

# HAITI

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1881 - AN 78 - 10 CENTIMES - REVERSE



### 1881 - AN 78 -10 CENTIMES - OBV

HAITI, REPUBLIC of PARIS MINT			
10 CENTIMOS	18MM	.835 FINE	2.5 GRAMS

1881 AN 78	1,500,000	HA#57
1882 AN 79	1,800,000	HA#58
1886 AN 83	1,500,000	HA#59
1887 AN 84	1,050,000	HA#60
1890 AN 87	1,000,000	HA#61
1894 AN 91	3,729,056	HA#62

▲OV: Liberty head, facing right, • REPUBLIQUE D' HAÏTI, above AN (DATE) (computed from the Haitian revolution in 1803) 835 MILL • DATE • 2,5 GRAMS • below. / R. and L. under bust.

▼RV: Arms of the Republic, motto on ribbon below: L'UION FAIT LA FORCE (Strength through Unity) (flower) LIBERTE • EGALITE • FRATERNITE (Liberty - Equality - Fraternity) around, • (cornucopia) • 10 CENTes • (fasces) below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (cornucopia) = PARIS

DESIGNER: R. = Louis Oscar Roty  
L. = Laforestrie

ENGRAVER: (fasces) = Jean LaGrange 1880-96

MARK: (flower) = unknown

POPULATION: Haiti - 1892 - 850,000 with the capital - Port-au-Prince with 35,000 inhabitants.

REFERENCE: Y-6, KM-35

*Coins of Haiti by Carmen Arroyo, San Antonio, 1970*  
*200 Anos de Numismatica Haitiana, C.I. Rudman, 1985*



### Arms of Hayti

FOOTNOTE: Hayti: (Indian), "High Land" or "Mountainous country".

FOOTNOTE: The monetary unit, gourde, divided into 100 centimes, takes its name from an incident created by King Christophe who confiscated all the gourdes on Haiti, requiring the natives to sell their coffee for gourdes, he then exported the coffee to Europe, being paid in hard currency, thus establishing Haiti with a strange currency backed by bullion. The new silver coinage minted in Paris starting in 1881 was based on the standards of the Latin Monetary Union as provided by the Monetary Law of 1880 with the gourde equivalent to the silver 5 franc of the Latin Union. By 1900 the population was 960,000 with the capital, Port-au-Prince with 40,000 inhabitants. The new coinage did not last long as a note in the *Annual Report of the U.S. Director of the Mint* for fiscal year ended June 1909 states "The actual currency of the country of Haiti is inconvertible paper, nickel and copper coins."

FOOTNOTE: Haiti originally was one of the richest and most important French Colonies. It occupied the western portion of the Island of Hispanola in the Caribbean. An uprising of the natives, mostly slaves imported from Africa, under the leadership of Toussaint L'Overture "The first of the blacks" was successful in driving out the French. After a twenty year struggle the country declared the first black independent Republic in 1803. Dates on the coinage of Haiti carry both the A.D. date and a dating system, first established with the French revolution on French coinage of Napoleon I, the number counting from the year of Haitian Independence.

FOOTNOTE: Slave Trade - The history of slave trade was greatly stimulated by the discovery that African slaves could be profitably used to cultivate the vast plantations of the New World. The English navigator Hawkins had carried a cargo of three hundred negroes from Sierra Leone to Hispanola in 1562 and so introduced English seamen to a business in which Portugal, Spain, and Holland were already engaged. It is estimated that previous to 1776 at least three million slaves were imported into French, Spanish, and English Colonies. The Congress of Vienna in 1815 declared this most atrocious practice contrary to the principles of human rights and civilization. Finally in March of 1807 three weeks after the United States Congress had forbidden the importation of slaves, Parliament prohibited Englishmen from engaging in the slave trade followed by Sweden in 1813 and Holland a year later. England abolished slavery in all her colonies in 1833.

FOOTNOTE; Hayti, now an independent negro republic, forms one of the most peculiar and interesting portions of the New World. It is a very fine island, situated between Jamaica and Porto Rico, about 450 miles in length, and 110 in breadth. In the center rises the lofty range of the mountains of Cibao, of which the peak of La Serrania rises to the height of 9000 feet. The principal productions of the island are, coffee, the sugar-cane (which is chiefly employed in the making of taffia, the ordinary rum of the country), and cotton. This was the first large island discovered by Columbus, who landed there on 5th of December 1492, and made it under the name of hispaniola, the seat of his first colony. That great man, however, soon lost all control over the Spanish adventurers, who gave full scope to their cruelty and rapacity. The gold, which was then found in considerable abundance, formed the chief object of their avidity; and the unhappy natives, forced to labour in the mines, and otherwise inhumanly treated, were in the end completely exterminated. The gold being in some degree exhausted, and its amount completely eclipsed by that of Mexico and Peru, Hispaniola, called now St. Domingo, was in a great degree neglected. About the middle of the seventeenth century, a daring band of French buccaneers established themselves in the western districts. They were supported by the French government, which ultimately became possessed of this part of the island. The French revolution caused an extraordinary change in the state of Hayti. In 1791 the Assembly caused to be proclaimed throughout the island their favourite doctrine, that all men were free and equal. This proclamation gave rise, in the first instance, to a contest between the white and free coloured population. But while these parties were contending for the application of the principle, the slaves felt that it applied also to them. They rose in a body, massacred or drove out the other two classes, and became entire masters of French St. Domingo. This revolution, with the excesses which accompanied it, soon ended, like other revolutions, in a military despotism, which was established in 1806 by Dessalines, who assumed the title of James I. He was succeeded by Christophe, his second in command, who named himself Henry I., hereditary King of Hayti. Meantime, the Republic of Hayti was established in another part of the island, under the presidency, first of Petion, and then of Boyer.

FOOTNOTE: There was no coinage in this series dated 1888-1889 as a civil war raged in Haiti between two Generals; Legitime and Hippolyte, who were rival candidates for the Presidency.

FOOTNOTE: Haiti is essentially a mountainous island. Steep escarpments, leading to rugged uplands of the interior, reach almost everywhere down to the shores, leaving only here and there a few strips of beach. *Encyclopaedia Britannica, Eleventh Edition, 1911.*



The Island of Hispaniola  
Republic of Haiti on west side

FOOTNOTE: The author considers this series the rarest of all the *Modern Silver Dime Size Coins of the World* with large mintages struck by major mints, in 'Gem-Uncirculated' condition. Only a few coins, probably from specimen sets retained by the Paris mint, or for presentation to officials exist in this condition. The people of Haiti have always been so poor that few coins were hoarded. Quite a few of this issue found their way to other countries where they were saved, but in general they are of a fairly circulated condition. The finest condition can be noted by the high relief of the palm frond at the top center of the tree. Adding to the beauty of the coin is the wonderful intricate work of the designers and the execution of the Paris mint to the standards of the Latin Monetary Union. Proofs for 1881, 1882 and 1887 are known. The obverse of the full series are shown below.



1881  
AN 78



1882  
AN 79



1886  
AN 83



1887  
AN 84



1890  
AN 87



1894  
AN 91



1894 -10 CENTIMOS - AN 91 - REV