

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Euless 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



#53-3364

Volume 34, Number 1

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

January 2021

Postage Rates & Fees	10/18/20	1/24/21
DOMESTIC		
1st Class - 1 oz (retail/metered or PC)	0.55 / 0.50	0.55 / 0.51
" 2 oz	0.70 / 0.65	0.75 / 0.71
" 3 oz	0.85 / 0.80	0.95 / 0.91
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.00 / 0.95	1.15 / 1.11
non-machinable surcharge	+0.15	+0.20
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	1.00	1.00
" 2 oz	1.20	1.20
" 3 oz	1.40	1.40
" 4 oz	1.60	1.60
" 5 oz	1.80	1.80
+ 0.20 per ounce up to		
" 13 oz (maximum)	3.40	3.40
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Parcel)		
1st Class Package - up to 4 oz	3.80 - 4.20	4.00 - 4.45
" up to 8 oz	4.60 - 5.00	4.80 - 5.20
" up to 12 oz	5.30 - 5.75	5.50 - 5.95
" 13 oz (max for retail)	5.90 - 6.50	6.25 - 6.75
(Commercial base pricing is considerably less)		
Media Mail - 1 lb	2.80	2.89
" 2 lbs	3.33	3.45
" 3 lbs	3.86	4.01
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded	7.75/8.05/8.40	7.95/ 8.25/ 8.55
" - up to 1 lb.	7.50 - 14.05	7.70 - 16.95
" - Small Flat-rate Box	8.30	8.45
" - Med. /Lrg Flat-rate	15.05 /	15.50- 21.90
Postcard (Domestic)	0.35	0.36
Certificate of Mailing (3817 / 3665 with 3 piece min)	1.50 / 0.43	1.55 / 0.44
Certified Mail	3.55	3.60
USPS Tracking 1st Class Parcel / Priority / Media / Parcel	0.00	0.00
Insurance (up to \$50 is included with Priority Mail)	2.25/2.85/3.55	2.30/2.95/3.60
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	12.60	12.90
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	13.20 / 15.25	13.50 / 15.50
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail	1.20	1.20
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada (2 oz)	see	see
(variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)	usps.com	usps.com
Non-machinable surcharge	+0.21	+0.21
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)	10.50 - 14.50	12.25 - 15.25
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4 lbs)	33.75 - 37.45	35.45 - 38.95
" Canada	26.90	28.50
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound)	44.50 - 45.35	46.95 - 50.00
Registered Mail	+16.00	+16.30

USPS 2021 Postage Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

Good news first: The basic domestic 1 ounce first-class postage rate for "letters" is NOT increasing and will remain at 55¢ and neither are "first class large envelope [flats] rates (which range from \$1 to \$3.40 as per the table to the left). The basic 1 ounce international rate remains at \$1.20 (except for Canada, where that gets you 2 ounces).

However, many other postage rates are increasing. Notably the following retail rates:

- Postcard rate from 35¢ to 36¢
- Domestic non-machinable rate from 15¢ to 20¢
- Metered/PC postage for letter rates increases by 1¢
- 1st Class Parcel increases by 20¢ across the board
- Media Mail has various increases
- Priority Mail has various increases
- Express Mail has various increases
- Registered mail & insurances rates

Please note that as of early December, these are only "proposed*" rates and have not been approved by the postal review commission (but are expected to be).

The proposed rates would take effect on January 24, 2021. See usps.com and search for "Notice123". Current pricing is always in Notice123; present pricing is effective as of October 18, 2020 and can be found at:

<https://pe.usps.com/text/DMM300/Notice123.htm>

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Richard Hildebrandt
First Vice-President – Stanley Christmas
Second Vice-President – Rick Howell
Secretary – Skip Ely
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Ken Aldridge Peter Elias Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ray Cartier

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 (higher for mailed 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 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158

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

Coming Attractions

—> Due to COVID-19 and city / county / state / national emergency ordinances, the following meetings or events may or may not occur; some meetings may be held virtually via Zoom. For MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

2021

JAN. 6 MCSC—ARLINGTON In-Person Meeting

Program: Swearing in of 2021-2022 Club Officers

JAN. 20 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Cancelled temporarily due to Covid-19; please attend the Arlington (in-person or Zoom) or Granbury (Zoom) meetings.

JAN 26 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: via Zoom

MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: TBD

MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

At the time of getting this newsletter done in early/mid-December, our newly elected (and mostly re-elected) club officers have not officially been sworn in yet. But I have listed them in the panel to the left as it is the January 2021 issue after all.

At this time, the swearing in of club officers is scheduled for the January 6 Arlington meeting, in-person. That of course is subject to change due to the pandemic, and Tarrant County has been experiencing a fairly high infection rate lately and as a consequence the Center may be required to by the County or City officials to not allow meetings (or restrict their size); I guess we'll just have to wait and see. Despite that, we've had 2 in-person meetings recently (October & November) in Arlington with the appropriate precautions being taken. Skip Ely will notify everyone via email should there be any changes to the in-person January 6 meeting (or by phone for those that don't have email or access to the internet).

The upcoming (proposed) USPS postage rates are shown on Page 1. I always keep a copy of that column taped to the side of my PC as handy reference for all the basic rates that I personally deal with.

Please remember to pay your 2021 dues. Membership renewal forms have been in the past few newsletters and another one has been published for your convenience in this edition. The basic membership rate is for an emailed newsletter (by Skip Ely) or downloaded (by yourself) newsletter.

--> On a sad note, VistaPrint announced that starting in April, the <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com> website will go away and you'll have to download the newsletter from the club's private groups.io site (available only to paid-up club members). Hopefully I'll find another public website by then where I can easily & quickly upload newsletters (in one minute or less).



Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received

n/a

New Members

Roland A. Haedge (#631)

Sai Madhavapeddi (#632)

Steven J. Turechek (#633)

Deceased

n/a

Reinstatements

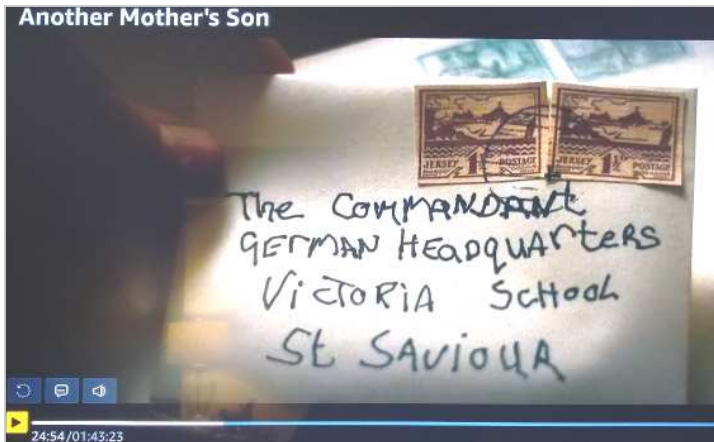
n/a

Membership Summary – December 2, 2020

Membership as of November 15, 2020	91
Applications Received	0
New Members	3
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of December 2, 2020	94

TV Philately: Another Mother's Son

By Peter Elias



We watched an interesting docu-drama movie on Amazon Prime recently called "Another Mother's Son". It takes place on the British Channel Island of Jersey during World War II, specifically during the German occupation.

The occupation on both Jersey and also Guernsey took place from June 30, 1940 until their liberation on May 9, 1945, although this movie centers on Jersey, which is very close to Normandy on the French coast of the Channel.

The Germans brought Russian prisoners of war to the island and put them to work (such as in open pit mines as shown in the movie).

A mother (Louisa Gould) who's son died during in the course of the war against Germany ends up taking in an escaped Russian prisoner (from 1942-1944) and treats him like her own son. Even though she hides him, she ends up getting a fake identity card for him and also has him "in the open", such as working in her grocery shop. She is later arrested by the Germans and sent to the Ravensbrück Concentration camp where she was gassed to death in 1945.

The post office does play into the plot in this film. While many Jersey residents tolerate the Germans, some of them do rat out their own kind by writing letters to the German Government representatives on the island, informing them whether they believe someone has an illegal radio receiver (so that they can listen to the BBC) or is even harboring an escaped prisoner.

One of the post office workers wants to protect the resident in question by removing the offending envelope from the sorting box at the post office before it is delivered German Government officials in town.

Such an envelope is shown in the movie screen shot above. The handwriting on this envelope looks like it was done by a child (but I don't remember if it is stated who actually wrote this letter). The postmark is indistinct (probably on purpose, since the producers probably didn't want to go to the trouble of mocking up a facsimile of a real one). This postmark seems to have just horizontal lines inside the circle; real postmarks would state a date as well as "Jersey", etc, based on samples that I've seen online.

On the other hand, what about the stamps that were depicted? First, since this was a local letter, why would this require 2x 1½ pence stamps? According to the German Michel stamp catalog, it states that the internal island "Letter rate up to 2 ounces" was 2½ pence, thus this cover would be overpaying the local rate. On the other hand, there was a 2½ pence stamp that could have been used, but perhaps the anonymous sender did not have that stamp or a 1 pence and 1½ pence stamp to pay the proper postage rate. Note: letters to destinations outside the island required German "Feldpost" stamps.



As far as the stamps shown, they appear to be Scott #N5, a part of a series of 6 stamps with denominations ranging from ½ to 3 pence, issued between 1943 to 1944 and valid until April 13, 1946. While World War II in Europe ended on May 8, 1945, these stamps were still usable for almost a year after the end of the war.

This #N5 stamp is listed as "brown" in the Scott catalog. It is kind of difficult to tell whether it is really brown or not, to me it looks sort of like a "dull violet" color.

Then there's the matter of the perforations. The illustrated stamps appear imperf, but when looking at them closely (above), there are "perforations" to be seen, but they appear to be printed, not actually perforated. So more than likely, the props department found some images and then printed these and cut them out and pasted them on the envelope (poorly I might say, judging by how these stamps barely seem to be stuck to the envelope).

So as usual, the main question in this series of articles is: *Did they get it right?* Well, mostly no (as usual...). They did attempt to show stamps that would have been in use at the time, but at the wrong rate and poorly faked, and a postmark that is not what would have been used.

At this website: <https://www.ephemeraltreasures.net/channel-islands-occupation-part-5.html>, it talks about how Edmund Blampied, the designer of this stamp series snuck in King George's "royal cypher" into the last stamp's design, the 3d value. See the cropped website screen shot below.



The last stamp issued in German-occupied Jersey was the 3d pictorial stamp, picturing islanders *Gathering Seaweed*. It was the high-value stamp of the set of six stamps shown on the previous page. Artist Edmund Blampied was told that the stamps could include no reference to Great Britain or the British monarchy. However, like his fellow occupation stamp designers on Jersey and Guernsey, Blampied ignored the Germans: hidden in plain sight within the design of his 3d stamp are the stylized initials "GR," standing for George Rex (King George VI), representing the king's royal cypher and displaying loyalty to the king.

More details about these "German Occupation of Jersey" stamps are discussed at:

[https://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/Jersey postage stamps issued during the German Occupation](https://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/Jersey_postage_stamps_issued_during_the_German_Occupation) and at: <https://stampaday.wordpress.com/2017/03/16/jersey-under-german-occupation-n8-1943/>

I must say that it has been fascinating to learn about a new philatelic subject simply as a result of pausing the movie as it was playing on my TV and taking a photo of a movie prop cover!

Go ahead, hit the pause button next time you watch a movie or TV show and see something philatelic on the screen!

MCSC Arlington Zoom Meeting Minutes December 2, 2020

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- About 13 members logged in to an Arlington Zoom meeting on Wednesday evening, December 2, 2020.

Call-To-Order:

- President Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting at 7:07 PM.
- Rich announced that the next scheduled in-person meeting at the Bob Duncan Center is scheduled for January 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM. This is dependent on the Center being open, however.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Skip Ely said 36 members had renewed so far, with 15 being donor members.

Show & Tell:

- Peter Elias showed a souvenir sheet from Austria made from toilet paper.
- Rich Howell said he was making a list of philatelic videos available on line.
- Peter commented he was continuing to look at movies where stamps, postmarks and covers were visible and seeing if they were valid to the time and place.

Program:

- The program was a member participation of your favorite (or least favorite) Christmas stamp.
- Rich Hildebrandt began by showing the Christmas cookie stamps from 2005.
- Ken Aldridge talked a little about the self adhesive weather vane stamp from 1974.
- Ken Wills chose the 1898 stamp from Canada showing the British Empire, widely regarded as the first Christmas stamp.
- Rick Howell selected a 2019 stamp from Portugal with an embedded LED light.
- Judy Christmas mentioned the U.S. 34¢ Santas and the 37¢ Snowmen stamps.
- Stanley Christmas showed some stamps from Tokelau Islands that he thought were some of the ugliest he had seen.
- Skip Ely said he liked the U.S. Christmas stamp from 1969 showing a winter scene in Norway, Maine.
- Peter Elias showed the U.S. 2020 booklet of winter scenes and said he found them hard to acquire (i.e.: the Plano post office did not get them for over 1 month after being issued).
- Gary McNamee said he liked the 1977 stamp showing George Washington praying at Valley Forge.
- Art Von Reyn picked the Cuban Christmas stamps issued 1951-55, pointing out they were popular among collectors in the U.S.
- Rich Hildebrandt finished up by saying he like the toy train stamps in the sets from 1970 and 1992.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Zoom Screen shot of the meeting attendees on 12/2/20 -->

Stamp Show Notes

By Peter Elias

I was reading in the December 7 issue of Linn's that the St. Louis stamp show (one of very few held during Covid-19), was a considered fairly successful (all things considered) and had approx. **200 attendees** in attendance over the 3-day show. In comparison, our 2-day EXPO had **266 attendees** (plus dealers & club personnel). So I'd say that we also did fairly well. I do hope that there will be more shows active next year and that attendance will improve, but given Covid-19, and until vaccines are available, the road to recovery will probably take a while.

Tom Cunningham sent a message stating that the Dallas (Richardson) TSDA bourse will no longer be at the Richardson Civic Center (as the Cit of Richardson had decided that for 2001 - and possibly "forever", there will not be any "outside events" at the Civic Center in order to comply with social distancing and keeping City of Richardson employees safe). Tom said that he is researching a new venue.

Club member Jack Dykhouse wrote a letter to the Editor at [Mekeel's & Stamps](#) that was published on Nov. 20, 2020:

Successful Mid-Cities Show Defies Pandemic

While the Covid-19 pandemic was setting new records in Texas as well as many other states, the annual Mid-Cities Stamp Club was able to held their annual event on November 13-14. Club member Jack Dykhouse provided us with his take on the event:

This morning (11/13) I paid a short visit to this stamp show...it is in the [Dallas-Fort Worth]. This is the first stamp show I've attended since November, 2019...

Before entering the show, I had to register my name, telephone address and email address. I was told this was a requirement by the county government so I could be found if there was a virus problem. No one took my temperature or anything else. Prior to entry, I was given a free 20 page program and a free 1989 Arcraft first day cover.

Once inside, to my surprise, except for everyone wearing masks, everything looked very normal. Collectors without gloves were going through boxes of covers, stock cards, supplies etc. I guess they were more dedicated to the hobby than I was as I did not touch anything during the few minutes I was in the show...

The club had a tremendous amount of stamps, covers, books, supplies and albums (some looked new) that were being given free to beginning collectors. This is more than I have ever seen at any stamp show in the world.

[Without turning this into a political statement, which it is not, this is an encouraging development that can be used as a model for other show organizers. As long as your town allows events such as ours, and whether or not they have any requirements, a sensible solution is to wear masks and take contact information for contact tracing if necessary.

Fortunately, our hobby is populated by thoughtful people who will enable us to reopen safely and sensibly. JFD.]



From the President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

Wishing all of you a safe and healthy holiday season!

I wanted to provide a little review of the club year as I see it. Obviously we have been limited in our ability to meet in person, but I think we have managed the situation well.

Dave Stockbridge has been able to hold well received Zoom meetings in place of the in-person Granbury meetings. We have gotten very positive comments from APS officers that have participated.

Congratulations to Dave and especially to Rick Howell who has stepped in and provided the technical support needed.

Unfortunately, the Euless in-person meetings had to shutdown, but I see that some of those usual attendees are able to participate in the Granbury Zoom meetings.

The Arlington location did manage to have some in-person meetings, although the attendance was well below normal. I sure did miss our fall picnic and especially the Christmas party.

We were able to hold our 33rd Annual EXPO thanks to many volunteers. Special kudos go to Ralph Poore and Tom Cunningham for their persistence and upbeat outlook that enabled it to be successful. Ralph

met every bump in the road with a positive response and Tom worked tirelessly to find replacement dealers to compensate for those who were unable to participate. In the end, preliminary numbers indicate that we made a small profit. Thanks to all of the folks who came out and volunteered their time in a difficult situation.

In closing, the club is in excellent financial position and I look forward to some return to our normal routine as we get into 2021.

Hope for all of you that 2021 brings good health and more joyful times!

Winter Scenes



Well over 5 weeks after it was issued on October 16, 2020, the local Plano post office finally managed to get the lovely "Winter Scenes" booklet, which contains some nice fauna topical typical of the season.

2021 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

Check here if information is unchanged from 2020 and skip to signature line below.

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable): _____

APS # _____ ATA # _____ TPA # _____ Other: _____

Permission is granted to make the information above available to other club members. Indicate anything you do NOT want shared: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Membership Level:

____ \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online newsletter)

____ \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

____ **\$25 Sponsor Membership**

____ \$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

____ \$6 Additional Adult (only 1 newsletter copy)

____ \$4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

Make check out to 'Mid-Cities Stamp Club' and mail this form with payment to:

Skip Ely, MCSC Secretary, 5512 Shady Meadow, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-6616

EXPO 2020

By Pat & Bob Weidman

This year's Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO was held on November 13 & 14. While it was not as well attended as year's past due to the Coronavirus, it was still a great show. In my opinion, the best show in Texas and maybe the best show in the whole country!

The Grapevine Convention Center where the EXPO was held required everyone to wear a face mask and observe social distancing which we all did.

Notice the masks in the pictures below. Those that did come to the EXPO came to acquire those items for their collections that they so desperately needed. Why else would someone go out during the pandemic?

Marty, one of our new members and I worked the show on both days. In the picture, Marty is seated while I am standing. We enjoyed talking to those that came to the Mixture Pick table and helped them find items that they were looking for. Hopefully EXPO 2021 will be back to normal.



Your PO Box Address Has a Street Address

by Peter Elias

If you use a PO Box (like I do), then you've probably found out that you can NOT have FedEx or UPS deliver shipments there!

There are also instances where some companies INSIST that they can not "mail" you something to your PO Box (such as some rebate forms state on occasion). Strangely enough, you have to mail your rebate request to THEIR PO Box, yet they refuse to mail the rebate check to YOUR PO Box (it's not as if they're going to use FedEx or UPS for sending you your rebate check). When I've questioned these companies, their excuse is something along the lines of: "well, you could have lots of people get mail at your PO Box". True, but I could also have lots of people get mail at my house address, and I like my privacy, so all mail goes to a PO Box! Heck, you could address a piece of mail to my house using our cat's name, and it would arrive there (although cashing a check made out to our cat would be another issue...).

Ok, so the above two scenarios are issues that I sometimes run into when using a PO Box. I do use a UPS Store as my "street" address for my business mail and most inbound package services and there's not a problem with that (other than the extra yearly cost to rent yet another box...).

When people see that UPS Store address, they sometime say, "hey, that a PO Box". No, it is not. UPS Store addresses are a "private mail box", as opposed to a "post office box". PO Boxes are addressed as "PO Box ####", while PMB's (Private Mail Boxes) are addressed with a standard street address, and sometimes a suite number and always a "#" to designate the PMB number. Some people use "PMB #..." or "Unit #..." and some people think that using "Apt. #..." is clever (not really, since these are usually in strip malls...).

Anyway, a solution to the inability to get some items delivered to your PO Box, including from FedEx and UPS is this: Sign the USPS "Customer Agreement for Premium PO Box Service - Additional Services" form. You can find this USPS form at:

<https://www.usps.com/pobox/customer-agreement-for-premium-po-box-service-enhancements.pdf>

That said, this service may or may not be available for your particular PO Box. It is available for mine, so you may wish to check with your particular post office. It also comes with a feature that lets the USPS put certain items in your mailbox (or overflow box) or if too big, you'll have to go to the pick-up window, if they come from UPS or FedEx, without you having to sign for them.

Note that on the last page, that this newsletter is always mailed from:

PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427

The alternate way to address this would be:

1200 Jupiter Rd, #940427, Plano, TX 75094-0116

Note that this addressing is different from regular PO Box addressing where the ZIP+4 usually includes some or all of the 4 last digits of your box number; in this case, it ends with a 0116, rather than with the PO Box, where it ends in 0427.

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). jasmymers@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

--> Your ad could be here! (for paid club members only)

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 \$ 9.95 each. Non-member price is \$19.95 (+ \$3.45 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094 6/16

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14

Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album. Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, now reduced to \$775 OBO!. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or at dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comic Strip - Blondie (Snack for Mailman)

By Peter Elias



through", and he follows it up with suggesting that a snack would make deliveries go faster, with which Dagwood seems to comply.

That said, I'm not so sure that postal personnel are allowed to take customers up on a "self-invitation" such as this, especially at their kitchen tables... Also, why would Mr. Beasley be holding up an envelope in the open during a downpour? What if Dagwood was a stamp collector and the envelope might have contained a set of mint stamps that he ordered?

Note: the "official" motto is "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds".

Palazzo Ducale

By Pat & Bob Weidman



On our tour of Italy back in 2013, one of our stops was Venice, city of canals, where we spent the night. One of the places we went to see was the Canal Grande (or Grand Canal) to see the palazzo Ducale.

In the photo below, the large building to the right center is the Palazzo Ducale, also known as the Doges Palace, a beautiful example of Gothic architecture. It was at one time home to the rulers of Venice and the offices of State.

The stamp shown above is Italy Scott #1091, one in a set of five issued in 1973 for the "Save Venice" campaign. The photo was taken from the opposite direction



of the stamp. The building on the far left in the stamp is the Palazzo Ducale. In front and to the right of it is the Ponte della Paglia bridge, which is hard to see in the photo. The railing of the bridge can barely be seen on the front of the palace to the right. On the stamp, it is just to the right of the Palazzo Ducale.

Notice the gondola in the photo. Pat and I rode in one while in Venice, but that's a story another newsletter.

Been Somewhere?

Why not tell us about it! The requirements are fairly simple:

- 1) A stamp that shows the place.
- 2) A photo you took of the place (with you in it is a bonus!).
- 3) A brief write-up or anecdote (so technically just a little bit more than just "been there..").

Faaa Airport

By Pat & Bob Weidman



Back in 1995, Pat and I were living in Wilmington, North Carolina. We decided to take a vacation to several of the islands in French

Polynesia, specifically Manihi, Rangiroa, Bora Bora, Moorea and Tahiti. To get there, we took a commuter flight up to the Raleigh/Durham airport, where we boarded an American Airlines flight to Los Angeles. We then changed to an Air France flight that took us directly to Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia, which is located on the island of Tahiti.

The picture below is of the Faaa International Airport where we landed on Tahiti. The runway actually extends out into the ocean at the edge of the island as you can see on the stamp, which is French Polynesia Scott #C18, an airmail stamp issued back on November 19, 1960. The longer runway is needed to handle the large jumbo jets that fly in Papeete.

The island of Tahiti was not our first island to explore, which meant another short commuter flight to Manihi. This time the flight was on Air Tahiti. Manihi is a small coral atoll with not much to do except soak up the sun, which was fine with us. One day we visited the very small town on the other side of the lagoon by hitching a ride with one of the islanders on his boat. Our next stop was the island of Rangiroa.



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*Been There,
Done That*

Coffee Drinks

By Peter Elias

Viewing the list of upcoming 2021 USA stamps, this set of 4 stamps (part of a booklet of 20 stamps) about Espresso Drinks caught my eye -->



I can already sense a "Been There - Done That" article coming, and I've got just the picture to accompany it. Clue: The photo was taken not too far from a place where for once, the World Economic Forum will NOT be held (in 2021) Don't worry, I'll show the photo when I write the article ...



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For online newsletters see

or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm>

(Note: this site will only be available until March 31, 2021) →



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MEET & EAT for January, 2021

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.

--> Official Meet & Eat get-togethers prior to any in-person club meetings are cancelled until further notice due to Covid-19 precautionary measures.

ARLINGTON

Cancelled until further notice

EULESS

Cancelled until further notice

GRANBURY

Cancelled until further notice

--> ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES <--

Hey folks, dues are due! As of mid-December, we have 40 members that have renewed, with 17 being donor members. That leaves about 50 members to go. If you've forgotten whether or not you've renewed, ask me! (Skip Ely, n5tjb@flash.net). See the dues renewal form on page 5 of the newsletter!

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

**Don't Forget:
Please Pay Your 2021 Dues!**

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

For Sale

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

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

Complete set of 10 MNH Celebrate the Century, #3182-3191, CV 123.00, Face 48.90, sell \$50.

Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 4/20

--> YOUR FREE AD COULD BE HERE <-- !
(for MCSC club members only)