

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

September 2019

Been There,
Done That

Bierbraukunst

By Peter Elias



On September 5, Swiss Post will release the stamps shown above (both in regular & souvenir sheet form) that celebrate the "Art of Beer Brewing" and shows two types of beer glasses. Since I don't have the actual sheet yet (although I've ordered it), I'm using a screenshot of it from the Swiss Post website.

According to Swiss Post, there are currently over 900 breweries in Switzerland, meaning that Switzerland now has one of the highest concentrations of breweries in the world. Let me put that into perspective: Switzerland's population (8.4 million) is just a bit more than that of the DFW Metroplex (7.5 million) and Switzerland's area is about 16,000 sq. miles compared to DFW's 9,000 sq. miles. I don't think there's even as many as 50 breweries in the DFW area!



Most beer in Switzerland is consumed within the country, and in many cases is not available outside the local area (i.e.: city or canton), such as the beer shown to the left. I briefly mentioned this "Monstein" beer in another article recently. This picture was taken in a very scenic setting in Davos; the brewery itself was only 8 miles away in a side valley.

I did drive to that side valley a day later, but it was after hours and the brewery was closed, but I did take a photo of a plaque on the side of the building which proclaimed that this was the highest (elevation) brewery in Europe (Monstein, with a population of 180 - about the same as it was in 1689 - is at 5,118 feet above sea level)



and the first "show brewery" in the Canton of Graubünden ("Grisons").

The biggest brewery in Graubünden though, is probably "Calanda Bräu". I actually visited that brewery (and is now a part of Heineken Switzerland), which is located in the 2,000 year old city of Chur in 1981. The visit was purely educational. Yes it was! During the summer of 1981, I wrote a 6-credit term paper about "Food & Beverage Packaging in Switzerland" that was part of my Degree in Packaging Engineering, and the visit to the brewery was part of the research (if you want a copy of my 62-page term paper, which makes for interesting, but now somewhat outdated reading; I can get you a copy, but it is a 25 MB size file, so not e-mailable). I still have the souvenirs from that visit (photo above): 4 wax candle versions of their beer bottles!

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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

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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

AUG. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Alliene Franklin: Program TBD

AUG. 31 MCSC EXPO Meeting

Angelo's in Pantego, 11 AM

SEP. 4 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Club Auction (postponed from May)

SEP. 18 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

SEP. 24 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

OCT. 2 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: TBD

OCT. 11-12 Greater Dallas Postcard Show

Comfort Inn, 700 Central Pkwy East, Plano, Admission

OCT. 16 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

OCT. 22 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: James Myers: Program TBD

NOV. 6 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Soon it will be autumn. EXPO is just around the corner, only about 10 weeks from when I'm writing this! So...

- Have you signed up to volunteer a couple of hours at EXPO yet; see Janet Moyer if you haven't!
- Have you thought about an exhibit? Even just a short 1-page or 4-page exhibit? Contact Anne Moxley, our EXPO exhibits chairperson, if you have an interest (and to check to make sure we still have exhibit space available - last year, exhibit frames were full early for the first time!).
- Have you contacted the dealers for this year's show about what you're looking for? Remember, dealers can't bring their entire stock and will only bring what they think they can sell. So, if you have specialized collecting areas (such as I do), contact the dealers first with a list of what you're interested in. It'll help solve the problem of "gosh, I didn't bring THAT material"... You can't buy it if they don't bring it!

One of the "supplies" that I need for doing exhibits is lots of page protectors. I've found that the most inexpensive place to buy the standard 8.5"x11" size is at the "warehouse stores" (i.e.: Sam's Club or Costco); much less expensive than at the office supply stores, albeit you'll need to buy a box of 250, rather than 50 or 100, but they only cost about 4¢ each..

Another item I need a lot of is (light) gray paper or cardstock for mounting my exhibits, unfortunately you can generally only get that at office supply stores ...

Members in the News

At the APS StampShow in Omaha on August 1 - 3, it was announced that Ray Cartier was receive the APS Volunteer Award. More details later.

Joe Jeter RIP

Former club member Joe Jeter passed away on August 11, 2019 at the age of 75. Joe was active in the Granbury Branch of MCSC until his Alzheimer's made it impossible to get to meeting and participate. Joe made several presentations to the club and had an outstanding collection of "Fractional Revenue Stamps". A memorial service was held at the First Christian Church of Granbury (2109 W Hwy 377) on Saturday, August 24th at 2 PM.

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



New Members

Karen R. Mays (#619)

Reinstatements

Membership Summary – August 21, 2019

Membership as of July 15, 2019	92
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	0
Resignations	0
Deceased	0
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of August 21, 2019	93

Been There, Done That

Stamp Collecting

By Pat & Robert Weidman



The picture at the bottom of the column is of me working on my stamp collection, something that I really enjoy doing! Unfortunately, I don't get to do it as often as I would like.

Another thing I enjoy, especially when I'm doing something, is drinking coffee, as you can see from the large cup on my desk.

I started collecting stamps when I was a kid, like so many collectors. I was around ten years old when my father bought me my first stamp album and got me started.

I started collecting worldwide stamps, which I still enjoy doing. I also collect mint United States stamps. Every now and then I take a trip to the post office in downtown Ft. Worth on Lancaster Avenue to get all the new US issues up to that point. Jeanette Hodges works the retail window and carries nearly every new issue that the US Postal Service comes out with (see the February 2019 issue of Stamping Around).

My topical interest is stamps with President Kennedy. My first JFK stamp was Columbia C455, issued on December 17, 1963 [the image at right from www.stampworld.com].

Pat's interest is stamps featuring Dachshunds. The stamp from Czechoslovakia was issued in 1973 on September 5 [the image at left is also from www.stampworld.com].



The stamp commemorating stamping collecting at the top of the column is USA Scott #1474, issued on November 17, 1972.



[Editor's note: Drinking coffee, or any liquid for that matter, could be detrimental to your collection of philatelic materials. Of course, I'm guilty of that as well ... At your own risk as they say]

Been There, Done That

Swiss Army Knife

By Peter Elias



The 2008 stamp from Switzerland on the left is from a series of stamps that depicts Switzerland through the eyes of foreign artists. And what (other than cheese, chocolate and watches) is more "iconic" of Switzerland than the Swiss Army Knife?

Growing up in Switzerland in the 1960's, I think that all of us boys had a pocket knife with us, even at school; after all, it is a "tool". Of course, times have changed and now, if you're a kid entering a school with as much as a dull butter knife, you're in trouble (and yes, that has happened...).



Back in the "good ol' days" (i.e.: prior to certain incidents on September 1, 2001), I had ALWAYS carried my Swiss Army knife with me on the plane. As long as the blade was less than 3 inches, it simply went through the metal detector and you were on your way. Not anymore. Now I

have to put this into my checked luggage, whereas prior to 2001, I rarely ever checked luggage for shorter trips (which saved me at least 1 - 2 hours per trip).

The knife shown above is the one presently I have on me at pretty much all times. It's useful for so many things, from opening letters to tightening the small screws on my sunglasses. Even the toothpick gets used occasionally, although I DON'T normally use the "tweezers" (you thought I was going to say I use those for stamps, didn't 'ya?). The "punch" comes in handy occasionally and so do the scissors, cork screw and screw drivers, although I rarely use the can opener, hook tool or saw.

The term Swiss "Army Knife" was coined by American Soldiers after World War II as they had a hard time pronouncing the official name of the knife, which was "Offiziersmesser" (Officer's knife).

There are two companies in Switzerland producing these knives, Victorinox (which features the Swiss coat of arms) and Wenger (which uses a cross logo). The origins go back to 1890-1891.



By the way, I've found that the best way to photograph smaller items for illustration purposes is to use a "light box" such as the one shown on the left. It uses LED lights powered by a portable USB and provides much better and even lighting than that from a camera. I bought mine at www.aliexpress.com.

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Comics - Pluggers (Licking Stamps)

By Peter Elias

This "Pluggers" comic strip panel (from Jan. 4, 2010) reminisces about the "good ol' days" when we had to "lick stamps". Granted, I think that most collectors DO miss the good old days of having "regular gum", rather than PSA (pressure sensitive adhesive) on their stamps.

We all know what happens to self-adhesive gum after a

number of years, such as staining, drying out, etc., that ruins the stamps (or covers that they're on).

On the hand, when using stamps for postage, having to lick them, not knowing who touched them before, isn't always a pleasant thought either (especially 50 year - old stamps); and postal clerks aren't known to use gloves when separating stamps from sheets, either, nor using tongs when handling them.



Pluggers remember when you had to lick postage stamps... and they weren't all that tasty.



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files> or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm>



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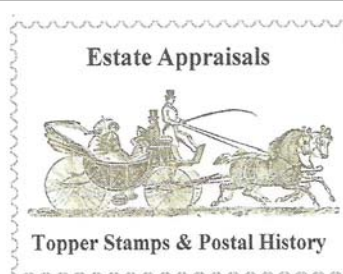
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Cheers Mate!

by Rick Howell

Anyone who has had dealings with people from the United Kingdom know that they're a quirky, fun-loving bunch for the most part, who work hard and play even harder. And Lord knows you should never get into a beer drinking contest with any of them unless you want to wake up with a headache the next day. Sorry if I have offended anyone, Ken.

So, I guess it should come as no surprise that in July, the Royal Mail issued a set of stamps known as the "Curious Customs" stamps. These stamps commemorate a series of events that take place yearly throughout the U.K. which, although somewhat eccentric, typify the British affinity to embrace tradition and unusual customs.

Now, I have been a collector of British Stamps for some time, as I was impressed by the quality of the printing employed by the Royal Mail and quite frankly, the British stamps have been so much more beautiful than U.S. stamps in recent history. The design of the *Curious Customs* stamps however, exemplify a bit of the quirkiness of the subject matter they represent:

- **Burning the Clocks at Brighton:** This takes place December 21st as a community midwinter folk festival, where people parade through town carrying paper clock lanterns. The parade ends on the beach where the lanterns are set on fire and a fireworks display ensues. This is a fairly modern tradition as it was established in 1994.
- **Padstow 'Obby 'Oss:** This event takes place the 1st of May and involves two strange black beasts known as Osses parading through the streets of Padstow, Cornwall, accompanied by drummers, dancers and musicians prior to the death of the Osses once the clock strikes midnight. This is an old tradition which history records as being established in 1803.
- **World Gurning Championship:** This event happens on the third Saturday of September at the Egremont, Cumbria Crab Fair. The competition consists of men and women trying to make the most strange looking facial expressions while framed in a horse collar. The crab fair was established in 1267, making it one of the oldest fairs in the world.
- **Up Helly Aa:** This event occurs on the last Tuesday in January in Lerwick, Shetland. A full-sized wooden Viking longship is pulled through town accompanied by the Guizer Squad dressed in full Viking attire, carrying blazing torches. The Viking ship is traditionally burned as part of the ceremonies. This ceremony is more than 100 years old.
- **Cheese Rolling:** This competition takes place on Cooper's Hill, Brockworth, Gloucestershire on the Spring Bank Holiday. Hundreds of contestants compete to attempt to catch a 3 to 4 kilogram



Longview Stamp Club Meeting

By Keith Parris

I made it to their meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2019. It was 43.2 miles from our home in Tyler to the meeting in Longview with a detour to mail my subscription to USA Philatelic and took me 57 minutes. The trip home was 41.7 miles and took 47 minutes. This is similar to the drive from Plano to Euless except that there is a whole lot less traffic between Tyler and Longview.

The LSC is a very small club; there were five people (three men and two women) there besides myself. They do NOT have a formal program. On even numbered months, they answer member questions; on odd numbered months, they shop the APS Books. Meetings are as much social interaction and refreshments as they are stamp collecting. They do NOT have a website and are NOT on social media. At least one LSC member has been to Stamp Expo in Grapevine, but does NOT plan to go back because of the automobile traffic. LSC meeting notices are sent to members via USPS about two weeks before each meeting. There might have been one person there younger than me; unfortunately, many of their members have mobility issues due to advanced age or have passed on. We know it is difficult to get young people into stamp collecting; however, I am going to suggest that they publicize the club with posters in local recreation centers, public libraries, or other community bulletin boards.

If any of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club members happen to be in or near Longview on a first Tuesday, I am certain that they would be welcome at the Longview Stamp Club.

round of double Gloucester cheese which is given a one-second head start rolling down the hill. The cheese is awarded to the first person to cross the finish line at the bottom of the hill. This race has been occurring since the early 1800's.

- **Halloween in Derry / Londonderry:** This Halloween party is certified as the best Halloween celebration in the world as it lasts for 5 to 8 days before and just after October 31st. This celebration draws nearly 80,000 participants each year.
- **Horn Dance:** The Horn Dance consists of six men carrying huge reindeer antlers accompanied by characters dressed as Maid Marian, a Fool, Hobby Horse and an archer, celebrating ancient hunting rites. The group travels throughout the parish and stop at various designated places to perform traditional dances. Earliest references document the tradition back to the 1630's.
- **Bog Snorkeling:** This is a race which began in 1976 which involves contestants swimming underwater through a water filled trench within a peat bog. The person who traverses the course the fastest is declared the winner.

These events definitely elicit a sense of fun and local camaraderie in carrying out traditions, both old and new. Judging from the Brits I have had dealings with, I would think that a certain amount of alcohol is probably involved in all of these celebrations. I think this series of stamps is a tribute to the citizens of the U.K. and their sense of fun and crazy tradition.

The stamps are available from the Royal Mail in a special presentation pack for £9.75 or a set of 8 stamps for £8.92. You may contact them online at <https://shop.royalmail.com/> and they accept most major credit cards and PayPal.

Arlington Meeting Minutes August 7, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- We had 25 members in attendance.

Officer Reports:

- President – Rich Hildebrandt mentioned that our September meeting will feature an auction, and lots need to be turned in at this meeting to be included. Rich also mentioned the Board and EXPO meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 31, at Angelo's in Pantego.
- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had 91 members, with one new application received at this meeting.
- Treasury – Judy Christmas gave the amount, which is flush with dealer deposits for EXPO.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
 - There was a brief discussion of the status of exhibits and awards.
 - Rich Hildebrandt said he was accepting reservations for the awards dinner.
 - Janet Moyer passed around the volunteer sheet.
- Sales – Skip Ely said he would begin closing sales books from 2018 after the September meeting.

Announcements:

- Ray Cartier gave a brief summary of the recent APS/ATA meeting in Omaha.
- Rob Hathaway added a few comments.
- Ben Termini pointed out that Ray had been the recipient of a prestigious APS award. Ray also mentioned they had 2200 people show up July 20 at the Frontier of Flight museum in Dallas for the moon landing celebration.
- Rich Hildebrandt mentioned the TSDA bourse Aug. 23-24.
- Stanley Christmas mentioned the club had mint stamps for sale at a percentage of face (marked on the boxes).
- Diana Davis showed some plastic sleeves she had acquired and wondered if they could be used at Expo.
- Dave Stockbridge mentioned the auction at Granbury September 27.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed a cover with one of the new U.S. train stamps, with the middle stamp used as a sticker on the back!
- Ben Termini talked about forged stamps that used to be used as markers in albums and passed around a book he had purchased about their number and scope.
- Diana Davis showed some date postmarks she had acquired on the new U.S. space stamps.
- Rob Hathaway talked a little about the MCSC Facebook page and encouraged club members who are on Facebook to check it out and join the fun.

Program:

- Rick Howell presented material about the mail, stamps and covers used in Texas during the war between the states.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Diana Davis, Rick Howell, Jim Case, Charles Deur, and Debbie Hathaway. Mint stamp packets

Eules Meeting Minutes August 21, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- We had 6 members in attendance

Officer Reports:

- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had one new member to bring our membership total to 93.
- Treasurer – Judy Christmas said the treasury was in good position to accommodate EXPO expenses coming up soon.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
 - Stanley Christmas mentioned the Expo/Board meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 31 at Angelo's in Pantego.
 - Ken Wills said he would be setting up a date for the Silent Auction inventory with the other committee members, probably sometime in early October.
- Sales - Skip Ely said all was well.
- Newsletter – Peter Elias said the newsletter was almost complete.

Announcements:

- Peter Elias mentioned the TSDA Bourse in Richardson August 23-24.
- Stanley Christmas said he had more mint postage on sale for 40% of face.
- Skip Ely said he had obtained the Club History material from Diana Davis and was going through it, possibly to create a brief history of the club for the web page.

Show & Tell:

- Peter Elias showed a couple of deck cards from some recent new U.S. issues. He also passed around his entry for the one-page railroad exhibit. Then he discussed a recent problem with an eBay lot he sold.
- Ken Wills passed around a dozen or so interesting covers from his days of employment. Included were letters with too much postage, too little postage, and some with no postage! He then told the story of a letter his mother sent to him while he was traveling overseas, and how it got back to her.
- Skip Ely talked briefly about the 1945-46 U.S. and Great Britain AMG issues for postwar Germany, and how to distinguish between the three types mentioned in Scott.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were won by Rick Howell and Ken Wills. Judy Christmas received a small magnifying glass donated by Peter Elias.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:40 PM.

donated by Stanley Christmas (from the Bob Werry estate) were won by Bob Weidman, Chuck Snow, Bob Coleman, and Skip Ely.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:15 PM.

The Concorde

By Pat & Bob Weidman



The Great Britain stamp on the left is Scott #581, part of a set of three issued on March 3, 1969; it features the British-French supersonic plane, the Concorde.

Although we never flew on the Concorde, we did get to see one a number of years ago when we visited Barbados. The airport in Barbados did not have jet bridges like at US airports. The plane would land, taxi to the terminal, and a stairway was pushed up to the plane, and we departed by going down the stairway and walking across the tarmac to the terminal. As we were exiting, the plane on our arrival at Barbados, I saw the Concorde sitting there and decided take a picture of it (bottom of page).

The British and French came up with the idea of working together to build a supersonic passenger plane. The first test flight of the Concorde was in 1969. Passenger service began in 1976, but was suspended in 2003 as it was unprofitable.



The Soviets also had their version of a supersonic plane, the Tupolev TU-144. It was first flown in 1968. Initially it was used for transporting cargo, which started in 1975 and passenger service was started in 1972, although only on one route. It was withdrawn in 1983 due to technical and operational problems.



[Editor note: both stamp images above are from the online catalog www.stampworld.com]

From The President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

I must be getting old. The calendar says that a month has gone by since my last column, but I can only remember two week's worth of activities. Be that as it may, our MCSC calendar has several upcoming activities that I want to highlight:

- August 31 is the combined EXPO/BOD meeting. All are welcome to attend and provide inputs to improve our club and to enhance the experience for all of our members. Location is Angelo's Pizza Steak and Spaghetti at 11 AM.
- September 4 is the auction at the Arlington meeting. Skip has been hard at work organizing the lots. There will be a large quantity as the May auction did not occur due to weather issues. Come on out and get some bargains. On the subject of auctions, the September 24 Granbury meeting will also be an auction. Dave has promised that it will be well worth the trip for members that don't normally travel to attend the Granbury meetings.
- October brings us close to our annual EXPO. The Arlington October 2 meeting will be used for stuffing the envelopes with the flyers and other info about EXPO that we then mail to prospective attendees. The work session is preceded by our usual cookout. Judy will be coordinating the food for this event. Let her know if you will be attending and what dish you will be sharing with us. It is a great time to socialize and get to know your fellow collectors better. An added bonus is that there will be a lottery drawing for gift certificates at the end of the work.

On the subject of EXPO, reservations are being taken for the awards dinner. The usual \$20 for a three course meal, entertainment and a great social time. Please contact myself to make the reservations.

Hope to see many of you at these activities.

Granbury Meeting Program Comments

By James Myers

[Editor notes - Jim wrote this regarding the Granbury meeting program about the Boy Scouts Stamp Collecting Merit badge].

Denny,

What a sad commentary, that "in a typical year, fewer than 1,000 [Boy Scouts] will earn it [Stamp Collecting Merit Badge]. This reminded me that as a juvenile collector I initially looked to ads in the Boy Scout publication "Boy's Life" to seek out advertisers who were selling WW packets of stamps and/or offering to send you approvals. These advertisers generated a lot of interest in stamp collecting among Boy Scouts at the time. Names such as Garcelon and Jamestown come to mind. I always awaited eagerly the stamps or approvals for whatever ad I had responded to. Doubt if these companies made much money off their Scout customers, but they did provide a pipeline of future collectors, both for the hobby and for their own businesses. Paul, thank you for what you are doing to make the hobby meaningful to today's Scouts.

Jim Myers

Meeting Minutes for Granbury July 23, 2019

By Eugene Atkinson

Host Dave Stockbridge greeted 12 members and 3 guests to the July 23 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

The group meets at 7 PM every fourth Tuesday (except December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court in Granbury. Dave invited all to help themselves to a number of recent periodicals, including Linn's, American Stamp Dealer and Collector, The American Philatelist and assorted dealer catalogs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A sales table was available with some dealer items and club-owned US postage, for sale at 40% of face value.
- Judy Christmas volunteered to provide refreshments for the August meeting.
- Stockbridge reported that member Jim Case was recuperating from back surgery and that former member Nan Jones had passed away at age 94.
- Denny Ludlow reminded all that he needs items for the September club auction brought to him no later than the next meeting date, August 27.

SHOW & TELL:

- Stanley Christmas had a recent cover of the transcontinental railroad stamps, which all agreed was one of the best examples of recent US commemoratives, both in design and production.
- Jim Myers showed examples of the "Dear Doctor" post cards advertising pentathol, which were described in a recent issue of the APS American Philatelist magazine.

After a quick BREAK of cookies and soda provided by Alliene Franklin, Stockbridge introduced Paul Witthoef, long-time scout leader and regional officer to discuss the philatelic merit badge. One of 145 possible badges scouts might earn, but sadly one that fewer and fewer actually seek, the award requires significant involvement in all phases of stamps. Those interested follow a comprehensive lesson plan of understanding stamps, different emphases in collecting, and the history of the U. S. postal system. Scouts must demonstrate familiarity with the philatelic vocabulary and the tools of the hobby--from tongs to watermark trays. They must use catalogs, albums and hinges or mounts, create a collection and exhibit their work. All requirements and opportunities are presented in a merit badge manual for philately that is also available to the general public.

CLOSING:

- With gift certificates and matched plate block sets available, Gary McNamee, Bob Coleman, Denny Ludlow, Gene Atkinson, Rick Howell, Dave Stockbridge and Jim Myers all won door prizes.

A Simple Solution for classifying German 1945 AMG Occupation Issues

by Rick Howell

At our last Euless meeting on August 21, Skip Ely started a discussion of the classification of the 1945 Issue of stamps for Germany under the Allied Military Government (abbreviated AMG). It seems that stamps were printed in three different locations, resulting in three varieties as listed in the Scott Catalog. Scott assigned numbers 3N1 – 3N20 and Type III for stamps printed in Brunswick, Germany. Type I was assigned to stamps printed in Washington, DC, along with the numbers 3N2a – 3N9a and 3N13a. Type II was assigned to stamps printed in London, along with numbers 3N2b -3N6b and 3N8b.

The London stamps (Type II) did not present any problem in classification as they were all issued with Perf. 14 or Perf. 14 ½ or compound. This is easily determined as both the Brunswick Type III and the Washington Type I issues are Perf 11, a much larger perforation, easily separated by a perforation gauge or even by eye to the experienced philatelist.

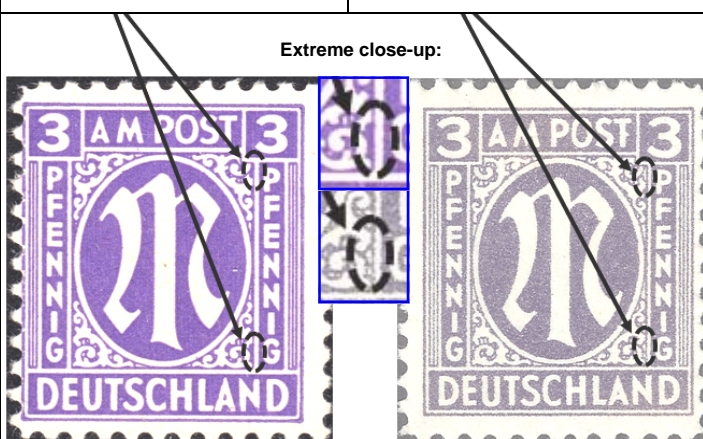
The problem came when trying to determine the difference between the Type I Washington issues and the Type III Brunswick issues. It seems the Washington issues were perforated 11 and the Brunswick issues were perforated 11, 11 ½ and compound. The only other difference noted by Scott was that the Type I stamps were printed on thick paper with white gum and the Type III stamps were printed on medium paper with white gum. I guess you could buy a machinist's thickness gauge and measure the thickness of each stamp but Scott offered no assistance with what that thickness should be. If you had a Type III Perf. 11, good luck distinguishing between that and a Type I Perf. 11.

Skip Ely mentioned he had run into this problem when trying to sort out a large collection of German stamps. Apparently he got frustrated enough to start looking on the internet and ran across a solution on a site called <https://stamporama.com>. Stamporama is an online virtual stamp club which has a great archive of articles that members have submitted. Lo and Behold... there in the listing of articles was one entitled, [How to Identify German 1945 AMG Occupation Issue Printings](#), submitted by Michael Generali in August of 2016.

Generali pointed out a solution which is outlined in both the Minkus & the Michel Germany Catalogs. It's as simple as this:

In the **Type I** issue, there are *no extra marks* in the spandrels.
Note the circled areas.

In the **Type III** issue, there are *extra white marks* in the spandrels.
Note the circled areas.



It doesn't get much easier than this, and all you need is a magnifying glass. Thanks to Skip Ely for pointing out this very helpful hint for classifying AMG issues.

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 \$875 OBO. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comics - Crankshaft (What's A Stamp?)

By Peter Elias



just like this strip, how many younger kids today would know what a "stamp" even is? Kids collect all kind of things, from stuffed animals to Pokémon cards (yes, those are still out there...), but stamps are just not on the radar for kids, since there's practically no stamps on any inbound mail (save an occasional birthday or Christmas with just a definitive)...

Here's yet another one of the "what's a stamp?" comic strips, this time from the Crankshaft series, published on September 12, 2013 (Dallas Morning News).

Sure, it seems "natural" for a parent, or in this case, a grandparent, to show off their stamp collection to their nieces or nephews. And



MEET & EAT for September & October 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 6:30PM with the Arlington 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

September 4 **Campo Verde**, 2918 W Pioneer Pkwy
Dalworthington Gardens

October 2 **Club Picnic**

EULESS

September 18 **On the Border**, 500 Airport Fwy, Bedford
October 16 **Chili's**, 2101 Airport Freeway, Bedford

GRANBURY

September 24 **Palio's Pizza Café**, 3710 E Hwy 377, #100
October 22 **Club Picnic**

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

PERFIN COLLECTION - 490 stamps, with 82x USA, 147x Australia, 73x France, 68x Germany, plus 120x from 17 countries. Make an offer, Dave Stockbridge
stockdave44@yahoo.com

9/19

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

Don't Forget:
EXPO / BOD meeting - Aug. 31