


HANDBOOK SERIES NO. 22. Second Edition

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# A Color Dictionary


DESIGNED ESPECIALLY  
FOR THE STAMP COL  
LECTOR, TO AID HIM  
IN ARRANGING THE  
STAMPS IN HIS COL  
LECTION 

A. BULLARD & CO  
BOSTON, Massachusetts

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**Price, Eight Cents, Postpaid**

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EXAMPLES OF COLORS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD.

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Ultramarine



Vermilion



Drab



Lilac

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## ABOUT THE COLORS OF STAMPS



HERE is no subject directly connected with philately about which so much ignorance is shown by collectors as the subject of color. And even catalogue makers, who know so much about dates, issues and perforations, are often vague in their descriptions of colors of postage stamps. This is partly due to ignorance or carelessness, and in part to the complex nature of the subject of color, since various terms have been used on the one hand to describe a single color, and a variety of shades on the other are often designated by a single term. Under the circumstances, the collector who really learns to discriminate between one distinct color and another such as violet and red, for instance, or green and blue, is better off than the one who tries to memorize a lot of technical names without being able to tell what primary colors go to make up the peculiar shade he has learned the name of.

One should so familiarize himself with the appearances of the common colors of red, orange, violet, blue and green, in all their variety of shades, that when a peacock blue is shown him, he would be able to analyze the color and tell what two dis-

tinct colors go to make up that particular shade of blue. For such colors as blue and green, red and green, red and yellow, etc., etc., in combination make the variety of peculiar shades and colors which bear so many distinct names. The following table of colors is designed to help one acquire such a knowledge of colors, with the aid of such stamps as can be purchased for a small sum.

Collectors of envelopes and minor varieties need also to know something about paper and to distinguish between wove and laid varieties. The former is the more common kind, ordinarily used for book and newspaper work. Its close network of fiber has the appearance of cloth, while in laid paper the fiber runs in even, parallel lines.



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## A Color Table

Color	Definition	Examples
Amber, a faint yellow.	See example under buff.	
Bistre, a brown prepared from the soot of wood.		Cape G. H. '81, 2p, Bavaria '62, 9kr.
Black.		Porto Rico '90, $\frac{1}{2}$ m
Blue.	Various shades ranging from light to dark blue. See ultramarine also.	
Blue Green, a green with a bluish tint.		Japan 1883, 25s.
Blue Lilac, a violet of bluish tint.		Japan '83, 8s.
Brick Red, a reddish brown.		Philippines '98, 80c.
Bronze Green, a lustrous, olive green.		France '76 1f.
Brown.	Various shades from pale or light to deep or dark brown.	

- Brown Lake, a brown scarlet. U. S. 1902, 6c.
- Brown Lilac, a violet of brownish tint. Porto Rico '82, 4m.
- Brown Rose, a rose of brownish tint. Mexico '98, 20c.
- Brown Violet, a brownish purple. Japan '99, 3s.
- Buff, a variety of tints from light yellow to gray. Belgium newspaper, 1869, 5c.
- Carmine, a deep pink. U. S. 1902, 2c.  
France 1900, 10c.  
Finland '89, 10p.
- Carmine Rose, between pink and Carmine. Japan 1899, 4s.
- Chocolate, a brown of reddish tint. U. S. 1895 5c.
- Citron, an olive bistre.
- Claret, a red purple. Porto Rico 1896, 1c.
- Copper Red, a brownish rose. U. S. 1898, Omaha issue, 2c.
- Crimson, a red of purplish tint. See Lake.
- Drab, an olive brown. Gt. Britain 1880, 4p.
- Dull Blue. France 1903, 25c.
- Emerald Green, a bluish green. Cuba 1896, 10c.  
Finland '85, 5p.
- Fawn, a light chocolate brown.
- Gold. Switzerland 1862, 1f.

- Gray, a mixture of black and white. Japan '99 5r.
- Gray Blue, a blue of grayish tint. Porto Rico  
1882, 5c.
- Gray Green, a green of grayish tint. Porto Rico  
1882, 1c.
- Gray Lilac, a lilac of grayish tint. See Slate.
- Gray Violet, a lilac of grayish tint. U. S. 1898,  
Trans-Mississippi, 10c.
- Green. Various shades from pale or light green to  
dark or deep green.
- Indigo Blue, a deep blue. Peru 1895, 5c.
- Lake, a deep red of purplish tint. Argentine  
1877, 8c.
- Lavender, a slate violet. French Colonies '81, 10c.
- Lilac, a reddish purple. Gt. Britain, 1883, 2½p
- Lilac Brown, a lilac of brownish tint. Porto Rico  
1881, 6m.
- Lilac Red. See maroon.
- Lilac Rose, a rose with a touch of blue. Porto Rico  
1890, 2m.
- Magenta, a deep crimson with a little blue added.  
U. S. Columbus issue, 8c
- Mauve, a shade midway between lilac and purple.  
An equal mixtue of blue and red.
- Maroon, red with a touch of black. Hungary.  
1901, 5kr
- Ochre, a grayish yellow. Greece 1896, Olympian  
games, 1 l.
- Olive, a brownish green. U. S. 1898, 15c  
U. S. 1902, 15c.



- Olive Bistre, a light, greenish brown. Spain, '97,  
25c de p.
- Olive Brown, a green brown.
- Olive gray, gray with a touch of olive. Philippines  
1892, 2 4-8c.
- Olive green, a green of olive tint.
- Orange, a mixture of red and yellow. U. S. 1898,  
Omaha issue, 4c.
- Orange Brown, a mixture of red, blue and yellow.  
U. S. 1902 10c.  
Egypt Official, 1892.
- Orange Red, a light vermilion.
- Orange Yellow, a yellow with a touch of red.  
Portugal 1894, 5r.
- Pink, a light rose tint of red. U. S. envelope 1861 3c.
- Plum, a brownish lilac. Venezuela, 1889, 20
- Prussian Blue, a deep shade of blue.
- Puce, a rich, reddish purple. Japan 1876, 8s.
- Purple, a mixture of red and blue. U. S. 1902, 3c,  
U. S. Columbus, 6c.

Red, a variety of shades, from light, or bright red to deep, or dark red.

Red Brown, a brown of reddish tint. Japan 1899, 50s.

Red Violet, a reddish purple.

Reseda, an olive green. Belgium 1893 20c.

Rose, a deep pink. Belgium 1900, 10c.

Rose Lilac, a pinkish purple. Mexico, 1898, 10c.

Sage Green, a deep green, slightly on the olive.

U. S. 1898, 50c.

Salmon, a yellowish pink. Porto Rico 1894, 2m.

Sapphire, a pale blue. U. S. 1902, \$2.00.

Scarlet, a rose red. Costa Rica 1863, 2r.

Sea Green, a yellow green.

Slate, a bluish gray. Cape Gd. Hope 1885,  $\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Slate Blue, a gray blue. Cuba 1896, 5c.

Slate Green, a gray green. Bulgaria 1886, 2s,

France 1903, 15c.

Slate Violet, a lavender. Brazil 1866, 80r.

Ultramarine, a light blue Japan 1899, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ s.

Venetian Red, a light red-brown.

Vermilion, a bright orange-red. U. S. 1879, 2c.

Violet, a reddish purple. U. S. 2c. Columbus issue.

France 1903, 30c.

Violet Blue, a blue with a touch of purple. Cuba

1894, 1c.

- Violet Brown, a brown with a touch of violet.  
Porto Rico 1891, 2m,  
France 1903, 20c.
- Yellow, a variety of shades, from light, or lemon  
yellow to orange.
- Yellow Bistre, a light brown of yellowish tint.
- Yellow Brown, a light chocolate shade of brown.  
Porto Rico 1890, 1c.
- Yellow Green, a green with a greater per cent of  
yellow than blue. Costa Rico '89, 20c.
- Yellow Orange, an orange with a small per cent  
of red. Brazil wrapper, '94, 40r



## SOME SAMPLES OF PAPER

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Laid Paper

Wove Paper

This book is printed  
on a rough finish  
*Wove* paper. Hold to  
the light.

Amber Paper

Cream Paper

Fawn Paper

Manila

