

# THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

American Philatelic Society  
Member # C-161196

Volume 22, No. 4  
October-December, 2012

## Annual Christmas Party by Mike Francis

While the 2012 annual Christmas Party had fewer attendees than usual, from all the feedback I received, it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. It seems the addition of the Publix chicken wings, and all the wonderful desserts members contributed, made for a fun and relaxing evening. The photos below and on page 3 were graciously provided by Dr. Hemanth Vasanthaiah.



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### NOTICE:

- On December 6, 2012 our friend and fellow member Laurence L. "Larry" Benson passed away after a long term battle with cancer. As a founding member of the TS&CC, Larry's legacy will live on especially his quiet and subtle, at times, manner of getting his opinion expressed and issues resolved.
- Larry and Shirley Benson donated most of his stamp collection to the club. Larry requested that the stamps be sold and the proceeds go to the club treasury. If you are interested in Tonga postal covers please let the Club President know otherwise the covers will go on auction at Michael Rogers in Winter Park. Most of the odds-and-ends of Larry's collection will be placed on the club auction in May.
- The club has been notified by the APS that we have adequate APS members in the club to be exempt from APS chapter dues for 2013.
- Plans are underway for TALPEX 2013. It will be held on March 23-24, 2013 at the Tallahassee Senior Center. The notice about the show will be sent to Linn's the first week of the January and will run for 5 issues. The mailing list will also be ordered from APS and notices will be sent out in late February and early March.

## Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2013

Jan. 8,	George Harmon, Creating Albums	July 9,	Gerry York, Bangladesh
Feb. 12,	Mike Francis, Rotary Press measuring	Aug. 13,	Show Your Collection
March 12,	Mike Francis, Stamp Paper types	Sept. 10,	Mike Francis, TBA
April 9,	Gerry York, B. I. O. T. Philately	Oct. 8,	Single Page Exhibit
May 14,	Club Auction, The Benson Collection	Nov. 12,	Gerry York, Turkish Cyprus
June 11,	Mike Francis, TBA	Dec. 10,	Annual Christmas Party

## How Paper is Made by Dr. Mike Francis, sketches provided by Mike Nathan

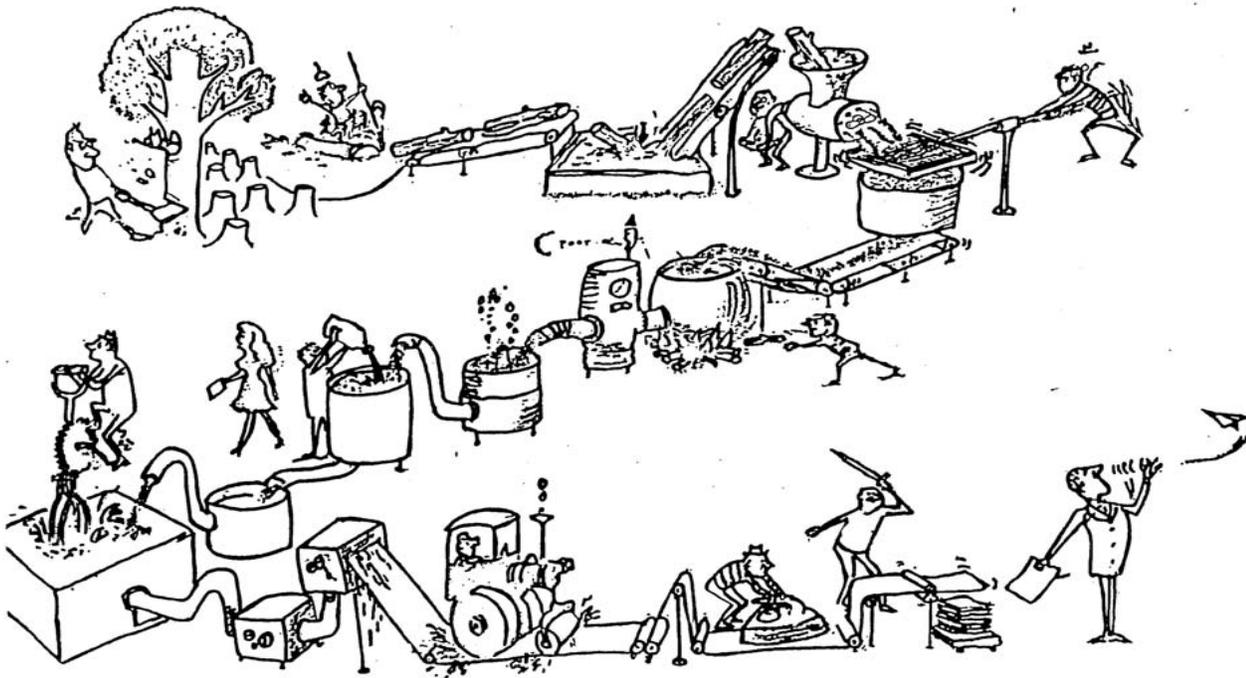
One of my morning Whataburger breakfast club friends is Mike Nathan. Over the years I have come to learn that Mike is an expert when it comes to paper manufacturing and the paper industry in the United States. He also has experience in book printing and other printing profiles. Mike also was a graphics instructor at Florida A&M University until FAMU decided to get rid of most of their knowledgeable and skilled instructors.

One morning while our conversation drifted toward the quality of paper on the market, I mentioned to Mike that most stamp collectors have trouble when attempting to identify the paper type of a stamp. Is the stamp on thick or thin paper, soft porous or wove, linen, silk or granite? Mike was curious about my inquiry and I told him that, sometimes, the paper type of an older US stamp could mean thousands of dollars difference in value. He then proceeded to tell me about paper production and mentioned the cross screens that help create laid paper, how watermarks are applied and other manufacturing techniques. In the laid paper, you can see either the horizontal or vertical lines, or both from the metal screens used to keep the create the paper.

We even discussed the actual weight of paper, the "bond" and how it is measured. Many of you take the paper weight into consideration when you are making your own album pages. One day Mike brought an old, very unique, paper weight measurer that actually tells you the "bond" of the paper. Apparently all paper bond weight is based on the industry standard 100% rag paper, sized 17" x 22". It is noted that from this standard, the 8½" x 11" paper we commonly use today was derived. While it won't help with stamp paper identification, it was still an interesting measuring tool. Mike was also familiar with the American, National and Continental Bank Note Companies. American Bank Note is still in business today. He did state that the reason soft porous paper was created was that the hard, white (thick or thin) paper had plenty of starch in it to help the paper transverse through the processes. When the newer, more efficient and cheaper Steam presses came onto the scene, the starch paper would not work in them. Thus, the creation of the mostly non-starch soft porous paper.

Not long ago, Mike gave me two illustrations that lay out the production process for making paper. The Mead Paper Company sheet, on the next page, shows the complex paper production steps.

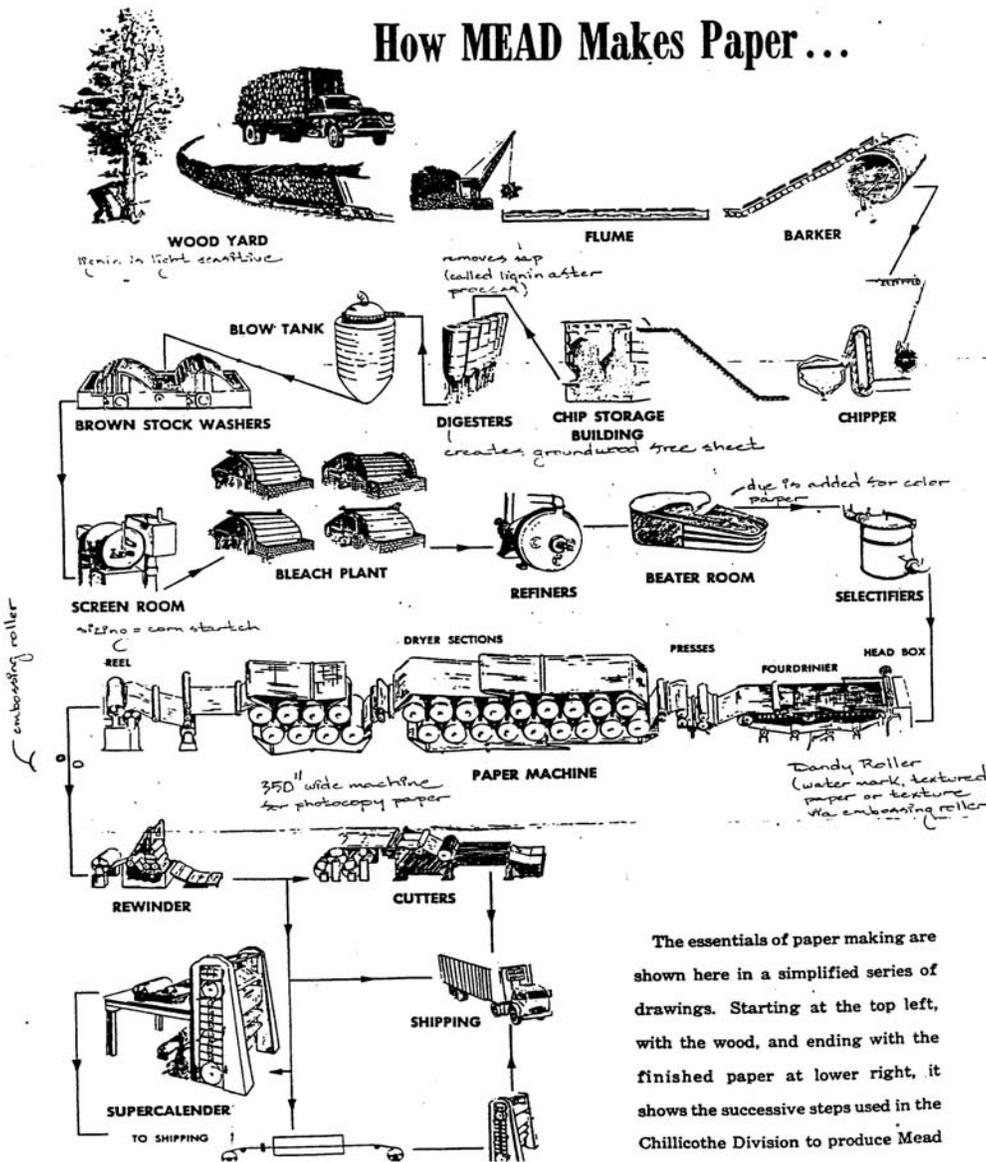
## HOW TO MAKE A PIECE OF PAPER



# More Christmas Party



How Paper is Made (con't) by Dr. Mike Francis



The essentials of paper making are shown here in a simplified series of drawings. Starting at the top left, with the wood, and ending with the finished paper at lower right, it shows the successive steps used in the Chillicothe Division to produce Mead

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The Postscript is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this

**Postscript Note:**

Larry Benson has donated his copies of the Postscript to the club so they can be scanned in and placed in the online archives. His folder contained all issued starting with the first issue. They will be scanned in over the winter months and placed on the club's website: [www.tsandcc.info](http://www.tsandcc.info)

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**The Postscript**  
Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club  
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## President's Message *from Mike Francis*

We are now entering the end of the 2012 calendar year. Thanks to the efforts of our club members, Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club experienced another successful year. Fun club meetings and raffles, TALPEX 2012, the annual club auction, and the single page exhibit functions all have made for a great year. Let's keep it going in 2013.

As has become tradition, the club nominated and seconded the continuation of existing officers. The club members, with a quorum present, voted for the officers to treat themselves to a diner for all their years of repeat service and their continuation into 2013. The officers thank all the members. Before Larry Benson passed away he told me, jokingly, that I would "die

in office." I hope that is not true.

I would like all members to know that none of the officers are wedded to their position in the club. If anyone would like to assume one of the four executive positions or the Postscript Editor function, please make it known to any officer of the club. I can assure you that you will not be "shot on the spot" but will be given the position.

Change is always good and healthy for any organization and new leaders bring new ideas. If you are interested, it is never too late to step forward.

For those I didn't see at the party on December 11th and to all the members, have a happy and peaceful holiday season and a great New Year. Mike.