

BRITISH EMPIRE

Newfoundland—*contd.*

SIX PENCE HALFPENNY

PLATE 15

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

For comparison use the 1861-62 6½d. rose-lake.

- (i) There is a coloured dot in the head of the "S" and in the right leg of the "X" of "SIX" and a white stroke under the "1."

- (ii) There is a defect in the background above the first "E" of "PENCE" and the "C" and "E" of the same word are roughly joined together at the foot.

- (iii) The frame is broken below the "F" of "HALF."

- (iv) There are dots between the "P" and "E" and the "N" and "Y" of "PENNY."

ONE SHILLING

PLATE 16

Sperati made three reproductions of this value:

A, which is known in the form of a "die" proof in scarlet-vermilion.

B, is known in a "die" proof in orange-vermilion. Unused and used in both scarlet and orange-vermilion. This cliché is dated 3rd June 1943.

C, which is known both unused and used in scarlet-vermilion.

For comparison see the 1861-62 1/- rose-lake.

Reproduction "A"

- (i) There is a dot in the "J" of "JOHN" (Plate 16).

Reproduction "B"

- (ii) The "O" of "JOHN" is irregular at top.

- (iii) There is a small break in the frame over the "W" of "NEW."

- (iv) The top right of the "N" of "NEW" is not cut square but slopes diagonally to the right (Plate 16).

- (v) The top of the "L" of "LAND" is rough.

- (vi) There is a smear on the right leg of the "N" of "SHILLING."

Reproduction "C."

- (vii) The stamp appears to be re-entered at foot. There is doubling of the letters of "POSTAGE."

- (viii) There is a dot in the right of the "H" and in the top of the "S" of "JOHN'S."

- (ix) There is a dot in the top of the "O" and a coloured spot in the cheek of the first "D" of "FOUND" (Plate 16).

- (x) There are two dots in the "O" and one in the "S" of "POST."

- (xi) The bar of "A" of "AGE" is weak and sometimes missing.

- (xii) There is a dot in the upper diagonal of the "N" in "SHILLING" and a heavy dot in the right leg.

PAPUA

1901 TWO SHILLINGS & SIXPENCE

PLATE 14

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs of the frame in colour, and probably made unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. This cliché is dated the 9th November 1941.

It is almost certain that only the frame of a genuine low value (probably the ½d. or 2½d.) would be faded out and the 2/6 reproduction superimposed. The student should not overlook the fact that any one of the following scarce to rare stamps may have resulted from the production:—1901/05 2/6 with horizontal watermark on thick and with vertical watermark on thick or thin paper. 1903/07 overprinted large "Papua," thick paper vertical watermark and overprinted small "Papua" thick paper vertical watermark.

The sheet position reproduced is No. 23. Compare the frame with that of the cheaper 2/6 overprinted "Papua."

PRINTING: The genuine stamp is engraved while Sperati's reproduction is photography.

COLOUR DL: The genuine brown, Sperati has rather more red in comparison.

IMPRESSION: The Sperati is nearly as clear as the genuine.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Comparison with the genuine stamp reveals an immediate difference and the ovals containing the value are almost of equal depth all over while the genuine shows a wide variation in the depth, the rim of the ovals and that part near the figures "2" and "6" being substantially deeper than the other parts.

- (i) In the bottom left oval there is a small indentation at two-thirty o'clock in the solid background.

- (ii) There is a small curved line emerging from the head of the left "2" (Plate 14).

- (iii) On the top right side of the "O" in the right "POSTAGE" there is a small snail-like projection which is only to be found on the twenty-third position of the sheet in the genuine (Plate 14).

CANCELLATIONS

1. "B N G" of SAMARAI as illustrated. The letters are redrawn and the oval crudely retouched on the right.