

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

June 2015

Wineburgh Philatelic Library Visit

By Peter Elias



On Monday, April 20, several members of the Granbury Chapter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club braved the Spring-like weather and trekked up to the Wineburgh Philatelic Library, which is located in the McDermott Library's "Special Collections" Department on the Richardson Campus of UTD (University of Texas at Dallas).

Present were David Stockbridge, Alliene Franklin, Cyndi Spurlock, and Austin Mullins (from left above), joined later by James & Madeleine Myers (on right). Our guide was Seth Miskimins (shown 3rd from right above).

Seth mentioned that the library had approx. 10,000 items, ranging from various catalogs (Scott, Michel, Gibbons, et al), philatelic journals from around the world (going back to the late 1800's) and various specialized philatelic research books.

The library has an online index available through the UTD library system, and also through the APS Philatelic Research library at <http://catalog.stamplibrary.org/>

Been There - Done That (Tires)

By Peter Elias



Yes, Tires! I'm sure you're thinking: "well, we've ALL 'done' tires". True, if you own a car, truck, motorcycle, RV, ATV, bicycle or even unicycle, you will have had something to do with tires.

The key interaction that we all have with tires is of course 1) buying

them and 2) hopefully checking the tire pressure once in a while. But in my case, that goes a bit further.

Back in my college days (early/mid-1980's), I worked midnight shifts (11 PM to 7 AM) at an AMOCO gas station in East Lansing, Michigan. And you wouldn't believe what came "rolling in" at some hours of the night.

One time, a lady showed up in a car and asked me to check the tire pressure. It was 90 psi! 28 to 32 psi is considered normal for most tires; this one was about ready to burst! Then a guy came limping in with a flat tire, basically driving on the rim of the wheel. The only thing left of the tire was about an inch of rubber around the edge of the wheel. I did get to sell him a new tire (woo-hoo - commission!) and even mounted it once I was able to remove the remains.



And yes, that is me in the photo above next to my 1973 Ford LTD (and wearing an Amoco work shirt).

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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

MAY 26 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: “Atkinson Unhinged” by Gene Atkinson

MAY 29-31 TX Numismatic Assoc. Annual Coin &

Currency Show, Arlington Convention Ctr.

JUN. 3 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Giant Mixture Pick

JUN. 17 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: TBD

JUN. 19-20 OKPEX 2015 Stamp Show

Reed Conf. Ctr, 5800 Will Rogers Rd, Midwest City, OK 73110

Friday 11-5, Saturday 9-4

JUN. 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: “EZStamps & Album General” by

Gary McNamee

JUN. 26-27 TSDA Dealers Bourse

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

JUL. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: “Jules Verne” by Ray Cartier

JUL. 15 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: TBD

Editor’s Forum

By Peter Elias

This newsletter received a GOLD award in the 2014 APS “CAC” (chapter activities committee) “Newsletter Competition”. 17 APS chapters submitted their newsletters, the results were:

Gold - 9 Vermeil - 7 Silver - 1

Key comments and suggestions from the judges: “font is small”, “illustrations are well done”, “could we get ‘Texas’ into the heading”, “more space between text and illustrations”, “keeping classified bourse in one spot” and that they liked the additional letter I enclosed with the submission that “explains” a few things...

Philatelic Field Trip

By Peter Elias

I’m trying to see what the interest level would be in having a “field trip” to the North Texas Regional Mail Processing Facility (in Coppell). I sure am one that would love to see how all of our mail gets routed and postmarked (not to mention folded, spindled and mutilated)!

This would probably be 30 to 60 minutes in length sometime mid-day during a weekday and would have to be planned well in advance. I’m trying to get some info on getting this arranged through one of the supervisors at the Plano main post office (she’s not heard back yet though). But we’d need to get some sort of an idea of how many would be interested in this? To gauge general interest level, please send me an email at news@mid-citiesstampclub.com stating whether you would be interested in this and how many would attend!

Postage Rate Increases on May 31

By Peter Elias

Postage rates will increase for all mail classes (except Priority & Priority Express) on May 31. Key changes are:

| Rate | Thru 5/30 | Starting 5/31 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| First Class Add’l Ounce Rate | 0.21 | 0.22 |
| First Class PC Postage (1st oz) | 0.48 | 0.485 |
| Postcards | 0.34 | 0.35 |
| Media Mails (2 lbs) | 2.69 | 2.72 |
| International (1st oz) | 1.15 | 1.20 |
| Certified Mail | 3.30 | 3.45 |

The First Class 1st ounce rate remains at 49¢. The above are the key changes. The USPS is also contemplating issuing “Forever” stamps for the following items: postcards, first class additional ounce rate and non-machinable rates.

Secretary’s Report

By Benedict Termini

New Members

Geoffrey Owens

Membership Summary – May 9, 2015

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Membership as of April 1, 2015 | 109 |
| New Members | 1 |
| Dropped for non-payment of dues | () |
| Resignations | () |
| Deceased | () |
| Reinstatements | () |
| Membership as of May 9, 2015 | 110 |

Wanted to Buy or Trade

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@stvincentsstamps.com 8/14

Baseball Cover

By Ken Aldridge

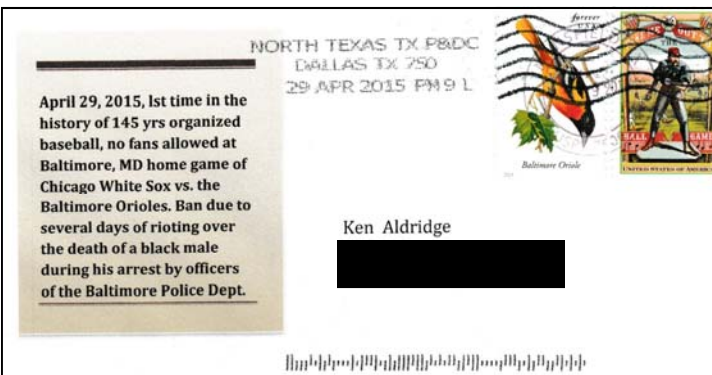
Due to the riots in Baltimore, Maryland after the death of a black male during an arrest by Baltimore Police Officers, Major League Baseball officials decided to go ahead with the next regular scheduled baseball game of April 29, 2015 at Baltimore, but not allow any fans to attend the game. The game was an afternoon game between the Baltimore Orioles and the Chicago White Sox.

To commemorate the historic event of the first baseball game in 145 years without any fans, I found "Baltimore Oriole" and "Take Me Out To The Ball Game" stamps and placed them on envelopes with a cachet that explained the historic event.

On the same date as the scheduled game, I took the envelopes to the Mansfield, TX Post Office and asked the clerk for light date cancels. She said she would be happy to do that but the envelopes would still have to go through regular handling at the post office. I asked if the stamps would be additionally canceled and she told me they would not, but only have sorting bar codes at the bottom.

I handed her the two envelopes and she put on light circular date stamps. I thanked her and walked out of the post office feeling good about the baseball souvenir envelopes that I created. Baltimore beat Chicago that afternoon, 8 to 2 in a crisp 123 minute game. Two days later I received the two envelopes in my mail box and was obviously disappointed when I saw the post office added roller [spray-on] cancels to the stamps.

[Editor's Note: What they told Ken was incorrect; apparently they don't know about "hand-back" service. See the Postal Operations Manual, section 231.4.]



Granbury Meeting Minutes April 28, 2015

By Gene Atkinson

At 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 28, host David Stockbridge welcomed 18 members of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, and 1 guest to the regular monthly meeting at the Bent-water Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct., Granbury, Texas. He pointed out two tables with free periodicals and philatelic materials from the collection of the late Dick Phelps for members to browse.

In a segment called **SHOW & TELL**, Daniel Kennedy offered a selection of German issues, Stanley Christmas described the 0.00 post office label on packages, Denny Ludlow had a large envelope almost covered with Romanian stamps, and Cynthia Jones discussed correspondence of 1959 from a Nigerian pen pal. Al Hull had several unusual covers--censored, postally abused, APOs and more. Jim Bailey showed plate reconstructions of Great Britain Scott 68, the 1880 2½ pence ultramarine, plus a topical collection related to his last name as it appears on philatelic items. And Alliene Franklin informed the group that she had a number of door prizes available at the end of the meeting.

Cyndi Spurlock, Alliene and David reported on the recent club trip to the Wineburgh Philatelic Library in Dallas and on the abundant resources available to collectors.

For the **PHILATELIC MOMENT**, Ken Jones discussed Postmaster Provisionals.

In **ANNOUNCEMENTS**, Alliene asked for donations to the club Mystery Box for the 2015 EXPO, and Judy Christmas asked members to volunteer for the different functions on Friday and Saturday, November 13-14. Stanley Christmas explained the shift to the Friday/Saturday schedule and the enthusiastic response it has so far received.

After the **BREAK**, at which Al Hull provided the eagerly anticipated "Mississippi Mud" and carrot cakes, Ben Termini brought the evening **PROGRAM**. Encouraging members to take up exhibiting as part of their philatelic activities, he urged that it was "easier, more fun than you think." Ben provided hand-out resources, referenced on-line information, encouraged membership in the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, and reviewed highlights of the APS Manual of Judging. In a thorough and well-organized presentation, Ben emphasized that great exhibits come from many trial-and-error efforts, building on experience and feedback with each attempt.

Six members--Gene Atkinson, Jim Case, Judy Christmas, Alliene Franklin, Al Hull, and Ken Jones won **DOOR PRIZES** consisting of gift certificates, the "inverted Jenny" sheetlet, and the Smithsonian publication "Favorite Finds", and a postally used \$10 Wave Stamp, donated by the MCSC Mixture Pick Chairperson.



Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

You inherited a stamp collection—now what? This is what Charles Myers discusses in about 170 pages in his online book at <http://www.inheritedstampcollection.com/index.htm>. It also covers a lot of great ground for beginning collectors and makes for good reading even for advanced ones!

Need to do some research regarding philatelic literature? See: <http://www.globalphilatelibrary.org/>

We've all heard of QR-Codes by now. But how to generate them? There is a free software download at <http://www.tec-it.com/en/download/free-software/Default.aspx>

Stamp Caption Contest (#2)

By Peter Elias

If you read Linn's Stamp News, you know that every couple of months they have a "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 is 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 is an Ifni semi-postal issue, Scott #B24 from 1955. So, what is the squirrel thinking?



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

—> Submission deadline: June 17, 2015, 11:59 PM.

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 club gift certificate will be issued to the winner at a subsequent club meeting if I am in attendance (so it helps to actually attend meetings!), and if not, it will be mailed. The certificate 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 stamp caption contests (through early 2016); this is number 2.
6. Submit your entry prior by the deadline shown above to news@mid-citiesstampclub.com. If you don't have access to e-mail, you can snail-mail it to me to arrive before the deadline; see the return address shown on the address page of this newsletter. Commemorative stamp usage is appreciated!

* 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.

USPS Reduces the PC Postage Discount

By Peter Elias

The USPS has been allowing the users of "PC Postage" a gracious 1¢ discount for 1st Class Mail, meaning you only had to pay 48¢ for a standard 1 ounce letter rather than 49¢ if using "regular" stamps or postage (which includes the APC [now SSK] postage labels from the blue kiosks in post office lobbies).

By USPS definition, "PC Postage" includes products such as standard postage meters, personalized (custom) postage (such as "Photostamps", "PictureItPostage" and "Zazzle" stamps), and "print-on-demand" postage from your computer.

As of May 31, 2015, some postage rates increased (although the main 1st ounce rate of 49¢ did not change). However, what changed was that instead of a 1¢ discount for using PC Postage, this was reduced to a 0.5¢ discount. As a result, you now have to pay 48.5¢.

If you need to purchase new PC Postage, such as from Dymo/Endicia, you would have the option of printing a 48.5¢ label (at time of writing this, stamps.com did not have a 48.5¢ or ½¢ make-up rate option available yet).

If you had previously printed 48¢ stamps, you now have 2 choices:

- 1) Use the 48¢ PC Postage and add a regular 1¢ stamp, thus paying the "retail" rate, or
- 2) Use the 48¢ PC Postage and print a ½¢ make-up rate stamp, such as the one shown above from Dymo (or one of the other vendors, such as stamps.com).

To qualify for "PC Postage" rates, all postage has to be paid via those type of stamps.

The ½¢ Dymo stamp shown here would make it the first ½¢ stamp that a consumer could purchase since the red-orange ½¢ Ben Franklin definitive stamp of 1955.

While some people might argue that this is not a postage "stamp", it is definitely "postage". Dymo offers a free (no monthly fee) account whereby you only have to pay for the postage that is purchased (and of course the pre-printed label sheets).

But is it worth it to print ½¢ Dymo make-up rate stamps? In short: no. To buy the Dymo stamp sheets, you have to buy a package of 50 sheets, each of which contains 24 labels for \$89.95 (plus postage presumably). It works out roughly to 7.5¢ per postage label. Add to that the ½¢ for the actual postage value, and it just cost you 8¢ for a ½¢ label that saves you ½¢ in postage. It would be cheaper to just use up your 48¢ PC Postage by adding a regular 1¢ definitive stamp!

But even when printing the new 48.5¢ PC Postage labels, it would technically still cost you 56¢ to do so! Generally this is not worth it for the consumer, but geared towards businesses that want to save money by not having an employee go to the post office and stand in line to purchase regular stamps.



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

US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV. Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage. S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). jasdmyers@earthlink.net 5/15

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

Been There - Done That (Istanbul, Turkey)

By Robert Weidman

In October of 2009, we took a cruise of the Greek islands. The ship left from Istanbul, Turkey, where we spent a couple of days before boarding and then sailed to the Greek islands of Patmos, Rhodes, Santorini and Crete. We also stopped at Kusadasi, Turkey, before pulling into Athens, where we also spent a couple of days before heading home.

On our second day in Istanbul, we took a half-day sightseeing tour of the city. We went to the Blue Mosque, the Topkapi Palace, the Hippodrome, St. Sophia's and a Turkish rug dealer. All of these rugs are made by hand. Every knot is individually tied by hand. Pat was able to try her hand at making one. It can take a year just to do one square yard. Since it was taking Pat a while to master the technique of tying the knots for the rug, we decided to buy the two rugs from Mr. Erdinc Omac, the gentleman in the picture with us.



Hagia Sophia

St. Sophia's, also known as Hagia Sophia "The Church of Holy Wisdom", is an Orthodox Christian Cathedral that was built around 530 AD under the direction of Emperor Justinian I. The central dome is 102 feet in diameter, an almost impossible



task at the time. In 1453, St. Sophia's was converted into a mosque by the Ottoman Turks. Since 1935, it has been a museum. The accompanying stamp, Turkey Scott #2271 shows St. Sophia's in the background.

If you are looking for a place to visit that is off the beaten path, we recommend Istanbul! There are untold sights to see, things to do and great shopping (remember to bargain!). We felt safe, the people were friendly and English was widely spoken.

President's Letter

by Mike Smith

As was the case last year, the June Arlington meeting will be held in the Garden Room along the south wall of the Bob Duncan Center. The reason for this change is that the annual Art Show is being held again in our usual room the first week in June. The Garden Room is about the same size, and we will be able to get into the Art Room to get items from the library cabinet as needed. This benefits the Club because we get to use this room for the month for free and save an \$85 rental fee.

Congratulation once again to Peter Elias, editor of *Stamping Around*, for being awarded a Gold in the 2014 APS Chapter Newsletter Competition. This year's judges, who are all APS-accredited judges and/or experienced authors, were Denise Stotts of Houston, Karen Weigt from Middleton, Wisconsin, and Paul Goodwin from Coventry, Connecticut. Newsletters are judged by the APS based on the last three issues of the year (October through December), so let's continue to provide Peter with outstanding articles on EXPO and other topics then.

Ray Cartier has identified a great opportunity to introduce philately to people who have never thought about going to a stamp show. On September 26th, Waxahachie, Texas, will have a free education event on "Chautauqua Celebrates Flight". Ray has talked to the organizer and offered to provide an event postmark and cacheted cover as well as ten or so frames of related exhibits and publicity for our club, TPA, and the annual stamp shows. If the Board of Directors approves the use of 10 frames for this event, TPA has offered us \$150 to help us with the costs of this exhibit. We will need a few volunteers to help out with the two table the Chautauqua Association has offered to promote our club, TPA, our shows, and philately in general.

Stamp of the Month: English novelist and journalist Eric Arthur Blair, known as George Orwell, was born on June 25, 1903. His allegorical novels "Animal Farm" and "1984" were banned in Czechoslovakia and many communist countries, but in 2013 Czech Republic issued a stamp dedicated to George Orwell including the eye of Big Brother. Guinea Republic also issued a miniature sheet in 2010 on the 60th anniversary of Orwell's death.

Keep On Collecting! Mike



[stamp image from www.stampworld.com]

Arlington Meeting Minutes May 6, 2015

By Benedict Termini

The Arlington branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club held its monthly meeting on May 6, 2015 at the Vandergriff Community Center. There were 30 members present and several guests who left before they could be introduced. 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 110 members, all of whom had paid their dues for 2015. We have one new member since the last meeting (Geoffrey Owens).
- ◆ **Treasurer:** Judy Christmas reported that the club had sufficient funds.
- ◆ **EXPO Committee:** Stanley Christmas discussed various matters relating to the 2015 EXPO. He said we had a full house of dealers signed up. The theme will be "Saving Children." Ken Aldridge discussed security at the show and tie-ins between the theme and various law-enforcement groups. Judy Christmas mentioned that it was time for volunteers to sign up and passed the sign-up sheet around.
- ◆ **Sales:** Skip Ely reported that sales were booming.
- ◆ **Newsletter:** The editor (Peter Elias) said there were no problems with the newsletter. He asked members to contribute short articles on the "Been There, Done That" theme, and discussed the cartoon caption contest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ President Mike Smith announced that the newsletter had received a GOLD level award from the APS Chapter Newsletter Contest. Peter Elias was given a certificate and a round of applause.
- ◆ Ben Termini and Ray Cartier discussed the need for exhibits at the show this fall and the mentoring program.
- ◆ Jerry Potter said that Volume I of the 2016 Scott Catalog had arrived.
- ◆ Stanley Christmas said that stamps from the Bob Werry donation were available (with flaws) for 50% of face value. More stamps from this bequest will be offered to members in the future.
- ◆ President Mike Smith showed the text on Confederate Philately the club had received as a prize for having the most fun exhibit at the TEXPEX Shootout. It will be placed in the club library.
- ◆ Peter Elias said there was material in the back of the room which had been donated to the club and was available free to members.
- ◆ Ray Cartier discussed his experiences at the Boxborough Philatelic Show and announced that both he and Ben Termini had won GOLD medals for their exhibits.

SHOW & TELL:

Lots of interesting material was passed around by various members including a Swiss stamp in the form of a record which could be played on a phonograph assuming you had one or even still remembered what it was (Ben Termini), an envelope with cartoons about diabetes mellitus (Ray Cartier), a cover with a \$0.00 label (Stanley Christmas), a cover with baseball stamps honoring the recent Baltimore Orioles game which had no fans

Irving Meeting Minutes May 20, 2015

By Skip Ely

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

Attendance: There were 12 members present.

Officer Reports:

- ◆ **Secretary** – Mike Smith said the membership stood at around 110.
- ◆ **Treasurer** – Mike also said the treasury was in good shape.
- ◆ **Committee Reports:**
- ◆ **EXPO** – Mike mentioned the EXPO theme ("Keeping Children Safe") and passed around a sheet of the new Missing Children Stamp we will use for some of the cachets. Susan Baker said she expects to have the award banquet tickets available by the next Irving meeting.
- ◆ **Sales** – Skip Ely said sales were going well.
- ◆ **Website** – Jim Myers said that the website was up to date.

Announcements:

- ◆ Mike Smith said the club had received an APS Gold Newsletter Award. Our thanks to Editor Peter Elias for his hard work and effort to achieve this award.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Jack Urish showed some "Hungarian Zombie" stamps, as well as some other items, including some computerized fake stamps from eBay.
- ◆ Jim Myers passed around some old unauthorized U.S. "Meter Mail" stamps.
- ◆ Ken Wills had a package label he thought was strange. Peter Elias had an explanation.
- ◆ Keith Parris showed an empty USPS "Body Bag" he had received.
- ◆ Peter Elias had a number of items to show.

Door Prizes: Madeleine Myers and Susan Baker received club gift certificates. Geoff Owens received a package of inverted Jennies.

Program: The program was presented by Skip Ely, and was titled "The U.S. "G" Rate Stamps of 1994-95".

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned around 8:45 P.M.

(Ken Aldridge), mail from Spain and Cuba (Peter Elias) and envelopes from the German Christmas Market (Gene Pfretzschner). Alliene Franklin pointed out that today was the 175th anniversary of the issuance of the Penny Black.

DOOR PRIZES:

Inverted Jenny sheetlets were won by Ken Aldridge and Janet Moyer. Gift certificates (\$10) were won by Rich Hildebrandt and Stanley Christmas. Ed Perez won a used copy of the \$10 wavy line stamp and Mid-Cities calendars were won by Ken Dougan and Jim Camak.

PROGRAM: The club auction was run by Jerry Potter and Rich Hildebrandt with Stanley and Judy Christmas doing the accounting. Lots of good material was purchased at bargain prices.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by President Mike Smith.

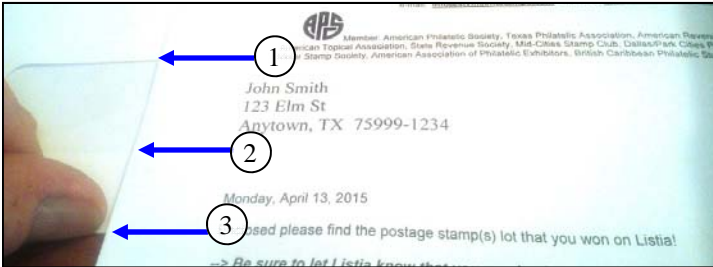
How To Fold a Letter For A Window Envelope

by Peter Elias

I frequently mail letters inside “window” #10 business envelopes. I have my software set up to print addresses so that they can show up properly inside the window of the envelope.

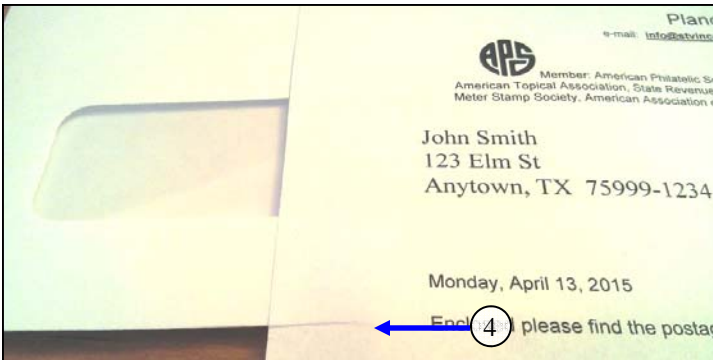
The trick then is to fold the letter so that the address does properly line up inside the envelope. Since I have to manually fold the letters, it is important that the fold is in the right place consistently.

Here is the trick that I have been using to make this happen effortlessly.

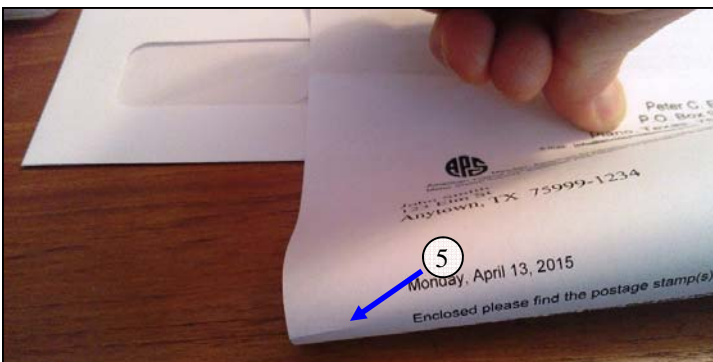


First, I line up the letter on the outside of the envelope so that the address is vertically centered between the “window” (see #1 and #2 above).

Then I run my thumbnail along the bottom left edge of the letter right at the bottom edge of the envelope for 1/2” (#3).



This creates a slight crease in the paper (#4) above.



Then I simply fold the top third of the letter over, lining up the left sides and put my thumb on the pre-made crease (#5) and then continue the fold properly all the way across to the right side of the letter, after which I flip over the letter and fold the bottom third into place.

Since I usually need to do this 40 to 60 times per week, the time and effort savings are great!

Seattle Stamp Stores

By Peter Elias

I don't mind if a stamp store is a bit “messy”. Heck, just give me a stamp store, period! It is sad that here in the DFW area, with a population of something like 6.5 million people, that there is not a single traditional “brick & mortar” stamp store left!



The picture above shows such a “messy” stamp store; it is one I visit every time that I go to the Seattle area. Seattle has quite a bit less than 6.5 million people, yet has at least 2 stamp stores that I know of (there used to be more, but I'd settle for 2 here in the DFW area!).

This particular store is A&M Stamps, located in Renton, Washington, just a couple of miles due east of the SeaTac Airport; the other store is Aurora Stamps, located on the far north side of the Seattle metro area. I took this picture in December 2013.

Located on the back wall is a “bid board”. So if you happen to live in that area, you can put in a bid for the stamps that are on that board. I guess that the store has been buying more and more collections recently, as the piles seem to get bigger every time that I am there! The store also operates a private mail box business. And if you're into numismatics, there's a coin shop less than a half a block away!

The greater Seattle area also has at least 3 or 4 stamp clubs that I'm aware of, the Greater Eastside Stamp Club (GESS) that meets in Bellevue, the SnoKing (Snohomish & King County) Stamp Club (far north side of Seattle), the Washington Philatelic Society (downtown Seattle) and (presumably still) the Boeing Employees Stamp Club). Over the past 20 years, I've been to meetings of them at least a couple of times.

Postage Confusion

By Peter Elias

“PC Postage” products such as “Photo Stamps” by stamps.com and “PictureItPostage” by pictureitpostage.com are supposed to enjoy a 1¢ discount (to be reduced by ½¢ on 5/31). However, these companies are selling their custom stamps at 49¢, not 48¢, citing confusion amongst customers.

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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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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

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

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 June & July 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

- June 3 **Angelos Steak and Spaghetti**
2590 W. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX
(817) 303-7242
<http://www.angelosspaghetti.com/>
- July 1 **Jay Jay Café**, 1001 S Bowen, Arlington, TX
(817) 861-1060

IRVING

- June 17 **El Chico’s**, 2035 West Airport Fwy, Irving
Ph: (972) 659-1662
- Jul 15 **PJ’s Restaurant**, 2301 N. O’Connor Rd
(north of Hwy 183)
(972) 255-8400

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

Don’t Forget:
Okpex - June 19-20
TSDA Bourse - June 26-27

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