



# Counter – etching in Multicolour Printing or *Secondary Scumming*

Lets us begin by remembering the basics of Lithography.

- 1) Lithography is a *physicochemical process*, method of printing.
- 2) There is competition between the Litho Ink (*fatty acids*) and the weaker molecular bonds of the F.S. for the Oleophilic/Hydrophilic metal surfaces.
- 3) The present day CtP plates are poorly desensitized and totally reliant on fountain solution to keep the plates desensitized during the production run.

## Counter-etching (secondary scumming)

This problem can happen on any unit of a multi-colour press – except the first. An example is that the printed ink from the first impression is transferred via the second unit blanket onto the non-image areas of the second plate. These areas can become **sensitized** by the first unit inked image areas, forming a *scum image area* which will overprint.