

BRITISH EMPIRE

BRITISH POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT

PLATE 2

In Sperati's reference collection there were two impressions of the oval date stamp

REGISTERED

A  
14 AP 10  
SMYRNA

As will be seen from the illustrations, retouching has made these impressions appear to be from different handstamps although they were originally from one.

Note the dropped "O" in the year in the second impression.

The B.P.A. Expert Committee is not aware of the purpose for which these impressions were made by Sperati.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

1883 FIVE SHILLINGS

PLATE 4

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. The cliché is dated 1st November 1951.

For comparison use the genuine stamp.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR DL	<i>Orange</i>	<i>Golden orange, or more rarely, dull orange</i>
PAPER {DL	<i>Smooth surface</i>	<i>Rough surface</i>
{MVL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Badly stained on back</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Colourless</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear and bright</i>	<i>Coarse and too full of colour</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a constant colourless spot before the "C" of "CAPE" (Plate 4).
- (ii) The background projects below the "AP" of "CAPE" (Plate 4).
- (iii) The top horizontal line of shading is broken below the "P" of "CAPE," and again under the "E" of "HOPE" (Plate 4).
- (iv) There is a dot above the "E" of "FIVE" and between the frame line and the leaf. (*Note*—This is constant on the golden shades but has been touched out on the dull orange.)
- (v) There is a constant colourless spot in the lower loop of the "S" of "POSTAGE."
- (vi) The "N" of "SHILLINGS" is more prominent than the other letters.

CANCELLATIONS

1. "Squared" circle containing "PORT E(LIZA)BETH/H/JY 28/83/CAPE-COLONY."
2. "Squared" circle containing "(PORTEL)ZABETH/H/DE 12/83/CAPE-COLONY."
3. "Squared" circle containing "(GRAHA)M's-TOWN/E/E 2/84/"CAPE-COL)ONY."
4. Circle containing "(PORT ELIZ)ABETH/—/—9/—/ (CAPE COL)ONY"
5. Circle containing "...ARI/C/DE 10/84"
6. Part of an oval of bars.
7. Cancellation of bars containing numeral "2".
8. As 7 but a different type.