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SERVICE STAMPS OF CEYLON.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF L. BERGER IN "DAS PORTWERTZEICHEN,"
BY HENRY HECHLER.

THE uncertainty existing regarding the year of emission of these stamps is as great as in the cataloguing of their values. Particularly the 4d. stamp. (Herein Pemberton makes an exception, in that he puts a question (?) to it. But he complicates the matter further by stating that the surcharge was in red). Moens, Lindenberg and Senf also note the same. The two last named quote the buying price at 50 marks. There are other sources of information which state the contrary. For instance, "The Memoires du Congres international des Timbrophiles," Paris, 1878, pp. 114, 115. The P. O. Department of Ceylon had at the Paris World's exposition a large tableau which represented all postal and fiscal stamps of that colony. Under the "Service" series the 4d. stamp was entirely omitted. Mr. Anns, our authority for the above, states in his report: "This stamp was never seen by any collector." The same may also be said of the 1s. dark violet. All those seen by me and also those in my possession are a light grey-mauve. It may be supposed that the stock of 1s. was used up and that the authorities were obliged to order a new lot and that in printing the latter they came of a lighter or a darker shade than the former had been. This would really make two varieties. Should, therefore the 1s. service stamps have existed in two shades they would count as varieties. (Moens gives two colors—violet vif and pale lilac. Further he makes a typographical error by quoting 2s. pale lilac. I have taken all possible trouble to secure this stamp but without success.

Two of the latest German hand-books both agree that there was no variation in the type of the surcharge. Teltz and Lindenburg give the description of the surcharge and say the same as those hand-books. Still every collector knows that there were two types of the surcharge. Such mistakes should be avoided as they are never correct and only tend to complicate matters. Hand books, guides and pamphlets purporting to be authorities, should be so accurate that collectors can depend upon them. Therefore publishers of such works should be extremely careful, so that the philatelic world can rely upon them.

To catalogue the service stamps of Ceylon—if they are of a character to be collected which is to be disputed—we will compile as below. At present we regard them as authenticated until other and further enquiries produce different and new evidence on the subject.