

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

HUNGARY

1871 LITHOGRAPHED

There are three values to consider, the 2 kr., 3 kr. and 15 kr., and the following comments apply to all. Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour (3 kr.) and used reproductions on genuine paper.

For **comparison** use the genuine 5 kreuzer.

The genuine stamps were lithographed and the reproductions, which were printed by photo-lithography, give a very similar appearance.

The **paper, perforations and cancellations** are genuine, Sperati having faded out a common value and printed the scarcer value in its place. Sperati sometimes used genuine stamps of Austria 1867 which have the same paper and perforations; these may be identified by the cancellations. The impressions of the reproductions are not quite as clear as the genuine.

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

TWO KREUZER PLATE 110

The cliché is dated August 1953, presumably the last time it was used, but the negative is dated the 8th December, 1914.

The **colour** of the genuine is yellowish-stone and the reproduction has rather more yellow. Under the MVL the colour of the reproduction is rather deeper and the familiar staining, which is so often found with these reproductions, is very apparent.

This is the only one of the three values to be represented in Sperati's *Livre d'Or*, two German experts having signed examples as being genuine.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are several breaks in the outer frame line which are not normally found on the genuine, they are at the top 8 mm. from the left, on the right 6 mm. from the top, at the bottom 1.5 mm. from the left and 3.5 mm. from the right.
- (ii) There is a white spot in the dark shading immediately above the centre of the foot of the "2" in the lower left corner.
- (iii) There is a black spot projecting from the background just above the outer frame line at foot 3.5 mm. from the left.

THREE KREUZER

The negative is dated April 1940, and this reproduction has the curious distinction of being known repaired, there being little doubt that Sperati amused himself by removing the impression of a genuine stamp that had been repaired and then printing his own reproduction on top.

The **colour** of the genuine is not as bright as most of the reproductions, under the MVL the genuine appears grey-green on grey paper where the reproductions are either green on white paper or yellow-green on deep orange-buff paper.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a break in the outer frame line at left 3.5 mm. from the top of the stamp, a general weakness at right in the lower corner and a break in the lower frame line, 12.25 mm. from the left. The last is sometimes touched in by hand.
- (ii) At the foot of the upright of the "k" the lower right serif is joined by a diagonal white stroke to the leg of the letter.
- (iii) There is a spot of colour half way up the vertical of the "r" which may sometimes be found on a genuine type.

FIFTEEN KREUZER PLATE 110

The **colour** of the genuine stamp is greyish-brown and the reproductions are in shades of brown. Under the MVL the genuine becomes brown on greyish while the reproduction becomes yellow-brown on yellowish or orange-buff.

The **impression** of the reproduction is somewhat heavier than the genuine and the pearls are noticeably not so well formed.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are breaks in the outer frame at top 5 mm. from the right, at left 1 mm. from the top and at the foot 8 mm. from the left, and there is an indentation 11 mm. from the left.
- (ii) The two pearls 3 mm. from the left and 7.5-8.5 mm. from the top of the stamp are joined together to give the appearance of an antique "E."
- (iii) There is an irregularity on the left side of the numeral "1" in the lower left corner.