



# PHILATELIC OPINION

## MIKE JACKSON

### PHILATELIST

No. 0394

December 2015

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

#### DESCRIPTION

1840 1d black lettered KE on cover obliterated by a Maltese Cross of Preston.

#### OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen indicate that the stamp is from Plate 6, showing vertical guide-lines in NE and 'E' squares. The right-hand frame-line is strong and the plate dot is present, indicating State 2 as described by Osborne. The impression shows signs of wear.

The cover was sent from Preston (6 Feb. 1841 c.d.s. in black, date confirmed by contents) to Blackburn.

Rockoff & Jackson listed Preston crosses (including this one) described as being in shades of magenta from late 1840 to Feb. 1841 (the end of the red Maltese Cross period). Grosvenor described the colour of the cross in question as 'pale pinkish red' which is a reasonable description but, for the purposes of classification according to the SG catalogue listing (which indicates that some of the best examples of magenta crosses are from Preston), a 'pale shade of magenta' seems appropriate.

The shape of the cross (*see illustration*) is that of a normal Common cross.

#### PROVENANCE

Spink, 7 Dec. 2007, Lot 1235 'magenta'.

Grosvenor Auctions, 11 Dec. 2009, Lot 2284 'pale pinkish red'.

#### SOURCES

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

H. Osborne, *Repaired Impressions*, 1949.

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

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

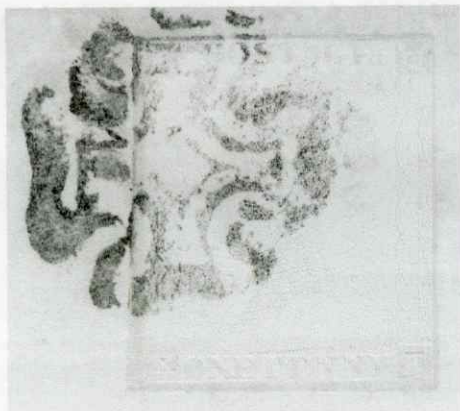
#### CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the cover bears an 1840 1d black Plate 6 lettered KE (State 2) on cover obliterated by a Maltese Cross of Preston in a Pale Magenta shade, and is genuine. SG Spec. AS42vd.

Mike Jackson

MIKE JACKSON





Digitally enhanced image to show  
the Maltese Cross more clearly.

*Proctor*  
6<sup>th</sup> February 1844

