

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

*Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.*

**Eufless Meetings:** Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

*12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)*

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

*Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)*



CHAPTER  
MEMBER



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September 2017

## Club Member Survey Analysis

By Peter Elias

Last month we published a survey and asked members to rate various features and services that the club provides, including our EXPO. 26 members (25% of the club) responded. The results are shown below as percentages and are based on the total responses received for each answer, not based on the 26 overall surveys received (since a few members left some checkboxes blank).

Activities	Love	Like	HoHum	Dislike	Why Bother	More!	Just Right	Less!
Announcements	19	<b>65</b>	15				<b>100</b>	
Attendance Door Prizes	<b>64</b>	32		4		14	<b>82</b>	5
Regular auctions	27	<b>58</b>	11		4	18	<b>73</b>	9
Mini-auctions	33	<b>42</b>	25			40	<b>50</b>	10
Clean Out Your Closet	35	<b>42</b>	19	4		19	<b>76</b>	5
Exchanging Stamps	31	<b>35</b>	27	8		33	<b>62</b>	5
Panel Discussions	28	<b>52</b>	16	4		30	<b>60</b>	10
Show & Tell	26	<b>44</b>	26	4			<b>85</b>	15
Slide shows / PPT	<b>50</b>	30	8	12		<b>45</b>	41	14
Speakers	<b>69</b>	23	8			<b>55</b>	40	5
Socializing	<b>59</b>	37	4			29	<b>71</b>	

The percentage in the tables above and below mostly speak for themselves, but some may require discussions, along with the various handwritten comments and suggestions that were made and will be brought up at the next BOD meeting on September 9. The majority votes are shown in **bold blue numbers**; green shading is used for showing the overall positive majority on the positive side, red shading for negative majority.

Club Services	Some-				
	Always	Often	times	Rarely	Never
Club Sales books	12	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	23	12
APS Sales books	16	12	20	<b>32</b>	20
Library		8	8	<b>54</b>	31
Order USPS New Issues	Yes		No		
	16		<b>84</b>		

EXPO	Yes	Sometimes	No
Stamp Dealers	<b>80</b>	20	
USPS Booth	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	30
Silent Auction	<b>74</b>	17	9
Exhibits	<b>57</b>	26	17
Giant Mixture Pick	20	24	<b>56</b>
Chance Board	12	20	<b>68</b>
Judges Critique	13	17	<b>70</b>
President's Reception	36	5	<b>59</b>
Awards Dinner	<b>52</b>	12	36

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## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

EXPO will be here before you know it! What will you be exhibiting? The other day, a typical situation is what triggered my next exhibit. As usual, waiting in a left-turn lane with a red light, the car ahead of me didn't move once the light turned green. I could see that the driver's head was tilted down. No, he wasn't asleep at the wheel, he was either texting or doing something with his "device". By the time I honked my horn and he made the turn, I was stuck with another red light cycle (not to mention everyone behind me now also had to idle away gasoline for another 2 minutes).

So what did this situation trigger? How about an exhibit about traffic safety; definitely a "hot-topic" concern these days. So where to start? This is a whole new subject for me. Since it's a "topical / thematic" exhibit, I started with buying the ATA list of "traffic safety" stamps; it turns out to be about 293 stamps or sets. But within "traffic safety" are a lot of subjects, such as vehicle safety devices, pedestrian issues, traffic lights, lane markings, road signs; probably about 40 to 50 sub-topics that I'll have to arrange into some sort of logical fashion. But the ATA list simply says "traffic safety" for many descriptions, so I'll have to see what each stamp actually depicts before I'll consider using it (as I don't want to buy everything and then only use 1/3 of it). Since Scott's doesn't illustrate all stamps, the best resource is to go to [www.stampworld.com](http://www.stampworld.com), where practically every stamp known is illustrated in full color! Then I should be able to see whether each stamp is usable to illustrate some portion of my exhibit. Starting an exhibit from scratch is a "process", taking making notes, re-arranging the topics, finding the appropriate stamps, covers, postmarks and meters to illustrate the points. It's going to take some time, and I hope to have something ready for EXPO 2018 ! If you need assistance with exhibiting, Ben Termini, Stan Christmas, Ray Cartier and myself are available to help guide you.

## Coming Attractions

### 2017

- AUG. 22**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: "Collecting Stamps Related to Sports" by Jim Case
- AUG. 25-26**      **TSDA Bourse**  
Richardson Civic Center, Arapaho Rd & US75 \*free\*
- SEP. 6**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**  
Program: Stanley Christmas "How To Make Your Own Stamp Mounts & Save a Lot of Money"
- SEP. 9**      **MCSC BOD & EXPO Meeting**  
Pizza Garden Restaurant, 217 Harwood Rd, Bedford 76021
- SEP. 20**      **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**  
Program: TBD
- SEP. 26**      **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**  
Program: By Alliene Franklin (topic is TBD)
- OCT. 4**      **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**  
Program: Annual Picnic & EXPO Envelope Stuffing
- OCT. 13-14**      **Dallas Postcard Show**  
Comfort Inn & Suites, Plano East, 700 Central Ewy (exit 29, north of 15th Street on northbound service road). \$4 Admission charged.  
Friday 10-6, Saturday 9-4

## Members in the News

- Ray Cartier's article "Soviet Nuclear Crashes in the Americas" was published in the August 2017 edition of "The Texas Philatelist" on pages 6 to 12.
- Ben Termini's exhibit "Prostitute Revenues of Rosario de Santa Fe" won a Large Gold at the APS Annual "StampShow" in Richmond, VA on August 3 - 6, 2017.

## Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



### New Members

None

### Reinstatements

None

### Membership Summary – August 3, 2017

Membership as of July 5, 2017	100
New Members	( )
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( )
Resignations	( )
Deceased	( )
Reinstatements	( )
Membership as of August 3, 2017	100



## Been There, Done That

## San Miguel Beer

By Bob Weidman



The stamps and souvenir sheet shown nearby are Philippines Scott#3267a-b and #3628. They were issued on September 29, 2015 to commemorate 125 years of the San Miguel Brewery, which is a subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation, the largest brewery in the Philippines. As of 2005, their market share of beer sales in the Philippines was 95%!

Beer was first produced by La Fabrica de Cerveza de San Miguel in the heart of Manila in 1890. A royal grant to brew the beer was given by the Spanish King. At the time, the Philippines was a Spanish colony. In 1963, the name was changed to the San Miguel Corporation.

I first became acquainted with San Miguel beer in 1968 while in the Navy. After anywhere from 30 to 45 days at sea, we would pull into port to replenish supplies and make any necessary repairs to the ship. Subic Bay in the Philippines was one of our largest bases in Asia.

Right outside the main gate of the base was Olongapo City that catered to the sailors and Marines from the base and visiting ships. There were over 300 bars in the town and plenty of San Miguel beer!

At that time, the exchange rate was 4 Philippine pesos to 1 USD. A cold San Miguel cost 1 peso (25¢), and it was an excellent beer, one of my favorites.



I'm shown in the picture on the far right with three of my friends; this was taken nearly fifty years ago.



## Been There, Done That

## Der Letzte Horch

By Peter Elias



This 1953 Horch model 830 BL was the last Horch car was built by DKW's test division as a company car for the director of Auto Union, Dr. Richard Bruhn and was given to him on his birthday in June 1953.

This car was based on a 1938 chassis of the Horch 830 BL and was a one-of-a-kind "last" production of the once great Horch automobile brand. The body was similar to the form of a Mercedes 300.

In 1957, when Dr. Bruhn retired, a US soldier purchased the vehicle and took it Texas. When the transmission failed, the car almost landed in a recycling yard, if it had not been for a vehicle fanatic, Al Wilson, in San Angelo that happened to be there. He purchased the vehicle for \$500 and it then sat in the Texas desert for 40 years until Al's sons wanted to know more about this car and turned to Audi for assistance.

Audi eventually purchased the vehicle in 2008 and brought it back to Germany where it sat in the "museum mobile" at the Audi factory in Ingolstadt Germany.

I was visiting the Audi museum in Ingolstadt in the summer of 2010 and took a picture of the car (see below) and turned it into the Zazzle custom postage you see at the top. Also in the museum are many wonderful Audi, Auto Union and related vehicles; I'm standing next to a beautifully restored 1938 Auto Union "Silver Arrow" race car,



type C or D (probably worth well over \$1 million!).

There is a 8-minute video produced about the "[Last Horch](#)" that can be viewed at YouTube (click on blue link above if reading this as a PDF file)..



## A Very Friendly Cat

Bob & Pat Weidman



About thirty years ago, Pat and I moved from Pittsburgh to Wilmington, North Carolina. The company that I was working for asked me to move to North Carolina to cover the eastern part of that state. We chose Wilmington because it was right on the coast and moved into a new sub-division that was only eight miles from the beach where we spent a lot of time on my days off.

At the time, there were no houses, or street for that matter, behind our house. Eventually the develop of the sub-division put in a street and new houses started going up. The people who bought the house directly behind ours owned a white cat who would come over to our yard. Pat started feeding it, although many times it would just come to visit. It would jump up on our deck and let us pet it, or it would just lay there and take a nap. We didn't know its' name, so we started calling it "Whitey". One day when it was visiting us, the lady who owned it was in her backyard and heard us calling it "Whitey". She yelled over that it was a very friendly female cat and her name was "Snowball".

One day when Snowball was visiting, Pat took her picture out on our deck. The stamp is from Ras Al Khaima, one of the Persian Gulf sheikdoms (Editor: aka "Sand Dunes" countries!) that joined with the others to form the United Arab Emirates. It is Michel #162, issued in a set with other stamps picturing cats on March 30, 1967.



## Members in the News

- John Barrett's 1-frame exhibit "*Defensive Neutrality - Swiss Style*" won a Silver medal at the HUNTSPEX 2017 (Huntsville, AL) show in June.

## Total Eclipse Deck Card

By Peter Elias

I got lucky. For the second time in just a week or so, I was able to snag a "deck card" at my local post office. On June 14 was the "Have A Ball" sheetlet first day, and 6 days later, on June 20, the "Total Eclipse of the Sun" stamp was released.

This stamp is a USA "first" in that it uses a "touch activated thermochromic" ink. These are inks that change from color to clear when subjected to temperatures starting around 88° Fahrenheit. Since our body temperature is higher than that, the color changes to clear. In this case, the image of the moon has a round overprint of thermochromic ink that changes color when you touch it and gradually changes back to black.

Of course, when I took it outside to my car, where the interior temperature was well over 110°F, all stamps revealed the moon until the AC brought the temperatures back down!



As mentioned previously, deck cards are extremely difficult to get a hold of. You basically have to be there when the USPS clerk is unwrapping the "pad" of stamp panes (generally 100 panes to a "pad"). The top of the pad has a "deck card" and then the whole thing is shrink-wrapped.

Before entering the stamps into their inventory, clerks are supposed to verify that there are truly 100 panes in the pad by cutting off only the corner of the deck card and then adding up the panes before fully removing the rest of the shrink-wrap from the pad (since all stamps are considered "accountable" by the clerks). But I have never actually seen them do this, and all deck cards I've seen have been intact. Additionally, the USPS is selling square black envelopes to protect the panes for 25¢. While those envelopes may protect the stamps from light, they don't protect from heat!

After opening the pad, the deck card is thrown away. Collectors are sometimes able to plead with the clerk and have them give them the deck card, and it is especially nice when this happens on the first day of issue; this way you can make yourself a nice "first day deck card". A couple of years ago, the USPS tried to do this also, selling deck cards with a stamp and color first day postmark, but they are no longer offered (demand for these must just not have been there...).



## Arlington Meeting Minutes August 2, 2017

By Skip Ely

### Call-to-Order:

The Arlington chapter of the Mid Cities Stamp Club met at the Bob Duncan Center at 7:30 PM on August 2, 2017.

### Attendance:

There were 23 members present.

### Officer Reports:

- **Secretary** – Ben Termini was absent. Skip Ely was substituting.
- **Treasurer** – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

### Committee Reports:

- **Sales** – Skip Ely said sales had improved.
- **EXPO** – Stanley Christmas said he had revised the exhibit guide. He mentioned that the club would have a veteran's exhibit at EXPO and asked veteran members to bring a service pictures of themselves and their wives for the exhibit.
- Rich Hildebrandt said he was accepting **award banquet** reservations. The fare will be prime rib, and the cost \$25.
- Ray Cartier mentioned the next **Board/EXPO meeting** would be September 9 at the Pizza Garden in Bedford.
- **Newsletter** – Peter Elias said he was summarizing the results of his club survey and would publish them in the newsletter soon.

### Announcements:

- Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that the club catalog auction bid form will be in the next newsletter and reviewed the whys and wherefores of the process.
- Peter Elias noted the next TSDA Bourse would be in Richardson on August 25-26.

### Show and Tell:

- Ray Cartier passed around a short exhibit he had prepared with some USS Hornet covers.
- Peter Elias also showed two one-page exhibits he had prepared about one of his favorite subjects, the Audi automobile. He also told about his plans to do a traffic safety exhibit and the process of starting a new exhibit.

### Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were awarded to Ray Cartier, Brian Smith, Howard Savage, and Bob Weidman.

### Program:

- The program was the semi-annual auction. About half of the 44 lots were sold.

### Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned around 8:45 PM.



## Topic of the Month: Fonts

By Peter Elias

Here's a thought for a topical collection: Fonts! If you use a computer (heck, even a typewriter), then you are aware of "fonts"; defined to be a *typeface of sizes and styles*. "Font" comes from the French word "fonte" or "fondre", meaning to melt; that's back to the days when for printing purposes, letters were made by casting them in the form of little slugs of metal that were then lined up to form words (i.e.: "typesetting"). In high school, I remember using a "linotype" machine that made letters on metal strips for use on a printing press. I printed some memo pads with it. Pretty much every stamp has letters on them, using one of many available types of fonts. Fonts can have a "purpose", be descriptive, convey a meaning, mood or feeling. Here are some examples: *Sego Script*, *X-Files*,

**Computerfont**, **Alien Encounter**, **Calligraphic**? The "A" overprint on the stamp is a "serif" font, probably

Times New Roman or similar. A serif is an "embellishment" to the basic form of the character (in this case, the horizontal lines at the base of "A"). A study of fonts, their history, their meanings, etc could make a fascinating exhibit!

- Ready, set, collect! -

## Eules Meeting Minutes August 16, 2017

By Skip Ely

### Call-to-Order:

The mid-month monthly meeting of the Mid Cities Stamp Club met at the Central Marketing Offices of Evan Islam in Eules at 7:30 PM.

### Attendance:

There were 9 members present.

### Officer Reports:

- **Secretary** – Skip Ely said we had 100 members.
- **Treasurer** – Our treasurer was absent this month.

### Committee Reports:

- **Sales** – Skip Ely said sales were OK.

### Announcements:

- Skip Ely mentioned that Stanley Christmas had prepared a revised Exhibits guide for EXPO.
- Jim Myers mentioned the TSDA Stamp Fair in Richardson August 25-26.
- Mike Smith noted there was a Board/EXPO meeting September 9th.

### Show & Tell:

- Jack Urish had several items to show.
- Ken Wills asked for help in identifying a stamp.
- Skip Ely showed some things he was preparing for the Beginners table at EXPO. He also passed around a guide to the U.S. Washington-Franklins and the 1921-32 issuances on which he had been working.
- Peter Elias passed around a show program from a stamp show in Gulfport, Mississippi, where John Barrett was a member. He also talked about some recent difficulties he had mailing an envelope. He also showed some Scott catalog pages for St. Vincent he had purchased from a dealer (not the whole catalog).

### Mini-Auction:

- Ken Dougan had a few items for sale.

### Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were awarded to Jack Urish and Peter Elias. Ken Dougan won a U.S Express Mail stamp donated by Ken Wills.

### Program:

- There was no formal program. Discussions centered around various items. Peter Elias discussed his thought process for creating a new exhibit about traffic safety.

### Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned around 9:00 PM.

## Granbury Meeting Minutes July 25, 2017

By William Atkinson

On the evening of Tuesday, July 25, host David Stockbridge welcomed 19 members and guests to the Lake Granbury Branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. The club meets at 7 PM every 4th Tuesday (except in December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct., in Granbury, Texas.

In an abbreviated **SHOW AND TELL**, Dave Stockbridge announced the CDs were available of the late Dick Phelps' magnificent "ABC's of Stamp Collecting." Jim Case showed the new Canada 150th Anniversary souvenir sheet. Stanley Christmas talked about a box of philatelic literature he brought back from the Oklahoma Philatelic Association exhibits. And Stockbridge noted that preparations had begun for EXPO 2017, the prospectus already on the web page, donations being accepted for the "mystery box," and Skip Ely assuming responsibility for the new collectors area.

With a **BREAK** midway through for Bob Coleman's wife's cookies and brownies, Denny Ludlow then conducted another club auction, this time of 57 lots of U.S. mint sheets, worldwide covers, foreign accumulations and better worldwide mint sets. Bids ranged from \$1 up with \$45 being the highest realization reached. Total sales that evening amounted to \$759.

In **CLOSING**, Julie Rimmer, Jo James, and Gary McNamee won gift certificate door prizes.

The August 22nd meeting will be Jim Case presenting "Sports Stamps" as a topical collection.



## MCSC Annual Picnic!!

By Judy Christmas

It is that time of year for Club's annual Fall Picnic. We will gather at the same spot as in years past, the patio at the Bob Duncan Community Center. The Center will have tables and chairs placed there for us to dine at. The picnic date is October 4, 2017 and it will be a pot luck dinner.

A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the September meetings. But if you will not be able to attend a September meeting and/or did not sign up but would like to attend, please let me know via phone at 817-656-2925 or e-mail at [judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net).

The Club will provide hot dogs, cooked by our own personal chef David Stockbridge & his able-bodied assistant Ray Moyer. We'll also provide 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 5:00, eating around 5:30 PM.

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

## 2016 Scott Stamp Catalog Bid Form

Now is the time for one of the great annual stamp club events !!!! Each year the club gives every member the chance to purchase the preceding year's (that is the 2016) Scott Standard Stamp Catalogs. The catalogs will be sold as 2 lots: Volumes 1 - 6 & the "USA Specialized". The club will take sealed bids for each lot until October 25, 2017. To bid, please send in a bid for each lot with the following information:

Bid for Scott Volumes 1 to 6      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Bid for Scott USA Specialized      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .

**BIDDER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### RULES for BIDDERS:

Submit bids by mail to: Mid-Cities Stamp Club, P.O. Box 2158, Arlington, TX 76004-2158  
Mark the outside of the envelope: "Catalog Bid"  
Bids must be received by: October 25, 2017 (received by, NOT postmarked by!)  
In case of a tie: The envelope with a commemorative stamp used for postage wins.  
If a tie still exists, the earliest postmarked entry wins.  
The winning bidder: Will be called to make arrangements for delivery and payment

The winning bidder and amount will be announced at the Arlington November 1, 2017 club meeting.



## Attention All Club Members!!

By Judy Christmas

It is that time once again to start thinking about volunteering for the Club's annual EXPO. The dates for this year's show are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

The Volunteer sheet is being passed around at all meetings. If you are planning on attending the show, why not add a couple of hours and help the Club with your smile? That is really all it takes to work at the EXPO and you do not need to be a stamp expert. You will be rewarded with lots of other smiles and knowing that you have helped a fellow stamp collector is priceless.

We will begin setting up for the show on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. As in years past, those who can and who want to beat some of the rush hour traffic, we'll be meeting at 3:30 PM for a quick early dinner at Spring Creek BBQ.

In years past, the first order of business has been to get the frames up. The dealers will be allowed into the Convention Center first and after the young men the Club hires to do all the lifting arrive, say around six or so, then the frames will be hauled in.

The *Chance Board* will be set up in the foyer this year and we'll need help filling the board with envelopes. The *Beginning Collectors Area* will also be set up in the foyer, and the *Silent Auction* and *Mixture Pick areas* will also begin their setup. We will also be putting the programs together and placing Expo signs around the Convention Center. All areas are in need of volunteers, so your help is greatly needed.

As an incentive to come out and help your Club, we are giving away thirteen \$25 gift certificates plus a few other prizes during the show. Two gift certificates will be given away Thursday night, six on Friday and five on Saturday. However, to win you must first put in some volunteer time. When you come in to volunteer, check in at the Registration table and pick up a ticket for the drawings. A lucky name will be drawn every hour on the hour starting at 11:00 AM on Friday and again on Saturday. New tickets will be given out each day.

Coffee, snacks and other goodies will be available through out both days in an area behind the double doors to the left of the stage. In addition, the Club will have an ice chest full of soft drinks and bottled water. So please make your plans now to join us for a fun filled weekend serving your Club.

If you volunteer during the noon hour or will be at the show during that time, we will be taking lunch orders as we have in the past. You will be ordering a box lunch from Jayson's Deli. I will have order forms available starting in September, but there will be extras at the Registration table. You must pay when you turn your order form in. All order forms must be turned in to me by 10:00 AM on both days. After lunches arrive, please go to the snack area to pick up your lunch. The lunches will include a sandwich (you will be able to choose from several choices of meats and breads), chips, pickle, cookie or brownie for \$8.00. So please, come join us for a fun-filled two days!



## News from the Internet

By Peter Elias

It is always fun to watch a movie or TV show where an envelope is shown on screen. As part of a moving image, many times an envelope is shown too quickly to really see any details and for the average viewer, that's probably fine. Since I have TV service that can be "paused", I can then study the item on screen for a little bit and even take a picture of it.

Currently, there is a TV mini-series playing in which the postal service is a key component: The Unabomber. Several times they show a very quick close-up of the packages and the stamps that are used. The \$1 Eugene O'Neill stamp (Scott #1294) is mentioned several times. For the brief moment that a detailed close-up is shown though, something didn't look quite right; but I've already erased the 1st episode; hopefully I'll be able to catch another glimpse in a future episode.

### *Been There, Done That*

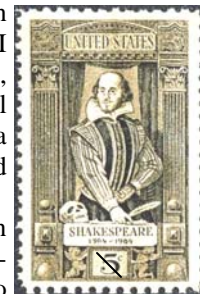
### 2 B or Not 2 B

by Peter Elias

"2 B or Not 2 B", that's what Shakespeare wrote as the opening line to Hamlet. Just kidding, actually, it was *"To be, or not to be, that is the question: Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or to take Arms against a Sea of troubles, and by opposing end them: to die, to sleep no more; and by a sleep, to say we end the heart-ache, and the thousand natural shocks that Flesh is heir to?"* Wow, quite a mouthful!



Anyway ... sometime in late Spring of 1986, I found myself on a weeklong business trip to Bridgnorth, England. Luckily I planned the trip such that on the weekend before and after the work week, I could explore a bit in England. And it was also the first time that I had ever driven a car on the wrong (that is, left) side of the road (and it had a manual transmission of course). I had a Ford Fiesta on one weekend and a Ford Orion on the 2nd weekend, but I digress...



At one point, I found myself in Stratford-Upon-Avon, birthplace of Shakespeare! I don't recall much from the visit to that particular city (hey, it was 31 years ago!), but in my photo album is the photo that I took of Shakespeare's birthplace.



Shakespeare's Birthplace

The Zazzle stamp at top I ordered for the fun of it! Since I couldn't find a mint British stamp of Shakespeare in my collection, US Scott #1250, issued in 1964, will have to do!



## From the President's Desk: Ten Good Reasons to Collect Stamps. How many apply to you? [Part 1]

By Ray E. Cartier

1. **Stamp or Cover Collecting is a family affair.** It can be passed down from parents and grandparents to sons, daughters, nieces, nephews and grandkids. Have you ever brought a child to a stamp show, or encouraged a neighbor or friend to bring a child to one?
2. **It can be a sociable or a solitary activity.** Some people enjoy the solitude of collecting and don't share, discuss or show what they have gathered. Most people in this category don't join clubs. We call them "Closet Collectors". And that is fine as there is no demand for becoming involved in sharing with others. You all belong to a club and attend local shows. But do you ever share your interests and collections and knowledge with others. It's a great next step as you can learn more by moving up that notch.
3. **Stamp Collecting lets you have it your way.** One of the glories of stamp collecting is that you can collect what and how you please – in whatever way you find your enjoyment. There is satisfaction in completing filling the spaces on a page or in a section of a stamp album. There is also satisfaction in sharing some of your knowledge with others. It can be as easy as bringing a show and tell to a club meeting, or in giving a short presentation about something you collect – even just for 2 or 3 minutes at a meeting. Showing some of your favorite stamps in a single page or 4-page exhibit at a stamp show would be another step in the socialization of your hobby and it could get you started in exhibiting which brings a whole new world of enjoyment to you.
4. **Stamp Collectors know more about the World.** Many high school students today can't find Washington, DC on a map or answer questions like who was Audubon. But many ELEMENTARY students can answer these and other similar questions because they collect stamps. Have you ever looked at maps to find places like Madagascar, Thurn & Taxis, Lesotho. These are places that most people have never even heard of much less have an idea as to where on the globe they are.
5. **Stamp collecting is not budget restrictive.** Beginning collectors whether aged 7 or 70 can obtain used stamps from their mail for free, or find free or low priced stamps at club meetings or at stamp shows. The few tools of our hobby are very inexpensive also. On the other hand there are some very, very costly stamps, but collectors can have fun without having to own those types of items.

The above has been modified by me from an article found years ago.

—> *Reasons 6 to 10 will be in the October issue*

## CLASSIFIED BOURSE 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](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [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)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans](#) (1,700 items!!)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959](#) (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](mailto: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](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 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](mailto: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](mailto:atkinson@our-town.com). 4/15

## 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](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 9/16



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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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## 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

**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

### Wanted

**Postally used Spanish “ATM” stamps** (i.e.: machine vended), need them on covers, postcards and parcel cards. Contact Peter Elias, [info@stvincentstamps.com](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) 8/17

## MEET & EAT for September & October 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

- September 6      **China Harbor Super Buffet**  
Mongolian BBQ Sushi/or plates  
3512 S. Cooper St, Arlington 76015  
(1 block No. of Spring Creek BBQ)  
(817) 466-3888
- October 4      Club Picnic at Bob Duncan Center

### EULESS

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

## 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

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](mailto:stockdave44@yahoo.com) 8/11

**FREE 111-page or 26-page album** of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps! Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 6/17

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**TSDA Bourse - August 25-26**  
**EXPO & BOD Meeting - September 9**