

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



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

November 2021



Annual Club Picnic

By Judy Christmas

After not having had a picnic last year, it was good to be able hold it again this year. The weather was just right. Not much wind and the temperature was great.

Sixteen members were in attendance. The dishes that all brought were good as always. And did we have the pies! Jim Taylor could not decide which one to bring, so he brought four of them.

Dave Stockbridge was out of town this year, so the Club ordered brisket and ham from David's BBQ Restaurant. My thanks to Richard Hildebrandt for bringing the drinks in Dave's place. And thank you to all who brought food and those who helped with clean up. This is the social event of the year for our Club other than the EXPO. I hope to see everyone again next year and maybe even a few new faces. **Thank you!**



Annual Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

The Club will be holding its annual Christmas Party this year. It will be held on the 1st of December at the Arlington Meeting site. We will start gathering around 6 PM, with dinner being served at 6:30 PM.

This year the Club will be providing just the meat, most likely turkey with gravy and dressing and ham. If you come to the party, please bring your favorite holiday dish to share with others. I will be passing around a sign-up sheet at all meetings in November.

At the last party we just exchanged gifts instead of playing Bingo. If you would rather we go back to playing Shanghai Bingo, please let me know. If we do the gift exchange, everyone who brought a gift will draw a piece of paper from a bowl that will have a number on it. Instead of starting with number 1, we will start at the end of the head count. So, if we have 20 members and guests, then the person who drew the number 20 will pick the first gift. The next number 19 can either take the first person's gift or pick a gift. This will continue until everyone has a receive a gift. There will no limit on how many times a gift can be taken. We hope this will make for a more enjoyable gift exchange. Everyone who attends (guests included if they want to play), will be asked to bring some sort of philatelic gift to the party. We ask that the value be between \$5 and \$10. Make it something someone else would like to receive, no junk please. If your item will fit in an envelope, then place it in envelope making sure what is inside can't be seen. For larger items please wrap or but in a pretty Christmas bag or box.

As you place your gifts on the gift giving table Stanley Christmas will keep track of the number of people at the party. After the dinner everyone who brought a gift will draw a number. We will start with the person who drew the highest number and go from there. The exchange ends when everyone with a number has a gift in front of them. Gifts will be opened as they are chosen. We are hoping this change in gift giving will bring many members back to attending the annual Christmas Party.

Hoping to see you at the Party!!

Newsletter Receives APS Large Gold Award

By Peter Elias



On October 14, the APS announced the awards for the "Star Route Awards". That is their new version of what used to be called the "Chapter Newsletter Competition".

28 APS chapters entered the Star Route competition, and **Stamping Around** was one of 6 newsletters that received a "Large Gold" award. You can see the entire list & samples at:

<https://stamps.org/community/star-route>

Two comments from judges were passed on to me by Erin Seamans, APS Development Assistant and Content Manager:

- Thoroughly enjoyed the concept of "Been there Done that", reading the newsletter learned of new resources. Consider listing new members interests. Creative use of QR Code, Socials such as "Meet & Eat", "Special Deal", etc. Thank you for your submission.
- This newsletter has had the same editor for over 20 years. His publications look great with lots of color and graphics. I find it a fun newsletter to read. The "Been There - Done That" columns is an interesting concept that seems to stimulate members to write for the newsletter. A good idea to pass on to other editors to help generate more membership participation (writing article) for the Club newsletter. Peter Elias has done an excellent job and hopefully he can continue for 20 more years. Reporting on Club meetings is very thorough and easy to read. The use of cartoons lightens the mood between serious articles.

--> continued on page 2 -->

Article Index

Page

Annual Picnic & Christmas Party	1
Editor's Forum	2
Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Been There - Done That (Greek Owl Coin)	3
Been There - Done That (Teddy Roosevelt)	3
Trip Report - Greater Houston Stamp Show	4
The First Transatlantic Flight	5
Club Meeting Minutes	5, 6, 10
Been There - Done That (Coast Guard)	5
Been There - Done That (Plaza del Colon)	5
Been There - Done That (Animal Rescue)	6
Been There - Done That (TCS Member)	7
EXPO Planning Meeting	8
Been There - Done That (Swiss Pocket Knife)	8
Been There - Done That (Swiss Traffic Signs)	9
President's Report	10
Member & Dealer Ads	11, 13, 14
Comic Strip - Pickles (Laminating Stamps)	11
TV Philately - F9 - The Fast Saga	12
Membership Renewal Form for 2022	12
Message Monsters Deck Card	13
Meet & Eat Info	14

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Richard Hildebrandt
First Vice-President – Stanley Christmas
Second Vice-President – Rick Howell
Secretary – Skip Ely
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Ken Aldridge Peter Elias Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ray Cartier

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

For a membership application write to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158

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



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

EXPO is almost here! Hope you've saved up your pennies! As always, I've sent my "want list" to all the dealers that were listed in last month's newsletter. Since my collecting needs are a bit eclectic, if they don't bring it, I can't buy it! And how many times have I heard "that's the stuff I didn't bring..."

APS Star Route Awards (continued from page 1...)

"There were some interesting original philatelic articles that were well done and included appropriate graphics. Use of the QR code for easy access to their website was unique. There are some small areas that could be improved. One thing missing was a greeting from the President. However the editor did have greeting a column that might be considered as filling that role. A confusing aspect of the newsletter was the Secretary's Report. The numbers for gains and losses did not add up. They started with 95 members and 1 applicant. Next month it was 95 members with one new member. Then it became 90 members the next month. What happened to the 5 (actually 6) members? Another area that was missing was information on new members. Including information (photo and short write up) about deceased members is always appreciated by the readers. Hopefully all Club members are long lived but I wonder what happened to the missing 5 members."

[Editor's Note: Yes, I'm aware of the inconsistencies between the ending count in one month not being the same as the beginning count the next month. Sometimes corrections were made to the count that then didn't match up. Also, "Applications Received" do not increase the count THAT month, that will occur the following month when they are listed as "New Members"]

Coming Attractions

—> While we back in to "in-person" meetings, we encourage wearing of masks at all in-person meetings (unless masks are mandated by local, state and/or federal regulations). Data below is believed to be correct at time of publication; for updated MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

2021

OCT. 26 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Club Picnic @ 5:30 PM Followed by program by James Myers - Subject to be determined.
NOV. 3 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Giant Mixture Pick
NOV. 12 & 13 MCSC - 34th Annual EXPO
Grapevine Convention Center
NOV. 17 MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
NOV. 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Ken Aldridge, Program to be determined
DEC. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: Christmas Party (no program)
DEC. 10 - 11 TSDA Stamp Fair (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

Errata

Thanks to Otto Bergman's eagle eyes, he found the following errors that I made in October 2021 newsletter:
Page 12: "September 16" should have been "September 9"
Page 13: "mimic's" should have been "mimics"



Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received

n/a

New Members

n/a

Deceased

Reinstatements

n/a

Membership Summary – October 20, 2021

Membership as of September 15, 2021	91
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of October 20, 2021	91

Been There, Done That

Greek Owl Coin

By Peter Elias



A couple of days ago I received a request for some of the free stamps that I mail out and for which I request return postage. Since the request came from Greece, they had enclosed the €1 (Euro) Coin that you see to the left in actual size and enlarged below.



Euro coins are minted for the various countries that are a part of the European Union, and while they don't state the country name on the coins, there is usually a hint as to what country it is from. In this case it is from Greece as it shows the famous "Owl" coin that has also been used on coinage from Athens back in 449 BC, and is depicted on Scott #640 above (which also shows "Athena" on the other side) and was issued in 1959 as part of a series of stamps that feature ancient Greek coins.



Now you might think that this concludes the "Been There - Done That" article, but as they say, "but wait, there's more".

I actually do own one of the "Athena & Owl" coins from 449 BC, and it is shown to the left in approximately the original size (it is only a bit more than 1/2" in diameter, so an enlarged version is shown below). Granted, my coin is a bit more worn than the one depicted on the stamp, but nevertheless, it is the same design!



According to the "Ancient Coin Collecting, Volume 1" book by Wayne G. Sayles (which I have in my numismatic literature reference collection), there are actually 4 different versions of this coin (all are silver):

1. Tetradrachm (17.2 grams)
2. Drachm (4.3 grams)
3. Obol (0.72 grams)
4. Hemiobol (0.36 grams)

The above 4 types are all different denominations, and my coin weights around 4 grams, and is of the Drachm denomination. My guess is that the coin depicted on Scott #640 is most likely the larger Tetradrachm coin.

Despite the rather worn condition of my particular coin, I still like it and it's a neat coin to own. And this particular "Been There - Done That" article does show that the coin & stamp hobbies do occasionally converge (although I'm still more of a philatelist than a nummatist ... but I do practice some deltiology & cartography as well ...!

Been There, Done That

Teddy Roosevelt

By Pat & Bob Weidman



One day while walking around Old San Juan (Puerto Rico), I came across life-size statues of nine of the U.S. Presidents. On the right in the picture shown nearby is Teddy (Theodore) Roosevelt. On the left is Woodrow Wilson. In addition, there were statues of Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Gerald Ford and Barack Obama. Why were there only statues of nine presidents? What about the others? These nine were men who had visited Puerto Rico!

Teddy Roosevelt visited in November 1906 while he was in office. If you remember your history, Teddy Roosevelt was indirectly responsible for Puerto Rico becoming a territory of the United States. On July 1, 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Lt. Colonel Teddy Roosevelt led the charge of the "Rough Riders" up San Juan Hill.

When Spain surrendered Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines, they were turned to the United States. Cuba became a U.S. trust territory and achieved independence as a republic in 1902. The Philippines became independent on November 15, 1935, subject a transition period which ended July 4, 1946. Guam and Puerto Rico remain U.S. possessions to this day.

While doing my research for this article, I discovered that the San Juan Hill which the Rough Riders charged up is not in Puerto Rico. It is in Santiago de Cuba on the southern coast of Cuba!

USA Scott #973 was issued on October 27, 1948 for the 50th anniversary of the Rough Riders; USA Scott #1039 picturing Teddy Roosevelt was part of a definitive set issued from 1954-1968.



Greater Houston Stamp Show 2021

By Ray Cartier

The Greater Houston Stamp Show was held again in the Humble, Texas Civic Center. Karen and I, along with Stanley and Judy Christmas, were the MCSC members who drove the 250 miles down there to see the exhibits, shop at the dealers, dine out with the members and enjoy a three-day show over a surprisingly beautiful summer weekend. The Houston Hurricane did not affect the show in the slightest and there were no visible signs seen showing that anything out of the ordinary had just occurred four days earlier.

The GHSS people who ran the show did their usual great job of making it a fun and amiable getaway. Tom Cunningham brought a great bunch of dealers together under one roof and they appeared to do pretty well on Friday and Saturday. But the crowds weren't there on Sunday, so there was a lot less competition for seats at the dealer's tables.

The club set up restaurant dinners for anyone who wished to go out and eat on both Thursday and Friday evenings. Their Awards Banquet was held on Saturday evening. As usual, Jay Stotts pulled out all the stops with his hilarious self-made program of on-screen questions to be answered by individuals in the audience. In his entertainment production, each attendee receives a playing card at random. Then during the slide show a question is asked and a playing card from another deck is called. The person with the corresponding card is asked a question as a slide is shown.

The slide may be stamp related or can be a question such as: *"Texas Traffic congestion can be as congested as anywhere else in the world"*. True or False? The person with the same card as was called out had to answer. The answer was "True" and another slide showed two autos in what appeared to be the Texas Longhorn cattle drive in Ft. Worth, with the cars unable to move due to being hemmed in on all sides by cattle and cattle drivers. If the person answering was a Texan and the answer was correct, he or she would be awarded a \$5 bill. If a non-Texan, the prize was \$10. \$100 in all was distributed in this manner.

Exhibit awards were then passed out. Ray Cartier was awarded a Gold ribbon and medal for his 6-frame exhibit, *"Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4: Ft. Worth, TX"*. He also won the TSDA sponsored "Most Popular Exhibit" prize of \$50. His two other exhibits each received a Vermeil.

Karen Cartier received a Silver-Bronze ribbon and medal, along with the ATA First Prize medal for her 2-frame, *"Disney's Greatest Full-Length Animated Movies. 1937-1998"*, exhibit.

Stanley Christmas received a Silver medal for his single frame exhibit, *"Christmas Island - Indian Ocean Postal Stationery"*, and a Gold award for his 8 frame *"The Life Cycle of the 4½¢ White House Stamp"* exhibit.

There had also been a special competition for Brown Themed Single Frame exhibits. Of the seven exhibits in this category Ray Cartier's exhibit, *"Wernher von*



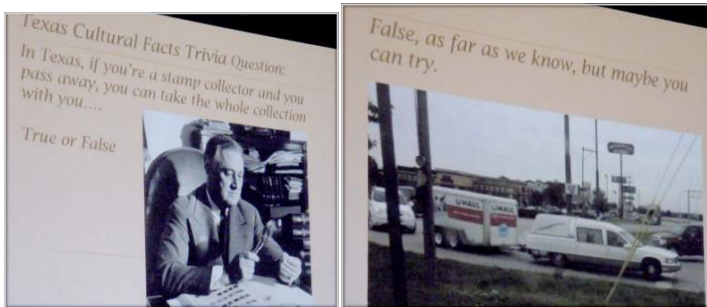
Jay Stotts & Ron Strawser assisting Doug Weisz, the Grand Prize Winner at the show, in drawing a Yellow Crayon for next year's color themed 1-frame exhibits.

Braun: Villain or Hero?" won a small glass sloth for having the most unusual spin in his title. He named the image "Slo-Mo".



Ray & the "Brown" Sloth, Slo-Mo

Finally the club's spoof of holding a ceremony for choosing a Color theme for next year's show took place with the true dignity it deserved. The color chosen through the use of a foot long pair of tongs, for next year, will be (drum roll) YELLOW! Karen was allowed to sell her four books on Fairytales and Folktales and Dragons at the show and seventeen youths will soon be observing an interesting aspect of stamp collecting this coming Christmas.



The FIRST Transatlantic Flight!

By John Barrett, PhD



The first non-stop transatlantic flight was NOT Lindbergh in 1927! On June 14, 1919, two British aviators (John Alcock and Arthur Brown,

both knighted later) took off from St. John's in Newfoundland (Canada) in a Vickers biplane and landed the next day in a bog near Clifden, Co. Galway (Ireland). They averaged 118 MPH over the 1,890 mile flight.

The incentive for this flight was impressive: The *London Daily Mail* had offered a £10,000 prize for the first to cross! Before he could spend his £'s, poor Alcock died in a plane crash while delivering a Vickers-made plane in France.

During my 14 years living/working in Galway, I used to take the odd tourists out to the landing site, which has a granite marker at the site, still in a bog!

The 1 Euro (€) ATM stamp above commemorates the 100th anniversary of this famous flight. We 'complain' about recent hike in 1st class postage. First class mail within Ireland is now €1.30 (= \$1.52), but does get you next day delivery!

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2021

By Eugene Atkinson

David Stockbridge was joined by 10n in-person and 3 virtual members, and 1 guest, for the September 28 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

The club meets every 4th Tuesday (except in December) at 7 PM in the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court in Granbury.

Members skipped the usual agenda to conduct the annual club auction. With Skip Ely as auctioneer, assisted by Bob Coleman, a total of 86 items went up for sale, of which 76 received winning bids. Items ranged from a single copy of Great Britain #105 to accumulations of hundreds of mint and used issues. With sales from \$1 to \$40, the total realized reached \$516 when the auction ended at 8:30 pm.

David Stockbridge reminded all that the October meeting would feature the annual picnic and a program from Jim Myers.

Club gift certificates as door prizes went to Jim Case, Skip Ely, Dave Stockbridge, Bob Coleman, Madeleine Myers and Stanley Christmas.

Been There, Done That

Coast Guard

By Pat & Bob Weidman



On our vacation to Puerto Rico this past summer, we stayed at the Sheraton Old San Juan. It is located on the waterfront of San Juan Bay.

One day on one of my excursions around Old San Juan, I took a walk over to the US Coast Guard station. It is located by the arrow on the photo. The guard at the main gate informed me that pictures were not permitted because of security concerns. I took this picture from the top floor of the hotel where the pool is located.

The Coast Guard has been in existence since 1790. Its purpose is to enforce federal laws and treaties of the high seas and navigable waters of the United States, including criminal laws, inspection laws, pollution laws, revenue and navigation laws and nautical rules of the road. It is now attached to the Department of Homeland Security.



The stamp shown is USA Scott #936, issued on November 10, 1945.

Been There, Done That

Plaza del Colon

By Pat & Bob Weidman



On September 25, 1493, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain on his second voyage to what he thought were the East Indies of Asia. On board the seventeen ships that sailed with him were upwards of 1,500 colonists and private investors. On his first voyage a year earlier, Columbus landed in the West Indies that were unknown to the European explorers at that time.

On this trip, he landed in Puerto Rico, "rich port" in Spanish, which lies 1,000 miles southeast of Florida. He named the area "San Juan Bautista" ("St. John the Baptist" in Spanish).

The picture above, with the statue of Columbus, is in the Plaza del Colon in Old San Juan. It is located up the hill behind the hotel that we were staying at on our trip to Puerto Rico this past summer.



The stamp is USA Scott #2805, issued on November 19, 1993 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' landing in Puerto Rico.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes October 6, 2021

By Skip Ely

Opening:

- President Rich Hildebrandt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Attendance:

- We had 19 members show up for the club picnic and envelope stuffing meeting at Arlington.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt outlined the next few couple of meetings at Arlington and Expo. He said he was looking for programs for next year, which was wide open. Please contact Rich if you have something to offer.
- Treasury - Judy said the treasury was at a high point, but from now on we will be using it for expenses, mostly associated with Expo.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said our membership was unchanged. He said while the dues renewal form will be in the next newsletter, he was accepting due for anyone that wanted to get ahead of the game.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
 - Ralph Poore said we were having another Expo planning meeting Saturday, October 16, at 11:00 AM. The site is yet to be confirmed, but he was aiming for David's BBQ. He also mentioned we were still in need of volunteers in a few areas.
 - Rich Hildebrandt asked people to let him know if they intend to come to the awards dinner, as he needs a head count to give to the Grapevine Convention Center. Tickets are \$20 a piece.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias was absent.
- Sales - Skip Ely said he was in the process of inventorying and closing club books for this year. He said he had the country and topic request sheet for APS books for next year, so let him know what you want.

Announcements:

- Ken Aldridge talked about the raffle for the stamp quilt his wife made.

Show & Tell:

- There were no show and tell items.

Program:

- Was the annual Expo mail out envelope stuffing, which finished up about 8:15 P.M.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Kathryn Story, Janet Moyer, Rick Howell, Howard Savage, Ray Cartier, Ken Aldridge, Ralph Poore, and Stanley Christmas. Additional certificates for the envelope stuffing were awarded to Martha Siegel, Tom Cunningham, Rick Howell, Rich Hildebrandt, Pat Weidman, Howard Savage, Ray Cartier, Ken Aldridge, Diana Davis, Janet Moyer, and Tom Turner,

Closing:

- The meeting concluded about 8:20 PM.

Been There,
Done That

Animal Rescue

By Pat & Robert Weidman



In the picture, Pat is holding our new dachshund "Zoe". We adopted Zoe on August 24th from the Ft. Worth Animal Shelter. Her previous owner had passed away and she was turned over

to the shelter. A young lady over there by the name of Leah kept watch for us and called to let us know Zoe was there. We went over that day and adopted her.

In the September 2016 newsletter, is an article I wrote about the two dachsies that we had at the time. Chippy, our male, passed away on February 25th. He was 15½ years old. We got him around 14 years ago from an animal control officer who had a foster home for dachshunds.

Penny, our female, was around 16 years old when she died on June 6th. We got Penny from a friend whose daughter found her wandering around the neighborhood. She had no ID on her and no chip.

For 47 years straight, we always had a dachsie in the house until Penny died. Now we have Zoe.

The stamps shown are USA Scott #4451 to 4460, that comprises the "Animal Rescue - Adopt a Shelter Pet" set issued on April 30, 2010.



Image above is from:
<https://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2010/pb22281/html/kit.htm>

Card Carrying TCS Member

By Peter Elias



In 2021, Switzerland issued a 100 centime (1 Swiss Franc) stamp commemorating 125 years of TCS.

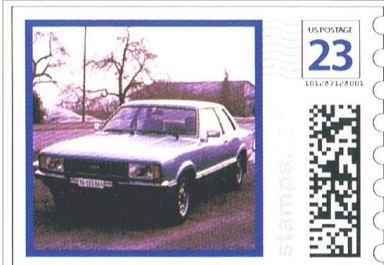
What is "TCS" you are wondering at this point?

It is the "Touring Club Schweiz". Basically it is the Swiss version of the USA "AAA" (American Automobile Association); in Germany for example, they have the "ADAC" (Allgemeiner Deutscher Automobil Club) and I imagine most major countries in the world have similar organizations.

So what does TCS have to do with me? Well, in 1986, I was a "card carrying" member! That was the year where I spent about 10 months working on assignment in



Switzerland. It wasn't exactly affordable renting a car for 10 months, so I bought one, a 1979 Ford Taunus 1.6L, as shown on the picture to the left and below.



Here in the USA, I have been a member of AAA since 1978 (making me presently a 44-year member!).

However, my AAA membership wouldn't do me much good in Switzerland, so for that time in 1986, I became a member of the TCS.

Normally as a member of the TCS (as with AAA), one gets a window or bumper sticker. TCS did give me a sticker, and I put

it on the back bumper of my Ford Taunus (see blue arrow). The only picture I have of that, is the one above, where my car is parked near where I used to live as a child in the late 1960's (the sticker is just to the right of the license, shown with the blue arrow). If you don't know what a 1979 Ford Taunus looks like, I did also commemorate that car on a PhotoStamp back in 2004 or so (see above).

Back in 1986, the TCS logo had the letters T, C, S in a circle that was divided to look like the spokes of a car steering wheel (see picture on right).



In mid-December 1986, as I was preparing to return back to the USA (and my new home in Kentucky), I did of course have to cancel my TCS membership.

I remembered that growing up in Switzerland in the 1960's, that cars always had TCS metal badges on the front grille of cars (not stickers like now). I told the TCS rep that I would be returning to the USA and wondered if they still had any of the old style TCS badges, as it would be cool to have one those adorn my future cars here in the USA (as a souvenir).

I was told that they had not had metal badges for at least 15-20 years at that time. But, he went to the back room and managed to find one though! It is depicted on the Zazzle custom postage stamp shown above and it has been on one of my cars ever since I returned to the USA!

In fact, it is now on my 1990 Audi Coupe Quattro:



The badge as shown above has a Swiss flag emblem at the top, which is painted red & white over the chrome. Unfortunately that does wear off once in a while, so I have to repaint it every couple of years.



Since I also have a second, slightly newer Audi (ok, it's only 18 model years old.), I was gifted another TCS medal; this one however, is NOT chromed, but more of an antique brass color. A close-up is shown to the left.

And there you have it!

Another way I was able to illustrate a part of my life story via philately!

MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes October 16, 2021

By Skip Ely

The Mid Cities Stamps Club held an EXPO Planning Meeting at David's BBQ in Pantego on Saturday, October 16.

Attendees:

- Ralph Poore (EXPO Chairperson) and his wife, Patty, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Ray Cartier, Karen Cartier, Bob Weidman, Anne Moxley, Ken Aldridge, Alliene Franklin, Tom Turner, Rick Howell and his wife, and Skip Ely.

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M.

EXPO Planning & Status Reports:

- Ralph began by saying that since our theme is Western Wear and members are encouraged to dress the part.
- The previous meeting minutes were then reviewed and approved.
- As EXPO Chair, Ralph said he has renewed our membership in the Antiques Collectable group so that we can take advantage of their insurance options. He then went through the EXPO committee topics and asked for status reports.
- **Awards** - Anne Moxley said she located the awards box and has given it to Ray Cartier, who has agreed to be the Awards Chairperson. Ray gave a review of the non-club awards available to exhibitors.
- **Awards Banquet** - Our minimum is 25 guests, and only about a dozen have signed up so far, so we need more participation. Tickets are only \$20 for a nice dinner and evening's entertainment.
- **Beginners Table** - Rick Howell showed a sample of 15 beginners packets he has put together for beginning youth attendees. He outlined the contents and said it was designed for youths and not older beginners.
- **Bourse** - Tom Cunningham said in an email we've had a couple of cancellations, but he expects to be able to fill those tables with other dealers.
- **Cachet Art** - Ralph said he has received the artwork from Diana Davis.
- **Chance Board** - Karen Cartier said everything was completed.
- **Exhibits** - Ray Cartier said he has all 60 frames filled.
- **Finance** - Judy Christmas passed around the current EXPO budget spreadsheet.
- **Hospitality/Registration** - Stanley said that Janet Moyer told him we were ready.
- **Judges** - Ralph gave the names of our three judges. He said Pat Walters would be the Chief Judge and our Awards Banquet speaker.

- **Lunches** - Judy said we would use Jason's Deli again.
- **Mail Out** - Stanley Christmas said the mail out was sent yesterday, with emails to be sent as we got closer to the show.
- **Mixture Pick** - Bob Weidman said we were ready to go.
- **Publicity** - Rick Howell said the notice for our show was in the current issue of Linn's Stamp News. Ray Cartier said he put a notice in the ATA's Topical Time.
- **Security** - Ken Aldridge said all the arrangements had been made.
- **Signs** - Ralph said we needed to find resources to put up and take down the signs, as Evan Islam will not be able to attend the show.
- **Snacks** - Ralph said last he checked, all snacks have to be in wrappers (no fruit).
- **Transportation** - Ralph said Evan Islam had arranged for labor and a truck for the exhibit frames and other necessities.
- **Volunteers** - Janet Moyer has been circulating the Volunteer sheet at club meetings. Stanley pointed out there will be about a dozen \$25 gift certificates available in drawings for members who volunteer.
- **Pre-Setup Restaurant** - Ralph said we would be meeting at 3:30 P.M. at Flips Patio Grill, 415 West State Highway 114 in Grapevine (817-251-9800, flipsgrill.com). This is just a few doors west of the old Spring Creek BBQ location, which has closed.

Adjournment:: The meeting adjourned at noon.

Been There, Done That



Pocket Knife

By Peter Elias

In 2008, Switzerland issued this stamp, Scott #1324 (sorry about the "moiré" pattern shown on the scan, it's how my scanner made it look, despite the background being a single light gray color).

There are two primary manufacturers of "[Swiss Army Knives](#)", the main one being the "Victorinox" company, which the knife on the left is from (and generally resides in my pants pocket...); the other company is "Wenger", which was bought by Victorinox in 2005.

Both companies have made some humongous knives featuring up to 141 different functions. Mine as you can see, is a bit more simple. The features I use most often are the 2 knives, the scissors and the 2 screwdrivers. Once in a great while, the toothpick, and oh yeah, the corkscrew!

As a kid growing up in Switzerland, I think all of boys had pocket knives, and even had them with us at school, apparently that was NOT a problem back in the 1960's. And up until "9/11", I usually also carried this on the plane with me; now of course, it has to go into my checked luggage...

Switzerland, like most countries, has a lot of traffic signs. Two of the eight pages from an older (1960's/70's) Swiss pamphlet on traffic signs are shown



above. Take note of the two common traffic signs highlighted with the blue arrow. These two signs are also



shown on the Greek & German stamps below. Unfortunately, Switzerland only had one stamp with a traffic sign, and that was from 1956 and features a "Children Crossing" sign, which isn't relevant to this article.

European traffic signs, which we have not really adopted that many of in this country (except perhaps the "no right turn" and "no u-turn" ones above), generally feature a red border. Most signs come in 3 basic shapes: a circle, a triangle with the point facing up and a triangle facing with the point down. I was told that the triangle with the point up is sort of like an A (minus the two legs) and symbolizes "Achtung" (meaning "attention"), and triangle point down is like a "V" symbolizing "Vorsicht" (meaning "caution"). The circle signs are designated as "Vorschriftsignal" (meaning "regulation signal").

So, how have I "been there - done that" in regards to European traffic signs? Having lived there as a child, I did of course have to know the meaning of at least a couple of these signs even as a pedestrian, but when I went back there in 1986 as an adult and having to drive there, I definitely needed to know all of these! ... Not that US drivers license and driving skills really prepare you for the ones you see above, not to mention a myriad of others...

A fun one is the red circle with either a red "V" or a red "X" in it. The one with the "X" means "no stopping" (nor standing, nor parking), while the "V" means "no parking", and you do see lots of those signs over there...

Going through the 1,300 or so photos that I took in Switzerland in 1986, I found the one that you see in the 2nd column at the top. It shows the town sign of



"Bitsch" (yes, I couldn't resist taking that photo...), and underneath is the speed limit sign of 60 km/h (approx. 38 mph) and the "no passing" sign (also evident by the solid white line painted on the road). Below that is a "double arrow" sign indicating that this is repeated (while the "arrow up" would mean "starting from here on", while "arrow down" would mean "ending").



Now, where exactly is this town of "Bitsch" (village actually)? It is located in the Swiss Canton of "Valais" (known as "Wallis" in German, and hence the "VS" abbreviation below the town name) that is in southern Switzerland, about 30 miles northeast of the Matterhorn.

Bitsch is fairly small, with a square area of only 1.6 sq. miles and 1,035 inhabitants as per [Wikipedia](https://www.wikipedia.org/). Probably the kind of place where "you blink - you've missed it"... More info, including "Living in Bitsch" (*Leben in Bitsch* in German) is available at community website at <https://www.bitsch.ch/leben-in-bitsch/lage> (it is in German, so you may want to use a website translator add-in). In any case, viewing the photo above from my trip 35 years ago has allowed me to research this a bit more and tie it in philatelically! Hope you all found this educational!

MCSC Eules Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2021

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 9 members were present for the meeting.

Opening:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Officer Reports:

- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said nothing had changed with our membership. He mentioned he was collecting dues for next year (three people paid at the meeting).

Committee Reports:

- EXPO – Stanley said he had emails sent out recently that updated the hard-copy mail-out with additions and dealer replacements. Evan said while he will not be able to attend EXPO this year, he had arranged for two men and a Dalworth truck to help with the frames and some dealer support.
- Sales - Skip Ely said he had the offerings for countries and topics available for the APS sales books next year for members to peruse.
- Newsletter - Peter said our newsletter had earned a APS "Large Gold" Star Route award in the newsletter competition for 2021 (details elsewhere in this newsletter).

Announcements:

- Stanley reminded everyone of the Granbury chapter club picnic next Tuesday evening in Granbury.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas passed around a cover with a recent Australian stamp.
- Skip Ely said he was in the process of updating the club master list of membership, and was using past newsletters to include the contributions of various club members (like officers and major club committee chairs) to the list.
- Ken Wills showed a stock book of Finland stamps, some with pages of hundreds of the same stamp.
- Rick Howell talked about an ad from Mystic in a recent Linn's Stamp News regarding the different types of Liberty Bell stamps.
- Peter Elias had several items, including an eBay postage label for their new "eBay Standard Envelope" postage, a deck card for the recent Message Monster stamps, Mystic newspaper ads, and a Swiss "Dominoes" stamp set (which reminded him of his set from his youth). Finally, he showed some Austrian "Covid" stamps issued on toilet paper (but with backing paper) and also a "Mask" shaped stamp that was embroidered and used the same materials as Covid-19 masks.
- Evan Islam gave a short program on an "adopt a

President's Report

By Richard Hildebrandt

It's crunch time! EXPO is only 3 weeks away and many people have been working long and hard to overcome the many obstacles we have faced.

First up, Ralph has been coordinating the EXPO preparations and putting out the numerous fires that seem to continually pop up. He has been ably assisted by a host of other members.

Stan has been the focal point in preparing most of the printed material, from the mail out to the show program to the dinner program and more. He has also been a key coordinator with the Grapevine convention center regarding the room layout and other issues. A great big thank you to Stan.

Tom Cunningham is the dealer coordinator which this year has been a major effort. In most past years we have had a waiting list, but this time around has been very different with the issue of the Covid-19 pandemic and numerous dealers retiring from active shows. It has been a constant scramble to keep all of our available tables filled. Kudos to Tom for his extra effort. As we should all realize, the dealers make the show, as they are the primary draw for attendees. It is imperative that we attend the show and support them.

Our silent auction team of Tom Turner, Ken Wills and Skip Ely have also been hard at work and I know they will have many interesting items for you to bid on. Stop by the stage and give a careful look at what is being offered.

Ray Cartier has diligently worked to fill all of our exhibit frames. He has tried some new ways to get more exhibitors involved and to broaden the range of what is exhibited so we all may learn new things. Be sure to allow some time to view the exhibits and please vote for the most popular exhibit.

Many other folks have had a hand in the show preparations from the chance board to the mix pick to the beginners table. All these people deserve our thanks.

Also, there is still time to make a reservation for the Awards dinner on Friday night, November 12th. Just contact Ralph or myself. We can collect the money at the show.

As my final thought on the subject, come out, enjoy the various aspects of the show and maybe give a little time as a volunteer. Hope to see everyone at the EXPO!

child" non-profit organization that he is sponsoring for children in his home country of Bangladesh (www.shaplafoundation.org).

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Evan Islam, Stanley Christmas and Rick Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting ended about 8:45 PM.

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

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!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
 - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
 - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/21

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

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

Comic Strip - Pickles (Laminating Stamps)

By Peter Elias

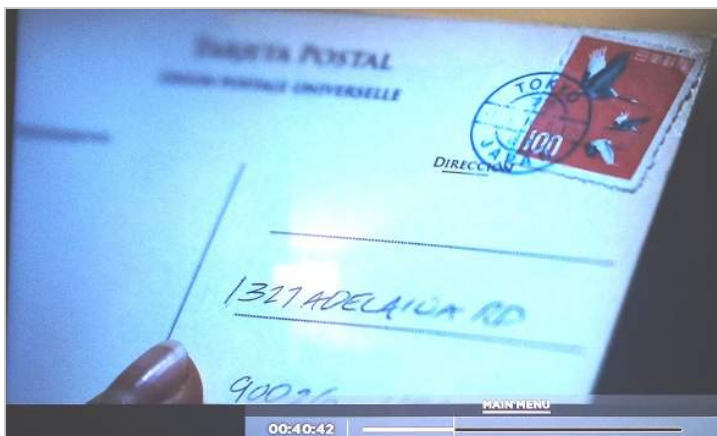


This month's comic strip was provided by Ray Cartier and is dated January 27, 2006.

It features Opal laminating Earl's "special items" in order to protect & preserve them. Turns out these are his stamps! That's a big "yikes"! The kind of thing all of us cringe at ... right along with stamps mounted in "magnetic photo albums" (not really "magnetic", but adhesive strips), or stamps mounted with cellophane tape. As we all know, anything self-adhesive will eventually destroy itself (adhesive dries out and leave an opaque spot on whatever it was mounted against), and of course will destroy the value of the item along with it. So hopefully this comic strip was a good "public service" announcement on behalf of the creator, Brian Crane!

TV Philately: F9 - The Fast Saga

By Peter Elias



"F9 - The Fast Saga" was released in 2021 and is the 9th installment in the "Fast & Furious" film franchise, starring Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez and others. The original "Fast & Furious" movie started as a street car race film back in 2001 and has since moved past that. This movie takes place in Thailand, Tbilisi (Georgia) and Edinburgh (Scotland). It's a neat movie if you like incredible car stunts and can suspend your belief a bit...

As with all movies that I watch at home, if there's a philatelic item shown, after I'm done watching the movie, I'll go back and find the spot with philatelic item and freeze-frame it

(which is easier said than done sometimes).

In this case, at around 40 minutes and 42 seconds, a postcard is shown. On the picture side appears to be a city scene of houses in Mexico (part of a plot point) and on the reverse side, a simple address and a Japanese stamp & Tokyo postmark. So, what do we have here:

- 1) The Japan stamp. Flipping through my Scott catalog, I found the bird design stamps as #888A, issued in 1966. While the stamp design appears ok, the perforations don't quite look right, almost as if they were trimmed or even roulette. So is it real or not?
- 2) The Tokyo postmark looks similar to actual postmarks used in Japan, however, the ones I've seen (such as below) all seem to have the parallel line section in the middle further apart than the one on the stamp.
- 3) The postmark date is indistinct, and all I can make out is a 12 at the end (which would mean Noon) and what looks like an 8 right before it, so that would mean the postmark was applied between 8 to 12 (8 AM to Noon); the sample below was from 14 to 16 (2 to 4 PM).
- 4) The address shows 1327 Adelaida Rd; the City & State are not shown, but what appears to be Zip Code 90026, which is a Los Angeles zip code. There's no Adelaida Rd in Los Angeles, but that exact address does exist in Paso Robles, CA, which is Zip Code 93446 though, about 160 miles north of LA.

So did they get it right? Well, it looks passable for the second or so that it is on the screen.



2022 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

__Mr. __Mrs. __Ms. __Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

__ Check here if information is unchanged from 2021 and skip to signature line below.

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

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

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

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

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

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

Membership Level:

__ \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online newsletter)

__ \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

__ **\$25 Sponsor Membership**

__ \$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

__ \$6 Additional Adult (only 1 newsletter copy)

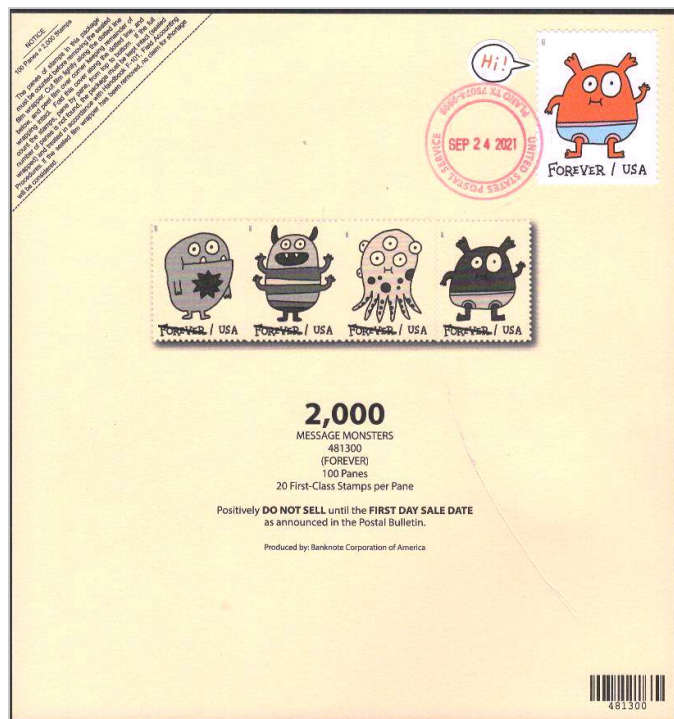
__ \$4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

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

Skip Ely, MCSC Secretary, 5512 Shady Meadow, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-6616

Message Monsters Deck Card

by Peter Elias



As a fun sideline collection, I collect "Deck Cards". These are the manila cardstock items that are on top of each pad (or "deck") of USPS stamp sheetlets or booklet panes as delivered to the Post Office. Their reason is for "accounting purposes" as the stamp pads (generally between 1,000 to 2,000 stamps) are shrink wrapped and since stamps are "accountable paper", clerks are supposed to carefully slit open the diagonal corner, bend the deck card forward and count the number of panes present, while effectively keeping the pad sealed.

Now that the USPS is NOT automatically shipping full decks to the post offices, some stamps don't even make it to the post office, or the clerk may only order a handful of sheets, making it difficult to get deck cards going forward. Here's the deck card for the recently issued "Message Monsters" stamps, which I personally find unnecessary.

Exp. 12/21

Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

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

For recent online newsletters see

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters see the club's private groups.io website)

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MEET & EAT for November 2021

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.

--> Official Meet & Eat get-togethers prior to the club meetings have resumed! See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

ARLINGTON

November 3 - Campo Verde
2918 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington
(817) 275-7003.

EULESS

November 17 - Jason's Deli
2200 Airport Freeway, Bedford
(817)-354-1511

GRANBURY

November 23 - Palio's Pizza Cafe,
3710 East Highway 377, Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
Annual Stamp EXPO - Nov. 12 & 13

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 \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!)! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 1/21

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