



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 1b lettered QB on Cover obliterated by a Magenta Maltese Cross of Preston.

OBSERVATIONS

Comparisons with the letter positions and descriptions in Nissen confirm that the stamp is from Plate 1b. The stamp shows the strong 'Q' and 'side line of N.E. square thin' as described in Nissen. The cover was sent from Preston ('Preston 19 Decr 1840' dateline of letter; 'PRESTON/DE 19/1840' c.d.s.' to Manchester. A calibrated high-resolution scan* reveals that the Maltese Cross obliteration is a very light impression in a shade of Magenta, and ties the stamp to the cover on the left-hand side. Rockoff & Jackson recorded covers from Preston bearing Maltese Crosses described as being in a shade of Magenta from 12 Dec. 1840 to the end of the red obliterating ink period (Feb. 1841). SG states that some of the best examples of Magenta shades are from Preston.

* Scan from an Epson Perfection V600 Photo scanner using VueScan software calibrated with an IT8 reflection target from Wolf Faust in Germany.

SOURCES

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

S. David Rockoff & Mike Jackson, *Encyclopaedia of the Maltese Cross*, Vol. 3, 2011.

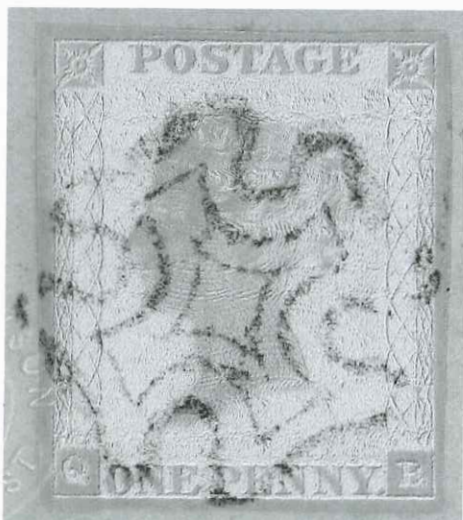
Stanley Gibbons, *Great Britain Specialised Catalogue*, Vol. 1 Part 1, 1st edn, 2020.

CONCLUSION

In my opinion, the stamp is an 1840 1d Black Plate 1b lettered QB on Cover obliterated by a Magenta Maltese Cross of Preston, and is genuine. SG Spec. AS5vd.

Mike Jackson

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Digitally enhanced image showing the shape of the Maltese Cross.