

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  $\times 10$ .

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

Lagos—*contd.*

1886 FIVE SHILLINGS

PLATE 12

COLOUR—DL: The genuine is a pure blue and the Sperati almost prussian blue.

of Lagos the tests for the 2/6 apply equally well to the 5/- except that test (ii) is sometimes touched out but there is a white nick in the lower border of the outer frame line above and between "A" and "G" of "LAGOS."

SPECIFIC TESTS

As Sperati used the same key plate for each denomination

In a third state this flaw has been touched out.

1886 TEN SHILLINGS

PLATE 12

COLOUR—MVL: Genuine, deep purple, the Sperati is much paler.

(ii) There is a small nick 1 mm. from the N.W. corner of the ornament in the top left of the stamp.

Sperati apparently used more than one frame for this value. That described under the two lower values serve as tests for the 10/- which has only been recorded in the form of a "die" proof although doubtless complete unused and used examples exist. The following tests apply to the unused and used examples of the reproduction contained in the B.P.A. reference collection:

(iii) There is a colourless spot between the "S" and "T" of "POSTAGE."

(iv) There is a projection on the top left of the "T" of "TEN."

(i) There is a colourless spot in the central triangle of the "A" of "LAGOS."

(v) The first "S" of "SHILLINGS" has a constant weakness in the middle (Plate 12).

MALTA

1860 HALFPENNY

PLATE 12

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour as well as unused reproductions on genuine paper.

For comparison use the 1865 ½d. green.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR { DL	<i>Pale brown</i>	<i>Pale brown</i>
{ MVL	<i>Pale brown</i>	<i>Brown</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14, comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Toned</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Cloudy</i>	<i>Rather more solid</i>

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

SPECIFIC TEST

- (i) In the right stroke of the "M" and in both left and right strokes of the last "A" of the word "MALTA" there are colourless spots (Plate 12).
- (ii) A sloping stroke joins the outer frame lines at right level with the chignon.
- (iii) There is a spot of colour in the lower of the leaves to touch the frame at left.

(iv) There is a colourless diagonal line running from the top left corner of the "E" of "ONE."

(v) Between the legs of the "A" of "HALF" there is a white spot (Plate 12).

(vi) Just below the diagonal stroke of the second "N" of "PENNY" there is a white spot and there is also a projection on the right of the right stroke of the same letter.