

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

GIBRALTAR

Twelve new reproductions have been found: the 1886 "GIBRALTAR" on Two Pence Bermuda, on Four Pence Bermuda (three new types), on Six Pence Bermuda (two new types) and on One Shilling Bermuda (three new types), 1887 Four Pence and One Shilling, and 1890 75 Centimos. Taken with the forgeries described in *Sperati I*, these show that Sperati made a major effort to produce forgeries of Gibraltar.

1886 (on Bermuda) Two Pence

That described on page 42 of *Sperati I* is now called Reproduction A. A second forgery without overprint, Reproduction B, is evidenced solely by a matrix (negative) in the Musée de la Poste-Paris.

Reproduction B



SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The left outer frame line has white lines over its entire length.
- (ii) The bottom outer frame line is broken directly below the left lower corner of the "E" of "PENCE".
- (iii) The background shading lines around the portrait have numerous, small breaks.
- (iv) The "O" of "TWO" has a white line across its top.

1886 (on Bermuda) Four Pence (Photographic Plate A for Types A & B)

Three new forgeries of this stamp have been seen.

In Reproduction A, with overprint, the overprint lacks the clear-cut definition of the genuine, but Sperati has succeeded in photographing the waves of surplus ink around the letters. The overprint is very similar to that illustrated on Plate 6 of *Sperati I* for Reproduction A of the 1886 Six Pence. This is a dangerous forgery, but fortunately a very rare one. The basic stamp was printed by photolithography so lacks the bite of genuine typography. The colour is a good match. The watermarked paper and perforations are genuine. Only one unused example has been studied, along with a matrix (negative) without overprint at the Musée de la Poste-Paris.

THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES



Musée de la Poste—Paris

Reproduction A
Specific Tests

- (i) The curved part of the outer frame line at its upper left corner is quite irregular on both its sides.
- (ii) There is a white spot (indentation) on the inside of the right, outer frame line, one mm below its inside top end.
- (iii) In the sixth shading line from the bottom, there is a break one mm from its right end.
- (iv) Immediately below the "R" of "FOUR" there is a coloured short vertical line in the white space. The "F" of this word has a white dot between its two horizontal limbs, near its vertical.
- (v) Two shading lines are broken just in front of the crown.
- (vi) There is a white dot in the background to the SW of the pearl below the middle of the "M" of "BERMUDA"; the next pearl to its right has a similar white dot to its SW.

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

Reproduction B

Five unused copies of this new forgery, all without overprint, have been examined. It is called Reproduction B.

	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Sperati</i>
<i>Printing</i>	Typography	Photo-lithography
<i>Colour</i>	Orange-brown	Orange-brown
<i>Gum</i>	Colourless	No gum
<i>Impression</i>	Clear and bright	Clear and dull
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, F, G and H.	

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are signs that the horizontal lines of shading around the head are retouched, opposite the forehead and below the chin.
- (ii) The solid base to the neck is irregular along the lower edge.
- (iii) The left leg of the "A" of "BERMUDA" has a coloured dot on its left side near its bottom.
- (iv) The left outer frame line is broken to the left of the upper left corner of the "BERMUDA" tablet. The right outer frame line shows a weakness just below the upper right corner of the "BERMUDA" tablet.
- (v) The "F" of "FOUR" has a white dot on the end of its lower horizontal limb, giving the end a rounded appearance.
- (vi) The first "E" of "PENCE" has a tiny coloured dot toward the end of its middle limb. The pearl above the vertical of this letter has a fine coloured line, running up from the bottom to the centre and then off to the right.



THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES



Reproduction C

Only a cliché of this forgery has been available for study at the Musée de la Poste-Paris.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The outer frame line above the "R" of "BERMUDA" has a weakness in its upper half. The "R" has a coloured indentation at the foot of its right leg.
- (ii) The coloured frame line around the "BERMUDA" panel is broken above the left limb of the "U".
- (iii) The "F" of "FOUR" has a rounded bottom to its vertical.
- (iv) The top of the outer frame line, below the first "E" of "PENCE", has a white indentation.

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

1886 (on Bermuda) Sixpence

Two new forgeries without overprint, Reproductions C and D, are evidenced only by matrices (negatives) at the Musée de la Poste-Paris. In what follows the terminology of *Sperati I* is used, specifically:

- To the left of the “S” in “SIX” there is a small ornament in the bottom left corner made up of two curved lines with a diamond-shaped drop in the centre—call this “X”.
- Opposite the final “E” of “PENCE” there is a similar ornament. Call this “Y”.



Reproduction C

Specific Tests

- (i) The curved lines in X and Y do not meet (details shown above).
- (ii) There is a coloured dot on the bottom of the outer frame line, above the upper left corner of the “E” of “BERMUDA”.
- (iii) Below the “EN” of “PENCE”, the white space just above the outer frame line has a diagonal coloured line across it, running from SW to NE.
- (iv) There are two coloured dots on the bottom of the third from the bottom background shading line, on its left side.
- (v) The lower limb of the first “E” of “PENCE” has its end cut off diagonally, from NW to SE. The last “E” of this word has a coloured dot in the middle of its lower limb, near its end.
- (vi) There is a strong diagonal line across the shading lines in front of the neck.



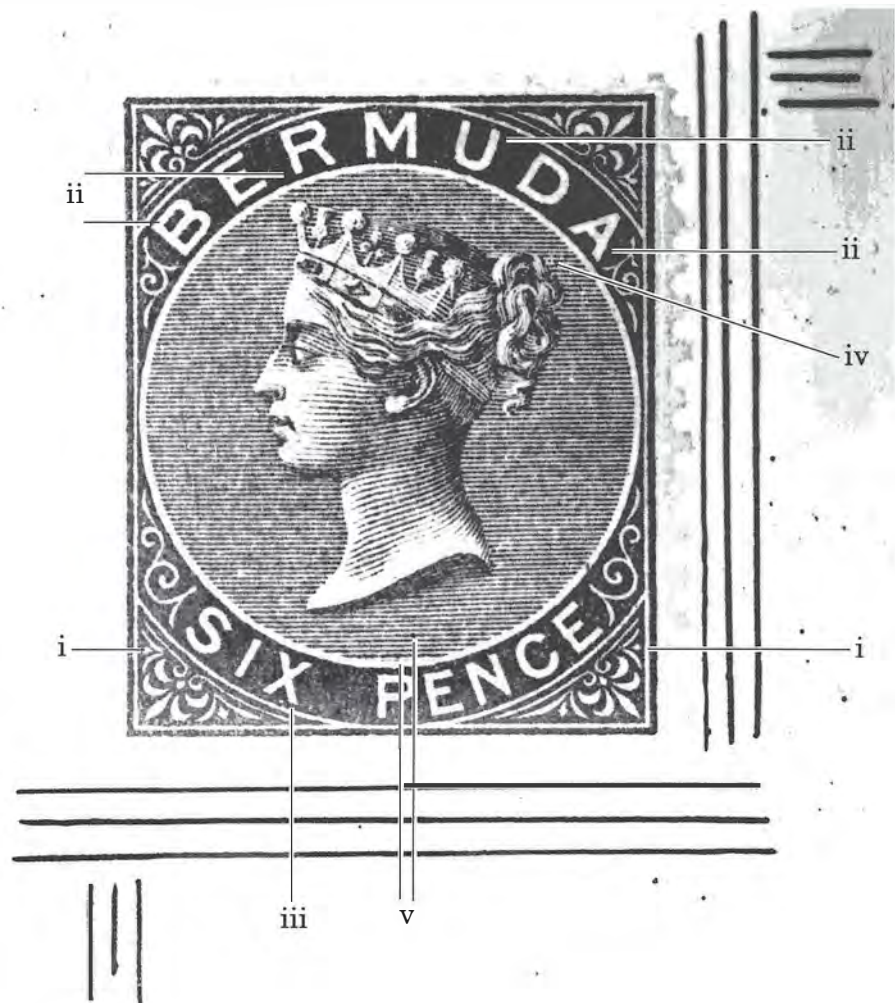
Musée de la Poste—Paris

THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

Reproduction D

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The curved lines in X almost meet and in Y they do not meet.
- (ii) In "BERMUDA" the top horizontal of the "B" has an irregular bottom. The "R" has a rounded bottom on its left leg. The upper right arm of the "U" is squeezed near its top. The "A" has a white bump on its right side at the level of the cross bar.
- (iii) In "SIX" the "X" has a coloured dot at the bottom of its right leg.
- (iv) To the right of the top right curl in the chignon there are two breaks in each of two adjacent horizontal lines.
- (v) The second shading line from the bottom has a coloured dot on its bottom; the sixth up has a coloured dot on it, to the right of its center.



Musée de la Poste—Paris

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

1886 (on Bermuda) One Shilling (Photographic Plate A)

The forgery described on page 43 of *Sperati I* is now called Reproduction A, as three further forgeries have been studied. Two unused copies of a second reproduction without the overprint, designated Reproduction B, have been seen. The latter is described below.

Reproduction B

	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Sperati</i>
<i>Printing</i>	Typography	Photo-lithography
<i>Colour</i>	Yellow-brown	Grey-brown
<i>Gum</i>	Colourless	None
<i>Impression</i>	Clear and bright	Clear & attractive. Only fails detailed comparison with the genuine.
<i>Basic Tests</i>	B, D, E and F.	

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a break in the third and fourth lines of shading below the eye.
- (ii) There is a minute break in the fifth line of shading below the "M" of "BERMUDA".
- (iii) In the colourless circle below the "E" of "BERMUDA" there are short dashes of colour. (This test applies also to Reproduction A, except there are six short dashes under the "ER".)
- (iv) The second and third lines of shading from the point of the neck on the right hand side of the base of the bust are broken.



Single copies of two further different reproductions, C and D, with overprint, have been studied. Both are on genuine watermarked paper with genuine perforations.

Reproduction C, cancelled A26 evidently genuinely, is yellow brown in daylight and its paper is reddish brown on the front and back under ultraviolet light. Its impression is unclear compared to the genuine. As only one copy has been examined the specific tests may not be constant.

THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

Reproduction C

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) Just outside the white line over the vertical of the "B" of "BERMUDA" the corner of the three cornered ornament is broken away from the coloured line above it.
- (ii) There is a white spot just SE of the lower right corner of the "N" of "ONE".
- (iii) The lower jaw of the "G" of "SHILLING" is shapeless.
- (iv) In the outer frame line a broken thin white line shows in many places on all four sides.



Reproduction D, cancelled with an apparently genuine, but weak A26, is yellow brown in daylight and its paper is brown on the front and back under ultraviolet light. Its impression is unclear compared to the genuine. As only one copy has been seen the specific tests may not be constant.

Reproduction D

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The fourth shading line up from the tip of the nose is broken 1.5 mm in front of the nose.
- (ii) The "G" of "SHILLING" has two wiggly white lines trailing down from its top branch.
- (iii) The tenth line of shading from the bottom has a minute break 0.75 mm from its right end.
- (iv) The ninth shading line above the bottom of the chignon, on its right side, has a break near its left end.



THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

1887 Four Pence (Photographic Plate A)

This is a new forgery designated Reproduction C, those previously identified being A and B as described on page 44 and illustrated on Plate 7 of *Sperati I*. The colour is a fair match for the genuine. Under MVL it is brownish-grey. The impression is clear and dull. The cancellations on the six copies examined do not match any of those known to have been made by Sperati, so are probably genuine, appearing on the original stamps before Sperati faded out the impression.

Reproduction C

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The "U" of "FOUR" appears to be slightly higher than the other letters.
- (ii) In "GIBRALTAR" there is a white dot at the right end of the cross bar of the first "R"; a white dot at the top left of the second "A"; and there are white dots in the vertical of the second "R", just above and below the middle bar.
- (iii) There is a white dot in the upper right side of the "O" of "FOUR".
- (iv) There are white dots in the right side of the "N" of "PENCE", a large one being toward the top.
- (v) The top edge of the lower limb of the second "E" of "PENCE" is weak.
- (vi) The 6th and 7th shading lines below the tail of the chignon are broken.
- (vii) There is a coloured dot in the white border around the shading lines, directly above the chignon.



- (iii) The three lines of heavy shading below the eye are too strong.
- (iv) The nasal organ is too thin and presents a "cold in the nose" appearance.
- (v) There is a coloured dot atop the top frame line, above the right side of the "G" of "GIBRALTAR".

THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

1887 One Shilling (Photographic Plate A)

This is a new forgery, Reproduction B, of which seven used copies have been examined. That described on page 45 and illustrated in Plate 7 of *Sperati I* is now known as Reproduction A. Tests (i) and (iii) for Reproduction A apply also to Reproduction B, so one is probably a transfer of the other. The colour is yellow-bistre in daylight and darker under MVL. The impression is flat compared to the genuine. The cancellations appear to be genuine.

Reproduction B

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The top two shading lines are joined near their left ends.
- (ii) The bottom right leg of the first "R" of "GIBRALTAR" is rounded on some copies.
- (iii) The first shading line below the bottom of the chin does not touch the neck line.
- (iv) The bottom shading line of the neck has a coloured dot on its top side directly above the middle of the "H" of "SHILLING".
- (v) The ends of the shading lines to the left and the right are of uneven strength and are not cut off in a straight line.

1890 75 Centimos (Photographic Plate A)

Four unused examples of this forgery have been examined. Far from being one of Sperati's best works, only in one example of the four is the colour realistic (the others are too greyish) and even this will not bear comparison with the genuine olive-green. These reproductions are printed on paper with genuine watermark and perforation from which the design of a common stamp has been removed.

Impression Crude in comparison with the genuine.

Basic Tests B, D, F, G and H.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The letters in the value tablet are crude. Under magnification there are two defects in the head and five in the tail of the "7", the "5" is distinctive, the base of the "E" appears to slope downward to the right, the uprights of the "N" are curved and the "M" leans to the right.
- (ii) There is a kink in the inner frame on the left of the value tablet. (*continued opposite*)

