

# 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 10

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

October 2020

## Virtual Reality Comes to Philately

By Rick Howell

On October 3, STAMPEX in London will premiere in a virtual environment. Unlike the APS Virtual Stamp Show which many of us attended August 17-22, the promoters of STAMPEX have had a little longer to prepare and the chance to enhance the user experience to simulate a real show has not gone unnoticed. I think we will see a new stage in the evolution of virtual interaction at STAMPEX and the possibilities are extremely exciting to me.

I, for one, am not a video game enthusiast. I burned myself out on Atari back in the '80s playing Yar's Revenge, Asteroids and Video Chess. My son introduced me to first player video combat games like Doom, but I could not handle the motion sickness from the graphics, and never seemed to have the time to get into the "immersive" experience, or the desire to spend the time required to become proficient.

So, now, along comes STAMPEX International. STAMPEX is an international show, held in London every two years. This year, the COVID situation has forced the sponsors to search for an alternative way to do the show. The only way that made sense was to create a virtual reality stamp show which simulates the real thing. The real show is held at the Business Design Center in the Islington Borough of London.



In an attempt to simulate the real show, promoters wanted the attendees to feel the real experience of going to a stamp show, so they developed an interface which users could navigate seamlessly as though they were actually attending a physical show. Here is what you'll see when you log in:



You will notice front and center is the Info Desk where you can get assistance on whatever you need and they will direct you to the place to find it.

In front of the Booth Hall (upper left) there is a sign for Smiler Sheets. These are special show personalized stamp sheets commemorating the show. These sheets have proven quite popular at previous shows and can be purchased online here.

Directly behind that is the Booth Hall, where you will find stamp dealers and philatelic organizations with booths set up where you can have a "Zoom-like" interface with dealers' representatives or club representatives. Dealers wares will also be on display for purchase.

At the upper right, you will find the Museum of Philately where you can find some of the world's best philatelic collections.

Or, head straight ahead from the Info Desk to find the Spink Auditorium where talks are scheduled throughout the entire show.

You can check it out online and register at:

<https://www.stampexinternational.co.uk/>

There is no charge.

I, for one, am definitely looking forward to my trip to London, even if it is just a virtual trip. Hey, the airfare is cheap enough. Hope to see some of you there.

## Article Index

## Page #

Virtual Reality Comes to Philately	1
Editor's Forum	2
Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
Covid-19 Philately - Illegal Stamps	2
127,500 Dong	3
Been There - Done That (Tiki)	3
Been There - Done That (Act Now)	4
Club Virtual Meeting Minutes	4, 8
Been There - Done That (Fruits & Vegetables)	5
Been There - Done That (Oktoberfest München)	5
EXPO Planning Virtual Meeting Minutes	6, 10
From the President's Desk	6
Member & Dealer Ads	7, 11, 12
Comic Strip - Mother Goose & Grimm (Voting)	7
Club Officer Election Ballot	8
Annual Picnic & October Meeting	9
EXPO Volunteers Needed	9
Xmas Party	9
Scott Catalog Bid Form	10
SOWRINKLEDWECANTREADIT	11
Meet & Eat Info	12

# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto: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](mailto:editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

For a membership application write to:

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

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

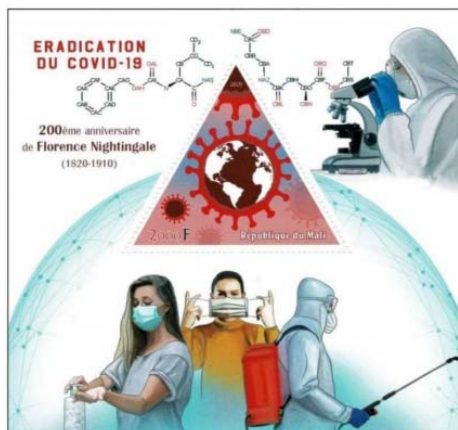
## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Plans for this year's EXPO are well under way. As Judy reports in this newsletter, volunteers are needed for various areas at the show, so please do your part to help out. The EXPO meeting minutes show that the EXPO is on track! We hope to see you there!

## Covid-19 Philately - Illegal stamps

By Peter Elias



While forming a collection (or even exhibit) of stamps & philatelic items relating to Covid-19 seems very appropriate at this time, it is important to mention to exercise caution!

The Mali Postal Service (La Poste du Mali) informs us in UPU Circular #2020-94 that it denounces & condemns the sheetlet shown here (in reduced size) as being an illegal (unauthorized) issue and not valid for postage despite having the country name & currency on it. In other words, just another cinderella printed by someone hoping to separate you from your discretionary spending funds. While this appears to be nicely designed, it is never-the-less fake. You can find a list of other UPU circulars on their website at: <https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Activities/Philately-IRCs/Philatelic-circulars>

## Collector Advice

By Peter Elias

Tom Cunningham pointed out to me that one of the first questions that he asks people when they contact him regarding an inherited collection is "how was it stored?". If the answer is that the album[s] were stored flat on their sides, that this invariably causes mint stamps to get stuck on pages and mounts due to the effects of pressure and humidity over time, and that albums should ALWAYS be stored upright, like books on a shelf.

So, while we collectors should know this, many non-collectors don't, and this invariably makes the collection difficult or impossible to sell ...

## Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



### Membership Summary – September 16, 2020

Membership as of August 19, 2020	89
Applications Received	0
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	( 0 )
Resignations	0
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of September 16, 2020	89

## Coming Attractions

### 2020

—> Due to COVID-19 and city / county / state / national emergency ordinances, some of the following in-person events may or may not occur and some meetings may be held virtually via Zoom, for MCSC meeting status, please contact Skip Ely.

**SEP. 22 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: Zoom meeting

**SEP. 25 & 26 Texas Precancel Club - Fall Meeting**

Grapevine, TX —> **CANCELLED** <—

**OCT. 7 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: EXPO envelope stuffing (\*no picnic\*)

—> **SCHEDULED TO BE HELD!** <—

**OCT. 9 & 10 Dallas Fall Postcard & Paper Show**

Comfort Inn & Suites Plano East, 700 Central Pkwy East  
Oct 9: 10 AM - 6 PM, Oct 10: 9 AM - 4 PM; \$4 admission

—> **SCHEDULED TO BE HELD!** <—

**OCT. 21 MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Program: —> **CANCELLED** <—

**OCT. 27 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**

Program: Virtual meeting via Zoom

**OCT. 29 MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting**

Program: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**NOV. 4 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**

Program: TBD + Annual Club Meeting

**NOV. 13 & 14 MCSC 33rd Annual EXPO in Grapevine**



127,500 Dong

By Peter Elias

*Been There,  
Done That*

Tiki

By Pat & Bob Weidman



Yup, it cost 127,500 Vietnamese Dong to send a 1 to 2 ounce registered letter from Vietnam to the USA as shown above. While that sounds like a lot, it is only about US \$5.50. But, if we were to send the same letter TO Vietnam from the USA, I would have to pay \$18.08! That's over 3¼ times as much!

The meter appears to have been printed on plain paper, cut out and stuck on the envelope with clear adhesive tape. I don't know if it is a private company meter or one from the post office.



Above is the front of the envelope. It did take 28 days to reach me from Vietnam.

For the past 14 years I have been giving away free stamps to beginning collectors. These free stamps in turn I obtain from the APS for free (+ the cost to ship them to me). Well, the stamps are not quite free for these collectors though, as I do ask that an SASE or other form of return postage is enclosed). In this case, the sender enclosed a €2 coin. Since the return postage is \$1.20 (= €1.01), he asked that I send back a €1 coin as change. While that's not a problem, enclosing a €1 coin in a 1 ounce envelope severely reduces the amount of stamps that I could in turn enclose (something like 70 stamps LESS!).

Between domestic and international envelopes that I've mailed out in these past 14 years, it probably has been over 1,000 envelopes (I am currently on "set #14") and have averaged around 75 mailings per set. Postage wise, that was probably around \$1,000 worth! So that is why I ask for return postage.

One of our favorite TV shows is Magnum P.I. starring Tom Selleck. Every week night starting at 9 o'clock on channel 33-1, reruns of Magnum P.I. come on. Then at 10 o'clock, another comes on and finally at 11 o'clock, a third one starts.

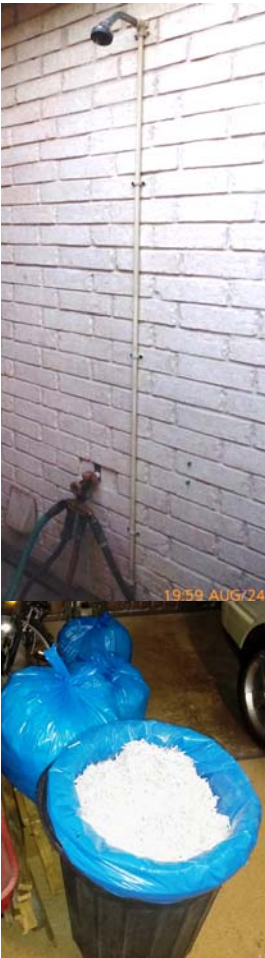
The other night, the storyline was about a Tiki statue that was stolen from the Robin Masters estate where Magnum lives and he set out to recover the stolen statue. It reminded me of the many times we had seen Tikis on our trips to Hawaii and the other islands of the South Pacific. In the Maori language, the Tiki is the symbol of the first men.

The two pictures of Pat with the Tikis were taken on our vacation to French Polynesia in 1995. The picture of her with the smaller Tiki was taken on Moorea, while the picture with the large Tiki was taken on Tahiti. The stamp is French Polynesia Scott #410, issued on January 23, 1985.



In April 2020, the United Nations Postal Administration issued a sheet of 10 \$1.20 stamps urging people to take 10 daily actions to confront the climate crisis.

I ordered the sheet in April, and my credit card was charged immediately, and I figured it was being sent. Several months later I inquired and was called back by a customer service rep working from home stating that they have not been able to get into the UN building to fill orders. I finally received the sheet in August.



That said, here's my take on the 10 action items shown on the sheet.

1) **5 Minute Showers:**

Well, I love a nice long hot shower. Who doesn't! So that doesn't really help in this case though, but at least in the summer months, I take my showers outside after swimming, and actually keep the shower to less than 2 minutes. On the left you can see my improvised outdoor shower (no hot water!).

2) **Drive Less:** Covid-19 has pretty much caused everyone to drive less. Based on my gas & toll tag usage so far, I've spent hundreds of dollars less this year than last year though!

3) **Meat-Free Meals:** Nope, not gonna happen! We have maybe one or two dinners each week with meat, but do more fish though...

4) **Local Produce:** Sure, when possible and not too expensive, but generally that also requires going to a local farmers market (more driving...).

5) **Recycle:** In our city, we have to use special blue bags for our recyclables (see left). Generally our household now has more blue bags each week than black ones! The key is to work on less ANYTHING to throw away (i.e.: less wasteful packaging).

6) **Lights Off:** I do try to turn off lights when possible, and we try to use LED bulbs when possible (much better than the CFL's that are an economic nightmare...).

7) **Unplug:** Mostly just small kitchen appliances like the toaster, etc. My computer stays on around the clock, as it takes about 15 minutes to become functional (due to the large amount of programs that are loaded). If I unplug my DirecTV receiver for example, it takes about 15-20 minutes before it is usable since it has to reprogram itself! So while "unplugging" some items may save some energy even when not being used, it can be a huge time waster when trying to use them.

8) **Refill & Reuse:** Absolutely! I hate wasting plastics, especially the "one-time use" ones. I've been using the same plastic straw that I once got from a McDonald's soda for the past year! And there's some plastic microwaveable trays that I've been using for 20 years! When they finally wear out or break, then I'll put them in recycle bag!



# ACT NOW

1. 5 MINUTE SHOWERS
2. DRIVE LESS
3. MEAT-FREE MEALS
4. LOCAL PRODUCE
5. RECYCLE
6. LIGHTS OFF
7. UNPLUG
8. REFILL & REUSE
9. ZERO WASTE FASHION
10. BRING YOUR OWN BAG

The United Nations ActNow campaign aims to inspire global citizens to take ten daily actions to confront the climate crisis.  
Act now for people and planet.

un.org/actnow • #ActNow



- 9) **Zero Waste Fashion:** What exactly is that? I hardly buy new clothes though; working from home for the past 20 years means that I don't wear out my clothes as often!
- 10) **Bring Your Own Bag:** I do that when I shop at Aldi; in fact, I'm using a Swiss Aldi bag that I've had since 2013!
- Having grown up in Switzerland in the 1960's, has caused me to be a bit more aware of being wasteful as it is. So depending on how I score myself on these 10 items, I figure I'm at about 60 - 70%. What is your score? As they say, "your mileage may vary"....

## MCSC Arlington Zoom Meeting Minutes September 2, 2020

By Skip Ely

- Fifteen members of the Mid Cities Stamp Club met virtually via Zoom at 7:00 P.M. Wednesday, September 2, 2020.
- **EXPO Update** - Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting with a brief EXPO update. He said another Expo planning meeting is scheduled via zoom on September 17th.
- Ray Cartier mentioned he had sent some inquiries for **additional exhibits** and has at least one positive response.
- Stanley Christmas said he talked to the Bob Duncan Center and they have opened up for business again, albeit with occupancy restrictions and mask requirements. This may mean we can have our regular Expo envelope stuffing activity October 7th.
- Rich Hildebrandt said if this was the case he would bring the new Scott catalogs, which he has been acquiring the past few month.
- **Show & Tell** - Jim Taylor showed a tea box in the shape of a British phone booth decorated with stamps. Chuck Snow showed a cover with a ten cent Canal Zone stamp from 1970.
- **Program** - Ray Cartier presented a program based on an exhibit he prepared titled "Apollo 13 Mission" from 1970: 50 years ago this year."
- Dave Stockbridge reminded everyone of the **next Granbury virtual meeting** September 22nd.
- **Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned around 8:00 P.M.



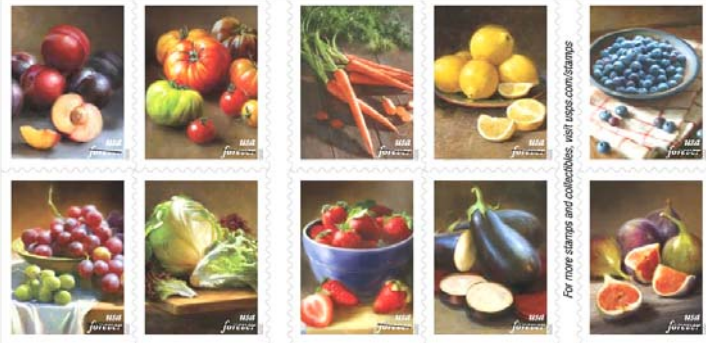
## Been There, Done That

(.. And still eating them ...)

## Fruits & Vegetables

By Peter Elias

On July 17, 2020, the USPS issued a booklet of 20 "Fruits & Vegetables" stamps, featuring 10 different designs. Even though this is a booklet designed to be sold to the public, for some reason, the main post office in Plano did NOT get these as a regular shipment and I wasn't able to buy them until August 13! Go figure...



USPS logistics issues aside ... Contrary to popular belief, I do actually eat fruits & vegetables, but not necessarily all the ones featured here. The 10 fruits & vegetables featured on the stamps are: red & black plums, heirloom & cherry tomatoes, carrots, lemons, blueberries, red and green grapes, lettuces, strawberries, eggplants and figs. My "been there..." comments about them are:

- **Plums:** Well, I do eat them on occasion, and as with most fruit, I like them better when they're on the tart side.
- **Tomatoes:** Regular size tomatoes I generally only eat in thin slices on hamburgers. But I really love the "cherry" tomatoes; especially the yellow ones! You do know that are fruits, right?
- **Carrots:** What's up doc? As with Bugs Bunny, I do on occasion "nibble" on carrots; generally I like them better raw than cooked.
- **Lemons:** Not so much for "eating", but fish certainly tastes better with lemons!
- **Blueberries:** For me to enjoy them, they have to be tart! I do remember that hiking in the mountains in Switzerland as a kid, that we occasionally picked wild blueberries! What a treat!
- **Grapes:** I like grapes, the red ones better than the green ones. I like them all though even better when they are processed into wine! Some of my favorite "adult" grape varieties include (in no particular order): Gewürtztraminer, Riesling, Syrah (or Shiraz), Bordeaux blends, Veltliner, Chianti, Sangiovese, Malbec, Vinho Verde, et al; although here my selections favor green (or rose) over red...
- **Lettuces:** Iceberg? -> generally only on hamburgers, otherwise, the darker green ones are in my salads (which I eat almost daily),



During a hike from Davos to Klosters in August 2013, my son Marcos and I were picking wild strawberries growing along the path.

## Been There, Done That

## Oktoberfest München

by Ken Aldridge

In the fall of 1997, my wife and I traveled to Europe with good friends. I was retired so we had the time, and my friends were North Dakota farmers who had finished their harvest. We flew to London, spent a few days in England then using Eurail passes went to Paris for a few days and then on to Munich to take in Oktoberfest.



Shown above is a FDC with the official logo, a yellow-faced beer stein guy? I got it at the Post Office on our way out to where Oktoberfest was being held. It was like going to a State Fair, tents set up with souvenirs, food booths and of course....BEER GARDENS!



My photos are glued down on album pages and can't easily be scanned [Editor - I cropped one photo, shown above]. We took the subway to the festival located in the outskirts of Munich. Tons of people, lots of security and about 15 beer halls each sponsored by a different German brewery. The halls were crowded and bands played loudly everywhere we went. There was also a large carnival being held. We were there for several hours (beers) and took the subway back to our pension, bone tired.

Sorry to say, but this year's Oktoberfest will not be held. In a joint announcement by festival officials and the Mayor of Munich on April 21st, the 2020 festival was cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Besides England, France and Germany, we traveled to Austria, Switzerland and Italy over six weeks. Great trip, glad we did it while we had the vim, vigor and vitality!

- **Strawberries:** Sure! The best ones are the tiny wild strawberries we picked alongside the trail while hiking in Switzerland (see picture to the left).
- **Eggplants:** Uh, no... Didn't grow up with these, tried 'em once, but can live without them, even though they are known to grow on my favorite island of St. Vincent!
- **Figs:** I suppose if I have to ...

## MCSC EXPO Zoom Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2020

By Skip Ely

Ralph Poore began the virtual meeting around 7:00 PM. He referred to the agenda that he had sent in an email a couple of days earlier as a guide for this meeting. He called for committee chairs to outline the status of their programs:

1. **Awards** - Debbie Hathaway said that she would not be attending EXPO or any awards dinner if we had one. She was still willing to help with the program where she could though.
2. **Banquet** - Rich said he had not planned anything so far, but only 30 days notice was necessary to prepare for one. Later in the meeting, a motion was made and passed, to cancel the banquet due to health concerns.
3. **Beginners** - Skip Ely said he was prepared to bring items to disperse at the Beginners table.
4. **Bourse** - Tom Cunningham said he had commitments from 21 dealers and hoped to get a few more. There was a lengthy discussion of the where's and how's. Some details remain to be worked out regarding required health protocols from the state, county, city and convention center.
5. **Cachets** - Rob Hathaway said he was ready to solicit designs for cachets. It was suggested he contact Diana Davis as a first step, since she had done several in the past.
6. **Chance Board** - Karen Cartier said all was ready to go.
7. **Exhibits** - Ray Cartier said he had reservations for 18 frames. He wasn't sure how many more he would get, but speculated maybe a total of 30-35 from other solicitations. A discussion followed if that were the case, then maybe we could keep the exhibits in main room instead of a separate room, and save some money. Ray said we might make them all non-competitive. It was decided to use September 15 as the close date for exhibit reservations and go from there.
8. **Judges** - Peter Elias said he had commitments from three judges, none of them local. Since it appeared we won't have many exhibits, a motion was made and passed to drop down to one judge.
9. **Mail-Out** - Stanley said he was ready to go to the printer with the mail-out, although changes being made might require some further editing. He said if we didn't have an October in-person meeting, that he would just stuff the envelopes himself.
10. **Publicity** - Peter Elias said he was ready to submit an ad to Linn's. After some discussion, it was decided to have only four weeks of ads instead of the usual eight.
11. **Security** - Ken Aldridge said arrangements had been made and were still viable.
12. **Snacks** - Ken Aldridge said we weren't likely to have them this year as neither he nor Dave Stockbridge had plans to attend due to health concerns.

13. **Silent Auction** - It was decided not have a Silent Auction this year due to health concerns for everyone involved.
14. **Volunteers** - Judy Christmas and Ralph Poore have been collecting interest statement from club members. This remains an area of concern, and a final tally will be assessed by mid-September.
15. **Treasury** - Judy Christmas has forwarded a current EXPO budget to all committee members. The conclusion so far has been that the club will likely take a loss on this year's EXPO (regardless of whether it is held or not), but has the resources to remain solvent until next year.

The next EXPO zoom meeting was proposed for September 17, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned about 8:20 PM.

### From the President's Desk

By Richard Hildebrandt

Things are looking up for our club!

The Bob Duncan Center is open for business, so we will be having an in-person meeting on October 7. We will, unfortunately, not be holding the regular pre-meeting picnic. All are invited to come and socialize and participate in the annual envelope stuffing. There will be some gift certificates for those who help. Some refreshments will be provided to try and compensate for missing the picnic.

We have had some people step up and place their names on the election ballot. The ballot is in this newsletter [*Editor: on page 8*] and the votes will be counted prior to the November Arlington meeting.

Also in this issue [*page 10*] is the auction form for the 2018 Scott catalogs. We are selling off the 2018 US Specialized and the Scott Worldwide Volumes 1 through 6. The bidding period is a little shorter this go around, but there is still plenty of time to send in your bid. There will probably not be volumes 1 through 6 for sale next year, so this is your best chance to get a bargain.

The EXPO planning is moving forward with minor adjustments:

- There will be no awards dinner, but there will still be some exhibits for your enjoyment.
- The silent auction will not take place this year for an assortment of reasons.
- There are several of the regular dealers who will not be present (retirement from the hobby, Covid-19 concerns, personnel health issues etc.), but Tom has located several dealers new to our show who will be present.
- There should be around 20 dealers that you can visit.
- Unfortunately the USPS has declined to participate this year.

As things are still evolving we will try to keep everyone informed as to the latest club activities as soon as we know for sure.

Hope to see many of you in October!



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact me at [wills@airmail.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dklgonefishing@yahoo.com) 8/19

## Comic Strip - Mother Goose & Grimm (Mail-In Votes)

By Peter Elias

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters



The Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip has a running gag about the dog "Grimm" chasing mail trucks.

This time though, while it is comical in nature, it does also comment on the current issues regarding mail-in votes. My 2 Eurocents worth is that I believe that everyone should be

able to vote by mail given the current Covid-19 situation. While I don't know who is supposed to pay the postage for mailing the votes (the voter, the city, county or ??), it would give the USPS some extra income for handling letter mail that they sorely need. Even if you have to pay 55¢ to mail a ballot, surely this is less expensive than the gas to drive to the polling place and less time spent! This strip was published in the August 24, 2020 Dallas Morning News.

## Granbury Virtual Meeting Minutes August 25, 2020

By Skip Ely

### **Attendance:**

Eleven people participated in the Granbury Zoom Meeting Tuesday, August 25.

### **Show & Tell:**

- Dave Stockbridge began the meeting at 7:00 P.M. by asking for Show and Tells.
- Rick Howell talked about "The Liberty Series" book by Ken Lawrence et. al.
- Gary McNamee mentioned the success he has had with some recent ISWSC (International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors) auctions.
- Ken Aldridge discussed some philatelic sites available on Facebook.
- Bob Coleman said he had been working on his flight cover collection, and what a big help Ray Cartier has been to him.
- Fred Ekenstam said he had begun a new collection interest in Civil War Patriotic Covers.
- Dave Stockbridge showed a U.S. postcard cancelled 8-24-26 in Montreal Canada.
- Rick Howell mentioned how good the recent APS Virtual Stamp Show was the previous week.

This led to a brief discussion of our own upcoming EXPO in November, and the virtual planning meeting scheduled for August 27.

### **Where Is It?:**

- Gary McNamee did the feature "Where Is It?". Rick Howell correctly guessed Portugal.

### **Program:**

- Rick Howell then presented the program "Confederate Postmaster Provisionals".

### **Next Meeting:**

- Dave said the next Granbury meeting would be September 22, most likely via Zoom again. Rick said he had recorded this meeting, and would make it available for viewing later.

### **Adjournment:**

- The meeting adjourned around 8:00 PM.

Rick Howell says that the meeting is available on YouTube at this address:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrViKOucp8Q&fbclid=IwAR3NHafPOkRZc\\_H9wnZVZJj6dA6tkKJr97GaJUmsQR0iXISok4Myinn7Zn4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrViKOucp8Q&fbclid=IwAR3NHafPOkRZc_H9wnZVZJj6dA6tkKJr97GaJUmsQR0iXISok4Myinn7Zn4)

[Editor note: multi-line links like the one above do not always work. If it doesn't work, be sure to select all 3 lines via a "copy" and then "paste" into your browser.]

## Mid-Cities Stamp Club Officers & Board of Directors Election for 2021-2022 Ballot

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Nr: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please complete each section of the ballot as noted with an ink pen.)*

All ballots MUST be received by hand or by mail before the MCSC Annual Meeting on November 4, 2020 by the club Secretary, Skip Ely. Please drop the ballot off at the October Arlington meeting if possible or before the Annual Meeting in Arlington in person; if mailing, send this ballot to arrive before November 4, 2020 to:

*Skip Ely, MCSC Secretary, 5512 Shady Meadow, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-6616*

### **1. OFFICERS**

*(Check one name for each position below)*

<b>Office</b>	<b>Nominees</b>	<b>or Write-In</b>
President	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard Hildebrandt	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
1st Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Stanley Christmas	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
2nd Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Rick Howell	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Skip Ely	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____
Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Judy Christmas	or <input type="checkbox"/> _____

### **2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*(Vote for only three [3] of the three [3] candidates shown below)*

- ☐ Ken Aldridge
- ☐ Peter Elias
- ☐ Ken Wills





## MCSC Annual Picnic !

By Judy Christmas

The October's Arlington meeting has traditionally been the Club's annual Fall Picnic, but we will not be holding one this year due to the Coronavirus. Hopefully next year things will be better and that we will again be able to hold our annual fall picnic in 2021.



## Arlington's October Meeting

By Judy Christmas

There will be an active meeting for the Arlington location in October. The Center is open once again, so a meeting has been planned. The program will be the annual stuffing of envelopes. Five-Dollar gift certificates will be won by those who help stuff envelopes. Refreshments will be made available.

We had a good turnout at our July meeting with seventeen attendees! Maybe we will pass that number this time. In the meantime, everyone stay safe and healthy.



## Attention All Club Members!!

By Judy Christmas

It is time once again to start thinking about volunteering for the Club's annual EXPO. The dates for the show this year are the 13th & 14th of November. Since meetings are not being held in person because of COVID-19, a Volunteer sheet is NOT being passed around at any of the virtual meetings. If you are planning on attending the show, why not add a couple of hours and help the Club with your smile? That is really all it takes to work at the EXPO; you do not need to be a stamp expert. You will be rewarded with lots of other smiles and knowing that you have helped a fellow stamp collector is priceless.

We will begin setting up for the show on Thursday, November 12th at 5:00 PM. As in past years, those who can and who want to beat some of the rush hour traffic, we will be meeting at 3:30 PM for a quick early dinner at Spring Creek BBQ in Grapevine. If you prefer to just meet us at the Convention Center that is fine. We all have different outlooks on this virus that is going around.

We are holding an EXPO Zoom meeting on Thursday, September the 17th to finalize things. At this time, we do not have that many exhibits, so that area may be smaller than usual. There will be no Silent Auction. Putting up the number of frames that we will be needing is the first thing that needs to be done. I am not sure if the frames will be in a different room or not. It all depends on how many exhibits we will have. The Club hires two men that come with Evan to unload the frames and help with the setup. At this time, all Club activities will be going on. We will be putting the programs together and placing EXPO signs around the Convention Center on Thursday evening (November 12th).

We will be needing volunteers in all areas, so your help is greatly needed. If you want to help please let

me know via email, [judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net) or by phone at (817) 996-6112. This is also the number you can use during the show if you have a need to contact me.

As an incentive to come out and help your Club, we are giving away thirteen \$25 gift certificates. Two gift certificates will be given away Thursday night, six on Friday and five on Saturday. However, to win, you must first put in some volunteer time. When you come into the volunteer check-in at the Registration table, you will get a ticket for that day's drawings. A lucky name will be drawn every hour on the hour starting at 11:00 AM on Friday and at 10:00 AM on Saturday. New tickets will be given out each day.

There will not be a Snack Area this year due to the Coronavirus. The Club will have an ice chest full of soft drinks and bottled water. So please make your plans now to join us for a fun-filled weekend serving your Club.

If you volunteer during the noon hour or will be at the show during that time, we will be taking lunch orders as we have in the past. You will be ordering a box lunch from Jayson's Deli. I will have order forms available on Thursday evening and at the beginning of Friday and Saturday. You must pay when you turn your order form in. All order forms must be turned in to me by 10:00 AM on both days. After the lunches arrive, please go to what would have been the snack area to pick up your lunch. The lunches will include a sandwich (you will be able to choose from several choices of meats and breads), chips, pickle, cookie (again there will be a choice) or brownie, plus a napkin and condiments for \$8.00.

So please, come join us for a fun filled two days. Please feel free to contact me at [judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net) or (817) 996-6112.



## Annual Club Christmas Party

By Judy Christmas

I am taking a poll to see how many members would like to hold our Annual Club Christmas Party this year. If enough of you vote to do so, the dinner will be catered. I feel this would be the safest way to do the dinner what with the Coronavirus. No one will bring anything; the Club will take care of it all.

We would still hold our gift exchange like we did last year, as that seemed to go over so well with everyone. When you let me know your feelings, please also let me know who you would like for me to get our dinner from. We have used Boston Market the most in the past, but we can also have Spring Creek BBQ and Babe's Chicken, or whoever you would like. So, if you would email me via [judy66@swbell.net](mailto:judy66@swbell.net) or call at (817) 996-6112 to vote for a Christmas Party or not, and the type of food you would like, I would very much appreciate it.



## October - National Stamp Collecting Month

A Google search brought about this stamp image (i.e.: cinderella sticker) from many years ago. Although I doubt if any of our current Presidential candidates are stamp collectors (I hear that one of them doesn't even like the USPS all that much...), it is a reminder that voting season is upon us ...

## EXPO Planning Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes - Sept. 17, 2020

By Skip Ely

Ralph Poore began the meeting promptly at 7:00 PM.

1. **USPS Kiosk** - Ralph said that he and Stanley visited with the Grapevine Postmaster for coordination purposes. They reported that the USPS will not be able to attend with their kiosk this year.
2. **Insurance** - Ralph also mentioned that we had secured an insurance contract again this year.
3. **Exhibits** - Stanley said that Ray Cartier told him we would have exhibits to fill 48 frames this year. After a lengthy discussion about the location, a motion was made and approved to move the exhibits back to the main room (this will save some costs for the extra room and security).
4. **Publicity** - Peter said he had submitted the EXPO notice to Linn's for five weeks instead of the normal eight, as agreed upon in the previous Expo meeting.
5. **Judges** - Peter said that he had contacted the three judges that had previously agreed to participate. One will still attend and another may still attend on his own. The third had not made travel arrangements yet and was okay on not attending. A question arose about having any judge at all since we had agreed in the previous meeting to have all exhibits as non-competitive. No decision was made on this matter.
6. **Transportation (of frames and file cabinets)** - Evan Islam said that he will proceed with getting a truck and labor for transporting the frames to the convention center and back to the storage unit.
7. **Bourse** - Tom Cunningham said that he had 19 confirmed dealers. He said he will probably have one more, and could get a couple of others before all was through.
8. **Security** - Ken Aldridge said that there were no issues with security.
9. **Beginners Table** - Skip Ely said that he was working on beginner give-away packets. Rick Howell talked about how some other shows where dealers willing to help beginners would have some sort of extra identification. Skip said he wasn't sure that was necessary at our show (upon further reflection, that could be something we could investigate for next year).
10. **Budget** - Judy said that she had sent an email with the revised Expo budget. Tom Cunningham had a few updates that Judy said she would incorporate.
11. **Lunches** - Judy said that no drinks would be offered with the lunches this year, but that we would still do the sandwiches from Jason's Deli.
12. **Programs** - Stanley asked about the number of programs to print. It was agreed we would do 350 again this year.
13. **Awards** - Peter questioned what we needed to do on awards since we had agreed exhibits would be non-competitive and there would be no awards banquet. It was pointed out there would still be a few awards like TPA and "most popular", so some ribbons and certificates would still need to be prepared.
14. **Registration** - Tom Cunningham said that Kathryn Story had agreed to help with the registration desk.
15. **Floor Plan** - Stanley said that he would meet with the convention center to finalize the floor plan map as soon as we know the number of dealers.
16. **Safety Precautions** - Ralph said that he spoke with the convention center and that they have no requirement to take people's temperatures. Hand sanitizer will be available in the foyer, but again, it will not be required to enter the main hall. Names and contact information will be an important part of registration. Tom Cunningham hoped we will get more people to give us their email addresses.

**Next Meeting** - Ralph scheduled the next EXPO Zoom meeting for October 29, 2020, again at 7:00 PM. [Editor Note: the Zoom meeting link will be provided later.]

### 2018 Scott Stamp Catalog Bid Form

Now is the time for one of the great annual stamp club events! Each year the club gives every member the chance to purchase one of the recent Scott Standard Stamp Catalogs. The catalogs will be sold as 2 lots: Volumes 1 to 6, and the USA Specialized. The club will take sealed bids until November 2, 2020. To bid, please send in a bid with the following information:

Bid for 2018 Scott Volumes 1 to 6 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Bid for 2018 Scott USA Specialized \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**BIDDER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Daytime Phone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

#### RULES for BIDDERS:

Submit bids by mail to:	Mid-Cities Stamp Club, P.O. Box 2158, Arlington, TX 76004-2158
Mark the outside of the envelope:	"Catalog Bid"
Bids must be received by:	November 2, 2020 (received by, NOT postmarked by!)
In case of a tie:	The envelope with a commemorative stamp used for postage wins. If a tie still exists, the earliest postmarked entry wins.
The winning bidder:	Will be called to make arrangements for delivery and payment

The winning bidder and amount will be announced at the Arlington November 4, 2020 club meeting.



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Exp. 12/19



**SOWRINKLEDWECANTREADIT**

By Peter Elias



When I receive mail & packages at my UPS Store business address

dress in Murphy, they scan the inbound barcode and then send me an email stating that I had received a package.

When I saw that the "tracking" number was SOWRINKLEDWECANTREADIT, I thought it was a joke!

... Apparently not! —>



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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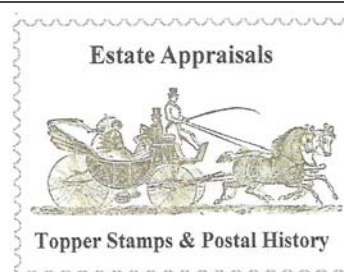
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Topper Stamps & Postal History

[jonathan@topperstamps.com](mailto:jonathan@topperstamps.com)  
[www.topperstamps.com](http://www.topperstamps.com)

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

Exp. 12/20



## MEET & EAT for October, 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. For physical meeting info & status see page 2 or contact Skip Ely.

### ARLINGTON

Cancelled until further notice

### EULESS

Cancelled until further notice

### GRANBURY

Cancelled until further notice

## Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at [Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:KAldridge@aol.com), 817-528-7979

4/20

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

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**—> October 7 Arlington Meeting is In-Person!**  
**—> Dallas Postcard & Paper Show in Plano on October 9 & 10**  
**—> MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting (Virtual) on October 29**