

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.

BRITISH EMPIRE

Uganda—1896 Five Rupees—*contd.*

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Type-set</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR DL	<i>Black</i>	<i>Black</i>
PAPER DL	<i>Usually thin toned ruled writing writing paper, the impression being printed on the unruled side</i>	
	<i>The last printings are on medium wove unruled</i>	
IMPRESSION	<i>Bite of type-setting obvious</i>	<i>Flat, no indication of type-setting</i>

BASIC TEST: *B.*

- SPECIFIC TESTS: (i) There is a nick in the left upright of the "U" and a flaw in the centre of the "N" of "UGANDA."  
 (ii) There is a constant weakness in the left side of the "V" and the top of the "R" of "V.R." (Plate 21).  
 (iii) Both the top and bottom horizontal strokes of the "E" of "FIVE" are broken.

*Note:* In the "die" proofs examined under magnification practically every letter has a constant flaw.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1902 ONE POUND

PLATE 21

Sperati is known to have made "die" proofs in colour, as well as unused and used reproductions on genuine paper. Unused stamps with Official perforations through the centre "O.S." and "W.A." are genuine Official perforations on stamps from which Sperati has discharged the original design. The cliché is dated 24th May 1940.

Comparison must be made with a genuine stamp.

	GENUINE	SPERATI
PRINTING	<i>Typography</i>	<i>Photo-lithography</i>
COLOUR { DL	<i>1902 orange-brown and 1911 orange</i>	<i>As genuine</i>
{ MVL	<i>Deep brown</i>	<i>Yellow-brown</i>
PAPER MVL	<i>Toned</i>	<i>Stained yellowish</i>
PERFORATION	<i>12½ or 12 × 12½</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
WATERMARK	<i>V over Crown sideways</i>	<i>Genuine</i>
IMPRESSION	<i>Clear</i>	<i>Clear</i>

BASIC TESTS: *B and F.*

SPECIFIC TESTS

Sperati retouched his "cliché" and thus removed certain constant spots of colour that are found in the genuine (these are quite obvious in the genuine under a magnifying-glass). The constant flaws not found on the reproductions are:

- (i) Minute dot at foot between "W" and "E" of "WEST."  
 (ii) Dot N.W. of lower right serif of "E" of "WEST."  
 (iii) Dot in "U" of "AUSTRALIA."  
 (iv) Dot to right of "U" and dot at top between the "U" and "S."  
 (v) Dot (minute) between the legs of the "R."  
 (vi) Minute dash above and between the "R" and "A."

The following are constant flaws in the Sperati:

- (vii) A defect in the top of the second "A" of "AUSTRALIA" (Plate 21).  
 (viii) The ornaments over the centre circle look like spear-heads from the bottom spear-heads. On the right (just under the last "A" of "AUSTRALIA") is a colourless horizontal line that runs into the spear-head above.  
 (ix) Through the left frame and rising through the six dots above "£1" is a colourless diagonal line.  
 (x) A parallel line to (ix) cuts the left frame and coincides with the horizontal cross-piece of the £1 sign.

CANCELLATIONS

Genuine, see Chapter IV, page 28.