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PHILATELIC SECTION.

PUERTO - PRINCIPE

AN INTERESTING ISSUE OF STAMPS IN CUBA

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I.

A correspondent in Puerto Principe, Cuba, writes to me as follows:

"On November 24th the American army took possession of this city and the glorious American banner was flown to the breeze.

"Up to December 19th we have used Spanish stamps of the current 1898-99 series.

"On that day, owing to the lack of certain denominations, the following stamps were surcharged:

Habilitado:

3,000	1 centavo on 1 milesima.
3,500	2 centavos on 2 milesimas.
3,000	3 centavos on 3 milesimas.
1,000	5 centavos on 5 milesimas.

"The surcharging was done by a printing press, in black ink, on strips of 5 stamps, the figures 2, 3 and 5 show-

ing two varieties each.

"The 5c stamps were exhausted in eight days and then 500 ½ milesima, green, type 1896, were surcharged 5 centavos, but these again were soon exhausted. The following surcharges were thereupon made on the 1 centavo black violet of the 1898-99 series:

3,500 Habilitado 3 centavos;
3,500 Habilitado 5 centavos;
1,500 Habilitado 10 centavos;

which are now in actual use, surcharged lilac."

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I cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of all this information, especially as the letter of my correspondent is evidently written in a great hurry, but he calls himself an official of some prominence, well versed in philatelic

matters and not forgetful of a philatelist's main idea, i. e.: the acquisition of so-called rarities at a small cost, and I think that it is fair to accept his detailed information as correct, as far as it goes. I have seen a few stamps used, others unused, but the surcharge seemed to be rose rather than lilac. I am not informed as to the authority upon which these stamps were issued, but after my Coamo experience I shall not throw a doubt upon the most unlikely provisional stamp exhibited to me.

New York, Jan. 25, 1899.

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II.

I am indebted to Messrs. J. C. Morgenthau & Co. for the Spanish original of the decree authorizing the surcharging of stamps at Puerto Principe, viz.:

Departamento de Comunicaciones,
Division de Correos.

Sr. Director del Taller Tipografico,
"Las Dos Republicas:"

En cumplimiento de ordenes recibidas por este Departamento de Comunicaciones, del Comandante General de la Provincia, sirvase disponer se sobretimbren, en el taller y bajo su direccion los siguientes sellos de milesimas, habilitandoles, en la cantidad y valores, siguientes de acuerdo con el diseno aprobado:

3,000 de una Milesima, con un centavo.
3,900 de dos Milesimas, con dos centavos.
3,000 de tres Milesimas, con tres centavos.
1,000 de cinco Milesimas, con cinco centavos.

Puerto Principe 19 Diciembre 1898.

El Admor. Principal,
——— LOPE RECIO.

—Del Periodico "Las Dos Republicas," Puerto Principe, Cuba, December 21, 1898.

* * *

The following is a full translation:

Department of Posts and Telegraphs,
Postal Division.

To the Superintendent of the Printing
Establishment "Dos Republicas:"

Pursuant to the orders received by this Department of Posts and Telegraphs from the Governor General of this Province, you will proceed to the overprinting, in your establishment and under your inspection, of the following quantities and denominations of postage stamps with the new values in accordance with the approved sketch, to-wit:

3,000	1 milesima, with 1 centavo overprint.
3,900	2 milesimas, with 2 centavos overprint.
3,000	3 milesimas, with 3 centavos
1,000	5 centavos, with 5 centavos overprint.

Puerto Principe, Decem. 19, 1898.

LOPE RECIO, Chief Postmaster.

—From the "Two Republics," Newspaper, Dec. 21, 1898.

* * *

This decree refers only to the first printing mentioned in my previous notes. There is, however, a slight discrepancy between the quantity of 2 mil. ordered to be surcharged and the quantity given by my correspondent as so surcharged. I expect shortly to hear

more about these surcharges and possibly an explanation of the appearance of the 3 cents on 1 milesima, a variety which has not been reported officially, but which has been shown here on the original cover, of which an illustration has appeared in the WEEKLY. Messrs. Morgenthau have shown me to-day two varieties of the surcharge of 1c. on 1 milesima — one reading 1 cent, the other 1 cents. There will be, from all appearances, varieties enough of this prolific provisional to suit the most fastidious hunter after philatelic minutia.

* * *

I think it will interest many of the readers of the WEEKLY to hear something of this Puerto Principe, which has come lately into some notoriety, and knowing, as I do by experience,

how difficult it is to obtain certain geographical information, I make free to append hereto a description of Puerto Principe taken from "Military Notes on Cuba," a book not accessible to many of us and published by the Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, in 1898, viz:

"Puerto Principe is a city of 40,679 inhabitants, capital of the province of the same name, situated 464 miles from Habana. It was founded by Velasquez in 1515, on the harbor which Columbus called Puerto Principe, but which to-day is called Nuevitas. It was moved inland the following year to a place occupied by an Indian village called Camaguey. It is here we now find it. It has no especially notable buildings, and such a thing as a hotel is not known, although the city is one of the oldest

on the island. It has various societies, boards of health, boards of education, and convents and charitable organizations. There is a veterinary school, a theatre, public schools, and casinos, Post office and telegraph station.

This city was long the second city in size in Cuba. It is farther inland than any place of note in the island, being about 34 miles from northern and 45 miles from the southern coast. A railroad connects it with its seaport, Nuevitas, 45 miles northeast. Forty-five miles south of it is the port of entry, Santa Cruz, but the communication therewith is over a difficult wagon road. Communications with Habana are made first by rail to Nuevitas and then by sea to the capital. The city is located on a broad, sandy savanna at a considerable elevation above the sea,

and is the quaintest, most antiquated town in Cuba. It is a relic of the Middle Ages, having narrow, tortuous streets, which in many cases are unpaved and without sidewalks. It is situated in the heart of the grazing and cattle-raising country, from which industry it derives its importance. It has no mountains to cut off its sea breezes. A small river runs through the town. The country about the town is generally rolling. Yellow fever prevails sometimes, notwithstanding the town's elevated position."

New York, Feb. 17th, 1899.

* * *

III.

On Feb. 17th I ventured to make the following remarks on the subject

of these provisionals: "There will be, from all appearances, varieties enough of this prolific provisional to suit the most fastidious hunter after philatelic minutia." My anticipations have been unexpectedly realized, for, according to the information I have been able to obtain in Cuba from authentic sources, there have been about 70 varieties from four printings made from Dec. 19th, 1898, as per copy of the decree published in the WEEKLY, up to the time that the U. S. stamps surcharged "Cuba" were received in Puerto Principe, when the surcharging of Spanish stamps ceased, though Spanish surcharged stamps were continued in use and were actually used on the same letter, together with U. S. surcharged stamps.

* * *

The first printing consisted of the following Spanish Cuba series of 1898-99: "Habilitado — cents" in black in three horizontal lines:

3,000 stamps, 1 cent on 1 milesima, orange-brown.

3,900 stamps, 2 cents on 2 milesimas, orange-brown.

3,000 stamps, 3 cents on 3 milesimas, orange-brown.

1,000 stamps, 5 cents on 5 milesimas, orange-brown.

Varieties: The stamps were surcharged in strips of five detached from the panes and every five stamps show two varieties of figures, the second stamp in the case of the 2c., 3c. and 5c. bearing a thinner figure than the other four, while in the case of the one-cent a broken figure is shown in one stamp.

Errors: Of the 3000 one-cent stamps

there are some reading 1 cent and others reading 1 cents, the normal, cent, being the rarest, according to expert opinion. I have the following errors of surcharge:

3c. on 1 milesima.
5c. on 1 milesima.
5c. on 2 milesimas.
5c. on 3 milesimas.

Inverted surcharges.—I have the following:

1 cents on 1 milesima.
2 cents on 2 milesimas.
3 cents on 3 milesimas.
5 cents on 5 milesimas.

* * *

The second printing consisted of 800 stamps of Cuba of the value of ½ milesima, blue green of 1896 surcharged 5c. The printing of the surcharge was

done in the same way as before, five stamps to a strip and two varieties of figure in the five. There is a wide and a narrow setting of the surcharge, "Habilitado — cents" in black in three horizontal lines. I have an inverted surcharge of the narrow setting.

* * *

Of the third printing there were 7000 one-cent violet stamps of the Cuba series 1898-99 surcharged as follows:

"Habilitado — cents" in red in three horizontal lines.

3,500 — 3 cents.
3,500 — 5 cents.
1,000 — 10 cents.

The printing was in strips of five and two varieties of figure in each five. There is in my collection a peculiar

error in the shape of a vertical surcharge of the 5 cents. I have the following inverted surcharges:

3 cents.

5 cents.

* * *

The fourth and last printing, the most interesting of all, consisted of 800 stamps of the newspaper denominations of Cuba, 1896. These stamps were surcharged, as far as can be ascertained, as follows:

3c. on 1, 2 and 3 milesimas, blue-green.

5c. on 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 milesimas, blue-green.

They were surcharged on strips of five, two varieties of figure. No trace has been found of any stamps surcharged 3c. on 4 or 8 milesimas, but

there is a bare possibility of their existing. The surcharge was "Habilitado — cents" in black in three horizontal lines.

Errors: There is a very noticeable error: eents instead of cents, which I have thus far found on the following denominations:

3c. on 1 mma.
3c. on 2 mms.
3c. on 3 mms.
5c. on 1 mma.
5c. on 2 mms.
5c. on 3 mms.
5c. on 8 mms.

The only value in which I have not found it being the 5c. on 4 mms., which may, however, exist in some other philatelist's collection.

Inverted surcharges: I have the 3c.

on 1mma., 5c. on 8mms. (cents).

* * *

In the foregoing list I have only enumerated the errors and varieties in my collection and I hope that collectors possessing other varieties of these very interesting stamps will not hesitate to come forward and chronicle them in the WEEKLY. I regret to say that very few collectors, however, have taken any active interest in hunting up the stamps of this historical issue, though it is true that their extreme rarity has deterred many from embarking on such an expensive undertaking.

* * *

These stamps were mainly used in the city of Puerto Principe, in the station of Minas, midway between the

capital of the province and its northern port, Nuevitas, and in Nuevitas itself. I have stamps cancelled in the two first named towns, but I have never seen one cancelled in Nuevitas. I have not heard of any stamps having been used in Santa Cruz del Sur, the southern port of Puerto Principe. The cancellations most frequently seen are with the old Spanish cancelling machine reading: "Correo de Puerto Principe, Ysla de Cuba," and "Minas de Principe, Ysla de Cuba," the number 159 appearing always on the latter. The dates are generally very indistinct. The American cancellations are rare. I have seen two: a double oval "Mil. Sta. Puerto Principe" on the outside oval, and "No. 11. Cuba," on the inside oval; and two types of a round cancellation, reading "Military Sta. No.

11. Puerto Principe, Cuba, N. Y. P. O." in six lines including the date.

* * *

I am reliably informed that these surcharges have been counterfeited in Habana, Cuba. I have seen several specimens which differ in the size of the surcharge sufficiently to be readily detected by anyone who has seen the genuine surcharges.

New York, June 26th, 1899.

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IV.

El Curioso Americano for September has a readable article on the Cuba series of 1855 by P. O. Wer. probably meaning Mr. Emilio J. Power, a Habana dealer, and while the description and use of the Y¼ stamp is correctly

given, the surcharge measurements differ in several details from Duro's and Calman's figures. As I have recently seen counterfeit Y ¼, which originated in Habana, I would warn collectors against accepting new standards for those rare stamps.

* * *

Over Mr. Power's own signature I read a letter with sundry arguments against the legality of the Puerto Principe surcharged stamps of 1898-99. The same letter was given to me to read by the editors of *Madrid Filatelico*, where it appeared some time ago, and its editors told me that Mr. Power's arguments were unanswerable. Not so thought I. Mr. Power seems to acknowledge that the issue was duly authorized, that the stamps were legiti-

mately used, two points which I would take to mean that Puerto Principe's are good enough to collect. Mr. Power, however, goes into minor details and wonders how the Cuba 1896 issue was found in the Puerto Principe revenue office, when it should have been returned to Habana. This argument ought not to be a stumbling block to any collector knowing the peculiarities of Spanish revenue officials in Cuba, and certainly should not be offered as an objection by Mr. Power, who, I believe has been somehow connected with revenue offices. The Puerto Principe official certifies that he had 1896 stamps on hand in 1898 and that he did deliver them over to the American-Cuban authorities to be overprinted. His having '96 stamps must have been therefore one of those irregularities of

which we are all accustomed to hear.

* * *

The last argument in Mr. Power's letter, the argument which the editors of *Madrid Filatelico* thought most invulnerable, was this: "Was the issue officially sanctioned? A nation using the stamps of another is an example without parallel and the issue should have been sanctioned by the U. P. U. or authorized by some article in the American-Spanish treaty of peace." Unfortunately for the argument, the Treaty of Paris was signed on December 10, 1898, and even if the diplomats of that august conference had thought of as little a thing as a postage stamp issue, they could hardly have provided articles in Paris on the 10th for what did not happen in Puerto Principe till the

19th and probably happened and is today unbeknown and undreamed of by them even at this late date.

* * *

As to the use of stamps of one nation by another I believe there are emergency cases which history and the current catalogues tell us of. We might mention the use of U. S. stamps and stationary by the Confederate States in 1862. Peru used Chilean Stamps in 1881. The British occupancy of the Transvaal in 1878 is recorded in philatelic albums with very plain English surcharges over South African Republic stamps. Are not these cases somewhat parallel? My impression is that neither Gen. Carpenter nor any of his subordinates ever thought for one moment that the world would question

the legality of the emergency issue of Puerto Principe.

N. Y. Nov. 1899.

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V.

Without doubt, the issues of Puerto-Principe stamps during the winter of 1898-1899 constitute one of the most interesting, as well as one of the most rare groups of stamps of modern times.

At first they were received with more or less suspicion, but as time developed facts and incidents connected with the issues, reluctant collectors became eager buyers, and laggard dealers had occasion to regret the loss of fine and profitable opportunities.

With those acquainted with all the facts, the issues stand to-day without

the vestige of a taint of speculation, which is the bane of many modern issues.

* * *

The WEEKLY I believe chronicled first the appearance of the stamps, and published subsequently numerous notes giving translation of decrees and details as to the separate printings from information obtained direct from Puerto-Principe, where my correspondent, Mr. Francisco Parras Z., connected with the U. S. Signal Service, has kept us well posted as to all the interesting data relating to these stamps. When I was in Cuba two winters ago, I had the pleasure of meeting General Lope-Recio, who was Postmaster-General in December, 1898, under Gen. Carpenter, U. S. A., then

in command at Puerto-Principe. General Lope-Recio, who is a handsome, genial gentleman, is now Civil Governor of the province of Puerto-Principe, and holds very decided views as to the necessity of the issues, under the peculiar circumstances through which the province was then passing. He told me that he had received mail from all parts of the world about the stamps.

* * *

I do not propose to copy the catalogue in these notes. I merely wish to mention a few noteworthy facts regarding these stamps, hoping that they may be of interest to the readers of the WEEKLY. Some of these facts may have already appeared here, but any repetition I hope will be excused for the sake of making the present paper

sufficiently clear and comprehensive.

The first printing was ordered on Dec. 19, 1898, as per decree published in the WEEKLY and comprised four values and the following quantities:

3000 1 cent on 1 mil. brown, Cuba series of 1898-99.

3900 2 cents on 2 mil. brown, Cuba series of 1898-99.

1000 5 cents on 5 mil. brown, Cuba series of 1898-99.

The surcharge was in black, applied to strips of five stamps and the height is invariably 17½ mm. There were two types of figures on the 2c, 3c and 5c, the figure on the second stamp of the strip being decidedly thinner than the other four figures. There have been found inverted surcharges of all values.

The supply of 5c only lasted five

days, for on Dec. 24, another printing of 800 was made on the ½ mil. newspaper stamps of Cuba '96, green, the surcharge being made in two different heights, 17½ and 19½ mm. in black, with a thin figure on the second stamp of the strip of five. The quantity of each surcharge has not been ascertained, but the experience of collectors is that the 19½ surcharge is the rarer of the two. Inverted surcharges have been found on the 17½. A double surcharge has been found on the 19½ mm., the second surcharge being diagonally across the stamp.

* * *

I believe that we should list with the second printings all the so-called errors, viz:

1 cents on 1 mil. brown, Cuba 1898-99 series, 19½ mm. surcharge.
3 cents on 1 mil. brown, Cuba 1898-99 series, 19½ mm. surcharge.
5 cents on 1 mil. brown, Cuba 1898-99 series, 17½ mm. surcharge.
5 cents on 2 mil. brown, Cuba 1898-99 series, 17½ mm. surcharge.
5 cents on 3 mil. brown, Cuba 1898-99 series, 17½ mm. surcharge.

of which the quantities issued are unknown. There is a variety of thin figure on the second stamp of the strip of all the values, the corresponding figure on the 1 cents being a split one. The 1 cents is commoner than the 1 cent, first issue, but the other values are comparatively rare. There have been found inverted surcharges of the 1 cents, of the 5c on 1 mil. and of the 5c on 3 mil.

* * *

The third printing was in red on Dec. 27, viz:

3500 3c. on 1c. violet, Cuba 1898-99 series, 19½ mm. surcharge.

3500 5c. on 1c. violet, Cuba 1898-99 series, 19½ mm. surcharge.

1000 10c. on 1c. violet, Cuba 1898-99 series, 19½ mm. surcharge.

The quantities of the two first named values differ according to several reports. Some say that only 2,000 of the 3c. and 3,000 of the 5c. were surcharged. The thin figure occurred again on the second stamp of the 3c. and 5c. and a split 1 on the 10c., and the printing form having become loosened, a variety appears on the 3c. and 5c. values, the fifth stamp surcharge measuring 20½ mm. The c of cents remained in position, but the other letters have dropped off one mm. This

variety does not appear on the 10c. surcharge. There are inverted surcharges of the 3c. and 5c., and a double surcharge and a vertical surcharge of the 5c.

* * *

The fourth and last printing was made on January 11, 1899, and consisted of

500 3c. on 1, 2 and 3 mil., Cuba '96 green, 19½ mm. surcharge.

500 5c. on 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 mil. Cuba '96 green, 19½ mm. surcharge.

All reports agree on the paucity and consequent rarity of this issue, the varieties of which are bewildering. The 3c. on the 4 and 8 mil. have never been seen here. Herr Haas, in the "*S. G. Monthly*," in a remarkable scientific article on the Puerto-Principe stamps,

catalogues these two varieties. My friends at Habana have never seen them. Mr. Calman of the Scott Co., who has had more opportunities than any other N. Y. dealer to examine these stamps, has never come across these two varieties, and our Puerto-Principe correspondent, who supposed at first that they must exist, has finally acknowledged that he has never seen them. I have seen these varieties in counterfeits only. The strip of five in this printing differs somewhat from the other printings, — the two most important features being that the usual thin figure is to be found on the fourth stamp and that the error *e*ents is on the third stamp. With a full unused strip before me I can assure Herr Haas of the above facts. The following varieties have been found with inverted sur-

charges — 3c. on 1 mil., 3c. on 3 mil., 5c. on 4 mil., and 5c. on 8 mil.

* * *

I may mention as interesting curiosities the marginal blanks of the pane, such blanks appearing sometimes surcharged. They were considered valueless by the post office and paid no postage. I have marginal blanks surcharged as well as stamps which escaped surcharging and which are joined to other surcharged stamps which passed together through the post.

The strips of five had to be segregated from the pane and sometimes the strip was broken during the operation, — at other times portions of panes had to be used, owing to scarcity of material, — for we must remember that all these Cuban stamps were remainders in

the hands of Spanish Bank officials, and that many panes were incomplete when bought, — and then we shall readily understand the reasons why these marginal blanks are found surcharged.

Then the printing establishment where these stamps were surcharged, was not an up-to-date printery, and the work was accomplished in a hurry, — hence the number of errors and inverts, the deficient press work, and the poor ink, especially on the third issue.

* * *

I think it is well to say that no reliance should be placed on the dates found on cancellations on these stamps.

The post office in Puerto-Principe, the principal city and capital of the province, fully described in my notes to the WEEKLY two years ago, supplied

the stamps to three other offices, Minas, Nuevitas and Santa Cruz. Minas is an important railway station midway between the sea and Puerto-Principe, a busy place during the sugar crop, as there are several large plantations in the neighborhood. Cancellations of Minas de Principe are common. Nuevitas is the north port of Puerto-Principe, an active little town, and its cancellations, the regular date and name cancelling stamp, though not infrequent are blurred and difficult of identification. Santa Cruz, also called Santa Cruz del Sur, is the south port of Puerto-Principe, with which it is not connected by railway. It is a small settlement and its cancellations are quite rare. It is the old fashioned oval star cancellation, without name or date.

* * *

There are quite a number of counterfeits known, but I have seen none that would puzzle a collector well versed in these issues. With a few strips on hand, you can defy the most expert counterfeiter. Nearly all, if not all the stamps in every issue can be surely plated. Every stamp has its own peculiar identifying points and collectors need not fear fraudulent imitations.

* * *

For all information and help in the study of these most interesting stamps, I desire to render thanks to Gen. Lope-Recio and his private secretary, Mr. Silva, who have kindly furnished me with official corroboration, — to our correspondent, Mr. Francisco Parras Z., who has been indefatigable in supplying us with the connecting histor-

ical links, — to Mr. Lazaro for his cordial co-operation, and to my friends Messrs. Arostegui, Castro-Palomino, Perez del Castillo and Zayas-Bazan, who have generously contributed quite a number of specimens for my collection.

N. Y. Apr. 11, 1901.

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VI.

As far as we know there have been three counterfeiters at work in Puerto Principe stamps. Their names are generally known to collectors, and what is more important, to the civil authorities of Puerto Principe.

The manner of working off here the counterfeits which they manufacture in that city is to send a mixture of so-

called rare stamps to a small dealer in an obscure town in this State for the purpose of establishing an exchange for other stamps or fancy articles. The small dealer aforesaid has naturally sent the supposed rarities to his New York correspondent for examination and sale and the New York dealer has turned them over to an expert for final decision, which has been, of course, unfavorable.

Western dealers have received some counterfeits also. We understand that supplies of them have likewise appeared in several parts of Europe.

The idea seems to have spread among evil-minded people that it is impossible to discover their fraudulent productions. The opposite, however, is the actual fact. No counterfeiter has as yet made anything in the shape of a Puerto

Principe surcharge that cannot be detected with a little care and study. The causes of this are not far to seek.

The typesetting, the spacing, the placing and the printing are difficult to match, let alone the fact that the type itself, being worn out by constant use, is unmatchable in certain minute particulars.

The typesetter in the printing establishment of "Las Dos Republicas," Enrique Terradas Escobar — an intelligent young man — told me that it would be extremely difficult, perhaps impossible, for him to prepare and duplicate the surcharge to-day!

* * *

Julio Caballero Arango is the gentlemanly manager of the printing establishment above mentioned. I had

the pleasure of calling upon him and he willingly told me all about the manner of printing the strips. He used an old Gordon foot-press, and he had to do the work at night in order to avoid the crowd of curiosity seekers always to be found around a newspaper office in a small city. He was warned about the delicacy of the work and he felt its responsibility. He was nervous and he was asked to hurry the printing, and working as he did in an indifferently lighted room, it is no wonder that he made so many mistakes in printing the strips.

Then his ink was inferior, especially the red one, which he had to mix with some vegetable compound in order to dilute it sufficiently to make it workable.

A singular fact about these two men

— a fact which speaks volumes for their integrity — is that not one of them has had a Puerto Principe stamp for sale at any time. They both wonder, of course, at the market value attained by the little strips which passed through their hands.

Mr. Caballero has been offered large sums for the use of those modest fonts of type still in daily use in the "Dos Republicas," but he has never sold them.

The establishment was owned at the time of the stamp issue by Javier Zayas Bazan, but it is owned at present by a brother of Mr. Caballero.

* * *

Gen. Lope Recio, Governor of the Province of Puerto Principe and who was Postmaster at the time the stamps were issued, has proved to be the best

friend of collectors and the arch-enemy of counterfeiters. I have on several occasions represented to him the importance of keeping the issue free from ill-repute, not only for his own namesake, but for the protection of the large capital now invested in this issue by collectors and dealers all over the world. He is, I think, fully determined to help collectors in their efforts to suppress counterfeits and prosecute counterfeiters in his province, and we can rely upon his endeavoring to keep the issue as clean as possible from fraud.

* * *

Strange to say the best collections of Puerto Principe stamps are not to be found in the city of their issue. Mr. Parras, who had a fine assortment of rarities, about 100 in number, includ-

ing some uncatalogued varieties, has just sold his collection as a whole to a Habana collector, who is now in possession of the best aggregation of stamps of this issue. Three other collections are spoken of in Puerto Principe, but I had no opportunity of examining them.

There are several good collections in Santiago. I was privileged to examine two of the best. The collection of Jose Gutierrez Hernandez is not only a fine one, but is arranged scientifically. Mr. Gutierrez has studied his stamps with pleasure and he has prepared a manuscript catalogue which is a monument of thoroughness and patience. He has, of course, gone over the work which some of us had been through long before, but not reading English, he had to study all through the issues by himself, and thus arrived

at the same conclusions before he was made aware that the work had been accomplished elsewhere. He is deservedly proud of his work. Mr. Bas is the owner of another fine collection. He is also a thorough student. He received from the Puerto Principe Post-office most of his stamps, in unused condition, of course, and he has shared with Mr. Gutierrez, his friend and neighbor, his good fortune in receiving fine stamps, from the original source of issue. Most of us were obliged to use an intermediary. Messrs. Gutierrez and Bas seem to enjoy philately together. I have heard two other collections mentioned, those of Messrs. Grimany and Garnica, but they are not equal to the above-mentioned in quantity or quality of stamps.

* * *

In Habana, I have heard of the collections of Messrs. Truffin, Margarit and Lazaro and Drs. Weiss and Tremols, but I have been, unfortunately, unable to see any of them. From common report I imagine that Mr. Truffin's is the best in Habana. Mr. Barreras, of the Cuban Philatelic Society, has made a very painstaking study of Puerto Principe stamps and his paper has been published in the *Cuban Philatelic Review.*

* * *

Since the dispersion of the Fisk collection there remain only two or three fine collections here in New York. I shall only mention that of Mr. Susdorff, unused stamps only, and that of Mr. Thorne, which contains a pair of 5c. on 5mm. orange brown, not be-

longing to the first issue, and a 3c. on 3mm. orange brown, thin figure, inverted, first issue, two very rare varieties.

Another variety which is extremely rare, if not unique, is the 3c. on 2mm. orange brown, thin figure, owned, I believe, by Mr. Foster in Boston.

New York, Apl. 23d, 1903.

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HERE end the papers on PUERTO-PRINCIPE, An Interesting Issue of Stamps in Cuba, as written by J. M. ANDREINI, and made into this book at the Blue Sky Press, 4732 Kenwood Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Fifty copies have been printed by A. G. Langworthy, for private circulation, this being number 44