

T1p 289: Words have Meanings

As exhibitors, we know that words have precise meanings. We need to be careful that we use them carefully and properly. In philatelic exhibiting, as in philatelic writing there are terms that are *almost* the same, but not quite the same.

We can't be like Humpty Dumpty in *Through the Looking Glass*.

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean - neither more nor less."

As writers we are held to a higher standard: We have to be right, not almost right.

Tete-beche is not the same as se-tenant.

Tete-beche is a pair of stamps in which one stamp is upside-down in relation to the other.

Se-tenant refers to stamps of a different design, color or denomination that are printed adjacent to each other.

A margin is not the same as a gutter

Margins are the selvedge on the edge of a sheet of stamps. The margins can contain inscriptions, plate markings, or electric eye markings .

A *gutter* is the paper spacing between stamps or rows of stamps which allows them to be separated. Gutters can be narrow, the same size or wider than a the postage stamp. It can be blank, printed or punched with holes.

A *tab* (as in Israeli stamps) is a type of printed margin beneath a stamp, but not all margins are tabs.

An overprint is not the same as a surcharge.

An *overprint* is a word or words printed over a stamp or postal stationery. It can change the name of a country, to change the purpose of a stamp or to commemorate an event.

A *surcharge* is a particular class of overprint; a surcharge changes the value of the item. It can increase or decrease the value.

Aerophilately is not the same as astrophilately

Aerophilately is the study of airmail through philatelic objects

Astrophilately is the study of rockets and the exploration of outer space through philatelic objects

A cancellation is not the same as a postmark which is not the same as a precancel

Cancellation: A marking intended to show a stamp has been used and is no longer valid as postage. upon the postage stamp to invalidate it. This part of a cancel is called the killer.

Postmark: Any official postal marking. The term is usually used specifically in reference to cancellations bearing the name of a post office of origin and a mailing date.

Precancel - Stamps canceled prior to the mailing of a letter. In the U.S. precancels are often city and state name between black lines.

A postal card is not the same as a post card

Postal card: A government-produced postcard bearing a stamp imprint in the upper-right corner representing prepayment of postage.

Postcard: A small card, without a printed stamp, usually with a picture on one side and a space for a written message on the other. Without an imprinted stamp, the mailer must pay the postage to mail the postcard.

A cut square is not the same as cut to shape

Cut square: A neatly trimmed rectangular or square section from a stamped envelope that includes the imprinted postage stamp with ample margin. Collectors generally prefer to collect stationery as entire pieces rather than as cut squares. Some older stationery is available only in cut squares.

Cut-to-shape: "A nonrectangular stamp or postal stationery imprint cut to the shape of the design, rather than cut square. Cut-to-shape stamps and stationery generally have lower value than those cut square. One of the world's most valuable stamps, the unique 1856 British Guiana ""Penny Magenta"" (Scott 13), is a cut-to-shape stamp."

When we prepare an exhibit, we are showing out material and our knowledge. We need to be as correct as possible.