

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

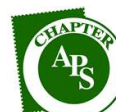
Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

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

September 2022

Been There, Done That

RhB

By Peter Elias

In 1989, Switzerland issued Scott #832 commemorating 100 years of the "RhB" ("Rhaetische Bahn" = Raetian Railway in German).

The RhB is a narrow-gauge (1 meter) regional train system in southeastern Switzerland and runs in the Graubünden (Grisons) canton, which includes cities such as Chur (capital), Landquart, Davos, Arosa, St. Moritz and others.

The SBB (Schweizerische Bundesbahn = Swiss Federal Railway) is the largest train company in Switzerland. Of the regional companies, RhB is the largest. The original route was planned from Landquart to Davos and work started on June 29, 1888 and completed to Klosters in 1889; the continuing segment to Davos followed later, and additional segments in the region were completed over the years into the early 1920's. More info is at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhaetian_Railway.

And as you might have guessed, I have ridden on the RhB; many times actually. When I was actually living in Switzerland, we didn't use it often, but did a couple of times in the late 1960's. However, once we moved to the USA, we went back on vacation to Switzerland many times, and invariably went to vacation in the Grisons area (usually Davos) many times in the 1970's and until 1983. We only rented a car to get us from the airport to Davos, and then used the train for the next few weeks. The picture above shows me (in 1981) leaning out of an RhB train as we are nearing Davos. Back then, their trains were mostly green, now they're red. This picture is actually a screen shot from an older Super8 film (I didn't have video back then).



After the mid-1980's, anytime I went to Switzerland, I always had a rental car, so I didn't get to use the RhB much, however, in 2013, Annie, Marcos & I went to

Davos and here's a photo of Annie (and partial of Marcos) just after the train had left the Filisur train station. A video screen shot of that train arriving is shown to the right where Marcos is on the left & Annie in the middle.



Below is another picture of the RhB train where we got off at one of the "suburbs" of Davos and subsequently took a chairlift up the mountain for a day hike down to Sertig Dörfli. All I can say is, if in Switzerland; use their trains! They're generally on-time to the minute and the scenery can't be beat!

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

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

2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Please see my article on page 3 about skewed images. When illustrating an article with images of stamps and covers, I often do have to “tweak” the image by:

- 1) Rotating it to “square it up”.
- 2) Cropping extraneous items out, such huge black (or other color) borders.
- 3) Fixing various minor flaws if needed using Photoshop Elements.
- 4) Enhancing the image, by increasing or decreasing the contrast, brightness, etc.

However, what I can't easily do is fix an image that has a poor “perspective” (think of a road that is going towards the distance. In real life, the edges of the road are parallel, but a photo often shows the road growing to a point in the distance. Only a picture taken from above and not at any sort of an angle would produce an image of a road with its sides being parallel. Same goes with photograph a stamp at close-up range (i.e.: just a couple of inches away). Even if you can hold the camera perfectly parallel to the stamp surface, most lenses will have a “wide-angle” perspective and you'll get a skewed stamp.

Sales Book Manager Needed

As a reminder, Skip Ely had stated that he is stepping down as “Sales Book Manager”. Since this a nice benefit for members (both those selling and those buying), I do hope that someone can come forward and take over these duties. Sales books include those entered by club members, as well as those that are procured from the APS. Please contact Skip if you have an interest in taking over these duties, and I'm sure he can fill you in on what is required.

Coming Attractions

2022

AUG. 23 MCSC-LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Skip Ely - Philatelic Trivia
AUG. 26 - 27 TSDA Bourse
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy,
Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)
SEP. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: TBD
SEPT. 15 MCSC - EXPO Meeting
SEPT. 16 - 18 Greater Houston Stamp Show
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy
Humble, TX
SEP. 21 MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic
Discussions
SEP. 23 - 24 TEXAS PRECANCEL CLUB Fall Meeting
Grapevine, TX Contact John Foster resoft-
ware@hotmail.com
SEP. 24 MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting
Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington @ 11 AM
SEP. 27 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Club Auction
OCT. 5 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Annual Club Picnic
Auction

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received:

Tim Sasser (#646)

New Members:

n/a

Reinstatements:

n/a

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

n/a

Membership Summary – August 17, 2022

| | |
|---|-------|
| Membership as of July 20, 2022 | 95 |
| Applications Received (counts as member next month) | 1 |
| New Members | 0 |
| Dropped for non-payment of dues | (0) |
| Resignations | (0) |
| Deceased | (0) |
| Reinstatements | 0 |
| Membership as of August 17, 2022 | 95 |



Would You Visit Prune Island?

by Peter Elias



So, would you visit "Prune Island"? Well, with a name like that, most people would probably say no. But judging by the 4 stamps (Scott #123-126 on the Grenadines of St. Vincent First Day Cover), it sure doesn't look like a bad place to relax for a day or three!

Note that on the 35c and \$1 stamps above, they refer to the "Palm Island Beach Club" and the "Palm Island Resort" which are ON "Prune Island".

Originally, Prune Island was unoccupied and had swamps and mosquitoes. In 1966, a John Caldwell and his wife took out a 99-year lease of the island from the St. Vincent government, and proceeded to plant palms. John seemed to have developed a habit of planting palms and was soon nicknamed "Johnny Coconuts". As a result of the palms, the name "Prune Island" was soon forgotten and it became known as "Palm Island". A 10-bedroom hotel named the Palm Island Beach Club was constructed.

By 1999, the structures on the island were falling down and were replaced by newer ones by the new owners. Now there is a 41-room hotel, a modern Spa, swimming pools, tennis courts and more. The 135 acre island is now a luxurious holiday destination (see https://dxnews.com/j88pi_palm/ for more info).

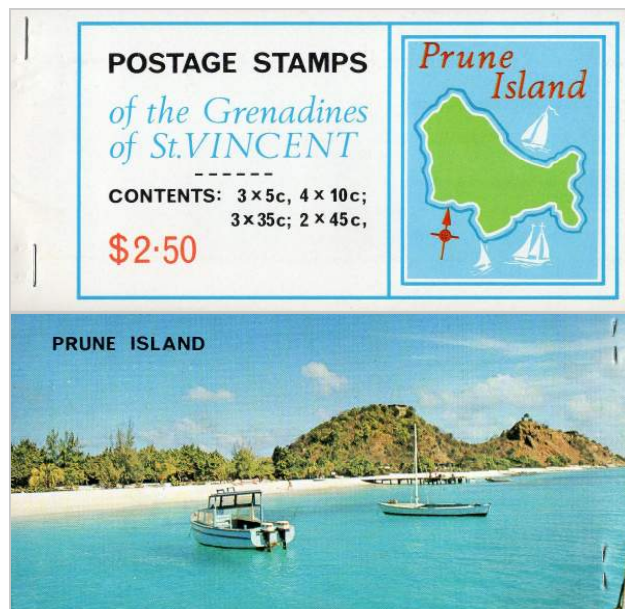


Scott #106 issued in 1976 (as part of a set of 4)



you can fly to Union Island, which is just 1 mile to the northwest! The Palm Island dirt airstrip was done away with after the Union Island got a paved runway.

In addition to the 1977 set of 4 stamps on the FDC to the above, St. Vincent also created a series of 7 stamp booklets, each with 4 different face values; one booklet for each of the main "Grenadines of St. Vincent" islands, which include: Bequia Island, Canouan Island, Mayreau Island, Mustique Island, Petit St. Vincent, Prune Island & Union Island.



Each booklet pane features a combination of different face values for that island. The scan below shows the cover of the Prune Island booklet and the 35c value (Scott #106) is shown in the left column. See the blue arrow which points to the location of Prune Island near the southern end of the Grenadines of St. Vincent island chain.

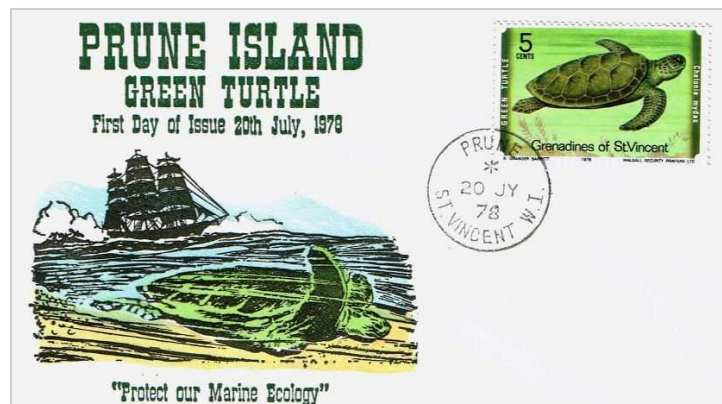
PRINCIPAL POSTAGE RATES

| | INLAND | COMMONWEALTH | FOREIGN |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------|
| Postcards | 3c | 8c | 12c |
| Letters 1 oz. | 5c | 10c | 17c |
| Letters 2 oz. | 8c | 15c | 30c |
| Printed Paper 1 oz. | 3c | 10c | 10c |
| Printed Paper 2 oz. | 4c | 12c | 12c |
| AIR MAIL (per 1/2 oz.) | | | |
| British Caribbean | 15c (postcards 10c) | | |
| United States of America | 35c (postcards 20c) | | |
| United Kingdom | 45c (postcards 25c) | | |
| Registration fee | 25c | | |

In 1976, EC\$0.35 was equal to US\$0.13! ... and still is! (Subject to revision)

Also shown above is the back of the booklet, as well as the inside back cover (slightly reduced), which shows all the main postage rates in effect at that time. As you can see, the stamps' denominations of 5c, 10c, 35c & 45c all corresponded to actual postage rates!

As someone who likes St. Vincent maps as a very sideline hobby, it's nice to have maps-on-stamps from my favorite island!



So is (was) there a post office on "Prune Island"? Perhaps only on the day that this first day cover was done (see above). Since it is a private island, there is no official post office there.

I was almost tempted to make this a "Been There..." article, but it would have really been a "Almost Been There..." article. Yes, I have been to the main island of St. Vincent twice, in 1994 and also in 2007 as part of an annual philatelic club meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group - how's that for a long way to go to a stamp club meeting?! And I've even been to Bequia Island (the first Grenadines island south of the main island) twice as well on those trips, via Ferry Boat. But unfortunately, I have never really been further south in the Grenadines than Bequia Island. Perhaps some day...

Philatelic Skewing

By Peter Elias

When submitting images of stamps (or covers), please try to avoid using a camera. Cameras, especially at close range, tend to "skew" (change the perspective of) the image.

So here is a photo that I just took of a stamp, USA #1338G, for illustrating this article.



As you can see, this image is "skewed", that is, the "perspective" is wrong. While the vertical edges are fairly parallel, the horizontal edges are NOT parallel (they converge towards the left side). This does NOT make for a good illustration.



Now here is a "scan" of the same stamp. Notice that is "rotated" a bit, but the perspective is ok (but the edges of top & bottom are all parallel to each other)..



So this imagine I can easily work with and simply "rotate until it is squared up (i.e.: all corners will be at proper 90 degree angles) and then simply crop close to the actual image.

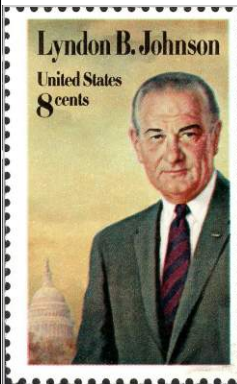
While there is software out there that can change the skewing / perspective, like in the top image, I don't have that, although I can easily fix a scanned image as shown here.

Please keep in mind that most cameras (such as on smartphones), will horribly distort the image when taking a close-up photo. It's not easily possible to get a good squared up image unless you hold the camera very far away from the item. So please use a scanner.

Been There, Done That

Lyndon B. Johnson

Pat & Bob Weidman



Just a few weekends ago (July 15 - 16, 2022), Pat and I took an overnight trip to Austin. We were going to the state convention of the American Legion. Since the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library was in Austin, we decided to visit it. We had never been to a presidential library before.

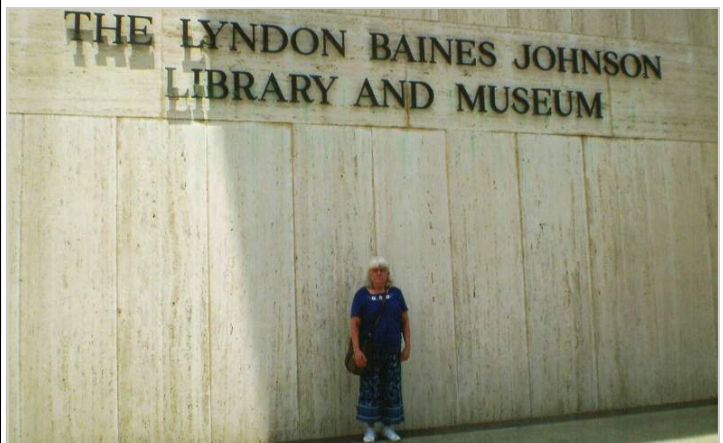
Lyndon Baines Johnson was born on August 27, 1908 in a farmhouse near the central Texas town of Stonewall. In 1937, he was elected to the US House of Representatives at the age of 29. In 1948, he was elected to the US Senate and in

1953 he became the Senate Democratic leader at the age of 44. In 1960 he was elected as vice president on the Kennedy-Johnson ticket.

At 2:39 PM on November 22, 1963, one hour and 39 minutes after the death of President Kennedy from an assassin's bullet, Mr. Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President of the United States.

During his time in office, the Civil Rights Bill was passed in 1964. In 1965, Medicare was established.

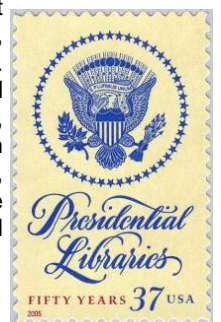
After deciding not to run for re-election in 1968, he retired to his ranch in Texas. In April of 1972, he had a heart attack. After another heart attack on January 23, 1973, he died. On May 21, 1971, the Johnson Presidential Library was opened in Austin.



In the picture above, Pat is standing on the side of the library building. On the picture below, we are both standing on either side of a statue of President Johnson outside of the front door of the library.



The two stamps shown are USA #1503 (at top) issued on August 27, 1973, depicting Mr. Johnson and USA #3930, issued on August 5, 2005 for the Presidential Libraries.



It's A Fact (#1 in a Series)

By the Philatelic Fact Finder

An estimated one million spectators watched the launch of Apollo 11 from the highways and beaches in the vicinity of the launch site. About 3.5 billion earthlings lived on this planet in 1969, and a full sixth of them - 600 million souls - watched the Apollo moon landing on TV.

NASA intended an elegantly symbolic ending to the mission. They wanted to signify the completion of the historic pledge by President Kennedy in 1961 to achieve a Moon landing before the decade was out, reminding us all that his dream was spoken just a scant eight years earlier, on May 25, 1961 when he said,

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

Kennedy's bold initiative, rested on the success of astronaut Alan Shepard's 15-minute sub-orbital spaceflight less than three weeks earlier, and would put the United States undisputedly ahead of the Russians in the race to space. Kennedy went on to specify several items for which he sought additional funding from the Congress to help achieve this and other goals in space. By setting such a lofty goal and requesting the needed funding, he committed the nation's will and its resources to a decade-long pursuit of what at the time seemed to many an impossible goal. His speech set in motion a process that at one time employed 400,000 Americans to achieve that goal on July 20, 1969.



NASA's intention was to remind the world of President Kennedy's speech by having the Apollo 11 crew picked up by the aircraft carrier, the USS John F. Kennedy. And it would have been, except for Richard Nixon's deep seated jealousy of his now deceased rival. Nixon vetoed the plan, insisting on sending a different aircraft carrier: "The USS Hornet" (see cover above). He wanted to be on the Carrier to greet the heroic astronauts, but could not stand the idea of doing that aboard a carrier named after his nemesis.

One other interesting side fact: The idea to launch men to the moon was not set by Kennedy himself. He had asked his Vice President, Lyndon B. Johnson, to determine what he should tell the nation on that date in May, 1961!

Philatelic Firsts (Canada Semi-Postals)

By Ken Aldridge

Canada issued their first semi-postal stamps, B1-3, on April 17, 1974. The issue commemorates the 21st Olympic Games to be held in 1976 in Montreal.

They were printed by lithograph with a perf of 12-1/2. The latest CV I could find shows the set has a CV of \$1.65.

The very 1st Olympic Games was held in Athens, Greece in 1896. The next summer Olympic Games will be held July 26-August 11, 2024 in Paris, France.



Stamp images above are from

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/143881681588>

EXPO Exhibit Updates

By Ray Cartier

The good news is that we now have over half of the exhibit frames filled for MCSC EXPO 2022.

Our judge, John Hotchner has submitted a non-competitive exhibit and MCSC members Stanley Christmas, Peter Elias, Ray Cartier and Karen Cartier have each entered 33 1/4 frames of exhibits. That leaves 25 and 3/4 frames open.

We can really use help in filling our frames from our own club members. We can use multi-frame and one frame exhibits. Even 1 and 4-page exhibits would help fill these. Putting together a single page or four pages is really not difficult. There is no charge for exhibits this year so it is an opportunity to show off some of the items which you have collected through the years.

Our theme this year is Military / Veterans. So far we have 14 frames and a 4 page exhibit along those themes. Contact Ray Cartier at raycartier09@gmail.com or 817-275-2801 if you can help us fill the frames with member exhibits. Thanks!. Ray Cartier, Exhibits Chair

Luis Muñoz Marin

By Pat & Bob Weidman

In the picture at bottom, Pat is at the baggage claim at Luis Muñoz Marin International Airport in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This was back in July 2021. We decided to get away for a few days and Puerto Rico was our destination. We had been through the airport a number of times, but had never visited the island.

The airport is named after Luis Muñoz Marin who was the first governor elected by the people of Puerto Rico. This happened in 1948. His inauguration was January 2, 1949. Up until that time, the governor was appointed by the U.S. President.

Governor Marin was a Puerto Rican political leader for 25 years. He was a member of the Popular Democratic Party that favored commonwealth status for Puerto Rico. During his administration, Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth. In addition, the Operation Bootstrap Development Program began. Land reform, the building of roads, schools and the development of neglected areas also started.

Luis Muñoz Marin was born in San Juan on February 18, 1898 and died on April 30, 1980.

The stamps shown are USA Scott #983 (below), issued on April 27, 1949 for the first gubernatorial election in the Territory of Puerto Rico on November 2, 1948. USA Scott #2173 (at top) featuring Governor Marin was issued in a set of definitives between 1986 to 1994.



Granbury Meeting Minutes

July 26, 2022

By Eugene Atkinson

OPENING:

- With David Stockbridge as host, 11 members and guests gathered at 7 PM for the July 26 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court in Granbury.

During SHOW & TELL:

- Ray Ashley described early 20th century German postcards with optical illusions when turned upside down.
- Bob Coleman talked about stock books as albums that needed no hinges or mounts.
- Ken Wills introduced members to "The Circuit," the publication of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors.
- Jim Myers showed a piece from his "trash can" collection, mailers using many multiples of stamps to reach the postage rate. And he described the 1904 Serbian issue for the Karageorgevich dynasty with the death mask of King Alexander hidden in the artwork.
- Gene Atkinson showed a cover with an unusual USPS rubber stamp message about mail found in "supposedly" empty equipment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- David Stockbridge pointed to a large number of philatelic publications free for the taking and reminded all about the club auction set for September 27. Items should be submitted to him no later than early September for inclusion in the lots listings.
- Rick Howell had several one pound bags of worldwide stamps for sale to benefit the club and noted that a Zoom meeting was set for the week of August 1.

After a **BREAK** for cookies, Ken Wills began the **PROGRAM:**

- Ken had prepared a stamp trivia quiz of particularly challenging questions; for example: *"name three denominations between .30 and .50 that have never appeared on a US stamp."* And he offered prizes for the top three scores out of a possible twenty-nine points. High score was only 13, with 8 and 7 placing next -- a fun and educational experience.

CLOSING:

- David Stockbridge announced that the next meeting would on August 23 feature Skip Ely.

Club gift certificates:

- ...were claimed by Ray Ashley, Ken Wills and Rick Howell; however there were enough philatelic donations that all who came through the door received a door prize.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 27 members and 1 guest at the August meeting.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting by mentioning that our normal September auction was being moved to October since the May auction had been postponed to June. This will give everyone who wants to submit lots an extra month to prepare them. They should be turned in at the next meeting.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said there were no changes in the membership.
- Committee Reports:
- EXPO:
 - Ralph Poore said there would be a Zoom Expo planning meeting this Saturday (August 6) at 11:00 A.M.
 - Ray Cartier said we still needed more exhibits.
 - Peter Elias said he had secured three judges.
 - Rich Hildebrandt said he was accepting reservations for the awards dinner.
 - Tom Turner said we needed quality donation lots for the Silent Auction.
- Newsletter - Peter said the next one was half done already.
- Mix Pick - Rick Howell said he had one pound on paper mixes from the mix pick table available for \$10, U.S. or Worldwide.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell said our next club Zoom meeting would be on Tuesday, August 9, beginning at 7:30 P.M.
- Dave Stockbridge made a pitch for the Granbury auction September 27, saying he would accept provisional bids for people who won't be in attendance.
- Rich Hildebrandt reminded the club of the TSDA Stamp Fair on August 26-27 in Richardson.

Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier noted the passing of Nicolle Nichols (Lt. Uhura of Star Trek fame) and passed around an autographed cover.
- Bob Coleman talked about the Moon Day Exhibition at the Frontiers of Flight Museum last month. He said he and Ray Cartier talked almost non-stop to people about space covers and stamps, and hoped a few people would be interested enough to pursue membership in the club.
- Peter Elias had several items. Among them was a sheet of the new "Buzz Lightyear" stamps issued today; some details of the stamps on a cover he had from Germany (all stamps are now barcoded); a flyer from the Spinks auction firm outlining their scheduled buying sessions in Dallas August 11-15; and finally a short discourse on the various types of USPS boxes, and why it is important to know the differences.
- Ken Aldridge talked about a collection of stamps he saw on eBay that he thought was overpriced, and his feedback to the person posting the lot.
- Ralph Poore talked about a Christmas card from a fellow club member that was returned to the sender after six months in limbo (several other club members talked about

similar experiences). He also passed around a five bar cancel he said was unusual and a ship cover from the first USS Idaho canceled in 1910.

Program:

- Rick Howell showed one of Graham Beck's YouTube videos on how a single stamp (a Saltpeter commemorative from Chile in 1930) can lead to many facets of history (very interesting!).

Gift Certificates:

- ...were won by Donna Howell, Pat Weidman, Bob Coleman, and Martha Siegel.

Adjournment:

- The meeting concluded about 8:30 PM.

Cyber World Philately

by Rick Howell

The online presence of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club has been dramatically expanded. In addition to our website, we now have a Facebook group and a YouTube channel. This is an effort to let people know we exist, and expand our contribution to the hobby of philately to an unlimited audience. The first link below is our club website. Here you will find meeting information, a calendar of events, membership applications, information about EXPO, current and archived newsletters, and general information about the club. There are also some listings for hobby-related news and links to other sites which could prove useful.

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


Next is our Facebook group, where you will find someone available to answer any questions you may have about our hobby or information related to the club. This is the place you can share information as you hear it, and usually someone will answer or comment within a couple of hours. This group is open to the public, and at the time of this article, currently enjoys 83 members*. We are hoping to dramatically expand that membership.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/759696427764886>

Finally, our YouTube channel contains videos of our meetings, and programs presented by our members. If you want to see what happens at a Zoom or an "in-person" meeting, this is the place to check it out. We are hoping to expand this by having members record presentations and publishing them online here. At this time, there are currently 27 videos available. Please click on the link and hit the red "Subscribe" button and then hit the bell icon. This means you will receive notice whenever a new video is uploaded.

www.youtube.com/channel/UCVrbdayHHg1uETxDej1-Ucw

**[Editor's Note: "Members" in our MCSC Facebook Group may NOT always be MCSC members; please keep that in mind when communicating with people.]*



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www.topperstamps.com

CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: peter@pcelias.com

For Sale

US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV. Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage, S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). jasdmyers@earthlink.net 5/15

Wanted to Trade

I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 9/16

Wanted

Postally used “ATM” stamps (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Contact Peter Elias at info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

For Sale

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

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

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

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

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

Comic Strip - Garfield (Tastes Like Chicken)

By Peter Elias

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



... But then, doesn't everything taste like Chicken? Or so they say... This Garfield comic strip was published in the Dallas Morning News on February 24, 2021.

As per Linda DeCarlo, USPS Occupational Safety & Health Director, over 6,000 USPS employees are attacked by dogs each year. So while the strip is funny, do keep that statement in mind!

Australian Kelpie

By Pat & Robert Weidman



The nearby strip of five stamps are Australia #2874-2878, issued on June 10, 2008. They feature working dogs. The second stamp from the left is an Australian Cattle Dog, and the picture below is of our dog Bentley, who we adopted from the Ft. Worth Animal Control Center back in February.

Bentley is an Australian Kelpie, or simply Kelpie. Kelpies are used to muster livestock such as cattle, goats

and sheep and have been exported around the world for that reason. Notice the similarities between the picture of Bentley and the dog on the stamp.

The first standard for the Kelpie accepted by leading breeders and adopted by the Kennel Club of New South Wales was in 1904. There are two separate registries for Kelpies in Australia. Working Kelpies are registered with the Working Kelpie Council and/or the Australian Sheepdog Workers Association. They are bred for working ability and have a wide variety of coat colors. Show Kelpies are registered with the Australian National Kennel Council. They are bred for a certain appearance and limited acceptable colors.

The Kelpie is not a recognized breed by the American Kennel Club. The United Kennel Club and the Canadian Kennel Club do recognize the Kelpie and they can compete in official events. Kelpies have been accepted as herding dogs by the AKC as of 2015. They can compete in Sheep Herding Trials sanctioned by the AKC.



MCSC Expo Virtual Meeting Minutes

Saturday August 6, 2022

By Skip Ely

The Mid Cities Stamps Club held a Virtual EXPO Planning Meeting (via Zoom) on Saturday, August 6, 2022.

Attendees:

- Ralph Poore (EXPO Chairperson), Patty Poore, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Rick Howell, Alliene Franklin and Skip Ely.

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. The minutes from the May meeting were read and accepted.

Discussions:

- Ralph said he perceived a continual challenge as we go forward of recruiting volunteers for the show. A brief review of committee chairs followed.
- Alliene Franklin said she would need a copy of the show artwork for awards. Ralph said he would mail that to her, as well as a folder of other material.
- Stanley Christmas said this would be Kurt McKenzie's last year at the show. He said Kurt had attended all the previous 34 EXPO's and thought some sort of recognition would be appropriate. It was generally agreed a plaque would be nice. Alliene said she would work on it.
- Ralph mentioned that Tom Cunningham had said that he had 26 dealer commitments. Judy Christmas said almost all had paid.
- Peter Elias had communicated earlier he had commitments from three APS judges, and that he had submitted the publicity ad to Linn's and American Philatelist.
- Ken Aldridge told Ralph security was on track.
- Rick Howell said the mixture pick table would be offering pre-packaged bundles of stamps to those that might not have time to sort through the mixtures during the show.
- Skip Ely said the Silent Auction had plenty of small items left from previous years, but that we needed some quality items if we were going to meet our budget projection.
- Stanley Christmas said he will mail out 378 envelopes, and that the email blast will include information about the TSDA bourse and Dallas Post Card Show.
- A discussion about the maintenance of the frames followed. Stanley suggested that some screws might be attached while the frames are on their sides rather than having someone lie on their back to install them after they have been put in place. Rick and Ralph discussed getting together to inspect the frames to make sure we had the appropriate devices to attach them.

Next Meeting:

- The next EXPO Planning meeting will be scheduled for Saturday, September 17, probably at Spring Creek BBQ.
- A final planning meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 15.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Monument Valley

By Peter Elias



In August 1980, our family did a 4-week long "go west" 10,000 mile trip in my dad's new Audi 5000.

This was the summer after my first year in college, so I was still able to participate

in a family trip such as this.

One of the places we drove through was Monument Valley, which was featured on a Priority Mail stamp issued just this year, assigned as Scott #5666 (see above).

I remember that we had driven through Monument Valley, but there were no pictures in my albums from that year. However, I did find a color slide that I took (see to the right), although the color balance was getting to be a bit off after 42 years...

What we refer to as the "monuments", are actually called "buttes", some of which reach up to 1,000 feet in height; the elevation in the area is approximately 5,000 - 6,000 feet above sea level. Temperatures in the summer months can easily reach 100°F, so no different than what it is outside here in the Dallas area as I am writing this article. Winters can be well below freezing (so again, not much different than the Dallas area...).

This was also an area often used in "Western" movies, such as "Stagecoach" with John Wayne from 1939, shown here on USA Scott #2448 (issued in 1990). This is all located near the "4 corners" region near the Utah-Arizona border.



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

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



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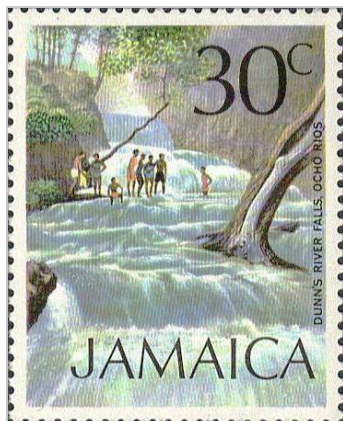
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Dunn's River Falls

By Peter Elias



Sometime between October 20 to 24 1995, I found myself at Dunn's River Falls in Ocho Rios (St. Ann Parish) on the island of Jamaica. The falls are shown on the stamp at left, Scott # 354, as part of a definitives series issued between 1972 to 1979.

Climbing these falls is a popular tourist activity (and is sometimes performed with the aid of guides). The falls are about 180 feet tall and 600 feet long and cascade downwards in a terraced fashion.

According to [Wikipedia](#), the climb up can take over 1 hour! Think about it: 180 feet tall and 600 feet long will take you an hour... Certainly not a "stroll in park" (or falls in this case). Probably 1 step down for every 2 steps up!

For those that don't want to get wet or are not physically able,

there are stairs alongside the falls. Not that I wouldn't want to have done this, but we were just not prepared; we found this while driving around the northern shore of Jamaica. And certainly my camera equipment (standard old-school 35mm camera) was NOT water resistant; nor did we have any spare clothes or water shoes with us... So the picture you see at left, I took from the stairs. It was a neat place though!

As shown at bottom left, is a Google map that shows the location. During our stay in Jamaica, we were in the "Jack Tar Village", located in Montego Bay (on the northwest side of the island). Based on the Google map,



it is a 96 km (60 mile) drive from Montego Bay along a mostly 2 lane road. And given the "take-your-life-in-hands" traffic conditions in Jamaica, I'm sure it took us well over an hour to get there!

The falls empty into the ocean, and are (according to Wikipedia) where the Battle of Las Chorreras took place in 1657, where a Spanish expeditionary force was defeated by the British.

The source of the water for the falls is from a spring, which due to its rich calcium carbonate content forms travertine and is one of the few travertine waterfalls that empties directly into the ocean. These are "living" falls in that they are continuously rebuilt from sediments in the water. I imagine that they are VERY slippery! I would not want to do this with bare feet, but with "water shoes" of some sort.

Jamaica is one of many countries that while it is free to enter, charges a "departure tax" (guess what, so does the USA - that fee is hidden in your international airline ticket fees...).



So here is my departure tax receipt. For "revenue stamp collectors", it is a valid item to collect. It just doesn't take the form of a revenue "stamp" in the traditional sense.

And as you can tell, the departure tax fee was 500 Jamaican dollars. Now, that's not as much as you might think. Going back to

my Quicken data from 1995, I show that I paid US\$30 (but that was for two people). My Quicken data also shows that we paid US\$10 for admission to Dunn's River Falls.

A day prior to our October 24 departure, we did stop in at the "Hard Rock Café" in Montego Bay. Not exactly the same kind of experience compared to the Hard Rock Café that existed in Dallas at the same time. I did buy the t-shirt though... I could NOT find any stamps featuring the Hard Rock Café though...

I've been to Jamaica three times and I'll have to see if I can find other pictures & stamps I can find that can illustrate my trips there! I do remember driving into the "Blue Mountains", home of the famous coffee!



MCSC Euleless Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- We had 7 members again on a Hot August Night (a great Neil Diamond album!).

Opening:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Officer Reports:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas said we were solvent.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had one pending membership application, which will bring our total membership to 96 next month.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said APS sales were good this month. He noted there have been no takers for the club Sales Manager position so far.
- EXPO:
 - Ralph Poore said he intended to go to the club storage unit soon to inspect the frames and to make sure we had the proper tools for the screws we use to secure them.
 - Stanley Christmas said he only had three bounce backs of the email blast of the show that he sent out. He said he will give Tom Cunningham about 100 flyers for the TSDA bourse and to take down to Houston for their show next month.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas passed around some covers from some recent mail he had received.
- Rick Howell said he had Mix Pick surplus bundles of U.S. and WW stamps for sale to club members.

Programs:

- Ken Wills repeated his trivia questionnaire for the Euleless attendees.
- Skip Ely handed out an outline of his intended talk at Granbury next week.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Judy Christmas and Ken Wills.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.

President's Letter

By Rich Hildebrandt

As I sit down to compose this missive, I do believe I hear rain drops on my roof. Maybe I am hallucinating. No, it is real honest to goodness rain. For those of us in Texas, that is like gold falling from the sky.

Speaking of rare events, our EXPO is looming in the near future, Nov 10 -12 to be precise. Ralph and his chairpersons are hard at work to ensure that we have another great event. I expect that the volunteer sign-up sheet will be circulated at the upcoming meetings. Please be generous with your time and sign up to help. For those members who do not get to attend a meeting you can contact Janet Moyer and she will gladly put you down for whatever assistance you are able to provide. Due to the aging of some of our members they will have to step back from their usual duties in the near future. This would be a good year for people to come forward and shadow these folks and get some OJT. It is always good to have trained reserves.

Along EXPO lines, Ray is always looking for exhibitors. The theme is "Veterans", but any philatelic themed exhibit is welcome.

Tickets for our Awards dinner, held on Friday evening (November 11), are open for reservations. They're only \$20 apiece and I don't need the money in advance. Let me know somehow and I will hold a seat for you.

Also, I am fairly sure that the Silent Auction crew is accepting donations. If you have an extra "Inverted Jenny" or something along those lines we could probably find a place for it. Seriously, we are always in need of any high value philatelic items. The auction is often times the activity that puts us in the black for the EXPO overall.

Another auction, the Scott catalog one, is open for bidding. See the bid form in this newsletter. We are missing the 2019 volume 1A. If anyone has checked it out or knows its' whereabouts, please contact me or just bring it back. If it is not found by the end of the auction, the club will substitute a 2021 volume 1A.

Our Library has been operating on the honor system sporadically as the current Librarian has not been able to be in attendance at every meeting. We are really in need of a second person to help this position. Again, please contact me if you are willing to assist with this task. This really only requires effort at the Arlington meeting.

Reminder: The TSDA Bourse in Richards is on August 26 & 27.

Hope all of you are well and got rained on. Enjoy your stamps!



I guess they wanted to make sure that no one really really uses this! (Plano post office at Zip Code 75023)

How Many Stamps Do I Need?

By Peter Elias

...That seems to be main general question that people ask at Quora. If you are not familiar with it, [Quora.com](https://www.quora.com) is a "question & answer" website, where users ask a question and other users chime in with answers, opinions or comments. The questions range on a wide variety of topics, and the answers can be interesting to read, as well as any ensuing "discussions" and comments that are the result.

As far as postal matters go, the one question that keeps coming up is "*how many stamps do I need*" (for sending a letter, to a certain place, etc). So it appears that these days, people seem to know nothing about "postage rates", only about "Forever" stamps and how many of them they will need.

I do on occasion answer the question, but it does get a bit tedious sometimes, since it just keeps going back to the same answer. I try to educate people on the fact that it is not just "how many stamps" you'll need, but what are you mailing (size, shape, weight, etc) and where to, and that in the end, the real question is that "*how much is postage rate for mailing a particular item*", not how many stamps it takes (I mean what, 1¢ stamps? \$10 stamps?). Sometimes my answer starts with that they should simply go to the USPS website and walk through the postage calculator there, since how are we Quorans supposed to know what they're mailing and where to?

They ask a very general question and they'll get a general answer. Another favorite is "*when does my mailman come?*" How are we supposed to know that?

Questions like this really don't belong on Quora, as it is better to go to the "source" for questions like this (such as the USPS website), since the "answer" depends on lots of details, and people just aren't detailed enough (and I'm not going to do their work for them).

Quora is best suited (and makes for more interesting reading), when the answers to questions are opinion based, not fact based. Otherwise, Quora is an interesting place to read what other's have to say, just not for "facts". And that's the facts as I see them!

MCSC ZOOM Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 9, 2022

By Skip Ely

Five members connected in to the MCSC Zoom meeting at 7:30 PM on Tuesday night, August 9. They were host Rick Howell, Secretary Skip Ely, Treasurer Judy Christmas and past Presidents Stanley Christmas and Mike Smith.

The small turnout resulted in just a short discussion about the merit of continuing the zoom meetings with so little participation. Rick said he would give it one more try in September.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Scott Stamp Catalog Bid Form

Now is the time for one of the great annual stamp club events !!! Each year the club gives every member the chance to purchase a previous year's (that is, the **2019**) Scott Standard Stamp Catalogs. The catalogs will be sold as 2 lots: "Volumes 1 to 6" and the "US Specialized" catalogs. This year there will also be an extra earlier (2017) US Specialized up for bidding. The club will take sealed bids until October 29, 2022. To bid, please send in a bid with the following information:

| | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| <u>Bid for 2019 Scott Volumes 1 to 6</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u> </u> |
| <u>Bid for 2017 Scott US Specialized</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u> </u> |
| <u>Bid for 2019 Scott US Specialized</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u> </u> |

BIDDER'S NAME: _____ **Daytime Phone Number:** (____) - ____ - _____

RULES for BIDDERS:

Submit bids by mail to: Mid-Cities Stamp Club, P.O. Box 2158, Arlington, TX 76004-2158

Mark the outside of the envelope: "Catalog Bid"

Bids must be received by: October 29, 2022 (received by, NOT postmarked by!)

In case of a tie: The envelope with a commemorative stamp used for postage wins.

If a tie still exists, the earliest postmarked entry wins.

The winning bidder: Will be called to make arrangements for delivery and payment

The winning bidders and amounts will be announced at the Arlington November 2, 2022 club meeting.



MEET & EAT for September 2022

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

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

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

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

ARLINGTON

Sept. 7 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen, Arlington
Phone (817) 861-1060.

EULESS

Sept. 21 Cheddar's, 937 Airport Fwy, Bedford
Phone (817) 540-0778

GRANBURY

Sept. 27 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at
Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com

5/19

Wanted to buy or trade for: Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits. Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net 2/15

Various USA Scott #C2 & C3 on covers & cards are needed for my U.S Air Mail collection. Please forward scans of the covers / cards along with asking price(s) to Don Jones at adjaams@aol.com Thank you. 2/21

For Sale

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

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

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

Don't Forget:
TSDA Bourse - Aug 26 - 27
Houston Stamp Show - Sept. 16 - 18