# HAITI ---AN UPDATE TO ITS ADMINISTRATIVE/POSTAL ORGANIZATION

*By Wally Deltoro*

In 2007, I came across an interesting website devoted to information concerning the administrative divisions of the countries of the world.  My curiosity led me to the section pertaining to HAITI.  The country section contained much information that directly or indirectly is pertinent to the knowledge we as collectors of Haiti philately should be familiar with.   Specifically several pieces of information were of philatelic interest:

> 1- Haiti is no longer divided into 9 departments but rather 10 departments
> 2- The new department, NIPPES, was created in 2003
> 3- A listing of all of Haiti's Arrondissements was provided that included the first 2 digits of the postal code.

Overall, the information provided I found it to be interesting and useful.  It certainly would be for those of us interested in town cancellations.  Thus, in my desire to share it with our membership, I requested and obtained approval to publish information from the Haiti pages from the producer of the web site, Mr. Gwillim Law from Chapel Hill, NC, USA.   His web site, **Administrative Divisions of Countries ("Statoids")** (http://www.statoids.com), provides similar information on all countries of the world.

<div align="center">*     *     *</div>

### The Postal Codes of Haiti

Haiti uses four-digit postal codes, always prefixed with "HT".  The first digit represents the department; the first two, the arrondissement; the first three, the commune.

### The Departments of Haiti

The eastern half of the Grand' Anse department was evidently split off to form Nippes department.  The capital is Miragoâne.  The electoral decree of 2005-02-03 states that the department of Nippes was created by a law of 2003-09-04.  One Organization of American States report on the 1995-06-25 elections notes, "According to Haiti's electoral system, the country is divided into ten departments: the nine ordinary departments and the department of Nippes, the eastern part of the department of Grand' Anse" (Mr. Law's translation), suggesting that Nippes previously existed in some intermediate status.

# The Departments in Detail:

| Department | HASC | ISO | FIPS | Pc | Pop-2003 | Pop-1982 | Area(km.²) | Area(mi.²) | Capital | Formerly |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L'Artibonite | HT.AR | AR | HA06 | 4 | 1,070,397 | 732,932 | 4,895 | 1,890 | Gonaïves | L'Artibonite |
| Centre | HT.CE | CE | HA07 | 5 | 565,043 | 361,470 | 3,597 | 1,389 | Hinche | L'Artibonite, Ouest, Nord |
| Grand' Anse | HT.GR | GA | HA08 | 7 | 603,894 | 489,957 | 3,100 | 1,197 | Jérémie | Sud |
| Nippes | HT.NI | | | | | | | | Miragoâne | Sud |
| Nord | HT.ND | ND | HA09 | 1 | 773,546 | 564,002 | 2,175 | 840 | Cap-Haïtien | Nord |
| Nord-Est | HT.NE | NE | HA10 | 2 | 300,493 | 189,573 | 1,698 | 656 | Fort-Liberté | Nord |
| Nord-Ouest | HT.NO | NO | HA03 | 3 | 445,080 | 293,531 | 2,094 | 808 | Port-de-Paix | Nord-Ouest |
| Ouest | HT.OU | OU | HA11 | 6 | 3,093,699 | 1,551,792 | 4,595 | 1,774 | Port-au-Prince | Ouest |
| Sud | HT.SD | SD | HA12 | 8 | 627,311 | 502,624 | 2,602 | 1,005 | Les Cayes | Sud |
| Sud-Est | HT.SE | SE | HA13 | 9 | 449,585 | 367,911 | 2,077 | 802 | Jacmel | Ouest |
| 10 departments | | | | | 7,929,048 | 5,053,792 | 26,833 | 10,361 | | |

- **HASC:** Hierarchical administrative subdivision codes.    (*See addendum*)
- **ISO:** Department codes from ISO standard 3166-2.
- **FIPS:** Codes from FIPS PUB 10-4, a U.S. government standard.
- **Pc:** First digit of postal code.
- **Pop-2003:** 2003-08-07 census
- **Pop-1982:** 1982-08-30 census
- **Formerly:** Pre-1962 department(s) corresponding to each present-day department

## Territorial Extent of the Departments:

1. Grand' Anse includes Île Grande Cayemite.
2. Nord-Ouest includes Île de la Tortue (Tortuga Island).
3. Ouest includes Île de la Gonâve.
4. Sud includes Île à Vache.
5. Nippes department split from Grand' Anse (former HASC code HT.GA). It consists of the arrondissements of Miragoâne and l'Anse-à-Veau, and the new arrondissement of Baradères.

### Other Names of the Departments:

1. Centre:         Département du Plateau Central  (formal)
2. Grand' Anse:  Grande Anse  (variant)
3. L'Artibonite:  Artibonite  (variant)

### The Arrondissements of Haiti

The Departments of Haiti are subdivided into Arrondissements, which are further subdivided into Communes, which in turn are divided into sections Communales (communal sections).

| Arrondissement | HASC | Pc |
|---|---|---|
| l'Acul-du-Nord | HT.ND.AN | 12 |
| l'Anse-à-Veau | HT.NI.AV | 75 |
| Anse d'Hainault | HT.GR.AH | 72 |
| Aquin | HT.SD.AQ | 83 |
| l'Arcahaie | HT.OU.AR | 64 |
| Bainet | HT.SE.BT | 92 |
| Baradères | HT.SE.BR | 75 |
| Belle-Anse | HT.SE.BA | 93 |
| Borgne | HT.ND.BG | 15 |
| le Cap-Haïtien | HT.ND.CH | 11 |
| les Cayes | HT.SD.CY | 81 |
| Cerca la Source | HT.CE.CS | 54 |
| les Chardonnières | HT.SD.CR | 85 |
| Corail | HT.GR.CL | 73 |
| les Côteaux | HT.SD.CX | 84 |
| Croix-des-Bouquets | HT.OU.CB | 63 |
| Dessalines | HT.AR.DS | 44 |
| Fort-Liberté | HT.NE.FL | 21 |
| les Gonaïves | HT.AR.GV | 41 |
| Grande-Rivière du Nord | HT.ND.GR | 13 |
| Gros-Morne | HT.AR.GM | 42 |
| Hinche | HT.CE.HI | 51 |

| Arrondissement | HASC | Pc |
|---|---|---|
| Jacmel | HT.SE.JC | 91 |
| Jérémie | HT.GR.JR | 71 |
| La Gonâve | HT.OU.LG | 65 |
| Lascahobas | HT.CE.LC | 53 |
| Léogâne | HT.OU.LN | 62 |
| le Limbé | HT.ND.LL | 16 |
| Marmelade | HT.AR.MM | 45 |
| Miragoâne | HT.NI.MG | 74 |
| Mirebalais | HT.CE.MB | 52 |
| Môle Saint-Nicolas | HT.NO.MS | 33 |
| Ouanaminthe | HT.NE.OU | 22 |
| Plaisance | HT.ND.PL | 17 |
| Port-au-Prince | HT.OU.PP | 61 |
| Port-de-Paix | HT.NO.PD | 31 |
| Port-Salut | HT.SD.PS | 82 |
| Saint-Louis du Nord | HT.NO.SL | 32 |
| Saint-Marc | HT.AR.SM | 43 |
| Saint-Raphaël | HT.ND.SR | 14 |
| le Trou-du-Nord | HT.NE.TN | 23 |
| Vallières | HT.NE.VR | 24 |

- **HASC:** Hierarchical administrative subdivision codes.
  The middle two letters identify the department.
- **Pc:** First two digits of postal code

*Other names of the Arrondissements:*

Articles in lower case (l', les, etc.) may be omitted. The variants listed below may simply be common mistakes.

1. les Chardonnières:   Charbonnières (variant)
2. Ouanaminthe:         Ounaminthe (variant)
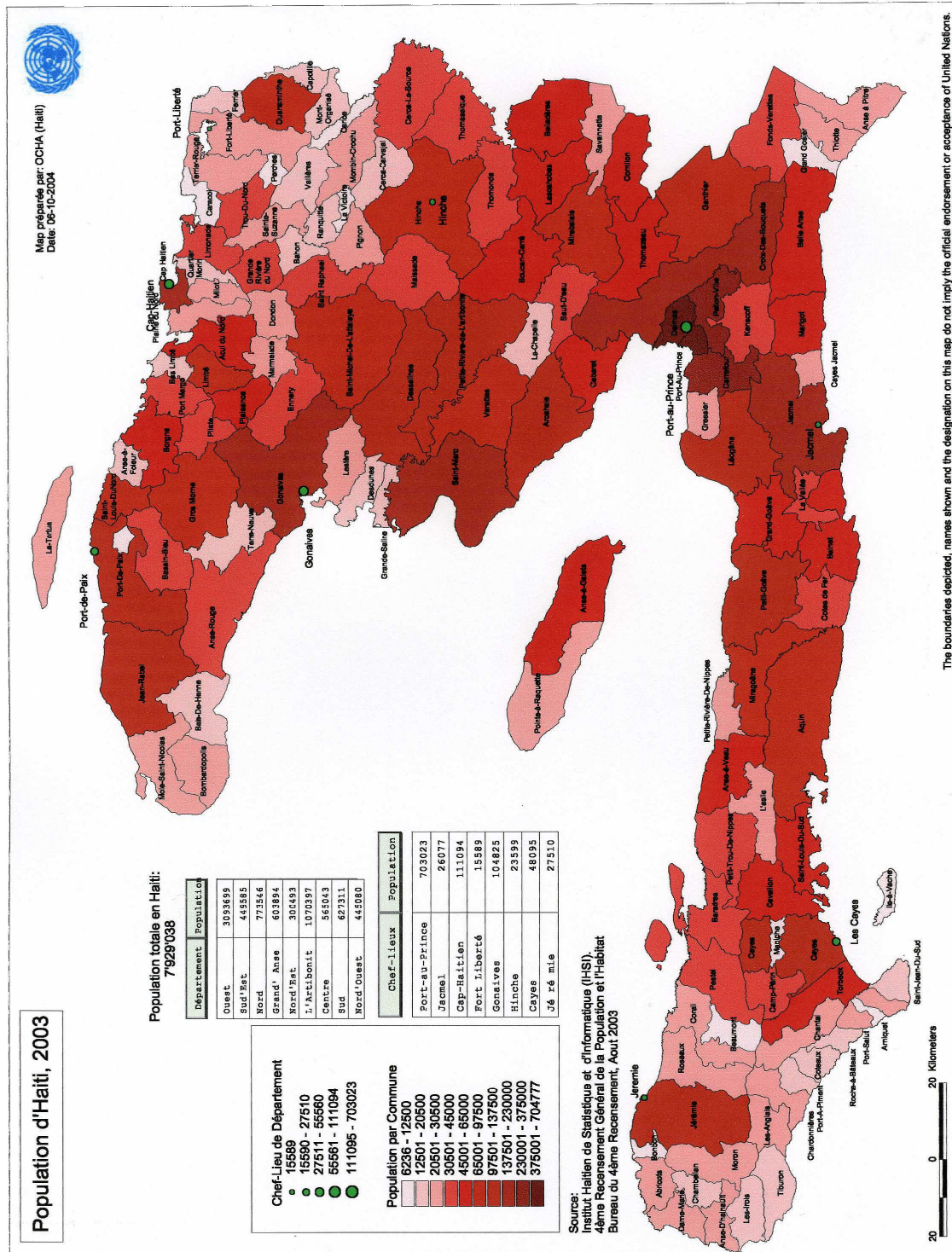3. Plaisance:           Plaissance (variant)

# Map Showing the Departments of Haiti



CUBA

HAITI

Legend:
- International boundary
- Departmental boundary
- ⊙ National capital
- ⊚ Departmental seat
- ○ Town, village
- — Main road
- — Secondary road
- ✈ Airport

0 10 20 30 40 km
0 5 10 15 20 25 mi

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map No. 3855 Rev. 3   UNITED NATIONS
June 2004

Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ATLANTIC OCEAN

CARIBBEAN SEA

Golfe de la Gonâve

Canal de Saint-Marc

Canal de la Gonâve

ÎLE DE LA GONÂVE

ÎLE DE LA TORTUE

ÎLE À VACHE

PRESQU'ÎLE DES BARADÈRES

ÎLES CAYÉMITES

Departments:
- NORD-OUEST
- NORD
- NORD-EST
- ARTIBONITE
- CENTRE
- OUEST
- SUD-EST
- NIPPES
- GRANDE-ANSE
- SUD

Cities and towns:
Monte Cristi, Dajabón, Fort-Liberté, Caracol, Ferrier, Phaëton, Ouanaminthe, Perches, Vallières, Mont-Organisé, Cap-Haïtien, Quartier Morin, Limonade, Sainte Suzanne, Trou-du-Nord, Plaine du Nord, Milot, Dondon, Bahon, Saint-Raphaël, Ranquitte, La Victoire, Pignon, Cerca Carvajal, Cerca-la-Source, Hinche, Thomassique, Thomonde, Maïssade, Belladère, Lascahobas, Baptiste, Savenette, Cornillon, Bouquets, Croix des Bouquets, Ganthier, Fond Parisien, Fonds-Verrettes, Jimani, Anse-à-Pitres, Banane, Grand-Gosier, Thiotte, Anse, Belle-Anse, Marigot, Côtes-de-fer, Bainet, Jacmel, La Vallée de-Jacmel, Cayes-Jacmel, Marbial, Kenscoff, Pétion-Ville, PORT-AU-PRINCE, Carrefour, Gressier, Léogâne, Grand-Goâve, Petit-Goâve, Trouin, Mirebalais, Saut-d'Eau, Duvalierville, Arcahaie, Verrettes, La Chapelle, Saint-Marc, Petite-Rivière de l'Artibonite, Dessalines, Saint Michel de l'Attalaye, Ennery, Gonaïves, Marmelade, Plaisance, Grande-Rivière du Nord, Limbé, Acul du Nord, Pilate, Port-Margot, Le Borge, Anse-à-Foleur, St. Louis de Nord, Port-de-Paix, Bassin-Bleu, Jean-Rabel, Môle St-Nicolas, Bombardopolis, Baie de Henne, Anse-Rouge, Gros-Morne, Terre-Neuve, Grande-Saline, Magasin, Pointe-à-Raquette, Miragoâne, Petite Rivière de Nippes, Anse-à-Veau, Petit Trou de Nippes, Baradères, Pestel, Corail, Roseaux, Bonbon, Jérémie, Trou, Abricots, Moron, Chambellan, Dame-Marie, Source Chaude, Anse d'Hainault, Les Irois, Tiburon, La Cahouane, Chardonnières, Port-à-Piment, Les Anglais, Cavaillon, Camp-Perrin, Maniche, L'Asile, St. Louis du Sud, Aquin, Vieux Bourg d'Aquin, Côteaux, Roch-à-Bateau, Torbeck, Chantal, St-Jean du Sud, Les Cayes, Port-Salut, Palmiste

Water features:
Baie de Mancenille, Baie de la Tortue, Baie de Grand-Pierre, Pointe de la Grande-Pierre, Grande Pointe, Baie de Henne, Pointe Jean-Rabel, Cap Saint-Nicolas, Cap-à-Foux, Pointe Ouest, Pointe de Montrouis, Pointe Fantasque, Cap Raymond, Canal de la Tortue, Lac de Péligre, Étang Saumâtre

# Map Showing the Communes of Haiti



Population d'Haiti, 2003

Population totale en Haiti: 7'929'038

| Département | Population |
|---|---|
| Ouest | 3093699 |
| Sud'Est | 449585 |
| Nord | 773546 |
| Grand' Anse | 603894 |
| Nord'Est | 300493 |
| L'Artibonit | 1070397 |
| Centre | 565043 |
| Sud | 627311 |
| Nord'Ouest | 445080 |

| Chef-lieux | Population |
|---|---|
| Port-au-Prince | 703023 |
| Jacmel | 26077 |
| Cap-Haitien | 111094 |
| Fort Liberté | 15589 |
| Gonaives | 104825 |
| Hinche | 23599 |
| Cayes | 48095 |
| Jérémie | 27510 |

### Chef-Lieu de Département

- 15589
- 15590 - 27510
- 27511 - 55580
- 55581 - 111094
- 111095 - 703023

### Population par Commune

- 6236 - 12500
- 12501 - 20500
- 20501 - 30500
- 30501 - 45000
- 45001 - 65000
- 65001 - 97500
- 97501 - 137500
- 137501 - 230000
- 230001 - 375000
- 375001 - 704777

Source:
Institut Haitien de Statistique et d'Informatique (IHSI).
4ème Recensement Général de la Population et l'Habitat
Bureau du 4ème Recensement, Aout 2003

Map préparée par: OCHA (Haiti)
Date: 06-10-2004

The boundaries depicted, names shown and the designation on this map do not imply the official endorsement or acceptance of United Nations.

20 0 20 Kilometers

# Addendum

## HASC

## Hierarchical Administrative Subdivision Codes

As one feature of "Administrative Subdivisions of Countries", Mr. Lee notes he has defined a hierarchical set of subdivision codes, called HASC codes.  Be aware that these are not an official standard, sanctioned by any international body.  They are intended for internal use within a database or other computer system and not for display.

Why did he feel the need to develop HASC codes, rather than using the existing FIPS or ISO standard?   Mr. Lee reports he found those standards deficient in several ways:

Most seriously, FIPS and ISO codes lag at least two years behind the real world, and usually more.  This seems to be because of bureaucratic mass.

FIPS and ISO codes stop at the primary subdivision level; he wanted to have the ability to encode secondary and lower subdivisions.

FIPS codes are not mnemonic.

ISO codes are not in a uniform format. They have  variable length. They are mnemonic for some countries, but not for others.

ISO codes are not always unique. For example, Guadeloupe can be represented as either GP or FR-GP.

ISO codes represent the name of a division, not its territory. When a division changes its name, the ISO code may also change. For example, when the name of Newfoundland was changed to Newfoundland and Labrador, its ISO code changed from CA-NF to CA-NL (a year later).

HASC codes (past, present, and future) observe the following rules:

Each country has a unique two-letter code, which is the same as its ISO 3166-1 code.   Each primary subdivision of a country has a two-letter code that is unique within its country.   Each secondary subdivision of a country has a code that is unique within its primary division.   Therefore, by concatenating the codes, you can create a unique code for each subdivision listed.   For example, US.NY.DU represents Dutchess county (DU), in New York state (NY), in the United States (US). used existing official codes wherever possible.  "Official" can mean various things, but he favored ISO 3166-2 codes.

The codes are mnemonic. They consist of the first letter in the subdivision name, followed by a letter that occurs later in that name, unless it was impossible to assign unique codes by that rule.

Mr. Law notes he intends to provide updates to these two-letter codes whenever geographical changes occur.  He will create a new code in each case where a subdivision's territorial extent changes, except for minor boundary adjustments. He will avoid reusing obsolete codes for as long as possible.

Primary divisions are exclusive and exhaustive within their country; secondary divisions are exclusive and exhaustive within their primary division, and so on. "Exclusive" means that no two divisions overlap; they have only boundary points in common, with an area of zero.  "Exhaustive" means that the set of subdivisions completely covers the area being subdivided.  All of the counties of Delaware, taken together, account for the entire territory of Delaware.  If there are cases where the official subdivisions don't meet these requirements, Mr. Law will modify them as needed.  For example, Christiansø, in Denmark, is technically not part of any subdivision of Denmark, but belongs directly to the nation. He has artificially called it part of the same division as nearby Bornholm.