Occasional Paper N° 20

Bryant C. Freeman

Eighty-Eight Historical and Present-Day Maps of Saint-Domingue/Haiti, its Sites, Towns, and Islands

Institute of Haitian Studies
University of Kansas
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N° 17  -  Frederic Doret, Les Premiers Pas dans la Grammaire. 1998. Pp. vii-75. A grammar in Haitian (etymological orthography) and in French contrasting the two languages, with pioneering insights concerning the former (1925). Introduction in English.


Available through: Mount Oread Bookshop
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
Tel.: (785) 864-4431
This is the twentieth in a series of materials concerning Haiti to be made more readily available on a non-profit basis through the University of Kansas Institute of Haitian Studies. Essentially, there are no really excellent maps of Haiti, and perhaps there never will be. The reason is that Haiti, outside of its major towns, is made up of perhaps thousands of small communities which bear a name, but with ill-defined or non-existent boundaries, consisting of huts spread out over a rather imprecise rural area without any specific center formalized by one or more streets, administrative buildings, or even rudimentary commercial establishments. This impreciseness is reflected in what theoretically should be a simple matter, such as the limits of a commune or rural section as defined by the central government. However, depending upon the official agency reporting, Haiti is divided into 126, or 133, or 135 communes, and 561, or 563, or 566 rural sections.

By far the most detailed maps of Haiti have been prepared by the U.S. Army Map Service, Corps of Engineers, originally compiled using photogrammetric surveys by engineers of the Geodetic Service with the cooperation of the Armed Forces of Haiti. Each of these more than 90 maps measures 20\(\frac{1}{4}\)" by 14\(\frac{1}{4}\)", with a wealth of detail showing not only localities but also trails often down even to footpaths. Unfortunately they are available for limited distribution only, as authorized by the U.S. Department of Defense. Less detailed but more easily obtained are the five excellent maps each measuring 25" by 18" prepared and published under the direction of the Department of Defense by the U.S. Army Topographic Command and which, in recent years, could be purchased from the Institut Haitien de Statistiques, boulevard Harry Truman, Port-au-Prince.

For practical purposes: 1) the Association Hoteliere et Touristique d'Haiti and the Office National du Tourisme publish jointly a road map of the country, 17\(\frac{1}{4}\)" x 131\(\frac{1}{4}\)", with on the opposite side a map of Port-au-Prince and Petion-Ville, an abbreviated map of Jacmel, and a misleading one of Cape-Haitian; 2) the Texaco Company also distributes a road map of Haiti, 18\(\frac{3}{4}\)" x 13\(\frac{3}{4}\)", with on the opposite side a general map of greater Port-au-Prince and an adequate map of Cape-Haitian; 3) by far the best detailed map of Port-au-Prince is the one prepared by the Service de Signalisation Routiere d'Haiti, 27" x 251\(\frac{1}{4}\)", with on the opposite side an excellent detailed map of greater Petion-Ville, 13" x 17\(\frac{1}{4}\)" with as well a good road map of the country as a whole, 17\(\frac{1}{4}\)" x 14". To the best of our knowledge, this last map is presently on sale only at the Presse Evangélique, 27 boulevard Harry Truman, Port-au-Prince (tel.: 22-4045). The first two are, or were, distributed free of charge at various tourist locations.

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The present general collection of 88 maps is divided into eight categories, as described in the Table of Contents, and generally arranged in chronological order for each locality. We have included a wide array, some quite professional, others rudimentary, but each we hope can be of use in better understanding Haiti past and present. For ones representing former periods, dates are indicated as nearly as possible. The oldest—and probably most historic—is the rough sketch of the northern coast of Hispaniola by Christopher Columbus drawn in December 1492 or January 1493 on his first trip to the New World (p. 32). The most recent traces the deployment of U.S. Army Special Forces during the recent "Intervasion" in 1994 which ended a bloody three-year reign of terror (p. 31). As is to be expected, military history is unfortunately quite present, from the Revolutionary period (pp. 33, 34, 35, 36, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68), the Caco resistance (pp. 37, 41), to the arrival of the United States and United Nations forces (pp. 29, 30, 31).

The best sources for the historical maps here are, expectedly, Moreau de Saint-Mery and Thomas Madiou. For the excellent historical maps of Port-au-Prince we have of course to thank principally the true scholar of the capital's history, Georges Corvington. Besides Port-au-Prince, probably the only satisfactory town maps here are for Petion-Ville, Cape-Haitian, and Jacmel. Those for Cayes, Gonâves, Hince, Jeremie, Port-de-Paix, and Saint-Marc are cursory, but are perhaps for the present better than nothing. In addition one would like to have at least some sort of indication of the lay-out of Fort-Liberte, Milot, Jean-Rabel, Limbe, Plaisance, Pilate, Dessalines, Mirebalais, LeogSne, Petit-Goave, Miragoane, Aquin, to name only a few. The two informative maps of Sans-Souci (pp. 78, 79) were furnished surprisingly by a somewhat forgotten source, Mabel Steedman's *Unknown to the World: Haiti.* The line of demarcation between Christophe's Kingdom and Petion's and Boyer's Republic, 1807-1820 (p. 11) is surprising, but is as indicated in Hubert Cole's authoritative biography of Haiti's only king (however cf. p. 10).

As shown in the present collection, the island of Hispaniola as a whole was divided into five sections or caciquats before the European incursion (p. 4), into six sections under Boyer (p. 12), and has formed two countries since 1844 (p. 5). Not shown are the five sections defined by Toussaint Louverture's 1801 Constitution: West, North, South, Ozama, and Cibao, for which we have not yet found an exact delineation—if ever there was one. During the nominally Spanish period (1492-1697) the island was presumably not divided into political sections.

Saint-Domingue, officially under the French 1697-1803, was divided into three provinces (p. 7). Haiti from 1804 to 1806 under Emperor Jacques Ier (Dessalines) was divided into four geographic sections (p. 9); into two sections from 1807 to 1820 with (first a State, 1807-1811, and then) a Kingdom under King Henry (Christophe) and a Republic first under President Alexandre Petion (1807-1818) and then under President Jean-Pierre Boyer (1818-1820) (pp. 10, 11); and from 1844 to the Duvalier regime into five geographic departments (pp. 13, 14, 19). Beginning with Francois Duvalier and into the present, Haiti is divided into nine geographic departments (pp. 17, 18, 23, 26, 27, 28). Of course there have as well been ephemeral divisions of the country, such as in 1811 when it was split four ways: Christophe in the North, Petion in the West, Rigaud in the South, and Goman in the Grand'Anse; or under Sylvain Salnave in 1868 when Nissage Saget...
proclaimed himself provisional president of a Republic of the North and Michel Domingue proclaimed the Meridional State of the South.

Surprisingly, changes of place names here are less frequent than might be expected. Besides the obvious Ayiti (p. 4) -> Saint-Domingue/Sendonmeng (pp. 6, 7, 8) Haiti/Ayiti (pp. 9-31), we do not find Port-Republicain which was long the name for Port-au-Prince beginning in Revolutionary times, or La Coupe which was the original name of Petion-Ville, but we do find the incomplete progression Cap-Francis (p. 57) -> Cap-Franfois -> Cap-Haitien -> Cap-Henry (p. 11) Cap-Haitien/Le Cap/Kap Ayisyen/Okap (on all other maps where listed). Fort-Dauphin (pp. 6, 8, 11, 33, 65), however, becomes Fort-Liberte/Folibete (on all other maps where listed); Cabaret (pp. 14, 24) -> Duvalierville/Divalyevil (pp. 15, 16, 17, 20, 21) -> Cabaret (pp. 21) (cf Santo Domingo -> Ciudad Trujillo -> Santo Domingo); and Saltreu/Riviere du Sale Trou (pp. 6, 8, 14, 20, 24, 25) Belle-Anse (pp. 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25). This last name change, during the Duvalier era, was reportedly made at the request of the citizens of this town in the South-Eastern Department which had unfortunately evolved from the original Sel-Trou, thanks to nearby salt mines. A similar transformation has not, however, been effected for its small neighboring community of Pot-de-Chambre (appearing only on the detailed U.S. Army maps mentioned above).

Included among the islands is of course Navassa (p. 85) which, thanks to recent scientifically interesting biological discoveries there, is now more than ever disputed between Haiti and the United States. Grande Caye, or Grosse Caye (p. 81), is far less important in size than the other five (by decreasing size: La Gonave, La Tortue, lie a Vache, Grande Cayemitte, Navassa, Grande Caye), but is included here principally because it is specifically listed in Haitian constitutions.

It is hoped that the present modest collection can prove informative, while awaiting subsequent editions as other interesting maps come to our attention.

Bryant Freeman
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lisle Espagnole sous ie nom Indien d'Hayf/par le Sr. D'Anville, geographe. Mai 1731. (partiel)
CARTE
DE LA PARTIE FRANçAISE
de ST DOMINGUE

d'apres la carte manuscrit de B nr. 14629
flu d'apartr intut des CaHus et Plans de la Bibliothèque
Nationale.

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Saint Domingue, c. 1770.

Courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University.
AYITI APRE LINDEPANDANS
1804-1806
Lil la séparé an dé (2) mosa.
The Kingdom of Haiti and the Republic of Haiti
Major towns of Haiti, with (inset) Caribbean region
AYITI

A. Depatman No a  
B. Depatman Nddes la  
C. Depatman Nodwes la  
D. Depatman Latibonit la  
E. Depatman Santral la  
F. Depatman Lw&s la  
G. Depatman Sides la  
H. Depatman Sid la  
I. Depatman Grandans la.
FAd'H military and police locations
Headquarters Multinational Force Haiti

2d BCT/10 MTN DIV
2-87 SN
2-14 IN
TF 2-25 AVN
CARICOM
Guatemala Cont

Operations Center

MNF locations

16th MP BDE

Other Units in PAP
TF Raleigh HQS
20th ENG GRP
525 ML BDE
TF Signal
Log Support CMD
10th DiSCOM
44th MED BDE
JPOTF
AFFOR (FWD)
IPM Headquarters
CMOC and HACC

1st BCT/10 MTN DIV
1-87 IN
2-22 IN
1-22 IN

TF Mountain
3-14 IN
Bangladesh BN
B/3-15 MECH

TF Raleigh HQS
20th ENG GRP
525 ML BDE
TF Signal
Log Support CMD
10th DiSCOM
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JPOTF
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Columbus' Map: Dec. 1492 - Jan. 1493
Saint Domingue, North Province:
Geographic and chronological representation of insurrectionary slave movement, 22-26 August 1791,
(Map by Lucien J. Goupil)
5Ystemé defensif de la Plaine du Nord
MAP OF FT. CAPOIS & FT. RIVIERE OPERATIONS HAITI 1915
MADE BY 5 TK CO USMC

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Selon
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N RAFAEL

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Carte d'opération, 1915.
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Only along major roads.

* Many people must walk.
Over roughous roads.

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n 7
Plan des habitations Fortin, Belin et Morel, futur site de la ville de Port-au-Prince (1723).

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. (Collection Peter Frisch)
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"Recueil de vues de lieux principaux de Saint-Domingue"
Plan de la Ville de Port-au-Prince (1785).

"Recueil de vues de lieux principaux de Saint-Domingue".
Plan de la Ville de Port-au-Prince

1897

L. Gentil Tippenhauer — Bibliotheque de Saint-Louis de Gonzague
PLANE DE LA VILLE DE PORT-AU-PRINCE.

Échelle : 1 cm = 25 mètres

Étalement et mètres du niveau moyen de l'eau

1927
— Port-au-Prince. Le développement historique de la ville.
1. Limites actuelles de la ville ; 2. Limites de la ville coloniale (1749-1750) ; 3. Principaux accroissements ; 4. Ligne de separation des deux premiers quartiers ; 5. Trace du ravage à la fin du XVIIIe siècle ; L Courbe de niveau; P.N. Palais national; H. Hotel de Ville ; C. Cathédrale ; E. Eglise Sainte-Anne ; P.C. Port de commerce.
— Port-au-Prince. Les principales zones de la ville.

1 et 2 zone urbaine ancienne debordant à VEst le trace colonial (2 quartier des affaires) ;
3. Quartiers populaires ; 4. Cites ouvrières ; 5. Zone industrielle ; 6. Quartiers residen-
tiels ; 7. Cite de l’Exposition et « trouée de verdure » ; P.N. Palais national; C. Cathed-
drale ; PC Port de commerce.
- (port-au-prince)

1 National Palace
2 Casernes Dessalines
3 Police Headquarters
4 FAH Headquarters
5 Hopital General
6 Penitencier (Former TArrondissement*)
7 Douane (custom house)
8 Catholic Cathedral
9 Episcopal Cathedral
10 Hotel Sans Souci
11 Cine Rex (theater)
12 Peters Bakery
13 Petit Seminaire de St. Martial
14 College St. Louis de Gonzague
15 Church of St. Anne
16 Hotel Splendid
17 Church of Sacred Coeur
18 Marche de Fer
19 Batterie St. Clair
20 Hotel de France
21 Banque Nationale
22 Dan Aliens Restaurant
23 Fort Dimanche
24 Fort National
25 Portail St. Joseph
26 Church of St. Joseph
27 Turgeau Tennis Club
28 Hotel Olafsson
29 Cimetiere Exterieur
30 Portail LSogane
31 American Embassy
32 French Embassy
33 Hopital St Francois
34 Champ de Mars
35 Place d'Independence

in port ~ a u - p e c e Bay

BIZOTON MARTISSANT
Marchés de Port-au-Prince /
Mache Pòtoprens
**LIEUX D'INTERÊT**

1. Abattoir
2. Asile de Vieillards
3. Banque Nationale de la République (Haiti)
4. Brique Bouteille
5. Bibliothèque
6. Bureau de la Police
7. Bureau de l'office des Contributions
8. Service Hygiénique et Télégraphes Terrestre et Télégraphe Postal
9. Casernes K.L.I.H.
10. Cathédrale
11. Chalet (A Vatican)
12. Centre de Santé
13. Collège Assuratif
14. Direction de l'Agriculture
15. École de Droit
16. École des Frères
17. École des Soeurs
18. École de Musique
19. Ecole Normale Mme. P. E. Magloire
20. Ecole Professionnelle
21. Église
22. Église
23. Église
24. Église
25. Ecole de Droit
26. École Perpétuelle
27. École de Musique
28. École de Musique
29. École de Musique
30. École de Musique
31. Night Club
32. Poste de Police (Barriers Bouteille)
33. Préfecture
34. Prison
35. Réserve d'Eau
36. Salle des Spectacles
37. Station Texací Pont Hyppolite
38. Tribunal Civil
39. Usine Électrique
40. Usine S.H.A.D.J.A. (Sisal)

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The city and environs of les Cayes, with its forts, batteries, and defense positions, by order of division general Brunet, year 11 (1803).
Vian dt (a Citadett Henry
Plan du siège de la Crete-a-Pierrot
d'après Poyen
• fccoltt
Hinche / Rench
Caribbean Sea
Merdes Caraibes

Jacmel / Ja Kmél
Plan de Pétionville, par Justin D. Bouzon
Plan de la Petite Rivière de Leogane (1685).

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. (Collection Peter Frisch)
Christ's Reign
At the rear of the building, stretching the width of the entrance and overlapping the back of the banqueting halls, is the huge Throne Room with domed roof. Many rooms command a lovely view from the rear of the building.

S = Sentry Box.
1 = Grand Staircase.
2 = Main Entrance.
3 = Ornamental doors which did not open.
4 = Marble arch from under which water escaped after flowing under the rooms.
5 = Auditorium and overlapping the back of the banqueting halls.
6 = Audience Chamber.
7 = Library.
8 = King's study.
9 = Apartments of two princesses.
10 = Apartments of two princesses.
11 = Rooms of household staff.
12 = Secretary of State.
13 = Probably an ante-room to the Audience Chamber. Purpose not known for certain.