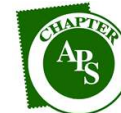


Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.
 Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.
Eules Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
 12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)
Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.



CHAPTER MEMBER



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Volume 35, Number 6

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

June 2022

Been There, Done That

Schloss Hallwil

By Peter Elias



The Swiss castle Hallwil (also known as Hallwyl) was first mentioned in the year 1256! In 1977, it was commemorated on a semi-postal stamp (Scott #B450).

"Pro Patria" is an annual semi-postal stamp series that benefits Pro Patria, a Swiss patriotic and cultural organization that was founded in 1909 and is funded mostly through stamps, postcards and pins / badges. An example of such a pin is the one shown to the left; I bought it at the 2011 "Swiss National Day" celebration put on by the Swiss Club of Dallas & North Texas. It is inscribed "1. August" as that is Switzerland's national holiday.

Ok, back to the main subject, Hallwil Castle. To the best of my recollection, I have been to Hallwil Castle twice in my life. I vaguely remember being there during childhood as part of a class field trip. Looking up the location of Hallwil compared to Zürich just now (thanks Google Maps!), it is only about 27 miles away, so it would have been an easy daytrip by bus & train.

Other than a vague memory about the school trip in the 1960's, I do remember slightly better that I visited the castle again in 1986 during my year working in Switzerland. Even in 1986, I remembered that I had been there before, so I wanted to see it again (and this time on my terms, not whatever the agenda of my teacher was)!

While I did take a couple of photos that shows the castle having a moat (see scans on the right column), the picture below (from the Swiss book "Switzerland from the Air", published in the 1960's), you can see that the castle is situated



on two small islands (in the river Aabach in the canton of Aargau). It is one of the most important moated castles in Switzerland.

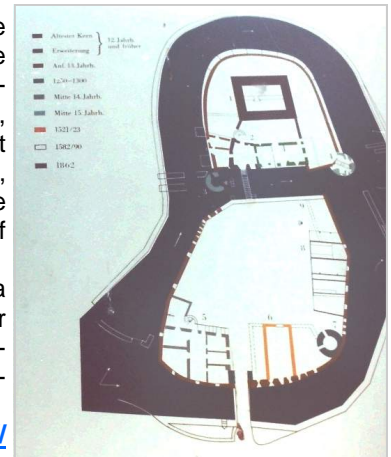
After Aargau was conquered by the Swiss Confed-

eration in 1415, Bernese troops burned down the castle, which was subsequently rebuilt & expanded, and renovated further at various times. Since 1994, the castle has been in the possession of the canton of Aargau.

While Hallwil is not a huge castle, it is neat nevertheless, and I always enjoy visiting castle and fortresses during my travels.

According to <https://www.swiss-castles.com>,

there are 500 castles and forts in Switzerland. To put this into context, the entire land area of Switzerland is only about double that of the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth metro area! ...And I have yet to find a single castle or a fortress around here (and McMansions that look like castles don't count)!



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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this [newsletter](#) may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club or its officers.

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

EXPO is just around the corner, only about 6 months as of when I'm writing this column in early May! The EXPO exhibit entry forms are ready for you to fill out and Ray Cartier will gladly hand you a copy or email you a PDF file. To make the task just a bit easier, I've made the PDF entry forms "fillable". So all you have to do is open it on your computer, and all the fields and check boxes are can be typed into (or "checked"). Certainly in my case, as I am getting older, I tend to type much more legibly than I write by hand, not to mention much quicker! And if you make an error, you don't have to start all over again, just fix it on screen. When you are done filling in all the required info, simply print the form! Note: you'll still have to "sign" it by hand though...

As I sift through mounds and mounds of stamps, every now and then, a stamp will strike a nerve and becomes "Food for Thought". So this month, I've started off (a hopefully somewhat regular) short column of "Philatelic Food For Thought". So, if you have a response to that column, a point of debate perhaps, this is welcomed (you know, a "letter to the editor" kind of thing...).

Please note that when there are [blue underlined](#) words or phrases in articles (other than the title itself), that these generally have an internet link assigned to them with more information (except for the one in this sentence...).

Errata

In the May 2022 issue:

On the bottom of all pages (except page 1), the month was identified as April, it should have been May. Unfortunately that happens as I copy each previous month's newsletter into the next month's newsletter, and forgot to change the footer for the pages...

Coming Attractions

2022

- MAY 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: By Stan Christmas, topic is TBD
- JUN. 1 MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Semi-Annual Club Auction
- JUN. 14 MCSC - Club ZOOM Meeting (online)**
Contact Rick Howell at rick.howell1@tx.rr.com for the link
- JUN. 15 MCSC - EULESS Meeting**
- 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**

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

Ruth Nelson (#645)

Reinstatements:

n/a

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

n/a

Membership Summary – May 18, 2022

Membership as of April 20, 2022	94
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	()
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of May 18, 2022	95

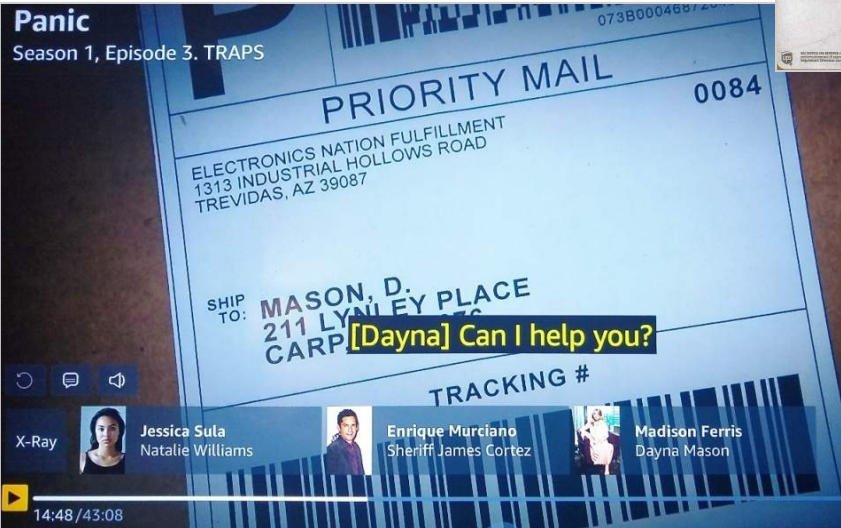


TV Philately - Panic

by Peter Elias

Ah, it's time for another episode of "TV Philately", where I get to take the producers of a TV show or Movie to task when it comes to displaying stamps and philatelic items. This time, it is "Panic".

"Panic" was a 10-episode TV series that first "streamed" on Amazon Prime starting May 28, 2021 (and is still available there). The premise of the show is that every summer, high school students in the (fictional) Texas town of "Carp" compete in a series of challenges, which they believe is their only chance to "escape" their circumstances (and the town) and make their lives better.



- 1) The "073B" (Postal Security Device code), with the 1st 4 digits identifying the vendor. But I've never seen a "073B". For the endicia.com label above, it is "071V".
- 2) "Priority Mail" at the top of the label at left should have a "TM" after it (similar to labels at top).
- 3) The "0084" at the top is supposed to be a retail distribution code (RDC), but I've never seen one as high as 0084!
- 4) The "TRACKING #" at bottom is supposed to read "USPS TRACKING #".
- 5) The width of some of the black bars in the barcode at the bottom are WAY too wide!

The addresses are of course fictional as well; there's no such city as Trevidas, AZ, and even if there was, the Zip Code of 39087 belongs to Hillsboro, Mississippi.. The city of Carp, TX also doesn't exist, neither does the Zip Code 79076 (although there is a postal code 79076 for the community of Niort in France...).

For the envelope below, there is also no "Beecher, TX" and Zip Code 71388 doesn't exist except in Mexico as a postal code.. And strangely enough, the non-existent sender city of "Palladium, TX" seems to have the same non-existent Zip Code as Beecher... The Postnet code at the bottom also just looks wrong! The yellow forward sticker looks plausible.

So basically, it's all fiction! But that's ok, the series is about a fictional town! So given that, I guess they make it look plausible to the average viewer who would of course know nothing about what any of this should look like. But as always, it was kind of fun picking apart the efforts of the show's "props department"!



Luckily I could freeze the image on the TV and get a better look at some mail pieces that flashed by briefly, such as the one above..

So, what is wrong with that Postage label shown above? Gosh, where do I start?

It could be one of several types of postage labels. It kind of depends on whether I need to compare this to a USPS postage label produced by a "SSK" (self-service kiosk) in the lobbies of post offices, a "PVI" (postage validation imprint) label issued by a clerk, a label from "Click & Ship" (issued by the USPS website) or a private postage label from a USPS-authorized company such as Pitney Bowes, or Endicia (also known as Endicia/stamps.com).

First, lets start at the top. The big "P" indicates Priority Mail, but that is present on all of the aforementioned labels. Unfortunately, the top right portion is partially obscured. What is partially visible is a part of what appears to be a PDF417 bar-code/matrix code and a number. Since there is a code at top right, it is NOT a PVI label, as they do not have a code there. So whose label is it supposed to be? At top right are two recent contenders, one from endicia.com and the other from Pitney Bowes. However, since Pitney Bowes uses an outlined "P" instead of a solid one, perhaps it comes closest the endicia.com one... But then again:

- 1) The code beginning with "073B" is a PSD (Postal Security





When is Un Real Unreal?

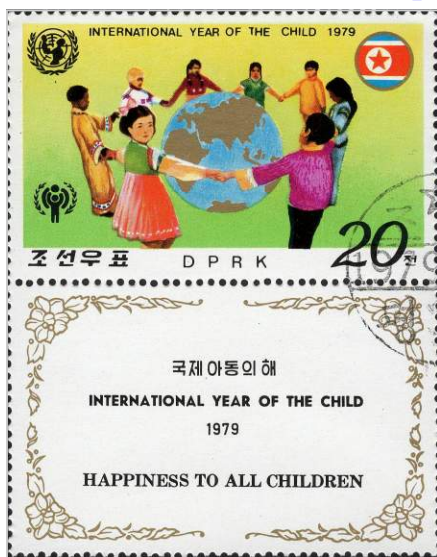
By Rick Howell



I was going through a recently acquired worldwide stamp album when I came across the stamp shown above. I guess the fact that "UN REAL" was plastered across the front of the stamp caught me as something kind of funny, but then I realized that the Reale was a type of currency in the 1800s in Mexico, and Scott listed this stamp as #14, issued in 1864. What caught my attention more was the fact that #14 has a catalog value unused of \$750 and used at \$3000. That got my heart rate up a little (maybe more than a little), so I decided to investigate more. It was then I noticed that the stamp was listed as "With District Name", and the small print below the description mentioned that this stamp was issued with district overprints of "Saltillo" or "Monterrey" on toned paper, which my stamp definitely did not have. It was then I noticed the small letter "a" under the 14 in the Scott Catalog. The description for the 14a stamp said "Without District Name" and listed the catalog value at \$0.75. My stamp just took a 1000% drop in a few seconds. Scott also mentioned that counterfeits and counterfeit cancellations are plentiful. So, my friends, the search continues. See y'all at the meeting.

Philatelic Food For Thought #1: Democratic Republics

By Peter Elias



Scott #1777 issued in 1979

Ever notice that when looking at stamps from some countries, that they are "Democratic Republics"?

Case in Point: North Korea, or as it is officially known as DPRK - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Last time I checked, DPRK is a civilian dictatorship, and there is nothing "democratic" about this country.

In checking in at Wikipedia's "[Democracy vs. Dictatorship](#)"

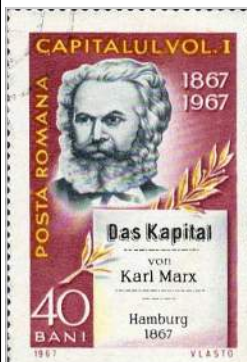
entry, that as of 2008, there are 73 countries (regimes) listed as "dictatorships", either as civilian, military or royal. Kind of scary to think that approx. 1/3 of this planet is composed of dictatorships! For more details, see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy-Dictatorship_Index

Been There, Done That

Karl Marx

By Peter Elias



"Das Kapital - Kritik der politischen Ökonomie" (Capital - A Critique of Political Economy) was written by Karl Marx in 1867. In brushing up on this at [Wikipedia](#), the book



has several themes, one of which is that the "motivating force of capitalism is the exploitation of labor" (which was an issue in the mid- to late-1800's...). Karl Marx is featured on many stamps, such as the ones culled from my collection shown here (Romania #1961, Rheinland-Pfalz #6N5 and USSR #3360). He also wrote "The Communist Manifesto".



Personally, I have never read

the book (nor was I required to during my "higher education" efforts...). So, why am I writing about this?

In 1991, I was on a trip to Europe with a family member plus



two old friends. We all split briefly for some separate side-trips, and my old college buddy and I ended in one of my favorite places in Germany: Trier (which I have written about before..).

[Trier](#), which was founded by the Celts in 400 BC and 300 years later taken over by the Romans, is considered Germany's oldest city (I highly recommend a visit!).

So other than some great Roman architecture, Trier was also the birthplace Karl Marx, and on the 1991 trip, I decided to visit his birthplace, which is the middle

house shown in the photo. I even managed to save the ticket stub!



But honestly, I don't really remember much from that particular museum. Perhaps some video footage from that era might have me remember more. So for now, a true "been there - done that" moment for me.



While Marx (& also Lenin) had a lot to do with communism, I find the other "Marx & Lennon" (shown at left) to be much more entertaining!

(Note: the "Republic of Abkhazia" is a part of Georgia and is not a recognized stamp issuing authority, but the sheet is a neat cinderella item!).

Granbury Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2022

By Eugene Atkinson

WELCOME:

- Dave Stockbridge welcomed 8 other members of the Mid Cities Stamp Club to the Lake Granbury Branch meeting at 7 PM, on Tuesday, April 26. The club meets every 4th Tuesday of the month (except December) at the Bent-water Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct., in Granbury, Texas.

SHOW & TELL:

- Rick Howell brought four, 1 pound U.S. and worldwide "mixture" bags to sell on behalf of the club for \$10 each. If members approve, he will provide similar bags for future meetings.
- Joe McFarland had an imperforate pane of twenty-five Ukrainian stamps (Scott #2) and asked members' opinions on whether or not it was a forgery.
- Stanley Christmas had a box of first day covers for sale to benefit the club treasury.
- Jim Myers had a tin of "Java Bean" coffee with a Uganda stamp illustrated on the side.
- Madeleine Myers related the story of an adoption from Ukraine by way of Poland.
- Gary McNamee described his method of identifying Great Britain commemoratives by face value internet search.
- Gene Atkinson had a package wrapper with numerous post office markings denying the contents qualified as "media mail."
- Dave Stockbridge discussed the latest issue of "The Circuit," a publication of the worldwide collectors group.

WHERE IN THE WORLD:

- Gary McNamee described a country that first issued stamps in 1919, pictured Queen Tamar, often hand stamped issues from Armenia, produced no stamps between 1923 and 1992, and was admitted to the United Nations in 1993. After many members guessed other locations, Stanley Christmas identified the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Dave Stockbridge asked members to begin thinking of exhibits for the 2022 EXPO, this year with a theme of "Veterans."

BREAK:

- Madeleine Myers provided chocolate chip cookies.

PROGRAM:

- Rick Howell brought this month's program, an black-and-white film from the mid-1930s titled "Night Mail." In documentary style, the British film traced a typical night run "down line" from London into Scotland as the Royal Mail gathered and delivered letters and packages from a steam railroad train running full speed. Although Texan ears had trouble understanding the British tongue, the film was captivating and well received, almost an action movie in its construction.

CLOSING:

- Stockbridge reminded everyone that the next meeting would be May 24, following dinner at Grumps. Jim Myers, Bob Coleman, and Gary McNamee won club gift certificates as door prizes, and Dave Stockbridge won a "mixture" bag.

Club Sales Book Manager Needed

By Skip Ely

CLUB SALES: I am looking for someone to assume the club Sales Book Manager position. This involves the following duties:

CLUB BOOKS:

1. Review submitted books for accuracy. Assign a book number.
2. Review purchases for accuracy. Rubber stamp the selections.
3. Toward the end of the year, inventory purchases for each book and arrange for payment to the sellers.
4. Close books when most of the items have been taken, or when no activity has been noted in over a year.
5. Submit a summary of income and expenses to the club Board of Directors around the first of the year.

APS BOOKS:

(Note: you have to be a member of the APS in order to receive an APS circuit).

1. Upon receipt of a circuit, review for accuracy and completeness. Note any missing books or stamps (rare).
2. Provide an opportunity for members to select items from the circuit. Note that only the sales manager and assistant sales manager can have possession of the books outside of a meeting.
3. Within 30 days of receipt, complete the required APS paperwork for purchased stamps and return the circuit to the APS.
4. Toward the end of the year, provide the APS with the desired countries or topics for the following year.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Have blank sales books available for members to purchase.
2. Have blank sales slips available for recording purchases.
3. Have stamp hinges available for purchase.
4. Keep track of the books. Be sure books checked out are returned after 30 or so days.
5. Some additional details are included in the member handbook. These should be reviewed periodically for necessary changes.

HISTORY: (derived from club newsletters).

- Art Von Reyn began the APS book circuits the latter part of 1986. Initiation of club books began about a year and a half later. Bob Tallon assisted Art with the books at the Arlington meetings beginning about 1992.
- Herman Dallof assumed responsibility of the books in the summer of 1999. Skip Ely became the assistant manager the summer of 2007, taking the books to Irving. Skip assumed complete responsibility for the books in January, 2009.

If no one comes forward to do the books by the end of the year, I will close all the club books and discontinue the APS circuits. Both could be resumed at any time.

CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

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

For Sale

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

Wanted to Trade

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

Wanted

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

For Sale

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

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

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
 - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
 - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
 - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
 - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/21

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

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

Comic Strip - Blondie (Facebook)

By Peter Elias



So here's the “modern dilemma” for today: Do you become “friends” with your mail carrier on Facebook? Well sure, I suppose that you could. No one is stopping you... But then, the real question is “why”? In the comic strip above (published in the Dallas Morning News on May 9, 2022), the carrier, Mr. Beasley, is alluding to the fact that he knows Dagwood Bumstead's “personal business” already anyway. But wait, it's only a comic strip meant to be humorous...; in theory, the most he could (should) know is the sender's address on mail he delivers (unless it's a postcard...). It's no more than what the USPS “Informed Delivery” shows you each morning when they show you the front of your envelopes. But even then, one can draw some conclusions about just seeing who is sending you mail, such as who you have accounts with, which doctors you are seeing, etc. Just think about it for a moment... Scary thought, isn't it (in today's world of data & ID theft)? But hey, it's only a comic, meant to be humorous!

26 Cantons

by Peter Elias

me), and that is “Thurgau”, shown in the upper right-hand corner. I spent about 10 months there in 1986 while on assignment for



Switzerland issued the above “My Canton - Our Switzerland” souvenir sheet in the spring of 2022. The sheet (which arrived folded due to its size (shown reduced above), features 27 stamps: 1 stamp for each of the 26 cantons (which form the border around the Swiss map and showing where they are located) and 1 central stamp which depicts the “House of Cantons” (an association for the governments of the cantons).

The stamps are traditionally “gummed” and perforated. Designers from all 26 cantons contributed towards designing a stamp for their canton, thus depicting the political & cultural diversity of each Swiss canton.

Just as the USA has 50 states, the Swiss equivalent is the “canton” (Kanton in German). Growing up in Switzerland we visited various cantons as a child, mostly weekend trips to go hiking and I also visited various cantons during my 1-year work assignment in 1986 and a few subsequent trips in the late 1990’s and in 2010 & 2013.

While Zürich is my “home canton”, the next most important canton for me is “Graubünden” (shown in the lower right corner). Graubünden (known as Grisons in English) is the canton in which I’ve spent the 3rd most time in, predominantly due to the fact that this is the canton we came to most often for vacations, several times in Davos in the 1970’s and early 1980’s, and the last time in 2013; also once in Arosa and at least once in Pontresina (which is near St. Moritz).

You may have noticed that I had skipped the “2nd most” canton in terms of time spent there (although not as important to

Alusuisse, the company that hired me after I graduated from Michigan State University. And while I lived and worked there, on weekends, I was most likely to be found driving all over other parts of Switzerland, either revisiting places from my childhood or visiting places that my parents couldn’t take us to (since we didn’t own a car while living in Switzerland - and generally didn’t really even need one due to the excellent public transportation system, but difficult because of the time it takes on one-day trips).

I do believe that I have visited most, but not necessarily all cantons so far; perhaps I’ve not been to 2 or 3 cantons, such as Basel Land or Jura in the north of Switzerland. Jura was created in 1979 as the 23rd canton, splitting off from the canton of Bern. Since we left Switzerland before Jura was created and never went to that part of Switzerland during subsequent visits, I’m fairly that I have not been to Jura (unless it was still Bern at that time...).

At this point, I’ve written something like 58 “Been There - Done That” articles about Switzerland, and in reviewing my “pending article” folder, there are at least 20 more waiting to be written! But I have a nagging feeling that all of these articles still won’t cover some of the cantons, and I’d have to start digging into old photo albums, since now I have at least one stamp from a canton for which there wasn’t one before!

And as always, stamps like these awaken dormant memories and help bring them to the foreground (along with photos of course!).

What stamps bring forth memories for YOU? If you have a life experience that ties into a stamp or other philatelic item, please send in an article; I’ll gladly help you with it!

MCSC Eulless Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2022

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 10 members were present.

Call-To-Order:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:33 PM.

Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas said dealer table fees were beginning to be received.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had accepted one new member.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said sales were satisfactory
- Newsletter - Peter said the next newsletter was almost finished.
- EXPO:
 - Stanley Christmas reminded us of another Expo meeting this Saturday (the 21st). He also mentioned that Tom Cunningham had relayed a message saying all 26 tables have been reserved by dealers for EXPO.
 - Peter Elias said he would starting beating the bushes for two more judges.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas talked a little about the upcoming Pre Cancel Club auction.
- Tom Turner showed a mourning cover from 1901 that went from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio to Presidio California in four days (about the same it takes today). He also talked about his research into an old cover addressed to “Grosses Retreat” in east Texas.
- Rick Howell said he had Mix Pick surplus bundles of U.S. and WW stamps for sale to club members.
- Ken Wills talked about British “gutter pairs”, and how he thought they were over priced in the Stanley Gibbons catalog, since they seemed fairly common.
- Skip Ely passed around an index he created of French Marianne definitives from 2005-2008, saying Scott listed 86 varieties of that stamp.
- Peter Elias showed a mangled package remnant with his address obscured that somehow got to him from Tuvalu. He also had some covers with personalized rubber stamp images on them. He then talked about an envelope that originally must have had some coins in it, and where the coins got “squeezed out” of the envelope by the mail processing equipment coins. He also discussed his problems with getting his Canal Study Group Newsletter, which was returned twice before he finally received it. Finally, he talked about a letter he received from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service about the stamp look-alikes he had purchased from someone in California.

Program:

- Was a British video titled “Night Mail II”, an updated

version of “Night Mail I”.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Judy Christmas and Donna Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:55 PM.

President’s Letter

By Rich Hildebrandt

The first order of business is to remind everyone that our Arlington Auction that did not happen in May due to the cancellation of the meeting will, Mother Nature willing, take place in June. Many fine lots and a good variety of topics to satisfy most every collecting interest are available. Come on out and enjoy the action.


We had another EXPO planning meeting today (May 21) and things are progressing well. One of the issues is the need for folks to step up and assume some support roles.

Ralph is compiling a book that lays out the responsibilities of each chairmanship. It is not necessary to wait for that as it is a major task. A great way to see what it takes to stage EXPO is to volunteer to shadow one of the current chairpersons and get a little OJT. It is an unfortunate fact that unforeseen things happen and it is really important that we have people knowledgeable in all of the tasks that EXPO requires and are able to step up in a crunch.

If EXPO isn’t your thing, the club in general needs more members to assume some of the duties that allow us to continue to exist. Some folks have been at their positions for many years and are in need of relief. If you want to see this club continue to survive and hopefully thrive some new leadership blood is needed. If you’re so inclined, please speak with me at a meeting or contact me via the info in the handbook. This year is an election year for our officers and there will have to be some new help forthcoming.

Be on the lookout for an e-mail in regards to establishing a regular ZOOM meeting aside from the three in-person ones we presently have each month. This is to try and keep remote members involved and feeling a part of the MCSC.

Hope to see many of you at the Arlington meeting on June 1st.



Estate Appraisals

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Jonathan Topper
10480 Grant Road
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jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

[MCSC Member Earns Large Gold](#)

By Rick Howell

Congratulations go out to MCSC member Ben Termini, whose eight frame exhibit entitled "Porte de Mar Stamps of Mexico 1875-1879" secured a Large Gold medal at PIPEX in Portland, Oregon, which was held from April 29th to May 1st, 2022. Ben's exhibit is an extraordinary testimony to his passion and dedication to the hobby.

A majority of the exhibits are still available for viewing online at the following link: <http://www.pipexstampshow.org/exhibits.html>. There are some great exhibits displayed online here, and I would hope our members would check them out. Who knows, you might get inspired to exhibit something in which you are interested.



PORTE DE MAR STAMPS OF MEXICO 1875 TO 1879

WHAT WERE THEY: Porte de Mar stamps were used by the Mexican Postal Service from 1875 to 1879. Their purposes were 1) to compensate packet ships for carrying mail to foreign ports, 2) to allow postal patrons to prepay maritime postage fees, and 3) to provide visible evidence that these fees had been paid. Three sets of stamps were produced between 1875 and 1879, and there are two types of stamps in the second set. Only the second set (IIA and IIB) was put into service. The first set was not issued because the Postmaster General did not like the design, and in 1879 Mexico joined the UPU and issued regular stamps for foreign mail, rendering Issue III unnecessary.



Issue I: Not Issued
Unlisted



Issue IIA: Small
Numerals (JX9-19)



Issue IIB: Larger
Numerals (JX20-25)



Issue III: Not Issued:
(JX28-31)

WHY WERE THEY NEEDED: The Mexican Postal Service had to rely on foreign ships, chiefly British, French and American packets, to carry mail to foreign countries. In many cases the packet services were not paid for mail carriage, particularly if the ultimate destination was a third country. In January 1875, the British and French packet services announced that their ships would only carry mail destined for their home countries, unless the sea postage was paid in advance by the Mexican Postal Service.

The Porte de Mar system was designed to ensure that the postal patron paid for maritime transport, since Mexican postage stamps only paid for carriage to the port. Initially there were no Porte de Mar stamps - the postal customer simply paid an additional fee - but the public disliked paying these charges without any proof of payment, so Porte de Mar stamps were introduced in May of 1875.

[MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes](#) [May 4, 2022](#)

By Skip Ely

- The meeting was cancelled pre-emptively due to a forecast of severe weather (which fortunately did not materialize, except for a minor storm); the club auction scheduled for this night was postponed to the June meeting.



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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EXPO Planning Meeting May 21, 2022

By Skip Ely

The Mid-Cities Stamps Club held an EXPO Planning Meeting at Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Attendees:

- Ralph Poore (EXPO Chairperson), Patty Poore, Stanley Christmas, Rick Howell, Rich Hildebrandt, Ray & Karen Cartier, Ken Aldridge, Bob Thompson and Skip Ely.

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM. The minutes from the April meeting were read, accepted and approved.

Agenda:

- A copy of the budget that was approved at the previous meeting was distributed. Ralph asked committee chairs to review for accuracy. A couple of minor adjustments were subsequently made.
- Ralph announced that Anne Moxley will not be able to continue as Awards Chairperson, but that Alliene Franklin has agreed to fill the position one more year.
- Ray Cartier said he had commitments for 17 frames so far.
- Peter Elias had previously announced one confirmed judge (John Hotchner).
- Tom Cunningham communicated he had filled all dealer tables.
- Ralph said one concern was finding a permanent Awards Chair and backup.
- There was also a need for more labor assistance with set-up and take-down of the frames.

Next Meeting:

- Ralph proposed the next meeting be a Zoom meeting so those not living close to Arlington would be better able to participate. Rick Howell indicated this would not be a problem, and everyone in attendance agreed. So the next meeting will be held via Zoom on Saturday, July 16, at 11:00 AM

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 12:22 PM.

EXPO 2022 Planning Committee Meeting For July To Be Held Online

By Rick Howell

The EXPO 2022 planning committee meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 16th will be held online via Zoom and will begin promptly at 11:00 AM.

Rising travel costs and poor attendance at the last committee meeting prompted us to revert to the Zoom meeting.

--> **Instructions and links for connecting to the Zoom meeting will be sent out in a blanket email for all our members.**

Please attend even if you have not previously come to an EXPO Committee meeting. We look forward to seeing you there, and we appreciate any input on how we can improve our EXPO!

Club Meetings Return to Zoom

By Rick Howell

Several of our "out-of-town" members have expressed an interest in resuming Zoom meetings due to extreme gas prices, health reasons, or the fact that they live in Vermont and can't make the Arlington meetings on a regular basis.

In an effort to promote the hobby as much as possible, we have decided to hold a Zoom online meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM.

All of our members will be sent an email with a link to the meeting and any details you should need to connect. You can use a smartphone or your computer to connect.

We will attempt to have some sort of program and would happily entertain any of our members who would like to make a presentation.

Anyone who would like to attend who is not currently a member of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club should contact me at: rick.howell1@tx.rr.com

See you online!

[Editor's Note: Keep in mind that these Zoom meetings are in ADDITION to any regular in-person meetings at our Arlington, Euless & Granbury locations and are not designed to replace them. So think of it as being able to have more quality philatelic time!]

Been There, Done That

Video Games

By Peter Elias



The "Celebrate The Century" series for the "1980's" showed video games on Scott #31901. While 2 kids are seen playing a video game on their TV via a console, I remember that some of my neighbors had a simple "Pong" video game for their TV back in the 1970's (it was originally released in 1972).

There were no video games in the Elias household though while growing up, nor did I ever play pinball... It wasn't until 1979, when I started going to college, that I got into playing video games (& pinball).

The "Brody" dormitory complex that I lived in at MooU (MSU) had a room with video games and pinball machines. Many a quarter were spent on pinball and various video games such as PacMan, Space Invaders, Galaxian, Defender, and others. The graphics of these games were so simple compared to what we are used to now! And many pinball games still had rotating

numeric counters.

Every now and then I would venture "off-campus" to play pinball & video games at "Pinball Pete's" in East Lansing (MI).

At least as of early September, 2001, this place still existed (see photo at left!)





MEET & EAT for

June 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

June 1 Moni's Pasta & Pizza
1730 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington
Phone: (817) 860-6664

EULESS

June 15 Chili's, 2101 Airport Freeway, Bedford
Phone: (817) 545-0012

GRANBURY

June 28 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E. Hwy 377
Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
Arlington Auction - June 1
TSDA Bourse - June 24 - 25

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)