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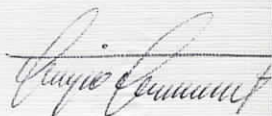
EASTERN RUMELIA, 1881.

I have examined the postage stamp issued for use in Eastern Rumelia, "**Empire**" 20 paras black, perforated 13 ½, typographed on medium white wove paper without watermark, showing the variety: **background colour (rose) omitted**, Scott Catalogue #12 variety; Yvert & Tellier Catalogue #9A variety; Isfila Catalogue #YP149 variety, used, with part of a mute barred blue cancellation, a colour reproduction of which is below, magnified to 125% of true size, and am of the opinion that:

The stamp submitted is **genuine**. I offer the following six comments.

- (1) The stamp submitted is in my opinion **not** a forgery.
- (2) Known proofs for this issue are imperforate and lack the background colour. The stamp submitted is perforated 13 ½, and is postally used. It is therefore not likely to be a proof.
- (3) The issued stamps are printed on fairly smooth white paper. The item submitted is printed on fairly rough paper, with yellowish or pale beige colour both in front and on reverse (coloured through). It **cannot** be considered a minor variant forming part of the issued set of stamps.
- (4) There are no analytical traces, or signs of there ever having being a background rose print. It is therefore probably **not** a chemical changeling, purposeful or accidental.
- (5) It is possibly a short-lived trial printing on poor quality paper, perhaps to be affixed to formular cards.
- (6) A stamp such as this has not, to my knowledge, been recorded in the standard or specialized literature on the stamps of Eastern Rumelia.

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See overleaf, please.

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