

CHAPTER SEVEN

GERMAN STATES

The dates that appear on the negatives and clichés used by Sperati suggest that none of these reproductions were made until 1940. However, there is no doubt that several, if not many, had been produced earlier and of these the Bavarian 1849 1 kreuzer and the Saxony 1850 3 pfennige were in circulation in Great Britain some years earlier.

There are several interesting aspects of these stamps.

The Bavarian 1 kreuzer was produced in multiple pieces (often with one stamp *tête-bêche*) with so many variations that it suggests that Sperati could make consecutive prints from a single cliché which were so accurately aligned that all appear to be printed at one time on the one piece of paper.

The block of four of the Bremen 5 silbergroschen is the second of two reproductions made by Sperati in blocks of four.

The many reproductions of the Saxony 1850 3 pfennige suggests that these must have been a particularly profitable reproduction during the years of the German occupation of France.

Sperati reproduced at least 202 different German cancellations and handstruck stamps of which 45 are to be found on the Bavarian 1 kreuzer, and 25 on the Saxony 3 pfennige. Sixteen different cancellations were made for Bremen and of these nine were used to cancel some of the Oldenburg reproductions of which Sperati made a further 56 different cancellations.

A few of these were probably reserved for use as arrival stamps on covers made by Sperati and bearing his reproductions of French stamps with addresses in one or other of the German States.

The Halle and Magdeburg stamps illustrated on plate C are examples which have been seen on such covers but which would not be normally found on any stamp of the German States reproduced by Sperati.

BADEN

1852 EIGHTEEN KREUZER

PLATE 40

There are six clichés stemming from two negatives. Two are identical so five reproductions are described. Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (C, D) and in colour (A, B, C) as well as unused (B, D) and used (B, C, D, E) reproductions on genuine paper.

For **comparison** use a contemporary copy of the 1 kr. or 3 kr.

GERMAN STATES

Baden—1852 Eighteen Kreuzer—*contd.*

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR	<i>Green</i>	<i>Green with a tinge of yellow, sometimes deep green.</i>
	<i>Deep olive green</i>	<i>Olive green</i>
PAPER	<i>Greyish toned</i>	<i>White or toned—brittle</i>
	<i>Dull yellowish toned</i>	<i>Bright yellow, sometimes chalky white, occasionally yellowish-grey and very stained</i>
PERFORATION	10, line	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>(B) Pinkish brown, rather more coarse</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, D, F, K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

It should be noted that there are two types of the genuine, one with two and the other with three pearls.

Reproduction A

- (i) There is a constant break in the centre portion of the crown that supports the orb, just below the two pearls.
- (ii) There is a white spot between the "E" and "N" of "BADEN."
- (iii) There is a white spot before the figures "18."
- (iv) There is a white spot before "F" and a coloured spot in the last "E" of "FREIMARKE" (Plate 40).
- (v) There is a white spot below the "S" of "POST."

Reproduction B

- (vi) There is a weakness, often developing into a small white spot, in the background between the "A" and "D" of "BADEN" (Plate 40).
- (vii) In the outer frame line at right there is a constant flaw on the left side adjoining the top corner square.
- (viii) The outer frame line at foot has been redrawn. There is a horizontal crack in the frame below both lower corner squares.

- Reproduction C
- (ix) There is a white spot with weakness in the background between the first "R" and "E" of "FREIMARKE."
 - (x) There is a white spot on each side of the "S" of "POST."
 - (xi) There are whitespots each side of the "I" of "VEREIN" (Plate 40).
 - (xii) There is a weak spot rather like a full stop after the final "R" of "KREUZER."

Reproduction D

- Note:* This is a retouched transfer of reproduction B.
- (xiii) There is a flaw or white spot between the "A" and "D" of "BADEN" (Plate 40).
 - (xiv) The background below "FR" and "MA" of "FREIMARKE" is joined to the inner frame line.
 - (xv) The S.W. corner of the square ornament in the lower right corner of the stamp has a slight weakness sometimes giving it a rounded appearance.

Reproduction E

No specific tests are given for this reproduction as only one copy of the stamp has been examined and there are no specific flaws that tied up with any other reproduction. The inner frame line is very obviously lithographed and the basic tests must be relied on in this case.

CANCELLATIONS

Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

1862 THIRTY KREUZER

PLATE 40

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. For comparison use the genuine stamp unused.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR	<i>Orange (tinge of brown)</i>	<i>Bright orange</i>
	<i>Deep purple-brown</i>	<i>Yellow-brown</i>
PAPER	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish toned</i>
	<i>Yellowish toned</i>	<i>Yellow</i>
PERFORATION	10, line	<i>Genuine</i>

GERMAN STATES

Baden—1862 Thirty Kreuzer—*contd.*

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is insufficient white space between the background and the inner and outer frame lines.
- (ii) The pearls in the crown are nearly all filled with colour.
- (iii) There is a line in the "P" of "POST" (Plate 40).
- (iv) The background touches the inner frame line above "RE" of "KREUZER."

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

BAVARIA

1849 ONE KREUZER

PLATE 41

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black, as well as unused and used reproductions. There are three different reproductions, A and B being in deep black and C in grey-black. The latter has been used to make multiple pieces including a horizontal pair, vertical strip of three, a horizontal *tete-beche* pair, a vertical strip of three with the top stamp inverted, a vertical strip of three with the centre stamp inverted and a normal vertical strip of four.

For **comparison** use a photograph of the genuine stamp.

There are no dates on the negatives or clichés of any of these reproductions but some of the cancellations are reproduced on negatives that Sperati has dated 1941 and July 1943. Reproduction C was commonly sold in London prior to 1940.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR DL	<i>Black and grey-black</i>	<i>A and B—black. C—pale grey</i>
PAPER MYL	<i>Greyish-toned, sometimes almost white</i>	<i>A and B—yellow. C—yellowish-grey</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Poor, the black ink does not take well and is particularly noticeable in the background of the panels</i>	<i>Impression no worse, most of the flaws are constant</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) There is a white spot between the "Y" and "E" of "BAYERN."
- (ii) There is a very thin crack in the background joining the "R" and "A" of "FRANCO."
- (iii) There is a small flaw at the top of the left panel containing the word "EIN" just below the upper left numeral.
- (iv) There is a small flaw at the foot of the right panel just above the lower right numeral, and a minute white dot between the "U" and "Z" of "KREUZER."

Reproduction B

- (v) There is usually a small diagonal stroke joining the foot of the "E" in "BAYERN" to the upright (Plate 41).
- (vi) There is a small white spot just below and to the right of the foot of the "F" of "FRANCO" and the "C" in the same word looks like a "G."

Reproduction C

- (vii) In the top panel there is a curious hook-shaped flaw touching the top left of the "B," and a white scratch in the background in front of the "E" in the head of which there is a small flaw.