

and are never blotched or run into each other. It is in paler violet than any of the later printings, and is not at all scarce unused, and very common used; I have a block of four and a row of single specimens.

The 80 lepta is in rose, rather darker than the Paris print; the lines on the neck are redrawn, but not so much deepened as in the 40 lepta, and it has figures on the back. There are two varieties of figures, one being printed in rose like the stamp, and the other in vermilion or brick-red. The latter is a scarce stamp unused, and not at all common used. It is printed on the same cream-colored paper as in 1861, more or less surface-tinted in the color of the stamp. I don't think any difficulty will be found by collectors in identifying this Athens issue of 1862, but the 1 lepton takes some finding. It will not be out of place here to give the colors as defined by the writer in the *Philatelist* of April, 1867. They are: "1 lepton, dark brown; 2 lepta, bistre; 5 lepta, emerald-green; 10 lepta, yellow-ochre; 20 lepta, ultramarine; 40 lepta, light violet; 80 lepta, crimson-lake, with *scarlet* figure at back, and the same with figures of same color as the stamp." He differentiates between this issue, which he very properly calls the second series, and later printings from deteriorated plates, and gives the usual tests for dividing all Greek stamps then issued into the three series.

I now come to our third group—that is, all the printings of the same stamps, which were made between 1862 and 1876 when the paper was changed. The printings of the 1 lepton are very numerous. Certainly the first in point of date is a very clearly printed grey brown, which is not very common; the impression is very like that of the Athens dark chocolate-brown, being quite as fine, and the color something like the rare shade of the Paris printed 1 lepton, but lighter and with less red in it. After this printing the plates deteriorated rapidly, the lines on the neck are deeper, and often run together. Besides two printings of which the dates are known, and which I shall describe presently, I make out at least six printings, of which one is in ochre-yellow and one in reddish-brown. It must be remembered that all these printings of the 1 lepton are on cream-colored paper, all that are found on buff or yellow paper belong to later issues.

In 1864 a new plate was used for printing the 1 lepton, but as stamps printed from it are of one shade only, and are scarce, it could not have been long in use. The difference in the plate is in the lines of shading on the neck and cheek. The contour of the shading towards the face is more hollowed out, and the lines immediately below the ear are shorter than in the other plates. Besides this, the shading at the point of the jaw is rounded off, while in the ordinary plates there is an angle at the same spot. The color of the stamp is pale reddish-brown. I have never been able to get a pair of these stamps or to find one with the gum; but I have about a dozen single ones, and several postmarked. It is a good deal rarer than the dark chocolate-brown 1 lepton of the Paris print.

(To be continued.)

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