

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: Trinity United Methodist Church
1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington

Flower Mound Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
3020 Corporate Ct, Ste 400 (Step Up Sports Medicine)

Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#90
CHAPTER
MEMBER



Volume 39, Number 3

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

March 2026

Been There,
Done That

Canyon de Chelly

By Peter Elias

Canyon de Chelly is a 132.8 square mile [National Monument](#) located on Navajo tribal lands in northeastern Arizona. It was established in 1931.

At right is a USPS postal stationery card, Scott #UX176, postmarked at Chinle, AZ, which is only about 2 miles west of the canyon.

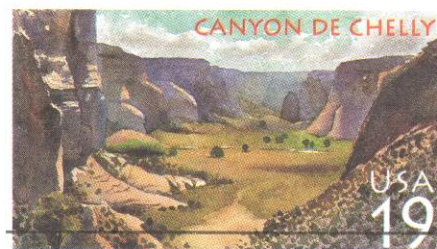
Back in the summer of 1980, when my dad had recently purchased a new 1979 Audi 5000 (which was the North American name for the European Audi 100), we took it on a something like 10,000 mile trip starting in mid-Michigan, to the Grand Canyon, various national parks, all the way to California, up the coast a bit, then via Las Vegas (since dad had an American Chemical Society meeting to attend there), and then finally back to Michigan. The car is seen at right in a photo taken on the Molass Mountain Pass (south of Silverton, CO on Highway 550) that I used for ordering a custom "PictureItPostage" stamp sheet from endicia.com. That drive took us to Mesa Verde National Park (see July 2021 issue) and eventually to Canyon de Chelly.

Canyon de "Chelly" is NOT pronounced "deh Shelly", but closer to "duh Shay". It is a Spanish corruption of the Navajo word *Tséyí*, meaning "deep in the rock" or "rock canyon".

Looking at the postal card, it didn't look quite as green in real life as on the card. The photo below (that my dad took, as seen below) shows it look a bit arid, but there is a bit of greenery seen in the base of the canyon. Cliff dwellings and petroglyphs are some of the features to see, and admission is free of charge!



Photo by Hans Elias



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



© USPS 1993



If you are looking for philatelic souvenirs of your US travels, try collecting USPS postal cards!

Article Index

Page

Been There - Done That (Canyon de Chelly)	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Been There - Done That (Black Bird SR-71)	3
Club Meeting Minutes	4, 8
What Would You Do?	5
Stamp Art	5
What Were They Thinking?	6
Member & Dealer Ads	6, 9, 10, 13
Been There - Done That (Year of the Fire Horse)	7
President's Message	8
Thank You!	8
Twice As Good!	8
Brazil Rotary Stamp	9
Junk Journaling	10
Stamp Art vs. Modern Art: Flamingos	11
Been There - Done That (Albrecht Dürer)	12
Meet & Eat	13

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this [newsletter](#) may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club or its officers.

2025 - 2026 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Rick Howell
Vice-President (Arlington) – Rich Hildebrandt
Vice-President (Granbury) – Dave Stockbridge
Vice-President (Flower Mound) – Dan Golden
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Thomas Cunningham

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Ralph Poore Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ken Aldridge

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 (which includes an emailed or online color newsletter, or \$22 for mailed black & white 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 820784
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

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

Coming Attractions

2026

FEB. 24	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	Clean Out Your Philatelic Closet
MAR. 4	MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Program by Richard Laster (TPA President)
MAR. 7	Dallas Postcard Club monthly meeting
	First United Methodist Church, 2 PM, 801 W. Ave B, Garland
MAR. 18	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAR. 24	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	Polio on Stamps", presented by Joe McFarland.
APR. 1	MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Club Auction
APR. 4	MCSC EXPO Meeting
	David's BBQ, 2224 W Park Row Dr, Pantego, 11 AM - 1 PM
APR. 10-11	TSDA Bourse
	Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
	Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)
APR. 15	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
APR. 28	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Including this issue, there will have been 5 months of "2026 Membership Renewal" forms published. If you have not yet paid your 2026 dues, please do so, and save the club secretary some time...

If you are reading this as a PDF file, then on page 1, in the masthead, the club's 3 meeting sites are links to Google Map listings for that site, including the new Arlington meeting location starting March 4.

Be sure to read my "Stamp Art" article elsewhere in the newsletter, and why it is important to NOT throw away excess cheap definitives or even damaged stamps, as they can be reborn as art!

Articles such as on page 12 are best read using a PDF reader where you can magnify the images (due to space constraints).

Don't forget that blue links in the article text (not the title) are generally linked to a website with further information about what is in the article.



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

John Blackmon (#700) - mostly BOB & Revenues
Terry Maxon (#701) - USA

New Members:

Lester J. Edwards (#698) - all stamps!
Larry Sweeney (#699) - USA used, mint blocks

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Not Renewing for 2026:

Joshua Bogan (#670)
Nick Dhalia (#663) or Dhalla?
Bernie Falk (#609)
Richard Goodwin (#648)
Naomi Grote (#548)
Robert Henry (#580)
Tom Holder (#664)
Austin Mullins (#496)
Gary Paetzold (#487)
Everett Ware (#683)
Ann Zimmer-Sheperd (#658)

Membership Summary – February 18, 2026

Membership as of January 21, 2026	112
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	2
Not Renewing for 2026	(11)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of February 18, 2026	103

Black Bird SR-71

By Peter Elias



Shown at left is a (enlarged) stamp of a Lockheed Black Bird SR-71 from Liberia.

The Scott catalog does not list this stamp (plus a few others in

that series that I bought), stating that since Liberia was in a civil war between 1996 to 2004, various government services were only operating sporadically and that foreign "stamp agents" printed stamps never-the-less under pre-war contracts and marketed them directly to collectors. Supposedly a few of these stamps were released to Liberia after the end of hostilities. Hard to say how my stamps were originally procured by the Belgian delcampe.net seller that I bought them from.

The SR-71 is a now-retired US Air Force high-altitude, long-range, high-speed (Mach 3+) strategic reconnaissance aircraft used from 1966 to 1998. The link in the previous sentence will take you to a lengthy Wikipedia article about all aspects of the plane, much more than I can briefly discuss here.

VISITOR PASS	BASE Lackland	NO. 0520291
ISSUED SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950		
NAME OF VISITOR, DRIVER AND LOCAL ADDRESS OR FIRM (Circle applicable word)		
Elias, Peter TXDL#15		
Grand Prairie TX 75052		
NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPONSOR		TOTAL OTHERS IN PARTY (List names on back of file copy if local requirement)
Self		0

In the summer of 1992, I was in San Antonio and got a chance to visit Lackland Air Force Base, where I did get to see a Black Bird SR-71 parked in an outside plane museum there in



the blistering Texas summer heat (picture at bottom left).

The visitor pass that I received is shown below left and I found it in one of my photo albums.



I don't buy t-shirts that often, but did that day, so this yellow shirt (which I wear occasionally) is now a whopping 33½ years old!

But 1992 wasn't the only time that I got to see a close-up of the SR-71. There is another one parked inside the Seattle Museum of Flight. I took the picture below on August 7, 2004 during a business trip there. From the mid-1990's to mid-2010's, I had more trips to the Seattle & Portland areas than I can count (mostly business, some personal).

I got to see the Concorde at the Museum in 2004 as well; it arrived there on November 5, 2003 on its final flight and even set a New York-to-Seattle speed record of 3 hours, 55 minutes & 12 seconds (same flight time as DFW to Seattle)!



Arlington Meeting Minutes February 4, 2026

By Janet Moyer

Call-to-Order:

- President Richard Howell opened the meeting with a thank you to all in attendance.

Attendance:

- We had 29 members and 2 visitors: Dominic & Nelly Tuzzo.

Reports:

- Secretary - Janet Moyer - The secretary's report was printed in the newsletter. No corrections were noted, so they were accepted.
- No treasurer's report.
- Library - We are waiting to hear about a cabinet for the new meeting place.
- Newsletter - Peter is working on it. He has new club business cards if anybody wants some.
- EXPO - We need volunteers. The next meeting will be April 4th, 11 AM - 1 PM, at David's Barbecue.

Announcements:

- Meeting location change:
 - We will be moving our meeting location to the Trinity United Methodist Church at 1200 West Green Oaks (Pioneer Parkway and Green Oaks) for the March 4th meeting. A map will be sent in the newsletter. The rent is reasonable and there is plenty of parking. We are on the second floor but there is an elevator available.
 - The church offers a meal at 5:00 PM for \$8.00 which will do away with the "meet-and-eats" at restaurants. They will post the menu on their Facebook page on Mondays.
 - The meeting will be from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. We must be out by 9:00 PM.
- Ken Aldridge put in a bid for used Zeppelin stamps. He got some that were not as advertised. BE CAREFUL when ordering on line!
- Rick Howell said they will be separating stamps on paper versus stamps off paper in the Mixture Pick bags. If you would like to help sort stamps, please let him know. You can keep any you find that you want for 5 cents each.

Show & Tell:

- John Hughes will be doing a presentation on stamp collecting, April 7th, on SeniorPlanet.org. He is asking for comments to include. If you have any ideas, please let him know.
- Richard Kincaid showed a church program sent to him with the stamps holding the opening together.
- Larry Reid returned over 100 stamps because they were not genuine. How do you check to see if stamps are genuine? He will help you if you need help.
- Peter Elias brought many interesting items.
- Skip Ely showed information about 12 varieties of Purple Heart Stamps from 2003-2019. If you want a copy, let him know.

Gift certificates:

- Gift certificates were awarded using a random number generator thanks to Skip Ely.
- Winners were Tim Sasser and Mike Ross.

Program:

- The program was presented by Jimmy Tomchesson on PSAG..

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned after the program.

Flower Mound Meeting Minutes February 18, 2026

By Skip Ely, filling in for Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- Vice President - Dan Golden called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM.

Attendance:

- 11 members and 1 guest attended the February meeting.

Announcements:

- Dan Golden mentioned the new venue for the Arlington meeting in two weeks.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said only 13 members had failed to renew for 2026.
- Treasury - Rick Howell gave a short briefing on finances.
- Sales - Skip said he would likely have club and APS books at the next meeting.
- EXPO - The next planning meeting will be sometime in April. A discussion of the problems with exhibits followed. Peter Elias mentioned the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE), and said many exhibits can be viewed there.
- Newsletter - Peter said it was almost done.
- Future Meetings - Dan Golden briefly mentioned future meetings.
- Where in the World Is It? By Dan Golden:
- It turned out to be Lebanon.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed some example of what he called "controlled mail".
- Tim Sasser displayed some "Opinion" books, about expertizing details.
- Peter Elias had several items, including a 1992 postcard announcing Expo; a well sealed foreign cover; a Rudolph Diesel stamp; some old custom "Dazzle" type stamps; a 2025 Scott catalog item; a stamp sheet from a British program aired on HBO; a 2006 Silver Medal Literary Award he received; a Service Guide of non-denominated U.S. stamps; and finally, his 1996 CAPEX attendance notebook.
- Stu Clarke showed some Hawaiian stamps.
- Lester Edwards also had several items, including a cover he had obtained from the FDR collection that was mailed from Lyndon Johnson; a book on plating Great Britain imperf Penny Reds; another book on British postmarks; a 1949 Stanley Gibbons catalog of KGVI stamps; and finally a revenue stamp on an old document.
- Skip Ely talked briefly about the 42¢ Flag Stamps and the hidden "USPS" microprinting on some of them. He had a handout detailing their location, as well as some other features of the stamps.

Gift Certificate:

- ...was awarded to Rick Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at about 8:40 PM.

What Would You Do?

By Peter Elias

When mailing items, such as I do for my eBay lots, I have a choice on how to pay for the postage. For example, I recently sold an eBay lot consisting of these 14x USPS "self-service kiosk" (SSK) stamps. This is a complete set of all USA "Holiday" ATM (vending machine) stamps from 2012 to 2025, something that I have NOT seen anyone else on eBay doing. After all, to do that, it required going to these kiosks at least 13 times (last year was the first time that 2 stamps were issued).



One option is to send these via regular 1st class letter mail (which is untracked and uninsured). And since I'm a stamp collector, I prefer to use stamps as postage (given that I've got lots of those to use up...). But this is risky, and eBay would side on the buyer should they claim these NOT received or damaged in USPS handling.

The 2nd option is for me to send them via tracked & insured GA (Ground Advantage). This item was to be mailed to Ohio, and the USPS postage calculator said:

	USPS Ground Advantage®	Expected Delivery Day	Retail
	Select a Delivery Option		
	Normal Delivery Time	Wed, Feb 4	\$8.10

With this option, I can certainly use up \$8.10 in stamps (providing I can fit them on a 6" x 9" envelope...), or buy a label at the SSK or from the USPS clerk. It is the same price in any case.

eBay on the other hand, lets me pay only \$5.20 to mail this via GA (a whopping savings of \$2.90!). BUT: I have to pay for this postage now, rather than being able to use stamps that I already available for postage! Doing this many times each year would save a lot on postage, but also has me further stuck with postage I already bought... What would you do?

Stamp Art

By Peter Elias

You may have seen me mention "Pegasus Creative Reuse" in articles where we thank dealers & collectors for donating stamps & other philatelic stuff to the club.

As you may know, not all of those donations are usable by the club and there's a reason why dealers don't buy them; 'cause they can't sell them! Think of common definitives from around the world, from countries such as Japan, France, Denmark, Germany, Canada and of course the USA; many of which have been printed & used in the hundreds of millions, billions in some cases. While all of these do of course form a basic collection of that countries' stamps, when you are presented with baggies of these containing many hundreds, we don't really have that many beginning collectors come to our Beginning Collector table for those 2 days at our EXPO each year...

Most dealers would simply discard those stamps, as the "time = money" ratio is not favorable. Not too mention all the damaged stamps found in older albums (you know, use of cellophane tape or stuck in those "sticky" photo albums), overly heavily cancelled, etc.

Now what? Well, these stamps can be used for "artistic" purposes, one of which is illustrated below. Whoever bought these stamps (for a minor amount) from Pegasus, created an interesting piece of "stamp art". A postman on a flying duck (or goose?) banana thing, with a mailbag containing cereal boxes and above some of the stamps that came from our re-donating them.

Aime from Pegasus did not say who sent her this, but it is appreciated! "Scrap bookers" and "junk journalists" also use these stamps.

For me, the key is that this allows for stamps to be in front of people (rather than in a landfill) and who knows ... it might inspire someone to start collecting stamps!



What Were They Thinking?

By Peter Elias

Well, in 1968 they probably wouldn't have thought anything was really wrong with this image of an airplane flying straight towards a New York City building...

Today though, well some people might have an issue with this image....

While this is only a "cachet" on an envelope, if you look at various stamps featuring planes, there are a lot of them where the plane is shown to be heading for a building or in this case, a cachet showing a plane diving towards the ground (on the 1958 cover at right).



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



cunninghamstamps@aol.com

Exp. 12/26

(214) 546-1179

Cunningham Philatelics

Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items
Stamps and Covers

Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
APS # 082424, TSDA

P.O. Box 863237
Plano, TX 75086-3237

stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



- * TSDA
- * HOUPEX
- * EXPO

US/WW Classics, Modern, SONs

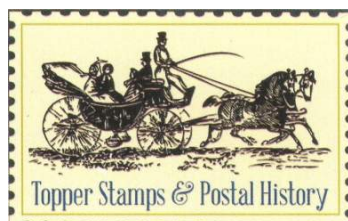
Visit our new online store

@ <http://www.stampsuniversal.com>

James D. Myers
P. O. Box 2047
Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 304-1671



Exp. 12/26



Exp. 12/26

Jonathan Topper

13100 Wortham Center Drive
3rd Floor Suite 45
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com

Year of the Fire Horse

By Peter Elias

On February 3, 2026, the USPS issued an annual "Lunar Year" stamp. This year, it is the "Lunar Year of the Horse"; a reduced copy of the full sheet is shown at right.



The "Year of the Horse" stamp (left) is a continuation of a new series of Lunar New Year stamps that started in 2020 with the "Year of the Rat" (right, Scott #5428).



The stamps are printed via Offset Lithography and with "foil application". This is a bit hard to make show up in a scan, so at



left is a photo of these 2 stamps where the bluish-green mane of the horse

and the gold crown and circle on the head of the rat are a bit more visible.

An earlier Lunar Year series started in 1995 with the Year of the Rat (Scott #3060). That said, I was born in the Year of the Rat...



The Chinese "Lunar Year" is based on the Chinese Zodiac, which revolves 12 animals in a 12-year cycle. So we're all born underneath one of the signs. Google it for yours.

If you look at the title of this article, it is called the "Year of the Fire Horse". And while that's NOT what the USPS calls it, it is technically correct. In addition to animals, there are also 5 elements (wood, fire, earth, metal & water) combined with the animals, and these elements rotate in a 60-year cycle. 1966 was the last time that the combination of Horse & Fire occurred. Thus 2026 is the "Year of the Fire Horse".

The screen shot at bottom left, is from a video I took on February 6 at the Asian Times Square (Grand Prairie, TX) celebration of the Lunar New Year at their banquet, and they had it correct.



The selvedge area also has foil application in gold (except for the horse at the upper right corner, which is in that greenish-blue shade). The USPS only sells full sheets of these, despite all stamps being the same.



Photo by Peter Elias

So, you may ask, what I was doing there? Well, the obvious answer is to see a bit of what the celebration is about (and besides, I've never been to Asian Times Square before; that was just an empty field when I moved to Grand Prairie from Kentucky in 1990), as well as enjoy some really great food!

The lion dance (above) is 2 guys in a lion costume dancing on top of dinner-plate sized metal disks 8 feet in the air was also pretty cool!

But what brought me there to begin with, was the chance to see "Nini" perform live (left). She was on an [AGT](#) audition in 2024, and is a phenomenal player of traditional Chinese string instruments).



Screen shot from video by Peter Elias



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

There are a few things in the works for Mid-Cities Stamp Club. I think the big thing is the move of the Arlington meeting to Trinity United Methodist Church in March. I'm pretty excited about this and am hoping everything works out as planned. Also looking forward to that is the \$8.00 meal with drinks and dessert included starting at 5:00 PM at the church. Come on out and give it a try.

We are still looking at a way to house our library at the new location, but these things take time, so bear with us. We will get there.

Also, I came up with a way to solve a problem we have with the Mixture Pick. For those of you who are relatively new, our mixture pick is a huge pile of stamps we put on a table at EXPO and allow attendees to go through the piles and pick out stamps they like for 5 cents each.

The problem we were having is that stamps "on-paper" and stamps "off-paper" had gotten mixed in the bins and we need to get them separated. In order to get this solved, I am proposing having our membership take home a shoebox full of either foreign or US stamps and separating them while going through the pile and selecting their choice of stamps from the pile. I will supply bags for you to put the stamps in as you go through them. "Off-paper" in one bag and "On-paper" in another. This gives our general membership a chance to have access to our mixture pick throughout the year, not just at EXPO! So, come to a meeting, grab a shoe box full of stamps and take them home, have fun sorting through them in your own time, and next month return the box with sorted stamps, pay for your selections and grab another box. Another cool benefit of being a member of MCSC!

I am still looking for people who would like to provide a program for our meetings. We need volunteers for both Arlington and Granbury, where we have programs scheduled throughout the year. Flower Mound is a little less formal, and our membership comes up with some impromptu programs as time allows. So, if you would like to share some of your philatelic knowledge, let me know. My phone number and email address are in your club directory.

Ralph Poore has informed me that we will be having our first EXPO committee meeting sometime in April, so we will be announcing that as plans firm up. Arrangements have already been made with the Grapevine Convention Center to reserve our time slot for November, and things are proceeding as normal.

Also, don't forget the TSDA stamp bourse in McKinney is being held on April 10 and 11 at the Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Drive. Friday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Come on out and find some great deals!

Hope to see you all at the meetings!

Granbury Meeting Minutes January 28, 2026

By Joe McFarland

Meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather (sleet).

Thank You!

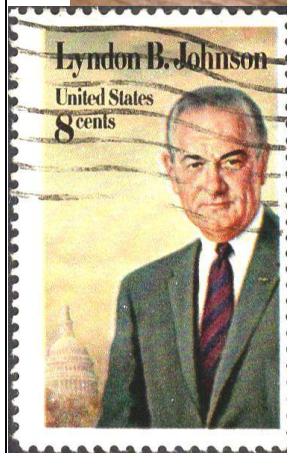
By Peter Elias

On February 21, I received a Priority Mail box from Joan Book of Corsicana. She donated 2 full Albums + loose US FDC's, all from the "Postmasters of America".



Twice As Good

By Peter Elias



If 1 hinge is good, then 2 hinges must be better, right?

So many times when removing stamps from old albums, one runs into this, and it just makes it more difficult to remove (since the stamp now can't be hinged upwards...). It's just an average copy of US #1503 from 1973. Yes, it is an "oversized" commemorative, but doesn't really need 2 hinges...

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

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. Contact Peter Elias at info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

Brazil Rotary Stamp

By Peter Elias



The card below must have been in an envelope. It was mailed in Brazil from a Rotary club there to Panama.

Since it originated in Brazil, it was in Portuguese (although Spanish is the dominant language in Panama).

Typing the text into Google Translate, this is what it says:

Itajaí, June 15, 1955

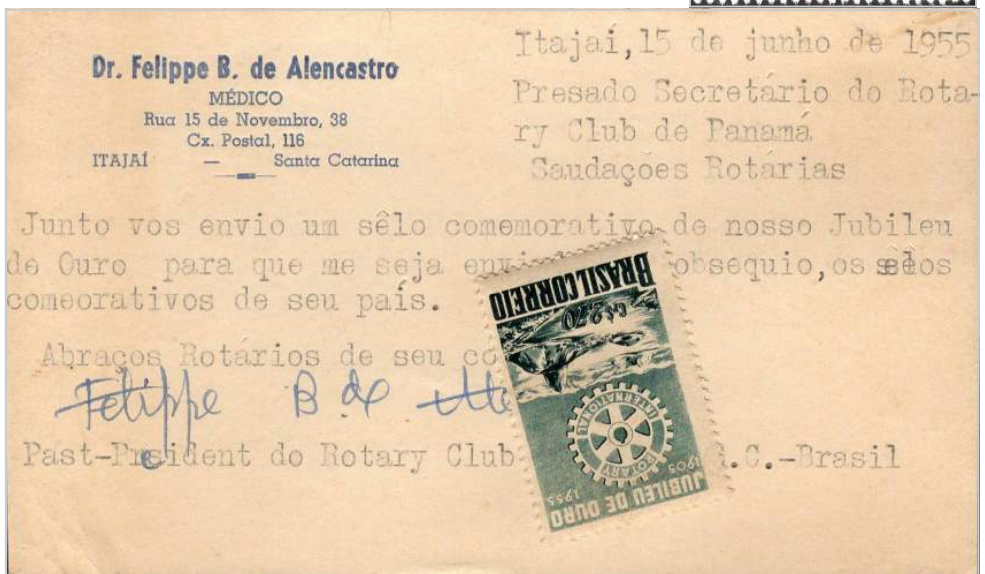
Dear Secretary of the Rotary Club of
Panama Rotary Greetings

I am enclosing a commemorative stamp for our Jubilee so that you may kindly send me the commemorative stamps from your country.

Rotary regards from your comrade
Past-President of the Rotary Club
S.C.-Brazil

The stamp at top, Brazil #817 from 1955, is from the card at right. Since it was slightly stuck on the card, I cropped & rotated the image.

In researching this, Panama did issue



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 (works on Windows PCs only), 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!)
- [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 \$ 4.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95). Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/24

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, 25% and LESS of catalog values. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14

Wanted

Currently looking for documents relating to **AMG (Allied Military Group)** stamp issues in Europe during WWII. Any help would be appreciated. Rick Howell, rick.howell1@tx.rr.com 2/26

a set of 3 airmail stamps in 1955 (#C150-152) to commemorate Rotary International. #C151 was overprint with a surcharge in December 1955. A 50th Anniversary of Rotary Panama stamp was also issued in 1969 (#502). After digging around, I did find a used copy of #C150, which is shown to the right.

I wonder if Dr. Alencastro ever got Rotary stamps from Panama in exchange?



Junk Journaling

By Peter Elias

Most of us may have run across the term "junk journaling" at one time. But what exactly is it?

According to the Google search response, it is "the art of creating personalized journals, sketchbooks or memory books using recycled materials, vintage paper and found ephemera".

Technically, postage stamps are "ephemera", defined to include paper items that are not meant to last, such as receipts, tickets and postage stamps. Of course originally, stamps are meant to be a functional item to be used once (just like an entry ticket), and thus "temporary". That doesn't mean however that you can't collect these type of items, right?

Other than just displaying ephemera items, they can of course be collected or used in "artistic endeavors", such as collages, scrap booking, junk journaling and other crafting projects.

The stamps shown in this screen shot (provided by an employee of [Pegasus Creative Reuse](#) in Dallas), were procured at Pegasus, where I drop off excess common & damaged stamps



Cropped screen shot from:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DLISqKZuLAU/>

from donations (most of which are from the club, as well my own accumulations of stamps as I'm sifting through them...).

The point is to keep stamps in front of people, and if someone gets inspired to actually collect stamps as a hobby as a result, then that much the better! Given that the older generation of collectors is dying off, there aren't as many newer & younger people entering the hobby to take their place. This might help.

www.psaginc.com



PHILATELIC STAMP AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING

Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading
P.O. Box 410880, Melbourne FL 32941-0880

Phone: 305.606.4337 E-Mail: info@psaginc.com



Certification and Grading - Excellence Since 1987

Founded by noted U.S. Classics Expert, J. Randall Shoemaker, PSAG commits to providing unparalleled certification and grading of all United States, Canada and Canadian Province stamps. Guided by newly appointed President Jimmy Tomchesson, PSAG enters its next chapter of excellence in expertizing and grading.

Finest US and Canadian Experts, 40 Years of Expertizing Experience
Competitively Priced Graded & Ungraded certificates at the same price

Grading singles, pairs, blocks, plate blocks, booklet panes and souvenir sheets for US & BNA
Consistent Standardized Third Party Grading

Comprehensive References
Best Turnaround Time in the Trade



FEE SCHEDULE (All United States, Canada & Provinces, Canal Zone & Hawaii)

SERVICE	FEE	ITEMS THAT CAN BE SUBMITTED	MINIMUM QUANTITY	MAX SCOTT VALUE	MAX FEE	APPROX TURNAROUND
ECONOMY	\$20	1932 to date (US#643 to date, C19 to date, RW35 to date, E14 to date) No ERRORS, FREAKS & ODDITIES	10	\$100	\$20	30 Business Days
REGULAR	5.5% Scott Value (Min \$38.50)	1847 to 1931 (US# 1-642, C1-18, RW 1-34, E1-E13, J1-J78, Revenues, etc)	1	No Max Value	\$250	30 Business Days
SPECIALIZED	5.5% Scott Value (Min \$50)	1847 to date (Private Vending Coils, Postal Stationery, Postmaster Provisionals, Special Printings, Covers, Locals/Carriers	1	No Max Value	\$250	Varies
EXPRESS	Add \$25 to each item		1	No Max Value	\$30	20 Business Days



Stamp Art vs. Modern Art: Flamingos

by Dan Golden

There is a somewhat famous piece of modern art in downtown Chicago, a picture of which can be seen at right. Designed by Alexander Calder, it is called "The Flamingo" and was first unveiled in 1974. As you might imagine, the sculpture is meant to be an abstract representation of the bird with whom it shares its name. But, when you give it a good hard look, how accurate is this sculpture, really?

For reference, let's compare this sculpture to an actual artistic representation of a flamingo, which can be seen here on US #2707. I can look at this stamp and immediately recognize that it is in fact the uniquely bright pink bird that is, in my opinion one of the most easily identifiable birds in the world, a flamingo. When I look at Calder's sculpture, however, I see what my dad would cynically label a waste of metal.

I'll be the first to admit that I do not always enjoy the abstract artistic style, especially in modern art. Maybe I'm not the target audience, or maybe I do not have the high artistic standards that modern art critics have. But beyond the pink shade of the metalwork, it's quite hard for me to see this sculpture and immediately think: "Oh yes, that's a flamingo right there! How could it be anything else?"

Even when comparing these two images in real time in one of my "Extreme Philately" poses, the only resemblances I can see is the color and perhaps the curvature of the metal somewhat mimicking the curvature of the flamingo's neck. Still though, my mind does not immediately jump to the conclusion that what I am looking at is indeed a flamingo. Yeah, in my opinion, the artist behind this sculpture appears to have missed the mark.

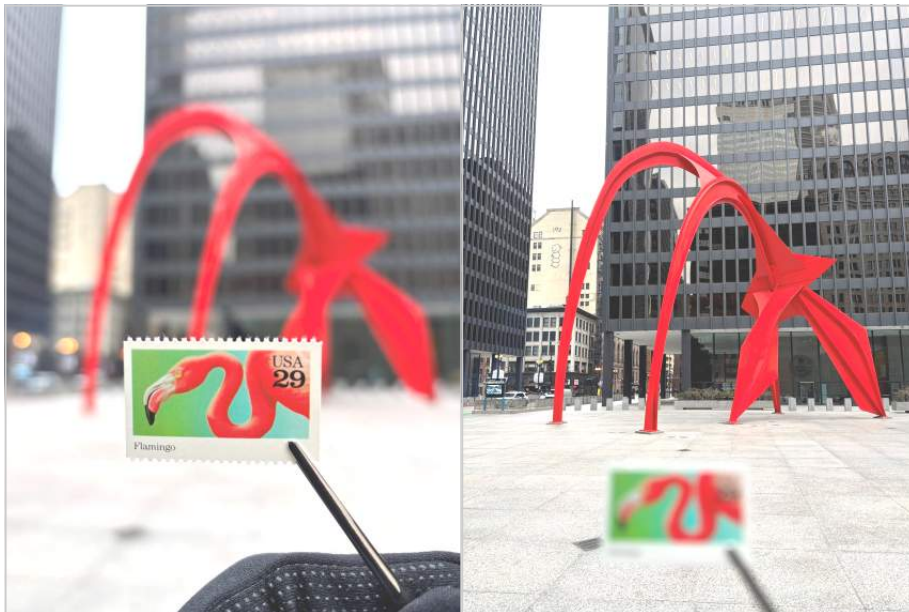


Again, I am not the most artistic guy in the world. After all, my drawing talent can only supply a plethora of stick figures. But I can appreciate a good work of art for the simple reason of recognizing that someone made something beautiful that I am incapable of doing on my own. It's the same reason why people have such a fascination with professional or Olympic athletes, because the records that they set are so utterly beyond the ability of the average person to accomplish. Usain Bolt's breakneck speed and Michael Phelps's swimming come to mind immediately as achievements that leave fans awestruck. Such records will rarely, if ever, be replicated by others. It is its own kind of art.

True art is something that stands the test of time and continues to inspire beauty for decades, even centuries after its creation. But much of modern art falls into the trend of shock value, distortion, and something called "experimentation with form". And that's how we as a society have gone from the priceless Greek and Roman sculptures of antiquity, the renaissance masterpiece of Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, or the many artistic traditions of Kintsugi and decorative ceramics from the Far East, to the Maurizio Cattelan's 2019 work entitled "Comedian," which is literally just a fresh banana duct-taped to a wall. Our modern world calls that "art," and it makes me cringe.

The beautiful thing about stamps is that I can curate a small art collection as I intentionally pursue collecting different subjects. Trains, planes, architecture, birds, mountains, maps, sporting events, battles, holidays, and numerous other topics that I did not think of while typing this sentence are potential art collections waiting to be curated in my stock books. And

with each stamp being a work of art in its own right, it really makes one appreciate when the artist behind the stamp gets the details right, especially when the subject depicted is as recognizable as the flamingo.



Albrecht Dürer

By Peter Elias



Albrecht Dürer was a painter, print-maker & theorist who lived from 1471 to 1528; he was born in Nürnberg (Nuremberg), Germany.

Albrecht and some of his paintings & prints have been commemorated on various stamps. Unfortunately the only one I could find on

quick notice, is Germany Scott #827, the 4th lowest value of a series of 16 definitives issued from 1961 to 1964.

Scott only mentions that these stamps are listed as being printed on fluorescent or ordinary paper. As you can see at top, my two stamps look similar (other than the right one appears a bit "paler"). Scott describes #827 as being olive green.

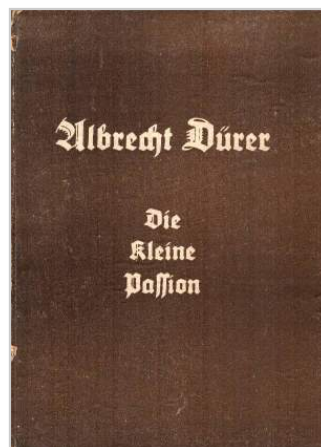
The top row is a scan. On the 2nd row, it is the same two stamps, but photographed under long wave UV light, and it clearly shows that the right stamp "glows", while the left one is a bit "dull". Since I had to photograph these, it is really difficult to get a "straight" image, as these mint stamps tend to "curl" a bit. The UV lamp was about an inch away from the stamps, and the camera told me it was doing this at 1600 ASA with only a 1/6 second exposure (which is extremely difficult to do handheld!).

That all said, I looked up this issue in my German Michel catalog and it is a bit more detailed than Scott and while ALL stamps are known as being printed on fluorescent paper, and that only 7 (lower) denominations also exist on non-fluorescent paper. Michel labels the colors on this issue as ranging from dark green olive to gray olive (while the highest denomination of 2 DM is listed as dark olive green (as opposed to dark green olive). While I have that stamp also, the colors are very close, but there is a slight difference.



At left is Germany (Berlin) Scott #9N311, issued in 1971 that also commemorates Albrecht Dürer by showcasing one of his wood prints, in this case the "Dudelsackpfeiffer" (bagpiper) image from a larger copper print. Note how he signs his prints (#1 left), with a "D" underneath a stylized "A".

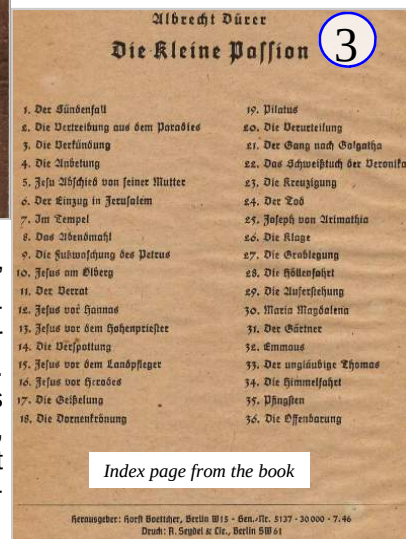
Going through some of my



original 1511 book (#2).

This small 5.25" x 7" book was published in 1946 to honor his 475th birthday. Given that this book is from post World War II, the paper is getting a bit aged now, but is otherwise in good shape.

father's old books, I found one from Albrecht Dürer called *Die Kleine Passion* (The Small Passion; as in the Passion of Christ). It illustrates this via 36 pages (#3) of reprints from his



Index page from the book

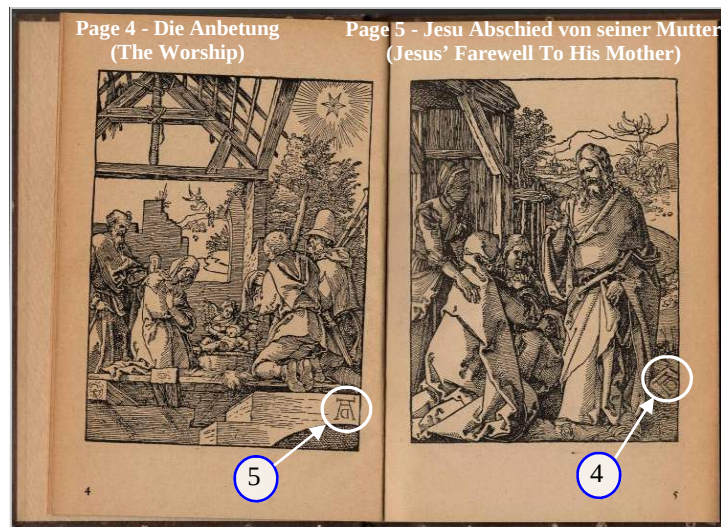


Above: Title page from the book

While we're all familiar with stamp errors, this book also has errors. Comparing his signature on #1 to those on #4 & #5, you can see that the printer managed to reverse the entire print in on #5 (page #4)!

There are at least 3 instances of entire images being reversed in the book; I verified this with online sources of the same images.

Below: Pages 4 & 5 from the book





MEET & EAT for

March 2026

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 and start ordering at that time. However, late-comers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 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

March 4 Trinity United Methodist Church
1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington

FLOWER MOUND

March 18 Bari's Pizza and Pasta
3472 Long Prairie Rd., Flower Mound
(972) 426-2956

GRANBURY

March 24 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

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

Various USA Scott #C2 & C3 on covers & cards are needed for my U.S Air Mail collection. Please forward scans of the covers / cards along with asking price(s) to Don Jones at adjaams@aol.com Thank you. 2/21

For Sale

FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version) of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each)! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 4/24

Large accumulation of stamps from many countries both mint & used. This includes full dealer boxes, bulging glassines, binders with album and Vario pages, and old albums with collections. All stamps are no more than 20% of catalog price. Request stamps by country and I will determine the best way to get them to you for examination. You select what you want, write down catalog price, adjust for condition, and pay me when you return the material. What do you want, need, or desire to look at? Dave Stockbridge; stockdave44@yahoo.com 2/26

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

Don't Forget:
-> Arlington: NEW MEETING SITE!
-> Turn in auction lots for the April 1
Arlington auction