violet and the 3 c. red brown. They were printed in yellow or buff card stock. The reply cards are also known printed in a salmon color stock, but are very scarce.

These cards circulated less than ten months and are very scarce appropriately used. I only know of three circulated whole uncut reply cards. There are some which have been cut and the answer side used for the reply. The single cards were printed ten per sheet while the reply cards were printed on plates of four double cards per sheet.

UPSS No.	Position No.	Variety description of single cards of 1898
10 / 13 a	1	Top right of “P” of <i>POSTAL</i> is broken; bottom of “S” in <i>POSTAL</i> is deformed; lower left serif of the “T” in <i>POSTAL</i> is missing.
10 / 13 b	2	Top of “S” of <i>Sr.</i> is broken; second and third address lines are indented at right.
10 / 13 c	3	Break in first address line 7 mm from the left; break in third address line 45 mm from the right; break in fourth address line 35 mm from the left.
10 / 13 d	4	Right leg of the first “A” in <i>TARJETA</i> broken; left arm of the “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> is almost missing; break in third address line 25 mm from the left.
10 / 13 e	5	The “r” in <i>Sr. is</i> broken at the top.
10 / 13 f	6	Break in fourth address line 4 mm from the left; undulation starting 40mm from the left on third address line.
10 / 13 g	7	Large “o” in <i>solamente</i> ; small nick at right curve of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> .
10 / 13 h	8	Break at top of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; the “l” and “a” of <i>solamente</i> are broken.
10 / 13 i	9	Separation of 17 mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10 mm.
10 / 13 j	10	Break in second address line 1 mm from the left; breaks in third address line 4 mm and 41 mm from the left.
Typography by the <i>Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre</i> ; Single Card Size: 145 x 98 mm		

1898 Card Plating

Double card No. 1 = Single message card 3 & single reply card 5

Double card No. 2 = Single message card 4 & single reply card 6

Double card No. 3 = Single message card 7 & single reply card 9

Double card No. 4 = Single message card 8 & single reply card 10

Single cards 1 and 2 were not utilized in the making of the double cards.

The cards were printed in the scheme shown below with ten single cards printed per sheet. They eliminated positions 1 and 2 and inverted positions 3, 4, 7 and 8 to print the double cards. Consequently, the double cards have the same printing varieties as the single ones.



**10 single cards
printed on a single sheet**

**4 double cards printed
on single sheet after
discarding 2 single cards
and inverting 4 others**

**Cards 1 and 2 were not employed
in the making of the double cards**



UPSS 10b - Position 2 — 5 milésimas (½ centavo)



After printing the cards they were cut into single cards and packaged in lots of 200. A cover to the package was added specifying what it contained and then shipped to the respective Postal Administrations.

UPSS 10, 5 milésimas uprated by 2½ centavos in postage stamps to a 3 centavos overseas rate to Germany — 13 July 1898



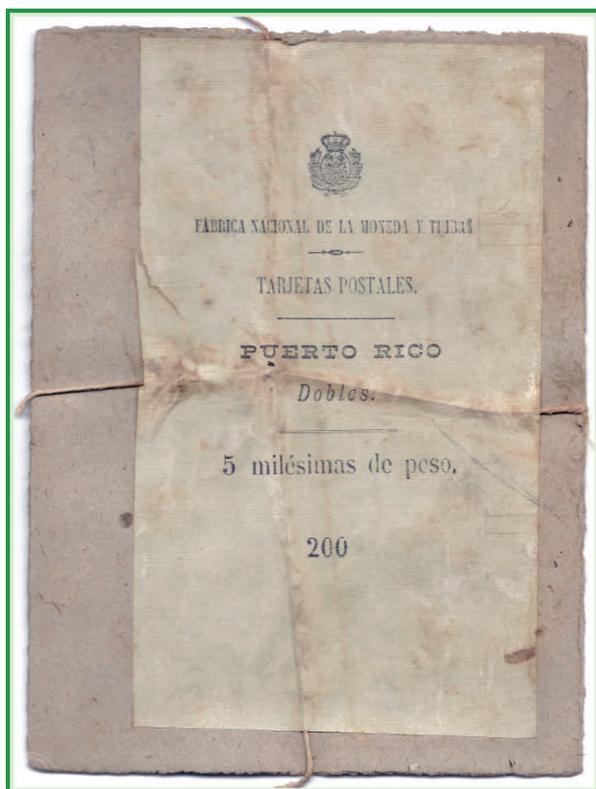


This half (front shown above and back shown below) of a 3 + 3 double card was used as a single card sent to Switzerland and uprated to pay certified and registered fees.





UPSS 13, Position 9 — 3 centavos overseas rate to Holland. Note the separation of 17 mm of the first address line from the second instead of the usual 10 mm.



Double cards were likewise packed, tied with string and sealed for shipment in packs of 200 cards. They were shipped unfolded. It is therefore not impossible to find unfolded double cards, although these are decidedly more rare than folded. The top paper was glued to a cardboard to protect it. A cardboard was put on the bottom and in the middle to separate 100 cards from the other 100. The top paper bears the name of the company that made it: Fabrica Nacional de la Moneda y Timbre. This particular cover held 5 milésimas double cards.

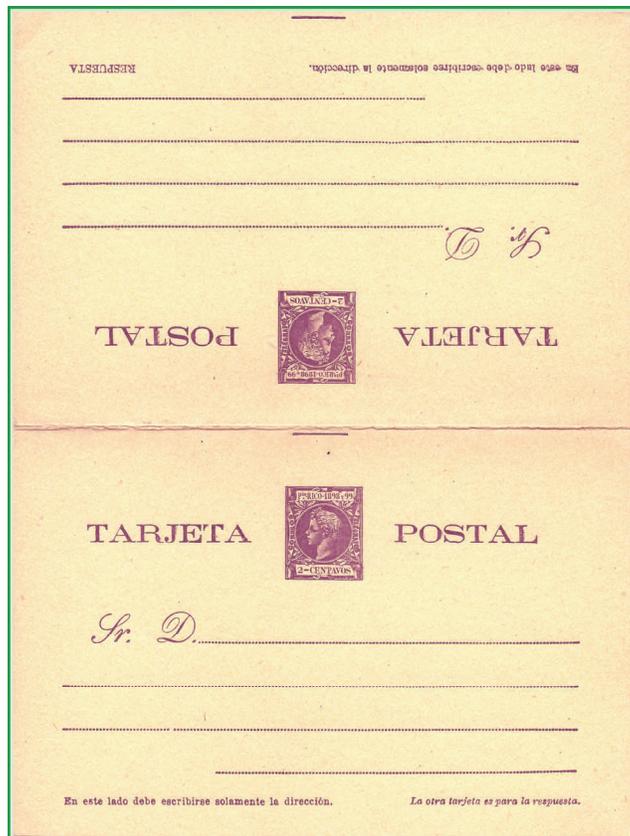


1, 2 and 3 centavos card headers from 1898. Note the variations of the color of paper.

UPSS No.	Position No.	Variety description of double cards of 1898
14 / 17 a	1	<p>Message Card: Break in first address line 7 mm from the left; break in third address line 45 mm from the right; break in fourth address line 35 mm from the left.</p> <p>Reply Card: The “r” in <i>Sr.</i> is broken at the top.</p>
14 / 17 b	2	<p>Message Card: Right leg of the first “A” in <i>TARJETA</i> is broken; left arm of the “T” of <i>TARJETA</i> is almost missing; break in third address line 25 mm from the left.</p> <p>Reply Card: Break in fourth address line 4 mm from the left; undulation starting 40mm from the left on third address line.</p>
14 / 17 c	3	<p>Message Card: Large “o” in <i>solamente</i>; small nick at right curve of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i>.</p> <p>Reply Card: Separation of 17 mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10 mm.</p>
14 / 17 d	4	<p>Message Card: Break at top of the “S” of <i>POSTAL</i> ; the “l” and “a” of <i>solamente</i> are broken.</p> <p>Reply Card: Break in second address line 1 mm from the left; breaks in third address line 4 mm and 41 mm from the left.</p>
<p>Typography by the <i>Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre</i> ; Double Card Size: 290 x 98 mm</p>		

A 2 centavos yellow colored double card — Position 2 (of 4).

One of four card denominations



A 3 centavos double card — Position 1 (of 4).

Some of the double cards were printed on a salmon colored stock as shown here. They are scarcer than the yellow ones, but they have the same plate positions and flaws.

RESPUESTA

En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.



S. F.

POSTAL



TARJETA

Mr. G. Thomas

TARJETA



POSTAL

*Sr. Dr. Silberker,
Briefmarkenhandlung,
Hannover
Alemania*



En este lado debe escribirse solamente la dirección.

La otra tarjeta es para la respuesta.

This 3 + 3 centavos double card (Position 4) sent to Germany on 13 July 1898 is one of three known circulated where the message card is not separated from the reply card.



We can find all eight 1898 cards with the

MINISTERIO DE ULTRAMAR
 ~~~~~  
**MUESTRAS**

“Overseas Ministry— Specimens” markings. Shown above are the 5 m. cards in a pane of four (Positions 5, 6, 7 and 8).



Shown at left is a pair of 1 centavo specimens (Positions 6 and 8)



To complete the set of specimens, shown here are a pair of the 2 centavos cards. Positions 7 and 8.

A 3 centavos specimen, Position 6.  
The plating positions for 1898 are nearly identical to those of Cuba.



An 1889 archival proof which was the go-ahead to start production of the 1890 card. This proof recently sold at a Solar y Llach auction for 600 Euros.

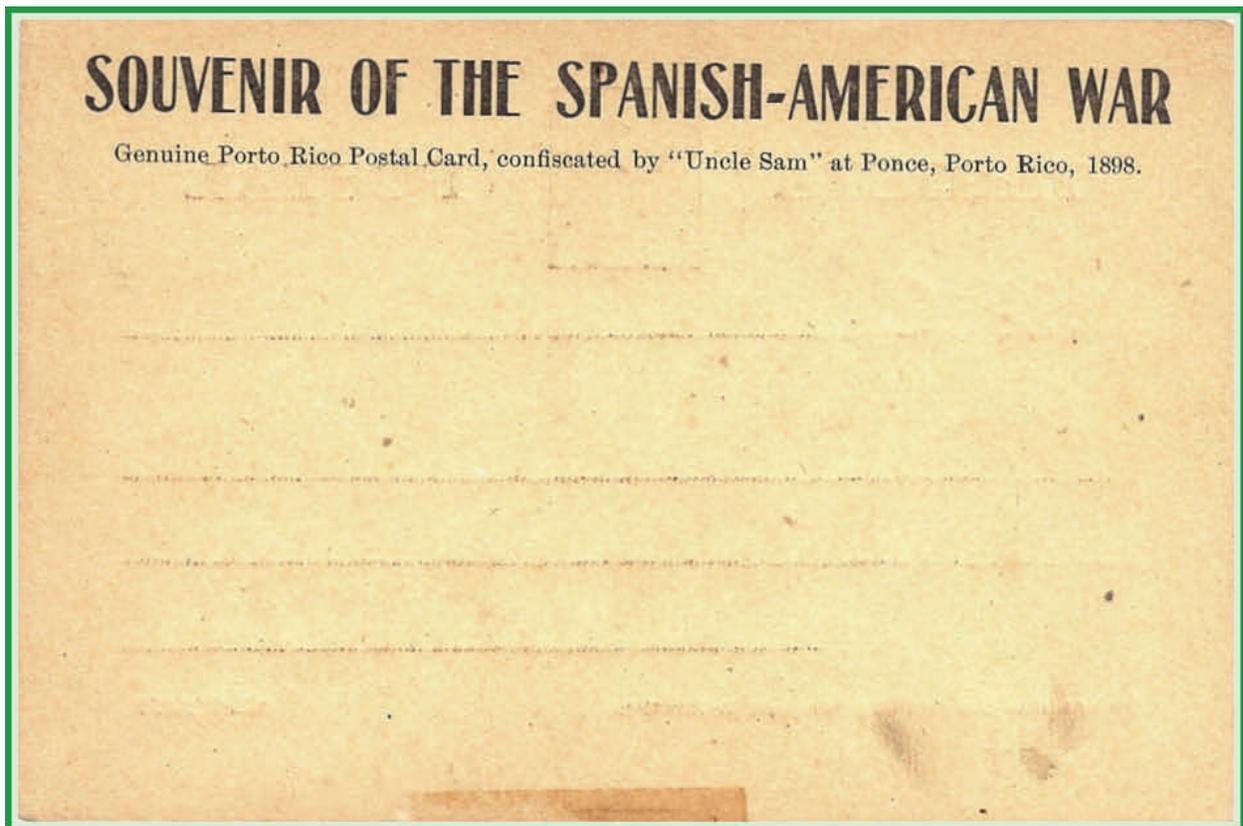
The process of issuing a postal card begins when its design is sent to the printer who fabricates the typeset into a set of 10 or 20 cards on a large press. As a preliminary step to production, a sheet is run to examine for flaws and approve for production. At right is such an archival proof. The National Stamp Factory (and later the National Factory or Currency and Stamps) placed a seal is placed on it indicating such approval. Numerous specimens are then run and sent around the world to indicate to foreign postal operations what the cards will look like. Once the approval and specimen process is achieved, full production can begin.

Of course the Spanish American war ended the Spanish control of Puerto Rico. At the end of the war the remainders of all postage material were sold at auction. There were thousands of stamps and postal cards. One person bought them all. Regarding the cards, these were the amounts auctioned off:

|                    |       |                        |      |
|--------------------|-------|------------------------|------|
| 5 Milésimas single | 7220  | 5 + 5 Milésimas double | 3308 |
| 1 Centavo single   | 15473 | 1 + 1 Centavo          | 3449 |
| 2 Centavos single  | 2000  | 2 + 2 Centavos         | 1310 |
| 3 Centavos single  | 715   | 3 + 3 Centavos         | 1451 |

We do not know how many of each card were printed for Puerto Rico, but by knowing the quantities printed for Spain we can guess that the amounts for the island were not many. In regard to circulated cards, the 1898 cards had a life of only 10 months. During the final five months the island was engaged in a war and not much mail was being sent. Most of the circulated 1898 cards have San Juan cancels, local circulation is practically non-existent.

The following 1898 card with the printing on the back “SOUVENIR OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR” is attributed to a Mayor Brewster C. Kenyon, an army paymaster at the time. We find these cards occasionally in auctions.



Thus ends our brief journey through the postal cards of Spanish colonial Puerto Rico. I find it fascinating and I look forward to the next used card I might find for sale.

## APPENDIX 1: Puerto Rico Price List in U.S. Dollars

Note: Markets have changed for cards available on online auctions: expect to pay about 30-50% less for mint cards which are readily available. Some cards with certain printing varieties command higher prices. Circulated cards within the island are scarce and cards to exotic destinations command even higher prices.

| UPSS No.   | Description                                              | Price Mint | Price Used |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <b>1</b>   | <b>1878</b> - 25 céntimos dark green                     | 200        | 2 known    |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>1885</b> - 3 centavos brown on white                  | 50         | 300        |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>1887</b> - 3 centavos brown on buff                   | 50         | 250        |
| <b>3k</b>  | Same. Fifth line displaced 10 mm to the left             | 125        | 400        |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>1890</b> - 3 centavos green                           | 100        | unknown    |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>1892</b> - 3 centavos ultramarine                     | 30         | 150        |
| <b>5A</b>  | 3 centavos blue                                          | 30         | 150        |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>1894</b> - 2 centavos dark blue                       | 15         | 150        |
| <b>7</b>   | 3 centavos red                                           | 15         | 150        |
| <b>8</b>   | <b>1896</b> - 2 centavos green on yellow or buff         | 15         | 150        |
| <b>9</b>   | 3 centavos reddish brown on yellow or buff               | 15         | 150        |
| <b>10</b>  | <b>1898-99</b> 5 milésimas claret                        | 15         | 150        |
| <b>10c</b> | Same. Second address line is 17 mm from first            | 30         | 200        |
| <b>11</b>  | 1 centavo green on yellow                                | 15         | 150        |
| <b>11c</b> | Same. Second address line is 17 mm from first            | 30         | 200        |
| <b>12</b>  | 2 centavos violet on yellow                              | 15         | 150        |
| <b>12c</b> | Same. Second address line is 17 mm from first            | 30         | 200        |
| <b>13</b>  | 3 centavos reddish brown on yellow                       | 15         | 150        |
| <b>13c</b> | Same. Second address line is 17 mm from first            | 30         | 200        |
| <b>14</b>  | 5 + 5 milésimas claret on yellow                         | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>14c</b> | Same. Reply card second address line is 17 mm from first | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>14A</b> | Same. On SALMON card stock                               | 60         | unknown    |
| <b>15</b>  | 1 + 1 centavo green on yellow                            | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>15c</b> | Same. Reply card second address line is 17 mm from first | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>15A</b> | Same. On SALMON card stock                               | 60         | unknown    |
| <b>16</b>  | 2 + 2 centavos violet on yellow                          | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>16c</b> | Same. Reply card second address line is 17 mm from first | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>16A</b> | Same. On SALMON card stock                               | 60         | unknown    |
| <b>17</b>  | 3 + 3 centavos reddish brown on yellow                   | 30         | 1200       |
| <b>17c</b> | Same. Reply card second address line is 17 mm from first | 60         | 1500       |
| <b>17A</b> | Same. On SALMON card stock                               | 60         | unknown    |

## APPENDIX 2: Puerto Rico Postal Card Cross Index – Spanish Domination 1878 – 1898

| UPSS No.   | H&G No. | Edifil No. | Description                                                                                 |
|------------|---------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>   | 1       | 1          | <b>1878</b> – 25 céntimos de peseta – Dark green on buff – Alfonso XII on indicia.          |
| <b>2</b>   | 2       | 2          | <b>1885</b> – 3 centavos de peso – Brown on white. The indicia was the original 1882 stamp. |
| <b>3</b>   | 3       | 2A         | <b>1887</b> – 3 centavos – Brown on buff. The indicia was the second retouch of 1882 stamp. |
| <b>3k</b>  | —       | —          | Same as above with fifth printed line displaced to the left by 10 mm.                       |
| <b>4</b>   | 4       | 3          | <b>1890</b> – 3 centavos – Green on buff. New indicia: Alfonso XIII pélon (bald).           |
| <b>5</b>   | 5       | 4          | <b>1892</b> – 3 centavos – Ultramarine on buff.                                             |
| <b>5A</b>  | —       | 4          | 3 centavos – Blue on buff.                                                                  |
| <b>6</b>   | 6       | 5          | <b>1894</b> – 2 centavos – Dark blue on yellow.                                             |
| <b>7</b>   | 7       | 6          | 3 centavos – Red on yellow.                                                                 |
| <b>7S</b>  | —       | —          | 3 centavos – Ultramarine (Proof or essay)                                                   |
| <b>8</b>   | 8       | 7          | <b>1896</b> – 2 centavos – Green on yellow or buff.                                         |
| <b>9</b>   | 9       | 8          | 3 centavos – Reddish brown on yellow or buff.                                               |
| <b>10</b>  | 10      | 9          | <b>1898</b> – 5 milésimas – Claret on yellow – Alfonso XIII as child.                       |
| <b>10c</b> | 10a     | 9E         | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>11</b>  | 11      | 10         | 1 centavos – Green on yellow.                                                               |
| <b>11c</b> | 11a     | 10E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>12</b>  | 12      | 11         | 2 centavos – Violet on yellow.                                                              |
| <b>12c</b> | 12a     | 11E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>13</b>  | 13      | 12         | 3 centavos – Reddish brown on yellow.                                                       |
| <b>13c</b> | 13a     | 12E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>14</b>  | 14      | 13         | 5 milésimas +5 milésimas double (paid reply) – Claret on yellow.                            |
| <b>14c</b> | 14a     | 13E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>14A</b> | —       | 13A        | 5 milésimas +5 milésimas double (paid reply) – Claret on salmon.                            |
| <b>15</b>  | 15      | 14         | 1 centavo + 1 centavo double (paid reply) – Green on yellow.                                |
| <b>15c</b> | 15a     | 14E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>15A</b> | —       | 14A        | 1 centavo + 1 centavo double (paid reply) – Green on salmon.                                |
| <b>16</b>  | 16      | 15         | 2 centavos + 2 centavos double (paid reply) – Violet on yellow.                             |
| <b>16c</b> | 16a     | 15E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>16A</b> | —       | 15A        | 2 centavos + 2 centavos double (paid reply) – Violet on salmon.                             |
| <b>17</b>  | 17      | 16         | 3 centavos + 3 centavos double (paid reply) – Reddish brown on yellow.                      |
| <b>17c</b> | 17a     | 16E        | Same, but separation of 17mm between the first and second address lines instead of 10mm     |
| <b>17A</b> | —       | 16A        | 3 centavos + 3 centavos double (paid reply) – Reddish brown on salmon.                      |

**Note:** All of the 1898 issues (10 through 17) are known to have purple ink specimens marked:

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MUESTRAS

APPENDIX 1

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