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## The First Type of the Stamps of Greece.

[By the Editor.]

The stamps of Greece from 1800 to 1862 have always been a series of puzzles to the majority of collectors. No general catalogue, except perhaps Kohl's "Europa," contains even an approximately complete list of these interesting stamps, systematically arranged. Senf's catalogue gives a great many varieties, important and unimportant, but there is no attempt at classification. The aim of this article is to assist collectors to identify the different issues and to give the earlier stamps of Greece an orderly arrangement in their albums. Of the issue of November, 1860, Paris print, it is not necessary to say much. There is a 1 lepton, reddish brown, which is rarer than the dark brown. The darker shade of the 20 lepta, blue, and the rosier shade of the 80 lepta, carmine, are not so commonly met with. The Paris print stamps are easily recognized by the fine shading on the neck and cheek of Mercury, the lines being dotted. The 5, 20, 40 and 80 lepta have no control figures on the back, which sufficiently distinguishes them from the same values in the issues immediately following.

November, 1860, Paris print :

1. 1 lepton, dark brown.
2. 1 .. reddish brown.
3. 2 lepta, olive-brown.
4. 5 .. emerald-green on greenish.
5. 20 .. bright blue on bluish.
6. 20 .. dark blue on bluish.
7. 40 .. violet on gray-blue.
8. 80 .. carmine-rose on pale rose.
9. 80 .. dark carmine on pale rose.

1861. Paris print. Large control figures on back:

10. 10 lepta, yellow-orange on greenish.

In January, 1862, the first printing

was done at Athens, and it was much superior to the work of later issues. The 2 lepta appears to differ only in shade from that of 1860. The 5 lepta is not so well printed, and has on the back a figure 5 double-lined all through. The 20 lepta has fine neck-shading, control figures on the back and white patches in the corners. The dark shade of this stamp is quite scarce.

January, 1862. Athens print. The 5 and 20 lepta with control figures on back :

11. 2 lepta, yellow-brown.
12. 5 .. yellow-green on greenish.
13. 5 .. dark green on greenish.
14. 5 .. blue-green on greenish.
15. 20 .. pale blue on bluish.
16. 20 .. dark blue on bluish.

Later in this year there were other printings, including the 1 lepton and the 10, 40 and 80 lepta values. The earlier printings were clear, but the frequent subsequent ones of this and other years were increasingly coarse and blotted. Many colors and qualities of paper were employed, and varieties were multiplied almost *ad infinitum*. A set of the seven values can readily be found in clear, fine print and distinctive shades, which may safely be assigned to the spring of 1862.

March, 1862. Athens print. Clear impression. All but the 1 and 2 lepta with control figures on back:

17. 1 lepton, dark brown.
18. 2 lepta, yellow-brown.
19. 5 .. emerald-green on greenish.
20. 10 .. yellow-orange on ..
21. 20 .. bright blue on bluish.
22. 40 .. violet on gray-blue.
23. 80 .. carmine-rose on pale rose.

The control figure on the back of No. 19 and later 5 lepta stamps differs from that on Nos. 12-14. The upright stroke connecting the body with the tail of the 5 is now single lined.

1862-70. Coarse impression; blotted