

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

MAURITIUS

1848 ONE PENNY

PLATE 13

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and probably made unused and used reproductions. The position on the sheet is the tenth, i.e. the stamp in the lower left corner.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Engraved</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR {	<i>Orange-red to red-brown</i>	<i>Orange-red</i>
	<i>The genuine varies considerably</i>	<i>Slightly brownish-orange</i>

BASIC TESTS: *A and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS: In the B.P.A. reference collection there is only the one example of the Sperati die proof and as no other copy of this reproduction has been available for examination the specific tests are not given as they might not be constant. However, any example would show exactly the same state of wear as the illustration.

The following comments apply to the three stamps described below.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CC</i>	<i>Genuine</i>

CANCELLATIONS: Apparently genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

1860 NINE PENCE

PLATE 13

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

For comparison of most details of the head and frame use any value of the same set except the 10d.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR {	<i>Yellow-green</i>	<i>Green</i>
	<i>Toned</i>	<i>Unused brown, used dull-green</i>
PAPER {	<i>Toned</i>	<i>Stained greyish or toned</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 line</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Rather rough and toned</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Flat and not sharp</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are a number of constant varieties in the letters of "MAURITIUS" such as the two small white spots in left leg of the "A," there is a minute dot between the top right serif of the "U" and the top left serif of the "R," the bottom left serif of the first "I" is broken, there is a minute dot on the top right arm of the second "U."
- (ii) The following are the constant varieties in the letters of the word "NINE": There are two clear white spots where the diagonal stroke of the "N" joins the left upright, there are projections on both sides of the upright of the "I" (Plate 13).
- (iii) There is a small white spot at the top of the right frame line where the outer frame is joined to the inner frame by a line of colour.
- (iv) There is a constant defect in the centre of the neckline.
- (v) There are many parts of the horizontal lines of shading that have been retouched. There are constant breaks 3 mm. in the front of the Adam's apple as well as in front of and above the chignon.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Mauritius—*contd.*

1879 THIRTEEN CENTS

PLATE 13

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

Compare with the genuine stamp or with its later use surcharged.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR { DL	<i>Deep slate</i>	<i>Slate, not so deep</i>
{ MVL	<i>Slate-black</i>	<i>Grey</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Greyish-white</i>	<i>Chalky-white partly stained</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Under magnification $\times 10$ there are many parts of the stamp that show weaknesses, many of which are constant. The following are the major flaws:

- (i) The right side of the triangular ornament in the top right corner is broken on a level with the head of "T" of "POSTAGE," a break which is not always constant.
- (ii) There is a defect in the oval frame surrounding the head above the "T" of "CENTS" and below the "S" of "POSTAGE" (Plate 13).
- (iii) The horizontal lines of shading around the head are often broken notably in front of the bridge of the nose, towards the left of the oval in front of the chin, towards the white of the oval behind the nape of the neck.

1879 THIRTY-EIGHT CENTS

PLATE 13

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. Compare with the genuine stamp or with its later use surcharged.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
COLOUR { DL	<i>Bright purple</i>	<i>Reddish purple (much less blue)</i>
{ MVL	<i>Grey-lilac or deep grey-lilac</i>	<i>Deep grey-lilac</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Very stained, brownish grey</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear and bright</i>	<i>Rough and flat</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

There are many tiny spots of colour in the white spaces that are not to be found in the genuine. The following are constant flaws:

- (i) There is a large spot of colour in the left leg of the "A" of "MAURITIUS" and a small spot in the right leg just opposite the base of the central triangle (Plate 13).
- (ii) There is a stroke of colour about 1 mm. to the right of the "T" of "POSTAGE" which protrudes into the white space forming the base of the triangular ornament in the N.E. corner of the stamp.
- (iii) There is a white spot just to the right of the knee of the "S" of "CENTS."

MONTserrat

1884 FOUR PENCE

PLATE 13

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

There are two clichés made from the same negative, dated December 1944 and February 1945.

For comparison see the 4d. mauve or compare the key plate with that of any other value.