

HAITI

1850-

HAITI'S FIRST STAMPS WERE NOT ISSUED UNTIL 1881, BUT SEVERAL ESSAYS AND FANTASIES APPEARED MANY YEARS EARLIER. THE FIRST OF THESE WAS PREPARED IN PORT AU PRINCE BY ORDER OF FAUSTIN I WHO WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1847 AND PROCLAIMED EMPEROR IN 1849.

SEVEN VALUES WERE PREPARED, 6, 10, 12, 15, 25 AND 50 CENTIMES AND 1 FRANC, EACH IN A DIFFERENT COLOR. FAUSTIN WAS DRIVEN FROM POWER BEFORE STAMPS COULD BE PUT INTO USE. SINCE ONLY A FEW SHEETS WERE PREPARED, THESE ESSAYS ARE QUITE RARE. THEIR EXISTENCE WAS NOT DISCOVERED BY COLLECTORS UNTIL 1867.



DATING FROM THE END OF 1861, A CURIOUS FANTASY CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF COLLECTORS IN 1863. KNOWN IN FOUR DIFFERENT COLORS, IT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HAITI BECAUSE OF THE WORD "HAIJTI" IN THE INSCRIPTION. NONE OF THE OTHER FEATURES OF THE STAMP SUGGEST HAITI AS THE POINT OF ORIGIN AND AUTHORITIES OF THE TIME BELIEVE IT WAS INTENDED FOR TAHITI.



NOTHING IS KNOWN REGARDING THE SOURCE OF THESE ESSAYS.

