

BRITISH EMPIRE

GIBRALTAR

The following comments apply to all six stamps described.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate (except the second December 4d. and 6d. which are single plate)</i>
PERFORATION	14, <i>comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>

For comparison use the Bermuda stamps of the same design in any colour and for the December issue use one of the contemporary Gibraltar low values.

1886 (ON BERMUDA) TWO PENCE

PLATE 6

Sperati is known to have made unused reproductions on genuine paper with a reproduction of the "GIBRALTAR" overprint.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR { DL	<i>Black on purple-brown</i>	<i>More red than the genuine</i>
{ MVL	<i>Deep purple-grey</i>	<i>Brown</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish, stained on back</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>None</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Coarse</i>

BASIC TESTS (FOR STAMPS): *B, D, F, G and K.*

The loss of white space (test D) makes the horizontal lines of shading of more even thickness so that the lighter shading on the front of the cheek and around the mouth has almost disappeared as has the muscle on the neck.

SPECIFIC TESTS (FOR STAMPS)

- (i) Immediately below the eye there is a break through four horizontal lines of shading whereas in the genuine it is only the first and the fourth of the four lines which are broken (Plate 6).

- (ii) The ends of the horizontal lines of shading around the head do not form a perfect circle and these irregularities are particularly noticeable opposite the chin.
- (iii) There is a small dot in the value tablet immediately to the left of the right ornament and to the upper right of the last "E" of "PENCE."

SPECIFIC TESTS (FOR OVERPRINT)

See commentary at the end of this issue.

1886 (ON BERMUDA) SIX PENCE

PLATE 6

Sperati is known to have made unused reproductions on **genuine** paper. There are two different reproductions—(A) on red-lilac and (B) on grey-lilac, both with a reproduction of the "GIBRALTAR" overprint.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR DL	<i>Black on deep lilac</i>	<i>(A) Black on red-lilac (B) Black on grey-lilac</i>
MVL	<i>Deep lilac grey</i>	<i>(A) Deep lilac (not so grey) (B) Dull lilac</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>(A) and (B) yellowish, greyish- yellow on reverse</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>None</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Coarse</i>

BRITISH EMPIRE

Gibraltar—1886 (on Bermuda) Six Pence—*contd.*

BASIC TESTS (FOR STAMP): *B, D, F, G and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

There is a simple test for the 6d. value. 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 shape drop in the centre—this we call X. Opposite the final "E" of "PENICE" there is a similar ornament which we will call "Y."

- (i) Genuine: the curved lines in X do not meet and in Y they just touch.

- (ii) Sperati's red-lilac: (A) the curved lines in X meet and in Y they do not meet (Plate 6).
- (iii) Sperati's grey-lilac: (B) the curved lines in X meet and in Y they just touch (Plate 6).
- (iv) In both reproductions the diamond shape drops have lost their definition and are too small.

SPECIFIC TESTS (FOR OVERPRINT)

See commentary at the end of this issue.

1886 (ON BERMUDA) ONE SHILLING

PLATE 6

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper, the overprint usually being a reproduction but sometimes genuine. "Die" proofs of the Bermuda 1/- in colour are known as well as the overprint on its own.

There are two clichés, one dated 8th May 1912, the other November 1939.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR {	<i>Stone</i>	<i>Generally too yellow; four shades deep bistre, brownish-bistre and yellow-bistre</i>
PAPER {	<i>Grey-stone</i>	<i>All much more yellow</i>
GUM {	<i>Slightly toned</i>	<i>Almost yellow</i>
	<i>Colourless, smooth</i>	<i>Slightly toned, fine diagonal crinkles</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear and sharp</i>	<i>Flat in comparison</i>

BASIC TESTS (FOR STAMPS): *B, D, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS (FOR STAMPS)

- (i) In the top outer frame line there are several colourless spots, the two largest being 3.25 mm. and 1 mm. from the right corner. In a few examples these spots have been touched out (Plate 6).
- (ii) There is a slight weakness in the top right corner (Plate 6).
- (iii) There is a colourless spot in the solid background in the top right corner (Plate 6).
- (iv) In the left frame there are a number of flaws or colourless spots. In a few examples these spots have been touched out.

- (v) There is a colourless spot in the solid background in the bottom left corner above the value tablet.

SPECIFIC TESTS (FOR OVERPRINT)

See commentary below.

CANCELLATIONS

Sometimes genuine (see Chapter IV, page 28) but usually one of the fourteen types illustrated. See commentary on Cancellations on page 45.

1886 ON BERMUDA
THE OVERPRINT

PLATE 6

BASIC TESTS: Do *not* use these as Sperati succeeded in photographing the waves of surplus ink around the lettering of the overprint in a way that is very dangerous.

SPECIFIC TESTS ON 2D. AND 6D.

- (i) This overprint lacks the clear cut definition of the genuine.
- (ii) The letter "T" is malformed—the left arm is a trifle short, rounded and inclined upwards.

ON 1s.

- (iii) The black (sometimes dark blue or dark green) is never as solid and under magnification $\times 10$ the colour of the stamp shows through in patches.
- (iv) There are many constant weaknesses, particularly the line below the wave of surplus ink at the top of the "T."

BRITISH EMPIRE

Gibraltar—*contd.*

1886 (DECEMBER) FOUR PENCE

PLATE 7

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. There are two different reproductions—(A) which has only been seen as a "die" proof, and (B) which is found both unused and used. The clichés are respectively dated 19th August 1913 and 3rd March 1940.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR	DL <i>Orange-brown (more brown than orange)</i>	(A) <i>as genuine, (B) brown-orange (more orange than brown)</i>
	MVL <i>Deep brown or brownish-grey</i>	(A) <i>nigger-brown, (B) rich red-brown</i>
PAPER	MVL <i>Slightly toned</i>	(A) and (B) <i>Yellowish</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Yellowish</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear and bright</i>	<i>Clear and dull</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, E and G, in the case of (B), J and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

There are several flaws but without other copies to compare it is not possible to say if they are constant. They are:

- (i) There is a white spot in the tail of the "G" of "GIBALTAR."
- (ii) There is a weakness in the inner frame line above and between the "BR" of "GIBALTAR" and part of the head of the "R" is cut away.
- (iii) There is a break in the lowest horizontal line of shading in centre immediately over "P" of "PENCE."

Reproduction B

- (iv) There is a dot of colour laying on the bottom of the "B" of "GIBALTAR" within the lower loop.

- (v) A similar dot lies on the cross-bar of the first "A."
- (vi) There is a white spot in the outer frame line immediately above the second "A."
- (vii) There is a spot of colour on the upper side of the bottom outer frame line immediately below and between the "PE" of "PENCE" (Plate 7).
- (viii) The "OU" of "FOUR" appears to be short and the "N" of "PENCE" a trifle higher than the other letters of this word.
- (ix) There is a break in the eighth and ninth frame lines in front of the neck and immediately above the right side of the "U" of "FOUR."

CANCELLATIONS

As illustrated—also Types 4 and 6, possibly others.

1886 (DECEMBER) SIX PENCE

PLATE 7

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. There are two different reproductions (A) red-lilac and (B) lilac. "Die" proofs of both are known but the only recorded used examples are of (B).

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR	DL <i>Lilac</i>	(A) <i>red-lilac, (B) lilac</i>
	MVL <i>Dull grey-lilac</i>	(A) <i>red-lilac, (B) dull grey-lilac</i>
PAPER	DL <i>White</i>	<i>Stained</i>
	MVL <i>Greyish toned</i>	<i>Yellow and very stained</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear and bright</i>	<i>Clear and flat</i>

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

Gibraltar—1886 (December) Six Pence—*contd.*

BASIC TESTS: *B, D and F, in the case of (B), J and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproductions A and B

As the same "master" was used for both it is only the value tablets that differ in detail and the following tests are common to both.

- (i) There is a small nick and a colourless spot in the head of the "T" of GIBRALTAR" (Plate 7).
- (ii) There is a small dot outside the top right corner.

Reproduction A

As there is only one "die" proof available for examination the following tests *may* not be constant.

- (iii) The top of the "S" of "SIX" is flat.
- (iv) There is a nick in the top of the "P" of "PENCE" (Plate 7).
- (v) There is a break in the back of the last "E" of "PENCE."

Reproduction B

- (vi) There is a small spur on the left side of the "P" of "PENCE."
- (vii) The last "E" of "PENCE" is defective in the centre (Plate 7).

CANCELLATIONS

Nos. 6 and 12 as illustrated and possibly others.

1886 (DECEMBER) ONE SHILLING

PLATE 7

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. Sperati "die" proofs in black and in colour of the key-plate as the value tablet are known. There are two clichés, one dated November 1939.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR	Stone	<i>More red, giving appearance of yellow-bistre</i>
PAPER	MVL	<i>Much more yellow</i>
	QL	<i>Quite yellow</i>
GUM	Colourless	<i>None</i>
IMPRESSION	Clear	<i>Rather worn and flat in comparison</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are obvious signs of retouching of the horizontal lines in front of the point of the bust and just below the point (Plate 7).
- (ii) There are constant colourless spots at the top of most letters in the value.
- (iii) The shading in the pearls of the diadem differs from the genuine (compare with any other value).
- (iv) There is a white spot in the head of the "T" of "GIBRALTAR" which is nearly always constant.

CANCELLATIONS

PLATE 8

Usually one of the illustrated types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 14 (Plate 8). Others may exist.

The top row of illustrations may well be genuine as no duplicate impression has been recorded.

- 1. A26 Note constant weakness in the lower half of the impression.
- 2. A26 Part impression—note the constant break through the two top bars.

- 3. A26 Part impression—note the constant blot on the right leg of the "A."
- 4. A26 Part impression—note the dot between "A" and "26" and the broken misshapen "brackets" at the right of "6."
- 5. A26 Part impression—note the scar through the two lower bars.
- 6. A26 Part impression—note the doubling of the two lower bars at the right.
- 7. A26 Note constant position and weaknesses.
- 8. A26 Duplex (with date-stamp). Note constant position and weaknesses.
- 9. A26 Part impression—note constant position and weak "A."
- 10. A26 Part impression—note constant position and weaknesses.
- 11. A26 Part impression—note solid "A."
- 12. A26 Part impression—not unlike type 2.
- 13. A26 Part impression—note dot between "A" and "26"—possibly a variety of type 4.
- 14. GIBRALTAR date-stamp "A/AP 15/86" Note doubling of "5." There may be others.