

BRITISH EMPIRE

INDIA

1854 HALF ANNA (9½ ARCHES)

PLATE 11

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour. He also probably made unused reproductions on genuine paper. The type copied was the seventh of the ten that form a row of the genuine; the sheet position copied was the seventh on the tenth row.

For comparison the genuine stamp or its plate proof must be used.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Lithography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR {DL	<i>Deep red (almost vermilion)</i>	<i>More vivid (more red)</i>
{MVL	<i>Deep chocolate</i>	<i>Deep chocolate</i>
PAPER DL	<i>Thick toned</i>	<i>Slightly greyish</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Arms of the East India Co. in the sheet</i>	<i>Genuine</i>

SPECIFIC TESTS

As only one example has been examined, tests have yet to be proved constant. The first three tests identify the type (i.e. both genuine and Sperati).

- (i) The small dot between the value tablet and the outer frame below and between the "LF" of "HALF."
- (ii) The gash in the lobe of the ear.
- (iii) The vertical stroke between the outer frame-line at top and the background just to the left of "INDIA" (this stroke is shaped like an inverted retort in the Sperati reproduction).

- (iv) The colour is less evenly applied than in the genuine.
- (v) The outer frame at right is not as strong as the genuine and there are several small breaks. (In the genuine there are several small breaks in the left frame.)
- (vi) The "arches" in the side panels have lost their true shape.
- (vii) From the point of the bust there is a "hair line" variety which enters the top of the "F" of "HALF," re-appears on the right of the "F," encircling the lower stroke, crossing the upright and extending almost to the "L."

1856 TWO ANNAS

PLATE 11

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as unused reproductions imperforate. The genuine stamp was prepared for use but was unissued. There are two reproductions, of the second only one single "die" proof is known.

For comparison use the 1865 2 annas orange.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR {DL	<i>Pale blue-green</i>	<i>(A) Pale dull green (less blue and dull), (B) Yellow green</i>
{MVL	<i>Deep grey-green (almost sage)</i>	<i>(A) Light grey-green, (B) Yellow-green</i>
PAPER {DL	<i>White</i>	<i>Grey</i>
{MVL	<i>Chalky white</i>	<i>Stained greyish</i>
WATERMARK	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>None</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Dull</i>

B R I T I S H E M P I R E

India—1856 Two Annas—*contd.*

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) The top of the left frame line is defective.
- (ii) There are many weak spots in the background of the band containing the inscription and these become white spots before and after the "T" of "POSTAGE."
- (iii) There is a diagonal break through two horizontal lines of shading in the centre of the cheek.
- (iv) There is an extra horizontal serif at the bottom right of the "E" of "EAST."
- (v) The "G" of "POSTAGE" is joined to the frame of the band by a colourless line (Plate 11).

- (vi) There is a colourless spot in the outer frame at right opposite the "AS" of "ANNAS."

Reproduction B

As only one example has been examined some of the following tests may not be constant:

- (vii) There are numerous white spots in the outer frame, three are close together near the top of the left side.
- (viii) There is a weakness in the horizontal lines of shading parallel with the oval frame and opposite the lower half of the profile.
- (ix) There are curious marks in the centre of the "O" of "POSTAGE."
- (x) There are two white spots in the background between the "NN" of "ANNAS."

1882-88 NINE PIES

PLATE 11

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. The purpose of this imitation was to make the scarcer values with the Convention States overprint. The writer only knows the Sperati imitation with the genuine "GWALIOR" overprint as illustrated but it may well have appealed to M. Sperati's humour to use his "die" to manufacture the much more common usage for Nabha and Patiala.

In the case of the unused example, the genuine "GWALIOR" overprint has been retained and the gum, although very brown (not unusual for a stamp that has remained in India for some years) may well be genuine. In the case of the used example, Sperati has retained the genuine overprint and the cancellation!

Compare with genuine stamp.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR {DL	<i>Deep rose</i>	<i>Similar with a touch of carmine</i>
{MVL	<i>Deep purple-brown</i>	<i>Carmine red</i>
PAPER {DL	<i>White to toned</i>	<i>Almost buff</i>
{MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish (the used are stained on the back)</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Star</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Toned</i>	<i>Yellow-buff</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear</i>

BASIC TEST: *B.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a coloured dot in the "A" of "INDIA" (Plate 11).
- (ii) There is a weak spot in the background to the top left of the "A" of "POSTAGE."

- (iii) There is a coloured flaw in the second "N" of "NINE."
- (iv) There is a small colourless line extending downwards and to the left from the lower left corner of the "E" of "NINE."

CANCELLATIONS

See introductory notes above.

BRITISH EMPIRE

India—contd.

1882-88 ONE RUPEE

PLATE 11

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

There can be no doubt that this "die" was made in order to produce this value with the genuine overprints of any or all of the six Convention States.

Compare with genuine stamp.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR } DL	<i>Blue-grey</i>	<i>Slate-grey (a very "dead" shade)</i>
} MVL	<i>Grey</i>	<i>Pale-grey</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Star</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear but lacks "body"</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS (these *may* not be constant)

- (i) There are small spots of colour in some letters, particularly "ONE." (ii) There is a flaw in the foot of the "E" of "POSTAGE" and in the background below this letter (Plate 11).

LAGOS

PLATE 12

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. He also made "die" proofs of the key plates of the three value tablets separately.

The following comments apply to the three denominations described.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Buff, very stained on the back</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless or toned</i>	<i>Colourless or stained brown</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear, rather worn</i>

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

For comparison of the key plate used any contemporary low value.

CANCELLATIONS: Nos. 1 to 4 as illustrated (Plate 12), ovals of nine horizontal bars.

1886 TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE

PLATE 12

COLOUR—MVL: The genuine is almost black whereas the Sperati is definitely brown.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The corner of the outer frame line at the top right is misshapen. (ii) 3.75 mm. from the top left corner the frame line is broken but the piece broken away remains (Plate 12). (iii) Below the right of the "L" of "LAGOS" there is a small colourless spot. (iv) To the right of the top of the "S" of "LAGOS" there is a colourless line. (v) In the centre triangle and to the left of the letter "A" of "POSTAGE" are two white marks. (vi) The lettering in the value tablet is very rough when examined under magnification $\times 10$.