

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.”