

THE REPRODUCTIONS MADE BY SPERATI

Stamp List—*contd.*

- MADAGASCAR 1904 10 centimes bisected on piece tied with three-line "Affranchissement exceptionnel (faute de Timbres)" and cancelled "DIEGO SUAREZ 7 MARS 04 MADAGASCAR"
- ICELAND 1873 4 skilling carmine, perf. 12½, used
- *ITALY—PARMA 1859 5c. green, unused
- KINGDOM 1879 2 lire vermilion, used
1889 5 lire red and green, used
- LEVANT 1874 2 lire scarlet, used
1908 "I PIASTRA 1" on 25 centesimi blue, used
- ERITREA 1903 Postage Due 1 lira overprinted "Colonia Eritrea," used
- SOMALILAND 1905 "Centesimi 40" on 10 anna lilac, used
- MONACO 1885 1 franc black on yellow, used, cancelled "11 JAN 86"
- RUSSIA P.O.s IN CRETE 1899 1 metalik rose (with stars), unused
- SAN MARINO—
- 1877 30 centesimi brown and 40 centesimi, used
- 1892 provisionals "Cmi 5" on 10c. blue (S.G. 10d.), on 30c. brown (S.G. 13), "Cmi 10" on 20c. vermilion (S.G. 15 and 17), all used.
- 1892-94 1 lira red on yellow, 2 lire brown on buff and 5 lire lake on blue, all used
- 1894 1 lire ultramarine, used
- 1897 Postage Due 1 lira rose and 10 lire rose, used
- 1903 2 lira bright violet and *5 lira steel-blue
- SPAIN—
- 1865 perf. 14 2 reales orange (or lilac) used
- 1870 *1 escudo 600 m. grey—or deep-lilac, *2 escudos blue and *19 cuartos yellow-green, all used
- 1905 Don Quixote 10 pesos orange used cancelled "17 MAY 05" and with serial number "A 000,001" on the reverse.

*These items are represented in the records acquired by the British Philatelic Association from Sperati.

There seems little doubt that at this time Mariano was the leader and according to the statement of Jean (Giovanni) de Sperati the latter did not start work on his own until 1911.

There are several interesting points that arise out of this article.

The collector in this generation will be amazed at the number of very common stamps that are only worth a few shillings and which were, according to the writer of the article, forgeries, but it must be remembered that many of these stamps were popular in 1908 and keenly sought after by collectors and probably worth more than they are today.

The compiler of these notes has not seen one of these approval selections, but it would appear that practically all the stamps were produced by methods similar to those subsequently used by Jean de Sperati. The watermarks were genuine, but at that time the author was not aware that the forgeries were made on paper from which the impression of a genuine common value had been removed. Many of the cancellations appear to be genuine, as far as one can judge from the illustration.

The comments on the French Zanzibar "50 ANNAS" on 5 fr. suggests the loss of white space referred to as a basic test in Chapter IV. The Parma 1859 5c. is apparently from a different sheet position to that imitated by Jean de Sperati at a later date and found in his records, and it is possible that the other forgeries represented in the records acquired by the B.P.A. are not identical with those that Sperati has been providing during the past 20 years. However, it is interesting to note the manufacture of the 1905 Don Quixote 10 pesos, for this stamp is not noted in Sperati's papers although a similar cancellation and a serial number that appears on the reverse is represented.

In the *Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung* of the 7th August 1909, page 316, appears a further note regarding the Brothers Sperati.

When we wrote about the forgeries of the Brothers Sperati and illustrated an approval sheet showing how the Speratis despatched their wares, we omitted to point out that the approval sheet also is a forgery. This seems irrelevant at first, but it might get innocent people into trouble. We must point out to our readers that only members of the Society "Le Timbre" in

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

MONACO

1885 SEVENTY-FIVE CENTIMES PLATE 112

Sperati is known to have made used reproductions usually on genuine paper.

For **comparison** use a genuine stamp of the same design.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** of the genuine stamps is a greyish black on pink whereas the reproductions appear to be black on pinkish-brown.

While the **paper** is undoubtedly genuine, it is not of necessity the paper used for this particular issue and the reproductions appear to be generally thicker than the genuine.

The **impression** is heavier than the genuine.

BASIC TESTS: *B, D (all the horizontal lines of shading are noticeably thicker), E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The top right serif of the "C" of both "PRINCIPAUTE" and "MONACO" both have small white spots.
- (ii) There is a nick in the horizontal line of shading 6 mm. from the right and 4.5 mm. from the top of the stamp.
- (iii) There is a white spot or weakness in the centre of the right numeral "5."

CANCELLATIONS

Serpiginous circular date-stamp

- 1 ". . . . DE MONACO/. . . . 26/OCT/86"

Double circular date-stamp

- 2 "MONTE CARLO/PTE DE. . . . /6E 9/OCT/86"
- 3 ". CARLO/MONACO/. . . 28/DEC/87"
- 4 "MONTE-CARLO/PTE DE MONACO/3E 29/JANV 97"

NETHERLANDS

It is possible that the three date stamps illustrated on Plate 113 were produced by Sperati for use as arrival stamps on covers that he had manufactured. The negatives of the following three circular date-stamps were found in his records:

- 1 "AMSTERDAM 10 11 6-12 53"
- 2 "AMSTERDAM 23 2 6-12 54"
- 3 "AMSTERDAM 12 2 6-12 61"

PORTUGUESE MOZAMBIQUE

1881 TWENTY REIS PLATE 113

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and probably made unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. It should be remembered that this stamp was prepared for use but not issued in the Colony.

For **comparison** use any genuine stamp of the same design.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** of the single "die" proof examined is a chalky shade of rosine and not as vivid as the genuine.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a nick in the foot of the upright of the "E" of "CORREIO" (Plate 113).
- (ii) There is a white flaw in the background between the "AM" of "MOZAMBIQUE," another in the upper half of the lower loop of the "B" and a third distinctive white spot over the right upright of the "U."
- (iii) There is a minute break in the centre of the head of the "2."
- (iv) There is a distinctive white spot in the tail of the "R" of "REIS," another in the lower part of the upright of the "E" and another white spot in the lower right of the "S."