

Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges by Ernesto Cuesta

<[ABRE9600](#)> **Abréu Pérez, José Ignacio**

Catálogo Histórico Postal de Cuba (1855-1898) (Postal History Catalog of Cuba (1855-1898))

Madrid, Spain: Federación Española de Sociedades Filatélicas (Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies), Colección Cuadernos de Filatelia No.7 (Collection of Philatelic Notebooks, No. 7), 1996, 256 pp.+ list of errata, profusely illustrated, in Spanish.

This is an outstanding work comprising the stamp and postal stationery issues of Cuba during the Spanish Administration. It includes regular postage stamp issues and postal forgeries, official stamps, telegraph stamps, revolutionary war stamps, and postal stationery. The catalog starts with a two page presentation on the postal rates of the period covered. It then proceeds to discuss in detail all of the regular postage issues in chronological order with the official stamp issues and revolutionary war issues inserted into the presentation in chronological sequence. Telegraph stamps and postal stationery are discussed in separate sections at the end of the catalog. Each issue is treated in detail with the regular values plus their known major varieties and forgeries listed, and illustrated and discussed when appropriate. Prevailing postage rates and usages are also discussed for each issue and illustrations of the cancellations known to be used in their period of circulation are reproduced or shown on actual stamps, pieces, or covers. The coverage, detail, and veracity of the work is outstanding with the exception of the sections on telegraph stamps and postal stationery which are complete and accurate, but lack the detailed discussion and illustration of usages that are the crowning glory of the postage stamps portion of the catalog. The catalog is primarily based on the private collection of Mr. Abreu with the following exceptions which he noted on a private letter to me as belonging to the Cuban Postal Museum: all of the material concerning the Y ¼ surcharges, the covers of the military expeditions to Mexico and the Dominican Republic (pp.75-79), and the items on pages 12, 64, 70, and 110. This catalog is an indispensable reference to the student of Cuban postage issues and their postal history.

We can group the content of the catalog into the following sections:

1. [Tarifas postales en Cuba \(Cuban Postal Rates\)](#)
2. [Emisiones de 1855-1856 \(1855-1856 Issues\)](#)
3. [Emisión de 1857 \(1857 Issue\)](#)
4. [Sellos del Correo Oficial \(Official Mail Stamps\)](#)
5. [Emisiones de 1860-1875 \(1860-1875 Issues\)](#)
6. [Emisiones de 1876-1881 \(1876-1881 Issues\)](#)
7. [Emisiones de 1882-1888 \(1882-1888 Issues\)](#)
8. [Emisiones de 1890-1898 \(1890-1898 Issues\)](#)
9. [Sellos de Telégrafos \(Telegraph Stamps\)](#)
10. [Tarjetas Postales \(Postcards\)](#)

<[ACKE9412](#)> **Ackein, G.**

"The Y ¼ of Cuba"

SCF, Vol.1, No.6, 15 Dec 1894, pp.46-47. Translation of an article in the Echo de la Timbrologie. The English translation printed in SCF is followed by a critique written by G. A. Padro.

This is an early article describing both the 1855-56 and the 1860 surcharges of the interior mails of Havana and noting that these were the first officially issued surcharged stamps in the world. The article incorrectly interprets the Y in the surcharge to mean "And" but correctly describes the intended use of the stamps. Another error in the article is the indication that the surcharge can be found on the three types of paper on which the first issue of Cuba was printed, when in fact it does not exist on the 1856 issue with crossed lines watermark referred to in the article as a "diamond" watermark. The article ends with a description of some of the varieties of the surcharge known at the time and of some of the forgeries that soon appeared on the market. Prices in British pounds are given for the standard varieties of the surcharge. The article is followed by a critique by G.A. Padro correcting Mr. Ackein's interpretation of the letter Y in the surcharge and providing additional information on surcharge measurements and varieties, but also incorrectly reporting the existence of the surcharge on paper with a "lozenges" watermark corresponding to the crossed lines watermark paper of the 1856 issue on which the surcharge does not exist.

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

<[ANDRE90010](#)> **Andreini, José Manuel**

"Cuba Y 1/4"

MK, Vol.14, No.41, WNo.510, 11 October 1900, pp.365-367 (3).

Very good summary of this issue by one of America's foremost philatelists at the turn of the century.

<[ANDRE90105b](#)> **Andreini, José Manuel**

"Cuba Y 1/4"

MK, Vol.15, No.20, WNo.541, 16 May 1901, pp.192.

Commenting on documents related to this issue.

<[ASC2101](#)> **The Albemarle Stamp Collector**

"Why is the Y?"

ASC, Vol.7, No.1, WNo.73, January 1921, p.40.

<[BARR90101b](#)> **Barreras, Antonio (signed B. A. Reras)**

"Cuba Y 1/4"

CA, 3rd Epoch, Yr.2, Nos.1 & 2, Jan-Feb 1901, pp.28-30 (3), Span.

Brief article meant to correct an incorrect explanation of the meaning of the Y 1/4 surcharges of Cuba provided by Mr. E. Gainsborg in a letter sent to the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal (see <[GAIN0012](#)>). Mr. Gainsborg incorrectly states that the Y 1/4 meant "And 1/4" indicating that a 1/4 r. fee was added to 2 r. payed by the underlying stamp to pay the postman for delivering the letter. Mr. Barreras, under the pseudonym "B. A. Reras", explains in the article the real meaning and use of the Y 1/4 and provides some background information on how it was conceived and implemented.

<[BARR90103](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

"Documentos Inéditos sobre el correo interior de La Habana, en 1855"

("Unpublished Documents on the Inner City Mails of Havana in 1855")

CA, 3rd Epoch, Yr.2, No.3, Mar 1901, pp.47-53 (7), Span.

Article on the origin and meaning of the Y 1/4 surcharged stamps used for the payment of postage on letters sent within the limits of the city of Havana in 1855. The article gives a brief overview of the establishment of the inner city mails of Havana and the surcharging of regular 2 reales stamps with the Y 1/4 surcharge for use in payment of inner city mail postage. The article then proceeds to reproduce several key government documents describing the establishment of the inner city mails and the measures that needed to be taken to that effect. The cited documents include references to the quantities of stamps that were surcharged on various occasions but do not provide sufficient information for establishing total numbers surcharged overall.

<[BARR90402](#)>* **Barreras, Antonio**

"Cuba. Los Sellos Habilitados con Y 1/4 en 1855-1857"

("Cuba. The Y 1/4 Surcharged Stamps of 1855-1857")

RSFC, Yr.III, No.2, 15 February 1904, pp.17-25 (9). See <[BARR93903](#)> for an article derived from this one.

<[BARR91104a](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

"Una Joya Filatélica de Cuba or The 'Y 1/4' Surcharge of 1855"

MK, Vol.24, No.15, WNo.1059, 15 April 1911, pp.130-131.

Reprint of <[BARR91004](#)>; reprinted in turn in <[BARR97301](#)>.

<[BARR92407](#)> **Barreras, Antonio**

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

"Cuba. Los Sellos Habilitados con Y 1/4 en 1855-57"
("Cuba. The 1855-57 Y 1/4 Surcharged Stamps")
A, Yr.IV, No.13, July 1924, pp.65-70, Span.

<BARR93903> Barreras, Antonio

"Cuba. Los Sellos Habilitados con Y 1/4 en 1855-57"
("Cuba. The 1855-57 'Y 1/4' Surcharged Stamps")
FCa, Yr.II, No.IV/VII, March 1939, pp.5-11 (7), ill., Span. Derived from <BARR90402>.

<BARR9yymb> Barreras, Antonio

Los Sellos Habilitados con Y 1/4 en 1855-57

(The Stamps Surcharged With Y 1/4 in 1855-57)

La Habana: Cooperativa de Prensa (Press Cooperative), Estudios Filatélicos Cubanos, n.d. [Need date of publication and photocopy.] Probably derived or reprinted from <BARR90103a>, <BARR90402>, <BARR91004>, or <BARR91104a>

<BCFD82??> Boletín Círculo Filatélico "La Demajagua"

"Y 1/4. Coleccionista Descubre que la Sobrecarga de un Sello de Cuba Tiene una Fracción Invertida"
("Y 1/4. Collector Discovers That the Surcharge on a Cuban Stamp Has an Inverted Fraction")
BCFD, No.35, 1982, Span. [Need date of publication and photocopy.]

<BENNM0006a># Bennett, Inc., Matthew

An Exhibition Collection Sale—The Edward Goldsmith Collection of Spanish Antilles to 1866

Baltimore, Maryland: Matthew Bennett, Inc.; 223rd Public Auction; June 10, 2000; 55 pp.; ill.

Catalog of the auction of the Edward Goldsmith Gold Medal Collection of Spanish Antilles to 1866 containing great rarities of Spanish Antilles, including the controversial Y¼ cover of the interior mail of Habana with the error 4/1 inverted numerals in the fraction of the surcharge that was offered as lot #1633 and sold for \$38,500 plus 10% commission—the highest price ever paid to date for an item of Cuban philately. The auction realized a total of \$171,840 plus 10% commission. Photocopies of some of the larger lots that could not be included in the auction catalog are available in my library (<[BENNM0006b](#)>).

<BSFC0007> Boletín de la Sociedad Filatélica de Chile

"Falsificaciones: Antillas Españolas 2 reales con sobrecarga Y 1/4 falsa"

BSFC, 4 Jul-Aug 1900, page number unknown, in Span.

The reference to this article comes indirectly from <CA90101>.

Report of a counterfeit Y 1/4 surcharge on a 2 r. with watermark of crossed lines (Scott 11). In the article the author incorrectly refers to the existence of 9 types of this surcharge, a fact that is challenged in <CA90101>.

<CA90101> El Curioso Americano

"Variedades" ("Varieties")

CA, 3rd Epoch, Yr.2, Nos.1-2, Jan-Feb 1901, pp.36-37, Span.

Comments on several articles on Cuban stamps written in foreign philatelic journals reporting varieties, errors, and forgeries. The entry is really a regularly appearing subsection in the journal. The first segment is subtitled "Corrfos Corrls Correos ó CORFOS CORLOS CORRES?" and challenges the accuracy of a report in Cadiz Filatélico of some varieties in the lettering of the word CORREOS in the heading of the stamps of the first issue of Cuba. The second segment gives an account of four stamps that are extremely rare used and which often bear counterfeit cancellations (Scott 16, 22, 83, and 159). The third segment discusses the error "immediata" on Scott E2. The fourth segment challenges the genuineness of the Y 1/4 stamps in a lot of stamps containing several of them that was offered in an ad in Madrid Filatélico at a ridiculously low price. The final segment talks about the

Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta

report of a counterfeit Y 1/4 stamp in the Boletín de la Sociedad Filatélica de Chile and challenges the claim by author of the existence of 9 types of Y 1/4 surcharges. For a follow-up on this last segment see <CA90104>.

<CA90104b> **El Curioso Americano**

"Variedades" ("Varieties")

CA, 3rd Epoch, Yr.2, Nos.4-5, Apr-May 1901, pp.86-93 and two unnumbered pages of photos (corresponding to the first segment in the article) which I have labelled pp.86a and 86b in my files. The article is in Spanish.

This piece comprises several segments, some with sub-headings, some without. The first segment is titled "Cuba 1833", but should have read 1883 because it refers to two loose photos which are included in the journal showing full sheets of the 5 and 10 cent 1883 surcharged stamps with double surcharges [the sheet on p.86a is currently in my collection; it was purchased as part of lot 336 of the Soler y Llach auction of 14 Dec 1995]. The segment observes that in many cases the double surcharges of this issue present different intensities in the inking of the two surcharges and states that this is a normal occurrence and that such double surcharges should be considered genuine. The second segment is titled "Rarezas de Cuba" ("Cuban Rarities") and reports existence of the following great Cuban rarities: two used Scott 222c (inverted surcharges) with Havana cancellations, one each Scott 221 and 226 with "Xc. de PESO" in the center of the stamp and another two of the same values with "Xc. de PESO" at the top and "CUBA" at the bottom, a 4 pta. 1877 telegraph stamp in green, two sheets of the 1 pta. 1874 telegraph stamp in the same color as the 2 ptas. value of the same year, and several 1883 surcharged telegraph stamps with inverted and double surcharges. The following segment is titled "Tres Variedades de Y 1/4" ("Three varieties of Y 1/4") and is a follow-up on the Y 1/4 discussion in <CA90101> reiterating that there exist three types of these surcharges on five different stamps. This is followed by an untitled segment reporting the receipt of a letter from the author of the article in the Chilean journal that started the discussion of the existing types of these surcharges alleging that he has been misunderstood. Another untitled segment follows reporting the free-franking privileges given by the U.S. Government to General Máximo Gómez upon his arrival in Havana in February 1899 and describing an envelope printed for this purpose (but not used). The next three titled segments don't deal with Cuban philately. The next segment is titled "El Correo de Cuba" and is a brief notice about the recent demise of that weekly philatelic journal published in Havana. This is followed by two untitled segments. The first one identifies several varieties found in a full sheet of newspaper stamp Scott P25 and states that one of the varieties described also occurs in Scott P13 and P19; it also identifies several varieties of Scott P23. The second untitled segment reproduces a listing of all stamps and postal stationery issued by the U.S. Postal Administration for use in Cuba since January 1, 1899. This listing includes quantities issued. These segments are followed by two titled segments that deal with non-Cuban philately. The segment that follows is titled "Retouques a los sellos de las islas de Cuba y Filipinas de 1882" ("Retouches of the 1882 stamps of Cuba and Philippines") and describes three retouches of Scott 103 corresponding to Scott 125 and 126--the second retouch described falls between these two but seems to correspond more closely to Scott 125. Another titled non-Cuba segment follows, followed in turn by another untitled segment referring to an article in Le Timbrophile Belge reporting that some European catalogers vouch for the existence of four Cuban postal cards that are unknown in Cuban philatelic circles. After another titled non-Cuban philatelic segment, a segment titled "Sin perforar" ("Imperforate") discussed the cataloging and pricing of some Cuban imperforate stamps of the Spanish Administration and concludes that they are proofs, whether issued in the same color as the issued stamps or not. The final segment is a quite long segment labelled "Puerto Príncipe" which discusses details and known facts about the various printings of these issues, including quantities of stamps printed and authenticity issues.

<CAMPOS8010>* **Campos, Orlando**

"Los Habilitados con Y 1/4 del Correo Interior de La Habana"

("The Y 1/4 Surcharged Stamps of the Internal Mail of Havana")

Boletín de PURIPEX 80, held at Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, 27 Oct-1 Nov 1980, pp.11-13 (3), ill., Span.

<CANTA7701>* **Cantens, Agustín J.**

CT, Vol.1, No.1, Jan-Mar 1977, pp.1-2.

"The Surcharge 'Y 1/4' of Cuba"

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

<CHAPMS0101> **Chapman, S.**

"Correspondence/Cuba Y 1/4"

SGMJ, Vol.XI, No.127, 31 January 1901, p.163.

Letter to the editor with reference to the Y 1/4 surcharges.

<[CronC0102](#)> **El Cronista de Correos**

"Controversia Filatélica" ("Philatelic Controversy")

CronC, Yr.7, No.206, 15 Feb 1901, pp.4-5, Span.

Article referring to the controversy that the meaning of the Y 1/4 surcharges on the 2 reales stamps of the first and third issues of Cuba (Scott 5-8 and 15) had raised with several "filatelistas ingleses" (It is not clear from the context whether the "filatelistas ingleses" refers to "British philatelists" or "English-speaking philatelists"). In any case, these gentlemen wrote to the Marquis of Portago asking for an opinion whose essence the article proceeds to quote. The article does not clearly explain why this gentleman's opinion was sought or what his credentials for expressing an opinion on the matter were, other than by referring to his opinion as an "authorized opinion" and referring to him as "Director General" without specifying what he was directing. However, the explanation that the Marquis Portago provides accurately explains the reason, meaning, and use of these surcharges.

<CUES-FILACUBA> **Cuesta, Ernesto**

FILACUBA Website

Bethesda, Maryland: Continuously updated.

The FILACUBA Website contains a section called "Pages From Cuban Collections" that contain the following subsections addressing the Y ¼ surcharges:

Cuba: Study of the First Issues, Part 3, by Ignacio Prats

Pages from the Colonial Cuba Collection of Francisco Otegui

Cuba: A Collection of Stamps Issued Under Spanish Dominion, Part 1—1855 to 1876

Y ¼ Surcharges of 1855

Y ¼ Surcharges of 1860

Cuban Postal and Philatelic Forgeries

<CUES-Ysurcharges> **Cuesta, Ernesto**

Bibliography of Cuban Y ¼ Surcharges

Bethesda, Maryland: Continuously updated section within the <CUES-Biblio> and <CUES-LBiblio> Internet Websites. This is a sub-bibliography listing only items dealing with the Cuban Y ¼ surcharges extracted from the main bibliography.

<[ECHE7805](#)> **Echenagusía García, Carlos**

"Dos Variedades en un Solo Sello" ("Two Varieties in a Single Stamp")

FCb, Yr.13, No.2, May-Aug 1978, p.24, ill., Span.

Brief report of a new variety of the surcharge Y 1/4 on Scott 15 with the 1 of the fraction inverted. The article makes reference to the 12 varieties of this surcharge identified in <GUER7700>, p.29, and identifies the variety in question as a variant of the one classified as 14-E in an upcoming specialized catalog of Cuban stamps (that I have not been able to identify) and suggests that the new variety should be assigned the number 14-L in the catalog. It is a mystery why the article was titled "Two Varieties in a Single Stamp" because only one variety is discussed.

<[ECHE9010](#)> **Echenagusía García, Carlos**

"1860. Correo Interior de La Habana. Plancheo y tabla de localización de los sellos sobrecargados Y 1/4"

("1860. Interior Mail of Havana. Plating and Table for the Identifying the Position in the Plate of the Y 1/4 Surcharged Stamps") RF, Yr.XXIV, No.255, Oct 1990, pp.339, 341-356 (17), ill., Span.

Included as a separata in the center of the magazine.

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

Excellent study of the plating of these surcharges based on the author's own studies and the preceding work by Diena (<DIEN8102>), Cruz Plana, Guerra Aguiar (<GUER7700>), and especially Prats (<PRAT8307>). The article presents a diagram identifying the placement on a sheet of 170 stamps of the 22 varieties of the surcharge identified by Prats and illustrates each of the 22 varieties. Only one position in the sheet (position IX-2) is left open because the type of surcharge in that position was unknown at the time of publication of the article (Prats has since identified the type of surcharge in that position). The article then goes on to explain the use of a table the author has devised to facilitate the identification of the position of the surcharge in the sheet once the type of the surcharge has been established by comparison with the 22 types shown. This table lists the possible positions in the sheet for each type of surcharge so that the reader can then focus on plating the surcharge by studying the underlying characteristics of the base stamp. This is further facilitated by the inclusion in the article of detailed illustrations of the identifying characteristics of the base stamps for all positions that have distinguishing identifying characteristics. Overall, this is an excellent tool for the plating of these surcharges.

<FCb7505a>* Filatelia Cubana (FFC)

"El Correo Local de la Habana" ("The Local Mail of Havana")

Unlisted author: José Luis Guerra Aguiar

FCb, Yr.10, No.2, May-Aug 1975, pp.8-13 (6), ill., Span. This is the same as entry <GUER7505>.

Another review of the Y 1/4 surcharged stamps. Well illustrated.

<GARC4307a> García, Rafael R.

"Se debe a Cuba la Primer Sobrecarga Postal" ("The World's First Postal Surcharge Was Cuban")

AF, Yr.VIII, No.25, Jul-Dec 1943, p.15, Span. Reprinted later in Span. and Eng. in same journal; see entries <GARC4503>, <GARC4605a>, and <GARC4608>.

Brief account of the Y 1/4 surcharge, the first official postal surcharge created in the World.

<GARC4503> García, Rafael R.

"Owed to Cuba the First Postal Surcharge"

WPG, Vol.40, No.4, WNo.1221, 31 March 1945, p.84. English translation of <GARC4307a>. The title is a poor literal translation of the title of <GARC4307a>; later corrected in <GARC4605a> and <GARC4608>.

<GARC4605a> García, Rafael R.

"Se debe a Cuba la Primera Sobrecarga Postal" "The World's First Postal Surcharge"

AF, Yr.XX, No.35, May-Jun 1946, pp.8-9, Span. and Eng.

Reprint of <GARC4307a> (Spanish) and of <GARC4503> (English).

<GARC4608> García, Rafael R.

"The World's First Postal Surcharge"

AP, Vol.59, No.11, August 1946, p.967. Reprint of <GARC4503> or <GARC4605a> with the title corrected.

<GARCF8003b>* García-Frutos, Silvia

"*Correo Interior*--Uso de la Y 1/4"

"*Correo Interior*--Use of the Y 1/4"

Subtitled: "Notas filatélicas del Archivo Nacional, Gobierno Superior Civil--Legajo 822, No.27618"

"Philatelic Notes from the Cuban National Archives, Superior Civil Government--File 822, No.27618"

BM, No.4, Mar-Apr 1980, p.15, ill., Span. & Eng.

Short note on the Interior Mail Service of the city of Havana, the use of the Y 1/4 surcharged stamps to frank Havana interior mail, and the use of the rare straightline cancellation "Correo Interior" (Interior Mail) found on only a few Y 1/4 covers of that period. An illustration of a "Correo Interior" cover is shown.

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

<GOLD8109> Goldsmith, Edward

"Collector Discovers Cuban Inverted Fraction Surcharge"

LINN, 21 September 1981, p.14. ill.

Report by Mr. Goldsmith of his finding of an inverted 1/4 (4/1) fraction on a Scott No.15 Y 1/4 on cover. The cover's authenticity was questioned by Ignacio Prats in <PRAT8307>, p.17; however, it has since been issued a certificate of authenticity by The Philatelic Foundation of New York (Cert. No. 148945, dated 2 Dec 1985) after undergoing extensive study by numerous experts, including examination using a 100-300X microscope and an analysis of the surcharge's ink using x-ray spectrophotometry.

<GOLD8110>* Goldsmith, Edward

"Coleccionista Descubre que la Sobrecarga en un Sello de Cuba Tiene la Fracción Invertida"

"Stamp Collector Discovers That The Surcharge On A Cuban Stamp Has An Inverted Fraction"

BM, No.11, October-December 1981, p.81, ill., Span.

Spanish translation of <GOLD8109> by Silvia García-Frutos.

<GUER7505>* Guerra Aguiar, José Luis

"El Correo Local de la Habana." ("The Local Post of Havana.")

Unlisted author: José Luis Guerra Aguiar

FCb, Yr.10, No.2, May-Aug 1975, pp.8-13 (6), ill., Span. This is the same as entry <FCb7505a>.

Another review of the Y 1/4 surcharged stamps. Well illustrated.

<HOWES0502>* Howes, C. A.

"Philatelic Problems. No.6. What Does the Surcharge Y 1/4 on the Early Issues of Cuba Represent?"

MK, Vol.19, No.5, WNo.736, 4 February 1905, p.39.

<KOUR9701b>* Kouri del Pino, Yamil Harón

"The Odd Couples: Pairs of the Y 1/4 Stamp of 1855 with the Two Types of Surcharges"

"Las Parejas Disparejas: Parejas del Sello Y 1/4 de 1855 con los Dos Tipos de Sobrecarga"

CPa, Vol.IX, No.23, Jan 1997, cover page plus pp.16-19, ill., Span. & Eng.

<LAWRM8302>* Lawrence, Michael

"World's earliest overprints include successful Cuban postal forgery"

LINN, 7 Feb 1983, p.?, ill.

Article debating which is the world's second earliest overprint on a stamp, claiming the first overprint was created in 1846 on a local carrier stamp from New York City. After considering a couple of candidates, one from Haiti and another from Mauritius, the article gives the honor of being "philately's second earliest overprint" to Cuba's "Y 1/4" overprint on the 2 reales stamp of the first issue of Cuba issued for use in the local delivery service within the city of Havana which commenced in November 19, 1855. The article fails to mention that the Cuban overprint is the world's first overprint officially issued by a country's postal administration. The article also incorrectly states that these overprints were applied to the 2 reales stamps of the second and fourth issue, when in actuality they were applied to the 2 reales stamps of the first and third issue. Then the article goes on to the subject of its title, giving a report of the Matanzas "postmaster's forgery" which the postmaster at Matanzas created by buying 2 reales stamps overprinted "Y 1/4" in Havana, paying 1/4 of a real for each, erasing the overprints as best possible, and then disguising the forgeries by applying a heavy oval grid cancellation on top of the erasures at the time of sale of the stamps to the public. The article implies that these Matanzas "postmaster's forgeries" occurred on the "Y 1/4" overprints of the first issue, when in fact these forgeries are only known to exist on "Y 1/4" overprints of the third issue. Finally, note that the Y 1/4 "overprints" discussed in this article are technically considered to be "surcharges" because they changed the face value of the stamp.

<LP92108>* London Philatelist

Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta

"Y"

LP, Vol.30, No.356, Aug 1921, pp.189-190.

Request for assistance from the readers to solve the mystery of the 1855-1856 Y 1/4 surcharges.

<[LP92110](#)>* **London Philatelist**

"More Y 1/4"

LP, Vol.30, No.358, Oct 1921, pp.243-244.

Reader reply to <[LP92108](#)>.

<[MARTZ0009](#)> **Martínez, Emiliano**

"The Y 1/4 on 2 Rs. Cuba"

MK, Vol.14, No.37, WNo.506, 13 Sep 1900, pp.37-38.

Letter to the editor providing another meaning of the "Y" in the Y 1/4 surcharge of Scott 5-8 and 15.

<[MF89702b](#)> **Madrid Filatélico**

"Antillas Españolas" ("Spanish Antilles")

ME, Yr.I, No.2, 1 February 1897, p.3-4.

Notes of various Y 1/4 surcharges.

<[MF89703a](#)> **Madrid Filatélico**

"Falsificaciones" ("Forgeries")

ME, Yr.I, No.3, 1 March 1897, pp.3.

Discusses forgeries of the Y 1/4 surcharges.

<[MILI7405](#)>* **Milián Cantero, Richard**

"Comentarios sobre los Sellos Habilitados y Sobrecargados de Cuba"

("Comments on the Overprinted and Surcharged Stamps of Cuba")

FCb, Yr.9, No.2, May-Aug 1974, pp.37-42, ill., Span.

<[PADR9412](#)> **Padro, G. A.**

"The Y 1/4 of Cuba—A Specialist's Reply"

SCF, Vol.1, No.6, 15 Dec 1894, pp.46-47.

Critique of an article by G. Ackein originally published in French in the Echo de la Timbrologie. The English translation is printed as the first part of this article, followed by G. A. Padro's critique.

This article is a critique of the article "The Y 1/4 of Cuba" by G. Ackein (see <[ACKE9412](#)>), correcting Mr. Ackein's interpretation of the letter Y in the surcharge and providing additional information on surcharge measurements and varieties, but also incorrectly reporting the existence of the surcharge on paper with a "lozenges" watermark corresponding to the crossed lines watermark paper of the 1856 printing of the first issue of Cuba on which the surcharge does not exist.

<[PF5401](#)> **Publicidad Filatélica**

"Y 1/4 -- Y Nació la Primera Sobrecarga del Mundo"

("Y 1/4 -- And the First Surcharge of the World Was Born")

PF, No.42, Jan-Mar 1954, p.10, Span. Probably written by the editor and publisher of PF José Majo Tocabens.

Account of the circumstances that led to the creation of the World's first surcharge on a stamp (Scott 5-8) and explanation of the meaning of the "Y 1/4" with a discussion of various erroneous interpretations. It is worth noting that the article states that the setting of the surcharges for the plate of 170 stamps was made on the basis of 100 surcharges. This statement is not explained any further and its meaning is unknown. Current belief is that narrow "Ys" were used in setting the surcharges of the first seven rows of 17 stamps (7 x 17 = 119 stamps) of the plate and wide "Ys" were used for the remaining 3 rows (see <[KOUR9701](#)>).

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

<PHILH2203> Phillips, Henry B.

"The Cuba Y 1/4 Surcharge of 1855-56"
SMJ, Vol.3, No.1, Issue 25, March 1922, p.4.

<PJGB90008> Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

"Y 1/4 Surcharge"
PJGB, Vol.10, No.116, 15 Aug 1900, p.144;
PJGB, Vol.10, No.120, 20 Dec 1900, pp.224-225.

<POWE89909a> Power, Emilio J. (signed P. O. Wer)

"Datos sobre los sellos de Antillas Españolas. Parte II. 1855"
("Some facts about Spanish Antilles stamps. Part II. 1855")
CA, 3rd Epoch, No.3, 15 Sep 1899, pp.41-45, ill., Span.

Continues discussion of paper and color varieties of the first issue of Spanish Cuba in <POWE89908>, but focuses on the interior mail service for the city of Havana using 2 reales stamps of 1855 which were surcharged Y 1/4 pending the arrival of 1/4 real stamps ordered from Spain. Details of the legislation authorizing the stamps, their printing, gives measurements of the narrow and wide varieties, and correctly rejects the existence of the surcharge on 2 r. stamps of the second issue printed on paper with watermark of crossed lines. However, the article contains some erroneous information about the surcharged stamps. First, it states that the narrow and wide varieties resulted from different printings when one printing was exhausted. The fact is that both types of surcharges were used together in the printing of each sheet. Second, it states that the surcharged stamps were used to frank circulars throughout the entire island, which as far as I know is not true. Third, it states that the surcharged stamps were seen used as postage due stamps on incoming foreign mail. Such usage I have not seen reported elsewhere; I can only surmise that the author may have seen a privately carried letter from abroad which was posted within the city of Havana by the carrier upon arrival.

<POWE89911> Power, Emilio J. (signed P. O. Wer)

"Datos sobre los sellos de Antillas Españolas. Parte III. 1856 a 1864"
("Some facts about Spanish Antilles stamps. Part III. 1856 to 1864")
CA, 3rd Epoch, No.5, Nov 1899, pp.73-77, ill., Span.

Discussion of the color and paper varieties in the second and third issues of Spanish Cuba. The article reiterates the assertion made in <POWE89909a> that the Y 1/4 surcharges do not exist on stamps of the second issue with watermark of crossed lines and gives details and measurements of the Y 1/4 surcharges used on the 2 r.p. stamps of the third issue (Scott 15). The article ends with details on the 1/4 r.p. issue of 1862-64 which replaced the surcharged stamps (Scott 16).

<POWE90001> Power, Emilio J. (signed P. O. Wer)

"Datos sobre los sellos de Antillas Españolas. Parte IV. 1864 a 1866"
("Some facts about Spanish Antilles stamps. Part IV. 1864 a 1866")
CA, 3rd Epoch, No.7, Jan 1900, pp.9-11, Span.

<PRAT8307> Prats, Ignacio

Correo Interior de la Habana--1860. The Local Mail Service of Havana--1860. Habilitados - Y 1/4 - Surcharge
Subtitled: "Estudio de las variedades de la sobrecarga y su posición en la plancha. Study of the different varieties and their position on the plate"

Hato Rey, Puerto Rico: Published by FIAF (Federación Interamericana de Filatelia--Interamerican Philatelic Federation) with the collaboration of the Cuban Philatelic Society of America, Inc., July 1983, 32 pp. + 1 large loose folded sheet showing a complete sheet of the 1857 2r. stamp (Scott 14)--the base stamp on which the surcharges were applied, profuse and excellent illustrations in two colors, in Span. & Eng. 1000 copies printed.

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

Study of the different varieties of the 1860 Y 1/4 surcharge and description of the identifiable characteristics of 169 out of the surcharge's 170 plate positions--only one position, 2-I, remains to be located and its characteristics identified. The definitive study of this surcharge after prior studies by Barreras <BARR90402> and <BARR91004>, Diena <DIEN2211> and Cruz Planas (published as part of <GUER7700> without acknowledgement). The study also provides background information on the creation of these and prior surcharges (Scott 5-8) for use on the internal mail of Havana.

<PRAT8608> Prats, Ignacio

"Cuba: Study of the First Issue"

Washington, D.C.: The American Philatelic Society, STAMPSHOW 86 Program, STAMPSHOW 86 Exposition, 21-24 Aug 1986, p.29.

The reference is to the listing of the collection presented by Mr. Prats at the exposition. Mr. Prats was kind to make available to me a photocopy of the collection as presented at the exposition which I retain in my library. The collection was awarded a "Prix d'Honneur" at the Exposition. It is a study of the first issue of Cuba, including its plating, varieties and usages in Puerto Rico, Philippines, Dominican Republic and México, with emphasis on the Y 1/4 stamps issued for the local mail of Habana. The collection won the Grand Award at SEPAD85 (Philadelphia) to qualify for entry in STAMPSHOW 86. It is available in PDF format in three parts:

[Part 1—First and Second Printings](#)

[Part 2—Third Printing, Three Settings](#)

[Part 3—Foreign Usages and Y ¼ Scott #15](#)

<PW90404> The Philatelic West and Camera News

Untitled article

PW, Vol.26, No.2, Apr 1904, pages unnumbered.

Report of an exhaustive article on the 1855-57 Y 1/4 surcharge of Cuba by Barreras published in RSFC (<BARR90402>).

<RFA2902> Revista Filatélica de las Antillas

"Los Sellos de Cuba Habilitados Y 1/4 en 1855-57"

("The 1855-57 Cuban Stamps Surcharged Y 1/4")

RFA, Yr.I, No.II, February 1929, pp.5-9 (5), Span.

<RODRH0209>* Rodríguez y Hernández, José

"Los Sellos de Cuba" ("The Stamps of Cuba")

RSFC, Yr.I, No.6, 15 Sep 1902, pp.95-98 (4), Span.

Defense of the existence of genuine 1856 issue stamps surcharged Y 1/4.

<ROSE8312a>* Rosende, Roberto M.

"Grandes Piezas" ("Showpieces")

BNJ, No.7, Dec 1983, p.10, ill., Span.

Description of the only known vertical strip of Scott Nos.5 and 6 and the only known vertical strip of Scott Nos.7 and 8, which prove that the wide and narrow Ys of the Y 1/4 1855 surcharge, both appeared on the same sheet of stamps. Both vertical pieces discussed span rows 7 and 8 of the sheet. The article notes that the existence of these two pieces and that of a block of 12 stamps (4 columns by 3 rows) in the Cuban Postal Museum bearing only the wide Ys and belonging to the last three rows of a sheet of these stamps, seems to imply that the narrow Ys were used in the surcharges of the first 7 rows of the sheet and the wide Ys were used in the last three rows. However, this logical deduction cannot be definitely corroborated due to the lack of surviving multiples and blocks of these stamps. See <KOUR9701b> for another treatment of this topic.

**Bibliography of Y ¼ Surcharges
by Ernesto Cuesta**

<RSFC0603>* Revista de la Sociedad Filatélica Cubana

"La Y 1/4 de 1856" ("The Y 1/4 of 1856")

RSFC, Yr.V, No.3, March 1906, pp.9-10 (2), Span.

Evidence establishing the fact that the 1856 Y 1/4 surcharges on the 2r. value of the 1855 stamp issue (Scott Nos.6-8) were printed locally in Havana by a private company under government contract.

<SCF89412> Stamp Collector's Fortnightly

"Y 1/4 Surcharge"

SCF, Vol.1, No.6, 15 Dec 1894, p.46-47.

<SGMJ89710>* Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal

"The Surcharge 'Y 1/4' of Cuba"

SGMJ, Vol.8, No.88, 30 October 1897, p.71.

<SGMJ90009>* Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal

"Cuba Y 1/4"

SGMJ, Vol.11, No.123, September 1900, pp.42-43.

More on the meaning of the surcharge Y 1/4.

<SGMJ90011>* Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal

"Cuba Y 1/4"

SGMJ, Vol.11, No.125, November 1900, pp.94-96 (3).

Still more on the meaning of the surcharge Y 1/4.

<SORO8312>* Soro Bergua, Enrique

"Las Falsificaciones Filatélicas de la Sobrecarga 'Y 1/4' del Correo Interior de La Habana"

("The Philatelic Forgeries of the 'Y 1/4' Surcharge of the Local Mail Service of Havana")

BNJ, No.7, Dec 1983, pp.3-9 (7), ill., Span. See <SORO8812> for reprint.

<SORO8812>* Soro Bergua, Enrique

"Las Falsificaciones Filatélicas de la Sobrecarga 'Y 1/4' del Correo Interior de La Habana"

("The Philatelic Forgeries of the 'Y 1/4' Surcharge of the Local Mail Service of Havana")

Cercle Informatio de Filatelia, Segona Epoca (Second Epoch), Winter 1988-89, pp.43-47 (5), Span.

Reprint of <SORO8312>.

<SPOW2108> Spowart, H. A.

"The Y 1/4 Surcharge of Cuba"

MK, Vol.35, No.34, WNo.1598, 20 August 1921, p.478.

Reprinted from Stamp Collectors' Monthly Circular, No.545; no further details about original source given.

<TP76yymm> Le Timbre Poste

"Timbres des Antilles espagnoles, avec surcharge 'Y 1/4' "

("Spanish Antilles Stamps With the 'Y 1/4' Surcharge")

TP, 1876, p.55, in French.

<WPE90012>* Weekly Philatelic Era

"News and Gossip from Washington"

WPE, Vol.15, No.11, WNo.395, 8 December 1900, p.93.

Counterfeit surcharge Y 1/4.

<WPG3106>* Weekly Philatelic Gossip

"Cuba Surcharge Varieties"

WPG, Vol.16, No.11, WNo.500, 6 June 1931, p.352.