

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)



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CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



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March 2019

Philatelic Resources Online

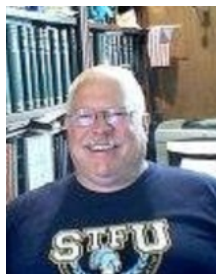
by Rick Howell

My wife will testify that I spend a lot of time online. I am an information junkie and I love to collect information about stamp collecting. It is amazing what you can find when you become proficient with Google or whatever search engine you use to guide you through cyberspace. Here's an example. I went into Google and typed "philatelic books free download". The first result of this search was an APS reference promoting expert authentication of stamps, not exactly what I was looking for.

Next, a site called "stormthecastle.com" showed up. This site provides several free books for your downloading pleasure, and there is no charge to glean the copies for your own use. Most are downloadable as PDF (Portable Document Format) files, with which most of you should be familiar by now.

The third site on the Google results listing was "davidsaks.com". This site contains more philatelic literature than I have found anywhere in my searches. The website is beautifully designed with many pertinent references and illustrations to make your visit extremely enjoyable. Also included are links which show up on the right hand side of the screen which provide even more information and tidbits about David Saks.

I noticed there was a button at the lower right hand corner which said "David's Online Click to Chat". I couldn't resist the urge and clicked on the link. David actually came online and we had a nice chat about his website and he told me he was the APS ambassador for the Memphis Stamp Collectors Society. His website is indicative of a man who loves the hobby and is very passionate about philately. Also on the site are some videos he has recorded to provide assistance to people who might be looking for information. I highly recommend you take a look at davidsaks.com.



National Umbrella Month

By Peter Elias



According to nationaldaycalendar.com, March is "National Umbrella Month", although they can't find who originated it, and February 10 is "National Umbrella Day".

While it was the Chinese that invented umbrellas 4,000 years ago and waterproofed them, "rain" umbrellas as we know them today were invented in the 1900's. "Umbros" is the Latin origin of "Umbrella" and means "shade". Shangyu (China) is the umbrella capital of the world with 1,000 umbrella factories! Shown is USA #2443 from 1990, which shows a "beach umbrella".

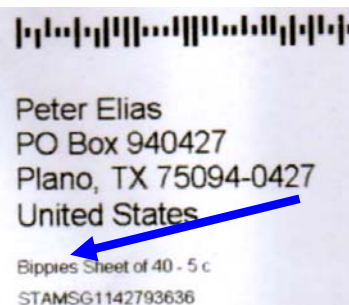
5¢ Bippies

By Peter Elias

5¢ "Bippies" are now available from photostamps.com (part of SDC - Stamps.com). I'm sure that your first question is: "what is a bippy"? Well, in SDC-speak, it is a small make-up rate stamp that they make available when US postage rates change. In the past 10 years or so, most US 1st class postage rate changes were only either 1¢ or 2¢ increases, but this year, the first class rate jumped by 5¢, from 50¢ to 55¢.

The "bippies" (and yes, that is what they call them at SDC - see the close-up of the mailing label below) are printed on 8.5" x 11" self-adhesive sheets; each stamp is straight-line die-cut with slightly rounded corners. The stamps have very wide gutters between them, easily allowing space for another stamp, so instead of the 40 bippies per sheet, they could easily have fit 80 of them.

So why the name "bippies"? Who knows. It was originally a "non-sense" word, used in the phrase "you bet your sweet bippy", most likely referring to a body part, and was popularized by the Rowan & Martin "Laugh-In" TV show.



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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2019 - 2020 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Richard Hildebrandt
First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
Second Vice-President – Gene Pfretzschner
Secretary – Skip Ely
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Alliene Franklin Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ray Cartier

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 only \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158

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

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Two shows on 1 day! Yup, on March 15 - 16, the TSDA is having its' quarterly stamp show / bourse in Richardson and on the SAME days, while the Dallas Metro Postcard Show has it's Spring Postcard show just a couple of miles (6!) north in Plano, both are just off US75 (Central Expressway). So if you're headed to the Richardson / East Plano area anyway, why not go to both (granted, the Postcard show does have a \$3 admission), but the non-picture side of postcards is often very philatelic in nature!

Errata

In the February 2019 issue, David Linn's ad (see page 10) had his email address listed incorrectly as dkgonefishing@aol.com, it has been corrected to dkgonefishing@yahoo.com

Members in the News

The following MCSC members had philatelic literature (articles) submitted to the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition 2019 (held on February 1-3):

Ray Cartier's articles:

- "The Real Story Behind the Sputnik I Covers" (as published in the *American Philatelist*) - LARGE SILVER
- "Costumes of Papua New Guinea" (as published in *Topical Time*) - SILVER-BRONZE

Peter Elias' articles:

- "Seeking Another Philatelic Quest? Prepare to Joust with the World of Spanish Thermal ATM Stamps" (as published in the *American Philatelist*) - GOLD
- "2018 Changes at the SSK Machines & New Flag Stamps" (as published in the *Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin*) - VERMEIL

Coming Attractions

2019

FEB. 26	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	Member Round Table showing and telling about 1 collection or interest (5 minutes each member)
MAR. 2	MCSC EXPO 2019 Planning Meeting
David's BBQ, W. Park Row, 11 AM	
MAR. 6	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	First Day Errors by Stan Christmas
MAR. 15-16	Dallas Spring Postcard & Paper Show
Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Expwy, Plano. Admission fee	
MAR. 15-16	TSDA Stamp Show
411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4. Free!	
MAR. 20	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAR. 26	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	Skip Ely - Music in the Mail & How I got Started in Stamp Collecting
APR. 3	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Stamp Varieties by Ken Aldridge
APR. 17	MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



New Members

James C. Williams (#615)

Re-instatements

Rob & Debbie Hathaway (473 & #472)

Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues

Don Ardoyno (#350), Ralph Blackburn (#573), Linda Bush (#602)
Nancy Carefoot (#605), Mike Cima (#598), Robert Clarke (#392)
Wayne Dewald (#599), Norma Dewald (#600),
Roy Douglass (#585), Clare Farlow (#479), Katherine Foster (#551)
Rocquel Hogan (#603), Cynthia James (#592),
Mary (Jo) James (#502), Denny Ludlow (#485)
Austin Mullins (#496), Vincent Osborne (#604)
Cyndie Spurlock (#493), Robert Tallon (#157)
Lloyd Willis (#576), Edith Willis (#577)

Membership Summary – February 20, 2019

Membership as of January 2, 2019	102
New Members	1
Reinstatements	2
Dropped for non-payment of dues	- 21
Resignations	0
Deceased	0
Membership as of February 20, 2019	84

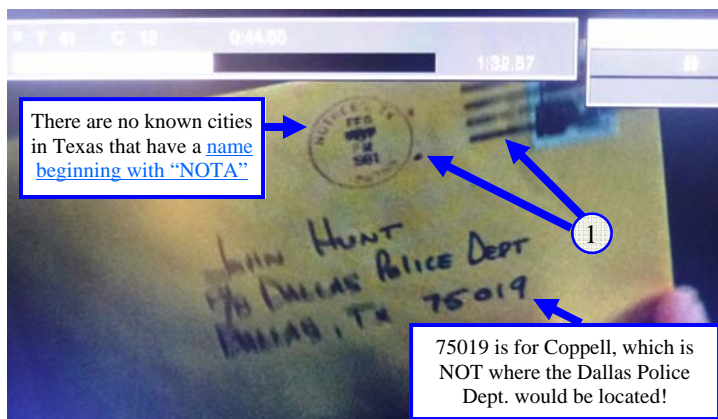
TV Philately: The Old Man & The Gun

By Peter Elias

I always try to keep an eye out for stamps & covers when they are shown on movies & TV shows, even if they flash up on the screen only very briefly. In a movie theatre you can't pause the movie, but at home, we can! Use your remote control to pause and slowly advance the images until you can see details and use a digital camera to take a photo of the screen to see if they got it right!

In late January (as I am writing this), I had just rented the 2018 movie "The Old Man & The Gun", starring Robert Redford in what is supposed to be his last movie. The movie is the "based on a true story" about Forrest Tucker, a bank robber that got away with many robberies and even had 18 successful escapes from prisons (& 12 unsuccessful ones). The movie takes place mostly around DFW and other Texas locations.

In the "philatelic scene" in question, Dallas detective John Hunt is at his desk going through some inbound mail; shown is an envelope that he picks up and looks at briefly.



At first glance, it looks ok, but it isn't. The stamp isn't really discernible (due to the pause button being in the way), and the cancel is not correct. This is not what a 4-bar killer cancel looks like (1): the 4 bars are normally immediately to the right of the circle. And it looks as if they were at one point, but someone cropped the bars off (remnants are still visible) and put the 4 bars much further to the right (plus the length of the bars is too long). The year date of 1981 is correct, as the movie takes place during that year, however, the day is marked out, and the city name isn't quite readable (NOTACE?, TX).

AND: before John Hunt grabbed the envelope shown above, it was seen upside down 6 seconds earlier in a pile of envelopes on his desk (see photo to the right). What I noticed immediately was the white envelope to the right. It shows a spray-on machine cancel with a date of what appears to be 2008 (2) and a flag stamp (3) that appears to be Scott #4229 (or #4233, #4237, #4241 or #4245 - all with the same design, just different perforations) and which was issued in 2008.

So, why was mail from 27 years in the future shown? Additionally, spray-on cancels weren't even used until 2006! And not only that, but why is

MCSC BOARD MEETING MINUTES Saturday, January 26, 2019

By Skip Ely

A brief MCSC Board Meeting was held at Dave's BBQ in Pantego on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 12:30 PM. Attending were President-Elect Rich Hildebrandt, outgoing President Ray Cartier, Treasurer Judy Christmas, Second Vice President Gene Pfretzschner, Secretary Skip Ely, and Board Members Peter Elias and Alliene Franklin. Also in attendance were club members Ken Aldridge and Stanley Christmas.

Skip Ely began the meeting by giving an update on membership renewals. Judy Christmas distributed the latest budget figures. Peter Elias talked about the newsletter printing costs and appropriate adjustments were made in the budget figures.

Skip Ely said he would prefer to email the meeting announcements on the weekends prior to meetings. No one objected. He also said he would like to update the printed copy of the newsletter. Again, no one objected.

A discussion ensued about the frequency of purchasing Scott catalogs. As past librarian, Rich said they have not been used that much in the past year or so. Finally, a motion was made and approved to purchase a new Scott Classic Specialized catalog this year and every four years thereafter. It was also decided to purchase a new U.S. Specialized catalog this year, and every other year thereafter. The six-volume worldwide Scott catalogs will be purchased next year and every other year thereafter (or until a different schedule is decided).

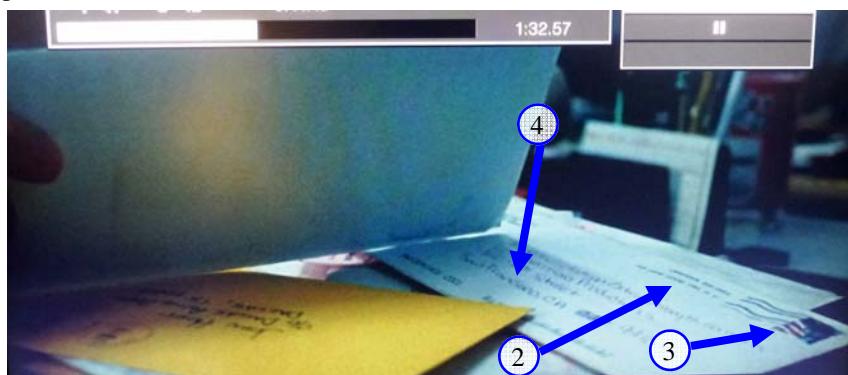
Skip Ely distributed a sales report and said he had resumed receiving APS circuits at the request of some members, but only February through September. He talked about trying to offer some of the common excess stamps in club inventory to members at heavily discounted prices in attempt to offset the APS mailing costs, and to let members benefit from some nice pieces to expand or improve their collections.

Rich said that the Constitution & By-Laws of the club say that we should audit the treasury periodically and that he would try to recruit a small team to accomplish that goal.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

an envelope with a San Francisco address (and some company name) (4) shown as inbound mail for a Dallas, Texas police station?

So, while filmmakers generally do try to strive for authenticity and realism, they often fail miserably when stamps & covers are involved!



Think About the EXPO Theme

By Peter Elias

Lately it seems to be getting more difficult to come up with a "theme" for our EXPO. In the past we had always chosen a current issue USA stamp and our theme & cachet around that. But generally we didn't get many exhibits (meaning 1-frame or multi-frame) that related to that theme. Why? Well, for one thing it's difficult for most people to create a brand new 1-frame or multi-frame exhibit from scratch on a new topic in such a short amount of time (less than 9 months).

So why not try something else: pick a topic / theme, but limit it to just our 1-page and 4-page mini-exhibits and come up with a special award for that (outside of what "regular" mini-exhibits can earn). It should be much easier to come up with 1 or 4 pages on fairly short notice than a full-fledged topical or thematic exhibit. And this should also hopefully get a few more members involved in exhibiting!

What topic or theme should we choose? Well, to toss a suggestion into the hat: how about something similar to what the Houston show does (which is generally a color); perhaps a letter of the alphabet or a number (those alone should give us 36 years of show themes!), or perhaps a "Been There - Done That" type of subject.

The mini-exhibits would be judged on how well they relate to that number or letter (or other "theme"). Perhaps do separate judging for 1-page versus 4-page.

This would also allow some members to start exhibiting: a 1 or 4-page exhibit should be easily doable (and to a degree is just a slightly expanded "show & tell" item), versus the arduous task of compiling 16, 32, 48, etc pages with lots and lots of research in a very short period of time.

The regular mini-exhibits (i.e.: those that are NOT based on the show theme) would be judged separately.

What do YOU think? Gather your thoughts on this subject and bring it up at the next EXPO meeting on March 2.

From The President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

A brief message on the state of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. We are in a wonderful position financially. EXPO has been profitable for us for many years and has allowed us to underwrite the cost of new Scott catalogs every year, as well as provide the main food for the October picnic and the December Christmas party. It also allows us to give out the gift certificates at the three different monthly club meetings and not charge commission on auction sales or club book sales.

We were aided greatly several years ago when the Bob & Jean Werry estate donated their mint USA stamps to the club. This has covered the postage for the EXPO mailings, the newsletter mailings and we also have been selling some of this mint postage at well below face value to club members.

I want to give a large thanks to Judy Christmas for her many years of service to the club in numerous roles as secretary, EXPO hostess and now treasurer. She has kept up with the club finances, which is a formidable task. Providing all of the

*Been There,
Done That*

The La Bourdonnais Statue

By Pat & Bob Weidman

Bertrand-Francois Mahe de La Bourdonnais was a French naval officer who was born on February 11, 1699 and died on November 10, 1753. He was also an administrator in the service of the French East India Company.



The picture is of a statue of him in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius; it was taken back in 1998 while Pat and I were vacationing in Mauritius.

After two years working in the service of the Portuguese Viceroy, he returned to French service. That was in 1935 when he was appointed governor of the Isle de France (now Mauritius) and the Ile de Bourbon (now Reunion), both of which were colonies of France at the time. Mauritius is now an independent nation. Reunion became an integral part of the French Republic under a law effective January 1, 1975.

The stamp with the statue of de la Bourdonnais (spelled LABOURDONNAIS on the stamp) on it is from a set of fifteen definitives issued from 1953 to 1954; it is Scott #257.



gift certificates for door prizes is not easy. Dealing with all of the money coming in from membership dues, EXPO dealers, EXPO dinner tickets, newsletter costs, etc, is time consuming and very important that it all get recorded correctly. Again, a big thank you to Judy!

We have seen a slight drop in membership numbers. This seems to be a common thread amongst many different hobby groups. I have noticed this in my train collecting and operating world as well as in the stamp collecting hobby. It is primarily the older population that participates. That said, we have a very active group of members and I encourage all of us to continue to pursue our philatelic passions.

I encourage all of you, when the opportunity arises, to spread the word about our club and our great hobby.

A post script: Lots for the May Arlington auction are due in by the April meeting.

Raffles Hotel

By Pat & Bob Weidman

In September of 2007, Pat and I made an overnight stop in Singapore on our way to a vacation in the Maldives. In the morning we took the subway to the Raffles Hotel. "Raffles Singapore" is the flagship property of Raffles Hotels & Resorts and is a subsidiary of Fairmont Raffles Hotels International. It first opened in 1887 by the Armenian Hoteliers, the Sarkies Brothers.

The Long Bar on the second floor of the hotel serves the most famous cocktail in town, the "Singapore Sling", which was first concocted there many years ago. It is a must-do for anyone visiting the city. While there, Pat had a Singapore Sling, which me back \$20. My drink, a club soda, was more reasonable at \$6. The picture of us was taken by some Australian tourists.



On July 4, 1990, Singapore issued a set of tourism stamps, and Scott #57 features an unnamed hotel which looks very much like the Raffles Hotel. In the picture of the hotel below, Pat is standing in front of the blue taxi, waving to us.



MCSC EXPO MEETING MINUTES

By Skip Ely

Members of the MCSC EXPO Committee Chairs met at Dave's BBQ in Pantego at 11:00 A.M. on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Attending were EXPO Chairperson Ralph Poore, Bourse Chairperson Tom Cunningham, Anne Moxley (new Exhibits Chair), Ray Cartier (Exhibits & new Awards Chair), Rich Hildebrandt, Gene Pfretzschner, Ken Aldridge, Peter Elias, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Alliene Franklin, and Skip Ely.

Ralph Poore began the meeting by saying we needed new people for the positions of Deputy Chair (behind Stanley Christmas), Awards (behind Alliene Franklin) and Security (behind Mike Smith). Ken Aldridge volunteered to coordinate security and Skip Ely said he would help recruit people to assist.

Ralph then did a brief review of the various Expo Committees. Tom Cunningham said we would have a full commitment of dealers, although the specific list wasn't final yet. He also mentioned that it was important for the frames to be delivered as soon as possible after we get access to the building (4:30 or so), to facilitate dealer setup. Ray said he will work with Rich regarding the repair of some frames. Stanley said he would see about repairing or replacing our damaged signs.

The final action item was to decide on a theme. This was given as homework, with each person to submit ideas before the next meeting where a decision will be made. The next meeting will be Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Dave's BBQ again.

Newsletter Articles

By Peter Elias

I track an index of the "philatelic articles" that have been published in this newsletter over the years; and by that I mean articles that don't pertain to club meeting minutes or announcements for the club picnic or Christmas parties. At last count, there have been 1,276 "philatelic" articles since 1973 (and I have yet to add a few more that have come to light in some of the previous "missing" newsletters).

The articles can range from just a couple of paragraphs, such as this mini-article, to full-page (or longer) ones.

So who wrote most of these articles? According to my spreadsheet the most frequent contributors are:

Ken Aldridge - 57	John Barrett - 27	Ray Cartier - 113
Peter Elias - 657	Harold Patterson - 20	Ben Termini - 58
Art von Reyn - 55	The Weidman's - 72	Ken Wills - 21

While articles have been about a variety of subjects, the ones with the most articles are:

Been There—Done That - 195	Comic Strips - 35
Fun With Philately - 55	Member Biographies - 57
More Than You Knew Before - 32	

I'm trying to work on more of the "National Something Day" articles, that is a fun topic all by itself and if ones searches hard enough for the stamps that relate to the "national days" (or months or years), there should be at least 100 articles that can be written!

Ready, set, write!

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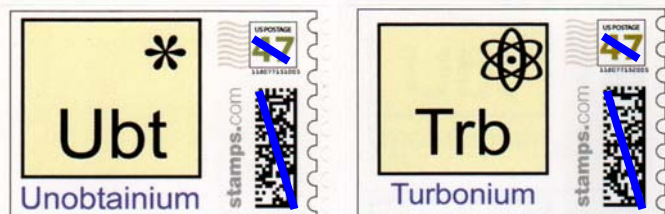
Exp. 12/19



International Year of The Periodic Table

By Peter Elias

In 2017, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization) declared 2019 to be the “[International Year of the Period Table of Chemical Elements](#)”. I did my own celebrating in 2016 by creating some custom postage stamps for 2 non-existent elements as a lark:



“Unobtainium” is a rare element (otherwise known as “unobtainable car parts” by owners of older cars for which they can no longer get obsolete parts) and “Turbonium” was inspired by a Volkswagen t-shirt (for those automobile aficionados that love turbocharged engines). I made both stamps mimic the look of elements listed in the real table of elements. Just my way of having some “Philatelic Phun” !



Be sure to visit the Club website on the **Internet**:

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

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Exp. 12/19

Arlington Meeting Minutes February 6, 2019

By Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at approx. 7:00 PM.

Attendance:

- There were 25 members and 1 visitor. The latter submitted a membership application before the end of the meeting. Two previous members submitted their dues for reinstatement.

Swearing in of new Club Officers:

- The first order of business was the swearing in of new officers, postponed from the cancelled January meeting. Ray Cartier did the honors. New officers were President Rich Hildebrandt, Second Vice President Eugene Pfretzschner, Secretary Skip Ely, Treasurer Judy Christmas, and Board Members Alliene Franklin and Peter Elias.

Officer Reports:

- President Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting by thanking Ray Cartier and other past officers for their service. He then gave a brief summary of decisions at the recent Board meeting, including a new schedule of purchasing Scott catalogs. He mentioned that Janet Moyer would be the new Librarian. Ray also noted that our Constitution and by-laws called for occasional audit of the treasury and asked for volunteers to conduct such an audit. Ken Aldridge and Tom Turner agreed to participate.
- Treasury - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount. She said formal Gift Certificates would be available by the Euless meeting, but in the meantime, we would have to do with IOUs.
- Secretary - Skip Ely gave a report on the membership (see the latest numbers elsewhere in the newsletter). He said he intended to update the member handbook and hoped to have it completed by the April Arlington meeting. He also mentioned the meeting announcements would likely be sent the weekend prior to the meeting.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO - Ralph Poore gave a quick summary of the EXPO committee meeting on January 26 (elsewhere in the newsletter).
- Sales - Skip Ely said he had resumed receipt of APS circuit books and that they would be available February through September this year.
- Arlington Auction - Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that the scheduled Arlington meeting in May is the auction, and that he would accept auction lots at the next two meetings.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas asked for help in identifying markings in the selvage of a corner block of a 4½¢ Prexie stamp.
- Ken Aldridge showed some stamps with color variations.
- Peter Elias had a variety of items to pass around.
- Rob Hathaway noted he was interested in special cancellations.

Program:

- Ray Cartier talked about True Astrophilatelic Stories (Part 2).

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:25 PM.

Euless Meeting Minutes February 20, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 9 members present.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had 1 new member and 2 reinstatements at Arlington two weeks ago. He said we were dropping 21 members, however, that gives us 84 paid members for 2019. He thought that some dropped members would eventually rejoin. He also said he had almost completed the update of the member handbook.
- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the approximate treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

- Expo - Ralph Poore reminded us of the Expo meeting next Saturday, March 2, at David's BBQ in Pantego.
- Sales - Skip Ely said we had good APS book sales at Arlington.

Announcements:

- Stanley Christmas said there would be an auction of some of Brian Smith's collection at Granbury at the end of April.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills discussed how he collected modern used Great Britain issues, but how difficult it was due to the copious number of stamps issued each year.
- A lengthy discussion followed about collecting modern world and U.S. issues.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were won by Evan Islam and Rick Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:15 PM.

Thank You

By Ray Cartier

Serving the Mid-Cities Stamp Club again as President these past two years has been a privilege for me and I appreciate all the help which I received from the volunteers who worked with me as officers of our club.

We worked professionally together and had another couple of great shows and many successful meetings thanks to their efforts.

While at it, I want to thank the new officers for the upcoming two years for stepping up and taking on the responsibilities of our club. There was no arm-twisting involved. These members simply said "Yes" when asked. That's a real positive sign for the future of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club over the next two years.

Your new President, Richard Hildebrandt, even volunteered to help me pick up the four boxes (16 frames) which the officers enabled me to purchase from the TEXPEX committee and helped me get them into our Grapevine warehouse. We now have some frames should any of ours deteriorate to the point that we can't use them and will probably be able to use a few right away with some of our 1-page and 4-page exhibits, or as information in the entryway. We were given a very reasonable price for these and their purchase will enable us to continue having exhibits at our shows for years to come.

The Römer

By Peter Elias



Stamp scans courtesy of Otto Bergman

In September 1999, Annie & I took a brief trip to Europe with the flight arriving early in the morning in Frankfurt/Main (FRA) via London. Prior to heading off to Trier, we briefly visited Frankfurt's

"Altstadt" (i.e.: "Old Town"), where we took a selfie on a bench in the square (photo #1). This area all looks very historical in nature (photo #2). Which it is, BUT, in 1945 (photo #3), most of these buildings were simply shells after the Allied bombings pretty much destroyed Frankfurt. It all looked a bit better in 1947 (photo #4) as Frankfurt was being rebuilt.

So what exactly is the "Römer"? It is the middle building (with the 3 large doors) and is Frankfurt's most famous building and has been its Rathaus ("City Hall") for 600 years. The Römer merchant family sold it (along with a second building) to the city in 1405. You can read more about it on Wikipedia at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Römer>.

The stamps at top (Scott# 634 & 639) show the Römer and are part of a definitive series from 1948-1951.



The Römer in 1947

Picture courtesy of:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frankfurt_am_Main_-_R%C3%B6mer_1947.jpg



Picture from forum.woodenboat.com

MCSC - New Officers for 2019-2020



Outgoing President Ray Cartier (left) swore in the new officers (those that made it to the February 6 meeting):

Gene Pfretzschner
(2nd VP)

Skip Ely
(Secretary)

Rich Hildebrandt
(President)

Alliene Franklin
(Director)

Judy Christmas
(Treasurer)

Ralph Poore
(Director)

Peter Elias
(Director)

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

Recalled Legends of the West (Scott 2870), pane of twenty inside original mailing envelope, Scott 2017 value \$125 with note that panes in original envelope (blue bordered) "sell for somewhat more." I will sell for \$80 plus any mailing costs. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com 12/18

US#1 (U) for \$300 (CV \$375) & US C13-15 (U) for \$1,000 (CV\$1140). KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18

Wanted to Trade

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

Wanted

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

For Sale

I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy hunting! 3/19

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

Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album. Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, asking \$945 OBO. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 1/19

AFDCS 2018 Christmas Party

By Peter Elias



I got this picture a bit late for the previous newsletter, but here's the group shot of everyone that attended the 2018 Christmas Party of the AFDCS Fred Sawyer chapter at the Wineburgh Philatelic Library. You probably recognize a few of the faces!



MEET & EAT for March & April 2019

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & 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, latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 PM to 6:30 PM with the Arlington new meeting start time now being at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

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

ARLINGTON

Mar. 6 Jay Jay Café, 1001 S. Bowen, Arlington

Apr. 3 Angelo's Pizza & Pasta, 2590 W. Pioneer, Pantego

EULESS

Mar. 20 On the Border, 2500 Airport Fwy, Bedford

Apr. 17 Cheddars, 1937 Airport Fwy, Bedford

GRANBURY

Mar. 26 Willy & Dick's Grill, 424 Fall Creek Hwy

Apr. 23 Acton Best Burger Barn, 5675 N Gate Rd

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

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

—> Invitation to GULFPEX 2019 <—

MCSC member John Barrett would like to invite all to visit "Gulfpex 2019" at the St. Martin Community Center in Biloxi, MS on March 15 & 16. He is looking for 1 & 4 page mini-exhibits (no fee!); if interested, please contact him before end of February at jstrubelboy@aol.com

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

Don't Forget:
EXPO Planning Mtg - Mar. 2
Dallas Postcard Show - Mar. 15 - 16
TSDA Stamp Show - Mar. 15 - 16