



# PHILATELIC OPINION

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### PHILATELIST

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#### DESCRIPTION

1841 1d red-brown Plate 11 lettered LA obliterated by a Whitehaven Special Maltese Cross in black.

#### OBSERVATIONS

**Note:** This opinion is based on digital images supplied, and thus no comment is made on the condition of the stamp. However, I believe a valid opinion on the obliteration can be made.

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen, and photographs of the registration sheets, confirm that the stamp is from Plate 11, which was registered on 27 January 1841. The distinctive shape of the Maltese Cross is consistent with those on dated covers, particularly one dated 28 June 1841: this shows a mark (presumably transient and caused by foreign matter in the obliterator) in the right-hand arm of the inner cross which is also present on the cross in question (see illustrations).

#### SOURCES

Charles Nissen, *The Plating of the Penny Black Postage Stamp of Great Britain 1840*, 1922.

S. David Rockoff & Mike Jackson, *Encyclopaedia of the Maltese Cross*, Vol. 2, 2008; Vol. 3, 2011.

Stanley Gibbons, *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue*, Vol. 1, 16th edn, 2011.

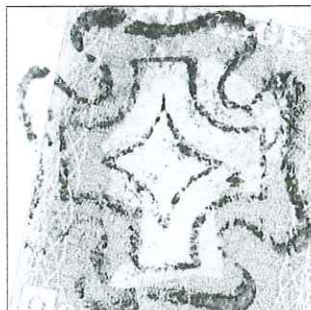
#### CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the stamp is an 1841 1d red-brown Plate 11 lettered LA obliterated by a Whitehaven Special Maltese Cross in black, and is genuine. SG Spec. AS74(var.)<sup>\*</sup>.

<sup>\*</sup> SG lists the Whitehaven Special cross only on the 1841 1d Red-brown from Plates 12 onwards (SG Spec. suffix 'tw'). However, examples of the 1840 1d Black and 1d Red-brown printed from the black plates obliterated by the Whitehaven Special are illustrated in Rockoff & Jackson.



*Digitally enhanced image of the cross in question.*



*Whitehaven, 28 June 1841.*

*Mike Jackson*

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