

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



#891-076252

#90

#53-3364

Volume 32, Number 7

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

July 2019

Smithsonian National Postal Museum Wrapping Up Special Exhibit

By Rick Howell

On July 14 of this year, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum will be closing their current special exhibit called "Beautiful Blooms: Flowering Plants on Stamps". The exhibit features original artwork borrowed from the Postmaster General's Collection which has been on loan to the Smithsonian. The exhibit also features living displays and outdoor gardens provided by the Smithsonian Gardens in collaboration with the Postal Museum.



The exhibit is split into seven topical features including: Pollination; Beautification of America; Botanical Congress; Birds in the Garden; The Rose; Queen of Flowers; The Seasonal Garden; and Flowering Trees. Any true nature lover will certainly enjoy this display.

Original artwork from the Postmaster General's Collection is on display. This artwork was used as an inspiration for many of our stamps. For example, in the picture above titled "Purple Nightshade" you might recognize the hummingbird, the bat, the bumblebee, and the butterfly, used on four stamps from the 2007 "Pollination" series, Scott numbers 4153-4156 (shown below).

The exhibit features many recent issues of stamps which any avid US collector will instantly recognize and will be amazed to see the wonderful collection of original artwork. I know I would certainly enjoy seeing this exhibit. But, unfortunately, a trip to Washington, D.C. is not on my agenda between now and July 14, so I will just have to settle for the online exhibit located on my computer at:

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/beautifulblooms/index.html>

Much thanks to the Smithsonian Institute's National Postal Museum for providing the images used in this article and for providing a wonderful exhibit in their promotion of our hobby. Many recent issues of stamps which any avid US collector will instantly recognize and will be amazed to see the wonderful collection of original artwork. I know I would certainly enjoy seeing this exhibit. But, unfortunately, a trip to Washington, D.C. is not on my agenda between now and July 14, so I will just have to settle for the online exhibit located on my computer at:

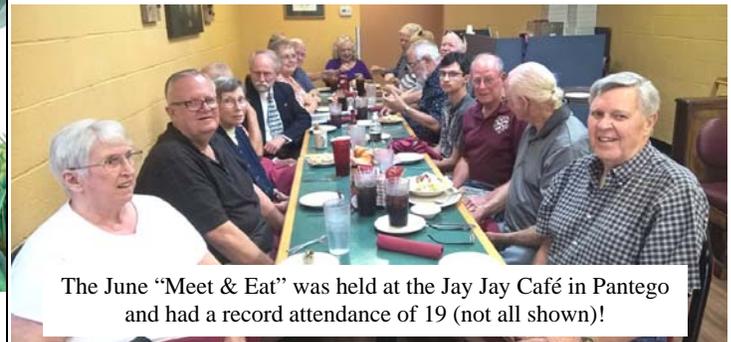
<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/beautifulblooms/index.html>

Much thanks to the Smithsonian Institute's National Postal Museum for



providing the images used in this article and for providing a wonderful exhibit in their promotion of our hobby.

June Meet & Eat Record Attendance



The June "Meet & Eat" was held at the Jay Jay Café in Pantego and had a record attendance of 19 (not all shown)!

Article Index

Page

Smithsonian National Postal Museum Exhibit	1
Editors Forum & Members In The News	2
Feeling Guilty	2
Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
TV Philately - Autobiography (Cars in Lakes)	3
Royal Mail Investigating Forgeries	3
Yugo Blown Off The Mackinac Bridge	3
Comics - Pluggers (Stamps Cost More Than Card)	4
Member & Dealer Ads	4, 9, 10
Been There - Done That (Veterans Administration)	5
Been There - Done That (Graubünden)	5
Club Meeting Minutes	6, 8
eBay Lot 99¢ with Shipping	7
From the President's Desk	7
Been There - Done That (Fort St. Catherine)	7
Been There - Done That (Big Mac Bridge)	8
Comics - Funky Winkerbean (AARP Convention)	9
Meet & Eat Info	10

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this [newsletter](#) may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club or its officers.

2019 - 2020 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Richard Hildebrandt
First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
Second Vice-President – Gene Pfrezschner
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>

Coming Attractions

2019

JUN. 25 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Gary McNamee: Program TBD

JUL. 3 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: “50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing by
Ray Cartier

JUL. 17 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

JUL. 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Paul Witthoef – Stamp Collecting Merit
Badge

AUG. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: “Texas Confederate Stamps” by Rick Howell

AUG. 21 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

AUG. 23-24 TSDA Stamp Show

411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4. Free!

AUG. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Alliene Franklin: Program TBD

AUG. 31 MCSC EXPO Meeting

Editor’s Forum

By Peter Elias

Some notes about submitting scans of philatelic materials with articles for this newsletter.

1. Use 300 dpi (dots per inch) resolution for optimum print quality (75 to 150 dpi is just too pixilated) and 600 dpi makes the file size too large. JPG files are preferred.
2. Try to get the image as “straight” as possible; stamps or covers at an angle don’t look that professional.
3. Don’t use a digital camera to take a photo of the item, invariably it will be “warped” and edges won’t be that straight due to it generally being a close-up.
4. Don’t crop too tightly around the outside edges of the stamp or cover. If I do have to straighten the image (see above), then I need the extra margin around the stamp. It’s ok, to leave a wide margin, I’ll crop it to suit the space requirements.
5. When submitting a scan, DON’T put it inside of a Word document or the body of the email. Attach it as a file, it’s easier for me to save an attachment than copy it out of the body of the email or Word file, and the quality is higher!

RIP: George Jerome Kubal

George Kubal (owner of Castle Stamps in Hewitt, TX) passed away on May 10, 2019 at the age of 89 in Robinson, TX (both aforementioned cities are suburbs of Waco, TX). George had a dealer booth at 28 consecutive club EXPO’s!

Feeling Guilty

By Ken Wills

Yes, you should be if you haven’t given some thought to the needs of the Silent Auction at this year’s EXPO. Each year we have room for 132 auction lots. Our club is to a large extent funded by the proceeds, since every lot is a free donation by a member or friend of the club.

The only guidelines are that each lot should be of philatelic interest (not necessarily stamps) and likely to appeal to one of the many EXPO visitors. As a member yourself, you must have something lurking in a closet that you don’t really need to keep forever! Tom Turner, Skip Ely or I will be delighted to take it off your hands and keep it until November.

Secretary’s Report

By Skip Ely



New Members

Michael Aaron Pritchard (#616)

Roy Davis (#617)

Deceased

Martha Gollaher

Membership Summary – June 5, 2019

Membership as of May 1, 2019	88
New Members	2
Dropped for non-payment of dues	0
Resignations	0
Deceased	0
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of June 5, 2019	90

TV Philately: Autobiography (Cars in Lakes)

By Peter Elias

In an interesting new (2019) TV series on the Motor Trend TV channel called “Auto Biography”, the presenters show the life history of various automobiles, generally if they are mysteries. In the episode that I watched, about 2 cars found in lakes in Oklahoma that have been missing for 40 years, a 1969 Chevy Camaro and a 1952 Chevy Skyline (these were separate incidences), there was a brief philatelic element.



At one point, the relative of one of the people that went missing in the 1952 Chevy Skyline, wrote to the FBI. The photo of the TV screen at that point shows an envelope that this person sent in October 1969.

The image shows the envelope a bit on the bright side, since the rest of the image was dark, so the camera compensated and made the envelope a bit too bright.



A close-up photo of the envelope from the screen shows what you see above (a bit fuzzy, since it's an enlargement of a very small portion of the TV screen). But what I can see is that the postmark does appear to read 1969, so that part is correct. The stamp shown appears to be Scott #1153, issued in 1960. On October 9, 1969, when the letter was mailed, postage was 6¢, not 4¢. If the envelope shown is supposed to be the actual one that was mailed to the FBI, then the writer underpaid postage; if just a “representation”, then the show producers got it wrong once again!



Royal Mail Investigating Forgery

by Rick Howell

There seems to be a lot of traffic on the internet this month concerning a counterfeit stamp (or stamps) which has turned up in the British Royal Mail.



The left stamp (forgery) above features a cameo of MP (Member of Parliament) Diane Abbott as a replacement for the famous Machin stamp portrait of the Queen, which is shown on the right stamp.



Sources reveal that the stamp has been in circulation for some time, and the photo above even supports the fact that it has been circulated through the Royal Mail.

A spokesperson for the Royal Mail commented “This matter is being investigated by our security team.”

Diane Abbott is the first black Member of Parliament and is well known for being a liberal voice for the Labour Party. She was infamously photographed recently drinking a mojito on the Transport of London train, a public transportation system which bans the consumption of alcohol by passengers, and had she been noticed by an inspector, could have been subjected to a fine or even arrest.

If any of our members happen to receive one of these stamps, please forward it to me. Thanks.

Yugo Blown Off The Mackinac Bridge

By Peter Elias

On a tidbit mostly unrelated to my article on page 8, I read that in 1989, a waitress was speeding on the bridge, when a 48-mph gust of wind caused her to lose control and her “Yugo” car plunged off the bridge. See this [link](#) for more details.

Stamp image of Yugoslavia Scott #1772 featuring a “Yugo” car is from <https://www.stampworld.com/en/>



stampsuniversal.com

Visit us at area Stamp Shows



- * TSDA
- * TEXPEX
- * HOUPEX
- * EXPO

US/WW Classics, Modern, SONS

Visit our new online store

@ <http://www.stampsuniversal.com>

James D. Myers
 P. O. Box 2047
 Coppell, TX 75019
 (972) 304-1671



Exp. 12/19

Comics - Pluggers (Stamps Cost More Than The Card)

By Peter Elias

So, does this possibly explain why people are sending less traditional cards by traditional mail? Sure, the “dollar” stores do sell cards for a dollar or less, in which case the current 55¢ postage rate is higher.

PLUGGERS By Gary Brookins



A pluggler buys her greeting cards at the Dollar Store (two for \$1), then realizes she's paying more for the postage stamp than for the card.

But then again, if you buy cards at a non-discount store, the price of many cards are incredibly high, often \$4 to \$7 ! This doesn't necessarily prevent me from “mailing” a card; it is still much more meaning full to get a real card in the mail than just a text or email.



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>



OKLAHOMA STAMPS
 Specializing in United States Stamps
 Member APS, ASDA, NSDA

Kirk McKenzie
kirkmckenzie@cox.net

1001 North Fulton
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115
 918-836-1681

Exp. 12/19

cunninghamstamps@aol.com

(214) 546-1179

Cunningham Philatelics
 Philatelic Consultants

Elusive Items
Stamps and Covers

Collections
Appraisals

THOMAS L. CUNNINGHAM
 APS # 082424, TSDA

P.O. Box 863237
 Plano, TX 75086-3237

Exp. 12/19

GEORGE WATKINS STAMPS

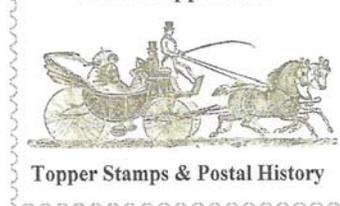
Philatelic Dealer - Worldwide & Latin America
 14810 Tuttle Lane
 Iola, Texas 77861-3834
 (936) 394-2146 Fax (936) 394-2147
gwkiler@aol.com

George H. Watkins, Jr.
 Proprietor



Exp. 12/19

Estate Appraisals



Topper Stamps & Postal History

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

Jonathan Topper
 10480 Grant Road
 Suite 117
 Houston, TX 77070
 832.518.6558

Exp. 12/19

Veterans Administration

By Pat & Bob Weidman

On July 21, 1980, the post office issued a stamp for the 50th anniversary of the Veterans Administration; it is Scott #1825.

During World War I, five government agencies were serving veterans. In 1920, Congress created the Veterans Bureau. In 1930, the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and the Bureau of Pensions were combined into the Veterans Administration. In 1988, Congress passed a bill that made the Veterans Administration an executive department of the US Government and renamed it the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Department of Veteran Affairs operates veterans hospitals in all fifty States, Puerto Rico and Washington DC. In addition to healthcare, other benefits that they administer are disability and death compensation, education assistance, burial assistance, help getting home loans, managing the national cemeteries and operating domiciliaries for veterans who do not need hospital care, but are unable to earn a living and lack a means of support.



Graubünden

By Peter Elias



Map from [Wikipedia](#)

The Swiss Canton of Graubünden ("Grisons" in English) is on the eastern/southeastern part of Switzerland (shown in various shades of red in the map).

The biggest city in Graubünden is Chur, with a population of about 20,000; the canton itself has about 200,000.

The coat of arms of Graubünden is shown partially above the picture of the post office bus on the stamp to the left. While there is rail service in Graubünden by both the Swiss Federal and the Rhaetian narrow-gauge railways, the post office bus services play an important part, getting people and mail to small towns & villages in remote valleys.



The full coat-of-arms is featured on the 1925 stamp from Switzerland and my more recent PhotoStamp to the left.

Both the 2019 stamp at top and my PhotoStamp show the vertical black & white field in the same orientation, but the 1925 stamp has those fields reversed.

Other notable cities in Graubünden include Arosa, Davos, Flims & St. Moritz. I have been on vacation in all of these cities several times while growing up and even fairly recently. In the 2013 photo below, I'm seen enjoying a local beer (followed by dinner) with a great view after Marcos and I did some summer toboggan runs at [Schatzalp](#), a 1,640 foot toboggan run (the gray track seen partially to the right of my beer glass curving up to the umbrella stand), located above Davos.



The picture above is of the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Dallas. It was built in 1945 and is the second busiest hospital for the number of veterans served in the nation. There are over 5,000 employees that work there. The picture below is the outpatient clinic in Ft. Worth. Altogether, North Texas has over 130,000 veterans registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs.



Arlington Meeting Minutes June 5, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 29 members and 3 guests. One guest submitted his application for membership before the end of the meeting and an application was given to the other.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had 89 members, with one new application and one deceased member. An additional application at the current meeting will bring us to 90 members.
- Treasurer – Judy Christmas gave the amount. She mentioned that Tom Cunningham had given her additional checks from dealers for this year's Expo.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO – Ralph Poore said at the Expo meeting in May we had decided on a railroad theme for this year's Expo. Peter Elias mentioned that we will have a special one- and four-page judged exhibit on the railroad theme.
- Sales – Skip Ely said sales were doing OK.
- Newsletter – Peter Elias said the next newsletter was in progress.

Announcements:

- Stanley Christmas said based on discussions with some members he would propose changing our Shanghai Bingo activity to a Chinese Gift Exchange at our annual December meeting.
- Ray Cartier mentioned some of the activities planned for Moon Day at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas for July 20th, the 50th anniversary of the U.S. moon landing.
- Alliene Franklin said the theme for the Chautauqua in Waxahachie September 28th would be "Sports".
- Dave Stockbridge said he had some books from the Brian Smith estate for sale.

Show & Tell:

- Debbie Hathaway showed a book she won from a recent APS drawing, and said she was donating it to the Silent Auction. Dave Stockbridge showed an envelope that was returned to him after it apparently was processed upside down by the USPS cancelling device.
- Peter Elias showed some deck cards he had acquired from recent new issues, including an autographed one by one of the daughters at the recent "Little Mo" first day ceremony, as well as some other items.
- Rich Hildebrandt noted the recent article in the April APS journal by our own Ben Termini.

Program:

- ...was presented by special guest Jim Domke, who showed slides of murals and architecture from Post Offices around the state of Texas.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Jeff Jessop, Debbie Hathaway, Rob Hathaway, Katheryn Storey, Rick Howell, and Jim Taylor. Mint stamp packets donated by Stanley Christmas (from the Bob Werry estate) were won by Tom Turner, Ben Termini, and Karen Cartier.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:40 PM.

Eules Meeting Minutes June 19, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 10 members present.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had two new members join at Arlington this month, bringing our membership total to 90.
- Treasurer – Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

- Expo – Janet Moyer passed around the first iteration of the volunteer sheet for this year's EXPO.
- Sales – Skip Ely said APS sales have been good.
- Newsletter – Peter Elias said the newsletter was almost complete.

Announcements:

- Someone mentioned the TSDA Bourse this coming weekend in Richardson.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed a Korean War cover from a USAF pilot (his brother in law).
- Rick Howell talked about some of his recent discoveries on the Web.
- Stanley Christmas passed around two albums for precancel stamps prepared by Rick Howell.
- Skip Ely passed out around a guide he made for the German Hindenburg issues, and said he would be happy to make a copy for anyone who wanted one (he had several at the meeting).
- Peter Elias showed a deck card he had acquired for the recent George H.W. Bush stamp. He also talked about a Mystic ad he saw in the Dallas Morning News ad inserts (where the ad showed "mint" stamps, yet the actual offer was for "used" stamps).
- Stanley Christmas showed some old postcards and foreign bills he found in a recently donated lot.

Mini-Program:

- Ken Wills discussed his recent visit to Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. He explained how what is now Klaipeda used to briefly be the stamp issuing entity of Memel.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were won by Tom Turner, Ken Wills, and Judy Christmas. Rick Howell, Evan Islam, and Skip Ely received mint corner blocks of U.S. stamps donated by Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:35 PM.

Thank You

To Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps for donating several boxes of stamps & first day covers, and also for several more boxes of specialized philatelic literature that he gave us which were from Mary Coughlin (wife of recently deceased stamp dealer Ray Coughlin).

[eBay 99¢ lot with free shipping](#)

By Peter Elias

I recently sold a lot on eBay for 99¢. It was for a copy of Australia #125, in good used condition, lightly canceled, with a whopping catalog value of \$5.25. This was an “auction” lot where I had a 99¢ opening bid and even offered free postage (basic 1st class). Only one bidder, and they got it at 99¢.

Here’s the math:

Final Bid:	\$0.99
PayPal Receiving Fee	- \$0.33
eBay Sales Commission	- \$0.10
Postage	- \$0.55
Envelope	- \$0.01

Total net proceeds. Wait for it... \$0.01 !!

And for that penny earned, I then had to spend 25 minutes driving round-trip to go to the post office (gas will be about \$2.00). Sure, I could save the \$2.00 in gas by putting the envelope in my mailbox on the curb, but I don’t put any philatelic or financial items in that box (especially during the rainy season).

So, eBay made 10¢ (10% commission), PayPal a whopping 33¢ (30¢ per transaction + 2.9% fee). Seems like everyone makes money except the actual seller, who also has to put in the time to scan the stamp, write up the lot on eBay, address the envelope, etc.

And to actually sell this stamp, I’ve had it listed on eBay for probably better than 6 months, either as 1-month “fixed price” listings or 10-day auction listings. Normally eBay charges 30¢ PER listing, and I’ve had this item listed & re-listed probably 20 times! If it wasn’t for the fact that eBay gives me 50 free listings per month, I would have probably had to pay over \$6.00 in “listing fees” just to sell this \$5.25 catalog value stamp for \$0.99!

Some people put their lots in at 1¢ opening bid, with the theory that people will be more likely to bid with that low of an opening bid, attracting several bidders initially that will then drive the price up (as they then have a more vested interest in the lot). But, if during that week or month, there’s only one interested bidder, they’ll get the lot for 1¢.

“Free Shipping” is supposed to entice bidders as well, but here’s a case where you’re basically giving away a stamp. In the example above, I don’t even know what I actually paid for this stamp, as it was part of some larger lot that I had bought somewhere along the line.

I’m generally happy if I can manage to sell inexpensive stamps (for those between \$1 to \$10) at 10% to 30% of catalog value. That should be a good deal for the buyer, since most dealers don’t discount that low for. And this buyer did get to pay 20% of catalog value.

A good thing that this is a hobby, but never-the-less, it’s not easy for collectors to get a fair price for their duplicate items, especially the lower-end items.

Sure, I put items into the club sales books, but the audience there is extremely limited as well, generally to no more than 100 people in total, and even then probably just a handful of people that have an interest in the item you’re selling. At least on eBay, there is a worldwide audience for your item, but it comes with extra costs, such as postage & fees.

[From The President’s Desk](#)

by Richard Hildebrandt

As I sit down to write this column, it feels like summer has arrived, with upper 90’s temperatures and with high humidity. Can fall and our Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO be far behind?

Speaking of EXPO, it is not too early to think about how you can participate. It is a primary source of the funds that support the club. Donations to the silent auction are always appreciated. Put in a one or four page exhibit on a railroad related topic and be eligible for a special award. Certainly, attending the show and supporting the many dealers who are in attendance encourages them to return year after year.

Most of all I encourage all of you to consider volunteering for at least a few hours at the show. It takes a great deal of work on the part of many folks to make the EXPO a success and the more people who help, reduces the burden on the others. Janet Moyer should have the volunteer sign-up sheets available at the Arlington July meeting.

On the topic of volunteering, I wish to thank the people who have stepped up to present one of the programs at the different club meetings. I especially appreciate those who have presented at the Arlington meeting. I fear that the attendance would suffer greatly if members had to listen to me present a talk. We do have all of the Arlington meeting programs covered for the rest of this calendar year but need some presenters for next year. This is an early enough request I believe, that a few of you could put together a presentation.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer!

*Been There,
Done That*

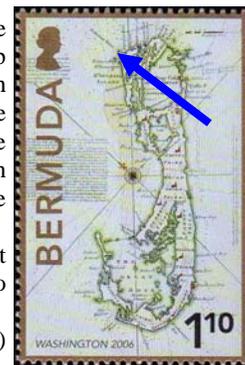
[Fort St. Catherine](#)

By Peter Elias

Fort Saint Catherine is on the northern tip of Bermuda. The closest stamp I could find is the one on the right, which shows an old Bermuda map and “Catherine Point” (blue arrow). This stamp has the map pointing in a northwestern direction (rather than the usual north), but it fits the stamp better due to the shape of Bermuda.

The Fort is a coastal artillery fort that was used by the British from 1612 to the 20th Century.

My honeymoon (1st marriage) was in October 1994, and we chose Bermuda as the destination. Being as that I love to visit fortresses, I



had to go see as many forts as I could in Bermuda, and there are around 90 forts of various sizes on Bermuda and I did visit as many as I could; the photo shows me at Fort St. Catherine.



Meeting Minutes for Granbury May 28, 2019

By Eugene Atkinson

Nine members and one guest assembled at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Ct., in Granbury, for the 7pm meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club. The group meets every fourth Tuesday except for December.

Welcome & Announcements:

- Host Dave Stockbridge welcomed members and prospective member Cynthia Munnerlyn. He invited members to sort through a table of philatelic books and periodicals and some member sales items.
- The club will host an auction of as many as eighty lots at the September meeting. Anyone interested should submit items no later than the July meeting with description and minimum bid, if any.
- Alliene Franklin called attention to a Chautauqua session in Waxahachie in September with a theme of "sports." Related stamp displays are welcomed.

Show & Tell:

- With members introducing themselves, Alliene Franklin discussed the "informed delivery" system intended to reduce package thefts.
- Jim Case showed a Canadian issue picturing the entire Asahi baseball team of 1914-1941.
- Denny Ludlow provided an assortment of Romanian, Japanese and Netherlands covers.
- Dave Stockbridge showed off a letter he sent to Oklahoma that went through postal service machinery upside down and also invited anyone interested to accompany him to meetings of the Arlington club.

Break:

- Business was interrupted briefly for members to devour brownies and other snacks provided this month by Julie Rimmer.

Program:

- Gary McNamee brought a power point program on the operations and services of the American Philatelic Society and the International Society of World Wide Stamp Collectors. Drawing illustrations from the APS website, he focused on member and club services such as online exhibits, free album pages, the popular 160+ sales circuits, and the Stamp Store. He noted that several Mid-Cities members are quite familiar with the ISWSC and are particularly enthusiastic about the monthly "circuits," which offer hundreds of stamps often at minimum bids or only slightly above.

Closing:

- Host Stockbridge noted that the June meeting will be provided by Stanley Christmas on the subject of "precancelled stamps."
- Gift certificate door prizes were claimed by Dave Stockbridge, Bob Coleman, and Cynthia Munnerlyn.

*Been There,
Done That*

Big Mac Bridge

By Peter Elias



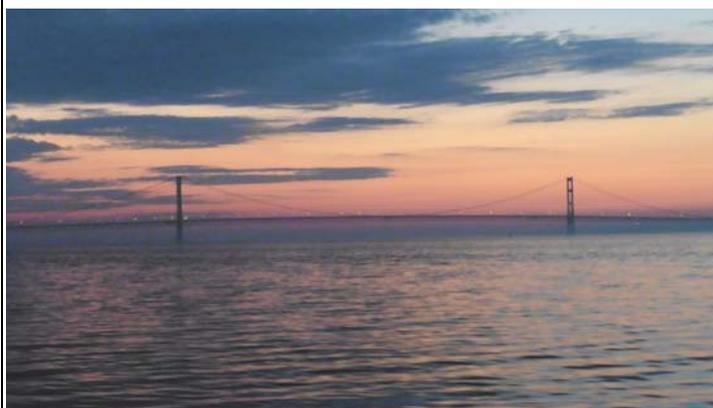
No, the title doesn't refer to a certain hamburger... Big Mac Bridge is what Mackinac Bridge in Michigan is also referred to (along with "Mighty Mac").

It is a 26,372 foot long suspension bridge that connects the lower Michigan Peninsula with the "U.P." (Upper Peninsula as Michiganders call it...). The highest tower is 552 feet and the bridge opened in 1957.

Unless you have your own private boat or want to swim, the bridge is the only way to get to the U.P. (well, you could drive all the way around Lake Michigan and come up via Wisconsin...). Since I lived in Michigan in the 1970's, our family drove across it a couple of times on the way to the U.P.



In 2015, I was on vacation in Michigan with my family, and we took a passenger ferry from Mackinaw City (at the southern end of the bridge) over to Mackinac Island. The ferry did a nice run underneath of the bridge which is where I took the photo above.



In the evening when we returned to Mackinac City, we had a nice view of the bridge at dusk, although the photo that I took doesn't do it justice.

Side note: Both "Mackinac" and "Mackinaw" are pronounced "*ma-kuh-naa*". Mackinac City is retaining the "ac" spelling, while the bridge, straits and island use "aw".

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

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 dkgonefishing@yahoo.com 1/19

Comic - Funky Winkerbean (AARP Convention)

By Peter Elias

FUNKY WINKERBEAN

By Tom Batiuk



This Funky Winkerbean comic strip was published in the June 18, 2019 edition of the Dallas Morning News. The character, waiting in line at the post office, states that he feels like being at an AARP Convention. The view being that apparently only "older" people go to the post office these days. Hey! I resemble that remark.

I may "only" be 58, but I am a member of AARP! And yes, I do stand in line at the post office practically every day, since mailing items that require a "certificate of mailing" (a postmarked form) or an "acceptance scan" (for tracked shipments), kind of means spending at least 1,500 minutes (=26+ hours) of my life each year in line (assuming 10 minutes per day, 3 days each week—and that's a conservative estimate)! But, more people (of all ages) are mailing packages these days (as opposed to first class mail), and for that you have to go to the Post Office (or UPS Store or FedEx/Kinko's), you can't really leave those in your mailbox for the carrier.



MEET & EAT for July & August 2019

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

ARLINGTON

July 3 Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St.

August 7 Angelo’s, 2590 W. Pioneer Pkwy, Pantego

EULESS

July 17 Cheddar’s, 1937 Airport Fwy, Bedford

August 21 Jayson’s Deli, 2200 Airport Fwy, Bedford

GRANBURY

July 23 Willy & Dick’s, 424 Fall Creek Hwy

August 27 Best Burger Barn—Acton, 5675 N. Gate Rd

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

Don't Forget:
TSDA Stamp Dealers - Aug. 23-24

Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at
Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com

5/19

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

—> *Your member ad could be here !* <—