

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

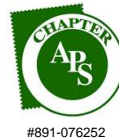
Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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)



#90
CHAPTER
MEMBER



Volume 38, Number 11

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

November 2025

Postage Rates & Fees	7/13/2025	10/5/2025
DOMESTIC	<i>(thru 10/4/25)</i>	<i>(thru 1/18/26)*</i>
1st Class - 1 oz (retail/metered or PC)	0.78 / 0.74	0.78 / 0.74
" 2 oz	1.07 / 1.03	1.07 / 1.03
" 3 oz	1.36 / 1.32	1.36 / 1.32
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.65 / 1.53	1.65 / 1.61
non-machinable surcharge	+0.49	+0.49
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	1.63	1.63
" 2 oz	1.90	1.90
" 3 oz	2.17	2.17
" 4 oz	2.44	2.44
" 5 oz	2.72	2.72
+ 0.28 per ounce up to 9 oz	+0.28/ounce	+0.28/ounce
+ 0.30 per ounce after 9 oz	+0.30/ounce	+0.30/ounce
" 13 oz (maximum)	5.04	5.04
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as Ground Advantage)		
Ground Advantage - up to 4 oz	6.80 - 7.90	7.20 - 8.40
" up to 8 oz	7.10 - 8.75	7.50 - 9.25
" up to 12 oz	8.15 - 10.6	8.55 - 11.10
" up to 15.999 oz	8.70 - 11.95	9.10 - 12.45
Media Mail - 1 lb	4.63	4.47
" 2 lbs	5.38	5.22
" 3 lbs	6.13	5.97
" 4 lbs	6.88	6.72
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded	11.00 / 11.20 / 11.95	11.90 / 12.10 / 12.85
" Commercial Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded Env.	9.70 / 10.20 / 10.50	10.40 / 10.90 / 11.20
" Small Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	11.70 / 10.60	12.60 / 11.30
" Medium Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	21.05 / 18.50	21.95 / 19.20
" Large Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	29.95 / 27.10	31.40 / 28.35
Postcard (Domestic)	0.61	0.61
Certificate of Mailing (domestic) (3817 / 3665 or 3877 with 3 piece min)	2.40 / 0.70	2.40 / 0.70
Certified Mail	5.30	5.30
Insurance (up to \$100 is included with GA & Priority Mail) up to \$50 / \$100 / \$200	2.70 / 3.40 / 4.40	2.70 / 3.40 / 4.40
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	19.70	19.70
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	20.40 / 23.50	20.40 / 23.50
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada (2 oz)	1.70	1.70
(variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)	see usps.com	see usps.com
Non-machinable surcharge	+0.49	+0.49
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)	17.85 - 21.00	17.85 - 21.00
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env (Grp2-8)	43.50 - 45.40	43.50 - 45.40
" Canada (Grp 1)	30.90	30.90
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound, Grp2-20)	56.70 - 67.60	56.70 - 67.60
Certificate of Mailing (3817/3665)*	2.40 / 0.70 each*	2.40 / 0.70 each*
See current Notice123 at usps.com !	*FCMI / MinQty 3	*FCMI / MinQty 3

November Arlington Meeting Cancelled

By Peter Elias

Yes, you read that correctly, the November 5 Arlington meeting is cancelled due to it occurring just 1 day prior to EXPO set-up (which is on November 6, and the show being on November 7 & 8). The board of directors approved this at the September 27 EXPO planning meeting.

The November Flower Mound & Granbury meeting schedules are NOT affected by this.

Hope to see you all at EXPO and the December 3 Arlington meeting. The "Annual Meeting", which is normally held during the November Arlington meeting, is now postponed to the December 3 meeting.

USPS 2025 Holiday Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

The USPS is increasing various postage rates for the 3rd time this year (Jan.19, July 13, Oct. 5) for the holiday shipping season, temporarily this time. This time it is mostly for Priority Mail & package services such as Ground Advantage. These rates stop after 1/18/2026, just in time for any annual January rate increases. My usual chart for this is on the left. "Commercial" rates for tracked mail are considerably less than these retail rates.

**Note: Some prices expire 1/18/26, others in mid-2026*

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2025 - 2026 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Rick Howell
Vice-President (Arlington) – Rich Hildebrandt
Vice-President (Granbury) – Dave Stockbridge
Vice-President (Flower Mound) – Dan Golden
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Thomas Cunningham

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Ralph Poore Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ken Aldridge

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

As of 2 months ago, the "groups.io" website that I was using ran out of storage space. While groups.io sites are generally meant to be "discussion group" sites, I used it primarily to store the club's newsletters (all the way back to 1974!), and that takes up a lot of storage space!

While groups.io allots you 1 GB (gigabyte) of storage, that ran out, and thus I can no longer add anything on that site. There is an option to pay some yearly fee that would increase the storage space available.

So I investigated creating a 2nd site. And while that was possible, they no longer have a "files" area where you can park various files. I found out though, that it is possible to send an email to the site with the newsletter attached as a PDF file, and it would retransmit that to all people that are signed up to send/receive messages from the groups.io site. You just won't be able to find the newsletter file itself there. However, you can always go to the site, and look at all previous messages that had been sent, and see the PDF files anyway (attached to each message).

That all said, I've got the new site ready to go, and if you are interested, I can send you an email "invitation" (from the groups.io site) to join that particular site. Since I want enhanced privacy and minimize spammers & scammers from joining this site, I only want to have MCSC members (and a small number of vetted individuals) be on this distribution list. On the original groups.io club site, there were only about 23 members though. If you do not yet have access to that particular site (and all newsletters going back to 1974), please let me know and I'll send you an invitation to that site as well.

Coming Attractions

2025

OCT. 28 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Club Picnic & Presentation by Ken Wills entitled "A Mystery County"

NOV. 5 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

--> **CANCELLED**

NOV. 6 (5 PM) MCSC EXPO Set-up (volunteers only)
Grapevine Convention Center

NOV. 7 - 8 MCSC 38th Annual EXPO
Grapevine Convention Center, 1208 S. Main Street

NOV. 19 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

NOV. 25 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Presented by Jim Myers

DEC. 3 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Christmas Party

DEC. 12-13 TSDA Bourse
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)

DEC. 17 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
--> NO MEETING, see you in 2026

DEC. 23 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
--> NO MEETING, see you in 2026



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

Scott C. Walker (#691) collects:
Postal History, UK & Commonwealth (especially Scottish material), Africa, Caribbean, NC & Texas History, International Space and Airmail (especially Shuttle & Concorde, and flown covers in particular).

Ruth Rechsteiner (#692) collects US Stamps

New Members:

Cliff Stearns (#688) collects USA

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – October 15, 2025

Membership as of September 17, 2025	102
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2025	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of October 15, 2025	103

USPS: What Is Going On Here?

Peter Elias



Well, here's another one from the "what the heck are they doing department"....

I had ordered some UN Flag stamps from an eBay seller (see right) where I only needed only 1 stamp (both for my collection and part of a "Been There..." article).

The seller shipped this item promptly within 1 day and used the discounted "[eBay Standard Envelope](#)" option, where you can see above that it paid the "commercial" rate for a 1 ounce first class letter envelope of 74¢ (versus the "Forever" retail rate of 78¢).

The "eBay Standard Envelope" is basically an envelope that the SELLER provides and has to meet various USPS criteria for 1st class letter mail, but which eBay seems to have modified (such as allowing for only a 3 ounce maximum vs. USPS 3.5 ounce maximum) and it has to be "machinable" (in order words, no stiffeners, which are normally allowed via a non-machinable surcharge, but won't work with the eBay Standard Envelope, which has to rely on "machining").

And "machining" is the only way this envelope can be tracked. Asking Google, this is their "AI assisted" response: *eBay Standard Envelope is a [USPS](#) service with limited, integrated tracking for small, low-value items like trading cards, coins, and stamps, purchased and managed through [eBay Labels](#). Sellers buy the label on eBay, print it, and drop the letter-sized envelope into the mail. The integrated tracking works by routing codes on the label being scanned by USPS sorting machines, not by hand, providing updates only within eBay, which includes shipping protections.*

So, in most instances here in the DFW metroplex, mail is "machined" at the Coppell-based USPS distribution center (since it's near DFW Airport). As you can see on the right, the envelope was "out for delivery" from Coppell on September 5 and also flagged as "delivered" early morning that day at PLANO, TX 75094. Now that said, ZIP Code 75094 is either 1) a PO Box at the Plano Main Post Office, or 2) Street addresses in the city of Murphy, 5 miles to the east (Murphy has no Post Office) and shares a ZIP Code with PO Boxes that are located in Plano. Stupid if you ask me; it confuses many computer systems that don't know to which city the 75094 item is supposed to be going to.

This envelope was most certainly NOT delivered on Friday, Sept. 5th, nor on the 6th or 8th. It did arrive on the 9th.

But then I noticed that there are 2 inkjet cancels. The original one from Sept. 2 at NOVA (Northern Virginia) and another at the North Texas distribution facility -> ONE DAY after it was supposedly delivered! Huh? Someone also wrote RTS (Return To Sender) and UAA (Undeliverable As Addressed) and crossed out the Postnet code above my name. Yet it did get delivered.

Ok, great that I got my order. But WHY was it deemed "undeliverable" & RTS to begin with?

While my UPS Store street address of **120 E FM 544 STE 72 PMB 222** is on 2 lines, it can also go on 1 line, but eBay's label system wants to make it 2 lines. Not

that it matters, all relevant information is present!

The envelope then got a new Postnet code sprayed on the bottom. To the left of which is supposed to be the ZIP+4+2, which is only partially present (3572) from what should be 75094403572. It is not all visible, as there is clear cellophane tape on that side of the envelope, and inkjet ink doesn't stick well to that.


The 2 Postnet codes do vary somewhat.

The "delivered" notation really doesn't mean that, it is assumed to be delivered, because "delivered" would imply that it is tracked at the actual point of delivery, which is not possible in this case.

Hopefully, all of this wasn't too confusing...

Track package

This item may have limited tracking updates.



DELIVERED

Fri, Sep 5 at 10:13am

Set of 8 United Nations Stamps from 2001 Series, MNH-OG (515)

PLANO, TX

Delivered by eBay Standard Delivery on Fri, Sep 5.

Shipped to you
Tue, Sep 2

Out for delivery

Delivered
Fri, Sep 5

Track package

Delivered
Fri, Sep 5

Shipment history

eBay Standard Delivery: ESUS279877562

Fri, Sep 5 10:13am	Delivered PLANO, TX 75094
Fri, Sep 5 3:13am	Out for Delivery COPPELL, TX 75099
Thu, Sep 4 8:00pm	Out for Delivery COPPELL, TX 75099
Thu, Sep 4 12:43pm	Destination processing COPPELL, TX 75099
Tue, Sep 2 8:55pm	Origin Processing MERRIFIELD, VA 22081
Tue, Sep 2 7:48pm	In Transit MERRIFIELD, VA 22081
Mon, Sep 1 4:43am	Tracking number provided

See less ^

Stamp Marketing

By Peter Elias

It is always interesting to study how stamps (and in this case, also coins) were used for sales & marketing purposes by companies.



What you see above are both sides of some sort of a marketing piece by American Express, pushing the sale of a coat that cost \$89.90.

The brown spots you see are artifact of the glue that was used to hold the coin to the paper 50+ years ago.

Digging through my 2026 Scott catalog, I found the stamp to be #412, featuring the Snaefellsjökull Mountain (I'll leave it up to you to pronounce that correctly...). The stamp is of minimal catalog value, i.e.: 25¢, and was issued in 1970.

According to a [website](#), a \$89.90 coat in 1970 would be equivalent to about \$752 in today's dollars, so that must have been a great coat!

Whoever had this before, must have cut out the offer and mailed it in. What my question is: what exactly does the coat being sold have to do with a coin & stamp from Iceland? Was it an Icelandic coat? Unless someone has the original offer with the rest of it intact, we'll never know!

In any case, this is an interesting piece marketing by American Express that uses stamps (and coins) to attract a customer, and I haven't seen one similar to it, although I do have other samples of stamp marketing items such as the usual "Dear Doctor" postcards and first day covers that were mailed by various pharmaceutical companies (such as Abbott Labs in the 1950's to 1960's); even a 25-page booklet from Australian Petroleum company "Ampol" about how to do merchandising using stamps!

Been There, Done That

By Peter Elias



In 2020, Slovenia issued a series of 5 stamps about environmental cleanliness, Scott #1398 - 1402.

These stamps were denominated with A, B, C or D. The D denomination was sold for €1.37 (approx. \$1.59 today), and it must

have been for an overseas airmail for a standard envelope.

The design shows a trash can and is about not wasting food. Despite the subject being about food, my focus was really on the trash can shown on the stamp, which seems fairly small in size compared to the food shown in it.

So I got to thinking about my own current trash can. Here in the USA, we obviously use much bigger trash cans (as far as the ones we might have in our garage anyway). The one shown on the stamp can't be more than a 3 or 4 gallon size, which might be a "kitchen" size. Look at the picture below. On the left is one of the trash cans that I have in my garage. It is of a standard 33 gallon size.

To the right is a black 33 gallon trash bag that was fairly full and that I had just taken out of that trash can (and while it appears small, that is only because the contents inside spread out due to a lack of a side wall).

Next to the black bag is a slightly smaller blue bag. Our city requires that "recyclable" trash (paper, newspapers, cardboard, corrugated board, metal cans, glass bottles & containers & plastic containers with a number in a triangle - as long as they are clean) all go into blue garbage bags, which are about 30 gallons in size and sold by the city. We don't have those large rolling trash bins as some of our neighbor cities do.

We get trash pick-up twice a week, and recyclable item pick-up once a week (plus special bulk pick-up if needed via a reservation).



During a typical week, we might have 1 (at most 2) black bags, and usually 2 blue bags, meaning we have more recyclable items than non-recyclable; which is a good thing!

But we're missing the tiny elephant (err, trash can) on the driveway, the small gray trash can (with chromed handle). Believe or not, that was the trash can that we had in the 1960's when I lived in Switzerland! While I don't know how often they picked up garbage at our apartment house each week, my guess was that this held the garbage for our family of 4 each week. A far cry from the 3+ much larger bags of garbage we generate each week here in the USA!

Of course back in 1960's Switzerland, we had to take certain glass back to the store to be re-used (yogurt cups), recycled (wine & beer bottles) and other glass (sodas) to have the deposit refunded. There were no aluminum cans as we know them now, nor plastic bottles. Different times. Less trash.

Arlington Meeting Minutes October 1, 2025

By Janet Moyer

Attendance:

- 23 members were present for the meeting.

Opening:

- President Richard Howell opened the meeting with a thank you to all who came for the picnic.



Announcements:

- The November 5th Arlington meeting is cancelled since we be together on 6th, 7th and 8th for the EXPO.
- We will meet at Flip's (in Grapevine) at 3:45 PM on November 6th to eat before the show set-up.
- Skip is having trouble sending the email with the monthly newsletter to everyone all at once. If you have any suggestions, please contact Skip. Also – if you don't get it, be sure to check your SPAM folder.
- The EXPO Volunteer Sheet is being passed around.
- Rick Hildebrandt needs to move the library out of our meeting room. Once it is settled, we will get a comprehensive list out to everyone.
- We have run out of storage space at groups.io for current & past newsletters. Suggestions: please contact Peter Elias.

Officer Reports:

- The secretary's report was printed in the previous newsletter. No corrections were noted so they were accepted.

Show & Tell:

- Dave Stockbridge:
 - Had a box that was entirely covered in one sheet of stamps. Nothing was cancelled.
 - Had an envelope with a hologram stamp on it. Also not cancelled.
- Peter Elias:
 - A thick card from the USPS that has a slot in it for checking that the thickness of an envelope is less than 1/4" for passing through the sorting machines.
 - He has joined the CPS (Cartophilatelic Society). It is a great group of specialty collectors that are into "maps on stamps".
 - An article about funny stamp exhibits.
 - A French Revenue stamps on document from a trading partner in Peru.

Program:

- Skip gave an excellent program on US Postage Due stamps.

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Tom Turner and Richard Kincaid.



Photo by Peter Elias



Photos by Peter Elias



Above: The picnic was held outside the Bob Duncan Center.

Left: Dave Stockbridge grilled the hot dogs!

Cookies, chips, cakes & other items were provided by various members in attendance.

The club provided the hot dogs & buns and soft drinks.

Club Mass Email Notifications

By Skip Ely

After many years of sending out the club meeting notices, newsletters and occasional obituaries, my email provider (Yahoo) has decided that they look too much like spam and won't let me send these message in one shot. Consequently I'm having to send them piece meal, with a limit on how many I can send in any one day.

The error message I get suggests finding a third party bulk email provider. I've explored a few that have a free option, but I don't know what that entails. The newsletter has about 130 email addresses; the meeting notices less than 100. If anyone has any recommendations, let me know at n5tjb@flash.net.

In the meantime, I will be sending out the meeting notices primarily to those that come to the respective meetings. If you don't usually attend and want to receive the meeting notices anyway, please let me know. I'll try working closer to getting them on the Facebook and Web pages in a timely manner so they can be accessed there.

[Editor comments: I'd suggest using a discussion group to automate this, such as groups.io or Google Groups. See my thoughts on page 2.]

EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2025

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:43 AM. He thanked all for the great attendance.

Minutes:

- The previous EXPO meeting minutes were printed in the newsletter and there were no corrections, so they stand as printed.

EXPO Chairperson Ralph Poore report:

- The insurance policies are in place.
- Critical Volunteer Positions are filled.
- We are on track for a great year.

Chairperson reports:

- Deputy Chairperson Rick Howell said he would be available during the EXPO to cover anything that comes up.
- Beginning Collectors - Chairperson Skip Ely is sorting through the donations he has for the Silent Auction items and Mixture-Pick.
- Bourse - Chairperson Tom Cunningham reported we have 25 tables. 24 are repeats and 1 new dealer.
- Chance Board - Chairperson Patty Poore announced they are changing the chance board from envelopes to a spinning wheel. There will 1 free ticket in each program and additional tickets will be \$1/each.
- Mini-Exhibits - Chairperson Peter Elias announced what exhibits he has for the exhibit frames.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham said our checkbook balance is in good shape..
- Hospitality - Chairperson Janet Moyer has no report to give at this time.
 - Stanley Christmas will update the registration forms and get them to Janet for printing.
- Lunch - Chairperson Kathryn Storey showed the new form that will be emailed to dealers and volunteers
 - Instead of cookies, we will get 2 candies with our lunch.
 - The lunch cost will still be \$11.
- Mail-Outs - Chairperson Stanley Christmas said he will redo the flyer to include the TPA logo and will get it to Janet for printing.
- Mixture-Pick - Chairperson Bob Weidman said they are in good shape.
- Program Chairperson Geoff Owens showed a sample show program.
 - He will make changes for the American Legion and TPA.
 - He will have the cover printed and Janet will print the interior.
- Publicity - Chairperson Peter Elias announced it is in place.
- Security - Chairperson Bob Weidman will coordinate with the Center, the Security Firm and the Grapevine Police Department.

- Silent Auction - Chairperson Ken Wills said there will be a meeting soon to finalize the lots.
 - He will get the bid sheet ready to copy and give it to Janet to print..
- Snacks – Richard Hildebrandt was not present.
- Transportation – Ralph announced we are using the same as last year, but with a tighter control on the times.
- Volunteer - Chairperson Janet Moyer said she is working on it.

Other Business:

- Richard Howell said there has been no interest in virtual exhibits. The idea will be tabled until next year.
- Entry way table assignments will include the TPA and the American Legion.
- Ralph Poore announced that he had received word from the TPA. They would like to sponsor our EXPO. and would support us with a \$1500 grant. There would be recognition in our mail-outs, newsletter and programs.
- It was also brought up that we could have an affiliation with ISWSC (International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors). We need at least five members, which we already have.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held at the Bob Duncan Center on December 3rd after the Christmas Dinner.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 PM.

Extra actions taken :

- A motion was made by Kathryn Storey to accept the proposal from the TPA and have them be a sponsor for EXPO. It was seconded by Dan Golden. The motion passed.

Board action:

- The board members present convened to discuss the ISWSC. A motion was made by Ken Wills to become an affiliate of the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors. The motion was seconded by Ralph Poore. The motion passed. To join the ISWSC, please go ISWSC.org. The cost is only \$15 per year and there are many benefits.



Granbury Meeting Minutes September 23, 2025

By Joe McFarland

Opening:

- The Granbury Branch of the MCSC met at the Bentwater Marina in Granbury at 6 PM, Tuesday, September 23, 2025.
- Bob Coleman presided in the absence of Dave Stockbridge. Dave was briefly hospitalized due to a side-effect of a new medication. He expects a full recovery.

Program:

- This meeting of the stamp club was our annual auction, with Skip Ely as the very capable auctioneer. There were 17 people in attendance, with 3 absentee bidders. Thanks to Bob for setting up and to Barb Stockbridge for opening up the venue for us.

Auction Results:

- The auction consisted of 72 lots with minimum prices ranging from \$1 to \$100.
- 62 items were sold and realized 8 owners, who submitted items, over \$700.
- An additional 2 items had been donated to the club which realized \$15.
- Initially a few items received no bid and were later offered at a reduced minimum bid and a few savvy bidders walked away with some real bargains.
- Next year's auction will be conducted on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.
- Items are also offered to absentee bidders via email. If you wish to be sent a list of auction items just contact Dave Stockbridge at stockday44@yahoo.com and a list will be provided a couple of weeks before the auction.

Gift Certificate:

- Carol Kincaid's number was drawn for a \$10 gift certificate.

Invalid Usage

By Peter Elias

The Airmail Special Delivery stamp, Scott #CE2 was issued on February 10, 1936. Yet here it is, used on a standard cover postmarked in Tucson, Arizona (from someone with a Canadian return address!), 62 years later!

In 1998, the postage for a standard 1 ounce letter mailed within the USA was 32¢. So at 1st glance, the rate paid would seem to be correct (2x 16¢ stamps).

However, a year prior, in 1997, the USPS replaced the "Special Delivery" service with "Priority Mail" & "Express Mail".

These Airmail Special Delivery stamps were NOT valid as regular postage even when this service was available! So no matter how you slice it & dice it, this was invalid usage of this stamp. But it wasn't caught by anyone at the USPS, because most USPS personnel probably didn't know about this rule in 1998; not then and certainly not now.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes October 15, 2025

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- We had 20 members attend the meeting.

Call-To-Order:

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

Officer Reports:

- Library Status - Rick Howell said that Rich Hildebrandt has removed much of the club library at Arlington. It has to be gone by November 1.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had 2 new applications for membership in the past two weeks.
- Future Meetings - Dan Golden mentioned there would be no Arlington meeting on November 5 due to it's proximity to EXPO.
- Newsletter - Peter said the next one is almost completed, and that he would enter the newsletter in the 2025 APS Star Route competition as soon as the APS makes the application available.
- December Christmas Party - Rick Howell passed around the sign up sheet.

Where In the World is It?:

- Dan went through about five hints before Ken Wills correctly guess Lebanon.

Show & Tell:

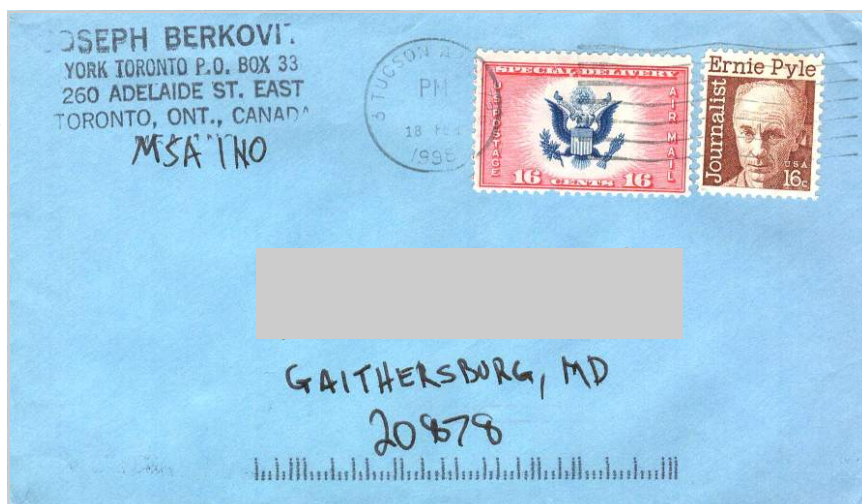
- Dan Golden showed a wooden Hawaiian postcard he had recently received.
- Tim Sasser showed a metal perf gage for accurately measuring Washington-Franklin stamps.
- Ken Wills showed an unusual sheet of revenue cut squares. He also showed a large envelope from Israel with stamps all over the front and back.
- Peter Elias showed a letter of appreciation from the Red River Railroad Museum for some train stamps he sent them. He also had some other items.

Gift Certificate:

- Was awarded to Jin Chung.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:50 PM.



Silvaplana & Sils Lakes

by Peter Elias

Below is Switzerland #B57, one of 4 stamps issued in the 1931 "Pro Juventute" ("For the Youth") stamps.

The stamp features a view of the Sils & Silvaplana

As you can tell, my photo was taken from an almost similar viewpoint as the stamp from 1931. The area is great for hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter. St. Moritz has hosted the Winter Olympics twice, in 1928 and again in 1948. Due to consistent "Maloja winds", Lake Silvaplana is known for windsurfing and kitesurfing, as

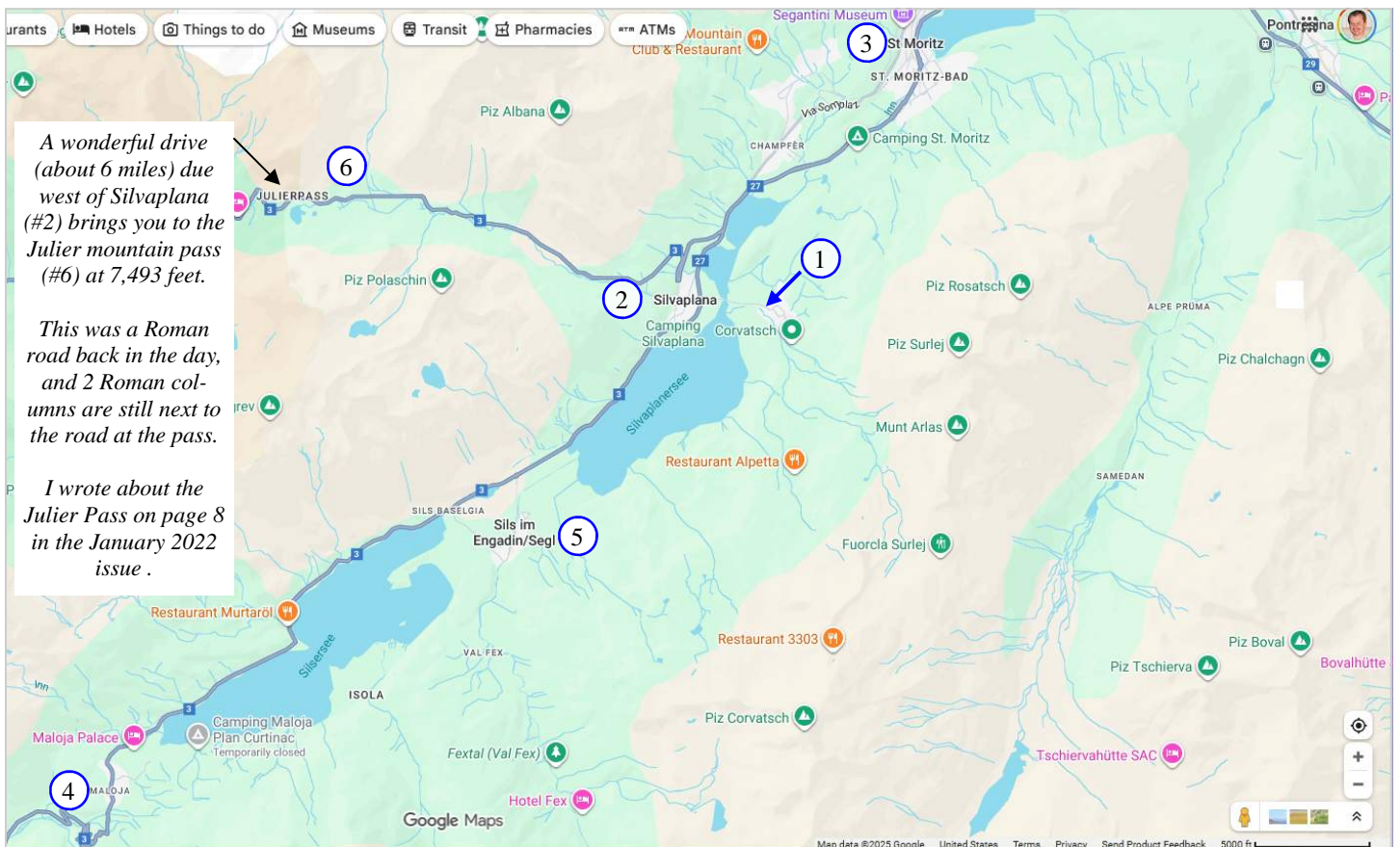


Lakes. These are located about 3 miles southwest of St. Moritz in southern Switzerland, near the border with Italy.

If you look at the Google© map below, position #1 shows from where I took the photo (in late August or early September 1991) and in what direction. We were just above the town of Silvaplana (#2), where we were staying for a couple of days, and took a short hike northeast to St. Moritz (#3). At the far end of the Lake Sils is Maloja (#4), at which point you have a steep drive down towards the Italian border. Silvaplana is at 5,955 feet above sea level.

well as skiing and snowboarding.

The town of Sils (#5) is famous for cultural history that has inspired artists and philosophers. A 2014 movie, "Clouds of Sils Maria" (with an IMDB rating of 6.7) was filmed there; it starred Juliette Binoche, Kristen Stewart and Chloe Grace Moretz. We did see that movie a few years ago. My most recent visit to Silvaplana was in 2013, when we met up with my aunt and a cousin there for 2 days (as we were staying in Davos at the time). It's a great area to visit.





From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

November is rapidly approaching and the main event we have all been working so hard to accomplish, EXPO 2025, is just a short while away. Although it is a lot of work, EXPO is also a lot of fun for our membership, as we all get to sit around with our friends and enjoy two days of philatelic discussions and browsing through the dealer's offerings for the treasures we hope to find.

If any of you are keeping track of club activity dates for November, you will have noticed that we will be very busy with EXPO from Thursday, November 6 to Saturday, November 8. For that reason, we have cancelled the November Arlington meeting originally scheduled for the November 5. Our next Arlington meeting will thus be on December 3rd and will be our Christmas party as well. Don't miss this one because the club is buying barbecue for all.

We are currently searching for a new venue for our Arlington meetings as the city of Arlington has decided to increase our rental rates from our current \$85 per month grandfathered rate, to \$300 a month for our four-hour block of time for our meetings. So, it looks like April will be our last meeting at the Bob Duncan Center.

It looks as though the city of Arlington does not want to promote civic organizations like ours and doesn't realize that we provide a benefit to the city by making it more attractive for a desirable sort of people to come to Arlington. Perhaps Jerry Jones could explain it to them. For the record, a comparable meeting room at the new ACTIV Center is \$800 for a four-hour block of time. They spend all the citizen's money building these places and make them unaffordable to the citizens. Adios Arlington!

We are looking forward to the cookout meeting in Granbury on October 28. Come on down for some great hot dogs and a great time at the Bentwater Activity Center. We will have a short program presented by Ken Wills after the cookout. The Bentwater Activity Center is a great venue on the lake and it cost us a heck of a lot less than Arlington.

We are still working on the library and will be compiling a complete listing of books available for check-out over the next couple of months. The library should be back in full swing by the first of next year. Also, we still have not found the missing Scott Catalog 2A for the auction. If you have this catalog laying around, please return it to the club librarian, Rich Hildebrandt, or call me and I will come by and pick it up.

We have a lot going on in November, so let's keep a big smile on our faces and have a great time at EXPO!!! See you there!

How To Promote Stamp Collecting

By Peter Elias

One way to help keep stamp collecting alive is to remind people that they exist to begin with (since for example, we rarely ever get mail with stamps on them with your daily mail; definitives at best and rarely commemoratives).

So when I was at the Red River Railroad Museum last month, I mailed them a couple of stamps that related to railroads, in this case, the 4 stamps that had been issued for the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

The curator loved receiving the stamps and will put them on display in a relevant area.

They even mentioned this on their Facebook page as you can see from the screen shot below.



Hopefully some people will see these stamps and perhaps strike up their own interest in "railroads on stamps". One can only hope!

continued on page 10 ->

Continued from page 9

Shortly after I did the brief write-up on the previous page, the curator, Diane Geer, sent me a photo of how the stamps are now displayed in the museum.



Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Zach Iseminger for donating 3 boxes of covers. These were mostly commercial covers that he received at work or home, or inbound mail from work colleagues or other people he knew, along with some off-paper stamps. Most were from the 1980's to perhaps 2000 (from what I've seen so far). As such, many stamps

are definitives but there's commemoratives sprinkled throughout (remember the days when businesses actually used stamps instead of meters?).

These were regular mailings and no first day covers. In a few instances, some covers are best preserved as entires, but most are best served by soaking the stamps off. Severely damaged stamps and ultra-common items will be re-donated to [Pegasus Creative Reuse](#) in Dallas.



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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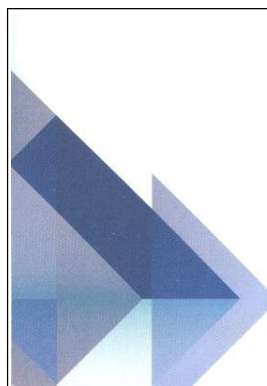
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EAS_STAMPS

Jimmy Tomchesson
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832-278-5268

eBay Store: [EAS Stamps](#)



Topic of the Month: Hamburgers On Stamps

By Peter Elias



When you think of "Hamburgers" on stamps, the above is probably NOT what you are picturing... So this stamp from Hungary, Scott #2784 features Jenő Hamburger, who lived from 1883 to 1936. He was a Hungarian politician, and served as the People's Commissar of Agriculture when Hungary was under Soviet rule. He later worked as a radiologist and died in the Soviet Union.

At the top of the stamp, "Eve Született" means "born this year" in Hungarian.

That all said, if you live in the German city of Hamburg, you would be a "Hamburger"! Just as living in Berlin makes you a "Berliner" (which is also the name of a German jelly-filled donut) or living in Wien (i.e.: Vienna) makes you a Wiener (but only when speaking German).

Ok, I digress. This all started when I was thinking about various topics on stamps, and whether or not "hamburgers" (as we know them) were featured on any stamps.

To my knowledge, despite hamburgers being a very popular food item here in the USA (50 billion per year), the USPS has not issued any stamps featuring them.

The 2 images below do show hamburgers. They are "US Postage", and are from Zazzle.com, one of several authorized printers of US "personalized postage", a program that lasted from 2004 to 2020.

Both of these stamps have a diagonal line through the denomination, meaning that these might only be sample images. Whether someone actually ordered these as sheets of 20, I do not know.

Why is a patty of meat between 2 buns called a "hamburger" anyway?

Well, it does go back to the German city of Hamburg, where seasoned ground beef was popular at the time (1800's). It was brought to the USA immigrants and later it was placed between 2 slices of bread.

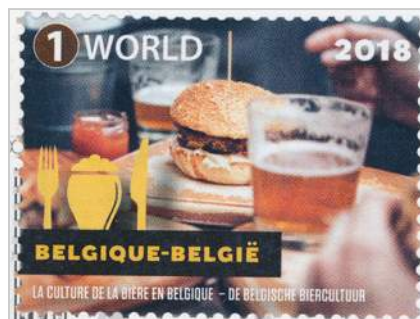
Why there aren't USPS stamps featuring hamburgers, I don't know. However, hamburgers are popular in other countries. There are over 38,000 locations in over 100 countries of the McDonald's fast food chain!).

That said, I found a couple of stamps from other countries featuring hamburgers. I've had the images for a while, and I do not remember where I found them.

First up is Sweden from 2016, Scott #2272e, one in a series of 6 stamps featuring international foods. Scott



#2271 is denominated and features Nordic foods, #2272a to 2272e feature Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Mediterranean and American foods. The American food is of course a hamburger with various add-ons, such as onions, pickles, tomatoes, lettuce & cheese. Why corn on a cob is shown, I don't know... maybe they wanted to some diversity?



The Belgian stamp from 2018 is Scott #2845d, one of five stamps in a miniature sheet about the beer culture of Belgium. But it does feature a hamburger behind the beer.

The San Marino stamp, Scott #2084 from 2020 is about the International Day of

Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, which I didn't know until looking it up in Scott's. I primarily chose it since it appeared (at first glance) to show hamburger buns.



And while mushrooms are (or can) be a part of a hamburger, I certainly can't explain the egg and sausages in the context of the hamburger buns, but could since it relates to the subject of food waste.

Given that over 100 Billion hamburgers are eaten every year worldwide (with half of those in the USA), one would think more countries would honor this subject with more stamps!

CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

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

For Sale

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

Wanted to Trade

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

Wanted

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

The Euro Is Coming

By Peter Elias

...And it has now been here for over 23 years! While the € (Euro) has been originally introduced on January 1, 1999, it was not used as actual currency (coins & banknotes) until 3 years later. In the meantime, it was sort of an invisible currency, used mostly for accounting purposes and electronic transfers. The Irish cover from below, dated August 29, 2000, reminded us of the start date. Well, reminded “them” of that, since here in the USA, the Euro was of little consequence to the average person.



For Sale

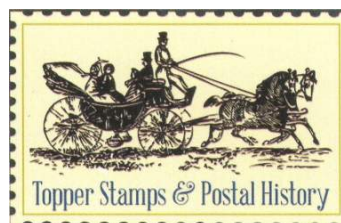
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy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

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

- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans](#) (1,700 items!!)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959](#) (900+ postcards !!)

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 4.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/24

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



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3rd Floor Suite 45
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jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com

Join the ISWSC

By Peter Elias

At the last EXPO planning meeting, member Ken Wills mentioned that if our club has at least 5 members in the ISWSC (International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors), then the club can have a free affiliate membership.

It is a great society for people that “worldwide” stamp collectors (and technically, we all collect “some of the world”).

They have a great bimonthly magazine called “The Circuit” which is available either online or print (slightly higher dues).

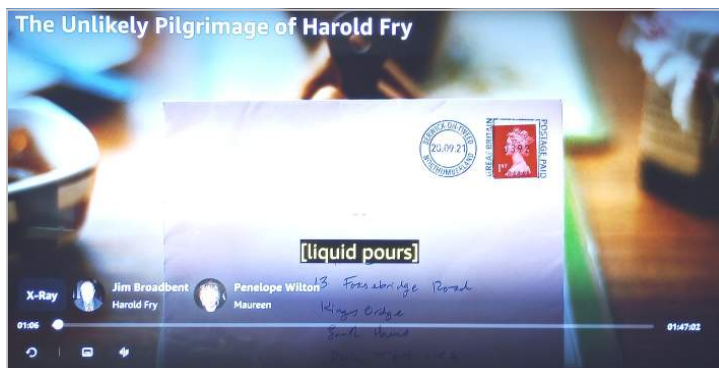
The ISWSC has its website at <https://www.iswsc.org/index.html>. You can [join online](#) and pay dues via PayPal, check or money order (by mail) and even mint USA stamps (if above 10¢ denominations). There is also a PDF file you can download and print & mail and do it the old-fashioned way (i.e.: snail mail).

TV Philately: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry

By Peter Elias

On August 29, we watched the 2023 British movie "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" on Amazon Prime. It's a typical British film and has good acting. It plays slowly, but is a good story that is being unraveled via flashbacks as it progresses.

While it starts on a hopeful note, it is in the end a sad movie, but done well never-the-less (fairly high IMDB ratings from viewers - which is always a key indicator for me).



Early in the movie (only about a minute into it), Harold receives a letter from his former co-worker "Queenie", who stated that she is in hospice care in Berwick-On-Tweed. Harold (& his wife) live in Kingsbridge in South Devon.

That said, I had to look these places up on Google maps, since I'm not familiar with either place (despite having been in Britain about 4 times, but not anywhere near where these 2 places are located). Kingsbridge is in southwestern Great Britain, while Berwick-On-Tweed (actually Berwick-Upon-Tweed) is in northern Great Britain, about 40 miles east/south-east of Edinburgh and near the border with Scotland.



Since Harold's pilgrimage involved walking between the 2 cities, Google map shows it to be about 457 miles and a leisurely 167 hour walk!

As stated earlier, the envelope shown at top appears early in the movie, and above is a close-up of the [what appears to be] a postmark, but also has signs of appearing to be a postage meter (judging by the "POSTAGE PAID" at right and some control numbers in the middle).

On the envelope Harold's address is shown as:

13 Fossebridge Rd
Kings Bridge
South Hams
Devon TQ7 1KA

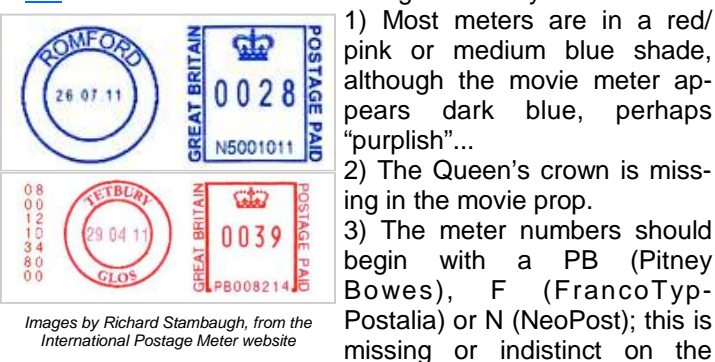
Scanning the area surrounding the small town of "Kingsbridge", I don't see a Fossebridge Rd.

Looking up data at <https://www.streetlist.co.uk/tq/tq7>, it does state that "TQ7 1xx" is the sector for Kingsbridge (although on the envelope it states Kings Bridge), the specific TQ7 1KA postcode is not valid for use. As stated at this website: *Letters C, I, K, M, O and V are not allowed in the last two letters of a postcode.* So there you have it! I learned something new. The UK (& Canada) system of postcodes does appear to be confusing to those of us used to the USA "ZIP Codes", but their system does have logic to it.

The stamp on the letter does appear to be a legit stamp, perhaps it was cheaper to sacrifice a real one for this movie prop rather than go to the trouble making a fake...

Then there is the "postmark". Since it has more the appearance of a meter, I sent a query to the MSS (Meter Stamp Society) discussion group at groups.io. One member replied that it does appear to be a valid meter type (which brand?) and that this (meter on top of a stamp) can occur when additional postage has to be paid (i.e.: the letter is too heavy for standard "1st class" postage). But in the movie, the envelope is opened and just contains a single sheet of paper, so I doubt that this was too heavy (and surely weighed less than 20 grams).

One of the responses, from Jim Ashby, was: *This is not a genuine meter. It looks as though it's based on a Group HB machine but has had the crown removed from the top of the frank. The meter number at the bottom doesn't have a prefix indicating the manufacturer, and the value figures are smaller than the date figures which is not something seen in any of the Group HB meters. Lastly, £3.92 is excessive for a letter weighing 20g!* The £3.92 is from the "0392" shown in the middle of the "meter". I'm personally not familiar with UK meters. There is an "International Meter Stamp Catalog" available online at https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog, so that would be a good starting point to see what these "Group HB" meters look like. Something like what you see below:



Images by Richard Stambaugh, from the International Postage Meter website

movie prop.

4) Seemingly, many meters starting around 2011 also have vertical numbers to the left of the circle, the movie prop one from "2021" does not.

So as usual, a "good try"! But it does pass "muster" while on screen for a second. For me, it is always fun investigating this "movie philately"!



I Agree!

By Peter Elias

I would agree with what that sign says! Would I pay \$250 (or something like that) for it? Well... No.

I saw this sign on the 3rd floor of an antique shop in Denison on September 13 while visiting up there.

On occasion I do check out antique stores just to see what kind of interesting "stuff" people had 50 - 100+ years ago, but generally I don't buy any of it.

Even if an antique store had

stamps, philatelic or postal items, which this one actually did, most of the time it is way overpriced.

The red "Modern Stamp Album" at right (from around 1938-41) is seen often in donations to the club and generally only contain beginner collections. While in the "antiques" world, 80 years old is, well, "old" and must surely be worth something... Unfortunately these people don't know much about stamps, hence uneducated pricing.

That's not to say that you couldn't make a "philatelic find" in an antique store, but you really better know your specialty.

The U.S. MAIL bag at right was priced at \$95 (wonder if it contained any mail!) and I don't remember what the price for the postcards was, but probably too much. But it was fun looking at this stuff!

As they say: *Caveat Emptor.*



2026 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

__ Mr. __ Mrs. __ Ms. __ Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

__ Check here if information is unchanged from 2025 and skip to the signature line below.

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable): _____

__ APS # _____ __ ATA # _____ __ TPA # _____ Other: _____

Permission is granted to make the information above available to other club members. Indicate anything you do NOT want shared: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Membership Level:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online colors newsletters) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed black & white newsletters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Sponsor Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Sponsor (with mailed black & white newsletters) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 6 Additional Adult (no separate newsletter copy) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.) |

Make check out to 'Mid-Cities Stamp Club' and mail this form with payment to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club, PO Box 820784, N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784



MEET & EAT for November 2025

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

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

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

ARLINGTON

November 5 Cancelled.

FLOWER MOUND

November 19 Bari's Pizza & Pasta, 3472 Long Prairie Rd.,
Flower Mound (972) 426-2956

GRANBURY

November 25 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E. Hwy 377,
Granbury, (817) 573-5446

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:
NO Meeting in Arlington on Nov. 5!
MCSC EXPO: November 7 & 8