

ITALIAN STATES

Sardinia 1851—Twenty Centesimi, Reproduction B—*contd.*

- (vii) There is a small nick in the background just below the first "L" of "BOLLO."
- (viii) There is an extra dot just before the large dot between the "C" and "V" in the lower panel (Plate 63).

Reproduction C

- (ix) There is a flaw in the left frame where it joins the top frame.
- (x) There are nicks on the inside of the right frame 5½ mm., 16 mm. and 17 mm. from the top.
- (xi) There is a small white spot above the dot after "C" in the top panel.
- (xii) There is a small break in the curved line of the top left triangle 6 mm. from the top and 4 mm. from the left frame.

EIGHTY CENTESIMI

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is dated February 1951 and printings were made for the sixth supplement in September and December of that year.

The **colour** is bright deep yellow.

Basic tests: B, D and F.

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a break in the horizontal side of the upper left triangle, immediately below the "P" of "POSTE."
- (ii) There is a break in the curved side of the upper right triangle immediately opposite the "B" of "BOLLO."
- (iii) There is a break in the inner oval immediately above and between the first two "T"s of "OTTANTA."
- (iv) There is a diagonal stroke like an accent joining the top left of the second "T" of "OTTANTA."

SICILY

The following comments apply to all five denominations described.

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

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

Basic tests: A, D and E.

CANCELLATIONS

Nos. 1 to 5 as illustrated—different impressions of the three-sided fancy frame. Other impressions were probably made.

HALF GRANO PLATE 64

There are two reproductions, both from plate II, sheets positions 77(A) and 2(B).

The **colour** of the reproduction is more intense and oily when examined under the MVL.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

Tests (i), (iv) and (v) identify this sheet position on the genuine.

- (i) There is a defect in the head of the "T" of "POSTA."
- (ii) The left side of the "A" of "DELLA" is not joined at the top (Plate 64).

- (iii) There is a dot in the right serif at the foot of the upright of "R" of "GR" (Plate 64).
- (iv) There is a small white indentation in the right corner of the central background.
- (v) There is a larger white indentation at the foot of the background to the right of the fraction.

Reproduction B

Test (vi) identifies this sheet position on the genuine.

- (vi) There is a white spot in the background opposite the "LL" of "DELLA."
- (vii) There is a weakness in the outer frame line below the "R" of "GR."

ITALIAN STATES

Sicily—*contd.*

FIVE GRANO PLATE 64

There are four reproductions, A, B and C, being from sheet position 87 and D from 70.

The **colour** of all the reproductions is deep vermillion.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

The cliché is dated November 1921.

Tests (iii) and (iv) identify the sheet position of the genuine stamp.

- (i) There is a diagonal scratch running from the lower left serif of the "T" of "POSTA."
- (ii) The left side of the "A" of "DELLA" is broken near the apex.
- (iii) There is a spot of colour in the left side of the inner white frame right of the second "O" of "BOLLO."
- (iv) There is a smudgy appearance in the white frame line immediately above the "R" of "GR."
- (v) There is a spot of colour in the right foot of the "G" of "GR."
- (vi) There is a diagonal stroke of colour in the white space immediately over the "O" of "POSTA."

Reproduction B

This is a transfer of A and the same tests apply, the distinguishing mark is (a) a spot of colour in the cheek.

Reproduction C

A transfer of reproduction A which may be detected by (b) an extra spot of colour in the margin of the stamp at top left.

Reproduction D

Test (xi) identifies the sheet position of the genuine stamp.

- (vii) There is a tendency for a shift or slight double impression to the right of this stamp.
- (viii) There is a diagonal stroke of colour in the inner white frame line opposite the "LLO" of "BOLLO."
- (ix) There is a spot of colour in the head of the "G" of "GR."
- (x) There are two spots of colour on the neck just above the "R" of "GR."
- (xi) There is a defect in the outer frame line to the right and below the "R" of "GR."

TEN GRANO PLATE 65

The sheet position copied is the sixtieth.

Under the MVL the **colour** of the genuine appears dark blue and the Sperati becomes almost black.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Tests (i), (ii), (iv) and (v) identify the sheet position of the genuine stamp.

- (i) There is a spot of colour in the inner frame line to the right of the first "O" of "BOLLO."
- (ii) There is a spot of colour in the right inner frame line opposite the "IA" of "SICILIA."
- (iii) There is a spot of colour in the inner white frame line just above and to the right of the letter "R."
- (iv) There is a heavy blob of colour in the tail of the "G" and the bottom left stroke of the "R" is partly covered with colour.
- (v) The tops of the letters in "POSTA" are covered in colour and there is a diagonal stroke through the leg of the "A."

TWENTY GRANO PLATE 65

The sheet position copied is the tenth. The negative is dated August 1946. There are two reproductions, as one is a transfer of the other. The tests given apply to both. Both the slate-black and purple-slate colours are imitated. Considerable retouching has taken place on the negative which has removed some of the distinguishing marks of the genuine sheet position which is the tenth.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Tests (i) and (iii) identify the sheet position of the genuine stamp.

- (i) There are three spots of colour in the white inner frame below the "P" of "POSTA."
- (ii) There is a small coloured projection from the central background into the inner white frame line opposite the "LI" of "SICILIA."
- (iii) The bottom left serifs of the "R" of "GR" slope upwards to the right and are rather shorter on the right side of the letter.
- (iv) There is a spot of colour in the bottom of the "O" of "20." (Plate 65)

FIFTY GRANO PLATE 65

There are three reproductions, the sheet position being 12 for A and B, and 49 for C.

Under the MVL the genuine appears brown-lake and the reproduction red almost without any trace of lake. The reproductions can be found in both brown-lake and chocolate shades.

ITALIAN STATES

Sicily—Fifty Grano—*contd.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

Tests (i), (iii) and (iv) identify the sheet position of the genuine stamp.

- (i) There is a smudge in the inner white frame below the left leg of the "A" of "POSTA."
- (ii) The bottom of the bust is joined to the inner white frame by a white line just above the "R" of "GR."
- (iii) The upper serif of the "G" of the "GR" is practically detached from the rest of the letter, while in the head of the "R" there is a spot of colour adjoining the shaded centre and two minute spots of colour in the upper right and lower right halves of this letter.
- (iv) There is a diagonal stroke of colour through the left side of the "0" of "50."

Reproduction B

This is a transfer of reproduction A and the same tests apply, the difference being (a) in the more worn impression of the top left corner.

Reproduction C

Test (vi) and (vii) identify the sheet position of the genuine stamp.

- (v) The white spaces in the design are full of minute spots of colour.
- (vi) The bottom of the "S" of "POSTA" is broken.
- (vii) There is a spot of colour in the top left of the "E" of "DELLA."
- (viii) There is no horizontal stroke to the "A" of "SICILIA."
- (ix) The right lower side of the figure "5" is shaded.

TUSCANY

The following comments apply to both reproductions.

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper from which an impression of a genuine but common stamp has been successfully removed.

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

1851 TWO SOLDI PLATE 66

The **colour** of the reproduction under the MVL is more intense and less red than the genuine.

The **paper** and **watermark** are genuine.

The **impression** of the reproduction lacks the body of the genuine.

Basic tests: *B, D, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a thickening about the outer frame line and a projection from the background above and to the right of the "S" of "POSTALE."
- (ii) There is a diagonal line in the extreme top right corner of the outer frame line which in consequence is joined to the corner ornament.
- (iii) There are three white scratches in the background to the lower left of the figure "2."
- (iv) The lower right corner ornament has a break on the left side.

CANCELLATIONS

Genuine—see Chapter IV, page 28.

1857 ONE SOLDI PLATE 66

The **colour** and **paper** tests are of no value when studying these reproductions.

The **paper** and **watermark** are genuine.

Basic tests: *B, D, E and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The bottom left serif of the "T" of "POSTALE" is broken, and the left leg of the "A" is missing except for the bottom serif.
- (ii) The colour is very much smudged over the white line below the word "POSTALE." There is a very distinctive stroke of colour under the "L."
- (iii) The left leg of the "A" of "FRANCO" is broken and there is no horizontal stroke.
- (iv) The "B" of "BOLLO" is broken at the foot and in the centre and looks like an "R" and the last "O" of "BOLLO" is weak or broken at the foot.
- (v) The bottoms of the letters in "TUSCANO" are submerged in colour. There is a white spot between the "O" and the "S."
- (vi) The left leg of the "A" of "TOSCANO" is broken below the horizontal stroke.
- (vii) There is an extra white dot between the "L" and the "S" of "SOLDO."
- (viii) The outer frame line in the bottom right corner is diagonal.