

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>

BRITISH EMPIRE

Nevis—1876 Six Pence—*contd.*

PLATE 14

BASIC TESTS: *C, D and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a heavy dot adjoining the outer and inner frame-line above the "E" of "NEVIS" (Plate 14).
- (ii) There is a nick in the inner circular frame at two o'clock, right of the shoulder of the standing figure.

- (iii) There is a stroke joining the two circular frames at three o'clock.

CANCELLATIONS

- 1, 2 and 3 "AO9," different impressions as illustrated.

1876 ONE SHILLING

PLATE 14

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and probably made used reproductions on genuine paper. The reproduction is of the tenth position on the sheet.

Compare with genuine stamps.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Lithography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR {DL	<i>Pale or deep green</i>	<i>Middle shade</i>
{MVL	<i>Dark green</i>	<i>As genuine</i>
PAPER DL	<i>Chalky-white</i>	<i>Probably stained as 6d.</i>
PERFORATION	<i>15 line</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Flat</i>	<i>Very like the original</i>

BASIC TESTS: *C, D and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a vertical line of colour commencing between the "I" and "S" of "NEVIS" and extending vertically down; this is most distinctive through the hair, passing behind the ear down to the neck, the bust and dress of the standing figure, and terminating just below the wrist of the left arm.
- (ii) There is a diagonal line of colour which commences at the right end of the panel containing the word "NEVIS," extending at an angle of 45 degrees and finishing in the solid shading at the right of the stamp.

- (iii) There is a break in the top frame-line 2.5 mm. from the left and a spot of colour joining the oval frame to the top frame just above the "V" of "NEVIS" (Plate 14).
- (iv) There is a white spot between the "E" and "V" of "NEVIS" (Plate 14).
- (v) Before the "O" of "ONE" there is a white scratch in the background and there are white dots before and after the "H" of "SHILLING."
- (vi) Below the "H" of "SHILLING" there is a dot of colour in the white frame and between the "I" and "L" of "SHILLING" there is a flaw in the oval frame.
- (vii) There is a flaw in the thick inner frame-line at bottom 1.5 mm. from the left.

1880 SIX PENCE

PLATE 14

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and probably made unused and used reproductions on genuine paper.

For comparison use the 6d. chestnut, or compare the key plate with that of any low value.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography—double plate</i>	<i>Photo-lithography—(?) double plate</i>
COLOUR {DL	<i>Blue-green</i>	<i>Rather more blue-green</i>
{MVL	<i>Blue-green</i>	<i>Greyish green</i>
PERFORATION	<i>14 comb</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>Crown over CA</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
GUM	<i>Colourless</i>	<i>?</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Rather coarse in comparison</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a flaw in the outer frame-line at left near the top.

- (ii) The inner frame-line surrounding the value appears to be weak in the bottom right and left corners.
- (iii) There is a diagonal break in the outer frame-line on the right opposite the bottom horizontal stroke of the last "E" of "PENCE" (Plate 14).