

# 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 29, Number 1

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

January 2016

Postage Rates & Fees	Current	1/17/2016
<b>DOMESTIC</b>		
<b>1st Class</b> - 1 oz (retail / metered or PC postage)	0.49 / 0.485	0.49 / 0.485
" 2 oz	0.71 / 0.705	0.71 / 0.705
" 3 oz	0.93 / 0.925	0.93 / 0.925
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.15 / 1.145	1.15 / 1.145
non-machinable surcharge	+0.22	+0.22
" > 4 oz —> see 1st Class Flats		
<b>1st Class Flats</b> - 1 oz	0.98	0.98
" 2 oz	1.20	1.20
" 3 oz	1.42	1.42
" 4 oz	1.64	1.64
" 5 oz	1.86	1.86
" 13 oz (maximum)	3.62	3.62
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Parcel)		
<b>1st Class Parcel</b> - 1 oz	2.54	2.60
" 2 oz	2.54	2.60
" 3 oz	2.54	2.60
" 4 oz	2.74	2.60
" 8 oz	3.54	2.60
" 13 oz (old maximum)	4.54	3.50
" 15.999 oz ( new maximum)	n/a	3.65
<b>Media Mail</b> - 1 LB	2.72	2.72 ?
" 2 LBS	3.22	3.22 ?
" 3 LBS	3.72	3.72 ?
<b>Priority Mail</b> - Flat-Rate /Legal/ Padded	5.75/5.90/ 6.10	6.45/6.45/6.80
" - up to 1 LB.	5.75 - 8.35	6.45 - 10.00
" - Small Flat-rate Box	5.95	6.80
" - Med. /Lrg Flat-rate Box	12.65 / 17.90	13.45 / 18.75
<b>Postcard</b> (Domestic)	0.35	0.35
Certificate of Mailing (#3817 / 3877 3x min)	1.35 / 0.38	1.35 / 0.38 ?
Certified Mail	3.45	3.45 ?
<b>USPS Tracking</b>		
1st Class Parcel / Priority / Media / Parcel	0.00	0.00
<b>Insurance</b>		
0 - \$50 / \$50.01 - \$100 / \$100.01 - \$200	2.20/2.75/3.50	2.20/2.75/3.50?
<b>Registered (Domestic)</b>		
\$0 value	12.20	12.20 ?
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	13.00 / 15.15	13.00/15.15 ?
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
<b>Letter &amp; Postcard Airmail</b>		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada/Mex. (2 oz)	1.20	1.20
<b>First Class Package (1LB Canada/Other)</b>	11.75 / 16.15+	16.50 - 22.50
<b>Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4LB) /</b>	26.50	23.95 - 32.95
" Canada & Mexico (flt rat.legal,padded)	21.95	See above
<b>Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound)</b>	37.50 - 40.25	38.75 - 41.50

## 2016 Postage Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

While regular letter & flats first class rates won't change, just about all other services will have rate changes (mostly up!). "Standard Post" will now be known as "Retail Ground". Options such as "Regional Box C" and "Priority Mail Express Flat Rate Boxes" will be dropped.

According to the USPS, priority mail rates will on average increase by 9.8%. "Legal Flat Rate" priority mail envelopes will now be the same prices as regular "Flat Rate" envelopes, but cost more (both will now be \$6.45).

First Class Parcels can now be up to 15.999 oz (previously only 13 oz) and the first 8 oz will be at a flat rate of \$2.60 (where-as previously a flat rate of \$2.54, but only up to 3 oz). This is about the only major rate decrease!

"Delivery Confirmation" was renamed to "USPS Tracking" a while ago, and now all domestic mail pieces other than 1st Class Letter & 1st Class Flats are tracked for free, such as: 1st Class Parcel, Media Mail, Priority Mail & Priority Mail Express. "Signature Confirmation" however is still at an additional cost.

I've put the major rates and changes in the table to the left and are correct to the best of my knowledge (if unknown at this time, there's a "?" shown). The current Price List is at <http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/Notice123.htm>

This will be updated once the new rates are in effect on 1/17.

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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto: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.

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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](mailto: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

### 2016

<b>JAN. 6</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	EXPO Awards Dinner video w/John Hotchner
<b>JAN. 20</b>	<b>MCSC—IRVING Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>JAN. 26</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	Clean Out Your Closet
<b>JAN. 29-31</b>	<b>APS Winter Show (Ameristamp EXPO)</b>
	Atlanta, GA, Downtown Hilton Atlanta
<b>FEB. 3</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>FEB. 17</b>	<b>MCSC—IRVING Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>FEB. 23</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	<i>John Hotchner's talk</i> from the EXPO Awards presented by Stan Christmas
<b>MAR 2.</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>MAR. 16</b>	<b>MCSC—IRVING Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

It's that time of year! So please pay your dues on a timely basis so that Ben Termini and I don't have to take you off the membership rolls and newsletter mailing list (just to have to add you back when you pay later). Please try to get your dues payment in to Ben by the end of the year if possible, and no later than the end of January. And please do NOT send your dues payment to me at the Plano address shown on page 10. Either send dues to Ben Termini at the address on the bottom of the renewal form (which is on page 8) or to the club's general PO Box address in Arlington (shown to the left)!

This month, only one person responded to the "Cartoon Caption" contest, so they're the winner by default. I'm really surprised that more people aren't entering. What have you got to lose? The contest was designed to get members to get "involved" just a little bit, I guess its not working...

## Unsold MCSC Sales Books - Now What?

By Peter Elias

It's nice to get back sales books and see how many of your duplicate items have sold. But then there's the matter of the unsold items in those books. My running average of sales out of the club books over the past 20 years is only about 1/3 of items sell. Sure, some books sell out completely and others have only 1 or 2 stamps sold. It happens.

But what about the remainders? 33 books got returned to me this year. It takes me at least 1 to 2 hours to get a new sales book prepared, so remounting the remaining items in new books and spend 35+ hours doing so was not really anything I was looking forward to. I wanted to sell the books quickly and as is. So I added up the number of stamps and catalog value left in each book, and then posted a message to several stamp collecting groups at Yahoo and basically priced them at 10% to 20% of catalog value. Within about an hour, all 33 books had been sold to 2 gentlemen (first come, first serve!). Now I can concentrate on selling duplicates in new sales books and not worry about continuing to sell stuff that had already been circulating for over a year!

## Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

### New Members

Stephen Mitchell (#574)

### Deceased

Jerry Potter (#275)

### Reinstated

Dr. Robert Clarke (#392)

### Membership Summary – December 3, 2015

Membership as of November 5, 2015	111
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( 0 )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 1 )
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of December 3, 2015	112



## Annual Club Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

Another Mid-Cities Stamp Club Christmas Party is now history. The Party was held on December 2nd at the *Bob Duncan Community Center*. Again this year the catered dinner came from Babes. We had chicken tenders, chicken fried steak, mash potatoes, green beans, cream corn, gravy, salad and biscuits. Several members brought delicious desserts. There were 23 present for this party.

The “official” business meeting was an announcement by club president **Mike Smith**, who said that there would be seven door prizes handed out this year and would be awarded after we had all eaten. **Alliene Franklin** presented past EXPO Chairperson, **Stanley Christmas**, with a chainsaw...that is, a toy one! For years Stanley and **Jerry Potter** had said that a chainsaw needed to be given as a gift at the EXPO Awards dinner instead of all the pretty glassware. A more “manly” type of gift they said. So, Alliene took upon herself to see that they finally got one, but sadly Jerry passed away before she could give him this. She gave the gift to a children donation instead, something that Jerry would have approved of.

**Tom Turner’s** lovely wife **Brenda** said grace before all filed through the buffet line. After our tummies were full, we cleared the tables, bought out the vintage beans and settled down to business playing Shanghai Bingo. **Cynthia Delaney** and her husband **Greg** were back with us again this year. They came with some new treats up their sleeves. This year the Club put 12 gift certificates for \$15 each in the mix of items to pick during Shanghai Bingo. There was a lot of floor activity going on once the prizes were gone from the front table and further Bingo winners sought booty from other member’s booty to Shanghai from them. Everyone went home with at least three gifts. If you are not coming to the Christmas Party, you really need to put it on your list of things to do each Holiday season. Come enjoy the good food, the fun and games and maybe even win a special gift certificate.

I would like to say a special thanks to **Rich Hildebrandt** and his lovely wife **Bert** for again providing all the feisty decorations for the tables. They always make the hall come alive with the feeling of Christmas in the air. We hope to see you all again next year with some new faces added.

*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



## Internet Stuff

By Peter Elias

At [www.collectors.com](http://www.collectors.com), there are 255,00+ USA stamps listed. At first I thought it was just individual collectors showcasing their items, but instead it appears to be a link to other sites where these stamps are available for sale (such as eBay and others), so I guess it is a good way to see what is available on the market place without having to go to a lot of individual websites, making this a “consolidator” type of website.

Colnect, located at <http://colnect.com/en> is a site that allows people to upload images of their collectibles. As of writing this, 536,581 stamps were listed by 25,925 collectors! You can mark stamps as to whether they’re in your collection, you “wish” it, want to buy, available to sell or swap. They even have neat searches such as by denomination, such as searching for “1.31” shows stamps from 3 countries whose stamps have that denomination!

## Arlington Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2015

By Benedict Termini

This was the Annual Christmas Party so only a short business meeting was held. It was called to order at 6 PM by President Mike Smith. There were 19 members present and 8 guests (Lloyd and Edith Willis, Annie Elias, Marcos Elias, Tommie Dougan, Brenda Turner, Greg Delaney and Reema Bhari).

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 had been given or mailed to every member. If anyone has not received their copy they should contact him ([termini@charter.net](mailto:termini@charter.net)).

Alliene Franklin presented a chainsaw to Stanley Christmas (This really happened - you can’t make this stuff up.)

Door prizes were won by Tom Turner and Robert Tallon (MCSC backpacks). Also: Stanley Christmas and Diana Davis each won \$10 gift certificates.

We all enjoyed a delicious dinner of fried chicken or chicken fried steak accompanied by corn, green beans, mashed potatoes and various other delicious foods from Babe’s Restaurant, organized by Judy Christmas. We then played bingo-bango-bongo [Editor: aka “Shanghai Bingo) with Cyndie Delaney and her husband Greg as the callers. A good time was had by all.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

## Philatelic Usage

By Peter Elias

I’m sure most of you have heard the term “philatelic usage” at time or another. It is used a lot in the exhibiting side of things, where someone might say, sure that cover has stamps on them, but it’s “philatelic usage” (as opposed to everyday, ordinary usage).

Philatelic usage primarily refers to stamps used on a cover (or postcard perhaps) where the stamp[s] in question are used to mail an item not so much for the purpose of mailing the item, but for “using” the stamps.

For example, in my collection of British Empire War Tax issues from World War I, I have many covers that are “philatelic usages”. Basically, either collectors or dealers sent themselves these stamps on cover, in many cases, hundreds of them! Thus, they had nicely postally used copies along with some nice postmarks and cancels that the cover attracted along the way. These covers had no reason for being mailed OTHER than just getting a postally used copy of the stamp[s] in question.

How can one tell if a cover is “philatelic usage”:

- ◆ An obvious philatelic usage might show overpayment of postage and fees due, such as a first day cover that has all the stamps in a set.
- ◆ Items mailed to people known to be stamp collectors or dealers, especially when the envelopes have a pre-printed address
- ◆ Items mailed from people known to be stamp collectors or dealers, especially if the stamps used are not what a regular postal customer would use for such a mailing.

But, even known stamp collectors and dealers still mail “ordinary” mail (payments, letters, personal correspondence), and because they are stamp collectors or dealers may cause them to “spruce up” a letter with some interesting postage (and not overpaying), does that make the stamps on that envelope be “philatelic usage”? Even if the intent of the mailing was not philatelic?



## The Real Cost

Peter Elias

Why are “new issue” stamp dealers not stocking some items, such as the USA “SSK” (previously known as “APC”) machine vended stamps

(listed in Scott’s with “CVP” catalog numbers)? Basically, it’s a matter of economics.

Those type of stamp dealers which carry “new issues” normally would like to buy their stamps from philatelic agencies or directly from postal administrations.

With these SSK (self-service kiosk) stamps, the dealer would have to first find a post office that has one of the SSK machines (found only in 1 of 8 post offices in the country, and even then, found mostly only in larger metroplex areas).

Then, the dealer would have to spend valuable time driving to such as a post office, not knowing whether the machine is fully functional that day and not necessarily knowing which stamp designs is available that day.

Furthermore, these machines have a \$50 credit card limit per day, so if one needs to buy more than 102 of these stamps (= \$49.98), one needs to have multiple credit cards.

These stamps can be bought in strips of 1 (plus a void label) up to full sheetlets of 10 stamps. If one needs to buy 100 single stamps (since that’s what many of a dealers clients might want), then each single stamp has to be bought 1 at a time (if one specifies 100 stamps, the machine spits out 10 sheetlets of 10. 13 stamps gets one a sheetlet of 10 and a block of 3 + 1 void label). I’ve timed this, and buying a single stamp has an elapsed time of 10 seconds. So 100 singles would take 1,000 seconds, that’s about 17 minutes. And to buy 100 singles is REALLY tedious, having to step through multiple screens just to buy 1 stamps, and then repeat! I know, as I’ve done this. Not to mention that if you go to an SSK machine during the business day, after 17 minutes, you’d have a lot of impatient postal customers waiting in line behind you! I know, that has occurred to me on many occasions! You literally feel their eyes drilling holes in your back! Trying to explain that you’re a collector doesn’t help...

So, from a dealer perspective, buying quantities of these items for stock will cost one quite a bit more than face value!

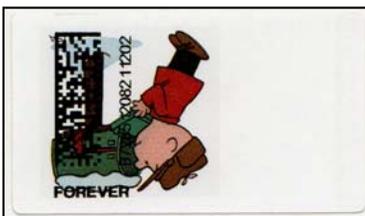
Assuming buying just 50 stamps (face value = \$24.50), there would be perhaps at least 10 miles round trip in a car (about a \$5.80 IRS mileage tax deduction), 20 minutes of driving and another 10 minutes of buying these stamps. Assuming a “professional” average wage of \$30/hour, the total expense of purchasing these 50 labels would then be \$45.30, or almost double face value.

What if the machine wasn’t working that day, and you had to come back the next day? Or what if you lived much further than 10 miles from a machine? The expenses would add up quickly!

What if you’re hoping to find an error (such as the one shown below with the inverted Charlie Brown image)? You’d have to drive to a machine every day and just hope that something is wrong. 99.9% of the time it won’t be.

So let’s say that you’ve went to just one machine (10 miles round-trip), once a day for 90 days and you get lucky! Excellent! But you also spent 30 hours (= \$900 labor value) driving 900 miles doing so, and the equivalent of \$ 522.00 in IRS mileage! Then you buy as

many errors as you can with one credit card (102 stamps). The total value of this would be about \$1,471.98. That makes each of those 102 stamps worth \$ 14.43 (about 29x face value) in effort and out-of-pockets costs! But, could the dealer then sell each



## Comic Strip Caption Contest (#5)

By Peter Elias

MCSC club members are encouraged to come up with a “caption” to the “comic strip bubble” presented with the Ifni stamp in last month’s newsletter, whether witty or thought-provoking (as long as it is fit to be published in this newsletter!). Based on entries received before the deadline, I will make a decision based on the best entry received (and as they say “decisions of the judges are final”...).

The stamp shown is Hungary, Scott #2247 from 1973.

I received only 2 entries from 1 person. (Was this such a tough stamp that only 1 person could come up with something?)

The winner this month is Dave Stockbridge, with his entry shown in the “bubble” nearby. Congratulations! I’ll get a club \$10 gift certificate mailed out and which can be used for purchases from club & APS sales books and from dealers at EXPO.

Other entries included: Dave Stockbridge with *This is my parking spot!*

There will be another caption contest starting in the February newsletter.

Please consider entering! Given the relatively few number of responses this time, your odds of winning a \$10 gift certificate would have been pretty good!

Hey buddy, can you give me a lift?



stamp for \$14.43 to recover their expenses? Doubtful ... they may be scarce, but they are not Inverted Jenny’s!

That’s just one example, using some real-world scenarios. Buying more of an error (using multiple credit cards) would certainly bring down the cost per stamp, but going to a machine 90 days in row guarantees nothing. Errors at these machines are pure luck on your part (and usually goof-ups on the part of postal employees); it’s a matter of being in the right place at the time. Sure, maybe the one time that you went to a particular machine you got lucky; then again, maybe no luck for 365 days (and that would really make finding an error an expensive task).

In the Dallas / Ft. Worth area there are supposedly 98 machines (that’s what I was told in 2012). I’ve been to maybe 20 to 25 of them over the past 3 years, and have found errors 4 times (in some cases for several days in a row). And yes, I’ve driven several thousand miles and hundreds of hours driving repeatedly to these machines and spending time at them (and I also have about 6+ exhibit frames of material to show for this effort). Even I have to buy some of these error items from other collectors that happened to get lucky at their local machine (in the case of the Charlie Brown stamp, I found that at one of the Richardson post offices!)

This is a fun area to collect, but I could see that stamp dealers don’t have much of an interest in procuring them; the cost of obtaining them (whether regular versions or errors) is just to cumbersome and time consuming. Good thing I’m just a collector, not a dealer! It’s “hobby time”! What little return one gets from these doesn’t come close to covering one’s expenses, much less earn a living from them.

From what I can tell, if you are looking for these type of stamps for your collection, then turn to a collector, not a dealer! Other than spending a lot of time driving around to different post offices, the easiest way to get these is online from venues such as eBay.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.com](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) 8/14

## Wanted for MCSC Mixture Picks

**Good US Material on Paper.** We need commemoratives (32¢ to present “Forever” values), Airmails, Semi-Postals and high-value definitive stamps. Please no common stamps such as Christmas, Love and other “special” issues. The club will pay \$20 per pound for needed material and may pro-rate smaller quantities. Contact Bob Weidman at (817) 292-4954.

- NOTE -

Donations of any US on paper are graciously accepted! 1/16

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jstrubelboy@aol.com) 12/14

## Wanted to Buy

**Interesting “stuff”,** such as:

- ◆ Worldwide Revenue stamps on document
- ◆ Worldwide ATM stamps, such as those from Framas, 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](mailto: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](mailto:p-ashley@att.net) 4/10

## Been There - Done That (Mickey Mouse)

Bob Weidman

The nearby picture is of myself and Mickey Mouse taken in Disneyland about 20 years ago. At the time I was working for a sales company based in Orange County, not too far from Anaheim (California) where Disneyland is located. I was at a sales meeting that the company was having and for dinner one evening, we all went to a restaurant in the park. Mickey Mouse showed up and everyone there had their picture taken with him.



Mickey Mouse was the brainchild of Walt Disney. Walter Elias Disney was born on December 5, 1901 in Chicago. In 1923 he moved to the Los Angeles area to become a producer / director in the movie industry. His first studio was in the back of a real estate office.



Mickey Mouse, originally named Mortimer, was created in 1928. Walt's wife Lillian did not like the name Mortimer. She felt that it was "too sissy". Walt asked her what she thought about the name Mickey. She said that it sounded better than Mortimer, and that's how Mickey Mouse was born, and the Disney empire of films, theme parks, hotels, cruise ships and toys started.



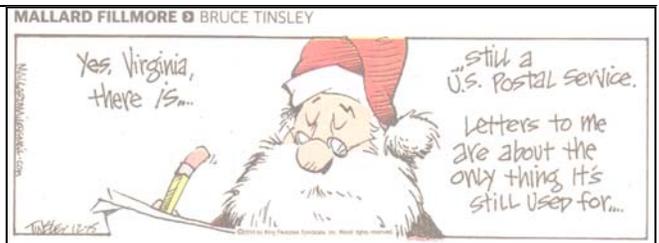
Walt Disney died on December 15, 1968 at the age of 65. On September 11, 1968, the United States Post Office honored him on a postage stamp, Scott #1355 with his likeness. Scott #4343 picturing Mickey Mouse was issued on Au-



## Dallas Post Office

By Peter Elias

So does this perhaps explain all the various problems that the US Postal Service is experiencing ?



Cartoon from December 2010. But 5 years later, I believe more people are now sending "electronic" Xmas cards!

## President's Letter

by Mike Smith

As we begin our 2016 programs and activities at Mid-Cities Stamp Club, I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and will enjoy a most happy New Year. The club had another good year and a very successful EXPO in 2015. More than 200 people attended EXPO on both Friday and Saturday, and that figure doesn't even include all of the MCSC members at the show. Once again, I really want to thank every one of our members who volunteered and participated in EXPO and other club activities during the past year.

Ray Cartier has taken over from Judy Christmas as Arlington Program Chairman and has an interesting year of meeting topics planned. However, we still have one month available in Arlington where we would like to schedule a speaker, and Skip Ely for Irving or Dave Stockbridge for Granbury would also appreciate suggestions from members on possible programs or discussion topics for the coming year.

The Texas Philatelic Association is again offering a free frame in their "Texas Challenge" at TEXPEX for about a dozen chapter clubs across Texas and Oklahoma, to be made up of 1-page exhibits from club members. This year the Granbury chapter will submit a frame with the theme of "Philatelic Terms" while Arlington/Irving's frame will highlight humor in stamps. TEXPEX is offering some exciting prizes in this competition, but in this case judging rules are relaxed and the primary goals are to have some fun with these exhibits and to share our philatelic diversity.

We all enjoyed the annual Christmas Party at the Bob Duncan Center in Arlington. Once again the catered dinner from Babe's Restaurant was delicious and some yummy desserts were provided by the members attending. Cindy and Greg Delaney entertained us after dinner with the annual game of Shanghai Bingo where everyone had a great time winning, losing, and exchanging the philatelic gifts brought in by the member in attendance.

Stamp of the Month: John James Audubon was born in Haiti in 1785 on his father's sugar plantation and was raised in France. At the age of 18, he immigrated to the United States and settled at the family farm in Pennsylvania. From childhood, Audubon had a keen interest in birds and was also a talented artist. He identified 25 new species in America, and published his comprehensive color-plate book on The Birds of America in 1839. Dozens of countries have issued stamps with some of Audubon's exquisite paintings, including Comoro Islands Scott Nr. C139-142 on his bicentenary in January 1985.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year! Mike



## Important lessons about emails

By Peter Elias

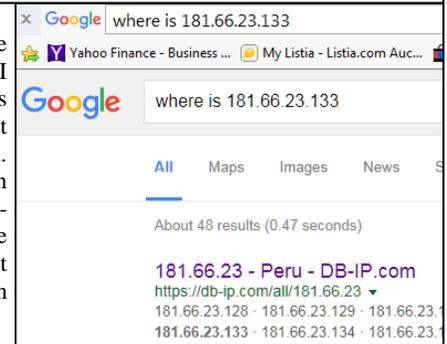
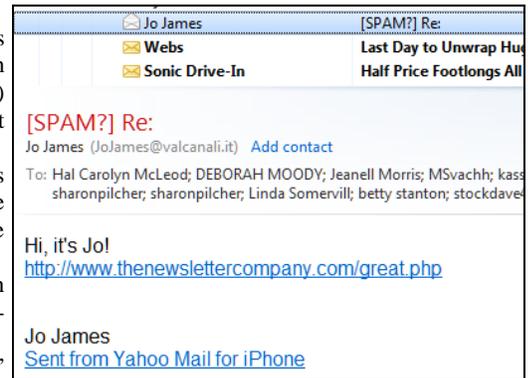
It seems that some of club members, myself included, have gotten emails recently that seem to come from other club members (myself included as well). Some people have asked me if my email account had been hacked or compromised (no, it hasn't!). But they said, that the email came from me, not just "Peter Elias", but the email address itself said it came from me (i.e.: "peter@pcelias.com").

Usually these type of messages have very little in the body of the message, usually just a "hey" or "hi", followed by a link to some website. Don't click on that link! Who knows what's at the other end of that! Sometimes the message is even "signed" by the "sender". But the message did NOT originate from me or any email account that I have access to!

One has to be careful these days. Spammers and scammers out there are pretending to be us. Either an account does actively get hacked and hijacked and then those people can send emails from that account, or more frequently, if the account had been compromised, they had copied at least the email address list, and then set up a new email account somewhere else, and the copy in the purloined address list. Then they simply attach the real person's name to this new email account and start sending spam messages. It could also be that someone else's account got hacked, and they then simply use one person from that list and use that name for spam using another account.

While I no longer have that fake message that I supposedly sent (and to which I had supposedly even sent myself a copy of, including to email addresses that don't even exist on my domain!), I did just now (December 16), receive an email message from "Jo James" (a MCSC club member). I'll provide an example below to show that the message in question did NOT actually originate from Jo James. How do I know this? A little bit of investigative work is required. Here goes:

1. Most email systems will show the "name" of the person sending the message, in this case, "Jo James". A cropped screen shot of the message is shown to the right; you can see at the top, it says "Jo James". But the message preview also shows the (supposedly) (supposedly) actual email which sent this (which is JoJames@valcanali.it, meaning that it came from Italy). That's doubt #1 for me as far as believing it's really from Jo!
2. But, spammers sometimes use sophisticated software to modify what the system sees as the email address. Generally, this information is found in the "header" record of the message which is usually hidden, but you can view on request (see the example of the header from "Jo's" message below).
3. In this case, if you reply to the message, it will go to the "Return-Path" shown below, in this case to some email address in Italy (whether real or not). The spammers don't necessarily want to get a reply from you, so sometimes the return email goes nowhere!
4. However, the message didn't necessarily originate from Italy. See the "Received: from" line below. It says it was received from the IP address 181.66.23.133. Usually this is meaningless to most people, but "IP addresses" are assigned to specific computers, and they are obviously located "somewhere". That somewhere in this case, is Peru! How do I know this? I typed the query "where is 181.66.23.133" into a Google search and it told me! In some cases you might have to dig around some more. But obviously, Jo James would more than likely not be using an Italian email address and somehow sending that message from a Peruvian system. Same goes with the message that supposedly came from me, it originated from a system in Europe! Even where it says that the server from which this originated it "authenticated", it doesn't mean that it's really a message from Jo! While her actual email address is withheld in the Member Handbook, I do know that it is a Yahoo account (which along with AOL do seem to get compromised frequently). And the actual sender wasn't even "JoJames@valcanali.it" as shown on the top of the header info, it was mariaorsola@valcanali.it (as shown on the last line below)!



### HEADER INFO FROM THE "Jo James" MESSAGE:

**Return-Path:** <JoJames@valcanali.it>

**Received:** from server4.wehostdns.com ([94.141.27.240]) by mx.perfora.net (mxueus004) with ESMTPS (Nemesis) id 0M9Yjp-1a3zTr3dyZ-00D0fD for <peter@pcelias.com>; Wed, 16 Dec 2015 13:12:09 +0100

**Received:** from [181.66.23.133] (port=23332 helo=valcanali.it)

by server4.wehostdns.com with esmtpa (Exim 4.86)

(envelope-from <JoJames@valcanali.it>)

id 1a9Aw5-0006ia-65; Wed, 16 Dec 2015 13:12:01 +0100

**Date:** Tue, 16 Dec 2015 01:11:53 +0000

**From:** Jo James <JoJames@valcanali.it>

**To:** [Editor: this went to quite a few people, including several club members and myself]

**Message-ID:** <4ca7f7df9054\$01de7c5c\$955127aa@valcanali.it>

**Content-Type:** multipart/alternative;

boundary="-----\_NextPart\_000\_79CA\_87CBA9DC.12EA2DD5"

**X-AntiAbuse:** This header was added to track abuse, please include it with any abuse report

**X-AntiAbuse:** Primary Hostname - server4.wehostdns.com

**X-AntiAbuse:** Original Domain - pcelias.com

**X-AntiAbuse:** Originator/Caller UID/GID - [47 12] / [47 12]

**X-AntiAbuse:** Sender Address Domain - valcanali.it

**X-Get-Message-Sender-Via:** server4.wehostdns.com: authenticated\_id: mariaorsola@valcanali.it

**X-Authenticated-Sender:** server4.wehostdns.com: mariaorsola@valcanali.it

So, what's the lesson here? Don't believe everything you read on the surface of an email message. The spammers are getting sophisticated and using all sorts of "social engineering" methods to get you to click on a link or open an attachment as well as spoofing other people's names and addresses!

If in doubt at all (even if the message is from a name you know), investigate the header of the message, don't just look at the return path, look at some of the other areas in the header. Most of us don't use email accounts in other countries! Anytime that the message contains mostly just a link, it's already suspect!

Email systems add all sorts of good information to the "header" allowing you to investigate it (even if some of the header info is forged!).

Please practice "safe computing"! Learning this stuff will make you a safer computer user!

Questions? Please feel free to contact me at [info@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:info@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

# Granbury Meeting Minutes November 24, 2015

By Cyndi Spurlock & Alliene Franklin

Dave Stockbridge welcomed 15 MCSC members to the Granbury Branch November meeting. He introduced Ralph Poore, who will take over Stanley Christmas' position as MCSC EXPO Chairman.

**During Show & Tell:**

- ◆ Cyndie Spurlock showed a petroleum cover.
- ◆ Daniel Kennedy shared an assortment of covers that he recently acquired.
- ◆ Bob Coleman had Highway Post Office marks.
- ◆ Denny Ludlow brought information about Fancy Cancels.
- ◆ Bob Patterson shared a British letter posted 1847 with a Penny Red, Bob's oldest philatelic item.
- ◆ Gary McNamee brought some Denmark & Poland stamps for whomever wanted them.
- ◆ Dave Stockbridge shared some interesting anecdotes of Postal Regulations.

Brian Smith brought our "**Philatelic Moment**" about Clipperton Island stamps. This is a 6 km uninhabited coral atoll 1,080 km southwest of Mexico. It was briefly inhabited by the US in 1944-1945.

Dave reminded everyone to pay their 2016 membership dues and several paid at that time.

Dave then announced program opportunities for 2016,

noting that our January program is "Clean Out Your Closet."

During the **break**, the group enjoyed Al Hull's Caramel Apple Cake and fudge. Yummy!

Stanley Christmas presented our **program**: "A Debriefing on our 2015 EXPO." He informed us of the Show's successes, including the change to a Fri-Sat show, and the challenges. There was interesting discussion about new ideas for the show. Dave assured Ralph of Granbury's support in his new position.

In **closing**, two MCSC Gift Certificates and several donated prizes were awarded to winner's of the monthly drawing.

Ahh, a sign of the times →

Of course, the wordage is a bit puzzling to me, ie: the "real letter in the mail". Are there letters that are NOT real that come in the mail? Perhaps there's a bit of confusion about getting mail versus email? Or perhaps the author meant something that wasn't a "letter", such as "junk mail"? Inquiring minds want to know!



## 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**

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

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

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>  
or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →



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## Wanted to Buy

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](mailto: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 January & February 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

- January 6 **Campo Verde**  
2918 W Pioneer Parkway  
Arlington, TX 76013 (817) 275-7003  
<http://www.campoverde.us/>
- February 3 **Spring Creek BBO**  
3608 S. Cooper, Arlington (817) 465-0553  
<http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com/arlington.htm>

### IRVING

- January 20 **PJ's Restaurant**  
2301 North O'Connor Road (north of 183),  
ph. (972) 255-8400
- February 17 **Spring Creek BBO**  
3514 West Airport Freeway (972-313-0987).

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

**Don't Forget:  
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