

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

*Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.
Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.*
*Eules 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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March 2018

Been There, Done That

Welcome Home

By Pat & Bob Weidman

The first Gulf War, Desert Shield / Desert Storm, pitted the United States, Great Britain and a coalition of nations from around the world against Iraq, which had invaded and occupied Kuwait. Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator accused Kuwait of stealing Iraqi petroleum through the use of slant drilling and used it as a pretext to invade Kuwait.

In the 1990's, Pat and I were living in Wilmington, North Carolina, a one hour drive down the coast from Jacksonville, NC, home of Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River. Camp Lejeune, a 246 square mile military training facility is the largest Marine Corps base on the East Coast.

The prelude to the actual fighting was codenamed Desert Shield and began on August 2, 1990 and ran until January 17, 1991. This was the buildup of troops and supplies in Saudi Arabia for its defense and the coming invasion of Kuwait to force the Iraqis out.

Desert Storm was the codename for the actual fighting which started on January 17, 1991 and lasted 43 days until February 28, 1991, when the Iraqis surrendered.

When the war ended, many cities and towns had "welcome home" parades for the troops which included Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and Washington, DC. Jacksonville also had a welcome home parade and Pat & I drove up so we could say "Thank You" and "Welcome Home" to the Marines. There were many military vehicles along the parade route including some captured from the Iraqis. In one of the pictures, Pat is standing in the back of a Humvee manning the machine gun; the other photo is of the Marines marching by.

The stamp is USA Scott #2552; it was issued on July 2, 1991 and honors those who served in the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations.



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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>

Coming Attractions

2018

FEB. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: David Stockbridge - "European Dead Countries of the 20th Century"

MAR 3 EXPO Board Meeting, 11 AM

At the Pizza Garden Restaurant in Bedford

MAR. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Show & Tell Evening; Peter Elias tentative, others, please bring two Show & Tell items!

MAR. 16 & 17 TSDA Bourse

Richardson Civic Center, Arapaho Rd & US75

MAR. 16 & 17 Dallas Postcard Show

Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Ewy, Plano, \$4 admission

MAR. 21 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: TBD

MAR. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Auction of Al Hull Collection (by Denny Ludlow)

APR. 4 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Ben Termini - Birth of the Palestinian Authority Postal Service

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Are you just itching to write an article for the newsletter, but don't have all of the interesting facts? Wikipedia to the rescue! While "googling" will get you all sorts of results on whatever it is that you are researching, but a good place to start is at Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, that is generally speaking fairly accurate, but as always, it doesn't hurt to double-check the facts, as Wikipedia is essentially "crowd-sourced" information! Essentially you too can update facts on Wikipedia or even write up a whole new subject or enhance an existing one. As you can see from my various "Been There - Done That" articles, I reference Wikipedia quite often, as it is the main place I go to for (non-philatelic) facts to support my articles!

This is the month that are membership rolls drop significantly, as they do every year around this time. If your name is listed in the "dropped" section of the Secretary's report and wish to remain a members, please see Ben! Oh wait, dropped members will not be receiving this newsletter (via email from Ben or snail mailed).

TPA & TPHS Society Merger

The TPA (Texas Philatelic Association) and the Texas Philatelic Association Foundation have merged. The new (remaining) entity is the Texas Philatelic Association Foundation, which will be more commonly known as the TPA.

The TPHS (Texas Postal History Society) is now also incorporated into the TPA Foundation and their journal is being merged into the "Texas Philatelist".

Errata

The February issue showed 7:30 PM as the Arlington meeting minutes on the masthead in the print copy (it was corrected to 7:00 PM in the electronic version).

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



New Members

William F. Lau (#601)

Dropped for non-payment of dues

Dallof, Herman; Davis, Diana; Donohoo, Sara; Douglass, Jeanette; Henry, Robert; Hull, Allan; James, Cynthia; James, Mary (Jo); Kosanovich, Louie; Mullins, Austin; Parris, Keith; Poplin, Barbara; Powers, Patrick; Sicher, Edwin; Sims, Vernon; Stewart, Robert; Szabolcs, Fulop; Urish, Jack; Van Meter, Ted; Vinson, John

Membership Summary – February 8, 2018

Membership as of January 3, 2018	106
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(20)
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	
Membership as of February 8, 2018	87

Sleeping Bear Dunes

By Peter Elias



On January 21, 2018, the USPS issued a new Express Mail (now called Priority Express Mail) stamp honoring the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

For those that don't know, these dunes are located on Lake Michigan on the northwestern side of the lower Michigan peninsula, not too far from Traverse City (great place for those into fermented grapes as well!).



In the summer of 2015, we took a trip to Michigan and the Sleeping Bear Dunes was one of the places we visited. On the photo above, the blue arrow is pointing to the location of the dunes, which were voted "2012 Most Beautiful Place in America".



This photo shows a close-up of the dunes from a couple of miles away. While they don't look that tall, they are! 450 feet from lake level to the top! The photo below shows Annie &



Marcos at the top of the dunes. Going down is quick and easy, but it may take several hours to climb back up! Ever tried walking uphill in sand? Mostly 1 steps back for every 2 steps forward! I wonder if they use the dunes downhill skiing in the winter?

Granbury Meeting Minutes January 23, 2018

By Eugene Atkinson

Eleven members assembled at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct., in Granbury, for the January meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club. The group meets every 4th Tuesday except for December at 7 PM with local host David Stockbridge.

In **ANNOUNCEMENTS**, Bob Coleman reported that member Brian Smith was responding to radiation and chemotherapy treatments in preparation for surgery. Member Al Hull has been moved to a rehab facility. Alliene Franklin had members sign greeting cards for both.

David Stockbridge previewed the scheduled programs for the coming year and asked for volunteers to fill in the remaining open dates.

For the **SHOW & TELL** portion of the meeting, Denny Ludlow had a collection of space-oriented first day covers and a specialty collection commemorating the War of 1812. Lloyd Willis showed a World War II censored cover from October, 1942 and Jim Case had a number of Olympics-themed collections and logos.

Gary McNamee led a quiz on **WHERE IS IT**, identifying an 1880 overprint as being from Cyprus and an 1966 independence issue from Botswana.

After a quick refreshments break, members swarmed accumulated publications gathered since the last meeting in November, 2017, and poured over three long tables of sales materials. The annual "Clean Our Your Closet" **PROGRAM** was over almost before it began with everyone claiming stamps, sets, covers, albums, collector supplies and more offered by Al Hull, Brian Smith, Daniel Kennedy, David Stockbridge, Denny Ludlow and others.

In **CLOSING**, Lloyd Willis, Denny Ludlow and Jim Bailey won club gift certificates as door prizes.



Express Your Feelings

By Peter Elias



Swiss Post issued a set of 2 stamps in 2017 commemorating "emoji". Emoji originated in Japan in 1999 as smileys and ideograms. They are not to be confused with "emoticons" (which stands for "emotional icons"). Emoticons are primarily there to convey an emotion, while emoji can also include common objects (such as a pizza slice, a hot dog, a basketball, popcorn, places, weather, animals and many others). One of the emoji illustrated on the top right stamp is that of the smiling turd (1st row emoji on the right side), highlighted with a blue circle! When using your smart-phone for texting someone, you should be able to insert one or several emoji to get your message across without using up too many of the precious 140 characters available when texting.

For more background information, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoji>.

Arlington Meeting Minutes February 7, 2018

By Ben Termini

Call-to-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Club President Ray Cartier.

Attendance:

- There were 21 members and 1 guest (Phyllis Lau) present.

Officer / Committee Reports:

- **Secretary** Ben Termini reported that we had 107 members of whom 86 had paid their dues for 2018, and encouraged anyone who had not yet paid their dues to do so. Non-paying members will be dropped from the rolls in February.
- **Treasurer** Judy Christmas said we had about \$13,000 in our account.
- **EXPO Committee** chairman Ralph Poore said there was nothing new to report. He mentioned that there would be an EXPO meeting on March 3. The theme for this year's EXPO has not been finalized but he has received several suggestions.
- **Sales Books Chairman** Skip Ely said that he had several new books from club members, and also that he had a new supply of blank books which could be purchased for fifty cents per book.
- **Newsletter Editor** Peter Elias said everything was fine with the newsletter and encouraged members to contribute articles.

Announcements:

- Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that the next auction would be in May and he would need items by the April meeting.
- Ben Termini discussed some impending changes at the APS.
- Ray Cartier noted that the Frontiers of Flight Museum would be displaying his 8 frame exhibit, *How We Got Men to the Moon*, from August 1 to November 1. Ray also mentioned that we still needed a person to function as ambassador to the APS. He asked that anyone interested in the position contact him.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed an interesting US cover with multiple markings and \$7.60 in postage due for reply mail paid by addressee.
- Wayne DeWald showed a stamp with a heart-shaped freak.
- Peter Elias showed a Nigeria cover that he had received (and which had been opened by the Nigerian Postal Service) and also discussed various post office shipping boxes (the special "Regional Rate" boxes).

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Ben Termini, Peter Elias, Rich Hildebrandt and Jeff Jessop.

Program:

- Bob Weidman gave a short talk on how he became a stamp collector, following which the members were treated to a giant mixture pick.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Eules Meeting Minutes February 21, 2018

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 P.M.

Attendance:

- Seven members braved the cold, wet weather to attend.

Officer Reports:

- **Secretary** – There was no report
- **Treasurer** – There was no report.

Committee Reports:

- **Sales** – Skip Ely said APS sales were good at Arlington two weeks ago. He also mentioned he had seven new books from Peter Elias and two new ones from Jeff Jessop.
- **Newsletter** – There was no report

Announcements:

- Mike Smith mentioned the EXPO/Board meeting to be held on March 3 in Bedford and the TSDA Bourse on March 16-17 in Richardson.

Show & Tell:

- Tom Turner showed a book he purchased while on his recent trip to Northern Ireland about the postal history of Ireland. He also had some Irish stamps intended for international postcards only.
- Ken Wills showed a short stock book he had put together of the stamps of Cilicia.
- Mike Smith passed around some stamps of which he was trying to confirm the identity.

Program:

- The program was an APS DVD titled "The Doctoring of Postage Stamps."

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were awarded to Skip Ely and Ray Moyer.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned around 8:45 PM.

Comic Strip - Pluggers

By Peter Elias



When the postage goes up, a pluggers just tapes a couple pennies to the envelope along with the 39-cent stamp.

particular older comic strip while searching for it online...]

Have you ever tried this, putting a couple of pennies on an envelope when the rates go up? This particular "Pluggers" comic strip talks about doing just that, but of course, it is kind of "dated", since it mentions the 39¢ rate that just went to 41¢ (which would have been in early 2007) and of course now we have "Forever" stamps, thus little need for "make-up" rate postage... [note: I just found this

From the President's Desk

by Ray Cartier

Is it nobler in the heart to obtain philatelic items that are either kept in a drawer, a box or an album full of rectangles in which those items are placed, or, to step outside of a comfort zone by showing others what you collect, what you've learned and what you've discovered? That is the question.

The answer to that depends totally on the collector. After a hiatus from collecting stamps around 1956, I got back into it in 1964, picking up from where I left off but constraining my hobby to just trying to get mint US stamps. With a very limited budget I got back to 1929 when I dead-ended with the Hawaii by not counting the 1933 and 1934 Souvenir Sheets. That left me with only being able to wait for new issues or to get a substantial pay raise.

Discovering the low cost of United Nations issues, I completed that pretty well, but had to get a used issue of the #38 souvenir sheet on cover because it was too pricey. And once again, I was in a rut, watching for and buying just the new issues.

Just placing stamps in an album began to lose some of its luster. Then I saw an ad in LINNs Stamp news 50 years ago, offering five historical space covers. My interest picked up because I had been collecting newspaper front sections from various major events, starting with the death of Albert Einstein in 1953 when I was just 13 years old. I had started to frame some of the older headlines and those of the early spaceflights, and the idea of placing a cover in the frames along with the headlines appealed to me.

LINN's was the only philatelic literature that I was receiving, but through them I learned about "Inner & Outer Space", the "Space Unit", and then, the ATA. After joining the two space groups and, a few years later, the ATA, I joined a club that met in North Dallas. They had a stamp show - my first- and I saw the exhibits, but didn't have an urge to start exhibiting. But when we started the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, I felt that as the first President that I should help the club by putting an exhibit together on Jacques Cartier. I was surprised at how much exhibiting helped me to learn more about my 15 generation back grand-uncle. My exhibit wasn't that good, but the results of focusing on researching my subject taught me a lot about him that I wouldn't have learned otherwise, such as that his grandfather was a cousin of St. Joan of Arc.

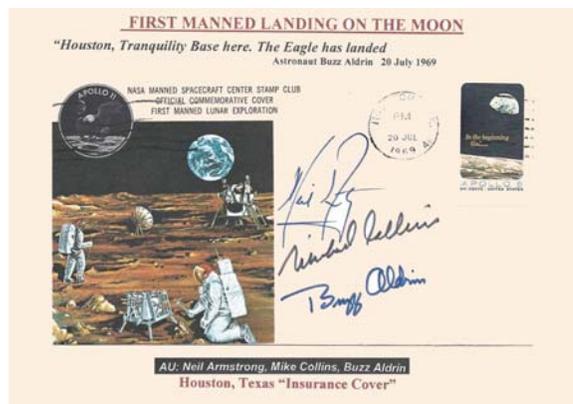


Then I put an exhibit together on Jules Verne. Neither exhibit got me more than a Silver-Bronze but I really enjoyed the new insights that exhibiting gave me and decided to try my hand at putting a space cover exhibit together. That was a "Bronze" effort but I liked the idea of putting my thoughts and covers together in an interesting format.

For quite a few years I exhibited strictly for the fun of it. I had no interest in the awards and returned most of them to the issuing clubs. But I loved the way that exhibiting helped me put my thoughts together and made my exhibits more interesting.

One of my exhibits in particular got me thinking seriously about trying to follow the guidelines (they are not rules) of exhibiting to see if I could make it more interesting. My first World Series of Philately Gold didn't come about until 2010. I felt as though I'd done what I'd set out to do and didn't exhibit it for a few more years. But when I did, it was because of the challenge to grow it to where it could reach a new goal that I discovered by subscribing to the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitor's, "*Philatelic Exhibitor*". I learned more about the art of exhibiting and felt challenged to win 10 Gold medals to prove to myself that I could do it.

I have now reached that goal and it feels really good to know that I've accomplished what I never would have believed I could have. Even better, I have a son, (who is old enough to



have celebrated his 25th wedding anniversary) who likes the "historicity" of that exhibit so well, that he now wants my collection as part of his inheritance.

When I started exhibiting it was just a thing that I felt obliged to do but now it is, for me, a stellar accomplishment and means of self expression that has made my retirement years feel to be as worthwhile as my years of working for a living. And that is the greatest feature of exhibiting now in retirement. I've accomplished a major goal that has kept me out of the bingo parlors and pool halls over the past decade, and it will continue to do so the rest of my life as I can create other fun goals to master in philately.

Try exhibiting. It will help you feel better about yourself and will help you know your subject better as you learn more about whatever part of philately interests you. Need help? Just ask me, Ben, Stanley or Peter. We'll be happy to assist you.

The Board of Directors met in January and decided that we would ask members to hold back on selling items at the two meetings in which we have our Mixture Picks, in hope that this would raise more enthusiasm for our members to use these meeting to purchase club material. The only other Mixture Pick we have coming up will be on July 11, pushed back a week because of the 4th of July being on the first Wednesday.

Bring items for the May Auction to Richard at our March Meeting!

Been There,
Done That

Oktoberfest

By Peter Elias



The Oktoberfest got its start as a royal celebration in 1810, when the citizens of Munich were invited to participate in the festivities when Crown Prince Ludwig married Princess Therese von Saxe-Hildburghausen. This evolved to a public festival over the years. You can read more about the Oktoberfest at Wikipedia at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oktoberfest>.

To celebrate the 200-year anniversary of the Oktoberfest, Germany issued a stamp on September 9, 2010, Scott #2587 - shown above right.

In 1986, during my work assignment in Switzerland, I found myself in Munich for the Oktoberfest (which as you know is actually held in mid-September through the first few days in October, a whopping 16 to 18 day celebration).

Joining me (see photo below), was my newly hired boss and (to the right) his girlfriend (later to become his wife). To the right of the girlfriend is one of the sales managers from our company. Behind me (to the right) are two relatives of Alice; one of these ladies was instrumental in ensuring that I got to "keep" the 1 liter beer Stein that I am holding as a "souvenir" (I still have it!). The picture to the right (which I



took as I was writing this article) shows said beer Stein! I read that quite a few thousand of these Steins disappeared that year ...

From what I remember, there are something like 7.7 million Liters of beer served at one of the more recent Oktoberfests. That is something like 2 million gallons!

My beer Stein in the picture at the bottom holds 1 Liter of beer. When the wait staff delivers beer to the tables, they usually hold up 8 full Steins of beer in their hands (yes, hands, not a serving tray). Don't believe me? Here's a picture from a 2012 article at <http://www.today.com> showing this. That said, a full beer Stein weighs over 5.6 lbs, so that lady is holding 45 lbs of beer in her hands!

I still have one original Beer coupon left over (see scan to the left). Now here in Dallas, at the Texas State Fair, our coupons have no expiration date; I wonder if the Germans do the same thing? Nah...

After we had our "fill" of the Oktoberfest, we needed to find a place to stay for the night. This trip hadn't really planned that much in advance, so we just started driving out of Munich,



http://www.today.com



stopping at various towns to see if they had hotel rooms (remember, there were 8 of us, we needed 4 rooms). We finally found a place (in or near Augsburg if I remember correctly...) for only DM 25.00 (=\$12 at the time); we joined the locals in the pub for their own Oktoberfest celebration before turning in for the night. In the morning we ate at a restaurant that had a "Gumby" out front; it was run by Americans from what I remember).

If you like beer (or even if not), make the Oktoberfest in Munich one of your bucket list items!

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

USPS Lemon Coil

By Peter Elias

It seems that the USPS is making it difficult again in obtaining one of their new coil issues. This time it is the new 2¢ coil featuring Meyer Lemons.

The only option I see for buying this at usps.com is as a full roll of 10,000 stamps for a whopping \$200.00 ! Sure, I could use maybe 100 of these, but 10,000 ? Surely the USPS Philatelic Sales division could take a roll and break it up for sale in strips of 10 or something like that.

While the USPS does break up sheets of definitive stamps into blocks of 4, they do not appear to want to sell coil stamps in anything less than a full roll. The only exception that I can see is a strip of 10 of the “Patriotic Coil stamps. None of this is very collector-friendly as far as I’m concerned.

Perhaps if enough of us in the club want to chip in to buy a roll ? Screenshot below are from usps.com

The screenshot shows two product listings from the USPS website. The top listing is for 'Meyer Lemons' 2-cent stamps. It features an image of lemons and a stamp. The price for a coil of 10,000 stamps is \$200.00. The bottom listing is for 'Patriotic Spiral' 50-cent stamps. It features an image of stars and a stamp. The price for a coil of 10,000 stamps is \$5,000.00.

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 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

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

Wanting to trade stamps from Trucial States: Yemen, Aden or Equatorial Guiana. Brian Smith, donnasmithphoto@gmail.com 3/18

Been There, Done That

St. Peter's Basilica

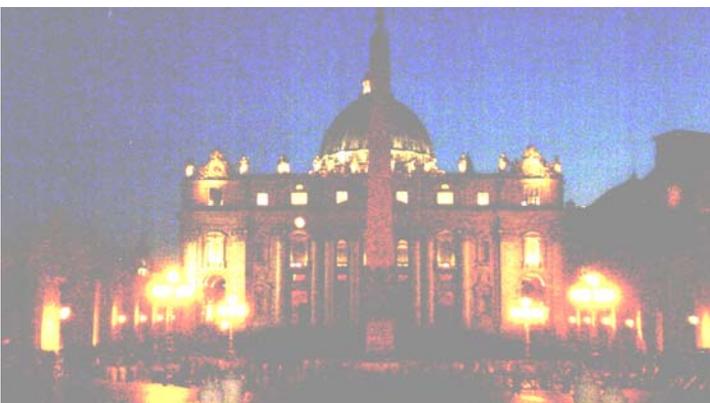
By Pat & Bob Weidman

Italy Scott#765, issued on February 11, 1959 commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Lateran Pacts. On the left side of the stamp is the Lateran Palace and on the right side is the dome of St. Peter's Basilica, which is located inside Vatican City. An independent country since 1929, the official name in Italian is Stato della Citta del Vaticano (The state of Vatican City).

Covering just 108.7 acres, Vatican City is the spiritual and government center of the Catholic Church.



Stamp image from <http://www.stampworld.com>



St. Peter's Basilica is the largest Christian church in the world. It is the second church to stand above the crypt of St. Peter, the first pope. It was built in the shape of a cross. It is 700 feet long by 450 feet wide and covers 18,000 square yards. The nave of the center aisle is 150 feet high. The dome was designed by Michelangelo and rises more than 400 feet from the floor. It is 135 feet in diameter.

The first St. Peters was begun by the Roman emperor Constantine the Great in 325 AD. It was built to celebrate his acceptance of Christianity. In 1452, Nicholas V began a restoration and expansion of St. Peters. In 1506, Julius II had the church completely rebuilt. The new church was dedicated by Urban VIII in 1626.



Been There, Done That

Bermuda

By Pat & Bob Weidman

In the North Atlantic Ocean, 670 miles southeast of New York City, are the pink sand beaches of the islands of Bermuda. And yes, they are pink, more of a pale pink than a bright pink, but definitely pink. Bermuda was originally discovered by the Spanish and is now a British Overseas Territory. It was first settled by the British in the year 1612.

When I was in sales, I stayed at Marriott Hotels when I was on the road. Over time I accumulated enough points to qualify for a free week stay at one of their properties. Pat and I decided on Bermuda and in April of 1991 we vacationed there at their Castle Harbor property.

While there, we went sightseeing all over the islands. There are no rental cars available in Bermuda. To get around, one must rent a motor scooter or take on the public busses. We opted for the busses which went to all points of the islands.

The town of Hamilton has been the capital of Bermuda since 1815. One day we took the bus into Hamilton and went exploring. In the enclosed picture is the City Hall Theatre in downtown Hamilton. The accompanying stamp is Bermuda Scott #184 from a set issued between 1962 and 1965, and pictures the City Hall Theatre.



Been There, Done That

Coming Soon To A Newsletter Near You...

By Peter Elias

Preparing the article above reminded me that I've also been to Bermuda (honeymoon in 1994) and we DID rent a scooter! I've got a few more articles to write myself, and the list of other countries that I've been to includes: Canada, Mexico, Trinidad, Curacao, St. Vincent, Bequia Island (Grenadines of St. Vincent), St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Kitts, Nevis, Puerto Rico (technically not a country...), US Virgin Islands (ditto), Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy, Yugoslavia, Great Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and Iceland. I've already covered a couple of these countries (but have additional tales from some of them), and haven't gotten around to some of the others yet. Stay tuned!

Exp.12/18



OKLAHOMA STAMPS

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kirkmckenzie@cox.net

1001 North Fulton
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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> →




Comic Strip - Pluggers

By Peter Elias

The "Pluggers" comic strip occasionally has stamp, postal or philatelic subjects. In this case, it pokes fun at "text messages" saying that a plugger's text message will come in the form of a post or postal card.



A plugger text message usually has a stamp on it.

According to Wikipedia, "pluggers" are defined to be rural, blue-collar workers who live a typical working-class American lifestyle. [Note: this illustration was found by searching for it on the internet]

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MEET & EAT for March & April 2018

by Judy & Stanley Christmas and David Stockbridge

“Meet and Eats” are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM start ordering at that time. However, late-comers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 PM to 6:30PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club’s broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

- March 7 Angelo’s Steak & Spaghetti
2590 W. Pioneer Parkway, Arlington
- Apr. 4 Jav Jav Café
1001 So. Bowen Rd., Arlington

GRANBURY

- March 27 Grumps
3503 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, 76049
- April 24 Palio’s Pizza Café
3710 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, 76049

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

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! Member price only! Contact Peter Elias at 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:
EXPO Planning Meeting - March 3
TSDA Stamp Bourse - March 16-17
Dallas Postcard Show - March 16-17