

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Flower Mound Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

3020 Corporate Ct, Ste 400 (Step Up Sports Medicine)

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



#90

CHAPTER
MEMBER



#53-3364

Volume 38, Number 6

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June 2025

NOTICE

Before removing the sealed film wrapper, cut film at dotted line, peel film over corner keeping remainder of wrapper intact, fold cover at dotted line, and count the sheetlets from top to bottom. If full number of sheetlets is not found, keep package intact and treat in accordance with Handbook F-101, Field Accounting Procedures. If sealed film wrapper has been removed, no claim for shortage will be considered.

Positively DO NOT SELL until the FIRST DAY SALE DATE as announced in The Postal Bulletin.



100-FOREVER
Self-Adhesive
Birds in Winter
Booklets
Item No. 681900

Twenty First Class Stamps per Booklet

Printed by Banknote Corporation of America



No Deck Card

By Peter Elias

We all know that there are a lot of fake USA "discount postage" stamps being sold lately. One of the main places for this is on Facebook Marketplace. And allegedly, most of what is sold under the guise of "discount postage" is assumed to be counterfeit stamps produced in a certain country.

Below is a random lot of these that I found on May 18 while searching for this on Facebook Marketplace. The seller states the "books" (should be "booklets"...) were found in a storage unit (yeah, right; and another seller stated theirs came from an "advertising agency" that had a surplus of stamps...).

While the seller location is

listed as Ft. Worth, that might be doubtful. None of these sellers seem to want to do an "in-face" transaction, but will mail them instead from somewhere else.

A year or more ago, 100 Forever stamps were selling for perhaps at 40% of face value. Now it is much lower. If you were to take advantage of his 1,000 booklet order for only \$2,000 (face value would be \$14,600), that's only 13.7% of face value! And this is just one person selling at least this many!


Are these fake / counterfeit? More than likely, but until someone would forensically test these, it is just "allegedly" a fake, right? I certainly would not want to take that risk.

But as always, something caught my eye here. It should be easy to guess with the illustration on the left. While it is true that ALL "full" USPS bundles (aka "pads") of stamps & booklets are shrink-wrapped and generally contain either 100 stamp panes or booklets (i.e.: containing 1,000 stamps, with a few exceptions, such as panes that have less than 20 stamps); NONE of the "shrink-wrapped" booklets in the photo have a Deck Card, such as the one shown (in slightly reduced size) to the left. Of course, most of the people involved in counterfeiting overseas would not know that. And it is doubtful that anyone would take loose booklets and shrink-wrap them in bundles of 100.

While I don't have a deck card from any of the booklets shown for sale, the one to the left is from the "Birds in Winter" booklet (Scott #5317-5320) issued on September 22, 2018 (which is also on the faintly visible upside postmark on this deck card that I obtained on the first day of sale at the Plano MPO).

Deck cards for stamp panes are similar, just larger. And sure, those deck cards could also easily be counterfeited ...

From: <https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/4011445052457764/>



Big lot of forever stamps

\$50 · In stock
Listed in Fort Worth, TX

Message

Details

Condition New

Found a big amount of books and rolls in a storage. Need to sell all . 12 books \$50 , 100 books for \$250 & 1000 books for \$2000 each book has 20 forever stamps , they are \$14.60 each retail. Discount for larger order. Thank you

City

Fort Worth, TX
Location is approximate

Seller information

Send seller a message

Good afternoon, is this still available?

Send

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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>

Coming Attractions

2025

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, 2224 W. Park Row in Pantego	
JUN 13 -14	OKPEX
Student Union of Rose State College 1910 Hudiburg Drive, Midwest City, OK 73110	
JUN. 18	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
JUN. 24	MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	"US Definitives" presented by Skip Ely
JUN. 27-28	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)	
JUL. 2	MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	"How Condition Affects the Value of Stamps", presented by Tom Cunningham
JUL. 16	MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Ah, the thrill of the chase. That's what it's about sometimes! Just as I was looking through my old photo albums recently in search of a photo for a "Been There..." illustration, I ended up with 7 more items I could write about! That's despite having looked at these albums many, many times before (although usually I was just looking for one particular photo). But then I looked more closely at some other photos, and a light bulb goes on ("hey, I wonder if there's a stamp for that!"). And even if there is a stamp for "that" (requiring a search on Google, such as "Lorelei on postage stamp" for example), more than likely, THAT stamp is NOT in any of my albums or myriad of loose piles of stamps in folders, glassines & boxes.

Many times the stamps I am looking for would be considered "new issues" by many of the dealers (meaning that the stamp was issued after 1990...). Then it is on to eBay, Delcampe or Hipstamp once I have figured out the catalog number of the stamp that I need. While Delcampe is based out of Belgium, I found a stamp that was sold there by a US seller; on the other hand, on Hipstamp (based in the USA), I had sellers from Europe. Go figure! The results of all of this will be seen in future articles.

RIP

By Skip Ely

The following (former) MCSC members passed away recently:

Bob Tallon (#157) passed away April 21, 2025. A long time member, he joined in February, 1987. He collected middle east stamps, with a specialty in Egypt. He served as the Assistant Sales Manager 1992-99.

Mark Kirby (#654) passed away April 22, 2025. He joined just a couple years ago, but wasn't able to attend many meetings. He collected U.S. and Ducks.



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

Everett Ware (#683)

New Members:

n/a

Reinstated:

Austin Mullins (#496)

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – May 21, 2025

Membership as of April 16, 2025	95
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	0
Not Renewing for 2025	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of May 21, 2025	96

Tulum

By Peter Elias

archeological site in Mexico (after [Teotihuacan](#) and [Chichen Itza](#)). While I didn't see anything in the catalogs in 2005, I guess I never bothered to check back later, as

Mexico issued the souvenir sheet of 5 stamps (+ 1 label) shown at left (Scott #2802) in 2012! Finding it though online is a bit difficult, but I finally found one on [Delcampe.net](#) (a European stamp market place).

Average rain fall in Tulum is 6.16 inches in June, we did get some of that during the June 2005 trip (photo at bottom left), but luckily had full sun on the June 2018 trip (see below).

As some of you know, I love visiting forts, castles and archeological sites whenever possible and it is always interesting to see how people lived "back then".

Since both Mexican trips have been to Cancun, should I return for another visit there, the Teotihuacan site would not work, however, Chichen Itza is only 112 miles west of Cancun!



On the Yucatan peninsula in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, situated about 80 miles south of the perennial vacation spot Cancun, is [Tulum](#).

Tulum is a pre-Columbian walled city that was built by the Mayans sometime between 1200 and 1450 AD. It is built along a bluff facing the eastern Caribbean Sea. It was occupied when the Spanish made contact in the early part of the 16th century, and abandoned by the end of the 16th century. The area of the ruins covers approximately 16 acres.

My wife and I have visited Tulum twice now, on June 7, 2005 and on June 11, 2018 (and on that 2nd trip, our son was with us as well). After my original trip in 2005, I wondered whether or not Mexico had issued a stamp for Tulum; after all, it is the 3rd most visited



Arlington Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2025

By Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- 26 members and 2 guests attended the May meeting.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rick Howell outlined the coming meetings and programs. He also mentioned that the Bob Duncan facility had notified us of a rate increase for next year. He said that looked manageable, but worse, they would be removing the cabinets where we keep our philatelic library. Thus, we will have to explore other options if we want to keep a library for the members.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had about 95 members. He said he had new member handbooks for anyone that hadn't received one yet. He also passed around the EXPO volunteer sheet.
- Newsletter - Peter was working on the newsletter.

Announcements:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore said our next EXPO planning meeting would be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 7 at David's BBQ.
- Honorary Memberships - Rick Howell said that with agreement from the Board, the club had extended Honorary Life Club Memberships to Scott English and John Hotchner, recognizing their contributions to philately at large.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell showed his recent purchase of the new Betty White and Fishing Lures stamps from the USPS.
- Ray Cartier showed a couple of space covers with astronaut and celebrity autographs. He talked about how he had acquired them, and the stories they could tell.
- Diana Davis passed around a book authored by her mother (from the late 1950's) titled "Astronomy for Astronauts". She also had a personally autographed framed photo of astronaut Alan Shepard.
- Ken Aldridge showed a damaged envelope and book content he received in the mail.
- Peter Elias showed several items, including the new USPS Goodnight Moon stamps and some Austrian Playing Card Stamps [Editor: which formed the basis of an article in this newsletter]. He also talked about stamps related to various trips and visits he has made over time.

Program:

- Was presented by Skip Ely and was titled "Collectable Varieties of the 37¢ Flag Stamp". [Editor: see picture below].

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Bob Thompson and Larry Reid.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:25 PM.

*Been There,
Done That*

Salon International de l'Automobile Genève

By Peter Elias



Ok, a shorter name for the title above would be the "Geneva Car Show" ...

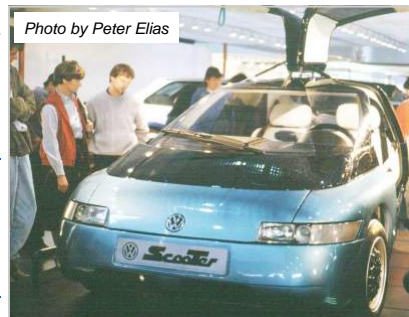
The 50th Anniversary of this international car show was in 1980 and is shown on Switzerland Scott #684.

I happened to be in Switzerland for most of 1986, so when I heard that this show was taking place, I decided to check it out and went on a Sunday. It was from March 6 - 16, 1986, so I was there either on the 9th or 16th. For once, I don't have an entry ticket stub...

Researching this now, I found out that the name of the show in 1986 was *56eme Salon de l'Auto plus accessoires, Genève*.

What I didn't factor into that excursion, was it was a 430 mile round-trip drive from where I lived (basically, clear across all of Switzerland), so roughly 7 hours of driving (that same distance here would be like driving from Plano to Austin and back). That didn't really leave much time at the show. I had to work the next day; but I did get to see this 3-wheeler gull-winged "[VW Scooter](#)" though.

On the stamp, the car pictured is a Pic-Pic. It was a Swiss made automobile manufactured in Geneva by the [Piccard-Pictet Company](#) from 1906 to 1920 and taken over by [Gnome et Rhône](#) until 1924. There are 9 other [\(now defunct\) Swiss car manufacturers](#).



Texas Route 66

By Peter Elias



US Route 66 is one of the original numbered US highways and was established on November 11, 1926. So we're coming up to the 100-year anniversary! Will the USPS issue a stamp in the road's honor? That

would be a great suggestion (and hopefully people have already petitioned the USPS in that regard). But 10 years ago, when the USPS "personalized postage" program still existed (it stopped in 2020), I ordered 2 sheets (of 20 each) of the Zazzle stamp you see above! You may recognize this stamp, as I used it to help put a "philatelic item" into Dan Golden's article about Route 66 last month.

Route 66 spans 2,448 miles, starting in Chicago, IL, and ending in Santa Monica, CA, and going through Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. Other than Kansas at 13 miles, Texas has 2nd shortest segment at 186 miles, and it is all in the Texas Panhandle. It mostly runs alongside or near the I-40 corridor, and the biggest city it runs through is Amarillo.

Since there is family living in Amarillo, we've been



Photos by Peter Elias

there many times. A segment of Route 66, known as both US Route 66 and Texas 66 (see photos nearby), runs through the Historic 6th Street part of Amarillo.

On August 10, 2018, we were en-route to visiting fam-



We also visited the famous "[Cadillac Ranch](#)", which is located just west of Amarillo along the eastbound service road of I-40, and opposite of that, about 500 feet north of the westbound side is Route 66 (also known as Indian Hill Rd. at that point). There is a stamp for that, I ordered a sheet of 20 in early 2019 (see below).

Cadillac Ranch is a public art installation that was created in 1974 by the art group "Ant Farm" and features 10 classic Cadillac cars buried in the ground, at the same angle as the pyramids of Giza (Egypt).

Sadly, the stamps.com stamps are not printed in as high of a resolution as my original submitted photo (see below).

Ready, set, travel!



ily in Amarillo (with a short sidetrip to the [Capulin Volcano](#) in New Mexico).

We stopped in the 6th Street historic area for lunch (below left) at a [small coffee shop](#). Being a guy, I opted for the quiche & salad of course, which was delicious (bottom left)!

Another part of that trip included seeing the 2nd largest canyon in the USA, Palo Duro Canyon, which is just a few miles south of Amarillo (and sadly there is no stamp for that).

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2025

By Rick Howell

Call-To-Order:

- Vice-President Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with 9 members in attendance.

Show & Tell:

- Gary McNamee showed a portion of a cover with high-value US stamps on it.
- Jim Myers showed an article which described the false teeth used by George Washington and how they were made. He also showed a stamp (Scott 707) from the Washington Bicentennial Issue and discussed the painting by Gilbert Stuart that the stamp was designed from.
- Rick Howell passed around a copy of Charles Deaton's obituary of Fred Ekenstam that was published in the February, 2025 issue of the *Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History*.
- Rick also passed around two new US sheets, the Betty White stamp and the Freshwater Fishing Lures Issues.
- Dave Stockbridge showed everyone an article written by Jay Bigalke of *Linn's Stamp News* that featured the electronic duck stamp that Dave showed to us in last month's Show & Tell.

Announcements:

- Jim Myers discussed the success of the TSDA show held April 4th and 5th at the new location in McKinney
- Rick Howell announced that the club had awarded honorary lifetime memberships to John Hotchner and Scott English.

Break:

- We took a short 10 minute break and enjoyed chocolate chip cookie brownies provided by Madeleine Myers.

Program:

- Jim Case provided a program on the life of Babe Didrikson Zaharias and passed around pictures and commemorative first day covers.

Door Prize:

- Madeleine Myers won a \$10 gift certificate.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 PM.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2025

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Call-To-Order:

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

Attendance:

- For the 2nd month in a row, we had 8 members attend the evening meeting.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely was filling in for Janet. He said we had about 96 members with 1 reinstatement and 1 new member application.
- Treasury - Rick Howell said treasurer Tom Cunningham has reported that he has begun receiving dealer deposits for the upcoming EXPO.
- EXPO - Dan mentioned the next planning meeting is at David's BBQ on Saturday, June 7.

Where in the World Is It?

- Dan Golden offered the subject country question tonight. Skip Ely correctly guessed Yugoslavia.

Show & Tell:

- Dan Golden showed two covers. One was an FDC Herman Melville stamped envelope, one of his favorite authors. The other was a First Flight cover from Waco in 1931.
- Rick Howell - showed the recent USPS issues featuring Betty White and Fishing Lures.
- Ken Wills - showed a recent purchase and the story behind it, being the Great Britain commemorative for the 1929 meeting of the UPU in London.
- Skip Ely - showed a joint line pair of the 2¢ Washington coil from the 4th Bureau Issue with a Type I stamp on one side and a Type II on the other. The stamp has a very high catalog value, but unfortunately this one is not well centered, is fairly heavily postmarked, and has a thin on the back where a hinge has been improperly removed.
- Peter Elias - talked about the most recent U.S. Love stamp which graces the cover of the USPS Philatelic magazine and that if you have more than 1 hobby, that Lego had also created a set featuring the characters on the US stamp. He also showed an early unused post card from Cuba with a picture of the sunken USS Maine. He also discussed receipt of some stamps from a trading partner in Switzerland mailed from the U.N. Headquarters in Geneva. Lastly, he passed around an album of oversized stamp replicas of stamps from around the world.

Door Prize: Was awarded to Skip Ely.

Adjournment:

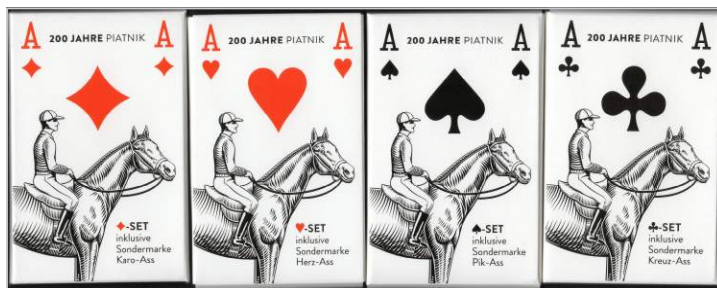
- The meeting adjourned about 8:40 PM.



Photos by Peter Elias
Flower Mound meeting photos from April 16 (left) and May 21, with Dan Golden presiding

Playing Cards

By Peter Elias



About 1 year ago, on May 23, 2024, Austria Post issued a set of special stamps commemorating 200 years of Piatnik. Piatnik is a company in Vienna that produces game items, such as board games, puzzles and playing cards. Up until the, I had not heard of this company. Then again, I've only been to Austria about 3 times (1986 & 2000), which in retrospect I find odd, as I used to live only 35 miles from the Austrian border in 1986, and 75 miles when I lived in Switzerland as a kid. One would think that I would have been to Austria more often!

and trick-and-draw according to Wikipedia, and is played with 20 cards. Supposedly the name Schnapsen comes from "schnappen", which means to "trump" (or "take"). It also states that the game is similar to "66" (which uses 24 cards), a game with which I am also not familiar. It is often played in bars for drinks (i.e.: Schnaps!). It is stated that the game requires a lot of strategy (I suppose a few shots of Schnaps would help with that?).

The back of the Austria Schnapsen stamps (left, reduced size) at first glance look like a standard type of card back. When you look closer, it is a pattern with 3 items: The Austrian Post horn, the back of an envelope with a flap and a parcel.

In researching this, I learned some new stuff! For example, the name of the suits (and the associated images) of the hearts, diamonds, spades & clubs cards, are actually based on "French" suits. The so-called "Double German" (William Tell) suits are called hearts, bells (diamond equivalent), leaves (spades), and acorns (clubs). I can't quite wrap my head around those cards. Despite being brought up in Switzerland, we always



Ok, back to playing cards. This set of stamps is unique as they are in the size & shape of actual playing cards! The cards come in small folded boxes, one for each suit. The set of 4 boxes is shown (reduced) at the top. I opened up the box for the suit of hearts, and above is what it contains. You get the top 5 cards of that suit, Ace, King, Queen (called Dame in German), Jack (called Bube) and the 10. So no 2 through 9 number cards. I guess you're not playing with a full deck then! (pun intended).



If you'll notice, not the entire card is a stamp, just a part of it that is die-cut in the middle of the card (and is self-adhesive). But wait! Only one of the 5 cards, the Ace, is an actual postage stamp! It in turn states the country name Österreich, the designer name & year of issue (on the side), "200 Years Piatnik" and the denomination of 450 Euro-cents. The other stamps' die-cut designs feature none of that, and thus are just stickers. Despite the €4.50 face value, the cost is €4.99 (=US \$5.68).

The back of the opened deck calls this a "Schnapskartendeck" (= Schnaps card deck). I've never heard of the "Schnapsen" card game, although it is supposedly popular in Bavaria and is the national card game in Austria and Hungary.

So apparently, Schnapsen is built around the point-trick



played with "French" suit cards.

So while I haven't heard of Schnapsen until now, what card games did I exactly grow up with? Two games is what my parents taught me: Skat and Rommé. Skat is a German game commemorated in 1986 (for the 100th Anniversary of Skat Congresses) with the 80pf value on Scott #1470 and 200th Anniversary of the game itself in 2013 as a €0.90 value on Scott #2427.



In a nutshell, [Skat](#) is a "trick taking" game played with 32 cards (7 through Ace) and 3 people. One person plays against the other two. You bid for playing a certain suit (with some variations) depending on the 10 cards you are holding. When declaring a suit to be the trump cards, the Jacks from the other 3 suits are also trump cards. To win, you need a score of 61 based on values for the 10, J, Q, K & A cards. The 7, 8 & 9 cards are called "Luschen" (low cards) and have no value. Skat is a game that requires some card counting and strategy if you are to be successful.

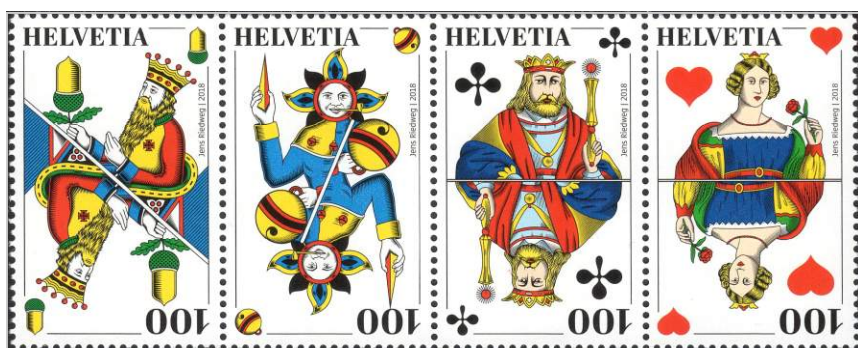
But there are several variations of the regular game, including "Grand" & "Null". Grand is where only the 4 Jacks are trump cards. Null is the opposite, where you can NOT get any tricks.

... continued on the next page ...

Playing Cards (continued from previous page)

Rommé (also known as German Rummy) is a game we also played, but there's not enough room in this article here for me to go into it in detail. Generally speaking, the task is to get rid of your cards in "series" and put them on the table. The 1st person to get rid of all cards wins.

In Switzerland though, the national game is "Jass", and despite having grown up there, I only know the name. Sad, huh? I don't know the rules (probably because the parents didn't either...) and have never played it. And the game uses cards with "Swiss-suited" suits that are the *Schellen* (bells, diamond equivalent), *Rosen* (roses, hearts), *Schilten* (shields, spades) & *Eichel* (acorns, clubs). These basic suit types are shown in this set of Swiss stamps from 2018.

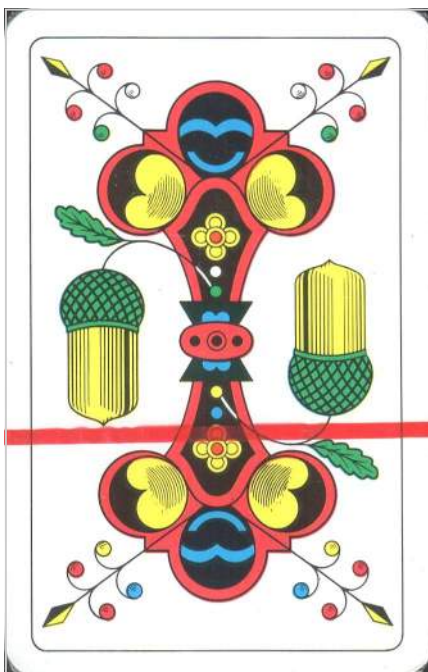


Going through a stack of card decks that I've saved over the years, I do actually have a deck of Jass cards. I got them in 1986 while living in Switzerland, specifically in the Canton of Thurgau. This set of cards is a promotional deck from the Thurgauische Kantonalbank, and is still sealed (hence the red "tear open strip" you see in the scan). The illustration is actual size.

As part of this article, I had to read up on Jass at Wikipedia to get a better feel of what this game is all about.

Jass was first mentioned in 1796 and it is considered the national card game of Switzerland; approximately 3 million Swiss play the game (34% of the population).

The game is for 4 players (2 against 2). The 36-card deck uses the 6 to Ace of each suit. It is a trump based game and requires a lot of strategy. There are 70 variants mentioned at Wikipedia. I'll think I'll stick with Skat...



On a side note, I generally do NOT like American card decks, as they only show the values in the upper left corner (on both ends). The European cards that I'm used to using, have the values in all corners, so when I hold multiple American cards in a fan layout, the corners are all blank, I don't see any of the values! Yes, I'm a "leftie", but I do hold my cards in the right hand.



Above are a few sample cards from an old Skat deck that I used to play with. While I'd normally hold 10 cards in my right hand, I'm showing just 5 cards to illustrate my point. Holding this deck, the palm of my hand would of course be on the back of the cards and my thumb would cover the lower right corner.



I picked exactly the same five cards from a US-based deck. Holding them the same way (with the thumb covering the lower right corner), I can't see what any of the cards are (other than the Ace of Clubs). Yes, sure, I could hold the cards so that the upper left side is visible for the all cards, but after 65 years of holding them the other way, I'm not about to change that (unless I'm in Las Vegas...).



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, this month has been busy. I actually missed the April Flower Mound meeting, which is a little unusual for me, as I like to attend all three of our meetings each month. Things happen though, and I understand that Dan Golden stepped in and did a great job conducting the meeting. Thanks to Dan!

Sadly, I have to report we have lost two more of our members, Mark Kirby and Bob Tallon. If you saw Peter's article last month on the average age of our members, you will see we can pretty much call ourselves a senior organization, so we expect to lose some of our members on occasion. We need to get some younger people interested in coming out to our meetings so I would love to hear any suggestions you have for us to do that. If you would like to put together some stamp packets and hand them out to school classes or seminar attendees, let me know and we can assemble some packets of stamps for you guys to hand out for free.

We are also trying to find the files used to create our circuit sales books. If anyone has a copy of these files, get in touch with me as we need to print some new books. Our members have discovered they can make a little cash by putting together some of these books and selling their duplicate stamps through the club, so we are beginning to see more club participation in the use of the circuit books. At this time, I would like to thank Dave Stockbridge and Skip Ely for the great job they are doing with the circuit book sales.

I received a call from the administrator of the Bob Duncan Center this month, and they informed me that they were going to raise the rate for our monthly meetings. This was not unexpected as we had been grandfathered in at a pretty low rate for quite some time. The new rate is \$120 per month and we had been paying \$85. Unfortunately, they are saying we will no longer be permitted to have any club property stored in the cabinets, so what do we do with our library? If anyone has any suggestions, we would be glad to hear about it. I'm sure there are some churches or other venues out there that might be happy to have a little extra income and would be accommodating to us. We currently are paid up at the Bob Duncan Center through February of 2026, but the cabinet must be emptied by November. Contact any of our Board members if you have a suggestion.

We are slowly making a transition to the use of virtual exhibits at EXPO. Ralph Poore is loaning us a monitor to be used to display exhibits, and what we really need is for our members to think about an exhibit you would like to show on a screen at EXPO. We are coming up with rules governing the exhibits and will be publishing those for our exhibitors. If you are interested in providing a virtual exhibit at EXPO, let me know.

My email address is: rick.howell1@tx.rr.com and my cell phone number is listed in the club directory. See you all at the meeting.

A Letter To The Prez...

By Rick Howell

This past month, I received in the mail a letter from John Hotchner accepting our offer of an honorary lifetime membership, and I was so inspired by his comments that I wanted to share his letter with you all. The following is a transcription of that letter, dated April 28, 2025.

Dear Richard,

Many thanks for your kind note of April 15 and the beautifully done certificate which will have a prominent place in my stamp den.

I've enjoyed my membership in the MCSC and meeting members at shows and reading about them in the excellent newsletter though only a corresponding member, the club is one of the best in the US and the efforts of the many workers make it so.

I'm proud to be a life member!

Best, John

Scott English also posted us a note on Facebook around April 1, which for all you non-computer literate folks or non-Facebook folks, I will reprint here also:

I received a great honor this week from the [Mid-Cities Stamp Club](#), a lifetime membership. When COVID came around, I stayed connected to our members and clubs by visiting on Zoom. Thank you to my dear friend, [Rick Howell](#), for his leadership during COVID, a true champion of the community, and all he's done since then to keep us strong. As my time at the [American Philatelic Society](#) comes to a close, I know my roots in the hobby will remain strong.

Both of these guys have been so dedicated to the philatelic world it is a great pleasure to honor them with the lifetime memberships as they honor our club by accepting.

*Been There,
Done That*



Subdivisions

By Peter Elias

If you live in a "subdivision", you're more than likely living in the suburbs (residential area outside of a city center). Approximately 69% of Americans are living in the suburbs, many of which are comprised of "subdivisions", which are defined to be pieces of land that are divided into multiple

lots or parcel, typically for development (more than likely by a single builder, making neighborhoods look "cookie-cutter").

Growing up in Switzerland, we lived in an apartment building, and it wasn't until the move to the USA in the 1970's that the parents had a house built in a "subdivision". But unlike my

present home, the parents bought the land and then found a builder themselves.

Seeing the stamp above, Scott #4710k (from 2012), it reminded me of that great 1982 song "[Subdivisions](#)" by the Canadian band "Rush" (play it loud!).



Honorary Lifetime Memberships Awarded

By Rick Howell

The Board of Directors and I have awarded honorary lifetime memberships to two of our members who have excelled in the field of philately and have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in promoting the hobby to everyone on a worldwide scale. The two I am referring to are John Hotchner and Scott English. Both have been members of our club for some time and really, their careers in philately have been exemplary.

John is a philatelic columnist and a certified philatelic expert and exhibits judge who has been at EXPO on several occasions. I could only begin to document his achievements in philately here. The APS website, Stamps.org, has a listing of John's accomplishments, and YouTube has him featured in "A Life in Philately with John M Hotchner 2024 Sundman Lecture" available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKPvkRiwuVs>

It is a great video and John is a great speaker.

Scott English is the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society and was instrumental in promoting virtual stamp club meetings during the whole COVID crisis. I am unsure how many stamp clubs Scott joined, but it seemed every time we had a Zoom meeting online, Scott was there, always willing to contribute to the conversations and promot-

ing our great philatelic hobby. As director of the APS, Scott has had a marvelous career in philately and always did his best to promote the hobby.

It is my great honor to welcome these two honorary lifetime members to the Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Tyler Veasey for 2 boxes of assorted partial albums and empty slip cases. The various albums went to Skip for further processing and the empty slip cases of various sizes were donated to Pegasus Creative Reuse where they'll be used for art projects.



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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EAS_STAMPS

Jimmy Tomchesson
Owner/Appraiser APS # 236251

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Rosenberg, TX 77471
jtomchesson@yahoo.com
832-278-5268

eBay Store: [EAS_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

TV Philately - Family Guy

By Peter Elias

[Family Guy](#) is an animated TV show that first aired on the Fox TV network on January 31, 1999; generally on Sunday evenings. It is not really a show for children, as some of the humor is way over their heads, and sometimes a bit disturbing (but I like it anyway...).

The show centers around the Griffin family: parents Peter & Lois Griffin, their 3 kids, Meg, Chris & Stewie (a baby/toddler) and their pet dog Brian (who talks and is often seen driving a Toyota Prius...).

The show takes place in Rhode Island, in the fictional town of Quahog.

So everything being fictional (other than the state), it was never-the-less interesting to see an envelope shown in one of the episodes that I watched in early 2020.

While Quahog doesn't exist as a town, it is an actual word that refers to “hard clam” or “hard-shell clam”. As such, there is also no sense trying to check the street address in the upper left corner. ZIP Code 02555 doesn't exist according to usps.com, however, the next number, 02556, would be North Falmouth, MA. However, the [“Research Maniacs” website](#) states it is Cape Cod, MA. But, that website I can't trust, as it told me that ZIP Code 75074 is Dallas, TX (when in fact it is Plano). I believe that this site is only using the 1st 3 digits of the ZIP Code and gives only a general area...

As far as the addressee goes, there is a [Jerimoth Hill](#) in Rhode Island, but it is simply the name of a mountain peak.

For Sale

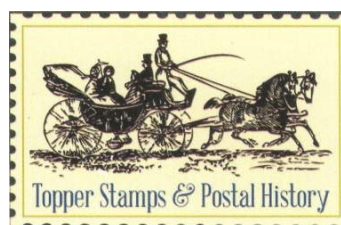
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy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

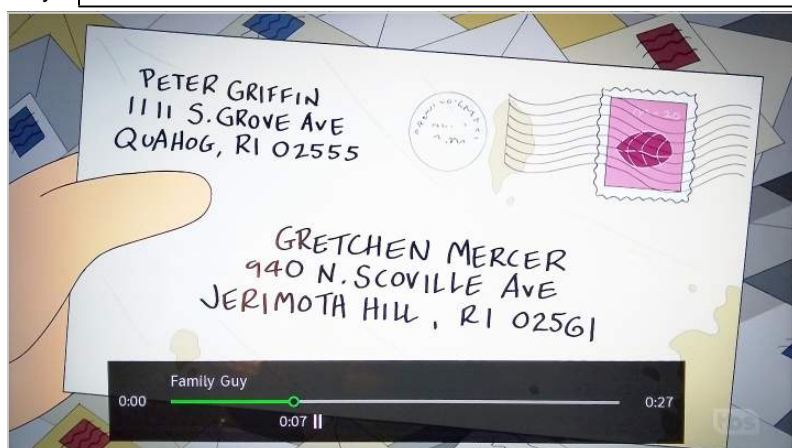
MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, 25% and LESS of catalog values. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14



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jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com



According to the USPS website, ZIP Code 02561 is used by Sagamore in Massachusetts (in the Cape Cod area), about 80 miles east of Jerimoth Hill. As far as “Scoville Ave” goes, Google maps does show one in Oak Park, IL.

In any case, I certainly didn't expect anything “real”, but it's fun to see how they cobbled this together!



MEET & EAT for

June 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

June 4, 5 PM Moni's Pasta and Pizza,
1730 W. Randol Mill Rd.,
Arlington (817) 860-6664

FLOWER MOUND

June 18, 5:30 PM Corner Bakery, 3640 Justin Rd., Ste. 190,
Highland Village (972) 317-0378

GRANBURY

June 24, 5 PM 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:
EXPO Planning Meeting - June 7
OKPEX - June 13 - 14
TSDA Stamp Bourse - June 27 - 28