



Book Reports

Nov. – Dec. 2012 Volume 9, Issue 5



How Scott Recatalogs New Country Names

Editor's note: Recently, NPL member Fred Bateman wrote to Scott Publishing Co. inquiring about inconsistencies in how they deal with countries that change their names. He used Burkina Faso as an example. The following is the reply he received from New Issues Editor Martin J. Frankevicz.

The Common Design Types list uses the names of the countries as they have been catalogued under at the time of the stamps were first issued. This is the first time anyone has commented on this to my recollection. I don't imagine that this situation ever crossed the mind of any editor before because most countries don't change their names. The Common Design pages tend not to change too often because renumbering of items is rare on older material, and we haven't listed a set in these pages for some 12 years. I must surmise that the editors felt that if anyone had any problem in finding a country in the list, the user would refer to the Index and Identifier in the back of each volume, which would point the collector in the right direction. Looking up "Upper Volta" there would point the user to the Burkina Faso pages.



The 2013 Scott Catalog lists Upper Volta issues under the country's new name, Burkina Faso.

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Our policy regarding country name changes has depended on a number of factors. With Madagascar, even though the current name of the country has reverted to Madagascar from Malagasy Republic, we use Malagasy Republic as the country name so as to keep from having two different Madagascars in the catalogue. We use Madagascar for the British Consular Mail stamps from the 1800s. Maintaining separate

country names here makes it clearer for collectors and also for the computers.

Back in the 1960s when the catalogues were much smaller, the editors tended to be much more willing to start up a new country when there was a name change. They did so when

Ceylon became Sri Lanka and Dahomey became Benin. We have tended to be somewhat cautious about name changes since then, seeing now that a lot of name changes haven't been permanent. For some African countries, this has been a problem. Back when the catalogue was two volumes, it wasn't that big of a deal to set up a new country, because most worldwide collectors would buy both volumes.

As the books expanded, new country names became more problematic. The editors then thought it best to continue adding new listings to countries under the original name even though they decided to change their names. So we never started up a new Czech Republic country after Czechoslovakia split up. It should be noted that when Imperial Russia became the Soviet Union, we never changed the country name to Soviet Union or USSR, and when that country dissolved and only the smaller Russian Federation remained, we just continued on with the numbering when the USSR ended. There wasn't any great philatelic desire for us to create a separate country for the USSR, and to start up the Russian Federation stamps with No. 1 didn't seem to make a whole lot of sense, either. Besides back when the USSR split up, there was plenty of doubt as to whether the Russian Federation would remain together, as a number of constituent republics were and still are demanding independence.

The Burkina Faso issues were placed at the end of Upper Volta prior to the 1991 catalogues when we changed the name of the country to Burkina Faso and moved the country from its place in the "U"s in Volume 4 to its new location under the "B"s in Volume 2. At that time, we considered consolidating the listings of other countries as well, such as Ex-Belgian Congo and Zaire, Ceylon and Sri Lanka and Dahomey and Benin, but they decided against doing so. We may eventually consolidate the Zaire stamps under Congo, but the listings for this country have not been added to in quite some time because we have not been able to determine what new stamps, which now use the country name of "Congo," are legitimate. To a certain extent, we aren't that keen on making the already messy two-Congo situation even messier. With Ceylon and Sri Lanka, we decided against consolidation because in 1991, Ceylon and Sri Lanka were in the same Volume 1, which covered the British Commonwealth. We decided against consolidating Dahomey and Benin because some stamps would need to be renumbered and all sorts of footnotes would have to be revised.

We haven't changed Burma to Myanmar because there hasn't been that many Myanmar stamps, and they may revert to Burma if the repressive regime is ever ousted. We have become less enamored with moving countries from volume to volume in the catalogues because of space constraints in the books. We have tried to keep all volumes at about the same number of pages because there is a limit to how much can fit in one volume, and we want to avoid continually changing the break-up of the volumes. When we have to expand to more volumes, as is bound to happen sooner than later in this era when all countries are going berserk issuing stamps, we'll reconsider all sorts of changes. Some of the suggested name changes may take place at that time, but such changes are not going to be done piecemeal.

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An Offset-Printed Double Impression

Charles Neyhart

Several years ago, Steve Chown and I were choosing examples of stamp “varieties” for a project. One example chosen from Steve’s collection was a **double impression** on the Yugoslavia stamp from the 1943-44 U.S. Overrun Countries series [Scott 917]. Little did we know or even think about, at the time, how a double impression printing variety could occur on an offset-printed stamp.¹

A duplication of printed lines on a stamp is probably best known and understood in the context of line engraved intaglio printing. These are the “double transfers” that result from platemaking. Duplication of lines in offset printing, however, is less well understood. Yet, adding an offset blanket to the printing mix adds another potential source of printing errors. There is much to these offset doublings, of course, and that is the subject of this collecting note.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing did not have the color technology to print the Overrun Countries series; instead, it was subcontracted to the American Bank Note Co. ABN had



developed a revolutionary sheet-fed offset rotary press capable of printing the multiple colors of the central flag vignette in a single pass through the press. As a private contractor with proprietary interests to protect, ABN naturally refused to divulge the details of its printing process and kept its records closed.

The stamp design is consistent throughout the 13-stamp series: a common frame and a center vignette picturing the country flag and the country name placed under the flag. Separate rotary presses were used to print the frame and the vignette. The frames were line-engraved intaglio printed in “blue violet” ink. The center flag vignettes were printed in the natural colors of the country flags on the new offset rotary press. The design called for shading dots to be added to the flag to produce a “flying” effect and ABN also replaced conventional plate numbers with the country names of the stamps in the selvage. Thus, for each stamp, the offset printing was done in either three or four colors.

During the 1970s, researcher Clark Crane, who successfully plated both the Luxembourg and Netherlands stamps,² described the printing method for the center flag vignette as indirect low relief [offset letterpress] and, in a case of insightful reverse engineering, gave the proximate design and operation of the ABN offset rotary press, which he described as:

¹ A true double impression results from being run through the press twice. All other doubling merely mimics that result. Different terminology is commonly used here to describe the phenomenon of duplicated lines,

²These findings were published serially over a six-year period in *The United States Specialist* beginning June, 1974. For anyone interested in “plating” studies, Crane’s work should prove instructive. His methodology in identifying constant varieties and in then extrapolating these to the full sheet is robust.

1. A four-station rotary press using curved plates and each carrying a different color ink.
2. The four printing plates inked the offset blanket in sequence such that a single pull of the blanket applied the complete center print.

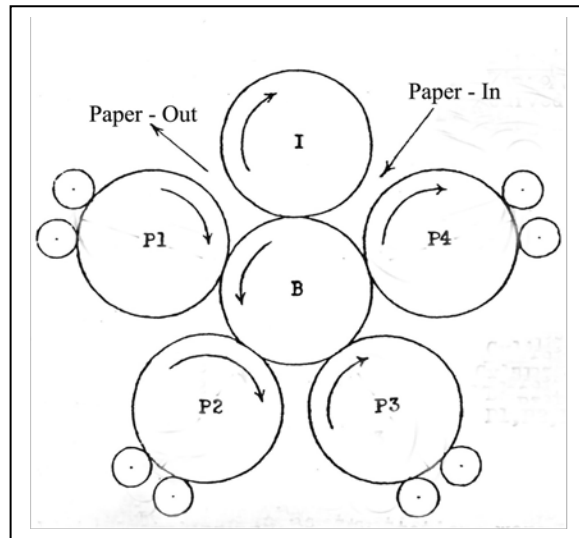


Figure 1. Side view of cylinders on the ABN offset rotary press – side view.

Crain’s diagram of the ABN offset rotary press in Figure 1 is a side view and shows, at its center, the offset blanket cylinder, B. This cylinder was covered with a hard rubber blanket. Positioned around this center are four printing cylinders, P1 – P4, each mounted with curved metal plates of 200 subjects, and each with split ink fountains [the small circles]. ***Important to the issue at hand, each printing cylinder’s plate printed a different “part” of the center flag design.*** Using Yugoslavia [Scott 917] as an example, the different parts of the flag would be: blue stripe, dark rose stripe, the red country name “Yugoslavia” under the flag, and the black portions of the image, including shading dots, flagpole and rope, flag outline, and plate inscription “Yugoslavia” in place of the plate number.

As the rubber offset blanket cylinder, B, made one complete revolution, printing cylinder, P1, is first to lay its “part” of the inked flag image on the blanket. The blanket rotation then

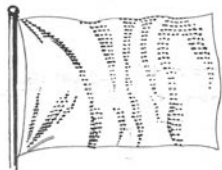


Figure 2. An example of the “black” part of a flag design

carries this partial image farther along to where the second printing cylinder, P2, deposits its inked part of the flag on the same space on the offset blanket. This continues onto the third printing cylinder, P3, and then to the fourth printing cylinder, P4, at which point there is now a fully inked image of the 200-subject plate on the offset blanket’s surface. Colors would be stacked on top of one another in overlapping areas of the image. The final step in the blanket rotation is to deposit that full image on dry, pre-gummed sheet-fed paper as it passes between the blanket cylinder and the

tensioning impression cylinder, I.

THE DOUBLE IMPRESSION SUBJECT

The Overrun Countries stamps were printed from 200-subject plates entered 20 across by 10 in the rotary dimension with the design entered on its side. The plate layout for the Yugoslavia stamp, which was paired with Greece [Scott 916], is shown below.

GREECE					GREECE				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	46	47	48	49	50
YUGOSLAVIA					YUGOSLAVIA				
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	41	42	43	44	45
46	47	48	49	50	46	47	48	49	50

Rotary Direction \longrightarrow

Figure 3. Plate layout for the paired Greece-Yugoslavia stamps each printed in 100-subject panes on a single sheet and separated into post office panes of 50.



Figure 4. The subject double impression inscription block of four.

Steve Chown's double impression, shown in Figure 4, is a country-name block of four. Steve submitted the block for expertization and the APEX Certificate, dated December 20, 2005, describes the inscription block of four as: "United States Scott 917 with double impression of black flagpole and shading." Surprisingly, the certificate says nothing about the doubling of the country name in the margin, which would also have to be doubled because it, too, was printed from the black plate.

Shown in Figure 5 is a magnified view of the black "YUGOSLAVIA" in the margin, which replaced a plate number. You can readily discern the added shading caused by the double impression on both the left and right sides of most letters. "YUGOSLAVIA" is not only darker than normal, but almost three-dimensional because of the duplicated lines. The "shadows" are separate impressions. That this extends to the other "black" parts of the flag design can be seen by comparing the flagpoles in Figure 6 below: the one on the left is from a regular printing; the one on the right shows a doubling of the pole.

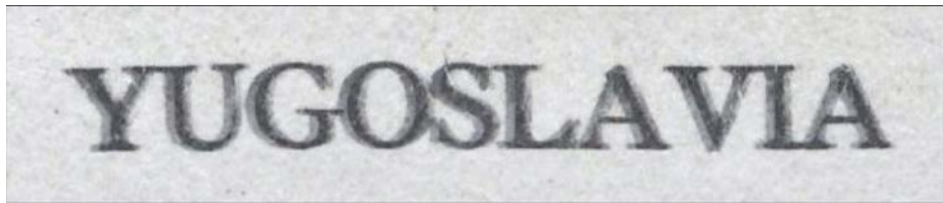


Figure 5. Magnified view of the marginal country name on the block in Figure 3.

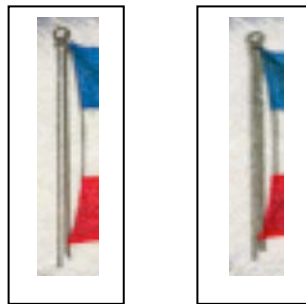


Figure 6. Black flagpole on a regular printing (*left*); flagpole showing a doubling (*right*).

To date, double impressions on stamps from the Overrun Countries series: [1] feature an east-west shift on the stamp [as you look at it in its normal orientation] and not a north-south shift due to the direction of the paper feed into the press – sideways, i.e., the design was entered in the rotary direction on its side; [2] affecting only one printing cylinder; and [3] affecting a minimum of one and not more than two vertical rows of stamps on a pane.³

³ Sol Glass, "Supplement to the 'Overrun Nationals Series, The Flag Stamps,'" *The Stamp Specialist* [Chartreuse], 1948, pp. 94-111 and *United States Postage Stamps, 1945-1952*, BIA, 1954.

CAUSE OF THE SUBJECT DOUBLE IMPRESSION

From the offset press diagram in Figure 1, notice that the plate on each printing cylinder, P1 – P4, will sequentially deposit its unique inked image directly onto the offset blanket which, in turn puts down the now full flag images [200 subjects in two panes of 100] onto the stamp paper. If things are right, each plate's image will take the same successive position on the offset blanket during each complete revolution. For things to be right on this press, all parts of it had to be carefully aligned and synchronized.

Observe the appearance of the letters in the country name YUGOSLAVIA of the subject block - a full dark letter and lighter shaded letter on both sides. Some ink typically remains on the offset blanket after it transfers the full flag image to the paper. If, during the next revolution of the blanket cylinder, the blanket picks up ink at a different position, the next transfer to paper will show both the current ink pickup [darker] as well as the ink remaining from the previous revolution of the cylinder [fainter], i.e., a double impression.

Possible causes of an offset printed double impression are varied; an unequivocally correct diagnosis is problematic. Williams⁴ identifies several causes; others can be found in the EFO literature.⁵ Many of these possible causes were developed from experience with the 1918-20 Washington-Franklin offsets, which were printed in a single color on an offset press with a single printing cylinder. The Overrun Countries stamps, though, were printed in multiple colors from multiple printing cylinders, which add complexity to a proper diagnosis. Also, the lack of specific details about the ABN offset rotary press complicates matters further.

Based on the generally known effects of double impressions on the Overrun Countries stamps, one can work backwards to elicit the likely cause. To restate these effects, double impressions: [1] feature an east-west shift as you look at the stamp, [2] affecting only one printing cylinder, and [3] affecting a minimum of one vertical row of stamps on a pane. The search for a cause of the Yugoslavia double impression would necessarily focus on something that affected just a single printing cylinder, in this case the one mounted up with the "black" parts of the design. No other colors are doubled on the subject block.

Due to the nature of the displacement, it most certainly occurred during operation of the press, and involved either the offset blanket or a printing plate. Even though there are several possibilities here, the fixed nature of the displacement suggests an action that stopped or started the press.⁶ Too much pressure on the blanket cylinder can throw the offset blanket out of true relation to the printing cylinders. The excess pressure on the blanket is likely from contact with the impression cylinder, although it could be from a particular printing cylinder. This pressure causes a slight bulge across the blanket's surface, in a fairly sharp line, just ahead of the pressure point. The usual way of smoothing out the bulge is to relax the blanket by temporarily stopping the press. The press stoppage may be initiated by manual inspection

⁴ L.N. Williams, *Fundamentals of Philately*, APS, 1990 rev., pp159-60, 356-57.

⁵ See, for example: John Hotchner, "Errors, Freaks and Oddities," *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*, 6th, 2000.

⁶ This was originally suggested many years ago by Sol Glass, *United States Postage Stamps, 1945-1952*, Bureau Issues Association, 1954, p. 104.

or via a sensor; in any case, all press cylinders are disengaged. This enables the blanket to relax, the bulge effectively releasing [sliding] back in the direction of the pressure point. When the press is restarted, the printing cylinder nearest to the start of the original bulge will reprint a portion of its design on the relaxed blanket, which will transfer as a doubling on the printed output. This doubling will start and stop as fairly sharp lines, i.e., limited and localized to one or two vertical rows of stamps.

In the case of the subject block, the black printing cylinder “reprinted” part of its design once the blanket was relaxed and the press restarted

FINDING OFFSET DOUBLE IMPRESSIONS

Offset-printed double impressions in this stamp series can be identified with a practiced eye once you know what you are looking for. Keep in mind, though, that doubling can be from any of the printing cylinders, not just the “black” cylinder.⁷ Thus, you could find doubled impressions on any part of the flag design, although, admittedly, it is usually easier to “see” the doubling of the black. Of the 13 stamps in the Overrun Countries series, Scott lists 10 with double impressions. Three of these are listed as having two double impressions, but to my knowledge these do not appear together on a single stamp. Only two have catalog values due to insufficient market price data. [*Editor’s note: a certificated red ink double impression on the Norway issue (Scott 911) recently sold on Ebay for \$175.*]

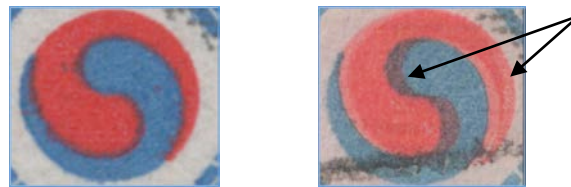


Figure 7. Enlarged regular center design of the Flag of Korea [*left*]; an example of a doubling of the red part from a photograph in *Linn’s Stamp News*, 1/31/2011 [*right*]. Note the east-west shift in the red ink.

⁷ The most recent example, as of this time, is a used doubled **red** impression of Korea, Scott 921. See, *Linn’s Stamp News* January 31, 2011. [Figure 7.]

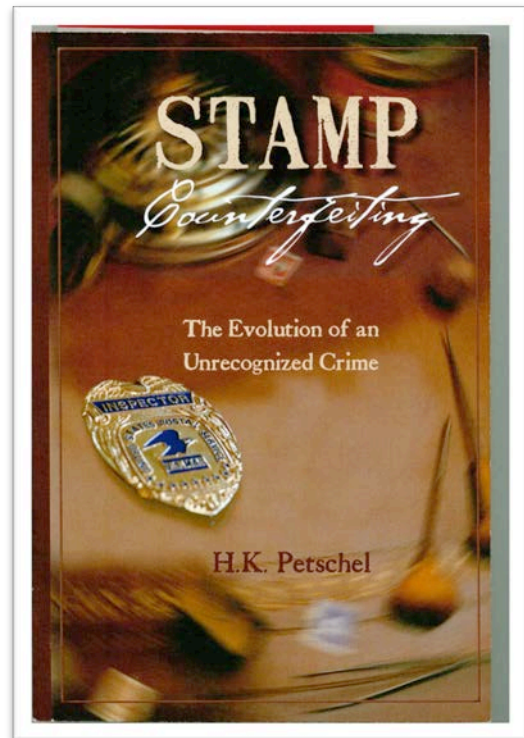
Book Review: Stamp Counterfeiting

Orlie Trier

Petschel, H.K., **Stamp Counterfeiting: The Evolution of an Unrecognized Crime**, HKP Publications, Sandpoint, Idaho, 2011, 173 pages.

Petschel is a postal inspector and the book relates real cases involving counterfeit stamps, including some that he personally investigated. He begins with the first Chicago Counterfeit in 1895. Later he looks at cases involving Postal Cards of 1902, Scott UX 14, and later revenue counterfeits. The last counterfeit stamp he researched is Scott #634.

He gives great detail in his accounts. The first counterfeit stamp story he tells revolves around Scott #250, Type I. He also gives the technical details regarding this counterfeit, including the names of all involved. Petschel has done a great deal of research and presents an interesting account. This counterfeit stamp has been found on a couple of covers originating from Portland.



The last chapter “Odds and Ends: Is it illegal to collect counterfeit stamps?” addresses some of the legal issues of having these stamps in one’s possession. “In the official mindset of the 1930s there was no doubt. Possession of counterfeits was against the law. The federal government had the right to seize them, and quite possibly you could be prosecuted. In today’s world, if push came to shove, it is questionable if the courts would still maintain that interpretation” (page 159).

Petschel presents all of the material in a fun and interesting manner. After reading the book you may just want to check some of the stamps in your collection.

**Happy Holidays
from the Board and Staff of the
Northwest Philatelic Library**

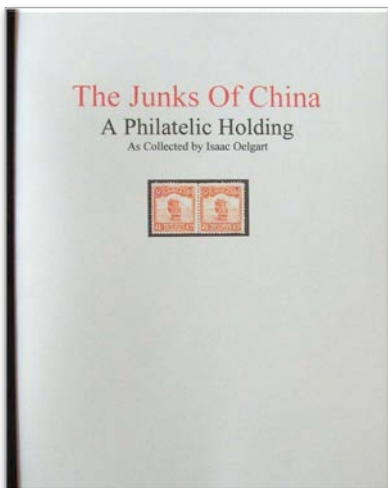
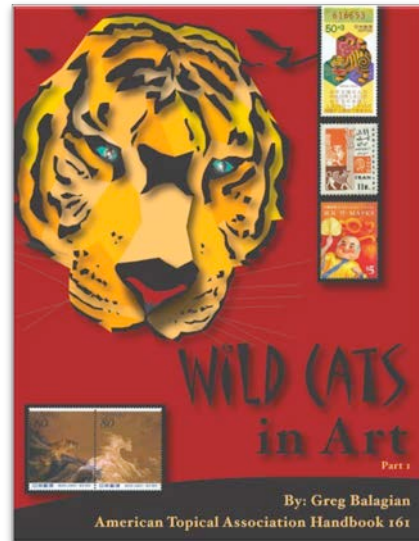
New on our Shelves

The following resources have been added to our collection:

2013 Scott Catalogue Vol. 6 and US Specialized

American Topical Association Handbooks

- 148. Hobby for Seniors
- 150. Insects III
- 151. John Audubon
- 152. Computers and Stationary II
- 153. Collecting and Exhibiting Tips
- 154. U.S. Presidents
- 155. American Civil War
- 157. Women V
- 158. Hearts
- 159. Marc Chagall
- 160. Barack Obama
- 161. Wild Cats



Contributed by Bill Arbaugh

Essays: Comments, Opinions and Reflections

Contributed by Isaac Oelgart

The Junks of China: A Philatelic Holding

Contributed by Christine Bernard

[These were donated on behalf of her husband who recently passed away.]

Cornell, Lee H., **The Tale of the Kicking Mule**, [signed copy]

Datz, Stephen R., **The Buyers Guide: An Analysis of Selected U.S. Postage Stamps**

Datz, Stephen R., **1999 Catalogue of Errors on U.S. Postage Stamps**

de Rochambeau, Rev. Doctor Philip, **A Simple Guide to Detecting and Understanding Regummed, Reperforated, Altered, and Faked Stamps**

Dealer's Guide to Chemical Restoration of Postage Stamps, 8th Edition

Johl, Max, **The United States Postage Stamps of the 20th Century, Vol. IV, 1933-37**

King, Beverly S., and Max G. Johl, **The United States Postage Stamps of the 20th Century. Vol. II, 1901-1922**

Muller, **Briefmarken Catalog, Deutschland Special-Catalog**

Neil, Randy L., **The Trans-Mississippi Issue of 1898**

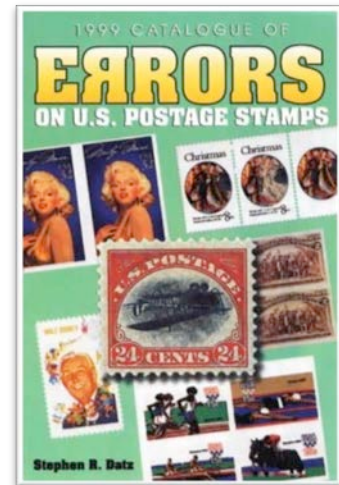
Postage Stamps of the United States, 1847-1961

Recent acquisitions:

The Congress Book 2012

Inverted Center: Stamps of the World, 1993

Walthouse, Richard, **All Nations Stamp Finder and Dictionary**



LIBRARY NOTES

Orlie Trier, NPL President

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Reading our *Book Reports* means that you have a strong interest in our hobby and are supportive of the Northwest Philatelic Library, for which we say thanks. At our Board meetings we have been discussing how to make the Library more visible, not only to our members to the larger philatelic community and to the public. If you have any suggestions please let us know. You may contact us at nwpl@qwestoffice.net or by phone at 503-867-4764. Thanks in advance for your ideas.

Sharing your philatelic interests

We are always looking for articles, from a short paragraph to several pages, to include in *Book Reports*. If you have ever done philatelic research here is a great opportunity to share this with our readers. Often times when I read an article it provides me with an inspiration and leads me to look into a new area.

IN APPRECIATION

To the individuals listed below who have made recent donations of literature and other considerations to NPL, we thank you for your generosity. We want to assure you that we will make good use of these resources for our fellow philatelist and collectors.

Christine Bernard
Tom Bender
Clifford Edwards
Isaac Oelgart
Chris Mays

Jack Hartong
Gloria Jacobs
Bill Arbaugh
Charles Neyhart
Janna Ferguson

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