

BRITISH EMPIRE

Cyprus—*contd.*

1903 FORTY-FIVE PIASTRES

PLATE 5

There are two different reproductions which are distinguished by (A) and (B) in the following description.

COLOUR: Genuine, dull purple and ultramarine, MVL grey-purple. Sperati (A) DL and MVL reddish-purple and dull blue. (B) DL as genuine, MVL dull purple.

PAPER: Genuine DL white, MVL slightly toned. Sperati DL (A) toned, (B) white, MVL (A) and (B) stained back and front.

IMPRESSION: Sperati (A) is rather rough but (B) is comparatively clear.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) The right side and tail of the "R" in "CYPRUS" are weak (Plate 5).

- (ii) There is a defect in the top of the "S" of "CYPRUS" and colourless spots in the lower curve (Plate 5).
 (iii) The "P" in "PIASTRES" has dropped and the "A" is the wrong shape.
 (iv) There is a defect in the right end of the horizontal stroke of the "T" of "PIASTRES" and there is a spot of colour on top of the "R."

Reproduction B

- (v) The "P" of "PIASTRES" is apparently retouched and has a small serif at the top left (this suggests that it is the same duty plate as the 1894 45 piastres, *q. v.*).
 (vi) There is a minute colourless spot between the Crown and the top of the head (Plate 5).
 (vii) There is a white spot which varies in size in the upright of the "R" of "CYPRUS."

CANCELLATIONS

See 9 piastres.

DOMINICA

1887 ONE SHILLING

PLATE 5

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. For comparison of the key plate use any low value with Crown CC or Crown CA watermark.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
COLOUR	<i>Dull magenta</i>	<i>Less blue than the genuine</i>
{ DL	<i>Lilac</i>	<i>Maroon</i>
{ MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
PAPER	<i>White</i>	<i>Greyish, stained on back</i>
{ DL	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
{ MVL	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
PERFORATION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Rather flat in comparison</i>
WATERMARK		
IMPRESSION		

BASIC TESTS: *B.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The top of the "S" of "SHILLING" is flat (Plate 5).
 (ii) The lower stroke of the first "L" of "SHILLING" is cracked at the joint (Plate 00).
 (iii) There is a defect at the top left of the "N" of "SHILLING."
 (iv) There is a small defect at the end of the "G" of "SHILLING."
 (v) There is a small break in the frame line above and between the "S" and "T" of "POSTAGE."

- (vi) There is a curved defect in the background between "C" and "A" of "DOMINICA."

Note: The colour is the obvious test if a genuine example is available for comparison. Sperati prepared (but may not have used) a second duty plate which may easily be told by test (vii)—the back of the "S" of "SHILLING" is vertical instead of curved.

CANCELLATIONS

- "A07" in a transverse oval of bars.
3. "A07" in an upright oval of bars (two different impressions).