



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 4

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

April 2015

Been There - Done That (Mauritius)

By Robert Weidman

In November of 1998 we took a vacation to the islands of Reunion and Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Reunion is a department of France and Mauritius is a former British Colony which gained its independence on March 12, 1968.



Mauritius was an uninhabited island when it was discovered by the Portuguese in 1498. The population of over one million is 50% Indian along with Arab, African and some European. English is one of the two official languages along with French. It is spoken with a very heavy French accent.

They apparently do not get very many American tourists there. The locals would ask us where we were from. We would tell them that we were from the United States or that we were Americans. Something must have been lost in the translation because they thought we were from South Africa.

One of the activities we signed up for was a catamaran cruise that sailed along the east coast of the island. We were the only Americans on board. The other guests were French except for an older German couple.

One of the places we saw was the Grande Riviere Sud-Est waterfall. The accompanying stamp was bought in a set at the gift shop at our resort. I bought the stamp before we decided to go on the cruise and knew about the waterfall!

The picture of the turtle was taken at a place along the coast where we stopped for lunch and drinks.

It was a great trip even though it took us nearly 40 hours together. We flew from Wilmington, North Carolina (where we lived at the time), to Washington DC. From there we flew to London where we had a long layover. The flight to Mauritius from London was twelve hours and then another 45 minute flight to Reunion before working our way back.



TEXPEX 2015

By Peter Elias

In 2014, an ice storm shut down Texpex 2014 early on Sunday. This year, an ice storm came through as the show opened on Friday, February 27. While dealers and exhibitors had set-up the night before, the showing on Friday was not so good, even though the roads were a bit better on Saturday, the first 2 days probably saw no more than 150 attendees. Sunday weather was better, and dealer tables actually had some customers!

I braved getting to the show on Friday. Leaving the east side of the Plano area was ok, but the further west I drove, the more "white knuckle" the driving became! One thing that I noticed this year was the exhibition hall seemed "brighter". I think it had to do with tan colored walls and valences from the ceilings that made the hall look more inviting than last year!

On the exhibition side, 6 exhibits were entered by 4 MCSC members, and received the following awards:

- ◆ Paul Ashley: Bronze for "Jesus of Nazareth"
- ◆ Ray Cartier: Gold and Reserve Grand for "How We Got Men to the Moon" and a Gold for "Skylab: America's First Space Station".
- ◆ Peter Elias: Vermeil and AAPE Creativity Award for "The Brooklyn Postage Dodgers" and Silver and WE Sterling Achievement Award for "Introduction to Spanish Thermal ATM Stamps and Their Varieties".
- ◆ Ben Termini: Silver for "The First Stamps of the Palestinian Authority".

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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 – 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>

Coming Attractions

2015

MAR. 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: “Writing a Book and Getting It Published” by Ken Aldridge

APR. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: “The APS Buddy Program” by Alliene Franklin

APR. 10-11 TSDA Dealers Bourse

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

APR. 15 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: “A Brief Look at Art and Artists on U.S. Stamps” by Skip Ely

APR. 28 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: “How To Put Together An Exhibit” by Ben Termini

MAY 6 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Semi-Annual Auction

MAY 20 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: TBD

MAY 26 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: “Atkinson Unhinged” by Gene Atkinson

JUN. 3 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

While it is still early in the year, it is not too early to start thinking about exhibiting at our annual EXPO on November 13 & 14. Ben Termini gave a great talk about exhibiting at the Arlington meeting on March 4 and mentioned the “mentoring” program that is available to members.

Sometimes the hardest part is just getting started, and then momentum builds! Exhibits grow and get modified over time. I've had exhibits start at 1 frame and end up with 5 or 6 frames over time. Sure, it can get frustrating at times, but it is a fun journey. Luckily “re-doing” pages is made easy and relatively painless when using software such as Microsoft Word or Publisher (or free software such as “Open Office” or “Libre Office”).

Take some time to study the hundreds of exhibits at: <http://www.exponet.info>. Exhibits can be about anything philatelic, whether it is a “traditional” exhibit and the topics/themes are endless. When choosing a topic, remember that a topical collection (for example: “Airports on Stamps”) does not make an exhibit, however, the “Evolution of Airports” would! Ready, set, exhibit!



Ben Termini
(photo by Keith Parris)



Members getting together at the “Meet ‘N Eat” before the Arlington meeting on March 11, 2015
(Photo by Keith Parris)

Errata

In the March 2015 issue on page 2, in the Secretary's Report section, the year of the was given as January 21, 2014, it should have been 2015.

Secretary's Report

By Ben Termini



New Members Reinstatements: Andrew Titley

Membership Summary – March 12, 2015

Membership as of February 18, 2015	107
New Members	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	()
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of March 12, 2015	108

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

WANTED: U.S. Liberty Series precancels. Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at atkinson@our-town.com. 4/15

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

Granbury Meeting Minutes February 24, 2015

By Gene Atkinson

The Lake Granbury club did not meet on February 24 due to inclement weather.



Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

The online stamp club "Stamporama" has some exhibits available for viewing at:

<http://stamporama.com/exhibits/>

Don't forget that the American Topical Association now has an online sales department. If you are a member, you can submit your spare topical items for sale at this site:

<https://www.topicalsonline.com/>

Searching for some hard-to-find stamps? I've found a few at the Philippine-based "Poppe-Stamps" website at <http://www.poppe-stamps.com/>. They have almost 2 million stamps in stock! Prices are sometimes higher than Scott catalog values, but remember, that it also takes time and effort to scan uploading listings and if you really, really need a particular item, isn't it worth to spend a few cents extra to finally get it?

The EXPONET online philatelic exhibit website has gotten an upgrade. There are several hundred exhibits (from single-frame to 10-frame) there, from "traditional" to "thematic" exhibits of all kinds. It is an international site based out of the Czech Republic, so there are a number of exhibits in languages other than English, but there are nevertheless a lot of exhibits in English (even I have a couple of older ones there). While there is no info as to what kind of medal levels and awards these exhibits have won, it is a great place to view exhibits from the comfort of your home and without having to stoop over exhibit frames at a show! You can start here: <http://www.exponet.info/index.php?lng=EN>.

The "Virtual Stamp Club" (which is an APS affiliate) is another great online resource. It is run by Lloyd de Vries. See <http://www.virtualstampclub.com/>.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Exhibit Mentoring Program

Purpose: To provide help for members who are interested in becoming exhibitors. The program will pair a novice exhibitor with a club member who has had experience in developing an exhibit. The mentor will be available to answer questions, assist with organization and development of the exhibit, review the exhibit and provide advice on how it can be improved. It is anticipated that this will be an ongoing process, and that most contacts will be email or phone, but face-to-face sessions may also be an option.

How to enroll: Fill out the application below and mail to: Benedict Termini, MCSC Club Secretary, 8520 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76120. You will be assigned a mentor and that person will contact you within the next few weeks.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Exhibit topics I'm interested in: _____

President's Letter

by Mike Smith

Now that spring is here and we just held our EXPO 2015 planning meeting, it's time for the EXPO committees and all our members to think about their contributions to this year's EXPO. Ben Termini gave a great talk on "Putting Together an Exhibit" at the March Arlington meeting and we hope that at least a few members will take up the offer from Ben, Ray Cartier and Peter Elias to help first-time exhibitors with their first frame.

TEXPEX 2015 had wintery weather for the second straight year, but our club members who exhibited there all won awards. Also, in the TPA "Stamp Club Shootout" we won a special award for the club with the most philatelically "fun" exhibit, so congratulations to everyone who contributed a page to our two 1-frame exhibits!

Ray Cartier has offered to prepare the new club Member Handbook and Directory for 2015-2016 which will be issued soon, so please be sure all of your information is current and correct.

Stamp of the Month: Charles Darwin, English naturalist and geologist, published his theory of evolution in 1859 showing that all species of life descended over time from common ancestors. Many of his conclusions were drawn from a five-year scientific expedition on the HMS Beagle that included stops in the Falkland Islands. Since 1935 at least 60 countries have issued commemorative stamps honoring Darwin, including Falkland Islands Scott Nr. 344-347 on April 19, 1982, the centennial of his death.

Keep on Collecting! Mike

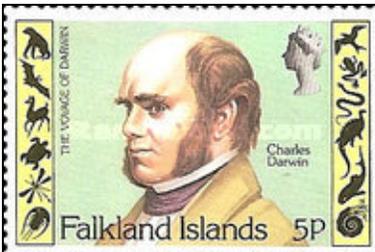


Image from www.stampworld.com

Train Wreck

By Peter Elias



Supremes Asked: How Long Will You Let Obama Make it Up?

A team of constitutional-law experts filed a brief Monday with the U.S. Supreme Court asking the justices if they are willing to allow President Obama to continue making up the law as he goes. The brief by the American Center for Law and Justice asks the court to reject IRS regulations that illegally authorize tax subsidies for purchasers of...

Interesting how some people and organizations are using stamp-like images to make a point. I guess the obvious point here is that Obamacare is a "train wreck". What this has to do with "U.S. Mail" (they forgot the second "dot"), I don't know. The above came from <http://veritasupdates.com>, a "conservative newsfeed".

Power Stapler to the Rescue

by Peter Elias



The usual 10 pages of the newsletter are shown to the left, awaiting assembly on my dining room table.

The usual routine is shuffle the 5 sheets of paper together, fold, then staple twice.

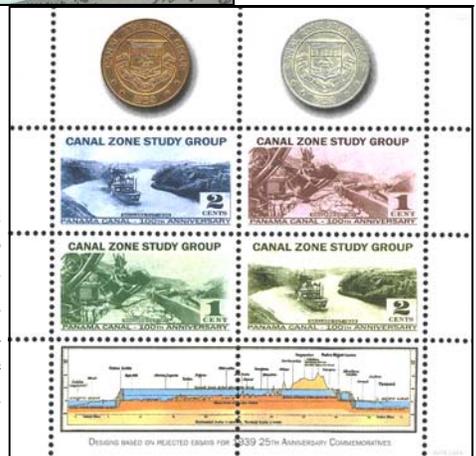
If it wasn't for my power stapler, the task would be a lot more tedious!

I apply postage to the back of page 10 just after printing. It's a lot easier to deal with it that way than try to put postage on an assembled newsletter.

Canal Zone Bonus

by Peter Elias

Last year, members of the Canal Zone Study Group received a nice privately produced "souvenir sheet" as a bonus as part of the Panama Canal 100th Anniversary!



Philatelic Humor

By Peter Elias



CARRIER PIGEON CRASH COVER

Key to any Lesser Antilles postal history collection is an Inter-island Flown Pigeon Cover. This superb yet somewhat disturbing example is the scarcest of all: an Interrupted First (and last) Flight. The fascinating rarity was retrieved (along with the pigeon) from Barbados' north-eastern coast by Danish whalers in 1852. Note the harpoon damage at upper right as well as the beautifully intense and vibrant Pigeon Blood Pink killer tying the rare adhesives. ex Child

Of all the types of exhibits I enjoy the most, the ones that incorporate humor are the best! Here's a 1-page exhibit that I saw at TexpeX 2015.

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

Expo Committee Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2015

Benedict A. Termini, Secretary

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club Expo Committee met at 10:30 AM on March 21, 2015, in the meeting room at the Pizza Garden Restaurant in Bedford. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 by Chairman Stanley Christmas. MCSC members present included: Mike Smith, Stanley Christmas, Alliene Franklin, Tom Turner, Skip Ely, Janet Moyer, Ray Moyer, Peter Elias, Tom Cunningham, Brian Smith, Ken Wills, Ken Aldridge, Ben Termini, Bob Weidman, Jerry Potter, Ralph Poore, Rich Hildebrandt and Ray Cartier.

1. The change of dates from Saturday & Sunday to Friday & Saturday was discussed. It was pointed out that there was general satisfaction with the change among the dealers and others involved. The dealers have all agreed to an increase of \$20 in fees to cover the increased charges for the venue.
2. Stanley Christmas discussed the new floor plan with changes in the locations of various dealers.
3. The theme for the show was discussed and a number of suggestions were made, including horses, science fiction, missing children and Christmas. At the end of the meeting members were polled and the majority approved the idea of "Helping Children."
4. The budget for the show was reviewed in detail by Stanley Christmas. A number of suggestions and corrections were made and discussed.
5. The question of an awards dinner speaker was raised and it was decided not to have a speaker.
6. Outreach to new collectors: Letters will be sent to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls. Stanley Christmas mentioned that he had been using the APS membership list, sending letters to APS members in our area who were not on other mailing lists.
7. Stanley Christmas mentioned that Janet Moyer would be assuming some of the responsibilities formerly performed by Judy Christmas.
8. Stanley Christmas said that he would probably not be available as Expo Committee Chairman after 2015, and suggested that it was time to start looking for his replacement. He mentioned that he would continue as an advisor and would do everything he could to facilitate a smooth transition.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2015

By Ben Termini

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club officers and board members met March 21, 2015 in the meeting room at the Pizza Garden Inn in Bedford. The meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM by Club President Mike Smith. Others present were First Vice President Skip Ely, Second Vice President Rich Hildebrandt, Board Members (voting) Alliene Franklin and

Ralph Poore, Expo Chairman Stanley Christmas, Newsletter Editor Peter Elias, Secretary Ben Termini and members Bob Weidman, Jerry Potter, and Ray Cartier. Treasurer Judy Christmas and Webmaster Jim Myers were absent.

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the previous Board Meeting from January 24, 2015 were read and approved.

2. Old Business:

- ◆ Ray Cartier reported that he had the information needed for the 2015-16 edition of the MCSC Handbook and Directory and it should be forthcoming soon.
- ◆ A discussion was held about estate planning services available to members and it was decided that an official MCSC committee was unnecessary.

3. Officers' Reports:

- ◆ **Secretary:** Ben Termini reported that we had 108 members of which 107 had paid their dues. The one non-paid member was noted to have serious medical problems. A discussion was held concerning ways the club might recruit more members.
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Judy Christmas was absent due to illness, however Stanley Christmas read a brief report she had submitted, indicating that the club was in good financial shape.
- ◆ **Newsletter:** Editor Peter Elias reported that there were no current problems with the newsletter.
- ◆ **Webmaster:** No problems. President Mike Smith noted that information about weather-related postponements would be available on the site.
- ◆ **Sales books:** Skip Ely submitted and discussed a sales report for the first quarter of 2015.
- ◆ **EXPO Committee:** The Expo Committee meeting preceded this Board Meeting.

4. New Business:

- ◆ President Mike Smith discussed TEXPEX and pointed out that the show had been adversely affected by weather conditions for the second year in a row. He pointed out that the TEXPEX Shootout was won by the Oklahoma City Stamp Club and that the MCSC had won an award for the 'most philatelic fun' exhibit.
- ◆ Peter Elias suggested a stamp caption contest for the newsletter, similar to the one run in Linn's Stamp News. It would be in every other issue with a \$10 prize for the best caption. The board voted to proceed.
- ◆ Judy Christmas has asked to be replaced as Meetings Chairperson for the Arlington Branch in 2016. A replacement has not yet been selected.
- ◆ Stanley Christmas gave an update on the benefits the club had received from the Werry donation. The club treasury has netted nicely so far from this and there was more to come. Several members expressed their feelings of appreciation.
- ◆ Jerry Potter discussed a donation of stamps that he had made from the mixture pick to the Longview Stamp Club.
- ◆ The next Board Meeting was set for 10:30 AM on Saturday August 22nd at the Pizza Garden Restaurant in Bedford.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Arlington Meeting Minutes March 11, 2015

By Benedict Termini

The Arlington branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club held its monthly meeting on March 11, 2015 at the Vandergriff Community Center. (The regular meeting date of March 4th had been rescheduled due to weather conditions.) There were 22 members present and no guests. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Mike Smith.

OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Secretary: The secretary reported that the club presently had 107 dues-paying members.

Treasurer: The treasurer (Judy Christmas) was not present.

EXPO Committee: The EXPO committee chairman (Stanley Christmas) was absent but president Mike Smith reminded everyone that there would be a combined MCSC Board and Expo Committee meeting on March 21st at 10:30 AM at the Pizza Garden Restaurant.

- ◆ **Sales:** Skip Ely reported that sales were booming.
- ◆ **Newsletter:** The newsletter editor (Peter Elias) mentioned that the newsletter had won an award recently.
- ◆ **Website:** The webmaster (Jim Myers) was not present but president Mike Smith mentioned that if future meetings were rescheduled or cancelled due to weather problems this information would be posted immediately on the website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ Peter Elias said that he had made a DVD of some MCSC-related material which he had found recently and was placing copies of it in club libraries.
- ◆ Skip Ely reported that there would be an auction at the next Irving meeting and anyone wishing to submit lots should get them to him.
- ◆ Mike Smith reported that our club did not win the Texas Shootout at TEXPEX, but we were given an award for the "most fun" exhibit. The shootout was won by the Oklahoma Stamp Society. CIA involvement is suspected.

SHOW & TELL:

- ◆ Ken Aldridge showed a Canadian stamp collection with a high catalog value which he was willing to sell to any club member for a low price. He also showed a copy of his latest book (which has a philatelic connection) and which was for sale for \$10.
- ◆ Jerry Potter discussed removal of self-adhesive stamps from paper with "Pure Citrus" spray, and passed a container of it around. Other members discussed their experiences with removing self-adhesive stamps from paper.
- ◆ Peter Elias mentioned that he had imperforate circus sheetlets available, cut from complete sheets, if anyone wanted these for their collection. He also passed around some recent stamps from Finland, Germany and Switzerland which he thought might be of interest to members.

DOOR PRIZES: Inverted jenny sheetlets were won by Ken Aldridge and Ben Termini. Gift certificates (\$10) were won by Jeff Jessop and Gene Pfretzschner.

PROGRAM: "How to get started in Exhibiting" by Ben Termini, with input from other club members. He also discussed the new mentoring program for club members interested in exhibiting. An application form is being printed in the next newsletter.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM by President Mike Smith.

Irving Meeting Minutes March 18, 2015

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 14 members present.

Officer Reports:

- ◆ Secretary – Mike Smith said that Secretary Ben Termini had reported that we had 96 members left after all the renewals were completed. [Editor: 108 members as of 3/12]
- ◆ Treasurer – Judy Christmas said the treasury was in good shape.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ EXPO – Stanley Christmas reminded everyone of the upcoming EXPO and Board meeting this Saturday. He said the main order of business for the EXPO portion will be to select a theme. He noted there were no obvious choices, so we might have to look back at some previous year issuances.
- ◆ Sales – Skip Ely said sales were going well for so early in the year, and that he would have an update at the upcoming Board meeting.
- ◆ Web Site – Jim Myers said that the website was up to date. Mike said the club appreciated Jim being able to get the postponed Arlington meeting on there so quickly.

Announcements:

- ◆ Mike Smith noted that the next TSDA Bourse was Friday-Saturday, April 10-11 in Richardson.
- ◆ Stanley Christmas noted that Dealer Eddie Thomas has requested help in loading and unloading his stock at both the TSDA bourse and this year's EXPO due to health issues.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Jack Urish passed around some Hungarian stamps with a "Story to Tell".
- ◆ Ken Wills showed a little wooden box full of Ireland number 128, the half pence emerald Brother Michael O'Cleary he had acquired.

Door Prizes:

- ◆ Steve Carpenter was the recipient of an inverted Jenny packet. Gift Certificates were awarded to Tom Turner and Skip Ely.

Program:

Was the semi-annual auction. Thirty-seven of seventy lots sold, with sixty-seven dollars in donation lots benefiting the club.

Åland Frama

By Peter Elias



It would appear that Åland (a Swedish speaking island that is part of Finland) still appears to be using the "Frama" ATM postage labels (judging by the 2014 date). The Frama company stopped selling the machines many years ago.

What are they saying (or thinking) ?

By Peter Elias

If you read Linn's, you know that every couple of months they have a "cartoon caption" contest whereby readers are invited to submit a "caption" for the stamp being shown.

We thought we'd try the same thing! Going through some piles of stamps, I found the stamp below. It's obviously just "begging" for a comment! So we're inviting all club members to come up with an interesting response! The caption can be philatelic or non-philatelic in nature.

The stamp shown below is Hungary, Scott #C181, depicting a statue in Brussels, Belgium and was part of a set honoring Hungary's Pavilion at the Universal and International Exposition at Brussels in 1958.

As an incentive, the best overall caption will win a \$10 club gift certificate. The winning caption will be announced in next month's newsletter. Space permitting, some of the other submissions will be shown as well.

Deadline: April 15 2015.

Rules (yes, there have to be rules):

1. Eligibility: This contest is for Mid-Cities Stamp Club members only. While non-members can submit responses, they won't be eligible for the gift certificate*.
2. Responses can be philatelic or non-philatelic in nature, but let's **keep it clean!** Sarcasm is encouraged! "Deep thoughts"? Sure! Nothing vulgar or obscene though please!
3. Decision of the judge (that would be me!) is final. Note: As someone that enjoys sarcasm and off-the-wall humor (I love *Monty Python's Flying Circus*, *Portlandia*, *Fawlty Towers* and similar shows...), the more off-the-wall the humor is, the better!
4. The gift certificate will be issued to the winner at a subsequent club meeting (so it helps to actually attend meetings!) and can be used at EXPO (with the stamp dealers) or for purchases from club sales books (but NOT for club membership renewals).
5. As I sift through piles of duplicates, I'm sure I'll find other stamps worthy of a cartoon caption. If you find a stamp worthy of a caption, please feel free to send me an image (300 dpi resolution please). For now, the club has committed to do at least 6 of these for the next year.
6. Submit your entry prior by the deadline shown above to news@mid-citiesstampclub.com.

* If you submit a membership application & 1 year club dues to the club secretary (by mail or at a meeting) prior to the deadline shown above, you are eligible. Be sure to send the caption entry to me though and let me know that you've applied for membership.



Rescued Stamps

By Peter Elias

At TEXPEX 2015, there was a "beginning collector" table with several large boxes of stamps free of charge (donations were accepted!). "Pawing" through the boxes was a lot of fun. Despite



a lot of stuff suited obviously for beginning collectors, I managed to "rescue" the items shown (amongst others) in this column.

All of these caught my eye for

some reason or other. As a sideline to my various collecting and exhibiting endeavors, I do like revenue and Cinderella stamps and some of these were definitely interesting!

Unfortunately few of the dealers at the show had anything that I needed for my current collections or exhibit, but going through these boxes was amongst the best philatelic entertainment that I had for a quite a while! Kind of like being a "kid in a candy store"!



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

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For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>
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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 April & May 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

- April 1 **Campo Verde**: 2918 W Pioneer Parkway,
Arlington, TX 76013, (817) 275-7003
<http://www.campoverde.us/>
- May 6 **Spring Creek Barbeque**, 3608 S Cooper,
Arlington, (817) 465-0553.
springcreekbarbeque.com/arlington.htm

IRVING

- April 15 **Pappy’s Seafood**
831 N. Beltline (south of 183),
Irving (ph 972-790-7650)
- May 20 **Angelo’s Pasta**
1330 West Pioneer Parkway, Irving

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

**Don't Forget:
TSDA Bourse - April 10-11**

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