

BRITISH EMPIRE

CEYLON

The following comments apply to all three basic denominations described.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
CANCELLATIONS: Genuine (see Chapter IV, page 28)		

1883 FOUR CENTS

PLATE 4

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour. No completed examples of this reproduction are known unless they bear the 1885 or 1889 surcharges. Therefore, the following commentary has to be read in conjunction with the descriptions of the provisionals.

For comparison use the genuine stamp in mauve or in carmine.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR	<i>Mauve</i>	<i>Not so deep when compared with the unused, very like the genuine used</i>
	<i>Mauve</i>	<i>Pink (hardly any trace of blue)</i>
PAPER	<i>White</i>	<i>White</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Rather cloudy</i>

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

- SPECIFIC TESTS: (i) The bottom stroke of the "E" of "CEYLON" is separated from the upright (Plate 4).
(ii) Above the third pearl of the diadem a diagonal line joins two of the horizontal lines of shading.
(iii) The right arm of the "T" of "POSTAGE" is detached from the upright (Plate 4).
(iv) There is a constant break through two of the horizontal lines of shading behind the neck.

1883 SIXTEEN CENTS

PLATE 4

Sperati is only known to have made used reproductions on genuine paper.
For comparison use the 1872 16c.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR	<i>Pale violet</i>	<i>Less blue and more red</i>
	<i>Lilac</i>	<i>Pink or pink with a tinge of mauve</i>
PAPER	<i>White</i>	<i>Pinkish on reverse</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Coarse in comparison</i>

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

- SPECIFIC TESTS: (i) Over the "E" of "CEYLON" there is an irregularity in the top outer frame line and a spot of colour in the floral decoration (Plate 4).
(ii) Over the "AG" of "POSTAGE" there is a defect in the outer frame line.

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Ceylon—*contd.*

1883 TWENTY-FOUR CENTS

PLATE 4

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. Only a single copy is recorded without the 1885 surcharge (*q.v.*).
For comparison use the 1872 24c.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR { DL	<i>Greyish-purple-brown</i>	<i>Reddish-purple-brown</i>
{ MVL	<i>Dark grey-brown</i>	<i>Reddish-brown</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Pinkish</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Nearly as clear</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

(i) In the "C" of "CEYLON" there are two colourless spots, one in the centre and the other lying in the "saucer" of the lower part of the letter (Plate 4).

(ii) In the lower curve of the "S" of "POSTAGE" there is a colourless spot (Plate 4).

(iii) There are three colourless spots in the top corner of the triangular ornament in the lower left corner.

(iv) There is a colourless spot in the lower outer frame line immediately below the "R" of "FOUR."

Note: This stamp was prepared for use but not issued. The genuine stamp is only known unused.

1885 SURCHARGED "POSTAGE & REVENUE FIVE CENTS" PLATE 4

The 4 cents rosy-mauve and 24 cents purple-brown are described together. Sperati probably used genuine examples of the 4 cents carmine with the genuine surcharge, faded out the carmine and printed his reproductions of the 4 cents rosy-mauve and the 24 cents purple-brown over and through the genuine surcharge and cancellation which have been rendered porous.

the surcharges lose depth and appear dull grey-black in comparison with the jet-black of the genuine.

Test the stamp and NOT THE SURCHARGE and there is no difficulty in identifying these reproductions but it should be remembered that 99% of the "FIVE CENTS" on 4 cents rosy-mauve that are seen are not Sperati reproductions but genuine stamps with forged surcharges.

For what it is worth, in the course of bleaching the paper

1888-89 "2 CENTS" ON FOUR CENTS ROSY-MAUVE

PLATE 4

Three of the different types of surcharges are known—
"2 Cents" (without bar)
"Two Cents"
"2 Cents" (with bar)

is printed over and through the genuine surcharge and cancellation which have been rendered porous, the genuine impression of the 4 cents carmine having been successfully removed.

The Sperati reproduction of the 1883 4 cents rosy-mauve

TESTS: As 1883 4 cents (*q.v.*).

CYPRUS

PLATE 4

The following comments apply to all four denominations described.

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

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

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Yellowish toned</i>

The best test for all the Cyprus reproductions are the rough edges of the duty plate in comparison with the clean cut appearance of the genuine.