

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Eufless 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)



#0891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



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November 2018

Hot Wheels Stamps First Day Ceremony

By Peter Elias



On September 29, 2018, the USPS issued a set of 10 stamps to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of "Hot Wheels", the iconic die-cast model cars. The ceremony was held at the "Good Guys 26th Summit Racing Lone Star Nationals" car show held in "No Limits, Texas" (yes that is a real town name, it is basically the grounds of the Texas Motor Speedway, just north of Ft. Worth).

While attending the first day ceremony as such is no cost, one did have to pay the admission fee to get into the car show; fortunately I was able to secure a complimentary VIP entry due to being a "philatelic journalist".

All attendees received a first day of issue ceremony program, which includes a 6x9" cover bearing one of the 10 Hot Wheels stamps with a black & white cancel (see left); inside was a program guide (below left) along with a list of the speakers, which later had an autograph session (bottom left).

The USPS booth seemed pretty busy, selling the stamp panes, first day covers (with color first day postmarks, see above right) and other items. They also gave out a limited number of pins featuring the stamp designs (see above).

While they obviously had the "deck cards" there, they weren't giving any of them away. Fortunately (with foresight!), I managed to have my local post office give me one of their deck cards the day before, so I could have it with me at the show. I did put on one of the stamps and had it postmarked with the official first day cancel, as well as have it

autographed by Ricardo Briceno (the Director of Global Brand Marketing for Hot Wheels). As far as I know, this is a "one-of-a-kind" item!

Also on display were a couple of "real" cars that were used as the basis for making Hot Wheels cars, such as the "Dedra II" (with its "cab forward" design, see below left) and "Bone Shaker" (with the big skull on the front, see below right)



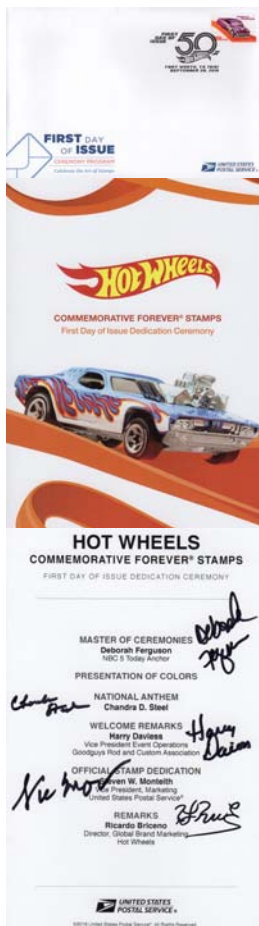
that are on the stamp pane.

I had brought with me 50 MCSC EXPO flyers and some club business cards that I was allowed to leave on the USPS sales table. They were gone quickly (I should have brought more!).

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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
Immediate Past President: Michael Smith

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 only \$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

OCT. 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Club Picnic &

Program: Jim Myers (*Title to be Determined*)
Also: Envelope stuffing for EXPO mail out

NOV. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Annual Meeting &

Program: Skip Ely: "Music in the Mail" and "How I Got Started in Stamp Collecting"

NOV. 9 & 10 MCSC 31st Annual Stamp EXPO

Grapevine Convention Center

NOV. 21 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: TBD

NOV. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: "Club Auction" by Jeff Jessop

DEC. 5 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Christmas Party

DEC. 7 & 8 TSDA Bourse

Richardson Civic Center, Arapaho Rd & US75

—> No Euleless or Granbury meetings in December!

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Is everyone ready for EXPO? All indications are that it will be another good show! For the first time that I can remember, all exhibit frames were spoken for a couple of months ago (rather than just in the nick of time and a certain amount of begging & pleading)! As usual, we have a great set of judges flying in to view our efforts and provide feedback as to how these exhibit would do at a national level. So I hope that you will all take a little bit of time out of your EXPO schedule and spend a few minutes perusing the exhibits. I am looking forward to 2 days of philatelic bliss!

If you happen to take some good photos at EXPO, please email me a copy for inclusion in the newsletter!

If you are a fairly new member of the club, please consider submitting a "philatelic biography" and a couple of sentences about what you collect (and why); a photo would help put a face to the name for the rest of the members.

A couple of hints when submitting articles and illustrations: Keep text formatting to a minimum and use a basic font like you are reading now (Times New Roman). Scans should be at least 300 dpi, and stamps should not have postmarks (unless the postmark is the focus of the article).

Errata

The few printed copies of the October 2018 newsletter that were mailed had the club election ballot header showing "2018-2019", it should have read "2019-2020". PDF files of the newsletter had this corrected.

Members in the News

- Publishing of Ken Aldridge's seventh book, "The Fatal Fall," was mentioned in the latest University of Nebraska-Kearney Alumni Newsletter under news of graduates from class of 1964.
- Peter Elias' 10-page article "2018 Changes at the SSK Machines & New Flag Stamps" was published in issue 321 (Autumn 2018) of the *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Journal*. This article can be viewed as a shorter 4-page mini-exhibit at the upcoming MCSC EXPO.
- Peter Elias is mentioned in the October 29, 2018 issue of Linn's (page 12), having provided information & scans about the new Flag design APC stamps.



Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

New Members

James L. Taylor (#607)

Membership Summary – October 4, 2018

Membership as of September 6, 2018	98
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	0
Resignations	0
Deceased	0
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of October 4, 2018	99

Philatelic Numismatist or Numismatic Philatelist?

By Rick Howell

I spend a lot of time on my computer and receive automatic notices about articles being published on certain topics like “stamp collecting” or “philately” or some of my other interests. I was a bit surprised the other day



when I received an article from the “Daily Coin Collecting News” about a new coin being produced by the Ukrainian Mint commemorating 100 years of postage stamps

in the Ukraine and depicting a 30-shagiv stamp on the obverse and a full-color 50-shagiv stamp on the reverse side.

I knew that pictures of coins on stamps was pretty common everywhere, even in the United States, but I had never heard of stamps actually being printed on coins. I did however, find through some research, that the United Kingdom did produce a series of coins commemorating the 150th anniversary of the “Penny Black” in 1990 and the 175th anniversary in 2015.

This might be an interesting sideline collection if any of you are interested. It might also make an interesting addition to your philatelic resume (see the title).

News Stand

By Peter Elias



I was at a Barnes & Noble bookstore in late August and was truly surprised to see copies of “Gibbons Stamp Monthly” for sale on their newsstand magazine racks (for \$12)! That makes me wonder though why they are selling a British stamp magazine, when Linn’s has a monthly edition available, as does the ASDA with their “American Stamp Dealer & Collector”. I did not see any US-based stamp magazines though (and no, the “Rubber Stamp Magazine” seen at the upper right-hand side of the photo does NOT count)!

2019 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal # _____

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

Check here if information is unchanged from 2018 and skip to signature line below.

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable):

APS # _____ ATA # _____ TPA # _____ Other: _____

Permission is granted to make the information above available to other club members. Indicate anything you do NOT want shared: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Membership Level:

____ \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online newsletter)

____ \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

____ **\$25 Sponsor Membership**

____ \$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

____ \$6 Additional Adult (only 1 newsletter copy)

____ \$4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

Make check out to ‘Mid-Cities Stamp Club’ and mail this form with payment to:

Benedict A. Termini, MCSC Secretary, 8520 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76120-5204

Arlington Meeting Minutes October 3, 2018

By Ben Termini

The meeting started with our annual picnic at 5:30 PM. Everyone, including your humble secretary, stuffed themselves with tube steaks and delicious desserts. After that, our group moved indoors and President Ray Cartier called the meeting to order at approximately 7 PM.

Attendance:

- There were 27 members and 3 guests present (Kathy Cunningham and two guys from Chicago).

Show & Tell:

- Ben Termini passed around a copy of the second edition of his revenue catalog.
- Peter Elias showed an envelope he had received with no stamp on it and a copy of 'Variable' a publication which deals with machine-vended stamps, as well as a FDC of the new issue Hot Wheels stamps which he donated as an extra door prize.
- Karen Cartier passed around a copy of her latest book on dragon stamps which I have read and heartily recommend.

Officer / Committee Reports:

- **Vice President** Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that our set of Scott Catalogs from 2 years ago was up for auction as well as the US Specialized catalog which had previously been lost and was now found. Further information is in the newsletter.
- **Secretary** Ben Termini reported that we had 98 members, and reminded members that it was time to start paying dues for next year. He also made election ballots and membership renewal forms available.
- **Treasurer** Judy Christmas reported that we had a balance of approximately twenty thousand dollars but she expected that this would decline soon because of expenses associated with the Mid-Cities EXPO.
- **EXPO Committee** chairman Ralph Poore was absent, but Ray Cartier mentioned that there would be an EXPO committee meeting this Saturday at 11 AM at David's BBQ. Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that awards dinner tickets could be purchased for \$20. Exhibits chairman Stanley Christmas said that we had sold out our frames, although we still had room for 5 one-page exhibits.
- **Sales Books Chairman** Skip Ely said he had several new and interesting club books. He mentioned that the MCSC Board has decided (on his recommendation) to discontinue APS books for the coming year, but any additional comments from members would be welcome.
- **Newsletter Editor** Peter Elias said everything was going OK and he would like more articles from members.

Announcements:

- Tom Turner said that he had talked to Susan Baker and she sends her regards.
- Stanley Christmas reported on the recent Greater Houston Show. He mentioned that he had won a gold medal, and Ray Cartier had won a Vermeil and a Silver-Bronze award for his exhibits.
- Ray Cartier mentioned that the Sarasota Show (early next year) was having a competition for articles, on any philatelic

Eules Meeting Minutes October 17, 2018

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 10 members present.

Officer Reports:

- Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

- Skip Ely said he had submitted a short piece to Peter to outline the discontinuance of the APS book circuits next year. He said he included an offer to turn the sales book program over to someone else if they were interested.
- Peter Elias said the next newsletter was almost completed.
- Evan Islam said that he had arranged to meet with Jim Myers to show him his proposal for the club website.

EXPO:

- Stanley Christmas said as far as he knew, EXPO was on track.
- Tom Turner said the Silent Auction committee (Ken Wills, Skip Ely and himself) had met at his house on October 9 to assemble the Silent Auction Lots.
- Skip Ely briefly outlined some of his intentions for the Beginners Table this year.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas showed the new EXPO lunch order forms. She also passed around the Christmas Dinner sign-up sheet for the December Arlington meeting.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell showed an article out of the latest Linn's Stamp News (October 29, 2018 issue) that had extensive references to Peter's recent discussion of the new USPS automated stamp machines.

Door Prizes:

- Were won by Ray Moyer and Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

topic, written after 2014, and he encouraged members to compete.

- Ray also mentioned that one of his exhibits was on display at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, and on a recent visit there, he had won two tickets to anywhere in the US on Southwest Airlines.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Gene Pfretzschner, Janet Moyer, Dave Stockbridge and Pat Weidman. Howard Savage won a small magnifier and Bob Weidman won a FDC program with FDC cancel of one of the new-issue Hot Wheels stamps.

Program:

- The club assisted the EXPO Committee by stuffing and sealing envelopes containing announcements and fliers for the upcoming Mid-Cities EXPO.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Could These Stamps Actually Start a War?

By Rick Howell

On July 13, 2018 Pakistan Post issued the set of 20 stamps shown above to commemorate Kashmir Martyr's Day to bring worldwide attention to atrocities allegedly committed in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The "Times of India" published a story about Pakistan glorifying terrorists as "freedom icons", which prompted several Indian philatelists to write to authorities in India and Pakistan demanding their withdrawal, because the philatelists felt the stamps were being used as a tool to promote terrorism.

A senior official of the Pakistan Post informed the "Times of India" that the stamps which had some disturbing images were issued from the postal headquarters in Karachi to show solidarity with Kashmiris in their fight against "Indian oppression" and to highlight their plight under "Indian occupation".

Noted Indian philatelist Sagi Srinivas Raju of Hyderabad said the stamps hurt the feelings of philatelists across the globe. He informed "Times of India" that "Stamps should be used to promote the country's heritage, culture and their customs, but the way they were used by Pakistan is not good." He also said that eBay and other online trading sites 'declined' attempts by philatelists in India to purchase the stamps.

Apparently this is not a problem in the United States, as I was able to order a set on eBay. Pakistan Post reports they have printed 20,000 sheets of these stamps. They might prove to be an interesting addition to your collection, especially if things continue to escalate.



*Been There,
Done That*

Strasbourg Cathedral

By Ken Wills

This representation of the cathedral of Strasbourg, issued in June 1939 on the 500th anniversary of its completion, gives very little indication of the size of this Gothic edifice. When I was there this April I was taken aback by its magnificence, and this photo I took showing part of the west façade hints at the impression it.

The astronomical clock inside the cathedral is what really blew me away. The first one was constructed in the 14th century, but the current one was designed and built by J-B Schwilgué, and inaugurated on New Year's Eve 1842. It tracks the positions of the components of the solar system with such accuracy that it depicted the last solar eclipse at the precise time it occurred. On its calendar it shows the saints' days and holy days, adjusts for leap year, and at the end of each year it automatically goes through a complex mechanical process to calculate the date of Easter for the New Year, and the holy days that are related to Easter.

Strasbourg is the capital of Alsace, and I enjoyed the culinary treats of this region which has bounced back and forth between France and Germany. I learned that there is an Alsatian language, still spoken by older residents, and now being taught in school.



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Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

The annual Mid-Cities Stamp Club's Christmas Party will be held on December 5th at the *Bob Duncan Community Center*. This year the Club will provide just the meat for this meal, ham and chicken breasts. So now everyone will have a chance to bring their favorite side dish and/or dessert. A signup sheet has been passed around at the Arlington, Euless and Granbury meetings. Please, please members, if you are coming let me know. We will begin gathering around 6:00pm with the serving line beginning at 6:30pm. After everyone has had a chance to eat their dinner we will begin playing Shanghai Bingo which should be no later than 7:30pm. We should be done by 9:00.

To play Shanghai Bingo we ask that every member and their guest(s) bring three philatelic type items EACJ. Please, these items should be such items as stamps, stamp covers, stamped envelopes or philatelic supplies. Place your items in either plain envelopes or wrapped packages so other members cannot tell what is in them. Just be sure to bring THREE items PER person. The more gifts on the picking table the more fun everyone has and the more likely that you will go home with a nice prize. Just keep in mind that your item should be something you would LIKE to receive in return. If you have any questions or won't be at a meeting to sign-up please e-mail me, Judy Christmas, at judy66@swbell.net.

Thank you!



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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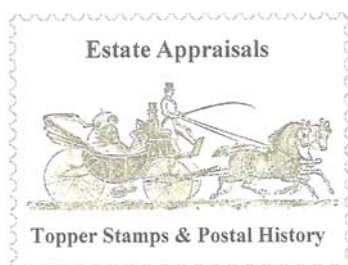


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George H. Watkins, Jr.



From The President's Desk

by Ray Cartier

Through the decades, our club newsletter has had many articles on trips to foreign destinations, some of which were illustrated by postage stamps. Many members don't see, or perhaps don't even want to travel to, faraway places with strange sounding names. But as collectors, many in our club could assemble a very interesting collection of stamps which depict places they have seen on this fantastic continent upon which we all live. It takes very little effort to find U.S. stamps that depict popular places and other images right here at home.

Suppose that you took a trip from Arlington to Houston. You could illustrate your photo album with Scott #565 picturing an American Indian because Trader's Village sponsors an annual Pow Wow right here in Arlington.

We used to have the Cowbell Rodeo south on Cooper and Hwy 287, and #2870 pictures rodeo star Bill Pickett from Tarrant County. Your route to Houston would go through Waxahachie, where the only Chautauqua in Texas still runs (#1505). That was also the hometown of Aviatrix Bessie Coleman (#2956). Next, Ennis, Texas is where they hold an annual Polka Festival (see the Czech Flag on Scott #910), and some cowboys and girls can find some tunes where they can do the Western 2-step (#1750) at dances held there in any of their four dancehalls.

Turning south on I-45 you'll pass some wheat fields (#1506) and would certainly run across some Angus and Longhorn Cattle (#1504). In small towns along the way you're likely to see signs for Lone Star Beer (#938 features the Lone Star). You would also see Texas Flag flying all along the drive (#938, #1660, #2204 and #2960), with the latter picturing a cowboy on a horse, an image I've seen frequently while driving down that route. He might even be in a field of Indian Paintbrushes, (#2647), Primroses (#2671) or Prickly Pear (#2685). I believe that I've seen a couple of oil drilling rigs further down I-45 (#1134 pictures an oil derrick).

The Texas State Prison in Huntsville houses the Electric Chair. You could fudge a little here and show #756-758 which picture light bulbs that flicker and go out when the penalty is meted out there.

Ending up in Houston (#776, #778d and #1242) you will have passed some wildlife: various birds and animals including the Roadrunner and Coyote (#3391-2) or White-tailed Deer (#1888, #2317) and you can even count road-kill: squirrels (#2489), raccoons (#1757h & #2331), rabbits (#3272), armadillos (#2296), etc. Use your imagination. I put this list together in 45 minutes. How many more items could you find? This hobby can be fun. It just takes a little imagination.

National Something Month: NCSAM

By Peter Elias



The DHS (Department of Homeland Security) and various public & private partners have declared October to be NCSAM (National Cybersecurity Awareness Month) and want to raise awareness of this important issue, something that affects all of us, every day!

Phishing, malware, keyloggers, ransomware, spyware, worm and other **terminology** is something that we all need to know about! What are you doing to educate yourself and to keep your devices & information safe?

*Been There,
Done That*

Istria

By Pat & Bob Weidman



In the picture above, Pat and I are standing in a Roman amphitheatre. No, this is not the Coliseum in Rome. This one is in Pula, Croatia, and it is the most complete Roman amphitheatre in the world. Pat and I were there in December of 2017 while on our trip to the Balkans.

The town of Pula sits at the southern tip of the Istria peninsula. It is the largest peninsula in the Adriatic Sea. It is located at the head of the Adriatic between the Gulf of Trieste and the Kvarne Gulf and is divided between Italy, Slovenia and Croatia. Pula is located in the Croatian section.

Up until the end of World War I, Istria was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. When the war ended, it became a part of Italy. With the defeat of Italy in World War II, Yugoslavia, as well as Italy laid claim to it. It was a free territory from 1947 to 1954. At that time it was divided between Italy and Yugoslavia. Italy acquired the northern section and Yugoslavia the southern section. With the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990's, Slovenia and Croatia divided the Yugoslav sections.

The stamp on the right, Croatia Scott #173 was issued on September 20, 1993 and shows a map of the Istrian peninsula.



Club Picnic

By Judy Christmas

The weather was perfect this year for the annual Club picnic. Not much wind and the temperature was great. There were about 25 members in attendance along with their delicious dishes.

As in the past, Dave Stockbridge and his helper Ray Moyer cooked the hot dogs. My thanks to all who brought food and those who helped clean up. And thank you all for coming. This is becoming quiet the social event. I hope to see everyone again next year and maybe even a few new faces.

Thank you!

Meeting Minutes for Granbury September 25, 2018

By Eugene Atkinson

The Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club held its regular monthly meeting September 25 at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 West Emerald Bend Court. The club meets at 7 PM each month except for December.

Welcome:

Host David Stockbridge welcomed 14 members and 3 guests, inviting all to help themselves to the stack of free periodicals and publications and to participate in individuals sales and swaps.

Show & Tell:

- As everyone settled, Denny Ludlow agreed to manage the club library on a temporary basis while a decision was made for its permanent location.
- Lloyd Willis circulated an assortment of interesting covers, including a U. S. Bicentennial commemorative with a Revere medallion cachet; Palestinian, Mexican and French items; U. S. censored covers; and a Czech government in exile mailing.
- Dave Stockbridge asked what members knew of the "free" personalized stamps being offered by the USPS in some mail-outs.

Announcements:

- Alliene Franklin reported that member Daniel Kennedy was not doing well.
- Dave Stockbridge pointed out that the club is holding its elections and that ballots were available at the club or in the newsletter. Also it is almost time for next year's dues and for members to submit exhibit pages for the club frame at EXPO.

Where In The World:

- Gary McNamee described a country that might have first issued stamps either in 1865 or 1871, used the "real" as currency, and had a connection with Charles Darwin. Several members at the same time correctly answered Ecuador. For a "Where" Cinderella stamp, Brian Smith introduced members to Western Sahara, a mostly deserted 103,000 square mile region, noted for its topical issues.

Break:

- A quick break was held for cookies and brownies supplied by Julie and Justin Rimmer.

Program:

- Ken traced the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition, using cacheted covers and commemorative stamps, while his colleague Mike Gallagher contributed descriptions of the equipment and personnel, showing artifacts and replicas from the trek. In its contributions to knowledge and the history of the country, Ken likened the 1803-06 effort to NASA's trips to the moon.

Closing:

- Door prizes were collected by Lloyd Willis (who is moving out of state and passed his winning on to Bob Coleman), Gene Atkinson and Dave Stockbridge. The next meeting is set for October 23 and is the annual picnic. The Bentwater Center will open at 5 PM with the program by Jim Myers starting at 7 PM.

Sales Talk

By Skip Ely

At the September 2018 meeting, the MCSC Board approved my request to discontinue the APS sales book circuit. There two reasons for this:

- Declining sales – The APS requires at least \$20 in sales each month. Failure to do so three months in a row means we must pay the postage both ways (currently \$7.25). Meeting this quota has not always been easy the past year.
- Workload – While the workload associated with the APS circuit books is not onerous, it's not trivial either. With my agreement to run for club secretary the next two years, combined with my participation with the EXPO Beginner's and Silent Auction tables, I find the APS books an unwanted distraction.

Keep in mind, the circuits could resume any time there was widespread interest in them. Another alternative would be for someone else to assume responsibility for the Sales Books in general. You must be a member of the APS to receive the club APS circuit however, and you would have to attend at least most Arlington meetings to offer the stamps. Otherwise, only approval by the board would be necessary.

If there are any questions, just ask me.

Been There, Done That

Swiss Army Knife

By Peter Elias

Growing up as a kid in Switzerland meant that I had a "Swiss Army Knife" with me, similar to the one shown on the 2006 Swiss stamp to the right.

I've got several of these knives, an older one I found in one of my desk drawers is shown to the right. It is a similar model, but doesn't have the saw blade (something which is useful on a camping or hiking trip, but not so much for daily suburban life (although I do have one with that feature somewhere).

Up until a few years ago, there are actually two brands of "Swiss Army Knives": Victorinox and Wenger; there is a bit of history about these [two companies](#), but the bottom line is that Victorinox is the company currently producing the Swiss Army Knife. This term came about after World War II when American soldiers had a hard time pronouncing the official name which was "Offiziersmesser"...

As a kid, I remember most of us having these in our pockets in school, they were considered a tool. Unlike now, where that would get you suspended from school! Up until certain events happened in 2001, when I travelled, I always had one with me and it went through airport security just fine; now it has to travel in checked luggage. But in my current daily life, I always have one in my pocket!



Greater Houston Stamp Show 2018

By Judy Christmas

The Greater Houston Stamp Show was held Friday September 21 to Sunday September 23 at the Humble Civic Center in Humble, Texas. This was the 71st edition of the Houston Philatelic Society's annual show. The show featured 32 dealers, a Beginners' Booth where advice, information, games & lots of fun were going on, seminars & meetings and an awards dinner.

Stan and I were the only MCSC members in attendance. Two of our members did enter exhibits, Ray Cartier and Stan Christmas. Ray entered an exhibit for the color Themed Single Frame Competition, which was purple this year: "Monsters: They Can Scare People Purple". Ray entered another exhibit in the Non-Purple Themed Single Frame Exhibits, "U.S. PSYOPS Propaganda Leaflets of Desert Storm". Stan entered the Multi-Frame Open Completion with "The Life Cycle of the 4 1/2 Cent White House Stamp". Ray won the "Most Imaginative Single-Frame Purple Exhibit" award for his Monsters: They Can Scare People Purple, a "National Stamp Dealers Association Most Popular Exhibit Award" for Monsters: They Can Scare People Purple, a "Single Frame Vermeil Medal" for U.S. PSYOPS Propaganda Leaflets of Desert Storm and a "Single Frame Silver Bronze Medal" for Monster: They Can Scare People Purple. Stan won a "United States Stamp Society President's Award" and a "Multi-Frame Gold Medal" for his "The Life Cycle of the 4 1/2 Cent White House Stamp".

Stan and I had a wonderful time with the GHSS Club. Jay & Denise Stotts invited us to join them each night for dinner. We dined with several members of the Club along with a judge or two. It was so nice to get to know everyone a little better. We all attended their Awards dinner, which was just as much fun as ours. They do something that we do not and that is they choose a different color each year for a single frame color themed competition. Next year's color will be orange.

Tom Cunningham and Jim Myers were there as dealers. Next year's show dates are September 20 - 22, 2019 at the same location.



The Awards Table



Ron Strawser



Stan Christmas in front of his Gold winning exhibit "The Life Cycle of the 4 1/2 Cent White House Stamp"



Stan Christmas accepting his Gold Medal.

Stan Christmas accepting Ray Cartier's purple bottle.



Stan Christmas accepting another one of Ray's awards.

Bethel Strawser, Denise Stotts, Ron Strawser and Judge Richard Drews all decked out in their purple for the show.



Bethel Strawser, Denise Stotts, Ron Strawser and Judge Richard Drews

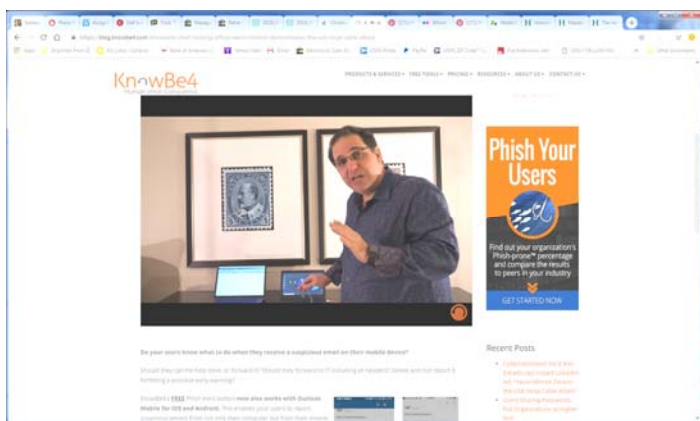


Stan with Tom Cunningham and Sam Phillippi

Noted In Passing

By Peter Elias

I was viewing an online video by Kevin Mitnick (world famous computer hacker) the other day and he talked about how a device can be compromised with a USB cable and noticed that very prominently in the background, are two large framed prints of Canada's "Admiral" stamp issue. Is he or someone at KnowBe4 a stamp collector?



Been There,
Done That

Grand Canyon Mule

By Peter Elias



Back before the internet, one had to make reservations manually. That could mean writing a letter or perhaps an expensive long distance call. In order for my dad to plan a trip to the Grand Canyon in the summer of 1980, he had to secure reservations for probably 6 months in advance, because once we left Michigan on a close to 10,000 mile round-trip around the western States, we had to make sure that we had lodgings available.

One of the stops we made was at the north rim of the Grand Canyon, where we took mule rides down into the Canyon. I remember looking over the side of the mule and I couldn't see the trail, so it was somewhat anxiety inducing! The photo below shows me next to the mule. It is too bad that I didn't have a way videotape anything back then and this is the only photo of the mule excursion.



Schloss Kyburg

By Peter Elias



The Schloss (Castle) Kyburg is located near Zürich, Switzerland. The site of the castle has had a fortification there since the 10th century and the present-day castle dates back to the 13th century and is one of the largest surviving

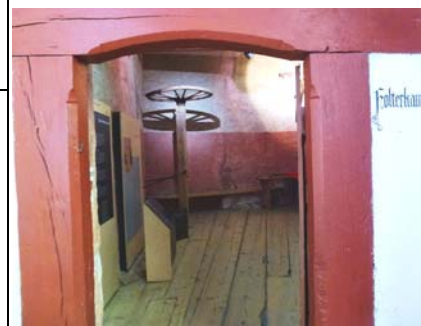
medieval castle complexes in Switzerland

During our trip to Switzerland in 2013, my wife, son and I had a chance to visit Kyburg and take in some of its [history](#). The photo shows the backside of the castle



so it appears a bit different than on the Swiss stamp.

One of the rooms that you could visit was the *Folterkammer* (torture chamber). Also nearby was an "Iron Maiden". A real one! And it has nothing to do with the heavy



metal rock band. Basically, this lovely device was made of iron and had spikes, and if you were naughty, you got to spend some quality time admiring the inside...

I did try and order a

custom US stamp made of my photo, but for some reason, it didn't pass muster with the "reviewers" at Zazzle. A mock-up is shown above right.

After an interesting visit in the castle, we had lunch at a local restaurant in the village adjacent to the castle and my son got to try some Swiss french fries for the first time.

The castle's main entrance is shown to the right, looking at the stamp, it would be on the left side.

If you ever get to Switzerland, be sure to visit Kyburg!



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). jasdmyers@earthlink.net 5/15

Recalled Legends of the West (Scott 2870), pane of twenty inside original mailing envelope, Scott 2017 value \$220 with note that panes in original envelope (blue bordered) "sell for somewhat more." I will sell for \$100 plus any mailing costs. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com 4/18

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

Wanting to trade stamps from Trucial States: Yemen, Aden or Equatorial Guiana. Brian Smith, donnasmithphoto@gmail.com 3/18

Wanted

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

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

2000 used, VF, Great Britain Machin Head stamps, 150 varieties plus bonus of 100 Machin Heads from Scotland, Jersey, etc. all for \$50. First come, first served, Ken Aldridge, 817-528-7979, KAldridge@aol.com. 11/18

200 used GB Perfin Machins, \$10, Ken Aldridge, 817-528-7979, KAldridge@aol.com. 11/18

Comic Strip - Garfield (Interesting Stamp)

By Peter Elias

Is this how most "non-stamp collectors" feel about stamps when we want to talk about stamps, such as Jon is trying to do in panel 1? It sure feels like it! So, how can we make stamps more "interesting" and appealing to the non-collector when we bring up the subject?

(Note: I found this somewhat crinkled Garfield comic strip (from 11/14/2012) hiding in the bottom of the bag that I take to meetings).



MEET & EAT for November & December 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, latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. 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

- Nov. 7 Spring Creek BBQ
3608 S. Cooper St.
Dec. 5 Club Christmas Party at the Bob Duncan Center!

EULESS

- Nov. 21 Jason's Deli
2200 Airport Freeway (183), Bedford
December: —> No meeting! See you in 2019!

GRANBURY

- Nov. 27 TBD
December: —> No meeting! See you in 2019!

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

Bugs Bunny Special Die Cut pane of 10 (Scott 3138, CV \$175, will sell for \$100 plus any mailing costs. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com 4/18

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

**Don't Forget:
Stamp EXPO - Nov. 9 & 10**