

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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



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CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

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December 2021

2021 EXPO - Another Success

By Peter Elias

Judging by the comments from several dealers, it was a successful EXPO for them. And that generally means one thing: that we get to have a 2022 EXPO!

As always, an EXPO like hours just doesn't happen on its own. It takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen.

Attendance was good at a total of 360 across both Friday & Saturday, including attendees and club members (with Friday being a bit busier than Saturday - see photo below):



Bob Weidman had company at the Giant Mixture Pick table (see below) and the Chance Board did ok as well.



For the first time, the exhibits were NOT in the main hall, but in a smaller room off to the left as you entered the building.

Unfortunately this year the USPS chose not to attend. While I

could understand this being the case for the 2020 EXPO; I don't know why they made that decision this year. That also meant that we did not have a show "cancel" nor a cachet envelope.

Given that our theme was "Western Wear" (based on the 4 stamps issued earlier this year), several members did decide to don "western" gear! See ya'll next year!



Anne Moxley

Rich Hildebrandt



Peter Elias

Quilt Winner

By Peter Elias

Madeleine Myers won the stamp-themed Quilt in a raffle held at the 2021 EXPO. The quilt was made by Ken Aldridge's wife.



Ralph Poore

Madeleine Myers

Ken Aldridge

[Photo submitted by a club member]

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Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

As always, I have lots of personal fun with the "Been There - Done That" articles. Inspiration can come from various places. Sometimes I find a photo that I took (or I'm in) and wonder is there's a stamp for it; or, at other times I see a stamp and wonder if I have a photo that I took (or I'm in) relating to the subject of the stamp. And in this issue, both scenarios were at play.

Since I peruse Linn's "new issues" section, I often find new issues that relate to me somehow; then the trick becomes in buying these from some foreign postal administrations. At other times, the "Die Lupe", the new issue magazine from Swiss Post also gives me inspiration for new articles, and ordering from them is easy!

I'm hoping that the "Been There..." articles are both educational and inspirational at the same time. And sometimes there's even humor! While most of the "Been There..." articles have been written by Bob & Pat Weidman and myself, feel free to submit your own life experiences as shown on stamps (or other philatelic items). For me, one of the benefits is that it helps me learn more about the subject (since it usually involves a bit of minor research) and that it helps me to remember the past a bit better! Go ahead, give it a try, it's not as hard as you think. If you need some assistance, please contact me. And remember, let *[fill in name of your favorite search engine here]* help you out! Just typing in "Peter Elias stamp" into the Google search box comes up with some interesting images relating to this, including many images used in past issues of this newsletter!

Coming Attractions

2021

NOV. 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Ken Aldridge, Program to be determined
DEC. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Christmas Party (no program)
DEC. 10 - 11 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)

2022

JAN. 5 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: TBD
JAN. 19 MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
JAN. 22 EXPO Planning Meeting
Spring Creek BBQ, Cooper St., Arlington
JAN. 25 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: TBD
FEB. 2 MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting
MAR. 12 - 13 Spring Dallas Postcard Show
Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Pkwy East, Plano
Free parking, \$3 admission

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received

Patty Poore (#637)
Leslie Barton (#638)
Jerald Zimmerman (#639)
Xiaokang Huang (#640)
Donna Howell (#641)

New Members

(the above will be shown next month)

Reinstatements:

Ken Dougan (#213)
Bob Clarke (#392)
Ted Carmean (#402)
Geoff Owens (#572)

Membership Summary – November 16, 2021

Membership as of October 20, 2021	91
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	5
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	4
Membership as of November 16, 2021	95

By Peter Elias



On January 2, 2015, Denmark issued two stamps (Scott #1703-4) to commemorate Legos, a building toy that you are surely familiar with.

Legos got their start when Ole Kirk Christianson, a carpenter,

began making wooden toys in 1932. His company was called "Lego", which is derived from the Danish term "leg godt" (meaning "play well"). The self-locking plastic bricks (and other pieces) that we now know, started in 1949. The bricks were originally made of cellulose acetate, and that switched to ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) in 1958 and has been used since (although they are now using a bio-derived polyethylene for botanical pieces such as leaves, bushes & trees).



More info is at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lego>.

My "Been There - Done That" (and "Still Is") has its start in the photo above, taken when I was probably 5 years old, so something like 55+ years ago! It shows me playing with various Legos on the balcony of our apartment in Switzerland, while my cousin, who was visiting from Germany is looking on. Most Lego pieces in that photo still survive (and yes, I still even have those green plastic storage boxes!).

In September 1986, all of my Legos were stored in my parents basement, when Midland, Michigan flooded due to in-



credible rains (see <https://www.ourmidland.com/news/article/A-look-back-at-the-Flood-of-1986-13013407.php> for more details). My parents managed to salvage all the Legos.

A couple of years ago, I took up an interest in Legos again, hence "AFOL" (Adult Fan of Lego), and I managed to rebuild many of the sets that I had as a kid from 1965 to 1975; you can see those on the picture of the 3 shelves at bottom left.

Below you can see some close-ups. And yes, the white



plastic Mercedes to the left is a Lego model as well!

With my brother's (remote) assistance, I was even able to do a



"micro-build" of my Michigan childhood house that you can see above (he was very creative in coming up with this!).

Unlike most of the models you see on the left, which I rebuilt using the period-correct (1965-1975) Lego pieces, the house was built using currently available Legos. And just as a I have a "philatelic corner" in my house, I also have a "Lego section", which you can see in the photo below. Legos, as with stamps, also seem to constantly require sorting and filing!



NOT Forever Stamps

By Peter Elias



Above is USA Scott #CVP88Ab, which was first vended in 2013 from the “APC” kiosks in Post Offices. The stamp above is from May 10, 2015. How do I know this? Easy: it’s right there in the vertical set of numbers next to the matrix code, A96751015193005, which breaks down as follows:

A967	= APC kiosk number
5	= Year
10	= Month
15	= Day
19	= Hour (in Greenwich Mean Time), meaning I bought this approx. early afternoon here, not 7 PM in the UK ...
30	= Minutes
05	= Seconds

Starting during the Fall of 2018, the above numbering mechanism was changed slightly, from using a 4-digit number at the beginning (rather than a letter & 3 digits) and switching to “local” time instead of GMT.

Ok, so much for the basic APC lesson on interpreting the human-readable serial number... Back to the core point of this article, which is why won’t these type of “FOREVER” stamps truly be “forever”?

Take another look at the scan of the stamp at the top of the article, and then look at a photo of the same stamp below, but using backlighting.



You can now easily see that the self-adhesive gum on these stamps is in rectangular bands (to keep the cutting knife on the machine from getting gunked up by self-adhesive gum deposits, as it cuts in the area without the gum). But more evident is the fact that the paper is becoming “translucent” due to the gum leaching through the stamp paper! For now, this has the effect of a slight darker shadow when viewing this as a scan (or when applied to an envelope).

A few years from now, it will look really bad and the stamp will literally self-destruct. Unfortunately, the self-adhesive gum can’t be easily removed, and in this case, the damage is already done. But guess what? Since all regular US postage stamps now have self-adhesive gum as well, they will have the same fate some years down the road! Remember the first self-adhesive Christmas stamps from 1974? And with these APC stamps, there’s the additional problem of “fading” of the thermal printing (actually “thermal activation of a thermal coating that is on the stamps”)! That’s an article for another time...

Title At Risk?

By Rick Howell

I fondly remember my childhood Saturdays growing up in Goldsboro, North Carolina in the early ‘60s. My parents would drop me off downtown on Center Street at the entrance to the Paramount Theatre. Occasionally they would have special showings for kids at the Saturday matinee where you could trade a Pepsi bottle for admission and, sometimes they would hand out pictures of the stars like Elvis Presley or Tab Hunter. At the age of 10, I could go in, see a movie like “State Fair” or “The Mummy” (which scared me to death). When the movie let out, I would go next door to the local newsstand and browse through the comic books while waiting for my parents to come and pick me up. One thing that always appeared in the back of the comics was advertisements for stamps on approval from dealers like Garcelon, Kenmore and even R.E. Wallace. Many of the stamp ads featured a picture of the famous One Cent Magenta British Guiana which, at the time was valued at \$50,000. Yes, collect stamps long enough and you too might find a treasure like this. It was all a 10 year old boy could wish for. A magical treasure hunt which could make you rich. So, now, 60 years later, I am still looking for that One Cent Magenta, the King of all Stamps, without success. But the thrill is in the hunt, and the hunt has led me to many places all over the world, right from the chair at my desk, and I have philately to thank for that.

On December 7 of this year, Sotheby’s Auction House in London will be offering a stamp which may quite possibly dethrone the famous One Cent Magenta as King of all Stamps. Up for auction is something known as the “Wallace Document”. The Wallace Document is an album page which contains a proof of a Mulready Envelope along with the first Penny Black ever printed, theoretically the first “legitimate” postage stamp in the world. Robert Wallace, a 19th century postal reformer and Minister of Parliament was given the items by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Francis Baring in appreciation of his work in overhauling the postal service. Wallace’s collection came into the possession of the Caldwell family of Scotland in 1855 before disappearing from public view until it was sold in 1991.

In 2011, Alan Holyoake, a British collector acquired the Wallace Document and has since spent 3 years researching the piece. The document has subsequently been authenticated by the Royal Philatelic Society and The British Philatelic Association and has been displayed at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Holyoake has decided to pursue other collecting interests and is now offering the Wallace Document up for sale in the Sotheby’s Treasures Auction to be held on December 7th. The Wallace Document has been described as “the most important piece of philatelic history in existence” and is estimated to sell for as high as €6 million (that’s Euros, guys). It is quite possible that it could realize a higher price even eclipsing the One Cent Magenta which recently sold for around \$8 million. I guess if that happens, there will be a new King of all Stamps.

Palace Of The Fine Arts

By Peter Elias



While going through some mint USA stamps, I ran across this one, the 18¢ Architecture stamp from a set of 4 issued in 1981, Scott #1930.

The image on the stamp looked somewhat familiar, so

going through some of my “early” digital photos, I found this one:



So apparently, on July 25, 1999, I was in San Francisco, as this building is the “[Palace of the Fine Arts](#)” building constructed for the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition to display works of art. It was completely rebuilt between 1964 to 1974 and is the only structure remaining from the Exposition.



The picture above shows me in the building with someone putting a big soap bubble ring over me.

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2021

By Eugene Atkinson

The Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, held its annual picnic the evening of October 26.

The club meets every 4th Tuesday (except December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court.

After the array of hot dogs, drinks and sides from 5:30 to 7:00 PM, host David Stockbridge opened the regular meeting with 8 members in attendance.

In **ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

- Rick Howell congratulated the club newsletter and editor Peter Elias on having received the American Philatelic Society “Star Route Award”. Recognizing the “best and brightest stars” of news letters and websites, the APS released the news publicly on October 14 and in current issue of *The American Philatelist*.
- Members also noted the approach of EXPO, the annual convention and bourse in Grapevine, set for November 12-13.
- The Granbury chapter of the club has donated two “mystery” boxes for auction and some members missed the meeting preparing the event.

The **PROGRAM** was brought by Jim Myers, who explained in his “After Dinner Potpourri” that he receives numerous calls, texts and letters from individuals who believe they have found or inherited rare and very valuable stamps, accumulations and collections. It is difficult, he noted, to explain that the overwhelming majority of finds are of common issues with little resale or investment value. The problem with rare stamps is that they are really rare. He did recall one exception to the rule, with a woman who found some scarce U. S. revenue issues, whom he was able to help with an auction that brought a return of several thousands of dollars.

The November meeting is set for Tuesday, November 23rd, with a “meet & eat” at 5:00 PM and a program from Ken Aldridge at 7:00 PM.

In **CLOSING**, door prizes went to Madeleine Myers, Denny Ludlow, Bob Coleman, Jim Case, Gary McNamee, Jim Myers and Dave Stockbridge.

Since all of this was over 22 years ago, and while I was in the San Francisco area a couple of times during the late 1990’s and early 2000’s, at first I didn’t recall the exact nature of this particular trip. So, I had to resort to my “financial memory” (aka: Quicken software) and it turns out that I was up there for a meeting with a large paint manufacturer regarding them upgrading to a new system (... and I did eventually get the deal!).

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes November 3, 2021

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 18 members and 2 guests (member spouses) at the November meeting in Arlington.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. He said he was looking for programs for next year, which was wide open. Contact Rich if you have something to offer.
- Treasury – Judy gave the treasury amount, and said some Expo expenses were beginning to be paid.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said 22 members had renewed for next year already, with one reinstatement, bringing our membership to 92.
- Committee Reports:
- EXPO – Ralph Poore said all was ready for Expo next week. Rich Hildebrandt said we had about 22 people signed up for the awards dinner (the convention center minimum is 30 people). Tickets are \$20 a piece. Judy Christmas said the lunches from Jason's Deli will be a dollar more this year. Peter Elias said one of our judges had dropped out, but he had found a replacement.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said he was working on the next issue.
- Sales - Skip Ely said he had several requests for country and topics for APS books next year. He said the APS wants the list by December 1, so the sheet will be mailed after the Eulless meeting in two weeks.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas passed around the sign up sheet for the Christmas Party.
- Ken Aldridge mentioned the raffle tickets for the stamp quilt.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Aldridge showed a recent cover with the stamps peeling off.
- Skip Ely passed around a shower announcement from 1974 written, addressed and stamped on a small folded paper bag.
- Peter Elias had several items, including a carrier survey rating FedEx, UPS and the USPS; a Special Achievement Certificate from the Saginaw Valley Stamp Society in Michigan where he and one of our judges for this year were members; an Austrian Covid-19 stamp on reinforced toilet paper; and some Swiss domino stamps (to be issued) that reminded him of his own old domino set.

Program:

- Was the Giant Mix Pick Preview.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Gene Pfretzschner, Andy Lacko, Jeff Jessop, Tom Turner, Marty Conner, Stanley Christmas, Charles Deur and Rich Hildebrandt.

Adjournment:

- The meeting concluded about 8:00 PM.



Annual Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

The Club will be holding its annual Christmas Party this year as always. It will be held on the 1st of December at the Arlington Meeting site. We will start gathering around 6:00 PM, with dinner being served at 6:30 PM.

This year the Club will be providing just the meat, most likely turkey with gravy, dressing and ham. If you come to the party, please bring your favorite holiday dish to share with others. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at all meetings in November.

At the last party a year ago, we just exchanged gifts instead of playing Bingo. If you would rather we go back to playing Shanghai Bingo, please let me know.

If we do the gift exchange, everyone who brought a gift will draw a piece of paper from a bowl that will have a number on it. Instead of starting with number 1, we will start at the end of the head count. So, if we have 20 members and guests, then the person who drew the number 20 will pick the first gift. The next number 19 can either take the first person's gift or pick a gift. This will continue until everyone has a receive a gift. There will no limit on how many times a gift can be taken. We hope this will make for a more enjoyable gift exchange.

Everyone who attends (guests included if they want to play), will be asked to bring some sort of philatelic gift to the party. We ask that the value be between \$5 and \$10. Make it something someone else would like to receive, no junk please. If your item will fit in an envelope, then place it in the envelope making sure what is inside can't be seen. For larger items, please wrap or put in a pretty Christmas bag or box.

As you place your gifts on the gift giving table, Stanley Christmas will keep track of the number of people at the party. After the dinner everyone, who brought a gift will draw a number. We will start with the person who drew the highest number and go from there. The exchange ends when everyone with a number has a gift in front of them. Gifts will be opened as they are chosen. We are hoping this change in gift giving will bring many members back to attending the annual Christmas Party.

Hoping to see you at the Party!!

World Toilet Day

By Peter Elias

It's a good thing that I read Linn's Stamp News, otherwise I would probably not have found out about "World Toilet Day", which is an official international observance day by the United Nations every November 19! Yes, it's a "thing" and is designed to tackle the global sanitation crisis. According to the UN, over 4 billion people do not have "safely managed sanitation" and well over 600 million people practice "open defecation"! That's all according to the article at Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Toilet_Day.



So, to commemorate this, the UN Postal Administration will issue stamps (NY, Geneva, Vienna) to bring World Toilet Day to the foreground on November 19, 2021.

I looked for an image of these stamps at the UNPA website, but nothing is shown there yet (as of November 7), so the image above is from the [Linn's website](#). I do hope to order some from the UNPA once they're available.



Pretty much everyone I know could probably write a "Been There...Done That" article about this subject after all! But here's my take on it.

Have a look at the photo to the left. This toilet is what you see right at the end of the infamous "[Bill Speidel's Underground Seattle](#)" tour and before you enter the gift shop. If you are ever in Seattle, I highly recommend that you take this educational AND hilarious tour of Seattle's Underground.

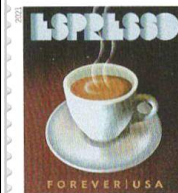


Yes, there is a hidden Seattle "Underground"! After a large fire consumed 25 square blocks of Seattle in 1889, the city required stone or masonry construction (instead of the previously used wood) and the city was rebuilt on top of the remains of the burned out buildings, which also raised it up about one level.

Drinking Coffee

By Pat & Bob Weidman

Recently, the US Postal Service issued a set of four stamps featuring the specialty coffee drinks of espresso, cappuccino, caffe latte, and caffe mocha.



In the photo above, Pat is having a cappuccino and I am having an espresso.

I am a big coffee drinker and have been since I was a kid. My mother did not allow myself or my siblings to drink coffee, so I would just go next door to my grandparent's house if I wanted some coffee. My grandmother drank Maxwell House instant coffee, and that's what I would have.

I prefer regular coffee. I can drink it black, black with sweetener, black with a little milk, or black with milk and sweetener. I don't care for any of the fancy flavored types.

I can also drink coffee all day and in the evening. Coffee does not keep me awake at night. I also drink it year-round and especially when I am doing something like cutting the grass, washing my Jeep, working on my stamp collection or writing one of these articles for the newsletter.

Pat was, and still is a big ice tea drinker. She only started drinking coffee a few years ago. She doesn't care for hot coffee. For her, it has to be iced coffee with milk and sweetener. She also puts caramel syrup in hers.

Now at bottom left is a close-up of the photo above it. It shows that this is a Crapper toilet. While Thomas Crapper in England didn't invent the toilet as such, he did invent an improved tank filling mechanism.

It was said that back in the day (1850's), that toilets were all the rage in Seattle, but when the tides came in, that the toilets became geysers! Rebuilding the city higher up and using the new-fangled flushing toilets apparently solved that problem!

If anything, now you know what "Crapper" means!

MCSC Euleess Meeting Minutes November 17, 2021

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 11 members were in attendance.

Opening:

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

Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had four reinstatements the past month, bringing our membership to 95. Additionally we had five applications for membership which will be credited next month.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely passed around the APS circuit request for next year and said he would be sending it in after this meeting (if he can find it - he didn't get it back at the end of the meeting).
- Newsletter - Peter said the next newsletter would probably go out this weekend.

EXPO Debrief:

- Ralph Poore said initial dealer feedback was all positive this year. He noted while attendance Saturday (105) wasn't as much as Friday (175), some dealers reported doing better business on Saturday. He said he thought the separate exhibit room allowed for more leisurely viewing and that the lighting was better, but we needed more visible directions to its location. He mentioned that we needed to establish a budget item for pre-set up dinner guests.
- Stanley Christmas said we need a chairperson to supervise and direct exhibit frame set up and take down to facilitate those activities. He also said we had to be sure that some awards we not announced prior to the awards dinner.
- Tom Turner said the Silent Auction exceeded its goals. Of 96 lots, only one didn't sell. He thanked Judy and Stanley Christmas for their help in making things run smoothly.
- Skip Ely said he was able to dispose of a lot of material at the Beginners table. He said while there weren't many youngsters, there were some young adults that seemed newly interested in the hobby.
- Judy Christmas reported on the income of the various club activities, as well as the Stamp Quilt Raffle (all did well). The club thanks Ken Aldridge's wife for her efforts in making the quilt, and Ken for promoting it.
- Janet Moyer said the lanyards went over well, but next year they will have names on both sides of the name tag.
- Judy Christmas said that Jason's Deli recommended lunch requests be sent in earlier and elec-

tronically next year.

- Peter Elias talked about publicity efforts. A lively discussion ensued. There was also a discussion about ATM availability.
- Ralph concluded the EXPO Review by suggesting we have our first Expo meeting on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at the Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper in Arlington.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Peter Elias, Ralph Poore, Rick Howell, Donna Howell and Stanley Christmas.

Closure:

- The meeting ended about 8:45 PM.

President's Report

By Richard Hildebrandt

As we come to the last President's letter for 2021, I would like to see where we have come from and hopefully where we are headed in 2022.

The year did not start too well as we were limited by the pandemic to holding Zoom meetings. While these did allow for us to see one another and exchange information, they were no substitute for the in-person give & take, buying & selling and personal contact of our usual gatherings. Gradually we were able to resume in person meetings at all three of our usual locations.

We were able to hold an almost normal EXPO thanks to the tremendous efforts of many people, most notably Ralph Poore, Stan Christmas, Ray Cartier and Tom Cunningham. Many thanks to these individuals and to all of you who spent time assisting and working at the event. There should be a more detailed synopsis of the results elsewhere in this newsletter.

At this point in time, the club is in excellent financial shape and has maintained its membership levels. Please be sure to renew your membership in a timely manner to ease the burden on Skip. You may pay in person at a meeting or send the dues to Skip or to our mailbox if needed.

Looking ahead, as always, we need folks to present programs at Arlington and Granbury. These programs are a main reason for many to attend meetings. They provide an opportunity for all of us to expand our philatelic knowledge and maybe lead us to a different facet of the hobby.

This is an election year for the club. All of the positions (President, 1st and 2nd VP, Treasurer, Secretary and three BOD members) are two-year terms. No real prior experience is needed; all that is required is a desire to see the club flourish and a willingness to serve. Several of the present officers have been serving for many years and are in need of a break. If you enjoy the meetings and the activities we have please give consideration to running for an office. How the club fares in the coming year and beyond is in your hands.

The last meeting of the year will be the annual Christmas party in Arlington on December 1st. I hope to see many of you there and want wish all of you greetings of the season and a safe and healthy New Year.

MCSC 2021 EXPO Palmares

By Peter Elias with data provided by Anne Moxley

MULTI-FRAME DIVISION

GRAND AWARD

- "The Postal Stationery of British Zanzibar 1895-1964" by Ron Strawser
*also: MCSC Foreign Material Award
APS Certificate for Best Exhibit*

RESERVE GRAND AWARD

- "Japanese Art" by Denise Stotts
also: ATA Best MultiFrame

GOLD AWARDS

- "Mozambique Company Postal Stationery" by Ron Strawser
- "Japanese Art" by Denise Stotts
- "The 2018 Changes at the SSK & Their Stamps and Postage Labels" by Peter Elias
also: WE Sterling Achievement Award
- "The Postal Stationery of British Zanzibar 1895-1964" by Ron Strawser
- "Introduction to Spanish ATM Stamps" by Peter Elias

VERMEIL AWARDS

- "The Real Ugly Duckling: Hans Christian Andersen" by Karen Cartier
also: ATA 2nd Place Multi-Frame
- "Warbirds of AF Plant #4 - Ft. Worth, TX" by Ray E. Cartier

SILVER AWARDS

- "Disney's Greatest Full Length Animated Films" by Karen Cartier
also: AAPE Silver Award of Honor
- "Jules Verne Fantastic Voyages" by Ray E. Cartier
*also: AAPE Silver Award of Honor
ATA 3rd Place Multi-Frame*

SINGLE-FRAME DIVISION

GRAND AWARD

- "The 14c American Indian Stamp of the Fourth Bureau Issue" by Jay Stotts

GOLD AWARDS

- "The 2015 Charlie Brown SSK Postage Label" by Peter Elias
also: MSS Award
- "The Melancholy of Albrecht Durer, the Mathematician" by Danny Meng
also: ATA Single Frame
- "The 14c American Indian Stamp of the Fourth Bureau Issue" by Jay Stotts
also: USSS President's Award
- "Porte de Mar Postal History" by Dr. Benedict Termini
also: MCSC President's Award

VERMEIL AWARDS

- "The 2015 Spidey Stamp & Its Promotion" by Peter Elias
- "Karl Bickel: Swiss Designer, Engraver, Extraordinaire" by Dr. John Barrett
- "Wernher von Braun: Villain or Hero?" by Ray E. Cartier

SILVER AWARD

- "Jacques Cartier: French Navigator & Explorer" by Ray E. Cartier

ONE-PAGE MINI EXHIBIT AWARDS

BEST AWARD

- "Austria "Covid-19 Stamps" by Peter Elias

BEST EXPO THEME

- "Native American Western Wear" by Ray E. Cartier

FOUR-PAGE MINI EXHIBIT AWARD

BEST AWARD

- "Experimental Airmail Pickup Service" by Stanley Christmas

MOST POPULAR AWARD:

- "Japanese Art" by Denise Stotts

MCSC EXPO 2021 JURY MEMBERS

- Patrick Walters, Jury Chair (bottom in middle)
- Colin Fraser (bottom at right)
- Yavuz Corapcioglu (bottom at left)



The APS judges at work:

Left - at the exhibit frames, which for the 1st time were held in a separate room.

Below - during the awards ceremony.



CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

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

For Sale

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

Wanted to Trade

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

Wanted

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

For Sale

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

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

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
 - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
 - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
 - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
 - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/21

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

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

Comic Strip - Garfield (Laminating A Collection)

By Peter Elias

GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



This Garfield comic strip was published on May 18, 2013, in which John is speaking to his girlfriend Liz on the phone about laminating his stamp collection... In the middle panel he asks "what do you think?". Well, I think that someone would need to have a word with Jim Davis about this! While I do see Jim having an occasional strip that has something about stamp collecting, I would presume that he knows at least a little about our hobby, and hopefully enough that "laminating" would be a big no-no! But then again, it's just a "comic" strip, so I'm assuming it's in a humorous vein!

Dominoes

By Peter Elias

On November 4, 2021 (with validity starting November 11), Swiss Post released this souvenir sheet of 4

each domino, ranging from no dot, a single dot and up to all 9 dots in different combinations.

While there are several ways of playing dominoes, the most common involves getting rid of your dominoes by lining up a domino with one on the playing field



stamps featuring Dominoes. The white “dots” on the domino designs on the stamps are actually punched out holes (and are only white because that was the background on my scanner).

While the standard Swiss domestic postage is 1 Franc (100 Rappen), these stamps are issued in a 50 Rappen denomination, so that people can use at least 2 of the stamps in a variety of combinations.

Dominoes (not to be confused with the fast-food pizza restaurant chain “Domino’s”) is a tile-based game that most likely originated in China (as it was mentioned in the text *Former Events in Wulin* in the mid-1200’s), and modern dominoes appeared in Italy in the 18th century, and do differ from the Chinese ones; and there is no confirmed link between the two.



Dominoes are made of a wide variety of materials and generally have painted dots, with 2 sets of dots on

that has the same dot combination.

Now how does this factor into my “Been There - Done That” experience? At bottom left on the 1st column is a picture of a wooden box with dominoes. These are the dominoes that I played with as a child growing up in the 1960’s in Switzerland! Unlike many dominoes, my set has the different dot combinations painted in different colors, they’re not all just white! On the bottom



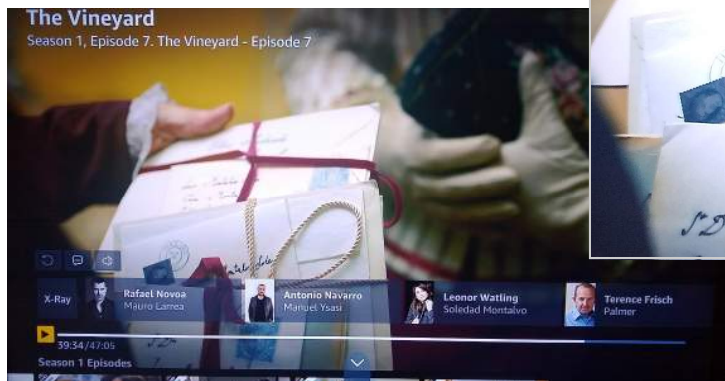
of the box there is still the original price sticker from “Franz Carl Weber”, a toy store located on the famous “Bahnhofstrasse” shopping street in Zürich. The 1960’s price of sFr. 8.50 would be equivalent to \$18.60 in today’s dollars!

A fun sport for some people is to put the dominoes vertically near each other and then have them fall against each other, creating what we know as the “domino effect”! The world record for number of dominoes toppled was **4,491,863**, and was set in the Netherlands in 2009 during Domino Day on November 13, 2009.



TV Philately: The Vineyard

By Peter Elias



In mid-November I was watching the Spanish 10-part mini-series "The Vineyard" on Amazon Prime, which I "binge-watched" over the course of 3 nights with my wife.

In episode 7, one of the characters was handed a bundle of letters. As always, the envelopes appeared on screen just briefly and it is difficult to get a good "screen-shot"; in this case, I didn't need the extra information about the show (that Amazon puts up) to interfere with the material, and I managed to get a shot without it (above right).

The series does take place in the late 1870 to 1890 timeframe in (mostly Spain) but also in Cuba & Mexico. In this scene, the characters were in Spain.

Unfortunately, the details are a bit fuzzy, and the top envelope does show a "Havana" postmark. I'm no expert on Cuban postmarks, but it just doesn't look quite right, and there were no Cuban stamps of that time period showing a person with that profile (they face either right or left, but not a partial profile such as this). However, upon looking at the Spain section of Scott's, there is a 1870 series of stamps that bears resemblance of the blue one shown, but Cuba would have had its own stamps and not use the ones from Spain, and it would also have made for very late usage (approx. 20 years past issuance). So they goofed in showing a Spanish stamp used in Cuba...

The lower cover shows a stamp with a coat-of-arms, but no Spanish, Mexican or Cuban stamp of that era has that type of design characteristic that I could find; although it does appear to be of a "Spanish" type of design, so, inconclusive as far as I'm concerned.

2022 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

__Mr. __Mrs. __Ms. __Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

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

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

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

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

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

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

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

Membership Level:

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

__ \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

__ **\$25 Sponsor Membership**

__ \$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

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

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

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

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

Pikes Peak

By Peter Elias



In 2006, the USPS issued #UX449, a 24¢ postal stationery card that commemorated the 1806 “Pike Expedition”. This expedition was a military party sent out by President Thomas Jefferson and was headed by Lt. (later Capt.) Zebulon Pike, the first official American effort to explore the Rocky Mountains in what is now Colorado. While the native population had named the peak “Tave” (sun), it was later renamed Pikes Peak.



Pikes Peak is one of 54 mountains higher than 14,000 feet in Colorado. Although Zebulon Pike “sighted” the mountain, it wasn’t actually climbed until 1820 by Edwin James (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pikes_Peak) for more info.

The first automobile to reach the summit was in 1913 and took 5 hours 28 minutes. A [Pikes Peak International Hill Climb](#) has been held since 1916. I know of Pike’s Peak primarily because in the late 1980’s, Europeans started becoming involved in the race, and Audi Sport Quattro driver Michele Mouton was the first woman to win the race in the late 1985 and also setting a world record (12 minutes 10.38 seconds). At that time, the road was still gravel; it did not get paved until 2002! The length of the race is 12.42 miles and has 156 turns.

The Pikes Peak cog railway started running in 1891 and was originally steam powered; later the railway cars were switched to diesel powered units from Switzerland that uses similar ones there. The rail infrastructure had worn out and it was decided in 2018 to close the railway indefinitely. When we (Annie, Marcos, my sister-in-law Leticia and I) were there on August 1, 2019, all I got to see at the top was what you see behind me in the selfie-photo above right: empty tracks! So how did we actually get to the top?



We managed to drive up there in the comfort of a diesel powered VW Passat (see above). Now, due to the massive construction/re-construction of the visitor center at the top, we could only drive so far (about 2 miles or so from the top) and they had to take us the rest of the way in shuttle buses. The



view from the top was incredible. The photo above is from the side of the road, close to where we had to park. So, while I wasn’t able to race to the clouds like Michele Mouton was able to, at least there’s a “bucket list” item I can cross off my list, but I’ll gladly come back any time!



Been There, Done That

Blue Jays

by Pat & Bob Weidman



In the February 2021 newsletter is an article I wrote about feeding the squirrels that live in the trees in the neighbors yard. I also said that Blue Jays come to feed in our yard. Blue Jays like peanuts, but it was impossible to get a picture of them.



A few weekends ago, I lucked out. A Blue Jay was in the yard so I hurried to get the camera and snapped his picture.

The Blue Jay is common in the eastern United States and Canada. An adult can be up to one foot in length. That could explain why they are not afraid of the squirrels.

They prefer nuts and smaller seeds, but will also eat insects. I crack open shelled peanuts and put them on the bird feeder. They usually wait in the trees until I go back in the house before going to the feeder. Within a few minutes, the nuts are gone and I have to refill it.

The stamp is United States Scott #2483 and is from a definitive set issued from 1991-1995.

Estate Appraisals

Topper Stamps & Postal History

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832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

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)



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MEET & EAT for December 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

December 1 - Annual Christmas Party
Bob Duncan Community Center

EULESS

No Meeting in December, see you in January!

GRANBURY

No Meeting in December, see you in January!

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

Don't Forget:
Annual Christmas Party - Dec. 1
TSDA Stamp Fair - Dec. 10 - 11

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 \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!)! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 1/21

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