

April 2014

Volume 14 Number 04

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

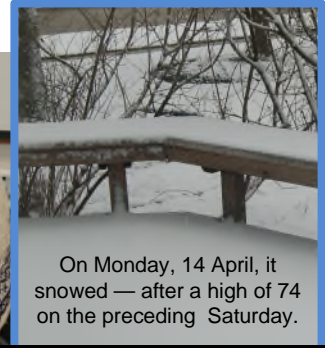
Website: [LCPSHOME.ORG](http://LCPSHOME.ORG)



# Perforations

Last month was the "Swap-N-Sell" in which members were able to trade/sell/buy extra stamps. At the events end, many stamps found new homes. We are looking to have another "Swap-N-Sell" in September. This should give members ample time to sort through their collections for worthy items that may catch the attention of others.

This month topic is "Useful Philatelic Tools for the 21st Century" by Chuck Skittino



On Monday, 14 April, it snowed — after a high of 74 on the preceding Saturday.

In keeping with April's theme of "Useful Philatelic Tools for the 21st Century", we will include a short "Glossary of Philatelic Terms". Most of the definitions are from [linns.com](http://linns.com), but as they say in their introduction:

*"... terms frequently encountered by stamp collectors and cover collectors. Precise definitions for many philatelic terms do not exist. One collector, dealer or society may define a term in one way, while others will use the term in a slightly different way."*

*Included in the edition are definitions pertaining to production, condition and 'borrowed' terms.*

**Adhesive:** 1) The gum on the back of a stamp or label. Some stamps have been issued with no adhesive. Stamp adhesive may be water-activated or pressure-sensitive (self-adhesive). 2) A word generally referring to a stamp that may be affixed to an article to prepay postal fees, in contrast to a design printed directly on an article, as with postal stationery. An adhesive can also refer to a registration label or other label added to a cover.

**Centering:** The relative position of the design of a stamp in relation to its margins. Assuming that a stamp is undamaged, centering is generally a very important factor in determining grade and value.

**Commemorative:** A stamp printed in a limited quantity and available for purchase for a limited time. The design may note an anniversary associated with an individual, an historic event, or a national landmark.

**Condition:** The overall appearance and soundness of a stamp or cover. Positive condition factors include fresh full color, full original gum on unused stamps, and so on. Damage such as creases, tears, thinned paper, short perforation teeth, toning and so on negatively affect condition.

**Crease:** A noticeable weakening of the paper of a stamp or cover, caused by its being folded or bent at some point. Creases substantially lower a stamp's value. Creases particularly affect cover values when they extend through the attached stamp or a postal marking. Stamp creases are visible in watermark fluid.

**definitive:** Stamp issued in a large indefinite quantity and for an indefinite period, usually several years or more. The United States Presidential issue of 1938 and the 1995 32¢ Flag Over Porch stamps are examples. Definitive stamp designs usually do not honor a specific time-dated event.

**Die cut:** A form of separation usually employed on self-adhesive stamps. During processing, an edged tool (die) completely penetrates the stamp paper on all sides of the printed stamp, making the removal of the individual stamps from the liner possible. Die cuts may be straight, shaped in wavy lines to simulate perforation teeth, or take other forms.

## Treasures' Report: Total – \$ 3,261.88

**Local Stamp Shows**

**COMPEX 2014**  
District 214 Fieldhouse  
2121 S Goebbert Rd  
Arlington Heights IL  
May 23, 24 and 25

**TRI-PEX Stamp Fair**  
St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall  
1435 S 92nd ST  
West Allis, WI  
June 28-29

**MSDA Winter Show**  
Comfort Inn and Suites  
600 Milwaukee Ave  
Prospect Heights, IL  
July 12-13

**MSDA Summer Show West**  
Lindner Conference Center  
610 E Butterfield RD  
Lombard IL  
August 9 and 10, 2014

**Next meeting:**  
**7-PM on Tuesday, 22 April 2014**  
**at the Grayslake Library**  
**100 Library Lane - Grayslake, IL 60030**



**Officers:**  
**Dr Tom Willer – President**  
**Bill Schultz – Vice President**  
**Dave Sadler – Secretary**  
**Ed Pieklo – Treasurer**

**Flat plate:** A flat metal plate used in a printing press, as opposed to a curved or cylindrical plate.

**Gravure:** A printing process utilizing an intaglio printing plate created by photographic and chemical means, rather than by hand engraving.

**Gum:** The mucilage applied to the backs of adhesive postage stamps, revenue stamps or envelope flaps. Gum is an area of concern for stamp collectors. It may crack and harm the paper of the stamp itself. It may stain or adhere to other stamps or album pages under certain climatic conditions. Many collectors are willing to pay extra for 19th- and some 20th-century stamps with intact, undisturbed original gum.

**Intaglio:** "Italian for "in recess." A form of printing in which the inked image is produced by that portion of the plate sunk below the surface. Line engraving and gravure are forms of intaglio printing."

**Line engraving:** Printing done from an intaglio plate produced from a hand-engraved die and transfer roll rather than by photographic or chemical means.

**Microprinting:** Extremely small letters or numbers added to the designs of selected United States stamps as a security feature. In most cases, 8-power magnification or greater is needed to read microprinting.

**Mint:** A stamp in the same state as issued by a post office: unused, undamaged and with full original gum (if issued with gum). Over time, handling, light and atmospheric conditions may affect the mint state of stamps.

**Never hinged:** A stamp without hinge marks. A never-hinged (NH) stamp usually has original gum, but this is not always the case.

**Nondenominated:** A stamp with no numerical inscription designating the face value. The value of some nondenominated stamps are marked by a designated letter. Others may have a service inscription that indicates the rate the stamp fulfills.

**Offset:** 1) A printing process that transfers an inked image from a plate to a roller. The roller then applies the ink to paper. 2) The transfer of part of a stamp design or an overprint from one sheet to the back of another, before the ink has dried (also called set off). Such impressions are in reverse (see Mirror image). They are different from stamps printed on both sides.

**Original gum:** The adhesive coating on a mint or unused stamp or envelope flap applied by a postal authority or security printer, usually before the item was issued. Upon request of stamp collectors, postal authorities have at times offered to add gum to items first issued ungummed.

**Pane:** "The unit into which a full press sheet is divided before sale at post offices. What a post office customer may refer to as a "sheet of stamps" is more properly called a pane. Most United States full sheets are divided into four or more regular panes or many more booklet panes before they are shipped to post offices."

**Perforation:** The punching out of holes between stamps to make separation easy. 1) Comb perforation-three sides of a stamp are perforated at once, with the process repeated in rows. 2) Harrow perforation-the entire sheet or unit of stamps is perforated in one operation. 3) Line perforation-holes are punched one row at a time. Line perforations are distinguished by the uneven crossing of perforation lines and irregular corners. Comb and harrow perforations usually show alignment of holes at the corners. Some forms of perforation may be difficult to distinguish.

**Phosphor:** A chemical substance used in the production of selected stamps to activate machines that automatically cancel mail. The machines react to the phosphor under ultraviolet light. In 1959, Great Britain began to print phosphor lines on some of its stamps. See also Tagging.

**Photogravure:** A modern stamp-printing process that is a form of intaglio printing. Plates are made photographically and chemically, rather than by hand engraving a die and transferring it to a plate. The ink in this process rests in the design depressions. The surface of the printing plate is wiped clean. The paper is forced into the depressions and picks up the ink, in a manner much like the line-engraved printing process.

**Rotary plate:** A curved or cylindrical printing plate used on a press that rotates the plate to make continuous impressions. Flat plates make single impressions.

**Rouletting:** The piercing of the paper between stamps to make their separation more convenient. No paper is actually removed from the sheet, as it is in perforating. Rouletting has been made by dash, sawtooth or wavy line.

**Self-adhesive:** Stamp gum that adheres to envelope paper by the application of pressure alone. Most self-adhesive stamps are sold on a coated paper release liner. See also Liner, Linerless, Water-activated.

**Se-tenant:** "French for "joined together." Two or more unseparated stamps of different designs, colors, denominations or types."

**Sheet:** A complete unit of stamps as printed. Stamps are usually printed in large sheets and are separated into two or more panes before shipment to post offices.

**Tagging:** Phosphor material on stamps used to activate automatic mail-handling equipment. This may be lines, bars, letters, part of the design area or the entire stamp surface. The tagging may also permeate the stamp paper. Some stamps are issued both with and without tagging. Catalogs describe them as tagged or untagged.

**Tete-beche:** "French for "head to tail." Two or more unseparated stamps, one of which is inverted in relation to the other."

**Ungummed:** A stamp without gum. Ungummed stamps are either stamps issued without gum or an uncanceled gummed stamp that has had its gum soaked off. Many countries in tropical climates have issued stamps without gum.

**Unused:** An uncanceled stamp that has not been used but has a hinge mark or some other characteristic or defect that keeps it from being considered a mint stamp. Uncanceled stamps without gum may have been used and missed being canceled, or they may have lost their gum by accident.

**used:** A stamp or stationery item that has been canceled by a postal authority to prevent its reuse on mail. In general, a used stamp is any stamp with a cancel or a precanceled stamp without gum. See also Postally Used and Philatelic Cover.

**Water-activated adhesive:** Stamp gum designed to adhere to envelope paper only if the gum is moistened. All gummed stamps before 1963 used water-activated adhesive.

**Watermark:** A deliberate thinning of paper during its manufacture to produce a semitranslucent pattern. Watermarks appear frequently in paper used in stamp printing or envelope manufacture.

