

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 34, Number 6

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

June 2021

Topical of the Month: The Covid-19 Pandemic

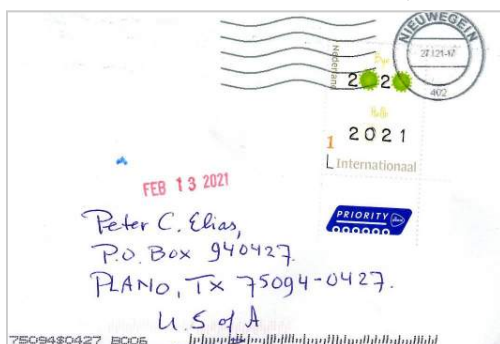
By Peter Elias



It's been a while since I wrote an article in the "Topical of the Month" series, and it's now been well over a year that the planet has been gripped by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Starting sometime in early 2020, various countries started issuing stamps to commemorate first responders, advise wearing masks and other topics relating to Covid-19.

The Netherlands stamp at left above shows the world surrounded by Covid-19 particle.



A "2020-2021" stamp from the Netherlands replaces the 0's with the Covid-19 particle, and reads "Bye" (above the 2020) and "Hello" (above the 2021). I received this envelope from Cees

Prins, a fellow collector in the Netherlands that also sent me the other Netherlands Covid-19 stamp shown in this article.



essential employees.

The Czech Republic issued a pair of "mask" stamps where the design on each mask represents first responders or



The United Nations also issued this souvenir sheet of 6. But ordering from the UN Postal Administration was difficult last year, as many of their employees were working from home and could not actually fulfill the many

orders which were piling up at UN Headquarters.

Sri Lanka and Ukraine also issued the Covid-19 related stamps seen here.



When you look at the Netherlands Covid-19 stamp

to the left, your first thought is that it is a "traditional" stamp with perforations and regular "lick & stick" gum. While the perforations are traditional, it is actually a self-adhesive stamp, as the photo of the backside shows it has a undulating die-cut that lets you remove the backing paper. This is really innovative; I wish the USPS would do this (in combination with using traditional perforations!

If you are looking for a new topic to collect or even work on a new topical or thematic exhibit, then give Covid-19 a shot (pun intended!). The stamps shown here are just a start, and there's "postal history" to be had as well.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES 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 (higher 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 (standard dues are \$12) write to:

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

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

Coming Attractions

—> We are starting to get back in to “in-person” meetings starting in June. Data below is believed to be correct at time of publication; for updated MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

2021

MAY 25	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Virtual Mtg
Program:	TBD
JUN. 2	MCSC - ARLINGTON In-person Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 16	MCSC - EULESS In-person Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 19	MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)
Spring Creek BBQ, S. Cooper St., Arlington	
JUN. 22	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY In-person Mtg
Program:	Clean Out Your Closet
JUN. 25 - 26	TSDA Stamp Fair (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)	
JUL. 7	MCSC - ARLINGTON In-person Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUL. 21	MCSC - EULESS In-person Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUL. 27	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY In-person Mtg
Program:	TBD



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Someone stop me! Just after finishing last month's newsletter, and the “Been There - Done That” article about speed limits, memory served up the fact that in 1984 I had driven at 90 mph continuously for 3 hours in Germany, and hence, another “Been That..” article.

Hopefully some day I'll write about stamps and places such as St. Vincent, London Tower & Bridge, 200 year old Swiss coins, Karl Marx, the “Metro”, the “Tube”, Svarovski crystals, Covid trash, Horatio Nelson, Swiss cows, canoeing, the Grand Canyon, Toronto, viaducts, Venice, Bermuda light houses, windmills on Nevis, William Tell, Legos, various Swiss subjects and others ... If only I could quit finding additional stuff to write about!

As I mentioned before, look through your photos of places & things (perhaps even people...) and see if you can relate any of them to a stamp, postmark or other philatelic item. I'd like to think that these articles (in addition to hopefully being entertaining...) will inspire some of you to submit your own articles. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me!

EXPO 2021 Update

We now have all 3 APS judges lined up: Patrick Walters, Dr. Stephen Washburne & Colin Fraser.

Errata

By Peter Elias

In the May 2021 issue, page 6, Germany #1617 is described as commemorating the unification of Germany, it should have been described as commemorating the opening of the Berlin Wall on November 9, 1989. Thanks to reader Otto Bergman for pointing out the error on my part.

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received

n/a

New Members

n/a

Deceased

n/a

Reinstatements

n/a

Membership Summary – May 19, 2021

Membership as of April 21, 2021	90
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of May 19, 2021	90



Learn More About Your Hobby. Join the American Philatelic Society

By Ray E. Cartier
(APS Ambassador to the MCSC)

The American Philatelic Society has just announced a recruitment Award contest for 2021. They will have a drawing in early 2022 to give away three lifetime memberships to APS members who recruit new members to the APS. One award goes to dealers; a second goes to new members and a third goes to existing APS members or clubs.

Collecting as a loner is ok. But the more you know about philately, the more you grow in your hobby. Because of belonging to the APS, I have learned a lot about EFOs (errors, freaks and oddities). As a result, even though that is not one of my major interests, I have noticed an imperf on a letter that was actually mailed to me, and I have noticed a few panes of color shifts in stamps I bought, which I would never have thought about. Just recently I noted a sheet from the bi-centennial issues that has muted colors compared to another sheet. I've sold some of the color shifts and used the money to enhance my own space cover collection. But there is so much good information in their monthly magazine, "The American Philatelist" that you'll find something of interest in most issues.

So, if you are a member, try to recruit someone else to join the APS and get their great annual magazine. You may eventually be enticed to visit one of the huge stamp shows that they put on, especially since they have tied the American Topical Association (ATA) and the American First Day Cover Society (AFDCS) team up to present the biggest annual show in the country in a Chicago Suburb from August 12 to 15 (Four Days)!

My



...worth

Unhinged

By Peter Elias

When you hear "unhinged" what do you think of? "*Highly disturbed, unstable or distraught*" (as per Merriam-Webster)? Well, not in this case: I was reading an article in the July-August 2019 edition of "*The Circuit*" (the journal of the [ISWSC - International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors](#)), where the author wrote about problems as to how and what to collect as far as stamps goes: such as condition, mint or used, watermark varieties and "unhinged versus hinged".

That was really the first time that I recall seeing "unhinged" in regards to stamps. Usually we refer to mint stamps that do not have hinge marks or hinge remnants as being "never hinged".

To me "unhinged" in regards to a stamp *might* imply that the stamp had previously been hinged, and thus now is "no longer hinged". "Unhinged" (in stamp terms) would imply something different than "never hinged".

Note: (and [Merriam-Webster](#) does NOT make a reference to stamps in their definition!).

Been There,
Done That

Speed Limits, part 2

By Peter Elias



In last month's (May 2021) issue, I wrote about speed limits. Unfortunately these articles are usually constrained by the amount of space available on the page.

What I didn't mention for example, was that the fastest that I have driven continuously was probably in the car shown in the PhotoStamp above. It was a 1977 Fiat 128 3p ("3 porta" in Italian = 3 doors). It was a hatchback that I had bought during my 3 month internship in Germany in the Fall of 1984.



The original picture I took of the car right after I bought it.

During my 3-month stay, which was in Mülheim a. d. Ruhr, I stayed with a German family. There was one weekend where I wanted to visit someone I had previously met in Switzerland and who lived near Stuttgart, which was around 450 kilometers (280 miles) away. I remember that when returning from that trip, I made it back to Mülheim in 3 hours; meaning that I drove at an average speed of 93 mph for 3 hours. Mind you now, that was after dark, and in a car with only a 4-cylinder 1.3 liter engine rated at 75 horsepower and a listed top speed of 99 mph.

Usually the "recommended speed limit" (if not marked otherwise) on the Autobahn is 130 km/h (85 mph). Not sure what it was on that stretch, that night...

These days, they have "variable" speed limits, announced on electronic speed limit signs mounted overhead, such as this photo from 2010 shows. At this point, we were doing 0 mph, due to an accident ahead.

And what happened to that 1977 Fiat 128 3p in 1984? Oh... a slight accident shortly before I had to return to the USA.... It solved the problem of having to sell the car, which didn't pass the "TÜV" inspection, but then again, the car only cost me \$400 (+gas & insurance), certainly cheaper



than a rental for 3 months. And after the insurance settlement, only \$50 (+cost of traffic fine)! Moral of the story: if something falls from the seat to the floor, don't look at it while driving! I liked the car though!

TV Philately - Paycheck

By Peter Elias

Browsing through my "Prime Video" selections, I came across a movie called "Paycheck", which was released in 2003. It stars Ben Affleck, Uma Thurman, Aaron Eckhart & Paul Giamatti. The movie is an adaption of a 1953 short story by Philip K. Dick (whose works also include "Bladerunner" amongst others).

"Paycheck" is a science fiction movie about a "reverse engineer" who gets hired to reverse engineer products for companies. He then gets his memory "wiped" so that he remembers nothing from when his "job" started.

In the movie, he is offered a 3-year contract to develop some device (which we won't know about). Shortly after being introduced to people in the facility, he is all of a sudden back in the office of the employer who tells him he's finished his job and it is now 3 years later. When he goes to collect his earnings (stocks in the company) he is told that he gave that stock away and was given an envelope which supposedly had his belongings from when he started the "job". Instead the envelope contained various items that seemed random and not what he turned in 3 years ago.



Above is the first glance at this envelope (at around 26 minutes), a large manila envelope bearing what looks like 5 USA "Einstein" stamps. To the left below is a rotated look at the 2nd & 3rd stamps from the screen shot above.



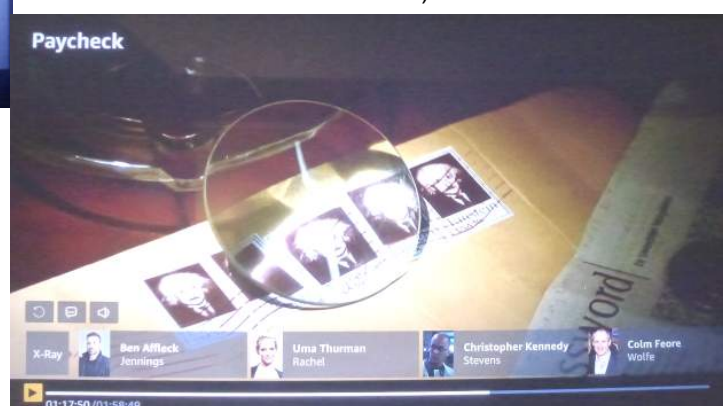
These "fake" stamps do bear some resemblance to the 15¢ Einstein stamp from 1979 (Scott #1774), but only in the sense that they depict Einstein and the word USA. As usual, several things are wrong:

- 1) The movie stamps are "imperforate" vs. "perforated".
- 2) There is a double border around the entire stamp image, whereas the real stamp doesn't have one.
- 3) Einstein is facing you (instead of facing to the right).
- 4) The 50¢ denomination is incorrect for 2007 when this movie takes place (should be either 39¢ or 41¢ depending on when in 2007 this takes place).

- 5) The postage of \$2.50 depicted on the envelope may or may not be correct (although doubtful); the envelope contained all sorts of items that would surely have pushed it past whatever \$2.50 got you in that year as a first class "large envelope" or "package". According to a historical rates look up, a 9 ounce 1st class package would have cost \$2.53. Based on the materials shown elsewhere in the movie, it's hard to say what the weight of those items are.
- 6) The postmark shown, seems to be a wavy line cancel that doesn't quite look real and no dates are visible, although "Seattle" is visible (and the movie does take place there).



At around 36 minutes, a better view of the whole envelope is shown (above). The address is fictitious and I could not find a Burrard Street in Seattle (although one exists a few miles further north in Vancouver, BC (Canada). The zip code of 98117 is in the north Seattle area called Ballard, which I'm a bit familiar with, since I used to have a customer there...).



There are various other shots of this envelope through out the movie, as it does play an important role. At 77 minutes, the main character is looking closely at the stamps, and finds that he had hidden an image in the eye of Einstein.

So why an Einstein stamp? This movie relates to seeing into the future and plays into Einstein's "theory of relativity". But otherwise, as usual, the movie "props" department did not get a lot of things right (except in the sense that, yes, there was a USA Einstein stamp).

More details about the movie can be found at Wikipedia.com and at IMDB.com.

MCSC Granbury Zoom Meeting Minutes April 27, 2021

By Skip Ely

The Mid Cities Stamp Club held a virtual meeting via Zoom on the above date.

Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 PM. He announced that the May 25th Granbury meeting would be via Zoom again, but that in-person meetings would commence in June and continue through November. Programs are needed and invited. At least one auction will likely be scheduled, probably in August or September.

Attendance:

- Participating were Dave Stockbridge, Rick Howell, Judy & Stanley Christmas, Joe McFarland, Fred Ekenstam, Bob Coleman, Sai Madhavapeddi, Gary McNamee, Ken Aldridge, John Withers and Skip Ely.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed a cover with a Martin Van Buren cachet on a 4½¢ Presidential stamp (error).
- Fred Ekenstam showed two patriotic covers, one in black and white, and the other painted in water color. Fred also talked about a recent acquisition of patriotic covers he had obtained.
- Joe McFarland showed a package cover with a "No Fly" sticker on it.
- Ken Aldridge showed baseball brochures issued by the USPS to promote the Legends of Baseball SS in 2000, and how he had acquired one card for each of the 28 U.S. Major League Teams via a lottery organized by John Hotchner and Linn's. Ken also talked about getting the signature of famed engraver Czesław Ślania when he attended a 2004 stamp show in Arizona.
- Sai Madhavapeddi talked about his acquisition of the 2012-2016 "War of 1812" Souvenir Sheets from both the U.S. and Canada.
- Dave Stockbridge showed a cover that flew on one of the German Zeppelin routes from Frankfurt to New York City in 1936. He also mentioned he had recently received the ISWSC newsletter and their upcoming mail bid auction.
- Gary McNamee talked about a newsletter he enjoys called "The Stamp Collector."

"Where in the World Is It?"

- Gary McNamee gave the clues for this regular feature, and Rick Howell correctly identified Ghana.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas reminded everyone about the Arlington meeting May 5 will be in person. The program will be "Clean Out Your Closet". Meet & Eat will be at Campo Verde. [Editor's Note: The Meet & Eat will be

Program:

- Rick Howell presented a video program titled "The Top Ten Most Unusual Stamps."

Gift Certificates:

- ... were awarded to Bob Coleman, Fred Ekenstam,

Joe McFarland, John Withers, Sai Madhavapeddi and Rick Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting ended at 7:55 PM.

Stamp Scanning

By Peter Elias

For years, when I needed to scan a stamp for illustrating an article, I simply choose the default setting on my scanner, which is set at "300 dpi" (dots per inch) resolution and "text & image". What I got, is #1 below. Looks kind of fuzzy & out of



focus, right? Then I decided to switch the setting to "photo" (instead of "image & text"), and I got what you see in #2 above. Quite an improvement! At this point, if you're looking at this newsletter on a screen, try zooming in a bit to see the details better.

I then switched the resolution up to 600 dpi (effectively 4 times the resolution of 300 dpi), but still left it at "image & text". #3 above is the result. Certainly a bit less out-of-focus than #1, but still worse than #2 despite being at a higher resolution!

Next I tried "600 dpi" resolution and with the setting at "photo", resulting in #4 above. Definitely quite an improvement over the previous 3 settings. The various engraving lines really seem sharp with this setting!

For many publications, while 300 dpi is generally thought to be ok, but the "photo" vs. "image & text" setting on my Epson WF-7620 scanner really makes a difference! To the right is the actual size of this stamp, so some of the detail may not show up as well even if it is set to 600 dpi. The 600 dpi setting will of course bring out a lot of the details better, but only when seen in an enlargement, such as what I've shown above.



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 \$ 9.95 each. Non-members -> please inquire. Contact peter@pcelias.com 1/21

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14

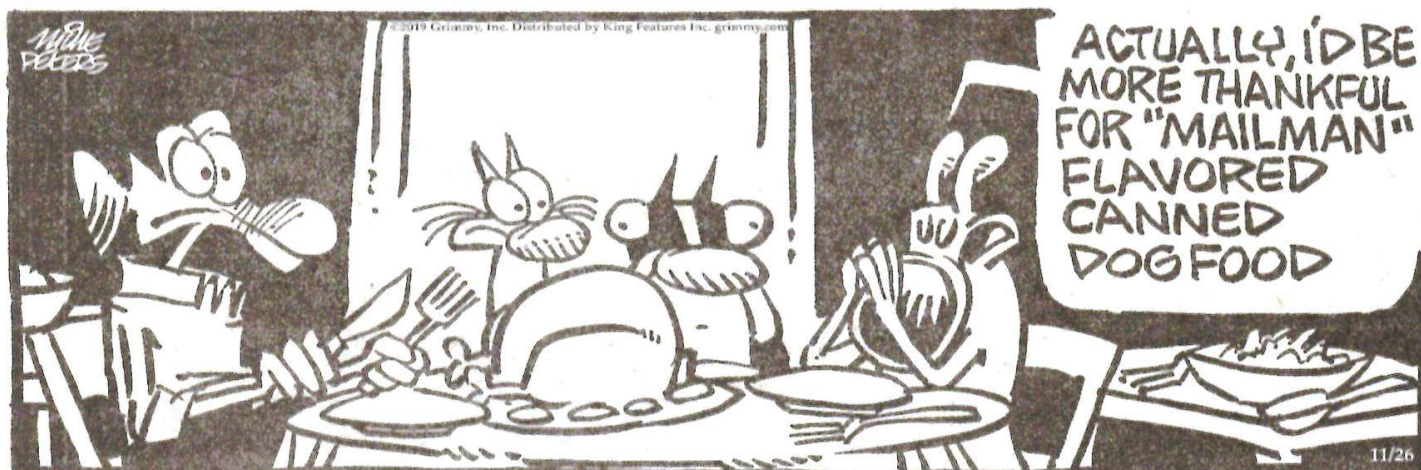
Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album. Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, now reduced to \$775 OBO!. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or at dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comic Strip - Mother Goose & Grimm (Mailman Flavored Dog Food)

By Peter Elias

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters



This Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip was published in the Dallas Morning News on November 26, 2019, 2 days prior to Thanksgiving (November 28), so it is an entirely “appropriate” comic, continuing the on-going sage of Grimm (the dog) and his quest for chasing (or biting) mailmen (or otherwise in this case!). Makes you wonder what flavor food in turn mailmen like ... hmm, well in certain parts of Asia ... ok, ok, joke....; but go ahead and look it up: <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-39577557>

MCSC Arlington Zoom Meeting Minutes May 5, 2021

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 22 members participated in the first live meeting at the Bob Duncan Center since November 2020.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting at 7:07 PM. He said the next meeting would be Wednesday, June 2. We are scheduling an auction for July, so lots need to be turned in to Skip by the next meeting. If the lots are bulky, they can be kept by the owner until the meeting; just give Skip a rough description of the lot. Remember, TEN lots per person.
- Librarian - Rich said we are in need of an office librarian to handle check-in and check-out of catalogs and the like at the meetings. A small task, but an important one.
- Programs - He also said we were in need of programs (contact him if you would like to offer one).
- Secretary - Skip Ely said our membership stood at 90.
- Treasury - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

EXPO:

- Ralph Poore said we had a productive Expo meeting May 24, and another was scheduled for June 19.
- Peter Elias said he had commitments from three judges for exhibits. Ray Cartier asked people planning exhibits to let him know so he can start allocating frames. Rich Hildebrandt said he didn't have a menu for the awards dinner yet, but we would be having one.

- Newsletter - Peter Elias said the next newsletter was well underway.

- Sales - Skip Ely said our APS books had arrived in time after a mix up and delay.

Announcements:

- Dave Stockbridge said the Granbury meeting on May 25th would still be virtual, but they would begin in-person meetings with the June 22 meeting.
- Ken Aldridge said he could do a program in June.
- Rick Howell said he had videos to show if necessary.

Show & Tell:

- Rich Hildebrandt showed a USPS Priority Mail Box posted with a lot of stamps (unfortunately, they were cancelled with a magic marker).
- Stanley Christmas said he had some international covers available to anyone who wants them.
- Ray Cartier showed some covers with space themed cachets.
- Peter Elias had a clear, plastic, USPS Priority Mail envelope (used primarily to mail Corporate annual company reports). He also showed a postcard advertisement from the Isle of Man. He also talked about the new USA Star Wars Droids Souvenir Sheets, and how he was able to get a postmarked, first day of issue deck card (but unfortunately was not able to order any non-diecut press sheets).
- Ken Aldridge showed a collection of city baseball brochures that were issued in 2001 in association with the Legends of Baseball Souvenir Sheet.
- Ralph Poore showed two RPO-type covers and talked about their place in postal history.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Bob Weidman, Sai Madhavapeddi, Dave Stockbridge, Rich Hildebrandt, Karen Cartier, Andy Lacko, Judy Christmas and Ralph Poore.

Program:

- ...was our annual "Clean Out Your Closet", postponed from January.

Adjournment:

- The meeting concluded about 8:30 PM.



Analysis of a Special Deal

By Dave Stockbridge

Back near the beginning of the Covid virus lockdown, club member Ben Termini offered a "Special Deal" to club members. The deal was, if you sent him a self-addressed stamped envelope, he would fill it with stamps and send it back to you. Absolutely free!

I took Ben up on his offer and the following is what I received. I sent him an envelope with 75 cents postage so he could enclose up to 2 oz. of stamps. I received 350 stamps from 101 issuing entities. I collect stamps, both mint and used, from 170 stamp issuing entities including both current and dead countries.

Of the 350 stamps, 177 (50.5%) of those received were from 45 of the countries I collect. The following is a breakdown of what I received:

- 52 countries had 1 stamp – total 52 stamps.
- 20 countries had 2 stamps – total 40 stamps.
- 15 countries had 3 to 5 stamps – total 56 stamps.
- 7 countries had 6 to 10 stamps – total 54 stamps.
- 5 countries had 11 to 20 stamps – total 71 stamps.
- 22 stamps were from France, which I don't collect.
- 44 stamps were from Poland, which I do collect.

Of the 350 stamps examined I added 5 to my collections. Another 5 were determined to be damaged and sent to the trash can.

Of the group the most challenging to identify are pictured here. They are a partial set of stamps with writing that I can't decipher other than the number. I

finally found that these stamps, some containing the hammer and sickle, were used in Armenia in 1922. However, they all lack the black handstamp surcharge for Scott # 334-343. Notations in Scott are that these were issued for postal tax purposes and are known to exist without surcharge but are not

known to have been issued in that condition. It is also noted that counterfeits exist.

Thank you, Ben for several hours of enjoyment with philately. If you are interested in receiving this "special deal" send an envelope to Ben. His address is in the club directory.

MCSC Eulless Zoom Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 8 members and 1 guest participated in the first live meeting for Eulless in over a year. One additional member checked in via Zoom.

Call-to-Order:

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

Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said our membership stood at 90.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
 - Stanley Christmas said he had reviewed the attendance sheets from the 2020 Expo and was surprised to see about thirty percent seemed to be new participants. He also mentioned the next Expo planning meeting June 19 at Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington.
 - Peter Elias said he had commitments from three judges for exhibits.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said the next newsletter was well underway.
- Sales - Skip Ely said we had good sales from the APS books this month. He also mentioned that he had two new club books from Jess Jessop.
- Website - Evan Islam provided an overview of the new webpage that his team and member Jim Myers had put together. All agreed it was very, very nice.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas said he had some international covers available to anyone who wants them.
- Peter Elias showed some stamp replica magnets he had obtained from his local post office. He also showed deck cards from two recent USPS issues. He also showed a clear, plastic, USPS flat rate mailing envelope.
- Ken Wills showed an envelope from a friend of his in Canada completely covered with overlapped five cent stamps (must have been close to 100 on there). He also showed of cover he had mailed from Ireland to England, and how it happened to come about.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Janet Moyer, Ken Wills, Rick Howell and Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

- The meeting ended about 8:30 PM.



Monte Bre

By Peter Elias



This 1938 stamp from Switzerland, Scott #243 shows a view of Lake Lugano & Monte San Salvatore, a view that Annie & I had back in the summer of 2010 during our visit to Europe.



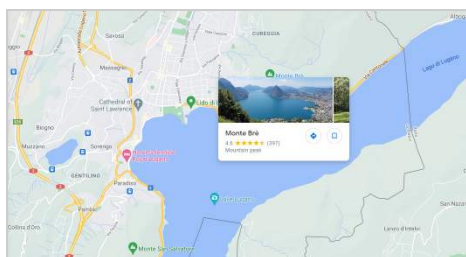
I took the photo from a slightly higher view point than the stamp, but we did see that little church, known as Maria Assunta. The church dates back to the end of the 11th Century and is a



part of the village of Sorengo, a kind of "suburb" of Lugano.

To get to this view point, one has to take the inclined railway up from the lake level to Monte Bre.

The church is located about 200 feet east of the station.



Ok, but for those of you not familiar with Switzerland, we're located in the southern part near the border of Italy (which was less than 2 miles from where the pictures on this page are taken and is shown by the line running through the lake in the Google map above).



The picture above was also taken near the church, as both pictures show the causeway running through Lake Lugano. And yes, it does look like I'm "photoshopped" into that picture. I was standing in the

shade and would have probably looked a bit dark and so I asked Annie to turn on the flash in the camera.

Unfortunately I did not take a picture of that church. Continuing to walk on a nice wooded path past the church, we eventually did reach the village of Sorengo. Well, it was perhaps only a ½ mile walk ...



We strolled around the village a bit and did visit a church there, whose name I don't recall. But, "Google to the rescue", and I found the name of the church in Sorengo that I'm standing in front of in the picture above. It is "[Chiesa dei Santi Simone e Fedele](#)" and was built in medieval times and mentioned for the first time in 1591.



Above: An interior view of the church.

Back to the stamp: in addition to the church and Lake Lugano, it also shows Monte San Salvatore, which can be reached by either walking or taking the funicular (inclined railway) that was built in 1890. I'm sure that the view is spectacular, but on this 3-day trip to this part of Switzerland, we just didn't have the time.

Another thing that we did not get to do during this visit isn't really visible on the stamp. Well, because it didn't exist in 1938.... It is "[Swissminiatur](#)", which opened in 1959. What it is, is a recreation of Switzerland in miniature, 1:25 scale, and features 128 models of Swiss monuments, buildings & transportation. It is located in the middle of the causeway that goes across Lake Lugano.

And yes, there are palm trees in this part of Switzerland; here I'm standing by the hotel that we stayed at in nearby Gandria.



*Been There,
Done That*

Basilica Santa Croce

By Pat & Bob Weidman

The construction the Basilica Santa Croce in Florence, Italy, was begun in the year 1294 by the Franciscans. The Basilica was designed by the Gothic master Arnolfo di Cambio. It was being built to rival the Santa Maria Novello, which was built across town by the Dominicans. It was not consecrated until the year 1442 and remained faceless until the year 1857 when the neo-Gothic façade was added.

The Basilica Santa Croce contains the tombs of many famous Florentines, including Michelangelo Buonarroti and Galileo. The pope wanted Michelangelo, who died in 1564 at the age of 89, to be buried in Rome. However, his body was carried off by the Florentines who wanted him buried in Florence.



The photo was taken on our 2013 trip to Italy. The stamp is Italy (Scott) #2028 and was issue on May 3, 1995.

-> The President's Report will return next month

*Been There,
Done That*

Swiss Guards

By Pat & Bob Weidman

Switzerland Scott #1224-1225 (see below) were issued on November 22, 2005 for the 500th anniversary of the Swiss Papal Guards. The Swiss actually started providing protection of the pope back in the 1400's. It wasn't until 1506 that Pope Julius II secured the position of the Swiss Guards by way of a treaty with the Swiss cantons of Lucerne and Zürich.



The role of the Swiss Guards has changed over the years. Today they are the Pontifical Swiss Guards and carry out many duties in the Vatican City. In 2013, Pat and I visited the Vatican on our vacation to Italy. In the picture are two of the Swiss Guards. Notice that the uniforms are just like the ones on the stamps! The style of the uniforms today is still medieval.

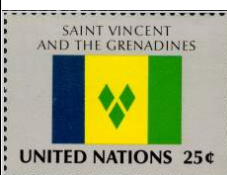


*Been There,
Done That*

St. Vincent

By Peter Elias

If you have travelled outside of the USA, then you should at least be able to find a stamp from the country in question by looking at the United Nations series of flag stamps. In this case, UN#529, featuring "St. Vincent".



I've personally been to St. Vincent twice (including twice to Bequia Island, one of the Grenadines - see the picture of the "Old Fort"



to the right), in 1993 and again in 2007 (as part of a meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group that was held there).

It's definitely a place I'd love to visit again (especially since they now have an airport capable of serving jet airplanes). The island has been in the news lately due to the eruption of Mt. Soufriere (which last erupted in 1979), so a trip might have to wait...



Campden Park Post Office

By Peter Elias



Campden Park is a small village northwest of Kingstown, the capital city of St. Vincent (West Indies).

Like many villages in St. Vincent, it had its own post office (see photo to the right) which I saw briefly in May 2007 driving by there with Annie while we were on our way to get to the

movie set used in the movie "Pirates of the Caribbean".

On October 31, 2009, the St. Vincent Postal Corporation shut down 25 out of 54 post offices on the main island and 2 out of the 7 post offices on the Grenadines of St. Vincent in order to consolidate mail processing and save on costs. The postmark to the right is the last-day-of-service one from this post office.



According to the book *St. Lucia & St. Vincent Postal History* (published in 2006) by Joe Chin Aleong and Edward Proud, the Campden Park post office opened as a district post office December 1, 1973.



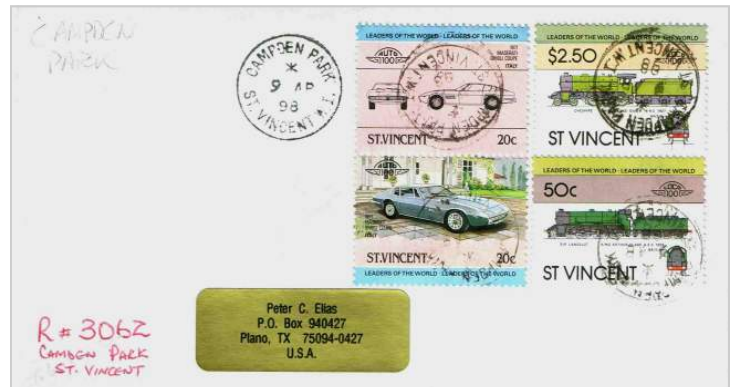
The stamp to the left has a 1980's strike of the Campden Park postmark. The handwritten "28" might be because the "day" slug was missing in the canceller, and they subsequently had to write the day on the stamp...

As a side note, I once met one of the co-authors of the aforementioned book, Joe Chin Aleong, who lived on Trinidad, when I had a business trip to that island in 1999. The other author, Edward Proud, lives in the United Kingdom, and I was asked to aid in editing a portion of the book relating to St. Vincent; I also provided various older black & white photographs of St. Vincent offices for the book (that in turn had been given to me by the late Dr. Gale Raymond, one of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO judges back in the 1990's).

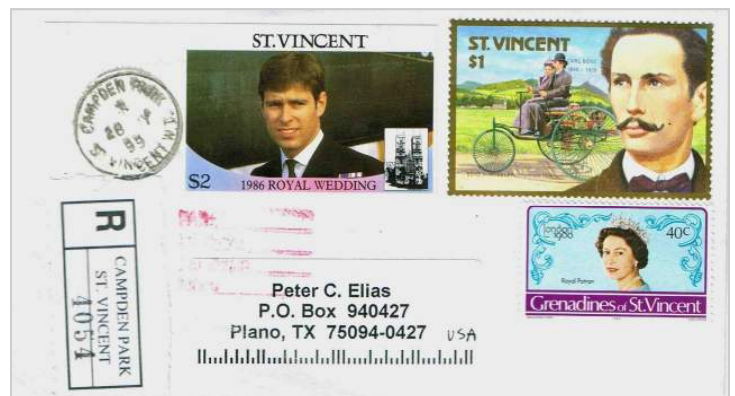
Back to Campden Park. A few years ago; well, 20+ years ago, when I was a bit more involved in studying St. Vincent postal history in-depth, I often sent out SASE's to the various post offices and requested that they send them back to me with nice postmarks so that I can see if



any changes took place.. Sometimes it would take many months for these covers to come back to me. I think they just processed my requests whenever they felt like getting around to them...



The cover shown above is one that I received back in 1998. I had put enough postage on the cover to have it include registration fees, but apparently they didn't have any registration labels, so they simply wrote R#3062 on the envelope.



A year later, in 1999, they managed to have registration labels! Based on the registration numbers, Campden Park processed less than 100 outbound registered envelopes between the above two envelopes!



I suppose that this "Been There..." article can apply to pretty much all of us!

Yes, like (hopefully) all of you, I've been wearing a mask for the past 15+ months (but not in my own house as shown in this posed photo). On the left I'm wearing a homemade mask from one of my family members (made in early 2020). While pretty, because it's basically cotton, I later switched to wearing mostly a "KN95" mask as it provides more protection.



And yes, I know that "KN95" masks are from China, unlike the USA-made "N95" masks, but unfortunately, it was virtually impossible to find N95 masks as they all (rightfully) went to first responders and essential hospital staff.

The picture to the left shows me wearing the type of KN95 mask that I usually wore to stores.

Of course the big thing starting this year was getting the Covid-19 vaccination. Due to my age, I wasn't exactly allowed to be first on the list to get the vaccine, but did manage to get an invitation (yes, invitation!) to get the vaccine (Pfizer) at a Baylor-Scott-White facility in early March; so by the end of March, I was fully vaccinated.

The Netherlands stamp to the right is the first one that I've seen that shows a syringe and thus implies that 2021 will be the year of getting vaccinated (and less wearing of masks).



Now in case you are wondering, what exactly is a "December" stamp? According to Cees Prins of the Netherlands, who sent me this stamp, the Netherlands issues stamps with a lower postage rate that can only be used in December, to facilitate sending of Christmas cards. Hmm, maybe if the USPS did this they could increase their volume of 1st Class Mail? ... just a thought...

My biggest gripe about the masks though, is what I would call "Covid Trash". The picture to the right shows what I see every day: masks lying on the streets, sidewalks and parking lots (this one was along Murphy Road in Murphy where I often take a daily walk). I mean, do these things simply flutter out of an open car window, or "oops, fell out of the pocket"? There's already enough trash littering our streets, these shouldn't have to add to it...



Back on May 12, 1999, the US Postal Service issued a 48¢ airmail stamp, Scott #C133, depicting Niagara Falls. It was the first of the "Scenic American Landscapes" series of stamps.



When we were living in Pittsburgh back in the 1980's, we decided to drive up to Toronto, Ontario for a weekend getaway. Niagara Falls was on the way, so we decided to stop and check them out. The falls, which are located on the Niagara River, separate the twin cities of Niagara Falls, New York, which is 17 miles north/northwest of Buffalo, New York, and Niagara Falls, Ontario, which is 75 miles south/southwest of Toronto.

Niagara Falls is actually a group of three waterfalls. They are located at the southern end of Niagara Gorge, spanning the border between Canada and the USA. Horseshoe Falls is the largest of the three. It is also known as Canadian Falls since it is on the Canadian side of the border. The American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls are smaller and are on the American side of the border. Goat Island separates the Bridal Veil and Horseshoe Falls. Luna Island separates the Bridal Veil & American Falls.

In the first picture below, you can see the two waterfalls on the American side. Picture two has me looking at the water flowing over Horseshoe Falls.



Postcrossing

by Peter Elias

In June 2021, the Bailiwick of Guernsey (one of the "Channel Islands") will issue a set of 3 stamps commemorating "Postcrossing". Some of you may have heard of "Postcrossing". It is a website where you register yourself and then you can receive postcards from other people around the world. You are also expected to send postcards, so www.postcrossing.com will send you the name of someone to send a postcard to. The more you send, the more you will receive!



way to someone) and have received 17 myself. Postcards that you receive are NOT from the same person that you sent one to.

For many people, this is just a one-time thing for each person that you send a card to (or receive one from), but some people do state in their profile that they might be interested in corresponding as well from that point forward, and/or trading postcards.

I've been a member of Postcrossing for a couple of years, but don't send out that many cards. As you can see, I've only sent out 18 cards (1 is currently "traveling" - i.e.: on the



Before sending a card, you're expected to scan the picture side of it and attach the scan at postcrossing.com. Along with the person's name & address, you are also given a "card ID number". When the person receives your card, they'll enter the card ID number to acknowledge that they've received your card. This is essential in order to using the service.

[The stamp image above is from <https://www.guernseystamps.com/>]

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MEET & EAT for

June 2021

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.

--> Official Meet & Eat get-togethers prior to the club meetings are now starting to resume in-person!

ARLINGTON

Campo Verde
2918 W Pioneer Pkwy
Dalworthington Gardens, TX 76013

EULESS

Cheddar's Restaurant
937 Airport Fwy, Bedford, TX (Phone - 817 540 0778)

GRANBURY

Grump's Burgers
3503 E US-377, Granbury, TX 76049

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

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

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 MCSC club members only)

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PO Box 940427
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