

BRITISH EMPIRE

Gold Coast—1889 Twenty Shillings—*contd.*

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
COLOUR { DL	<i>Green and red</i>	<i>Pastel shade of grey-green, the red matches genuine with great accuracy</i>
COLOUR { MVL	<i>Green and red</i>	<i>Even more pale in comparison</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Chalky white</i>	<i>Very stained—buff colour</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Similar but appears to be rather thick</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Not so clear</i>
BASIC TESTS: <i>B, D, E and F.</i>		Reproduction B
	SPECIFIC TESTS	(iv) The top of the "S" in "COAST" is flat and there is a dot above.
	Reproduction A	(v) There is a colourless dot in the centre of the shading of the "2."
(i) Constant white spots in "GOLD COAST" and the value tablet.		CANCELLATIONS
(ii) The lower frame of the value tablet is broken below and to the right of the "0" and there is a weakness in the shading of the "0" (Plate 9).		1. "556" double impression.
(iii) There is a nick in the top of the panel containing "POSTAGE."		2. "556" part impression (two types).
		3. "554"
		4. "TAR(KWA)/JA 27/GOLD (COAST)"

GREAT BRITAIN

1880 TWO SHILLINGS

PLATE 10

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. Four different letterings were copied—JL, KJ, LK and PI. In the genuine, only the stamp lettered PI should have a wing-margin at left; such examples of this lettering that have been examined have no wing-margins. On the other hand, other letterings produced by Sperati sometimes have wing-margins. There are six clichés only one of which is dated—October 1951.

For comparison use the 2/- blue.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR { DL	<i>Pale red brown</i>	<i>Pale dull brown</i>
COLOUR { MVL	<i>Purplish brown</i>	<i>"Die" proof nigger-brown. Used reddish-brown</i>
PAPER { DL	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
PAPER { MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Greyish to brownish purple</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Spray of roses</i>	<i>Genuine. Also found with genuine watermark emblems!</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Very clear</i>	<i>Generally blurred and looks flat in comparison with the genuine</i>

B R I T I S H E M P I R E

Great Britain—1880 Two Shillings—*contd.*

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) JL—the square containing the “J” in the top right corner has a flaw below the “J” (Plate 10).
- (ii) JL—the ends of the horizontal lines behind and below the head are mostly thickened, and run together.
- (iii) JL—the outer edge of the top frame line is very irregular.
- (iv) KJ—the circle around the right plate number is broken at 7 and 9 o'clock (Plate 10).
- (v) KJ—the square containing the “K” in the bottom left corner is of unequal thickness above and to the left of the letter.
- (vi) KJ—the horizontal lines immediately above the “TA” of “POSTAGE” are retouched and run together.

- (vii) LK—there is a flaw on the inside of the frame line in the top right corner (Plate 10).
- (viii) LK—the solid background of the “L” in the lower left corner is rough on the left.
- (ix) LK—there is a nick in the centre of the outer right crescent frame.
- (x) PI—there is a projection below the top frame line and above the “P” square.
- (xi) PI—the outer frame lines are very rough edged.
- (xii) PI—the circle around the right plate number is broken at 2, 7 and 12 o'clock (Plate 10).

CANCELLATIONS

Genuine—see Chapter IV, page 28.

HONG KONG

1865 NINETY-SIX CENTS

PLATE 9

Sperati is known to have made “die” proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. There are two “dies,” one of which is transferred from the other; they are in distinctive shades—(A) olive green, and (B) olive bistre. One cliché is dated October, 1940.

For comparison use any Q.V. 96c. value.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR	<i>Olive bistre</i>	<i>(A) olive green, (B) olive bistre, more yellow than the genuine</i>
	<i>Almost brown</i>	<i>(A) and (B) more yellow</i>
PAPER	<i>White to toned</i>	<i>Stained greyish-rose on the reverse</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CC</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>None</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Not quite so clear</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) There are two constant flaws in the top right corner ornament.
- (ii) There is a curved break in the horizontal lines of shading in front of the nose.
- (iii) There is a weak spot in the horizontal lines of shading in front of the diadem.

Reproductions A and B

- (iv) There are signs of heavy retouching in the horizontal lines of shading above “96” and in front of the neck (Plate 9).
- (v) There is a white spot in ornament in the lower right corner (Plate 9).

CANCELLATIONS

Usually genuine—see Chapter IV, page 28.
1. “B62” usually in blue—note the marks between the “B” and the “6.”