

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER  
MEMBER



Volume 38, Number 8

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

August 2025

Been There,  
Done That

## Public Education

By Peter Elias



USA #2159 (1985)

Here is a subject that I'm sure we can each reminisce about: our public education! Each of stories would be different of course (and if they weren't, that would definitely be fairly boring...).

In the USA, most states require com-



Switzerland (2024)

pulsory education and mandate school attendance generally between ages 5 to 18 (depending on the state). There is also "home schooling", but I don't know how that works legally in regards to public education and is beyond the scope of this article.

Growing up in Switzerland, there was also "compulsory education" as the 2024 stamp shows. Their system is a bit different, and what I know is that public education from ages 4 to 15 (or 16) is free and covers kindergarten, primary school and lower

secondary school. When I went to school there, the school year started in April, not September as in Michigan.

I remember going to 3 different elementary schools in Zürich. After construction in the mid-1960's, I went to kindergarten for 2 years from what I remember (yup, they had 2 year's worth...) in building 1.

Building 2 was the indoor swimming pool. And no,

somehow they did NOT manage to teach me to swim there! Dad had to pay for private lessons during a vacation in Davos for me to learn that!

Building 3 was our primary school (up to grade 6), but I only had a couple of months of grade 5 (April to mid-summer 1971) because we then moved to the US. Building 4 was the gym (and to the left was a large sand-covered playground. Lovely concrete structures, aren't they?

Late September '71 landed us in Midland, MI, and since my parents felt that my English wasn't quite good enough yet, I got to start 5th grade again at Carpenter Elementary.

I visited my old school on September 7, 2001 during a visit back to Michigan. In 2016, this school was shut down.



You'll have to enlarge it, but the sign in front of the school said there were to be parent meetings on Sept. 11. Yup, THAT Sept. 11... We flew back to Dallas on the evening before, Sept. 10. Glad we did.



## USPS July 2025 Rate Changes

By Peter Elias

In the July issue, I covered the various USPS rate changes that took effect on July 13. At the time of compiling that, the changes had NOT yet been approved by the PRC (Postal Rate Commission) but were done so just 5 days prior to the change!

In that chart, all rates should be correct, except a small typo in the "1st Class Flats" section where I wrote that "additional ounce rate from 6 ounces up to 9 ounces was 28¢ per ounce; it is actually 29¢.

The most appalling rate change in my view, is that for Ground Advantage, with the "up to 4 oz" rate going from \$5.25 - \$5.85 (depending on the zone) to \$6.80 - \$7.90! That is a whopping 29.5 to 35% increase! On the other hand, the "commercial" rate for this is only \$4.20 - \$4.85. The big BUT here is: but you can't use postage stamps to get that rate and must buy a postage label online. The options are at usps.com or 3rd parties such as stamps.com, or perhaps eBay if you are selling an item that needs to be shipped that way.

For example, a 4 ounce Ground Advantage shipment to Seattle from Dallas is \$7.60 (retail) if you use stamps or buy the postage from the USPS clerk, but only \$4.65 via USPS Click-N-Ship®. Almost \$3 less! I guess they really don't want us to use stamps any longer...

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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)

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**P.O. Box 820784**  
**N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784**

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



"Editor At Work"  
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

EXPO will be here before we know it! While general planning is coming along well, one of my jobs is to coordinate the 6 frames of mini-exhibits (generally 1 or 4 pages, but we can make exceptions...).

If you have had mini-exhibits in the past, please consider submitting them for this year's EXPO; they should be seen by all (rather than being in a side-room as before)!

An entry form was in a previous newsletter; or I can email you a copy. Exhibits have to be in place by Thursday evening, November 6 at 8 PM (and taken down on Saturday, November 8 at 4 PM). Please only send me the exhibit entry forms so that I can plan the placement of your exhibit in the frames. Do not send me the actual exhibit.

Don't forget to bid on the club's 2023 Scott catalogs. See the bid form in this newsletter.

Certainly a part of stamp collecting is about "learning". I learn new stuff all the time. For example, the article on page 3 had me learn more about some foods! That requires some minor research (generally Wikipedia comes in real handy for these tasks). While the photos are easy (since I took them), obtaining the stamps needed to illustrate that part of the article, takes a bit more effort, since I rarely already have the stamps in my collection. Luckily between eBay, Hipstamp & Delcampe, I have been able to get what I need, especially when I only need one \$3 stamp from a set valued at \$36!

Whether you do this for your own sake & amusement/ education or want to educate others, collecting stamps that feature into your life is fun. Let me know if I can help.!

## Coming Attractions

### 2025

**JUL. 22** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: Program will be by Gary McNamee  
**AUG. 6** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**  
Program: Philatelic Adventures in Paris presented by Geoff Owens  
**AUG. 20** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**  
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic Discussions  
**AUG. 22-23** **TSDA Bourse**  
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070  
Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)  
**AUG. 26** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: Program will be by Les Barton  
**SEP. 3** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**  
Program: TBD  
**SEP. 6** **MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)**  
David's BBQ, 2224 W. Park Row in Pantego  
**SEP. 17** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**  
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic Discussions  
**SEP. 19-21** **Greater Houston Stamp Show**  
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Rd, Humbe, TX 77338 (Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4)



## Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

### Applications Received:

Michael Cima (#686) collects USA  
Jin S. Chung (#687) collects all stamps

### New Members:

Preet Ahluwalia (#684)  
Pavan Ahluwalia (#685Y)

### Reinstated:

n/a

### Deceased:

n/a

### Membership Summary – July 16, 2025

Membership as of June 18, 2025	97
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	2
Not Renewing for 2025	( 0 )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of July 16, 2025	99

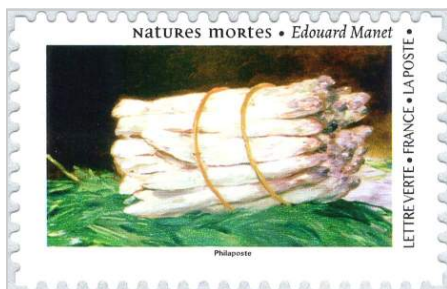


## Father's Day Dinner

By Peter Elias



Since Father's Day comes in mid-June, it is the perfect time to have dinner at the Bavarian Grill in Plano. Why you may ask? Above is my dinner from Saturday, June 14 (while that is 1 day prior to Father's Day, the Bavarian Grill is closed on Sundays, so we go on Saturdays). The dinner is their grilled duck with white asparagus, plus potatoes and mandarins.



White asparagus is a delicacy that is special as it is grown without sunlight and has a special harvesting process.

Asparagus as such is of Eurasian origin. The name has its roots from classical Latin and was known as "sperage" in

English (which derived it from the medieval Latin "sparagus". And this in turn dates back to Ancient Greek (ἀσφάραγος - aspháragos). You can read more about it at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asparagus>.

Ok, back to "white" asparagus. It is produced while applying some sort of a "blanching" technique while it is growing. And since the shoots are then covered by soil, there is no photosynthesis, thus keeping it "white".



In Germany, the white asparagus season finishes on June 24 (Johannistag in Germany) but is perfect for a father's day meal in the USA. About half of German white asparagus production is sold at open markets & roadside stands.

While some white asparagus is grown in the USA (mostly the Columbia River region of Washington), the bulk comes from Europe (mostly Germany, France, Netherlands, Spain & Switzerland); the major producer in the western hemisphere is Peru. That all said, the owner of the Bavarian Grill told me last year that he imports it directly from the Netherlands.

France issued a stamp in 2023 as part of a "still life painting" series featuring a painting of white asparagus a couple of years ago, it is shown in the left column. The Scott # is 6507; it is a self-adhesive stamp. It is for the "letter verte" (green letter) rate and had an issue denomination of €1.16 (~\$1.28). Given that this was part of a series of 12 stamps with a catalog value of \$36, I certainly didn't want to spend that much money just for the one stamp that I needed out of that set. Luckily I found a seller on Delcampe.net who sold me just this stamp!

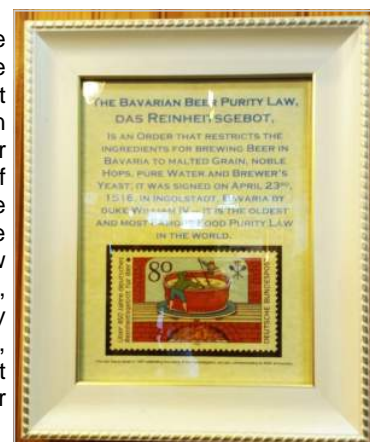
If you look at the bottom of column 1, you will see my dinner plate from 2024. Notice how really thick those white asparagus stalks are! So the 2025 versions at left seem a bit on the thin side. I asked about that, and was told that this year's harvest turned out that way. Sad, but they were delicious never-the-less!

For my liquid refreshment, you can see the small mug of beer at the top of the photo, a close-up is to the right. This is a Weltenburger Kloster (monastery) beer that has been made since the year 1050, and is considered the oldest monastery brewery in the world. It was a good beer! While I could have had one of the beers from THE oldest brewery, Weihenstephaner, I've had those before and wanted to try this one.



Hanging near the entrance of the Bavarian Grill is the framed item shown at right. It mentions the German "Reinheitsgebot" (i.e.: the beer purity law). It is a series of regulations that limits the ingredients for beer. The Bavarian version of this law was adopted in the year 1516, and it states that the only ingredients can be water, barley & hops (although yeast was also used in the beer brewing process).

One of the reasons for the law, as per <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reinheitsgebot>, was to prevent price competition with bakers for wheat & rye, and by restricting the grain used in beer to barley, helped ensure the affordable availability of bread. There's a bunch of history to read up at the link shown above, more than there is room for here.



<- Germany #1396 from 1983

## Arlington Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2025

By Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

### Call-To-Order:

- President Rick Howell began the meeting promptly at 7:00 PM.

### Attendance:

- We had 19 members and 1 guest attend the July meeting.

### Officer Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had about 97 members.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham gave the approximate treasury amount.
- Newsletter - Peter was working on the newsletter.

### Announcements:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore said our next EXPO planning meeting would be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 6, at David's BBQ. Tom Cunningham said we had 25 confirmed dealers.

### Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier showed an FDC of the first flight out of DFW that he managed to get a seat on. He also had a NASA cover signed by both the pilot and co-pilot.
- Tom Turner passed around two advertising covers from the mid 1880s he had recently acquired.
- Peter Elias showed several items, including a Lego Swiss post office bus and five Swiss stamps featuring Swiss post office bus buses. He also had copies of his post office bus tickets from 1966-73 when he lived there as a child.

### Program:

- Was presented by Tom Cunningham and titled "How Condition Affects the Value of Stamps". Tom talked about conditions that lessen the values listed in the catalog, like damaged and altered stamps, as well as ones that are less desirable due to straight edges, heavy cancels, or pen cancels. He also elaborated on centering, showing how graded stamps vary from a standard. [ See photo below]

### Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Larry Reid and Geoff Owens.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.



## From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

First, let me start off by saying "Thank You" to Jonathan Topper and Tom Cunningham. These two guys provided enough donations to fill up the back of my truck at the TSDA show this month, so we should have a few select items for our silent auction, chance board and beginner's table at EXPO in November. Also, thanks to Byron Sandfield who continues to donate at other times. Without the consideration of our dealers, we could not be so successful at EXPO.

Speaking of EXPO, this is the last time I will be making an appeal for someone to step up and express an interest in virtual exhibits as time for EXPO is rapidly approaching, and I have no desire to wait until the last minute to work out all the details in the attempt to create virtual exhibits. If we have no interested members, then so be it, we will move along.

The Bob Duncan Center in Arlington has given us until September 1st to remove our philatelic library from the storage cabinets in the Art Room. So, since no one has found us another facility with storage capabilities, we will be removing the library to a temporary storage area. If any of our members want to check out a copy of any of the books in our library, they need to let Janet know which book or books they want and it will be provided at the next meeting. We will be taking an inventory of the library and will provide the membership with an updated library listing prior to our September 1st deadline.

This month, we are doing an "instant replay" of our Arlington meeting program at our Flower Mound location. For those of you who missed the Arlington program, you will have had the opportunity to see this program repeated at Flower Mound. I think this will give more of our members an opportunity to attend or take part in our presentations, as well as generate a more interesting program for Flower Mound, beyond our standard "extended philatelic discussion and Show-N-Tell.

And we are always looking for people who want to show us new aspects of collecting and generate much more interest in the hobby. So, if you feel like you'd like to share your interests by presenting a program, get in touch with one of our board members and we will try to make it happen!

See y'all at the meeting!



Photo Credits:  
Peter Elias



## Granbury Meeting Minutes June 24, 2025

By Rick Howell

### **Call-To-Order:**

- At 7:00 PM Bob Coleman called the meeting to order. There were 6 members and 3 guests in attendance.

### **Show & Tell:**

- Skip Ely showed an example of a Canadian stamp featuring King George VI which was not listed in the Scott Catalog but was discovered in a Unitrade Specialized Canadian Stamp Catalog.
- Skip also showed us a book which he purchased titled, "The United States Fourth Bureau Issues 1922-1938" edited by Jay Stotts. The book contains contributed articles by Richard Bates, John Hotchner, Rodney Juell, Jerry Katz and others. This book took the Grand Literature Award at Chicagopex in 2022 and at the Great American Stamp Show in 2023. Highly recommended!
- Les Barton showed us an embroidered stamp from Switzerland

### **Announcements:**

- Rick Howell mentioned the APS elections and that the APS Website, Stamps.org is being reworked and that a new version is due to be online on June 30th.
- We took a short break after which Skip Ely presented the program entitled "*The United States Fourth Bureau Issues 1922-1938*", edited by Jay Stotts. The book contains contributed articles by Richard Bates, John Hotchner, Rodney Juell, Jerry Katz and others. This book took the Grand Literature Award at Chicagopex in 1922 and at the Great American Stamp Show in 2023. Highly recommended!

### **Door Prizes:**

- A \$10 gift certificate was won by Craig Kellogg.

### **Adjournment:**

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 PM.

## MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes July 16, 2025

By Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

### **Call-To-Order:**

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

### **Attendance:**

- We had 11 members and 2 guests for the July meeting at Flower Mound. Both guests turned in applications for membership.

### **Officer Reports:**

- Secretary - Skip Ely said our two new applicants would bring our membership close to 100.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham gave the treasury amount. He said we had a full compliment of dealers for Expo.

### **Announcements:**

- Dan mentioned the TSDA Stamp Show the end of August, and the EXPO Planning Meeting Saturday, September 6.

### **Where in the World Is It?:**

- Dan Golden gave eight clues without any correct answers. After one more clue, Preet Ahluwalia correctly guessed Tajikistan.

### **Show & Tell:**

- Dan Golden talked about a zebra stamp his two year old daughter picked from a group of stamps.

### **Program:**

- Tom Cunningham gave an encore presentation of "*How Condition Affects the Value of Stamps*" (given at Arlington two weeks earlier).

### **Gift Certificate:**

- Was awarded to Perry Singer.

### **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at about 8:45 PM.

## TSDA Bourse - June 27 & 28, 2025

By Peter Elias

I managed to stop by the June 27 & 28 TSDA bourse. It seemed totally packed on Friday the 27th when I got there shortly before noon. First I went straight to Jonathan Topper's booth, and got 21 interesting "dollar cover" items (not all are covers...), that will hopefully have me write about a couple of them eventually. At Kurt Harding's booth, I got a few more "\$" items.

Saturday afternoon was a bit slower, but I got there only about an hour prior to closing (see at right).

Madeleine Myers reported that there were 75 attendees on Friday & 50 on Sunday, so that was pretty good attendance!



Photo by Peter Elias

## Save The Gum or the Stamp?

By Peter Elias



Above is a scan of a mint never-hinged Austrian 50 kr revenue stamp as I found it. Sadly it has suffered a LOT of damage from the gum, as both the front & back scans and the photo show. With a basket case like this, scans don't always show you how bad it can be, so a picture of the back at an angle with light reflecting off the



stamp also gives you a good idea of how bad this is.

That main diagonal crease in the stamp paper is solely due to the stamp's gum expanding & contracting due to moisture, possibly as a result of bad storage conditions since 1873 ...

Just handling the stamp in this condition could potentially cause it to totally crack in half! In the end, you have to ask yourself whether you are collecting the "gum" or the stamp... I'd rather have an intact stamp.

The color of the printing is good shape, centering is decent (especially for a revenue stamp), and the paper itself is good (no toning), perforations are also very decent. And did you catch that this was a SPECIMEN version? Back in those days, those were only prepared in limited quantities.

The solution is fairly simple: soak the gum off the stamp. Carefully. I usually use a sink in my bathroom and warm water. Since the stamp wasn't attached to paper, it was just a simple matter of letting the gum soften. These older gums don't always easily just dissolve, as they tend to feel a bit "slimy" and it requires a some help to remove the gum. For me, that "help" is an old soft-bristle toothbrush. I put the stamp gum side up on the sink counter while wet, and carefully brush the wet gum off, half a stamp at a time (while using one finger to hold the stamp down and brushing the gum away from it). Afterwards, I let it soak in water some more, hold the stamp carefully between 2 fingers and the thumb and make sure I don't feel any more "slimy" gum. Then it's off to a drying book for a week.

The result is shown on the left. The little creases are mostly gone and the big crease is just barely seen from the back and doesn't seem to pose a danger of cracking. This 152-year-old stamp is saved!



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



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Owner/Appraiser APS # 236251

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832-278-5268

eBay Store: [EAS\\_Stamps](http://EAS_Stamps)



## Postmarks & Places: Chicago

by Dan Golden



A while back I came across this used copy of US #901 in my collection. Issued a little over a year prior to America's entry into World War II, it depicts a raised torch representing enlightenment and freedom that ordinary Americans would soon be called upon to defend. Almost 8½ billion of these stamps were printed, more than enough for every single person currently living in the world to have their own copy, which renders these stamps pretty much worthless.

But that's okay for me because this article is not about this stamp. Instead, what I care about is the rather prominent Chicago, IL cancellation upon it. You can see here a very good example of a socked-on-the-nose postmark with everything perfectly legible and almost the entire city name visible. As a Chicagoan by birth, anything having to do with my hometown (except the Cubs, gosh do I hate them...) always strikes my fancy, especially when it can be found on a stamp!

At the time I discovered this stamp in my collection, I had an impending trip to Chicago for Thanksgiving. As a result, this postmark gave me an idea for this article: how many photos can I take of this stamp featured alongside famous landmarks around the city? Turns out the answer is not that many. This article would be a lot longer had I succeeded in this idea.

I had two things passively working against me in my pursuit of this endeavor. The first was my family who, while supportive of my philatelic activities, is slow-moving in the cold November weather up north and prefers to travel in short spurts, constantly ducking from one warm building to another. This made it difficult to see more than a few of the sights downtown. But there was also the added obstacle of appearing to the locals as nothing more than a looky-loo tourist. They kept telling me to move and get out of their way. One guy got so annoyed with me that he even threatened to push me into the street filled with oncoming traffic! As a result, I was seldom in one spot long enough to obtain a good photo, rendering as my final product the small handful of photos that you see here. I hope you all will enjoy them nonetheless.

There is a photo of a partial view of the skyline looking east as we drove into the city:



Photos in this article by Dan Golden

There is a pair of photos taken inside Union Station:



There is the Chicago Board of Trade Building which has an interesting story itself. At 604 feet, it was the tallest building in the city for a number of years. Famously the statue of the Roman goddess Ceres that caps the building has no face because the sculptor believed the structure was so tall that no one would pay attention to see the face anyway.



There is a picture of the skyline looking northwest from a window at the Field Museum:



--> [Continued on page 8](#) -->



## [Continued from page 7](#)

And there is my personal favorite photo featuring the world-famous Chicago Theater:



Had I had more time downtown and fewer factors that slowed me down I know I could have gotten more photos. This will have to do for now. Regardless though, it was a fun exercise in exploring the city I grew up in and is something I would certainly like to do again someday. I know I have a wedding to attend in Cincinnati soon. Maybe I can do this again there!

*Been There,  
Done That*

### [Postauto](#)

By Peter Elias

*Photos by Peter Elias*



Above is the birthday present that I received this year: a mini model of a bus made of Legos, along with a trailer (which also features a nice easter egg). Not just any bus, but the kind of bus we rode in as children growing up in Switzerland; what they call a "Postauto". The model represents a typical Swiss postal bus in the style (front-engine and with a long hood) that would have been in use from the 1930's to perhaps the 1980's.



These buses were generally manufactured by Saurer, a Swiss bus manufacturer. While Switzerland has featured their post office buses on various

stamps, none are of the "long hood" variety. Closest is Switzerland Scott #237 issued in 1937 which featured a Mobile post office that ran on the same type of chassis (see bottom of column 1).



<-- I did see one of these older style buses in 1986 though!

As early as 1953 though, stamps such as #345 shown below, featured the

flat-fronted buses (which generally had their engines in the back), a style which matches the photo from our 1977 vacation. That picture was taken on the



Julier mountain pass (note the Roman column at the right!).



In more recent memories, I rode on the more modern versions of these buses, as shown on #688 (from



1980), shown above, or the 2019 stamp above right.



At left is a more modern Swiss Postauto which I took in Lauenen (and that took us back to Gstaad) in 2010. This particular bus was made by

"Setra" (short for *Selbsttragend* in German, meaning "self-supporting" because of their chassis design). Setra is a German bus & coach company owned by Daimler Benz.

When questioned about postal services, Google's "AI" answer states "*no postal service transports people as a service*". Hmm, the [Swiss PTT started doing this in 1906](#).



As some of you know, I collect Swiss postcards (both "picture postcards" and "postal stationery cards"). Generally I like to keep this to "early" ones, from the late 1890's to perhaps the early 1960's.



Rummaging through my piles of Swiss postcards, I found this nice one featuring a scene near Switzerland's iconic mountain, the Matterhorn, which is located on the Swiss/Italian border in southern Switzerland.

I buy Swiss postcards in both mint (unmailed) and postally used condition. If it is unmailed, it is obviously the picture side that attracted me to it; if it had been mailed, then obviously the postal history side comes into play as well.

This card had been mailed, and back then, you were NOT allowed to write messages on the address side; in this case, the "undivided" address side of the card, thus they wrote on the picture side as you can tell. This was written by American tourists and they wrote **"This shows the kind of walk we ?hier? girls took yesterday - M.M.B. June 24"**. I really don't know the word in front of "girls" is... it reads as "hier", but there is what might be an "o" in front of that, and what looks like "we" in front of that, but it really makes no sense. If anyone has any thoughts on what that says between "walk" and "girls", please let



me know!

Continuing with the address side of the postcard, there is a copy of what appears to be Switzerland #73 (1st issued in 1882) that has the upper right-hand corner missing!

The handstamp of Hotel Victoria brought forth nothing, so it may not exist any longer, certainly not under that name.

A bit more interesting is the postmark to the left of the stamp (the one on the stamp is the same one, just indistinct).

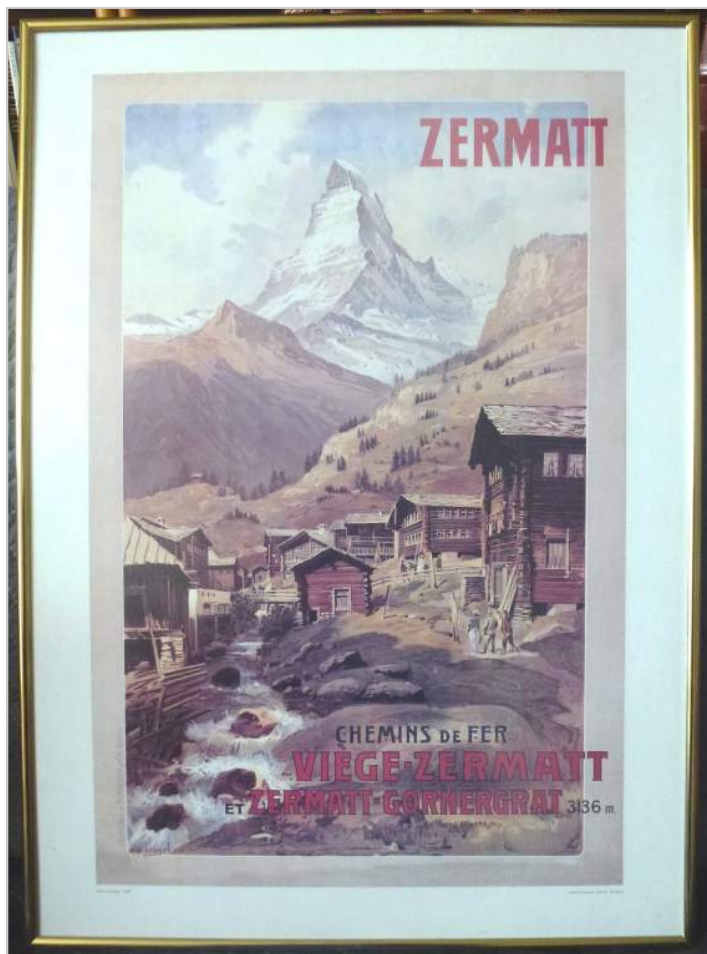


First, I looked at the postmark date. It is dated **24 VI.03 1345**, meaning 24th of June 1903, 1:45 PM. Flipping back to the front of the card, the writer also dates it June 24, so that card was written shortly before it was dropped off.

That said, this is NOT a normal Zermatt post office cancel. That would more than likely simply state Zermatt in the top portion of the circle. Instead it reads "Viege-Zermatt" in the bottom portion (and REGIONAL at the top).

Digging around my closet at home, I found this framed (reproduction) 1898 poster that states Chemins de Fer Viege-Zermatt. Aha! That means Visp-Zermatt Railways!

--> **Continued on Page 10 -->**





## Chemins de fer Viege-Zermatt (continued from page 9)

Thus this means that the postcard was mailed on the train and postmarked there while going from Zermatt to Viege. I'll get to that in a minute. First a couple of maps so you can get the "lay of the land" so-to-speak.

Map (A) is a close-up view of the area that we are talking about, the general "Zermatt" region (1), which includes the Matterhorn (4), which you can tell is just a few feet north of the Italian border. While the distance (as the crow flies...) between Zermatt and the top of the Matterhorn is only about 5 miles, it gets considerably steeper as you near the mountain...

The front of the card states the photo is "on the way to **Riffelalp**" (3), and while it only appears to be a bit more than a mile south of Zermatt looking at the map, it is a 20-minute train ride that gains almost 2,000 feet in elevation during that time.



If you don't get off at Riffelalp and take the [train all the way to Gornergrat](#) (5), your view would be like the one at left. How do

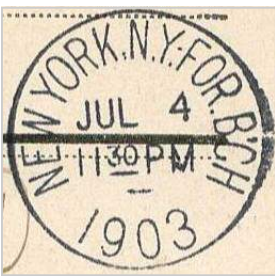
you get to Zermatt to begin with? The city is car-free (and had banned motorized vehicles prior to 1903). You would have taken the REGIONAL train (aha!) from Visp (Map B, nr. 6) via Täsch (2). Täsch is as far as you can drive these days and I had to take the train (photo above).



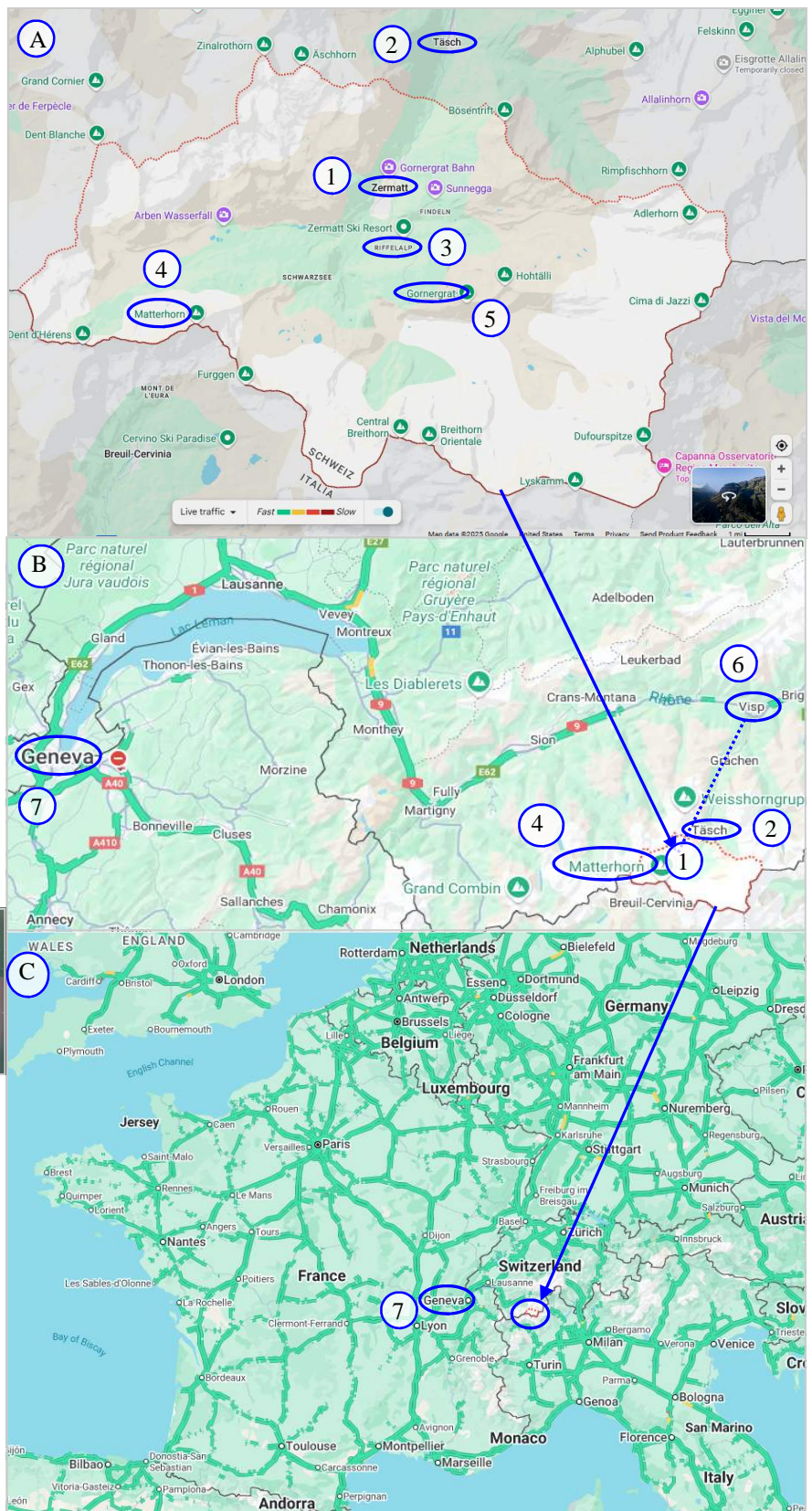
So let us say it is 1903, and your postcard was postmarked on this [train heading to Visp](#) (which is the German spelling for "Viege" by the way); as this is in the "Wallis" region of Switzerland, known as "Valais" in French). What then?

Map B shows that the Map A region in southern Switzerland. From there Geneva (7) is about 125 miles to the west. Map C shows where Geneva is in terms of central Europe.

So, given that Switzerland is landlocked, and there was no airmail at the time, all overseas mail would have to be via steamship.



But first, the postcard would have to travel to the nearest port via train. Which would be where exactly? Southern France? Northern France? Italy perhaps? It would be interesting to know how mail was routed at that time.



In any case, this postcard arrived in New York just 10 days later, on July 4th at 11:30 PM (see left).

Then, another 6 days to reach Riverside, California, across the entire USA (see Riverside machine cancel on JUL 10 at the top of the postcard). Isn't that amazing? That's hard to do today (despite planes & automation)!



## 2023 Scott Stamp Catalog Bid Form

Now is the time for one of the great annual stamp club events !!!! Each year the Mid-Cities Stamp Club gives every club member the chance to purchase a previous year's (that is the **2023**) Scott Standard Stamp Catalogs. The catalogs will be sold as 2 lots: "Volumes 1 - 6" and the "USA Specialized" catalog.

The club will take sealed bids until October 31, 2025. To bid, please send in a bid with the following information:

**Bid for 2023 Scott Volumes 1 to 6 (US & A to Z)      \$      .**

**Bid for 2023 Scott USA Specialized      \$      .**

**BIDDER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### **RULES for BIDDERS:**

<b>Submit bids</b> by mail to:	Mid-Cities Stamp Club, PO Box 820784, N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784
<b>Mark the outside</b> of the envelope:	"Catalog Bid"
Bids must be <b>received by</b> :	October 31, 2025 (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 bidder and amount will be announced at the Arlington November 5, 2025 club meeting.

*Been There,  
Done That*

### Swiss PTT Services

By Peter Elias

To continue the article on page 8: Since the Swiss PTT (Post Telephone Telegraph, now known as Swiss Post and SwissCom), transported people in addition to mail & packages in rural & mountainous areas not easily serviced by the regular train systems, this means that they had to issue tickets!

As you know, I like to combine hobbies, and I do also collect some "transportation tickets", but primarily only those that pertain to me. Here then (see right) are 12 old Swiss Postauto (bus) tickets that I found in my collection. These range from 1966 to 1973 and are all made of thick cardboard. These tickets were generally valid for 2 days.

The date was either steel stamped or printed at the time of sale. Those not dated in the front, have a post office postmark on the back! Thus, while not being "philatelic", they are definitely "postal"!

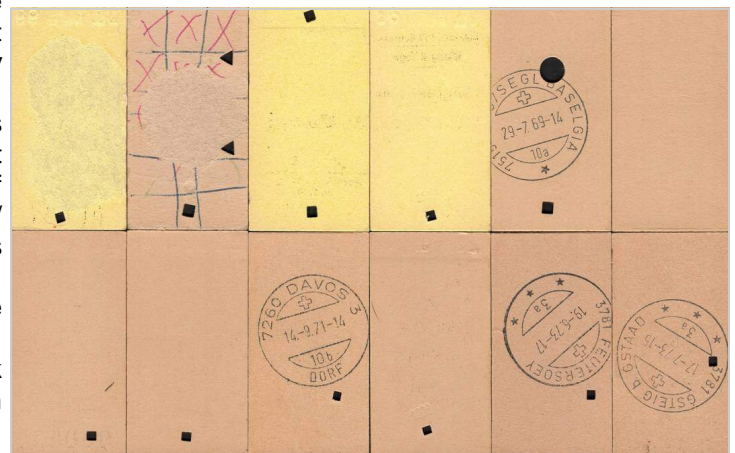
You'll note that while these tickets are mostly brown, some have different colors or a bicolored (such as half white / half brown); generally the white/ brown ones are for "half-price" tickets (ie: children).

The coolest thing I found was the ticket on the left, dated Sept. 22, 1971. That was the last Postauto trip we took prior to emigrating to the USA, which was just several days later!



Above: Front of the tickets

Below: Back of the tickets (hmm, tic-tac-toe on the 2nd one?)



# 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

## Topic of the Month: USA #1 (and/or #2)

By Peter Elias

If you can't afford the original stamp, then how about collecting it on another stamp? Stamps-on-stamps is a valid topic to collect. In the case of USA #1 and/or #2, I don't have these in my own collection (neither mint nor used), but I can easily collect them on other stamps!



## For Sale

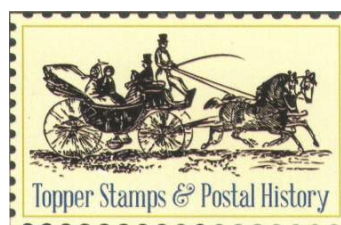
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is [www.kenwills.net](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact 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 \$ 4.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 11/24

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



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An easy way to start this is via USA Scott #948, where they were reprinted for the 100th Anniversary of their original issuance. Albeit, the colors were different.

And yes, the example of this souvenir sheet that I am showing is a horrible version, being as that it was cut at a horrible angle. But it is mint and I can trim out just the stamps and have 15¢ of usable postage!

Also issued in 1947 was this stamp from Liberia, Scott #C56, although in lesser detailed quality. It is part of a greater set of #300 & #C54-C56 (and also in the form of a souvenir sheet).



The “1860” date at the top puzzled me for a minute, so looking it up, it states that 1947 marked the 87th anniversary of Liberia postage stamps.

Undoubtedly there are many more stamps from around the world featuring one or both of these stamps.





## MEET & EAT for

August 2025

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

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

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

### ARLINGTON

August 6 David's BBQ  
2224 W. Park Row, Arlington  
(817) 261-9998

### FLOWER MOUND

August 20 Alforno's Italian Kitchen  
2260 Morriss Rd, Flower Mound  
(972) 355-1709

### GRANBURY

August 26 Palio's Pizza Café  
3710 E. Hwy 377, Granbury  
(817) 573-5446

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**TSDA Bourse - August 22 - 23**

## 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