

BRITISH EMPIRE

TASMANIA

1892 ONE POUND

PLATE 19

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper. For comparison of the key plate use any low value except the 2½d.

|             | GENUINE                                                    | SPERATI                                            |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| PRINTING    | <i>Typography—double plate</i>                             | <i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i>              |
| COLOUR { DL | <i>Grey-green and yellow-orange</i>                        | <i>A dirty grey-green and yellow</i>               |
| { MVL       | <i>Grey-green or deep grey-green and deep yellow-brown</i> | <i>Deep grey-green and dark brown</i>              |
| PAPER MVL   | <i>White or slightly toned</i>                             | <i>Yellowish, very stained both back and front</i> |
| PERFORATION | <i>14 comb</i>                                             | <i>Genuine</i>                                     |
| WATERMARK   | <i>"TAS"</i>                                               | <i>Genuine</i>                                     |
| IMPRESSION  | <i>Clear and bright</i>                                    | <i>Rough and dull</i>                              |

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The circle surrounding the head has a small break at the right, opposite the ear.
- (ii) The two horizontal lines of shading are continuous across the side of the nose instead of having a break which gives a lighter effect to the cheek.

- (iii) There is a small break in the third line of shading beneath and to the right of the eye.
- (iv) There is a minute white spot in the extreme left corner under the left stroke of the horizontal pattern at the foot of the stamp, and a second spot level with the first and to the left of the value tablet (Plate 19).

CANCELLATIONS

Apparently genuine, see Chapter IV, page 28.

TOBAGO

The following comments apply to both the stamps described.

|             | GENUINE                        | SPERATI                               |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| PRINTING    | <i>Typography—double plate</i> | <i>Photo-lithography—double plate</i> |
| PAPER MVL   | <i>Chalky-white</i>            | <i>Yellow, stained</i>                |
| PERFORATION | <i>14, comb</i>                | <i>Genuine</i>                        |
| WATERMARK   | <i>Crown over CA</i>           | <i>Genuine</i>                        |

1884 FOUR PENCE

PLATE 20

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper.

For comparison use the 1885 4d. grey or compare the key plate with that of any low value.

COLOUR DL: The genuine is bright yellow-green, while the Sperati is a pale yellow-green, rather a washed-out shade. MVL—Genuine, grey green. Sperati—yellowish grey-green.

IMPRESSION: The Sperati is flat and coarse in comparison with the genuine.

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a nick in the top of the "B" and a white spot inside the "G" of "TOBAGO" (Plate 20).
- (ii) There is a flaw at the top right of the "S" of "POSTAGE"
- (iii) There is a weakness in the inner frame-line below the "CE" of "PENCE."

CANCELLATIONS

1. "A14" full impression.
2. "A14" part impression.
3. "A14" large letter and figures.
4. Circular date stamp "TOBAGO/O/SP3/86."

BRITISH EMPIRE

Tobago—*contd.*

1884 SIX PENCE

PLATE 20

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as used reproductions on genuine paper.

For comparison use the 1885 6d. orange-brown, or compare the key plate with that of any low value.

COLOUR ■L: Genuine—greyish-brown which is closely matched with the Sperati except a second shade which is rather more grey and a third shade which is rather more olive. MVL—Genuine, brownish-grey. All the Sperati's are deep, almost sepia-brown.

IMPRESSION: The Sperati is almost as clear as the genuine.

BASIC TESTS: *E, F and K.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) There is a lack of solidity in the background in between the "B" and "A" and the "G" and "O" of "TOBAGO."

(ii) The thin inner circular frame around the head has a break just below the "O" of "TOBAGO."

(iii) There is a small white flaw to the bottom right of the "O" of "POSTAGE" and a white line joins the foot of the "T" to the outer circular frame. There is a weak spot to the left of the "A" and a dot of colour in the "E" (Plate 20).

(iv) There is a nick in the inner side of the outer frame-line at left just below the "S" of "SIX."

(v) The horizontal line of shading immediately in front of the eye is broken and there is another broken line of shading in the centre of the neck.

CANCELLATIONS

See contemporary 4d.

TONGA

OVERPRINTED "G.F.B."

The following comments apply to all three stamps described below.

|                 | GENUINE                     | SPERATI                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| PRINTING—STAMP  | <i>Typography</i>           | <i>Photo-lithography</i> |
| —OVERPRINT      | <i>Letterpress</i>          | <i>Photo-lithography</i> |
| COLOUR DL—STAMP | <i>Ultramarine (shades)</i> | <i>Pale ultramarine</i>  |
| DL—OVERPRINT    | <i>Pink</i>                 | <i>Pink</i>              |
| MVL—STAMP       | <i>Pale blue</i>            | <i>Pale bluish-grey</i>  |
| MVL—OVERPRINT   | <i>Dull orange</i>          | <i>Bright orange</i>     |
| PERFORATION     | <i>12 × 11½, line</i>       | <i>Genuine</i>           |
| WATERMARK       | <i>NZ over star</i>         | <i>Genuine</i>           |
| IMPRESSION      | <i>Clear</i>                | <i>Not so clear</i>      |

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

For comparison use the 1892 4d. chestnut, 8d. bright mauve and 1/- brown without overprint—or the stamps surcharged.

1893 FOUR PENCE

PLATE 21

SPECIFIC TESTS

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

(i) There are many white spots where there is solid colour in the genuine.

(ii) There are many breaks in the horizontal lines of shading, the genuine being more strongly drawn.

1893 EIGHT PENCE

PLATE 21

SPECIFIC TESTS

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour and in all probability made unused reproductions on genuine paper.

(i) Shows weaker horizontal shading particularly on the forehead and top corners.