

**HAITI: THE "LIBERTY HEAD" ISSUES
1881-1887**



**A Display to The Royal Philatelic Society London
21st May 2015
by
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Introduction

Haiti both joined the U.P.U. and issued its first series of postage stamps on 1st July 1881. These were a set of six imperforate values: 1c, 2c, 3c, 5c, 7c and 20c. The basic foreign letter rate was set at 10c but there was no actual 10c stamp issued at this time. This display concerns itself with the 1881-87 period "Liberty Head" imperforate and perforated issues only.

The layout and treatment of the display is as follows:

1: The Imperforate "Liberty Heads" - Plate I (July 1881)

An introduction page is followed by a selection of proofs including the unique first "Liberty Head" dies originally prepared for fiscal stamps. The issued stamps include the 1c tête-bêche partial double pane which is considered to be the first of the two "crown jewels" of Haiti Philately. Other items of particular note are the only recorded 3c complete sheet and the largest known mint multiples of the 5c, 7c and 20c values. Various largest recorded used multiples are also shown. The covers shown include many rare and unusual frankings with strip of four 1c double internal rate, pair 3c triple internal rate, foreign printed matter and postcard rates, a rare 5c rate to Jamaica, several different make-ups of 10c rates including combination usages with perforated stamps, double rates and the three recorded registered covers with either complete or partial imperforate frankings. These include the registered cover to Germany with a strip of four of the 20c value which is considered to be the second of the two "crown jewels" of Haiti Philately.

2: The Perforated "Liberty Heads" - Plate II - First and Second Printings (1882-1885)

This commences with two introduction pages covering all the perforated "Liberty Head" issues. It should be noted that earliest recorded usages of many the different stamps are shown throughout the perforated sections. There were two printings from Plate II of all the five values from 1c to 7c but there was only one printing of the 20c value. There is a fine array of mint multiples with most of the largest recorded. All the different printings are also shown on an interesting array of covers with a wide variety of frankings and rates. A very good range of the scarce imperforate between varieties are also shown.

3: The Perforated "Liberty Heads" - Plate III (1885-1886)

Only 2c, 5c and 20c values were printed from Plate III. The largest recorded mint multiples and used multiples are shown for all three values, one of which is a remarkable piece with the franking including a block of 24 of the 20c value. A fine selection of covers include all three values and the imperforate between varieties are also shown.

I would point out that Plate III was used in later years to create various black "reprint" proofs which include all six values as well as some without values. These exist both perforated and imperforate.

4: The Perforated "Liberty Heads" - New Dies (1886-1887)

Only 1c, 2c and 5c values were printed from the new dies. The items shown include the master die proof for the 1c and 2c values and various plate proofs of the 5c value followed by the largest recorded mint and used multiples of all three values plus a fine array of usages on cover and the rare 1c imperforate between.

5: The Perforated "Liberty Heads" - Postal Forgeries (circa 1886)

The smallest section with just two pages but including a rare mint multiple of the 2c value and used pairs of the 5c and 7c values. There is also a unique usage of the 20c value on cover, one of just two forgery usages recorded. These stamps were used almost exclusively in Cap Haïtien but also shown is a 2c value used in Gonaïves.

References:

The First Stamps of Hayti - Theodore Moens (Translated from *La Timbre Poste*) - *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, September 1899.

The "Liberty Head" Stamps of Hayti - Leslie L.R. Hausberg - A paper read before The Royal Philatelic Society, London, on December 21st, 1911.

Haiti: The 'Liberty Heads' by J.R.W. Purves – *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, serialized throughout Vol. 52 in 1973.

Haiti Philately – The Journal of the Haiti Philatelic Society.

Other references as mentioned on specific pages in the display. The exhibitor has published articles including original research in *Haiti Philately*.

Brian Moorhouse
May 2015

The Proofs



Composite proof in scarlet (the issued colour of the 1c value) showing all six values



Composite proof in green (the issued colour of the 5c value) showing all six values



Composite proof in an unadopted orange colour showing all six values

Ex Sabattini

The 1881 "Liberty Head" Imperforates Introduction



1c red on buff
300,000



2c violet on greyish
150,000



3c bistre on buff
150,000



5c green on greenish
150,000



7c blue on bluish
250,000



20c red-brown on buff
25,000

The stamps were designed in Haiti by a local sculptor, Mon. Laforesterie, and were printed in Paris by Mon. G. Richards. One single master plate of 50 individual electrotypes clichés was created and numeral plugs were inserted as required for each of the six different values. All the imperforate stamps were printed from this single plate (Plate I). The print quantities are quoted above and all the evidence suggests that there was just the one single printing of the imperforate stamps though shades of some of the different values do exist. The stamps were printed on larger sheets of paper (probably four-times the single plate size) which had been pre-printed with lithographic coloured background tints

The stamps were issued on Friday, 1st July 1881, the same day that Haiti became a member of the Universal Postal Union

The 1882-87 "Liberty Head" Perforated Issues Introduction - I



1c deep vermillion
1st printing
206,000



1c pale vermillion
2nd printing



2c dull purple
1st printing
105,000



2c deep purple
2nd printing



3c grey-bistre
1st printing
70,000



3c olive-bistre
2nd printing



5c blue-green
1st printing
157,000



5c yellow-green
2nd printing



7c deep blue
1st printing
71,000



7c ultramarine
2nd printing



20c red-brown
Only the one printing
33,000

Plate II was comprised of two electros of 25 impressions (5 x 5) clamped together. Each of the electros was made up from an original "master" of five horizontally positioned subjects. As with Plate I, the numerals were inserted individually into each plate position. There were two printings from Plate II for all the stamps except the 20c value. The two printings are usually distinguishable by shades. All the stamps were perforated 13.5 and while the overall printing quantities are unknown, the details of the first shipment were recorded by Moens and these are the figures shown above

A detailed study of plate flaws made by J.R.W. Purves established that the values were printed in the following order 1c, 3c, 2c, 7c, 5c and, then, the second printing of the 2c before the 20c value followed by the second printings of the 1c, 3c, 5c and 7c. In reality the 20c value was printed during the period of the second printings. These stamps were issued in Haiti as required at various dates between August 1882 and April 1886

The 1882-87 "Liberty Head" Perforated Issues Introduction - II



2c brown-purple



5c green



20c pale brown

Plate III was constructed in exactly the same way as Plate II. Only the 2c, 5c and 20c values were printed from Plate III. All the stamps were perforated 13.5 and the printing quantities are unknown. All three values were issued in the 1885-86 period. It has been concluded that the 20c value was the first of the three values to be printed



1c scarlet
crossed lines on face
310,000



2c purple
crossed lines on face
180,000



5c green
horizontal lines on face
75,000

New Dies were utilised for the final "Liberty Head" printings and new plates were created. Only the 1c, 2c and 5c values were included in this final printing. All the stamps were perforated 13.5 and the reported printing quantities are quoted above. The major production difference was that these new dies incorporated the figures of value. As a result the numerals are constant in the same position and there are no longer any secondary flaws visible in the value shields

The 1c and 2c plates were made from the same electrotpe being first plugged with a '1' and then with a '2' before making the necessary 1c and 2c moulds. An original "master" of five horizontally positioned subjects was then made for each of the two values and this was then repeated ten times to make up the complete plates of 50 subjects

A second, different, electrotpe was used for the 5c value and several design differences are easily noticeable when comparing this value to the 1c and 2c values. In this instance 50 individual subjects were used to make up the complete plate

A Brief History of Collecting "Liberty Head" Issues

Brian Moorhouse

I thought it might be interesting to have a look at a brief and, almost certainly, incomplete history of previous "Liberty Head" collectors and some of their contributions to philatelic literature. I have always had an interest in "provenance" and many of the Haiti "Liberty Head" items you do see today have been passed down from earlier generations having been in one or more of the collections that I will mention. As stated, I do not pretend to be complete in any way, shape or form and I apologise in advance to any collector past or present that I have undoubtedly missed out.

One of the first articles on the "Liberty Head" issues of Haiti was written by Joseph B. Leavy in *The American Journal of Philately* in February 1898 ... This was reprinted in the UK a month later in *The Philatelic Record*. The publication of this article with its numerous errors prompted the well-known dealer, Theodore Moens of Brussels, to publish the first real information on how these stamps were printed in *Le Timbre Poste* in May 1899. This was duly translated into English and published in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* in September 1899 ...

Fred J. Melville wrote a small book *The Postage Stamps of Hayti* sometime around the 1905-06 period but it was an introductory tome rather than anything serious. Similarly there was an article by L.W. Crouch published in the *Stamp Lover* in the 1908-09 period but the next article of merit to be published was by Leslie L. R. Hausberg. This was a paper read to The Royal Philatelic Society In London on 21st December 1911 and it was published over two issues of the *London Philatelist* in May and June 1912. I believe that this was actually the first and last time that the "Liberty Head" issues were shown to The Royal Philatelic Society as an exclusive display so you have waited a little over 100 years to see the material that is in the frames today!

Both Crouch and Hausberg actually showed Haiti collections at the 1912 Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition in London with the latter also showing at the Paris International Philatelic Exhibition in June 1913.

Some articles followed by Bertram W.H. Poole (1880-1950) and these were published in *The Postage Stamp* and the *Philatelic Gazette* around the 1914 period. They concerned the plating of the imperforates and discussed how the stamps were printed. Poole, in one of his articles, paid tribute to Hausberg's work on these issues and he also mentioned that Hausberg had lent him his collection around the time of the international stamp exhibition in New York in October 1913. Hausberg is recorded as having shown his Haiti platings at this New York exhibition and he was also noted as being one of three judges that had travelled over from the UK.

Of the above names, only Hausberg and Poole could really be considered to be specialist collectors of Haiti. Hausberg is mentioned on the side ribbons on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists as being one of the forty-two "Fathers of Philately" and Poole was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1921. From Hausberg's studies of the material he had, he made several deductions – some right and some wrong – but all based on good reason and it wasn't until James R.W. Purves (1903-1979) from Australia published his exhaustive study on the "Liberty Head" issues in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 1973, almost 60 years later, that some of Hausberg's original deductions were shown to be wrong.

Hausberg died in 1917 and his philatelic material was bought intact, from his executors, by Thomas W. Hall. While Hall was a well-known collector, I have seen no evidence to suggest that he ever did anything with the Haiti collection he purchased from the Hausberg estate. However, Hausberg did specifically mentioned one or two of the items he had in his collection in the paper he read to the Royal and, based on this, I am absolutely certain that at least some and possibly all of his Haiti collection ended up with Ferrars H. Tows in the USA. Hall died in 1937 but whether the Haiti was sold before or after his death is not known to me at the present time.

Tows can also be considered to have been a major specialist collector of Haiti though, I am unaware of any contributions he might have made to philatelic literature. The Tows collection of Haiti was sold at auction by Carl E. Pelander in New York in February 1949. Tows also had other collections such as Hawaii, Philippines and Cuba and these, too, were also sold by Pelander around this same time.

One of the main buyers for Haiti at the Tows sale was Clarence W. Hennan who went on to build up excellent collections of both Haiti and Dominican Republic amongst other countries and other issues. Hennan made a very interesting contribution to philatelic literature entitled *Haiti – Postal History & Stamps*. This commenced in serialised format in *The American Philatelist* dated May 1953 and ran through to February 1955 basically covering the early postal history in the pre-UPU period. At the end of the final postal history instalment a small note appeared as follows: "Dr. Hennan's monumental work on Haiti is to appear in book form. The current instalment is the last that will appear in *The American Philatelist*." Sadly, Hennan died just one year later in February 1956 and nothing has ever been seen of his proposed book. Clarence W. Hennan was also named to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1956. The Hennan "Hispaniola" collection was sold by Robineau, Kaufmann & Robson Lowe in Basle some ten years later in October 1966.

Meanwhile, back on this side of the Atlantic, two other names crop up in the early days with regard to Haiti. Interestingly, these were also both mentioned on the side ribbons on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists as being two more of the forty-two "Fathers of Philately".

One is Paul Mirabaud (1848-1908) from France whose main collection was Switzerland and the other is James H. Abbot (1840-1914). The latter is credited with winning an "Extra Bronze Medal" (I am not sure exactly what that is) for his Haiti collection at the 1906 International Stamp Exhibition in London. Another collector by the name of A. Holland also won a Bronze Medal at the same Exhibition with early issues of Haiti "very complete in plates uncut and reconstructed".

One of the "Liberty Head" essay die proofs I have is annotated as having come from the Mirabaud collection. This is also one of the items alluded to in Hausberg's original paper and it was in the Tows collection described as being "ex Mirabaud" ... It is quite possible that Mirabaud had a collection of Haiti and that this ended up with Hausberg. At least the time line for this supposition would be correct!



Mint block of 12 of the 2c postal forgery - Ex Abbot

James H. Abbot was mentioned by Purves in his *Collectors Club Philatelist* article. He stated that Abbot's collection had been mentioned in journals around the 1897 period and, indeed, it was footnoted by Stanley Gibbons at the end of their translation of the Moens article in 1899 where they thank "Mr. J.H. Abbot of Manchester" for the loan of his fine collection of (Haiti) postal forgeries which included a mint block of twelve of the 2 centimes value. The Abbot collections, including Haiti, lay dormant for over 50 years after his death and it was not until June 1968 that they surfaced in an auction held by H.R. Harmer in London. The Abbot collection of Haiti was likely assembled in the 1890's and early 1900's and, along with Hausberg's collection, it was undoubtedly one of the best that existed in that particular time period.

Purves, in his major study, tells us that he bought about 90% of the multiples that were offered in the Abbot auction. This, together with additional material he already owned, was the basis for his exhaustive study.

One other well-known name also gets a mention: The Swedish born collector, B. Hans Lagerloef, is reported to have shown a collection of Haiti at Brapex in Rio de Janeiro in 1939. I have absolutely no idea at all what might have been included in this display.

Following the sale of the Hennan collection, four Americans seemed to dominate Haiti philately for the next 15 years: These were Dr. Norman S. Hubbard, L. Wallace (Wally) Dean, Carroll Lloyd and F. Burton (Bud) Sellers. Hubbard concentrated solely on classics while the other three all collected a wider range of Haiti material. Nevertheless, all the latter three had very good collections of the classic period, particularly Sellers and Lloyd, and I believe I am correct in saying that all three managed to obtain good awards for exhibiting their collections in the international arena - Sellers and Lloyd both achieved Large Gold medals in the 1984-86 period with the classic stamps while Dean exhibited early postal history. Norman Hubbard did actually show some "Liberty Heads" to the Royal during the 1970 Philymphia Exhibition but he was sharing the stage with another collector so it wasn't quite exclusive!

In Europe two other collectors were also casting their eyes on Haiti. They were Thomas Bjäringer from Sweden and Enrique M. de Bustamante from Spain. When Hubbard's imperforate "Liberty Head" material came on the market as part of an auction of Central America held by Stanley Gibbons Auction Galleries Inc. in New York in March 1981, the two Europeans seemed to dominate the saleroom – one in person and the other through an agent. Bustamante went on to build a Large Gold medal collection of Haiti.

Other names came and went in connection with Haiti and these included Helmut Wolff, John Fosbery, Clifford W. Schafer, Livingston T. Dickason and Dr. Gerald L. Boarino all of whom managed to include some interesting classic pieces in their respective collections.

Both Sellers and Bustamante sold their "Liberty Head" collections privately to the dealer, Guido Craveri, in Switzerland. It seems likely that he also bought the Bjäringer collection but I have never had this confirmed. A total of three auctions offered this material in the later 1980's period: The "GC" collection at David Feldman in Geneva (April 1984), the "Hispanola" collection at Phillips in New York (April 1987) and "The F. Burton Sellers Large Gold Medal Collection of Haiti" at Harmers Auctions SA in Switzerland (December 1989). It should be noted that not all the material offered in this latter sale actually came from Seller's collection ! I should also mention that Sellers did actually show Haiti to the Royal in 1995 but as this display was after the sale of his "Liberty Head" collection, it concentrated only the post-classic period.

The next new collector to appear in this later 1980's period was Bruno Sabattini from Argentina. He assembled an excellent array of classic material mostly from the Sellers and Bustamante collections but also from other sources and he planned to exhibit this at the international stamp exhibition in Auckland, New Zealand in 1990. Unfortunately, he died prematurely a few months before the planned exhibition. His Haiti material stayed with the family along with several other collections until sometime around the late 1999 / early 2000 period when all the Sabattini collections including Haiti were bought by the dealer, Greg Manning from New Jersey. The Haiti portion was sold intact to Postiljonen in Sweden and the major portion of this collection was offered in a separate auction catalogue at a sale in Malmö in September 2000. A few other pieces from the Sabattini collection were offered as part of two general sales the following year.

Now I must go back to Purves for a little while: I want to stress that the work this gentleman did with his study of the "Liberty Head" issues was truly outstanding. Five years after his purchases at the auction of the Abbot material his "philatelic masterpiece" began its serialisation in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in 1973. If there was such a thing as an award for the greatest piece of philatelic detective work, then this particular research project has to be somewhere on that short list ! This item of literature is absolutely essential for any collector of the "Liberty Heads".

Purves did mention the help he had received from Sellers during the period of his studies and he did collaborate with Lloyd at a later date in order to try and finalise the platings of the New Dies. The results of this collaboration were also published in the *Collectors Club Philatelist* in September 1975. Following the near completion of this major project, Purves sold his intact collection to Lloyd. Purves' philatelic endeavours were recognised at an early date some three decades before he embarked upon his Haiti project and he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1937 at just 34 years of age. Lloyd did continue work on the "Liberty Head" issues and he did finish the platings of the New Dies. This further study was duly published in *Haiti Philately*, the journal of the Haiti Philatelic Society based in the USA, in June 1977.

My own "Liberty Head" collection started slowly in the 1990's and my first chance to expand it was at the Sabattini auction. Over the next few years I was fortunate to buy the intact Carroll Lloyd collection direct from Carroll himself and I was also able to obtain some interesting classic pieces from Wally Dean over a period of time. Other material came from different sources but, again, I was happy to be in the right place at the right time on the occasions when Haiti's two major pieces, the imperforate 1c multiple with ten tête-bêche pairs and the registered cover with the strip of four imperforate 20c values, were available for sale.

Brian Moorhouse
May 2015

The Proofs



These two photographic essays have similarities in style to the issued designs but the inscription around the central Liberty Head differs slightly in wording and arrangement. The lower essay comprises two layers, one with the vignette only outlined in black ink and the other with the frame only and the centre portion cut away. These essays show a '25 Centimes' value and there was no such value in the issued series.

It would be nice to be able to associate these essays with the printer, Mon. G. Richards, in Paris but, unfortunately, there is seemingly no evidence available at all as to where they might have originated from though it is recorded that a Mon. Mahé, based in Paris, had claimed in later years that he had made essays for Haiti's first issue of stamps. For the time being they are shown as curios and as a possible part of the story of Haiti's first series of postage stamps.

At the present time they are the only recorded examples of these particular "essays"

The 1881 "Liberty Head" Tête-Bêche Pairs

Brian Moorhouse

As all collectors of Haiti will know, the 1881 tête-bêche varieties can be found on the 1c and 2c values only. What I have only recently discovered though is the fact that all the recorded examples of the tête-bêche pairs, that I have been able to find, come from just two interpanneau sheets of 50 of the 1c value and two interpanneau sheets of 50 of the 2c value. This suggests that there can only have been a maximum of 20 1c tête-bêche pairs and 20 2c tête-bêche pairs available to collectors over the years.

Finding any early references to tête-bêche pairs in philatelic literature has proved difficult. Neither the Scott nor the Gibbons catalogues from the 19th Century mentioned their existence. The more detailed late 19th Century catalogues like Collins & Calman, Meekels or Moens do not mention them either. Contemporary philatelic publications do report the issuance of the 1881 first issues but do not mention the existence any tête-bêche varieties. Even when Joseph Leavy wrote his article on Haiti published in the *American Journal of Philately* in February 1898 and reprinted in *The Philatelic Record* in March 1898 there was no mention of any tête-bêche pairs.

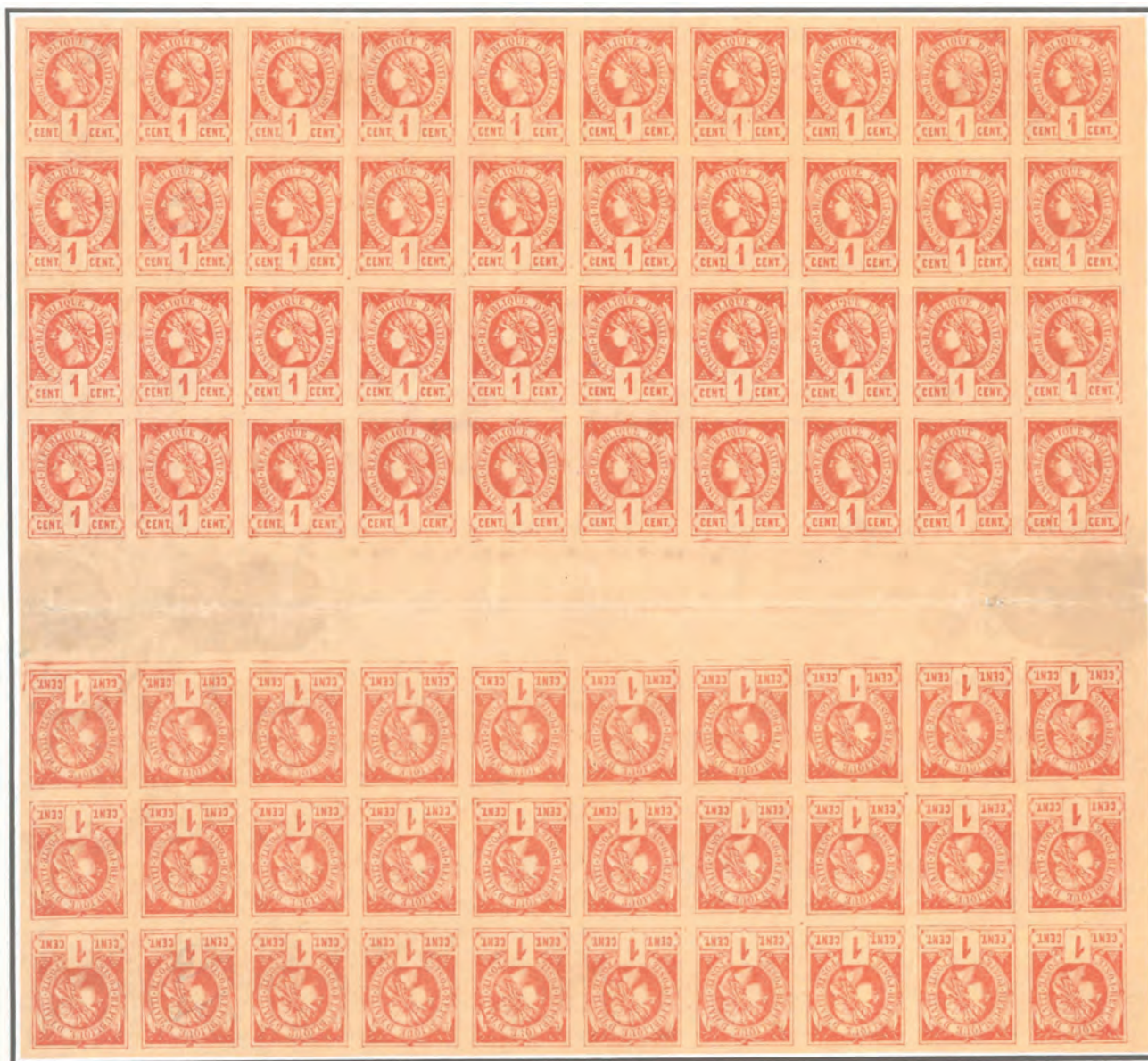
The first written reference I have found regarding the existence of the tête-bêche varieties was in an article by Theodore Moens in *Le Timbre-Poste* in May 1899. The main purpose of this article by Moens was to refute the print and production details given in the earlier Leavy offering. In the course of the Moens' article it is mentioned that the collection of Mon. La Rénotière (or Ferrari as he is more well known) contained a tête-bêche pair – an accompanying catalogue style listing of the first issues of Haiti revealed this to be the 2c tête-bêche variety.

What follows is basically a census of the various tête-bêche pairs that I have found that have been seen or offered on the philatelic market along with a brief history of the items where known. As will be seen, there are some gaps and it may well be that one or two readers may be aware of the whereabouts of these "missing" pairs. Some readers may also be aware of further details with regard to the history or provenance of some of the pieces as well. With regard to this latter point, I have taken this particular history up to the circa 2000-01 period, this being the time of the sale of the Bruno Sabattini collection. This was the last major collection of Haiti to appear individually lotted on the open market.

Please note that some of the illustrations used in this article have been gleaned from old auction catalogues, photocopies and other such sources so the quality, especially with regard to colour and clarity, can and does vary.

1c First Interpanneau Sheet (1c-A)

This is the well known, unique, interpanneau block of 70 stamps containing 10 tête-bêche pairs. This item was first recorded as an interpanneau double sheet of 100 stamps with ten tête-bêche pairs in the Louis L.R. Hausberg collection in December 1911. It was included in a display given to The Royal Philatelic Society London and was mentioned by him in his paper on the "Liberty Head" issues that was published in The London Philatelist in May the following year. Alas, Hausberg gives us no clue as to where he might have obtained this item or as to how long he might have owned it.



Hausberg died in 1917 and his philatelic material and collections were bought intact, from his executors, by Thomas W. Hall. This included Haiti and this 1c tête-bêche interpanneau sheet. There is no record of Hall actively pursuing Haiti as a collector and he may well have sold Hausberg's material sometime during his lifetime.

Of course, it is always possible that this tête-bêche sheet remained with Hall until his death in 1937. What we do know is that it crossed the Atlantic and became a part of the Ferrars H. Tows collection subsequently appearing in the Carl E. Pelander, New York auction (February 1949) of the Tows collection (Lot 1207 reported sold at US \$265).

After this it was offered in the Jacques Robineau, Urs Peter Kaufman & Robson Lowe Ltd. "Uncommon Market" Basel auction (October 1966) of the Dr. Clarence W. Hennen "Hispaniola" collection (Lot 1062 estimated at CHF 12,000). The lot description was as follows: *1c carmine on buff, two complete sheets, one printed below the other and tête-bêche providing ten tête-bêche pairs. Some marginal faults and one sheet badly cracked at one corner but a rare and unique item. SG 1c (100). Note: According to Munk, this sheet is the only one known to him and is ex the Hausberg collection.* Unfortunately, the item was not illustrated. The sheet was unsold at the actual auction but it was bought by private treaty from Robson Lowe himself soon afterwards by Dr. Norman S. Hubbard at a price something akin to the original estimated value.

The following appearance of the item was in the Stanley Gibbons Auction Galleries Inc., New York auction (March 1981) of the Dr. Norman S. Hubbard collection of Central America where it first appeared in its current state as a block of 70 stamps (Lot 169 sold at US \$143,000). The item was very poorly illustrated in the catalogue as someone decided to reduce the size of the interpanneau margin between the two part panes to represent a 5mm gap instead of a 25mm gap. It should be pointed out that the auction catalogue for this Central American collection did not mention Dr. Hubbard's name.

Dr. Hubbard told me that he trimmed the sheet to remove some badly damaged portions and to make it more amenable for future displays. He recalls that when he first obtained the sheet from Robson Lowe, it was folded over the edge of a single album page and was showing several signs of damage on all four sides. Alas, no pictorial record of this intact double pane sheet was ever made. This is a major loss to classic Haiti philately.

It was purchased in the room at the Gibbons auction by Roberto Rosende, who was acting on behalf of Enrique M. de Bustamante from Spain. It subsequently became part of the Bustamante International Large Gold medal exhibit collection of Haiti stamps. The underbidder at the Gibbons sale was the Swedish collector, Thomas Bjäringer, who was also present in the room. The \$143,000 selling price was and remains a record realisation for a single Haiti philatelic item.

The Bustamante collection was purchased intact by the Swiss based dealer, Guido Craveri, sometime around the 1984 period and this piece stayed in his possession up to and beyond the year 2000 though it was offered sometime in the 1990's in a Harmers SA (Switzerland) rarity auction (Lot 170 estimate at CHF 200,000). Alas, the tear-sheet I have from this catalogue is undated.

1c Second Interpanneau Sheet (1c-B)

All the recorded pairs from Sheet 1c-B have a horizontal fold in the centre margin. This fold is a little off-centre and is nearer to one of the two stamps (in an approximate 60-40 ratio). For the purpose of this article we will call the 1c stamp nearer the fold, the top stamp and the one further from the fold, the bottom stamp. As far as the plate positions of the various pairs are concerned these will be written with the top stamp first, followed by the bottom stamp. So, Position 43/48 means the top stamp of the tête-bêche pair (the one nearer the crease) is Position 43 and the lower stamp is Position 48.

Positions 41/50 and Positions 42/49

These should theoretically exist either as two pairs or as a block of four but I have been unable to find any pictures or other reference to these positions and, if they do still exist, their whereabouts are presently unknown. It is possible that they may be in a museum collection somewhere. I have checked with the British Library, which has several major collections, including the famous Tapling collection with the unique Dominican Republic first issue tête-bêche pair, but they do not have any Haiti tête-bêche pairs at all.

Positions 43/48

This pair was in the Carroll Lloyd collection.

Positions 44/47

This pair was offered in the David Feldman Auction (April 1984) in Zurich, Switzerland (Lot 11942 reported sold at CHF 4,000). It was part of a group of classic Haiti material that was being offered as the "GC" collection. It is probable that, prior to this, it was in either the Enrique Bustamante collection or the Thomas Bjäringer collection, both of which had been bought privately by the Swiss based dealer, Guido Craveri, around the 1984 period. It next appeared in a Phillips Auction in New York (April 1987) as a part of the "Hispaniola" collection (Lot 146 estimated US \$1500-2000).

After that it was offered in the Harmers S.A. auction (December 1989) of the F. Burton Sellers collection of Haiti (Lot 469 estimated at CHF 2,000). The Sellers collection had been bought privately by Guido Craveri, the owner of Harmers SA, in the latter part of the 1980's. It should be noted that the material offered in this auction was mostly from the Sellers collection but that some other items that were not ex-Sellers had also been included in the sale. Sellers reportedly did have examples of both the tête-bêche pairs in his collection so it is possible that he bought this pair in the earlier Phillips auction.



43/48



44/47



45/46 & 46/45

Positions 45/46 and Positions 46/45

This is currently a block of four stamps and was offered as such in the Stanley Gibbons, New York auction (March 1981) of the Hubbard collection (Lot 168 sold at US \$3300). The purchaser at the auction was either Enrique Bustamante or Thomas Bjäringer as it next appeared in the David Feldman auction (April 1984) of the "GC" collection. (Lot 11941 reportedly sold at CHF 10,000). It then appeared in the Phillips New York (April 1987) auction (Lot 145 estimated US \$3000-\$4000).

Following that, it then became part of the Sabattini collection of Haiti. Bruno Sabattini was an accomplished collector who lived in Buenos Aires. He started a collection of Haiti in the later 1980's period and he had intended to exhibit this for the first time at the 1990 International Stamp Exhibition that was being held in Auckland, New Zealand. Sadly, he passed away a few months before the event.

His intact Haiti collection ended up being sold privately several years later to Greg Manning, a New Jersey based dealer and auctioneer, before being purchased by Postiljonen in Sweden. They held the major "Sabattini" Haiti auction in September 2000 in Malmö, Sweden and this included this block (Lot 52 sold at Euro 5,400).

The catalogue description for the Sabattini auction stated that the block was ex-Abbot but this statement appears to be an error as there is no mention of a 1c tête-bêche block in the sale catalogue of the Abbot collection. (See later in this article for details of the tête-bêche pairs from the Abbot collection).

It should be noted that a block of four 1c tête-bêche stamps was offered in the 1949 auction of the Tows collection (Lot 1210 reported sold at \$37.50). However, this was not illustrated in the original catalogue and at this present time the writer has no hard evidence which of the two recorded blocks of four might be the ex-Tows block.

Positions 47/44 and Positions 48/43

This is currently a block of four stamps and is in a collection in Europe. Please read the note in italics above.



47/44 & 48/43



49/42 & 50/41

Positions 49/42 and Positions 50/41

These positions are currently in a right marginal block of six stamps with positions 39 & 40 being above positions 49 & 50. Additionally there is a faint but clear nail head mark on the tint plate to the right of position 50.

This block was in a Robert A. Siegel auction (March 1969) held in New York (Lot 557 sold at US \$800). This included a good section of Haiti material. The catalogue does not mention the owner's name and, unfortunately, Siegel say that they no longer have their records from this period.

It later appeared in a David Feldman auction (October 1995) in Zurich, Switzerland (Lot 2160 sold at CHF 5,520) where it was described as being ex-Bustamante.

The 2c Interpanneau Sheets

Obviously differentiating between the two 1c tête-bêche sheets was relatively easy as one was essentially an intact sheet with ten tête-bêche pairs. The 2c tête-bêche sheets are not intact so telling them apart is a little more involved though, still fairly easy. Folds in the centre margin between the stamps can be found in two different positions. Stamps from Sheet 2c-A have an off-centre crease or fold that is much nearer to one of the two stamps (an approximate 80 - 20 ratio) whereas stamps from Sheet 2c-B have a much more centrally positioned fold.

2c First Interpanneau Sheet (2c-A)

For the purpose of this article, for the 2c value we will call the stamp further from the crease the top stamp and the one nearer the crease, the bottom stamp.

Positions 41/50

This pair should theoretically exist but I have been unable to find any pictures or other reference to this pair and, if it does still exist, its whereabouts are presently unknown.

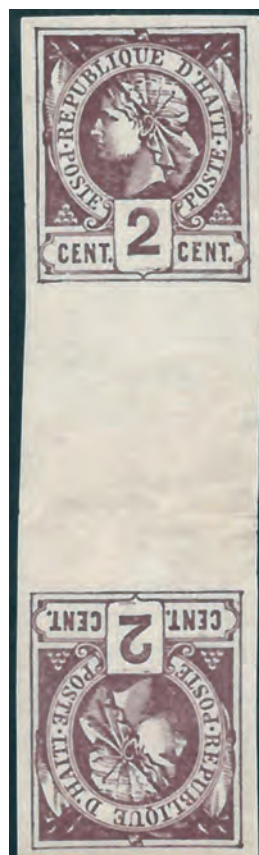
Positions 42/49

This pair was the one mentioned in Moens *Le Timbre-Poste* in May 1899 and was offered and pictured in Sale No. 9 of the famous Ferrari de la Renotière collection held in Paris by A. Broquelet & G. Gilbert in April 1924 (Lot 272 sold for 2400 FF).

After this, my next reference to this pair is that it was a part of the John Fosbery Gold medal collection of Haiti that was shown at the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition. This pair was also used by Fosbery to illustrate an article on Haiti that he wrote for *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* magazine in February 1978.



42/49



43/48

Positions 43/48

This pair was in the Carl E. Pelander, New York auction (February 1949) of the Tows collection (Lot 1206 reportedly sold at US \$44). After this it was offered in the Robineau, Kaufmann & Robson Lowe, Basel auction (October 1966) of the Hennan collection (Lot 1070 sold at CHF 2,200). It was pictured in colour on the front cover of the Basel auction catalogue and the description included the comment "*Munk states that this pair is the only one known – Ex Ferrari*". This statement was wrong on both counts as this pair was not the one that was illustrated in the Ferrari auction catalogue and, thus, it was not unique!

Its next appearance was in the Stanley Gibbons, New York auction (March 1981) of the Hubbard collection (Lot 179 sold for US \$1,485). The description correctly states that it was ex-Tows.

It was bought by either Enrique Bustamente or Thomas Bjäringer and thus ended up with Guido Craveri. It was included in the David Feldman auction (April 1984) of the "GC" collection (Lot 11949 reportedly sold for CHF 2,600).

Positions 44/47

This pair should theoretically exist but I have been unable to find any pictures or other reference to this pair and, if it does still exist, its whereabouts are presently unknown.

Positions 45/46 and Positions 46/45

This is currently a block of four stamps. I have virtually no information at all on the earlier history of this piece though I suspect that it has been in a collection somewhere in continental Europe for a long period of time. It is presently in my collection.



Positions 47/44

My first record of this pair is in a Bühler auction (April 1970) held in Düsseldorf, Germany. Two separate 2c tête-bêche pairs were offered in this sale and this one was Lot 1204 (sold at DM 2,200). It was bought by Dr. Norman Hubbard.

Its next appearance was in the Gibbons auction (March 1981) of the Hubbard collection (Lot 180 sold for US \$1485) and was bought by either Enrique Bustamante or Thomas Bjäringer. It ended up with Guido Craveri and was included in the David Feldman (April 1984) auction of the "GC" collection (Lot 11951 reportedly sold for CHF 2,800).

It seems possible that this was bought by F. Burton Sellers as it was included in the Harmers SA auction (December 1989) of the Sellers collection (Lot 469 estimated at CHF 2500).



42/49



43/48

Positions 48/43

I have just one reference to this pair. This was also in the Bühler auction (April 1970) in Düsseldorf where it was offered as Lot 1205 (estimated at DM 1,500).

Positions 49/42 and Positions 50/41

This is currently a right marginal block of four and the first record I have found of it was when it was offered in a Harmers, New York auction (January 1980) as a part of the Helmut Wolff collection of Haiti (Lot 2284 sold at US \$1550). It seems very likely that it was bought at this auction by Thomas Bjäringer.



49/42 & 50/41

Following this it was offered in the David Feldman auction (April 1984) as part of the "GC" collection (Lot 11948 reportedly sold at CHF 8,050). The next appearance was in a general Postiljonen auction (Autumn 2001) held in Malmö, Sweden which included some previously unoffered items from the Sabattini collection billed as being "Part-3" of the collection (Lot 128 estimated at Euro 3,000). It was described as being ex Wolff, Bjäringer and Sabattini.

2c Second Interpanneau Sheet (2c-B)

This is a much more difficult proposition to be able to assign an easily recognizable top and bottom stamp as the sheet fold is very much nearer the centre. There is, though, a slight slope in the alignment of the two sheets so by saying that the slightly narrower gap between the interpanneau stamps is the left hand side of the sheet and the wider gap is at the right hand side of the sheet we come up with the following layout.

Positions 41/50

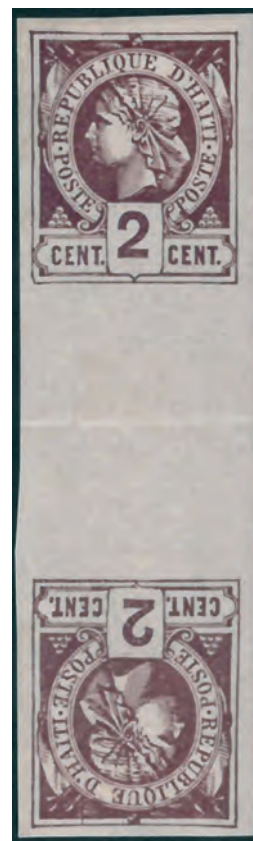
This pair should theoretically exist but I have been unable to find any pictures or other reference to this pair and, if it does still exist, its whereabouts are presently unknown.

Positions 42/49

The first record I can find of this pair was in the H.R. Harmer Ltd., London auction (June 1968) of the James H. Abbot collection (Lot 622 estimated £75). It next appeared in the Carroll Lloyd collection.

Positions 43/47 and Positions 44/46

These pairs should theoretically exist either as pairs or as a block of four but I have been unable to find any pictures or other reference to these positions and, if they do still exist, their whereabouts are presently unknown.



42/49

Positions 45/46 and Positions 46/45

These two pairs were offered as a block of four in the H.R. Harmer Ltd., London auction (June 1968) of the Abbot collection (Lot 624 estimated £150). However, sometime after the auction, this block was separated into two pairs as follows:

Positions 45/46

(The left hand side of the Abbot block)

This was in the Stanley Gibbons, New York auction (March 1981) of the Hubbard collection (Lot 181 sold at \$1,540). Again, one must assume that it was bought by either Bustamante or Bjäringer as it was included in the David Feldman auction (April 1984) of the "GC" collection (Lot 11950 recorded sold at CHF 2,990). The next appearance was in a general Postiljonen auction (Spring 2001) held in Malmö, Sweden which included some previously unoffered items from the Sabattini collection billed as being "Part-2" of the collection (Lot 632 estimated at Euro 1,500) where it was noted as being ex Hubbard and Sabattini.



45/46



The original uncut Abbot block
45/46 & 46/45



46/45

Position 46/45

(The right hand side of the Abbot block)

I have just one record of this item as a separate pair. It was offered in a Heinrich Köhler auction (February 2004) in Wiesbaden, Germany (Lot 2263).

Positions 47/44 and Positions 48/43

These pairs should theoretically exist either as pairs or as a block of four but I have been unable to find any pictures or other reference to these positions and, if they do still exist, their whereabouts are presently unknown.

Positions 49/42 and Positions 50/41

This is currently a block of four and my first record of it was in H.R. Harmer Ltd., London auction (June 1968) of the Abbot collection (Lot 623 estimated at £150).



49/42 & 50/41

The next record of this block was in the Stanley Gibbons, New York auction (March 1981) of the Hubbard collection (Lot 182 sold at US \$2,860). It seems that it was bought by Bustamante as it next appeared in the Phillips, New York auction (April 1987) of the "Hispanola" collection (Lot 154 estimated US \$4,000 - \$5,000) where it was specifically described as being ex-Bustamante. The plate positions were erroneously noted as being 11-12 / 49-50. Its next appearance was in the Harmers SA auction (December 1989) in Switzerland of the Sellers collection (Lot 475 estimated CHF 5,000).

I would remind readers that the material offered in this auction was mostly from the Sellers collection but that some other items that were not ex-Sellers had also been included. I am fairly certain that Sellers never owned this block of four.

Following this, it was offered in the Postiljonen Auction (September 2000) of the Sabbatini collection (Lot 61 sold at Euro 3,000).

Summary

For the 1c value I have recorded 18 of the possible 20 tête-bêche pairs. The major piece is, of course, the block of 70 stamps with 10 tête-bêche pairs. After that we have a recorded block of six with two tête-bêche pairs, two blocks of four and two pairs. Currently a total of six items. This leaves just two pairs or a possible block of four unaccounted for.

For the 2c value I have recorded 13 of the possible 20 tête-bêche pairs. These comprise three blocks of four and seven pairs. Currently a total of ten items. This leaves a further seven pairs, including two possible blocks of four, still unaccounted for.

Although the Abbot material was sold in 1968 it should be noted that it was, in fact, collected at a much earlier date. Abbot had died over 50 years earlier in 1914 but he was certainly an active Haiti collector much earlier than that. It is known that he had a very good collection of Haiti in the 1890's period. For the 2c value he had a total of five tête-bêche pairs: one pair and two blocks of four. All these came from the same interpanneau sheet (2c-B) and it seems a reasonable assumption that he would have acquired these as a group from a single source. It is interesting that these five ex-Abbot pairs are, at the present time, the only recorded survivors from this second 2c interpanneau sheet. It really makes one wonder what could have happened to the other five pairs.

If any reader knows the whereabouts of any of the unaccounted for pairs or can add to the history of any of these pieces then the author would be very pleased to hear from them. As stated in the text it is possible that some items are in institutionalized collections and, of course, it is possible that some items have been inadvertently split into separate stamps or simply "lost" or "destroyed" over the intervening years.

Brian Moorhouse
May 2015

Plate III - The Reprints



Blank value tablets at the bottom
Line perforation 11.5

These stamps on buff paper first appeared in multiples on the philatelic market at the auction of the Edmond Mangones collection in 1976 where they were offered as original proofs. They have all been printed from Plate III but a careful study of the individual positions, and their relevant constant flaws, show conclusively that these were produced after the regular Plate III stamps. Furthermore, the numerals of value have not been plugged into the plate, as they were with the regular Plate III printing, but were printed in a separate operation.

A possible scenario for their existence is that they were officially produced and were intended for presentation purposes. Mangones was known to be well connected in Government circles in Haiti and may well have benefited from a shelved or abandoned project involving these stamps

Navassa

Brian Moorhouse

I was recently looking through a small group of perforated "Liberty Head" covers and I spotted a fairly ordinary unimpressive looking 10c Foreign letter rate cover with 3c olive-bistre (Plate II second printing) and 7c blue (Plate II first printing) "Liberty Heads" sent from Port au Prince to New York with sender's handstamp "Oliver Cutts & Co" on the reverse. The stamps are cancelled with PORT-AU-PRINCE cds (14 June 1886) and the cover shows two New York arrival backstamps (21 June 1886). It is also endorsed at the upper left corner "Via Navassa" and this is what drew my attention.



Navassa is a small uninhabited island around 40 miles due west of Haiti's south western peninsular. It is less than two square miles in size and has no natural fresh water sources. It has a rocky terrain and there is no sheltered anchorage for ships. Any visiting vessels have to anchor off shore and transfer to small boats to make it to land. Why would anyone want to route mail via such an island?

The island does have some history though ... In 1504, Christopher Columbus, was apparently stranded in Jamaica during his fourth voyage and he sent some crew members by canoe to Hispaniola to ask for help. They came across the island on the way and did a brief exploration discovering that it had no fresh water supply. They called it Navaza (from "nava-" meaning plain or field). Due to its "dry" nature it was seemingly ignored and avoided by mariners for the next 350 years!



Despite an earlier claim by Haiti, Navassa Island was claimed for the United States on 19 September 1857, by Peter Duncan, an American sea captain. The claim was made under the Guano Islands Act of 18 August 1856 as there were rich guano deposits found on the island and it did not appear to be within the lawful jurisdiction of any other government, nor was it occupied by another government's citizens. Haiti protested the annexation and sent two ships to the island to proclaim that it was part of their Empire and to order the Americans to leave. However, no actual action taken to enforce this order. On 7 July 1858 U.S. President James Buchanan issued an Executive Order upholding the American claim and also calling for military action to enforce it if necessary. Following that, Navassa Island was maintained by the United States as an unincorporated territory. The United States Supreme Court on 24 November 1890 in *Jones v. United States* found that Navassa Island must be considered as appertaining to the United States, creating a legal history for the island under US law unlike many other islands originally claimed under the Guano Islands Act.

Guano phosphate was a superior organic fertilizer that became a mainstay of American agriculture in the mid-19th century. Duncan, the American claimant, transferred his discoverer's rights to his employer, an American guano trader in Jamaica, who then sold them to the newly formed Navassa Phosphate Company of Baltimore and some Guano started to be shipped back to the USA. After an interruption for the American Civil War, the Company built larger mining facilities on Navassa with barrack type housing for 140 black contract labourers from Maryland, houses for white supervisors, a blacksmith shop, warehouses, and a church.

Mining began again in 1865. The workers dug out the guano by dynamite and pick-axe and hauled it in rail cars to the landing point at Lulu Bay, where it was put into sacks and lowered onto boats for transfer to the Company barque, the S.S. Romance (a wonderful name for a ship carrying Guano). The living quarters at Lulu Bay were called Lulu Town and this name can be found on some old maps.

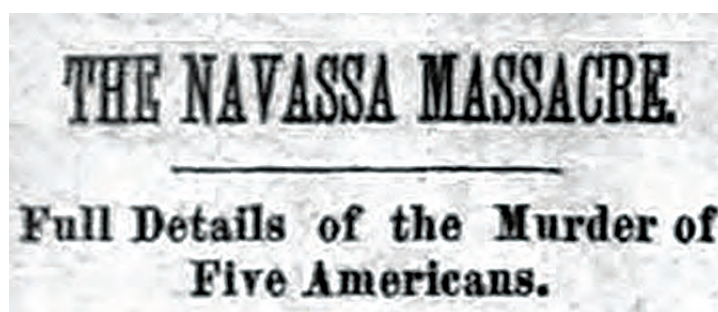


Hauling guano by muscle-power in the fierce tropical heat, combined with general disgruntlement about the awful conditions on the island, eventually provoked a workers' rebellion in September 1889 in which five supervisors died. Following the riot, a British warship was flagged down and the news was passed on to the USA. In due course, a US warship appeared and returned eighteen of the workers to Baltimore for three separate trials on murder charges. A black fraternal society, the Order of Galilean Fisherman, raised money to defend the miners in federal court, and the defence built its case on the contention that the men acted in self-defence or in the heat of passion, and also upon the premise that the United States did not have jurisdiction over the island. The cases, including *Jones v. United States* went to the US Supreme Court in October 1890, which ruled the Guano Act constitutional, and three of the miners were scheduled for execution in the spring of 1891. A grass-roots petition drive by black churches around the country, also signed by white jurors from the three trials, reached President Benjamin Harrison, who commuted the sentences to imprisonment and mentioned the case in a State of the Union Address. Guano mining resumed on Navassa at a much reduced level. The Spanish-American War of 1898 forced the Phosphate Company to evacuate the island and file for bankruptcy. The new owners abandoned the island circa 1901-02 period.

Following the abandonment, the next significant development was in 1916 (following the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914) when the US built a lighthouse on the island. Lighthouse keepers lived on the island from 1917 to 1929 but were replaced by an

automatic beacon, which was eventually decommissioned in 1996. The US Navy also maintained an observation post on the island during World War II. Around 1950 Haiti built a small church on the island in order to cater for the spiritual needs of passing fishermen. In more recent times there has been an unsuccessful claim on the island by a gentleman named, Bill Warren and one can even find references to a "King of Navassa" who is a descendant of one of the post riot supervisors. Since 1999, the island has been administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the title 'The Navassa National Wildlife Refuge'. However, Haiti still maintains its claim ...

I got quite involved in delving into the history of the island and I finally came across a news article from a New York newspaper dated in October 1899 under the eye-catching headline "The Navassa Massacre".



The following "gem" of information was attached to this article:

"For several years Navassa has served as a mail station for the Hayti-New York mails, a regular fortnightly service having been established and the Atlas Steamship Company) giving gratuitous service between the ports of the southern coast of Hayti and the island. The bags collected are left in charge of the Superintendent of the Company (Navassa Phosphate Company), who delivered them to the first homeward bound vessel that touches at the port after their reception. Up to the 14th September last this service had been rendered by Mr. Shay, the Superintendent, an amiable and kindly gentleman, an American, and believed to be a native of New York State. On the afternoon of that day, in endeavoring to escape from a murderous gang of mutineers, he lost his life, after first seeing four of his companions massacred in cold blood.

*The **Athos** sailed from Port au Prince on September 21 and headed for Navassa for the purpose of intercepting the steamship **Alene**, of the same line, and transferring to her the mails from Hayti for New York. On arriving at the island the officers of the vessel were surprised when they were boarded by an officer of the British war vessel **Forward**, instead of Superintendent Shay. The officer informed the Captain of the **Athos** that a mutiny had taken place, and that of the eleven officers of the Phosphate Company only six survived, and that they were on the **Forward** and would be taken by that vessel to Jamaica".*

Finally, we have an explanation for the "via Navassa" endorsement. The Atlas Steamship Company offered a free service from the southern ports of Haiti to Navassa where they would await the next vessel bound for New York.

Interestingly, as a piece of background interest, I can also show an identical "Liberty Head" franking with the same two stamps on a cover dated some three years earlier. This is a cover from HMS *Forward* (printed on the back flap), which is the British warship mentioned above, and this is addressed to HMS *Neptune* in the Mediterranean. The cover seems to have got as far as Rome before being re-addressed to Portsmouth.



I also found details of one other "via Navassa" cover that was originally in the collection of L. Wallace (Wally) Dean. He did a "cover story" article in *Haiti Philately* around 20 years ago where he described a stampless cover dated October 1878 with the endorsement "p. Ailsa via Navassa".

Although totally outside the remit of this particular "Liberty Head" display, it would be a shame, while on the subject, not to show you a final Navassa Island item I have. It is worth a quick look.

This is a cover with contents datelined "Navassa Island West Indies / Oct. 6th 1880" and is written by the Captain (C.L. Pascal) of the bark *Rosette McNeil* to his aunt in Warren, Maine, while at anchor off Navassa Island. A short extract from the letter reads as follows (sic):

"I am loading here with guano for Baltimore and will sail in a day or two. This is a very lonesome place with 18 white men and 230 Negroes is all the people that is here. Not a woman to be seen on the island ...

I have to send this letter as a ship letter and cannot pay any postage here for there is no post office and the way is to send a letter by a passing vessel ... We have to anchor in the mid ocean as here it is always rolling about all the time. It is so rough some days I cannot take any cargo (on board) at all".



*Navassa Island West Indies
Oct 6th 1880*

The cover was sent without stamps with the endorsement "Ship Letter from Navassa Island West In..." It received a Wilmington, NC cds cancel (1 November) and a manuscript "Due 8c" endorsement plus added pairs of 1879 1c brown and 3c brown first issue US postage dues.

References:

Google Maps, Wikipedia, newspaper records and other internet sources.

The "Liberty Head" Specimen Stamps from Natal

Brian Moorhouse

When UPU member countries issued new stamps it was a requisite of their membership terms that they send samples of these stamps to the UPU headquarters in Berne so that they could, in turn, be distributed to other member countries for their reference on order to be able to check that genuinely issued stamps were being used on incoming letters.

Upon joining the UPU on 1st July 1881, Haiti should have sent sufficient examples of the six imperforate "Liberty Head" stamps to Berne for this distribution to other member countries. We do know that stamps were sent to Berne but we have no record of actual quantities.

One of the first archives of distributed UPU stamps to appear on the philatelic market was the one from Natal. When Berne distributed member countries stamps, Natal stuck one of each of the stamps received into a ledger (or album) organized under different country headings and, once they were affixed to the page, they were individually handstamped "SPECIMEN." in a violet coloured ink in sans-serif capital letters with a rectangular shaped stop at the end. It should be noted that each of these stamps is, in effect, unique.

The Natal archive of UPU distributed stamps came onto the philatelic market around 1980 period and, over the intervening years, they have been dispersed far and wide. Alas, it seems that no permanent records were kept of these stamps. I checked the book UPU Specimen Stamps by James Bendon (publ. Cyprus 1988) but the entry for Haiti is minimal. It simply states "*The 1881 imperf 1c to 20c were circulated in October 1881. These and later issues including the unissued 1898 1c. 3c. 7c and 20c, were all in normal unused condition*".

The comment in James Bendon's book regarding circulation of the 1c to 20c values in October 1881 is referring to a distribution made by UPU Headquarters in Berne to other member countries. This information was gleaned from shipping records at the UPU in Berne. Obviously, from this comment, we do know that Berne had received examples of the imperforate "Liberty Heads" from Haiti.

Unfortunately, in 1881 when this distribution was made, Natal was not a UPU member. Natal joined the UPU in 1st July 1892 and, somewhere around that time, they would have received a package from the UPU in Berne with samples of current stamps from other member countries.

While it is clear that any country making a new issue of stamps should distribute sufficient

samples of their new issues to the UPU in Berne, it is not clear to me whether perforated examples of previously imperforate stamps counted as new issues. If they did then Haiti should have sent perforated Liberty Heads to the UPU in Berne as and when they were issued.

If not, then it appears that Berne must have requested additional examples of current postage stamps from Haiti.

Let us now look at the "Liberty Head" specimen stamps that were in the "Natal" collection. This was a one-of-each-value simplified set of perforated "Liberty Head" issues all mounted on small pieces: A close look at the individual specimen stamps reveals the following.



The 1c is the scarlet shade from the "New Die" (February 1886 - Scott 18 - SG 21)

The 2c is the purple shade from the "New Die" (March 1886 - Scott 19 - SG 22)

The 3c is the olive-bistre shade from Plate II, Second Printing (September 1885 - Scott 9a - SG 13)

The 5c is the deep green shade from Plate III (May 1885 - Scott 10b - SG 16)

The 7c is the deep blue shade from Plate II, First printing (1885 - Scott 11 - SG 17)

The 20c is the red-brown shade from Plate II. There was just the one printing from Plate II of the 20c value (April 1884 - Scott 13b - SG 19)

The dates mentioned are the ones listed by the Gibbons catalogue. These are a mix of either the date the stamps were first made available to be purchased by the philatelic trade or the earliest recorded date of usage. In some instances, of course, the stamps were actually printed at an even earlier date. It should be noted that the Gibbons earliest recorded usage dates were based on Purves original research published in the early 1970's period. It must, of course, be expected that some of these will have also changed a little as well as new earlier dates do get reported from time to time.

Nevertheless, it becomes very apparent that this group of stamps was probably sent to the UPU in Berne by Haiti somewhere in the mid-1886 period and the stamps sent doubtless reflected the basic stamps that were available in the main post office at the time. It seems likely that the UPU may well have requested additional current stamps from some or all member countries around the mid-1886 period in order to have examples on hand to distribute to the newer member countries.

Interestingly, this set of specimens has a BPA (British Philatelic Association) Certificate 'No. 21642' dated 30th March 1981 which states "*Haiti 1881 1c to 20 cents set of 6 perforated 13 ½ on pieces handstamped SPECIMEN Samuel Type NA2 applied by Natal Post Office on receipt from UPU SG 7, 9, 12, 15, 17 and 19 are genuine*".

When describing the perforated Liberty Heads, the Gibbons catalogue states the following "*The typographical differences distinguishing Plates II and III are small but the shades are a reliable guide*".

I checked the Gibbons catalogue that was current at the date of the Certificate and the stamps noted on the certificate were actually as follows:

- SG 7 - perforated 1c Plate II, First Printing
- SG 9 - perforated 2c Plate II, First Printing
- SG 12 - perforated 3c Plate II, First Printing
- SG 15 - perforated 5c Plate II, Second Printing
- SG 17 - perforated 7c Plate II, First Printing
- SG 19 - perforated 20c Plate II

Out of the six perforated "Liberty Head" issues, the BPA managed to correctly classify just the final two (7c and 20c) stamps! This is not any sort of calamity or even a criticism but it does underline, despite what the catalogue says, the difficulties that non-Haitian specialists can have in correctly identifying the plates, printings and dies of the perforated "Liberty Head" stamps.

No. 21642

B. P. A. Expertising Limited
London-England
EXPERT COMMITTEE

30 MAR 1981

The Committee is of the opinion that the

HAITI 1881 1c - 20 cents set of 6
perforated $13\frac{1}{2}$ on two pieces
handstamped SPECIMEN Samuel Type
NA2 applied by Natal Post Office on
receipt from UPU SG 7, 9, 12, 15, 17
and 19 are genuine

[Signature]
[Signature]

Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept
any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed



The Postal Forgeries



Perf. 16
CAP-HAITIEN
8 June 1886



Perf. 14
GONAÎVES
27 January 1887
Rare usage

Perf. 14 - A rare mint multiple - *Ex Abbott & Purves*



Perf. 16
CAP-HAITIEN
1890



Perf. 16



Perf. 14



Perf. 14
CAP-HAITIEN
17 February 1888



Perf. 16
CAP-HAITIEN
21 January 1887



Perf. 16
CAP-HAITIEN
18 May 1887



Perf. 16
CAP-HAITIEN
18 Jun 1888



Perf. 16
Barred oval "3"
New York receiver

The Postal Forgeries



Perf. 14
CAP-HAÏTIEN
Rare



Perf. 16



Perf. 16
CAP-HAÏTIEN
3 December 1887



1886 double rate cover to Paris endorsed "pr Str F'cais" with single 20c postal forgery perf. 16 with CAP-HAÏTIEN cds's (24 February) in blue. "CAP HAITIEN/PAQ.FR.B No.1" datestamp alongside (24 February). **Just two intact covers with Postal Forgeries have been recorded**

Nothing is known of the perpetrators of this fraud. Postal Forgeries exist of all six values and were lithographed rather than engraved. They can be found perforated 14 (2c, 5c and 7c values) and/or perforated 16 (1c, 3c, 7c and 20c values) though a couple of exceptions are known. They were used almost exclusively in Cap Haitien and first appeared in early 1886. They were well executed and the forgeries were never discovered by the Haiti postal authorities of the time. Mint copies of all the forgeries are scarce and the 3c forgery is a rare stamp either mint or used



The only recorded multiple franking of the imperforate 20c value

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