

F R A N C E

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 "0" 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.