



PHILATELIC OPINION  
**MIKE JACKSON**  
 PHILATELIST

No. 0392

December 2015

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

**DESCRIPTION**

1840 1d black lettered QB on cover obliterated by a Maltese Cross of Inverness.

**OBSERVATIONS**

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen indicate that the stamp is from Plate 1a (it is believed that printing from the repaired Plate 1b did not begin until three days after this cover was posted). The right side of the stamp appears to have an unusual printing variety, a doubling or thickening of the impression.

The cover was sent from Inverness (5 June 1840 c.d.s.) to Cromarty.

The colour of a sample of the cross is close to *Methuen* 7C5 'brownish orange', which is how it appears to the naked eye. Under a microscope, the ink appears as a scattering of particles of pigment (many of which appear red) in a light brownish oil (see illustration). The Inverness c.d.s. is in matching ink.

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

**SOURCES**

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

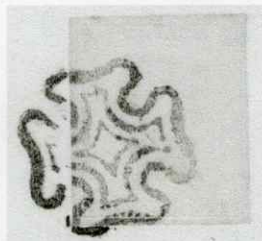
Kornerup & Wanscher, *Methuen Handbook of Colour*, 3rd edn, 1978.

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 1a lettered QB obliterated by a **Brownish Orange Maltese Cross of Inverness**, and is genuine. SG Spec. AS2(var.).



*Digitally enhanced image to show the Maltese Cross more clearly.*

*Mike Jackson*

MIKE JACKSON

