

a much bluer paper than the ordinary dark shades of same on blue paper of the earlier issue. Of the 6d. on blue paper I have only seen four specimens, and I have examined a large number of that value.

The later printing of the 3d was on a white paper, which was tinted blue on face by the ink or insufficiently cleaned plates; the 6d. is on a paper which shows a somewhat blueish shade in it.

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### SERVICE STAMPS OF CEYLON.

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

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ALL handbooks, catalogues and other philatelic publications of recent years speak with great praise of the stamps of Ceylon, and collectors are much interested in them. But many doubts are expressed as to the originality of the service stamps of that country.

Without stopping to enquire into the question whether they are authentic and thus worthy of being collected, some writers merely follow others through having no reasons for the opinions that they express.

We will approach the subject closer and endeavor to find out the truth for ourselves.

In the beginning of 1877 I received three sets of the Ceylon Stamps of the issues of 1844, 1867 and 1869, which were surcharged with the word "SERVICE." The set comprised seven different values. I had never seen them mentioned by either Moens, Pemberton or Moschkau, and my doubts were raised. I was led to enquire of a friend who had lived in Ceylon for many years, and from whom I had obtained many valuable stamps of that country, he replied that he could not pass judgment on them, but promised direct enquiry in that country concerning them. After a considerable time had elapsed the following reply came: that all Ceylon stamps were printed and surcharged in London, those surcharged "Service" with the others. They were received by the department and were intended to be used for official postage. They were received too late to be of any service as the currency had changed and they bore the old values. My friend added that that was all the information that he could give me so far.

These stamps not coming into use, they were unknown to the public until 1875. Pemberton, in his handbook of 1874, makes no mention of them. Moens in 1877 mentions them, and gives them as the issue of 1869. So does Evans, Meyer, Moschkau, Lindenberg, and the catalogue of the Imperial Post Museum. No English catalogue mention these stamps up to 1878. But Dr. Gray's world-known handbook contains a short sketch, which is not satisfactory, especially as the year of issue is not given. It simply states that the stamps of types Nos. 2, 3 and 5 (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10d., 1s., 1 and 9d., and 2s., also a 1d. of 1868) are used for official correspondence surcharged with the word "service." The second edition of Pemberton's handbook gives the year 1878. He thus comes somewhat