

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

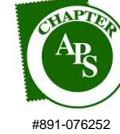
Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#90
CHAPTER
MEMBER



#891-076252

#53-3364

Volume 38, Number 2

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

February 2025

Collecting Great Britain

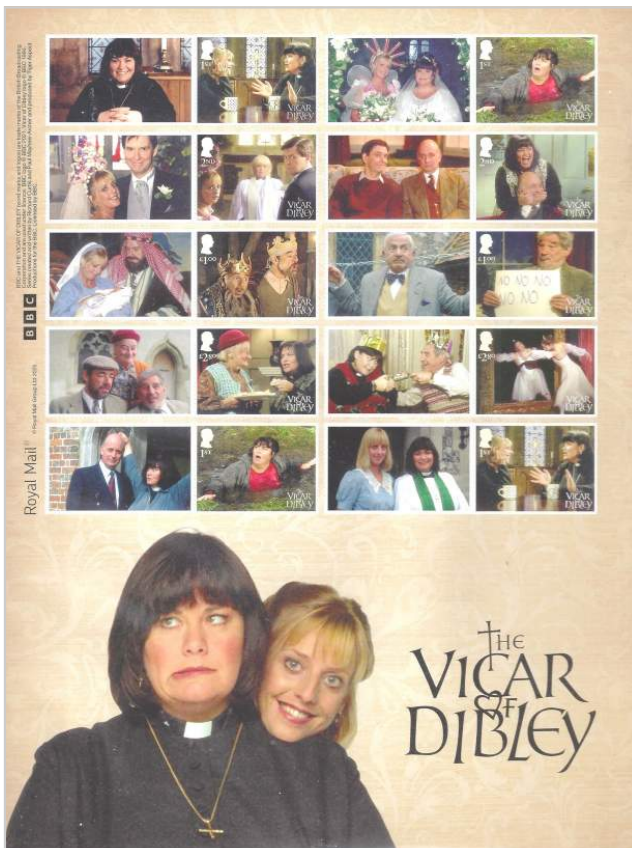
by Rick Howell

I don't know if any of you watch British comedies on PBS or BritBox, but my wife and I really do enjoy them. One of them in particular is the *Vicar of Dibley* series, starring Dawn French and Emma Chambers.

So, imagine my surprise when I received notice from Royal Mail that they were issuing a set of stamps commemorating this great Britcom. The stamps were issued January 14th and I placed an advance order on their website. I received the stamps in the mail about January 21st, and what a great issue! Each stamp brought back memories of so many episodes of this comedy that we have enjoyed over the years.

It is a great treat at times when you can flip the pages of your stamp album and have fond memories pop out at you. Gotta love philately! For more info about the *Vicar of Dibley* issues, go to the Royal Mail website at:

https://shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/the-vicar-of-dibley?cid=SC0125_1201_EM_05



Album Closed

by Rick Howell



It saddens me deeply to report that one of our members, Jim Taylor, is no longer with us. He passed away Friday, December 20, 2024 as a result of a heart attack. Jim was born September 16, 1941 in Mansfield, TX and graduated from Irving High School. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Dallas Theological Seminary where he was valedictorian of his class. Jim loved stamp collecting as well as coin collecting, but he confided in me that his passion was stamps. Jim was always one to come up with a story to make you smile and his laughter and smiling face at our meetings will be truly missed. I remember a couple of years ago at our club picnic, Jim had signed up to bring a pie. When he went to buy one, he couldn't decide which kind of pie everyone would like, so he ended up buying six pies and brought them all to the picnic. Nobody went home hungry that day.

Jim's grandson has expressed an interest in his grandfather's stamp collection, so North Carolina will be getting a budding young philatelist.

Jim, my friend, I know I will miss you and I am sure I am not the only one.

<u>Article Index</u>	<u>Page #</u>
Collecting Great Britain	1
Album Closed: Jim Taylor	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Members In The News	2, 7
Baffling eBay Standard Envelope Rules	3
TV Philately: Saint Judy	4
A New Challenge & A Big Year	5
Philatelic Funnies: Christmas & Hanukkah	5
Club Meeting Minutes	6, 14
St. Kitts Stamp Issuing Policies	7
Member & Dealer Ads	7, 10, 15
From the President's Cluttered Desk	8
Stamping Around Newsletter Article Statistics	8
EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes	9
Stamp Collecting 101 Tip: Just Like Laundry	9
Philately - The Family Hobby	10
Been There - Done That (HMS Queen Mary)	11
The Games of Thrones Postal Service	12
Artistic Use of Stamps	13
2025 Membership Renewal Form	13
Perfins Or Not?	14
Meet & Eat	15

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this [newsletter](#) may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club or its officers.

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

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

I have found that there a lot of philatelic items other than stamps that can be used for illustrating philatelic articles and/or exhibits (regardless of whether they are of the "Been There..." or not variety). You just have to move beyond the regular listings a bit, generally "back-of-the-book" or beyond.

To mind come some of these:

- Postmarks and cancels
- Postage Meters with slogans
- Postal Stationery (which can include postal cards, envelopes & Aerogrammes)
- Revenue stamps (there are some that feature various topics)

All of the above can pertain to both USA and foreign items. There many US postal stationery cards with a wide variety of topics (especially universities).

Members In The News

By Peter Elias



Dan Golden (left) recently did an interview about the future of stamp clubs on Ted Tyszkowski's YouTube channel, Ted Talks Stamps. I spoke a fair amount about our club and the bright future I think we have.

Stamp Chat On the Future of Stamp Clubs on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=ubVSsPwwUnQ>

Coming Attractions

2025

JAN. 28 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: *Clean Out Your Closet Sale*

FEB. 5 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: *My 1 Page Exhibit*, video by the ATA

FEB. 19 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

FEB. 25 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: *Virtual Exhibits* by Rick Howell

MAR. 5 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: *How Condition Affects the Value of Stamps* presented by Tom Cunningham

MAR. 7 & 8 Greater Dallas (McKinney) Postcard Show

Holiday Inn & Suites McKinney / N. Allen., 3220 Craig Dr
Admission is charged; free parking

MAR. 19 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

MAR. 25 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: *Papua New Guinea* by Ray Cartier

MAR. 29 MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)

David's BBQ, 2224 W Park Row Dr, Pantego

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Craig Kellogg (#679) [collects US stamps]
Kelly Kellogg (680)

New Members:

n/a

Deceased:

James Taylor (#607)

Not Renewing for 2025

Bruce Davis (#657)
Roberta Hildebrandt (543)

Membership Summary – January 25, 2025

Membership as of December 17, 2024	106
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	0
Not Renewing for 2025	(2)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(1)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of January 25, 2025	103
Note: 60 paid members as of January 25, 2025	

Baffling eBay Standard Envelope Rules

By Peter Elias

eBay states that when ship something, you are responsible for getting it to the buyer. Meaning, that if you mail it with regular first class (untracked, uninsured) and the USPS goofs it up (damages it, loses it, misdelivers it), you essentially would have to refund the buyer and you are out both the money and the item!

While I like to ship most items with the most inexpensive tracked & insured service (Ground Advantage), that still will cost you at least \$5.25 (for a basic item up to 4 ounces). It can be a bit less if you use eBay to buy your shipping label, however, that means you can't use postage stamps (which, given that I have lots of spare stamps, I'd rather use that up before buying even more postage!).

The above all said, eBay realized that it is difficult to sell \$5 to \$20 items and

then have to pay at least \$5.25 to ship them. Think about it: does it make sense to ship for example, a Hot Wheels car, that weighs about 2 oz when mailed and is worth about \$1 to \$3 for most of them) for \$5+ ?

So for items that are basically flat items, such as Stamps, Covers, Postcards, Trading cards and even coins and collectible currency, it places a big burden on the seller when selling rather inexpensive items (worth less than \$20), eBay has created what it calls the "eBay Standard Envelope". It isn't really an "envelope" per se, but a service that for philatelic items can be shipped in a USPS "first class envelope" (generally meaning up to a #10 envelope or a 6" x 9" envelope) and it can not be "too stiff" (meaning no cardboard stiffener).

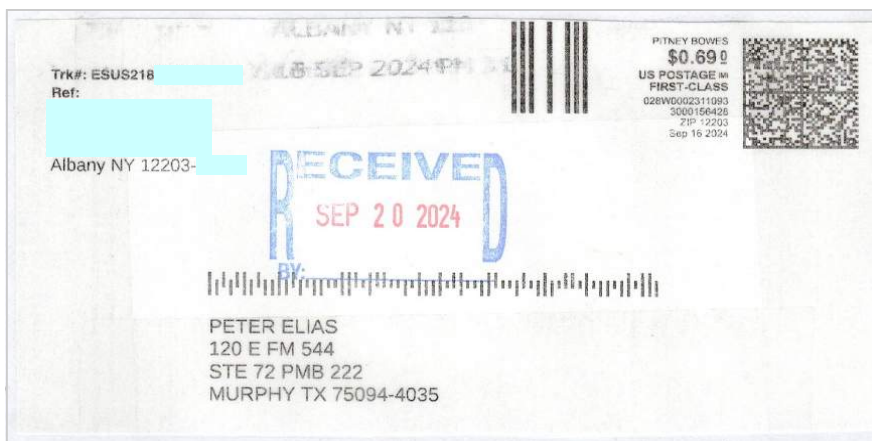
While you can mail "1st class mail" with a stiffener, you have to pay a "non-machinable" fee (currently 46¢ in addition to the postage, which is capped to a 3.5 ounce maximum weight).

Therein lies the 1st problem for me: What if the USPS manages to totally fold the envelope, thus putting a huge crease in whatever collectible philatelic item is in the envelope? It happens: at my house, the postal "person" sometimes tends to fold my mail in half and then shove it in my mail box. If it's a bill, I don't care. If it's a collectible item, I'd be 'p*ssed. Thus, I don't get mail at my house but instead have it go to a PO Box, where it is also safer from the elements.

Imagine it is a rainy day, and your envelope with a mint stamp, or set of souvenir sheet with lick 'n stick gum is now in a rather damp environment or possibly even get wet if the mail box cover isn't fully closed?

The above all aside, if you use "eBay standard envelope:

- 1) You have to buy eBay's postage, at the USPS "commercial rates" (currently 69¢ for a 1 ounce letter versus the regular 73¢ rate).
- 2) You do get tracking, albeit not the type that the USPS counter personnel or delivery personnel can scan. It is embedded on the label, and only USPS mailing handling equipment can read it. That means: "in-transit" tracking only, "acceptance scans" are not available nor are "delivery scans". Neither can you get any sort of "signature required" service such as Certified Mail nor Restricted Signature.
- 3) eBay provides indemnity for up to \$20 of value (i.e.: selling value, but not including what you paid for postage.



If I remember reading about it, you'd have to refund the buyer and then send a claim to eBay to recover the selling price. I've not had to do that yet, nor do I hope to...

4) **The Rules** : there are a bunch of them, such as:

- No more than 10 stamps or 3 postcards/ postal history items
- Plate blocks that fit

the eBay standard envelope dimensions are allowed

- No coils or sheets of stamps
- No graded stamps

So, I am a bit baffled by the first one. Why only 10 stamps or 3 covers? eBay says that up to 3 ounces (although 1st class mail can be up to 3.5 ounces). I routinely mail #10 envelopes with about 150 stamps in them and it is less than 1 ounce. Technically, if my eBay lot has 12 stamps in it (still far less than an ounce, and is say, a \$5 item), and mail it via eBay, then eBay would say that they won't cover it. Ridiculous... I mean, how do they expect you to go up to the allotted 3 ounce weight, especially if you can't use a stiffener.

Now, with more than 3 postcards (depending on their thickness), that could possibly get a bit stiff for some automated postal equipment. I just tested the weight of 6 older (3.5" x 5") postcards, plus a piece of paper in a \$10 envelope. It comes in right at 1.1 ounces and would still be considered machinable, not over the 1/4" USPS limitation. Again, why only 3 postcards? Makes no sense.

I get the part about coils (too 3-dimensional) and sheets due to potential overall size, but a small souvenir sheet of 9 stamps that fits in a #10 envelope should work, right? Just no "stiffeners" though...

Graded stamps are usually in a thick plastic holder, and those are definitely not machinable.

My biggest gripe basically is the "no more than 10 stamps" part, which means if sell a set of 11 stamps, instead of paying 69¢ to mail via eBay Std Env, I'd now have to pay \$5.25+ as Ground Advantage, lest I take the risk of plain 1st class mail without tracking. Then of course, the buyer could claim it was damaged or even never received and I'd have no proof of that and would have to refund their entire purchase.

TV Philately: Saint Judy

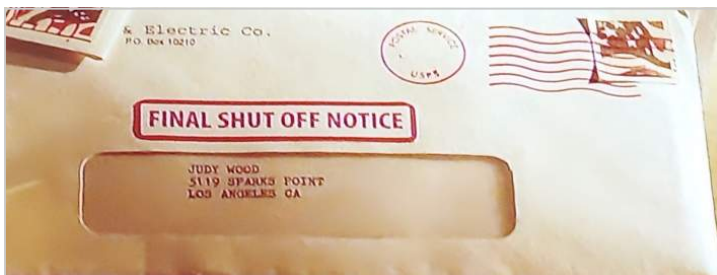
By Peter Elias

Saint Judy is a “based on true events” movie about Judy Wood, a Los Angeles immigration attorney that changed the US asylum law to allow women to be a part of the protected class.

The case in the movie (taking place in the early 1980's) centers around the case of Asefa Ashwari, a teacher from Afghanistan that faces deportation from the USA back to Afghanistan, where she would surely be killed by her own family (i.e.: her father or brothers) as part of honor killings.



At about 1 hour 16 minutes into the movie, Judy returns to her office to find that her electricity had been shut off (as she had ignored paying her bills). She takes a stack of bills and tosses them on her desk. Above is a screen shot that shows those invoices.



Above is a close-up of the envelope at center. As usual, a few things don't look right.



The stamp is supposed to be a typical US definitive with a flag design. Except that there is no blue color in the field of stars on this flag. Nor are there any perforations (or die-cuts in case this is supposed to represent a self-adhesive stamp). I can also not make out the word USA nor a denomination (which should be 20¢, 22¢ or 25¢)! While there were a couple of “flag stamps” in the 1980's, none seem to match this design. While the machine cancel “wavy bars” look pretty good, the circle part is pretty bad, in states “Postal Service” at the top and USPS at the bottom, something that a real machine cancel

would NOT. The City, State & Zip Code are also missing in the cancel, as well as the date.

The stamp also only appears to be partially adhered at the top & lower left sides, which shouldn't occur with a self-adhesive stamp, but this was supposed to be the late 1980's, thus “lick 'n stick”

The address (5119 Sparks Point, Los Angeles, CA) also doesn't exist (although there is a “Sparks Street” in nearby Burbank, but street numbers there are only in the 1000's.



The return address is for some “Electric Co.,” but only lists a PO Box number and no City, State or Zip Code.

Turning our attention to the (rotated) view of the other envelopes:

The bottom envelope does seem to show the same stamp as before, but does appear to have a bluish are for the stars, but still no USA or denomination. In reviewing the Scott catalog, this stamp does appear to have some similarities with a flag stamp issued in 2002 to 2005 (#3620-3624 or #3629F-3635), but these were issued over 18 years later; Scott #3631 is shown above... The cover has the same type of machine cancel as before.

Then at the top, the 3 covers (2 are shown partially), all seem to have the same “stamp” shown. While these have some crude perforations, the design is indistinct (what are they: flowers, insects?) and some sort of italic text at the top.

The envelope from “Presidio Insurance” does actually show a Zip Code. While there is a 325 (or is it 335?) Kansas St in San Francisco, it is at Zip Code 94107 (but definitely not at whatever is shown).

As usual, most of this is not even close, but good enough to pass muster as a part of a moving image that is up on the screen for only about 1 second.

[A New Challenge and a Big Year](#)

By Dan Golden

My father-in-law got into birding during the pandemic when social-distancing and shelter-in-place orders prevented him from enjoying his other hobbies. Five years later and his new-found hobby has packed his backyard with dozens of bird feeders and nests, a real avian paradise. His love of birding has in many ways rubbed off on me as well and, while I cannot spot and identify a bird species as quickly or as easily as he can, I quite enjoy the abundant and diverse beauty to be found in birds. I find I'm becoming something of a birder myself

What does this have to do with stamps? Well, birds are beautiful. Any stamps showing birds are evidence enough of that. Take for instance US #3222-25, the Tropical Birds series from 1998. Are those birds not beautiful?



One of my New Year's resolutions this year was to be more intentional with the way I pursue my hobbies. So I thought to myself, what if I could find a way to combine my hobbies so that I can spend time with and enjoy both of them at once? It would be like killing two birds with one stone (though that may be a poor choice of words considering what this article is about).

In birding there is something called a Big Year, where an individual goes out and tries to see as many bird species in the wild as he can in a single calendar year. The record number of birds seen during a North American Big Year is 840. This is of course a massive undertaking requiring a great deal of travel, logistical planning, and financial backing. This last obstacle in particular is what will prevent me from ever being able to do a Big Year. But the thought occurred to me, what if I were to do a Big Year of sorts, but with stamps?

And thus I created for myself the Philatelic Big Year, a new challenge for me to combine two hobbies into one! Allow me to explain. By my count there are 142 bird species depicted across all U.S. postage stamps. My goal is to see as many of those 142 birds as possible over this next year. But that's not all! Once I have spotted and properly identified a bird, I will then purchase at least one stamp depicting that bird to add to my collection.

There are a couple of rules I have set for myself. First, unlike actual Big Years, I am allowing myself to count birds in captivity at the zoo since some species, such as the emperor penguin, could prove difficult to see otherwise. While that may go against the spirit of a traditional Big Year, I will attempt to rectify that by only acquiring stamps for this challenge in person from dealers at stamps shows or from APS or

club booklets at MCSC meetings. Buying stamps online will not be an option for me. Instead I will get my stamps in the "wild" and the internet will be of no use to me except to help identify birds.

I am quite excited to take on this new challenge and see where it takes me. I have never tried something like this before and I think it could prove to be a unique way to personalize and add to my collection. I will aim to keep you all posted on my progress toward this goal with quarterly updates throughout the year. Until then, happy collecting!

[Philatelic Funnies: Christmas vs. Hanukkah](#)

by Dan Golden

There is nothing like the holiday season, and there is no other time of year that matches the volume of mail transported and delivered around the country during the holidays. From packages with gifts to friends and family writing holiday cards to businesses and stores sending advertisements, our mailboxes are practically overflowing throughout the month of December. There's nothing like the constant hustle and bustle of the holidays!

This year however, I opened my mailbox and discovered an unexpected surprise that I could not help but laugh at. As I am sure we have all experienced, any charities we may donate to during the year typically send us a holiday card each December along with a polite request for us to give another donation. Well this year my wife and I received such a mailing from the Monastery of the Holy Cross, a Catholic Benedictine monastery on the South Side of Chicago that we donate to. Receiving this mailing was not out of the ordinary, but as I looked over the envelope (seen here) and noticed the stamp the monks used (as a stamp collector is wont to do), it gave me a chuckle. A Catholic monastery that most certainly celebrates Christmas sent me a Christmas card...using a Hanukkah stamp!

Seldom do I see such a humorous pairing in the world of philately. As funny as this is, I really cannot laugh at it too hard. The monks live primarily in a cloister and it's unlikely that they can get to a post office to buy postage stamps very often. More often than not they will just use whatever forever stamps that are donated to them by people like me, who will send them a sheet or two of stamps as a donation knowing that the ability to pay postage is often overlooked, yet needed, part of their ministry.

Last year for example, I sent them a sheet of stamps depicting the Art of the Skateboard, only partially because of the amusing image my mind conjuring up of religious monks doing skateboarding tricks on the half-pipe. I find that mental image humorous and about as funny as a Catholic religious order using a Hanukkah stamp to send a Christmas card! I hope you all do too.



Arlington Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2025

By Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- 22 members braved the cold to attend our first meeting of the new year.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rick Howell mentioned the passing of member Jim Taylor in December. He also mentioned the meeting schedule he had prepared for the coming year. Of significance, our spring auction would occur in April instead of May.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was substituting for Janet Moyer and said he was accepting dues for those who had not renewed yet.

Show & Tell:

- Tom Turner had an envelope he received recently from a friend in Ireland with a auxiliary marking from the post office saying the address was insufficient (but it wasn't!).
- Ray Cartier showed a space cover that he thought was a good example to use for new collectors.
- Peter Elias had a number of items, including a label advertising the Boston stamp show next year; an "M-bag" tag from the post office for mailing media mail in bags; a cover from a fellow collector in Austria (with a special Priority label); a private folder with used stamps encouraging people to "Say It With Stamps"; a copy of a newsletter from the Dayton, Ohio stamp club; and finally, a mock up of the original art from the 1973 U.S. "Love" stamp made up of LEGOs (one of Peter's other hobbies).
- New Member Larry Reid talked a little about his collecting interests, which include revenues, cut squares, and Scott Specialty albums. He said he used to work on occasion with Ken Kerruish when he had the Artex Stamp Store.

Program:

- In addition to the "Clean Out Your Closet" activity, Ralph Poore gave a brief summary of the 2024 EXPO.

Gift Certificates:

- Were won by Marty Conner, Dave Stockbridge and Patty Poore.

Thank You!

Thank you to "Chet" who donated several boxes of stamps on January 15 that belonged to his wife and father-in-law. Weeding out some paperwork (old envelopes, advertising inserts, etc) that weren't needed, we ended up with 2 full boxes. These contain a lot (and I mean a "lot") of mint foreign stamps that were purchased from new issue dealers back in the late 1970's and early 1980's and are heavy in Israel, Vatican City & Europa issues! Also several cigar boxes with various foreign stamps (Kenmore Stamp Co.) and also over \$600 in mint UN stamps from the same period. These items will be useful at the beginner's table, chance board and/or mystery lots at EXPO.



Some of the extraneous definitive stamps on paper, damaged stamps and other unneeded items (such as UN brochures) have been donated to Pegasus Creative Reuse.

Ever Wonder?

(USA Stamp Sets Denominations)

By Peter Elias

When the USPS issues a set of commemorative stamps, they are invariably only for the current 1st class domestic rate (either denominated as in the past or currently simply as "FOREVER"). Why is that?

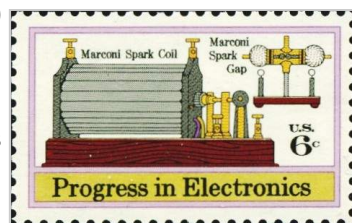
When I look at stamp sets from other countries, they are invariably denominated to cover various rates (domestic, priority, airmail, postcard, international, etc).

But yes, the USA has issued stamp sets that included various destinations, albeit not recently. Think of USA #1460 - 1462 & C85 (issued in 1972 for the Olympics) as 6¢, 8¢, 15¢ & 11¢ values respectively and the same with the Electronics Pro-

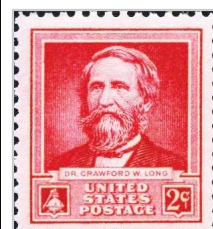


gress issue of 1973, #1500 - 1502 & #C86, also as 6¢, 8¢, 15¢ & 11¢ values.

Also in the 1970's was a National Parks series (#1448-1454 & C86 with 2¢, 6¢, 8¢, 15¢ & 11¢ stamps. In the 1960's, there was the



Champions of Liberty series with 4¢ & 8¢ denominations.



Going further back, amongst other examples, there's the "Famous Americans" issues (#859 - 893) from the 1940's (for authors, poets, educators, scientists, composers, artists & inventors) that were all issued as 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 5¢ & 10¢ that cover various rates, and

further back, the Army & Navy issues from 1936-1937 (#785 - 794) or the 1934 National Parks series (#740 - 749).

I suppose that in most foreign countries, people might be more likely to mail something outside of their own countries, while generally speaking, relatively few people here in the USA mail something to a foreign destination.



Personally I like the multi-rate sets, as I do mail items overseas, and other than a round "Global Flat Rate" stamp (nice as that is), there are few other commemoratives to use with slightly higher denominations that can be used to mail something overseas. After all, real estate is limited on #6, #10 or even 6"x9" envelopes to use up all those discounted 3¢, 4¢, 5¢, 6¢, 8¢, 10¢, etc stamps from the 1930's to 1970's.

I'm sure that some collectors of USA stamps would balk at the USA issuing commemorative stamps in 56¢ (postcard) and \$1.65 (Canada 2 oz. & other foreign 1 oz. rate) in addition to the 73¢ FOREVER rate. But then again, practically all other countries are already doing that. Your thoughts on this?

St. Kitts Stamp Issuing Policies

By Peter Elias

In reviewing the St. Kitts stamp issuing policies, it seems they have NOT changed since I spent my honeymoon there back in 2001! When I was there, I took with me some spare stamps of theirs to use on postcards and envelopes that I was going to mail from there.

Since I didn't know the exact postage rates before I went there, I had to of course go to the post office in Basseterre (capital). They told me that the stamps I wanted to use, despite not being that terribly old, were NOT valid for postage!

I told them these weren't that old, perhaps no more than 20 years old, meaning from the 1980's at the time. They said their commemorative stamps were only valid for 5 years!

The last time that I heard about that practice, it was about Swiss or Liechtenstein commemorative stamps that were only valid for 1 year from issuance, but that was back in the late 1950's and prior. Swiss definitive stamps, which they call "Dauer Marken" (i.e.: Dauer meaning "duration", "period", "time", "length", "endurance") even back to the late 1930's to early 1940's are still valid for postage though!

At the bottom of <https://post.kn/philately/> (St. Kitts Postal Service website) it states:

- Commemorative stamps four times a year. These stamps are valid for a period of 5 years. They can be bought at the Bureau throughout the first 24 months but are only available throughout the postal network for six months from date of issue.
- Definitive stamps are issued once in five years. These are normal postage stamps used during the whole period and are valid for up to 8 years.

Sounds like a "money grab" to me. What other countries still do this? Your thoughts?

Members In The News

By Peter Elias

Ray & Karen Cartier were mentioned in a November-December 2024 "Topical Time" article about the **History of the ATA** (American Topical Association). It mentions that in 2009, Karen and then executive ATA director Ray developed a "print-on-demand" system that decreased the amount of handbooks in the office.

Peter Elias' article "**0-DAY Postage Labels from USPS Self-Service Kiosks**" was published in the MSS Bulletin, volume 76, issue 346, part 2, Winter 2024 on pages 36 - 37.

Peter Elias' had a byline in the article "**EES – Army & Air Force Exchange Service Postage Meter Stamp**" that was published in the MSS Bulletin (same issue as above). While Peter provided the image of the cover, it was Len Nadybal, who wrote 99% of the text write-up (as he is more of an expert on government usage of such meter strips). Since Len essentially "wrote" the article, and Peter only provided brief commentary and the image of the cover from his collection, Peter would prefer that he is not mentioned first as author, but second.

Ben Termini, M.D., is the reviewer in the "Books & Catalogs" section on page 70-71 of the December 2024 issue of the "American Philatelist", where he reviewed Marc E. Gonzales' book about "**Reprints, Counterfeits and Forgeries of Mexico's First Designs**". Ben told me he was requested to do the review by the author.



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)



stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



- * TSDA
- * HOUPEX
- * EXPO

US/WW Classics, Modern, SONS

Visit our new online store

@ <http://www.stampsuniversal.com>

James D. Myers
P. O. Box 2047
Coppell, TX 75019
(972) 304-1671



Exp. 12/24

cunninghamstamps@aol.com

Exp.12/25

(214) 546-1179

Cunningham Philatelics

Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items
Stamps and Covers

Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
APS # 082424, TSDA

P.O. Box 863237
Plano, TX 75086-3237

Exp. 12/25

EAS_STAMPS

Jimmy Tomchesson
Owner/Appraiser APS # 236251

2210 Crescent Water
Rosenberg, TX 77471
jtomchesson@yahoo.com
832-278-5268

eBay Store: [EAS Stamps](#)



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, at the January meetings, it was great to see everyone again after the holidays. We had some great turnouts at the "Clean Out Your Closet" sales and I'm sure everyone found enough bargains to keep themselves busy for at least another month. That's part of the fun of attending our meetings. We always have a few people who are looking to sell or trade stamps and for sure, you never know what kind of things you can find. Also, be sure to take advantage of the circuit sales books. The club is still getting the APS circulars, even though we make less money on them than our sales generate, we keep getting them as a benefit to you guys. You should take a look at them when you get a chance.

At our February meetings, at all three locations, there will be a short video published by the American Topical Association and discussing virtual exhibits. The ATA is currently displaying 1-page exhibits on their website and are entertaining a huge number of people stopping by to take a look. It's my opinion that we can do something similar at EXPO, without limiting ourselves to single page exhibits. I want to talk about this with our membership and get some heartfelt answers and see how you guys really feel about the future of exhibiting at EXPO. Of course, we will have plenty of time for Show-N-Tell and individual deals as well.

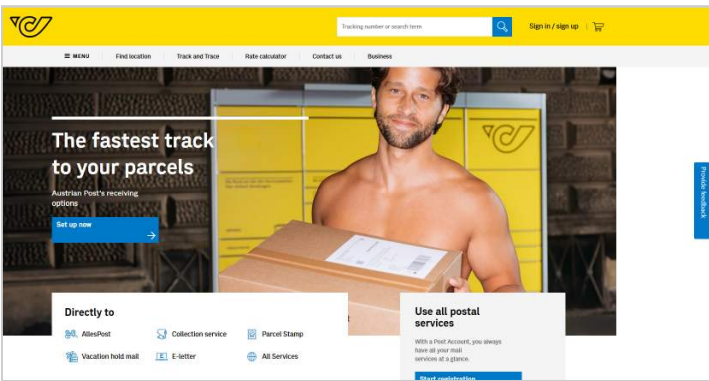
Also at the meetings, we will be giving away some philatelic reference books that have been donated to the club. A library listing was passed around last year and you guys picked out the books you wanted added to our library. The remainder of the books that we have will either be put in the silent auction at EXPO, or given away at meetings the rest of the year. What is left over after that will be donated to the Wineburgh Philatelic Library in Dallas.

We are now accepting donations for EXPO. I especially want to thank Jim Taylor's estate for donating a signed duck stamp print and also Steve Carpenter for donating a beautiful MNH Baby Zeppelin plate number single stamp encased in a plastic display stand. These donations are greatly appreciated! See you all at the meeting!

Austria Post webpage

By Peter Elias

Stopping by the Austria Postal Service website on 1/26/2025 (<https://www.post.at/en>), this is what showed on their main webpage. My first impression was "say what?". It shows what appears to be a postal customer getting his packages quicker (by what, not getting dressed first before picking it up at the lockers behind him?). There is a blue feedback button on the right side of the webpage. I wonder what comments they are getting.



MCSC Newsletter Statistics

By Peter Elias

I figured it was time to look at article "statistics" again, primarily in light of the APS Star Route Awards committee "suggesting" that there should be more articles by other members. I am definitely "for" more philatelic articles by other members. The big issue here is: YOU have to write them, not me! I can't publish what is NOT sent in.

As you know, the Mid-Cities Stamp Club has had newsletters from 1973 to current day. There are only 2 known newsletters (as far as I know) between the founding of the club in 1973 and July 1977. And between 1977 and 1986, there were no newsletters at all, probably only mailed postcards to members reminding them of upcoming meetings.

Newsletters picked up again starting in April 1986 (1 page only). The earliest known "philatelic article" is from the July 1986 issue. I took over the newsletter editorship with the July 2001 issue.

I've reviewed all previous newsletters (all have been digitized) and have put together a running list of what I deem "philatelic articles" (as opposed to "club-related", such as President's Letters, Club & EXPO meeting minutes, requests for volunteers, the picnic & Xmas party, etc). I wanted to have a resource of what exactly exists from a philatelic viewpoint.

Given the above "definitions", here's where it stands as of last month's (January 2025) issue of Stamping Around:

1986 (July) to 2001 (June): 191 philatelic articles
2001 (July) to 2025 (January): 1,924 philatelic articles

TOTAL: 2,115

That is definitely "a lot"!

Since I can easily sort & resort the spreadsheet in which I track all of this by article title, author, general subject, issue, etc; below are the "top 10" authors since 1986.

AUTHOR	# of articles	% of articles
Harold Patterson	19	0.9
John Barrett	28	1.3
Ken Wills	42	2.0
Rick Howell	57	2.7
Art Von Reyn	58	2.7
Ben Termini	62	2.9
Ken Aldridge	98	4.6
Ray Cartier	133	6.3
Pat & Robert Weidman	144	6.8
Peter Elias	1,242	58.7

Total as of January 2025: 1,883 89.0

Total Philatelic Articles: 2,115

Except for Harold Patterson, all others named above are current club members. These 10 people have written 89% of all articles since I took over being the editor. And yes, apparently I have written almost 59% of them...

I guess I do enjoy writing and telling "stories" about stamps (mind you now, I only do "non-fiction"). Personally, I enjoy philatelic articles when they are "off the beaten track", such as many that Ben Termini wrote in the past. To me, a non-academic article about stamps or philately is much more interesting than say a treatise on watermark varieties, paper varieties, etc.

That said, of my 1,242 articles, only 335 (~27%) have been of the "Been There - Done That" variety, and of which, 83 (~25%) are about Switzerland and 26 (~8%) about Germany.

So what else is there to be said? Put a pen to paper (or preferably keyboard to Word file). I know it's easier to read an article than write one, but give it a try. I'll help however I can (like scanning your photos or stamps). Ready, set, write!

MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes January 25, 2025

by Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- EXPO chairperson Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:44 AM.

Chairperson Reports:

- Ralph welcomed all and passed around a check-in sheet.
- The minutes were printed in the previous newsletter (January 2025) and there were no corrections, so they stand as printed.
- A presentation of the EXPO outcome was presented at the Arlington meeting.

Committee reports:

- General Chairperson - Ralph Poore announced that all the paperwork has been submitted for the 2025 EXPO.
- Deputy Chairperson - Rick Howell said he has already received some donations for the silent auction of a raffle.
- Beginning Collectors - Skip Ely is sorting through the donations he has for the Chance Board.
- Dealer Bourse - Tom Cunningham has not sent invitations out for dealers. That will be done in March/April.
- Chance Board - Patty Poore said "everything is beautiful in it's own way!".
- Mini-Exhibits - Peter Elias will have six frames. He has asked for people to step up and give him some exhibits.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham:
 - Gave the account balance. He has paid the Convention Center's down payment and Bob Duncan Center for the year.
 - He also announced it is too early to form a budget for this year since we do not know what how many dealers will be coming. There is no unusual increase in costs to plan for.
- Hospitality - Janet Moyer has no report to give at this time.
- Lunches - Kathryn Storey said there are no changes.
- Mailouts - Stanley Christmas said he is on track.
- Mixture Pick - Bob Weidman said they have donations from the EXPO and will not need to buy anything.
- Programs - The chairperson will start the programs in September.
- Security - Dan Golden agreed to be the new Security chairperson, taking over from Ken Aldridge.
- Silent Auction - Ken Wills said they need donations worthy of a silent auction.
- Outdoor / Street Signs - Richard Hildebrandt is on track.
- Snacks - Richard Hildebrandt will be the new snack chair, replacing Ken Aldridge. Dave Stockbridge will still handle the beverages.
- Transportation - Jeannette Jordan (from DalWorth) has talked with Ralph Poore and they are on schedule.
- Volunteers - Janet Moyer said she has nothing yet.

Discussions:

- Peter brought up "What is the purpose of the theme", and mentioned that we no longer have cachet envelopes, nor USPS show postmarks, nor exhibits featuring the theme, then why have a theme? This was followed by a motion from Ken Wills to discontinue the theme for 2025; it was seconded by Tom Cunningham. The motion passed with two opposed.
- A motion was made to include the Mixture Pick in the EXPO budget. The motion was made by Stanley Christmas and seconded by Rick Howell. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

- We are looking for a new hotel. Ralph will be looking into it but if you have any ideas, please let him know.
- Future Exhibits:
 - The January meetings will be a demo of what the ATA is doing with one-page exhibits.
 - This could lead into virtual exhibits that would be "noncompetitive".
 - If we chose to go competitive we would have to find judges.
 - If we go virtual - we would need two monitors and desktop or laptop computers.
 - We could use one of the Mixture Pick tables for display area.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held at David's Barbecue on March 29, at 11:00 AM (lunch); the meeting will start at 11:45 AM.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Stamp Collecting 101 Tip: Just Like Laundry

By Peter Elias

Soaking stamps off envelopes is a part of the "collecting process". When my small tub of on-paper stamps overflows, I put it into my bathroom sink and soak the stamps off, then put them into "drying books" for a few days.



But there is a caveat: Just as with doing laundry, it is best to "separate the colors" (white vs. other colors), lest you want your stamps to turn red, blue or yellow (as shown in the examples at left) or brown from Kraft envelopes. The

dye used in these envelopes (and generally they're from greeting card envelopes), will turn your sink water into that color, generally brownish as in the example here.

If the stamps are left in the water for TOO long, it will stain the stamps. And that is an actual "Been There - Done That"!



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

Philately - The Family Hobby

By Peter Elias

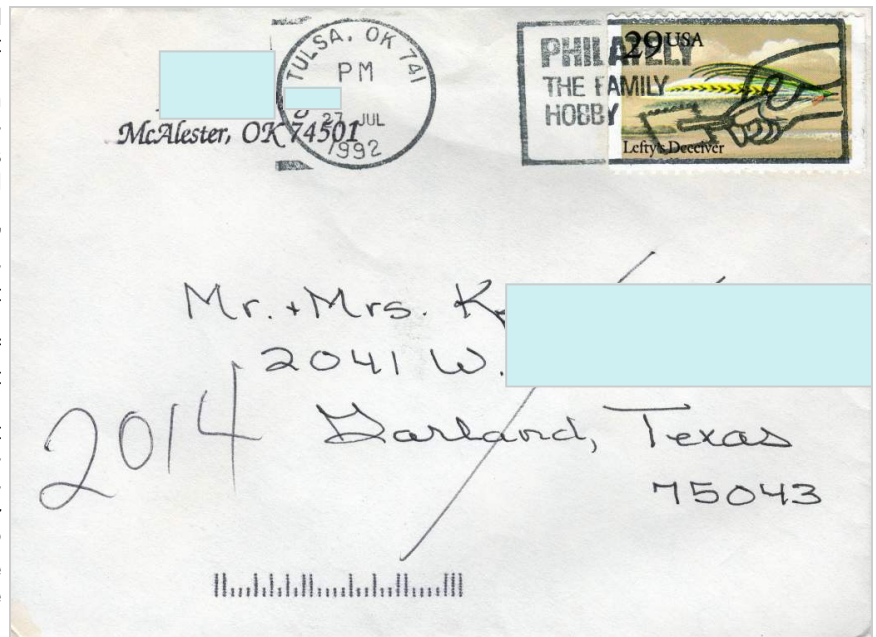
It was interesting finding this 1992 cover in a donation pile. I had not seen this particular USPS machine cancel that advocates our hobby before!

Other than the text, the “family” part is illustrated via an adult hand guiding/holding a child’s hand that is grabbing a stamp with stamp tongs.

When machine cancels fully cover a stamp, such as in this case, neither is usually very easily discernible, however in this case, since the stamp is printed in a light brownish color, the black cancel stands out nicely!

I took the liberty of using my favorite “people” search engine, and found that people with the respective last names of both the sender and recipient still live at the addresses shown.

The sender did goof with the street number of the addressee, which is 2014 per the notation, not 2041. And the “people” search engine confirms that. Also back in 1992, it was just a 5-digit ZIP Code, not the ZIP+4, since the POSTNET barcode at the bottom is very short, despite the ZIP+4 being introduced in 1983, although most people didn’t use (or know) it. Today, even if you use just the 5-digit ZIP on your mail, USPS equipment will figure out the ZIP+4 and spray that code on the envelope (technically, probably the ZIP+4+2 version!).



For Sale

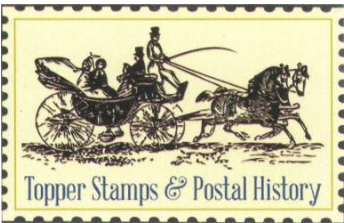
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy 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% of catalog values for MCSC members. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14



Jonathan Topper
13100 Wortham Center Drive
Suite 300
Houston, TX 77065-5631
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

HMS Queen Mary

By Peter Elias

secutive years of decreasing profits. Her last voyage was to the City of Long Beach, California, at the end of October 1967, where she is now owned by the City of Long Beach and permanently moored there (see picture at bottom left).

Being as that I've had a LOT of business trips to the Los Angeles area from 1992 to 2001, and generally flying into Burbank Airport and several times the also much less busy Long Beach Airport, I decided that on one of my off-days that I'd visit the Queen Mary in Long Beach.



As luck would have it, this was a "double-header", as the other attraction was Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" airplane, which was housed in a hanger near the Queen Mary! One parking ticket and one entry

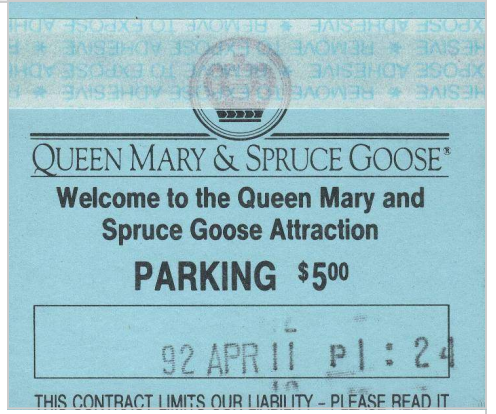
Above is St. Vincent #1181, issued in 1989. It features the ocean liner RMS Queen Mary (not to be confused with battleship [HMS Queen Mary](#)...). My general knowledge of Queen Mary is a bit sparse, so looking her up in Wikipedia, I counted about 12 "Queen Mary's" from the 12th through 17th centuries! The two relevant ones seemed to be Queen Mary I of England (ruled from 1516 to 1558) and Mary, Queen of Scots (from 1542 to 1587). Turns out it was Mary, Queen of the United Kingdom (1910 to 1936). Oh well.

The RMS Queen Mary is a now-retired British ocean liner. She sailed for the Cunard Line, mostly in the North Atlantic, from 1936 to 1967. A sister ship, the RMS Queen Elizabeth, joined her on the 2-ship service across the Atlantic.

The RMS Queen Mary was retired after several con-

ticket covered both attractions! Good thing I always keep entry tickets as souvenirs and put them into my photo albums!

While I checked, I could NOT find any stamps that featured the Spruce Goose (aka "[H-4 Hercules](#)"), but at least I have a picture! The Queen Mary had also been turned into a hotel and you could visit some parts of the ship, some of which had some interesting Art Deco period décor. In 1993, the Spruce Goose was moved to McMinnville, Oregon (southwest of Portland).



The Game of Thrones Postal Service: Bridging the Kingdoms of Westeros

In the intricate world of "Game of Thrones," communication is a lifeline. The series, based on George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire," presents a vast realm known as Westeros, where the timely exchange of information is critical for political maneuvering, military strategy, and the survival of individuals and houses. Central to this network of communication is the use of ravens, a sophisticated and essential postal service that ensures the flow of messages across great distances.

Historical Context and Relevance

The concept of using birds for communication is not unique to Westeros. Historically, humans have employed pigeons and other birds as messengers, utilizing their homing instincts to carry information over long distances. In "Game of Thrones," ravens take on this role, reflecting a medieval setting where advanced communication technology does not exist. The reliance on ravens highlights the importance of knowledge and information in a world where power dynamics are constantly shifting.

The Maesters: Guardians of the Ravens

The maesters, a scholarly and monastic order serving the noble houses of Westeros, are the custodians of the ravens. These learned men are stationed in castles and keeps throughout the realm, responsible for the care and training of the ravens as well as the encryption and decryption of messages. Each castle has its rookery, where ravens are bred and maintained, ensuring a steady supply of these vital birds.

Maesters are trained at the Citadel in Oldtown, where they learn the art of communication among many other disciplines. The intricacies of this postal system are taught as part of their extensive education, emphasizing the importance of secure and efficient communication. By ensuring that messages are delivered quickly and accurately, maesters play a critical role in the functioning of the noble houses they serve.

Operational Mechanics

The operation of the raven postal service is both ingenious and straightforward. Ravens are trained to return to specific locations, typically their home rookeries, from anywhere in Westeros. When a message needs to be sent, it is written on a small piece of parchment, rolled up, and attached to a raven's leg. The bird is then released, instinctively flying back to its home rookery where the message is received and delivered to the intended recipient.

This system allows for relatively rapid communication across the vast expanse of Westeros. Messages can be sent from the furthest reaches of the North to the southernmost regions of Dorne, bridging geographical divides and maintaining the flow of information. The efficiency and reliability of this system are crucial in a world where alliances can shift overnight and the balance of

power is perpetually in flux.

Symbolism and Impact

Beyond their practical utility, ravens hold symbolic significance within the series. They often herald important news or impending change, acting as omens of the events to come. The black-feathered birds, associated with mystery and the unknown, embody the uncertainty and danger that pervade the world of "Game of Thrones."

The narrative power of the raven postal service cannot be overstated. It serves as a vital storytelling device, enabling the plot to progress and characters to remain interconnected despite vast distances. Through the timely delivery of messages, critical plot points are revealed, and the intricate web of relationships and alliances is maintained.

Conclusion

The raven postal service in "Game of Thrones" is more than just a method of communication; it is a symbol of the vital importance of information in a world where knowledge is power. Managed by the diligent maesters, this system ensures that the seven kingdoms remain connected, and the intricate dance of power and politics can continue unabated. In the treacherous land of Westeros, the ravens are the silent sentinels, carrying the words that shape the fate of nations.

And now... A confession:

I did not write any part of the article above. Not one single word. I simply asked the Copilot app, which now is included in Microsoft Word, to 'Write a short essay on the Game of Thrones postal service.' The article above was produced in about two seconds.

This raises some interesting questions which deserve a lot of thought:

- Do we need writers anymore?
- Could a journal editor simply decide what topics he (or she) wanted to include in each issue, and ask AI bots to write them?
- Can I claim authorship for this article because I asked for it to be written? **
- How do you fact check something which is written by a bot?

Obviously these questions (and answers) involve a lot more than philately, and I'm sure that there are many people (and bots) out there with more informed opinions and answers than me. Nevertheless, I'm awed by what technology has wrought, and I'm also scared.

Comments? Send a raven!

Ben Termini (termini@charter.net)

** Editor comment: NO. *Copyright laws generally state that only human-created works can be considered authored and eligible for copyright protection.* The previous sentence was provided by Google AI based on my questions about this topic in a Google search. However, various referenced to legal websites from the same search do corroborate this answer.



©2021 USPS

Artistic Use of Stamps

By Peter Elias

When consolidating some of the donated stamps that we get from stamp dealers (prior to passing them on to Skip), rudimentary sorting usually shows there to be lots & lots of stamps that really should not be passed on to beginning collectors. These are often damaged, thinned, have short perfs and/or are overly heavily cancelled stamps. And in some cases, just hundreds of the same cheap definitives that we have all seen many times (such as those from Denmark, France, India, 8¢ Eisenhower stamps on paper, etc).

Dealers won't buy these items, as the labor to sell is not worth it for them. But rather than simply tossing them, there is a good use for these stamps, and that is in art projects, such as the poster shown to the right, by local artist Ian Woods, who has displayed this on his Instagram feed.

I accumulate these various stamps, along with pages from old albums that serve no further use, and when they reach a "critical mass" (i.e.: a banker's box full), I take them down to [Pegasus Creative Reuse](#), a small artist supply store (south of Oak Cliff) that sells various items (mostly donated to them) to artists, especially those that work with "mixed media".

So, it is a good use for these stamps and it allows "stamps" to be in front of people! You never know, it might even awake an interest in stamp collecting by some people. Here's to hoping!



ATA Zoom Presentations

By Peter Elias

The ATA (American Topical Association) has several different Zoom presentations listed on their website that you can sign up for between February to March 2025. For more details and signing up, visit: <https://www.americantopicalassn.org/events>

2025 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 2024 and skip to the signature line below.

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

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

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

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

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

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

Membership Level:

- \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online colors newsletters)
- \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed black & white newsletters)
- \$25 Sponsor Membership**
- \$35 Sponsor (with mailed black & white newsletters)
- \$ 6 Additional Adult (no separate 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:

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

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2025

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Opening:

- President - Rick Howell began the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Attendance:

- There were 9 members present.

Announcement:

- Rick announced the passing of member Jim Taylor.
- Rick also pointed out our club newsletter won the APS Star Route "Best in Show" award.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was filling in for Janet and said he was accepting dues for the upcoming year for any that hadn't already paid.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell began by showing some special FDCs of the 1992 Columbus reissues he purchased at EXPO, even though he doesn't usually collect covers.
- Dan Golden passed around a Christmas post card with a 1912 Red Cross charity label.
- Steve Carpenter showed a MNH "Baby Zeppelin" (Scott #C18) in a frame he said he would offer to the club as a Silent Auction lot, or possibly a raffle item.
- Skip Ely passed around a stock card with several U.S. stamps that had been damaged by Scotch tape.
- Peter Elias - showed an email he received from an artistic shop to which he sometimes donates damaged stamps, showing an example of how they can create collages with them. He also showed a newsletter from a stamp club in Dayton, Ohio. He then discussed some return envelopes he asks for when giving away free stamps, saying it looked like the envelopes were written by children and had "used" stamps on them (so he used his own postage to mail back his offer of free (used) stamps. He then showed some items that were in a potpourri box he purchased at Arlington last week.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Sai Madhavapeddi and Steve Carpenter.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025

by Rick Howell

Opening:

- The Granbury general meeting was held at the Bentwater Activity Center on January 28th.
- Vice-president Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. We welcomed new members Craig and Kelly Kellogg.

Attendance:

- There were 11 members and guest Paul Mulholland.

Show & Tell:

- Les Barton showed a cover that was sent from Antarctica which displayed an auxiliary marking explaining the cover had been delayed for a year because of the weather. He also showed us a Wells-Fargo cover which was mailed from the US to Hawaii in 1884.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell discussed some of the activities happening at the APS, with emphasis on the loss of Scott English as Executive Director. Scott was instrumental in providing a rock-solid foundation for the hobby during the whole COVID situation, and we really enjoyed having him show up for many of our Zoom meetings. Scott will be missed.
- Jim Case discussed a program called "Boy On A Stamp" which he will be presenting at the March 5th Arlington meeting.
- Gary McNamee volunteered to provide a program for the July 22nd Granbury meeting.
- Les Barton volunteered to provide a program for the August 26th Granbury meeting.

Program:

- The program for the meeting was a "Clean Out Your Closet" sale where members and guests bring items they no longer want or need to sell or trade with other members.

Door Prize Drawing:

- We gave away one \$10 gift certificate to Dave Stockbridge. Joe & Anne McFarland donated two bags of stamps which were given away as door prizes to Jim Case and Craig Kellogg.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned about 8:00 PM.



Perfin Or Not?

By Peter Elias

Shown at left is Bosnia & Herzegovina, Scott #38 (from 1906) showing the "Donkey Post". It is generally a nicely designed stamp (printed via litho), albeit with some questionable perforations at the bottom (why was it "cut" rather than naturally separated?).

But why does it have 2x holes? These don't look like regular perfin (perforated initials) holes, those are usually much smaller in diameter, and unless these represent 2 "O's", I'd say "no", they are not Perfins. So what are they? Googling "stamps with holes" doesn't come up with anything useful (other than perforations or perfins). The stamp appears to be unused (with a paper crack probably due to gum problems). Unless someone was just practicing punches holes (which was done from the backside judging by how the hole edge is bent towards the front of the stamp), my best guess otherwise is that this was done to invalidate the stamp? But I don't see any notations in Scott's about that. Anyone have any clues?



MEET & EAT for February 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

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

FLOWER MOUND

February 19 Corner Bakery
3640 Justin Rd., Ste. 190
Highland Village (972) 317-0378.

GRANBURY

February 25 Palio's Pizza Café
3710 E. US Hwy 377, Granbury

Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

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

2/15

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

2/21

For Sale

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

4/24

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

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

4/23

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

**Don't Forget:
...To Pay Your 2025 Membership Dues!**