



# PHILATELIC OPINION

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### PHILATELIST

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#### DESCRIPTION

1840 1d Mulready envelope Stereo A150 uprated with a 1d Black lettered GH.

#### OBSERVATIONS

The Mulready envelope was sent from Yealmpton (u.d.c.) to Exeter (c.d.s. 2 Aug. 1840) bearing a 1d Black adhesive tied by a red Maltese Cross. The Mulready itself is not separately obliterated. Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen indicate that the stamp is from Plate 2.

**Did Yealmpton have a Maltese Cross?** In the 1838 Select Committee report, Yealmpton (about eight miles east of Plymouth) was listed as only a Penny Post. Yealmpton was issued with its u.d.c. (as seen on this Mulready) on 19 Nov. 1827, a mark typical of a Penny Post or receiving office. However, Yealmpton was issued with a c.d.s. on 4 Aug. 1841, a datestamp usually indicating a Sub-Post Town or a Post Town, both of which I believe obliterated stamps. At this time, the Post Office was only gradually replacing undated stamps with dated ones. Furthermore, Yealmpton was allocated the Numeral 928 obliterator in 1844, demonstrating that by then it was certainly obliterating stamps. Hake believed Yealmpton was obliterating stamps in 1840 and recorded the use of a Maltese Cross by Yealmpton from 9 Nov. 1840. Thus, I believe it most probable that Yealmpton had become at least a Sub-Post Town by 1840 and had its own Maltese Cross obliterator.

There are slightly paler areas on the Mulready surrounding the stamp which are more apparent when viewed under UV, in backlit white light, and in various digitally enhanced images. However, after examining the stamp and obliteration at high magnification, the character of the ink on the stamp and on the cover match, and I believe the stamp belongs to the cover. This view is supported by the fact that the Mulready has not been obliterated separately, suggesting that the clerk believed that obliterating the adhesive was sufficient.

#### SOURCES

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

Edward B. Proud (ed.), *Postmarks of the Date Impression Books, Post Office Records, 1979-1984.*

Ron Hake, *Postal Markings of Devon, 1997.*

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

#### CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the item is an 1840 1d Mulready envelope Stereo A150 uprated with a 1d Black Plate 2 lettered GH, and is genuine. SG Spec. ME2 used with AS15.

Mike Jackson

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