

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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



#891-076252



CHAPTER  
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 35, Number 5

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

May 2022

Postage Rates & Fees	1/9/2022	7/10/2022
<b>DOMESTIC</b>		
<b>1st Class</b> - 1 oz (retail/metered or PC)	0.58 / 0.53	0.60 / 0.57
" 2 oz	0.78 / 0.73	0.84 / 0.81
" 3 oz	0.98 / 0.93	1.08 / 1.05
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.18 / 1.13	1.32 / 1.29
non-machinable surcharge	+0.30	+0.39
<b>1st Class Flats</b> - 1 oz	1.16	1.20
" 2 oz	1.36	1.44
" 3 oz	1.56	1.68
" 4 oz	1.76	1.92
" 5 oz	1.96	2.16
+ 0.20 per ounce up to 13 oz (maximum)	+0.20/ounce	+0.24/ounce
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Package)	3.56	4.08
<b>1st Class Package</b> - up to 4 oz	4.50 - 5.50	4.50 - 5.00
" up to 8 oz	5.10 - 5.50	5.10 - 5.50
" up to 12 oz	5.80 - 6.25	5.80 - 6.25
" 13 oz (max for retail)	7.05 - 7.65	7.05 - 7.65
--> (Commercial base pricing is considerably less!)		
<b>Media Mail</b> - 1 lb	3.19	3.49
" 2 lbs	3.82	4.16
" 3 lbs	4.45	4.83
" 4 lbs	5.08	5.50
<b>Priority Mail</b> - Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded	8.95 / 9.25 / 9.65	8.95 / 9.25 / 9.65
" Commercial Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded Env.	7.75 / 8.05 / 8.45	7.75 / 8.05 / 8.45
" Small Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	9.45 / 8.25	9.45 / 8.25
" Medium Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	16.10 / 14.25	16.10 / 14.25
" Large Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	21.50 / 19.20	21.50 / 19.20
<b>Postcard</b> (Domestic)	0.40	0.44
<b>Certificate of Mailing</b> (3817 / 3665 with 3 piece min)	1.65 / 0.47	1.75 / 0.50
<b>Certified Mail</b>	3.75	4.00
<b>Insurance</b> (up to \$50 is included with Priority Mail) up to \$50 / \$100 / \$200	2.45 / 3.15 / 3.85	2.60 / 3.35 / 4.10
<b>Registered (Domestic)</b>		
\$0 value	13.75	14.65
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	14.35 / 16.50	15.25 / 17.55
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
<b>Letter &amp; Postcard Airmail</b>		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada (2 oz)	1.30	1.40
(variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)	see usps.com	see usps.com
<b>Non-machinable surcharge</b>	+0.30	+0.39 ??
<b>First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)</b>	14.85 - 17.85	14.85 - 17.85 ??
<b>Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4 lbs)</b>	36.85 - 42.15	36.85 - 42.15 ??
" Canada	29.60	29.60 ??
<b>Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound, Grp2-20)</b>	48.80 - 60.00	48.80 - 60.00
<b>Registered Mail</b> (FCMI / FCPIS)	17.15 / 17.15	18.25
See <a href="#">Notice123</a> at usps.com !		

## USPS Proposed Mid-Year Postage Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

On April 6, the USPS filed a rate increase request with the PRC (Postal Regulatory Commission) that would be effective on July 10, 2022, citing increases due to the current inflation rate.

In their document at <https://www.prc.gov/docs/121/121358/R2022-1%20USPS%20Notice%20M-D%20Price%20Change.pdf>; the USPS states that the "Flats" rate will remain at double the "letter" rate for "customer convenience"... Yeah sure, it's always more "convenient" for me to pay more...

While they mention that the 1st class letter increase is only 6.5%, and while that is below the current 7.9% inflation rate, the rate increases (percentage wise) for other items are much higher, such as the 30% increase of the "non-machinable surcharge"!

So far, I've put the known changes in *italic red*, and have left the current rates in *green*.

From what I can tell, they are not calling for any pricing changes to First Class Package items nor the various Priority Mail, Priority Mail Express and the various International versions of the aforementioned services. I don't know if the 39¢ non-machinable surcharge will also apply to international shipments.

See the PDF file at the link above for more details.

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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

"Been There - Done That" articles can be about anything, not just a place (although that is kind of inferred by the title...). So while many times it is a place, it could be all sorts of other subjects featured on stamps, such as various objects (a typewriter perhaps, such as the one I wrote about a few years ago), perhaps an individual or perhaps an event (although an event is also a "there" thing...).

The main elements of these articles (at least as I see them) should be:

- A stamp with the subject being written about.
- A photo with you relating to the subject at hand, or at least a photo that you took.
- Background information (history, etc) of the subject of the stamp & article (lots of which can be quickly and easily gathered on the Internet; sites such as Wikipedia provides much useful historical context).
- Last but not least: how **you** fit into all of this. What is your personal story regarding the subject of the stamp and how it fits into your own life experience. If it's a place, why did you go there, did anything interesting happen as part of the journey, did you meet someone interesting, etc.

Just as the factual history of what is depicted behind a stamp is interesting, so is how a personal story is related to the subject! Even seemingly mundane subjects (like my IBM Selectric II typewriter write-up a few years ago) can have an interesting backstory!

## Errata

In the April 2022 issue:

On page 1, in the masthead section, the April issue was identified as "Number 3", it should have been "Number 4".

## Members in the News

In the March 28 issue of Linn's, member Ben Termini was awarded with a Linn's subscription by John Hotchner for his winning a stamp caption contest.

## Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



### Applications Received:

Ruth Nelson (#645)

### New Members:

n/a

### Reinstatements:

n/a

### Dropped for non-payment of dues:

n/a

### Membership Summary – April 20, 2022

Membership as of March 16, 2022	94
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of April 20, 2022	94

## Coming Attractions

### 2022

<b>APR. 26</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	"Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4 - Fort Worth, TX" presented by Ray Cartier
<b>MAY 4</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	Semi-Annual Auction
<b>MAY 18</b>	<b>MCSC—EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	By Stan Christmas, topic is TBD
<b>MAY 21</b>	<b>MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting</b>
	Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington @ 11 AM
<b>JUN. 1</b>	<b>MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
<b>JUN. 15</b>	<b>MCSC - EULESS Meeting</b>
<b>JUN. 24 - 25</b>	<b>TSDA Bourse</b>
	Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)
<b>JUN. 28</b>	<b>MCSC-LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
	Jim Case presenting "Sports on Stamps" (topic to be refined)
<b>JUL. 16</b>	<b>MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting</b>
	Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington @ 11 AM
<b>JUL. 26</b>	<b>MCSC-LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	Ken Wills - Philatelic Trivia Quiz (w prizes)



## World Opinion – A Valuable Commodity

By Rick Howell

Last month our newsletter editor Peter Elias published an article in "Stamping Around", the award-winning newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, reporting the issuing of a new stamp by the Ukrainian Postal Service depicting a Ukrainian Soldier standing on the shore of the Black Sea properly administering a one-finger salute to a Russian warship sailing by, which had demanded the soldiers stationed at their post lay down their weapons and surrender.

It turns out the ship depicted on the stamp was the Moskva (Moscow), pride of the Russian Navy, which somehow recently was damaged and on the verge of sinking. Ukraine reports they damaged the Russian ship with anti-ship missiles, however the Russians are reporting the damage to the ship was caused by a fire on board which ignited some stored ammunition. Without forensic evidence, we may never get the true story.

Because of the ongoing Ukrainian struggle, this stamp caught the attention of international news services, and philatelists have been trying to find a way to acquire one for their collections. I know that I, for one, have been searching online for a while, and the Ukrainian Postal Service website doesn't seem to be much help. I finally came across a listing on eBay from a Ukrainian seller who has two of the first-day covers for sale.

Due to copyright restrictions, I don't think I can show the eBay listing for the cover, but the link is: <https://www.ebay.com/itm/175240217720> if you would like to view it. Current auction bid at the time I am writing this article is US \$610.00.

This may well be a record price for a first-day cover initial offering on eBay, or anywhere for that matter. The seller is based in Ukraine and is a long-established eBay seller. Perhaps if the Ukraine Postal Service would get their website running, they could discover a way to fund the war effort with these covers and stamps which are currently in high demand.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom from oppression.

<-- Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky holds a folder containing the newly-issued stamps and first-day covers.

Been There,  
Done That

## Fairchild C-82 & C-119

### Airplanes

By Steven Turechek

Poking around the outdoor air museum at Lackland AFB (San Antonio, TX), I couldn't help but notice the well-preserved Fairchild C-119 'Flying Boxcar' in the photo.



The Air Force made good use of these planes in Korea and Vietnam hauling cargo, and even converted a few into gunships. But years prior, in 1946, the Post Office experimented with a civilian model of an earlier version of the plane, the C-82 'Packet'. The idea was to speed up air mail delivery by sorting the mail as the plane flew. This was a flying post office, complete with a curved sorting station in the cargo bay for postal employees. They had to work while standing.



Collectors were able to submit covers like the one pictured for the experimental flights; some covers were even cacheted in-flight. Notice the B&W photo



with the aircraft's clam-shell rear cargo doors open to permit loading the mail. But the savings in time did not offset the postal crew's discomfort or safety concerns thus a fleet of flying post office aircraft did not go into operation.

The C-119 has been portrayed on a foreign stamp. In 1995, several Caribbean and Pacific Ocean countries, including



Jamaica, commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations by issuing sets of four stamps. The \$5 value of the Jamaican set portrays the USAF C-119 flying for the United Nations in Korea.



## New Membership Benefit

By Rick Howell

Back in November at EXPO 2021 I volunteered to work with Bob Weidman in the Mixture Pick area. For anyone who is not familiar with the mixture pick, it is a huge amount of stamps, mostly postally used, and mostly closely-cropped on paper. The piles of stamps are spread out on a couple of eight foot long tables and separated by worldwide and U.S. Visitors to EXPO are encouraged to sit down and pick through the piles to find treasures to supplement their collections, all at a minimum price.

Typically, as a preview to the EXPO, Bob brings the mixture pick to the Arlington meeting in October to allow club members to have first pick over the piles of stamps and make some early selections as a benefit of membership. The problem with this is there is just so little time available to go through these massive amounts of stamps. Being a worldwide collector, I could spend a month going through the piles.

Then an idea slapped me in the back of the head, kinda like my old high school science teacher. What if we pre-bagged a random selection of stamps and offered them to the members at a bargain price? I ran this idea by Bob and he seemed receptive to the idea, so I decided to do some research and try to figure out how many stamps we could offer in a package and figure out a price which would make it a bargain for our members and provide another incentive to become a member of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

So, I convinced Bob to loan me one of the bins of worldwide stamps to take home and see what I could come up with. I had a gallon zip-lock bag laying around the house there, so I filled it up with randomly selected stamps and got to work. Now I am not the fastest guy in the world when it comes to sorting stamps, and my wife occasionally finds other things for me to do, but after a couple of weeks, I finally came up with some numbers to help describe the lot of stamps in my gallon bag.

First, I weighed the bag. It was pretty well packed and came in at 1 pound 6 ounces. The total number of stamps in the bag came to 3,108 stamps, representing 89 different countries. The highest representation was from Australia with 614 stamps or 19.76%. Second was Germany with 603 stamps or 19.40%. These were followed by Canada, Great Britain, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, France and so on down the line.

I was amazed at the variety of the representation. Now, as with every random selection, there was some duplication, and that is to be anticipated, but I appreciate duplication as it allows me to select the best stamps for my collection. If anyone is interested in seeing the results of the total count, let me know and I will print off the results. I will also post it on Facebook so you can examine it there or download it if you like.

So, what does this mean as a benefit to the club? We have decided to pre-package some lots of

stamps to make available to club **MEMBERS ONLY** at the great price of only \$10 per pound!

Based on the numbers in my research, you should get somewhere around 2,260 stamps in a pound. Heck, at the current Scott minimum value of 25 cents per stamp, that comes out to \$565 in catalog value, and you might actually find some stamps of higher value. Both US and worldwide assortments will be made available. Either way, it is a great amount of fun soaking and sorting stamps and finding treasures to add to your collection. Isn't that why we all like philately anyway?

## *Been There, Done That*

## Tasmania

By Geoff Owens



I spent the last several months of 2014 in Hobart, Tasmania, on my final work assignment before I retired. Tasmania is an island roughly the size of South Carolina with many points of interest and several weekends I rented a car and went exploring. One such weekend found me on the southeast coast where a famous rock formation known as Tasman's Arch is located (named after the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman, who also gives his name to the island).

Tasman's Arch is one of eight landmarks that was featured on the iconic Pictorials stamp issue of 1899, only the 5th stamp issue worldwide featuring pictorial subject matter rather than monarchs or presidents or notable people. The stamps were reprinted twice until 1912 and make an interesting collecting challenge.

I managed to see five of the landmarks from the set. One place, Dilston Falls, was no longer possible to view. It was formed by debris that blocked a river and a few years after the stamps were issued a flood washed away the "dam" and the falls disappeared.





I have just returned from my third visit to Singapore, and was disappointed to find this excellent museum was closed, and in the course of being converted into a children's museum. The staff at the adjacent National Archives informed me that, like most museums in Singapore, it had closed during the COVID-19 lock down, and the building was due to reopen in its new guise this December.



Until recently the organization published a 16 page newsletter three times a year:



This particular example included a page devoted to me (see upper right)!

The displays from the permanent collection included some fascinating history, including international covers from the Malay States that were not members of the UPU, so to take advantage of the regulated UPU rates they had to be franked with their own issues and also with Straits Settlements stamps. Here's an example of one of the museum's exhibits:

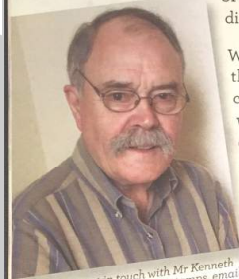
Straits Settlements Collection

I was pleased to learn that the new children's museum is being sponsored by Singapore Post, and will still have a strong focus on Singa-

# Friends Through Stamps

Singapore may be halfway around the world from the United States, but that has not stopped a special friendship from forming between Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM) and Mr Kenneth Wills.

Mr Wills visited Singapore in 2005 and 2015. On both trips, he dropped by SPM and was very impressed with what he saw. When he got home, he sent used American stamps to SPM so that the colourful miniature pieces of history could be distributed to school children.



To get in touch with Mr Kenneth Wills for swapping stamps, email him at [wills@airmail.net](mailto:wills@airmail.net)

When the United States Postal Service (USPS) launched their special *Star Wars* commemorative issue, Mr Wills sent a cover with the stamps to SPM. Little did he know that the cover would later be displayed at *Light vs Dark Exhibition: Stamps and Collectibles* which took place from March - June 2013. Recently, after reading about *Return To Sender* exhibition on the life of Elvis Presley, Mr Wills sent SPM a packet of used Elvis stamps that USPS issued in 1993, to be given out to museum visitors.

Mr Wills, born and raised in England, now resides in the US and is very active in searching for used postage stamps. His interest lies in collecting these treasures from former and present British colonies. He is also a past president for his local stamp club which has over 100 members. He currently manages a swap circuit for the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors ([www.iswsc.org](http://www.iswsc.org)) that strives to promote the fun and fascinating world of stamp collecting to the young and old.



Return To Sender  
exhibition is extended  
to 15 November 2015



# Stamp Competition 2015

SINGAPORE 2015  
WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION  
SANDS EXPO® & CONVENTION CENTRE • 14 - 19 AUG 2015  
NATIONAL STAMP COLLECTING COMPETITION 2015  
PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY  
15 AUGUST 2015



pore Philately. The original museum had close relations with local schools, and this competition had 364 students participating. What a great way to prevent the hobby from becoming a domain for old fogies!



## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2022

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

- We had 27 members attend the April meeting.

### Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt opened the meeting at 7:05 PM. He reminded everyone that next month's meeting would be the semi-annual auction.
- Treasury - Judy gave the treasury amount, saying there were several large outlays to accommodate club and expo obligations.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said he had received a new member application, bringing our total to 95.
- Committee Reports:
- EXPO:
  - Ralph Poore said we had a very good planning meeting last Saturday, and that the Expo budget was set.
  - Stanley Christmas announced the mail out list had been pared down such that our regular October envelope stuffing would be unnecessary this year.
  - Ray Cartier said he had exhibit applications available.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias said the next newsletter was underway.

### Announcements:

- Rich Hildebrandt mentioned the TSDA Stamp Fair this Friday and Saturday (April 8 & 9).

### Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell talked about receiving a large box of APS material that we can use for recruitment and the beginners table at Expo.
- Ray Cartier showed a couple of space related covers.
- Ben Termini referenced an article in Linn's by John Hotchner about a cover he had shown at the January meeting. He also mentioned he had won the latest cartoon caption contest in Linn's.
- Peter Elias talked about replies he had received from his mail out to over 200 stamp issuing countries, as well as a stamps.com mailing. He also talked a little about counterfeit CVP (computer printed) stamps.
- Skip Ely showed an old cover from Argentina that had been addressed to a person "West of the Mississippi" and was apparently successively delivered to a college in Iowa.

### Program:

- Ken Aldridge presented a slide show titled "Crazy FBI Mail", highlighting some of the uniquely addressed covers he received when he worked in Fargo, North Dakota.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Chuck Snow, Judy Christmas, Roy Davis, Rich Hildebrandt, and Bob Weidman. A special APS satchel was won by Donna Howell.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting concluded about 8:20 PM.

## Granbury Meeting Minutes

March 22, 2022

By Gary McNamee

### Opening:

The meeting started early at 6:50 PM.

### Attendance:

9 members were in attendance.

### Announcements & Reports:

- Dave Stockbridge opened the meeting and distributed the new member handbooks.
- Skip sent an update with 2 corrections.
- Rick Howell reported that he had been in touch with Scott English and that our club gets \$5 off for a card plugging to join APS. We have received magazines, carry-on bags and online APS programs.
- Alliene Franklin has sent a note trying to get a new EXPO Awards Chair. Stanley indicated that he thought that someone had agreed to take the job. He will check it out and let Alliene know.
- Gene Atkinson sent a note that he was not able to attend because he was doing a program online about Rotary stamps.
- Gary McNamee presented a "Where in the World Is It?" and the answer was Thailand.

### Show & Tell:

- Bob Coleman showed some early aviation postcards from Van Horn, TX.
- Stanley Christmas talked about some Zeppelin copies and experimental mail drops since 1939.

### Program:

- Dave Stockbridge presented a program on *4 Dead Russian Countries* that no longer exist. After the overthrow of the Czar at the end of WWI, many areas of Russia tried to establish themselves as independent nations (and a few of these came back after the 1980 breakup of the Soviet Union). The 4 countries talked about included 1) Far East Republic, 2) Ingermanland, 3) Siberia and 4) Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic. The first stamps used in each of these countries were left-over stamps from the Russian empire and they were overprinted with some number or symbol. Most of these independent countries did not last long and were eventually taken over by the Soviet Union.

### Door Prizes:

- Three door prizes were drawn and winners were Stanley Christmas, Bob Coleman, & Joe McFarland.

### Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be on April 26<sup>th</sup> and the program will be "Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4, Ft. Worth, TX" presented by Ray Cartier.

### Adjournment:

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

## MCSC EXPO Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2022

By Skip Ely

The Mid Cities Stamps Club held an EXPO Planning Meeting at David's BBQ in Pantego on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Attendees were Ralph Poore (Expo Chairperson), Patty Poore, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Alliene Franklin, Rick and Donna Howell, Tom Cunningham, Kathryn Story, Rich Hildebrandt, Janet Moyer, Ray and Karen Cartier, and Skip Ely. Anne Moxley participated via a phone link.

Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM, following an announcement about upcoming TSDA Stamp Fair. The minutes from the January and February meetings were accepted and approved.

The main purpose of this meeting was to approve a budget for the upcoming year. Judy Christmas distributed a draft that was then reviewed item by item. Adjustments were made in both income and expenses. Overall, no major issues were identified. Judy said she would make the necessary changes agreed upon at the meeting and will send the revision out electronically to committee members. In the end, a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the revised budget.

One action item was related to the successful raffle last year of the Texas/stamp quilt. There was a short discussion about finding something this year that might generate similar interest. This was tabled for future discussion.

Some other items that were discussed:

- Anne Moxley has agreed to be awards chair another year. Ray Cartier said he had identified some other organizations that might be interested in offering local awards for exhibits.
- Stanley Christmas passed around a draft of the show flyer. Of note, we are omitting any mention of the USPS, as they have not indicated any interest in participating in the show.
- Stanley also said he had reduced the mail out announcement list such that it will be unnecessary to have the club members stuff envelopes in October (so we will need a program for that date).
- Rick Howell proposed using some excess mixture pick items for sale in quarter and one pound bags as separate items at the mix pick table. No objections were made to this proposal.
- Tom Cunningham said many of the dealers at the upcoming TSDA show would likely be participating in EXPO, and he anticipated no trouble in filling all the other tables.
- Ralph Poore thanked those who had submitted their recruitment and succession planning documents, and reminded those that haven't to please prepare them soon.

Ralph said that the next meeting would be on May 21 at Spring Creek BBQ.

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM.

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Father Damien

By Pat & Bob Weidman

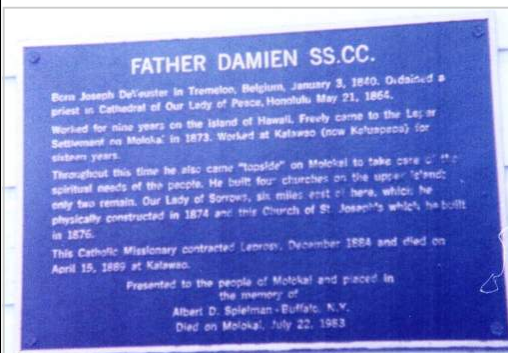
Back in March of 1986, I had to go to Hawaii to work a trade show. This was at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki. Pat went along with me. When the trade show was over, we went over to Molokai for a few days.



While we were there, we decided to take the Molokai Mule Ride to the leper colony at the Kalaupapa Peninsula. This is on the north side of the island, and goes down the side of the mountain. The picture above is of Pat on her mule named Holani, which translates to "a mythical place" in Hawaiian.

Leprosy in the 1800's was a very deadly communicable disease. There was no cure and those that became infected would die. In Hawaii, a leper colony was established at the Kalaupapa Peninsula on Molokai. Hawaiians that had leprosy were sent there.

Father Damien, a Roman Catholic priest asked to be



sent to Molokai to minister to the lepers. He was born Joseph de Veuster, on January 3, 1840 in Tremeloo, Belgium. He was ordained a priest on May 24, 1864 in

Honolulu and was a member of the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. In 1884 he was stricken with leprosy and died on April 9, 1889. In 2009 he was canonized (declared a saint by the Catholic Church).

The photo above is of a plaque at the former leper colony at Kalaupapa. The stamp is Belgium Scott#1552, issued on May 16, 1994.



# 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](mailto: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](mailto:jasdmyers@earthlink.net) 5/15

## Wanted to Trade

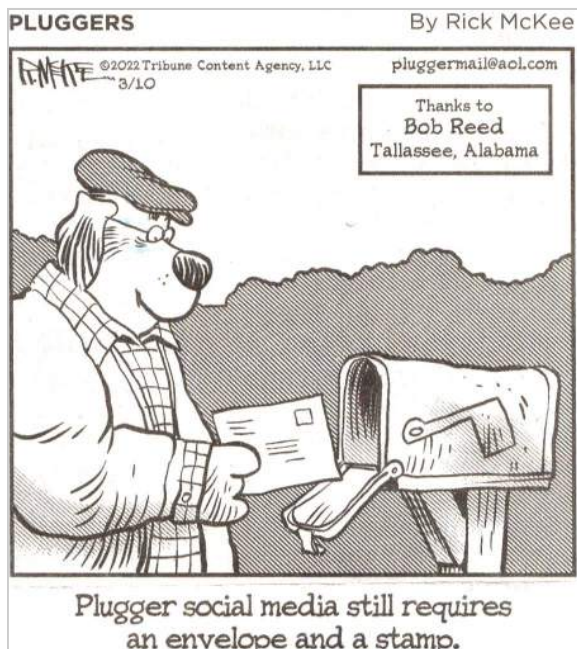
I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 9/16

## 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](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) 8/14

## Comic Strip - Pluggers (Social Media)

By Peter Elias



to be said for a stamp on an envelope!

This “Pluggers” comic strip was published in the March 10, 2022 edition of the Dallas Morning News.

This strip laments how a “plugger’s social media” still requires envelopes and stamps.

“Pluggers” seem to refer to people doing this the “old way”. But hey, that’s fine! I don’t find emails that “collectible” and there’s no stamps to soak off!

While I like the immediacy of email, there’s something

## 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](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact me at [wills@airmail.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

My



..worth

## Stamp Supplies

By Peter Elias

Back in the “old days” (which may vary based on your age), many department stores (remember Woolworth, Kresge, etc?) had stamp sections. Now they don’t, certainly none of the “big box” stores like Walmart or Target have anything to offer our favorite hobby.

Even many “hobby” stores don’t carry stamps or supplies these days. The only regular retail store that I can think of that carries any sort of stamp items at all, is Hobby Lobby. The picture below is from their “collecting” area, and features mostly coin items, with just a handful of stamp items, which includes 1 general stamp album, a couple of black stock pages, magnifiers, some stamp mounts and a couple of overpriced “grab bags” of stamps (about \$6 for each of those), so some “antique” USA stamps (which I tend to give away...). It’s really sad. No wonder that stamp collecting is virtually unheard of by the general public these days..





## MCSC Eulless Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022

By Skip Ely

### Attendance:

- 10 members attended the meeting on a warm, humid and windy evening.

### Opening:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:25 PM.

### Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount and detailed the large expenditures for the past two months.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had one new member application.

### Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said sales were minimal for the APS books this month, but that sales of Dave Stockbridge's former Oklahoma Philatelic Society sales books were doing well.
- Newsletter - Peter said the next newsletter was almost finished.
- EXPO – Peter Elias said John Hotchner had confirmed being an exhibit judge at EXPO and had given him some recommendations for the other 2 judges that are needed.
- Mix Pick Bundles - Rick Howell said the club was selling U.S. and WW one pound bundles (about 2,200 stamps on paper) from the mix pick table for \$10 each bag.

### Show & Tell:

- Tom Turner had a cover he purchased recently at the TSDA Stamp Fair postmarked from the U.S. to France in 1941 with censor tape.
- Rick Howell showed a British cover with a "Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal" cancel. He also showed four new British Machin stamps with the 2d matrix codes attached.
- Ken Wills passed around a recent ISWSC newsletter with an article he submitted on the first page.
- Peter Elias had a deck card he obtained for the new U.S. Shel Silverstein stamp that was recently issued (April 8). He also passed around a letter with a UPS shipping meter strip from 1963 used as an address label. He also commented on a recent Mystic flyer he received in the mail. Finally, he showed some more fake NetStamps that were being sold by a Facebook Marketplace seller as legitimate postage.

### Program:

- Ken Wills presented another video from the "Night Mail" DVD titled "30 Million Pieces" about how this volume of mail was sorted and transported each night.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Ken Wills and Skip Ely. Janet Moyer received a satchel.

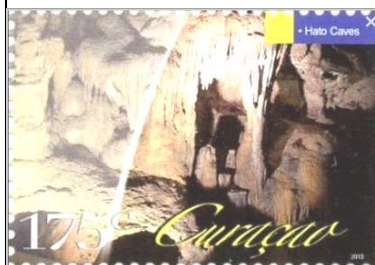
### Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at about 8:40 PM.

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Hato Caves

By Peter Elias



Shown is Scott #138i from Curacao, issued in 2013. Well before then, from March 9 - 14, 1998, I found myself on a business trip to Curacao, one of the islands in the "Dutch Caribbean", and is the "C" in what is considered the "ABC islands" - Aruba, Bonaire &

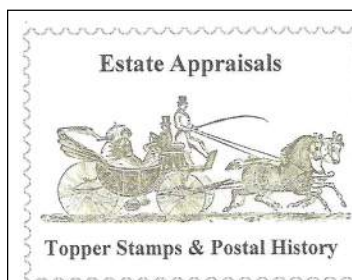
Curacao. It is located about 50 miles north of Venezuela.

Since my trip included a weekend stay, I figured I'd check out the island, much of which isn't a lush tropical place like other Caribbean islands, but more of an arid, desert type of place (I did see tumbleweeds cross the road while driving - at least they drive on the "right" side of the road unlike the British Caribbean islands!).



While I'm not a "spelunker", I always enjoy visiting caves. Luckily on Curacao, there are the "[Hato Caves](#)", which are located on the northern end of the island. These caves were formed of marine coral limestone millions of years ago, are 790 feet long and have been publicly accessible since 1991. They had utilitarian purposes during the slave trade days and were used as a hiding place by escaped slaves.

*A selfie taken by yours truly -->*



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On August 12, 2022, the USPS issued a set of 8 stamps featuring various “backyard games”, which includes 1) Horseshoes, 2) Badminton, 3) Flying disk, 4) Bocce, 5) Cornhole, 6) Tetherball, 7) Croquet and 8) something they call “variation of pick-up baseball (not necessarily shown in that order above).



Growing up in Switzerland, we didn't really have any of those, although I think Badminton was available. Once here in the USA in the 1970's, I was exposed to some of these (for one thing, we actually had a house with a backyard...).

The

picture to the left shows us playing Croquet in our parent's backyard (that's me on the left in the back), and I do remember that we also had Badminton set up a few times.

While I have played “Flying Disk” (as the USPS calls it, as “Frisbee” is a trademarked product) at various times in college or later, usually it was in a park or on a beach.

Tetherball I vaguely remember, and our elementary school in Michigan had one in the playground.

Cornhole is something that I rarely play, and usually only at someone's function or party, and I occasionally play it at trade shows in the hopes of winning some trade show swag...

I may have played Horseshoes once or twice, and have never played “Bocce” (what is that exactly?) and have absolutely no interest in anything relating to Baseball. So there you have, my “life experience” as it relates to this particular set of stamps! I mean sure, I could look up the histories of all of these games and write several pages about that, but that should all be easily accessible at Wikipedia or other sources. Needless to say, some backyard games fun, and of all the ones above, Croquet is my favorite, and Badminton my 2nd favorite. So what is your take on backyard games?



I think I'll start this article off by saying “Dam”! (Sorry, couldn't help it...).

The stamp on the left is Switzerland #754, issued in 1985 to commemorate the “International Conference on Large

Dams” (which was held in Lausanne, Switzerland) and features a drawing of the [Grande Dixence](#) dam, which is located in the Canton of Valais in southern Switzerland at

the end of a valley near the Italian border, and isn't too far from Zermatt and the famous Matterhorn, as a Google Map© close-up shows to the left.

At 935 feet tall, the Grande

Dixence dam is the tallest gravity-fed dam in the world, the 5th tallest overall and the tallest in Europe.

While an original dam was first constructed in 1929, growing electricity demands after WWII required a larger dam, so the original one was surpassed by a larger one completed in 1961, containing 210,000,000 cubic feet of concrete!



I have visited twice, in the early 1970's and, the 2nd time being in 1986, when I did tour the tunnels inside and also was at the top (a gondola takes you there). My blue Ford Taunus is the 2nd car from the right in the photo I took from the base of the dam. Also nearby



are the interesting “Pyramids of Euseigne”, a series of chimney rock formations. All highly recommended places to visit!





## Comic Strip - Pearls Before Swine (Dying Neighbor)

by Greg Cain & Peter Elias

Houston reader Greg Cain sent me this July 19, 2009 "Pearls Before Swine" where "Rat" is trying to figure why the subject died so young. Kind of hilarious! Certainly I'd like to think that we collectors live longer (mostly due to mental stimulation, although our hobby does seem to have us be "desk-bound" a lot and not too terribly full of "exercise"...).

Greg also sent me an email (ooh, my first "letter to the editor" in at least a decade!), see below. That is cool having an autographed copy of the strip!

Hi, Peter -

I saw the two Pearls Before Swine cartoons published in your April newsletter and thought I'd send in this one. To answer your query, I don't think he has anything against stamp collectors. In fact, he may be one (or was at one time). I met him at a book signing here in Houston several years ago and took along this cutout for him to sign and draw my "favorite" character on top - Rat (not the one I admire the most). He's a "retired" lawyer, a very witty and clever guy, and one for whom - as you know - nothing is sacred. But when he is really steamed about something, it comes through in the strip. And stamp collecting, although an easy target for poking fun at, is not one of those topics. Thanks for publishing the two recent strips! I enjoyed them all over again.

Best regards,  
Greg



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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## MEET & EAT for

May 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

May 4 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington,  
76013 Phone: (817) 861-1060.

### EULESS

May 18 Jason's Deli 2200 Airport Freeway,  
Bedford Phone: (817) 354-1511

### GRANBURY

May 24 Grumps, 3503 East Highway 377  
Granbury

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**Arlington club auction - May 4**  
**EXPO Planning Meeting - May 21**

## Wanted to Buy

**Texas Precancel Stamps.** Contact Rick Howell at  
[Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 1/21

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

## Stamp Humor

By Peter Elias

This month's (and first time ever) "stamp humor" was submitted by member Ken Aldridge:

*I saw this on a Facebook stamp selling site: A guy advertises wants to sell extensive WW collection. Has agreement with his wife he has just 2½ years to do so. There were 87 comments and about half-way through them, a woman posts: "Wouldn't it be easier to get rid of your wife?"*