

# Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.  
Euleless Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.  
12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)  
Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.



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March 2023

# 50

## Mid-Cities Stamp Club 50th Anniversary Luncheon

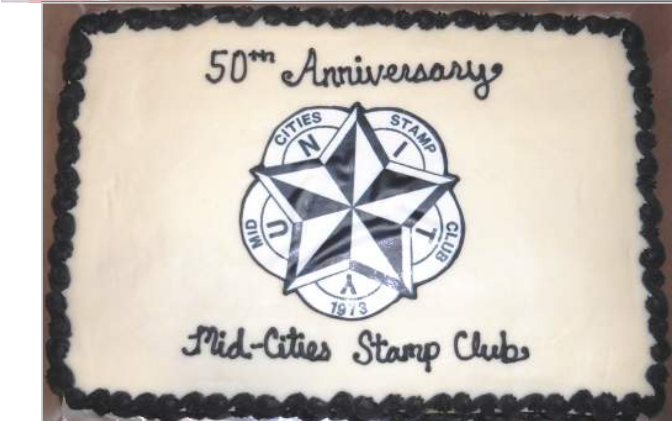
By Peter Elias

A 50th Anniversary comes along only once. On February 18, 34 members (& their guests) of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club attended a luncheon to celebrate the club's 50th Anniversary and to honor the two main founders, Ray & Karen Cartier. The event was held at El Chico's Restaurant in Pantego.

Ray gave a brief talk about the club's founding and early years and was presented with a plaque; and Karen was presented with a large bouquet of flowers.



[Photos by Peter Elias]



In attendance were:

- |                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ken & Vicki Aldridge | Ray & Karen Cartier            |
| Jim Case             | Stan & Judy Christmas          |
| Bob & Vickie Coleman | Tom Cunningham & Kathryn Story |
| Cindy Delaney        | Ken & Tommie Dougan            |
| Peter & Annie Elias  | Skip Ely                       |
| Alliene Franklin     | Rich & Bert Hildebrandt        |
| Rick & Donna Howell  | Sai Madhavapeddi               |
| Janet Moyer          | Geoffrey Owens                 |
| Penni Phelps         | Ralph Poore                    |
| Dave Stockbridge     | Ben Termini                    |
| Tom & Brenda Turner  | Art Von Reyn                   |
| Ken & Judith Wills   |                                |

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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto: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 color newsletter, or \$22 for mailed black & white newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : [editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

For a membership application write to:

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

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



"Editor At Work"  
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

## Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Due to the cost of printing a newsletter in color, even the additional \$10 in dues for a printed copy doesn't even cover half the cost of doing so (which is around \$45 per member per year), thus, any printed copies will be done in black & white. The PDF version of the newsletter will however continue to be in glorious color!

We all have been spoiled by color printed philatelic journals & newsletters, which does unfortunately come with a hefty price and that is why many organizations are switching to digital-only publications.

Since we will not have a formal "exhibition" at EXPO this year, I did request to have at least 2 A-frames (i.e.: 4 "frames") available in the entry area so that we can showcase at least a few philatelic items. Best suited for that would be 1 or 4-page "mini-exhibits". 1-page exhibits are best for "show & tell" type of stamps or covers along with a paragraph or two write-up; while a 4-page exhibit can tell a bit more of a story. With 4 frames, we'll have 64 pages available, so please think about coming up with something interesting to show our visitors! Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Coming Attractions

2023

<b>FEB. 21</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>FEB. 24</b>	<b>MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg (11 AM)</b>
Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington	
<b>MAR. 1</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	Ralph Poore will do a presentation about postcard censorship
<b>MAR. 15</b>	<b>MCSC—EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>MAR. 21</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>APR. 5</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	Ken Wills will talk about the ISWSC
<b>APR. 7-8</b>	<b>TSDA Bourse</b>
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)	
<b>APR. 19</b>	<b>MCSC—EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>APR. 22</b>	<b>MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg</b>
Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington	

## Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



### Applications Received:

Anthony Risner (#653)

### New Members:

Richard Goodwin (#648)  
Steven Gruhlke (#649)  
Anne McFarland (#650)  
Jonathan Topper (#651)  
Lawrence Wright (#652)

### Reinstatements:

Paul Ashley (#475)

### Resignations:

Xiaokang Huang (#640)  
Steven Turechek (#633)

### Did Not Renew for 2023:

To be announced next month

### Membership Summary – February 15, 2023

Membership as of January 19, 2023	98
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	1
New Members	5
Did Not Renew for 2023	( 0 )
Resignations	( 2 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of February 15, 2023	102

## Been There, Done That

### Johore Bahru

By Pat & Bob Weidman



The two photos below were taken in Johore Bahru, Malaysia on our 2004 vacation to Asia. Johore Bahru, with a population of over 663,000 at the time, is the capitol city of the State of Johore, Malaysia. It is located at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, directly across the straits of Johore from the City-State of Singapore.

While visiting Singapore, we decided to take a daytrip across the Johore-Singapore Causeway to Johore Bahru. At the time, we were not aware that the border between Johore Bahru and Singapore is the busiest international border crossing in the world. Approximately 350,000 people cross the border each day. That amounts to 128 million travelers annually!



While walking around, we saw many interesting sites. Picture 1 above is of a Hindu temple, while picture 2 is of the Gurdwara Sihib Sikh Temple. The stamp at top is Malaysia Scott #134d and was issued on September 22, 1975. It pictures the Sultan Abu Bakar Mosque which is located in the State of Johore.

In addition to the temples, we also spotted a 7-11 convenience store and found a McDonalds in one of the malls. Also check the Been There - Done That article from November 2022.

## Letters To The Editor

by Peter Elias

I received the following letter (email) from Arthur P. von Reyn on January 25:

*To the Editor:*

*Having been the instigator of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO more than 30 years ago, and the show chairperson for a decade, I am very disappointed to read in the February "Stamping Around" that a decision was made to eliminate exhibits from the event, even if on a "temporary" basis.*

*Without a doubt, most collectors come to a show to visit the dealers and make new acquisitions. And I have observed the majority of attendees never even take a look at the exhibits, especially if they are shunted to the back of an exhibit hall or in a room somewhere else.*

*But in my humble opinion, the existence of exhibits substantially elevates the status of show. Collectors who learn a show has exhibits are more likely to attend because they perceive the event has a better variety of dealers and quality material to choose from. Perception is what really counts!*

*I suspect the absence of exhibits will eventually lessen the appeal of the Mid-Cities show, particularly to collectors with large philatelic budgets or those who drive distances to attend. As these collectors disappear from the scene, word will spread about poor dealer sales, making it difficult to obtain dealers, whom we all know foot most of the bills for the event.*

*Yes, I agree it's a major hassle to haul, set up, mount and take down exhibit frames, deal with judges, awards and recruit exhibitors. But it's that effort that has made the Mid-Cities Stamp Club EXPO an enduring philatelic event in Texas in an era when all the other club-sponsored shows besides Houston's have faded into oblivion.*

*Arthur P. von Reyn*

## Been There, Done That

### School Bus

By Peter Elias

On January 5, 2023, the USPS issued 2 different "Additional Ounce" school bus design stamps. The slightly larger stamp at left is from a sheetlet of 20



and the smaller one is from a coil of 100. Since my Plano post office didn't have any, I had to order them from the "Caves".

(Partially) growing up in Michigan, I did have to take the school bus to my elementary (Grades 1 - 6) and intermediate (Grades 7 - 9) schools. The bus didn't exactly stop anywhere in our neighborhood. For my elementary school, I had to walk 0.4 miles north to the bus stop. From there, it was a whopping 1.3 mile ride south to my elementary school.

For middle school, I had to walk 0.5 miles west, then they had a stop at a church school before going on to the middle school for a total drive of 2.8 miles! For us, it seemed like a long way, but then the entire city was only about 5 miles across.

Our school busses were the iconic yellow ones like pictured on the stamp. I think they were the "Blue Bird" brand. I do remember that one of our drivers was so short, she couldn't reach the gas & brake pedals, so they attached blocks of wood to them! In high school, there was no bus for us. Sadly, I don't have any pictures of anything relating to me taking a school bus. In Switzerland, I had to walk to school, all of 1,600 feet.

## MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023

By Stan Christmas

### Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by David Stockbridge.

### Attendance:

- There were 9 people in attendance.

### Show & Tell:

Dave started the meeting off with Show & Tell.

### Announcements:

- Bob Cole announced he was the winner of the US #1 raffle at EXPO 2022 and was very appreciative for winning. He was going to enjoy the stamp.
- Gary McNamee commented on the need to recruit new members.
- Les Barton showed FDC's on the US Crossword Puzzle stamp.
- Rick Howell announced he had US and Foreign packets of stamps from the mixture pick for sale. One pound for \$10.00 and ¼ pound for \$3.00.
- Joe Marshall showed a reproduced 1865 Scott Stamp Catalogue and announced Gene Atkinson is doing OK.
- Dave Stockbridge introduced the club's newest member, Anne McFarland (Joe's wife), and announced there were 4 openings for program volunteers for 2023.
- Judy Christmas announced that the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party will be held on February 18 at noon. The party will be held at El Chico Restaurant, 1549 S. Bowen, Pantego (Arlington), TX. If you want to attend, please sign up ASAP as there are only 35 slots available. The club is going to honor its founders, Ray & Karen Cartier.
- Stanley Christmas gave the results of the EXPO 2023 meeting that was held on January 18. The two main things decided was EXPO-2023 will not have exhibits this year as no one will step forward to be the Exhibits Chairperson and the Silent Auction Stage will be lowered to accommodate those who have difficulty getting up the stairs.

### Program:

- The program was *Clean Out Your Closet*, and a few items were brought by the members.
- Dave then conducted a round table discussion on "What you collect and how does it relate to history." All the members contributed.

### Door Prizes:

- Winners of the gift certificates were Judy Christmas, Joe McFarland and David Stockbridge.

### Adjournment:

- Dave closed the meeting around 8:15 PM.

## MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023

By Janet Moyer

- The meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

## President's Message

Ken Aldridge

A wonderful time was had by all! How many times have we heard that over the years? But I'm talking about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club held Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup> at El Chico's Restaurant in Pantego, TX. In attendance were 34 members & their significant others. Recognition of Ray Cartier and his wife Karen as the founders of our club was done in words and by presentation of a plaque.

We have some great programs coming up for our Arlington meetings. March will be Ralph Poore's presentation on censored postcards. April will be Ken Wills' presentation on the International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors Association. May is our semi-annual auction (bring up to 10 items to the April meeting). If you have something you would like to share with our group, let me know and we can work out a schedule for presentation. It doesn't have to be long but at least 15 minutes.

The EXPO needs more members to help out at our annual November show. Talk to Ralph Poore, Stan Christmas or myself and let's see if we can work you into an area you would like to serve.

We welcome two new members this last month, Anthony Riser and Paul Ashley (reinstatement).

Many members have yet to pay their dues for 2023. If not paid soon, they will be dropped from the rolls and no longer get the newsletter or club notices.

Also, I'd giving fair warning, from time to time at our Arlington Meetings, I might call on one or two of our members to do just a few minutes about how they got into stamp collecting and what they collect.

## TV Philately: Cars Of The People

By Peter Elias

A couple of years ago I watched James May's (of "Top Gear" fame) documentary about "Cars of the People". One of the most famous of these is of course what we now know as the "Volkswagen". But during the Hitler days, it was known as the "Volks Wagen", i.e.: "People's Car".

You couldn't buy a Volks Wagen, or "KDF" (Kraft Durch Freude = Strength through joy) car as it was known (designed by Ferdinand Porsche); but you could however buy "savings stamps for them starting on August 1, 1938. To my knowledge, no one was able to redeem savings cards for a KDF car though.

The Volkswagen company as we know it today was actually founded by the British AFTER World War II. After the War, some people were able to redeem their savings cards for after a 12-year trial for 12% discount for a new "Volkswagen". The green savings stamp is from my own collection; there were also red stamps as shown in the TV screen shot above, and since it's a documentary, those were the real thing.



## MCSC Eules Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023

By Skip Ely

- The Eules meeting was cancelled due to forecasted severe weather that evening.

## Lefthanders

By Peter Elias



On August 13, 2015, the Croat Administration of Bosnia & Herzegovina issued, the stamp shown on the left, Scott #322.

When I first saw an illustration of the stamp with the pointing left hand, and subsequently figured out that it was issued to commemorate "International Lefthanders Day", I knew that I had to have this for my collection. The previous

sentence is your clue that I'm a "leftie".

Looking it up on my favorite "go-to" source for basic information, Wikipedia has a brief write-up at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_Lefthanders\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Lefthanders_Day), with some further links to related topics. There is also more info at <https://www.lefthandersday.com>.

Basically, us "lefties" comprise about 7 to 10% of the world's population. The "International Lefthanders Day" celebrates left-handed people and to raise awareness of the advantages, disadvantages and issues faced by left-handed people. This day was first observed in 1976 and is on August 13 each year.

According to the lefthanders website (and probably elsewhere as well), it states that the brain is "cross-wired" and the left hemisphere controls the right side of the body (and vice-versa); thus it is stated that "only left-handers are in their right minds". *Phew!*

Given that we lefties are somewhat in the minority, there are of course many famous & notable people in our group\*, such as 5 recent US Presidents, 6 Astronauts, Steve Forbes, Oprah Winfrey, David Rockefeller, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Babe Ruth, Pele, John McEnroe, Marie Curie, Isaac Newton, Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Fred Astaire, Charlie Chaplin, Paul McCartney, Jimi Hendrix, Sting, and not to mention lots of us "regular folks"...

When it comes to me being left-handed, I'm the only one in our family that's a leftie. Growing up, I don't remember if anyone tried to have me switch to writing right-handed. Back in my Swiss elementary school, we learned handwriting skills using "liquid ink" from cartridge-based ink pens. The big challenge when writing with liquid inks is not to smear the ink before it dries as your left hand is moving across what you just wrote. For that reason, some lefties (not me though) developed a sort of a "cramped" style of hand writing. In my case, I always had "blotting" paper handy to get the ink to dry quicker.

I've looked through my old photo albums and don't see any that show me writing anything by hand, whether at school or at home. These days, a majority of my "writing" is done on the computer. And you know, I type much more legibly (not to mention quicker) than I write by hand! Although, at our club meetings, you might occasionally see me scribble some notes by hand!

The stamp shown has some inscriptions that I can't figure out (since I don't read Bosnian). So with trusty "Google Translate" at hand, here's what some of the inscriptions mean: *Medunarodni dan Ljevorukih Osoba* = "International Day of Left-Handed Persons". For *Napoli Zrinski*, it only came up with "Napoli grain", which doesn't mean anything. Napoli might mean "Naples" (in neighboring Italy). Zrinski is the name of a prominent family in that region.

*HP Mostar* is short for *Hrvatska pošta Mostar* and means "Croatian Post Mostar", which has their website at <http://www.post.ba>. They are one of three postal operators in Bosnia & Herzegovina and operate chiefly in the Croat-majority areas and is headquartered in the city of Mostar.

As there always is a "story behind the stamp", there's more to this stamp (specifically the actual one illustrated at the beginning of the article). I like to own the stamps that I illustrate for these articles, so I had to buy one. But where? It's too new for any local dealers to have in stock. The post.ba website doesn't sell this either anymore, so I looked at eBay, HipStamp and finally Delcampe, where I finally found a seller that would sell me a single MNH copy of this stamp. I ordered it in December 2022, but when I didn't receive anything well over a month later, I inquired about it and the seller told me he had just mailed it.



The letter arrived on February 4, and was mailed on January 25, so 10 days to reach me wasn't bad, considering it came from Montenegro! Montenegro shares its' northwestern border with Bosnia & Herzegovina. Certainly not a place I receive mail from often.

Sadly though, the envelope had seen some major "humidity". The top picture of the back of the envelope showed all the signs of at least half of the envelope having been submerged in water. The stamp itself was in a folded piece of paper (which was taped to corrugated board) was totally stuck (and I had to soak it off first).



*I notified the seller about the condition of what I received and while he did offer to replace the stamp, I declined, stating that for illustration purposes, "unused without gum" will be fine.*

The front of the envelope didn't look as bad, but the right stamp had almost completely soaked itself off the envelope.

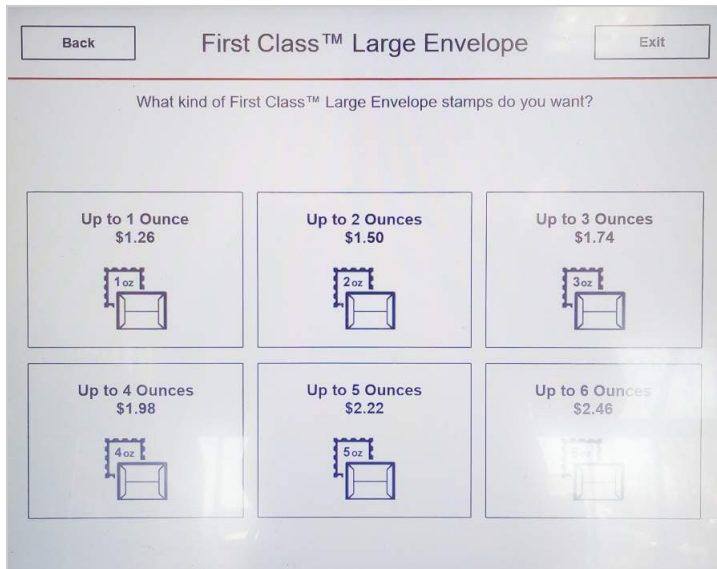
\* And yes, there are some "infamous" lefthanders as well, but I won't go into that in this article....

## Self-Service Kiosk Anomalies

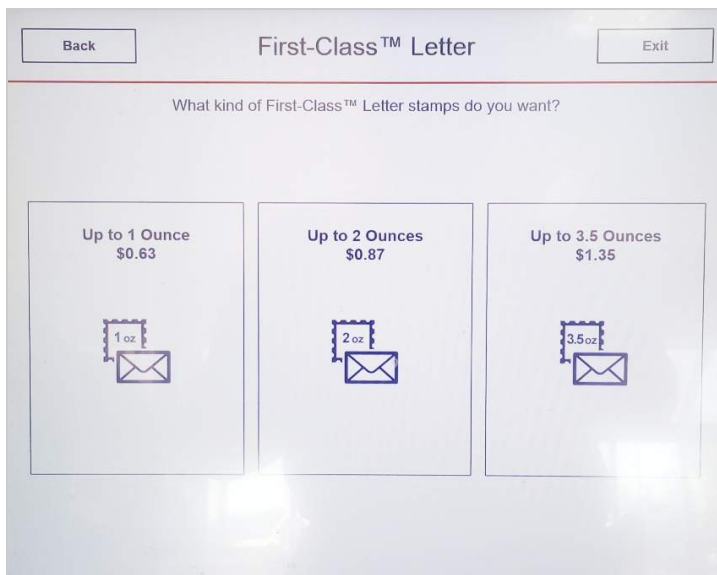
By Peter Elias

As you may know, you can purchase a variety of postage stamps & labels at the “SSK” (self-service kiosks) found at many post offices.

One of the postage options is for “First Class™ Large Envelope”. Below is a screen that comes up when you select to purchase postage for this type of mail class manually (i.e.: without requiring putting a mail piece on the scale at the machine).



So what is wrong here? There are “large envelope” rates available up to 13 ounces, yet the USPS only gives us an option for up to 6 ounces!



And what is wrong with this one? Look closely: 1, 2 and 3.5 ounces. What happened to “3 ounces”? That rate would be \$1.11. I guess they just want to make you pay more... It's not as if there is room for a 4th option. After all, for the “large envelope”, they manage to fit 6 boxes... And yes, “1st Class” ends at 3.5 ounces (which is 100 grams), and that also applies to international mail. After that, it generally goes to “1st class package”.

## Every Stamp Is A Topical: Numerals

By Peter Elias

So that title above is technically true. Sure, we think of “topicals” as stamps featuring flowers, cats, dogs, butterflies, fish, cars, motorcycles, famous buildings, etc.

<-- So what about this stamp?

This is a slightly enlarged scan of Germany #298 issued in 1923 during their inflationary period (wow, that was 100 years ago!) and is the 2nd highest denomination in this series at “20 Milliarden” Marks. “Milliarden” in German by the way, is equivalent to “billion” here in the USA. A German “Billion” in turn would be a “trillion” for us.



So while this was a standard definitive stamp, it is never-the-less a “topical”. Topicals don't always have to be “commemorative” sized stamps.

What first comes to mind is that it most definitely could be defined as a “numeral” topic, by which I mean that the stamp's primary design is a number. One could also put this into a topical collection where the focus is on “fonts”.

I personally like this particular series of stamps. It even has a nice geometric pattern as part of the design. While in mint condition they are very common (and also usually only worth about 25¢), if you find them on cover, properly used “in-period”, they can be worth quite a bit more.

There are many definitive-sized stamps around the world that are somewhat similar, and many postage due stamps also primarily just have a numeral as the main design element. Look at US postage due stamps as another example of this.

<-- Here is a used copy of USA #J67, the 50¢ denomination from the 1917 series (unwatermarked, perf. 10) that I have in my collection.



Although the US postage dues are also just numerical, all denominations are also just red, which kind of makes them a bit more boring. This German series has the geometric patterns in different colors for each

denomination, so it certainly makes for a more colorful album page.

As part of such a numerical topical collection, one could compare & contrast the different stamps. The German stamp was printed by lithography, while the USA stamp was engraved. An interesting discussion is how the geometric designs are created for each type of printing method.

As a challenge to y'all, show me a stamp that you think is not a “topical”!

# Ukraine Cover With Soldier Salute Stamp

By Peter Elias

You all probably by now have heard or read about the Ukrainian stamp that was issued in 2022 showing a Ukrainian soldier on the shore of Snake Island (in the Black Sea) that responded to Russian troops calls to surrender by responding with "Russian warship, go f\*\*\* yourself". This was memorialized with a stamp depicting the soldier giving the ship a middle-fingered salute.

If you look at the cover below, there are two items with a similar soldier design. The stamp on the left is actually a non-denominated label, with the inscription "DONE" (without that, it is essentially a reprint of an earlier stamp and shows the warship); the stamp on the right with the "F" denomination (no, not what you might think...) shows the same scene, but without the warship.



The Russian warship, a cruiser named "Muskva", was damaged during the Russian invasion on April 14, 2022 by Ukrainian anti-ship missiles, which caused a fire and subsequent sinking of the warship in stormy seas after the fire caused munitions explosions. You can read more about that at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinking\\_of\\_the\\_Moskva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinking_of_the_Moskva)

A second Ukraine stamp design contest resulted in a stamp showing a Ukrainian tractor pulling a disabled Russian tank as part of the Ukrainian resistance against Russia. The Ukrainian government told the farmers that they could sell the abandoned tanks for scrap and that it would be tax free!

This cover was sent to me by a Ukrainian stamp collector with whom I had done some trading about 11 years ago (which resulted in my Ukraine Customs Revenue exhibit that I first showed in 2012 at the MSC EXPO). When the Russian invasion started, I was wondering whether he was ok and e-mailed him and we agreed to do some further trading.

The cover received a black circular postmark on December 31, 2022 (which according to a pencil note on the back was "Postal Residence - GPO Sumy 40000) and blue postmarks dated January 4, 2023. Given that I received the cover on February 16, 2023, that mean it took about 6 weeks to reach me, which I suppose is not bad considering the current conditions.

The cover (which weighed 1.3 ounces / 38 grams) had postage paid by F, L & M rate stamps. According to Ukrposhta.ua, the basic letter rate for up to 50g is listed as US\$ 1.50. At present, that is around 55.67 UAH.

After poking around the Ukrposhta website, I found a listing which showed the value of the various "letter" stamps; so the stamps used would have cost:

- F = UAH 23.00
- + L = UAH 15.00
- + M = UAH 18.00 for a total of 56.00 UAH. So it would seem

that the rate was properly paid (not counting any minor currency conversion variances).

In addition to having these great stamps actually do postal duty, had also a mint version of these (see scans below), along with some other interesting items.

To the right, a mint version of the ship stamp & label used on the cover as a vertical pair. A mint version of the tractor & tank stamp is shown at right below.

A stamp relating to the destruction of the illegally built bridge that connects Russia with their occupation of the Crimean peninsula. The explosion on the bridge occurred on October 8, 2022 and the stamp featuring a sketch on the inevitable fate of the bridge was issued shortly after on November 4, 2022.

After I read the description of the issue at the Ukrposhta website, it became a bit clearer to me, as my first thoughts were that couple shown somehow reminded of a scene in the movie "Titanic", which also was subject to an inevitable fate...

I also received some revenue stamps as shown on the left and a scarce (used only for several months in 1999) Customs Revenue stamp shown at bottom.

Some of these have a "holographic" silver stripe to thwart counterfeiting. The 2 green stamp at left come either with or without a holographic stripe. As with all revenues like this, they are difficult to collect in good condition as they are designed to be destroyed upon opening the product.

Now I have to start gathering more items for our next trade!





In 2013, Switzerland issued a single-stamp mini souvenir sheetlet, Scott #1499, which honors the "Vreneli". Vreneli is the name of Swiss 20 Franc gold coins that were issued between 1897 to 1949, with 58.6 million coins minted during that time! So they're not terribly uncommon (although not seen that often here in the USA).

The 20 Franc coin is 21 mm in diameter (approximately the size of a US nickel). Individual mintages (which were not yearly) were from 100,000 to 20 Million. The weighs 6.4516 grams and is 90% pure Gold, meaning the actual pure gold weight is 5.805 grams (= .1866 troy ounces). For those that don't know, a "troy" ounce = 31.1035 grams, while a "regular" ounce is 28.3495 grams. I think it's better just to stick with grams, way less confusing that way! As I am writing this, the price of "pure" (0.999) gold is \$60 per gram.

These coins are considered "bullion" coins and are more for investing purposes than for actual spending purposes, just like the USA 1/4 ounce Gold "Eagle" coins which is

approximately the same size. The 1/4 oz Gold Eagle costs you about \$470 but has a denomination of only \$10. The Swiss Vreneli in turn has a 20 Swiss Franc denomination (approx. US \$20). As legal tender, these coins are worth what the denomination.

How this pertains to me? When I worked in Switzerland in 1986, I did buy a 1935 Swiss Vreneli coin (shown at top in actual size). I don't remember the exact price, it might have been around \$200 to 250 francs (around \$80 to \$100) at that time; gold here in 1986 was approx. \$370/oz (= \$1,000 in today's dollars); given that the coins are selling for \$383 right now, I'd say that I beat inflation (2.73% average since 1986) by just a tiny little bit... As a side note, during my year in Switzerland, the value of the Swiss Franc dropped from \$1 = 2.00 at the beginning of the year to about \$1.60 at the end of the year, a decline of 20%, which made getting a US salary a bit expensive by year's end.



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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# CLASSIFIED BOURSE

## Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com)

## For Sale

**US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV.** Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage, S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). [jasdmyers@earthlink.net](mailto:jasdmyers@earthlink.net) 5/15

## Wanted to Trade

I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 9/16

## Wanted

**Postally used “ATM” stamps** (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Contact Peter Elias at [info@stvincentstamps.com](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) 8/14

## For Sale

I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is [www.kenwills.net](http://www.kenwills.net) Contact me at [wills@airmail.net](mailto:wills@airmail.net). Happy hunting! 3/19

**Philatelic Reference CD's.** The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)**
  - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
  - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
  - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
  - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
  - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
  - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
  - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 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](mailto: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

## Nasher

By Peter Elias



On the 1st Saturday of each month, several museums in Dallas offer free admissions. One of these is the Nasher Sculpture Center in downtown Dallas. It opened in 2003. I visited there on April 16, 2005 and had one of my photos made into the 37¢ customized postage stamp from “PictureItPostage” (aka endicia.com) that you see above.


On February 4, 2023, we visited the Nasher Sculpture Center again, and took essentially the same photo again (see right); sadly the USPS shut down the custom postage program back in June 2020, so I can't order any more of these type of stamps.

In any case, while the museum is fairly small, it is interesting



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**Estate Appraisals**



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to visit. And while you are at it, right across the street is the Crow Museum of Asian Art (always free), and also next to the Nasher is the DMA (Dallas Museum of Art) which also offers free admissions on the 1st Saturday of each month. We managed to do quick visits to all 3 Museums on February 4! We'll definitely have to go back to the DMA since we didn't have much time there. The Crow Museum had some fantastic items on display and said it was building a new building at UTD in Richardson, due to open in Spring of 2024!



## 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

March 1 David's Barbecue, 2224 West Park Row,  
Arlington, TX 76013-7406  
(817-261-9998)

### EULESS

March 15 Jason's Deli 2200 Airport Fwy, Bedford  
(817-354-1511)

### GRANBURY

March 28 Grumps Burgers, 3503 E. Hwy 377,  
Granbury

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

**Don't Forget:**  
**MCSC EXPO Planning Mtg - Feb. 24**

## Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at  
[Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com](mailto:Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com)

5/19

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

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](mailto: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](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 1/21

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