

THE ROYAL PALM LA PALMA REAL

A geographical study of the world's premier landscape palm in nature and in the urban environment.



A formal planting of *Roystonea oleracea* in Rio de Janeiro's Jardim Botanico

Plan of the Exhibit

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1. INTRODUCTION

Using the binomial system of nomenclature, first developed by Linneaus, our royal palms can be classified as follows:



Coil Stamp



Sheet Stamp

KINGDOM: Plantae

ORDER: Principes

FAMILY: Palmae (Arecaceae)

SUBFAMILY: Arecoideae

TRIBE Areceae

SUBTRIBE: Roystoneinae

GENUS: Roystonea

SPECIES: Ten different

The palm genus *Roystonea* consists of 10 large, solitary-trunked, pinnate-leaved, monoecious palms native to tropical America, principally in and around the Caribbean basin. The species are similar and are often difficult to distinguish from one another. Scientific differentiation is by inflorescence size, flower color, and other floral details, as well as height and color of trunk.

2. THE CARIBBEAN BASIN

The northern limits are -

central Florida on the mainland and

Bermuda in the Atlantic.



Despite their height, Royal Palms are very hurricane resistant since they shed their fronds in high winds.



Let us now examine the various species of Royal Palms ...

.. in their natural habitats...

.. and in gardens and .

the urban environment



Roystonea regia in the Florida Everglades



2.1 CUBA

Cuba is home to more species of royal palms than any other location in the world and has more royal palms than any other Caribbean island.



Large Die Proof - Issued under U.S. Military Rule

A natural grove of royal palms in the countryside.



Re-engraved - Republic of Cuba
SPECIMEN Overprints
< Black on Carmine Red on Lake >



2.1 CUBA

The royal palm is an integral part of the Cuban landscape but is of limited utility.

It embellishes the coats of arms
of two Cuban provinces

Nacional



Camaguey



Promoting tourism
and philately



Rural Cubans use the
plentiful seed for pig feed



The sheaths or crownshafts of dead fronds are
used for storing, transporting, and aging tobacco.

Royals in
tobacco
fields



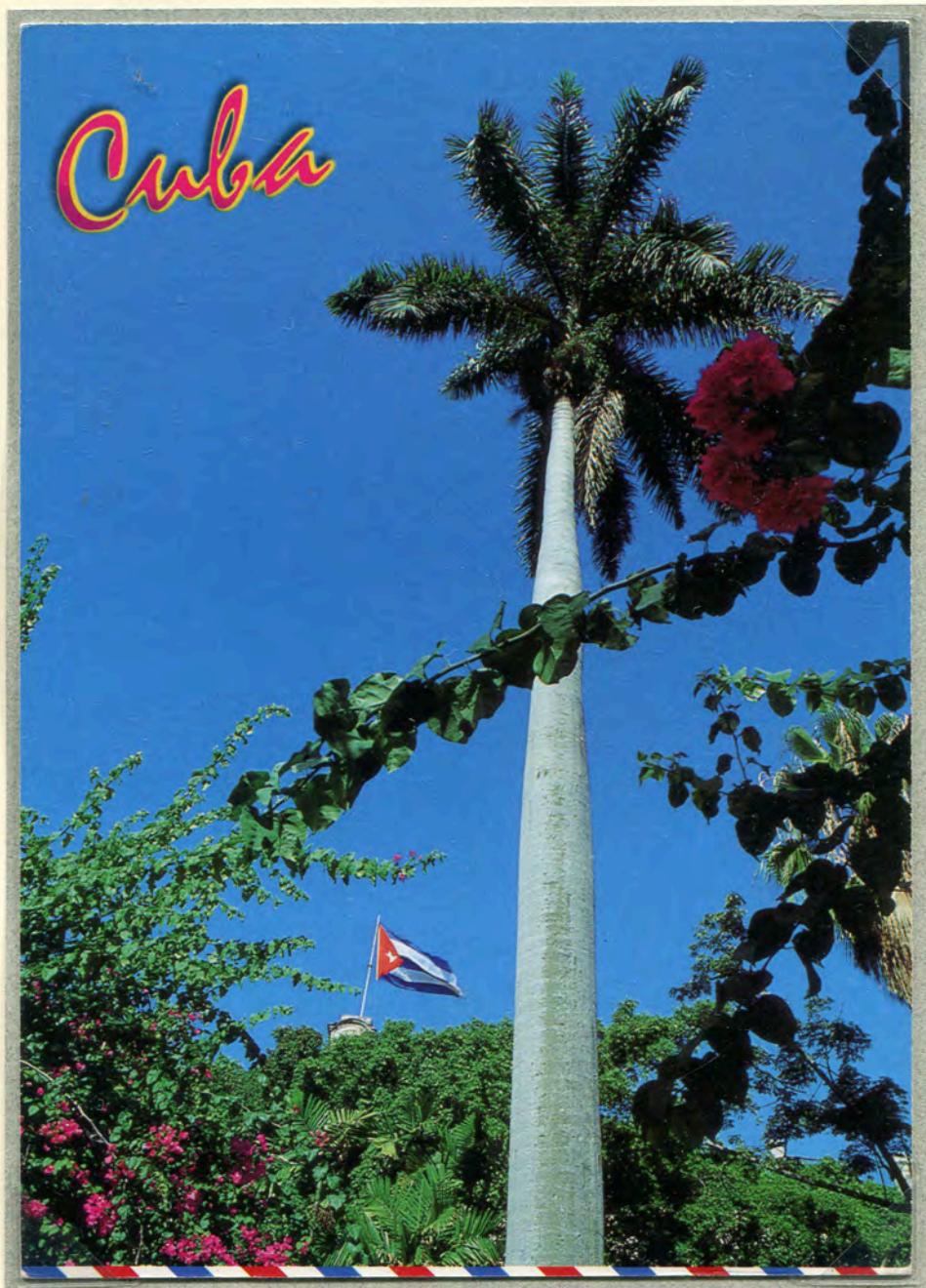
Royal palm on
Coat of Arms
Nacional Prov.

A grove of Royal Palms along the Rio Canimar in Matanzas province.



2.1 CUBA

The *palma real* or Royal Palm is the national tree of Cuba.
A single tree or a grove is an impressive sight in the countryside or an urban setting.



Undenominated Prepaid International Postal Card



U.S. Military Rule

Republic of Cuba



Indicium (COPY)

2.2 HISPANIOLA

Despite the recent earthquake, extensive deforestation and erosion on the Haitian side of Hispaniola, the royal palms thrive - including those on the Haitian coat of arms.



* Symbol of City of Gonaives

Cancelled: Port au Prince, Haiti 26-May 1942
Haitian Censorship (top); US Censorship (bottom)
60 centimes air rate to USA

2.2 HISPANIOLA

The island of Hispaniola, along with Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, is home to *Roystonea borinquena*....

...which are seen in the countryside and in the cities of the Dominican Republic.

... and on the coats of arms of the country and

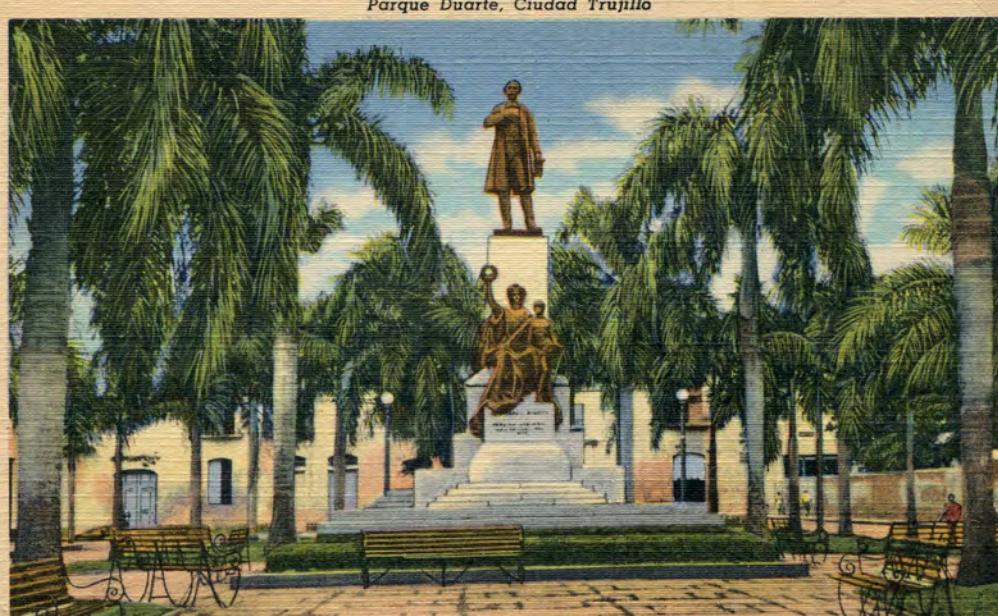


..of the Partido Dominicano.



Close inspection of the indicium reveals a solitary royal palm in front of the Hotel Jaragua, but the royal palms in Duarte Park are obvious to the most casual observer.

REPUBLICA DOMINICANA
TARJETA POSTAL



Postal card issued in 2 centavo value for local use and in 9 centavo air rate .

2.3 SMALLER ISLANDS

Royal palms of many species are found on most smaller Caribbean islands.

Jamaica is home to many royal palms including its own *Roystonea altissima* from the inland hills and mountains, and *Roystonea princeps*, from low-lying wet areas.

A solitary specimen on a golf course ...

... and at the Royal Botanical Gardens.



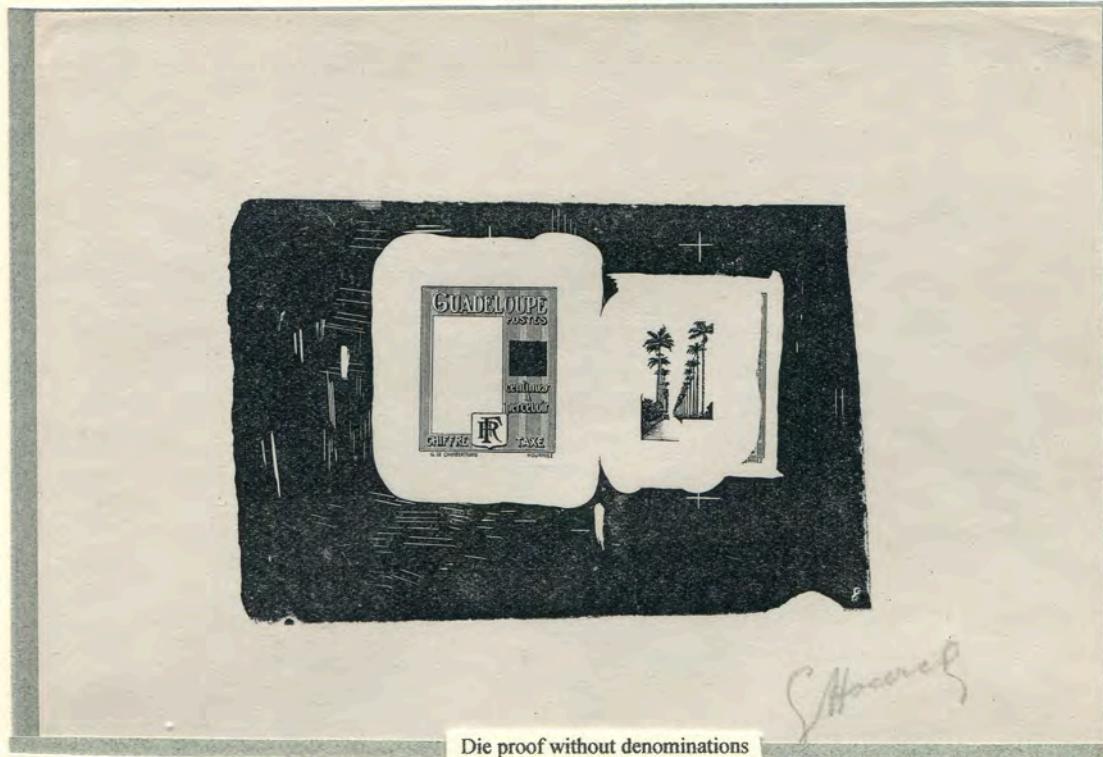
In the Lesser Antilles we find royal palms ...
in public squares ...



... and in botanical gardens...



.... and along rural roads.



Die proof without denominations



2.3 SMALLER ISLANDS

Royal palms were a favorite of the British in their Caribbean colonies.



Cancelled: G.P.O. Plymouth, Montserrat 9-Mar 1942

Opened and examined in accordance with Canadian Financial Regulations and sealed in Montserrat - the only British Caribbean colony to do so; practice discontinued after one year.

Transit: New York, N.Y. Registry Div. 31-Mar 1942

Received: Vernon, B.C. 6 Apr 1942

At least the tax man on St. Kitts had the decency to use stamps with royal palms.



2.4 CENTRAL AMERICA

Central America is home to several species of Royal Palms ...
... such as these *Roystonea oleracea* throughout Panama.



Santo Tomas Hospital



Cervantes monument



← 1 centavo Postal Card

Several royal palms, probably *Roystonea dunlapiana*, a native of Nicaragua, look out over the capital city of Managua.



3. SOUTH AMERICA

The Royal Palm is a favorite landscape plant throughout South America.

The world's most spectacular display of Royal Palms (*Roystonea oleracea*) can be found in Rio de Janeiro's Jardim Botanico where the first royal palms were planted in 1808 by ...



.. the Portuguese Regent Dom Joao VI,



Graf Zeppelin 2nd Pendelfahrt of 1935, Recife to Bathurst, Gambia

... who ordered that all remaining seed be destroyed. Too bad he did not know that all *Roystonea* sp. are monoecious, i.e., one tree can produce viable seed since male and female flowers are found on the same tree. Within 25 years, the original trees were producing fertile seed. Note the Royal Palms by the Cathedral in Sergipe.

More *Roystonea borinquena* can be found outside the Mint Building in Rio de Janeiro.



Cancelled: Sao Paulo 22-May 1898 Received: London 27-June 1898

3. SOUTH AMERICA

One final view of Rio de Janeiro ...

... more Roystonea borinquena - along the Canal do Mangue and Rue Visconde de Ituana.



The Royal Palm thrives in tropical heat and humidity ...

... in much of Venezuela ...



...and on the coats of arms of several Venezuelan states.

Yaracuy

Sucre

Guarico



... and throughout the Amazon River drainage basin in Eastern Bolivia as seen ...

... by the Cathedral de Santa Anna de Yacuma



... in the Plaza Petosi in Puerto Bahia



...along the Avenida del Puerto in Puerto Bahia



...in the city of Colima



3. SOUTH AMERICA

The royal palm is a favorite palm throughout tropical South America ...

... and in Guiana ...

.. on the coast of arms
of Surinam ...



<- British
French ->



... or independent Guyana.



... and along the Paseo Montalvo in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
Note the inflorescences and seed clusters at the bases of the crownshafts.



Postal cards printed in green, brown, and blue.
World's smallest indium on postal stationery.

4. PACIFIC , FAR EAST & AFRICA

The royal palm quickly became a favorite in the landscape due to its rapid growth and elegant appearance.

Numerous royal palms grace the entrance to the only royal palace under U.S. jurisdiction, Hawaii's Iolani Palace, and its famous statue of Kamehameha I.



The Malecon along the Manila Bay is lined with stately colonnades of Royal Palms.



Issued in sheets of 100.

50 centavo & 1 peso
Values



Die Proof sunk on card

4. PACIFIC , FAR EAST & AFRICA

The Royal Palm is a favorite of landscape architects and horticultural gardens.

Palakir on Pohnpei, the seat of government for the Federated States of Micronesia and the new Capitol complex are surrounded by majestic royals (*Roystonea oleracea*) instead of the more traditional coconut palms (*Cocos nucifera*).



Columns of Royals
in the Pamplemousse
Gardens in Mauritius.

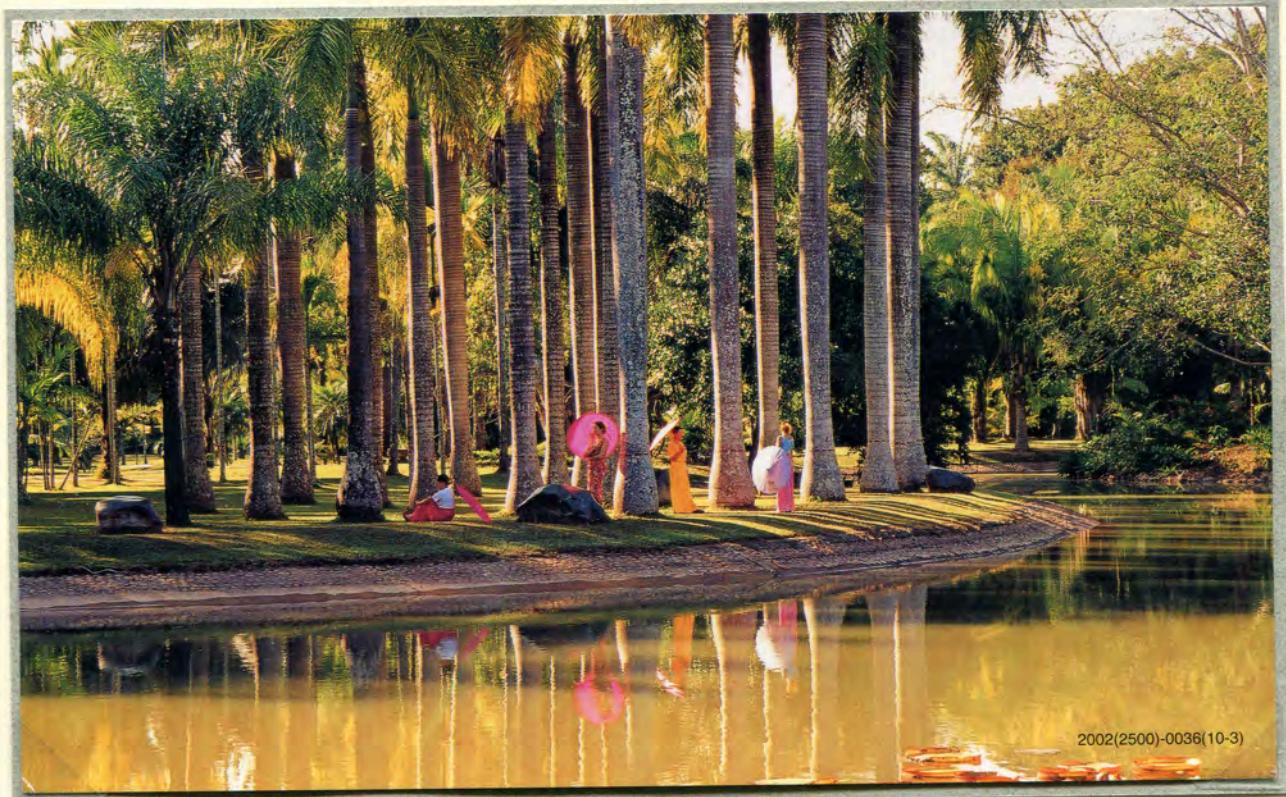


A lot of Royal Palms pay the 5 peso 80 centavo rate for 10 oz. oversize letter.



4. PACIFIC, FAR EAST & AFRICA

The royal palm is a prized landscape specimen in botanical gardens and by major buildings.
A botanical park in southern China.



Peoples Republic of China Postal Card, 60 fen domestic rate

The British brought the Royal Palm to Singapore and Pakistan ...

The Botanical Gardens



Parliament Building



A public school
in Sargodha, Pakistan



...and the French to Tamatave, Madagascar.

Post Office



Public Park



Final Stop !
Aburi Botanical Gardens, Accra, Ghana



Our brief study of the Royal Palm is now complete - from south Florida to Africa, the Royal Palm is a welcome addition.