Lithographic Image Definition

PREFACE

When studying the print quality of a lithographic image, one can usually distinguish several attributes or factors which are independent of the subject matter of the image. In previous articles in this series we have discussed three of these print quality factors: graininess, sharpness and resolving power. In this article we will report on some of our studies on another print quality factor which we call ‘‘image definition’’. In these studies, a method for measuring image definition was developed that involves the analysis of transfer curves produced from the LTF Star Target. This test method gives us an insight into the nature of lithographic images. While it is not one that would be used in a plant, it does have very practical use in research.

Until now, it has often been quite difficult to decide if print quality was improved by the use of some new or different material or process. Perhaps in the future, test methods such as the one described in this article will become very sensitive tests for developing and evaluating new improvements in blankets, inks, papers etc., for lithographers.

Source: GATF Research Progress No. 62 October 1963