

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

**Euless Meetings:** Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)

**Lake Granbury Meetings:** 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



CHAPTER  
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 34, Number 7

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

July 2021

Been There,  
Done That

## Landwasser Viaduct

By Peter Elias



Back in April, I wrote about the Langwies Viaduct, this time it is about the Landwasser Viaduct, whose construction started in 1901 and was opened in 1902.

The Landwasser viaduct is constructed of limestone around a steel core and finished with masonry. It is comprised of 6 arches and has a total length of 466 feet, a height of 213 feet and at the south-eastern end, goes straight into a 709 foot long train tunnel. The viaduct is used by the Albula Railway, a narrow gauge electric railway and connects Filisur with Alvaneu to the west.



At top left is Switzerland #338 from 1949, showing a ground level view of the Landwasser viaduct and above is a photo taken by my dad in the late 1960's (or perhaps early 1970's) of us going over the Landwasser viaduct. It is generally advisable that you put your head back into the train before entering the tunnel! Located only about 2 miles to the east (but on a separate rail line that also branches off at Filisur) is this:



This is the Wiesen viaduct, and it is actually a bit longer and a bit higher than the Landwasser viaduct (except that it doesn't dramatically go into the side of a mountain).



Oh yeah, and unlike the more dramatic Landwasser viaduct, you can actually walk across the Wiesen viaduct. In 2013, while on a vacation to Davos, I relived a portion of my vacations from when I was a child. So we had a nice walk through a gorge area, had lunch at the Wiesen train station (I wrote about that in the June 2020 issue of Stamping Around). We then walked over the Wiesen viaduct and my son got to experience it as well. Too bad that there wasn't any train traffic while we were on the bridge, as that would have made for a nice little video segment! Although, on the way back from Filisur to Davos, our train did have to go over the Wiesen viaduct.

## USPS Tentative Rate Increases - August 29

The USPS will increase various postage rates (not 100% confirmed yet) on August 29. Key will be 1st class FOREVER going from 55¢ to 58¢. There will be a comparison chart in the August issue of Stamping Around (under assumption it is approved)!

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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:news@mid-citiesstampclub.com))

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### 2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Richard Hildebrandt  
First Vice-President – Stanley Christmas  
Second Vice-President – Rick Howell  
Secretary – Skip Ely  
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

#### Board of Directors (voting):

Ken Aldridge Peter Elias Ken Wills  
Immediate Past President: Ray Cartier

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area! Dues are only \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : [editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

For a membership application (standard dues are \$12) write to:

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club**  
**P.O. Box 2158**  
**Arlington, TX 76004-2158**

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

## Coming Attractions

—> We are starting to get back in to “in-person” meetings starting in June. Data below is believed to be correct at time of publication; for updated MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

### 2021

**JUN. 22 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY In-person Mtg**  
Program: Clean Out Your Closet  
**JUN. 25 - 26 TSDA Stamp Fair** (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)  
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy,  
Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)  
**JUL. 7 MCSC - ARLINGTON In-person Meeting**  
Program: TBD  
**JUL. 21 MCSC - EULESS In-person Meeting**  
Program: TBD  
**JUL. 27 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY In-person Mtg**  
Program: TBD  
  
**AUG. 27 - 28 TSDA Stamp Fair** (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)  
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy,  
Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)  
**DEC. 10 - 11 TSDA Stamp Fair** (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)



## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

2 decades. Yup, last month's June issue finished off 20 years of me being the editor of Stamping Around! Something like 1/3 of my life! Has it been that long? Without going back and adding up a bunch of numbers, it's certainly has amounted to a LOT of pages!

Keep submitting those articles! I was told by a representative of the APS that they might be considering bringing back the "Chapter Newsletter" competition. Of course in the past few years, many club's newsletters may have gone virtual, while of course some clubs are still (snail) mailing their copies. Designing a newsletter for online (browser based) or downloadable version does have slightly different criteria. For mail copies, one has to keep regular paper size in mind, along with the postage required to mail copies. For digital newsletters, the number of pages isn't quite as critical and little things like colored backgrounds can be used on pages (something that would be more expensive if printed). For now, Stamping Around is a hybrid newsletter; it is primarily designed with regular 8.5" x 11" paper in mind, although a majority of the copies are distributed digitally.

## Thank You

To Byron Sandfield for donating a large box and a large tub of various stamp albums and covers!

## Errata

By Peter Elias

Reader Otto Bergman pointed out that in last month's issue (June 2021), on page 11 (near the bottom), in the article about the Campden Park post office, the number of registered envelopes was less than "1,000", not less than "100" (so either bad math or a typo on my part!).



## Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

### Applications Received

n/a

### New Members

n/a

### Deceased

n/a

### Reinstatements

n/a

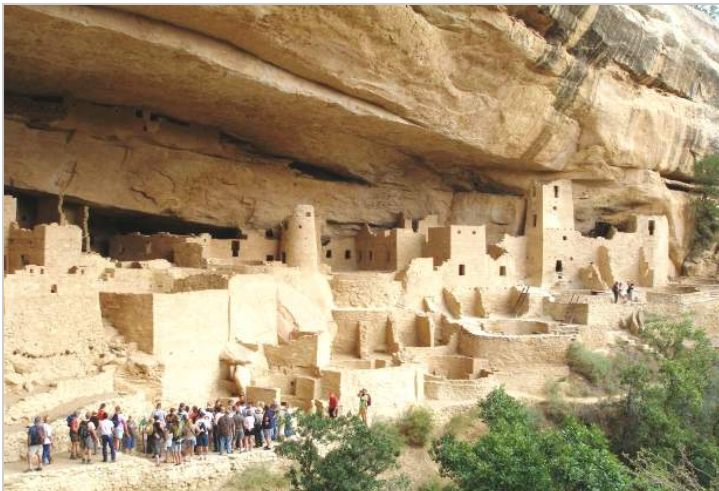
### Membership Summary – June 16, 2021

Membership as of May 19, 2021	90
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( 0 )
Resignations	0
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of June 16, 2021	90





USA Scott#743 should be a familiar stamp to all US stamp collectors, being part of a series of 10 stamps commemorating US National Parks in 1934.



My last trip to Mesa Verde was in 2006, when Annie & I were doing some sightseeing in Colorado. Our driving trip started in Colorado Springs and took us in a circle tour around southwestern Colorado and through Moab, Utah before heading back.

One of the many "must-see" national parks is of course Mesa Verde National Park. Mesa Verde means "green table". Many centuries ago, the Pueblo Indians lived there when it must have been much "greener"; and a 23-year drought began in 1276. By the year 1300, the site was abandoned.

Cowboys found the cliff dwellings in the 1880's and other subsequent explorers plundered the site until much of the area was turned into a national park in 1906 when it was made into the first national park to "preserve the works of mankind" according to President Theodore Roosevelt (since many other national parks preserve nature). We can now all enjoy these magnificent structures!

When you are standing on top of the mesa, you don't really see many of the 600 cliff dwellings, as they are underneath of the overhangs; the photo of me right was taken from the top, and from there, it looks like many

So you have a great idea for a "Been There - Done That" article, even a picture you took or are in! But wait, you don't have the stamp that is needed to illustrate the philatelic aspect of this article. Now what? Well generally that means you have to find either the actual stamp or a scanned image of one. More than likely, it might be easier to find the image online somewhere. However, many online images are of fairly poor resolution (low dpi count, sometimes as little as 50 - 96 dpi, when I prefer to use at least 300 or 600 dpi for best print quality).

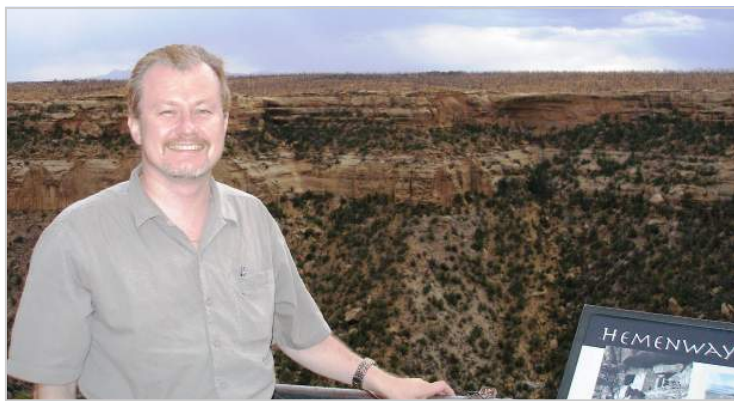
So let's say you want to actually own that stamp in question for the article. Usually a good place to start is eBay. Of course, if the stamp is part of a much larger set, you might have to buy the entire set unless you find someone selling just singles. Other good online marketplaces are Delcampe and HipStamp (and don't forget the APS Store).

But what if it's a fairly recently issued stamp (within the past year)? I look at the monthly issues of Linn's where they show the newly listed stamps to see if there's anything that might be useful for a "Been There.." article. That would then leave out any of the online market places, as few would have current issues from different countries. Then what? If the stamp is from a country that has a decent online presence, you might be able to buy it directly from that postal administration. You can also try "WOPA" (<https://www.wopa-plus.com/en/stamps/index>), the "World Online Philatelic Agency", which lists stamps from 48 countries! But many countries don't have a good way to buy stamps online (such as many African nations) and communications and/or payments would be difficult at best.

Many times when I approach traditional stamp dealers, to them, anything past 1990 is a "new issue" and won't stock it. That leaves "new issue dealers". The one that I have used frequently for new issues (as recently as 4 to 6 months after issue) is [Bombay Stamp Company](#).

other canyons that you see in that area. The stamp and photo both feature the 'Cliff Palace', the largest in the USA.

If you venture to southwestern Colorado, I recommend that you check out Mesa Verde for yourself. Arches National Park & other parks are fairly close by as well.





## MCSC Granbury Zoom Meeting Minutes May 25, 2021

By Stanley Christmas

### **Call-To-Order:**

- The Zoom virtual meeting was called to order by Davis Stockbridge at 7:00 PM.

### **Attendance:**

- In attendance were Ken Aldridge, Gene Atkinson, Judy & Stanley Christmas, Bob Coleman, Peter Elias, Rick Howell, Joe McFarland, Gary McNamee, David Stockbridge and John Winters.

### **Officer Reports:**

- Dave asked for Officer reports and Judy said there were enough funds in the treasury.

### **Show & Tell:**

- Peter Elias showed a home-made envelope, stamps on a parcel post box and a photo of the mural in the main post office in San Juan, Puerto Rico, when he visited there during Spring Break in 2014. He also showed a photo of the ATM machine that is in the post office that is the southernmost in the US.
- Ken Aldridge showed a quilt with a stamp theme that his wife made and will donate to the club for the Silent Auction in EXPO 2021 or hold a raffle. He showed a picture of John Wayne by Norman Rockwell. He also is receiving 40,000 worldwide stamps that he plans to sell for 1.5 cents each.
- Rick Howell discussed the operation going on at the Smithsonian to digitize plate proof sheets. He showed examples of the "Farley Follies" stamps that have been digitized. Collectors can learn more at [www.arago.si.edu](http://www.arago.si.edu).
- David Stockbridge showed an unusual use of a Priority Mail flat rate envelope that has 68 ten cent stamps on the back for a total of \$6.80 postage plus \$1.15 additional postage on the front.
- Rich Howell presented an "Exploring Stamps" video program on British Machin stamps. There are over 5000 varieties. Gene Atkinson, Peter Elias and Rick Howell said they also collect Machins. Gene said there was a web site dedicated to Machins at [www.machins.org](http://www.machins.org).

### **Announcements:**

- David announced the next meeting would be live (in-person) on June 22 (the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday) at the Bentwater location. There will be a "meet & eat" at Grumps at 5:00 PM before the meeting. The backup will be Palios Pizzas across the street from Grumps.
- June 19<sup>th</sup> will be another EXPO 2021 planning meeting at Spring Creek BBQ in Arlington.
- The TSDA will hold their bursar on June 25 & 26 at their new Richardson location.
- Ken Aldridge announced he will be giving the program at the June 2<sup>nd</sup> in-person meeting in Arlington.

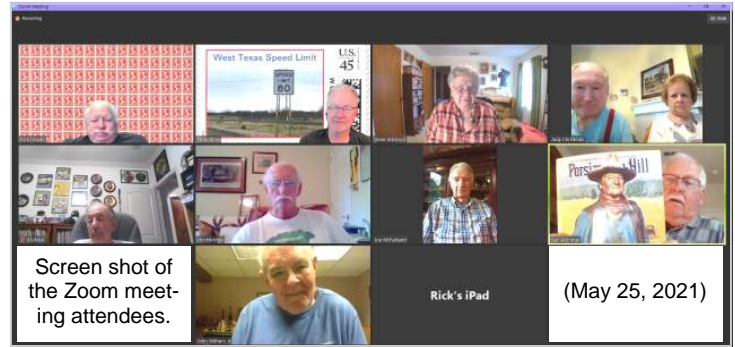
### **Attendance Drawing:**

- Judy Christmas held the drawing for \$10.00 gift certificates. The winners were Gene Atkinson, Judy Christmas, Bob Coleman, Gary McNamee and David Stock-

bridge.

### **Adjournment:**

- David Stockbridge adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.



## When is a Renault 12 not a Renault 12?

By Peter Elias



...When it is a Dacia 1300 (as shown on Romania Scott #2593, issued in 1975).

So how did that happen? In some eastern European countries, they built western European cars under license. For example, in Yugoslavia, they licensed a shortened version of the Fiat 127 and manufactured it as a Yugo (as in: "if you have an accident in one, it's off to the hospital you go"). Definitely one of the worst cars ever made. Someone I knew in college bought a Yugo brand new, and less than 2 years later it was rusted up to the windows (possibly due extremely thin sheet metal and Michigan salted winter roads).



But I digress. Back to the Dacia 1300: In the 1960's, the Romanian government decided to decrease reliance on imported goods and wanted to acquire the basic design & tooling of a western vehicle that was inexpensive and large enough for a family.

Renault won the bid, and early "Renault 8 Major" cars were assembled in Romania via knock-down kits as the Dacia 1100, until the Dacia 1300 (manufactured in the Mioveni factory) was released in August 1969, nine days earlier than the French Renault 12 on which it was based. A later Dacia 1310 version was built until 2004, also available were 2-door coupés and station wagons. Believe it or not, a total of 1,959,730 of these were built in the Romanian factory!

Dacia's were sold not just in East Bloc countries, but also South America, Canada, China & North Korea, as well as Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK. The company was sold to Renault in 1999, and starting in 2021, the Dacia company became part of Renault's Dacia-Lada business unit (note: Lada's were Russian vehicles).

## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2021

By Skip Ely

### Call-To-Order:

- Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting at 7:07 PM.

### Attendance:

- 20 members and 2 guests were in attendance for the second in-person meeting at the Bob Duncan Center in 2021.

### Officer Reports:

- President** - Rich Hildebrandt said the next meeting would be on Wednesday, July 7. The program will be an auction, so lots should be turned in to Skip no later than the Eulless meeting in two weeks.
- Treasury** - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary** - Skip Ely said our membership remained at 90.
- Librarian** - Rich said Janet Moyer had agreed to resume her role as librarian.

### Committee Reports:

- EXPO** - Stanley Christmas reminded everyone of the next EXPO meeting at Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, June 19. Rick Howell said member Scott English (APS Executive Director) was contributing three dozen perforation gauges for beginners packets being put together for EXPO.
- Newsletter** - Peter Elias said the next newsletter was well underway.
- Sales** - Skip Ely said sales are ongoing.

### Announcements:

- Dave Stockbridge said the next Granbury meeting would be in-person on June 22, with a "Clean Out Your Closet" being the program.
- Ken Aldridge announced a raffle for a "Texas Stamp Quilt" his wife had made (*see picture bottom right*).
- The next TSDA Bourse will be on June 25 & 26.

### Show & Tell:

- Ben Termini showed some recent Great Britain stamps themed "Rescue at Sea" that had perfs in the form of three dots, three dashes, three dots (SOS).
- Jim Taylor talked about the "Stamps for the Wounded" program and made a flyer available. →
- Peter Elias showed an envelope he had received with a cancel but no postage on it. He also had a 2015 postcard from Great Britain bearing a "Universal Mail - United Kingdom "International Postcard" stamp.

### Gift Certificates:

- ...Were awarded to Ken Aldridge, Peter Elias, Howard Savage, Diana Davis, Bob Weidman, Jim Case, Janet Moyer and Rich Hildebrandt.

### Program:

- ...Was presented by Ken Aldridge and titled "Czeslaw Slania, Engraver Extraordinaire."

### Conclusion:

- The meeting concluded about 8:10 PM.

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Calliaqua Post Office

By Peter Elias



Calliaqua is a small town on the southern tip of St. Vincent (West Indies). In 1871 it had a population of 535, and that according to the [St. Vincent Census of 2012](#), had grown to almost 24,000.

Calliaqua received its own postmark in 1873, which carried the abbreviation of CA.

This example is in my collection and is a nice red cancel from August 14, 1873 on a St.



Vincent "penny black". Later cancels,

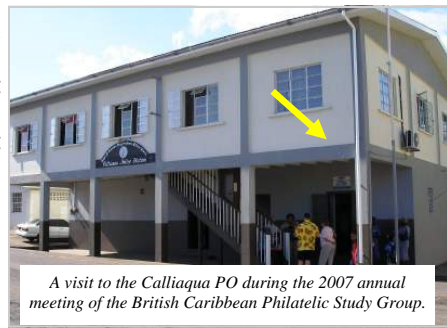
such as the one to the left, from 1886, spelled out the town name fully. Starting in the early 1900's, post-



marks looked similar to the one on the 25¢ stamp from 1879 (on the right).

In 2007, I visited the Calliaqua post office (located in the police dept. building). Several members of the BCPSG can be seen at the entrance.

Did I get a current postmark when I was there? I'm sure that I must have, but at the time of writing this, I don't recall, and I don't know where all my "philatelic bounty" from that trip ended up at (it was after all, over 14 years ago)!



"Stamps for the Wounded" serves veterans since 1942. They are looking for stamp & philatelic donations of all types, off- & on-paper stamps, covers, etc. Donations are considered tax-deductible. For more information or to send donations:

John Hotchner, Vice-President for Stamps for the Wounded  
PO Box 1125  
Falls Church, VA 22041-0125  
jmhstamp@verizon.net

Or:

Stamps For The Wounded  
PO Box 297  
Dunn Loring, VA 22027





# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact me at [wills@airmail.net](mailto:wills@airmail.net). Happy hunting! 3/19

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

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
  - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
  - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
  - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
  - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
  - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
  - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
  - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-members -> please inquire. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 1/21

**MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES!** Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: [jstrubel-boy@aol.com](mailto:jstrubel-boy@aol.com) 12/14

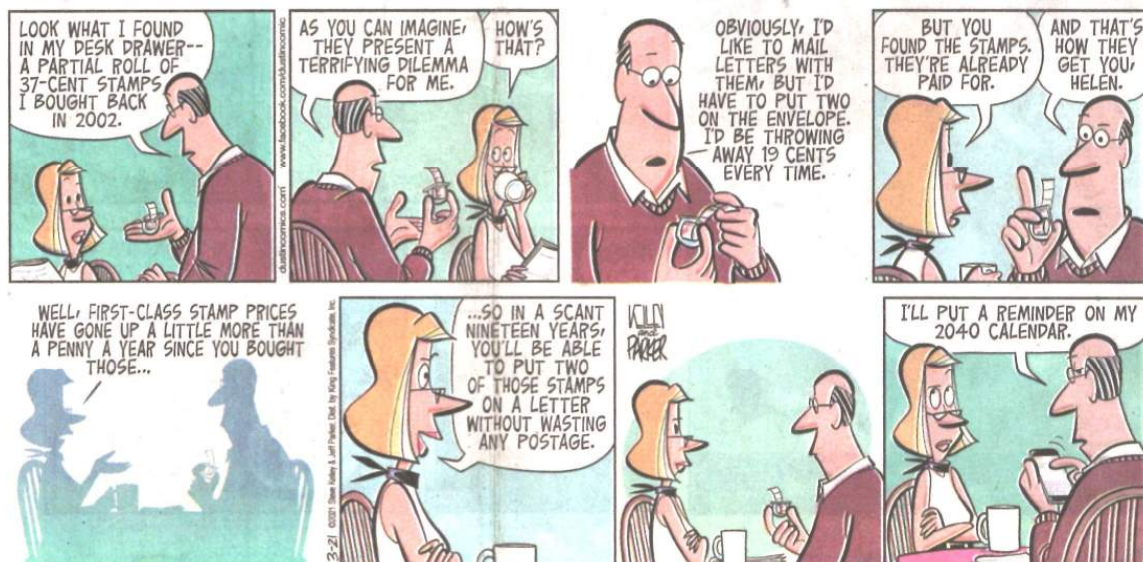
**Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album.** Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, now reduced to \$775 OBO!. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or at [dklgonefishing@yahoo.com](mailto:dklgonefishing@yahoo.com) 8/19

## Comic Strip - Dustin (Using Up 37¢ Stamps)

By Peter Elias

DUSTIN

BY STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER



This “Dustin” comic strip was published in the March 21, 2021 issue of the Dallas Morning News.

The husband's main dilemma is trying to figure out how to best use up old 37¢ stamps that he bought in 2002 (note: the 37¢ rate became effective on June 30, 2002 and lasted until January 7, 2006).

While the math is basically correct up until now (i.e.: approx. 1¢ per year average increase be-

tween 2002 and 2021), if the proposed rate increase of 3¢ on August 29, 2021 is an indication, then the 2x 37¢ usage mentioned in the 2nd panel on row 2 will definitely occur well before 2040!





## First Time Loser?

By Rick Howell

As most philatelists know, the British Guiana 1¢ Magenta came up for sale on June 8<sup>th</sup>. When the hammer dropped at Sotheby's in New York, to the surprise of many, the rare stamp sold at a loss of approximately \$1.2 million. Stuart Weitzman, the ladies' shoe designer had originally purchased the stamp in 2014 at a record high price of \$9.5 million however, in the recent sale the stamp fetched only \$8.3 million.

At the time I am writing this article, the name of the buyer has not been released. There is some speculation however, that the stamp may have been purchased by Queen Elizabeth II. The British Guiana 1¢ Magenta is the only British Commonwealth stamp missing from the Royal Collection. If the stamp was purchased for the Royal Collection, it is quite likely that it will never be seen on the market again.

For those of you who would like to see a brief history of the 1¢ Magenta, Sotheby's released a short video called "The Travels of the British Guiana: The World's Most Famous Stamp". That video is available on YouTube at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVICSt-JMBw>

Also, Charles Epting and Michael Cortese of "Conversations with Philatelists" produced a wonderful video discussing the auction with Sotheby's philatelic consultant Robert Scott, and were treated to a rare "hands-on" introduction to the stamp. The video of this is also available on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJa6basNeVc>



Not to be ignored, Stuart Weitzman also put up for sale the only known plate block of the "Inverted Jenny". This rarity fetched \$4,860,000 at the hammer drop. At this time, there is no information on the identity of the purchaser. The original estimate on the plate block was \$5M - \$7M, so apparently someone got

themselves a real bargain here as well.

The last item being sold by Weitzman was a 1933 Double Eagle gold coin which was originally estimated to command \$10 to \$15 million. The coin actually exceeded the estimates by selling for \$18,872,250.

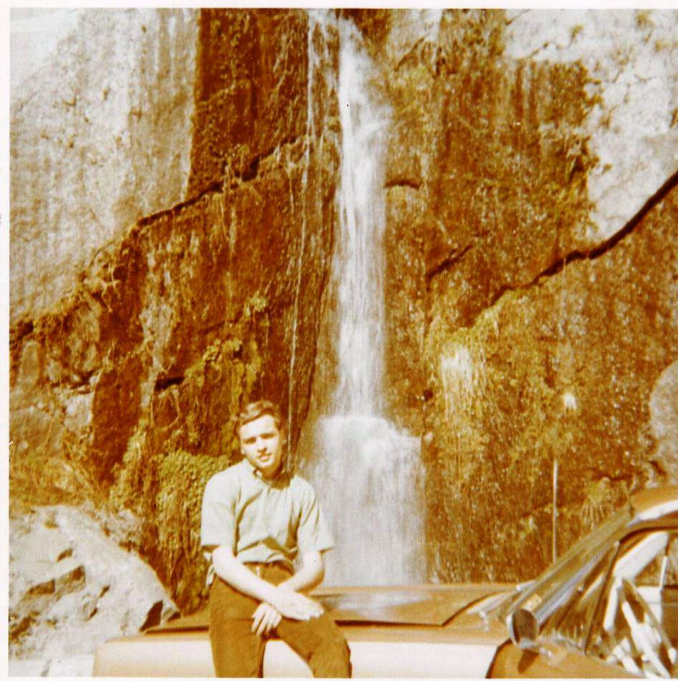
Hopefully, this sale is not indicative of a poor outlook for philatelic investments. I, for one, am certainly not ready to switch from stamps to coins. I don't think my back could handle it.



## Been There, Done That

## Redwoods

By Pat & Bob Weidman



The picture of me sitting in front of the small waterfall was taken on a trip to Sequoia National Park back in 1970. At the time, I was in the Navy. In-between deployments, my squadron was stationed at the Naval Air Station in Lemoore, California, which is in the San Joaquin Valley in central California. About 125 miles west of the base was Sequoia National Park.

One weekend, some friends and I decided to drive up to Sequoia to check out the redwoods. The park itself has thousands of redwoods. Many of them are more than ten feet in diameter. The largest one is the General Sherman which is 275 feet high, and the circumference at the base is 103 feet! It is estimated to be 2,200 to 2,500 years old.

Sequoia National Park was the second national park established back on September 25, 1890. The stamp is United States Scott #4378, which was issued on January 16, 2009.



### UPDATE:

Since I wrote the article to the left the purchaser of the 1¢ Magenta has been announced as Stanley Gibbons. Stanley Gibbons has announced their intention to democratize the stamp, meaning they are planning to sell off shares of the stamp to those who wish to invest in the stamp and own a piece of the rarest stamp in the world. They have created a website called:

<https://www.1c-magenta.com/> where you can log on for details. - Rick



## Post Office Murals

By Peter Elias

On April 10, 2019, the USPS issued a nice set of 4 stamps featuring Post Office Murals. While I had heard of these murals that were commissioned as part of "New Deal" art from 1934 to 1943 and around 1,400 murals were created in post offices around the country, I honestly don't recall seeing any of these type of murals myself.



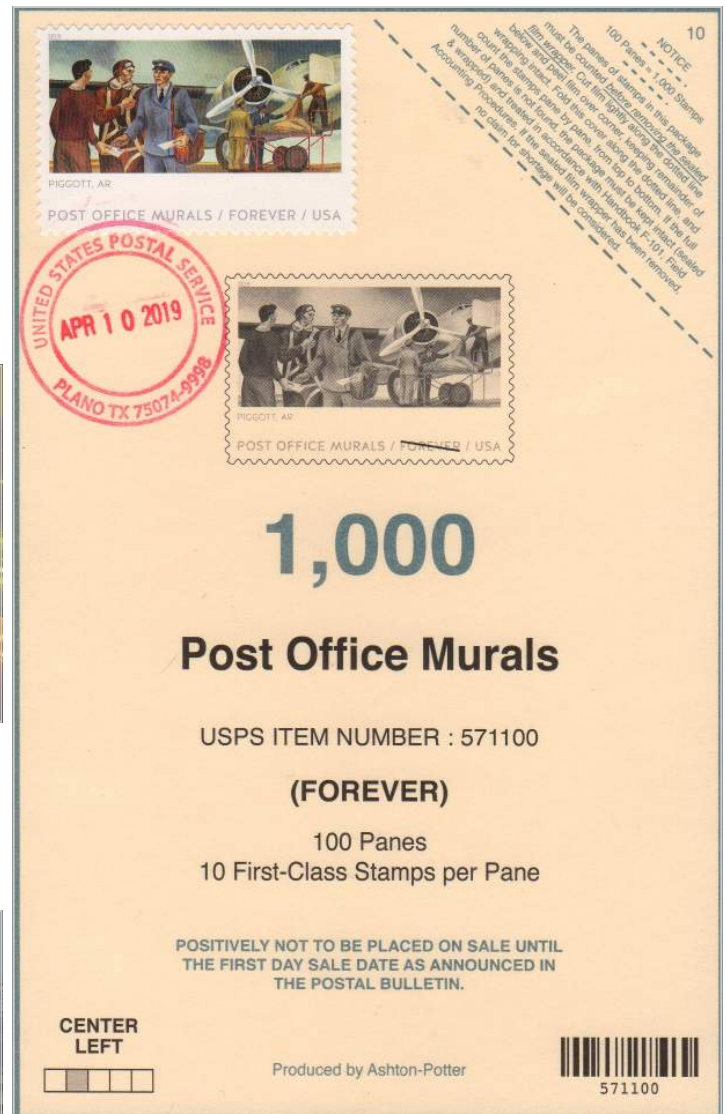
However, I did see a somewhat more recent "mural" while visiting the main post office in San Juan (see picture above) late evening on March 11, 2014. The reason I ended up there (other than being on spring break in Puerto Rico...) was to visit this:



Yup, it's the southern-most "APC" (Automated Postal Center) machine that the USPS has, and I just had to go check it out ("sorry honey, have to go check out the machine!.."). The labels that it produced were standard



2D-matrix code postage labels such as the one to the left. If you look up the zip code 00936 as shown on the stamp, it proves that it was bought from the machine above. While the date shows on 03/11/14 and that is correct, what I didn't know at the time was that there is a date reading sideways as well. Of that code, "C434" was the machine number, following that is the exact time of 40312013144, which translates to 4 (=2014), 03 (March), 12 (day), 01 (hour), 31



(minutes) and 44 (seconds). But I wasn't there on March 12 at 1:31 AM... It wasn't until 2018 that I figured out that the date/time shown was that of GMT, which is Greenwich Mean Time (UK), not the "local" date/time in Puerto Rico.

When I turned around from the machine, below is what I saw: A nice large modern painted mural showing depictions of Puerto Rico, including stamps relating to Puerto Rico. If I didn't collect APC stamps, I would NEVER have seen this!





## Outboard Motor

By Peter Elias



The other day, while going through some "give-away" stamps, I found this one from Sweden, Scott #2442d, issued in 2002 as part of a set of 4 commemorating "Summer in Bohuslän". I have abso-

lutely no idea where Bohuslän is at in Sweden (I suppose I could look it up in Google Maps if I really wanted to...).

The reason I bring this stamp up, is that looking at the image brought forth a memory of me being out on a lake in a small boat that also had an outboard motor:



Above is the outboard motor of a small boat that I rented in a country often confused by some with Sweden; that being Switzerland (two countries are approximately 1,630 km or 1,013 miles, apart from each other).



But therein ends the similarity. The boat I rented was made of aluminum, not wood like shown on the stamp. The lake I was on was Lake Neuchâtel, and the city at the shore (above) is Neuchâtel in northwestern Switzerland (see map below). This was the first time that I had ever piloted a small boat on my own! And the Swedish stamp allowed me to relive this memory!



Shoreline at  
Lake Neuchâtel

Note: If a stamp prompts a memory for you, please tell us about



## Exhaust Systems

By Peter Elias



A while back, I decided that the standard dual-exhaust tips on my 1990 Audi Coupe Quattro looked ugly. So I managed to find a pair individual chromed tips that just managed to slip over the offending

manufacturer provided tips (that were also showing their age). And they do improve the looks, although the text that I had put on my Zazzle stamp is incorrect (and meant as a joke), as there is no "performance" to be had by simply adding chromed exhaust tips over standard ones. Any sort of actual performance improvements (as it relates to the exhaust system could probably be had by using a less restrictive muffler ...).

So, that said, if a dual exhaust is better than a single exhaust, then a 23x exhaust would be this:



LMAO: I almost fell out of my chair laughing when I ran across this picture! Unfortunately the text on the buildings in the background is too indistinct for me to tell exactly where this photo was taken.

## Gator Ate My Mail

By Rick Howell

A Hernando County, Florida postal customer was surprised at about 3:00 AM on June 9<sup>th</sup> when he went to the post office to mail a package, and was greeted by a seven-foot alligator roaming around the lobby area of the post office. Apparently, the post office has automated double doors which the alligator triggered to gain entry. A sheriff's office deputy contacted a



trapper and the alligator was safely removed. There was no word on whether the gator got his mail.

## President's Report

By Richard Hildebrandt

My apologies for missing last month's letter, but I was on a trip to Virginia to visit Williamsburg, etc. Now there is an opportunity for several *Been There, Done That* columns! Maybe in the future...

I want to start by saying how nice it is to be able to resume in-person meetings. The Arlington turnout was good for the two events we held and we enjoyed a good program from Ken Aldridge at the last one. Many thanks to him.

As is always the case, we are in need of people to present programs. Please consider it if you would be so inclined.

A special thanks to Dave Stockbridge for securing a place for the Granbury group to meet. The meeting room has been arranged and is paid for the remainder of this year. They will be resuming in-person meetings in June. Way to go Dave!

The Arlington July meeting will be the long delayed Auction. If you wish to submit lots, please contact Skip to see if he can accommodate you. I urge all of our members to come out, look over the offerings and bid on the lots.

As summer begins, can fall be far behind? That means EXPO is fast approaching. Ralph has been on top of this event and all is on track, but we can always use more assistance to pull it off. Please consider either attending a planning meeting or at least helping on show days. It takes many folks for us to be successful. Ray Cartier is soliciting for exhibits. Maybe this is the year to get your feet wet in that aspect of our hobby.

Lastly, Ken Aldridge is running a special auction of a lovely philatelically themed quilt that his wife stitched. Raffle tickets will be available through the EXPO with the drawing to take place on that Saturday. Proceeds go to the club. Contact Ken for all the details.

With the hot weather approaching it is a good time to stay indoors and work on your stamps. Enjoy!

## Bird Stamp Puzzle Box

by Peter Elias



## Eulless Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

by Skip Ely

### Call To Order:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

### Attendance:

- Seven members attended the meeting.

### Officer Reports

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said our membership remained at 90.

### Committee Reports:

- EXPO – Stanley Christmas reminded everyone of the Expo Planning Meeting at 11:00 A.M. this coming Saturday (June 19) at Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington.
- EXPO - Janet Moyer said we would have lanyards with the name tags this year instead of the pin badges.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said he only had two pages to go for the July newsletter.
- Sales - Skip Ely said we had fairly good sales from the APS books this month.

### Show & Tell:

- Skip Ely passed around a listing of the Arlington auction lots he had so far.
- Peter Elias showed the two deck cards he was able to acquire for the recently issued Japanese Americans in WWII and Emilio Sanchez stamps. He also showed an envelope he received from Finland and estimated it took seven weeks to reach him, amongst the contents were a Finnish postcard advertising a DeSoto car and a used personalized Finnish postage stamp with a classic American car.
- Sai Madhavapeddi brought up the recent auction of the British Guiana one cent magenta stamp. A general discussion followed.
- Rick Howell said he brought some short videos, but lacking the ability to access the computer and TV necessary for displaying, they were not shown.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Janet Moyer, Rick Howell, Sai Madhavapeddi and Stanley Christmas.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting ended about 8:05 PM.

The photo to the left is from a 1,000 piece puzzle box with a bird theme that I saw at a Sam's Club store a few months ago.

At first, I thought that these were reproductions of real stamps; I guess the middle one of Malaysia caught my eye first. Some of the other stamps looked "real" initially, but then I realized some definitely weren't real. After all, our postage stamps here don't say "America" on them, nor do British ones say "United Kingdom". They do "look" realistic though. I didn't buy it though, it somehow didn't seem like this 1,000 piece puzzle was that challenging given the designs & colors used, but as a philatelist, it did catch my eye. It was the only one available.



## Dante Alighieri

By Pat & Bob Weidman



Dante Alighieri was the Italian author of the *Divine Comedy*, a poem, that many consider his finest work. Dante was born in May of 1265 in Florence, Italy. In his youth, he joined the army and became very active in the political and military life of Florence. In the 1290s, he held several important positions in the Florentine government. A rival political group, the Guelphs, who opposed him, had him banished from Florence in 1302. He then settled in Ravenna, Italy. On

September 13th or 14th of 1321, he died and was buried in Ravenna.

The United States honored Dante with the issuance of a commemorative stamp, Scott #1268, on July 17, 1965, the 700th anniversary of his birth.

The picture below is a statue of him in Verona, Italy. Pat and I saw it on our Italian vacation in 2013.



## Astrophilatelic Collection on Display Frontiers of Flight Air & Space Museum

By Ray Cartier

I have been invited by the Frontiers of Flight Air & Space Museum adjacent to Love Field in Dallas, to host a table showing some of my Astrophilatelic collectibles on Moon Day, July 24th.

There was no celebration last year, but the year before I hosted a table and the museum had 2,200 guests that day!

I have just made up 70 flyers to hand out to anyone who comes by and shows an interest in philately and which promotes all three of our club's chapters and information about EXPO. Because the bulk of attendees will be from Dallas County, I will also have some flyers about the Dallas, Park Cities Philatelic Society to distribute as well and the APS has sent me a LOT of material to use to acquaint visitors to the table.

I'm also scheduled to have a meeting with their Chairman of Exhibits, about putting my display, "*The Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4 - Ft. Worth Texas*", on display during the month of April 2022. That month will be the 80th Anniversary of the rollout of the first aircraft, a B-24 Bomber, from that facility. If he makes a decision to allow it to be put on display, I would like to take 6 of our frames home with me from EXPO to be used to mount my display, as I did two years ago with my Diamond Awarded "*How We Got Men to the Moon*" exhibit for a 90 day run at the museum.

If any of you want to visit the MOON DAY Celebration you will find it to be a very interesting way to spend a few hours among space and aircraft devotees.

## Comic Strip - Pluggers (Useful Junk Mail)

By Peter Elias

This "Pluggers" comic strip appeared in the March 9, 2021 edition of the Dallas Morning News, and shows a "plugger" making good use of junk mail to keep from getting wet (in lieu of using an umbrella).



related mail (i.e.: an order containing mint stamps for example, or just a cover with nice stamps on it) from my mailbox during a typical torrential north Texas rainfall is NOT a good idea! High moisture is just not good for collectible stamps, especially mint ones! All my mail goes to a PO Box or UPS Store private mail box!



## Burg Rheinfels

By Peter Elias

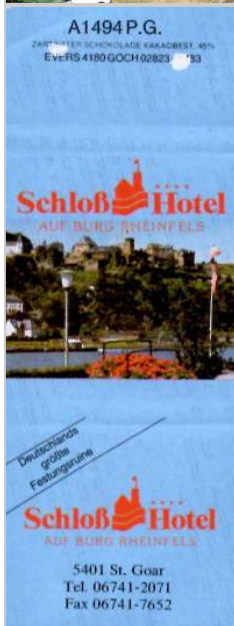


Shown to the left is Germany, Scott #2378 (image from Wikipedia), from 2006, that features [Burg Rheinfels](#), a UNESCO cultural heritage site on the Rhine River in St. Goar (and kind of "just around the river bend" from the fabled "Lorelei").



Rheinfels Castle was started in 1245 and was the largest fortress / castle overlooking the Rhine River.

The image on the left from a German booklet of 10 shows a nice aerial view of the castle as well as a map.



Most of the castle is still a ruin, as the picture above shows. However, some of the outer buildings (as shown on the booklet cover above) have been converted to a "Castle Hotel" and Restaurant.

The picture above is from 2013 and shows a view towards the ruin-side of the castle as you are entering it from the parking lot, while the chocolate wrapper to the left (from 1991) shows a view from across the river.

Technically "Schloss" and "Burg" both refer to 'castle' in German. But technically, a "Burg" is more of a fortress and designed for protection, while a "Schloss" is generally more opulent and designed to repre-



sent the ruling party of the area (or at least a residence for the extremely wealthy).

So as you might guess by now, I've been to Burg Rheinfels twice, once

in 1991, when I did actually go to explore the castle ruins (see entry ticket above - I tend to keep things like this as it makes my photo albums more interesting than just having pictures). On that trip, I was accompanied by an old college friend as we meandered down the Rhine Valley towards Switzerland after having visited Amsterdam and the Netherlands and before heading to Switzerland (to meet up with family).



The 2nd time I was at Burg Rheinfels was shortly after landing in Frankfurt with my son and wife in 2013 as part of a trip to Switzerland. Since my wife's ex-husband lived near Frankfurt at the time (with his wife), we decided to meet up in this great spot, which is only about 40 miles from Frankfurt, so my son could get to see something new as well (it was his first foreign trip at age 10).



During the 2013 visit, we didn't really do a tour of the castle, we basically just had lunch with a great view (before we had to head south towards Singen, Germany). The view from the Burg Rheinfels Restaurant is what you see in the photo above, although that photo I took in 1991 as part of my 1st visit. I guess I liked it enough to come back 22 years later! So the next visit is in what, 2035?



## Addax

by Peter Elias

Looking at the picture below, you'd think I was in Africa on a safari, with an Addax looking into my vehicle. Wrong. You too can see an Addax only about 1 to 2 hours southwest of the DFW metroplex, at the 1,700 acre Fossil Rim Wildlife Ranch & Safari Park in Glen Rose, Texas (which is also home to the Dinosaur Valley State Park).



In September 2020, our family took the brief journey to Glen Rose to do the drive-through tour at Fossil Rim (it was our second time).

Amongst the various wildlife we saw, was the [Addax](#), which is a type of Antelope that is native to the Sahara Desert. It is also known as the "pale antelope" and is distinguished by its twisted horns.

It feeds primarily on grasses and leaves from shrubs and is well adapted to desert living, so I guess it does alright



here in Texas!

In researching the Addax philatelically, there are at least two African countries' stamps that feature the Addax and one from East Germany which apparently had some in its zoo. More info about the Addax is available online at:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addax>



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## MEET & EAT for

July 2021

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.

**--> Official Meet & Eat get-togethers prior to the club meetings are now starting to resume in-person!**

### ARLINGTON

Campo Verde, 2918 W Pioneer Pkwy  
Dalworthington Gardens, TX 76013

### EULESS

Jason's Deli

2200 Airport Freeway, Bedford, TX (817-354-1511)

### GRANBURY

**June 22** - Grumps

3503 East Highway 377, Granbury, TX

**July 27** - Palio's Pizza Café

3710 East Highway 377, Granbury, TX

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse -**  
**June 25-26**

## Wanted to Buy

**Texas Precancel Stamps.** Contact Rick Howell at  
[Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:adjaams@aol.com) Thank you. 2/21

## For Sale

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

**FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version)** of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!)! Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 1/21

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