

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: Trinity United Methodist Church
1200 W. Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington

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)



CHAPTER
MEMBER



Volume 39, Number 7

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

July 2026

Postage Rates & Fees	4/26/2026	7/12/2026
DOMESTIC		
1st Class - 1 oz (retail/metered or PC)	0.78 / 0.74	0.82 / 0.74
" 2 oz	1.07 / 1.03	1.11 / 1.03
" 3 oz	1.36 / 1.32	1.40 / 1.32
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.65 / 1.53	1.69 / 1.61
non-machinable surcharge	+0.49	+0.49
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	1.63	1.69
" 2 oz	1.90	1.98
" 3 oz	2.17	2.27
" 4 oz	2.44	2.56
" 5 oz	2.72	2.85
+ 0.28 per ounce up to 9 oz	+0.28/ounce	+0.29/ounce
+ 0.30 per ounce after 9 oz	+0.30/ounce	+0.29/ounce
" 13 oz (maximum)	5.04	5.24
(if rigid, non-rectangular or non-uniform, must be mailed as Ground Advantage)		
Ground Advantage - up to 4 oz	7.90 - 9.45	7.90 - 9.45
" up to 8 oz	7.90 - 9.45	7.90 - 9.45
" up to 12 oz	9.55 - 12.90	9.55 - 12.90
" up to 15.999 oz	9.55 - 12.90	9.55 - 12.90
Media Mail - 1 lb	4.47	4.39
" 2 lbs	5.22	5.13
" 3 lbs	5.97	5.86
" 4 lbs	6.72	6.60
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded	12.90 / 13.25 / 14.00	12.90 / 13.25 / 14.00
" Commercial Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded Env.	11.12 / 11.66 / 11.99	11.12 / 11.66 / 11.99
" Small Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	13.65 / 12.10	13.65 / 12.10
" Medium Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	24.80 / 21.17	24.80 / 21.17
" Large Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	34.00 / 31.00	34.00 / 31.00
Postcard (Domestic)	0.61	0.65
Certificate of Mailing (domestic) (3817 / 3665 or 3877 with 3 piece min)	2.40 / 0.70	2.45 / 0.75
Certified Mail	5.30	5.55
Insurance (up to \$100 is included with GA & Priority Mail) up to \$50 / \$100 / \$200	2.70 / 3.40 / 4.40	2.80 / 3.50 / 4.50
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	19.70	10.90
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	20.40 / 23.50	21.50 / 25.00
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada (2 oz) (variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)	1.70	1.75
see usps.com		see usps.com
Non-machinable surcharge	+0.49	+0.49
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)	19.40 - 23.05	19.40 - 23.05
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env (Grp2-8)	43.55 - 50.55	48.80 - 50.55
" Canada (Grp 1)	32.65	32.65
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound, Grp2-20)	61.45 - 69.70	61.45 - 69.70
Certificate of Mailing (3817/3665)*	2.40 / 0.70 each*	2.55 / 0.75 each*
See current Notice123 at usps.com !	*FCMI / MinQty 3	*FCMI / MinQty 3

3rd USPS Rate Increases for 2026

By Peter Elias

For the 3rd time this year, there will be various postage rates & fee changes. The most recent ones were on April 26, when mostly Priority Mail & Express rates were changed.

Now they are increasing the various 1st class & Ground Advantage rates, along with various fees, such as certified & registered mail & certificates of mailing, as well as PO Box fees.

Interestingly enough, Media Mail rates are a couple of pennies lower!

On the chart at left, changed rates are in italics (and either **dark red** or **green** depending on higher or same/lower rates respectively).

While not shown in the chart due to space constraints, Ground Advantage "commercial" pricing is WAY cheaper than the retail rate. The downside is you can't use stamps, it has to be an online issue postage label (such as via PayPal, eBay, etc). There is also the USPS' own "ship-n-click" option.

Commercial Ground Advantage for up to 15.999 oz is only \$6.93 to 8.40 depending on the Zone; that is a healthy discount!

For the current "Notice 123" (USPS price list), see: <https://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/manuals/dmm300/notice123.pdf>. The upcoming July changes will be reflected online on or after Sunday, July 12.

Article Index	Page #
USPS Postage Rate Increases	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Rpt	2
Been There - Done That (Over To Dover)	3
Member & Dealer Ads	4, 8, 14, 18
Thank You	4
Been There - Done That (Scherenschnitte)	5
Club Meeting Minutes	6, 9
Ben Franklin's 250th Birthday	7
Pesky Perfs & Bletchley	8
President's Message	9
USPS Or Not?	9
The One Show To Rule Them All ...	
And in Philately, Bind Them	10 - 13
Can't Use Stamps	14
Been There - Done That (CN Tower)	15
2026 EXPO Mini-Exhibit Application Form	16
2026 EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes	17
Meet & Eat	18

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

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

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

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

For a membership application write to:

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

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



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Our 39th EXPO is coming up in just a couple of months. While we do not have judged exhibits at this time, we will have 6 exhibit frames available for use in the Grapevine Convention Center lobby (between the entry doors and the EXPO registration tables).

The 6 frames are on 3x "A-frame" easels, so that the exhibits can be viewed no matter which doors you use (i.e.: coming and going!).

We do hope that all attendees take a minute (or more) to view and enjoy the variety of philatelic items that will be on display. To do that though, we do NEED exhibits! What is best are shorter exhibits (1 or 4-page, or 1 frame at most) that makes for a quick read (and hopefully some sort of inspiration for the viewer).

Later in this newsletter is an application for these exhibits. 1-page exhibits should be the easiest, as they are essentially "show & tell" items that only require minimal amount of write-up (1 or 2 paragraphs).

So, if you have a unique or "interesting" stamp or cover, show it off! A few years ago, people really liked my 4-page exhibit of German postal stationery envelopes that featured "Barbie". Let's just say it was very "pink"!

Members In The News

Congratulations to club member Dr. Benedict Termini's exhibit, *Porte de Mar Stamps of Mexico, 1875 to 1880*, received 92 points and a Gold medal at the Boston 2026 International Stamp Show!

Coming Attractions

2026

JUN. 23 MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: "The National Parks 1934 issue" by Ruth Rechsteiner

JUN. 26-27 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)

JUL. 1 MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: "Boston 2026 Recap" by Peter Elias

JUL. 15 MCSC - FLOWER MOUND Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions and "What Were They Thinking" by Ken Wills

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

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

Wadia Varzvan (#703), collects India & USA

Reinstated:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Membership Summary – June 17, 2026

Membership as of May 20, 2026	104
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2026	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of June 17, 2026	105

Over To Dover

by Peter Elias



In 2011, Great Britain issued a souvenir sheet for some of their many landmarks. Having bought & reviewed this sheet of stamps, I only found several landmarks on it that I've actually been to in Great Britain, most notably Harlech Castle (see March 2012 issue) and the Iron Bridge (see January 2012 issue).

After reviewing it some more, I can say that I've been to Dover, getting there by the way of a Hovercraft from Calais, France (see July 2017 issue). But this time I saw that the "White Cliffs of Dover" (#2969) was also part of

in Calais, France (not on the map below). It was dusk when it arrived, and by the time we boarded, it was already dark. On the map, the "Dover - Calais" ferry line is shown starting at "1". When we arrived in Dover, the cliffs would have been to our left or right, but we couldn't see them, despite having window seats on the Hovercraft.



After debarking (can't really call it "deplaning", as a hovercraft doesn't fly...) from the Hoverspeed Terminal, we grabbed a bus to Dover. While I don't have a photo, I do have the screen grab above of the bus. While en-



this sheet.

Google maps shows the several miles of white cliffs in the area outlined with red dots (and pointed to via the blue arrows).

We had arrived on the hovercraft (right). The screen grab at right shows the Hovercraft arriving



route to Dover, we did actually (briefly) see the Dover Castle on top of the large hill overlooking the shore area.

So why did we go "over to Dover"? While in Calais (France) we decided to have dinner in Dover, and that would also be the only time that we would ever be on a hovercraft as well!

On the way back, close to midnight, we took the Hoverspeed 19,300 HP Catamaran.

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 Jesse Covey from Plano, who on May 31 donated 3 binders of worldwide stamps to the club (see left).

These were “homemade” albums on plain 3-hole punched

paper. While there were a lot of stamps, there were also many that were damaged (mostly torn or missing corners); I removed those prior to handing the binders over to Skip.

Also many thanks to Byron Sandfield for donating a box of loose stamps (see below right) on June 9. There was also a book on US stamps from the US Post Office Department, as well as 2 older US and older foreign albums (both pre-1960), that consisted mostly of beginning collector material.

The loose stamps were in various envelopes & 1-gallon ziplock bags and also 2 accordion folders.

The loose stamps were 95% on-paper and were a mixture of US and foreign stamps. To make Skip's job easier, I spent a couple of hours sorting out the US vs. Foreign stamps. The US stamps were all common items, mostly torn from envelopes (with both sides of the envelope paper intact). Somebody will have to soak this stuff off, pretty much all is mixture pick or give-away material. Any super-common (think 1960's definitives on paper), as well as any damaged stamps (lots of them) will be given to Pegasus Creative Reuse so that the stamps can live another life as “stamp art”.





The title of the article is German and simply means “paper cuttings” (literally “scissor cuts”) or also known as “silhouettes”.

The 4 stamps from Switzerland above are from 2007 (Scott #1288-1291) and show some very intricate paper cuttings.

Many of these cuttings show that these are done by folding the paper in half vertically and then do the cutting. This creates a mirror image effect when unfolded. In the stamps above, only the lower left one does not follow that all the way (dog & the people on the bikes).

This particular art goes way back to the Jin Dynasty in the 4th century AD China. It has evolved over the years in various parts of the world, each adopting their own cultural values.

Some of the other notable parts of the world from where paper cuttings are known, include Japan, Philippines, Israel / Jewish, Mexico, Slavic countries, Sweden & Switzerland according to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paper_cutting).

Generally these cuttings are done using 1 piece of paper. I do remember doing some rather simple versions of this as a child growing up in Switzerland.

In Switzerland, this form of art started sometime in the 19th century. Many of the designs include alpine-related scenes, such as Alpenzüge (an autumn festival where farmers lead their cows from higher elevations to lower ones) and Farms & Flowers. To see some of these intricate designs, search for “Scherenschnitte in der Schweiz”



in your browser, then click on the “images” tab.

If you look at the 2 cuttings above, these are 13.75” in diameter. Viewing them up-close you can tell that they were folded down the middle initially. What is definitely different about these, is that they are in multiple colors, not just the traditional black. Additional paper cuttings in different colors were done and then glued on top of the main black cuttings.

These were originally in my parent’s house. While they are not quite as intricate as the ones illustrated on the 4 stamps, they are still quite nice, especially due to the use of additional colors.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2026

by Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Richard Howell called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Announcements:

- There will be no meals at the church during July; so we will eat at Jay Jay's café.
- We believe that in August, we will be back at the church for meet-n-eats.
- Club elections are coming up. If you would be willing to serve as an officer for the club, please let Janet Moyer know. The election candidates will be posted in the October newsletter so we can receive the ballots by the November meeting.
- We need a program in Arlington for November. Please contact Richard Howell if you have any ideas. Granbury and Flower Mound also need programs.
- TSDA dealer bourse is in McKinney on June 26th & 27th at the Holiday Inn.
- EXPO planning meeting is to be held at David's barbecue on June 20th at 11:00 AM.
- The Wineburgh Library is trying to arrange interlibrary loans for 15 - 20 stacks of reference books.

Reports:

- Secretary - Janet Moyer - The May secretary's report was printed in the June newsletter.
- Treasurer - Tom said he has started receiving checks from the vendors for EXPO.
- Library - Richard Hildebrandt has received the first 2 editions of the new Scott's Catalogue. He has also received some older ones from donations which will be sold. If interested, contact him.
- Newsletter - Peter is working on it.
- EXPO - The next planning meeting will be on June 20th, 11 AM - 1 PM, at David's Barbecue.
- **CONGRATULATIONS!!!:**
 - Ben Termini was awarded a Gold Medal at the Boston 2026 World Expo for his exhibit "Porte de Mar Stamps of Mexico 1875-1880". *Way to go Ben!*

Show & Tell:

- Tom Turner showed some first day covers from towns in Texas.
- Roy Davis showed a postcard that is only 2" x 3". It actually went through the mail.
- Ralph Poore showed some censored covers.
- Peter had many interesting items to show including:
 - The latest stamps from the Post Office (that were issued at Boston 2026).
 - Showed 3 Priority Mail envelopes using the stamps from the Boston EXPO (and mailed from there).
 - An older annual report from a company that produces packing materials and illustrated stamps from

all countries in which they have operations.

- A set of playing cards with German stamps on them.
- A letter that he received from Trinidad recently.

Door Prizes:

- Gifts Certificates were won by Carol Kincaid and Glenn Celerier.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM.

Program:

- An interesting program followed by Geoff Owens on original air mail.

MCSC Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2026

by Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- We had 13 members attend the June meeting in Flower Mound.

Call-To-Order:

- Vice President - Dan Golden called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Announcements:

- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had something like 105 members.
- Sales - Skip said he had APS and club books available.
- EXPO - The next planning meeting will be Saturday, June 20, 11:00 AM at David's BBQ in Pantego.
- Newsletter - Peter said he was working on it, along with half a dozen other stamp club items.
- Future Meetings - Dan outlined the activities scheduled for the next few weeks.

Show & Tell:

- Skip Ely showed a cover that went through the mail with a National Wildlife Federation label passing as a stamp.
- Ken Wills showed an example of "controlled mail" - a cover sent to his son who sent it back to him in a separate envelope. He also had a stock book with hundreds of the same half dozen or so Finland stamps with no obvious differences.
- Perry Singer showed some photo postcards from Churdan, Iowa, close to where he grew up. He sent some other postcards to the Chamber of Commerce there and received a nice thank you note in return.
- Peter Elias showed some of the items he obtained at the stamp show in Boston. He also had a cover with some invalid stamps.

Program:

- Rick Howell presented a short video about the Landtech 10x Loupe, a jewelers magnifier that can also be used for stamps.

Door Prize Drawing:

- Was awarded to Ken Wills.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:25 PM.

Ben Franklin's 250th Birthday

By Dan Golden

In the spirit of the country's 250th birthday this year, I thought it worthwhile to dedicate an article to celebrating a stamp that is related to our sesquicentennial (?), but of a decidedly different 250th anniversary. Allow me to direct your attention to US #1073. Issued on January 17, 1956, it honors the 250th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, one of most famous Founding Fathers of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin is a person who I am certain we are all familiar with, and it is difficult to overstate how many things this man was involved in, or the impact he left behind. Despite never being elected president, his influence on our country is far outsized compared to that of several executives who have sat in the Oval Office. For instance, I do not think Martin Van Buren, Rutherford B. Hayes, Calvin Coolidge or Gerald Ford - 4 former presidents chosen at random - are on the same level as Benjamin Franklin in terms of the status they occupy in our nation's collective memory. The fact that none of those presidents are depicted on any American currency does not help their cases either, whereas Benjamin Franklin prominently occupies the central portrait of the \$100 bill.

Born in Boston, he moved to and eventually made a name for himself in Philadelphia. A renaissance man in a time well past the Renaissance, Franklin was what we might today call a jack of all trades. He was, among other things, a publisher, an inventor, a scientist, a politician, and a diplomat, which seems like a pretty well-rounded career if you ask me.

As a publisher, he bought the Pennsylvania Gazette, which became the most widely read newspaper in the colonies under his direction. Additionally, he produced the Poor Richard's Almanac for over two and a half decades. Both of these pursuits made him a wealthy and influential man in colonial America.

As an inventor, he invented the bifocals because he suffered from both near-sightedness and far-sightedness. He also invented the lightning rod, in the process helping to cut down on fires by virtually eliminating one of their major sources. He also invented the odometer, attaching it to his carriage to measure the distance he traveled.

As a scientist, he was the first to study and chart the Atlantic Gulf Stream. These studies led him to study the weather and make significant contributions to meteorology. Furthermore, he conducted his famous experiment with a kite and lighting, which proved that lightning was in fact electricity.

Each of these three aforementioned careers would have been enough for a normal man's lifetime. But Benjamin Franklin was no ordinary man, and some of his greatest accomplishments arose from his involvement in politics and national affairs.

As a diplomat, he was sent to France to serve as ambassador shortly after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, where he was instrumental in securing French aid during the Revolutionary War. The United States' alliance with France would prove to be critical in altering the momentum of the conflict, eventually leading to an American

victory in the two-pronged attack at the Battle of Yorktown, ending the war. And who should be among those sent to negotiate the peace with Britain in the Treaty of Paris? None other than Benjamin Franklin!

As a politician, he was a delegate to the Continental Congress, where he voted in favor of, and signed, the Declaration of Independence. He served as the President of Pennsylvania back when such a position still existed under the state's original constitution. If Wikipedia is to be believed, he was also the only person to sign the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Paris, and the Constitution!

In some ways, the life of Benjamin Franklin almost reads like a real-life Walter Mitty or Forrest Gump, considering how many hats he found himself wearing during his lifetime. It is hard to believe that one man found himself involved in so many pinch points throughout history. Franklin's life was one of active involvement in an era of transition from the old order to the new, and he has one of the key drivers of that transformation.

In some ways, Franklin's life reminds me of European monarchs from history who were jacks of all trades. Such individuals have had the title "the Great" bestowed upon them posthumously. Alfred the Great is one example of this, as his reign saw the reemphasis of literacy and education, patronization of the arts and the creation of the borough system that revolutionized the defense of early medieval England against the Viking raids. His reign was transformational in every sense of the word, and the impact he left behind upon his death was one in which he made a tangible positive difference in the world he was born into. He was born into an England that was a backwater, still reeling from its abandonment by the Romans centuries earlier, but when he died it was a center of culture, commerce, and learning that could stand up to the Vikings and win. Even though Alfred the Great has never had a stamp issued to honor him-a fact that is kind of hard to fathom-Benjamin Franklin occupies the same stratosphere of historical influence, at least in my mind.

We do not give any "Great" titles to people living or dead in this country, and I imagine that the length of our presidential terms hardly facilitates the completion of long-term projects under the same individual who conceived them, thereby keeping the title "Great" unwarranted upon that individual's death. As such, I do not see us calling any American "the Great" anytime soon. Still, all of the above mentioned accomplishments and accolades fail to grasp the full picture of who Benjamin Franklin was and what he did in his lifetime.

For example, I have until now said nothing about how his role as America's 1st Postmaster General, a position in which he served from about 18 months in 1775-1776. It calls to mind how our first Postmaster General was also the first individual to be on an American stamp. Of course, this is the same honor given to royalty of other countries, like the profile of Queen Victoria's seen on the Penny Black.

Despite never being titled such, it sure seems to me like we think he's pretty great after all. As such, it only feels appropriate to give this Founding Father, and his stamp honoring his 250th birthday, a nod on this year-long celebration of our country's 250th birthday too.



Pesky Perfs

By Peter Elias

What to do about those pesky perfs that ruin the design? Try this:



That said, somebody didn't quite manage to fully trim all parts of the bottom perfs. Tsk, tsk.

Sure, I could have just discarded this item (found in a recent donation lot), but figured it might be nice to immortalize it for our education and amusement.

Who knows why someone bothered to do this; were they bored?

Bletchley

By Peter Elias



Digging through donation lot of mostly cheap on-paper stamps, I found this little slip of paper, apparently cut out of the corner of an envelope. It's the kind of thing is usually discarded.

But then I wondered? Is that the place in the UK that is associated with cryptographic work during WWII (i.e.: cracking the German Enigma device)? That place was actually called "Bletchley Park", and according to the Google Map, Bletchley Park is an estate within the town of Bletchley, which is within the current city of Milton Keynes (about 40 miles northwest of London).

Then I found the item below, which while it seems to have a US return address is also marked Bletchley Post Paid. While the address is a valid residential address (built in 1948), I could find no references a George Powell there. Interesting though...



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)



cunninghamstamps@aol.com

Exp.12/26

(214) 546-1179

Cunningham Philatelics

Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items
Stamps and Covers

Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
APS # 082424, TSDA

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

stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



- * TSDA
- * HOUPEX
- * EXPO

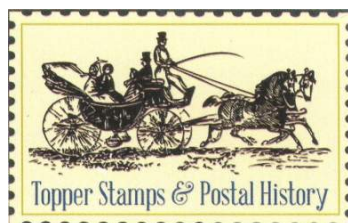
US/WW Classics, Modern, SONs

Visit our new online store

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

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

Exp. 12/26



Jonathan Topper

13100 Wortham Center Drive
3rd Floor Suite 45
Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com



From The President's Cluttered Desk

By Rick Howell

Well, the event of the decade has ended in Boston and was attended by several of our members. Peter Elias has agreed to give us a review of the Boston 2026 World Expo as a program for our Arlington Chapter meeting in July. Craig Kellogg will present his review at our August Granbury Chapter meeting, along with a program on World War II. I'm sure Dan Golden will provide us with an in-depth review at our upcoming Flower Mound meeting. From what I'm seeing on the internet, there was a lot happening in Boston.

I'm sure there will be a lot happening at our own EXPO in Grapevine in November. We are preparing for a big show and are depending on our members to volunteer as they normally do to help continue to make our EXPO a great show for all attendees and dealers as well. Make sure you come out to our EXPO planning committee meetings and see what it is all about. We can't get this done without YOUR help! And hey, it is a lot of fun!

We are continuing to get large philatelic contributions from the estates of philatelists who have passed on and these contributions help us to provide some of the services we do at EXPO and at our normal chapter meetings as well. The survivors who are making the contributions are happy to see their loved ones' philatelic obsession continue to bring pleasure to others who love the hobby. I have spoken with several who expressed this same sentiment, and it seems to provide some closure to them. This is a great hobby.

Last month, I sent out a listing of books in our club library which are available to our membership. If you want a book from our library, contact me or Skip Ely by email or phone and we will bring the book(s) to you at the next meeting you attend. Please don't wait until the last minute to contact us. A week or more in advance would be nice. Also, please don't check out more than two or three books at a time, and make sure you return the book in a month's time at the next meeting. Hopefully this will work out ok until we figure out how we can relocate the library to our meeting place.

See y'all at the meeting!



Photos by Peter Elias

Above: Geoff Owens (left) during his June presentation in Arlington on June 3; with Rick Howell & Janet Moyer.

Granbury Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026

By Joe McFarland

Call-To-Order:

- Vice President Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, May 26, 2026 at the Bentwater Marina.

Attendance:

- 7 members were present.

RIP:

- A moment of silence was held in the remembrance of Jim Case who tragically was killed in an automobile accident on May 27th.

Show & Tell:

- Bob Coleman showed an article, *Stamp Fever*, in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club the April issue of Hoopla.
- Dave showed facsimiles of 13 of the 14 stamps of the Confederate States.

Announcements:

- Jim Case was the club point person for the mystery box for the EXPO. Ruth Rechsteiner had her arm twisted to get her to volunteer to take over that task. Please give your contributions to her in June or July. This mystery box is very sought after in the auction, and brings money to the club.
- Craig & Kelly Kellogg will attend the APS show in Boston.

Where In The World:

- Dave took over from Les Barton, who could not be present, to present the *Where in the World* quiz on the stamp history of a country. Ruth identified the country as Mongolia. She said that being a geography major in college helped her with the identification.

Program:

- Rick Howell presented 2 videos as the program. These videos are from an Exploring Stamp series by Peter Vack. The first was on the Straits Settlements and Singapore. The second was on the stamps and history of Pitcairn Islands, which were the destination of the Mutiny on the Bounty mutineers.

Door Prize:

- Ruth Rechsteiner was the winner of the door prize gift certificate.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

USPS or Not?

By Peter Elias

Sifting through a donation lot, I found this. While it does appear to be from a commercial / ad mailer, I've never seen a machine cancel like this? Since it is marked "U.S. POSTAL SERVICE" ... is it? Or was it a private cancel (i.e.: *Mailer's Postmark Permit*)?



Maryland origin. ZIP begins with 207.

Cancel is pink and appears to be a "rubber stamp" cancel, not a machine cancel.

IF it is a MPP, then it would have to state so as part of the cancel design.

The One Show To Rule Them All... And in Philately, Bind Them

By Dan Golden

Peter asked me to come up with a write-up of my experience at the World Stamp Expo in Boston. I have never attempted a write-up of this sort, so it might not follow the typical format of such an article. I could have used ChatGPT to help me out, but I'd rather do it the old-fashioned way and write it all myself.

I had been looking forward to this show for years, much like the rest of the philatelic community. I'd been putting some money aside every month in preparation for what would inevitably be spent, planning out where to stay and the different routes to be taken to the convention center, even picking out specific food spots to try while in Boston. Every detail of my trip was planned out, and I wore a sense of anticipation on my sleeve for all to see. This was a near constant topic of conversation at my workplace, where I found myself inserting stamps and the show into several conversations with coworkers. A common phrase of mine was: "Guess what's only [insert number here] days away! The World Stamp Expo!" They would usually just roll their eyes and talk about however many days it was until Friday. As much as they all were looking ahead to Friday each week, you could say I was always looking ahead to something bigger and better.

I was not alone in my excitement though, as I didn't even need to wait for the plane to land in Boston before finding someone to share the excitement with! On my flight I met James, a fellow stamp collector, and his wife,



Harvard Stadium taken from the airplane

who were both sitting next to me on my flight. We learned that we were both going to the Expo - James even being scheduled to speak at the first day ceremony for the American Bison stamp - and naturally we struck up a conversation. My only regret with that interaction is that it didn't start earlier. We were flying above Harvard Stadium (left) making our final descent into Boston before we got to talking. The excitement that I and my fellow collectors shared was palpable, and remained so the next morning when we arrived at the Expo. The first thing my mom (who I convinced to join me at the show) and I did was head to the opening ceremony honoring the first day of issue for the Treasures of the Revolutionary Era set of stamps (top of 2nd column). This was my first time ever going to a first day ceremony - one of three I got to attend at the show - and receiving the collectible pin and program was a real treat! Even my mom thought it was cool!



passports as we could, with not as much success as I had hoped for. A number of foreign postal representatives had their stamps and cancellations stuck at Customs during the first few days of the show.

We also attended a pair of talks in the afternoon of Day 1. The first was a presentation on air crash covers, an area of philately that I know very little about, but would love to begin collecting.

The other talk we attended was the APS Writers' Unit #30 presentation about writing stamp articles, which I was eager to go to in the hopes it would help sharpen my skills as a writer. Whether or not it worked it perhaps up for debate.

Both talks were informative in their own ways, but neither was a particular highlight. For that honor, I must turn to Graham Beck of Exploring Stamps. He had a studio setup where he was asking show attendees to come do a show-and-tell with a philatelic item of their choosing. He filmed me showing off a cover that has a personal connection to me. I don't know if it will make it into one of his videos, but just being given the chance to meet him, chat with him, and show off something of mine to his camera was a really cool experience nonetheless.



After the ceremony ended, we headed downstairs and entered the show. Our first mission post-opening was to send special postcards from the show to friends and family with the newly released stamps, an activity that we found ourselves doing each day we were there. We also grab a pair of free Stamp Expo passports (below) from the Scott Stamp booth to begin filling with special stamps - and even more special cancels - from countries around the world who had sent postal representatives to the show! We mostly spent our first day zigzagging around the show floor trying to fill out as much of our

--> Continued on Next Page -->

The One Show to Rule Them All...And in Philately, Bind them *(continued)*



Graham and I took a selfie to send to another mutual friend of ours, Ted the Talking Stamp Collector.

Additionally, another highlight from Day 1 was simply walking into the World Stamp Expo for the first time. I had never been to an international stamp show before, the largest show I'd ever attended was CHICAGOPEX, but the scale of the World Stamp Expo blew my mind. The feeling you get going into such an event for the first time is something you only experience once, and it really is something to savor. That in itself was a highlight for me.



After we got out of the Mr. Rogers first day ceremony, and finished sending more specially cancelled postcards to friends and family, I began doing what I usually do at stamp shows: hunting for and purchasing stamps and covers for my collection. I went to a handful of tables to get a few things here and there. Meanwhile, my mom dug around over in the Great Stamp Giveaway area. I spent some time over there as well, but digging through tens of thousands of stamps to find the needle in the haystack that you're looking for is a daunting task, and that's without any dealers labeling the stamps ahead of time for your convenience! As wonderful as the free stamps were to dig around in, I prefer to pay the "premium" of letting stamp dealers sort out the stamps for me and select what I need based on their stock.



Do not confuse this photo for being candid. This was 100% staged.

As we arrived at the convention center for Day 2 of the Expo, there was a similar sense of anticipation in the air as Day 1. This was because the first day ceremony for the yet-to-be-revealed winner of the stamp encore contest was to occur that morning. Naturally we made it a point to attend the reveal of the mystery stamp. We joined the throngs eagerly watching as the people onstage unveiled the winner of the stamp encore to be...Mr. Rogers?

My immediate gut reaction to seeing the winner was: "Darn, not the one I voted for, but it's not as bad of a choice as it could have been." Don't get me wrong, I like Mr. Rogers, and as one of the speakers at the ceremony said, his victory in the stamp encore contest represents a longing in our society to spread the kindness that he preached on his TV show. Despite not voting for the winner, spreading Mr. Rogers' kindness is an idea I can certainly get behind. In a world as divided as ours is at times, that message really rings true, and I'm glad that Mr. Rogers legacy continues to live on in stamps, again.



I shopped around for a little bit, but found myself more drawn to speaking with attendees, vendors, and philatelic societies that I had wonderful conversations with. I was talked into joining a pair of these societies - the Éire Philatelic Association (ÉPA) and the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) - on the same day. As I'm looking back on it, joining each could be seen as a little awkward, perhaps even marginally scandalous, to members of those respective organizations should either have been made aware. I can rest comfortably knowing my priorities are in order seeing as I technically joined the ÉPA a few hours before I did the RPSL. Regardless, I'm excited to participate in what lies ahead for both societies.

As much fun as that was, one of my biggest highlights from Day 2 was when a representative working the Universal Postal Union (UPU) booth pulled me aside to show me a cool app that could be of use to stamp collectors. In short, he said the app is good now and getting better, their biggest obstacle is getting collectors to use it and spreading the word so that collectors even know about it. I got his card and told him I would love to write an article about the app to spread awareness of it. He gladly accepted, and that article will likely be in a future newsletter.

--> Continued on Next Page -->

The One Show to Rule Them All...And in Philately, Bind them *(continued)*



Another major highlight was when I received a personal tour from a Cherry-stone Auctions representative of a non-philatelic exhibit that was on the show floor (left), titled "From Empire to Commonwealth", about Great Britain's royal family. It was sponsored in part by Cherrystone Auctions and had several really amazing items on display, among which was the Queen's Rolls-Royce,

several coronets worn by British nobility, and a pair of chairs used for royal coronations. There was a philatelic connection in all this as several personal letters written by the Queen, her father King George VI, and her stamp-collecting grandfather King George V were also on display.

Additionally, while not part of the above mentioned exhibit, the same individual from Cherrystone Auctions showed me Charles Lindbergh's special diplomatic passport (which he even let me hold!) and a copy of US airmail stamp #C19 that was autographed by Albert Einstein (I did not get to hold that one). Pretty cool to say the least! (both below)



Going into Day 3 of the Expo, we knew ahead of time that we could only be there until around lunchtime, so we had to be

strategic with what we chose to do. Having been invited by James, my new friend from the airplane, a few days earlier, we attended the first day ceremony for the new American Bison

stamp, getting our third first day program and accompanying pin in the process. We wrote and sent out the last few postcards to friends and family that had not otherwise received one, making sure each received the special cancellations only available at the Expo. I also purchased a Canadian blue jay stamp (#3366) that I hope to use as part of an exhibit at a future MCSC Expo.



We wanted to complete our stamp passports on our final day, but we found that there were a pair of insurmountable obstacles in our way. First, a handful of countries that either did not have their stamps or did not have their cancellations earlier in the show never received them in the days we were in attendance. Furthermore, while we had already seen the release of three new stamps while at the show, there were to be five more US stamps issued later in the week that we would not be able to add. So in a pinch, we "finished" our stamp passports by substituting US stamps and associated cancels where and when no foreign stamps or cancels were available.

Was this the "right" way to go about completing the passport (see right)? No, of course not, but who cares? I don't structure my stamp collecting around the traditional "right" way to do things either, and that's okay! There are as many different ways to explore philately as there are stamps that have been issued, perhaps even more! I am a firm believer that there is no one correct way to collect stamps, though in my opinion there is at least one wrong way; see my article about fractional ownership and the 1¢ Magenta for my feelings on that.



One of the highlights from Day 3 was attending a panel discussion about the future of the hobby, titled "Philately in 2035". I felt it was important I go to such a discussion seeing as I'm a fairly young collector and I would like to see the hobby live on long after I'm gone. It was there that I heard a lot of really good points made by really intelligent people, and came away with several new ideas that I hope to implement in some fashion at the club level. Generally, I came away from that discussion feeling inspired about the future of stamp collecting, and I am really excited to be a part of it!

The biggest highlight from Day 3, though, was saying my goodbyes to people around the show. I am a mid-westerner, and politeness dictates that one should say goodbye to everyone they've met in these situations. As I made my way around the show to say my farewells, I was pleasantly surprised that all the people I talked to seemed to remember me. Not only that, they genuinely seemed happy to see me and wished me a safe trip back home. They spoke to me as if we were peers! Ridiculous, I know!

--> *Continued on Next Page* -->

The One Show to Rule Them All...And in Philately, Bind them *(continued)*

I made it back to the Irishmen of the ÉPA and John of the RPSL, shaking each of their hands and restating how glad I am to have joined their societies (both somewhat humorously still in the dark about my membership in the other). I made my way around and found Alex from Cherrystone Auctions and James, my friend from the airplane, and said my goodbyes to each of them. But heck, while I was looking for them I ran into Graham Beck again, who remembered me, so I said goodbye to him (and made sure to let him know how happy I am to see him posting videos on YouTube again). But gee wilikers! If that wasn't enough, I also happened to stumble upon the great Wayne Youngblood, one of my inspirations in philatelic writing. Naturally, I introduced myself, then immediately said goodbye and wished him safe travels home as well. Good people, all of them, and I was very blessed to chat with each of them as much as I did.

Reflecting on my time at the World Stamp Expo, I can't help thinking about

having an individual experience at a show vs. connecting with others and bonding over a shared interest. An individual experience seems to be what I usually have, i.e.: sitting at dealer booths, looking through their stock, and not making too much conversation beyond "Do you have...?" In such cases, I am at a show to accomplish a specific mission I've set for myself—buy a certain stamp that is on my list or find a cover relating to such and such topic. There is nothing wrong with that, but it narrows what can be experienced. The other option, connecting with others with whom you share an interest, is far more rewarding, and I'm happy to say that this is what I got to do at the World Stamp Expo. I was even lucky enough to shake hands with some of the biggest names in philately!

In conclusion, I came away from my trip to Boston with a great deal of inspiration moving forward. Conversations with other philatelists birthed new ideas that can be utilized at the local level. I gathered a great deal of material for future stamp articles about the show as well

as different things in and around Boston. Not to mention I made several connections that I did not expect to make when I walked in, among which was joining two philatelic societies.

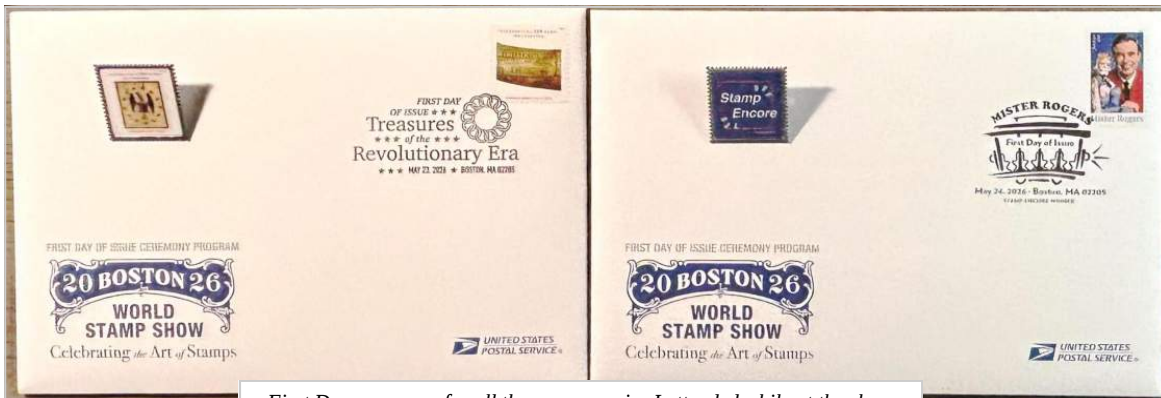
And shouldn't that be the point of stamp shows? At the risk of potentially angering any dealers that might read this, is the whole purpose of stamp shows to simply buy and sell stamps? Or is it to do the very thing that stamps were made to do in the first place: connect us. In my opinion, the latter should take precedence over the former. Shopping for stamps to fill out the holes in our collection (and supporting your local dealers while you're at it) is of course a very important aspect of the hobby. But it is not necessarily the end goal of a stamp show.

Shows should be an extension of the club or clubs sponsoring them, meaning that they should be geared toward forming relationships, sharing our passion, and helping the hobby grow. That is what is most important, and it was on full display at the World Stamp Expo. The

personal connections made, philatelic conversations shared, and the aura of a once-a-decade event made the

experience truly unforgettable. Plus the non-existent entry fee made it well worth the price of admission too! I hope to be able to go again in 2036!

There is so much more to say about this show that there is not room for in this newsletter. So I am going in depth with a five-part expo report to be published on my Substack, [Stamping For Gold](#). Feel free to check it out!



First Day programs for all three ceremonies I attended while at the show



Photos on pages 10 - 13 by Dan Golden



Photo of the USPS retail area taken as we left the show for the final time on Day 3. An unforgettable experience, the next show in 2036 cannot come soon enough.

Can't Use Stamps

By Peter Elias

When you go on the USPS website at <https://postcalc.usps.com/> to find out what it will cost to mail your particular mail piece and have entered the details (destination ZIP code, size, weight, etc), you will get a variety of options with prices, such as for Express Mail, Priority Mail (both for various flat rate envelopes & boxes or non-flat rate), 1st class or large flats (if applicable), Media Mail, Parcel Post and Ground Advantage.

One thing I mail a lot of is Ground Advantage, since it is often the least expensive tracked and insured option for smaller items (such as stamp lots).

But here's the dilemma when you are a stamp collector: you want to use stamps for postage, especially if the item is being mailed to another collector (I believe it was a bundle of old postcards).

So, I could have applied \$11.35 in postage stamps (kind of tough when using a 6" x 9" envelope...), or go to the post office and use the SSK kiosk (also \$11.35) and it will print you a \$11.35 label (perhaps for a bit less if you've managed to apply at least some stamps) which of course would still have a tracking number, and your 3rd choice is to have the clerk apply the tracking label after he's sold you \$11.35 postage on the label (or a bit less if you've already applied some postage).

USPS Ground Advantage®			
Select a Delivery Option	Expected Delivery Day	Retail	Click-N-Ship®
Normal Delivery Time	2 to 8 Days	\$11.35	\$6.74

While I don't remember off-hand which item it was that I was mailing (it was about a month or so ago), I believe it was either an up-to 8 or up-to 12 ounce shipment. The least expensive choice (cropped from a lengthier list) is shown above. It shows that the "retail" rate was \$11.35, but the "Click-N-Ship®" rate \$6.74. That is a whopping \$4.61 (or 40.6%) LESS !

In any case, you need a tracking label issued by the clerk or a machine, and you have to pay \$11.35 with all or partial stamp usage.

Or you can save 40.6% and use the USPS online system to generate the label (which you can print at home or show a QR code later to the clerk or SSK kiosk).

But this option does penalize us from using up stamps that we've already paid for and now can't use.

www.psaginc.com


PHILATELIC STAMP AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING

Philatelic Stamp Authentication and Grading
P.O. Box 410880, Melbourne FL 32941-0880
Phone: 305.606.4337 E-Mail: info@psaginc.com




Certification and Grading - Excellence Since 1987

Founded by noted U.S. Classics Expert, J. Randall Shoemaker, PSAG commits to providing unparalleled certification and grading of all United States, Canada and Canadian Province stamps. Guided by newly appointed President Jimmy Tomchesson, PSAG enters its next chapter of excellence in expertizing and grading.

Finest US and Canadian Experts, 40 Years of Expertizing Experience
Competitively Priced Graded & Ungraded certificates at the same price

Grading singles, pairs, blocks, plate blocks, booklet panes and souvenir sheets for US & BNA
Consistent Standardized Third Party Grading

Comprehensive References
Best Turnaround Time in the Trade

FEE SCHEDULE (All United States, Canada & Provinces, Canal Zone & Hawaii)

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 Stationary, 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



Cert No. 058300

PSAG
PHILATELIC STAMP AUTHENTICATION AND GRADING
www.psaginc.com

EXPERT COMMITTEE OPINION:
Grade: 85 used

Cat# 121 Issue 1989 Denom 300 Shade Carmine/Ultramarine

"It is genuine used with a Red cork cancel"



Adrian Committee Chairman

LARGE SIZE

CN Tower

by Peter Elias



Canada, Scott #1831d



Scott #1027



Scott #1484

the name of the railway company that built the tower.

The tower was completed in 1976 and held the honor of being the tallest free-standing structure in the world! Until 2007. Today it is still the 10th tallest structure in the world, and the largest in North America.

How tall is the [CN Tower](#)? 1,815 feet! That is over 3 times taller than Dallas' ["Reunion Tower"](#) at only 561 feet!

The CN tower is shown at top as part of a set of stamps for the new Millennium, as well as 2 other stamps from 1984 & 1993, shown above. Below left the tower is

shown on a cachet for a souvenir envelope that was issued for the CAPEX '96 international stamp show held in Toronto, Canada from June 8 to 16.

Several countries also issued stamps showing the CN tower.

I flew to Toronto the day before the show opened, so I could be there on opening day.

At some time during my stay, I did visit the CN tower. As you can tell at right, it was a rather foggy morning that day, which (after looking it up in Quicken), was on actually on June 9. Not just to go up to the observation deck, but for brunch (see bottom picture).

The fog did lift at some point, and the picture at right shows the tower a bit better.

Sorry that it took me 30 years to finally write this up! But in any case, *Been There - Done That!*



PARTICIPATION IN CAPEX '96
8-16 June 1996



MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB 39th ANNUAL EXPO

November 13 & 14, 2026

Friday - 10 to 5 PM & Saturday - 9 to 4 PM

Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051

1-page or 4-page Mini-Exhibits Entry Form

Exhibit applications must be received via email or USPS by Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Please type or print legibly. Use a separate form for each entry.

Name of Exhibitor _____ **___1-Page ___ 4 Page**

Address:

My ___Home ___Cell is (____) ____ - _____ E-Mail: _____@_____

Title of Exhibit:

25 or fewer word description of exhibit:

I or my agent _____ will personally ___ deliver ___ remove my exhibit.
(Name)

RULES

1. These mini-exhibits are open to all Mid-Cities Stamp Club and Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society members.
 2. Each page must be on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper, unless approved by the Exhibit's Chairperson.
 3. The **entry fee for either a 1-page or 4-page exhibit is waived for 2026 !**
 4. Entry Form must be received no later than Tuesday, October 21, 2026.
 5. Entrants are responsible for insuring their exhibits against loss or damage; or deciding not to do so at their own risk.
 6. Exhibits must be personally delivered and removed from the EXPO by the owner or authorized agent.
 7. Exhibits should be mounted on Thursday, November 12, 2026 between 6:30 to 8:30 PM. For Friday, November 13, 2026 morning mounting, permission must be obtained from the Exhibits Chair and would have to be mounted no later than 9:45 AM, Friday, November 13, 2026.
 8. Exhibits cannot be removed before 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 14, 2026.
 9. All exhibits must go through the Exhibit's Chair for tracking purpose.
 10. There will be a limit of 4x 1-page and 2x 4-page exhibits per exhibitor. This may be increased after the closing date if the 6 available frames are not filled with 16 pages (or equivalent) each.
 11. There will be no judging or awards for these mini-exhibits.
- Please send (or email a scan of this form to Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano TX 75094-0427 before October 21, 2026.
 - For questions, please call (972) 671-0077 (landline) or email at peter@pcelias.com

My signature below indicates my understanding of and compliance with, the rules stated above and I acknowledge that I am responsible for insuring my exhibit. I will not hold the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, the City of Grapevine, nor any officers, members, employees, agents or associated persons of the same, liable for loss or damage to this exhibit.

Signature _____ Date _____

MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2026

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 11:50 AM by Chairman Ralph Poore.
- Ralph discussed the agenda. If you would like to add to it in the future, please let Ralph know.
- The reading of the secretary's minutes was dispensed.

General reports

- **General Chair - Ralph Poore**
 - The storage unit facility has been bought out, but we have not been notified of an increase in cost. The location of our unit is worth paying for if an increase is needed.
 - The renewal of our membership for the show liability insurance is coming up.
- **Assistant EXPO Chair - Rick Howell** – no report for now.
- **Beginning Collectors Table – Skip Ely**
 - There have been a lot of donated items in the last few months. He has been going through and sorting donated items for the auction, Mixture Pick and Chance Wheel.
 - He will start working on the Beginner's Table in September.
- **Bourse- Tom Cunningham**
 - Contracts and down payments have been coming in.
 - We need the use of two cabinets.
 - He has a list of dealers available if we need replacements.
- **Chance table – Patty Poore** – no report
- **Finance - Tom Cunningham** – provided updates

Hospitality:

- **Janet Moyer** - reported that we have all the supplies we need to prepare.
- **Stanley Christmas** - brought the results of the registration survey.
 - Most people are willing to pay for admission
 - Suggestion – if people offer to pay – ask if they would like to make a donation.
 - Have a donation box handy.
 - A motion was made for the new question on the form to be: "How did you find out about the stamp show?" by Rick Howell and seconded by Bob Weidman. Motion passed.
- **Lunch – Kathryn Storey**
 - Will start working on this in September.
- **Mail Out – Stanley Christmas**
 - Mailed flyers – fewer than past years.
 - 206 mailed envelopes.
 - 594 emails.
 - 90 emails to members.
 - If a person does not come to the show in four years, they are removed from the list.
 - There will be a reminder notification in the TSDA email in August.
- **Mini-Exhibits – Peter Elias**
 - Nothing to report but he will open up to the Dallas club to see if they would like to put in some mini-exhibits.

- **Mixture Picks – Bob Weidman**
 - Doing well
 - We now have bags of stamps for sale, not only at EXPO but at meetings. This, however, will stop until after the show in order to ensure an adequate supply for Mixture Pick.
 - We will need to split the table to keep stamps separated between "on paper" and "off paper."
- **Program - Geoff Owens**
 - No report. His work is in October.
- **Publicity – Peter Elias**
 - APS listing has been submitted
 - Linn's / Scott's ads will be placed soon.
 - Facebook – Richard Howell
 - Posts on websites –Ken Aldridge
- **Security - Bob Weidman**
 - We will be using the same firms as before. (Davis Security and the Grapevine police.)
- **Silent Auction - Ken Wills**
 - We have received a lot of albums and first day covers.
 - We need some stamps and smaller items worth around \$5 or more.
- **Signs – Ralph Poore**
 - We need a crew to look at the signs in storage and decide which ones to replace/fix.
- **Snacks – Richard Hildebrandt** – covered for now.
- **Transportation – Ralph Poore**
 - Dalworth has been reconfirmed.
- **Volunteers– Janet Moyer**
 - The sign-up sheets have been circulated.
 - Encourage the newer members to sign up.
 - We could use some more people at the Chance Wheel.

Other items:

- TPA will continue to be a sponsor.
- If you want to order shirts with the club logo embroidered on them, contact Peter Elias.
- Rick Howell brought up people who arrive early are not happy to be waiting outside. It was discussed and we will let them wait in the lobby (subject to confirmation with the Convention Center facility staff).
- The next meeting will be held on August 8th at David's Barbecue. 11:00 AM lunch, meeting following.
- A motion to adjourn was made by Rick Howell and seconded by Skip Ely. The motion passed.



Photos by Peter Elias



MEET & EAT for

July 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

July 1 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen Rd
Arlington, TX (817) 861-1060

Note: Church meals will resume in the Fall!

FLOWER MOUND

July 15 Jason's Deli, 6020 Long Prairie Rd
Flower Mound, TX (972) 355-3867

GRANBURY

July 28 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX

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

Don't Forget:
TSDA Bourse - June 26-27 (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