

BRITISH EMPIRE

AUSTRALIA

1913 TWO POUNDS

PLATE I

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is dated March 1951 and the cliché November 1951. For comparison use any value which is printed in two colours.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i> <i>Double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i> <i>Double plate</i>
COLOUR DL	<i>Grey-black and rose</i>	<i>Black and intense rose</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over A</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
PERFORATION	<i>12, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Not so clear</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B and H*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The natural bite of typography is lacking.
- (ii) Many of the horizontal lines of shading that surround the continent do not touch the coastline in the same way as they do in the genuine.
- (iii)\*There is a flaw comprising a break in the horizontal lines of shading below the continent to the left of Tasmania down to the right arm of the "U" in "POUNDS".
- (iv) There are three constant breaks in the inner frame line at left—(a) immediately opposite the horizontal line of shading on which the word "Australia" rests, (b) opposite the fifth and sixth lines of shading below, and (c) opposite the tenth and eleventh lines. Both eleventh and twelfth lines of shading are shorter than the other lines.
- (v) The shading around the letters is not so regular as in the genuine.

(vi) Under magnification  $\times 20$  the colour appears patchy and unevenly applied.

(vii) There is a weakness at the head of the "2" which is too thin at the top (Plate 1).

*Note:* The centring of the Kangaroo in relation to the frame is practically identical for all reproductions as Sperati's plate of the centre had guide-lines to ensure that the Kangaroo came in the right position.

Sperati made a variety with the Kangaroo omitted.

CANCELLATIONS

Genuine—see Chapter IV, page 28. The machine cancellations (horizontal lines) on this denomination inevitably indicate a forgery as such machines would only be used on mail of normal size. £2 postage indicates that the stamp must have been used on a heavy parcel and such packages would be hand-cancelled with a circular date-stamp.

\*The flaw described in specific test (iii) is constant on the fiftieth stamp on the left pane (2nd stamp, 9th row).

BAHAMAS

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper of both the 1884 £1 and the 1902 £1.

For comparison of the key plate use any contemporary low value.

The genuine stamps were printed by typography, double plate, Sperati's method is photography, double plate. Both reproductions have the genuine perforation 14 comb and Watermark Crown over CA.