



PHILATELIC OPINION

MIKE JACKSON

PHILATELIST

No. 0363

January 2016

3 COTTESMORE AVENUE MELTON MOWBRAY LEICESTERSHIRE LE13 0HY ENGLAND
mike@mjpublishations.com

DESCRIPTION

1840 1d Black Plate 7 lettered TF on cover obliterated by 'Poulton/Penny Post' and a Magenta Maltese Cross.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen confirm that the stamp is from Plate 7.

The cover (a part wrapper) is addressed to Preston and would have been posted in Poulton where the stamp was obliterated by the 'Poulton/Penny Post' mark. Poulton had been a receiving office in the Preston Penny Post, and is known for the unorthodox use of its old Penny Post handstamp to obliterate stamps on letters before they were transferred to the Preston post office for obliteration by a Maltese Cross.

The datestamp is unclear but after careful analysis, and attention being given to the MS filing date on the front (there are no contents), I believe the date of the cover in question is 31 Dec. 1840. Rockoff & Jackson recorded covers from Preston bearing Maltese Crosses described as being in a shade of Magenta from 12 Dec. 1840 to the end of the red obliterating ink period (Feb. 1841). SG state that some of the best examples of Magenta shades are from Preston.

There are some interesting but unexplained small whitish marks on the Maltese Cross, possibly due to impurities in the obliterating ink.

SOURCES

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

G. F. Oxley, *The English Provincial Local Posts 1765-1840*, 1973.

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

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

Mike Jackson

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the stamp is an 1840 1d Black Plate 7 lettered TF (a large-margined example) on cover obliterated by 'Poulton/Penny Post' and a Magenta Maltese Cross, and is genuine. SG Spec. AS44vdyA.

MIKE JACKSON





Digitally enhanced image showing the Maltese Cross more clearly. (The small whitish marks in the Maltese Cross show up as white in this image.)

