

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

December 2017

EXPO 2017

By Peter Elias

The 30th Annual EXPO of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club has now come and gone. By all indications, it was another successful show.

Attendance at 375 (split pretty much evenly between Friday and Saturday) was down a little bit from last year, but what matters is that those attendees purchased stamps from the dealers and if they are happy (which they all seemed to be), then we get to have another show! The current format of having the show on Friday/Saturday instead of Saturday/Sunday seems to be paying off. It was our third year doing it this way.

We had more exhibits than last year, and that was due to more single-frame and smaller multi-frame exhibits; we even had four entries from two judges from previous years (see the Palmares elsewhere in this issue). We had a panel of APS-accredited judges that gave us good feedback on our exhibits.

The Beginning Collector and Chance Board areas were moved to the outside lobby area this year, and the Chance Board sales weren't so good on Friday, but picked up on Saturday. The same held true for the Beginning Collector table where there was more activity on Saturday than Friday. The Silent Auction area did well and met their budget goal, all items except one were sold!

My own collecting and exhibiting areas are a bit on the eclectic side (Spanish Thermal ATM stamps and Traffic Safety - a new exhibit that I'm working on) and I was able to purchase a number of items relating to Traffic Safety; being able to use up a few club gift certificates definitely helped my budget! See you all at EXPO 2018! (Photos below by Peter Elias)



Karen Cartier at the Chance Board. Judy Christmas, Janet Moyer and Bert Hildebrandt at the Registration Table



Skip Ely & Jim Case at the Beginning Collector Center



Peter Elias & Mike Smith at the "Wall of Stamps"

Photos above by Keith Parris



APS Judges Kenneth Nilsestuen, James Graue & Jeffrey Shapiro at the Exhibit Critique

Article Index

Page

EXPO 2017	1,2
Editors Forum	2
Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
TV Philately - Blindspot	3
Members in the News	3
Been There - Done That (Hoover Dam)	4
Club Meeting Minutes	4, 6
Been There - Done That (Zürich HB)	5
EXPO 2017 Palmares	7
President's Comments	8
Annual Christmas Party	8
Been There - Done That (Orient Express)	8
Been There - Done That (Porte Nigra)	9
Member & Dealer Ads	5, 9, 12
Been There - Done That (Statue of Liberty)	10
Dealer's Dollar Box Find	10
Why Exhibit?	10
Beware the Priority Box!	11
Meet & Eat Info	12

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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 Willis

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

2017

NOV. 28 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: By Bob Coleman (topic is TBD)

DEC. 6 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: Annual Christmas Party

DEC. 8-9 **TSDA Bourse**

Richardson Civic Center, Arapaho Rd & US75

—> **There are no Euleess or Granbury meetings in December!**

2018

JAN. 3 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: TBD

JAN. 13 **MCSC BOD / EXPO Planning Meeting**

Location Pizza Garden Restaurant in Bedford, 11 AM.

JAN. 17 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Program: TBD

JAN. 23 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: TBD

FEB. 7 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: TBD

FEB. 21 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

It's that time of year again! Yup, dues are due! Please make Ben's job easier by filling out the form on page 11 and mailing it to him (or give it to him at the Christmas party if you're attending). Please remember that Ben will be e-mailing you the newsletter as soon as it is released and of course it will also be available at the YahooGroups and Webs sites as well. Mailed copies are available at additional cost.

MCSC EXPO Feedback

We received the following feedbacks via email message from our judges Ken Nilsestuen, one of our EXPO judges this year:

Peter, Stanley, Alliene and Ralph -

Thanks so much for your wonderful hospitality last week. I had a great time at the show. I can't speak with certainty for my fellow judges, but I am pretty sure they had a good time as well.

I especially appreciate your encouragement to stay for Saturday. In addition to meeting exhibitors at the frames, Jeff and I had a relaxing day sifting through stamps and covers. Too often I am in a hurry to return home, so that was a special treat. Jeff and I had a delicious dinner at Uncle Julio's, too.

I appreciate that you invited me to judge. I certainly will do it again, should you ask. I also hope that your show was a great success for the dealers and the club.

Best regards, Ken

Jeff Shapiro followed up with:

Let me second what Ken said. As a Show Chairman, I know how much time and energy it takes to put on a great show, but the Grapevine Expo Committee added much appreciated hospitality. Wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas--- and a happy and healthy New Year.

Warmest regards, Jeff Shapiro

Jim Graue added:

Greetings! Just arrived at home. YES, I concur, it was most enjoyable. Great time! No problems at all. Happy Holidays! Jim

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



New Members

None

Reinstatements

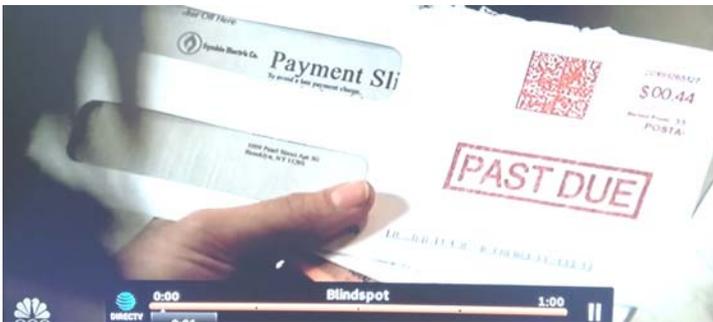
Beverly Ely (#597)

Membership Summary – November 1, 2017

Membership as of October 5, 2017	101
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	()
Resignations	()
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	
Membership as of November 1, 2017	102



I love my DVR, where I can pause the picture to see the details of what is going on in the fraction of a second, such as this metered envelope shown on the TV show “Blindspot” that aired in early November.



In the show, the woman is asking her boyfriend about some overdue bills and one quickly sees some invoices and this envelope flash by. Pausing the screen at that moment, a couple of things are apparent:

1. It is assumed that the show takes place “now”, so regular 1st class postage on this envelope should be 46¢ if a meter is used, not 44¢ as shown. And if it’s a larger company, they’d get a discount of some sort, but that is usually reflected with extra verbiage on the meter, such as Presort First Class, etc, which is NOT present on this envelope.
2. The meter has the information on the right side totally missing (i.e.: “POSTA”... and “Mailed from: 33”)
3. There is a “meter number” at the top, but no indication as to the manufacturer (there is an “H” as part of the number).
4. There is no date. Meters are supposed to have the date mailed printed!
5. The “fractional” cent amount is missing (see below).



The image to the left shows a Hasler postage meter (courtesy of the [Online Postage Meter Catalog](#)) that seems to fairly

closely match the meter shown on the paused TV show screen. Notice that on the screen shot, the vertical word “Hasler” is missing, as is the “US” in front of POSTAGE and the date underneath denomination. It could also be a Neopost meter, which have essentially the same design, however, Neopost meters would have a “J” (not “H”) as part of the meter number and of course would vertically read “Neopost”.

Also: does the postnet code at the bottom of the envelope match the zip code, which appears to be 11201 (Brooklyn, NY)? I haven’t checked that yet, but while there is a “Pearl Street” in Brooklyn at zip code 11201 (thanks to Google Maps), the street numbers themselves only run from 1 to 61 according to the USPS website, not 1009 as on the envelope!

I’m sure that the producers of shows such as this just want to have the image pass muster, especially since it’s only on-screen for a split second, but we philatelists sure have fun nitpicking it apart!

While I usually go to eBay (US and European sites) and delcampe for much of my philatelic buying (and occasionally selling), someone made me aware of a site that I wasn’t familiar with: HipStamp (at <http://www.hipstamp.com>). It appears to be a retail selling and an auction site. At the time of writing this, HipStamp has 739 stores (sellers), with what looks like hundreds of thousands of stamps for sale.

At HipStamp you can search for stamps by country and several other categories such as Topicals, Publications & Supplies and “Specialty” (which includes cinderellas, fakes, memorabilia and postal stationery).

If you want to be a seller at HipStamp, you have 3 options for subscriptions, \$5, \$15 or \$45 per month. At the \$5 monthly level, you get to list up to 10,000 listings for free! I think that should be enough for most collectors! If you list an item as an “auction”, then there’s a 3¢ fee for a 1 to 10-day auction. When something does sell, the fee is 8% of the total amount (including any shipping).

So how does this compare to eBay? The HipStamp final fee amount of 8% is less than the eBay final selling fee of 10% that they charge the casual seller (when you don’t have a “store”). eBay’s final selling fee with a store can be less than 10% (6.15% for stamps), however, eBay’s monthly store price fees are quite a bit higher (\$19.95 to \$24.95 for a basic store) and that only gets you 250 free listings per month! eBay does allow for anyone to sell without committing to a store and a monthly fee, and they even provide for 50 free listings per month (sometimes more as bonuses) and then charge you the 10% fee.

Speaking of fees, since most everyone pays via PayPal these days, you have to figure in the cost of the PayPal transaction fee as well, which will zap you for 30¢ per transaction + 2.9% of the total transaction amount (and that includes shipping). If you only charge for “exact” postage when selling on eBay, consider that you’re losing at least 13% in fees for the postage as well, so always figure in a little bit extra to make sure that you can at least cover the actual amount of postage (and other shipping costs such as envelopes).

Almost everyone is familiar with eBay, while HipStamp is not quite as well known (yet), but if you want to sell a lot of stamps and not pay for individual listing fees (such as the 30¢ per item that eBay charges beyond your monthly allotment), then a \$5 subscription to HipStamp might be a better deal. In addition to HipStamp, there are also “HipPostcard” and “HipComics” websites as well ...

Another interesting website is “Stamp Smarter”, located at <http://www.stampsmarter.com>. This site features a lot of interesting links to items that let you “stamp smarter”, from videos how stamps are produced to ratings of sellers (presumably all eBay) and lots that were mis-identified. I just saw that Stamp Smarter has a video from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library about the Tasmanian pictorial stamps of 1899-1900. A glossary of stamp terms is at <http://www.stampsmarter.com/Learning/GlossaryHome.html>. There’s a lot of stuff to check out at this site!

Hoover Dam

Bob & Pat Weidman

Granbury Meeting Minutes

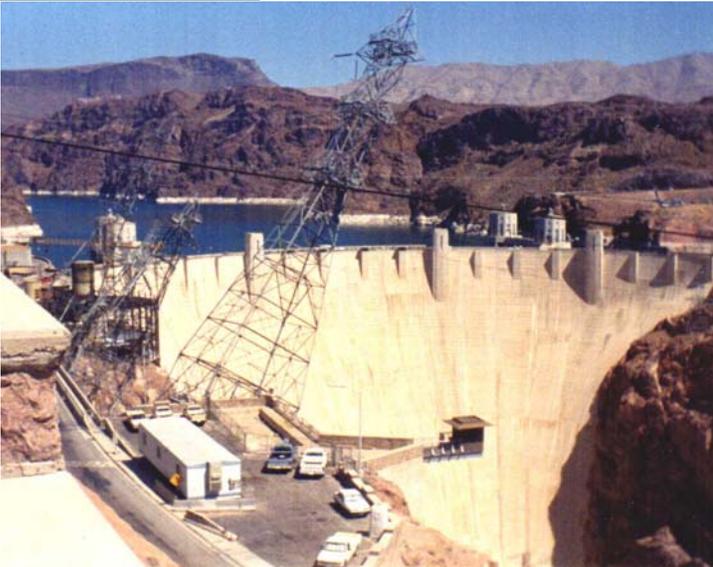
September 26, 2017

By David Stockbridge



United States Scott #774 issued on September 30, 1935 pictures the Boulder Dam. It was issued the day of the dedication of the dam by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1947, by a joint resolution of Congress, it was renamed the “Hoover Dam” after Herbert C. Hoover, our 31st President.

On one of our trips to Las Vegas, we took a side trip to see the dam. It is a concrete arch-gravity dam in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River. The nearby photo was taken from the Nevada side. The dam itself



is on the border of Nevada and Arizona. Nevada is on the western side of the dam in the Pacific Time Zone while Arizona is on the eastern side and on the Mountain Time Zone.

Construction of the dam began in 1931 during the Great Depression when Herbert Hoover was President and it was completed in 1936. Over 1,000 workers constructed the dam and 96 of them lost their lives during construction due to accidents.

The is 726 feet high, 1,244 feet long and 660 feet thick. 3.2 million cubic yards of concrete were used in its construction. It holds back so much water from the Colorado River that it deformed the earth’s crust and caused 600 small earthquakes in the decade after its construction. The dam is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The dam is a supplier of hydro-electric power in addition to providing flood control, river regulation and improved navigation on the river.

The other stamp show is USA Scott#1269, picture President Herbert Hoover and was issued on August 10, 1965.



Dave Stockbridge hosted the September 26 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

Ten members assembled at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court, in Granbury at 7 PM. Several members were not in attendance due to the weather and illness.

Meeting **Announcements** included:

- Denny Ludlow gave a report on the health of member Al Hull. Al has had a stroke and is in the HealthSouth Hospital in Ft. Worth and not improving. He is likely to be moved to a health care facility in Weatherford shortly.
- Staley Christmas announced that all frames for the EXPO are taken, but there is still room for 1-page exhibits.
- Volunteers were requested for the EXPO and benefits were discussed.
- Next year’s programs for Granbury were discussed. It was agreed that January would be a “Clean Out Your Closet” sale for all members. An auction would also be scheduled for March.

Show & Tell featured several items that were shared with members.

During a **break**, two kinds of cookies and nuts were shared. These were provided by Julie and Justin Rimmer.

Member Alliene Franklin presented a **program** on “*Suggesting a Stamp Design to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee*”. Alliene started by asking each member for their suggestion for a stamp. Responses included:

- (1) Parenting.
- (2) the 1917 World Flu Pandemic.
- (3) The end of World War I.
- (4) First Responders.
- (5) Buttercups.

The criteria used to select a stamp was discussed along with the three-year time frame that it takes for a suggestion to go through the process for selection. At the end of the program, we discussed each suggestion to see if they would meet the criteria for consideration by CSAC. Only two failed! We decided to submit the remaining suggestions to CSAC on behalf of MCSC, Granbury branch.

Door prizes were drawn for Justin Rimmer, Gary McNamee and Daniel Kennedy.

Next month will be the **Annual Picnic**. Hot dogs & buns will be provided and attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share. Next month Jim Myers will present his program, “Lilly Kviz II”.

Exp. 12/18



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Exp. 12/17

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

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>
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Exp. 12/17

*Been There,
Done That*

Zürich HB
By Peter Elias




In Switzerland, the main train station is called the “**HB**” short for “Hauptbahnhof” (“main train station”). Growing up in Zürich meant that we went there for just about every trip outside of Zürich (as we didn’t have a car).

The original train station had its’ start in 1847 and expanded to its’ current size of 13 platforms (& 8 underground platforms) over the years. In 2012, over 2,900 trains and 414,000 passengers were served on a typical workday (yes!); all trains are electric. Also underground is a large shopping area with over 200 businesses.

The picture above shows the train station in August 2013 when we visited there and my son was fascinated by the water feature in the underground shopping area.



The Swiss definitive class stamp was issued in 2017 and has a denomination of sFr 4.00 (\$4.00).

Arlington Meeting Minutes November 1, 2017

By Ben Termini

Eules Meeting Minutes November 15, 2017

By Skip Ely

Call-to-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Club President Ray Cartier.

Attendance:

- There were 22 members and no guests present.

Annual Business Meeting:

- This was presided over by the club president, Ray Cartier, however there was no official business and no discussion from the floor, so the business meeting was adjourned.

Officer & Committee Reports:

- **President** Ray Cartier reminded everyone that the board had recently voted to start the Arlington meetings at 7 PM, starting in January. He also mentioned that our programs for next year would include more speakers in accordance with the wishes of the membership.
- **Second Vice President** Rich Hildebrandt announced that the previous year's set of six Scott catalogues had been sold to Peter Elias who submitted the winning bid of \$195. The US Specialized catalogue went to Jeff Jessop for \$40.
- **Secretary** Ben Termini reported that there was no change in our membership. We currently have 101 members. He also mentioned that it was time to pay dues for next year. Door prizes (\$10 gift certificates) were awarded to Anne Frazor, Jeff Jessop, Rich Hildebrandt and Ben Termini. He also discussed the pending merger of the TPA, the TPF and the TPHS.
- **Treasurer** Judy Christmas reported that we had over \$20,000 in our account but she expected those funds to decrease substantially due to the coming EXPO.
- **Book Sales:** Skip Ely reported that there were no APS books for this month and he had closed the accounts for this year. He encouraged members to submit sales books during the coming year.
- **EXPO Committee deputy** chairman Stanley Christmas reported that everything was on track. He mentioned that several dealers had dropped out due to illness, and we now had 25. The EXPO mail out is complete with over 900 letters and 360 emails sent. Our exhibit frames (60) will be full. Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that there would be about 30 present for the awards dinner. Janet Moyer passed around the volunteer sign-up sheet. Peter Elias mentioned that he had contacted one of our judges to give a short talk at the Awards Dinner. Ken Aldridge discussed snacks and Skip Ely mentioned that we had 132 lots in the silent auction.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas reminded everyone that the annual Christmas Party was next month. The club will provide the meat, the drinks (non-alcoholic of course) and utensils. She encouraged members to bring side dishes and desserts, especially apple pie, which I really like.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas passed around the club exhibit on veterans.
- Peter Elias showed some deck cards associated with the newly issued hockey stamps, as well as some Canadian revenues on document.
- Ray Cartier showed an Elvis stamp voting card from 25 years ago and also talked about an exhibit on fishing flies he had seen at a recent show.

Program:

- Ken Aldridge gave a stimulating program on philatelic aspects of the Mighty Mississippi River which begins up north and

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 12 members present.

Officer Reports:

- **Secretary** – There was a reinstatement application submitted at Arlington to bring our membership to 102.
- **Treasurer** – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

- **Sales** – Skip Ely said all payouts for club book sales in 2017 had been distributed.
- **Newsletter** – Peter Elias said the final newsletter of the year was ready to go after receiving the Eules minutes.

EXPO Summary:

- Ralph Poore said we had over 300 visitors to the EXPO. He said feedback from judges and exhibitors was positive, as well as from most dealers. Some potential shoplifters were identified and followed until they left the premises. There was a proposal to move the Chance Board to the other side of the foyer instead of in the hallway to the left of the registration table.
- Ken Will said the silent auction exceeded its target sales by about \$100.
- Ralph Poore said the raffle winner would reimburse the club for the insured mailing, as that person was not in attendance on Saturday.
- Janet Moyer said that registration went well, especially since she had ample help this year.
- Skip Ely said the Beginners Table was a learning experience this year. Next year he will bring more of the things people looked through, and leave behind those items in which no one was interested.
- Judy Christmas handed out a draft of the budget breakdown, and led a short discussion of various items.
- Jim Myers had some suggestions on how to direct people with items to sell to dealers.
- Stanley Christmas said he had acquired more mint postage for next year's mail-out, newsletter and APS books.
- Ray Moyer said he thought the put-up and take-down of the frames went very smoothly.
- Judy Christmas said she faxed the lunch order in this year and that went much more smoothly too.

Announcements:

- Judy Christmas passed around a sign-up sheet for the December 6 Christmas party. She said this year the club would only provide the meat and that club members are asked to bring a dish.
- Peter Elias and Jim Myers mentioned the TSDA Bourse in Richardson on December 8-9.

Door Prizes: Gift Certificates were awarded to Ralph Poore and Tom Turner. Stanley Christmas was the recipient of a stamp club hat donated by Mike Smith.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned around 8:45 PM.

flows down to the Gulf of Mexico. His talk was well received.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

2017 MCSC EXPO Palmares

Compiled by Alliene Franklin

Multi-Frame Grand Award

Jeffrey Erichson - *"Royal Portrait Designs that Paid Hawaiian Postage"*

Also: APS Certificate of Award

Multi-Frame Reserve Grand Award

Joe Crosby - *"The Post Offices Follow the People to Indian Territory"*

Single-Frame Grand Award

John Hotchner - *"The Mid-19th Century Start of Perforating in Great Britain and the United States"*

Also: MCSC President's Award

Gold

Ben Termini - *"Porte De Mar"*

Also: MCSC Best Exhibit of Foreign Material
TPA President's Award

D.A. Lux - *"The 20c Brooklyn Bridge Stamp of 1983 and Its First Days – A 100 Year Celebration"*

Also: USSS President's Award

Steve Washburne - *"Portuguese Boas Fiestas Cards: The Beginning Years"*

Also: CCOC Award

Steve Washburne - *"A Visit to Madeira Through Post Cards"*

Vermeil

John Hotchner - *"U.S. Flag Patriotic Covers of the Spanish-American War"*

Also: ATA Ribbon for Best Single Frame
Topical Exhibit

Peter Elias - *"The Brooklyn Postage Dodgers"*

Also: MSS Award

Peter Elias - *"The 2015 Charlie Brown SSK Postage Label"*

Also: AAPE Silver Award of Honor Pin

SILVER

Dave Hanschen - *"Canal Zone Precancels 1936 to 1976"*

Also: AAPE Silver Award of Honor Pins
PSS Certificate of Commendation

Ray Cartier - *"Flight: Types of Craft that have Flown Covers"*

Also: ATA First Award for Best Topical
Exhibit

Peter Elias - *"Introduction to Spanish Thermal ATM Stamps, Their Varieties & Usages"*

Also: WE Sterling Achievement Award

Peter Elias - *"The Spidey Stamp and Its Promotion"*

Stanley Christmas - *"Christmas Island Indian Ocean Postal Stationery"*

BRONZE

Ray Cartier - *"Water, Water Everywhere"*

Peter Elias - *"Worldwide Revenue Documents"*

Karen Cartier - *"How & Why"*

The Jury Panel consisted of the following APS-accredited judges:

- *James W. Graue, Chief Judge*
- *Kenneth R. Nilsestuen*
- *Jeffrey N. Shapiro, Judge*



Jeffrey Erichson accepting the Grand Award from David Stockbridge

Photos by
Peter Elias



D.A. Lux accepting his award from David Stockbridge

President's Comments

by Ray Cartier

We're down to the last meeting of the year where members from Arlington, Granbury and Bedford are all invited to our annual Christmas Party. It's been a pretty good year with several speakers along with our mixture picks and auctions and we believe that adding short presentations in Arlington for the dates when we have our Mixture Picks and Clean Out Your Closet, will make those meetings a little more educational.

Hopefully some more of you will join in for pre-meeting gatherings at local restaurants prior to our meetings, for a chance to socialize and get to know some of your fellow collectors better.

Our annual Mid-Cities Stamp EXPO went pretty well, but the attendance on Friday didn't come up to expectations. But it was interesting to find some new dealers there and it is hoped that those of you who came to the show were able to go home with some added goodies. Last year we tried out a new restaurant, the GREAT WALL SUPER BUFFET and it went over well, so we hope to see some new faces when we first go there before our February meeting and again in September.

But we'll start out the year at Campo Verde on January 3rd and that is a festive looking place with more lights than I've ever seen at any other restaurant. The model train that runs high along the walls is a nice added touch, and the food is really good.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas. Ray Cartier



Annual Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

The annual Mid-Cities Stamp Club's Christmas Party will be held on December 6th at the *Bob Duncan Community Center*. This year the Club will provide just the meat for this meal. So now everyone will have a chance to bring their favorite side dish and/or dessert. A sign-up sheet has been passed around at the Arlington, Euless and Granbury meetings. Please, please members if you are coming, let me know. We will begin gathering around 6:00 pm with the serving line beginning at 6:30 pm. After everyone has had a chance to eat their dinner, we will begin playing Shanghai Bingo which should be no later than 7:30 pm. We should be done between 9:00 to 9:30 pm.

To play Shanghai Bingo we ask that each member and their guest(s) bring three philatelic type items each. These should be items such as stamps, stamped covers, stamped envelopes or philatelic supplies. Please place your items in either plain envelopes or wrapped packages so other members cannot tell what is in them. Just be sure to bring three items per person. The more gifts on the picking table, the more fun everyone has and the more likely that you will go home with a nice prize. Just keep in mind that your item should be something you would like to receive in return. If you have any questions or won't be at a meeting to sign-up please e-mail me, Judy Christmas, at judy66@swbell.net.

Thank you!

Been There, Done That

The Orient Express

By Bob & Pat Weidman

Back in 1989, Pat and I went to Switzerland courtesy of the company that I was working for at the time. They had a sales contest that I had won. We ended up staying in Interlaken, but did get to travel around to different areas of Switzerland, as well as Germany.

One of the places we visited was Montreux in the French speaking area of Switzerland. Montreux sits on the eastern side of Lake Geneva which separates Switzerland from France. Interlaken is in the area of Switzerland where most of the people speak German.



Getting to Montreux from Interlaken was the highlight of the whole to Switzerland. We rode over to Montreux and back on the "Orient Express", on of, if not, the most famous and luxurious trains in the whole world! My company had rented the train for the day. I was told by the marketing director who arranged the trip that it cost the company one million dollars just for the one day! It was certainly worth it! Everything about the train was top shelf.

Georges Naglemackers, a Belgian engineer, is credited with the idea of a train traversing the European continent. The inaugural journey of the Orient Express was October 4, 1883. It left Paris on its way to Constantinople by way of Strasbourg, Munich, Vienna, Budapest and Bucharest.

The picture is of Pat and myself sitting in one of the cars on the Orient Express on our way to Montreux. The stamp is Great Britain, Scott# 3546, issued on September 15, 2016.



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

*Been There,
Done That*

Porta Nigra

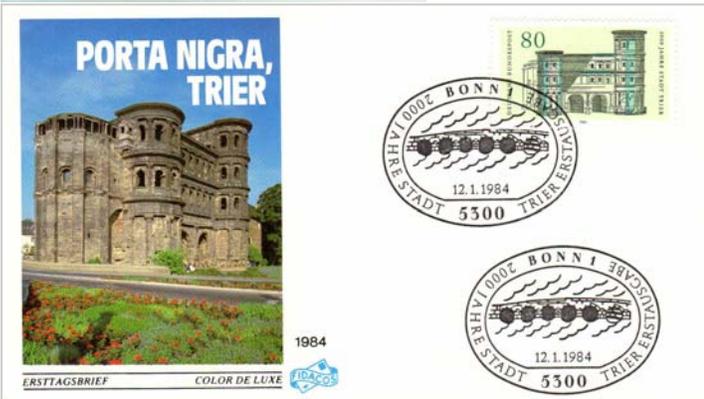
By Peter Elias

The Porta Nigra (Black Gate) is a UNESCO World Heritage site in the German city of Trier (on the Luxembourg border) is about 1,831 years old! Construction was started in 186 AD and originally it functioned as a city gate (one of four). It is now a popular tourist attraction in Trier, which was once the largest Roman city north of the Alps!

I've mentioned Trier before in another "Been There –Done Than" article in the past, in conjunction with some of the other Roman ruins (such as the Roman Baths and the Amphitheatre). Trier has been featured on several German stamps, the two shown here (above and below on the FDC) I just found.

I've visited Trier several times; I just can't seem to resist going back! My first visit was in 1984, just prior to an internship in Germany; then again in 1991 while traveling with a college buddy and again in 1999 while on vacation with my wife.

The picture to the left I took in 1999; it shows the Porta Nigra from almost the same angle as the stamp above and the cachet below.



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 Framas, 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



...The one in Las Vegas, not the one in New York City. The photo above shows the Statue of Liberty which is outside of the New York, New York Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is a half-size replica of New York City's Statue of Liberty. It is 150 feet high from the ground to the top of the torch. The theme of the casino, which opened on January 3, 1997, is "New York City". In addition to the Statue of Liberty, there are also replicas of the Empire State Building, which can be seen in the photo, the Brooklyn Bridge and other New York City landmarks.

The reason for sending along USA Scott #4490, issued on December 1, 2010, is because the picture of the Statue of Liberty on the stamp is NOT of the Statue of Liberty in New York City, but actually a picture of the replica statue in front of the Las Vegas casino!



Dealer's Dollar Box Find

by Ken Aldridge

During the 2017 EXPO I was going through one of the dealer's dollar boxes when I spotted the cover shown. It is a FDC for Scott #1242, depicting Sam



Houston, issued January 10, 1964 in Houston, TX. What caught my eye was the picture of Mr. Zip in the selvage attached to the stamp. I recalled seeing an article several years ago in one of the stamp publications that Mr. Zip made his debut with the Sam Houston issue. This Mr. Zip is referred to as "Mr. Zip on the Move" and eventually the US Postal Service used three other Mr. Zip designs. The Post Office ended the Mr. Zip slogan in 1986. Does anyone know the last stamp issue that showed Mr. Zip? [Editor note: there's a Zip code "jingle" on YouTube at https://youtu.be/ojn6U2kP_pQ

Why do we exhibit? Well, for some people it's about getting "medals" and awards. For others, it's about sharing philatelic knowledge. Or both of these ... Unfortunately at most shows, the exhibit aisles are fairly empty. There are several reasons for that, one of which is that to really appreciate an exhibit, it takes time to really look at what is on each page, and that can take a while (just like it took many, many hours for the exhibitor to prepare this!).

At a show, you have fairly little time to actually "study" an exhibit. The frames are usually such that you get glare and reflection from overhead lights, bending over to read the bottom row is more difficult on your back (and tiring..) as you get older, especially if the font size is small (less than 10 point size).

While a physical showing of the material in exhibit frames is great, the reality for me is that I'd rather view the exhibit at my leisure in a comfortable chair on my computer where I can really study and take in the exhibit. Spending an hour at a frame to study an exhibit just doesn't work for me. Sure, I'll look at the exhibit and I take in bits and pieces, but it's really hard to concentrate on reading an exhibit in full at a frame and truly appreciate what is on display. Even having a chair at an exhibit would be difficult, as then the lower rows are easy to read, but now the upper ones would be a bit far away.

So if you're intent is more than gathering medals and awards, in other words, you want as many people to view your material, then you'll have to "share" it online. While there might be a handful of people at a show that will look at your exhibit, it could be hundreds or even thousands of people all over the world that will never get to see your exhibit if it is only shown at a regional or national stamp exhibition. And even if they do view and like it, they can't refer to it later (if for example they might need it as a reference for doing their own exhibits).

There are several ways to share exhibits online. The biggest website for that (as far as I know of) is "Exponet" located at <http://www.exponet.info/index.php?lng=EN>. There are over 1,000 exhibits containing over 80,000 pages available at this site, for just about every conceivable topic from "traditional" to "topical / thematic" to "forgeries" to "revenues" and others. It's an international site and exhibits come in various languages. Quite a large number of exhibits are in English, but German and Czech are seen often as well.

Several philatelic organizations also host exhibits from various members, such as the AAPE (American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors) at <http://www.aape.org/exhibits.asp>. The APS (American Philatelic Society) has exhibits at <https://stamps.org/Online-Exhibits>. At Stamporama, exhibits are at <https://stamporama.com/exhibits/>. The ATA has exhibits at <http://www.americantopicalassn.org/exhibiting.shtml>. And there are many more sites; the best way to find them is google "online stamp exhibits" and you'll find plenty.

Most online exhibits are PDF files, however, some site may use proprietary viewers.

Beware the Priority Box!

By Peter Elias

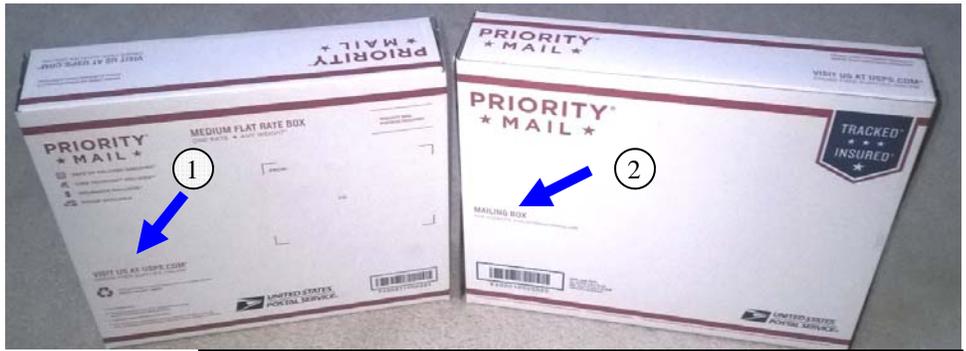
When mailing an item via Priority Mail, the US Postal Service conveniently provides a variety of free Priority Mail Envelopes & Boxes in different sizes.

While the USPS doesn't require using their boxes (which are free) in order to mail something as Priority Mail, the type of box you are using can make a big difference in the price of postage.

In the photo are shown two priority mail boxes, with dimensions that are almost identical (see table); in fact, the cubic feet dimensions vary by only 0.01 cubic feet!

If you mail 5 pounds of items in box 1 above from Plano, TX to Seattle, WA, it will cost \$13.60. If you use box 2, it will cost \$20.65, which is \$7.05 more! If it were 8 pounds, then box 2 will cost you \$16.10 more!

Let's say that you're mailing only 1 pound using box 1 (same destination), then it still costs \$13.60. If you use box 2, it will cost you \$7.75, which is \$ 5.85 less! At a 2 pound shipment weight, box 2 will cost you \$1.90 less than box 1!



Box Type	Cubic Ft	Length	Width	Height
1) Medium Flat-Rate	0.343000	14.125"	12.000"	3.500"
2) Mailing Box	0.353213	15.375"	12.500"	3.125"

The clue here is that box 1 is a "Medium Flat Rate" box, while box 2 is labeled as a "Mailing Box" (see arrows)! So, before mailing something, take stock of how much it weighs, the size, the destination and pick the appropriate box! "Flat Rate" boxes can be a good deal, but not always! Be sure to read what is printed on the box before packing your items, otherwise it could cost you more than you think. All "Priority Mail" branded boxes are free at post offices or from usps.com.

✂ _____ ✂

2018 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal # _____

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

__ Check here if address, contact and collecting interest information below is unchanged from 2017

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

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable):

__ APS # _____ __ ATA # _____ __ TPA # _____ Other: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

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

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

MEET & EAT for December 2017 & January 2018

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

“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. The Chinese restaurant is a buffet style. Meals should be over around 6:15 PM to 6:30PM with the new meeting start time now being at 7:00PM rather than 7:30PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club’s broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

December 6 **Club Christmas Party**
Be sure to bring 3 gifts for Shanghai Bingo!

January 3, 2018 **Campo Verde**, 2918 W. Pioneer Parkway

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 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! 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:
Club Christmas Party - Dec. 6
TSDA Stamp Bourse - Dec. 8 & 9
→ Dues are due (see page 11) ←