

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

Wenden—*contd.*

1871 TWO KOPECS PLATE 115

The **colour** of the reproduction is slightly more carmine and a deeper green than the genuine, and the impression is coarser.

SPECIFIC TESTS

(i) There are many distinctive breaks in the frame, particu-

larly on the left, right and at bottom.

- (ii) There are several spots of colour between the inner thin red oval at left and the thick band of colour.
- (iii) There is a defect in the solid background at foot, 2.25 mm. from the left (Plate 115).

RUSSIAN LEVANT

1865 TWO KOPECS PLATE 115

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

The cliché is dated July 1948 but the reproduction must have been manufactured about twenty years earlier as the B.P.A. Expert Committee examined a copy (and considered it to be genuine) in 1931 and a well known German expert signed an example which is in Sperati's *Livre d'Or*.

The type position copied by Sperati is the eighteenth.

For **comparison** use the genuine stamp.

The genuine stamps were printed by lithography and the reproductions by photo-lithography.

The **colour** of the genuine is rather deeper than the reproductions examined and the **impressions** are not so clear as the genuine.

BASIC TESTS: *D and E.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The frame line is not so firm as the genuine and there is a weakness on the right opposite the top scroll and the top frame line does not join the left.
- (ii) There is a spot of colour in the lower left white space of the inner oval frame around the ship.
- (iii) The "0" in the top panel is misshapen and apparently retouched.
- (iv) There is a considerable difference in minor details of the ship and the double headed eagle which are obvious in the enlarged illustration.

SAN MARINO

Sperati is known to have made used reproductions on genuine paper of the 1 and 5 lire and both these have been known for over forty years. The reader interested in the stamps of this country is referred to Chapter III and the remarks made in "BERLINER BRIEFMARKEN-ZEITUNG" concerning fourteen forgeries made by Jean de Sperati's elder brother, Mariano, which included the 5 lire described below.

For **comparison** use the genuine stamps of the same design.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photo-lithography.

The **paper** with its **perforations** and **watermark** is genuine, but it lacks the smooth surface which has been lost with the removal of the original stamp.

The **impression** is spotty in comparison with the genuine which is clear and firm.

CANCELLATIONS: These are genuine (see Chapter IV, page 28). The genuine low values which were used to make the reproductions were often cancelled to order, the following dates being noted—20 SET 1904, 4 LUG 1907, 29 LUG 1907, 16 MAR 1908, 2 AGO 1909.

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