

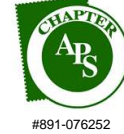
Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: Trinity United Methodist Church
1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington

Flower Mound Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
3020 Corporate Ct, Ste 400 (Step Up Sports Medicine)

Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER
MEMBER



Volume 39, Number 6

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

June 2026

Boston 2026: What a Show!

By Peter Elias

A decade ago, in 2016, I hoped to attend the next international stamp show here in the US (having attended Pacific '97, Washington 2006 & NY 2016 in the past (as well as Capex96 in Toronto and World Stamp EXPO 2000).

These shows do take about a decade to come to fruition, and are massive. So massive that you can't even



take 1 photo of the whole thing. Above is just the "left half". You went down escalators to the main floor.

At front left were the "Court of Honor" exhibits. Other exhibits were arranged in "pavilions" around the perimeter of the show floor, and were arranged by regions (i.e.: Europe, Polar, Asia/Pacific/Africa, the America's and an "Open Exhibits" area that included topical, ephemera, modern, revenues, FDC's, youth, postal stationery & other subjects.

Within each area (except the open area) were spaces for societies from those areas and some (not all) of the postal administration booths. All of this was different from the past shows I've been too, but a good idea. In the center were auction houses & stamp dealers. --> [See page 14](#)



Above, the "right half", which had the USPS booth & stamp dedication area, the Beginner, NELUG (Lego) and other areas.

I'll go more in-depth in the July (& later) issues of the newsletter as I just got back!

Closed Album - Jim Case

By Rick Howell

It is with great sadness that I must report the loss of another of our Granbury members, Jim Case. Jim passed away on [Wednesday](#), April 29 in Granbury as the result of an automobile accident.

Jim had been a collector of Hockey and other Sports Stamps, and had always been eager to provide programs to the club to promote his philatelic pursuits. He was a quick-witted, enthusiastic individual with a great sense of humor, always ready with a humorous quip to entertain the meeting attendees. Whenever I would see him at one of our meetings, and ask him how he was doing, he would always say, "Much better, now that you are here!"

Jim only recently presented a program to the club on Terry Fox, the Canadian runner who lost his leg to cancer but still ran across Canada to promote cancer research. Jim was quick to help and helped to make the Granbury chapter of Mid-Cities a lot more fun to attend.

Jim, my friend, you will be missed.

A celebration of life was held on May 8 at the Wiley Center Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.



Article Index

Page

Boston 2026: What a Show!	1, 14
Closed Album - Jim Case	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Members In The News	2, 14
Thank You!	2, 11
Been There - Done That (Stein am Rhein)	3
Route 66	4
Postage Rate Comparisons	5
Club Meeting Minutes	6, 9
Peru Cover	7
Been There - Done That (Hard Rock Café)	8
Member & Dealer Ads	8, 12, 13, 15
From The President's Cluttered Desk	9
Sights and Stamps: That's My Flag!	10-11
More Chinese Fakery	12
One Square Inch	13
Greater Fort Worth International Airport	14
USPS Dog Attacks	14
Meet & Eat	15

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

2025 - 2026 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Rick Howell
Vice-President (Arlington) – Rich Hildebrandt
Vice-President (Granbury) – Dave Stockbridge
Vice-President (Flower Mound) - Dan Golden
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Thomas Cunningham

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Ralph Poore Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ken Aldridge

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

For a membership application write to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 820784
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

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



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Our 2026 EXPO will be here before you know it! While we don't have a full-fledged exhibition any longer, we will again have 6 frames (96 pages) of space for mini-exhibits in the entry area. I'll post the application for mini-exhibits in the next issue of *Stamping Around*. In the meantime, please think doing at least a 1-page mini-exhibit That is simple to do and shouldn't take much time. Think of it as an interesting "show & tell" item, just with written text to go with it!

Members In The News

By Peter Elias

The article "T-Shirts on Stamps" by Peter Elias was published in the May 2026 issue of the "Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History" on pages 20 - 23. Note: This is an enhanced version of the same article that was published in *Stamping Around* (also the May 2026 edition). Republishing it in the TPA Journal allows for additional readership.

Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Sharon Sloan and her husband Jerry for donating a part of their stamp collection to the club. On May 6, they dropped off 5 bank boxers with various philatelic literature, including APS & ATA journals and a complete set of 6 volumes of Scott's 2013 catalogs (looked like new!). Additionally there was a White Ace album with a full collection of Europa stamp issues and some other stockbooks & albums.

Coming Attractions

2026

- JUN. 3 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: World's 1st Airmail Stamp by Geoff Owens
- JUN. 17 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- JUN. 19 - 20 OKPEX (Rose State College)**
Student Union Bldg, 1910 Hudiburg Dr, Midwest City, OK
- JUN. 20 MCSC - EXPO PLANNING Meeting**
David's Barbecue, Pantego
- JUN. 23 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD
- JUN. 26-27 TSDA Bourse**
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)
- JUL. 1 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Boston 2026 Recap by Peter Elias
- JUL. 15 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- JUL. 29 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD
- AUG. 5 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Robert Martin (#704) collects USA

New Members:

Wadia Varzvan (#703) collects India & USA

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

Jim Case (#501)

Membership Summary – May 20, 2026

Membership as of April 15, 2026	104
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2026	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(1)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of May 20, 2026	104

Been There,
Done That

Stein Am Rhein

Peter Elias

Stein Am Rhein is situated in the northern Swiss canton of "Schaffhausen" (#1860g). For the stamp that honors Schaffhausen,

they depict the "Munot" on that stamp, which overlooks the Rhine River (and which I wrote about in the August 2012 newsletter).

During a visit to Stein Am Rhein in 1986, I also rode a miniature steam train located just outside the town. -->

<-- While I don't actively collect "elongated" coins, I did obtain one for Stein Am Rhein.

If ever in that part of Switzerland, be sure to visit!



Shown above is Switzerland Scott# 1258a-c, a triptych issued in 2007 for the 1000-year anniversary of the town of Stein Am Rhein (literally means "stone on the Rhine River"). Luckily I had these stamps in my Swiss Post 2007 stamp yearbook.

In reviewing my photos of the trip there on the Bundesfeier tag (National Holiday, August 1, 2013), I did take some photos that show the same beautifully painted buildings that are de-



picted on the stamps, albeit from slightly different angles.

The building on the left stamp would be to the left of the middle & right stamps (it kind of forms a "Y" for the roads on its left (Oberstadt street) & right Chirchhofplatz) sides as per the Google map below. Chirchhofplatz is both a street and the city square.

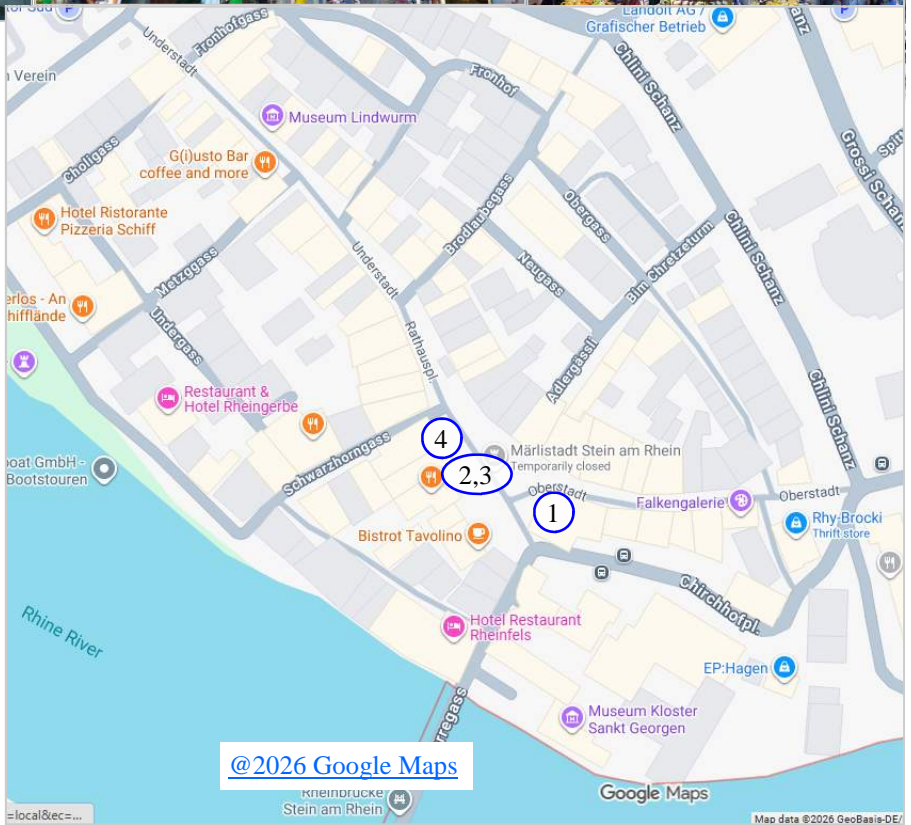
The building on the left stamp is shown as #1 and is the Rathaus (literally "house of advice / council", or city hall as we know it).

The "Marktbrunnen" (market fountain) is #4, buildings #3 & #2 would be below the #4 (as there isn't enough room for me to place these numbers on the map). The building to the right of the fountain is a small grocery store ("Volg").

Building #2 says it was built in 1734, many others are older.

[Wikipedia](#) states that Stein Am Rhein was founded around 1007, when an Emperor moved the St. George's Abbey from the Hohentwiel in Singen (what is now Germany, see article in August 2017 & July 2022 newsletters) to Stein, which was then just a fishing village. It now has a population of about 3,561 (2020); while about 1 million tourists visit each year!

My most recent trip there was in 2013, on a significant day in Switzerland: August 1 (which is their national holiday for "Independence Day").



@2026 Google Maps

Route 66

By Peter Elias

ifornia are shown in the order in which people would have traveled. Even if you were to start in California and drove east, they'd still be out of order.

At this point I do not understand the reason of the order.

One photographer, David Schwartz, took all of these photos. He drove Route 66 over 42 times in a period of 2 decades. That's a lot of driving! A one-way trip is 2,448 miles. Let's see, times 42 equals....

Route 66 was originally opened in 1926 and was decommissioned 59 years later, in 1985.

It's a nice sheetlet, yet, I do have another issue, and that is: while it is great that the back of the sheet gives the name & location of each of the stamps, and while you have the stamps on this sheetlet, the information is useful. Sadly, if you receive these stamps on a letter, and don't have access to the information on the back of the backing sheet, you have absolutely no clue what you're looking at (other than the small Route 66 road sign on each stamp). I mean, would it

have been possibly include at least some sort of identifier on each stamp as what or where?

For once, I was able to get the "deck card" for this sheetlet. While the deck itself shows the Munger Moss Motel in Lebanon, MO, I used the "Texas" stamp, which shows the "Tower Station and U-Drop Inn Café" in Shamrock, Texas (eastern side of the Texas panhandle) and then had it postmarked (unofficial first day cancel) in Plano. While I usually try to use the same stamp that is shown on the deck card, in this, Texas made much more sense! And that is why the bottom left stamp on the sheetlet above is missing...

I've only been on a brief section of Route 66 here in Texas, it was on Historic 6th Street in Amarillo.



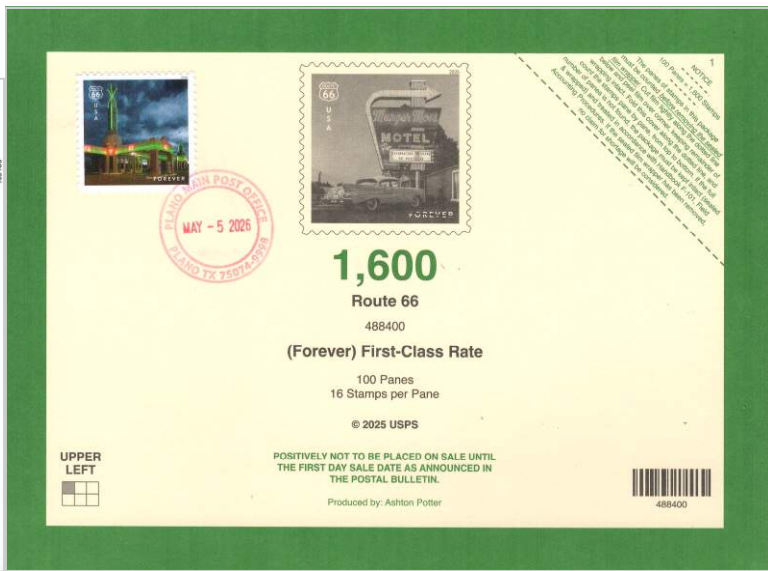
On May 5, 2026, the USPS issued a sheetlet of stamps commemorating "The Mother Road", also known as "Route 66".

Each sheetlet has 2 sets of 8 different stamps, with each stamp representing one of the 8 states through which the highway runs, starting in Chicago and ending in Santa Monica.

On the backside of the sheetlet (below), there is a map showing the route of Route 66 and the name and location of the pictures shown on each of the stamps.

Going west on Route 66, the sequence of the states is: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

As what I could not call a logical order of the stamps on the sheetlet (i.e.: reading left to right by row), they are: Missouri, Illinois, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Arizona and California. Only Arizona & Cali-



Postage Rate Comparisons

By Peter Elias

When comparing US postage rates to those of other countries, it's not always easy to get an apple to apple comparison. Since the rest of the planet seems to be on the metric system and using grams or kilograms, we still use ounces and pounds.

The USPS prices most items by the ounce or pound. But many countries use certain increments, such as "up to 20g", "up to 50g", etc. So if we mail a 1 ounce envelope, we're at 28.3g.

Let's say that you wanted to send a small book in a small box. In Germany, the option for a small book might be a package of 35 x 25 x 3 cm (13.7 x 9.8 x 1.2 inches) and weigh NO MORE than 2 kg (4.4 pounds). Reasonable at €15.99 (\$18.84). From the US to Germany: \$93.15 when I

Porto berechnen

Länderauswahl: Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika

Art: Brief

Maße: Bis 23,5 x 12,5 x 0,5 cm

Gewicht: bis 20 g

Standardbrief 1,25 €

Bitte beachten Sie unsere [länderspezifischen Laufzeiten und Versandhinweise](#)

Haftung
 Basis-Sendungsverfolgung

Eigenschaften ändern Jetzt kaufen (1,25 €)

went up to the German maximum size (and here it would be an international medium flat-rate box).

If you reduce the weight to 4

Above: Germany seems to be more inclined with the KISS (keep it simple stupid) principle.

As you can see, for a "letter" from Germany, you can send up 20g (0.7 oz) in an envelope no larger than 9.5" wide x 4.9" tall x 0.2" thick for €1.25 (\$1.47). That size envelope is similar to our #9 or #10 envelopes, but we get to stuff it to a whole 28.3 g (1 oz) 6mm (¼") thick versus just 5mm. But nevertheless, still a bit less if you're just mailing 1 or 2 sheets of paper. They call this a "Standardbrief" (standard letter).

What if you need to mail up to 50 g (~1.75 oz)? Then you can mail in a similar envelope, but up 1 cm (~0.4") thick and the cost is €1.80 (\$2.12). Now, we don't have the equivalent rate here for that kind of an item, but if it is less than 1.75 oz and not over 0.4" thick, we'd pay \$3.40 (and yet more if it is "non-bendable"). So now we're quite a bit more expensive than Germany already, and it is still just a regular letter.

Moving up a notch to a "large flats" envelope (like the 9" x 12" type, and mailing a stack of paper weighing up to 500 g (17.6 oz), this envelope can be up 13.9" x 9.8" x 0.78", it is

pounds, then 1st Class International Package is an option at \$66.25. Still WAY more expensive than in Germany.

If you've noticed above, for the letter option, there are just 4 weight classes for this type of standard letter FROM Germany to the USA: up 20 g, 50 g, 500 g or 1 kg.

At the same time USA to Germany letters also have 4 rate structures, but they are only 28 g, 56 g, 85 g or 100 g (3.5 oz).

I remember several years back when I sold and had to ship a 4 pound book to Germany. It cost me (even back then) something like \$60+ to mail. At that time, I looked up this up on the German postal service (Deutsche Post) website, and the same book there to here was only about \$24. In other words, WAY less expensive.

Now one thing to consider: the USPS will ONLY let you ship items via Airmail. Other countries still offer "Surface Mail" (presumably truck, train or ship); nothing is said about that on the German website, so I'd like to presume that their shipments from Germany to USA will be via plane.

Since some items I'm selling on eBay can be bought by people overseas, they often complain about I'm charging such an excessive amount (according to them). I tell them, it's not excessive, it is what the US Postal Service charges, and tell them can go to usps.com and enter the info into the online postage calculator. And assuming that

only €3.30 (\$3.89). The USPS tells me that an equivalent item from here to Germany with that size & weight would be (at minimum), \$32.85 as a package! The "large envelope" size stops at 15.999 oz, and even then, it would still cost you \$18.55! That is WAY more expensive than in Germany!

they properly enter (using the correct country, type and size of package, weight, etc), they should see how generally expensive it is for us to mail items (other than basic letter mail) internationally!

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2026

by Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Richard Howell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Announcements:

- There will be no meals at the church during the summer months.
- In June we will eat at Moni's.
- In July we will eat at Jay Jay's café.
- In August we will eat at David's barbecue.
- A copy of the obituary for Jim Case was passed around.
- We need programs in Arlington for July, August and November. Please contact Richard Howell if you have any ideas.
- Granbury and Flower Mound also need programs.

Reports:

- Secretary - Janet Moyer - The secretary's report was printed in the newsletter. One correction was made before printing. The minutes were accepted as printed.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham sent word that he has started receiving checks from the vendors for EXPO.
- Newsletter - Peter is working on it.
- EXPO - The next EXPO planning meeting will be on June 20th, from 11 AM - 1 PM, at David's Barbecue.
- Sales books - David Stockbridge reported:
 - We need some members' books.
 - APS sent 18 books this month with a good variety.
 - Let him know what you want and he can order those topics.
 - He gave a brief report on what the Sales Books were for the newer members.
- Scott's Catalogues are on their way.

Show & Tell:

- Peter had many interesting items to show including the newer stamps from the Post Office's 250 year celebration, on Route 66 and advertising labels for the upcoming Boston International Stamp Show.

Door Prizes:

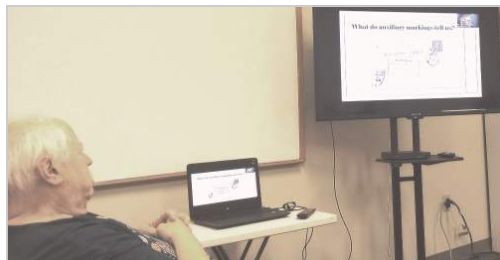
- Gifts Certificates were won by David Stockbridge and David Fanale.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Program:

- An interesting program followed by Richard Howell on Auxiliary Markings (from the Auxiliary Markings Club, see <https://www.postal-markings.org/>)



MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2026

by Skip Ely filling in for Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- VP Dan Golden called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Attendance:

- 11 members and 1 guest attended the May meeting in Flower Mound. The guest (Robert Martin) submitted an application for membership at the end of the meeting.

Announcements:

- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had something like 107 members.
- Treasury - Rick Howell said we were solvent.
- Sales - Skip said he APS and club books available.
- EXPO - The next planning meeting will be Saturday, June 20, 11:00 A.M. at David's BBQ in Pantego. Ralph said we needed a Security person and someone to help with the outdoor signs.
- Newsletter - Peter said it was almost done but it wouldn't go out until after he returned from the World Stamp Expo in Boston.
- Future Meetings - Dan outlined the activities scheduled for the next few weeks.
- Announcements - Rick said he had bags of U.S. stamps for sale.
- "Where In the World" - Dan Golden presented the subject quiz that many guessed correctly on the first clue (Canada).

Show & Tell:

- Dan Golden passed around a cross tracking postcard from Ireland.
- Ken Wills showed an example of a British Commonwealth Omnibus issue. In this case, it was a large notebook of covers celebrating "The History and Heritage of the Commonwealth".
- Lester Edwards showed a book titled "Boston Postal Markings to 1890". He also had some stamps from "Sud Kasia", a breakaway Congo province similar to Katanga.
- Peter Elias showed a Deck Card he had obtained from the recent Route 66 issue. He also showed a composite book he had created from various articles he had written for the newsletter, which he titled "Switzerland - Between and Beyond the Perfs", which he will display at the AHPS booth at Boston 2026.

Program:

- Ralph Poore presented an interesting program titled "Censorship On and Off Postcards". Photo below.

Door Prize:

- Was awarded to Jin Chung.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:55 PM.



Dan Golden (left) & Ralph Poore (right).
Photo by Peter Elias

Peru Cover

by Peter Elias



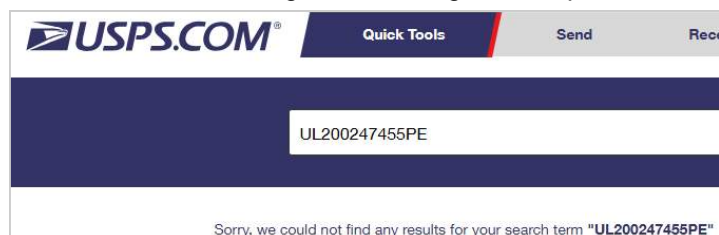
Above is a typical envelope that I regularly receive from a fellow collector in Peru. This one was mailed on April 1 and the scan above from the USPS "Informed Delivery" service showed it coming in on April 23, so roughly 3 weeks in-transit from Peru is average these days.

A couple of things prompted me to write about this envelope (similar to many I've received, but the sender requests that I return them to him, that's not a problem...).

First, look at the address portion. It's got my regular PO Box address in Plano, all proper. But on every envelope I get like this, below "United States" is also my phone number and my email address. Why? Seems like too much personal data to disclose on the address side of an envelope. I asked him about this, and he said that Serpost (Peruvian Postal Service) makes him write that on there. On the back of the envelope is his return address and also HIS phone number & email address.

Mind you now, if we here in the USA send an envelope like this (standard airmail), there is no requirement for this type of data.

Yes, this is standard untracked airmail as far as I'm concerned. You do see what appears to be a tracking number on the envelope ("UL200247455PE"), but this is not consumer trackable. Typing that number into the USPS website's tracking area, nothing shows up:



However, when you go to the UPU (Universal Postal Union) website, and enter that number, you'll see this from <https://globaltracktrace.ptc.post/gtt.web/> :

Tracking number	Origin	Destination	Status
UL200247455PE	PERU	UNITED STATES	On route

Local date/time	Activity	Location	Remarks
4/1/2026 12:38 PM	Posting/Collection	PETRUA	
4/6/2026 3:56 PM	Arrival at outward office of exchange	LIMA AVION	
4/7/2026 2:18 PM	Departure from outward office of exchange	LIMA AVION	

That's all fine and well, but as of me writing this on May 10, it still shows as "on route", while I received it several weeks ago. Perhaps the USPS does NOT provide their scan data to the UPU. According to the scan, it took 6 days just to leave Peru!

To mail an envelope like this (25 grams / less than 1 oz) and the size of our #10 business envelopes, cost him 21.60 Sol. In USD that would be \$6.27. I guess I won't complain about the \$1.70 that we would pay to mail the same envelope to Peru!

Hard Rock Cafe

By Peter Elias



When I first moved to Dallas, I found that there was a “Hard Rock Café” here (it was located on McKinney Street in the “Uptown” area). Went to eat there a couple of times.

During various visits to foreign countries, I did visit Hard Rock Cafés when possible. One of these times was in 1991, when several of us ended up in Amsterdam, and this is the only Hard Rock Café t-shirt

that I own (never bought one here in Dallas).

Sadly, the Dallas Hard Rock on McKinney Street closed in 2007, and another one in the Victory Park area (never knew there was one there!), closed in 2019.

Wondering if there were any postage stamps for the Hard Rock Café, I only found the one shown here, but it

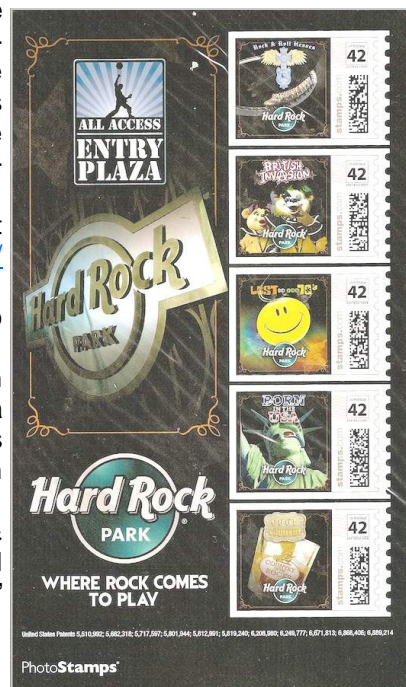
was for Hard Rock Park. (which was in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina). The image shown here is by permission from Richard Porcelli who has it on his website at <https://www.wingnet.org/ComputerStamps/>

There are still some other “Hard Rock” venues out there in the form of Hotels, Casinos & Restaurants in the USA and several foreign countries.

There’s more info at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hard_Rock_Cafe.

The closest one to us is in Tulsa, OK. One even closer, on Lake Texoma (Oklahoma side) is scheduled to open in 2026.

Other than Dallas & Amsterdam, I only recall a tiny “Hard Rock Café” in Jamaica ...



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



cunninghamstamps@aol.com

Exp.12/26

(214) 546-1179

Cunningham Philatelics

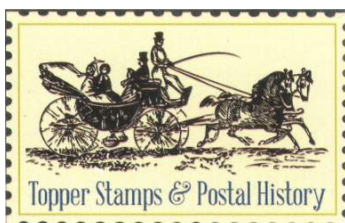
Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items
Stamps and Covers

Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
APS # 082424, TSDA

P.O. Box 863237
Plano, TX 75086-3237



Exp. 12/26

Jonathan Topper

13100 Wortham Center Drive
3rd Floor Suite 45
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com

stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



- * TSDA
- * HOUPEX
- * EXPO

US/WW Classics, Modern, SONS

Visit our new online store

@ <http://www.stampsuniversal.com>

James D. Myers
P. O. Box 2047
Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 304-1671



Exp. 12/26



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Granbury Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2026

By Joe McFarland

It's hard to believe that this year is almost halfway done. Several of our members are preparing to head to Boston for the Boston 2026 World Expo, occurring May 23-30. It is a worldwide event which takes place every 10 years, and promises to be an extraordinary happening in the world of philately. Just trying to view all ~4,000 exhibit frames would take me at least a month. Anyway, I hope we will get some great newsletter articles from our representatives in attendance. Take some pictures as well guys. We need something to strive for in our own EXPO!

Speaking of our own EXPO, we have another EXPO Planning Committee meeting coming up on June 20th at David's Barbecue in Pantego. We will meet there at 11:00 for lunch and follow up with a meeting to discuss all the preparations for EXPO. We definitely need volunteers as activities are starting to ramp up. We are getting some large donations and much of the materials are being sorted out for the silent auction, wheel of philately, mixture pick and beginning philatelist area.

We recently received a certificate of authenticity for our John F. Kennedy signature on a postcard. Now we need to figure out how what we are going to do with this item and realize the most benefit for the club. I would like to hear suggestions from our members. Are any of our members interested in this item? Let me hear from you. Our board of directors needs to make a decision on this pretty soon.

Most of you know I have been making stamps from the mixture pick available to our members at the meetings. The off-paper stamps for \$25 a pound have been extremely popular, so much in fact that our supply of US stamps off-paper has dropped to the point that I am not going to be able to sell any more off-paper US stamps at the meeting, in hope that we get more donations of US off-paper so we can maintain our supply for the EXPO mixture pick. I will continue to make available the worldwide selection of off-paper stamps, and will resume sales of US off-paper if our supply is replenished.

The problem of finding a location for our club library has not been resolved as of this time. If the church at Arlington will not supply a location for a cabinet to house our library, we may have to start looking for another location for our Arlington meetings. In the meantime, I am compiling a listing of all the selections of philatelic literature in our library, and will soon be distributing that list to our membership. If you find a book on the list that is particularly interesting to you, please contact me or Skip Ely or Rich Hildebrandt, and we will make every effort to get the book to you. Books are available for a month at a time.

We still have openings for programs for a couple of months, so if you are interested in showing our membership what you are collecting, or something philatelic that piques your interest, please contact me. It's your club, get involved!

See you at the meeting, Rick

Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7 pm, April 28, 2026 at the Bentwater Activity Center, Granbury, TX.

Attendance:

- 18 members and 1 guest were present.

Show & Tell:

- Larry Reid presented "Revenue Stamps Grader, which is the bible for collectors of revenue stamps. There are a lot of fraudulent revenue stamps available on eBay, so collectors beware!
- Rick Howell passed out the new MCSC Member Directory. The Hoopla magazine had an article on the Mid Cities Stamp Club.
- Les Barton showed the world's longest stamp - a 2024 Sri Lanka stamp that is 9 inches long.
- Dave read from an article on twenty things not worth collecting (dollar value; not collector value). Stamps were in the same category as Beanie Babies.
- Jim Myers gave a dealer update on upcoming shows, including McKinney in June.

Announcements:

- Jim Case (who sadly passed away in a Granbury automobile accident the day after our meeting) had asked for more contributions for the mystery box, to be auctioned off at EXPO.

Where In The World:

- Les Barton with his *Where in the World of stamps* presented a quiz on Vanuatu. The location of a Pacific Ocean island was the clue that gave it away for Ruth Rechsteiner.

Program:

- Les Barton gave the program on stamps of the Confederacy. He showed 6 covers and a picture of the 5 Postmaster's Provisionals and 14 general issues from his collection. The Confederate States of America was formally established on February 8, 1861, and the national post office was established on March 1, 1861. Paper was in short supply, so the covers could include envelopes of wallpaper and other envelopes turned inside out. Stamps from different printers would vary in color and paper. At the time of the beginning of the Civil War, mail was delivered to and picked up from the post office. There were no addresses on the mail and there was no mail delivery. There were several problems to overcome to deliver mail. Many streets had the same or no names and houses had no numbers. There were no mail boxes (and few sidewalks). Home delivery in cities started in 1863 in Cleveland, Ohio, a city with 60,000 people and one post office. Rural free delivery started in West Virginia in 1896 and nationally in 1902. (Les's notes on Confederate Stamps are very detailed. If a copy is desired please contact Dave Stockbridge stockdave44@yahoo.com)

Door Prize Drawing:

- Jim Myers was the recipient of the \$20 gift certificate.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Sights and Stamps: “That’s My Flag!”

By Dan Golden

My daughter has a small American flag that she likes to wave around, regardless of the time of year. Christmas, Valentine’s Day, Thanksgiving, and Cinco de Mayo, among others, are all days on which I have personally seen her proudly and enthusiastically wave her flag around. She considers the flag among her favorite toys, and gets a kick out of the flapping noise it makes when waving. She recognizes the flag as that of the United States, but will “correct” you if you tell her it’s the “American flag,” identifying it instead by saying “that’s my flag”. In some ways, you could say she has a strong respect for the American flag, however humorous her child-like innocence displays it.

I, of course, also have a deep respect not just for the flag, but for veterans who stood up and defended it at home and abroad, my dad being among them with his naval service in the 1970s. A large number of small towns and big cities across the country share my respect for those who have served our country, and like to dedicate a memorial to veterans to thank them for their service. Whether it’s through a grand monument like the memorial in downtown Indianapolis, IL, or the more grassroots level patriotism shown in Lagrange Park, IL, honoring our veterans is a pretty common theme across the country.

I like to visit these veterans memorials whenever I take a road-trip and find myself driving through such and such a town. While it may seem random to stop in a random town to look at their memorial, I find it worthwhile for a couple of reasons. On one hand, I figure that somebody built this memorial and the town takes some degree of pride in it, and therefore it deserves to be appreciated with a few minutes of my time, even while so many others drive on by without a second thought. On the other hand, stopping at such places gives me a chance to honor those who served, and privately thank those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and never came back.

All of this is to say that Plano, TX has a veterans memorial too, and it’s practically across the street from my daughter’s day-care. Since it’s not in an out of town location that I’ll only have one chance to see, I had never made time to go and see it. The busyness of life generally got in the way, and on some level I suppose I just thought, “I’ll go and see it someday, just not today.” As a result I have driven past it hundreds of times, and like so many other cars have done, I hardly paid any attention to it.

But then I came across this stamp of the American flag, US #3508. There is hardly anything special about this stamp, just another depiction of our nation’s flag, joining hundreds of others that have shown the same subject



throughout the decades. But as someone that enjoys collecting postmarks as well, my eye was mainly drawn to the cancellation shown here in the lower right corner, the one word of which that can be clearly seen reads: “PLANO”. Having been the one to soak this stamp off of the envelope, I can confirm that this cancellation was from the post office in Plano, TX, the same town I live in!

I suppose this could have been used for one of my “Postmarks & Places” articles, and I may very well do that in the future. For now though, this stamp inspired me to finally go and visit the Plano Veterans Memorial. After all, where else is more appropriate to find an American flag? So earlier this month, I picked my daughter up from day-care one day, and we went to spend a few minutes taking a long-overdue closer look at the memorial. And as soon as we got out of the car, my daughter Martha saw the American flag flapping in the wind, and she excitedly exclaimed “Daddy look! That’s my flag!” Such a patriotic little girl, isn’t she?

--> *continued* -->

Sights and Stamps: “That’s My Flag!”

(continued)

She spent time running around on the grass and burning off some energy while I snapped a few photos, some of which can be seen here. I also began telling her about the memorial, what it’s purpose was, what a veteran is, and why we honor them. She’s only three so I can’t expect her to comprehend the subject matter too much, but I did make a point of telling her the following: “Everything we have in our life, we only have because of veterans. That’s why we come to a memorial like this to say thank you.” I repeated that a few times, she seemed to understand, and before long she was walking up to the statues on display at the memorial and saying, “thank you”. She even hugged on of them. Then again, her attitude of gratitude continued at home during bed time when she thanked the veterans for her stuffed giraffe, so it’s hard to say exactly how much of the lesson sank in completely.

All in all though, it was nice to take time for a pause and reflect on what we have in this country, the relatively carefree attitude we are blessed to live with, and the price so many veterans paid to give it to us. As they say, freedom is never free. I look at this stamp and am reminded of the battle scars our flag carries with it, and the courage of everyone who has stood up to defend it.

And with this year being the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, an event of such profound importance in world history and so central to the American identity that we rarely take a moment to understand the bravery of those delegates at the Continental Congress, this average flag stamp inspires me to reflect on the im-

mense implications of that declaration. Those men were committing treason, taking a massive gamble on 13 plucky underdeveloped and sparsely populated colonies, and betting on them to prevail against the largest and most powerful empire the world had ever seen. Victory would bring freedom, but defeat would surely cost them their lives and everything they held dear.

The odds were against them, and yet these men bravely signed their names on a treasonous document—their death warrant had a few key moments in the war gone differently. Those men put their lives on the line for what was only a dream in 1776, and our veterans throughout the last 250 years have continued to put their lives on the line defending the reality of freedom that was initiated by the courage of a few good men in Philadelphia.

This isn’t just a flag stamp, it’s a reminder for me to take a moment and be grateful for what we have in this country, and for every person throughout history who put their lives on the line to defend it. Those who fought in the Revolution, the Civil War, the World Wars, my dad who served at the tail end of Vietnam, and all those men and women from Plano, TX for whom this memorial is dedicated. To all of them, we owe a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

All of this from a average flag stamp with the Plano postmarking and a little daddy-daughter time with Martha. Just goes to show that while stamps depict subjects that can be found all over the country and all across the spectrum of time, there are connections to be made even in our hometowns.



Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Byron Sandfield donated 1½ boxes of philatelic material which consisted of a couple of empty cover albums, various loose stamps, which were mostly USA from the 1960’s to early 1980’s, some off-paper, some on-paper. I sorted them out and put them into the cigar boxes (which were also part of the donation). I handed them off to Skip at the next meeting after receiving the items.

Thank You!

By Ken Aldridge

On April 22, I drove out to Crowley and met with Janice Corthay. Her donation was mostly 5-13c US sheets. However, I found many stuck together but I think all in all, it will make for a good silent auction item and/or other areas after it’s better organized.

I did a lot of sorting and arranging but it needs more attention. I will give them to Skip at the next Arlington meeting.

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 \(Great for any car lover!\)](#)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans \(1,700 items!!\)](#)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 \(900+ postcards !!\)](#)

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 4.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/24

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

Wanted

Currently looking for documents relating to **AMG (Allied Military Group)** stamp issues in Europe during WWII. Any help would be appreciated. Rick Howell, rick.howell1@tx.rr.com 2/26

More Chinese Fakery

By Peter Elias



Sweden #1266, the Teddy Bear issue from 1978 is a stamp I found in my childhood stamp album. While I prefer mint stamps as they make for better illustrations, that's all I have for now. The stamp is shown at actual size.



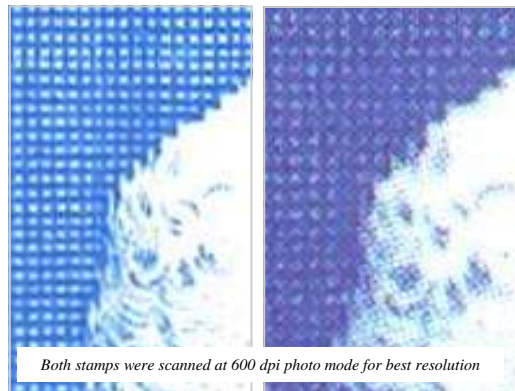
Now compare with this with the, uh, “label”. It is one of many “knock-offs” that I bought from China, being sold as “stickers” for things like arts & crafts projects, scrap-booking, junk journaling and so on, none of which I do, as I primarily wanted to see what these things look like IRL (“in real life” as the modern generation would call it).

So, what is wrong with it? Gosh, where do we start?

- 1) Size - this stamp is huge, almost twice that of the real thing.
- 2) Real Swedish stamps at that time were always issued in a “coil” format (i.e.: only 2 of the sides had perforations).

This fake stamp has craft-scissor style die-cuts.

- 3) The real stamp had moisture activated gum (i.e.: “lick ‘n stick”), while the fake one has self-adhesive gum.
- 4) The blue color shade is different on the fake stamp.
- 5) The real stamp is printed via Photogravure (a form of engraving on an etched cylinder). The fake one is via offset litho (or something similar). On the real stamp, you can feel “ridges” when running your fingernail over the design, while on the fake one, it is incredibly smooth. Viewing the shoulder area close-up, the blue background is finely engraved solid blue lines (left), while on the fake stamp (right), these lines are actually made up of dots due to the screening used for



Both stamps were scanned at 600 dpi photo mode for best resolution

offset printing. A lot of detail is lost and “artifacts” introduced in the design that didn't exist on the real stamp.

The fake stamp shouldn't really fool anyone, but does it?

One Square Inch

By Peter Elias

Shown here is USA #3813, issued in 2003. It commemorates the "District of Columbia" (or "Washington DC" as it is more commonly referred to).



So what do we see here. At a glance, the only thing that stands out immediately is the Washington monument on the left side. If you squint, you can see the Capitol building. Then what appears to be a grid pattern (map) and some buildings and flowers.

The thing here is, that is a stamp (i.e.: very small). I measured it, and the area for the design (not counting the perimeter text) is pretty much exactly 1 square inch! As far as I'm concerned, that is cramming WAY too much into such a small area. Most of us don't walk around with a magnifying glass (well, I suppose you could use your cellphone camera and work with that...).

In any case, what works best for the small canvas that a stamp has, is to keep it relatively simply for making the best statement and/or impact. The 4 design elements are just too many, and as a result, there is too little detail once you do magnify it (especially the map).



I'm sure that that this looked much better when shown at the unveiling on a 6 foot screen! Best I can do is magnify to what you see above (perhaps better if you see it via a PDF file).

www.psaginc.com



PHILATELIC STAMP AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING

Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading
P.O. Box 410880, Melbourne FL 32941-0880

Phone: 305.606.4337 E-Mail: info@psaginc.com

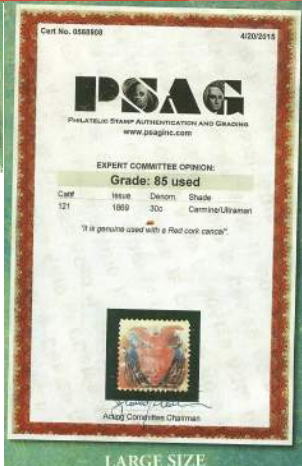


Certification and Grading - Excellence Since 1987

Founded by noted U.S. Classics Expert, J. Randall Shoemaker, PSAG commits to providing unparalleled certification and grading of all United States, Canada and Canadian Province stamps. Guided by newly appointed President Jimmy Tomchesson, PSAG enters its next chapter of excellence in expertizing and grading.

Finest US and Canadian Experts, 40 Years of Expertizing Experience
Competitively Priced Graded & Ungraded certificates at the same price
Grading singles, pairs, blocks, plate blocks, booklet panes and souvenir sheets for US & BNA
Consistent Standardized Third Party Grading

Comprehensive References
Best Turnaround Time in the Trade



FEE SCHEDULE (All United States, Canada & Provinces, Canal Zone & Hawaii)

SERVICE	FEE	ITEMS THAT CAN BE SUBMITTED	MINIMUM QUANTITY	MAX SCOTT VALUE	MAX FEE	APPROX TURNAROUND
ECONOMY	\$20	1932 to date (US#643 to date, C19 to date, RW35 to date, E14 to date) No ERRORS, FREAKS & ODDITIES	10	\$100	\$20	30 Business Days
REGULAR	5.5% Scott Value (Min \$38.50)	1847 to 1931 (US# 1-642, C1-18, RW 1-34, E1-E13, J1-J78, Revenues, etc)	1	No Max Value	\$250	30 Business Days
SPECIALIZED	5.5% Scott Value (Min \$50)	1847 to date (Private Vending Coils, Postal Stationery, Postmaster Provisionals, Special Printings, Covers, Locals/Carriers)	1	No Max Value	\$250	Varies
EXPRESS	Add \$25 to each item		1	No Max Value	\$30	20 Business Days



Greater Fort Worth International Airport

Peter Elias

major airports for general aviation, corporate & cargo operations: Ft. Worth Alliance Airport, Dallas Executive Air-

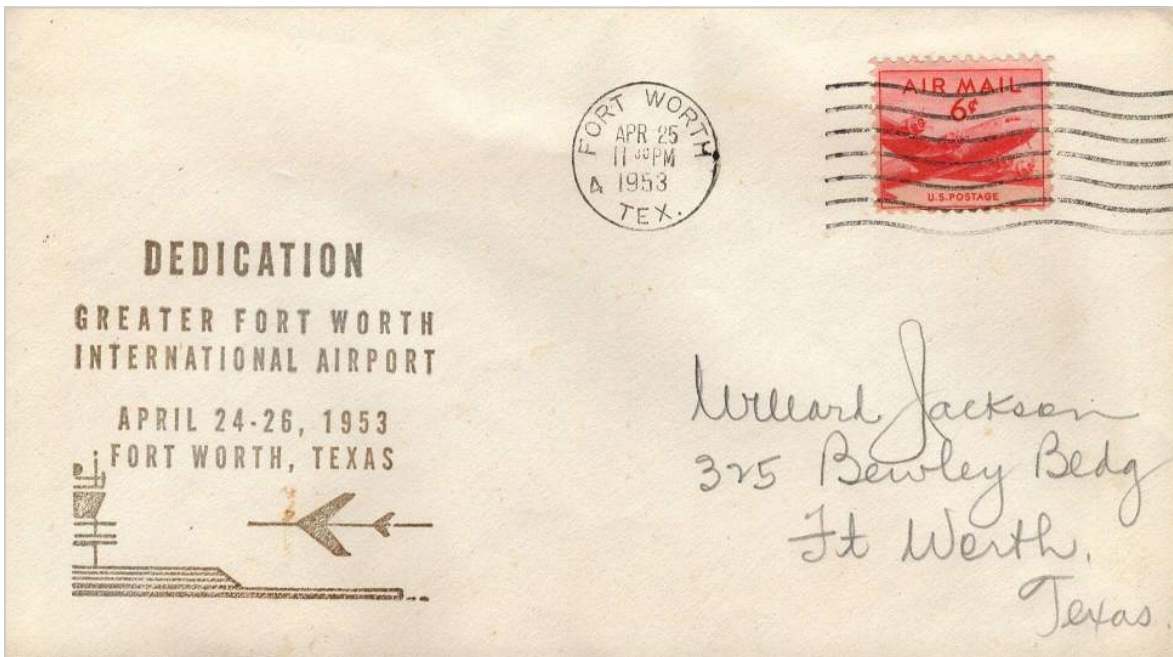
I was a bit puzzled when I first ran across this cover. I had never heard of the "**Greater Fort Worth International Airport**".

Granted, this dedication apparently took place in April 1953, well before I was even born, and also well before I moved to the Dallas / Fort Worth area in 1990!

So, I needed to educate myself a bit about this airport. As usual, Wikipedia provided a lot good [information about this airport](#).

Sure, I've heard of the Dallas Love Field & Dallas / Ft. Worth International airports, as I have flown out of both of those many times. While I can't find them now, I do have a DFW commemorative cover somewhere, as well as an old 1930's postcard from Love Field.

Outside of the major commercial airports, there is also



port (formerly known as Red Bird and now also houses the Commemorative Air Force), Ft. Worth Meacham Airport and Addison Airport, as well as a host of smaller local airports (such as in Grand Prairie & Arlington).

The McKinney National Airport is working on adding commercial flights soon.

Members in the News

By Peter Elias

In the May/June 2026 issue of "**The Circuit**" from the ISWSC (International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors), there is a list on page 12 of the top 20 philatelic books sold on Amazon.

Club member Dr. Benedict Termini has his book "**Prostitute Revenue Stamps of Rosario de Santa Fe**" listed as #3 (as of early March). This book is based on his exhibit of the same name.

The books in #1 & #2 spots are, respectively, the "**Harris '2026 US Postage Stamp Catalog & Price Guide**" and James McKay's "**World Encyclopedia of Stamps & Stamp Collecting**".

Boston 2026 (continued from page 1)

Some of the various topics of Boston 2026 in the next issues of the newsletter will be:

Exhibits	QEII Exhibit
USPS booth	USPS you on a stamp
New issue ceremonies	Stamp Passport
Beginner & Youth area	Media & sessions area
Postal administrations	Society booths
Dealer & Auction houses	

The above will easily take several pages and show what these international shows are all about. While it hasn't been announced yet, I do look forward to hearing where "2036" will take place. Never too soon to start planning (i.e.: save up your frequent flyer miles & hotel points!

USPS Dog Attacks

By Peter Elias

The USPS has compiled a list of the top cities & states with dog attacks against mail carriers. The top state (of 33 listed by the USPS) for dog bites is California, with 673 in 2025! Texas comes in 2nd with 358 dog bites. Of the top cities, Los Angeles is #1 with 70 incidents, Dallas is 2nd with 50, Houston as #4 with 44, San Antonio #9 with 31, Fort Worth #23 with 20 dog bite incidents.

The USPS will kick off their dog attack awareness events on June 1. Unsecured dogs can result in stopped mail delivery at your residence and financial liability will be that of the dog owner who would have to pay for postal worker's medical care and other expenses. *Info in this article was provided by the USPS as part of their campaign, including the (cropped) image shown at right.*





MEET & EAT for

June 2026

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 6:00 PM rather than 6:30 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

June 3 **Moni's Pasta & Pizza**
1730 W. Randol Mill Rd, Arlington
Note: Church meals will resume in the Fall!

FLOWER MOUND

June 17 **Chili's Grill & Bar**, 6251 Long Prairie Rd,
Flower Mound, TX (972) 355-5286

GRANBURY

June 23 **Palio's Pizza Café**
3710 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
OKPex - June 19 & 20
MCSC EXPO Planning Mtg - June 20
TSDA Bourse - June 26-27 (McKinney)

Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

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

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

For Sale

FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version) of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each)! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 4/24

Large accumulation of stamps from many countries both mint & used. This includes full dealer boxes, bulging glassines, binders with album and Vario pages, and old albums with collections. All stamps are no more than 20% of catalog price. Request stamps by country and I will determine the best way to get them to you for examination. You select what you want, write down catalog price, adjust for condition, and pay me when you return the material. What do you want, need, or desire to look at? Dave Stockbridge; stockdave44@yahoo.com 2/26