

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

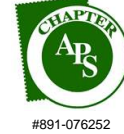
Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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 5

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

May 2025

Food For Thought

By Peter Elias

It was 33 years ago when I joined the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, and thus I've been a member of the club a bit over half of my life now!

Now that I see that age is creeping up on me, I figured I'd do a quick analysis of the ages of our current 93 members (obtained via various "people finder" databases online).

The results are to the right, organized in age group by age decade. Back in 1992, I would have been in the 2nd column (30-39), now I'm 3 columns further to the right.

This graph should speak for itself. 90% of our members are 60 to 89 years old, with age group 70-79 being 39% of all members. And as that group transitions to the 80-89 age, there usually aren't too many people in the 90+ group (1 member presently). Eventually we all "age out" for a variety of reasons (such as sight, ability to drive at night, dementia, having to move to an assisted living facility, etc), a sad fact of life.

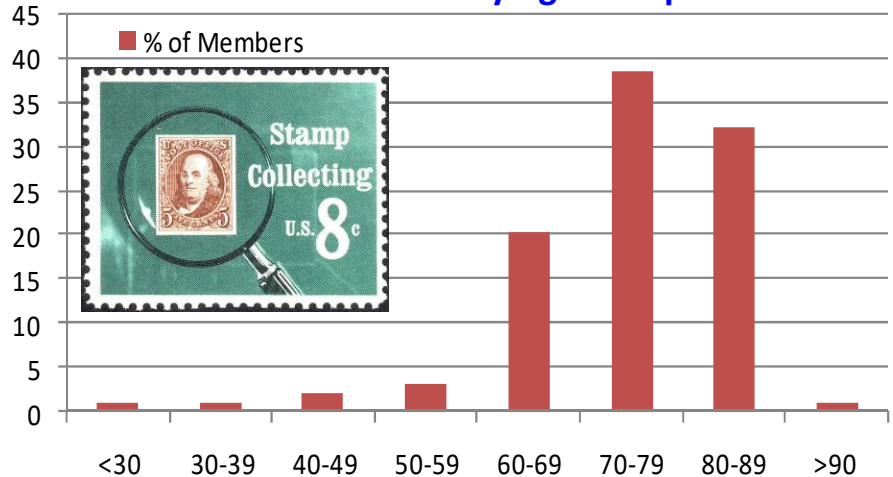
At present, there are only 7 members that make up the 4 age groups up to age 59. We only have 1 member below 30. Sadly kids (even my own son) don't seem to have much of an interest in stamps, perhaps because the hobby isn't presented to them in a way that is meaningful to them, so unless that changes, kids are not the answer for the future of clubs nor the hobby. I'm sure we can blame "screens" for some of that, social media, or just collecting other stuff (Pokémon™ cards, Legos™, etc). The only youth member we had last year isn't renewing this year. Even at last year's show, there was not much (any?) "youth" activity at the beginning collectors table.

I believe that the "middle years" (say, 40 - 65) is what we've got to try and attract to the hobby. Otherwise, how will the demographics look 10 years from now? I'll be in the 70 - 79 group then. How many of the current 80 - 89 members will still be active when they are 90+? Especially the left 2 columns of the chart do not look so good; the right one is as expected.

We (i.e.: collectively the "hobby") tend to "preach to the choir" a lot, meaning marketing within the hobby and I don't see a lot of outreach to the "general public", other than perhaps some social media, and while that is good, it does not necessarily translate into paid members of a club (the internet is "free", right?). I don't necessarily have the answers as such. Whenever I can though, I do mention collecting to other people, the various interesting topics that are out there to collect, the people I've met and even the places that I've been to BECAUSE of philately!

Personally, I think that the topical or thematic approach to stamp collecting one of the is best ways to get started. Sure, collect a "country"; that's is great if you want to explore your roots a bit that way. And certainly there is nothing wrong with collecting US stamps. But many people also have "something"

MCSM Members by Age Group



that is meaningful in their life (whether that be another hobby, their career, perhaps they're "birders", etc); and whatever THAT is, you can usually apply stamp collecting to it! Every little bit helps!

--> **READY, SET, GO SPREAD THE WORD!**

Article Index

Page

Food For Thought	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
The Cover Story	3
Club Meeting Minutes	4, 6
TV Philately: Leonie	5
Fancy Cancel	5
USPS Delivery SNAFU	5
Been There - Done That (The "C" Island)	6
Nixed On Route 66	7
No Kangaroos In Austria	8
Member & Dealer Ads	8, 10, 14
From The President's Cluttered Desk	9
Mailing Gift Cards	9
MCSM Sponsor Members	9
USPS "Collect Stamps" Machine Cancel	10
Less Stamp Supplies	10
Skonk Works	11
MCSM EXPO Planning Meeting	12
Thank You	12
Been There - Done That (Titanic)	13
Meet & Eat	14

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
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Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area! Dues are only \$12 per year (which includes an emailed or online color newsletter, or \$22 for mailed black & white newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

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P.O. Box 820784
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

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

Coming Attractions

2025

- APR. 22** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Sports* by Jim Case
- MAY 7** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: *US Definitives* by Skip Ely
- MAY 21** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- MAY 27** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *FDR Stamp Collection & The Man* by Joe McFarland
- JUN. 4** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: *One Page Exhibits* by Rick Howell
- JUN. 7** **MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)**
David's BBQ, 1730 W. Randall Mill Rd, Arlington
- JUN 13 -14** **OKPEX**
Student Union of Rose State College
1910 Hudiburg Drive, Midwest City , Oklahoma 73110
- JUN. 18** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- JUN. 24** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *US Definitives* by Skip Ely
- JUN. 27-28** **TSDA Bourse**



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

I hope you all noticed the request for 1 or 4-page mini-exhibits for EXPO in last month's newsletter. There's only 7 months until "show time", so if you have any interesting philatelic material, please put together a brief 1 (or 4) page mini-exhibit. Having these exhibits in the EXPO entry area has these items get looked at WAY more than when they were in the separate exhibit room!
--> *Ready, set, show & tell!*

Thank You

By Peter Elias

A thank you goes out to Byron Sandfield who donated 1½ boxes of philatelic material on April 1 (no joke..). It was mostly some Postal Commemorative Society FDC's and UN FDC's, an album with some stamps on pages from the APS, a really nice 17-ring Lighthouse album with quadrille pages, 2 sets of US Bird Stamps FDC albums, and a bunch of UN album supplements (from many years ago). After some weeding out and a discussion with Skip, some material will be given to Pegasus Creative re-use since we can't use some of these items for anything or have too much of it already (primarily empty UN album pages & UN FDC's). Bird FDC's were given to the Trinity Audubon Nature Preserve, since birds are their thing and might hopefully inspire others to collect stamps. The remaining items will be used at EXPO in various areas.



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

Carol Kincaid (#682)

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Not Renewing for 2025:

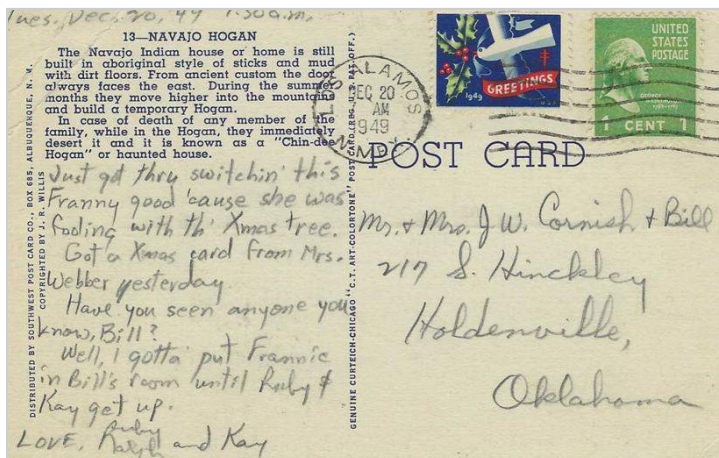
Membership Summary – April 16, 2025

Membership as of March 24, 2025 (adjusted)	94
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2025	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of April 16, 2025	95

The Cover Story

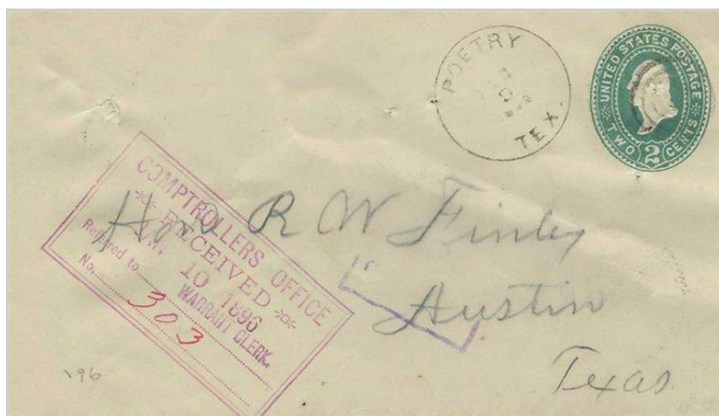
By Rick Howell

My favorite thing to do at a TSDA (Texas Stamp Dealers Association) show is to go through the dealers' dollar cover boxes to try to find my own little treasures buried in the piles of envelopes. Sometimes my search is fruitful, sometimes not, but the fun is in the hunt. The most recent show was held on April 4th & 5th did not disappoint me at all. So, here are some of my treasures obtained for about a dollar each.



The above cover, a post card, was mailed on December 20, 1949, from Los Alamos, New Mexico to Holdenville, Oklahoma.

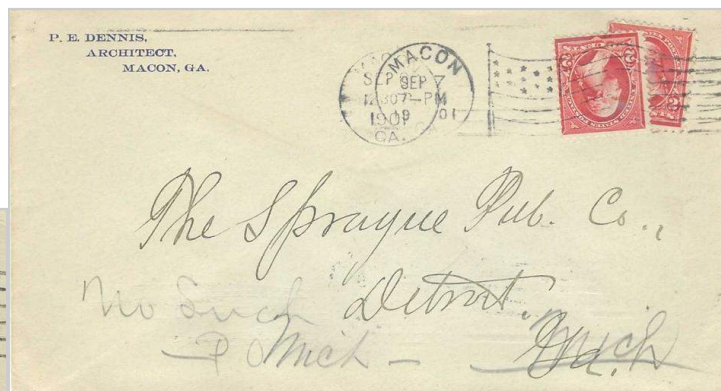
The interesting thing about this one is that there is a Christmas Seal cancelled by the postmark. Many times, Christmas seals were used on cards or envelopes in the place of stamps and were sent through the mail by mistake, prompting the Post Office Department to require that Christmas seals be affixed to the reverse side rather than the addressed side. This sometimes was forgotten or just ignored as indicated by this usage.



Next is a cover mailed from Poetry, Texas to Austin, Texas on January 9, 1895.

The post office at Poetry was only in operation from January 1880 to January 1905, so it is now considered a "Dead or Discontinued" post office (DPO). Letters from dead post offices have different values

depending on how long the post office was in operation. The shorter the time the post office was in operation, the more rare the postmark. Of course, the smaller post offices with fewer customers also contribute to the rarity of the postmark.



This cover I haven't quite figured out. It was mailed from Macon, Georgia on September 7, 1901 to Detroit, Michigan, arriving two days later.

What is interesting about this cover are the two – 2¢ stamps that were used for postage. The only reason for this that I can think of, is that the postal clerk cancelled the cover with one stamp on it, and then put it on a scale and determined it was overweight, and then added a second stamp to it, cancelling it as well. The postal rate for standard envelopes was 2 cents per ounce in 1901, so that seems to be the logical explanation. It is just interesting that it has two separate stamps applied with two separate cancels.



Finally, my best find of the day, was this ratty-looking "front only" cover with a special delivery stamp and half of a regular postage stamp on it.

"Front only" means this is not a complete envelope but just the part the stamps were attached to. The rest of the envelope has been torn away. The real value here is the E4 Special Delivery stamp which catalogs at about \$110 used or \$300 on cover.

Keep on treasure hunting! See you at the next meeting.

Arlington Meeting Minutes April 2, 2025

By Skip Ely

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes April 16, 2025

by Stan Christmas

Attendance:

- 25 members and 1 guest attended the April meeting.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rick Howell outlined the coming meetings and programs.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was substituting for Janet Moyer and said we had about 90 members. New Member Handbooks have been finished and are being distributed.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham reported the treasury amount.
- Newsletter - Peter was working on the newsletter.

Announcements:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore said we had a productive planning meeting last Saturday (March 29). The next one will be 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 7, at David's BBQ. Skip Ely said he had the volunteer sheet available for this year.
- TSDA stamp show: Friday and Saturday in McKinney - Tom Cunningham encouraged members to attend in spite of the forecast of bad weather.

Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier showed a couple of items meant to encourage new collectors. He also had a mint pane of stamps given to the club in 1974 when the club helped a USPS First Day ceremony.
- Peter Elias showed several items, including USPS deck cards from some recent new issues.

Program:

- Was the club auction. 47 of 64 lots were sold (73%). The club netted \$46 from club lots.

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Peter Elias and Perry Singer.

Auction photo:



Call-To-Order:

- Vice President - Dan Golden called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

Attendance:

- 8 members attended the evening meeting.

Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely was filling in for Janet. He said we had about 93 members. New member handbooks were given to the few attendees that had not received them yet.

EXPO:

- Dan mentioned that the next planning meeting will be at David's BBQ on Saturday, June 7.
- Peter Elias mentioned that he had placed EXPO ad requests with the APS & ATA.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills began with a "Where Is It?" question. No one correctly guessed it (and we won't post the answer since he will probably do it again at some other chapter meeting). He then showed and talked about a book he had purchased years ago about the subject country but had never read until recently.
- Steve Carpenter surveyed the membership about their preferences of selected stamp tools and supplies.
- Dan Golden showed a cover from Ukraine that was mailed inside another cover using Russian stamps. He said he received it through a website (postcrossing.com) that connects people to mailings in other places.
- Peter Elias had a number of items. Some of them will undoubtedly be the subject of future newsletter articles, so we won't detail them here.

Gift Certificate:

- Was awarded to Steve Carpenter.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:55 PM.

TV Philately: Leonie

By Peter Elias

On March 13, I watched the 2010 movie "[Leonie](#)" on Amazon Prime..

Leonie tells the true story of [Leonie Gilmour](#) (played by Emily Mortimer in the movie). She was an American and the editorial assistant of a Japanese poet

and writer named Yone Noguchi, whom she met in New York. She was the mother of a son, whom she called "Yo" at first. When Yone declared that he was going back to Japan when the Russo-Japanese War broke out, he left for Japan.

Leonie then briefly moved to California with her son and lived with her mother in a tent. Acceptance of her Japanese son wasn't great due to racism, so she took up Yone's invitation to bring his son to Japan.

Yone was a bit "cold" though upon her arrival and names his son "Isamu" and she lived separately from him got a job as an English teacher. She later gives birth to a daughter (by one of her student's fathers).

In the scene shown to the left, roughly around 1908 or 1910, when she is still in Japan, she receives a letter that her mother (in California) had passed away.

While the paused screen shot is very clear, the stamps on the envelope make up on a very tiny part of the screen. Magnifying that, makes it look a bit fuzzy as you can tell.

I'm sure that the props department conjured up something to make it look like a mailed letter. The return address was that of a "Catherine Burnell" (whom she had met at the Bryn Mawr college in 1892) and who is now living in New York.

The postmark is illegible but meant to mimic a standard "wavy line" machine cancel. The two US definitives, I can't identify from this.

The son, [Isamu Noguchi](#), became a famous American artist, furniture designer (with

the Hermann Miller company) and landscape architect from the 1920's to 1988. There's more info at Wikipedia; click the 3 blue underlined links in this article for more information than I have room for in this article.

So as always, a cover shown on screen looks plausible since it is only up for a second or two, but generally "no cigar" when analyzing it.



Fancy Cancel

By Peter Elias



Digging through a pile of stamps, I found this copy of USA #210. While not a great example of good centering, what caught my eye was the cancel.

So while I know of "fancy cancels" from the late 1800's, and have seen a few here and there, this one just baffles me. Just what exactly am I looking at? At first, I thought, maybe a bird sitting on a tree branch. The circular shape at top plus what might be a beak to the right, plus perhaps tail feathers below the branch. But then the end of the "branch" (right side), it looks like a LEGO® Minifigure hand.

I tried subtracting out that red brown color, but even that didn't help me much. The Scott USA Specialized catalog doesn't really show any examples of fancy cancels, probably a very involved subject. Let me know what thoughts ya'll have about this one!



USPS Delivery SNAFU

By Geoffrey Owens

Since this newsletter from time to time recounts adventures with the US Postal Service, readers may be interested in a recent experience I had. I live in Plano and bought an item on eBay without realizing the seller also lives in Plano.

After six weeks the item had not arrived and I reported it lost or stolen. A week later the packet showed up in my post office box.

In communication with the seller he indicated he mailed it at the Coit Road post office (northeast corner of Coit Rd & Parker Rd). My P.O. box is at the Wildcat Station, just a bit further east on Parker Road. It took seven weeks for a flat envelope to be delivered approximately 2 miles!

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes March 25, 2025

By Rick Howell

Pre-Meeting:

- After a very satisfying Meet & Eat at Grump's Burgers, 15 members assembled at the Bentwater Activities Center.

Call-To-Order:

- Vice-President Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM.

Announcements:

- Dave made announcements about upcoming club events and the TSDA show in McKinney on April 4th and 5th.

Show & Tell:

Featured some interesting items displayed by our membership:

- Gary McNamee mentioned the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors mail auction and said he had found some great deals on there.
- Ray Cartier showed some interesting autographed space covers.
- Paul Mulholland showed us a sheet of Brazilian stamps that had been folded over, addressed and sent through the mail – quite unusual.
- Jim Myers showed us 3 covers, one featuring a demonetized US stamp from the Civil War era that had been used later for actual postage. Another cover was "over-addressed" as it featured several addresses to try for delivery. The final cover Jim brought featured some interesting auxiliary markings from a post office in Holly Bluff, Mississippi which had apparently been the victim of heavy flooding because the cover featured a marking "from the float-up window".
- Les Barton brought an embroidered stamp from Switzerland.
- Dave Stockbridge showed us two versions of a Federal Duck Stamp.

Break:

- We had about a 10-minute break where we enjoyed brownies furnished by Madeleine Myers.

Program:

- Ray Cartier made a fascinating presentation on Papua New Guinea. He had nine albums of photographs that he and Karen had taken on their trip to New Guinea. The albums featured stamps of Papua New Guinea mounted alongside some great photography. It was quite a show, and it is highly recommended if we can get him to share it at our other locations.

Sales Books:

- Dave had APS and MCSC sales books available along with some sales books that were retired from the Oklahoma Stamp Club and being sold at a huge discount.

Books:

- Rick Howell brought two boxes of books from the Bob and Kathy Friedman library available to our membership for free.

Door Prize:

- Austin Mullins won the \$10 gift certificate.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned about 8:00 PM.

The "C" Island

By Peter Elias

Been There,
Done That



From March 9 - 14, 1998, I found myself on one of the "ABC" islands, specifically the "C" one. "ABC" is the abbreviation given to the 3 main islands that make up the Netherlands Antilles (shown is Scott #244, issued in 1959) and highlights the "C" island (Curaçao). "A" would be Aruba and "B" is "Bonaire".

Looking at a map of the ABC islands, they should technically be called the ACB islands, if you look at them from left to right (west to east). This is about as close to South America as I have been (as of 1998); the Venezuelan coast is only about 40 miles south of Curaçao. However, in 1999, I was only about 5 to 10 miles away from Venezuela, as I was in Trinidad.

So what brought me to Curaçao? In early 1998, since it was very close to the computer "doomsday" of "Y2K" (Year 2000), after which some older software would not work right (due to not knowing whether the software thinks it is "1900" or "2000" and the world would stop spinning ... so we were gearing up to install updates to the software that we were selling, as it had originally been programmed (back in the early 1980's) with only 2, not 4 digits for the year.

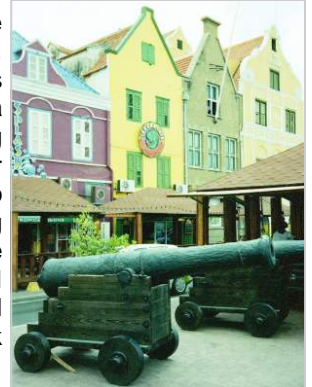
The stamp at top shows the facades of some of the buildings on the east side of the channel that leads to the inner harbor in Willemstad, the capital of Curaçao.

Photos by Peter Elias



The photo above and to the right shows the same buildings, just from different angles. Below is a picture of the channel showing a cruise ship leaving and the big blue building is where I had dinner with Sallian, who had asked me to help me with the manufacturing side of the software upgrade (while she did the accounting side). I even got to visit the local postal museum while there (I try to sneak in some philately on my trips)!

The next year, 1999, had me doing upgrades in Canada, Trinidad & Jamaica. Y2K sure kept me very busy!



Nixed On Route 66

by Dan Golden

Every year for Thanksgiving, my wife and I travel to Chicago to spend the holiday with my parents. Traditionally in lieu of shopping on Black Friday, my family would always spend the day together and go on a family outing to one of the many world-famous museums in and around the city. And there are plenty to choose from, the Field Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Shedd Aquarium, and the Adler Planetarium, among others.

In keeping with that tradition, my wife and I headed downtown on Black Friday, braving the 2°F wind-chill with our not-yet 2-year-old daughter in tow, and headed toward the Art Institute. Along the way I managed to get a few “Extreme Philately” photos that will find a use in some future articles. As we



I noticed something across the street from the museum that I had never noticed before: the origin point of US Route 66, seen in this photo. Above the origin point, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Adams St. and Michigan Ave. hangs a sign on the light post that reads: “BEGIN HISTORIC ILLINOIS US 66 ROUTE,” seen here.

Furthermore, just one

block down the street, below the Adams/Wabash “L” station, can even be seen the first Route 66 road signs! Upon recognizing the significance of everything around me, I took the photos in preparation for this article, thinking to myself all the while: “Surely there must be a stamp commemorating Route 66.”

When I got home I got to work looking through my collection and any and all accompanying catalogues to find such a stamp. But alas, to both my extreme shock and profound disappointment, no such stamp could be found. I am willing to be corrected on this, but from what I can tell there appears to be no stamp that honors Route 66! What an incredible missed opportunity!

As I once conversed with a dealer at a TSDA show, he mentioned in passing: “*Anything worth remembering has been depicted on a stamp.*” Using that logic it would seem as if USPS has not deemed Route 66 to be worth remembering. I find that to be tragic. For a highway that has had such an impact on the American psyche, it feels almost insulting.

Route 66 runs through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. Historically, several big cities, including Chicago, St. Louis, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Santa Fe, Albuquerque,

Flagstaff and Los Angeles lie along the route, many of them owing their development and growth to the highway itself! So impactful has Route 66 been, that it has even been nicknamed the Main Street of America. Yet even with all this, is it not worthy of being on a stamp?

There is so much history tied up in Route 66, that it is a shame it has never received a philatelic recognition (again, if I am wrong about this, somebody please correct me). It has, however, been commemorated numerous times elsewhere in movies, TV shows, and quite famously in music with the song “Get Your Kicks on Route 66” (the title of that song partly inspiring the title of this article). Yet even with all of this other recognition it still lacks a stamp of its own.

Perhaps that will change soon. April 30, 2026 will mark the roadway’s 100th anniversary and I can only hope the USPS will seize the opportunity. I would make the suggestion myself, but the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) requires that all ideas for stamp subjects be proposed at least three years in advance of the issue date. As we are now long past that suggestion deadline, I can only hope that another person equally upset at the lack of a Route 66 stamp made his suggestion known to CSAC already.

One way or another, it would seem as if Route 66’s possible depiction on a postage stamp is at the mercy of USPS. I can only hope that next year the decision makers will do the right thing and give Route 66 the recognition it deserves.



Photos by Dan Golden



[Editor’s Note: A “personalized” US Postage stamp from Zazzle featuring the Route 66 sign, ordered by Peter Elias in 2015. While it is not a “USPS” stamp, it is never-the-less valid US postage]

No Kangaroos in Austria

By Peter Elias

Every now and then, I go to one of my favorite restaurants in Plano, "Jörg's Café Vienna", situated in the "old town" section, located 1 block east of the Interurban Railway Museum on 15th Street.

I met Jörg Fercher before he even opened his restaurant (which was in the Fall of 2002). Since he is Austrian, I could of course easily converse in German. When I get a hankering for some good "Germanic" food, I go there. Mind you, Austrian food is (a bit) different from German food. The best part is his desert: Tiramisu, based on his grandmother's recipe and actually uses real Mascarpone cheese!

That all said, what's the philatelic connection? When we ate there on March 22, I chatted with him a bit and he told me sold off (or gave away?) his stamp collection in Austria, but took me to the hallway leading to the "beer garden", where he showed me his Austrian "Arnold Schwarzenegger" stamps (Scott #1961, issued in 2004) that he's displaying. The business card in the lower left corner of the picture frame is Arnold's business card as governor of California.

Years ago, he had a poster on the wall that reads exactly what you see below right. Why?: ... 'cause apparently, some people are confused by Austria vs. Australia (as is Switzerland vs. Sweden; you know: "oh, you're from Switzerland, so are Swedish!", sigh...). I used this as inspiration to have this made into US "personalized postage" via the Zazzle company in 2015 (sadly the personalized program was shuttered by the USPS in June 2020). I'll get a copy of one of these stamps to Jörg.



Photo by Peter Elias



Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Thank you to Joan Book of Corsicana for donating a small box (just a bit bigger than a cigar box) of US stamps. About 1/3 were used off-paper USA in glassines, the rest were mint USA in glassines, some from the 3¢ era, then a few from a more recent era (13¢ & 15¢), plus a small stack of unused USA postal stationery (mostly plain 10¢ ones).



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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From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, this month has been a busy one! April 2nd we had our first club auction of the year with about 60 lots being sold. It was great until I got outbid. To quote Frank Sinatra, "That's life". I did pick up an AMG souvenir cover that will be added to my collection. Much thanks to Skip Ely for handling the auction and doing all the work of sorting and listing lots and getting volunteers to help. This club is great when people help out like these guys.

April 4th and 5th brought a TSDA Bourse to the Holiday Inn in McKinney, their first time at this location. It looked pretty successful to me, although I haven't gotten the final tally on attendees. I did get a surprise when I walked in the door at the show and my phone rang. It was my wife calling to tell me she had found my wallet on the floor in the bathroom. Grabbing my empty back pocket confirmed she was right. The show was about an hour's drive from my house, so I sure wasn't looking forward to a drive home just to pick up my wallet. Luckily, I had three \$10 gift certificates in my briefcase, so I could buy a few items. I mentioned my dilemma to the first dealer whose table I came to, and he said, Hey, don't worry about it. You can take what you want and mail me a check. The second dealer I approached pretty much told me the same thing. The philatelic community is a great bunch of people for sure. Also, thanks to Byron Sandfield, Jonathan Topper and Tom Cunningham for the donations of items they continue to provide for the club's silent auction and mixture pick at EXPO.

At EXPO this year, we will be trying out non-competitive virtual exhibits. If anyone is interested in providing a small exhibit (4 frames or less), contact me and I will get you started on our requirements. Exhibits will have to be submitted virtually before the end of August.

At the time of my writing this, we still have a Flower Mound and a Granbury meeting for April scheduled, and I am still handing out books that were donated to the club for free at the meetings. I had just given out a box full of books at the Arlington meeting when in comes another box of books donated by Ben Termini. I need to get me one of those triangles the cowboys used to hang on the chuck wagon to announce dinner and use it to let everyone know when the books come in. And Ben, thanks for the donation.

We had a little slip-up on the Meet & Eat for Arlington which was scheduled to meet at Mahogany's Chop House but when we got there the place was closed. We have taken that location off the list. We moved to Jay Jay's instead since it was close by. Guys, if there is a mix-up like that again and you get to a restaurant that is closed, call me on my cell phone and I will tell you where to go.....LOL.

See y'all at the meeting.

TSDA Bourse - April 4, 2025

By Peter Elias

The TSDA (Texas Stamp Dealers Association) has 4 bourses in the Dallas area each year (and also 4 each in Houston & San Antonio). This year, they moved to a new location at the Holiday Inn in McKinney, about 14.5 miles north of the previous location at the Double-Tree in Richardson. This was prompted by cost increases in room rental fees. This new location has also been used for a year or so by the semi-annual Dallas Postcard Show.

I went there on Friday, April 4 and headed straight to Jonathan Topper's table for my favorite activity: perusing his foreign dollar cover boxes! I usually end up with various interesting covers (and other philatelic ephemera), either for my collection or for possible write-ups in this newsletter. Sometimes I also pick up items for a collector I know (in Connecticut) that studies "auxiliary markings" (which I also find interesting, but I do not necessarily want to go down the rabbit hole of collecting yet something else).

Tom Cunningham reported that attendance was great at 62 attendees on Friday and 64 on Saturday!

The next show will be on June 27-28, followed by August 22-23 and December 12-13.

Mailing Gift Cards

By Peter Elias



Last year, this poster by the USPS caught my eye. Not so much that they were selling MasterCard® gift cards, but according to the "fine print", gift cards can not be insured! Yikes, so you

mail a gift card, and it gets stolen or misdelivered --> you have no recourse! It points you to the DMM (Domestic Mail Manual) section 609.4.3z at <http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/609.htm#rep1097212> for more info.

Sponsor Members

By Janet Moyer

Sponsor members are those that contribute at least \$25 (or more) for their annual dues (or in lieu of, if they are life members). The 2025 sponsor members are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aldridge, Ken | Atkinson, Wm. E.(Gene) |
| Camak, Dr. James N., Jr. | Carpenter, Steve R. |
| Christmas, Judy | Christmas, Stanley |
| Dykhouse, Jack R. | Elias, Peter C. |
| Ely, Gifford F. (Skip) | Golden, Dan |
| Grote, Naomi A. | Higgins, James L. (Jim) |
| Howell, Richard T. | Smith, Michael A. |
| Stockbridge, David A. | Termini, Dr. Ben |
| Thompson, Robert G. | Von Reyn, Arthur P. |
| Withers, John S. Jr. | |

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

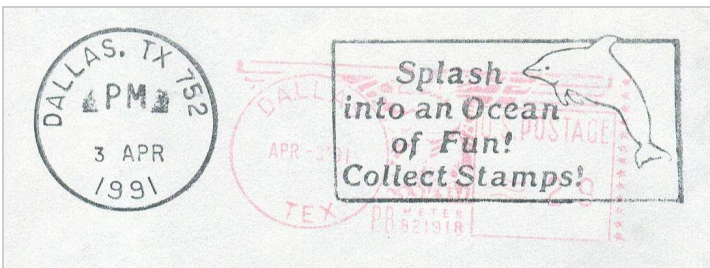
Wanted

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

USPS “Collect Stamps” Machine Cancel

By Peter Elias

It is nice to see that at least in the past, that the USPS used something nicer than “wavy lines” for their machine cancels. They do use “slogan cancels” at various times and for various reasons.



This one was geared towards stamp collecting, something that they don't do too terribly often. This is one of those things that should at least remind people that this is still a hobby!

The cancel was probably inspired by Scott #2511, which was issued a few months prior in October 1990.



For Sale

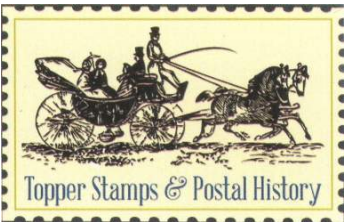
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy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



13100 Wortham Center Drive
3rd Floor Suite 45
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

...Less Stamp Supplies

By Peter Elias

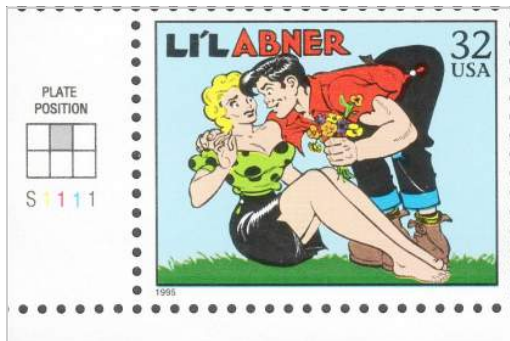
Remember last month when I compared the decline of stamp supplies at Hobby Lobby at the Murphy store? Two weeks later I was in a Hobby Lobby near Beltline & Preston Rd in Dallas. That one had even less than the Murphy store! Just 4 items of overpriced bulk stamps (see blue boxes); the rest was coin supplies (although the magnifier is used in both hobbies...).



Skonk Works

By Peter Elias

"Skonk Works" was adopted by Lockheed back in the late 1930's for their division that was doing various classified research & development for military aircraft. The name was taken from the "Skonk Oil" factory that was featured in the "Li'l Abner" comic strip from that era that had to do with some products made of various smelly items (such



a s o l d shoes...) and because the newly formed secretive division was near areas that had various smells.

The creators of the comic strip requested they

change the name, so it became "[Skunk Works®](#)" and is now a registered trademark of Lockheed Martin Corporation.



The first project was the Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter plane. The 2nd project was the P-80 Shooting Star, shown here on USA Scott #3921 from 2005.

There are / were many other planes (many of which were experimental). The "U2" (see photo of

PowerPoint slide at right) and the "SR-71 Blackbird" are two of the more famous examples. These two planes are definitely featured on stamps, but not by the USA. Searching for them, they are on a series of stamps issued by the Marshall Islands in 2004. Unfortunately I do not have those stamps, but the two stamps above I did find in my US collection.

On Saturday, April 5, the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD, actually location in Richardson...), sponsored a lecture which was held at the Frontiers of Flight Museum located on Lemon Avenue (on the northeast side of Dallas Love Field Airport). The lecture was given by Kevin Renshaw, retired, a 41 year employee of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics.

Kevin did talk about a lot of interesting things, but did mention

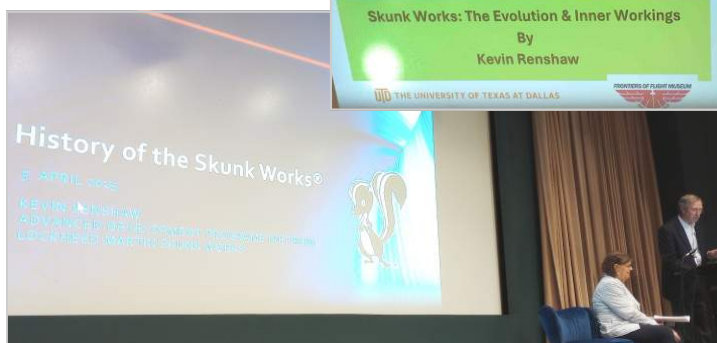
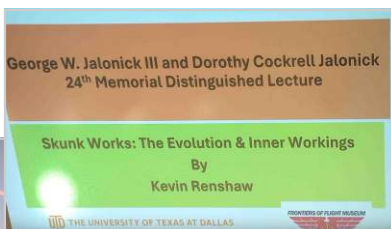
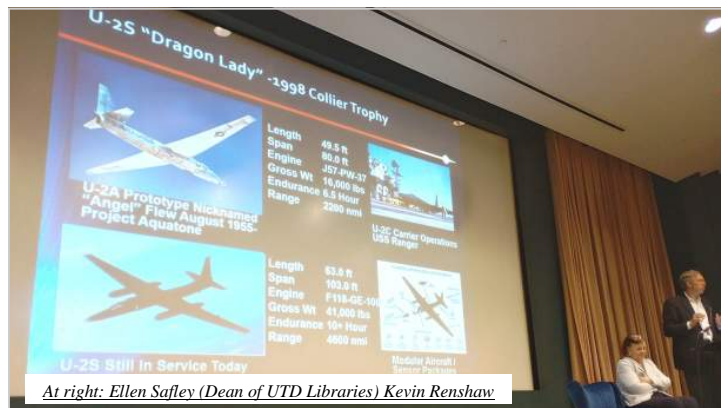


Photo Credits: Peter Elias

Gotta love that "face"!

that there is much that he can not talk about though, and that he had to sign a lot of NDA's (non-disclosure agreements) when he retired about 7 years ago. During Q&A, someone did ask about something to which he responded that he'd rather not have guys in black suits show up...

While the Skunk Works® division originated in Burbank, California, it is now at Air Force Plant 42 (in Palmdale, California); the Lockheed Martin company has its headquarters at Air Force Plant #4 in Ft. Worth and additional facilities in Marietta, Georgia.



At right: Ellen Safley (Dean of UTD Libraries) Kevin Renshaw

The lecture was done using a PowerPoint presentation. Kevin is probably not a stamp collector, but from my perspective, I think it would have been neat to have some relevant stamps displayed in the slides.

Amongst attendees were many Veterans of various US Armed Forces divisions. A reception was held afterwards. They let you wander around the museum (admission to the lecture was free with prior registration). I will have to go back and spend some more time there, as the museum was expanded in the early 2000's. I think I was there one time in the late 1990's. There is also a JN-4 "Jenny" on display, as well as the Apollo 7 capsule.

There is also a nice display about Braniff Airlines, which had opened a maintenance facility at Love Field Airport in 1958. Braniff ceased operations in May 1982. While I have never flown on Braniff, my parents did many years ago (either late 1960's or mid-1970's) when they flew to Mexico. I still have a Braniff playing card deck somewhere that they gave me that has different Spanish/English words or sentences on each card.

But I digress. Great as this lecture was, in my opinion, any lecture or talk could always benefit and be enhanced by some philatelic "add-ons" though! In any case, I certainly learned some new things that afternoon!

MCSC EXPO Meeting (March 29, 2025)

By Janet Moyer

EXPO show dates are Friday / Saturday, November 7 - 8, 2025, Set-up will be on Thursday evening, November 6

Call-To-Order:

Ralph Poore opened the meeting at 11:48 AM with a welcome and thank you to those who attended.

The minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Reports:

- General Chair Ralph Poore confirmed the hotel for the EXPO:
 - Super 8 (Wyndham) 250 East 214 , Grapevine
 - \$75 per night
 - Indicate that your stay is for the Mid-Cities Stamp Club
- Committee Chair:
 - Deputy Chair Rick Howell asked for a monitor to set up to test people's interest in virtual exhibits. The Poore's will provide one.
 - If you want to try this display – please contact Rick Howell by August.
- Beginning Collectors Table - Skip Ely has been "Soakin' and Sortin'!" He has a lot of donations and has been sorting for the Beginner's table, the Chance Board, Mix Picks, and the Silent Auction.
- Bourse – Tom Cunningham has heard that all 25 tables from last year would like a contract plus he has three on the waiting list. He should know an exact list by May 31.
- The Show Program Art will be decided later by Geoff Owens – the new Program Chairman.

- Finance – Tom Cunningham gave a finance statement but nothing is concrete until later.
- Stan sorted the registration forms from last year and will mail 300 letters and 600 emails. He gave us a copy of the survey he compiled from those forms.
- Mixture Pick is on track
- Publicity - Peter was absent, but Rick Howell asked if there could be a change to the banner we hang to include QR codes for Facebook and webpage.
- Security - Dan Golden has received information from Ken Aldridge.
- Silent Auction – Ken Wills said they are looking for donations. Skip is getting a lot of UN things (first day covers). If anyone has a good idea of how to proceed with these, let him know.
- Signs – Rich Hildebrandt and Ralph are good, but will look into replacing or updating the signs.
- Snacks – Rich Hildebrandt has the list. If anything specific is needed – let him know.
- Transportation of show items, lockers & frames will be handled by Dalworth again.
- Volunteers - Janet Moyer said she will start passing the volunteer list around next month. PLEASE sign up.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

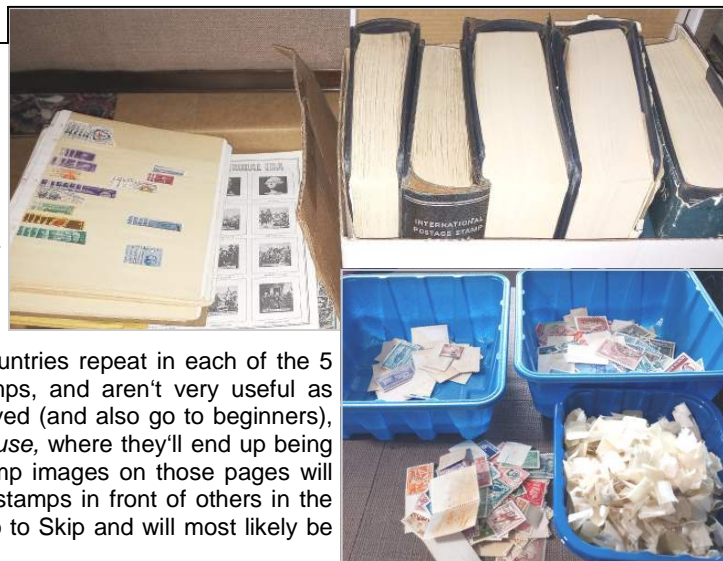
Next Meeting:

The next planning meeting is at David's Barbecue on June 7 at 11 AM.

Thank You

By Peter Elias

Jonathan Topper of Topper Stamps (Houston, TX), donated 1½ boxes of albums and some loose stamps (in stock pages). The loose stamps & stock pages will go to beginning collectors. The albums (dated 1940's to about 1968) were sparsely populated with very common stamps; the stamps will go to beginning collectors. The pages in the worldwide albums are in ok shape (although apparently had lots of stamps removed beforehand), but are arranged in multi-year periods (so most countries repeat in each of the 5 binders shown, not how most collectors collect worldwide stamps, and aren't very useful as such). Most stamps (unless completely stuck down) were removed (and also go to beginners), and the empty pages will be re-donated to *Pegasus Creative Reuse*, where they'll end up being re-purposed by artists & scrap-bookers. The black & white stamp images on those pages will thus live on as "art" and hopefully keep the concept of postage stamps in front of others in the future. The stock pages and some other items not shown will go to Skip and will most likely be used at the EXPO Beginning Collector table.



Above right: After 3 hours of flipping thru the 5 old albums, the result was less than 1 handful of common USA commemoratives and perhaps 2 handfuls of various foreign (many of which still had envelope remnants on the back, i.e.: they were torn off envelopes, not soaked, by the previous owner). So basically, these few stamps are about what I usually mail to 2 people when giving away stamps (and wow, just 3 hours of "philatelic work"...). In the small mushroom tub at lower right are the used hinges from the stamps. The small pile of stamps next to the „tub 'o hinges“ are damaged (torn, thinned, etc) stamps and they'll go to Pegasus as well. <-- Jonathan Topper at the TSDA bourse held on April 4 & 5 at the new location in McKinney.



Photos by Peter Elias

Titanic

By Peter Elias



USA Scott #31911 was one of the stamps issued in 2000 as part of the CTC (Celebrate the Century) series of stamps.

It doesn't really "commemorate" the ship or its sinking, but rather the movie "Titanic". That said, it is the only USA stamp that features the ship. Many other countries have paid tribute to the sinking of the Titanic.

While neither I nor anyone in our family has anything to do with the Titanic itself (and actually, no, I have NOT yet seen the movie!), I took our family to the "Titanic Exhibition" that is being held in Dallas from April 2 to May 11. The exhibition is mostly about the actual ship and the events (but the movie is mentioned near the end).

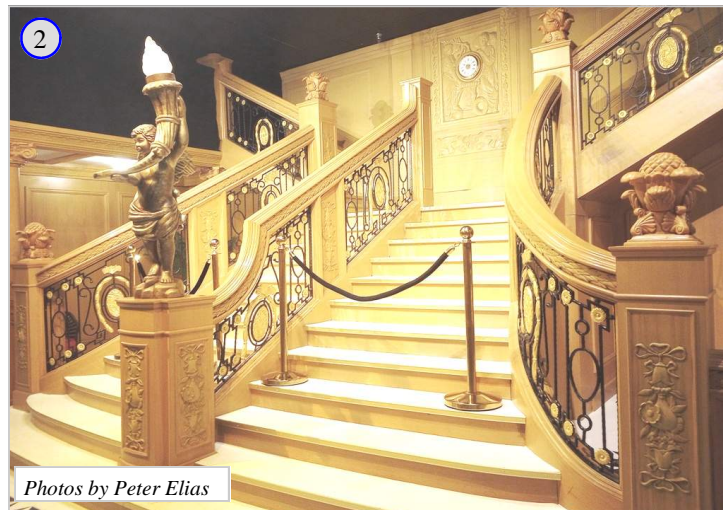
It was definitely worth seeing! The self-guided tour took a bit over an hour. There were quite a few artifacts present and other period pieces, as well as several re-creations (such as the iconic staircase (#2) and a hallway (not shown)).

The HMS Titanic (which was designated a "mail ship") also had a sister ship, practically identical, called the HMS Olympic. I asked an employee about "actual artifacts" from the ship, and he said that there are only about 2 of them. Since the ship is considered a "crime scene", it is not possible to privately own any items except coal from the ship! Since the Olympic was identical, many of the items that are on display are from that ship.

While the Titanic was a mail ship, they don't really say much about the postal aspects of the ship. I don't think that any mail was "rescued". There are however some postcards (#1) of the ships and even a revenue stamped Titanic Relief check from Great Britain.

When I was in the gift shop (didn't buy anything...), I remarked to an employee that given that there are quite a few stamps issued featuring the Titanic, why not get some of those for resale to visitors?

All attendees were given a "ticket" for one of the passengers on the Titanic. At the end, you got to see whether your passenger made it or not. Mine was an American playboy millionaire who was returning to New York with his mistress. He put her and the maid in the lifeboat. He (nor his valet) did not survive. His name was Benjamin Guggenheim.



2

Photos by Peter Elias

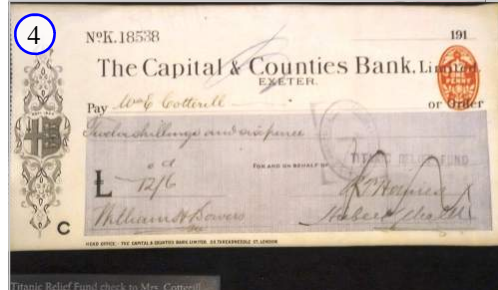


3

#2: re-creation of the grand staircase.

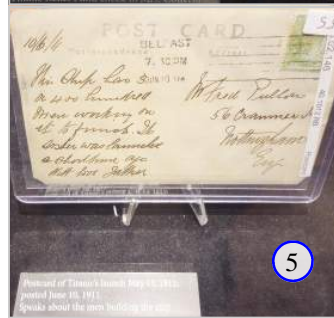
#3: An actual piece of railing trim from the Titanic.

#4: a "Titanic Relief" check from Great Britain that is on "revenue printed" (i.e.: embossed) paper.



4

#5: A postcard mailed from Belfast on June 10, 1911 several days after the initial of launch on May 13 (after which the ship's interior was outfitted).



5

#6: Some of the nice china used on board (from the Olympic)

The Titanic sank after striking an iceberg on her maiden voyage on April 15, 1912 (after having left England on April 10).

Of the 2,240 passengers & crew, only about 700 survived.

There is one postcard mailed from a ship employee that was shown. It was mailed by a Turkish bath attendant to his mother,

on April 5 and postmarked in Southampton during the first part of the journey from Ireland to Southampton, before it left for New York.

For me, it is always more interesting when there are postal aspects involved when seeing an exhibition like this!!



6



7



1



MEET & EAT for

May 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

May 7 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen, Arlington.
(817) 861-1060

FLOWER MOUND

May 21 Jason's Deli, 6020 Long Prairie Rd.
Flower Mound (972) 355-3867

GRANBURY

May 27 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at:
Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com

5/19

Wanted to buy or trade for: **Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits.** Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net

2/15

Various USA **Scott #C2 & C3 on covers & cards** are needed for my U.S Air Mail collection. Please forward scans of the covers / cards along with asking price(s) to Don Jones at adjaams@aol.com Thank you.

2/21

For Sale

FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version) of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each)! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com

4/24

United States Booklets, large selection of unexploded booklets for sale at just above face value. Starting with booklet #BK104 to #BK259. Identify booklet number desired and send an email to Dave Stockbridge at stockdave44@yahoo.com.

Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions.

4/23

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

**Don't Forget:
Attend A Meeting!**