

# Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Flower Mound Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

3020 Corporate Ct, Ste 400 (Step Up Sports Medicine)

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER MEMBER



#891-076252



#53-3364

Volume 37, Number 12

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

December 2024

## MCSC EXPO 2024

By Peter Elias

Another year, another successful EXPO! Queering several of the dealers, they all seemed to be very pleased with this year's EXPO!



Photo by Ken Aldridge



Randy Blackburn Patty Poore Diana Davis

Photo by Ken Aldridge

I was able to pick up a 1,200+ page International Meter Catalog at the Silent Auction. The most fun part for me was spending a couple of hours going through the "dollar" covers (which only cost 3 per \$1!) at EAS Stamps' table. Now I just have to see what to do with them all (i.e.: general collection, general articles or gasp(!) -> "Been There.." articles). We'll see..



Photo by Peter Elias

Skip Ely is shown prepping the Beginning Collector Table.

While we did not have traditional exhibits this year, there were 6 frames (~94 pages) of mini-exhibits by Ken Aldridge, Ray Cartier & Peter Elias.



Photo by Peter Elias

## MCSC Christmas Party Update

This year's Christmas party will be a potluck dinner, starting at 6 PM. If attending, please bring a variety of "finger foods" (appetizers). The club will provide plates, utensils, napkins & soft drinks. Please bring your own drink if you want something specific...

There will also be a "gift exchange". Please bring a wrapped philatelic item worth at least \$10.

## MCSC EXPO 2024 - Wonderful Event!

By Ralph Poore, EXPO chair

This year's Expo exceeded last year's in all metrics. Higher attendance, better revenue and a number of new or reinstated members. The attendance exceeds 2023 by 16.

Attendance 2024			
	Friday	Saturday	Total
Walkins	143	172	315
Volunteers	20	22	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>356</b>

As with every year, we had some last-minute challenges. However, our outstanding group of volunteers overcame them all. Well done all! And thank you for a great EXPO. Note that our after-action EXPO Committee meeting will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM, at David's BBQ in Pantego. We also use this meeting to kick-off planning for EXPO 2025.

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## January 2025 Arlington Meeting Change

--> The January 1 Arlington meeting is moved to January 8!

# 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.

### 2023 - 2024 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Ken Aldridge  
Vice-President (Arlington) – Rick Howell  
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: Rich Hildebrandt

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

For a membership application write to:

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club**  
**P.O. Box 820784**  
**N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784**

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

## Coming Attractions

### 2024

#### **NOV. 26      MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: TBD by Jim Myers

#### **DEC. 4      MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: Annual Christmas Party

#### **DEC. 7      MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting**

Review of 2024 EXPO; early planning for 2025 EXPO

#### **DEC. 13 - 14      TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse**

DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 US Hwy 75 / Campbell Rd.

Friday 10 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4 (last show at this location)

#### **DEC. 14      Dallas Postcard Club Meeting**

Christmas Party. 1st United Methodist Church, 801 W. Avenue B, Garland, TX 75040 (Schrieber Hall ,1 PM)

#### **DEC. 18      MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**

Program: --> NO MEETING, see you in 2025

#### **DEC. 24      MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: --> NO MEETING, see you in 2025

### 2025

#### **JAN. 8      MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: TBD (*2nd Wednesday this month only!*)

#### **JAN. 15      MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

#### **JAN. 28      MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**



"Editor At Work"  
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Seems like every time I look through old photo albums to find a picture for an article, I seem to run across yet more pictures that then cause me to look for stamps or other philatelic objects that illustrate that picture.

Now that I'm retired, I'm constantly going through file folders to see which items can be discarded or shredded. And that's how I ran across an envelope with a postage

meter that I had not seen in probably 30 years! And then came the quest to illustrate how this meter intersected my own life and tell the story about how, when, where & why. After 40 years, some details have grown vague, and thus a trip to Wikipedia is in order to refresh the basic historical facts.

As I mentioned in the article (page 9); a whole variety of "philatelic" items are fair game: from postage stamps, postmarks, postage meters, cinderella stamps to customized postage. It would be interesting to see if there's a revenue stamp could have relevance to my life!

Other than giving a summarized background of what is illustrated on the philatelic item, and telling my side of the story, I always like to illustrate that part as well. Photographs work well for that, as well as other applicable items such as entry ticket stubs, and in the case of Switzerland, transportation tickets! Give it a try sometime; I'd love to hear from you!

## Thank You!

Many thanks to Byron Sandfield for contributing a trunk load (2 large totes, 3 medium totes & a box) of material to the club on November 5! I re-organized it a bit as some totes weren't totally full. Unfortunately a large number of USA FDC's (mostly 1950's & 1960's) were in bad condition (either water or moisture damaged or with staining from the adhesive that keeps the envelope together). Usable material was consolidated.

Also thanks for a "footlocker" trunk of material that he donated a month prior (that also required some consolidation).

## Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



### Applications Received:

James Monnig (#677)

Larry Reid (#678)

### New Members:

n/a

### Reinstated:

Robert Henry (#580)

Bella Thompson (#636)

Patrick Walters (#610)

### Deceased:

n/a

### Membership Summary – November 20, 2024

Membership as of <b>October 16, 2024</b>	<b>101</b>
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	<b>2</b>
New Members	<b>0</b>
Resignations	<b>( 0 )</b>
Deceased	<b>( 0 )</b>
Reinstatements	<b>3</b>
Membership as of <b>November 20, 2024</b>	<b>104</b>

## The Freedom We Enjoy

By Dan Golden

Over the last decade or so, it would seem as if America is slowly pulling itself apart at the seams. Our last three presidential elections have been marked by controversy at best, and violence at worst. Sensationalist news outlets care more about clicks and views instead of quality content with honest journalism. Combined with algorithm-driven social media platforms, this has forced virtually every American into one camp or the other, either Democrat or Republican, forever pitted against one another with no middle ground. And the hatred and vitriol that has been spewed back and forth between our elected officials is disgraceful and only serves to divide us further.

But this is not limited to those in office. We are seeing it amongst ordinary people as well. My family, most of whom are democrats, has a family-wide group text chat. This year on the morning after the election, with Trump declared the winner, that group chat was sizzling with anger. Accusations of voter fraud, conspiracy theories of a stolen election, and even wishes of harm or death to the new president-elect were rampant in that group chat. Further comments included calling anyone who voted for Trump a “sexist, uneducated, fascist” (this was the cleanest comment I could find, use your imagination for some of the others).

I found the same atmosphere at the office when I went to work that morning, with some co-workers labeling Trump voters as “traitors” and others calling Harris voters “mentally unstable”. Overall, there was gloating on one side and threats of violence from the other. I was appalled, not at the election’s results, but at the things being said and shared back and forth. Does this not resemble the same hateful speech seen four years ago when Biden defeated Trump, or even eight years ago when Trump defeated Hilary Clinton?

I cannot help but wonder, what happened to us? Have we not learned our lesson? Have we not figured out how to come back together, post-election, as Americans who love their country and their fellow countrymen? If we have not, how can we ever expect to heal and grow? How can we ever expect to be anything other than the

house divided against itself that Lincoln so aptly warned us about?

With that in mind I would like to use this article to attempt the impossible: bridge the chasm that divides us and remind us of what we all share as Americans. I want to bring us all together in the best way I know how, by talking about stamps. I recently came across the Norman Rockwell souvenir sheet, USA #2840, which depicts a set of his paintings known as **The Four Freedoms**. Painted during World War II, each portrays an ideal for which ordinary Americans had gone overseas to defend abroad.

At the time of their release, these paintings had an inspirational effect that galvanized the American people and focused their energy behind a singular cause: the war effort. We as a country all rallied around the flag as one united people. Black or white, man or woman, we all recognized one another first and foremost as Americans who were with us in the fight. Given the current climate of our country (and that I’m writing this on Veteran’s Day) I think it would be wise to reflect on these ideas again and remember what it is that those men fought and died for.

There is the **Freedom of Speech**. We have the freedom to share our viewpoints and communicate our ideas with others without the fear of condemnation. We have a press that is (ideally) free from

editorial censorship or added political agendas. When something bothers us we have every right to speak up and let our opinions be known without the fear of retribution. We are able to make our voices heard.

There is the **Freedom of Worship**. We are free to worship according to whatever creed we choose to believe in. No one can tell us or force us to follow one faith over another. We all have a right to choose what we believe and worship whatever God in whatever manner we prefer. Not only do we expect such a personal choice to be accepted, but we expect that our right to choose our own faith protects us from religious persecution.

There is the **Freedom from Fear**. This stamp depicts two children being peacefully tucked in bed by their parents, while the father holds a newspaper with a headline describing the horrors of The Blitz. Despite the bombing and destruction across the pond, these two



--> Continued on Page 4

## [The Freedom We Enjoy \(cont. from Page 3\)](#)

children are able to rest easy without fear because they know they will not wake up tomorrow with the war on their doorstep. They know they are safe and secure.

Before moving on, I would like to point out that in some ways it almost appears as if we have taken a step back as a society. Facebook puts certain individuals in “Facebook jail,” temporarily blocking their accounts for posting something that they do not approve of. More broadly we have seen the rise of “Cancel Culture” from social media in which people who act or speak in a manner deemed unacceptable by enough people are then silenced, boycotted, or otherwise shunned. People on one side of the aisle treat Jews and Muslims as though they are not fully human, while people on the other side of the aisle seem to view Christianity with disdain and wish to destroy it. For example, I have personally been called a “far-right extremist” for the radical crime of being Catholic. And these days, politicians stir up the populace with not-so-subtle warnings about fascist or communist dictatorships that would result from voting for the other party. Unfortunately, the more politicians say such things, the more people will believe them. As a result, I am more fearful than ever that another civil war is brewing around the corner. Not to mention ongoing conflicts across the world in Ukraine and Gaza, and further tense relations with Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea threaten to pull us into another war as well. Indeed, it seems as if each of these three here-to-fore mentioned freedoms is under attack in some way.

But allow me to move on to the fourth freedom, the **Freedom from Want**. Depicted on this stamp is a multi-generational family gathered around the table for what appears to be a Thanksgiving dinner. As Thanksgiving approaches in our own lives, I believe we all ought to take a step back from the divisive political headlines, the fallout from the election, and instead take a moment to consider everything we have to be grateful for. We live in a free society. Despite how we may feel toward certain politicians from one party or another, we live in a country that values our opinion and gives us a means to seek and accomplish change. If you are among those who are upset by the results of this latest election, take a moment to be thankful that we live in a democratic society in which your voice can be heard and our politicians can be voted out of office! The freedom we enjoy as Americans is something so few people throughout history have ever experienced. God has blessed us in ways that billions of people around the world can only dream of, and billions more throughout the centuries could never have imagined.

These freedoms that we fought for in World War II are just as pertinent to our lives today as they were back then. We owe it to the courage and sacrifice of good men who believed in what they fought for since 1776, through the Civil War, both World Wars, and even right up to the present day. We enjoy the same freedoms today and share the same responsibilities to *build* a more perfect union, not let ourselves be divided into opposing camps

led to believe those on the other side will destroy what we hold sacred. It is a union built of the *people*, by the *people*, and for the *people*. It is the *people*, everyday Americans like you and me, seeing each other as equals and respecting our differing yet equally valid viewpoints, who are essential to the survival of our union.

Name-calling does not help. Gloating does not help. Threatening violence does not help. The way we treat each other goes a long way toward our collective healing. I personally do not care who you voted for, and I hope you do not care who I voted for either. At the end of the day, regardless of our political leanings we must learn to respect each other and come back together after an election as divisive as these last three have been. In the tense political atmosphere of our day, may we always remember that we are not democrats or republicans. We are first and foremost Americans who are tasked with respecting our shared freedoms. Let us never forget that.

*Been There,  
Done That*

### [Venetian Glass](#)

By Peter Elias



Venetian glass, such as shown on Italy, Scott #3788 from 2021, is generally made on the Island of Murano, which is situated a little over ½ mile northeast of Venice.

The stamp shows a particular glass item made by Venini, one of several companies making glassware. These stamps were issued in small panes and individual

stamps could be separated as singles with a margin by use of rouletting or removed for mailing as they were also self-adhesive and die-cut.

Venetian glass production on Murano Island dates back to the 13th century and has a lot of innovations. It was the major European center for luxury glass items from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. They developed an almost transparent glass in the 15th century, as well as a “milk glass” that looked like porcelain.



Back in 1986, I took a brief vacation in August and drove to Venice. Being a typical tourist (and only having a very small budget), I did buy a small glass item there, shaped like a Venetian gondola (and also doubles as an ashtray). I don't recall the details, but it was made of Murano glass from what I remember, although I probably bought it at a souvenir shop in Venice as I don't recall taking a ferry over to Murano Island (but I'll have to review my old photos to double-check on that...).

## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2024

by Janet Moyer

### Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### Attendance:

- 22 members were present.

### Officer Reports:

- Secretary Janet Moyer announced:
  - We now have 101 members plus 1 new one.
  - The minutes were in the previous newsletter.

### Announcements:

- Ken Aldridge announced we would be having the annual general meeting after this meeting.
- The new officers for 2025 - 2026 were sworn into office:
  - President Richard Howell
  - Vice-President Rick Hildebrandt – Arlington
  - Vice-President David Stockbridge – Granbury
  - Vice-President Dan Golden – Flower Mound
  - Secretary - Janet Moyer
  - Treasurer - Tom Cunningham ( in absentia)
- David Stockbridge won the bid for the Scott USA Specialized Catalogue auction.
- The regular Scott Catalog (3 volumes only) set will be put into the silent auction at EXPO.
- Dan Golden brought in the new Mid-Cities Stamp Club advertising cards to be passed out at various shows. They are beautiful. Well done Rick and Dan!
- EXPO - Ralph Poore:
  - Thanked the chairmen and the volunteers for the work they put into the EXPO.
  - The Set-up will be Thursday, November 7th. We will meet at Flip's for dinner at 3:30 before the show set-up. The restaurant is located on the south side feeder road of TX-114 in Grapevine.
  - Show hours are Friday 10-5 and Saturday 9-4.
  - Take down will be Saturday, November 9th. We need lots of hands to help get out on time.
- Dave Stockbridge has the Circuit books, both those from the APS and the club.
- Newsletter - Peter is working on it.

### Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier showed a stamp that was published with a picture of the wrong brother on it.
- Peter Elias:
  - Announced that Dave Stockbridge had an article published in the American Philatelist (November issue).
  - Peter also had an article published, in the November issue of "Tell" (from the American Helvetia Philatelic Society).
  - He received information from the Cameroon

Postal Service about buying stamps.

- He also showed an Australian wine bottle labeled "Stamp of Australia" with a cinderella stamp as the wine label.

### Door Prizes:

- Gift certificates were won by Ray Cartier, Rich Hildebrandt and Jeff Jessop.
- Diana Davis won a book donated by Ray Cartier.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned and we went on to the general meeting.

### Annual General Meeting:

- The mailing of the printed newsletters was discussed and Tom Turner made a motion to continue mailing them. Ralph Poore seconded the motion. After discussion, Tom Turner amended the motion to postpone a decision until more information is received. Ralph Poore seconded that motion. A vote was held and the motion passed. The discussion is tabled until next year when more information is received.
- No other business was brought up.
- The annual general meeting was adjourned and was followed by:

### Program:

- Peter Elias presented a program titled "The Wonderful World of St. Vincent Philately".

## MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024

by Stan Christmas

### Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM on October 22, 2024 after the Granbury Mid-Cities Stamp Club annual picnic was held.

### There was a brief business meeting:

- Dave pointed out the freebie table to the members.
- Elections for club officers will be held in November. The ballot was in the MCSC newsletter.
- There will be no meeting in December.
- The door prize winners of the \$10 MCSC gift certificates were Donna Howell and Jim Case.
- Dave explained the rules of the auction.

### Program:

- The program this month was the annual auction. Rick Howell was the auctioneer, and he was assisted by Les Barton and Bob Coleman. David Stockbridge kept the records of the winners.

### Auction:

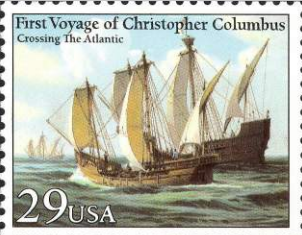
- 70 items were in the auction.
- 7 people submitted items for sale.
- 13 people signed in to bid plus 2 call-in bidders.
- 57 items were sold for \$594.
- 11 successful bidders.

### Adjournment:

- Dave adjourned the meeting around 8:00 PM.

## 1993 & 2009

By Peter Elias



532 years ago, on August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail across the Atlantic, and 70 days later, on October 12, 1492, he “discovered” the Bahamas, thinking it was the “East Indies”.

In all, Columbus made 4 voyages across the Atlantic, and “discovered” (i.e.: landed) in (what are the modern) countries of the Bahamas, Cuba, Hispaniola (Haiti & Dominican Republic), Dominica, Guadalupe, Nevis, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad, Tobago, Venezuela & Grenada, and also sailed along the eastern Central American & northern South American coasts.

He never really got close to what is the continental USA.

Columbus and his voyages were featured on various stamps from around the world; in the USA, the most important issue was the set that commemorated 400th Anniversary in 1892.

Columbus’ 3 ships on the 1st voyage were the Nina, Pinta & Santa Maria. The Santa Maria was lost when it hit reefs off the coast of Haiti around Christmas of 1492.

Later voyages included more ships, including the Nina & Pinta on the 2nd voyage.



By 1992, a set of 3 full-size replica ships were built in Spain, using the materials that would have been used in the 15th Century. A few modifications were made to adapt them to modern times, such as slightly taller ceilings and modern engines for emergency use.



The ships toured Spain, France, Italy & Portugal before crossing the Atlantic and visiting various US coastal cities. One of the stops was in Corpus Christi, Texas!



I had a visit to Corpus Christi in July 1993 and got to see the 3 ships myself. My 1st thought was how really small they were! We did get to go on board.

A year later, a barge hit the Pinta & Santa Maria causing a lot of damage (all above water), were considered too expensive to repair and were destroyed in 2014 (parts of which were used to repair the Nina).

16 after years after my 1993 trip (in July 2009), I was in Corpus Christi again, and was able to visit one of the ships that was at the Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History at that time (see picture at left; all other pictures are from 1993).

The Nina partially sank in 2017 after Hurricane Harvey, and it was finally dismantled in Corpus Christi Bay on January 16, 2020. A sad ending.



Photo Credits:  
Peter Elias

## My First Penny Blacks

By Kenneth Wills



These items in my collection are far from ideal. I just wish I still had the beauty that I once owned.

Many collectors get into the hobby collecting whatever worldwide stamps they are able to obtain. Over time, as the volume increases, they decide to specialize, by country or topic or some other category. I, on the other hand, began collecting only the stamps of Great Britain, where I was growing up. Later I broadened my interests to include the British Commonwealth, and many years after that, thought "Why restrict myself to that?"

At my school we had a very active stamp club, but it didn't help my new ambition to possess a penny black. One year, well before I was old enough to drive, I was with my parents on summer vacation in Boscombe, near Bournemouth, and saw a sign "Stamps for Sale" in the window of a tailor's shop. The elderly owner showed me three penny blacks, and we picked out the best one with four wide margins. He told me that he would improve it, took his long tailor shears, and while I nervously watched, he trimmed the right margin. I still marvel that he was able to increase the value of a stamp by removing part of it, but it did end up being perfectly centered.

He also sold me some mint never hinged King Edward VII stamps. In answer to my question, he told me that he had bought them at the post office. I still have these stamps from the years 1902-1911, and I am the second owner!

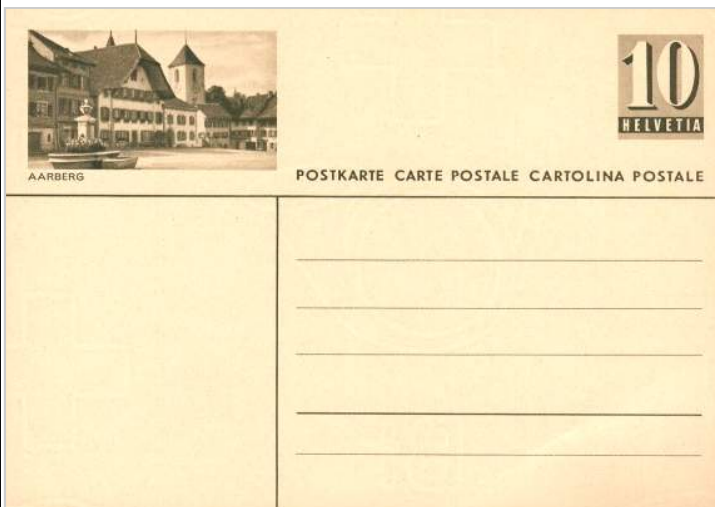
Now for the sad part of the story. In my twenties, I was offered a job in St. Louis, and jumped at this first opportunity to be in the USA. The company paid my moving expenses, and their contractors came to my apartment to pack my clothes, many books, as well as my album of used GB. They marked the side of one of the crates with a red X. When I received this shipment at my new location, one of the crates was damaged but had been mended with lots of adhesive tape. In all the excitement of moving, it was weeks before I realized that my stamp album was missing.

Clearly the red X was there to help these criminals extract my stamp album, and I was too late to report the theft. Fortunately I had left my mint stamps with my parents.

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Aarberg

By Peter Elias



Aarberg is a small town in central Switzerland, about 12 miles northwest of Bern and is located at a bend in the Aare River.

The Swiss postal stationery card above has a pictorial inset at upper left showing a scene from the central part of this historic town.

Recent [population data](#) (2020) reports that the town has a population of 4,626. The building shown on the postcard (just to the right of the fountain) is Aarberg Castle (while it doesn't look like a grand structure as one would imagine a "castle" to be, that is what it is called). The tower is a part of the castle.

The town history goes back to as far as 1183, but the town itself was founded between 1220 and 1225 by count Ulrich III of Neuchatel (about 20 miles to the west) and was mentioned as "Arberc" in 1236. There is a bunch of history relating to Aarberg, more than I have room for here, so feel free to visit Wikipedia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aarberg>.

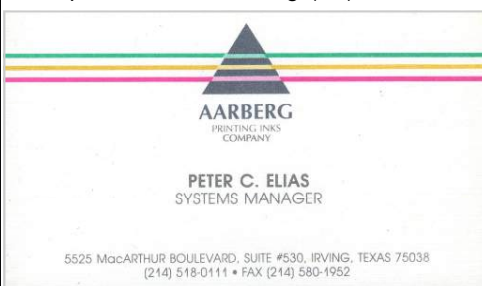
Back in 1986, my boss drove me to Aarberg to have a tour of the Aarberg Druckfarben (Aarberg Printing Inks) company plus a lunch with company executives that, from what I remember, included at least 3 different types of alcohols (one for each course). Needless to say, it was a long lunch (good thing I wasn't driving).

So why was I there? In 1986, I worked for a new American division of Alusuisse (aka "Swiss Aluminum Corp.") and was in Kreuzlingen most of the time. As part of my training, we did go to see various vendors of Alusuisse, and the Aarberg Printing Ink Company was one of them.

Several years later, back in the USA, Alusuisse Flexible Packaging (KY) laid off about 20 employees in January 1990 (what a great way to start that decade...). So I made a call back to my former boss. A short while later I was hired as the "System Manager" of the new American division of Aarberg Printing Inks (formerly Strahan Ink & Lacquer), which had a plant in Grand Prairie (TX), Kingsport (TN), Richmond (VA) and a Corporate office in Irving (TX). After seeing that there was no

snow here in February (compared to Kentucky at the time), that was pretty agreeable with me.

So I moved to Texas and worked at both of the Texas locations until 1992.





## President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

Well, the EXPO is over and we have a new slate of club officers for 2025-2026.

At the November meeting in Arlington the following were sworn in:

- Rick Howell                    President
- Rich Hildebrandt          VP
- Dave Stockbridge          VP Granbury
- Dan Golden                    VP Flower Mound
- Janet Moyer                    Secretary

Tom Cunningham assumed the position as Treasurer after Judy Christmas resigned and he was sworn in at that time.

Board of Directors for 2025-2026 will be Ken Aldridge (Past President), Ken Wills, Peter Elias and Ralph Poore.

The December meeting in Arlington will be on December 4 and it will be a gift exchange / social event. All members, spouses and significant others are welcome. No meeting or food, just a gift exchange. Please

bring a wrapped philatelic related item worth at least \$10. We will draw numbers for whose turn to pick a gift. It can be one already picked or an unselected gift. Note: A picked gift can be only taken twice.

I want to thank Rick Howell, Stan Christmas, Janet Moyer and Judy Christmas for their faithful service during my tenure.

## Members In The News

By Peter Elias

Dave Stockbridge's article "Never Too Late To Start Something New" was published in the My Stamp Story section of the American Philatelic, on pages 82-83 in the November 2024 issue.

Peter Elias' article "Postmark Vacation" was published in the November 2025 issue of "Tell", the bi-monthly journal of the AHPS (American Helvetia Philatelic Society). This article was originally published here in the April 2021 issue of Stamping Around (pages 12 - 13) and was rewritten with additional information for Tell, resulting in a 3-page article.



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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## Austria Stamp Innovations

By Peter Elias

Perusing some of the current new stamp issues that are available, I saw a bunch of “interesting” stamps available from Austria, and figured I’d check them out in person. They were ordered via <https://www.wopa-plus.com>, which is a website that represents & sells stamps from various postal administrations (the orders are fulfilled from the individual countries directly though). WOPA++ is headquartered in Gibraltar.

I’ve bought some Austrian stamps in the past (they also offer some CVP items!). In 2005, they issued the embroidered stamp featuring an Edelweiss at right (which I used in a 1-page mini-exhibit that was shown at this year’s EXPO).



Shown in this article will be several stamps that Austria has issued between 2022 and 2024.



First up is the “beer coaster”, shown to the left. It is an actual beer coaster, made of absorbent material, just the like ones you find in bars. It is shown in reduced size, as it is about 4x4 inches. In the middle is a stamp that can be used as postage with die-cuts that are approx. equivalent to perf. 3 (3 peaks across 2 cm).

In the middle is a view of the backside, showing the die-cuts. The die-cut area includes a “lick ‘n stick” adhesive layer, which can’t be seen in a scan, but shows up as a “glossy” area in the photo below.

The stamp has a €3.50 (~\$3.69) denomination, features a mug of beer and the inscription “beer has got everything”.

That “everything” is described in the margin area, such as that beer contains B-vitamins, 45% of daily magnesium, 20% of potassium and easily digestible carbohydrates (needed for quick energy). So there you go!



Then there is pandemic era stamp from 2022 that encourages the use of certain vaccines, with the inscription saying “Doesn’t hurt at all!”

The stamp is in the form of a bandage. It appears to be made of a gauze type of material, with the middle part being a bit thicker and containing the bandage material and the left & right edges being self-adhesive.



The printing method was via inkjet according to [www.post.at](http://www.post.at). The front & back are shown at actual size. Face value is €2.75 (~\$2.90).

Austria had issued other Covid related stamps, one in the form of a mask and the other made of toilet paper ... ‘cause you know: hoarding!

Also in 2022 came the “Postlerhemd” stamp (loosely translating as *postal worker shirt*). And yes, it is made of rag paper that is made from recycled uniform shirts & textile waste according based on a centuries-old tradition in the last-of-its-kind Austrian paper mill.

The stamp is traditionally perforated & gummed, and has a whopping €8.20 (~\$8.64) face value!

In addition to traditional symbols & info about “do not wash”, “no ironing”, and “no bleaching”, it also states “for franking your mail and collecting!”

In 2024, Austria issued a stamp in the form of a wool hat.

This time, the stamp is self-adhesive and features die-cutting. The denomination is €4.30 (~\$4.53).

The description at WOPA+ states: “Our self-adhesive “wool hat” miniature sheet is something truly special. It is made from flocked paper with a winter knit pattern and has been punched to create the typical form of a hat with a pom-pom”. I’d argue that this is a “stamp”, not a “sheet”... It is shown in actual size.

Unlike the other 3 stamps, this one has the country name in English (as opposed to the usual *Österreich*). I’m not sure why they sometimes do this.

Austria post states that this is part of a series of “philatelic clothing” stamps; the others include a “mitten” (2021), “snow boots” (2024) and “jumper” (2023), by which they mean “sweater”.

While all of these products are valid postage in Austria, it would be interesting to see any of these actually doing postal duty on letters or packages!

I tried to find some of Austria’s current postage rates, and for the €8.20 postal worker shirt stamp, that rate appears to be for a “large” international letter up to 2 kg (4.4 lbs). For the €3.50 beer stamp, that appears to be an add-on rate for the Austrian domestic registered fee. Since most registered mail is NOT “machined”, that’s a good thing, since this stamp is so thick, that either the stamp or mail piece would be damaged if machined! Austria has definitely issued some interesting stamps, and they could make the beginning of an interesting exhibit!



# Flower Mound Meeting Minutes November 20, 2024

By Janet Moyer

## Attendance:

- 14 members attended the November meeting in Flower Mound including new member Jim Monnig.

## Call-To-Order:

- Vice-President Rick Howell called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.
- Secretary Janet Moyer reported the minutes from the last meeting that were posted in the November newsletter; no corrections were reported.
  - We now have 106 members.

## Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
  - There will be an EXPO meeting on December 7, 2024 at David's Barbecue in Arlington at 11:00 AM.
  - We had more people at the EXPO this year than last year.
  - Mixture Pick – Rick has bags for sale. The mixture pick table did well at the EXPO.
  - The Silent Auction did very well.
- Newsletter - Peter said he was almost done with the December issue.
- The cards printed for our club are available if anyone needs them to pass out.
- The newsletter received a Large Gold Level award and the Grand Champion Award in the APS 2024 Star Route Awards competition!

## Old business:

- Rick Howell announced the new officers for 2025 - 2026
  - President - Richard Howell
  - Vice-President - Rick Hildebrandt – Arlington
  - Vice-President - David Stockbridge – Granbury
  - Vice-President - Dan Golden – Flower Mound
  - Secretary - Janet Moyer
  - Treasurer - Tom Cunningham
  - Other board officers:
    - Newsletter – Peter Elias
    - EXPO - Chair Ralph Poore
    - Immediate Past President Ken Aldridge
    - At-Large Member Ken Wills

## New Business:

- There will be no meetings in December for the Flower Mound and Granbury groups.
- The Arlington meeting will not serve a formal dinner but all are invited to bring finger foods to share. Plates and utensils will be provided. There will be soft drinks left over from the EXPO, but if you want anything specific, bring it. (NO ALCOHOL!). Also, if you wish, bring a wrapped philatelic gift worth at least \$10 for a gift exchange.
- The normal January meeting for Arlington would be on New Year's Day, so the meeting has been moved to Wednesday, January 8, 2025.
- Programs and/or discussions are needed for next year

(Flower Mound meeting). If you have any ideas, please contact Dan Golden.

- The TSDA will have a stamp dealer bourse in Richardson on Dec 13-14 at the DoubleTree Hotel. In 2025, they will be held at the Holiday Inn, 3220 Craig Drive in McKinney (US 75, exit 39A / Eldorado)

## Where Am I?:

- Rick had a "Where am I?" Bhutan was guessed by Tom Turner.

## Show & Tell:

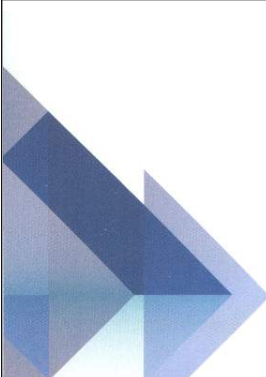
- Skip:
  - Going through the donations from the EXPO, he discovered a lot of large US Banknote stamps. If anyone collects these, please let Skip know.
- Peter:
  - A letter from the ATA with deficient postage (36¢) but got here anyway.
  - AAPE election postcard that was returned although the address was correct.
  - On November 12 he mailed a letter to Washington and it was postmarked November 21.
  - He received more revenue documents from Peru.
  - Received weird stamps from Austria:
    - A beer coaster that has an actual die-cut & gummed stamp in the middle.
    - A wool hat stamp.
    - A stamp made from recycled postal worker's shirts.
    - A bandage stamp.
  - The AHPS has an article from Peter in their magazine (based on a previously published Stamping Around article).
- Stuart Clark showed a valuable sheet of documentary stamps that he got in a mystery box at the Silent Auction.
- Dan Golden shared a letter he received from the town of Golden, Ireland. He had written to them and someone responded.
- Ken Wills shared a souvenir from Egypt with coins and stamps in it. It showed Hieroglyphics, but spelled Egypt incorrectly!

## Door Prize Drawing:

- Gift Certificates were awarded to Tom Turner, Jim Monnig and Donna Howell.

## Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.



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eBay Store: [EAS Stamps](#)

Some of you may be wondering, what is Clark Central Parts Division? At the time, it was a European parts warehouse for Clark Equipment Corporation (USA) that shipped spare parts to European and northern African customers.

Clark Equipment was founded in 1916 in the USA and manufactured various material handling equipment, such as excavators & forklift trucks. There is a bunch of history about the company, being sold in 1995 to Ingersoll Rand, then Doosan International in 2007 and finally to Hyundai Genuine Group in 2021. There's an entry at Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark\\_Equipment\\_Company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clark_Equipment_Company).

But for me, what matters is 1984. In addition to being immersed in German daily living (which I had never done), my internship at the company involved various little studies relating to optimizing things in the warehouse. My key study was optimizing how large pallets of parts were done. At the time, it was with heavy triple-walled corrugated boxes, which were needed since the pallet was held together with steel straps. I proposed using "stretch wrap" instead and thus reducing the need for triple-corrugated boxes (to just single or double-corrugated). I had a trial stretch-wrap machine brought in, we put together a fairly heavy pallet, and had the forklift truck operator drop it while driving. Nothing fell apart! I was able

to save the company money by saving on heavier boxes and it was also a safety issue: steel straps, if they snap or break under pressure... well, that could be painful.

Now, one of the pieces of equipment that Clark manufactured is familiar to many people: the "Bobcat". Since I didn't have any 1984 pictures of one, I did find one parked on the side of the road near where I live (see to the left).

And while I did have a small die-cast model of a Bobcat, it seemed to disappear, but I still have the Bobcat winter jacket that I bought from the company in Mülheim in 1984!



When doing these articles, where I match (usually) a stamp to something in my life, there are other philatelic items that can also be involved on occasion. To wit: postage meters.

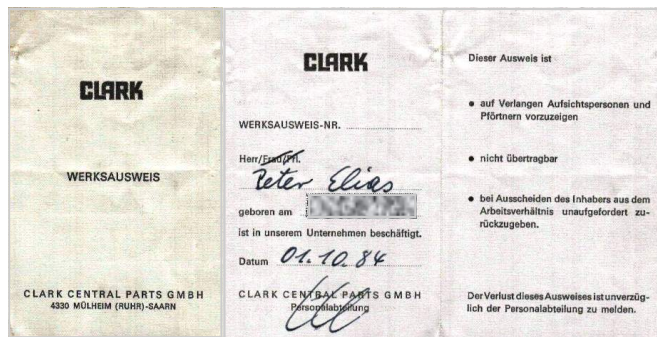
While doing some house cleaning recently, I came across a folder from 1984 from Clark Central Parts Division in Mülheim a.d. Ruhr (a.d. = "on the") in North Rhine-Westphalia. Ruhr is the name of the river that runs through the city. That said, there is also a "Mülheim am Rhein", and a couple of others Mülheims. At present, the population in Mülheim a.d. Ruhr is about 175,000.

In my folder, the envelope with the Clark meter related to Clark wanting some additional information regarding my working for them at an internship between October 1 to late December 1984.

At that time, I was working towards my Bachelor of Science degree in Packaging Engineering at MSU (Michigan State University). While "education" and a degree are good things to have, practical work experience puts a feather in that cap!

While there were some internships available via the MSU School of Packaging, I got mine through the German Department at the University. And while most of those are there for people learning German and getting immersed in living in Germany for a bit, this particular internship also happened to be packaging related! And while here in the USA, most internships were generally "unpaid" (or very little paid), this one had decent pay.

While the job paid well as an internship, I did of course have expenses, such as flying to Germany & back, local transportation (I bought a car), and rent & meals to the landlord, whose family was my host and also worked at Clark. Some other perks included 1 week of paid vacation (equivalent to 4 weeks per year) and medical & dental benefits; things you normally do not get with short-term internships here in the USA. My work ID is below.



# 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

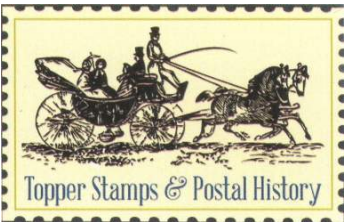
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is [www.kenwills.net](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact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

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- [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](mailto: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 PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: [jstrubel-boy@aol.com](mailto:jstrubel-boy@aol.com) 12/14



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*Been There,  
Done That*

## Castello di Mesocco

By Peter Elias



Mesocco is a village that is along the main route you would be taking if driving from eastern German-speaking Switzerland (such as Zürich) to Lugano, in the southern Italian-speaking part.

Despite 1,323 residents in 2020, that hasn't drastically changed since 1701, when there were 1,013 people!

The [Castello di Mesocco](#) is shown on Switzerland Scott #B135, from 1944. The castle (which is just south of the [current village](#)) was built in the 12th Century; however, human settlements in the area date back to 6,000 BC. The castle ruins are one of the larger ones in the Canton of Graubünden (Grisons).

In late September 1984, I was en-route to Mülheim a.d. Ruhr (Germany) to start a 3-month internship (October to December). Prior to that though, I thought I'd do some sightseeing. My trip there began in Detroit and took me to Luxembourg on Iceland Air.

Particularly, I wanted to go to Switzerland and I had 2 weeks to do so. Since I was still in college at that time, there was not much spare change available.

So I rented the most basic car I could find (see right); it was a 1984 Ford Fiesta. And I mean basic. Not just a manual transmission (and certainly no A/C), it also did not even have a radio!



Luckily, I had a “Walkman” style cassette player with me (and it also had a radio). Trouble was, you had to use headphones, which is a no-no when driving, so I bought some cheap stereo speakers (which I actually still have...).

I don't think I had much sunshine at all on that trip. At some point, I did drive past the Mesocco castle and took a photo. Unfortunately 2 years later, in Michigan, my parent's basement, where I had stored most of my college stuff (including photos & slides) flooded during extensive rains for 30+ days (while I was in Switzerland again that year). The photo of the rental car was elsewhere in the house (and used it to order the Zazzle stamp above in 2005), but most other negatives, photos & slides from 1985 and prior were a loss (and thus also lost memories..).

## APS 2024 Star Route Awards

By Peter Elias

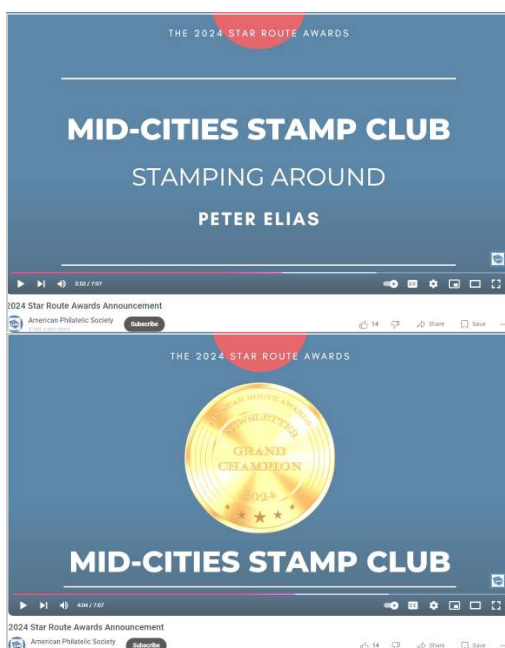
The APS (American Philatelic Society) announced the 2024 “Star Route” award winners for APS Chapters & Affiliates newsletters and websites on November 19. The announcement was made via a 7-minute YouTube video that can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7s9kih1tU>

For APS Chapter & Affiliates newsletters, there were 27 entries gathering Vermeil, Large Vermeil, Gold & Large Gold awards. For websites, there were 24 entries.

### Breakdown by medal level:

	V	LV	G	LG
Newsletters	2	8	16	1
Websites	2	12	8	2



**Stamping Around** received both a Large Gold and the Grand Champion Award. Cropped YouTube screen shots are to the left.

**Stamping Around** received a Star Route Vermeil in 2023; we did not enter in 2022.

There was no entry

for the Mid-Cities Stamp Club website.

The Dallas / Park Cities Philatelic Society received a gold for their newsletter.

The Grand Champion award for websites went to the US Philatelics Classics Society.

Many years ago, the APS had a “chapter newsletter competition”. Given the advent of more and more websites that APS chapters & affiliates are now doing, they renamed the competition in 2022 and also added websites

Mid-Cities Stamp Club member Arthur von Reyn received a Gold level award for the “Gay & Lesbian History on Stamps” website of which he is the webmaster.



## USPS 2025 Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

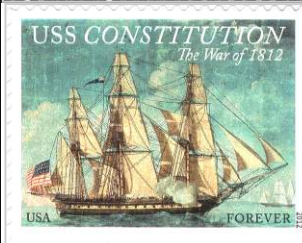
According to a Press Release by the USPS on November 15, 2024: *The Postal Service filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) for Shipping Services price changes to take effect January 19, 2025. The proposed adjustments were approved by the Governors of the USPS this week. The change would raise Shipping Services prices approximately 3.2 percent for Priority Mail service and Priority Mail Express service, 3.9 percent for USPS Ground Advantage and 9.2 percent for Parcel Select.*

I will publish a table with the current and January 19 key postage rates in the January 2025 issue of Stamping Around.

*Been There, Done That*

## USS Constitution

By Peter Elias



The “USS Constitution” is the world’s oldest still commissioned naval warship that is still afloat!

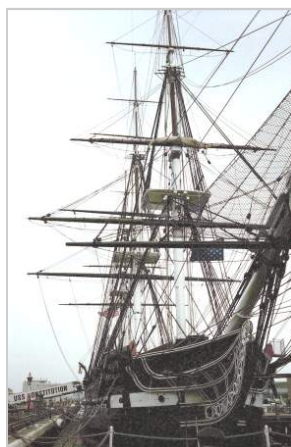
The ship, also known as “Old Ironsides” is a heavy frigate and was launched in 1797 (as per USA Scott #951 from 1947). It was the 3rd of 6 frigates that was constructed.

The ship is most noted for her actions in the War of 1812 (against Britain) where she defeated 5 British warships, one of which earned her the name of “Old Ironsides”.

While the Constitution was retired from active service in 1881, she was designated a museum ship

in 1907. If you were around in 1934, you could have seen her in one of 90 ports during a 3-year tour. In 1997, for her 200th anniversary, she was still able to sail under her own power!

These days, she is usually found in the Boston harbor at Pier 1 of the former Charlestown Navy Yard. And that is where I saw her in August 1998 during a visit to Boston (during some “off time” while on a business trip). Back in those days one had to stay over a Saturday night in order to save on airfare, so a perfect time to check out the ship!



## New Club Officers for 2025-2026

By Peter Elias

The new officers are:

President	Rick Howell
1st Vice-President	Rich Hildebrandt (for Arlington)
2nd Vice-President	Dave Stockbridge (for Granbury)
3rd Vice-President	Dan Golden (for Flower Mound)
Secretary	Janet Moyer
Treasurer	Tom Cunningham (not present)

At the Arlington meeting on November 6, current club President swore in the new club officers for 2025-2026.

Note: We've increased the number of VP's from 2 to 3, each aligned with one of our 3 meeting sites so that a club officer should be in attendance at each meeting.



Photo by Peter Elias

Ken Aldridge                      Rick Howell      Dan Golden      Rich Hildebrandt      Janet Moyer      Dave Stockbridge

## 2025 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 2024 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:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online colors newsletters) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed black & white newsletters)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$25 Sponsor Membership</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Sponsor (with mailed black & white newsletters)              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 6 Additional Adult (no separate newsletter copy)       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 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**



## MEET & EAT for December 2024

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & Eats" are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM and start ordering at that time. However, latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 to 6:30 PM with the Arlington new meeting start time now being at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

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

### ARLINGTON

December 4      Club Christmas Party / Potluck Dinner  
6 PM              Held at the Bob Duncan Center

### FLOWER MOUND

No meeting this month! See you in 2025!

### GRANBURY

No meeting this month! See you in 2025!

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**MCSC - Xmas Party - Dec. 4**  
**EXPO Planning Meeting - Dec. 7**  
**TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse - Dec. 13-14**

## 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 \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each)! Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto: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](mailto:stockdave44@yahoo.com).

Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions. 4/23