

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.



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#90

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March 2022

Fake / Counterfeit USA Internet Postage

By Peter Elias

If you subscribe to Linn's or are a member of AARP, you may have read that lately there have been a LOT of counterfeit USA stamps available for sale, ranging from the ubiquitous definitive flag stamp booklets or coils and even various recent commemoratives, ALL of which are available at great discounts from face value. Quite a few are available via eBay or the Facebook Marketplace.

However, what isn't really mentioned a lot (or at all), is information about all of the fake & counterfeit internet stamps that are being sold. These range from stamps.com's "NetStamps", to Dymo/Endicia stamps, SendPro and others.

In case you are not familiar with these, they work this way: First, you have to create an online account with the company in question and fund it via your credit card. Second, you need to purchase pre-printed labels from them (they are serial numbered). Third, using your online account (or a desktop app if they one), you select which denominations you wish to print (generally from 1 to 24 or 25 stamps per sheet). The software then prints the "indicia" on the blank area of the stamp (this normally includes a 2D-matrix code, the denomination, the word US POSTAGE, the mail class, the zip code at which the account is registered and some other numbers).

In the past, these have been counterfeited by someone having bought & printed actual stamps, then simply scanned the entire indicia part and duplicated these on genuine stamp label sheets. Thus, for a little over \$1, they could print a sheet of fake stamps with well over \$100 in "postage"! Except that these are counterfeits. While the purchased label sheets are real, they are NOT postage, simply labels or stickers. They become postage by virtue of you paying for it and the software printing out various information on the stamp on demand, including a unique 2D-matrix code. And technically, this is a crime of fraud, which is punishable in federal court with fines and/or a prison sentence of up to 5 years (see <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/501>), and the Postal Police (aka: US Postal Inspection Service - see

www.uspis.gov)

might take an interest in you and eventually introduce you to a federal judge.

Shown to the left is one such



fake Netstamp. While the pre-printed design with the flowers is real (see the cropped screenshot from stamps.com to the left).

Comparing the sample printout on their website, with the stamp at bottom left, a lot of stuff is evident that doesn't seem quite right:

- 1) First and foremost: the USPS has NEVER granted the right to Stamps.com to produce "FOREVER" stamps as shown on the fake example at lower left. All "PC Postage" has to show the denomination.
- 2) The placement of various elements of the indicia (black printing) is also wrong.

But, to the general public, as well as most postal clerks, these appear to be real. But wait, there's more!

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Many years ago, I was asked if I wanted to be the editor of the "Texas Philatelist" (journal of the Texas Philatelic Association), and I declined. Just this past month, I was asked if I would consider taking on the position as editor of the "Meter Stamp Society Bulletin" (for which I have written probably well over 100 pages of articles in the past 10+ years). I also had to turn this offer down. While these societies may actually pay some sort of stipend to the editor, I just don't feel like taking on the task of being editor for those kind of larger organizations (although the MSS membership has declined quite a bit in the past few years).

So for now, I'll be happy to continue serving as editor of *Stamping Around*, a "volunteered job" I've had since the July 2001 edition! That said, later this year we will have elections for club officers. Please consider running for one of these positions. A list of responsibilities for the various positions is being prepared.

Errata

In the February 2022 issue, the January meeting in Euless was listed as being on January 16; it was in fact on January 19 (3rd Wednesday as always).

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

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

Reinstatements:

n/a

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

Charles Deur (#618)
Fred Ekenstam (#626)
Rob Roy Hathaway (#473)
Debbie Hathaway (#472)
Carl Huster (#622)
Ken May (#624)
Ricky Peed (#511-D)
Justin Rimmer (#589)
Julie Rimmer (#590)

Membership Summary – February 15, 2022

Membership as of January 18, 2022	101
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	2
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(9)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of February 15, 2022	94

Coming Attractions

2022

- FEB. 22 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Rick Howell is presenting the video "What are the benefits of buying Stamps at Auctions?"
- MAR. 2 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- MAR. 11 - 12 Spring Dallas Postcard Show**
Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Pkwy East, Plano
Free parking, \$4 admission, Fri: 10 - 5, Sat: 8 - 3
- MAR. 16 MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic Discussions
- MAR. 19 MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting**
Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington @ 11 AM
- MAR. 22 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Dave Stockbridge presenting "Stamps of Selected Dead Russian Countries".
- APR. 6 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- APR. 8 - 9 TSDA Bourse**
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)
- APR. 20 MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions



(continued)

Some of these fake internet stamps, such as the pair of "SendPro" examples above, they try to make them look reasonably real.

However, some items are just pure fantasy concoctions that bear no resemblance to reality, such as the two "Dymo/Endicia" stamps shown at left.



The stamp on the left is an actual endicia.com stamp (formerly Dymo stamp) that I printed when I had an account with them (the info on the left vertical orange bar has changed over the



years). The next stamp below is a fake. While it does incorporate some of the indicia of an actual stamp, the inclusion of the 3 different hearts is just pure fantasy. Endicia internet stamp never had any sort of images available for them. Additionally, the font used for "US POSTAGE" and "PRIORITY-MAIL" is different. On the real indicia, the serial number below the 2D matrix code is even with the left side, not offset.



<-- Now this is a total fabrication! Very little of this bears any resemblance to a real Endicia postage label. Amongst the fake elements:
 1) "NEVER EXPIRES". Really? No CVP (computer vended) US postage has ever said that.
 2) "PAID". This has also has

Here we are in the middle of February and I think winter is on its way out after it caused us to cancel the last Arlington meeting. I hope that everyone got through the storm safely.

To follow up on my last letter, we did finally have a Board of Directors meeting and I would like to touch on some of what came out of it. We reviewed the 2022 budget and approved it with some minor adjustments. Many thanks to Judy for all of her hard work and efforts watching our finances. As a club we are in very good financial shape.

A second item dealt with club leadership and coming up with a plan of succession for the elected officers. Taking the lead from Ralph and his efforts to define the various leadership roles necessary for EXPO operation, we are going to try to do the same for the club officer positions.

We are hoping that by identifying the specific duties of each office (President, VP, etc.) that people will be willing to take on one of these tasks for a term or two. This is an ongoing effort that I hope we can complete before the summer and allow the members to see where they can best assist the club to continue to function. Without fresh blood, so to speak, we will find ourselves in a precarious position as a club.

For the full details of the Board of Directors meeting, please see the minutes published elsewhere in this issue. Along those lines I owe a great thank you to Skip for your continued great work as our club secretary!

Trivia question: Today, February 20th, is a historic day related to our hobby. What event that greatly influenced philately happened on this day? I suspect many of you already know the answer but for those that don't tune in next month.

Hope to see many of you in March. Enjoy your stamps!

- never showed up on CVP items and makes no sense. After all, if you buy these legitimately, they are "Paid"...
- 3) The Zip Code of the registered account is missing.
- 4) The 2D-matrix code is vertical instead of horizontal
- 5) The number next to the 2D-matrix code should begin with a "071V". This is a 4-digit code assigned to all meters & PC postage items based on the manufacturer. 071V was assigned to Endicia.
- 6) Last but not least: The color image of two children. Not even sure where that one came from. If it was lifted from some USA stamp design, I don't know which one...

While the items shown in this article are ones that I own (via eBay purchases), the one below I didn't get to buy. It is yet another fabrication using a "bar code" (instead of matrix code) this time, the unnecessary word "AMOUNT", a non-sensical serial number, the heart, "PAID", etc. They're not even trying to make these look like the real thing!



This article has just started to

Assisi - Hometown of St. Francis

By Arthur P. von Reyn

With so many historical and cultural places to visit in Italy, it's difficult to find anything that isn't overrun with hordes of tourists. Were it not the birthplace of St. Francis (1181 or 1182 – 1226), the town of Assisi wouldn't be the mecca and place of pilgrimage it has become. St. Francis, known for his love of nature and animals, is one of Italy's two patron saints, the other being Catherine of Siena.

Located on the side of a hill and overlooking the valley of Tescio in Umbria, the town of Assisi is dominated by the San Francesco monastery that includes the Basilica of St. Francis. The monastery is depicted on Italy Scott #180, one in a set of six stamps issued in 1926 for the 700th anniversary of St. Francis' death. The set was also overprinted for use in Eritrea and Italian Somaliland.



Construction on the monastery and its basilica began after the canonization of St. Francis in 1228. The basilica consists of two churches, one lower and one upper, which appear on Italy Scott #696, issued in 1955, two years late, for the 700th anniversary of the basilica's completion.



St. Francis' crypt is located in the lower church, where one can also see frescos by Giunta Pisano, Cimabue, Giotto, Pietro Lorenzetti, Simone Martini, and Andrea da Bologna. Frescos in the upper church by Giotto's followers show scenes from the life of the saint; there are also the usual wall paintings of Old and New Testament scenes that are typical in medieval and renaissance churches throughout Europe, as much of the population was illiterate during those times and pictures were one way to convey biblical stories.

Born Francesco di Pietro di Bernardone as a son of a wealthy cloth merchant, St. Francis had a vision in 1205 that told him to return from his travels to Assisi and wait for a call to a new kind of knighthood. He eventually embraced the life of a penitent, founding the Franciscan order in 1209 and later two other orders, one for women and another for those who wanted to follow his life style but not take religious vows. He decided to take his message out of Italy and in 1219, during the Crusades, unsuccessfully tried to convert the Muslim sultan of Egypt. Returning to Assisi, in 1224 he is said to have had a vision in which he received stigmata that he tried to hide for the rest of his life. To mark 800th anniversary of St. Francis' birth, many countries issued stamps, with the U.S. version appearing in 1982 on Scott #2023.



One unusual attraction in Assisi is an old Roman temple apparently dedicated to Minerva on town's main square, which was a forum in Roman times. The temple survived due to it being transformed into a church in the 300s. The interior was rebuilt in the 1500s to look like a typical ornate Baroque church of the period, so only the façade and the floors are original. However, on the sides of the altar, one can see drains for the blood of animals sacrificed in Roman times. This edifice has yet to appear on a stamp.

There are many churches in and around Assisi, some relating to St. Francis' life, making them also destinations for pilgrims. If one has the stamina for a climb further up the hill, at the top is Rocca Maggiore, a castle depicted on Italy Scott #1429 that for more than eight hundred years dominated the citadel of Assisi and the valley of below.



British Humor

By Peter Elias

While not everyone always "gets" British humor, I generally love it! One of my favorite all-time British shows is "Monty Python's Flying Circus" (which I used to watch as reruns on PBS). Whether it is the outrageous "cartoons", or the "dead parrot" sketch or the "ministry of silly walks", I'll gladly watch reruns of this show any day! So hats off to the UK postal service for issuing this stamp! It brings back lots of memories of this show.

John Cleese (shown on the stamp doing his silly walk) also did the "Fawlty Towers" TV series and the entire Monty Python gang also made several hilarious movies, such as "The Holy Grail" and "Life of Brian".



The Travel Book Collection

By Peter Elias

As we've all read in the philatelic press (not to mention entities like the AARP and others), there seems to be a "surge" lately in counterfeit USA stamps being offered, with many suspected of being made in China and sold here to dupe unsuspecting people into buying what they think is valid, but discounted postage.

In checking out items on the www.aliexpress.com website (based in China), I found what was advertised as a "Travel Book" of stamp stickers (see website screenshot below).

These are sold in self-adhesive rolls with 10 different designs as shown to the left (a little smaller than actual size so that I could fit them on this page).

This collection features "reproductions" of actual stamps from around the world, albeit they have been cropped to fit the sticker size, such as the sticker with the design from USA #2348, which is shown nearby against the actual #2348 (both are shown to the below right).

All stamps have a fake postmark as part of the design. None of those postmarks extend to the actual edge of the sticker, just to the edge of the design.

The roll that I received looked like what you see at upper right. It was wrapped with an outer plastic wrap and stickers on both front & back sides.

When unwrapped, the "stamps" (let's call 'em cinderellas, shall we?) are wound on a paperboard core and the stamps

themselves are NOT on backing paper, but (not so) slightly adhere to themselves, and if you're careful, you can unroll them (although I did damage a couple in the process when the edge perforations were stuck too much on the underlying stamps). So peel slowly and carefully. I don't know yet how many stamps are actually on each roll, my guess would be 100 total.

These are printed on what they call "Washi" paper, which is somewhat translucent and has self-adhesive gum on the back and die-cut perforations on all four sides.

These are not marketed as "postage" stamps, but simply as "stickers" for using by people whose hobby is scrapbooking or just want them for decorative purposes.

According to illustrations on the website, there appears to be 8 rolls with varying designs:

1. Insects
2. Jungle Story
3. Animal World
4. Sunflower Blooms
5. Travel Book (this set!)
6. Retro Sweetheart
7. Delicious Workshop
8. Galaxy Universe

On the long scan on the left, I've had to "brighten" the image a bit, as the real stamps look a bit more muted since they are printed on that somewhat translucent paper (rather than standard solid white paper). Overall print quality isn't too bad, and while I don't do "scrap booking", some of these may find their way to the back of envelopes that I mail (across the flap).

As of writing this, only 3 of the 8 design types are available (and the one I had bought isn't available at this time from this vendor).

While perusing aliexpress.com, I also found a seller that has the 30-item lot shown below, which appears to be reproductions of various older stamps from Russia, Germany, etc. These appear to be more crudely "perforated" and there does seem to be a reproduced Lincoln stamp, USA #77 (see blue arrow).




Granbury Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2022

By Judy Christmas

Welcome:

- 7 members and 2 guests attended this meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club. David Stockbridge presided over the meeting.

Show & Tell:

- Denny Ludlow had a sheet of Comic stamps that he passed around. It brought back many a memory of when we all use to read the comics in the newspaper.
- Rick Howell showed an article titled "Stay Where You Are" from Britain. The article was about what to do if the country was invaded. Again, the article also brought back many memories of the Cold War.
- Stan Christmas talked about how the Pitcairn Islands where no longer sending out stamps. He did find another group who would send him the new issue stamps, but they would not use the stamps for mailing so that he could have both mint and used stamps.
- Dave Stockbridge showed a stamp that he had never seen before. It was like a mini sheet with just one stamp of Santa's head. You really had to use the whole sheet for mailing.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell announced that the APS would be holding a summer series on stamps again this summer. He said that they were very interesting and informative programs.
- David Stockbridge said that he needed programs for the year. If anyone was interested in giving a program, he asked that they contact him.
- Stanley Christmas announced that at the EXPO meeting on January 22nd, that if you had been a Grand Prize winner in the past that you could re-exhibit after three years. He also let everyone know that the name tags would be double-sided next year, that your name would always show. He also said that there would be no fees charged for exhibiting in hopes of getting more members to exhibit. Ralph Poore said that he has several openings for chairpersons. And that we will no longer be doing a cachet. Ray Cartier will be Exhibit chairperson again, but need an assistant.

Program:

- The program for the first meeting of the year was the usual "Clean Out Your Philatelic Closet". Only Denny and Dave had items for sale

Closing:

- The next Granbury meeting will be on February 22nd. No Program at this time, but Rick Howell said he could bring video program from the APS.

Door Prizes went to:

- Rick Howell
- David Stockbridge
- Denny Ludlow

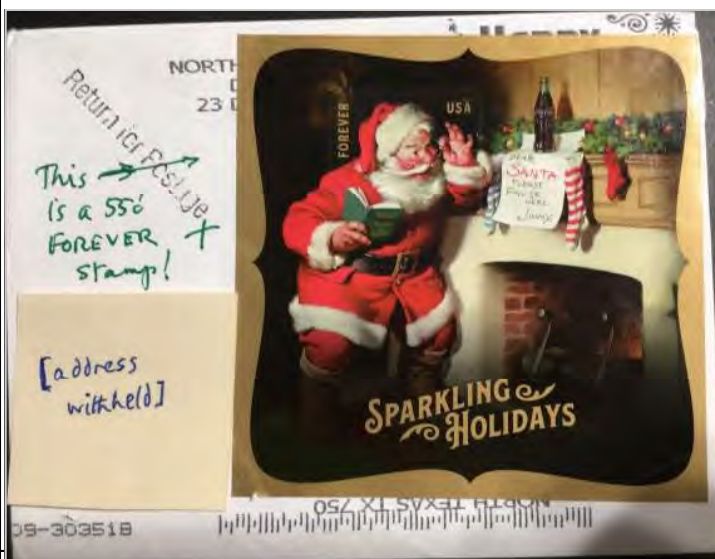
Post Office Reject

By Ken Aldridge

The artist Haddon "Sunny" Sundblom is best remembered for the paintings of Santa he produced for The Coca Cola Company.

In 2018, the USPS issued four Christmas stamps reproducing portions of some of these paintings. One of them, Scott 5334, was also issued within a souvenir sheet of one, Scott 5336, as shown below. It even includes the Coca Cola bottle from the advertisement.

In 2019, I purchased 100 of the self-adhesive souvenir sheets, and with some difficulty peeled them from their backing and used them to mail my Christmas cards. The one shown below was returned to me stamped "Return for Postage." I re-mailed it with the note added in green ink, and this time it was successfully delivered.




MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022

By Skip Ely

--> The meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Estate Appraisals



Topper Stamps & Postal History

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

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

MCSC BOD Meeting Minutes Saturday February 12, 2022

By Skip Ely

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club held a Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting (in conjunction with an EXPO Planning Meeting) at Spring Creek BBQ in Arlington on Saturday, February 12, 2022.

Attendees:

- Ralph Poore (Expo Chairperson), Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Alliene Franklin, Peter Elias, Rick & Donna Howell, Tom Turner, Ken Wills, Tom Cunningham, Kathryn Story, Rich Hildebrandt, Janet Moyer, Bob Weidman and Skip Ely.

Call-To-Order:

- Rich Hildebrandt called the meeting to order at 11:45 AM. He said the main purpose was to approve a budget for the coming year, and distributed a spread sheet prepared by Judy Christmas. A review of selected items followed.

Announcements & Discussions:

- Secretarial - Skip Ely said he had almost completed an updated Member Handbook and wanted to have the books folded and stapled by the printing office instead of doing it himself. Judy said there was monies in the secretary budget to allow that.
- Treasury - Judy said the rent for the room at the Bob Duncan Center had been paid.
- APS Dues - Skip Ely said he was late submitting the request for free dues for the APS, but that he believed it had been accepted.
- Scott Catalog Purchases - Tom Cunningham said we could likely obtain new Scott catalogs monthly from our new supply EXPO dealer Jeff Fishman, as Ricky Peed is discontinuing his stamp supply business. A motion was made to that effect, seconded, and approved.
- Sales - Skip Ely said he had provided a detailed report to the BOD around the first of the year, and anyone else who would like to see it need only to contact him. Last year we basically broke even, with club sales and commission fees paying for APS postage and obtaining more hinges.
- Business Cards - It was agreed this was a useful expenditure and inventory will be checked.
- Mix Pick - Bob Weidman said he didn't have to procure a lot of material last year because so much was donated. He anticipated much the same this year.
- Newsletter - Peter said the allocated amount was satisfactory.
- Budget Approval - A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the budget as written.

Additional Item of Business:

- A second item of business was a concern by Ken Aldridge regarding long range planning of club leadership positions. Rich observed it was very difficult to recruit people to serve in club officer positions. Tom Cunningham noted that some of the other groups he is a member of don't always elect new people to positions that favor continuity like secretary and treasurer. Ralph Poore suggested Rich submit queries to current officers asking them to detail their specific duties and responsibilities and to identify potential successors. It was agreed this was a good idea.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

MCSC Expo Meeting Minutes Saturday February 12, 2022

By Skip Ely

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club held an EXPO Planning Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ in Arlington on Saturday, February 12, 2022.

Attendees:

- Ralph Poore (EXPO Chairperson), Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Alliene Franklin, Peter Elias, Rick and Donna Howell, Tom Turner, Ken Wills, Tom Cunningham, Kathryn Story, Rich Hildebrandt, Janet Moyer, Bob Weidman, and Skip Ely.

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM (following the BOD meeting). Due to time constraints, the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting, budget items and regular committee reports were tabled.

Recruitment and Succession Planning:

- Ralph said he had received responses to his Expo Role and Responsibilities request from about sixty percent of the committee chairs and thanked those who so responded. Discussion followed. Alliene Franklin suggested asking people to help with small tasks related to various areas, as opposed to overwhelming them with details of everything.

Theme:

- Ralph reviewed some of the suggestions from the last meeting. After a short discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt "Veterans" as this year's theme, since one of our Expo days falls on Veterans Day.

Stipend for Club Member Exhibits:

- Ralph again briefly reviewed this issue from the last meeting. After a short discussion about encouraging club members to participate in exhibits, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to suspend frame fees for club member exhibits this year. (A reminder was made that we had approved a motion at the last meeting to allow Grand Award winners to submit their exhibits again after three years).

Survey:

- Stanley Christmas distributed a paper showing the results of the 2021 EXPO survey question "How Did You Hear About the Show?" He made note of a few of the more interesting responses.

Publicity:

- Rick Howell brought up the actions of some clubs to get the media involved in stories about stamp collecting in general and the show in particular. Tom Cunningham cautioned about having any media interviews in the bourse during the show, as that can be a considerable distraction. Rick said he would look further into opportunities.

Next Meeting Date:

- Ralph said the next meeting would be on March 19 at this same Spring Creek BBQ at 11:00 AM.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

MCSC Euleess Meeting Minutes February 16, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 10 members attended the February meeting.

Opening:

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

Officer Reports:

- Vice President Stan said a club budget had been approved at the Board of Directors Meeting last Saturday.
- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had 2 new members and 9 who did not renew, leaving us with 94 members. A couple of members have indicated they will renew, but hadn't yet due to extenuating circumstances.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said Dave Stockbridge had given us about 20 more of his Oklahoma sales books. He was offering them to club members at 50% off the net price.
- Newsletter - Peter said he had gotten a little behind, but the next newsletter was almost finished.
- EXPO – Stanley Christmas said we had selected a theme (Veterans) at the EXPO meeting last Saturday.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed the U.S. Zeppelin stamps (private reprints) he had purchased recently. He also passed around a "Century of Progress" cover with a cachet showing an airplane picking up a bag of mail similar to how trains did it without stopping. He said he has researched the practice and hopes to do an exhibit on it.
- Ken Wills - said he had a DVD titled "Night Mail" about a train route from London to Scotland that he will show at next month's meeting. He also showed how he had transferred some U.S. souvenir sheets in their entirety for postage on packages mailed to his children and grand-children who mailed the covers back to him.
- Rick Howell noted some news lately about how Great Britain may require Machin postage stamps to have 2D matrix codes, and will demonetize all the old ones.
- Peter Elias - had several items. One was an envelope he mailed to Lesotho that was mis-sent to St. Lucia and returned to him. Another was an envelope that cost \$5.70 to mail from Croatia to the U.S., but would cost \$16.65 to send back. He also showed some Covid-19 related stamps from the Netherlands, and some Chinese stamp labels. He finished by showing a large number of fake U.S. internet stamps he said were being sold on Facebook marketed as legitimate postage and resold on eBay as fakes.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Peter Elias and Ken Wills.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Fun With Philately: Johnny Appleseed

by Ray E. Cartier



Was there a real person named Johnny Appleseed? Well, that wasn't his given name, which was John Chapman, and who was born in 1774. But that's the way he was known in the northeastern United States in the 1830s...

Before the northeastern United States became popular with the early pioneers moving to Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, West Virginia and Ohio, Johnny voyaged the Ohio River with two canoes filled with apple seeds and travelled over 100,000 square miles planting apple orchards.

Once the pioneers came, he had grown apple tree orchards and made his living selling apples, apple trees and the intoxicating beverage, hard cider to the travelers.

Author [Michael Pollan](#) believes that since Chapman was against grafting, his apples were not of an edible variety and could be used only for hard cider: *"Really, what Johnny Appleseed was doing and the reason he was welcome in every cabin in Ohio and Indiana was he was bringing the gift of alcohol to the frontier"* reported Pollan.

The people gave him the nickname of Johnny Appleseed and they all liked this man who could tell a wide range of stories while making the fruit and the drink available to them.

He preferred to walk around barefoot and there is nothing to substantiate that he wore a cooking pot on his head. And he was a naturist. It has been told that he wouldn't light a fire at night because it would bring in mosquitoes that would be attracted to the light and die. He believed that it was a sin to cut down trees or kill any animal, including mosquitoes.

This eccentric apple grower and seller passed away in 1845, but stories about him continued in the area and in 1871, Harper's New Monthly Magazine wrote a story about him. The tale of this early naturalist has grown substantially afterwards as a folk tale character, a character who was even depicted in a Disney cartoon, the [Legend of Johnny Appleseed](#), that was a segment of the 1948 Disney package film [Melody Time](#), and was a 1955 standalone film; Dennis Day provided the voice of Johnny.



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:

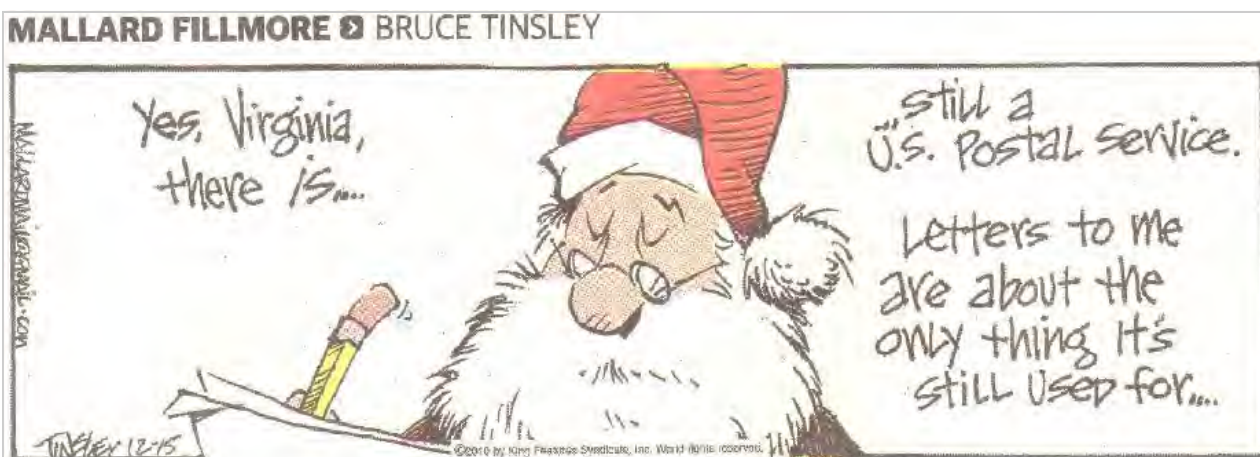
- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)**
 - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
 - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **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 - Mallard Fillmore (Postal Service)

By Peter Elias



This Mallard Fillmore comic strip was published in the December 15, 2010 issue of the Dallas Morning News.

It features a take on the “letter to Santa Theme” ,

with the response being that the USPS still exists, but only for letters to Santa. Over 21 years after this strip being published, the USPS is obviously not just there to deliver “letters to Santa”... While regular first class mail has declined quite a bit, and “advertising mail” also seems to have declined, there has been quite an uptick in package mail (with the USPS competing with the other 2 major players in that market, UPS & FedEx). While the First Class rates are still reasonable, rates for package items has gone up considerably recently (with the excuse being that they’re doing this to “be competitive” - wait, wouldn’t being competitive mean keeping your rates lower than that of the of the competition?).

Tesla

By Pat & Bob Weidman

Gone With The Wind The Book & The Movie

By Ray Cartier

In December of 2017, Pat and I took a trip to the Balkan nations of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro. Several times the name Nikola Tesla came up. Who was Nikola Tesla? He was an inventor and pioneer in electrical technology who received over one hundred patents for his inventions.

He was born on July 9 or 10, 1856 in Smiljan, Austria-Hungary (now Croatia), of Serbian parents. In 1884, he moved to the United States and worked with Thomas Edison before starting the Tesla Electric Company in 1887. In 1889 he became a citizen of the United States and died in 1943.



Gone with the Wind is a historical fiction novel set in the American Civil war and has served as a reference point for many discussions on war, slavery, race, adaptation for survival, and values.

Scarlett O'Hara is at the center of the story, a spoilt, rash teenager who is suddenly forced to face marriage, parenthood, widowhood, starvation and poverty in quick succession and decides to do everything in her powers to find security from these struggles.

The film, starring Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard and Hattie McDaniel, tells the story of Scarlett O'Hara, the strong-willed daughter of a Georgia plantation owner. It follows her romantic pursuit of Ashley Wilkes, who is married to his cousin, Melanie Hamilton, and her subsequent marriage to Rhett Butler, which ends in a tragedy.

Margaret Mitchell received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for the 1,037 page book in 1937. It was her only published work. It was adapted into the 1939 film of the same name, which has been considered to be one of the greatest movies ever made and it also received the Academy Award for Best Picture during the 12th annual Academy Awards ceremony.

MGM, Warner Brothers and 20th Century Fox were all offered the story and refused to take it. However, David Selznick of Selznick International Pictures decided to produce it and received an Academy Award himself. Considered a classic of American cinema and winner of eight competitive Academy Awards, including best picture, the 1939 film tells the story of southern belle Scarlett O'Hara and her love affair with Rhett Butler. Much of the four-hour film is set on the O'Hara plantation, Tara, and in Atlanta during and after the Civil War.

Gone with the Wind was popular with American readers from the outset and was the top American fiction bestseller in 1936 and 1937. As of 2014, a Harris poll found it to be the second favorite book of American readers, just behind the Bible. More than 30 million copies have been printed worldwide.

Margaret Mitchell might not have written the book, but she broke her ankle and was laid up at home, sending her husband to the library to obtain books for her to read as her ankle healed. Her husband grew weary of lugging armloads of books home from the library to keep his wife's mind occupied while she hobbled around the house and so he strongly suggested that she write her own book instead: "*For God's sake, Peggy, can't you write a book instead of reading thousands of them?*" he asked her.



The picture above is of a Tesla automobile that I took over at the Veterans Administration clinic. It was built by Tesla, Inc, whose headquarters are in Austin, Texas. Tesla, Inc. is an American electric vehicle and clean energy company. In addition, they design and manufacture solar panels and solar roof tiles, battery energy storage from home to grid-scale, as well as related products and services. It is one of the world's most valuable companies.

The stamp shown at top pictures Nikola Tesla and is Croatia, Scott #147, issued on January 30, 1993.

[Editor's Note: In poking around the internet, there are several other stamps featuring both Tesla the man and Tesla the car.]



Australia stamp slits

by Peter Elias



Many countries try to incorporate various security features into their stamps, as well as features that are supposed to discourage the re-use of stamps, especially if the denominations are higher.

In digging through some duplicates, I found this A\$3.20 Australian stamp, featuring the Sydney opera house shown on the scan above. It was issued in 2019.

At first I thought someone had taken a hobby knife to the front of the stamp judging by all the slits, but then it's really just a measure to prevent people from re-using; if they try to peel the stamp off, it would tear it in various places. But, as shown on the photo above, it was obviously possible to remove this stamp from the paper without tearing it!



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

March 2022

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

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

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

--> See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

ARLINGTON

March 2 David's Barbecue, 2224 West Park Row, Arlington (817) 261-9998.

EULESS

March 16 On the Border, 2500 Airport Freeway, Bedford (817) 438-4560

GRANBURY

March 22 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

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)

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

Don't Forget:
Spring Postcard Show - Mar. 11-12
EXPO Planning Mtg - Mar. 19