

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

CYPRUS

1903 Nine Piastres (Photographic Plate A)

An additional forgery has been seen. The original, which was described on page 40 and illustrated on Plate 5 of *Sperati I*, is now called Reproduction A. Six copies of Reproduction B have been examined.

Reproduction B

<i>Colour</i>	A good match, rather duller than a fresh used genuine copy.
<i>Impression</i>	Not quite as clear as the genuine.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E and G.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the background the 9th shading line from the bottom is broken 1.25 mm in front of the neck.
- (ii) The upright of the "T" of "PIASTRES" is bifurcated at the foot.
- (iii) The bottom of the right leg of the "R" in "CYPRUS" slopes upward from left to right.
- (iv) There is a white spot in the second horizontal line below the "C" of "CYPRUS" where it joins the vertical to the left.

Cancellations The genuine cancellations have been retained.



1903 Eighteen Piastres (Photographic Plate A)

Four new types have been studied, the original type described on page 40 and illustrated on Plate 5 of *Sperati I* now being designated Reproduction A. Basically the additional types are better reproductions than Reproduction A. They are all photo-lithographed on genuine paper, whereas the genuine stamps are typographed and the lettering tends to show the bite of this process.

THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

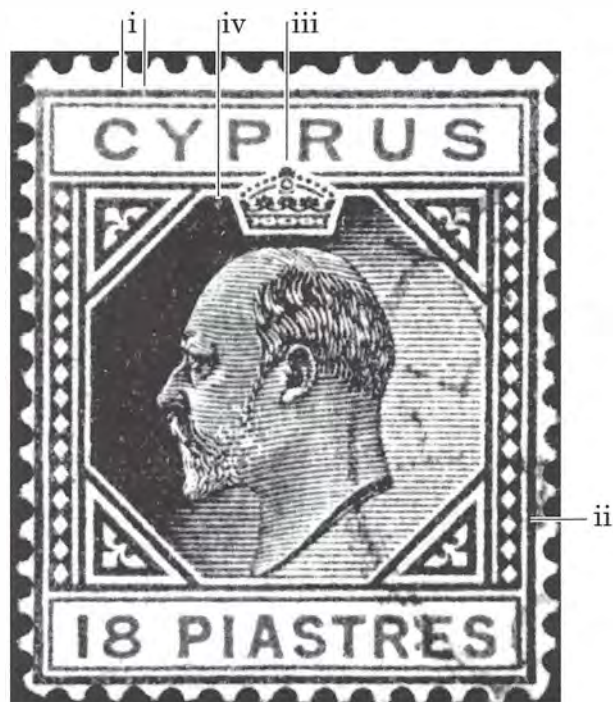
Reproduction B (three copies seen)

<i>Colour</i>	Well matched, one of three copies examined being greyish.
<i>Impression</i>	Very good until compared with the genuine.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E, and G.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) A small vertical line joins the upper and lower outer frame lines at the top, immediately over the "C"; There is a narrow break in the outer frame a little to the right of this letter.
- (ii) A horizontal line joins the two right outer frame
- (iii) lines opposite the third diamond from the bottom.
- (iii) The cross on the top of the crown is too solid.
- (iv) There is a white, curving, fine line resembling a crude "2" in the background to the left of the crown.

Cancellations The genuine cancellations have been retained.



Reproduction B



Reproduction C

Reproduction C (two copies seen)

<i>Colour</i>	Well matched.
<i>Impression</i>	Noticeably weaker than the genuine.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E and G.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) A large white area is attached to the northwest of the second diamond from the top left side.
- (ii) There is a major break in the upper horizontal
- (iii) line above the "E".
- (iii) There are white dots in the upper left of the first "S" and vertical of the "T" of "PIASTRES".

Cancellations Apparently genuine.

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

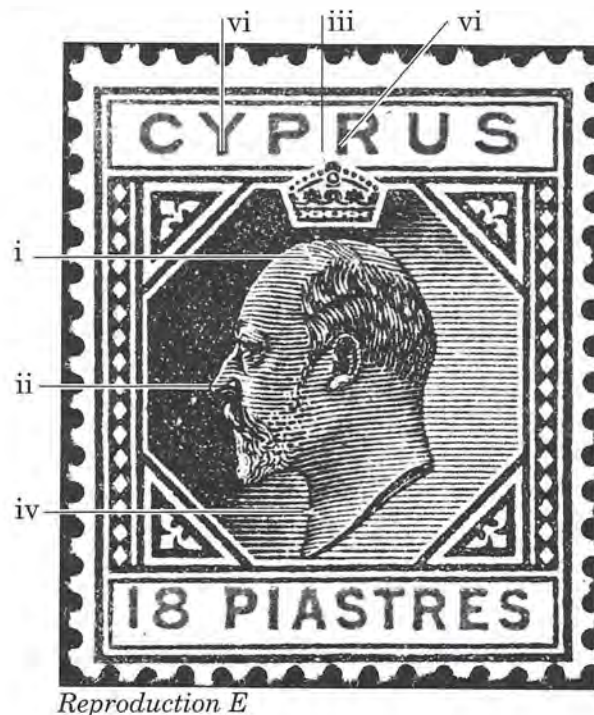
Reproduction D (seven copies seen)

<i>Colour</i>	Well matched.
<i>Impression</i>	Good until compared with the genuine.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E and G.

SPECIFIC TESTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A small white dot is to the northeast of the top white diamond on the left. (ii) There is a white spot in the outer frame line at the lower left corner. (iii) There is a break in the second horizontal shading line above the head, near the left end. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) A thin coloured line crosses the right end of the white frame line above the value tablet. (v) There is a bulge at the bottom of the "T" of "PIASTRES" on the right side. (vi) The top of the "1" of "18" slopes downwards to the right. |
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Tests (v) and (vi) occur also on Reproduction C. It appears that the "CYPRUS/18 PIASTRES" key plate used for Reproduction D was a retouched version of that used for Reproduction C, or vice versa.



Reproduction E (two copies seen)

<i>Colour</i>	Well matched.
<i>Impression</i>	Fairly good, but less so than the genuine and the other Sperati forgeries, so perhaps not used by Sperati.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E and G.

SPECIFIC TESTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) There is a diagonal break, NW downward to SE across four shading lines at the top of the head. (ii) The lower white line at the bottom of the nose is almost missing, leaving the nose appearing very | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sharp. To the SW of the top of the nose there is a white spot in the background. (iii) A short, coloured diagonal, running NW down to SE, is to the NW of the cross on the crown. |
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THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

The cross is indistinct.

- (iv) There is a break in the front outline of the neck
- (v) There is a white horizontal line across the top of the horizontal of the "T" of "PIASTRES". There are two white dots in the top arm of the "E" of

this word and the top of the "S" is very rough.

- (vi) The "R" of "CYPRUS" has a dot at the bottom left of its vertical. The bottom of the "Y" slopes upward to the right.

PIASTRES

1903 Forty-Five Piastres (Photographic Plate A)

Reproduction C (one copy seen)

<i>Colour</i>	DL as genuine, MVL dull purple.
<i>Paper</i>	DL toned, MVL stained back and front.
<i>Impression</i>	Good, but not so clear as the genuine.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E and G.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a sizeable coloured dot to the left of the vertical of the "Y" of "CYPRUS". The upper left arm has a spur on its lower side. There are two dots inside the "R" of this word
- (ii) In "45" the horizontal of the "4" sags downward at its left end. The vertical of the "4" has a white dot in its upper right and its bottom is fattened to the right. The second "S" of "PIASTRES" has a coloured dot on the bottom of its top stroke.
- (iii) There is a break in the front outline of the neck, between the seventh and eighth horizontal shading lines.
- (iv) In front of the nose there are three white spots in the solid background. (These are as in the key plate for reproduction B, so these two reproductions are related, but different)
- (v) There is a white spot in the background NW of the top right diamond.

