

Haiti

A Many-Spendid Country to Collect



There are many reasons to collect Haiti - a collector's paradise. In addition to forming a one-of-a-kind collection of this exotic land, one can specialize in one or several areas to enhance philatelic pleasure.

The low catalog value of most Haitian stamps means that a good collection can be assembled with nominal expenditure. Hunting for scarce stamps that are affordable can indeed be exhilarating, especially with a little competition.

In addition to being modestly priced, the stamps of Haiti are not only attractive but portray a heroic past which is truly admirable. Many stamps honor the memory of slaves who valiantly fought against great odds for freedom. In 1804, after establishing the first black republic in the world, this land of ex-slaves still had to struggle against prevailing world prejudice and economic bondage. These considerations largely account for Haiti's tumultuous history which is portrayed in its stamps.

Haiti offers a multitude of opportunities for specialization. Philatelically, it is still unexplored and much remains to be reported. If you seek philatelic adventure - collect Haiti!

British Stamps Used Abroad, 1865-1881

Stamps used abroad, in overseas post offices, agencies and consular bureaus, were a feature of international mail before the establishment of the UPU in 1874, and for some years thereafter.



British Post Office Cancel of Jacmel



British Post Office Cancel of Port-au-Prince

Permanent post offices and postal agencies were established by Great Britain and France in many countries during the nineteenth century to expedite the handling of mail. Adhesive stamps of Great Britain were employed in Haiti from 1865 to 1881.

First Issue, 1881

Haiti's first stamps, which are referred to by philatelists as the 'Liberty Head' issue, were issued on July 1, 1881. This was about forty years after Great Britain issued her 'Penny Black' and exactly thirty-four years to the very day of the first two U.S. issues.



The postal law authorizing this issue stipulated that the stamps were to bear the Arms of the Republic in the design. Instead, the subject was an allegorical effigy of the 'Goddess of Liberty.' President Salomon's critics claimed that the folds of Liberty's headdress depicted the profile of Madame Salomon, his wife. This, according to the *Guinness Book of Stamps*, is the first example of a 'ghost stamp'.



First day cover to commemorate the centenary of Haiti's first postal adhesive. Release of these stamps was more than two years late. First day cover is special because it bears an example of Haiti's first stamp.

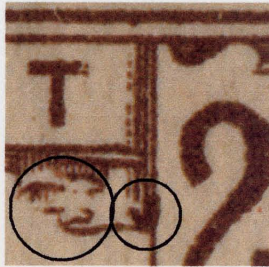
First Lithographed Stamp, 1895

Earlier stamps of Haiti were printed by typography or recess-engraved. Interestingly, the lower values of the series that the 20c was part of were recess-engraved. All 100 positions that comprise the sheet have recognizable plating characteristics.

Plating Characteristics



Position 8



Position 13



Position 22



Position 28



Position 34



Position 85



First Provisional Issue, 1902

21 Different Types of Forgeries



First Foreign Mail Stamps, 1906

Foreign mail stamps have been used in certain countries for use on mail going abroad, to distinguish them from mail destined for internal delivery. The first country to produce separate sets for inland and external mail was Turkey, which issued such stamps mainly for printed matter, between 1901 and 1911.

Haiti issued such stamps between 1906 and 1919 for overseas mail, with denominations in 'strong' currency (piastres) instead of local currency or gourdes.



Spirit of St. Louis, 1928

Col. Charles Lindbergh, while in the air between Port-au-Prince and Havana wrote:

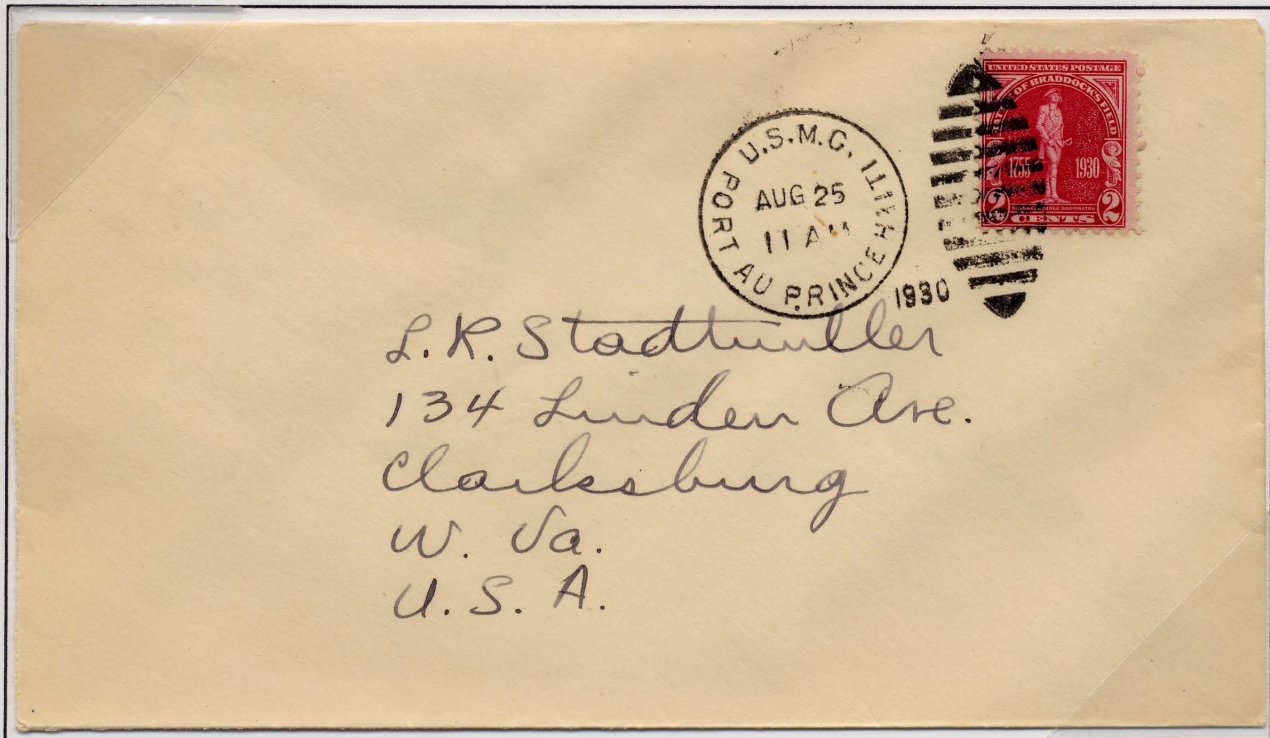
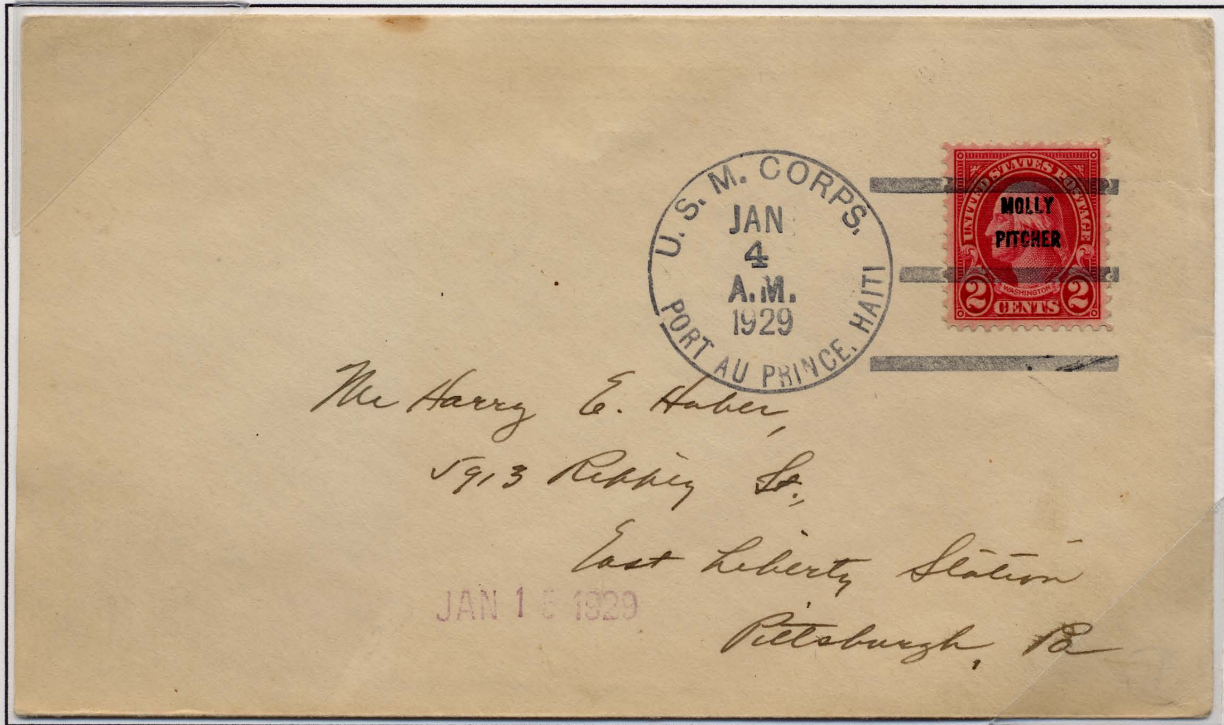
'I am carrying with me three sacks of mail for Havana, the first mail ever carried in the *Spirit of St. Louis*. One of these came from Santo Domingo and although it remained in the plane for two days while I was at Port-au-Prince, it will arrive in Havana days ahead of time. This is an indication of the possibility for air lines south of the United States.'



Only covers actually flown aboard the *Spirit of St. Louis* bear, in addition to the Haitian commemorative cancel, the appropriate Havana machine cancel backstamp.

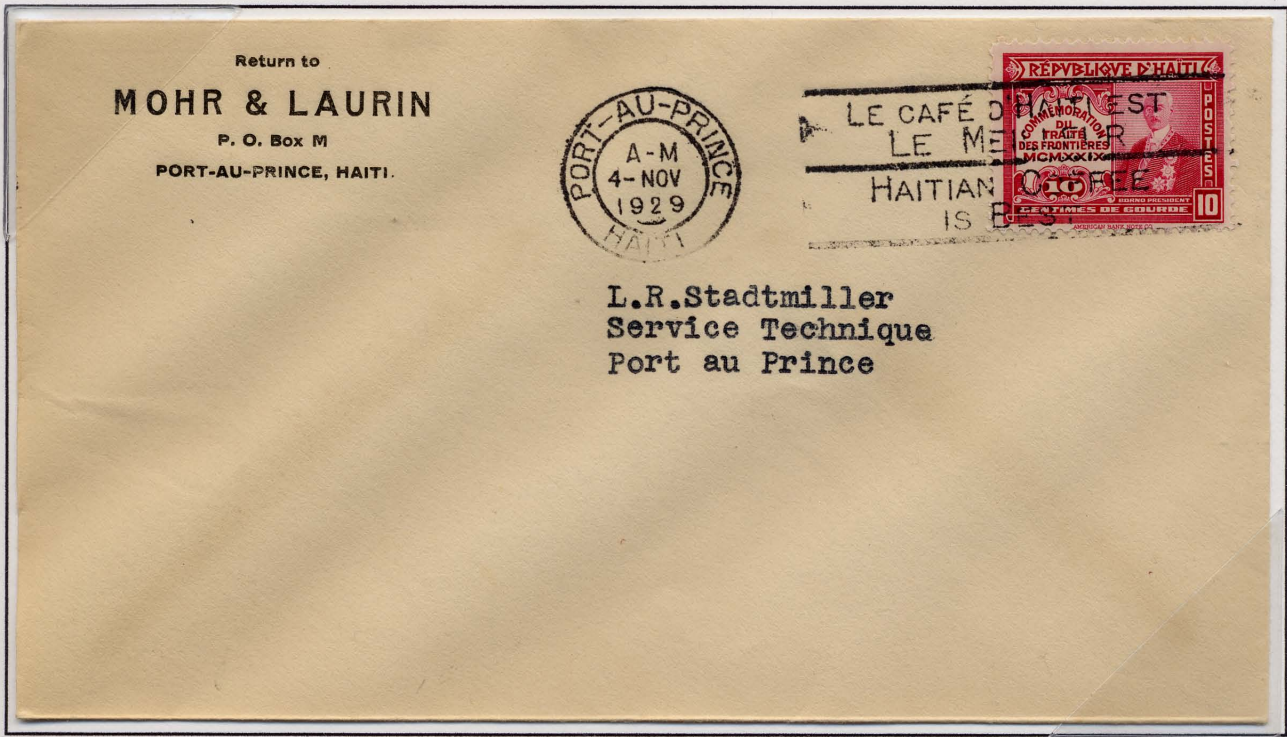
U.S. Used in Haiti

The U.S. occupied Haiti from 1915-1934. These covers were carried by the U.S. Marine Corps Service from Haiti to the U.S. at the first class mail rate which then prevailed within the U.S. for domestic mail.



First Commemorative, 1929

First day cover of the first Haitian commemorative stamp commemorating the signing of the Treaty of Frontiers at Santo Doming City on January 21, 1929.



L.R.Stadtmitter
Service Technique
Port au Prince

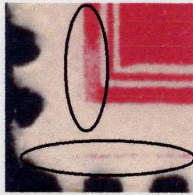


Borno's Autograph on Stamp

Louis J. Borno is also remembered for having signed the 1915 'treaty' which sacrificed Haitian sovereignty and 'legitimized' the U.S. occupation of Haiti.

First Stamps Printed in Haiti, 1935

These stamps were printed by the Compagnie Lithographique d'Haiti shortly after American troops evacuated Haiti. Most issues were printed by the American Bank Note Company. Plates of the three values were different and therefore plating characteristics are different.



Position 8



Position 9



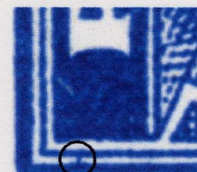
Position 75



Position 8



Position 15



Position 35



Position 3



Position 13



Position 39



First Semi-Postal Stamps, 1939



Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, was first honored on postage stamps by the Republic of Haiti. Furthermore, these stamps were the first to show the five-ring Olympic symbol in color. Although, the stamp is noted simply as engraved in the catalog listing, colors for the rings and flag were lithographed. Issued to raise money for a modern municipal sports stadium in Port-au-Prince, they resulted in a net deficit of \$316.25. Had it not been for World War II, the issue would have been successfully marketed.

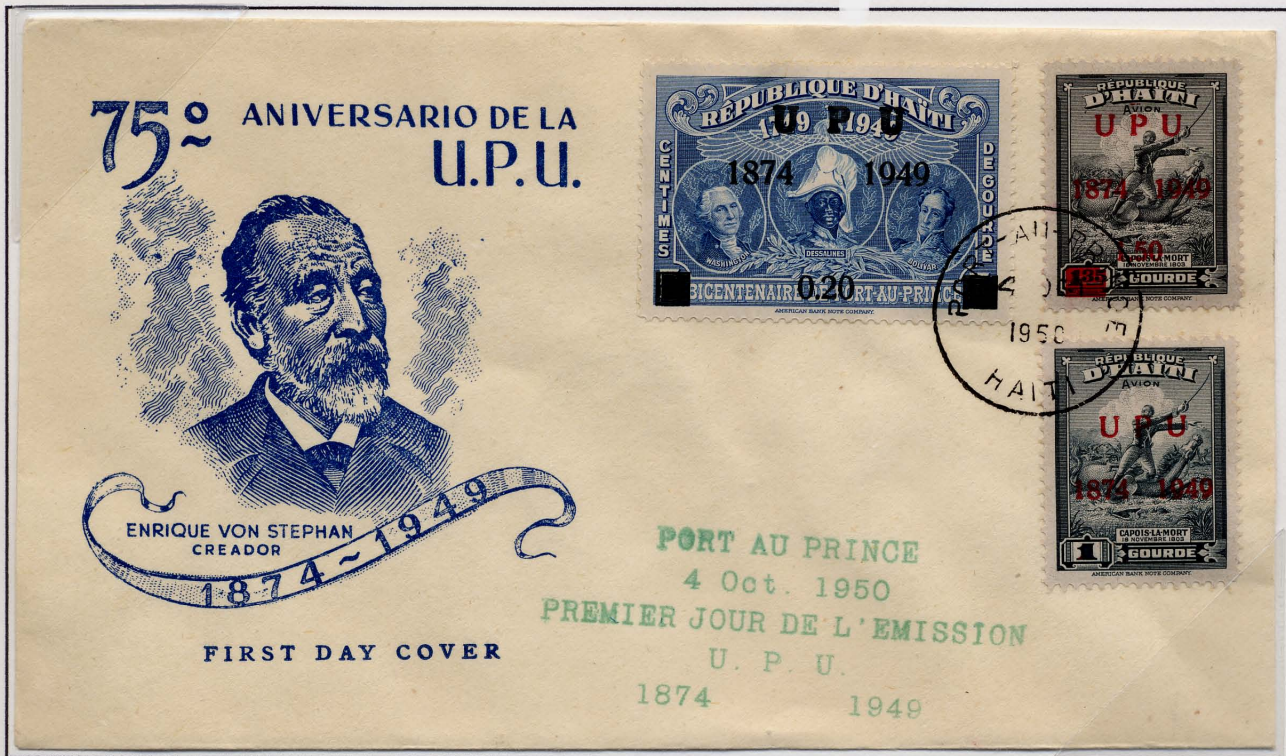
First Mourning Stamps, 1945



The first mourning stamps issued outside the home country of the deceased appeared in 1945 in memory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Stamps were issued on that occasion by Greece, Hungary, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

Haitians mourned FDR's passing and will fondly remember him as it was his 'Good Neighbor' policy which resulted in the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Haiti.

October 4, 1950



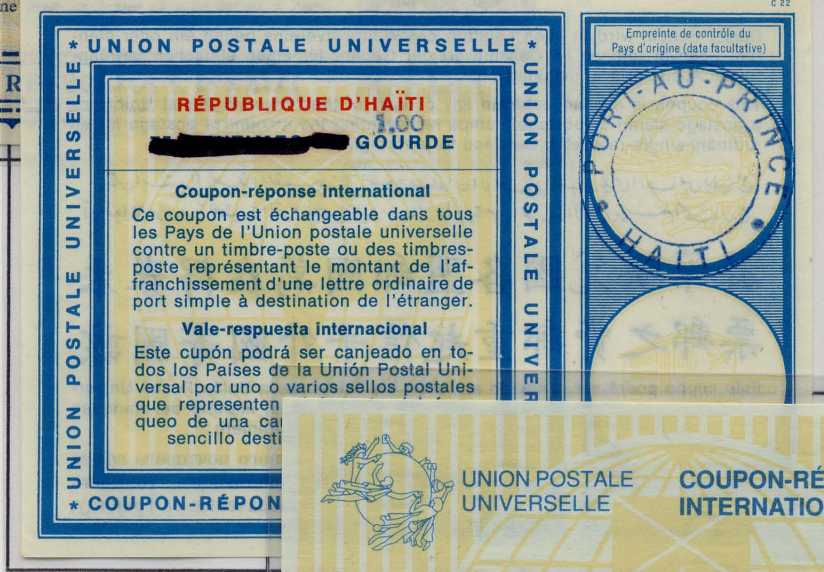
Issued to commemorate the 75th anniversary (in 1949) of the Universal Postal Union.



International Reply Coupons

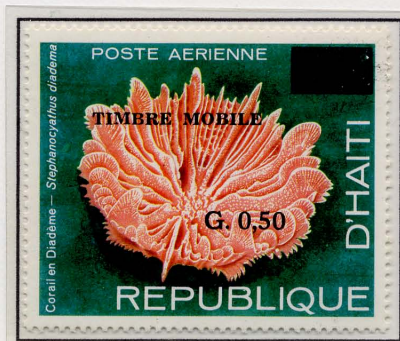
IRC's are a convenient means of prepaying return postage for replies in a foreign country. This method was adopted by the 1906 UPU Congress in Rome.

IRC's can be purchased in any UPU member country. After being postmarked in the lower left circle at place of sale, they can be sent to any other member country in the UPU and be exchanged for postage stamps representing the minimum postage for surface rates to a foreign country. The receiving post office postmarks it in the unpostmarked circle.



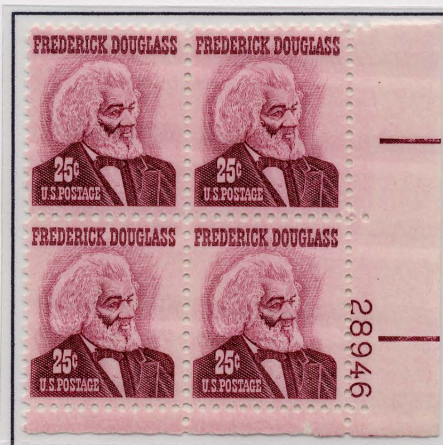
Postage Stamps Overprinted for Use as Fiscals, 1970's

In the 1970's, expediency and economy resulted in the overprinting of surplus postage stamps as revenue stamps.



Revenue stamps with the value G 0.50 are commonly found on electricity, telephone, and water bills. Fiscals such as these are also found on bills of lading, promissory notes, and insurance renewal receipts.

First Black Minister to Haiti



Frederick Douglass is probably known as a prominent voice in the 19th century abolitionist movement. Not so well known is that in 1889, in return for his support of the presidential campaign of Benjamin Harrison, Douglass was appointed to the most important federal post he was to hold - Minister Resident and Consul General to the Republic of Haiti and later Charge d'Affaires for Santo Domingo. However, when he saw his efforts being undermined by unscrupulous American businessmen interested solely in exploiting Haiti, he resigned his post in 1891.

First Settler of Chicago

