



Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park
Irving Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
Garden & Arts Center, 906 Senter
Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER
MEMBER



Volume 28, Number 2

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

February 2015

Been There - Done That (Hong Kong)

By Robert Weidman



In 1969 I made my first trip to Hong Kong while I was in a Navy attack squadron. We had gone there for some R&R from Vietnam. I was immediately fascinated with the place. Anything that you wanted to buy, you could! If they didn't have it, they would get it or they would make it for you. All you had to do was describe what you wanted or show them a picture. I had some tailor-made suits made from a picture that I clipped from a magazine.

I always wanted to go back as a civilian and spend more time exploring. In 2001 that opportunity came about, almost. Pat and I had made reservations to leave on September 12, 2001. That ended with the terrorist attacks of September 11th. We never expected to get another opportunity to go. However, in August of 2004 we were able to leave on a trip that included not only Hong Kong, but also Singapore, Malaysia, Macau and China.

On this trip, Pat and I took our two nephews, Louis (club youth member Louie Kosanovich's father) and Adam (who lives in Pittsburgh). Louis was our travel agent / navigator. He planned our excursions each day. One of these excursions was to see the world's tallest, seated, outdoor bronze Buddha. It sits atop Ngong ling plateau on Lantau Island. This was an all-day affair since we had to take a train over to Lantau Island from our hotel in Kowloon and then switch to a bus that took us to the Buddha. It was well worth it! We highly recommend anyone visiting Hong to take the time to go see the Buddha on Lantau Island!



No postage rate increases

By Peter Elias

For the past several years, the last Sunday in January always meant one thing: postage rates increases! But not this year. For now, the USPS is keeping the postage rates the same (the last changes were in September 2014 and affected mostly priority mail rates). Some rates may increase on April 26 (if approved): post-cards to 35¢, additional ounce rate to 22¢, international to \$1.20. But for now, I don't have to publish the rate chart comparison!

And as a reminder, if you are using any sort of "computer vended postage" or "custom / personalized" postage, the rates are still only 48¢ (instead of 49¢) for the first ounce. The stipulation though is that the entire 48¢ has to be paid with this type of postage. Qualifying stamps are from stamps.com, netstamps, Endicia.com, Zazzle.com, evermine.com, Photostamps, and of course postage meters. However, due to the confusion about the two types of rates, some of the vendors of customized postage are actually selling 49¢, not 48¢ stamps. So much for the discount!

TEXPEX 2015 is almost here!

Texpex 2015 will be held from Friday, February 27 to March 1 at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine (near the north end of DFW Airport, across from the Grapevine Mills Mall). Admission and parking are free. Four of our members, Paul Ashley, Ray Cartier, Peter Elias & Ben Termini have exhibits at the show. There will be over 130 frames of exhibits, the USPS and approx. 34 dealers. February 27 (11 AM) will also feature a First Day Ceremony for the "Star & Stripes" presort standard mail coils set of 3. See <http://www.texpex.org> for more details.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2015 - 2016 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mike Smith
First Vice-President – Skip Ely
Second Vice-President – Rich Hildebrandt
Secretary – Benedict Termini
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Alliene Franklin Ralph Poore Ken Wills

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 \$12 per year. For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or e-mail us at:

info@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>

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

This will be the last time that we'll print the Membership Renewal form. If you have not yet paid your 2015 dues, please do so now and give it to our new secretary, Ben Termini at the Arlington meeting or mail it to him at the address on the bottom of the form. This save both him and me time not having to drop members just to re-instate them a little while later (and it keeps your newsletter coming).

Speaking of the newsletter, we still barely have only one half of the membership that is opting to download the newsletter. While this has saved the club a lot of money (and me a lot of time), we can probably still do better.

Unless you're really going for getting that 49c of collectible postage on your newsletter (which more than likely will be scratched or heavily postmarked by the USPS equipment), there's really no big downside to downloading it:

- ◆ You get the newsletter quicker. I upload it one to two days before it physically gets mailed.
- ◆ It is in color (PDF file); while the printed copy is black & white.
- ◆ Saves some trees!
- ◆ If you must print something, you only need to print the part that is needed, not the entire newsletter.
- ◆ Dealer ads & email addresses are "clickable".

Please note that I do NOT email the newsletter to anyone. Which is why I highly recommend that you join the private MCSC "YahooGroup". I can have Yahoo send you an invitation to join and that's it! Once a month you'll receive an automated message from Yahoo stating that I've uploaded a file and they even provide a link to it, so all you have to do is click and the PDF file will be downloaded into your browser (or you can save it to your disk).

Since our YahooGroup is private, you won't have to worry about spam emails from the group. That said, if your password gets hacked, then of course someone else can get in on your behalf. You can also easily communicate with all other MCSC members that are part of the group by simply sending a message to the group and everyone automatically gets the message (and can respond if needed).

I don't moderate the MCSC YahooGroup, so as long as everyone keeps messages related to philatelic matters, I won't step in.

Yahoo now provides us with enough storage space to not have to worry about running out of room to store newsletter files.

Of course, I also upload the newsletter to the webs.com site at the same time; that site is available to anyone on the planet, but they don't have an automated method for notifying members if a file has been uploaded. Please contact me if you have questions!

Coming Attractions

2015

JAN. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Clean Out Your [Philatelic] Closet Sale

FEB. 4 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: "George Kempston's Stamps" by Ken Wills

FEB. 11 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: Round-table discussion about: *What are you doing with your philatelic interests these days?*

FEB. 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

FEB. 27—MAR 1 TEXPEX

Hilton DFW Lakes Conference Center, Grapevine, TX

Fri, 2/27 - 10-6, Sat, 2/28 - 10-5, Sun, 3/1 - 10-4.

MAR. 4 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: "How To Put Together An Exhibit"
By Ben Termini

MAR. 18 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: Semi-Annual Club Auction

MAR. 21-22 Dallas Postcard Show, Plano, TX

Southfork Hotel, US75 (northbound service road past 15th Street)

Secretary's Report

By Ben Termini



Applications Received

Sujan Shrestha

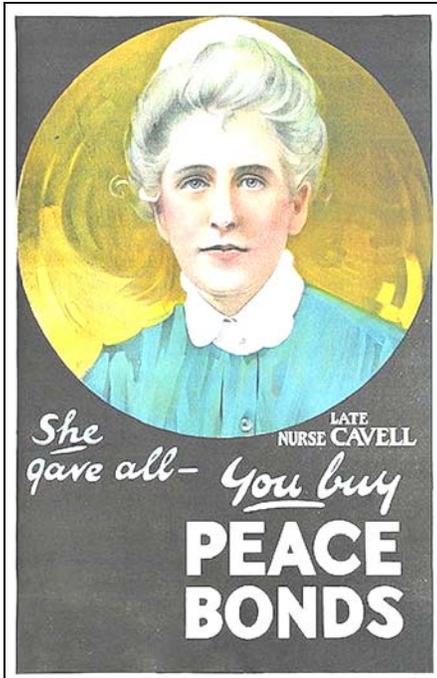
(he collects US and Nepal stamps & postal stationery)

Membership Summary – January 21, 2015

Membership as of December 3, 2014	119
New Members	
Applications Received	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(PENDING)
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	
Membership as of January 21, 2015	119

Edith Cavell

By Benedict A. Termini, MD



did not know who Edith Cavell was, so I did some research and discovered a very interesting story.

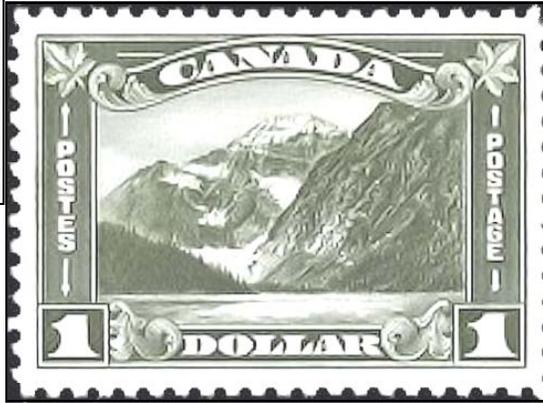
Edith Cavell (rhymes with travel) was born in Swardeston England in 1865. Her father was a vicar and as a girl Edith worked as a governess, then trained as a nurse in London. She worked in various hospitals in England, and in 1907 became Matron of a newly established nursing school in Brussels, Belgium. When World War I broke out in 1914, most of the British nurses in Europe returned home but Edith chose to remain in Belgium under the sponsorship of the Red Cross. At her clinic she cared for many wounded soldiers without regard to their nationality.

In the latter part of 1914, however, she began sheltering British soldiers and helping them escape from German-occupied Belgium to the neutral Netherlands and ultimately back to England. She became part of a network which defied the German Military Regulations, and incidentally, was in violation of the Red



Cross neutrality policy. In August 1915, she was arrested and charged with harboring Allied soldiers. She readily admitted that she had been instrumental in helping

almost 200 British and French soldiers escape capture by the Germans. She and 26 co-conspirators were put on trial and convicted; five of them, including Edith Cavell, were condemned to death. Despite intense pressure from humanitarian organizations and foreign governments, she and one other conspirator were executed by a firing squad on



October 12, 1915. According to published accounts, she faced death with dignity and the evening before her death told her chaplain "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness toward anyone."

Her execution caused an uproar and was employed by the Allied powers as a very effective propaganda tool to demonstrate the depths of German barbarism and moral depravity. However, a lot of the stories were untrue or exaggerated,

such as the myth that the soldiers in the firing squad had refused to shoot her and an officer had then executed her with his pistol - as shown on the propaganda label above. From the German standpoint she had knowingly collaborated with the enemy and had received an appropriate penalty.

In the 100 years since her death, many books and films have been made about her and she has been memorialized all over the world. Many nursing facilities are named after her, but perhaps the best-known memorial is Mount Edith Cavell in Canada which is shown on the adjacent Canadian Stamp (Scott 177). In 1945, she was pictured with Florence Nightingale on an airmail stamp from Costa Rica honoring the Red Cross (Scott C120), and the stamp was re-issued with an overprint in 1949 (C183).

This year is the centenary of her death, so you will undoubtedly be hearing a lot more about this heroic woman who gave her life in the service of her country.



Board of Directors Meeting January 24, 2015

By Skip Ely

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club Officers and Board members met on January 24, 2015 in the meeting room at the Pizza Garden Inn in Bedford. The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by club President Mike Smith. Others present were: First Vice President Skip Ely, Second Vice President Rich Hildebrandt, Treasurer Judy Christmas, Board Members Alliene Franklin and Ralph Poore, EXPO Chairman and Past President Stanley Christmas, Newsletter Editor Peter Elias and member Jerry Potter. Missing was Secretary Ben Termini, Board Member Ken Wills and Ex Officio Jeff Jessop.

Swearing in of new officers for 2015-16:

Mike Smith swore in new officers that missed the January Arlington meeting [Editor - see photo to right; not shown in the picture is Alliene Franklin].

Previous Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the Board Meeting from September 27, 2014 were read and approved.

Unfinished Business:

- ◆ Door Prizes – A question was raised about the revised distribution of door prizes, which was decided at the last board meeting in September. Specifically, it was considered by some to be unfair to omit Irving from the opportunity for Inverted Jenny stamp packets. It was noted that if we wanted to apply equal chances for each chapter, than three would be offered at Arlington (with an average of 30 members attending), two at Granbury (average of 20 members), and one at Irving (average of 10 members). Since the cost of providing this number of stamp packets for the entire year at each chapter seemed excessive, it was proposed to purchase an additional five packets and offer them (along with the 22 originally purchased) as door prizes using the distribution listed above until they were all gone (or through about May). One packet would be offered at Irving in arrears for January. A motion was so made and approved.
- ◆ Gift Certificate Amounts – It was noted that the amounts for Gift Certificates was increased to \$10 at the last board meeting, but that item didn't find it's way into the minutes. So here it is.
- ◆ Stamping Around Entry at NY2016 – Peter outlined the fees involved with submitting our newsletter into the NY2016 competition. The board authorized proceeding with plans to do so, with the money coming in as a line item in next year's budget (i.e.: 2016).

Reports from Officers:

- ◆ Secretary – Skip Ely (for Ben Termini) said he didn't know how many members we had, pending the removal of those who hadn't paid their dues yet.
- ◆ Treasury – This was deferred until later.
- ◆ Newsletter – Peter Elias spoke briefly about the newsletter.
- ◆ Sales Report – Skip Ely distributed a report on stamp book sales for 2014. He noted that income had exceeded expenses last year, and we were off to a good start this year.

New Business:

1. Budget Review – Judy Christmas distributed a handout showing the final budget figures for last year and the projected budget



for this year. There was a brief discussion of some protocols, including Judy's request that to have invoices or other documentation included with both receipts and deposits.

2. MCSC One Frame Exhibit at TEXPEX – It was decided that if either of the club's exhibits (Arlington and Granbury) were to win a prize at TEXPEX, they would be offered at next year's Silent Auction.

3. Encouraging Exhibits – Ben Termini and Ray Cartier have offered to assist anyone with making exhibits. The goal is to increase new exhibits at EXPO (and elsewhere as applicable). Along this line, Ben will make a presentation at the March Arlington meeting about "Putting Together an Exhibit".

4. APS Stamp Buddy Program – Alliene Franklin said that APS has included a new part of the Stamp Buddy Program designed to attract people interested in philately and genealogy. Ralph Poore offered to assist in these efforts.

5. Honorary Members in Member Handbook – A brief discussion was held on this topic, and no new members were submitted for this category.

6. Length of Membership Recognition – Ray Cartier suggested that we consider giving 10-year and longer certificates for membership in the club. Ralph Poore spoke in favor of this procedure as a means of celebrating the club, and offered to chair the vacant club Awards Committee. A motion was so made and approved.

7. Shanghai Bingo Rules – A question was raised about modifying our Shanghai Bingo rules to allow "freezing" of gifts at a certain point. The board decided against it. Another matter was the quality of gifts, since some members noted gifts of little philatelic value or interest. It was decided to just try and emphasize again the importance on not bringing junk gifts.

8. Irving Club Picnic – It was observed that there were club picnics at Arlington and Granbury, but not Irving. It was decided to let the Irving attendees to decide if they wanted a club sponsored picnic or not.

9. Club Commission for Arlington Auction – A question was raised if we needed to continue with a club commission at the Arlington auctions, since none are collected at Granbury and now Irving. It was voted and approved to discontinue the commission at Arlington until further notice.

Adjournment:

The next Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for 10:30 AM on March 21, 2015 at the Pizza Garden in Bedford. It will be combined with an EXPO meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

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

PhotoStamps, ZazzleStamps & PictureItPostage in a variety of different designs. For a listing of available designs and to purchase, go to <http://photostamps.webs.com> and use your credit card to purchase them (via PayPal). 1/06

3x US Scott Specialized Plate Block Albums (from 1900 - 1993); buy 1 or all 3. Also selling all of my **USA Stamp Collection (8 albums)**. One album or all 8 albums are for sale (very reasonable!). Please call Ken Dillard at (817) 468-8714 if interested. 11/11

Post-war German Federal Republic, German Berlin and DDR postally used on cover and used singles at a 70% discount from Scott's. Also FDC and ETB's. Will be happy to trade for Berlin material. Contact Paul Ashley, 817-426-5131 or p-ashley@att.net 6/13

Selling UN, pre-1985 MNH singles/blocks, Inscription blocks, sheets; FDC; M postal stationery; used singles/blocks; also specialty material. Send want list or ask for price list. **Buying UN**, pre-1985 MNH at 5% over current nationally advertised buy prices, subject to need. Contact: Jim Myers, P.O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019, or e-mail at jasdmyers@earthlink.net 4/05

U.S. postcard collection, from UX3 to present, M, U & FDC. 489 total cards in 4" binder, CV \$650, will sell for \$200. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 5/14

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: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14



Jonathan Topper
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Houston, TX 77065

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USA Postal History: Military, RPO's, Special Delivery, Advertising covers
Postal Stationery and Machine Cancels

Exp. 12/15

For Sale

USPS Commemorative Yearbooks with stamps at face value of postage. For listing of what years are available and price e-mail Dave at stockdave44@yahoo.com 8/11

Do you collect **used USA Plate Number Coils**? Select what you want from my extensive inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog value. They are listed on my website at <http://web2.iadfw.net/wills/> and from there you will find links to other countries too. Also interested in trading. Ken Wills 9/11

Philatelic Reference CD's. The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (Now over 1,700 items!!)**
- **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
- **Airport Philately** (800+ Airports on Stamps & Postal Stationery)
- **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
- **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ picture postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
- **Vintage Swiss Postcards** (700+ postcards from 1898 to 1959)
- **Swiss Transportation Tickets**

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 5.95 each. Non-member price is \$14.95 (+ \$2.50 domestic or \$5.00 international postage) each. Cash, checks or PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 4/14

Want to have your own **self-running virtual stamp album on CD, DVD or BluRay disk** with scans of your stamps, exhibits or even digital photos to give to your friends? With just a few simple steps I can create a self-running CD-ROM for PC's or a DVD or BluRay disk for your TV viewing pleasure! Contact me at peter@pcelias.com for more details. 4/11

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 or LESS of catalog value! Will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! Also accept PayPal if you wish to pay that way! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

Wanted to Buy

Interesting "stuff", such as:

- ♦ Worldwide Revenue stamps on document
- ♦ Worldwide ATM stamps, such as those from Frama, Klüssendorf, Epelsa, Mobba Postage Vending machines and other "on-demand" printed postage (but NOT "ATM Booklet stamps") from around the world.
- ♦ CVP and custom order stamps, such as the "PhotoStamps" from Zazzle, Stamps.com, Endicia, etc.

Contact me at peter@pcelias.com with scans. 4/14

Germany—Berlin (9N) used stamps and covers postmarked 1948-1991. Berlin cancels are preferred but not required. Will buy from 1 to 10 copies of each issue. Contact Paul Ashley, 817-426-5131 or p-ashley@att.net 4/10

Here It Is

By Ken Aldridge

Shown below is the latest souvenir sheet from the US Postal Service. This S/S is only available by buying the USPS 2014 Stamp Yearbook. This issue highlights two Circus Wagon stamps at a value of 50c, using the design of the original "05" issue (Scott #2452B) of 12/8/92, followed on 3/20/95 with the same design, but with the denomination of 5c (Scott #2452D). The yearbook sells for \$64.95 but includes about \$45 in 2014 issued postage. Why did I buy it? Because I save US souvenir sheets, can use the postage and will try to sell the yearbook itself to recoup my cost.



Editor's Notes:

Right now on eBay I see that the yearbook sheets by themselves have bids of \$43 to \$50. The press sheet ones are going for about 3x to 6x of face value from what I can tell...

Based on completed/sold listings:

- ◆ Yearbook souvenir sheet: \$39 to \$85
- ◆ Entire yearbook with all stamps: \$86.50 to \$ 134.95
- ◆ Press sheet single sheet: lots of \$7.95 buy-it-now's (so about 4x face), ranging from \$6 to \$15.
- ◆ Entire press sheet: \$85 (face value is \$24).

The imperf press sheet (which is die-cut around the outside edges though) is now sold out at the "Caves" So if you need one, you'll have to resort to buying in the marketplace. I was able to order several sheets and have cut some apart into single imperf sheets and also vertical pairs. These are much easier to store and put into an album. Contact Peter Elias if interested.

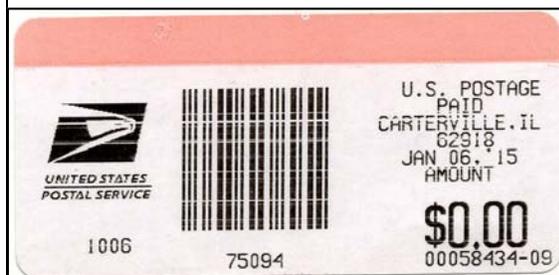
Wanted to Buy or Trade

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

The Future of Postage - PVI & PP

By Peter Elias

If you mail something directly at the post office counter, more than likely, you have seen one of these:



It is known as a PVI (postage value indicated) strip. For most collectors, these are probably "boring", but there are people out there that collect these items. They are after all "postage" (albeit not "stamps") and some people study these.

Recently, the pink striped PVI strips are slowly being replaced with a newer version:



This new PVI version is a bit larger (although reduced in size here). It still features a UV light-reactive coating, that is clear instead of pink, the lower picture above taken under UV light shows the vertical strip on the right side.



A little more exciting (in terms of design) are the various PP (postage paid) endicia found on some of our mail, such as the one shown above). The item below is a postage paid item from a company that allows you to send out mailing via their website; as most people know, the better the upper right-hand corner of your mail piece

looks, the more likely it is to get noticed, even if it is just a pre-printed color Eagle & Flag image with a pseudo postmark. Anything to get your mail noticed! And yes, collectible as modern postal history!



Arlington Meeting Minutes January 7, 2015

By Benedict Termini

The Arlington branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club held its monthly meeting on January 7, 2015 at the Bob Duncan Community Center.

Attendance: There were 19 members present and no guests. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike Smith.

The first order of business was to swear in the newly elected officers, which was done by President Mike Smith.

Officer & Committee Reports:

- ◆ President Smith reminded everyone that there would be a combined Club & EXPO Board meeting on Saturday, January 24th. *[Editor's note: the EXPO meeting portion will be postponed until AFTER TEXPEX]*
- ◆ The Secretary reported that 82 members had paid their dues for 2015 so far.
- ◆ Skip Ely reported that we had lots of sales books, and reminded everyone that the sales commission had been reduced to 5%.
- ◆ The Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor and the Expo Committee Chairman were not present.

Announcements:

Ray Cartier said we need 120 exhibit frames for TEXPEX and currently have 109. The cutoff for exhibit entry is January 15th. He also mentioned that the United States Postal Service would be issuing a new coil stamp at the show and passed a news clipping around which showed a picture of the new stamp.

Show and Tell:

- ◆ Ray Cartier passed around a copy of Topical Time, the magazine published by the American Topical Association, and also showed some of their publications. He briefly discussed the advantages of becoming a member of the ATA.
- ◆ Jerry Potter pointed out that Karen Cartier had worked for many years on a topical database for the ATA, which was now available to members. Jerry also pointed out that Karen is an honorary member of the ATA, the first person honored in this way since the ATA was founded.

Program:

The program was a video of the 2014 EXPO Awards Dinner, filmed by Peter Elias.

Door Prizes:

A Mid-Cities Stamp Club shirt was won by Jeff Jessop and an 'Inverted Jenny' souvenir sheet by Bobby Mills.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM by President Mike Smith.

Irving Meeting Minutes January 21, 2014

By Skip Ely

Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Smith at 7:30 PM at the Garden & Arts Center in Irving .

Attendance:

There were ten members and one guest present. The guest submitted an application for membership, having picked up a blank application at EXPO in November.

Officer Reports:

- ◆ Secretary - Skip Ely did not know the status of our membership.
- ◆ Treasurer – Mike said he believed our treasury was in good shape.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ **Sales:** Skip Ely said he would present a hand out at the Board Meeting summarizing sales last year, which were very good. He also mentioned we were off to a good start this year.
- ◆ **Web Site:** Jim Myers said he had gotten a little behind with the holidays, but expected to catch up soon.

Announcements:

Board Meeting Saturday – Mike Smith mentioned the board meeting scheduled for Saturday at the Pizza Garden in Bedford .

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Jack Urish had three Italian items from the WWII era to show.
- ◆ Susan Baker had two patriotic covers she passed around.
- ◆ Ken Wills showed an envelope with four of the \$2 circus press sheets he used to mail an item and his letter to Scott editors urging them to give it a catalog number since they are clearly valid for postage!
- ◆ Jim Myers showed a copy of an email he received from someone thinking they had a rare stamp (it was Scott 319, so it wasn't).
- ◆ Skip Ely showed some Special Delivery stamps he had been using to mail APS books back to APS, only to find an article in Linn's saying that Special Delivery stamps haven't been valid for postage since 1954 (strange, since these stamps were issued in 1971 – clearly more research is necessary).

Door Prizes:

Gift Certificates were awarded to Jim Myers and Steve Carpenter.

Program:

"Clean Out Your Closet."

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned around 8:45 PM.

The Future of Postage

By Peter Elias

When it comes to designs of ATM stamps, recent issues from France are sure much nicer looking than what comes out of the USPS machines! And these are also fairly large issues, about twice the width of a standard USA commemorative and is shown here at actual size.



President's Letter

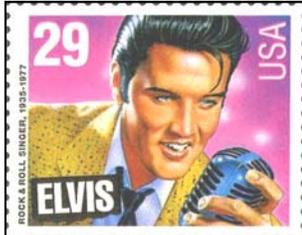
by Mike Smith

I hope everyone is having a good year so far. We had our first Club Board meeting on January 24th, and we are in great shape financially and have a lot of exciting programs and activities planned for this year. The EXPO planning meeting is currently scheduled for March 21st, so be thinking about our theme this year and let Stanley Christmas know your ideas.

We would like to encourage everyone, and particularly members who have not exhibited previously, to think about doing an exhibit this year at EXPO. Ben Termini will be making a presentation on "Putting Together an Exhibit" at the March Arlington meeting, and Ray Cartier and he and possibly others are offering to serve as mentors to help first-time exhibitors this year. I also want to thank Alliene Franklin and Ray Cartier for persuading enough of our members to provide 1-page exhibits that we are the only club with two single-frame exhibits at the TEXPEX "Shootout" at the end of February. Six or seven other clubs have entered the competition and as I mentioned last month, the club with the best entry will win a set of 2015 Scott catalogs or a copy of US Scott Nr. 1. Since we have the catalogs and will be getting a 2016 set soon, the Board voted to use the first US stamp as a Silent Auction item if we win.

The Board also approved door prizes to be given away at our meetings this year. In addition to two club gift certificates which have now been printed, unopened packets of the 2013 US Inverted Jenny stamp sheetlet will be given to members at each of the three meeting locations while our supply lasts.

Stamp of the Month: Elvis Presley, the King of Rock and Roll, was born in Tupelo, Mississippi in 1935. Although he died at the age of 42, he was the best-selling solo artist in the history of recorded music. We went to a musical of his songs, titled "All Shook Up", in Hurst last week and were reminded that Elvis was an icon for our generation. Guinea Scott Nr. 2125-2127 are commemorative sheets issued in February 2002 on the 25th anniversary of his death. The US Elvis stamp, Scott Nr. 2721, was released in 1993, and nations from Antigua to Zaire have also issued postage stamps honoring Elvis Presley.



Old Stamping Around Issues Needed

By Peter Elias

The digital collection of MCSC "Stamping Around" issues is almost complete. The following are still needed:

- ◆ Anything prior to April 1986. I do have one newsletter from July 1977 that is labeled Volume 1, Issue 1. Then nothing until April 1986, which is also labeled Volume 1, Issue 1! If anyone has anything to cover that 9-year gap (August 1977 through March 1985, please let me know!)
- ◆ 1986 - May, June, July, August (issues 2 through 5)
- ◆ 1992 - Issue 1 starts with March, so was there a January or February issue?
- ◆ 1993 - December (issue 12)

The club's "YahooGroup" site now gives us 2 GB of storage, of which 112 MB is presently used for the last 2 or 3 year's worth of newsletters. All newsletters prior to that only take up about 1 GB. If I upload all the past newsletters, it would still allow quite a bit of free space for the future, as well as make it easier for club members to access all the old newsletters.



Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

E-mail messages are NOT always who you think that they are from. I used to know a "Dave Walter". I just received an e-mail from Dave Walter, and the contents were something like "Hi! How are you? You can read about it in Oprah's book at "somenerfarioussite.com" (edited for your protection). But this message wasn't from the real Dave Walter (although that's what it said on the message "from" portion). When I checked the real origin of the message, it came from a totally different email address than the one I had for the real Dave Walter.

So what's happening here? Simple. When someone's email account gets hacked (and usually these are predominantly AOL, MSN and Yahoo accounts), the hacker now exports all of the addresses in that person's email address book. Then they set up a new email account somewhere else and simply identifies themselves as Dave Walter. This way, while Dave Walter may get back control of his real account, the spammer / scammer has essentially "borrowed" Dave Walter's identity so that he can send messages out of a different account with the hopes of fooling you into believing it's from the real Dave Walter.

How to guard against this? Well, you can't really. If you correspond with anyone through email, your email address will end up in their email address book. And if that person's account gets hacked, they now have your email address. And that means your email address is now "in the wild", even if you don't give out to other people knowingly.

Sure, you can get another email address, but this scenario could easily play itself out again, as someone else account gets hacked.

What you CAN do though, to not get yourself or your computer in trouble, is to simply NOT click on links in message from someone you know. At least, first check to see if the return email address is really from that person (check it against your own email address book).

Sure, we send messages to people we know and tell them to "check this out...". My brother constantly sends me links to check out various Audi stuff. But before I click, I make sure that 1) the message really came from him and 2) double-check that the link shown really goes to that site (i.e.: hover the mouse over the link and check in the bottom part of the window to see if readable portion matches that with where it will really go!

On to other stuff... One of my favorite online dealers is "buckacover.com"; they're in Canada and they always use nice stamps as postage! I've gotten some nice covers and cards from them at very reasonable prices. They're now opening a new online store at <http://www.discountstampshop.com> (slated to open in January 2015).

Some online philatelic reading (i.e.: blog) is available at this excellent site at Wordpress: <https://digitalphilately.wordpress.com/>

The APS has free album pages for 2014 USA stamp issues at: <http://stamps.org/userfiles/file/albums/2014-issues.pdf>

Members in the News

Peter Elias contributed several pages of articles and information about the "APC" (now "SSK") vended stamps from the US Postal Service, personalized postage from Liechtenstein, Germany's Internet Stamps and updates about another APC forgery from the "Brooklyn Postage Dodgers".

Peter Elias' article "The Avant", on pages 82-83 in the Winter 2015 of "Quattro Quarterly" (the official journal of the Audi Club North America) discussed the Audi "Avant" car models and features several stamps as illustrations.

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Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

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

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>
or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →




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Wanted to Buy

Flags of Our Nation issues, any on cover from set number 6, Texas through Wyoming. I will pay 25c each for those of my choosing. Contact Ken Aldridge at 817-528-7979 or KAldridge@aol.com 11/12

Old picture post cards featuring golf, golf courses, golfers, etc. Will pay top \$\$ for those of my choosing. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 1/13

GILBERT & ELLICE, KIRIBATI, & TUVALU. I need earlier mint stamps for G&E (thru 1976) and stamps and SS's for Kiribati (thru 2004) and Tuvalu (thru 2006). Please call or e-mail with descriptions. Von Dunn, cell (817) 907-1986 or home (817) 594-6869 or svdunn@charter.net 3/12

WANTED: For MCSC Mixture Picks

Good U.S. material on paper. We need commemoratives (32¢ to present values, including "forever" material) airmails, semi-postals and high value definitives. Please no Christmas, Love or other "special stamps". Club will pay \$20.00 per pound for needed material. May pro-rate smaller quantities. Contact Jerry Potter at (817) 370-7066, 11/13

MEET & EAT for February & March 2015

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

“Meet and Eats” are before the club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather between 5:00 and 5:30 PM. The group will start ordering at 5:30 PM. Latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit (check with the restaurant first if it serves buffet style). Meals should be over around 6:45 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

- February 4 **Angelos Steak and Spaghetti**,
2590 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX
(817) 303-7242
<http://www.angelospaghetti.com>
- March 4 **Jay Jay Café**, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, TX
76013 (817) 861-1060

IRVING

- February 18 **PJ’s Restaurant**, 2301 North O’Connor Rd
(north of 183) (972) 255-8400.
- March 18 **Spring Creek BBQ**
3514 West Airport Freeway (972-313-0987).

*Mid-Cities Stamp Club “Stamping Around” Newsletter
c/o Peter Elias
PO Box 940427
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**Don't Forget:
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