

Haiti's 50c Nord Alexis Stamp of 1904

Aim: (1) to identify the genuine 50c Nord Alexis stamp of 1904, the reprint, and the two types of forgeries;
(2) to comprehensively exhibit this stamp in a traditional manner.

Organization:

- I. Genuine
 - a. Imperforate
 - b. Perf 13 ¼
 - c. Perf 14
 - d. Covers
- II. Reprints
 - a. Imperforate
 - b. Various perfs
- III. Forgery type 1
 - a. Imperf
 - b. Perf 13 ¼
- IV. Forgery type 2
 - a. Imperf
 - b. Perf 13 ¼
 - c. Perf 14

Background: Stamp depicts General Nord Alexis who was “elected” president on December 21, 1902. Although intended for use on foreign mail, this stamp was also valid for domestic use. It is the high value of the series which accounts for its scarcity on contemporary covers before the Postal Tariff of 1906. A franking of 10c paid the single weight foreign letter rate (per 15 grams or less) to North America or Europe. Registry fee was 10c de g.

Illicit or unauthorized reprints were made, as well as two types of forgeries. These reprints and forgeries were made for the stamp trade in 1904 and shortly afterwards.



Genuine
Enlarged 400%



Forgeries
Enlarged 400%

The **genuine stamp** is easily differentiated from each of the two types of forgeries because the bugel impinges the tablet below and touches the “A.”

Genuine stamps exist imperforate, perf 13 ¼ or 14. Only these 50c stamps are known on cover or with genuine overprints. Despite a minimal catalog value, used examples are not common.

Unofficial or illicit reprints were made from same plate used to print the genuine. There were several different printings and the identifying characteristics of each are different. They can be recognized by (1) shade of stamp and/or gum; (2) inferior printing; (3) perf other than 13 ¼ or 14; and/or, (4) narrow selvege on perforated multiples. Like the genuine, reprints exist imperforate, perf 13 ¼ or 14.

Genuine

Imperforate



Horizontal tête-bêche imperforate trial proof sheet. Discovery copy. One of two known examples, both in the exhibitor's collection. Both sheets differ in the alignment of the clichés. Prior to 2014, Haiti specialists were unaware of the existence of tête-bêche imperforate sheets. Smaller multiples are not known.

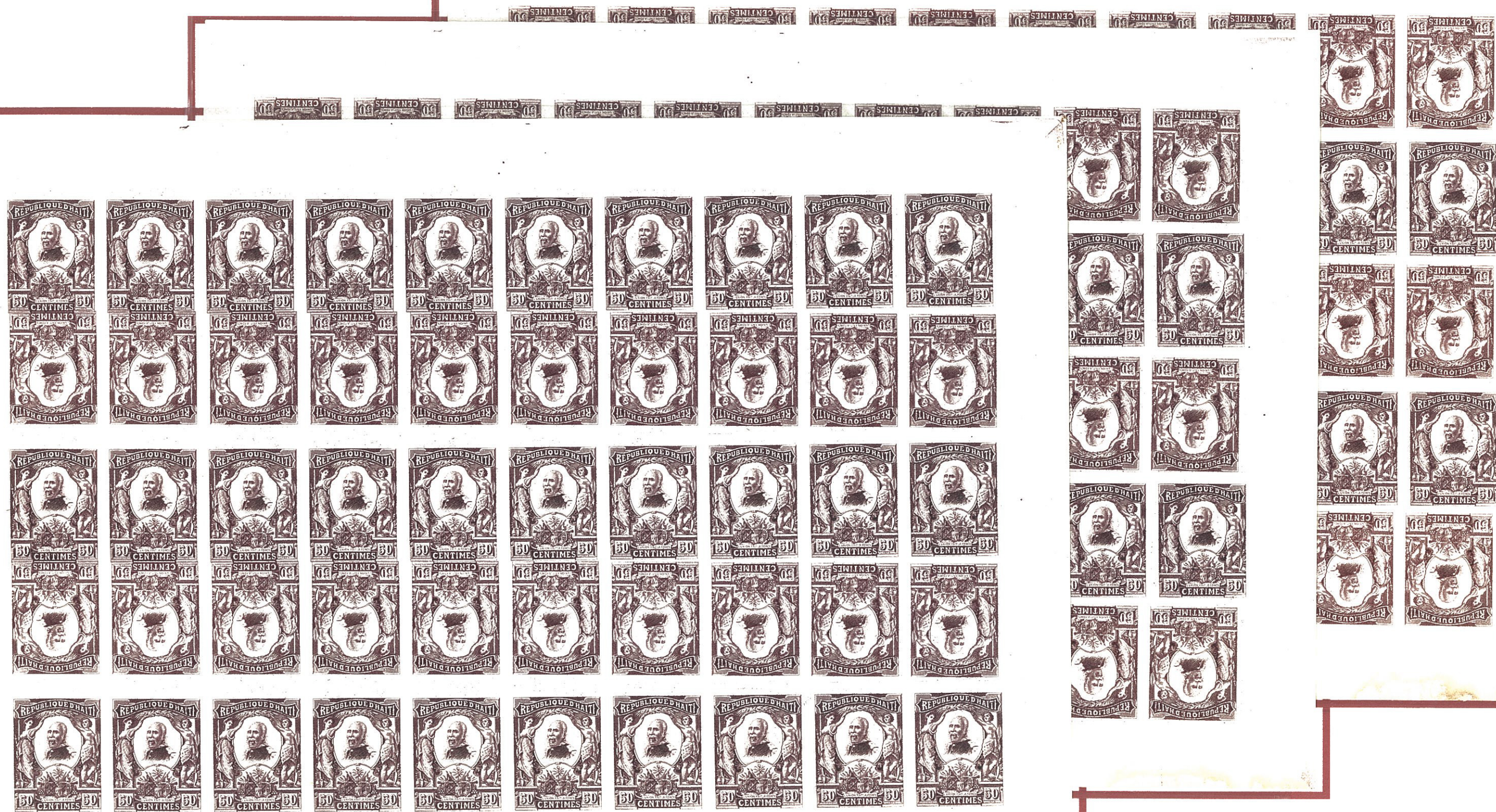
References:

Jeannopoulos, Peter C., “Major Perforation Varieties of the Nord Alexis Issue, *Haiti Philately*, 18:3, 71 (June-Sept. 1992), pp. 76-86.
“A Re-examination of the Nord Alexis Issue,” *Haiti Philately*, 18:4, 72 (Oct.-Dec. 1992), pp. 101-159.
“Haiti’s 1c Nord Alexis Stamp of 1904,” *The Haiti Collector*, January 2013, Whole number 1, pp. 9-24.
Haiti’s 50c Nord Alexis Stamp of 1904, Special Study No. 4: Published by the Haiti Philatelic Society, 2016.

Items of special significance are highlighted in red.

Genuine

Imperforate



Vertical tête-bêche imperforate trial proof sheets. Three of four known examples. All four sheets are in exhibitor's collection. All differ in regard to the alignment of the clichés. Imperforate pairs are not known. Prior to 2014 vertical tête-bêche imperforate sheet were not known to exist. Discovery copies.

Genuine

Imperforate



All imperforate stamps are NOT reprints, although many or most imperforates are reprints.
Only known example of a genuine imperf sheet.

Various Shades



Genuine

Perf. 13 1/4



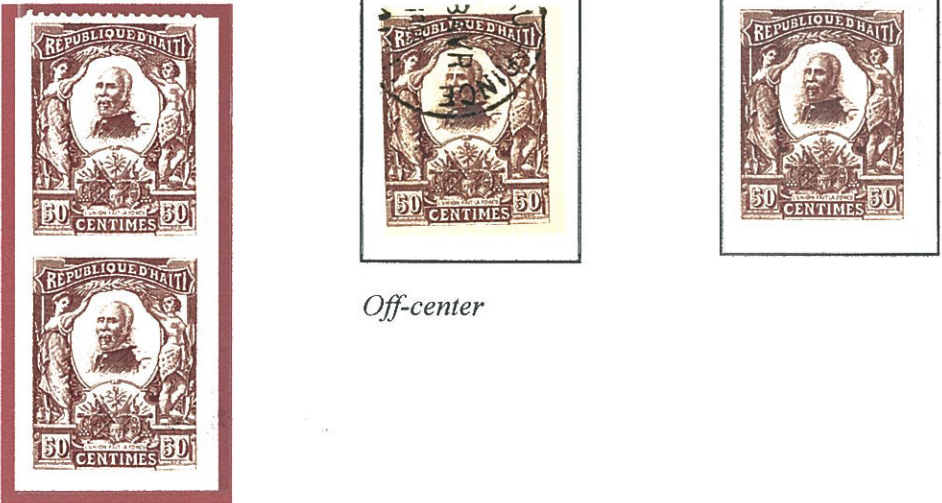
Ex Tows, Hennan, Lloyd.



Fewer than 10 examples known.

The legitimacy of the two used tête-bêche examples is dubious. Both bear a Port-au-Prince cancel dated “23 MAI / 1906.” Tête-bêche stamps were never sold or included in sheets sold at the post-office. The origin of the perforated tête-bêche examples is the same as for the imperforate tête-bêche. They were printed as trial proof sheets likely to check on the alignment of the clichés. These were perforated and found their way into the philatelic community.

Perf varieties



Off-center

Vertical pair imperf between and with imperf bottom selvage.



Cancels



HAPAG

Port-au-Prince

Postally used examples are not common. Town cancels, other than Port-au-Prince are not known. Likely, some of the above examples were canceled-by-favor.

Genuine

Perf 14



Vertical Pair imperf between and imperf bottom selvage.



Largest known multiple.

Cancels



Town cancels, other than Port-au-Prince, are not known. This stamp was seldom used because 50c was considerably more than 10c which paid the single weight foreign letter rate. Better cancels on this stamp are not known on this stamp.



(left)
Stamps are pen canceled
and also with a forwarding agent's stamp
(Sanchez Martinez / Cap Haitien / Haiti).

Genuine

Covers

Covers franked with the 50c are scarce as it was a seldom used high value. According to the Postal Tariff of 1881, which remained in effect until the Postal Tariff of 1906 was instituted, the single weight foreign letter rate to North America or Europe was 10c de gourde per 15 grams of fraction thereof. Being such a high value, the 50c is not known used on domestic or internal mail. The intra-town single weight letter rate was 1c with the inter-town corresponding rate being 2c. Contemporary covers with the 50c perf 14 have not been recorded. Examples of the 50c on cover and those overprinted in 1904-1920 serve as the best guide to what shades exist for the issued stamps.

30 Sept. 1905
Port-au-Prince to Bordeaux



Franking of 80c paid seven times the single weight foreign letter rate (50c de g and 10c de g registry fee). The 10c and 50c are both perf 14; the 20c is perf 13 1/4. Paris transit backstamp dated 15 Oct. 1905; Bordeaux arrival backstamp dated 16 Oct. 1905.

Genuine

Covers (cont.)



(left)
4 October 1905
Cap Haitien to le Havre
Likely originated in Cap Haitien where the Reine business had a branch office. Le Havre arrival postmarks dated 4 Oct. 1905 cancel the stamps. Portion of large envelope franked with the 20c and 50c both perf 14. Paquebot mark applied on left side of piece.

(right)

5 Oct. 1905
Port-au-Prince to Bordeaux
Arrival backstamp dated 22 Oct. 1905. Franking of 50c de g paid four times the foreign single weight letter rate and 10c registry fee. The 50c is perf 14.



(right)

Cap Haitien to le Havre
Feb. 1907
San Juan, PR transit backstamp 19 Feb. 1907; le Havre arrival backstamp 6 Mar. 1907. According to the Postal Tariff of 1906, 5c de piastre paid the single weight foreign letter rate. Accordingly, this was a triple weight foreign letter which was 1c de piastre overpaid. The 5c, 10c, and 50c stamps all are perf 14.



(left)

20 Oct. 1905
Port-au-Prince to Bordeaux
Registered cover with two types of registration handstamps. Bordeaux arrival backstamp dated 5 Nov. 1905. Franking of 50c de g paid 4 times the foreign single weight letter rate and a 10c registry fee. The 50c is perf 14.



Reprints

(right)
Imperf sheet



Reprints, made from same plate as the genuine, can be recognized by (1) different shade; (2) inferior printing; (3) some, but not all can be recognized by gum which is distinctly darker in color; and/or (4) perfs other than $13\frac{1}{4}$ or 14. Like the genuine, reprints exist imperf, perf $13\frac{1}{4}$ or 14. Judging from different shades that exist, reprints were printed several different times.

(left)
Perf 14

Various perfs and shades



10 $\frac{1}{2}$ 11 12 $\frac{3}{4}$



13 13 x 13 x 13 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ 13 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$



13 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ 13 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 x 13 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$



14 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$



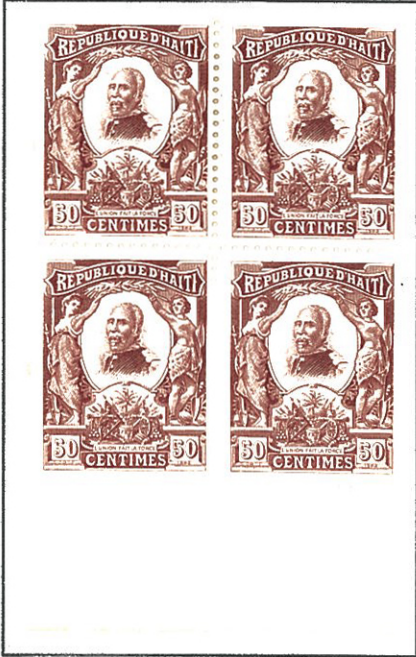
14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 x 13 x 13 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$

Forgery Type 1

Lines *do not* touch the back of the head.



Forgeries of this stamp with a minimal catalog value were made for the stamp trade for use in packets and not to defraud the post office. Both types of forgeries are better printed than the genuine. Multiples of forgeries are uncommon. Type 1 forgery is only known imperf or perf 13 ¼ and is not known perf 14. The exhibitor's collection includes an imperf sheet and one perf 13 ¼. Type 1 forgeries are considerably scarcer than type 2.



Only known perf 13 ¼.
Not known perf 14.

Forgery 2

Lines *touch* the back of the head.

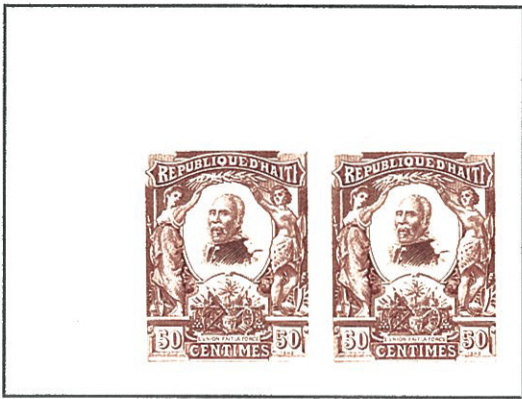


Imperforate



Largest imperf multiple is a block of 25 (5 x 4) in the exhibitor's collection.

Imperforate.



Bogus cancels.



Horizontal tête-bêche pairs.
Fewer than ten examples known.

Forgery Type 2

(cont.)



Perf 13 ¼.
Multiples are uncommon.

Bogus Cancels



13 ¼ 14
Fournier bogus cancel on middle example. It is a Cap Haitian cancel with a date, which when legible, always reads 13 Sept. 1882.

Epilogue: Dr. Clarence W. Hennan estimated that 1,000,000 of the 50c were printed. As a high value it was seldom used. In the years 1904 - 1920 a POST PAYE and GL O.Z. overprint were applied, as well as various surcharges. The color 50c stamps with genuine overprints and or surcharges, especially on cover, best indicate what shade variations exist for the genuine 50c stamp.



ex Hennan

Imperforate Variety



Perf 14.
Vertical pairs imperf horizontally between.