



PHILATELIC OPINION
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DESCRIPTION

1840 2d Blues lettered LF and TG on entire letter.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions in the *Twopence Blue Plating Guide* indicate that both stamps are from Plate 1. The cover was sent from London (Lombard Street branch office d.s. 4 Aug. 1840) to Bewdley. The letter is dated '4 Aug. 1840' and mentions an enclosure of ten share certificates which would account for the extra weight indicated by the 4d postal rate (which paid for one to two ounces).

Although, unusually, the two stamps are of noticeably different shades, examination in visible light, ultraviolet and infrared light revealed nothing to suggest they don't both belong to the letter. Both stamps are tied by red Maltese Crosses, and in my opinion their shapes, inking and orientation are consistent with them having been made by the same obliterator.

SOURCES

Mike Jackson, *Twopence Blue Plating Guide*, 2010.

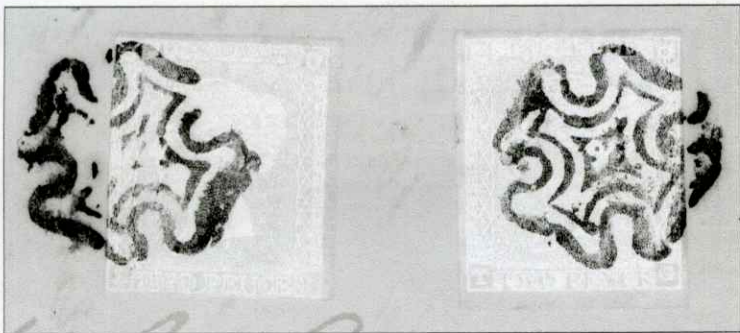
Stanley Gibbons, *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue*, Vol. 1, 16th edn, 2011.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the item is an entire letter bearing an 1840 2d Blue Plate 1 lettered LF and an 1840 2d Pale blue Plate 1 lettered TG, both obliterated by red Maltese Crosses, and is genuine. SG Spec. DS5 and DS6.

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Digitally enhanced image showing the shapes of the Maltese Cross obliterations more clearly.

