



PHILATELIC OPINION
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No. 0202

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ITEM DESCRIPTION

1840 1d Mulready Letter Sheet obliterated by a Saltcoats Datestamp, uprated with an 1840 2d Blue.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions in the *Twopence Blue Plating Guide* indicate that the 2d blue is from Plate 1.

The Mulready (stereo number obscured by the seal) was sent from Saltcoats (25 Aug. 1840 d.s.) to London (27 Aug. 1840 Inland Office morning duty c.d.s.) and is obliterated by a Saltcoats rectangular datestamp in a red ink which matches that of the Maltese Cross obliterating the 2d blue. (The correct obliteration for the Mulready was a Maltese Cross.) The cross just ties the stamp to the Mulready on the left side. The consistency of the ink was such that both the datestamp and cross show a double-lined effect to some degree, and in my opinion this is compelling evidence that the stamp belongs to the cover. To make up a 4d rate, there is a pale MS '1' on the left of the front of the Mulready (which is slightly discoloured at top right).

PROVENANCE

Robson Lowe, 14 May 1974, Lot 1022.

SOURCES

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

S. David Rockoff & Mike Jackson, *Encyclopaedia of the Maltese Cross*, Vol. 3, 2011 (illus. on p. 546).

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

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the 1d Mulready Letter Sheet is obliterated by a Saltcoats Rectangular Datestamp in red and uprated with an 1840 2d Blue obliterated by a Maltese Cross in the same ink, and is genuine. SG Spec. ME1 and ES11.

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