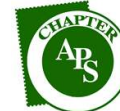


Stamping Around

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.



CHAPTER MEMBER



#891-076252

#90

#53-3364

Volume 36, Number 2

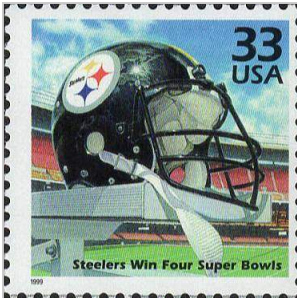
<http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

February 2023

Been There, Done That

Steelers or Cowboys?

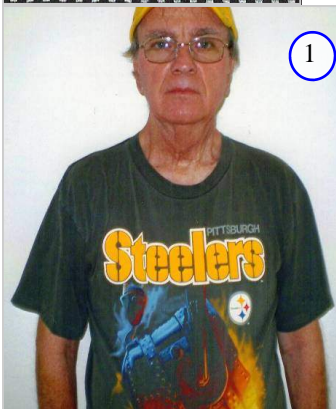
By Pat & Bob Weidman



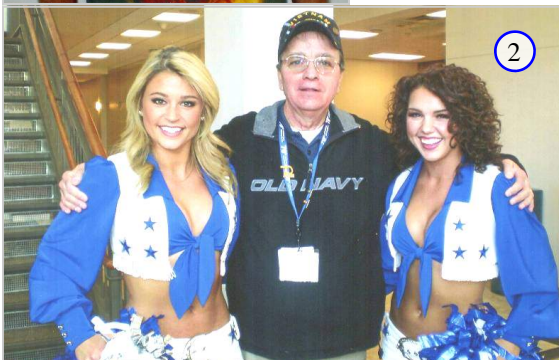
It's football season again. Who should be my team? Being originally from Pittsburgh, the Steelers were my team. After all, they were winners having won 6 Super Bowls over the years. Picture #1 below is of me in my Steelers shirt and hat.

But back in 2000, Pat and I moved here to Ft. Worth. Should I have become a Dallas Cowboys fan? They were also winners with 5 Super Bowl titles. It was not an easy decision to make. I liked both teams, but only one could be the team that I would root for and hopefully add another Super Bowl win to their record.

Then I had the opportunity to meet the Cowboys Cheerleaders on several occasions. The picture (#2) of me with the two cheerleaders was taken at the V.A. clinic in Ft. Worth during National Salute to Veterans Week. The picture (#3) of me with the 3 cheerleaders was taken at the V.A.



1



2



3

hospital in Dallas.

The decision as to who to root for really wasn't that difficult after all. For a football team I will root for the Steelers.

For cheerleaders, I will root for the Cowboys Cheerleaders. The stamp at top is USA Scott #3189e, issued in 1998-2000 as part of the "Celebrate the Century" series.

MCSC 50th Anniversary Lunch

By Judy Christmas

The Club is holding a luncheon to celebrate the Club's 50th Anniversary on Saturday, February 18th at 12:00 PM, at El Chico's Restaurant, located at 1549 S. Bowen Road in Pantego. It is actually off of Park Row, not Bowen, but it can be seen from the intersection of Bowen and Park Row.

The Club is picking up the check for what we hope will be an awesome party. How many clubs have you belonged to that were able to hold things together for fifty years?

We need to send an RSVP to make sure we have plenty of room. Please let Judy know by February 1 if you plan to attend. Contact *Judy Christmas* (judy66@swbell.net).



New club officers for 2023-2024. From left to right: Janet Moyer, Rick Howell, Ken Aldridge, Stanley Christmas & Judy Christmas

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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

2023 - 2024 MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Ken Aldridge
First Vice-President – Rick Howell
Second Vice-President – Stanley Christmas
Secretary – Janet Moyer
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Ralph Poore Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Rich Hildebrandt

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 (which includes an emailed or online newsletter, or \$22 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>



Lego™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

This month will be the last "Membership Renewal" form for the 2023 membership year. If you have NOT yet paid your 2023 dues, please do so now, as to make it easier for our club secretary. As the club secretary position is in transition from Skip Ely to Janet Moyer, for now, please send the dues payment to the club PO Box address at the bottom of the form. Members not paid up by then will be removed from the membership rolls.

Also thanks to my son for his gift of a Lego™ "MOC" (my own creation) showing the editor in action...

Members In The News

By Peter Elias

On occasion I enter John Hotchner's "Cartoon Caption" contest in Linn's Stamp News. In the January 23, 2023 (page 10) edition of Linn's, John listed some of the resulting entries, one of which was mine (although not a winner...): *Peter Elias of Plano, Texas submitted "Happy to say that dirt is FOREVER".* The stamp commented on was the "PigPen" stamp from the recently issued sheet of 20 stamps commemorating Charles Schulz.



From my collection -->

Coming Attractions

2023

JAN. 24	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	Clean Out Your Philatelic Closet
FEB. 1	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Ken Wills will discuss the ISWSC
FEB. 15	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic Discussions
FEB. 18.	MCSC 50th Anniversary lunch (12 PM)
El Chico Restaurant, 1549 S Bowen Rd, Pantego, TX 76013	
FEB. 21	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	TBD
FEB. 24	MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg (11 AM)
Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington	
MAR. 1	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	Ralph Poore will do a presentation about postcard censorship
MAR. 15	MCSC—EULESS Meeting
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
MAR. 21	MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting
Program:	TBD
APR. 5	MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting
Program:	TBD

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received:

12/1/22 - Richard Goodwin (#648)
12/5/22 - Steven Gruhlke (#649)
12/19/22 - Anne McFarland (#650)
12/29/22 - Jonathan Topper (#651)
12/30/22 - Lawrence Wright (#652)

New Members:

Reinstatements:

Dropped for non-payment of dues:

Membership Summary – January 19, 2023

Membership as of December 7, 2022	98
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	5
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of January 19, 2023	98

I Can See Clearly Now

by Peter Elias

The Cover Story (G.W. Hawley)

By Rick Howell



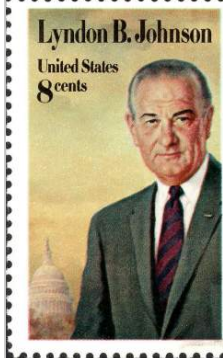
Shown here is Scott #3590 from 2013 issued by the Czech Republic honoring the 100th birth anniversary of Otto Wichterle. He was a chemist and is best known as the inventor of soft contact lenses.

He started researching and experimenting with soft contact lenses in the late 1950's and finally succeeded in 1961 with a homemade machine that was in part a children's building kit.

The "idea" of a contact lens was first credited to Leonardo da Vinci, but it wasn't really practical to implement this idea in 1508... Before there were "soft" contact lenses, there were "hard" contact lenses made of blown glass, which were first developed in 1888 by Adolf Eugen Fick. Over the years, glass lenses evolved into plastic lenses.

<-- Remember LBJ? He was the 1st President in the history of the USA to publicly wear contact lenses (in 1964)!

There's more to read up about Otto Wichterle and contact lenses, more than I can go into here, but feel free to browse the Wikipedia entries at:



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Wichterle and
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Contact_lens

So how does all of this intersect with me? Well, in 1977 when started to drive, it was found that I had "myopia" (short-sightedness), somewhere around 20/80 to 20/100 from what I remember, and I needed to wear glasses if I wanted to drive (although, I had been delivering newspapers on my bicycle for several years prior to that). So I got glasses, you know, the "big" kind that many of us wore back in the 1970's & 1980's. The picture here (from around 1980; please no comments about my fashion choices...) shows me wearing those glasses (and yes, they were made of "glass", not plastic like now) and were also "photogray" lenses (as they were called back then) that kept me from having to deal with clip-ons or a second pair of prescription sunglasses.



Luckily this all changed around 1988 or so, when I started wearing contacts while living in Kentucky. At the time, these were "daily-wear" soft contact lenses, meaning lots of handling these and constantly having to clean & disinfect them. When I moved to Dallas in 1990, I was able to switch to weekly and finally monthly-wear lenses.

In the past 10 years or so, the prescription for my contacts become a less strong every year or two. This past summer (2022), after taking off my contacts while at the yearly optometrist appointment, I looked out at the traffic in the distance (maybe 200 - 300 feet) and noticed that it was fully in focus. After testing my eyes, my vision was now 20/25 in each eye! No more contacts needed (Texas has a requirement of 20/40 or worse to require corrective vision)! So while I can thank Otto Wichterle for having invented soft contacts, I'm more grateful to the natural change back to good vision (and also not having to spend a lot of money on contacts each year!). Maybe that leaves more discretionary funds for philately?



I went to the TSDA Stamp Show in December, always in search of interesting covers. I am a fan of digging through the dollar cover boxes that some of the dealers bring in. I was happy to see Jonathan Topper return at this show as he has been too busy to attend most of the North Texas shows this past year and he always has some interesting dollar covers. The cover above illustrates what I mean. This cover is not in the best of shape, but it got my interest because of the illustration. That guy looked familiar to me because I thought I had seen him on a Quaker Oatmeal box. So, I decided, what the heck, and threw it in my rapidly growing pile of dollar covers.

When I got home and started going through my purchases, this cover just grabbed my attention again, so I decided to do some internet searches and see what I could learn about the cover. First, I noticed the return address had been crossed out. The original return address was: The American Cereal Company, 1341 Monadnock Building, 248-286 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. The postmark indicated the cover had been mailed from Kalamazoo, Michigan, along with the handwritten name on the left side of the envelope front which read: G.W. Hawley Kalamazoo, Mich.

It may remain a mystery to me why G.W. Hawley was in possession of this envelope, but my theory is that he may have acquired some of these envelopes as discount postage when the American Cereal Company changed it's name to the Quaker Oats Company in 1901. Coincidentally, the Quaker mascot shown on the label was the first registered trademark for a cereal brand.

G.W. Hawley was born on May 10, 1883 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, making him 25 years old when he mailed this cover. He was heavily involved in philately and it is my opinion that he was mailing stamps to a customer in West Orange, New Jersey. I have as of yet been unable to find any information on E.S. Greening. Hawley later became the editor of a magazine called the International Philatelic Quarterly which made its debut in May of 1912. He was also an ordained Methodist minister. I am of the opinion that he was a principal in a stamp company called X-T-C Stamps in Kalamazoo, however I have been unable to definitely tie him to that.

The reason for the Postage Due marking is probably due to the envelope and contents being overweight as Mr. Hawley was fond of trading stamps.

It is pretty amazing what you can piece together about a subject and some people on the internet and it makes researching a cover somewhat educational and interesting.

See y'all at the next meeting.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- Rich Hildebrand called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- He then installed the newly elected President, Ken Aldridge, and Ken took over the meeting.

Ken installed the new officers:

- Vice President - Rick Howell
 - Second Vice President - Stanley Christmas
 - Secretary - Janet Moyer
 - Treasurer - Judy Christmas
- He then thanked the outgoing officers and welcomed the guests.

Attendance:

- Present were 26 members – 1 was new to the club and 3 guests. The club had 98 members at the end of 2022. Half of these have renewed, the other half will be sent reminders soon.

Announcements:

- A discussion was had about the 50th anniversary party and a retirement party for Ray & Karen Cartier. It will be combined. A sign-up sheet was passed around to get an idea of the count. The date and location will be decided and announced later. The meal will be included for all participants.
- It was announced that on December 6th that Peter received an email from PicRights about some images being published in our newsletter that we did not have permission to publish. The newsletters containing these images have been removed from our website and we are waiting for further contact before deciding what to do.

Committee Reports:

- The treasury report was given by Judy Christmas.
- Peter reminded the new people that they can submit articles for the newsletter.
- David Stockbridge announced that we only have 20 MCSC sales circuit books. He encouraged members to fill sales books, and that 25 - 40 % of Scott catalog value is a good place to start pricing. There were no APS Books today.

EXPO Reports:

- Ralph Poore announced the next EXPO meeting will be on January 21 at Spring Creek Barbeque on Cooper. Let Ralph know if you are interested in attending.
- Stan Christmas said all went well with printing and mailing.
- Judy announced "we made money".
- Skip said the Beginner's Table was fairly busy, but not many new stamp collectors came.
- Bob Weidman announced the Mix-Pick was busy the first day but not the second.
- Peter Elias said all went well with the judges.
- Ray Cartier said he couldn't fill the exhibits. People just aren't exhibiting even with free frame fees.

- The Chance Board went well. With Karen leaving, Patty Poore will be chairing it next year.
- Janet said the registration worked well; approximately 350 people attended the EXPO. Positions for the EXPO were covered with the volunteers. Thank you.
- Ken Aldridge announced that Security went well but we will probably have to give them a raise this year.
- Tom Turner announced that the Silent Auction went well, better than we expected. To make more money, we need better items. Please donate!
- Bob Coleman won the lottery for the #1 US stamp.
- There was trouble putting the frames together and this should be discussed before next year.

Final Actions:

- The Eulless meeting will still be held in the Dalworth building on Pipeline Rd. but will be in Evan's office.
- Stanley explained about the gift certificate door prizes and their uses to this evening's guests.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.
- Ray Cartier showed some unique Christmas postmarks.

President's Message

Ken Aldridge

As I write this, I'd like to welcome five new members to our club: Richard Goodwin, Steven Gruhlke, Anne McFarland, Jonathan Topper and Lawrence Wright. Please greet and welcome these new members the first chance you get.

Speaking of membership, the last update I got on dues being paid was pretty dismal. About half of our 101 membership has not paid their dues for 2023. WARNING, if you have not paid by the end of February, you will be dropped from our rolls.

I'd like to thank the out-going officers for the fine job they all did to lead and promote our club:

- Rich Hildebrandt, President
- Rick Howell, VP
- Stan Christmas, 2nd VP
- Judy Christmas, Treasurer
- Skip Ely, Secretary

Mark the date of Saturday, February 18th (12 PM) on your calendars. We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Club with a free luncheon at El Chico's, 1549 S. Bowen Rd, Pantego, TX 76013. Spouses or significant others are also invited. [Editor - due to limited space, please RSVP with Judy Christmas by Feb. 1].

We have programs lined up for February and March. We need a volunteer for the April program and with the Auction set for the May meeting, please bring your auction items to the April meeting. Up to 10 items per member can be put into the auction.

Be sure to check out our club's Facebook Site, "Mid-Cities Stamp Club." It is easy to join, so let's see if we can add more of our members and other interested collectors to help this site grow.

1 Mark

By Peter Elias



In 1998, Germany issued Scott #2007, a stamp with a face value of 1.1 DM (Deutsche Mark) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Deutsche Mark.

While Germany's main currency has been called the "Mark" since the original unification in 1871.

The original mark was the "Goldmark", but was taken off the gold standard after the outbreak of World War I. The currency then became known as the "Papiermark" (paper Mark) when high inflation hit in the early 1920's. The currency was then replaced with the "Rentenmark" (RM) in 1923 and with the "Reichsmark" (*R.M.*) in 1924.

After World War II, the various Allied Governments issued their own occupation currencies. The 1948 currency reform resulted in the Deutsche Mark, which was continued to be used after the unification with East Germany in 1990 (when it replaced the "Ostmark" - East German Mark, in July of that year).

With the advent of the € (Euro), it replaced the DM for non-cash transactions on January 1, 1999 and for cash transactions on March 1, 2002. The initial € to DM conversion rate was €1.00 = DM 1.95583.

The subdivision of the Deutsche Mark was the "Pfennig" (similar to "penny" in English). Coins were available in 1, 2, 5, 10 & 50 Pfennigs and DM1, DM2 & DM5 coins. Banknotes were available in DM5, DM10, DM20, DM50, DM100 & DM200 notes, along with some rarely used DM500 & DM1,000 notes. And to think it's hard for us to use any thing over \$20 banknotes here (our \$50 & \$100 banknotes are rarely used by the average person and many cashiers don't like taking them).

As a side note, I had a job working the cash register at a gas station in 1985, and we weren't allow to keep much cash around for change, and basically would have had a hard time breaking a \$100 bill.



When coming back from a European trip, I usually had some coins left over, like this DM1 coin. While you could exchange German banknotes back to Dollars, they usually would not accept coins. During a

trip to Germany in 1999 & 2000, I got rid of most of my German coins, knowing that with the change to the Euro coming, I might end up with useless money. That also meant left-over coins from the Netherlands and a few other countries, so I used them up during a quick stopover in Luxembourg (while visiting Trier).



If you go to coin shows here in the USA, you will often find older German 10 Pfennig coins such as the one to the left, they'll only cost 25¢ in typical used condition...

My Most Valuable Stamps

By Rick Howell

Inadvertently whenever I mention to someone that I am a stamp collector, the question will come up, "What is your most valuable stamp?" And, after being a collector for over 60 years, it would be easy to say, "Oh, that would be my Scott #C15 Zeppelin on cover, or my penny black, or my inverted Jenny (just kidding!)". The real answer to that question would have to be a series of four stamps which I received for Christmas this year.



My eight-year old granddaughter Harper made these for me as a Christmas present, and they have moved to the top of the list of my most valuable stamps. So, the rest of you guys can have your Z-grills, or inverts, or whatever, I have my own real treasures.

Hope everyone had a great holiday! I know I did!



BCPSG + BWISC = WIPSG

By Peter Elias

The members of the US-based BCPSG (British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group) and the UK-based BWISC (British West Indies Study Circle) have voted to merge the two societies into one group, the West Indies Philatelic Study Group.

Note that the word "British" has been left out, since the new group can now also include philately from non-British entities in the West Indies (such as those of former Dutch, French and Spanish origins).

There are several reasons for this merger, one was (as is with many other philatelic organizations) due to a decline in membership, people able to run the organization and also provide quality articles for the group's journal. The BWISC & BCPSG has members in both societies, and generally speaking, the UK-based BWISC was a larger group.

I personally have been a member of both societies, albeit a bit more active with the BCPSG in the past. In 2007 I even attended one of their annual meetings, which was held on my favorite island, St. Vincent. It was a great meeting and a 2nd chance to for me to visit St. Vincent (although it did require something like 7 different flights to make the whole trip happen for my wife and myself).

Since I just renewed my BCPSG membership, it will be transitioned into a WIPSG membership. Copies of the BCPSG Journal should be available at the Wineburgh Philatelic Library. The website of the BCPSG is still up at <http://www.bcpsg.com>; and the BWISC site is at <https://bwisc.org>. I don't know yet what the site for the new WIPSG group will be called.

If you have an interest in West Indies stamps & postal history, please look into the group.

MCSC Euleless Meeting Minutes January 18, 2023

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 9 members participated in the January meeting at Evan Islam's new office in Euleless (same location, different room).

Officer Reports:

- Second Vice President - Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:30 PM. He provided a brief summary of recent developments with some of our older newsletters.
- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had 58 renewals to date. That counted the half dozen new members since EXPO. So less than two-thirds of the current membership have renewed (hint, hint).

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said he had the January APS books at this meeting.
- EXPO - Stanley mentioned the EXPO planning meeting scheduled for January 21.
- Newsletter - Peter said he was planning to wait until after the EXPO meeting before finishing the newsletter. He also said he was having some printer problems, so the ones to be mailed could be delayed.

Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed two little die-cast toy mail cars, one from Great Britain and one from the U.S. He also had about two dozen covers with unusual stamps and postal markings he had from before he retired.
- Skip Ely said he had received a book for Christmas published by the U.S. Stamp Society titled "The U.S. Fourth Bureau Issue 1922-38". He said it was extremely well written and he was enjoying it very much.
- Rick Howell talked about an FDC he didn't know he had of Scott 210 from 1883.
- Peter Elias talked about the locations from where some of the mail order items from China came from (such as Tuvalu and Azerbaijan). He also showed a cover he had mailed to Japan that was returned to him torn and dirty in a USPS "body bag envelope". He also mentioned that he had obtained a USPS deck card for the new Lunar New Year of the Rabbit issue. Finally, he showed a cover that he had received from the Lundy Island Postal Service that contained an order form if anyone was interested.
- Tom Turner showed an overprinted German Marshall Island stamp he said cataloged at a high dollar value if it was genuine. A short discussion of expertizing followed.
- Stanley Christmas talked about his ongoing research into the Adams Experimental Airmail Pick Up Service from 1939. He had discovered there were morning and afternoon flights, so he had to check the postmarks of his covers to see which was which.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Tom Turner and Stanley Christmas.

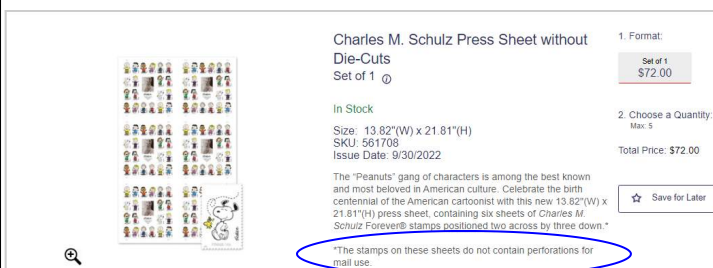
Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.

Postal Validity ?

By Peter Elias

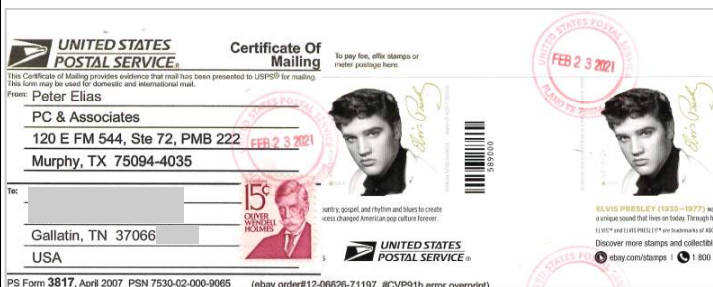
In viewing the USPS.com section for buying stamps and other philatelic items, I was looking at the page for buying the Charles Schulz imperforate press sheets. First I was amazed that they were still available, given that some press sheets, especially the imperforate ones have sold out very quickly, and it has been almost 4 months since the Charles Schulz stamps were issued (September 30, 2022). The regular stamp panes seem to have sold out and the local post office doesn't carry any of them either.



Above is a cropped screen shot of the USPS.com webpage at https://store.usps.com/store/product/stamp-collectors/charles-m-schulz-press-sheet-without-die-cuts-S_561708.

There's one thing that caught my eye: the last sentence at the bottom, which reads: "**the stamps on this sheet do not contain perforations for mail use**". What? How are we to interpret this statement? One could read it as saying that you can not use these stamps on mail. Now I get that being as this is an imperforate sheet, that one can't easily remove a single stamp for mail use, but one could use a ruler and Xacto™ (or similar) knife and a ruler to carefully cut a straight line between the designs (but not going much beyond the stamp paper itself) so that you can peel it off for mail use; or cut all the way through so that you can create your own single pane that is not die-cut or perhaps interesting "gutter pair" varieties.

The above technique is something that I've used with various imperf sheets to use them up as postage or as part of the fees of a USPS Form 3817 (Certificate of Mailing), such as the example below, where I use a nice



Elvis gutter pair as part of the fee. No one has ever questioned me using these as postage or as Form 3817 fees (where they do make for a nice postal history item).

Perhaps the USPS should clarify what they really mean by their statement about "no perforations for mail use".

Graffiti

By Peter Elias



The Slovenian stamp to the left was released in 2020 as part of a set of 4 (which also featured a cigarette butt being tossed out of a car window, recycling and dumping trash in a woods). This one featured graffiti.

So how am I involved in graffiti? Well, I certainly don't "create" any! I did however, document graffiti in the picture shown to the right.

Back when I was at MooU (Michigan State University) in the early 1980's, I had a course in black & white photography where we also had to develop our own 35 mm film and then of course make prints.

We had various assignments in that class. At one point as I was wandering around the huge MSU campus (which is 5,000 acres / 8 square miles) and was at the sidewalk underpass of the Farm Lane bridge that goes over the Red Cedar River on campus, and on the east side of the stairway leading up to the road, was the graffiti shown in the photo. This was around 1982 or 1983. While most of my negatives & prints from those days were lost in subsequent 1986 flooding in Midland, this particular black & white print I made is one of the few that survived.

I do believe that black & white is sometimes nicer than color - although that doesn't make me Ansel Adams ... At one point in the early '90's I was contemplating getting back into black & white photography, but that never materialized. Between costs of equipment and chemicals, it just didn't pan out; not to mention that 35mm film is getting difficult to find.



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

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

For recent online newsletters see the club website above or:

<http://BetweenThePerfs.com/MCSC>

(for older newsletters please contact the newsletter editor)



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The Problem With Self-Adhesive Gum

By Peter Elias



Here's what a scan of one of the "APC" vended stamps from 2012 looks like now when scanned (and basically when viewing it regularly). Notice the two lines of gray "banding" running across the stamp?

Below left is a photo of the same stamp when held up against a light source. The adhesive "leaching" through the stamp paper (and turning it translucent) is now more apparent.

In order to keep the "cutter" from getting "gummed up" after printing, they put the adhesive on in bands, and the cutter is designed to cut on the plain paper portion between the adhesive bands. The 2 black bars on the back aid in helping line up the cutting blade.

Sadly this leaching will happen to ALL stamps with self-adhesive gum over time (generally ranging from 5 to 20+ years). Some do this sooner than others; it doesn't really seem to matter how you store them. Regular US postage stamps

with self-adhesive gum (sold over the counter) will have this problem as well over time. Since the USPS doesn't really consider the above as "collectible" stamps, but "everyday workhorse stamps", they only need to last a short time and probably use a cheaper self-adhesive gum. And it's too late now to attempt to remove this horrible adhesive...

And then there's the matter of "thermal printing" (i.e.: thermal activation), which is problem #2 with most print-on-demand stamps such as these: fading! While they above seemed to have eluded fading so far, the adhesive is the worst culprit in this case. This design (plus 5 others) were actually only available as an alternate when the "small stamp" label printer had a problem!

2023 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 2022 and skip to the 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:

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

EXPO Meeting Minutes January 21, 2023

By Janet Moyer

The EXPO Planning Meeting was **called to order** at 11:25 AM by Expo Chairman Ralph Poore.

- The minutes from the last EXPO Meeting (October 15, 2022) minutes were published in the November 2022 issue of the Stamping Around newsletter on page 11.

Ralph asked each subcommittee chairperson to tell what **changes are needed for the coming year's EXPO:**

1. Alliene asked for help with putting ribbons on the exhibits since she has trouble standing. Stan volunteered to do that. Peter will be back-up.
2. We need a volunteer to take over Alliene's job as Awards Chairman. Possibilities were discussed: Sai M., Gene Pfretschner and Richard Urso.
3. Skip announced that the Beginner's Table doesn't get beginners — most are casual collectors.
4. It is Skip's intent that this will be his last year, so a volunteer will be needed will be needed for the Beginner's Table.
5. Tom Cunningham would like to use the USPS area for the bourse since the USPS does not come anymore.
6. Patty Poore has taken over the Chance Board from Karen Cartier and has come up with a new way of displaying the board.
7. We need a volunteer to replace Ray Cartier for the Exhibits Chairman position. Splitting this into two jobs was discussed.
 8. Solicitation and documentation. This person should know exhibiting and have a network of exhibitors. John Hotchner has volunteered help solicit exhibitors.
 9. Set-up, Take-down, and repair of frames. We need to find a way to repair and replace frames. Evan has provided help with the team to set up and take down; however, we need someone to coordinate repairs and replacements of frames.
10. Finance and Treasurer Judy announced the lunches will be ordered by email and done by the Monday before the EXPO.
11. Stan is dropping some names from the mail-out if they have not attended the show in several years.
12. Mixture Pick is selling bags of stamp throughout the year.
13. The pay for the security should be increased by 25%.
14. The Silent Auction area has cut back on the number of items because donations are not of good quality.
15. We need new donations so we will ask the members to really look for items worth at least \$10.

New items for discussion:

- Ralph sent out an EXPO meeting calendar and asked us to notify him soon if there is a conflict in your schedule.
 - The February meeting has been changed to Friday, February 24 (lunch time).
 - [Editor - The previously announced September 16 meeting was changed to September 23 due to the Houston show being on September 15- 17].

- A theme was discussed, and a motion was made by Judy Christmas that we use the MCSC 50th anniversary for the theme. It was seconded by Peter Elias. There was some discussion and the motion passed.
- When we discussed the budget, Ken Wills made a motion that we experimentally not have exhibits this year. Ken Aldridge seconded the motion. This would relieve the club of finding all the volunteers necessary, dispense with need to repair/replace frames, and save the club some money. The motion passed. A motion to add an amendment was made by Ken Wills to allocate some of those funds to lower the stage for the silent auction so people could access the items easier. Ken Aldridge seconded the motion and it passed. [Editor - The above motion will table items 7 to 9 in the left column for another year].
- Due to all these changes, Judy will send out an updated budget next week.
- Stan will research an anniversary stamp as a possible raffle item.
- Peter Elias will coordinate content for two A-frames (4 exhibit frames total) in the entrance.
- A seminar and/or workshop was proposed, but after discussion, there was no consensus, so the item was dropped.


Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.
- The next meeting will be on Friday, February 24th at the same time and place.

*Been There,
Done That*

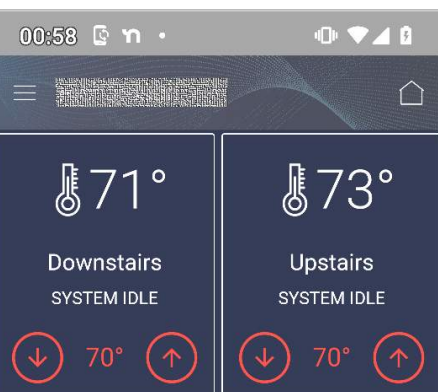
Thermostats

By Peter Elias



In 2011, the USA issued Scott #4524o, one in a series of stamps about "Going Green". This one featured "adjusting the thermostat". As a kid growing up, our house had a thermostat that looked something like the one featured on the stamp (except it was gold toned, not green...).

Back in the 1970's, if you needed to adjust the temperature, we actually had to get up, walk down the hallway and adjust the temperature. Now, I can simply keep myself firmly planted on my sofa and simply call up the "app" on my smartphone and can adjust the temperature without having to walk that whopping 20 feet. Heck, I don't even have to pause the TV while I do this! Isn't technology wonderful ?



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

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 \$ 7.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact peter@pcelias.com 11/21

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, 25% and LESS of catalog values. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14

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

Been There,
Done That

Transistor Radio

By Peter Elias



In 2021, Bangladesh issued the stamp shown (Scott #981). While I can't read Bengali, the inscription at the bottom, “Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra” means “Independent Bangla Radio Center” according to the


Google translator site at www.translate.google.com.

The stamp shows a typical “transistor” radio as one would find in the 1970's. And that is exactly what this stamp reminded me of: I had a somewhat similar looking transistor radio in the mid-1970's (except mine wasn't red). That said, I sadly don't have a picture of it though, so you'll have to take my word for it. Mine wasn't just an AM/FM radio, as it could also receive shortwave radio broadcasts!

I do remember that one day I was going through the frequencies and received a broadcast from Madagascar! I had to go look that up! So that was rather fantastic receiving a broadcast from halfway around the world. I just double-checked that with the almighty Google, and it told

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Estate Appraisals



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Topper Stamps & Postal History

me that the distance from Madagascar to Midland, Michigan is 14,699 km (= 9,135 miles). Well ok, so a little over 1/3 of the way around the world...

At one point, I started to write away for QSL cards from some of these far away stations. QSL cards are a mailed communication that confirm receipt of a radio transmission. I don't know what happen to the few QSL cards that I received back then (which are also an interesting form of postal history collectible).

Going back further, my first “transistor” radio was a simple pocket-size battery powered AM handheld radio that my grandfather gave me back in the mid-1960's. No idea what happened to that one either... But as always, a stamp brought back some memories!



MEET & EAT for February 2023

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.

--> See updates for mask policies as published or announced by local, regional & state authorities or individual restaurants.

ARLINGTON

February 1 Moni's Pasta & Pizza
1730 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington
(817-860-6664).

EULESS

February 15 Cheddar's, 937 Airport Fwy, Bedford
(817-540 0778).

GRANBURY

February 21 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E. US Hwy 377,
Granbury

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

Don't Forget:
Postage rates increase Jan. 22
Club 50th Anniv. Lunch - Feb. 18
EXPO Planning Mtg - Feb. 24

Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

Wanted to buy or trade for: Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits, Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net 2/15

Various USA Scott #C2 & C3 on covers & cards are needed for my U.S Air Mail collection. Please forward scans of the covers / cards along with asking price(s) to Don Jones at adjaams@aol.com Thank you. 2/21

For Sale

FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version) of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!) Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 1/21

→ YOUR FREE AD COULD BE HERE ← !
(for MCSC club members only)