

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Flower Mound Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

3020 Corporate Ct, Ste 400 (Step Up Sports Medicine)

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER
MEMBER



Volume 38, Number 4

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April 2025

Stamp Supplies

By Peter Elias



**There are some Coin Shops in the DFW area that have a very limited selection of philatelic items.*

These days, if you want to purchase some basic stamp collecting hobby supplies at a retail store and do not have a brick & mortar stamp store nearby (and NONE in the entire DFW metro area), your choices are fairly limited* to either a stamp show (if there was one nearby and then only during that brief time), mail order or via the internet. Then there is the "Hobby Lobby" store chain. And they do / did carry some basic items, like you see above: A beginner's album, a catalog, Supersafe hinges & Show-Gard stamp mounts, magnifying glass, stamp tongs, stock pages, and an assortment of (slightly overpriced) stamp grab bags & some topical sets. The area to the left, out of picture view, was all numismatic supplies.

My notes state that I took the above picture in

June 2017. Now, compare that to the picture at right, which I took on March 17 at the same store. Now barely about the top 2/3 was filled with philatelic material, with everything below and to the left of the picture being numismatic supplies.



Now it is just a magnifier, a couple of overpriced grab bags and stamps, one size of hinges and one size of some mounts. That is of course only for the Murphy, Texas store; perhaps others carry more inventory? Fairly sad situation in any, at least at this particular store, and it is the only chain store that even seems to have ANYTHING philatelic related for sale (unlike the Woolworth store that I remember from 1972 in Michigan when I was a kid...). It would be interesting to know how much exactly of these items they actually sell at Hobby Lobby!

Article Index

Page

Stamp Supplies	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Germany #943 Fake	3
Club Meeting Minutes	4, 8
TV Philately: The Golden Years	5
Been There - Done That (Biplanes)	6
And You Thought The USPS Had Problems...	6
Requiem For The Athletics	7
USPS Delivery Truck Spray-On Cancel	8
Thank You	8
Member & Dealer Ads	8, 10, 13
From The President's Cluttered Desk	9
News From the MCSC Sales Table	9
Matagorda Island	10
Been There - Done That (Colleges)	11
MCSC EXPO - Mini-Exhibit Entry Form	12
Meet & Eat	13

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Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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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 (which includes an emailed or online color newsletter, or \$22 for mailed black & white newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

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

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



"Editor At Work"
 LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

It is that time of year again. Planning for EXPO is under way (and hope that you can contribute to ensuring the success of our annual EXPO).

As you know, since we no longer have judged exhibits, we do have 6 frames available to us at the entrance to the Grapevine Convention Center, thus giving visitors a chance to see some interesting items (and hopefully "food for thought") as they enter EXPO (and even when leaving it, as the 6 frames are on both sides, 3 when coming in and 3 on the other side).

These 6 frames can hold up to 96 standard 8.5" x 11" pages of material (each frame has 4 rows that can each hold 4 pages).

This space is meant primarily for 1-page & 4-page "mini-exhibits", which our club has had for many years.

So, if you have an interesting item (stamp, souvenir sheet, postmark or postal history item), why not show it off and do a brief write-up (1 or 2 paragraphs)? Give our visitors something "interesting" to look at that will grab their attention, perhaps something not seen often. Philatelic "eye candy" as I call it!

An application form is required (\$0 cost!) and is available towards the end of this newsletter. If you'd like, I can also email that to you (and will even make your job easier by making it a "fillable" form within the PDF file, thus you won't have to do any handwriting (other than your signature after printing it). Ready, set, exhibit!

Coming Attractions

2025

- MAR. 25** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
 Program: *Papua New Guinea* by Ray Cartier
- MAR. 29** **MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)**
 David's BBQ, 2224 W Park Row Dr, Pantego
- APR. 2** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: Semi-Annual Auction
- APR. 4 - 5** **TSDA Bourse**
 Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
 Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)
- APR. 16** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
 Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- APR. 22** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
 Program: *Sports* by Jim Case
- MAY 7** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: TBD
- MAY 21** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
 Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- MAY 27** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
 Program: *FDR Stamp Collection & The Man* by Joe McFarland
- JUN. 4** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Carol Kincaid (#682)

New Members:

Paul Mulholland (#681)

Not Renewing for 2025:

Bruce Davis (657), Scott English (629)
 Steven Gruhke (649), Roberta Hildebrandt (543)
 Bobby Mills (562), Wimberly Mills (614)
 Bryan Young (661)

Contacted for Renewal, No Response, Dropped

Curtis Christensen (656), Ewan Gray (660Y)
 Mark Kirby (654), Keith Parris (559)
 Charles Snow (443), Russell Thompson (647)
 Jerald Zimmerman (639)

Membership Summary – March 24, 2025

Membership as of February 19, 2025	105
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2025 or Dropped	(14)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of March 24, 2025	92

Germany #943 Fake

By Peter Elias

This is Germany #943, issued in 1967. The design features the entry gate of the Ellwangen castle, located in the southeastern part of Germany, about halfway between Stuttgart and Nürnberg (Nuremberg in English).

I'd show a mint copy if I had one, so this very lightly cancelled copy will have to do.

Now, let's look at this -->

This is a "fake" version of the stamp above. And yes, it is quite a bit bigger!

This "stamp" (sold as a "scrapbooking sticker") certainly should not fool any seasoned collector.

How many things are "wrong" here?

- 1) The overall size.
- 2) The "perforations". The real stamp is perforated via standard pin perforations. On the fake they must have tried to simulate undulating "die cut" perforations, but this looks like it was done with one of those "arts & crafts" scissors!
- 3) The adhesive. The real stamp had "lick 'n stick" gum, while the fake has "self-adhesive" (pressure sensitive) gum.
- 4) The printing method. The real stamp was printed via engraving / intaglio (recessed cylinder) vs. the fake, which appears to have been printed via offset litho or possibly laser printed. See 2nd column.
- 5) The color. It appears a bit lighter on the fake.
- 6) The design on the fake has been "stretched" quite a bit. Not only wider & taller but the ratio is different. On the real stamp, the pictorial element has a ratio (width to height) of 0.975, while on the fake it is 0.836 (almost square on the real vs. rectangular on the fake).
- 7) The paper seems quite a bit thicker and smoother on the fake.

Below and at the top of column 2 you can see a 600% enlarged version of parts of the real & fake designs. On the real stamps, almost everything is continuous lines (due to



an engraved printing cylinder) while on the fakes (due to scanning of an actual stamp), the design is broken up into individual dots).

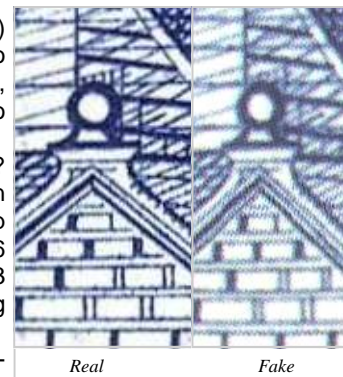
So where did I get these? They were offered on aliexpress.com, as "stamp stickers", in a quantity of 46 stickers (2 each of 23 "reproductions") for something like \$1.12 + tax.

Some of the other building-related stamps are shown below.

I chose the older German stamp for this article since I actually had it in my old childhood collection. Some of the "newer" stamps do have Euro denominations (and might be "confused" as real postage) and others are in now defunct currencies, such as Lire, Deutsche Mark, French Francs, etc. I also ordered a set of a "birds & mushrooms" fakes (see bottom left).

All designs are based on real stamps (some mint, some cancelled), but adjusted dimensionally to fit one particular size.

While they are meant to be used for decorative & scrapbook projects, I'm wondering if some people do think that these are actual postage?



Real

Fake



Arlington Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025

By Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- 20 members and 1 guest attended the March meeting. The guest submitted an application for membership at the end of the meeting.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rick Howell outlined the coming meetings and programs.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was substituting for Janet Moyer and said about 18 members had failed to renew so far.
- Treasurer - Rick said there were no issues with the treasury.
- Newsletter - Peter encouraged members to write articles (a common theme, it seems, among many periodicals).

Announcements:

- EXPO Planning Meeting - Ralph Poore said the next one will be 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, March 29 at David's BBQ.
- April Auction at Arlington - Skip said the next Arlington meeting would feature the first club auction of the year. Lots can be brought on the night of the meeting, but please send him a description of the lot and the minimum bid so it can be advertised in the next meeting notice.

Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier showed some Chinese space covers he purchased at an electronics show at Lockheed many years ago that are quite valuable now.
- Peter Elias was wearing his old lab coat from his packaging manufacturing job in Switzerland in 1986 and talked about lab coats on stamps.
 - He also had a cover he that was sent to him from an eBay buyer, who turned out to be the son of someone he knew back in high school (late 1970's) and that also a stamp collector.
 - He showed a couple of "cinderella" stamps (for scrap-booking use) made in China that bear resemblance to actual stamps! [Article on Page 3]

Program:

- Jim Case (see picture below) presented a program titled "Boy on a Stamp", about Canadian Terry Fox who raised millions running cross country after having one of his leg's amputated due to cancer. He was featured on a Canadian stamp in 1982.

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Donna Howell and Tom Turner.



*Photo Credit:
Peter Elias*

Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Call-To-Order:

- President Rick Howell began the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Attendance:

- There were 9 members present.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rick outlined the next few club meetings, including the Granbury meeting next Tuesday, the EXPO Planning meeting next Saturday and the Arlington on meeting April 2. That meeting will feature the club's first auction of the year.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was filling in for Janet. He said we had about 89 renewed members. About 8 members had decided not to renew and another half dozen hadn't paid yet.
- Announcements:
- Newsletter - Peter Elias mentioned that the TSDA bourse was coming up on April 4 & 5 in McKinney.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell talked about the availability of USPS podcasts. He said he looked at on about counterfeit coupons the USPS helped end, and saw many others he said looked interesting.
- Skip Ely passed around donation lot that he will likely put in the club auction in two weeks.
- Peter Elias:
 - Showed a beer coaster stamp from Austria.
 - He talked about a trading partner that collects U.S. "spray-on" machine cancels.
 - He also showed 3 deck cards from recent U.S. issues.
 - Mentioned that a Zumstein Swiss Ganzsachen ("entires") catalog is helping him with finding various Swiss postal cards that features city & village scenes.
 - Showed a recently received cover from Austria that requires a special "label" to be attached by a postal clerk in order to be able to use stamps for international postage.
 - He concluded by showing a packet of replica stamps he ordered from China that are sold for use with "scrap booking" and crafts projects.

Program:

- Rick showed a video from the ATA on virtual 1-page exhibits and suggested we might try to do something similar at Expo.

Gift Certificate:

- Was awarded to Perry Singer.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned about 8:50 PM.



TV Philately: Golden Years

By Peter Elias



My wife and I watched the Swiss-based movie "Golden Years" a couple of days ago. It was on Amazon Prime and looked interesting and said the language was "Deutsch" (German), it's actually primarily spoken in Swiss, although there is some German, and Spanish & French spoken as well. It was nice to hear my native tongues (both German & Swiss).

The movie itself generally explores themes relating to retirement ("Golden Years") and what to do for some excitement as well as issues on what happens if the marriage is on the rocks. It is generally well acted and worth a watch if you're in retirement age.

As luck would have it, a plot point early in the movie had the main character Esther look at some old letters sent to her friend/neighbor Magalie, who died while on a walk with her and the last words wear about finding the letters and keeping them from her husband.

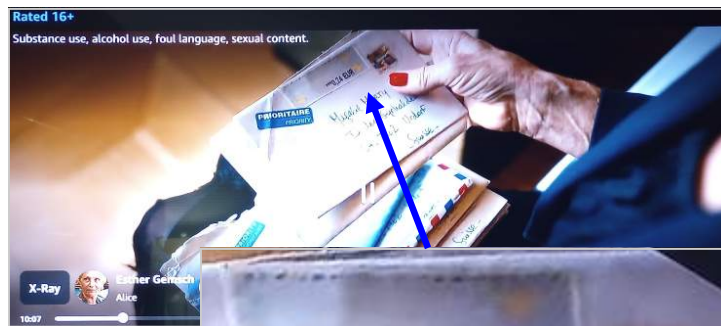
The screen shot above shows one of several envelopes that Esther finds. Another screen of this shows it more clearly, and they are of two French ATM stamps. I can make out a date of 2004 on the left one.



The second ATM stamp from the bottom in the first column is also from 2004 (based on the postmark on the left stamp), but doesn't seem to be a match with the one from 2004 in my collection. Both ATM stamps really appear to be the same type. The bottom left stamp is a match for the one shown. That ATM stamp looks real enough and should be fairly common, and thus no need for the Props Dept. to create a fake one. Whether or not the postage of €0.74 was correct for a letter from France to Switzerland in 2004, I don't know. That would take some more research.

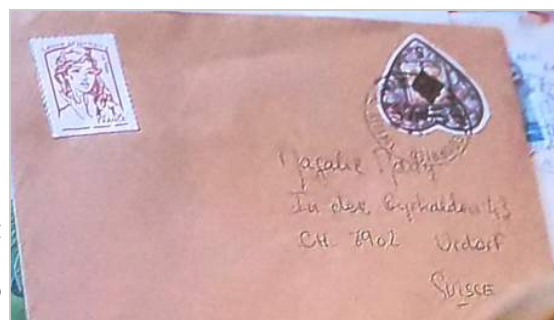
The postmark fairly difficult to read, but I can make out 2004 (the movie itself came out in 2022).

The letter is addressed to the town of "Urdorf" (with a Swiss postal code of 8902). That does match what I found on Google maps. There is even a street called "In der Gyrhalden", but the street numbers only go to 15, not 43 as on the letter.



Another letter (above) also shows the same €0.24 French ATM stamp, as well as a regular stamp that is a bit too blurry to make out (although perhaps a lengthy session with a magnifying glass and thumbing through Scott's might find it...). Not.

Then there was this envelope shown at right. The left stamp could be one of several "Marianne" stamps of this design issued over the years. The heart-shaped stamp (applied upside down...) is Scott #2997 (from 2004) that shows a Chanel No. 5 perfume bottle. I have neither of those 2 stamps. And I can not even make out where the stamp on the



envelope below left is from, presumably France?

In any case, the props department did a reasonably well job with these, given that they're on screen for only a few seconds!

Biplanes

By Peter Elias



I attended the 1996 APS StampShow in Orlando, Florida from August 22 - 25.

Driving there wasn't an option, so I flew there, albeit not in a biplane as the article title might suggest...

Biplanes have been featured many times on US stamps, the most famous being the "Jenny" (aka the "Curtiss JN-4H"), which was used to carry early Airmail. The USPS issued Scott #5282 in 2018 to celebrate 100 years of US Airmail Service. A "Jenny" was actually on display at the 2016 NY International Stamp Show.



Another popular biplane of the era (1920's - 1930's) was the Stearman, Scott #32411, issued in 1997.



While I have flown on various types of airplanes over the years (1960's to present day), and while there have been propeller or turbo-prop planes involved, I had never actually flown in a biplane!

Lucky me, as I had arrived in Orlando prior to StampShow, and got to take a ride in one on August 21 (see right)! I sat in the front seat, and the pilot sat in the back. And gosh, I hoped that the leather skullcap I had to wear would adequately protect in case of a mishap (given that the pilot looked like he flew this plane when it was new...).



Now, almost 30 years later, I wondered: "what was that plane"? There were no registration markings on either the fuselage or the tail. Uploading this image to Google, it brought forth a

lot of similar looking planes, but none that seemed to have the door in the front open sideways.

The company that ran this at the Kissimmee Air Museum shut down a few years ago (due to Florida hurricane issues) and operations moved to the [American Dream Sky Ranch](#) in South Carolina (which I called, but they don't do biplane rides any longer).

Since the Google search brought forth mostly Stearman and [WACO](#) planes, I pursued that. And yes, the current [WACO Airplane company](#) (originally in Troy, Ohio and now in Battle Creek, Michigan) has been building replicas of the WACO YMF-5 biplane since the 1980's. So, was mine a YMF-5, or was it a refurbished older plane, or a new replica build? I don't know, but a friend in Florida (who used to jump out of perfectly good airplanes) suggested it might be a UPF-7 (1930's - 1940's). I did find out though

Photos by Peter Elias
Below: view of the Orlando entertainment district during my 30-minute ride.



that the company name is pronounced something like "Waah Coh" (long "a" sound), not Wacko or Wayco...

So in addition to refreshing my memory, I learned a bunch of new stuff during my researching this!

And You Thought the USPS Has Problems..

By Peter Elias

Below is an email (as I received it) on March 10 from Carlos in Peru (with whom I do some philatelic trading). [Please excuse some of his spelling & grammar; English is not his native language.]

Well I have a couple of issues to share basically a month ago my letters were arriving with some delay understandable but now will be more than 02 months I don't receive anything mainly from Europe, the post office of my city at this time is exclusive for TEMU, I requested some info told me that probably all my letters are stucked in Lima due TEMU packages, bags containing letters from Lima are sent to my city twice a month due Temu excess of orders and packages have priority process so my letters are forgotten anywhere in Peru Customs I can't do anything.

The old woman was in charge selling philately at the post office of my city fractured her ankle is happy because will rest x 03 months at her home for recovering, so philately in this case modern one for me is done, I don't know for how much time, I still have a good amount of philatelic items for resell but buyers in Peru are facing economic issues as well Ebay limited my listings so is a sad situation, I don't know if your read the article appeared on the net that Danish Postal Service will not allow letters in year 2026, will be that the end of letters as well Philately? Who knows? if that happens I will miss philately a lot, I have some other collectibles will try to sell during these days but hope some day get back to philately reseller option, I will take a look perhaps I could purchase bargain big lots from philatelic auction houses, do not know really as I mentioned before the market here is extremely limited here.

Wow! So that does paint rather a rather bleak picture of postal operations by Serpost (the Peruvian Postal Service)!

First some things in context. His city, Trujillo, is situated on the Pacific coast (as is Lima), about 345 miles northwest of Lima. Greater Trujillo has a population of 917,00, while Lima (metro area) has 11.3 million. In both cases obviously not small cities. He has told me that there is 1 post office in his city (and [SmartScrapers](#) says there are 380 post offices in all of Peru). Ft. Worth has approximately a similar population of 980,000 and according to an "AI" search, it shows 16 post offices with addresses just within the city of Ft. Worth.

But here in the USA we do not have private company, like TEMU, monopolizing the USPS to the point mail would be stuck in, for example San Antonio, that would then only be transported to Dallas once or twice a month!

Apparently there's only one Peru PO employee handling stamp sales and that's now not possible due to a medical issue?

And he's right, apparently PostNord will no longer deliver mail in Denmark starting 2026 (but there will be private companies doing this?). Iceland stopped issuing stamps in 2020. Hopefully this isn't a continuing trend...

Requiem for the Athletics

by Dan Golden

There are few, if any, organizations in all of sports that have as complex a history as do the Oakland Athletics. Now known simply as the Athletics, or A's for short (the "Oakland" tag was removed at the end of last season), the team is currently in the midst of a temporary move to Sacramento in anticipation of their eventual permanent move to Las Vegas as they await the completion of a new stadium to call home. I won't go into all the details regarding the A's move as there is not enough space in this article for that. But I find it tragic when a city loses a franchise it has called its own for so long. And so as the A's prepare for Opening Day in new city, let this article be a celebration of their glory years of decades past and a requiem for what once was.



The A's began their existence in 1901 as the Philadelphia Athletics, one of the founding members of the American League. Beginning in 1909 they played their home games at Shibe Park, seen on US #3518, where they would play for the next 46 seasons. It was during their time in Philadelphia that they would host several players featured in the Legends of Baseball stamps, issued in 2000. Seen here are the hard-throwing 300-game winner Lefty Grove (US #3408k), the 1933 Triple Crown winner Jimmie Foxx (US #3408n), the 2x AL MVP Mickey Cochrane (US #3408g), and 6x World Champion Eddie Collins (US #3408b). All four of these players are considered among the best all-time at their positions, each being voted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. And for good reason, as they contributed to a near-unprecedented run of success, capturing 7 AL Pennants and winning 5 World Series.

The A's time in Philadelphia was certainly their heyday, but despite all of the team's accomplishments on the field they were inexplicably unable to draw sustainable crowds to Shibe Park. Following the Great Depression, the A's on-field success gave way to years of cellar-dwelling and financial struggles. At the conclusion of the 1954 season, in which the A's finished in last place, the team left Philadelphia for what they expected to be greener pastures in Kansas City. What followed was 13 seasons of what can generously be described as mediocre baseball, before the team again packed up and moved on to Oakland prior to the 1968 season. And in Oakland the team returned to a degree of prominence, winning four World Series, including three in a row from 1972-74, and remaining competitive more often than not while keeping the team in perennial playoff contention. It was hard for fans to be dissatisfied with such a team, and yet there was one facet of the franchise that dogged them for years: the stadium.

The Oakland Coliseum, the A's home field since 1968, was dilapidated and crumbling, putting the team in dire need of a new ballpark. As the city of Oakland stalled such efforts, the team's ownership grew impatient and began to look elsewhere, eventually setting their eyes on Las Vegas. Around this time the A's management referred to a strategy they labeled "Parallel Paths," as they simultaneously pursued options for a new stadium with both the city of Oakland and the city of Las Vegas, likely waiting to see which would offer a better deal. Finally in

2023, after years of backroom negotiations and keeping fans in the dark, the team dropped a bomb on baseball fans everywhere: the A's would leave Oakland at the end of 2024. Their final game played at the Oakland Coliseum was a 3-2 victory over the Texas Rangers. With that, the Parallel Paths had at last arrived at a destination.

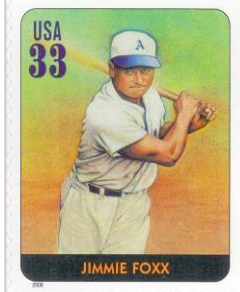
But this idea of "Parallel Paths" can also be used to represent the A's history in relation to the other Philadelphia baseball team that existed concurrently with A's—even sharing Shibe Park with them for a number of years—and continues to exist today: the Philadelphia Phillies. The A's and the Phillies once had parallel paths of their own, yet one team has resided in the city of its birth for its entire existence while the other has apparently been doomed to nomadism. The Phillies did not experience much success for most of their history, only winning their first of two World Series titles in 1980, by which time the A's had won 8 championships already. In fact, the A's have called more cities home than the Phillies have won World Series trophies! And yet, the trajectory of these two brother teams from the City of Brotherly Love could not be more different.

It may surprise some to know that the A's are among baseball's most historically successful teams with 9 World Series titles in their franchise's history, ranking behind only the St. Louis Cardinals (10 titles) and the New York Yankees (27 titles). The A's have seen the highest of highs—winning 15 American League Pennants and nine World Series titles—and the lowest of lows—moving more than any other team in Major League Baseball. It is bewildering to me how, despite this historic success, the once-parallel paths taken by the A's and Phillies have gone in vastly different directions.

It is a real shame when all is said and done, and while ownership continues to make decisions in favor of worshipping the almighty dollar, it is the fans who truly suffer when their hometown team relocates. It is those fans who grew up watching the team, cheering them on, dreaming of one day walking in their heroes' footsteps and building on the legacy of their hometown team. There are countless memories made every time they go to the ballpark—good times shared with friends, bonding between fathers and sons, players signing autographs for star struck youths.

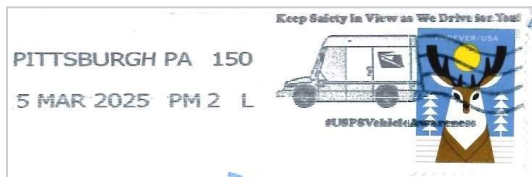
All of that gets stripped away when the team packs up and moves out of town. A chapter closes, the ballpark sits empty, and all of those good times fade away. What's left is a sadness, an emptiness akin to losing a loved one or a close friend. Sure, another team may pop up in that location again, but it never feels the same as it did before. Older New Yorkers can attest to the truth of my words when thinking about the New York Mets, who began play in 1962, five years after both the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants left the Big Apple for California. No team can quite replace the original, especially when the original brought so much success to its city.

One final note about the A's: the five World Series titles won during their time in Philadelphia still ranks as the most championships won by a Philadelphia sports team despite not having played in that city since 1954, over 70 years ago! So as we prepare for this season, the A's first in a new city in almost six decades, let us take a moment to remember the greatness of the team that once was and mourn the loss of the team that will never be again. It is the closing of another chapter in baseball history.



USPS Delivery Truck Spray-On Cancel

By Peter Elias



The USPS introduced a new slogan design for their inkjet machine cancels in early March. The latest version features their new mail delivery truck, about 96 of which have been built so far and are being tested in Pennsylvania (supposedly these are EV's).

I always seem to get a chuckle when I see illustrations of these new trucks, as when you see them from the angle below (the photo below I took at the Plano post office), they seem a bit goofy looking, and remind me of the cartoon vehicles in the animated movie "Cars".



Unless you're standing up while driving, I don't see the need for a window THAT tall!

Thank You

By Peter Elias

Thank you to Byron Sandfield & Tyler Veasey for donating 5 boxes of various older collections & accumulations, including a large number of United Nations stamps. I've repacked these to 4 boxes and dropped them off at the March 5 Arlington meeting.

A couple of superfluous items went to Pegasus Creative Reuse in Dallas.



Granbury Meeting Minutes February 25, 2025

--> Dave Stockbridge reported that no minutes were taken at this meeting.



Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



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Exp. 12/24

cunninghamstamps@aol.com

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Stamps and Covers

Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
APS # 082424, TSDA

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

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EAS_STAMPS

Jimmy Tomchesson
Owner/Appraiser APS # 236251

2210 Crescent Water
Rosenberg, TX 77471
jtomchesson@yahoo.com
832-278-5268

eBay Store: [EAS Stamps](#)



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, it's beginning to look a lot like springtime that is trying to come to Texas. Some trees are already budding out and there are now more warm days than icy ones. Stick around, it'll change.

That's kind of the way I feel about stamp collecting. Stick around, it'll change. I enjoy being a worldwide collector because when I get tired of looking at thousands of Machin stamps with the head of the Queen on them, I can switch over to my U.S. stamps and look at thousands of stamps with Washington's head on them. And nobody can accuse me of being a politician because of my stamp collection. I am an equal opportunity collector and I try to stay out of the headlines.

Being president of the stamp club has presented me with several unusual opportunities. I get some calls from people who have inherited a collection that they don't know what to do with, and I try to help them out with either finding a dealer, making a donation, or trying to convince them that stamp collecting is a fun and educational way to spend their spare time. Unfortunately, lots of people these days don't have any spare time. Everybody seems to be in such a rush these days.

Last month, I received an inquiry that made me say, huh? A lady contacted me and said she had a post office in her house that she wanted to sell! Well now, I must admit, my curiosity did a somersault and I made arrangements to go and see what the heck she was talking about. A very kind lady greeted me at the door and invited me in. She introduced me to her daughter and her daughter's friend who were having a conversation in the den, and then ushered me into the next room and as I was going into the next room, I caught a glimpse of what was in there. I think I muttered "Oh My God!" and the two younger girls burst out laughing. Well, a picture speaks a thousand words, so what do you think?

The lady and her husband went to Maine to make this purchase and bring it back to Texas. Her husband passed several years ago and she is wanting to find someone who wants to give it a good home and who will enjoy having it. The entire thing is made of oak, brass and glass and it is heavy duty. She is currently asking \$10,000 for the whole thing. If any of our readers are interested in this ultimate gem of postal ephemera, please contact me. There are more pictures available on our Facebook page. See y'all at the meeting.



News From the MCSC Sales Table

Dave Stockbridge
Sales Manager

- **Stamp Hinges:** Due to members requests, the MCSC Sales Department has ordered and now has a supply of hinges available at \$3.00 per package. The hinges are the "Supersafe" brand, pre-folded, transparent, tasteless and peelable, according to the package which contains 1,000 hinges. Global Stamps, the supplier, indicated that "*There are no longer any hinges on the market that we consider to be good quality*". The problem is that the quality gummed paper that was used years ago is no longer available.
- **New Sales Books:** This month the sales department received 4 new sales books. Two contain used US stamps. One having modern 22, 25, 29 and 32 cent stamps. Another contains modern 33, 34, 37 and 39 cent stamps. If you are looking for US stamps of the late 1980's up to the mid 2000's this is the place to look. The 3rd book contains used stamps of Greece from #43 (1875) to #611 (1957). The 4th book contains mint UN stamps. It also includes several sheetlets from both NY and Geneva. All sales books are available to borrow and take home for examination for 1 month.
- **Two New Retired APS Books:** We also received 2 retired APS books containing stamps of Greece each for sale at \$12 for the entire book. The Scott catalog value for each is approximately \$70 to \$80.
- **Special Sale on Retired OK and APS Books:** The owner of these books has said "*Dave, get these stamps in the hands of collectors*". All retired books are now for sale at **HALF** the price marked on the front. Most cover prices are about 10% of catalog. I have about 100 books from many countries to sell.
- **What Are Your Needs?** If you are looking for stamps from a particular county, topic, period or part of the world, let your Sales Department know. We will communicate this to those preparing sales books so they can help meet your philatelic needs. A new category recently requested is Japan.

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

Matagorda Island, Texas

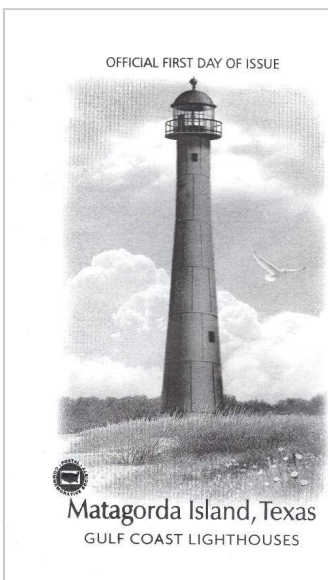
By Peter Elias

Various stamps have been issued that specifically commemorate various places or people in Texas (Sam Houston, the Alamo, the Hemisfair, Texas State Centennial, San Jacinto, Fort Bliss, Daniel Boone, etc). Given that most members of our club live in Texas, most of you have probably been to some of the places featured on various Texas stamps.

One stamp that I didn't realize that related to Texas was one of the Lighthouse stamps from 2009, Scott #4409, for Matagorda Island.

I didn't really even know where that was at! Looking at [Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps), it is located about halfway between Corpus Christi / Port Aransas and Galveston, along recently renamed “Gulf of America” (which is what is now shown on Google Maps...).

While I have been to the aforementioned cities several times, I've never been to Matagorda Island nor its lighthouse. But if YOU have, please consider writing an article about your visit there (along with a photo). Who knows,



For Sale

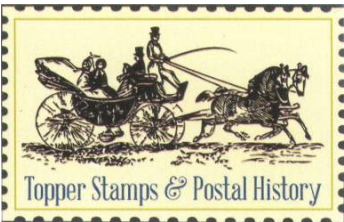
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy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

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

- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans](#) (1,700 items!!)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959](#) (900+ postcards !!)

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

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



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maybe some day I'll get to write one...

Colleges

By Peter Elias

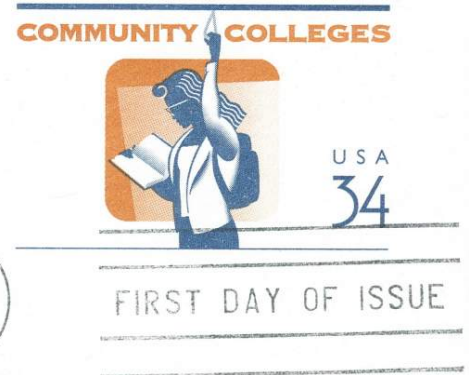
had to sit out the entire term (semester) in my dorm room (due to a cold, flu & bronchitis that I had all at the same time); and at other times, the degree-specific classes I needed were

Inspiration for articles where philately intersects with my own life start in various places. This article was triggered by the USPS postal stationery envelope shown to the right, Scott #U648, issued in 2001, that commemorated the 100 year anniversary of Community Colleges.

According to Wikipedia, [Community Colleges](#) in the USA started with Joliet Junior College in Illinois in 1901. Generally, public community colleges are considered

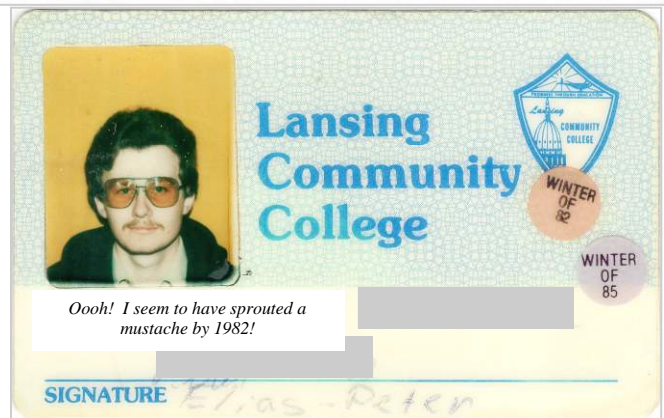


Community Colleges



“junior colleges” and usually only offer 2-year programs (which can lead to certifications or Associates degrees). Depending on the classes you take there, they can transfer to major 4-year Universities.

And while I graduated from MooU (aka MSU = Michigan State University) in the Spring of



...Can't believe how big those glasses were!



1985 (MSU is shown on Scott #1065 from 1955 above), I sometimes forget that I did actually have 2 classes at LCC (Lansing Community College)! So that definitely ties me to both philatelic items shown in this article!

And for my own self-imposed way of proving this, here's my 2 student ID cards, from MUS (above) and LCC (above right). It took me a while to find these!

My “college career” was from the Fall of 1979 to the Spring of 1985. Yes, that was more than 4 years to earn that “4-year degree” (Bachelor of Science in Packaging Engineering, which was through MSU’s “College of Agriculture and Natural Resources”. I do remember being sick one time and I

only offered at the same time, as well as having an internship in Germany in the Fall of 1984; that all stretched out graduation from 1983 to 1985.

So in the middle of my MSU studies, I did take Winter classes in both 1982 & 1985. I don't off-hand remember what they were though ...

After graduation in the Spring of 1985, I stuck around Lansing for the rest of the year, and volunteered to run the “slide projector” at an International Packaging Conference held that summer. As luck would have it, I met the guy (Dr. Severus) whom I had interviewed 2 years prior in Switzerland for a packaging term paper at MSU. And that got me my first post graduate job that had me work in Switzerland (and briefly in Germany & the UK) for most of 1986 (and has spawned many “Been There” philatelic articles 30+ years later! Got college memories? How about putting a philatelic spin on them?



My dorm room at MSU around 1981. And that black “seat” was from my old 1973 Audi (very comfy!) Photo by Peter Elias

MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB 38th ANNUAL EXPO

November 7 & 8, 2025 Friday - 10 to 5 pm & Saturday - 9 to 4 pm
Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051

1-page or 4-page Mini-Exhibits Entry Form

Exhibit applications must be received via email or USPS by close of Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Please type or print legibly. Use a separate form for each entry.

Name of Exhibitor _____ **___1-Page ___ 4 Page**

Address:

My ___Home ___Cell is (____) ____ - _____ E-Mail: _____@_____

Title of Exhibit:

25 or fewer word description of exhibit:

I or my agent _____ will personally ___ deliver ___ remove my exhibit.
(Name

RULES

1. These mini-exhibits are open to all Mid-Cities Stamp Club and Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society members.
 2. Each page must be on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper, unless approved by the Exhibit's Chairperson.
 3. **The entry fee for either a 1-page or 4-page exhibit is waived for 2025 !**
 4. Entry Form must be received no later than Tuesday, October 15, 2025.
 5. Entrants are responsible for insuring their exhibits against loss or damage; or deciding not to do so at their own risk.
 6. Exhibits must be personally delivered and removed from the EXPO by the owner or authorized agent.
 7. Exhibits should be mounted on Thursday, November 6, 2025 between 6:30 to 8:30 PM. For Friday, November 7, 2025 morning mounting, permission must be obtained from the Exhibits Chair and would have to be mounted no later than 9:45 AM, Friday, November 7, 2025.
 8. Exhibits cannot be removed before 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 8, 2025.
 9. All exhibits must go through the Exhibit's Chair for tracking purpose.
 10. There will be a limit of 2x 1-page and 1x 4-page exhibits per exhibitor. This may be increased after the closing date if the 6 available frames are not filled with 16 pages (or equivalent) each.
 11. There will be no judging or awards for these mini-exhibits.
- Please send (or email a scan of this form to Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano TX 75094-0427 before October 17, 2025.
 - For questions, please call (972) 671-0077 (landline) or email at peter@pcelias.com

Signature _____ Date _____

My signature above indicates my understanding of and compliance with, the rules stated above and I acknowledge that I am responsible for insuring my exhibit. I will not hold the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, the City of Grapevine, nor any officers, members, employees, agents or associated persons of the same, liable for loss or damage to this exhibit.



MEET & EAT for

April 2025

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.

ARLINGTON

April 2 Mahogany's Chop House, 1700 W. Park Row Dr., Arlington (682) 213-2253

FLOWER MOUND

April 16 Alforno's Italian Kitchen, 2260 Morriss Rd Flower Mound (972) 355-1709

GRANBURY

April 22 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E. US Hwy 377 Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg - Mar. 29
TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse - Apr. 4 - 5

Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

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

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

For Sale

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

United States Booklets, large selection of unexploded booklets for sale at just above face value. Starting with booklet #BK104 to #BK259. Identify booklet number desired and send an email to Dave Stockbridge at stockdave44@yahoo.com.

Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions. 4/23