

THE WORK OF JEAN DE SPERATI II

LAGOS

1886 Five Shillings (Photographic Plate B)

Two new forgeries have been seen. In the first, the letters of the value are stronger and not so rough as the forgery described on page 51 and illustrated on Plate 12 of *Sperati I*. The worn appearance of the horizontal lines of shading has disappeared. Two used copies have been studied. The cancellations are not the same as those illustrated in *Sperati I* and they may be genuine. This new forgery is designated Reproduction B, the former now being Reproduction A.

Reproduction B

	<i>Genuine</i>	<i>Sperati</i>
<i>Printing</i>	Typography	Photo-lithography
<i>Colour</i>	Pure blue	Blue and dull blue
<i>Impression</i>	Clear and bright	Clear and dull

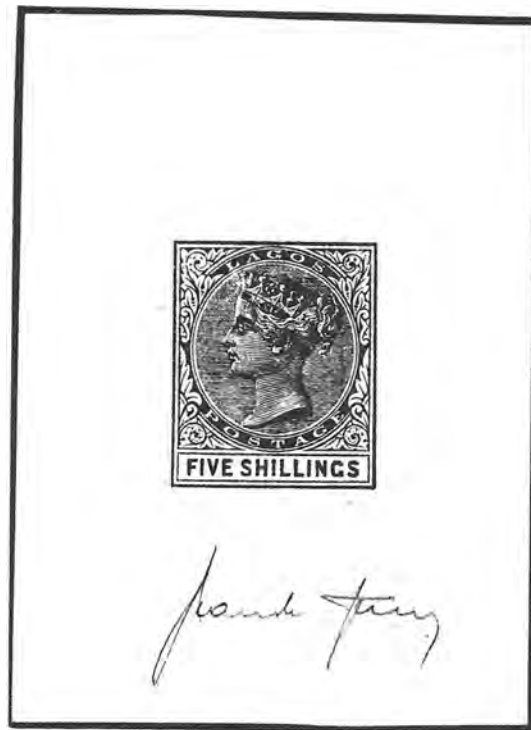
SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The third shading line from the top is strengthened on the right side.
- (ii) The inside of the right frame line bends outward at the top, narrowing the frame line, but the top frame line is straight at this corner (unlike in reproduction A).
- (iii) The vertical stroke of the first "L" of "SHILLINGS" narrows and bends left at the bottom (the same as in reproduction A). It is thus probable that the same value tablet was photographed for reproductions A and B of the Five Shillings, though the letters of the value are stronger and not so rough in reproduction B.
- (iv) The "G" of "SHILLINGS" is weak at the top.
- (v) The horizontal lines of shading are clear (unlike reproduction A wherein they have a worn appearance).
- (vi) There is a white nick in the lower border of the outer frame line above and between the "A" and "G" of "LAGOS".



THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

Reproduction C is represented only by a black die proof with "FIVE SHILLINGS" and another with no value.



Reproduction C

SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS

- (i) Above the top and to the right of the chignon a coloured line crosses the first white horizontal. In the Five Shillings die proof only this line continues up and very slightly to the left, crossing three more white horizontals.
- (ii) A small coloured dot is in the white circle surrounding the shading, directly up from the left side of the foot of the "P" of "POSTAGE", and just outside a white horizontal.
- (iii) There is a weakness in the thin coloured circular line surrounding the shading, to the left of the bottom of the chin.
- (iv) The ninth and tenth shading lines from the bottom on the neck, counting at the front, are broken at the same horizontal location. Above this there are several more breaks in the shading lines.
- (v) Behind the chignon, at a level twelve shading lines above its bottom, there is a coloured dot in the outer white circle around the shading.
- (vi) The coloured line above the "LAGOS" tablet has a break over "GO".

