

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)



Volume 38, Number 12

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

December 2025

38th EXPO

Another Success!

By Peter Elias

At this year's show, I first headed to Jonathan Topper's booth where I spent an hour or two going through his boxes of foreign dollar covers. I managed to find about 55 items. At first glance, at least 4 of these are good candidates for newsletter articles, and several other items will need some researching.

In the photo above, it shows my son Marcos helping Kurt Harding of Stamp Center of Texas with hauling in the various boxes during set-up night (Nov. 6); he also helped him move all the boxes at the end of the show.

While I didn't get to chat with all the dealers at EXPO, the ones I spoke with all seemed to have had a good show! And I was told that our entry area mini-exhibits were also viewed by various people!

The silent auction did well and all lots were sold! The beginning collector's table was able to help out several people, albeit there was only one child present according to Skip.

At Steve Carpenter's table, I saw this nice Great Britain Penny Black. There was a reason why that particular one caught my attention for a moment. For the small project I've had in mind for many years, I would need 2 other very specific Penny Blacks as well. Let me know if you can guess what I'm looking for and what I'd be intending on showing...



The small table above right shows this year's attendance (as per Janet Moyer). There's a separate row for members / volunteers vs. "walk-ins" (i.e.: non-members...). So it was a bit less (-11%) compared to last year. Given that we have over 100 members, it's a bit sad to see that only 39 members attended (most were there on both days, especially the EXPO volunteers). I know that we have several members that can't make it due to various reasons (age, driving ability, out-of-state), but it would be nice if more could attend. Bottom line though is, if the dealers are happy, we get to have another show (so literally the bottom is just that!).

From a "marketing" perspective, we are primarily "preaching to the choir", just 125 to 153 non-member attendees per day isn't very much, considering we're in a metroplex area of over 8 million people! Where are all the other stamp collectors? Do they know of the club or the show? Other "hobby" shows, such as coin shows at this same location (and which DO charge



Photo by Peter Elias

| | Friday | Saturday | Total 2025 | Total 2024 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Walk-ins | 153 | 125 | 278 | 315 |
| Members | 20 | 19 | 39 | 42 |
| Total | 173 | 144 | 317 | 356 |

admission) have up to 10 times as many attendees. I get that more people means more security concerns, but in 2019 we had 400+ visitors, 434 in 2018, 375 in 2017 and 400+ in 2016.

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area! Dues are only \$12 per year (which includes an emailed or online color newsletter, or \$22 for mailed black & white newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

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

Coming Attractions

2025

NOV. 25 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Presented by Jim Myers

DEC. 3 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Christmas Party & EXPO debrief

DEC. 12-13 TSDA Bourse

Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)

DEC. 17 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting

--> NO MEETING, see you in 2026

DEC. 23 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

--> NO MEETING, see you in 2026

2026

JAN. 7 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: TBD

JAN. 21 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

JAN. 27 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

FEB. 4 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: TBD

FEB. 18 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

This newsletter issue will be the last one for "volume 38"! Another year, another volume in the can.

The "LaGuardia" article once again shows that you can enhance illustrating your life with stamps, and learn something in the process!

Errata

By Peter Elias

Whoops! I accidentally published the article "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" twice! Originally it was in the October 2025 issue (page 14), and again in the November 2025 issue (page 13). That was unfortunately an artifact of how I produce this newsletter...

When I'm done with an issue, I copy it to a new file name for the next month, then in that new file, basically delete all previous articles, leaving just empty text boxes and then change the issue dates and other data around for the new month. For some reason (probably because I was distracted or it was 2 AM at the time...), I did not delete the text from that particular page. It happens. I do it this way so that I don't have to start each month with a total blank slate, as the "structure" of the newsletter is essentially the same each month (and some information carries over, such as personal and dealer ads); I then just have to fill in the empty boxes with new text & illustrations. And I rarely ever revisit a previous month's issue.



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

- Jackie Burk (#693) collects: Wonder Woman, Marilyn Monroe, Cats, Petroleum, Odd Shapes, Fine Arts, Music, Authors
- Marshall Wintson (#694) collects: USA, Revenue, Canada, China
- Allen Brown (#695) collects: USA, Canal Zone
- Richard Laster (#696) collects: Covers
- David Fanale (#697) collects: USA & Canada

New Members:

- Scott C. Walker (#691) collects: Postal History, UK & Commonwealth (especially Scottish material), Africa, Caribbean, NC & TX History, International Space and Airmail (especially Shuttle & Concorde, and flown covers in particular).
- Ruth Rechsteiner (#692) collects: US Stamps

Reinstated:

- Keith Parris (#559)
- Scott English (#629-L)

Membership Summary – November 19, 2025

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Membership as of October 15, 2025 | 103 |
| Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month) | 5 |
| New Members | 2 |
| Reinstatements | 2 |
| Membership as of November 19, 2025 | 107 |

On the First Day of Christmas...

By Dan Golden

This is a Christmas story, though I would understand your confusion when I tell you that it begins around Easter. This past April during Holy Week (the days leading up to Easter), I tested positive for COVID. A couple of days later, my wife and daughter both took COVID tests that turned up positive as well. Rules being rules, we couldn't go anywhere. The whole family would now be quarantined together! Our Easter holiday was literally the three of us streaming an Easter Mass on YouTube, crafting an Easter "banquet" from leftover food in the fridge, and calling our families via FaceTime to say "Happy Easter!" It was like being transported back to the height of the pandemic in 2020.

I hate feeling sick and helpless, so as soon as I felt able to, I began working from home to catch up on what I'd missed and return to being a productive member of society. The whole week after Easter was spent in quarantine to let our germs run their course and ensure we would not be contagious by the time we stepped back out into the world. But that week was not a vacation by any means. I had work to get done. I needed to be present on my work laptop and be able to take calls, but quarantine meant that we were sharing the house with—*GASP*—a toddler! And this was not a special toddler that could keep herself occupied. She follows the same line of logic of an average toddler that demands above average entertainment at a near constant rate! But how could I entertain her when I had work to do?

I have to give credit to my wife here, as she fell on that grenade and took the brunt of its force throughout the week. Victoria, if you're reading this, I love you! She kept our daughter Martha busy by playing with blocks, drawing with crayons, and reading. One of the books that Martha requested be read to her was "The 12 Days of Christmas," seen here, to which my wife acquiesced.

Around this time, Martha had a habit of finishing a book with us, turning it over back to the front cover (see below), and asking us to read it again. She of course did the same with the "The 12 Days of Christmas" book, and since Martha asked nicely my wife again conceded. Then she did it again, so they read it again, and again, and again. I don't know for sure how many times they read the book, but at some point during this process, my wife shared with Martha the fact that "The 12 Days of Christmas" is actually a song too. If there is anything that Martha loves more than reading, it is singing. Combining the two makes for a lethal combination of toddler entertainment.

It didn't take long for Martha to latch onto the song and demand more of it, and my wife continued to oblige. Eventually the song that started simply with singing and turning pages morphed to include instruments. At some point I stepped out of our office to take a break, only to hear Victoria's playing guitar and Martha's arrhythmic drumming on a popcorn tin while they both sang/read the "12 Days of Christmas" on repeat. I couldn't help but laugh at the scenario I had stumbled upon. We had celebrated Christ's rising from the dead yesterday, but now they were singing a song commemorating his birth? It was hard not to find humor in the situation.

Of course, Martha didn't know any of that. To her, we were just singing a new song that she thought was catchy and had fallen in love with. I'm still trying to figure out what about that song hooked her so strongly. I don't know if it

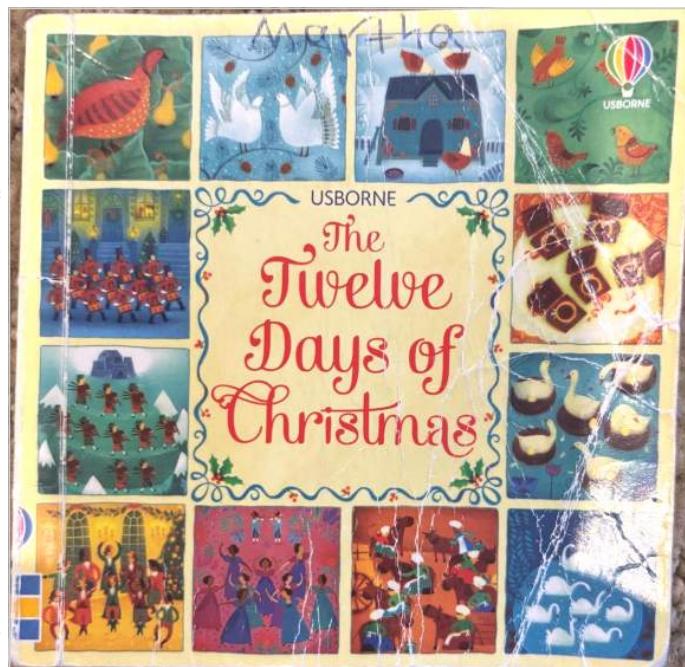
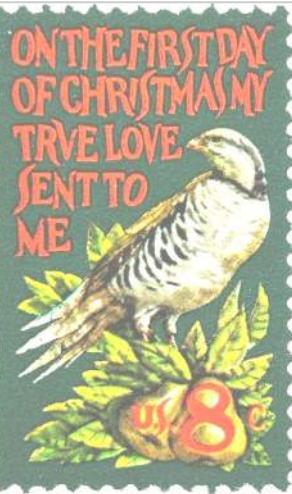
was the inclusion of numbers counting up to 12. Maybe it's the addition of new gifts given by the true love that makes each verse just a little longer than the previous one. Maybe it's just the sheer number of times she gets to name and sing about a bird. Perhaps it's a combination of all of the above, but something about that song has made it an ear worm for her since that day.

Naturally, that book has become her favorite book. It has even become a security blanket of sorts for her. She'll take it with her to school or on trips. She'll bring it to the museum or the zoo and flip through it, singing it to herself all the while. Sometimes she'll even try to sleep with it! The original copy of the book has been so heavily used that it's torn, tattered, and falling apart. We got a second copy of the book to replace the worn out original, but it met the same fate. So now we are actually on our third copy of the book simply because of its popularity and overuse in our household. To protect the book from being damaged like its predecessors, we have even had to hide it on occasion and bring it out only for special appearances when Martha behaves well.

All of this is to say that I recently came across this stamp in a packet I received at the EXPO Chance Board a couple of weeks ago. Immediately I thought of Martha and the book that is her most prized possession. Seen here is US #1445, issued for the Christmas season in 1971. This 8¢ stamp practically spells out the first verse of the song that Martha is so obsessed with. The text in the upper left half reads, "ON THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS MY TRUE LOVE SENT TO ME." The image in the lower right half essentially finishes the verse for us by showing a partridge in a pear tree!

It's not the prettiest stamp in the world, but I have to recognize a brilliant design with brilliant execution when I see it. This stamp brings the song to life at a quick glance, pointing our hearts and minds toward the Christmas season with the same eagerness and joy that Martha has for Christmas! My only critique of this stamp is that the green background gives it a bit of a harsh look upon first glance. I personally think it would have looked better on a white background. But I digress.

I'm actually rather shocked I've never encountered this stamp before. I love Christmas and it's even the theme for one of my topical collections. I'm fairly certain Martha has developed her own love for Christmas by observing my love for it too. As you might imagine, I am going to hang onto this stamp and include it in Martha's small (but growing) stamp collection. In a few years, or at least once she can be trusted to not look at a stamp and try to crumple it up in her hands, I will show her this and a few other stamps that she might have a personal connection with. Things like zebras, giraffes, the moon and stars, and now Christmas may very well spark an interest in philately for her. When she sees this stamp, if she still loves this song as much as she does today, we might even bust out the guitar and popcorn-tin drum again and sing. Hopefully her drumming will be a little more in rhythm by then.



Arlington Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2025

By Janet Moyer

- The Arlington meeting was cancelled.

Granbury Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2025

By Rick Howell

Attendance:

- 11 members and 1 guest gathered at the Bentwater Activity Center in Granbury for the annual Hot Dog Cookout and October meeting..

Club Picnic:

- The membership came through again and brought some excellent side dishes to make it a complete feast! Special thanks to Dave Stockbridge for demonstrating his culinary expertise at grilling hot dogs and toasting buns. Also, thanks to Craig Kellogg for supplying some great homemade chocolate chip cookies.

Announcements:

- After everyone got their fill, we had a regular meeting with announcements concerning EXPO and happenings at the APS and a discussion of the takeover of the Scott's Catalog and Scott's Stamp Monthly and Linn's Stamp Weekly by a company owned by Jay Bigalke and David Fritz, called Scott Stamp LLC.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed a stock book that he had purchased in an auction which came to him filled with stamps. Les Barton showed some postcards that had taken unique routes to get to him.
- Ken Wills provided a great program and showed us a book about Tristan da Cunha, a remote group of volcanic islands in the South Atlantic. It is an interesting place because it has only about 250 inhabitants and is possibly the most isolated place to live in the world.

Gift Certificate:

- A \$10 gift certificate was won by Donna Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

Thank You

By Skip Ely

We would like to thank Ken Offill for his generous donation at EXPO. While I haven't gone through it in detail, I can see there are a lot items that can benefit the club. I appreciate you considering us in disposing of the material. I'm sure we can make good use of it. Happy holidays, and thanks again.

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Tyler Veasey for his donation of 3 boxes of various older stamp albums (& some loose stamps). After sorting everything out, 1 box will go to the club (for the beginning collector table and/or silent auction items); the remainder was re-donated to [Pegasus Creative Reuse](#) in Dallas.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2025

by Skip Ely, filling in for Janet Moyer

Attendance:

- We had 9 members and 3 guests at Flower Mound. One visitor submitted an application for membership at the end of the meeting.

Call-To-Order:

- Vice President - Dan Golden called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Announcements:

- Library Status - Dan said that the library contents at the Arlington location have been completely removed and are being stored at a member location. An index will be eventually posted so members can check out material if so desired.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had 2 new applications and one reinstatement for membership at EXPO.
- EXPO Summary - Ralph Poore said that Expo was successful in spite of attendance being down slightly from last year.
- Future Meetings - Dan Golden briefly mentioned future meetings.
- Newsletter - Peter said that the next one is almost completed.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed a U.S. Sea Turtle cover with a winged postmark, giving an impression of a flying turtle. He also showed a cover with stamps.com Net-stamps without the bar code that made them valid postage.
- Peter Elias showed a sheet of stamps from stamps.com with the bar codes that made them valid postage. He discussed some of the details of these stamps. He also showed this year's U.S. Christmas ATM postage stamps (wreath and Cardinal designs).
- Ralph Poore talked about a censored cover from Jamaica of a type he had not seen before.

Gift Certificate:

- Was awarded to Steve Carpenter.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:15 PM.

Postal Cleanliness

By Peter Elias

Not! Every day when standing in the line at the Plano MPO, I get to look at this horribly filthy counter wall (especially the 2 middle sections). Supposed to be, looks somewhat brown now.



They've looked like this for what, something 10 to 15 years at least? Do the USPS employees ever see this side of the counter? No cleaning products around? Tsk, tsk...

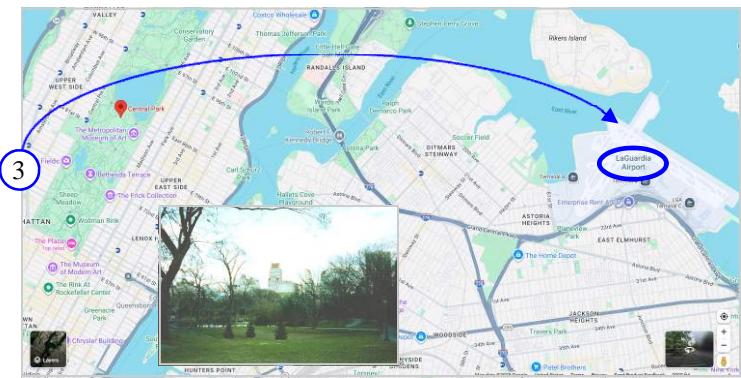
LaGuardia

By Peter Elias

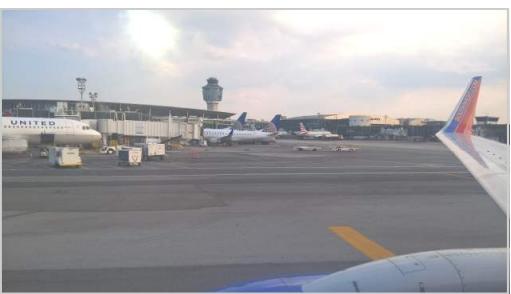
On May 27, 2016, I had this view:



Luckily I sat on the right side of the plane (SWA #3187 from DAL to LGA) and had a wonderful view of New York's Central Park (1) as we were landing at LGA (LaGuardia). The runways (2) are barely visible at the top of the photo.



Putting this into a map perspective, given the crude drawing tools available in Microsoft Publisher, the photo was taken roughly from (3) (a bit further left though) and while I don't remember the exact "curve" that the pilot took, we landed at LGA shortly after. The photo below shows us taxiing to the terminal.



Hudson River to the Hampton Inn at the Meadowlands for about 6 days.

Well, I'm sure you're all thinking, "gosh, that's great, but what does this have to do with philately?" Funny you should ask. The stamp that jump started this article is USA Scott #1397 (from 1972) that honors Fiorello H. LaGuardia, after which the airport is named!



So who was Fiorello H. LaGuardia? While I knew that the airport was named after him, this was the only time I've ever flown in & out of LaGuardia. My other trips had me fly in & out of JFK 3 times, and EWR (Newark) 14 times (since 1995 to 2005).

Fiorello LaGuardia lived from 1882 to 1947. He was an attorney & politician served as the 99th mayor of New York City from 1934 to 1946 as well as representing New York in the US House of Representatives prior to his stint as mayor. He did also have an interest in aviation! I can only do a brief recap here. If you want further reading about him, please visit:

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

While I'm at it, I also found a couple of other philatelic items relating to the picture at left.

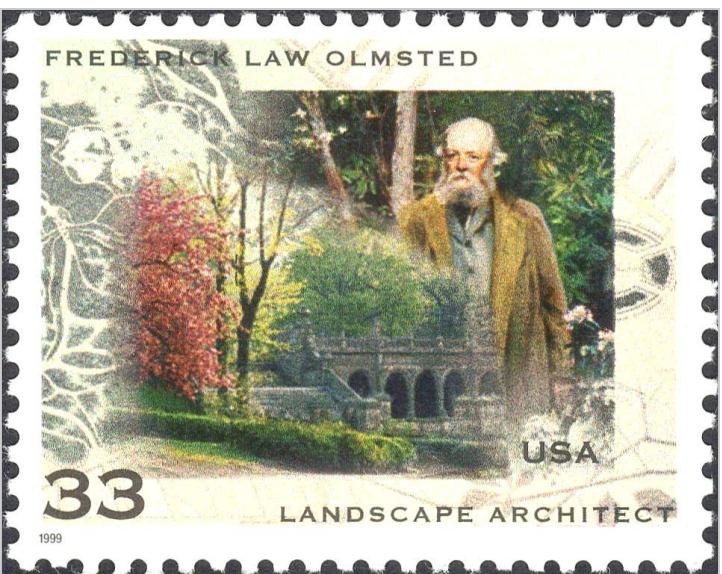


While I'm at it, I also found a couple of other philatelic items relating to the picture at left.

If you look at 1.1 in the picture, and while not actually visible due to the setting sun, that is roughly where the "Bethesda Fountain" is located in Central Park (it is to the right of (3) on the map (courtesy of Google).

The Bethesda Fountain is featured on USA #5348 from

2019 on a \$25.50 Express Mail stamp (image courtesy of the USPS).



Digging a bit further, there is Scott #3338 (from 1999), which commemorates Frederick Law Olmsted, who was a landscape architect. At actual size, it is really hard to see what exactly is depicted on this stamp, so I'm showing it enlarged. He lived from 1822 to 1903 and was considered the "father of landscape architecture" and contributed to the design of Central Park. As above, way more info is at

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

I have actually been to Central Park, it was during a business trip to a customer in the New York / New Jersey area in late March 1997. A small photo of that is on the map.

So why did I fly into LaGuardia on 5/27/2016? The NY2016 International Stamp show started the next day!

USPS Collector Sensitivity Training Needed

By Peter Elias

To make sure that my mail pieces with stamps on them are nicely & properly "cancelled" (see blue arrows), I make sure that this happens at my local post office (in Plano).

Yet sadly, some doofus at the Coppell, Texas regional USPS mail processing facility is practicing their "revenue retention" policy by making ABSOLUTELY SURE that these stamps can ABSOLUTELY NOT be reused again. Ever.

Part of the problem here is 1) training and 2) insistence in using red ink with hand cancellers! Red ink on red (or very dark) stamps, well, just isn't very visible and you can see the outcome right here. My Spanish contact sent me the scan when he received this. Come on USPS! Who other than a collector would frank an envelope like this?



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:
← <https://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:
<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →
(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)

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Visit us at area Stamp Shows



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Squirrels

by Peter Elias



Aren't squirrels just cute? Shown at left is a rather cute squirrel on a stamp from Ifni, a stretch of land on the Atlantic coast in Morocco. Ifni was a former Spanish colony. The stamp, Scott #B24 was issued for Colonial Stamp Day.

Below is a part of a booklet containing USA Scott #2489 (from 1993), depicting a red squirrel. The stamps are self-adhesive with straight-line die-cuts. Also cute.



I fondly remember that back in the 1960's, when we were hiking in the woods in Switzerland, to feed them some peanuts, as shown in the two photos above. They'd come right up to you and take the peanut. There were a few times when they also climbed up your pants if you held the peanut at waist level. No photo exists of that though, but I do remember it. On the left photo above, that is actually my brother's hand (who is behind me) feeding the squirrel.

While I don't recall having seen any of the squirrels mentioned above here in the DFW area, there do seem to be a lot a lot of "Easter Fox squirrels" and "Eastern Gray squirrels", which I'm presuming are cousins of the "Gray Squirrel" shown here



on USA Scott #2295. One such squirrel is shown on my roof on September 19.

And isn't he/she, just cute as well? Well, this where cuteness flies out of the window.



Just one day after the picture at bottom left, I saw what you see in the photo above. A gaping hole in the soffit (in addition to the already present damage on the fascia boards). Given the rain that we get on that side of the



house, we had the hole fixed. But on October 19, yet more "gnawing" at the fascia board! We had that fixed (again).



On October 30, another hole appeared on the soffit board. This had not yet been fixed (after the previous \$1,500 in repair work).

It was now time to call in SICE (i.e.: "Squirrel ICE"), and thus on November 19, he/she was caught & deported to a park nearby. A couple of days later, another(?) squashed squirrel was found out front on the street. An upcoming \$3,000+ repair will also fix the rat problem in the attic. There goes the "stamp budget" for the year...





From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, at the time I am writing this article, EXPO 2025 is in the history books and despite all the hard work and challenges that manifested, I think overall, a great time was had by all. I noticed a lot of smiling faces and a lot of people enjoying our great hobby of philately. Preliminary reports indicate the silent auction had a banner year and mixture pick and "Wheel of Philately" added some more variety to the show. Much thanks to all of our volunteers who donated time, knowledge and experience to making this another successful show.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Party which will be catered by David's Barbecue this year. I don't think we have many members who don't like barbecue. I mean, after all, it is Texas! We are asking everyone to bring a side dish or dessert to share, so if you want to show off your skills making a chocolate pecan pie, I won't have any objection. < BIG GRIN >.

There are a few people who I would like to thank for making the last year a successful one for our group. First, my vice-presidents, Rich Hildebrandt, David Stockbridge, and Daniel Golden have taken charge of getting things done to insure our meetings run smoothly and go "above and beyond" to keep things on an even keel in club operations. Skip Ely has been instrumental in working with donations and circuit book sales in Arlington and Flower Mound. Janet Moyer has been a real treasure in helping to keep us organized as well as supplying a location to store our library for a while. Also, Tom Cunningham has taken over the duties of the treasurer and has done an excellent job keeping our finances in order. His work in EXPO is amazing in handling 25 dealers who showed up on time and got everything at EXPO set up and smoothly running. It was a sight to see. Ken Aldridge has been so helpful in miscellaneous challenges that have popped up. He is working diligently to help us find a new meeting location for Arlington. Ken Wills, Tom Turner and Skip Ely worked extremely hard to handle all the silent auction donations and keep things in order during EXPO. Peter Elias keeps on plugging with the newsletter and makes it seem easy when I, for one, know it is not. And to top it all off, having our newsletter selected by the American Philatelic Society as the best in the country exemplifies his hard work. I would be remiss if I didn't say thanks to Sai Madhavapeddi and Dave Stockbridge for providing meeting places in Flower Mound and Granbury. Also thanks to Bob Weidman for somehow managing to collect millions of stamps in donations for our mixture pick which is always a favorite at EXPO. And finally, an extreme THANKS to Ralph Poore for all his work as the EXPO chairman. I don't know how he managed to keep everything that EXPO kept throwing at him in line, but he did, and deserves a huge thanks from all our membership!

You can see from this listing that this club is a many-faceted organization that could not possibly be what it is without a lot of work from a lot of hard-working people. And I can assure you that I have not mentioned everyone who has made a contribution, and if I omitted your name in this listing, please forgive me, but your work has not gone unnoticed.

We are coming to the end of the year, and it is time for me to find programs to keep us going next year, so if you have something interesting that you would like to share with our club, please let me know. We are currently setting up scheduling for three meetings a month, one in each of our locations of Arlington, Granbury and Flower Mound. If you would like to make a presentation of any type (except multi-level marketing schemes), please contact me. I can't continue to get people to show up if we don't have something to show. I am currently working with Jimmy Tomchesson, who was one of our dealers at EXPO. He may make a presentation on stamp expertizing through an organization known as PSAG (Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading). We are hoping to have Jimmy make a presentation for our January Arlington meeting.

Just to let everyone know, we are still looking at places to meet in Arlington to replace the Bob Duncan Center. As you may know, they have raised the rental rates up to \$300 per night rather than the \$85 per night we are currently paying. Much thanks to the city manager in Arlington for supporting various civic organizations. I think they have forgotten why they build these community centers and that they are supposed to be there to support the community, not to be a commercial venture for city government.

I guess I am getting a bit long-winded on this article, but there is a lot going on this time of year, and I did want to let some people know that their efforts to keep this group functioning are greatly appreciated.

Annual Club Christmas Party

By Rick Howell & Judy Christmas

(I will be quoting some portions of this article from a previous article by Judy, hence the byline).

On December 3rd, we will have our annual Christmas Party. This year we are having our meal catered by David's Barbecue, so if you like barbecue and have signed up for the party, come on out and have some fun. David's will be providing cole slaw, potato salad, beans and meats. We are asking that everyone also bring a side dish or dessert to share. Soft drinks and water will be provided by the club.

Everyone who attends the Christmas party (guests included if they want to play) needs to bring a wrapped gift valued at about \$10. Make it something someone else would like to receive, no junk please. If your item fits in an envelope, then place it in an envelope making sure the contents can't be seen from the outside. For larger items, please wrap or put them in a pretty Christmas bag or box.

When the gifts come in, please hand them to our selected gift manager and he or she will put the gift on the gift table and assign you a number. Be sure to sign in with our designated gift manager to insure you get your chance at a cool gift..

The person who has number "1" will choose a gift, open it, and then sit down. Number "2" will then have a choice of either taking number one's gift or picking one of their own. If someone has a gift that is stolen, they will have the opportunity to select a new gift from the pile. Number "3" will have the same options as number "2", but a gift may only be stolen twice. We will continue in this order until all have taken a gift.

This gift exchange has proven to be a lot of fun in the past and we think you will enjoy it!

Hoping to see you at the party!!!

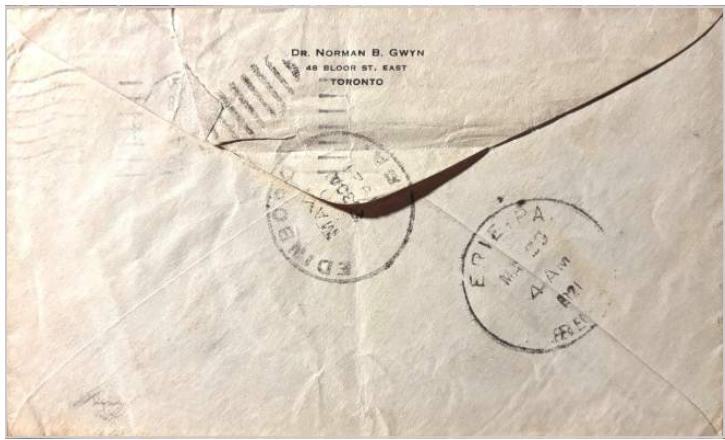
Fun Philatelic Finds: Edinboro

By Dan Golden



A little over a year ago, I came across this cover in an APS booklet at one of our Flower Mound meetings. It looks rather unassuming, and to the average person it just looks like another old piece of mail. The average philatelist would take it a step further and notice that the two stamps attached to the cover are from different countries, one from the US and another from Canada. But to me, the first thing that jumped off the page was the city of the intended recipient: Edinboro, PA. The reason? I used to live in there!

I have a habit of collecting stamps that not only interest me, but also philatelic items that remind me of one of the places I've called home. And since I've lived in several different cities and states around the country, there never seems to be a shortage of such items to find whenever I go to a stamp show. I often need to limit myself to what I consider to be the "coolest" items involving Chicago, Cincinnati, or Bismarck. But what makes this cover so peculiar is that Edinboro is quite possibly the smallest place I've ever lived in, and this is the first and only philatelic item I have ever seen involving that town!



For those that don't know, Edinboro is about 18 miles south of Erie, PA, which sits along the shores of, you guessed it, Lake Erie. If you were to draw a triangle between Cleveland, OH, Buffalo, NY, and Pittsburgh, PA, Edinboro would be roughly in the center of that triangle. Despite being surrounded by those three big cities (and the Edinboro/Erie area being a battleground where the Bills, Steelers, and Browns compete for the loyalty of football fans), Edinboro itself is out there in the middle-of-nowhere Amish country.

So you might ask, what was I doing living there? I actually moved there to work in campus ministry at the local college, living and working there for one year before my wife and I

got married and moved to Dallas. I have a number of fond memories eating the absolute best biscuits and gravy at a little breakfast diner called Flip Cafe, or sharing an ice cream cone with some students at Dairy Supreme. My mouth is actually watering as I think back on those moments!

Anyway, I must return to this cover. As interesting as finding this item was, there is an even greater personal connection to this than initially described. The college I worked at was called Edinboro University, and the letter this envelope once carried was addressed to "Miss Erna Grassmuck" at "State Normal School". I did a little research on my end and discovered that State Normal School, originally founded as Edinboro Academy in 1857, was a teachers college that went through a series of name changes over the years after its founding. Those names were:

- 1857: Founded as Edinboro Academy
- 1861: Northwest State Normal School
- 1914: Edinboro State Normal School
- 1927: Edinboro State Teachers College
- 1960: Edinboro State College
- 1983: Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

You might recognize that latest iteration of the school's name, since I mentioned it a couple of sentences ago. In short, the same school I worked at during my time in Edinboro is the same school where this teacher worked when she received this letter in 1921, almost 100 years before I lived there! How's that for a coincidence!

This cover has some other curiosities to it, including the fact that, as previously mentioned, there are two different country's stamps on the envelope. The Canadian stamp is on the correct side/corner of the envelope, however it is affixed to the paper upside down. That stamp features a portrait of the king, so it makes me wonder if the sender of this mail in Toronto perhaps disapproved of the royal family. But considering this was sent from Canada, why would there also be an American special delivery stamp attached on this cover?



Now to be honest, I am not at all an expert on American special delivery stamps or their purpose in the greater world of philately. But I would think that typically when an item of mail is sent across international borders, the stamps of the sender's country will suffice to pay the postage and there is no need for the recipient country's stamps to be attached. At least, that's how it works when I send mail to pen pals of mine around the world.

[Editor's Note: Since the Special Delivery stamp on the cover is heavily postmarked, I'm substituting a less cancelled version for illustration purposes. There are several versions of this stamp with various watermarks and perforation varieties.]

As to why a US Special Delivery stamp was used on a cover from Canada to the USA, my guess is that there was no equivalent stamp for this service that could be prepaid from Canada, so the sender used a US stamp that would then allow the cover to be considered Special Delivery once it crossed the border.]

--> Continued on the next page -->

["Edinboro" continued from previous page](#)

This has led to some confusion on my part, so perhaps someone in our club can respond to this article with an article of their own that answers to my question. Bonus points and a heartfelt thank you for anyone who does so and specifically answers that question in regards to this Edinboro cover.

Another thing I love about this cover is all of the different postmarks that are fairly legible and reasonably crisp in appearance, even after 104 years. It allows one to follow fairly accurately the journey that this letter took through the mail from Toronto [May 28, 1921], likely being transported by ship across Lake Ontario, through the Welland Canal, across Lake Erie to the Erie post office [below left] 1 day later, and finally arriving in Edinboro just two days after being mailed [right], on May 30, to be delivered to the

local college!



Edinboro University was well-known in the Northeast and Great Lakes regions for one of three reasons: nursing, animation, and wrestling. While primarily a teacher's college for most of its history, the school has developed a more recent reputation thanks to its robust nursing and animation programs, with Disney and Pixar regularly recruiting animation students from Edinboro to join their studios. The athletic program, the Fighting Scots, is also widely known for its wrestling team, which competes at the Division-1 level of NCAA and is one of the top wrestling programs in the country. At least, that was the case during my time in Edinboro, though I'm sure things have changed to a degree now.

I left Edinboro and moved to Texas in 2020 during the height of the pandemic. From what I can tell, Edinboro University has undergone a transition of its own since my departure.

The university had been financially struggling when I lived there, and I'm sure COVID did not exactly help alleviate those pressures. In 2021, the board of administrators made a decision that shocked quite a number of my old students: the school, with hardly any warning to those impacted, was to cut about one-half of their academic programs and would merge with two other nearby small colleges that were in similar states of fiscal trouble: Clarion University of Pennsylvania and California University of Pennsylvania. Together, the three colleges rebranded themselves as one university with three campuses and took the name Pennsylvania Western University. The Edinboro campus today goes by the shorthand name of "PennWest Edinboro".

Since moving, I have been back to visit Edinboro exactly twice. The first time was to stand up in a wedding for an old student of mine, when I spent a night in the nearby (and equally in the middle of nowhere) town of Saegertown, for which I surprisingly have a philatelic article in the works too, but that's a story for another day. The second time revisiting Edinboro occurred when I saw this cover and took a mental trip back to a place I once called home. It's always a pleasant exercise when philately sends me down memory lane.

[Philatelic History](#)

By Rick Howell

I titled this article "Philatelic History" instead of "Postal History" because it primarily relates to stamp collecting rather than postal activities.

I really appreciate the fact that the American Philatelic Research Library (a part of the American Philatelic Society) is currently archiving old stamp journals and newsletters and making them available online for everyone to access. There is some great reference material there and I would urge you to take advantage of this resource if you are doing any type of philatelic research. Best of all, it is currently free.

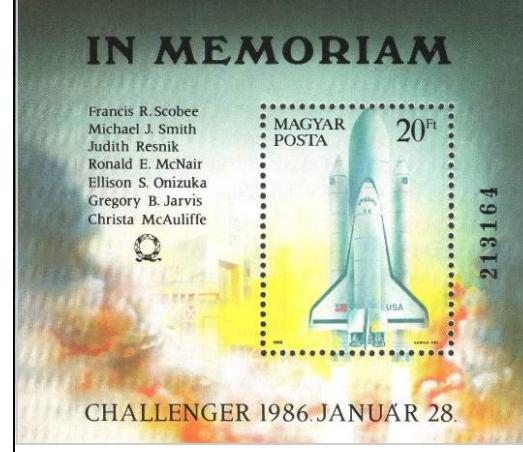
This past week I was looking through some old "Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News" magazines and just happened to notice this advertisement in the January 21, 1924 issue.

**United States
24c Inverted Airplane
A BEAUTIFUL MINT COPY
FOR SALE
Price \$750.00
EUGENE KLEIN
1318 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.**

Wouldn't it be great if we could go back in time and take advantage of this special deal? As of this writing, the highest price paid for an inverted Jenny stamp was two million dollars in a New York auction on November 15, 2023. Where did I park that DeLorean????

[Remember the Day: January 28, 1986](#)

By Peter Elias



Some people old enough can remember that fateful day in Dallas on November 22, 1963. I can't, as I was only about 3 years plus living in Europe.

But I do remember January 28, 1986. I had just gotten hired by

Alusuisse and gearing up to go to work in Switzerland from February to December that year and was spending January in the offices of Consolidated Aluminum, where the projected was headed up at while the new facility was being built in Kentucky. Hearing the news that day was pretty shocking! Do you remember where you were that day?

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

Free Shipping Supplies

By Peter Elias

As someone that mails a fair amount of items using the USPS “Ground Advantage” service, I need a variety of different packaging supplies, especially 6” x 9” mailing envelopes, labels & tape, all of which have a cost associated with them (except for Priority Mail envelopes).

But one of the things that I need a lot of that is actually free, is what you see in the photo at right. That my friends, is a pile of boxes that I see every time that I’m in a Sam’s Club store, right near the exit.

While these would normally be discarded, as they’re “open” boxes with no lids (thus not usable for shipping purposes), they do however make for great stiffeners that I need to insert in the envelopes that I use to mail stamps and covers in order to protect them from being folded or bent by USPS processing equipment.

I simply cut (generally) 5” x 8” or 8.5” x 10” panels from these boxes (and then put the rest of the box into my own recycling bin).

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 \$ 4.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/24

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

Exp. 12/26



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3rd Floor Suite 45
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com



48,694 Stamps

By Peter Elias

...That's what I was told about how many stamps it took to make this mural in Mexico City.

The photo was provided by a family member while they were in Mexico City on November 4.

I was told that this mural was in the [Central Post Office in Mexico City](#) and depicts the [Teotihuacan pyramid](#), which is part of a vast complex 35 miles northeast of Mexico City.

While I've seen various "painted" murals at some post offices, never one made of postage stamps!



2026 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/_____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

Check here if information is unchanged from 2025 and skip to the signature line below.

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests:

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable):

APS # _____ ATA # _____ TPA # _____ Other: _____

Permission is granted to make the information above available to other club members. Indicate anything you do NOT want shared:

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

Membership Level:

\$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online colors newsletters) \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed black & white newsletters)
 \$25 Sponsor Membership \$35 Sponsor (with mailed black & white newsletters)
 \$ 6 Additional Adult (no separate newsletter copy) \$ 4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

Make check out to 'Mid-Cities Stamp Club' and mail this form with payment to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club, PO Box 820784, N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

[TV Philately: Edelweiss Pirates](#)

By Peter Elias

We watched the 2004 movie "The Edelweiss Pirates" on Amazon Prime. It was a "based on a true story" World War II film about a loose-knit group of working class youth that resisted the Nazis. Their name was based on them wearing an "Edelweiss" (an endangered flower in Switzerland & Germany) on their jackets.

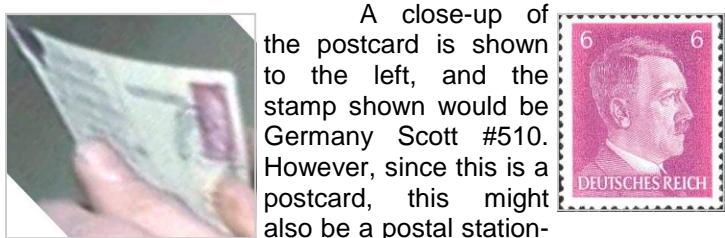
The group started as a reaction to the conformity and control of the Hitler Youth. While initially their activities revolved around things like hiking, camping and listening to [forbidden] foreign music, their activities later became more rebellious, such as distributing leaflets and even engaging in armed resistance and sabotage.

Eventually, the Gestapo was hunting them down and hundreds were arrested. 13 members were publicly hanged after an act of sabotage in November 1944.



The main story line revolves around the brothers Karl & Peter Ripke that join the Edelweiss Pirates.

Their mother and a sister (from what I remember) had been killed. The father was at the Eastern Front (Russia) fighting for the Vaterland. One of the brothers had enthusiastically joined the Hitler Youth in the hope that he would make his father proud of him. The other brother had written to the father and in the screen shot above, both brothers had received communications (a letter and a postcard).



A close-up of the postcard is shown to the left, and the stamp shown would be Germany Scott #510. However, since this is a postcard, this might also be a postal stationery card with the same stamp design. It is really difficult to tell whether it's a stamp on regular postcard or a postal stationery card. Even then, and I don't know German WWII postal history that well, wouldn't the father be able to send this card for free as "FELDPOST" since he was on active service?

The 2nd item received was a letter sent to the other brother, shown in the 2nd column at top right. The stamp shown is Scott #B103, which was issued for the 48th birthday of Hitler. The use of this stamp is a bit un-



usual (and unfortunately I don't have a copy of it) in that this stamp was only issued in a block of 4 as part of a souvenir sheet back in 1937. This story takes place in early 1944, so how would a soldier stationed in the Eastern Front have copies of a souvenir sheet available that was issued 7 years prior?

The brother receiving the card later finds the envelope and letter written to the other brother and is upset to hear that things weren't quite what he thought (i.e.: Germany's efforts at the Eastern Front weren't quite going that well..), while the card he received from his father made it sound different. As a result, he joined the Edelweiss Pirates.

This letter and card are an important plot point, but are on screen very briefly and it is difficult to get a good screen. Unfortunately I can not fast forward the images one frame at a time; at best only 1 or 2 seconds (30 - 60 frames at a time). Any addresses & postmarks are too indistinct though.

Mail is important in every day life, and frequently shows up as important plot points in movies. For me the fun part is always figuring out how close the props department got in making the items look real & plausible. In the case of the Edelweiss Pirates, my main areas of concern are 1) is the postcard really a postal stationery card, 2) why is a 7-year old stamp from a souvenir sheet used as postage and 3) why wouldn't the father have been able to send these free of charge using the Feldpost (field post) system? I suppose showing a card or envelope with a stamp makes it look more like real mail (as opposed to using a card or envelope with a "Feldpost" inscription).



MEET & EAT for December 2025

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

December 3 Club Christmas Party at Bob Duncan Center

FLOWER MOUND

December 17 No meeting this month, see you in 2026!

GRANBURY

December 23 No meeting this month, see you in 2026!

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

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

Don't Forget:
Christmas Party - Dec. 3
+ EXPO debrief