

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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



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May 2023

Elf Oddity

By Peter Elias

Earlier in April I received one of the many requests that I get for free stamps that I give away. It came in a #6 envelope that in turn held a folded #6 SASE. Both stamps on the envelope were from the "Elves" Holiday stamps from last year, Scott #5722 & 5723.

Below is a scan where I overlaid a booklet (left side) that I had along with the 2 stamps that were used. The right stamp was from the cover mailed to me, the 2nd of right was on the SASE. I had just applied my return address handstamp, when I noticed something...



Below is what these look like when held at a certain angle against a light source.



Given the slight size difference between that clear mottled overcoat between the right side of the left stamp and left side of the right stamp, that is probably due to these stamps being on the left & right sides respectively on the narrow selvedge strip (see blue arrows on the scan) between the 2 stamps (so either stamps #2 & 3 or #4 & 5 on the top row of the booklet pane; possibly also could have been from #2 & #3 on the reverse side of this booklet).

The stamps on the envelopes and my booklet all glow properly under shortwave UV light (and that mottled overprint does not glow). All that mottled overprinting does show up a bit as slightly mottled (minor "white dots") when seen via a scan or head-on with eye-balls...). In regards to any clear overcoat (if present on the my booklet), that appears to be uniform on all stamps, sort of an "eggshell" sheen.

Comparing the top of the stamps, the white fluff ball on the female elf's hat is a bit (~1 mm) further down from the straight line die-cut of the booklet, compared to the stamp on the SASE. That, however, might just be a cutting variance when the booklets were cut.

So here's the question[s]:

1. Are the stamps on the envelopes genuine (I know that my booklet is, as I bought it at the Plano, TX 75074 main post office). [Note: Is there supposed to be micro-printing on these stamps?]
2. Genuine or not, what explains this unusual odd-shaped mottled clear overprint (that appears to run across what would have been the thin selvedge strip, and possibly other stamps in the booklet pane)?

While I have worked in the printing industry (both flexo & gravure printing in the flexible packaging manufacturing industry, as well as the printing ink manufacturing industry), I can't explain what could possibly create this phenomena. I have forwarded the above info to Jay Bigalke at Linn's. Any comments are welcome!

USPS Mid-Year Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

The USPS has proposed various mid-year postage rate increases, scheduled to take effect on July 9, 2023, pending approval by the PRC (Postal Rate Commission). Amongst other rate increases, 1st class postage will increase from 63¢ to 66¢. That would make it a 10% increase so far this year. I'll publish my usual condensed "rate chart" once I have the finalized rates.

New Mid-Cities Stamp Club Address

By Peter Elias

Effective immediately, the club's new mailing address is as follows:

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

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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>

Coming Attractions

2023

APR. 25	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	<i>The Story of Two Babe's</i> by Jim Case
MAY 3	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Club Auction
MAY 17	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAY 23	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 7	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	TBD
JUN. 10	MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg
Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington	
JUN. 21	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
JUN. 23 & 24	TSDA Bourse
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)	
JUN. 27	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	The Adams Airmail Pick-up Service by Stanley Christmas



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Gosh, my "letters to the editor" mailbox is full of chirping crickets... While I'm not expecting any "mailed" letter (ooh, and hopefully with a commemorative stamp on it!), e-mailed letters are of course welcome as well.

For example, see the "USPS Tracking Limits" article elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have any comments about what is presented, I'd love to hear about it!

Thank You!

By Skip Ely

The club would like to thank member Robert Bray for his generous donation of stamps, covers and reference material. It will all find a home in either the Mix Pick table, Chance Board prizes, Silent Auction, or Beginners.

Errata

By Peter Elias

In last month's (April) issue, I accidentally had the March Granbury meeting listed as March 21; it should have been March 28 of course. Feeble excuse: Most Granbury (4th Tuesday) is usually the week following the Eules (3rd Wednesday); and since 4 is 1 more than 3, I usually just look at the next calendar line following the Eules meeting, but that was wrong in this case. Next time something similar happens is in November, when the Granbury meeting is a whopping 13 days after the Eules meeting, so practically 2 weeks later!

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

New Members:

Mark B. Kirby (#654)
Tom Montgomery (#655)
Curtis Christensen (#656)

Reinstatements:

n/a

Resignations:

X

Did Not Renew for 2023:

Membership Summary – March 15, 2023

Applications Received (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	3
Did Not Renew for 2023	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of March 15, 2023	97

EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- EXPO Chairperson Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:38 AM.

In attendance were:

- Ralph Poore
- Stanley Christmas
- Judy Christmas
- Janet Moyer
- Patty Poore
- Ruth Nelson
- Alliene Franklin
- Kathryn Storey
- Rick Howell
- Ken Aldridge
- Jim Taylor
- Tom Cunningham

Minutes:

- The minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted.

Committee Reports:

- Chairman Ralph Poore announced this is the third meeting for this year's EXPO.
- There were no electronic reports sent to share.
- Bourse - Tom Cunningham said he has sent notices to prospective dealers. He plans to mail contracts by the end of April and hopefully receive them by the end of May.
- Tom Cunningham will work with Stanley Christmas on the layout of the tables this year.
- Cachet - Diana Davis has been asked to work on the EXPO Program Cover artistry.
- Chance Board - Patti Poore is working on the Chance Board.
 - She is regrouping the stamps.
 - She needs a frame that will hold the chance board.
 - She could use some prizes for the special envelopes. – Alliene volunteered some.
- Treasurer - Judy Christmas will send everyone a copy of the budget.
- Lunches will be available.
- Mixture Pick can always use stamps - bring them to the meeting.
- Program- Stanley will get the program ready for Janet to print.
- Silent Auction items are needed.
- A raffle item will be raffled. Tom Cunningham will work on finding an item.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be June 10th at 11:15 at Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington.
- The following meetings after June 10 will be August 12, September 23 and October 7.

Adjournment:

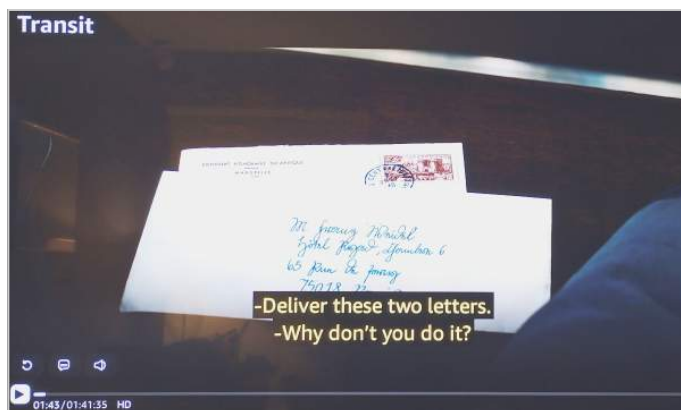
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 PM.

TV Philately - Transit

By Peter Elias

The movie "Transit" is a 2018 German movie that is based on a 1944 novel by Anna Seghers, and was inspired by her own experiences fleeing the Nazi occupation of France.

The title "Transit" refers to the "transit visa's" that the characters in the movie try to obtain as part of them fleeing to Central / South America, but requires them to go via New York.



At one point early in the movie, one of the characters (a writer) asks his friend (not a writer) to hand-deliver two messages to a friend in Vichy Marseille (after France fell to Nazi Germany). One was a letter from the Mexican Consulate in Marseille, the other the wife of the friend. These two envelopes are shown briefly, and the upper one appears to have a French stamp on it, and a postmark dated 28 ?? 40 (1940).



First, is the postmark a good representation of cancels used in France at the time? It certainly looks like what would have been a cancel from that time period, but, I don't have anything else from France from that time period to compare with.

After perusing the Scott catalog, the stamp in question appears to be a crude reproduction of Scott #392, issued on June 23, 1939 and depicts Porte Chaussée (the "Road Gate") in Verdun. The image is too indistinct to tell whether the stamp has perfs. Using an image of this stamp at least puts in the approximate time frame of the story, but what is shown is definitely a reproduction.

So did they get it right? Mostly yes, obviously the envelope is a movie prop, but it is reasonably "credible".

Now, what is interesting is, that in the movie, this 1940 letter is considered "current", but the entire movie takes place in modern day France (i.e.: modern cars and everything...), however, many of the interior scenes are shot in locations that do kind of evoke the 1940's. There are even "military types" running around in the movie as part of the "occupation force", but they don't have WWII insignia, but the whole thing is basically the 1944 story adapted to a modern background, and is definitely an interesting way to tell the story (and surely less expensive than trying to filming this as a "period piece").

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2023

By Joe McFarland (submitted by Dave Stockbridge)

Welcome & Opening:

- Dave Stockbridge opened the meeting at 7 PM with 10 members and 2 guests present. The guests were Ernie Owen from Arlington with a lake place in Granbury and Robert Edwards of Clifton, TX.

Show & Tell:

- Denny Ludlow showed a \$20 Australian stamp with gold foil that contains an error.
- Bob Coleman showed a postal card souvenir mail-mat. The card is obtained from a mail box.
- Gary McNamee passed around a pamphlet from the Pitcairn Study Group. He also noted that the Scott numbers for Australia were different by about 100 numbers in one publication than a newer publication.
- Guest Robert Edwards brought several albums of stamps that had been given to him by a neighbor. He is trying to decide whether to dispose or become a collector. The group in attendance urged him to become a collector and join the club.
- Robert Owen said he had his brother-in-law's collection to dispose of and includes FDC albums and books plus 3 albums for sale.

Announcements:

- Dave announced that he had heard from a former member who still receives the meeting announcements and then posts them in the local Hoopla magazine. He also heard from past member Jim Bailey's wife, who asked for help in disposing of Jim's lifelong collection. Dave also announced that he had received over 400 retired APS and OK sales books. He will be preparing them to sale at 50% of the net price for all club members.

Monthly Where in the World is it:

- Gary McNamee challenged the group with a "Where in the World is it" with the first clue "the country issued its 1st stamp in 1871". After several more clues Skip Ely guessed "Hungary", which was the correct answer.

Program:

- After a short break, Skip Ely presented a program on the USA 1998-1999 33¢ "Flag Over Cities" definitive stamps. These stamps were issued with full perforations and straight edges and coils with different perforations. They also came with large dates and small dates. Two types of coils and a total of 30 different designs exist for this 1 stamp. There are some issued by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing with square corners while others are rounded. Some have red dates while other are black. There are also 4 different booklet formats. All of this makes for interesting adventures while trying to identify each type.

Door Prizes:

- Winners of the \$10 door prizes were Bob Coleman, Joe McFarland and Skip Ely.

Adjournment:

- The meeting closed at 8:25 PM.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call To Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
- Ralph Poore read an Invocation for Philanthropists.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary Janet Moyer announced we have no new members this month. That leaves us with 96 paid memberships.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas told us there is no change to the treasury.

Announcements:

- The May 3rd meeting will be a club auction. If you have any more items for the auction you should email Skip. He needs a description and a list by Wednesday, April 19th. A limit of 10 items per person. Bring them to the meeting early.
- EXPO Chairman Ralph Poore reminded us of the EXPO Planning Meeting, April 23rd at the Spring Creek BBQ on Cooper Street in Arlington, from 11 AM – 1 PM.
- Dave Stockbridge announced that we have 16 APS books and they will be at the Euleless meeting. We also have 2 groups of retired books that you can check out and take home to look through. These are 50% off net value.
- The Board of Directors has approved the purchase of a printer for the club. It will be housed at the secretary's house. This will save the club on printing costs.
- The Board also approved removing the library listing from the handbook. It will now be available on the website.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills shared a letter he received that had 15 "return to sender" labels on it. It was delivered to him even though it did not have his address on it.
- Ken Wills shared when you mail something at the Post Office, they will print a sticker, and not use stamps. We are losing the possibility of finding used stamps to collect. *[Editor's note: these stickers are "PVI" (postage validated imprint) labels; it should however be possible to get stamps on your item, but you need to say that as the 1st thing when you step up to the counter, as the clerks are very quick to print off those PVI labels..]*
- You can go online and print your own stickers instead of going to Post Office. *[Editor's note: this can be, for example, internet stamps & labels such as those offered by stamps.com, or "Click 'N Ship" postage labels offered by the USPS].*
- Ray Cartier shared APS applications and announced they will be moving April 18th.
- Bob Weidman shared a postcard from Canada that has the stamp printed on the postcard, not added to it. *[Editor's note: that technically makes it a "postal card", not "postcard". Postal cards are a form of postal stationery and issued by the postal service and feature prepaid postage, while "postcards" are private issue and do not have prepaid postage].*

Gift Certificates:

- Four gift certificates were issued and the meeting was adjourned.

Program:

- The program on the "International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors" (ISWSC) followed and was presented by Ken Wills.

MCSC Euless Meeting Minutes April 19, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Attendance:

- 10 members attended the April meeting in Euless.

Opening:

- 2nd Vice President Stanley Christmas called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

Officer Reports:

- Peter announced that there was more correspondence from the PicRights matter.
- Judy Christmas gave the treasurer's report.
- Janet Moyer announced that the secretary's report had been printed in the newsletter.
- Skip Ely announced there have been some sales in the books and that this was the last batch of APS books, as the board has voted to discontinue getting them.
- Rick Howell announced we still have the Mixture Pick bags.
- Peter Elias said the newsletter will go out after the EXPO planning meeting.
- Our Facebook Group is getting comments. Especially from people who have inherited stamps.
- Skip reminded people that the board voted to change some of the auction rules and they will go into effect at the Arlington auction in May. There will be 60-65 lots for the auction.

Show and Tell:

- Larry Wright brought some postage with letters written in German.
- Peter shared a picture of his mother that looks VERY similar to the Alzheimer's Stamp.
- Peter also shared an oversized envelope that contained a much SASE envelopes and how to fit them in.
- Peter shared some first day covers that were wrapped too tight and got distorted.
- Rick Howell shared a stamp from Kyrgyzstan that is the longest postage stamp in the world. It is too long for a normal envelope.
- Ken Aldridge showed a souvenir page that the Post Office used to put out.
- Stanley shared a notice from the Royal Mint that a Pitcairn Island stamp is actually about the island for the first time.

Gift Certificates:

- Gift certificates were awarded to Connie Wright and Janet Moyer.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

TSDA Dealers RIP

By Peter Elias

At the TSDA dealer's bourse on April 7, Tom Cunningham informed me that the following TSDA stamp dealers passed away recently:

- March 4 - John Rowe of Dallas
- March 17 - Katie Foster of Austin (she helped run the Texas Precancel Club along with her husband)

Been There,
Done That

Crinoids

By Peter Elias



On January 14, 2023, I found what you see above. It was a nice day, and we went out to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park (west of Ft. Worth). It is a public park and you are



welcome to dig for fossils and keep what you find. I found a "Crinoid", which according to one of the signs, is the most widely found fossil there. Crinoids are remains of ancient "sea



lilies", and while they look like strange plants, they are actually animals. What you see in the photo at top is a portion of the columns.

After we got home, my first instinct was to search for stamps that depict Crinoids. While I found a listing for Somal Coast and Togo, the only one easily buyable was Haiti #670 that I found on Delcampe and was mailed to me from Canada. Unfortunately in used condition, but at least I now have one.

USPS Tracking Limits

By Peter Elias

For some items that I mail with some sort of USPS tracking, after I have dropped the item off at the post office (and always with an "acceptance scan", I then go to the USPS website and enter that tracking number.

At that point, the website will show you what tracking has taken place so far, and also allow you to sign up to get text and/or email updates as further tracking (i.e.: scanning...) takes place; there are 6 options to choose from. Of course you would have to give the USPS your email address and/or phone number for texting you the tracking & delivery updates.

This is a nice feature, so I don't necessarily have to bug the recipient with "did you get it yet?".

If you scroll a bit further down on the USPS tracking page, you'll come across "USPS Tracking Plus". See the screen shot below. This was for an item I mailed on March 21. They state that online tracking info is only available until July 19 (so barely 4 months). After that, if you have not checked or printed a final tracking report (either on paper or to a PDF file), you'll be out of luck (and it shouldn't take 4 months for a tracked item to be delivered...).

However, the USPS does handily provide a paid option for extending your ability to look up tracking & delivery info as shown below. What it doesn't really say is whether (in this case) these time frames below are based on original shipment date, or beyond the July 19 date?

USPS Tracking Plus®

Your item is eligible for USPS Tracking Plus. This feature allows you to buy extended access to your tracking history and receive a statement via email upon request. Without this feature, your regular tracking history is only available on this site until July 19, 2023. To extend your access to this tracking history, select the length of time you would like and confirm your selection. You can only purchase extended history once, so all orders are final and are not eligible for a refund.

Note: For multiple tracking numbers, you can save and continue adding USPS Tracking Plus selections to your cart until you are ready to complete your purchase.

6 Months
\$0.99

1 Year
\$1.20

3 Years
\$1.50

5 Years
\$2.00

7 Years
\$3.00

10 Years
\$4.20



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:

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC> →

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



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President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

Greetings to you, what a fine bunch of stamp collectors (and supporters) you are!

I'm happy to see new members coming on board and appreciate everyone's help in welcoming these folks to our club. Keep reaching out and invite anyone who might be a collector or interested in collecting.

Your Board has taken the following actions since the last newsletter:

1. New member handbooks to be issued soon will not include a list of items in our library. They will be listed on the Club's website.
2. A printer will be purchased to help printing expenses for the handbook, EXPO Programs and any other printing needs that might arise.
3. Receiving APS Circuit Books will be canceled due to mostly costing the Club more expense than what money is taken in, but also the growing lack of use.
4. Our semi-annual Club Auctions will have new bidding increments to speed up the process. Minimum bids will start at \$1.

The May Program will be an auction and we are in need for some volunteers to put on some programs. The need not be long or use of screen projection. Always interesting is how one got started in collecting and their collecting interests then and now.

The EXPO is held in November and we always need more volunteers. Talk to Ralph Poore or Stanley Christmas.

Local Exhibits

By Janet Moyer

It was suggested by Alliene Franklin that members should consider doing exhibits in their local area to attract new members. This could be done in a library, in a school or at a meeting you normally attend. Use your imagination! It could be a simple exhibit using various types of easels or a formal frame. If anyone would like to do this and needs to borrow a club exhibit frame, please contact Ralph Poore.

EXPO Exhibits Chairperson Needed

The EXPO Planning Committee is searching for someone to head up the task of being "Exhibits Chairperson" so that the EXPO can return to having Exhibits again at the 2024 EXPO.

Editor Note: There are various tasks that fall under this position, such as:

- Contacting other clubs & societies
- Creating/Updating the Exhibit Entry Forms
- Accepting Exhibit Entry Forms
- Assigning Exhibits to the Frame layouts
- Signing Exhibits In & Out at during EXPO set-up & tear-down
- Handling mailed-in exhibits (putting up in frames, mailing out)

There may be other related tasks; the above come to mind... Others task might be "awards related" and these could be handled by another chairperson, but could be folded into the Exhibits Chairperson's job, such as:

- Soliciting awards (pins, ribbons, metals, etc) from various philatelic societies
- Club awards (certificates, ribbons, metals, prizes, etc)

If interested, please contact Ralph Poore !

St. Vincent Dollar Cover Box Find

By Peter Elias

One never knows what lurks in a stamp dealer's "dollar cover" box. Sure, one could find something worth quite a bit more than a buck, and that generally requires spotting certain elements of a cover (i.e.: being a specialist in a particular area).

Then there's just "interesting stuff", such as this cover that I found at the April TSDA Stamp Dealer's bourse:



At first glance, it appears to be a standard cover mailed by the "St. Vincent Philatelic Services" (printed on the back flap) in 1979. I have a huge stack of these covers from the mid-1970's through early 1980's, when the SVPS was busy mailing out their flyers and orders.

But this one caught my eye for more than one reason:

- 1) It bears a "Mustique" island postmark. Mustique Island is on the of "Grenadines of St. Vincent" islands, located about 20 miles south of the main island (which is where the SVPS is located in Kingstown. They did on occasion have their outbound mail postmarked in the various Grenadines islands. Great for us postmark collectors!
- 2) That yellow USPS sticker. The envelope was addressed to a Helmut H Weldes in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. The yellow sticker reads "USAID American Embassy" in Cairo, Egypt. That is certainly intriguing! The envelope did reach Pennsylvania ("Southeastern PA" machine cancel). Wow, that only took 7 days



... much faster than these days! A yellow forwarding sticker was applied and the cover would have been en-route to Cairo. Unfortunately the "wavy bar" receiving machine cancel (see bottom of image above) is indistinct, but more than likely is from Egypt.

So who exactly is "Helmut H. Weldes"? A bit of research shows the following: According to usaid.gov documents, he was in Egypt during that time. On November 1, 1978, Dr. Helmut H. Weldes (of Philadelphia, PA) was appointed to be the Senior Resident Advisor to the Egyptian National Resource Center in Cairo. More details can be found here: https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNAAG540.pdf. Dr. Weldes was born on July 4, 1928 in Germany and received his Chemistry PhD there and emigrated to the USA in 1957 (see page 7 of the document mentioned above). According to the website https://sortedbyname.com/letter_w/w144192.html, he died on December 9, 1999 at the age of 71.

It is certainly interesting the kind stuff you learn when studying postal history! But how did this cover end up in a stamp dealer cover box here in Texas?

Been There, Done That

Swiss Alphorns

By Peter Elias



In 2022, Switzerland issued a self-adhesive stamp featuring an alphorn. Alphorns were originally used for communications and to call the cows in from the pastures at milking time. Today they are used mostly at ceremonies and festivals. They date back to the 1400's or before.

The average Swiss alphorn is 3.5 meters long (about 11.5 feet) and generally is made of 3 removable sections.

In all the years I've been to and living in Switzerland, I don't ever recall hearing any alphorns while hiking in the mountains except one time. It was perhaps 25+ years ago and we were hiking near the Maloja Pass, and we heard someone practicing the alphorn (and they needed more practice...). While I don't have a picture of that (I never saw the person, just heard the sound...), below is a photo I took of 3 Swiss Alphorn players on March 5. It was the Annual Meeting of the Swiss Club of North Texas and Fondue Lunch (yum!). Three of the club members dressed in typical Swiss regalia bring their alphorns and play a few tunes. This was on the top floor of the Lorenzo Hotel in downtown Dallas.



Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps, who provided us with more items, such as various covers, loose stamps in glassines, a couple of older albums and quite a few covers from the Postal Commemorative Society. Most of these came from people that had inherited stamps and wanted to sell them. Unfortunately, many dealers do not want or need these items for their inventory. However, they make great beginning collector items.



I had around 8 boxes that I managed to get down to 7 boxes later and handed them off to Skip who will help determine whether they'll go to MixPick, Beginner's Table or the Chance Board.

Been There, Done That

Swiss Coins

By Peter Elias

In 2022, Switzerland issued the 3 stamps you see below, featuring the 3 lowest denomination coins currently circulating: 5, 10 & 20 Rappen. The stamps have the same denomination as the coins that they depict.



I grew up with these coins as a child. Back then there was even a 1 & 2 Rappen coin. The 1 Rappen coin was discontinued in 2000 and the 2 Rappen coin's last mintage was in 1974 according to my Krause Standard Coin catalog. Somewhere though, I still have a sealed roll of 50x 1 Rappen coins!

The "golden" 5 Rappen coin shown is an aluminum-brass coin that was started in 1981, and the old copper-nickel version (see bottom left scan) was discontinued after 1980.

As you can tell, I still have a few of these coins around from previous trips (the last one being 10 years ago!).

For size comparison, the 20 Rappen coin is equivalent in size to US "nickel".

When I grew up, 100 Rappen (= 1 Swiss Franc) was worth about US 25¢, now that is worth \$1.00. This makes traveling to Switzerland just a bit more expensive than in the

early 1970's...

Unlike here in the USA, the Swiss dropped their usage of "cent" pricing and everything is either rounded up or down to the nearest 5 Rappen. I wish they could do that here, as it certainly cost more than a penny to mint a penny. And I don't



see what the big deal is with round stuff off to the nearest 5¢. Even if items are still price at "99¢", if you buy 5 of them, that would be \$4.95, so no rounding required, except of course that pesky sales tax...

In Switzerland, there is no added sales tax like here (and granted some grocery items, medicines, etc are not subject to state sales taxes). There the price includes any sort of sales tax, or VAT (value added tax) as it is called there, so you don't have to do the mental math of what the "real" price of a \$7.95 item with a 8.25" sales tax will be. In reading up on this, the current Swiss VAT is 7.7%, with basic needs goods being at a reduced rate of 2.5%. That sure beats Germany's VAT of 19% (with a basic needs VAT of 7%)!

In addition to the above coins, there are also 1/2, 1, 2 & 5 Franc coins in circulation. The 5 Franc coin is about the size of a US half-dollar, but is worth \$5! Imagine a handful of these in your pocket. Here the most we generally see are 25¢ coins, rarely a half-dollar and perhaps an occasional \$1 coin.

The coins shown above all started with their present designs back in 1901. And I have on occasion gotten some fairly old ones in change!

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

USPS Subscription

By Peter Elias

For most stamps that you order directly from the USPS, it seems it isn't really possible to order just a single stamp any longer, a full sheet (generally 16 or 20) is the requirement.

When it comes to coil stamps, one used to be able to order a strip of 25 (that included a plate number stamp), but now, you are also relegated to ordering a full roll. If lucky, that is only a 100-stamp coil such as the “Barns” postcard-rate stamps or the recent

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!)
 - [My Life on Wheels](#) (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - [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 11/21

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

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

Exp. 12/23

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Stamps Subscription: Postcard Roll
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This is a stamp subscription for a roll of 100 postcard stamps. It will be delivered either monthly or twice a month based on the format you select.

Your subscription will expire at the end of the term unless notified. To cancel early, sign in to your account, go to My Profile, Stamp Subscriptions, select the Order#, and Cancel.

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Note: This is a subscription for a roll of 100 postcard stamps. It will be delivered either monthly or twice a month based on the format you select.

School Bus non-machinable surcharge stamp. For some stamps, it may also be 3,000 or 10,000-stamp rolls (such as the 1¢ Apple definitive). As such, this makes it difficult (not to mention expensive) for a collector that wants just a small quantity for their collection or even postal usage.

That said, if you are a prolific mailer of postcards, you can now also subscribe to having the “Barns” postcard coil stamp rolls shipped to you on a regular basis, such as the [cropped] USPS website screen shot to the left shows. Even I would really only need a strip of 4 of these for my collection; then I'd have to find a postage use for the other 96 stamps ... 4 or 5 Priority Mail envelopes should use those up...



MEET & EAT for

May 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.

--> See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

ARLINGTON

May 3 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, 76013-2203 (817) 861-1060.

EULESS

May 17 Chili's, 2101 Airport Freeway, Bedford, 76021 (817) 545-0012

GRANBURY

May 23 Grumps Burgers
3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
Arlington Club Auction - May 3

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