



# PHILATELIC OPINION

## MIKE JACKSON

### PHILATELIST

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

#### DESCRIPTION

1840 1d Black Plate 8 lettered DK on cover obliterated by a red Maltese Cross and 'Totton/Penny Post'.

#### OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen confirm that the stamp is from Plate 8 which was put to press on 31 July 1840 (SG gives 3 July in error). The stamp shows the vertical guide-line in NE square and the 'O' flaw, both as shown in Nissen; it is in State 1 of this lettering, State 2 having no 'O' flaw. The stamp is obliterated by a brownish red Maltese Cross and clearly tied to the cover by a 'Totton/Penny Post' two-line handstamp. (An 1841 1d Red-brown on small piece obliterated solely by the Totton Penny Post mark was offered by Scotia Philately in Dec. 2008.) According to Oxley, Totton had been in the Southampton Penny Post under Fawley, and Fawley was the office which used the 'SOUTHAMPTON/FE7 1841/PY. POST' handstamp. So, the letter was posted in Totton, taken to Fawley and then, presumably, to Southampton where the adhesive was obliterated and the letter sent on to London ('N/8 FE 8/1841' c.d.s. — according to Alcock & Holland, this mark is believed to have been used on incoming London mail brought by rail during the day).

#### SOURCES

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

R. C. Alcock & F. C. Holland, *The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland*, 1940.

G. F. Oxley, *The English Provincial Local Posts 1765–1840*, 1973.

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

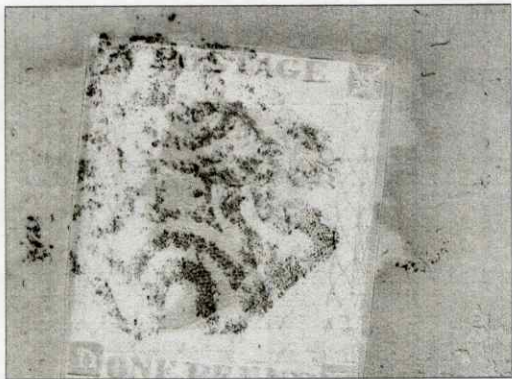
#### CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the item is an 1840 1d Black Plate 8 lettered DK on cover obliterated by a red Maltese Cross and 'Totton/Penny Post', and is genuine. SG Spec. AS46ya.

Mike Jackson

MIKE JACKSON





*Digitally enhanced image showing the shape of the Maltese Cross obliteration more clearly.*

