

# 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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 37, Number 6

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

June 2024

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Golden Gate

By Peter Elias

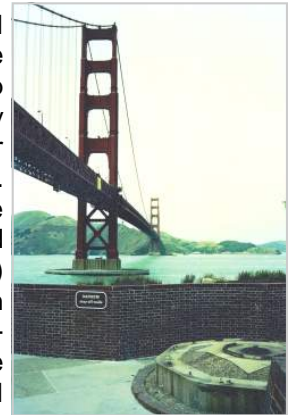


The Golden Gate bridge is shown under construction in the 1930's on USA Scott #3185 as part of the "Celebrate the Century 1930's" souvenir sheet. It is also shown on #UX282 (below), a USPS postal stationery card issued in 1997.

The Golden Gate bridge spans the



Two years prior, in May 1997, I was in San Francisco for the Pacific97 International Stamp Show and managed to get away from stamps (how dare I...) for some non-philatelic sightseeing. Just off-camera to the left in the picture at right is (and situated almost underneath the bridge) "Fort Point" (aka "Castillo de San Joaquín"), a Civil War fortress located on the southern edge of the strait. Much as I love philately, I also love visiting fortresses!



"Golden Gate", which is a 1-mile wide strait that connects San Francisco Bay with the Pacific Ocean. Ferry service to connect the San Francisco & Marin sides of the strait began in 1820. While building a fixed link was proposed in the late 1800's, it did not become possible until the early 20th century.

Design work started in 1916 and the bridge opened in 1937 and was at that time the world's largest suspension bridge. The total length is 8,900 feet (1.7 miles), 4,200 feet between the spans, 90 feet wide and 746 feet tall. Over 88,000 vehicles pass every day. I was driving one

of those vehicles in the late 1990's.

In July 1999, after a business trip, I took a boat cruise near the Golden Gate bridge (left) that also stopped off at Alcatraz Island.



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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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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:

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



"Editor At Work"  
 LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

When submitting articles that use US stamps for illustrations, please use mint or uncancelled copies (and scan them at 300 or 600 dpi) in order to best illustrate the stamp and its subject. Postmarks & cancellations just distract, UNLESS they are the focus of the article...

If you only have a used copy of a US stamp, and if it is somewhere from the 1920's to around 2006, I generally have mint versions of stamps from that era from my own collection that can be used for illustrations (I do have some holes though as my collection isn't quite 100% complete). While there may be images found of the stamp in question on the internet, it's best to not use someone else's images or scans unless you get permission. In some cases, I go out and buy the stamp I need to illustrate my articles with. For my "Piran" article, I needed a single stamp from a larger set of Yugoslavian stamps; the only eBay seller of the single mint stamp was in Poland, so I had to wait a couple of weeks until it arrived..!

There's more than one school of thought when it comes to things like fonts, font sizes, character & line spacing, number of columns and line justification.

I try to keep things relatively uniform. Generally I use 14 point Times New Roman font in [blue underlined](#) text and 8.5 to 10 point Arial in standard black. Reason is that the newsletter is geared around a "printed page" and I increase or decrease font sizes (while keeping it "readable") in order to make things fit. This column is written in 9 point Arial (except for the name of the font earlier in the paragraph...

I generally keep columns at 2 equal columns per page (0.25" apart) and fully justified; however, I see it done both ways (fully or just left-justified); there's no "right or wrong" here, just preference. Except this and the previous paragraph, which are only left-justified, all others above are fully justified.

## Coming Attractions

### 2024

<b>MAY 28</b>	<b>MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD, by Gary McNamee
<b>JUN. 5</b>	<b>MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	Cinderellas, by Ken Wills
<b>JUN. 19</b>	<b>MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>JUN. 25</b>	<b>MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>JUN. 28 - 29</b>	<b>TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse</b>
DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 US Hwy 75 / Campbell Rd. Friday 10 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4	
<b>JUL. 3</b>	<b>MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD, possibly by Rick Howell
<b>JUL. 17</b>	<b>MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>JUL. 23</b>	<b>MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>AUG. 7</b>	<b>MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>AUG. 21</b>	<b>MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic

## Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



### Applications Received:

John Hughes (#672)  
 Mathew K. Ittoop (#673)

### New Members:

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

### Resignations:

n/a

### Not Renewing for 2024:

n/a

### Deceased:

n/a

### Membership Summary – May 15, 2024

Membership as of April 17, 2024	93
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	2
Not Renewing for 2024	( 0 )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of May 15, 2024	95

## Postcrossing: Dnipro

By Peter Elias



Greetings from Dnipro

Most of you may have heard about "[Postcrossing.com](https://www.postcrossing.com)", a free online service where you can sign up to send & receive postcards from around the world.

According to Postcrossing, there are currently 804,594 members in 208 countries that have collectively mailed 76,527,133 postcards (and more by the time that this is published)! I'm sure that makes postal services around the world happy!

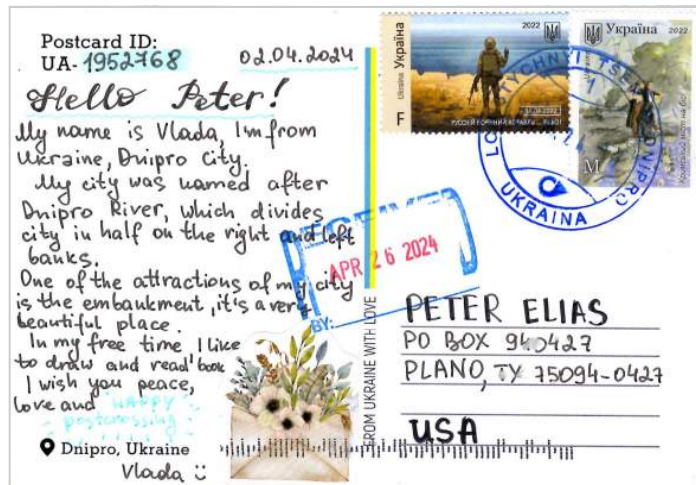
I joined back in 2016. As of writing this in late April, since 2016 I have received 24 postcards and have sent 23 of them (and another is currently on its way to Germany).

There is no cost for the service. Basically your only costs will be that of usable picture postcards and postage.

When you want to send a card, you simply request the name of someone. They'll send you a random name along with their mailing address and profile (to give you a better idea of what kind of postcard they might be interested in). Note that cards you receive in turn will not be from the person to whom you sent one.

There is a "Postcrossing ID" associated with this request. They request that you upload a scan (picture side only) prior to mailing. In turn, when someone receives a card, they want you have you log in that you've received a card based on the ID number on the card, and send a comment or note to that sender. You may not necessarily know the sender's address (unless they wrote their return address on the postcard).

On April 26, I received a card from Vlada in "Dnipro". Not knowing where exactly Dnipro is, I had to consult Google Maps. The sender, Vlada, was nice enough to use one of the recently issued Ukrainian stamps that makes a "finger gesture" towards the sunken Russian warship. Great to get one of these stamps in actual postally used condition (and in only 24 days!).



## Straits Settlements

By Ken Wills

Most of the Malayan states (Johore, Kedah etc.) first issued their own stamps in the nineteenth century. Have you ever wondered why Malacca and Penang were exceptions to this? Malacca's individual definitives date from March 1, 1949. Similarly Singapore only started issuing its own stamps on September 1, 1948.



The answer is that they were part of the Straits Settlements. This organization was established in 1826, and was ruled by the British Raj as part of the British East India Company. Originally it consisted of Penang, Singapore, Malacca and the Dindings (part of Perak). Accordingly those states used the stamps of the Straits Settlements, which became a British crown colony in 1867. The governor of this colony was also responsible for the Cocos Islands, Christmas Island and Labuan.

During World War II, Malaya, including the Straits Settlements, fell into Japanese hands. After the war, the colony was dissolved in 1946. Singapore then became a crown colony, and Penang and Malacca joined the new Malayan Union.

Singapore used to have a remarkable philatelic museum, which put on special programs for children. On display was several covers franked with both Malay states and Straits Settlements stamps. The reason was that the Malay states were not members of the UPU. Their stamps were valid throughout Malaya, but Straits Settlements stamps were needed to take advantage of the UPU policies of international mailing.

During the Victorian area, it appears as if the postal authority had difficulty in obtaining fast delivery of stamp stock, and so many surcharges were printed on other denominations.

## Thank You

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps for donating about 3½ boxes of philatelic material. These were items that came from various people that were trying to sell collections, but that aren't easily sellable (such as USA & UN first day covers, usually of the "personalized" variety (2 huge binders at top left of picture), or older albums with just "beginner collections"



and that were usually badly damaged due to poor mounting techniques (such as using cellophane tape to shut the ends of Crystal Mounts).



## Updates from East Texas

By Ray Cartier

This month's great article in *Stamping Around*, by Dan Golden should be forwarded to LINNs or one of the other major philatelic magazines/newspapers. It's a fresh look at a new form of errors created by a new technology. Clever research!

From the middle of the Piney Woods in far east Texas, HELLO OUT THERE!! I'm starting to get out from under the cloud of losing my lifemate. The Boys and Girls Club in Marshall, Texas just gave me approval to allow me to volunteer there, after they got a good response to the background check they did on me. I'm going to work mornings this summer, primarily with 11 and 12 year olds and I proposed that my three areas of informing this group will be on Space, philately and travel around the globe. I'll be there for two to three hours in the mornings, 2 or 3 times a week.

I brought in a sampling, of what I wanted to do, to show to the two women who manage the facility, and started by showing a photo of 9 year old me on the south side of Chicago, with one of my younger brothers. We're standing in front of the three story tenement where we had a three room apartment in the back half of the third floor when I was 9 or 10 years old in the 1940s. I hope that it shows these kids that they can grow to live in a better environment when they grow up, if they try to.



I then showed 60 pages of photos that I took on our visit to Romania several years ago. There are some stamps that picture some of the objects in the photos and I believe that they will be impressed by the photos of "Dracula's Castle" (Bran Castle) in Transylvania. There are a few stamps picturing Count Dracula. He actually lived in a castle a few miles down the road but it has collapsed. But he did visit this one a few times and it is eerie looking, especially at night. I have a photo of Karen walking up steps in a secret passage within the walls of the building.

Additionally, I've inserted page 3 of the April 2009 issue of *"Stamping Around"*, in which I wrote a full page article with a stamp showing Dracula's Castle, a Souvenir sheet of 4 stamps showing Dracula as a normal person on the first stamp, followed by three of him with his fangs showing. At the top of the page is a photo of Karen and me with the castle behind us, and next to it is a photo of us on one of the layers of roofs, with me about to take a bite from the back of Karen's neck.

I'll point out that only five photos have autos in the background, but that several have wagons pulled by mules, oxen or horses. In fact I took one photo of three horse-drawn Conestoga covered wagons,

in a caravan of gypsies. The wagons are just like those that settlers in America used 150 or so years ago. In addition to photos of the exteriors of several castles, I'm showing photos picturing the extravagances of the interiors of some castles.

There was a Painted Church we found in the interior of the country. All four sides have thousands of paintings of images from the bible, and the priests take the parishioners outside as he describes the paintings from the parts of the scriptures that are represented. I enclose close up views of several of the small paintings.

Additionally, the kids will see a 10.000 Leu bill which, I'll tell them, is worth \$2.10 in American money. There are photos of the normal day to day costuming that the locals wear daily.

I'll finish my presentation with several photos from the "Merry Cemetery". Instead of tombstones, there is a 4 to 5 foot tall, hand carved and hand painted vertical wooden headstone. At the top is an inverted V which is used as a roof astride a carved multi-colored cross. This is atop a wooden board which shows colorful images from the life of each persons buried below. Examples of these are a costumed man dancing between a violinist and a guitarist; a woman milking a cow; a coal miner; 2 men at a table drinking liquor, a little girl in the street about to be hit by a taxi; a weaver; a young mother with three small children; a murderer holding a rifle and his victim; a woman in prayer and on and on.



After going through the book, I'll tell the children a Romanian fairytale or folktale from Karen's writings. I think that I can do something like this for six to 10 months and I might extend that by one other thing.

I've written to both, the APS and the ATA, for stamps that I can give to the children. I'll try to come up with some type of stamp books in which they can mount them. I have about 2,000 stamp hinges and I'll see if this goes over or not.



## If 1 Hinge Is Good, are 3 Hinges Better?

By Peter Elias



I was clearing out an older donation album of various stamps, and ran across this one from Dubai (amongst a couple hundred of other stamps).

While the stamp itself looks ok on front, the back tells a whole different story.

First of all, the previous owner, uneducated in the use of hinges, decided that a slightly over-size stamp such as this definitely require 3 hinges to keep it securely in place in the album!

Second, it appears that after about 50+ years, the lick 'n stick gum (aka "moisture activated gum" to be technically correct...) decided to not "stick" any longer. This stamp and many others simply popped off the album pages by themselves! While that makes it seem like it makes the process of removing these stamps easier (it did...), I also noticed that wherever the hinge was, there was a kind of a shadow / border around it! You can see this in the example above.

Weirdly enough, this brownish "border" can be partially wiped away with your finger (and appears a bit "powdery" in nature. But, it still leaves a bit of a stain on the stamp & album page. I've never seen anything quite like it!

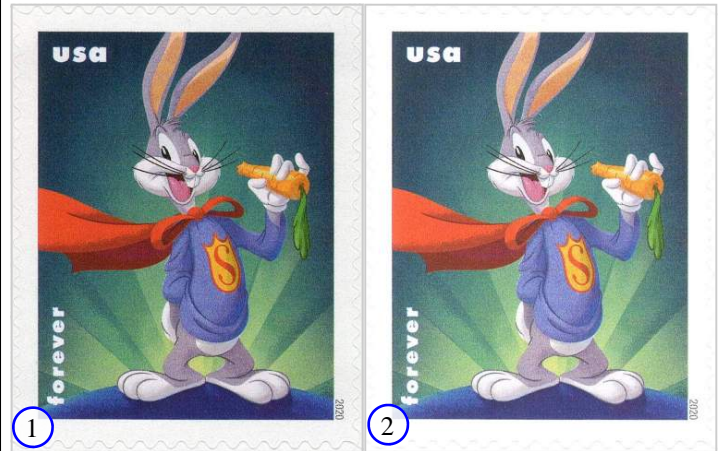


Above is another example of this, shown by some inexpensive GDR (East Germany) definitives. The 1st, 2nd & 6th stamps kind of fell off the page and I turned them around so you can see this weird phenomena with the hinges that were used. The 1st & 2nd stamps still have their hinges attached, the 6th one does not (and the 7th stamp was gone).

Obviously this staining went through the album pages and that whole "Statesman" album needed to be disposed of. These stamps aren't quite in collectible condition and I will re-donate them to Pegasus Creative Reuse in Dallas in hopes that some "artist" can do something interesting with them (such as a decoupage project). Beats the landfill ...

## Scanning Dilemma

By Peter Elias



When scanning stamps for use in articles, I want them to look good, and also make sure that the die-cuts show up.

Directly above (#1) is roughly what a standard scan from my scanner looks like when I scanned the entire Bugs Bunny sheet, but cropped it to show just the stamp I'm interested in, it is a bit "dark", while the actual paper color is fairly bright white, such as what it looks like when I increase the brightness (#2 above). However, that almost bleaches out the die-cuts, making them barely visible on a standard printed page.

What to do? I want to make sure that the die-cuts are shown clearly, like in #3 above. I could remove ALL stamps that surround this one from the sheet, but the backing paper is also very white.

To do what you see in #3, it requires moving the stamp to another piece of backing paper that is specifically designed for self-adhesive items, and that isn't pure white.

Since I often use USPS "Priority Mail" labels, such as the one on the right, the backing paper that they use is a bit "off-white". So I transfer the stamp to that backing paper (#4) and scan it.



Actual label size is 3" x 1.875"



Even though I brighten it up a bit (#3), it does now make the die-cuts stand out better! The only downside is that the stamp is now no longer on the original backing paper, yet still "mint" and usable as postage!



## President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

The Club and EXPO are needing more members to step up to help fill openings. Talk to me, Rick Howell or Ralph Poore. Several people are dropping out due to health and personal reasons.

Every member should consider working up a "Red Folder." This is where your financial and personal information, who to be contacted, etc. is listed for loved ones (put it in a safe deposit box, small safe, etc.).

Remember to include in the safe deposit or safe the following: value and how to dispose of your stamp collections, user names, passwords, credit and debit cards, etc. Finally, let your loved one (s) know where to find the "Red Folder."

## Closed Album

By Peter Elias

The March-April issue of Topical Time (American Topical Association) had an article on pages 32-33 about the passing of Karen Cartier on February 19, 2024. From 2002-2009 she was ATA office manager (concurrently with husband Ray's tenure as ATA Executive Director). She volunteered for 5 years starting in 2009 to combine the various ATA "topical checklists" into a single database (which had been developed by her son). Her collecting passion were fairy tales & folk stories and she had several books published ("Tales by Mail").

## 2024 EXPO Mini-Exhibit Request

By Peter Elias

Since EXPO 2024 is now less than 6 months away and since we are not having regular judged exhibits this year, there won't be the usual pleas for coming up with exhibits.

HOWEVER, we want to make sure that we can have something to "show" to EXPO visitors, and as such we will have at 4 frames (total of 64 pages) of mini-exhibits available. These will be located in the EXPO entry area near the registration table.

--> I encourage all members that have provided 1-page (or even 4-page) mini-exhibits in the past, to please consider them for use in this year's frames. There will be no entry fees (but no judging & awards either...). And they will hopefully be looked at more than before, as everyone coming & going to EXPO will be walking by them, and hopefully have a look-see.

My suggestion for these mini-exhibits is for them to be eye-catching (or "philatelic eye candy" as they call it...); and of course be educational as well! Especially useful are "unusual" philatelic items. Let's give people something interesting & different to look at.

I'll have entry forms available shortly and can email them to you as a fillable PDF file. Questions? Please contact me at [info@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:info@mid-citiesstampclub.com).



Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

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Been There,  
Done That



## Rigi

By Peter Elias

To the left is Switzerland Scott #2107, issued in 2021 to commemorate 150 years of the [Rigi Railways](#).

Rigi is the name of a mountain in central Switzerland, on the eastern side of Lake Lucerne (which is known as "Vierwaldstättersee" in German -> meaning "lake of the four forests / woods").

Think about that for a moment: 150 years of a train going up a fairly steep incline as far back as 1871!

To make this work, the railway had to be a "cog railway", as the inclines were up to 25%!

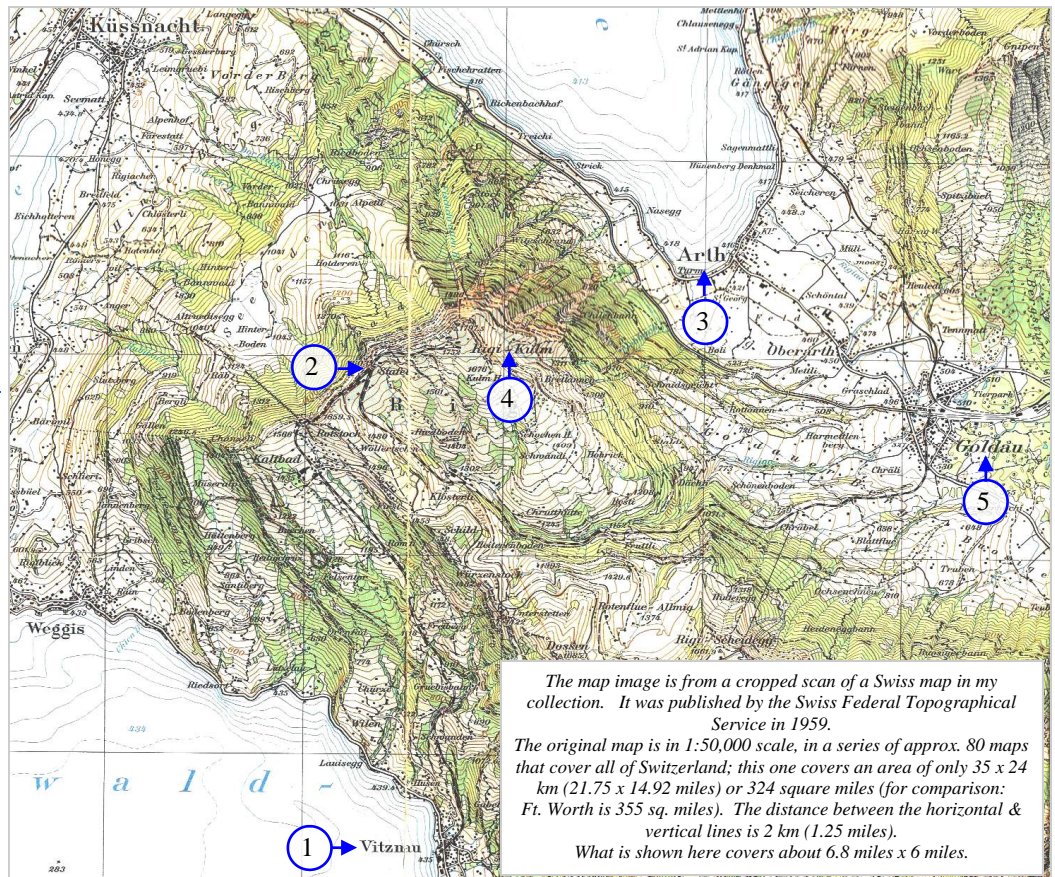
The original locomotives were steam-powered and the original rail line ran from Vitznau (on Lake Lucerne, see #1 on the map above right) to Staffel (#2 on map, but Staffel was then only spelled with one "f"). You can follow that rail line as the slightly thicker "black & white" line on the map from #1 to #2. To give you a perspective, that rail journey covered all of 5 kilometers (3.1 miles). Vertically, it climbed a distance of 1,115 meters (3,658 feet). The height at Staffel is at 5,085 feet above sea level. Staffel is also the border between the Swiss Cantons of Lucerne & Schwyz.

"Staffel" loosely translated (by Google) means "landing of a staircase". But Staffel is NOT the summit of the Rigi mountain, that would be the "Kulm" (#4), which translates into "rounded mountain summit". The Kulm in turn was fully in the Canton of Schwyz.

On these Swiss topographical maps, the elevation lines are in 20 meter (65.6 feet) increments. They are very close together in many spots, indicating how steep this area is. The lines may be hard to see on a regular printed page, but if you are looking this article in a PDF file, then zoom in on it.

This map above, by the way, is a close-up section of a much larger map that our family used in the mid-1960's when hiking. The map also shows hiking paths, generally as a thin line with breaks in it. The map itself is dated 1959.

Now what about #3 & #4 on the map above? To reach the "Kulm" (#4), they also wanted to build a railway



The map image is from a cropped scan of a Swiss map in my collection. It was published by the Swiss Federal Topographical Service in 1959. The original map is in 1:50,000 scale, in a series of approx. 80 maps that cover all of Switzerland; this one covers an area of only 35 x 24 km (21.75 x 14.92 miles) or 324 square miles (for comparison: Ft. Worth is 355 sq. miles). The distance between the horizontal & vertical lines is 2 km (1.25 miles). What is shown here covers about 6.8 miles x 6 miles.

from Arth (#3) to the Kulm. This was started by building an extension from Staffel to Kulm (remember that some of this had to do with regional funding and in which Canton they were in..). The extension to the original line was completed by the 1873 summer season. To make a short story long, see Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rigi\\_Railways](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rigi_Railways) for more details. The full additional rail line from Arth to Kulm was completed in 1875 for summer-only service until 1884 when year-round service was offered. Electricity replaced steam in the 20th century.



Postal stationery card featuring Rigi, mailed on May 6, 1925

--> Continued on Next Page -->

Rigi (continued...)



Surely by now, you're probably wondering I haven't talked about the "Been There" part on the previous page. Don't worry, here it is!

To the left is a ticket that our family bought on March 30, 1969 from Zürich HB (meaning Hauptbahnhof = main train station) to Rigi Staffel (#2 on the map) via Arth-Goldau (#5 on the map). This was deemed a "Sunday ticket" (Sonntagsbillet). What special conditions the ticket had, I don't know, I was only 8 years old at the time...

So, once I found the ticket, I wanted to see if there was a photo to go with that trip. Going through my mom's old photo albums, I did NOT see a photo of use from March 1969, however, there was one labeled "Rigi January" and it shows us all bundled up. Then there was a photo labeled "March", but didn't say where (might have been Rigi...). That is always a bit frustrating. Suggestion: sure, at the time you took the photos, you know exactly when & where you were, a couple decades later, memory gets a bit foggy... So please, write this stuff down on the back of the photos or in the albums for later generations!

Fast forward about 17½ years, and I found myself on

Rigi again, this time on December 6, 1986, as an adult. It is interesting to note, that while the ticket issued in 1969 by the Swiss Federal Railways had a "printed" date at the top, while the 1986 ticket printed by the Rigi Railway still used the "punched" date mechanism.



Back then, all of these tickets were "pre-printed" on a small piece of cardboard, and only when you bought it at the train station was the date added (generally these tickets were only valid from 2 to 10 days, 2 in this case).

The green ticket above is labeled as an "Ausflugsbillett" (excursion ticket), and was a "round-trip" ticket (2 arrows in the black box). Compare that to the 1969 ticket, which was one-way. My parents wouldn't just have us take a train up the mountain, and then back down. The point was to walk down!

In the 1969 case, I don't know to which cities surrounding Rigi we walked down to and which train we took back (I couldn't find any other tickets dated March 30, 1969...).

If you'll note, on the 1986 ticket, it says that it was for the original line built to the Rigi, from Vitznau (#1 on the map), but I bought it to go all the way to Rigi Kulm (#4).

And since I was an adult in 1986 and working in Switzerland, I had a car, so was able to drive to Vitznau. Given that I was also showing a newly hired consultant around Switzerland a bit, I had him with me on that trip, which was on a Saturday.



Above: The Rigi Kulm train and station at the top.



Above: You get some really nice views from Rigi Kulm.

This picture of me was taken by the consultant using my camera (and whose name I don't quite recall at this time; he didn't stay with the company for very long).



Above: the hiking path sign shows 2 directions, judging by the figures at the top, the left one appears to be a bit more strenuous than the right one.



And for the longest time, I've had this bottle of "Rigi Kirsch" (cherry liqueur), which I finally finished a few years ago. I did buy it in Switzerland, probably not at Rigi itself, but on some subsequent trip to Switzerland (1991?). This goes well with some desserts or cheese fondue. Prosit!



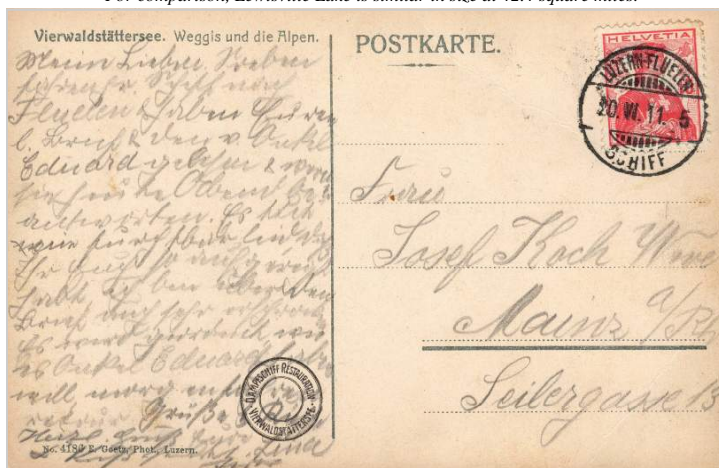
## Swiss Ship Cancel

By Peter Elias



Above is a PPC (picture postcard) of the “Vierwaldstättersee” (aka: “Lake Lucerne” in English). It is the 5th largest lake in Switzerland [according to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_lakes\\_of\\_Switzerland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_lakes_of_Switzerland)], with an area of almost 44 square miles\* and is bordered by 5 different Swiss Cantons: Lucerne, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Schwyz & Uri.

\* For comparison, Lewisville Lake is similar in size at 42.4 square miles!



I collect Swiss postcards prior to 1960, so this one qualified! After looking at the address side, it shows a postmark date of June 20, 1911, at 5 o'clock, shown in DD.MM.YY.HR format. Europeans tend to use a 24-hour clock, not “AM” vs. “PM”, so the “5” at the end is 5 AM (if it was 5 PM, it would be shown as “17”). They also used Roman numerals for the month. In any case, that’s fairly early in the morning!

What really caught my eye though wasn’t the date on the postmark, but the rest of it!

First, on the top half is LUZERN-FLUELEN. If you look at the Google map to the right, at #1 is LUZERN and at #2 is FLUELEN.



The second interesting thing then is the word “SCHIFF” at the bottom, which means “ship” in English. Thus we have a ship cancel from a ship plying Lake Lucerne! Of course it makes sense since the postcard also shows Lake Lucerne, except that it shows the city of Weggis in the foreground. Weggis is also shown on the old Swiss topographical map in the previous article (“Rigi”), as well as on the green train ticket as “Vitznau-Weggis”. Coincidence? Well, yes & no. While my “Been There... ” article “Rigi” on pages 7 & 8 focuses on the mountain (“R” on the map below), this article is focusing on Swiss lake travel & ships.

Perusing the subject of Swiss lake transportation a bit further, I found a fairly lengthy article at Wikipedia, [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schiffahrtsgesellschaft\\_des\\_Vierwaldst%C3%A4ttersees](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schiffahrtsgesellschaft_des_Vierwaldst%C3%A4ttersees) [in German], that is about the ship companies on Lake Lucerne.

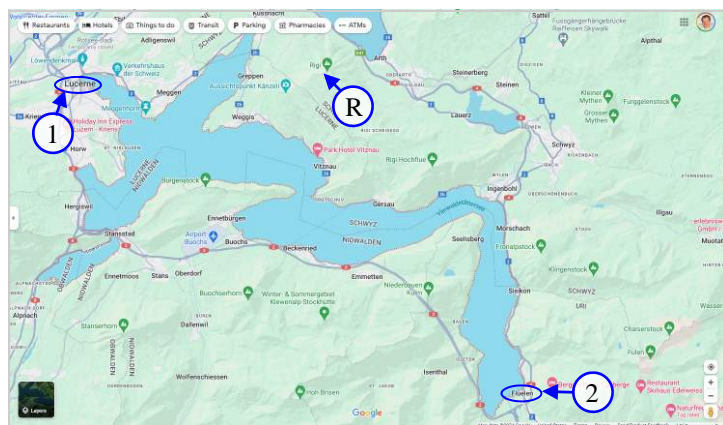
The listing shows several former ships that would have been on the lake in 1911. In trying to read the handwriting, I can only make out “My dears”, “Luzern”, “Fluelen” and something about “Uncle Eduard”; the card was addressed to Mainz (on the Rhine) in Germany, so this doesn’t give me any clues about which ship it could have been. I can read German just fine, I just have a problem with the handwriting itself... So, if you can make out what is written here, please let me know!

There is a small round “postmark-like” marking at the bottom center of the card, reading “Steamship Restauration” and “Vierwaldstättersee”. Around that time (in 1913), there were 27 ships listed in the fleet, of which 6 were “motorized” [Gas or Diesel] and the other 21 were “steamers”. For a relatively small lake, that is a lot of ships that were traversing it!

Currently, the fleet list shows 19 ships, of which 5 are paddle steamers, built between 1901 to 1928 and holding between 700 to 1,200 passengers! Many of the newer motorized ships only hold about 300 passengers, although there are 3 that hold 1,000 passengers.

The “Luzern - Fluelen” run is presently still made on an hourly basis! There are 32 ship stations along the lake. So as you can see, in Switzerland public transportation isn’t just with buses, trams & trains, but also ships.

These ships were also important in transporting goods; in 1895, 92,347 tons were shipped on Lake Lucerne! At the end of the 1980’s though, freight transport has been mostly relegated to trucks. In 2022, approx. \$23 million in tickets were sold, and another \$13 million in passes and \$2.5 million in ship rentals. While that is impressive, salaries for the employees was \$46.8 million!



Map is a screenshot from Google Maps at <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Lake+Lucerne/@46.985261,8.4436518,12z/>, obtained on May 6, 2024.

## MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2024

by Stan Christmas

### Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM on April 23, 2024.

### Attendees:

- ..Included guests Drew Christmas and Austin Mullins.

### Show & Tell:

- Austin Mullins: Austin showed a sheet of 25¢ stamps featuring cars.
- Bob Coleman: Bob showed a Civil War envelope he brought for Les Barton, who was not in attendance.
- Gary McNamee: Gary was recovering from his bout with cancer and looked great.
- Rick Howell:
  - Passed around an article in the recent Linn's about a 10-year-old collector Ava Rose.
  - Announced that StampX in London will be a virtual show. You will be able to review what vendors are selling, view events and there will be several world-wide societies and a round table. The link is on the MCSC Facebook page.
- Jim Myers:
  - Madeleine is doing well and her broken arm is mending. She brought cookies to the meeting.
  - Showed a old bag of stamp hinges that he will donate to Gene Atkinson for his stamp hinge collection.
  - Stanley Christmas showed three items related to the Adams Pick-Up mail service.

### Announcements:

- Dave announced two sets of APS books were available. Also, there were Oklahoma Philatelic Society books available with prices on the cover and MCSC Sales Books.
- Rick Howell announced that the APS will have a booth at StampX.
- Jim Myers said the April TSDA bourse went well and the next show will be June 28 & 29, 2024.

### Program:

- Stanley Christmas gave the program titled AIRBORNE AIRMAIL PICK UP SERVICE 1923 TO 1949 Part 2.
  - Part 1 from 1923 to 1939 was the "Proof of Concept" of the Adams Pick-up and Delivery System.
  - Part 2 from May 12, 1939 to May 14, 1940 was the establishment of Experimental Routes AM 1001 and 1002.
  - This presentation is a history of U.S. airmail system that was built around the airborne Adams Pick-Up and Delivery System.
  - It was implemented in 1939, mainly for small towns

with no airports, in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland New York. Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

- The airborne pick-up and delivery of airmail was terminated in 1949 due to the introduction of Highway Post Offices, the building of airports and use of piston engine airliners to carry the mail.

### Adjournment:

Dave adjourned the meeting around 8:00 PM.

## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2024

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

24 members attended the May Auction meeting in Arlington.

### Officer Reports:

**President** - President Ken Aldridge said we would have an abbreviated business portion of the meeting so we could get right to the auction.

### Announcements:

Tom Turner said that Susan Baker's Dad had died. She was at her parents' home in Missouri and would be there a while longer.

### Program:

Was the semi-annual auction. 49 out of 69 lots sold. The club netted \$34 from donated lots.

### Gift Certificates:

Were won by Diana Davis, Rich Hildebrandt, Patty Poore and Donna Howell.

## Try Some Of These

By Peter Elias

Hopefully some of my "Been There..." articles have inspired some of you to write your own versions. After all, every stamp has at least 1 story -> what is depicted on the stamp. Many stamps also have the 2nd story -> yours!



You don't have to be a world traveler to write these articles. There are several series of US stamps that feature an abundance of topics that you can tie into, such as the "Big Letter" stamps (based an homage to "Big Letter" postcards in the 1930's to 1950's).

There are 50 States of topical subjects on these stamps (issued as Scott #3561-3610 as 34¢ stamps and as #3696-3745 as 37¢ stamps). For example, the Florida stamp shows above several subjects: beaches, palm trees, rocket launches & the Space Shuttle. Surely at least every one of you has been to one of our fifty states (unless reading as this someone who has never been to the USA...).

Another great series is the CTC (Celebrate the Century) series with 100 stamps and all sorts of great subjects, such as this one, which is about a "thing", not a "place". Surely for many of you, this could/should evoke some memories (prior to me being born, but I do go to car shows)!

If you have an interesting story, but not the stamp to go with it, please let me know!



## Victory On Eagles Wings

By Dan Golden

June of this year will mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at the Battle of Normandy. Many scholars and historians consider this date, June 6, 1944, to be the turning point of World War II for the Allies on the Western Front. And so, to commemorate this anniversary of such an impactful date in world history, I figured I would write an article about a stamp specific to WWII, and one that has a deep personal connection for me: US #905 (left), issued on July 4, 1942. Odds are you are familiar with this stamp, as many millions of copies were produced and they continue to proliferate in more collections than I care to count. But I would like to use this opportunity to dive deep into the wealth of symbolism that is represented in this stamp so that we can all look upon this average inexpensive stamp and appreciate it a little more!



US Scott # 905

First, the subject of this stamp is an eagle. It should be fairly obvious how the eagle is a national symbol of the United States, especially with our national bird being the bald eagle. The wings of the eagle are in a "V" shape, a not so subliminal way of implying victory. Next, we find that the stars decorating the stamp around the central image of the eagle number 13, recalling the 13 original colonies that banded together in the face of a common enemy and to achieve a common cause. These 13 colonies of course, in the face of this crisis, became the United States! By using these 13 stars to call people's memory to the Revolutionary War and the independence that it achieved, the US Post Office Department is once again inspiring national unity behind the new dual-threat of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan!

As we turn our attention to the lower part of the vignette, we see that the eagle is clutching a set of arrows in both talons. Now it's difficult to really appreciate this symbolism without first understanding the iconography used in another image. In the Great Seal of the United States (shown in US #CE2 at top right), the eagle is depicted holding an olive branch in one talon and a set of arrows in the other. While the eagle's head faces the olive branch to indicate a preference for peace, the presence of both instruments of war and of peace implies the United States' equal capability in both. Returning our discussion to the stamp #905, the eagle seen here is only holding arrows, the olive branch is nowhere to be found. This stamp having been issued only a few months after Pearl Harbor, holding nothing but arrows is a clear display that the country has given up on the pursuit of peace. This is a time of war and the American people must put their focus on that.

Next, take a look at the position of the eagle's head. In the Great Seal, as mentioned previously, the eagle faces the olive branch to signify the nation's preference for peace. In the stamp, while not looking at an olive branch since none



US Scott #CE2 Great Seal of the United States

is depicted, the eagle is at least facing away from the direction in which the arrows are pointed. This is a subtle reference to the reluctance and hesitancy with which the United States joined the war against the Axis Powers. Americans had hoped to stay out of it until the attack on Pearl Harbor forced the war upon them. But now that America had been attacked, we would, as the arrows indicate, put everything we have into responding to the attack and fighting this war.

And that brings us to the final detail of our examination: the "WIN THE WAR" emblazoned across the center of the stamp. Notice that the phrase used is not something weak or half-hearted like, "Together We Can Win." Rather the stamp does not mince words. It is a direct command to the American people to get behind the war effort and do their part to win the war. Just as young men were fighting the war overseas, the American public could help win the war by planting victory gardens in their backyards, buying war bonds, carpooling, and recycling scrap. "WIN THE WAR" was a way of telling Americans that they too had a role to play in the country's ultimate victory.

I first picked up philately by responding to a Mystic Stamp Company ad in some junk mail. It said: "Send this ad in and we'll send you three historic mint stamps for free, along with a selection of stamps on approval." As a lover of history and history and having nothing to lose, I responded to the ad and a few weeks later there was an envelope from Mystic in my mailbox. When I opened it, the first of the free stamps I saw was US #905. Images really are worth a thousand words, and the symbolism leapt off the page at me so much so that I needed no explanation of the meaning behind any of it.

The amazing things about stamps is that they are a direct connection to and reflection of the society that created them at the time of their issue. When studying them we can ask ourselves, what was important to these people? What was being celebrated, what was society prioritizing, or what message was being conveyed? Holding US #905 for the first time, in an instant I felt connected to the Greatest Generation, the Home Front of WWII, and the general climate of the country in 1942, only months after Pearl Harbor. I caught a glimpse of history just by looking at a stamp, and I knew there was no way this feeling was limited to this one stamp. There were thousands more stamps to explore and discover! I was immediately hooked and have been an avid collector ever since.

## Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2024

By Janet Moyer

### Opening:

- Second Vice President Rick Howell called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

### Attendance:

- 11 members were present.

### Officer Reports:

- President – no report.
- Treasurer balance was given. The dealers have not paid yet for EXPO booths, but will start soon.
- Secretary - Janet Moyer said that the previous minutes were published in the newsletter.
- Facebook manager Rick Howell has bags of stamps available for purchase.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias has it almost finished.
- There was no old business.

### New Business:

- Elections of officers are coming up. If you are interested in being an officer, please notify Ken Aldridge.
- There will be a board meeting after the EXPO meeting on June 8th.
- We are considering changing the constitution to allow for three vice presidents– one for each location.
- June 28 to 29, the TSDA Bourse will be in Richardson. OKPEX will be the same weekend.

### Show & Tell:

- Dan Golden showed a sheet with all the stamps cancelled very neatly and an envelope with the stamps cancelled and drawn through with pen.
- Stu Clark showed a souvenir sheet (1939?) distributed by the Post Office Philatelic Truck.
- Sai Madhavapeddi showed some stamps from Thailand – beautiful.
- Ken Wills shared:
  - A Nixon stamp that had been strategically placed in a picture on a cover.
  - A Nixon cancellation.
  - Talked about trimming a Penny Black with scissors to “make it more valuable”.
- Peter Elias shared:
  - Booklet from the Liechtenstein Postal Service selling stamps – both new and older ones.
  - A Scott’s flyer about stamps.
  - ATA magazine with an article about Karen Cartier.
  - A comparison of the US Alzheimer’s stamp image with that of a family member.
  - A Switzerland Philatelic Society magazine.
  - Postcards from Finland.
  - Revenue stamps used as postage on a cover from his trading partner in Peru.

### Announcements:

- The next EXPO planning meeting will be on June 8, 2024 at 11:00 AM, at Jay Jay’s Restaurant on Bowen Street in Pantego. If you have any interest in helping

with the EXPO, please come.

- Ken Wills will be giving a program on “Cinderella Stamps” at the June 5th Arlington meeting .
- The next meeting is at Granbury on May 28th, the Meet & Eat will be at Grump’s.

### Other:

- Stanley shared the “Where Am I?” quiz (that is often done at the Granbury meetings). Bruce guessed it correctly.

### Program:

- Steve Carpenter gave a program on the changes in stamp collecting during the past 70(?) years.

### Door Prizes:

- 3 certificates were awarded after the program. Fellowship followed.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

## A Closer Look: GDR ZKD stamps

By Peter Elias



If you collect German stamps, you may have seen these 2 before. While I’ve seen them before here & there, I didn’t pay much attention to them, usually putting them in a stock book of duplicates.

The Scott catalog does list these as “Officials” in the German Democratic Republic (GDR, known in German as DDR) section as #O33 & #O35. They were issued in 1956 and were used for internal government communications (including government-owned industries).

“Zentraler Kurierdienst” (ZKD) means *Central Courier Service*. On the 10 pfennig (top stamp), it has a “control number” of 8015. My old Michel “Deutschland Spezial 1996” catalog does list these various control numbers, which were in various cities.

In 1965, the ZKD (Zentraler Kurierdienst) issued some of these larger control labels (stickers), which according



to an article in Linn’s, didn’t have any franking power and which is why they are not listed in the Scott catalog. Yet the “20” might seem to indicate 20 pfennigs.

On the stamp, the “VD” is an abbreviation for “Vertrauliche Dienstsache” (which is shown underneath the “VD”), and which translates to “confidential, official matter”. This one is listed as Michel Nr. 3 in the “VD” section.

While I’ve seen the top two ZKD stamps, this is the first of the large red versions I’ve run across. While it’s nice to have these 3 as mint & used versions, having them still on cover though, would be much more interesting (not to mention more valuable as well!). Judging by the Michel catalog, there are quite a few varieties of these ZKD official stamps, and these 3 just scratch the surface!

# 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

Been There,  
Done That

## Empire State Building

By Peter Elias



Scott #3185b is a part of the *Celebrate the Century* series of stamps and is on the 1930's sheet. It shows a top-down view of the Empire State Building (named after the nickname for the State of New York) in New York City and was built between 1930 to 1931.

It was the tallest building in the world (at 1,454 feet including the antenna) until the 1st tower of the World Trade Center tower opened in 1970. Currently, it has moved down the ranks to 7th tallest building in New York City, 9th tallest in the USA and 54th tallest in the world.

When construction started in 1930, the design had been changed 15 times to ensure it would become the tallest building in the world! The building's height, Art Deco architecture and observations decks (on the 86th and 102nd floors) have made it popular with tourists. It has also been featured in no less than 250 movies & TV series, starting with the movie "King Kong" in the 1930's.

When our family moved to the US in the early 1970's, we landed in New York City, and best as I can remember, spent a day or two there. I do remember that everything all seemed really big and overwhelming at the time (I was only 11) and certainly quite different from the "big" city of Zürich that I came from.

I know that despite being in NYC, going through the parent's old photo albums, they must not have taken any pictures, so I can't say for sure that we visited the Empire State Building at that time. The ONLY picture I could find was of use boarding a 747 in Zürich!

## For Sale

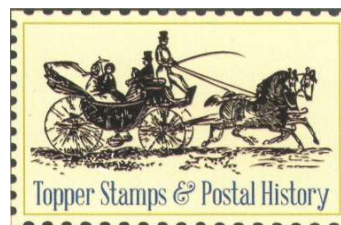
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is [www.kenwills.net](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact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

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

- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans](#) (1,700 items!!)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959](#) (900+ postcards !!)

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 6.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 7/23

**MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES!** Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, 25% and LESS of catalog values. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: [jstrubel-boy@aol.com](mailto:jstrubel-boy@aol.com) 12/14

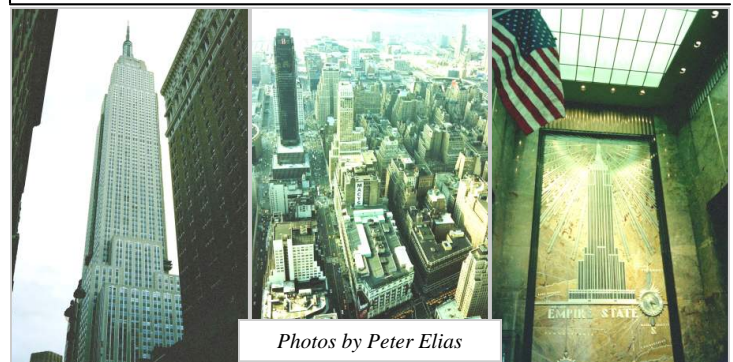


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Flash forward to March 22-23, 1997, and I can definitely say I was not only at the Empire State Building, but did actually take the elevator to the top! Back in the late 1990's and early 2000's, I had several customers in the New Jersey & New York City area and was in the area 7 times, but only rarely got to see something other than the client site, airport, car rental counter or hotel... On this trip though, I didn't just fly back immediately, but spent the weekend sightseeing (as March 22-23 were a Saturday & Sunday).

More details are at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire\\_State\\_Building](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_State_Building)



## MEET & EAT for

June 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

June 5 Moni's Pasta & Pizza,  
1730 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX  
76012-3054 (817) 860-6664

### FLOWER MOUND

June 19 Alforno's Italian Kitchen  
2260 Morriss Rd, Flower Mound, TX  
(972) 355-1709

### GRANBURY

June 25 Palio's Pizza Café  
3710 E. US Hwy 377, Granbury, TX

## 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

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**TSDA Dealer Bourse - June 28 - 29**