

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

Belgium—1878-81 5 francs—*contd.*

signed by two German experts and they were almost certainly first made prior to 1935.

There are two states (and therefore two clichés) of this reproduction, one of which is found in both colours while the other has been seen in pale yellow-brown colour.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

It is well to note that there are three definite printings of the genuine—February 1878 pale yellow-brown (poor impression), June 1878 red-brown (De La Rue ink—good impression), August 1881 deep red-brown (Belgian vegetable ink, good impression).

The reproductions are a fair match for the genuine but under the MVL the following reactions are noted (as opposed to the genuine) and they appear to fall into four groups or printings for the red-brown stamps.

1. Red; 2. Deep chocolate-brown; 3. Dull brown; 4. Dull brown on tinted paper.

The genuine are very similar to group 2.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine. The **gum** is often genuine.

The **impression** of the first colour is clearer than the genuine but the red-brown colour is more coarse than the genuine.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

(Yellow-brown and red-brown)

- (i) There is a second and smaller dot after the dot following "BELGIQUE."
- (ii) The background above the "N" of "CINQ" extends into the curved white space (Plate 109).
- (iii) There are weaknesses which sometimes show as white spots just right of the centre of the "R" of "FRANCS," between the legs and following the right leg of the "A."
- (iv) There are a number of spots of colour between the outer frame line and the main design of the stamp, the most pronounced being:
 - (a) at left: 4.2 mm. from the top, .6 mm., 1 mm., 3.1 mm. and 3.4 mm. from the bottom.
 - (b) at right: 5 mm. from the top.
 - (c) at bottom: 1 mm., 7 mm. and 11 mm. from the left.

Reproduction B

(Yellow-brown)

Tests (ii) and (iv a) also

- (v) There is a pronounced white spot between the "A" and "N" of "FRANCS."

CANCELLATIONS

Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

BELGIAN CONGO

1891 TEN FRANCS PLATE 109

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. Neither the negative nor the cliché are dated.

For **comparison** use a genuine stamp of a common denomination.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** of the genuine stamps varies from yellow-ochre to a rather deeper (almost orange)

ochre, both on a creamish toned paper. The reproductions appear as yellow-ochre, brown-ochre and orange-brown. Under the MVL the genuine appears greyish stone on yellowish-grey; there are five distinct colours of the reproductions:

greenish-brown on very white paper or a stained greyish paper.

brown on dull white paper, back appears ribbed.

dull brown on near white, back appears ribbed.

red-brown on near white.

red-brown on bluish, back appears ribbed.

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

Belgian Congo—1891 10 francs—*contd.*

Generally speaking, there is a much cleaner finish to the genuine and they present a uniform appearance which is lacking in the reproductions.

The **paper** and the **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** of the genuine is fairly clear and that of the reproduction is muddled, rather as if the camera vibrated when the photograph was taken.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are distinctive white spots in the background at the top right of the "A" of "ETAT," in the crutch of the second "N" of "INDEPENDANT," between the "D" and "A" as well as the "A" and third "N."
- (ii) There is a fine crack in the inner oval to the left of the

ear, 3 mm. from the left and 10 mm. from the top of the stamp.

- (iii) There is less white space under the serifs of the "1" of "10" at left.
- (iv) "FRANCS" is full of white spots, in the upright of the "F," where the tail of the "R" joins the loop, to the left and right of the horizontal bar of the "A," in the top left and right uprights of the "N," in the centre of the "C" and in the centre of the foot of "S."
- (v) There is often a tiny break in the bottom frame line where it should join the right frame.

CANCELLATIONS PLATE 109

Only three are recorded—all circular date-stamps.

- 1 "BANANA 1892/3/SEPT/6-S"
- 2 "BOMA 1893/13/MARS/7-M"
- 3 "MATADI 1893/20 OCTO/11-M"

BULGARIA

EASTERN ROUMELIA

1884 FIVE PIASTRES PLATE 109

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour (also the background alone) as well as unused reproductions on genuine paper.

The stamp was not issued for use. For **comparison** use the 1881 5 piastres.

It is suspected that this is a very early reproduction and that few copies have been marketed during the past twenty years. The genuine stamp was typographed and the reproduction was printed by a form of photo-lithography. In spite of considerable investigation a genuine example has not been found so no comment can be made on the **colour** except that under the MVL the familiar stained appearance is obvious.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** is rather more coarse than the genuine stamps of the same issue.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The "R" in "ROUMELIE" is broken in the head and in the horizontal, there is a white spot in the right vertical of the "M" and a break in the foot of the "L."
- (ii) The "A" of "ANATOΛIKH" is smaller than the other letters.
- (iii) There are two dots under the "M" of "PRMYΛIA"
- (iv) There are many flaws in "NCTOYHA"—a white spot in the left of the "N," a dot in the middle of the "O," a white spot in the tail of the "Y," two white spots in the right upright of the "H," three white spots in the "A," one in the horizontal and one in each leg.