

BRITISH EMPIRE

GOLD COAST

1883 HALFPENNY

PLATE 9

Sperati is only known to have made "die" proofs in colour but unused and used reproductions on genuine paper probably exist.

For comparison use the 1884-89 ½d. green.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—single plate</i>
COLOUR { DL	<i>Olive-yellow</i>	<i>Olive-yellow</i>
{ MVL	<i>Olive-grey-brown</i>	<i>Brown</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Rather flat</i>

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

- SPECIFIC TESTS: (i) Below and to the right of the eye there are several breaks that are not to be found on the genuine.
 (ii) The horizontal lines of shading just opposite and to the right of the nape of the neck are noticeably thicker owing to retouching.

1883 ONE PENNY

PLATE 9

Sperati is known to have made unused reproductions on genuine paper. Sperati states that this is his first British Empire forgery and was made in 1911.

For comparison use the 1884-89 1d. Carmine.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—single plate</i>
COLOUR { DL	<i>Ultramarine</i>	<i>Dull grey-blue</i>
{ MVL	<i>Pale blue</i>	<i>Grey</i>
PAPER { DL	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
{ MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Smooth and colourless</i>	<i>Yellowish toned and crackly</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Dull and flat</i>

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

- SPECIFIC TESTS: (i) Some of the horizontal lines of shading in front of and below the chin are irregular instead of straight (Plate 9).
 (ii) The shading on the lobe of the ear is noticeably less than in the genuine.

1889 TWENTY SHILLINGS

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 is a second reproduction only seen in the form of a "die" proof in black. One of the negatives for a cancellation is dated December 1944.

For comparison of the key plate use any low value.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Gold Coast—1889 Twenty Shillings—*contd.*

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
COLOUR	<i>Green and red</i>	<i>Pastel shade of grey-green, the red matches genuine with great accuracy</i>
	<i>Green and red</i>	<i>Even more pale in comparison</i>
PAPER	<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: *B, D, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) Constant white spots in "GOLD COAST" and the value tablet.
- (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).
- (iii) There is a nick in the top of the panel containing "POSTAGE."

Reproduction B

- (iv) The top of the "S" in "COAST" is flat and there is a dot above.
- (v) There is a colourless dot in the centre of the shading of the "2."

CANCELLATIONS

- 1. "556" double impression.
- 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	<i>Pale red brown</i>	<i>Pale dull brown</i>
	<i>Purplish brown</i>	<i>"Die" proof nigger-brown. Used reddish-brown</i>
PAPER	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
	<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>