

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.

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproduction A

- (i) There are constant white flaws in the background at the top left corner.
- (ii) The final "E" of "SVERIGE" is broken at the top so that the upper horizontal stroke is separated from the vertical.
- (iii) In the left panel there is a break through the centre of the "F" of "FRIMARKE" which affects the horizontal stroke and the serif, a break through the centre of the vertical of the "R" and a break through the middle and lower horizontal strokes of the "E."
- (iv) In the right panel there is a break to the foot of the upright of the first "R" and the lower horizontal of the "E" is broken a way from the vertical.
- (v) There is a weakness in the background between "TRE" and "SKIL."
- (vi) There is a weakness in the background above the "I" of "SKIL" and the shape of this letter looks like a smoking chimney stack.
- (vii) The two white lines under "CO" are joined together in the middle.
- (viii) There is a break in the outer frame line above the "R" of "SVERIGE" which is nearly always constant.

Reproduction B

Tests (i) to (viii) are as above, also—

- (ix) There are large flaws in the background around the numeral and in the upper right corner.

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

1855-58 THREE SKILLING BANCO ERROR OF COLOUR

Sperati's reproductions of this famous and unique rarity are extremely accurate. They are made from a cliché dated December 1946 which in itself is a transfer from reproduction B of the 3 skilling banco green. Therefore, when investigating this stamp, one should use the tests given above.

Under the MVL the colour of the error (which is supposed to match the genuine 8 skilling banco) becomes a rather dark shade with a tinge of brown, whereas the genuine stamps are by comparison orange.

TWENTY-FOUR SKILLING BANCO

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. There are two reproductions, the second being a retouched transfer of the first.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The colour of reproduction A tends towards a dull orange vermilion and B to dull red. Under the MVL the first is by far the best match with the genuine, the second having too little rose reaction. The stamps made by Sperati generally appear to be stained, whereas the ordinary stamp will look rather greyish and have the same appearance all over.

The paper and perforations are genuine. The impression is not as clear as that of the reproduction nor does the colour take as well.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

Reproductions A and B

The distinguishing mark between these two reproductions is that the first has a white cap to the "4" in the upper right corner which has been retouched in the type B. Reproduction A also shows two white spots in the background to the left and right of the foot of the "Y" of "TJUGUFYRA."

The following tests are common to both reproductions:

- (i) There is a break in the top of the "S" of "SVERIGE," both left and right serifs of the "V" are joined to the frame line above by a diagonal line and there is a white spot in the head of the "I."
- (ii) There is a break in the frame line above and to the left of the "F" of "FRIMARKE" in the right panel.
- (iii) There is an indentation in the back of the upright of the "F" of "TJUGUFYRA."

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

Sweden—*contd.*

1889—OFFICIAL PLATE 117

1869 SEVENTEEN ORE PLATE 116

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and used reproductions on genuine paper. The negative is dated October 1946.

For **comparison** use a genuine stamp of the same design.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** of the reproductions varies from bluish grey to slate grey, very similar to the genuine. The **paper** and **perforations** are genuine.

The **impression** is not as fine as the genuine.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a nick in the upper left corner of the outer frame line.
- (ii) The lower right corner extends diagonally.
- (iii) There is a break or weakness in the inner frame line below the numeral "7" and above the "K" of "FRI-MARKE."
- (iv) There is a nick in the left side of the "R" of "FRI-MARKE" and the left vertical of the "K" is very short.

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.

In the reference material belonging to Sperati, the B.P.A. found a proof of the 1889 10 ore surcharge, which would undoubtedly have been used to provide the inverted varieties on the 12 and 24 ore, as well as the rare perforation 14 variety of both values.

For **comparison** use one of the contemporary common official stamps.

It should be appreciated that the following commentary has been made from the study of just one proof printed in deep blue, so that all these tests may not be constant.

- (i) The following four flaws appear in "TJENSTE FRI-MARKE." The back of the first "E" is weak and almost broken away below the first horizontal, the back of the second "E" is curved and irregular and the top of the letter is wavy, there is a white spot at the right of the central horizontal of the "F," there is a white spot at top right of the first "R," there is a weakness or break towards the top of the "I," there is a nick in the head of the second "R" and a break in the central horizontal stroke.
- (ii) There are flaws in the solid printing of "TIO", particularly on the left and right of the "O" and there is a coloured spot in the shading immediately above the right serif of the "T."
- (iii) There is a break in the inner heavy frame line above and between the "IO" and there is a nick and a break at the head of the "O."
- (iv) There are several white spots in "ORE," particularly on the "E" in the centre of the upright.

TURKEY

1886 FIVE PARAS PLATE 117

SPECIFIC TESTS

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, and probably unused and used reproductions on genuine paper.

This is probably a very early reproduction.

For **comparison** use the contemporary 5 paras black.

The genuine stamps were typographed and the reproductions were printed by a form of photolithography.

The **colour** of the "die" proof is more grey than the genuine.

BASIC TESTS: *B, F and probably K.*

- (i) There are two breaks in the inner top frame at left 2.5 mm. and 3.75 mm. from the left outer frame.
- (ii) The top dot of the colon : following "EMP" is like a reversed comma (').
- (iii) The top right serif of the second "T" of "OTTOMAN" curls round and joins the upright forming a loop, there is a white spot after the "M" and the foot of this letter is joined to the "A."
- (iv) The first "A" in "PARAS" is broken on the upper left and there is a white spot in the right leg, there is a white spot in the upright and in the tail of the "R" and there is a small white spot in the upper right serif of the "S".

CANCELLATIONS: Genuine. See Chapter IV, page 28.