

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park
Irving Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
Garden & Arts Center, 906 Senter
Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER MEMBER



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October 2016

Been There - Done That (Watched the Reruns)

By Peter Elias

The original Star Trek TV series ran for 3 seasons from 1966 to 1969. Unfortunately, I did not get to watch the series during that time, for the primary reason that it was probably not broadcast in Switzerland during that time. And even if it was, my parents probably wouldn't have let me watch it anyway due to too many "fisticuffs" and other fighting, since I was only in elementary school at the time (kindergarten to 2nd grade).



So once we moved to the USA, and I was about 12 years old, coming home after school, I discovered Star Trek (along with other series such as "Lost In Space") being shown as afternoon reruns on TV. By 1975, another Sci-Fi series had started: "Space:1999" (featuring Martin Landau and Barbara Bain, both from the "Mission: Impossible" series). Space:1999 was made in England by the creators of "Thunderbirds" (supermarionation), a British Sci-Fi TV series from 1965. And while I had heard of the Thunderbirds series, I have never actually seen it (what, no reruns?).

Also in the mid-1970's, there was another popular Sci-Fi TV series that I did watch as first-run episodes, which was "Battlestar Galactica". But back to Star Trek: there was an animated version of Star Trek, which ran from 1973 to 1974 (24 episodes). Since it was a cartoon series, I do believe that I watched these as first-run episodes and that my brother and I had to get up real early on Saturday mornings to watch this (as Saturday mornings were the time that many cartoons were on, such as Woody Woodpecker, Roadrunner, and others).

So as you can tell, my interest for many TV shows at that time centered around Science Fiction, as did much of my leisure time reading (classics from Robert Heinlein, Arthur Clarke, Isaac Asimov, as well as Anne McCaffrey and many others).

In the mid-1980's, Star Trek got a reboot as the "Next Generation" series, which I watched avidly as first-run episodes (via Betamax VCR with time-shift viewing!). And of course I watched all the later Star Trek series as well: "Deep Space Nine", "Voyager" and "Enterprise". In 1994 I even got to meet Marina Sirtis (from the Next Generation series) at an autograph signing session at a Star Trek / Sci-Fi Convention that was held in Plano (and that photo and a souvenir sheet will be my 1-page entry into this year's EXPO)

It is always neat when looking at a stamp and it takes you back in time. And you know what? There is a new Star Trek series called "Discovery" which will start to be broadcast on "CBS All Access" in early 2017.

May you all "Live Long & Prosper"! Ready, set collect!



Mid-Season Postage Rate Increase

by Peter Elias

On August 28, 2016, the USPS increased postage rates for "1st Class Parcels" (while leaving "1st Class Letter" and "1st Class Large Envelope" rates the same).

First Class Parcels pay the same flat rate for 1 through 3 ounces, then in 1 ounce increments through 13 ounces (after which the item would have to be mailed either as a regular parcel or Priority Mail).

On January 17, 2016, the First Parcel Rate base rate (1 to 3 ounces) was increased to \$2.54. On April 10, 2016, it was lowered to \$2.54 due to the USPS being mandated to do so. And now, the rate is at \$2.62.

Strangely enough, for only 2¢ more, you can mail up to 4 ounces, thereafter in 19¢ increments to 13 ounces where it tops out at \$4.35. The reason for this minor 2¢ difference is that only changes in pricing are for the 1 to 3 ounce rate to correct an anomaly created with the January 17 rate changes where the retail rate for first class parcel ended up being lower than the "commercial base" rates! The 4 ounce and above retail rates remain unchanged.

If however, you are a "commercial" mailer, then the 1st Class Parcel is only \$2.60, but not just through 3 ounces, but instead through 8 ounces (for which the retail customer has to pay \$3.40!).

You can find all this in "Notice123", which is the price list for all postage rates and can be found online at <http://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/notice123.htm>. You can also download this as a PDF file at <http://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/manuals/dmm300/notice123.pdf>.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

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2015 - 2016 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mike Smith
First Vice-President – Skip Ely
Second Vice-President – Richard Hildebrandt
Secretary – Benedict Termini
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Alliene Franklin Ralph Poore Ken Wills

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area. Dues are \$12 per year. For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or e-mail us at:

editor@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

SEP. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Auction

OCT. 5 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Envelope stuffing for EXPO

Note: Annual Picnic has been MOVED to November

OCT. 7—8 Dallas Postcard & Paper Show

NEW VENUE: Comfort Inn and Suites Plano East, 700 Central Parkway East (Exit 29, East side of Expressway just behind new Furr's Cafeteria, LaQuinta), Plano. Fri: 10 AM-6 PM. Sat: 9 AM-4 PM. \$4.00, good for both days

OCT. 19 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: TBD

OCT. 25 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: by Jim Myers, title TBD

OCT. 29 MCSC EXPO Meeting (11 AM)

Final planning meeting prior to EXPO, Pizza Garden Rest., Bedford

NOV. 2 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Annual Picnic and maybe:

Speaker: Dave Stockbridge, topic is TBD

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

As you read in last month's newsletter, while the membership dues starting in 2017 are not changing, the option for having the newsletter mailed will require additional funds (even for sponsors & youth). Compared to the standard membership fee of \$12, the club has to spend approximately \$18 to mail you the newsletter (the printing portion is \$12 and the postage is \$6). Luckily so far, about half our members have opted to download the newsletter from one of our two sites (YahooGroups and Webs); furthermore, secretary Ben Termini will (starting in 2017) email the newsletter to all members to the email address on record (most PDF newsletters are about 800 KB to 1.2 MB in size, so it should not pose any problems in terms of the size of the attachment). I will continue to upload the newsletter to the webs and Yahoo sites, and those of you that are subscribing to the YahooGroup will continue to get automated messages as well as benefit from downloading every club newsletter known!

Unfortunately, the cost of mailing physical newsletters is making this inevitable. Many philatelic societies are going this route, even the Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society newsletter is "electronic only" (and has been for several years).



MCSC ANNUAL PICNIC!!

By Judy Christmas

The annual MCSC picnic is being held in November this year as I am out town right now. We will gather at the same spot as last the last few years, the patio at the Bob Duncan Community Center. The Center will have tables and chairs placed there for us to dine at. The date is November 2, 2016. This will be a pot luck dinner. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the October meetings. But if you were not able to attend a October meeting and or did not sign up but would like to attend let me know via phone, 817-656-2925 or e-mail, judy66@swbell.net.

The Club will provide hot dogs, cooked by our own personal chef David Stockbridge, drinks and utensils. For those who will be attending we ask that you bring a covered dish. Some dishes that have been brought in the past are salads (tossed, Jell-O, fruit), beans, casserole dishes of all kinds, fruit plates, deviled eggs (which always go fast so make plenty) chips & dip and all sorts of desserts. This event has been such a big success in year's past, so please come and join us. It is a good time for members to get to visit with each other. We will begin gathering around 5:15 to 5:30 PM, eating around 5:45 PM or so. If you have any question, please contact either Judy Christmas at 817-656-2925 or David Stockbridge at 817-573-7168.

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



Deceased
Ken Kerruish

Membership Summary – September 8, 2016

Membership as of August 3, 2016	106
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(1)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of September 8, 2016	105

Arlington Meeting Minutes September 7, 2016

By Ben Termini

Call-to-Order:

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

Attendance:

There were 22 members and no guests present.

Officer Committee Reports:

- Secretary Ben Termini reported that we had 105 members. He also pointed out that it was time to start paying dues and reminded members that dues could be paid for up to three years at a time.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas said our finances were in good shape.
- Newsletter Editor Peter Elias said that as of the last board meeting, ALL members would be receiving the electronic version of the newsletter, unless they paid an additional yearly fee of \$10.
- EXPO Committee chairman Ralph Poore was not present. Mike Smith reminded everyone that there would be an EXPO committee meeting next Saturday.
- Sales Books Chairman Skip Ely said that sales were good but occurring in spurts.

Announcements:

- Stanley Christmas mentioned that we had a full slate of officers nominated for the next year with the exception of the position of president.
- Janet Moyer passed around the sign-up sheet for volunteers at the EXPO.
- Ben Termini mentioned that Ray Cartier would be setting up the program schedule for the next year and if anyone had any comments or suggestions, they should talk to Ray.
- Mike Smith mentioned that long-time member and supporter Ken Kerruish had passed away, and several members commented on the contributions he had made to the club (Secretary's note: Ken had been a member since 1980).
- Dave Stockbridge mentioned that there was some material from the estate of Jerry Potter on the back table and this could be taken by members, who were encouraged to make a donation which would go to Jerry's wife.
- Judy Christmas said that the club picnic would be held in November.
- Ray Cartier talked about the need for exhibits for the EXPO, and suggested that members really need to get more involved in order for us to have a viable show.
- Ray also talked about the upcoming Waxahachie Chautauqua on the theme of WATER which is to be held on September 24th. He mentioned that the club would be represented with exhibits and covers.
- Rich Hildebrandt reminded members that the 2015 Scott catalogs are up for sale. Members may submit sealed bids and the lucky winner will be announced at the November meeting.

Show & Tell:

- Peter Elias passed around several items, and mentioned that

Ken Kerruish, RIP

Longtime member (& stamp dealer) Ken Kerruish passed away on September 6 2016. Some comments and remembrances are below:

Tom Cunningham: Bob Hazelwood probably knew Ken over 35 years from the time Ken retired from the US Army in 1980 and began a 23-year run of operating AR-TEX STAMPS. Probably none of us could say it better than Dr. Hazelwood did. Ken was a mentor to me when I first became a dealer in 1998. He was my predecessor as the long-time bourse chairman for both TSDA shows in Dallas and Mid-Cities EXPO. He served as President of TSDA several times. I have only very pleasant memories of him. He is already greatly missed.

Bob Hazelwood: When Ken Kerruish passed away this week, the philatelic community lost a great American, a solid citizen, and a knowledgeable and upright dealer who touched most of us in one way or another. Who among us have not bought, sold, traded, or exchanged information of a philatelic nature with him? His leadership within the TSDA was outstanding, as it was laced with integrity, forthrightness, and a fervor to improve all aspects of buying and selling philatelic items. Equally, he would spend much time showing the finer points of stamp characteristics to the younger and less experienced dealers as well as the more naive collector. Honest, fair, and knowledgeable, Ken treated all customers with courtesy and bias. His humor was quick, well timed, and easy to come forth. And his love for completing his crossword puzzles as well as competing in the post-show "back-room" poker games were a hallmark to his personality. We all will miss him, as his journey among us was too short by half! We love 'ya Ken, God Bless!

Members in the News

- Karen Cartier was spotted in a photo of her at the ATA booth, taken at NY2016, and that was published in the July-August issue of "Topical Time".
- Ken Aldridge was mentioned in the September issue of Rise Grand Island, an E Publication of the Grand Island, Nebraska High School Alumni Foundation. The article cited him as a graduate of the school and after a career with the FBI, wrote five crime novels and working on his sixth. Each book title was listed and that each could be ordered through Amazon or available on Kindle.

one of his philatelic literature exhibits had won a silver medal.

- Stanley Christmas passed around several Netherlands covers.

Door Prizes:

Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Jeff Jessop and Ken Dougan.

Program:

An auction was held, run by Rich Hildebrandt, Skip Ely, Dave Stockbridge, Judy Christmas and Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Granbury Meeting Minutes August 23, 2016

By Eugene Atkinson

Host David Stockbridge greeted 16 members of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club, to the Bentwater Activities Center (1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct.) for the 7 pm monthly meeting, August 23.

In the **SHOW & TELL** portion of the evening:

- Cyndie Spurlock showed some petroleum-related foreign covers and stamps.
- Stanley Christmas asked help in translating a German text on a cover.
- Denny Ludlow had some East German covers and a Wilt Chamberlain cover.
- Lloyd Willis had an item from French Indo-China.
- Ray Cartier introduced the group to "sky train," glider-delivered mail to different cities on a single route.
- David Stockbridge had a collection of family letters with varied postage, including a War Savings coupon used for franking.

For **ANNOUNCEMENTS**, Stanley Christmas noted that the EXPO silent auction needs donations and that club dues will increase next year for those wishing a hard copy, paper edition of "Stamping Around." Alliene Franklin publicized the Richardson stamp show and bourse, and Brian Smith offered some sales items. Finally, David Stockbridge distributed exhibit guidelines for the club's contribution to TEXPEX and observed that last year's prize will be auctioned off in November at EXPO.

For the **BREAK**, Al Hull provided a chocolate cake, a "southern jam" cake, and diced fruits--for the dieters.

In his **PROGRAM**, Ray Cartier used a very impressive array of launch covers, in-flight covers, recovery covers and more to trace the history of U. S. space exploration from the Russian launch of Sputnik through projects Mercury, Apollo, to infinity and beyond. The many commemorative space stamps he finds less interesting than covers, cachets, and autographs detailing all aspects of NASA's efforts.

In **CLOSING**, Jim Case and Al Hull won gift certificate door prizes.

Note: The September meeting, with expanded hours, will once again consist of a special estate auction, material not offered in the earlier session.

✂ _____ ✂

2017 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal # _____

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

___ Check here if address, contact and collecting interest information below is unchanged from 2016

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

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable):

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

Permission is granted to publish the above information in the club directory issued to members only. Check here to indicate any information that you do **NOT** want published: ___ Name ___ Mailing Address ___ Phone number(s) ___ Email ___ Interests

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Membership Level: ___ \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online newsletter) ___ \$22 Regular Adult (USPS mailed newsletters)
___ \$25 Sponsor Membership (" ") ___ \$35 Sponsor (with USPS mailed newsletters)
___ \$6 Additional Adult (only 1 newsletter copy) ___ \$4 Youth (under age 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired)

**Make check out to "Mid-Cities Stamp Club" and mail form with payment to:
Benedict A. Termini - Secretary, 8520 Meadowbrook Dr, Fort Worth, TX 76120-5204**

TALES BY MAIL – BOOK 2 IS NOW AVAILABLE

By Ray & Karen Cartier

Karen Cartier has released “TALES BY MAIL – Book 2”, the second in a series of books retelling fairy tales, folk tales, legends and island mythology, illustrated in full color by enlargements of postage stamps from the 24 countries represented in these 25 stories for children from age 4 to 14. Stories that can be read to all aged readers bear a “G” rating at the top of the page showing the illustrations. Other stories that might be more suitable to older children or adults are given a “PG” rating.

As in her earlier TALES BY MAIL - Book 1, most readers have probably never heard of the majority of these tales before. Yet each tale was so popular in its own country that stamps were issued featuring one or more incidents from each of these tales. A full color world map near the front of the book points out the locations of the countries while at the bottom of each first page stamp illustration the geographic location of the country and its primary products are listed, giving the readers, or those to whom the story is read, some additional geographic and cultural knowledge.

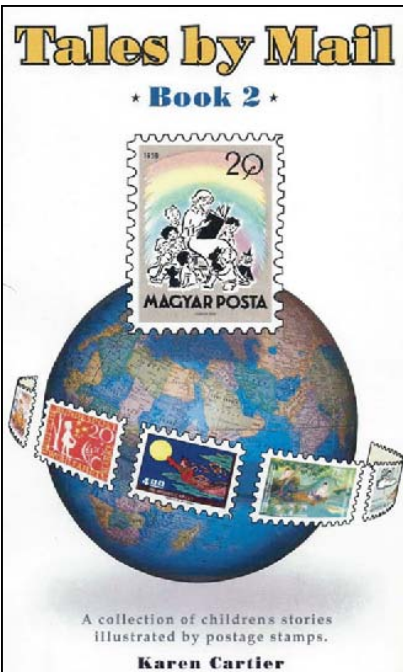
Professor Emerita of The College of New Jersey and founder of The Garden State Storyteller’s League, Gwendolyn Jones, submitted an unsolicited Foreword to Book 2 after being sent a proof copy of the work. She wrote in part:

“Her (Karen’s) diligent search for beautiful, story-related stamps and her meticulous researching of the folktales they depict result in an irresistible merging of visual art and fine writing. ... Traditional tales / folk tales must have recognizable beginnings, middles, and endings. What better recognizable beginning for the child or adult than to see a facsimile of a REAL postage stamp heralding the characters and action which is revealed as the stories evolve to supply an exciting and absorbing middle. And what more satisfying ending to add an air of authenticity to a folktale or legend from the words Karen Cartier uses to show us that these tales have withstood the passage of time and live on...and on... and on...”

TALES BY MAIL – Book 1 was entered in the Ben Franklin Awards competition and was given the following ratings: “Best First Book” 9.8 on a scale of 1 to 10; Best New Voice 9.67; for “Design” 9.93; and for “Editorial” 9.7.

Over 1,100 copies of TALES BY MAIL – Book 1 have been sold to date. These are helping parents and grandparents to introduce stamp collecting to their progeny in a way that is interesting to their children and grandchildren. TALES BY MAIL – Book 2 continues this tradition with new tales from Europe, Asia, North America, Australia and several Pacific Island nations.

TALES BY MAIL – Book 2 and information on how to obtain one or both books is now available from Legend Lady Press, 2509 Buffalo Dr., Arlington, TX 76013 or by requesting information by email from TalesByMail-Book@gmail.com.



The price of BOOK 2 is \$12.95. However, as a special incentive, while supplies last, TALES BY MAIL- Book 1 will be reduced in price from \$14.95 to \$8.95 if purchased at the same time as the new Book 2. United States addresses costs for Postage and Handling costs for the new Book 2 or for both books ordered at the same time is \$3.00. Due to excessive mailing costs it is not available at this time to Canadian or overseas addresses. Texas residents must add 8.25 % tax or \$1.07 for Book 1 or \$1.82 for both books. Payment may be made by check made out to Legend Lady Press or by PayPal to Legend Lady Press. PayPal will accept payments by MasterCard or Visa as well.

Brief Biography:

Karen Cartier is a co-founder of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. She is also a recipient of the American Topical Association’s “Distinguished Topical Philatelist” award and the former office manager of the ATA’s office when it was located in Arlington, TX. Tales By Mail – Book 2 is her third book.

President's Letter

by Mike Smith

The Mid-Cities Stamp Club 29th annual Exhibition and Bourse will be held at the Grapevine Convention Center on Friday and Saturday, November 11th and 12th. Twenty-six stamp dealers and the Grapevine USPS will attend, and we expect a large turnout with our “Sci-Fi” theme and many special attractions. I want to give particular thanks to Ralph Poore for taking over as EXPO General Chairperson this year, Ray Cartier for again filling the 60 exhibit frames with lots of new material from both club members and outside collectors and all of the EXPO volunteers that make our show so exceptional.

It’s time to renew your MCSC membership, and a renewal form will be included in the newsletters for the rest of the year. Since there is an expense in printing and mailing a copy to members each month, the club officers and directors voted to add \$10 to the annual dues of members who elect not to receive their newsletter as an e-mail attachment. The last thing we want is to lose any members, so if this amount creates a hardship, let one of the club officers know and some other arrangement can be made.

This year is also a club election year, and the ballot for 2017-2018 Officers and Directors is in this Newsletter. You can mail your ballot to MCSC Secretary Ben Termini, or just bring it to the November Arlington meeting when we will have our annual fall picnic. After the picnic, we will hold the 2016 Annual Club Meeting, the ballots will be counted, and the new officers will be announced.

Stamp of the Month: Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, was born on October 27, 1858, in New York City. In the Spanish-American War of 1898, Roosevelt resigned his position of Assistant Secretary of the Navy and formed a Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known to the press as the “Rough Riders”. In Cuba, they fought through Spanish resistance and became famous for winning the Battle of San Juan Hill. Cuba honored Roosevelt’s birth centenary with Scott Nr. 610 and C192. USA Scott Nr. 557 and many later stamps also commemorate Teddy Roosevelt.



On a sad note, long-time Club member Ken Kerruish passed away on September 6, 2016. Ken ran a stamp store in Arlington for more than 20 years and was also the bourse chairman for EXPO. At our 2012 show, he was recognized as one of three dealers who had participated in all of the first 25 MCSC EXPOS. Ken was also President and bourse chairman for TSDA. He will be missed by all of the many philatelists who knew him.

Keep On Collecting! Mike

[The stamp image is from www.stampworld.com]

EXPO Meeting Minutes September 10, 2016

By Skip Ely

Members of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO Committee met September 10, 2016 in the meeting room at the Pizza Garden Inn in Bedford.

The meeting was called to order at 11:25 AM by EXPO Chairperson Ralph Poore. Others present included club President Mike Smith, First Vice President Skip Ely, Treasurer Judy Christmas, Newsletter Editor Peter Elias and EXPO Committee members Ray & Janet Moyer, Ken Wills and Bob Weidman

Cachets – Ralph presented the artwork prepared by Diana Davis for the cachets. A short discussion ensued about various details. It was decided to offer the three cachets at one for a \$3, two for \$5, and three for \$7. Ralph said that he and Stanley Christmas had visited the Grapevine post office and ordered the necessary stamps for the cachets. He understood that Stanley would pick them up when they were available.

Storage Cabinets – Ralph asked about the storage cabinets in the late Ken Kerruish's garage. While no one had the answer for sure, it was speculated that retrieving them would not be a problem.

Publicity – Peter talked about a free ad in Linn's for cachet postmarks. He said he would explore this option and try to secure it for the club. Ralph asked that \$25 be added to the

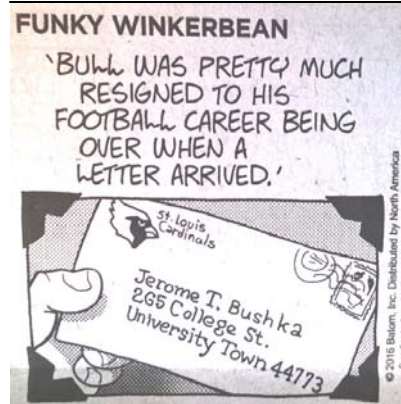
EXPO budget for EXPO flyers for Ray's event in Waxahachie (Chautauqua).

Penny Black Raffle – Printing of the raffle tickets for the penny black was discussed. Janet Moyer offered to design the tickets.

Exhibit Frames – Mike Smith noted that the six exhibit frames loaned to another club got wet while being returned. It was determined we needed to inspect the frames for damage before EXPO.

Miscellaneous – A number of other odds and ends were brought up and discussed. So far, all systems are go.

A final EXPO meeting was tentatively scheduled for 11:00 AM, October 29, 2016, at the Pizza Garden. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 P.M.



Cartoon

The Funky Winkerbean comic strip from September 1, 2016 showed this in panel 1. The zip code shown, 44773 is NOT a valid USPS zip code according to the USPS website, but in theory would put it somewhere near Canton, Ohio.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club Officers & Board of Directors Election for 2017-2018 Ballot

Member Name: _____

(Please complete each section of the ballot as noted with an ink pen.)

All ballots MUST be received by hand or by mail before the MCSC Annual Meeting on November 2, 2016 by the club Secretary, Ben Termini. Please drop the ballot off at the October Arlington meeting or before the Annual Meeting in Arlington in person; if mailing, send this ballot to arrive before November 2, 2016 to:

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

1. OFFICERS

(Check one name for each position below)

Office	Nominees	or Write-In
President	<input type="checkbox"/> Ray Cartier	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
1st Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Ray Moyer	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
2nd Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Hildebrandt	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Ben Termini	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Judy Christmas	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____

2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Vote for only three [3] of the three [3] candidates shown below)

- Alliene Franklin
- Ralph Poore
- Ken Wills

Buying & Appraising Stamps: The Dealer Perspective

By Tom Cunningham

Here are some of what I have learned regarding buying & appraising stamp collections over the past 19 years as a stamp dealer and that many other dealers still haven't learned yet.

Many NON-dealers believe they know something about appraising collections (which they really don't). The NON-dealer will not have the experience of buying collection lots wholesale to understand the significance of all of the answers. Also, the NON-dealer will not have personally inspected and bought hundreds of large collection lots from HR Harmer, formerly Greg Manning, Siegel, Schuler Rumsey, Regency, Harmer Schau and other auctions houses to know what collection lots sell for as an alternative and as a comparison to the seller's holdings. For example, MCSC discussed having a collector sit at an appraisal table and "advise sellers" about their holdings. In my humble opinion, that would be a disaster to both every dealer there, the prospective seller, and MCSC

A key piece of advice: **"IF YOU GIVE ADVICE TO A PROSPECTIVE SELLER ABOUT THE REALIZABLE VALUE OF THEIR HOLDINGS, BACK IT UP WITH AN OFFER FROM YOUR OWN CHECKBOOK OR SAVE YOUR COMMENTS FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL".** I have outbid Mystic and Ed Younger four times in the past four years. I pay fair prices but I have learned not to overpay. I also have learned not to buy "junk".

I do NOT give written appraisals "for insurance purposes" because I have found that often the seller wants it only for nefarious reasons and I am not into supporting bogus insurance claims. If I do an appraisal, it is because I am interested in buying the holding and my offer will be verbal and backed up by a checkbook. At this time, I believe I am the largest buyer of collection lots and estates in North Texas. Steve Crippe almost certainly buys more in dollars, but he is interested ONLY in higher-priced USA stamps with certificates.

There are several questions that I ask in the approximate order shown below (and which can vary depending on the answers received), that will aid me in determining my interest in buying a collection:

1. Was this your personal collection?

2. If NOT, how did you obtain it? (NO legitimate dealer will buy stolen property but many offerings are quite suspicious). Sellers will often lie and not to their advantage. They will say it was a family member's when it was bought at a garage/estate sale last weekend or obviously came out of a storage locker. If I am a prospective buyer, I am constantly looking for some documentation in the lot that ties it to the seller (same surname on dealer correspondence or as addressee on covers, etc.). I have to add that some dealers are more scrupulous than others about this. I NEVER knowingly buy stolen property or anything that is suspicious.

3. How has it been stored?

If in an attic or garage, I always say I'm not interested. If in a closet, I ask if in a box with albums stacked one atop another because then, I also usually am not interested because everything with gum at the bottom of the pile will be stuck to the pages or mounts, etc.

4. Are the albums standing like a book on a bookshelf?

Sellers often will lie about this also when the evidence is obvious. They will always correct to "it was in a box for a while before I obtained it from Aunt Sally". LOL

5. Which albums is the collection in (ask for names/dates on the title pages)?

If in "photo albums", the conversation is over because everything will be damaged by the adhesive. If in certain childhood albums, the conversation is equally over. My sister's first album was called Majestic and it cost \$1.00 in the early 1950s. I have never seen a collection in a Majestic album that I would pay \$10 for. Similarly for some other common "first and near-beginner" albums such as paperbound albums, Modern, Statesman, Comprehensive, and numerous other worldwide albums where I have never seen a \$50 collection inside.' Similarly for certain

USA albums, although some great USA collections can be in primitive albums. If the collection is in "schoolboy albums", I advise the seller accordingly and suggest they bring it to a stamp show or stamp club.

6. Tell me a description of what you have?

If the answer is "hundred of first day of issues in very nice albums", I ask if they are addressed. If addressed, I am NOT interested because the re-sale prospects are bleak. If unaddressed AND with better cachets (not Artmaster, Artcraft, Postal Commemorative Society, etc.), I MIGHT be interested but not at a very high price unless pre-1940. As I write this, I probably have 40,000 FDCs in my climate-controlled warehouse and don't even take to stamp shows because sales will not justify the table space.

7. Is this just another postage lot after 1945?

Again, I own thousands of FACE value stamps in my warehouse, and rarely take any to stamp shows. Yes, if I buy for 25-40% of FACE depending on content and condition and sell it for 70-80% of FACE, that is a great percentage markup. In my experience, the volume of sales will not justify the table space regardless. I really am not a great buyer for postage except as part of a much larger and better collection.

8. Will you send me scans of the older or most interesting stamps?

If they suggest a country, I tell them to send USA before 1890, Canada, Great Britain, and Germany (even cheaper collections will have these countries, so why ask them to send Hatay or Ionian Islands when they won't have any). Those few countries, for me, usually will tell me QUICKLY a LOT about the overall quality of the collection and how to proceed.

9. How much do you want for the collection? OR Do you have any idea how much money the collector spent on the collection?

Usually they won't know unless the seller is also the collector (I much prefer to deal with a collector who knows exactly what he or she has and can point out better items that I otherwise might miss). Furthermore, if they have NO IDEA and "know nothing about stamps" (this is probably at least 75% of the sellers who approach me either by e-mail, phone, or at shows), it re-raises the questions in my mind about legal ownership and the possibility of stolen property.

10. How voluminous is the lot?

Does it fit in one box, three boxes, or one room or half your house? In addition to considering how much money I have to spend, I also have to consider where I have to put it? I have seen some "whole house" lots that I didn't want to buy because it was boxes and boxes of cheap stamps sorted and on-paper mix of minimum value.

Only after I have encouraging answers to these questions (which probably lead to additional questions) and have received scans (or other alternative information that is encouraging), do I make an appointment to go visit. I would estimate that about 1 out of 25 is worth visiting. I used to buy "everything philatelic" to "get it off the streets". Those days are long gone, years ago!

I NEVER bring a seller to my home (for security reasons), but I have met a few at McDonald's or Starbucks, etc, if the quantity is limited and all better items have been described to me. Sometimes, the initial contact is made at a stamp show where the seller first approaches me at my table with a description of what is owned.

Many of the foregoing questions are asked and answered at that venue. At the typical show in Richardson, I will look at between five and ten lots brought in only to tell the seller that "everything you have has a wholesale value of under \$20 (or some other amount) and I don't want to buy it". The dollar amount might vary.

[Editor's note: I get several messages each month about someone wishing to sell their collection, and asking these kind of questions before sending them to a dealer can save everyone some time. This isn't meant to discourage anyone, but the truth is, that many inherited collections are simply basic beginner collections without much value, or if they have lots of "mint US stamps", that the hard truth is that the buy price is less than half of face value. I do however, tell these people that they should visit either our EXPO or a TSDA bourse to shop the collection around with the dealers, and if there is no interest, that our club will gladly take the collection as a donation].

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

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

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



News from the Internet

By Peter Elias

One of the major online auction websites, “bidstart” is transitioning to “HipStamps” at <https://www.hipstamp.com>. And if you’re into Postcards and/or Comics, there is now a HipPostcard” and “HipComic” site as well (depending on what you’ve bought or sold through that site in the past). Existing buyers and sellers will have their accounts transitioned to the new site and can supposedly log in with their previous bidstart credentials ...

Swiss Post has a lovely quarterly publication “Focus on Stamps” that highlights their new issues and background of the stamps along with other stamp related items. The publication is available in English, German, Italian and French. Unfortunately they have stopped mailing the English version, and had sent me the French version instead (no clue as to why they think I parlez français...). I was told that the English version is still available for reading online (at <http://www.postshop.ch/focus-on-stamps-online>), but not going to be mailed, so I requested that they switch me to the German version instead.

For Sale

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:

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NEW!!)**
- **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
- **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
- **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
- **Vintage Swiss Postcards** (700+ from 1898 to 1959)
- **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
- **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- **Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (Over 900 postcards !!)**

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-member price is \$19.95 (+ \$3.45 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094 6/16

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

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

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.com 8/14

Wanted to Trade

I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 9/16

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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

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

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

MEET & EAT for October & November 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

October 5 **Spring Creek BBQ**, 3608 S Cooper,
Arlington, (817) 465-0553.

November 2 **Club Picnic** at the Bob Duncan Center

IRVING

October 19 **Mama’s Daughter’s Diner**,
2412 West Shady Grove (at Story Rd), Irving
(972) 790-2778

November 16 **PJ’s Restaurant**,
2301 North O’Connor Rd., Irving
(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:
October picnic is moved to November 2
Dallas Postcard Show: Oct. 7 - 8
Don’t forget to Vote (for club officers)!

cunninghamstamps@aol.com

Exp.12/16

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