

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: 1st Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church, 1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd
Flower Mound Meetings: 3rd 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 39, Number 8

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

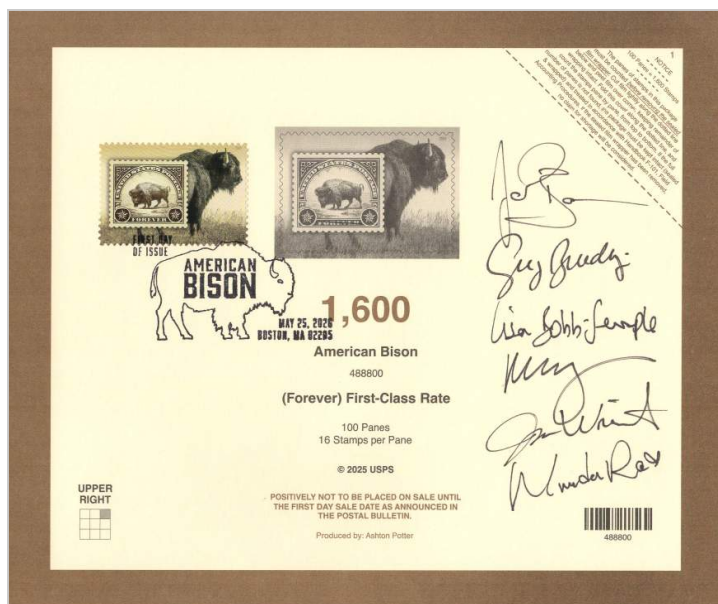
August 2026

Been There,
Done That

Boston 2026: 1 of a Kind?

By Peter Elias

A little bit of planning will go a long way. I wanted to have a "Deck Card" of the Bison stamp so that I could have it postmarked on the first day of issue, and hopefully also signed by the dignitaries at the first day ceremony. Here it is:

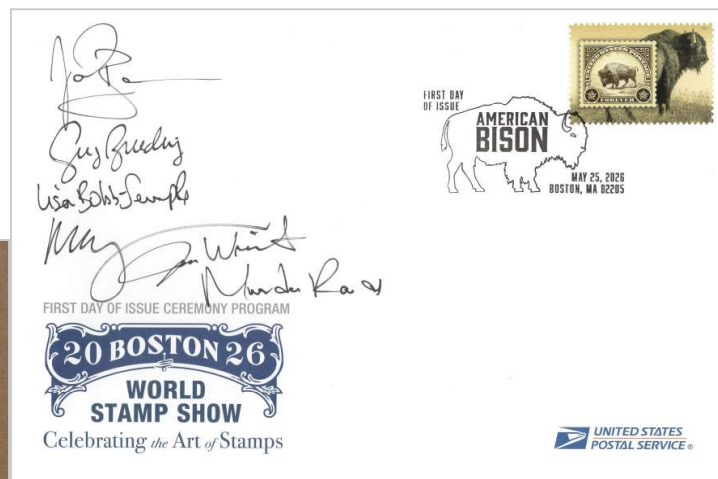


How did I do this? Well, 2 days before I left for the show, one of my local post offices already had the stamps available (for sale after the release date), BUT did also have the deck card (even though they did not receive an entire shrink-wrapped deck of 100 panes of these stamps).

I told them I would be at the show and asked if I could have the deck card. Ta-da!

Now, the USPS was NOT giving away the Deck Cards for this issue. At the USPS sales area at the show, they did have some deck cards for sale, but NOT for this issue. Those that were for sale invariably had the "color" inkjet first day of issue postmark.

The one above has the black ink hand cancel, as well as signatures from all the dignitaries (I also have those on the first day cover and the program).



I do collect the USPS deck cards in general, and usually the best I can do is getting a Plano round-dater cancel on a deck card with an actual stamp (which are not often available on the first day of sale). The only time I was able to do something similar to this, was for the "Little Mo" stamp that issued on April 23, 2019 (see the June 2019 issue of this newsletter).

And this is how I get more enjoyment from this hobby!

--> Next EXPO Planning Meeting is on August 8 ! <--

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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:

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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>



"Editor At Work"
 LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Don't forget that if you have a nifty "show & tell" type of stamp or cover, consider doing a brief write-up (1 or 2 paragraphs) for our EXPO entry area mini-exhibits! The application form is in the July issue, please fill it out and give it to me at a meeting by late October, since I have to allocate the space in the frames.

Thank You!

By Peter Elias



At the recent TSDA bourse in McKinney on June 28, Byron Sandfield & Tyler Veasey donated 3 boxes and several picture frames with stamps & covers to the club.

Also at the TSDA bourse, a walk-in retired couple brought a box with various beginner albums, small boxes and envelopes with accumulation of stamps from the husband's mother.

They went to the various dealers, but there was no interest in that this was essentially a beginner collection, so they donated it to the club. I sorted and re-organized the material and hand it over to Skip. As always, damaged and unusable items will be culled out and re-donated to Pegasus Creative Re-use in Dallas.

Many thanks also to Lori Peniche who sent in 4 stock sheets with older used USA stamps and Lindner hinges.



Coming Attractions

2026

JUL. 28 **MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
 Program: "World Wildlife Covers - A Tribute to Denny Ludlow" by Joe McFarland

AUG. 5 **MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: "A Survey of US Fractional Stamps" by Skip Ely

AUG. 8 **MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting**
 David's BBQ, 2224 W. Park Row, Pantego, TX 76013

AUG. 19 **MCSC - FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
 Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

AUG. 21-22 **TSDA Bourse**
 Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, TX 75070
 Hrs: Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4; (US 75, Exit 39A, Eldorado Pkwy)

AUG 25 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
 Program: Discussion on WWII and a Review of the Boston 2026 World EXPO by Craig Kellogg

SEP. 2 **MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting**
 Program: 2nd club auction of the year

SEP. 16 **MCSC - FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
 Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

Allen D. Brown (#705) - collects USA
 Brenda Brown (#706) "

New Members:

n/a

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – July 15, 2026

Membership as of June 17, 2026	105
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	2
New Members	0
Not Renewing for 2026	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of July 15, 2026	105



Been There,
Done That

Fix & Foxi

Peter Elias

Reading a October 2017 copy of the "German Postal Specialist" where wrote about some of the recent new German stamp issues, I saw the stamp on the left (and which I ended up buying from a seller on Hip-stamp a few weeks ago).



Germany #B1134 from 2017)

So what is "Fix & Foxi"? It is a German comic book created by Rolf Kauka (1917-2000). After seeing that article, it triggered some memories. Growing up in Switzerland in the 1960's, this was one of the comic books that I had bought and read. I also remember that mom & dad didn't exactly like me reading these comic books. It's been so long ago, I don't really remember why that was.

Fix und Foxi was a weekly comics magazine which was published continuously from 1953 to 1994. According to Wikipedia, it was relaunched as a monthly magazine as *Fix & Foxi* in 2000, 2005 & 2010. During the years as a weekly magazine, it had a circulation of 400,000!

Fix and Foxi in the comics were based on 2 fox brothers. They are described as having been open minded, agile and caring characters that served as role models for their young audiences (such as myself). There were several other side characters, which you can read about in the Wikipedia link above. I do want to mention one character (which I don't remember off-hand) called Onkel Fax (also a fox), with whom Fix and Foxi lived; is a passionate stamp collector. Hmm, foreshadowing?

Alas, I have no clue what happened to the *Fix und Foxi* magazines that I had as a child. I don't remember them making it to the USA when we moved... But I do remember that I enjoyed reading them, despite what my parents thought.

Of course, most people know who this character is; a "Smurf". Except that growing up in Switzerland (and Germany & Austria as well), we knew them as "Schlumpfe". The "Smurfs" originated in Belgium in 1958 and are still an active franchise, so definitely an appropriately issued stamp, featuring a Smurf postman. And yes, I had a few of German "Schlumpfe" comic books as well. Again, no clue as to why some items didn't make it to the USA...

At left is TinTin, also a Belgian creation. The character was created in 1929 and features a young man that is a reporter and travels the world with his dog. That was another comic which I remember from my childhood.



Belgium #1182 from 1984

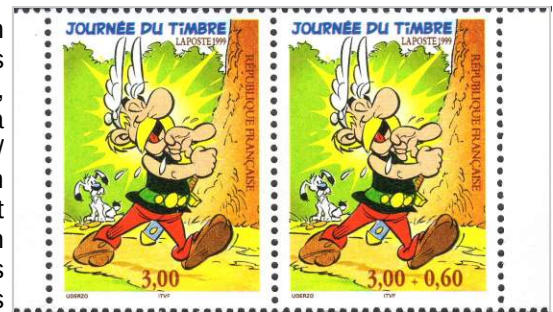


Belgium #1036 from 1979

There is "Asterix", which was a French / Belgian comic that started in 1959. This comic series takes place in the Roman days. I don't really remember the story lines, but you can read up about it at the Wikipedia link above.

And then there is Disney. I do definitely do remember reading various Disney comic books in German.

I actually do have two of them still, but they are from when I was 20 years old or so. The shown here is from 1980 and I would have



France #2706 & #2707 from 1999



bought it in 1981 during a visit back to Switzerland. Note that price at top right of this paperback comic are shown in Deutsche Mark (as well as Swiss Francs, etc). This book is in alternating color and black & white pages.

Many story lines are about Donald Duck, his 3 nephews (which don't seem to have names...), and "Uncle Dagobert" (Scrooge McDuck in English).

Scrooge McDuck was all about "money" and wealth. On the Gambian stamp he is painting Easter eggs in gold.

So there you have it: more stamps that trigger memories! Tell us about yours!



PO Box fees

By Peter Elias

I rent a PO Box for a variety of reasons. Some of these include having your mail be dry once it is delivered, since I don't trust the mailbox to keep my mail dry, especially if it has deliveries of collectible mint stamps with gum in it; plus the humidity would be higher during a rain storm, or perhaps the mailbox door wasn't shut all the way.

In case of deliveries that are too big, I don't want items to be folded or dropped on my front doorstep either (there seems to be this "porch pirate" stuff going on in the USA lately...).

Nor do I feel like having to drive to the post office the next day to pick up a signature-required item if I was out running errands on the previous day.

I rent a box just big enough to hold most larger envelopes and smaller packages that I normally receive (up 11" wide x 5.5" tall). Priority Mail flat-rate envelopes fit just fine, and so do medium flat-rate Priority Mail boxes.

I generally pay upfront for a year, although the USPS does allow for 3 or 6-month periods as well. Last August (when it last renewed), I paid \$420 for 1 year. I was just informed that they would be raising the rates again this coming August, to \$438 !

The screenshot shows a USPS website interface for PO Box pricing. It has two main sections: 'PAYMENT PERIOD' and 'AUTO RENEWAL'. Under 'PAYMENT PERIOD', there are three buttons: '3 Months \$127.00', '6 Months \$219.00', and '12 Months \$438.00'. The '12 Months' button is highlighted with a red underline. To the right, under 'AUTO RENEWAL', there is a checked checkbox labeled 'Enroll in automatic renewal.' Below these options, a small note states: '3-month boxes will automatically be signed up for automatic renewal. If you choose a 6 or 12 month term, you can opt-out of automatic renewal.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Continue'.

Wow, that is a lot of money to NOT have items delivered to my house!

As with everything else, this pricing is almost 10% higher than a year ago. Sadly, my social security payments don't increase by that amount, which is beyond the rate of inflation. I have now had my PO Box in Plano for 30 years.

Looking back in time (my cost + % change that year):

1996	\$104		1997	\$104	(0%)
1998	\$104	(0%)	1999	\$114	(+10.9%)
2000	\$114	(0%)	2001	\$100	(-14.0%)
2002	\$136	(+36.0%)	2003	\$136	(0%)
2004	\$136	(0%)	2005	\$136	(0%)
2006	\$144	(+5.9%)	2007	\$168	(+16.6%)
2008	\$170	(+1.2%)	2009	\$176	(+3.5%)
2010	\$176	(0%)	2011	\$176	(0%)
2012	\$218	(+23.9%)	2013	\$224	(+2.7%)
2014	\$232	(+8.4%)	2015	\$220	(-5.2%)
2016	\$228	(+3.6%)	2017	\$236	(+3.5%)
2018	\$250	(+5.9%)	2019	\$268	(+7.2%)
2020	\$288	(+7.5%)	2021	\$350	(+21.5%)
2022	\$364	(+4.0%)	2023	\$388	(+6.6%)
2024	\$400	(+3.1%)	2025	\$420	(+5.0%)
2026	\$438	(+4.3%)			

- Total increase since 1996 (30 years) = 421%
- Average annual increase over 30 years = 14%
- Average CPI (consumer price index since 1996) = 2.56%
- Thus: Over 30 years, the USPS increases are 5.46 times **higher** than the average inflation rate, despite a couple of years of 0% or decreasing rates.
- The \$104 rate from 1996 would be \$222.13 based on CPI.
- Postage rates have increased 256% since 1996 323¢ to 82¢ on July 12, 2026), so why 421% for PO Boxes?

--> Is there something wrong here? <--

Club Officer Elections

By Peter Elias

Our club officer elections are coming up soon for the 2027-2028 term! Candidates for the various positions are needed: President, Vice-Presidents for the 3 meeting locations, Secretary, Treasurer and Board-of-Directors.

The list of nominees will be published in the October issue and votes will be counted at our annual meeting on November 4 in Arlington.

Please send your nominations to the Elections Committee chairperson, Ralph Poore, at rspoore@ralph-s-poore.com.

RIP: Anne Frazor

By Skip Ely

We have been informed that former club member Anne Frazor passed away March 31, 2026 at age 88. She joined the club in 2016, and was a member through 2019. According to her obituary, she had many collecting interests, including stamps. She regularly attended meetings in Arlington while she was a member."

[Editor notes: Her daughter contacted us to ask about selling her mom's stamps, which is prompted me to check the obituary listings].

Errata

In the July 2026 issue, on page 1, a couple of postage rates were listed erroneously. Specifically the metered rate for the 1, 2, 3 & 3.5 ounce letters rates should be 78¢, \$1.07, \$1.36 & \$1.65 respectively. Please make a correction to the chart in that newsletter.

Note: this happened because I generally copy this chart from a previous newsletter and then just make changes as needed, and missed a couple... My apologies.

Also incorrect is the domestic registered fee, shown as \$10.90; it should be \$20.90. A typo on my part (the 1 and 2 are next to each other on the keyboard). Thanks to Jim Myers for catching that one.

Remember that the current version of the USPS "Notice 123" (which lists all postage rates) can always be found at <https://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/manuals/dmm300/notice123.pdf>

10% Off?

By Peter Elias



When I first saw this stamp, I was a bit confused. A 10% discount? I've seen various surcharged stamps where you had to pay more, not less.

When looking up this stamp in Scott's, it is #365, issued in 1946, and it is a valid discount, making this a 1f35 stamp due to reductions in postage rates by the Belgian government. First time I've ever heard of this being done in this particular manner! Usually, the original denomination would be "X'd" out and the new denomination printed somewhere on the stamp. But, why not...

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes July 1, 2026

by Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Richard Howell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with 21 members and 2 guests, Wayne and Janice Buxton.

Reports:

- Secretary - Janet Moyer announced the minutes were in the newsletter. No corrections.
 - If you have not received the 2026 membership booklet, please let her know.
- Treasurer - Tom Cunningham sent report that we only have two contracts not returned.
- Sales - David Stockbridge said sales are going well and we have 17 APS books tonight.
- Library - Richard Hildebrandt has a number of the new Scott Catalogues. If you know you want one, he will bring it to the meeting - just let him know.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias says it's in the works and asks for articles.
- EXPO Chairman - Ralph Poore:
 - The TPA donation has been received.
 - We need volunteers to work the EXPO.

Announcements:

- This meeting was held on National Stamp Day. The date the first postage stamp was issued.
- There are free books and items on the table in the hallway.
- The club auction will happen in September. See Skip for the auction sheets.
- Alliene Franklin has made a donation to the club in memory of Jim Case. The money will be used for the Beginner's Table since that is where Jim liked to work. Our thanks goes out to Alliene.
- Library books are available. See Richard Hildebrandt for details.
- Mixture Pick sales are being halted until the EXPO because the sales have been so good!
- Election - Ralph has volunteered to head the election committee. If you are interested or would consider holding an office, please let Ralph know.

Other Announcements:

- Postage rates are increasing on July 12. It will go up to \$0.82 for a 1-ounce domestic first class letter.

Show & Tell:

- Dave Stockbridge showed a 1991 stamp encased in plastic from Professional Stamp Experts.
- Peter passed around a copy of an exhibit that showed humorous stamps and cancellations.

Door Prize:

- Gift certificates were awarded to Rick Howell and Pat Weidman.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned.

Program:

- A PowerPoint program was presented by Peter Elias on the 2026 Boston Stamp Exposition.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes July 15, 2026

by Skip Ely, filling in for Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

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

Attendance:

- 10 members attended the July meeting in Flower Mound.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had two people submit an application at Granbury last month.
- Sales - Skip said the APS and club books were available.
- EXPO - The next planning meeting will be Saturday, August 8, 11:00 A.M. at David's BBQ in Pantego.
- Newsletter - Peter said it was almost done. A short discussion of the Boston 2026 International Stamp Show followed.
- Future Meetings - Dan outlined the activities scheduled for the next few weeks.

Announcements:

- Skip Ely mentioned the club's second auction of the year would be on September 2. Lots should be turned in at the next meeting.
- Ken Wills said we were in need of a volunteer to help with the Silent Auction at Expo both Friday and Saturday afternoon.
- Rick Howell said that if anyone wanted a club library book to notify him or Skip and one of them would try to retrieve it and bring it to the next meeting.

Where In The World Is It?

- Dan Golden had the subject quiz. Croatia was identified on the last clue.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills presented a short program titled "What Were They thinking?", which consisted of a number of unusual covers from his previous employer (American Airlines).
- Dan Golden showed a U.S. airmail envelope that had been mailed from Ireland with Irish stamps. He also had a cover that was quite soiled.
- Ken Wills talked about seeing a display of a Curtis Jenny at a museum in Oregon.
- Steve Carpenter showed some other products offered by the USPS in connection with the U.S. 250 year anniversary, as well as some of the related stamps.
- Peter Elias had a couple of items along the lines of "Why?", including a very small plastic box (for a "micro-cassette") that held just 2 common US stamps still on paper, and a USPS a single shrink-wrapped 1¢ Official Mail stamp.
- Robert Martin showed a 10¢ Confederate States stamp he recently acquired.
- Lester Edwards showed a block of 12 Latvian stamps printed on 10 Mark Occupation Note.

Door Prize Drawing:

- A gift certificate was awarded to Steve Carpenter.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 9:50 PM.

2nd To Last World's Fair

By Peter Elias



Above is Scott #2006 - 2009, issued in 1982 to commemorate the [Knoxville World's Fair](#). It was also known as the "Knoxville International Energy Exposition".

The fair ran from May 1 to October 31, 1982. It received over 11 million visitors, was about 70 acres in size, and was actually the 2nd international fair to be held in Tennessee. The first one was the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897.

The last "world fair" to be held in the USA was 2 years later in 1984 and was the Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans, that ran with the theme of "The World of Rivers: Fresh Water as

a source of life".

Both of these fairs were much smaller in size and grandeur than big fairs like the 1876 Centennial Expo, 1893 Columbian Exposition, 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition or 1939 Century of Progress Exposition.

So despite the 1982 Knoxville World Fair being much smaller, our family did stop by there in 1982. We were on our way to Florida on vacation in the summer.

Digging around some of the photos in my mother's old photo album, it was all labeled as "Florida", since that was the main part of the trip. Coming from Michigan, going to Florida was a straight drive down I-75, and Knoxville was right on the way.

This photo might be the only one that shows me there. I am holding both a Super8 film camera in my hand and a 35mm camera on a strap over my shoulder. Yet I don't have any photos I would have taken. Reason: 4 years later, in 1986, most of my photos, films, slides, negatives & videotapes (and other items) were stored in my parent's basement while I was working in Switzerland, and the "flood of 1986" ruined a lot of these items.

Photo by Dr. Hans Elias



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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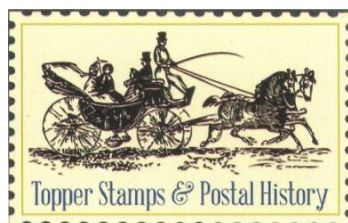
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Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com

Black, White and Pronounced Correctly: Zebras

By Dan Golden

Some time in the latter half of 2024, my daughter Martha began to experiment with words. She was only 18-months old, so most of her words were short, simple in meaning, and easy for her to say. But with this process she slowly graduated from saying things like “ma-ma,” “da-da,” “yes,” and “no,” to saying things like “please,” “thank you,” “hello,” and “goodbye,” among others. That’s an exciting time to be a toddler, is it not?

My wife and I decided to try and spur this development onward by asking her to repeat words that we would say slowly. Most of the time Martha would give it her best shot and get close, or at least as close as a barely-verbal-toddler can be. “Turkey” would become “too-wee,” “textbooks” would become “teg-bus,” “railroad” would become “whale-load,” and “antidisestablishmentarianism” would become a frustration-induced meltdown.

In all serious, it was a good experience for her to practice saying larger words and pronouncing new sounds. How does this relate to stamps? It doesn’t yet, but remember to ask that question in a couple of paragraphs.

One day, my wife and I had joined Martha in playing with her stuffed animals. I saw her stuffed zebra, held it up, and told Martha: “This is a zebra. Can you say zebra?” To which Martha replied: “Zeeeeee-bbbbwwwwaaaaahh”. Obviously, she mispronounced the “r” in zebra as a “w,” because, you know, she was less than two years old. But all things considered, my wife and I were stunned. We looked at one another and asked if she’d ever said the word “zebra” before, and as far as we could remember, she had not.

Zebra is a relatively complex word for an 18-month old, and she pronounced it as perfectly as she could be expected to, and on her first try no less! Naturally my wife and I were thrilled and we shared that joy with Martha, pointing out how proud we were that she said such a hard word correctly right away. It was our way of encouraging her to keep trying with other words to get better at them.

Apparently our reaction seems to have left an indelible mark of sorts on Martha, as from that day onward, zebras have become her one of her favorite animals. Every time we go to the zoo she wants to see zebras. Every time we go to the museum she wants to see zebras. And for a good while after this initial event she

would even demand to see zebras at church on Sunday!

What does this have to do with stamps? I’m glad you remembered to ask again! Since Martha was so obsessed with zebras, I figured that might provide a worthwhile avenue to introduce her to stamp collecting. A decent topical collection could probably be built with zebras to start with, likely even incorporating some other animals that she likes such as giraffes and unicorns.

With this in mind, I set out at CHICAGOPEX 2024 to begin this process of starting my daughter’s first topical collection. I even brought Martha along with me to see if maybe seeing a zebra on a stamp would make her smile. Instead she fell asleep in my arms while I diligently rifled through boxes looking for her first zebra stamp.

After about an hour, and a significant amount of help from Mike from A-Z Stamps, we found these Nyassa stamps, which the Scott Catalogue lists as Nyassa #54-56! Shortly thereafter we also came across this South West Africa stamp, which Scott lists as South West Africa #453! I was thrilled and we thanked Mike for his help.

Now frankly, I know nothing about these stamps since I do not personally collect either of these two countries. Nonetheless, I was eagerly awaiting the chance to show them to Martha when she woke up from her arm-nap. When that time finally came, I showed them to her. Her reaction? She took a liking to them immediately, but her enthusiasm was tempered when she asked to play with them.

Her excitement turned to disappointment when I explained to her that these were stamps, and stamps are not for playing with, but for collecting. At the time of this conversation she was less than 2 years old, so it’s fair to say that the distinction between playing and collecting went over her head. But she understood one thing: she could not play with something she liked, and that upset her. Since she could not play with them, she lost interest in them. Alas, our first somewhat serious foray into youth philately in our family did not go as well as I had hoped.

That’s not to say it will be a failure forever though. I believe in my heart that given a few years of maturing (and enough added finger dexterity to hold a pair of tongs), Martha might well join me at a handful of club events. For now I’ll hold onto her small topical zebra collection. I

look forward to the day that I can show it to her and tell her the story of how she “started” in stamps simply because she pronounced “zebra” correctly. But again, allow me to be a proud father because it was, in fact, on her first try!



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

Postally used “Celebrate the Century” stamps. Contact Rick Howell at Rick.howell1@outlook.com 6/26

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

Wanted

Currently looking for documents relating to **AMG (Allied Military Group)** stamp issues in Europe during WWII. Any help would be appreciated. Rick Howell, rick.howell1@tx.rr.com 2/26

Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Jerry & Sharon Sloan for donating more stamps. A month ago, they donated 5 bankers boxes from their collection (as they are no longer collecting stamps) and it was mostly countries A to G, plus Faroe Islands and several complete Europa collections in binders (by year).

This month, they had 8 more bankers boxes, containing another Europa album, a World War II stamps collection and the countries H to Z (in blue binders). These blue binders aren't full though. They generally contain some earlier stamps from each country in both mint & used conditions, and then supplements from the 1960's onward to 1999. Any of the mint stamps & sets are mounted via hinges and are in complete sets. They are limited to several topics only though, such as dogs & other animals, bird, butterflies, insects, Olympics and Christmas (which includes Christmas as such, plus nativity scenes and paintings of Madonna & child). This means that the vast majority of these blue albums have empty spaces & pages. Last month, about ½ of all the album pages that were completely empty, were removed and then donated to Pegasus Creative Reuse. It was about the same this month.

Also present were some mint USA stamps, including the 2000 set that had holographic space imagery. There were also some loose album pages that were bought as country collections from stamp dealers.

A good size stack of mint stamps sets (in glassines or dealers

sales cards and pages) with the aforementioned topicals was also there, just had not yet been put into albums.

Just guessing, but this donation had many thousands of dollars in catalog value! Mint hinged sets though don't command full catalog value. Skip will further remove the topicals from the albums and sort them into their respective topics.

We'll have to see how to best get this massive collection to other collectors, mostly via EXPO (some as give-aways, silent auction items, philatelic wheel of chance prizes, etc).

An amazing donation to say the least!



1 Million Pound Stamp

By Peter Elias

Below is a run-of-the-mill envelope from Great Britain with 2 Machin definitives on them. Fairly ordinary. But what caught my eye was the machine cancellation, which was applied sideways,



probably because the automated mail handling equipment couldn't figure out the correct orientation due to the envelope being square rather than rectangular.

The postmark reads "Where is the £1 MILLION stamp?" What specifically does that refer to?

Is there a £1 million stamp that is missing somewhere? Is it part of a game or promotion? This is a bit hard to figure out now, since the postmark was from December 12, 2001.

I googled this, and didn't really get anything helpful: "The phrase refers to a promotional "slogan postmark" used by the UK's Royal Mail. It was not a physical stamp worth £1 million, but rather a temporary cancellation message printed on standard letters in 2001". I mean, yeah, I figured that out on my own...

Another result mentioned an article in the "[Gentleman's Journal](#)" about some stamps being worth £1 million, but it didn't seem to relate to this particular cancel.

Finally, I found an [file](#) by the British Postmark Society, that says on page 23, that this slogan refers to a game card given to buyers of booklets of 1st class Christmas stamps in 2001 at some post offices from Nov. 6 to Dec. 18, 2001. I wonder who won that £1 million pound stamp?

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SERVICE	FEE	ITEMS THAT CAN BE SUBMITTED	MINIMUM QUANTITY	MAX SCOTT VALUE	MAX FEE	APPROX TURNAROUND
ECONOMY	\$20	1932 to date (US#643 to date, C19 to date, RW35 to date, E14 to date) No ERRORS, FREAKS & ODDITIES	10	\$100	\$20	30 Business Days
REGULAR	5.5% Scott Value (Min \$38.50)	1847 to 1931 (US# 1-642, C1-18, RW 1-34, E1-E13, J1-J78, Revenues, etc)	1	No Max Value	\$250	30 Business Days
SPECIALIZED	5.5% Scott Value (Min \$50)	1847 to date (Private Vending Coils, Postal Stationery, Postmaster Provisionals, Special Printings, Covers, Locals/Carriers	1	No Max Value	\$250	Varies
EXPRESS	Add \$25 to each item		1	No Max Value	\$30	20 Business Days



National Ice Cream Day

By Peter Elias

I'm writing this on National Ice Cream Day, defined to be the 3rd Sunday in July.

So what triggered this? Well, the day before, Saturday, July 18, we were at the McKinney farmers market that is held in their historic downtown area, in the "[Chestnut Square](#)" area, which hosts this farmer market amongst various older buildings from 1854 to 1920.



I'm sure that most of us, including myself, like the treats shown above. This is Scott #5285 - 5294, issued in booklet format in 2018.

If you read the booklet pane "cover page" (at right above), it also states that these are "scratch and sniff", the first time that the USPS has done this! And while these were issued 8+ ago, I did test the "scratch & sniff" part, and yes, I did smell a candy-like smell! And no sugar was involved...

I didn't even know that July 19 was "National Ice Cream Day" (I found that out when I was viewing an email ad by Central Market proclaiming it on July 18..).

One of these older buildings is the 1918 Brimer Anderson Grocery store (Dixie's store), that is now also the home to Doc & Clyde's exhibit of the largest collection of ice cream freezers (and made it into the Guinness Book of World Records back in 2000).

While I have been to Chestnut Square several times before, I had to visit the "loo" (as they say) and it was located in a group of buildings that I had been to before, and saw the sign for "largest ice cream freezer" collection.

Before entering, I was a bit baffled by the name "ice cream freezer". I was envisioning garage-style freezers where one might store ice cream. Nope. This all refers to how they did ice cream back before there was electricity involved, and ice cream was made with churners.

While I have not seen the process of how exactly this is done, but it was kind of neat walking through this small museum (no entry fee!) and seeing all of these old ice cream makers!

And on a shelf in the back of the museum, I saw these set of stamp vending machines. Glad to see that these stamps were designated as "sanitary" and came "direct from Gov't rolls"!

The coin slot for the 1¢ stamps states it is empty. Hmm, does this mean the 3¢ still has stamps?

The cost was 5¢ for 4x 1¢ stamps or 10¢ for 3x 3¢ stamps; a cost of 1¢ as a "convenience fee"...

Note: The "Chestnut Square" link in at top goes to "<https://www.chestnutsquare.org/museum/>"; there are videos there about the buildings.



Isn't every day "ice cream day"??



MEET & EAT for

August 2026

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 6:00 PM rather than 6:30 PM.

Meet & Eat locations will be included the club's broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

August 5

David's BBQ

2224 W. Park Row, Arlington, (817) 261-9998

Note: Church meals will resume in the Fall!

FLOWER MOUND

August 19

Corner Bakery

3640 Justin Rd., Ste 190
Highland Village, (972) 317-0378

GRANBURY

August 25

Palio's Pizza Café

3710 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

Mid-Cities Stamp Club "Stamping Around" Newsletter

c/o Peter Elias

PO Box 940427

Plano, TX 75094-0427

Don't Forget:
MCSC EXPO Planning Mtg - Aug. 8
TSDA Bourse - Aug. 21-22 (McKinney)

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

Large accumulation of stamps from many countries both mint & used. This includes full dealer boxes, bulging glassines, binders with album and Vario pages, and old albums with collections. All stamps are no more than 20% of catalog price. Request stamps by country and I will determine the best way to get them to you for examination. You select what you want, write down catalog price, adjust for condition, and pay me when you return the material. What do you want, need, or desire to look at? Dave Stockbridge; stockdave44@yahoo.com 2/26