

BRITISH EMPIRE

BARBADOS

1886 FIVE SHILLINGS

PLATE 2

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour. Unused and used reproductions on genuine paper have not yet been recorded.

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

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
	<i>Double plate</i>	<i>Double plate</i>
COLOUR {DL	<i>Bistre</i>	<i>Slightly more grey</i>
{MVL	<i>Grey brown</i>	<i>Brown (more red)</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, F and J.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The natural bite of typography is lacking.
- (ii) Slight irregularities in the horizontal shading under magnification $\times 20$.
- (iii) In the parts printed with solid colour, the ink appears to be patchily applied.

BERMUDA

1886 2d., 6d., & 1/-

See Gibraltar on page 42.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

(Vancouver Island)

PLATE 2

The following comments apply to both denominations described.

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

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
PAPER {DL	<i>Surfaced</i>	<i>Rougher, rather whiskery</i>
{MVL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Brownish, back stained buff</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CC</i>	<i>Genuine</i>

Note: It is probable that Sperati used fiscally cancelled copies of the Natal 5/- in order to provide genuine paper; the area of this stamp is sufficiently large for the perforations to be trimmed off and a stamp of normal size to be printed and still have adequate margins to be imperforate.

GUM	GENUINE	SPERATI
	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Yellowish toned</i>

For comparison use the perforated stamps.

BRITISH EMPIRE

British Columbia—*contd.*

1865 FIVE CENTS

PLATE 2

The cliché is dated November 1942. The colour is rather deeper and has more rose than a genuine and the impression is comparatively flat.

BASIC TESTS: *B, D, E, F, H and K*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a constant flaw in the fourth oblong from the left in the top frame, which extends into the fifth oblong (Plate 2).
- (ii) There is a constant weakness in the bottom frame line immediately below the right corner of the "N" of "CENTS"
- (iii) Both the upper and the lower lips lack the definition of the genuine as the lines of shading are more broken and have a spotted appearance.
- (iv) The fine lines around the nostrils and the mouth are much coarser than in the genuine.

CANCELLATIONS

- (1) The obliteration "35" in black (normally the genuine is in blue).
- (2) "POST OFFI(CE) / VICTORIA VANCOUVER (ISLAND)/PAID" in black (normally the genuine is in blue). There are two states of this cancellation (see illustration).
- (3) "PAID" in double oval frame in black and in blue (normally the genuine is in blue). In the genuine the inner line is much thinner than the outer.
- (4) "NEW WEST(MINSTER)/POST (OFFICE)/BRITISH (COLUMBIA)" in black (normally the genuine is in blue).

1865 TEN CENTS

PLATE 2

The cliché is dated January 1953. The colour is deeper than the genuine and the impression is much more coarse.

BASIC TESTS: *B, D, E, F, H and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a constant flaw in the background above and between the "NC" of "VANCOUVER" and a dot in the floral ornament below the "N." (Plate 2.)
- (ii) There are two weak spots in the outer frame line above the "N" of "ISLAND."
- (iii)*There is a constant break through two lines of shading on the extreme right of the background on a level with the end of the pendant curl.
- (iv) There are two constant weak spots in the solid background in the lower right corner.
- (v) The lobe of the ear has been retouched as have the two horizontal lines of shading on the cheek immediately to the right of the mouth.

*One example has been seen with this defect touched up.

CANCELLATIONS

See 5 cents above.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

The following comments apply to all three denominations described.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Lithography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Some stamps in the sheet show portions of "Pure Linen Bank" and "W.C.S. and Co." in monogram</i>	
PERFORATION (8AS. AND 1R.)	<i>14, line</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Colourless</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear but spotted</i>	<i>Clear, less spotted</i>

BASIC TESTS: *The double lines that form the frame at the top and the sides are stronger than those in the genuine.*

For comparison use the genuine stamps in the common colours.