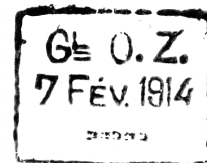


## SYNOPSIS

# Haiti's 1914 GL O.Z. Overprints on the 1906 - 1913 Series (a 5-frame exhibit)



Type 1



Type 2

**Aim:** (see Title Page)

**Scope:** The following are not included in this exhibit because examples are not known: (1) stamps not officially recorded by the Postal Administration as having had GL O.Z. overprints applied (i.e. 5c de piastre and 1c de gourde); (2) artist drawings or essays of this overprint; (3) the yellow 15c de piastre (1913) with a type 2 overprint without surcharge; (4) covers with the 1 piastre claret; and the 3c de g type 2 with normal overprint. If one uses the *Sellers Collection* (1974) as a standard, this exhibit includes more items of a special nature than it lacks.

**Challenge Factor:** Numerous items are the only known example or very rare, which makes replication of this exhibit impossible. Absent is a cover with the 15c slate green. Only three covers are known, ex-Sellers, which reside in a German collection. One is a highly over-franked 1915 philatelic cover, and the other two have 1919 postmarks. Also absent are specimens from an unknown archive (*Sellers Coll.*, v. 10, pp. 2-3), which are the only known examples and also reside in a German collection.

High values on cover (i.e. the 50c and 1 piastre are very rare or do not exist. As high values they were used on large envelopes or the wrappings of packages which were not saved. The only known, or documented, 50c de piastre yellow (1913) on cover is postmarked 26 Dec. 1923 which is in the collection of William Matthews. Absent from the *Sellers Collection* was the 50c yellow orange. Only three covers of the 50c red are known which are all postmarked Sept. 9, 1929. One was in the *Sellers Collection*, one in this exhibit, and another in the writer's collection which is not included because of a lack of space. Also absent from the *Sellers Collection* are covers franked with 1 piastre claret, and 1 piastre red.

Domestic covers of this period are generally scarce, rare, or very rare because few at the time were saved. If saved invariably, they suffered the ill effects of Haiti's hot and humid climate and often exhibit signs of mold and tropical staining. The survival rate was further reduced because business correspondence files were frequently destroyed by fires, hurricanes, revolutions, insects, etc. Holistically, a better collection of this issue is not known.

**Rarity scale** (see Title Page): Simply because more than one item is exhibited does not preclude it being rare (i.e. 4 covers each franked with 2c de piastre).

**Highlights** (see Title Page): Many varieties, 25 of which were not listed by Montès (1954). A wide variety of covers are exhibited which include: mourning, censored, postage due, rare destination (i.e. Toronto); rare point of origin (i.e. Dame Marie), paquebot (i.e. Dutch negative cancel, one of two known, both included in this exhibit); internal or domestic covers; rare - very rare frankings and rare points of origin; only known cover with a stamp without a GL O.Z. overprint during Zamor's tenure; and only known cover with a GL O.Z. variety of any kind - a double overprint of a 3c orange yellow on a vertical strip of three.

**Research:** The exhibitor has specialized in collecting the stamps of Haiti since 1975. As a result he has had the opportunity to know the best collectors and to view their collections in their homes, as well as at exhibitions. In order to determine rarity, collectors have been queried whether certain items are present in their collection or not, regularly visited stamp shops, bourses at national and international shows, and perused auction catalogs.

Except in a general way, despite the large number of stamps overprinted in 1914 with GL O.Z. overprints, little has been written. In 2023, the exhibitor authored a series of articles in *Haiti Philately* which addressed these overprints for the first time enabling collectors to identify genuine stamps, forgeries, and be aware of what varieties exist (see references).

Until today catalogs have inadvertently misled collectors by illustrating only one type of overprint when there are two. Only a few years ago was an accurate representation of one of the two overprints illustrated. Previously, the catalog illustration hardly resembled either of the two genuine overprints. How then was a collector to determine if overprints are genuine or not?

As the overprint was applied by hand, the same overprint can be vary markedly in appearance. The most often encountered varieties are the inverted overprints.

Increasingly scarce are double overprints, diagonal [*sic*], and omitted overprints. All omitted overprints, all varieties on the 7c de piastre gray, and all multiples with multiple examples of varieties are considered *very rare*. One would think that diagonal overprints of 45° or more would be common as the overprints were applied individually by hand.

25 varieties not included by Montès (1954) in his catalog, are included in this exhibit. Each is considered rare-very rare, if one counts blocks of four or larger as one unit.

GL O.Z. overprint varieties are not common and believed to have been deliberately created. Some rare-very rare. Numerous forgeries of the 1902 provisional and 1c and 2c surcharges of 1906-7, with and without varieties, have made many collectors think that many forgeries, of many types, exist of GL O.Z. overprinted stamps. This has been in large part responsible for minimizing the catalog value of normal stamps and especially the value of overprint varieties. The relative scarcity of GL O.Z. varieties without surcharges vis-a-vis the many surcharge varieties of 1915-1920 on stamps with GL O.Z. overprints suggests otherwise. These according to Samuel Dalsimer (1962) were applied by US Marines who were not particularly conscientious or precise how overprints were applied. As a result more surcharge varieties of stamps, with and without GL O.Z. overprints, exist than are found on stamps which had only GL O.Z. overprints applied in 1914.

Not all stamps had GL O.Z. overprints applied in 1914. Surcharges were applied in 1915-1920 to a large number of many different stamps which did not have GL O.Z. overprints by US Marines from 1915-1920.

Forgeries were created for collectors and not to defraud the postal service. Despite 16 different types of GL O.Z. forgeries cataloged or identified on several other issues, forgeries are known only on two stamps of this series. Forgeries are not common on this issue and multiples are rare.

The EKU of any GL O.Z. stamp on cover is post-marked June 28, 1914. Only one cover franked with a stamp without a GL O.Z. overprint is known used stamp Zamor was deposited by revolution on Oct. 29, 1914. Afterwards covers franked with overprinted and non-overprinted stamps are common. The period of use of GL O.Z. overprinted stamps extends from 1914 to 1920 when the Allegory & Commerce series was released in April 1920. This exhibit includes many examples of early use, as well as late use of stamps on and off covers. It ought not be assumed that all values were released simultaneously

It is paradoxical that 1914-1920 internal or domestic covers franked with 1c and 2c de gourde stamps

are in most cases *rare* or *very rare*. There evidently was much domestic mail as the supply of these values were the first depleted. As an expediency stamps had 1c and 2c surcharges applied to many stamps of higher value. Few domestic covers survived because of environmental factors and that few in Haiti were interested in preserving postal history

Covers with cancels other than Port-au-Prince or Cap-Haitien cancels are more often encountered before the US occupation than during. This can be explained by the fact that in an effort to limit smuggling ports such as Jacmel, Cayes, etc. were no longer a legal entry points for cargo. The commercial importance of these towns diminished considerably with a corresponding decrease of business correspondence. Cap Town cancels are more often found on stamps denominated in centimes de gourde, rather than centimes de piastre, because these were the stamps used on inter-town and intra-town mail.

Imbalances in this exhibit between type 1 and type 2, largest known multiples, varieties, and covers reflect the scarcity or the non-existence of such items.

All values had two printings except the 1c which had three printings. Montès in his catalog differentiated printings by the color or tone of the paper. This is not realistic or practical. While some differences are to be observed for some values, it is not possible to do so for all values in a consistent and accurate way. For this reason, the exhibitor in his catalog of overprint varieties did not identify varieties according to printing (*HP*, 49:4, Dec. 2023).

Only when more data is collected and more research accomplished will more questions will be answered.

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