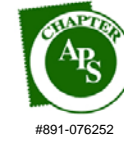


Stamping Around

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 33, Number 5

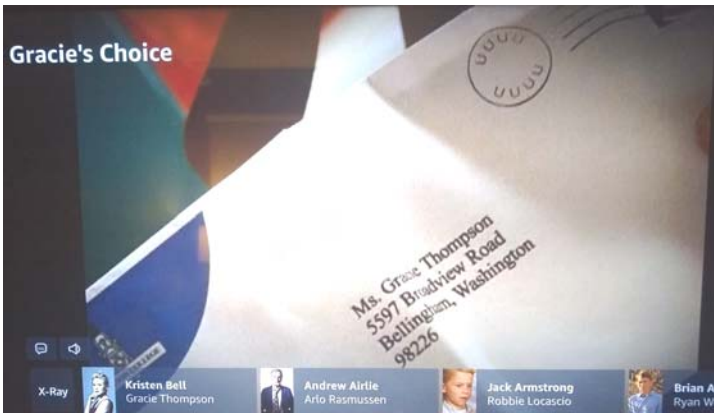
<http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

May 2020

TV Philately - Gracie's Choice

By Peter Elias

In the movie "Gracie's Choice", the main character is seen receiving an envelope in the mail. A screen shot reveals some postal & philatelic details as always.



At this point in the movie, Gracie had applied for a scholarship and received the reply from the University in her mailbox. She takes the envelope out, and puts it into her purse and later looks at it again and opens it. The screen shot is just before her opening the envelope.

So, what does she see? The screen-shot (nor any other video segments) don't really show the stamp very well, just a small corner of it. The move was shot in 2003-2004 and takes place a couple of years prior to that.

Based on the corner of the "stamp" that is visible, it would appear to be Scott #3277 from 1999, so it would appear to be period correct. It also seems to have straight edges on bottom and left, so it would be from the booklet pane, #3278. Whether the stamp on the envelope is real can't be discerned.



The machine cancel on the envelope is a total fabrication, with a bunch of "u" characters in place of city, state, zip & date. While Bellingham, WA exists (just south of the Canadian border), the street name is fictional, although 98226 is the correct zip code. So as usual, the movie's "prop department" got some of the postal elements wrong...

The movie is based on the real-life Amy Waldroop and based on her 2001 autobiography and stars Kristen Bell and Anne Heche; it was originally broadcast on Lifetime. I watched it on Amazon Prime, and can recommend it.

Post Office Social Distancing

By Peter Elias

At the Plano MPO (Main Post Office), on March 23, "social distance" tape was put into place as shown below, 2 lines of 3 people are possible, spaced 6 feet apart (beyond that, you're in the parking lot...). The inside lobby (not shown, but to the right) also has 6-foot tape lines, and sneeze guards were installed at each counter. To the left is the PO Box section, which had tape lines installed a few days later. I suppose if there are too many people; they'd have to wait outside or in their cars.



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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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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>

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Since the last issue, my spreadsheet shows that there were 1,411 articles published in *Stamping Around* since 1973 that are generally not club related (i.e.: Meeting Minutes, etc). I still have a couple of issues that are not in my list that have been scanned, but not yet OCR'd. Once I do that, I'll add them to the article list and also upload those newsletters to the club's Groups.io site.

In the meantime, hopefully I'll have some time to spend with my stamps!

EXPO 2020 Judges

By Peter Elias

In late January to early February, I had emailed requests to 42 APS judges for judging at our 2020 EXPO. A few weeks later, I had only received 4 actual replies and they all stated "no". These 42 judges had never been judges for EXPO before, and while some had been contacted in the past, most had never been contacted by me before. Since I would like to have a wide variety of judges at our show, that's why I contacted that group.

A few days after writing the above sentences, I received a call from Bob Zeigler, a chief judge from Indianapolis, who indicated he would like to be a judge for us this year! It didn't dawn on me until a few days later, as I was reading the (APS) American Philatelist, that Bob Zeigler is the current President of the APS!

Of course right now, the Covid-19 pandemic leaves a lot of stuff up in the air (no pun intended), and I can certainly understand it if the APS judges are hesitant to commit to any sort of event, even if it is in late November (remember that many judges are well over 60, may not wish to fly any more and/or might have some underlying health issues); very few of the judges could attend by driving here. I guess I'll start contacting those judges which we have had in the past to see if we can get two more signed up!

Coming Attractions

2020

—> Due to COVID-19 and city / county / state / national emergency ordinances, the following may or may not occur:

MAY 6	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Stan Christmas: How We Do EXPO
MAY 20	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAY 26	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 3	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	semi-annual Club Auction
JUN. 17	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
JUN. 23	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 19-20	TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse
411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson (at US75), Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4	
JUL. 1	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUL. 15	MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



New Members

n/a

Dropped for non-payment of membership dues:

n/a

Deceased

n/a

Reinstatements

n/a

Membership Summary – April 6, 2020

Membership as of March 16 2020	88
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of April 6, 2020	88

Special Deal for MCSC Members

By Ben Termini, MD

Everyone is probably getting bored with being at home. I know I am. I suspect the maternity wards will be overflowing next December, and most of the babies will be named Covid or Corona. However, if you're looking for something else to do, this is a great opportunity to catch up with your stamps.

I have LOTS of duplicate stamps (off paper), and I need to get rid of some of them, so...

If you send me a self-addressed stamped envelope (address below), I will fill it with stamps and send it back to you. Same day service. Absolutely free!

Specify US, worldwide or worldwide revenues.

One per customer please, but if there are multiple collectors in the same family, you can send multiple envelopes.

Happy Stamping!

Ben Termini

8520 Meadowbrook Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76120

PS: For those of you which sent in a request based on an email received from Skip, feel free to send in a 2nd request!

[Editor note: I had already received some really nice stamps from Ben, and took him up on the offer for a second one! Well worth the price of postage!]

Gulfpex 2020

By John Barrett, PhD

GULFPEX 2020 has been postponed until mid-October; we still have plenty of frames available and APS judge Jay Stotts will do the honors! Just go to: www.gulfcoaststampclub.org for prospecti, etc.

[Editor note: the above was received from club member John Barrett who lives in Gulfport, MS).

Nigeria Philately Covid-19 News

By Peter Elias

An email message from a fellow stamp collector in Nigeria on March 26 stated that the Nigerian Postal Service had suspended operations and told their employees to stay at home; yet: the Nigerian Philatelic Bureau is staying open with skeletal service since it is deemed to be an "essential service provider". Huh? Shouldn't that be the other way around - delivering mails and shuttering the philatelic services for the time being? I told my contact that here in the USA, many people rely on their prescription medicines being delivered by the postal service, and as a result are an "essential service" here and will continue operating. I was told that a later NiPost communication said that the Philatelic Bureau staff was also told to stay home for the time being...

*Been There,
Done That*

The Texas Rangers

(The Lawmen, Not The Sports Team)

By Peter Elias

On December 29, 2001, my wife and I, along with my parents who were visiting us for Christmas that year, took a road trip down to Waco to visit the Texas Rangers Museum there. From what I recall (hey, it was 19 years ago...) it was an interesting little museum to check out.



The hat that you see me wearing there must have been from the gift shop, although I do actually own a black somewhat similar to that (although not as tall, and with a wider rim...).

A few years later, the West Indies island nation of Dominica issued a stamp honoring the Texas Rangers, with the first day ceremony being held at the ATA Topical Stamp Show that was held in Irving on June 15, 2007. Ray Cartier gave the introduction to the speaker at the ceremony.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE PROGRAM Commonwealth of Dominica

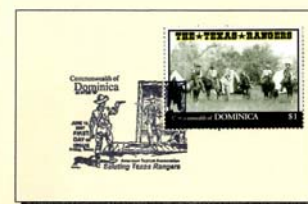
Honoring the
TEXAS RANGERS
Upon the 150th anniversary of the
REMINGTON REVOLVER
Irving, Texas – June 15, 2007

Welcome: Robert J. Mather – President, American Topical Association

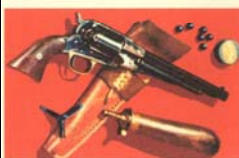
Introduction of Speaker: Ray E. Cartier, Executive Director
American Topical Association

Unveiling of stamps and speaker: Captain Richard Sweaney
Company "B", Texas Rangers

Closing comments: Ray E. Cartier



The Texas Rangers are a legendary group of law enforcers. Their history goes back, according to some, to 1823 when Stephen F. Austin called the 600 to 700 settlers in Texas together and organized a group to protect them from Indians. He referred to this group as "Rangers" since they would have to ride the range over all of Texas. Other people say that the Rangers were officially started in 1835 when a temporary "Permanent Council" reported the organization to the Consultation who approved the group. They commissioned G.W. Davis to bring 20 more men into the service. Shortly thereafter an ordinance was passed providing for three companies of Rangers with 50 men to a company. The privates received \$1.25 per day for pay, rations, clothing and horse service. The Rangers protected Texas settlements from Indians while Sam Houston's army fought the battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. The Republic of Texas Congress ordered then President Houston to raise a battalion of 280 mounted riflemen to protect the frontier. It was during this period that the Texas Rangers began to make a name for themselves that spread far beyond Texas borders. Texas decided to join the Union



Some of the history of the Texas Rangers is explained on the page above, and one of the Rangers is credited with gunning down Bonnie & Clyde.

These days, the main duties of the Texas Rangers is to conduct criminal & special investigations, apprehending wanted felons, suppressing major disturbances, protecting lives & properties and rendering assistance to local law enforcement. Other duties include gathering information regarding organized crime and also may serve as officers of the court. For more information, visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Ranger_Division

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Exp. 12/19

Those were the days -- in London at least.

By Ken Wills

In 1840 by Act of Parliament Great Britain introduced the standard letter postage rate of one penny regardless of distance within the UK (which at that time included all of Ireland and the Channel Islands). It stayed in force until 1918 during World War I when it was increased by 50%. In 1870 the halfpenny stamp Scott # 58 was issued to cover the newspaper and printed matter rate. I don't know if that rate survived WWI.

The penny rate led to an enormous surge in correspondence. I have a Victorian edition of John Murray's Handbook to London (the book is undated but evidence points to 1875 as the publication date). It states: "In the London District Posts there are 11 deliveries of letters daily...Letters posted at the Receiving-houses in London before 6 at night are delivered the same evening at all places within a circle of three miles from the General Post Office; or if posted before 5, they are delivered in the environs the same evening."

Well, not all is lost -- we now have the Internet!

(image from <http://www.abebooks.com>)



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

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

For online newsletters see

or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →



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Exp. 12/20

St. Vincent Amazon Parrot

By Peter Elias



In 2007, I went the furthest that I had ever attended a philatelic club meeting at! My wife Annie joined me on this trip, ahem .. "vacation" to the island of St. Vincent, which required several flights for all of us!

This was not an airline reservation for the timid ... Here's the itinerary that I came up with:

- 1) Prior to our trip, Annie flew Marcos to stay with relatives in Colorado, then flew back to Dallas.
- 2) During the aforementioned, I was in Florida for an annual software convention. I flew back to Dallas the night before we were both scheduled to ..
- 3) ...fly to Miami early the next morning.
- 4) There we caught an American Airlines flight to St. Lucia where we stayed for a few days; great island! Got to go zip-lining for the first time, in the rain forest.
- 5) Then we flew a "puddle jumper" flight south to St. Vincent (only about 45 miles away).
- 6) On our return, our flight back to St. Lucia would have worked, but our American Airlines plane on St. Lucia was kaput! So we had to re-route to Barbados on a puddle jumper (as St. Vincent only accommodated propeller planes at the time) where we caught an American Airlines flight back to Miami where ...
- 7) ...we flew back to Dallas.
- 8) Then I flew to Colorado and back to pick up Marcos.

All of the above for a "stamp club meeting"! Well, the meeting and get together's with the BCPSG (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group) were two dinners out, an annual meeting at the hotel and "road trip" to some of St. Vincent's post offices. More on that later ... So in reality, it was really a vacation!

In St. Vincent, we stayed at a motel type of property on the eastern outskirts of Kingstown. It only had about 40 rooms or so and was considered one of the bigger places to stay on St. Vincent. They had their own private beach, where you could see Young Island, a private



resort island (see photo below); a small motorboat would take you across if you wanted to visit the island (or were staying there). Behind Young Island (and not visible on the photo) is a large rock with a fortress on top (Fort Duvernette) where parties are held once a week at the base (which I did before in 1994, but not on this trip)..

Note: St. Vincent (via their stamp printers IGPC, has issued some "stamps" inscribed "Young Island", but Scott's refuses to list those. First, Young Island is a privately owned island and does not have its own post office and unless someone can produce a legitimately mailed letter featuring such stamps, Scott's won't recognize them.



So, what does all of the foregoing have to do with the St. Vincent parrot? The photo at top left was of a St. Vincent parrot which was in a cage at our place of lodging. At <https://www.act-parrots.org/st-vincent-amazon-2/> they mention that the [St. Vincent Amazon](#) (as the parrot is officially called) is extremely endangered.

The St. Vincent Amazon parrot (aka "Amazona Guildingii") has been featured at least twice on St. Vincent stamps. The stamp immediately to the left is Scott #239 and was the second highest face value that was a part of a definitive series issued in 1965-67 and featured a wide variety of subjects.



Shown to the left is Scott #282 issued in 1970 as part of a definitive series that features various birds. This particular stamp is especially sought

after as it has "Mustique Island" printed on the selvedge after the fact. I don't remember the exact details, but in the early 1970's, St. Vincent started printing stamps specifically for the Grenadines of St. Vincent (the island chain between the main island of St. Vincent and Grenada).

Various other stamps from the early 1970's have Grenadines islands' name printed on the selvedge. The "Grenadines of" overprint stamp shown above is Scott #6.

I have yet more "Been There .." articles from St. Vincent waiting in the winds, featuring various philatelic aspects during my visit in 2007. But don't just read the articles, go there! Oh, wait, that might have to wait a while now ...

Diversity, I Got Your Diversity!

By Rick Howell

If you've been a collector long enough, I'm sure you've heard the question, "What do you collect?"

This question makes me laugh most of the time and I find myself searching for an answer and thinking, "What does this guy want to hear?" Perfins, Precancels, Plate Blocks, Postal History, things that start with "P"?

"What country do you collect?" I can't think of one I don't collect. As a matter of fact, the only thing I don't collect in philately is first day covers. Why? I don't know. They just haven't started looking good to me yet. Give me a few years.

But, hey, that may be why philately appeals to me so much. As a kid, things would occupy my interest for a while, but when something new came along, I could forsake the old and jump right onto the new. I have noticed that stamp collecting.... err ...sorry...philately, offers me that opportunity on an hourly basis. If I reach a stopping point on Abyssinia, all I have to do is open up another album and go to Zanzibar. I have enough stock material laying around the house and stashed away in storage to occupy my time for years, probably more years than I have left on the planet. But I take pleasure in this. It is fun to find a treasure that fills that blank space on an album page even if my Scott catalog tells me it is only worth the minimum 25 cents.

I use my computer a lot to try to help me get organized and have been successful with this to some extent, although I still have a long way to go with that as well. But my computer is evidence of my attention deficit problem. For example, I have a folder I call "Projects in Work". In this folder are things like Basic Stamp Information, Denmark, Disney, Machin Stamps, Stamp Database, Watermarks, Texas Postal History. These are just a few of my "Projects in Work", and they are ongoing with varying degrees of completion. So, if I am looking for something to do, I have a diverse list of things that I can work on at any given time.

Back in the 1980's, I used to go to R.E. Wallace's Stamp & Coin Shop in downtown Fort Worth, where Bob would show me various philatelic treasures from around the world, and he would always tell me, "Boy, you need to specialize." Sorry Bob, I still haven't learned that. Maybe we can discuss it again sometime.

Diversity means something entirely different in the corporate world these days, but to me, diversity is what I get out of philately, and probably what makes it so interesting to me even after almost 60 years of collecting. I enjoy discussing collecting with everyone at our meetings and always find it interesting to see what others are collecting. Heck, maybe there's a specialty I've missed.

Hope to see you guys at a meeting real soon!

From The President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

Greetings fellow philatelists!

I was hopeful when I sat down to write this letter last month that we would be resuming our normal stamp club related activities by now. Since the shelter-in-place orders are still in effect through the end of April, our May meetings are up in the air. The Arlington gathering is still a possibility for the 6th but we will have to wait until later this month to make that decision.

There have been some suggestions from club members who are more technically capable than I am that we could hold virtual meetings via the internet. At this time I am not going to go that route for a few reasons. For one, we have nothing urgent to deal with right now. Club elections and the EXPO are months away and all is calm on those fronts. Secondly, a number of our regular attendees do not use or have internet access.

For those of you who need the social interaction that our in person meetings provide, do use the internet and are so inclined there is information about some APS online activities in the recent e-mail from Rick Howell that Skip rebroadcast. Knowing both Rick and Rob Hathaway, I believe that they would be very willing to assist anyone who needs help in availing themselves of these opportunities.

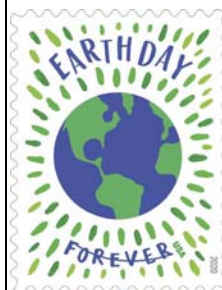
That is all I have for now. I hope that all of you are well and I look forward to when we can resume our normal routine.

Trivia answer for last month: Lebanon.

*Been There,
Done That*

Earth Day

By Peter Elias



In the past few years, Annie & I have gone to "EarthX", an annual 3-day Expo for Earth Day held at Fair Park (Texas State Fairgrounds) in Dallas. Admission is free, but parking isn't. We usually went on Fridays when our son was in school. That way, the place wasn't too overly crowded compared to Saturday & Sunday.

Of course this year, EarthX is cancelled due to Covid-19 and would have taken place on April 24 to 26.

The USPS is issuing a new stamp for Earth Day, but there probably won't be a public first day ceremony. Earth Day was previously commemorated on USA Scott #3189a as part of the 1970's Celebrate-the-Century series in 1999.

So for this year, it will be "been there - will go there next year".



Presidential Libraries

By Peter Elias

In 2005, the USA issued a stamp (Scott #3930) that commemorates the 50th Anniversary of Presidential Libraries.

Fourteen past US President from the 20th & 21st Centuries have Presidential Libraries according to the US Archives website at

<https://www.archives.gov/presidential-libraries/visit>.



These fourteen Presidential Libraries & Museums are for: Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R Ford, Jimmy Carter, George Bush, William J. Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

Luckily for us Texans, there are three Presidential Libraries located in our state; for Lyndon Johnson (Austin),



George Bush (College Station) and George W. Bush (Dallas).

Given that we have a Presidential Library right here in Dallas, I visited the George W. Bush Presidential Library back in 2014. It is located on the campus of SMU (Southern Methodist University).

Since George "Dubya"s legacy includes "911", there was a display about that event, including one of the columns from the World Trade Center (left). I also got to sit at the desk from replica of the oval office (above).

Regardless of what your political orientation is (*officially I have none...*), it is never-the-less an interesting place to visit (and the on-site restaurant serves some pretty good food!).

Staying Active in Isolation

by Rick Howell

This coronavirus situation presents a challenge to philatelists because the lifeblood of our hobby is getting out and enjoying fellowship with other collectors and swapping stories of the one that got away, or the treasure that was discovered at a local garage sale or estate sale.

I know that I, for one, love these moments of fellowship at our club meetings, and three meetings a month is just about the right amount, as long as there is an occasional stamp show thrown in.

Recent events, however have definitely called a sudden halt to all of this part of our lives, and we need to be aware that there are other options out there to stay in touch.

First, we have an online presence on Facebook. If you haven't logged in to our Facebook group yet, I highly encourage you to do so. Membership to our group on Facebook is open to the public because we are trying to make our presence known to the world, and to let everybody know the Mid Cities Stamp Club is there to provide help and a forum to all philatelists. We are a small group right now, but growing with more and more exposure. Come online and check us out and get in touch.

The American Philatelic Society is doing a tremendous job during this crisis and they are having daily "Stamp Chats" online where you can actually be a participant by using Zoom software that all the elementary and high school kids are using to take classes online. It's really an easy-to-use software and the base version is free to download. Get one of your kids or grandkids to show you how if you are hesitant about using a computer. Some of the Stamp Chats have been about expertizing, the APRL, African Americans on stamps, and the League of Nations. Most of the APS Stamp Chats are also available on YouTube.com if you would like to watch them without necessarily being a participant. You might see some friendly faces on there as I know that Rob and Debbie Hathaway are active participants. For more information about this, go to the APS website at www.stamps.org.

The APS has also asked us to let everyone know that although the offices of the APS are shut down temporarily, the Stamp Store is still open and orders will be fulfilled at the end of the mandated isolation period. Please support the APS as they do so much for the hobby.

If I don't see you at a meeting soon, I hope to see you in the online virtual stamp-ede.

[Editor - The club's Facebook address is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/759696427764886/>]
The APS Stamp Chats on YouTube are at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUI4DwFeHpA&list=PLPW21u9emdXRXw4R_q1wNUCsuUgMxtUQr or here if you want to click on it instead (since lengthy URL's don't seem to work well anymore: [APS Stamp Chats](#)]

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). iasdmyers@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

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

I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy hunting! 3/19

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: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14

Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album. Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, asking \$875 OBO. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or dkgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comic Strip - Blondie (Old Letter)

By Peter Elias



We've all heard of letters that never made it to their destination when sent originally, and then magically were found somewhere (like under-

neath some old mail processing equipment) and were subsequently delivered to the original recipient (which sometimes requires research, as the recipient may have moved in the meantime). But, unlike this Blondie comic strip, the US Postal Service would not be charging any postage due on a letter that is finally delivered. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the longest delay is 89 years! A letter posted in the UK on November 29, 1919, was delivered (albeit not to the original recipient, but to the same address) in 2008!

Romeo & Juliet

By Pat & Robert Weidman



On our 2013 vacation to Italy, one of the places we stopped at was the town of Verona, which is in the northern part of Italy, approximately halfway between Milan and Venice. It is the town where the story of Romeo and Juliet took place. I'm sure you have read the story of Romeo and Juliet, the two young lovers, written by William Shakes, whose families opposed their marriage.

It was a true story of Romeo's family, the Montecchi of Verona, and Juliet's family, the Capeletti of Cremona. The families had been feuding for years and opposed Romeo and Juliet from getting together. However, it did not stop Romeo and Juliet from secretly getting married.

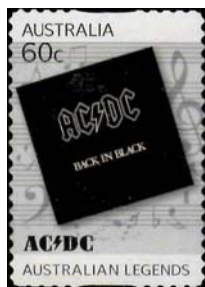
The picture above was taken in the courtyard where Romeo was standing, looking up at the balcony where Juliet was.

The stamp is United States Scott#1250; it was issued on August 14, 1964 for the 400th birthday of William Shakespeare.



Hell's Bells

By Peter Elias



Promptly at 10 AM each morning, when "Quiet Hours" were rescinded, I was woken up by "Hell's Bells", a rock song by the Australian band "AC/DC"; the album cover is shown on the stamp. The sound came from the room next to mine in the dorm that I was living in during my freshman year at MooU

(otherwise known as Michigan State University) in 1979. I lived in the "Brody Complex" (of 6 different dorms) on the top floor and the guy in the room next to mine, blasted that song every morning causing cups to rattle on my shelves. I obviously must not have scheduled too many early morning classes. My dorm room door —>



Welcome to My World – Online Meetings

The COVID-19 Stamp Collector – Rob Roy Hathaway

A decade ago, my working life consisted of flying off to some distant location on Monday morning, working a week at a customer site, and then flying home on Friday. In the time since then, my customers have slowly transitioned to having most of their employees working remotely.

It makes no sense to have me fly to a data-center in Omaha when all the technicians I need to train are in Massachusetts or Chennai, India! I now spend my days at home in online or virtual meetings.

COVID-19 social distancing has now made familiarity with these kinds of gatherings an essential life skill for those of us still in the work force or going to school. When the American Philatelic Society had their offices shut down by the Governor of Pennsylvania, they too had to figure this out just to keep the essential business of the society going.

Closer to home of course, MCSC has had to cancel all gatherings and we really have no idea exactly how long this situation will have to persist. If it goes on long enough, I have no doubt that all of society, including philately, will be permanently changed.

Scott English, the Executive Director of the APS, feels it is past time for us all to embrace some of this technology and over the past two weeks he and his staff have been hosting daily virtual stamp club meetings that both Debbie and I have really been enjoying. Please check out their schedule of upcoming get-togethers at <https://stamps.org/news>. Look for the "Stamp Chat" item. Recordings of past meetings can also be found linked from the same page.

Many clubs across the country have already jumped on the band wagon. I know of a club in Charlotte, NC that just held their first on line meeting and both Debbie and I greatly enjoyed the program "Dogs On Stamps" hosted by members of the Virtual Stamp Club, <https://www.virtualstampclub.com/>.

Any member with a smart phone, tablet, or computer can join any of these meetings with full ability to participate and contribute in our very visual hobby. Any phone is adequate just to listen in or give an officer's report as an example. I greatly miss the ability to peruse a sales book, get a door prize, or find something on the free literature table but that is about the only difference once you get used to the technology.

I can help with detailed joining instructions based on whatever software we adopt to do this. The most basic caveat I would like to share here, if we do this, comes from a new online friend, Stan Cromlish of both the VSC and the Charlotte club. "A couple of things that I've figured out about the meetings are that you really can't just wing them, but should have a set agenda."

This is great advice and no more than what we do with our in-person meetings. I hope you all stay safe and healthy in

this time of crisis. I look forward to seeing all of you soon, even if only in one of the other society's meetings. If nothing else, please check them out!



Rob Hathaway wearing a philatelic mask made by Debbie Hathaway

Rick Howell participating in an APS Stamp Chat



MEET & EAT for May & June, 2020

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & 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 6:30 PM with the Arlington new meeting start time now being at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

- May 6 Spring Creek BBQ - 3608 S. Cooper St, (817) 465-0553 (tentative)
- June 3 Jay Jays Café – 1001 South Bowen Rd, Arlington 76013 ph (817) 861-1060

EULESS

- May 20 "Highway 55" - 2113 Hardwood Rd, Bedford (tentative)
- June 17 Jason's Deli - 2200 Airport Freeway, Bedford ph (817) 354-1511

GRANBURY

- May 26 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377 (tentative)
- June 23 Best Burger, Acton

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

**Don't Forget:
May Events - see email notices**

Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com

5/19

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

Used Canada thru 2000 all on album pages in large binder. CV \$1830, will sell for \$325 (17%). Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com 3/20

→ YOUR FREE AD COULD BE HERE ← !
(for MCSC club members only)