CUBAN MAIL SYSTEM ENTERPRISE GROUP
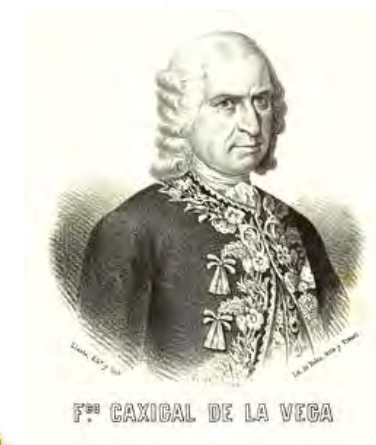

❖ **Historical Synthesis of the Cuban Mail System**

CORREOS DE CUBA

HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS OF THE CUBAN MAIL SYSTEM

FERNANDO VI

A Royal Order dated **August 26, 1754,** addressed to the General Governor of the Island, established the first organized regular internal Mail System in Cuba. On **December 9, 1975,** the Governor promulgated the first Mail Regulations.

1754

Fco CAXICAL DE LA VEGA

Population 140,000

CORREOS DE CUBA

March 1, 1756. The first Postal Route between Havana and Santiago de Cuba was established.
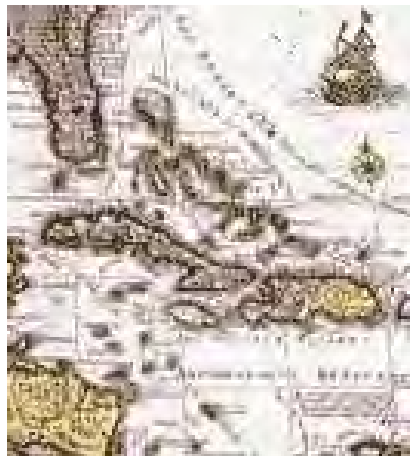
FERNANDO VI

Fco CAXIGAL DE LA VEGA

Population 140,000

August 6, 1764. King Carlos III issues a Royal Order creating the State Maritime Mail System.

Regulations were established for a mail ship that would leave from La Coruña the first day of each month with Havana as its destination, with stops in Santo Domingo and Puerto Rico. All mail from Nueva España (México) and Perú was gathered in Havana so the ship could return to Spain without having to visit any other ports in the New World.

August 24, 1764. The Main Postal Administration of Havana was established. Don José Antonio de Armona y Murga was designated as Administrator, occupying this position on February 17, 1765.

1764–1792. Period of establishment of the postal system administrations in the main towns of the island.

Guanabacoa, Matanzas, Santa María del Rosario and Jaruco

Bayamo, Santiago de Cuba

Villa Clara, Sancti Spíritus, Trinidad, Puerto Príncipe, San Juan de los Remedios

November 19, 1837. The first railroad line in Cuba was established between Havana and Bejucal. A year later, it was extended 45 kilometers to reach the town of Güines.

1839. The railroad line Havana-Bejucal-Güines started to be used to transport correspondence.

1854. By that year almost 600 kilometers of railroad tracks had been developed for public use.
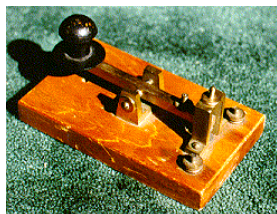
December 18, 1854. A Royal Order established that postage for all mail between Spain and *Ultramar* ("*overseas*" -- comprising Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines) had to be paid with postage stamps.

February 15, 1855. The obligatory use of postage stamps was established for the prepayment of all mail.

April 20, 1855. The first issue of postage stamps to be used in Cuba was placed on sale and by the end of that month all mail originating in Cuba circulated with postage stamps.

1853. The **first telegraph line** from Havana to Bejucal was established. Beginning that same year a network of telegraph lines was extended all over the island.

1867. An **undersea cable** between Cuba and Florida was laid. The following year necessary permits were given to extend cables towards Puerto Rico, Mexico, Panama and the South American coast.

A telegraph employee from Bayamo, Ismael Céspedes, saved the 1868 Cuban Revolution against Spain, before the Proclamation of Yara (*Grito de Yara*), when he alerted the principal conspirators in Bayamo and in Manzanillo about a telegram from Spanish authorities in Havana ordering their arrest.
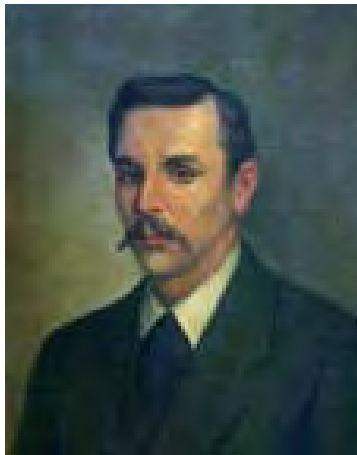
CORREOS DE CUBA

HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS OF THE CUBAN MAIL SYSTEM

THE MAMBÍ POSTAL SYSTEM

During the Ten-Year War (*Guerra de los Diez Años, 1868-1878*) and between 1895 and 1898, during the War of Independence against Spanish colonialism, the *mambí* (Cuban) insurrection forces were able to establish a *mambí* underground insurrection postal system that operated with great efficacy.

The first General Director of the Cuban Mambí Postal System (Correos de Cuba en Armas) was Vicente Mora Peña, who organized the underground system of posts in the island in coordination with other countries from where mail was received.

Jamaica was the connection point for conveyance of the underground mail by means of small boats. From Jamaica the mail was sent to its destination.

1754-1867	1868-1901	1902-1958	1959-1994	1995-2013

CORREOS DE CUBA

HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS OF THE CUBAN MAIL SYSTEM

THE MAMBÍ POSTAL SYSTEM

The Mambí Postal System operated efficiently using a chain of messengers, on foot or horseback, from the military command to the subordinate military units.

A **10-cent green stamp** was issued in 1869 to regulate this service and to give it its own identity. One hundred thousand of these stamps were printed in the United States in an upright rectangular format. The stamps had the **Cuban Republic Coat of Arms** in their center.

This stamp was used for mailing correspondence sent from liberated territories until the end of the **Ten-Year War** in 1878.

May 1, 1877. Cuba entered into the **Universal Postal Union** which brought great improvements and regularized postal communications with foreign countries.

1877. Stamps bearing the image of King Alfonso XII were issued in which for the first time the heading "Ultramar" was replaced by the name **"Cuba".**

May 29, 1884. A Royal Order dictated that mail and telegraph services be consolidated into one service with the name of **Communications Corps** and was to be under the direction of one General Administrator.

José Martí founded the **Cuban Revolutionary Party** in 1891 and was able to unite all of the old insurrection chiefs. On February 24, 1895, the War against Spanish colonialism started again, a war which would be defining and end in 1898.

The Regulations for the Communications Service of the insurgency were approved on 16 October 1898 and, as in 1868, the insurrectional postal system had a wide and well organized communications network in the territory of Cuba, with clandestine post offices and messengers on foot and on horseback.

In 1896 four stamps with different face values were issued.

Upon the inauguration of the Republic in **1902,** a Directorate of Communications was established within the Department of the Interior to assume the executive direction and administration of the Postal and Telegraph Services.

During the period before 1959, the Postal Service was characterized by a well structured organization that provided universal postal and telegraph services: letters, post cards, aerogramme, stamps, and telegrams.

Every important city in the country had a Postal and Telegraph Office. The **Ministry of Communications**, created later to replace the Directorate of Communications, was basically a Post Office Department.

1754-1867	1868-1901	1902-1958	1959-1994	1995-2013

CORREOS DE CUBA

HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS OF THE CUBAN MAIL SYSTEM

On **December 9, 1902**, the **Central Railroad** inaugurated direct service between Havana and Santiago de Cuba covering a distance of 869 kilometers. This railroad line and most of the branches that connected to it were used for the transportation, classification, distribution and delivery of the island's internal correspondence, as well as that destined abroad.

On **January 16, 1921,** the recently founded **Compañía Aérea Cubana** (Cuban Airways Company) carried out an experimental flight between Havana and Camagüey, using a Goliath aircraft that transported a mail worker with a mail bag.

Between 1928 and 1932 regular Air Mail services were established, extending from Havana to Baracoa.

Starting in 1931 the Post Office operated the Postal Bank of Cuba, a service that promoted financial savings in the lowest social classes. Its deposits were a source of loans with preferential conditions to public employees. In 1961 that function was taken over by the Cuban National Bank.

Evento Cohete Postal Cubano.
Patrimonio y Astronomía

October 15, 1939. As an initiative of the Cuban Philatelic Club, a postal rocket experiment was conducted as a possible means of transporting correspondence rapidly to faraway places.
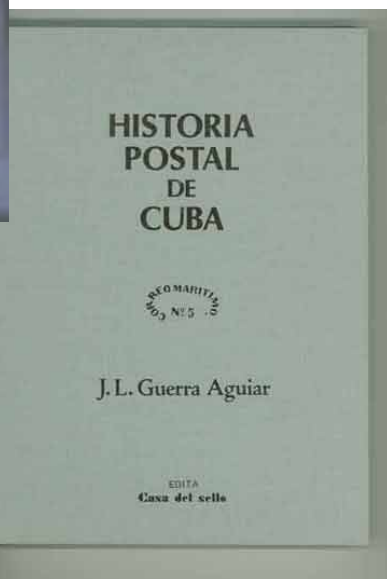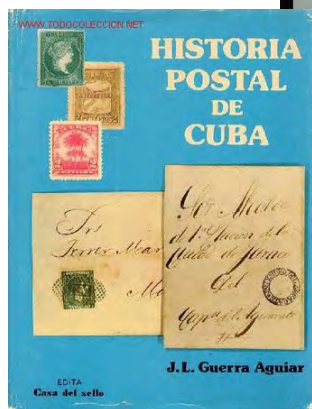
After the Revolution the development of the **Cuban Postal System** begins a new stage. In 1960 the Postal and Telegraph Enterprise was created with a broad national scope. It inherited a Postal Service that was well organized and structured, although its network of customer service and delivery of correspondence could be improved.

Between **1960 and 1961** an extensive network of rural delivery started to be implemented.

In **1962** the first **technological revolution** of the Postal Service began with the renovation and enlargement of the copper cable network, which was mostly in bad shape. The first simplex and duplex teletypes were introduced, linking the capital of the country with the capitals of the former six provinces and other important provincial cities. In **1964** the **International Exchange Office** was created.

The Cuban Postal Museum was inaugurated on January 2, 1965 to safeguard the postal history and philatelic patrimony of the nation. The Museum features 800 panels where stamps are exhibited and 8 display cases exhibiting historical documents, art works, rarities, and curiosities of Cuban philately.

TGX telegraph service was established in **1967** and the Morse system was eliminated and replaced by modern teletypes that automatically communicated directly with more than 460 post offices. This was the most important technological change that had been introduced in the Postal Service up to that time.

That same year, the Postal and Telegraph Enterprise took over the distribution of the written press, achieving an organization in distribution and coverage levels never achieved previously.

In **1968, agricultural aviation** was used for aerial drops of written press and correspondence in difficult to reach places in the territories of Guantánamo, Sierra Maestra, and Pinar del Río. This practice was maintained until June of 2012.

CORREOS DE CUBA

The Postal and Telegraph Enterprise continued operations until 1970 when various structural and organizational changes in the Ministry of Communications took place, resulting in the creation of independent provincial postal enterprises.

In 1994, a new reorganization of the communications activity was implemented with the creation of three large enterprises of national scope:

❑ Telecommunications Enterprise of Cuba - (*Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba S.A. – ETECSA*),
❑ Radio Communications Enterprise of Cuba - (*Empresa de Radiocomunicaciones de Cuba - Radiocuba*), and
❑ Postal Service Enterprise of Cuba - (*Empresa de Correos de Cuba*)

Starting in **2000** a new technological revolution was initiated with the introduction of **information and communication technologies,** reaching its climax between the years 2008 and 2009.
The **national information network** of the Postal Services was created and the implementation of various related programs started.

Towards the end of 2008, a **reorganization of the Postal Services** was initiated oriented towards the establishment of structures and processes more suitable to present needs and future projections.

As a result of this reorganization, in **May 2013** a **Cuban Postal Services Enterprise Group** was created, formed by *20 Postal Service Enterprises, one Delivery and International Exchange Enterprise, and one General Insurance Enterprise.*