

# **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)



Volume 28, Number 10

http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com

October 2015

# Been There - Done That (Volunteering)

By Bob Weidman



I'm still doing it and enjoying it. In February of 2011, I had Melanoma cancer surgery. As a result, I was on medical leave from the post office where I worked for six very long boring weeks. I'm not used to sitting

around doing nothing, so one day I went over to the Veterans Administration Outpatient Clinic in Ft. Worth to speak to a benefits counselor. While I was waiting for my turn to the counselor, I saw the sign for voluntary services and went into the office.

I wasn't sure that the doctor would release me to go back to work and I knew that I couldn't sit around the house anymore. I needed something to do with all that time on my hands. Bimal Chowdrury was the lady in



charge of all the volunteers at the clinic in Ft. Worth. She explained the different areas where volunteer help was needed, especially drivers to pick up patients at their homes, transport them to the clinic, and then take them home after they see the doctor.

Shortly thereafter, the doctor did release me to go back to work. I told Bimal that I could still drive on Thursdays, which was my day off.

To become a volunteer at the VA, I had to go over to the VA Hospital in Dallas for a physical and a TB check. A criminal background check was done and my driving record for the past five years was also checked. I was also fingerprinted and my picture was taken for my ID badge. I also had to get a



...continued on Page 4 ...

# **Annual Picnic**

By Judy Christmas

It is that time of year for the Club's annual Fall Picnic.

We will gather at the same spot as last year, the patio at the Bob Duncan Community Center. The Center will have tables and chairs placed there for us to dine at.

The date is October 7, 2015. This will be a pot luck dinner. A sign-up sheet will have been passed around at the September meetings. But if you were not able to attend a September meeting and or did not sign up but would like to attend let me know via phone, 817-656-2925 or e-mail, judy66@swbell.net.

The Club will provide hot dogs, cooked by our own personal chef David Stockbridge, drinks and utensils. For those who will be attending, we ask that you bring a covered dish. Some dishes that have been brought in the past are salads (tossed, Jell-O, fruit), beans, casserole dishes of all kinds, fruit plates, deviled eggs (which always go fast so make many) chips & dip and all sorts of desserts.

This event has been such a big success in years past, so please come and join us! It is a good time for members to get to visit with each other.

We will begin gathering around 5:15 to 5:30 PM and start eating around 5:45 PM or so.

If you have any questions, please contact either Judy Christmas at (817) 656-2925 or David Stockbridge at (817) 573-7168.

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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

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**



Ken Wills

SEP. 22	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting	
Program:	Program by Stanley Christmas	
OCT. 7	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting	
Program:	EXPO Envelope Stuffing (group participation)	
OCT. 9 - 10	Dallas Postcard Show (Plano)	
Southfork Hotel, US-75 northbound service road (past 15th Street)		
Fri, Oct. 9 10—6	; Sat. Oct. 10 10-4, \$3 admission, free parking	
OCT. 14	MCSC—IRVING Meeting	
Program:	TBD	
OCT. 27	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting	
Program:	Annual Picnic & Giant Mixture Pick	
NOV. 4	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting	
Program:	Giant Mixture Pick	
NOV. 13-14	28th Annual MCSC STAMP EXPO	
Grapevine Convention Ctr, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4, free admission		
NOV. 18	MCSC—IRVING Meeting	
Program:	TBD	
NOV. 24	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting	
Program:	"EXPO Debriefing" by Stan Christmas	

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## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

It's getting to be that time of year: the annual plea for exhibits for EXPO! We have 60 frames available for members (and also non-members!) to display their exhibits. The deadline is coming up shortly: October 19! Be sure to get your exhibit entries turned in to our exhibit chairperson, Ralph Poore (who has taken over for Ray Cartier) at: Mid-Cities Stamp Club, c/o Ralph Spencer Poore, 2210 Del Ray Ct., Arlington, TX 76013.

Need exhibiting help? Please feel free to contact Ray Cartier, Benedict Termini or me.

## **EngAGE Arlington**

By Ray Cartier

The Arlington Parks Dept. wrote to the club: On 10 Sep 2015, this program will conduct a progressive dinner hitting 6 different City of Arlington Parks locations, with Bob Duncan Center being the 3<sup>rd</sup> stop and scheduled for 5:30-6pm. We are showcasing who we are and what we do here, thus the invitation for your participation. Your 4-foot table would come covered with a black tablecloth and you can decorate it from there or simply put out information for prospective members. If you would like to have information available but do not have a member that can "man" the table, that's ok too! You can drop off flyers, business cards or other marketing materials and the BDC staff will arrange a table for you. If you would like to showcase your group, please let me know by 5pm on 8 Sep 2015!

I volunteered for Karen and myself to cover the MCSC table, and Mike brought handouts there before-hand. There were 63 people who came in by buses. A Bob Duncan Center spokesperson ,who had received info from each of the six groups represented, told them all about the MCSC and about 15 of the 63 people came by the table to talk to us.



# Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

**New Members** Ralph Blackburn (#573)

#### Membership Summary - September 3, 2015

Membership as of August 5, 2015	110
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( )
Deceased	( )
Reinstatements	
Membership as of September 3, 2015	111

# Granbury Meeting Minutes August 25, 2015

By Cyndie Spurlock

Dave Stockbridge <u>opened the meeting</u> with 14 members present. There were numerous free publications available for our members to take.

Stanley Christmas brought postage for sale at ½ of face value and Dave announced that he had several binders of stamps offered by Penni Phelps at 20% of face value.

Brian Smith presented a "Where in the World is It" mystery about the Western African country of Guinea Bissau. It was formerly named Portuguese Guinea, winning independence from Portugal in 1974.

Alliene asked for donations for the Granbury Mystery Box that will be auctioned off at our EXPO.

Dave asked for program suggestions for September 22. Denny Ludlow and Bob Coleman volunteered to make a presentation on "History in Navy Ships."

#### During Show 'n Tell:

- ♦ Jerry Potter demonstrated how to use Pure Citrus to remove self-adhesive stamps from paper.
- Gary McNamee shared his album pages of "Hooray for Hollywood" that he got (free) from the APS web site "stamps.org." Gary graciously donated the album as a door prize. Denny Ludlow brought a display of the United Nations Flags.
- ♦ Stanley Christmas shared his 4½¢ FDR Inauguration Cover that completed the series for him.
- ♦ Al Hull brought the 2012 USPS Stamp Book that showcased the War of 1812. There was a picture of Commander Isaac Hull who is a part of Al's current genealogy research.

The members enjoyed a <u>break</u> with good fellowship and delicious Carrot Cake made by Al Hull.

Our <u>program</u> was "Genealogy through Stamp Collecting" presented by Alliene Franklin. This program proposes to interest people in Stamp Collecting by tracing information on covers and personal papers found through genealogy research.

In <u>closing the meeting</u>, several people won door prizes. Cyndie Spurlock, whose number was drawn first, selected the "Hooray for Hollywood" binder donated by Gary McNamee and Stanley Christmas selected the Inverted Jenny stamps. Gift Certificates were won by Al Hull and Denny Ludlow.

# Been There, Done That (Compact Discs)

By Peter Elias



It wasn't so long ago that "records" and "cassette tapes" were how we had to play our music.

The "CD" (compact disc) as we know it today, is an "optical" device that has its' development go back to the 1960's. It is an evolution of the Laser-disc technology whereby a laser beam is used to read the information encoded on

# Wanted to Buy

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

<u>U.S. Liberty Series precancels</u>. Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at

atkinson@our-town.com.

4/15

<u>Postally used "ATM" stamps</u> (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Peter Elias, info@stvincentstamps.com8/14

## Swiss Catalogs

By Peter Elias

If you are a collector of Swiss stamps, one of the more popular catalogs is the one from SBHV (Association of Swiss Stamp Dealers). Another one is from Zumstein (which also publishes other stamp catalogs). I personally like the SBHV version better.

Both the Swiss and Liechtenstein Postal Agencies offer these 2 catalogs in their online and print sales catalogs, yet, the Swiss Postal Agency refuses to mail these outside of Switzerland, yet, the Liechtenstein Postal Agency will mail one to me. I can personally walk into a Swiss Stamp Store, buy it and take it with me back to the USA, but they won't mail it to me even if I offer to pay the postage. What gives? I can't seem to get an answer from the Swiss Postal Agency about this issue. But, when the Liechtenstein Postal Agency put these catalogs on *their* printed order forms a couple of years ago, but didn't have it on their website, I wrote them and in short order they had it available on their website along with no problems shipping these to the USA.

the aluminum layer surface on the disk.

The first commercial audio CD's were introduced in 1982. At that time, I was still heavily into buying "records" for my collection. Thinking back to those days, if I remember correctly, my first audio CD was Mike Oldfield's "Discovery" album which was released in 1984 and I purchased it in Germany while I had an internship there and before I even owned a CD player! A sign of things to come...

In 1986, my entire record collection was destroyed due to flooding while being stored in my parent's basement while I working in Switzerland. There was no saving anything, as too many contaminants were in the grooves of the vinyl rendering them unplayable and of course the cardboard album covers were all destroyed as well.

While some of the albums and singles I had were not replaceable, the more mainstream record albums were replaceable as CD's, since vinyl albums were slowly being phased out at that point (and by 2000, the CD player had largely replaced the cassette player in car stereos).

Of course now, people tend to listen to music as "mp3" digital music files that are mostly played on people's smartphones ... but I still have a CD player (and yes, even a Laser-Disc player!).

# Stamp Caption Contest (#4)

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 Indonesia, Scott #637 from 1964. So, just what is the telephone switchboard operator thinking?

As an incentive, the best overall caption will win a \$10 club gift certificate. The winning caption will be announced in the November 2015



newsletter. Space permitting, some of the other submissions will be shown as well.

—> Submission deadline: October 21, 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\*.
- 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!

# (Volunteering - continued from Page 1)

government drivers license since the vehicles we drive are government vehicles.

The people that we transport back and forth to the VA clinic are veterans that have no other means of transportation to get to their appointments.



Most of these veterans are from the Vietnam era.

However, I also had the honor of taking a World War II nurse to the clinic and a young Army veteran from Iraq.

The pictures are of me in front of the VA clinic in Ft. Worth. The wheelchair van is one of five vehicles that we use. Most of the drivers are veterans themselves, however, anyone can become a volunteer. Two of our drivers are grandmothers.

If you are retired and looking for something to do with your spare time, consider volunteering somewhere. The VA can use more volunteers in both Ft. Worth and Dallas. I have a friend who volunteers at the Harris Southwest Hospital and another friend who delivers meals for "Meals on Wheels". The Salvation Army also needs help.

The two stamps (see page 1) are Scott #1825 issued on July 21, 1980 for the 50 years of service of the Veterans Administration and Scott #2039 issued on April 20, 1983 for Volunteering.

# Topic of the Month: Etiquette

By Peter Elias

While looking through some of the CTC (Celebrate the Century) stamps, I saw this one commemorating Emily Post and "Etiquette".

As usual (for me at least...), it triggers the possibility for a thematic exhibit (even if just a 1 or 4-page one for EXPO).

As with many thematic exhibits, this stamp would be the starter for an exhibit that would dis-



cuss table manners and etiquette and then branch out into other areas.

I'm personally not familiar with Emily Post and her rules of "Etiquette", but it shouldn't be too hard to find out info (let Google be your friend! ... and there's always Wikipedia). Based on what you find there, you should be able to flesh our your ideas about this and then go on a search to find stamps to illustrate the story.

Looking at this particular stamp, I'm a bit puzzled. Yes, I do know that the smaller fork is to be used for your starter course (generally a salad) while the larger fork is to be used for the main course. But, based on what I was taught, the smaller fork is supposed to be on the outside, not as shown on the stamp. The info at <a href="http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining\_etiquette/table\_setting/place\_setting/flatware/placing\_flatware.html">http://www.etiquettescholar.com/dining\_etiquette/table\_setting/place\_setting/flatware/placing\_flatware.html</a> seems to state this as well. So, did the USPS get it wrong again?

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

# **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).

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.

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

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

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

I have over 10,000 auctions on Delcampe.net @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. Click this link for direct access or search for seller "dennyludlow" at www.delcampe.net. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872





Jonathan Topper 11210 Steeplecrest Dr, Suite 120 Houston, TX 77065

I Buy Stamps and Old Mail (832) 518-6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com

www.topperstamps.com Stamps Covers USA Postal History: Military, RPO's, Special Delivery, Advertising covers Postal Stationery and Machine Cancels

# For Sale

**USPS Commemorative Yearbooks** with stamps at face value of postage. For listing of what years are available and price email Dave at stockdave44@yahoo.com

Do you collect used USA Plate Number Coils? Select what you want from my extensive inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog 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

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.

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

# <u>Wanted to Buy</u>

**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, (850) 586-2528 or p-ashley@att.net 9/15

# Been There - Done That (Personal Computers)

By Peter Elias

How did I end up here? Back in college, my initial declared major was Chemical Engineering. Why? Well, my dad was one, so I figured, why not?

But I really wasn't into Chemistry and Chemical Engineering all that much. After some soulsearching, I decided that Packaging Engineering was more along the lines of my personal interests.



The Packaging Engineering program at MSU did require that one take at least a "BASIC" programming" course. Yes, "BASIC" programming... this was 1980 after all. There were only "time-sharing" mainframe or mini-computers available and our "programs" had to be created on "punch cards" (using machines the size of a desk!), then read into a card reader. Then you had to wait a while to get a print-out and see if your program worked. You couldn't retry this too often, as mainframe time was expensive and one was given only so much "computing time" as part of the course.

Instead of BASIC, I took Fortran programming instead, then Advanced Fortran77, then dabbled in an "Assembly Language" programming course before I decided that "Computer Science" wasn't for me.

Fast forward a couple of years to 1989 when I was working as a Quality Engineer at Alusuisse Flexible Packaging in Shelbyville, Kentucky. I was sat down in front of a "PC" and told to learn it. At least by now there were "ready made" programs, and we didn't really have to do any programming (aside from writing a few batch files). These were the days of



"DOS", the PC you see me working with in the picture above from 1989 was a DOS version 2.0 Personal Computer that had 2 floppy drives, 640 KB of RAM, an amber monochrome monitor and a whopping 20 MB (that's MB, not GB or TB) hard drive. Mouse? What's that? Multi-tasking? Who would want to do more than one thing at a time. And gosh, that was only about 26 years ago!

## President's Letter

by Mike Smith

Our Mid-Cities Stamp Club 28th annual Exhibition and Bourse will be held at the Grapevine Convention Center on November 13th and 14th, the first time we have used Friday and Saturday for the two days of the show. 27 stamp dealers and the Grapevine USPS will attend. Other popular events include the Silent Auction with a wide range of philatelic items to bid on, the Beginning Collectors Center and Chance Board, a giant Mixture Pick, a special show Cancel and Cachet honoring "Saving Children", and of course 60 frames of competitive exhibits of stamps, covers, and other philatelic material which will be evaluated by a distinguished panel of certified judges. Numerous awards will be presented to exhibitors at the Friday evening Awards Dinner, which this year is barbeque catered by the Convention Center chef.

In an effort to provide information to the public about stamp collecting and our club, we have scheduled several new outreach events. On September 10th, the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department held a "progressive dinner" where attendees visited six city facilities for about 30 minutes at each to learn about their services and the organizations that use them. The Bob Duncan Center was the third stop, and our club was one of four groups to have a table there where we gave out flyers with information about the club, EXPO and other philatelic events. We will also have an exhibit and information table and even a special stamp cancel at the "Chautauqua Celebrates Flight" Assembly in Waxahachie on September 26th. I hope we will have a good turnout there and some volunteers to relieve Ray and Karen Cartier at the table. Finally, Ray Cartier has scheduled an interview with the magazine Arlington Today for an article to be published in November that will feature information on our club, EXPO and other shows and philatelic activities.

The annual MCSC picnic will be held before this month's Arlington meeting on October 7th. Members and guests should meet for the picnic at the Bob Duncan Center around 5 to 5:30 PM. The club will provide hot dogs and drinks, but the rest of the meal is potluck, so let Judy Christmas or Skip Ely know what other item you will provide to share with the group. We will be stuffing envelopes for the EXPO mail-outs for our program, so extra club gift certificates will be handed out.

Stamp of the Month: Louis Braille was born in France in 1809 where his father made horse tack and other leather goods. When he was three, Louis was playing with some of his father's tools and injured his eye so badly that the infection left him completely blind at the age of five. Braille adapted very well with the help of his parents and received a scholarship to the Royal Institute for Blind Youth. There he modified a French Army communication system and was able to devise a new system of writing for the blind when he was only fifteen. The Netherlands recognized the sesquicentennial of Braille's invention in October 1975 with Scott Nr. 533. Other stamps commemorating Louis Braille are France Scott Nr. B222, Germany DDR Scott Nr. 1690-1692, and Canada Scott Nr. 2266.

Keep On Collecting! Mike

# Arlington Meeting Minutes September 2, 2015

By Ben Termini

#### **OPENING:**

Club President Mike Smith opened the meeting at 7:20 PM.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

There were 23 members and 2 guests present (Bonnie Drake and Barbara Helmick). One new member (Ralph Blackburn) was introduced.

#### **OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- ♦ Secretary Ben Termini reported that the club had 111 members. He mentioned that the club had received a letter from a collector offering to sell some of his stamps, the letter was passed around for members to review.
- ◆ Treasurer Judy Christmas was absent, however Stanley Christmas provided information about the picnic to be held next month and passed a sheet around for members to list what items they would bring and to indicate if they were bringing guests. President Mike Smith said the budget for next year was available for members to review and indicated that the club's finances were in good shape.
- ♦ EXPO Committee chairman Stanley Christmas reported that there were no real problems with this year's EXPO but more help was needed in some areas. Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that tickets to the awards dinner (BBQ) were still available for \$20 each.
- ♦ Sales Books Chairman Skip Ely said that sales were good.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Various members provided information on club members with recent health problems (Jerry Potter, Judy Christmas and Ray Cartier).
- ♦ Mike Smith reminded members of the Greater Houston Stamp Show which will be September 18-20.
- Ray Cartier gave an update of the Waxahachie Chautauqua which is being held on Saturday September 26.
- ♦ Mike Smith reported that the Texas Shootout is being repeated at TEXPEX in 2016.
- Rich Hildebrandt reminded members that the club was auctioning off its copies of the Scott Catalogs and the bid form had been printed in the last newsletter.
- ♦ Stanley Christmas reminded members of the Texas Precancel Society meeting in September.

#### **SHOW & TELL:**

- Diana Davis passed around a postcard with writing in two languages.
- ♦ Ben Termini passed around some stamps from Liberia showing that Al Gore had won the 2000 presidential election and also souvenir covers from the First Day of Issue Ceremony for the NY-2016 stamps, which was held in Grand Rapids Michigan on August 20, 2015.
- ◆ Ray Cartier passed around a cover he had prepared honoring the recent NASA flyby of Pluto.

**<u>DOOR PRIZES:</u>** Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Pat Weidman & Bobby Mills.

#### **PROGRAM:**

Club Auction run by Rich Hildebrandt with Skip Ely as the auctioneer.

# Irving Meeting Minutes September 16, 2015

By Skip Ely

#### Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Skip Ely at 7:30 PM at the Garden and Arts Center in Irving.

#### Attendance:

There were 5 members present.

#### **Officer Reports:**

• Since Skip was the only officer present, these were suspended.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- ♦ EXPO Skip said there were no outstanding issues.
- ♦ Sales Skip also said sales were going well.

#### **Announcements:**

♦ There were no announcements.

#### **Show & Tell:**

Jack Urish had several items to show.

#### **Door Prizes:**

 Club gift certificates were awarded to Jack Urish and Sujan Shrestha.

#### **Program:**

There was no formal program. Skip Ely talked about his recent adventures with collecting modern U.S. definitives, and had some handouts to help identify them.

#### Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned around 8:25 P.M.

# Been There - Done That (Sammler Treffen)

By Peter Elias



The person that g o t s o m e w h a t "sidetracked" back in 2011 (as far as "expanding" my collecting interests goes), is shown on the personalized stamp on the left; his name is Otto Bergman.

From what I recall, in the Fall of 2011, I received an email from him (he got my info from the Meter Stamp Society [MSS] group or its journal) and contacted me about checking into the Pitney Bowes "Mail & Go" trials that had just started here in the Dallas area. So I checked it out and it got me rather heavily involved in that aspect of philately. In the Spring of 2012, he alerted me to the fact that the USPS was converting the APC kiosks (which honestly, I had never really much paid attention to before!) with new postage label designs. Again, my curiosity was piqued and I have since turned into a self-professed expert on that particular subject (along with at writing least 100 pages about these for the MSS and creating several exhibits).

Since that time, I've spent countless hours on the phone with him discussing various topics relating to APC, Mail&Go, Photo-Stamps, etc.

In August, my vacation to Michigan took me through Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and we (including his wife, my wife and my son) had the opportunity to get together for dinner. A photo was taken, and he very quickly turned it into a "PictureItPostage" (by Endicia) stamp which I received on a cover that was waiting for me on my return! The inscription 'Sammler Treffen' means "Collector Meeting" in German (since we both speak German). It is always great to meet someone in person that you've met because of our wonderful hobby!

# **Greater Houston Stamp Show Trip Report**

By Peter Elias

After 25 years of living in Texas, I finally managed to sneak a quick trip down to Houston on September 19 to attend the 68th edition (and 19th consecutive year) of the "Greater Houston Stamp Show" (known many years ago as Houpex if I remember correctly).

The GHSS show, is a "regional" show, similar to the MCSC EXPO, but it runs for 3 days (Friday—Sunday) on the 3rd weekend in September.



The show is just a little bit bigger than EXPO, sporting 84 frames of exhibits and 34 dealers (of which at least a third where also dealers that attend EXPO) as well as a USPS booth.

The venue is the Humble Civic Center (which is similar to the Grapevine Convention Center, but just a little bit bigger as well); there was plenty of empty space left and the aisles between tables and exhibit frames were wide.

The show seems very well organized. I was only there on a Saturday (having driven the 4 hours down the night before and there was an affordable hotel (\$59/night nearby), and left at show closing at 6 PM (and thus could not attend their awards dinner).

At the entrance, there was a table with the usual giveaways and flyers. The club also sold snacks & soft drinks near the entrance and even took orders for sandwiches for lunch, reasonably priced at \$7.50 (which included chips & a soft drink). In the lobby area, they had set-up about 5 large round tables where people could eat their snacks and lunches, or to just relax and chat.

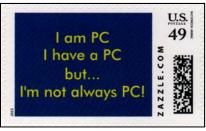
Two of the MCSC dealer-members, Tom Cunningham and James Myers (see photo at right) also had booths there. As usual, since my collecting interests are of on the eclectic side (asking about "Spanish thermal ATM stamps on cover") usually resulted in blank stares, but I did get a chance to educate several collectors, dealers and judges about this kind of material (as I had brought along a printout).

One of EXPO judges from last year, Kathryn Johnson, was one of the GHSS judges, and she introduced me to other judges that were present, Jeff Shapiro and Ken Nilsestuen (who is running for the APS President position); both of these gentlemen had heard



# Been There - Done That (I am PC)

By Peter Elias

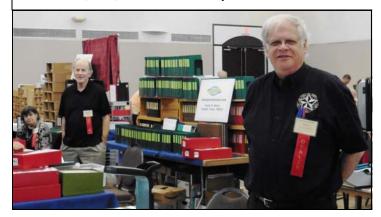


For me, stamp collecting is about having some fun. So I decided to have a bit of fun by ordering the Zazzle stamp (valid US postage!) that you see to the left

So, what does the above really mean? Well, "I am PC" is me (the first and middle initials in my name are P and C, thanks mom & dad!). I obviously have a "PC" (personal computer). And for those that know me, I'm not always necessarily "PC" (politically correct).

Of course, the abbreviation "PC" could stand for many other things, and at <a href="http://www.abbreviations.com/PC">http://www.abbreviations.com/PC</a> there are quite a few others listed, such as public citizen, powder coating, passenger car, phone call, professional corporation, polar cycloaddition (huh?), postal code (ah, a philatelic one!), and a host of others...

When I became self-employed many moons ago, I had to choose a name fairly quickly, so I went with "PC & Associates" (due to the initial in my name), but not realizing that it would also get a bunch of people to contact me "out of context", thinking that I either 1) fix PC's (I sell them, but don't fix them...) or 2) that I'm an attorney... which I am not!



of EXPO and are interesting in judging for us next year! Additionally, Kathryn gave a tentative yes as well (that will certainly make my job easier in 2016!).

And speaking of judging, we still need lots of exhibits for our own EXPO, coming up in less than 2 months (deadline for .

The only other MCSC member I saw in attendance was Ben Termini (who just like myself was also there to attend one of the TPA meetings). I did not see any exhibits from any MCSC members.

They did have a beginner & youth table present (see picture at left) and it was decently occupied. I don't know the attendance numbers, but someone at the entry desk told me that the "usual" attendance for their show is around 600 people (for 3 days).

All-in-all, this is definitely a great show to attend (and the only other major "regional" show in Texas!) and definitely worth the drive to Houston!

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# MEET & EAT for October & November 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**

October 7 Annual Club Picnic

**Bob Duncan Community Center** 

November 4 <u>Jay Jay Café</u>,

1001 S Bowen, Arlington Ph. (817) 861-1060

#### **IRVING**

October 21 Angelo's Pasta

1330 West Pioneer Parkway, Irving

November 18 El Chico's

2035 West Airport Freeway, Irving

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Mid-Cities Stamp Club "Stamping Around" Newsletter c/o Peter Elias
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