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## THE BRITISH & FRENCH POST OFFICES IN CUBA (1842 -1870s ++)

### SYNOPSIS:

This exhibit begins with the British Post Office in Havana in 1842, and shows the markings, rates and routes used. Then is followed by the makings of the Santiago de Cuba post office which the British opened in June that same year. This is then followed by the French post office at Santiago de Cuba, which opened in 1862, and after that the French office at Havana in open in September of 1865. The French lines continued to service Cuba after the UPU, using the older French packetboat markings for Havana, Santiago and the French lines.

### Highlights of the British at Havana P.O. are:

1. **First Day 2-14-42** in red double ring cds. Only FIVE known covers, this one is estimated to be the best strike.
2. BLUE double ring Type I cds, was only in use only 12 weeks in this color, only about 7 known, two are shown.
3. Black double ring Type I cds, FIRST usage of the color BLACK, which became the permanently used color.
4. All three listed Crowned Circles are represented in various frankings and destinations.
5. Combination covers: Crowned Circles with 1 and 1/2-Real Cuban stamps, only about 4-5 such combo covers known.
6. Combination "transit" cover to Mexico with pair of stamps from Spain & Havana Crowned Circle.
7. Prephilatelic "Habana" straight line in combinations with the Havana Double date stamp, very few known.
8. Discovery of a FOURTH & FIFTH types of Crowned circles, not reported before.
9. 1866 Stampless combo of the small circled type "PAID" & "AT-HAVANA" on cover "VIA PANAMA" to British Columbia
10. C58 type I with British stamps, various usages and destinations
11. C58 type I with cds in RED only two covers reported known with this color usage on the cds.
12. C58 type II with British stamps, various usages and destinations

### Highlights of the British at St. Jago de Cuba P.O. are:

1. First Day, Maiden inaugural trip 6-9-1842 in Black double ring cds, ONLY RECORDED COVER!
2. Crowned circle in red, only SIX known, a very rare cover, two are shown.
3. Prephilatelic fancy oval "CUBA" in combo with double ring "St.Jago" date stamp, not previously reported.
4. "Insufficiently Paid at St. Jago de Cuba" in red, ONLY RECORDED COVER, UNIQUE.
5. C88, (true) type 1, ONLY EVER REPORTED EXAMPLE KNOWN on PIECE.
6. C88, type 2, with British stamps, rare. There are less than 7-9 covers known that bear this killer mark.\*\*
7. Stampless "On Her Majesty's Service"+ "British-Vice Council/St.Jago de Cuba" not recorded before.

### Highlights of the French at Havana P.O. are:

1. First day at the Havana P.O., 9-8-1865, with previously unrecorded BLUE Octagonal, ONLY RECORDED COVER!
2. Second reported usage of the consular octagonal cds in BLUE, this is the SECOND voyage at the NEW p.o. 10-17-65.
3. The RED octagonals, TWO covers January and June of 1872, the ONLY YEAR that the octagonal cds are reported in the color RED, only two more covers known in this color and both are from the month of June same trip date.
5. THREE COMBINATION COVERS with Cuban stamps, LESS THAN FIVE RECORDED\*\*
6. The only 2 known covers with the rare usage of the 5-Franc French stamp, both are shown.
7. Post UPU French Octagonals Used with Cuban Stamps, FOUR covers shown, of only about 7 covers known.
8. Cover to Lima, Peru, after the use of the anchor had ceased, rare usage.\*\*
9. MAIDEN TRIP for Line "M" on the Guayane only recorded cover with French stamps of only TWO known, the other is stampless.\*\*
10. Only recorded Line "M" cover on a **return trip: New Orleans to Havana** on the "DARIEN" French steamer.
11. Special receiving cds mark at Paris for CUBAN MAIL, TWO covers shown, rare.
12. Usages after the UPU, where the French octagonals were still being used with Cuban stamps, very scarce covers, 5 covers shown
13. Two newspaper wrappers post UPU and with French stamps used instead of Cuban ones as per the UPU requirement

### Highlights of the French at Santiago de Cuba P.O. are:

1. "Louisianne" ship octagonal, TWO covers shown, less than 10-12 covers recorded.
2. "Tampico" ship octagonal, less than 6 covers recorded.
3. "Veracruz" ship octagonal THREE covers shown: one stampless, less than 10 covers recorded.
4. "Floride" ship octagonal in RED is only recorded cover known, plus two in Black from only 2 other covers known.
5. "Imperatrice Eugenie" octagonals, BOTH of the only TWO known covers, one is the listing cover for the SALLES catalog (The above are all the complete ships octagonals for the French Lines in Cuba)
- 5a. The 'Ligne Du Mexique', ships double ring cds's for 4 initial steamers: Luisianne, Tampico, Floride & Veracruz (all very scarce).
6. Maiden Trip of the "Imperatrice Eugenie" to Santiago: the "Mexique" octagonal was used for lack of the "Imperatrice Eugenie-CUBA" not being ready at the time.
7. Combination covers to PERU, where a pair of postage due stamps were affixed to the cover.\*\*
8. BLUE octagonal cds, FIRST TIME recorded & reported used in this color, stampless.
9. LIGNE "F", THREE covers shown, one with the cds marking in RED, less than 5 covers known.
10. LIGNE "E", marking with pair of 5c. Cuban stamps, very rare usage to Bordeaux, only a couple of covers known reported.
11. Post UPU, French octagonals still being used with Cuban stamps, only one known recorded cover for Santiago de Cuba.

\*\* Cover photographed or mentioned in Robert G. Stone's Book "A Caribbean Neptune", this exhibitors' name appears in the "Acknowledgements" list of contributors to this work.

LITERATURE REFERENCE:

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