

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 4

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

April 2026

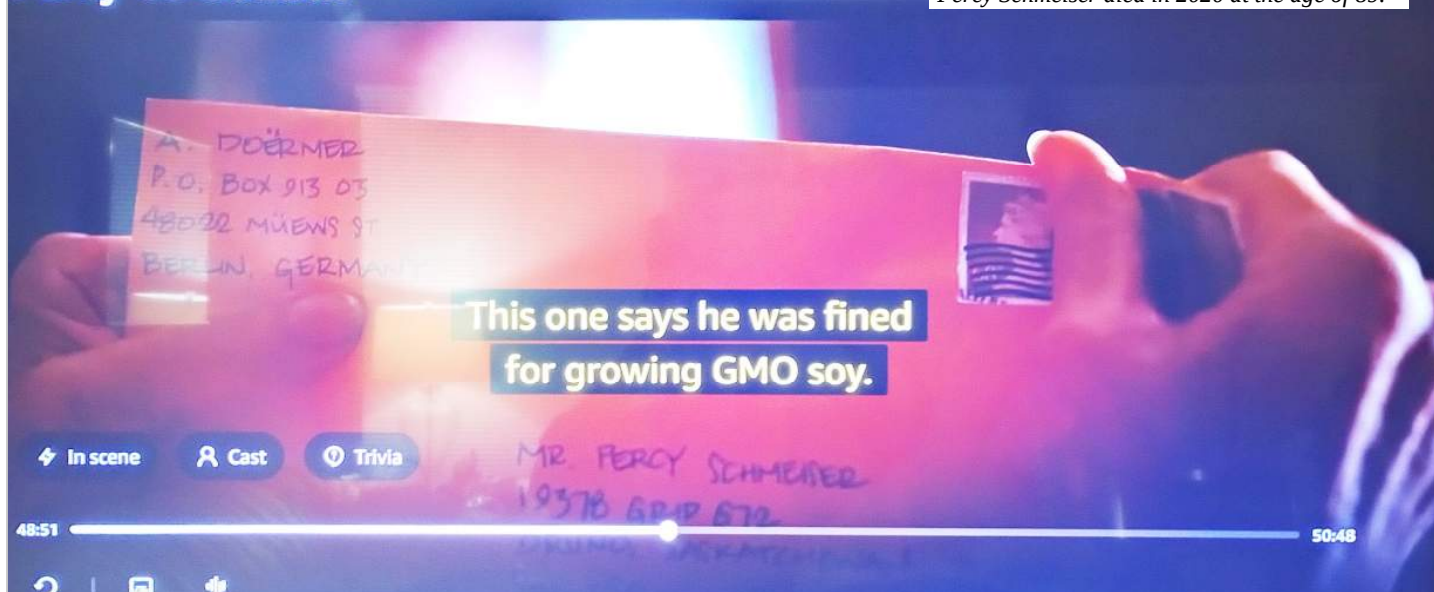
TV Philately: Percy vs. Goliath

By Peter Elias

on paper from a previous white envelope, but the clincher is: it is a UK stamp. The return address is in Germany!

Percy Vs Goliath

Percy Schmeiser died in 2020 at the age of 89.



It's time again to play "what's wrong with this picture"... A couple of days ago, we watched the 2020 movie "Percy vs. Goliath", based on the true story of farmer Percy Schmeiser and his wife who lived in Bruno, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Percy was accused by the giant agribusiness company Monsanto for allegedly using their patented "Roundup resistant" seeds. He lost in the local courts, as well as an appeal at the Canadian Provincial Government court and finally took his case to the Canadian Supreme Court.

While the Supreme Court appeal gave Monsanto a 5-4 win over the appeal, the court did rule that Percy owed Monsanto nothing for them having found patented Canola seeds on his farm, however, he did have to give up all his "contaminated" seeds (from previous harvests) to Monsanto, but he did get to keep his farm. This was a moral victory for farmers around the world. More details on this can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monsanto_Canada_Inc_v_Schmeiser.

As these trials progressed (the story takes place from 1998 to 2004), farmers wrote to him in support and even provided some funds for his fight.

What we see above is a movie prop envelope that Percy received from a foreign farmer. What is the key thing wrong here? Simple. Look at the stamp. While it does appear to be a real stamp, it does appear to be still

Plus the machine cancel (which looks fake) on this stamp does not extend past the stamp to the envelope. The other stamp[s] on the envelope are obscured. I haven't checked out the addresses yet. But the props department definitively got the stamp part wrong! How hard is it to get a German stamp?

Article Index	Page #
TV Philately: Percy vs. Goliath	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Been There - Done That (Oscar Wilde)	3
President's Message	4
Club Meeting Minutes	4, 8
Donation Albums Stamp Removal Notes	5 - 7
Please Cancel Nicely	9
Member & Dealer Ads	9, 13, 14, 15
Been There - Done That (The Mythen)	10
The First Opening Day	11 - 12
VSPHv	13
Letters To The Editor	14
MCSC Sponsor Members	14
Meet & Eat	15

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Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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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, Texas 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 at: editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

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P.O. Box 820784
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

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



"Editor At Work"
 LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

contained several older (but good condition) Lighthouse stockbooks with US & foreign stamps, several older 1959/60 albums, some older philatelic books and some loose stamps on & off paper in small plastic tissue boxes.



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Wow, 2 "letters to the editor" this month. The most ever! Feel free to write in and comment about articles or other philatelic matters!

Thank You!

Thank you to Marla O'Neill of Baltimore, Maryland, who donated 2 boxes of her grandfather's stamp collection. It primarily

Photo by
 Marla O'Neill



--> Requested From All Members

By Peter Elias

Our club is a chapter member of 3 other philatelic organizations, the APS (**American Philatelic Society**), TPA (**Texas Philatelic Association**) and the ATA (**American Topical Association**). For two of these organizations, the APS & ATA, they will waive our annual chapter dues IF we can provide them with a list of which MCSC members are also members of their organizations.

For the ATA membership waiver, at least 6 of our members need to be active ATA members. For the APS, the membership requirement is higher, but I don't know the exact number.

In any case, please provide Skip Ely or Janet Moyer with an updated list of all philatelic societies that you are a member of, as well as your member number. It is greatly appreciated!

Coming Attractions

2026

MAR. 24 **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
 Program: "Polio on Stamps" by Joe McFarland
APR. 1 **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: Club Auction
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**
 Program: TBD
MAY 6 **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: TBD
MAY 20 **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
 Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAY 23 - 30 **Boston 2026 International Stamp Show**
 Boston Convention Center. [Boston2026.org](https://www.boston2026.org)
MAY 26 **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
 Program: TBD
JUN. 3 **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: TBD

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Waldemar Knasiak (#702) - USA/CSA, Poland, Israel

New Members:

John Blackmon (#700) - mostly BOB & Revenues

Terry Maxon (#701) - USA

Reinstated:

Cynthia James (#92)

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – March 18, 2026

Membership as of February 18, 2026	103
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	2
Not Renewing for 2026	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of March 18, 2026	106

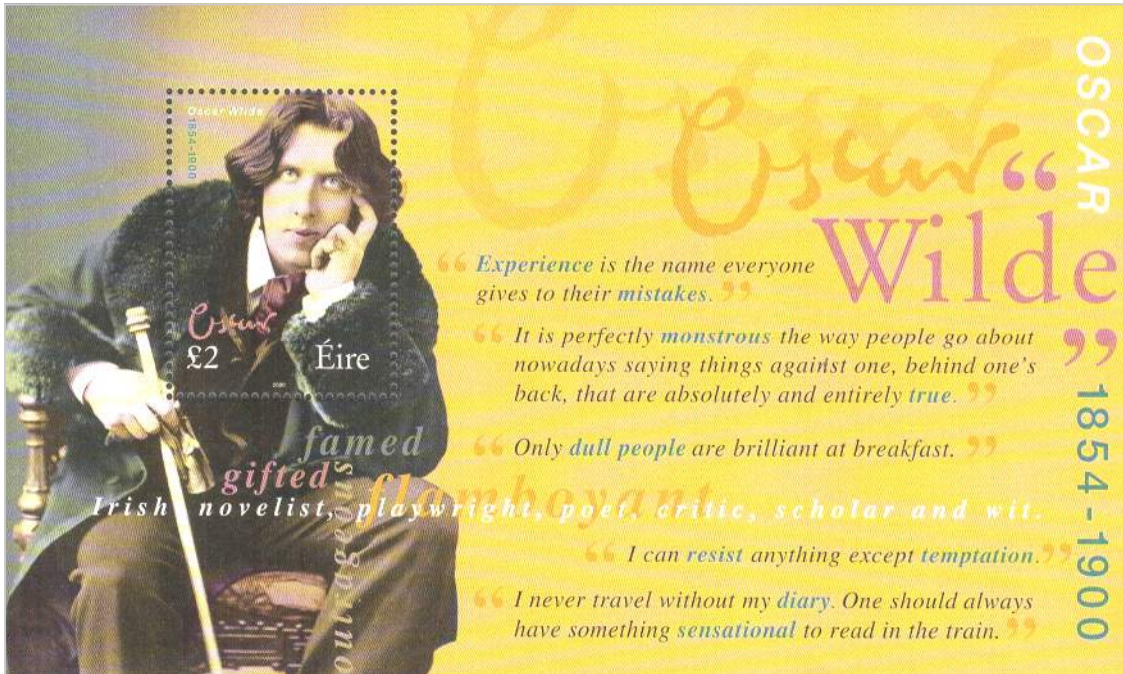
a difference in the meaning?

What you see at bottom left is the cover page of a very small 50-page, 1/8" thick soft cover book. It is shown in

reduced size here; but is approximately the same size of the actual-size souvenir sheet shown at left.

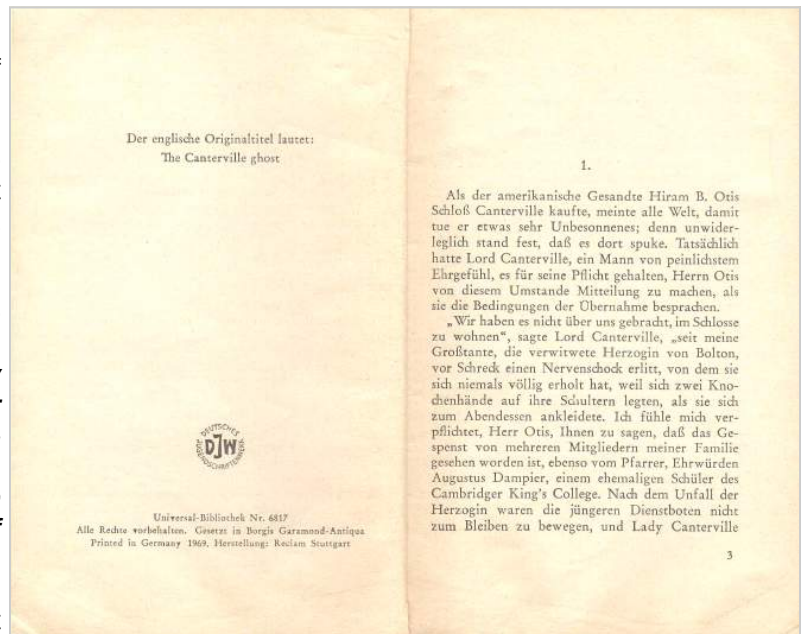
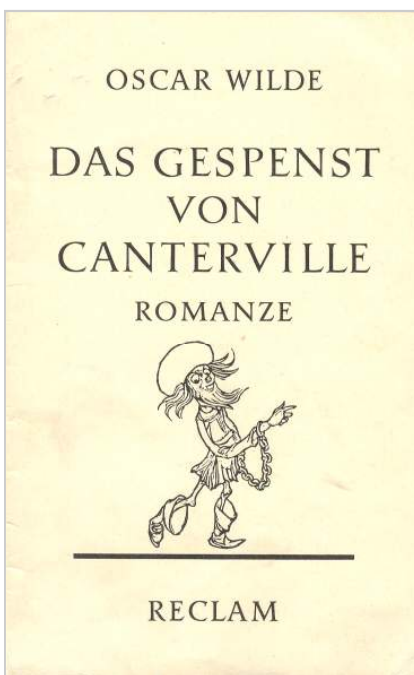
This copy was published as a German translation in 1969 by the **Deutsches Jugend-schriftwerk** (German Youth Literature Foundation). Amazing how those 3 last English words turn into 1 long German word!

I would have been 9 or 10 years old at the time that I received this book as either a birthday or Christmas present. I did read it then, but don't ask me now what it was



The souvenir sheet above is Ireland, Scott #1237 from 2000 for the 100th Anniversary of the passing of [Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde](#). He was an Irish novelist, poet & playwright and is known for his wit and flamboyant personality, and only lived to be 46 years old. There is quite a bit written up about him that goes beyond what can be written in a short 1-page article like this, so grab your favorite old-school encyclopedia (i.e.: a physical book), or do what I do: look it up on Wikipedia (click on the blue link in the 1st paragraph).

He is best known for works such as *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, amongst others. And amongst those "others", is the short story *The Canterville Ghost*, which has the German title of *Das Gespenst von Canterville*. That technically translates to "*The Ghost of Canterville*"; why they didn't simply do a direct translation to "*Das Canterville Gespenst*", I don't know... Would it make



about; I honestly don't remember, it was after all over 55 years ago. And honestly, I don't remember WHO gave it to me, it was either my parents or my grand-parents.

While looking around the web, there are several (mostly Irish) stamps featuring Oscar Wilde, such as the souvenir sheet I bought shown above. There is also a small number of stamps that feature illustrations relating to his various works, but *The Canterville Ghost* is not amongst them. So here is another case where a stamp can intersect with something in your life; just having this book had me do some research and I now I know more than I did before! I'm still amazed that I found this book after this many years! So, am I going to read it again?



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, I think the move of the Arlington Chapter to the Trinity United Methodist Church was quite successful. We packed the room with 28 members and 4 guests in attendance and enjoyed a program provided by Richard Laster, president of the Texas Philatelic Association.

Those who showed up early enough enjoyed a delightful meal provided by the church's chef. We actually had about 15 members who showed up for the dinner and they unfortunately ran out of food. Some of the people who showed up late were out of luck. We weren't actually expecting that large of a turnout, so we will have to work on that in the future.

We also had a slight problem with people occupying the meeting room prior to our 6:30 PM rental agreement time, so we are looking into modifying the rental agreement so we can get the room from 6:00 PM until 8:30 PM. This means we can come early at 5:00 PM, have dinner, drinks and dessert for an eight dollar donation, enjoy some fellowship with club members & church members and then head to the meeting room at 6:00 PM for our regular meeting.

Congratulations to Dan Golden for another article being published on Substack with Ted Tyszka.

If you guys aren't familiar with www.substack.com, many freelance journalists are using this website to publish articles on an unlimited number of topics, including philately. Search for Wayne Youngblood, Abishek Bhuwalka, Rob Faux, Ted Tyszka and others. There is a wealth of information out there.

On April 4th, we will start our series of EXPO committee meetings in preparation for our annual EXPO in November. These meetings are very important because it takes a lot of work to get everything to come together for EXPO. As our EXPO chairman, Ralph Poore does an awesome job in keeping track of everything that is required to make EXPO a success and we appreciate all the volunteers we have who make EXPO a great success every year. Come on out to David's Barbecue in Arlington [Pantego], have a great meal, and volunteer to make your club a contributing part of the philatelic community in our area.

We are still trying to overcome some of the roadblocks to get our library put into our new meeting place at Trinity United Methodist Church in Arlington. Please bear with us. We have also just ordered our new Scott Catalogs for 2027 and they will be coming in as the year progresses.

I'm looking forward to the club auction on the first of April. April Fool's Day.....hmmm.

See y'all at the meeting,

Rick

Granbury Meeting Minutes February 24, 2026

By Joe McFarland

Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM on February 24, 2026 at the Bentwater Marina.

Attendance:

- 13 stamp aficionados were present. We welcomed Cynthia James as a new member. She previously attended with her mother, who was a member several years ago.

Announcements:

- Jim Myers announced that the next dealer show will be in McKinney in April.
- Jim Myers brought us up to date on PSAG, which was recently purchased. PSAG provides a licensed stamp authentication service to sort out the forgeries, copies, reproductions, etc. The charges are minimal if the stamp is not legitimate.

Where In The World:

- Les Barton brought back his feature, "Where In The World" is this country. He began with several facts about the stamp and post office history, which brought no response. The giveaway clues were the association with stamps from Denmark and the population of about 50,000 – the Faroe Islands.

Show & Tell:

- Les Barton passed around an Austrian stamp made of cloth from old postal service uniforms.
- Cynthia James showed three covers with cachets of sewing pattern companies.
- Dave Stockbridge presented a Cinderella Zeppelin stamp that was a propaganda stamp issued in England during WW I. The Zeppelins were used to bomb England.

Request:

- Rick Howell asked for volunteers to sort out stamps on paper and loose stamps from a rather large collection of US and foreign stamps.

Door Prize Drawing:

- Les Barton won the drawing for the \$20 gift certificate.

Program:

- This was a clean-out-the-closet meeting day, but apparently no one wanted to add more items to their closets – with one exception. Tim from the Arlington Mid Cities club brought two large boxes of stamps and miscellaneous items that were sold at a discount after they were not sold prior to the meeting.

Donation Albums Stamp Removal Notes, Observations & Comments

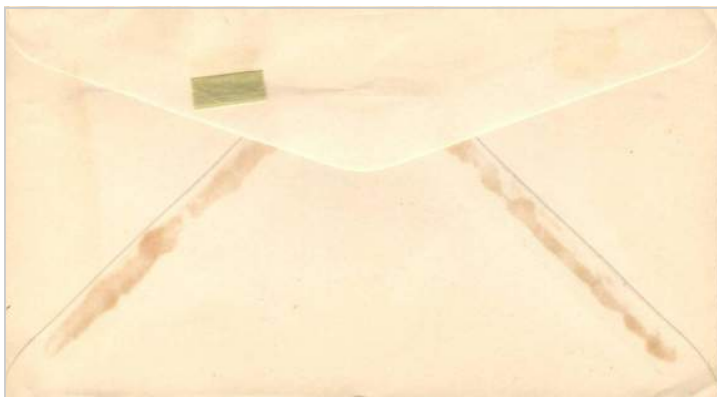
By Peter Elias

As with some other members of the club, I sometimes pick up donations on behalf of the club, especially if they are from the "eastern" part of the DFW metroplex.

Earlier in March, I took in a "collection" from the White Rock Lake area. It consisted of 2 boxes, containing mostly stockbooks and several older (1959 - 1960) range of US stamp albums, along with a couple of older (1940's) worldwide stamp albums, plus some homemade stockbooks and a couple of small plastic "tissue" boxes with loose older USA stamps (both on and off-paper), plus some older paperback stamp catalogs.

If needed (most of the time...), I "pre-process" these to sort out the "wheat from the chaff" (as they say), re-sort these items and then pass them on to Skip for further processing (after which they'll end up in various areas at EXPO (beginning collector table, chance board prizes, silent auction lots and possibly the mixture pick tables). Of course that means that these are items (stamps, albums, etc) are in decent condition for collectors.

That means: junk has to go. So what is "junk" then? Generally speaking: old albums that are falling apart and where the pages have yellowed and are brittle. Stamps & covers that are toned (due to moisture and improper storage), as well as stamps that are just not decent enough shape to belong in a collection: paper thins, torn or ripped, extensive missing perforations, edges cut with scissors or super heavily cancelled items.

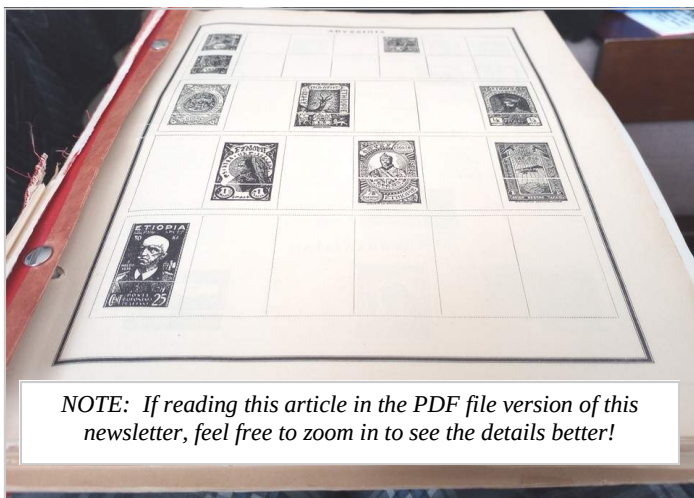


With covers, especially US FDC's from the 1960's or prior (i.e.: 65 years old or older now!), envelope paper that is yellowing (due to non-acid-free paper being used) to the staining from the glues used to hold the envelope together that has now migrated to the front part of the envelope (or even newspaper inserts used as stiffener material that have stained the envelope paper, since the newprint paper that was used was also not acid-free). The 1952 FDC (with the "newspaperboy" stamp) above shows such glue damage on the back (and some even being visible on the front as well); this cover was also previously "hinged" on an album page...

Also in the "junk" category are any sheer quantities of ultra-common definitives (i.e.: from the USA, Canada, France, Denmark, Italy, and other countries). Most collections just need 1 of those stamps for an album, not tens or hundreds of each.

Moldy items just need to be tossed. If not moldy, but still in the "junk" category, then these are best served for "artistic" and crafting purposes. Think making collages, junk journaling and scrap booking. Throwing away damaged stamps is of course an option, but I believe they are better served as artistic items, one of the goals being that "stamps" are then visible to others in

the future, and who knows, it might even encourage someone to take up collecting stamps! (One can only hope...)



Now, to look at some of what I ran across with this particular donation lot, I'm sure ya'll recognize some of the "usual suspects".

First, let us start with albums. Other than several of exactly the same US stamp albums (all 1959 - 1960), there were also a couple of older worldwide albums, such as the one above. As I grabbed it, the front & back covers fell off. So at best, perhaps some of the album pages can be saved for scrap-bookers and/or junk journalists (either the whole page or just cutting out the illustrations and using those). In this case many pages had no stamps on them, others just the usual beginning collector items.

Luckily, while many of the hinges actually peeled nicely (yay!), there were other issues. As you can see, this particular stamp from Bavaria is in reasonably decent condition, but once peeled off the album page, shows that it was "double" hinged, as well as having a diagonal crease on the lower left side that wasn't as obvious initially. So this had been in at one other collection before. The original hinge was a home-made one, using a gummed strip of paper, so now it would have to be soaked to remove that (and perhaps that will help in straightening the crease a bit in the process). In best condition, this Bavaria #80 from 1911 has a catalog value of 75¢.



UK stamp -> which I was able to un-fold), once I turned them over, it was a different story. The left stamp will require soaking off the home-made hinge, the UK stamp was actually torn from the envelope, the Brazil stamp has 2 creases, and the Chile stamp has a major thin. Really not worth spending too much time on. Off to the "art" pile... **...continued...**

Album Stamp Removal Notes (continued)



Some people think it is helpful to use a pencil and write the catalog number on the back of a stamp. Then after putting on a non-peelable hinge, this stamp would first have to have the hinged soaked off, then dry the stamp and then hope that you can carefully erase the pencil marking. Really not worth anyone's time for a common used 3¢ commemorative from the 1950's.

But wait, it gets worse (not better)... See the pile of stamps below? A couple near the bottom had the catalog number and issue date written in pencil. The worse part is that most of the stamps



near the top of the photo have all of that info written with a ballpoint pen!

Back in the day, there used to be hinges that weren't "pre-folded" in the usual 1/3 & 2/3 ratio. (see top of photo at right). The user could fold the hinge themselves. In this case, folded in 1/2 on the long side, as seen on this mint 6¢ commemorative stamp from the 1960's. Luckily these type of hinges seem to peel nicely most of the time.



Now this stamp is best used as postage...

At left is another example of a home-made paper (not glassine) hinge that consists of a gummed piece of paper, or perhaps ungummed, but fastened with a glue (worse). I don't really remember which it was. The stamp was an inexpensive German inflation era stamp. Now why would they even bother to save these?:

Every stamp is missing chunks in a corner:



The National Parks stamps below are mostly ruined ... missing corners, cut with scissors (1¢ stamp), major creases, etc.



<-- While this stamp appears at first glance to be ok, the various different short perfs on top, left & right sides are more obvious once you look at it from the back side. Off to the "art" bin...

Looking at the Nursing stamp below, the back shows that this (otherwise) nicely used stamp was torn from the envelope (not soaked off). While there do not appear to be any paper thins, there is a lot of the envelope paper still present on the back of the stamp and would require soaking. But it's hardly worth

the effort, especially if there's hundreds of these type of stamps in the albums.

It would seem that the collector simply cared about getting as many stamps as possible, regardless of their condition. If 1 stamp is good, then having 10 to 20 or more must be better...

... continued ...

Album Stamp Removal Notes (continued)



Stock books and albums can get to be expensive, so I do get that the collector was good at making their own stockbook pages from plain paper and strips of paper that were glued on the page.



I had mentioned that it's generally not a good idea to write on the back of a stamp. While this Chinese stamp is actually in good condition (no tears, no thins, no short perfs, etc), it would seem that the collector was using the back of the stamp as a notepad... First time I have seen that!

The black stock album page below shows what appear to be decent condition used USA commemoratives at first glance, but again, once you look at the back, the ones at the bottom are all ruined, mostly due to



major thins, which seem to have occurred when the stamp was pulled off the envelope rather than being soaked. More for the "art" pile.



Above is a major faux-pas. While it's interesting to have a newspaper article about a stamp mounted on the left page, after 50 or so years, that non-acid-free newspaper transferred toning to the facing page at right, and thus also toning the stamps it touched on the page.

Hard to say whether any of these albums were stored upright (which is preferred) or flat (not a good idea).



As with many other stamps, this one looks good from the front, but not so much from the back. I suppose it could be a "space filler" for the time being, but someone would probably forget to replace it with a better copy, and then many years from then, this would really not

help the resale value when one finds out about the condition of this stamp and potentially many others.

So, what's the bottom line here? Makes you wish you could go back in time and educate the collector better as to how to properly handle stamps (whether mint or used). While sure, you can collect what you want if it makes you happy, but not your heirs who only see \$-signs and an early retirement...

I now that I'm basically "preaching to the choir", but since I am trying to help pay the hobby forward, I do what I can to help in ensuring that beginning collectors get at least decent "collectible" copies of stamps (and those that aren't, should go on to live as part of "art"...). Should a beginning collector that reads this article, I hope they find it useful

This particular sorting project took me over 20 hours over the course of a week. It was sad seeing that about 40% of all stamps weren't in collectible condition. It is however always interesting to see "how" people collected stamps. In this case, it was probably more of an "accumulator" than a "collector".

Below: The black tub of used hinges (thousands?) pulled from the albums are the result. Kind of a trophy I guess... I brought it to the Flower Mound meeting on March 19. Would be interesting to know exactly how many hinges. Care to guess?



No, I am NOT going to count these!

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026

by Janet Moyer

Opening:

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

Attendance:

- We had 30 members and 4 visitors: Kay Thompson, Richard Laster, Jack Gilbert and Waldemar Knasiak.

Reports:

- Secretary - Janet Moyer - The secretary's report was printed in the newsletter. No corrections were noted so they were accepted.
- There was no treasurer's report.
- APS sales books - Dave Stockbridge reported we have 2 ARS circuit sets due to mail delay.
- Skip is collecting the bid sheets for next month's auction.
- Newsletter - Peter is working on it.
- EXPO - Ralph Poore reported the next meeting will be April 4th, 11-1, at David's Barbecue.

Announcements:

- Meeting location change:
 - Ken Aldridge thank everyone for making to the new location. The church has been great and very welcoming. We gave the OK for a cabinet in our room. Rick and Rich will be handling that. Thank you to Ken for finding this location and organizing it.
- Rick Howell passed bags of stamps to volunteers for sorting the Mixture Pick stamps.
- Rick Hildebrandt reported that he heard from Ray Cartier. Ray said he has given his stamps to his son and will no longer be an active collector or member.
- Rick introduced the guests.
- Dave Stockbridge and Bob Coleman introduced our newest member, Cynthia James, from Granbury.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Aldridge showed stamps from Argentina & a Christmas Postcard from Germany
- Peter Elias said he has sent out at least 1,700 envelopes to collectors that had sent in SASE's for free US and/or foreign stamps. A recent request from Oklahoma was sent in a padded envelope with only 35¢ in re-used US stamps. He also showed a QSL card that used a QSL stamp! And an old school friend from Switzerland sent him old postal stationery items from Switzerland, including a COD wrapper!

Door Prizes:

- Gift certificates were awarded using a random number generator to Bob Thompson & Larry Sweeney.

Program:

- The program was presented by Richard Laster (President of the TPA) on the Texas Centennial stamp from 1936. He also recommended that everyone should check out the TPA website at:
 - <https://tpastamps.org/>

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned after the program.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2026

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- 12 members and 1 guest attended the March 18 meeting.

Call-To-Order:

- President - Rick Howell called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM.

Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely said he had nothing to report.
- Sales - Skip said he APS and club books available.
- EXPO - The next planning meeting will be on Saturday, April 4, 11:00 AM at David's BBQ in Pantego.
- Newsletter - Peter said it was almost done.
- Future Meetings - Rick outlined the activities scheduled for the next few weeks.

Announcements:

- Rick said he had boxes of U.S. stamps available for members to sort.

Show & Tell:

- Tim Sasser showed three books that he recently purchased, titled "The Philatelic Books of Secrets".
- Ken Wills showed some mint sheets he purchased from a trading partner in Canada.
- Randy Blackburn had some old stamp dealer price lists dated 1936 - 1938.
- Peter Elias had several items, including a Photo-Stamp sheet that was a result based on a TV program called "Last Week Tonight" that aired on HBO back in the summer of 2020; a holiday card envelope that he had mailed to a friend in Switzerland in December 2025 that had been returned to him 80 days later as un-forwardable; some little stamp packets with ten stamps in them that showed up in a donation lot; some home-made stock pages; and a 1996 book on stamps called "Texas on Stamps" by Jon L. Allen, that features people, places and things relating to Texas (on US and non-USA stamps); and some revenue documents from Spain (which were "payment demands").
- Lester Edwards showed a Texas Centennial Cover he obtained from the FDR collection that was the subject of the previous Arlington Meeting Program. He also showed a cover from someone he knew in England that had stamps of all the British monarchs from Victoria to Charles III. He also showed several older documents with revenue type stamps.
- Steve Hawiszczak showed an old unopened deck of playing cards from American Airlines that featured a US "playing card" revenue stamp as a seal.

Door Prize Drawing:

- A gift certificate was awarded to Perry Singer. A Hawaiian stamp (Scott 40, I think) was donated as a door prize by Lester Edwards; the winner was Mathew Ittoop.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:20 PM.

Please Cancel Nicely

By Peter Elias



Ever run across a small sticker like this one on an envelope (generally from Europe, specifically Austria)? Perforations are approximately 13.

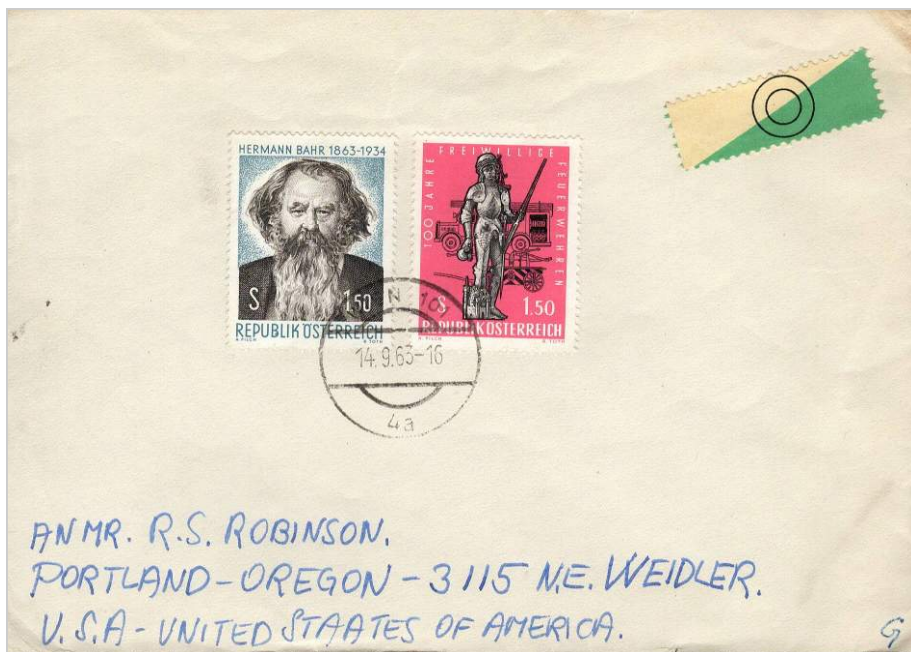
I found this on the cover from Austria in 1963, shown to the right.

I've run across these on covers here and there, and this one surfaced while sorting some older covers.

After doing a quick internet search for this, I stumbled on a German-language stamp forum (apparently in Austria):

<https://www.briefmarken-forum.com/t7688-sammlergerecht-stempeln-aufkleber>

I had to register (for free) to get some better access and then could read the various responses. Basically, these were a private sticker (from what I can tell) that would allow the sender to politely request "clean postmarks or cancels" to be applied to the stamps by the postal service. Of course that was well before a lot of machine cancellations took place in



Europe; and in the example above, it was "cleanly" cancelled, as most European collectors like to have no more than a "quarter circle" of the cancel be in one corner of the stamp, so it turned out well this time!



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)



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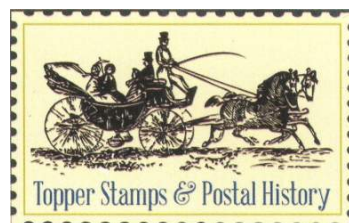
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The Mythen

By Peter Elias

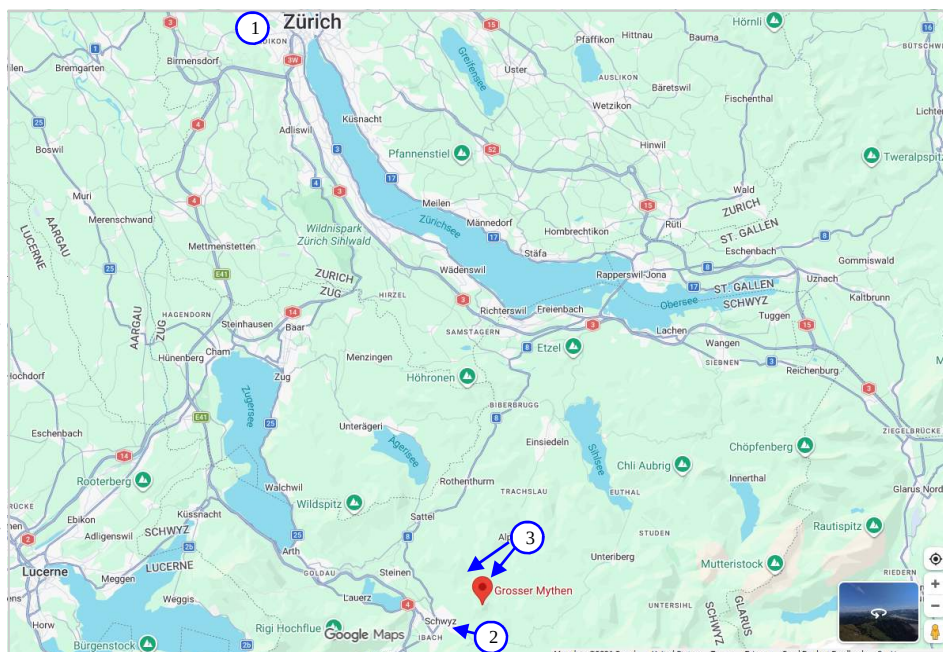
In the fall of 1966, Sunday October 9 to be precise, our parents took us for a day-trip to go hiking. Generally we chose Sunday, as our elementary schools were actually having us to go school on Saturday mornings, from around 8 or 9 until about noon, from what I remember. That kind of shoots down the day as far as trying to go anywhere, so Sunday's it was!



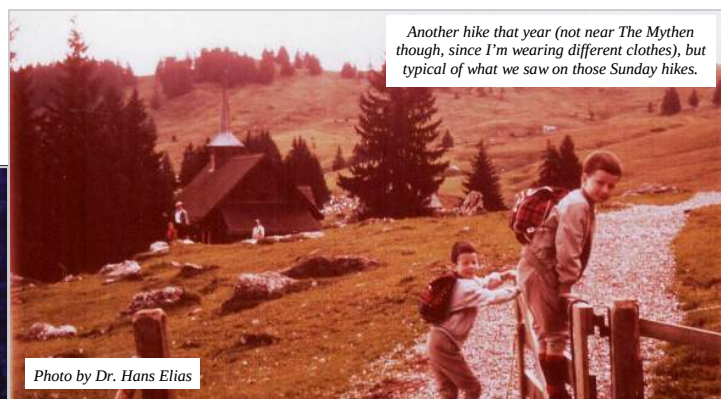
The Swiss Federal Railway ticket that we saved is dated October 9, 1966 (i.e.: 09.10.66), labeled as a roundtrip from Zürich (#1 on map) to Schwyz (#2).

The city of Schwyz is located in the Swiss canton of Schwyz. According to the Google map, our train ride would have been approx. 1 hour. By car, about 35 miles and 44 minutes. While that seemed like quite far away when I was a kid, in today's terms, that would be about

the same as me driving from my house to DFW Airport or to EXPO in Grapevine, which is no big deal...



#2 to #3 is not even 2 miles. So our hikes weren't that terribly strenuous. And as you can tell, where we hiked was just "rolling hills", we weren't exactly climbing mountains...



So that Sunday, we started hiking from Schwyz just a bit northeast to where the red "pin" is on the map (#3). In the photo album that mom made for me, all it said on the back of the picture was "Mythen". To me, that didn't mean anything now. The next step was to google that term, and I found out that "Mythen" is 2 mountain peaks, just like the ones behind me in the picture above! And because there's 2 of them, they're actually called "The Mythen".

Back to the map. #3 shows 2 arrows. One of them points to "Grosser Mythen" (Big Mythen) and the other one would be the "Kleiner Mythen" (Small Mythen), which is northwest of the big one (as seen on the photo, but not identified on the map due to the scale that it is being displayed at).

The two peaks are only about 4,000 feet apart (tip to tip). Keep in mind the distances involved, they're not great; at bottom right on the map it shows you that the distance from

There is of course a philatelic part to all of this. Shown (magnified) at right is Switzerland Scott #181, a 3 Franc stamp showing "The Mythen", issued in 1914 in Prussian Green, and a red one, #182 in 1918 (below, shown at actual size). Another stamp, #209, with a somewhat similar design with "The Mythen" was issued in 1931 (and overprints exist of that one as #2056 & #3047).

While I'd rather have a mint version of the 2 stamps shown, used ones are all I could find. But at least I have 2 more stamps that can help illustrate my life story, even if I can't actually remember this place, but I was there, and I've got the photo and train ticket as my personal mementos and proof. I'm glad though that dad always asked the conductor if we could keep the tickets!



The First Opening Day

By Dan Golden

In a tradition not seen anywhere else, crowds of over 100,000 people fill the streets going in and out of sports bars, sharing music at small concerts dotting the city, playing tailgate games like corn hole in the middle of the streets, and excitedly gathering for a celebratory parade that begins at historic Findlay Market and snakes through downtown all the way to the ballpark. Everyone who is out and about is obligated to be wearing red clothing. How else are people to show their pride in the Reds?

Growing up in a colder climate like Chicago, there were always a handful of things that seemed to announce that Spring was in the air. More birds would be singing as they returned from down south, squirrels and chipmunks would end their wintry hibernations and begin foraging for food, and the trees would develop small green buds from which leaves would soon fill out the branches. March and April always felt like the months when the ground would thaw and the world would come back to life. As beautiful as the natural signs of Spring are, none of it mattered to me as a kid. Instead the sounds my friends and I always associated with Spring were the crack of a bat or the pop of a ball in a mitt. That's right, baseball season!

"But Dan," I can hear you say, "baseball season starts with Spring Training in February, not in March or April!" While that may be technically true, Spring Training is always down south in the warmer areas of the country. Meanwhile up north where I grew up, we would still be dealing with blizzards and freezing weather, even while pitchers and catchers are reporting to training camps in Arizona or Florida. It's hard to feel like Spring is in the air when you're shoveling snow and feeling the brisk winter winds freeze your nose hairs. And so, rather than Spring Training being the sign post we looked for, it was always Opening Day, an unofficial holiday among my circle of friends, that heralded the beginning of Spring.

As much as we treated the start of the baseball season as a holy day of obligation—the obligation here being to watch baseball of course—there is one city in America that seems to share that obsession. That land of kindred spirits is none other than Cincinnati, Ohio. Every year the city of Cincinnati shuts down for Opening Day. Those unfamiliar with the city may think that is an exaggeration, but it is most certainly not.

All of these festivities lead up to the grand event: the Cincinnati Reds taking the field for the first time in the new baseball season! Those lucky thousands who have tickets to the main event are spoken of by others as if they have gold in their pockets. The city-wide obsession with Opening Day really is something else. Having personally experienced the occasion first hand, to say the atmosphere is festive does not do it justice.

In Cincinnati, it really does feel as though Opening Day is treated as a high holy day. And they have every right to treat it with such a dignifying tradition! After all, Cincinnati is the birthplace of professional baseball! The first openly all-professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, first took the field on May 4, 1869. Those first professionals, referred to by some as the Nifty Nine, took the field at a location known alternately as Lincoln Park Grounds or Union Grounds.

Regardless of the name you prefer to call it, much of the site is now occupied by Cincinnati's famous Union Terminal, of which I have written about in the past and will probably write about again. There are just so many interesting things about this landmark deserving of an article. That being said, the last time I was in Cincinnati, I decided to get an Extreme Philately photo of this famous train station

with its matching stamp, US #5762. But that's not the point of this article, it's just a side comment that I could not help bringing up since this is my favorite stamp.



(continued on next page)

The First Opening Day (continued)

Returning our discussion to baseball, there is one stamp that reminds me of Opening Day every time I look at it, US #4341. Issued in 2008, this stamp honors the 100th anniversary of Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer's composition of that famous song that is synonymous with the 7th Inning Stretch, "Take Me Out To The Ballgame". While that song itself is sung hundreds of thousands of times every year and various baseball games of every level, I'm going to gloss over that for now and instead focus on the ballplayer depicted on the stamp itself.

His stance resembles the finishing pose of a pitcher who just threw an underhanded pitch—underhanded pitching being the norm in the early days of baseball—toward home plate, near where our perspective is. A batter that we cannot see is taking part in the result of that pitch, accomplishing an outcome that we do not know. But one other detail of this stamp sticks out to me: the ballplayer's red hat. Such a red hat would almost certainly have been part of the uniform for the original Cincinnati Red Stockings that took the field in 1869. Given that this player has a mustache and appears to be a pitcher, he calls to mind Asa Brainard, the mustachioed pitcher on that first professional team.

With this knowledge, I decided as part of my Extreme Philately hobby, to try to locate where the original home plate and pitcher's mound of the old Union Grounds would have been.

While there is not enough space in this article to go into detail on the research side of things, suffice to say that based on my findings and a little bit of guesswork, I believe I got close enough to take a photo that shows a point of view worth sharing.

Seen here is a photo taken in the parking lot of the Cincinnati Union Terminal. Where I am standing is roughly where I believe the original home plate was located, and the stamp is shown at a distance where, when lined up with the horizon, the ballplayer appears to be standing roughly 60 feet away from me. That 60 feet measurement is important because that's where the pitcher's mound would have been.

Looking at this image, and using our imagination a little, we can see the pitcher has just delivered his pitch. We can visualize to the left and right of him there is the shortstop and second baseman both standing at the ready, and a green outfield behind them all. Where the

baseball itself is I can only guess. Is it still hurtling through the air making its way toward me, or has it already landed in the catcher's glove for a strike? Who knows? You be the judge.



There are die-hard baseball fans across the country who will go to old ballparks, stand at home plate, and envision an opposing pitcher staring them down in the biggest moment of the game. I too shared that feeling while I stood there for this photo. In that moment I was briefly transported to 1869, to the first professional baseball team, standing where they stood, eyeing a pitcher like Asa Brainard who would do everything in his power to get me out.

It all happened right here, within feet of where I was standing. As a diehard baseball fan myself, it was a magical experience.

Cincinnati is often overlooked when it comes to large American cities. It's not known as a hub of culture that wields influence on an international stage, nor is it a center of technology that propels society into the future. Even in the world of sports, only two of the four major American sports leagues have a professional franchise that calls the city home, though that number increases to three if you include Major League Soccer. Cincinnati is often overshadowed by its larger eastern and Midwest neighbors like New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago.

But in the baseball world, Cincinnati has a claim to fame that no other city can match, and it wears that claim like a badge of honor. With such a strong connection to the early days of America's pastime, it's no wonder Cincinnati takes such pride in their baseball heritage. And the festive attitude in the air on Opening Day really is infectious. It is an optimistic joy that looks ahead to the new season with the belief that anything can happen. After all, every team is in first place when the season starts!

I've noticed that I only feel this sense of overwhelming optimism from watching the start of two seasons, baseball and college football. At the risk of sounding like a Cubs fan, there is a genuine belief every time that maybe this could be our year! Especially in terms of college football, if Indiana can go all the way then how about my beloved Fighting Illini? Maybe they can make a run too!

Or maybe when it comes to baseball, the two teams I cheer for, the White Sox and the Orioles, will manage to stay in the playoff picture late into the season for once! Wouldn't that be something! One can't help but get excited for the impending first pitch!

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

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

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

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:

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 - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans** (1,700 items!!)
 - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
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- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 4.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/24

The **GULF COAST STAMP CLUB** is having it's yearly show March 27-28 in the Jackson County Library. Will have EXHIBITS! [Welcome to the Gulf Coast Stamp Club Biloxi, MS](#) Contact info: John Barrett, Ph.D. jstrubelboy@aol.com 3/26

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

VSPhV

By Peter Elias

So as part of researching something, I ran across the VSPhV website at <https://www.vspvh.ch/homepage/>, which I had not known about. So what is the VSPhV? It means **Verband Schweizerische Philatelisten Vereine** (Federation of Swiss Stamp Clubs).

This federation of clubs was started in 1890. This federation even got their own stamp, Scott #1567 in 2015, shown on a cropped image on their main webpage. I thought I had this stamp, but sadly I stopped buying Swiss Post's "stamp yearbooks" after 2014.

While the webpage lists options for either French or German at top right, you can get the Chrome browser to translate some or most of the text to English (right-click on the webpage, and there should be a "translate to English" option. This website has of course links to other relevant Swiss philatelic websites (near the bottom).

In looking at their "clubs" directory, I counted:

- 81x local stamp clubs.
- 17x regional/specialty groups (such as those that are for collector of airmail stamps, postmarks, postal history, postal stationery, etc.
- 3x clubs abroad (i.e.: AHPS - American Helvetia Philatelic Society here in the USA, of which I'm a member).

Now, take those 81x local clubs in Switzerland that are members of this federation. Our own APS says they have about 400



affiliated clubs. Ok, great! BUT: The ratio of the USA to Swiss population is 36.7 to 1. Or in other words: 1 USA local stamp club per 825,000 people. In Switzerland it is 1 club per 112,500 people. Another way to look at it is that Switzerland has their 81 local stamp clubs in an area that is only about 1.7 times the area of the greater DFW Metroplex. And how many local stamp clubs do we have in this Metroplex? Only 2 active local clubs (+ the AFDCS chapter) that I am aware of. Sad when you compare the state of the hobby in the USA vs. Switzerland.

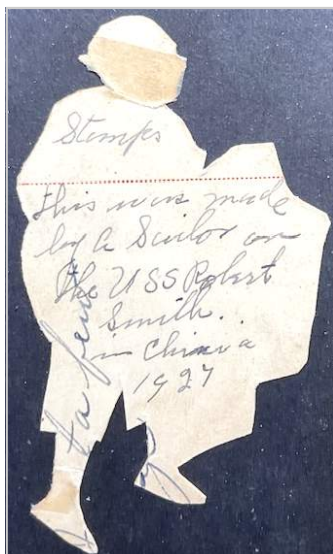
Letters To The Editor

By Peter Elias

I received a couple of "letters [e-mails] to the editor" this month.

From Gene Atkinson:

Enjoyed seeing the Panama Rotary story in the new issue [March 2026]. I was one of the first members of the ATA Rotary on Stamps Unit back in 1956 and was Bulletin editor from 1968 to 1984 (like you, writing most of it myself). It is now international and even cosponsored the Great American Stamp Show last year.



From Geoff Owens:

I noticed your piece on stamp art in the current newsletter, and thought of this little guy I came across not long ago in a donated lot (see below left).

As the note on the back says: "This was made by a sailor on the USS Robert Smith in China 1927."

Creative use of Chinese stamps! Looks like a couple of U.S. ones snuck in as well.

Feel free to use in a future edition as you see fit [see below left].

MCSC Sponsor Members

By Skip Ely

The following members have contributed \$25 or more in membership dues and are considered "sponsor" members:

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Adapt Committee Chairman

LARGE SIZE



MEET & EAT for

April 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, latecomers 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 6:30 PM rather than 7:00 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

April 1 Trinity United Methodist Church
1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington

FLOWER MOUND

April 15 Alforno's Italian Kitchen,
2260 Morriss Rd., Flower Mound
(972) 355-1709

GRANBURY

April 28 Palio's Pizza Café,
3710 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
MCSC Arlington Auction - Apr. 1
MCSC EXPO Planning Mtg - Apr. 4
TSDA Stamp Show - Apr. 10 - 11

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