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
#0891-076252

Volume 28, Number 12 | http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com | December 2015

Friday Is The New Sunday: EXPO 2015 A Success!

By Peter Elias

This year we tried something new: The EXPO got switched from a Saturday/Sunday format to a Friday/Saturday format. Sunday attendance has been fairly low over the years (one could almost hear crickets chirping at times-just kidding!), with perhaps 50 to 60 people attending the entire Sunday.

As a result, our new Friday attendance ended up with over 200 attendees, and the show total for both days (including club members that were present) at about 500 !

All of the dealers seemed to be very happy with the new format! The Saturday/ Sunday format has after all also been a success for the quarterly TSDA bourses held in Richardson, which was one of the reasons to suggest that we try the same!

At the exhibits, we managed to fill all 60 frames of exhibits and had 3 excellent APS-accredited judges (see picture below) to give us valuable feedback on our exhibiting efforts!

Our judges: Jeff Switt (left), John Hotchner (center) and Ron Strawser (right)

One of these was that we should go from 3 medal levels (bronze, silver, gold) to 5 levels (which would add silver-bronze and vermeil).

At the awards dinner, Ben Termini took both the Grand & Reserve Grand Awards for his multi-frame exhibits and Ray Cartier receiving the single-frame Grand Award. See the Palmares elsewhere in this newsletter with all the exhibits and their awards.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club
Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

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

NOV. 24 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: "EXPO Debriefing" by Stan Christmas

DEC. 2 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Christmas Party

DEC. 4-5 **TSDA Dealers Bourse**
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Fri 11-5, Sat 9-4

DEC. 16 **—> NO <— IRVING Meeting!**

DEC. 22 **—> NO <— LAKE GRANBURY Meeting!**

2016

JAN. 6 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

JAN. 29-31 **APS Winter Show (Ameristamp EXPO)**
Atlanta, GA, Downtown Hilton Atlanta

APR. 8-9 **TSDA Dealers Bourse**
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Fri 11-5, Sat 9-4

JUN. 24-25 **TSDA Dealers Bourse**
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Fri 11-5, Sat 9-4

AUG. 26-27 **TSDA Dealers Bourse**
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd, Fri 11-5, Sat 9-4

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

If you have a free "classified" ad in the newsletter, please review it and let me know if it is still active! It's ok to have an ad in the newsletter for many years (as I have), as long it is still an active "wanted" or "for sale" item.

Don't forget to pay your 2016 dues! Doing it now will save both Ben and I time not having to drop you from the membership and newsletter mailout lists just add you back in a short while later… And please, do NOT send me the dues renewal. Use either Ben's address as shown on the renewal form or the club's general PO Box address in Arlington (note: the return address on the newsletter is my own personal PO Box, because if a newsletter is not deliverable, it needs to come back to me, otherwise it might lay around the club PO Box for several weeks before anyone notifies me).

Members in the News

The November 2015 issue of "The Texas Philatelist" (journal of the Texas Philatelic Association) had an article about "Mid-Cities Members Promote Philately in Waxahachie" (the Chautauqua event on Sept. 26, 2015) and featured two photos, showing Karen Cartier and Alliene Franklin.

Been There - Done That (Punch Tapes)

By Peter Elias

Before people entered data into a computer directly, as we do now via keyboards and monitors, back in the "old days" of computing (i.e.: 1950's to 1980's), you would use "computer punch tape" (i.e.: "perforated tape"). A device with a keyboard would translate your keystrokes into holes that were punched into the tape, which was made of paper. Amongst other things, the tape was used for storing message from teletypewriters.

Back in my high school days, my father had hired me during summer vacation to do some work at his place and I remember that they had one of those devices for their computer systems. It all seems kind of quaint now, but that was the technology in the not-to-distant past!

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

New Members

Membership Summary – November 5, 2015

Membership as of October 8, 2015	**111**
New Members	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( )
Deceased	( )
Reinstatements	
Membership as of November 5, 2015	**111**

Jerry Potter at MCSC BOD/EXPO meeting on April 25, 2009
(Photo by Peter Elias)

Long-Time Member Passes Away

By Ray Cartier & Judy Christmas

After a relatively short illness, Arlington Club member Col. Jerry Potter (USAF ret.) passed away on Wednesday, November 11th – Veteran's Day. It was an apt day for Jerry as he had flown as the third member of a B-58 Nuclear Jet Bomber as it's Defense System's Officer (DSO) helping to protect our nation during the Cold War.

Many of us will remember Jerry as being a past President of the MCSC and also for all of the laughs we got when he and Alliene Franklin played the "Bickerson's" for several years at our annual Expo Award's Banquets. They were so entertaining that Stanley Christmas showed a video of their overplayed exasperations with each other at the club's January 2015 meeting. Many of you will remember him as the booming voice over the loudspeakers, announcing door prize winners and other activities at our annual MCSC Expos. Jerry was also the Auctioneer at the Arlington and Irving Club meetings for many years. He stopped going to Irving several years ago, but was doing the auctioneering at Arlington until this year. Jerry, Stanley Christmas and David Stockbridge re-wrote the Club's constitution many years back. Jerry was a very big part of what the Club is today.

Jerry had stopped collecting when taking care of his wife moved to be the most important thing in his life. He continued to attend all of the Arlington club gatherings because he really enjoyed being with our group whenever possible. He even loved attending Granbury meetings when he could catch a ride with someone.

Please keep Jerry and his surviving wife in your prayers. [Editor: The Ft. Worth Star Telegram obituary information can be found here: http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dfw/obituary.aspx?n=Jerome-Potter&pid=176507471].

Get A Love Stamp at Love Field

By Peter Elias

©2015 USPS

The USPS will issue the 2016 Love stamp at Dallas Love Field Airport on January 12, 10 AM.

The ceremony will take place in an area that is publicly accessible (so no need to buy an airline ticket!) in the terminal in front of the Moss Lee Love Garden which is to the right of Love Landing (lower level to the left of the ticketing area).

The 2016 Love stamp features an elegant heart created using the ancient art of quilling.

It is nice to have another stamp being issued in the Dallas area! Hope to see some of you there!

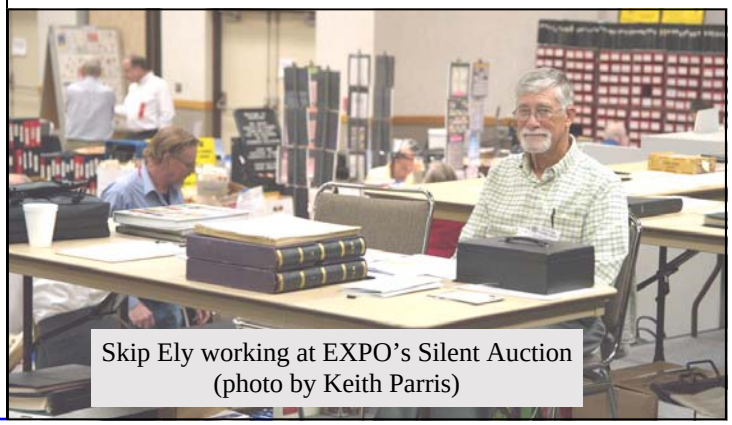
Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

Does Amazon sells stamps? Why, yes! Well, indirectly. Various sellers offer stamps through Amazon. So in addition to a wide variety of philatelic books, there are some stamps available. But at $4.99, the souvenir sheet below is

being sold at over double of Scott's catalog value! But part of the issue at Amazon is that they'll charge the seller a fairly hefty commission fee for selling the item (there is no listing fee however), and I didn't see what shipping costs (if any) were.

When I typed "philatelic" as a search topic at Amazon, there were 10,973 results. Typing in "postage stamps" gets 49,281 results!



Skip Ely working at EXPO's Silent Auction
(photo by Keith Parris)

Stamp Caption Contest (#5)

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 Hungary, Scott #2247 from 1973. So, what are either the driver or the pedestrian thinking? According to Scott's, the text above them says "*Let's Be Friends in Traffic*". Sure…. but, what are they REALLY thinking!? Given all the "distracted" drivers these days, this is kind of timely, so tell us!

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: December 4, 2015, 11:59 PM. Results will be published in the January 2016 newsletter.

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.*

All MCSC Newsletters Now Online

Peter Elias

As of October 25, 2015, all MCSC newsletters in existence from 1973 to the current issues are now online and available for downloading (as PDF files) or viewing online at the Mid-Cities Stamp Club YahooGroup.

Newsletters are sorted into folders based on the year of issue. Please note that there are essentially no newsletters prior to 1986! All that exists is a "formation of the club" letter from 1973, and one newsletter each from 1974, 1976 and 1977. I believe that there were NO newsletters between mid-1977 and March 1985, possibly just postcard mail-outs announcing the meetings. If anyone has anything from that time-period, please let me know!

Yahoo has recently upped the amount of storage space from 100 MB (which barely held 2+ years of newsletters) to a whopping 2 GB. Now that all newsletters are uploaded, we're only using 956 MB out of 2 GB, so we've got room for many more year's worth of newsletters!

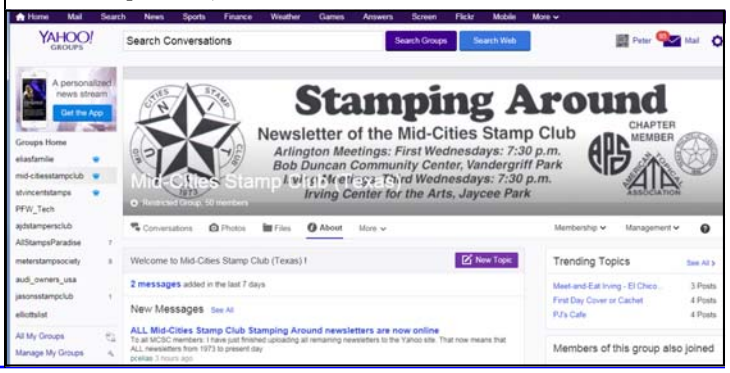
Now that the upload task is done, I will no longer be creating DVD disks at the beginning of each year. Over the past 10+ years, I've probably created well over 200 disks that I had to create and print labels for, out of my own pocket. I will now limit the creation of a disk to one copy for the club library and 3 or 4 that will be mailed out to philatelic libraries (Wineburgh, APS, Spellman Museum and Rocky Mountain).

Everyone else can download the newsletters at their leisure. It does, however, require that you are a member of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club YahooGroup. This is a "closed" group, and the only people that are allowed to join are members of the club. This helps keep the riff-raff (i.e.: spammers) out of the group. Only about 50 MCSC members are currently a member of the YahooGroup.

The main group site is at https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/info (see screenshot below). In the middle, just underneath the club header info is a link called "Files". Click on that and you'll see various folders. Click on that to open the folder and then either click on the newsletter filename (to open within your browser) or right-click and choose "save target as" (or something similar depending on your browser) to download it to your computer.

Please keep in mind that if you change your email address, that you'll have to go to the group site and change it there as well. Make sure that you put the Yahoo emails into your "white list", so that they don't get blocked.

Newsletters are NOT emailed. I simply upload them to the YahooGroup which then automatically sends out an email to all members announcing that the file is available, along with a direct link to that file (you might be required to login to the YahooGroup first…).



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

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

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

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

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

Wanted to Buy

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

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.com8/14

EDDIE & DEBS STAMPS

STAMPS • TOPICALS • SOUVENIR SHEETS

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE 12/15

P.O. BOX 126061
BENBROOK, TX 76126
MEMBER: TSDA, MCSC

THOMASEF@FLASH.NET
682-351-1003
682-351-4729

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 (Stelvio)

Peter Elias

This should really be titled "Been There—Done That (Drove Up the Pass and Ate the Cheese)".

I was reminded of the Stelvio Mountain Pass road (see photo below) the other day when I purchased some delicious "Stelvio / Stilfser" cheese at the local Central Market store in Plano.

Stelvio and Stilfser are the same word, the former being Italian and the latter being German-Austrian. Stelvio is a town, a region, a mountain pass road and an Italian National Park in the South Tyrol Region (a German speaking part of Italy).

The Stelvio Pass is the highest paved mountain pass in the eastern Alps at 9,045 feet. And yes, I did drive it once in my Ford Taunus, back in 1986 when I lived in Switzerland that year.

The photo that I took in 1986 (at left) doesn't really convey the magnitude of this particular drive. I took the photo near the top of the pass, pointing downwards towards the Austrian side.

Perhaps the picture the at lower left gives a better idea of what this mountain pass road is like!

This road is a dream if you are a driving enthusiast (and probably not so much if you're the passenger…). From the Stelvio Pass it's just a short distance to the Umbrail Pass, which leads you to Switzerland (and has it's own switchbacks to enjoy!)

Of course, driving this road could be a real thrill in a high-powered sports car. While the car that I owned at the time was a 2-door car, it wasn't exactly at sports car. At 72 horsepower, my 1977 Ford Taunus (with a 1.6 liter engine) sure kept me busy trying to make it up this road! But the view was worth it. It's one of those "bucket list" drives in a car with a manual transmission!

Unless you've rented a car in Italy to begin with, these days, most other European car rental companies will NOT let you take a rental car into Italy. Google it, and you'll find several YouTube videos about driving on this road!

Cars On Stamps Group

By Peter Elias

Let me rephrase that: calling all "cars on stamps collectors"! One of my general stamp collecting topics interests is "automobiles". Sure, I drive an Audi, but like cars in general. While the American Topical Association has a large number of specialty "study unit", ranging from ships to penguins, I did not see one for cars. I'm sure there must enough "car guys" out there to perhaps start a group dedicated to that topic.

I know that this may be a tall orders, as there Ford guys, Chevy guys, Dodge guys, and of course me, an "Audi guy". But I like most cars in general, and I think that having a specialty group dedicated to that topic would be great.

How to get started? So far, I've contacted Jeff Hayward who posted a request on the ATA's Facebook page about contacting him if you have an interest in starting such a group. And if YOU have an interest, please contact stamps@jeffhayward.com and let him know that you're interested!

President's Letter

by Mike Smith

The 28th Annual EXPO was a huge success thanks to the hard work of our General Chairperson Stanley Christmas and his Assistant Ralph Poore, Bourse Chairman Tom Cunningham, and all our member volunteers. This was the first Friday/Saturday show and our stamp dealers were all very happy with the new schedule; the Silent Auction and other club activities were very successful; show attendance was much better on Friday than on previous Sundays; and once again we were privileged to have a panel of three distinguished judges evaluating the competitive exhibits. Next year Ralph Poore will take over as EXPO General Chairperson, but Stanley will assist him, and his experience and expertise should provide a smooth transition.

On the day after EXPO, several club members spotted an obituary in the Sunday newspaper with the sad news that Jerry Potter passed away on Veterans Day. Jerry, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, was buried in the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery with full military honors. Jerry was a Past President of MCSC, the auctioneer at Arlington, and always enlivened our meetings with his wonderful sense of humor. His many contributions to the club and at EXPO will be sorely missed.

Now that the 2015-2016 Member Handbook and Directory has been printed and distributed, don't forget to renew your Club membership by filling out a renewal form from the last few newsletters and either bring it to the Christmas Party or mail it in. Our membership dues continue to be a real bargain so you may want to become a sponsor member. We will continue to meet at the same three locations as this year. If you have a topic you would like to present at one of these meetings, please contact a program chairperson – Ray Cartier for Arlington, Skip Ely for Irving, or Dave Stockbridge for Granbury.

The last club meeting of the year is the annual Christmas Party in Arlington. The club will provide the food and drinks, but any desert you bring will be welcome. Also, bring at least three philatelic items (something you would like to receive) for each person at the party, to use in the Shanghai Bingo game after our meal.

Stamp of the Month: The Mayflower, a 100-foot English merchant ship, transported 102 English Separatists or Pilgrims from Plymouth, England, to the New World with a planned destination in the Colony of Virginia in 1620. After landing in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, they were unable to continue south due to bad weather and eventually landed and settled at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in December 1620. The Pilgrim Tercentenary Issue of December 21, 1920, United States Scott Nr. 548-550, commemorated this event by showing the Mayflower, the landing of the Pilgrims, and the signing of the Mayflower Compact written by the settlers to establish legal order and restore harmony to the ranks.

Happy Holidays! Mike

Arlington Meeting Minutes November 4, 2015

By Benedict Termini

Call-to-Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Club President Mike Smith.

Attendance: There were 24 members present and 3 guests (Tommie Dougan, Robin Perez, and Bonnie Drake).

Officer / Committee Reports:

- Secretary Ben Termini reminded everyone that dues for 2016 could be sent to him or to the club post office box. He noted that the 2015-16 Member Handbook and Directory was ready, and copies were distributed to members present. Other members would receive their copies by mail as soon as the secretary gets around to it. Finally, he presented a brief update on the medical condition of Dorothy Perez and various members expressed their sympathy.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas stated that the finances were in good shape.
- EXPO Committee chairman Stanley Christmas reported that the EXPO was on track. He noted that John Hotchner would be giving a short talk at the Awards Dinner on the subject of exhibiting. He encouraged anyone who had an exhibit to enter it in the show. Judy Christmas mentioned that lunches would only cost $4.00 at the EXPO which was a bargain. Janet Moyer passed around a signup sheet for volunteers at the show and encouraged everyone to participate. Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that tickets for the Awards Dinner were still available.
- Newsletter Editor Peter Elias said that there were no problems with the newsletter and encouraged members to submit articles.
- Sales Books Chairman Skip Ely said that his inventory for the year 2015 was complete.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas updated the membership on the medical condition of long-time member Jerry Potter. She also reminded members that next month was the annual Christmas Party which would be catered, and members should bring a big appetite and a dessert. Rich Hildebrandt announced that Alliene Franklin had won the auction for the club's copies of the previous year's Scott catalogs.
- Ray Cartier mentioned that the club had been featured in a recent issue of "Arlington Today" magazine.

Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier passed around a photo of himself and Jeff Switt (who is a former MCSC president) taken in 1976 when Ray was much better-looking.
- Stanley Christmas pointed out that the yellow stickers pasted on the front of returned mail by the US Post Office could be cut up and used as stamp hinges.
- Judy Christmas explained the meaning of the postal term "nixie."
- Ray Cartier passed around a brochure on the Cabrini Hospice in which the name had been misspelled.
- Peter Elias passed around a new stamp issued by Austria which was made of leather and portrayed a pair of Lederhosen. He pointed out that as a young boy, growing up in Switzerland, he himself had worn Lederhosen [Editor comment: see "been there" article in elsewhere in this newsletter].

Door Prizes: Gift Certificates ($10) were won by Ralph Blackburn and Diana Davis.

Program: A giant mixture pick.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Irving Meeting Minutes November 18, 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 9 members present (no guests).

Officer Reports:

Skip said (for anyone who hadn't heard) that long-time member Jerry Potter passed away last Wednesday. He will be sorely missed, not only for his many contributions, but for his insight and humor.

Skip also noted that we were unable to get the smaller building in Irving for our meetings next year, so we will be back at the Garden and Arts Center.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO – This was deferred to the program portion of the meeting.
- Sales – Skip said this was the last chance to let him know what countries or topics we want to see for next year's APS books. He also noted that we may need to return to a 10% commission on sales, because Jerry was a big contributor to the sales book program, and now that revenue will be lost. Additionally, priority mail costs (which is how the APS books get sent) are scheduled to go up next year, and the useful postage from the Werry collection has been used up. No change, if any, will be made until after the next board meeting in January or February, however.
- Newsletter – Peter commented about the last three news letters of the year being submitted to APS for their newsletter competition. He also noted that all the archived newsletter from the past have been loaded onto the Yahoo members site.
- Website – Jim Myers said there were no changes for the website.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas passed around the Christmas party attendance sheet. If you missed signing up at the meetings, just call or email her to let her know.
- Skip said that Ray Cartier was looking for a few more one page (humorous) exhibits for our one-frame club exhibit at TEXPEX the end of February. If you have something in mind, let him know quickly..

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills passed around a cover he received when he was living in London, with only an vague address listed – and he got it anyway!
- Peter Elias showed the new Charlie Brown Christmas SSK (self service kiosk) postage label. He also had some similar ATM postage labels from other countries to show, including France, Germany and Great Britain.

Program:

Stanley Christmas led a discussion about this year's EXPO. He started by saying he has passed the EXPO Chairperson position over to Ralph Poore, but he would continue to contribute in various ways. This year's EXPO was, by all accounts, very successful, and the move to Friday- Saturday was deemed a positive step (there were over 450 attendees, NOT counting club members!). There was a little confusion about the starting times Saturday (9 or 10 AM), and undoubtedly some people showed up on Sunday only to find locked doors. There also were some issues identifying the lunches on Friday, but this was corrected for Saturday. He said we had ordered 60 of the new frames being constructed by TPA member Vince King for NY2016 (they weigh half as much as the ones we are currently using). Returns from our mail-out was half of what it usually is, so there was less waste there. Stanley also said we would take the advice of the judges and go to five levels of awards for the exhibits, instead of three. Ken Wills said the "Buy It Now" option at the silent auction netted us one third of our total take on the first day, allowing people who really wanted an item to get it immediately, especially if they weren't going to be there the second day.

Door Prizes: Club gift certificates were awarded to Stanley Christmas and Skip Ely.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned around 8:15 PM.

Granbury Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2015

By Gene Atkinson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Lake Granbury Branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club held its annual picnic on October 27 at the Bentwater Activities Center (1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, Granbury, Texas) featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, deviled eggs, potato salad, and a range of desserts. After almost two hours food and fellowship, David Stockbridge opened the monthly meeting with eighteen members and guests present.

SHOW & TELL;

- In round-table introductions, Stanley Christmas announced that the club handbooks were ready for distribution.
- Denny Ludlow circulated a coin and stamp set from Norway.
- Daniel Kennedy had a box of auction sets to check out.
- Brian Smith had an unusual railroad station cover.
- Bob Coleman had bus cancels.
- Ken Jones showed a letter "found" in empty postal processing equipment.
- Jo James asked a definition of a "franchise" stamp.
- Gene Atkinson previewed his collection of stamp hinges destined for exhibit at EXPO.

PHILATELIC MOMENT:

Ken Jones explained the origins of the British "Penny Black," the complications of postal operations prior to the prepay idea from Rowland Hill.

CONCERNING EXPO:

As the date nears for the Grapevine EXPO, Alliene Franklin stated that the club "mystery box" was full and ready-to-go. Judy Christmas made the last call for volunteers to work the show. Stanley Christmas reminded members to purchase banquet tickets and pre-order lunches for Friday and Saturday.

TEXPEX:

Late in February, TEXPEX will feature another "shoot out" competition. The Arlington Club and Granbury Branch will each enter a frame organized around some theme. Cyndi Spurlock, Denny Ludlow and Gene Atkinson will work on possible themes and Dave Stockbridge will circulate the ideas for members to participate.

BREAK:

Despite all the desserts from the picnic, Al Hull topped the meeting off with his "punch bowl cake," filled with healthy fruits and only a little sugar.

PROGRAM & CLOSING:

The main program for October was the club "mixture pick." As members poured through stacks of stamps, door prizes with to Judy Christmas (the "Jenny" sheet), Al Hull and Austin Mullens (gift certificates), and Gene Atkinson (packet of stamps).

COMING UP:

The November meeting will be a review of events at EXPO, and the club as usual will not meet in December.

2016 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal # _____

__ Mr. __ Mrs. __ Ms. __ Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____/_____/_____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under age 18)

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____-_____
(Do not use P.O. Box or Private Mail Box)

e-mail: _____@_____._____ Home Ph: (____)-_____-_____ Work Ph: (____)-_____-_____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ZIP _____-_____

___ Regular Adult ___ Additional Adult ___ Youth (under age 18)

___ I want to save the club money and get the electronic version of the newsletter or ____ Please continue to mail my newsletter

You have my permission to publish in the club directory issued to all members my:
___ Name ___ Mailing Address ___ Phone number ___ e-mail ___ Collecting interests
Note: Mailing address will be used in the Members Handbook, unless otherwise specified. Indicate below any affiliations with other stamp societies and member numbers (if applicable)

___ APS #_____ ___ ATA # _____ ___ TPA # _____ Other affiliations:_____

Collecting interests: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____/____/201____

—> Make check out to "Mid-Cities Stamp Club" and mail application & payment to:

Ben Termini, MCSC—Secretary, 8520 Meadowbrook Dr, Ft. Worth TX 76120-5204

Type of Membership (circle):

Regular Adult: $12; **Additional Adult (same household)**: $6; **Youth (under 18 years):** $4; **Sponsor Membership:** $25

Club Christmas Party December 2

By Judy Christmas

The annual Club Christmas Party is scheduled for the Wednesday, Arlington meeting night, December 2nd, 2015. Again this year the Club will be providing everything, all you need to do is bring an appetite. If you would like to bring a dessert, please free to do so. Drinks and utensils will be provided by the Club. Please, please let me know if you are coming so I can have enough food. We will begin gathering around 6:00 PM with the serving line for dinner beginning at 6:30 PM. There will be some changes in how the serving line is formed this year, so be prepared. After all have dined on all the bounty that has been placed before you, we will begin playing Shanghai Bingo, say around 7:30 PM. We should be through around 9:00 PM as Cindy & Greg Delanoy play a fast game. Please remember to bring at LEAST 3 philatelic type items for the Shanghai Bingo drawing table. These can be stamps, stamp supplies, stamp literature, anything philatelic. And please make sure your gifts are something you would be proud to take home. Please NO junk gag gifts. A sign-up sheet was passed around at all meetings, Arlington, Irving and Granbury, in November. If you are planning on attending but were unable to attend one of these meetings, please, please let me know via either e-mail judy66@swbell.net or phone (817) 656-2925, so that I can order enough food for all. One other thing I would like to bring up, please remember that Shanghai Bingo is just a game. When you select something, it is not yours until the end, so please treat it as such. When others come to "steal" something from you it is not personal, just a game. Hiding or getting upset when someone takes your selection is not playing fair. Cindy always sees that everyone ends up with fairly distributed gifts. Members, please share this information with the guest you are bringing. See you on the 2nd! Thank you!

EXPO 2015 Recap

By Judy & Stan Christmas

EXPO #28 saw us try a new set of days, a Friday-Saturday EXPO. All of the dealers liked the move and so did most of the Club members. The only problem we had was with our usual labor. The young men who have been helping us out now have jobs, so getting to the Convention Center by five on Thursday was not possible. We made adjustments and everything just fell into place. The only other problem was there were two different times for the start of the show on Saturday. Some literature said 9:00 AM, others said 10:00 AM. Stan made the decision to start at nine which will be the Expo's starting time from now on. The attendance on Friday was double what we usually got on Sunday. Saturday was about the same as always. Overall, the attendance was around 500, including Club members. We have been told that when you first move to a new timetable, that the first year the attendance is light but it picks up there after. Only time will tell.

With my bad back this year, I had to give up my duties has Snack person. David Stockbridge stepped up and did a wonderful job. You know the coffee was made correctly since he is a coffee drinker and I am not. David had many different items so there were a lot of new items to choose from.

The box lunches were another great hit this year. We ordered 38 lunches on Fri and 45 on Sat. This year the Expo gave the volunteers a break on their lunches by paying for half of it. I want to thank Alliene Franklin and Rich Hildebrandt from the bottom of my heart for all of their help with the lunches. Without them there would have been none.

The winners of the $25 gift certificates this year were Ken Wills & Peter Elias on Thursday evening. During the day on Friday the winners were (in order) Alliene Franklin, Ken Offill, Ben Termini, Beverly Ely, Diana Davis and Karen Cartier. I did not write down the winners at the Awards Dinner, but we gave away eleven $25 gift certificates. On Saturday, the winners were Ray Cartier, John Barrett, Dave Stockbridge, Ken Wills and Stanley Christmas. I have left someone out on Saturday but I do not have a name written down for the one o'clock drawing.

At the awards dinner, something new was tried this year, a speaker. Stan had asked one of our Judges to give a short talk. John Hotchner was the judge that Stan approached and he was happy to talk on "Exhibiting". He gave a wonder talk and the whole Club will be able to see the video of his talk at the January Arlington meeting. I for one was ready to start thinking about a topic I could do an exhibit on.

After the show closed at 5 o'clock on Friday, volunteers and judges gathered at the Comfort Inn for the President's reception. As in years past, this is an event not to be missed as it is hosted by *David Stockbridge* and his lovely wife *Barb*. Everyone has a good time visiting and enjoying the spread that Barb and Dave put out. Around 6:45 PM, the party breaks up and those who purchased Awards Dinner tickets leave for the Grapevine Convention Center for the Awards dinner. This year *Rich and Bert Hildebrandt* chose Bar-B-Que for dinner. *Ben Termini* was the Grand Prize winner this year with his exhibit "Prostitutes Revenues of Rosario de Santa Fe". Ray Cartier won the "Most Popular Exhibit Award" on Saturday with his exhibit "*Jesus of Nazareth*". You can read elsewhere in this newsletter for all the other winners.

Again this year *Alliene Franklin* took good care of our three judges making sure they had everything they needed. *Alliene* also looked after all the dealers leaving them notes to call her if they need something. *Alliene and Richard Hildebrandt* volunteered to be the runners for the box lunches from Jason's Deli on both Friday and Saturday.

Our theme this year was "*Saving Children*". The Center for Abused Children had handouts available on the table next to the Cachet Table. We hope you had a chance to visit their table. Our other guest was the *Oklahoma Philatelic Society* and *TPA*.

The Silent Auction "Buy It Now" feature was another big hit this year. No totals at this time for the weekend, but we are at around $1700 and still counting. The auction was a big success as always. Again, big thanks to *Ken Wills, Skip Ely, Mike Smith and Richard Hildebrandt* for their work. *Tom Turner* helps put the lots together but could not make the show due to his Ulster Project commitment.

Brian Smith and Jim Case did a bang-up job with the Beginning Collectors Center, which was in a new location this year. Several new collectors got a good start with our hobby due to them. Karen Cartier's *Chance Board* and Bob Weidman's *Mixture Pick* were busy places again this year. Thanks to all!

As always, the *Grapevine Convention Center* and its staff were so helpful and kind all though our event. Each year they have gone out of their way to make our stay with them a pleasant experience and this year was no different. We are already reserved for next year so put these dates, November 11 & 12, 2016 on your calendar now so you too can come out and have fun with the rest of us.

The usual debrief for the Expo was held at the November meetings for Irving and Granbury. Many new ideas were brought forward and will be passed on to our new EXPO General Chairperson, Ralph Poore. Now let us all take a well-deserved long break until next spring when we will hit the road again to our 29th EXPO in 2016.

As always, Stan and I cannot thank you all enough for all the hard work and support you have given us over the years. There was such a spirit of enthusiasm in the air this year from all volunteers. There were smiling faces everywhere you turned. The Dealers all reported that they were happy and would be coming back nest year. We had one Dealer report that he made more money than he ever had at an EXPO. This is just what we want to hear from the Dealers. Without the Dealers there would be no EXPO and that goes in hand with if we did not have volunteers there would be no EXPO.

Thank You One & All!!

2015 MCSC EXPO Palmares

GRAND AWARD

- **"Prostitute Revenues of Rosario de Santa Fe"** by Dr. Benedict A. Termini

Also: ~MCSC President's Award
~MCSC Best Exhibit of Foreign Material
~APS Certificate of Award
~TPA President's Award

RESERVE GRAND AWARD

- **"Porte de Mar Stamps of Mexico (1875-9)"** by Dr. Benedict A. Termini

SINGLE FRAME GRAND AWARD

- **"Apollo Soyuz Test Project—The Story of This Single Joint Flight of an American and a Soviet Manned Mission"** by Ray E. Cartier

GOLD AWARDS

- **"Introduction to Spanish Thermal ATM Stamps, Their Varieties and Usages"** by Peter Elias

Also: ~Meter Stamp Society Award
~AAPE Silver Award of Honor Pin

- **"The 4 ½ c White House of the Presidential Series of 1938"** by Stanley Christmas
- **"The Birth of the Palestinian Authority Postal Service"** by Dr. Benedict A. Termini
- **"SKYLAB: America's First Space Station—The Story of the SKYLAB Program from Its Beginnings to Its Fiery End"** by Ray E. Cartier
- **"Mars 1 –The Soviet's First Attempt to Hit the Planet Mars: Shown by Soviet Stamp Club Rubber Stamped Cachets"** by Ray E. Cartier
- **"Flight: Flown Mail & Messages"** by Ray E. Cartier
- **"The Brooklyn Postage Dodgers"** by Peter Elias
- **"The Spidey Stamp and its Promotion"** by Peter Elias

SILVER AWARDS

- **"Petroleum in the Americas"** by Cyndie Spurlock
- **"Western Airletter—K's Short Life and Hard Times: A Comprehensive Exhibit of All Western Airletter Related Issues"** by Ray E. Cartier
- **"The Great Cases of the United States Supreme Court"** by Keith Maatman

FOUR-PAGE MINI EXHIBIT—FIRST PLACE

"Johnston Island Nuclear Explosions—1962" by Ray E. Cartier

SINGLE-PAGE MINI EXHIBIT—FIRST PLACE

"The Swiss 'Gratis' Label" by Dr. John Barrett

JURY PANEL
John Hotchner, Jury Chair
Ronald Strawser
Jeff Switt

Been There - Done That (Lederhosen)

By Peter Elias

Lederhosen. It means "leather pants" in German (and more technically, "leather breeches"). While this could refer to all kinds of leather pants (such as those that motorcyclists wear), many times, it refers to a pair of short pants made of a rather thick and tough leather. Perfect for men doing various kinds of physical labor and young boys to wear when hiking. There's not much you can do to tear up Lederhosen!

Lederhosen are mostly a German thing, such as what Bavarian guys will wear during the Oktoberfest, but are also worn in Austria and Tyrol (a German speaking region in both southern Austria and the part of northern Italy that borders Austria), some parts of Switzerland and some boy scouts in France wear them as well.

The photo to the right shows me in 1968 while hiking in Switzerland. My brother (cropped out of the photo) and I are both wearing Lederhosen; a year or two later, my parents switched us to more "traditional" hiking pants (see photo at bottom), these were generally "knee-length pants that you wore long socks and hiking boots with. The reason for the knee-length was that this way nothing could accidentally crawl or slither up your pants while hiking in thick grass or brush.

The self-adhesive stamp is made of "Alcantara" leather along with 6 real Swarovski crystal inserts and is "die-cut perforated" approximately 8. Alcantara "leather" is "faux" leather, sometimes referred to as "pleather" (plastic leather) and is comprised of 68% polyester and 32% polyurethane, giving this material increased durability and stain resistance, as well as having an appearance and feel similar to that of suede.

Given that the stamp has a €6.30 (US$6.88) denomination (used for a 50 gram Economy C4 Letter to the USA), there probably won't be too many used on actual mail, although it would be nice to get one that has

Exp. 12/16

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Wanted to Buy

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

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). 12/15

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 December 2015 & January 2016

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

December 2 — Club Christmas Party —> 6:00 PM !!
(Bob Duncan Community Center)

January 6 — Campo Verde
2918 W Pioneer Parkway,
Arlington, TX 76013 (817) 275-7003
http://www.campoverde.us/

IRVING

December — No meeting! See you in 2016 !

January 20 — PJ's Restaurant
2301 North O'Connor Road (north of 183),
ph. (972) 255-8400

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

Don't Forget:

Christmas Party - Dec. 2
TSDA Bourse - Dec. 4 & 5
Love Stamp Ceremony - Jan. 12

cunninghamstamps@aol.com
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