

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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 37, Number 9

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

September 2024

USPS Wastefulness

By Peter Elias



I use a lot of \$2 Jenny stamps on various items that I mail out, since it is a small, but high denomination stamp which then leaves me more room for other lower denomination make-up rate stamps that I can use up (such as various discounted 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10¢ stamps).

So I ordered 15 more Jenny sheets, and figured why not buy a couple (21!) sheets of the new 1, 2, 3, 5, & 10¢ flower definitives (in case I get tired of licking the older stamps).

All of these items came packed with a piece of cardboard and surrounded by a sealed clear plastic sleeve, as shown above. There is no printing on the plastic except some minor information on the back.

I'm one to try and 1) reuse an item; 2) recycle if possible and, 3) dispose if neither 1 & 2 will work. That said, between the Jennies & definitives, I ended up with 36 pieces of gray cardboard (see below) that I can at least re-use as stiffeners in my own outgoing mail. Then there were the 15

white index card sized stiffeners inside the 15 envelopes for the Jennies.

The pile of all stamp sheetlets was about 1/4" thick, while the stack of all their packaging materials was about 8 times as thick!

I can also use the white Jenny sheet envelope inserts as stiffeners in my own #6 envelopes. The Jenny envelopes? Recycle?

But then there is the other issue: all of the plastic sleeves/wrappers. These 36 sleeves kind of overflowed my wastebasket (right).

I'd love to be able to put these plastic sleeves into my outgoing recyclables (or "store-drop off"). But the USPS doesn't say what kind of plastic it is on the back (left). If it is a recyclable plastic, why not print that triangle with the appropriate number on it on the backside; there's plenty of space for that!

Think about it: a sheetlet of 20x 1¢ stamps requires a thick piece of cardboard and a plastic sleeve (well, so does the \$12 sheet of Jennies...); never-the-less, I consider this a waste of materials.



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Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2023 - 2024 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Ken Aldridge
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Vice-President (Granbury) – Dave Stockbridge
Vice-President (Flower Mound) - Dan Golden
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Thomas Cunningham

Board of Directors (voting):

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Immediate Past President: Rich Hildebrandt

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

Although not labeled as such, many thanks to Dan Golden for providing his version of a "Been There - Done That" philatelic article. In this issue, he presents part 2 of his "Extreme Philately" article. I hope we get to see more of these articles! Thanks Dan!

So far, I've only gotten 1 member saying they'll submit 1 or 4-page mini-exhibits, so please let me know as soon as possible so that I can allocate the space in our 4 frames. Let's give our EXPO attendees something interesting to look at as they enter & exit EXPO!

USPS Counterfeit Stamps Stance

By Peter Elias

You may have heard about the stance that the USPS will be (or already is taking) regarding them finding counterfeit stamps on mail. Basically, they will treat the item as abandoned and destroy it and possibly also investigate the item via the USPIS (US Postal Inspection Service). You can read more details here:

<https://faq.usps.com/s/article/Counterfeit-Postage>

EXPO Silent Auction Donations Needed

By Ken Wills

We need donated philatelic items for the EXPO Silent Auction. Please see if you have anything decent that you can donate. Please contact Ken Wills (wills@airmail.net), Tom Turner (tturner72@att.net) or Skip Ely (N5tjb@flash.net).

Coming Attractions

2024

AUG. 27 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: The Faroe Islands" by Ken Aldridge

SEP. 4 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Club Auction

SEP. 7 Dallas Postcard Club Meeting
Fall Welcome Back Luncheon & Meeting. 1st United Methodist Church, 801 W. Avenue B, Garland, TX 75040 (in Schriber Hall, 1 PM)

SEP. 18 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

SEP.24 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Club Auction

OCT. 2 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Club Picnic, Bob Duncan Center

OCT. 5 Dallas Postcard Club Meeting
Monthly Meeting. 1st United Methodist Church, 801 W. Avenue B, Garland, TX 75040 (Room 103-105, 2 PM)

OCT. 11 & 12 Greater Dallas Postcard & Paper Show
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, 75070
Friday, March 8: 12 - 6 PM, Saturday, March 9: 9 AM-4 PM
Admission is \$5 (early bird is \$10 on Oct. 11 at 11 AM)

OCT.16 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Richard B. Kincaid (#675)

New Members:

Kathryn Storey (#674)

Resignations:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

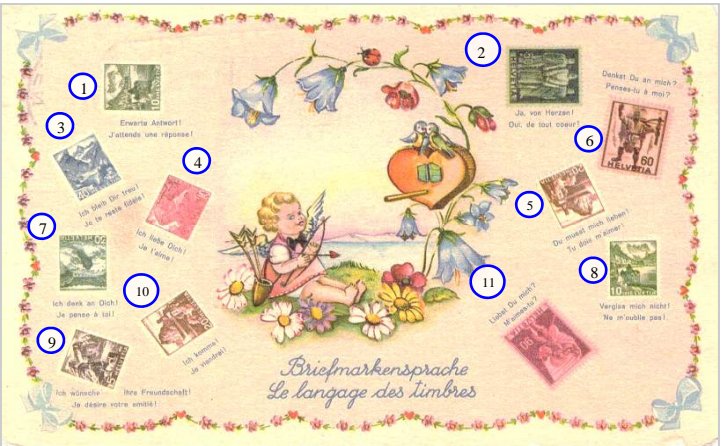
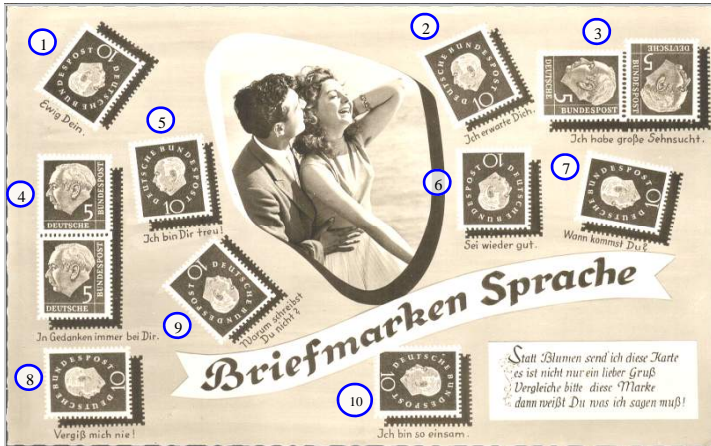
Membership Summary – August 21, 2024

Membership as of July17, 2024	97
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2024	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of August 21, 2024	98

German Briefmarkensprache Confusion

By Peter Elias

the Swiss #3 (*I remain loyal to you*) sentiments both have stamps facing counterclockwise from vertical (although at



↑Remember this card? I wrote about the **Briefmarkensprache** (Stamp Language) on this German postcard in the March issue. But as they say, “*but wait, there’s more!*”: I just found this Swiss **Briefmarkensprache** postcard to the right (note how they make that into one word).

Now, one of the four national languages of Switzerland is German (although they actually speak “Schwyzerdütsch”; which by itself can be spelled in different ways...), another is French. Both German & French languages are shown on their card. I’ll only concentrate on the German part.

While the general purpose of these cards is the same, that is, to show how the position of a stamp on a postcard or letter can “mean” different things (generally sentiments related to relationships), there is certainly a big difference between these cards, despite both having the sentiments expressed in German.

The German card has 10 stamps & sentiments shown, while the Swiss card has 11.

And there are big differences in how the sentiment correlates with the positioning (angle) of the stamp.

slightly different angles).

But the only other two similar sentiments German & Swiss #8 (“*don’t*” or “*never*” forget me) have totally different facing stamps (left for German, vertical for Swiss).

So what happens if a German sent a card or letter to someone in Switzerland? They’d be interpreted differently! I’m sure that they had similar postcards in France, so would someone’s stamp orientation on a French postcard sent to a French-speaking Swiss person be taken differently? Most likely yes.

I thought I saw another similar postcard (Danish perhaps?) in my collection at some point, but can’t find it at the moment; but I’m sure that the „stamp language“ is different on that one as well!

This could certainly make an interesting exhibit (and analysis) if one could put together a collection of these type of postcards from various countries.

Of course these days, no one does this anymore, except

GERMAN sentiments:

- 1) Ewig Dein. [***Yours always.***]
- 2) Ich erwarte Dich. [***I awaiting you.***]
- 3) Ich habe grosse Sehnsucht. [***I have great desire.***]
- 4) In Gedanken immer bei Dir. [***My thoughts are always with you.***]
- 5) Ich bin Dir treu! [***I am loyal to you!***]
- 6) Sei wieder gut. [***Be good again.***]
- 7) Wann kommst Du? [***When are you coming?***]
- 8) Vergiss mich nie! [***Never forget me!***]
- 9) Warum schreibst Du nicht? [***Why Aren’t You Writing?***]
- 10) Ich bin so einsam. [***I Am So Lonely.***]

SWISS sentiments:

- 1) Erwarte Antwort! [***Awaiting a response!***]
- 2) Ja, von Herzen! [***Yes, from the heart!***]
- 3) Ich bleib Dir treu! [***I remain loyal to you!***]
- 4) Ich liebe Dich!. [***I love you!***]
- 5) Du mußt mich lieben! [***You must love me!***]
- 6) Denkst Du an mich? [***Are you thinking of me?***]
- 7) Ich denk an Dich! [***I am thinking of you!***]
- 8) Vergiss mich nicht! [***Don’t forget me!***]
- 9) Ich wünsche Ihre Freundschaft! [***I am wishing for your friendship***]
- 10) Ich komme! [***I am coming!***]
- 11) Liebst Du mich? [***Do you love me?***]

Of all these sentiments, none are shared exactly between the German & Swiss cards, the closest is German #5 and Swiss #3, where the difference is between being loyal versus remaining loyal and #8 for both cards, which are “*never*” vs. “*don’t*” forget me.

Unless it is a question, most German sentiments seem to end in a period, while all the Swiss ones end in an exclamation point!

Then there is the matter of the stamp orientation / angle. Similar facing stamps, say German #8 (*Never forget me*) & Swiss #1 (*Awaiting a response*), which both face left, mean totally different things!

Only the somewhat similar German #5 (*I am loyal to you*) and

perhaps to put a sticker on the envelope or card that expresses a particular sentiment, such as these that came on a sheet of USA stamps in 2023:



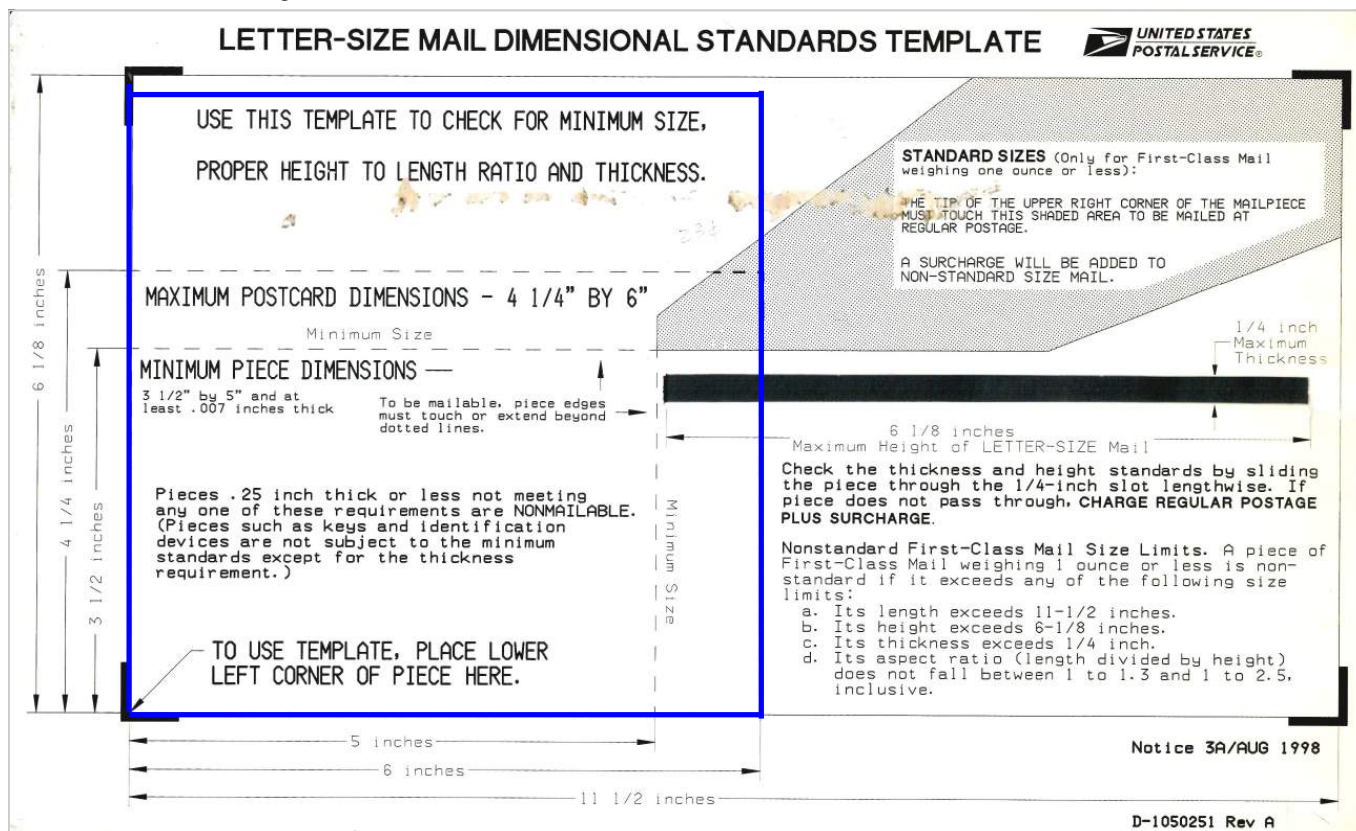
Square Will Cost You

By Peter Elias

If you've ever read up on some of the USPS regulations regarding 1st class mail, one of them deals with envelope sizes & ratios that will help determine the postage rate, in addition to the weight.

ing with blue lines, which shows the upper right hand corner in the white area, thus requiring a non-machinable fee, which wasn't paid, and thus added on as "Postage Due" when it arrived, as per the USPS Notice123 in effect at the time.

This envelope also shows WHY they have a non-machinable fee, as the facing equipment didn't know how to



To help USPS clerks with this, they have a template that they use to make sure that 1st class letters are within the rules, which include weight, size & shape.

If you look at the template above (reduced to fit this page), you can see various information about minimum & maximum sizes for postcard and 1st class letter mail.

The upper right section with the gray shaded area is to help determine whether your envelope for 1st class mail meets general "standard sizes". If the envelope is placed against the lower left corner, take note of whether the upper right corner. If it ends up in the gray zone, you're ok. If the envelope is past the minimum length & width, less than maximum length & width AND the upper right corner falls into the white areas, then you'll be assessed an extra fee, known as the "non-machinable" fee, which is presently 46¢ in addition to the postage (and remember, 1st class mail is only available up to 3.5 oz [100 grams] in weight to begin with.

Additionally, your envelope must also be able to slide through the rectangular slot (shown as the big black bar), meaning it can NOT be thicker than 1/4" (otherwise it would have to go as "Ground Advantage"). If your envelope is too "stiff", that would also gather the non-machinable fee.

The envelope at right is square (6" x 6"), and if placed against the template, would be in the area I'm show-

correctly face the envelope, turning it sideways and applying the inkjet cancel on what is the left side, leaving the stamp uncanceled. Unfortunately at the receiving end, out came the ballpoint pen across the stamp (grrrr...).



USA Single Digit Postage Usage Limitations

By Peter Elias

A while back, it was much easier to use up older "single digit" US stamps for postage, i.e.: the 1¢ to 9¢ denominations.

Now, if you are trying to mail a #6 envelope with any of these (especially 5¢ or lower denominations), that's physically impossible due to the size of the envelope). Even with a #10 envelope, it would be difficult, unless you are using definitive stamps.

In my case, I managed to get 14x 5¢ stamps + a 3¢ stamp, all commemoratives on a 6" x 9" envelope (see to the right) and leave enough room for the address and space for the Postnet code at the bottom. But if I would have tried just 4¢ stamps, I would have run out of space.

So I decided to mock up a #10 business size envelope with a couple of combinations of US stamp sizes, which included a standard vertical definitive, and vertical & horizontal standard size commemoratives, to see how many stamps I could reasonably put on an envelope and still leave enough room for sender & recipient addresses and the USPS Postnet code which would be applied during processing.

On envelope #1, I was able to fit 13x horizontal commemoratives and 2x definitives. Using just 3¢ stamps, you'd be short 30¢. Even with all 4¢ stamps, you'd still need another 13¢ worth. A combination of 5¢ & 6¢ stamps might do the trick.

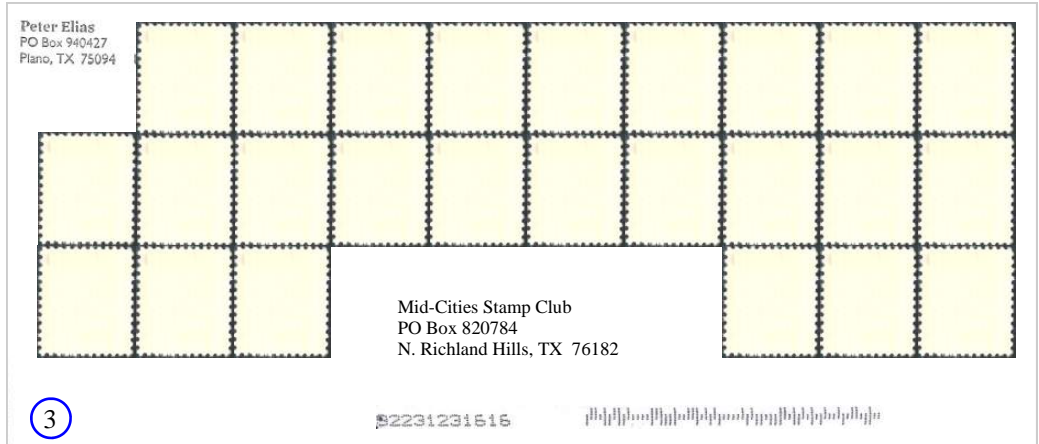
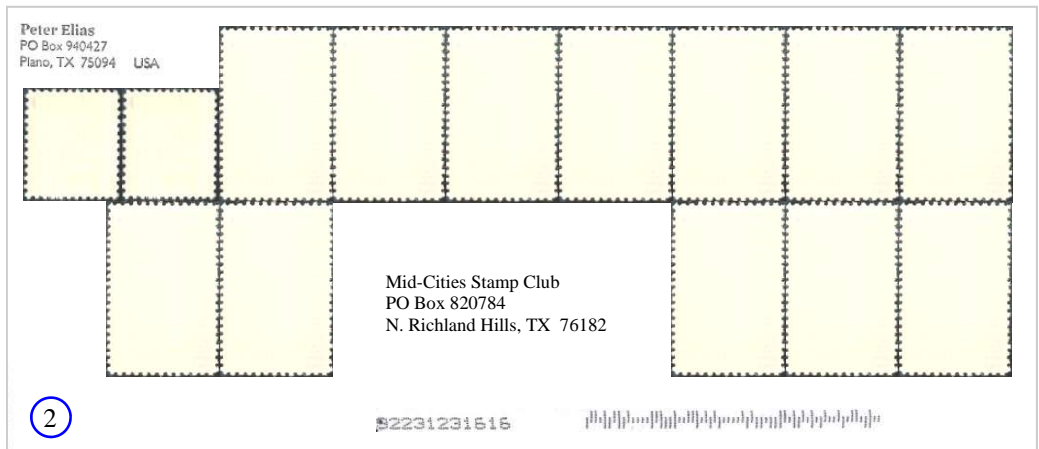
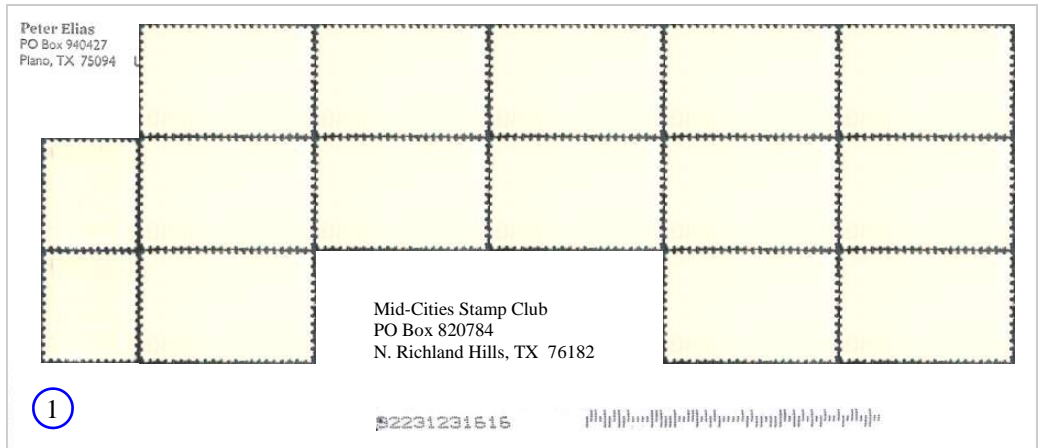
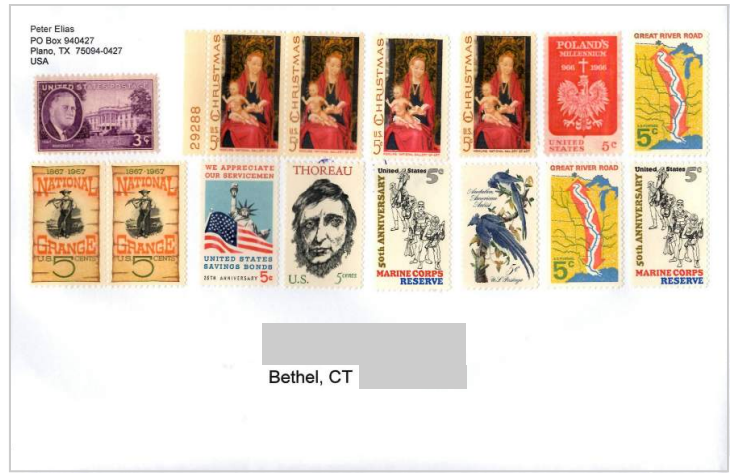
On envelope #2, I was able to fit 12x vertical commemoratives plus 2x definitives. As with #1, all 3¢ & 4¢ stamps won't work, it'll have to be at least 5¢ & some 6¢ stamps.

On envelope #3, I was able to fit 25x standard definitives. That would work with all 3¢ definitives, but there aren't that many of those available.

There could also be an option for the vertical medium size commemoratives such as the "Champion of Liberties" series of 4¢ & 8¢ stamps.

Many combinations are possible with #10 envelopes, but using all 3¢ & 4¢ stamps isn't going to work...

Ready, set, start licking...*

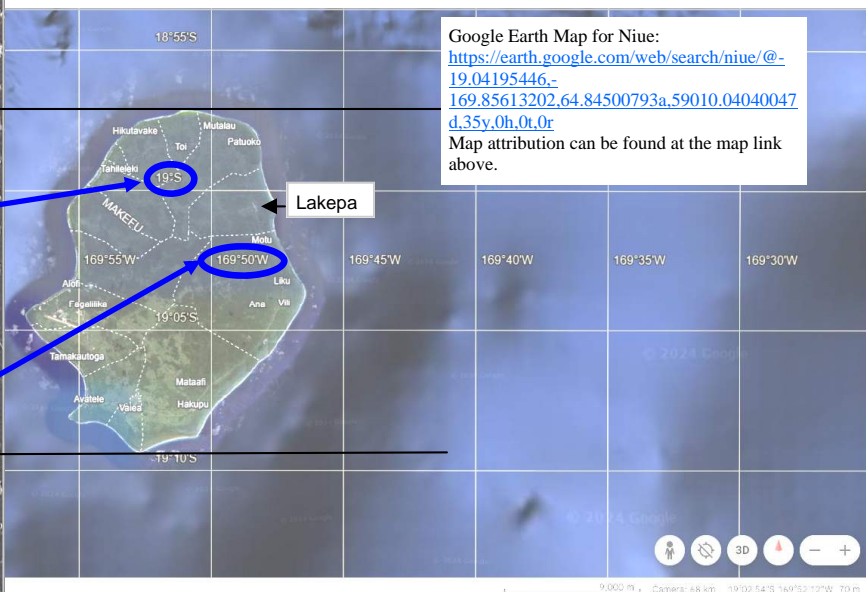
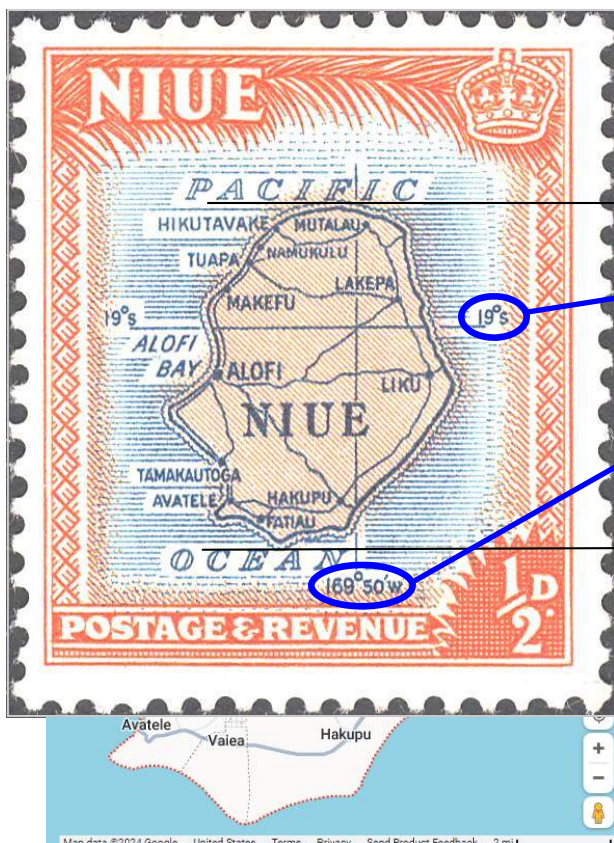


* ... or use a wet sponge if you are squeamish about licking the gum on these older stamps...

Niue Map Inconsistencies

By Peter Elias

on the current Google map (see cropped screenshot below the stamp)! It shows absolutely nothing, not even the southern most road that branches off at Avatele, going to Fatiaiu, only the one that goes further west to Hakupu. I guess one would have to research that further. Strangely enough though, Accu-Weather™, does give a current forecast Fatiaiu!



When Google Maps couldn't help with the next task, I used Google Earth in order to actually see Latitude & Longitude lines on the map, which is what you see below. Sizing the map on the stamp & Google Earth image so that they are equal (see black lines going across stamp & map), it clearly shows that the 19°S latitude line on the stamp's map is WAY off from what Google Earth shows, which I presume to be more accurate.

On the stamp, the 19°S line is (approximately 1 mile) south of Makefu or Lakepa, yet on Google Earth it is shown as being (approximately 1/3 mile) north of Lakepa, so that is quite a bit of discrepancy. I wonder if the stamp designer had good maps at their disposal (perhaps that was the best available in 1950)? According to Google Earth, the hamlet of Lakepa ranges from 19°0'25" to 19°0'40" south latitude, a distance of about 300 meters (about 984 feet).

On the other hand, the 169°50' West Longitude does seem to be depicted fairly accurately on the stamp compared to the Google Earth view!

I found this little exercise to be very educational!

New retirees have time on their hands, and this is the point at which a revival of their hobby could give them a new lease on life. We know a couple of people who got completely turned on again by reviving their old hobby. There's clearly a lot of education to be gained, in history, geography, printing and other cultural topics.

Another aspect is the social life to be found. Every large city has a stamp club, which will welcome guests or new members, and help beginners learn more about all the aspects of identifying, organizing, trading, etc. The excellent secretary of my local club doesn't even collect stamps, but enjoys the company of our meetings.

Part of the message should be that philately is a recipe for longevity. I had an active stamp collector friend in San Francisco who was 100 years old, and a similar great friend in the south of France who (sadly) died just last month at the age of 99½. I will be 87 next month and this hobby has my brain working every day of the week.

It would be good if you would interview a few collectors who fit this category and include their experience in your article. We could even help find individuals like this for you.

Sincerely, Kenneth Wills

Letter to AARP Magazine

By Ken Wills

August 6, 2024

The Editor
AARP The Magazine
601 E St NW
Washington DC 20049

Dear Sir or Madam,

My friends and I strongly believe that an article on the value of stamp collecting for retired people, especially those who are newly retired, would have a lot of appeal. This will support your efforts to promote the health of people as they grow older, by re-igniting an interest many had as a child.

Fifty or sixty years ago, almost every youngster seemed to be fascinated by stamps, and spent time swapping them and building a collection to put in a printed stamp album. As they grew a little older, other interests took over.

EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 11:45 AM by EXPO chairperson Ralph Poore.
- A certificate of appreciation was presented to Judy Christmas by President Ken Aldridge.
- A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the previous planning minutes as published in the newsletter.

REPORTS:

- From Committee Chair Ralph Poore:
 - He met with the new representative at the Grapevine Convention Center and everything is up to speed.
 - The stage will be up for this year.
 - Between now and November we need to renew membership for the insurance.
 - The security will be provided by us during the day and the Grapevine Police at night.

Committee Chair reports:

- Beginner's Collection – Skip Ely is still working on sorting materials for the Silent Auction, the Mixture Pick table, the Beginner's table and prizes for the Chance board.
- Bourse – Tom Cunningham reported that 25 dealers have paid their table fees.
- Chance Board - Patti Poore is ready to go. Rick Howell will look into securing the stand for the board.
- Treasurer – Tom Cunningham is the new treasurer and will give a full report next time.
- Exhibits – Peter Elias is doing the entry door mini-exhibit displays. He is still trying to get displays from members - if you have one – please let him know.
- Hospitality – Janet Moyer is prepared and will update the nametags.
- Lunches – Kathryn Storey will handle the lunch orders and money collection. Rich Hildebrandt will pick up the lunches and Donna Howell will help deliver them.
- Mail-out – Stanley Christmas has the mail-outs almost ready.
- Mixture-Pick – Bob Weidman announced they are good to go. They didn't need to buy anything. Rick Howell will have bags of off-paper stamps for sale at the mixture pick table. There will be a sample at the registration table.
- Program – Ralph Poore will take over the show program chairmanship from Stanley Christmas unless someone else volunteers to do this.
- Publicity:
 - Peter Elias has put an ad in Linn's Weekly Magazine. He will try to get something in the Dallas News.
 - Rick Howell will announce EXPO on the Facebook Page and spread the word to other groups.
 - Jim Myers will be putting EXPO info on the Website.
- Security – Ken Aldridge said Doug Davis will be the security during the day and the Grapevine police will do it at night. We are not sure of the cost of the police yet (\$65/hr).
- Silent Auction:
 - Ken Wills announced he will be out of town, so Skip Ely and Tom Turner will be running the Silent Auction.

- There will be a meeting in October to sort through the auction material.
- We are short of desirable items, so please look through what you have at home and see if you have anything worthy of a donation.

- Signs - Rich Hildebrandt will be putting up signs outside.
- Snacks - Ken Aldridge said they have a list of what we usually eat but if we want anything else, let him know. Sugar-free candy was suggested.
- Transportation – Evan Islam is no longer available, but he has given Ralph a contact. A truck will be available with men to help.
- Volunteers – Janet Moyer said we have it pretty well stocked with volunteers except for the Silent Auction. We still need people.

Open Business Items:

- Security and Budget – Ken Aldridge made a motion we raise the amount to be paid to Davis to \$1,200. Tom Turner seconded it, and the motion carried.
- Exhibits:
 - The idea of virtual exhibits has been brought up, but with no real enthusiasm.
 - Should we plan on future competitive exhibits?
 - It is expensive for the club.
 - Need staff for set-up, managing, take-down.
 - Need satisfactory frames.
 - Added security cost.
 - Added room rental cost.
 - Even virtual exhibits need staff and materials.
 - Rick Howell will show virtual exhibits at the Mixture Pick table to see if there would be a future interest in doing that. Club members should send their displays to him in a PDF format.
 - A survey question about this will be added to the registration form.
- Stanley Christmas made a motion that we suspend exhibits until more interest and better capabilities are available. Skip Ely seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Raffle – A motion was made by Ken Aldridge and seconded by Stan Christmas to not have a raffle this year. The motion passed.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.
- The next EXPO planning meeting will be on October 19.

EXPO Beginners Table Chairperson Sought

By Skip Ely

I'm looking for someone to assume responsibility for the MCSC Expo Beginners Table starting in 2025.

All that is involved is :

1. Accepting donations.
2. Sorting applicable items for the Silent Auction, Mix Pick, Chance Board prizes and the Beginners Table.
3. Seeing that the Beginners Table is staffed with volunteers during EXPO.

It helps if you're actively interested in expanding the hobby. I would still be willing to help as time and health permit.

If you're interested, look in your member handbook and send me an email or give me a call.



President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

At the August 17 meeting of EXPO committee heads, I was honored to present Judy Christmas with a "Special Recognition Award," for her many years of service to our club. She has decided to step away from all her club responsibilities. Thank you, Judy!

The August Program at Arlington was about the Faroe Islands, stamps and history, put on by yours truly. I will also do this program at the August meeting in Granbury.

Our September meeting will be the semi-annual auction. Up to 10 items can be submitted per member. Please contact Skip Ely with any questions.

We'll have our annual picnic at the Arlington October meeting. Hot dogs and drinks will be furnished by the club and we're asking that you to bring side dishes, chips, desserts, etc.

The November meeting program at Arlington will be about St. Vincent Stamps, presented by Peter Elias.

The program for the December meeting at Arlington will be only a gift exchange, no dinner. Bring a wrapped stamp-related gift of \$10 or more in value for white elephant exchange.



Ken Aldridge presenting Judy Christmas with a Special Recognition award for her service to the club. Also shown clockwise, starting at top center are Dan Golden, Donna Howell, Rick Howell and Stan Christmas.



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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Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
APS # 082424, TSDA

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



Exp.12/24

Specializing in United States Stamps
Member APS, ASDA, NSDA

Kirk McKenzie
kirmckenzie@cox.net

5813 W. Orlando Circle
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011
918-249-5813

Take-Your-Kid-To-Work-Day

By Peter Elias



Perusing through my Scott stamp catalog, I found this stamp, Switzerland #B242 issued in 1955 for the 100th Anniversary of the ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule = Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) in Zürich. This is the lowest value of that year's

"Pro Patria" (for one's country) semi-postal stamp issue (the others feature scenery). Since I didn't have this stamp, I bought one from eBay.

But why? Because that's where my father worked (from 1960 to mid-1971 (when we moved to the USA).

Now, did he ever take me to work? I don't have any recollections of that in particular (I would have been maybe 7 - 10 years old at that time). Although I do have a vague memory though of having visited him briefly in his office and/or labs at the ETH at least once. There are no photos of that. I did, however, find a photo of him at work (along with 2 colleagues; guess which one is my dad):



Photo by
foto zumbrunn

According to his note on the back of the photocard, it was taken in the Spring of 1962 (I was a bit less than 2 years old then!). I have no photo credit for this, other than the rubber stamp on the back of the photo (which was printed in postcard format) from a company called "foto zumbrunn" that did promo & model photos. Researching that a bit further, I found at <https://fotozumbrunn.ch/biography/> that Michael Zumbrunn opened up a photo studio in Zürich in 1961 as a commercial photographer (& also editorials for women's fashion magazines). So, I'd say it's safe to attribute the photo credit to Michael Zumbrunn. His company is now known for classic car photography and is based out of the city of Aarau. I just wanted to be correct about any photo attribution...

Unlike here in the USA, dad did not drive to work (we didn't own a car until early 1971, and that only because we were moving to the USA); he had to take public transportation (even my visit required I take the bus & tram).

After leaving our apartment and walking around 800 feet or so, he would have to take a bus (electric of course), similar to the one shown below. Then perhaps 15 minutes later, he would have to switch to a tram, such as the one shown below left.



The ETH was then located along the tramline, not too far from the Zürich Hauptbahnhof (the main train station).



I looked up the routing for this trip, and according to the Google Map, it's about a 5.1 km (3.2 mile) distance, and the bus & tram trip is about a 27 minute ride.

I do remember that he did on occasion come home for lunch (as we also did from school). Lunch "hour" in Switzerland was 2 hours long, so there was certainly enough time to do that.

During his tenure at [ETH](#), he supervised [32 doctoral candidates](#) from Switzerland, Germany, Egypt, et al.

My Topical Collection

By Ken Willis

As a worldwide collector, I am sometimes asked if I also have a topical collection. My first response is to say that I have all kinds of topical stamps in my collection. Then I say, 'Well, I do have one topical collection, but so far the number of stamps I have found is zero. My topic is "toilets on stamps." The problem is that there are none.'

That is no longer true, as the United Nations celebrated *World Toilet Day* in 2021 with three stamps, one for New York, one for Geneva and one for Vienna. One of my correspondents kindly put the NY stamp on a cover he mailed to me:



Not only that, you can watch a movie of the artist actually creating the designs on YouTube: [How UN Stamps are Made - Put your stamp on #WorldToiletDay 2021 | United Nations - YouTube](#)

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Attendance:

- 25 members were present and 1 guest – Richard Kincaid.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary Janet Moyer announced:
 - I am trying to correct any changes in the members' info. (Some people have changed phone numbers and/or emails.) Please check your handbook and let me know of any changes.
 - We now have 99 members.
 - The minutes were in the newsletter.
- Treasurer Tom Cunningham reported:
 - Rick Howell and Tom are now the authorized signatories for the checking account.
 - There has been one check deposited for the EXPO.
 - The club is in good shape financially. A more detailed report will come next month.
 - TSDA – August 23-24 will be the next to the last TSDA show at the Doubletree. Next year they will be at the Holiday Inn by 75,121, El Dorado exit. They are good shows and he encourages all to attend.
 - Dealer Kurt Harding had a heart attack in Utah and was flown to Salt Lake City for open heart surgery. He spoke with Tom and sounds in pretty good shape but prayers are appreciated.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell announced there will be no more mix-pick bags until after EXPO.
- Rick Howell announced that the books the members are interested in will be added to the library soon.
- The next Arlington meeting will be an auction on September 4th. Each member may submit up to 10 items to be auctioned off.
- Ken Aldridge has finished his next book and it is now available.
- EXPO - Ralph Poore announced the upcoming meeting on August 17th at David's Barbecue. All are welcome.
- BOARD – The Board of Directors met and voted to add a third vice president, so that each meeting location would have one. All meeting places passed this unanimously.
 - Arlington – Rick Howell
 - Flower Mound – Dan Golden
 - Granbury – David Stockbridge
- Newsletter - Peter Elias is working on it.
- EXPO:
 - We need volunteers. The sign-up sheet was passed around.
 - Peter would like people to volunteer mini-exhibits (1 or 4 pages each) for the entrance at EXPO.
- Circuit Books – 3 people have requested hinges so the club will order some to have them on hand for sale at \$2.75.
- Librarian Richard Hildebrandt announced that we will be

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2024

by Anne McFarland

Call-To-Order:

- Member Bob Coleman called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Attendance:

- The sign-In sheet was passed around.
- 9 members and 1 guest were present.

Officer Reports:

- Rick Howell reported that Judy Christmas had resigned as treasurer and that Tom Cunningham had volunteered to assume the duties of the treasurer. Rick also explained the requested change to the By-Laws of the club to accommodate the addition of another Vice-President on the Board of Directors to provide Board representation at each meeting location. A voice vote was requested and unanimously approved. Rick also reported there will probably be an EXPO planning meeting next month.

Show & Tell:

- Gary McNamee discussed a Mail Bid Sale by the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors that he recently participated in and won 7 of the 14 lots on which he had placed bids.

Where In The World:

- Rick Howell presented a "Where In the World" challenge that was compiled by Stanley Christmas. It was won by Gary McNamee.

Program:

- Rick Howell played a video recording of a Greater Boston Philatelic Society Program on "*The Rodgers Aerial Post and the Flight of the Vin Fiz*".

Door Prizes:

- Two \$10 gift certificates were handed out to Gary McNamee and Bob Coleman.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Special Commendation:

- To Madeleine Myers for some great homemade cookies!

Next Granbury Meeting:

- Tuesday, August 27 with the Meet & Eat at Palio's.

auctioning off the 2022 Scott Volumes 1 to 3 & the US Specialized catalog. Instructions and a bid form will be in this newsletter. We now have a full set of the 2023 catalogs and will be receiving the 2025 ones.

Show & Tell:

- Peter showed 7 items and had two Postal Workers Exam books to give away.
- Bruce Davis shared that he will be moving to Phoenix. If you know of any stamp clubs in that area, please let him know.

Door Prizes:

- There were 4 certificates issued as door prizes.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Program (after adjournment):

- Ken Aldridge showed stamps from the Faroe Islands for the program.

Extreme Philately: Tulsa

By Dan Golden

This article serves as a "Part 2" to my Extreme Philately article from last month. During our road trip through Oklahoma, my wife and I stopped in Oklahoma City to see the Centennial Land Run monument (which was featured in last month's article), then made a quick pass through Stillwater for coffee with a priest friend, before arriving in Tulsa to visit friends for a couple of days. And it was in Tulsa where I was able to once again do some Extreme Philately. Allow me to direct your attention to US #1134.



This 4¢ stamp, issued on August 27, 1959 honors the centennial of the American petroleum industry. More specifically, it depicts the Drake well which struck oil near Titusville, PA on August 27, 1859. For those of you who, like me, had never heard of the Drake well, upon striking oil it became the first commercially viable oil well in the United States and kicked off the American oil industry.

While the Drake well eventually stopped producing and sat abandoned, a small museum was built on the site in 1934 to preserve this bit of history. However, the Drake well itself was dismantled some time before 1900 (I could not find a precise date, it seems that it was never recorded), so a visitor to the museum will find themselves unable to take a picture of the famous well. They will instead need to settle for a replica.

While Tulsa is not anywhere close to Pennsylvania, I figured I ought to still be able to find something oil-related to fit with this stamp. After all, Tulsa is known for the petroleum industry. Oil is to Tulsa what cattle is to Fort Worth. They have a minor league baseball team called the Tulsa Drillers. They even have a 75-foot tall statue of the Golden Driller standing in front of the Tulsa Expo Center! So yes, oil is big in Tulsa.

And indeed I did not need to look hard to find a suitable match. Across the river from downtown Tulsa sits the Route 66 Historical Village, a small museum that celebrates Tulsa's connection to that famous highway. In addition to Route 66-themed road signs, a few vintage cars, and a historic steam locomotive with railcars, the museum also just so happens to include an oil derrick just like the one depicted on US #1134.

Photos by Dan Golden



Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order: Stanley Christmas called the meeting to order 7:30 PM.

Attendance: 14 members were present and no guests.

Officer Reports:

- **Secretary's Report** – Janet Moyer announced the minutes were published in the newsletter. We have 99 members.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Tom Cunningham has reported that we are in good shape.
- **EXPO Report** – The report of the meeting will be in the newsletter. The next EXPO planning meeting will be held on October 19 at David's BBQ at 11:00 AM. EXPO is scheduled for Friday & Saturday, November 8 & 9. Setup will be on Thursday night, November 7 at 5:00 PM.
- **Newsletter Report** – Peter Elias said the newsletter was ready to go.
- **Elections** – Slate of Officers to be on the ballot:
 - **Elected Officers:**
 - President – Rick Howell
 - 1st Vice-President (Arlington) – Rich Hildebrandt
 - 2nd Vice-President (Granbury) – Dave Stockbridge
 - 3rd Vice-President (Flower Mound) - Daniel Golden
 - Secretary – Janet Moyer
 - Treasurer – Tom Cunningham
 - **Appointed Positions:**
 - Past President – Ken Aldridge
 - Newsletter Editor – Peter Elias
 - EXPO Chairperson – Ralph Poore
 - Facebook Administrator – Rick Howell
 - Website Administrator – Jim Myers
 - Director At-Large – Ken Wills
 - Club Librarian – Rich Hildebrandt
 - The club has voted to change the bylaws to allow three vice-presidents, one for each meeting site.

Announcements:

- August 23 & 24 – TSDA Stamp Show Richardson
- Club Meeting dates as shown on page 2.
- Skip Ely announced that the club now has hinges for sale.
- Stan Christmas presented: *Where Am I?* Ken Wills guessed the answer – British Antarctic Territory.

Show & Tell:

- **Stanley Christmas** brought some publications to hand out and some covers from the Adam's mail pick-up.
- Steve Carpenter showed 3 of the latest stamps from the USPS.
- **Bruce Davis** had a box of materials that he was going through and brought to show:
 - A program from a 1980 Bermuda Stamp Show
 - A Wildlife calendar from Jersey that had a cancelled stamp on each page
 - A kit of stamp collecting materials/equipment
 - An envelope full of album pages
 - Little album of Pakistani stamps
 - "Postcard" made of wood.
- **Ken Wills:**
 - A reprinted postal stationery (a reproduction)
 - 2 covers from Braniff Airlines Inaugural Flights for DFW to London and DFW to Las Vegas
- **Peter Elias:**
 - Many envelopes from foreign countries
 - New US Stamps that are round (Pinback buttons)
 - East German car postcard with a plastic bubble on it
 - Australian wine bottle with a label that resembled a stamp
 - Envelope from Senegal that he received today
 - Switzerland stamp sheetlet about plate tectonics

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

2022 Scott Stamp Catalog Bid Form

Now is the time for one of the great annual stamp club events !!!! Each year the Mid-Cities Stamp Club gives every club member the chance to purchase a previous year's (that is the **2022**) Scott Standard Stamp Catalogs.

The catalogs will be sold as 2 lots: "Volumes 1 - 3" and the "US Specialized" catalog.

--> Note: **There are ONLY Volumes 1 to 3** (not 1 to 6 as usual, since the club was not able to buy Volumes 4 to 6).

The club will take sealed bids until October 31, 2024. To bid, please send in a bid with the following information:

Bid for 2022 Scott Volumes 1 to 3 (US & A to I) \$.

Bid for 2022 Scott USA Specialized \$.

BIDDER'S NAME: _____ Daytime Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____

RULES for BIDDERS:

Submit bids by mail to: Mid-Cities Stamp Club, PO Box 820784, N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784
Mark the outside of the envelope: "Catalog Bid"
Bids must be **received by:** October 31, 2024 (received by, NOT postmarked by!)
In case of a tie: The envelope with a commemorative stamp used for postage wins.
If a tie still exists, the earliest postmarked entry wins.
The winning bidder: Will be called to make arrangements for delivery and payment.

The winning bidder and amount will be announced at the Arlington November 6, 2024 club meeting.

*Been There,
Done That*

NYC Subway

By Peter Elias

Back in the October 2023 issue, I wrote about taking the "Tube" in London to get around, which was probably the 2nd time (2000) in my life that I've taken a subway.

The 3rd time, was the New York City subway. That occurred in 2016, when I was there for the NY2016 International Stamp Exhibition for a week. To get to & from the venue from my hotel in New Jersey, I took a bus (only about 15-20 minute ride) and then walked a mile to the Jacob Javits Convention Center.

So my transportation needs were basically met

easily; I was only in 2 places, my hotel room and the show.

One evening though, being a member of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, they had a dinner get-together, and it was held at a Chinese Restaurant elsewhere in NYC. To get there, I shared an Uber with a couple of other members, however, after the dinner (and I must say, the Peking Duck was delicious!), I had to get back to the bus transit station on my own. So I figured, why not take the subway?

Well, I certainly did not (or should I have?) expect to see people sleeping IN cardboard boxes aboard the train!



The only stamp I could find that shows a NYC subway, was St. Vincent #3436, issued in 2004, that commemorates the system's 100-year anniversary. The A-train shown on the stamp is the longest one in the system at a little over 32 miles (out of a total of 248 miles, 36 lines, 472 stations and over 2 million annual ridership).

So, this covers my subway experiences #2 & #3. I'll write about #1 later (it occurred in 1991). FYI: Dallas' DART has a 3¼ mile subway section and a subway station!



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

For Sale

MOVED, BUT THE 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

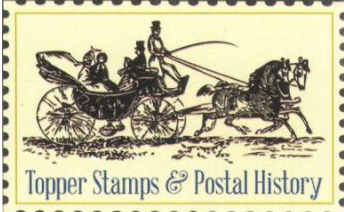
Club Sales Book Update August 1, 2024

By Dave Stockbridge (MCSC Sales Coordinator)

The club sales book department just paid members \$626.65 for sales from their MCSC sales books. Last year we paid members almost \$1,000 for sales from their books.

Did this get your attention? Do you want to get in on reaping the benefits from the sale of duplicate or unwanted philatelic materials? One way is to buy a club sales book for 50¢ each and put your stamps and other materials in the book so that others can see what you have and maybe buy it.

Since January 2024, 9 new sales books have been added. These books contain materials with a total price of just under \$1,000. The prices listed for materials ranges from 8% to 30% of Scott catalog prices. Most ma-



Jonathan Topper
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Suite 300
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jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

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 & Postal Stationery)
- [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 \$ 7.95 (+ TX sales tax) each (regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).

Contact peter@pcelias.com

7/23

materials sell well when they are priced at no more than 25% of catalog.

The club now has 46 sales books in circulation. These books contain materials priced at \$2,770 with a catalog value of over \$10,000.

Materials that have recently sold well are classic US stamps, as well as stamps from Switzerland, Great Britain, Denmark, Finland and topicals along with old envelopes.

If you have unwanted or unneeded philatelic materials (stamp & envelopes), this may be a way to show it and give others a chance to find treasures they want or need.

Stop by the "Sales Department" at any of our 3 meeting locations and see what we have. If you want to take club books home to look at in more detail you are welcome to sign them out as long as you return them next month.



MEET & EAT for September 2024

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 4 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, TX 76013-2203 (817) 861-1060

FLOWER MOUND

September 18 Corner Bakery, 3640 Justin Rd Ste 190, Highland Village, TX (972) 317-0378

GRANBURY

September 24 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 \$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 - Sept. 4 (Arlington)
Club Auction - Sept. 24 (Granbury)