

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.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Montserrat—1884 Four Pence—*contd.*

PLATE 13

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>
COLOUR	<i>Blue</i>	<i>Rather more vivid and lighter</i>
PAPER	<i>Pure blue</i>	<i>Grey-blue</i>
PERFORATION	<i>White</i>	<i>Badly stained</i>
WATERMARK	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>Toned to yellow</i>
	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Although Sperati has used two plates in making his reproduction, in most cases the registration is so accurate that the centring of the value tablet and the word "MONTSEERRAT" is identical. The following are constant flaws:

- (i) In the top frame line there is a nick on the underside above the "N," a diagonal weakness above the "S" and a clean break above and to the right of "T."
- (ii) On the upper side of the bottom outer frame-line there are several nicks below the "OU" of "FOUR" and the "NC" and "E" of "PENCE."
- (iii) The horizontal line of shading of the background to the left and immediately opposite the top of the eye has been strongly redrawn.
- (iv) There are certain constant flaws in "MONTSEERRAT" notably at the top right of the right stroke of the "N," the bottom stroke of the "E" and the right leg of the "A" (Plate 13).

- (v) Letters in the value tablet were copied from a genuine stamp; there has been a slight misprint and in consequence there are traces of doubling quite clear on most of the letters.
- (vi) There is a spot of colour on the inside of the octagonal frame at left, level with the upper lip.

CANCELLATIONS

1. "AO8" practically full impression. The serif of the right leg of "A" is broken and does not show. The "A" is broken at top and at bottom.
2. Similar to No. 1 but the serif of the "A" has been touched in.
3. On the right hand side of "AO8," a very small portion of the full impression.
4. A small portion of the left edge of the "AO8" obliteration.

NEVIS

1876 SIX PENCE

PLATE 14

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. The reproduction is of the eighth position on the sheet which may be easily identified by the two dots in the upper panel to the left of the "N" of "NEVIS."

Compare with genuine stamp.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Lithography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR	<i>Grey tinged with brown</i>	<i>Grey</i>
PAPER	<i>Grey</i>	<i>Greyish-brown</i>
PERFORATION	<i>White</i>	<i>Toned</i>
WATERMARK	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish, stained</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>15 line</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
	<i>None</i>	<i>As genuine</i>
	<i>Flat</i>	<i>Very similar</i>