

EXPO 2009 Stamp Show to Highlight the Thanksgiving Holiday

by Joel Dahlin and Stanley Christmas

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club (MCSC) will hold its 22nd annual EXPO at the Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas on Saturday, November 14th (10 am to 5 pm) and on Sunday November 15th (10 am to 4 pm).

Twenty-six stamp dealers and the Grapevine USPS are expected to attend the EXPO. Participants at publication time are **Alpha-D Stamps, B & W Stamp Company, Byron S. Brandt, Carlton Stamps, Castle Stamps, Crown Colony Stamps, Cunningham Philatelics, D. K. Enterprises, David Alex, Double J. Stamps, Ed Dimmick Stamps, FIP Covers, George Watkins Stamps, Jamie Schwartz, Ken Kerruish, Melvin Edmonds, Oklahoma Stamps, Park Cities Stamps, Robert M. Sazama, Stamp Center of Texas, stamps universal.com, Terry Kurzinski, The Right Stamp Co, Topper Stamps and Postal History, Warren H. Crain and W. H. Burdick.** Almost every collecting interest will be represented.



A **cachet and special USPS cancel** promoting The Thanksgiving Holiday will be available during the show. The MCSC cachet for EXPO 2009, is Thanksgiving Day parade drummer on Fort Worth's Main Street with the Tarrant County Court House in the background. The cachet will feature the Thanksgiving Day Parade stamp strip issued September 9th. Cost will be \$2.00 each for a cachet with a single stamp and \$3.50 for a set of four.

Thanksgiving got its start in America in 1623 when Plymouth's colonists and the Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn feast. This feast is acknowledged as the beginning of Thanksgiving in America. Later, in 1863 Abraham Lincoln assisted Congress in setting aside the last Thursday in November as a national holiday celebrating Thanksgiving. This day is not the day we celebrate now: Franklin Roosevelt in 1941 helped change this day to the fourth Thursday of November where it is today... in some years the last Thursday was just too close to Christmas.

"Thanksgiving Parades" didn't begin until 1920 when Gimbels Department Store in Philadelphia began celebrating Thanksgiving with a parade that ended up at their store. In 1924, other celebrations including Macy's of New York, Detroit, Houston, and Chicago sprang up. The New York Macy's Thanksgiving Parade is now the largest celebration in the United States. When Macy's Parade started, live animals were borrowed from local zoos to be used in the procession. However, today Macy's Parade uses large animal-like balloons instead. The first animal-like balloon used in Macy's Parade was "Felix the Cat". Now, many more are used including the second animal-like balloon "Mickey the Mouse".

Today more than one million people will attend Macy's Parade and many millions more will watch on NBC television before and during their Thanksgiving meal. Turkeys were not as much in favor at the first Thanksgiving meal in 1623. Instead, venison was the main meat used. Today Turkey is the preferred meat of choice. Turkey is a native American bird which was promoted by Benjamin Franklin to be our national symbol. Ben's favorite lost out, however, to the Bald Eagle and instead the Turkey found its way onto our Thanksgiving Day tables.

Once again, the MCSC EXPO will have 60 easel frames of informative and interesting exhibits exemplifying the best of our hobby. Two judges certified by the American Philatelic Society will evaluate all exhibits.

Exhibitors vie for numerous awards which will be presented at a 7:30 pm Saturday evening Awards Dinner. The entrée of choice is Homemade Meatloaf and shall be served at the Grapevine Convention Center. Tickets can be purchased on a first come, first served basis for \$20.00 until October 24. Remaining tickets shall be available until November 7 at a slightly higher cost. Call Mr. Richard Hildebrandt 817-483-9234 (richhilde@hotmail.com) to buy your tickets. EXPO attendees can vote for their favorite exhibit up until 1:30 pm Sunday. The winner will be presented a Texas Stamp Dealers Association's Most Popular Exhibit Award on Sunday at 2 pm.

Eleven door prize drawings will be held during the show giving away either merchandise or Dealer Gift Certificates. Once again the ever-popular EXPO "Chance Board" & "Giant Mixture Pick" will be featured. Young collectors will have fun with games, contests and prizes awaiting them in the Youth Activities Center. Finally, our dramatic Silent Auction returns to the EXPO – any collector will find real bargains there. EXPO Auction winners can pick up their purchases between 2:30 pm and 4 pm Sunday.

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