

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

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

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

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



#90

CHAPTER
MEMBER



#53-3364

Volume 38, Number 7

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

July 2025

Postage Rates & Fees		1/19/2025	7/13/2025
DOMESTIC			
1st Class - 1 oz (retail/metered or PC)		0.73 / 0.69	0.78 / 0.74
" 2 oz		1.01 / 0.97	1.07 / 1.03
" 3 oz		1.29 / 1.25	1.36 / 1.32
" 3.5 oz (maximum)		1.57 / 1.53	1.66 / 1.61
non-machinable surcharge		+0.46	+0.49
1st Class Flats - 1 oz		1.50	1.63
" 2 oz		1.77	1.90
" 3 oz		2.04	2.17
" 4 oz		2.31	2.44
" 5 oz		2.59	2.72
+ 0.28 per ounce up to 9 oz		+0.28/ounce	+0.28/ounce
+ 0.30 per ounce after 9 oz		+0.30/ounce	+0.30/ounce
" 13 oz (maximum)		4.91	5.04
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as Ground Advantage)			
Ground Advantage - up to 4 oz		5.25 - 5.85	6.80 - 7.90
" up to 8 oz		6.00 - 6.55	7.10 - 8.75
" up to 12 oz		6.75 - 7.35	8.15 - 10.6
" up to 15.999 oz		8.35 - 9.35	8.70 - 11.95
Media Mail - 1 lb		4.63	4.47
" 2 lbs		5.38	5.22
" 3 lbs		6.13	5.97
" 4 lbs		6.88	6.72
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded		10.10 / 10.40 / 10.85	11.00 / 11.20 / 11.95
" Commercial Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded Env.		8.75 / 9.05 / 9.55	9.70 / 10.20 / 10.50
" Small Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)		10.65 / 9.30	11.70 / 10.60
" Medium Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)		19.15 / 16.65	21.05 / 18.50
" Large Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)		26.30 / 23.95	29.95 / 27.10
Postcard (Domestic)		0.56	0.61
Certificate of Mailing (domestic) (3817 / 3665 or 3877 with 3 piece min)		2.20 / 0.65	2.40 / 0.70
Certified Mail		4.85	5.30
Insurance (up to \$100 is included with GA & Priority Mail) up to \$50 / \$100 / \$200		2.50 / 3.15 / 4.15	2.70 / 3.40 / 4.40
Registered (Domestic)			
\$0 value		18.60	19.70
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500		19.30 / 22.20	20.40 / 23.50
INTERNATIONAL			
Letter & Postcard Airmail			
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada (2 oz) (variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)		1.65 see usps.com	1.70 see usps.com
Non-machinable surcharge		+0.46	+0.49
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)		17.85 - 21.00	17.85 - 21.00
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4 lbs)		43.50 - 45.40	43.50 - 45.40
" Canada		30.90	30.90
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound, Grp2-20)		56.70 - 67.60	56.70 - 67.60
Certificate of Mailing (3817/3665)*		2.10 / 0.61 each*	2.40 / 0.70 each*
See current Notice123 at usps.com ! *FCMI / MinQty 3 ↑ *FCMI / MinQty 3			

USPS Mid-Year Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

It's time for another postage rate increase. As of June 19, in reviewing the proposed USPS rate increases, I have summarized some of the key rates that many of use regularly, and they are shown to the left. The 1st column (in **blue**) shows the rates that are in effect through July 12, 2025, the 2nd column the rates that the PRC (Postal Rate Commission) has not yet approved, and tentatively scheduled for starting on July 13, 2025.

Key increases are for all 1st class items (1st class letter, flats & Ground Advantage). Ground Advantage seems to have the most drastic increases at 28 to 30+% for the "retail rates"! The suggestion would be to find "commercial pricing" (but that means you **can not** use postage stamps, as that pricing would require printing postage labels through software (stamps.com, click-n-ship, eBay, etc). Increases are shown in **dark red** italic numbers and with an "up" arrow and if no change in **green**.

Interestingly enough, there are small decreases for Media Mail! Some of the retail price increases seem to discourage us from using stamps as postage, since commercial rates are far cheaper!

Not shown are any changes to PME & PME1 (Express Mail), nor GA (Ground Advantage) at 1 pound or more. Please note that "1st Class Mail" stops at 3.5 oz (=100 grams).

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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

Coming Attractions

2025

JUN. 24 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Review of 4th Bureau issues by Skip Ely

JUN. 27-28 TSDA Bourse
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (US 75, Exit 39A, Eldorado Pkwy)

JUL. 2 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: "How Condition Affects the Value of Stamps", presented by Tom Cunningham.

JUL. 16 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

JUL. 22 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Program will be by Gary McNamee

AUG. 6 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting
Program: "Philatelic Adventures in Paris" presented by Geoff Owens

AUG. 20 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic Discussions

AUG. 22-23 TSDA Bourse
Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (take US 75, Exit 39A, El Dorado)

AUG. 26 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program: Program will be by Les Barton



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

On July 24, 2013, I was reminded by the sign seen behind me at the National Postal Museum (part of the Smithsonian) in Washington DC that says "Every Stamp Tells A Story".

Except that I believe that many stamps have two stories, and that is what forms the basis of most of my "Been There..." articles.

I'd like to read your stories about stamps. Come on, give it a try! Surely everyone reading this newsletter must have been somewhere (or owned something) that is featured on a stamp, postmark, etc. Perhaps you even met someone that was on a stamp?

EXPO Mini-Exhibits Needed

By Peter Elias

Time to dust off those 1 or 4-page mini-exhibits that you may have done for past EXPOs! I've still got lots of space left for these. These can be as simply as something "philatelically interesting" along with a brief write-up! See the April 2025 issue (page 12) for an entry form!. Free to enter (but this is only for Mid-Cities Stamp Club members)!

These will not be judged, but unlike when exhibits were in another room, these will be seen by all that enter & exit at EXPO! Give 'em something interesting to look at!



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

Preet Ahluwalia (#684)
Pavan Ahluwalia (#685Y)

New Members:

Everett Ware (#683) collects US

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – June 18, 2025

Membership as of May 21, 2025	96
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2025	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of June 18, 2025	97

Speed kills, or so they say. The 2 stamps on the right, from Romania (Scott #3499) showing an accident implicated by speed and Turkey (Scott #2370) that shows a damaged speed limit sign would certainly seem to imply that as well.

Technically, it isn't speed itself that "kills". It is usually due to a host all sorts of factors, including:

- Driver is overly confident
- Too fast for the situation at hand
- Mechanical failure
- Lack of traction
- Driver inattention (i.e.: get off your cell phone!)
- Vehicle design flaws or limitations

Many countries have taken to using radar guns to keep people in line with speeding (i.e.: keeping to the posted speed limit), such as the Christmas Island stamp below (Scott #304), which shows a police officer pointing a portable radar gun at oncoming traffic (as one might find here in the USA a lot).

So is speeding really a problem on Christmas Island? The 52 square mile island has 88 miles of roads (24 are paved, 64 are not).

Even in Germany, land of the (not always) unlimited speed Autobahns, they have overhead radar mounted on sections of the Autobahn where you are limited (to anywhere from 50 to 130 mph). About 70% of German Autobahns are unlimited, while 81 mph (130 km/h) is the recommended speed (unless otherwise marked).

Switzerland is especially strict. Their freeways are limited to 120 km/h (75 mph). Standard 2 lane rural roads are limited to 50 mph, and in-town / urban limits are 35 mph.

Speeding in Switzerland is also heavily punished. While fines for speeding for just 0.6 to 12 mph over the limit can be as little as CHF 20 (~\$24), in other cases, speeding offenses are based on a percentage of your income. This is also in effect in other countries (such as Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria & France). Speed cameras are generally stationary (see left), not as shown above.

There are [4,942 speed cameras in Switzerland](#) (which is roughly twice the size of the greater DFW metro area). Radar detectors are illegal, leading to fines of up to CHF 200 (US \$240) and possible confiscation of the equipment). So if you're going to Europe, leave your radar detector at home...

At a Swiss [website](#) about "fines", it also states that it is prohibited to publicize



Call-To-Order:

- Vice President Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendance:

- 10 members were present.

Show & Tell:

- Les Barton showed a misprinted stamp he had found.
- Joe McFarland showed a Cinderella stamp from the 1950 National Stamp Show.
- Rick Howell showed the new USPS Betty White sheet and new Fishing Lure stamp along with the JFK postcard that was found in a box of philatelic materials donated to the club that may contain the JFK initials.
- Dave Stockbridge showed a book he recently read called "Nowhere Lands" by Bjorn Benge, which contains a short description of over 100 "Dead Countries" with a stamp issued by each.

Announcements:

- Rick Howell announced the passing of 2 club members: Mark Kirby and Bob Tallon who was 98.
- The OKPEX Stamp Exhibition will be held June 13 & 14 in Midwest City near Oklahoma City, OK.
- The TSDA stamp dealer bourse will be held in 2 weeks in McKinney, north of Plano (June 27 & 28).
- Jim Myers reported via a message to the club that they had an accident on the way to the Houston TSDA bourse, but were not hurt. However, their car was destroyed. He also reported that attendance at the Houston show was down.

Program:

- The FDR Stamp Collection and the Man" by Joe McFarland.
- Joe told about the many phases of stamp collecting that FDR went through in his life starting with an accumulation stage during his early years. By the time he was President he tried to spend time every day working on his extensive collection of navel covers, FDC covers and US stamps. After he died, FDR's collection was auctioned off in 2 large auctions.

Door Prize:

- Jim Case won the \$10 club gift certificate.

Adjournment:

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

where the speed cameras are located via flashing your headlights, waving, flyers or on social media. Telling it verbally to family or close friends seems to be allowed.

That all said, at left is a (tightly cropped) photo of a "Blitzer" (radar / speed camera as they call it there) that I took in the Zürich, Switzerland vicinity 39 years ago (1986). Is it still there? Given that I'm not publicizing the exact location, I shouldn't be running afoul of any Swiss laws in this article, although I do know exactly where this is (or was) located, but I would only be able to tell family or very close friends...

Arlington Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2025

By Janet Moyer

Attendance:

- 30 members and 1 guest, Parmeet Ahluwalia, were present at the meeting.

Announcements:

- Sales books are available.
- Club library may have to be moved due to the storage space will no longer be available. Suggestions are welcome.
- June 7th is the EXPO planning meeting at David's BBQ.
- OKPEX will be on June 13-14 at the Student Union at Rose State College in Midwest City, OK.
- The Dallas TSDA show will be at the Holiday Inn and Suites McKinney on June 27-28.

Officer Reports:

- President – no report.
- Secretary – Janet Moyer said the previous minutes had been published in the newsletter. There were no corrections, so they were accepted.
- Treasurer - no report (not present)
- Newsletter – Peter Elias is working on it. As always, please send articles.
- EXPO – A meeting was held in January to plan EXPO 2025. The next meeting will be June 7. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to come. We need you!

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell showed the John F. Kennedy Postcard.
- Ray Cartier shared postmarks that were related to the stamps they were on.
- Ken Aldridge shared a wooden postcard.
- Ben Termini showed:
 - Three single-page exhibits.
 - A book of local post stamps.
- David Stockbridge showed a book, *Nowhere Lands*, full of first stamps from countries that no longer exist.
- Peter Elias shared many items:
 - A box with \$25 worth of gummed stamps as postage that was NOT cancelled (nor "sharpied").
 - Aarberg, Switzerland postal card along with a catalog about Swiss postal stationery.
 - Talked about tracking codes.
 - Stamps for "been-there-done-that" articles.
 - SASE examples.
 - Articles from a Dayton Ohio Club newsletter.
 - American Stamp Dealer Collectors pamphlet.
- Rick Howell showed Betty White stamps.

Program:

- The program on one page exhibits was postponed to another date.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Peter Elias and Donna Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Call-To-Order:

- Vice President - Dan Golden called the meeting to order promptly at 730 PM. He welcomed two new members and one guest. The guest had some inherited albums he wasn't sure what to do with.

Attendance:

- We had ten members and one guest for the June meeting at Flower Mound.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely was filling in for Janet. He said we had about 98 members with two new applications.

Announcements:

- Peter mentioned the TSDA Stamp Show was at the end of the month (June 27 - 28) in McKinney.
- EXPO - Rick Howell talked about an idea he has for narrated exhibits.

Where in the World Is It?

- Dan Golden had the subject country question tonight. Sai Madhavapeddi correctly identified it as Zimbabwe.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills - asked about selling a friend's two Minkus Global albums. He then showed one of the new Scott catalogs and expressed his dissatisfaction with the printing quality of the images.
- Skip Ely - showed what looked like three coil stamps from Canada, one of which had a perf not listed in Scott. He found the stamp in the Canada Unitrade catalog. It came from a booklet of three, with two of the stamps imperf at top and bottom. While it turns out is listed in Scott, it was not obvious that it looked like a coil.
- Sai Madhavapeddi showed a stamp-like magnet featuring the St. Louis arch.
- Peter Elias - talked about his attendance at the recent Oklahoma City Stamp Show. He also mentioned about some postcards he sold to someone that turned out to be the son of someone he knew when he was still in high school in Michigan (the man was an older stamp collector and they had both worked at Dow Corning). He then talked about a number of items he had recently purchased. And as with Ken, he also expressed his dissatisfaction with the 2026 Scott catalogs and their illustrations, which he calculated to be 40 - 46% smaller than his older 2018 catalogs.

Gift Certificate:

- Was awarded to new member Preet Ahluwalia.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 9:00 PM.

Loreley

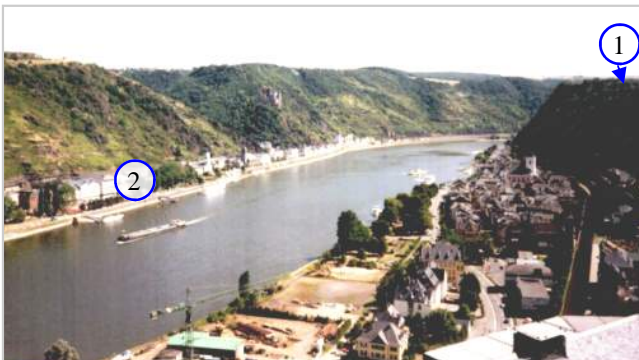
By Peter Elias



gorge near Sankt (Saint) Goarshausen [#2] as shown on the [Google Map](#) below.

That area of the Rhine near the rock has been the site of quite a few ship accidents since the 10th century, with various "explanations" ranging from sirens to dwarfs and the echoes in that part of the Rhine.

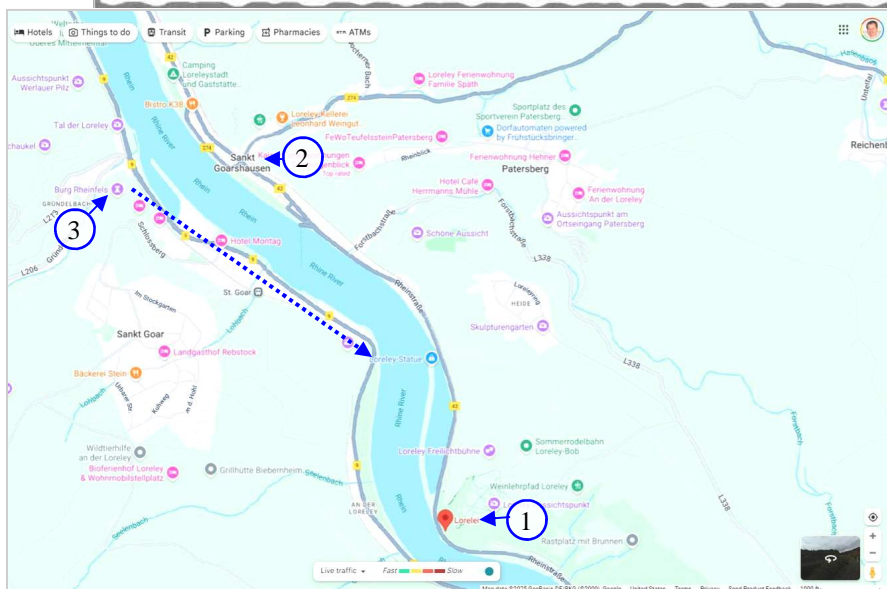
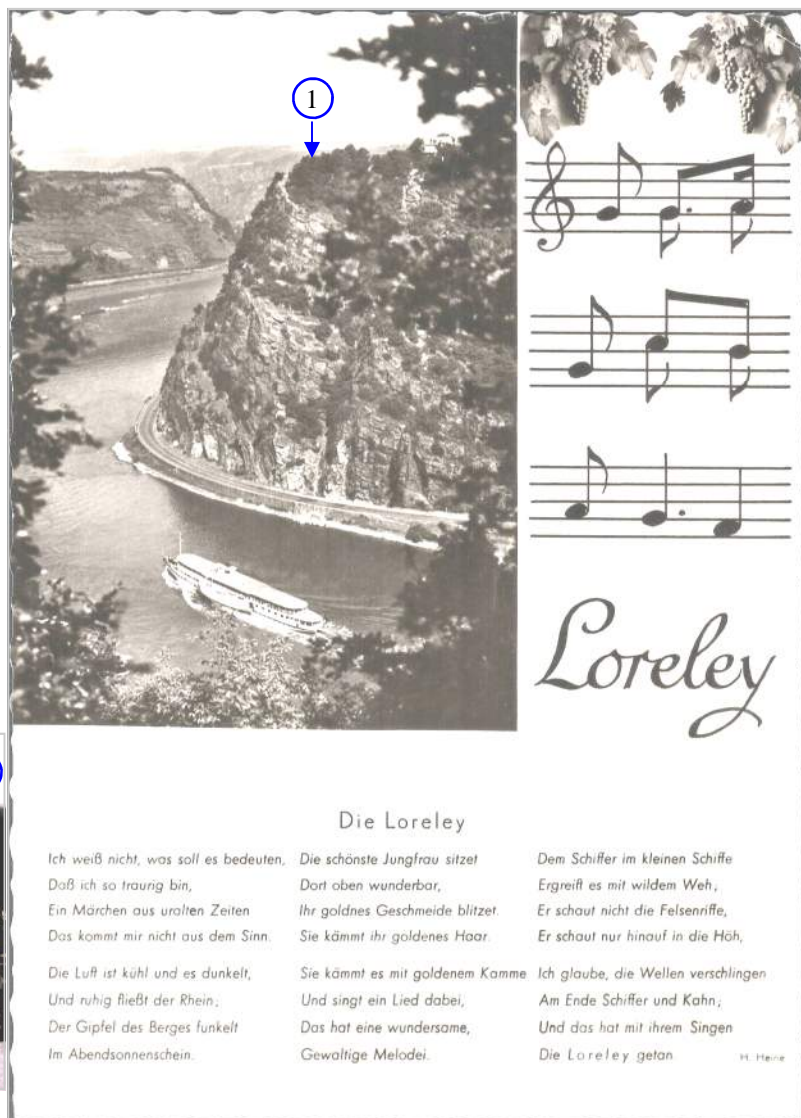
According to Wikipedia, the name Loreley comes from 2 old German words, "lureln" (for "murmuring") and "ley" ("rock"). Other theories say the name comes from "lauern" ("to lurk") + "ley". After a 1901 spelling reform, Loreley was changed to Lorelei. Yet the 2020 stamp from Germany (Scott #3184) still calls it Loreley, as does the approx. 1950's era postcard to the right.



In the illustrations, #1 shows the location of the Lorelei rock. #2 is the town of Sankt Goarshausen, while #3 on the map shows Fortress (Burg) Rheinfels, the location of where I took the picture above in 1986. The photo viewpoint above is shown by the dotted blue line on the map facing southeast, with the Lorelei [#1] being just around the bend in the river.

The poem in the postcard is as follows:

*I don't know what it means,
That I'm so sad,
A fairy tale from ancient times
I can't get it out of my mind.
The air is cool and it's getting dark,
And the Rhine flows calmly
The mountain peak sparkles
In the evening sunshine.
The most beautiful maiden sits
Up there, wondrously,
Her golden jewelry glitters.
She combs it with a golden comb
And sings a song as she does so,
That has a wondrous,
Powerful melody.
The boatman in the small ship
Seizes it with wild pain;
He doesn't watch the rocky reefs,
He only looks up into the heights,
I think the waves will swallow
In the end, boatman and cove;
And that's what the Lorelei did with her singing. (by H. Heine)*



Thanks to translate.google.com for translating this (after I typed it into the website).

While I have driven by the Lorelei rock several times (from across the river), I haven't actually visited it, due to time reasons and that I would have had to take a car ferry across the Rhine.

Scott 2026 Stamp Catalog Review

by Peter Elias

So for the 1st time ever, I ordered a set of Scott Stamp Catalogs, 2026 edition, Volumes 1 to 6 from Amos Press. Previously I had only bought used versions every 5 or 6 years if I won them from the Mid-Cities Stamp Club auctions for used catalogs.

While my present 2018 set basically works for me, I figured that Scott's may soon no longer have physical copies of the catalogs and to me it sounds like they want everyone to go the "subscription" route. That won't work for me. So I figured that ordering a new set now might be my last chance to get them.

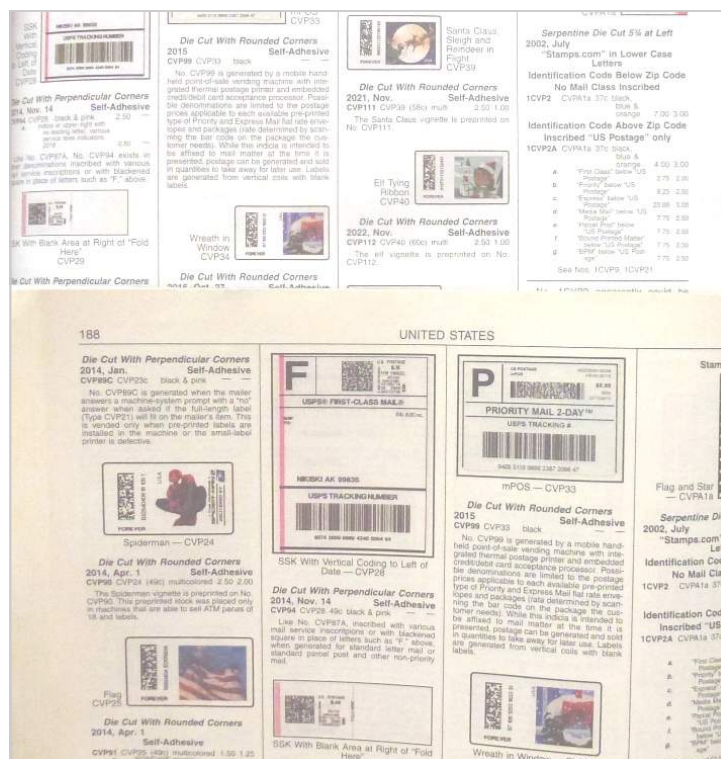
Take a look at the photo on the right. That is a copy of pages that I work with often, the "CVP" section in Volume 1A. I had to do a photo rather than a scan, as the photo much better shows what the actual pages look like. At top is a 2026 page, at bottom, the 2018 page. The new catalogs definitely use "brighter" (i.e.: "whiter") paper, making them easier to read, and the 2018 pages look somewhat "yellow" in comparison! The paper of the 2026 catalogs does seem a bit thinner though.

However, when comparing the actual listings, I can't really sing too many praises. The illustrations are now so small as to be almost useless. While the 2018 illustrations were already smaller than actual size, comparing the 2026 to the 2018 illustration sizes has these ranging from 40 to 46% smaller as the table to the right shows.

While there are still 4 columns to every page, they really squeeze the images together, as shown in the Columbian issues below, putting them side-by-side. In the CVP pages, they moved the illustration text from below the images to the side of the images, thus making those smaller as a result.

I get that they want to save paper, but image size suffers. On the pages below, they are page #11 for the 2018 version, and page #8 in the 2026 version, thus saving about 27% of paper in just across 11 pages! Given the several thousand pages that these volumes comprise, that adds up, unfortunately at the expense of severely reduced image size.

Both Ken Wills and I brought this up at the Flower Mound meeting. Given that I just spent \$630 for these 6 volumes (3 delivered so far), I am not too terribly thrilled with my investment. And no, a "subscription" to these is an even worse deal (money-wise). If this is the last set of these that I'll ever buy as physical copies, I can use them until I die at no extra charge. While with an online subscription, I'd be paying to view these year after year! While that would get me newer listings each year,



Issues	2018 catalog Size in mm ²	2026 catalog Size in mm ²	Change in %
Columbian	494	273	-45%
1894 definitives	304	182	-40%
#CVP100	653	350	-46%

I don't really care about that as much. I've used my 2018 issues for over 6 years at one price. Paying about \$600 per year for these, year after year? No way (unless they allow you to download these as PDF files). Even then, I don't really want to use these on a computer (nor small tablet screens). Physical copies work just fine.

UNITED STATES		2018 catalog
 Columbus Restored to Favor — A77  Columbus Presenting Natives A78  Columbus Announcing his Discovery A79  Columbus at La Rabida A80  Recall of Columbus A81	237 A78 10c blk brn Never hinged 285.00 238 A79 15c dark green Never hinged 225.00 239 A80 30c org brn Never hinged 240.00 240 A81 50c slate blue Never hinged 1,450.00 No gum 225. 241 A82 \$1 salmon Never hinged 3,750. No gum 550. 242 A83 \$2 brown red Never hinged 3,800. No gum 550. 243 A84 \$3 yel grn Never hinged 4,750. No gum 750. a. \$3 olive green Never hinged 4,750. No gum 750. 244 A85 \$4 crim lake Never hinged 7,000. No gum 1,000. a. \$4 rose carmine Never hinged 7,000. No gum 1,000. 245 A86 \$5 black Never hinged 2,400. No gum 1,200.	9.00 82.50 100.00 200.00 550. 550. 800. 800. 1,000. 1,050. 1,200.
	World's Columbia Expo., Chicago, May 1-Oct. 30, 1893. Nos. 230-245 are known imperf., but were not regularly issues. See Scott U.S. Specialized Catalogue Die and Plate Proofs section for the 2c. Never-Hinged Stamps See note before No. 182 regarding premiums for never-hinged stamps.	
	Bureau Issues Starting in 1894, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington produced most U.S. postage stamps. Until 1965 Bureau-printed stamps were engraved except Nos. 525-536	

STATES		2026 catalog
 Columbus Restored to Favor — A77  Columbus Presenting Natives — A78  Columbus Announcing his Discovery — A79  Recall of Columbus — A81  Columbus in Chains — A83		Starting in 1894, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington produced most U.S. postage stamps. Until 1965 Bureau-printed stamps were engraved except Nos. 525-536 which were offset. The combination of lithography and engraving (see #1253) was first used in 1964, and photogravure (see #1426) in 1971.  Franklin A87  Jackson A89  Grant A91  Washington A88  Lincoln A90  Garfield A92
		Columbus at La Rabida — A80 Isabella Pledging her Jewels — A82 Columbus Describing his Third Voyage — A84

Manatees

By Peter Elias

In 2024, the USA issued a booklet pane featuring Manatees, which are mammals. They are also known as "sea cows" and are herbivores that eat various saltwater and freshwater plants.

While they can get up to 13 feet long and weigh up to 1,300 pounds, I think that the one shown below was still a toddler...

They can be found in the Gulf of Mexico (or Gulf of America as some would have it...), the Caribbean, West Africa and the Amazon basin.

Since they are slow moving and somewhat curious, many deaths are due to human causes, such as entanglements with ship propellers, as well as disease, adverse temperatures and crocodiles.

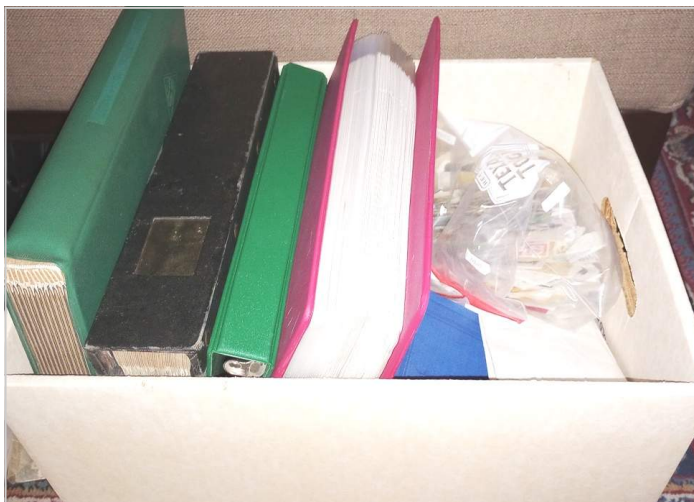
I saw the Manatee at right in June 2001 at the Dallas Aquarium (in the West End area).



Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Thank you to Byron Sandfield for donating a box of philatelic items on June 17. It consisted of a binder with empty stock pages, an album of USA First Day covers and a small box containing a variety of on and off-paper stamps, along with a bag of picture postcards. I handed these over to Skip Ely at the June 18 meeting.



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<https://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



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eBay Store: [EAS Stamps](#)



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

This year certainly seems to be flying by. If you have attended an EXPO planning meeting at David's BBQ, then you know we are deep into the planning of EXPO 2025. If you have not been a part of the planning committee, we encourage you to come out and take part. We always need volunteers for EXPO and your volunteering makes it a great success every year. EXPO is the most fun you can have with a stamp album. Our next EXPO planning meeting will be at David's BBQ on September 6 at 11:00 AM.

I feel like I have to apologize for my failure to get my program presented at the last Arlington meeting as we were having problems with the audio portion of the presentation. I think the meeting was a success even without the program and it is always good to enjoy fellowship with philatelic enthusiasts. I have had a complaint about some of our "Show-N-Tell" participants taking too long at the Arlington meeting, so I am going to ask our participants to limit themselves to 4 items each and try to keep each participant limited to 5 minutes maximum.

If anyone is interested in providing a program for the Arlington meeting in November, please contact me. Speaking of the Arlington meetings, we are still trying to find a place to meet in Arlington which will give us storage facilities for our library. If you know of such a place that is available for a reasonable price, please contact one of our board members or me. We are required to move our philatelic library out of the Bob Duncan Center by November and I would hate to see any of our members lose one of the benefits of membership.

Also, I am trying to find someone interested in exhibiting virtually at EXPO 2025. This would require at a minimum, putting together your exhibit and providing either (1) a PDF file of each page of your exhibit, or (2) a PowerPoint presentation, for which we can create a video recording with you narrating and explaining your exhibit as it is presented. Option 2 is my choice as I think it would be really amazing to have the creator of the exhibit narrating each page of the exhibit. This could really become the future of exhibiting, and I would really like MCSC to be a leader into new technology.

See y'all at the meeting, Rick

Citroen SM

By Peter Elias

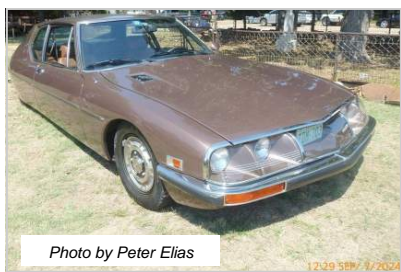


Photo by Peter Elias



It is always great when you can see something in real life that you have so far only seen on a stamp. In this case, the rare Citroen SM (French car with an Italian Maserati engine) at the Italian Car Fest in Grapevine in 2024 and featured on an Ajman stamp.

Been There, Done That



in a box of my old photos. I took this with my camera, which at the time was a cheap "126 film" camera, basically "point & shoot", with a possibility of one-time use rotating flash cubes.

Usually, these prints would have had the month & year print in the selvedge area, but not these for some reason.

We lived in mid-Michigan in the 1970's. Not far from us (perhaps 20 - 30 miles west) were the [Chippewa Indian Tribe](#), based out of Isabella County, near Mount Pleasant.

They are formally known as the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan.

Having moved here from Switzerland, this was the first time I would have seen any native Americans in persons (otherwise just in movies, on TV series or books). My parents drove us to their powwow in July, when these generally took place.

Sadly, other than these photos, I don't have any other recollections of this event. But then, I was only about 12 or 13 at the time...

Pow Wow

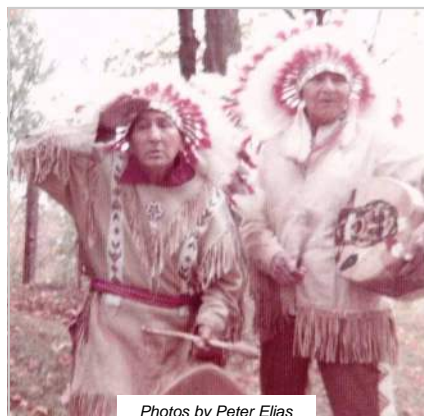
By Peter Elias

Also known as powwow. These are gatherings held by native Americans that incorporate dances. Powwows first started in 1923 as a way to honor their culture, to socialize, dance & sing. The powwows can range from 1 day to weeklong events.

The USPS issued a set of 4 stamps on April 25, 2025 at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in Albuquerque, New Mexico, an event that has attendance up to 100,000 people.

When I saw that issue, it took me back to my childhood, sometime around the early 1970's (around 1972 or 1973 best as I can remember).

The photos below are what I found



Photos by Peter Elias



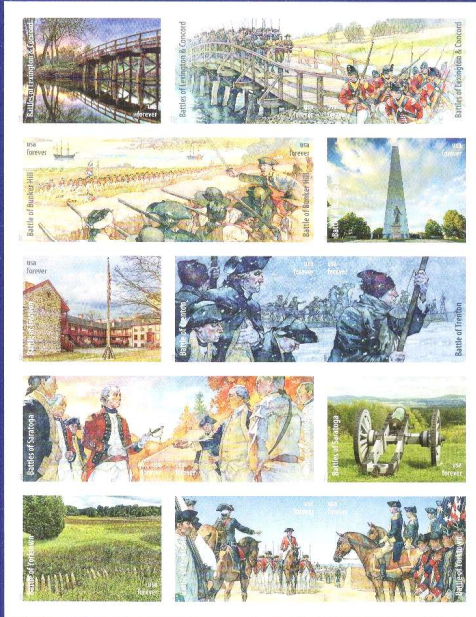
Bunker Hill

By Peter Elias

Battlefields of the American Revolution

*These are the times that try men's souls:
The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will,
in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country;
but he that stands it now, deserves the love
and thanks of man and woman.*

THOMAS PAINE



Lexington & Concord
April 19, 1775

Bunker Hill
June 17, 1775

Trenton
December 26, 1776

Saratoga
September 19, 1777
to October 17, 1777

Yorktown
September 28, 1781
to October 19, 1781

“curving” of what should be straight edges (caused by the “wide-angle” nature of lenses when using them for macro photography. Stick to “scans” on a flatbed scanner and everything will look straight (see scan on bottom left).

I was primarily interested the Bunker Hill stamps (on the 2nd row), shown on the scan below after I removed the 3 stamps from the sheet and put them on alternate backing paper so that the die-cuts show up better.

The reason was that in August 1998 I had 3 business trips. The 1st 2 trips were to Mississippi (via Louisiana) early in the month, California during mid-month and Massachusetts near the end of the month (22nd to 26th). Since back then, keeping flight costs in check, my boss often had me do a “Saturday stay-over”. Thus I left on Saturday the 22nd, giving me some of that day and all day Sunday to do some sightseeing in the Boston area.

The reason I chose the Bunker Hill stamps at left was that I had briefly checked out the Bunker Hill monument, which is also shown on one of the new stamps, as well as the photo I snapped



(below). Bunker Hill was also commemorated on the 2½¢ stamps in the 1950 as Scott #1034 and #1056 (coil),

I don't recall actually visiting the monument itself. Since this is the only photo and I took it from the driver's side of my rental car in the middle of an intersection, I can't really say much about my that part of my trip. I did however see the USS Constitution on that trip though (see article in the December 2024 issue) and also Fort Warren on George's Island (for which there sadly is no stamp issued).

The [Battle of Bunker Hill](#) was fought on June 17, 1775 as part of the Siege of Boston that was the first stage of the American Revolutionary War. A few days earlier, the leaders of the colonial forces learned that if the British were to fortify the various unoccupied hills in the area, they could easily take control of Boston.

Thus they occupied the Bunker & Breed Hills. The British found out and on the 17th mounted an attack. After the 3rd British attack, the defenders ran out of ammunition and retreated. While it was a tactical victory for the British, they incurred more casualties than the Americans.

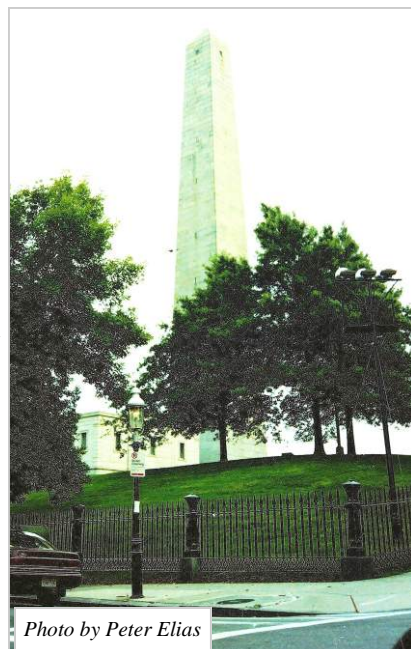


Photo by Peter Elias

Quick: How many stamps are there in this sheetlet of 5x “Battlefields of the American Revolution” issued by the USPS on April 16, 2025? When I passed this around at one of the Flower Mound meetings and posed that question, people said “10” stamps. So did I initially after I bought it, but it is really 15 stamps, as all the “long” stamps are 2 stamps. When viewing that sheetlet a bit tilted towards a light source, it becomes more obvious (see photo below).



The photo above also highlights why I don't like using “photos” of stamps as illustrations, as shown by the



EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2025

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:43 AM. He welcomed all and passed around a check-in sheet.

Previous minutes:

- The minutes were printed in the May newsletter and there were no corrections, so they stand as printed.
- A presentation of the EXPO outcome was presented at the Arlington meeting.

Chairman reports:

- Deputy Chair Rick Howell said he would be available during the EXPO to cover anything that comes up.
- Beginning Collectors Chair Skip Ely is sorting through the donations he has for the Chance Board, Silent Auction, and MixPix.
- Bourse Chair Tom Cunningham has been receiving contracts and down payments. Jim Garrell has retired and will be replaced by Joe Pedro.
- Chance Board Chair Patty Poore announced they are changing the chance board from envelopes to a spinning wheel. She is hunting for category types to use on the wheel.
- Mini-Exhibit Chair Peter Elias has asked for people to step up and give him some exhibits.
- Club Treasurer Tom Cunningham passed out the present and assumed budget.
- Hospitality Chair Janet Moyer has no report to give at this time.
- Lunch Chair sent news that she will start in September.
- Mail Out Chair Stanley Christmas said he is on track.
- Mixture Pick Chair Bob Weidman said they have donations from the EXPO and will not need to buy anything.
 - It was suggested that they have bags to display at registration table with an information sign about them.

- It was also suggested that all stamps be priced the same to simplify the process.
- Program Chair Geoff Owens will start the program in September. He showed a sample cover for the program.
- Publicity:
 - Peter Elias will submit ads for the 2 ads in Scott Stamp Monthly in the September and October issues
 - Richard Howell will advertise on Facebook.
 - Ken Aldridge will advertise on Pinterest.
- Security Chair – not present.
- Silent Auction Chair Ken Wills said they need some premium donations and will assemble items in October.
- Signs - Ralph is looking into finding new signs for the outside.
- Snacks – Richard Hildebrandt said he has the list from Ken Aldridge and David Stockbridge will still handle the beverages.
- Transportation – Ralph announced we are using the same as last year but with a tighter control on the times.
- Volunteer Chair Janet Moyer said she is working on it.

Other Business:

- Richard Howell said there has been no interest in virtual exhibits. He may set up a sample to see if there is interest from visitors.
- Entry hall table assignments will be determined later.
- The new hotel has been announced and a new map has been made for the program.
- The JFK postcard will not be a raffle. It will probably be a silent auction item with a disclaimer that we do not know if it authentic.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held at David's Barbecue on September 6th at 11:00 AM (for lunch) with the meeting start at 11:45 AM.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.



Photo by Peter Elias

The White House

By Geoffrey Owens

One of the most well-known and recognizable buildings in the United States is the White House, officially the Executive Mansion.

In 1790, Congress voted for the National Capital to be established along the Potomac River in the newly designated District of Columbia. A 10-year building program was begun during which the Capitol and other key government buildings were constructed. The Executive Mansion was designed by Irish architect James Hoban in the neoclassical style.

In 1800, Congress met for the first time in the Capitol, and John Adams, the 2nd President, along with his wife Abigail, moved into the Executive Mansion.

In 1812 the Mansion was burned by the British. It was rebuilt and James Monroe and his wife took up residence in 1817. It wasn't until 1901 that Theodore Roosevelt gave it the name, "The White House."

A set of four stamps was issued on June 12, 1950 to mark the sesquicentennial of the establishment of the National Capital, one of which, Scott #990, features the White House. This is a 3¢ stamp in deep green, perf 10½ by 11, printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on a rotary press. 132,050,000 stamps were printed.

Sometime in the 1860's, informal egg rolling parties spontaneously began to be held on the grounds of the Capitol on Easter Mondays. These became so popular that Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill banning them, citing concern for the landscaping.

In 1878, Rutherford B. Hayes told his guards to allow a group of children onto the lawn of the White House for egg-rolling. This quickly became a tradition and by 1889, Benjamin Harrison arranged for the United States Marine Band to provide musical entertainment for the visitors.

There were breaks in the festivities during World War I & II, and during the reconstruction of the White House in the latter 1940s and early 1950s. But happily, Dwight & Mamie Eisenhower reinstated the tradition in 1953.

A few years later, in 1957, my mother and my aunt brought me and my cousin Jeanie to the egg roll, where judging by the photographic evidence, we had great fun!



It's A Small World

By Peter Elias

So this arrived in early June:



The stamps on the box were a pleasant surprise! Several nice dollar value stamps, including engraved ones from the Washington 2006 souvenir sheets! Best of all: NO CANCELS (and luckily NO "sharpie or ballpoint" pen usage by overzealous USPS employees either! And they're all soakable!

But why did I get this? A few months back, I sold a bunch of spare postcards from Midland, Michigan (where I used to live in the 1970's) on eBay. These cards were bought by someone who actually lives in Midland. Looking at the buyer's mailing info, I recognized the last name from my past, but not the first name.

Turns out that he is the son of the guy that I traded stamps with when I was a teenager around 1978-79! He was thrilled that someone remembered his dad, who worked at Dow Corning at that time (a very accomplished chemist, 10 patents, etc). I also happened to have a co-op job at Dow Corning as a "lab technician" (helping to prepare silicon dioxide samples for QC analysis) in my senior year in high school in 1978-79, but I don't remember whether that is how I met him.

Apparently the son collects postcards (and probably not so much stamps or postal history). He later contacted me and he has a box of US and worldwide covers that were his dad's, and whether I'd be interested in having them (at no cost).

Sure, I said! Just let me know how much for postage I asked him. He said that was on him, he just wanted these items to go someone that will appreciate them, and if there's items that I can't use or want, I'd be certainly free to pass them on to others.

Sure, some of the envelopes in this box aren't worth anything from a postal history perspective, and it will be best to simply soak the stamps off if they are nice foreign commemoratives.

I've done some general sorting (postcards, US envelopes, foreign envelopes) and will try to sort further to see what shows up, and have already sent off 64 envelopes (all from some bishop) that were returned as RTS items; great stuff for Dr. Quine to study. I've also spotted items that will make for nice write-ups in the newsletter! Philatelic fun, here I come!



Trip Report: OKPEX 2025

By Peter Elias

A quarter of a century ago, I visited the OKPEX show, so I figured it was time to check it out again. 25 years ago, from what I remember, the show was held in the basement of a hotel. My recollection is that it seemed like I was the only person in the room other than the dealers! The show has had some changes over the years, including becoming just a 2-day show, with Friday & Saturday (yet still being an APS national-level show).



After a reasonably quick 3 hr 3 min drive, I was at the show. It is now being held in the student union building of Rose College in the outskirts of Oklahoma City. Since it's summer, the building was devoid of students... The show itself is held in a large meeting room on the 2nd floor. You

can a picture taken from the entrance in the photo behind me.

The flyer said "10+ dealers". I counted 7; there were supposed to be 9, but was told 1 passed away and I forget what the reason for the other one not being there was. So a bit small dealer-wise for a national level show. No one had "dollar" covers, so that was a bit disappointing; I bought a book for a couple of dollars, some old mint USA souvenir sheets for postage use from the Okpex table and a nice revenue document from Kurt Harding.



The photo above shows the dealer side of the room, with the exhibit section being behind me. They should have room for 15 dealers if needed.

On the exhibit side, there 112 frames of exhibits. A couple of MCSC members had exhibits there, Ray Cartier and John Hotchner. There was one exhibit by a "Space Guy", and I think that it was one of Ray's exhibit.

There were 3 APS-accredited judges present, including 1 that is an MCSC member (Patrick Walters) and Jay Stotts. A 3rd judge I did not recognize. I spoke a bit with Pat, and he said is going to come to EXPO in November!



Right: Ray's exhibits were easy to spot!

Below: ... And so was Ray!



Below: A "modern" exhibit about the "20¢ Flag Over the Supreme Court" had a nice section about the counterfeits that were produced.



Below: A whopping 10-frame (160 page) exhibit covered the USA CIPEX souvenir sheet from 1947. Interesting as it was, I'd rather view it at home on my computer monitor, as that is much comfortable than having to stoop down to read the bottom row for each frame.



Left: A 1-frame youth entry. I was told it was from an 11-year old girl from Dallas. As a "Swiftie", she put together a "philatelic tribute" to the eras of Taylor Swift. Example: Taylor Swift's first album featured butterflies on the cover, thus she showed a page of butterflies. Definitely an interesting "topical" exhibit, and hopefully this girl will continue collecting.

I was told on Friday that there were approx. 60 or 70 attendees that day. Given that the Oklahoma City metro area has a bit less than 1.5 million, that's technically better ratio than for EXPO and the 8.5 million population DFW area! After 6 hours at the show, a reasonably quick 3½ hour drive back to Dallas.

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

Please Cancel the Stamps for Collectors

By Peter Elias



In the box of covers I discussed on the previous page, I found this cover (left).

On top of the stamps is a fairly thin ~3" x 4" piece of paper glued only on the right side of the envelope of this 1948 cover, that has the

following printed on it:
Frimærkerne bedes afstemplet til Samlerbrug. (Se Bagsiden).

Translated from Danish to English, it means:

Please cancel the stamps for Collectors. (See Back).

And if you flip that piece of paper to the right, on the backside,



For Sale

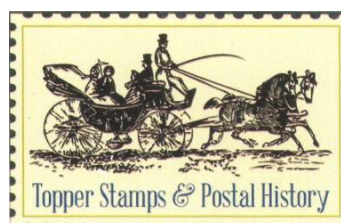
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy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

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

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

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

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



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www.topperstamps.com

it gives helpful instructions to postal personnel on how to properly cancel for singles, strips & blocks.

Isn't that great? Looks like that this worked back in 1948 (when there was little or no automated mail processing). Do that now, unless you hand it to a clerk, it's not going to happen; simply dropped down the chute, that note will get shredded by postal processing machinery later. —Ah, the “good ole days”...



MEET & EAT for

July 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

July 2 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen, Arlington
(817) 861-1060

FLOWER MOUND

July 16 Bari's Pizza & Pasta, 3472 Long Prairie Rd
Flower Mound, (972) 426-2956

GRANBURY

July 22 Grump's, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

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

2/15

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

2/21

For Sale

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

4/24

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

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

4/23

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

Don't Forget:
TSDA Bourse - June 27 - 28
TSDA Bourse - August 22 - 23