

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."

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

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

(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.