

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



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Volume 28, Number 3

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

March 2015

Been There - Done That (Kamakura, Japan)

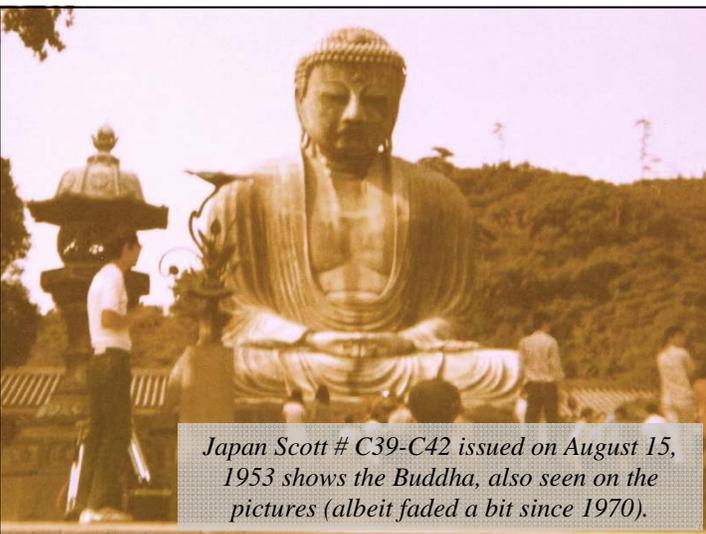
By Robert Weidman

In October 1970, on my third and final tour of Vietnam, our ship stopped in Yokosuka, Japan, our last stop before San Diego. Yokosuka was a great place to buy things like china, stoneware, crystal, cameras, stereo equipment and Japanese motorcycles. Since I had already bought of the above, except a motorcycle, I decided to go on a sightseeing trip with a friend from my squadron.



We had heard about a large statue of Buddha not too far from Yokosuka at Kamakura, a town several miles down the coast. Since we had no car, the only way for us to get there was to take the train. As soon as liberty call went at nine o'clock, we were on our way to the train station to get our tickets.

Kamakura is a seaside town with a large bronze statue of Buddha known as The Daibutsu (Great Buddha). It was completed in 1252 CE and stands 13.85 meters tall. Originally it was housed in a temple. An earthquake and the resulting tsunami destroyed the temple around 1495 and the Buddha has been sitting uncovered ever since.



Japan Scott # C39-C42 issued on August 15, 1953 shows the Buddha, also seen on the pictures (albeit faded a bit since 1970).

Been There - Done That (Forklift)

By Peter Elias



Back when I worked at a flexible packaging manufacturing company in the hometown of "Colonel Sanders" (that would be Shelbyville, Kentucky), my main job (at least according to my business card), was "Quality Engineer".

That entailed a variety of different tasks, such as establishing QC test methods and training the lab technicians in how to properly perform various QC tests on the products that we produced.

Of course, every now and then, some products came back to the plant. Because of GMP (good manufacturing procedures) SPC/SQC (statistical process/quality controls), and the fact that our products were meant to be used with food and pharmaceutical items, it was important returns got handled properly.

In order to be able to transport the returned goods into a QC quarantine area from the docks, I was given the opportunity to use a forklift truck to transport pallets across the plant.



As such, I was the only person in the QC department that got a "license" to be able to operate a forklift in the in our 190,000 square foot plant.

Luckily the forklift truck you see me on has safety features (such as a roll cage) that are NOT shown on the stamp from Hungary!

Article Index

Page

Been There - Done That (Kamakura, Japan)	1
Been There - Done That (Forklift)	1
Calendar & Secretary's Report,	2
Members in the News	2, 8
I Can't Exhibit! I Just Collect Stamps!	3
Reservations - The Old School Way	3
President's Letter	4
Been There - Done That (Lego)	4
Member & Dealer Ads	5, 6, 8, 9, 10
Club Meeting Minutes	6,7
Internet Stuff - The Onion	6
Comic Strip - Dennis the Menace	8
Ken Aldridge's Latest Book	8
Meet & Eat Info	10

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 – Richard 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

I hope that everyone is planning to go to TEXPEX, coming up just a couple of days after this newsletter is arriving in your mailbox (or inbox). As with most other stamp shows, admission and parking is free. It seems that just about every other "hobby" show that I go to charges admission, from \$3 to \$18. Just this weekend I spent \$15 to go to "AutoRama" in Dallas (for those that enjoy classic cars). A recent Model Train show in Plano cost about \$8 to get in (although free for kids under 12). Most coin shows charge an admission (such as the one that is at the Grapevine Convention Center every couple of months).

So we should all be glad that we participate in a hobby that keeps 99% of its shows free to attend! But to keep them free, they need at least visitors. And the more visitors, the more likely the dealers are to make sales, which in turns makes them more likely to return to the show. Without the dealers, there would be no stamp "shows" (i.e.: those with exhibits and other activities). While the only local dealer bourse (TSDA) seems to be doing well, overall attendance at all local shows seems low to me.

While attendance numbers seem ok for the people running the shows, when one considers that we live in a Metroplex of over 6 million people, and that there are only about 400 or 500 attendees at the EXPO and TEXPEX shows, that is really low!

There are probably lots more "closet collectors" out there than we know of (those that don't participate in organized clubs & philately), the problem is getting the word out there. I do what I can to plug our shows whenever I can, unfortunately what little budgets there are for advertising seems to be geared towards "preaching to the choir" (i.e.: in philatelic magazines, newsletters & websites). Rarely is there ever anything announcing the shows in general media (although I do get the "AAA Texas Journeys" to give EXPO a brief plug.

Members in the News

Ray Cartier's article "Cambodia's Temples" was published in the Jan/Feb 2015 issue of "Topical Time" on pages 34-36.

Errata

In the February 2015 issue on page 8, the date of the Irving meeting minutes was given as January 21, 2014, it should have been 2015.

Secretary's Report

By Ben Termini



New Members

Sujan Shrestha (#571)

Dropped for non-payment of 2015 Dues:

Ben Hudgens, Ken Dillard, Andy Bearden, Robert Clark, Malcolm Clay, Ron Fernandez, Jeanne Ganze, Debbie & Rob Hathaway, Susan Higgins, Rick Houghland, Andras Lacko, Upton Lybarger, Robert Sanders, Andrew Titley, Glenna Wallis, Marc Wisley

Membership Summary – February 18, 2015

Membership as of January 21, 2015	123
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(17)
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	()
Membership as of February 18, 2015	107

Coming Attractions

2015

FEB. 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

FEB. 27—MAR 1 TEXPEX 2015

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. 20-21 Dallas Postcard Show, Plano, TX

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

MAR. 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

APR. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Clean Out Your Closet (group participation)

APR. 10-11 TSDA Dealers Bourse

Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Fri 11-5, Sat 9-4

APR. 15 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

I Can't Exhibit! I Just Collect U.S. Stamps

by Ray E. Cartier

Well, that's not entirely accurate. U.S. stamps hold a vast amount of potential for creating exhibits that nobody before you has necessarily done. For instance, do you like movies? U. S. stamps hold a fantastic history of the film industry within its boundaries. First there is George Eastman (#1062) on a stamp. He invented photographic cameras. Alexander Graham Bell's (#893) telephone (#1683) eventually evolved into "talkies". Thomas Alva Edison's (#945) invention of the light bulb (#654) led to the projector images (#1727) and sound followed (also on #1727) plus (#1683). A movie being projected on a bed sheet is shown on #926).

Movies adapted from books such as those by Edgar Allan Poe (#986), Washington Irving (#859 & #1548), Louisa May Alcott (#862), Samuel Clemens [aka Mark Twain] (#863) and later on a great piece of postal stationery. To that add Joel Chandler Harris (#980).

Early Americans have had movies made of their larger-than-life lives, such as Daniel Boone #904), Abe Lincoln (#821, #902, #906 and many other stamps), Casey Jones (#993), Teddy Roosevelt (#1039 & others), General George Patton (#1025), Ben Franklin (#1073), Pony Express (#1154), etc.

Locations of movies are on stamps: Ticonderoga (#1071), Devil's Tower (ET) (#1084), the North Pole and Submarine Nautilus (#1128), World Trade Center ruins (#B2), the White House (#1202 and others), the Great American Desert and cacti (#1191 & #1192).

That doesn't even get us to directors and actors. Wouldn't that make a great exhibit?

You could apply the same research to inventors and inventions, to the Revolutionary or Civil Wars, to health in the US with those who treat the ill and those who lived with or died of various illnesses or handicaps. You could make a beautiful exhibit on US landscapes, or transportation.

You see, you do collect more than "just US stamps". You have a wealth of collections, just waiting to be mined by you to tell a story.

The very first step though is to know the "Rules" of exhibiting. You can obtain those at no cost by going to the APS website, www.stamps.org. Then go to "Stamp Collecting" and then to "Tips and Links" you'll see "Exhibiting". Here you'll find:

Help With Exhibiting

- ◆ [Welcome to Exhibiting](#), Article by Tom Fortunato
- ◆ [An Introduction to Thematic Exhibiting](#), Article by Tom Fortunato, along with a [master list of philatelic elements](#) as mentioned in the article
- ◆ We have [educational courses](#) to help you learn to exhibit.
- ◆ Our [show calendar](#) will help you identify events where you can exhibit.
- ◆ Our [Judging Manual](#) is available for download and provides the criteria which the judges must use in evaluating an exhibit.
- ◆ Seminars that judges are required to take may help you more fully understand the criteria in the Judging Manual. [1\) Treatment and Importance; 2\) Knowledge, Condition,](#)

Rarity & Presentation; 3) How to Use the Uniform Exhibit Evaluation Form

- ◆ And lists of the [award winners](#) of national level shows are also available.

[Editor's Note: the blue underlined links that you see will take you to the respective website pages when clicking on them if you are reading the PDF version of this newsletter!]

The "Judging Manual" would be the one to find there. It also goes by the name "Manual of Philatelic Judging" or just the "MOJ". In any endeavor there are rules. To be a winner, you have to first know and then follow, the Rules. All of the above shown links can open the door to you to one of the most interesting aspects of philately.

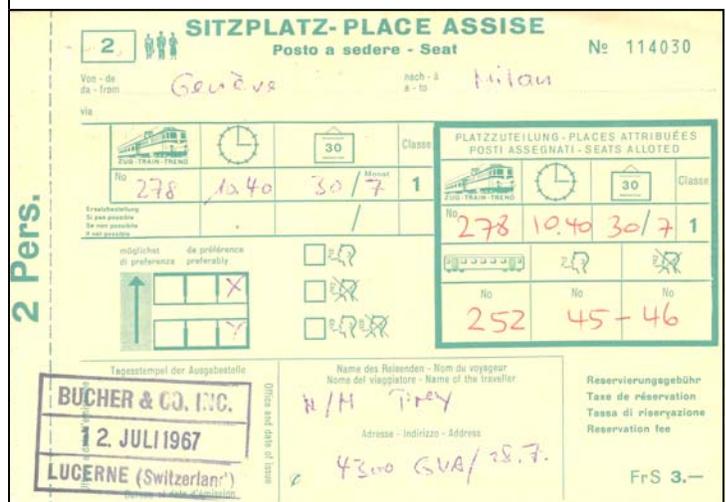
And you thought, "I just collect U.S.!" Welcome to a brand new world of fun and enjoyment!

Reservations - The Old School Way

By Peter Elias



When you make a reservation now, you usually get an email confirmation. Back in the "old days" (1967 in this case), the travel agent in Lucerne, Switzerland sent a postcard showing the train reservations, along with all the pertinent details, such as the train number, car number and seat numbers. In this case, 2 people were traveling from Geneva to Milan on the July 30 ("30/7") at 10:40 AM. Not much in terms of privacy though, as anyone handling this postcard could see certain details! An interesting look into how things were!



President's Letter

by Mike Smith

As the winter weather winds down, I hope many of our members are giving some thought to working on an exhibit for EXPO this year. Thanks to the efforts of Ray Cartier and Alliene Franklin, our club provided two 1-frame exhibits made up of single pages for the TPA stamp club "Shootout" at TEXPEX. That's more than 30 exhibits by different club members that could possibly be expanded to one frame. Anyone wanting to learn more on exhibiting shouldn't miss Ben Termini's talk on "Putting Together an Exhibit" on March 4th.

Ray Cartier has suggested adding a short session at the start of the Arlington meetings with a series of tips on exhibiting that he and Ben could provide, and this month seems like the perfect time to start that. We've had a couple of suggestions for our theme for EXPO 2015, but please send your ideas to Stanley Christmas before the planning meeting on March 21st.

Judy Christmas has lined up a great series of programs for our Arlington meetings this year but she would like for someone else to take over as Program Chairperson in 2016. This year the programs for eight months are club events or group participation like our auctions, so only four individual presentations were needed.

The Program Chairman at the Dallas-Park Cities club has also asked if we are interested in exchanging programs a couple of times each year, so let me know if you are willing to take over for Judy or have a suggestion for next year.

TEXPEX 2015 will be held from Friday February 27th through Sunday March 1st at the Grapevine Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center. Several of our members have exhibits at the show and, as usual, collectors from Mid-Cities will be helping TPA as volunteers so thanks very much to everyone who is participating in TEXPEX this year.

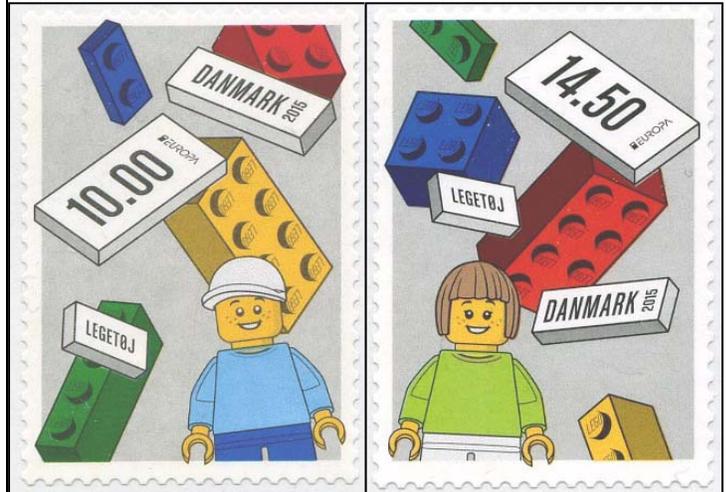
Stamp of the Month: George Sand is the pseudonym of French novelist and feminist Amandine Aurore Lucille Dupin born in Paris in 1804. In March 2004 France issued Scott Nr. 3006 for the bicentenary of her birth. France Scott Nr. B316 issued in 1957 is another stamp honoring George Sand. Sand married Baron Casimir Dudevant at the age of 19 and they had two children before she left him in 1831. She published her first novel later that year in collaboration with Jules Sandeau, and they also published some short stories signed as Jules Sand. Her later novels used the pen name George Sand. In addition to her novels, Sand wrote theater pieces, literary criticism, and political texts, and was well known in Paris for defying convention by wearing men's clothes and smoking in public.

Keep on Collecting! Mike
[Editor note: The two stamp images in this column were downloaded from <http://www.stampworld.com>]



Been There - Done That (Lego)

by Peter Elias



The 2015 theme for European Postal Administration's "Europa" series of stamps is "Toys". And what better way for Denmark to celebrate that than the world's most famous toy, "Lego" (from the Danish word "Leg Godt", meaning "play well"). The Lego company got their start by building wooden toys before venturing into plastic. The plastic used for Legos was developed specially for them.

Growing up as a kid in the 1960's, we had Legos. Back then though, there weren't "kits" like we have them now. All there was, were basic bricks in 5 colors (white, yellow, blue, red and black), plus some clear window bricks. Shapes were basic as well. It was more about your imagination and not just follow a 20 page assembly instruction booklet!

In the early 1970's, Lego had battery powered, then electric train sets in Europe, which we took with us when we moved to the USA, and we spent many hours in our parent's basement setting up tracks and entire cities. The train set was powered by a 240 Volt AC to 12 volt DC transformer (as 240 Volt is the standard in Europe); luckily my parent's basement was wired for this!

To keep my brother and me from fighting over the Legos, the rule was simple: I primarily worked with the red & white bricks, and my brother got the yellow & blue ones! That was well over 40 years ago. A bulk of these Legos still survive and my son is playing with them now (intermixed with thousands of new Legos...). Shown below is a typical "minifig" (left) that my son plays with and a "larger" mini figure from the 1970's that I found while digging in my old Lego box!



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
11210 Steeplecrest Dr, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77065
www.topperstamps.com
Appraisals Stamps Covers Collections
USA Postal History: Military, RPO's, Special Delivery, Advertising covers
Postal Stationery and Machine Cancels
Exp. 12/15

I Buy Stamps and Old Mail
(832) 518-6558
jonathan@topperstamps.com

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

Granbury Meeting Minutes January 26, 2015

By Gene Atkinson

Welcome:

Host David Stockbridge welcomed 14 members and 1 guest to the January 27 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

The group meets every fourth Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, Granbury, Texas 76049.

David called attention to several tables of periodicals and publications that were free for the taking and also introduced the winter sales items. Several tables were spread with individual stamps, packets, albums and binders, and miscellaneous items offered for sale. At prescribed intervals, the selling price would be reduced by ten percent until all materials were either sold or reclaimed by their owners.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Alliene Franklin showed the new U.S. circus souvenir sheet and pointed out that former member Ridge Roberts had won a Colorado fiddling contest.
- ◆ Gene Atkinson called attention to an article in *The American Philatelist* about "Un-Do," a product for safely removing stamps from paper.
- ◆ Al Hull had a 1918 Red Cross/Christmas seal.
- ◆ Gary McNamee discussed "finds" in a large mixture.
- ◆ Denny Ludlow exhibited some postal stationery.
- ◆ Dave Stockbridge had a Chinese tax stamp on receipts for merchandise. He also circulated the exhibit pages members had prepared for TEXPEX.

What's My Name:

Brian Smith led a discussion of the history of Macedonia.

Philatelic Moment:

In the absence of Ken Jones, the group held a roundtable discussion of philatelic terms: mint, unused, no gum, CTO and so forth.

Break:

Al Hull brought cocoonut crème and caramel apple cakes, which as usual were thoroughly consumed.

Closing:

As members continued sorting through the winter sale items, Gene Atkinson, Nan Jones and Al Hull won door prizes.

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

My general worldwide commemoratives for your foreign revenue stamps (on or off document, preferably "on"!). Trade ratio depends on what you have, can range from 10:1 to 25:1. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 3/15



Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

The satirical website "The Onion" poked fun at the USPS with an article on January 21, 2015 about the USPS supposedly unveiling stamps that honor Americans that are still using the Postal Service. A screen shot of the "stamps" is shown below, the text in italics is from the website article at: <http://www.theonion.com/articles/postal-service-unveils-new-line-of-stamps-honoring,37815/>

Postal Service Unveils New Line Of Stamps Honoring Americans Who Still Use Postal Service

NEWS IN BRIEF • Government • News • ISSUE 51•03 • Jan 21, 2015



WASHINGTON—In an effort to highlight their longstanding contributions and loyalty to the agency, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a new line of commemorative stamps Wednesday honoring those Americans who still use the U.S. Postal Service. "Our latest series of Forever stamps recognizes the remaining citizens who continue to support the USPS by physically sending their bills, rent checks, and thank-you cards via traditional mail," said Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe, noting that the newly issued stamps will depict such longtime supporters as Linda Campbell, an elderly Charleston, SC resident who still writes letters to her loved ones regularly, and 24-year-old Nicole Meier, who sends postcards during various trips around the country using the national mailing system. "The efforts of these individuals—including Salem, OR resident Patricia Hunt, who mails a birthday card to her nephew each year, and the sixth-grade teacher at Nyack, NY's Humphrey Elementary School, who still has students send letters to their state senators every fall—are worthy of our praise and deserve the highest honor the USPS can bestow." Donahoe added that the Postal Service would also be releasing a limited edition collector's stamp honoring those who have purchased a booklet of stamps, later lost it, and then had to buy another one.

Showing the USPS has a sense of humor, they shot back with a Twitter message showing a mock stamp that showed an Onion. More details at <http://www.postal-reporter.com/blog/peals-laughter-usps-runs-rings-around-onion/> and <https://twitter.com/USPS/status/557978026210623488> . Gosh, this is getting exiting now!

Arlington Meeting Minutes February 4, 2015

By Benedict Termini

Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike Smith. One new member, Sujan Shrestha, and his wife were introduced.

Attendance:

There were 27 members present and no guests.

Officer & Committee Reports:

- ◆ **Secretary:** The secretary reported that 95 members had paid their dues for 2015 so far. Members who have not renewed will be notified by email and dropped from the membership rolls if they do not respond.
- ◆ **Treasurer:** The treasurer (Judy Christmas) was not present but president Mike Smith said we were in good financial shape.
- ◆ **EXPO Committee:** The EXPO committee chairman (Stanley Christmas) was absent but president Mike Smith reminded everyone that the new EXPO dates were now Friday and Saturday, November 13th and 14th, and pointed out that setup would be Thursday November 12th, the awards dinner would be Friday November 13th, and takedown on Saturday, November 14th.
- ◆ **Sales:** Skip Ely reported that sales were good and reminded everyone that the sales commission had been reduced to 5%.
- ◆ **Newsletter:** The newsletter editor (Peter Elias) was not present, but president Mike Smith mentioned that the newsletter had been entered in the upcoming APS show.
- ◆ **Website:** The webmaster (Jim Myers) was not present but president Mike Smith said that the temporary problem with the website had been fixed and it was now fully functional.

Announcements:

- ◆ Mike Smith said the next board meeting will be at 10:30 AM on Saturday March 21st and it will be a combined club and expo meeting.
- ◆ Rich Hildebrandt discussed the next club auction which will be in May. Members should send lots to him or bring them to the meetings. Up to 10 lots per member are allowed and he reminded everyone that there will be no club commission.
- ◆ Ken Aldridge announced that he had completed his fourth book which would be for sale to members in the near future. He also mentioned that he had purchased a large Canada collection which he was going to break up and make available to members at 10% of catalog value.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Dave Stockbridge showed the new club projector with carrying case and extension cord which he had purchased after being authorized to do so a recent board meeting. The cost was \$660.00.
- ◆ Mike Smith passed out some bookmarks from the American Topical Association.

Irving Meeting Minutes February 18, 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 5 members present.

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:

- ◆ Web Site – Mike said that Jim Myers had told him he was updating parts of the website.

Announcements:

- ◆ TEXPEX Next Weekend – Mike Smith mentioned the upcoming TEXPEX at the DFW Hilton Grapevine February 27-March 1.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ New Member Sujan Shrestha showed a book of event covers he had collected.
- ◆ Jack Urish had several items, including an update on his French Colonies collection.

Door Prizes:

Tom Turner was the recipient of an inverted Jenny packet. Gift Certificates were awarded to Sujan Shrestha and Jack Urish.

Program:

Was a roundtable discussion of collecting interests. This wound up being fairly brief due to the small number of attendees, but was still a friendly conversation.

-
- ◆ Ray Cartier showed a letter concerning the detection of boulders on the moon landing site for the Viking spacecraft.
 - ◆ Ken Wills showed some of the circus souvenir sheets (used on mail) from the imperforate press sheets and mentioned that he had written a letter to the editor of the Scotts Catalog, requesting that they be given a listing.
 - ◆ Charles Snow passed around a cover he had received from Bangladesh with multiple copies of low value stamps which had been overlapped.

Door Prizes:

Inverted Jenny souvenir sheets were won by Howard Savage, Ray Cartier and Mike Smith. Gift certificates (\$10) were won by Diana Davis and Jimmy Williams. Secretary Ben Termini mentioned that despite being a member of the club for many years, he had never won a door prize and suspected CIA involvement.

Program:

Giveaway of stamps from George Kempston's donation to the club, organized by Ken Wills.

Adjournment:

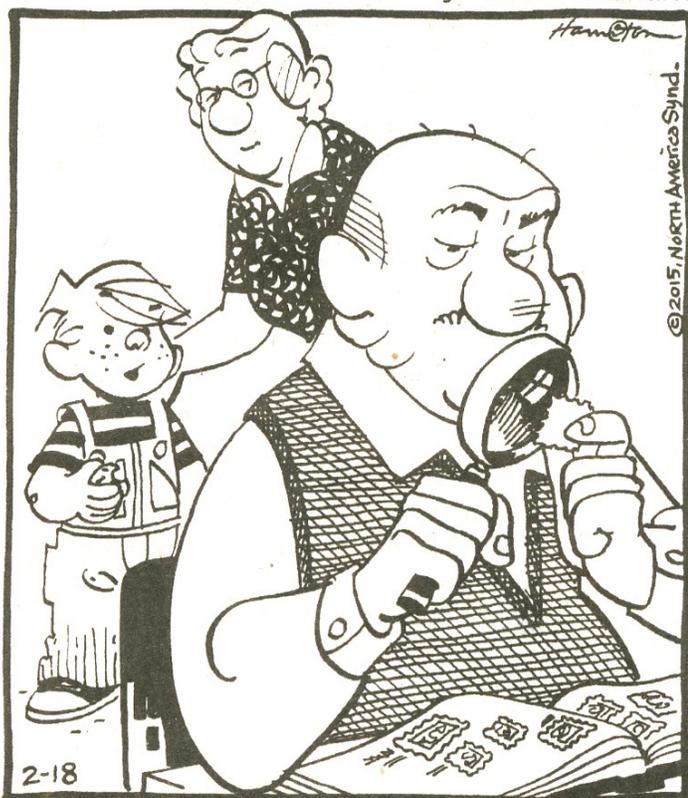
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM by President Mike Smith.

Comic Strip - Dennis The Menace

By Peter Elias

The "Dennis The Menace" comic strip is a nice commentary on the current "state of our hobby". It is definitely true that ordinary "mail" gives us little to collect as far as stamps go. Even if there were an "electronic" stamp image attached to an email, that just wouldn't quite have the same "collectability factor"!

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham



"THEY BETTER FIND A WAY TO PUT STAMPS ON E-MAILS, OR MR. WILSON WON'T HAVE A HOBBY."

Note: the comic strip character is holding the stamp with hands (which is how many of us do it), however, to be "correct", he should be using tongs!

Members in the News

Judy & Stan Christmas' article "Mid-Cities Scores High Marks All Around" was published in the February 2015 issue of "The Texas Philatelist" on pages 14 to 16 with the EXPO Palmares listed on page 17.

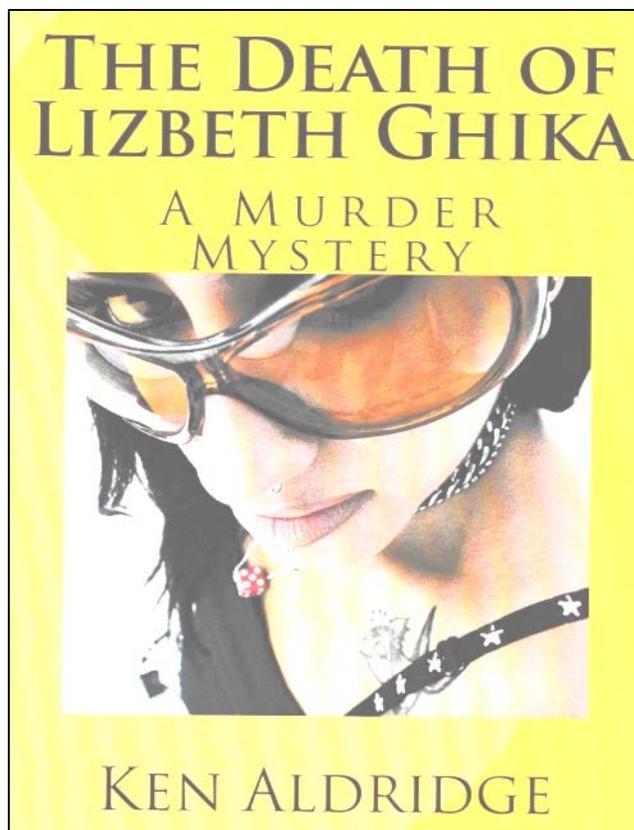
Wanted to Buy

Circus Poster stamps on cover. Will pay 50¢ each for those with light cancels. Ken Aldridge 6/14

Postally used "ATM" stamps (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Peter Elias, info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

Book with a stamp connection

By Peter Elias



As you may know, club member Ken Aldridge has been self-publishing crime novels. Here is the press release for his latest effort:

Author Ken Aldridge announces a recent publication and release of his fourth book, a murder mystery, titled, "The Death of Lizbeth Ghika"

"The Death of Lizbeth Ghika" is a true mystery about the death of a 16 year old gypsy girl, young romance, holistic medicines and insights into the criminal lifestyle of gypsies. Read about Lizbeth's death, how did she die, was it suicide or murder?

Author Aldridge takes his readers back to the small fictional Texas town of Lake City, where his first three books took place. A chief of police, his frustrations of the job, his love life and some of the towns characters are again woven into this latest book.

"The Death of Lizbeth Ghika" and Aldridge's other books: "Triage of Troubles", "Enticing Evils" and "In Murder's Shadow", are all available on Amazon.com, Kindle or can be ordered at your local book store.

Ken Aldridge is a native of Grand Island, Nebraska, a graduate of University of Nebraska at Kearney and worked as a Special Agent with the FBI for 23 years. He spent most of his career assigned at Fargo, North Dakota, is now retired and resides in Texas with his wife, Vicki Varvel Aldridge. They have three children and six grandchildren. Aldridge is a long time stamp collector, enjoys the challenge of the game of golf and is involved in several charitable mission projects of the United Methodist Church. He is available to speak to book clubs and other groups on writing and getting published, stamp collecting as a life-long hobby and golf from the humorous side.

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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 March & April 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

March 4 **Jay Jay Café**, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, TX
76013 (817) 861-1060

April 1 **Campo Verde**: 2918 W Pioneer Parkway,
Arlington, TX 76013, (817) 275-7003
<http://www.campoverde.us/>

IRVING

March 18 **Spring Creek BBO**
3514 West Airport Freeway (972-313-0987).

April 15 **Pappy’s Seafood**
831 N. Belline (south of 183),
Irving (ph 972-790-7650)

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

Don't Forget:
TEXPEX - Feb. 27 to Mar. 1
Dallas Postcard Show - Mar. 20-21

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