

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 9

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

September 2025

Medal of Honor

By Peter Elias



Shown above and at right are USA #2045 (1983) and #4822 & #4823 (2013) that honor the Medal of Honor.

At right are the "usual" 2 photos one can find with the concept called "Extreme Philately" these days, so I thought I'd have a try with it. The building in the background is the new National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, that opened in April of 2025! While I had read about it, the opportunity to visit came when I was able to get 2 free tickets courtesy of the Dallas Morning News (my name must have been drawn...). So, on July 25, we checked it out.

First, I must say that this is an impressive building architecturally! The upper deck of the building seems to float above the rest of it, and is what has all the displays.



The lower level entrance with the curved stairs is shown at left. The upper level has many exhibit areas, all extremely interesting and educational, and there is even an actual Huey chopper! I was told they had to leave a part of the building open during construction so that they could use a crane to lift it in.

--> Continued on Page 3 -->



Photos by Peter Elias

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Stamping Around

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

This month I tried my hand with the concept of "Extreme Philately", which is a type of stamp collecting that involves taking a stamp and finding its real-life subject and photographing them side-by-side. In my case, I chose some Medal of Honor stamps, and used the National Medal of Honor building to show them against. I could have also done this against some actual Medals of Honor that were on display in the Museum (but lighting would have been an issue), and I didn't think of that until I got back home.

Don't forget to send me any 1 or 4-page mini-exhibit entry forms for our upcoming EXPO on November 7 & 8.



Photo by Peter Elias

Members In The News

By Peter Elias

An APS "news release" on July 15, 2025 at <https://stamps.org/news/2025-aps-awards-and-honors-the-carter-awards> mentioned MCSC club member Patrick Walters as being one of the recipients of the APS "Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Awards" for 2025.

The news release mentions his interest in organized philately starting in the 1970's with reestablishing the Saginaw Valley Stamp Society (of which I was a teen-member and I also knew Pat at that time) amongst other achievements.

You may have met him at EXPO where he was one of our judges from 2018 to 2021. He is also an accredited APS chief philatelic & chief philatelic literature. There are more details at the link shown above.

Coming Attractions

2025

AUG. 26 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Program will be by Les Barton

SEP. 3 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Club Auction

SEPT. 13 Dallas Postcard Club
First fall meeting, lunch & annual postcard sale.
Scrieber Hall at First United Methodist Church at 801 W. Avenue B, Garland, TX 75040 @ 1 PM;

SEPT. 17 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic Discussions

SEPT. 19-21 Greater Houston Stamp Show
Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Rd, Humbe, TX 77338 (Fri/Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4)

SEPT. 23 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Club Auction

OCT. 1 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Club Picnic

Program: "Postage Dues" by Skip Ely

OCT. 10 & 11 Greater Dallas Postcard Show
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
Free parking, \$5 admission is charged. Fri. 12-6, Sat. 8-3
Info at www.courthousesquare.net

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Michael Ross (#688) collects US singles
Julie Denton (#689) collects Germany, Austria, Space, Sci-Fi & Fantasy

New Members:

Michael Cima (#686) collects USA
Jin S. Chung (#687) collects all stamps

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

Gary McNamee (#563)

Membership Summary – August 20, 2025

Membership as of July 16, 2025	99
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	2
Not Renewing for 2025	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(1)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of August, 2025	100

[“Medal of Honor” Continued from Page 1](#)

3,528 people have received the Medal of Honor as of September 2023. The museum does list all of their names in various places, and tells the story of many of them, including some with virtual question & answer sessions.

Only 1 woman has received the Medal of Honor, and that was [Dr. Mary Walker](#)



in 1911, for her role as a surgeon during the Civil War. She is on USA #2013 issued in 1982.

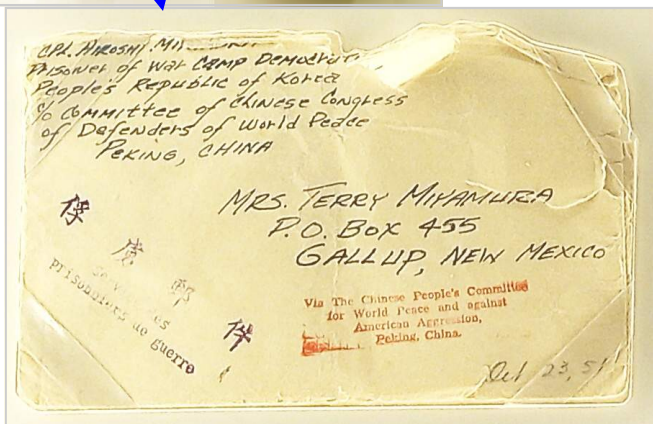
Below is the “Letters” portion of the museum, showing



some of the correspondence of soldiers to family & loved ones at home. An interesting story is that of [Hiroshi Miyamura](#), a Japanese-American Korean War soldier that enlisted in 1945.



In 1951, he killed more than 50 enemy soldiers and covered his men's retreat. He was critically wounded and overtaken and ended up as a Chinese Prisoner of War in April 1951. A letter that he sent to his wife, Terry, is



shown at lower left and one that he received from his wife, is shown above (note the various auxiliary markings). About 1 month after the end of the Korean War, he and 19 other POW's were released (August 23, 1953). He then returned to his home town of Gallup, New Mexico. He passed away on November 29, 2022 at the age of 97.

While it was definitely interesting to see actual letters & mail to/from various people; what I did not see, was any of the stamps that the USA has issued to commemorate various people & events that relate to the Medal of Honor, such as the few that I'm showing in this article.

Other than stamps about the Medal of Honor, and those that commemorate people that received it, there are of course various other stamps that relate to the various wars that were involved, such as the Civil War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam & Desert Storm.

My thought is that some of these US stamps could be placed at various exhibits to help illustrate them. Or perhaps, just a small separate exhibit that would showcase all of the US stamps that relate to the Medal of Honor.



Locally, [2nd Lt. Audie Murphy](#) (see above) received a Medal of Honor in World War II. He grew up in areas around Farmersville and Greenville, Texas. I have seen info on him at the Collin County Historical Museum in downtown McKinney. At the MOH museum, there is information about him. He died in a plane crash in 1971 and was honored with a stamp (Scott #3396) issued in 2000 that honored several soldiers.

After my visit, I did briefly meet with Greg Waters, Director of Curatorial Affairs and discussed how stamps could be used as a good way to enhance telling the stories, and left him with USA #2045 & #4822 - 4823 (shown at top of page 1).

I can highly recommend visiting the Medal of Honor Museum. It was 3 hours well spent. A humbling experience.



Arlington Meeting Minutes August 6, 2025

By Janet Moyer

Attendance:

- 25 members and 5 guests were present at the meeting.
2 of the guests joined the club.

Opening:

- The meeting opened at 7:02 PM with Rich Hildebrandt leading the meeting.

Officer Reports:

- President – no report.
- Secretary – Janet Moyer said the previous month's minutes had been published in the newsletter. There were no corrections, so they were accepted.
- Treasurer - no changes in the account.
- Newsletter Report – Peter Elias is working on it.
- EXPO – We need a new Security Chairman.
- Librarian - We have two of the Scotts Books missing. We need them for the auction. If you have them please notify the librarian, Rick Hildebrandt.

Announcements:

- Skip announced the September meeting will be a club auction. If you have items to sale, contact Skip.
- TSDA meeting is Sept 22-23 in McKinney.
- The library needs to be moved. If anyone knows of a place or method to store it, please contact Rich Hildebrandt.

Show & Tell:

- Rich Hildebrandt showed one of the new circular stamps on an envelope he received in the mail.
 - He visited the post office that is 250 years old in New York and learned about the history of home delivery.
- Richard Kincaid shared a "nowhere land" article.
- Ben Termini had some binders to give away.
- Ralph Poore shared that RFD started in 1896 and became permanent in 1902
- Peter Elias shared many interesting things.
- Larry Reid:
 - Showed an envelope that was used to send some stamps he bought on e-bay that came from Florida but used Australian stamps to send them to him via the US Postal Service.
 - The world's rarest stamp: the British Guinea #1. He passed articles about it out to the members.
- Pavan Ahluwalia showed some stamps.

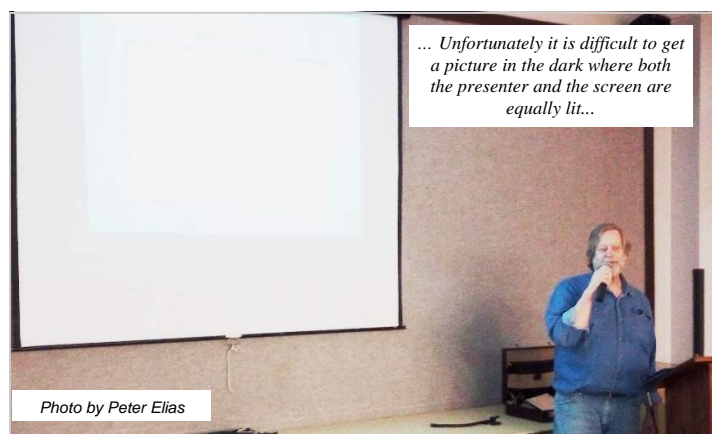


Photo by Peter Elias

Program:

- The program presented by Geoffrey Owens about his trip to Paris and the stamps stores he visited.

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Craig Kellogg and Richard Kincaid.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is Sept. 3, 2025 at the Bob Duncan Center.

Montserrat

By Peter Elias

Montserrat, the "Emerald Isle of the Caribbean" is a small 6.8 x 9.9 mile (39 mile²) island in the Caribbean. It was noted by Christopher Columbus in 1493 and first settled in 1632.

For size comparison, cities here in the DFW metroplex that are approx. 37 - 42 square miles include Lewisville, Mansfield and Flower Mound.

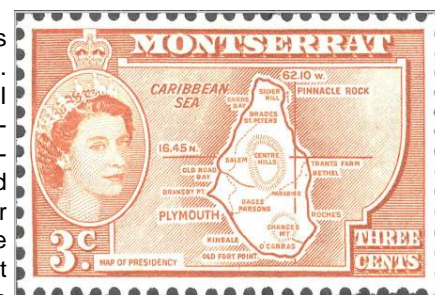
The first stamps were issued in 1876. In the mid-1970's, I received some information from their philatelic bureau and started collecting their stamps. Since I like maps, here's #131; it was re-issued later as #147 with the bottom inscription changed to "map of the colony". Montserrat is still a [British Overseas Territory](#) to this date.

But there is an "elephant" in the room here. It goes by the name of Soufrière Hills, which went "un-dormant" in 1995 and buried the capitol of Plymouth and pretty much destroyed the [economy](#). Population has ranged from 7,119 (1842) to 13,000 in 1994. Due to the volcanic eruption, about 8,000 people left the island (mostly to the UK). At present (approx. 2016) there were about 5,000 people.

The 1995 eruption caused the volcano to grow from 3,002 feet to 3,440 feet. The eruption also destroyed the airport and the capitol Plymouth was abandoned and moved north to Brades, where there is now another airport nearby.

The entire southern part of the island is now an "exclusion zone" (see map below) and as such is "off limits".

While I don't actively collect Montserrat (too many souvenir sheets since the 1990's), below is a nice EC\$30 postage & revenue stamp (#502) that was issued in 1983 (along with a EC\$12 version). The EC dollar is equal to about US \$0.37 (since 1976).



This map is in the public domain and located at:

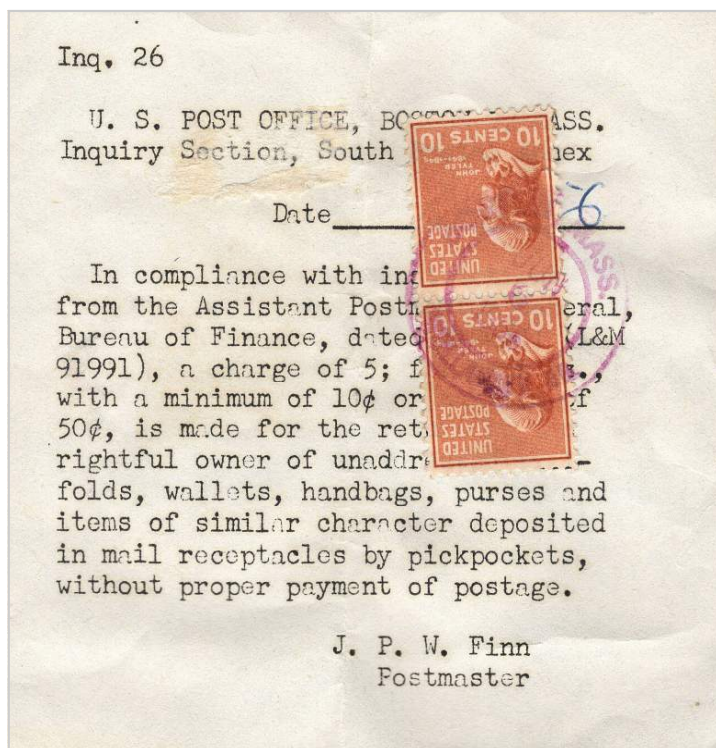
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Topographic-map-of-Montserrat-en.svg>



US Post Office Dept. Inquiry Form.

By Peter Elias

When I first saw this, it had me stumped a bit.



It seems to be some sort of “form” (if you will) used by the US Post Office Department back in the 1950’s, and bears 20¢ of stamps (in the form of 2x 10¢ Prexies).

While most of the text is visible, some of it is obscured, so with the help of a flashlight in backlighting the paper, here is the full text:

Inq. 26

U.S. POST OFFICE, BOSTON 9, MASS.
Inquiry Section, South Postal Annex
Date 6-6-56

In compliance with instructions from the Assistant Postmaster General, Bureau of Finance, dated 2/20/51 (L&M 91991), a charge of 5¢ for each oz., with a minimum of 10¢ or maximum of 50¢, is made for the return to the rightful owner of unaddressed bill-folds, wallets, handbags, purses and items of similar character deposited in mail receptacles by pickpockets, without proper payment of postage.

J.P.W. Finn
Postmaster

The postmark is a bit hard to read, but also seems to be dated JUN 6, 1956 and is from Boston, with “WOLUM BR” in the bottom part of the cancel. “BR” might be short for “Branch”?

In any case, I find it interesting that this form SPECIFICALLY addresses items dropped in the mail by “pickpockets”! How does the Post Office know whether this was dropped in the mail by a pickpocket versus just someone that found something (that was perhaps dropped by a pickpocket)?

Postscript to “Philatelic Adventures in Paris”

By Geoff Owens

Club members who attended the August 6th meeting in Arlington enjoyed (I hope) my presentation on stamp shopping in Paris and related stamp-themed topics.

The underlying motif of the presentation was to show a French stamp or souvenir sheet that featured each of the sites or activities that I mentioned, such as Place de la Concorde, Grand Palais, Notre Dame, the outdoor stamp market, and French gastronomy.

However, at one point I mentioned riding the Paris subway system, the Metro, but as Peter pointed out, I did NOT show a stamp of it! So, to rectify that oversight, I present here an image of Scott #2747, a 1999 stamp commemorating 100 years of *le Métro*.

The first section of the Metro, Line 1 or the Yellow Line, was inaugurated on July 19, 1900, in conjunction with the 1900 Universal Exposition, a world’s fair to usher in the new century. Today, the Metro consists of 16 lines, 321 stations, and covers 152.6 miles, according to Wikipedia. It is one of the busiest subway systems in the world, carrying over four million passengers per day. The older stations are still marked with the original art deco signs, unique for each station, which are popular backdrops for selfies (a couple of these are featured on the stamp).

The Metro is a convenient and inexpensive way to travel around central Paris. One cautionary note, though. As some of the stations are over 100 years old, they do not have escalators, so multiple flights of stairs must be climbed to access and exit the stations. I advise folks with mobility challenges to take a taxi or bus.



Granbury Meeting Minutes July 22, 2025

By Joe McFarland

Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7 PM, July 22, 2025 at the Bentwater Marina.

Attendance:

- 8 members were in attendance.

Show & Tell:

- Jim Myers showed a misdelivered post card mailed October 6, 2022 and received July 17, 2025. He also showed a mis-registration on a sheet of 10 cent "rocks" stamps. The colors are shifted and the plate number is printed on the stamps.
- Rick Howell showed a picture of a Royal Mail truck that was painted in red with gold detailing.
- Paul Mulholland showed some stamps from his mother's collection. Paul was raised in northern Brazil in a small town where they were the only foreign residents, so all foreign travelers were referred to them by residents.
- Joe McFarland showed the 1952 set of the four bogus Albanian Resistance Stamps. These were printed in the US and marketed to boys in Boy's Life and Popular Mechanics.
- Dave Stockbridge showed a \$11.75 stamp that was used as the only stamp on a package that he received. The stamp is the round holographic stamp.

Announcements:

- Updates on APS, Mid Cities Stamp Club loss of library space, a recent show in Houston, and APS and club sales booklets were presented.

Program:

- Rick Howell presented the program on the early years of Russia and the USSR as told on their stamps. I believe that this was a video in the "Exploring Stamps" series. The video was halted several times to allow Dave Stockbridge to show corresponding pages from his Russian stamp album. The explanation of the Cyrillic alphabet on the stamps and the history of the shields and personnel featured on the stamp series up to about 1922 was really interesting.

Door Prize:

- Jim Myers won the \$10 gift certificate.

Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

New Book: The Bonus Daughter

By Peter Elias

Ken Aldridge has just received copies of his latest book, "The Bonus Daughter," the 15th and final book in the series featuring a small Texas town's Chief of Police, Jim Travis.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025

by Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- Vice President - Dan Golden called the meeting to order promptly at 7:30 PM.

Attendance:

- We had 9 members and 2 guests at the August Flower Mound meeting.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell gave a summary of our Library situation at the Bob Duncan Center in Arlington. He said Rich Hildebrandt will be removing and doing inventory on the items over the next few weeks. It will then be decided what to keep and what to auction off or give away.
- Secretary and Sales - Skip Ely gave a quick summary status of both.
- EXPO - Rick mentioned we are in urgent need of a security chairperson.
- October Picnic and December Christmas Party - Rick Howell said details on these events will be forthcoming.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed a very nice stamp booklet from China.
- Steve Carpenter showed some recent purchases related to the Boston International Stamp Show next year.
- Dan Golden showed a USPS Prestige Booklet issued in honor of Benjamin Franklin.
- Peter Elias had a number of items.

Door Prize Drawing:

- The gift certificate was awarded to Mathew Ittoop.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:45 PM.

In this book the reader finds out about a mysterious daughter, a cat's minor role and a near death experience.

The book also reveals Travis's decision about the woman he wants to settle down with.

Ken sells each book, autographed, for \$10 or the whole set of 15 books for \$80.



The Bonus Daughter

A Jim Travis Mystery

By Ken Aldridge

Singen

by Peter Elias



Going through a pile of older German stamps, I found this one, Scott #55 from 1900, the 10 pfennig Germania stamp. A fairly common stamp.

What makes it less common, and of interest to me, is the cancel! It is postmarked in "Singen", with what appears to be "Konstanz" (to denote that it was in the Konstanz district).

The postmark date shows 8.03-9-10V., meaning August 1903, 9 to 10 AM. The day of the month is off the edge and

would be to the left of the "8". So basically 122 years ago!

A bit of background: But where are we? This is all near the west end of the Bodensee (Lake Constance in English) that forms the border between Switzerland and Germany.

On the Google Map shown, "Singen" is at position #1.1 (where the map says "Hohentwiel"). "Konstanz" is at #1.2; about 20 miles southeast.

The picture of the ruin Hohentwiel (picture #2) shows a part of Singen at right. This is a photo I took of the 2x3 foot poster that I have in my office.

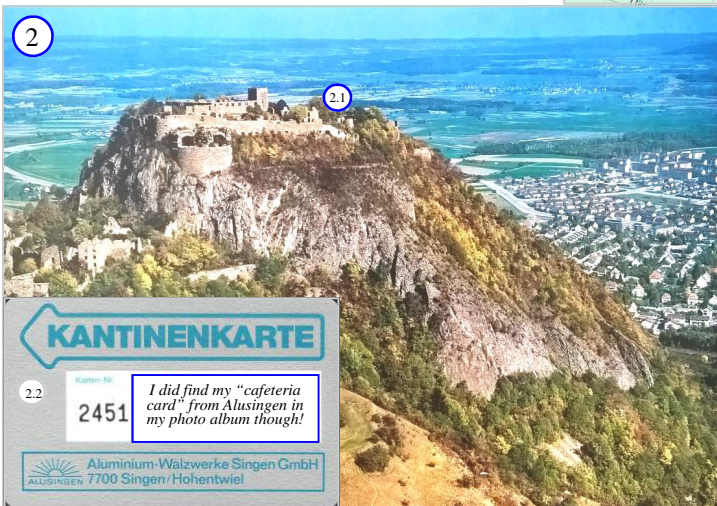
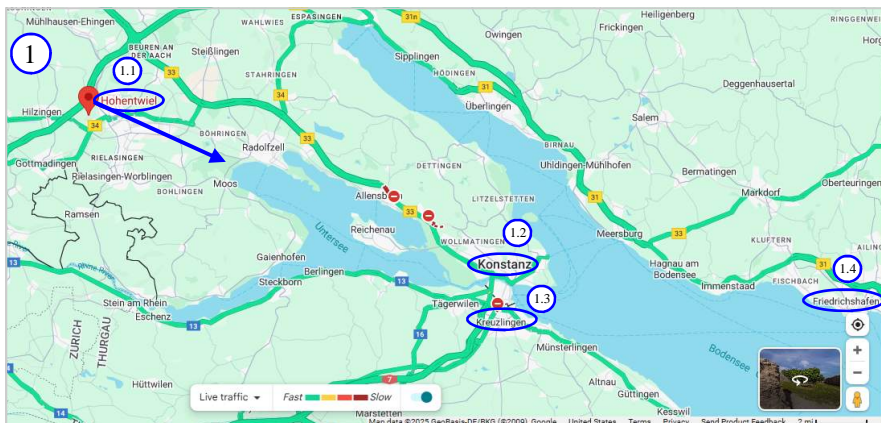
Back in 1900, Singen had a population of 6,600 (approximate); in 2023 it was 47,263. Konstanz had 24,818 in 1900, and 87,360 in 2023. Since

Konstanz both was and still is a bigger city than Singen, that would explain that it is shown to be a part of the Konstanz district on the postmark. The driving distance between the 2 cities is about 20 miles.

Picture #3 is one I took 12 years ago (on August 1, 2013) while visiting the area with my family. Position #2.1 shows approximately where the photo was taken and the blue arrow in picture #1 shows the direction. What you're looking at in the distance is the "Untersee" (lower lake) of Lake Constance in #3.

Look a bit closer at picture #3. Do you see the Zeppelin over the Untersee? A close-up is in picture #4. This Zeppelin advertising the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen (position #1.4) had passed by the Hohentwiel just a short while earlier (see the August 2017, July 2022 & August 2024 issues relating to the Hohentwiel and the Zeppelin Museum specifically)!

Back in early 1986, after I was hired (in St. Louis, MO in late 1985) as the first new employee of AFP (Alusuisse Flexible Packaging), to be built during 1986 in Shelbyville, KY, I was go-



ing to be sent to their various European flexible aluminum packaging material production facilities. This started with the Alusingen manufacturing facility in Singen, where I spent a couple of weeks. [Alusingen](#) was started in 1912 by Robert Victor Neher ([inventor of aluminum foil](#) as we now know it) from Kreuzlingen (position #1.3), Switzerland, which is just a 3 minute drive away from Konstanz (#1.2) in Germany.

The goal was for me to spend a bulk of 1986 at the RV Neher facility though. While I don't actually have any pictures of the Alusingen facility (#2.2), there is one of me operating a coating machine at RV Neher and the building I worked in (future article...).

I don't remember the name of the hotel in Singen that I stayed at for 2+ weeks in early 1986, but I do remember the bartender though (easy, since I took a photo ->). My drink of choice required that she go to a back room and get THE ice cube for me... Blended drinks weren't possible, but a rum & coke were (with 1 ice cube) ...



So, seeing a postmark from a city that was a part of that "formative" year 1986 for me, it adds nicely to my collection of "Been There" stamps.

It's all about the memories!

Loonie

By Peter Elias



Here we have the Canadian flag and a "Loonie" coin. That's Canadian colloquialism for their \$1 coin which features a loon (bird).

Going through some coins left over from trips to Canada, here's a 1993 (somewhat circulated) Loonie that I found (they are just a bit larger than our quarters).



Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to stamp dealer Tyler Veasey for donating a (partial) banker's box of various items: Empty binder w/slipcase, Mystic USA Stamp Album with various used USA stamps, several empty mint plate block files, a small frame w/5x mint 1944 US stamps, and various loose stamps on- & off-paper in ziplock bags.



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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Owner/Appraiser APS # 236251

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jtomchesson@yahoo.com
832-278-5268

eBay Store: [EAS Stamps](#)

Penny Post

By Kenneth Wills

It is generally believed that the postage rate of one penny for delivery throughout the United Kingdom began with the launch of the Penny Black on May 6, 1840. In fact it was introduced by the GPO on January 10, 1840. Before that most cities had penny postage for local delivery. The problem was that the postman had to collect payment from the recipient. The big change on May 6 was the requirement to prepay the postage, enabled by the new stamp. Letters without the stamp would be charged double the postage, and this concept survived into the 21st century. Letters weighing between ½ ounce and 1 ounce cost two pence, hence the need for Scott #2.

68,808,000 penny blacks were printed. One lady put an advertisement in a newspaper asking people to send her used copies so that she could wallpaper one of her rooms with them. It's somewhat surprising that the Scott catalogue value for a used example is \$375, but stamp collectors worldwide have wanted the first stamp ever issued to feature in their collection.

The effect of cheap mail had an enormous effect on communication, the number of letters mailed quickly increasing eight-fold, and the service became remarkable. My Victorian "Handbook to London" states "A person posting a letter early to a friend in town may receive a reply and send a rejoinder on the same day."

From 1898 onward, all British colonies were required to make penny postage available within the colony, and the rate for letters from the colony to the UK was set at 2½d.

The one penny rate lasted until 1918, when it increased 50%. I presume this resulted from inflation caused by WWI,



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, this morning [August 12] started on a rather sad note as I learned of the passing of Gary McNamee from Granbury. Dave Stockbridge passed along this message from Gary's daughter:

"Good morning Dave,

I regret to inform you that my dad, Gary, passed away this last Sunday morning at his home. While my brother, sister and I are heartbroken, we rejoice in knowing he is forever reunited with our sweet mom.

The club and his participation in presentations were a joy for him. Thanks for being a part of an amazing obsession that he had.

His ceremony will be held this Saturday [August 16] in the White Chapel next to Acton Methodist at 10 AM with a burial in his beloved Waco at 2 PM.

Prayers and blessings to the entire stamp club!

Love,

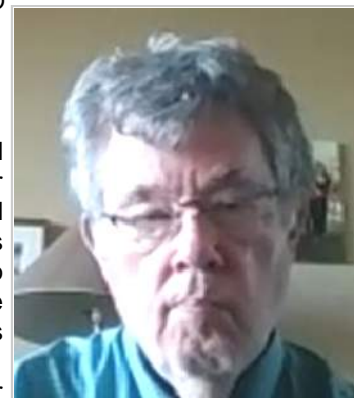
Amanda Rogers "

Those of us who attended the Granbury meetings over the last couple of years had been concerned about Gary's health, but he did seem to enjoy fellowship with the group and tried to attend as much as possible.

Gary was responsible for creating our "Where In The World" games held at our meetings, sometimes in which he would select a country and start itemizing facts about that country and the members would try to guess the name of the country. It was great fun and has since been adopted in Flower Mound as a regular part of the meeting as well. I would like to propose that the club continue to make this a regular part of our meetings in Gary's memory. He was a great guy and will be remembered fondly.

This is an extremely busy time of the year for our members as we prepare for club auctions and EXPO 2025. We are currently looking for someone to head security at EXPO, so if you're interested, please contact Ralph Poore or me.

As for me, I am currently fighting COVID and may miss a couple more meetings because I certainly would not want to bless any of you with this gift. Hopefully we'll see you at one of our meetings very soon.



Gary McNamee

or maybe too many postmen had left the GPO to join the armed forces. The work continued to be primarily a male occupation until WWII.

This block of nine, Scott #33 in my collection, was printed by plate number 171, further testimony to the pervasiveness of penny post before the era of the phone. I'm curious to know how much more this block is worth than nine separate examples.

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

The Seller is Always the Loser

By Peter Elias

I sell various stamps (& other items) on eBay. One of their rules for sellers is that if I have been paid, I am responsible for getting the item to the buyer. Sounds reasonable enough, right?

If you and I meet, and I hand over the item and you hand over the cash, then we're good.

What if I have to mail you the item, since generally anyone that has ever bought anything from me on eBay doesn't exactly live in or near the Dallas area? Unless it is something really large (like a computer...), I usually use USPS (or UPS), but most of the time it is a “small package” going via USPS Ground Advantage and rarely ever weighs more than 4 to 8 ounces, which now also includes insurance up to \$100 (whereas the previous version of this was called “First Class Parcel” and that did NOT include insurance).

So far so good. It is insured! So if the package gets stolen, lost or damaged, then the USPS needs to reimburse me when I file a claim (as I was the sender). According to eBay, I then need to make the buyer “whole” by reimbursing their purchase, since they did not receive what they ordered.

So, I'm now out of the money AND the item! Who reimburses me for my loss?

And, given all the “porch pirates” these days, if the shipping carrier does properly deliver (i.e.: toss the item on your doorstep or they “scan” it as delivered), but the item then disappears, am I also still responsible?

For Sale

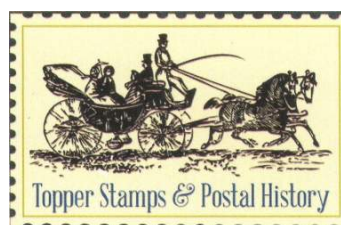
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy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

Peter Elias

I ran across this gem the other day. It didn't strike me as quite right.

First, yes: there is a [Türkmenistan](#) (also spelled as Turkmenistan in English), one of the former Soviet break-away republics, located on the east side of the Caspian Sea in Central Asia, and bordered by (clockwise): Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan & Iran.

Their 1st stamp was issued in 1992, after declaring independence from the Soviet Union on 8/22/1990. Judging by the Scott catalogs and the online Stamp-world.com catalog, they have not issued any stamps since 2020.

A reply from an AI-enhanced Google said that they have **not issued new postage stamps since 2020 due to an ongoing suspension of international mail acceptance by the USPS since February 28, 2025**. While the USPS part is correct (due to unavailability of transportation), it should NOT have anything to do with [Türkmen Post](#) not issuing stamps for the previous 5 years...

That all said, I think this is an “illegal” stamp, meaning it was issued by someone for collectors without authorization by Türkmenistan. Besides, real [Türkmenistan stamps](#) do NOT state “Republic”. This fake stamp was probably printed to appeal to collectors of racing cars (Formula 1?).

TV Philately: Cass

By Peter Elias

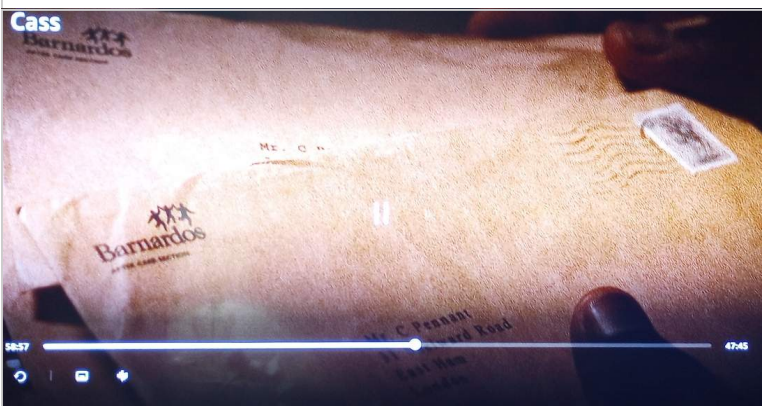
On August 2, we decided to watch a movie on Amazon Prime called "Cass". It is a 2008 "true story" movie about an adopted Jamaican orphan, born in 1958, who was adopted by an elderly couple in an all-white neighborhood ("East Ham") in London.

During his childhood, Carol ("Cass") Pennant endures racial abuse and finds comfort with the West Ham FC (football club) supporters. And by "football", we are of course talking about "soccer"...

The various FC's in the UK have fan clubs if you will, and they can get rather violent. In the UK, they are described as "hooligans". While I've heard of that term before, I did not realize that "hooliganism" is described as "violent or rowdy behavior by young troublemakers, typically in a gang". In fact the usage of the word online gives this particular example: *"the problems of soccer hooliganism"*.

Hooligans are basically thugs and bullies and start fights during sporting events such as soccer. So that was definitely a problem in the UK during the time of this movie (mid-1980's to early 1990's). During Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's tenure, a "Football Spectator Act 1989" was passed to address football (soccer) related violence and disorder. Gosh, I don't recall hearing much about that in the news here ... even in 1986 when I spent almost an entire year working in Switzerland, including both a short vacation in London in late Spring, as well as a business trip to Shropshire later in the year. I suppose that even if I did hear about it on the TV news or read about it in the NZZ (Neue Zürcher Zeitung) at the time, I've forgotten about it.

At one point, Cass gets convicted and sent to prison for a couple of years. He was the first "football hooligan" to be imprisoned by the British Government.



When he returns to his parent's home, his mother hands him several letters (above) that had arrived while he was in prison; they were forwarded from Cass' birth parents (via [Dr. Barnardos](#)' orphanage) who were trying to take up contact with him. He declines to look at the letters, stating that his adopted parents were his mother & father.

On screen at about 58 minutes 57 seconds into the movie (see above), his mother hands him a small stack of identical envelopes. That footage was shot in a rather grainy fashion, and the screen shot above is the best I could take via my digital camera from my 55" TV set.

So the first thing I notice is the stamp on the envelope. It appears to be one of the British "Machin" definitives. But which one? The picture shows the stamp to have to be of

a lighter, grayish color. The denomination is not discernible on the screen shot. I was reading that the "time frame" in the movie (as opposed to when it actually happened might have been off a year or two (sometime in the mid- to late-1980's).

Looking up local postage rates in England around that time (1989), it was about 20 pence for a 1st class letter. Less for a 2nd class letter (14 pence). A year earlier, it was 19 & 15 pence respectively. A year later, it was 22 & 17 pence. Back in 1984, when he was released from prison, it was 17 & 13 pence.

So what Machin is shown on the cover? Really hard to say. I found a few stamps that might be the one in question:



#MH81 (green) #MH94 (brownish gray) #MH96 (light green) #MH111-113 (deep purple brown)

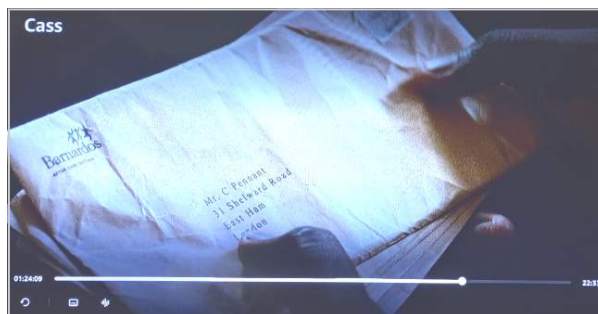
As a wild guess (and keeping the contrast in mind), perhaps #MH94 or #MH111 - MH113, but might have been #MH96 (or possibly even a 13p 2nd class stamp in olive gray, not shown, #MH82). But the MH111 series would have been a higher rate than what was in effect at the time.

Given that (as always), the philatelic items are on screen for only a second or two, they just have to pass muster, i.e.: to look like a stamp in the upper right corner of the envelope and pass as a mail piece. They probably did not bother to figure out what the correct domestic or local rate was at the time.

There is also a "machine cancel" shown on the envelope that has the circle part over the stamp and the "wavy bars" to the left of the stamp (but also has the circle and wavy bars slightly overlapping). The machine cancels I've seen from the UK generally have the circle be to the left of the wavy bars, so what is shown is not quite correct.

Looking at the address of the envelope (also shown at the 1 hour 24 minute 9 second mark, shows a "31 Shelward Road" in East Ham, London (his parent's house). While East Ham of course exists, Google Maps do not show a "Shelward Road", existing in East Ham, nor anywhere else in London. They probably had to make that up to "protect the innocent"... The envelope shown below was what he briefly contemplated reading after his mother passed away, but did not.

Cass did finally leave the hooligan life behind to focus on his wife and children and authored & co-authored several books. If you watch this movie, be sure to have subtitles on, as some of the British vocabulary is a bit difficult at times... [British accent] Blimey, know what I mean?



Stamp Vending Machine Memories

By Peter Elias



One of my early stamp collecting memories are these 3 common definitives issued by Switzerland in 1970.

You could only buy these from a vending machine, a yellow box outside the post office that accepted only coins. Reading up on this, it was in July 1970 that Swiss Post began experimenting with stamp vending machines.

These stamps were in coil format (but supposedly also known in sheets as per the Scott catalog, which shows these stamps #521 - #523). If you look at the top & bottom perforations, they are "cut", not torn.

I remember that with these machines, you had to rotate a handle after inserting your money and it would then cut a stamp and dispense it at the bottom. The denominations were 10, 20 & 50

centimes (also called "Rappen" in Swiss, and usually abbreviated as "Rp.").

On the stamp pair above, it shows the "control number" that was printed on the back of every 5th stamp, in increments of 5, presumably counting down to 0.

About 700 machines were installed in the 1970's (keep in mind that Switzerland is only twice the size of the DFW Metroplex area...). But I don't have any photos of one of the original type of machines with the handle. Best I could do is find a representative machine which was at Wikimedia (and designated by the photographer as being in the public domain, see <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Briefmarkenautomaten-JD.jpg?uselang=de#Lizenz>). The machine would have looked similar to the one at the top of the 2nd column, except it would have 3 slots, not 2. The machine shown is German from what I understand.

As a kid, it was cool to insert a coin, twirl the handle and get a stamp!



machines in 2011 (no more handles on those machines...). The last Frama design was one of two (below left) and first used in 2005. The Frama company was no longer supplying

The older analog manual machines and their regular stamps were replaced with "Frama" machines & stamps around 1976, which were on a pre-printed roll (with shiny gum) and had the value printed on it at the time of purchase using an inked ribbon (dot matrix style printing, see below). Scarce versions have "A1" thru "A4" printed at the bottom between the 2 post horns.

Sadly, Switzerland shut down their stamp vending machines in 2011



parts for their machines at that time.

The machines in 2011 would have looked like the one below. I took this picture in August 2013! However, this particular machine was located in Liechtenstein, where one was still operating at the main post office in Vaduz (which is featured on the stamp below

left as part of a set of 12), of which I bought a bunch. A short video I shot of buying stamps from the machine at right is available here:

<https://www.BetweenThePerfs.com/CVP>

Frama machines were used in many countries around the world. Sadly they are all gone now! But I'm glad I was able to use them a few times!



Illustration Tips

By Peter Elias



Ground level of the Vaduz main post office (as depicted on the Frama stamp above).

Photo by Peter Elias

Most of these articles illustrate "flat" items, such as stamps or covers, that are best served by scanning them (not photographing them). On the other, some objects, such as the coin you see in the photo at left are best if photographed. Lighting is important, and in this case, an inexpensive "light box" with built-in LED's make that easy. The hole at the top is good for "top down" photos, or use the big opening in the front for items that require a 3D look (such as the Postauto article last month).



MEET & EAT for September 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

September 3 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen, Arlington
(817) 861-1060

FLOWER MOUND

September 17 Jason's Deli, 6020 Long Prairie Rd.
Flower Mound, (972) 355-3867

GRANBURY

September 23 Grump's, 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 \$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

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

**Don't Forget:
Club Auction at Sept. 3 meeting!**