



PHILATELIC OPINION
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No. 0258

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ITEM DESCRIPTION

1841 2d Blue LD unused with gum.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions in the *Twopence Blue Plating Guide* indicate that the stamp is from Plate 4.

Examination under a microscope detected some minor soiling but I do not believe it to be the remains of an obliteration. Extensive 'channel splitting' of a high-resolution scan and examination under UV light revealed no signs of an obliteration. Examination of the gum under a microscope showed surface characteristics consistent with reference stamps. The thickness of the stamp measured with a micrometer at several points is 0.12 mm, which is normal for line-engraved stamps of this period. Diagonal marks on the reverse of the top-left and bottom-left corners suggest creases or repairs, although I could find no sign on the front of the stamp that the design has been affected. There is a faint vertical crease, possibly caused by the gum, through and beyond the 'E' of 'PENCE'.

SOURCES

Mike Jackson, *Twopence Blue Plating Guide*, 2010.

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

David Rockoff & Mike Jackson, 'Digital Image Enhancement', *Fakes Forgeries Experts* 16, 2013.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the stamp is an 1841 2d Blue LD Plate 4 unused with gum, and is genuine. SG Spec. ES14.

Mike Jackson

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