

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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 33, Number 11

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

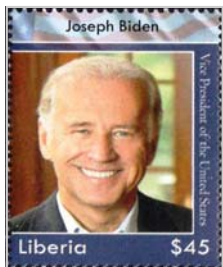
November 2020

Time To Vote

By Peter Elias

Ah, it's that time of the [every 4th] year: presidential voting season! Let the mudslinging begin ... As stamp collectors, we all know that politics do enter the hobby (and I try to stay out of it). Stamps and of course cinderella items (i.e.: stickers, poster stamps and other "stamp-like" objects) are issued for Presidents and Presidential candidates. I thought I'd "google around" to see what I could find.

As you'll see on this page, I've found actual postage stamps featuring the current President, Donald Trump. But these are not US stamps: Liberia and Niger (amongst other nations) have issued stamps or souvenir sheets depicting him. Hillary Clinton and other candidates were also featured on the same 2016 set from Liberia as the single shown above with denominations being \$20.16.



Past Vice President (during the Obama Administration) and current presidential candidate Joe Biden was also featured on a stamp from Liberia as seen above.

The above are actual postage stamps. Then there is "political ephemera", such as stickers and related items. Here are images of what I've found with Google searches, whether or not these are "actual" stickers or just electronic images, I don't know, but they do "look" like stamps, some of them even borrowing classic USA stamp designs:

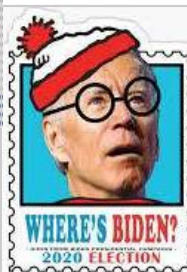


Note: some designs I've seen can actually get fairly crass, I've had to "censor" this one

Note: Melania Trump has also been featured on a souvenir sheet from "The Gambia" as part of a series featuring FLOTUS's. Unfortunately there is no room to display it in this article.



<— A purported 2017 Russia stamp that depicts President Trump. My own Scott catalogs are dated 2016, so I can't verify it (and Tom Cunningham couldn't find it either in his 2021 Scott's), but here's a [link](#) to an April 1, 2017 online blog article that does talk about this "stamp" (but it is probably an elaborate hoax because of the April 1 date...; and while it does appear to be a well-done article, the images in the article of Russian postal officials at the first-day-of-issue ceremony of this stamp are probably photoshopped, and there is a definitive political agenda present).



[Editor's note: the images shown in this article are from a variety of online sources and are the respective copyright of their creators or owners]



Article Index

Page

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Time To Vote | 1 |
| Editor's Forum | 2 |
| Calendar & Secretary's Report | 2 |
| Been There - Done That (Lindau) | 3 |
| Meeting Minutes | 4, 8 |
| Pay To Vote? | 4 |
| Cataloging Online | 5 |
| Been There - Done That (Social Security) | 5 |
| USPS Holiday Rate Increases | 5 |
| Silver Linings of COVID Clouds | 6 |
| 2021 Membership Renewal Form | 6 |
| Member & Dealer Ads | 7, 12, 13 |
| Comic Strip - Blondie (Misdelivery) | 7 |
| Been There - Done That (Radishes) | 8 |
| Been There - Done That (Pirates of the Caribbean) | 9 |
| Record Number of Stamps | 9 |
| Save Money on Postage | 9 |
| Topic Of The Month: Distracted Driving & CyberSecurity | 10 |
| From the President's Desk | 10 |
| Free WASC Journals | 10 |
| Attention All Members (EXPO Info & Volunteers Needed) | 11 |
| Been There - Done That (Byodo-In Temple) | 11 |
| Been There - Done That (Drank The Kool-Aid) | 11 |

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2019 - 2020 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Board of Directors (voting):

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

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area! Dues are only \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

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

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

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

I hope that no one got offended by anything shown in the article on page 1. It is designed to simply show some of the real stamps and also what elaborate images (and even possibly printed cinderella items are out there) as it relates to the current two presidential candidates. It doesn't matter whether you are for or against anyone in particular, these items exist (either for real or virtually). The only thing that personally bothers me is those people that produce downright "illegal stamps" (i.e.: being marked from being from a real country, but that country has not officially issued the stamp in question), as that is purely designed to fleece collectors (or even non-collectors).

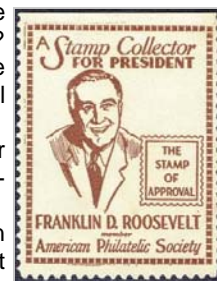
If an item is an obvious cinderella, and not pretending to be from a real stamp-issuing entity, that's ok. The big problem is, that non-collectors may take things at face value, so just because it features a country name, they think it's real postage (such as some of the "USA" labeled images on page 1, or if it is from what "might" be a country, but isn't). Whether you want to spend money on these items is of course your prerogative. Certain countries issue stamps even for candidates, knowing that it all helps that country's postal administration earn money. But as with anything you buy, "caveat emptor".

That said, I wonder if any of the current candidates are stamp collectors? Probably not, and we know of at least one candidate that doesn't seem like the postal service too much for some odd reason...

If you are submitting stamps (or images of stamps) as illustrations for articles, please keep the following in mind:

- 1) Stamps should be in mint condition (postmarks and cancels just detract unless they are the focus of the article).
- 2) If scanned images are submitted, then 1) above applies AND the image should be at least 300 dpi quality, and I can straighten out images, adjust contrast, etc, if needed, but do leave some black or blank space around the stamp scan.

In other more important matters ... don't forget that EXPO 2020 is going to be happening shortly! We hope to see many of you there. At the time of writing this, there are 21 confirmed stamp dealers and 48 frames of (non-competitive) exhibits; the *Giant Mixture Pick* and *Beginning Collector* tables will also be present!



Coming Attractions

2020

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

OCT. 21 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
—> **CANCELLED** <—
OCT. 27 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Zoom Meeting, see Skip Ely for link
OCT. 29 **MCSC—EXPO Planning Meeting**
Via Zoom at 7 PM; links will be provided by Skip or Ralph
NOV. 4 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD (but will be an in-person meeting!)
NOV. 13 & 14 **MCSC 33rd Annual EXPO**
Grapevine Convention Center, 1208 S. Main St, Grapevine
—> **EXPO IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD!**
—> **Hope To See You There!** <—
NOV. 18 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
—> **CANCELLED** <—
NOV. 24 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Zoom Meeting, see Skip Ely for link
DEC. 2 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Christmas Party**
—> **CANCELLED** <—
DEC. 4-5 **TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse**
—> **CANCELLED (by City of Richardson)** <—

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received

n/a

New Members

n/a

Deceased

n/a

Reinstatements

n/a

Membership Summary – October 21, 2020

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Membership as of September 16, 2020 | 89 |
| Applications Received | 0 |
| New Members | 0 |
| Dropped for non-payment of dues | (0) |
| Resignations | 0 |
| Deceased | (0) |
| Reinstatements | 0 |
| Membership as of October 21, 2020 | 89 |



In September 2000, Annie & I were vacationing in Europe, which took us to Germany, Switzerland and Austria. One of the places we visited was Lindau, which is featured in the German postal stationery card from 1965 and a stamp featuring its' lighthouse from 2015 as shown above.



So where exactly is Lindau? The philatelic items show it to be near a body of water. The cropped Google map above shows it where the red "pin" is at, in the German state of Bavaria. Lindau is (partially) on an island, served by both a bridge and a railway

dam, just off the shore on the eastern side of Lake Constance (which is called the "Bodensee" in German).

Lindau consists of two parts, the main town and the "old town" portion, which is on the island and is less than ½ mile across (see the street map shown above) and total of 0.26 square miles in size. The town is named after the "Linden" tree.

The small harbor, built in 1856 has a Bavarian Lion statue at the entrance (see #1 above) and next to it is a lighthouse (#3) that was featured in the 2015 stamp.

Annie and I went up in the lighthouse, from where we had a fantastic view of the old town, including the "Mangturm" (Mang Tower, see #3) with its tiled roof dating to the 12th Century.

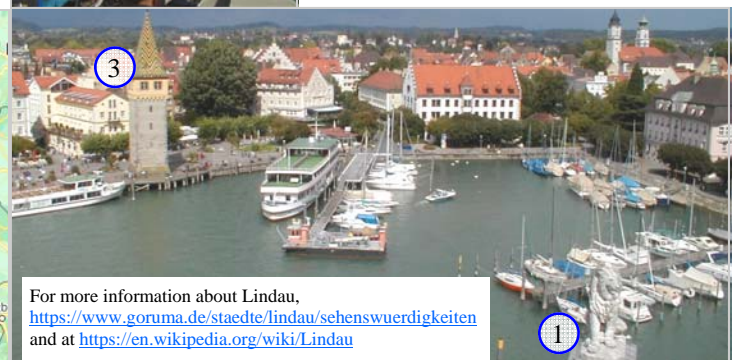
Wandering through some of the old town section, we had some ice cream at an outdoor café and also ended up at the



"Altes Rathaus", as seen in #4 at the bottom. No, it has nothing to do with "rats" - "Rat" in German means "advice", so its the "house of advice", or as we would call it, the "court house"...).

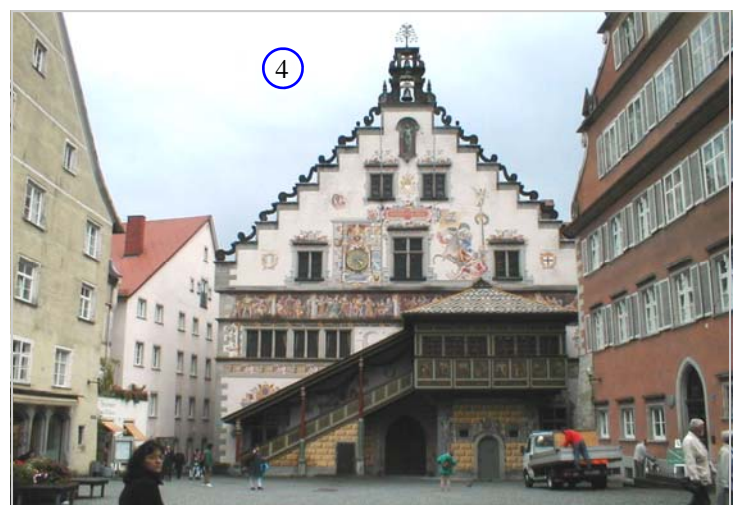
In the photo below, you can see Annie standing in front of the Rathaus, which was originally built in 1422 in a gothic style, and then was updated to have a fantastic Renaissance style "stair gable" roof in 1576.

Lindau itself was first mentioned in 882 by a monk from St. Gallen



For more information about Lindau, <https://www.goruma.de/staedte/lindau/sehenswuerdigkeiten> and at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lindau>

(Switzerland) and remains nearby go back to the 1st century. If you ever find your self in southern Germany near the Swiss & Austrian borders, I can highly recommend going to visit Lindau! And if you are into aerophilately, you may wish to drive another 18 miles west and visit the [Zeppelin Museum](#) in Friedrichshafen (we were also there on the same day, so perhaps this calls for another "Been There .." article?).



The postal stationery card is from my own collection, the German Lindau stamp image is from: <http://www.collectorzpedia.com/2015/06/lighthouses-lindau-deutsche-post-johannes-graf.html>

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes October 7, 2020

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 14 members participated in the meeting. Three others checked in via Zoom.

Officer Reports:

- President - Rich Hildebrandt said that our next meeting will be on November 4. *[Editor Note: This is also the club's "Annual Meeting"]*. We may or may not have the mix pick as a program (stay tuned). Rich said we need programs for next year; please contact him if you wish to do something. He also said the 2018 Scott catalogs are up for sale; see the bid sheet in the last [October] newsletter. Finally, he mentioned the upcoming club officer elections. Write-ins are permissible (hah-hah). [Note: A ballot was also in the October newsletter].
- Secretary - Skip Ely said our membership stood at 89 (renewals will begin shortly). He also said he had some blank ballot sheets for anyone who needed them (no one did) and that he would accept ballots sent by email.
- Treasury - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount. She said there would be no annual Christmas dinner this year. She also mentioned that Gift Certificates issued this year will be good until December 2021, seeing as there has been little opportunity to use them this year.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO:
 - Ralph Poore said everything was still GO for EXPO in November. He mentioned the EXPO zoom meeting September 17, and said we would have a final meeting via Zoom October 29.
 - Peter Elias said we still had one judge (Pat Walters from Colorado) who will evaluate exhibits and offer advice, even though all will be non-competitive. Judy Christmas said we had 15 people who have volunteered to help with EXPO in various capacities.
- Sales - Skip Ely said we had one new large-size club book from Peter Elias that contained a lot of modern U.S. stamps.
- Newsletter - Peter talked a little about the newsletter.

Announcements:

- Peter Elias mentioned the Fall Dallas Postcard Show in Plano this coming weekend.

Show & Tell:

- Peter Elias and Stanley Christmas had a couple of items to show.

Program:

- The program was our annual EXPO mail-out envelope stuffing activity.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Ralph Poore, Andy Lacko, Bob Thompson and Stanley Christmas. Tom Cunningham

Pay to Vote?

By Peter Elias



Above is a "Poll Tax Receipt" from Pecos county in 1922; given that this was a for a tax, then this item counts as a "revenue" document...

The Texas Constitution of 1869 and 1876 allowed for an imposition of a poll tax of \$1 on all men of ages 21 to 60 and was to be used for funding free schools, but it was not a prerequisite for voting. That was amended in 1902, subjecting anyone wanting to vote to a poll tax of \$1.50 to \$1.75.

Some of the reasoning included regulating elections and preventing voter fraud and "ensure a better class of voters", as an article in the Dallas Morning News wrote (September 25, 2018). You were required to show the receipt before being able to vote!

According to the article, when the US Congress voted to prohibit poll taxes for federal elections (24th Amendment) in 1964, only Texas and four other states still had poll taxes. Two attempts by the Texas Senate to repeal the local & state poll taxes in 1949 & 1963 failed both times, and those were ended in a 1966 resolution, but NOT formally approved until 2009!

Back in 1902, this tax was a great hindrance to voting for the working classes and the poor. The purchasing power of \$1.75 in 1902 is equivalent to \$52.89 in 2020 (according to <http://www.officialdata.org>).

The Texas poll tax receipt shown above has been displayed at EXPO a number of times over the years in the 1-page mini-exhibit category.



... And speaking of elections & voting ... if you remember reading the "Mad Magazine" back in the 1970's, there was this cinderella stamp that featured the goofy gap-toothed mascot and cover boy that "ran for President" every four years in this satirical and humor magazine.

This stamp, which was printed as a cinderella item back in the 1960's is still available (see eBay, etsy, even Amazon).

received a donated USPS coffee mug and Rich Hildebrandt a tote bag. Additional gift certificates for the envelope stuffing were won by Roy Davis, Ralph Poore, Gene Pfretzschner, Peter Elias, Pat Weidman, Bob Weidman, Judy Christmas, Jim Taylor, Bob Thompson and Rich Hildebrandt.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.



Cataloging Online

by Rick Howell

Anybody who digs through a catalog in a search for a particular stamp has at some time experienced the frustration that comes when you just can't find it. I can't possibly estimate the number of times I have been sitting there with a pile of stamps in front of me, paging through the Scott Catalog and eventually finding my twenty-five cent treasure tucked away in something called "Common Design Types". Or, realizing that the stamp I'm looking for is part of a set that Scott didn't have room to provide illustrations for every stamp in the set. Aargh! Brings out the pirate in me.

Now, don't get me wrong, I love the Scott Catalog. I can't imagine how much work goes into that publication, updating pictures and prices and keeping up with every stamp in the world. The magnitude of that much data is overwhelming. And the fact that Scott maintains such high standards to ensure that the stamps they catalog are actually stamps that are used for postage, or whatever fiscal use they were created to accommodate. Yep, they actually have a set of rigid rules they adhere to, so the integrity of their catalog is without question. So, what could make it better? What could make that bottle of bourbon in my lower desk drawer disappear a little less quickly?

How about an online search tool that shows pictures of every stamp in the set, and can be searched for by just about any attribute or keyword to describe the stamp that you could possibly think of? Well, let me tell you, it exists. Allow me to introduce you to a website called Stampworld.com. StampWorld is the "most extensive and complete online stamp catalogue in the world", with the ultimate goal of becoming the "Facebook for Stamp Collectors".

The biggest drawback I can see on StampWorld is they use their own catalog numbers. But that really is not a huge problem when you can cross-reference by date of issue. At least that will give you a place to start if you are looking up a Michel, Gibbons, Scott or Yvert & Tellier catalog number. Hey, what's another catalog number? Personally, I have always felt that stamps should be catalogued by issue date anyway.

But one of the things that makes the StampWorld catalog so great is that it is searchable. As an example, I can go the online listing for Canada. On the right hand side of the screen I have the option of looking at listings for different ranges of years of issue. Also, there is a search box with different categories of stamps, that is, Postage Stamps, Official Stamps, Postage Due Stamps. Select one and the catalog display changes. The search can be changed to select a range of years such as 1930-1990 to represent the issue date of the stamp. Next, you can select a theme. Now this should be a big seller for topical collectors. Want a listing of all stamps from Canada that have pictures of geese? Hit the button. You are also given the option to search by type, color, currency, or denomination. This is truly a stamp searcher's dream come true!

So, if you get a chance, or that pile of stamps you're sorting through doesn't seem to be getting any smaller, break out the iPad and log on to www.stampworld.com and check it out. I can guarantee you will not be disappointed.

[Editor comments: I have been using StampWorld for many years, and it is a great way to find stamps more quickly, especially when searching based on certain attributes, such as you vertical vs. horizontal, or design features. In Scott's, that is almost impossible, since only 1 stamp in a set is often shown. Also, StampWorld does not differentiate between regular & Air-mail stamps, but then only Scott's seems to do that. Other than Postage Dues & Officials, some other back-of-book items are also shown (depending on country), such as Postal Tax and related items. It is a free site, but you do have to register.]

Been There, Done That

Social Security

by Pat & Bob Weidman



Back in 2014, I was working for the US Postal Service as a rural mail carrier. I really enjoyed doing that and I like the people that I worked with and most of the people on my route of over 600 houses. However, I wasn't getting any younger and there were still a number of things that I wanted to do, so I decided to retire. The picture nearby is of the local Social Security Administration office on Alta Mesa Blvd, where I went to apply for my benefits.

The Social Security Administration was created back in 1935. Initially it covered only retired workers in commerce and industry. In 1939, it was amended to include wives and dependent children of deceased workers.

In 1950, farm and domestic workers, non-professional self-employed and many state & municipal workers were added. In 1956, lawyers and other professional workers came on board. Disability insurance was also added at that time, and Medicare was included starting in 1956.

If you are planning on retiring and applying for benefits, I can tell you from personal experience to call ahead and set up an appointment!

The stamp shown is USA Scott#2153, issued on August 14, 1985 for the 50th anniversary of the Social Security Act.



USPS Holiday Rate Increases

By Peter Elias

The USPS temporary 2020 Holiday "Commercial Domestic Competitive Package" Rate Changes are as follows (starting October 18 and through December 27):

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 1st Class Package Service | +\$0.25 |
| All Priority Mail | +\$0.40 |
| Priority Mail Express | +\$1.50 |
| Parcel Select Ground | +\$0.40 |
| Parcel Select Lightweight | +\$0.24 |

*including Flat Rate Boxes/Envelopes and Regional Rate Boxes. "Retail" and international rates are NOT affected.

Silver Linings of COVID Clouds

by Rick Howell

You know, there is an old saying that "Every cloud has a silver lining". After a year like 2020, I'm sure all of us are ready for some of that silver lining. But, as philatelists, we can surely see some good in all of this. If philately has taught me anything in life, it is patience. I have waited years to get my hands on a stamp or cover and am still waiting for a few of them.

If anything this isolation has made us learn to use new tools to get together and has given us the opportunity to reach out to people and organizations that we knew existed, but had no idea what they looked like in person, or how their groups could interface with us, other than by snail mail and the occasional email. Zoom has certainly changed the face of philately for a lot of us, and I know it seems to have brought a huge world of philately into my grasp. For instance, this morning I attended a zoom meeting of Guatemala collectors with attendees from coast to coast, and a couple from beyond the coasts. I love being able to get the perspective of people from all over the world and have come to realize that we're not all that different.

So, to capitalize on that silver lining thing, at the end of the month, on October 26 thru 30, the Eleventh Postal History Symposium will be held online. This show

is being sponsored by The American Philatelic Research Library, The American Philatelic Society, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum and the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society. The theme of this year's symposium is *Postal Innovation of the Classic Era – Evolution Leading to Modernization*.

Presentations are scheduled at 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 5:30 PM ET for each of the 5 show days with names like Gordon Eubanks, Ken Lawrence, and Patricia Kaufman among others sharing their knowledge and experience. Some of the presenters have exhibits on display and the programs go along with the exhibits. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to learn and to hear first-hand from some of the leading experts in philately.

Exhibits are currently on display online and the exhibitors have provided PDF files available for download. Here is an opportunity to study and drool over some of the greatest exhibits out there.

The APS is currently handling registration and you can register online at:

<https://stamps.org/postal-history-symposium/event#PHSSchedule>

There is no charge and it promises to be a great week in the hobby of philately, and in particular, postal history. So, find a comfortable chair, sit back, enjoy a cold beverage, and listen to people talk about stamps, covers, and history. How could it get any better than that?

2021 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
(First) (M.I.) (Last) (Complete if under 18)

Check here if information is unchanged from 2019 and skip to signature line below.

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Email: _____ Home Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Collecting Interests: _____

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable): _____

APS # _____ ATA # _____ TPA # _____ Other: _____

Permission is granted to make the information above available to other club members. Indicate anything you do NOT want shared: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** ____/____/____

Membership Level:

____ \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online newsletter)

____ \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

____ **\$25 Sponsor Membership**

____ \$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

____ \$6 Additional Adult (only 1 newsletter copy)

____ \$4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

Make check out to 'Mid-Cities Stamp Club' and mail this form with payment to:

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

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 - Blondie (Misdelivery)

By Peter Elias



the Bumstead house before they moved in? Who knows. But it does bring up the issue of what happens when you move and mail is forwarded. Generally, the USPS will forward mail for up to one year (for first class mail) and a bit less (either 3 or 6 months) for other mail classes (i.e.: periodicals for example). What happens then? Usually, if it a first class mail piece, it should be returned to sender with a "yellow" sticker proclaiming something like "forwarding order expired" and what the new address is.

What happens after a couple of years? Well, occasionally mail will still be delivered to an address even if that person hasn't lived there for a long time, or worse, deceased (such as the case of my deceased ex-wife; when every once in a while, even up to 15+ years later, I have received mail addressed to her, including "retirement planning" & "funeral planning" junk mail; I mean, how old was that marketing list?). I have also received mail for people that could NOT have possibly lived at my house address, as the house was built for me to begin with! I suppose at least the USPS earned some money delivering the junk mail....

One of the regular characters in the Blondie comic strip is Mr. Beasley, the mailman. In some strips, Dagwood is shown running Mr. Beasley down as he's on his way to work.

In this instance, Mr. Beasley is delivering a letter that was addressed to someone else ("Oliver J. Barnwell") at his house (as published in the Dallas Morning News on September 5, 2020).

So, did this "Barnwell" live at

Granbury Virtual Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2020

By Debbie Hathaway



- **Virtual Attendance:**

- 12 members in attendance (9 are shown in the Zoom screen-shot above)

- **Show and Tell & What Have You Been Working On:**

- Fred Ekenstam had mislaid a cover and finally found it. It shows a March 1862 cancel on the 64b Rose Pink variety – he still needs to have it authenticated.
- Gary McNamee has been busy adding to his collection the lots he won on the ISWSC auction.
- Skip has been busy putting together topical US stamp packets for EXPO giveaways. He has put together a pretty good list of categories but if you have one to suggest, contact Skip.

- **Announcements:**

- Dave wants to remind everyone to read the club's newsletter for all the latest EXPO news and officer elections.

- **Where in the World?:**

- This stamp was issued in 1937.
- It has an overprint of King George V.
- The stamp under the overprint was originally from India.
- The denomination is in ANNAS.
- No stamps were issued between 1940-1945.
- This country had an interim government in 1947.
- This country changed its name in 1990.
- —> Stan Christmas correctly guessed Burma, did you?

- **Program:**

- Rob Hathaway provided an informative program on ***Collecting Revenue Stamps***. Do you collect revenue stamps? Why or why not? At one-time, they were very much collected and appeared in catalogs and albums. Did you know in a 1963 Stanley Gibbons album that they discouraged the collecting of revenues? The talk is available on the club's Facebook page if you missed out on it.

- **Next Granbury Virtual Meeting:**

- October 27, 2020 at 7:00 PM. If you have not attended one the virtual meetings, be sure to check it out.

*Been There,
Done That*

Radishes

By Peter Elias

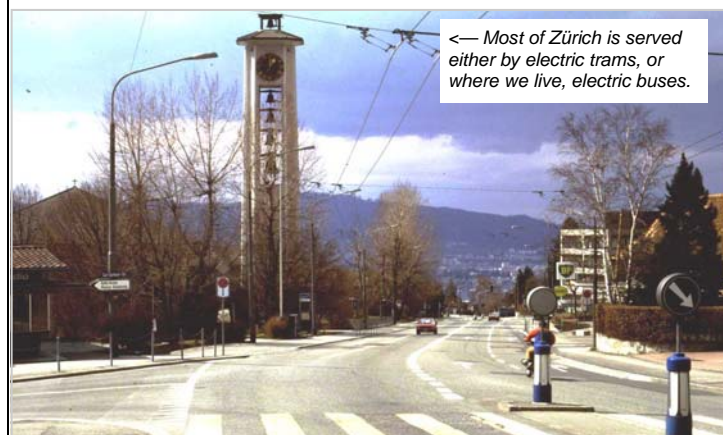


I've liked radishes ever since I was a kid. It was nice seeing that Liechtenstein issued a stamp for one of my favorite vegetables in 2018. The 100 "Rappen" (= 1 Swiss Franc) rate fulfills the domestic first class rate (which also covers mail to Switzerland, not just Liechtenstein).

I distinctly remember growing some radishes while going to elementary school in Switzerland. I was going to an older elementary school (see below) that was lo-



cated to the left of the church (see below). Whether this was part of a class or not, I don't remember; but I do remember that there was some sort of small vegetable garden in front of the church (near the



tower) and we grew some radishes there (this was in the mid/late 1960's mind you, so my memories of the exact details are somewhat vague ...).

I do remember having "Religion" as a class in elementary school, but not at the church shown above, as that was a "Evangelische" church; my class was in a recently built Catholic church, which was located on the road going to the left in the photo.

They did build a new modern (i.e.: concrete slab) elementary school slightly closer to where I used to live later (and to which I also went), but this old one is still around and apparently still being used (parts of the old school were originally built in 1933-34).

I visited the school grounds back in 2010 with Annie; one of my old school friends from those days still lives nearby, and he took the afternoon off to meet with us, and we did go there with him. We also visited the old school again with Marcos in 2013, but I didn't go around the church grounds to see if they still had vegetable gardens for the kids. That said, as an adult I now also look at the nutritional and health aspects of the foods that I eat, and radishes just have a lot of things going for them.

Some of the above memories were as usual triggered by having seen that Liechtenstein radish stamp (and digging around photos). What stamp(s) trigger childhood memories for you?

Pirates of the Caribbean

By Peter Elias



In 2007, Annie & I found ourselves in Wallilabou Bay, on the western shore of St. Vincent. Annie is shown on the steps of one of the buildings specially constructed for the 1st "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie, which starred Johnny Depp and at least a part of the movie was shot on St. Vincent!

The Zazzle stamp image shown is one that I found on Pinterest, but since it has the "7" through the denomination, I don't know if this stamp was ever actually printed by Zazzle, or if someone just mocked up the stamp design at the Zazzle website before having to purchase it!



In the photo above, I'm on the 2nd floor of the building shown in the top photo; a better view of the scene behind is shown from the balcony in the photo below. As you can see, after just a



few years, the movie set is falling apart! Of course film sets are meant to only hold together as long as the movie is being filmed...

I have of course seen the movie, and it was neat to visit the former movie set. The reason for being on St. Vincent was that it was the site of the annual meeting of the BCPSG (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group). On that day, some of the other members of the group (there were about 20 of us) must have been doing something else, and Annie & I decided to check out the western half of the island.



Record Number of Stamps

By Ken Wills



Is this a record? I believe it's worthy of the Guinness book, and certainly belongs in a stamp magazine!

A fellow collector in Ontario sent me a stockbook, and paid the postage entirely with 5c stamps -- 295 of them, to be precise. I'm delighted to have such a collectible! The second photograph is a close-up, showing how he carefully arranged each stamp so that the denomination shows.

The US Postal Service does not allow US stamps to overlap.



This is presumably because it might be possible to reuse a stamp fraudulently by covering up its postmark with another stamp. A comparable postally used cover from the USA would therefore be unheard of. The Canadian post office appears to be much more trusting.

Save Money on Postage

By Peter Elias



Want to save some money on postage? While the USPS says they will NOT increase the basic 1 ounce First Class Mail rate (55¢), they WILL increase the "Additional Ounce" rate from the current 15¢ (per additional ounce) to 20¢.

So, if you've ever mailed first class letters that are from 1.01 ounces to 3.5 ounces (yep, that's the maximum!), then you can save some money by stocking up on the "Additional Ounce" flat-rate stamp now before prices go up on January 24, 2021.

In case you are not familiar with it, the stamp comes in both coil (100x) and sheet (20x) formats. So, a \$3 pane now will be worth \$4 after January 24, 2020, a 33% increase in value! That's good "ROI" (return on investment) as some would say. I'll have more info on other rate increases later...

While there are many stamps that feature Caribbean pirates (such as the one from Grenada to the left), I have only found images of two stamps that relate to the movie, such as the one shown at the top of the article.

Topic of the Month: "National Distracted Driving Awareness Month"

By Peter Elias



A recent email message from AAA of Texas reminded me that October was "National Distracted Driving Awareness Month". The number one cause of distracted driving is using a cellphone (either talking or texting) while driving.

Distracted driving is a 24/7 phenomena, and should require constant awareness! But it's a good idea to at least have an "official" month to hopefully make some

people more aware. One research website said that 3,450 died due to distracted driving in 2016. They also stated that 391,000 drivers were injured due to distracted driving in 2017 (that was just "drivers" ... what about passengers?).

I purchased these custom PhotoStamps a couple of years ago, back when the postcard rate was still 34¢. I was (and still am) hoping to incorporate these into some sort of exhibit about traffic safety; right now I'm just trying to accumulate various stamps relate to the subject of traffic safety.

The USPS has shut down the custom postage program in June 2020, so it is not possible to purchase any more custom PhotoStamps such as these, but ones previously purchased are still valid for postage.

Topic of the Month, part 2: "National CyberSecurity Awareness Month"

By Peter Elias



My first work computer in 1987 looked this ...

A recent email from "KnowBe4.com" stated that this month is "CyberSecurity Awareness Month". This year, the organizer's of the month, the "National Cyber Security Alliance", dropped the "National" part to reflect the global nature of this issue.

Cyber security is not just about traditional "computers" (& PC's), it also affects all the devices we use, such as smartphones and tablets.

The number one thing is: "think before you click (or tap)"! And this is another good topic to build an exhibit around... ready, set, collect!

From The President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

Do the months keep getting shorter or am I just getting much older? That is a rhetorical question, thank you. It seems as if I wrote last month's column just two weeks ago!

Not too much has changed. We had a nice gathering in Arlington for our envelope stuffing. Many thanks to all who attended and made the evening go quickly! Extra special thanks to Stan for all the preparation he did that made everything flow smoothly.

Barring some unforeseen circumstance, we will again meet in Arlington on the 4th of November. That will be the annual club business meeting. Usually we conduct the business meeting one-half hour before the regular meeting, but due to the light turnouts we will just have it starting at 7 PM. The primary business will be to count the election ballots. There is still time for you to vote if you have not already done so. The ballot was in last month's newsletter, fill out your choices and send it to Skip or bring it to the meeting. If anyone has an item concerning club business they wish to bring up at the annual business meeting, please let me know. If you cannot attend, I will present it to the membership.

Also, the Scott catalog auction is still open. Again the form is in last month's newsletter. Your bid must be sent to the club PO Box and be received by November 2. Winning bidders will be announced at the November meeting on November 4.

EXPO is on schedule! There are many new dealers this year (6 or more), so it should be worthwhile in attending just to see what they have in stock. All volunteer help will be gratefully accepted and there will be the usual gift certificates up for grabs for those who help. On the subject of club gift certificates, any that are expiring this year are being extended for one more year as we have not had the regular opportunities to use them.

As always, we are still looking for people to present programs at our meetings. Please contact me if you would like to present a program.

Stay safe and I hope to see you all at EXPO!

Free WASC Journals

By Peter Elias

The West Africa Study Circle (WASC) is a specialty collector group for the following countries, colonies & islands: Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, Gough Island, Cameroun, Gambia, Gold Coast / Ghana, Nigeria, St. Helena, Sierra Leone & Togo.

The group has a biannual journal that comes out in January & July. There are membership fees in order to get the current journals, however, journals from #1 (in 1975) up to issue #93 (in 2014) are available for download free of charge at:

<http://wasc.org.uk/WASCCameoDigital.html>

While I don't collect this area as such, I do always enjoy reading philatelic articles on other areas, one never know what new knowledge one will gain!



Attention All Club Members!!

By Judy Christmas

There are only about three weeks left until EXPO and we could sure use some more help with set-up and tear-down. I you are will to help please show up either Thursday, November 12th at 5:00 PM or anytime on Friday the 13th and Saturday the 14th. Since meetings are not being held in person because of COVID-19, a Volunteer sign-up sheet has not been passed around. If you are planning on attending the show, why not add a couple of hours and help the Club with your smile! That really is 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 years past, 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. If you prefer to just meet at the Convention Center that is fine. We all have different outlooks on this virus that is going around.

We are holding an EXPO planning Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 29th to finalize things. Currently, we have 48 exhibits. There will be no Silent Auction. Putting up the number of frames that will be needed is the first thing to be done. The Club hires two men that come with Evan to unload the frames that 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. 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 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 \$25 gift certificates. Two gift certificates will be given away Thursday night, six on Friday and six on Saturday. However, to win one, you must first put in some volunteer time. When you come into 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. I will be taking orders for lunch boxes from Jayson's Deli for \$8.00 each. For those who would like one, you will have to provide your own drink. There are vending machines in the convention center. Lunch orders must be turned in to me by 10:00 AM on both days. After the lunches arrive, please pick up your lunch box in the front hall. 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 at EXPO! Contact me at judy66@swbell.net or (817) 996-6112.



Annual Club Christmas Party

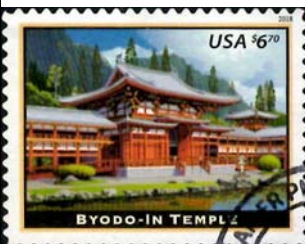
By Judy Christmas

Since no one has responded to wanting a Christmas Party, there will not be one this year. We are thinking of have a Zoom meeting on the night of the Arlington meeting, December 2nd. Skip will be sending out a notice if we do.

Been There, Done That

Byodo-In Temple

By Pat & Bob Weidman



In the picture below, Pat is standing in front of the Byodo-In Temple, which was featured on a USA Priority Mail stamp in 2018. The picture was taken on one of our trips to Hawaii.

The temple is located in the Valley of Temples Memorial Park which is on the north side of the island of Oahu. This Buddhist temple was built in 1968 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants to settle in Hawaii.



If you have ever watched any of the original "Hawaii 50" shows starring Jack Lord or the original "Magnum P.I." shows starring Tom Selleck, you may have seen the temple. There were several shows that had the temple in the story. The other night, Pat and I were watching a Magnum PI rerun that shows the temp during the first few minutes of the show.

Been There, Done That

Drank The Kool-Aid

By Peter Elias



Well, like so many people about 10 years ago, I "drank the Kool-Aid" (as they say) in regards to using CFL bulbs. Sure, they do save some energy compared to incandescent (i.e.: "standard") light bulbs, but they seem to not last anywhere near as long as advertised and are expensive. Oh, and if dropped, there is some minor amount of Mercury involved! Needless to say, I now use LED bulbs when possible!

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Thank You!

By Peter Elias

Many thanks to Byron Sandfield (of Park Cities Stamps) for providing a trunk load full (and part of the backseat area) worth of "philatelic stuff" on September 29 (see photo below). According to Byron, some stamps were donated by a Dave Walters.

I've repacked the loose stuff into sturdier boxes (some of them were falling apart)... There were 2 long brown boxes (next to my elbow in the photo) with what must be many thousands of USA (and some UN) FDC's! Also the usual assortment of old albums, and a huge 50+ lb box of brand new album supplements and various loose stamps. There's also 2 metal boxes with drawers, each chock full of used USA commemoratives & definitives, all sorted in glassines (lots of great stuff for anyone starting a used USA collection). Also a couple of books about Irish philately.

All of these were given to Skip Ely who will sort it out. The items will end up primarily at the beginner's table and others perhaps as part of silent auction items at the 2021 EXPO.



Note: One box also came from an estate sale agent, Shirley Hawkins, who was at Byron's office at the time that I was there. These items are usually given to Byron when people try to sell items that have minimal value and are too time consuming for a dealer, but they make great items for beginning collectors!



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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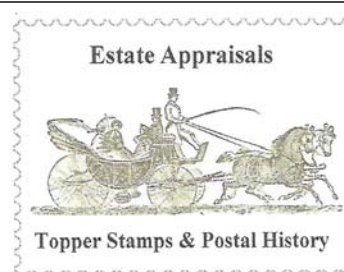
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MEET & EAT for November, 2020

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

For Sale

Used Germany in 3 large stock books, 55 jammed pages, plus \$50 CV older issues, plus 26 mint and used Germany souvenir sheets. All for \$50 in metro area, elsewhere, postage extra. Ken Aldridge, (817) 528-7979, KAldridge@aol.com.

600 MNH Germany, regular and semi-postal issues, mostly all different in 12 stock pages, \$20, shipping included. Same contact info as above. 11/20

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

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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

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

4/20

Special Swiss Sale @ EXPO (I will be there)! Contact me for any of those elusive Swiss needs! HUGE discounts (I am downsizing)! John Barrett, Ph.D. jstrubelboy@aol.com 11/20

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(for MCSC club members only)

Don't Forget:
1) EXPO Planning Mtg (via Zoom), Oct. 29
2) 33rd Annual EXPO on November 13 & 14
—> Hope To See You There!