



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)



Volume 31, Number 12

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

December 2018

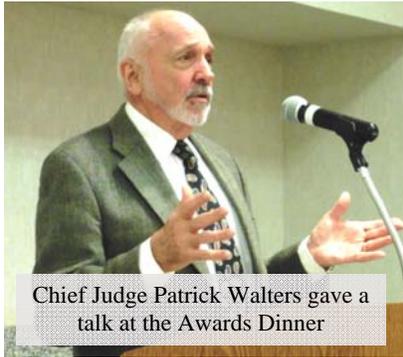
2018 EXPO Is A Success !

By Peter Elias

Chatting with various people (dealers, judges, attendees), this year's EXPO was another successful one! One dealer in particular, Jonathan Topper, said that the assistance he received from Alliene Franklin and his sales was the best ever!

According to the data I was given, the official attendee count was 434, a nice increase from the 375 that we had in 2017. Karen Cartier reports that the "Chance Board" sold out all of its envelopes! The Silent Auction brought in approx. \$1,900, also better than a year ago!

Our trio of APS-accredited judges (which included Jeff Shapiro & William Fort III and Chief Judge Patrick Walters) really liked the show as well, who gave a brief talk about his philatelic experiences (right). The Awards Dinner had great attendance with David Stockbridge & Alliene Franklin handing out the awards (see below). The Exhibit Palmares is elsewhere in this newsletter.



Chief Judge Patrick Walters gave a talk at the Awards Dinner

Joe Crosby (shown to the right) won the "Favorite Exhibit" award for his exhibit "Postman Please..."

While my own collecting & exhibiting needs unfortunately meant that there wasn't much to be had at the dealer tables, it was never-the-less a good show for me and I'm looking forward to next year!

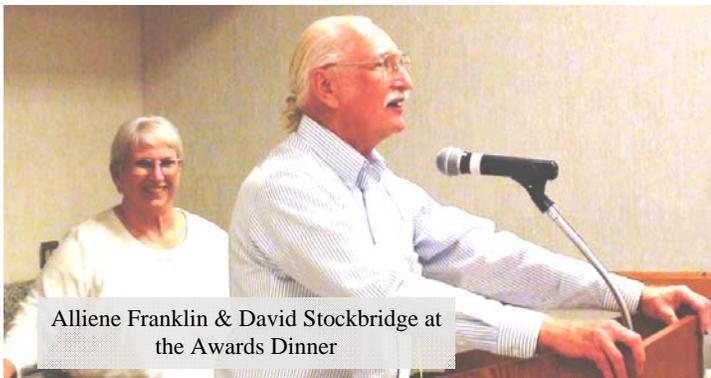


2019 Postage Rate Increases

The USPS is increasing most postage rates starting January 27, 2019. The domestic 1st ounce rate will increase to 55¢, while the "meter" rate will be 50¢ and there is actually a rate decrease: the "additional ounce" and "non-machinable" rates will decrease from 21¢ to 15¢!

Other rates, such as Priority Mail will increase.

I will have a rate chart with all the key rates in the January 2019 issue of the newsletter.



Alliene Franklin & David Stockbridge at the Awards Dinner

After the end of the show on Friday and the Awards Dinner was the "President's Reception" which was hosted by David Stockbridge and held at the Comfort Inn nearby.



Ray Cartier, Patrick Walters, Ken Aldridge, John Barrett, Ray Moyer & Richard Hildebrandt at the President's Reception.

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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

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 Eules or Granbury meetings in December!**

2019

JAN. 2 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Installation of new officers

Ray Cartier - *True Astrophilatelic Stories, Part 2*

JAN. 16 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Program: TBD

JAN. 22 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: Clean Out Your Closet Sale for members.

FEB. 6 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: TBD

FEB. 20 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Interesting fact: 1,249 philatelic articles (not counting club-related news or announcements) is what has been published in *Stamping Around* since 1974. That's a lot of interesting reading about all sorts of topics relating to stamps, stamp collecting and other philatelic matters. And they're all available for you to download from the <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files> website (as long as you are a member of the YahooGroup).

Each month after the newsletter is done, I enter all the article names in a spreadsheet (along with author name, subject, and issue number & page). This way I can sort by all of these fields easily (and there are now 1,249 entries!). On the Webs.com site I do upload a list (but generally only sorted by issue) and I update that only once a year though. Each year I also prepare some DVD data disks containing all the newsletters in PDF file format along with the index of articles by author, article name, subject and issue. I don't want to prepare more DVD's than necessary (and it will require a PC with a DVD drive) and generally make a couple of copies to hand out. I could also provide this on a thumb drive or SD card, but you would have to provide me with that.

Even I go back occasionally and read some of the old newsletters, there are many good articles in there!

In 1979, our dues were \$4 per year. According to inflation calculators, that \$4 is now worth \$14.57! That means our \$12 annual dues are a bargain!

Thanks to Art von Reyn, who gave me a box of old club newsletters and other information, the gap in “missing newsletters” has now been reduced significantly, especially for the period 1975 to 1980 or so. Then it appears that due to the club not doing so well in the early 1980's, there were no newsletters until early 1986. So for all intents & purposes, all known copies of the club's newsletter are now available digitally!

I will be updating the *Stamping Around* philatelic article index after I've reviewed all the newly scanned old newsletters!

So for now, here is the only missing *Stamping Around* Newsletter: December 1993 (issue 12).

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Ed Perez - RIP

Long-time club member Ed Perez passed away suddenly on October 29, 2018

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



New Members

Teresa Gleim-Hanson (#608)

Deceased

Ed Perez

Membership Summary – November 8, 2018

Membership as of October 4 2018	99
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	0
Resignations	0
Deceased	-1
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of November 8, 2018	99

Meeting Minutes for Granbury October 23, 2018

By Cyndie Spurlock & Dave Stockbridge

The Lake Granbury branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, annual picnic was held prior to the meeting at the Bentwater Activities Center pavilion, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, at 5:30 PM, Tuesday, October 23. Hot dogs were served along with deviled eggs, baked beans, tossed salad, macaroni salad, and an array of desserts.

Attendance:

- 15 members attended the picnic and meeting.

Show & Tell:

- Gary McNamee showed information about Franklin Roosevelt and his membership in the APS. Roosevelt was an avid stamp collector, and part of his collection is housed today at his home in Hyde Park, New York.
- Denny Ludlow passed around some unstamped military mail from the World War II era.

Announcements:

- The agenda for the EXPO was distributed and activities were discussed.
- Materials were collected for the Lake Granbury Mystery Box that will be in the EXPO Silent Auction.
- A binder for the Granbury one-frame exhibit was distributed with members adding pages or promising that they would get the pages to Dave Stockbridge prior to the EXPO.
- The schedule of dates for 2019 meetings was presented, asking members to volunteer to do programs. Five of the 11 dates were filled.
- Alliene Franklin provided a brief update on the health of Daniel Kennedy.

Activities:

- Gary McNamee presented philatelic and geographical clues to "Where in the World is it." The clues pointed to India.
- Brian Smith showed Cinderella stamps and described the country that produced them. The country was *Transnistria*, which most members had not heard of and did not know its location. [Editor's Note: Transnistria is a part of "Moldova", a real country, which is located east of Romania].

Break:

- Cookies and refreshments were shared while members looked over several items brought by members to sell.

Program:

- James Myers presented a program called "Philatelic Potpourri" where he offered interesting facts and articles from old "Topical Times" and other philatelic journals from decades past.

Closing:

- Door prizes of \$10 gift certificates went to Madeleine Myers, Dave Stockbridge, and James Myers. Next month's activity will be an auction conducted by Jeff Jessop. A list of auction items was distributed as the October meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

*Been There,
Done That*



3D Movies

By Peter Elias

According to the "Celebrate the Century" stamp for the 1950's, 3D movies came into being in the 1950's. The advantage was that by wearing the special glasses, images would seem to jump off the movie screen!

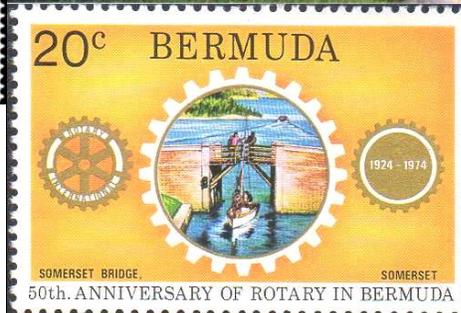
The first 3D movie that I remember seeing was in the early 1980's while I was in college and it was one of the many "hack & slash" (horror) movies that were out, probably something like "Friday the 13th, Part 123", but seeing knives or other object seemingly jump off the screen just didn't do much for me.

Most of the time, 3D movies are headache inducing. The only two movies in recent memories where I can say that I truly enjoyed watching them in 3D were "Avatar" and "Gravity", both of which are sci-fi movies and I can recommend them in that format, as it truly gives you a better perspective (pun intended). Otherwise, 2D movies are just fine and it'll be "been there - done that - not again...". Sorry, but I have no photo of me watching a 3D movie ...

*Been There,
Done That*

World's Smallest Drawbridge

By Peter Elias



This is the world's smallest drawbridge! It is called Somerset Bridge and it is located on Bermuda! It is shown on Scott #310 issued in 1974.

I took the picture October 1993

when I was in Bermuda for my honeymoon! The bridge is first mentioned in 1620 and appears on a Bermuda map of 1624! It is operated by hand and allows for the passage of small sailboats. And I got to drive over it with my rental scooter (which will be the subject of another "Been There - Done That" article...).

Arlington Meeting Minutes November 7, 2018

By Ben Termini

Call-To-Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ray Cartier.

Attendance:

There were 21 members and 2 guests present (Ted and Clydene Court).

Show & Tell:

- Judy Christmas passed around an interesting newspaper article.
- Ray Cartier showed several flown space shuttle covers with appropriate autographs.

Officer & Committee Reports:

- Vice President Rich Hildebrandt said that our set of Scott Catalogs had been sold for 197.01 (to himself) and the US Specialized catalog went to Ralph Poore for \$46.
- Secretary Ben Termini reported that long-time member Ed Perez had passed away last week. He also said that we had 99 members, and reminded members that it was time to pay dues for next year. He discussed the results of our election, and President Ray Cartier read the names of the new officers who will be sworn in at the January meeting. New officers include: President: Richard Hildebrandt, 1st Vice President: Ray Moyer, 2nd Vice President: Gene Pfretzschner, Secretary: Skip Ely, and Treasurer: Judy Christmas. New Board members include Alliene Franklin, Ken Wills and Peter Elias.
- EXPO Committee chairman Ralph Poore was absent.
- Judy Christmas passed out lunch request forms for the EXPO.
- Stanley Christmas mentioned that the EXPO group would meet at the Spring Creek Barbeque at 3:30 PM on Thursday and would have access to the building at 5 PM.
- Janet Moyer said we could still use more volunteers.
- Sales Books Chairman Skip Ely said sales books had been closed out for the year and he had just received five new books which will be available in January, 2019.

Announcements:

- Dave Stockbridge announced that the November 27th meeting of the Granbury group would include an auction and passed around a list of the lots available.
- Ken Aldridge announced that he was giving up stamp collecting (a big mistake) and offered some of his material for sale.
- Judy & Stanley Christmas reminded everyone that next month's meeting would be our annual Christmas Bingo Game and discussed rule changes.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Janet Moyer, Diana Davis, Chuck Snow, and Pat Weidman.

Program:

- Skip Ely gave an interesting presentation on 'Music on Stamps' which included comments on music about stamps, including appropriate melodic selections.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Eules Meeting Minutes November 21, 2018

By Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at approx. 7:27 PM.

Attendance:

- There were 11 members present.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary - Judy Christmas mentioned we recruited at least two new members at EXPO.
- Treasurer - Judy gave the treasury amount and passed out an EXPO budget sheet.

Committee Reports:

- Skip Ely said we had seven new club books.
- Peter Elias said the next newsletter was almost completed and that the entry for the 2018 APS Chapter newsletter competition could be turned in at that point.
- It was also noted the website had been updated recently.

Announcements:

- Mike Smith mentioned the TSDA Bourse December 7-8 in Richardson. Mike also mentioned he would be moving to Oregon after the first of the year.
- Stanley Christmas reminded everyone of the club auction in Granbury December 27. He also noted the American First Day Cover Society has invited MCSC club members to their annual Christmas party at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library on December 7 (Friday) from 6:30-9:00 P.M.

Program:

This was our annual EXPO review.

- Ralph Poore said we had a very successful show.
- Janet Moyer said almost everyone showed up for their volunteer assignments.
- Ken Wills said we exceeded our target at the Silent Auction, with every lot selling.
- Skip Ely said the Beginners table had a steady flow of people, although very few young people.
- Stanley Christmas commented on some budget issues, which led into a general discussion of a variety of topics.
- Ralph Poore outlined some issues that had developed regarding the Convention Center, including security.
- Rich Howell wondered if PDFs of Exhibits could be posted on the website for review later, noting how hard it is to take it all in during the show.

Show & Tell:

- Skip Ely passed around the new USPS Christmas "Santa" souvenir sheet, available only from Kansas City.
- Peter Elias followed up with a cover of the same souvenir sheet, noting it took ten days to be delivered from a friend because the souvenir sheet was not recognized by the US Postal Service. Peter also had a couple of other items to show, including a book that showed the original paintings from which this year's U.S. Christmas stamps were based.
- Mike Smith showed a couple of stamps from Manchukuo he had acquired recently.

Door Prizes:

- Were won by Ray Moyer and Tom Turner. Skip Ely won a donated MCSC logo ball cap.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

2018 Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO
PALMARES

GOLD AWARD

“Rejections & Repairs in U. S. Stamp Production at the BEP, 1917-2003”

by John Hotchner

- ~MCSC Grand Award Winner
- ~Best Exhibit by a MCSC member
- ~APS Award
- ~USSS Award

“The Birth of the Palestinian Authority Postal Service” by Ben Termini

- ~MCSC Reserve Grand Award Winner
- ~Best Exhibit of Foreign Material
- ~TPA Award

“Portugal to U.S. Airmail: Rates to 1948” by Stephen S. Washburne

- ~MCSC One-Frame Grand Award Winner
- ~APS Award

“The 20c Brooklyn Bridge Stamp of 1983 and Its First Days – A Hundred-Year Celebration” by D. A. Lux

- ~Collectors Club of Chicago Award
- ~First Day Cover Society Award

“A Natural History of the White Rhinoceros” by Jay Stotts

- ~ATA One-Frame Grand Award Winner

“Charles M. Russell, The Cowboy Artist” by Joe Crosby

- ~ATA First Award

“The Brooklyn Postage Dodgers” by Peter Elias

- ~Meter Stamp Society Award

“Postmaster Please...” by Joe Crosby

“Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'” by Denise Stotts

“Perforating the Sheet Stamps of the US 3rd BI, 1908 – 1922” by John Hotchner

VERMEIL AWARD

“Grey Ghost” by Ray E. Cartier

- ~AAPE Award

“Introduction to Spanish Thermal ATM Stamps, Their Varieties & Usages” by Peter Elias

- ~AAPE Award

“Americana Cachets For Every Letter” by Keith E. Maatman

“The Spidey Stamp and Its Promotion” by Peter Elias

“The 2015 Charlie Brown SSK Postage Label” by Peter Elias

SILVER AWARD

“Christkindl Postage Markings” by Dave Stockbridge

- ~WE Award

“U.S. Psyops Propaganda” by Ray E. Cartier

“Inscribed Plan Trading Stamps” by William F. Lau

BRONZE AWARD

“Delayed Mail” by Ken Aldridge

“Lewis & Clark” by Ken Aldridge

Four-Page Mini Exhibit Winner

“Changes to the SSK Machines & New SSK Flag Stamps for 2018” by Peter Elias

One-Page Mini Exhibit Winner

“Spotting War Canoe Forgeries” by Stanley Christmas

Jury Panel:

- Patrick A. Walters, Chief Judge
- William A. Fort III
- Jeffrey Shapiro



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Exp. 12/18



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, Eules and Granbury meetings. Please, if you are coming let me know. We will begin gathering around 6:00 PM with the serving line beginning at 6:30 PM. After everyone has had a chance to eat their dinner we will begin playing Shanghai Bingo which should be no later than 7:30 PM. We should be done by 9:00 PM.

To play Shanghai Bingo we ask that each member and their guest(s) bring three philatelic type items EACH. 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 can not 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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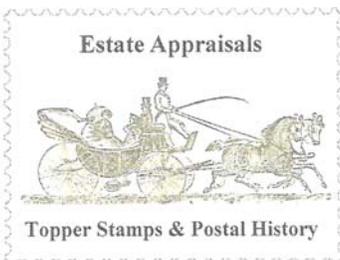
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CLASSIFIED BOURSE

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

Recalled Legends of the West (Scott 2870), pane of twenty inside original mailing envelope, Scott 2017 value \$125 with note that panes in original envelope (blue bordered) "sell for somewhat more." I will sell for \$80 plus any mailing costs. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com 12/18

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 \$40. First come, first served, Ken Aldridge, 817-528-7979, KAldridge@aol.com. 12/18

Great Britain binder only 13% of CV, mostly older M & U on Vario sheets, CV \$1400. For further info contact KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18

US#1 (U) for \$300 (CV \$375) & US C13-15 (U) for \$1,000 (CV\$1140). KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18

Comic Strip - Baby Blues

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



already, when their main way of communicating is via texting or various social media platforms.

By Peter Elias

Here is another comic strip (from 7/5/2014) that pokes fun at the current generation of kids not knowing how postal-related items work! And it's probably true ... Think about it, how many kids today receive communications by postal mail? For many kids, even "email" seems outdated for them



*Been There,
Done That*

Kentucky & the Derby

By Peter Elias

Not only did I live in Kentucky in the past (1987 to early 1990), I also had a chance to go the famous “Kentucky Derby”, the annual internationally known horse race (which shown on the USA stamp on the left) that takes place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

I happened to live in the City of Shelbyville (20 miles east of Louisville) at the time, a small city of about 5,000, whose main claim to fame is that it was home to “Colonel Sanders” (as of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame) and whose widow still ran a restaurant there called “[Claudia Sanders Dinner House](#)”; she has since passed away (1996), and while the restaurant had a major fire in 1999, it has reopened in a new facility.

While I was in Shelbyville, we always had foreign visitors and workers around (the company was Swiss). One time I remember taking a couple of people to the Kentucky Derby in 1988, including one of the QC people from Germany and the wife of one of the VP’s from Switzerland (see 3rd photo below). The two guys worked with me in the QC lab. Larry Page (no, NOT the one that was a founder of Google ...) who apparently won some cash from one of the races, worked with me in the lab, as did Gary (whose last name now escapes me). Larry unfortunately passed away several years ago while working for Texas Roadhouse (which is actually a company that is headquartered in Kentucky ...).

But I digress... Kentucky was a nice place to live (imagine rolling hills just outside your front door...). Unfortunately it was also heavily taxed (not just a sales tax, but also state income tax, city income tax, intangibles tax, etc), something no one told me about before I moved there! Car insurance rates were extremely expensive, and were almost triple what it cost me in Michigan! It seems that the local drivers weren’t that good (and that was in the days BEFORE cell phone distractions...). In order to qualify for reduced insurance rates, I had to join the Kentucky Farm Bureau (and luckily I didn’t have to be a famer...).

At the Kentucky Derby, one of the favorite local drinks is the “Mint Julep”, a concoction made of sugar, bourbon whiskey, water and mint leaves. For some reason, I never really took to that drink (I didn’t care for the “mint” part)... but at least I tried it.

While in Shelbyville, I also joined the “KY Riders”, a local club of touring motorcycle riders and I went on several of their “poker runs”. I even have a couple of videos of those events and had a female rider on my bike that sat backwards on the seat so that we could get some nice shots of the bikes behind us!

Sadly, in January 1990, the Swiss owners decided that the new company in Shelbyville wasn’t breaking even quickly enough and laid off about 20 some people (what I great way to start the start new decade is what I was thinking at the time...); I was the first new employee hired for that new company in late 1985 and had even gotten a good review and a raise, unfortunately in the end that didn’t matter, as they were cutting “jobs”, not people ... That’s one thing that they don’t teach you in college, things like “right-sizing”, “down-sizing”, etc.

But, I made a call to my former boss (now back in Germany) and a couple of calls and an interview later, I had a new job and a new beginning in Texas in February 1990!

And as with all “been there - done that” articles, this was another one where one stamp brought forth a bunch of memories! ..And the words just flowed at 1:35 AM as I was writing this! So what is your story behind a stamp? Please feel free to share!



From The President's Desk

by Ray Cartier

Our Out-Of-State judges confirmed what we all knew to be true: The Mid-Cities Stamp Club Show is one of the best non-World Series of Philately shows around. We are unique in some ways with our Silent Auction, the Chance Board, and cash prizes to volunteers to be spent with the dealers. The exhibits have quality to them and the participation of so many different members of our club came together again at our big "Little" show. Stan Christmas's fall in the parking lot and his broken nose was the only low point. Give him your best wishes for a fast and full recovery the next time that you see him.

Our next meeting in December will be our annual Christmas Party. As usual it starts out with a banquet with the club furnishing the meat and all of us who attend bringing the side dishes. After that the "Shanghai Bingo" game will be held for the 45th consecutive year. It will go back to the original concept in that those with gifts in front of them when the last number is called, get to keep all the gifts that they won.

For those of you who are new to "Shanghai Bingo", we each bring three wrapped philatelic gifts with values up to about \$5. These are placed on a group of tables at the front of the room and – well, the word "Shanghai" has a meaning in this version of the old game.

Our new officers for the next two years were introduced at our last meeting and will take over after this meeting. Please give them the support they may need in keeping our club as good as it is.

Peter is doing some background work right now to see if there are enough people in the northern Dallas County area to form a fourth club for us [Editor note: We need to keep the option for a potential new group to decide whether or not they would want to be a branch of the MCSC or the DPCPS]. Hopefully the APS Listing and our show listing will show the names and contact information to lead us to that new endeavor's creation.

Wishing that all of you had a safe and happy Thanksgiving! We're hoping that our hospital and doctor's office visits decline substantially in 2019. It was a series of problems that hopefully are coming to an end.

Zazzle Is Back

By Peter Elias

Zazzle.com was one of the providers of USPS sanctioned "Custom Postage" products. Earlier this year, they abruptly stopped selling their Zazzle stamps.

The exact reasons are unknown, but it had something to do with the US Postal Service.

As of November 21, 2018, Zazzle is again offering custom postage, but this time as an affiliate of Stamps.com's "PhotoStamps" product (which was one of their competitors). Perhaps by being an affiliate of a company that is authorized to sell custom postage, they can do so again themselves.



Photostamp & Netstamp Changes

By Peter Elias

As you may know, stamps.com is a provider of personalized & computer vended postage.

The personalized postage product is called "PhotoStamps" and have been around since August 2004. The



stamps had 3 straight die-cut edges (top, bottom & left side) and simulated die-cut perforations on the right side. That's in addition to a printed border that was similar in nature (see the "Tuit" example to the left).

So while these *personalized postage* items (the USPS does NOT allow them to be called "stamps"!) basically look like stamps, the three straight edges make them look less so.



At some point (presumably sometime in 2015), they changed the die-

cutting to have simulated perforations all the way around, so as the Mustang stamp above (the printed inside border was also dropped. Now they are looking more like "real" stamps!

The same happened to their "NetStamp" product, which comes with two types of designs: those designed by SDC (Stamps.com) and those whereby you upload a photo to them, they approve it (hopefully) and then send you a sheet of stamps on which you then print the indicia (postage value, barcode, etc).

PhotoStamps (above) only in certain denominations that meet a variety of postage rates, while Netstamps (below) can be printed by you in any number of denominations! This does require that you have an active online account with SDC. The pre-printed labels do not become postage until the indicia is printed.



Early Netstamps (such as the SDC-designed one to the left) also featured three straight edges and simulated perforations on the right side.



In February 2015, the NetStamp product also adopted simulated perforations on all four sides, such as the 1¢ version to the left shows. Now they also have the appearance of

"regular" stamps. The USPS says that only USPS-issued items can be "stamps", everything else is "postage"...

The Euro

By Pat & Bob Weidman

The European Union (“EU”) is an economic and political partnership of 28 countries in Europe [Editor note: England is currently voting on exiting the EU, what is referred to as “Brexit” - Britain Exit]. The Euro is the monetary unit of nineteen of those countries: Austria, Belgium, The Republic of Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. In addition, Andorra, Kosovo, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino and the Vatican City also use the Euro as their currency.

Up until the Euro was adopted, each country had their own currency. For example, France had the “(French) Franc”, Germany the “(Deutsche) Mark” (also known as the “DMark”), Spain the “Peseta”, Austria the “Schilling” and so on. Each time when you crossed a border you had to exchange your money for the local currency. Now when you travel between these countries, there is no need to stop at a bank [Editor: or post office or train station] to exchange your money, a process whereby you invariably lose money due to the “buy” and “sell” prices for each currency (and possibly “exchange fees” imposed by the financial institution). Now you can simply continue using your Euros in the next country!



In the pictures above are the front and back of the €5 and €20 Euro notes plus various coins left over from our vacation last year to the Balkans.

The stamps shown at top right are Italy Scott #2473a+b, issued on January 2, 2002 when Italy switched over to the Euro. The left stamp shows the symbol of the Euro which is “€” and the flags of the initial countries that switched to the Euro. The right stamp shows an Italian “Lira” coin and the one that is the € coin.

[Editor note: you can type the € symbol on your computer keyboard by holding down the “ALT” key and then pressing the following keys on the numeric pad in order: 0, 1, 2, 8].

The souvenir sheet shown in the second column is Slovenia Scott #703, issued on January 1, 2007 when Slovenia started using the Euro.



Tail Fins

By Peter Elias

While I personally drive an Audi, I never-the-less enjoy drooling over classic vehicles of any kind, regardless of manufacturer, model or country of origin.



Twice a year there is a classic & hot rod car show that is held at the Texas Motor Speedway north of Ft. Worth. Usually there are about 2,000+ vehicles in attendance, ranging from restored classic cars to “rat rods”. 99% are American cars, although a few others show up on occasion.

I took the picture of the ‘57 Chevy Belair above at one of the 2015 shows, and the Celebrate-The-Century stamp, Scott #3187g also celebrates the “tail fins” that were popular on vehicles in the 1950’s (as part of the emergence of the “jet age”).

If you’re into classic cars, there are other shows in the area, a favorite of mine is the “Italian Car Fest”, held in Grapevine each September and there is also the “Dub Splash”, held in Lewisville each summer, a great event for Volkswagen fans!



Eules November 21, 2018 Meeting

By Peter Elias



The Eules November 21 meeting had 11 members present and the main focus of the meeting was the EXPO “debrief”.

The Eules meeting site has proven to bring a regular crowd of members each month and most meetings are “informal” without any sort of scheduled program. This has actually worked out very well, as various conversations on a wide variety of philatelic subjects ensue!

Come join us sometime and bring some interesting philatelic items to share and discuss!

Been There, Done That



Hitchhikers

By Peter Elias

I really wanted to order the custom PhotoStamp shown to the left as part of an upcoming exhibit about “Traffic Safety”, but for some reason, Stamps.com denied the design. I can’t figure out the reasoning.

But, that did bring forth the memory that in the summer of 1986 I gave a ride to two young ladies from the Maloja Mountain Pass (west of St. Moritz in Switzerland) across the border to Chiavenna (Italy), a distance of about 20 miles. After that, I continued my road trip north back towards Switzerland via the Splügen Pass.



The picture I took in Chiavenna as they were leaning on my car, a Ford Taunus. Those were different times though and I’d be more hesitant to pick up hitchhikers today.

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:

Skip Ely, MCSC Secretary, 5512 Shady Meadow, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-6616



MEET & EAT for December 2018 & January 2019

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

Dec. 5 **Club Christmas Party** at the Bob Duncan Center!

Jan. 2 **Campo Verde**, 2918 W. Pioneer Pkwy

EULESS

December: —> No meeting! See you in 2019!

Jan. 16 **Cheddars**, 1937 Airport Fwy, Bedford

GRANBURY

December: —> No meeting! See you in 2019!

Jan. 22 Palio’s Pizza Café, 3710 E. Hwy 477

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

Don't Forget:
Club Christmas Party - Dec. 5!
TSDA Dealer Bourse - Dec. 7 & 8

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

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

China Stamp catalogue (2 volume set) 2010 by Shiu-Hon Chan. Paid 160.00 will sell for 80.00. Never been used. E-mail me at donnasmithphoto@gmail.com if interested. Brian Smith 12/18

Only 13% of CV for the following country collections, all on album pages. Austria (U), CV \$700; Czechoslovakia (U), CV \$600; Denmark (U), CV \$1,400; Germany (U) (Hingeless Album to 1945) CV \$7,200; Norway (U), CV \$600, Sweden (U), CV\$1,650. For further info contact KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18