

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



CHAPTER  
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 34, Number 9

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

September 2021

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Volunteering, V.A. Clinic, Covid-19

Pat & Bob Weidman

In the two pictures below, I am directing traffic at the Ft. Worth Veterans Affairs Clinic, where I am a volunteer. There was a drive-up to get the Covid-19 vaccine for veterans that are registered at the Ft. Worth clinic. Initially, this was being done inside the building on the second floor in the large conference room that was converted over, so that the vaccine could be given to several veterans at a time.

Then the winter storm hit in February and put everything on hold. The building sustained a lot of damage from the storm and it was closed. No one except authorized personnel are allowed inside. What to do about all the veterans with appointments to get vaccinated?



The answer was to set up a drive-up where they stay in their vehicle and proceed to the front of the building where up to eight nurses at a time are administering the Moderna vaccine. So far, several thousand veterans have received the vaccine.



To keep the line moving and eliminate the possibility of accidents, a line of travel was established by the Veterans Affairs Police. After checking in at the rear of the building, the veteran drives up to the front where I stop and hold them until given the signal to send them ahead.



Several countries have issued stamps to bring attention to the Covid-19 virus. So far the U.S. Postal Service has not. The French Polynesia stamp, Scott #1252, issued on July 31, 2020, shows two of its citizens wearing face masks to protect them from the virus.



The other two stamps are US Scott #1825, issued July 31, 1980 for the 50th anniversary of the Veterans Administration and US Scott #2039, issued April 20, 1983 for Volunteering.

## Article Index

## Page #

Been There - Done That (Volunteering)	1
Editor's Forum	2
Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Been There - Done That (Western Wear)	3
Been There - Done That (Campus Covers, Part 2)	4
German Inflation: Stamps or Coins?	5
Time For A Change	6
Been There - Done That (Helicopter N9498F)	7
Club Meeting Minutes	7, 8, 9
The Price Of Getting Your Own Mail	8
It's Helvetia...	8
Member & Dealer Ads	10, 11, 12
From the President's Desk	9
Been There - Done That (Trinidad)	9
Comic Strip - Blondie (Collecting Stamps)	10
Comic Strip - The Lockhorns (Using Stamps)	11
Meet & Eat Info	12

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:news@mid-citiesstampclub.com))

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

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

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

#### Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

## Coming Attractions

—> We are now back in to “in-person” meetings starting in June. Due to current increase of Covid-19 cases, we encourage wearing of masks at all in-person meetings (unless masks are mandated by local, state and/or federal regulations). Data below is believed to be correct at time of publication; for updated MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

### 2021

**AUG. 27 - 28 TSDA Stamp Fair** (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)  
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy,  
Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

**AUG. 31 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: “I Love A Mystery” By Gene Atkinson

--> NOTE: Granbury meeting is August 31, NOT on the 24th!

**SEP. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: “Spanish ATM Stamps” by Peter Elias

**SEP. 15 MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

**SEP. 28 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: Club Auction -All members are encouraged to submit items for sale - Skip Ely auctioneer.

**OCT. 6 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**



## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

As I am writing this, the “delta” (and now also “lambda”) variants of the Covid-19 virus are making their rounds through not just north Texas, but pretty much everywhere else. While we've enjoyed the ability to meet in-person for several months now, masks are “optional” (for those vaccinated) and encouraged never-the-less. I do hope that we can continue to meet in-person and that we'll not have to succumb to where we were at for much of 2020 and early-to-mid 2021 (which was virtual-only meetings), although we did hold an in-person 2020 EXPO!

Depending on local, regional or state rulings, not to mention requirements of individual businesses or organizations, there might or might not be mandates to have to wear masks at local events again depending on the variant developments, so let us all be “safe” out there... Hope you can make it to the upcoming EXPO and TSDA events! ..And do please check for updates on mask requirements before any meetings or events.

## Members In The News

Peter Elias is mentioned as a contributor of information regarding St. Vincent stamp forgeries in the Bibliography of the eBook “*Placido Ramon de Torres - From Foundling to Master Forger*” by Gerhard Lang-Valchs (of Spain). The 126-page eBook is available at:

[https://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/Libro\\_Sellos\\_Torres.pdf](https://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/Libro_Sellos_Torres.pdf)

## Errata

By Peter Elias

Last month's “math” was a bit off (that's what happens when you try to finish a newsletter at 2 AM...). The correct “Membership as of July 21” should have been “89”, not “91”. I counted the “applications received” as new members, which is done the following month (i.e.: this month)....



## Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

### Applications Received

n/a

### New Members

Martha Siegel (#635)

Thompson, Bella F. (#636)

### Deceased

### Reinstatements

n/a

### Membership Summary – August 18, 2021

Membership as of July 21, 2021	89
Applications Received	0
New Members	2
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( 0 )
Resignations	0
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of August 18, 2021	91



## Western Wear

By Peter Elias



With this year's EXPO having the "Western Wear" theme to go along with the 4 Western Wear stamps that were issued on July 23 in Abilene, Texas, I knew that I could come up with least 2 of the items shown on the stamps, with a 3rd one possible and a 4th one a "maybe".

So, for that 3rd one that was possible, it was a challenge to find a photo that showed a "western shirt", and believe it or not, I did actually once own what I would call a western shirt.



Y o u can see me in it on the photo to the far left. The design (as shown on the left) features multi-color fabric and includes embroidered bull horns and what appears to be tassels representing the bull's tails on both the left and right sides of the shirt. If that ain't "western", I don't know what IS!

I'm still trying to date this photo, my guess is that it was around 1985; the rest of the photo also shows my dad and what would appear to be a part of a garden at Michigan State University.

I honestly don't know what happened to that shirt; I either donated it or threw it away probably sometime in the 1990's,

but I can at least say that I did once own such a type of shirt!

As to the remaining three western wear items, I still do own a pair of cowboy boots, a cowboy hat

and a belt with a buckle that may or may not be considered "western wear".

Below I'm shown wearing the "cowboy hat" that I have. It's probably as close to a cowboy hat that I have;



everything else is baseball caps... At this point, I don't even remember when I've bought this hat! Probably 20+ years ago .. it generally resides in a hallway closet, but I just may wear it to EXPO in our honor of our theme!

Below left is a pair of boots that I've owned for many years. Whether cowboys would wear these, I don't know ... they are missing spurs! But I don't need spurs for the "horse"power in my car go faster!

While not recently, there was a period of time when I wore mostly cowboy / western boots, primarily during my college days and shortly after; I even had some that were "steel toed" so that I could wear them at work in our plant!

And then there's the belt-buckle. The belt shown below could be a cowboy style belt; although a the F4 Phantom (one



of my favorite fighter jets) probably doesn't make it as a "c o w b o y" theme, it is nevertheless a belt "buckle"! If I remember correctly, I've had this belt & buckle since the college days at MooU

(Michigan State University), so I'd say they're almost 40 years old at this point! So I think I'm qualified to say, "Been There - Done That", in terms of western wear, even if a bit marginal at times!



## Campus Covers, Part 2

By John Withers

Our second article on Campus Covers will use covers, stamps and news articles to show how our philatelic collections have chronicled our experiences over many generations. In addition to our family ties to Texas we share similar ties to South Carolina.

On April 26, 2001 the U.S. Post Office issued the University of South Carolina Bicentennial Stamped Post Card. As part of the recognition of the new card the University of South Carolina issued a series of picture post cards to members of the university historical society. The State Newspaper in Columbia, South Carolina ran a special article on our family ties to the University going back some 150 years and ran the article with many family photos on January 7, 2001.

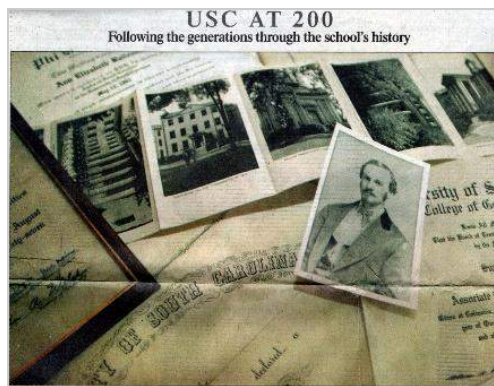
We can use the newspaper article shown to the right to show how we have used our philatelic collections to chronicle our South Carolina family campus experience. Shown below are several examples of the 2001 Bicentennial Stamped Post Card First Day Cover showing different campus scenes. Beginning the second page are examples of the ceremonial program cancelled at the University of South Carolina.

Our great uncle, Charles H. Neil, graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1903. Shown at the top of the next column are post cards showing several of the

parted in the founding of the University of Hawaii.

Following below are philatelic items celebrating these Universities. You will see from these items how much our letters, stamps, cards and covers chronicle our learning experience. The fact that our philatelic collections provide a multi-generational record make them the perfect format for recording our story across geographic boundaries.

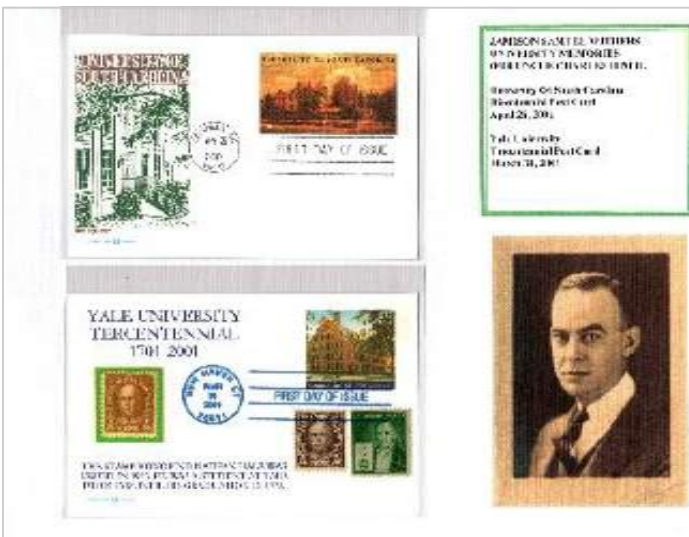
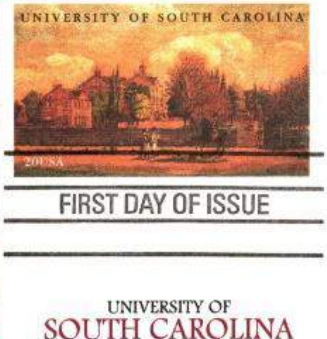
For Texas collectors the University of South Carolina also has a tie to the Alamo stamp of 1956. Of the defenders of the Alamo James C. Bonham of Edgefield South Carolina was a student at the University in 1826 and 1827. Texas collectors will enjoy this shared tie between our Texas and South Carolina



View of the Campus, South Carolina College, North Side (showing the library to the left) William Henry Scarborough (1812 - 1871), oil on canvas Collection of South Carolinians Library University of South Carolina Columbia, South Carolina 29208



"The President's House"



original university buildings and posted with South Carolina related stamps at the university post office. These new philatelic items brought to mind a number of common philatelic experiences we all share as we pursue our education.

After graduating in 1903 Charles H. Neil taught school in South Carolina. In 1917 he received an invitation to teach at Yale University and later to take a Master's Degree at Yale. In the middle of the 20th Century he partici-

families that goes back more than 150 years. You will see from the covers above & below covers how our collections have celebrated both states.





## German Inflation: Stamps or Coins?

By Peter Elias



While perusing my minor side-hobby of Numismatics (you know, the "other" main collecting hobby!), I looked at this wonderful 1 ounce brass (copper / bronze) German coin (shown here in approx. real size = 1.75") featuring a horse. It was minted in 1923 as "Notgeld" (emergency money) in the German Province of Westfalen (Westphalia).



The reverse design (shown above from an image at [Coinshome.net](http://Coinshome.net)) commemorates *Minister vom Stein, Germany's leader ("Führer") in difficult times, 1757-1831* (this is the translation of the text around the outer edge).

The first image at the top is what I took with a small digital camera and not-so-good lighting (which is still way better though than if I tried to use my scanner); the 2nd images shows both sides of the coin but was done a bit more professionally). So, if you're needing to capture images of coins, use some sort of a light box with equal lighting from all sides and a direct overhead camera.

Other than this being a nice coin, it did make me wonder about both the denomination and the "value". As you may know, Germany experienced incredible "hyper" inflation during 1922 until November 1923.

Based on some quick "googling", on January 1, 1923, US \$1 was worth 9,000 Marks (i.e.: making this coin worth US \$1.11) on that day. On November 15, 1923, 10,000 Marks were worth US \$0.00000000238 (or something like a sliver of a penny!). But I haven't yet found the actual mintage date of this coin, although some specialty Numismatic catalogs of German Notgeld might provide an answer.

Some additional info shows this coin had also been issued in a "5 Mark" denomination dated 1921 and also a "5 Million Mark" denomination also in 1923. The 10,000 Mark coin is listed as having been minted twice in 1923, with a total quantity of 515,466. Values at [en.numista.com](http://en.numista.com) has the value between approx. \$10 to \$25 depending on grade.

This is listed as being a "non-circulating" coin, meaning basically a "commemorative" coin that they

hoped you wouldn't spend. That would be sort of like the USA Silver, Gold, Platinum & Palladium "Eagle" coins issued by the US Mint, which despite having a (fairly low) denomination (\$1 for the Silver Eagles and \$5+ for the various gold & platinum coins), are legal tender, however, their denomination is outweighed greatly by their precious metal content! A \$1 Silver Eagle has currently has a silver melt value of about \$24 per troy ounce, but technically a store would only accept it as \$1. Your choice!

Ok, time to shift back to philately ... I had thought for sure that Germany would have issued a 10,000 Mark (regular or overprinted) stamp of some sort in the inflationary definitive series, such as these (or at bottom):



Above is Scott #238A to 240 that seem to jump right over the 10,000 Mark mark (yes that is correct phrasing!). Even peeking at the airmail, official & semi-postal sections of Scott's, I could not find any 10,000 Mark stamps.

Alas, I did finally find the lone 10,000 Mark stamp as a commemorative, Scott #238, which features the Cologne (Köln) Cathedral. Scott's prices this at \$0.30 in mint condition and \$4.00 in used condition. The image to the right (which I got from an eBay lot listing) shows it to be "used". My opinion would be that this is a fake postmark (just portion of an indistinct circle) at the lower right corner that was applied to make it worth more).



I do find the German hyperinflation stamps of this series (see left and some more images at <https://www.stamp-collecting-world.com/weimarrepublic-hyperb.html>) very interesting, especially from a postal history perspective (i.e.: if on cover).

This particular series ranges from 500,000 to 50 Billion Marks (i.e.: "50 Milliarden" Marks as inscribed, since German numbers don't go from Million to Billion, they also have a "Milliarde" - which is what we called Billion; so their "Billion" is our "Trillion"...). Yet German "federal" coins only went as high as 500 Marks during 1923, while banknotes had much higher denominations.

But as an investment vehicle, I'd still rather have an AU (almost uncirculated) or UNC (uncirculated) inflation coin than a mint condition stamp of the same era.





## Time For A Change

By Rick Howell

I recently read an article from the Canberra Weekly, a weekly publication from Australia, which was titled "Ariarne Titmus to feature on Australia Post stamp". The article was illustrated with a picture of the new stamp which showed Ariarne Titmus who is Australia's Olympic gold medalist in the Women's 400 meter Freestyle Swimming event. Here was a picture of this remarkable young lady proudly holding her Olympic gold medal with the honor of being forever remembered in history with her picture on a postage stamp. This is quite an honor! The stamp is pictured below.



So, being the curious story hunter that I am, I accessed the Australia Post website to see what else they might be featuring on stamps to celebrate Olympic conquests, and found they are issuing stamps to celebrate all their Olympic gold medalists.

What a great recognition for all of these great Australian Olympic Champions! I am sure that as the games progress, there will be more smiling Aussie faces remembered for posterity on postage stamps. These young people have worked so hard to get to this point in their lives, and definitely should be recognized for their devotion and hard work. Being memorialized forever on a postage stamp is quite a fitting tribute for all these athletes who can serve as inspi-

rations for many generations to come.

Now, I am not the world's biggest sports fan, although I do enjoy football for at least part of the season being a Cowboys fan. The Olympics however illustrate the best in the world coming together in competition to celebrate a lifelong achievement.

I am normally not an emotional person, but watching 17 year old Alaskan swimmer Lydia Jacoby take the gold in the 100m Women's Breaststroke and watching her fans in Alaska going crazy at the win kinda choked me up and brought a couple of tears to my eyes. She is definitely the kind of athlete we should be very proud of and should inspire anyone to overcome adversity to achieve their goals. The Olympic coverage team mentioned there was only one 50 meter Olympic-sized pool in the whole



state of Alaska, and some of the media even joked that Jacoby swam with whales and walruses while training.

So, my question is, why are our American athletes ignored by the U.S. Postal Service? I'm sure they would say, "We have a policy of not featuring living people on American stamps!". Well folks, I'm here to tell you it is time for this policy to change. Why can we not honor young people like Lydia

Jacoby on our postage stamps? If anyone ever deserved this honor, it is our hard-working Olympic athletes who are truly the best of the best in their fields. Come on America! Get with the program!



Gold Medal 06: Ariarne Titmus



Gold Medal 05: Rowing: Men's Four



Gold Medal 04: Rowing: Women's Four



Gold Medal 03: Kaylee McKeown



Gold Medal 02: Ariarne Titmus



Gold Medal 01: Women's 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay





## Helicopter N9498F

By Peter Elias

I was looking at some old photos, and found this one of me exiting a helicopter:



My next thought was: *is there a stamp featuring this particular model of helicopter?* Sadly I couldn't find any.



Image from part of an eBay lot at:  
<https://www.ebay.com/itm/124812956669>

After a bit of research, I found that based on the registration number of N9498F, that this helicopter was a "Hughes 269C" model.

On the stamp to the left, which was part of an image from a larger eBay lot of Vietnam stamps featuring helicopters, is a Hughes

369, which has a similar glass front cabin (although this model seems have seating for more than 2 people, while the one I'm exiting only had room for 2. The stamp itself is Vietnam #1953, part of a set of 7 issued in 1988. Sometimes this is as close as it gets when writing about stamps that feature in your own life experience. At least it 1) features a helicopter and 2) from the same company and a somewhat similar style model.

But back to why I'm shown exiting the helicopter. The photo of me obviously was NOT taken at an airport. More specifically, it was in the parking lot of the building that you see below.

This photo I took from the helicopter sometime in early 1987, when I worked in Shelbyville, Kentucky (more famously known as the "home of Colonel Sanders" (as of *Kentucky Fried Chicken* fame, and whose widow still ran a restaurant at that time).



## MCSC Granbury Zoom Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2021

By Judy Christmas

### Opening Activities:

- David Stockbridge called the meeting to order around 7:00 PM.

### Attendance:

- There were 11 members in attendance and 1 guest, Dennis Walje.

### Show & Tell:

- Just about everyone had something to show and talk about. Many of the items were Olympic in nature since the Olympics were being held in Japan at the time.

### Announcements:

- A program is needed for next month.
- There will be an Auction in September. You need to turn in your auction lots by next month.
- The passing of Jams Farris Bailey, Jr.
- The passing of Newsletter Editor, Peter Elias' mother

### Door Prizes

- There were enough door prizes for everyone to go home a winner.

### Break:

- A 10-to-15-minute break was taken.

### Program:

- Ray Cartier gave a most interesting program on *Wernher Von Braun: Villain Or Hero*. At the end of Ray's talk, everyone had their own opinion as to whether Wernher was a Villain or a Hero.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

The building was the newly constructed 180,000 square foot facility of the Alusuisse (aka "Swiss Aluminum") and was built to produce flexible packaging products (think "Capri Sun Drink" pouches, creamer lids and various pharmaceutical foils, mostly of the "push-thru" or "peel & push" variety) that previously had to be sourced from Alusuisse in Germany or Switzerland.

As a minor tidbit of knowledge for you, the Neher AG Alusuisse factory in Kreuzlingen (where I worked in 1986) was where [aluminum foil was invented](#) in 1910 (although the factory was closer to the Rhine Falls at that time).

Back to Kentucky: amongst various duties (mostly Quality Control related), I had hired a helicopter from nearby Louisville, so that we could take aerial shots of the new facility (as you can tell, I'm wearing a 35mm camera around my neck - I still have this Olympus camera, but have not used it since "digital" cameras came out...).

While I've flown quite a bit on airplanes, I can count my helicopter flights on one hand (and have 2 digits to spare)! The only other helicopter flights that I can remember was a sightseeing tour on Kauai in the 1990's (I do have video of that!) and if I remember correctly, a New York Airways Sikorsky helicopter when we first moved to the USA in 1971 (and we probably took it either to/from JFK to (or from) one of the rooftop heliports in New York City, although, I'm not 100% positive of that (there are no photos that I could find, and I was only 11 years old at the time). I do remember being at the Empire State Building though, and the whole NYC thing was a bit overwhelming (when compared to having lived in Zürich before, a much smaller city, and no yellow cabs...).

## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2021

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

- There 16 members present for the August 4 meeting in Arlington.

### Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. He mentioned the passing of Peter Elias's mother and passed around a sympathy card for members to sign.
- Treasury – Rich gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said our membership continued at 91.

### Committee Reports:

- EXPO – Rich reminded everyone of the Expo planning meeting 11:00 A.M. Saturday, August 21 at Spring Creek BBQ. Janet Moyer passed around the volunteer sheet. Rich also talked a little about the awards dinner, and said arrangements would be similar to two years ago. He'll have more details next month.
- Sales - Skip Ely said APS and Club sales were very good last month.

### Announcements:

- Rich mentioned the TSDA Stamp Fair at the end of the month in Richardson.

### Show & Tell:

- Ben Termini referenced his show and tell item from July (the postcard with shorthand written on it) and said that member John Hotchner had told him the stamped "52 ½" referred to a postal route.
- Ray Cartier showed two covers referencing astronaut Wally Funk and how he developed a friendship with her over the years. He also showed a cover celebrating the 50th anniversary of Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Chuck Snow, Gene Pfretzschner, Andy Lacko and Pat Weidman.

### Program:

- Ray Cartier gave the program about Wernher Von Braun and his development of rockets and participation in the U.S. space program.

### Conclusion:

- The meeting concluded about 8:15 PM.

## It's Helvetia...

By Peter Elias



While its stamps say *Helvetia* (the Latin form of Switzerland), this humorous set of 3 stamps from 2019 featuring iconic Swiss images (watches, chocolates, cows, mountains, etc) reminds us that locals call it "Schweiz" (German), "Suisse" (French), "Svizzera" (Italian) or "Svizra" (Romansh) depending on where they live in Switzerland!

## The Price Of Getting Your Own Mail

By Peter Elias

I rent a PO Box from the USPS in order to keep my mail safe[r], dry and for privacy's sake.

I've rented my PO Box in Plano since early 1996. The box is big enough to hold the equivalent of 2 full reams of paper and can hold Flat-Rate envelopes without folding them (but it's not their largest box).

Back in 1996, I was still traveling a lot, and after a week of being gone, the box was mostly full every time I came back from a trip. Nowadays, I could be gone for several months and it wouldn't be full. Sad how much mail volume has decreased over the years.

As I often like to do, it's time for an analysis! So how much has this cost me over the years?

Well, back in 1996, the yearly fee for a box of the size that I rent was \$104. My box renewal for 2021-2022 just took place, and it was a whopping \$350 (compared to last year, when it was only \$288!). That's an increase of over 21% in just one year, against a current annual inflation rate of around 5%! Wow, that's quadruple the inflation rate!

Comparing the current \$350/year cost to the 1996 cost of \$104/year, that's a 336% increase! When you figure that \$104 in 1996, against its spending power today, it would be \$176 in today's money; so compared to that, the USPS rate is still double that!

But wait, there's more! It costs me way more than the \$350 in box fees each year. Bear in mind, that my PO Box is a 10-mile round trip in the car. While I don't keep an exact count of exactly how many times I go get my mail at the PO Box, over the years, it would average about 5 times per week.

So here's some simple math: 5x trips per week x 10 miles x 50 weeks per year x \$0.14 gasoline cost per mile (my car drinks premium and averages 18 mpg) = approx. \$350 per year in just gas costs (and much more if you figure in total operating costs of a car).

Ok, so we got \$350 box rental cost + \$350 gas cost for 1 year = \$700. After 25.5 years, that comes out to roughly \$17,850 ! Wow, that's a lot of money for the USPS to NOT deliver mail to my house!

And don't forget this 10 mile round-trip takes about 15 minutes each way, thus I've spent around 3,100 hours of driving to the post office in those 25.5 years !

And I've also had PO Boxes in Grand Prairie & Arlington, Texas, as well as in Shelbyville, Kentucky prior to the current box. I don't even want to figure those out...

As a side note, the USPS says it is simply trying to be competitive. Sure, my PMB (private mail box) at the UPS Store (and it's much smaller, less than half the POB size) currently costs \$360 per year! And that's for the privilege of not having FedEx, UPS & Amazon trucks drop off packages on my front door step...

While the "cost per day" for a POB or PMB may only be around \$1, as they say, after a while "you're talking about real money here"! If you rent a PO Box for a lifetime, you could easily buy a new car with that money!

Quite sobering, isn't it?



## MCSC Eulless Zoom Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2021

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

- We had 10 members attend the meeting.

### Opening:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

### Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the approximate treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said our membership was holding at 91.

### Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
  - Ralph Poore reminded everyone of the EXPO planning meeting this Saturday (August 21) at the Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington (11:00 AM).
  - Stanley said he had almost completed the addressing and stamping of the mail-out envelopes.
  - Peter showed the messenger bags for the judges and said he had submitted the publicity notice to Linn's (which will run from the September 27 through the November 15 issues). (Remember they run about three weeks ahead).
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said he needed only these minutes and the President notes to complete the next newsletter.
- Sales - Skip Ely said we had good sales from the APS books this month.
- Webpage - Evan Islam said all was running smoothly. Ralph said he had an update to provide soon.

### Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell showed a V-Mail collection he had purchased recently. He had put them in a binder and was doing some research on the authors.
- Ken Wills passed around a French cover and talked a little about what rate it paid. He then showed his stock book of Bangladesh stamps and talked a little about how it was organized. He also elaborated on some many different local issues he had acquired.
- Peter Elias had several interesting covers he showed. He also talked a little about a book on stamp forgeries, as the author had contacted him about ones from St. Vincent. He also showed several portable magnifiers and their capabilities.
- Finally, Rick Howell showed a video of a segment of "Jay Leno's Garage" from a few years back, where he highlighted the U.S. Muscle Car Forever stamps.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Rick Howell, Sai Madhavapeddi, Ralph Poore and Evan Islam.

### Closing:

- The meeting ended about 8:30 PM.

## President's Report

By Richard Hildebrandt

Greetings fellow philatelists from the MCSC Executive office! I have been club president for almost three years and as I look back at some of my previous letters I see a recurring theme. I see the repeated calls for people to step up and help with club activities. To those who have responded positively, I want to express my sincere thanks.

We have about 90 members and I recognize that many live remotely and are not able to attend one of our monthly meetings in person. For those who do live near enough, I do hope that you will take advantage of that fact and attend in-person.

There are a few benefits of in-person attendance. First is the camaraderie that comes from face to face interactions. Second would be the opportunity to buy and sell stamps and related items. At all of our meetings there are the APS circuit books and the club sales books. Many thanks to Skip for overseeing this operation as it adds a lot of value to our meetings. All members are eligible to submit books of items that they wish to try and sell. Contact Skip if you need any assistance with creating a sales book.

Another benefit is that we give out numerous gift certificates at each meeting in a random drawing. These are useable for the aforementioned sales books and may be used to buy things at our EXPO. An added plus is that they may also be used at the TSDA bourses (in Dallas/Richardson) for dealers who attend our EXPO. The next TSDA bourse is on August 27 & 28 in Richardson.

My continuing plea is for people to present programs at the Arlington meetings. Please give it your consideration.

Enjoy your stamps and I hope to see you at an upcoming meeting.

*Been There,  
Done That*

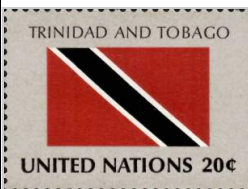
### Trinidad

By Peter Elias

In early 1999, I found myself on Trinidad on a business trip for about a week. Every morning, the view I had is shown on the photo below. Even though the hotel was very good, their coffee was sub-par (it was "instant", not freshly brewed...). Oh well, it was probably my only chance to get to Trinidad, although

I'd love to go see Tobago some day!

When writing "Been There.." articles, keep in mind that the UN Flag Series stamps come in handy for use as illustrations in articles such as this!



# CLASSIFIED BOURSE

## Announcements

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

## For Sale

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

## Wanted to Trade

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

## Wanted

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

## For Sale

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

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

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
  - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
  - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
  - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
  - **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. Non-members -> please inquire. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 1/21

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

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

## Comic Strip - Blondie (Collecting Stamps)

By Peter Elias

By Dean Young

### BLONDIE



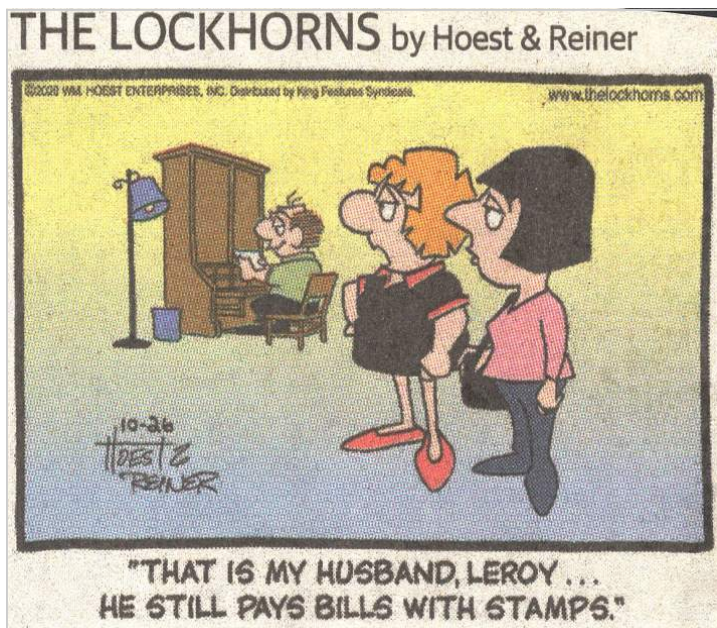
Well, that's a rather ironic comic strip isn't it? But I can identify with it in the sense that collecting stamps also helps me to forget a bit about work-related and other matters for the time being when I'm working with my collection. At least I'm not a mail carrier. But for the most part, being a mail carrier and collecting stamps don't really seem to have that much in common these days as a majority of all mail does NOT even have stamps on them. Although I suppose that if there is an occasional stamp on a piece of mail and it is NOT postmarked and IF the carrier notices this, then maybe they'll use a pen or marker to ruin it for us... But that would really be their only connection to stamps. I'd be curious to know what percentage of mail carriers are also stamp collectors?

This particular Blondie strip was published on September 27, 2019 in the Dallas Morning News.



## Comic Strip - The Lockhorns (Using Stamps)

by Peter Elias



Club Member Ken Wills provided me with this comic strip from the "Lockhorns" series (which I personally haven't seen in many years, so I don't know which newspaper this one was published in).

In the strip, the wife is lamenting that this is her husband that is "still paying bills with stamps", as opposed to perhaps online via a bank transfer or credit card. Otherwise there aren't really other ways to mail bills, other than using a postage meter for mailing purposes.

Unless of course, what the comic strips creators meant by "pay the bill with stamps" implies enclosing stamps as the form of payment (not a method of postage), although I'm sure they simply meant paying a bill by mailing it. As a stickler for details, that sentence could be interpreted as using stamps as a form of payment....

**Jonathan Topper**  
10480 Grant Road  
Suite 117  
Houston, TX 77070  
832.518.6558

[jonathan@topperstamps.com](mailto:jonathan@topperstamps.com)  
[www.topperstamps.com](http://www.topperstamps.com)

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)

## stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows

- \* TSDA
- \* TEXPEX
- \* 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. 12/21

[cunninghamstamps@aol.com](mailto:cunninghamstamps@aol.com)

(214) 546-1179

*Cunningham Philatelics*  
Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items  
Stamps and Covers

**THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM**  
APS # 082424, TSDA

Collections  
Appraisals

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

Exp. 12/21

## OKLAHOMA STAMPS

Specializing in United States Stamps  
Member APS, ASDA, NSDA

**Kirk McKenzie**  
[kirkmckenzie@cox.net](mailto:kirkmckenzie@cox.net)

1001 North Fulton  
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115  
918-836-1681

Exp. 12/21



## MEET & EAT for September 2021

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

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

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

--> Official Meet & Eat get-togethers prior to the club meetings have resumed! See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

### ARLINGTON

Sep. 1 - David's Barbecue  
2224 W. Park Row, Arlington, Texas  
817-261-9998

### EULESS

Sep. 15 - Cheddar's  
937 Airport Fwy, Bedford, TX  
817-540-0778

### GRANBURY

Sep. 28 - Palio's Pizza Café  
3710 East Highway 377, Granbury, TX

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

## Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at  
[Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com](mailto:Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com)

5/19

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

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

## For Sale

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

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

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

Don't Forget:  
**TSDA Stamp Fair - Aug 27 - 28**