

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.