



PHILATELIC OPINION
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ITEM DESCRIPTION

1840 1d black MJ on cover obliterated by a Maltese Cross and a Red London Tombstone.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen indicate that the stamp is from Plate 4.

The cover was sent from Brighton (c.d.s. 2[6?] July 1840) to London. The stamp is obliterated by a Maltese Cross in a mixture of red and black inks, and a Red London Inland Office morning duty Paid Tombstone dated 27 July 1840. The relatively light impression of the cross or the mixture of inks possibly prompted the London clerk to place his Tombstone over the stamp. The cover also shows a Brighton Type 'd' Uniform Penny Post mark in red.

PROVENANCE

Robson Lowe, 12 Oct. 1965, Lot 132 *'with Maltese Cross which has been wrongly struck on red and black inking pads'*.

SOURCES

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

Steve Walker, *Uniform Penny Post: Handstruck Paid Postage Stamps of England and Wales 1840-1853, 2013.*

S. David Rockoff & Mike Jackson, *Encyclopaedia of the Maltese Cross*, Vol. 1, 2006.

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

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the cover bears an 1840 1d Black MJ Plate 4 obliterated by a Maltese Cross in mixed Red and Black inks and a Red London Paid Tombstone, and is genuine. SG Spec. AS23(var.).



Brighton c.d.s. on back of cover.

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