

FINLAND

1867 ONE MARK

PLATE 110

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is dated September 1946.

For **comparison** use a contemporary low value.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** of the genuine stamps varies from slightly reddish-stone to reddish-brown and in comparison the reproductions are orange-brown. Under the MVL there is little difference except that the reproductions are generally darker than the genuine.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine as Sperati removed the impression of a genuine stamp on which to print the 1 mark.

Under the MVL the paper is stained on the reverse and this will necessitate the introduction of Basic test K.

The **gum** on the genuine is colourless but on the reproductions it is rather yellow and under the lamp appears to have been applied with a brush.

The **impression** of the genuine is clear and that of the reproduction rather more heavy.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) In the heavy line running below the top value tablet there is a flaw on the underside below the "E," and the background below "RK" is joined to this line by a spot of colour.
- (ii) The vertical frame lines at the left and right of the stamp are not joined in the genuine but in the reproduction they run together for 8 mm. on the left, and for 2.5 mm. at the top and 3 mm. at the bottom on the right.
- (iii) In the bottom left corner the outer frame line is joined to the inner frame line by a diagonal stroke.
- (iv) In the bottom value tablet the background below the "K" is joined to the inner frame line below.

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

GREECE

1861 ONE LEPTON PLATE 111

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as used reproductions, some of which are on genuine paper. Neither the negative nor cliché are dated but there are two examples in his "Livre d'Or," one signed by a well-known French expert and the other by a German expert.

For **comparison** use a contemporary common value.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

There are two shades of the reproduction, chocolate and red-brown, but neither has quite the depth of the original.

The **paper** is sometimes genuine from which Sperati has removed the impression of a genuine but common value. Under the MVL these stamps are stained on the back a rosy-buff. Reproductions that bear Sperati's cancellations are rather mottled on the back but show no signs of staining and the paper is very similar to the genuine.

The **impression** is not so firm as the genuine, the outlines are not so clean cut.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The outline of the solid background in the corners and in the top and bottom panels is not as solid as the genuine and shows many poor small flaws under magnification, some of which are described in the following tests.
- (ii) Just above and to the left of the large white spot between the words in the top panel is a smaller white spot.

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

Greece—1861 one lepton—*contd.*

- (iii) In the top right corner star there are extra white spots between the upper and lower pairs of petals.
- (iv) In the bottom panel there are extra white spots below the first white dot, below and to the left and right of the second white dot, below the right leg of the "A" and after the last numeral on a level with the last white dot.
- (v) The pearl 5 mm. from the top and 4.5 mm. from the right of the stamp is broken and joins the white line above.
- (vi) The two white pearls on the extreme right in front of the nose are joined together vertically and the pearl below is joined to the white circular line.

CANCELLATIONS: Sometimes genuine, see Chapter IV page 28, alternatively a diamond of dots containing the numerals 9, 18 or 32 (Plate 111).

1896 FIVE DRACHMAE PLATE 111

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is not dated.

For **comparison** use the genuine stamp.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** is a fair match for the genuine but under the MVL the stamp is in deep buff on the reverse.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** is practically as clear as the genuine.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a diagonal scratch commencing on the right side of the "II" of "OAYMI" 9.75 mm. from the left of the stamp continuing down through the central buckle, the left side of the second shaded A and running through the "9" of the year date.
- (ii) The top frame line is broken .8 mm. and 3 mm. from the left.
- (iii) There is a flaw on the inside right leg of the "A" of "OAYMI."
- (iv) There is a small dot at the foot of the left leg of the "A" in the top panel.

(v) The top stroke of shading in the head of the last "E" of "EAAAS" is broken.

(vi) There is a small spot in the panel at foot 5.5 mm. from right, 3.1 mm. from the foot of the stamp.

(vii) In "APAXMI" there are white spots on the left and bottom right of the loop of the "P" and on the right side of the first "A" and the line below the "P" is broken.

CANCELLATIONS: Apparently genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

1896 TEN DRACHMAE PLATE 111

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is not dated.

For **comparison** use the genuine stamp.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** is very similar to that of the genuine but under the MVL the paper is deep buff on the back, quite unlike the genuine.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** is not so clear as the genuine.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a small dot in the head of the first "O" in the top panel (Plate 111).
- (ii) There is a spot of colour just above the left side of the "K" in the top panel between the inner and outer frame lines.
- (iii) There is a defect on the under side of the top frame line 20.2 mm. from the left.
- (iv) The numerals in the lower left corner have several white spots which are particularly noticeable in the centre of the "1" and the left centre of the "0."
- (v) The numerals in the right corners are both weak and the "1" has a number of white spots.
- (vi) There is a crack or hair line running into the head of the "0" in the right lower corner.

CANCELLATIONS: Apparently genuine. See Chapter IV, plate 28.