

Haiti's 1914 GL O.Z. Leconte Stamps



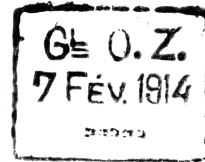
1c de gourde
Type 1,
reading up.



Type 1
with the point
directly above
the first "1" of
"1914".



2c de gourde
Type 2,
reading down.



Type 2
with the point slightly
to the left of the first
"1" of "1914".



5c de piastre
Type 2,
reading down.

Aim: This is a comprehensive 1-frame traditional exhibit of three stamps issued in 1912 depicting Pres. Cincinnatus Leconte which had GL O.Z. overprints applied in 1914.

Organization: The stamps are presented according to denomination beginning with the 1c de gourde, the 2c de gourde and the 5c de piastre. For each unused, used, overprint varieties, and covers are included.

Background: Two similar but different overprints, designated type 1 and type 2 (illustrated above), were applied by hand. The initials are those of General Oreste Zamor who seized power in Feb. 1914.

The 1c and 2c de gourde stamps were intended to be used on domestic or internal mail. The Postal Tariff of 1906 stipulated that mail addressed abroad had to be franked in centimes de piastre, a stable unit of currency backed by gold. This demand was made by the Universal Postal Union because of runaway inflation. A piastre was equal to \$1.00 US and consisted of 100 centimes. The foreign single weight letter rate was 5 centimes de piastre per 15 grams or fraction thereof.

One of the two types of overprint were applied to 150,000 of the one million 1c de gourde stamps printed in 1912; 100,000 of the one million 2c de gourde stamps printed; and 100,000 of 500,000 the 5c de piastre stamps printed. It is not recorded how many stamps had a type 1 or type 2 overprint applied.

Type 1 has the point directly above the first "1" of "1914" and type 2 has the point slightly to the left of the "1". As the overprints were applied by hand, rather than letterpress, each type can vary considerably in appearance. For this reason multiple examples of the same stamp are included. Being that the Leconte stamps are vertical in format, the overprint was intended to be applied vertically, reading up or down.

Oreste Zamor's tenure was brief, as on October 20, 1914, after only 8 months 10 days, he was deposed by revolution. The stamps with the GL O.Z. overprints continued to be used until April 1920 when the Allegory of Agriculture & Commerce series was released. It will be observed the cancels dates, on and off cover, that the period of use was mostly 1914-1915.

Highlights:

- Earliest known use on cover of the 1c de gourde;
- Earliest known use on cover of the 2c de gourde;
- Earliest known use on cover of the 5c de piastre;
- 12 rare - very rare overprint varieties, three of which were not listed by Montès (1954);
- Rare - very rare inter-town and intra-town covers with frankings of 1c, 2c, 7c, and 9c; and,
- Only known postal card posted during Zamor's tenure without a GL O.Z. overprint on the indicia.

Rarity: Items of special significance are highlighted with a red frame. Stamps are designated *only known example, very rare* (5 or fewer examples known or estimated to exist, or *rare* (6-10 known or estimated to exist).

References:

- Beier, Manfred. "Quantities of the Provisional Overprints, 1914-1920." *Haiti Philately*, 49:2 (June 2023), pp. 20-25.
- Jeannopoulos, Peter C. "GL O.Z. Overprints of 1914," *Haiti Philately*, 49:1 - 4 (Mar. - Dec. 2023).
- Montès, Léon. *La Timbrologie Haïtienne, 1881 - 1954*. Port-au-Prince: Editions Deschamps, 1954.
- Munk, Dr. Herbert. *Kohl Briefmarken Handbuch*, 1933. *The F. Burton Sellers Collection*, vol. 11. Published by the Haiti Philatelic Society, 1974.