

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

Of the forty-nine different reproductions of forty-four different basic stamps in this group, no less than thirty-four are known to have been reproduced on genuine paper, often retaining the genuine cancellations. The earliest reproduction made was known as early as 1909 and may possibly have been the work of Sperati's elder brother, Mariano (see Chapter III). The negative from which Sperati made his clichés for printing some of the Hungary reproductions is dated 1914.

Some of the rarest stamps that Sperati reproduced may be found in this group, notably the Austrian Newspaper 6 kreuzer red and the otherwise unique example of the Sweden 3 skilling banco, error of colour, printed in yellow. It is difficult for the collector in this generation to understand why several stamps of such low monetary value have been reproduced, such as some of those of Monaco, Russian-Wenden and Turkey, but it must be remembered that fashions have changed and that these stamps commanded a much higher price many years ago than they do to-day. Sperati made sixty-five different cancellations in this group although the use of all of these has not been seen. There is little doubt that some of them were used as transit and arrival stamps on covers that he had made bearing the stamps of other countries, but all have been illustrated and listed so that they may be recognized with certainty.

Many of the stamps described in this chapter were accepted by well-known Continental experts as being genuine and there is little doubt that hundreds of these reproductions have been lying in Continental collections as genuine stamps for many years. One of the members of the B.P.A., who has a profound philatelic knowledge, examined a large number of copies of a certain stamp that were owned by collectors in one country and to his surprise he found that just over 50% of them were Sperati imitations. These had apparently been sold about 1930 and it is only since the information published in this chapter became available to experts that the status of these stamps has been recognized.

AUSTRIA

NEWSPAPER STAMPS

1851 (6 KR.) YELLOW & (30 KR.) ROSE PLATE 107

It is convenient to describe these imitations together as they were both made from the same original type I.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions, sometimes on genuine paper.

For **comparison** use a genuine stamp or a reprint of the correct type.

The (6 kr.) yellow is represented in Sperati's *Livre d'Or* by two examples, one of which has the certificate of the B.P.A. (c. 1932) and the other signed by a well-known German expert. It is therefore almost certain that the dates on the negatives indicate the time when clichés were last made. Two examples of the (30 kr.) rose are in the same volume, both signed by German experts.

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Austria—1851 6 kr. yellow and 30 kr.—*contd.*

There are two negatives taken from the same original which are called A and B for reference. The impression of the former is rather more rough than the latter but the same tests apply to both.

Negative A is dated August 1950 and two clichés were made, one being used for the yellow stamps and the other for the rose. Negative B is undated and only one cliché was made, printings being made in both colours.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** and **paper** tests are of no value. The genuine stamps are so rare that it is not possible to secure sufficient material for comparison. However, there is one important aspect. Usually Sperati made these reproductions **on genuine paper** from which he had successfully removed the impression of a genuine stamp and retained the genuine cancellation. Like the genuine, the colours of the imitations are weak and they are very dangerous—they look just bad enough to be good copies of the genuine! There is considerable variety of shade of the yellow imitations. When the imitations are **not** on genuine paper and are unused or have a forged cancellation, the **colours** are too bright and the **impressions** too clear and smooth. The **gum** of the imitations is rather thick and yellowish.

BASIC TESTS: C, D, E and F.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Fortunately the impression of the lettering is too defective for there to be any real difficulty in identifying these imitations.

- (i) "ZEITUNGS" Only the diagonal stroke of the "Z" is clear, there are hardly any horizontal strokes to the "E" or the "T," the vertical strokes of the "N" are hardly visible, the head of the "G" is missing and the head of the "S" is broken.
- (ii) "K.K." The top part of the second "K" is missing.
- (iii) "POST" The loop of the "P" does not join the upright in the centre, the head of the "S" is broken and the foot is half missing (as in the genuine).
- (iv) "STAMPEL" The foot of the "S" is missing, the vertical stroke of the "T" is off centre to the left, only the right

leg of the "A" shows, the "M" is too short which makes the "P" look too long, the top and centre horizontal strokes of the "E" are missing.

CANCELLATIONS PLATE 108

These are often genuine (see Chapter IV, page 28). Also 6 kr. types 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15 and 20. 30 kr. types 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19 and 20.

The following is a complete list of those types known to have been made by Sperati. Type 2 is usually in red.

- 1 Large elliptical date-stamp
"EITUNGSEXPED" 8/8
- 2 Elliptical date-stamp, 26½ × 20 mms.
GRATZ 1/8
- 3 Elliptical date-stamp 31 × 24 mms.
LINZ 18/6 V-VIII
- 4 Royal Arms seal (two impressions)
"ROVERETO"
Circular date-stamp
- 5 TRIESTE
- Double lined circular date-stamp, 21mms.
- 6 VENEZIA—I.R.SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 1/25
- 7 VENEZIA—I.R.SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 2/25
- 8 VENEZIA—I.R.SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 2/31
- 9 VENEZIA—I.R.SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 4/10
- 10 VENEZIA—I.R.SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 4/25
- Single-lined circular date-stamp 40 mms.
- 11 VENEZIA—I. R. SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 18/4
- 12 VENEZIA—I. R. SPEDIZIONE GAZZETTE 10/2

- Double lined circular date-stamp 24 mms.
- 13 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 20/2
- 14 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 17/10
- 15 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 10/11
- 16 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 18/11
- 17 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 1/12
- 18 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 10/12
- 19 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 17/12
- 20 WIEN—ZEITUNGS—EXPED: 20/12

The following cancellations of Austrian Italy have not been seen by the B.P.A. although the negatives are in their possession. They may have been used on covers or pieces manufactured by Sperati.

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Austria—1851 Cancellations—*contd.*

Oblong framed date-stamp

21 "MANTOVA/3 -1-50"

Circular date-stamp

22 "MANTOVA/13/4"

23 "MILANO/11/1"

24 "MILANO/5/4"

25 "MILANO/10/8"

26 "MILANO/16/9"

Straight line

27 "RACCOMAMDATA"

Circular "Distribuzione"

28 "DISTRIBUZIONE 1" in sans serif type (associated with type 22 on the negative)

29 "DISTRIBUZIONE 2" in serif type.

1856 (6 KR.) VERMILION PLATE 107

As in the case of the genuine, this imitation is type II.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions.

For **comparison** use a genuine stamp.

The negative and the cliché are both dated December 1951.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** is a bright vermilion.

The **paper** is similar to the machine made paper of the genuine.

The **impression** is very similar to the genuine.

The **gum** of the imitations is rather thick and yellowish.

BASIC TESTS: *C, D, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a white spot in the outer frame in the extreme top right corner (Plate 107) and there is a general weakness in the right side with a break 6½ mm. from the top.

- (ii) There are spots of colour in the serifs of the "Z," the top right of the "E" and two in the lower half of the "G" of "ZEITUNGS"; there is a white dash half way down the right side of the "T," the right side of the "U" is broken and the head of the "S" is bifurcated on the right.

- (iii) There are flaws in the background immediately above "ZEITUNGS," notably in the form of a grave accent above the "E," two cracks above the "N" and one above the right of the "S."

- (iv) There is a weakness in the background around the "P" of "POST."

- (v) There are two spots of colour in the upper part of the "T" of "STAMPEL" the left diagonal of the "M" extends (Plate 107), the top serifs of the "M" and "P" appear as two dots between the heads of the letters.

CANCELLATIONS

No examples have been recorded with genuine cancellations. The types noted under the (6 kr.) yellow and the (30 kr.) rose, have been seen on this value (sometimes in red as well as in black) with the exception of types 6, 9, 14 and 17, which, however, probably exist.

1858 IMPERIAL JOURNAL STAMPS*
1 & 4 KREUZER PLATE 107

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour and the 1 kreuzer (Type I) unused. It is certain that he made used examples of the 1 kreuzer and unused and used examples of the 4 kreuzer as there are examples in the *Livre d'Or*, one signed by an eminent Italian expert and the other by a German. These reproductions were probably made in the 'twenties.

For **comparison** use a genuine stamp.

There are two reproductions of the 1 kreuzer, A only being represented by a single "die" proof in black, while B is in possession of the B.P.A. both in the form of a "die" proof in colour and unused.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colours** and the **paper** (of the 1 kr.) are a good match with the genuine. The gum is yellowish and full of tiny cracks.

*It is probable that these clichés were used to make reproductions of the 1 kr. black and 4 kr. red of Lombardy—Venetia.

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Austria—Journal Stamps 1858—*contd.*

BASIC TESTS: *C, D, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

ONE KREUZER

Reproduction A

As only one example is available some of these tests may not be constant.

- (i) The inner frame line is thicker at left 10 mm. from the top of the stamp, apparently retouched at right 5-6 mm. from the foot of the stamp, at bottom 1-1½ mm. from the right.
- (ii) There is a small black spot between the "tu" of "Zeitungs."
- (iii) There is a nick in the left foot of the "n" of "Kon" (Plate 107).
- (iv) There is a dot just above the right lower serif of the "p" of "Stempel" and there is no top serif to the "l."
- (v) There is a weakness in the lower half of the "u" of "Kreuzer" and the tip of the second "e" is broken (Plate 107).

Reproduction B

- (vi) There is a break in the thick outer frame at left 5 mm. from the foot of the stamp.
- (vii) The top and bottom serifs of both "K"s in "Kais.Kon" are joined.

- (viii) There is a flaw in the right side of the centre stroke of the "m" of "Stempel."
- (ix) The lower right serif of the "z" of "Kreuzer" is broken away from the diagonal and there is a flaw in the nose of the second "e."
- (x) The lower part of the bottom right circular ornament is broken.

FOUR KREUZER

- (i) There are breaks in the outer frame at top 2.6 mm. and 4.5 mm. from the right, and at the right 4.5 mm. from the bottom. The left frame is vertically split and weak towards the top.
- (ii) The inner frame line is broken in the top left corner and very weak at the top right.
- (iii) The "Z" of "Zeitungs" is broken at the top of the diagonal stroke (Plate 107).
- (iv) The horizontal stroke of the "e" of "Stempel" is broken.
- (v) The lower right serif of the "z" of "Kreuzer" is separated from the diagonal.
- (vi) The circular ornament in the upper left is broken at the top and those in the lower corners are broken at the bottom.

CANCELLATIONS

Unrecorded but examine those illustrated as being found on the Newspaper stamps.

BELGIUM

1854

Sperati does not remember for what reason he made reproductions of the 1853-54 date-stamps. They may have been used as arrival or transit date-stamps on covers.

The negatives of these items were found in Sperati's materials and are therefore recorded here.

Circular date-stamps

- 1 "ANVERS 1853/29/NOV./7-8M"
- 2 "ANVERS 5S/17/JANV./54"
- 3 "ANVERS 5S/27/JANV./54"
- 4 "ANVERS 1854/20 FEV 7-8M"
- 5 "MONS/5S/30 11/53"

Note: Type 3 is a retouched transfer of Type 2.

1878-81 FIVE FRANCS PLATE 109

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper.

For **comparison** use a contemporary low value stamp of a similar design.

Neither the negative nor the cliché are dated but examples of the reproduction are in the *Livre d'Or*.