

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



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March 2021

Been There, Done That

Port Louis Market

By Pat & Robert Weidman

Back in November of 1998, Pat and I went to the island of Mauritius, which is in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar. We stayed in a resort on the southwest side of the island. Port Louis (pronounced "Por Lwee" or "Port Loo-is") is the capital city and is about two thirds of the way up the west side of the island from where we were staying.

One day we rented a car and drove up to Port Louis to do some sightseeing. An interesting thing about Port Louis are the names of some of the streets. Apparently they don't play favorites. One street was President John F. Kennedy street while another was named Muammar El Khadafi Square.



On of the things we did was to go to the Port Louis Market where you can buy just about anything. We really weren't looking for anything in particular. It was fun just to look around and see what was available for sale. Most of the stalls were small, some no bigger than a walk-in closet. Some were even smaller. If you see something you want, you need to bargain! When they give you a price, cit it from 30% to 50% and go from there.

The picture above is one I took while walking through the



Stamp Image from Collect.com:

<https://collect.com/en/stamps/stamp/561519-Entrance-to-Port-Louis-market-by-Thuilier-Paintings-1975-Mauritius>

market. This area had stall that primarily sold clothing. There were also stalls in other areas of the market selling meat & fish, fruits & vegetables, spices, crafts and souvenirs.

The stamp shown is Mauritius Scott #413 that was issued on March 6, 1975, showing the entrance to the Port Louis Market.

Been There, Done That

Belgium

By Peter Elias



Here's one of those countries that is kind of a "blur" for me. I don't even have any pictures, although somewhere there's a couple of seconds of video while I was driving through Belgium.

In 1991, my brother, two good friends and myself were on a trip to Europe. Given a lack of an affordable hotel one night, we actually had to sleep in our cars in an industrial park. But that was one country further north, in The Netherlands. And I do remember a small town on the Dutch Atlantic coast called Domburg - but that will have to be another "Been There..." article.

Our next stop after Domburg, was Calais (France). So all really we saw of Belgium was the roads & freeways that connects the two countries, and it was just a typical drive on a European road. All in all, it was probably just 50 or 60 miles of driving between The Netherlands and France.



Looking at the Google map of the Netherlands & Belgium border, I see that there are two choices: a ferry crossing or a bridge (which was further away). We took the ferry, as I found a photo taken on the "open sea"!

So I can truly say that I've "Been There", although the only thing I've "Done" in Belgium was doing some driving. Albeit, that was longer than my visit to (through) Iceland in 1984, when our plane made a quick stop there, although I did get to have a drink in the Terminal!

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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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 (higher 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

"Been There - Done That" articles don't have to be about a high-flying adventures in some foreign country. They can be about more mundane day-to-day things, such as, oh I don't know, fixing a leaky water spigot? You can read all about that later in this issue. But that article is not just about applying my personal experience regarding a leaking spigot and relating it to a stamp with the same subject.

Perhaps that article highlights a general topic that could easily lead to a topical or thematic exhibit for someone! Think about it: thematic exhibits run the gamut of just about every topic. In this case, it could focus on water issues, such as not wasting it for example. One could cover issues such as droughts around the world, etc.

So in addition to providing (hopefully) entertaining articles that highlight my personal experiences with a stamp, take a larger view of the stamps that I show. Pretty much most of them can easily lead to a topical collection or thematic exhibit. Of course, if I practiced what I'm preaching, I'd be up to working on about 159 specialized topical / thematic collections or exhibits by now (yup, that's how many "Been There's..." that I've written so far, not counting those in this issue...)!

But really, when you think about it, many modern stamps can be developed into a topical or thematic collection or exhibit! Start with one stamp and then explore how that fits into a slightly larger story than can be shown by stamps. You'd be surprised what can be incorporated. Initially, my exhibit about the "History of Audi" was just about the cars, but I incorporated stamps about the cities where the factories are, the people involved, the types of engines, and so on. There's always lots of "related" material. Give it a thought!

So go ahead, peruse the catalogs and find a stamp with a seemingly mundane subject that somehow relates to one of your life experiences and write it up (just keep it "real", no fiction...)! I personally find this a fun activity, and it is what personalizes stamp collecting & philately for me (gone are the days of simply buying new issues, putting them in an album supplement and repeating that year after year).

Coming Attractions

—> Due to COVID-19 and city / county / state / national emergency ordinances, many meetings will be held virtually via Zoom at least until April; for updated MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

2021

FEB. 23	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Virtual Mtg
Program:	TBD
FEB. 26	MCSC EXPO Virtual Meeting 7 PM
MAR. 3	MCSC - ARLINGTON Virtual Meeting
Program:	TBD
MAR. 17	MCSC - EULESS Virtual Meeting
Program:	TBD
MAR. 23	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Virtual Mtg
Program:	TBD
APR. 7	MCSC - ARLINGTON Virtual Meeting
Program:	TBD
APR. 9 - 10	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)	
APR. 21	MCSC - EULESS Virtual Meeting
Program:	TBD
APR. 27	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Virtual Mtg
Program:	TBD

--> It is possible that meetings starting in May might be "in-



Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received

\n/a

New Members

n/a

Deceased

n/a

Reinstatements

n/a

Membership Summary – February 17, 2021

Membership as of January 20, 2021	95
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of February 17, 2021	95



DDR (East Germany) Scott#1395)

If from September 16-18, 1985, I would NOT have volunteered to run a slide projector at the annual IAPRI (International Association of Packaging Research Institutes) conference sponsored by MSU (Michigan State University) in E. Lansing, MI, you would most likely NOT be reading this article! Nor would I have ever written this article for obvious reasons, since I would not be able to write about an event that I probably wouldn't have participated in!

You also would not be reading this particular edition of this Stamping Around newsletter, nor any of the newsletters since July 2001! Why would this be the case? Simple: my life would have gone in a total different direction than it did! Some of the many things that occurred from that point (September 1985) forward that would more than likely NOT ever have occurred:

- I would not have spent all of 1986 working in Switzerland.
- I would thus not have had the opportunity to drive all over Switzerland that same year during weekends and check out different places.
- I would also not have gone to Italy in the summer of 1986 (which was two of the *Been There - Done That* articles in last month's newsletter).
- I might not have a bought a 1986 Audi Coupe GT (Zazzle stamp to the right) upon my return, which in turn prompted me to later collect Audi-related stamps and subsequently create a 64 page exhibit on the topic.
- I would not have ended up working in Kentucky from 1987 to early 1990.
- Consequently, I would not have been laid off from my job in early 1990.
- Thus I wouldn't have called my former boss (back in Ger-



"Grüezi" in Swiss means
"Greetings" in English...

many at the time), whose assistance in turn landed me a job in Texas, via a company in Tennessee that was relocating to Irving (with a plant in Grand Prairie).



- I then also would not have found out about the Mid-Cities Stamp Club show from a flyer at the Grand Prairie post office around 1992.
- I wouldn't have met my first wife around 1993, since I wouldn't have been living in Grand Prairie at the time, and subsequently gotten divorced a few years later.
- As a result I also would not have met my wife Annie and have a son.

...and so on and so forth.

So, me running the projector during the conference in 1986 ended up with me bumping into Dr. Harald Severus that I had met a couple years earlier in Switzerland, someone who I had interviewed about *Packaging in Switzerland*, and to whom I sent a copy of the term paper that I wrote for a special course at MSU. He remembered who I was and asked what I was doing currently; I responded that I had just graduated from MSU with a degree in Packaging Engineering. He asked if I would be interested in a position with a new plant that they were starting up in Kentucky. After pondering this (oh...for a few seconds), I said "absolutely"! And then all of the points (and then some...) mentioned previously happened!



So what's the moral of this story? Simple: you can't possible plan everything in your life. Any one seemingly insignificant event (at the time) can totally change your future! Where you are, who meet, etc, can completely change your life. What if in the middle of the list to the left I had done something differently, say I didn't move away from Kentucky after being laid off. What then? I probably still would not have ended up in



"Haudi" is kind a hybrid word for
"howdy" & "Audi", shown on a
fairly scarce stamps.com stamp
"customized by Zazzle", available
only for a short time.

Dallas, a city which to me at that point was only the name of a TV show by the same name (and interestingly enough, I now live only about 3 miles from Southfork Ranch where the series took place...).

It's really all amazing, isn't it? All because of a simple slide projector! And certainly all the "custom postage" shown on this page also would NOT exist either, and you would probably be reading something else at this moment in time! Who knows what "could have been"... but I do know what "was", and I certainly have "been there - done that" Philatelically many times starting in 1986! Gosh, has it really been 35 years?

... And yet, I've managed to even illustrate this "what if" article with stamps! So, what's **your** story?



I took this picture of the
City of Dallas founder
John Neely Bryan's replica cabin lined up in
front of a skyscraper and
make it a Zazzle stamp.

Been There, Done That



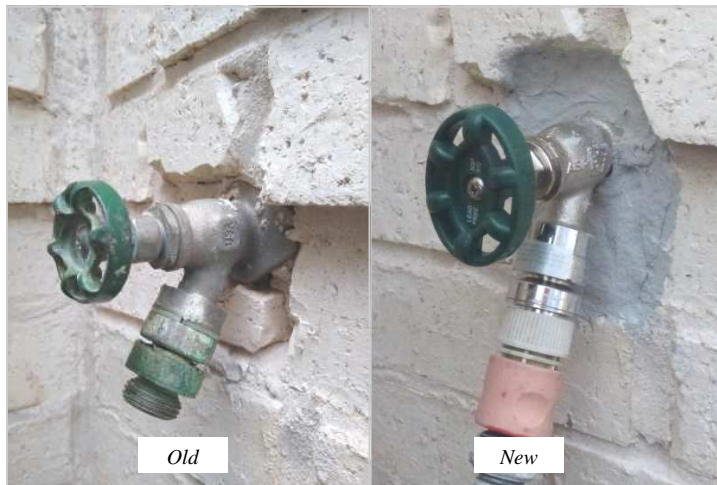
Water Spigot

by Peter Elias

This article was inspired by USA Scott #4524b, part of the "Go Green" pane issued in 2011.

As you can tell from the two photos below, this stamp directly relates to my own situation! And I'm sure you may have faced a similar situation!

Above (left picture) you see the



outside water spigot that the builder had installed back in 1996 when the house was built. As do most of these, eventually they start to leak when the tiny rubber gasket goes bad (and that gasket is way inside, about 6" to 8" from where the handle is, roughly about where the inside copper water line is).

Sure enough, it recently started leaking, roughly about 9 months ago. Just a drop every other second or so, but by mid-January, it turned into a trickle and then a steady stream, no matter how tightly I tried to close the handle.

Now generally, I've would have done this repair myself. In the back of the house, I've replaced the water spigot at least twice myself (since the plastic piece in the "freeze guard" seems to crack sporadically, especially when the water freezes, expands, and then cracks the plastic. Plastic is always the weak spot with products, not the metal..). But that spigot was fairly easy to replace. Simply unscrew it and screw on a new one.

But with the spigot shown above, on the front of the house, I'm sure you can spot that this wasn't going to be quite as easy! Why? Well, if you look past where the angled pipe comes out, there's an oval piece that is completely bricked in! And thus, due to the idiot bricklayers, now parts of the bricks would have to be chiseled out if you were going to have any hope of removing the spigot.

Additionally, the builder of my home seemed to have all sorts of non-standard things done. Replacing faucets in the house, I found that they used supply lines with fitting sizes that weren't usually used, or used different ones under one sink than another. This was really frustrating and led to unnecessary trips back and forth to Home Depot or Lowe's to find the right parts.

In this case, I called a plumber, since I figured this was "above my paygrade". He said that he hoped that the spigot would be screwed in, not brazed in, which would in turn have required tearing up sidewall inside the house (and thus more \$\$\$). Luckily, he did manage to chisel out a minimal amount of brick, unscrew the spigot and install a new one and apply mortar to seal it up. Phew!

That leak had wasted 4,000 gallons in just 1 month and raised my water bill by \$40! The repair was worth it!

Beethoven

By Ben Termini

[Editor Note: This is sort of a "Letter to the Editor"; first I've received in a long time!]

I appreciate the comments about Beethoven in the last newsletter (February 2021 issue of Stamping Around, page 9).

I would like to let your readers know that archeologists have recently uncovered his crypt.

They were digging at a site in Vienna, Austria when they came upon a marble tomb, with 'BEETHOVEN' carved on the outside. They opened it up and found to their surprise that there was a little old man inside - very much alive - with a stack of sheet music, a large eraser, and a candle. The man was erasing the notes from the sheets of music. The archeologist asked, "Are you Beethoven?"

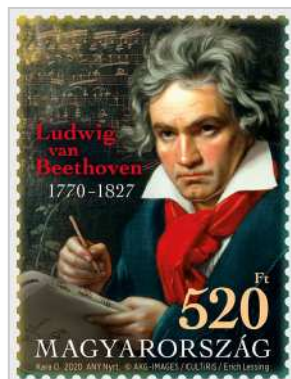
He said, "Yes, I am."

"Ludwig von Beethoven, the great composer?"

The man replied, Yes, that's me."

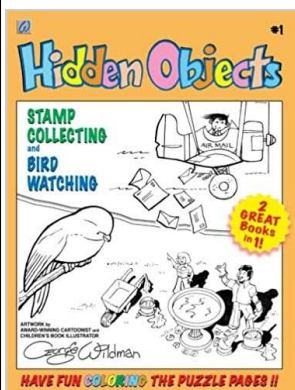
So the amazed archeologist asked, "Well, what are you doing here in this crypt, erasing all the notes from these sheets of music?"

Beethoven replied, "I'm decomposing."



Hidden Objects Coloring Book

By Peter Elias



An interesting item appeared in my PO Box the other day. It is the "Hidden Objects - Stamp Collecting & Bird Watching" 64-page book by Karl & George Wildman, that combines both stamp collecting and bird watching, and uses it to teach people about these two hobbies!

So not only is it about explaining the two hobbies to people in an easy-to-understand

way, it is also a dual activity book. On each page there is a black & white illustration of a particular aspect (such as "Airmail") which you can color in, and shown at the bottom of each page are other objects which appear somewhere in the main illustration (I vaguely remember this from when I was a kid...).

In the book's "Foreword" section, the authors give thanks to MCSC Member John Withers (who lives in Connecticut, but has ties to north Texas, Arlington in particular)! He is also the one that sent me the book as a gift! Thanks John!

The book is printed in Coppell, TX can be found at Amazon.com for \$9.95 at https://www.amazon.com/s?k=9781976139970&ref=nb_sb_noss

MCSC Euless Zoom Meeting Minutes January 20, 2021

By Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas called the meeting to order about 7:05 PM.

Attendance:

- Attending via Zoom were Rick Howell, Peter Elias, Ken Aldridge, Ken Wills, Sai Madhavapeddi, Ralph Poore, John Withers, Evan Islam, Judy Christmas and Skip Ely [see the Zoom screen shot of attendees at bottom].

Officer Reports:

- Judy Christmas gave the Treasury amount.
- Skip Ely said we had 57 renewals so far.
- Sales - Skip Ely said he had routed the APS circuit to several members and wound up with about \$50 in sales.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said the February newsletter went out today.
- EXPO - Ralph Poore said he would like the EXPO committee members to get together in February for a planning meeting. The general feeling was that a Zoom meeting would be best. Peter Elias said he would start working on getting judges for the exhibits.

Announcements:

- Peter Elias mentioned that the TSDA Bourse was moving to the Doubletree Hotel in Richardson (about 1 mile north of the previous location, since the Richardson Civic Center would be closed for group gatherings indefinitely).

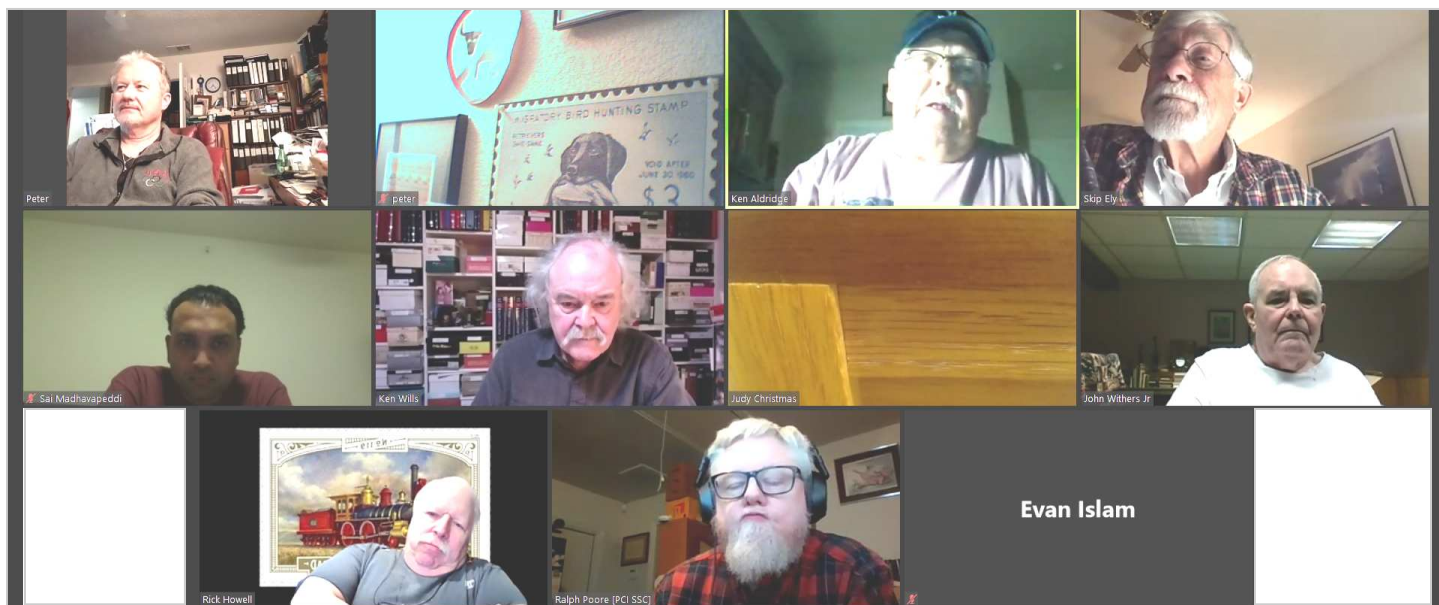
Program / Show & Tell:

- Ralph Poore began by showing a stamp-themed jigsaw puzzle.
- Ken Aldridge showed a lot he had purchased that he thought was in error. Turns out, the stamps he had ordered were behind a label in front! He also showed a mint sheet of the 5¢ Sam Houston stamps (Scott #1242 from 1965) that he said had the first occurrence of "Mr. Zip" in the margin.

- Peter Elias talked about the discontinuance of the webs.com sites where had built over 10 philatelic web-sites over the past 12 years that were being closed down by the sites owners and how he was now moving everything to a new domain called "BetweenThePerfs.com".
- Ken Wills did a mini-program on the "Mulready" postal stationary that was issued in 1840 along with the penny black in Great Britain.
- John Withers discussed his plans to focus on his Texas heritage in his holiday greetings this year. He mentioned a relative that pioneered a pharmaceutical company in the Grapevine and Alvarado areas in the late 1800's, and asked if anyone could help him with additional information.
- Evan Islam said that Jim Myers had been working hard on the revised club webpage and it was almost ready to launch [see below for a look at a screen shot of the now "Home" page].
- Rick Howell said he had participated in a stamp chat about judging virtual exhibits that turned out to be quite interesting, and not at all clear-cut on how to proceed.

Adjournment:

- Stanley Christmas concluded the meeting by asking if we wanted to continue with three Zoom meetings a month (Arlington, Euless, Granbury), the answer being yes!
- The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.



CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

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

For Sale

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

Wanted to Trade

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

Wanted

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

For Sale

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

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

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
 - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
 - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
 - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
 - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-members -> please inquire. Contact 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 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 8/19

Comic Strip - Pickles (Card from Vet)

By Peter Elias

PICKLES

By Brian Crane



This comic rings true! It does seem like even we get more cards from our vet reminding us to bring our cat in “for service” than we do “personal mail”! And even when the vet does use a stamp, it's a definitive. Of course that goes without saying, since these kind of cards are not mass-mailed and the postcard rate stamp is invariably definitive-sized ...

This comic was published in the Dallas Morning News on January 13, 2020.

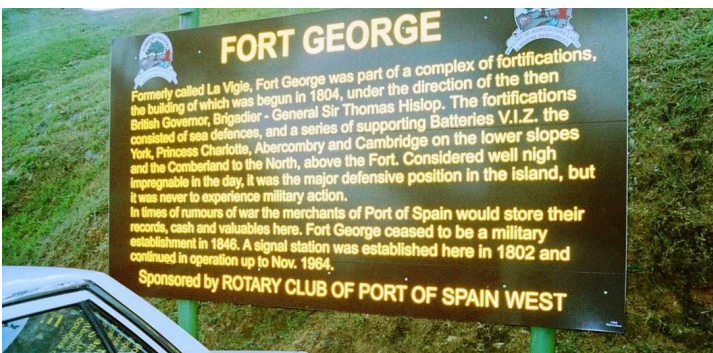
In early April 1999, I found myself in Port of Spain on the island of Trinidad, the southern tip of which is only about 20 miles from Venezuela, so this is as close to South America as I have gotten!

But this wasn't a vacation, I was there to work! An associate of the company I worked with that lived on the island had invited me down there to help with the installation and upgrade of the manufacturing portion of the software system upgrade. I certainly can't complain about a business trip to the Caribbean!

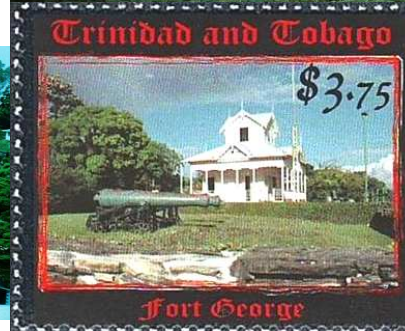


I don't remember the name of the hotel I stayed in, but the view was pretty nice! What I do remember though is that the coffee was pretty bad; they used "instant" coffee ...

Since my trip started on a Friday (April 2), I used the weekend on Trinidad to do some sightseeing on Saturday & Sunday.



I love to visit fortresses, so naturally I sought out Fort George in Port of Spain. It is situated on a hill overlooking Port of Spain. Some of the history is shown on the sign above. A western view towards the ocean with a couple of canons is shown in the photo below. There is a similarly named *Fort King George* in Scarborough, on the sister island of Tobago, which I would love to have visited, but there wasn't enough time on this trip.



Another picture that I took almost totally matches the stamp that was issued a couple of years later in 2002, Scott #647, part of a set of 4 featuring Forts on Trinidad. While I've tried to find this stamp (there were none on the eBay, Delcampe or Hipstamp

websites at this time), I did find the above image on StampCommunity.org.

In addition to my excursion to the fort, I also took a drive up to the northern coast of Trinidad, Maracas Bay. It was a fairly narrow road there, and I was told on Monday that even the locals didn't necessarily like driving there. I told them, "hey, I



made it there and back without any problems!". If I can drive on narrow high mountain roads in Italy (1986), I can surely drive here (well, one does have to drive on the left side in Trinidad, but that's never stopped me before). Unfortunately that day was a bit on the rainy side...



I did also take a sightseeing boat ride on the western coast of the Trinidad, but I can't off-hand recall the details ... but I do remember meeting a bunch of other American business men on that side trip and I had a beer with them once we returned to the mainland.

And as usual, this article was triggered by some scans that I found while searching for something else on my computer, and it thus sparked another "Been There - Done That" article. What will spark an article for you?

Do You Collect Topical Stamps Or Covers?

By Ray E. Cartier



If you do, the next question is, do you belong to the American Topical Association? If not, would you like to see a copy of their magazine, "TOPICAL TIME"?

In every issue of Topical Time, the ATA gives space, usually between ½ to ¾ of a page, to report on the Mid-Cities Stamp Club activities, based on our club newsletter, "Stamping Around". In every issue they report on the newsletters of a wide variety of Topical collecting "Chapters", which are comprised of groups of people who specialize in particular areas of collecting.

In the current issue, these included the Americana, Archaeological, Astronomy, Biology, Graphics (books & printing), Captain Cook, Carto (maps), Christmas, Disneyana, Ebony, Fire Service, Gems, Minerals & Jewelry, Judaica, Masonic, Maximum Card, N.S. Savannah Chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, Perfins, Penguins, Rotary, United Nations and Wine on Stamps study units. Others, like the Space Unit, publish fewer than 6 issues of their newsletters annually and appear in the pages of TOPICAL TIME, in only 3 or 4 issues each year. These groups of individual topical collectors assist collectors of their persuasions by incorporating a great amount of valuable information to their readers every year.

The ATA has published 168 different handbooks through the years to assist collectors in a wide range of topics. Their newest book, "Topical Adventures" explores the entire spectrum of topical and thematic stamp collecting and exhibiting. The ATA has a listing of available titles.

The January-February 2021 issue consists of information about Virtual Programs obtainable from the ATA, a comprehensive article on Comets and Philately, another on Narai, Japan and another on Mice on Stamps, and a related article on the upcoming Year of the Rat. Additionally there is an article on bicycles and carnivorous plants, plus one on EFOs (errors, freaks and oddities) along with a spotlight on the Maps and Trains on Stamps Study Unit, and the History of the world's first postage stamp with a butterfly (Hawaii in 1890) and an article about parachutes on stamps.

Among its regular features are found, information about the ATA, adlets, Exhibiting 101, foreign thematic exhibits, Membership, My Topic, a show calendar, topics on stamps (in this issue, deep sea diving), topics on postmarks, youth in topics and a listing of philatelic journals from around the world. Of course readers can get information from the pages of TOPICAL TIME on a wide selection of dealers.

My wife, Karen, spent 5 years, working over 8

hours a day, for 50 weeks a year, paging through the entire Scott's catalogs so as to list every topic which she could find on every pictured stamp! By herself she not only increased the number of listings of topics on stamps from less than 300 to about 1,100. With assistance from our son, Michael, an upgradeable computerized data base was created to enable changes and additions to be made by others. The result is that today, the ATA has a listing of over 1,500 different checklists available, and it has been noted as being one of the most popular benefits of the ATA to its members.

The ATA sends me an extra copy of each of its 6 annual magazines and I normally have them placed in the MCSC cabinet for use by members. However, I have a few copies of TOPICAL TIME at home which I will send to any of our club members who requests one from me. My email address is raycartier09@gmail.com. If I run out, I'll see what can be done to fill additional copies from our club library. If you collect a Topical, this is the one philatelic magazine to which you subscribe. To get more information about joining the ATA write to the American Topical Association / PO Box 2143 / Greer, SC 29652-2143. You can also see their website at www.americanstamp.org.

Extinct Car Companies: Nash Rambler

By Peter Elias



According to Wikipedia, about 3,000 car companies have existed in the USA since the dawn of the horseless carriage! Of course, quite a few less exist today. Even then, it gets confusing. "General Motors" could be considered a "car company" (it does make branded light trucks), and it owns other car companies such as Chevrolet, Buick & Cadillac.

And now that many cars are "international" in nature, what nationality is a car really? My wife's Volkswagen is technically an "American Car", since it is assembled in Chattanooga, Tennessee, although I'm sure that some parts are sourced from various different countries.

The above notwithstanding, shown is St. Vincent #818 (from the early 1980's). It shows a 1950 **Nash Rambler**. That company obviously does not exist any longer. The "Nash" brand (technically Nash-Kelvinator) went away when Nash was merged with the Hudson company to form the American Motors Corporation (AMC) in 1954.

The last "Rambler" rolled off the assembly line in Kenosha, Wisconsin in June 30, 1969, putting an end to the over 4.2 million cars that had the Rambler name. The "AMC" name took over after that. AMC was later sold to Chrysler which was then purchased by Fiat and this is now known as "FCA" (Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, N.V.). Studying the "family tree" of most current automobile companies is really interesting!

Lake Granbury Stamp Club Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2021

By Eugene Atkinson

Introduction & Welcome:

- Ten members gathered by Zoom at 7:00 PM.
- Hosts David Stockbridge and Rick Howell welcomed Judy & Stanley Christmas, Skip Ely, Fred Ekenstam, Gene Atkinson, Gary McNamee, John Withers and Peter Elias.

Show & Tell:

- Fred Ekenstam led off *Show & Tell* with a 19th century cover addressed to the famed buffalo hunter J. W. Mooar.
- Gene Atkinson was going to discuss a new publication from Professional Stamp Experts on color guides but was pre-empted by Rick Howell's column in *Stamping Around*.
- Rick then discussed the latest issue of *The American Philatelist* and how impressed he has been with the online "Stamp Chats." He also noted the APS presence on Facebook.
- Finally, Dave Stockbridge and Gary McNamee reviewed the latest auctions of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors.

Announcements:

- Dave Stockbridge called attention to the announced schedule for the Texas Stamp Dealers Association in April, as the hobby begins its return to in-person events.

Where In The World:

- Gary McNamee had to offer many clues to his mystery stamp this month: first issues in 1865, commemorative of Columbus sighting the coast of the mainland, issue for the railroad bridge over the Ulua River, a long gap in regular issues from 1944 to 1984 and finally the capital city of Tegucigalpa. (Answer: Honduras)

Program:

- This meeting's program consisted of members reflecting on their current collecting interest and experiences in the hobby.
- Fred Ekenstam described his collection of advertising and commercial covers for windmills, the six-gun, the repeating rifle, newspapers and barbed wire—the most essential elements in settling the West.
- Stanley Christmas recalled the history of Christmas Island as told in its postal relations with the Straits Settlements, the Japanese occupation, affiliation with Singapore and finally transfer to Australia.
- Gene Atkinson described the growth of the topical collection Rotary International on Stamps. In the last decade, many new issues have emerged from countries that likely never saw use of the stamps, and the rise of personalized stamps created whole new categories of limited editions.
- John Withers is arranging his collections to tell the family story in chronological order, stamps and covers suggesting specific events, travels and experiences.

- Peter Elias is working on website revisions to host club newsletters and his own collections.
- Gary McNamee collects U. S., Canada, United Nations, Australia and New Zealand and is considering expanding into Great Britain.
- Skip Ely is a worldwide "generalist," also picking out duplicates to use in the club's EXPO silent auction, beginners table and wherever useful.
- Rick Howell favors Vario pages in 3-ring binders, a library card catalog rack for glassine sets and arrangement of U.S. issues by type rather than by specific number.
- And David Stockbridge has expanded his U.S. collection, added Germany and over 160 other entities produced prior to 1960, and enjoys TB seals, Cinderellas and U.S. Officials.

Closing & Adjournment

- The meeting concluded at 8:15 PM with the notation that the Arlington Branch of Mid-Cities Stamp Club will meet via Zoom on February 3 at 7 PM.
- The next Lake Granbury Zoom meeting is set for Tuesday, February 23.

From the President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

I hope that by the time this newsletter reaches you everyone will have their power on and potable water coming from their taps. I experienced 28 hours of no electricity and one very cold house. I couldn't even hold my stamp tongs to do anything useful!

We are still in virtual mode of operation for the upcoming month. Again, thanks to all who have been organizing the various zoom gatherings. For all of you who have participated, I hope that you feel it is time well spent. Many of our members have shown some very interesting philatelic items. This is meant as encouragement to those who have not been able to join in to give it a try. There is much that can be learned from these events.

I know it is early in the year, but EXPO looms. It takes a great deal of work and planning to put on our show. To that end, Ralph has called for the kickoff EXPO planning meeting for Friday, February 26 at 7 PM. If you are not one of the regular chairpersons, you are still very welcome to participate. We need all of the help and ideas that our members can provide. Once the zoom meeting is arranged, Skip will send out the e-mail with the log-on particulars. I ask every club member to please consider joining in helping to plan for a successful EXPO 2021!

Hopefully all of you have sent in your dues to Skip. If you have somehow overlooked renewing your membership, we are still open for business!

Since we have no Arlington program chairperson, I am again appealing for anyone who would like to present a program, either at the Zoom meetings or hopefully in-person later in the year, to contact me.

Stay warm and enjoy our hobby!

MCSC Arlington Zoom Meeting Minutes February 3, 2021

By Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- President Rich Hildebrandt called the meeting to order around 7:10 PM.
- The first order of business was the swearing in of new officers, which was accomplished (more or less).

Officer Reports:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the Treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had 73 renewals, with 3 or 4 others saying they intended to renew.
- Webpage - Rick Howell said he was still working on access to the revised club web site.
- Club Website - Peter Elias noted the existing club domain had expired a day ago (which also means that the club email addresses won't function). Rich Hildebrandt said he would investigate.
- Other:
 - Judy Christmas suggested that we continue with gift certificate drawings during the Zoom meetings.
 - Ray Cartier asked about access to the Scott catalog.
 - Rich said he had arranged to get into the club library at non-meeting times in the past, and would see about doing it again.

Program / Show & Tell:

- Ken Aldridge talked about the Buffalo Soldiers, referencing the U.S. stamp issued to honor them in 1994.
- Ray Cartier had two copies of the 1976 souvenir sheet of *Washington Crossing the Delaware* with different shades of color in the sky, and wondered if this was a true variation. He also mentioned the experimental test plane dubbed "The Flying Pancake" (Vought V-173) developed during WWII on display at the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field.

play at the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field.

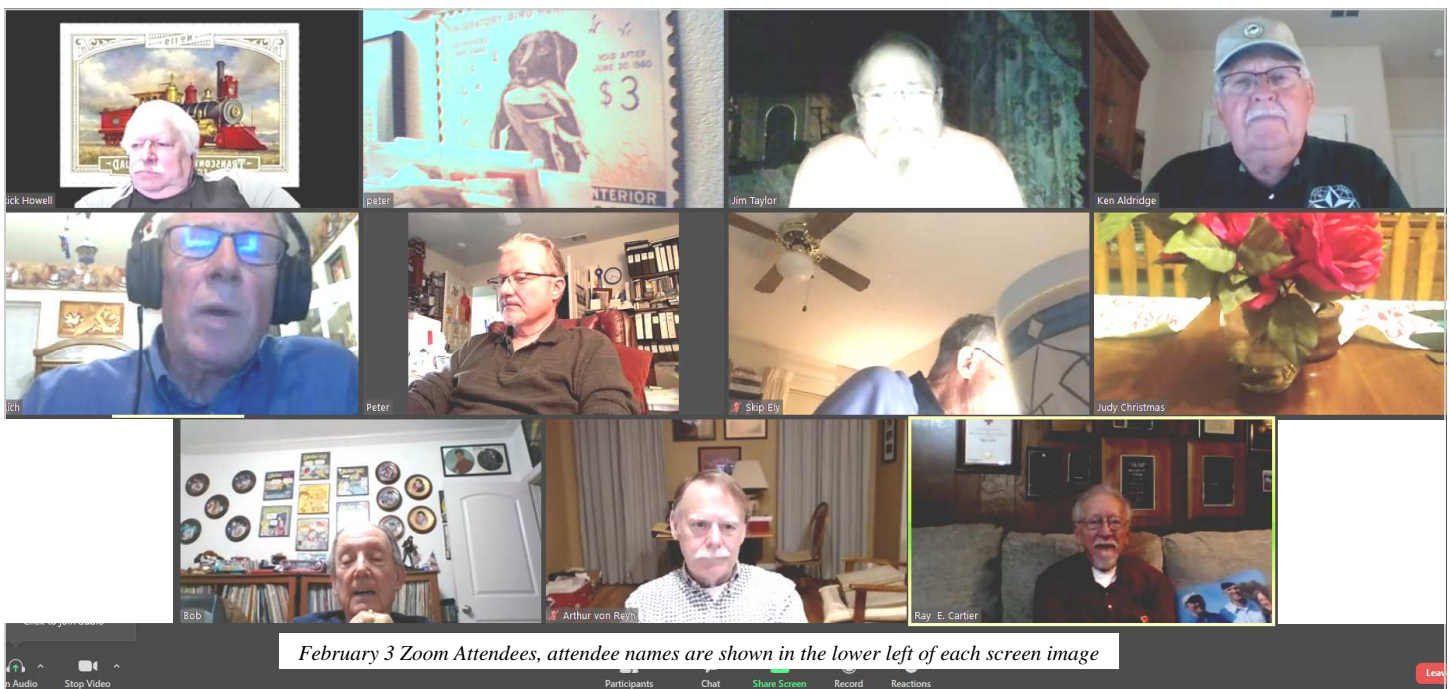
- Peter Elias showed a recent cover with Spanish ATM stamps. He also talked about the bridge in Langwies shown on a Swiss pictorial postmark and his visit there years ago. Additionally, he showed some recent stamps highlighting COVID-19, which segued into a preview of the next newsletter.
- Jim Taylor said he sat in on a Collectors Club Zoom meeting. He showed a Suez Canal Company stamp that was briefly authorized in 1868.
- Rick Howell said that he attended a Stamp Chat entitled *Patriotic Covers and History Part 2: Culture and Homefront in the Civil War*, presented by Leon Reed, author of a book called "No Greater Calamity for the Country". Leon's book is a history of the period leading up to and including the first couple of years of the Civil War based on patriotic covers and newspaper articles issued at the time to describe the political situation with both the north and the south. Rick mentioned it is a great read with many illustrations of patriotic covers shown for both sides.
- Bob Coleman talked about his collection of space covers and thanked Ray Cartier for assisting him in that endeavor.
- Art von Reyn showed how he used an Adobe program to reformat some Scott album pages. He also mentioned the upcoming 50th anniversary of the club in 2023, showing some cachets he did for the 25th anniversary in 1998.
- Rick Howell showed a YouTube video of "The Swearing Parrot on a Postage Stamp."

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were awarded to Peter Elias, Rich Hildebrandt, Rick Howell, Ray Cartier, Stanley Christmas and Skip Ely.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

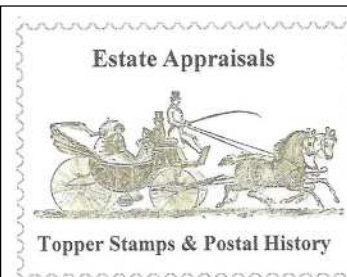




Philatelic Firsts

by Ken Aldridge

Shown above is a pane of 22¢ stamps issued on January 23, 1986 at State College, PA, honoring the American Philatelic Society (APS) as it enters its second century of serving stamp collectors. The APS was founded on September 14, 1886. This pane came with a booklet cover and they were the first commemorative stamps issued by the US Postal Service in booklet format. This issue was also a Joint Issue with Sweden.



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Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For online newsletters see

or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm>

(Note: this site will only be available until March 31, 2021) →



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Euless "Virtual" Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2021

By Stanley Christmas

Call-To-Order:

- The Zoom meeting was convened at 7:10 pm by MCSC Vice President Stanley Christmas.

Attendance:

- In attendance was Judy & Stanley Christmas, Peter Elias, Rick Howell, Ralph Poore, Jim Taylor and Ken Wills.

Officer Reports:

- President and Secretary: None.
- Treasurer: Judy Christmas reported that there are adequate funds in the treasury. It was decided to give away three \$10 gift certificates at the end of the meeting.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO: Ralph Poore is scheduling a Zoom meeting at 7 PM on Friday February 26. Skip Ely will be asked to notify all the EXPO Chairpersons and anyone else interested in attending.

Show and Tell and Program:

- The program was to discuss your favorite Stamp:
- Stanley showed examples of the pre-cancelled 4½¢ White House stamp (Scott # 809 & 844) and said he had discovered almost 2,000 different examples of the stamp with a pre-cancel.
- Rick Howell showed an envelope from South Korea that took almost 3 months to come to his address. He also discussed two of his favorite stamps since boyhood, the 1¢ Lincoln (Scott # 1113) and 3¢ Whooping Crane Wildlife Conservation (Scott # 1098).
- Ralph Poore said he liked all airmail stamps, especially the 6¢ B-52 airmail stamp (Scott # C49).
- Jim Taylor discussed his early interest in colorful African stamps and old European stamps. He shows a missionary aerogramme from Sudan that was one of

Thank You

By Peter Elias

On February 2nd I picked up 2 donation lots. One was from Phil Walker who gave me a box of items that he inherited from his parents, containing various loose stamps, including some mint USA from the 1950's.

The 2nd lot was in a bunch of different items from Byron Sandfield (which he obtained from various people).

Thank you to both for your donations! I gave the boxes to Skip who sort them further for the Beginning Collector table or possibly for "Mystery Boxes" at EXPO.



his favorite items.

- Ken Wills said the 4¢ makeup rate stamp (Scott # 2521) to 25¢ stamp has always fascinated him as one of the ugliest stamps issued. He also showed a used 7¢ Bermuda make-up stamp that was used with the 18¢ Bermuda stamp when the rates went to 25¢. He said hardly any exist used in condition.
- Peter Elias showed an envelope that he received from the Netherlands recently that had a "custom postage" stamp for the 2020-2021 New Year (with a Covid-19 theme), and that this stamp was only 1 of 5 that the sender had purchased! He also showed a 6 pence St Vincent revenue stamp (from the 1880's) that had been bisected in half and overprinted "Half penny". Quite a lively discussion ensued as to whether it was a forgery or not.

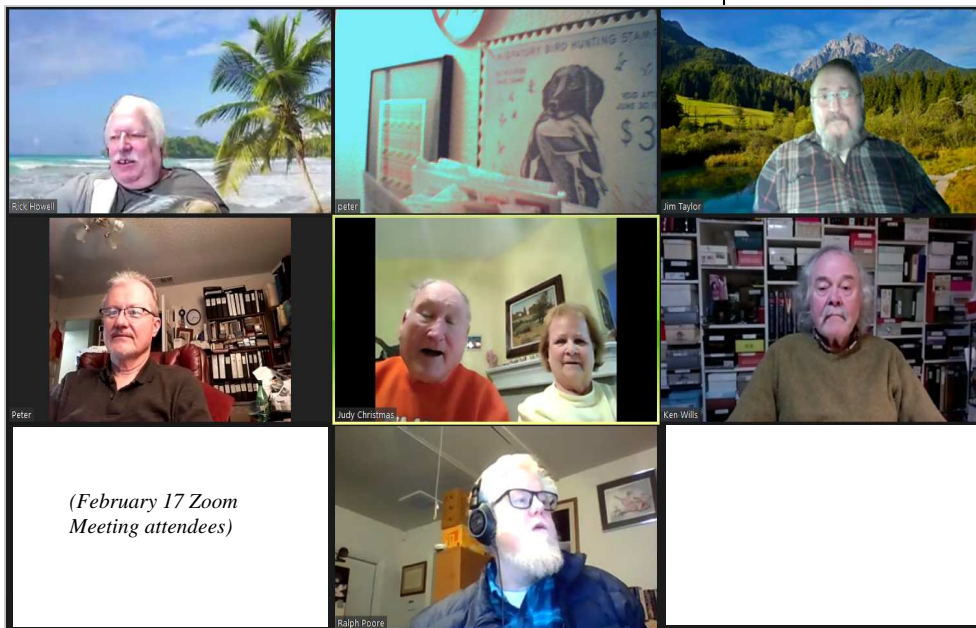
- Judy Christmas discussed how she got ten of the "Legends of the West" stamp sheets (Scott # 2870) and showed her favorite stamp the "Baby Zep" (Scott # C18).

Door Prize Drawings:

- The winners of the gift certificates were: Peter Elias, Ralph Poore and Ken Wills.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.



Condition, Condition, Condition

by Rick Howell

There is an old saying in the real estate business about the three most important things which determine the value of a property. That saying is, "Location, location, location". The location of a piece of real estate actually can have a huge effect on the value and selling price of the property, sometimes making the property sell for multiple times what you would normally consider as a reasonable price for the property.

In philately, a comparable saying would be, "Condition, condition, condition". The condition of a stamp in your collection can have a huge effect on the value of the stamp. The Scott catalog does it's best to establish catalog values of stamps, and according to Scott, prices are quoted on stamps that are in Very Fine condition. The editors at Amos Media have done their best to illustrate different stamp conditions in the front of the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers* and their work deserves much appreciation from the philatelic community.

Condition of a stamp is determined by many things. How well is the stamp centered? Does the cancellation (if it has one) obliterate the design of the stamp? Does the stamp have thins? What is the condition of the gum? Is the stamp hinged? Does it have hinge remnants? Are there holes or tears in the stamp? Has the stamp been repaired? What color is the stamp? Has the color been altered by sunlight or chemical exposure? Is the stamp real or a forgery? What about perforations? Any or all of these questions make a difference in the value of a stamp. I'm sure I might have left something out, but I'm really just trying to make a point here.

So, why bring this up? I have spent many years trying to find the best examples of stamps that I could afford to put into my stamp albums, sometimes buying multiples of a single catalogue number stamp to try to acquire the stamp in the best condition. When I was younger, I would trade off my old duplicates to try to get my hands on other stamps in my want list. These days, I just keep everything. But it is the nature of a philatelist to want to own the finest example of a stamp or cover or whatever he or she collects to add to their collection.

On February 9th and 10th of 2021 the Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries conducted an auction of the James P. Myerson Collection of Superb United States Stamps. According to Scott Trepel, President of Siegel Auction Galleries, James Myerson spent years assembling a collection of United States stamps of the highest quality he could obtain and brought them to the market this year.

As an example, here is the description of auction lot #7 which appeared in the Siegel Auction Catalog # 1231:



7 **10c Black (2).** Position 89R1, enormous Jumbo margins all around including small parts of adjoining stamps at top, left and right, crisp shade and proof-like impression, beautifully complemented by bold red grid cancels

EXTREMELY FINE GEM. A SPECTACULAR USED EXAMPLE OF THE 10-CENT 1847 ISSUE IN THE FINEST CONDITION ATTAINABLE AND GRADED SUPERB 98 JUMBO BY P.S.E. — THE HIGHEST AWARDED.

With 1994 (as a pair), 2001 P.F. and 2016 P.S.E. certificates (Superb 98 Jumbo; SMQ \$13,500.00). This is the highest grade awarded and it is shared by only five others..... 775.00

You will notice this stamp has a catalogue value of \$775.00 (shown at the bottom of the listing), yet it realized a price of \$8,500.00 when the hammer fell on the auction block. This is a direct result of the condition listed as "Extremely Fine Gem" in the second paragraph of the description as determined by the P.S.E. (Professional Stamp Experts) and having been certified by this organization. The condition is also certified by the P.F. (Philatelic Foundation).

Another example of a realized price exceeding catalog value would be this lot from the same sale:

331 ★★ **30c Orange Red (420).** Mint N.H., vibrant color on bright paper, mathematically perfect centering, long and full perforations

EXTREMELY FINE GEM. AN ABSOLUTELY STUNNING MINT NEVER-HINGED EXAMPLE OF SCOTT 420. GRADED GEM 100 BY P.S.E. — THE HIGHEST GRADE AWARDED.

With 2008 P.S.E. certificate (Gem 100; SMQ \$6,500.00). The highest grade awarded and shared by only one other. This is the first we have offered (the highest grade we have offered is a 98)... 250.00

You will notice the Scott Catalogue listed value for this stamp is \$250 for a stamp in Very Fine condition, however this example far exceeds the Very Fine condition as the P.S.E. graded this stamp as "Extremely Fine Gem" with a grade of 100....a perfect example. When the Siegel hammer dropped on this stamp the price realized was \$5,000.00.



So, you see, "Condition, condition, condition" is the most important thing for a philatelist to consider when assembling a collection of his or her favorite things.

At this time, I would like to thank Scott Trepel at Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries for being so generous as to allow me to reproduce their descriptions and photographs for this article, and for their efforts in maintaining their auction catalogues online and making them available for philatelists as valuable reference material. The illustrations for this article were taken from Siegel Auction Catalog #1231. The catalog contains many examples of high-grade stamps along with the prices realized for each lot, and I highly recommend you take a look at their website for more information. That link is: <https://siegelauctions.com>.

Well Done Guys!



MEET & EAT for March, 2021

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & Eats" are generally held before our in-person 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 any in-person club meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19 precautionary measures.

ARLINGTON

Cancelled until further notice

EULESS

Cancelled until further notice

GRANBURY

Cancelled until further notice

--> Please watch for email messages from the club secretary Skip Ely regarding upcoming meeting schedules (including links to virtual Zoom meetings).

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

Don't Forget:
All Club Meetings are virtual via
Zoom through at least April
--> EXPO Virtual Mtg on Feb. 26!

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

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 1/21

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