

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

BRITISH EAST AFRICA

1894 5 Annas on 8 Annas blue and $7\frac{1}{2}$ Annas on 1 Rupee rose (Photographic Plate A)

It now appears that Sperati forged the 1894 overprinted 5 annas on 8 annas blue and $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas on 1 rupee rose. Two artists' proofs from Sperati's archives for the 5 and $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas overprints, as well as a finished, signed copy of the 5 annas on 8 annas, have become available for study. These overprints are not so shiny as the genuine, though Sperati was quite capable of making them so in his finished products. They also have much less typographic bite than the genuine. Their size is close to the genuine. In applying the following tests, remember that they are based on single proof copies of each overprint and one finished copy of the 5 annas on 8 annas, so they may not apply generally. It is also possible that some of the characteristics may occur on one or other plate position of the genuine stamps.



5 Annas

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are several white dots and spots on the number and letters of the forgery. A dash at the bottom right of the two legs of the first "A" of "ANNAS" creates slivers descending from the legs.
- (ii) On top and to the right of the bottom curve of the "5" there is an indentation. The top horizontal of the "5" has parallel, even edges, rarely seen in the genuine.
- (iii) A white dot is near the end of the top of the "S".



$7\frac{1}{2}$ Annas

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The edges of the numerals and letters in the forgery are rougher than in the genuine and they appear slightly heavier (wider) than the genuine. Most corners are a little more rounded than the genuine.
- (ii) The "7" has a small nick in its right side, at the level of the bottom side of the top stroke. The left side of the "7" has a short, downward pointing spur, just above its midpoint.
- (iii) The "1" just clears the fraction bar, its right serif is thickened, there is a bump on the left side of its vertical, and the top serif is insufficiently concave.
- (iv) The fraction bar is thickened on the right end



- and is joined to the "2" in the middle.
- (v) The "2" is generally too thick in all parts.
- (vi) The first "A" has a downward sloping top, from left to right. The top of the second A slopes upward, from left to right. Both "A"s have white triangles which are smaller than the genuine and more like long droplets than triangles.
- (vii) The tail and the head of the "S" come closer to the centre of this letter than in the genuine.