

## BRITISH EMPIRE

### Decoloring Stamps

The raw material for many of Sperati's British Empire reproductions was genuine, common stamps with the desired features. These included the proper perforations, watermarks and correct cancels for the period. After applying a protective coating to the genuine cancel, Sperati chemically treated the stamps to remove the design before printing his new design. The item below, found in Sperati's archive, was apparently an attempt to see if he could preserve a "SPECIMEN" overprint in the decoloring process. No reproductions with genuine "SPECIMEN" overprints have been identified but may exist.



British Empire genuine stamp decolorized by Sperati and enlarged image of back  
genuine "SPECIMEN" overprint retained  
genuine Crown CA watermark  
genuine original gum retained  
genuine perforations retained

## AUSTRALIA

These reproductions are printed on genuine watermarked and perforated stamp paper with genuine cancels retained. Sperati used 1d red stamps as raw material and the three examples shown at foot of page were retrieved from his stockbook.

Two clichés were used, one for the frame and a second for the kangaroo. Although not described in *Sperati I* or *Sperati II*, the cliché for the kangaroo exists in two types. On type A the kangaroo's mouth is open. On type B the mouth is closed.

### 1913 Issue £2 Type A Kangaroo



£2 reproduction and proof of previously unreported type A Kangaroo

### 1913 Issue £2 Type B Kangaroo

reproduction with cancel type  
not found on genuine £2



BPA card proof of retouched  
type B Kangaroo



genuine 1d stamps from Sperati's stockbook of raw material

## TASMANIA

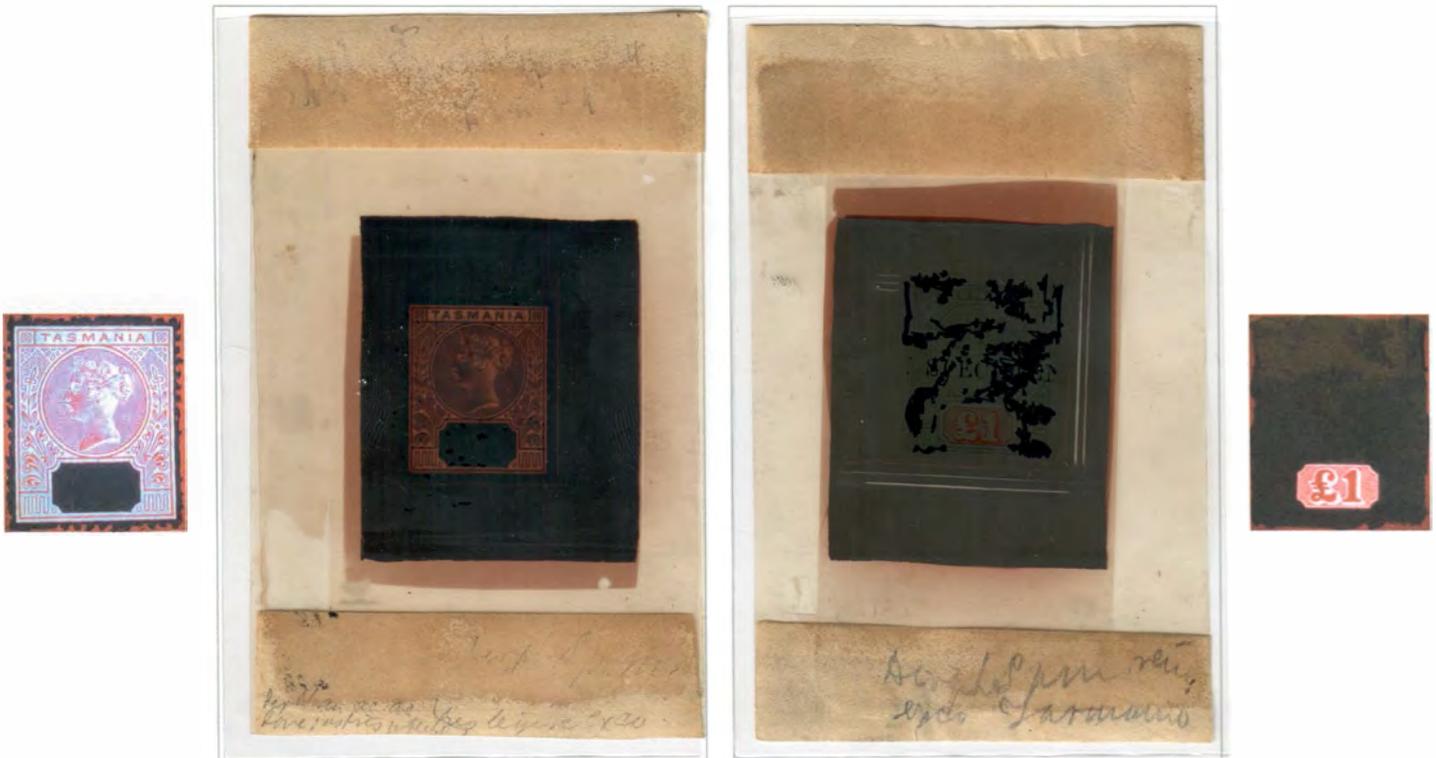
These reproductions are printed on genuine watermarked and perforated stamp paper with the design decolored but genuine cancel retained. For the frame of this forgery, a genuine stamp of the same design was photographed and the value tablet over-painted. Another stamp with a genuine £1 value tablet had the design over-painted. The two clichés were used to make the final reproduction. There are two states of the main design cliché. The original cliché was retouched correcting the two white spots below the Greek key design at lower left. The second state example was purchased by Rev. Freeland from Sperati in the 1956. The matrices are ex Robson Lowe.

### 1892 Issue £1, First State / Second State



the second state, with corrected flaws is not described in *Sperati I* or *II*

### Original Matrices on Film



retouched matrices on film which were imaged by Sperati to make his working clichés  
cropped backlit images are shown at sides, the main design matrix is the first state

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## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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These reproductions are printed on genuine watermarked and perforated stamp paper with the design decolored. They exist with genuine "OS" and "WA" perforated initials. The Sperati reproductions actually have fewer white flaws than the genuine as the result of Sperati over-cleaning his matrix before making his cliché. There are two faint white diagonal lines that extend from the left frame into the £1 label at left.

### 1902 Issue £1



with genuine "OS" perforated initials

### BPA Card Proof



## BAHAMAS

For his two reproductions of Bahamas £1 stamps Sperati use three clichés. Two were his key clichés with main design plus a duty cliché with the value tablet. Genuine watermarked and perforated stamps that have been decolored were used. All cancels are forged.

### 1884 Issue £1



BPA card proofs: key cliché and forged cancels imaged from Sperati clichés

### 1902 Issue £1



composite proof

BPA card proofs: key and duty clichés plus forged cancel images



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**BARBADOS**

**1886 Issue 5s**

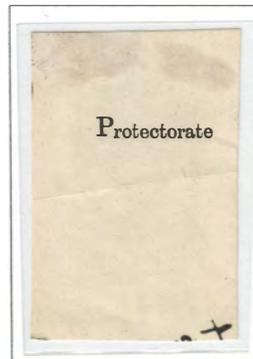
BPA card proof



## **BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE**

Carl Walske first reported the overprint proof below in *Sperati II* on page 3. He reports only the item below and a negative owned by the Paris Museum. No finished reproductions have been seen. Sperati may applied this forged overprint on the 1887 issue high values.

### **1888 Overprint**



proof of "Protectorate" overprint, ex Sperati's daughter  
first reported in *Sperati II*, illustrated on plate A

## BRITISH EAST AFRICA

Sperati made reproductions of three values of the 1890 to 1894 issue, 4a, 8a and 1r, as reported in *Sperati I*. These were printed on genuine stamp paper with forged cancels. Since then two forged surcharges have been discovered and reported in *Sperati II*.

### 1890-1894 Issue 8a and 1r



BPA card proofs



### 1894 5a and 7½a Surcharges



surcharge forged onto genuine adhesive, first reported in *Sperati II*, page 4



surcharge proofs as first reported in *Sperati II*, page 4, the 7½ annas only known from this proof

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## BRITISH HONDURAS

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Sperati made reproductions of two British Honduras stamps, the 1885 issue 6d and the 1885 issue 1s. His finished 6d reproduction below was printed on genuine watermarked stamp paper from which the original design has been decolored. The 1s is only known as a color proof but is supposed to exist also as a stamp reproduction. As with most of Sperati's British area reproductions, there is diminished white space between the horizontal shading lines. This is particularly noticeable on the 6d as the lines in front of the forehead and the crown are nearly joined together.

### 1885 Issue 6d



BPA card proofs of cancels imaged from Sperati clichés



## BRITISH LEVANT

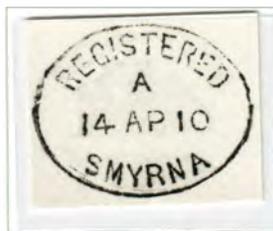
Carl Walske first reported the overprint proof below in *Sperati II*, page 5. No reproductions have been seen. In *Sperati I*, plate 2, there are illustrations of a forged Smyrna registered postmark of 1910 but there is no suggestion as to its possible use.

### 1909 Surcharge



proof of "1 PIASTRE / 30 PARAS" surcharge, not seen as a finished reproduction first reported in *Sperati II*, page 5; illustrated on plate A

### BPA Card Proof



forged postmark of Smyrna possibly used in conjunction with forged overprint above

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**CANADA**

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When *Sperati I* was published there were no reproductions of Canada stamps known. This 1851 issue 12d stamp was made by Sperati as a custom, special order in 1953. It was made from a genuine 12d "SPECIMEN" overprinted stamp by removing the overprint. He also manipulated the paper so that it now has the correct vertical laid lines of the original. The cancel is forged. This is the only known example and the only example of Sperati using this technique. The 12d reproduction and the 17c proof items shown below are illustrated and described in *Sperati II* on, pages 5 to 7.

**1851 Issue 12d**

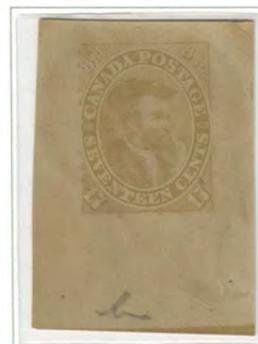


the unique reproduction



genuine plate proof pair on India paper with "SPECIMEN" overprint  
the impression of the genuine stamp is much more similar to the reproduction

**1859 Issue 17c**



working proof on paper showing perforations and a trial exposure  
both items are ex Sperati's daughter

**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
(Vancouver Island)**

Sperati reproduced the 1865 issue 5c and 10c imperforate varieties. As will be noticed from the exposure trails shown below, he used perforated models and touched up the framelines. His reproductions exist as unused and with forged cancels.

**1865 Issue 5c and 10c**



exposure trials with traces of perforations visible, ex Sperati's daughter



with gum



with forged cancels

**BPA card proofs**



**NEWFOUNDLAND**

Sperati reproduced all six denominations of the 1857 / 1860 issues. The reproductions exist in a range of shades approximating both the scarlet vermilion and the orange vermilion of the genuine issues. They will be differentiated here by denomination and type only.

**1857 / 1860 Issues 2d**



type A proofs for paper (note book text)



type B

**1857 / 1860 Issues 4d**



type A cancel void, with cancel



type B first and second states



type C



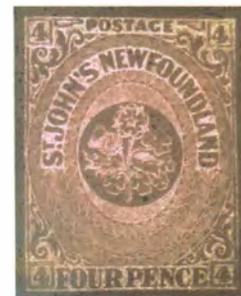
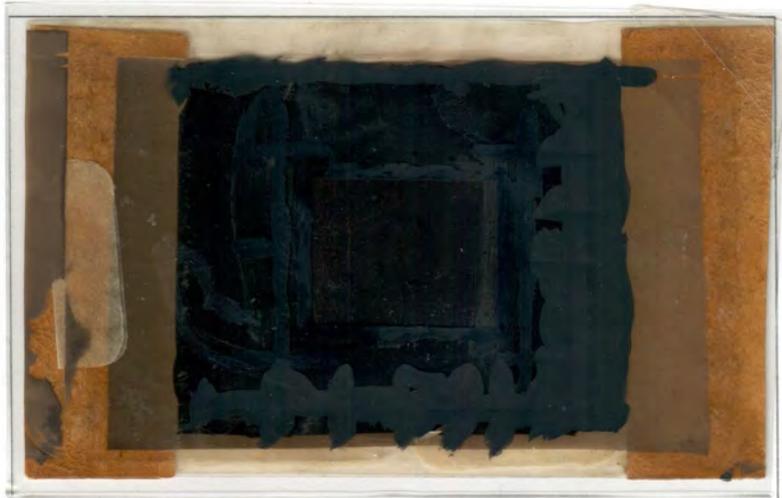
type D\*



type E\*\*

\* first reported in *Sperati II* (plate B)

\*\* identified since *Sperati II*



type C original negative painted surround, ex Lowe backlit image above

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## NEWFOUNDLAND

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Sperati reproductions of the 6d are apparently based on a single negative from which multiple clichés were made. In *Sperati I* the retouched clichés have been somewhat conflated. Here they are termed as states. The first state was used for the scarlet vermilion while the second state was used for the orange vermilion. The third state, found only in proofs, is similar to second state but there is a break in the white circle surrounding the lower left numeral "6" at 3 o'clock.

### 1857 / 1860 Issues 6d



type A, second state



type A, third state  
only exists as a proof

**NEWFOUNDLAND**

Two types of Sperati's reproductions of the 6½d are known. The first was listed in *Sperati I* while type B was first reported in *Sperati II*. The cancels are forged.

**1857 / 1860 Issues 6½d**



type A



type A



type B\*

**NEWFOUNDLAND**

Sperati reproduced the 8d that was first reported in *Sperati II*. The scarlet-vermilion color is a good match for the genuine while his second shade has too much carmine.

**1857 / 1860 Issues 8d**



type A\*  
both are illustrated in *Sperati II*, plate B



type A\*  
one of two known

**NEWFOUNDLAND**

In Sperati / Robson Lowe identifies three types of 1s reproductions. The type A has only been seen in proof format. Types B and C are both known in various shades as finished reproductions. There was more than one retouched cliché used as there are several minor variations found.

**1857 / 1860 Issues 1s**



type B



type B



type C working proofs, dated June 1943, Sperati notes include "agfa" (a film)



type C

**NEWFOUNDLAND**

Exposure Trials



Sperati's 4d photo exposure trials to reduce cancel, first three are rectified images, ex Sperati's daughter

Covered Cliché



grill cancel in conjunction with unrelated Amsterdam postmark, ex Robson Lowe

BPA card proofs



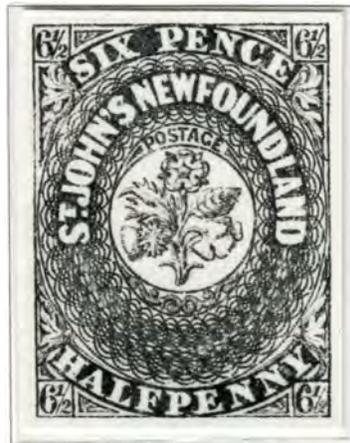
## NEWFOUNDLAND

The BPA, under the direction of Robson Lowe, made prints on glossy photo paper stock from Sperati negatives. Most prints are actual size. The five large prints below, all of which bear the usual "Sperati Reproduction" backstamp, are from the Robson Lowe collection.

BPA card proofs



4d type B, from early and worn state negatives



6½d type A



1s type B

**CEYLON**

Sperati reproduced the designs of the 1883 issue 4c, 16c and 24c. The 4c genuine stamps were surcharged with several 2c and 5c surcharge types. When Sperati decolored genuine stamps he was able to preserve the cancels as well as the surcharges. He then printed his new designs.

**1883 Issue 4c, 16c and 24c**



4c finished reproductions with genuine surcharges retained

16c



4c and 16c finished proofs



24c black proof and color trial proof dated 1945

5c on 24c  
the 5c on 24c green does not exist genuine

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Sperati made a reproduction of the Cape of Good Hope 1883 issue 5s orange. He used genuine stamp paper with the design decolorized. All cancels are forged.

### 1883 Issue 5s



### Models used to make forged cancels

One of Sperati's methods for making forged cancels was to paint over a genuine cancel on a cheap stamp and photograph it filtering out the background. He then made a celluloid cliché.



genuine 6d stamps with cancels retouched in ink by Sperati, the only cancel models know BPA card proofs at right as imaged from Sperati clichés

### BPA card proofs



**CYPRUS**

Sperati reproduced the 1894 issue 45p, the 1903 issue 9p (two types), the issue 18p (five types) and the 45p (three types). His reproductions were printed on genuine, watermarked stamp paper with design washed. He is known to have forged cancels but all that are shown here have genuine cancels retained. Included below are six types that were reported in *Sperati II* (nine stamps denoted with an \* below shown on plate A) as well as one, the 1894 issue 45p, that was thought to exist and mentioned in *Sperati I* but had not been seen until after *Sperati II* was published.

**1894 Issue 45p**



**1903 Issue 9p**



type A



type B\*

**1903 Issue 18p**



type B\*



type C\*



type D\*



type E\*



**1903 Issue 45p**



type A



type B



type C\*

**CYPRUS**

These BPA handstamped card proofs, which are pulls from the original Sperati negatives made by the British Philatelic Association, show the two key clichés, a painted model for making the 45p duty cliché, the three duty clichés and four Sperati forged cancels.

BPA card proofs



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**DOMINICA**

**1887 Issue 1s**

BPA card proofs



**GREAT BRITAIN**

Sperati reproduced four different sheets positions of the 1880 issue 2s pale brown. All four of the positions are shown below. Also an original model and a matrix on film that was used to produce the cliché for position "PI." The reproductions are decolored genuine stamps with cancels retained. Characteristically, there is diminished white space between the horizontal shading lines which are also too heavy. The corner squares usually have white flaws.

**1880 Issue 2s, Four Plate Positions**



positions "PI" and "JL"

positions "LK" and "KJ"



painted model position "ED" (not used)



master matrix for "PI"

BPA card proofs imaged from Sperati clichés



positions "LK" and "KJ"

## GIBRALTAR

Sperati reproduced the 1886 issue 2d, 4d, 6d and 1s overprints on Bermuda. Included below are five types that were first reported in *Sperati II* (seven stamps denoted with an \* below are shown on plate A). Genuine stamps that have been decolored were used and the cancels forged.

### 1886 Issue 2d



type A

### 1886 Issue 4d



type A\*  
only known



type B\*

### 1886 Issue 6d



type B  
only known

### 1886 Issue 1s



type A, one known without overprint



type B\*



type A, dated June 1915



type A



type C\*



type D\*

## GIBRALTAR

Sperati reproduced the 1887 issue 4d, 6d and 1s as well as the 75c 1889 issue. Included below are three types that were first reported in *Sperati II* (six stamps denoted with an \* below are shown on plate A). Genuine stamps that have been decolored were used and the cancels forged.

### 1887 Issue 4d



type A (only known copies)



type B



type C\*

### 1886 Issue 6d



type A



type B



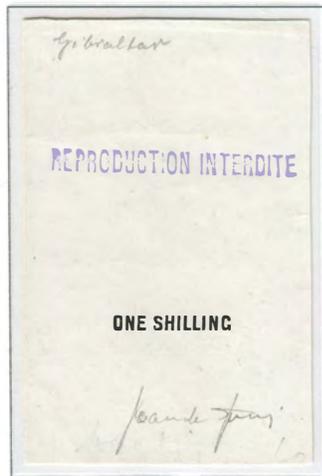
### 1886 Issue 1s



type A



type B\*



### 1889 Issue 75c



type A\*

**GIBRALTAR**

BPA card proofs



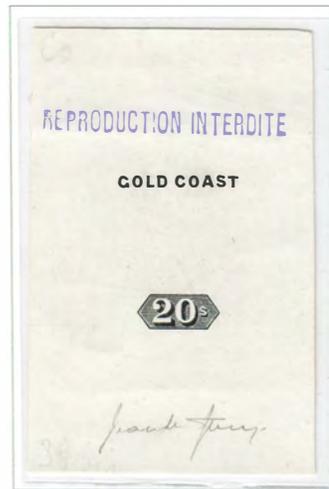
**GOLD COAST**

Sperati made reproductions of three Gold Coast stamps, the 1883 issue ½d and 1d and the 1889 issue 20s. For his 20s reproduction Sperati used two clichés as well as a redrawn duty cliché which BPA termed Type B. The type B duty cliché corrects a flaw in the frame of the tablet below the "0" of "20" and has a redrawn "S" of "COAST." The reproductions are genuine watermarked stamps with designs washed. Cancels are forged.

**1889 issue 20s**



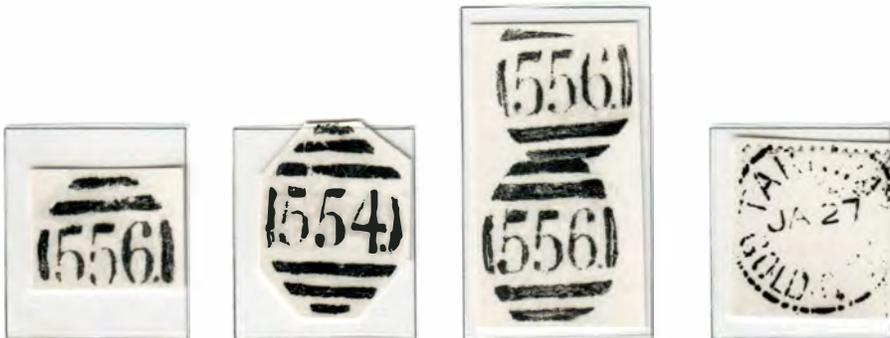
composite proof  
Type A duty cliché



Type B duty cliché proof



BPA card proofs: imaged from Sperati's key cliché and his Type A duty cliché



BPA card proofs: forged cancels imaged from Sperati clichés

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## HONG KONG

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Sperati reproduced the Hong Kong 1865 issue 96c on genuine watermarked stamp paper. Most of the reproductions have genuine "B62" cancels retained but they are also known with forged "B62" cancels. An example of this reproduction was included on the famous 1942 approval sheet.

### 1865 Issue 96c



working color proof and finished proof on toned paper

### BPA card proofs



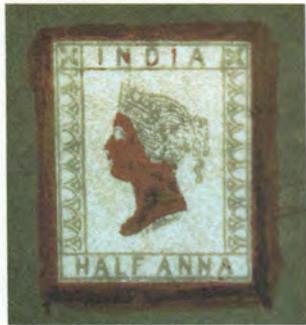
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**INDIA**

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Sperati reproduced the 1854 issue ½a and two types of the 1856 unissued 2a. All are rare. A single finished imperforate reproduction of the 2a is reported in *Sperati I*. However, an unused 2a perforated type A reproduction is shown here. His reproductions on overprinted Convention States issues are described on following page.

**1854 Issue Half Anna**



back-lit image



Sperati's original retouched negative that served as his master matrix for making the printing cliché

**1856 Unissued 2a**

Type A



the only reported perforated example, two known imperforate

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**INDIA**

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Sperati also reproduced the designs of the 1882-1888 issue 9p and 1r that has been seen on reproductions with genuine "GWALIOR" overprints. Genuine stamps were decolorized and genuine overprints were retained. The used example below also has original cancel retained. In 2001, *Sperati II* reported a 1r reproduction with genuine "NABHA STATE" overprint retained.

**1882-1888 Issue 9p**

**"GWALIOR" Overprints**



unused with brown gum as described in *Sperati I*, used with genuine cancel retained

**BPA card proof**



**1882-1889 Issue 1r**

**"GWALIOR" Overprint**

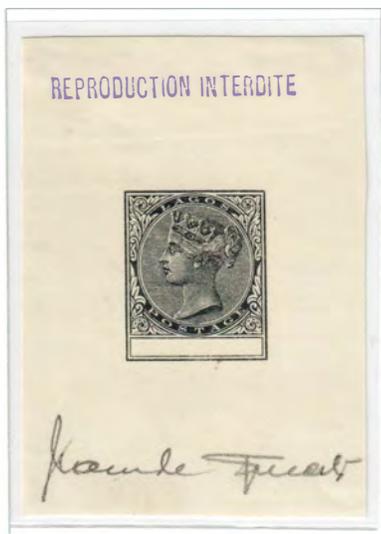


unused, original gum and original overprint retained

## LAGOS

For Lagos, Sperati made reproductions of the three 1886 issue high values. He used two clichés, a key cliché for the frame and a duty cliché for the denominations to print each value. He was able to use his type A key cliché for the 2s/6d and the 5s denominations. He used his type B key cliché only used for the 10s. His finished reproductions are on genuine watermarked paper with forged cancels.

### 1886 Key Clichés

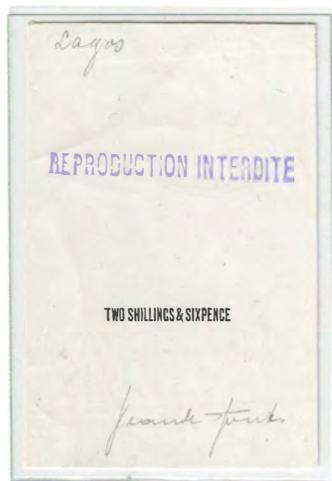


type A key cliché  
used for all values



type B key cliché for 10s  
shown Sperati II, plate B

### 1886 Issue 2s/6d

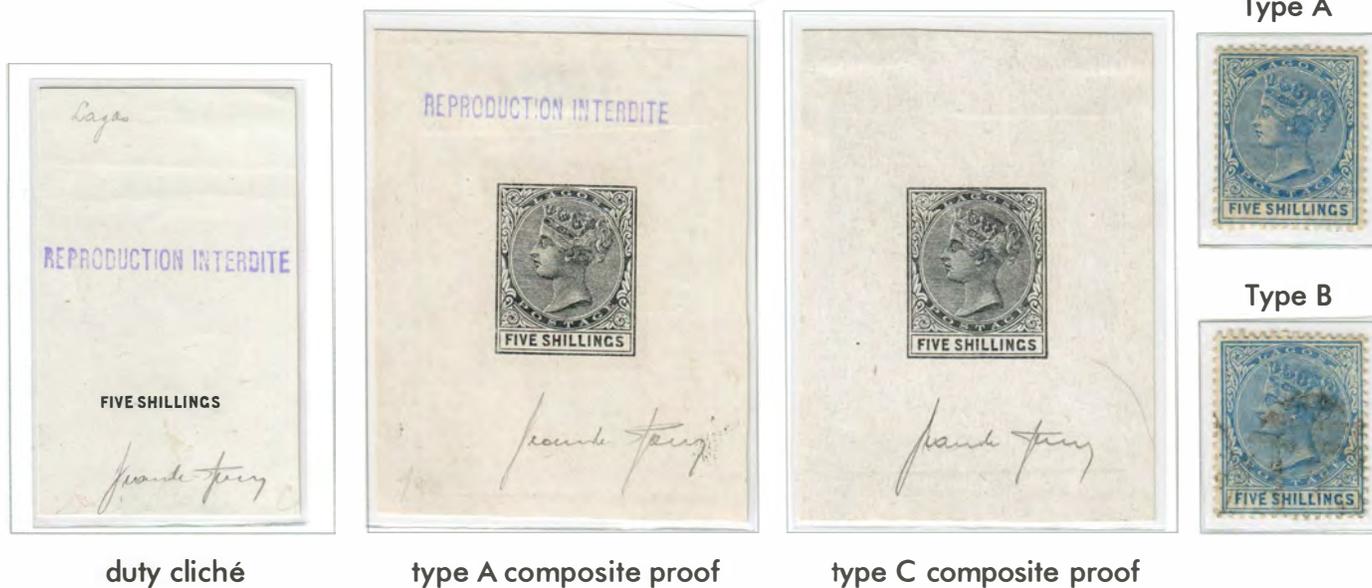


2s/6d duty cliché, composite proof and finished reproduction with gum

**LAGOS**

**1886 Issue 5s**

The two known types of composite proofs, types A and C, and the two known types of finished reproductions, types A, with gum, and B, with forged cancel, are shown below. The type B stamp and the type C proof were first reported in *Sperati II* and are both illustrated on plate B.



duty cliché

type A composite proof

type C composite proof

**1886 Issue 10s**



10s duty cliché, composite proof and finished reproduction with gum

**LAGOS**

**1886 Issue 2s/6d, 5s and 10s**

BPA card proofs



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**MALTA**

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Sperati reproduced the Malta 1860 issue ½d on genuine watermarked stamp paper. In addition to the proofs in black and in color, unused reproductions are known.

**1860 Issue ½d**



**BPA card proof**



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**MAURITIUS**

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All proof reproductions are printed on proof paper while the stamp reproductions are printed on genuine watermarked paper. Used reproductions have their genuine cancels retained.

**1848 Issue 1d**



This example, described as unique to the BPA, is illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 13.

**1860 Issue 9d**



**MAURITIUS**

**1879 Issue 13c**

Type A



Type B



This stamp, one of two known, is shown in *Sperati II*, plate B.

**1879 Issue 38c**



illustrated *Sperati I*, plate 13



BPA card proofs



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## MONTSERRAT

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Sperati's Montserrat reproductions were printed on genuine watermarked stamp paper with design removed and new design added. Used reproductions have forged cancels.

### 1884 Issue 4d



with gum

### Retouched Duty Cliché



This example is illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 13 although inadequately described. See *Sperati II*, page 107, for a description of the retouched duty cliché (name of the colony and the value).

### BPA card proofs



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## NEVIS

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Sperati made reproductions of Nevis 1876 issue 6d. Only proofs are reported of two additional Nevis reproductions; the 1876 issue 1s and the 1883 issue 6d Victoria head design. His finished reproductions were printed on genuine stamp paper with original designs removed. All cancels are forged.

### 1876 Issue 6d



this example is illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 14

### BPA card proofs



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**PAPUA**

**1901 Issue 2s/6d**

BPA card proofs



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**SIERRA LEONE**

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Only proofs and unused reproduction by Sperati are reported. At least some of his reproductions were possibly intended to pass as imperforate plate proofs on bluish paper. The regular issues of the genuine 6d were perforated.

**1859 Issue 6d**



imperforate on bluish paper, with gum

BPA card proof



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## SOUTHERN NIGERIA

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Sperati made reproductions of two Southern Nigeria stamp designs, the 1901 issue 5s Queen Victoria and the £1 Edward VII design of 1903. His finished reproduction utilized genuine stamp paper with forged cancels. All were printed using two clichés. The BPA reported only the £1 reproductions on paper with crown and "CA" watermark (1903 issue) but it is also known on paper with multiple crown CA watermark (1906 issue) as shown.

### 1903 Issue £1 + 1906 Issue £1



watermarked crown and CA



watermarked multiple crown and CA

### BPA card proofs



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**SAINT CHRISTOPHER**

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Sperati made reproductions Saint Christopher 1890 issue 6d. Genuine watermarked stamp paper was used. All cancels are forged.

**1890 Issue 6d**



this example is illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 18.

**BPA card proofs**



**SAINT LUCIA**

Sperati made reproductions of Saint Lucia 1886 issue 6d and 1885 issue 1s. Genuine stamps with design removed were used and cancels are forged. They were printed using two clichés.

**1886 Issue 6d**



**1885 Issue 1s**



**BPA card proofs**



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**TOBAGO**

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Sperati made reproductions of Tobago 1884 issue 4d and 6d. Genuine stamps with design removed were used and cancels are forged. They were printed using two clichés.

**1884 Issue 4d**



**1884 Issue 6d**



**BPA card proofs**



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**TRANSVAAL**

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Sperati's is reported to have made unused reproductions of Transvaal 1900 issue £5 on genuine overprinted stamp paper with original design removed and genuine overprint retained. The BPA had only this single example to examine.

**1900 Issue £5**



the only example seen by the BPA, illustrated in *Sperati I* on plate 20

## FRANCE

For the 1849-1852 Ceres issue of France, Sperati made reproductions of the 10c (5 types), 15c (4 types), 20c (2 types), 40c (3 types) and the 1f (7 types). In addition to the types, several exists in multiple shades. Almost all are complete fabrications by Sperati including forged cancels. Items identified as "static dots" have position of dots cancel constant but exist with various numerals.

### 1849 - 1852 Issue 10c



type A  
static cancel



type E  
static dots



type F  
tête-bêche pair



type D

### 1849 - 1852 Issue 15c



type B  
static cancel

**FRANCE**

**1849 - 1852 Issue 40c**



type A  
static cancel



type A  
static cancel



type B  
static cancel



type B  
static cancel



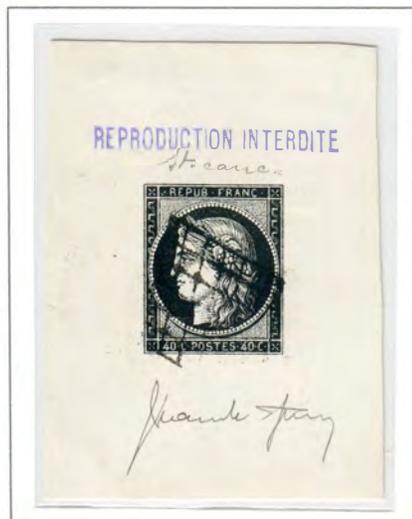
type C



type C



type C



type A  
static cancel



type C

**FRANCE**

**1849 - 1852 Issue 1f**



type A, vivid  
orange vermillion



type A  
red brown



type A  
carmine brown



type A  
cerise



type B  
vivid orange vermillion



type B  
red brown



type B  
carmine

The type C reproductions all have static cancels.



type C, vivid  
orange vermillion



type C, orange  
vermillion



type C  
carmine



type D, vivid  
orange vermillion



type D  
orange vermillion



type D  
carmine



types E + F  
vivid orange vermillion



types E + F  
carmine



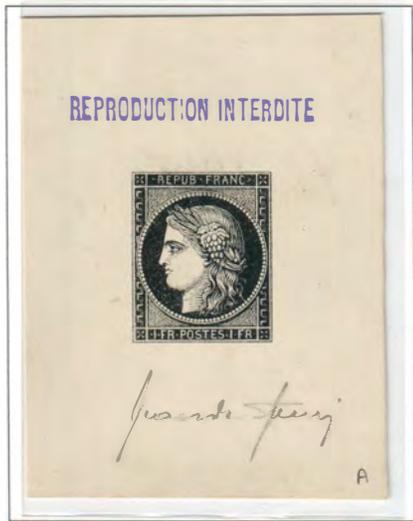
type F, vivid  
orange vermillion



type G  
verveille

FRANCE

1849 - 1852 Issue 1f Proofs



type A



type A



type C

Sperati sometimes used static cancels which were printed in a fixed position. When he photographed his used stamp model he used two filters. One subtracted the cancel while a second highlighted the cancel. To print, he used two clichés overlaid exactly so the cancel covered the design flaws. Proof at left shows voids where the cancel was removed. Proof at right was from the cancel cliché.



type F trial exposure



type G

FRANCE

1852 Issue 10c



type A  
static cancel



type B  
static cancel



type C

1853 - 1854 Issue 1f



type A  
static cancel



type B  
static cancel



type C



type D  
static cancel



type E



type F



type G



type H



type I



type J



type C and type E exposure trials



type F



type F

FRANCE

1853 - 1854 Issue 1f



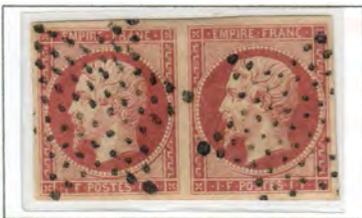
type K



type L exposure trial



type L



type K pair



type L tête-bêche pair



type M tête-bêche strip



type L tête-bêche pair on folded cover, all markings and sender cachet are forged illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 28

**FRANCE**

**1854 Issue 20c**

The *Sperati I* book records only a single unused tête-bêche pair of the 1854 issue 20c black.



**1869 Issue 5f**

The 5f reproductions were first reported in *Sperati II*.



no denomination, on thin laid paper



with type B value on pelure paper



with type E value on wove paper, illustrated in *Sperati II*, plate D

**FRANCE**

For the 1870 Bordeaux issue of France, Sperati made reproductions of the 2c (3 types), 4c, 20c, 30c (2 types) and 80c (2 types). The Paris Museum also has negatives of two additional 80c types that are not known as finished reproductions. All are complete fabrications by Sperati.

**1870 Bordeaux Issue 2c**

All of the 2c reproductions are of second report originals from following positions:  
type A - position 4, type B - position 8, type C - positions 5/1 over 10/6



type A



type A



type B  
static cancel



type B  
static cancel



type C reconstruction  
pairs with different cancels



type C

FRANCE

1870 Bordeaux Issue 4c

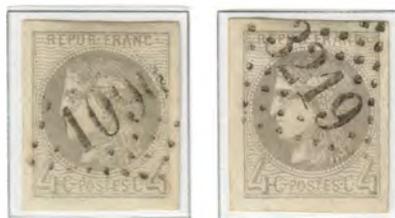
The reproductions of the 4c appear to be of position 10. The transfer was retouched and the prints exist in two states. The second state is always canceled with the large dots cancels positioned so they cover the retouches.



first state



all first state



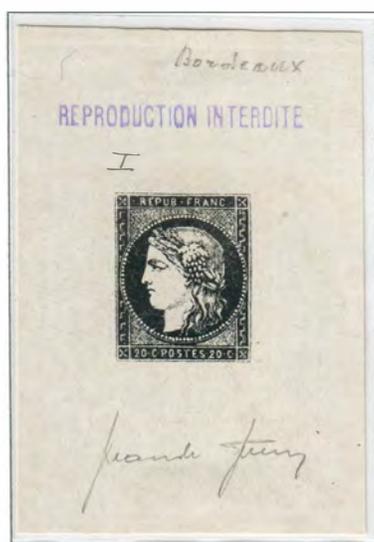
second state



first state  
presentation mounted

1870 Bordeaux Issue 20c

This reproduction is position 11 from the first report but has been heavily retouched.



**FRANCE**

**1870 Bordeaux Issue 30c**

Reproduction A is position 11 from the report and type B is position 5.



type A



type B



type A



type B

**1870 Bordeaux Issue 80c**

Reproduction A is position 11 from the report and type B is unknown.



type A



type B

**FRANCE**

**1859 Postage Due Issues 10c**

Sperati made reproductions of three different postage due designs. Each in a single type. Everything was fabricated by Sperati and all cancels are forged.



on paper



on glazed card

**FRANCE**

**1871 Postage Due Issue 40c and 60c**

Sperati made reproductions of the 40c in three distinct shades and reproduced the 60c in the issued color as well as the unissued black color.



with gum

with gum

## **FRANCE**

### **1868 Telegraph Stamp Issue 1f**

Sperati made proofs as well as unused and used reproductions of this telegraph stamp. Surprisingly he even made four different forged cancels.



## BADEN

Sperati made reproductions of the Baden 1852 issue 18k from six different clichés (four identifiable types) and the 1862 issue 30k from a single cliché. The finished 18k used reproductions were printed on genuine stamp paper with genuine cancels retained.

### 1852 Issue 18k



type A



type B



type C



type D



type D



type A  
trial exposure



type D

## BAVARIA

Sperati made reproductions of the Bavaria 1849 issue 1k in three different types. Types A and B are in deep black and type C is in grey black. Type C exists struck multiple times including tête-bêche pairs and strips. Reproductions are complete fabrications and used have forged cancels.

### 1849 Issue 1k

type A



type B



type C singles, normal and various forms of tête-bêche multiples



**BAVARIA**

**1849 Issue 1k**



Sperati's original cliché used for printing the type C reproduction  
backlit and rectified enlarged image at right



Sperati's original protected cliché used for printing "NAUMBURG 23 JUNE" cancel  
the cliché has been coated with collodion for protection by Sperati

**BERGEDORF**

Sperati made only proofs and unused reproductions of the Bergedorf half schilling.

**1861 Issue ½ schilling**



## BREMEN

Sperati made reproductions of four different Bremen stamps, the 1855 issue 3g, 1856 issue 5g and 7g and the 1861 issue 5sg (five types). They are all complete fabrications and any cancels are forged.

### 1855 Issue 3g



on horizontally laid paper



on vertically laid paper



protected cliché, backlit and rectified image

**BREMEN**

**1856 Issue 5g and 7g**



5g on pink paper and proof

7g on pale buff and on yellow

**1861 Issue 5sg**



type A unused and with forged cancels



blocks from four different clichés, types B-C / D-E, right block split before cancels added

## BRUNSWICK

Sperati made reproductions of Brunswick 1852 issue 2sg and 3sg stamps. They are complete fabrications and all cancels are forged.

### 1852 Issue



2sg



3sg



2sg and 3sg trial exposures



2sg and 3sg signed proofs

## HANNOVER

Sperati made reproductions of three Hanover stamps, the 1860 issue ½gr, the 1861 issue 10gr (three types, one is a new discovery since *Sperati II*) and the 1863 issue 3pf (two types, one is a new discovery since *Sperati II*) They are all complete fabrications and cancels are forged.

### 1860 Issue ½gr



### 1861 Issue 10gr



type A



type B



type C, new discovery  
ex Sir Gawaine Baillie

### 1861 Issue 3pf



type A



type B, new discovery  
ex Sir Gawaine Baillie

**LUBECK**

Sperati made only proofs and unused reproductions of the Lubeck two schilling.

**1859 Issue 2 schilling**



## MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN

For Mecklenburg-Schwerin Sperati made both used and unused reproduction as well as proofs of the 1856 issue five schilling. All of his "used" reproduction have forged cancels. A new type, type B (bend in inner frameline at top center), was identified by Carl Walske after *Sperati II* was published. The two discovery copies are shown below.

### 1856 Issue 5 schilling

type A



type B



the two discovery examples identified after *Sperati II*, ex Sperati archives

## OLDENBURG

Sperati made several reproductions of Oldenburg stamps, the 1855 issue 1/3sg (two types), the 1859 issue 1/3sg (two types), 2g and 3g, the 1861 issue 1/4g (two types), 1/3g, 1/2g (two types), 1g, 2g (three types) and 3g (two types). Everything was fabricated by Sperati.

### 1855 Issue 1/3sg



type A, master matrix negative with painted surround, rectified image and finished proof



type A, two untrimmed with gum and canceled ex Sperati archives

type B, paper trial and unused trial with printed text on back

**OLDENBURG**

**1859 Issue**



1/3sg type A working proof  
and finished reproduction



1/3sg type B



2sg



3sg



**1861 Issue, 1/4g**



type A, untrimmed reproductions  
with gum and canceled, ex archive



type B, protected cliché, finished reproduction

**OLDENBURG**

**1861 Issue**



1/3g



1/2g type A untrimmed and canceled



1/2g type B with trial exposure



1g



2g type A



2g type B



2g type C



3g type A



3g type B proof and untrimmed



## SAXONY

Sperati made reproductions of four different Saxony stamps, the 1850 issue 3pf (three types), the 1851 issue 3pf and 1856 issue 10ng. They are all complete fabrications and any cancels are forged.

### 1850 Issue 3pf



type A color trials and untrimmed unused from Sperati archives



type A finished reproductions with forged cancels



type B



protected cliché for Leipzig cancels and example of the 1851 cancel on type A

**SAXONY**



type A cliché



type A cliché retouched



type B cliché



type B trial exposures from Sperati archive

Sperati sometimes resorted to the use of static cancels which were printed in a fixed position. He used two filters to photograph a used stamp model. One was to highlight the cancel and another to subtract the cancel. To print, he used two clichés made from those images overlaid as the original.



type C proof of design showing voids, proof of the removed cancel, finished reproduction

**SAXONY**

**1851 Issue 3pf**



type A



type B



type B, untrimmed reproductions  
ex Sperati archives

**1856 Issue 10ng**



type A, left reproduction  
signed R. F. Engel as genuine



type B



type A

## WURTEMBERG

Sperati made reproductions of Wurtemberg 1852 issue 18kr and the 1875 issue 2m. The former is a complete fabrication while the later used genuine stamp paper.

### 1852 Issue 18kr



### 1875 Issue 2m



with gum

## **MODENA**

Sperati made two reproductions of Modena stamps, the 1853 issue nine centesimi as well as the 1859 ten centesimi newspaper tax stamp. Each reproduction exists in a single type. Everything about them was made by Sperati. *Sperati I* recorded unused examples only.

### **1853 Issue 9c**



### **1859 Issue Newspaper Tax 10c**



## NAPLES

Sperati made reproductions of three different plate positions of the 1860 issue half tornese. Reproduction A always has the same cancel in the same position. Reproduction B examples show the left vertical frame line of the cross extending into the circle above. The type C reproduction has the line retouched out. All have forged cancels.



3 of 6 negatives used for "ANNULLATO" cancels  
ex Robson Lowe

### 1860 Issue 1/2t Reproduction A

Sperati occasionally resorted to static cancels. He changed filters and exposures to capture the cancel and the design with cancel reduced. To print, he used two clichés made from those images overlaid exactly so the cancel covered the design flaws.



exposure trials with reduced cancel



proof showing voids



finished  
reproduction

**NAPLES**

**1860 Issue 1/2t  
Reproduction B**



trials directly from negative with design reversed



trials directly from negative with design rectified



on fragment with forged cancel  
and forged sender's cachet



finished  
reproductions

**NAPLES**

**1860 Issue ½t**  
Reproduction C



protected cliché used for printing type C  
ex Robson Lowe



proof in color



finished reproductions

## NEAPOLITAN PROVINCES

Sperati made a single design of the 1861 issue 2 grana frame only for Neapolitan Provinces. Sperati made his reproductions by preserving the genuine embossed heads and cancels when he decolored the genuine stamps. He then printed his forged frames inverted to the genuine embossed heads. He printed frames in blue as well as in black for the error of color.

### 1861 Issue 2g Inverted Head Varieties



frame color prints with shades including black for the error of color variety



finished reproductions on pieces with original heads and postmarks retained



genuine stamp model  
awaiting washing ex  
BPA collection #256  
(Paul Freeland)



trial exposure  
Sperati printed frame  
on genuine head

**PARMA**

*Sperati I* reported reproductions of the Parma 1859 issue 5c (two types that differ in color only), 40c and 80c (3 types). Everything about these was made by Sperati including forged cancels. *Sperati II* reports negatives that were found in the Paris Museum of the 20c denomination.

**1859 Issue 5c, 40c and 80c**



type A



type B



type A



type A



type B



type C



type C

## ROMAN STATES

Sperati made reproductions of the two high value Roman States first issue stamps. He reproduced the 50 baj in two different types and the 1 scudo in one type. Everything about them was made by Sperati including the forged cancels.



cliché used for "ASSICURATA" auxiliary cancel  
ex Robson Lowe

### 1852 Issue 50b



type A color proof and untrimmed with forged grill cancel



type B, forged grills, right stamp with additional part strike "ASSICURATA" auxiliary cancel  
this reproduction, with cancel printed from cliché above, is illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 61

### 1852 Issue 1s



**SARDINIA**

For the 1851 issue of Sardinia, Sperati made reproductions of the 5c (1 type) and 40c (2 types). Everything about these was made by Sperati including forged cancels. For the 1855 - 1861 issue inverted heads, Sperati used a special technique is discussed on following page.

**1851 Issue 5c and 40c**



type A

type B



type B, untrimmed color proofs, ex Sperati archives

**Exposure Trials, ex Sperati archives**



type A

type B

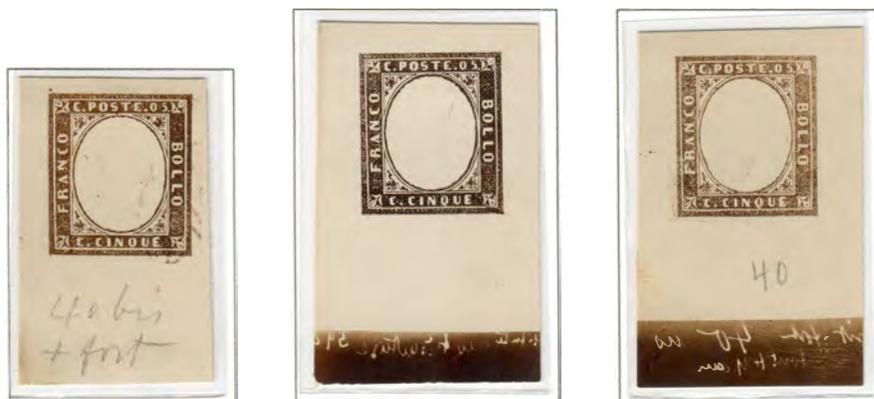
type B

type B

## SARDINIA

For the 1855 - 1861 issue inverted heads, Sperati made his reproductions by preserving the genuine embossed heads and cancels when he decolored the genuine stamps. He then printed his forged frames inverted to the genuine embossed heads. Reproductions are known of the 5c (3 types), 10c (2 types), 20c (3 types) and 80c. A negative exists at the Paris Museum for a 40c frame and color trials using 5c frame are included below but no finished reproductions known.

### 1855 - 1861 Issue 5c



types A, B and C exposure trials, ex Sperati archives



type A invert



type C frame invert + 10c normal



5c type A color proofs in shades of 40c

**SARDINIA**

On the letters below all the markings are genuine. Sperati removed the original stamps and decolored them preserving the embossed heads and cancels. He then printed his forged frames onto the stamps, touched up the postmarks and replaced on the original letters.



5c, 10c and 20c inverted frame varieties on original letters, all ex Robson Lowe  
5c pair is types A and C se-tenant, illustrated in Sperati I, Plate 67

**SARDINIA**

**1855 - 1861 Issue 10c**



type A exposure trial, two type A and one type B untrimmed proofs, ex Sperati archives



type A and type B finished reproductions



type A frame invert + 5c normal on letter

**SARDINIA**

**1855 - 1861 Issue 20c**



20c type A and type B



type A and type C finished reproductions on letters

**SARDINIA**

**1855 - 1861 Issue 80c**



proof in color



finished reproductions

## TUSCANY

*Sperati I* reported reproductions of the 1851 issue 2s and the 1857 issue 1s on genuine watermarked stamp paper with designs washed away and the cancels retained. *Sperati II* reports negatives that were found in the Paris Museum of the 1q and 9c denominations.

### 1851 Issue 2s



### 1857 Issue 1s



**SICILY**

Sperati made reproductions of five denominations of the 1859 Ferdinand II issue; the ½g (2 types), 5g (4 types), 10g, 20g and 50g (3 types). The genuine stamps were engraved while the reproductions were produced by photo-lithography including all cancels.



protected cliché used for printing 3 of the 5 reported cancels, ex Sperati's daughter

**1859 Issue ½g**



type A, untrimmed proof with gum and with forged cancel



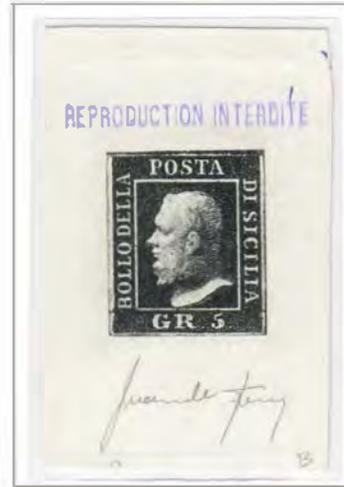
type A, trial prints on paper with Sperati's marginal notes

**SICILY**

**1859 Issue 5g**



type A



type B



type D proof with gum

**1859 Issue 10g**



**1859 Issue 20g**



**SICILY**

**1859 Issue 50g**



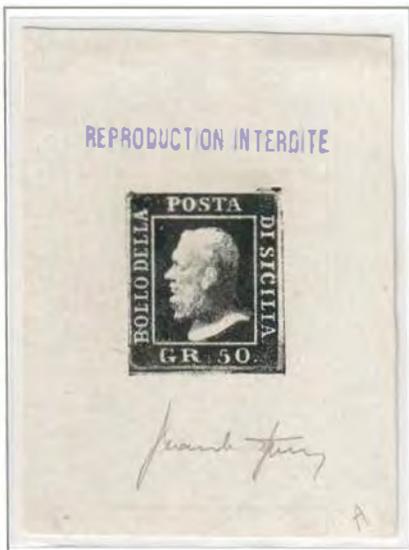
type A



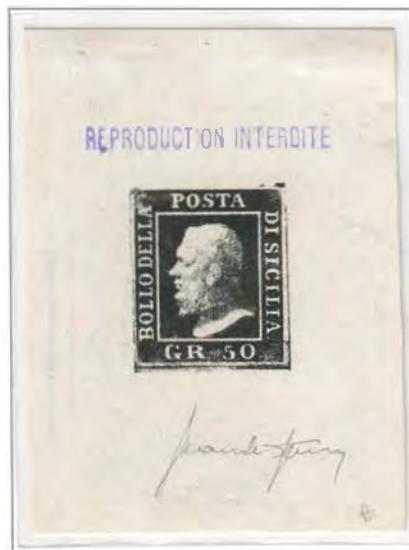
type C



type C proof



type A



type B



type C



type C

## SPAIN

### 1850 Issue

For the 1850 issue, Sperati made reproductions of the 12c, 5r, 6r (2 types), and 10r. All were total fabrications by Sperati including forged cancels.



12c  
static cancel  
a paper trial



5r



6r, type A



6r, type B



10r



5r



6r type B



10r protected cliché



10r forged cancels include "11" of Zaragoza and spider style  
reproduction at far right is untrimmed example from Sperati archive

**SPAIN**

**1851 Issue**

For the 1851 issue, Sperati made reproductions of the 12c, 2r (2 types), 5r, 6r, and 10r (2 types). In addition, he reproduced the 2r blue error of color in two types.



12c

2r, type A

2r, type B

5r

6r

10r, type A

10r, type B



12c color trial, signed  
Mariano "Egisto" Sperati



2r, type A  
protected cliché



2r, type A

**1851 Issue 2r Blue Error of Color**



type A, color trial



type A



type B

**SPAIN**

**1852 Issue**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1852 issue 12c, 2r (5 types), 5r (2 types) and 6r (4 types).

**1852 Issue 12c**



**1852 Issue 2r**



type A

type B

type C

type D

type E



type A



type A



type B



type D exposure trial and color trial



type E, Sperati notes in margin

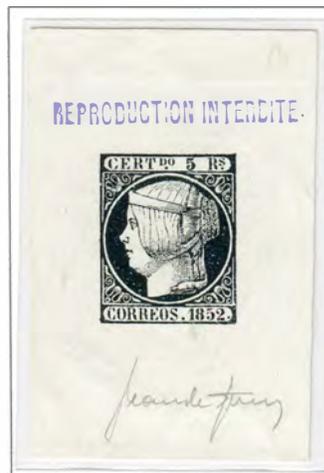


**SPAIN**

**1852 Issue 5r**



5r type A and pair 2r, types C+D



type B

**1852 Issue 6r**



type A shades



type B



types C+D, static cancel



type A color trial proof



type B, reversed prints  
ex Sperati archives

**SPAIN**

**1853 Issue**

For the 1853 issue, Sperati made a single type of reproduction of the 12c , 2r, 5r and 6r.



12c



2r



5r



6r



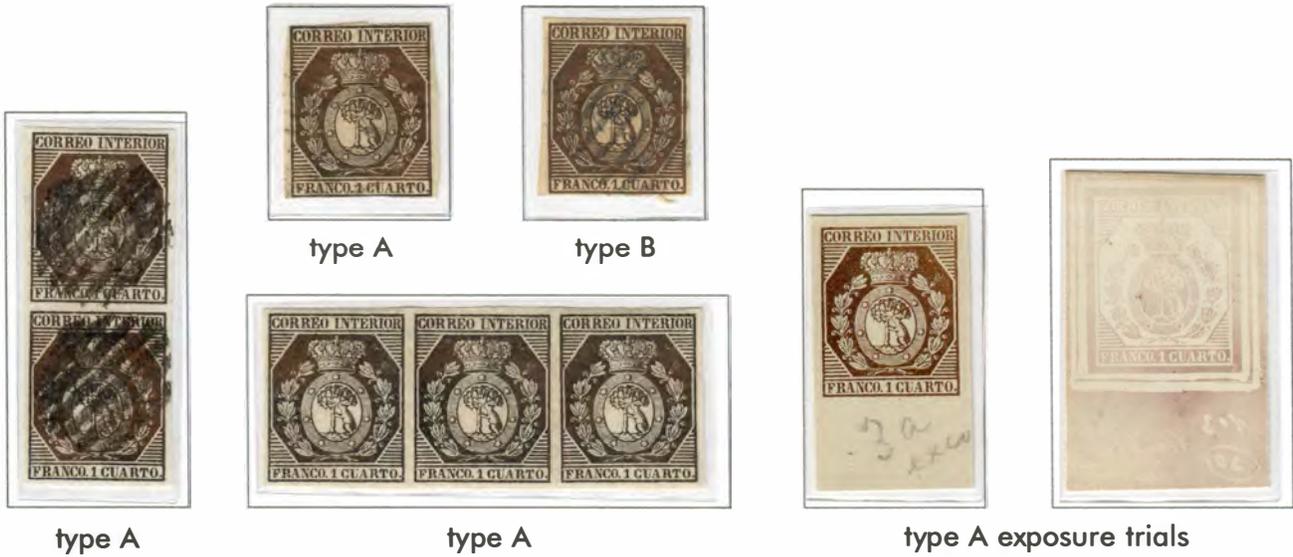
2r original painted negative used to make printing cliché  
ex Sperati archives

**SPAIN**

**1853 Madrid Local Issue**

For this issue, Sperati made reproductions of both 1c and 3c, each in two types.

**Madrid 1c**



**Madrid 3c**



**SPAIN**

**1854 Issue**

Sperati made reproductions of the 2c (2 types), 1r (5 types), 5r and 6r. He made these using genuine stamp paper from which he washed designs and retained genuine cancels.



decolored Spain stamps with cancels retained, Sperati note as 1854 paper and cancels



1r type B on genuine piece



2c, type A



1r, type A



1r, type B



1r, type C



1r, type D



1r, type E



5r



6r



1r, type A



1r, type B



5r



6r

**SPAIN**

**1861 / 1864 Issues**

Sperati's 19c reproductions of the 1861 and 1864 issues exist both on genuine stamp paper from which he washed designs and retained genuine cancels as well as complete fabrications.

**1861 Issue 19c**



piece with forged cancel



with gum



genuine cancels retained



**1864 Issue 19c**



forged cancel

**SPAIN**

**1865 Imperforate and Perforated Issues**

Sperati made imperforate reproductions of the 4c, 12c with inverted frame, 19c and 1r and perforated reproductions of the 19c and 1r. The 19c with type C head is new.



4c trial images of a perforated model retouched to make the 4r finished reproduction



12c inverted frame    19c frame A, head B    19c frame B, head B    1r



19c frame A, head A



(19c) head type A



19c frame B, head A



19c frame A, head C



19c frame B, head B



1r

SPAIN

1865 Issues 1r Trial Prints

These trial prints came from the Sperati archives. All of the notes are in Sperati's hand and the print in blue is dated January 16, 1939. Many notes seem to involve the films being used and the exposure times.



**SPAIN**

**1866 Issue 19c**

Reproductions of the 19c are on genuine stamp paper with retained genuine cancels.



**1867 - 1868 Issue 19c**

Reproductions of the 1867 issue 19c rose exists from a cliché (type A) that was also used by Sperati to print the 1868 issue 19c in dark brown. A type B exists only in dark brown.



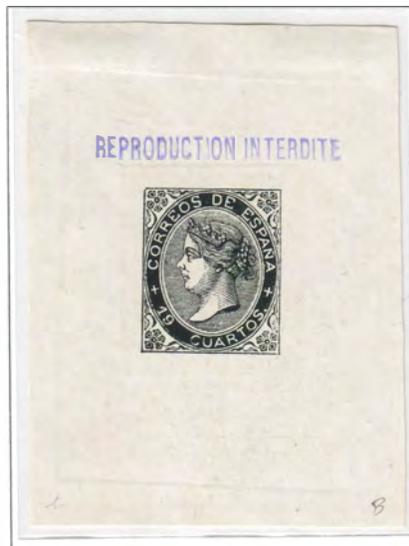
type A



type A



type B



type B

## SPAIN

### 1870 Issue

Sperati made reproductions of the 1870 issue 19c (2 types), 1e 600m and 2e (2 types, type B not known in a finished reproduction). He made these using genuine stamp paper from which he washed designs and for his used examples, retained genuine cancels.



19c type A



19c type B

type B was found since *Sperati II* publication, most flaws were retouched



1e 600m



2e type A

### 1872 - 1873 Issues

Sperati made reproductions of the 1872 - 1873 issues 4p and the 10p (2 types, type B is only known as shown below). Used are on genuine stamp paper with genuine cancels retained.



4p



10p type A



10p type A  
gummed



10p type B  
as it exists

**SPAIN**

**1873 Issue**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1873 issue 4p and the 10p (2 types). They are on genuine stamp paper with genuine cancels retained for the used.



4p



10p type A



10p type B

**1874 Issue**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1874 issue 4p and 10p. They are on genuine stamp paper with genuine cancels retained for the used.



4p



10p



10p trial prints, ex Sperati archives, one at right is dated February 1939 by Sperati

**SPAIN**

**1875 Issue**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1875 issue 4p and 10p. Eight different backprint numbers are known (#3, 17, 21, 22, 23, 31, 50 and 80). Used are on genuine stamp paper with genuine cancels retained.



4p trial exposure



10p (no #) proof



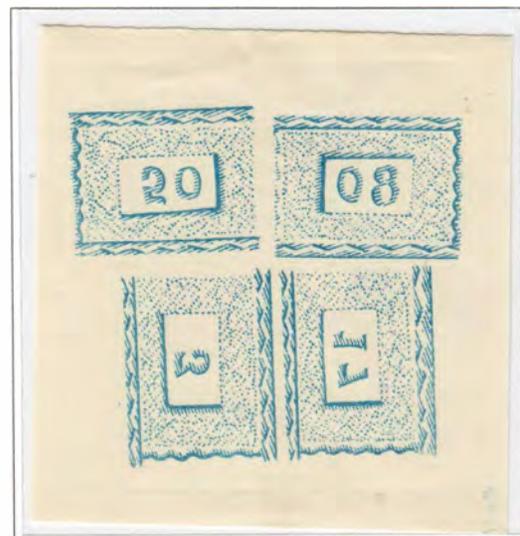
4p (#22)



10p (#21)



10p (#31)



proof impressions of backprints #22, and 23 and of #3, 17, 50 and 80, ex Sperati archives

**SPAIN**

**1878 Issue**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1878 issue 20c, 40c (2 types), 4p and 10p (2 types). *Sperati I* lists the 40c type B only from a negative. The type B proof in color and the used example below, both ex Sperati archives, are discoveries since publication.



20c



20c "Copie"  
gummed



40c type A



40c type B



40c type B, ex Sperati archives



4p



10p type A

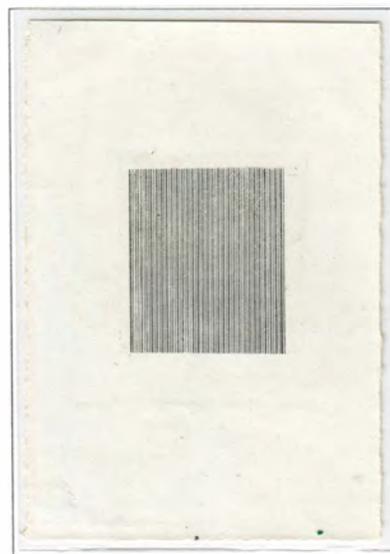
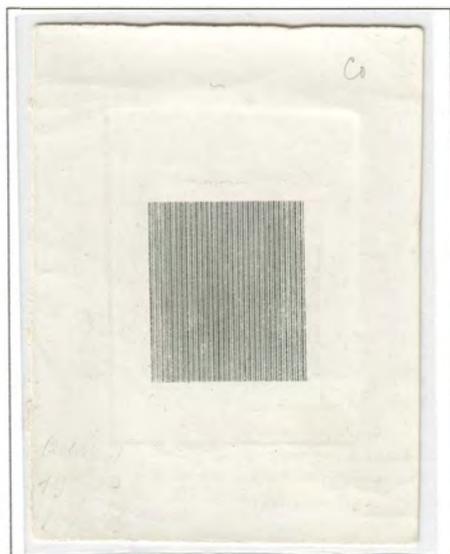
**CANTON ZURICH**

Sperati reproduced each of the five different types of the genuine stamps. The 4r was first recorded in 1942 but the 6r was known from 1939. However his clichés were dated between 1935 and 1953 for the 4r and from 1952 to 1953 for the 6r.

**1843 Issue 4r and 6r**



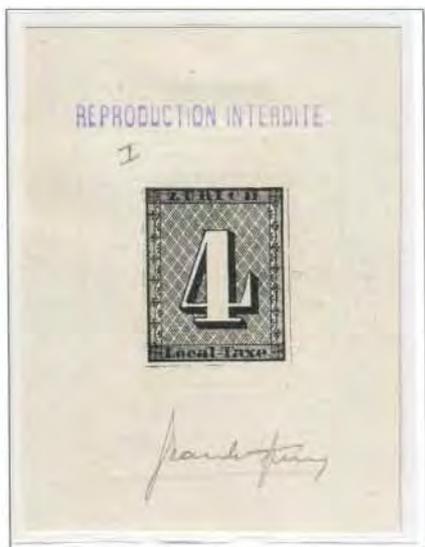
type IV of 4r (dated June 1935) and type I of 6r original master negatives, ex Robson Lowe



proofs of vertical background lines as used for both denominations, minor differences

**CANTON ZURICH**

**1843 Issue 4r**



type I and type IV proofs without background lines



type IV and type V proofs, horizontal and vertical lined backgrounds in color

**CANTON ZURICH**

**1843 Issue 4r**



type I  
horiz. lines



type I  
vert. lines



type II  
horiz. lines



type II  
vert. lines



type IV  
horiz. lines



type IV  
horiz. lines



type IV  
vert. lines



type V  
horiz. lines



type V  
vert. lines

**CANTON ZURICH**

**1843 Issue 6r**



type I, type II and type III proofs without background lines



type IV proofs, without background lines, with vertical and with horizontal and background lines



type IV trial exposure

**CANTON ZURICH**

**1843 Issue 6r**



type I  
horiz. lines



type I  
horiz. lines



type I  
vert. lines



type II  
horiz. lines



type II  
vert. lines



type III  
horiz. lines



type III  
vert. lines



type III  
vert. lines



type IV  
vert. lines



type IV  
vert. lines



type V  
horiz. lines



type V  
vert. lines

**CANTON GENEVA**

Sperati reproduced the 1843 issue 5c+5c Geneva Cantonal, the 1845 issue 5c Small Eagle and the 1846-1848 issue 5c Large Eagle. There are two types of the 5c+5c reproductions, one of the whole stamp and the other of the right half only. All cancels are forged.

**1843 Issue 5c + 5c**



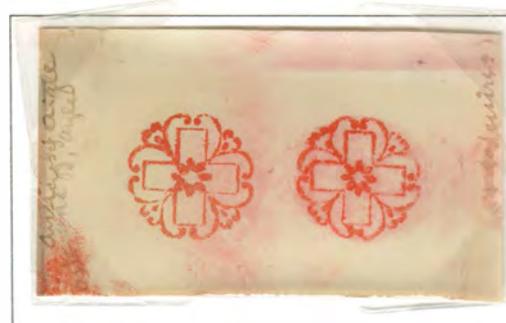
type A proof of complete pair



type A pair and left half only



type A left half only  
forged postmark  
forged Geneva type II cancel



covered cliché  
Geneva type II rosette cancels

**CANTON GENEVA**

**1843 Issue 5c + 5c**



type B proofs



type B unused shades and with forged Geneva type II cancel

**BPA card proofs**



type A



type B

**CANTON GENEVA**

**1845 Issue 5c Small Eagle**



proof and with forged Geneva type II cancel

**1846-1848 Issue 5c Large Eagle**



proofs and with forged Geneva type V cancel on piece with two expert signatures



unused, with Geneva federal grill cancel and two with Geneva type III cancels



CANTON BASLE

One of Sperati's most sophisticated reproductions was of the 1845 Basle Dove. It required the use of three printing clichés plus an embossing. Sperati's written plans for its manufacture survive as well as two glass plate negatives. One finished example was delivered to a client in the 1950s but has not been seen since.

1845 Issue 2½rp Basle Dove



exposure trial  
main design



protected cliché and proof for burelé  
dated April 1953



exposure trial  
burelé only



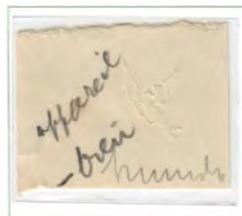
painted July 1953 essay  
to highlight the dove



exposure trial of composite design  
right print touched with paint



complete design proof  
rectified image



trial impressions of the embossed dove

**CANTON BASLE**

All of the Basle Dove items shown were acquired by Carl Walske directly from Sperati's daughter, Yvonne Pochard de Sperati. See *Sperati II*, pages 75 to 80.

**1845 Issue 2½rp Basle Dove**



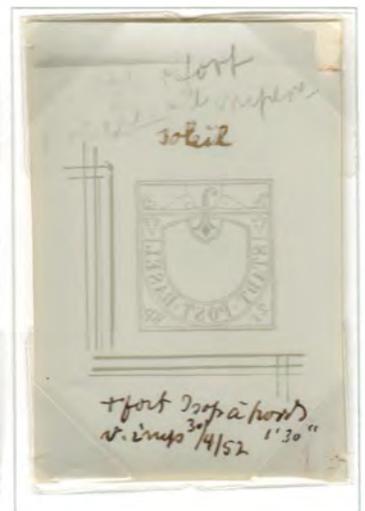
composite essay



photo print



composite essay with highlights added in black paint

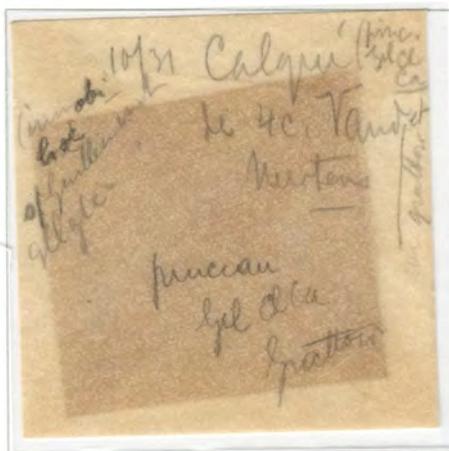


protected clichés for main design dated 30 April 1952

SWITZERLAND

1849 4c Transitional "Vaud"

Sperati made reproductions of the so called "Vaud" 4c stamp including uses on covers and fragments. He used a 5c Vaud for his model and replaced the value tablet with a new 4c tablet made from the tracing shown below. He also made a new background for the cross. All cancels and markings are forged.



ink tracing of 4c value tablet and protective encasements dated October 1931



type A



type B



type B pair



type B composite proof and proof of red background only



exposure trial, type B

**SWITZERLAND**

**1849 4c Transitional "Vaud"**

Sperati reproductions on cover feature all the forged "trimmings" as Sperati termed them. The cancels, postmarks, sender cachets and even the wax seals on flaps are forged.



type A on partial cover, "Copie" handstamp of Chambéry court, illustrated in *Sperati I*, plate 103



type B on covers



type B pair on piece, "Copie" handstamps

SWITZERLAND

1850 5c Transitional "Vaud"

Sperati made only one type of reproduction of the so called "Vaud" 5c stamp. The cliché below was used to print the Geneva rosette cancel on several of his reproductions. Both the cliché and the working cancel proofs were acquired from Sperati archives



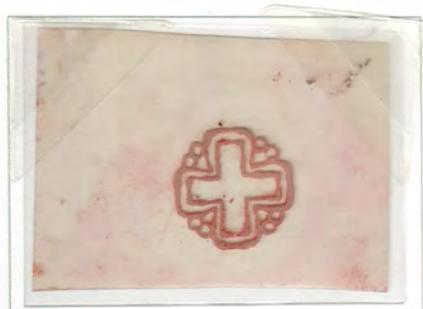
composite proof



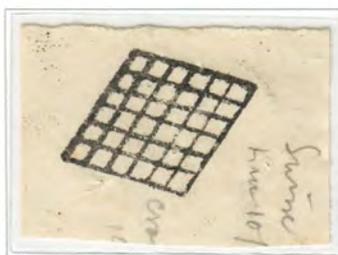
proof of cross red background



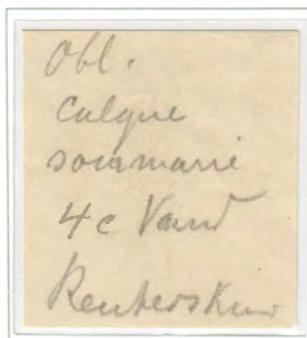
rosette, grid and grill cancels



cliché to print Geneva rosette



working proofs of Geneva grid cancels



pencil tracing of rosette for 4c "Vaud" stamp and Sperati's filing note, "Reuterskiöld obl."

**SWITZERLAND**

**1850 2½rp Transitional "Winterthur"**

Sperati reproduced the "Winterthur" stamp including uses on covers. Two clichés were used for printing, the black design portion in two types and the red background in two types. Type A design always has type A background while type B always has type 2n background. All cancels and markings are forged.



types A1 with rosette cancel and type B2 with forged Munsingen grille cancel



type A1 on folded letter with Zurich rosette cancel



type 1 background



type A1 proof in color



type B2 black proof



type 2 background

**SWITZERLAND**

**1850 5c Transitional "Neuchatel"**

Sperati reproduced the "Neuchatel" 5c stamp including uses on covers and on fragments. Two clichés were used for printing, the main design in two types and the central cross in two types. The type 2 cross has not been documented before. All cancels and markings are forged.



types A1 and B1, type A always has static cancel, both with type 1 crosses



type A1 (design type A, cross type 1) on large part cover, all markings are forged



type A1 with static cancel



type 1 cross (spike on left arm)



type 2 cross (no spike)

**SWITZERLAND**

**1850 2½rp Orts-Post Federal Issue**

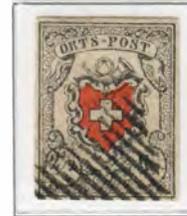
Sperati reproduced the Orts-Post stamp in three main types plus the with and without frame around the cross varieties. Three clichés were used for printing the with framed cross types. Two clichés, one for the black design and one for the red background, were used for the no frame reproductions. All cancels and markings are forged.



types A + B pair  
framed cross



types A + B pair with gum  
unframed cross



type C  
static cancel



types A + B pair  
unframed cross



type C red background

**SWITZERLAND**

**1850 2½rp Poste Locale Federal Issue**

Sperati reproduced the Post-Locale stamp in seven main types plus the with and without frame around the cross varieties. Three clichés were used for printing the framed cross types. Two clichés, one for the black design and one for the red background, were used for the no frame reproductions. All cancels and markings are forged. Type D has a static cancel.



types A + B pair  
framed cross



types A + B color trial of background



type C  
with frame



type D  
with frame



type E  
with frame



type F  
with frame



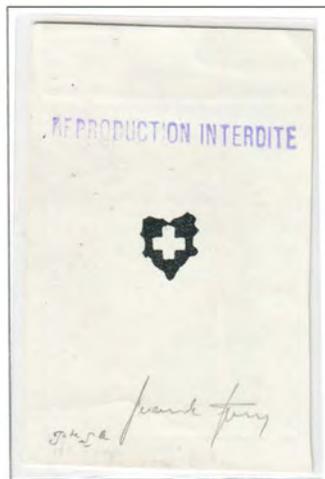
type G  
with frame



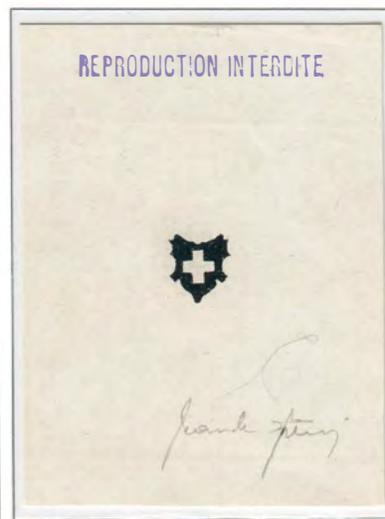
type G  
no frame



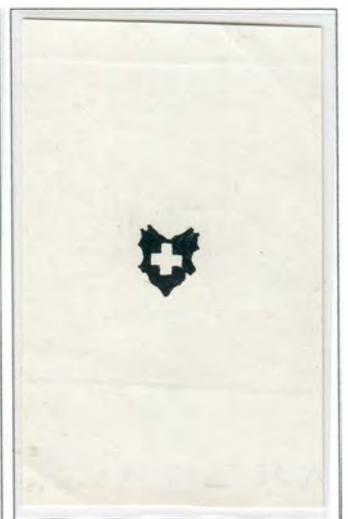
type G composite



type E background



type F background



type H background  
(new type)

## SWITZERLAND

### 1850 5rp Rayon I and 10rp Rayon II Issues

Sperati reproduced the 1850 issue Rayon I design in two types with two different cross backgrounds and the Rayon II design in five types, three of which exist without frame to cross, all have same cross background. Three clichés were used for printing the framed cross types; two for the no frame reproductions. All cancels and markings are forged.

#### 5rp Rayon I

type A exists only with type 1 cross background



type A1  
no frame



type B2  
no frame

type B exists with type 1 and type 2 cross backgrounds

#### 10rp Rayon II



type A  
with frame



type B working proof  
with frame



type B  
with frame



types C-D-E cross with frame



types C-D-E cross without frame

**SWITZERLAND**

**1851-1852 Rayon I and Rayon III Issues**

Sperati reproduced two types of each of the three different 1851-1852 Rayon issues. The 5rp also exists with and without frame to the cross. Type A of both the 15rp and 15cts reproductions exists only with static cancel.

**5rp Rayon I**



type A  
with frame



type A  
no frame



type B  
with frame

**15rp Rayon III**



type A  
static cancel



type B proof



type B  
with gum



type B  
blue cancel

**15cts Rayon III**



type A  
static cancel



type B working proof  
with Sperati notes



type B  
blue cancel

## ARGENTINA

For the 1862 issue, everything about the reproductions was made by Sperati. For his reproductions of the 1910 engraved issue 10p and 20p, he used genuine perforated and watermarked stamps that he decolored retaining the genuine cancels.

His proof on glazed card below includes indented rectangle surround. This simulation mimics the indent usually seen with engraved die proofs. Sperati used a copper bed to achieve the effect.

### 1862 Issue 15c



### 1910 Issue 10p and 20p



two copies of the 10p finished reproduction were first reported in *Sperati II*



proof on glazed card and on wove paper

## **BOLIVIA**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1862 issue 10c brown and black-brown shades in two types. They different types are found se-tenant in pairs. Everything about these reproductions was made by Sperati. He also made reproductions of the 1868 issue 500c black using genuine stamp paper. Cancels are forged.

### **1862 Issue 10c**



type A



type A+B pair, with gum



type A+B pair

### **1868 Issue 500c**



with gum



**BRAZIL**

Everything about these Brazil reproductions was made by Sperati. All of his 90r reproductions have static cancels. He resorted to this technique when he could not find an unused model.

**1843 Issue 60 reis**



exposure trial

**1843 Issue 90 reis**



proof with static cancel

exposure trials, top left example with reduced cancel

## BUENOS AIRES

Sperati made several reproductions of the popular barquitos (little ship) issues of Buenos Aires. These include 1p tête-bêche pair and a printed on both sides. He also reproduce the liberty head design. Everything about them was made by Sperati and the cancels were forged.

### 1858 Barquitos Issue 2p, 3p, 4p and 5p



2p working proof, unused and with different forged cancels



3p painted tracing, type A reproduction with forged version the cancel, trial exposures of item



3p type B, trial exposure of the first item and three type C reproductions with different forged cancels



4p trial exposures, vermilion shade and in chestnut brown error of color shade of the 4r



5p trial exposure, in orange shade and in olive yellow shade

## BUENOS AIRES

### 1859 Barquitos Issue 1p



type A trial exposure, with forged cancel



type B trial exposure, with forged cancel



types B-A tête-bêche pair



types B-A tête-bêche pair proof



image of back



type B on front  
type A on back

### 1859 Liberty Head Issue 4r and 1p



4r type A trial exposure and two different cancel types



4r type B



1p untrimmed reproduction and finished reproduction

## COLOMBIA

Sperati made reproductions of five different stamps of New Grenada and four different Colombia issues. Two types exist for two of these. Everything about them was made by Sperati. All cancels are forged. The forged piece is unusual for Colombia.

### New Grenada 1861 Issue 12½c, 5c, 10c and 20c



12½c on piece

### New Grenada 1861 Issue 1p



type A

type B, different forged cancels

### Colombia 1862 Issue 10c, 50c, 1p and 1864 Issue 1p



type A

type B

## **COLOMBIAN STATES**

Sperati made reproductions of three stamps of the Colombian States. Everything about them was made by Sperati. All cancels are forged. The Tolima reproduction is a bogus denomination made by altering a 5c design to make a non-existent high value.

### **Antioquia 1868 Issue 5c**



### **Bolivar 1863 Issue 10c**



### **Tolima 1871 Issue Design Bogus 5p**



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Sperati made reproductions of the 1865 issue ½ real in two types, the 1865 issue 1 real in three varieties and one type of the 1905 issue 1 peso. Everything about them was made by Sperati. *Sperati I* reports mentions die proofs but that no finished reproductions had been seen. *Sperati II* mentions the example below and one other type.

### 1865 Issue 1r



on horizontal laid paper, wavy line frames  
denomination reading outward  
model was position 6 on sheet

## **GUATEMALA**

Sperati used two clichés to print his 1881 inverted quetzal reproductions. He used genuine stamp paper. While the genuine is engraved, the reproductions were produced by photo-lithography. A 5c has also been reported but not seen. A negative for a 20c in the Paris Museum is shown in *Sperati II*.

### **1881 Issue 2c Inverted Center**



## **MEXICO**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1867 issue ½r gray and the 5p and 10p denominations of the 1895 issue. The 1895 issue reproductions are on genuine watermarked stamp paper with design washed out and with genuine cancels retained.

### **1867 Issue ½r**



on thin gray-blue paper

### **1895 Issue 5p and 10p**



genuine cancels retained  
5p was first reported as finished reproduction in *Sperati II*

## **PARAGUAY**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1870 issue 3r in a single type. The negative is dated January 1945. Everything about these reproductions was made by Sperati and the cancels are forged.

### **1870 Issue 3r**



**PERU**

Sperati used a single cliché to print his 1858 issue half peso reproductions in two different colors. He reproduced the normally issued buff shade and the rose red error of color. All cancels are forged.

**1858 Issue ½ peso buff and ½ peso rose Error of Color**



## **NEW YORK CITY**

Sperati made his reproduction of the City Despatch Post stamps using position 20 of the original as a model. The original was engraved while Sperati's reproductions were produced by photo-lithography. As shown below, some of his reproductions were "tied" to fragments by forged cancels. This example also bears a forged partial postmark.

### **1842 Issue 3¢ City Despatch Post**



## NEW YORK CITY

Sperati made two types of reproductions of the New York City Postmaster's Provisional stamp. The reproductions, which are known on various papers ranging from white to bluish, include forged "ACM" initials and when used, have forged cancels.

### 1845 Issue 5¢ Postmaster's Provisional

Type A



Type B

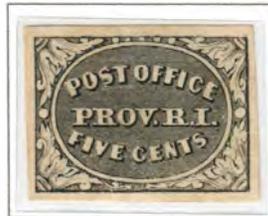


type B proofs: working proof with Sperati's notes, without "ACM" initials and with initials

## **PROVIDENCE**

Sperati made used and unused 5¢ finished reproductions that were derived from sheet position 12. The original was engraved and the reproduction made by photo-lithography.

### **1846 Issue 5¢ Postmaster's Provisional**



unused without gum

**UNITED STATES**

Sperati made 10¢ finished reproductions from a single cliché. They are know unused with faked gum and with forged cancels in red, blue and black as well as in pen.

**1847 Issue 10¢**



unused with gum



working proof with Sperati notations

## CONFEDERATE STATES

Sperati made reproductions of two different Confederate States stamps. Everything about them was made by Sperati including some with impossible United States cancels. *Sperati* reported two types of the 1863 issue and a third type has been discovered since.

### 1862 Issue 10¢



with gum



Cincinnati OH



Mobile AL



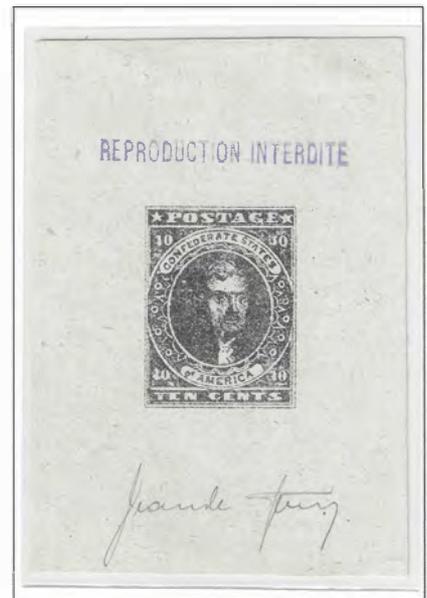
Charleston SC  
(signed "AD"  
as genuine)



Richmond VA



target



**CONFEDERATE STATES**

**1863 Issue "TEN" Cents**



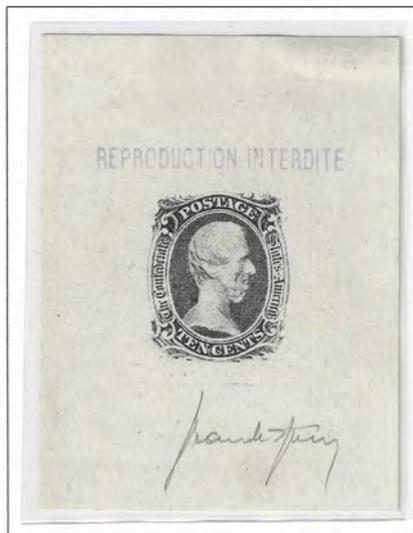
type A



type B



type C  
gummed



type B proofs



type B  
New York NY



type B  
Chattanooga TN



type B  
Charleston SC



type B  
Richmond VA May 10 1865



type B  
target



type C, target

## HAWAII

In addition to making a reproduction of the 1883 issue 50¢, Sperati made at least eleven types of "Inter-Island Postage" numeral issue reproductions. The *Sperati I* listings were based on the Sperati negatives that were probably all used. Finished reproductions have been reported for types A (unused and forged cancel), F and G.

### 1863 Issue 1¢ on grayish



type A



type A

### 1864 Issue 2¢ on white



type F

### 1865 Issue 5¢ on blue / 5¢ on grayish



type G, working proof and unused



type K

### 1883 Issue 50¢



## URUGUAY

Everything about the Uruguay reproductions was made by Sperati. This includes any forged cancels and examples with fake gum. Uruguay was a particular favorite of Sperati as evidenced by the fact that he used the 1856 Diligencia issue "sun face" as a logo. He made several custom orders of Uruguay reproductions for a German collector living in Argentina, William Hoffmann. These included reproductions of specific sheet positions that were needed for plate reconstructions by Hoffmann.

### 1856 Diligencia Issue 60c, Type I

Reproduction A  
(sheet position 15)



first state



second state

Reproduction B  
(sheet position 7)



Reproduction C  
(sheet position 7)



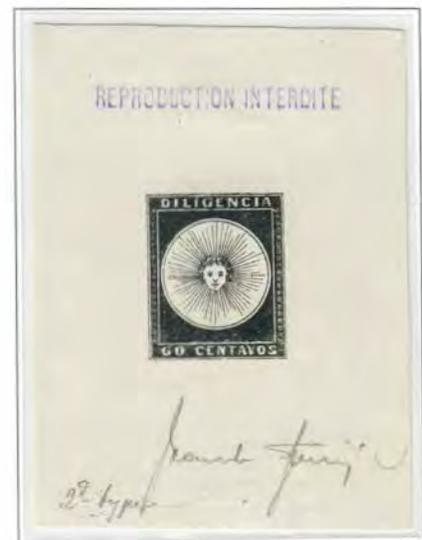
### 1857 Diligencia Issue 60c, Type II (Redrawn Design)



color trial proof, extra part framelines at sides signed by Egisto Sperati



extra part frameline at top right only



no extra framelines

**URUGUAY**

**1856 Diligencia Issue 80c**

**Reproduction A**  
(sheet position 14)



**Reproduction B**  
(sheet position 5)



**Reproduction A**



**Reproduction B**



**URUGUAY**

**1856 Diligencia Issue 1r**

**Reproduction A**  
(sheet position 23)



**Reproduction B**  
(sheet position 13)



**Reproduction C**  
(sheet position 16)



**Reproduction D**  
(sheet position 16)



**Reproduction B**



**Reproduction C**



**URUGUAY**

**1858 Large Sun Issue 120c**

Reproduction A  
(sheet position 24)



Reproduction B  
(sheet position 6)



Reproduction A



"Copie" oval handstamp of the French court

Reproduction A



Reproduction B



**URUGUAY**

**1858 Large Sun Issue 180c**

Reproduction A  
(sheet position 3)



Reproduction B  
(sheet position 25)



Reproduction A



color trial proof, ex Sperati's daughter

Reproduction B



**URUGUAY**

**1858 Large Sun Issue 240c**

Reproduction A  
(sheet position 25)



Reproduction B  
(sheet position 29)



Reproduction D  
(sheet position 4)



Reproduction A



untrimmed proof



untrimmed proof



**URUGUAY**

Sperati's reproductions of the 1859 issue 60c shown below were acquired by Carl Walske from Yvonne Pochard de Sperati. The three examples in the rare green shade were found in a glassine with the note indicating that they were surplus from a William Hoffmann special order. Sperati termed the color "lime green" and that is how they are identified here.

**1859 Thin Figures Issue 60c**

Reproduction A  
(sheet position 18)



lime green shade

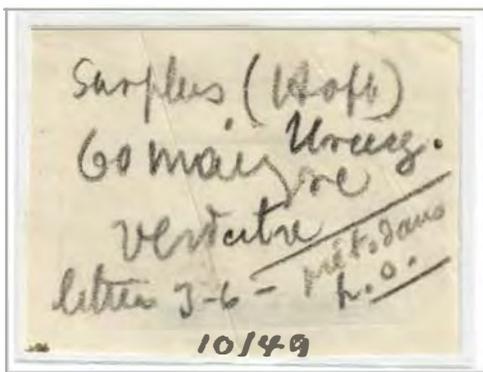
Reproduction B  
(sheet position 9)



lime green shade

**Sperati's Note**

Reproduction A



Sperati's October 1949 note found with these 60c "lime green" shades.

Reproduction B



lime green shade

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**URUGUAY**

**1859 Thin Figures Issue 80c**

Reproduction A  
(sheet position unknown)



Reproduction B  
(sheet position 17)



URUGUAY

1859 Thin Figures Issue 100c

Reproduction A, First State  
(sheet position 12)



Reproduction A, Second State  
(sheet position 12)



Reproduction B  
(sheet position 13)



retouched exposure trial

Reproduction C  
(sheet position unknown)



exposure trial

Reproduction D  
(sheet position 5)



with static cancel



exposure trial

**URUGUAY**

**1859 Thin Figures Issue 120c**

First State



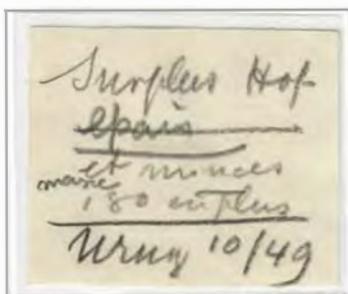
Second State



retouched numerals

**1859 Thin Figures Issue 180c**

Surplus Items From Hoffmann Special Orders  
ex Yvonne Pochard de Sperati



Sperati's October 1949 note for  
"Surplus Hof, 180c nuances"



printed on both sides



reverse at 80%



"nuance 4"



**URUGUAY**

**1859 Thin Figures Issue 240c**

**Reproduction A**  
(sheet position 11)



**Reproduction B**  
(sheet position unknown)



**Reproduction C**  
(sheet position 9)



**URUGUAY**

**1862 Thick Figures Issue 60c**



**1862 Thick Figures Issue 80c**



**1862 Thick Figures Issue 100c**



**URUGUAY**

**1862 Thick Figures Issue 120c**



**1862 Thick Figures Issue 180c**

Reproduction A  
(sheet position 2)



Reproduction B  
(sheet position 7)



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**URUGUAY**

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**1864 Issue 6c**



untrimmed proofs

**1864 Issue 8c**



**AUSTRIA**

Sperati made reproductions of the Mercury newspaper stamps in yellow, rose and vermilion. *Sperati I* mentions that some examples exist on genuine stamp paper with genuine cancels retained. The reproductions here are made entirely by Sperati and have forged cancels. He also made the 1858 journal tax stamps (shown is a painted tracing for use as forged cancel) .

**1851 Newspaper Stamps, 6kr Yellow and 30kr Rose**



**1856 Newspaper Stamp, 6kr Vermilion and cancel for 1858 Journal Stamps**



type II as original

type II exposure trials

painted tracing for a  
Rovertto cancel

## **BELGIAN CONGO**

Sperati made unused and used reproductions, in several different shades, of the 1891 issue 10f stamps. The paper, perforations and gum are genuine. All cancels are forged.

### **1891 Issue 10f**



working proof



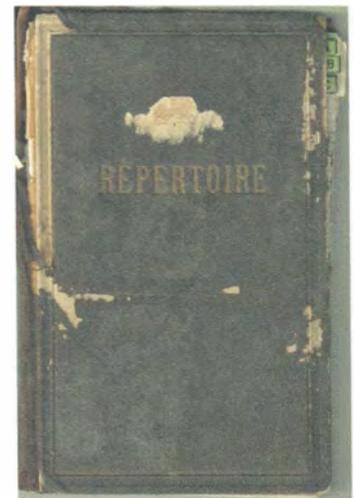
**BELGIUM**

Sperati made unused and used reproductions of the 1878-1881 issue 5f stamps. The type A reproduction exists in both yellow-brown and red-brown shades while type B exists only in yellow-brown. For his unused reproductions, the paper, perforations and gum are genuine. Used reproduction have genuine cancels retained.

**1878 - 1881 Issue 5f**



type A



clip from Sperati's "Repertoire" notebook, all type A reproductions, ex Sperati's daughter these are the only reproductions that remained in the bound book when it was found



type B

**BENIN**

**1892 Overprint Issue**

For Benin, Sperati added counterfeit overprints to genuine stamps. Sperati forged a rare variety of a handstamped overprint that made comparison with genuine difficult. These were first described in *Sperati II*. All of the known examples came from the Sperati archives.

All are the dropped "B" variety



black overprint on 1c (1 known), 4c (2 of 3 known) , 25c (1 known) and 5c postage due (1 known)



blue overprint on 5c (3 of 4 known)



proofs of overprints in black (1 known) and in blue (2 of 3 known)  
each is dated in pencil May 1943

**CUBA**

**1870 Issue 5c for Cuba & Puerto Rico**

Sperati made reproductions of the 5c in a single type. Genuine stamps were washed and a new design added. All cancels are forged.



with gum



covered cliché for cancel  
dated "1/44" and marked "Antilles Esp."

**1879 Issue 10c for Cuba**

*Sperati I* reports only a single example of a proof in color has been seen. The same is the case for the 10c 1878 issue which is lacking in this collection.



only reported as a proof

## **EASTERN ROUMELIA (Bulgaria)**

Sperati made proofs and unused reproductions of the 1884 issue 5 piastres stamp. *Sperati I* mentions that it was likely a very early reproduction as few copies had been seen in the previous twenty years. It was printed on genuine stamp paper of Turkey with design decolorized. Sperati use two cliches for this reproduction. The background cliché was also used for his Turkey 5pi.

### **1884 Issue 5pi**



this example is illustrated in *Sperati I* on plate 110



proof of background only in color

## ELOBEY, ANNOBON & CORISCO

### 1906 Issue 15c Surcharge Varieties

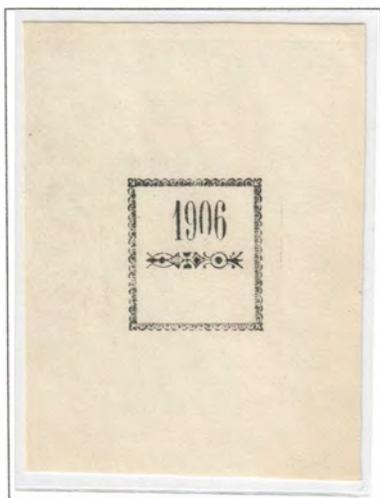
*Sperati I* reported a single example of the 15c on 3c, with backprint A,000,064 which is shown below. *Sperati II* expanded the record and reported the two proofs shown as well as additional denominations that are known only from negatives in the Paris Museum.



15c (weak impression) on 1c  
previously unreported on the 1c



15c (heavy impression) on 3c, backprints A,000,064 and A,000,140  
stamp at left is the BPA plate 85 example



type A (weak) overprint  
without denomination



type B (heavy) overprint with  
15c denomination

**FERNANDO PO**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1868 issue 20c of Fernando Po. The BPA *Sperati I* record of these reproductions was based on their having seen only a proof in color.

**1868 Issue 20c**



unused without gum, printed on genuine paper



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**FINLAND**

Sperati reproduced the 1867 issue 1m of Finland. The reproductions are printed on genuine paper that has been decolored. The original cancels and perforations have been retained.

**1867 Issue 1m**



## GREECE

*Sperati I* reports reproductions on genuine paper of the 1861 issue 1l with genuine cancels retained. However, all the examples seen bear forged numeral in dots cancels, 9, 18 or 32. His reproductions of the 1896 issue 5d and 10d are on genuine paper with forged cancels.

### 1861 Issue 1 lepta



### 1896 Olympic Games Issue 5d and 10d



10d color print with  
Sperati note dated 10/28

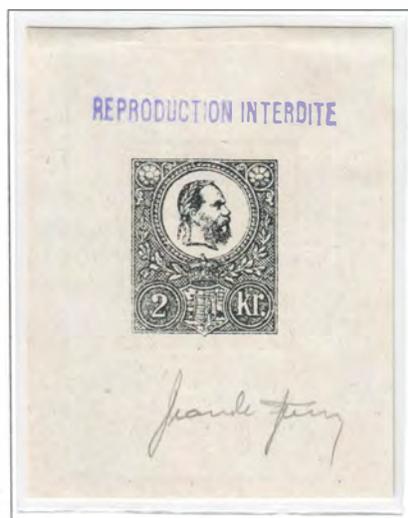


presentation format, ex Sperati's daughter

## HUNGARY

Sperati is known to have reproduced the 2kr, 3kr, 10kr and 15kr denominations of the 1871 lithographed issue of Hungary. He used genuine stamps with decolored designs and genuine cancels retained. The BPA *Sperati I* book did not include the 10kr value which was subsequently listed in *Sperati II* in 2001. Shown below, it has original gum that was retained.

### 1871 Lithographed Issue



2kr proof



the 2kr, 3kr and 15kr denominations with genuine cancels retained



10kr unused with original gum retained  
the only reported example of a 10kr, described in *Sperati II* and illustrated on plate D

## ICELAND

The BPA purchase from Sperati did not include any reproductions of Iceland stamps. The two different reproductions below were first reported by Carl Walske in *Sperati II* based on a very few examples sold by Sperati to Paul Freeland in 1956. They are on genuine crown watermarked and perforated stamp paper of Denmark that has been decolorized.

These are the earliest mentioned Sperati forgeries as a November 1909 note in *Revue Francaise des Collectionneurs* describes a visit by Sperati to a stamp dealer in Paris. Sperati is reported as offering forgeries of 1903 San Marino and of Iceland "16 yellow and 40 green" at a 75% reduction from catalog value.

### 1873 Issue 16 sk



unused, original gum, two known, ex Freeland

### 1876 Issue 40 aur



unused, original gum; unused without gum and with faint cancel  
three of the five known, all ex Freeland and Walske  
two stamps at right are illustrated in *Sperati II*, plate D

## ITALIAN POST OFFICES IN THE LEVANT

### 1874 Issue 20c

Sperati's reproduction of the overprinted 20c is a composite of a 20c stamp design and the "ESTERO" overprint. He used genuine, decolored stamp paper with original watermark and perforations.. Die proofs were reported in *Sperati I* and since then ten finished reproductions were found and are described more fully in *Sperati II*.



with gum  
ten known examples

## ITALY

No Italy reproductions were reported in *Sperati I*. However Carl Walske reported in *Sperati II* five new discoveries as shown. These are the 1863 issue 15c (two types), 1877 issue 10c, 1879 issue 30c, 1922 Semi-Postal "B.L.P." overprints and the 1924 State Agencies issue 5L.

### 1863 Issue 15c

These reproductions have genuine embossed heads and cancels retained when the stamps were washed. Sperati printed his new frames inverted to the genuine heads.



type A + type B se-tenant pairs of frames only  
both illustrated in *Sperati II*, Plate C



type A and type B  
ex Sperati archives

### 1877 Issue 10c



shades, unused with gum, both illustrated in *Sperati II*, Plate C



ex Sperati archives

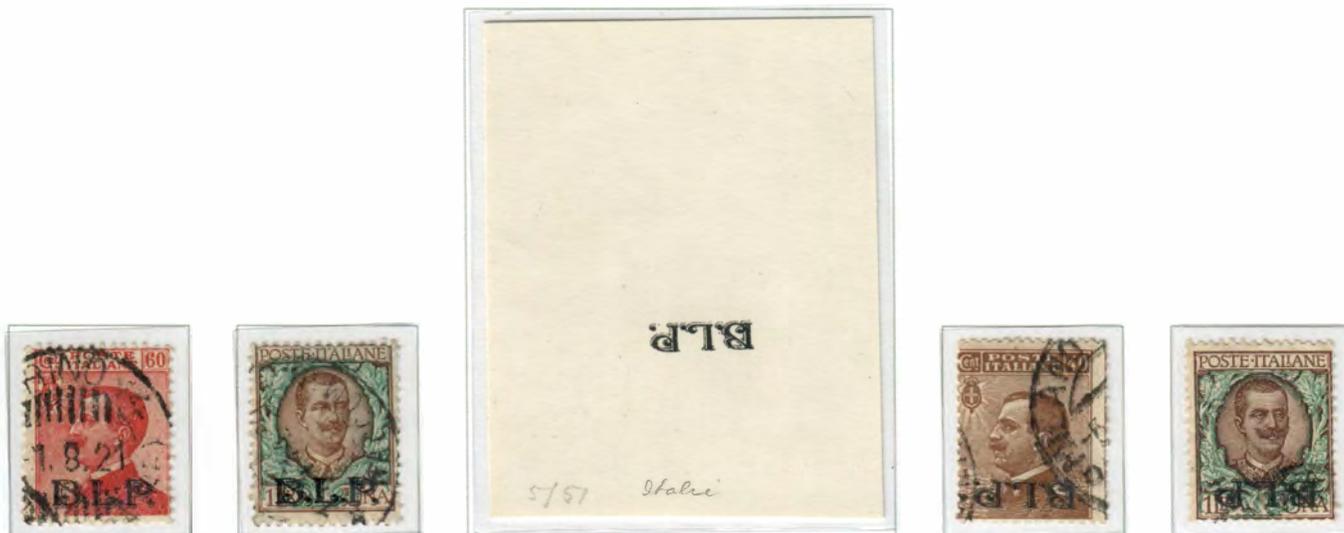
**ITALY**

**1879 Issue 30c**



unused shades, both illustrated in *Sperati II*, Plate C

**1922 Semi-Postal "B.L.P." overprints**



forged "B.L.P." semi-postal overprints, all cancels forged, Sperati proof dated May 1951  
all are in illustrated in *Sperati II*, Plate C

**1924 State Agencies Issue 5L**



working color proofs, 3 of the 4 known, ex Sperati archives  
example at right is illustrated in *Sperati II*, page 62

## LUXEMBOURG

### 1859 - 1860 Issue

Sperati made reproductions of the 1859 - 1860 issue 2c and 37½c. All cancels are forged, both canceled examples below have the same "30 AOUT 61" postmark.



2c



2c



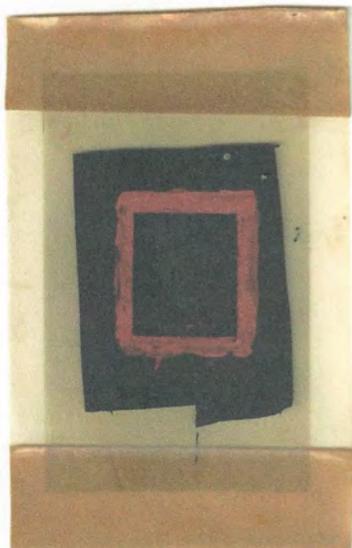
37½c  
gummed



37½c



Sperati's genuine typographed stamp model for his 37½c reproduction ex Sperati archives and expertised as genuine by Raymond Goebel



reverse with red paint  
reduced image



painted film negative (matrix)



enlarged backlit image

## **MARSHALL ISLANDS**

Carl Walske first described the two forged "Marshall Islands overprints in *Sperati II*. Two examples of 25pf and two examples of 50pf were examined. All have Sperati backstamps.

### **1898 Unissued 25pf and 50pf Overprints**



illustrated in *Sperati II*, Plate C

## **MONACO**

Sperati made reproductions on genuine paper of the 1885 issue 75c with forged cancels. In addition, as reported in *Sperati I*, page 15, an approval sheet of mostly forged stamps offered in 1909 by his brother Mariano included a Monaco 1885 issue 1fr.

### **1885 Issue 75c**



this example is illustrated in *Sperati I* on plate 112  
forged "6E / 9 OCT 86" cancel

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

The *Sperati I* book describes the 20r proof shown below, ex Robson Lowe, as the single proof that had been examined by the BPA. No finished reproductions are known but may exist.

### **1881 Unissued 20r**



## **PERSIA (Iran)**

Sperati made unused and proof reproductions of two Persia stamps. Neither of the genuine stamps were authorised for actual postal use. Sperati used genuine stamp paper for his unused reproductions.

### **1870 Issue 2s Green**



### **1876 Issue 2s Black**



## PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

*Sperati I* reported nine different reproductions of Philippine Islands stamps and *Sperati II* added another. There are reproductions of the 1854 issue 10c, 1855 issue 5c (two types), 1863 issue 1r (two types) and 2r, 1872 issue 16c, 1874 issue 1p25c, 1875-1879 issue 25m, 100m and 200m as well as the item first reported in *Sperati II*, the 1877 issue 2c.

### 1854 Issue 10c



exposure trial



from special presentation folder



finished reproductions

### 1855 Issue 5c



type A



type A



type B

type A, with and without gum



type B

**PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

**1863 Issue 1r and 2r**



1r type A



1r type B



2r

**1872 Issue 16c**



**PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**

**1874 issue 1p25c**



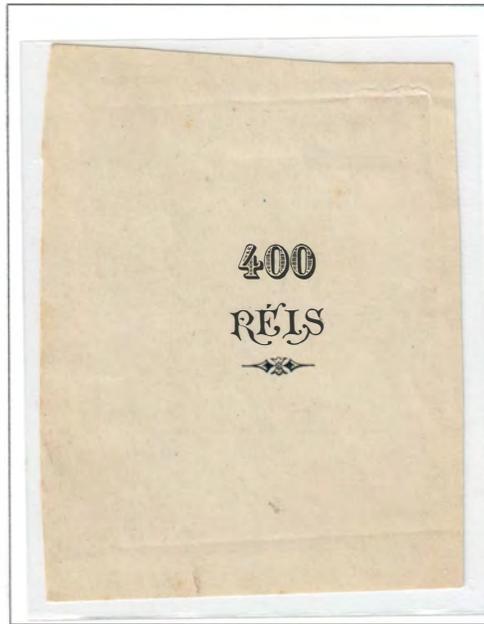
**1875-1879 issue 25m, 100m and 200m**



## **PORTUGUESE COLONIES**

Sperati forged the 400 reis surcharge used by several colonies in 1902. A single 25r overprinted stamp of Angola was reported in *Sperati II* as well as the proof shown below.

### **1902 400r Surcharge**



illustrated in *Sperati II*, Plate D

**PUERTO RICO**

**1890 Issue 4m, 6m, 8m, 40c, and 80c**

Sperati made reproductions of the 1890 issue 4m, 6m 8m, 40c and 80c. The collection does not have an example of the 40c. Paper and perforations are genuine.



4m



6m



8m  
with gum



80c  
with gum



80c



4m



8m

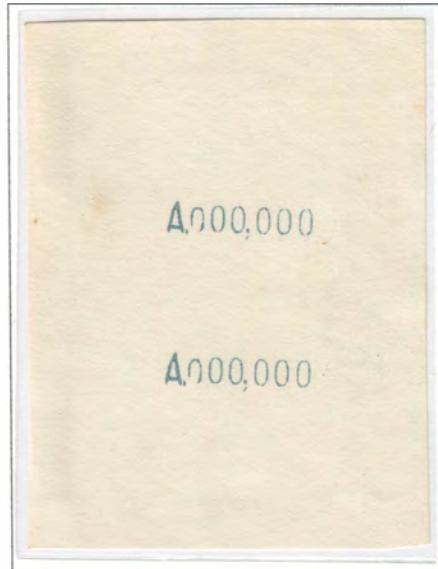
**RIO DE ORO**

**1907 Issue 4p + 3p (a pair)**

*Sperati I* reported only having seen a proof impressions of a single 4p+3p se-tenant pair in the blue green color of the 3p (a 4p cliché placed in a 3p plate) and proofs of three backprints.



4p error of color  
A,000,000 backprint



two trial prints of a single number  
rather than the two numbers (A,000,000 + A,000,010) used on a pair

## ROUMANIA

Sperati made reproductions of five of the early Roumania stamps. Everything about them was made by Sperati including the laid paper on 180p and 10b reproductions.

### 1858 Issue 108p



laid paper

### 1858 - 1859 Issue 5p and 80p



### 1871 - 1872 Issue 10b and 50b



laid paper  
BPA reports as  
a proof only

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## RUSSIAN LEVANT

Sperati made proofs and unused reproductions of the 1865 issue 2k stamp. One of these reproductions was certified as genuine by the BPA in 1931. The genuine model stamp was from position 18.

### 1865 R.O.P.I.T. Issue 2k



proof of inset tablets



composite proof

## WENDEN

Sperati made reproductions of the three 2k stamps of Wenden as issued in 1864, 1866 and 1871. According to BPA *Sperati I*, they have only been seen as proofs in color.

### 1865 Issue 2k



with "Copie" backstamp of Chambéry Court and Sperati signature  
ex Yvonne Sperati and Carl Walske

## SAN MARINO

Sperati's San Marino reproductions, advertised for sale by Oneglia before 1919, were previously thought to have been done his brother Mariano. *Sperati I* described two San Marino reproductions but Carl Walske identified a further eleven in *Sperati II*. The reproductions are: 1877 issue 40c\*; 1892 issue 65c\*; 1892 issue 1\*, 2\* and 5 lire\* plus 5c on 30c\*; 1903 issue 20c\*, 1, 2\*, and 5 lire; and the 1897 postage dues 1\*, 5\* and 10 lire\*. The new examples are noted with an asterisk. Most are fewer than three known.

### 1877 Issue 40c\*



shown *Sperati II*, plate D, one known

### 1892 Issue 65c\*



both shown *Sperati II*, plate D, four known

### 1903 Issue 20c\*, 1L and 5L\*



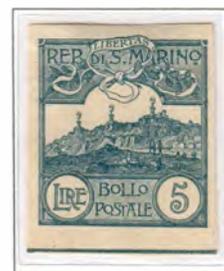
20c



1L



5L



5L proof

### 1897 Postage Dues Issue 1, 5\* and 10\* Lire



type A frames, 5L and 10L



type B frames, 1L and 10L  
both shown *Sperati II*, plate D



## SWEDEN

Sperati reproductions are known for the 1855 issue 3s green (2 types), 3s yellow error of color and 24s orange, the 1869 issue 17ø gray and the 1889 Official issue 10ø surcharge only for making inverted surcharge on 24ø. For his Sweden reproductions Sperati used genuine, common stamps including those with proper perforations, watermarks and correct cancels for the period. After applying protective coatings to the genuine cancel, he chemically treated the stamps to remove the design before printing his new design.



decolored genuine Sweden stamps with postmarks retained, ex Sperati archives with his note

### 1855 Issue 3s and 24s



3s type B shades



24s type A and type B



3s Orange Error of Color, only exists as type B

### 1869 Issue 17ø

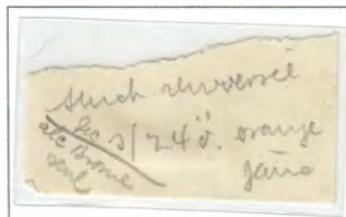


**SWEDEN**

**1889 Official Issue 10ø Surcharge**



decolored 10ø genuine Sweden Official stamps, used as models for the making the surcharge  
ex Sperati archives with his note shown below



Sperati's note indicating for use inverted on 24ø orange yellow



10ø proof in deep bluish-black, ex Sperati archives  
the only other reported example, reported in *Sperati I*, is in deep blue

## TURKEY

Sperati made reproductions of Turkey 1886 issue 5pa and 25pi; 1901 issue 50pi Internal, 25pi External and 50pi External; 1905 issue 50pi; 1908 issue 50pi and 1909 issue 50pi. These were made using decolored genuine stamps with original cancels retained.

### 1886 Issue 5pa and 25pi

These were made using two clichés, for proof of the background only, see Eastern Roumelia



5pa exists only as proof



25pi type A



25pi type B

### 1901 Issue 50pi Internal



### 1901 Issue 25pi and 50pi External



discovery finished reproductions  
reported in *Sperati II*, page 117

**TURKEY**

**1905 Issue 50pi**



**1908 Issue 50pi**



type A shades

type B

**1909 Issue 50pi**



the discovery finished reproductions  
reported in *Sperati II*, page 117

## The Making of Sperati Reproductions

This exhibit will illustrate and describe many of the ingenious techniques used by Jean De Sperati in manufacturing his stamp reproductions, or as he preferred, his "philatelic art." It is the story of how Sperati creating his art as well as his artifices.

Sperati was an exceptionally talented and prolific postage stamp forger. The British Philatelic Association (BPA) purchased his stock in 1953 and then published *The Work of Jean De Sperati* that described and illustrated 358 of his reproductions. In 2001, a second book, written by Robson Lowe and Carl Walske (*Sperati II*) was published by the Royal Philatelic Society that identified a further 102 reproductions.

Sperati wrote about his techniques in "La Technique" and although this exhibit uses information found in the English version of that work, it is focused primarily on the physical evidence. After his death in 1957, Sperati's daughter conveyed to Carl Walske much of his remaining production-related artifacts. Several of those items are incorporated in this exhibit including original unfinished items, working proofs, negatives, cancel tracings and celluloid clichés used to print the reproductions. Many of the items shown are not known outside of this collection.

In 1942 Sperati sent the approval sheet shown below to a stamp dealer in Portugal that was intercepted by French Customs. He was then prosecuted for exporting stamps of substantial value without declaring them. In his defense, Sperati claimed that they were all forgeries. When a French criminologist declared them to be genuine, Sperati produced an identical set of the stamps. He was finally acquitted of the smuggling charge by the court in Chambéry in 1948.



original sheet of forgeries that was confiscated in 1942, each item is marked "Copie" on back the five perforated stamps are printed on paper from which a genuine stamp design has been removed

## Decoloring Genuine Stamps

For his raw material Sperati often used genuine, common stamps with the desired features. These included the proper perforations, watermarks and correct cancels for the period. After applying protective coatings to the genuine cancel, and if needed, to the gum, Sperati chemically treated the stamps to remove the design before printing his new design.



Australia 1d raw stamps, ex Sperati stockbook



£2 finished reproductions



Sweden decolored stamps with postmarks retained



British decolored stamp retained "SPECIMEN" retained Crown CA watermark retained original gum retained perforations



Sweden finished reproductions, genuine cancels retained  
3s yellow error of color at right



Sperati note as 1854 paper and cancels, Spain decolored stamps with cancels retained



Spain 1854 issue finished reproductions with genuine paper and cancels

## Genuine Overprints Retained

In a reversal of the usual forged overprint applied to genuine stamps, Sperati was able to preserve the genuine overprints on stamps during his decoloring process. He then printed his reproduction stamp designs onto the stamps.



Ceylon genuine decolored stamps with cancels and different original surcharges retained  
Sperati replaced the washed design with his reproduction of Ceylon 4c



Ceylon genuine decolored stamps with cancels and 5c surcharges retained

Sperati replaced the washed design with his reproduction of Ceylon 24c

Ceylon 24c proofs, working proof is dated January 18, 1945



Gibraltar genuine decolored stamp with cancel and overprint retained  
Sperati replaced the washed design with his reproduction of Bermuda 1s  
proof of Bermuda 1s is dated June 21, 1915

### Contact Photo Lithography

The quality of Sperati's reproductions is in large part the result of his method of making his master negatives. It was from these masters, which he termed "matrices," that his celluloid printing clichés were made. Sperati's method entailed rendering transparent the genuine stamp model before using it to directly contact the film negative. After several additional steps, he was able to have a master negative from which his celluloid printing clichés could be produced. The prints were made on a small hand-cranked roller press.



Painted model position "ED"



backlit image →



positions "PI" and "JL"



positions "LK" and "KJ"

Sperati's Great Britain model for capturing corner lettering for an unreported position is above left. His master matrix used for making clichés for position "PI" is at center. The finished reproductions representing all the known positions are at right. These are decolored genuine stamps with cancels retained.



Saxony 1850 issue 3pf retouched cliché and two different final printing clichés

## Static Cancels

When Sperati could not find an unused stamp model, he resorted to the use of static cancels which were printed in a fixed position. When he photographed his used stamp model he used different gel filters. One was needed to highlight the cancel and another to subtract the cancel. To print, he used two clichés made from those images overlaid exactly so the cancel covered the design flaws.



Newfoundland exposure trials reducing cancel, stamp print with void, finished reproduction with cancel



Naples exposure trial with reduced cancel, proof of design with voids, finished reproduction



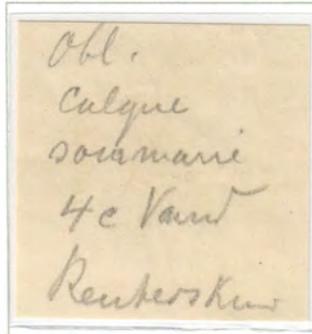
Saxony proof of design showing voids, proof of the removed cancel, finished reproduction

## Variable Cancels

Like his stamps, Sperati printed his cancels by contact photo-lithography. He first traced cancels he wanted to reproduce, painted over the pencil tracing with black ink, made the tracing paper transparent chemically and made a photograph. He reproduced his master negative to the celluloid clichés he needed for printing and was then able to print the cancel in various positions.



pencil tracing of rosette for 4c "Vaud" stamp and Sperati's filing note: "Reuterskiöld obl."



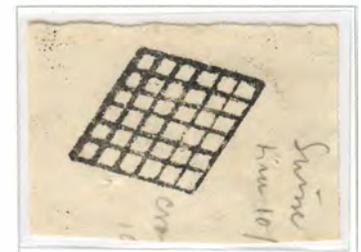
pencil tracing over-painted Buenos Aires reproduction



Geneva rosette cliché



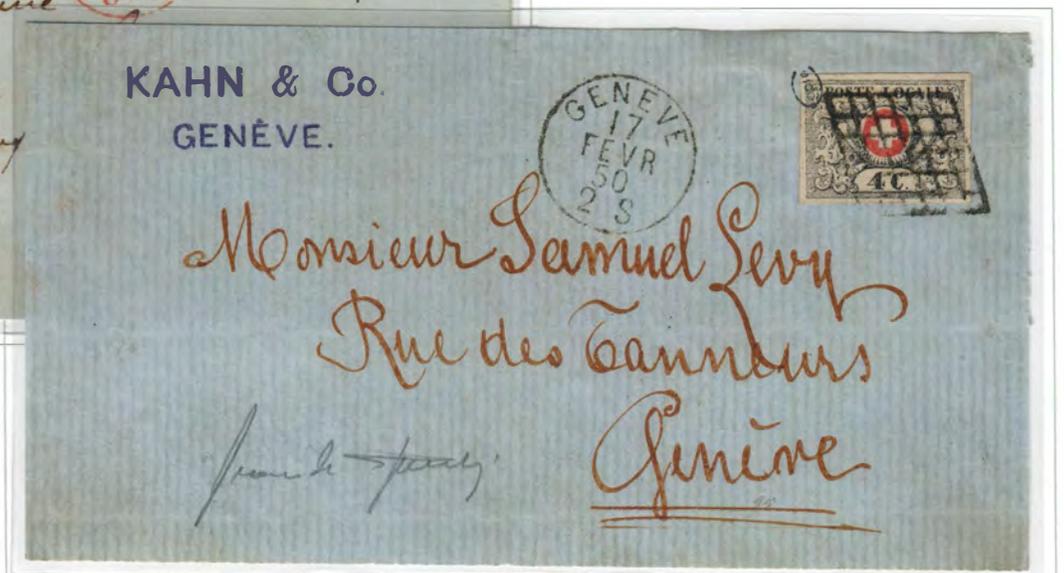
Naples "ANNULLATO" cliché reproduction with printed cancel



proofs of grid cancel



4c "Vaud" covers  
Geneva rosette and grid  
all markings on these were  
printed by Sperati



## Genuine Embossing Retained

Italy and States fakes made with crude embossed heads are common. Instead, Sperati made his reproductions by preserving the genuine embossed heads and cancels when he decolored the genuine stamps. He then printed his forged frames inverted to the genuine embossed heads.



Naples 2g frame color proofs and finished reproduction with original head and postmark retained



Sardinia frame color proofs for the 5c (in color of the 40c), 10c shades and 80c



Sardinia set of finished reproductions with inverted frames substituted for the genuine



Italy 15c frame pairs with minor differences and finished reproductions, one with part of second frame

### Genuine Embossing Retained

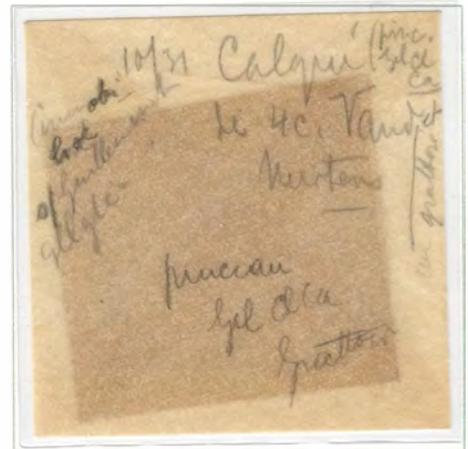
On the letters below all the markings are genuine. Sperati removed the original stamps and decolored them preserving the embossed heads and cancels. He then printed his forged frames onto the stamps, touched up the postmarks and replaced on the original letters.



Sperati reproductions of Sardinia 5c, 10c and 15c inverted frame varieties on original letters  
5c pair at top is made from his type A and type C frames se-tenant, postmarks are genuine

### Replacement Value Tablet

For his reproduction of the Poste Locale 4c stamp, Sperati employed the expedient solution of using a 5c Poste Locale model and replacing the value tablet. He replaced the 5c value tablet with a 4c tablet made from the tracing below. He also made a new background for the cross.



Sperati's 5c proof, ink tracing of 4c value tablet and protective encasements dated October 1931



reproductions of the 5c and the 4c, type A, derived from the same frame cliché but with new value tablet



4c exposure trial, composite proof and proof of red background only, all of a revised type, type B



4c finished reproductions, type B

## Key and Duty Clichés

Sperati employed the use of multiple clichés to produce several of his reproductions where a single main design was used for multiple denominations. This process mimicked the use of key plates for the main design and duty plates for the different value tablets by the original stamp printers. It also allowed subtle variations in placement.



Lagos set of finished reproductions



Lagos proofs of key cliché and of the three duty clichés with the different denominations



Lagos composite proofs, each printed from two clichés, the key cliché and a duty cliché

## Engraved Stamps

Sperati perfected a very convincing method to imitate engraved stamps. He used multiple exposures of his model onto a master negative using both sides of a glass plate. The reproductions, such as those below, give a very convincing perception of depth of line.



New York City 5¢ working proof, United States 1847 issue 10¢ working proof and unused examples



Brazil 1843 issue 60r proof and two finished reproductions with forged cancels



Argentina 1910 issue 10p and 20p finished reproductions

## Multiples

An effective stratagem employed by Sperati was to create multiples that appear to be from different plate positions. His multiples that used a single cliché are somewhat less deceptive.



Buenos Aires tête-bêche pair made from different clichés  
Switzerland pairs made from different clichés, one pair with and one without frame to cross



Switzerland strips made from type A-B-C clichés, with and without frame to cross



Bremen 5sg blocks from four different clichés, types B-C / D-E, right block split before cancels added



Bavaria tête-bêche reproductions made from a single cliché printed multiple times

## Forged Covers

Sperati was not satisfied making fake covers by simply replacing genuine stamps with reproductions. Instead, he made his covers and fragments with all, or most, of the markings printed and with his reproduction stamps. The forged trimmings often include sender cachets, origin and transit postmarks and even wax seals on the reverse.



Sperati added his France 1f tête-bêche pair forgery to this folded cover of his own making the cancels, sender's cachet, red "P.D" as well as all postmarks were his printed additions



Naples reproduction, forged cancel and sender's cachet



4c "Vaud" pair, forged cancels, part cachet and part postmark



City Despatch, forged cancel and part postmark

## Forged Overprints

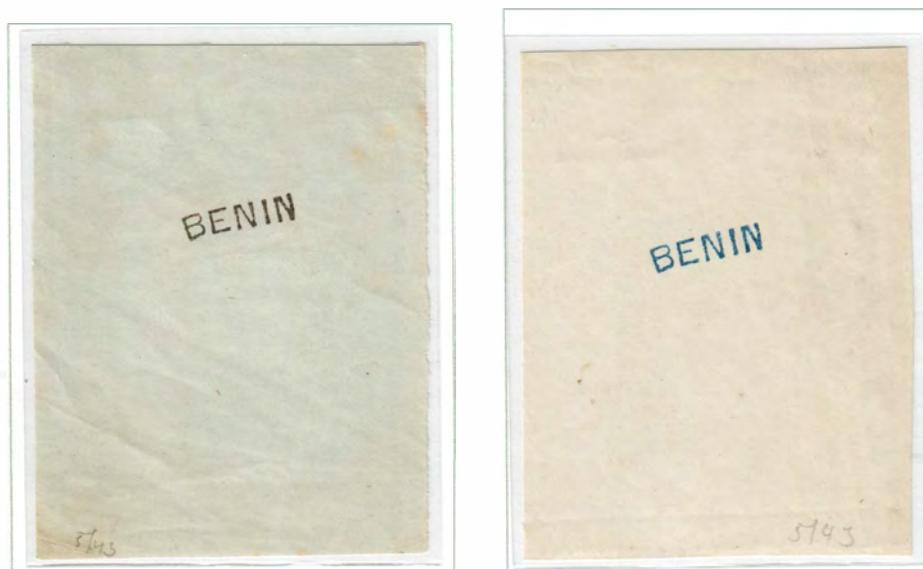
Although adding counterfeit overprints to genuine stamps was a common method employed by forgers, it was rarely used by Sperati. His technique superbly mimicked typographed overprints. The examples below were not recognized as forgeries until 2001. For Benin, Sperati forged a rare variety of a handstamped overprint that made comparison with genuine difficult. For Italy, he forged the typographed "B.L.P." semi-postal overprints including inverts.



Italy 1922 "B.L.P." semi-postal overprints with forged cancels, Sperati proof dated May 1951



Benin 1892 issue overprints, dropped "B" variety, four in black plus one in blue



proofs of Sperati "BENIN" overprints in black and in blue, dated May 1943



## Adapting a Model

When faced with the task of making an imperforate stamp when the only models available were perforated stamps, Sperati proceeded as usual with the perforated model and painted in the missing portions of the design frames to complete. A rarely used process.



British Columbia exposure trial showing perforations, imperforate reproduction



Canada trial exposure and proof on paper showing perforations, no reproduction is known

## Altering a Specimen Overprint

The Canada 12d stamp at bottom was made by Sperati as a custom, special order in 1953. It was made from a genuine 12d "SPECIMEN" overprinted stamp by removing the overprint. He also manipulated the paper so that it now has the correct vertical laid lines. The cancel is forged. This is the only known example and the only case of Sperati using this technique.



genuine Canada 12d plate proof pair on india paper with "SPECIMEN" overprint the impression of the genuine stamp is much more similar to the Sperati reproduction below



Canada 12d reproduction made by altering a genuine "SPECIMEN" overprinted stamp

## The Making of Sperati Reproductions

This exhibit will illustrate and describe many of the ingenious techniques used by Jean De Sperati in manufacturing his stamp reproductions, or as he preferred, his "philatelic art." It is the story of how Sperati creating his art as well as his artifices.

Sperati was an exceptionally talented and prolific postage stamp forger. The British Philatelic Association (BPA) purchased his stock in 1953 and then published *The Work of Jean De Sperati* that described and illustrated 358 of his reproductions. In 2001, a second book, written by Robson Lowe and Carl Walske (*Sperati II*) was published by the Royal Philatelic Society that identified a further 102 reproductions.

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original sheet of forgeries that was confiscated in 1942, each item is marked "Copie" on back the five perforated stamps are printed on paper from which a genuine stamp design has been removed

## Replica of 1942 Approval Sheet That Made Sperati Famous

In 1942 Sperati sent an approval sheet of his reproductions to a stamp dealer in Portugal that was intercepted by French Customs. He was then prosecuted for exporting stamps of substantial value without declaring them. Sperati claimed in his defense that they were all forgeries. When a French criminologist expert declared them all to be genuine, Sperati produced a duplicate set of the stamps as evidence that they were reproductions rather than genuine. He was finally acquitted of the smuggling charge by the court in Chambéry in 1948.

The case cemented Sperati's reputation as a master forger and gave him celebrity status in the philatelic community. He later sold replica approval sheets with the same reproductions as the original sheet.



One of Sperati's approval sheets that replicates the approval sheet confiscated by French customs in 1942 and figured in his trial at Chambéry. Unlike the original sheet, shown elsewhere in this collection, the stamps are not marked "Copie" by the court and are instead each signed by Sperati.