

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

ICELAND

These forgeries are probably among Sperati's earliest. Copies of the 1873 16 sk and 1876 40 aur were sold by Sperati to Reverend Paul B. Freeland in 1956, at which time Sperati said they were early efforts of his. In November 1909, a note in the philatelic press (see Chapter 3, page 125) said that Sperati was in Paris offering these forgeries for sale.

There is a record of a Sperati forgery of the official 1873 4sk green, perforation 14 x 13½, but unfortunately it has not been available for examination.

*1873 Sixteen Skilling* (Photographic Plate D)

Of this forgery two unused examples have been seen. They are on genuine, watermarked paper. Surprisingly, they are perforation 12½ instead of the rarer perforation 14 x 13½. Sperati probably removed the design from a later, inexpensive stamp of Denmark or Iceland. The genuine stamp is typographed while the forgery is lithographed.

*Colour:* Deep yellow, stronger than the genuine.

*Impression:* Coarse, but difficult to see.

*Basic Tests:* B, D, E, F, and K.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The lettering is badly drawn, the "R" of "FRIM" is too large and the "M" too small.
- (ii) The right inner frame line is retouched opposite "16" and broken lower down.



*Note:* It has not been possible to produce a clearer illustration of this stamp—yellow is a very 'difficult' colour.

## THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

### 1876 *Forty Aurar* (Photographic Plate D)

Unused examples of this forgery on genuine, watermarked paper have been seen. They are perforation 14 x 13½. Sperati probably removed the design of a later, less expensive stamp of Denmark or Iceland.

*Colour:* Yellowish green.

*Impression:* Coarser than the original, but still quite attractive.

*Basic tests:* B, D, E, F, and K.

#### SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The bottom horizontal outer frame line is thinned where it joins the lower corners.
- (ii) There is a white dent in the left vertical outer frame line, 8.75 mm from the bottom. In the same frame line there is a white, diagonal line 2 mm from the top, exiting from this frame line on the right.
- (iii) The right outer thick frame line is joined to the inner thin frame line by a diagonal line 5.75 mm from the bottom of the stamp.
- (iv) There is a dot on top of the thin inner oval coloured line between the "L" and "A" of "ISLAND".
- (v) A spot of colour is in the head of the "A" and there is a bite out of the left leg of the "R" in "AUR".
- (vi) There are white spots in the solid background to the left of the "4" of "40". One is in line with the crossbar. A second is one mm above and slightly to the right of this.

