



PHILATELIC OPINION MIKE JACKSON PHILATELIST

No. 0253
September 2014

3 COTTESMORE AVENUE MELTON MOWBRAY LEICESTERSHIRE LE13 0HY ENGLAND
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ITEM SUBMITTED AS:

1841 1d red-brown RC obliterated by a Blue Maltese Cross.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparison with the registration sheets indicates that the stamp is from Plate 25, which was registered on 17 March 1842. The stamp appears to be from State 1: I can see no obvious signs of re-entry. The NE star has the broken top which is characteristic of most of the impressions on Plate 25; this break closely matches that of the RC impression on the registration sheet.

The Truro post office is the best-known for its use of blue cancelling ink during the Maltese Cross period. Rockoff & Jackson (Vol. 2, pp. 276-279) described the Truro cross as having a long eastern diamond point (when the cross is oriented with the narrow inner cross arm pointing north). (Not all impressions of Truro crosses have it; it depends on inking and striking.) The cross on the stamp in question has no obvious long eastern diamond point, although the general shape and colour of the cross is consistent with examples of Truro crosses on dated covers (see *illustrations*). (The blue colour of Truro crosses also varies, with some being brighter than the one in question.)

Rockoff & Jackson (pp. 453-456) recorded the use of blue Maltese Crosses at Truro from 24 Apr. 1841 to 28 Aug. 1843.

The stamp has a very small diagonal crease in the top-right corner.

SOURCES

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

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

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the item is an 1841 1d red-brown RC Plate 25 obliterated by a Blue Maltese Cross (possibly of Truro), and is genuine. SG Spec. BS14sc.

Mike Jackson

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ITEM SUBMITTED AS:

1841 1d red-brown LL obliterated by a Blue Maltese Cross.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparison with the registration sheets indicates that the stamp is from Plate 20, which was registered on 15 November 1841.

The Truro post office is the best-known for its use of blue cancelling ink during the Maltese Cross period. Rockoff & Jackson (Vol. 2, pp. 276-279) described the Truro cross as having a long eastern diamond point (when the cross is oriented with the narrow inner cross arm pointing north). The cross on the stamp in question is not only blue, but has a long eastern diamond point, and the general shape and colour of the cross is consistent with examples of Truro crosses on dated covers (see *illustrations*). (I believe that this is one of the few occasions when a non-Special cross can be reasonably reliably identified off cover.)

Rockoff & Jackson (Vol. 3, pp. 453-456) recorded the use of blue Maltese Crosses at Truro from 24 Apr. 1841 to 28 Aug. 1843.

SOURCES

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 item is an 1841 1d red-brown LL Plate 20 obliterated by a Blue Maltese Cross of Truro, and is genuine. SG Spec. BS9sc.

Mike Jackson

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