

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

*Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.
 Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.
 Eules Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
 12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)
 Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
 Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)*



CHAPTER
MEMBER



#0891-076252

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<http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

January 2018

Postage Rates & Fees	2017	1/21/2018
DOMESTIC		
1st Class - 1 oz (retail / metered or PC postage)	0.49 / 0.46	0.50 / 0.47
" 2 oz	0.70 / 0.67	0.71 / 0.68
" 3 oz	0.91 / 0.88	0.92 / 0.89
" 3.5 oz (maximum) non-machinable surcharge	1.12 / 1.09 +0.21	1.13 / 1.10 +0.21
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	0.98	1.00
" 2 oz	1.19	1.21
" 3 oz	1.40	1.42
" 4 oz	1.61	1.63
" 5 oz	1.82	1.84
" 13 oz (maximum)	3.50	3.52
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Parcel)		
1st Class Package - 1 oz	3.00	3.50
" 2 oz	3.00	3.50
" 3 oz	3.00	3.50
" 4 oz	3.00	3.50
" 5 oz	3.16	3.75
" 8 oz	3.39	3.75
" 13 oz (max for retail)	4.53	5.50
" 15.999 oz (commercial base pricing only)	4.30	4.95
Media Mail - 1 lb	2.63	2.66
" 2 lbs	3.12	3.17
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate /Legal/ Padded	6.65/6.95/7.20	6.70/7.00/7.25
" - up to 1 lb.	6.65 - 10.50	6.70 - 10.60?
" - Small Flat-rate Box	7.15	7.20
Postcard (Domestic)	0.34	0.35
Certificate of Mailing (#3817 / 3655 3x min)	1.35 / 0.39	1.40 / 0.40
" " " (#3817 / 3877 FCMI/Other)	1.35/0.39/0.4	1.40/0.40/0.49
Certified Mail	9	3.45
USPS Tracking		
1st Class Parcel / Priority / Media / Parcel	0.00	0.00
Insurance		
0 - \$50 / \$50.01 - \$100 / \$100.01 - \$200		2.10/2.70/3.40
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	11.70	11.90
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	12.50 / 14.55	12.60/ 14.55
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada/Mex. (2 oz)	1.15	1.15
First Class Package (1 lb Canada/Other)	16.50 - 22.50	16.00-23.50
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz, varies/zone)	n/a 29.95 - 32.95	10.00 - 14.00 29.95- 32.95?
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4 lbs) /	23.95	23.95?

2018 Postage Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

It's that time of year again, the annual postage rate increase set to take place on Sunday, January 21, 2018.

To the left is a list I've compiled of the current and proposed postage rates as approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The rates shown are the "retail" rates. You can save considerably if you have access to "commercial base" pricing (generally through eBay or PayPal). The pitfall to commercial base pricing is that you have to use a computer generated postage label; stamps apparently can't be used for that pricing.

For example, starting January 21, a 4 ounce 1st class package sent with retail postage will cost \$3.50, while the commercial base rate will be \$2.66!

Additionally, the maximum weight for a "retail" rate for a 1st Class Package is 13 ounces, while it goes to 15.999 ounces if using commercial base pricing (starting at 1 pound, it has to be sent via Priority Mail or Parcel, or Media Mail if it is that type of an item).

A First Class Package International option also seems to have been added; I don't have exact details yet.

International rates for postcards & letters do not appear to have any increases scheduled on January 21.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

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2017 - 2018 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Ray Cartier
First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
Second Vice-President – Richard Hildebrandt
Secretary – Benedict Termini
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Alliene Franklin Ralph Poore Ken Wills

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area. Dues are \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158

or visit: <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

Coming Attractions

2018

JAN. 3 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

JAN. 13 **MCSC BOD / EXPO Planning Meeting**
Location Pizza Garden Restaurant in Bedford, 11 AM.

JAN. 17 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: TBD

JAN. 23 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD

FEB. 7 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

FEB. 21 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: TBD

FEB. 27 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD

MAR. 7 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

MAR. 16 & 17 **TSDA Bourse**
Richardson Civic Center, Arapaho Rd & US75

MAR. 21 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

This issue goes out a bit earlier since there are no Euless & Granbury meetings in December. Please don't forget to pay your dues; see the handy renewal form in this issue. The next EXPO planning meeting is coming up on January 13. In the meantime, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Be sure to pay your dues (if you haven't already); it'll make Ben's and my job easier by not having to drop and renew names and addresses on our lists!

Members in the News

ChicagoPex was held from November 17 - 19 in Itasca, IL at the Westin hotel. Two of our members had exhibits there and were awarded the following:

Ben Termini, Gold for "*Porte de Mar*"

Ray Cartier, Large Gold for "*How We Got Men to the Moon*".

Ken Aldridge New Book #7

Member, Ken Aldridge has published his seventh crime novel, "The Fatal Fall." In his latest book, the small town Texas Chief of Police wrestles with solving a mysterious death as well as with several of Mexico's classic stamp series. Copies are available on Amazon.com or from Ken himself. EBook format available on Kindle.

Ken Aldridge ~ The Fatal Fall



A Death Mystery

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

New Members

Mike T. Cima (#598)
David K. Linn (#599)
Norma DeWald (#600)

Reinstatements

George Watkins (#544-D)

Membership Summary – December 7, 2017

Membership as of November 1, 2017	102
New Members	3
Dropped for non-payment of dues	()
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of December 7, 2017	106



Been There, Done That

Port Erin

By Ken Wills

In September 1994 my wife and I spent a delightful week on the Isle of Man. We stayed at a B&B in Port Erin, which is at the southern end of the island.

Our 15 mile journey there from the capital (Douglas) was by the narrow gauge (3ft.) steam railway built in 1874. In fact the Isle of Man is full of vintage public transport, including an 1895 cog railway to the top of the highest mountain, Snaefell (2034 ft.), and horse drawn streetcars in Douglas.

It so happened that we were in Port Erin at the same time as the Lionel Tertis International Viola Competition, so we had some fascinating conversations with young classical musicians who had come in from many distant countries.



TV Philately - The Simpsons

By Peter Elias

Almost all TV that I watch is via taped programs through my DVR. This affords me the opportunity to pause a program whenever I see something postal or philatelic!

In a recent episode of the animated TV series *The Simpsons* entitled "Whistler's Father", which first aired on October 15, 2017, I saw that the character Marge Simpson was looking at a letter.

As with most mailed envelopes shown on film or TV, it flashed by fairly quickly, just enough to pass muster with viewers. Pausing it though, let's you see some of the details. In this case, the letter supposedly came from the Vatican, and the stamps shown do not show a name. The return address is "I Apostolic Palace, Vatican City", and yes, there is an "Apostolic Palace" in Vatican City, it is the official residence of the pope. T

The letter is simply addressed to someone in "Springfield, USA"; there are 33 places with that name in the USA, so this letter could not have been delivered that way in real life. Since the backdrop features post office boxes, it might have been more realistic to put "PO Box ####" on the envelope that Marge is holding!

The postmark is indistinct, but seems to say "Post" at the bottom, and the design of the definitive-size stamps seem to feature a dome with a spire, although I couldn't find any real Vatican stamps with those design features. The above is all part of the fun of "TV Philately!"



Been There, Done That

Medal of Honor

By Bob & Pat Weidman

The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration award to U.S. service members for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. It was first awarded during the Civil War to a U.S. Army recipient on March 25, 1863.

I had the distinct privilege of seeing an actual Medal of Honor about 35 years ago. It had been awarded posthumously to Captain Michael J. Estocin of Navy Attack Squadron 192 for actions on April 20 and 26, 1967 at Haiphong, North Vietnam. Captain Estocin did not return from the mission of April 26 and was initially listed as missing in action, and eventually as killed in action. His body was never recovered.

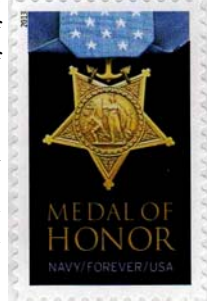
Captain Estocin was born in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Pittsburgh. His brother and sister-in-law, who was involved with the families of P.O.W.'s and M.I.A.'s lived in Turtle Creek. On a visit to their house, I was shown the Medal of Honor that was awarded to Captain Estocin..



The Picture is from one of our vacations to Hawaii. It was taken at Punchbowl Cemetery and is a close-up, showing his name engraved in gold on the wall in the picture.



The US has issued two stamps featuring the Medal of Honor, Scott#2045, a 20¢ stamp featuring different versions of the Medal of Honor and was issued on June 7, 1983 and Scott #4822, issued on November 11, 2013, that shows the Medal of Honor for Navy recipients (a 2nd stamp shows the Army version).



News from the Internet

By Peter Elias

Can't make it to a stamp show to view exhibits? Is standing at exhibit frames a bit tiring? Remember that there are many online exhibits that you can peruse at your leisure in a more comfortable setting. One of the many sites featuring online exhibits is at the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors at <http://www.aape.org/exhibits.asp>.

Stamps at Amazon? Yes, but not always exactly a bargain. Searching for "postage stamps" at Amazon did bring up a lot of mostly new or recent issue US stamp panes, but many are several dollars over the face value (probably to make up for the rather hefty commission that Amazon charges (up to 30%) and that most sellers offer free postage! You can find them under the "Office Products" or Toys & Games /Hobbies / Stamp Collecting sections at Amazon.

From the President's Desk

by Ray Cartier

Here we are at the end of another year and looking forward to 2018. How did your particular area of philatelic interest fare in 2017? There are several of us who might be interested in what you collect and what special "goodies" you may have in your area of interest. We have a few openings for a few of you to step up and give us about 5 minutes of your time at one of our upcoming meetings to share some of your enthusiasm for whichever area of interest had been the philatelic bug that bit you.

There was a great piece in the American Philatelist in August 2017 in which the President described the reasons why we collect. There were eleven bullet points but the following are the ones that might usually apply to you:

- The joy of acquiring an unusual piece that sets the collection apart from other collections
- The excitement of finding something new or unusual often referred to as "the thrill of the chase".
- The intellectual satisfaction derived from an area that requires research, specialized knowledge and an appreciation for the unusual or beautiful.
- The sense of accomplishment that comes from creating order (organizing and mounting a collection) out of chaos (piles of stamps and covers acquired from many sources).
- The bond of friendship and camaraderie that develop among those with similar interests.

How many of the above apply to your collecting?

One way to get more enjoyment out of your hobby is to belong to a larger organization that has many other collectors with interests that match yours. The American Philatelic Society has around 30,000 members. Are you one of them? Articles of interest like the above are printed regularly and reading their journal might be something that could help you enjoy your hobby more.

If you collect a topical or two, the American Topical Association has Chapter groups of members who usually have their own newsletter. Say that you collect dogs, or butterflies or computers or Disney. Those Study Units give you direct info from other collectors with similar interests. If you have duplicates you might be able to trade them with others and save having to spend money on stamps that are on your want lists. The journals keep you abreast of what and how others collect your favorite topic.

Here in Texas there is the Texas Philatelic Association which is now in the process of combining forces with another Texas group: the Texas Postal History Society.

The more you put into your hobby, the more you will draw from it. Have a super safe, healthy and philatelically rewarding 2018!

Granbury Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2017

By Eugene Atkinson

Host Dave Stockbridge welcomed 14 members and guests to the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 28.

The club meets at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, in Granbury on the 4th Tuesday of every month except in December.

In **ANNOUNCEMENTS**, Dave reported on the health of absent members Al Hull and Brian Smith.

For **SHOW & TELL**:

- Skip Ely circulated a reference work on United States stamp varieties such as the Washington-Franklin issue.
- Daniel Kennedy asked help identifying a revenue stamp.
- Ken Aldridge showed some "treasures" he acquired at EXPO and discussed his latest book.
- Lloyd Willis offered a color error.
- Alliene Franklin asked members to identify a plastic sleeve used by the USPS.

Skip Ely reported on **EXPO**, stating that most dealers seemed happy with their results and that the Granbury "Mystery Box" brought \$60 from a very satisfied buyer.

Gary McNamee challenged the group to identify stamps of the New Hebrides and Tuvalu.

After a **BREAK**, Ken Aldridge referenced his North Dakota and Minnesota roots and thus his interest in stamps tracing the history and route of the Mississippi River, from Lake Itasca to the Gulf of Mexico. In the time available he was only able to start the trip in the vicinity of Itasca State Park, a Civilian Conservation Corps project from the New Deal era.

Door prizes were claimed by Gary McNamee (who graciously donated his back to the club), Jim Bailey, Lloyd Willis and Dave Stockbridge.

Arlington Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2017

Ben Termini wanted to mention that since there was no official meeting in December (just the Christmas Party and Shanghai Bingo), that there are no minutes, but everyone had a good time anyway.

The dinner was prepared by Judy Christmas with the help of Bert and Rich Hildebrandt and Tony from the Bob Duncan Center. The main dishes were catered by Boston Market.

Ben also wanted to mention as a reminder, that Arlington meetings start at 7 PM from now on, and dues are due, and anyone who has not paid by Christmas will get a lump of coal in his stocking.

Exp. 12/18



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Exp. 12/18

Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

← <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com> →

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>
or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →




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Exp. 12/17

Merry Christmas Everyone

By Ken Aldridge



Shown us a stamp (from a set of 3) from Hungary issued on December 1, 1943, recognized by Christmas Philately anyway as the first stamps issued specifically to be used as Christmas postage (Scott 617-19). Not too colorful, but still the first. Hold it, what about Canada's #85 (86b?, deep blue shown here) issued in 1898? Diehards say this is the first Christmas Stamp, Also shown is the first US issue, #1205, issued November 1, 1962. A great pursuit in stamp collecting can be found in the Christmas issues. US alone has ones with "Christmas" on them, some without "Christmas" shown, some non-denominated and some questionable as to the Christmas theme. Then you have religious issues, secular issues and several have variety flaws that can be fun to try to find.




CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: peter@pcelias.com

For Sale

US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV. Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage, S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). jasmymers@earthlink.net 5/15

*Been There,
Done That*

Kristallwelten

By Peter Elias



In 2000, Annie & I were on a trip to Switzerland and we took a side trip to Austria.

One of the places we visited was Swarovski Kristallwelten (Crystal World's) in Wattens (not too far from Innsbruck). It was a rather interesting experience and if you're ever near there, be sure to visit it. The picture below (which unfortunately doesn't do it justice); shows me inside the attraction ;the Austrian souvenir sheet was issued in 2004.

Also not too far from there, just outside the walled town of "Hall", there is the "Burg Hasegg / Hall Mint", a medieval castle and coin mint that allows you to press your own reproduction "Thaler" (a source for the name "dollar") on a bronze coin (silver & gold are available at considerable additional cost!); that's one of the best souvenirs I can think of, to strike your own coin using a large spindle press!



For Sale

Do you collect **used USA Plate Number Coils**? Select what you want from my [extensive](#) inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog value. They are listed on my website at <http://web2.iadfw.net/wills/> and from there you will find links to other countries too. Also interested in trading. Ken Wills 9/11

Philatelic Reference CD's. The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)**
- **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
- **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
- **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
- **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
- **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-member price is \$19.95 (+ \$3.45 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094 6/16

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

Wanted to Buy

Interesting "stuff", such as:

- ◆ Worldwide Revenue stamps on document
- ◆ Worldwide ATM stamps, such as those from Framas, Klüssendorf, Epelsa, Mobba Postage Vending machines and other "on-demand" printed postage (but NOT "ATM Booklet stamps") from around the world, preferably on cover, postcards or parcel cards.
- ◆ CVP and custom order stamps, such as the "PhotoStamps" from Zazzle, Stamps.com, Endicia, etc.

Contact me at peter@pcelias.com with scans. 4/14

Postally used "ATM" stamps (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Peter Elias, info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

Traffic Safety slogans on postage meters for an exhibit that I'm working on; can be USA or foreign. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 1/18

Wanted to Trade

I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 9/16

MEET & EAT for January & February 2018

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

“Meet and Eats” are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM start ordering at that time. However, late-comers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. The Chinese restaurant is a buffet style. Meals should be over around 6:15 PM to 6:30PM with the new meeting start time now being at 7:00PM rather than 7:30PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club’s broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

January 3, 2018 Campo Verde, 2918 W. Pioneer Parkway

February 7, 2018 China Harbor Super Buffet + Mongolian BBQ + Sushi (1 Block North of Spring Creek BBQ on the West side of Cooper.

EULESS

Due to the new meeting location, meet-n-eat meeting sites have yet to be determined, the club secretary will e-mail the details once known.

Wanted to Buy

Wanted to buy or trade for: **Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits**, Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net 2 /15

For Sale

PhotoStamps, ZazzleStamps & PictureItPostage in a variety of different designs. For a listing of available designs and to purchase, go to <http://photostamps.webs.com> and use your credit card to purchase them (via PayPal). 12/15

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

FREE 111-page or 26-page album of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 6/17

Mid-Cities Stamp Club “Stamping Around” Newsletter
c/o Peter Elias
PO Box 940427
Plano, TX 75094-0427

Don't Forget:
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→ **Membership dues are due!** ←
→ **Arlington meetings start at 7 PM**
in 2018 ←