

# THE SPACEFILLER

The NEXT  
BUSINESS MEETING  
will be held

**March 12, 2004**

At  
Pacific Hills  
Lutheran Church  
90<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Streets  
At 7:30pm



The NEXT  
TRADING SESSION  
will be held

**March 26, 2004**

At  
Pacific Hills  
Lutheran Church  
90<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Streets  
At 7:30pm

of the  
**Omaha Philatelic Society**

TMPS Chapter No. 1  
APS Chapter No. 1122  
APS Member No. 108144



Edited by Richard L. McConnell

## WINNERS AT LINPEX '04

The following is a list of the award winners at LINPEX '04, the annual stamp show sponsored by the Lincoln Stamp Club in Lincoln, NE. The show was held at the East Student Union, 35<sup>th</sup> and Holdridge, on February 28-29.

**Grand Award:** Robert C. Loeck – U. S. Savings Stamps (also Gold and TMPS medal)

**Gold:** William H. Waggoner – A Wonderment of Stamp Titles  
Kenneth Pruess – Nebraska Revenue Stamps (also USSS)  
Thomas Myers – British Postal Rates and Fees during the Reign of George VI: Inland and International Surface Rates

**Vermeil:** Carl G. Marks – Korea: The Forgotten War (also AAPE)  
Bill Woytowich – The Evolution of Postage Currency Fractional Notes  
Sergio Lugo – The Seven Servants (also AAPE)  
Ken Martin – Blood Donation: The Gift of Life (also ATA)

**Silver:** Thomas J. Richards – The Movies: A Philatelic Journey  
Alan Anderson – Swords on Stamps  
Richard L. McConnell – Nebraska Railway Post Offices  
Tonny Van Loij – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Russ Whitmore – Postal Note Stamps, February 1, 1945 – March 31, 1951

**Silver-Bronze:** Maurice E. Pautz – Greetings from America  
Rusty Morse – Beyond the Legends of the West  
Lee B. Campbell – Postal History from British Solomon Islands  
Maurice E. Pautz – Buffalo Bill

**Bronze:** Lee B. Campbell – Back of the Book on Cover  
Lee B. Campbell – My First Choice Collection

The judges at this show were Jerry Jensen, Mike Ley and Ronald Leshner.

## A RUMOR AT LINPEX '04

Your Editor hadn't even set foot on the floor of LINPEX '04 in Lincoln, NE on February 28<sup>th</sup> when he was approached by some Lincolmites who informed him they had been in contact with Charles Snee of Linn's Stamp News in Sidney, OH and had learned that the first-day of issue of the forthcoming Lewis and Clark stamps on May 14<sup>th</sup> will be at one location in each of the 11 states which Lewis and Clark passed during their Corps of Discovery in 1804-1806. During the day, Lee B. Campbell of Sioux City, IA confirmed that that city had been approached about being such a site. Also, the website for Fort Mandan, North Dakota, where Lewis and Clark wintered during 1804-1805, also confirmed that they would be a site for this issue on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The story going around included Lewis and Clark Landing in downtown Omaha as the site in Nebraska for the release of these stamps.

As a result, your Editor contacted Mr. Snee on the morning of March 1 and learned the USPS has not yet made an official announcement on this story. When he was told about what Mr. Campbell had said and what was out on the Fort Mandan website, he said maybe it was time to get hold of USPS to see what was going on.

Mr. Snee has the e-mail address of your Editor, and I will keep OPS informed of developments as they occur. It would be absolutely great if Omaha were picked as a site for this great issue.

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> BUSINESS MEETING**

The regular business meeting of the Omaha Philatelic Society was held at 7:30 p.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup> at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, 1110 South 90<sup>th</sup> Street. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. with President Chuck Petterson presiding. Eighteen individuals were present. Tom Hiross was introduced as a new member and, before the evening was out, John Sohl and Sachin Pawaskar also expressed an interest in become OPS members. President Petterson expressed thanks to all who made it to this meeting.

The minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup> business meeting were printed in the February edition of THE SPACEFILLER. There being no additions, changes, or corrections to the minutes or anything else in THE SPACEFILLER, it was moved by Paul Janecek, seconded by Bob Loeck, that they be approved as printed. Motion carried. Treasurer bob Hoff read the January Treasurer's Report. It was moved by Allen Hendricksen, seconded by Paul Breakenridge, that it be approved as read. Motion carried. Under correspondence, Secretary McConnell reported he had received a letter and a prospectus from Christopher Dahle in Cedar Rapids, IA promoting CERPEX '04, the annual stamp show sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Stamp Club. The show this year will be held on April 24-025. There was also a plug for LINPEX '04, which is sponsored by the Lincoln Stamp Club and which is being held this year on February 28-29 at the East Student Union, 35<sup>th</sup> and Holdridge, in Lincoln, NE. Librarian Steve Vickland stated he had Volumes III, IV, and V of the 2004 Scott Catalogs with him at this meeting and which could be checked out by any OPS member so interested in doing so. As far as those in attendance knew, everyone in OPS is well. There was no Exchange Manager's Report since the Exchange Manager, Joe Chytil, was out of town.

2004 Omaha Stamp Show Chairman Edgar Hicks gave a progress report on the show. The show will be held September 4-6 at Benson High School, 5120 Maple Street. Omaha Public Schools (OPS) is donating the main gym of the school for our use. The floor space is about 17,000 square feet. The one catch attached to our holding the show there is that we must promote philately in youth. Bob Loeck added that this will be an educational thing. We will need programs which will attract youth. Edgar also urged any of our members who received "covers of interest" to donate them to him if the recipient doesn't want to keep them. Edgar provided a copy of "Duties and Responsibilities of Show Committees," part of a publication created by the American Philatelic Society (APS). The Show Committee is trying to get publicity out to schools, etc. The next meeting of the 2004 Omaha Stamp show Committee will be held on February 20<sup>th</sup> at Herb Eveland's shop, Tuva Enterprises, 721 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Street.

SPACEFILLER Editor Richard McConnell reported that 74 copies of the February edition of THE SPACEFILLER were mailed out. Allen Hendricksen stated he had the latest APS sales circuit books with him at this meeting. Those so interested can take the books they want with them, although Allen said he would not be at the next meeting.

There was no old business. Under new business, Steve Vickland reported he can pick up Vario stock pages at a price below retail for anyone interested in them. The St. Louis (MO) Stamp Show will be held on February 20-22. With regard to the program list in THE SPACEFILELR, it was suggested anyone interested in presenting a program should let Joe Rende know the subject and when you'd like to present it. It was also suggested we look at the programs which APS offers. Edgar Hicks asked about using several of our exhibit frames for an exhibit for Black History Month at North High School. He was told there would be no problem in doing so.

There being no further business, the floor was turned over to those who wished to participate in the swap meet. A great time was had by all.

Richard McConnell, Secretary

March <b>3/12/04</b>	Show and Tell. Bring your favorite item(s) and present a short talk about it. Also, we'll have another swap meet since everyone enjoyed the last one.	March <b>3/26/04</b>
April <b>?</b>		April <b>4/23/04</b>
May <b>5/14/04</b>		May <b>5/28/04</b>
June <b>6/11/04</b>		June <b>6/25/04</b>
July <b>7/9/04</b>		July <b>7/23/04</b>
August <b>8/13/04</b>		August <b>8/27/04</b>
September <b>9/10/04</b>		September <b>9/24/05</b>
October <b>10/8/04</b>		October <b>10/24/04</b>
November <b>11/12/04</b>		<b>November</b> <b>11/26/04</b>
December <b>12/10/2004</b>		No meeting <b>12/24/2004</b>

**OPS SCOTT CATALOG LIBRARY LIST**

<b><u>CATALOG</u></b>	<b><u>WHO HAS IT</u></b>	<b><u>PHONE #</u></b>
2004 Volume I	Steve Vickland	551-2754
2004 Volume II	Thomas J. Hiross	292-1131
2004 Volume III	Paul Janecek	571-4533
2004 Volume IV	Steve Vickland	551-2754
2004 Volume V	Richard Orr	551-3429
2004 Volume VI	Bill Champion	553-2351
2004 U.S. Specialized	Bob Loeck	391-9120

**2004 REFRESHMENT LIST**

March 26	Gordon Randall
April 23	Allen Hendricksen
May 28	Paul Janecek
June 25	Bob Loeck
July 23	Bob Hoff
August 27	Richard McConnell
September 24	Joe Rende
October 22	Steve Vickland
November 26	Doug Kagan
December 10	Annual Holiday Party

**INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

Except for special holidays, such as religious holidays and those close to Christmas, the Omaha Philatelic Society meets on the second and fourth Fridays of each month. Both meetings are held at Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, which is located on the southwest corner of 90<sup>th</sup> and Pacific Streets. Enter from the south parking lot through the door with the canopy. The meeting room is in the basement. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m. The second Friday is a business meeting and a program; the fourth Friday, a trading session. All stamp collectors or philatelists, whichever name you want to use, are welcome to attend. Dues are \$10.00 per year for adults (19 years of age and older and \$5.00 per year for those under 19. Further information or an application to join may be obtained by writing to The Omaha Philatelic Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4013, Omaha, NE 68104-0013.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLECTING INTERESTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## TIPS ON IDENTIFYING THE METHOD OF PRINTING

The following information on the Washington-Franklin issues is from website is <http://www.1847usa.com>.

Three methods were employed in the printing of the Washington-Franklin Heads: the "flat plate", the "offset" and the "rotary press". All designs and denominations of the Washington-Franklin stamps were printed using the Flat Plate method. Only the 1c, 2c and 3c stamps were printed using the offset method and only the 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c and 10c stamps were issued using the rotary press method. The Washington-Franklin rotary press printings were primarily for coil stamps, although some interesting experimental and "coil waste" stamps, stamps from leftover coil stock, were issued fully perforated. The following information applies to the Washington-Franklin stamps, as well as the Series of 1922 stamps and certain commemorative stamps, e.g., the Harding and Edison stamps of the era.

In order to better understand the differences in these three types of printing methods, it would be helpful to have a little background knowledge regarding how each of the methods worked. In all three methods, plates typically had between 160 and 400 stamp images, depending on the size of the stamp and the quantity needed.

The **flat plate method** employed a hardened plate with the design of the stamps etched on its surface. Ink was applied to the plate in an economical fashion by rolling a saturated ink roller across the surface of the plate. Ink naturally settled into the grooves of the design, but also adhered to the surface of the plate. The plate was then necessarily wiped to remove any ink that was not in the grooves. The ink within the grooves, bearing the design of the stamps, was then transferred to a sheet of slightly dampened paper, in a sense laying the ink on top of the paper. This is an important feature of the engraving process, since the raised ink can be felt, an important security feature still used on currency today.

All the features of engraved printing mentioned above apply to the **rotary press method**, the excess ink needed to be wiped off the plates, the paper needed to be slightly dampened, and the ink lay above the surface of the stamp it was printed on. The rotary press, in general, employed two curved plates, very similar to the plates used in the flat plate method, only a little more flexible. The two curved plates were placed on a cylinder with only a tiny gap (or joint) between the plates. The process involved inking, wiping and printing as the cylinder revolved and a large roll of paper was pulled through the apparatus. The fact that the paper needed to be pulled through the rotary press machine gave rise to the way in which flat plate and rotary press stamps are distinguished. This pulling naturally stretched the paper in the direction of tension. Rotary stamps are therefore either longer or wider than their flat plate counterparts, depending on whether the designs were printed vertically or horizontally on the paper as it passed through the press.

On the other hand, the **offset stamps** were not engraved. The offset plates were prepared by taking a photograph of the die, enlarging this photograph and retouching it until all the lines were crisp and sharp, taking a negative of this touched-up photograph, reducing the negative to normal size, and finally transferring the negative to a sensitized plate one stamp at a time until the desired number of stamps per plate was obtained. A negative celluloid mask was made from this sensitized, positive plate, which in turn was used to manufacture the offset plates. It may sound complicated, but it was actually much easier than making the engraved plates. The key to the offset method is that on the printed surface the ink lay flat. Thus, all offset stamps will have a smoother feel, the ink will never be raised as with an engraved stamp. The process also resulted in a lack of fine printed lines, giving the offset stamps a somewhat blurry appearance. Many offset stamps can be identified merely by the poor quality of the printing.

### **DISTINGUISHING THE FLAT PLATE VS ROTARY PRESS STAMPS—A MATTER OF SIZE**

**The Ruler Method**-There are three ways you can determine whether a stamp was printed using the flat plate or rotary press method. The obvious way is to simply measure the height and width of the stamp with a ruler, often the ruler on a perforation guide will suffice. A set of calipers is often used for more exacting measurements. The design on the flat plate printed stamps measures, on average, 18.5-19 mm wide by 21.5-22 mm high. There is a small amount of variance but these are good guidelines. Rotary press printed stamps are either slightly wider or slightly longer, sometimes both wider and longer, either 19.5 mm or more wide or 22.5 mm or more high.

**The Template Method**-An easier method to sort the flat plate and rotary press stamps in quantity is to cut a common flat plate stamp in half, e.g., a 498 or 499, and use it as a template. You will need two templates, one cut horizontally and one cut vertically, since the rotary press stamps can be longer in either direction, or you can make a single template with four cut corners. Note that you can use any flat plate stamp of the same size as a template. You might also want to make a rotary press template if you have a few beat up rotary press coils to spare. One should remember to insure the stamp being considered as a template has the proper measurements; it is recommended less than 19 mm wide and less than 22 mm tall for a flat plate template and more than 19.5 mm wide or more than 22.5 mm tall for a rotary press template. To use the template, simply place it on top of the stamp in question. If the design is similar in size, it most likely is that printing method. Note that there will be slight differences in size, most often due to paper shrinkage during the printing process. Remember that this method is a quick and dirty method of sorting flat plate and rotary press stamps, you will still need to verify any stamp by actually measuring it.

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**The Grid Method**-With the advent of the computer age and the ubiquity of scanners, there is an alternate method of measuring the design. Simply scan the stamp at actual size, turn on the grid feature on your photo editor, set it to millimeter increments, and count the number of grid lines. Once you have the general number of divisions, zoom in on the two ends of the design to get even more accurate readings with a little addition and subtraction you can get amazingly accurate readings, assuming your scanner is calibrated to give actual image size.

You can verify the calibration of your scanner by scanning a metric ruler as a bitmap, "bmp", image at actual size and measuring the image of the ruler with your photo editor's grid. There should be a one-to-one correspondence; if not, determine the "scaling factor" by dividing the size read from the grid by the actual size of the ruler itself. You will need to use this scaling factor on all subsequent "grid-method" measurements.

On the surface, this may seem nearly as difficult, possibly even more so, than simply measuring the stamp with a ruler. However, this technique can prove invaluable if you are considering purchasing a stamp via the Internet, particularly if the stamp was scanned at actual size. Even if the stamp was not scanned at actual size, a comparison can be made with another stamp from the same seller. The grid method should provide some insight.

### DISTINGUISHING THE OFFSET STAMPS

The offset method of printing resulted in some very poor quality stamps. It is rare to find an offset stamp with anywhere near the color depth or crispness of image found on the flat plate and rotary press stamps. In most cases, a stamp can be identified as offset just by looking at it, the color and printing quality are that poor.

Sometimes visual inspection is not enough and another method of determination must be made. The offset method does not employ engraving. This means that the stamp feels flat as opposed to the flat plate and rotary stamps. Don't let the "flat" in "flat plate" fool you, engraved stamps have raised ink on the paper surface.

Some collectors can feel this by merely running their fingers across the stamp, but many of use can't. A semi-soft nib may be run gently over the surface, particularly in the area of several parallel lines. This must be done very carefully in order to not scratch the ink from the stamp's surface. Often a pair of stamp tongs is used for this determination. The tongs will glide across an offset stamp, but bump across the engraved stamps.

**The "Thin Foil" Method**-Another favorite method is to use a piece of aluminum foil, or other thin foil the thinner the better. Place the foil over the stamp in question and rub your finger very gently over the foil. The frame of the oval portrait and other details will show on the foil on flat plate and rotary stamps, but will not show on the offset stamps. Again, care must be taken not to damage the stamp by rubbing too hard on the foil. Gentle pressure should bring out the features on the engraved stamp. Practice these techniques on some of the more common varieties and you will soon be an "expert" at separating engraved and offset stamps.

Both the offset 2c and offset 3c stamps have distinguishable design types.

### MORE ON ENGRAVING (USED IN THE FLAT PLATE AND ROTARY PRESS METHODS)

The flat plate and rotary press stamps employed an engraving technique in which a pool of ink settled into the engraved grooves on the printing plate, resulting in an actual 3-dimensional transfer of ink to the paper when the ink was, in a sense, laid on top of the paper. This is the opposite of typography, the more common method of printing, in which a raised design or lettering is inked and then impressed into the fibers of the paper, think of a typewriter. Although engraving is a more expensive means the printing, it is done to thwart counterfeiters. Securities of all types are often printed by engraving, and most paper currencies to this day are engraved. For this very reason, forgeries of the Washington-Franklin flat plate and rotary press stamps made by drawing in the missing design feature are actually quite easy to detect. When the design is drawn in by the forger, the ink lays flat against the paper and will not create an impression on thin foil gently pressed against it. If you should run across a stamp that is more valuable than its unaltered counterpart, it is a good idea to check the design area in which alterations may have been made. This is particularly true for Types Ia and II of the 2c stamp. A familiarity with the design features of all engraved 2c Washington-Franklins would be of great aid in this matter.

Good luck on sorting your Washington-Franklin stamps. We hope this helps.

Suggested further reading:

**Printing Postage Stamps by Line Engraving** by James H. Baxter. Printed by the American Philatelic Society.

**The Development of the Rotary Press Printing** by Max G. Johl. An article in *The Stamp Specialist*, Volume 1: Part 1, Published 1939