

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.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Tonga— *contd.*

1893 ONE SHILLING

PLATE 21

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

SPECIFIC TESTS:

- (i) The horizontal shading is weaker, particularly in the top corners.
- (ii) The top frame-line appears to be retouched at left and for a short space on the right, caused by the second line of horizontal shading merging with the frame-line.

TRANSVAAL

1900 FIVE POUNDS

PLATE 20

Sperati is known to have made unused reproductions on genuine paper with the genuine overprint. The B.P.A. Committee have only had one example to examine so they are unable to establish whether all the specific tests are constant.

Comparison is best made with a "specimen" copy of the issued stamp.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR	<i>Deep bright green</i>	<i>Deep green</i>
PAPER	<i>Deep blue-green, almost black</i>	<i>Deep green</i>
	<i>White</i>	<i>Yellowish toned</i>
PERFORATION	<i>On greenish front white back</i>	<i>On yellowish back and front</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>12½, line</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
	<i>Bright and clear</i>	<i>Flat</i>

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

SPECIFIC TESTS

- (i) The reversed "L" which contains the figure "5" in the north-west corner is not square cut at the left of the base line (Plate 20).
- (ii) A hair line runs through the vertical stroke of the "T" and touches the right of the "S" of "POSTZEGEL" and continues vertically downwards into the "R" of "REPUBLIEK."
- (iii) There is a white spot immediately under the lower bulge of the "B" of "REPUBLIEK" and another in the upper half of the second "E" of "POSTZEGEL."

UGANDA

1896 FIVE RUPEES

PLATE 21

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in black and probably made unused reproductions on paper similar to the genuine

The sheet position of the genuine stamp imitated is No. 5 i.e. the first stamp on the second row. Position can easily be identified as there are no printer's rules on the left side (constant on positions 1, 5, 9 and 13), the "P" of "PROTECTORATE" is raised and the rule that forms the frame-line between Nos. 5 and 9 is bent downwards at the left (constant on position 5).

Compare with the genuine.