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NO. 7.



**A POSTAGE STAMP
DICTIONARY**

DEFINING

ALL PHILATELIC TERMS.



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NO. 1

A POSTAGE STAMP
DICTIONARY



ALL THE TERMS

A STAMP DICTIONARY,

DEFINING ALL TERMS USED AMONG PHILATELISTS.
("adj." is for "adjective;" and "v. pp." for "verb, past participle.")

—A—

Adhesive. Any stamp that can be glued to an envelope. It may or may not contain a coating of gum on the back.

Advanced collector. (1) A collector of many varieties of postage stamps, or (2) A collector who makes an intelligent study of certain varieties.

Agriculture. An official stamp formerly used by the Agricultural department of the U. S.

Albino. A stamp devoid of color, exhibiting but a faint impress of the plate from which it was engraved.

—B—

Batonne. A kind of paper in which almost transparent lines may be discerned by holding to the light. These lines, however, are farther apart than in ordinary laid paper, and may be used as guide lines in writing. Between these lines the texture of the paper may be either wove or laid. It is called "foreign note paper" by the English. Also see Laid paper.

Bisected stamp. See Split stamp.

Block. Four stamps cut from the same sheet, so placed as to resemble a square, and left undetached from one another.

Bogus stamps. Either (1) counterfeits, or (2) stamps which were never intended for postal

use. See counterfeits.

British Colonials. Stamps used in any part of the colonies belonging to Great Britain. Example, stamps of Victoria.



C. A. A watermark on British stamps standing for "Crown Agents."

Cancellation. A mark made on a stamp by the postmaster. See cancelled.

Cancelled. (v. pp.) Smearred with ink. Stamps effaced by the postmaster, either with pen and ink, or with an inked stamp, to show they have been used, are said to be cancelled.

Carlist stamps. Spanish stamps issued by the revolutionary followers of Don Carlos.

Carton paper. Extremely thick paper.

C. C. A watermark on British stamps which stands for "Crown Colony."

Colonials. Stamps used in the colonies controlled by any nation. Thus the stamps of Victoria are called British Colonials.

Colored paper. The paper on which a stamp is sometimes printed. In catalogues "black on pink," for an example, means a stamp is printed in black ink, on pink instead of white paper, etc.

Compound Perforation. Where the perforation on two opposite sides of a stamp varies in size from that on the other two sides.

Continental. Stamps from Europe. A term



more commonly used to express the cheaper varieties.

Copper Engraving. A stamp engraved from a copper plate on which the reverse design was previously scratched. The process of printing is the same as that from a steel plate. See stamps of Mauritius 1847.

Counterfeits. Imitations of genuine stamps.

Out-square (adj.) Envelope stamps are frequently cut away from the envelope. When this is done the stamp should be cut out square, not round, and a margin left around all sides of it.

—D—

Dentated Perforation. Pointed perforation.

Department Stamps. Stamps used by government departments and not by the public in general. U. S. Treasury department stamps, for example, were once placed upon all official letters sent out by members of the Treasury department. The same with the State, Executive, etc., departments.

Departmentals. Department stamps, which see.

Dextrine. A mucilaginous powder made from starch. It is applied to the back of many stamps to make them stick, and take the place of Gum Arabic which is much more expensive.

Die. An engraved plate from which stamps can be printed.

Double impression. A stamp printed, by mistake, on both sides. See some of the stamps of Persia for 1877.

Double perforation. Two rows of perforation

along any one side of a stamp.

Due stamp. A stamp indicating that sufficient postage has not been paid on a letter to ensure its delivery.

Duplicate. A stamp like some other stamp.

—E—

Embossed. (v. pp.) The raised parts of a stamp.

U. S. Envelopes are embossed.

Entires mean entire envelope stamps before they are cut from the surrounding envelope.

Error. A stamp incompletely made. The error is usually in the color, a wrong color being used by mistake in the printing.

Essay. An artist's design for a new stamp.

Executive. An official stamp formerly used by the Executive department of the U. S.

—F—

Fac-simile. A mere representation of a genuine stamp.

Fiscals. Revenue stamps.

Forgery. A counterfeit.

Frame. Lines around the outside of a stamp or around some portion of the interior.

—G—

Gold beater's skin. A kind of tough transparent paper of soluble gelatine. See 10 and 30 s. g. of Prussia, 1866.

Government counterfeit. A stamp printed by the government from a new plate made to imitate an old one now destroyed. See stamps of

the United States, 1847 issue, improperly called reprints.

Government reprint. A stamp printed by the government from an old plate no longer in use.

Granite paper. A silk paper in which the fibres of silk are so small they can scarcely be seen with the naked eye. Also called "Silurian paper."

Grill. An emboss, consisting of rows of raised points covering some portion of a stamp. By running the finger over these points they feel rough to the touch. See stamps of the U. S. for 1869.

Groundwork. The background of the design on a stamp.

Gum. Dextrine, gum arabic, gum senegal, etc. Used on envelopes and the back of stamps to make them stick.

—H—

Heraldic emblem. The mark of family distinction found on coats of arms etc. See flowers on Newfoundland stamps previous to 1866.

—I—

Imperforate (adj.) Not perforated.

Imperforated (v. pp.), not perforated. Stamps that cannot be separated, one from another, except by being cut apart. See perforated.

Interior. An official stamp formerly used by the Interior dept. of the U. S.

vory block. An engraving on ivory from which

stamps may be printed. Many of the native Indian stamps are printed from ivory.

—J—

Justice. An official stamp formerly used by the U. S. department of Justice.

—K—

Knife means the shape or cut of an envelope, band etc. The knife is a steel punch used for cutting out the shape of an envelope.

—L—

Laid paper. Paper containing parallel lines which run through its grain. They can be detected by holding the paper to the light. Paper may be vertically or horizontally laid according as the lines run up and down or from left to right. See the U. S. envelopes.

Lathe work. Curved lines overlapping one another and radiating from common centres. See Mexico 1878, 25c blue.

Lined ground. The designed background of a stamp when composed of lines, instead of solid masses.

Lithographed. (v. pp.) Printed from stone. The lines of a lithographed stamp are less sharp and perfect than those of an engraved stamp.

Local. A stamp issued by some private despatch and used only in a small district.

—8—



—M—

Manila paper. Ordinary wrapping paper. It is usually coarse and used largely for newspaper bands or wrappers.

Mince paper. A thin and rather brittle paper which was used in the first issue of Turkish stamps, etc.

Municipal stamp. A stamp to be used only within a certain city.

—N—

Native paper. Paper made in a crude fashion by the inhabitants of certain countries, such as India, etc.

Navy. An official stamp formerly used by the U. S. Navy department.

Newspaper stamps. Stamps for carrying newspapers. They are usually printed upon newspaper bands, but are sometimes adhesives.

—O—

Oblong stamp. A stamp wider than it is long.



Obsolete. (adj.) Old stamps no longer in use.

Ochre. An orange color shading a little on the brown.

Oddity. A stamp improperly made owing to some mistake in its manufacture.

Office cancellation. A cancellation in which is included the name of the post-office.

Official reprint. See Government reprint.

Official Seal. A label used by the postmaster to seal up letters and packages received in a mutilated condition.

Officials. See official stamps.

Official stamps. Stamps used on letters etc. by government officials and not by the general public.

O. G. Original gum, which see.

Old paper. A paper having an old appearance, upon which revenue stamps are sometimes printed. See many of the U. S. match stamps.

Original gum. The first coating of glue that has been washed over the back of a stamp. Damaged stamps are sometimes covered with a second coating of glue.

Originals. Genuine stamps intended for postal use.

—P—

Papier moire. A paper on which wavy lines have been printed. See the backs of Spanish stamps of 1875.

- Part perforated.** (adj.) Not perforated on all four sides.
- Pelure paper.** A paper of thin, tough fibre, almost transparent. It may be either wove or laid.
- Pen cancellation.** A cancellation done with a pen instead of a cancelling stamp. See early issues.
- Perce en arc.** See Scalloped Perforation.
- Perce en pointe.** See Pointed Perforation.
- Perce en scie.** See Saw tooth Perforation.
- Perforation.** The holes punched around stamps to aid one in separating them one from another. Stamps are often classified by the size of their perforations. "Perforated 13" means there are thirteen holes to every two centimeters of length. "Perforated 14," means 14, and so on.
- Perforation gauge.** A scale giving the number of perforations to every two centimeters (20 millimeters) of paper.
- Philatelic.** (adj.) (Pronounced Fil-a-tel-ik with accent on next to last syllable.) Belonging to Philately, which see.
- Philatetical.** (adj.) Belonging to philately, which see.
- Philatelist** (pronounced Fil-lat-e-list with accent on second syllable). (1) An advanced collector of postage stamps. (2) One who studies and classifies the various postal issues.
- Philately** (pronounced Fi-lat-e-li with accent on second syllable). The word is derived from the Greek PHILOS, loving, and ΑΤΚΛΟΣ, prepaid, and

means (1) stamp collecting; (2) the intelligent study and arrangement of stamps. Philately is considered a science by many collectors, just as much as the study and classification of insects, minerals, flowers, etc.

Pin perforation. Small holes pricked, as with a pin, around a stamp to aid in separating it from the sheet. This is more properly a roulette than a perforation since none of the paper is removed during the process of manufacture as is the case in perforating.

Plain-wove paper. Wove paper unwatermarked. See wove paper.

Plate. The solid metal form from which sheets of stamps are printed.

Plate number. On the margin of a sheet of stamps is often found a number to designate the plate from which the stamps have been printed. These numbers, when attached to an adjoining stamp, are preserved by some collectors. Certain English stamps have the plate numbers inside the design.

Plimpton issue. An issue of U. S. envelopes, manufactured for the government by the Plimpton Manufacturing Co., from poorly-engraved plates made to imitate the well-executed designs of the Reay issue.

Pneumatic envelopes. Envelopes used in France, Austria, etc., for the pneumatic tube service.

Pointed perforations. A zigzag perforation also called "Perce en Pointe." It resembles the

teeth of a saw, and the perforation on one stamp exactly fits into the perforation on the adjoining stamp.

Postal issue. An issue of postage stamps, post cards, or stamped envelopes.

Postal-note. A note payable to bearer issued by the postmaster for a certain sum of money.

Postal-packet stamp. A stamp used to prepay postage on packages sent by railroad under the supervision of the postal authorities.

Postal Union. A union of the postal authorities of many nations to regulate the transmission of foreign mail between one country and another.

Postmark. A mark affixed to a letter by the postmaster, giving the date when a letter was received at the post office, name of the office, etc.

Postage. Money paid for the conveyance of letters, papers, etc.

Postmaster. The head officer of a post office.

Post-Office. (1) An official stamp formerly used by the U. S. Post-Office department for official business. (2) An office where letters are received and delivered.

Post-paid (adj.) Having the postage paid.

Proof. A trial impression from a new stamp die.

Proofs are usually printed on India paper or cardboard, in odd colors.

Proprietary stamps. Stamps used for prepaying revenue on matches or medicine.

Provincial stamps. Stamps used in a single province.

Provisional stamps. Stamps used for a limited time only. They are used to supply the public with stamps after a regular issue has become exhausted, and before a new supply can be procured. Provisional stamps are usually made by surcharging seldom-used postage or revenue stamps of some higher value.

P. U. Postal Union, which see.

Punched stamps. The stamps of Spain which have been used to prepay telegrams. They have, punched through them, a round hole about one-eighth of an inch in diameter.

—Q—

Quadrille paper. Paper in which squares or rectangles are formed by the intersection of lines in the watermark.

—R—

Reay issue. An issue of U. S. envelopes manufactured for the government from finely-engraved plates by G. H. Reay. They were issued from 1870 to 1874.

Rectangular stamp. Any stamp higher than it is wide.

Re-engraved, (v.pp.) means that an old design is engraved again on new plates.

Registration. The act of paying additional postage to ensure the safe delivery of a letter, etc.

Remainder. An old stamp remaining in the post office after a new issue has come into use.

—14—

Reprint. A stamp printed from old, authentic plates no longer in use. Reprints are not counterfeits for the latter are printed from new plates made merely to imitate the old ones.

Re-touched (v. pp.) means that the plate from which a stamp is printed, having become worn by use, is touched up by the carving tool to again make the impression clear and perfect.

Revenue stamps. Stamps placed upon dutiable articles of merchandise, legal papers, etc. Some revenue stamps are also affixed to letters to prepay postage.

Ribbed paper. Paper containing rough, water-marked, parallel lines on both sides of its surface, which run vertically or horizontally through its substance.

Rice paper. A soft, silky paper made from the pulp of rice straw and used principally by the Chinese and Japanese. See stamps of Japan.

Ring cancellation. An obliteration made with a cancelling stamp of concentric rings. Used on stamps of Thurn and Taxis.

Rouletted (v. pp.) means that short, straight slits, instead of perforation holes, have been cut around a stamp to aid in separating it from the sheet.

Rural stamps. Local stamps used in districts of Russia where the regular mail service is not in operation.

S. S. S. S. The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps. Was organized in 1895.

Saw-tooth perforation (Serrated perforation). A Y-shaped perforation resembling the teeth of a saw.

Scalloped perforation. A perforation made of curved slits meeting in points. Called "Perce en arc."

Seebeck. A stamp for some foreign government engraved under the direction of Mr. N. F. Seebeck by the Union Bank Note Company of N. Y. Mr. Seebeck supplies stamps to the Central American Republics and is allowed to sell the remainders to stamp dealers. They are for this reason given the name of "Seebecks."

Serpentine perforation. A perforation formed of slits or long, curved lines or scallops. See Finland stamps of 1867 issue.

Serrated perforation. See saw-tooth perforation.

Silk paper. Paper in which small pieces of silk form part of its substance. See some of the U. S. match stamps.

Silk thread. Red or blue silk found in silk paper.

Silurian paper. A silk paper in which the fibres of silk are so small they can scarcely be seen with the naked eye. Also called "Granite paper."

Solid Ground. The designed background of a stamp when composed of one solid mass of color, and not of single lines.

Spandrels. The curved triangular spaces between the central oval or circle of a stamp and its outside edges.

Special Delivery Stamp. A stamp affixed to a letter to ensure its speedy delivery. In the large cities and towns of the United States special messengers are engaged to deliver letters bearing special delivery stamps.

Specimen. (1) A word used for "stamp" in the sense of "a good" or "bad specimen."

(2) The word "specimen" is sometimes surcharged by the government on unused stamps before they are sold to the collector. Such stamps cannot be used for postage and are usually sold for less than the ordinary unused stamps of the same issue. See some of the U. S. department stamps.

Speculative Issues. Stamps issued principally to sell to collectors, and may or may not be good for postage.

Split stamp. A stamp cut in two or more parts. Some countries allow bisected stamps to pass through the mails for half their value.

Steel Engraving. An engraving made from a steel plate on which the reversed design of a stamp etc. has been scratched or engraved.

Straw paper. Paper made from straw, and used for newspaper wrappers.

Surcharge. A stamp over which an inscription or design has been printed, usually in black. High valued stamps are often surcharged with low values to supply the demand for low denominations when the regular supply has become exhausted.

Susse. A word used in connection with certain French stamps of 1853-62 which were perforated without consent of the government by the Susse Brothers of Paris in 1861. Size of perforation is 7.

—T—

Taille douce. Line engraving. A process of printing from plates by first inking the entire plate, then wiping away the ink from the raised portions of it, and finally taking an impression from the plate thus prepared.

TAS. A watermark for "Tasmania."

Telegraph stamps. Stamps used for the prepayment of telegrams.

Tate beche indicates that certain rows of stamps in a sheet, or certain parts of a stamp, as the surcharge, for example, have been printed upside down.

Timbrology. French for Philately, which see.

Too-late stamp. A stamp that will carry a letter after the regular mails have been closed.

Treasury. An official stamp formerly used by the

U. S. Treasury department for official business.
Triangular Cape of Good Hope. The first stamps used at the Cape of Good Hope, triangular in shape.

Type. (1) A word used in describing the style or design on a stamp. (2) The metal letters from which a surcharge or an entire stamp is printed.

Type-set. (adj.) Made from movable metal types such as are in use in a printing office. See first stamps of Hawaii.

—U—

Ultramarine. (adj.) A light blue.

Uncancelled. (v. pp.) Not cancelled. See cancelled.

Unperforated stamps. Stamps having no perforations or slits around them to aid in separating them from the sheet.

—V—

Verge paper. Laid paper with the watermarked lines running obliquely. See Netherland envelopes of 1884.

Vermilion. (adj.) Of a bright red, verging on the orange.

—W—

War stamp. (1) An official stamp formerly used by the U. S. War department (2) Any stamp issued by a government for war correspondence.

Watermark. A design pressed into a sheet of paper during its manufacture. To detect watermarks hold paper to the light and they will appear almost transparent.

Wood Block. A boxwood cut from which certain stamps are printed. See Cape of Good Hope, 1861 issue.

Wove paper. Ordinary paper, showing an even texture, used to print books, newspapers, etc. on. It contains no watermarked lines as does laid paper.

