



PHILATELIC OPINION

MIKE JACKSON

PHILATELIST

No. 0233

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

ITEM DESCRIPTION

1841 1d red-brown GF on cover obliterated by Perth Maltese Crosses and a four-pointed star.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparison with the registration sheets indicates that the stamp is from Plate 21, which was registered on 11 Dec. 1841.

The cover was sent from Stanley ("STANLEY/PENNY POST") to Perth (datestamps 1 Apr. 1843). (Stanley was a receiving office in the Perth Penny Post.) Auckland & Stables record the use of the Stanley Penny Post mark from 1838 to 17 Jan. 1843 (the cover in question extending that range by about two-and-a-half months). As well as being obliterated by Perth Maltese Crosses, the 1d red-brown bears a four-pointed star in a grey ink that matches the Stanley Penny Post mark. This star has been described as an 'inspector's mark', but that may not be the case. Another piece (undated) with a Stanley Penny Post mark also shows the four-pointed star on the adhesive (*see illustration*), again in ink which appears to match the Penny Post mark. This suggests that the stars were applied at the Stanley receiving office. (An off-cover 1d red-brown described as being from Plate 19 and obliterated with a Maltese Cross and bearing a similar mark was sold by Robson Lowe in 1962 (*see illustration*).)

PROVENANCE

Illustrated in Danzig & Goldsmith (p. 68) where the star was described as an 'inspector's mark'.

SOURCES

Bruce Auckland & Geoff Oxley, *Penny Posts of Scotland*, 1978.

Robert Danzig & David Goldsmith, *The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red*, 1991.

Bruce Auckland & Ron Stables, *Postal Markings of Scotland to 1840*, 1995

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

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

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the cover bears an 1841 1d red-brown GF Plate 21 obliterated by Black Perth Maltese Crosses, and a four-pointed star associated with the Stanley receiving office, and is genuine.
SG Spec. BS10 (var.).

MIKE JACKSON

Mike Jackson



A digitally-enhanced image to show the star mark slightly more clearly.

