

# THE PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED FORGERIES

## GERMAN COLONIES

### MARSHALL ISLANDS

*1898 Unissued 25 and 50 Pfennig (Photographic Plate C)*

Sperati copied the “Marschall-Inseln” overprint and used it on unused genuine copies of the 1889 25 and 50 pfennig stamps of Germany. Two copies of each have been examined. The paper, gum and perforations are, of course, genuine.

The Sperati overprint is very close in length to the genuine, which is 22.4 mm, but it may be shorter by less than a tenth of a millimeter. The main test is that the forgery is lithographed and the genuine is typographed. Consequently the forgery lacks the strong typographic wave of the genuine, though Sperati has succeeded in copying weakly some aspects of this. Viewed from the back side the genuine show a clear impression of the type, but the forgery does not.

Under UV the genuine and forged overprints are similar. Under reflected daylight, however, the genuine can be made to appear shiny and the Sperati cannot.

The forged overprints also differ from the genuine by having noticeably bumpier edges to the letters. This is particularly evident for the “M”, “r”, right half of the “c”, left side of the “h”, all of the “l”s, the “I”, both “n”s and the “e”. The horizontal bar of the “e” has a black dot on its upper side in the middle.

