

CHAPTER SIX

FRANCE

Apparently Sperati's reproductions of French stamps were made after 1940 and in consequence there are no examples in his *Livre d'Or*.

For more than one reason they have had to be listed in a somewhat different manner from those stamps of the British Empire. In most cases the **colours** of the genuine stamps are so varied that to attempt to describe the differences between them is impracticable, particularly as the reproductions appear in many shades although not quite so many as one may find in the genuine.

The **paper** is very similar to the genuine in many instances. Sperati made few attempts to clean off the impression of genuine French stamps in order to have genuine paper (and a genuine cancellation) for the canvas of his "Philatelie d'Art," but in the majority of instances the cancellations readily identify used copies of Sperati's work.

The stamps of France are dealt with in chronological order and after each denomination the cancellations are described. In the second volume, the cancellations are illustrated in their type order regardless of the stamp on which the cancellations have appeared. The type numbers are those given in Yvert and Tellier's Catalogue*. The reason for this arrangement is to let the reader study the complete range and first check the cancellation, for it will be obvious that some of Sperati's reproductions of cancellations may be found on other of his copies of stamps in addition to those recorded here.

The Basic Tests for each issue are given in the general commentary on that issue.

Some remarkable features characterize Sperati's work on the stamps of France.

About half of the French clichés are dated, and the earliest date recorded is June 1942.

Some of these reproductions must have been in considerable demand, judging by the number of different clichés made for the one franc stamps of 1849 and 1853. The reproductions of this value (which were frequently made on genuine paper from which the impression of a genuine stamp had been chemically removed) are often in poor condition—cut into or heavily cancelled—and therefore quite unlike his usual work.

Although Sperati's readiness to supply reproductions of French stamps had been freely advertised in the past, during the whole period of litigation no reference to them has been found in the official reports of any proceedings taken against him in the French Courts, nor was any mention made of them in the French philatelic press. The stamps of practically every other country in the world were mentioned in the course of these proceedings. If British stamps had been imitated in Great Britain or American stamps in the United States, is it conceivable that no reference to the fact would be made by the authorities† when a prosecution concerning postage stamps was being conducted against the individual responsible?

Finally, a very large sum of money was offered to the British Philatelic Association, conditional on the destruction of their entire stock of French Sperati reproductions and the omission of all reference to them in this book.

The reader is left to draw his own conclusions.

**Catalogue des Obliterations des Timbres de France 1849-1876* by E. H. de Beaufond, 1947.

†The authorities were aware that French stamps had been copied by Sperati for there was a used example of the 1849 1 franc among the exhibits before the Court. This stamp has not been officially demonetized and is still available for postage.

F R A N C E
1849-52 CERES

The following comments apply to all the reproductions of this issue made by Jean de Sperati. The genuine stamps were printed by typography and all Sperati work is a form of photo-lithography. **Basic Tests B and F** will be found most helpful for the bite of typography is lacking.

The **impression** of Sperati's work is generally flat in comparison with the genuine and the **colour** does not take to the surface of the paper with the same solid effect as the genuine.

The **gum** used by Sperati is yellowish with a faint crackly appearance and is generally thicker than the genuine.

The best stamps to use for **comparison** (failing the possession of genuine originals of the stamps copied by Sperati) are the common 20c. and 25c.

TEN CENTIMES BISTRE

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (A, D, E, F) and in colour (A, B, C, D, E, F) as well as unused (C, D, F) and used (A, B, C, D, E, F) reproductions. **Reproductions A and E** may be immediately recognized by the cancellations.

Sperati made five different reproductions and a tête-bêche pair. The **colours** tend to be too strong and lack the delicacy of the genuine.

The **paper** never has the lithographed tinted yellowish surface which distinguishes the first printings of the genuine. There is no evidence that any of the reproductions were printed on genuine paper (see note below the descriptions of the cancellations on this stamp).

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

The Sperati negative is dated February 1948.

- (i) In the top left corner there is a small dot at the right of the corner square and another touching the inner frame line above the square.
- (ii) The outer frame line is retouched above the "UB" of "REPUB."
- (iii) There are two constant flaws in the background behind the head.
- (iv) There is a constant white dot just after the "P" of "POSTES."
- (v) Below the last "C" in the lower value tablet there is some retouching to the outer frame line and there is a colourless line running from the head of this letter through the background above.

Reproduction B

- (vi) There is a dot in the frame line immediately above the "E" of "REPUB" and there are signs of retouching in the background below the "B."
- (vii) The ornament in the top right corner is retouched and the top right side of the ornament is irregular.

- (viii) There is a white flaw behind the ear which normally is partially obscured by the cancellation.
- (ix) There is a small dot between the "ES" of "POSTES." (Plate 22).
- (x) The outer frame line in the bottom right corner has been rather crudely retouched.

Reproduction C

The Sperati negative is dated July 1947.

- (xi) In the top left corner there is a break in the outer frame line almost at the join and a white spot in the top left corner of that ornament. The background above and between the "RE" of "REPUB" is irregular.
- (xii) In the centre of the left side there are two white spots, one in the background between the circle and the outer frame line, the other within the circle just to the right of the central pearl which is joined to the one above and to the circular frame-line.
- (xiii) On the opposite side of the stamp there is a similar flaw in the background between the circle and the outer frame line.
- (xiv) The bottom left corner of the outer frame line has been retouched particularly below the lower left ornament.
- (xv) There is a flaw in the background below the "O" of "10" at right and another flaw immediately above the "C" that follows (Plate 22).

Reproduction D

Sperati first made this reproduction in August 1947 and there is a transfer dated February 1948 and marked "re-touche Matrice 14.4.50."

- (xvi) There are marks in the space between the background above "REPUB" and the top outer frame line which are often partially obscured by the cancellation.
- (xvii) In the circle of pearls about seven o'clock there is a broken pearl.

F R A N C E

1849-52 Ten Centimes, Reproduction D—*contd.*

- (xviii) The inner frame line is broken immediately over the last "C" in the lower panel and the outer frame line is retouched below this letter and slightly broken just to the right.
- (xix) The outer frame line has been retouched in the extreme right corner and there is a white spot just above the centre of the bottom right corner ornament.
- (xx) There is a white spot in the background between the pattern and the outer frame at right.

Reproduction E

The Sperati negative is dated February 1948.

- (xxi) There is a break in the outer frame line in the top left corner and the background to the left of the "R" of "REPUB" has been crudely retouched and is rough at top.
- (xxii) The word "FRANC" has been retouched. The "A" is too small, the "N" is joined at left to the background above and there is a serif to the bottom of the "C" as well as a slight crack in the background to the right of this letter.
- (xxiii) There is a crack and an extra spot of colour in the top right corner ornament and the frame line is retouched at right not only in this corner but in the corner below.
- (xxiv) There is a weakness above and between the "10" and "C" at the left of the bottom value tablet.
- (xxv) There are white spots between the "ST" and the "E" and the "S" of "POSTES." The final "C" is misshapen and has a serif at the foot.

Reproduction F—a tête-bêche pair

The Sperati negative is dated April 1950.

The specific tests given for C and D hold good for the tête-bêche pair but both stamps have been retouched and further constant varieties are readily identifiable. For instance in the left hand stamp (Reproduction C) there is now a spot of colour in the head of the "P" of "POSTES" and a line through the bottom stroke of the "E." In the inverted stamp (Reproduction D) there is a hook-like projection from the "P" of "POSTES" but the flaws mentioned under C and D should be sufficient to identify this pair with certainty.

CANCELLATIONS

Reproduction A

Type 122e: The position and strength of this impression are constant. Sometimes a second impression is added to cover the top left of the stamp. (Plate 22.)

Reproduction B

Type 165 small figures: Numbers noted "318," "1675," "1792," "1954," "2221" and "3383."

Reproduction C

Types 122b, c, d, g and others, 126 (two types), 132 and 165 "1128," "1639," "2221."

Reproduction D

Types 122b, 126a and others (usually in the same position) 128 "8," 165 "2063," "2273" and others.

Reproduction E

Type 165 "1954": The position and strength of this impression is constant (Plate 22).

Reproduction F—a tête-bêche pair

Types 122b (double strike), 126 (double strike), 128 "8," 165 "698," "1425," "1639," "1734," "2221," "2738" and 190 "TB."

Note: As only the one illustrated example of 1425 has been seen, this may have been printed on genuine paper (with genuine cancellation) from which the impression of a genuine stamp had been successfully removed.

FIFTEEN CENTIMES GREEN PLATE 23

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (A, C, D) and in colour (A, B, C, D) as well as unused (A, C, D, F) and used (A, B, C, D, E, F) reproductions. Reproductions B and E are not known unused and **B may be readily identified by the cancellation which is always in the same position.**

Sperati made six different reproductions of this value. The colours are varied, some closely matching the genuine.

The paper is usually greenish-toned and occasionally bluish-toned.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

The Sperati negative is dated July 1947.

- (i) The outer frame line is broken in the top left corner and there is a break in the top frame line 1.75 mm. from the left. There is a second break over the "U" of "REPUB."
- (ii) The upright stroke of the "F" of "FRANC" is rough on the left and there is a little colourless spot on the top of the letter; the "C" has a break above the letter and a serif at the foot (Plate 23).
- (iii) There is a constant break in the top right corner star and an extra white dot in the bottom left corner, while the star in the bottom right corner is misshapen being foreshortened on the lower right side.
- (iv) The "P" of "POSTES" has been retouched, the upright tailing off at foot and there is a coloured spot on the curve of the loop, with two dots extending from the background between this letter and the "O."
- (v) The last "15 C" has been extensively retouched and the work shows in the background above and below the figures and also between the figures and the "C."

FRANCE

1849-52 Fifteen Centimes—*contd.*

Reproduction B

The Sperati negative is dated June 1947. A second transfer was made at a later date.

- (vi) In the top left corner ornament there are several spots and the outer top frame line is broken 1.9 mm. from the corner.
- (vii) There is a constant weakness on the right side of the ornament in the N.E. corner.
- (viii) There is a constant flaw in the left margin 5 mm. from the top.
- (ix) There is a small break in the left frame line 4 mm. from the foot.
- (x) The final "C" in the lower panel is retouched and misshapen at the top and has lines of colour in the foot.

Reproduction C

The Sperati negative is dated February 1950.

- (xi) There is a constant stroke of colour in the white space below the "UB" of "REPUB" (Plate 23). Colourless spots above the "FR" in the background extend below the "F." The "A" is too small.
- (xii) The corner ornament in the top right is misshapen.
- (xiii) There is a spot of colour in the pearl opposite and just above the tip of the nose and there is a flaw in the circle containing the pearls just opposite the lower lip.
- (xiv) There are two constant colourless spots in the ornament in the bottom left corner and one just left of the centre in the ornament in the bottom right corner.
- (xv) There is a constant white spot below and between the "T" and "E" of "POSTES" (Plate 23).

Reproduction D

The Sperati negative is dated July 1947

- (xvi) There is a coloured spot in the foot of the "E" and the top of the "P" of "REPUB" and there are signs of retouching in the outer frame line above the "P" and "B" of the same word.
- (xvii) There is a spot of colour in the upright of the "R," the "A" has been retouched, there are signs of extension of the background below this letter and there is a small dot as well as a large after the "C" of "FRANC."
- (xviii) There is a constant break in the right outer frame line opposite the foot of the top corner ornament.
- (xix) There is a flaw in the upper right ray of the ornament in the bottom left corner.
- (xx) There are considerable signs of retouching of the lower frame line which are very noticeable below the first "5" and "POSTES"; there is an additional white spot between the "C" and "P" and a flaw in the foot of the "E" of "POSTES" (Plate 23).

Reproduction E

This is a transfer from D and the same tests hold good although this reproduction varies in other ways.

Reproduction F

This reproduction is a transfer from C and may be identified by the same tests.

CANCELLATIONS

Reproduction A

Types 122a, c, f and others, 126, 134 and 165 "1639," "167," "1792," "2221," "2738" and "3439."

Reproduction B

Type 122h: The position and strength of this impression are constant (Plate 23).

Reproduction C

Type 122 (two variations) and 132.

Reproduction D

Types 122b and g, 126, 128 "8," 132, 134 and 165, "698" "2063," and "2273."

Reproduction E

Types 126, 132 and 134.

Reproduction F

Types 122, 126 and 128 "8."

TWENTY CENTIMES BLACK PLATE 23

Sperati made two reproductions, the second of which is a tête-bêche pair. The colour is usually jet-black.

The paper varies from white to toned and no reproduction has been recorded on the yellowish surface and the buff papers.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (A and B), as well as unused (A and B) and used (B only) reproductions.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

The Sperati negative is dated February 1950.

- (i) There is a black spot just below the top frame line and above the "P" of "REPUB"
- (ii) There are black spots in the top of the letters "R" and "C" of "FRANC."
- (iii) The pearl opposite the tip of the nose is misshapen and there is a dot in the pearl immediately opposite the point of the neck.
- (iv) There is a dot in the foot of the "P," in the head of the "O" and in the head of the "T" of "POSTES" (Plate 23).
- (v) There are dots in the white spaces surrounding the ornament in the bottom right corner.

FRANCE

1849-52 Twenty Centimes—*contd.*

Reproduction B—a tête-bêche pair

The Sperati negative is dated February 1950. Both stamps are retouched transfers of reproduction A.

Left stamp

Use tests (ii) and (iv) also:

- (vi) There is a white spot between the "E" and "P" of "REPUB."
- (vii) There is a small white spot between the "A" and "N" of "FRANC" and a black spot in the "C."
- (viii) There is a colourless hair-line in the left part of the background of the ornament in the top right corner.
- (ix) There is a white scratch running through the "E" towards the "T" of "POSTES."

Right stamp

- (x) There are black spots in the head of the "E" of "REPUB" (Plate 23).
- (xi) There is a white spot in the head of the "R" and the "N" has an ingrown serif in "FRANC."
- (xii) The outer frame line in the bottom left corner is weak and broken.
- (xiii) There are white spots in the background of the ornament in the bottom left corner.
- (xiv) There is a white indentation in the background between the "P" and "O" of "POSTES" (Plate 23).

CANCELLATIONS

Reproduction B—a tête-bêche pair

Type 122 single strike.

Types 126, 165, "1128," "1792," "2063" and one other which is illegible.

Also a red framed cancellation.

FORTY CENTIMES ORANGE PLATE 24

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (A, B, C) and in colour (A, B, C), as well as unused (A) and used (A, B, C) reproductions. **Reproductions A and B may be recognized by the cancellations which are always identical both in impression and position.**

Sperati made three different reproductions.

The **colours** and the **paper** closely match the genuine with the exception of one example which is printed on bluish paper (not unlike that used by Sperati for the 15 centimes).

There is some evidence that Sperati made some examples of reproduction C on genuine paper from which he successfully removed the impression of a genuine stamp and retained the cancellation. (See Note below the descriptions of the cancellations on this stamp.)

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) The background above the "R" of "FRANC" extends towards the upper frame line (Plate 24).
- (ii) The outer frame line is weak and broken in the bottom right corner.

Reproduction B

- (iii) The top frame line is weak with breaks above "REP" and at the extreme right corner.
- (iv) The bottom frame line is weak with breaks below the first "S" (which is retouched) of "POSTES" and in the extreme left corner.
- (v) There are two coloured dots between the background of the ornament in the top right corner and the upper frame line (Plate 24).

Reproduction C

This reproduction is made from a retouched transfer of A. "Die" proofs in black have been noted in an intermediate stage in which the touching out of the cancellation is incomplete.

- (vi) The top frame line has been retouched and there is evidence of thickening at the extreme left just to the left of the "P" of "REPUB"; there is a thickening and doubling above and to the right of the word "FRANC."
- (vii) The background below the "RE" of "REPUB" extends into the white space below (Plate 24).
- (viii) The "N" of "FRANC" has a broken and short left limb.
- (ix) The right frame line is retouched at left and becomes very weak after the top 6 mm.
- (x) There is a break in the circular frame containing the pearls opposite the tip of the nose and there is a dot in the pearl centrally above the heads of the sheaves of wheat.
- (xi) The right "O" in the lower panel has a break below that runs through the background (Plate 24).
- (xii) The background below the cross in the bottom right corner extends towards the outer frame line.

CANCELLATIONS

Reproduction A

Type 122k only: The position and strength of this impression are constant (Plate 24).

Reproduction B

Type 165a only: The position and strength of this impression are constant (Plate 24).

Reproduction C

Types 122c and f, 126 and 165 "692," "2063," "3300."

Note: As only the illustrated examples of Nos. "692" and "3300" have been seen, these may have been printed on genuine paper (with genuine cancellations) from which the impressions of genuine stamps had been successfully removed.

F R A N C E

1849-52—contd.

ONE FRANC PLATES 24-25

Sperati made seven reproductions, two of which were in pairs. Transfers of reproduction A were used to make tête-bêche pairs.

For the purpose of this description the many shades are allocated to the following five groups which are well known to philatelists:

1. Orange-vermilion (vermilion vif)—often brighter than the genuine but sometimes an excellent match.
2. Orange-brown (rouge-terne)—rather brighter than the genuine.
3. Carmine-brown—some a perfect match, others tend towards purple-brown.
4. Carmine—many shades, some excellent, others too bright and red.
5. Vermilion ("Vervelle")—too rosy (the genuine has a touch of brown) and the paper is too white.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions. The orange-vermilion and orange-brown colours are known on covers on which every evidence of postal use is forged.

The following table shows the varieties recorded:

Colour	1	2	3	4	5
Die Proof in colour ..	A, C, E, F	A, F	A	A, C, D,	
Unused ..	A	A	A, B.	A	G
Used ..	A, B, C, D, E, F	A, B, C, D, E, F	A, B,	A, B, C, D, E, F	
Covers ..	A, B				

"Die" proofs in black are known of reproductions A, F and G.

Reproductions C, D, E and F may be immediately recognized by the cancellations.

The paper is very like the genuine and is generally yellowish toned. There is ample evidence that some of the reproductions A and B were printed on genuine paper. (See Note below the description of the cancellations on this stamp.)

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A PLATE 24

This reproduction is found in orange-vermilion, in orange-brown, in carmine-brown and in carmine. It was also used to make tête-bêche pairs in carmine and carmine-brown.

- (i) There is a weakness in the background of the lower loop of the "B" of "REPUB" and the right stroke of the "N" of "FRANC" is usually extended upwards.
- (ii) In the value tablet at foot there is a white spot on the inside left of the "O" in "POSTES" and the legs of the final "R" are defective at foot (Plate 24).
- (iii) The outer frame line at left is broken near the top, again opposite the top of the lower left corner ornament.
- (iv) The bottom frame line is broken at the extreme left.

Reproduction B—a pair PLATE 25

This reproduction is in a pair and is found in orange-vermilion, orange-brown, carmine-brown and carmine. No proof of this stamp has been seen and the pairs are always used. The stamp on the left is Reproduction A and that on the right is a transfer from A to which the same tests apply.

Reproduction C PLATE 25

This reproduction is found in orange-vermilion, orange-brown, carmine-brown and carmine. It is readily identified by the cancellation which is always identical in position and impression. This reproduction is the centre stamp of a strip of three impressions, the other impressions being incomplete and may be found with large margins showing portions of the adjoining stamps on both sides. The cliché is dated June 1949.

- (v) There is weakness in the background below "REPUB" which is particularly noticeable at the left, and in between the legs of the "R" and in the form of a diagonal crack below the "P."
- (vi) There is a break in the outer frame line at right 6½ mm. from the foot.
- (vii) There are two breaks in the outer frame line at left opposite the square in the bottom left corner.
- (viii) There is a large white dot between the "O" and "S" of "POSTES."

Reproduction D PLATE 25

This reproduction is found in orange-vermilion, orange-brown, carmine-brown and carmine. It is readily detected by the Paris star cancellation which is constant both in its impression and its position. This reproduction is one of a pair, the second stamp being a part impression on the right but this does not of necessity show. The cliché is dated June 1942.

- (ix) There is a weakness in the background behind the top panel which is easily recognized as there is a white spot following the "B" of "REPUB" and other spots before and after the "R" of "FRANC."
- (x) There is a break in the outer frame line at left opposite the lower corner square.
- (xi) The background behind the lower panel shows numerous weak spots, the most clearly defined being a white spot between the "O" and "S" of "POSTES" and another following the word.
- (xii) The outer frame line in the bottom right corner is broken both below and to the right of the corner square.

Reproduction E—a pair PLATE 25

This reproduction is found in a pair and, when cut to its fullest size, shows portions of the bottom of the two stamps above. It is found in orange-vermilion, orange-brown, carmine-brown and carmine. The cancellation is always identical and may be readily recognized as the impression and position are always the same. The stamps are less readily identified when they have been cut into singles.

F R A N C E

1849-52 One Franc, Reproduction E—*contd.*

Left stamp:

- (xiii) The outer frame line is broken immediately above the top right corner square, on the right side for nearly a millimetre (4 mm. above the bottom corner) and by a retouch which just strengthens the bottom frame line where it joins the frame line at left.

Right stamp:

- (xiv) The ornamental panel at the right is broken in the top left corner just below the corner square. There is a constant mark in the white circle containing the pearls immediately opposite the lower lip.

Reproduction F PLATE 25

This reproduction is found as a "die" proof in orange-vermilion and in orange-brown. The tests for the right stamp of reproduction E apply, and the cancellation is identical except that a large copy does not show the portion of the adjoining stamp above as does reproduction E.

Reproduction G PLATE 24

This is only found in the Vervelle shade and the cliché is dated the 3rd March 1949. The paper on which the stamp is printed is rather more rough and gives the impression a worn appearance. The reproductions can be recognized by the following tests:

- (xv) There is a spot of colour in the right of the "R" and in the foot of the "U" of "REPUB" (Plate 24).
 (xvi) There is a spot of colour in the right of the "R" and a little dash in the left of the "C" of "FRANC" (Plate 24).

CANCELLATIONS

Reproductions A and B

Type 12	"CHARTRES/5/JANV./1849"
	"ORLEANS (23) /2/JANV./1849"
13	"CHARTRES (27) /6/JANV./1849"
14	"BLETTERANS/38/1/MARS/1849"
	"BOYNES (43) /21/OCT./1850"
	"CREPY (58) /10/JANV./1849"
	"LA LOUPE (27) /5/JANV./1849"
	"LE DORAT (..) /20/AOUT/1849"
15	"EPINAL (82) /29/DEC./49"
122	b, d (double strike), g, j and others
126	
132	
*165	"166," "481," "805," "854," "1675," "1730," "1792," "1818," "1896," "2199," "2250," "2273," "2642," "2733," "2962," "3317," "3273," "3383," "3472."
172	"OR"
174	"B"
208	"BP 1°," "NP....."

**Note:* In a few instances only one example of these cancellations has been seen so these reproductions were probably printed on genuine paper (with genuine cancellations) from which the impression of genuine stamps have been successfully removed.

Reproduction C

Type 126e only: The position and strength of this impression are constant (Plate 25).

Reproduction D

Type 126c only: The position and strength of this impression are constant (Plate 25).

Reproductions E and F

Type 126f only: The position and strength of this impression are constant (Plate 25).

Reproduction G

None.

1852-61 NAPOLEON

The following comments apply to all the reproductions of these issues made by Jean de Sperati.

The genuine stamps were printed by typography and all Sperati's work is a form of photo-lithography. **Basic tests** B and F will be found most helpful for the bite of typography is lacking.

The **impression** of Sperati's work is generally flat in comparison with the genuine and the colour does not take to the surface of the paper with the same solid effect as the genuine.

The **gum** used by Sperati is yellowish with a faint crackly appearance and is generally thicker than the genuine.

The best stamps to use for **comparison** (failing the possession of the genuine originals of the stamps copied by Sperati) are the 1853 10c., 20c. and 80c.

FRANCE

1852 TEN CENTIMES PRESIDENT PLATE 26

Sperati made three reproductions of this stamp.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (B, C) and in colour (A, B), as well as unused (B) and used (A, B) reproductions. When used, **reproduction B can be immediately recognized by the cancellation.**

The colour tends to be too deep and lacks the delicacy of the genuine. The paper is a fair match for the genuine.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

The Sperati negative is dated August 1953 and when cut to its full extent shows a portion of the adjoining stamp at left.

- (i) There is a white spot between the "R" and "A" of "FRANC" (Plate 26), and the central line of shading immediately above the circle below the top panel is missing.
- (ii) There is a spot of colour outside the right hand frame line in the centre.
- (iii) In the lower panel the word "POSTES" has been retouched. This may be noted by some minute dots in the top right portion of the "P," in the bottom left portion of the "O" and in the top of the last "S" of this word.
- (iv) In the bottom panel there is a horizontal scratch running from the last "O" through the head of the "C" up to the corner square.

Reproduction B

The Sperati negative is dated February 1948 and when cut to its fullest extent this reproduction shows the top frame-line of the stamp below.

- (v) There is a coloured spot in the head of the "B" of "REPUB" (Plate 26).
- (vi) There is a curved scratch in the background below the "U" of "REPUB" and coloured dots in the white line below this word.
- (vii) In the bottom panel there is a coloured spot just above the frame-line and below the "O" of first "10," there is a white spot following the "P" and a coloured mark not unlike a comma in the foot of the "O" of "POSTES."

Reproduction C

This is transfer of reproduction A and a "die" proof in black has been seen where the static cancellation has been touched out. In the one used example examined, the cancellation obscures the retouching. Use the tests (i) to (iv).

CANCELLATIONS

Reproduction A

Type 165: "898" and combinations of circular date stamps.

It should be noted that this cancellation is always in the identical position.

Reproduction B

Type 165: "1128," "2235," "2273." It should be noted that "2235" is always in the identical position and of the same strength.

Reproduction C

Type 22: "CHABRIS (35)/15/AOUT/53", others may exist.

1853-54 ONE FRANC EMPIRE

Sperati's most prolific reproduction of which he made ten different singles, a pair, a tête-bêche pair and a strip of three, one being tête-bêche.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (E, H, K, L, M) and in colour (A, B, C, D, E, F, I, M), as well as unused (C, E, F, I, J, K, L) and used (all) reproductions.

The colours of the fine copies are often too red while at the other end of the scale the shade becomes a deep red-purple, quite unlike a normal genuine stamp.

The paper is sometimes too white but many of the reproductions (C and F) have been printed on genuine paper from which the impression of a genuine stamp has been successfully removed. These are particularly dangerous on pieces which still bear the genuine cancellation and the genuine date-stamp. In some cases Sperati manufactured covers on which the stamps and every evidence of postal use is forged.

Reproductions A, B, D, H and I may be immediately recognized by the cancellations.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A PLATE 26

The Paris star cancellation is always in the same position so this stamp is easily identified. The cliché is dated November 1942.

(i) The background above the "R" of "EMPIRE" is broken.

(ii) The right frame line is broken opposite the lower corner square.

Reproduction B PLATE 26

The small figures "924" cancellation is always in the same position so this stamp can be easily identified.

(iii) There is a weakness above the central dot in the top panel between the "E" and "F."

(iv) There are two defects in the background of the lower left panel.

Reproduction C PLATE 26

The cliché from which this reproduction was printed is dated March 1943, a transfer was made in July 1949.

(v) There is a slanting crack at the bottom of the background left of the first "E" of "EMPIRE," another to the left of the "F" of "FRANC," and there is a weakness above the dot after "FRANC."

F R A N C E

1853-54 One Franc, Reproduction C—*contd.*

(vi) In the value tablet the right "I" has a serif on the top right.

Note: The 1949 transfer answers to test (vi) but not to test (v).

(vii) There is a white spot in the lower loop of the first "S" of "POSTES" (Plate 26).

Reproduction D PLATE 26

The Paris star cancellation is always in the same position so this stamp is easily identified. The cliché is dated March 1943.

(viii) The top frame line is broken at the extreme right and the right frame line 3 mm. from the top.

(ix) The inner frame line is broken over the "P" of "POSTES" and irregular over the right "F" in the value panel.

Reproduction E PLATE 27

The cliché from which this reproduction was made is dated June 1949. The illustrations show the reproduction before and after retouching but the finished reproductions are only found in the retouched state.

(x) The top frame line is broken at the extreme right and the left frame opposite to the top corner square.

(xi) There are three white spots in the background before the first "E" of "EMPIRE" and one after the "F" of "FRANC."

(xii) There is a crack above the "P" of "POSTES" and two dots after the right "F" in the value panel.

Reproduction F PLATE 27

The cliché from which this reproduction was made is dated March 1943 and a transfer was made in November 1948.

(xiii) There is a flaw in the background in the centre of the top panel between the "E" and "F" and the top right of the last letters shows a flaw above.

(xiv) The top frame line is broken at the right.

(xv) The lower frame line has small breaks or weaknesses below both corner squares.

(xvi) There are flaws in the edge of the background below the "IRE" of "EMPIRE" and the "FR" and "C" of "FRANC."

Reproduction G PLATE 27

(xvii) There is a crack through the top horizontal stroke of the first "E" of "EMPIRE" and a flaw in the inner frame line below the "A" of "FRANC."

(xviii) There is a spot in the right "I" in value panel.

Reproduction H PLATE 27

The small figures "-73" cancellation is always in the same position so this reproduction can be easily identified.

(xix) There is a dash to the top left of the "A" of "FRANC" and another dash from the foot of the right leg, there is a white dash in the centre of the "C."

(xx) There is a white spot after the "P" of "POSTES" and a dot in the lobe of the ear.

Reproduction I PLATE 27

This reproduction has part of the adjoining stamp at right.

(xxi) There are flaws in the background below the "I" of "EMPIRE."

(xxii) There are white spots between the "E" and "M" of "EMPIRE," between the legs of the "R" and between the "R" and "A" of "FRANC."

Reproduction J PLATE 27

(xxiii) There is a diagonal break at the top of the left panel, just below the corner square; the top right ray of this star joins the central dot.

(xxiv) There is an extra white dot in the background in the lower left corner square, to the right of and between the right rays.

Reproduction K—a pair PLATE 27

Left stamp:

(xxv) There are constant flaws in the upper corner squares.

(xxvi) There is an extra white spot in the bottom right corner square and the lower frame line is broken immediately below.

Right stamp:

This is a transfer of Reproduction F.

Reproduction L—a tête-bêche pair PLATE 27

As the position of the inverted stamp on the genuine sheet is 131 (first stamp on the fourteenth row) it follows that any pair where the right hand stamp is tête-bêche must be a forgery. Both the following may be found as singles.

Left stamp:

(xxvii) The circular frame containing the pearls is broken at the top, just below and to the left and right of "F," also at the left opposite the forehead.

(xxviii) The inner frame line is broken at the top right.

(xxix) There are two white dots in the top right corner square and one in the lower right square.

(xxx) There is a white dot between the "R" and "A" of "FRANC."

(xxxi) There is a dot in the upright of the "E" of "POSTES."

Right stamp:

(xxxii) There is a flaw below the "FR" of "FRANC" which breaks the inner frame line.

(xxxiii) There is a constant weakness adjoining the pearl left of the brow.

(xxxiv) There is a flaw on the pearl and a dot on the left frame line opposite the eyebrow.

Reproduction M—a strip of three, one tête-bêche PLATE 27

Left and right stamps:

These are transfers of Reproduction L, left stamp.

Inverted stamp:

This is a transfer of Reproduction L right stamp.

FRANCE

1853-54 One Franc—*contd.*

CANCELLATIONS PLATES 26-27

There are so many different types found on the various reproductions that they are grouped together with the exception of those reproductions which have only one impression which is always of identical strength and in the same position.

Reproduction A	Type 126c	Paris Star
B	Type 165	"924"
D	Type 126b	Paris Star
H	Type 165	"-73"
I	Type 132	(the position varies)

The following Sperati reproductions of cancellations are found on this value.

Type	Design	Found on Reproductions
126 a, b, c	Paris Star	C, F, G, J, K, L
132	Roller Grid	E, F, J, K, L, M
134	Roller Quadrille	J, K, M
165	Small figures "1128," "1639," "1675," "1734," "1792," "1954," "2221," "2703," "3300," "3383," "3439."	C, E, F, J, M
172	OR	C, F, J
190	TB	F

There are also many examples of this reproduction printed on paper from which the genuine impression has been removed and the cancellation retained. See Chapter IV, page 28. Also see Plate 28.

1854 TWENTY CENTIMES—tête-bêche pair
PLATE 28

The Sperati negative is dated April 1949 and apparently was used for a second time in November of that year. This reproduction is only known unused. It should be noted that only one genuine example of this value exists tête-bêche in the imperforate condition although it is possible that it was Sperati's original intention to print this reproduction on perforated paper from which he had already removed the impression of the genuine stamps.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Left stamp:

- (i) There is a white dot on the lower right side of the top left corner star.
- (ii) There is a white dot between the "E" and "M" of "EMPIRE" and a white dot following the "F" of "FRANC" (Plate 28).
- (iii) There is a white scratch in the background immediately in front of the first "C" in the lower panel.
- (iv) There is some retouching in the lower panel which can be easily recognized by the extension of the background after and below the last "O."

Right stamp:

- (v) There is a white spot after the "P" of "EMPIRE."
- (vi) There is a white scratch running from the right side of the top stroke of the "F" of "FRANC", and in the frame line below the "N" of this word there is a break.
- (vii) There is a white diagonal stroke running away from the bottom left of the "T" of "POSTES" (Plate 28).

1870 BORDEAUX LITHOGRAPHS

The following comments apply to all the reproductions of this issue made by Jean de Sperati.

As the genuine stamps are lithographed there is little difference to describe in the appearance, the reproductions being printed by a method that gives a very similar result. In general, the most that one can say is that the impressions of the reproductions are more coarse than the genuine.

Some of the reproductions are plateable.

Comparison should be made with genuine stamps.

TWO CENTIMES PLATE 28

Sperati made three reproductions, the last of which is in a block of four.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black (A, C) and in colour (A, B, C), as well as unused (C) and used (A, B, C) reproductions. Reproduction B may be immediately recognized by the cancellation.

All the reproductions are of the second report (or intermediate stone) and are from the following positions:

A—4 B—8 C—5—1—10—6

The colour of those examples examined is all of the common red-brown shade. The paper is a reasonable match for the genuine.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) The "C" of "FRANC" has too long a head.
- (ii) There is a white spot in the background just right of the pearls opposite the chin.
- (iii) There are two white spots behind the head.

F R A N C E

1870 Two Centimes—*contd.*

Reproduction B PLATE 29

The Sperati negative is dated February 1948. This reproduction may be immediately recognized by the type and position of the cancellation which is identical in every case. It should be noted that there is a portion of the adjoining stamp at the top left. It is only visible when this reproduction is cut with its fullest possible margins.

- (iv) The background behind the word "FRANC" has been heavily retouched and this is visible under magnification in spite of the cancellation.
- (v) The upper frame line extends at the right.
- (vi) There is a dot in the outer frame line at left opposite the foot of the letter "R."
- (vii) The background above the right figure "2" has been retouched.

Reproduction C PLATE 29
(A block of four)

The Sperati negative is dated February 1948. The width between the stamps is not the same as that of the original measuring nearly 2 mm. vertically (the genuine is 1.7 mm.) and 1.8 mm. horizontally (the genuine nearly 2 mm.).

Top left stamp:

- (viii) The left leg of the "A" of "FRANC" is extended.
- (ix) The pearls opposite and underneath the chin contain dots.
- (x) There is a break in the outer frame below the "P" of "POSTES."
- (xi) There is a line of colour running through the foot of the final "C."
- (xii) There is a defect in the shading at the foot of the right hand "2."

Top right stamp:

- (xiii) The "U" of "REPUB" is rather crude and looks as if it might be an "O." There are a number of dots in the white space above this letter and below the frame line.
- (xiv) There is a dot on the outside of the right frame line, 6.25 of an inch from the top.
- (xv) There is a break in the circle above the join to the inner frame at right.

Lower left stamp:

- (xvi) The pearls immediately opposite the tip of the nose are joined.
- (xvii) There are dots in the pearls behind the hair.

Bottom right stamp:

- (xviii) The top of the letter "E" of "REPUB" extends through the space and touches the outer frame line above.
- (xix) The outer frame line at right is broken diagonally 6 mm. below the right corner.

- (xx) There are spots of colour in two of the pearls immediately above the left "2."

CANCELLATIONS PLATE 29
Reproduction A

Type 17: "LE HAVRE (74) /5E/29/SEPT./71."
"MARSEILLE (12)/7E/18/JANV./71."

Type 166: "359," "807," "2660," "3151."

Reproduction B

Type 42: "TOULOUSE/4E/14/JUIN/71." Always in the same position.

Reproduction C

Type 166: "2145."

FOUR CENTIMES GREY PLATE 29

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used reproductions.

This reproduction is possibly from position 10 on the second report.

The colour of those examples examined varies from light grey to yellowish-grey. The paper is very similar to the genuine.

Sperati made two reproductions, one of which is a carefully retouched transfer of the other. Either reproduction may be identified by the tests given but the first reproduction may be distinguished from the second as it is always cancelled with type 166 (large figures) in such a way that the dots fall across the heavily retouched portions of the stamp.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The outer frame line above the "AN" of "FRANC" is curved downwards.
- (ii) The circular frame line below the letter "U" of "REPUB" is broken and retouched.
- (iii) The circular frame above the "ST" of "POSTES" is broken and retouched.
- (iv) The inner frame line at right is broken away just below the part where it should touch the circular frame.
- (v) The outer frame line at right is broken opposite the numeral.

CANCELLATIONS

Type 42: "LE HAVRE (74)/3E/9/DEC./70."

Type 165: "1792."

Type 166: "1090," "2145," "3219" and a part impression.

TWENTY CENTIMES (TYPE 1) PLATE 29

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions. The colour of those examples closely resembles the blue and light blue shades of the genuine.

This reproduction is position 11 from the first report but has been substantially retouched.

FRANCE

1870 Twenty Centimes—*contd.*

Sperati's negative is dated June 1949 and new clichés were made in October 1950 and again in August 1953. The specific tests given are sufficient to detect reproductions from any of these clichés. Many lines are broken, rather more so than in the genuine.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The circle containing the pearls has a clear break immediately below the letters "R" and again below the letter "P" of "REPUB."
- (ii) There is a gap in the shading immediately above the centre of the circle.
- (iii) There is a small hair coming out of the Adam's apple.
- (iv) The pearl just above the first "C" in the lower panel is extended towards the neck.
- (v) There is a diagonal crack running down from the tail of the last "S" of "POSTES" and from the front of the figure "2" that follows; to the right of the "O" there is a diagonal break in the background.
- (vi) There is a constant weakness in the background of the bottom right corner square.

CANCELLATIONS

Type 16: "BORDEAU (X)/2E/17/AOUT" part impression
 Type 17: "MILLAU (41)/1/23/AVRIL/71."
 Type 166: "359," "822," "861," "918," "1539," "2360," "3151," "3171."

THIRTY CENTIMES PLATE 29

Sperati made two reproductions.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used examples of both reproductions.

The colour varies from deep yellow-brown to brown and deep brown and does not match the common shade of the genuine. The paper is very like the genuine.

Reproduction A is the eleventh stamp in the report and may be identified by the dash below and to the left of the letter "F" of "FRANC."

Reproduction B is the fifth stamp on the report and can be identified by the white spot in the top right corner square.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) In the top left corner square there is a weakness in the background above the cross.
- (ii) There is a white spot between the bottom of the "R" and "E" of "REPUB" and a weak spot in the shading below the "RA" of "FRANC."
- (iii) The pearls at the extreme right in the centre are joined. They are separate in the genuine.
- (iv) There is a white mark on the upper right arm of the cross in the lower left corner.

- (v) There is an extra white spot between the bottom of the right "O" and "C" in the lower panel.

Reproduction B

- (vi) There is a white spot in the head of the "R" and another below the "P" in "REPUB."
- (vii) The outer frame line is not joined at the top right nor at the bottom left.
- *(viii) The pearl one above the central pearl at the right side of the stamp is joined to the white frame.
- (ix) The background below the left "3" in the bottom panel is curved and a stroke extends above the figure.
- (x) There is a white spot between the "O" and "S" of "POSTES," below the "S" the background is irregular and the frame line is broken between the "S" and the "T."

*An identifying mark on the genuine.

CANCELLATIONS

As most of these types and numerals are found on both reproductions they are listed together:

Type 17: "LE HAVRE (74)/5E/29/SEPT/71"
 "MARSEILLE (12)/7E/18/JANV/71"
 Type 17bis: "BORDEAUX LA BASTIDE/3E/5/AOUT/71"
 "BREST FINISTERRE/1E/9/MAI/71"
 "LE HAVRE LE PORT/3E/19/DEC/70"
 "OUIMPER FINISTERRE/2E/26/OCT/71."
 Type 166: "359," "807," "822," "861," "897," "918," "1539," "1945," "2145," "2240," "2360," "2660," "3151," "3171," "3219," "3539."

EIGHTY CENTIMES PLATE 30

Sperati made two reproductions of this stamp but the first is readily identifiable as the cancellation is always the same and is always identically impressed. The second reproduction is known unused and used.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used examples of both reproductions, the first of which can be identified immediately by the cancellation.

Reproduction A is number 11 on the report but reproduction B has not yet been identified.

The commonest colour is bright pale rose (more pale than the genuine) but deeper and more accurate shades exist. The paper has a pink tint (opposed to the rose tint of the genuine) and is sometimes quite white.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) There is a stroke of colour in the right side of the head of the "R," a white spot inside the curve of the "U" and a white dot in the head of the "B" of "REPUB."
- (ii) There is a white crack running at right angles from the upright of the "R" of "FRANC."

F R A N C E

1870 Eighty Centimes— *contd.*

Reproduction B PLATE 30

Note: Although the cancellation on this reproduction varies it is always type 166 and struck in the same position. Therefore many of the peculiarities which are obvious on unused copies are skilfully hidden by the cancellation in the case of the used. The following tests will serve for either state.

- (iii) There is a small crack in the top panel which runs down to the top left corner of the letter "F" of "FRANC" and a further irregularity in the background to the top right of the letter "C."

- (iv) There is a mark like an accent over the first "S" of "POSTES" and the background immediately above the top of the "T" is broken.

CANCELLATIONS

Reproduction A

Type 327: Anchor. The position and strength of this impression are constant and the letters "AS" always appear in the left margin above.

Reproduction B

Type 166: "253," "359," and "3151." The position and strength of these impressions are constant.

POSTAGE DUE STAMPS

The genuine 1859 10c. was lithographed and the specific tests have to be used. The 1871 40c. and 60c. were typographed and the basic tests are of use as well as the specific.

As far as used examples are concerned, the Sperati reproductions may be identified by the cancellations. It is an interesting point that only in one case (type 16 BAR-LE-DUC) have examples been noted of the same cancellation on different denominations (40c. and 60c.).

1859 LITHOGRAPHED TEN CENTIMES

PLATE 30

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black as well as unused and used reproductions. The cliché is dated July 1947 and six of the cancellations were made in April 1949.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the top panel there is a white spot in the bay of the "C," constant black marks below the "H," an extension of the background above "IF," a white spot after the second "F," and white spots to the top left and bottom left of the "E."
- (ii) In the left panel there is a small white dot in the centre of the "O," the background is extended above "ST," there is a black spot in the centre of the "T," and a white spot following the final "S."
- (iii) In the lower panel there is a break in the inner frame line above the letter "A" and a white spot on the head of the "E."
- (iv) In the right panel there is a white dot in the frame line above and between the "S" and "T," there is a black spot in the foot of the "T" and two black spots in the "E" over which there is a white accent.

CANCELLATIONS

Type 15: "BORDEAUX (32)/23/FEVR/59"
 "LA ROCHELLE (16)/27/MARS/59"
 "MARSEILLE (12)/26/JUIN/59"
 "MONTAUBAN (85)/12/FEVR/59"
 "NIORT" (75)/9/JANV/59"
 "NIORT (75)/25/AVRIL/59"
 "ST. GAUDENS (30)/23/FEVR/59"
 "VIERZON (17)/3/JANV/59"

Type 172: "OR"

1871 FORTY CENTIMES PLATE 30

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions. The genuine sheet position copied is the fourteenth.

As the genuine stamp was typographed the basic tests B and F apply. For comparison use the genuine 25c. black.

This reproduction was produced in three distinctive colours, blue (which is reasonably accurate, but rather more coarse than the genuine), ultramarine (which is too violet) and indigo (which is too deep).

All the reproductions stem from the same original photograph taken in 1941 but apparently clichés were not made until July 1947 and further transfers were made in December 1949. The same specific tests apply to all these stamps. As far as the used copies are concerned there are apparently only eight different date-stamps to be found on this denomination.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the genuine stamp from the sheet position copied by Sperati there is a weakness in the bottom right of the numeral "0" and in the right panel there is a short line adjoining the head of the "P" which shows also on the outer frame line. Both these flaws are repeated in the reproduction.
- (ii) In the top panel there is a weakness in the background before the word "CHIFFRE."
- (iii) In the left panel there is a line of colour running below the "P" to the inner frame line and a general weakness in the background around the "O."

F R A N C E

Postage Due 1871, Forty Centimes—*contd.*

- (iv) In the right panel there is a white spot between the "S" and "T" and between the "T" and "E" the background above these letters has a small nick.
- (v) The horizontal bar of the "A" of "TAX" is very weak and usually shows a clean break.

CANCELLATIONS

- Type 16: "ANGERS (47)/6E/4/JANV./73."
 "BAR-LE-DUC (53)/3E/19/NOV./71"
 "LANNION (21) 2E/20/MARS/73"
 "NEUILLY-EN-THELLE (58)/1E/6/MAI/73"
- Type 42: "LA REDIE (32)4E/21/AOUT/72"
 "LUXEUIL (69)/3E/9/FEVR/73"
 "PARIS (60)/3E/7/NOV/71"
- Type 148: "PARIS R. DE STRASBOURG/6E/3/JUIN/73"

1871 SIXTY CENTIMES PLATE 30

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions. The genuine sheet position copied is the fifth.

As the genuine stamp was typographed the basic tests B and F apply. For comparison use the genuine 60c. black.

In addition to proof impressions there are copies of the reproduction printed in black on paper very similar to that of the genuine stamp. The same basic and specific tests apply. The colour of some of the reproductions is very like that of the genuine stamp but generally they are too brown. (The MVL shows the Sperati to be brownish-stone in comparison

with the greenish-stone of the genuine). When examining a used copy much time may be saved by looking at the brief list of cancellations.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the genuine stamp from the sheet position copied by Sperati there are small defects in the head of both numerals, a certain weakness round the bottom left of the "O," a coloured mark in the right panel which joins the outer frame line to the head of the "T" and a similar mark in the lower panel below the letter "A." All these plating tests were copied in the reproduction.
- (ii) In the top panel there is usually a weakness in the background of the lower half of the "H," there is a white spot touching the left side of the "I" and a black spot in the left side of the "E."
- (iii) There is a small white spot over the "E" in the right panel.
- (iv) In the lower panel there are constant dots of colour, two of which are large with a white space below the "E."

CANCELLATIONS

- Type 16: "BAR-LE-DUC (53) 3E/19/NOV/71"
 "PARIS (60)3E/7/NOV/71"
- Type 42: "BEAUMONT-S-.....(72)/2E/3/MAI/72"
 "LE HAVRE (74)/2E/5/AVRIL/72"
 "LE HAVRE (74)/1E/19/JUIN/72"
 "ORLEANS (43)/5E/20/JANV/72"

TELEGRAPH STAMPS

PLATE 30

1868 ONE FRANC

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions. For comparison use the genuine stamp perforated. The colour of the genuine is much more orange than the reproduction. Under the MVL the difference is accentuated, the genuine remains orange while the reproduction becomes a deep intense brown. The paper is very similar.

The genuine stamp being typographed the basic tests B and F apply.

There are many constant flaws in the plate position copied by Sperati which appear in his reproductions. The cliché is dated 10th December 1948.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the genuine stamp and in the reproduction there is a break in the outline of the head of the eagle above the eye, but in the genuine the outline to the right of the eye

is continuous whereas in the Sperati there is a clean break just above the beak.

- (ii) There is a weakness in the background between the "C" and "A" of "FRANCAIS" which is particularly noticeable about the tail of the "C" and in the form of a white spot on the left leg of the "A" (Plate 30).
- (iii) In the genuine stamp there are coloured spots in the "I" and top and bottom of the "S" of "FRANCAIS" which are missing in the reproduction.
- (iv) The outline of the right wing of the eagle is continuous in the genuine but broken in several places in the reproduction.

CANCELLATIONS

PLATE 33

- Octagonal date stamp "FECAMP/1/AVRIL/68"
 Cursive date stamp: "CASSIS/JANV/68"
 "ETAIN/JUIN/69"
 "NONTRON/2/JANV./70."