

THE STAMPS OF GUINEA.

UNTIL the 24th May, 1879, the Portugese Colonies of Guinea and the Cape Verde were under the same postal administration, both colonies using the same stamps, those of Cape Verde. After the date mentioned they were formed into separate provinces with separate administrations, and with this commences the history of the postage stamps of Guinea. To furnish stamps for the use of the new province, the stamps of Cape Verde were taken and sent to the Government printers at Bolama the capital of Guinea, and there surcharged GUINÉ. The surcharge is in small letters being only 2 mm. high and 9 mm. long. The surcharge was done by means of a hand stamp. The exact date cannot now be agreed upon, but the stamps thus surcharged were probably sent to Cochen in the beginning of 1881, about the same period at which the stamps with the large surcharge arrived from the metropolis (Lisbon.)

The series consist of the first issue of Cape Verde printed on thin paper perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, the most of those stamps are not gummed. The following are the colors and values:—

5	reis	black,	Black Surcharge.
10	"	yellow,	"
20	"	bistre,	"
25	"	rose,	"
40	"	blue,	"
50	"	green,	"
100	"	lilac,	"
200	"	orange,	"
300	"	brown,	"
Error,			"
Mocambique instead on Cape Verde in circle.			
40	reis,	blue,	black surcharge.

The sheet in which this error is found is composed of seven horizontal strips of stamps by four deep. The error is the seventh stamp on the second strip.

All the values are found without accent, and the 100 lilac will be found with a triple surcharge. 100 reis, lilac, triple surcharge.

On the 1st April, 1881, the stamps for Guinea, surcharged at Lisbon, arrived in the Colony. The surcharge is printed in black and measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in height by $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in length. The following are the quantities of the stamps sent:—

2000	stamps of	25	reis,	dark	rose,	black	surcharge.
2000	"	50	"	dark	green,	"	
1300	"	100	"	lilac,	"		

In all the preceding the stamps are printed in sheets of twenty-eight, the 1st and 2nd stamps on the 3rd line, and the 4th stamp on the 4th line have the surcharge with the accent *grave* instead of *acute*, and all the stamps having the last accent.