

## 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.*

## THE REST OF EUROPE AND COLONIES

San Marino—*contd.*

### 1903 ONE LIRE PLATE 115

The colour of the reproduction is more grey-green than the olive-green of the genuine.

#### SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are breaks in the top frame line at 2.5 mm. (irregular) and 5 mm. from the left corner, also in the curved frame above the "LI" of "LIBERTAS."
- (ii) There is a nick in the outer frame at left, 3.5 mm. from the bottom of the stamp.
- (iii) There is a large break in the outer frame at right 1.5 mm. from the bottom.
- (iv) There are many constant white spots in the lettering.
- (v) There are several breaks in the circle containing "LIRE," notably at the left of the "L."
- (vi) There are several breaks in the circle containing "1," particularly on the right.

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See note on page 171.

### 1903 FIVE LIRE PLATE 115

The colour of the genuine stamp is steel blue. There are several shades of the reproduction but

they are generally bluer and a little darker than the genuine.

#### SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There are the following peculiarities about the letters in "LIBERTAS"—there is a small dot adjoining the left upright of the "B," a small nick in the upper right side of the "T" and a very small break at the head of the "A."
- (ii) There is a nick on the left side of the upright of the "R" of "REP" and a white spot in the lower half of the vertical of the "E."
- (iii) There are vertical cracks at the left and the right of the lower part of the "S" of "S.MARINO," there are two breaks on the inside left of the "M," a nick in the outer left side of the "N" and there is a nick on the underside of the "O."
- (iv) There are several flaws in "LIRE," the right extremity of the "L" becomes a dot and is severed from the rest of the letter, there is a nick in the left side of the "I," there is a dot on the left side of the tail of the "R."
- (v) There is a break in the outer circle immediately above the numeral "5."
- (vi) There is a break in the lower left side of the second "O" of "BOLLO."
- (vii) There are several flaws in "POSTALE," including a nick in the upper left side of the "O" and a white spot in the lower right side of the "A."

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See note on page 171.

## SWEDEN

At first sight these stamps can be quite misleading as all are printed on genuine paper with genuine cancellations, undoubtedly a genuine impression of the 4 skilling banco\* having been removed while the genuine cancellation was retained. In the case of the 1855 issue, all genuine stamps show the definite bite of typography which is missing in the reproductions. These look very realistic until they are examined under magnification, when the impression is generally woolly in comparison with the genuine.

In spite of the dates on some of the clichés, none of the Swedish reproductions are very modern; they were known long before the War and probably made in the late twenties or early thirties.

In the *Livre d'Or* there are two examples of the 1855 3 skilling, three of the 24 skilling and two of the 1869 17 ore grey. Five of these seven stamps have been certified as genuine by German experts and two have found approval from the French.

For comparison use the genuine 4 skilling banco.

### 1855 THREE SKILLING BANCO PLATE 116

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

\*Note: Sperati sometimes used genuine stamps of the more common 1858 issue, when necessary, retouching the year date in the cancellation.

on genuine paper. There are two reproductions, one of which is a transfer of the other and has to a certain extent been retouched. The negative is dated 14th April 1949.

The colour test is of little value, the paper and perforations are genuine.