

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Eufless Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER
MEMBER



#53-3364

Volume 36, Number 8

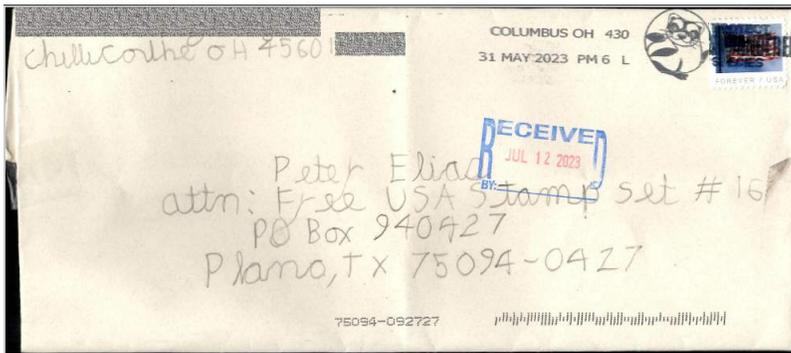
<http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

August 2023

6 Weeks from Columbus to Plano

By Peter Elias

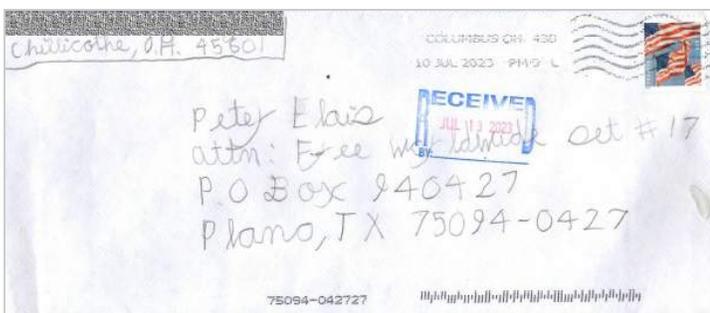
On July 12, I received this in the mail:



This is a typical request that I get a couple of times a week, people asking to receive some of the stamps that I give away in return for an SASE to mail them back in. When I first looked at the envelope, I noticed that it wasn't actually an envelope, it was a piece of paper fold to appear to be an envelope (and taped on the back & sides). Apparently the requestor (a 12-year old budding stamp collector) did not have an envelope big enough to fit an unfolded #10 envelope, so this piece of paper was folded to be just a bit bigger than the envelope. Nothing wrong with that, it still qualified as standard 1st class mail.

The 2nd thing that caught my eye was the postmark, a nice inkjet spray cancel that was dated May 31. But wait, I received this on July 12! So this took 6 weeks + 1 day to go from Columbus, Ohio to Plano, Texas.

The very next day, July 13, I received another request in the mail from the same sender:



This one was mailed July 10 and managed to reach me in just 3 days (which would be normal). So why did the 1st "envelope" reach me in such a long amount of time compared to the 2nd one?

The handwriting on both envelopes is fairly identical (and he actually misspelled my last name on the 2nd one, yet it arrived quickly). There must be something to this! Have you guessed yet what it could be?

My initial theory was that the 1st envelope was initially misdelivered somewhere else. That happens a fair amount with my particular PO Box number, which ends in 427. So over the years, I've gotten mail for 247, 424, 426, 429, 447, 927, 947, 972 and others. But if you look at how the address is written, while reasonably legible, was there a dyslexic postal employee involved? Hard to say, but given the fact that the handwriting was a bit iffy, the error lies partially in USPS technology.

However, when I looked closer at the bottom of the envelopes, which show the "Postnet" barcode and the accompanying human-readable text to the left, it kind of points clearly to what happened. For the delayed envelope, the Zip+4+2 code shows "0927" as the "+4" part, while the 2nd envelope has it correctly as "0427". Thus the USPS scanning equipment misinterpreted the Zip+4 incorrectly, thinking that "4" in "0427" was really a "9" and encoded it that way. My guess is that the envelope was then placed into PO Box 940927 instead of 940427, where it may laid for a while until that box holder picked up their mail and then had it re-delivered properly. That's my guess (but this has happened before, when the USPS system thought someone's handwritten "9" was actually a "4")! What do you think?

75094-092727

75094-042727

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2023 - 2024 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Ken Aldridge
First Vice-President – Rick Howell
Second Vice-President – Stanley Christmas
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Ralph Poore Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Rich Hildebrandt

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

Hope you all saw the "mini-exhibit" entry form in last month's issue and are contemplating entering something in our display frames at EXPO 2023. If you have done a 1-page exhibit before, you're more than welcome to show it again. It will definitely get more views this time due to the placement of the frames. I've even made filling out the form easier, I'll gladly email you a "fillable" PDF file so you can simply type in the info and then print it (and sign it). What could be easier?

Errata

By Peter Elias

It was pointed out to me that my Brandenburg Gate article in the July issue had a minor error. It stated that the Brandenburg Gate was closed off to the West until after the wall fell on November 9, 1989. That kind of implied that the Gate was available after the wall fell. That is true, but the ability to cross there was not until December 22, 1989, when German Chancellor Helmut Kohl walked through the gate and met with the East German Prime Minister. The following day, West Germans & West Berliners were allowed to travel visa-free through the gate. Note that at that point and final reunifications, East Germany was still a separate country until October 3, 1990. I was there on May 24, 1990, but I don't know what the official policies were regarding entry-visas for "non-West Germans/Berliners". Unfortunately, the limited amount of space in these Been-There articles means I have to leave out some details, but you can always read up more about the Brandenburg Gate at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandenburg_Gate. Even the previous sentences would have meant that I would have to make the font even smaller in the original article.

Coming Attractions

2023

- JUL. 25** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Pitcairn Island: From the Bounty to British Overseas Territory* by Gary McNamee
- AUG. 2** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- AUG. 12** **MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg**
David's BBQ, 2224 W. Park Row Dr, Pantego, 11 AM - 1 PM
- AUG. 16** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- AUG. 22** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Controlled Mail* by Ken Wills
- AUG. 25 & 26** **TSDA Bourse**
DoubleTree Hotel (Bluebonnet Room), 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)
- SEP. 6** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Semi-Annual Auction
- SEP. 9** **MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg**
Location TBD (possibly Dave's BBQ, Pantego), 11 AM - 1 PM
- SEP. 15 - 17** **Greater Houston Stamp Show**
- SEP. 20** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

New Members:

Reinstatements:

n/a

Resignations:

Steven Gruhlke

Membership Summary – July 19, 2023

Membership as of June 21 2023	96
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	0
Did Not Renew for 2023	(0)
Resignations	(1)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of July 19, 2023	96

TV Philately - Edie

By Peter Elias

After looking at the initial screen shot, I saw that it was too bleached out to see the details clearly, so I retook the screen shot and focused only the postcard, which is shown above.

First up, the address. I tried looking up the address as shown on the postcard, but couldn't really find anything close, other than Oxfordshire does exist, and it is northwest of London. The school name, which appears to read "King William VI" doesn't exist near there. The town of what looks like "Morton Perkey" doesn't exist in Oxfordshire, although there is a "Merten"... Oh well, the movie is fiction after all...

Now the philatelic stuff. First of all, the depiction of the 4 pence "Machin" stamp depicting Queen Elizabeth II is obviously a fake / reprint on heavy paper stock and is not perforated.

Perusing my Scott catalog, they list 11 different 4 pence Machins (#MH6 - MH7, and #MH41 - MH49) in a variety of different colors. While I do like Machins in general, I've never done much with them. Perusing 2 of envelopes I have with Machin duplicates, I found these:

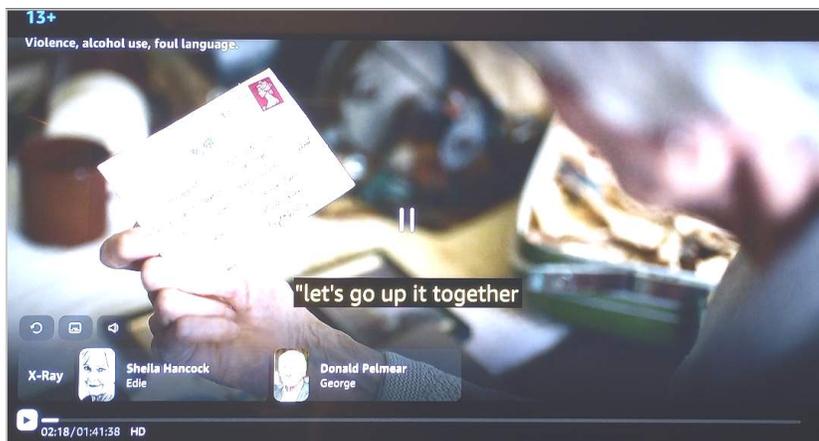


Judging by how near the "4" is to the bottom edge of the design in the fake stamp, I would say that based on Scott's, the "stamp" on the postcard is trying to be #MH6, the "brown black" stamp (while I only have #MH7, at left above, the "bright red" version).

As to the "machine cancel" on the card, it is also fake, the wavy lines don't seem "in sync" (see my red 4D stamp above for spacing between the lines), and there is no circle present that would have the city, date, etc. So it's hard to say what the date would have been, but given the context of the story, this could have been mailed in the late 1960's, so I give the props department credit for at least using a "4D" (sterling currency) stamp (used 1967-69) as opposed to a "4P" (decimal currency) stamp (used starting in 1970).

So as usual, they didn't quite get the postal and philatelic items correct, but as long as it passes muster on screen (for about 2 seconds) that she is holding a postcard that had been mailed. The focus of the shot is supposed to be what the father wrote.

As always, I had fun researching this a bit. If you come across a movie or TV show that features a glimpse of a postal or philatelic item, write about it (a good screen shot is essential).

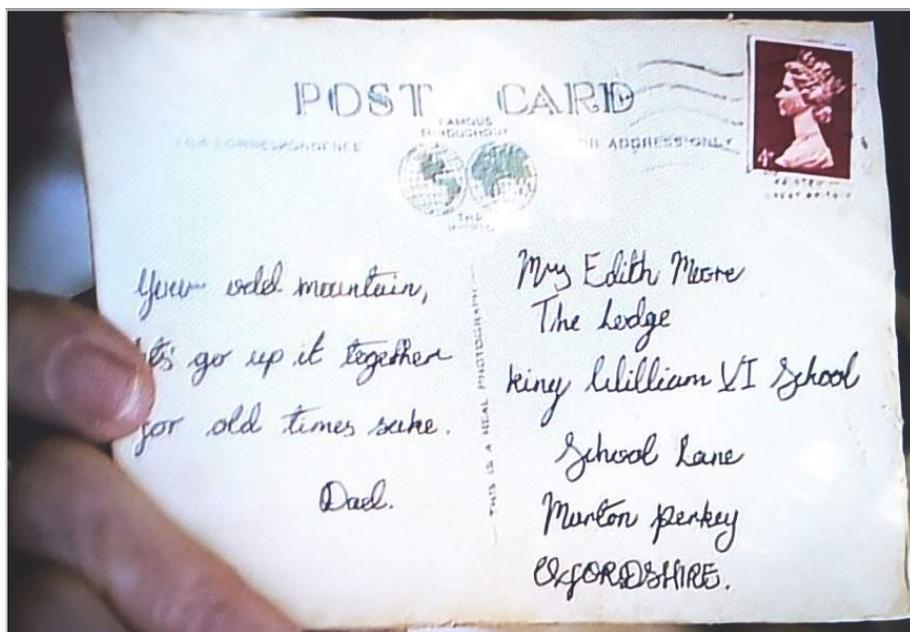


The British movie "Edie" came out in 2017. It is about an elderly (83-year old) widow that decides that the elder-care facility was not for her, and does what everyone in her situation would do, and that is to climb a mountain (a long-time wish of hers!)

Early in the movie, at about 2:18 minutes into it, Edie looks at a postcard that hints at what the rest of the film is about. The screen shot above shows here looking at a postcard that her father wrote her many years ago and it states "Your old mountain, let's go up it together for old times sake. Dad".

The mountain in question (and what is shown on the picture side of the postcard) is "Suilven", a mountain located in the Scottish Highlands and is 2,398 feet above sea level. While that is not terribly high (even I've been at 14,000 feet...), it is a rather strenuous hike to get up there (no "climbing", i.e.: ropes & carabiners are required).

More info on the Suilven mountain can be found here: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suilven> and other websites (just search for "Mount Suilven").



Philatelic Life In A Non-Philatelic Community

By Ray Cartier

On Tuesday, July 11th, I presented a topical presentation to the 8 members of the Longview Stamp Club who showed up. There are only 10 members, one of whom was there after illness had prevented his coming for 5 years. I worked for about a month preparing a Power Point Presentation on "Jules Verne: The Man and his Stories".

I had sought permission from the club leader to send notices to all the other 9 members and submitted a brief PR piece that would take up only 3½ column inches which I wanted to place in the local weekly newspapers in the towns of Longview, Marshall, Jefferson, Kilgore and Tyler. The Jefferson paper didn't print it. None of the 8 members who showed up had seen it and there were no new faces at this "every other month" meeting.

It was after I finished my talk that I learned that none of the 8 members were topical collectors and there was little interest shown in seeing something philatelic that wasn't a number of stock books from the APS. That appears to be the only reason that people show up at their meetings.

From this I realized how important it was to have club members with various collecting pursuits. We all have a chance to learn about other facets of the hobby and see the enthusiasm that our fellow members have for collecting various types of material. The Mid-Cities Stamp Club is fortunate for having such a cross-section of philatelists who take the time to share their interests with us all at each meeting.

My near future plan is to contact the next nearest club in Shreveport, LA, which is an hour's drive rather than the 50 minute drive that I have to take to the Longview Club. When I do call, I'll be sure to ask if they have any topical collectors who show up for meetings there, and to ask what the average attendance is. More on this later. Best to all!



President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

They say winter's a good time for a person to work on their stamp collection. What about summer with high temps? Maybe a blessing we have such a great hobby.

I picked up some mint US sheets (25¢ - 44¢) for 65% of face, I'll bring to the meeting, selling for about 70%.

Coming up at the August 2 Arlington meeting, Rick Howell has 2 15-minute videos on various stamp collecting aspects. Also, remember to bring your September auction lots to the August meeting.

Stay cool, and remember, the days are getting shorter.

Happy collecting!

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes July 5, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

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

Announcements:

- Vice President Rick Howell made three announcements:
 - August meeting will be "clean out your closet".
 - APS sales books have arrived.
 - Mix-Pix Bags are available.
- Janet Clough, past APS President and judge for our EXPO in 2016, passed away.
- TSDA event will be in Houston on July 7-8.
- Eules meeting will be held July 19; the Meat & Eat will be at Jason's Deli.
- Ralph Poore announced the EXPO planning meeting on August 12, at Dave's BBQ 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- The Granbury Meeting will be July 25 with the Meat & Eat at Grumps.
- Ralph reminded people to sign the EXPO volunteer sheet.
- The Arlington Meeting will be on August 2
- Dave Stockbridge announced he got 20 new APS books.

Show & Tell:

- There were no show & tells.

Gift Certificates

- Four gift certificates were issued and the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Program:

- The program was the stamp sales in the back of the room.

A Closer Look: Germany #298

By Peter Elias



<-- I'm sure you have all seen this stamp before, Germany #298, issued on October 26, 1923 during the incredible inflationary period in Germany at that time.

This series, which comprises 18 perforated and 9 serrate roulette versions have a fairly simple design, with each denomination having a different color for the background and a darker color for the denominations, which range from 500 Thousand Marks to 50 Billion Marks (called "Milliarden" in German) in the #280 - 299 series, all of which have just a minimum catalog value (25¢). The Milliarden denominations have the font in *italics*. There are 9 more stamps with overprints. All are printed via lithography.

In mint condition, #280-299 are easy to find, sometimes even in the "freebie" boxes at EXPO. Used is a different matter; this one was postmarked in "Bühl" on November 20, 1923 at 4 to 5 PM. Due to the much higher catalog value in used condition, there are lots of faked cancels on these (even faked on covers, which if genuine, are worth much more). I can't judge whether this is an authentic or fake postmark.

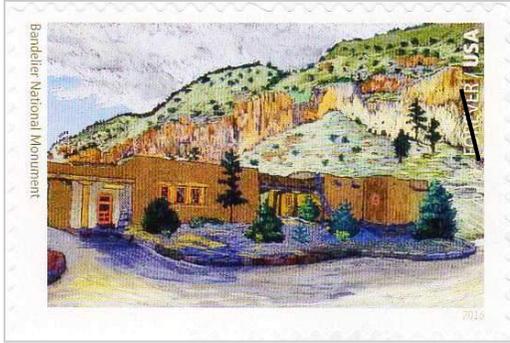
According to the Michel catalog, on November 20, 1923, all postage rates doubled from just 8 days earlier (and an astounding 20 times higher than just 15 days prior!); the rate for a 100 - 250 gram domestic item was now 20 Milliarden -Marks (while a lighter 25 gram letter was only 4 Milliarden Marks). So it is hard to say what this stamp was used on (another reason not to soak stamps off postcards, covers or package fronts)!

The bottom example is #308, the roulette version of #298, of which this is a fairly poor example (but the only one I have).

This is an interesting area to collect, inexpensive to start, but can quickly cost more! Ready-set-collect!

Bandelier National Monument

By Peter Elias



©2016 USPS

In June 2016, the USPS issued a sheetlet of 16 Forever stamps to celebrate the centennial of the US National Park Service. Scott #5080k,

features the Administrative Building in Frijole Canyon, based on a drawing by artist Helmut Nauer. It is shown slightly enlarged.

Bandelier National Monument is located about 20 miles northwest of Santa Fe in New Mexico (near Los Alamos) as the crow flies, but if driving there, it's 40 miles.

While Bandelier is a "National Monument", it is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). According to the NPS, the difference is that a National Park contains a variety of resources and is fairly large, while a National Monument is smaller and intended to protect only one nationally significant resource.

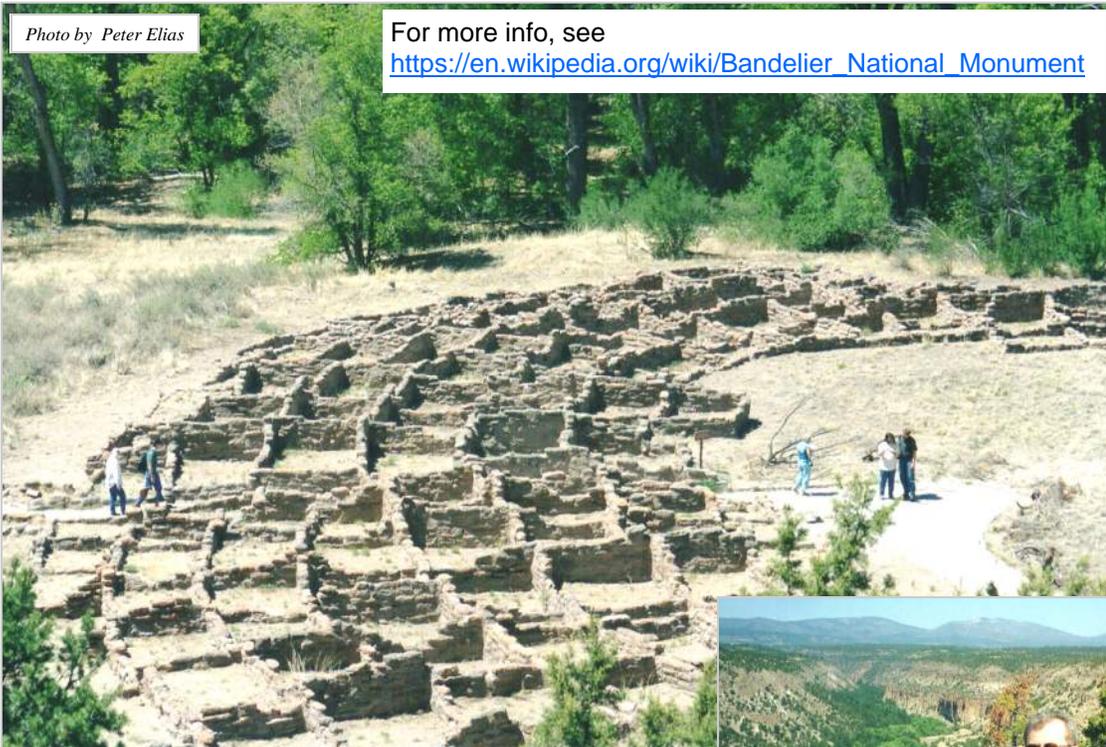


Photo by Peter Elias

For more info, see

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

Bandelier was designated a National Monument by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and is named after Swiss-American archeologist Adolph Bandelier who researched this area.

Shown above is a structure left over from the Ancestral Pueblo peoples that inhabited the area from around 1100 to 1600 AD, although human presence has been dated to 10,000 years ago.

In addition to stone structures, the Pueblo also carved dwellings into the sides of the mountains.

On May 18, 2002 (well before the issuance of the

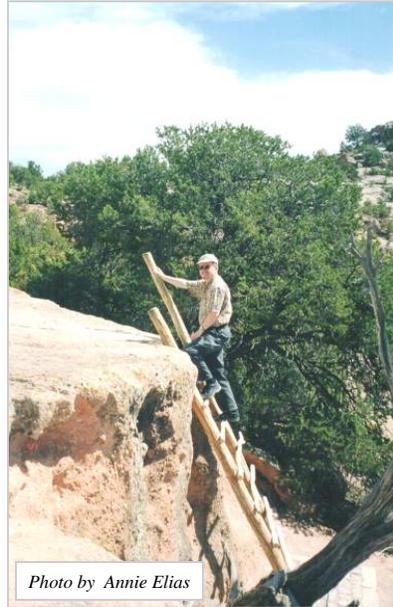
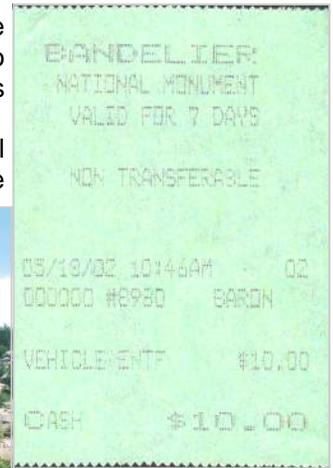


Photo by Annie Elias



stamp), Annie & I were on a trip to Santa Fe and decided to visit Bandelier (see entry ticket above).

Seeing Bandelier requires using various wooden ladders such as the one seen to the left, especially when visiting the cave dwellings on the sides of the mountain.

Without any disrespect to the artist whose work is on the stamp, why choose an administrative building to visually represent this park? All the other stamps features spectacular (& non-administrative) views relating to the respective parks. Surely someone could have found something more representative of Bandelier...

In any case, Bandelier National Monument was a wonderful place to visit and if in the Santa Fe, be sure to visit it!

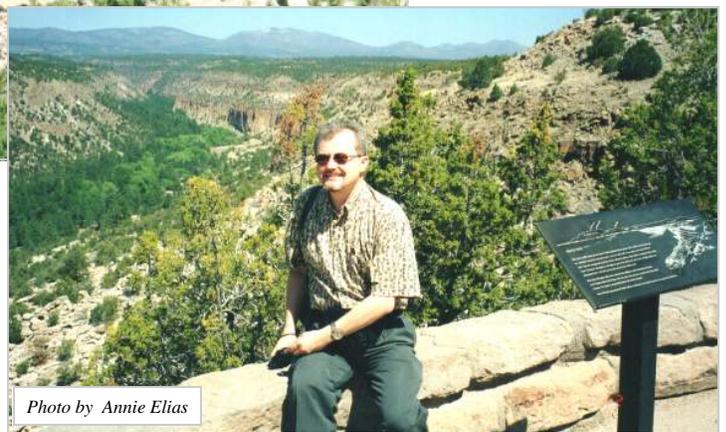


Photo by Annie Elias

MCSC Euleless Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2023

By Skip Ely (filling in for Janet Moyer)

Attendance:

- 8 members and 2 guests were in attendance..

Opening:

- Second Vice President, Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:25 PM. He provided a brief summary of recent developments with some of our older newsletters.

Officer Reports:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was substituting for Janet.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Stanley Christmas said sales books were on a table just outside the meeting room door. He noted that sales has been slow this month.
- EXPO - Stanley mentioned the EXPO planning meeting scheduled for August 12 at David's BBQ.

Newsletter - Peter said he was almost done.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell showed some recent souvenir sheets from Great Britain featuring Paul McCartney, The Black Adder television series and Robin Hood.
- Larry Wright passed around a 1955 version of the Scott U.S. Specialized catalog he had located.
- Ken Wills showed some Betty Boop souvenir sheets from Chad and Guinea.
- Peter Elias talked about a 2012 APC thermal meter stamp that showed beginnings of the gum leaching into the paper. He then showed a recent postcard from the PostCrossing Group, of which he is a member. He also talked about the cost of a certificate of mailing he was forwarding to a collector friend in Japan. He then showed a sheet of one of the last personalized postage authorized by the USPS from Stamps.com. Finally, he passed around two envelopes from the same person, one delivered in about six weeks after mailing, the other in about three days, and challenged the group to guess why there was such a difference (the answer will probably be in the newsletter).
- Skip Ely showed some examples of a recent donation.
- Stanley Christmas gave a summary of his June 27 talk at Granbury about the Adams Experimental Airmail Pick Up Service from the 1930s.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Peter Elias and Judy Christmas. Rick Howell received a used U.S. \$10 *Waves of Color* stamp donated by Ken Wills.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.

Think About It - Then Act!

By Ken Wills

Do these scenarios seem plausible?:

1. "I have been searching for ever for the two stamps missing from this set. In the end I gave up and just went ahead and bought the entire set, so all the ones I originally had are now surplus."
2. "I put together this nice little collection of horses on stamps for my daughter. Well, it turns she has totally lost interest in them."
3. "Some years ago I started to accumulate items that would become the basis of a specialized collection. Developing this was going to take me into some interesting research into a new branch of my hobby. I have kept procrastinating and don't really see myself ever taking the time to do this. One of these days..."

If the above scenarios sound familiar, then they can lead to a perfect donation to the silent auction at this year's EXPO! So yes, please think about it — then act!

*Been There,
Done That*



Grossmünster

By Peter Elias

On a nice sunny and not-too-hot September 1, 2000 (wow, almost a quarter century ago!), I visited the "Grossmünster" (*Gross* in German means "large" or "great" and *Münster* in German translates to "minster" or "cathedral").

The Grossmünster is one of many churches in Zürich, Switzerland's largest city, and is a Romanesque-style Protestant church. It is located on the banks of the Limmat river, which empties from Lake Zürich (see the pictures I took below, also

taken in 2000 and an older one from 1986), about the same time as the entry ticket for the towers - yup, they charged CHF 2.00 admission, about \$2.10 at the time. Granted, from what I remember, entering the building was free, but climbing up to the tower required an admission fee.

The Grossmünster was constructed on the site of an even older church; the construction of the present building started in 1100 and it was inaugurated around 1220. Think about that for a minute. It's been around for well over 1,000 years!

The twin towers are one of the most recognized in Zürich. Since there isn't enough space in a column like this to recite all the history, there's a bit more to read at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grossm%C3%BCnster#Architecture>.

The stamp at top is Switzerland #387 (slightly enlarged) and was issued in 1960 and almost 190 million were printed; they are still valid as postage (~US\$0.30) as per the stamp catalog published by the Swiss Association of Stamp Dealers. Unfortunately I don't have a mint copy of that stamp, so for once, a used one will have to suffice. This stamp is part of a larger series that featured various Swiss buildings. I always liked that particular definitive series. They are simple, but nicely engraved designs and printed in a single colors.



Been There,
Done That

NOT Kris Kringle

By Peter Elias

In December 2022, I received the cover from Austria that you see to the right. It is nice usage of 2 Austrian ATM stamps that are inscribed with "CHRISTKINDL 22" and a pictorial postmark on 12.12.2022 (and at least no confusion as to whether the "12's" are for "December" or the "12th" day..., but it is technically "12 December 2022") from the Austrian village of Christkindl, which has a postal code of 4411. It is a "destination" for people at Christmas time.

When I first moved to the US, people kept talking about "Kris Kringle", and that it is another word for "Santa Claus", a gift bringer to children. Of course "Santa Claus" is derived from the Dutch "Sinter Klaas", which in turn refers to Saint Nicholas, a 12th century Bishop from Turkey known for his generosity.

But of course, "Christkindl" (and various variants) are all related to the "Christ Child" ("Kind" in German is "child") and the celebration of Christmas and the night on which he was born, so "Christkindl" must have somehow morphed into Kris Kringle somewhere in 1800's by German-Americans (judging by some US books published in the 1840's).

Back in the day, St. Nicholas was depicted as a gift giver that also had a helper named "Krampus" (or also known as Black Peter or Ruprecht, the northern German version of Krampus). Ruprecht usually wore a brown or black robe and had a long walking stick. Around 1966 (see photo), my parents hired a Rent-A-St. Nick in Switzerland to pay us a visit and make sure that we were good and well-behaved kids. You see a part of a black broom, held by Ruprecht (out of frame), probably ready to take us away in a bag if we weren't good. Growing up in Switzerland, we didn't know anything about a big guy with a beard climbing down a chimney to bring us our Christmas presents; it would have been St. Nicholas (and Christ Kindl was simply the Christ Child and didn't bring presents). And we didn't have a chimney (we lived in an apartment that had hot water pipe heating...). The connection between these is based on "gift giving" ..

So, do you think that between Kris Kringle, Christkindl, St. Nicholas and Santa Claus, it's all a bit confusing? It sure was to me after we moved to the USA! ... but hey, it's a "Been There..." !



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://www.betweentheperfs.com/MCSC>

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



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Postcard vs. Postal Card

By Peter Elias

Postcard versus Postal Card. They sound kind of similar, don't they? But they're not exactly the same thing...

Here is what the [definition](#) is according to the US Postal Service: "Stamped cards, called postal cards prior to 1999, refer to mailing cards issued by the Postal Service with postage stamps imprinted on them. Postcards refer to privately printed and sold cards that require a stamp for mailing. In popular usage, the terms postal card and postcard (also spelled post card) were often used interchangeably".

And I think that for many people, if they are not aware of that definition, use the two terms incorrectly many times. Key to remember is the word "postal", meaning that it originates from the "postal" service.

Postal "cards" are one of several types of "postal stationery" that post offices issue (although not all are still available or usable these days).

Here are the main types of postal stationery, all of which would generally have the postage imprinted:

Postal Cards	Postal Reply Cards
Postal Envelopes	Letter Cards
Aerogrammes	Wrappers

Most of these are / were also "privately" produced, in which case they were without postage when purchased from a store or other vendor.

on watermarked card stock, and the "wavy line" is watermark is fairly easily seen.

What caught my eye was the postmarks on the front and back of the card. These were railway cancels. On the front, the cancel indicates that it was "Bahnpost" (train mail) and was on the Mannheim to Würzburg line, in this case, train #9 and was mailed on March 28, 1890. The arrival cancel is on the back and is from Wuerzburg (spelled with alternate "ue" instead of "ü") and states that it arrived the next day on March 29 between 9 to 10 AM ("Vor. 9 - 10"). The sad thing is that someone used hinges to mount this card, leaving remnants that can't be easily removed because this is on card stock.

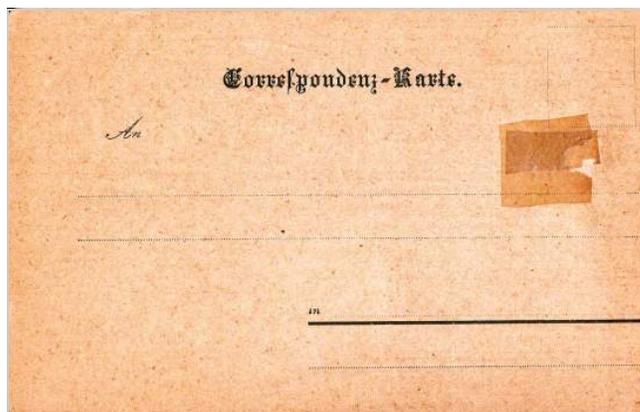
While "postal cards" got their start fairly early on (Austria in 1869), private "post cards" in the USA did start in 1870, but paid the letter rate. In 1898, a special rate for "postcards" was approved in the USA, making it the same rate (1¢) as the less expensive "postal cards".



At the recent TSDA bourse (June 23-24), I did find both of the cards shown in this article. The card above is an unmailed Austrian (picture) post card from 1898, and is printed in color. Since it doesn't have postage printed on it, I know it is from Austria because "Wien" (Vienna) is mentioned on the picture side. While they could have called this a "Postkarte", it is imprinted "Correspondenz-Karte" on the address side. And sadly, as with the other card, has hinge remnants present.



Shown above is a "postal card". This card is from the Kingdom of Bavaria and was used in 1890. It is



In any case, both are nice example of postal and post cards! Oh, and according to the USPS, "postal cards" are now called "stamped cards" ...

Fort Charlotte

By Peter Elias



Back in 1993, I had the first visit to my favorite island: St. Vincent, whose stamps I've been collecting since 1975.. After 18 years of collecting stamps from this Caribbean island, I finally got to see it person. Having seen various

scenery via St. Vincent's stamps over the years, my dream came true! At the time, given that you couldn't easily fly there directly from the USA (the airport did not accommodate jets at the time), it wasn't that "touristy" (unlike Jamaica, the Bahamas, etc), which was fine with me. No mega American-style resorts, just a few smaller privately run hotels and resorts. Most "tourists" I ran into were either from Europe or Australia.

I'm not much of a "beach bum" (i.e.: I tend to burn before I tan ...), so I'd rather explore and see the sights. Coming from Europe, I always like to visit Forts and Castles. St. Vincent has 2 of those! One of those is Fort Duvernette, which sits on top of a tall rock offshore on the southeastern side of the island (see blue arrow on the photo at the top of the 2nd column) and which I covered in the May 2011 issue of Stamping Around. So 12+ years later, I'm finally getting around to Fort #2: Fort Charlotte (from which the photo at top right was taken and also shows Kingstown & its harbor).

Fort Charlotte is situated on the southeast corner of the island, on top of a hill and overlooking the harbor of Kingstown, the main city, to the east. The map from 1956 below shows Fort Charlotte. This map hangs on my office wall (and is based on an original engraving from 1865). Due to it being behind glass, I had to photograph it as opposed to scanning it (which is difficult, as it's almost 2x3 feet in size, below is a small cropped portion).

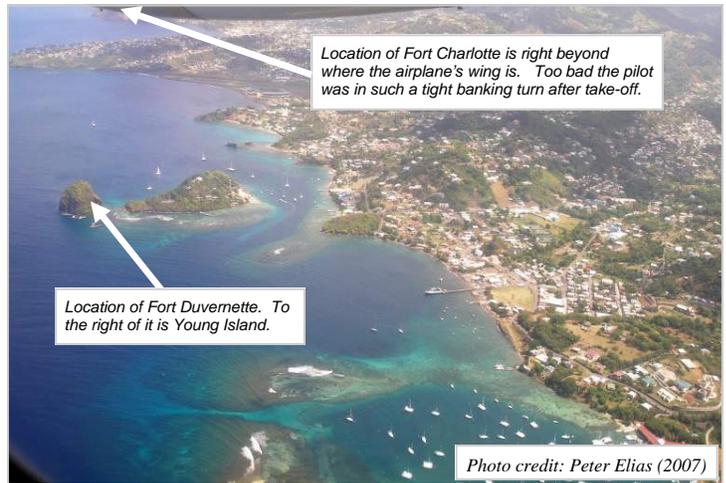
Fort Charlotte (which is named after Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, the wife of King George III), is a Colonial Era fort and is about 600 feet above sea level. A single road leads up to it. After the British retook St. Vincent from the French in 1763, they built the fort which was completed in 1806. It could house about 600 troops and had 34 canons (one of which is seen in my photo below). It was designed to guard against the French, Carib Indians' unrest and slave rebellions. There is



Photo credit: Peter Elias (1993)

some more info at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Charlotte%2C_Saint_Vincent and some photos at Wikimedia [here](#).

I vaguely remember walking down the road from the Fort and seeing a goat... While I was in St. Vincent again in 2007, I don't remember whether we visited Fort Charlotte (I'll have to review the videotape...), but when we were airborne (heading towards Barbados for our connecting flight to Miami), I got a nice aerial view of that side of the island (see below). Luckily I sat on the left side of the plane, otherwise it would have been an ocean view).



Location of Fort Charlotte is right beyond where the airplane's wing is. Too bad the pilot was in such a tight banking turn after take-off.

Location of Fort Duvernette. To the right of it is Young Island.

Photo credit: Peter Elias (2007)

Fort Charlotte has been on various older St. Vincent stamps, showing up in the background (on the hill below the "NC" of Vincent) on #143 (top left), and with the same general design, also the 1½ pence issue from 1938, in 1949 as a 3¢ version (#158), the overprinted 1951 3¢ issue (#176) and again as a 6¢ stamp in 1952 (#183). Whether there are any later stamps from the QEII featuring the fort, I don't know, as after the mid-1980's, stamp issuing policies denigrated to showing Corvettes, Trains, US Baseball players and other things that don't pertain to the island...



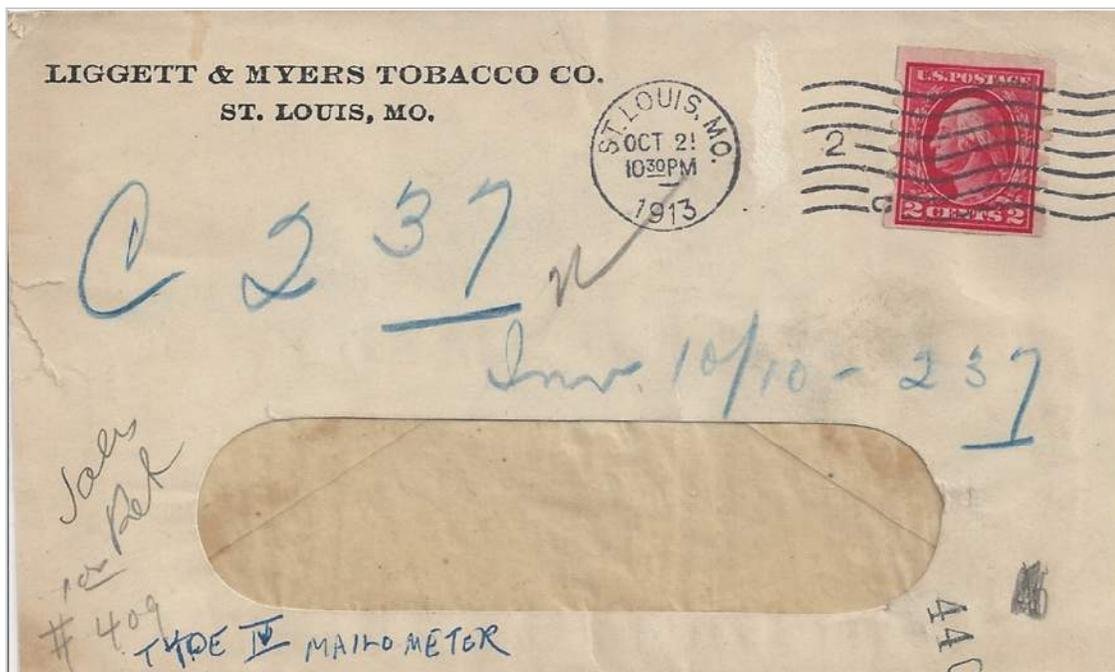
Photo credit: Peter Elias (1993)

The Cover Story

By Rick Howell

When I was a lot younger, I did a tremendous amount of research on shipwrecks of the Spanish Armada. Do you know there are an estimated four hundred Spanish Galleons sunk off the coast of Florida, most of which were carrying a cargo of gold from South America back to the King of Spain? There is a large percentage of the world's mined gold hidden under the sands of Florida just waiting to be found.

I guess that's why I love searching through the dollar cover boxes of our favorite dealers at the TSDA stamp shows. The potential is always there to find a cover worth a lot of money, or at least more than the dollar you are spending on it. It doesn't compare to diving off the coast of Florida, but it doesn't cost me as much either and I am not as young and adventurous as I was in those days.



At the June TSDA show in Richardson, I found the cover shown above.

Now, this cover is not the most attractive cover in my collection, and certainly not the ugliest in my collection, but somehow it piqued my interest as I was shuffling through a stack of dollar covers. So, what about this cover could possibly be interesting enough to make me spend a buck on it?

Take a closer look at the perforations on the stamp. This picture will probably help a little.

Whoa! Those are some HUGE perforations. After some searching in my Scott's Specialized Catalog, I found

this example under "Vending & Affixing Machine Perforations" listed as a Mailometer Type IV catalog number 409 listed at around \$40.00 on cover in my 2020 catalog. Now since the cover is not in the greatest condition, I presume the value will be reduced somewhat, but it is still a somewhat interesting piece of postal history.

Between 1906 and 1927, the Post Office Department produced sheets of 400 imperforate stamps at the

request of several vending and affixing machine companies so they could produce custom-made coils and custom perforations for use by their customers. This resulted in many different configurations of stamps which are listed in the Scott Specialized. If you get a chance, check it out..

[MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes](#)

[June 27, 2023](#)

by Judy Christmas

Editor's Note: Minutes for this meeting are presently not available according to Judy.

Feuerwerke

By Peter Elias

Since this is the August issue of Stamping Around, I figured that it would be timely to do an article about Fireworks (which is what the title is in German).

But why August, aren't major fireworks usually on July 4th? Well, yes, but ... (read on).

Ok, first: I do try to make it to fireworks displays nearby when I can (unless cancelled due to rain or other pesky things like Covid, which caused the city to cancel the celebration locally). But alas, in 2022, we got our fireworks back:



Photo credits on this page: Peter Elias

The picture above I took last year at our favorite spot, overlooking the lake at Breckinridge Park in Richardson. Perfect spot for what I'd say is an awesome 25-minute non-stop barrage of fireworks! They are set off from the edge of the soccer fields on the north side of the lake. Many years ago, those soccer fields were a landfill, and they created Breckinridge Park, which now has 5 miles of paths, great for walking & bike riding. We walk there.



Poking around my stamp collection, I found these 2 US stamps, both from 1987 that feature fireworks. The left stamp is Scott #2267, a 22¢ first class



stamp; it was part of a set of 10 booklet stamps with subjects such as "Get Well", "Thank You", "Best Wishes", "Love You, Mother", etc). Later that year came #2276, a 22¢ "Flag & Fireworks" booklet stamp was issued.

Further along in the Scott catalog is #3189f, a 33¢ stamp issued as part of the CTC (Celebrate-The-Century) series of souvenir sheets that features the 1970's decade, so in this case, celebrating the US Bicentennial with fireworks behind the Statue of Liberty. There is also fireworks on USA Scott #4853, 4854 & 4855 issued in 2014, but I don't have a copies of those.



While here in the DFW area, I've mostly gone to the Richardson fireworks, we also (one time each) went to downtown Dallas and to Addison's "Kaboom Town". Nice as they were, it was just too crowded and having to deal with parking. And from the Richardson location, one also just make out the Southfork Ranch & Plano fireworks in the distance! So, keeping it close to home has worked out best!

And then there were these:



These were fireworks celebrating the Swiss National Day in Zürich on August 1, 2013. Now you know why "August" is relevant. I happened to be there on vacation (wow, that was a decade ago!). The picture above I took AFTER our dinner & fireworks lake cruise on Lake Zürich.



Our boat was the "Helvetia". It is appropriately named, as Helvetia is the Latin name for Switzerland! Small as Switzerland is (about twice the size of the greater DFW Metro area), there 140 ships similar to this plying the Swiss lakes (and another 97,659 privately registered boats) [according to Swiss government](#).



Knowing that we would be in Switzerland for their National Holiday, I purchased dinner cruise tickets before we left (& hope that we would actually make it).

The picture at top was taken from a bridge in Zürich after the cruise, since it was really hard to take photos in the dark from a moving ship on a lake (and no tripod).



According to the personalized reservation card, the cruise was from 8 PM to 10:45 PM. The food was excellent! You can see Annie (and me in the reflection) in the photo above.

As always, the a photo triggered me finding the stamps and other related photos! There would be more to write about (such as the [history of fireworks](#) themselves), but space is limited!

Letter Cards

By Peter Elias

them, nor do I recall seeing any USA "letter cards"; these are all generally foreign in nature.

Then there are "letter sheets", which as the name



This brief article is a continuation of the subject about "postal stationery" started on the previous page. Shown above, from Brazil and Mexico, are two of what are called "Letter Cards". While not dated, they are from the late 1800's or early 1900's.

These are sort of a hybrid combination of an Envelope and Postal Card. They feature a front and back side and are folded in half, with a water-activated glue (i.e.: "lick 'n stick") that covers the space between the perforations and the outer edge. To open the letter card, one would have to tear off the perforations on the 3 sides. Thus an actually postally used example would rarely ever have the whole card be intact (unless you steamed it open).

The advantage to letter cards is that one can write more than on a regular card and that this is now private (unlike a postcard or postal card) as the writing is sealed inside the folded card.

The letter cards that I have run across, such as the examples above are always nicely printed. These two are unmailed examples and still have the gum intact.

To my knowledge, the US Post Office never offered "letter cards". Not to say that privately printed "cards" which could have been folded, sealed and had a stamp manually attached weren't available in the USA, there were no letter cards with pre-printed postage on

implies, are "sheets", not cards, and thus are much thinner than cards. While some countries issued letter sheets as far back as the Venetian letter sheets from 1608, they predate postage stamps by a couple of centuries.

The USA never had "letter sheets" either (to my knowledge), but had a form of letter sheet, called an "aerogramme", which are similar to letter cards in that they also get folded and glued, but not until well into the aviation era. According to the Scott catalog, the first USA aerogramme was issued in 1947 and they were phased out in 1999. Given that Aerogrammes were made from relatively thin paper, they would not hold up well to the current USPS automation and mail handling equipment! Aerogrammes could not have any enclosures, and as far as I know, neither could letter cards. In the USA (and presumably other countries as well), Aerogrammes had a slightly lower postage rate.

If you want to add an interesting area to collect, try looking into postal stationery. It is a fascinating area, and really not collected that much (i.e.: bargains might be available!). In my years of occasionally dabbling with various forms of postal stationery, I do have to say that generally speaking, postal stationery items from the late 1800's (and early 1900's) from various Central & South American countries are some of the nicest ones out there, and mint examples are plenty. Used items would certainly add various elements of postal history as well.

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: 1¢ – 20¢ : 70% of FV; 21¢ – 50¢ : 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

Argentina Revenue Document

By Peter Elias

Revenue stamps on a receipt or document are analogous to what postage stamps are on a mailed cover (postal history). And just as with postage stamps on a cover, a revenue stamp on a receipt or document, tells much more of a story.



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 \$ 7.95 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: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

Estate Appraisals



Jonathan Topper
13100 Wortham Center
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Houston, TX 77065
832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

In this case, it appears to be a receipt from Buenos Aires, Argentina, dated June 1, 1960. The receipt was for a sum of 1,000 pesos received by a “Rudellat & Company” when they withdrew this sum from their account (so presumably this might have been for a withdrawal from a bank or other financial institution or perhaps a company).

The receipt document itself has “Republica Argentina” printed in the background. So I presume it was provided or sold by the government to people or institutions that need to provide receipts, for which in turn revenue stamps had to be used to pay the “documentary” fee (which was probably based on the value of the transaction). In this case a fee of 1 peso (via 50¢ stamps) was paid, and I'm glad someone didn't soak the stamps off !



MEET & EAT for

August 2023

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & Eats" are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM and start ordering at that time. However, latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 to 6:30 PM with the Arlington new meeting start time now being at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

August 2 **El Chico**, 1549 S Bowen Rd, Pantego, TX 76013-3335 (817-265-8335).

EULESS

August 16 **Taco Casa**, 731 S Industrial Blvd, Euless, TX (817-684-3400)

GRANBURY

August 22 **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 \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!)! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 1/21

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:
EXPO Planning Meeting - Aug. 12
TSDA Bourse - Aug. 25 - 26