

FINLAND

1867 ONE MARK

PLATE 110

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is dated September 1946.

For **comparison** use a contemporary low value.

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

The **colour** of the genuine stamps varies from slightly reddish-stone to reddish-brown and in comparison the reproductions are orange-brown. Under the MVL there is little difference except that the reproductions are generally darker than the genuine.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine as Sperati removed the impression of a genuine stamp on which to print the 1 mark.

Under the MVL the paper is stained on the reverse and this will necessitate the introduction of Basic test K.

The **gum** on the genuine is colourless but on the reproductions it is rather yellow and under the lamp appears to have been applied with a brush.

The **impression** of the genuine is clear and that of the reproduction rather more heavy.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the heavy line running below the top value tablet there is a flaw on the underside below the "E," and the background below "RK" is joined to this line by a spot of colour.
- (ii) The vertical frame lines at the left and right of the stamp are not joined in the genuine but in the reproduction they run together for 8 mm. on the left, and for 2.5 mm. at the top and 3 mm. at the bottom on the right.
- (iii) In the bottom left corner the outer frame line is joined to the inner frame line by a diagonal stroke.
- (iv) In the bottom value tablet the background below the "K" is joined to the inner frame line below.

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

GREECE

1861 ONE LEPTON PLATE 111

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as used reproductions, some of which are on genuine paper. Neither the negative nor cliché are dated but there are two examples in his "Livre d'Or," one signed by a well-known French expert and the other by a German expert.

For **comparison** use a contemporary common value.

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

There are two shades of the reproduction, chocolate and red-brown, but neither has quite the depth of the original.

The **paper** is sometimes genuine from which Sperati has removed the impression of a genuine but common value. Under the MVL these stamps are stained on the back a rosy-buff. Reproductions that bear Sperati's cancellations are rather mottled on the back but show no signs of staining and the paper is very similar to the genuine.

The **impression** is not so firm as the genuine, the outlines are not so clean cut.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The outline of the solid background in the corners and in the top and bottom panels is not as solid as the genuine and shows many poor small flaws under magnification, some of which are described in the following tests.
- (ii) Just above and to the left of the large white spot between the words in the top panel is a smaller white spot.