

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



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



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

August 2024

Been There,
Done That

Bern

By Peter Elias



Bern is the capital city of Switzerland and was commemorated in 1941 on Scott #280, when the city celebrated its 750th Anniversary. That was 301 years before Columbus sighted land

in the Caribbean (...the Bahamas archipelago specifically...).

Bern joined the Swiss Confederation in 1353 and became its 8th canton. The city (in what is now the Altstadt, i.e.: "Historic Old Town") grew in a peninsula that has the River Aare (shown on Scott #1160 on page 12) flowing around it.

When wandering through the cobblestone streets of Bern's Altstadt, you will notice fountains in the middle of the streets, such as the one shown here on the 2010 souvenir sheet (Scott #1400) issued for "Stamp Day". Behind the fountain (and also on the stamp part) is the famous clock tower (more on that on page 12).

In September 2000, I took a picture of one of those fountains (see lower left).

During that visit, I also ended up going down to a coin shop in a basement and bought what you see below. It is made of silver, but isn't technically a "coin", but a "school premium", from 1700, but it could be spent by the student who received it.

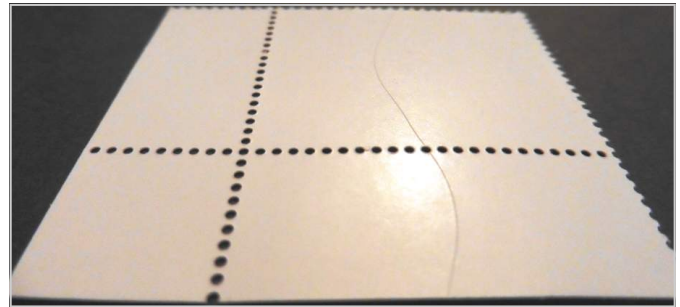
That this item came from Bern is shown on the front of it (bottom), stating "REPUB BERNENSIS" (and it also shows a bear, the symbol of Bern.



The symbol of Bern is also shown on Scott #1490 at left, issued in 2013. It is a perforated stamp, and while it appears to have regular "lick 'n stick" gum, it is actually self-adhesive. The picture below shows the perforations and also a wavy die-cut line on the backing paper that makes the stamp easier to remove. And "perfs" do look nicer than die-cuts and allow for multiples to

be collected off-paper while still attached to each other..

And yes, there are still [bears in Bern](#), in the Bärengraben (bear pit). I saw that on a previous trip, but alas, I ran out of room for the picture in this article...



Article Index

Page

Been There - Done That (Bern)	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
EXPO Meeting photo	3
Extreme Philately: Oklahoma City	3
President's Message	4
Thank You	4
Member & Dealer Ads	4,13,14
Been There - Done That (Zug)	5
Club Meeting Minutes	6, 10
How Not To Store Stamps 101	6
Been There - Done That (Insel Mainau)	7
Been There - Done That (Zeppelin Museum)	8
Fixed Zeppelins	9
Been There - Done That (Olympic Coast)	10
This Is A Postcard?	11
Keep Death Off The Road	11
TV Philately: Late Night With Seth Meyers	11
Been There - Done That (Zytglogge)	12
TV Philately: Wearing A USPS Postage Label	12
Latest Book by Ken Aldridge	13
Meet & Eat	14

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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Vice-President (Flower Mound) - Dan Golden
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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 emailed or online color newsletters, 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:

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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

In last month’s issue (July), which was released at the end of June, Judy Christmas was shown as club Treasurer. She officially resigned at the June BOD meeting and Thomas Cunningham has taken over the rest of her term starting in July. I have corrected the listing to the left starting with this month’s issue.

EXPO is not that far off, so if you haven’t already pledged to volunteer for a couple of hours, please do so! See Janet Moyer for the sign-up sheet.

Speaking of EXPO, last month had the application forms for the “Mini-Exhibits”. The mini-exhibits (generally 1-page or 4-page) will be in 4 exhibit frames in the entry area of the Grapevine Convention Center as you walk in (or out). There should be lots of people seeing these as they come & go! Got a neat philatelic item? Show it off! Email me and I’ll send a PDF file that you type on and then print!

Please remember that blue underlined text in the body of a paragraph (or picture & scan notations) are links to a relevant website. While article headings are also blue and underlined, they do not have any website links behind them...

Newsletter Postage - It Adds Up

I have now mailed something like 276 newsletters since I took over as editor with the July 2001 issue (23+ years ago!). Back then we had well over 100 members (up to 120 at times) and all got a mailed newsletter. With the price of toner, paper & postage rates increasing, printing & mailing a physical newsletter is costing WAY more than the membership dues allow for, thus they’re emailed.

Based on info from my accounting system, here’s reasonably accurate info from the past 23 years:

Postage reimbursed to me	\$ 5,712.98
Postage provided by Club (estimated)	\$ 1,300.00
Postage provided by the Werry donation	<u>\$ 1,721.86</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 8,734.84

So far, the Werry stamp donation saved the club \$1,721.86; and that is with most newsletters being emailed since mid-2014!; if ALL members were still receiving newsletters by mail, that \$1,721.86 would have been approx. \$5,200 instead!

The actual postage paid by the club out-of-pocket is around \$7,012.98. In any case, the Werry postage has saved the club a lot of money in postage!

Coming Attractions

2024

JUL. 23 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

AUG. 7 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: “The Faroe Islands” by Ken Aldridge

AUG. 21 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

AUG. 23 - 24 TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse

DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 US Hwy 75 / Campbell Rd.

Friday 10 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4

AUG. 27 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: “The Faroe Islands” by Ken Aldridge

SEP. 4 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Club Auction

SEP. 18 MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

SEP. 24 MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Club Auction

OCT. 2 MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Club Picnic, Bob Duncan Center

OCT. 11 & 12 Greater Dallas Postcard & Paper Show

Holiday Inn & Suites, 3220 Craig Dr, McKinney, 75070

Friday, Oct. 11: Noon - 6 P, Saturday, Oct 12: 9 A - 4 P, \$5

Secretary’s Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – July 17, 2024

Membership as of June 19, 2024	98
Applications Rec’d (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	0
Not Renewing for 2024	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of July 17, 2024	98





MCSC - EXPO & Board of Directors Meeting at Jay Jay's on June 8, 2024 (photo taken by a Jay Jay's staff member on Peter's cell phone)

Left side (front to back):

Tom Turner, Rich Hildebrandt, Rick & Donna Howell
Judy & Stan Christmas

Right side (front to back):

Ken Wills, Ken Aldridge, Peter Elias, Ralph Poore,
Janet Moyer, Kathryn Story & Tom Cunningham

[Extreme Philately: Oklahoma City](#)

By Dan Golden

Last month I had the opportunity to make a weekend road trip to visit some friends in Oklahoma. This was the same weekend as OKPEX, so I knew my wife and I had to choose between seeing old friends and going to the show. Spoiler alert: OKPEX did not win out over visiting friends. Alas, perhaps next year. However, I still wanted to do something stamp-related if I could. So I took a page out of Graham Beck's (of Exploring Stamps fame) playbook and looked up landmarks on my route ahead of time to see if I had any stamps with which I could do a little "Extreme Philately". And indeed I was able to find two stamps that at least mostly fit the bill, though with more time I'm sure I could have found more. One stamp was for Oklahoma City, and the other (which I will write an article for next month) was for Tulsa.

In the heart of downtown Oklahoma City stands the Centennial Land Run Monument, a series of statues of settlers and their families, commemorating the

Oklahoma Land Rush of April 22, 1889. This directly caused the settlement and establishment of Oklahoma City, which that morning did not exist. I know of no stamp honoring this occasion, but I do know of one that depicts something similar to these statues. Allow me to direct your attention to US #1120.

Issued in 1958, this 4¢ stamp honors the centennial of the first overland mail route across the continental United States. Pioneered and developed by John Butterfield in 1858, the overland mail route cut mail delivery times almost in half when it first commenced service. While the route did go through a small portion of modern-day Oklahoma, it did not come close to Oklahoma City.

So then what does this stamp have to do with the 1889 Land Run? Well, nothing really. But as you can see in the photos, from a certain angle the statues commemorating the 1889 Land Run sure do look a lot like the horses and stagecoach depicted on US #1120. They at least look similar enough at a passing glance that I gave this stamp a passing grade for use in some Extreme Philately.





President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

Our hats off to Judy Christmas to recognize the many years of service to our club. She has now turned over the club's Treasurer's duties to Tom Cunningham. Thank you, Judy!

On June 11, the Board voted to change the By-Laws to allow for the appointment of three Vice-Presidents, one for Flower Mound, one for Granbury and one for Arlington. A 30-day notice to the membership (required by by-laws) expired July 11. Flower Mound VP will be Dan Golden, Granbury VP will be Dave Stockbridge and Rick Howell for Arlington.

Lately, I've seen more and more gold foil and historical FDC's from Postal Commemorative Society, Readers Digest Stamp Collections, etc., on numerous Facebook stamp buying and selling sites. Sellers are finding out these were not good investments.

The August meeting at Arlington will be me putting on a slide show on the history and stamps of the Faroe Islands. It's also the night you need to bring auction items for our usual September auction.

Thank You!

By Peter Elias

We would like to thank Jonathan Topper (of Topper-stamps in Houston) for donating several boxes & 2 tubes to MCSC for use at the Beginning Collector Table at EXPO (or potentially other uses such as the mixture pick, silent auction and/or chance board).

The 2 tubes each contained 1 Canadian "Press Sheet"; unrolling one rolled up sheet, it was of a "New Years" issue", a very nice item that would be good at the silent auction!

Other boxes contained various loose stamps (such as UN) and various First Day Covers. There were also some philatelic books.

To reduce storage space for Skip, I managed to consolidate the 7 boxes shown above into 4 boxes.



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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Zug

By Peter Elias

Zug is the capital city of Zug, one of Switzerland's 26 cantons. Canton Zug has a population of 126,837 (in 2019), of which 30,934 reside in the City of Zug (in 2020). It is one of the smaller Swiss cantons, coming in at approx. 92 square miles; it is not sub-divided, but there are 11 municipalities. If you compare the size to something close to home: Arlington is only 7 sq. miles larger!

In 2022, Swiss Post issued a large sheet of stamps highlighting the cultural & political diversity of Switzerland's cantons. The 26 stamps for the cantons are arranged around the edge of the map that you see below (and cropped from the original sheet).

On the map below, there is a gray line that connects the stamp to the flag of the canton of Zug, which is white with a blue horizontal stripe through it.



Zug's flag can also be seen on Switzerland Scott #B21 from 1922; unfortunately I do not have a copy of that stamp.

Early settlements date back to 14,000 B.C.



Zug's name means to "tug" or "pull" and originates from fishing terminology, and in the Middle Ages, it referred to the right of "pulling up" fishing nets and therefore the right to fish. The Latin name for Zug is *Tugium* and is shown here on the 3 Kreuzer silver coin from 1608 (listed in the Krause catalog as #KM-17).

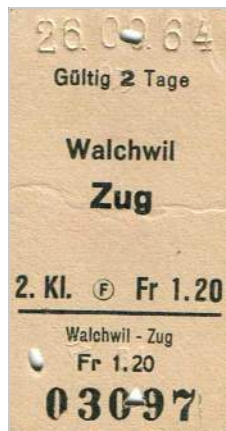
On the coin (which is about the size of a US nickel) has Zug spelled as TVGIENSIS (more at <https://en.numista.com/catalogue/pieces38917.html>); it circulated from 1597 to 1608.

I did manage to find Zug mentioned on another Swiss stamp, #454, that was part of a long definitive series of engraved stamps that were used from 1960 to 1968; a majority of the stamps featured buildings from various Swiss cities. It is one of my favorite series of Swiss stamps. Back in the 1960's, this stamp with a CHF denomination of 2.50 would have been about US 62¢; with today's exchange rate, it is \$2.80!



Switzerland #454 showing St. Oswald's church in Zug

As kids, our family did various excursions for walking / hiking, and Zug is only about 22 miles via train from where we lived. This ticket is from 9/26/1964, and that was on a Saturday, which is usually when we did these short trips. The ticket goes from Walchwil back to Zug; a Google map shows that to be about 5 miles. We probably had a separate round-trip ticket from Zürich to Zug, then walked along Lake Zug and rode back. I was 4 at the time.



The photo below shows our brand new VW in 1971 (our family's first car, bought prior to us moving to the USA). I always thought this picture was taken in Zürich, but on the back was a notation that it was the Zug train station! The license plate on the car? I still have it in my office! It's not a standard Zürich (ZH) license plate though, it has a "Z" at the end. That means "Zoll" (Customs), since we would be exporting the car to the USA.



Photo by Maria Elias

Note: Switzerland recently issued a stamp featuring the Zug train station, but it must be a newer building, not the one from 1971 ...



MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

July 3, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- Vice-President Rick Howell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Attendance:

- 23 members were present.

Officer Reports:

- Rick Howell reported the balance in the checkbook.
- Secretary Janet Moyer announced:
 - The new handbooks have been passed out and/or mailed. If you do need one, please let her know.
 - We now have 98 members, including 1 reinstated member.
 - The minutes were in the previous newsletter.

Announcements:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore said we had a planning meeting and everything is on task.
- Board:
 - The Board of Directors met and voted to add a third vice president so each meeting location would have one. There will be a vote at each location since it requires a by-law change.
 - The vote in Arlington was unanimous acceptance of the motion.
 - The board also voted to accept the resignation of Judy Christmas as Treasurer.
 - Tom Cunningham was appointed as the replacement.
 - Rick Howell announced the club has received a donation from Bob and Cathy Freedman of 400 philatelic books.
 - He passed around a list of the books to see which ones the club members are interested in putting into the club's library at the Bob Duncan Center. He will put the requested books into the library.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias is working on it.
- EXPO:
 - We need volunteers. The sign-up sheet was passed around.
 - Peter would like people to volunteer mini-exhibits for the entrance at EXPO; either 1 or 4 pages long.
 - Peter is working on the newsletter.
 - He applied for the "Star Route Award" from APS.
 - Volume 3 catalogue (G,H,I) is here. It is in the library.
 - There was no old business.
 - New Business - The club is investigating "visual displays" for the EXPO. Please contact Rick Howell if you have any suggestions or ideas.

Show & Tell:

- Peter was the only one with Show & Tell items:
 - A postcard from the turn of the century (1900) from Switzerland that made it to a German loca-

tion 400 miles away in less than 24 hours.

- A BIG stamp from Sweden on a FDC. It is one the larger stamps out there (3.125" x 2.375").
- A #6 envelope that was divided with staples for stamp storage.
- A "postcard" from Germany that might be considered an envelope, to hold a stamp for mailing.
- A receipt document from France with revenue stamps.
- A 3-page Last Will & Testament from Peru (1955) with revenue stamps on each page.
- The AHPS publishes a bi-monthly journal and it had an article about Legos by Peter in it.
- A wine magazine ad for Italian wine that showed both a stamp and a first day cover of a person on a US stamp that related to the wine company in Italy.

Door Prize Drawing:

- There were 4 certificates and a box covered in stamps issued as door prizes.

Program:

- Rick Howell played an excellent video by Alex Haimann of his exhibit on the Anglo-Zulu War. The exhibit was in the Royal Philatelic Museum in London and showed the connection of historical artifacts and postal collections.

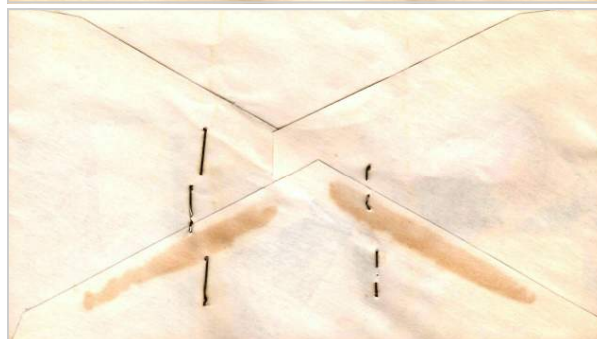
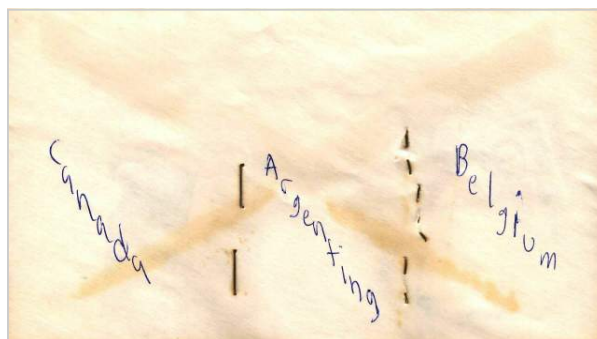
Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.
- The next meeting will be August 7, 2024.

How Not To Store Stamps 101

By Peter

I suppose the previous owner of these #6 envelopes needed to "compartmentalize" their stamps better and figured that "dividing" the envelope via staples would do the trick. All stamps were common definitives. Staples are now starting to rust, and the glue from the envelope is doing its thing...

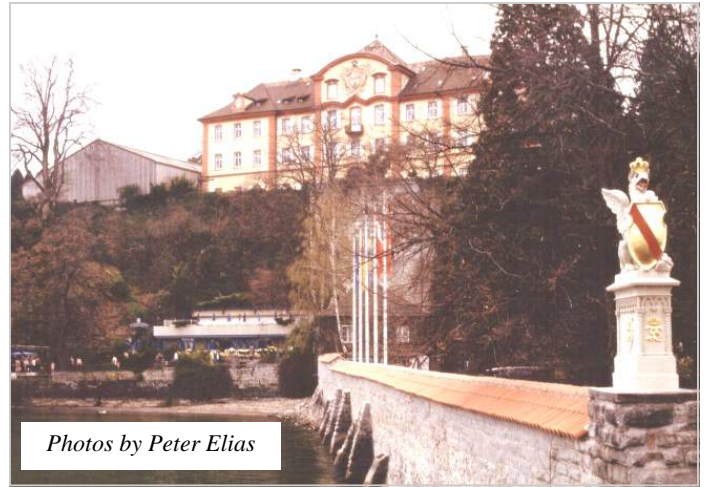


Insel Mainau

By Peter Elias

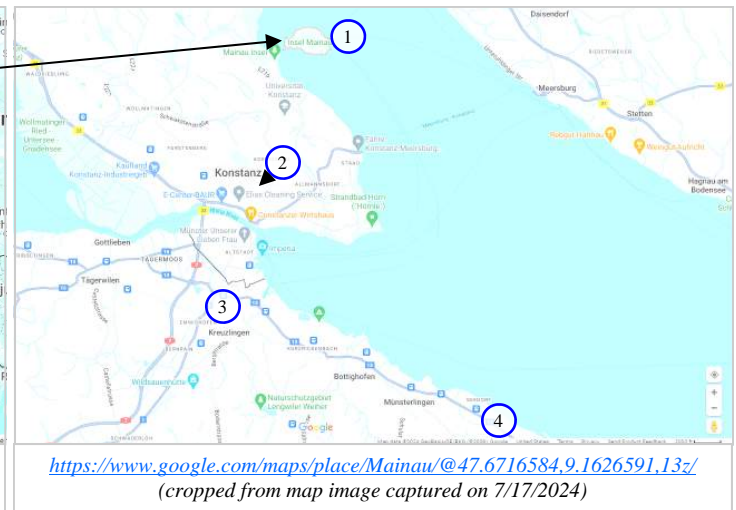
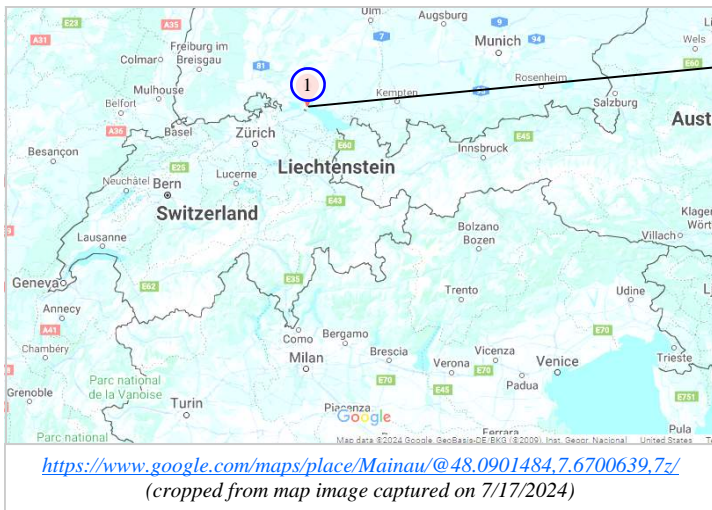


Mainau Island is a small island in Germany on the western side of the Bodensee (Lake Constance) [see #1 on the maps], near the Swiss



Photos by Peter Elias

border cities of Konstanz [#2] in Germany and Kreuzlingen [#3] in Switzerland.



Mainau island is a part of Konstanz (administratively); although it is privately owned by a foundation. It is a key tourist attraction in the Lake Constance area. I was one of those tourists in early 1986 during my stint of working for Alusuisse.

Mainau island is fairly small, with an area of only about 0.17 square miles; it is only about 0.68 miles across. But its coastline is almost 2 miles. The population was 188 in 2008. Remains of ancient settlements on the island has it going back to the Neolithic Era (3,000 BC).

Access to the island is either by a bridge that connects it to the mainland or via boat. In 1986 I chose to use the boat (see the picture at right). The pictures of Mainau castle were taken from the "#1" on the right map above.

The island is known for its gardens and there are even palm trees to be found due to subtropical influences. The arboretum, created in 1856, has over 500 rare broad-leaved trees.

In 1986 I spent most of that year working in Kreuzlingen, roughly where #3 is on the map; the German border was barely a mile away. One day I had a craving for a burger, so I drove across the border during our lunch hour to get one at the McDonald's in Konstanz and was munching on it while driving back across the border. I don't think the border guards had ever seen anyone eating a burger while driving (and my car had a manual gearbox!).

While my work was near #3 on the map, my apartment was at #4, a small village about 6 miles from work, where I did have a nice view of Lake Constance from my balcony (when I was home, which I wasn't often, since I preferred to explore Switzerland on weekends).

Viewing the Google map above, I see it highlighted "Elias Cleaning Service" (no relationship...), pointed out by the black arrow on #2.

The German stamp at top left featuring Mainau Island was just issued last year, so I don't have a Scott number for it yet, and had to buy it from an eBay seller in Germany; when I got the stamp, how it was mailed led to another brief article (see page 11). If you're ever in southern Germany, go visit Mainau island (and also Lindau island while you're at it)!





The German postal card above was printed in January 1961 ("1.61" at the bottom) in a quantity of 40,000. It is part of a lengthy series of "Lernt Deutschland kennen!" ("Get to Know Germany") postal cards which started in the early 1930's.

These cards generally feature monochrome photos of cities. This particular card features "Friedrichshafen, die Messestadt am Bodensee" (*Friedrichshafen, the Convention City on Lake Constance*).

In addition to having a convention center there (which is currently next to the local airport according to Google™ Maps). This is a relative young city, established in 1811 as part of the new Kingdom of Württemberg and was named after King "Friedrich" of Württemberg.

Most people know Friedrichshafen for something else though: Zeppelin airships! Zeppelins were "rigid airships" invented by Ferdinand Graf [Count] von Zeppelin in 1900.

While the USA had dabbled with two rigid airships in the 1920's, for the 3rd one, they placed an order with the Zeppelin Company, and "LZ 126" became the *ZR3 USS Los Angeles*.

Next came "LZ 127", the "Graf Zeppelin", in 1928, and from 1929 to 1936 it was used in regular flights to the Americas and also did an *Around-the-World* flight.

The project for LZ 128 "Hindenburg" was scrapped and LZ 129 production started in 1932. The original plan was to use Helium instead of Hydrogen, but an embargo by the USA forced the use of Hydrogen. Commercial flights started in 1936 (see



the *first-flight to South America* cover above, which I bought at the TSDA bourse on June 28). Dated April 1, 1936, it received a Brazilian receiving postmark just 3 days later!

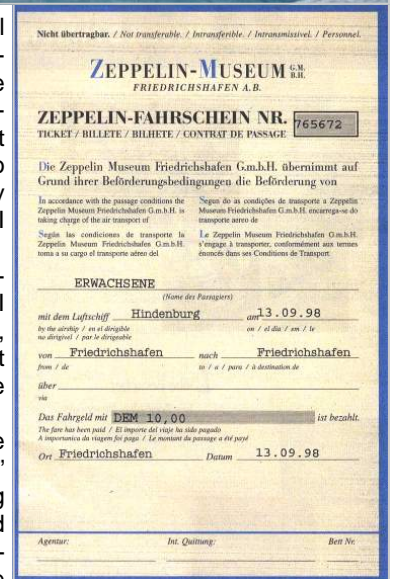


Photos by Peter Elias

After finding the postal card to the left, and remembering that I had visited the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen at some point, it took me a couple of hours to finally find the apparently one-and-only photo that I took during my visit (above).

This visit was on September 13, 1998 and luckily I had saved the entry ticket, which was a replica of what they looked like in the 1930's.

I was a bit puzzled by the fee part, where I paid "DEM" 10. I'm used to seeing Deutsche Mark abbreviated as "DM", not "DEM". I suppose it stands for "**DE**utsche **M**ark".



Switzerland #1183

Fast forward about 15 years, and I saw the above, a "Zeppelin NT" that was advertising the museum. Digging through my Swiss Post stamp yearbook for 2004, I found the stamp above that showed a "Zeppelin NT".

So where did I take the photo above? See below. In late July 2013, I was visiting Germany & Switzerland with my family and we were at the top of the "Hohentwiel" when I saw the Zeppelin LT float by not too far away. The [Hohentwiel](#) is a castle on top of an extinct volcano at the base of the city of [Singen](#) (near Lake Constance), where I had also briefly worked in 1986. I had articles about it in the August 2017 and July 2022 issues of *Stamping Around*.

On a sunny day such as this, one could easily see the Swiss Alps in the distance! Turn to the left, and you would see Lake Constance. Friedrichshafen would be about 45 miles away.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeppelin_NT

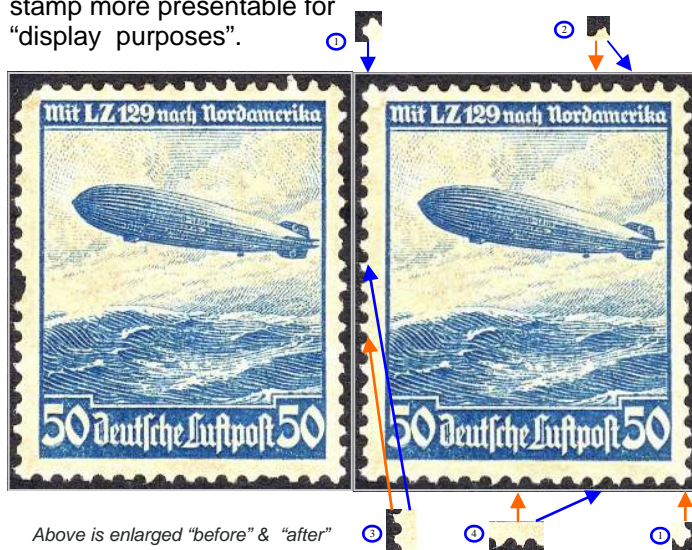
Fixed Zeppelins

By Peter Elias



In my article about the Zeppelin Museum in this newsletter, I wanted to show a German stamp with a Zeppelin, the Hindenburg if possible. While I did show a 1st flight cover of the Hindenburg from Germany to South America, that took up a bit more space than I wanted it to. One of the two stamps (either Scott #C57 or #C58) would have sufficed. However, of the 3 stamps I finally found floating around, none were in really good condition.

The above copy of #C57 has a few faults, such as the missing perfs at the top left corner and on the left side, as well as a short perf on the bottom near the right side. The stamp appears to be “unused” and had the gum soaked off (probably because it was stuck on an old album page). So while the design isn’t obscured by a cancel, I didn’t want to use it. However, a few quick fixes using simple tools in Microsoft Publisher have made this stamp more presentable for “display purposes”.



Above is enlarged “before” & “after”

Using the “borrowed” design method, I was able to make the left stamp appear more presentable. How? The red arrows show where I borrowed an area, and the blue arrow shows where it ended up at.

- 1) To fix the missing upper left corner, I borrowed the lower right corner, turned it 180 degrees, and voila, no more missing corner!
- 2) To fix the slightly “long” perforation at the top, I simply borrowed a perforation tip from 2 tips to the left, and placed it on top of the long perforation
- 3) To fix the left missing perf, I borrowed the 2 perforation tips from just a bit lower on that side and superimposed them on the missing section.
- 4) To fix the “short” perf on the lower right side, I also borrowed some perforation tips from further to the left.
- 5) I didn’t want to “brighten” the image, as making it too bright also washed out the engraved lines of the sky, so I left that as it was.



For my 2 copies of #C58, I used similar techniques as with #C57 in the left column by borrowing design segments and overlaying them. In this case, the short perforation at upper right was fixed, along with the 2 lower corners (where I basically used the upper right corner and flipped it to fit at the bottom, and while not perfect, it makes the stamp more presentable for illustration purposes. The stamp paper on this stamp had yellowed quite a bit, so I left it alone.



Same goes with the fixes of my 2nd copy of #C58. In this case, at the top I needed to shorten the top left perf and make the circular black cancel go away (which had the effect of making the stamp look like it had short perfs at the top). I used 3 good perf segments from the top and overlayed them. While this stamp had much brighter paper (probably was stored better?), it did have an orange/brown stain mark (foxing?) near the 5th perf from the bottom on the right side.

So how do I “borrow” a part of the design? Simple, I put an exact duplicate of the image on screen, then crop out everything except the part of the design I want to use (see the small images in the left column, above & below the right “fixed” stamp). Then I simply slide that part over the “bad” portion. If done right, you can’t tell!

Could this have been done in PhotoShop™? Sure, probably, but I don’t want to take a long course in learning that. It only took a few minutes in Publisher (minimal features, but did what I needed it to do in this case!).

I would only recommend doing this exercise for the sake of presenting this in an article, not if trying to sell a stamp (in which case any and all flaws should be presented and identified). I’m sure that many photos in commercial magazines have been “retouched” as well...

Flower Mound Meeting Minutes July 17, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

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

Attendance:

- 9 members and no guests attended the July meeting in Flower Mound.

Officer Reports:

- Treasurer – No report.
- Secretary – Janet announced we have 98 paid members. Last month's minutes were posted in the July newsletter

Committee Reports:

- EXPO: The next planning meeting will be August 8th at David's Barbecue.
 - The sign-up-sheet was passed around.
- Board of Directors Meeting:
 - The board voted to change the bylaws so we could have three vice-presidents. A vote was taken and it was accepted unanimously.
- Newsletter: Peter said he was almost done.
 - He has entered the "Star Route Award" contest from APS.

Announcements:

- The APS and Club Sales Books are here.
- The September meeting at Arlington will be an auction. Get your lots in by the next meeting.
- July 27th is the Granbury meeting.

Where Am I?:

- Rick Howell conducted the subject quiz prepared by Stanley Christmas. Peter & Steve both guessed the answer – Bermuda (Peter had been there in 1994 for his honeymoon).

Show & Tell:

- Dan Golden passed around two covers from England. One with stamps showing the QEII; the other with King Charles.
- Steve Carpenter showed a flyer with all the stamps for the year.
- Ken Wills:
 - A French stamp from 15 years ago made of silver.
 - A box of souvenir sheets.
- Skip Ely:
 - Passed out bags of stamps to sort.
 - Gave away binders.
- Peter Elias:
 - Plastic shopping bag from the Liechtenstein Postal Service with pictures of stamps all over it.
 - Envelopes with staples to divide sections to hold sorted stamps.
 - Envelope with permit stamps that were illustrations.
 - eBay postage label (known as "eBay Standard Envelope") used when selling things on e-bay.
 - Wine ad from Mazzei with pictures of a USA Mazzei Air-mail stamp and first-day-cover.
 - Revenue document (check) from a French Confectionery company from 1898.
 - A Peruvian document with revenue impressed paper and revenue stamps on every page.

Door Prize Drawing:

- Three gift certificates were issued.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:21 PM. Social time continued.

Been There,
Done That

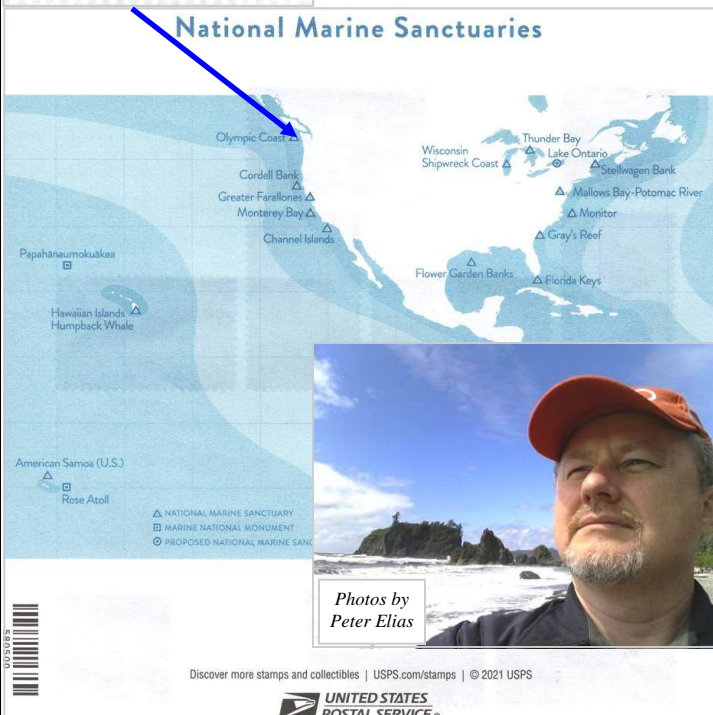


Olympic Coast

Peter Elias

In 2022, the USPS issued a sheet of 16 stamps commemorating various National Marine Sanctuaries (Scott #5713).

The stamp shown here is the one for the "Olympic Coast" as identified on the back of the sheet (below). This "coast" is the coastline that runs on the northern and western sides of



the Olympic Peninsula in the State of Washington (not too far from Seattle, just a car ferry ride away).

Looking at the back of the sheet, only one location was familiar, since well, I've been there! And that was the Olympic Coast and the Olympic Peninsula. I can think of 3 great natural areas to visit there. One is of course the coast, which you can see behind me above in a selfie that I took in 2012, and best as I can figure that rocky outcropping with trees on top is the same that is on the stamp, just a slightly different angle. So I was surprised when 10 years later, the stamp showed the place I've been to!

On that same trip in 2012, we also visited the Hoh Rain Forest, which is a part of the Olympic National Park and is accessible from the western side of the park. Incredible place!

In August 1988, I also happened to be at Hurricane Ridge (see picture at bottom right) in the Olympic National Park (accessible from the north side). Seattle is ok to visit, but if in Washington State, this is one of the "must-see" places (unless nature is not your thing...).



[This Is A Postcard?](#)

By Peter Elias

When needing a stamp to illustrate, I sometimes have to buy them. In some cases that means buying from an overseas seller, since “foreign new issues” are rarely stocked by stamp dealers in the USA.

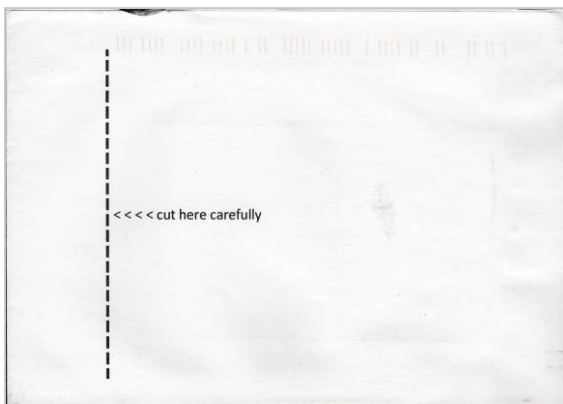
To write the article about Mainau island (page 7), I found the stamp only with a German eBay seller, so I placed the order and got it in a reasonably short time later (12 days).



Above is what I received. At first I thought it was a small envelope. But right above my name it says it was a postcard!

Checking German postage rates at the Deutsche Post website for postcards to the USA, €0.95 is the correct rate for a postcard (it would be €1.10 for an envelope). So far, so good. But wait, I ordered a stamp. Last time I checked, it was pretty hard to “enclose” a product such as a stamp “in” a postcard.

Turning the mail piece over, it says to “cut here carefully”. Wait, so there’s a stamp “inside” the “postcard”? Sure enough, there was. I did cut carefully to make sure I wasn’t

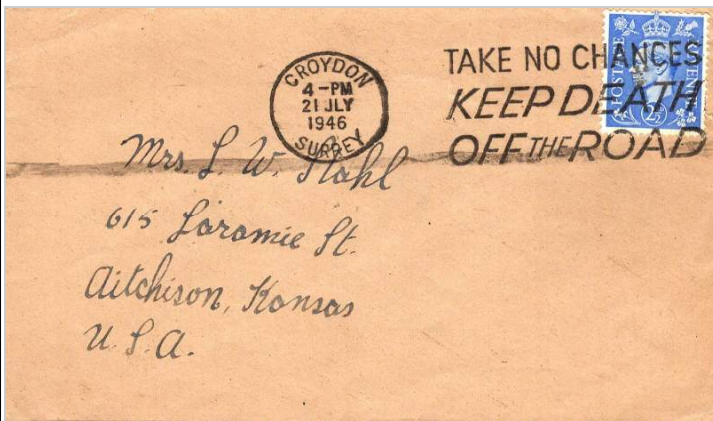


actually cutting my stamp in half...

But this still raises the question about what is the definition for a “postcard”? I couldn’t find much about this at the Deutsche Post website, where primarily it gave some general guidelines as to size and thickness (and the “grams per square meter” ranges). This “postcard” met all that criteria. What it was though, was a sheet of paper folded (and glued) into postcard size, with the stamp (in a small plastic holder) inserted between the folded layers and I didn’t see anything in the regulations about a folded & glued piece of paper that could hold a stamp inside qualifying as a “postcard”. I might call this the modern version of a “letter card”, but wouldn’t say it’s a “postcard”. I guess no one in Germany looked at the back of this “postcard”...

[Keep Death Off The Road](#)

By Peter Elias



The British “slogan” on the machine cancel is certainly a bit stark and sends a strong message. But what specifically is it addressing, that one is not supposed to take a chance with? Not driving drunk, not watching for oncoming traffic before crossing? I mean, what?

Was this in use only in Croydon or elsewhere in Britain as well?

A bit of quick research found a poster with the same slogan issued by the British Ministry of Transport in 1946; it shows a woman wearing all black and in mourning, and it also says “Carelessness Kills”. But the question then is: carelessness with what?

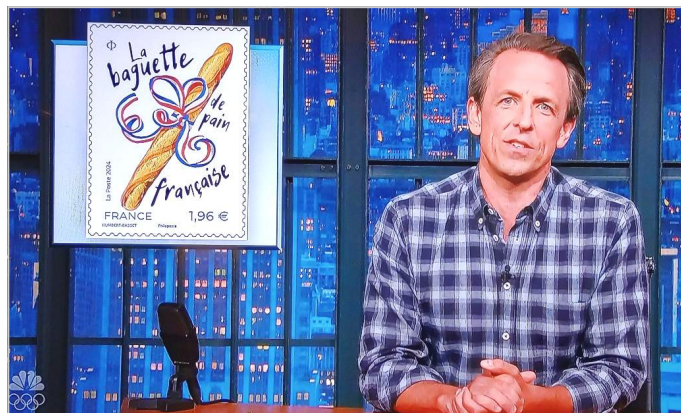
A bit of further research brought up an article that author George Orwell wrote for [Tribune](#) on Nov. 8, 1946 called “As I Please”, where he mentions that *roads are inadequate, full of blind corners and surrounded by houses, pedestrians, and cars moving in all directions and at high speeds sometimes*. To keep “death off the roads” he said, you’d have to *revamp the entire road system in order to make collisions impossible*.

I guess that explains it a bit better.

[TV Philately: Late Night with Seth Meyers](#)

By Peter Elias

I don’t watch Late Night with Seth Meyers often, but happened to flip through channels on July 1 and caught this image where he mentioned that France will issue a baguette stamp, and I’m sure that there was a joke relating to that and the Olympics (which I don’t remember at the moment). That said, I do eat baguette bread, usually as part of a Fondue dinner (where both the Swiss cheese and the baguette are sourced from Aldi...). This episode might be a repeat, as I couldn’t find a listing for a “July 1” episode...



Zytglogge

By Peter Elias



Yup, I've been to the Zytglogge! Oh, you don't speak Swiss? Ok, in German it is Zeitglockenturm (aka "Clock Tower" in English). In Bernese German, it means "time bell".

The [clock tower](#) is shown on Switzerland Scott #391 as part of a definitive series that started in 1960. The actual clock tower is located in the Altstadt (old town) of Bern, the

capital city of Switzerland.

The Bern Altstadt is shown on Scott #1160 and was issued in 2003.

My picture of the clock tower (below) was taken on September 14, 2000.

When travelling in Europe, if you are into history, always make it a point to see the Altstadt of that town or city. They are usually amazing places to visit and many times, buildings might predate when Columbus set sail the first time for the Americas...



The clock tower was at one point part of a city gate and can be climbed according the [Bern.com](#) website. The clock's mechanism dates back to 1530. The tower itself (as part of the city gate) was built between 1218 to 1220 (see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zytglogge>).

Scott #391 above is one of many stamps that are a part of my favorite Swiss definitive series. Nice & simple designs of buildings from around the country and printed via engraved cylinders in a single color.

TV Philately:

Wearing A USPS Postage Label (AGT)

By Peter Elias



I enjoy watching the AGT (America's Got Talent) show on TV; it's very entertaining and there are on many truly talented acts (and of course some groan-inducing duds...).

But this season, Howie Mandel has caught my eye with what he is wearing: a USPS postage label inspired jacket!

The cropped TV image at left was from a July 9 broadcast, and the one below from July 16.



At right is an actual current USPS kiosk-issued postage label, and Howie's jacket does seem to mimic the overall layout fairly well (emphasis on "mimic"). It would be nice to be able to get a clearer & sharper image so that I could see the exact details of what is printed on that jacket.

I could of course nitpick a lot of the blatant differences in the design of the jacket compared to the real labels ... but I think it's cool that he's wearing 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). iasdmyers@earthlink.net 5/15

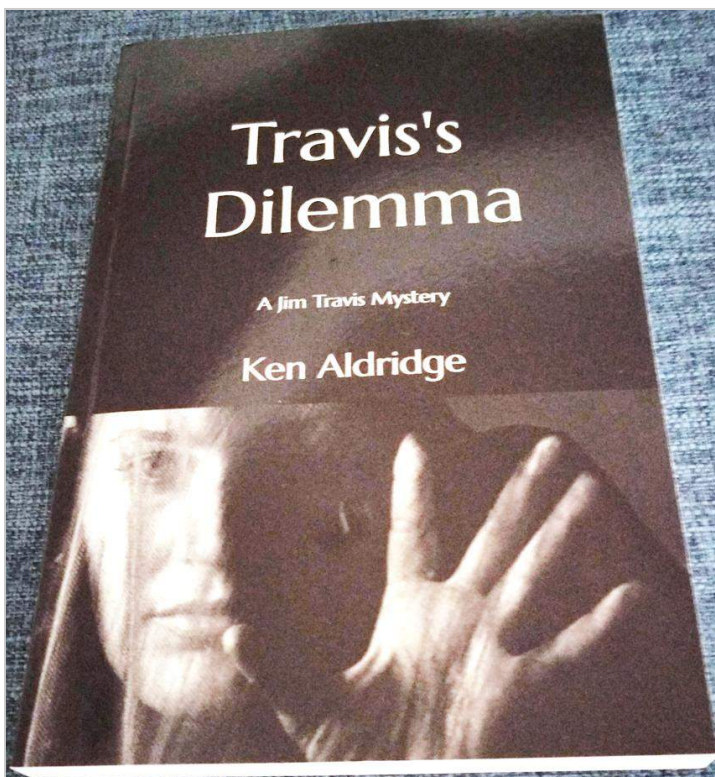
Wanted to Trade

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

Latest Book by Ken Aldridge



For Sale

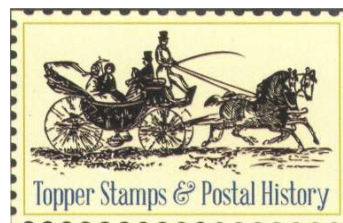
I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy 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 \$ 6.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 7/23

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



Jonathan Topper

13100 Wortham Center Drive
Suite 300
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

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www.topperstamps.com

Submitted by Ken Aldridge

"Travis's Dilemma" is Ken Aldridge's latest book in his series featuring a fictional small Texas town's Chief of Police. The stamp collector chief finds himself up to his elbows with several unusual crimes, plus a murder!

This is Aldridge's 14th book in his series where he has used some actual cases he investigated while with the FBI. He has copies available for \$10 and all his books are available from Amazon.com or on Kindle.

Link to this book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Traviss-Dilemma-Jim-Travis-Mystery/dp/B0D6Y9FNZ7/>

Link to all books:

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Ken-Aldridge/author/B00AAKU77Q>



Meet & Eat for August 2024

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & Eats" are held before our regular 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

August 7 **David's BBQ**, 2224 West Park Row,
Arlington, TX 76013-7406
(817) 261-9998

FLOWER MOUND

August 21 **Bari's Pizza & Pasta**
3472 Long Prairie Rd, Flower Mound, TX
75022 (972) 426-2956

GRANBURY

August 27 **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:
TSDA Dealer Bourse - August 23 & 24