Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903

Coat of Arms

Many forgeries and low catalog values have fostered the impression that stamps comprising this series are common. Quite the contrary is the case.

The **aim** of this traditional exhibit is two-fold: (1) to enable the identification of the genuine by its die mark and by the characteristic which indicates which of the 5 types a specimen is, and (2) to comprehensively display trial proofs, proofs, and other varieties known to exist. *No covers are included, as none are known.* Any disparity in number between perf. 13 1/4 and 14 stamps exhibited, as well as those with cancels and without, reflects the relative scarcity of one to the other.

Toussaint L'Ouverture

Jean-Jacques Dessalines

Alexandre Pétion

Introduction

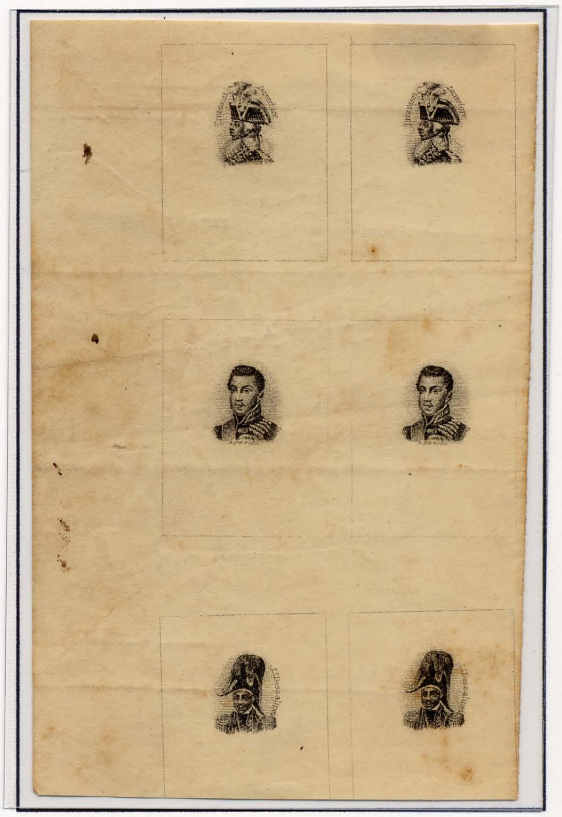
This issue of seven values commememorates the centennial of Haiti's independence and depicts the heroes of the Haitian Revolution.

Standard catalogues indicate that this series was issued in 1904. An Arrêté or official decree, published in *le Moniteur*, the official government newspaper, indicates that the issue was placed on sale December 31, 1903 at the Main Post Office.

Plate I die mark. Enlarged 300%.

The design of the 1c stamp was entirely engraved, whereas the other values had their frames printed by lithography and the vignettes recess engraved. The original die used to make the plates for the frames of the 2c - 50c genuine stamps is characterized by a diagonal line under and between the letters "M" and "E" of "CENTIMES." This is found on all the genuine 2c-50c values. This die mark is not found on the 1c because of the different method of printing employed. Sometimes, this die mark appears as two diagonal dots depending on the wear of the plate. There are two types of forgeries made with another set of lithographic plates (hereafter referred to as Plate II). which lack this die marking. Plate II forgeries are found with genuine engraved heads and lithographed heads. Forgeries, as well as the genuine, are found perforated 13 ¼ as well as 14.

The lithographic plates used to print the frames for the 2c-50c values were made by reproducing a horizontal strip of five from the original die. This was reproduced 5x to produce a plate of 25 (5 x 5) which was in turn duplicated to complete the plate of 50 cliches (10 x 5). Each unit of the horizontal strip of 5 has one or more unique identifying features. Each stamp of the "5 master" is labeled type 1, 2, 3, etc. Type 1 is found in the first and sixth columns of the sheet, type 2 is found on stamps in the second and seventh columns, type 3 is found in the third and eighth columns, etc.



Composite proof of recess engraved vignettes. Largest known multiple. ***Very rare.***

The label ***"Very rare"*** indicates that only 2-12 examples are known or estimated to exist.

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
1 Centime

In contrast to the 2c - 50c values, the 1c value was entirely engraved - both the frame and the Coat of Arms. The die mark which characterizes the lithographed Plate I frame is not found on the 1c.

Trial color proofs. ***Very rare.***

Perf. 13 ¼
Trial proofs in black.
Very rare.

Proofs. ***Very rare.***

Perf. 14
Vertical pair
imperforate
horizontally.
Very rare.

Perf. 14
Vertical pair
imperforate
between.
Very rare.

Proofs, left margin block.
Very rare.

Perf. 13 ¼
with cancel.

Perf. 14
with cancel.

Perf. 14
Gummed on both sides.
Very rare.

Perf. 14.

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
1 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

(below)
Left half of sheet.
Very rare.

(above)
Right half of sheet
without control number.
Watermark in selvedge
at bottom right of sheet.

These half sheets represent the ***largest known multiples.***

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
2 Centime

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 1 Colored flaw in top of first "I" in "HAITI."
Type 2 Colored dot near lower left corner of right "2."
Type 3 Blotch of color in lower part of first "E" in "CENTIMES."
Type 4 Colored dash shows across first 'I' of "HAITI."
Type 5 Colored dot in right value tablet about ¼ mm NE of numeral "2."

Type 1

Type 2

Type 4

Type 4

Types 3-4

Trial color proofs. Note visible frame of the vignette and brighter color.
Very rare.

Types1-2

Type 4

Types 4-5

Types 4-5

Proofs. ***Very rare.***

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
2 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

Type 1
Inverted vignettes.
Very rare.

Type 3

Type 5
With partial control number, perforation and "moustache" variety.

Types 4-5
Top right corner pair with control number. Note "moustache" variety on position 10.

Types 1-2 with cancel.

Type 2
with Jacmel cancel.

(left)
Plate flaw labelled "moustache" variety as early as Nov. 1904. Fewer than 200 without "POST PAYE" overprint estimated to exist. Enlarged 200%.

Perf. 14

Type 1

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5
"moustache" variety.

With cancel.

Types 2-3

Type 4-5

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
5 Centime

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 1 Break in top frame line above first "N" of "CENTENAIRE."
Type 2 Colored line in lower right limb of "H" of "HAITI."
Type 3 Colored dots appear in "B" and "L" of "REPUBLIQUE."
Type 4 Colored excrescence extends into white panel below the "N" of "CENTIMES."
Type 5 Colorless flaw projects inward from right limb of second "U" of "REPUBLIQUE."

Type 4

Type 5

Type 4-5

*Trial color proofs. **Very rare**.*
Note the visible frame of the vignette and brighter color.

Type 3
Perf. 13 ¼

Type 4

Inverted vignettes.
*Only known examples. **Very rare**.*

Type 1-2

Type 1-2

Type 4

*Proofs. **Very rare**.*

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
5 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

Type 2
With cancel.

Type 3

Type 4

Types 4-5

Perf. 14

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 2
Double impression of vignette.
Very rare.

Type 4

Types 1-2

Types 2-3

Type 4-5
With control number. Upper right stamp position 10, is "moustache" variety.

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
7 Centime

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 1 Two colorless intrusions in left frame 9 mm down from top left corner.
Type 2 Colored line in right limb of second "U" of "REPUBLIQUE."
Type 3 Colorless spur at top of "A" of "HAITI."
Type 4 Colorless flaw at top of "T" of "HAITI."
Type 5 Two dots of color at left in vignette space.

Types 3-4
Without vignette.

Type 3
Without vignette.

Trial color proofs perf. 13 ¼ with visible frame of vignette. ***Very rare****. Ex Hennan.*

Type 3

Type 4

Types 4-5
Proofs.

Types 1-2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
7 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 2

Type 5

*Examples of the 7c perf. 13 ¼ are **scarce** (i.e., fewer than 100 estimated to exist). Multiples are unknown.*

Type 1.
Note colorless plate flaw to the left of "I" of "CENTIMES" and a colored flaw at bottom left of same letter. The die marking below and between letters "M" and "E" can also be seen. Enlarged 500%.

Perf. 14

Type 1
Double horizontal perforation.
Very rare.

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

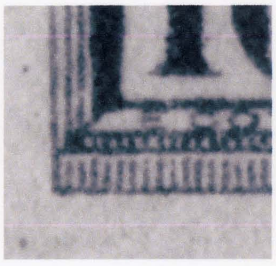
Type 3
In addition to colorless spur which identifies this example as type 3, there is a prominent oval colorless flaw at the top right of the "A." Enlarged 500%.

Type 1 *Type 2* *Type 3* *Type 4* *Type 5*

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
10 Centime

Type 1

Type 2



Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 1 Break in top frame above second "EN" of "CENTENAIRE."
Type 2 Colored dash in frame of vignette just below hip of right woman.
Type 3 Colored dot outside lower left corner.
Type 4 Colored in the "A" of "HAITI."
Type 5 Two colored dots in right value tablet left base of "1."

Type 1
Trial proofs.
Note black frame of vignette. ***Very rare.***

Type 2

Type 3

Types 4-5

Types 4-5
Proofs. Bottom right margin block.

Types 3-4
Proofs.

Types 4-5
Proofs with inverted vignettes. ***Very rare.***

Type 2

Type 4

Type 5

Perf. 13 ¼ with inverted vignettes. ***Very rare.***

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
10 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

Type 1
Inverted vignette and partial impression
Only known example.
Also St. Marc cancel.

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 2

Type 1
Without cancel.

Type 3

Type 4

That type 5 is not represented reflects the scarcity of the 10c perf. 13 1/4.

Perf. 14

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Types 4-5
Top right corner block with selvedge and control number.

Types 4-5.
Horizontal pair imperforate between.
Very rare.

Types 5-1
With double vertical perforations.
Only known example.

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903 **10 Centime** **Perf. 13 ¼**

Only known *sheet of 50 (10x5), perf. 13 1/4 or 14. Ex Hennan.*

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
20 Centime

Type I

Type II

Type III

Type IV

Type V

Type 1 Colorless flaw is above "PU" of "REPUBLIQUE."
Type 2 Colored dot at bottom of first "I" of "HAITI."
Type 3 Colorless dash in middle of first "U" of "REPUBLIQUE."
Type 4 Colored dot on bottom frame below "N" of "CENTIMES."
Type 5 Colorless dash NW of "D" of "D'HAITI."

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Trial color proofs on thinner paper with visible frame of vignette.
Very rare.

Types 4-5

Types 4-5

Type 1

Type 2
Kiss print of vignette.

Type 3

Proofs. ***Very rare.***

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
20 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

Without or with cancel, the 20c Plate I perf 13 ¼ is uncommon and for this reason few are exhibited.

Type 1

Type 3

Type 5

Type 5
Double vertical perforations.
Very rare.

Perf. 14

Type 3
Without cancel.

Type 4

Type 5

Types 1-2

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 2

Type 3

Type 5

Types 5-1

Types 2-3

Types 4-5

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
50 Centime

Type 1

Type 2

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5

Type 1 Spot of color above "B' of "REPUBLIQUE."
Type 2 Colorless nick in background above first "I" of "HAITI."
Type 3 Dot of color in left vignette frame about 2 mm below hip of left woman.
Type 4 Line at bottom right of "I" of "CENTIMES"
Type 5 Colorless flaw below first "E" of "CENTIMES."

Type 1

Type 3

Types 4-5

Types 4-5
Bottom right corner block of four with visible inverted and reversed watermark in bottom selvedge reading: "rie de Renag" for "Papeterie de Renage."

Type 5.
In addition to the die flaw which identifies this example as being Plate I and the flaw which identifies this example as type 5, there is a prominent colorless flaw NW of the "S" of "CENTIMES."

Proofs.

Haiti's Centennial Issue of 1903
50 Centime

Perf. 13 ¼

Type 1
Without cancel.

Type 2

Type 5

Type 1
With cancel.

Type 3

Type 4

Type 5
Inverted vignette.
Very rare.

Types 2-3

Types 3-5. Top right corner block with selvedge.

Perf. 14

Type 1
Without cancel.

Type 2

Type 3

Types 4-5
Top right corner block with selvedge and control number.

Type 3
With cancel.

Type 4

Type 5

Type 5