

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.



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MEMBER

#90



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February 2022

Been There, Done That

Schellen-Ursli

By Peter Elias



In 2007, Switzerland issued Scott #1278, a stamp commemorating the famous Swiss children's book "Schellen-Ursli", written by Selina Chönz and illustrated by painter Alois Carigiet. Neither are known well here in the USA (unless you are of Swiss origin).



bridge, and the lower left photo shows this illustration in the book.

The story is about a custom in that [Graubünden / Engadine] region of Switzerland whereby children drive away winter by ringing cowbells. Ursli seems to have gotten the short end of the stick with a tiny bell, but knew of a bigger one hidden in a farmhouse up on the mountain, and on the stamp is shown going on that hazardous journey.



The sentence in the book (bottom left column) says: "Schon macht er schnell sich auf den Weg, und fürchtet weder Wald noch Steg" (in English: "So he is quickly under way, and fears neither forest nor foot-bridge").

Growing up as a teen in the USA, my parents had two numbered lithograph prints from Alois Carigiet's paintings hanging on their living room walls; to the left is a photo of one of them.

The stamps were sold in the form of a 10-stamp booklet, which featured additional Carigiet illustrations from the book on the booklets outer covers, as shown above.

As luck would have it, I actually have this book on which the stamp is based! The front cover is shown to the right, with a ruler underneath (the book is over 12" wide).

Copyright for the book is 1965, and I would have received this in Switzerland when I was 5 to 8 years old. The stamp itself shows the boy crossing a rickety



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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 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

As we enter another new year (this newsletter is written early to mid-January), one of the main tasks to look ahead to, is this year's EXPO, to be held on November 11 & 12.

An initial EXPO planning meeting was held on January 15th, please see the meeting minutes on page 12. Some of our members have been involved in working in planning and carrying out the EXPO for many years, well over 10 years for many of us. Due to age and other factors, there comes a time when you have to stop, and for EXPO to be successful, there will have to be members stepping up to the plate so that we can continue to have an EXPO.

But without the 20 or so volunteers that we have, we wouldn't have an EXPO! So please, if you can give of your time in some sort of way, either helping to plan or work at EXPO (including set-up / tear-down), please let us know!

Of course, EXPO is not EXPO without exhibits! We are working on seeing about getting the "theme" of the show translated into 1-page and/or 4-page exhibits, as these are much easier to do than trying to do a 16-page (1-frame) to up to 160-page (10 frame) full-frame exhibit between now and November 10! Whatever the chosen theme will be, perhaps to be decided at the next EXPO planning meeting, give it a thought. A single page should be easily doable! If you need assistance with any exhibiting matters & concerns, please feel free to contact Ben Termini, Ray Cartier or myself.

If you have NOT yet paid your 2022 dues, please do so now and save Skip the effort in collecting the dues. There is a convenient renewal form printed on page 11 (it will be the last time for the 2022 dues).

Coming Attractions

2022

JAN. 25 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Annual "Clean Out Your Philatelic Closet" sale

FEB. 2 MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Skip Ely will give a talk: "Keys to identifying the Liberty Bell Forever Stamps"

FEB. 12 MCSC - EXPO Meeting
Details pending - see notifications by Ralph and/or Skip
Most likely at 11 AM at Spring Creek BBQ in Arlington

FEB. 16 MCSC - EULESS Meeting
Program: TBD

FEB. 22 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: TBD

MAR. 2 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: TBD

MAR. 11 - 12 Spring Dallas Postcard Show
Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Pkwy East, Plano
Free parking, \$4 admission, Fri: 10 - 5, Sat: 8 - 3

MAR. 16 MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

MAR. 22 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: TBD

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received:

Alan B. Letter (#643)
Mary F. Vittorio (#644)

New Members:

John R. Lyon (#642)

Reinstatements:

n/a

Resignations:

Christine Mays (#634)

Membership Summary – January 18, 2022

Membership as of December 1, 2021	101
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	(1)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of January 18, 2021	101

US Postage Stamp: American Turners, Scott # 979

By Roy Douglass



This carmine 3¢ postage stamp was issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the American Turners and was issued on November 20, 1948; it is a Rotary Press printing with perforations of 10½ x 11.

The Turner movement origins are in 18th and 19th century Germany, and it closely identified with “intellectuals and the political, social and economic changes of the period such as the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, the new political order in Europe and technical advancement.” (1)

The term “turner” comes from the German term “Turnen”, which literally means “do gymnastics”. Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (1778-1852) is credited with developing the German Turnen, which was meant to include most physical exercises, including use of the apparatus, as well as games and “people’s exercises” such as running, jumping, lifting and climbing, plus fencing, swimming and wrestling. Turner societies (*Turnvereine* – “do gymnastics,” and *Verein*, “club, union”), were founded by Jahn in Berlin in 1811.

However, the goals of the Turners extended beyond the gymnasium and exercises: they included “the liberation from French occupation, which followed the defeat of the Prussian army in the Napoleonic Wars, the overthrow of the feudal order and an end to the division of Germany into many small states in favor of a one-nation state. Thus, the Turners played an important role in the German nationalist movement and in the wars of liberation; many participated actively in the fight against the French occupying forces.” (2)

“Growing discontent with the political and social order imposed by the Congress of Vienna led to the outbreak in 1848 of the March Revolution in the German states.” (3)

Many of the Turners were involved in the fighting during the revolution, but after the revolt was defeated, many of those Turners left Germany for countries like Switzerland, England and the United States to escape imprisonment or death. Thus, the national organization of The American Turners was founded in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1848 by German immigrants. Today their motto is, “A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.” (4)

Interestingly, many of the Turners supported the Republican political goals during the 1850s and 60s. “This support resulted in the establishment of Lincoln’s bodyguard during his first inauguration as well as the forming of the Turner regiments at the beginning of the American Civil War in 1861.” (5)

The peak of the American Turner movement was reached in 1894, declined during World War I, and did not rise much after World War II even though the Turner movement became Americanized, through changing its

official language from German, presumably to English. As of last count, in 2011, 54 Turner Societies existed in the United States.

References: (Stamp image from Peter Elias)

1. The American Turners: Their Past and Present, by Annette R. Hoffman, page 120
2. The American Turners: their past and present, by Annette R. Hoffman, page 120
3. Wikipedia.org
4. The American Turners Homepage on Facebook
5. The American Turners: their past and present, by Annette R. Hoffman, page 122

Obituary

By Tom Cunningham

With sadness, I must notify you that Melvin Edmonds passed away on December 31. As most of you will remember, Melvin was a regular dealer who participated in many Mid-Cities EXPOs until about four years ago. His friendship and his presence will be missed.

[Note from Skip Ely: Melvin was an MCSC member from 2011-2013]

Been There, Done That

Lake Superior

By Peter Elias



Once upon a time, I lived in the Great Lakes Region, in an area called the “middle of the mitten”. Given that, we of course had a chance to visit the various “Great Lakes”. Lake Huron was the closest to us, perhaps only 30 miles away, but we really did not go there much. Lake Michigan wasn’t too far away, and Lakes Erie & Ontario were kind of a lengthy drive. Despite having to cross the Mackinac bridge to get there, we did on occasion go to the “UP” (upper peninsula).

My dad had to lecture at “MTU” (Michigan Technological University) a few times in the 1970’s, and we drove up to the Houghton/Hancock area where it is located (in the peninsula that nearest the first “R” in Superior in the 1955 stamp at top). And while were up there, we didn’t really spend that much time at the shores of Lake Superior. Years later, I was actually accepted at Michigan Tech (they primarily offer only engineering degrees), but I decided against it (opting for MSU instead), since there was way more “winter” up there, and the ratio of guys to gals wasn’t exactly encouraging... Plus this was several hundred miles from home, while MSU was only about 80 miles away.

Back in 2015, we drove over the “Big Mac” bridge and

were in the UP for the day, and had some glimpses of Lake Superior, and did spend some time at the Tahquamenon Falls (left), which is only 10 miles from Paradise, on the shores of Lake Superior!



Stamp Ads

By Peter Elias

I remember that back in the 1970's, I used to see ads for stamps all the time. These were in various magazines, on matchbooks, etc. Some of the companies that I remember from those days are H.E. Harris, Littleton, Mystic, Kenmore, Garcelon and others. These days, I've only seen mail order ads for Mystic Stamp Company, and was actually surprised to see one from Kenmore Stamp Company the other day. Most of the ads that I see are in the



Complete 50-State U.S. Stamp Collection - Just \$1
Get a complete collection of 50 U.S. stamps honoring each American state for just \$1. Special Offer - Save \$7.10!
These stamps are a great way to discover the fun of stamp collecting (stamps vary). Many are quite scarce!
Now \$1 - you save \$7.10. Send today and you'll also receive special collector's information and other interesting stamps on approval. Limit one collection at this special price. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.



Giant Grab Bag of 200 U.S. Stamps - only \$1.00
Special collector's opportunity! Giant Grab Bag of over 200 used U.S. stamps includes obsolete issues as much as 100 years old. Also historic Airmails and commemoratives. Each Grab Bag is different and contains at least 200 stamps - and your satisfaction is guaranteed. Perfect to start or add to a collection. Limit 1 Grab Bag per address. Adults only please.
Send \$1 for your Grab Bag today and also receive special collector's information along with other interesting offers on approval.



FREE 3 Classic Mint U.S. Stamps
Get 3 classic U.S. stamps in mint condition FREE! These stamps are at least 50 years old!
Send today for your three classic U.S. stamps (stamps may vary) and you'll also receive special collector's information and other interesting stamps on approval. Strict limit of one collection. Your satisfaction is guaranteed.



However! I do have a couple of comments regarding these ads:

1) The first two ads above show lots of nice USA stamps, which all appear to be mint. Only in the smaller print do you see that what you will get is

ad insert sections in the Sunday Dallas Morning News (such as the ones shown nearby).

The first two ads shown here from Mystic are fairly typical; one offers a 50-State USA collection, and the other a "grab bag" of 200 USA stamps; each for only \$1 each.

Each ad does state that there will be other stamps on approval with no obligation to purchase any.

Another ad that appears occasionally is the one to the left (#3), offering 3 Classic Mint US Stamps.

My guess is that these ads are basi-

cally geared toward the general public that doesn't currently collect stamps. To a degree, that's great, since stamp collecting needs all the exposure it can get in the mainstream media.



"used" stamps (see blue ovals). Little do beginning collectors know that most older used USA stamps have horrible machine cancels. The JFK stamp shown in the first ad above will more likely end up looking like the one shown at bottom left (or worse...)! At least ad #3 DOES state that you will receive mint stamps!

2) In ad #1, which is about US "State"-related stamps, I'm wondering why Elvis is shown to represent Tennessee, rather than a stamp that actually mentions Tennessee? My guess is that the Elvis stamp is used as "eye candy"!

3) While the first ad doesn't state this, the other two Mystic ads (#2 & #3) do state that "stamps may vary", so it's not guaranteed that you'll get the Elvis stamp...

So while I can see through some of these ads, the average person reading them may not be aware of what they'll really get, so I'd call ads #1 & #2 slightly misleading (despite at least stating in smaller print that you will get used stamps).

That all said, it is nice to see some stamp ads in the mainstream media.

I was surprised to see ad #4 the other day (also from a mid-week or Sunday newspaper insert); it was an ad similar to that of Mystic, but was from Kenmore Stamp Company, which I didn't realize was still around. This ad also offers US stamps and does quite prominently state that they will be "mint"; although it doesn't really say whether you'll actually get any of the stamps that are pictured.

I suppose that if you're not happy with your purchase, all ads do state "satisfaction guaranteed" or "money back guarantee".

While I haven't bought anything from Kenmore since probably the mid-1970's, I have more recently (18 years ago?) purchased the Mystic USA Stamp Album, with which I am very pleased. I stopped buying supplements for it though after 2007, since that is about when I stopped collecting mint USA stamps. The reason for buying the Mystic US album was that it was reasonably priced and replaced my 1979 Harris Liberty USA album, for which buying 30 years of supplements would have cost me way more than just buying a new album!

Note: The above commentary, criticisms and opinions are my own and do not reflect those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

Philatelic Firsts - Whistler's Mother?

by Ken Aldridge

I've always found it interesting (and somewhat fascinated by) the U.S. Postal Service issues of stamps with the same design or portrait. Some differences are in format, i.e., booklet, coil, etc., but also in perforations, colors, denominations, tagging and in earlier issues, watermarks.

Early issues of George Washington (designs A140 and A157) are good examples of definitive stamps with the same design but vary in Scott numbers due to types, watermarks, colors, formats and perforations.



Later, same designs in definitive stamps can be found for example in the Dwight C. Eisenhower 8¢ issues, #1395 (booklet) and #1402 (coil) of May 10, 1971. And, also with the

same design but two different issues is the Oliver Wendell Holmes #1288 from March 8, 1968. One is untagged and the other is tagged.

Then, of course we have the curious USPS definitive issues of interim stamps, "A" through "H," from 1978 to 1999. I think the "G" stamp with 15 different Scott no. issues takes the prize. These definitives varied by dates shown, perforations and format.

Okay, what about commemorative stamps? Well, the October 13, 1981 issues of the James Hoban stamp, #1935 is 18¢ and #1936 is 20¢ are good examples of the same design but difference denominations. Same with the Ronald Reagan issues of February 9, 2005 (37¢) and June 14, 2006 (39¢).



The Elvis Presley issues (29¢) of 1993 have two different designs with #2724 and #2731 both labeled "Elvis Presley," and #2721 labeled "Elvis." So, are these the first commemorative issues to show the same design for different issues? (#2724 is perf 10 and #2731 is a booklet issue)

I think the answer is "no." Look at the 1934-5, 3¢ commemorative issues of Whistler's Mother, #737, #738 and #754. #737 (perf 11x10½) and #738 (perf 11) were both issued May 2, 1934. #754 (imperf) was issued March 15, 1935. Three different issues of a commemorative



stamp, all for 3¢, with the exact same design!



Going back to earlier issues, I found three issues of 1913, Discovery of San Francisco Bay. #400 is perf 12, orange-yellow; #400A is perf 12, orange and #404 is perf 10, also orange. All with a 10¢ denomination.



Further searching, I found another three-issue commemorative stamp, 1929 issue Edison's First Lamp, #654 perf 11; #655 perf 11x10½ and #656 a rotary coil; all three are 2¢ denomination.



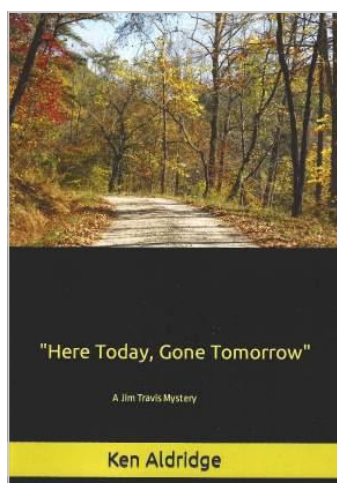
And finally, the find of all finds; the Harding Memorials of 1923, four issues, all 2¢ black: #610 perf 11; #611 imperf; #612 perf 10 and finally, #613 perf 11 (CV \$30,000!).

Now my search will be to find a #613! How about you? Better check your albums.....

Ken Aldridge's Latest Book

Member Ken Aldridge announced that his latest book has been published, and that this book also features the hero Chief of Police trying to find time to spend on his stamp collection. But crimes and love-life always seems to interfere.

Ken has autographed copies available for \$10. If you want one or some for presents email him at KAldridge@aol.com. The book is also available in eBook format on Amazon Books.



A man comes up missing in the small Texas town of Lake City. At the same time an elderly resident gets a call that her grandson needs \$10,000 to get out of jail. Chief of Police Jim Travis and his officers slowly piece together the clues that both events are related. Where is the missing man? Why is the grandson in jail? Follow the story as Travis struggles with these two cases, as well as his troubling love-life.

This is Author Ken Aldridge's eleventh crime novel, all featuring Jim Travis as a small Texas town's Chief of Police. Aldridge is a native Nebraskan. He served as a Special Agent of the FBI for 24 years and currently resides in Texas.



Thank You!

To Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps in Dallas for donating 2 boxes of various items (stamps & covers and an album).

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes January 5, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 27 members attended our first meeting of 2022.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He referred briefly to the successful 2021 Expo, and then said we needed club programs for the coming year at Arlington (contact Rich if you have something to offer). He also said we were planning a Board meeting for Saturday, January 29, at a location yet to be determined.
- Treasury - Judy gave the approximate treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had 64 members who have joined or renewed for this year (six more members renewed at the meeting). He mentioned he had received two new applications for membership in the mail this day.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
 - Ralph Poore said our 2021 EXPO was a success, with the club having a slight positive revenue stream, and the dealers all expressing satisfaction with their showing. He said we were having our first EXPO planning meeting for our next EXPO on Saturday, January 15, at 11:00 AM., at Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington. He applauded all who worked so hard to make last year's EXPO a success, but said we were in need of some extra volunteers to help this year. A particular need is a coordinator to focus on set up and tear down of the frames.
 - Ray Cartier mentioned that one of the missing award boxes was found in the club storage unit with the chance board material.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said the next newsletter was well underway.
- Sales - Skip Ely said the APS circuit books had resumed. He also mentioned that Dave Stockbridge was making some of his retired Oklahoma sales books available to MCSC members at 50% off (ask Skip to see them).

Announcements:

- Ken Aldridge said his wife was very appreciative of the bouquet of roses she received in recognition of her work on the stamp quilt she made available for a club raffle. He also mentioned that his eleventh mystery book had been printed and was available.
- Stanley Christmas noted that we had received word that EXPO dealer and former club member Melvin Edwards passed away on December 31, 2021.
- Ray Cartier said the Nov/Dec 2021 ATA issue had a full page summary of fall MCSC activities and made a complimentary statement about our newsletter.

Show & Tell:

- Peter Elias had several items, including a childhood book that was recognized on a recent Swiss stamp

issue, and also had various covers to show.

- Jim Taylor thanked the club for the condolence card on his wife's passing. He then showed a recent purchase of stamps sorted and numbered in a clear, plastic fishing tackle box (the kind you can't hardly find anymore). What he didn't know was that at the time he bought it, however, was that all the stamps had Scotch™ tape damage to them. Sad, sad, sad.

Program:

- Our program was our usual first of the year "Clean Out Your (Philatelic) Closet" sale.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Ken Aldridge, Tom Turner, Ray Cartier, and Dave Stockbridge.

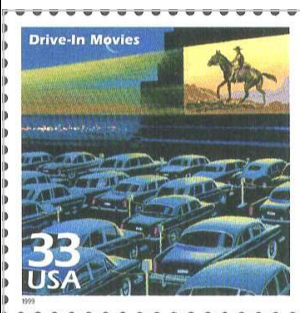
Conclusion:

- The meeting concluded about 8:15 PM.

*Been There,
Done That*

Drive-In Movies

By Peter Elias



Do you remember Drive-In Theatres? Growing up in Switzerland in the 1960's, I never heard of this! For one thing, not that many people could afford cars there at the time, and basically, you didn't really need one, as you could get just about anywhere with public transportation!

Of course, once our family moved to the USA, I did find out about drive-ins. While my parents never had a car in Switzerland, once in the USA, we needed two of them! But my parents weren't really into going to the movies that much (at least not here in the USA), and they would probably never have considered going to a drive-in theatre.

I went to a drive-in theatre for the first time when I was 18 years old. And that also meant I could watch an R-rated movie by myself as well, and that's what I watched the first time I went to a drive-in theatre in Midland, Michigan in 1979. It was two movies that I got to see that night.

The "opening movie" was a campy sci-fi action film called "Deathrace 2000", which had been released several years prior (1975), and featured David Carradine and Sylvester Stalone in a dystopian future where a cross-country car race required the racers to run down innocent pedestrians, and points were given for each "hit".

The main attraction for the night was a newly released movie called "Mad Max" (which also spawned several sequels); it featured a young Mel Gibson, and of course awesome car chases! That movie has several good "lines", my favorite of mine is "*Speed is just a question of money. How fast do you want to go?*" Despite this being an Australian movie, it was actually dubbed into American-English. Years later, I rented a videotape that had it in its' native Australian English. Much better!

The stamp shown is USA Scott #3187i from the 1950's Celebrate-The-Century set issued in 1999.

Want to write a "Been There" article? Why not check out the "Celebrate-the-Century" series for inspiration!



The Queen Conch, also known as the Pink Conch, is a large seashell, up to five pounds. It is found in Bermuda and from south Florida to the West Indies.

For many generations, this type of shell was used as a doorstep or to decorate the borders of flower beds by families of searing men.

In the first picture, Pat is looking shells in Nassau, Bahamas. This was back in 1972 on our honeymoon. We had gone into town and wandered down by the waterfront. She saw the lady selling the shells and we bought one.

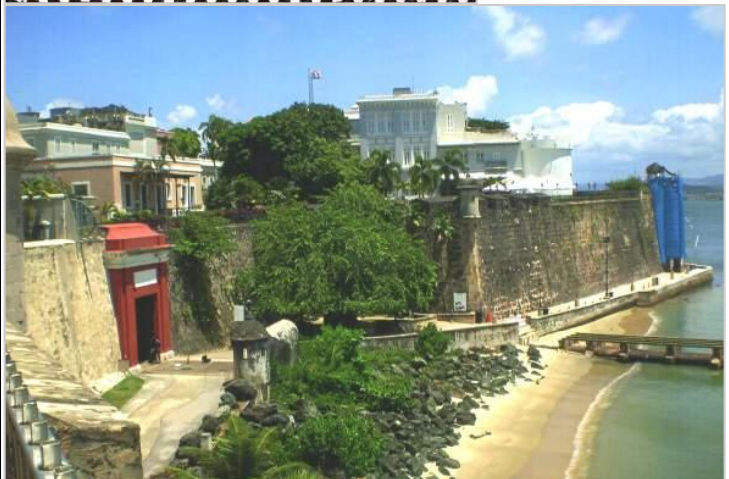
Getting the shell home without it getting broken wasn't easy. We wrapped it up and took it aboard the plane without other carry-on items instead of checking it with our luggage.

In 1985, the US Postal Service issued a booklet of 5 stamps picturing different types of seashells, Scott #2117-2121.

The stamp at the top of the strip and in the middle are similar to the one we bought. Picture two (below right) has the shell from Nassau and another one we acquired on another trip.



The stamp shown nearby is USA Scott #801 and it was issued back on November 25, 1937 as one of the four territorial issues released that year. It pic-



tures the Spanish fort of La Fortaleza in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The photo is from our recent vacation to Puerto Rico and also shows La Fortaleza. On the left side of the picture, notice the red entrance through the wall of the fort. This is the San Juan Gate. On the stamp, it is on the extreme lower left side. It is the oldest of the three original gates to the city, and the only one still in existence.

La Fortaleza was the first fort built by the Spanish to protect the city and harbor of San Juan. It's walls were seven feet thick. If necessary, it could shelter a couple hundred people.

Since 1544, La Fortaleza has been the residence of Puerto Rico's governors and other royal officials. All but the towers and the main walls were destroyed in the 1625 Dutch attack on San Juan. In 1629, La Fortaleza was rebuilt.

Fun with Philately Not So Sweet Bunny Rabbits

by Ray E. Cartier



We all recognize rabbits, also known as bunnies or bunny rabbits, as small, soft, cuddly, cute mammals. The world's 305 breeds of domestic rabbits includes 13 wild rabbit species, among them the seven types of cottontail.

The European rabbit, which has been introduced on every continent except Antarctica, is familiar throughout the world as a wild prey animal and as a domesticated

form of livestock and pet. With its widespread effect in ecologies and cultures, the rabbit is, in many areas of the world, a part of daily life, as food, clothing, a companion and a source of artistic inspiration. Rabbits have a life span of 8 to 12 years.. Their diet consists of vegetables, grass and hay. Their vision range is such that they can see ahead, above, below and behind without turning their heads.

But in Australia they are now a devastating pest! The current infestation appears to have originated with the release of 24 wild rabbits in 1859, by Thomas Austin for hunting purposes on his property in Victoria. Austin had been an avid hunter in England, regularly dedicating his weekends to rabbit shooting. Upon arriving in Australia, which had no native rabbit population, Austin asked his nephew William, to send him 12 grey rabbits and five hares, so he could continue his hobby in Australia by creating a local population of the species. At the time, he had stated, "*The introduction of a few rabbits could do little harm and might provide a touch of home, in addition to a spot of hunting*". William could not source enough grey rabbits to meet his uncle's order, so he topped it up by sending seven domestic rabbits as well. These rabbits adapted well to Australia because the hybrid rabbits that resulted from the interbreeding of the two distinct types were much more suited to Australian conditions.

In a classic example of unintended consequences, rabbits had become so prevalent within 10 years of their introduction that it was claimed that two million could be caught or killed annually, without any impact on their numbers. It was the fastest spread ever recorded of any mammal anywhere in the world. Today, rabbits are entrenched in the southern and central areas of the country, with scattered populations in the northern deserts.

The effect on the ecology of Australia has been devastating. They are suspected of being the most significant known factor in species loss in Australia. Rabbits are believed to have had an immense impact on the abundance of natural resource availability, due to overgrazing. The rabbits would first deplete the natural pasture vegetation, and would then resort to consuming woody vegetation, which included small shrubs, and the leaves and bark of trees. By 1950, over 600 million rabbits were thought to

live in Australia.

Rabbits are also responsible for serious erosion problems, as they eat native plants, leaving the topsoil exposed and vulnerable to gully and wind erosion. The removal of this topsoil is devastating to the land, as it takes many hundreds of years to regenerate. Damage to crops and production by rabbits, is estimated to be over \$600 million per year.

MCSC Eulless Meeting Minutes January 16, 2022

By Skip Ely

Opening:

- First Vice President - Stanley Christmas opened the meeting at 7:27 PM.

Attendance:

- 10 members and 1 guest were present. The guest introduced himself and was given an application for membership.

Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said 78 of our 101 members had renewed their membership for next year so far. Another half dozen or so have indicated they will renew.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said APS and club books were available.
- Newsletter - Peter was absent but had earlier indicated he needed only these minutes to finish the next newsletter.
- EXPO – Stanley Christmas gave a summary of the EXPO meeting from the previous Saturday. He mentioned the selection of theme was postponed until the next Expo meeting.
- Web Page - Evan said the webpage seemed to be running smoothly.
- Facebook Page - Rick Howell said we were getting a fair number of visitors there.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas talked about changes in procedures for his acquisition of Pitcairn Island new issues.
- Ken Wills showed a Christmas Card envelope with 2018 "Sparkling Holidays" Souvenir Sheet as postage that had been returned to him as needing postage (it eventually got delivered). He also showed a cover that had been mailed to the Netherlands from the U.S. with just a series of numbers for postage, and how they had been derived.
- Rick Howell showed a sheet of different 37¢ flag stamps and commented on all the different varieties.
- Evan Islam gave a report on his trip to Bangladesh in November and showed a utility receipt with a revenue stamps he brought back for Peter.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Tom Turner and Skip Ely.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

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 - Crankshaft (Late Christmas Mail)

By Peter Elias

CRANKSHAFT

By Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers



This “Crankshaft” comic strip was published in the December 30, 2021 *Dallas Morning News*, 5 days after Christmas. The daughter of Crankshaft wishes that Christmas would go on longer and Crankshaft hands her the day's mail telling her, that yes, Christmas does go on longer as a result of Christmas mail being delivered late. And in this case “neither snow, nor...” also seems to apply, but not here in North Texas. Even I have still been getting Christmas cards late (in early January, well after Christmas), many of which are from Europe, so it is somewhat expected for the mail to be late (although I sent my own cards to Europe on November 29, allowing for some “slack” and they all arrived in time for people to respond).

Modern U.S. Definitives Can Be a Challenge

by Rick Howell

Hopefully, our readers know the difference between definitive and commemorative stamps. Commemorative stamps are stamps issued each year to celebrate historical events or important people or other things that make our country great. These stamps usually are printed at the current first-class postage rate, or more recently, as a “forever” stamp covering first-class rates from the date of issue onward. Other rates can also be used on commemorative stamps as the USPS designates.

Definitive stamps are the “work horse” of the postal service. They are designed to be used in everyday postage and are usually printed with patriotic symbols like flags or eagles or Liberty Bells, etc. Modern definitives have been printed with fruits and flowers and other symbols of typical American life, and are priced at the current postal rates which in more modern times seem to change quite frequently compared to the old days.

For example, the first-class postage rate in the United States from 1932 to 1958 was 3¢. Most of us will recognize the stamp shown in Figure 1. Although this stamp was printed beginning in 1938, the fact that millions of these stamps were printed to pay the first-class postage rate has made this a very common stamp readily available to collectors almost a hundred years later, and most dealers will be happy to give you a great deal on them if you are interested.

The Scott Catalog lists four varieties of this stamp and all are a very reasonable catalog value.

Definitive stamps typically are issued as a series to cover the postage rates, however the Presidential Series of 1938 was issued with the order of the presidents determining the value of the stamps the president was depicted on. For instance, George Washington was shown on the 1¢, John Adams on the 2¢, Thomas Jefferson on the 3¢, etc. Rates like ½ ¢ depicted Benjamin Franklin, 1 ½ ¢ depicted Martha Washington, and the 4



able to collectors and it is not overly expensive to assemble a nice set for your collection.

The Liberty Series of 1954 to 1980 is another set of definitive stamps with two very common stamps which covered the transition of the first-class rate from 3¢ to 4¢ on Aug 1, 1958.

More modern series of definitives include the “Transportation Coils”, “Americana Issues”, “Great Americans Issues”, “Flag Issues”, “Flora and Fauna Issues”, etc. Each of these provides a great opportunity for collectors to assemble sets of stamps that should provide enjoyment for many years to come.

One thing that has made collecting these definitive stamps a bit more challenging is the number of varieties that is showing up for some of the later stamps. For instance, the 37¢ Flag Stamp (Scott No. 3620) issued in 2002 (see Fig. 3), has 6 listed varieties depending on serpentine die cut or perforation varieties determined by the printer of the stamp. These varieties determine the catalog numbers for this stamp as 3620, 3621, 3622, 3623, 3624, or 3625. Printers are listed as:

- 3620 – Sterling Sommer
- 3621 – Ashton Potter
- 3622 – Bureau of Engraving and Printing
- 3623 – American Banknote Corporation of America
- 3624 – American Packaging Corporation
- 3625 – Avery Denison

Figure 4 below shows another similar 37¢ Flag



Stamp (Scott Illustration No. A2812) issued beginning in 2002. There are 14 varieties of this stamp listed in my 2020

Scott Specialized Catalog, also based on printer, perforation or die cut varieties, which will command 14 different Scott Catalog numbers.

So, you see, although there may be only one illustration of each stamp in the Scott Catalog, there may be many different catalog numbers assigned to each illustration, and assembling all these varieties can be quite a challenge. It becomes even more of a challenge if you want to collect them postally used on cover. There are many opportunities for collectors out there to jump into and get your feet wet. Who knows, you might learn something.

Also, as a side note, with the 2022 issue, the Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers has been split into three separate catalogs. The *Identifier of Definitive Stamp Issues* and *Stamp Values U.S. Specialized by Grade* which were previously incorporated into the Specialized Catalog have now been broken out and published as separate books. Scott publisher Amos Advantage offers the three for a package deal at a combined price, or they can be purchased separately.

TV Philately: The Toys That Build America

By Peter Elias

I was watching a documentary on the History Channel about "The Toys That Build America", much of which about game makers Milton Bradley and George Parker.

In one brief scene, about 17 minutes into the program, George Parker is receiving a letter, shown in the attached screen shot.. Based on the story line in the documentary, this was sometime in the 1880's, and George Parker received a rejection letter for his "Banking" board game.

I've tried several times to pause the documentary to get the best possible screen shot when playing it from my DirecTV recording and what you see is to the right above. While at that distance, the stamp looks somewhat clear, once I crop out the image and rotate it, what you get is what you see to the left. Just before writing this article, I actually found the episode online as well at the History.com website. It took me a while to find this 1 second image at around 11 minutes into the show (versus at 17 minutes on DirecTV due to how the commercials shown). But that image was actually worse!

So regardless of the fact this the stamp image is very fuzzy, it is apparent that it features the Statue of Liberty. There were no stamps in the 1880's that feature the Statue of Liberty. The first time that the Statue of Liberty was featured on a stamp was a 15¢ value in the 1922-1925 series, and the statue was depicted inside an oval frame (obviously



not the case here). So, the stamp shown is a fabrication.

What else is there? There is no postmark or cancel, and I wonder whether one could have simply address an envelope to a person in a city without some sort of street address? Medford, Massachusetts at that time had around 8,000 residents. Would the post office have known where to deliver this?

So as usual, it's a "fail", but then again, as always, this image is up on screen for not more than a second, and all that the stamp has to do is "pass muster" as a "stamp-like item at the upper right-hand corner of the envelope as part of a plot point where the person is seen holding an envelope.

The episode is viewable online at:

<https://play.history.com/shows/the-toys-that-built-america/season-1/episode-4> (although there are commercial breaks...).

2022 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

__ Mr. __ Mrs. __ Ms. __ Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

__ Check here if information is unchanged from 2021 and skip to signature line below.

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable): _____

__ APS # _____ __ ATA # _____ __ TPA # _____ Other: _____

Permission is granted to make the information above available to other club members. Indicate anything you do NOT want shared: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Membership Level:

__ \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online newsletter)

__ \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

__ **\$25 Sponsor Membership**

__ \$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

__ \$6 Additional Adult (only 1 newsletter copy)

__ \$4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

Make check out to 'Mid-Cities Stamp Club' and mail this form with payment to:

Skip Ely, MCSC Secretary, 5512 Shady Meadow, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-6616

MCSC EXPO Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 15, 2022

By Skip Ely

The Mid-Cities Stamps Club held an EXPO Planning Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ in Arlington on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Attendees:

- Ralph Poore (EXPO Chairperson), Patty Poore, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Ray Cartier, Karen Cartier, Ken Aldridge, Alliene Franklin, and Skip Ely.

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:53 AM. The reading of the minutes from the previous meeting was suspended, as it dealt mainly with the 2021 Expo, with no action items.

Recruitment and Succession Planning:

- Ralph said a major issue for him was to prepare a recruitment and succession document for each Expo committee chair to avoid coming up short on important tasks.

Exhibits:

- Ray Cartier discussed the difficulties he had in obtaining enough exhibits last year. Stanley Christmas suggested we allow Grand Award winners to re-exhibit after three years. A motion was made to that affect, seconded and approved.
- Ken Aldridge later suggested paying club members to exhibit. After some discussion, a motion was made to at least waive exhibit fees for club members for this year only, and evaluate the response. This was seconded and approved.

Frame Set Up and Take Down:

- Stanley said we need someone to coordinate and lead this activity, as it was somewhat disorganized this past year. Ralph said he would see if Evan Islam would agree to do this.

Beginners and Silent Auction:

- Skip Ely said he still had plenty of material for the Beginners area. He said he was able to dispose of a lot of stuff that wasn't used for the Silent Auction, but now we needed quality items for this year. Alliene Franklin asked if we had a document showing how much was paid for items. Skip said Tom Turner had already prepared that, and he could forward it to anyone that was interested.

Hospitality and Registration:

- Janet Moyer was absent, but Judy Christmas said all went well and the only action item for next year was to put names on both sides of the ID lanyards.

Bourse:

- Tom Cunningham said in an email that he was willing to continue as chair, and was confident of getting 24 -

26 dealers for this year.

Budget:

- Judy Christmas handed out a projected budget sheet for 2022 (with results from 2021 included).

Chance Board:

- Karen Cartier said she was revising the Chance Board to make it easier for people to use. She said she was working on enough envelopes to cover the next 3-4 years.

Theme:

- This was a subject of a couple of earlier emails. Peter Elias said since we weren't doing a cachet, he didn't see the need to tie the theme to a particular new stamp issue. He suggested some other topics, similar to what the Houston show does, and encourage one and four page exhibits on that theme.
- Ken Wills suggested using "Postal Rates" as one for this year. Ralph thought maybe the number twenty-two (for example, as a stamp value or as a rate) would be an interesting topic for 2022.
- Judy Christmas wondered if Military Uniforms might be appropriate since one day of the show occurs on Veterans Day this year.
- It was decided to table the issue until the next meeting, and invite more discussion in the meantime.

Awards:

- Alliene Franklin asked about awards from other stamp groups. Ray Cartier said he could provide a list of them.

Survey:


- Stanley Christmas provided a preliminary summary of the 2021 survey question "How Did You Hear About the Show?" He made note of a few of the more interesting responses.

Next Meeting Date:

- Ralph proposed Saturday February 12 for our next EXPO meeting. He also outlined some further dates for subsequent meetings (March 19, May 21, July 16, September 17, and October 15).

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM.



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10480 Grant Road
Suite 117
Houston, TX 77070
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

Been There, Done That

Arkansas

by Peter Elias



Looking at the stamp, USA #3564 (issued in 2002), the upper right part appears to feature a depiction of one of the many "bath houses" in Hot Springs, and although we visited a couple, none looked like the one depicted. The picture above shows historic downtown Hot Springs taken from an observation tower at Hot Springs National Park. We stayed at the Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa shown in the center of the photo above.

Other than Hot Springs itself, we also visited a private "mineral & diamond" field nearby; and while we didn't have any major "finds", it was fun and we found various minerals (see

In early September 2011, we found ourselves in Hot Springs, Arkansas. On purpose! Before then, my only visit to Arkansas was very brief when American Airlines had to divert my flight from Tulsa to northwest Arkansas due to tornadoes and other nasty weather.

This time we drove! Our visit was a weekend getaway to Hot Springs since NTAG (North Texas Audi Group) was having an annual get-together there), and I figured, why not!

photo to the right). We also visited "Crater of Diamonds" State Park in Arkansas. No "finds" for us there, but someone supposedly found a 1 carat diamond (in the rough) that day!

The trip also included a dinner boat cruise, and a trip to a private mineral museum; the picture on the right shows a huge 7 foot amethyst!

On the way back, we decided to take the long way back via the Queen Wilhelmina Parkway, a great scenic drive, where some of the Audi club members tested their driving skills... After a lunch with the Audi Club members, we did a quick train ride and then drove back to Texas via southern Oklahoma. It was a great trip! Maybe next time, we'll have time to visit the "Gangster Museum of America"!



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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MEET & EAT for February 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

February 2 Moni's Pasta & Pizza,
1730 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington, TX
(817) 860-6664.

EULESS

February 16 CiCi Pizza, 2101 Harwood Rd, Ste 115,
Bedford, TX 76021 (817-545-7575).

GRANBURY

January 25 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury
February 22 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E. Hwy 377

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

Don't Forget:
BOD & EXPO Planning Meeting
February 12

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 mate-
rial, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contin-
gents, 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 ver-
sion)** 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)