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## THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREECE.

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AN essay by E. L. Schumann in the November *American Philatelist* will be likely to foster if not almost create an interest in the above stamps. Hitherto they have been "Greek" indeed to the majority of collectors. I hope that this short paper of mine, which is the result of an independent study of the stamps themselves as well as a careful comparison of the catalogues of Nicolas D. Vallossis, Joseph Tchakiji & Co., and A. E. Glasewald, all specialists in this department, will be of some additional service to collectors in helping to elucidate the mystery with which the Greek stamps have been clothed.

The Postage Stamps of Greece from 1860 to 1883 all bear the same design, the head of Mercury on a plain coloured ground in a circle of pearls, a double border around stamp, the corners outside of circle filled up with minute chain-work, "Ell Gramm" above, value below, of this design some 85 stamps were omitted, which according to my judgment are sufficiently distinct to be deserving of being catalogued.

The first nine stamps were printed in Paris, 1 to 6 in 1860, 7 in 1861 and 8 and 9 in 1862. The printing is perfectly clean, beautifully done. The lines of shading on the face and neck bar are so thin at the ends as to be almost imperceptible. The paper is smooth and strong. Nos. 7 and 9 have figures of value on the back. In No. 9 the chain-work in the corners has degenerated into white patches in most examples.

1860. Paris print. 1, 1 lepton, dark brown; 2, lepta, bistre; 3, 5 lepta, green on greenish; 4, 20 lepta, blue on blueish; 5, 40 lepta, dark lilac on blue-green; 6, 80 lepta, carmine on rose.

1861. Value on back (large 10). 7, 10 lepta, orange on greenish.

Jan., 1862. 8, 2 lepta, pale brown; 9, 20 lepta, blue, (value on back).

From March, 1862 to 1871, the stamps were printed at home in Athens and the execution is much coarser, while the paper is of a poorer quality. The lines on the neck and face are thicker than in the Paris stamps and are often blotted and run together.

1862. Athens print. Nos. 12-18 have figures of value on the back. 10, 1 lepton, (as No. 1, but plainer); 11, 2 lepta, bistre; 12, 5 lepta, green on greenish; 13, 10 lepta, orange-red on greenish; 14, 20 lepta, pale blue on blueish; 15, 20 lepta, blue; 16, 20 lepta, dark blue; 17, 40 lepta, dark lilac on grey-blue; 18, 80 lepta, carmine on pale rose.

1863. Value on back. 19, 5 lepta, green on greenish (smaller figure on back); 20, 10 lepta, brick-red on grey-blue.