

Haiti's Agriculture & Commerce Series of 1920

Aim: This 5-frame traditional exhibit documents the production and use the five stamps which comprise the Agriculture & Commerce series of 1920.

Scope: This exhibit includes the majority of ABNC archival material; the few printing errors which exist; a selection of town and paquebot cancels; covers with different points of origin, destinations, and/or rates; and, three stamps of this series which had "T.M." overprints applied. The period of use was extensive extending from 1920, beyond the Borno issue of 1924, to the late 1930s. For this reason, there was more than one printing for three values. Differences are to be observed between some printings, but not all, accordingly, except for specimens, different printings are not identified.



Only cover known franked with the complete series. Postmarked June 4, 1920, it is the earliest known use of the 3c and second earliest known use of 5c.

Background:

After Almost five years of surcharging under US control, an order was placed late in 1919 for a new series of postage stamps for both domestic and foreign mail. A series of 5 values was authorized, the designs being an Allegory of Agriculture on the 3c and 5c values, and an Allegory of Commerce on the 10c, 15c, and 25c values.

Their issuance was authorized by a decree of April 6, 1920. The 3c and 10c values were first issued on April 9, 1920. The remaining three values appeared April 19, 1920. The series was recess engraved, printed by the American Bank Note Company of New York on soft wove paper, single line perforated 12, and formatted in panes of 100 (10x10).

The 3c had three printings but the quantities printed for the 2nd and 3rd printings are not known; the 5c two printings, the 10c and 15c one each, and the 25c three.

Accordingly, **the quantities printed are:**

3c.....	500,000
5c.....	2,500,000
10c.....	500,000
15c.....	1,000,000
25c.....	2,700,000

In 1923 unknown quantities of the 5c, 10c, and 15c values were handstamped "T.M." (TIMBRE MOBILE) to convert these postage stamps into revenue stamps.

Rates: (explained in captions accompanying covers).

Rarity scale: The label "very rare" denotes items for which 2-5 examples are known or estimated to exist; "rare" 6 - 15; and "scarce" 16 - 100.

Some items of special significance are highlighted with double frames.

References:

- Huber, Harry E. "Haitian Pictorials, 1920", *The Stamp Lover*, 19:8 (Feb. 1927). <http://bit.ly/4IBF1Ry>
- _____. "Haitian Pictorials, 1920", *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, 42:38 (Sept. 17, 1928). <http://bit.ly/44KqvzM>
- Jeannopoulos, Peter C. "Haiti's Allegory of Agriculture & Commerce Series of 1920", *Haiti Philately*, 51:3 (Sept. 2025). <https://tinyurl.com/muzmywzk>