

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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



#891-076252



CHAPTER  
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 35, Number 3

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

April 2022



## Code Confusion

By Peter Elias

By no means am I an expert on all "codes", but I have experience dealing with them in my past professional life on the packaging engineering & quality control side of things... So when it comes to philately and "codes", there does on occasion seem confusion as to what they are called. Now that "QR" (quick response) codes are commonplace, some people still confuse QR codes with "barcodes". A QR code is a type of "data matrix code" and uses a pattern (i.e.: matrix) of "dots" to encode the information. The QR code at top left decodes as our club's website (try it on your phone).



in a square and a smaller rectangular format as shown to the left.

Traditional postage meters also use the data matrix as shown above left.

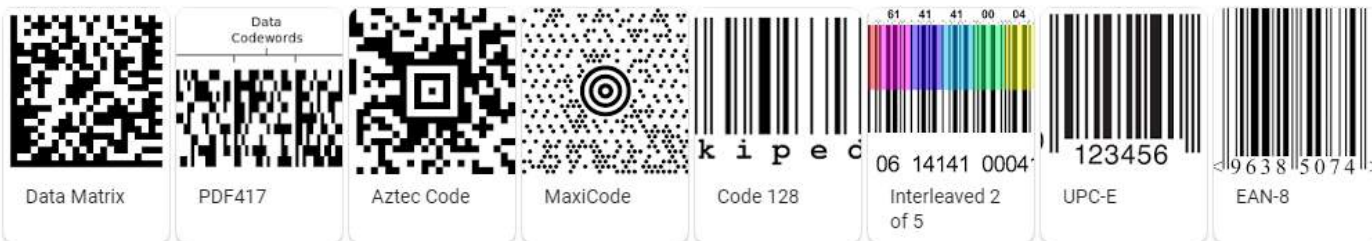
This has been just a very brief introduction to the wonderful world of data matrix & barcodes that are used on postage and by the postal service.

Just remember that barcodes and data matrix codes are different types of codes (even if the chart below calls them all "barcodes")!

## Types of 2D barcodes

A good primer on barcodes is at:

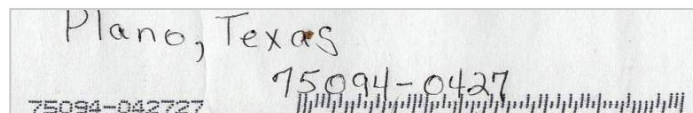
<https://www.premierelectronics.com/blog/barcode-types-identification-understanding>



A "bar code" on the other hand uses, well, "bars". Some examples of those are the 4 codes on the right. Of the codes shown above, most people are familiar with the "UPC" (universal product code) code (2nd one from the right above) and that is used primarily for items scanned at a check-out counter in a store. The "EAN" code is the European version of the UPC code and stands for "European Article Number".

"Code 128" and "Interleaved 2 of 5" are generally reserved for industrial applications or where a "bar code" is needed for things such as inventory item numbers, vendor codes, serial numbers, etc.

Not shown above though, is a type of bar code used by the USPS, and that is the "Postnet" code, a series of short & long dashes that you see on the bottom of envelopes and which are used to codify the destination zip code, as shown below in a cropped scan of an envelope that I recently received.



In the "Types of 2D Barcodes" illustration diagram above, the 2nd code from the left is a "PDF417" code which is used by the USPS, FedEx and airline boarding cards and stamps.com postage as shown at lower left.



The "Data Matrix" code is used on USPS self-service-kiosk stamps, both

## Article Index

## Page #

Code Confusion	1
Editor's Forum	2
Calendar, Secretary's Report & Errata	2
Been There - Done That (Pocket Knives & Jeans)	3
Sponsor List & Expensive Gibbons catalog	3
Tired of the Machines?	4
What's It Worth?	4
Been There - Done That - Rheinfell	5
Club Meeting Minutes	6, 7
Member & Dealer Ads	6, 8, 10, 12
Stamps In The News - Ukraine	7
Comic Strip - Pearls Before Swine	8, 10
Been There - Done That (Charlotte Amalie)	9
President's Letter	9
USPS Deck Cards	9
APS Promo	11
Stamp Packets	11
Comic Strip - Pluggers (Social Media)	11
Meet & Eat Info	12

PDF417 code on stamps.com stamp above is from:

[https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog/](https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/United_States_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog/)

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

### 2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB 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 (which includes an emailed or online newsletter, or \$22 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 write to:

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

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



## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

As always, I have fun looking at photos and then seeing if there's a stamp featuring a related image (or vice versa, seeing a stamp that relates to me somehow and then wondering if I have a photo to go with it).

Remember that if you're trying to come up with your own "Been There..." stories, it doesn't always have to be about "been there", it can be about owned that, which is what the article on page 3 is about, even if it's about some ordinary items. Have fun with this! Surely there must be a stamp that relates to you somehow and that there's a story of your life experience to go with it! Other than any "facts" that go with the stamp, a person's story makes it that much more interesting! Give it a try! Feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

## Errata

In the March 2022 issue:

- On page 1, the Meet & Eat Info was listed in the article index as page 14, it was supposed to be page 12
- On page 3, the last sentence in column 2 was cut-off, it should have read: *This article has just started to skim the surface of what is going on, and hopefully I can provide additional information and details later.*
- On page 6, the "Post Office Reject" article was submitted by Ken Wills, not Ken Aldridge. My apologies!

## Thank You!

To Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps in Dallas for donating a car full (many boxes) of various items (stamps, covers and albums).

## Coming Attractions

### 2022

<b>MAR. 22</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	Dave Stockbridge presenting "Stamps of Selected Dead Russian Countries".
<b>APR. 6</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	Ken Aldridge presents "Crazy FBI Mail"
<b>APR. 8 - 9</b>	<b>TSDA Bourse</b>
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)	
<b>APR. 20</b>	<b>MCSC—EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>APR. 26</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>MAY 4</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	Semi-Annual Auction
<b>MAY 18</b>	<b>MCSC—EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	By Stan Christmas, topic is TBD
<b>MAY 21</b>	<b>MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting</b>
Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington @ 11 AM	
<b>JUN. 1</b>	<b>MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
<b>JUN. 15</b>	<b>MCSC - EULESS Meeting</b>

## Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

### Applications Received:

n/a

### New Members:

n/a

### Reinstatements:

n/a

### Dropped for non-payment of dues:

n/a

### Membership Summary – March 16, 2022

Membership as of February 15, 2022	94
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of February 15, 2022	94





## Pocket Knives & Jeans

By Peter Elias



As I was flipping through one of my the Swiss Postal Service yearbooks for 2006, I saw the stamp you see on the left, Scott #1248. This was part of a set of 2 that commemorated Swiss Army Knives.

Looking through one of my desk drawers, I found one of my old Victorinox Swiss Army Knives. It is virtually identical to the one shown on the stamp, the major difference being mine doesn't have, what appears to be, the screw driver that is shown to the right of the saw blade.

But given that there's at least 100 different models of these knives with a variety of different functions (and from two manufacturers, Wenger & Victorinox), I'd say it's a pretty good match! This knife I've used so much, that the cross logo on the red side has worn off (although there's an outline barely visible if you look at it in person).

The stamp above also show a pair of blue jeans in the background.



So now that I've tied the stamp to me via the pocket knife, how about the jeans? Well, I haven't worn jeans of any kind in for at least 15 years now, however, the picture above shows me in around 1985 wearing jeans! At the time, I was working at an Amoco gas station in Lansing, Michigan. So this photo double-ties me to the Swiss stamp! And yes, I would have had a Swiss pocket knife in my jeans pockets at that time (and have pretty much since childhood).



And to top it off, the photo above was also used in a sheet of 20 "PictureItPostage" stamps that I ordered a few years back, when rates were still 37¢

I did a search to see if there are regular postage featuring a Ford LTD, I couldn't find any featuring my 1973 Ford LTD shown in the photo, however, Lesotho did feature a later model 1985 Ford LTD. The illustration above is from an eBay lot by seller bed-daustamps.



## MCSC 2022 Sponsor List

By Skip Ely

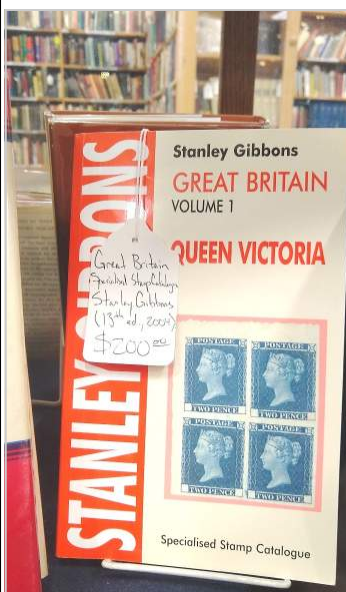
The following members made a sponsor membership of \$25 or more. The club thanks them for their generosity.

Eugene Atkinson  
Steve Carpenter  
Tom Cunningham  
Peter Elias  
Alliene Franklin  
Rick & Donna Howell  
Gary McNamee  
Penni Phelps  
Michael Smith  
Ben Termini  
Art Von Reyn  
Kenneth Wills

James Camak  
Judy & Stanley Christmas  
Jack Dykhous  
Skip & Beverly Ely  
James L. Higgins  
Al Little  
Jim & Madeleine Myers  
Ralph & Patty Poore  
David Stockbridge  
Bob Thompson  
John Withers

## Expensive Stanley Gibbons Catalog

By Peter Elias



On February 26, I was at the large Half Price Books store in Dallas.

As usual, their regular "collectibles" section did not contain anything of interest (just a few older catalogs and general stamp collecting book by Sutton).

When I was in the section where more expensive books were inside a locked glass cabinet, I saw that this 2004 (13th edition) copy of a Stanley Gibbons "Great Britain, volume 1, Queen Victoria" stamp catalog.

Looking at the price tag, I couldn't believe what I saw: \$200 ! I mean, what on earth would make that 18 year-old catalog worth that kind of money; it's not as if Queen Vic

herself autographed it...

Poking around the internet, I do find that various editions of this book, even ones back to 1996 do seem to carry a hefty price tag of \$40 or so. On [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), I found a used copy of this book (soft cover) for \$66.09 + \$6.44 for shipping (and about half that price for the hardcover version). While that's still fairly pricey, it is a long ways from \$200 !

I didn't really have time though to engage a store employee as to why the price was priced so high. **Caveat emptor!**



## Tired of the Machins?

By Rick Howell

For those of you who have been complaining about the British definitive "Machin" stamps which feature the profile of Queen Elizabeth II, something new (well, relatively new) is in the works. Effective January 31, 2023, the Machins as we know them will no longer be valid for postage. They are being replaced by new Machin stamps which include a barcode next to the Queen's head.



*New British Definitive Stamp  
(example from [HipStamp auction site](#))*

The reports I have read indicate that the barcode can be scanned with your cell phone and will link you to a site containing an animation or information the Royal Mail deems appropriate. The barcode is also a unique identifier for each piece of mail to be used to provide tracking services to help cut down on mail theft or things that get "lost in the mail".

I would assume the Royal Mail would be able to track any individual who uses a credit or debit card to purchase the stamp, or perhaps even link cash purchases by utilizing facial recognition technology at the point of sale and provide tracking from origin to destination.

Supposedly, some of the barcoded stamps were used over the last Christmas season to give the new stamps a "trial run". I haven't seen any of these as of yet, however, they might make an interesting addition to your collection if you are so inclined.

The new Machins will come in a series of new colors which should come as no surprise to Machin collectors. The regular first-class stamps will be purple; second-class will be green; first-class large letters stamps will be turquoise; second-class large letters stamps will be dark green.

Royal Mail encourages their customers to use their non-barcode stamps prior to their expiration date, however they are also offering a "Swap Out" beginning on March 31, 2022 where you can exchange the old stamps for new ones. If the Brits are having the same problem with counterfeit stamps that we are in this country, they may get more stamps back than they produced.

See you guys at the next meeting!

## What about denominated Machins?

By Peter Elias

I've also read various info in Linn's about the "new Machins". And while they talk about various 1st-class, 2nd-class, etc, Machins with 2D-Matrix codes being produced, I don't recall

## What is it worth?

By Peter Elias



Pretty much most stamps collectors have seen this stamp at some point, Germany #510 from 1941, one of the 24 stamps in a set of what we call "Hitler Heads", that were issued between 1941 to 1944, in denominations ranging from 1 pfennig to 5 Marks.

The lower denominations, such as the 6 pf violet/purple stamp shown here, were typographed, while values starting at 10 pfennigs were engraved. Values starting at 25 pfennigs were slightly larger as well. All values from 1 to 80 pfennig have just the "minimum" catalog value of 25¢ in MNH condition; the 1 Mark being 45¢, and the 2 to 5 Mark being \$1.60 to \$3.25 in the 2018 Scott catalog. So basically, all of the lower values are pretty much worthless from a dealer perspective.

So where am I going with this? Well, for the first time in living in the DFW area for over 32 years, I had a chance to go to the "First Monday Trade Days" in Canton. At one of the dealer booths, I saw a guy that had a few stamps for sale, and he was proudly selling various Hitler head stamps, such as the one shown for around \$5 each, stating that they were "vintage World War II" stamps. Yes, that they are, but No, they are not worth the kind of price he wanted. He even had a somewhat tattered strip of 10 from the edge of a sheet that was only \$85! Yikes.

I was trying to explain to him that he is way overpricing these stamps, and his explanation is that people are buying them from him at those prices, but he wasn't budging on lowering any prices. I would not want to be one of the hapless buyers years from now when they think that they're sitting on valuable WWII artifacts that are worth something! That said, I've got at least 20 of the stamp shown above, all in pristine MNH condition in one of my stock books. If I ever go back to the "Trade Days", maybe I could sell him mine for only a \$1 each, since he could still make a profit selling them for \$5. But that wouldn't seem right, would it? So, when you see someone selling really cheap stamps for outrageous prices, what do YOU do or say to the seller? Caveat Emptor!

anything being mentioned about "denominated" stamps.

I'd have to believe that there is still going to be a need for denominated Machins, so that people can use those for various rates that are outside of "1st-class", etc.

Just as here in the USA, I use FOREVER stamps to pay for part of the postage along with many older denominated stamps to cover the full rate.


Another question is: if you buy a sheet (or booklet of these stamps), for Royal Mail to track this back to the purchaser of the stamps, wouldn't EVERY stamp on a sheet or booklet have to be scanned in order to trace it back to the purchaser? What if one person buys these for a small store for example, and then sells them on to their customers to use, then that they wouldn't really have actual traceability of who used them, only who bought them, would they?





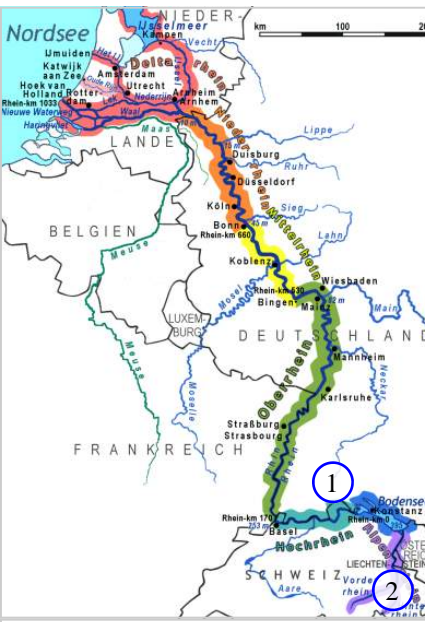


In 2015, Switzerland issued this nice triptych of stamps featuring the Rheinfall (Rhine Falls as we call them), Scott #1558. The falls have also been featured on other Swiss stamps, such as Scott #234 from 1936, and also #225 from 1934.

 The Rhine Falls are located in northern Switzerland, in Neuhausen am Rheinflall (just south of the city of Schaffhausen, near the German border). The falls were located only about 38 miles from where I lived during my (almost) 10-month “work vacation” in 1986 (i.e.: I worked Monday-Friday’s, and had a 2-day vacation in Switzerland almost every weekend!).



At one point in 1986, I took the picture shown above (well, one of several, this is the best). Obviously taken after dark, I had to position my 35mm film camera (no digital cameras back then!) on a ledge and took several photos of varying exposure lengths. As a result, the water had a nice "foamy" look to it!



Map image above from:  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:Threedots>

de of the falls, and you can climb it, which I did, but don't have a photo of that (except for one I took of my supervisor). I have no clue as to who the people in the boat, my supervisor was sitting behind me.

The Rhine Falls (#1 on the map) is along the Rhine River is the 2nd longest river in Central & Western Europe at 760 miles in length. It starts in the Swiss alps (#2) and continues through the Bodensee (i.e.: Lake Constance), westward a bit, then north, dividing Germany & France and exiting to the North Sea in the Netherlands.

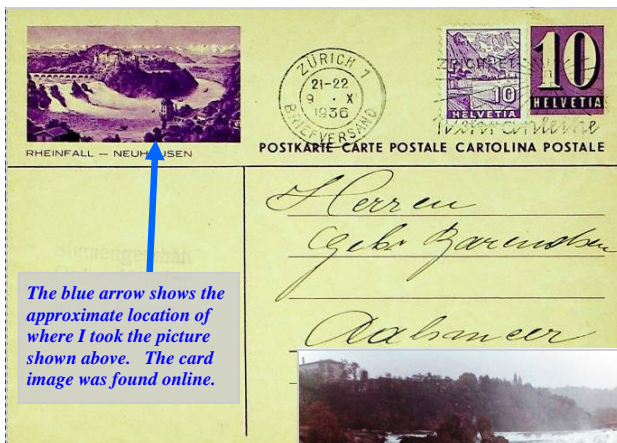
I've been to the Rhine Falls several times, not just in 1986, but always on the northern side; I've never had a chance to visit whatever castle is situated on the south side, although there is a viewing platform there as well.

On the map above, #2 shows where the Rhine River originates from various sources in the Grisons region of the Swiss Alps. The picture I took shown on the left is of the Rhine Gorge (sometimes called the "Grand Canyon of Switzerland") that is on the "Vorderrhein" tributary, not to far from Flims, where we once vacationed in 1983 and went hiking in the area (from the top all the way to the river edge), during the last major hiking vacation with the parents when we were younger.

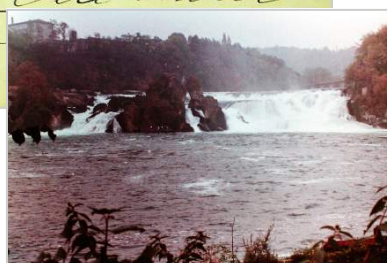
As always, one stamp (a strip of 3 in this case), triggered a whole of memories for me!

There's more info about the Rhine River and Rhine Falls at:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhine> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhine\\_Falls](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhine_Falls)



I took the picture to the right at a later time during 1986, when I visited there with my new supervisor.



## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2022

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

- 27 members attended our second meeting of the year (remember, the February meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather).

### Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. He said the next meeting will be on April 6 and we still need a program. The following meeting in May will be the semi-annual club auction; lots should be turned in to Skip by the next meeting.
- Treasury - Judy gave the exact treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we still had 94 members after all was said and done with renewals. He said the updated member handbooks were now available (and mail-outs will begin shortly).

### Committee Reports:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore said the next EXPO planning meeting will be on March 19 at Spring Creek BBQ in Arlington. He mentioned that our theme would be "Veterans" and encouraged members to dress the part if they can.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said the next newsletter was underway.
- Sales - Skip Ely reminded everyone that the stamps from Dave Stockbridge's Oklahoma Stamp Society sales books were available at 50% off the net price.

### Announcements:

- Peter Elias mentioned that the Dallas Post Card Show was coming up on March 11-12 in Plano.
- Bob Coleman said he found Rick Howell's presentation about selling stamp collections (at Granbury last month) very useful.

### Show & Tell:

- Ralph Poore showed three RPO covers and briefly talked about their cancels.
- Peter Elias had several items. One was a cigar box full of bundled stamps (about 15,000 of them!). Another was a roll of labels that looked like stamps. He also mentioned an envelope he sent to Lesotho that was missent to St. Lucia instead and returned to him. Then he showed some first day covers that were glued onto paper and ruined. Finally, he showed some sheets of counterfeit internet stamps that he had acquired on eBay.
- Gene Pfretzschner passed around an artistically addressed wedding invitation.
- Ken Aldridge showed a revenue stamped paper he found in a U.S. Specialized catalog (catalog value \$10).
- Ray Cartier showed an envelope that had been delayed in the mail for a couple of months.
- Ben Termini showed a "Dear John" letter he found (except in this case it was "Dear Dick").

### Program:

- Skip Ely presented a slide show on identifying the 13

different Liberty Bell Forever stamps.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Ray Cartier, Rick Howell, Andy Lacko, Dave Stockbridge and Bob Coleman.

### Conclusion:

- The meeting concluded about 8:00 PM.

## Granbury Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2022

By Madeleine Myers

### Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order on February 22 at 7:00 PM at the Bentwater Activity Center, Granbury, TX.

### Show & Tell:

- The meeting started with Show & Tell of items brought by the 9 members in attendance.

### Announcements:

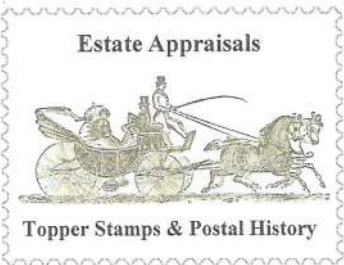
- Jim Case reminded members to bring items for the 2022 EXPO Granbury Mystery Box. He indicated that last year we provided 2 Mystery Boxes and that they were sought after and they sold at the "buy-it-now" prices.
- Dave Stockbridge noted that he had lined up programs for all the Granbury meetings for 2022 except April. However, at the March Arlington meeting, Ray Cartier had agreed to do the April program [note: moved to the June meeting]. Programs will be given by several club members including Stanley Christmas, Jim Case, Ken Wills, Skip Ely, Jim Myers and Gary McNamee. Denny Ludlow and Dave Stockbridge will conduct a Club Auction in September that all members are welcome enter items and to either remotely or in person.

### Program:

- The program for the evening was a video shown by Rick Howell on "What are the benefits of buying stamps at auction". The 35 minute video reviews reasons for both buying and selling at auctions. The video is one of the many that Rick has available.

### Door Prizes:

- The meeting was concluded with the drawing of 3 \$10 door prizes won by Denny Ludlow, Jim Myers & Madeleine Myers.



Jonathan Topper  
10480 Grant Road  
Suite 117  
Houston, TX 77070  
832.518.6558

[jonathan@topperstamps.com](mailto:jonathan@topperstamps.com)  
[www.topperstamps.com](http://www.topperstamps.com)



## MCSC Euless Meeting Minutes March 16, 2022

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

- 10 members attended the meeting on a warm, pleasant evening.

### Opening:

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

### Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas was absent, but Stanley mentioned that we had paid the bill to the Grapevine Convention Center for Expo in November.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said he would be mailing the updated member handbooks by the end of the week.

### Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said sales were normal.
- Newsletter - Peter said the next newsletter was almost finished.
- EXPO – Stanley reminded everyone of the Expo Planning Meeting Saturday, March 19.
- Web Page - Evan said we needed to update the Expo information on the page.

### Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed how he had made a clear protector for large blocks of stamps.
- Rick Howell talked about how he had cleaned up some dirty, smelly stamps. He also displayed a half and one pound worldwide mixtures he planned to offer to club members for about a penny a stamp.
- Peter Elias showed a post card he had received from Belarus. He also showed some stamp-like labels he had purchased from China. He finished by showing a large number of fake U.S. stamps that were being sold on eBay as legitimate postage.

### Program:

- Ken Wills presented a DVD from a 1936 British film titled "Night Mail" (very interesting!).

### Gift Certificates:

Were awarded to Peter Elias and Ken Wills.

### Adjournment::

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.



Members viewing the "Night Train" documentary

## Stamps In The News - Ukraine

By Peter Elias



Stamps usually aren't a subject on major news channels, but I was watching CNN on March 14, and they mentioned that the Ukrainian Postal Service has issued a new stamp (see screen shot) and it features a Ukrainian soldier giving the finger to a Russian naval vessel. Presumably that stamp won't be usable for any mail addressed to Russia?

The New York Post had the image shown below on their website at <https://nypost.com/2022/03/14/ukraine-launches-stamp-honoring-snake-island-soldiers/>



As far as I know, the images shown are based on the winning entry of a contest, but I haven't seen any confirmation yet about when (if?) this stamp will actually be issued by Ukraine.

I tried to access the Ukrainian postal service website, but can't seem to access it on my Windows 10 computer, regardless of whether I'm using Chrome, Firefox or the AVG Secure Browser; yet, on my Android Smartphone, I can get to their website using the phone's Chrome browser, every time it briefly flashes up a set of links on the left side, then a white screen with a bouncing Ukraine postal service logo. I haven't figured this out yet... Although a friend of mine has been able to see that website fully without any problems on his Windows 10 PC and Chrome.

The Ukrainian postal service website is available at <http://ukrposhta.ua/en> (except I can't view it...).

# 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 CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
  - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
  - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
  - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
  - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
  - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
  - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
  - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 11/21

**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](mailto:jstrubel-boy@aol.com) 12/14

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

## Comic Strip - Pearls Before Swine (Registered Philatelist)

By Peter Elias



one pokes fun at philatelists, and I'm sure that some people out there think the same way when you tell them that you are a "philatelist"... Perhaps they're confusing "philatelist" with some other word (some other "...phile" perhaps?), certainly if you tell them you are registered philatelist, they're probably not taking that in a good way. In the context of the first panel, if you look up people online that are "registered" in your neighborhood, uh, they're surely not philatelists ... So, while I do think that this cartoon is hilarious and I got a good chuckle out of it ... but...

Just for due diligence, I googled "philatelists near me" and "philatelists in my neighborhood map", the only results I get on page 1 results are for various philatelic organizations, items for sale and a sidebar ad for Park Cities Stamps in Dallas. So no "registered philatelists near me", but then I do know of a neighbor down the street who does collect stamps when I met her at her garage sale a couple of years ago (but she's not very active).

This "Pearls Before Swine" comic strip was published in the February 23, 2022 issue of the Dallas Morning News (and unfortunately, the newspaper, despite being bagged, landed on the street and some water got into it, thus the left side of the scan doesn't look so good...).

*Pearls Before Swine* is one of my favorite comic strips, and this



## Charlotte Amalie

By Pat & Bob Weidman



The picture shown at bottom of the article is of Charlotte Amalie, on the island of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands and is its capital city Charlotte Amalie was named after

the wife of King Christian V of Denmark.

The Virgin Islands were a possession of Denmark up until 1917 when they were purchased by the United States.

In 1493, Christopher Columbus discovered the Virgin Islands on his second voyage to the New World. He claimed them for Spain, however, the Spanish did not establish any settlements there.

In the 1600's, Denmark, the Dutch Republic (the Netherlands), England and France all established settlements in the islands. Denmark set up a permanent settlement on the island of St. Thomas in 1672, followed by a settlement on St. John in 1717. In 1733, they purchased St. Croix from the French.

Pat and I vacation there a number of years ago. We stayed at the Frenchmans Reef resort where the picture was taken from, looking across the bay to Charlotte Amalie.

The U.S. stamp showing Charlotte Amalie is Scott #802, issues on December 15, 1937 (along with stamps for the other territories of Hawaii, Alaska & Puerto Rico).



## President's Letter

By Rich Hildebrandt

Greetings again. It was very nice to see so many members at our March Arlington meeting. I guess the nice weather helps out.

We had a good general meeting and a very informative program from Skip. Thank you Skip for all of the things you do for the club.

On the subject of meetings, I attended the Eulless gathering for the first time specifically to see the program that Ken Wills provided. It was an old British documentary film on the overnight mail train service between London and Scotland. I can't resist anything involving trains! Ken supplied the DVD and a brief overview of the film. Part of my point in bringing this up is that programs don't have to be complicated or that a great deal of time and effort to prepare is required. Thanks Ken for an excellent presentation. As usual we are always looking for new programs for our meetings.

A quick reminder: May is the semi-annual live auction in Arlington. Please bring your lots to the April meeting or make arrangements with Skip.

Answer to last month's trivia question: The Department of the Post Office was created by order of President George Washington in 1792.

## USPS Deck Cards

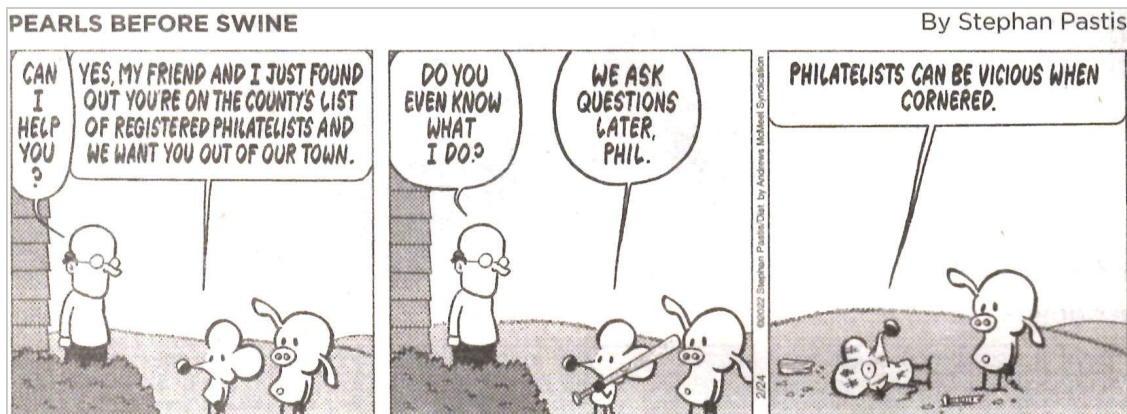
By Peter Elias

Sometime last year (2021), the USPS was no longer automatically shipping entire "pads" (generally 100 panes) to post offices. That means the local supervisor has to order new stamps, and they won't generally order entire pads, and without a full pad, you can't get a "deck card" ... Below is the first one I've gotten in many months!



## Comic Strip - Pearls Before Swine (Vicious Philatelist)

by Peter Elias



go to the neighbor's house to pay a visit to this person, and ask him to leave (due to their ignorance as to what a "philatelist" is).

While the "philatelist" answers with asking if they even know what a philatelist is, the 3rd panel implies a violent turn of events. So, while I am open-minded and certainly got a chuckle out the February 23 cartoon (page 9) that pokes at "philatelists" and was in a light vein, this particular one I have an issue with. Sure, it's meant to be humorous, but it seems to imply something that I don't think is true, and does a disservice to all philatelists!

Does Stephan Pastis, this comic strip's creator, have something against philatelists (or stamp collectors in general)? What are your thoughts about this particular strip (and the one that preceded it)? Let's get some "letters to the editor" going on this one (that could be letters or e-mails to Stamping Around, or even mainstream media...).

On a side-note, check out this website: <https://www.gocomics.com/pearlsbeforeswine/2022/02/23?comments=visible#comments> where people put in comments on the previous day's (February 23) Pearls Before Swine comic strip. Some of the comments are hilarious, others just ignorant, and some are just "huh?".



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters see the club's private groups.io website)



### stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



- \* TSDA
- \* TEXPEX
- \* HOUPEX
- \* EXPO

US/WW Classics, Modern, SONs

Visit our new online store

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

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



Exp. 12/22

[cunninghamstamps@aol.com](mailto:cunninghamstamps@aol.com)

Exp. 12/22

(214) 546-1179

*Cunningham Philatelics*

Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items  
Stamps and Covers

Collections  
Appraisals

**THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM**  
APS # 082424, TSDA

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



Exp. 12/22

Specializing in United States Stamps  
Member APS, ASDA, NSDA

**Kirk McKenzie**  
[kirkmckenzie@cox.net](mailto:kirkmckenzie@cox.net)

1001 North Fulton  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115  
918-836-1681



## APS Promo

By Rick Howell

If there are any of our members who are not members of the American Philatelic Society, I want to encourage you to join.

The APS is the largest philatelic organization in the world, and they go way above and beyond to promote the hobby. Their monthly magazine "The American Philatelist" provides useful articles and invaluable information about philately.

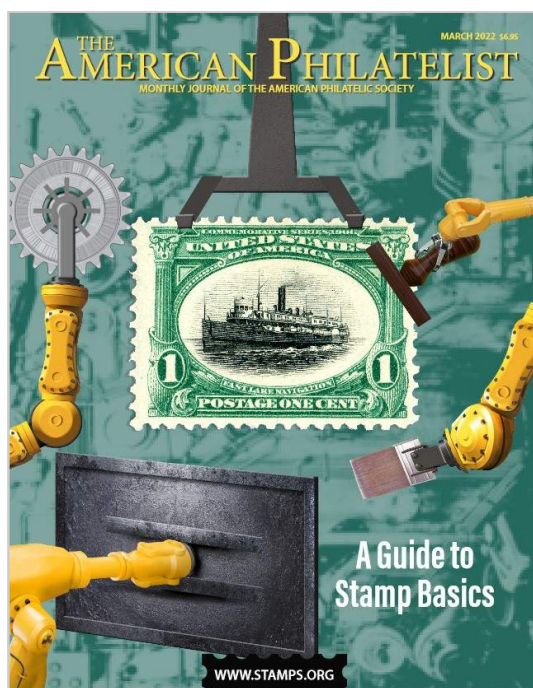
For instance, the March 2022 issue is a comprehensive guide to the basics of stamp production and how to determine what classifications your stamps fall into. This issue contains two articles on stamp gum; four articles on stamp paper; and four articles on printing, all written by some of the leading experts in the field. Just the information in this issue of the AP is well worth the cost of membership. As a benefit of membership, you have access to all the back issues of the American Philatelist which incidentally began printing in January of 1887!

The APS membership also includes use of the American Philatelic Research Library which includes access to many stamp club newsletters and journals, digital books, videos, maps, exhibits, and even the APS reference collection.

The APS provides services for members to buy and sell stamps online, to get stamps expertized, and provides access to stamp insurance for your collection.

They also have online courses to help you learn about philately, and provide directories of dealers in your area, along with directories of local philatelic organizations.

To learn more about the American Philatelic Society, log on to their website at [www.stamps.org](http://www.stamps.org) and check out their offerings. I think you will be impressed. If you don't have access to a computer, see me at the next meeting, and I will get you in touch with the APS.



## Stamp Packets

By Peter Elias

Do you remember these (or similar items)?:



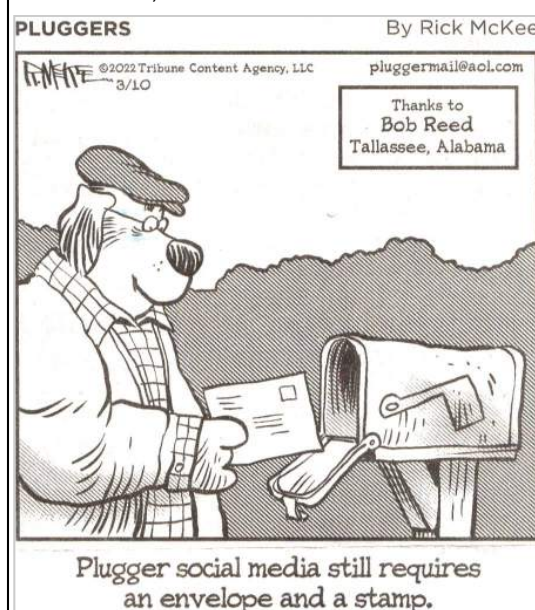
I sure do. Seems like it was that long ago. The back of this H.E. Harris "HonorBilt" packet has a copyright dated 1972 (on the back). 29¢ seems expensive for 1972. In today's dollars, that would be \$1.97! Now, in 1972, 29¢ would have bought you 1 gallon of gas; today, \$1.97 will buy you only ½ gallon of gas in Texas, and even less in other parts of the USA!

That all said, getting these 8 stamps for any price is paying too much! I've probably got a couple of thousand of these type of older used USA stamps in my "give-away" pile! But it is always interesting to see how stamps were sold 5 decades ago; I remember that these were available at certain stores, such as "Woolworth". Now the only general stores with any stamps at all is Hobby Lobby, and they don't have much ...

## Comic Strip - Pluggers (Social Media)

By Peter Elias

This "Pluggers" comic strip was published in the March 10, 2022 issue of the Dallas Morning News.



As always, the "Pluggers" strip illustrates some point regarding doing something the "old-fashioned" way. In this, that a "Pluggers" are more likely to use an envelope and stamp rather than internet "social media". And that's not a bad thing!



## MEET & EAT for

April 2022

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.

--> See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

### ARLINGTON

April 6 Campo Verde, 2918 W Pioneer Pkwy  
Arlington, TX 76013 (817) 275-7003

### EULESS

April 20 Chedder's, 937 Airport Fwy  
Bedford, TX (817) 540 0778

### GRANBURY

April 22 Palio's Pizza Cafe, 3710 East Hwy 377  
Granbury, TX

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

## 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

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

—> YOUR FREE AD COULD BE HERE <— !  
(for MCSC club members only)

**Don't Forget:**  
**TSDA Dealer Bourse - Apr. 8 - 9**