

# THE OFFICIAL STAMPS OF SPAIN 1854-1866 - THE FIRST OFFICIAL STAMPS IN THE WORLD

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The first Official stamps in the world were introduced by Royal Decree dated in Madrid on the 16 March 1854:

1. The franking of official mail is obligatory from the 1st July 1854.
2. A class of stamps will be required different from those used for private letters.
3. The stamps will express, instead of the price, the maximum weight for which each one may be used.
4. Official mail must be presented at a Post Office, and must be directed from and addressed to an Authority, and must not be addressed to a person by his name but by his official designation.
5. Official mail must bear the seal of the sending Authority.
6. Mail addressed to private individuals will not be circulated.
7. Official mail for Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines will be franked in the same manner, and are subject to the same conditions.
8. Official mail from abroad will continue to pay in coin as before.

It is remarkable that stamps were produced without a price indication, something which was not repeated anywhere in the world until more than 100 years later!

It is also remarkable that the Official stamps of Spain were in fact (from 1858) used in four different continents of the world:

Europe (Spain and the Balearic Islands), Africa (Morocco-Ceuta and the Canary Islands), America (Cuba, Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo), Asia (the Philippines).

It is also interesting to note that Official mail was marked "S.N." (Servicio Nacional = National Service) in all the countries except Cuba, Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo where it was marked "R.S." (Real Servicio = Royal Service).

The use of these stamps was discontinued as of 1 August 1866, but in Cuba they continued to be used until mid 1868.

Note: The first official stamp produced in the world was, of course, the Great Britain One Penny black "V.R.", but this stamp was never issued or used, so therefore the Spanish official stamps were the first in the world to be used.

A note on condition: As with almost all classic items in Spanish philately, covers are often not complete covers but fronts of covers only (so called "plicas"). The reason for this is that when these items were removed from archives many years ago, it was only the fronts that were released, the rest of the folded letters were kept in the archives.

### THE EXHIBIT - PLAN AND DETAILS

This exhibit is a very comprehensive study of the Official stamps and their usage, in Spain as well as in the Territories and Colonies, and it contains a large number of the rarities and unique items from the area.

#### THE 1854 ISSUE (frame 1)

This issue was only in use for six months and is therefore much scarcer than the 1855 issue. The exhibit starts with the **1854 Official Essay** which is **rare**. There are also **two of the three known** mixed frankings between the 1854 and 1855 issues, as well as the **largest recorded used multiple** of the Una Libra, a block of 14. This frame also shows the **highest known franking** on cover of all the Official issues, 8 pounds and 1½ ounce.

#### THE 1855 ISSUE (frames 2 to 4)

This issue was in use between 1855 and 1866 and there were many printings with differently coloured papers. Many large multiples and part sheets are shown, as well as use on covers. Frame 3 shows "Weights and Rates" including combinations of every half ounce between ½ ounce and 9 ounces and then various rates up to two pounds. There are also **three registered covers**, including **one of two known** with a regular stamp paying the registration fee.

#### MOROCCO, BALEARIC ISLANDS & CANARY ISLANDS (frame 4)

Usage from and to Morocco (Ceuta), the Balearic Islands, and the Canary Islands is shown with many different rates and combinations.

#### CUBA (frames 5 to 6)

Official stamps were in use from 1858 and many different rates and combinations are shown. The **Havana Lithography** is shown, all values unused and/or used, as well as five covers including one with **four Una Libra**. Official covers to Spain, the Canary Islands and Puerto Rico, as well as covers from Spain to Cuba are also included.

#### SANTO DOMINGO, PHILIPPINES & PUERTO RICO (frame 6)

Santo Domingo was under Spanish rule between 1861 and 1865 and the **only known** Official cover to the island is shown, as well as the **only known** use of the Havana Lithography in Santo Domingo. One Official cover from and one to the Philippines is shown. Puerto Rico usage shows a number of different combinations and rates including **mixed frankings with regular stamps**, and **one of three known** usages of Una Libra in Puerto Rico. Also use to Mallorca and from Spain is included.





### 1854 ESSAY

Only one essay for the Official stamps is recorded; it was produced in 1854 and was engraved by Bartolomé Corominas, showing the head of Queen Isabella with the words "CORREO OFICIAL" and "1 LIBRA 1854" in the frame. It is only known in green.



### 1854 COLOUR PROOFS

Unlike the essay, and the 1855 issue, the 1854 issue does not contain the words "Correo Oficial" (Official Mail); it only has the word "CORREOS" (Mail) and the year "1854", as well as the denomination in weight, and looks almost exactly like the regular stamps of 1854. This suggests that the 1854 issue was of a provisional character until the finalized design was produced in 1855. A number of different colour proofs are known; the different denominations were produced in colours different from the colours of the issued stamps. The final stamps, both for the 1854 and 1855 issues, were produced in the following basic colours: Media Onza black on yellow paper; Una Onza black on rose paper; Cuatro Onzas black on green paper; Una Libra black on blue paper.



1854 regular stamp



### 1854 THE ISSUED STAMPS - THE FIRST ISSUE



### 1855 COLOUR PROOFS ON WHITE PAPER



### 1855 THE ISSUED STAMPS - THE SECOND ISSUE





**1854 (1 July) MEDIA ONZA ( $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce) grey-black to black on pale yellow to yellow paper**

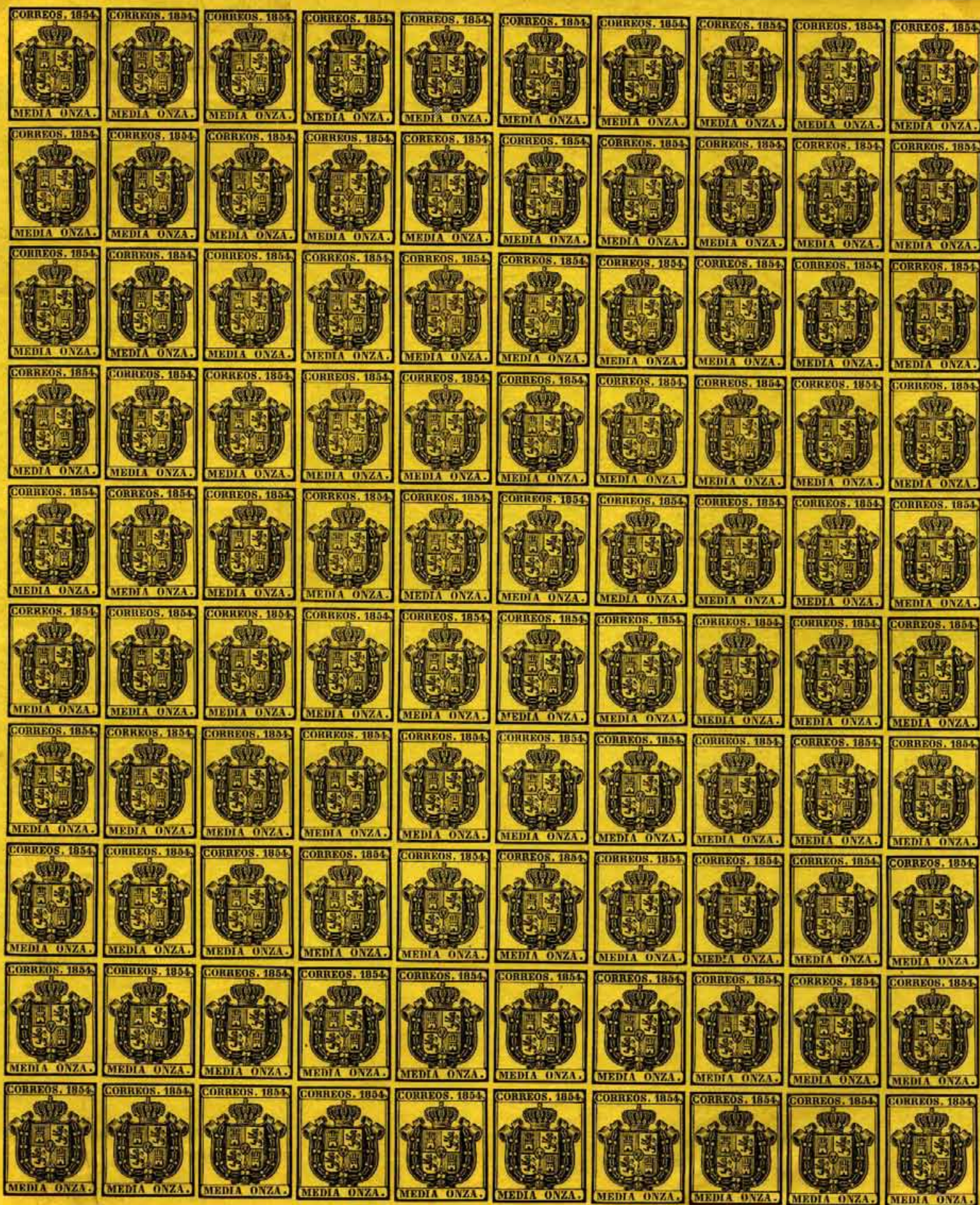
Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 678,000. Valid between 1 July and 31 December 1854. Could be used on a letter weighing up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce (14.35 grams).



**CORRESPONDENCIA OFICIAL. SELLOS DE MEDIA ONZA.**





**1854 MEDIA ONZA part sheet of 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps) from the left part of the sheet**



**1854 MEDIA ONZA on cover**

1854 (17 July) Early use from Sevilla

**Early use**



1855 First use with 4 cuartos stamp from Jerez de la Frontera to Cadiz



**Double used cover (front)**

1855 (2 March) Second use with Official stamp from Cadiz





**1854 MEDIA ONZA on cover**

1860 (14 May) Untaxed late use from Lerida

Late use untaxed



1859 (14 April) Late use from Madrid taxed "4" cuartos



Late use taxed the single rate

1855 (7 August) Late use from Cadiz taxed "8" cuartos

Late use taxed the double rate





**1854 MEDIA ONZA on cover - mixed franking with 1855 issue**

1855 (14 March) Media Onza (1854) + Una Onza (1855) x3 from Cadiz



**Mixed franking  
1854 + 1855 issues.  
Very rare -  
only three examples  
recorded!**

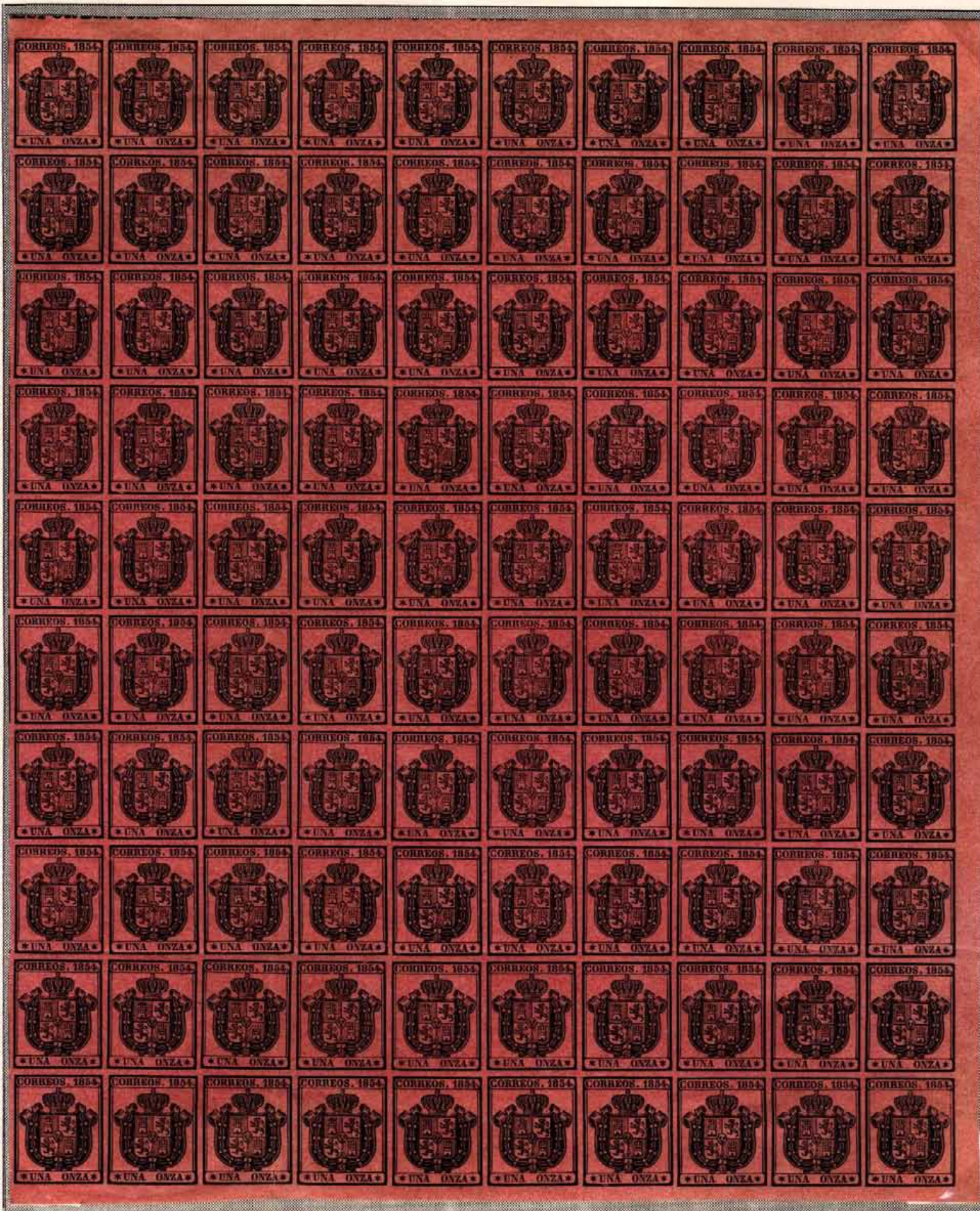


**1854 (1 July) UNA ONZA (1 ounce) grey-black to black on rose to deep rose paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 339,000. Valid between 1 July and 31 December 1854. Could be used on a letter weighing up to 1 ounce (28.7 grams).





**1854 UNA ONZA part sheet of 100 stamps (10 rows of 10 stamps) from the right part of the sheet**



1854 UNA ONZA on cover

1854 (5 July) Early use from Castropol

Early use



1855 (3 April) Late use from Malaga



Late use

1854 (2 December) Una Onza + Media Onza from Fecla

Una Onza +  
Media Onza





1854 UNA ONZA on cover - mixed franking with 1855 issue

Mixed franking 1854 + 1855 issues. Very rare - only three examples recorded!

This is also the highest recorded of all official frankings on cover - being for a package weighing almost 4 kgs!

1855 (March) Una Onza + Media Onza (1854) + Una Libra (1855) block of eight from San Fernando





**1854 (1 July) CUATRO ONZAS (4 ounces) black on green paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 218,100. Valid between 1 July and 31 December 1854. Could be used on a letter weighing up to 4 ounces (114.8 grams).





1854 CUATRO ONZAS on cover

1854 (21 March) Date error from Barcelona

Date error



1854 (6 July) Early use from Albaterra



Early use



1854 CUATRO ONZAS on cover

1863 (27 February) Late use from Valencia



Late use

1863 Cuatro Onzas (x2) late use from Barco de Avila



Late use



**1854 (1 July) UNA LIBRA (1 pound) black on pale blue to blue paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 117,000. Valid between 1 July and 31 December 1854. Could be used on a letter weighing up to 1 pound (= 16 ounces = 459.2 grams).





**1854 UNA LIBRA on cover**

Only one cover (front) is recorded with the 1854 Una Libra stamp, but a few part covers with this stamp are also known.

1854 Part cover with block of 14 - the largest recorded used multiple



**Block of 14 -  
the largest recorded  
used multiple**

1854 Part cover with Una Libra block of 6 + Cuatro Onzas pair + Una Onza Pair

**6 Pounds 10 ounces**





**1855 (1 January) MEDIA ONZA ( $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce) grey-black to black on pale yellow to yellow paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 39,890,600. Valid between 1 January 1855 and 31 July 1866. Could be used on a letter weighing up to  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce (14.35 grams).





1855 MEDIA ONZA part sheet of 106 stamps (partly folded) from the left part of the sheet

N. 11,687

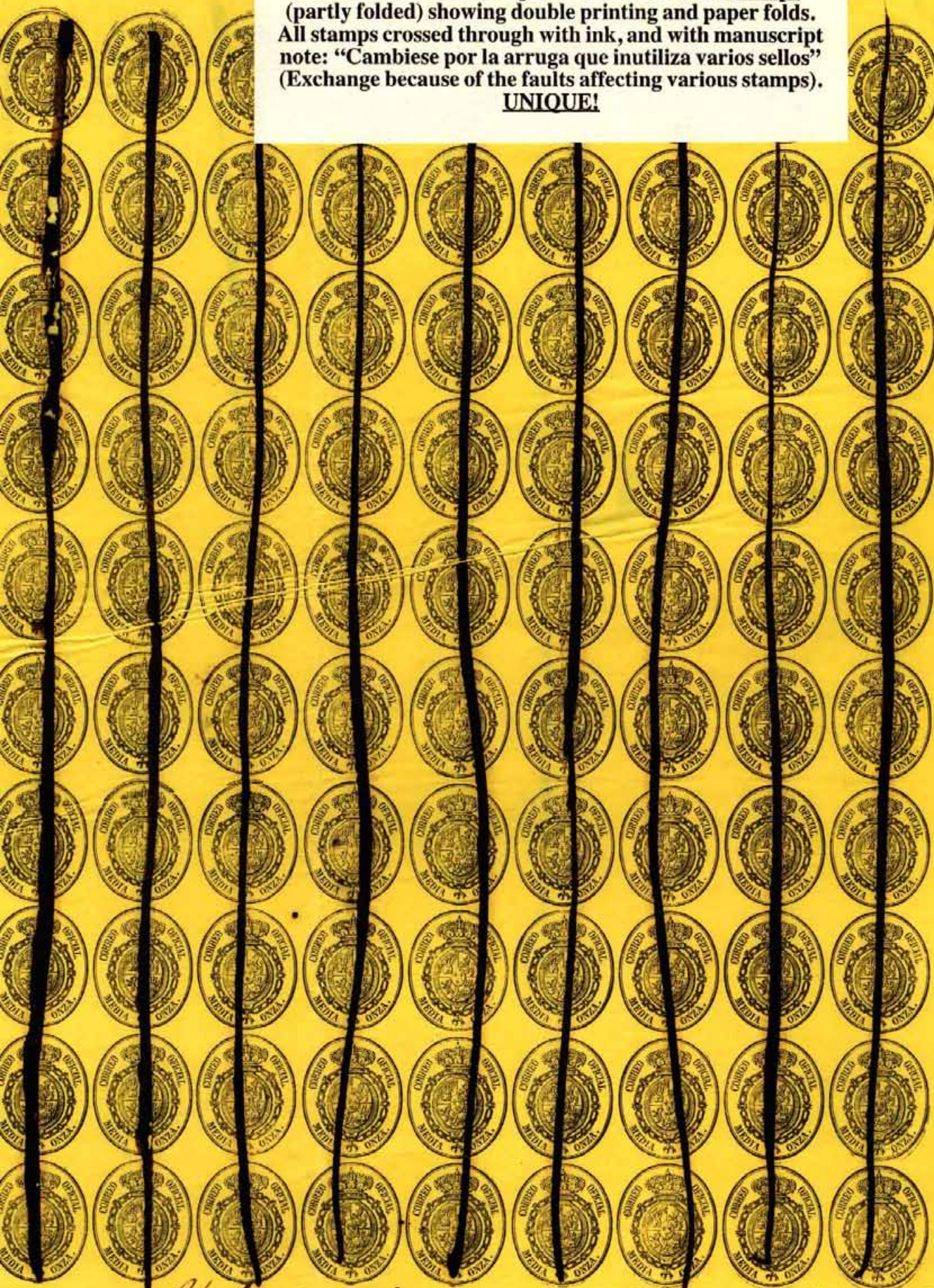
Correspondencia oficial.—Ciento cincuenta sellos de media onza.





al. — Ciento cincuen

**1855 MEDIA ONZA rejected full sheet of 150 stamps**  
 (partly folded) showing double printing and paper folds.  
 All stamps crossed through with ink, and with manuscript  
 note: "Cambiese por la arruga que inutiliza varios sellos"  
 (Exchange because of the faults affecting various stamps).  
UNIQUE!



*Cambiese por la arruga q. inutiliza varios sellos.*



1855 MEDIA ONZA on cover

1855 (17 April) Media Onza from Sevilla



Media Onza (x1)

1861 (14 January) Media Onza (x2) from Badajoz



Media Onza (x2)



1855 MEDIA ONZA on cover

1862 (7 September) Media Onza (x3) from Pamplona



Media  
Onza (x3)

1864 (29 December) Media Onza (x4) from Sevilla

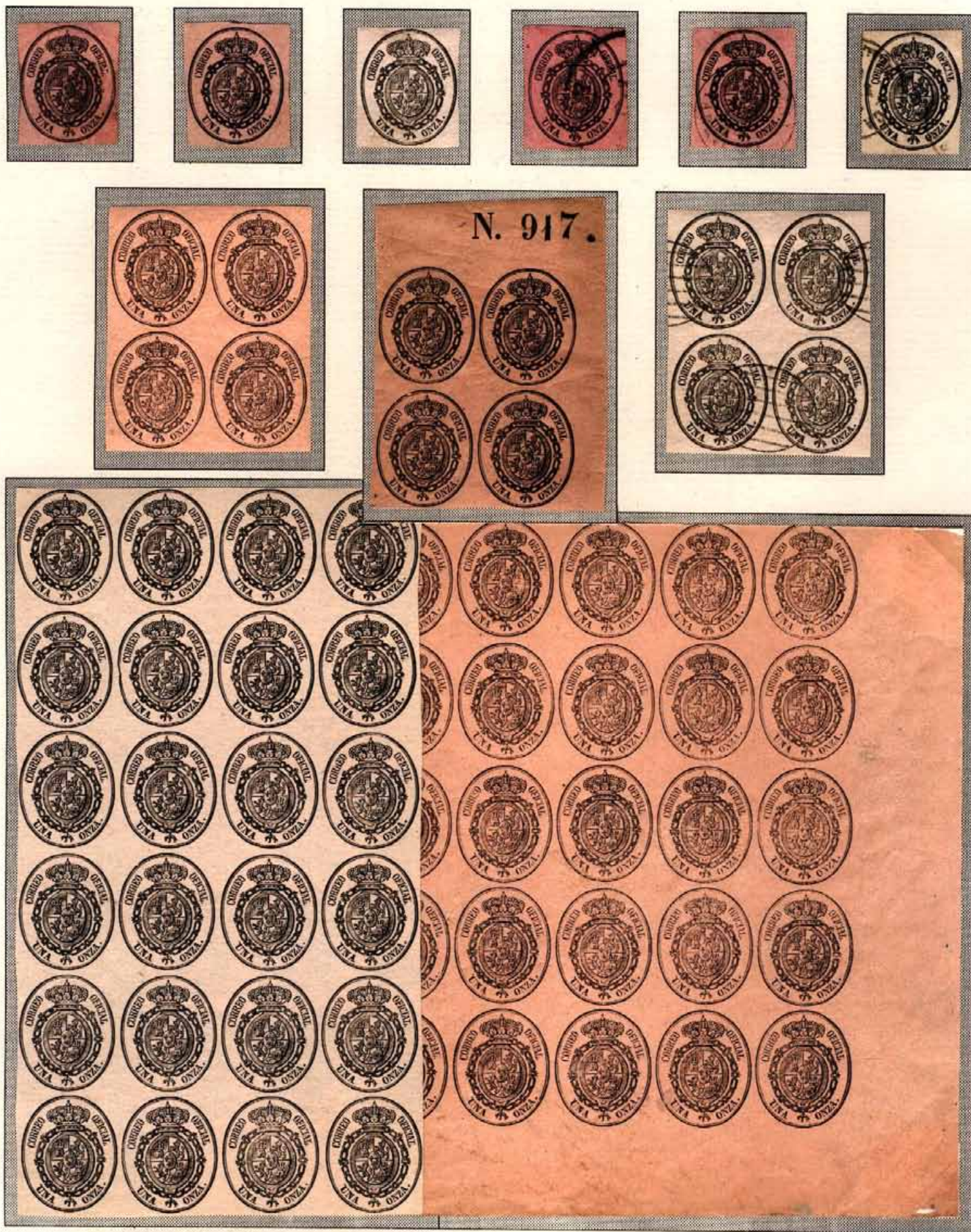


Media Onza (x4)



**1855 (1 January) UNA ONZA (1 ounce) grey-black to black on rose to salmon to off-white paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 30,760,500. Valid between 1 January 1855 and 31 July 1866. Could be used on a letter weighing up to 1 ounce (28.7 grams).





1855 UNA ONZA on cover

1866 (12 February) Una Onza from Puente Areas

Una Onza (x1)



1863 (27 October) Una Onza (x2) from Cervera

Una Onza (x2)





1855 UNA ONZA on cover

1859 (20 February) Una Onza (x3) from Coruña

Una Onza (x3)



1860 (10 November) Una Onza (x4) from Puente Areas



Una Onza (x4)



**1855 (1 January) CUATRO ONZAS (4 ounces) black on blue-green to yellow-green paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 10,853,500. Valid between 1 January 1855 and 31 July 1866. Could be used on a letter weighing up to 4 ounces (114.8 grams).





**1855 CUATRO ONZAS part sheet of 112 stamps**

(partly folded) from the top of the sheet.

This is from an earlier printing plate with margin text:

"Correspondencia oficial. Sellos de cuatro onzas."

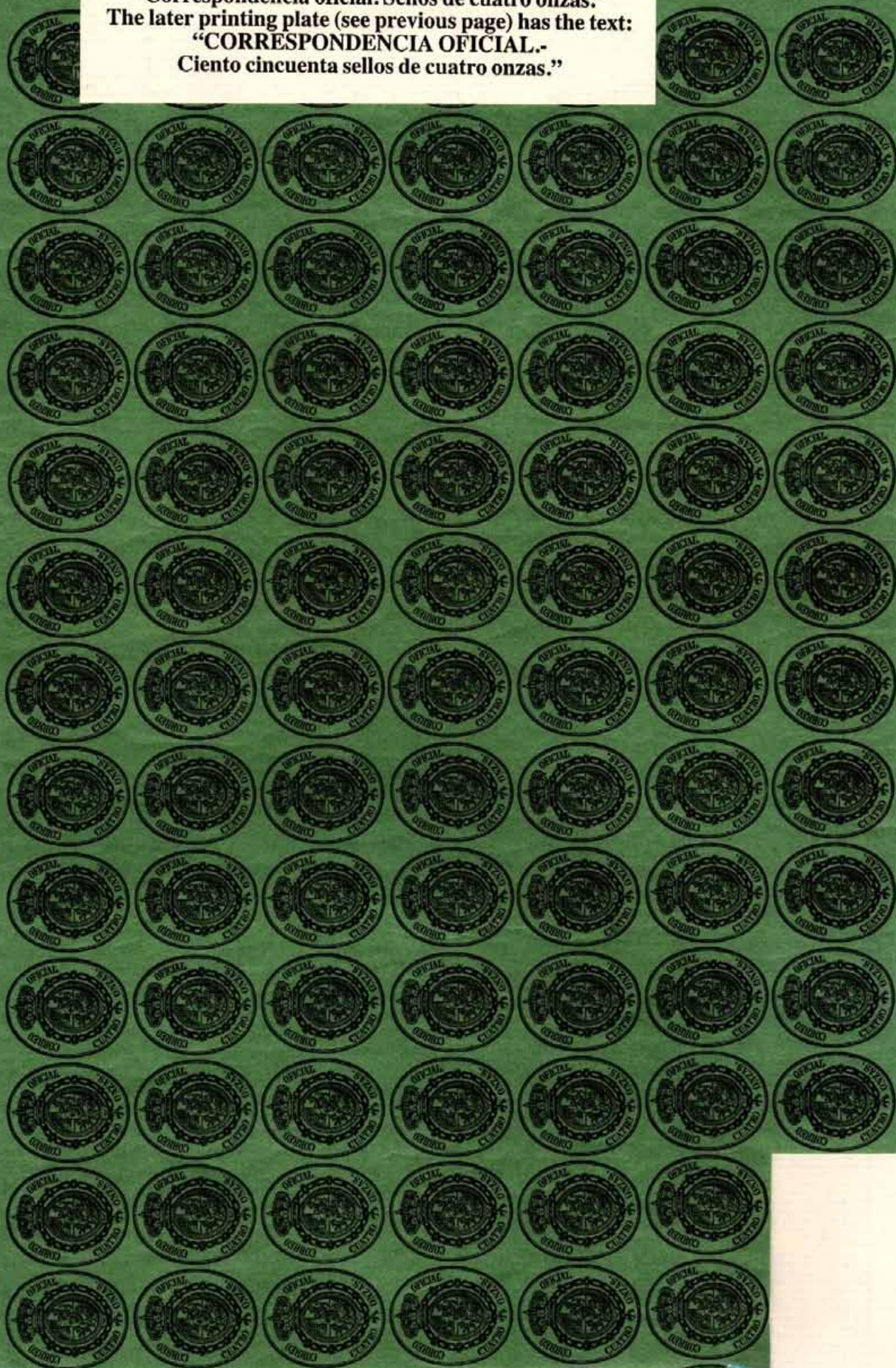
The later printing plate (see previous page) has the text:

"CORRESPONDENCIA OFICIAL.-

Ciento cincuenta sellos de cuatro onzas."

N. 15.684.

Correspondencia oficial. Sellos de cuatro onzas.





1855 CUATRO ONZAS on cover

1866 (17 July) Cuatro Onzas from Casas y Bañez



Cuatro Onzas (x1)

1858 (15 October) Cuatro Onzas (x2) from Barcelona



Cuatro Onzas (x2)



**1855 (1 January) UNA LIBRA (1 pound) black on pale blue to blue paper**

Engraved by José Pérez Varela and printed in typography by la Fábrica Nacional del Sello in Madrid. Sheet size 150 stamps (10 rows of 15 stamps). Number of stamps printed: 6,740,200. Valid between 1 January 1855 and 31 July 1866. Could be used on a letter weighing up to 1 pound (= 16 ounces = 459.2 grams).





1855 UNA LIBRA on cover

1858 (4 September) Una Libra from Barcelona

Una Libra (x1)



1860 (c) Una Libra (x2) from Almeria



Una Libra (x2)



### **1855 OFF-SET ON THE REVERSE**

All values can be found with an offset of the design on the reverse. This is the result of the printing press having been operated without a sheet of paper inserted, the following sheet then picking up the ink on the reverse.



$\frac{1}{2}$  onza



$\frac{1}{2}$  onza



1 onza



1 onza



4 onzas



1 libra



1 libra

### **1855 PRINTED DOUBLE**

One sheet of the Media Onza stamp received a clear double print, the second print being five mm below and one mm to the left of the first print.



### **1855 PRINTED ON THE GUMMED SIDE**

One sheet of the Media Onza stamp was by mistake printed on the gummed side, so that the print is on top of the gum.





**1855 CUT TO SHAPE STAMPS**

Normally stamps were cut squarely, but occasionally stamps cut octagonally or ovally can be found.

1860 (c) Media Onza cut octagonally from Orense

Cut octagonally



1858 (2 July) Una Onza cut octagonally from Daimiel



Cut octagonally

1856 (24 May) Una Onza cut ovally from Cervera

Cut ovally





**1855 MARGIN COPY STAMPS**

1855 Top margin copy from Puente Areas

**Top margin**



1856 (26 April) Right and top margin copy from Granada



1856 (20 February) Left margin copy from Madrid



**Right and top margin**

1858 (24 November) Bottom margin copy from Guadalajara



**Left margin**

**Bottom margin**



$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce



1 ounce





**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1859 (2 June) Media Onza + Una Onza from Coruña

**1½ ounce**



1864 (13 April) Media Onza (x2) + Una Onza from Burgos



**2 ounces**



**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1856 (12 February) Media Onza + Una Onza (x2) from Cadiz

2½ ounces



1856 (18 February) Una Onza (x3) from Lerida

3 ounces





**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1858 (1 February) Media Onza + Una Onza (x3) from Sevilla



**3½ ounces**

1865 (26 March) Cuatro Onzas from Coruña



**4 ounces**



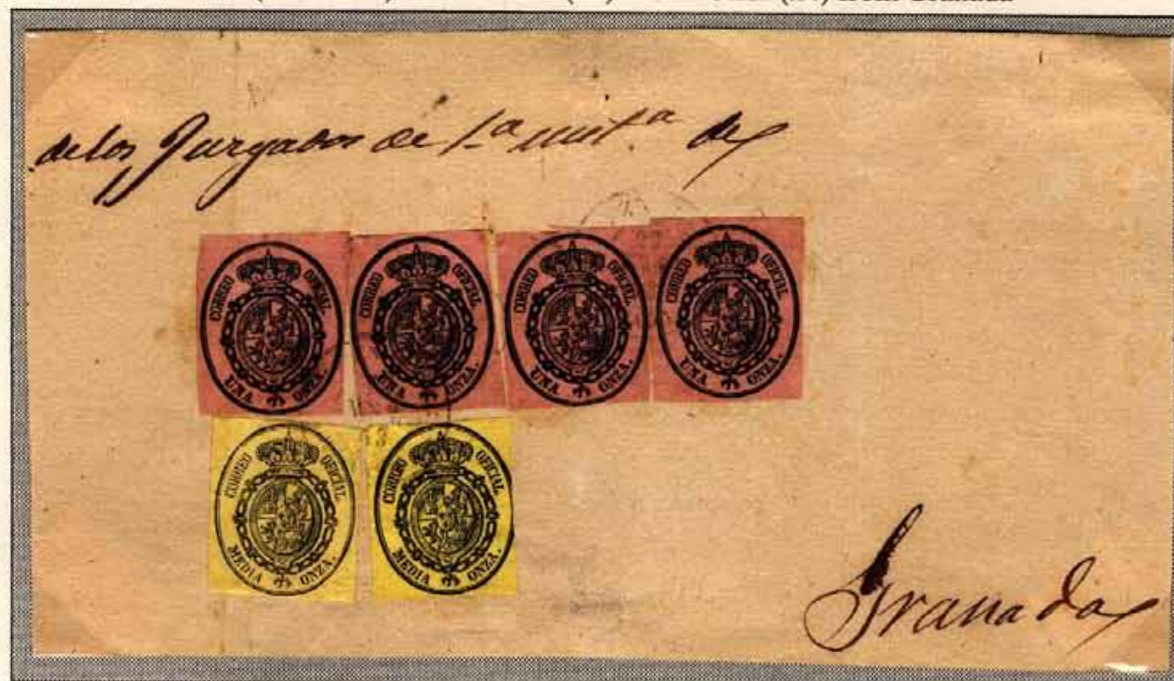
1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES

1857 (3 December) Media Onza + Cuatro Onzas from Jerez



4½ ounces

1863 (22 March) Media Onza (x2) + Una Onza (x4) from Granada



5 ounces



**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1856 (6 May) Media Onza + Una Onza + Cuatro Onzas from Almansa, taxed 10 Reales



5½ ounces

1855 (5 February) Una Onza (x2) + Cuatro Onzas from Barcelona



6 ounces



1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES

6½ ounces

1860 c. (12 September) Media Onza + Una Onza (x2) + Cuatro Onzas from Barcelona



7 ounces

1857 (25 November) Una Onza (x3) + Cuatro Onzas from Madrid





**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1863 (2 January) Media Onza + Una Onza (x3) + Cuatro Onzas from Valencia



7½ ounces

1860 (c) Cuatro Onzas (x2) on part cover



8 ounces



1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES

1866 (8 May) Media Onza + Cuatro Onzas (x2) from Valencia



8½ ounces

1860 (c) Una Onza + Cuatro Onzas (x2) from Albacete



9 ounces



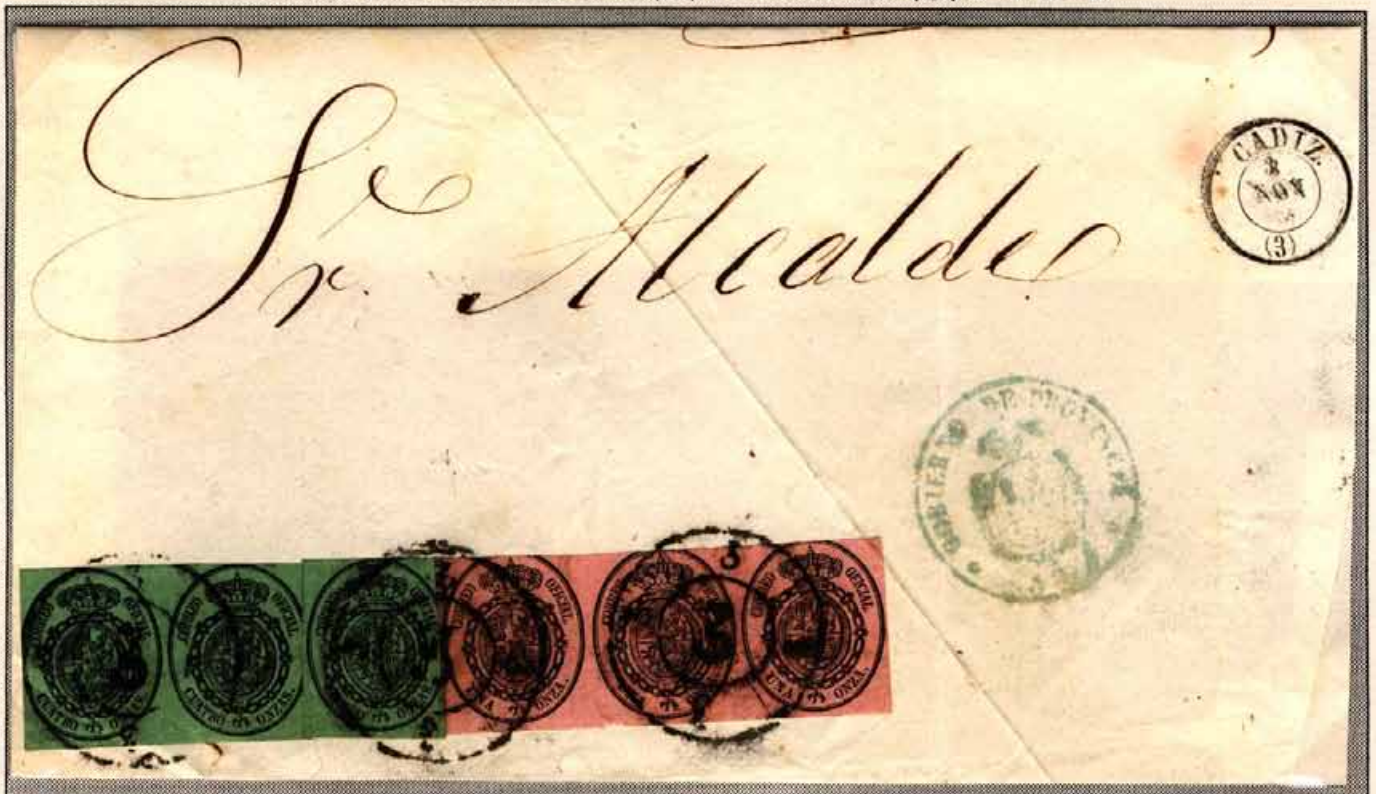
**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1863 (24 September) Cuatro Onzas (x3) from Coruña



**12 ounces**

1865 (3 November) Una Onza (x3) + Cuatro Onzas (x3) from Cadiz



**15 ounces**



1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES

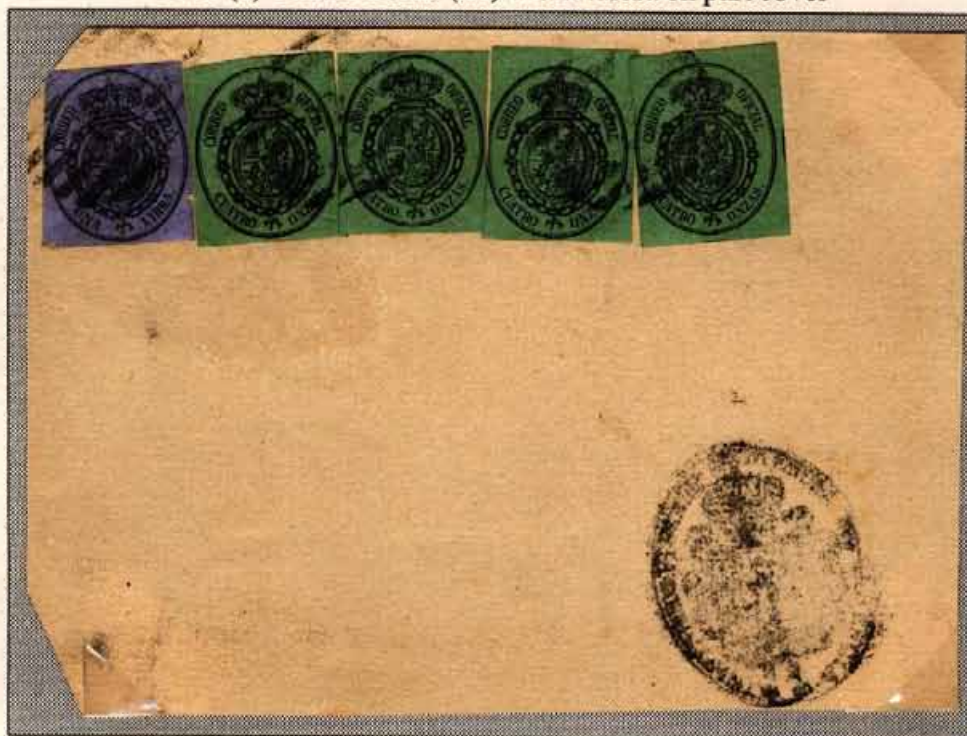
1856 (20 December) Media Onza + Una Libra from Coruña

16½ ounces



1860 (c) Cuatro Onzas (x4) + Una Libra on part cover

32 ounces  
= 2 pounds





**1855 ISSUE - WEIGHTS AND RATES**

1855 (12 August) Una Onza (x2) + Una Libra from Madrid, charged "76"  
cuartos because it was not addressed to a Government Department



**18 ounces**



**1855 ISSUE -REGISTERED MAIL**

The registration fee during this period was 2 Reales (=17 cuartos) and this fee could either be paid with regular stamps or in cash.

1863 (22 February) Una Onza + 2 Reales paid in cash, from Infantes



**Registration fee 2 Reales paid in cash.**  
**Very rare!**



1855 ISSUE - REGISTERED MAIL

1863 c (14 September) Una Onza (x24) + Dos Reales (1862-63) from Granada

The registration fee during this period was 2 Reales (=17 cuartos) and this fee could either be paid with regular stamps or in cash.



**24 ounces + registration fee**  
**2 Reales paid with regular stamp.**  
**Very rare -**  
**only two examples**  
**recorded!**



**1855 ISSUE - FORCIBLY REGISTERED MAIL TO PORTUGAL**

The official stamps were not intended for mail abroad, but a few examples are known. The cover below is exceptional since it was forcibly registered in transit because it was found to be in a damaged state.

1865 (1 December) Media Onza (x3) + Una Onza from Valdepeñas to Portugal, registered in transit



The cover was found to be in a damaged state in Barca d'Alva (Portugal) and was therefore registered to avoid further damage. It was signed by the postal official and has registration markings REGISTADA BARCA D'ALVA and PORTO REGISTADA 9.12.65 .

**This is the only known registered cover with Official stamps sent abroad!**



**1866 (1 August) - WHAT HAPPENED THEN?**

When the Official stamps were withdrawn from service on 31 July 1866, official mail could be sent without using any stamps. But the weight of the letters had to be written on the cover, since this information was still used to charge the postage costs to the various Government Departments.

1867 (25 July) Official letter without stamps but with manuscript " $\frac{1}{2}$  onza"

**Manuscript " $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce"**



1867 (25 July) Official letter without stamps but with manuscript "Una onza"



**Manuscript  
"1 ounce"**

1867 (1 February) Official letter without stamps but with handstamp "1.ONZA"



**Handstamped "1 ounce"**



**1855 ISSUE - PRE-STAMP MARKINGS**

Most of the postal markings used before the introduction of stamps in 1850 were taken out of use when stamps were first issued. However, in some places these old markings were used for a few years after 1850.

1856 (c.) Media Onza from Puente Areas with pre-stamp marking

**Puente Areas**  
pre-stamp marking



1857 (5 March) Media Onza from Trives with pre-stamp marking

**Trives**  
pre-stamp marking





**1855 ISSUE - DOUBLE USED COVERS**

At times of paper shortage, envelopes were sometimes turned inside out and re-used. Interesting combinations can be found: Official + Official stamps; Official + Regular stamps; Official stamps + no stamps (sometimes taxed).

1860 (10 September) First use with Media Onza from Madrid



**Double use**  
**Media Onza and Una Onza**

1860 (16 September) Second use with Una Onza from Cadiz charged "4" cuartos



1855 (23 December) Second use without stamps from Arcos charged "4" cuartos



1855 (13 December) First use with Media Onza from Cadiz



**Double use**  
**Media Onza and without stamps**



**1855 ISSUE - DOUBLE USED COVERS**

1857 (16 November) Second use with 1856 4 cuartos from Altea

**Double use**  
**Media Onza and 1856 4 cuartos**

1857 (10 November) First use with Media Onza from Alicante charged "4" cuartos



1860 (8 June) First use with 1860 4 cuartos from Grazelema



**Double use**  
**Media Onza and 1860 4 cuartos**

1860 (13 June) Second use with Media Onza from Cadiz charged "4" cuartos





**1855 ISSUE - DOUBLE USED COVERS**

1863 (10 February) First use without stamps from Coruña

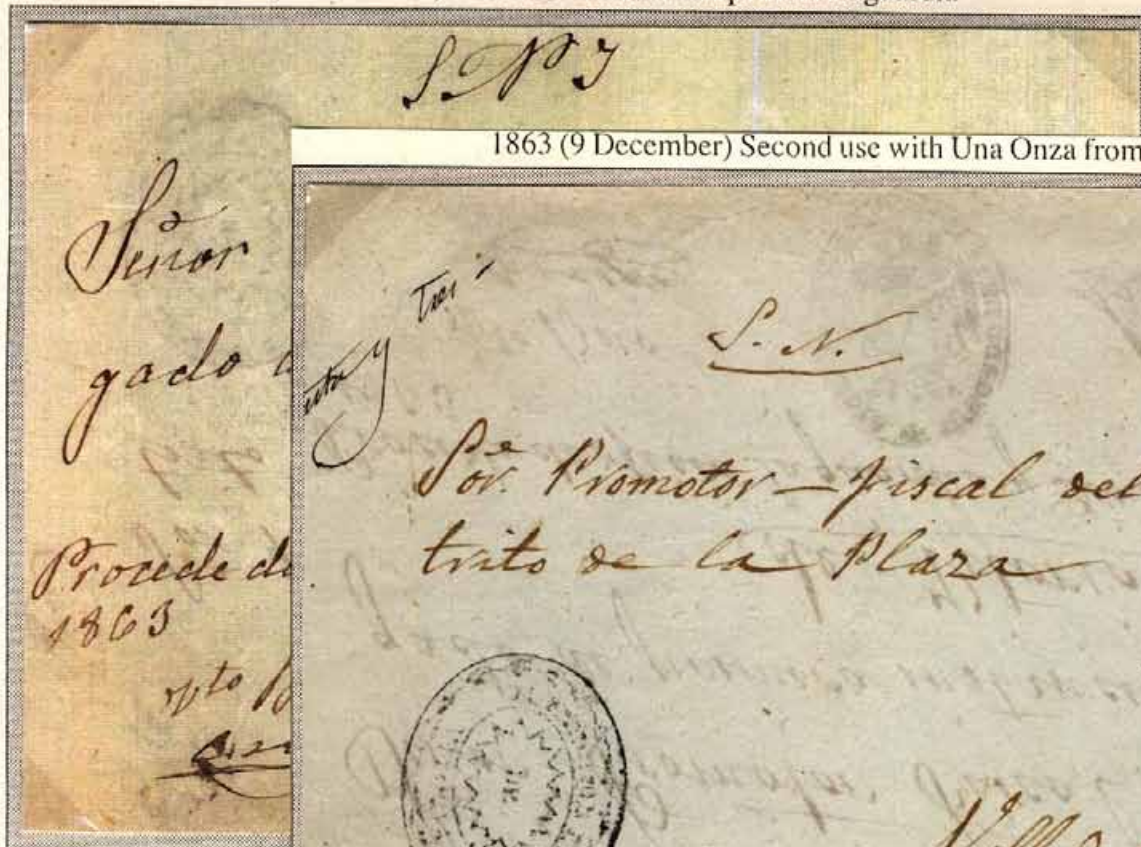
**Double use**  
**Una Onza (x2) and without stamps**

1863 (18 February) Second use with Una Onza (x2) from Coruña



1863 (4 December) First use without stamps from Laguardia

**Double use**  
**Una Onza and**  
**without stamps**



1863 (9 December) Second use with Una Onza from Vitoria





**1855 ISSUE - CHARGED/TAXED COVERS**

Letters with Official stamps were sometimes taxed or charged. The reason for this could either be that the addressee was not authorised to receive official mail, or that the letter was underpaid. Charges were always made in cuartos.

1860 (c) Media Onza from Madrid charged "4" cuartos



1862 (14 June) Media Onza from Valencia charged "4c."



**Charged  
manuscript "4"**



**Charged  
handstamped "4c."**

1859 (26 October) Una Onza from Burgos charged "4" cuartos

**Charged handstamped "4"**



1860 (15 March) Media Onza from Madrid charged "4" cuartos



**Charged handstamped "4"**



**1855 ISSUE - CHARGED/TAXED COVERS**

1855 (11 November) Media Onza from Sevilla charged "8" cuartos

**Charged handstamped "8"**



1860 (28 June) Una Onza from Cadiz charged "8" cuartos



**Charged handstamped "8"**

1855 (20 February) Una Onza from Cadiz charged "16" cuartos

**Charged handstamped "16"**





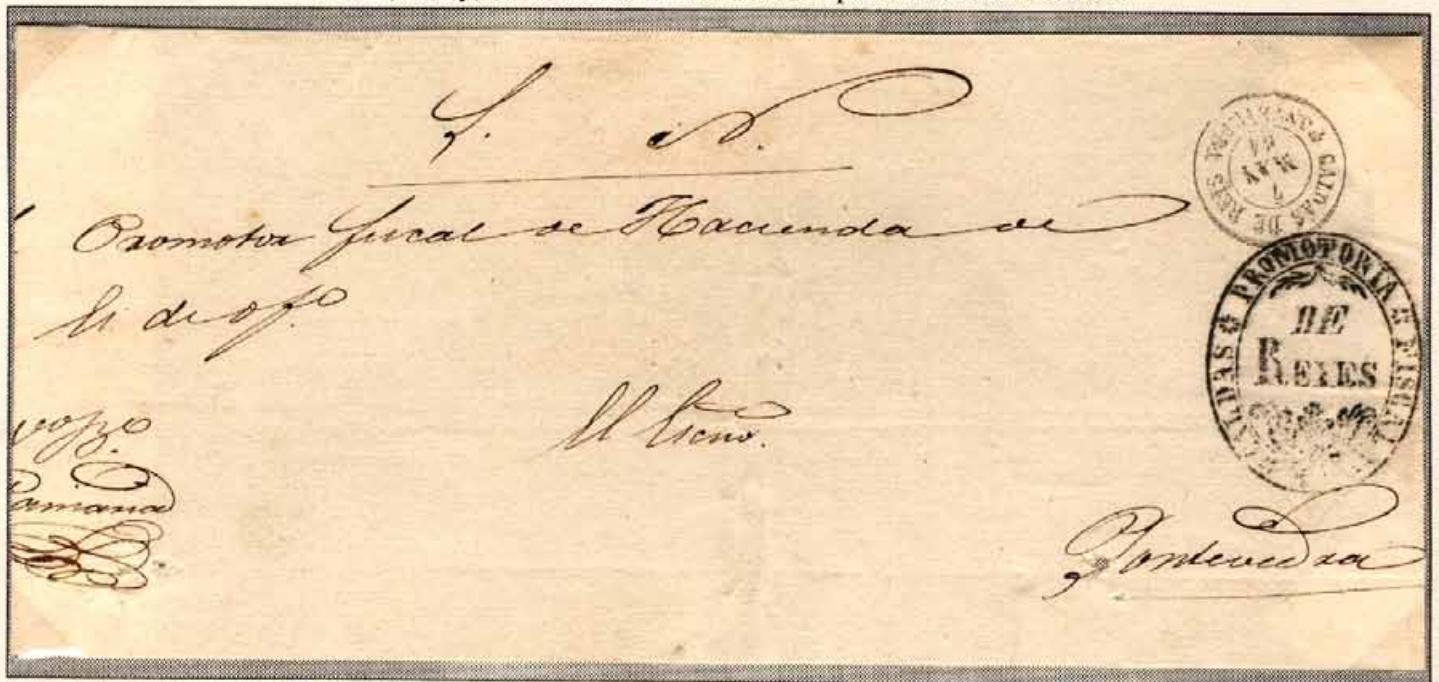
**OFFICIAL COVERS WITHOUT STAMPS**

Not all Post Offices had Official Stamps in stock all the time. When they were out of stock, Official letters were either sent without stamps, or with regular stamps. The cost was still charged to the sending Government Department.

1859 (16 October) Official cover without stamps from Coruña



1864 (7 May) Official cover without stamps from Caldas de Reis





**OFFICIAL COVERS WITHOUT STAMPS - ABONO MARKINGS**

Certain Government Departments could send their letters without stamps, and charge the cost to their account. These covers have an Abono-marking, normally the letter "A", stamped on the front of the envelope.

1858 (5 October) Official cover without stamps from Alcaraz with "A" marking

**Handstamped**  
**"A" for Abono**



1861 (31 January) Official cover without stamps from Valencia with "A" marking

**Handstamped**  
**"A" for Abono**





**OFFICIAL COVERS WITH REGULAR STAMPS**

Not all Post Offices had Official Stamps in stock all the time. When they were out of stock, Official letters were either sent without stamps, or with regular stamps. The cost was still charged to the sending Government Department.

1856 (29 July) Official cover with 1856 4 cuartos from Puerto de Santa Maria

Official cover with 1856 4 cuartos



1857 (18 April) Official cover with 1856 4 cuartos (x2) from Jerez de la Frontera



Official cover with 1856 4 cuartos (x2)  
rate for one ounce

1863 (5 May) Official cover with 1862 4 cuartos from Hostalrich



Official cover with 1862 4 cuartos



**MOROCCO - CEUTA**



Ceuta is a 18.5 km<sup>2</sup> autonomous Spanish exclave located on the north coast of North Africa, surrounded by Morocco. Ceuta along with the other Spanish exclave Melilla are the only Spanish territories located in mainland Africa. It was



regarded as a part of the Cadiz province prior to 1925. Morocco claims Ceuta, along with the Spanish autonomous city of Melilla and a number of Mediterranean islands which border it. Ceuta has been Spanish since 1668.

1865 (3 June) Media Onza from Ceuta

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
from Ceuta



1860 (18 September) Una Onza from Ceuta

1 ounce  
from Ceuta





**MOROCCO - CEUTA**

1863 (30 June) Media Onza + Una Onza (x2) from Ceuta



**2½ ounces from Ceuta**

1866 (25 January) Una Onza + Cuatro Onzas from Ceuta



**5 ounces from Ceuta**



**MOROCCO - CEUTA**

1859 (7 August) Second use with Una Onza from Cadiz

**Double use, one from Ceuta**

1859 (4 August) First use with Una Onza from Ceuta



1858 (12 November) Una Onza from Toledo to Ceuta



**1 ounce from Spain to Ceuta**

1861 (7 May) Media Onza from Algeciras to Ceuta charged "4" cuartos



**$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from Spain to Ceuta**



**BALEARIC ISLANDS**



The Balearic Islands is an archipelago in the western Mediterranean Sea, near the eastern coast of the Iberian Peninsula. The four largest islands are Mallorca, Minorca, Ibiza, and Formentera. The archipelago forms an autonomous community and a province of Spain, of which the capital is Palma. Most of the islands have been Spanish since 1516, but Minorca was occupied by the British until 1802.

1860 (28 February) Media Onza from Palma de Mallorca

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
from Mallorca



1857 (15 September) Media Onza + Una Onza from Ibiza

$1\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
from Ibiza





**BALEARIC ISLANDS**

1855 (25 August) Cuatro Onzas from Palma de Mallorca to Barcelona

**4 ounces from  
Mallorca to Spain**



1855 (23 March) Una Onza (x2) + Cuatro Onza from Mallorca to Madrid



**Six ounces from Mallorca to Spain**



**CANARY ISLANDS**

The Canary Islands is a Spanish archipelago located just off the northwest coast of mainland Africa, 100 km west of the border between Morocco and Western Sahara. The islands are a Spanish Autonomous Community and the larger

islands are Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, Las Palmas, La Gomera, and El Hierro. The islands have been Spanish since 1495, but there have been many attacks on the islands all the way up to about 1800.



1855 (1 March) Media Onza from Las Palmas



1/2 ounce from Las Palmas

1/2 ounce from Tenerife

1862 (6 July) Media Onza from Santa Cruz de Tenerife



1863 (11 August) Media Onza + Una Onza (x2) from Arrecife, Lanzarote



2 1/2 ounces from Lanzarote



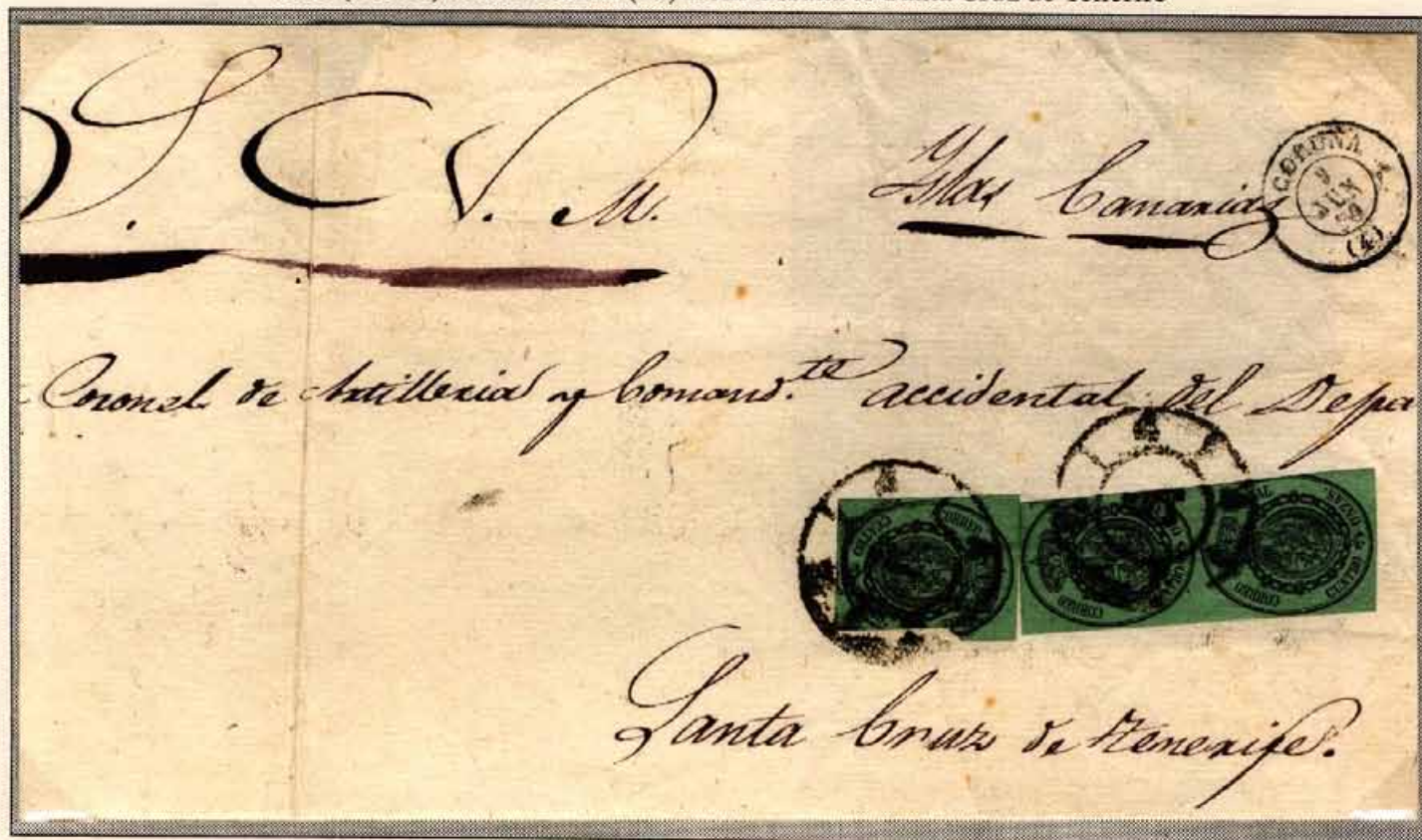
CANARY ISLANDS

1866 (7 April) Una Onza from Madrid to Santa Cruz de Tenerife



1 ounce  
from Spain  
to Tenerife

1859 (9 June) Cuatro Onzas (x3) from Coruña to Santa Cruz de Tenerife



12 ounces from Spain to Tenerife



**CUBA**



Cuba is the largest island in the Caribbean with Havana being the capital. To the north of Cuba lies the United States and the Bahamas, Mexico is to the west, the Cayman Islands and Jamaica are to the south, and



Haiti and the Dominican Republic are to the Southeast. In 1492, Christopher Columbus found and claimed the island for the Kingdom of Spain. Cuba remained a territory of Spain until the Spanish-American War ended in 1898.

1852 (23 August) Forerunner - Official cover marked "De Oficio"

**Forerunner -  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
from Havana**



**Forerunner -  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
from Guanabacoa**

1850 (11 February) Forerunner - Official cover marked "De Oficio" and " $1\frac{1}{2}$ "



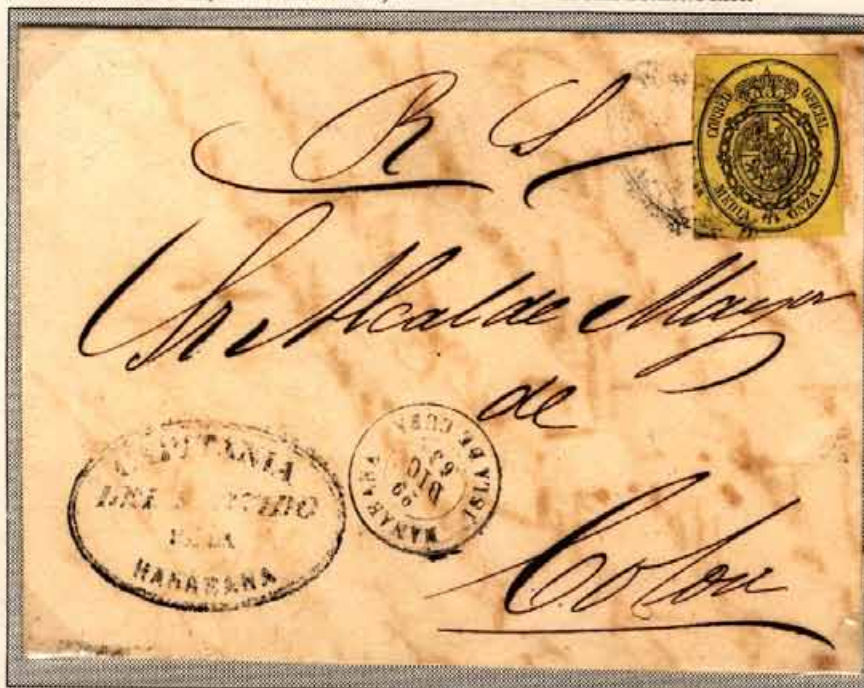


CUBA

A Royal Decree was issued in Madrid on 23 January 1857, introducing the use of Official stamps in the Colonies (Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines) as of the 1 January 1858. Prior to 1858, Official stamps had only been used in Spain (including its Territories) and on mail sent from Spain to the Colonies. Although the use of Official stamps was discontinued in Spain as of the 1 August 1866, they continued to be used in the Colonies some time after that, and as late as June 1868 the Cuban Postmaster reminded the Post Offices that Official stamps were no longer valid!

1863 (29 December) Media Onza from Hanabana

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from  
Hanabana



1860 (8 March) Media Onza from Habana

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from Havana





CUBA

1860 (23 December) Media Onza (x2) from Sagua La Grande



1 ounce from Sagua La Grande

1858 (22 February) Una Onza from Guanajay



Early use 1 ounce from Guanajay



CUBA

1860 (21 December) Media Onza + Una Onza from Habana



1½ ounce from Havana

1864 (13 November) Una Onza (x2) from Holguin



2 ounces from Holguin



CUBA

1868 (18 April) Una Onza (x3) from Manzanillo



Late use  
3 ounces from  
Manzanillo



CUBA

1858 (20 August) Cuatro Onzas from Cabezas



4 ounces from Cabezas

1860 (23 April) Una Onza + Cuatro Onzas from Matanzas



5 ounces from Matanzas



CUBA

1863 (20 July) Media Onza + Cuatro Onzas (x2) from Habana



1860 (7 December) Una Libra from Marianao



8½ ounces  
from Havana

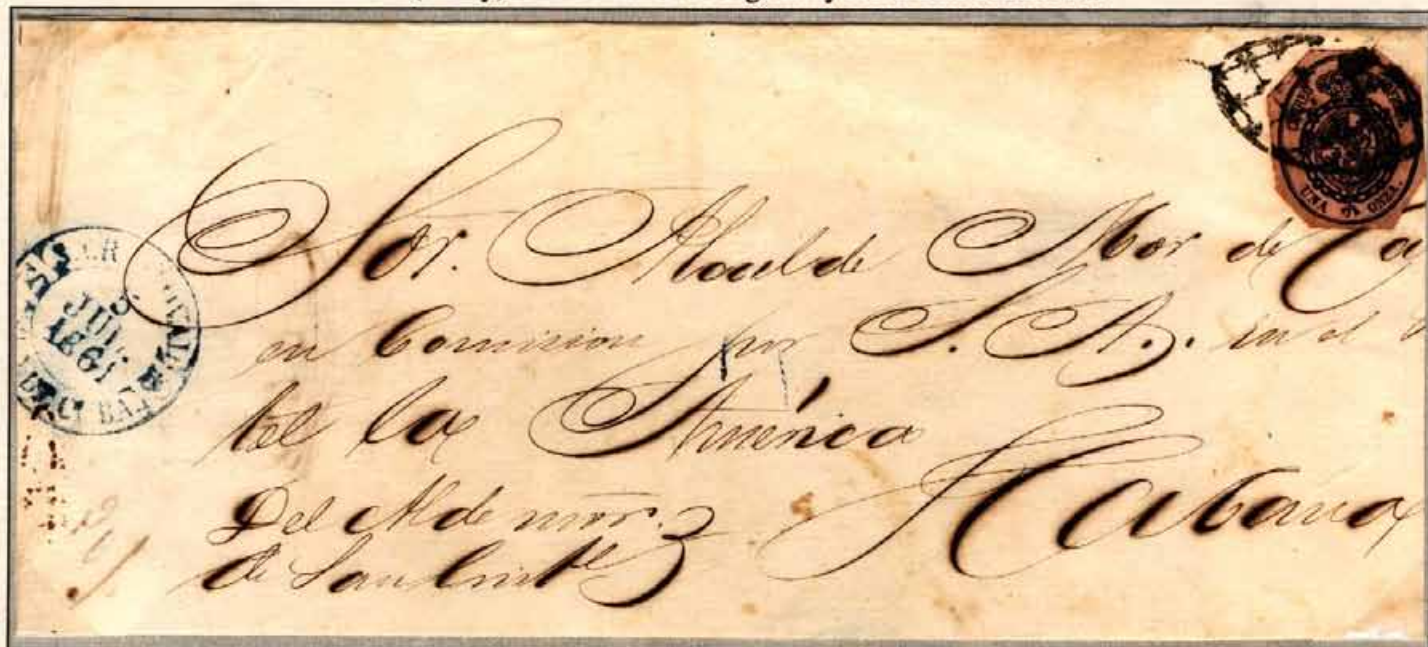


1 pound from  
Marianao  
Rare!



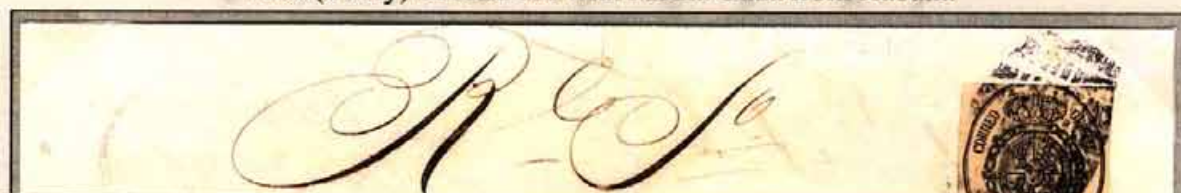
**CUBA**

1861 (5 July) Una Onza cut octagonally from San Christoval



**Cut-to-shape stamp**

1860 (2 July) Second use with Media Onza from Habana



1860 (1 July) First use with Una Onza from Matanzas



**Double used  
cover**



**CUBA - THE HAVANA LITHOGRAPHY**

In 1860 the stock of Official stamps in Cuba got exhausted and new stocks from Spain would take months to arrive. To overcome this shortage, a local reprint was produced of all four values, but the printing method for the reprint was lithography rather than the typography used for the original stamps printed in Spain. It is therefore quite easy to separate these reprints from the original prints and most of them are very rare, especially in unused condition and on cover (Cuatro Onzas is not known on cover). In Spanish these reprints are called "Litografiados de Habana", the Havana Lithography, and the ways to identify them are: 1. Most examples (but not all) have no full stop after the weight; 2. The letters are smaller and closer to the frame; 3. The printing in general is less clear.

Madrid printing



Media Onza

Havana printing



Unused Rare



Used



Una Onza



Used



Cuatro Onzas



Unused Very Rare



Used Rare



Una Libra



Unused Very Rare  
Without full stop



Used Rare  
Without full stop



Used Rare  
With full stop



CUBA - THE HAVANA LITHOGRAPHY - MEDIA ONZA

1860 (20 September) Media Onza from Guanacaro

Havana printing  
1/2 ounce from  
Guanacaro



This cover is illustrated in the Edifil stamp catalogue of Spanish Colonies.

1860 (c.) Media Onza from Santa Ana

Havana printing  
1/2 ounce from  
Santa Ana





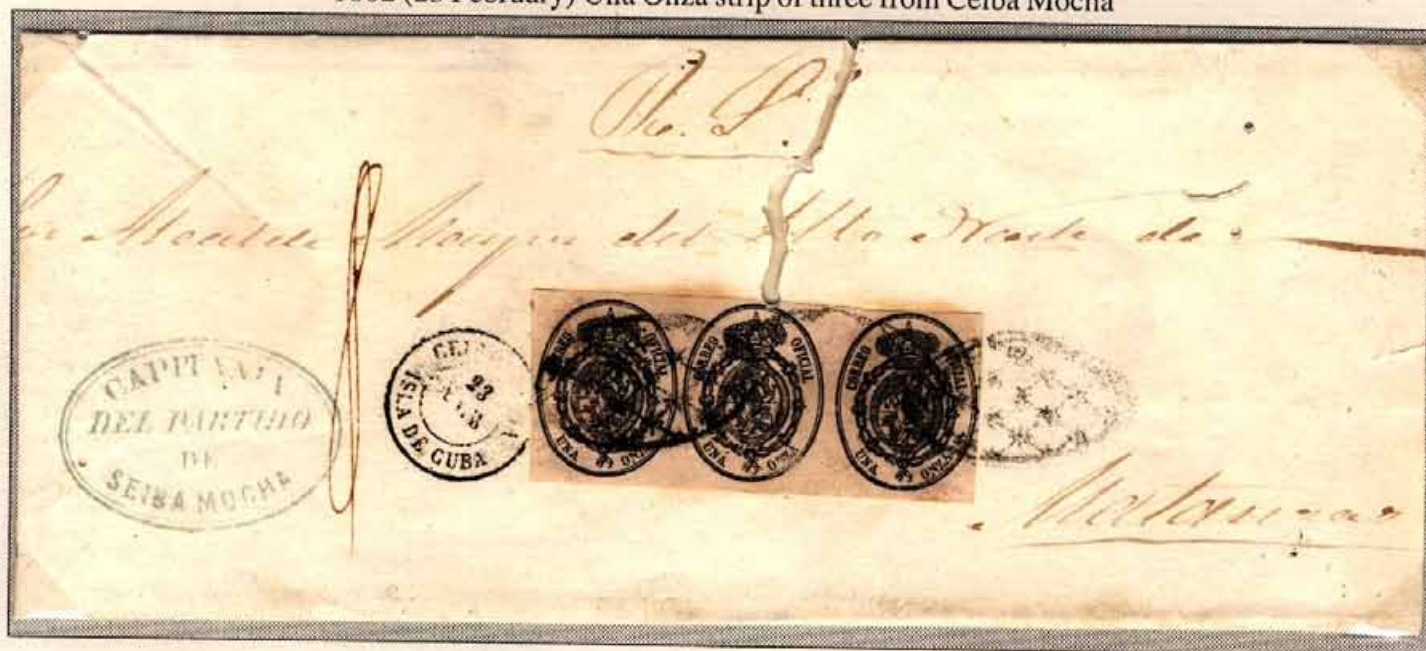
CUBA - THE HAVANA LITHOGRAPHY - UNA ONZA

1864 (1 October) Una Onza cut-to-shape from Bayamo



Havana printing 1 ounce cut-to-shape from Bayamo

1862 (23 February) Una Onza strip of three from Ceiba Mocha

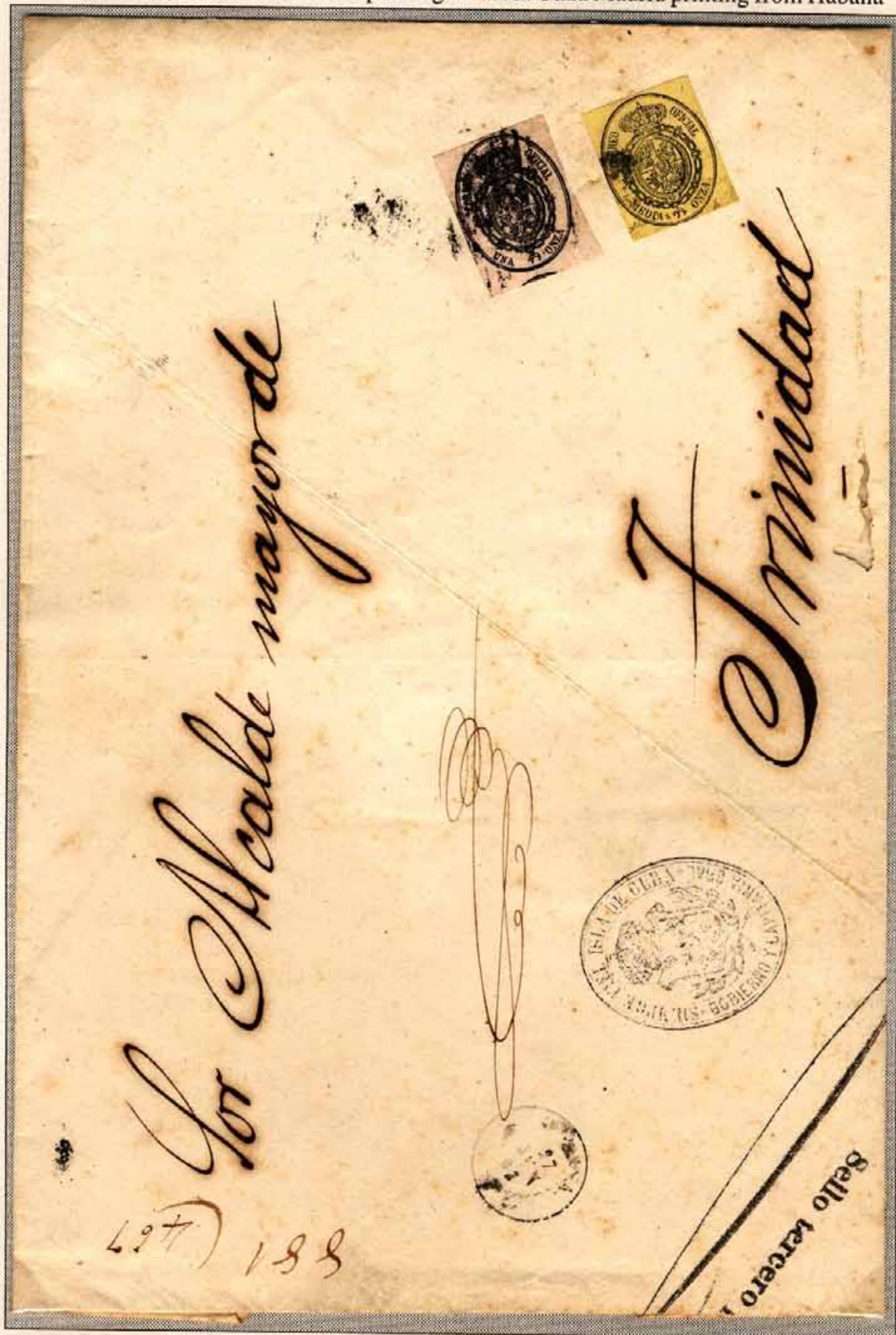


Havana printing 1 ounce strip of three from Ceiba Mocha



CUBA - THE HAVANA LITHOGRAPHY - UNA ONZA MIXED FRANKING

1863 (27 June) Una Onza Havana printing + Media Onza Madrid printing from Habana

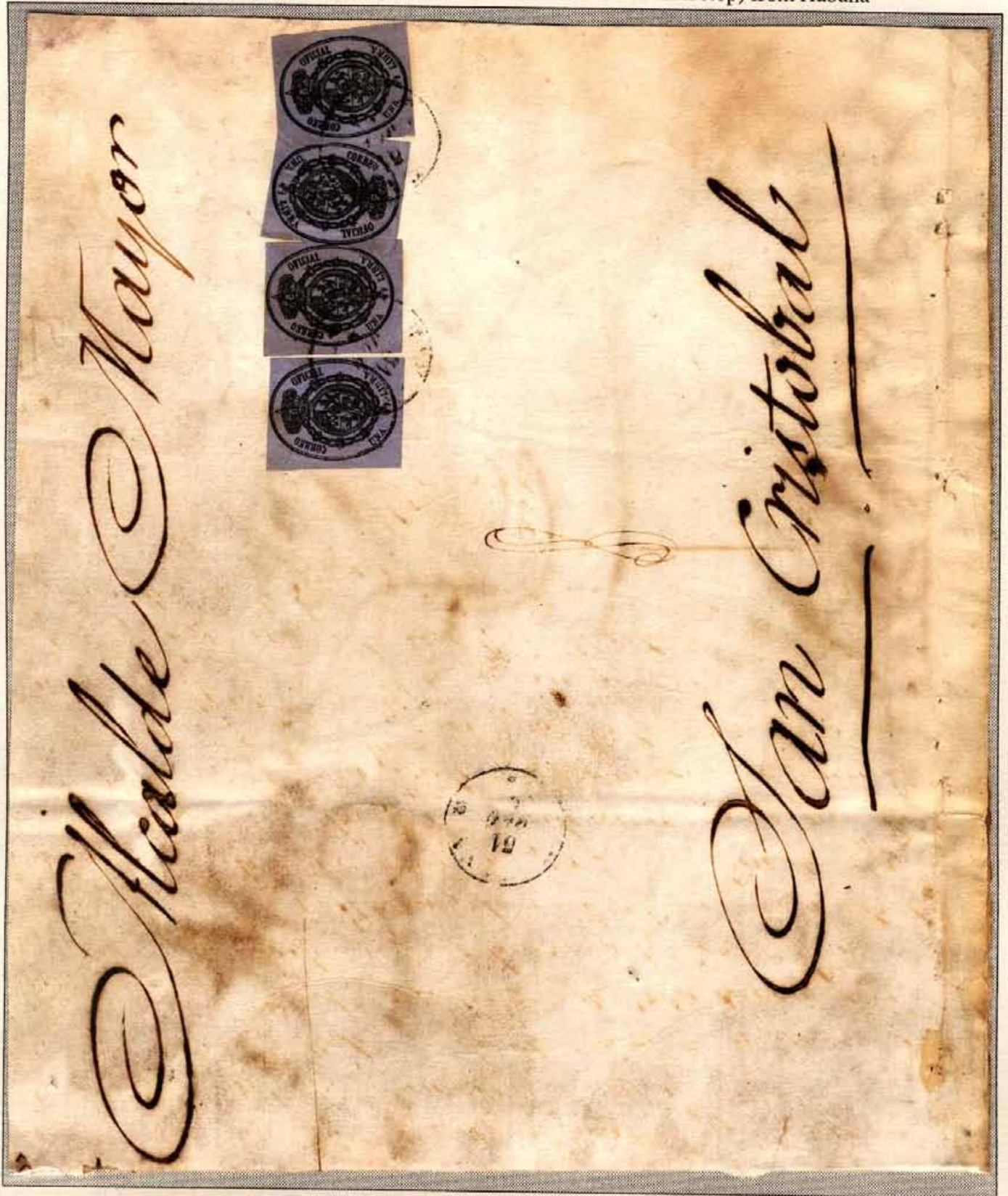


Havana printing 1 ounce + Madrid printing  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce. Rare!



CUBA - THE HAVANA LITHOGRAPHY - UNA LIBRA

1860 (31 July) Una Libra (x4, three with and one without full stop) from Habana



Havana printing 1 pound (x4, three with and one without full stop) from Havana.  
Very rare! Only three covers recorded with Una Libra Havana printing!



CUBA - MAIL TO SPAIN

1860 (October) Media Onza from Habana to Sevilla

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from  
Havana to Spain



1860 (October) Una Onza from Habana to Barcelona



1 ounce from Havana to Spain



**CUBA - MAIL TO SPAIN AND MALLORCA**

1864 (15 November) Media Onza + Una Onza from Habana to Madrid



**$1\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from Havana to Spain**

1859 (12 February) Media Onza from Habana to Palma de Mallorca

**$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce  
from Havana  
to Mallorca**

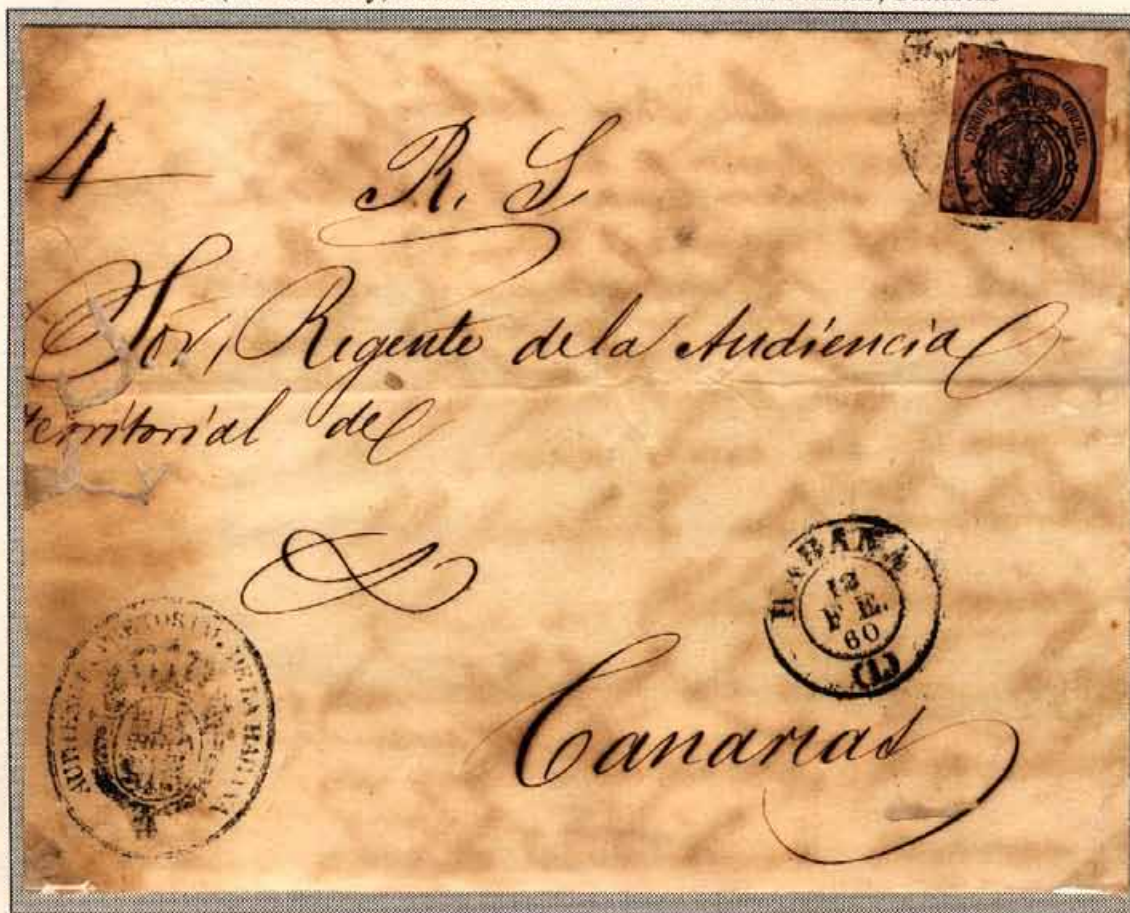




**CUBA - MAIL TO THE CANARY ISLANDS**

1860 (12 February) Una Onza from Habana to Las Palmas, Canarias

1 ounce  
from  
Havana  
to the  
Canary  
Islands



1860 (12 February) Una Onza from Habana to Las Palmas, Canarias



1½ ounce from Havana to the Canary Islands



CUBA - MAIL TO PUERTO RICO

1868 (4 July) Media Onza (x2) from Habana to Puerto Rico



1 ounce from Havana to Puerto Rico

1866 (November) Una Onza from Habana to Puerto Rico via Madrid

1 ounce  
from  
Havana  
to Puerto  
Rico via  
Madrid





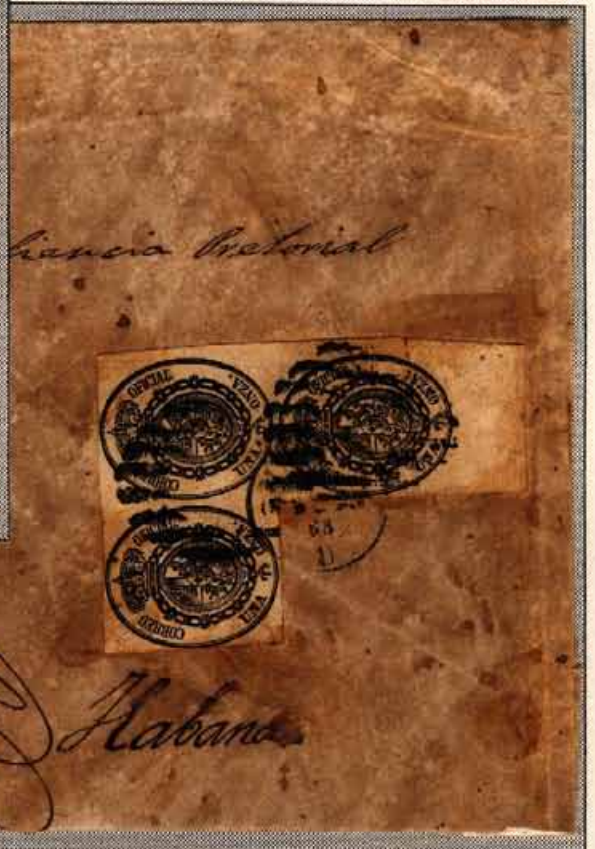
**CUBA - MAIL FROM SPAIN**

1855 (18 November) Una Onza from Burgos to Habana



**Early use 1 ounce from Spain to Havana**

1865 (September) Una Onza (x3) from Madrid to Habana



**3 ounces from Spain to Havana**

1865 (11 November) Cuatro Onzas from Madrid to Habana



**4 ounces from Spain to Havana**



## CUBA - POST OFFICE RECEIPT FOR OFFICIAL MAIL

1861 (31 May) Post Office Receipt for Official Letters handed over to the Post Office in Santiago de Cuba

128

# Escribania pública de Gobierno de D. Juan Gira.

Factura de los pliegos de oficio de justicia y causas de pobres que se entregan en la Administración Principal de Correos de Santiago de Cuba.

Números de los pliegos.	Autoridad ó Tribunal á quien se remite.	Porte de cada uno.	Referencias de las Causas ó Autos.
1.	Al Capitan Juan José de la Torre	1	Una orden en L. concerniente a acciones de Juan José de la Torre.

Conforme—El Administrador Principal de Correos.

Cuba 31 de Mayo de 1861.

Latorre



**CUBA - OFFICIAL MAIL WITHOUT STAMPS**

Not all Post Offices had Official Stamps in stock all the time. When they were out of stock, Official letters were sent without stamps. When the use of Official stamps had been discontinued in 1868, this was also the method used.

1863 (26 October) Official cover without stamps from Nueva Bermeja



1870 (4 February) Official cover without stamps from Arroyo Naranjo







## SANTO DOMINGO



Santo Domingo (now the Dominican Republic) is a nation on the island of Hispaniola, part of the Greater Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean. The western third of the island is occupied by the nation of Haiti. Columbus arrived in 1492 and

Santo Domingo became the site of the first permanent European settlement in the Americas. After three centuries of Spanish rule, the country became independent in 1821, but there was a brief return to Spanish rule between 1861 and 1865.

1864 (8 August) Media Onza from Barcelona to Santo Domingo



$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from Spain to Santo Domingo.

**Very rare -**  
**the only known cover with Official stamps to Santo Domingo!**



**SANTO DOMINGO - THE HAVANA LITHOGRAPHY**

During the Spanish rule between 1861 and 1865, Official stamps of Spain were used on Official mail, but very few covers are known; only about a handful have been recorded. The use of Official stamps printed in Cuba has until recently been unknown, but obviously supplies of Official stamps were shipped from Cuba to Santo Domingo.

1862 (6 December) Una Onza Havana printing + Media Onza Madrid printing from Santo Domingo to Puerto Rico



Havana printing 1 ounce + Madrid printing  $\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from Santo Domingo to Puerto Rico.

Very Rare -

cover restored but the only recorded example of Havana printings used in Santo Domingo!



**PHILIPPINES**



The Philippines consists of 7,100 islands and lies in Southeast Asia in the western Pacific Ocean. Across the seas to its north lies Taiwan, to the west Vietnam, and to the south Indonesia. The arrival of Ferdinand Magellan



in 1521 marked the beginning of an era of Spanish interest and eventual dominance which lasted until 1898 and the Spanish-American War, after which the United States replaced Spain as the dominant power.

1866 Una Onza from Manila



**1 ounce from Manila**



PHILIPPINES - MAIL FROM SPAIN

1859 (3 November) Una Onza from Madrid to Manila



1 ounce from Spain to Manila



**PUERTO RICO**



Puerto Rico is an island located in the northeastern Caribbean Sea, east of the Dominican Republic and west of the Virgin Islands. Columbus arrived in Puerto Rico during his second voyage in 1493 and named the island San Juan Bautista. Eventually, visitors came to refer to the entire island as "Puerto Rico", and "San Juan" became the name of the main port. In July 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico was invaded by the United States.

1867 (1 March) Media Onza from San Juan



$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from San Juan

1859 (30 December) Media Onza from San Juan to Mallorca



$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce from  
Puerto Rico  
to Mallorca



**PUERTO RICO - OFFICIAL AND REGULAR STAMPS**

Although the Official stamps were taken out of service as of the 1 August 1866, they continued to be used by some Government Departments. When this happened, the addressee had to pay the postage with regular stamps.

1866 (7 December) Media Onza + 1864  $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata on white paper from San Juan

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce +  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata  
on white paper  
from San Juan



1867 (1 March) Media Onza + 1864  $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata on rose paper from San Juan

$\frac{1}{2}$  ounce +  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata  
on rose  
paper from  
San Juan





**PUERTO RICO**

1865 (17 May) Una Onza from Cabo Rojo - Poverty mail "De parte pobre"

Poverty  
mail  
1 ounce  
from  
Cabo  
Rojo



1866 (16 April) Una Onza from San Juan, taxed "1" rate with 1864  $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata as postage due

1 ounce from San Juan  
with 1864  $\frac{1}{2}$  Real Plata  
as postage due





PUERTO RICO

1865 (25 January) Cuatro Onzas from Mayaguez

4 ounces from  
Mayaguez



8 ounces from  
San Juan

1862 (26 May) Cuatro Onzas (x2) from San Juan





PUERTO RICO

1864 (8 August) Media Onza (x6) + Cuatro Onzas from Mayaguez



7 ounces from  
Mayaguez



PUERTO RICO

1866 (27 July) Cuatro Onzas (x3) from San German

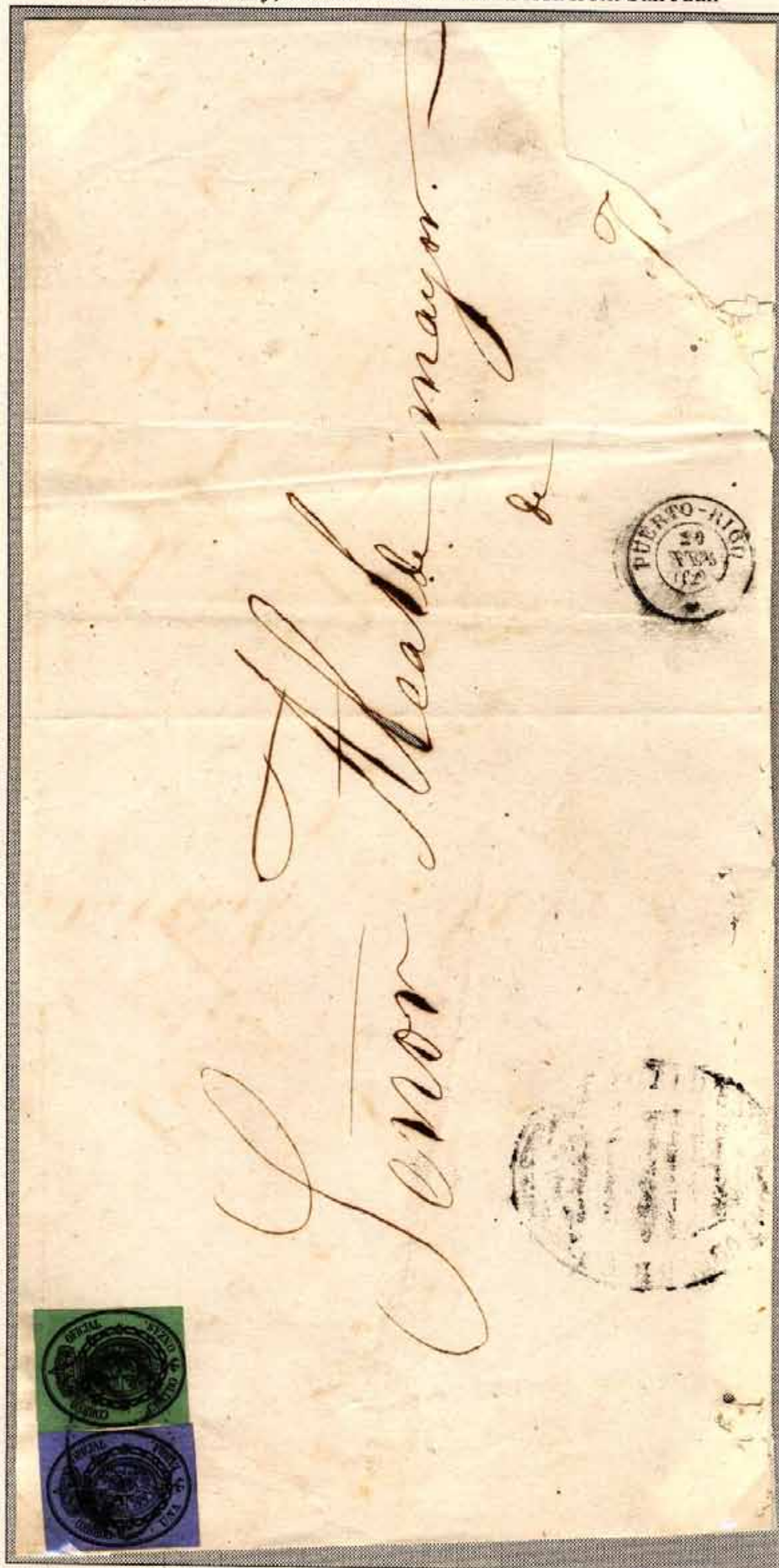


12 ounces from San German



**PUERTO RICO**

1862 (20 February) Cuatro Onzas + Una Libra from San Juan



**20 ounces**  
**from San Juan.**

**Very rare -**  
**only three**  
**covers known**  
**with 1 Pound**  
**used in**  
**Puerto Rico!**



PUERTO RICO - MAIL FROM SPAIN

1860 (18 July) Media Onza + Una Onza (x2) from Barcelona to Puerto Rico



2½ ounce from Spain to Puerto Rico

1857 (30 March) Una Onza (x3) from Barcelona to Puerto Rico



Early use 3 ounces from Spain to Puerto Rico