

THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

Belgian Congo—1891 10 francs—*contd.*

Generally speaking, there is a much cleaner finish to the genuine and they present a uniform appearance which is lacking in the reproductions.

The **paper** and the **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** of the genuine is fairly clear and that of the reproduction is muddled, rather as if the camera vibrated when the photograph was taken.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are distinctive white spots in the background at the top right of the "A" of "ETAT," in the crutch of the second "N" of "INDEPENDANT," between the "D" and "A" as well as the "A" and third "N."
- (ii) There is a fine crack in the inner oval to the left of the

ear, 3 mm. from the left and 10 mm. from the top of the stamp.

- (iii) There is less white space under the serifs of the "1" of "10" at left.
- (iv) "FRANCS" is full of white spots, in the upright of the "F," where the tail of the "R" joins the loop, to the left and right of the horizontal bar of the "A," in the top left and right uprights of the "N," in the centre of the "C" and in the centre of the foot of "S."
- (v) There is often a tiny break in the bottom frame line where it should join the right frame.

CANCELLATIONS PLATE 109

Only three are recorded—all circular date-stamps.

- 1 "BANANA 1892/3/SEPT/6-S"
- 2 "BOMA 1893/13/MARS/7-M"
- 3 "MATADI 1893/20 OCTO/11-M"

BULGARIA

EASTERN ROUMELIA

1884 FIVE PIASTRES PLATE 109

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour (also the background alone) as well as unused reproductions on genuine paper.

The stamp was not issued for use. For **comparison** use the 1881 5 piastres.

It is suspected that this is a very early reproduction and that few copies have been marketed during the past twenty years. The genuine stamp was typographed and the reproduction was printed by a form of photo-lithography. In spite of considerable investigation a genuine example has not been found so no comment can be made on the **colour** except that under the MVL the familiar stained appearance is obvious.

The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** is rather more coarse than the genuine stamps of the same issue.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The "R" in "ROUMELIE" is broken in the head and in the horizontal, there is a white spot in the right vertical of the "M" and a break in the foot of the "I."
- (ii) The "A" of "ANATOAIKH" is smaller than the other letters.
- (iii) There are two dots under the "M" of "PRMYAIA"
- (iv) There are many flaws in "NCTOYHA"—a white spot in the left of the "N," a dot in the middle of the "O," a white spot in the tail of the "Y," two white spots in the right upright of the "H," three white spots in the "A," one in the horizontal and one in each leg.