

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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)



CHAPTER MEMBER



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May 2024

*Been There,
Done That*

Horatio Nelson

By Peter Elias



I'm sure you've heard the name "Horatio Nelson" at some point... Who was he? Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, 1st Duke of Bronte was born on September 29, 1758 and died on October 21 1805.

He was an officer in the British Navy and brought about a number of naval victories during the French & Napoleonic wars as a result of his unconventional tactics, grasp of strategies and inspirational leadership.

Since he was born in Norfolk, England, what are his ties to Nevis? He was assigned the command of the HMS Boreas and to enforce Navigation Acts near the island of Antigua (Caribbean). He seized various American vessels and their captains sued him for illegal seizure. Local Nevis merchants sided more with the Americans. While all this was going on, he met Francis "Fanny" Nisbet, a young widow from Nevis. He married her in 1787, shortly before his tour of duty in the Caribbean ended and then returned to England; Fanny followed him shortly afterwards.

He later took on assignments in the Mediterranean area. At some point, around 1800, he met Lady Emma Hamilton and his marriage to Fanny started falling apart. Emma gave birth to their daughter in January 1801. He then was involved in the Baltic. Horatio Nelson died 3 hours after being shot during Battle of Trafalgar at the age of 47; the battle established British Naval supremacy for 100 years (and also shattered Napoleon's plans to invade Britain)! The above is highly summarized, and there's way too much history here; you can find more details by reading up on it at Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horatio_Nelson,_1st_Viscount_Nelson.

The Nevis stamps above are #168 and #124, the first one showing a portrait of Nelson Horatio and the second one the Nelson Museum on Nevis.

Nevis itself is a fairly small island; and is a part of the 2-island nation of St. Kitts & Nevis, which are separated by a 2 mile channel. St. Kitts was also called St. Christopher in the past. Tourism replaced sugar cane in 2005.

Our honeymoon was in St. Kitts in early February 2001 and we wanted to check out Nevis. So we took a passenger boat over to Nevis, and the rental car company was nice enough to let us have a car for the day there as well. You can easily



Photo by Peter Elias

Horatio Nelson Museum
Nevis, West Indies
EC\$5.00 US\$2.00

Children under 12 EC\$2.00 US\$ 1.00
Citizen of St. Kitts-Nevis EC\$1.00

This ticket is good for EC\$2.00 US\$1.00 discount
at the Museum of Nevis History
05 17

drive around the entire island in a day, it is only 35 square miles. As with other British West Indies nations, you get to drive on the left!

We did stop by the Horatio Nelson Museum (see picture & ticket stub above). There's a more comprehensive write-up about our Nevis visit in the March 2001 issue of Stamping Around. And while the famous American Alexander Hamilton was actually born on Nevis in the 1750's, we didn't really see much about him there; maybe I need to see the musical...

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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President – Ken Aldridge
First Vice-President – Rick Howell
Second Vice-President – Stanley Christmas
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

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Peter Elias Ralph Poore Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Rich Hildebrandt

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>



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

In this issue, we have 2 articles by Dan Golden, one of our new members! Enjoy!

Stamp collection is supposed to be fun. For me, part of that fun is finding stamps that connect with (i.e.: illustrate) my own life experiences. Granted, one can't possibly hope to find EVERY part of one's life to somehow be featured on a postage stamp, but the thrill's in the chase, right?

So even if it is a seemingly mundane item, but it has memories for you, try searching for a stamp with a related subject. Here's one off the top of my head: lawn mowers. Surely you have used one in the past, if not currently. Do you have any interesting memories that come to mind when you think of a lawn mower (whether good or bad...)?

Other than the usual "pushing the mower around the yard" part, there is one particular memory that sticks out: my thoughts go back to the early 1970's and having to help my parents mow our yard (and we actually bagged the clippings, usually something 10+ bags full each time).

A Google search did actually bring up one stamp featuring a typical motorized push lawn mower. It is an Australian stamp from 2009 (Scott #3038 or 3043). Who knows, there might be others. So what is the big memory relating to mowing grass in the early 1970's? When we were all done, dad drove us over to Baskin Robbins for ice cream! Unfortunately, I have no pictures of me eating that ice cream, and while there's lots of pictures of my parent's back yard, none show us mowing it either. Oh well... at least the memory is there and even having seen a lawn mower stamp and thinking about all of this, also seems to bring forth other memories! Give it a try some time!

Coming Attractions

2024

APR. 23	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	<i>Airmail Pick-up Service, part 2</i> , by Stan Christmas
MAY 1	MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Auction
MAY 15	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAY 28	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	<i>TBD</i> , by Gary McNamee
JUN. 5	MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	<i>Cinderellas</i> , by Ken Wills
JUN. 19	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
JUN. 25	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 28 - 29	TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse
DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 US Hwy 75 / Campbell Rd. Friday 10 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4	
JUL. 3	MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	TBD, possibly by Rick Howell
JUL. 17	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

Joshua Bogan (#670)
Perry Singer (#671)

New Members:

Stuart Clark (#665)
Randy Blackburn (#667)
Kurt & Starla Long (668 & 669)

Resignations:

n/a

Reinstatement:

Tim Sasser

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – April 17, 2024

Membership as of March 20, 2024 (corrected)	88
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	4
Not Renewing for 2024	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of April 17, 2024	93

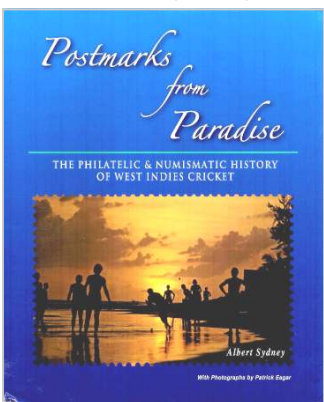
Trinidad to the USA

By Peter Elias

A rather unexpected item arrived in the mail on March 16th: this rather tattered envelope from Trinidad:



I'm sure that this envelope was not mailed in this condition. It contained very heavy book that weighed 4.8 lbs!



The book was "Postmarks from Paradise, The Philatelic & Numismatic History of West Indies Cricket".

I don't remember ordering this! Then, as I was going through some recent emails from a few weeks ago, I remembered answering a request from Albert Sydney in Trinidad, who was preparing a study about the "Princess Alice Appeal" which took place in the mid-1950's in the West Indies. He sent me this book as a thank you!

The "appeal" was launched to raise money for scholarships and a chapel and was named for Princess Alice of Battenberg, the great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria. She was the only royal to be born deaf and also suffered from schizophrenia.



Several islands in the British Caribbean used machine cancel slogans to draw awareness to the appeal. I only have one of these in my collection, shown above.

While I don't know much about cricket, it will be interesting to go through Albert Sidney's book and perhaps learn a bit more about cricket, not to mention the philatelic & numismatic aspects.

Back to the envelope. It had TT\$119.25 in postage (=US\$17.59). That is quite a bargain. When I checked the USPS website for mailing a 4.8# book to Trinidad, here's what it said: Priority Mail = \$80.50, Priority Mail Medium Flat-Rate box = \$102.55 and Airmail M-bag = \$92.62.

So, to mail the same item back to Trinidad would cost 4.5 to 5.8 times as much (and even more as Express Mail) than it did to mail it here! Why such a huge discrepancy in postage costs? Granted though, the USPS will do a lot more work in handling and delivering this mail piece than the Trinidad postal service did... But still ...

Been There, Done That

Les Catacombes de Paris

By Peter Elias



Sure, there's the Louvre, the Notre Dame cathedral and the Eiffel Tower, all definitely "must see" places if you go to Paris! Ahh, but then there's "catacombs". So, while the other 3 aforementioned places were

excellent, so were the catacombs (albeit not for the squeamish...), and definitely a highlight of my trip to Paris in 1991!

Last year (2023), France finally issued a stamp commemorating the catacombs, and I managed to buy one from an eBay seller. The stamp in actual size is shown above. However, given the usual issues with getting a lot of images on a stamp design (even if it is a large-size commemorative), I figured I'd magnify it a bit:



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

The catacombs are the final resting place of human skeletal remains. They were created in old mines & tunnels after overflowing cemeteries and collapsing walls created an urgency to eliminating cemeteries in Paris, starting after 1774.

Initially, it was just a jumble of bones & skulls; starting in 1810, stacking of bones into patterns that transformed the caverns into the visitable mausoleum as we know it today. Over 1/2 million people visit the catacombs each year! There are 2,000 acres of tunnels, stretching 174 miles, but only a small part is accessible to the public; approximately 6 million

Parisians are laid to rest down there.

Wait, is that Uncle Bob behind me?



MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024

by Stan Christmas

Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM on March 26, 2024.

Announcements:

- Dave announced Madeleine Myers fell and broke her arm while making cookies for the meeting. Jim rushed her to the hospital. We all wish her well and a fast recovery.

Show & Tell and Various Announcements:

- Les Barton:
 - Showed a 2021 Austrian shaped stamp that looked like a glove.
- Rick Howell:
 - Announced he had MCSC bags of stamps for sale...1 lb foreign or US. Each bag has about 2,200 stamps.
 - Discussed the new APS Stamp Ed Magazine.
 - There were 143 people on the MCSC Facebook page and the number is slowly increasing.
 - APS is bringing back "Stamp Chat".
- Stanley Christmas:
 - Showed a Canadian cover he got in the mail and said if anyone wants it, it's theirs.
 - Showed a label he bought on eBay that was to be used on envelopes sent out on the Adams airmail pick-up flights.
 - Showed an Adams airmail pickup cacheted first flight cover from Weirton, WV that was used on AM Route 49B.
 - Announced there were Sir Lanka and Singapore albums with some stamps inside for free.
- Dave Stockbridge:
 - Showed a UN #254 in a glassine envelope.
 - An accumulation of glassines in bundles for \$2.00.
 - Announced he had retired OPS books priced as marked on the front of the cover...about 10% of catalogue.
 - There were two APS set of circuit books for the members to go through.
 - Four new MCSC books were added this month.
 - Showed the April issue of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors Magazine.

Program:

- The program was given by Jim Case, titled "Olympics Then and Now". He showed several supporting Olympic Games supporting covers:
 - Discussed the history of the ancient Olympic games.

- Discussed the history of the modern games, which began in 1890.
- In 1896 there were 9 sports and 300 athletes.
- In 2024 there will be 10,500 participants.
- In 1936 there was the first torch relay.
- In 1950 the first para-Olympics were held.

Door Prizes:

- The winners of the \$10 door prize gift certificates were Joe McFarland, Donna Howell and Jim Case.

Adjournment:

- Dave adjourned the meeting around 8:00 PM.

Working With Numbers 101

By Peter Elias

After first seeing these stamps, I did a double-take. How can this have slipped through any final stamp design stages and approvals? So it seems that whoever was in charge of designing these 3 (of several) UN stamps that commemorate "World Poetry Day" (UN Scott #1104a, b & d; c is not shown) didn't get the concept of how to properly express numbers when dealing in fractional amounts of a dollar!

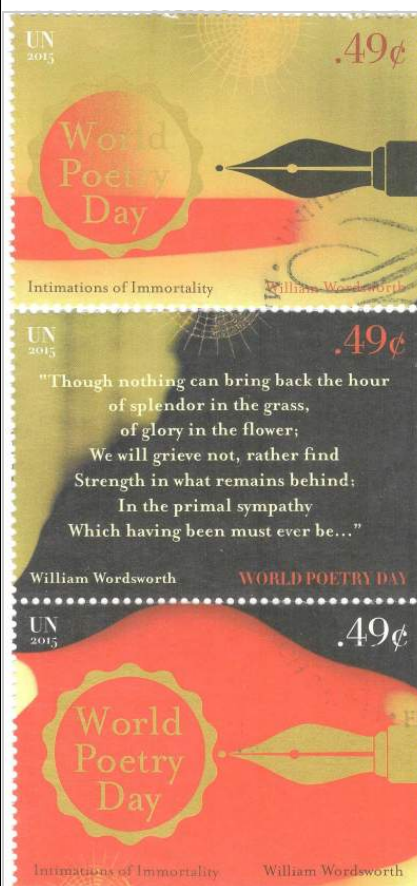
At the time in 2015, US postage rates (for the United Nations) were 49¢. And other UN stamps from that time frame do properly state "49¢".

So why then, do these issues (there were a total of 6 stamps in a miniature sheet, I only have 3 of them...), state "49¢"? Technically, that would just be a bit less than ½ cent!

As we all know, the amount of 49 cents can be written either as that (or with the cent symbol as 49¢) or with dollar symbol as \$0.49 (or \$.49), although it is more easily readable with the leading zero in my opinion).

But surely ".49¢" is not what was intended. Tsk, tsk. Did no one catch this? There is no mention of this in the Scott catalog, where it simply states that these are 49¢

stamps. Did Linn's mention this back in 2015? I don't know (and if they did, I don't remember), but it certainly caught my eye this time around!





President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

Wife: All you talk about is stamp collecting.

Husband: What do you want me to talk about?

Wife: Your feelings

Husband: Okay, I really love stamp collecting.

WHAM!

Just saw an article about the Chinese now forging / counterfeiting stamps of Great Britain. GB has been putting bar codes on their stamps but the counterfeits are also bar-coded and the writer said you really can't tell them apart.

The MCSC Board has revisited the issue of gift certificates at the three area monthly meetings. Based on a recommendation that attendance is up at the meetings, and by a Board majority, we'll be going back to giving out 4 certificates at Arlington, 3 at Flower Mound and 2 at Granbury.

Watching a series on Amazon Prime called "Ripley" and surprised at the accuracy of the Italian

postage stamps that are often seen, since letters back and forth are a significant aspect of the show.

The next Arlington meeting will be the semi-annual auction.

Enjoy this great hobby.



Philatelic Firsts (Triple Joint Issue)

By Ken Aldridge

Shown is the 44¢ US Airmail stamp, Scott #C117. It was issued on

March 29, 1988 at Wilmington, Delaware. This stamp is the first US stamp that's part of a Joint Issue of three countries, the other two being Finland #768 and Sweden #1692.

New Sweden was established in 1638 near the Christina River in Delaware. At it's height it had over 1,000 residents.

The stamp shows a settler, two Indians, a map of New Sweden and the Swedish ships, "Kalmar Nyckel" and "Fogel Grip." The stamp was designed by Goran Osterland based on an 18th century illustration from a Swedish book about the colonies.



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> →

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2,000 Year Anniversaries

By Peter Elias



In 1986, several cities in Switzerland celebrated their 2,000th anniversary. Yes, you read that correctly: 2,000 years! Meaning, that they have been around since the days of the Roman Empire. To the left is Scott #776, for Zürich's 2,000th anniversary. Depicted is a Roman coin showing Caesar Augustus (aka Octavianus); he reigned from 27 BC to 14 AD; Zürich's anniversary would fall into 14 BC.

Near Zürich's "Altstadt" (Old Town) area is replica tombstone from around 200 AD in which the Roman-equivalent of Zürich is first mentioned: TURICEN(SIS). That word is the last part of the 3rd line from the bottom. The original tombstone is located in the Swiss National Museum.

This replica is located on the Lindenhof Hill (formerly a Roman castle) and is the oldest part of the city (pre-dating Roman times and it was fortified in the last decades of the 1st century BC). If you are looking at the



Photos credits on this page: Peter Elias
Lion photos are from 1986, all others are from 2013



tombstone, turn around 180 degrees and walk about 100 feet east, you will see the scene above. It shows the Limmat River and the Grossmünster church. The Altstadt (with many buildings from hundreds of years ago is located just beyond the 1st row of buildings. A fantastic area to walk around in!

The lion is the symbol of Zürich. As part of celebrating the 2,000-year anniversary, 400 plastic lions were produced and various artists and decorators worked on them.

They were displayed in the famous Bahnhofstrasse.

I managed to get pictures of about 73 of them, a couple of which are shown here.

At the end of the display period, 150 were purchased by businesses, and the remaining 250 were to be sold at approx. CHF 1,800 (~\$1,000 in 1986) each to the public.



Another city with a 2,000-year anniversary in 1986 was Chur (#774 above), the capital city of Graubünden ("Grisons" in English), which had a population of 36,336 in 2020. It is actually the oldest town in Switzerland and has settlement history that goes back 5,000 years! It was also Emperor Augustus (which incidentally was a stepson of Julius Caesar) that conquered this region and made it a part of the Roman Empire.



A stamp (+ coin & map) shop in a city of less than 40,000!

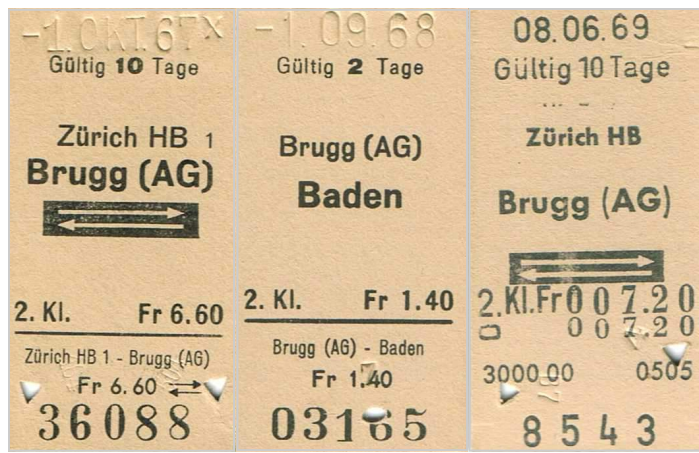
I have been here many times, it's a great little city to visit. At top right is the St.

Martin's church, and to the right, a round-trip train ticket that our family took from Arosa to Chur in 1968. Above is, surprise - surprise, a picture of a stamp shop that I visited in Chur in 2013!

Last but not least, is Scott #775, also from 1986 for 2,000 years of Vindonissa. That one had me stumped. I don't actively recall being there (but then I would only been about 7 to 9 years old). Vindonissa was a Roman legion camp, and is located next to the city of Brugg, which is about 25 miles west of Zürich. More info is at Wikipedia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vindonissa>.



Now, was I there? Digging around my pile of old Swiss train tickets from our family, I found the 3 shown below, from 10/1/67, 9/1/68 and 6/8/69. All were on Sundays, which is when we would go on visits & day-hikes in the greater Zürich area. I can't explain the one-way Brugg-to-Baden ticket from 1968 though ...



[A.I.: Astronomical Inaccuracies](#)

By Dan Golden

1) [Tell me about the stamp US #1529](#)

This article is written as a response to Rick Howell's "Will Artificial Intelligence Influence Philately?" that was published in the January 2024 edition of *Stamping Around*.

At 29 years old, it's no secret that I am among the younger segment of our club's members. Somebody my age ought to enjoy looking out for the latest greatest gadget and be very technologically inclined. However, I still find myself struggling to adapt to the latest changes in the tech world.



ChatGPT response: "United States stamp #1529 was issued on February 26, 1974, as part of the American Arts series. It features a portrait of composer and pianist George Gershwin, known for his contributions to both classical and popular music."

While A.I. has the year of issue correct, it has confused a 1973 George Gershwin stamp with this Skylab stamp.

2) [Tell me about the stamp US #1569](#)

Often times, the next big thing can feel needlessly complex or have a poorly designed user experience, rendering it a burden to learn or cumbersome to use. And it seems each time that I grow comfortable with one system or gadget, the manufacturer comes out with an update that changes everything and confuses me. I finally understand why my dad used to say that it was like a company hired a brand new college grad and told him: "Kid, this ain't broken, but we need you to fix it." We as consumers are stuck with the effects of such "fixes" and "updates".



ChatGPT response: "United States stamp #1569 is part of the 'Legends of the West' series issued on October 18, 1974. It features a portrait of Wild Bill Hickok, a legendary figure from the American Old West known for his skills as a gun-fighter and gambler."

This time A.I. got both the year of issue and the subject wrong. Unless Wild Bill Hickok took a trip to space almost a full century after his death, I struggle to see his possible involvement with the Apollo-Soyuz mission, as depicted on this stamp.

3) [Tell me about the stamp US #5399](#)

But after reading Rick Howell's article about A.I. and the future of philately, I was inspired! As someone who enjoys DIYing his own album pages to feature a short write-up for each stamp mounted on the page, I was excited about how A.I. could help make stamp collecting more enjoyable for me by speeding up the identification and write-up process. Rather than getting bogged down in researching each individual stamp among the thousands I have, I could simply ask A.I. to write a short blurb for any stamp as long as I provided the correct Scott Catalogue number.

I do not have Microsoft Copilot, which Rick referenced in his article. But I do have another A.I. program, ChatGPT. So I decided to give A.I. a try by asking it to tell me about three space-themed stamps, pictured here. Below are the directly-quoted commands and responses given by ChatGPT. I must confess, the results were a little disappointing.



ChatGPT response: "United States stamp #5399 is part of the 'Star Wars' series issued on May 25, 2020 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the film saga. This stamp features the iconic droid character, R2-D2, from the 'Star Wars' universe."

Lastly, while A.I. gets both the year and subject wrong, it at least picked up on the space theme in this stamp celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing. However, Buzz Aldrin landing on the moon doesn't look terribly like R2-D2 to me.

My dad, when encountering any difficulty in using the latest greatest technology, always used to remark: "It's a good thing the Apollo astronauts never had to use this technology, otherwise they'd still be up there trying to get to the Moon!" While A.I. certainly has the potential to do some amazing things, my experiment indicates that it won't be taking us to the Moon on our stamps anytime soon.

All Aboard! Touring Union Terminal

by Dan Golden

Every May, railroad enthusiasts around the country celebrate National Train Day on the Saturday closest to May 10th, the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad with the hammering of the Golden Spike (US #5379, at right). So to celebrate, I decided to write an article about a railroad-themed stamp, and one of my favorite stamps of all-time.

In 2023, USPS released the set of stamps entitled "Historic Railroad Stations of the United States," amongst which was US #5762, shown at right, which features Union Terminal in Cincinnati, OH.

Other than being a beautiful example of Art Deco architecture featuring the largest half-dome in the Western Hemisphere, Union Terminal also reminds me of three of my childhood passions: trains, dinosaurs, and baseball. All three of these are "represented" indirectly in this stamp and connect me to other stamps as well. Allow me to explain.

Let us start with the most obvious topic represented: trains. As part of the Railroad Stations set, it should come as no surprise that Union Terminal was a major train station once upon a time. Nicknamed the "Temple of Transportation," it opened to the general public in 1933 and saw its greatest number of travelers during WWII as young men were transported across the country on their way to war.

For decades, one of the rail lines that served as the station's lifeblood was the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, which is beautifully featured in US #1006 (at right). Union Terminal continues to operate as a train station to this day, albeit at a much lower capacity.

With a decline in rail travel, Union Terminal went through several redevelopments, among which was a short-lived shopping mall. Eventually, the Cincinnati Historical Society acquired the property to turn it into the Cincinnati Museum Center, which brings us to our next topic: dinosaurs.

There are three museums now residing at Union Terminal: the Cincinnati History Museum, the Cincinnati Children's Museum and the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History & Science. And it is in the natural history museum where one can find fossilized bones and enormous skeletons of dinosaurs,



like those seen in US #2425 (at bottom of page)!

Finally, we come to our last topic of discussion: baseball. Most baseball fans will know that the first openly professional baseball team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings, founded in 1869. What the average fan does not know is where the Red Stockings played their games. Turns out, that the land that once housed Union Grounds, the home field for the Red Stockings in 1869, can be seen in the Union Terminal stamp (US #5762, at left)!

Home plate was fixed very close to where the fountain, seen in the center of the stamp, is currently located!

Professional baseball had its start right here, where men dressed similarly to the ballplayer shown in US #4341 (below left), first played what would one day be called "America's pastime," for a salary. It was they who proved to prospective owners and players alike the financial viability of professional baseball, spurring the growth of organized leagues that would one day lead to what we now know as Major League Baseball. And to think that it all started on the same land that would become Union Terminal a little over six decades later.

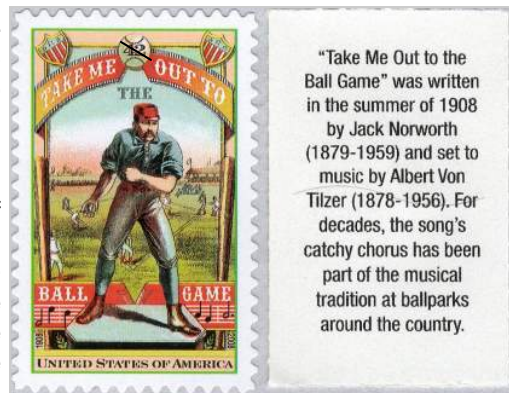
I spent a year living in Cincinnati, during which time I had a membership to the Cincinnati Museum Center. I used to spend my Saturdays taking in the beauty of Union Terminal and enjoying what the museums had to offer. And for all of my glowing remarks about this historic railroad station, I

have barely scratched the surface of what could be talked about.

There is so much more history connected to this building, from the famed artist John James Audubon's brief connection with the museum as a taxidermist, to the priceless mosaics decorating the inside of the dome, to the murals that tell the history of Cincinnati, to multiple presidential visits and so much more.

I am certain that part of my love for this stamp is due to the fond memories I have of my time visiting the museum. And isn't that the point of stamp collecting? It reminds us of what we love and inspires us to make connections to learn about and explore the world!

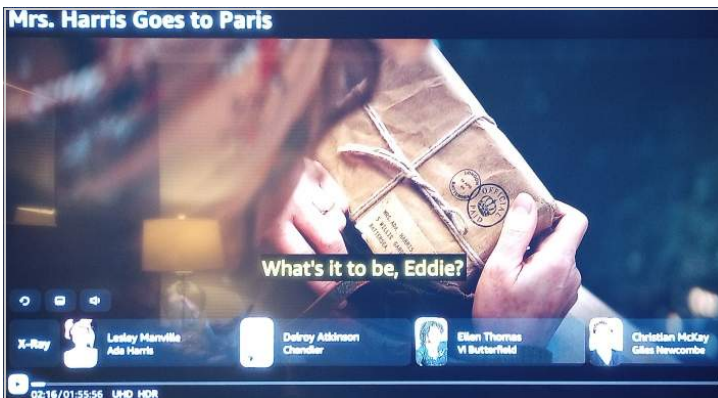
If anyone finds themselves in Cincinnati, I highly recommend taking a bit of time to go and check out this incredible gem. You will not be disappointed.



TV Philately: Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris

By Peter Elias

In December 2023, Annie & I watched the movie “Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris”. As always, whenever I see a piece of mail appear on the screen, I go back later to get a better glimpse of what I had seen and attempt to take a photo of the paused TV screen. My problem is, that sometimes several months pass before I have the chance to write it up, and by then, I’ve forgotten some elements of the movie, thus I have to refresh my memory. So here goes:



The character of Mrs. Harris is played by well-known British actress Leslie Manfield.

The movie was released in 2022. The main plot line is that Mrs. Harris, a widowed housekeeper, encounters a couture Christian Dior dress in a client's home and then finds herself consumed by wanting one as well!

Through various convenient “miracles”, she finds herself in Paris as a client at the House of Dior in the 1950's. And then, things get complicated. We found

the movie extremely entertaining!

Fairly early in the movie, we see here holding a package. At first, I couldn't quite tell what/why, but it turns out it was sent by the British Armed Forces and had some of her husband's personal effects in it.

Mrs. Harris lived in Battersea, about 3 miles southwest of the main part of London. The envelope was stamped “OFFICIAL PAID” (and thus no stamps) and also with a 19(?) April, 1944 circular postmark. The address of 5 Willis Garden[?] is fictitious.

So what remains is: how accurate are the two postal markings that are shown? Looking at Hipstamp.com, I saw a 1944 censored cover (see cropped screen shot to the right) that has the Official Paid marking on it, and while it is similar, the font and letter spacing is a bit different, and on the real cover, the design of the crown is way more detailed.



What about the cancel? I tried to find examples online of hand-cancels from that time period, but couldn't. It's also hard to tell whether cancel is a mailing or a receiving postmark. It seems odd that if she lived in Battersea, that the postmark would also be from there, unless the British Armed Forces personnel that mailed her this package were also in Battersea.

As always, while the mail piece appears to pass muster for the one second or so that it is on screen, further analysis questions that. But I do have fun trying to figure this stuff out!

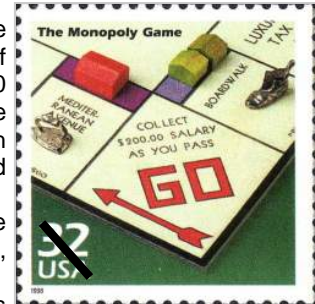
What If Boardwalk Was Texas Stadium?

By Peter Elias

I'm sure you all recognize the subject on USA #31850, one of the 32¢ stamps from the 1930 sheet of the “Celebrate The Century” series of stamps, which features the “Monopoly” board game.

If you have played this game (and most likely with your kids), then raise your hand!

The history of the game goes back to a Lizzie Magie, who in 1903 created a game called “The Landlord's Game”. She developed this original game as an educational tool that would hopefully explain the “single-tax” theory set forth by a Henry George in a book called “Progress and Poverty”. Lizzie was actually an “anti-monopolist” and originally created 2 sets of rules for the game, a monopolist set in which the goal was to create a monopoly and an anti-monopolist set where all were rewarded when wealth was created! Neat, huh?



She self-published the game in 1906 after taking a patent out in 1904.

Then a Charles Darrow sold a copy of a part of the game to Parker Brothers under the name “Monopoly”. When Parker Brothers found out that Darrow was not the sole inventor of the game, they paid Maggie \$500 for the patent rights.

There's a lot of information written up about Monopoly; above is just a summarized highlight. More info is at

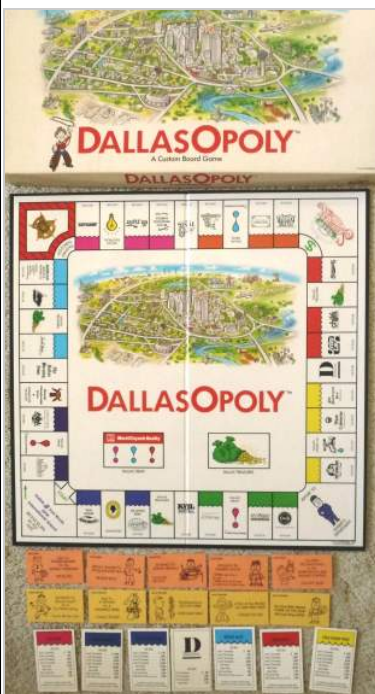
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monopoly_\(game\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monopoly_(game)).

In the 1970's, my parents had bought a couple of board games, so our family also played Monopoly on occasion, even a couple of times in the 1980's or beyond. After my son was old enough, we played it a few times as well, although I don't really care to play it any more. When we did play it, one rule we created was that any money paid to the “bank” (taxes, fines, fees, etc) would actually go into a “pot”, which you received if you landed on the “Free Parking” space.

That said, when I moved to the Dallas area in 1990, I bought a copy of “DallasOpoly” (as shown above). But I've never played it! It has been in a closet for the past 30+ years.

However, when I was looking through the various CTC issues and saw the Monopoly stamp, I decided to get out the DallasOpoly box and actually look at it a bit closer. Obviously everything from the original game is changed to over to relate to the Dallas area somehow. Boardwalk has become Texas Stadium, which of course, is no longer around. That kind of dates the game, which according to the box, was made in 1989. [Fandom.com](https://www.fandom.com/wiki/Monopoly) lists over 1,660 versions of Monopoly. Sadly “DallasOpoly” and “MurphyOpoly” (which I was once saw for sale at the Murphy, TX Walmart near me, not to be confused with one for Murphy, NC) aren't listed [yet]. Go figure!

Been There,
Done That



MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Attendance:

- 22 members were present and we had one guest – Bobby Saunders.

Officer Reports:

- Stanley Christmas reported the balance in the checking account (for Judy Christmas).
- Secretary Janet Moyer announced she had the new handbooks ready. Please see her to get yours.
- Announcements:
- May's meeting will be an auction. Please get your information to Skip.
- June's program will be a video about Cinderella stamps.
- Skip has plenty of Circuit books for sale including 3 boxes from Oklahoma.
- The next EXPO meeting will be after Ralph returns.

Reports:

- EXPO:
 - Ralph will schedule a meeting when he returns.
 - Tom Cunningham sent report that all 25 tables are sold.
 - Peter is handling publicity
 - Ken Aldridge will publicize it on our Facebook page.
- Newsletter: Peter corresponded with Jonathan Topper who had suggested that someone write an article on Karen Cartier for Stamping Around.
- Rick Howell reminded us about the TSDA in Richardson.
- Peter has reprinted the business cards with the correct address. If you need any – let him know.

Show & Tell:

- Ken A. talked about the internet site – SURF Islands.
- Stan showed:
 - a letter from France with some of the ugliest stamps in the world. If you want them - take them.
 - A gummed sticker from the Airborne Mail Service
- Peter showed:
 - a mailed postcard from 1979 where an MD wrote a test result on the back!
 - An article in from a recent Scott Stamp Monthly about Swiss lakes that brought back memories.

Door Prizes:

- Three gift certificates were awarded.

Program:

- Stanley presented the rest of the program about the Airborne Airmail.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be May 1, 2024.

Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- Second Vice President Stanly Christmas called the meeting to order at 7:26 pm with a welcome to 17 members and 2 guests: Perry Springer and John Hughes.

Announcements:

- The Board voted to increase the number of gift certificates awarded in the Flower Mound Meeting to 3.

Officer Reports:

- President – no report.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas gave the account balance.
- Secretary Janet Moyer stated that the handbooks are available, the previous minutes were published in the newsletter and that we have 88 paid members.
- Facebook manager Rick Howell stated we have 140 members on Facebook.
- He has bags of stamps available for purchase.
- APS books - Skip has the APS books and the club books with stamps for sale.
- EXPO - Chairman Ralph Poore is back from the cruise but no meeting has been planned yet. Dealer table contracts will go out at the end of the month. Publicity is done.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias has it almost finished.
- Webmaster - Jim Myers – no report

Show & Tell:

- Stan had three publications to give out
 - Showed a Naval Cover.
- Dan Golden showed a set of airmail letters (1958 and present) – they haven't changed! Sad - the new one didn't have a cancellation.
- Bruce Davis - A binder of topical selections.
 - Items from WOPA – An agency for various countries to sell their new issues online in one place. See www.wopa-plus.com.
- Skip shared a set of Cuban stamps from 1914 reissued in five formats. He created a spreadsheet to share if anyone wishes a copy.
- Stu Clark had a box of interesting articles but shared a White Plains Stamp.
- Jim Myers showed a First Day Cover with the name of an old friend, Lee Cornell. He showed the Kicking Mule covers.
- Steve Carpenter:
 - Postcards had been deliberately cut incorrectly from full sheets by stamp dealers so that they could sell them as "Postal Errors".
 - Discussed how American Philatelists need younger people.
 - Grapevine resident Maddie Raney is 23 and collects stamps. We should contact her.
 - Shared USA Philatelic Magazine.
 - Passed around copies of a Star Wars sheet to see who could spot the difference.
- Ken Wills:
 - A cover sheet plastered with stamps.
 - Sample of controlled mail.
 - An envelope with the stamps totally marked up by canceller. It is allowed to have stamps cancelled and then cover with plastic to protect them.
- Peter Elias:
 - A folder with containing various Christmas stamps.
 - An Swiss that looks like a record but the middle is a stamp.
 - A picture of all his postcard stacks that he is sorting through.
 - An order of Swiss postcards that he ordered from "www.BuckACover.com"
 - Showed the "limited edition" folder of 2 stamps he got at the TSDA.
 - All the covers he got at TSDA with his door prize gift certificates.

Quiz:

- Stanley shared the "Where Am I Quiz?" Bruce guessed correctly.

Door Prize Drawing & Adjournment:

- 3 certificates were awarded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Fellowship followed.

Skiing

By Peter Elias

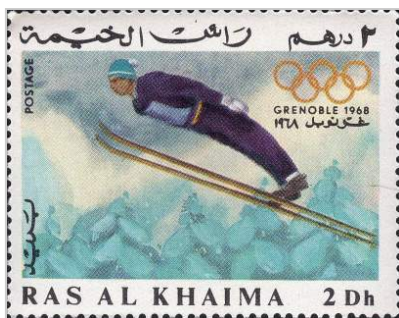


These articles generally start either a picture (which then necessitates finding a stamp or philatelic item, or vice-versa). In this case, I was sorting out some old postcards and found the one from above. It is from the early 1970's and features "Bear Mountain" in Grayling, Michigan (also self-proclaimed "archery capitol of the World...").

If memory serves correctly (this was after all about 50 years ago...), this was one of 2 (maybe 3?) places that our family went skiing at when we lived in mid-Michigan. Bear Mountain was about 90 miles north of where we lived.

Coming from Switzerland, I wouldn't necessarily call this a "mountain"... Hill perhaps? Despite growing up in a country full of mountains (and lots of winter snow), we never really did do much of any skiing in Switzerland. I do remember that we had skis when we lived in Michigan. Whether or not we bought those skis with us from Switzerland or bought them in Michigan, I don't remember.

So, what kind of skiing did I do? Was it either of these?:



Nope. I think either of these activities would have given me the "heebie-jeebies"!

Skiing on that hill in Michigan wasn't exactly a high-speed race downhill. At some point in 1973, when I was a teen, my parents sent us to a summer camp in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, and one of our "excursions" was skiing on a glacier high above Crans-Montana (but no skiing like what is shown on the 2 stamps above). I do remember that skiing on a glacier was fun though (alas, no photos of that).



That said, at some point back in the States (1974?), we were at one of the "bunny hills" in Michigan (mostly likely the one shown on the postcard) and I went down. Basically, a small tree branch was sticking partly out of the snow, and while one ski went over it, the other went under it. And I went all over. Since my parents had bought skis with rigid cable bindings, my ski boot didn't pop off and my ankle was twisted 90 degrees (and I was screaming at the top of my lungs).

Someone finally sent a snowmobile to get me and dad raced us back to Midland in his car at 80+ mph. Then I was in a cast for a while, and did get to leave one of my classes (I was in middle-school) a few minutes early each day. A fellow student, "Betsy", helped me in that regard.

While I searched all the various old photos & slides that my parents took, I could not find any photos of me in that cast, and at this point, I don't even remember whether it was my left or right ankle that was broken! But it did happen! Are some memories better than none? I didn't do any more skiing after that (not even cross-country). I did find the old skis though when I was cleaning out my parent's garage in 2016.



Photo Credit:
Hans Elias

Side note: the skis that my parents had bought (probably around 1969 or 1970) in Switzerland before we moved here, had "cable" bindings that locked your boots in place in a groove around the outside sole of the boot (from what I remember). The skis were "convertible" though, in that they be used for downhill skiing (fully locked in with the cable) or for "cross-country" skiing in which case they allowed you "lift up" up your ski boot (at the back) as needed for that type of skiing (as seen below on USA #5479 from 2020). In either case, these type of skis did NOT have any sort of "auto-release" that could save your ankles or legs from being broken, unlike most modern skis... I do remember laying there in the snow, trying to reach the cable mechanism that held the boot in place, but it was just out of reach...



CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: peter@pcelias.com

For Sale

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

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

New Postage Rates

By Ken Aldridge

The US Postal Service has announced upcoming postage rate increases effective July 14, 2024. The governors of the Postal Service have approved the increases. By law postal authorities can only raise rates once every six months.

- 1 oz First Class Letter mail goes from 68¢ to 73¢. Each additional ounce goes from 24¢ to 28¢.
- 1 oz metered mail goes from 64¢ to 69¢.
- Domestic Post Cards go from 53¢ to 56¢.
- International Post Cards go from \$1.55 to \$1.65.
- Flats, which are important to stamp buyers and sellers are also going up.
 - 1 oz Flats goes from \$1.39 to \$1.50
 - 2 oz Flats from \$1.63 to \$1.77
 - 3 oz Flats from \$1.83 to \$2.04, etc.
- Periodicals will go up 10% and Stamp Fulfillment Services will have a 8.641% increase in prices.
- Post Office Box rentals will not increase.

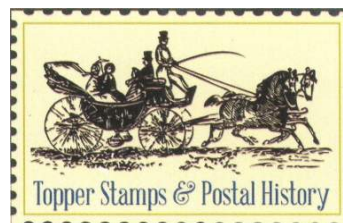
For Sale

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

Philatelic Reference CD's. The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
 - [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
 - [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
 - [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 \$ 6.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 7/23

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



Jonathan Topper

13100 Wortham Center Drive
Suite 300
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com

[Editor's Note:

I will publish an updated chart in the July issue that will show all common rates, whether updated or not.

“Flats” are also known as “large envelopes”. These can NOT have “stiffeners”; if they do, then they will be moved to the next rate class, which is now “Ground Advantage” (and was previously called “First Class Parcel”). As a seller on eBay, I rarely ever need to use “Flats”, which is really only useful for sending thicker piles of paper (no more than 3/4”) that are not bound in any sort of way and are not “stiff and not sent tracked.

What is useful though, is the “Ground Advantage” mail class, which can be a small box or sometimes simply be a slightly thicker and stiffened envelope, and also because it comes with tracking and up to \$100 insurance!

The USPS has posted a spreadsheet on their website that all rates that they are requesting for the pending July 14, 2024 changes: <https://pe.usps.com/PriceChange>

Glad to hear that PO Box fees won't increase. The \$388 per year I'm paying now is already quite enough!]



MEET & EAT for

May 2024

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 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

May 1 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen,
Arlington, TX 76013-2203
(817) 861-1060

FLOWER MOUND

May 15 Cotton Patch Café
6101 Long Prairie Rd, Ste 712
Flower Mound, TX 75028
(972) 355-8780

GRANBURY

May 28 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX
(817) 573-5000

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

Don't Forget:
Club Auction, Arlington Mtg, May 1

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

United States Booklets, large selection of unexploded booklets for sale at just above face value. Starting with booklet #BK104 to #BK259. Identify booklet number desired and send an email to Dave Stockbridge at stockdave44@yahoo.com. Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions. 4/23