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CONTENTS:

- I.—A Summarized Catalogue of the Postage Stamps
of Japan. By A. M. Tracey Woodward 9
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A
SUMMARIZED CATALOGUE
OF THE
POSTAGE STAMPS
OF
JAPAN

BY
A. M. TRACEY WOODWARD.



1906.

INDEX.

	PAGE.
Preface... ..	9
March 1871 Issue	13
February 1872 Issue	15
July 1872 Issue	19
September 1872 Issue	23
April 1873 Issue... ..	28
June 1873 Issue	29
January 1874 Issue	31
February 1874 Issue	33
January 1875 Issue	36
February 1875 Issue	38
August 1875 Issue	42
March 1876 Issue	43
May 1876 Issue	45
June 1876 Issue	50
June 1877 Issue	53
August 1877 Issue	56
November 1877 Issue	58
June 1879 Issue	59
October 1879 Issue	61
January 1883 Issue	63
February 1888 Issue	65
March 1888 Issue	66
May 1892 Issue	69
March 1894 Issue	69
August 1896 Issue	70

	PAGE.
January 1899 Issue	72
April 1899 Issue	74
October 1899 Issue	75
January 1900 Issue	76
May 1900 Issue	79
October 1900 Issue	81
March 1901 Issue	83
July 1905 Issue	84
April 1906 Issue... ..	84

INDEX TO ILLUSTRATIONS.

- A No. 1.—Issue of March 1871.
„ 2.— „ February 1872.
„ 3.— „ March 1871.
„ 4.— „ February 1872.
„ 5.—“ Government counterfeit ” *see* page 19.
„ 6.—Issue of March 1871.
„ 7.— „ February 1872.
„ 8.—“ Government counterfeit ” *see* page 19.
„ 9.—Issue of March 1871.
„ 10.— „ February 1872.
„ 11.— „ September 1872.
„ 12.— „ September 1872.
„ 13.— „ February 1874.
„ 14.— „ July 1872.
„ 15.— „ February 1874.
„ 16.— „ July 1872 and June 1873.
„ 17.— „ February 1874.
„ 18.— „ August 1875.
„ 19.— „ April 1873.
„ 20.— „ February 1874.
„ 21.— „ September 1872.
„ 22.— „ February 1874.
„ 23.— „ February 1875.
„ 24.— „ September 1872.
„ 25.— „ February 1874.
„ 26.— „ February 1875.

- A No. 27.—Issue of September 1872.
- „ 28.— „ February 1874.
- „ 29.— „ February 1875.
- „ 30.— „ January 1875.
- „ 31.— „ January 1875.
- „ 32.— „ January 1875.
- „ 33.— „ February 1875.
- „ 34.— „ February 1875.
- „ 35.— „ February 1875.
- „ 36.— „ August 1875.
- „ 37.— „ February 1875.
- „ 38.— „ February 1875.
- „ 39.— „ January 1874 and February 1874.
- „ 40.— „ February 1875.
- „ 41.— „ February 1875.
- „ 42.— „ May 1876.
- „ 43.— „ May 1876, October 1879 and
January 1883.
- „ 44.— „ May 1876, October 1879 and
January 1883.
- „ 45.— „ June 1879 and May 1892.
- „ 46.— „ June 1876 and March 1888.
- „ 47.— „ March 1876.
- „ 48.— „ June 1876, January 1883 and
February 1888.
- „ 49.— „ June 1877.
- „ 50.— „ November 1877 and March 1888.
- „ 51.— „ June 1877 and March 1888.
- „ 52.— „ June 1877.
- „ 53.— „ June 1877 and March 1888.
- „ 54.— „ August 1877 and March 1888.
- „ 55.— „ March 1888.
- „ 56.— „ August 1877.
- „ 57.— „ August 1877.
- „ 58.— „ June 1879 and March 1888.

- A No. 59.—Issue of March 1888.
" 60.— " March 1894.
" 61.— " March 1894.
" 62.— " August 1896.
" 63.— " August 1896.
" 64.— " August 1896.
" 65.— " August 1896.
" 66.—" Specimen " *see* page 86.
" 67.—Issue of May 1900.
" 68.—" Specimen " *see* page 86.
" 69.—Issue of July 1905.
" 70.— " April 1906.
" 71.— " April 1906.
" 72.— " April 1899 and January 1900.
" 73.— " March 1901.
" 74.— " April 1899 and January 1900.
" 75.— " October 1900.
" 76.— " January 1899 and January 1900.
" 77.— " April 1899 and January 1900.
" 78.— " January 1899 and January 1900.
" 79.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
" 80.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
" 81.— " January 1899 and January 1900.
" 82.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
" 83.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
" 84.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
" 85.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
" 86.— " October 1899 and January 1900.
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PREFACE.

The work which I propose to bring before you, is a simple tabulated record of the Postage Stamps issued by Japan from the date of the reformed Postal System until recently. In describing the stamps in detail, I may somewhat tax your patience with explanations of papers, perforations, etc. Such details interest more the philatelist than the ordinary reader, but the work has necessarily had to be concentrated in this direction.

In describing the compound perforations, I have not followed the usual course of mentioning the top and bottom perforations first, and the side perforations last, but have placed them in rotative order beginning with the widest, thus:—

No.	Top and Bottom	at Sides	Mentioned as
349	2 <i>sen</i> Drab ...	$9\frac{1}{2} \times 9$	$9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ <i>m/m.</i>
353	„ ...	11×9	9×11 „
363	„ ...	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ „
380	„ ...	$11 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$	$11 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ „
383	„ ...	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ „
391	„ ...	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$	$12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ „
397	„ ...	$13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ „

Also in mentioning Japanese characters, instead of writing them from right to left as they generally appear on the stamps, I have adopted the modern innovation that when such Japanese characters serve as illustrations in foreign literature, they are written from left to right.

I refrain from referring to Post Cards, Envelopes, and Bands, as I consider these to belong to an entirely distinct category from adhesives.

The many difficulties presented by such a variety of subjects and its extremely complicated nature from a philatelic standpoint, make me well aware that this monograph will have many defects, and not be a complete description of all existing Japanese Postage Stamps, I must, therefore, ask the reader's kind indulgence for any inaccuracies and omissions that may possibly occur, though my investigations have covered about a score of years.

I may mention that Japanese literature on philately is practically nil, the only work coming under my notice is the *Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin Kite Enkakushi** a pamphlet issued by the Printing Bureau of the Department of Communications during March, 1896. This I have consulted for official dates and other data. Exotic particulars are confined to meagre statements that contribute to make up catalogues of certain American, and Continental dealers in general postage stamps.

I have to acknowledge my grateful indebtedness to Mr. Itaro Kusaka, Superintendent of Foreign Mails at Kobe, for certain dates and numbers of Departmental Ordinances.

A. M. T. W.

* History of the Postage Stamps of Japan.

A Summarized Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Japan.

BY

A. M. TRACEY WOODWARD.

Although not a history of the Japanese Post Office, still a few notes on that institution by way of introductory remarks may prove of interest. •

The transmission of despatches by couriers in Japan may be said to have begun in the Middle Ages. Only despatches of the Shōgunate were thus forwarded however, and it was not until early in the sixteenth century that communication between private individuals were considered so important as to necessitate the establishment of reliable postal guilds in the principal towns of the Empire. These were mostly in the hands of private agencies known as *Hikyaku-yas*, whose means of carriage were generally confined to couriers. Later, provincial and urban postal institutions sprang up, but naturally, they possessed many defects. It was to do away with these disadvantages that the Government formally opened on the 1st March, 1871, a letter post service between Tōkyō, Yokohama, Kyōto and Ōsaka. The system was modelled upon those that at the time were in vogue in America and Europe, and the first set of four postage stamps was issued on the day the new

scheme went into operation, whilst postal regulations were promulgated, and the provincial authorities entrusted with the superintendence of the business connected with the new service.

Previous to these innovations, the Civil Government had laid before the Central Government a proposition recorded in the *Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin Kisse Enkakushi* as follows :—
“ The public recognize the great importance of the establish-
“ ment of a regular postal system in this country. Up to the
“ present time messages and letters are still entrusted to private
“ messengers or carriers and heavy fees are charged for them.
“ This causes the public to regret the want of arrangements for
“ facilitating the means of communication. If, at the present
“ time, the Government would organize a postal system and
“ thus facilitate communications both for the public and for
“ private individuals, it would be greatly conducive to the
“ public benefit.”

Early in 1872, the newly instituted postal route was extended to Kōbe, Nagasaki, Niigata and Hakodate.

Very soon the necessity of providing means of communication with foreign lands arising from the growing tendency of international intercourse, led the Government (at the instance of H.E. Mitsu Mayeshima, the then General Post-master who had visited England to study the postal system) to perfect arrangements with the United States of America, British, and French postal agencies that then existed at Yokohama, Kōbe and Nagasaki for the transmission of foreign mails in foreign bottoms. This convention came into force in March, 1872. During the following year, however, the Government sent Mr. S. M. Bryan, then in the service of the Japanese Post Office Department, over to the United States of America to conclude arrangements for the direct exchange of mails. This resulted in the signing of a Postal Convention between the two countries which became effective on the 1st January, 1875, on which date the United States of America withdrew its Postal agencies in Japan.

During 1876, H.E. Shuzō Aoki, at the time Japanese Minister to the court of Germany, urged the Imperial Government to become a party to the General Postal Union convention. The recommendation was favorably considered and acted upon, Japan being formally admitted into the General Postal Union (now l'Union Postale Universelle) on June 20th, 1877.

Excellent progress in the service was made, which obtained confidence abroad, with the consequent discontinuance of the postal agencies of Great Britain on December 31st, 1880, and those of France three months later. To Viscount Nomura who visited Germany to study the postal system, great credit is due for the many improvements inaugurated in the Japanese service, while the late Signor Chiossone when adviser to the Printing Bureau, designed the greater part of the stamps of Japan.

These few words of description on the development of the Postal service in Japan will be sufficient for my purpose, and I will abstain from giving statistics bearing on the mail matter handled by the Post Office. Suffice it to say that this institution to-day shows satisfactory progress, its ramifications extending to the most remote districts.

March 1871 Issue.

It was on the 2nd June 1870, that the decision to issue postage stamps was first adopted. This was consequent upon the petition made by the Civil to the Central Government, but it was not until the 1st March 1871 that the actual issue of Japanese stamps was made; it consisted of four values. The design is native, two outlined dragons being circumscribed within a Greek border; the value in Japanese characters is placed in the centre between the dragons and reads *zeni hyaku mon* (錢百文), *zeni ni hyaku mon* (錢二百文), etc.; these characters were printed separately in black type. The stamps were engraved in *taille douce* on Japanese handmade

wove or laid paper in sheets of 40 stamps printed in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each, all differing more or less one from the other in various details, they are unperforated, ungummed, and square, the average size being $19\frac{3}{4} \times 19\frac{3}{4}$ *m/m*. Two plates of the lowest denomination are known to exist, and one plate each of the higher values. During February, 1872, the issue was countermanded, and on November 30th 1889, their use through the mails was prohibited.

SECTION I.—Thin yellowish wove native handmade paper.

No. 1	48	<i>Mon</i>	Brown.
„ 2	100	„	Dark blue.
„ 3	200	„	Vermillion.
„ 4	500	„	Green.
„ 5	500	„	Blue green.
„ 6	500	„	Yellow green.

SECTION II.—Thin yellowish, close vertically laid native handmade paper, greatly resembling the *quadrille* paper.

No. 7	48	<i>Mon</i>	Pale brown.
„ 8	48	„	Red brown.
„ 9	48	„	Dark brown.
„ 10	100	„	Pale blue.
„ 11	100	„	Blue.
„ 12	200	„	Vermillion.
„ 13	200	„	Dark vermilion.
„ 14	500	„	Pale yellow green.
„ 15	500	„	Green.
„ 16	500	„	Deep blue green.

An important London stamp dealer notes a variety of the 500 *mon* described as pale blue green, but I am of opinion that this shade does not exist, the mistake probably arising from faded specimens of the green denoted under No. 16.

SECTION III.—Thin yellowish, wide vertically laid, native handmade paper, slightly varying in thickness.

No. 17	48	<i>Mon</i>	Pale brown.
„ 18	48	„	Brown.
„ 19	48	„	Dark brown.
„ 20	100	„	Pale blue.
„ 21	100	„	Dark blue.
„ 22	200	„	Vermillion.
„ 23	200	„	Dark vermilion.
„ 24	500	„	Pale yellow green.
„ 25	500	„	Green.
„ 26	500	„	Blue green.

February 1872 Issue.

When the decimal system of currency was introduced in 1872, it was decided on January 18th of that year, that a corresponding alteration should be made in the value of stamps; the 48 *mon* becoming $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen*, the 100 *mon* 1 *sen*, 200 *mon* 2 *sen* and 500 *mon* 5 *sen*. These four new varieties were issued during February 1872 but the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* was stopped on September 1st of the same year, the 1 and 2 *sen* on 20th. July 1872, and 5 *sen* on 31st May, 1873, when, on these respective dates, new stamps were substituted for the three lowest denominations only; their validity to prepay postage was cancelled on the 30th of November, 1899. The design is practically identical with the preceding issue, the black characters denoting the value in the centre of the stamps, only being altered to *ni sen* (貳錢), *go sen* (五錢), etc., antique numerals are used in the 1 and 2 *sen* in contradistinction to the previous issue, very likely to prevent forgery. Messrs. H. Collin and H. L. Calman declare that there are six plates of this issue in existence, two for each of the lower values, and one for each of the higher ones, whilst Mr. Moens says that

there was a third plate engraved for the half *sen*; it is generally recognized that the old plates of the 48 *mon* and 100 *mon* were utilized for one of the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* and 1 *sen*, but Mr. Moens, however, mentions having seen only the plate of the 100 *mon* so used. Similarly with the previous issue, each sheet is composed of forty stamps in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each varying in details one from the other, as they were separately engraved. The stamps are square, of the same size as the March 1871 issue, and are with and without gum, and perforated.

SECTION I.—Thin yellowish wove native paper, slightly varying in thickness.

1° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

No. 27	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sen</i>	Red brown.
„ 28	1 „	Pale blue.
„ 29	2 „	Vermillion.
„ 30	5 „	Yellowgreen.
„ 31	5 „	Pale yellow green.

2° Perforated 11 × 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 32	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sen</i>	Red brown.
„ 33	1 „	Pale blue.
„ 34	2 „	Vermillion.
„ 35	5 „	Yellow green.

3° Perforated 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 36	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sen</i>	Gray brown.
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SECTION II.—Thick yellowish woolly wove native paper.

1° Perforated 12 × 12 *m/m*.

No. 37	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sen</i>	Dark brown.
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Stanley Gibbons Limited gave the color of this last as Red brown, but Dark brown is undoubtedly nearer to its shade.

Of late many specialists are inclined to favor the theory that the so called wovepaper is nothing else than the laid paper with lines not shewing distinctly ; the two papers in wove and laid were, however, separately used in printing this issue, nor will a good application of refined deodorized benzine make the wove paper show any lines.

SECTION III.—Thin yellowish, close vertically laid native paper.

1° Perforated 9×11 *m/m*.

No. 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Red brown.

2° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ *m/m*.

„ 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Gray brown.

„ 40 1 „ Pale blue.

„ 41 2 „ Vermillion.

3° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Gray brown.

„ 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Red brown.

„ 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Deep brown.

„ 45 1 „ Pale blue.

„ 46 2 „ Vermillion.

„ 47 5 „ Pale blue.

„ 48 $\frac{5}{8}$ „ Yellow green.

„ 49 5 „ Blue green.

4° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Gray brown.

„ 51 1 „ Pale blue.

„ 52 1 „ Blue green.

I have never seen this 1 *sen* Blue green chronicled, but I have possessed a specimen which I subjected to chemical tests, when, the color remained perfectly intact ; I believe it to be an error, made doubtless while printing the 5 *sen* Blue green.

5° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 53	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Red brown.
„ 54	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Deep brown.
„ 55	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Gray brown.
„ 56	1 „	Pale blue.
„ 57	5 „	Pale blue.
„ 58	5 „	Blue green.

SECTION IV.—Thin yellowish wide vertically laid native paper.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 59	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Deep brown.
„ 60	1 „	Pale blue.

SECTION V.—Thin yellowish close vertically laid native paper, *batonne* horizontally.

1° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

No. 61	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Red brown.
--------	-------------------	------------

2° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

„ 62	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Gray brown.
„ 63	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Red brown.
„ 64	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Deep brown.
„ 65	1 „	Pale blue.
„ 66	2 „	Vermillion.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 67	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Red brown.
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4° Perforated 11×12 m/m.

„ 68	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Red brown.
------	-------------------	------------

5° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 69	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Deep brown.
„ 70	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Red brown.
„ 71	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Gray brown.



A No. 1



A No. 2



A No. 3



A No. 6



A No. 7



A No. 8



A No. 4



A No. 5



A No. 9



A No. 10

Mr. Evans chronicles in this issue a 5 *sen* yellow green, on very thick heavy laid paper, whether close or wide vertically laid, he does not say, other authorities, however, disregard this statement.

There are two "Government counterfeits" in this series, the 1 *sen* and 2 *sen*; they were printed in March 1896 to serve to illustrate these stamps in the *Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin Kisse Enkakushi* (大日本帝國郵便切手沿革志). They are finer productions than those off the original plates and easily distinguishable, modern engraving conspicuously predominating. The paper is wove and perfectly white, whilst the color of the 1 *sen* is pale gray blue, and the 2 *sen* of a pale vermillion shade approximating to orange; they are ungummed and unperforated. Only about 50 copies of each are believed to exist.

"GOVERNMENT COUNTERFEITS."—Thin pure white wove foreign paper.

No. 72 1 *sen* Pale gray blue.

„ 73 2 „ Pale orange vermillion.

July 1872 Issue.

We have Government authority for the fact that owing to the plates of the 1 *sen* and 2 *sen* of February, 1872 issue being worn out, two new designs of similar value were issued on July 20th 1872 in lieu thereof. This seemingly confirms the above statement that the old plates of the 48 *mon* and 100 *mon* were utilized for printing the ½ *sen* and 1 *sen* respectively issued during February.

Engraved in *taille douce* on various papers, the stamps are oblong measuring $19 \times 22 \frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*. Nine plates of the 1 *sen* and two of the 2 *sen* are known to exist, each plate being composed of forty stamps in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each, and being separately engraved, are thus different one from the other in minor details. The issue of the 1 *sen* was stopped

on February 4th 1875 whilst that of the 2 *sen* ceased on June 5th 1873, the validity of both to prepay postage was cancelled on the 30th November, 1889. The design represents two boughs crossed below at the end of the stems, on the left a stem of crysanthemums and on the right a branch of paulownia imperialis; the crysanthemum crest (菊紋) appearing above between the two ends; in the centre is inscribed *Yubin Kite* (郵便切手); each corner consists of a cherry flower; in the top frame "1 SEN" and at the sides the value in Japanese characters in small squares on a mosaic ground.

SECTION I.—Thin yellowish wove native paper.

1° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*

No. 74 2 *sen* Vermillion.

2° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.

„ 75 2 *sen* Vermillion.

3° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 76 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 77 1 „ Dark blue.

„ 78 2 „ Vermillion.

„ 79 2 „ Rosy vermilion.

4° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 80 2 *sen* Vermillion.

5° Perforated 11×12 *m/m*.

„ 81 2 *sen* Vermillion.

6° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 82 1 „ Blue.

„ 83 1 „ Dark blue.

„ 84 2 „ Vermillion.

„ 85 2 „ Rosy vermilion.

7° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ *m/m*.

No. 86 1 *sen* Dark blue.

„ 87 2 „ Vermillion.

8° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

„ 88 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 89 1 „ Dark blue.

„ 90 2 „ Vermillion.

„ 91 2 „ Rosy vermillion.

9° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 92 1 *sen* Blue.

10° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.

„ 93 2 *sen* Rosy vermillion.

SECTION II.—Thick yellowish wove native paper.

1° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

No. 94 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 95 1 „ Dark blue.

2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 96 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 97 1 „ Dark blue.

3° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

„ 98 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 99 1 „ Dark blue.

The varieties in this section are comparatively scarce stamps.

SECTION III.—Thin yellowish horizontally laid native paper,
vergeures varying in width.

1° Perforated 9×11 *m/m*.

No. 100 1 *sen* Blue.

2° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 101 2 *sen* Deep rosy vermillion.

3° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

„ 102 2 *sen* Deep rosy vermillion.

4° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

„ 103 1 *sen* Pale blue.

„ 104 1 „ Blue.

„ 105 1 „ Dark blue.

„ 106 2 „ Rosy vermillion.

„ 107 2 „ Deep rosy vermillion.

5° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 108 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 109 2 „ Vermillion.

6° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 110 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 111 1 „ Dark blue.

„ 112 2 „ Vermillion.

„ 113 2 „ Rosy vermillion.

7° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

„ 114 1 *sen* Blue.

„ 115 1 „ Dark blue.

„ 116 2 „ Vermillion.

„ 117 2 „ Rosy vermillion.

8° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 118 2 *sen* Rosy vermillion.

9° Perforated 13×13 m/m.

„ 119 2 *sen* Rosy vermillion.



A No. 11



A No. 12



A No. 13



A No. 14



A No. 15



A No. 16



A No. 17



A No. 18



A No. 19



A No. 20

September 1872 Issue.

Owing to the extension that took place in the postal routes to Kōbe, Nagasaki, Niigata and Hokodate, the public demand for stamps greatly increased, and the want of higher denominations proved to be the source of great inconvenience to the public; in consequence, a new issue of 10 *sen*, 20 *sen* and 30 *sen* stamps in more elaborate design than heretofore, was made on September 1st, 1872. On this occasion a $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* stamp was issued in the design of the July, 1872 issue; these four new stamps were suppressed on February 4th, 1875. Engraved in *taille douce*, each plate is composed of forty stamps in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each; of the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* there are four plates, whilst the 10, 20 and 30 *sen* have one plate each. The sizes are, $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* $19 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m.*, 10 *sen* 21×24 *m/m.*, 20 *sen* $22\frac{1}{2} \times 25\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m.*, and 30 *sen* 24×27 *m/m.* I have already mentioned that the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* is of same design as the 2 *sen* issued in July 1872; the others are somewhat similar with only slight variations; the 10 *sen* instead of having two boughs in a semi-circle in the middle of the stamp, has two fabulous animals facing each other; in the top and bottom frames, "10 SEN," and at the sides the same value in Japanese characters in oblong spaces on a lattice ground; the 20 *sen* consists of a ring in the centre with the addition of a paulownia crest (桐紋) below, diametrically opposite to the chrysanthemum crest (菊紋); the value is placed in the same position as the 10 *sen*, whilst the ground work in the side frames consists of vertical lines; the general appearance of the 30 *sen* differs slightly from the 2 *sen* July 1872 issue, the only alteration being the side frames that are in plain white ground. All these stamps bear the inscription *Yubin Kite* (郵便切手) in the centre, and have different corner ornamentations within the centre square.

SECTION I.—Thin yellowish wove native paper.

1° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 120 10 *sen* Blue green.

2° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 121 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

„ 122 10 „ Blue green.

„ 123 20 „ Lilac.

„ 124 20 „ Dark mauve.

„ 125 30 „ Gray.

3° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

„ 126 10 *sen* Blue green.

4° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

„ 127 10 *sen* Blue green.

„ 128 10 „ Pale yellow green.

5° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 129 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

„ 130 10 „ Pale yellow green.

6° Perforated 11×12 m/m.

„ 131 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

„ 132 20 „ Dark mauve.

7° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 133 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

„ 134 10 „ Blue green.

„ 135 20 „ Lilac.

„ 136 20 „ Dark mauve.

„ 137 30 „ Gray.

8° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ m/m.

„ 138 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

„ 139 10 „ Blue green.

9° Perforated 12 × 12 *m/m*.

- No. 140 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.
 „ 141 10 „ Blue green.
 „ 142 10 „ Deep green.
 „ 143 20 „ Dark mauve.
 „ 144 30 „ Gray.

10° Perforated 12 × 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 145 20 *sen* Dark mauve.

11° Perforated 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 146 30 *sen* Gray.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre has also been perforated double on one side, but copies of this variety are exceedingly scarce.

VARIETY.

- No. 147 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre double perforation at one side.

SECTION II.—Thick wove paper, the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* is on native and the 30 *sen* on foreign paper.

1° Perforated 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- No. 148 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.
 „ 149 30 „ Gray.

2° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

- „ 150 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.
 „ 151 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Ash.

3° Perforated 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 12 *m/m*.

- „ 152 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

4° Perforated 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ × 13 *m/m*.

- „ 153 30 *sen* Gray.

Although the 30 *sen* stamp is classified under the date September 1872 issue, it is doubtful whether this stamp on

foreign wove paper was issued prior to February 1874, since we have it officially that it was only at this latter time that the use of foreign papers for the manufacture of stamps began; the above view would seemingly be correct, if the scarcity of this stamp be also taken into consideration; this rarity can be accounted for by the fact that during the same month of February 1874, a new plate with a syllabic character was engraved which was immediately issued; doubtless only very few sheets of the 30 *sen* on European paper without the syllabic character were at the time printed.

SECTION III.—Thin horizontally laid native paper.

1° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 154 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 155 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistre.

„ 156 10 „ Pale yellow green.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 157 10 *sen* Pale yellow green.

4° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 158 10 *sen* Pale yellow green.

„ 159 20 „ Lilac.

Of all the stamps of Japan, this 20 *sen* Lilac on laid paper is undoubtedly the *rara avis*; I have only known of four copies to exist, and have seen only one. Fifteen years ago, a collector who had long resided at Ōsaka, sold the only copy he ever obtained to a collector in London for 25 guineas, but this was, certainly, even at that time, for below its real market value. It is extremely probable that when printing, one sheet of the thin horizontally laid native paper intended for the use of the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 10 *sen*, was erroneously allowed to slip in among the thin wove native paper, this sheet being eventually sent out

in the usual course of distribution of stamps ; no unused copies are known to exist. Assuming my theory to be correct, it will thus be observed that originally, only forty stamps were printed, and if one were to take into consideration the destruction of old correspondence, coupled with the fact that the Japanese people have taken little interest in stamp collecting, especially during the seventies, so as to be actuated with the desire of preserving old stamps, it can be fairly estimated that probably not more than half a dozen copies are in existence to-day.

There is another variety in this series which deserves special mention, it is the $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* bistré. In one of the four plates, the 23rd stamp was erroneously left incomplete during the process of engraving ; on the left hand borders the two slanting strokes at the top of the Japanese character *han* of *han sen* (半錢) are absent, this makes the reading *Ki sen* (半錢) on one side and *han sen* (半錢) on the other. This peculiarity has led native dealers to give it the appellation of *Kisen*. Various authorities agree that it exists on both thin wove and laid paper, but I have seen it on thick wove paper as well.

ERROR.

SECTION I.—Thin wove native paper.

Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- No. 160 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistré.
 „ 161 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Dark bistré.

SECTION II.—Thick wove paper.

Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ *m/m*.

- No. 162 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistré.

SECTION III.—Thin horizontally laid native paper.

Perforated ?

- No. 163 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Bistré.

April 1873 Issue.

For the convenience of the public, a stamp of the new value of 4 *sen* was issued on 1st April 1873 by Finance Department notification No. 120 dated 30th March 1873, the stamp was suppressed on 4th February 1875. The type, impression, etc. are identical to the July 1872 issue. Seven plates have been discovered to exist, and like the preceding issues, each plate is composed of forty stamps in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each, each stamp measuring $19 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

SECTION I.—Thin yellowish native wove paper.

1° Perforated 10×11 *m/m*.

No. 164 4 *sen* Pale rose.

2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 165 4 *sen* Pale rose.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 166 4 *sen* Pale rose.

4° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 167 4 *sen* Pale rose.

SECTION II.—Thin yellowish native laid paper.

1° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 168 4 *sen* Pale rose.

2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 169 4 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 170 4 „ Bright rose.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 171 4 *sen* Pale rose.



A No. 21



A No. 22



A No. 23



A No. 24



A No. 25



A No. 26



A No. 27



A No. 28



A No. 29



A No. 30



A No. 31



A No. 32

4° Perforated 11 × 12 *m/m.*

No. 172 4 *sen* Pale rose.

5° Perforated 12 × 12 *m/m.*

„ 173 4 *sen* Pale rose.

6° Perforated 12½ × 12½ *m/m.*

„ 174 4 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 175 4 „ Bright rose.

SECTION III.—Thick European wove paper.

1° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m.*

No. 176 4 *sen* Pale rose.

2° Perforated 12½ × 12½ *m/m.*

„ 177 4 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 178 4 „ Bright rose.

Like the 30 *sen* gray September 1872 issue, this 4 *sen* on thick European wove paper, can be positively asserted not to have been issued previous to February 1874.

June 1873 Issue.

The simultaneous use of two stamps of different denomination in the same color and design, viz., the 2 *sen* Rosy vermilion of the July 1872 issue, and 4 *sen* pale rose just described, often led the officials of the Post Office to confound one with the other, hence an alteration in the color of the former, which was transformed into yellow, the issue taking place on the 5th June 1873 by Notification No. 127 of the Finance Department, and was in turn suppressed on the 17th May 1876. The type and impression remained the same, also the number and order of rows on the plates, of which three differing from the July 1872 issue are known to exist, thus making five plates in all.

SECTION I.—Thin yellowish native wove paper.

1° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.No. 179 2 *sen* Yellow.2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.„ 180 2 *sen* Yellow.

„ 181 2 „ Orange.

3° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 182 2 „ Yellow.

A New York dealer recently catalogued one of these 2 *sen* yellow on thick wove paper, but it is a question if this paper has ever been used, many authorities ignoring this statement, nor have I ever seen a specimen of this supposed variety.

SECTION II.—Thin yellowish native laid paper.

1° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.No. 183 2 *sen* Yellow.2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.No. 184 2 *sen* Yellow.

„ 185 2 „ Deep yellow.

„ 186 2 „ Orange.

„ 187 2 „ Greenish yellow.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 188 2 *sen* Yellow4° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 189 2 *sen* Orange.

The 2 *sen* orange on this paper has also been perforated double on one side, copies are, however, not easily obtainable.

VARIETY.

No. 190 2 *sen* Yellow double perforation at one side.

SECTION III.—Thick woolly native laid paper.

1° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

No. 191 2 *sen* Yellow.

January 1874 Issue.

On the adoption of a uniform rate of postage, the necessity of a stamp of the value of 6 *sen* became apparent, and on the 1st January 1874, an adhesive of that denomination was issued by Notification No. 395 of the Finance Department; its suppression took place on the 4th, February of the following year. It is engraved in *taille douce* on various papers, and only one plate consisting of forty stamps in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each was made; each stamp differs one from the other in minor details, having been separately engraved. The design is entirely new and original; a garter enclosing ornamental ground-work, with the chrysanthemum crest exactly in the centre, at the sides of this, the inscription (郵便切手) *Yubin Kite* appears; the four corners are filled with floral ornaments; the value "6 SEN" is placed at the top and bottom within the ribbon of the garter, the same in the vernacular being inscribed at the sides; the shape is oblong, the stamp measuring $20 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

During 1874, stamps were issued with an additional small character taken from the *katakana* syllabary; these marks are generally known in Europe and America as syllabic characters, and they correspond to what philatelists term plate numbers, somewhat similar to the system adopted by Great Britain on her early issues. The purpose of changing the letters after a certain number of impressions had been taken, was to facilitate the control of checking the number of stamps issued, and in the case of Japanese postage stamps, after 10000 with one character had been printed, the plate then underwent a change by the substitution of a different character. The *Dai Nihon Tei-*

koku Yubin Kite Enkakushi (大日本帝國郵便切手沿革志) states that the adoption of the *katakana* syllabary on stamps began on September 12th 1874 in consequence of Notification No. 96 issued on the same day by the Home Department. Whilst this statement is official, it is open to doubt if the introduction of this control system did not anticipate Notification No. 96, for, we learn from the same official source that the 6 *sen* stamp was issued on January 1st 1874, and yet this stamp has not been issued without the syllabic character, which is placed a little below the buckle of the garter; it is difficult to reconcile this statement with the one declaring that the adoption of the *katakana* syllabary on stamps was made on September 12th 1874.

SECTION I.—Thin native wove paper.

1° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

No. 192 6 *sen* Violet brown.

Syllabic characters: イロハニホヘトチリヌル

SECTION II.—Thin native laid paper.

1° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

No. 193 6 *sen* Violet brown.

2° Perforated 11 × 11½ *m/m*.

„ 194 6 *sen* Violet brown.

Syllabic characters: イロハニホヘトチリヌルヲ

There are a few copies of this stamp existing with double perforation at one side, they are rare varieties, and have the character ホ

VARIETY.

No. 195 6 *sen* Violet brown double perforation at one side.

February 1874 Issue.

Seven denominations comprise this emission, which may be called the characterized series of the stamps used since July 1872, differing from them only in that the syllabic characters were added to their faces; the designs of the 1 and 2 *sen* are similar to those of July 1872, of the $\frac{1}{2}$, 10, 20 and 30 *sen* to those of September 1872, of the 4 *sen* to that of April 1873, and of the 6 *sen* to that of January 1874; the character in the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 4 *sen* stamps will be found in a small square where the stems of the floral branches cross each other, whilst in the 30 *sen* stamp, the square changes into an oval; in the 10 and 20 *sen* stamps the character is placed in a square just above the value in foreign letters at the bottom of the stamp. The $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* has three plates, the 4 *sen* two, and the other denominations only one plate each.

SECTION I.—Thin native laid paper.

1° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.

No. 196 30 *sen* Slate.

2° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 197 2 *sen* Yellow.

3° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 198 2 *sen* Yellow.

„ 199 10 „ Green.

„ 200 20 „ Violet.

„ 201 30 „ Slate.

4° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 202 2 *sen* Yellow.

„ 203 10 „ Green.

„ 204 20 „ Violet.

„ 205 30 „ Slate.

5° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 206	2 <i>sen</i>	Yellow.
„ 207	10 „	Green.
„ 208	20 „	Violet.
„ 209	30 „	Slate.

Syllabic characters:	2 <i>sen</i>	イ 夕
	10 „	イ
	20 „	イ 口 八
	30 „	イ

SECTION II.—Thick European white wove paper.

1° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ m/m.

No. 210	4 <i>sen</i>	Claret rose.
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2° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

„ 211	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sen</i>	Brown.
„ 212	1 „	Blue.
„ 213	2 „	Canary yellow.
„ 214	4 „	Claret rose.
„ 215	6 „	Violet brown.
„ 216	10 „	Green.
„ 217	20 „	Mauve.
„ 218	30 „	Gray.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 219	1 <i>sen</i>	Blue.
„ 220	2 „	Canary yellow.

4° Perforated 11×12 m/m.

„ 221	6 <i>sen</i>	Violet brown.
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5° Perforated $11 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 222	2 <i>sen</i>	Canary yellow.
„ 223	10 „	Green.

6° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No.	224	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Brown.
„	225	1 „	Blue.
„	226	2 „	Canary yellow.
„	227	4 „	Claret rose.
„	228	6 „	Violet brown.
„	229	10 „	Green.
„	230	20 „	Mauve.
„	231	30 „	Gray.

7° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„	232	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Brown.
„	233	1 „	Blue.

8° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ m/m.

„	234	10 sen	Green.
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9° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

„	235	6 sen	Violet brown.
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10° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„	236	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Brown.
„	237	1 „	Blue.
„	238	2 „	Canary yellow.
„	239	6 „	Violet brown.
„	240	10 „	Green.
„	241	20 „	Mauve.
„	242	30 „	Gray.

11° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ m/m.

„	243	1 sen	Blue.
„	244	6 „	Violet brown.
„	245	10 „	Green.

12° Perforated 13×13 m/m.

„	246	$\frac{1}{2}$ sen	Brown.
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- No. 247 2 *sen* Canary yellow.
 „ 248 10 „ Green.

Syllabic characters :

$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>sen</i>	イロ
1 „	イロハニホヘトチリヌルヲ
2 „	{ イロハニホヘトチリヌルヲワカヨタ レソツ子ナラム
4 „	イ
6 „	ヌルヲカヨタレソ
10 „	イロハ
20 „	ニホ
30 „	イ

January 1875 Issue.

When the postal convention between the United States of America and Japan was concluded, three new stamps for use in the foreign mails were issued on the 1st January 1875, although Notification No. 1 of the Home Department by which this set was announced, is dated January 4th 1875. The value are, 12 *sen*, 15 *sen* and 45 *sen*; the designs are entirely different from the former series, each stamp being illustrated by a different bird on a colored groundwork figuring for land, the whole encircled by a ring, the 45 *sen* represents an eagle in the acts of spreading its wings; over the circle, in a band, is inscribed 郵便切手 (*Yubin Kite*) the *Kiku* crest appearing between the letters of *Yubin* and *Kite*, in both sides of the ring the value in the vernacular appears, and at the top and bottom the value in foreign letters, the syllabic character is placed at the extreme bottom of the circle between two upright lines thus forming a square; this square stands between the numerals of value and the word *SEN*, the remaining portions of the stamp outside the circle are filled with various ornamentations. The 12 and 15 *sen* ceased to be issued on June 29th 1877, and the

45 *sen* on the 18th August the same year. They are engraved in *taille douce* on ordinary foreign wove paper with one exception. There is only one plate for each value and each sheet consists of forty stamps in five horizontal rows of eight stamps each. Size $19\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

SECTION I.—Ordinary foreign white wove paper.

1° Perforated 9×11 *m/m*.

No. 249 45 *sen* Crimson lake.

2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 250 12 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 251 15 „ Mauve.

„ 252 45 „ Crimson lake.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 253 15 *sen* Mauve.

4° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 254 12 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 255 15 „ Mauve.

„ 256 45 „ Crimson lake.

5° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

„ 257 12 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 258 15 „ Mauve.

„ 259 45 „ Crimson lake.

6° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 260 12 *sen* Pale rose.

„ 261 15 „ Mauve.

„ 262 45 „ Crimson lake.

7° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.

„ 263 12 *sen* Pale rose.

No. 264 15 *sen* Mauve.
 „ 265 45 „ Crimson lake.

Syllabic characters: 12 *sen* 1 □ ㄨ
 15 „ 1 □ ㄨ
 45 „ 1 □ ㄨ

SECTION II.—Ordinary foreign white laid paper.

1° Perforated 11 × 11½ *m/m*.

No. 266 15 *sen* Mauve with only syllabic character 1

February 1875 Issue.

In accordance with the suggestion made by the Government Printing Office to show better colors in the higher face values, seven new stamps were issued on February 4th 1875 by Home Department Notification No. 16, and were substituted for those in use until then. The new series comprised the ½ *sen*, 1 *sen*, 4 *sen*, 6 *sen*, 10 *sen*, 20 *sen* and 30 *sen* denominations. The impression is similar to those issued during 1874, but the 10, 20 and 30 *sen* are reduced in size to 19½ × 22 *m/m*, thus bringing the series into greater uniformity. All have syllabic characters in the places already described, with the exception of the 6 *sen*, which, beginning with the letter ㄨ, is placed at the bottom of the stamp within a small oval directly under the letter S of the word "SEN"; this oval replaces the first small hole in the strap of the garter. The ½, 1, 4, 6 and 20 *sen* have two plates each, and the 10 and 30 *sen* only one, all consisting of forty varieties as in the preceding emissions and engraved in *taille douce*. These stamps were suppressed in the following order, ½ and 1 *sen* on May 17th 1876, 4 *sen* on June 23rd 1876, 6 and 10 *sen* on June 29th 1877, 20 and 30 *sen* on August 18th 1877. Concurrently with the above, the 1 *sen* and 4 *sen* were printed, forty varieties to the sheet, in identical design, but without any syllabic character, the stems of the



A No. 33



A No. 34



A No. 35



A No. 36



A No. 37



A No. 38



A No. 39



A No. 40



A No. 41

branches being simply crossed as in the July 1872 series. This type of the 1 *sen* has only one plate, the 4 *sen* four, of which three were utilized in printing the 4 *sen* pale rose April 1873 issue.

SECTION I.—Ordinary white wove paper, with syllabic character.

1° Perforated 9 × 11 *m/m*.

No. 267 ½ *sen* Ash.

2° Perforated 9½ × 9½ *m/m*.

„ 268 4 *sen* Green.

3° Perforated 10 × 10 *m/m*.

„ 269 6 *sen* Orange.

4° Perforated 10 × 11 *m/m*.

„ 270 4 *sen* Green.

„ 271 6 „ Orange.

5° Perforated 10 × 12½ *m/m*.

„ 272 1 *sen* Brown.

6° Perforated 10½ 10½ *m/m*.

„ 273 ½ *sen* Ash.

„ 274 4 „ Green.

7° Perforated 10½ × 11 *m/m*.

„ 275 6 *sen* Orange.

8° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

„ 276 ½ *sen* Ash.

„ 277 1 „ Brown.

„ 278 4 „ Green.

„ 279 6 „ Orange.

„ 280 10 „ Blue.

No. 281 20 *sen* Carmine.

„ 282 30 „ Violet.

9° Perforated 11 × 11½ *m/m*.

„ 283 ½ *sen* Ash.

„ 284 4 „ Green.

„ 285 6 „ Orange.

„ 286 30 „ Violet.

10° Perforated 11 × 12½ *m/m*.

„ 287 1 *sen* Brown.

„ 288 6 „ Orange.

11° Perforated 11½ × 11½ *m/m*.

„ 289 ½ *sen* Ash.

„ 290 10 „ Blue.

12° Perforated 11½ × 12 *m/m*.

„ 291 6 *sen* Orange.

13° Perforated 12½ × 12½ *m/m*.

„ 292 ½ *sen* Ash.

„ 293 1 „ Brown.

„ 294 4 „ Green.

„ 295 6 „ Orange.

„ 296 10 „ Blue.

„ 297 20 „ Carmine.

„ 298 30 „ Violet.

Syllabic characters :

½ *sen* ロハニ

1 „ ホトチヲワカヨタレ

4 „ イロハ

6 „ スルヲカヨタレソツキナラ

10 „ ニホ

20 „ チ

30 „ ロハニ

In this series many forgeries of the 6 *sen* orange have been found officially obliterated, postmarks shew that these imitations got into circulation during 1876. It is apparent that these forgeries were not intended for sale to collectors, but were made to defraud the government, whose officials probably not being well versed with the rules or the stamps themselves thirty years ago, did not discover that the letters were franked with forged stamps. Six *sen* in those days probably meant much to the counterfeiters, as the purchasing value was more than double what it is to-day, and the standard of living very much below that of our time.

Although ten thousand stamps of each syllabic character are declared to have been printed, the characters ㄅ, ㄆ and ㄇ of the 6 *sen* denomination are exceedingly rare specimens, notwithstanding their juxtaposition.

SECTION II.—Ordinary white laid paper.

1° Perforated ?

No. 299 1 *sen* Brown with syllabic character ㄆ

SECTION III.—Ordinary white wove paper, without syllabic character.

1° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ *m/m*.

„ 300 1 *sen* Brown.

2° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 301 1 *sen* Brown.

„ 302 4 „ Green.

3° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 303 4 *sen* Green.

4° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 304 4 *sen* Green.

5° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 305 4 *sen* Green.

During March 1875, a proposition was made by the General Post Office to illustrate postage stamps with the effigies of Japanese loyalists, but this suggestion did not meet with the approval of the then Prime Minister, and the matter was dropped. Notification No. 104 of the Home Department announced that from June 11th 1875 the practice of printing syllabic characters upon postage stamps would be discontinued on account of the adoption of the process of electrotyping, in substitution for the *taille douce* method of engraving. The printing of the three new stamps issued subsequent to this date, however, was not affected by the electrotype process.

August 1875 Issue.

Although two new stamps of the value of 1 *sen* and 2 *sen* were issued in August 1875, the 1 *sen* was not actually put on sale before the early part of 1876. The type is similar to the issue just described, with the only difference that the branches, instead of being crossed, are tied with a bow of ribbons. They are engraved in *taille douce* on ordinary white wove paper; only one plate for each value was made, which was composed of forty stamps in the same manner as in the preceding issue.

SECTION I.—Ordinary white wove paper, without syllabic character.

1° Perforated 9×11 m/m.

No. 306 1 *sen* Brown.

2° Perforated $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 307 2 *sen* Canary yellow.

3° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

„ 308 2 *sen* Canary yellow.

4° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

- No. 309 1 *sen* Brown.
 „ 310 2 „ Canary yellow.
 „ 311 2 „ Lemon.

5° Perforated 11 × 11½ *m/m*.

- „ 312 2 *sen* Canary yellow.

6° Perforated 11½ × 11½ *m/m*.

- „ 313 1 *sen* Brown.
 „ 314 2 „ Canary yellow.
 „ 315 2 „ Lemon.

7° Perforated 12 × 13 *m/m*.

- „ 316 2 *sen* Canary yellow.

8° Perforated 12½ × 12½ *m/m*.

- „ 317 1 *sen* Brown.
 „ 318 2 „ Canary yellow.
 „ 319 2 „ Lemon.

9° Perforated 13 × 13 *m/m*.

- „ 320 1 *sen* Brown.
 „ 321 2 „ Canary yellow.
 „ 322 2 „ Lemon.

It will thus be observed that during the year 1875, the 1 *sen* brown made its appearance with three variations in minor details, sufficient for the claim of entire distinctiveness—i.e. during February we see it appear with a syllabic character in a square just where the branches meet, also these stems crossing each other without any syllabic character, while in August a bow of ribbon takes the place once occupied by those symbols.

March 1876 Issue.

By Notification No. 32 of the Home Department, a 5 *sen* stamp was again issued on the 19th March 1876 to fill the

demand of an adhesive of that denomination for inland correspondence, and it was suppressed three months later, on June 23rd 1876. It is engraved in *taille douce* on ordinary white wove paper. Only one plate of forty minor varieties, as in the preceding issues, was made. The design is similar to the 6 *sen* January 1874 issue, with the exception that the value in Arabic figures is replaced at the top of the garter with the inscription 郵便切手 (*Yubin Kite*); the former place of this inscription and the ornamental groundwork within the centre of the garter are occupied with branches and flowers of the paulownia *imperialis*, while the crysanthemum crest has been removed higher up. These slight alterations give the stamp a decidedly more attractive appearance. The syllabic character is absent. Size $19\frac{3}{4} \times 22$ *m/m*.

SECTION I.—Ordinary white wove paper.

1° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.

No. 323 5 *sen* Emerald green.

2° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.

„ 324 5 *sen* Emerald green.

3° Perforated $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 325 5 *sen* Emerald green.

4° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ *m/m*.

„ 326 5 *sen* Emerald green.

5° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 327 5 *sen* Emerald green.

6° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 328 5 *sen* Emerald green.

May 1876 Issue.

These stamps, of entirely new design, made their appearance on May 17th 1876 in accordance with Home Department Notification No. 71, when in turn the issue of the two higher values was stopped on 11th October 1879, and the 5 *rin* on the comparatively recent date of April 1st 1899, thus making a period of twenty three years that this stamp was in constant use, the longest life that any Japanese postage stamp has thus far attained. The *han sen* (半錢) stamp bade us farewell, making room for its more conventional brother the *go rin* (五厘), the other values being 1 and 2 *sen* respectively. The stamps were printed on white wove paper in sheets of eighty stamps in eight horizontal rows of ten stamps each. The design of the 5 *rin* represents a sphere in the exact centre of the stamp, in which the value in native characters is placed; above the sphere the chrysanthemum crest, and below the paulownia crest, the whole being circumscribed within an oval ring in which the inscription 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) is placed in the upper section, and "IMPERIAL JAPANESE POST" in the lower one; triangular ornaments are in the upper and lower angles, the top one on the sinister side containing the numeral "5" and on the dexter side the letter "R," the same *vice versa* below. The 1 *sen* stamp is practically the same in design with the exception that in the corners there are four small circles in which the numeral "1" and the symbol "Sn" appear in like manner to the "5" and "R" in the 5 *rin* stamp; the 2 *sen* stamp is identical with the 1 *sen*, with the exception that these circles are altered into squares. Size $18\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

SECTION I.—Thick white wove paper.

1° Perforated 11 × 11 m/m.

- | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|
| No. 329 | 5 <i>rin</i> | Slate. |
| „ 330 | 1 <i>sen</i> | Black. |
| „ 331 | 2 „ | Drab. |

SECTION II.—Thin soft silky white wove paper.

1° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.No. 332 2 *sen* Drab.2° Perforated $9 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 333 2 *sen* Drab.3° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 334 5 *rin* Slate.„ 335 1 *sen* Black.

„ 336 2 „ Drab.

4° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 337 2 *sen* Drab.5° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.„ 338 2 *sen* Drab.6° Perforated $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 339 2 *sen* Drab.7° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 340 5 *rin* Slate.„ 341 1 *sen* Black.

„ 342 2 „ Drab.

8° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.„ 343 2 *sen* Drab.

SECTION III.—Ordinary medium white wove paper

1° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.No. 344 5 *rin* Slate.2° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.„ 345 5 *rin* Slate.

No. 346 1 *sen* Black.

„ 347 2 „ Drab.

3° Perforated $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 348 1 *sen* Black.

„ 349 2 „ Drab.

4° Perforated 9×10 *m/m*.

„ 350 1 *sen* Black.

„ 351 2 „ Drab.

5° Perforated 9×11 *m/m*.

„ 352 1 *sen* Black.

„ 353 2 „ Drab.

6° Perforated $9 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 354 2 *sen* Drab,

7° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 355 5 *rin* Slate.

„ 356 1 *sen* Black.

„ 357 2 „ Drab.

8° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ *m/m*.

„ 358 1 *sen* Black.

„ 359 2 „ Drab.

9° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ *m/m*.

„ 360 1 *sen* Black.

„ 361 2 „ Drab.

10° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 362 1 *sen* Black.

„ 363 2 „ Drab.

11° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ *m/m*.

No. 364 1 *sen* Black.

„ 365 2 „ Drab.

12° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.

„ 366 5 *rin* Slate.

„ 367 1 *sen* Black.

„ 368 2 „ Drab.

13° Perforated $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 369 5 *rin* Greenish gray.

14° Perforated 10×11 *m/m*.

„ 370 1 *sen* Black.

„ 371 2 „ Drab.

15° Perforated $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 372 2 *sen* Drab.

16° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 373 5 *rin* Slate.

„ 374 1 *sen* Black.

„ 375 2 „ Drab.

17° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ *m/m*.

„ 376 5 *rin* Slate.

18° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

„ 377 5 *rin* Slate.

„ 378 1 *sen* Black.

„ 379 2 „ Drab.

19° Perforated $11 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 380 2 *sen* Drab.

20° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 381 5 *rin* Slate.

- No. 382 1 *sen* Black.
 „ 383 2 „ Drab.
 21° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ *m/m*.
 „ 384 5 *rin* Slate.
 22° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.
 „ 385 5 *rin* Slate.
 „ 386 1 *sen* Black.
 „ 387 2 „ Drab.
 23° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 388 5 *rin* Slate.
 „ 389 1 *sen* Black.
 „ 390 2 „ Drab.
 24° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ *m/m*.
 „ 391 2 *sen* Drab.
 25° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.
 „ 392 5 *rin* Slate.
 „ 393 1 *sen* Black.
 „ 394 2 „ Drab.
 26° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 395 5 *rin* Slate.
 „ 396 1 *sen* Black.
 „ 397 2 „ Drab.
- Shades : 5 *rin* Ash to Slate.
 1 *sen* Dull pale black to Jet black.
 2 „ Drab pale to dark.

I have dispensed with notifying individual shades, as they are numerous but generally not distinct enough to enter into classification ; in the following descriptions, also, I shall only mention such shades as philatelists would consider of sufficient

importance to be classified as a variety. The 2 *sen* drab is the only Japanese postage stamp that has been perforated in the largest number of combinations.

June 1876 issue.

The two values issued by ordinance No. 92 of the Home Department on June 23rd 1876, were of 4 *sen* and 5 *sen* denominations; the emission was due to the electrotype process which the Government had adopted in printing its stamps. The 4 *sen* ceased to be issued on 10th March 1888 and the 5 *sen* on January 1st 1883. The design of the 4 *sen* is substantially the same as that of the 1 *sen* of May 1876 issue, save for the ground of the inner oval outside the sphere, which is filled with ornamental work. The 5 *sen* is an entirely new type; the oval in the middle of the stamp represents crossed branches of chrysanthemums and paulownias, with the Imperial crest between, over which there is a scintillating star; in the outer circle of the great oval appears the inscription 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) above, and 五錢 (*go sen*) below, all in Japanese characters; mercurial wheels fill the corners formed by the rectangular frame around the great oval; in the top frame "JAPANESE EMPIRE" and in the bottom one "FIVE SEN," at the sides the word "POST;" in the four corners of the frame there are small circles within which the numeral "5" and its Roman equivalent are put alternately. The size of the 4 *sen* is $18\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m* and the 5 *sen* $19 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

SECTION I.—Thick white wove paper.

1° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

No. 398 4 *sen* Green.

..... „ 399 5 „ Brown.

SECTION II.—Thin soft silky white wove paper.

1° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.No. 400 4 *sen* Green.

„ 401 5 „ Brown.

2° Perforated 10×10 m/m.„ 402 4 *sen* Green.

„ 403 5 „ Brown.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.„ 404 5 *sen* Brown.4° Perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.„ 405 4 *sen* Green.5° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.„ 406 4 *sen* Green.

SECTION III.—Ordinary medium white wove paper.

1° Perforated $8 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.No. 407 4 *sen* Green.2° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.„ 408 4 *sen* Green.3° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ m/m.„ 409 4 *sen* Green.4° Perforated 9×9 m/m.„ 410 4 *sen* Green.

„ 411 5 „ Brown.

5° Perforated $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.„ 412 4 *sen* Green.

„ 413 5 „ Brown.

6° Perforated 9×11 m/m.

No. 414 4 *sen* Green.

„ 415 5 „ Brown.

7° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 416 4 *sen* Green.

„ 417 5 „ Brown.

8° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ m/m.

„ 418 4 *sen* Green.

„ 419 5 „ Brown.

9° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

„ 420 5 *sen* Brown.

10° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 421 4 *sen* Green.

11° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ m/m.

„ 422 4 *sen* Green.

12° Perforated 10×10 m/m.

„ 423 4 *sen* Green.

„ 424 5 „ Brown.

13° Perforated 10×11 m/m.

„ 425 4 *sen* Green.

14° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

„ 426 4 *sen* Green.

„ 427 5 „ Brown.

15° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 428 5 *sen* Brown.

16° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 429 4 *sen* Green.



A No. 42



A No. 43



A No. 44



A No. 45



A No. 46



A No. 47



A No. 48



A No. 49



A No. 50

- 17° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.
- No. 430 4 *sen* Green.
- „ 431 5 „ Brown.
- 18° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
- „ 432 4 *sen* Green.
- 19° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ *m/m*.
- „ 433 4 *sen* Green.
- 20° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.
- „ 434 4 *sen* Green.
- „ 435 5 „ Brown.
- 21° Perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
- „ 436 4 *sen* Green.
- 22° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
- „ 437 4 *sen* Blue green.
- „ 438 4 „ Green.
- „ 439 4 „ Greenish blue.
- 23° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ *m/m*.
- „ 440 4 *sen* Green.

The 4 *sen* perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m* appears not to have been put on sale to the public before February 1888, say about a month before it was withdrawn from circulation.

June 1877 Issue.

Four new stamps were printed and issued on 29th June 1877 in accordance with Home Department ordinance No. 47. These are the 6 *sen*, 10 *sen*, 12 *sen* and 15 *sen*, they were all eventually withdrawn from circulation on 10th March 1888. The 6, 10 and 12 *sen* are identical with the 5 *sen* of June 1876

issue, with the exception of the ornament at the inner corners formed by the frame around the oval circle, the 10 *sen* consisting of a horseshoe and whip, and the 12 *sen*, of a balloon. The 15 *sen* stamp is a decided improvement over any type heretofore designed and is quite an elaborate impression; the oval at the centre contains branches of chrysanthemums and paulownias, the Imperial crest reposing over the stems where they cross; above this a rising sun figures prominently; in the upper portion of the ring around the oval, are the Japanese characters 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*), and the value in the vernacular in the lower section; a crescent at the left and the *kiri* crest at the dexter side of this ring add to the effective appearance of the stamp; at the top corners, in a ribbon, "IMPERIAL POST" on the left, and "JAPANESE POST" on the right; at each bottom corner large numerals of value in a circle, with the word *SEN* in a colorless label between and touching these circles. Size of 15 *sen*, $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*, the others, same as the 5 *sen* of the immediately preceding issue.

SECTION I.—Thick white wove paper.

1° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

No. 441 10 *sen* Blue.

SECTION II.—Ordinary white wove paper.

1° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ *m/m*.

No. 442 15 *sen* Pale Green.

2° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.

- | | | | |
|---|-----|--------------|-------------|
| „ | 443 | 6 <i>sen</i> | Orange. |
| „ | 444 | 10 „ | Blue. |
| „ | 445 | 12 „ | Pale rose. |
| „ | 446 | 12 „ | Dark rose. |
| „ | 447 | 15 „ | Pale Green. |
| „ | 448 | 15 „ | Dark „ |

- 3° Perforated $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.
- No. 449 6 *sen* Orange.
- „ 450 10 „ Blue.
- 4° Perforated 9×11 m/m.
- „ 451 15 *sen* Green.
- 5° Perforated $9 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.
- „ 452 12 *sen* Pale rose.
- 6° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.
- „ 453 6 *sen* Orange.
- „ 454 10 „ Blue.
- „ 455 12 „ Dark rose.
- „ 456 15 „ Green.
- 7° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ m/m.
- „ 457 10 *sen* Blue.
- 8° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.
- „ 458 12 *sen* Pale rose.
- „ 459 15 „ Green.
- 9° Perforated 10×10 m/m.
- „ 460 10 *sen* Blue.
- „ 461 15 „ Green.
- 10° Perforated 11×11 m/m.
- „ 462 6 *sen* Orange.
- „ 463 10 „ Blue.
- „ 464 15 „ Green.
- 11° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.
- „ 465 15 *sen* Green.
- 12° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.
- „ 466 10 *sen* Blue.

- 13° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2} m/m$.
- No. 467 10 *sen* Blue.
 „ 468 15 „ Green.
- 14° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13 m/m$.
- „ 469 15 *sen* Green.
- 15° Perforated $13 \times 13 m/m$.
- „ 470 6 *sen* Orange.
 „ 471 10 „ Blue.
 „ 472 15 „ Green.
- 16° Perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2} m/m$.
- „ 473 10 *sen* Blue.
 „ 474 15 „ Green.
- 17° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2} m/m$.
- „ 475 6 *sen* Orange.
 „ 476 10 „ Blue.
 „ 477 15 „ Green.

Various authorities agree that the last perforation on these three stamps was first issued during February 1888, in which case it was hardly a month in use. Specimens are, however, by no means rare. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. mention the 10 and 15 *sen* in a $14 \times 14 m/m$ perforation, but among the large quantity of these stamps handled by me, not a single copy of this variety was ever found of either value.

August 1877 Issue.

In conformity with the decision adopted to print all stamps by the electrotype process, the 20, 30 and 45 *sen* stamps were issued by Home Department ordinance No. 59 on August 18th 1877 in design exactly the same as the 15 *sen* of June 1877 issue; one hundred stamps to the sheet in ten horizontal rows

of ten stamps each. They were all suppressed on the 10th March 1888, and on November 30th of the following year their use through the mails was prohibited. Only the ordinary foreign white wove paper was used for these stamps.

1° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 478 20 *sen* Deep blue.

2° Perforated 9×9 m/m.

„ 479 20 *sen* Deep blue.

„ 480 30 „ Pale violet.

„ 481 45 „ Carmine.

3° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 482 20 *sen* Deep blue.

„ 483 30 „ Pale violet.

„ 484 45 „ Carmine.

4° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ m/m.

„ 485 20 *sen* Deep blue.

„ 486 45 „ Carmine.

5° Perforated 10×10 m/m.

„ 487 20 *sen* Deep blue.

„ 488 30 „ Pale violet.

6° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

„ 489 30 *sen* Pale violet.

7° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 490 20 *sen* Deep blue.

8° Perforated 13×13 m/m.

„ 491 20 *sen* Deep blue.

9° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 492 20 *sen* Deep blue.

The three last perforations are generally recognized as having been issued during February 1888.

November 1877 Issue.

On November 20th 1877 a stamp of the denomination of 8 *sen* made its appearance for the first time. Ordinance No. 78 of the Home Department announced its advent; it was, however, withdrawn on March 10th 1888. The design is of the type of the 10 *sen* June 1877 issue, but the ornament at the inner corners formed by the frame around the oval circle, consists of a propeller. The stamp is printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps in ten horizontal rows of ten adhesives each, and measures about $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

1° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 493 8 *sen* Puce.

2° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.

„ 494 8 *sen* Puce.

3° Perforated $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 495 8 *sen* Puce.

4° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 496 8 *sen* Puce.

5° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ *m/m*.

„ 497 8 *sen* Puce.

6° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 498 8 *sen* Puce.

7° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.

„ 499 8 *sen* Puce.



A No. 51



A No. 52



A No. 53



A No. 54



A No. 55



A No. 56



A No. 57



A No. 58



A No. 59

8° Perforated 11 × 11 *m/m*.

No. 500 8 *sen* Puce.

9° Perforated 12½ × 12½ *m/m*.

„ 501 8 *sen* Puce.

10° Perforated 13 × 13 *m/m*.

„ 502 8 *sen* Puce.

11° Perforated 13 × 13½ *m/m*.

„ 503 8 *sen* Puce.

12° Perforated 13½ × 13½ *m/m*.

„ 504 8 *sen* Puce.

The color of this stamp has been variously denoted in catalogues as “violet brown,” “purple,” “brown shades,” &c., the color term “puce,” however, is the nearest approximation to the real shade. It may be observed that the four last perforations are assumed not to have been issued prior to February 1888.

June 1879 Issue.

The two stamps issued on 30th June 1879 by Home Department ordinance No. 24, were of two values that had not been issued heretofore, viz.: 3 and 50 *sen*. The 3 *sen* is of the type of the 1 *sen* black May 1876 issue, and the 50 *sen* of the type of the 15 *sen* green June 1877 issue, save that the crescent at the sinister side and the *kiri* crest at the dexter side of the ring forming the oval are each replaced by a five point star. They are printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper. The Government ceased issuing these two stamps on March 10th 1888. Size for both 18½ × 22½ *m/m*.

1° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.

- No. 505 50 *sen* Carmine.
 „ 506 50 „ Orange red.

2° Perforated $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 507 3 *sen* Orange.
 „ 508 3 „ Lemon.
 „ 509 50 „ Carmine.
 „ 510 50 „ Orange red.

3° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 511 3 *sen* Orange.
 „ 512 3 „ Lemon.
 „ 513 50 „ Carmine.
 „ 514 50 „ Orange red.

4° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ *m/m*.

- „ 515 3 *sen* Orange.
 „ 516 3 „ Lemon.
 „ 517 50 „ Carmine.
 „ 518 50 „ Orange red.

5° Perforated 10×10 *m/m*.

- „ 519 3 *sen* Orange.
 „ 520 3 „ Lemon.
 „ 521 50 „ Carmine.
 „ 522 50 „ Orange red.

6° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 523 50 *sen* Orange red.

7° Perforated 11×11 *m/m*.

- „ 524 50 *sen* Carmine.

8° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 525 50 *sen* Carmine.

- 9° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 No. 526 50 *sen* Carmine.
 10° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.
 „ 527 50 *sen* Carmine.
 11° Perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 528 50 *sen* Carmine.
 12° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 529 50 *sen* Carmine.

The last three perforations are known to have first been issued during February 1888.

October 1879 Issue.

It would seem that quite a number of the 1 *sen* black and 2 *sen* drab of May 1876 issue were used a second time by unscrupulous persons, after the obliteration marks were cleverly removed, for, the *Nihon Teikoku Yubin Kitei Enkaku-shi* mentions that to prevent this fraudulent use, the colors of the 1 *sen* and 2 *sen* stamps were changed on October 11th 1879 by Ordinance No. 44 of the Home Department, into the less fast colors of maroon and grey purple, because the black and drab were of such indelible colouring as to permit the successful operation of restoring these stamps into an apparently unused state. The design is identical with the corresponding values of the May 1876 emission, and the stamps are printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper. The issue ceased on January 1st 1883.

- 1° Perforated 9×9 *m/m*.
 No. 530 2 *sen* Gray purple.
 2° Perforated $9 \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 531 2 *sen* Gray purple.

3° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- No. 532 1 *sen* Maroon.
 „ 533 2 „ Gray purple.

4° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ m/m.

- „ 534 1 *sen* Maroon.
 „ 535 2 „ Gray purple.

5° Perforated 10×10 m/m.

- „ 536 1 *sen* Maroon.
 „ 537 2 „ Gray purple.

6° Perforated $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 538 2 *sen* Gray purple.

7° Perforated 10×11 m/m.

- „ 539 1 *sen* Maroon.

8° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

- „ 540 1 *sen* Maroon.
 „ 541 2 „ Gray purple.

9° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 542 2 *sen* Gray purple.

10° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 543 1 *sen* Maroon.
 „ 544 2 „ Gray purple.

11° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ m/m.

- „ 545 2 *sen* Gray purple.

12° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

- „ 546 1 *sen* Maroon.
 „ 547 5 „ Gray purple.

13° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 548 1 *sen* Maroon.

„ 549 2 „ Gray purple.

14° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ *m/m*.

„ 550 2 *sen* Gray purple.

15° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.

„ 551 1 *sen* Maroon.

The 2 *sen* Gray purple has been found with double perforation at one side, and also imperforate at one side.

VARIETIES.

No. 552 2 *sen* Gray purple, double perforation at one side.

„ 553 2 „ Gray purple, unperforated at one side.

Specialists differ in describing the color of the above, the 1 *sen* having been called “violet brown,” “red brown” and even “brown,” whilst the 2 *sen* has occasionally been described as “purple” and “dark violet.”

January 1883 Issue.

Consequent upon the assent given by the Japanese Government to the proposal of the International Bureau that all its members adopt uniform colors for postage stamps of corresponding values, a change in colors of the 1 *sen*, 2 *sen* and 5 *sen* stamps became necessary. These now emerged on January 1st 1883 in accordance with ordinance No. 55 of the Agricultural Department, in green, rose and ultramarine respectively; the designs, however, remained the same, and the stamps were printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper, one hundred to the sheet in ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each.

1° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- No. 554 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 555 2 „ Rose red.
 „ 556 5 *sen* Ultramarine.

2° Perforated $8\frac{1}{2} \times 9$ m/m.

- „ 557 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 558 5 *sen* Ultramarine.

3° Perforated 9×9 m/m.

- „ 559 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 560 2 „ Rose red.
 „ 561 5 „ Ultramarine.

4° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 562 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 563 2 „ Rose red.
 „ 564 5 „ Ultramarine.

5° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ m/m.

- „ 565 1 *sen* Green.

6° Perforated 10×10 m/m.

- „ 566 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 567 5 „ Ultramarine.

7° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 568 1 *sen* Green.

8° Perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ m/m.

- „ 569 2 *sen* Rose red.

9° Perforated 11×11 m/m.

- „ 570 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 571 5 „ Ultramarine.

10° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- No. 572 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 573 2 „ Rose red.
 „ 574 5 „ Ultramarine.

11° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

- „ 575 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 576 2 „ Rose red.

12° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 577 1 „ Green.
 „ 578 5 „ Ultramarine.

13° Perforated 13×13 m/m.

- „ 579 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 580 2 „ Rose red.
 „ 581 2 „ Scarlet.
 „ 582 5 „ Ultramarine.

14° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 583 1 *sen* Green.
 „ 584 2 „ Rose red.

The last two perforations were first used during February 1888.

February 1888 Issue.

This emission shows only a slight alteration in the color of the 5 *sen* stamp just described, the paper, size, impression, etc. remaining the same.

1° Perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- No. 585 5 *sen* Pale sky blue.

2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

- „ 586 5 *sen* Pale sky blue.

- 3° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.
 No. 587 5 *sen* Pale sky blue.
 4° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.
 „ 588 5 *sen* Pale sky blue.
 5° Perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 589 5 *sen* Pale sky blue.

March 1888 Issue.

Stamps of the denominations of 25 *sen* and 1 *yen* made their first appearance in accordance with ordinance No. 1 of the Department of Communications on the 10th March 1888, whilst the colors of the 4 *sen*, 8 *sen*, 10 *sen*, 15 *sen*, 20 *sen*, and 50 *sen* underwent a change. The last six stamps are of the same design as the immediately preceding issues of corresponding values. The 25 *sen* represents a circle, within the centre of which appear two crossed branches of paulownias and chrysanthemums embracing a *kiku* crest; in the upper section of the circle is the inscription 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*), in Japanese characters, and in the lower part "IMPERIAL JAPANESE POST" in white Roman letters, all on a green ground. In the uppermost part of the stamp *Nijugo sen* appears in antique Japanese characters, whilst the word "SEN" is placed at the extreme bottom of the adhesive with the numerals "25" in large figures at each side, filling the two corners. With the exception of the ring forming the circle, the design is entirely on a colorless ground. The 1 *yen* bears a large embossed *kiku* crest which completely fills the centre of the stamp; this crest is encompassed by a wide circle, in the rim of which inscriptions in the same style as the 25 *sen* appear in white letters; at the bottom of the stamp, the value is shown in red antique Japanese characters as well as in Roman letters in colorless spaces; with this exception, the rest

of the stamp is a white design on carmine ground. An insulator figures prominently at each corner. Printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper; size of the 25 *sen*, $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*, and of the 1 *yen*, $19 \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 590	10 <i>sen</i>	Brown ocre.
„ 591	20 „	Orange.
„ 592	50 „	Red brown.
„ 593	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.

2° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

„ 594	4 <i>sen</i>	Yellow brown.
„ 595	25 „	Pale green.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 596	4 <i>sen</i>	Yellow brown.
„ 597	8 „	Blue lilac.
„ 598	10 „	Brown ocre.
„ 599	15 „	Violet.
„ 600	20 „	Orange.
„ 601	25 „	Pale green.
„ 602	50 „	Red brown.
„ 603	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.

4° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ *m/m*.

„ 604	25 <i>sen</i>	Pale green.
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5° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.

„ 605	4 <i>sen</i>	Yellow brown.
„ 606	8 „	Blue lilac.
„ 607	10 „	Brown ocre.
„ 608	15 „	Violet.
„ 609	20 „	Orange.
„ 610	25 „	Pale green.

No. 611	50 <i>sen</i>	Red brown.
„ 612	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.
	6° Perforated	13 × 13½ <i>m/m</i> .
„ 613	10 <i>sen</i>	Brown ocre.
	7° Perforated	13 × 14 <i>m/m</i> .
„ 614	15 <i>sen</i>	Violet
„ 615	25 „	Pale green.
	8° Perforated	13½ × 13½ <i>m/m</i> .
„ 616	4 <i>sen</i>	Yellow brown.
„ 617	8 „	Blue lilac.
„ 618	10 „	Brown ocre.
„ 619	15 „	Violet.
„ 620	20 „	Orange.
„ 621	25 „	Pale green.
„ 622	50 „	Red brown.
„ 623	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.
	9° Perforated	13½ × 14 <i>m/m</i> .
„ 624	10 <i>sen</i>	Brown ocre.
„ 625	15 „	Violet.
„ 626	25 „	Pale green.
„ 627	50 „	Red brown.
	10° Perforated	14 × 14 <i>m/m</i> .
„ 628	25 <i>sen</i>	Pale green.

The 20 *sen* stamp has often been chronicled as existing in the "yellow" color, but it never was originally issued in that tint. It should be noted that this orange color on the early printed stamps is very susceptible to atmospheric and actinic influences, exposure of these stamps an hour or two to the rays of the sun often transforming the shade into a lemon yellow.

May 1892 Issue.

After four years of non-activity, the 3 *sen* stamp of June 1879 issue made its reappearance in a new color on May 6th 1892 in accordance with ordinance No. 11 of the Department of Communications. Experience proved that for the payment of postal money order fees, third class mail matter, and acknowledgement of delivery, a 3 *sen* stamp would be very useful, hence its issue. Design, size, and paper, the same as its predecessor.

1° Perforated 12 × 12 *m/m*.

No. 629 3 *sen* Lilac rose.

2° Perforated 13 × 13 *m/m*.

„ 630 3 *sen* Lilac rose.

March 1894 Issue.

In commemoration of the silver wedding of their Imperial reigning Majesties, it was notified on March 2nd 1894 by Communications Department ordinance No. 3 that two special stamps of the value of 2 and 5 *sen* would be issued on the 9th of that month. They are elaborate specimens; the centre of the stamps is occupied by a large *Kiku* crest (菊紋) encircled by a ring, in the rim of which, appear in the upper section the inscription 大婚貳十五年祝典 (*Dai kon nijugo nen shikuten*) in Japanese archaic characters, and in the lower portion, "IMPERIAL WEDDING 25 ANNIVERSARY;" the outer edge of the ring is formed of seventy two dots; at each side there is a fabulous bird, probably intended for a stork. At the top of the stamp 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) in native characters is shown within a scroll; the value, both in the vernacular and Roman letters, is placed at the bottom together with "IMPERIAL JAPANESE POST." Other parts of the stamps are elaborated with ornamental work. Printed on

ordinary foreign white wove paper, each sheet is composed of fifty stamps in ten horizontal rows of five stamps each. Fourteen million three hundred thousand of the 2 *sen* and Seven hundred thousand of the 5 *sen* were issued. Size $25 \times 35\frac{3}{4}$ *m/m*.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- No. 631 2 *sen* Rose red.
 „ 632 5 „ Ultramarine.

2° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

- „ 633 2 *sen* Rose red.
 „ 634 5 „ Ultramarine.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

- „ 635 2 *sen* Rose red.
 „ 636 5 „ Ultramarine.

4° Perforated 13×13 *m/m*.

- „ 637 2 *sen* Rose red.
 „ 638 5 „ Ultramarine.

5° Perforated 14×14 *m/m*.

- „ 639 2 *sen* Rose red.
 „ 640 5 „ Ultramarine.

It will be observed that this series has no compound perforations.

August 1896 Issue.

On the 1st of August 1896, for the first time Japan issued its stamps with the effigy of national personages printed thereon. Although only two values were issued, this series consists of four stamps; there are two 2 *sen*, and likewise two 5 *sen*, each pair bearing the effigy of Prince Arisugawa and Prince Kitashirakawa respectively. This set was issued in commemoration of the valour shown and services rendered by these



A No. 60



A No. 61



A No. 62



A No. 63



A No. 64



A No. 65



A No. 66



A No. 67



A No. 68



A No. 69



A No. 70



A No. 71

two princes in Formosa and Manchuria respectively. The two *sen* has the effigy in an oval, within the rim forming the circle is placed the inscription 日本帝國郵便切手 (*Nihon Teikoku Yubin Kite*), this is shown in the upper part, "IMPERIAL JAPANESE POST" appears in the lower portion, whilst the symbol "2 SN." forms the division between the upper and lower semi-circles; there are ornaments at the four corners. The 5 *sen* is a more unpretentious stamp. The portrait is within the usual circle in the centre of the design; in the upper section of the rim of the ring around the effigy appears 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) the wording here being varied from the 2 *sen* stamp; over this inscription, the value, all in Japanese characters, whilst in the lower semi-circle is placed "IMPERIAL JAPANESE POST," and beneath that, the symbol "5 SN." Printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper, each sheet consists of one hundred stamps, being made up of ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each. Five millions each of the 2 *sen*, and two millions each of the 5 *sen* were issued. Size 19 × 24 *m/m*.

1° Perforated 11½ × 11½ *m/m*.

No. 641	2 <i>sen</i>	Rose red.	Prince Arisugawa.
„ 642	2 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.
„ 643	5 „	Ultramarine.	„ Arisugawa.
„ 644	5 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.

2° Perforated 11½ × 12 *m/m*.

„ 645	2 <i>sen</i>	Rose red.	Prince Arisugawa.
„ 646	2 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.
„ 647	5 „	Ultramarine.	„ Arisugawa.
„ 648	5 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.

3° Perforated 12½ × 12½ *m/m*.

„ 649	2 <i>sen</i>	Rose red.	Prince Arisugawa.
„ 650	2 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.

No. 651	5 <i>sen</i>	Ultramarine.	Prince Arisugawa.
„ 652	5 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.
4° Perforated 13 × 13 <i>m/m</i> .			
„ 653	2 <i>sen</i>	Rose red.	Prince Arisugawa.
„ 654	2 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.
„ 655	5 „	Ultramarine.	„ Arisugawa.
„ 656	5 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.
5° Perforated 14 × 14 <i>m/m</i> .			
„ 657	2 <i>sen</i>	Rose red.	Prince Arisugawa.
„ 658	2 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.
„ 659	5 „	Ultramarine.	„ Arisugawa.
„ 660	5 „	„	„ Kitashirakawa.

January 1899 Issue.

By Ordinance No. 30 of the Department of Communications dated 21st December 1898, it was announced that three new stamps of the denomination of 2, 4 and 10 *sen* would make their appearance. They were actually issued on January 1st 1899, and were the first of an entirely new series that was in course of preparation. The 2 *sen* and 4 *sen* are of the same design, and an improvement upon those that had hitherto appeared; the crysanthemum crest shows to advantage in the exact centre of the stamp and is surrounded by a necklace formed of thirty-two dots, around this necklace there is a network collar circumscribed by a ring; in the upper portion of the collar are seven five-point stars, each containing a Japanese seal (篆書) character reading in the following order 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*); in the lower portion the characters 貳錢 (*Ni sen*); the entire ground of the centre within the ring is in the respective color of the stamp, and the design, with the exception of native characters, is colorless; in each corner there are round colored spaces,

the two bottom ones contain the cypher "2" or "4" at the sinister side, and the symbol "SN." at the dexter side, whilst the top spaces have each an ancient *suzu*—a kind of bell,—the left one bearing an almost microscopical character 驛 (*eki*), and the right one, 遞 (*tei*)—*ekitei* i.e. letterpost—; the rest of the stamp is ornamented with fancy work. The 10 *sen* is in general a less effective production; the indispensable chrysanthemum crest at the centre is encircled by a colored Greek border, the inscription 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) spreads above this, whilst the value 拾錢 (*Ju sen*) lies immediately beneath; what is probably intended to represent button-hole nosegays are placed between the upper and lower characters; the whole of this centre portion is surrounded by a wire cord; from the outer edge of this wire cord, what seemingly represents a finely woven net spreads in every direction; the four corners consist of broad Maltese crosses, the two bottom crosses containing the numerals "10" and symbol "SN." in their usual position, and the two top ones, the aforementioned bell, each with the characters 驛 (*eki*) and 遞 (*tei*) as in the case of the 2 and 4 *sen* above described; the entire design of this stamp is in white excepting the Greek border. Printed on ordinary white foreign wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps in ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each. Size $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 661	2 <i>sen</i>	Emerald green.
„ 662	4 „	Carmine rose.
„ 663	10 „	Deep blue.

2° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

„ 664	2 <i>sen</i>	Emerald green.
„ 665	4 „	Carmine rose.
„ 666	10 „	Deep blue,

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 667	2 <i>sen</i>	Emerald green.
„ 668	4 „	Carmine rose.
„ 669	10 „	Deep blue.

April 1899 Issue.

On the 18th March 1899 the Department of Communications announced by ordinance No. 6 that three new stamps, viz : 5 *rin*, 1 *sen* and 3 *sen* in value, would be issued, they were, however, first sold over the counters of the post offices on April 1st 1899. The design is in every respect identical with the 2 *sen* and 4 *sen* of January 1899 emission, the only alteration being the characters denoting the value ; it follows that the letter "S" in the symbol "Sn," is, in the case of the 5 *rin*, substituted by an "R." Printed on ordinary white foreign wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps as in the preceding issue. Size $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 670	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.
„ 671	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.
„ 672	3 „	Brown violet.

2° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

„ 673	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.
„ 674	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.
„ 675	3 „	Brown violet.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 676	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.
„ 677	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.
„ 678	3 „	Brown violet.

October 1899 Issue.

The remaining values to complete the new series that commenced in January, were issued on October 1st 1899 in accordance with Ordinance No. 44 of the Department of Communications. These are the 5 *sen*, 8 *sen*, 15 *sen*, 20 *sen*, 25 *sen*, 50 *sen* and 1 *yen*. The type of the 5 *sen* stamp is the same as the 2 and 4 *sen* of January 1899 issue, and the 8, 15 and 20 *sen* are identical with the 10 *sen* of the same issue. The 25 *sen* and 50 *sen* are alike; the chrysanthemum crest, as in all the others, figures conspicuously in the centre and is surrounded by a fancy chain; around this there is a network collar on which the characters 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) are inscribed in the upper portion, and the value also in the vernacular in the lower one; at each corner is placed an octagon, the two bottom ones enclosing the numerals of value in Arabic and the symbol "SN." whilst the two top octagons contain each a bell on the sides of which the characters 驛遞 (*ekitei*) are placed together in tiny characters, thus differing in this respect from the other stamps of this series; bamboo leaves shoot forth from each side of each octagon, practically meeting each other at the tips, this simple embellishment enhances the neat appearance of the stamps; with the exception of the octagons and their contents, the whole design is in white, the ground only being colored. For the 1 *yen* a special impression is reserved; between the petals of the chrysanthemum crest slightly towards the tips, are tiny spots; this crest is in the centre and is surrounded by a necklace of wavy lines; the inscription 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) in large characters on a plain colored ground practically circumscribes this necklace, an ambiguous ornament forming the division between the character 大 (*dai*) and 便 (*bin*); an endless line encircles all this, and by passing over itself at the corners, forms four small rings, these contain the characters 圓

(*yen*) and 壹 (*ichi*) and the numeral "1" and symbol "Y_N" respectively; the impression is entirely in white and in relief. Printed on ordinary white foreign wove paper, excepting the 1 *yen*, which is in embossed printing, all in sheets of one hundred stamps as the preceding issue. Size $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 679	5 <i>sen</i>	Chromo yellow.
„ 680	8 „	Pale olive.
„ 681	15 „	Purple.
„ 682	20 „	Orange.
„ 683	25 „	Pale blue green.
„ 684	50 „	Dark red brown.
„ 685	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.

2° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

„ 686	5 <i>sen</i>	Chromo yellow.
„ 687	8 „	Pale olive.
„ 688	15 „	Purple.
„ 689	20 „	Orange.
„ 690	25 „	Pale blue green.
„ 691	50 „	Dark red brown.
„ 692	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

„ 693	5 <i>sen</i>	Chromo yellow.
„ 694	8 „	Pale olive.
„ 695	15 „	Purple.
„ 696	20 „	Orange.
„ 697	25 „	Pale blue green.
„ 698	50 „	Dark red brown.
„ 699	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.

January 1900 Issue.

On November 21st 1899 Viscount Yoshikawa, then Minister of Communications, notified that on and after January



A No. 72



A No. 73



A No. 74



A No. 75



A No. 76



A No. 77



A No. 78



A No. 79



A No. 80



A No. 81



A No. 82



A No. 83



A No. 84



A No. 85



A No. 86

1st 1900, Japanese postage stamps sold at the Japanese Post offices in China and Korea would bear the characters 支那 (China) and 朝鮮 (Korea) surcharged in red or black, and that such stamps could not be used in Japan. The issues of 1899 were accordingly surcharged as stated, the characters being placed at the bottom of the stamps between the Arabic numerals of value and the symbols "RN." "SN." or "YN." respectively.

SECTION I.—Offices in China, surcharged 支那

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 700	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.	Red surcharge.
" 701	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.	" "
" 702	2 "	Emerald green.	" "
" 703	3 "	Brown violet.	Black "
" 704	4 "	Carmine rose.	" "
" 705	5 "	Chromo yellow.	Red "
" 706	8 "	Pale olive.	" "
" 707	10 "	Deep blue.	Black "
" 708	15 "	Purple.	" "
" 709	20 "	Orange.	" "
" 710	25 "	Pale blue green.	Red "
" 711	50 "	Dark red brown.	Black "
" 712	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.	" "

2° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

" 713	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.	Red surcharge.
" 714	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.	" "
" 715	2 "	Emerald green.	" "
" 716	3 "	Brown violet.	Black "
" 717	4 "	Carmine rose.	" "
" 718	5 "	Chromo yellow.	Red "
" 719	8 "	Pale olive.	" "
" 720	10 "	Deep blue.	Black "

No. 721	15 <i>sen</i>	Purple.	Black surcharge.
„ 722	20 „	Orange.	„ „
„ 723	25 „	Pale blue green.	Red „
„ 724	50 „	Dark red brown.	Black „
„ 725	1 <i>yen</i>	Carminé.	„ „

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 726	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.	Red surcharge.
„ 727	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.	„ „
„ 728	2 „	Emerald green.	„ „
„ 729	3 „	Brown violet.	Black „
„ 730	4 „	Carminé rose.	„ „
„ 731	5 „	Chromo yellow.	Red „
„ 732	8 „	Pale olive.	„ „
„ 733	10 „	Deep blue.	Black „
„ 734	15 „	Purple.	„ „
„ 735	20 „	Orange.	„ „
„ 736	25 „	Pale blue green.	Red „
„ 737	50 „	Dark red brown.	Black „
„ 738	1 <i>yen</i>	Carminé.	„ „

SECTION II.—Offices in Korea, surcharged 朝鮮

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 739	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.	Red surcharge.
„ 740	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.	„ „
„ 741	2 „	Emerald green.	„ „
„ 742	3 „	Brown violet.	Black „
„ 743	4 „	Carminé rose.	„ „
„ 744	5 „	Chromo yellow.	Red „
„ 745	8 „	Pale olive.	„ „
„ 746	10 „	Deep blue.	Black „
„ 747	15 „	Purple.	„ „
„ 748	20 „	Orange.	„ „
„ 749	25 „	Pale blue green.	Red „

No. 750	50 <i>sen</i>	Dark red brown.	Black surcharge.
" 751	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.	" "
2° Perforated 12 × 12 <i>m/m</i> .			
" 752	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.	Red surcharge.
" 753	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.	" "
" 754	2 "	Emerald green.	" "
" 755	3 "	Brown violet.	Black "
" 756	4 "	Carmine rose.	" "
" 757	5 "	Chromo yellow.	Red "
" 758	8 "	Pale olive.	" "
" 759	10 "	Deep blue.	Black "
" 760	15 "	Purple.	" "
" 761	20 "	Orange.	" "
" 762	25 "	Pale blue green.	Red "
" 763	50 "	Dark red brown.	Black "
" 764	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.	" "
3° Perforated 12½ × 12½ <i>m/m</i> .			
" 765	5 <i>rin</i>	Dark gray.	Red surcharge.
" 766	1 <i>sen</i>	Pale red brown.	" "
" 767	2 "	Emerald green.	" "
" 768	3 "	Brown violet.	Black "
" 769	4 "	Carmine rose.	" "
" 770	5 "	Chromo yellow.	Red "
" 771	8 "	Pale olive.	" "
" 772	10 "	Deep blue.	Black "
" 773	15 "	Purple.	" "
" 774	20 "	Orange.	" "
" 775	25 "	Pale blue green.	Red "
" 776	50 "	Dark red brown.	Black "
" 777	1 <i>yen</i>	Carmine.	" "

May 1900 Issue.

Late in April 1900 it was officially announced by the

Minister for Communications that a special postage stamp to commemorate the Wedding of the Crown Prince would be issued on May 10th 1900. The stamp was only valid for domestic purposes, and could not be used for letters abroad with the exception of those to China and Korea, where, branches of the Japanese post office exist. The design consists of a large oval ring, in the extreme upper part of its rim is the *kiku* crest supported by two boughs of chrysanthemum; at the extreme bottom are two swallows flying towards each other; within the sinister side of the rim of the large oval is inscribed vertically 大日本帝國郵便 (*Dai Nihon Teikoku Yubin*) and in the dexter side 東宮御婚儀祝典 (*Tōgū gokongi shikuten*) that is to say "Imperial Japanese Post" and perhaps most intelligibly rendered as "Celebration of the Wedding of the Crown Prince," respectively; the centre is composed of various articles that figure prominently at Japanese weddings; the two top corners consist of bunches of wistaria flowers and at the two lower ones is placed the value in antique Japanese characters surrounded by wistaria flowers; the absence of all foreign lettering is conspicuous. The total quantity issued was thirty millions. Printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps. Size $24 \times 27\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

SECTION I.—For domestic postage only.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.

No. 778 3 *sen* Pale carmine.

2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ m/m.

„ 779 3 *sen* Pale carmine.

3° Perforated 12×12 m/m.

„ 780 3 *sen* Pale carmine.

4° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{3}{4}$ m/m.

„ 781 3 *sen* Pale carmine.

SECTION II.—For use in China, surcharged 支那 in black.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.No. 782 3 *sen* Pale carmine.2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ m/m.,, 783 3 *sen* Pale carmine.3° Perforated 12×12 m/m.,, 784 3 *sen* Pale carmine.4° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.,, 785 3 *sen* Pale carmine.

SECTION III.—For use in Korea, surcharged 朝鮮 in black.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.No. 786 3 *sen* Pale carmine.2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ m/m.,, 787 3 *sen* Pale carmine.3° Perforated 12×12 m/m.,, 788 3 *sen* Pale carmine.4° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ m/m.,, 789 3 *sen* Pale carmine.**October 1900 Issue.**

Due to the increase of fifty per cent that took place in the domestic rates of postage, the necessity to provide a $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* stamp for franking private postal cards, etc. was very soon felt; to meet this requirement, it was announced by Communications Department ordinance No. 52 dated 4th September 1900, that a new stamp of the above denomination would

be issued on October 1st following. The design and size are identical with the 2 and 4 *sen* of January 1899 issue, and the stamp is also printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps in ten horizontal strips of ten stamps each.

SECTION I.—For general use in Japan.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 790 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

2° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

No. 791 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 792 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

SECTION II.—Offices in China, surcharged 支那 in black.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 793 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

2° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

„ 794 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 795 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

SECTION III.—Offices in Korea, surcharged 朝鮮 in black.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 796 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

2° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.

„ 797 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 798 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Pale ultramarine.

March 1901 Issue.

By ordinance No. 17 of Communications Department, a new $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* stamp made its appearance on March 27th 1901, ostensibly to replace the 5 *rin* then in circulation ; no reason is, however, apparent for this reversion to the ancient system. The design and size are in every particular the same as the 2 *sen* and 4 *sen* of January 1899 issue.. Printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps like in the preceding issue.

SECTION I.—For general use in Japan

- 1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 No. 799 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray. .
 2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ *m/m*.
 „ 800 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.
 3° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.
 „ 801 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.
 4° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 802 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.
 5° Perforated $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 803 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.

SECTION II.—Offices in China, surcharged 支那 in black.

- 1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 No. 804 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.
 2° Perforated 12×12 *m/m*.
 „ 805 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.
 3° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.
 „ 806 $\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Dark gray.

This stamp has not been surcharged for use in Korea.

July 1905 Issue.

A new 3 *sen* stamp was issued on July 1st 1905 by the Department of Communications by ordinance No. 47 dated June 26th 1905 in commemoration of the amalgamation of the Postal and Telegraphic services of Korea with those of Japan. The design represents the characters 參錢 (three *sen*) reposing on a finely woven net spread out to illustrate a chrysanthemum with sixteen petals; this net is encircled by a ring about $2\frac{3}{4}$ *m/m.* wide within which margin are floral ornaments; at the right side appears the chrysanthemum crest, the national emblem of Japan, and at the left a plum flower, the national emblem of Korea; always within the margin of this orb, at the upper and lower portions is a dove with outstretched wings. These are all in white on a carmine red ground. Crowning the ring is a broad colorless scroll containing the characters 日韓通信業務合同紀念 (*Nikkan tsushin gyonmu gōdō kinen*) possibly best rendered as "In commemoration of the postal arrangement between Japan and Korea." The stamp was a special issue and not valid for postage on letters to Postal Union countries, being intended for circulation only in Korea, Japan, and where Japanese branch post offices are established in China. Printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps in ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each. One million five hundred thousand were issued. Size $18\frac{3}{4} \times 22\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m.*

1° Perforated $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m.*

No. 807 3 *sen* Carmine red.

2° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m.*

„ 808 3 *sen* Carmine red.

April 1906 Issue.

On the occasion of the Grand Military Review held on the 30th of April 1906 the Department of Communications

issued a set of commemorative stamps consisting of two values, $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 *sen*. The design is quite appropriate to the occasion. The centre represents a mounted field piece alongside three rifles supporting each other in the shape of a triangle, whilst a bugle, a pickaxe, a Japanese military banner and other articles of warfare are strewn here and there; conspicuously predominating, above these military weapons is the chrysanthemum crest supported by a half-crown of laurels and chrysanthemum stems; the centre design is surrounded by a wide ring within which is written in the vernacular an inscription corresponding in English to "Postage stamp in commemoration of the military review ceremony held by the triumphal army of the campaign of 1904/5," (*Meiji sanjū shichi hachi nen senyeki rikugun gaisen kwampeishiki kinen yubin kitte*. 明治三十七八年戰役陸軍凱旋觀兵式紀念郵便切手). In the lower part of this ring is the value in native characters. The two top corners outside the ring are occupied by a star, and in the lower corners appears the value in foreign letters, the symbol "SN." being at the dexter side. In the $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* stamp the foreign letters read " $1\frac{1}{2}$ SN." whilst the native characters read "one *sen* five *rin*." Similar to their immediate predecessor, being a special issue, the stamps are not valid for postage on letters to Postal Union countries, but are only available for postage in Korea, Japan, and to Japanese branch post offices established in China. Printed on ordinary foreign white wove paper in sheets of one hundred stamps in ten horizontal rows of ten stamps each. Size $18\frac{1}{2} \times 22\frac{3}{4}$ *m/m*.

1° Perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

No. 809 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Ultramarine.
 „ 810 3 „ Carmine red.

2° Perforated $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ *m/m*.

„ 811 $1\frac{1}{2}$ *sen* Ultramarine.
 „ 812 3 „ Carmine red.

The nomenclature of Japanese postage stamps issued to date ceases here.

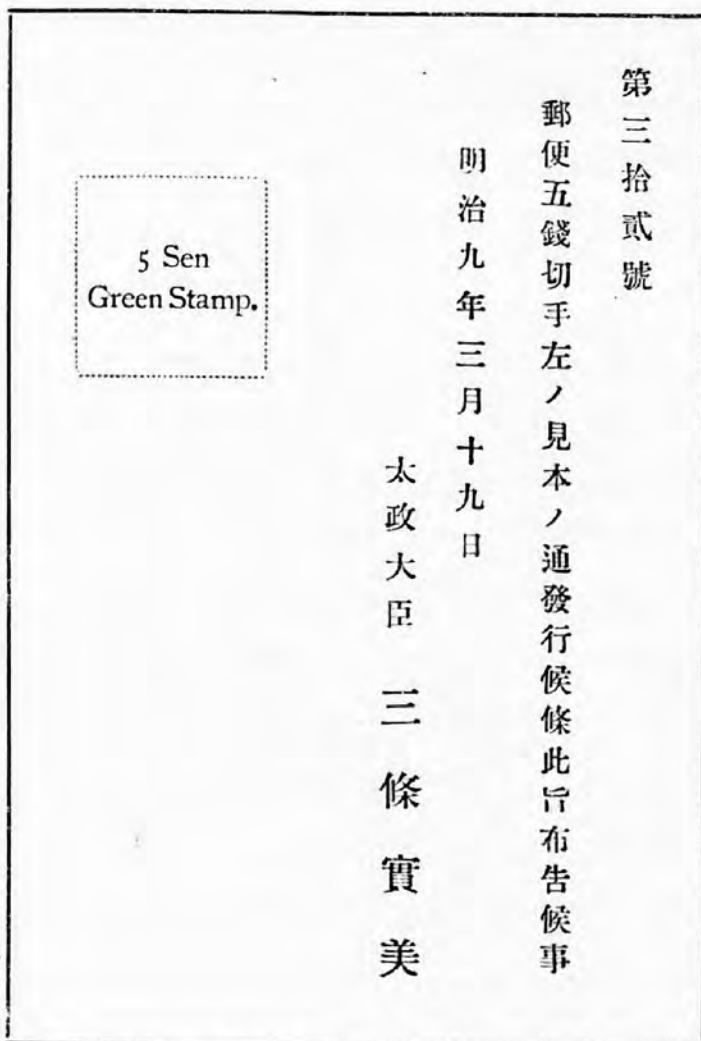
In recent times the perforation appears evenly made, but in most of the early issues it is of rare occurrence that a perfectly perforated stamp can be obtained; they are generally in an execrable state, more especially the impressions on native paper, doubtless due to the fact that these papers are not easily pierced by perforating machines.

Japanese postage stamps have not yet been watermarked.

The control of postage stamps has been confided to various Departments during certain periods. Thus we find that originally the Finance Department had the care of stamps, it was then transferred to the Home Department, and in turn to the Agricultural Department, whose control was, however, of short duration. The Department of Communications ultimately took over the control, and at present efficiently manages all postal affairs.

It is not generally known that the Government has in stock a large quantity of "remainders," doubtless representing a considerable face value. Of what stamps these consist, however, I have not been able to ascertain, aside from the fact that a large portion consists of issues during the seventies. A movement was recently set on foot by a syndicate of European stamp dealers to buy up all these "remainders," but whether these efforts have been crowned with success is not yet apparent.

Frequent mention has been made in these pages of departmental ordinances governing the issue of stamps. This document, a copy of which is circulated to all the large post offices, has a specimen of the newly issued stamp attached to it. In the early issues the adhesive was cancelled by having a black dot stencilled somewhere about its centre, but in the later issues the characters 見本 (*mihon*) corresponding to our word "specimen" was printed over its face. The notification is worded somewhat as follows:—



a rough translation of which is :

No. 32.

Specimen of
the stamp,
obliterated.

It is hereby notified that a 5 *sen* Postage
Stamp has been issued as per sample attached.
Meiji 9th year (1876) 3rd month
19th day.

SANJO SANEYOSHI,
Prime Minister.

They are not always identical, and the wording is sometimes altered to suit the requirements of the case ; another one reads :—

第五拾九號

郵便切手貳拾錢三拾錢四拾五錢共左ノ見本ノ通
改正候條此旨布告候事

但當分從前ノ切手取交相用不苦事

明治十年八月十八日

太政大臣 三條實美

20 Sen
Blue
Stamp.

30 Sen
Violet
Stamp.

45 Sen
Carmine
Stamp.

roughly translated as :

No. 59.

It is hereby notified that the 20 *sen*, 30 *sen*, and 45 *sen* Postage Stamps have been remodeled as per specimens attached.

The stamps hitherto in use may be concurrently used for the time being.

Meiji 10th year (1877) 8th month 18th day.

SANJO SANEYOSHI,
Prime Minister.

This catalogue would be hardly complete without mention being made where possible, of the estimated present market value of certain stamps. I will however restrict myself to recording those that are valued at or over ¥50 each.

No.				UNUSED.	USED.
No. 2	100 <i>mon</i>	Dark blue	... ..	—	50.00
„ 4	500 „	Green	... ..	?	200.00
„ 52	1 <i>sen</i>	Blue green	... ..	?	250.00
„ 128	10 „	Pale yellow green...		100.00	50.00
„ 147	½ „	Bistre	... ..	?	150.00
„ 149	30 „	Gray	... ..	150.00	50.00
„ 153	30 „	Gray	... ..	150.00	50.00
„ 158	10 „	Pale yellow green...		75.00	—
„ 159	20 „	Lilac	... ..	?	1,500.00
„ 161	½ „	Dark bistre	... ..	—	50.00
„ 163	½ „	Bistre	... ..	50.00	150.00
„ 190	2 „	Yellow	... ..	?	150.00
„ 192	6 „	Violet brown character ハ	} ...	?	100.00
„ 192	6 „	„ „	チ... ..	?	50.00
„ 192	6 „	„ „	ヌ... ..	?	75.00
„ 192	6 „	„ „	ル... ..	?	75.00
„ 193	6 „	„ „	ハ... ..	50.00	—
„ 193	6 „	„ „	ヲ... ..	50.00	—
„ 194	6 „	„ „	ハ... ..	50.00	—
„ 194	6 „	„ „	ヲ... ..	50.00	—
„ 195	6 „	Violet brown...	... ..	?	200.00
„ 199	10 „	Green	... ..	?	50.00
„ 200	20 „	Violet character イ	... ..	150.00	150.00
„ 200	20 „	Violet	„ ロ... ..	100.00	100.00
„ 200	20 „	Violet	„ ハ... ..	70.00	70.00
„ 203	10 „	Green	... ..	?	70.00
„ 204	20 „	Violet	„ イ... ..	?	?
„ 204	20 „	Violet	„ ロ... ..	?	?
„ 204	20 „	Violet	„ ハ... ..	?	?

						UNUSED.	USED.
No.	207	10 <i>sen</i>	Green	...	...	?	50.00
„	208	20 „	Violet character	ノ	...	?	?
„	208	20 „	Violet	„	口...	?	?
„	208	20 „	Violet	„	ハ...	?	?
„	266	15 „	Mauve		...	150.00	?
„	280	10 „	Blue	„	ホ...	50.00	50.00
„	290	10 „	Blue	„	ホ...	50.00	50.00
„	296	10 „	Blue	„	ホ...	50.00	50.00
„	299	1 „	Brown	...	...	200.00	?

With very few exceptions, Japanese postage stamps are generally worth more in a clean state than in a used condition.

