

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 35, Number 7

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

July 2022

Been There,
Done That

Hohentwiel, part 2

By Peter Elias



Does the imagery to the left look *somewhat* familiar? Well it should. This is the Hohentwiel Castle (in Germany) that dates back to about the year 914 and was built on an extinct volcano.

While I wrote about the Hohentwiel back in the August 2017 edition of Stamping Around, what I did not have at the time is the strip of 4 stamps that you see to the left.

A couple of Christmases ago, my former boss (from Germany), who actually lives in the village at the base of the Hohentwiel, sent me a Christmas card with top stamp as postage). I wrote him back and asked if it was possible to get a mint version. He sent back this strip of 4! These are great!

Germany has a "custom postage" program (similar to a program we had here in the USA from 2004 until June 10, 2020). You are allowed to submit

your photos/images for printing on what is called the "Briefmarke Individuell". Unlike here in the USA, the were ordered through the German Postal Service, not private authorized companies like here in the USA, and they will mail you the completed stamps (you do have to have an address in Germany if you want to order these...). These are self-adhesive stamps (shown in actual size above).

As I have mentioned previously, I have been to the Hohentwiel several times. At least twice in 1986 (when I worked a huge aluminum converting plant located on the other side of what you see above), and also in 1999 with Annie and again in 2013 with Annie & Marcos.

The picture above was taken in 2013 by Annie, and it shows a similar view as what is on the 2nd stamp. This was the view we had when eating breakfast at a small farm / hotel in



Hilzingen. I mean who wouldn't want that view with breakfast, as we had below on the balcony of the hotel? The view above would be to the left on the picture below.



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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

With this issue, I am starting the 22nd year of editing *Stamping Around*! That's mind-boggling!

Back when I started my "job" as editor with the July 2001 issue, I used Microsoft Word. I was so disgusted and frustrated with using Word for this purpose, that I had to switch to Microsoft Publisher, which was infinitely easier to use when doing a multi-column newsletter with various graphics sprinkled throughout.

The previous editor had used Adobe PageMaker, which even back then cost something \$700 or more, and something that neither the club nor I could afford. Not to mention so many features that were overkill for a publication like *Stamping Around*. So Microsoft Publisher was a happy middle-ground, and I am still using it. For many years I used Publisher 2003, but now that I'm on Windows 10, I upgraded to Publisher 2007 (since I had free copy of that from Microsoft).

In the past I've published some of the "statistics" regarding the newsletter (number of unique pages, total number printed pages, time spent, postage spent, etc). They are considerable numbers!

21 years ago, I actually mailed the newsletter in #10 envelopes. But that had a lot of negatives: it required mailing labels (expensive), #10 envelopes (an extra expenditure) and reduced the number of pages mailed for 1 ounce to just 8 pages (4 pieces of paper). Not to mention that there was extra labor involved (applying the labels, licking the envelopes closed and having to fold each newsletter twice rather than once). Back then, I also usually mailed 100 to 125 newsletters each month, compared to only about 13 newsletters now, so that was a considerable amount of extra time spent. Now I just fold the newsletter once, and staple it. Ta da! Out of the thousands of newsletters mailed that way, I believe there have only been a couple (like 5 or less) with processing or delivery issues!

Coming Attractions

2022

JUN. 24 - 25 TSDA Bourse

Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

JUN. 28 MCSC-LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Jim Case presenting "Sports on Stamps" (topic to be refined)

JUL. 6 MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: "Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4 - Fort Worth, TX" presented by Ray Cartier

JUL. 12 MCSC - Club ZOOM Meeting (online)

Contact Rick Howell at rick.howell1@tx.rr.com for the link

JUL. 16 MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting (online)

Contact Rick Howell at rick.howell1@tx.rr.com for the link

JUL. 20 MCSC - EULESS Meeting

JUL. 26 MCSC-LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Ken Wills - Philatelic Trivia Quiz (w prizes)

AUG. 3 MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting

AUG. 17 MCSC - EULESS Meeting

AUG. 23 MCSC-LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Skip Ely - Philatelic Trivia

AUG. 26 - 27 TSDA Bourse

Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

SEP. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting



Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

n/a

Reinstatements:

n/a

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

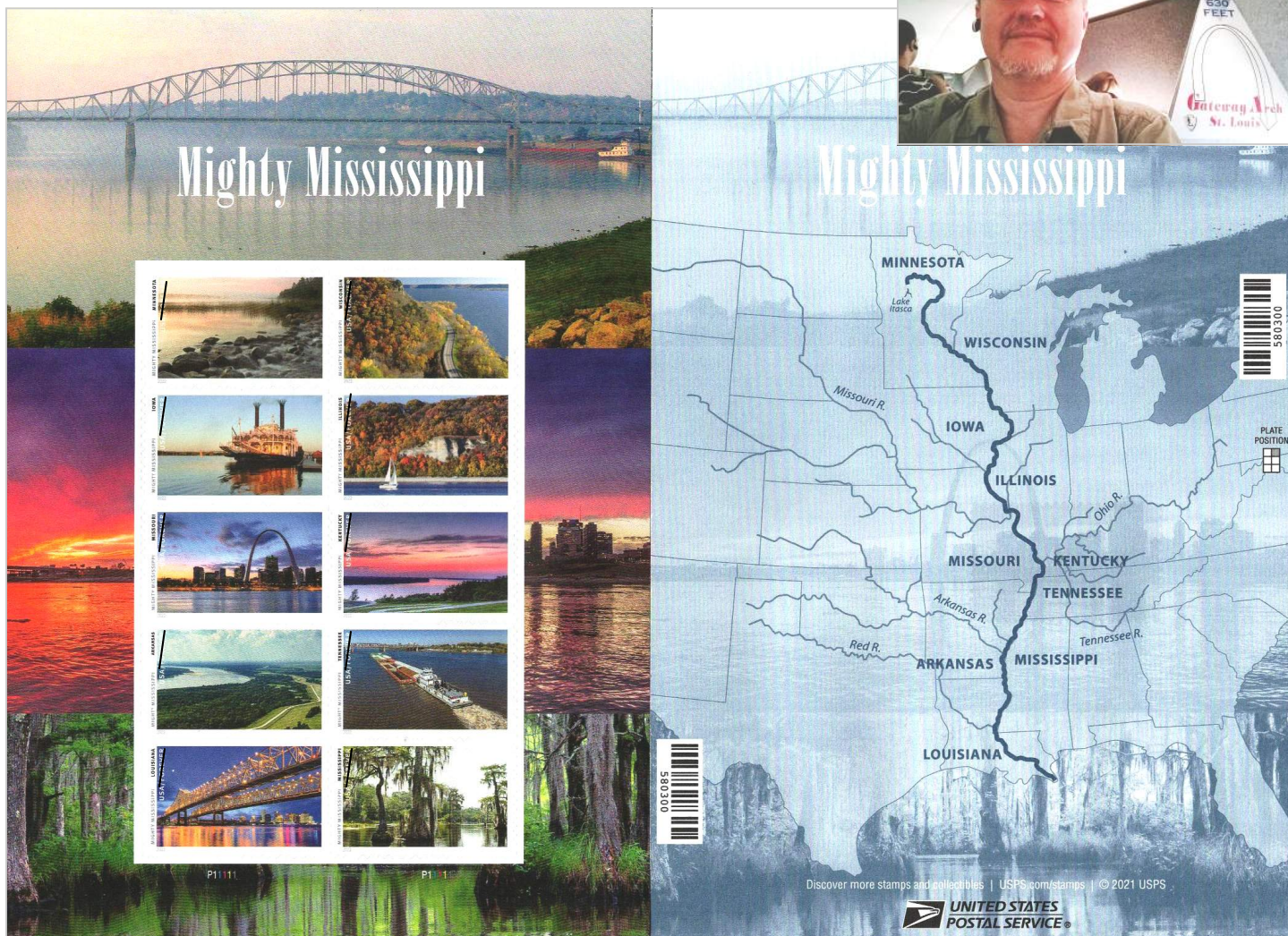
n/a

Membership Summary – June 15, 2022

Membership as of May 18, 2022	95
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of June 15, 2022	95

Mighty Mississippi

by Peter Elias



On May 23, 2022, the USPS issued a really nice 10-stamp pane (or should it be called a souvenir sheet?) featuring the "Mighty Mississippi" and the various scenery along its' banks on the 10 states that border it.

Over the years, I have been to these 10 states (and even lived in one of them - Kentucky), but based purely on the stamp designs shown, have I only been exactly to one spot depicted on them, and that is St. Louis, which features the iconic "Arch". Of the other states, most I've been to for various personal or business reasons, and only Iowa comes to mind as a state that I've simply driven through (back in 1980 when our parents took a big 10,000 mile trip "out west" from Michigan).

I have been to the top of the Gateway Arch several times. The first time was in early 1986, when I was temporarily stationed in St. Louis for about a month prior to going to my assignment in Switzerland for the rest of that year. I was also in St. Louis sometime in the late 1980's, when I lived in Kentucky. The most recent trip to St. Louis was in August 2015, while we were on a driving vacation to Michigan and back. The picture of me (at top right) on top of the 630 foot Arch was taken during that trip. St. Louis is a great city to visit.

I was pleasantly surprised that the Plano post office actually managed to have these stamps available on the first day of issue! And that they had actually ordered a whole "pad" of 100 panes. Luckily I was able to get that deck card and used the Missouri stamp on it and had it postmarked.

The scan to the right shows the deck card, but because of the huge green border, I cropped that a bit.

I could have used the Louisiana stamp on the deck card, since that would match the illustration on the deck card, however, I chose the Missouri stamp as that is the one that more in line with this article.

So, which of these stamps relate to you, the reader? Come on, write about it, send a photo. No need to buy the stamps, as I already haven them (unless of course you need one for your personal "Been There" collection...!



Former MCSC Member Donation to UTA

Submitted by Ben Termini

The University of Texas at Arlington has received more than \$1.5 million in support of scholarships for talented and deserving students.

Alumnus Edward Perez Jr.'s gift will create two endowed scholarships—one for students in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation and another for students in the College of Science. Both scholarships will be named the Edward and Dorothy Perez Scholarship Fund in honor of Perez and his late wife, Dorothy. The funds were granted posthumously through a bequest that named UTA as the sole beneficiary of Perez's IRA account at the time of his passing in 2018.

"Mr. Perez's generous gift demonstrates his understanding of how vital scholarship funds are to helping students from all backgrounds achieve their educational goals," UTA President Jennifer Cowley said. "He has left a legacy that will have a life-changing impact on students in UTA's nursing and science programs for generations to come."

Perez received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UTA's College of Science in 1975. He completed his courses while working full-time to support his family and went on to have a successful career at AT&T until retiring.

Perez wanted to contribute to the well-being of hard-working individuals striving to complete physical sciences and nursing degrees at UTA. In creating his bequest to UTA, his goal was to provide scholarship support to students who pursue their educations while employed.

Scholarships are a critical resource that help UTA recruit and retain the best and the brightest students from around the country and the world while advancing them along their career paths.

Through the generosity of donors like Perez, promising scholars receive the financial assistance they need to achieve their academic dreams and become the next generation of professional and community leaders.

For more information about scholarship support, visit the UTA Scholarship Initiative website.

- Written by Jenny Gumbert, University Advancement

Philatelic Food For Thought #2: Happy Kids in Communist Countries

By Peter Elias



Here is another go at "philatelic food for thought". Shown to the left is GDR #2045 (part of a set of 4) commemorating the 30th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The GDR was neither democratic, nor a republic (although was constitutionally a parliamentary republic). It was a dictatorship with no free elections, no divisions of power and no freedom of movement (see <https://www.hdg.de/en/museum-in-der-kulturbrauerei/exhibitions/everyday-life-in-the-gdr>).

Were the DDR kids "happy" in 1979 (as depicted on the stamp)? Read the article at <https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/09/europe/berlin-wall-30-years-schools-grm-intl/index.html>. There's lots of resources on the web that will show that not all was rosy for kids in the good 'ole DDR... But, we all know that countries issue stamps for propaganda purposes at times. This is surely one of them. Needless to say, this is a much bigger topic than can be discussed here, it is just meant to be some "food for thought": other than the commemoration of an anniversary, is there propaganda involved here? This would be a good topic for a philatelic exhibit!

Granbury Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2022

- **The meeting was cancelled by David Stockbridge due to inclement weather**

Time to Obtain Your Exhibit Prospectus

By Ray Cartier

MCSC Members can exhibit this year WITH NO FRAME FEES!

Our club budget is such that we can offer this to our members and we hope that we'll see some of you create exhibits for the first time to get an idea of how to display your collecting interests to others.

The Prospectus/ Exhibits Entry Forms are available on line by request to me at raycartier09@gmail.com. Exhibits can be a single page, four pages, or 16 pages, which is a single frame. Multiple frames would have to be in increments of 16 pages. At this time we are just starting and have 53 open frames left.

Two or more full frame exhibits usually start out with a single page showing the title of your exhibit, a few stamps or a cover that illustrates what will be shown, and a paragraph or two explaining what you are showing within the exhibit.

Share your collecting interests with your fellow club members. Let us all have a chance to see some of your items. There is still plenty of time to create a new exhibit or upgrade an existing one. If you have any questions, contact me at the above email address or by phone at (817) 275-2801. Ray E. Cartier - Exhibit's Chair

Spam A Lot

By Peter Elias

May 2022 Payment List

mid-citiesstampclub.com [donotreply@wetransfer.com]

Sent: Mon 5/30/2022 5:32 PM

To: news@mid-citiesstampclub.com

Greetings news

Mail May Payment list by the Board Of Directors. Please keep your records.

<https://vbnhco34ir8ehfg0v-394r-0ghfv-w0pr9hgv-0p9e38ghr4gv.obs.af-south-1.myhuaweicloud.com/vho3wer48igf-0389ih4yr-g0v8ihwre-09vgh-3we9hgvr.html?AWSAccessKeyId=BIYYVE07OMDKIELTTF0R&Expires=1656023755&Signature=5G6AcOzVQvQzMOHDH0w6cXfho=#news@mid-citiesstampclub.com>
Click to follow link

[VIEW MAY PAYROLL](#)

Mail Server.

As recipient of emails addressed to our club, occasionally I get something like what you see above. Some basic line about "Mail May Payment list by the Board of Directors" and that I need to "review" said list. Well, for one thing we don't have "Payroll". A quick hover of the mouse over the link shows it going to "myhuaweicloud.com". "Huawei" is a Chinese vendor of computer networking equipment and is banned by the USA for use in this country. So 'ya think I should click on that link? Be careful out there!

A Future Hell's Angel?

By Pat & Bob Weidman



No, not a Hell's Angel. It's just Pat riding a motorbike. That was on our honeymoon back in 1972. We had gone to Nassau, which is the capital of the Bahamas. It is located on the island of New Providence, which is the principal island of the Bahamas.

One day we decided to do something different than hanging out at the beach or sightseeing. Motorbikes were for rent and we decided to get one and ride around the perimeter of the island. That was quite an adventure since neither one of us had ever ridden a motorbike before! Of course, when you are young like we were at the time, you believe that you can do anything.

Somehow we made it all the way around the island with no problems. As I think back about it, it was fun. I don't think we would do anything that now since we are both older and wiser.



The stamp shown is USA Scott #4086, which was issued on August 7, 2006 as part of a set of 4 "Classic USA Motorcycles" stamps.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 25 members and 1 guest at the Arlington June meeting (the May had been meeting cancelled due to the threat of severe weather).

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt reminded everyone of the TSDA Stamp Fair in Richardson on June 23-24. He also noted we would begin scheduling a club Zoom meeting the second Tuesday of the month for our members that don't usually attend in person meetings. Our first will be Tuesday, June 14.
- Treasury - Judy gave the treasury amount, saying that there had been an increase due to incoming EXPO dealer table fees.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said that we have 95 members after the addition of one new member.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore said that our next planning meeting on July 16 will be a Zoom meeting. Ray Cartier said we had 60 frames to fill, and reminded everyone there would be no charge for members to exhibit this year.
- Sales - Skip Ely said he was looking for someone to take over sales from him by the end of the year.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell said he had one pound bags of U.S. and World Wide on-paper mixes for sale to club members at \$10 each. These are excess stamps from the Mixture Pick table.
- Judy Christmas mentioned an upcoming article for the club newsletter by Ben Termini about late member Ed Perez's scholarship donation to UTA (University of Texas at Arlington).
- Dave Stockbridge mentioned the Oklahoma City Stamp Show in Midwest City on June 24-25.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed some covers he had acquired recently to add to an exhibit he was preparing about the early days of picking up Air Mail bags off a hook (such as was done with trains).
- Ray Cartier showed a cover.
- Roy Davis showed a souvenir piece from the USS Arizona he had acquired for his Veterans Exhibit Trailer.

Program:

- Was the semi-annual auction (postponed from last month). 40 of the 69 lots sold for about \$250. The club netted \$28 from donated lots.

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Roy Davis, Jeff Jessop, Gene Pfretzschner, Donna Howell, Diana Davis, Ray Cartier, Jim Case, Rich Hildebrandt, Stanley Christmas and Janet Moyer.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at about 8:40 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:

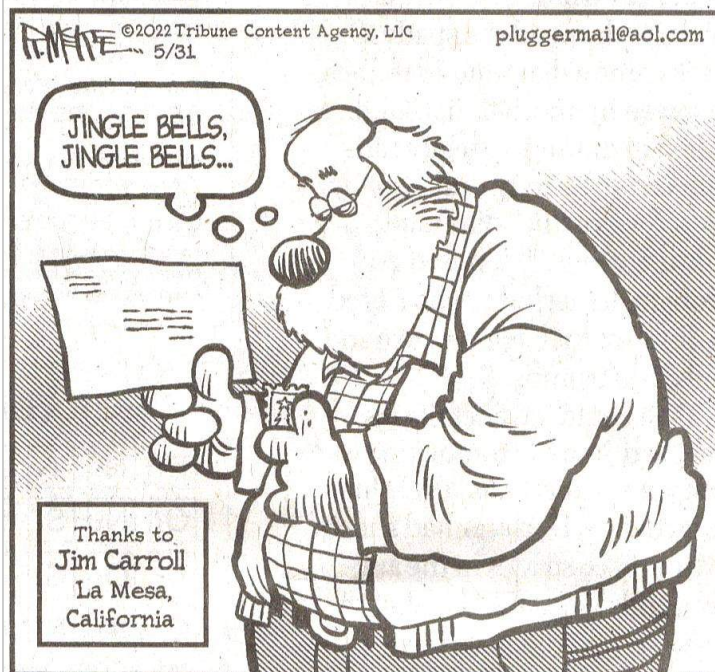
- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
 - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
 - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **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 \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/21

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

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

PLUGGERS

By Rick McKee



You're a plugger if you're putting Christmas stamps on mail in May.

Comic Strip - Pluggers (Xmas Stamps in May)

By Peter Elias

This Pluggers comic strip was published in the May 31, 2022 edition of the Morning News.

In this strip, it states that you're a plugger if you're putting Christmas stamps on mail in May. I guess that makes me a plugger! I use Christmas stamps on mail all year to use them up. However, I generally only try to use those Christmas stamps on mail that is NOT going to stamp collectors. And why is that? Well, I think most collectors think that Christmas stamps are in the same realm as definitives as opposed to "commemoratives", and thus less interested in them. Not to say that even Christmas and other Holiday stamps have spaces to be filled in album, my feeling is that collectors would rather see a commemorative stamp on their inbound mail.

Although I rarely pay bills by mail, when I do have to use non-postage paid reply envelopes or other business mail that requires me to pay postage to a business entity, I use left-over Christmas stamps. I could of course save Christmas stamps for next year's Christmas card mailings, but even that doesn't make that much sense to me, as most of my Christmas cards require much more than just a 1 ounce FOREVER stamp...

Back in July 2021, Pat and I decided to take a trip to Puerto Rico. We stayed at the Sheraton in Old San Juan, which is down by the bay. One day we decided to walk down along the shore where we saw the large "I Love PR" sign. I took a picture of Pat standing next to it, which is shown below.



Puerto Rico, which translates to "Rich Port" is an island in the Caribbean, 1,000 miles southeast of Florida. Our direct flight from DFW took five hours. Puerto Rico was discovered by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the new world in 1493. He claimed it for Spain and name it *San Juan Batista*, which translates to "St. John the Baptist" in Spanish. It remained a Spanish possession until 1898, when it was turned over to the United States during the Spanish-American War.

In 1952, Puerto Rico became a Commonwealth. On more than one occasion, it was put to a vote of the Puerto Rican people if they wanted independence, statehood, or to continue as a Commonwealth. They chose to continue as a Commonwealth.



The stamp shown is USA Scott #4318, issued on August 11, 2011 and features the flag of Puerto Rico.

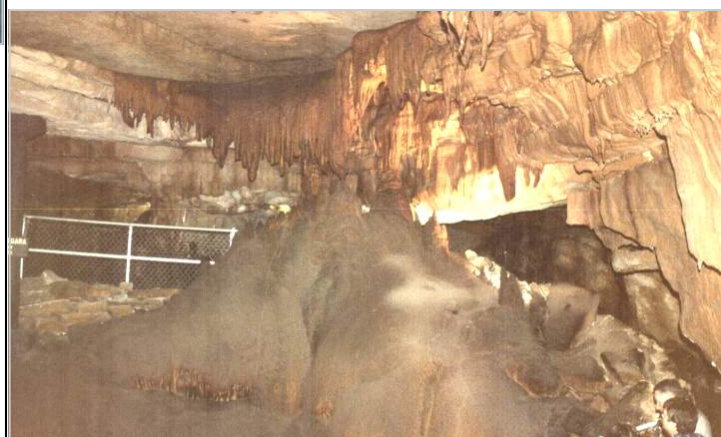
In 1987, after my year of working in Switzerland, I found myself living and working in the State of Kentucky.

Given that I like to visit caves (even Switzerland had a couple that I visited), I figured that I would check out the "Mammoth Caverns", since

they weren't too far a drive from where I lived.

The Mammoth Cave is a US National Park, and has its own post office - although I didn't know that at the time). The Mammoth Caves are featured on Scott #4068, as part of a sheet of 50 stamps featuring "Superlatives" (longest, tallest, etc) issued on May 27, 2006.

Rummaging around my old photo albums, I actually found the entry ticket from April 25, 1987 (see right) along with a couple of photos that I took (below). No pictures of me though, as back



then all I had was a bulky 35mm camera, no tripod with me and I was traveling by myself that day.

Mammoth Cave is the world's longest known cave system, with

more than 420 explored miles of passageways.

At the National Park Service website (see <https://www.nps.gov/maca/index.htm>), there are over 20 different "tours" listed, based on my ticket stub from 1987, the current "Frozen Niagara" tour would cost \$18 (unless you're a "senior").

The "Grand Central Station" sign shown above is fairly close to the beginning of the Frozen Niagara tour. For further reading, here's a link to a 1960's brochure: <http://npshistory.com/brochures/maca/1960.pdf>

Go ahead and review that 2006 sheet of USA "Superlatives" stamps. Have you seen any of the animals or been to any of the places shown on those stamps? If so, write about it! Has anyone actually been to all 50? I still have about 7 of those 50 stamps earmarked for future articles!

MCSC Eulless Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 10 members were present.

Opening:

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

Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas said that more dealer table fees had been received for EXPO.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said there were no changes in the membership.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said Dave Stockbridge's OPS (Oklahoma Philatelic Society) sales books were doing well.
- Newsletter - Peter said that the next newsletter was almost finished.
- EXPO – Stanley Christmas said the next EXPO meeting would be held on July 16 via Zoom. He said he had applications for exhibits, with plenty of room for all numbers of frames.
- Zoom Meeting on June 14 - Rick Howell said the Zoom meeting the previous evening went well, and we'll do it again on July 12 (second Tuesday of the month).

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed a recently purchased book on the history of aviation 1937-53, to help with his exhibit project on airmail pickup. He also had a test flight cover from 1930.
- Tom Cunningham said he had recently acquired two covers with the first ten Tristan Da Cunha stamps (which were overprinted St. Helena stamps).
- Rick Howell said he had Mix Pick surplus bundles of U.S. and WW stamps for sale to club members.
- Ken Wills showed a cover that was delivered to him using only his last name and the Zip Code 5+4+2. He had sent the cover in another envelope to a friend and asked him to send it back to him to see if it would get to him (it did!). Ken said he will write an article for the newsletter about it.
- Skip Ely said he saw an article in a recent philatelic magazine about using PCS FDCs (the ones inserted in the write-ups) as handouts at the beginners table, and thought he might try it at EXPO.
- Peter Elias showed a deck card from the recently issued "Mighty Mississippi" stamps. He also had some stamps with nice "Coppell" socked-on-the-nose cancels. He then showed an envelope that had been torn almost in half, apparently in a postmark machine (he said it would in the newsletter - see page 10) and also had a philatelic magazine from overseas that had been mangled in the mail.

There were two further discussion topics:

- One was Peter's ongoing saga of counterfeit stamps.
- The other was brought up by Ken Wills regarding arrangements for dispositions of collections when the inevitable occurs.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Peter Elias and Sai Madhavapeddi. A tote bag donated by Ken Wills was won by Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:35 PM.

President's Letter

By Rich Hildebrandt

Hello again from a sweltering Arlington!

The June Arlington Auction went off very well thanks especially to Skip for all of his work in organizing the lots and conducting the event. Thanks also to Gene Pfretzschner for assisting with identifying those lots of interest to our bidders. There was some lively bidding and I hope that all of the participants enjoyed their purchases.

We will have another auction again in Arlington in the fall. It is not too early to identify items that you might want to submit for the auction. I know that Granbury runs very successful ones and it is possible to put lots in those events without actually being at their meetings. Dave Stockbridge is the person to contact about how to go about it.


On another front, Rick Howell conducted a successful Zoom meeting this past week to involve some of the remote club members. If the response is good enough, he expects to make it a regular event. It is open to any club members who wish to participate, not just those who are too distant from the regular meeting sites. It is certainly a chance to interact with people who we don't get to see at meetings and to maybe broaden our club's reach and possibly your own knowledge. It will probably be pretty informal as far as a program goes but the discussions should be enriching.

Again, EXPO is on the horizon. Ralph plans on having a Zoom meeting in July to make it easier for some folks to participate. With the increasing price of gasoline, a Zoom meeting will remove some of the financial burden on members, as well as be a time saver related to people having to travel for the in-person gatherings.

For those not presently on one of the EXPO committees, there is plenty of opportunity to join in the fun. Many of the present members would welcome an assistant to learn in to the roles that we need to conduct a successful show. This show is our primary fund raiser and enables us to keep dues down.

Hope to see many of you at the July Arlington meeting.

Keep cool and enjoy your philatelic activities.



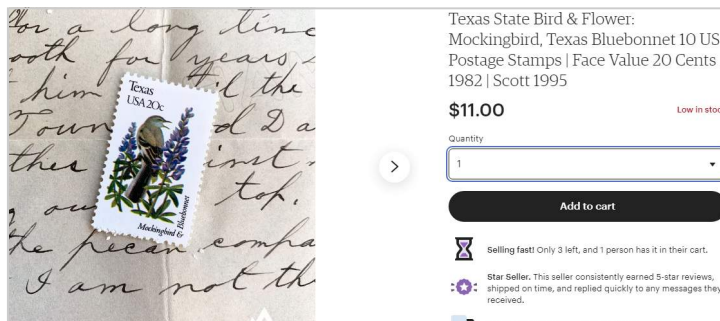
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www.topperstamps.com

Am I In The Wrong Business?

by Peter Elias

Some of you may be familiar with Etsy, an online marketplace that caters mostly to crafts. I normally haven't gone there much, since "crafts" aren't a big area of interest to me. However, when I typed in "stamps" in their search box, up come a LOT of ads for mint USA stamps, such as this one:



Or this one:



All I can say is WOW! The price for that Texas State Bird & Flower stamp is for ONE stamp (plus \$4.48 to ship according to Etsy). For the Clown stamp, the price is for an entire sheet (+\$4.48 shipping).

Given that pretty much all older USA mint stamps (say 1950's to early 2000's) can be bought for a fraction of face value, then this is certainly a good moneymaker for the Etsy seller (both of the above stamps are from the same seller, which has a solid 5-star rating).

Now, the above said, I'd say that none of the buyers are going to be stamp collectors, but people that want to adorn their mail or craft pieces with "vintage" USA stamps! I'm sure that most non-collectors don't know that they could buy all of these types of stamps at face (or well below) at their nearest stamp dealer bourse or stamp show (but of course, a lot of people may not live anywhere near a stamp show or bourse...).

As a collector (and eBay seller of philatelic items), I do kind of cringe a bit when I see prices like this, and would find it personally difficult to put prices like these on items such as these, as I would feel that I'm ripping off the buyer!

But as they say, "Caveat Emptor" ("Let the buyer beware"). If there is a willing seller and a willing buyer, then there's nothing wrong or illegal about that.

But also remember that Etsy, just like other online marketplace platforms (think eBay, Amazon, HipStamp, Delcampe and others) charge a variety of fees. Etsy does charge a "listing fee", "ad fees", "subscription fees", "payment processing fees", "off-site ad fees", etc. Read up on these closely before signing up!

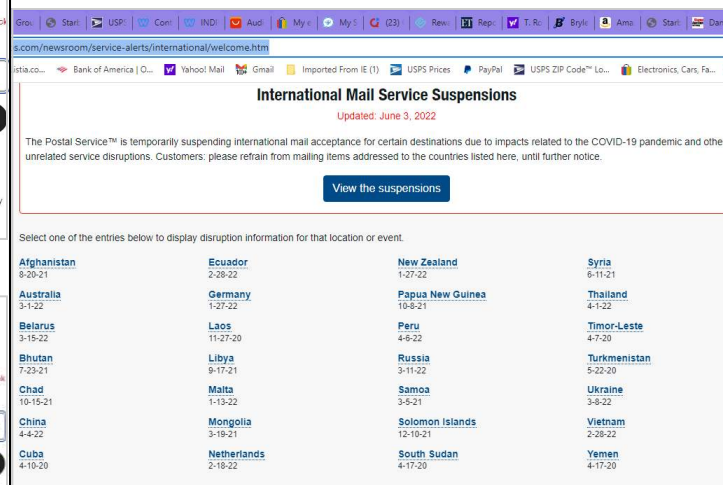
USPS Service Suspensions

by Peter Elias

As stamp collectors, we often send mail to other countries. Given the recent pandemic, there are various countries that have suspended mail services altogether, or even if they haven't, the USPS might not accept mail to be sent to these countries.

To check on the current status of service suspensions, visit the USPS website at:

<https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm>



So given the screen shot above (from June 10), if you were to click on Ukraine, you'd get the following information:

3-8-22

Global Express Guarantee (GXG®) Service Suspension

The Postal Service™ has temporarily suspended international mail acceptance of Global Express Guarantee (GXG) to Ukraine.

3-2-22

Ukraine Post advises that some post offices across various regions will continue to be open on a limited basis so customers can receive mail and parcels. The post also advises countries to send their international postal items to Ukraine via Poland, Slovakia or Latvia. The post will be collecting the consignments from those countries.

2-24-22

Ukraine Post advises that due to the conflict in the region international postal transit through Ukrainian territory has been suspended until further notice. Post offices will remain closed beginning Feb. 24 and postal deliveries are suspended until further notice. As soon as the situation allows, the post will resume delivery of all international postal items.

If you were to click on the button labeled "View The Suspensions", you'd get a list up of all countries to where mail (1st class, priority, express, etc) is completely suspended; that list as of 6/10/2022 includes:

Afghanistan	Laos	Russia
Timor-Leste	Bhutan	Libya
Samoa	Turkmenistan	Brunei
Mongolia	Solomon Islands	Yemen
Chad	New Zealand*	South Sudan
Cuba	Papua New Guinea	Syria

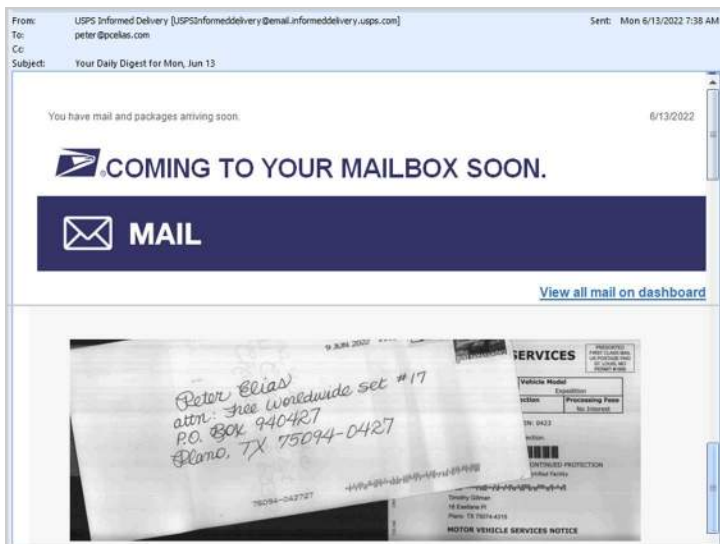
Of course, if you're trying to create some "postal history", then you can attempt to mail something there and will probably get it back with a yellow "NIXIE" sticker stating it is being returned, perhaps with additional text the service has been suspended.

Informed Delivery, But Damaged

by Peter Elias

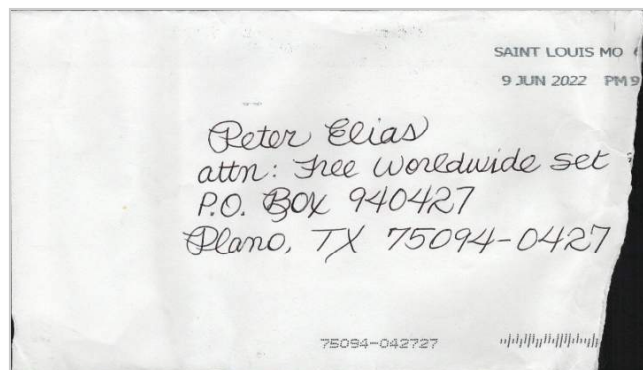
Every day (Monday through Saturday) I get an "Informed Delivery" email from the USPS (unless there's no mail for me that day). It shows up to 10 pieces of mail that I should receive that day.

On June 13, I received an email that you see below, slightly cropped, as I received 6 pieces of mail that day at my PO Box, of which the item shown was actually the 3rd item, and which is the one of interest for this article.



So above you can see (at an angle, which is unusual), one of the envelopes I was to receive that day, and unfortunately, someone else's mail piece is shown behind mine. But you can tell that the envelope address to me is intact.

What I got is what you see here:



The envelope as I found it in my PO Box was missing the right third of it! Additionally, that right edge was partially (a millimeter or two) sticking out at the bottom gap of my PO Box door (an even width across).

I took it to a USPS clerk and he said that it was torn during processing (luckily the only thing in the envelope was a folded #10 SASE, which was situated in the middle third of the envelope and thus not affected).

I also noticed that on the lower left side, is one of those small "elliptical" chunks missing out of the envelope. I see these fairly often, but they're always at the bottom of envelopes. These must occur when some rotating transport wheel in the mail processing equipments literally grinds an elliptical semi-circle in the envelope. Since this is on the left, perhaps the envelope faced upwards (and subsequently torn)?

Or, my theory has it that this envelope was sticking out even further from my mailbox door originally, and that someone had tried to pull it all the way out, and in the process of wiggling it through the gap of the door managed to tear it (it is a fairly clean tear)? Remember that the SASE adds thickness, and the envelope probably couldn't go further through the mailbox door and tore. Was this an attempted mail theft? Was someone that desperate for the "Duke Kahanamoku" commemorative stamp that was on this envelope or "something inside"?

Why Bother?

by Peter Elias

Generally, when I mail letters to my relative in Germany, I take the envelope to the counter at my post office and they let ME hand cancel the envelope. This last time, on May 17, the lines at the post office were at least 20+ minutes long, and I didn't feel standing in line that long just to hand cancel the envelope, so I simply dropped it into the mail slot.

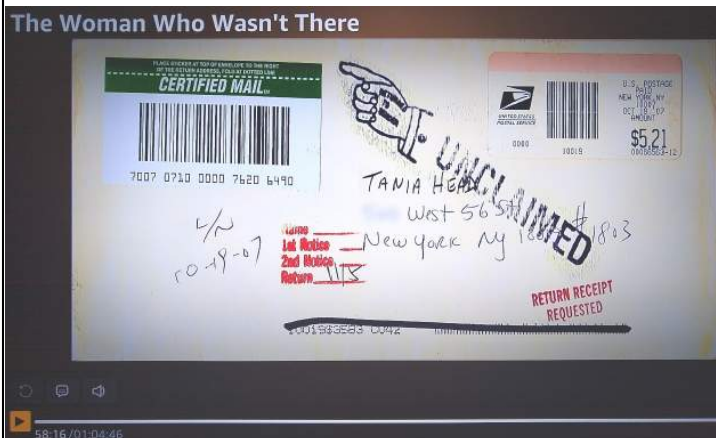
Generally I would expect a standard #10 envelope to get an inkjet spray-on cancel, but no, this was the result:



My relative always clips the stamps off my envelopes and sends them back to me, but I'm not even going to bother with soaking off the 13¢ stamp in this case. I mean, one single strike covering both stamps near the bottom of the stamps would have sufficed...

TV Philately: The Woman Who Wasn't There

By Peter Elias

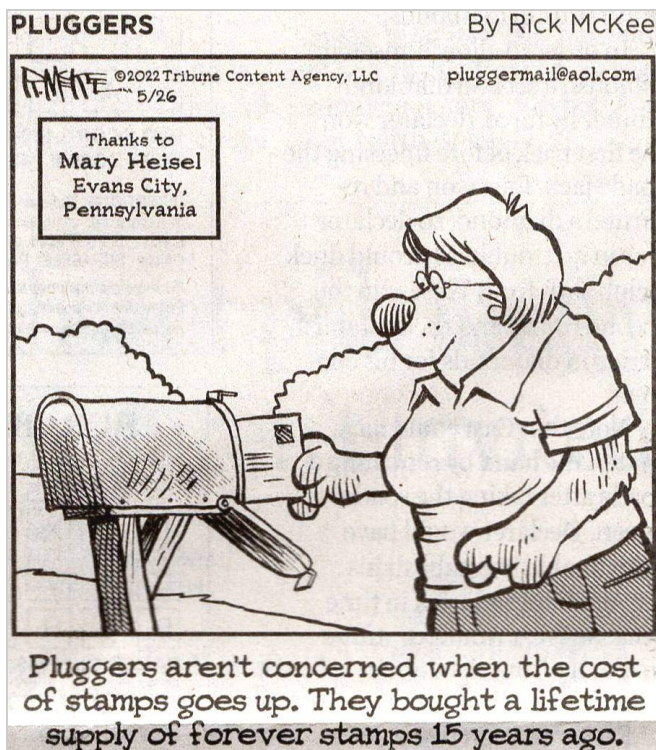


Last year I watched a program on Amazon Prime called "The Woman Who Wasn't There", a documentary about "Tania Head", who claimed to have been present during the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and who gained a lot of notoriety by being a spokesperson for the survivors by inserting herself into leadership positions in various support organizations.

It was found that she wasn't even living in the USA at the time! The documentary is told via interviews with her and other people (such as actual survivors of 9/11). At 58 minutes 16 seconds, the above returned Certified envelope is shown. It is apparently the real item sent to her (as this is a documentary...), so for once I can say that the producers got it right!

Comic Strip - Pluggers (Forever Stamps)

By Peter Elias



This "Pluggers" comic strip was published in the May 26, 2022 issue of the Dallas Morning News.

According to the Scott catalog, beginning with catalog #4125 (the "Liberty Bell" definitive issue), was the first "FOREVER" stamp issued by the USA in 2007, on April 12. Rick McKee's statement of 15 years ago is correct. However, not all 1st Class stamps in 2007 after that point were FOREVER stamps, just some of the definitives. All commemorative stamps in 2007 were still labeled "41¢", as were all 42¢ and most 44¢ commemoratives (although some 44¢ of the "Flags of our Nation" series - along with all later 45¢ versions - were marked with "FOREVER").

When the (44¢) Holiday "Pine Cone" stamps were issued in October 21, 2010, these were labeled "FOREVER", and all 44¢ commemoratives from that point forward (2011) were FOREVER stamps, with the exception of the flag-themed inkwell definitive #4496 on February 14, 2011, which was still labeled as 44¢.

So, let's say you bought a "lifetime supply" (whatever that is for you) of #4125 in April 2007. Would that have been worth it as of May 2022? With postage presently 58¢ (and 60¢ starting on July 10), that is a 41% increase in 15 years. According to online inflation calculators, a dollar in 2007 would have a purchasing power of \$1.39 today, so a 39% increase. I'd say it's par for the course... so for now; you're not really ahead by much, except maybe a smidgen, when the rates go up to 60¢ (then it would be a 46% increase). Unless postage rates go up phenomenally soon, I'd say that "investing" in FOREVER stamps is not a good long term investment strategy ...



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters see the club's private groups.io website)



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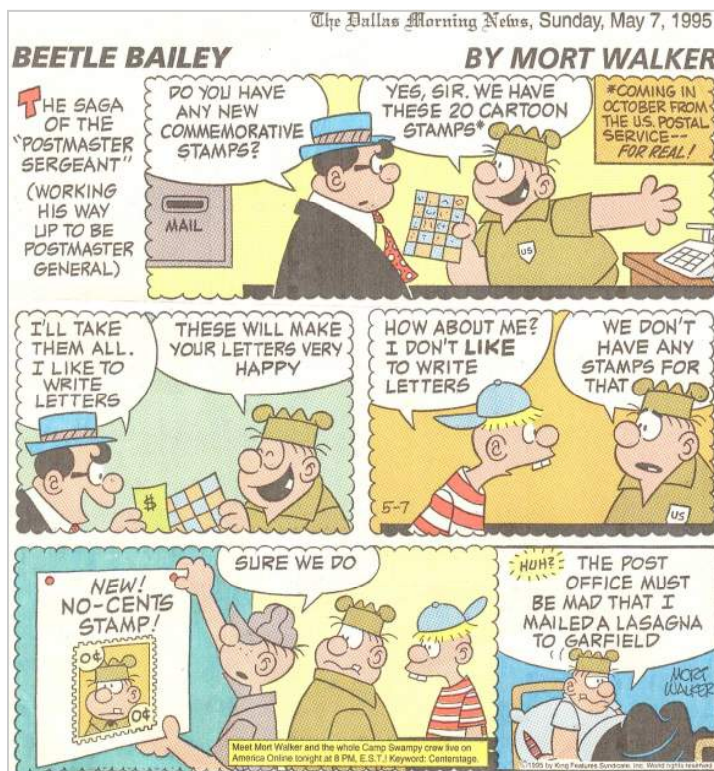
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Comic Strip - Beetle Bailey (Cartoon Stamps)

By Peter Elias
Cartoon submitted by Alliene Franklin



A while back, club member Alliene sent me the Beetle Bailey comic strip that was published in the Dallas Morning News on May 7, 1995 (shown above).

In this strip, the sergeant appears to be a postal clerk and selling a customer on some new commemorative stamps, which are supposed to be the "Comic Strip Classics" stamps that were to be issued later that year (October 1, 1995) and that ended up as Scott #3000a-t.

One of the other soldiers remarks about him not liking to write letters and the Sarge says they are no stamps for that and Beetle Bailey puts up a sign showing Sarge in a "No Cents" (non-sense) stamp, at which point Sarge wakes up (and makes a remark about Garfield and his love for lasagna...).

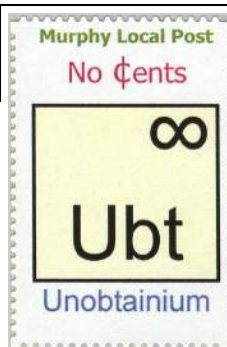
I did find a copy of the Comic Strip Classics sheet in my US collection and it is shown at top right in reduced scale.

I have no beefs about anything in this particular comic strip and I am glad to see that Mort Walker was giving a plug for a new stamp issue (that is relevant to comic strips) in his Beetle Bailey strip!

No cents

By Peter Elias

And as with the comic strip, above, even I have my own "No cents" Local Post labels that I stick on some of my mail that is sent with my Murphy, Texas return address, and which shows



the fictional "element" of *Unobtainium*, which many automobile aficionados are familiar with! If you're a "car guy / gal", you know what I'm talking about...

In my case, my Local Post label is printed on the same self-adhesive & die-cut blank label sheets that were used by the Pitney Bowes "Mail & Go" stamp kiosks here in the DFW area between late 2011 to early 2013 (see my 1-frame exhibit for more details).

This is just another way in which I have "Fun with Philately"!



MCSC ZOOM Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 14, 2022

By Skip Ely

6 members participated in an experimental MCSC Zoom Meeting on Tuesday evening June 14, 2022 at 7:10 PM. Members included Rick Howell, Skip Ely, John Withers (from Connecticut), Roy Douglas (from Maine), Bob Coleman (from Granbury) and Art Von Reyn (from Dallas). Mike Smith (from Oregon) joined late in the meeting.

Rick began the meeting by outlining our purpose, that being to offer members who don't or can't attend the club in-person meetings an opportunity to share in club information. There was a subsequent discussion of how other clubs have conducted this type of meeting.

We took Art Von Reyn up on his offer of a short presentation on the stamps of Mozambique Company. The presentation was recorded and will be made available for viewing later.

The meeting adjourned about 8:00 PM.



MEET & EAT for

July 2022

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

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

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

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

ARLINGTON

July 6 David's Barbecue, 2224 West Park Row
Arlington (817) 261-9998

EULESS

July 20 CiCi Pizza, 2101 Harwood Road, Suite 115
Bedford (817) 545-7575

GRANBURY

July 26 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

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

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

For Sale

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

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

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

Don't Forget:
TSDA Bourse - June 24 - 25
EXPO Meeting - July 16