

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park

Eulless Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

TBD

Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



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CHAPTER MEMBER



Volume 30, Number 2

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

February 2017

Postage Rates & Fees	4/10/2016	1/22/2017
DOMESTIC		
1st Class - 1 oz (retail / metered or PC postage)	0.47 / 0.465	0.49 / 0.46
" 2 oz	0.68 / 0.675	0.70 / 0.67
" 3 oz	0.89 / 0.88⁵	0.91 / 0.88
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.10 / 1.095	1.12 / 1.09
non-machinable surcharge	+0.21	+0.21
" > 4 oz —> see 1st Class Flats		
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	0.94	0.98
" 2 oz	1.15	1.19
" 3 oz	1.36	1.40
" 4 oz	1.57	1.61
" 5 oz	1.78	1.82
" 13 oz (maximum)	3.46	3.50
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Parcel)		
1st Class Parcel - 1 oz	2.62	2.67
" 2 oz	2.62	2.67
" 3 oz	2.62	2.67
" 4 oz	2.64	2.67
" 8 oz	3.40	3.39
" 13 oz (maximum)	4.35	4.29
Media Mail - 1 LB	2.61	2.63
" 2 LBS	3.09	3.12
" 3 LBS	3.57	3.61
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate /Legal/ Padded	6.45/6.45/6.80	6.65/6.95/7.20
" - up to 1 LB.	6.45 - 10.00	6.65 - 10.50
" - Small Flat-rate Box	6.80	7.15
" - Med. /Lrg Flat-rate Box	13.45 / 18.75	13.60 / 18.85
Postcard (Domestic)	0.34	0.34
Certificate of Mailing (#3817 / 3877 3x min)	1.30 / 0.38	1.35 / 0.39
" " " (#3817 / 3877 FCMI/Other)		1.35/0.39/0.49
Certified Mail	3.45	3.85
USPS Tracking		
1st Class Parcel / Priority / Media / Parcel	0.00	0.00
Insurance		
0 - \$50 / \$50.01 - \$100 / \$100.01 - \$200	2.10/2.65/3.35	2.10/2.65/3.35
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	11.70	11.70
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	12.50 / 14.55	12.50 / 14.55
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada/Mex. (2 oz)	1.15	1.15
First Class Package (1LB Canada/Other)	16.50 - 22.50	15.50 - 22.50
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4LB) /	23.95 - 32.95	29.95 - 32.95
" Canada & Mexico (flat rate legal,padded)	See above	23.95
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound)	38.75 - 41.50	38.75 - 40.95

Annual Postage Rate Adjustments

By Peter Elias

It's that time of year again, when the USPS makes its' annual adjustments for various postage rates and fees.

Rate changes always occur on a Sunday near the end of January; this year it is January 22, although last year there were some mid-year changes as well..

The table to the left shows a few select current rates (before January 22) in the left column and the new rates starting on January 22nd. Some rates and fees will stay flat, while others will increase.

Due to lack of room, the "additional" ounce rate for 1st Class Parcel items is \$0.18 after 4 ounces, while for 1st class letters and flats it is \$0.21.

First Class "Letters" stop at 3.5 ounces; beyond that weight, they're classified either as "1st Class Flats" or "1st Class Parcel" depending on the size of the mail piece.

1st Class "PC postage" is reduced from \$0.465 to \$0.46, yes, a whopping 1/2¢ reduction !!

USPS tracking remains free for all 1st Class Parcels, Priority, Priority Express, Media and "USPS Retail Ground (i.e.: Parcel Post) items.

In some instances, Priority Mail in boxes can be less if utilizing the "Regional Rate Boxes" (either "A" or "B" regional boxes ["C" got dropped last year]). However, post offices do NOT have the Regional "A" or "B" Flat-rate boxes; but they can be ordered for free from the USPS and delivered to your address.

If you sell via eBay, you can also take advantage of the USPS "Commercial Base" pricing for many items, so a Commercial Base Priority Mail Flat-Rate envelope will only cost \$5.95 versus the retail rate of \$6.65 and the Commercial Base Small Flat-Rate box will only be \$6.45 versus \$7.15 !

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2017 - 2018 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Ray Cartier
First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
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 (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : 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>

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

I hope that everyone has renewed their memberships by the time you read this, as it makes the club secretary's job a lot easier! Unless you have paid extra for the "snail mailed" version of this newsletter, from now on, they will all arrive via email from Ben Termini.

As a reminder, if you have a "classified" ad in the newsletter, please review it and let me know whether it is still active or not, so that I can either make revisions or remove it.

I really encourage everyone to see if they can't come up with some stamp that illustrates a part of their life. To me, the "Been There - Done That" series is a great way to chronicle my life by illustrating it with stamps and philatelic items. Bob & Pat Weidman have taken this to heart and have contributed many such articles; can we count on YOU? Come on, it's fun!

Members in the News

Let's give our members credit for having published philatelic articles in other publications (whether those in turn are philatelic or not). While I subscribe to Linn's and am a member of various specialty philatelic organizations (APS, ARA, ATA, TPA, BCPSG, BWISC, MSS, et al), I am sometimes a month or three behind reading their monthly or quarterly journals. Plus, there are so many specialty philatelic organizations that I don't know about, if you write an article for one, or see a member's name mentioned in one, please let me know. I would need to know of course the member name, article name, publication name and issue information (month & year, volume #, page #'s, etc).

Ray Cartier's article about "Costumes of Papua New Guinea" was published on pages 29-38 in the November-December 2016 issue (Vol. 67, No. 6, Whole No. 400) of *Topical Time*, the bi-monthly magazine of the American Topical Association.

Ray Cartier & Mike Smith are mentioned in the January 2017 *American Philatelist* as being "Ambassadors" in a new program by the APS; members of 24 other clubs around the country are participating as well.

Peter Elias had two contributions, "US CVP Checklist" and "Latvia Personal Postage", as well as being mentioned in several other articles in the Winter 2016 issue of the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*.

Coming Attractions

2017

JAN. 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Clean Out Your Closet

JAN. 28 EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)

Pizza Garden Restaurant, 217 Harwood Rd, Bedford

FEB. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Mixture Pick + 5 minute presentation on *Porte de Mar Stamps* by Dr. Ben Termini

FEB. 4 11 AM EXPO Planning & BOD Meeting

Pizza Garden Restaurant, Bedford

FEB. 15 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: "CTO (cancelled to order) in its' various guises" by Ken Wills; plus "conduct your own auction" experiment!

FEB. 24-26 TEXPEX

Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Center, Grapevine.

FEB. 28 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: "Stamps of Memel & Klaipeda" by Dave Stockbridge

MAR. 1 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini

New Members

none

Dropped for Non-Payment of 2017 Dues

(will be listed in the next newsletter)



Membership Summary – January 5, 2017

Membership as of December 8, 2016	113
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of January 5, 2017	113

Been There, Done That

Victoria Peak Tram

By Bob & Pat Weidman

One of the must do things in Hong Kong is to take the Victoria Peak Tram up to Victoria Peak on Hong Kong island. That is exactly what Pat and I did on our trip to the Orient back in in 2004.

It was not the first time that I had ridden the tram. Back in 1970, while on R&R from Vietnam, a friend from my squadron and I took the tram to the top. At that time, the area at the top was not very developed, but we were able to buy a couple of cold beers. Now there is an observation deck, restaurants, and all types of shops.

The tram was opened in 1888. Before that, one had to walk up or take a bumpy ride in a sedan chair to get to the top. Victoria Peak is 1,805 feet above sea level, so it was a long hard climb.

The tram, which is a funicular railway, is the world's steepest. The trams are hauled all the way up to the top in seven minutes by cables that are attached to electric motors. The track gradients vary from 4 to 27 degrees.

The view from the top is amazing. There are the many skyscrapers on Hong Kong island just below. There is the harbor separating Hong Kong island from Kowloon filled with all types of boats and ships, and beyond that, Kowloon itself.

The picture is of one of the cars of the tram which looks like an old-fashioned trolley car.

The stamp is Hong Kong Scott #340 that was issued on June 30, 1977.



The Janitor, by Ken Aldridge

This is author Ken Aldridge's sixth book. It features a small Texas town's Chief of Police and a cast of characters he wrote about in his previous books.

"The Janitor" is a murder mystery with more twists and turns than a jitter-bug contest. A well-liked high school janitor is killed for no apparent reason. The Chief is puzzled as to why and digs into all possible reasons. His list of suspects start to grow and readers will be interested in how he seeks help from his police officers and others, including his psychic ex-wife.

To complicate matters, two ex-convicts try to pull off a burglary of the town's Dollar General store the same night as the janitor is found murdered. Follow the missteps of these two bumbling thieves to see their outcome. Also, the Chief's mother is concerned about a suspicious Louisiana couple who move into her apartment house. What is their story and are they hiding something, on the run or is it just an old lady's imagination running away with her?

Jim Travis, the Chief of Police, is also a stamp collector who has trouble finding time to work on his latest area of collecting, Mexico. Aldridge tells about Travis attending the annual EXPO at Grapevine.

Ken sells autographed copies of the book for \$10. All his books are available on Amazon.com, Kindle and can be ordered through most books stores. Ken will have copies of all his books available at the monthly Arlington meetings. His other books are:

- "Triage of Troubles" (2010)
- "Enticing Evils" (2012)
- "In Murder's Shadow" (2013)
- "The Death of Lizbeth Ghika" (2015)
- "My Baby, My Baby" (2016)



Miscellaneous

By Peter Elias

Chris Titus has taken over the position of newsletter editor from Rick Houghland at the Dallas / Park Cities Philatelic Society (DPCPS). The "Stamps & Tongs" newsletter will be emailed as a PDF file to members of the DPCPS each quarter. Chris can be reached at titusman@me.com.

The Stamp Collection Blog site (<https://www.stampcollectingblog.com/>) is switching from totally free to a (paid) "Premium" version or a limited (6-month) "Free Trial". At least check out the various interesting articles by signing up for a free trial subscription.

Arlington Meeting Minutes January 4, 2017

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.

New Club Officers:

- The first order of business was the swearing in of our club's new president, Ray Cartier, by outgoing president Mike Smith. Then President Cartier administered the oath of office to the new officers for the next two years.
- Following that, President Cartier gave a short talk in which he outlined his plans for the next two years. He also pointed out that we had (finally) received enough one-page exhibits for the TEXPEX shootout.

Officer & Committee Reports:

- Secretary Ben Termini reported that we had 113 members, of whom approximately 75 had paid their dues for 2017, and encouraged anyone who had not paid next year's dues to do so.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas reported that our finances were in good shape.
- EXPO Committee chairman Ralph Poore was not present however, President Cartier mentioned that there would be a combined Board and Expo meeting sometime in the next month.
- Sales Books Chairman Skip Ely said that the APS was now charging a 5% commission on sales, and that he was going to recommend that the Club raise its commission on all sales to 10% at the next Board meeting.

Announcements:

Ken Aldridge mentioned that he had written a new book and that autographed copies were available for \$10.

Show & Tell:

Ray Cartier showed some envelopes he had received with cachets and a short discussion about cachets and local posts ensued.

Door Prizes:

Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Ben Termini and Janet Moyer.

Program:

The program was supposed to be a video of the awards ceremony at the last EXPO, however the video could not be shown because of technical difficulties.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.



Computer Stuff

By Peter Elias

Not falling prey to scam or spam emails these days should be on everyone's mind. First clue: look at whole else got the same message. If it looks like it's ten to twenty other people, and they're names all start with the same letter, it's a clue that someone is simply running through a compromised email account or address book and simply sending messages to people alphabetically.

Eules Meeting Minutes January 18, 2017

By Skip Ely

Call-to-Order:

The second monthly meeting of the Mid Cities Stamp Club met at the Central Marketing Offices of Evan Islam in Eules at 7:30 PM. After looking at an extensive inherited lot in the small conference room, we returned to the Central Marketing Station offices for our formal meeting.

Attendance:

There were 12 members present.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary – Mike Smith said that Ben would have a final count of renewed members after the February Arlington meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Sales – Skip Ely said that at the next BOD meeting he was going to propose returning to a ten percent club commission on sales. This is due to APS assessing a five percent commission to sales from their books, negating our five percent commission to offset postage costs for mailing the books back to APS (which is going to be \$7.20 beginning January 22). Additionally we have fewer club books to contribute to offset costs.
- Sales (Continued) – Skip also passed around a prototype sales book done by Peter Elias that could replace the existing sales books. Benefits include 1) a flexible format that would hold large items and souvenir sheets; and 2) would be of little or no cost to the club. The supply of existing blank books is getting low, and printing costs would far exceed the fifty cents we charge for the books. The new format pages could be copied and placed in school folders, with the advantage that as few or as many pages could be submitted. Skip said he was told this was the way it was done years ago before we starting printing blank books. Skip said he would submit the proposal to the Board. Existing books would be continued until the supply was exhausted.
- Newsletter – Peter said he hoped to get the newsletter mailed by Saturday before the stamp rate increase on Sunday (he's not using forever stamps).

Announcements:

- Board Meeting – Mike Smith mentioned the board meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 4, at the Pizza Garden in Bedford.
- Arlington Programs – Ray Cartier passed out the program schedule for Arlington.
- Tales By Mail – Karen Cartier said her second book is available.
- February Program at Eules – Ken Wills offered to do a program on Cancelled to Order stamps at our Eules meeting in February.
- TEXPEX 2018 Shoot-Out Topic – Ray Cartier said next year's TEXPEX one page shoot-out exhibit topic will be "Travel". He said points are awarded for how many different people submit an exhibit, so he hoped more members would consider participating.

Show & Tell:

- Peter Elias had numerous items to show and share.
- Jack Urish had several interesting stamps he passed around.
- Ken Wills showed a Christmas card he sent with the Daffy Duck souvenir sheet and stamps as postage that escaped cancellation.
- Tom Turner passed around a tiny Christmas card he received from Ireland.

Door Prizes:

Gift Certificates were awarded to Jack Urish and Mike Smith.

Program:

- The program was abridged due to the length of previous items. Several members agreed to present programs at future times.
- The March and July auctions will presented as "Clean Out Your Closet" meetings (since auction items have been so anemic the past year).
- Jack Urish suggested "mini-auctions" as part of show and tell at every meeting. He said these typically take little time at other club meetings he attended. There seemed to be a general consensus to give this a try.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned around 9:00 PM.

Been There, Done That

Hong Kong Star Ferry

By Bob & Pat Weidman

The Star Ferry connecting Hong Kong island to Kowloon has been in operation since 1898. Up until the opening of the Cross Harbor Tunnel in 1972, it was the way people in Hong Kong went back and forth between Hong Kong island and the mainland as there were no bridges connecting them.

Back when I was in the navy, it was how we went from one side to the other as well. The ship, the USS Bon Home Richard, would anchor out in the middle of the harbor. Small boats that we called "liberty launchers" would pull up alongside and we would get aboard to go ashore.

Because the "liberty launchers" were small, not many men would be able to get on. Being on an aircraft carrier with 3,500 men aboard and all of them wanting to get off at the same time meant long lines. We would get on the first liberty launch that pulled up. Some went to Kowloon and some to Hong Kong island. It didn't matter where we were going because we could take the Star Ferry to the other side, which we did quite often. They ran every few minutes and the ride across the harbor only took ten minutes.



Picture one was taken back in 1970 while we were in Hong Kong for some "R & R" (= "rest & recreation"). Pictures two and three were taken in 2004 while Pat and I were on vacation. Picture three has our two nephews, Adam from Pittsburgh and Louis from here in Texas, who went with us. The picture was taken on the Star Ferry going from Kowloon where we were staying, over to Hong Kong island.

Custom Stamp-on-Stamp Designs

By Peter Elias

Back in 2006, when "custom postage" was still a relatively new thing, I had ordered a sheet of stamps featuring the famous Swiss stamp, the "Basler Taube" (i.e.: Basel dove), issued in 1845 by the city of Basel, Switzerland and is listed as Scott #3L1, a forerunner to Swiss federal stamp issues. It is also the earliest tri-color" stamp (black, crimson and blue) and has a fairly high catalog value.



I simply annotated the design with "Basler Taube" and submitted it and it was approved. A couple of years later, I wanted to re-order a sheet, and the order was denied and the design deleted from my account! Zazzle censors, which previously approved this apparently decided to deny it the 2nd time around, stating that they won't print a "stamp-on-stamp" design, despite the fact that this stamp design isn't infringing on any copyrights. Basically, if the submitted design looks like an actual stamp or banknote design, it will probably not be allowed.

I tried this a few years ago with the sample design you see to the right, a "doctored" version of Germany #281 from 1923. I simply removed the words "Deutsches Reich" and replaced it with "Eins in", making the meaning of this design "One In" ("1 in a Million"!). I guess the Zazzle "reviewers" weren't amused and the design was rejected.



So, are "stamp-on-stamp" designs allowed on US "custom postage" stamps? It's difficult at best, you will have to try different designs or parts of designs and see if the Zazzle reviewers will approve it. In some cases, Zazzle may say no, while one of the other companies (i.e.: Photostamps.com or PictureItPostage.com) may approve it.

While the USPS itself has reproduced a couple of older postage stamp issues (with updated denominations), the only USA postage stamps that actually feature a stamp-on-stamp design though that I could find, is Scott #3694 from 2002, which reproduces the Hawaiian missionary issues.

Obviously the ability to use parts of stamp designs from other countries as part of customized postage is hit or miss as you can see. What about US stamps? From what I have read, the "art" on older (pre-1970) USA postage stamps is in the public domain; when the "Post Office Department" was reorganized as the "US Postal Service" in 1971, the art or designs depicted are subject to USPS copyright, although they did not start claiming copyrights until 1978. See www.publicdomainsherpa.com for more info.

Stamp Caption Contest (#6)

By Peter Elias

—> *Editor's note: This will be the last try at this contest. The previous five contests only gathered 1 to 3 responses each from members.*

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 from the USA "Celebrate the Century" series, Scott #3183i from 1998. So, what is "Uncle Sam" thinking? Or perhaps, the phrase "I WANT YOU" needs to be finished! Tell us!

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

—> Submission deadline: February 10, 2017, 11:59 PM. Results will be published in the March 2017 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; this is number 6.
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 at PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 to arrive before the deadline. 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.



President's Letter

by Ray Cartier

TEXPEX, the only WSP (World Series of Philately) 3-day stamp show in Texas and the states surrounding us, is just a month away. Most collectors go there to look for stamps from the dealers, but a few spend a little time going through the exhibits. Most visitors don't bother and of those that do, several find one or more exhibits that intrigue them enough to stop and look at the hours of work laid out before them. At TEXPEX, I would encourage each of you to spend at least a little time looking at the ten frames which bear the works of members of nine different clubs located in Texas and one from Oklahoma.

The Texas Philatelic Association (TPA) sponsors the TEXAS SHOOTOUT among these clubs as an effort to entice more collectors to exhibit just a single page and get a taste of the satisfaction that is available for those who venture into this philatelic area. Many find that it is not as difficult as they thought and that it is fun to see your page among the others. If they are lucky, they will find that they can unexpectedly discover new things as they put that single page together.

Before I give an illustration of this, I want to thank the seven MCSC members who joined me in filling our frame, for which I had asked for a theme of "Television" to be used in some form. Ben Termini went outside the box with "Leave It To Beaver(s)" using the well known title to an old TV show with a look at real Beavers. He even included two humorous items within it. His second page shows actual scenes of Lucy and Ricky along with Fred and Ethyl. Alliene Franklin shows "R & R / R & B Performers to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show" and also "Iwo Jima" to which I attributed a reference to "The Military Channel". Ken Aldridge gives us some text on several TV shows in his "Early TV Memories" page. My wife, Karen, has a page on "TV's Walt Disney's Disneyland - 1954 -1959". When she started this she was not aware that this first title of what became "The Wonderful World of Disney" was created to help pay for the construction of Disneyland in California and its four different "Lands". She also has a page on the "M-I-C-K-E-Y Mouse Club". I show a page on "Superman on TV" using the opening lines of the show starting with "Look Up in the Sky!" and then ferreted out stamps to portray each of those lines. I was stumped when I got to "disguised as Clark Kent", when I recalled the stamp showing Harold Lloyd with oversized glasses. After I added that, I looked up "Superman on TV" and was surprised to find that it actually was Harold Lloyd's glasses that sparked the idea of Superman's disguise! I had to run a replacement page to include this obscure fact. I also learned several new things with my "TV: 1950s Children's Show. Smilin' Ed McConnell & His Buster Brown Gang". I learned enough on this exhibit to decide to write an article for the "Texas Philatelist" a very nice magazine from the Texas Philatelic Association. Stanley Christmas has submitted two pages: "Where No Man Has Gone Before", easily recognized as part of the introduction to the original Star Trek series, and "Televised Presidential Inaugural Firsts". A second Star Trek related exhibit came from Peter Elias entitled "Meeting Marina", a character in a later Star Trek series. My own "Women of NASA" contains an element of Star Trek but with a surprising discovery leading me to reference "The NASA Channel". The last page is "Some Winter Olympics in Europe" by John Barrett, to which I reference "ESPN Sports".

Thanks to all of you for helping us assemble a really interesting look at TV through the eyes of eight of our club members and I hope than many of you will stop to look at these miniature exhibits.

Lastly, the theme for next year's TEXAS SHOOTOUT for the Arlington and Euless joint effort will be "Travel". We'll need 15 pages, hopefully from 15 different members that tie into travel. That can include destinations, vehicles or people. Think "The Alamo", Washington DC, Hawaii, all the Caribbean nations at which your cruise ship anchored, campsites where you may have stayed or animals that could be seen in those areas, means of transportation to your vacations, etc. Let your imaginations soar.

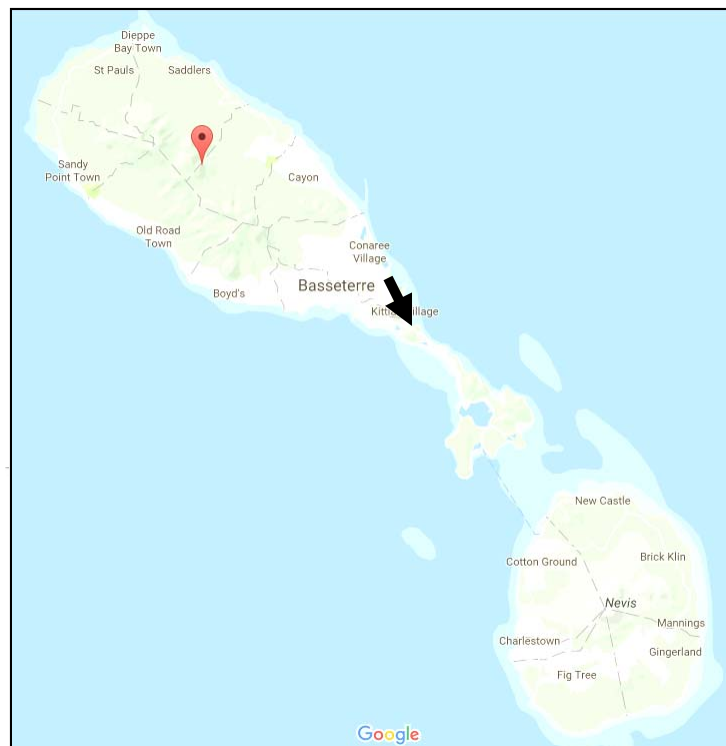
Been There, Done That

St. Kitts Honeymoon

By Peter Elias

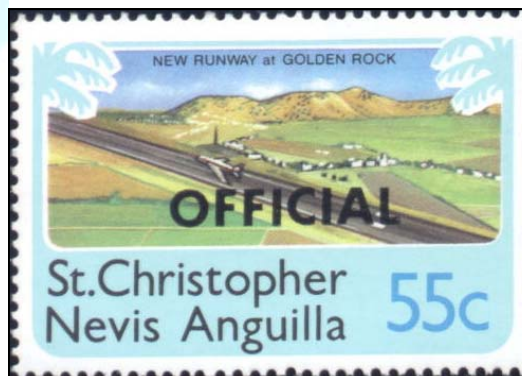


I was going through some pictures of my honeymoon from 2001, and found this one. It shows a road to a peninsula on the island of St. Kitts in the Caribbean. And then I thought, I've seen this view somewhere else before !



St. Kitts is a beautiful island. The picture to the lower left shows a scene from the northwest area of the island, which is near “Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park”, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (but I'll discuss that in a future “been there—done that” article...).

After a bit of searching, I found an aerogramme in my (unsorted) accumulation of worldwide postal stationery, and on the backside, it features the same scene, from essentially the same angle! Based on the map from Google (upper right), the best I can tell, I'm at the spot where the tip of the arrow is, looking in the direction of the arrow. The pond that you see in the picture is barely visible on the map, and the pond shown on the map would be hidden behind the first big hill in the picture (which is identified as the “Great Salt Pond”).



And since this is a “Been There – Done That” article, I may as well make it a double! The 1978 stamp to the left commemorates the new runway at Golden Rock airport on St.

Kitts and is Scott #06 (overprinted on #366) from St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla. Back then, St. Kitts was known as St. Christopher and along with Nevis was also joined administratively with Anguilla, which separated from the group in 1980 to become a separate British Dependency. Current stamps are labeled only “St. Kitts”, since Nevis pursued a separate postal administration after 1980, although it is officially the dual-island nation of “St. Kitts & Nevis”.

In any case, we arrived in St. Kitts by plane and we landed at Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport (airport code SKB), which was formerly known as Golden Rock (identified as such on the stamp). The airport is located just above the word “Basseterre” on the map above, and can now accommodate large jets; but back in 2001, flying into SKB meant an American Airlines turboprop plane from Miami for us!



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

Outgoing Mail

THE ARGYLE SWEATER By Scott Hilburn



By Peter Elias

I like it when cartoonists put a humorous spin on a philatelic or postal subject. Here's an “Argyle Sweater” comic that was published in the December 31, 2016 Dallas Morning News.

If you find any comic strips that feature philatelic or postal subjects, please send them to me along with any commentary!

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, preferably on cover, postcards or parcel cards.
- ◆ 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

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



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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> →



More Rescued Stamps: Ukraine

By Peter Elias



Last month I discussed “rescued stamps”, which I define stamps that I fished out of the “freebie” boxes at the “beginning collector” tables at either the MCSC EXPO or at TEXPEX (or other stamp shows). With so many “beginning” hands mauling through these boxes, some interesting stamps might invariably be damaged or may not be of interest to a beginning collector, so they need to be “rescued”!

I continue this month with a stamp I found at Texpex 2016. It is from the Ukraine. While it might be mistaken for Russia, since there is the “Trident” symbol in each upper corner, it identifies the stamp from being from the

Ukraine.

Scott’s does not list this stamp, but does mention that various designs were printed, but not released, in the early 1920’s, including imperf versions. What makes this stamp very interesting, is that it when you look at the back, it was printed on a map! This was most likely due to the lack of paper after World War I and is similar to what Latvia did when printing some of their stamps at that time!

If you find an “interesting” stamp that you’ve rescued from a freebie box, please tell us about it! They make for great mini articles!

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Exp. 12/17

MEET & EAT for February & March 2017

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

- February 1 Spring Creek BBO, 3608 S Cooper, Arlington
(817) 465-0553
<http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com/arlington.htm>
- March 1 Angelos Steak and Spaghetti, 2590 W Pioneer
Pkwy, Arlington, TX (817) 303-7242
<http://www.angelosspaghetti.com/>

EULESS

Due to the new meeting location, meet-n-eat meeting sites have yet to be determined, the club secretary will email the details once known.

TEXPEX 2017 Updates: Well known stamp artist, Chris Calle, will be speaking at TEXPEX on Saturday at noon to the Space Unit Chapter of the ATA and APS. The title of his talk will be 'Space Stamp Design'. Mr. Calle has designed over 30 U.S. postage stamps along with hundreds of foreign stamps. The meeting is open to the public and you can learn about all of his US designs by searching through GOOGLE. He will sign stamps or covers. Member Karen Cartier will be signing copies of her newest book, "Tales By Mail - Book 2" at the show. The book is an attempt to help interest youth in collecting stamps.

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

**Don't Forget:
Irving meetings are moving to Euless!
TEXPEX 2017 - February 24-26!
EXPO Planning & BOD Meeting - Feb. 4!**



Jonathan Topper
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