

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Euless 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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 33, Number 9

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

September 2020

Been There, Done That

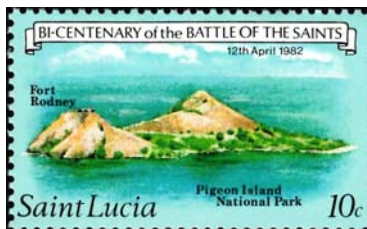
Pigeon Island

By Peter Elias

While cleaning out some receipts from 2007, I managed to save the one shown on the left from the shredder!

Back on May 19, 2007, Annie & I visited Pigeon Island as part of a trip to other islands that included St. Lucia, St. Vincent & Bequia Island (which is a part the Grenadines of St. Vincent). Pigeon Island is located just off the shore of the north-western tip of St. Lucia, near the capital city

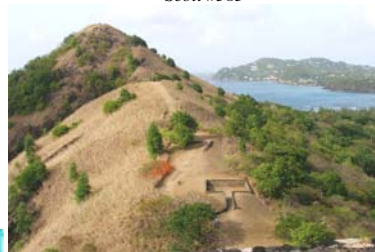
of Castries, as shown on Scott #C1 to the right (see arrow). A sunset view from the shore of St. Lucia is seen on Scott #268 below. My copy of this stamp was can-



Scott #583



Scott #103



Scott #1120

aerial views. The photo I took (2nd column top) shows the view from Ft. Rodney towards Signal Peak. Scott #1120 features the ruins of the Military Hospital, a photo of which is shown to the right.

Finding that entry receipt helped me remember this trip a little bit better! I always try to save receipts from travels, which along with photos (& of course stamps), make for a great way to illustrate that you "Been There - Done That"!



celled and since the postmark obscured the design, I had to "borrow" the image from an eBay lot & other online sources for the other stamps (some of which I've ordered).

While Pigeon Island is named as an "island", it is now an "islet" connected by a causeway from the mainland that was constructed in 1972, so you can easily walk there (no boats required!). The key attractions are the old Fort Rodney, Signal Peak and the ruins of a military hospital. You can read up on the history at the St. Lucia website at

<https://www.slunatrust.org/sites/pigeon-island-national-landmark/>

I love visiting fortresses & castles, and while there's few of the



latter in the Caribbean, there are some of the former! To the left I'm seen with a cannon at Ft. Rodney. Scott #583 & #103 above 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>

Coming Attractions

2020

—> Due to COVID-19 and city / county / state / national emergency ordinances, the following may or may not occur. Please contact the club secretary (Skip Ely) for more details and for virtual meeting information.

AUG. 25 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: To Be Held virtually via Zoom

SEP. 2 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Semi-Annual Club Auction (postponed from June).

SEP. 16 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

SEP. 22 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

SEP. 25 & 26 Texas Precancel Club - Fall Meeting

Comfort Inn, Grapevine —> **HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

OCT. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: TBD

OCT. 9-10 Dallas Postcard Show

Fri 10 AM - 6 PM, Sat 9 AM - 4 PM, \$4 admission

Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Pkwy East

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

EXPO 2020 is just around the corner, only a couple of months away. I have submitted my exhibits for EXPO 2020 and even have managed to come up with two 1-page mini-exhibits relating to COVID-19.

If I attend traditional meetings (which are usually around 7 - 9 PM), I'm obviously not at home. HOWEVER, if the club meeting is held virtually, then I would be at home, and during the timeframe of 6 - 9 PM, I would then also be expected to make (or help make) dinner for the family. So unfortunately, attending the club's Zoom virtual meetings during dinner time just isn't feasible for me considering family obligations. So I'm wondering, since we're pretty much all at home anyway, wouldn't it be easier to have virtual meetings at a time other than during mealtime? Is mid- or late afternoon possible?

Errata

It was pointed out to me (by Otto Bergman) that my article in last month's issue about PhotoStamps had some errors. While yes, the original "test" (which should have been described as a "market test") was in 2004, the "custom postage" program didn't actually become "permanent" until 2009 (I had written 2005) and there were actually 5 market tests in total (although I was only aware of two of them myself). But then, I wasn't really tracking all of this that closely. Mostly I acted as a consumer of PhotoStamps (and related products), but I did have 2 lengthy articles published about the PhotoStamps and similar products in the December 2004 and February/March 2006 issues of Global Stamp News.

EXPO Planning Meeting (Virtual)

On Thursday, August 27 at 7 PM, Ralph Poore will host a virtual EXPO Committee Planning Meeting, which will be held via Zoom. Club members that are involved in the planning have already been sent an email by Skip Ely with the link to the Zoom meeting. Since this newsletter is publicly posted, I would rather not publish the link to the Zoom meeting, due to the unfortunate problem of "Zoom crashers". If you have an interest in attending the EXPO Planning Zoom meeting, please contact Skip Ely at n5tjb@flash.net for the link.

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely

Applications Received

n/a

New Members

n/a

Deceased

n/a

Reinstatements

n/a

Membership Summary – August 19, 2020

Membership as of July 15, 2020	89
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of August 19, 2020	89



Which R18?

By Peter Elias



Back when there were PhotoStamps (remember those days?), being as that I was avidly watching the world's most famous car race (no, NOT NASCAR or the Indy 500),

but the "24 Hours of LeMans" on TV (well, no, I didn't watch all 24 hours - but did "tape it" and watched it selectively later). Audi ended up winning the LeMans in 2011 (for the 10th time) and I decided to order a sheet of PhotoStamps© to commemorate the occasion.

But therein lay the problem: What to say or show on the stamps that wouldn't have the Stamps.com "censors" disapprove of my design due to "copyright violations"? Remember that "Audi", "24 Hours of LeMans", and Audi's 4-ring logo are all copyrighted or trademarked, and I'm unfortunately not authorized to use those trademarks or copyrights when buying these stamps.

So what to do? Well, the text design in the PhotoStamp above is what I was able to do (and I'm sure that the PhotoStamp censors must have been puzzled by it).

Picture from www.Petrolblog.com



In 2011, Audi won the LeMans in their new R18 LMP (LeMans Prototype) vehicles. Not only did they win the race, all 3 of their entered cars won - a clean sweep of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place! But wait, we're not done yet: On top of all that, these 3 cars were "diesel" race cars!

Surely all of that deserved a stamp of some sort, and the somewhat cryptic message on the stamp at top allowed me to do so.

And oh yeah, French car maker Renault also had a car called the R18 (see below), and while not as exciting to drive as the Audi R18, I'm sure it was a better "grocery getter" ...



Picture from www.Carmagazine.co.uk

Been There,
Done That

Memorial Day

By Pat & Bob Weidman



In the picture you see the flag that I put up on Memorial Day. This flag is a very special flag. We bought it at the USS Arizona Memorial at

Pearl Harbor on one of our trips to Hawaii.

This flag flew over the USS Arizona Memorial on the 46th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The accompanying certificate explains everything about it.



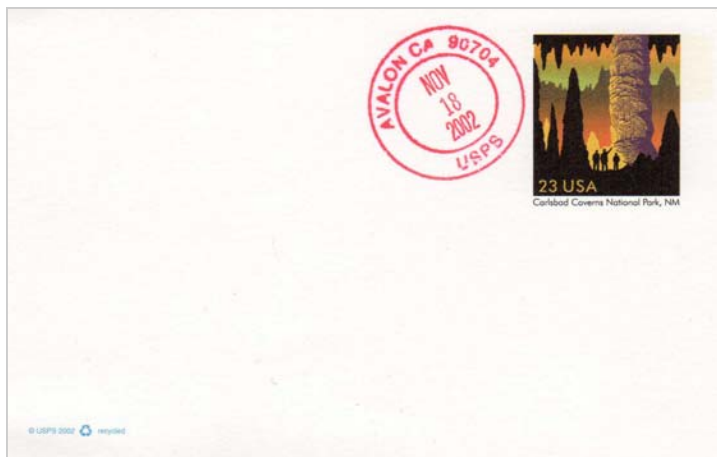
The stamp is USA Scott #4873, an Express Mail stamp which was issued in 2014 and shows the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

[image obtained from www.usps.com]

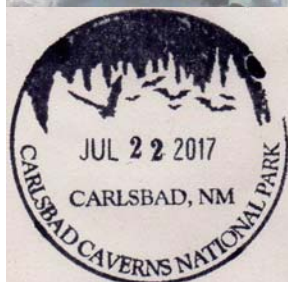


Carlsbad Caverns

By Peter Elias



In 2002, the USPS issued a postal stationery card, Scott #UX381, to commemorate the Carlsbad Caverns, a National Park in New Mexico. I have now been there twice. The first time was by myself when I started working for a company in California in 1992 and stopped by the Park when I driving to California.



The second visit occurred on July 22, 2017, when Annie & I had a short personal driving vacation to New Mexico while our son was at the National Boy Scout Jamboree.

The night before our visit to the caves, we went to the nightly "bat viewing" where one can view the (up to) 500,000 bats that leave the cave early in the evening on their

way to find insects to eat! Quite impressive (but photo equipment and electronic devices are unfortunately forbidden).

The next day we took a self-guided tour in the cave (hint: get there early, otherwise lines to enter can be long). It is a fascinating place to visit. Although from the outside, it doesn't look like much (see photo below); the world below is much more fascinating (the photo above of me was taken by Annie).

If you like caves, then the even bigger Mammoth Caves in Kentucky (yup, been there as well ... I lived in Kentucky for a while) are also worth a visit, and there are several caves to visit here in Texas as well! I even visited a cave in Bermuda (coming to a "Been There..." article soon)!



From The President's Desk

By Richard Hildebrandt

Sorry to continue to report disappointing news, but the September meetings, as of this writing, will again not be in person. We will continue to keep everyone apprised of the situation if there is a positive change.

Even though we are not meeting, the club has certain business that needs attention. We are in the second year of our election cycle, which means that we will need to have an election in November. It has been carried out in the past via mail as the ballot is printed in the October newsletter. There should be no issue with that. Where the problem arises is in getting people willing to run for an elected office. We are in need of 2 Vice-Presidents and at least one Director. It is not necessary to attend the Arlington meetings to be a candidate for an office. It would be very helpful if someone from the Granbury group could fill one of these offices. For many years Alliene was a director and provided valuable inputs to the club. I would like for the Granbury folks to continue to be directly represented in the leadership of the club. Please contact me directly if you feel called to volunteer. My contact info is in the Member handbook.

EXPO is still on as of this moment. For those folks not in on the e-mail traffic concerning the EXPO, Ralph is watching developments and constantly evaluating our options. The Grapevine convention center has been holding several events similar to ours, namely coin shows. We fully expect that they will expect us to honor our commitment. I recognize that many people are justly concerned with venturing out and being in the presence of a large group. Each person must make their own decision on whether to participate or not. We may have to scale back some of the normal activities to fit the number of folks who are able to help at the show but we expect to hold a show. Many of the dealers have sent in their money and believe that there is a pent-up demand for a show. Please consider your own position carefully. Perhaps you could assist with the Thursday set up as there would be a limited number of people there even if you are not comfortable with being there with the general public.

Inventor of the Postage Stamp

by Ken Aldridge

Shown below is Yugoslavia stamp, Scott #C29, issued August 27, 1948, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the death of Yugoslavia inventor, Laurent Kosir. The stamp depicts Kosir and his birthplace home. Kosir is recognized by Yugoslavia as the inventor of the postage stamp, which fact is apparently confirmed in French and Yugoslav on the special label attached to the stamp. (My French and Yugoslav is a bit rusty). It appears the stamp's cancel is probably on the date of issue, however the "8" of "48" does not show.

[Editor's Note: The inscription on the label is in Yugoslavian & French and reads: *IN COMMEMORATION OF LAURENT KOCHIR, IDEOLOGICAL CREATOR OF FIRST POSTAGE STAMP IN 1836; BORN THE JULY 29, 1804 A SP. LOUCHA, R.P. DE SLOVENIA-YUGOSLAVIA.*]



Deliberate Errors: Ceylon #143-151D and Variants

By Ken Wills

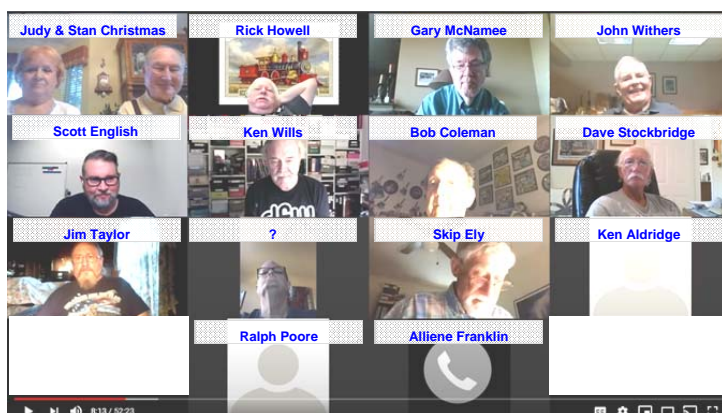


According to Robson Lowe, all these (see above) "errors" were deliberate. By 1888, when these surcharged stamps were issued, there was already extensive enthusiasm for stamp collecting, with a strong interest in errors. Accordingly, the surcharge printers cashed in on it. They were careful not to make their results too common!

I originally suspected that the different error-free versions of the surcharge were on the same printing plate, as the printers may have run out of enough type to be consistent for the whole sheet. That would explain why some of them have higher catalogue values than others. All the error creators had to do was to turn the sheet and print it again, or feed it twice. BUT, if the different versions of the surcharge were on the same plate, there would be errors showing more than one version on the same stamp. So, since the issue dates cover three years, there must have been more than one print run, with a new plate composed each time.

Scott calls the errors counterfeit, but that implies (incorrectly) that they were forgeries.

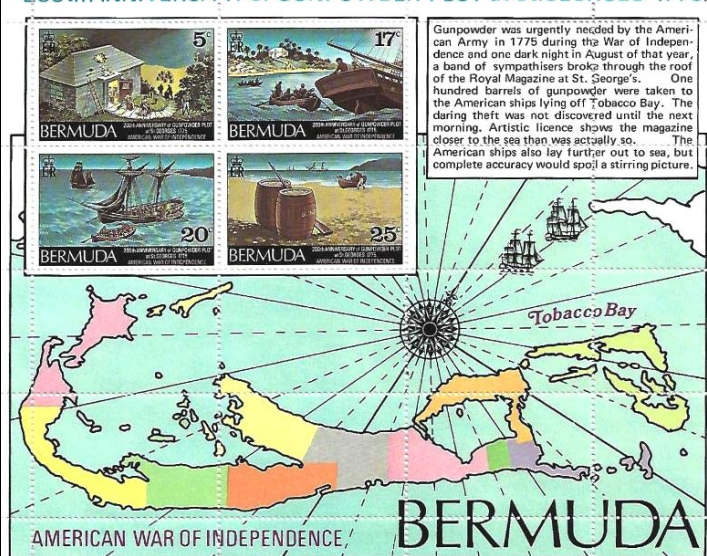
August 12 Arlington Virtual Meeting Participants



200th Anniversary of Gunpowder Plot

by Ken Aldridge

200th ANNIVERSARY of GUNPOWDER PLOT at St. GEORGES 1775.



Shown above is Bermuda S/S, Scott #322a. In the book, *"The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington"* by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch, the authors write about the nitty-gritty details of the Revolutionary War between the British and America's Continental Army.

One of the chapters tells about how arms and gunpowder were running low for Washington's troops. A plan developed to sail to Bermuda and steal gunpowder. This S/S commemorates the 200th anniversary of that event.

The description and explanation on the sheet reads:

"Gunpowder was urgently needed by the American Army in 1775 during the War of Independence and one dark night in August of that year, a band of sympathizers broke through the roof of the Royal Magazine at St. George's. One hundred barrels of gunpowder were taken to the American ships lying off Tobacco Bay. The daring theft was not discovered until the next morning. Artistic licence shows the magazine closer to the sea than was actually so. The American ships also lay further out to sea, but complete accuracy would spoil a stirring picture."

Interestingly, I read Meltzer's book before I discovered this souvenir sheet in some of my stamp items that I had not looked at for a long time. After reading the book, it was about 3 weeks later that I came across this souvenir sheet and remembered reading the story and details of the theft.

I was also fascinated by the sentence structure and word use by Bermuda Postal Authorities, and their explanation of depicting an inaccurate diagram for clarity and better visual understanding.

Meltzer and Mensch's book is a real page turner, hard to put down and a fascinating story that flows, unlike most history books.

Bugs Bunny Stamps Cause Excitement in LBGTO Community

by Rick Howell

For most of my life, I have been a big fan of Looney Tunes. I always loved it at the Saturday afternoon kids' matinees back in the '50s and early '60s when our local movie theatres ran cartoon specials and new movie releases and allowed kids to get in for twenty-five cents, or, if the local bottling company was sponsoring it, we could get in for an empty pop bottle. Those guys who owned the movie theatres back in the day knew the meaning of providing a wonderful service to the community by providing kids with their own imaginary world to escape to and forget about the looming threat of the Cuban missile crisis.

I will never forget the excitement I felt as a kid when that Looney Tunes theme would play loudly announcing a new adventure for the hero of the day, Bugs Bunny, or Tweety and Sylvester, or the Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote.

Bugs Bunny was always a crowd favorite. You could never tell what antics the "waskally wabbit" would employ to escape the shotgun of that untiring, and apparently ever-hungry, hunter Elmer Fudd. And, Mel Blanc provided Bugs with that smart-assed Brooklyn accent that everyone recognized.

So, I looked forward to it when the USPS announced they would be releasing a pane of stamps to commemorate one of my childhood heroes, Bugs Bunny. I went to one of my local post offices and picked up a couple of the panes of colorful Bugs stamps to show my support and supplement my collection.

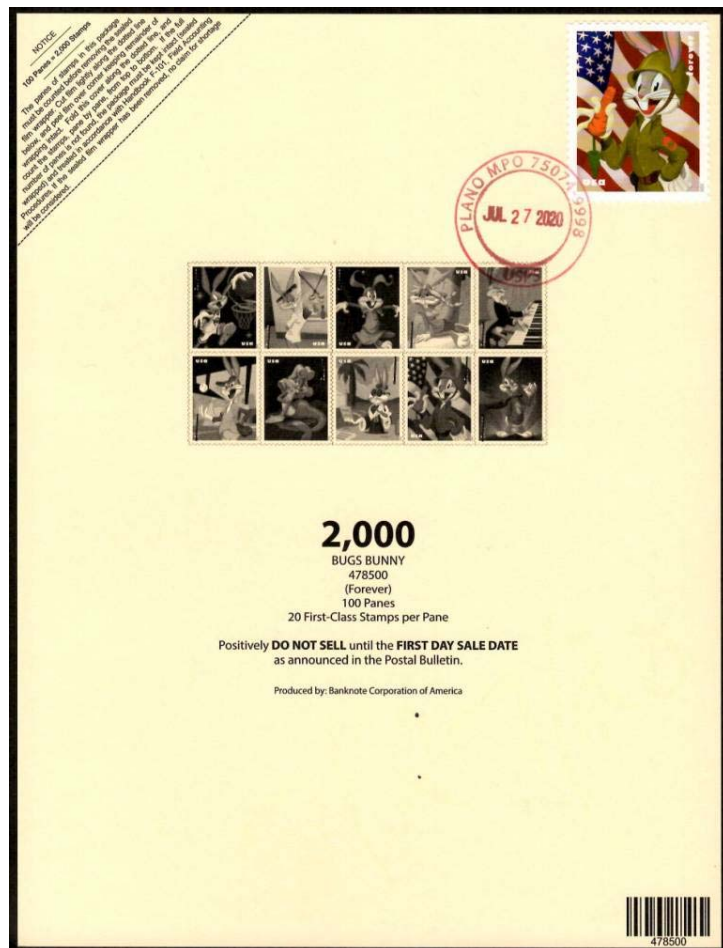
Now, any fan of Bugs Bunny knows that Bugs would employ any tactic to get his way, and most of the tactics of the cartoon rabbit were so unconventional and ridiculous that you had to wonder about the sanity of the writers of the cartoon episodes that kept us so enthralled. Bugs would never let you down and never failed to get out of whatever sticky situation he got into.

A couple of episodes involved Bugs dressing up like a female, and apparently this has caused some concern in certain communities. The "Bay Area Reporter" out of San Francisco reports that famed drag queen RuPaul credits Bugs Bunny with being his first exposure to cross-dressing as a child. Who knew a cartoon would inspire a lifestyle?



Bugs Bunny in drag. Photo courtesy of USPS.

Bugs Bunny will always have a special place in my heart. I loved him for his devil-may-care attitude, his ingenuity to get out of a troubled spot, and his cocky, Brooklyn attitude (thanks again to Mel Blanc). I never considered Bugs a cross dresser. I guess most kids seemed to overlook things like that back then. I guess we probably could all take a lesson from ourselves sometimes. See you online or at a meeting!



Editor's Note: I received Rick's article a couple of days after I had obtained the USPS "deck card" shown above, which is postmarked on the first day of sale at the Plano post office on July 27. I partially cropped out the huge ½" wide black border. I figured this illustration would add nicely to Rick's article. Collecting deck cards is a nice "add-on" to our hobby. Few people collect these; most don't even know they exist, and the post office personnel simply throws these away after opening the "deck" of stamp panes.

As far as Bugs Bunny goes, I never got to see the Warner Brothers cartoons growing up. Given as that my pre-teen years were in Switzerland, we never went to the movie theatres, and what little TV I was allowed to watch there didn't include any Warner Brothers cartoons; the only cartoons I remember watching in the 1960's on my parent's black & white TV were German-dubbed versions of *The Flintstones* and *The Jetsons*. Once we moved to the USA, we did get to watch all the cartoons, generally on Saturday mornings BEFORE the parents woke up!

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. Contact Peter Elias at 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: jstrubel-boy@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, now reduced to \$775 OBO!. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or at dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comic Strip - Funky Winkerbean (Christmas Delivery)

By Peter Elias

FUNKY WINKERBEAN

By Tom Batiuk



customer asks if the mail piece will arrive by Christmas. Well, that might become true this year soon as well! Mail service has been slowing down incredibly lately due to Covid-19, not just internationally, but also domestically. A letter from a relative in Germany was mailed on June 21, and it arrived here 30 days later (normally it only takes about 4-7 days, but a letter I received from there mailed on July 24 actually arrived on August 4, so that's only about 10 days...). Service for standard 1st class letters I've sent and received within the USA have had sporadic delivery time increases (probably ranging from lesser airline flights to new USPS rules about how mail is handled - less overtime, let it wait till tomorrow...).

While this comic strip was originally printed during the 2019 Holiday (in the December 24 edition of the Dallas Morning News), and I was going to wait until the 2020 Holiday season approaches to use it here, I figured that it is actually sort of appropriate to comment about it now.

As you can tell, the

Granbury Virtual Meeting Minutes July 28, 2020

By Debbie Hathaway

- Attendees: 9
- MCSC Granbury held its virtual stamp meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, July 28th. With 9 attendees, the meeting was a big success. The next Granbury virtual meeting will be on Tuesday, August 25th at 7:00 PM. If you would like an invitation to Granbury's virtual meetings, please contact Dave Stockbridge at stockdave44@yahoo.com and if you need access/Zoom/computer help, please contact Rick Howell at rick.howell1@tx.rr.com.
- Dave started the meeting with a few general announcements:
 - Ray Cartier is asking if any members plan on exhibiting at EXPO in November, to let him know ASAP as he will be opening it up to non-members soon. You can reach Ray at raycartier09@gmail.com or 817-275-2801
 - Jim Case took over the EXPO mystery box from Aliene and is looking for donated philatelic material for the box. If you have a donation, please contact him at jandpcase@live.com or 817-579-5161.
 - MCSC officer elections will be held soon. If you are interested in running for any of the open officer positions, please contact Rich Hildebrandt at rich-hilde@hotmail.com or 817-483-9234. As Rich has agreed to continue as President for another year, you will be working under an experienced leader.
- What have you been working on philatelically?: Rick Howell is continuing to work on his plate blocks, Gary McNamee won quite a few lots on the last ISWSC auction and they are keeping him busy at the moment. Debbie is continuing her copy-editing work for the ISWSC *The Circuit* and Rob showed off his GB Penny Black. Ken Aldridge's 10th book is now available for purchase so contact him if you would like a copy. He has also been buying stamps from HipStamps and was pleasantly surprised to find out of his recent 380 stamp purchases he only found 25 duplicates in his collection. Jim Bailey, Gene Atkinson, and Dave Stockbridge were able to have a meet-up in Stephenville to talk stamps – this was a most welcome outing as we all miss the camaraderie of our physical meetings. Aliene is enjoying life and has met the nice Lufkin Post Office people; she is also sorting stamps for the EXPO. Finally, Dave showed off a wood postcard in his collection. It's the usual postcard size, has an etching of a Native American on the front, and while not used, it had the usual postcard areas for comments, address, and stamp on the reverse. Do you have a wood or any other non-paper postcard in your collection?
- Scott English, the Executive Director of APS, provided an update on the Virtual Stamp Show that will be held August 17th – August 22nd. Sponsored by the American Philatelic Society, American Topical Association, and American First Day Cover Society, more information can be found at www.stamps.org. There is no cost to attend but registration is required. Registration can be found at www.stamps.org/events/virtual-stamp-show. There will be a virtual bourse, speakers from around the world presenting on many different topics, and virtual exhibitions. Scott said there were two categories of exhibitions: **Innovative** for first time exhibitors with a limit of up to 16 pages, or 1 exhibit frame and **Traditional** for those previously exhibiting at a national or WPS how with a limit up to 160 pages or 10 exhibit frames. More information on how to scan pages and how to

exhibit can be found at <https://stamps.org/news/c/start-collecting/cat/virtual-stamp-show/post/exhibit-at-the-virtual-stamp-show>.

- Gary McNamee started the program with a “what country is it?” Can you guess correctly? This country features:
 - A left-facing Queen portrait
 - Early stamps featured a fishing boat, and one with St. Paul escaping
 - It was once occupied by France
 - It became independent in 1964
 - It has a famous cross symbol
 - It is an archipelago
 - It is famous for diving
- Gary's program on the Penny Black, the first adhesive postage stamp was fascinating. The British mail system prior to 1840 had over 40 different postage rates and, among other criteria, was dependent on the distance travelled and number of pages. As there were usually multiple transactions in the process and the recipient paid the cost for mailing, many cases of fraud resulted. Sir Rowland Hill, although he did not design the PB, is considered the father of the Penny Black. He proposed that postage should be independent of distance traveled within Great Britain, set the rates by weight with one penny per ½ ounce, and postage should be prepaid by the sender. A design contest for the stamp yielded no accepted submissions and a portrait of Queen Victoria as a young 15-year old princess was chosen for the design. On May 6, 1840, the first PB was used and within the year over 68 million PB stamps were in circulation. Out of these, there are still 1.3 million in existence today.
 - Do you have one in your collection? Contact Gary if you would like to learn more about his Penny Black presentation.
 - See you August 25th at 7:00 PM. Meanwhile, keep on playing with your stamps!

Arlington Virtual Meeting Minutes August 12, 2020

By Skip Ely

- Rick Howell hosted fourteen MCSC members for a virtual club meeting via Zoom 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 12.
- The meeting was very informal, with few regular business items discussed. An exception was a discussion of the ups and downs of having our annual EXPO in November. A consensus was that we needed to try and get the various chairs together soon (either in person or virtually) to decide on some contingency plans for having or not having an event. Ralph Poore said he would try to set something up one way or the other.
- The highlight was a briefing of the APS Virtual Stamp Show August 17-22 by new member Scott English. He outlined some of the events that will be available, including exhibits and seminars. Registration is required, but free, and you don't have to be an APS member to attend (virtually). Just go to the APS web site and click on the Virtual Stamp Show block. All that's asked is your name and email, so it's not an elaborate process.
- The meeting ended around 8:00 P.M.
—> *Rick Howell recorded the August 12 Zoom Virtual Meeting, it is available on YouTube at this link:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDEYIFnBu6A>
See the screen shot of the meeting participants on Page 5.

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Exp. 12/19



New Book By Club Member: The Romance Now Con Game

Member Ken Aldridge has published another one of his crime fiction books featuring a small town Texas Chief of Police. This is Aldridge's 10th book and this one was the result of being quarantined at home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Three months from start to finish, a record for him.

In this book, retired Chief of Police, Jim Travis is asked to return to the job after his replacement gets cross-wise with the town's Council and resigns. As soon as Travis resumes the position, he learns of one of the residents withdrawing large amounts of money from her accounts. The highlight of this book is when Travis goes to Grapevine and attends our club's EXPO. Travis has to reach out to other law enforcement personnel to help solve a crime being committed by a cunning and greedy individual, under unusual circumstances. The case is solved, victims reimbursed and the perpetrator doesn't get to enjoy the fruits of his ill-gotten nest egg.

Published in July 2020, with 206 pages, the book is available on Amazon.com and Kindle. Aldridge has autographed copies available for \$10, \$13 with postage.



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

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

For online newsletters see

or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →



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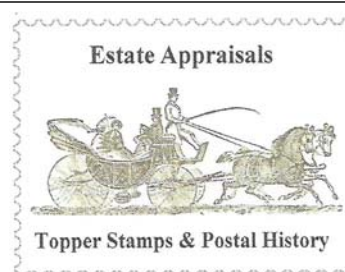
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Exp. 12/20



MEET & EAT for August & September, 2020

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 and 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 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.

**—> Meet & Eat get-togethers are cancelled
until further notice due to Covid-19
restrictions <—**

ARLINGTON

Cancelled until further notice

EULESS

Cancelled until further notice

GRANBURY

Cancelled until further notice

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

**Don't Forget:
Virtual EXPO planning meeting via
Zoom on August 27 @7 PM**

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

Complete set of 10 MNH Celebrate the Century, #3182-3191, CV 123.00, Face 48.90, sell \$50.

Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979

4/20

—> YOUR FREE AD COULD BE HERE <— !
(for MCSC club members only)