

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.



Volume 36, Number 4

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

April 2023

USA #2980

By Peter Elias



Here is a scan of USA #2980, issued in 1995 to mark the 75th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment (which granted women the right to vote).

While I agree that this an important event to commemorate,

I do have a problem with this stamp. Look at it. It is shown in actual size. Look at it again for a second or two. Can you tell me what it is that you are looking at? I can't. This has got to be the most convoluted stamp design I have ever seen.

That said, I vaguely remember that when they showed this stamp on a huge screen or as a huge illustration (probably 6 feet diagonal or more). At that size, what you see above makes sense. At "stamp size", it absolutely does NOT!



Here it is magnified at over double the length/height. And while it is a bit easier now to discern what the various design elements are (including the various overlapping words at top), you'd probably to magnify this to about the size of an entire sheet of paper to really see the details (but you're welcome to zoom in if you're reading this as a PDF file).

When it comes to stamps, simple designs are best. I think the stamp designers forgot about the KISS rule.

Been There,
Done That

The 2nd Bicycle

By Peter Elias



Do you remember your 1st bicycle? No? How about the 2nd one?

My first bicycle I got as a Christmas present when I was 11. The 2nd bicycle I had to work hard

for, by delivering newspapers. It was a Schwinn Continental, similar to what is shown above (except mine had fenders and a spring-loaded rack); it cost around \$145 back in 1975, and I earned that with the \$2 that I earned delivering around 60 newspapers per day.

Sadly, I had NO picture of that bicycle. In 2005 I found a collector of Schwinn bicycles that sent me a photo of his bicycle so that I could order a sheet of Zazzle stamps, one of which you see above (in exchange I mailed him one of the stamps).

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Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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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

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

Normally around this time of the year, we'd be starting to ask members to start thinking about submitting exhibits for the upcoming EXPO in November.

Since it was decided to not have regular exhibits this year, you're relieved of that request... HOWEVER, I did request that we have at least 2 A-frames of exhibit frames present at EXPO, in the entrance area; that gives us 4 frames (64 pages) of material that can be shown. My suggestion is to put together 64 pages of "interesting" show & tell type of material to at least give attendees some interesting items to look at as they're coming or going. More details later. Think about it!

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



Applications Received:

Mark B. Kirby (#654)
 Tom Montgomery (#655)
 Curtis Christensen (#656)

New Members:

Anthony Risner (#653)

Reinstatements:

n/a

Resignations:

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

Did Not Renew for 2023:

Ray Ashley (#423)
 Ted Carmean (#402)
 Ray Gollaher (#522)
 Roland Haedge (#631)
 Robert Henry (#580)
 Mike Lester (#383)
 Alan Letter (#643)
 John Lyon (#642)
 Mary Vittorio (#644)
 Jerald Zimmerman (#639)

Membership Summary – March 15, 2023

Membership as of February 15, 2023	102
Applications Received (counts as member next month)	3
New Members	1
Did Not Renew for 2023	(10)
Resignations	(2)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of March 15, 2023	91

Coming Attractions

2023

MAR. 21 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

APR. 5 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Ken Wills will talk about the ISWSC

APR. 7-8 TSDA Bourse

Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

APR. 19 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

APR. 22 MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg

Spring Creek BBQ, 3608 S. Cooper St., Arlington

APR. 25 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

MAY 3 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Club Auction

MAY 17 MCSC—EULESS Meeting

Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

MAY 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: TBD

EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes February 24, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Chairman Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:52 AM.

In attendance:

Ralph Poore	Stanley Christmas
Judy Christmas	Janet Moyer
Patty Poore	Ken Aldridge
Rick Howell	Donne Howell
Peter Elias	Skip Ely
Tom Turner	

- Minutes from the last meeting were tabled.

Ralph announced:

- The contract is in place with the Grapevine Convention Center for the 2023 EXPO.
- The floor of the silent auction will be at ground level.
- The Mixture Pick will be moved inside the main room.
- There will be no exhibits, no awards, no banquet and no room rental fee (for the exhibit room).
- We will need smaller transportation from storage since we will not need frames.
- Tom Cunningham sent a report that we will have 25 dealers.
- Peter Elias will handle 4 frames inside the front door.

Committee Chairmen:

- Peter announced that publicity in Linn's Stamp News will be printed twice a month and emailed on all other times due to the new publishing schedule at Linn's.
- Peter will apply to have the EXPO announced in the Dallas Morning News.
- Ken Aldridge reduced the daytime security to one officer.
- Rick Howell is requesting donations of stamps for the bags for Mixture Pick.
- Rick has updated the calendar and was checking on sending it by email to all the members.

Budget:

- Judy presented the proposed budget.
- The "gift Certificates that were handed out" item line will be deleted.
- The \$100 for cabinets will be deleted. Cabinets were discussed. No new ones are needed unless one is requested by a vender. If needed - we should rethink the price we charge for their rental.
- The room rental changed as we will not need two of the rooms.
- We will pay to have the silent auction floor dropped.
- There will be a raffle so cost may be added to print tickets.
- The club will purchase a vinyl sign to hang from the rafters to show the silent auction placement. Peter will send the graphic for the club logo to Ralph for this sign.
- An easel sign will also be on the floor for the silent auction.
- We need to find an appropriate raffle item to raffle. Thoughts ?!
- Since this is the club's 50th anniversary, should we have items to sale or give away as door prizes? If so, what?

Adjournment: Ralph adjourned the meeting at 12:37.

- The next meeting is April 22, 2023 at the Spring Creek BBQ at 11:15 for lunch with the meeting to follow.

An Open Apology To The Club

By Judy Christmas

Ever felt like you wish you had an undo button? I am so sorry for the mess I made with what was to be a special day for the Club...our **50th Anniversary Party**.

This article is an apology to the seven people who were not in the same room with the other attendees, long time members Tom & Brenda Turner, Ken & Judith Wills, Penni Phelps, Cyndi Delanoy and Sai Madhavapeddi.

When I found out the venue, El Chico's, did not have a room large enough to accommodate all who wanted to attend I should have found a better venue.

Hindsight is always so much better than foresight, as I don't know why I didn't plan on holding the event in the first place at the Bob Duncan Center. It could have been catered there and there would have been plenty of room for everyone. So to the seven who were seated in the hallway and to the rest of Club, I extend my sincerest apologies for letting you down.

Members in the News

The Winter 2022 issue (Volume 74, issue 338) of the "Meter Stamp Society Quarterly Bulletin" featured Peter Elias' article "*New SSK and RDC codes*" on page 10 - 13. The article highlights various changes in the USPS postage labels that took effect recently.

New USPS Item Description Requirements

By Peter Elias



If you are mailing items to the EU (European Union), plus apparently also Norway & Switzerland, then there are some new "description requirements" that you will have to follow according to the USPS. I saw the "Lug-On" card you see to the left the Plano post office sometime in January. These rules already took effect.

Essentially, they want you to be very specific in describing EVERY item that you are shipping on the customs form. For example, you can't just say "electronics", it would have to be "computer", "mobile phone", "television" or something similar. It can't just be "clothes", it would have to be something like "men's cotton t-shirts".

You can read all about it at the USPS website here: <https://www.usps.com/international/new-eu-customs-rules.htm>

So how does this work if you're mailing a normal letter size envelope to the EU with some stamps that you sold? Technically yes, if it's something you sold, you need to fill out a customs form as most EU countries the recipient has to pay import duties or a VAT (value added tax). What if you're just trading stamps? I don't know...

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes February 28, 2023

By Stan Christmas

Call To Order:

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

Attendance:

- There were 14 people in attendance.

Show & Tell:

- Dave started off the meeting with Show & Tell.
- Judy Christmas showed pamphlets of the history of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club that were distributed at the February 18, 2023 MCSC 50th Anniversary party. She had some extras that were available to members who wanted one.
- Stanley Christmas showed an envelope he received in the mail from Germany with some interesting stamps.
- Les Barton showed his collection of "Hussy's" US stamps.
- Joe McFarland showed an FDC from the Philippine Islands that was dated July 14, 1943. It was issued during the Japanese occupation.
- Ann McFarland showed a post card with a 1905 3¢ Jackson stamp.

Announcements:

- Dave Stockbridge announced there were stamps that had been donated to the club on a nearby table. He said they were free for the taking, but asked for a donation to the individual who donated them. \$41.00 was collected.
- Dave Stockbridge announced the regular Arlington meeting will be March 1...the next day. This was the first time anyone could remember back-to-back meetings.

Where In The World"

- Gary McNamee's "Where in the World Am I" quiz went several rounds before someone guessed that it was Albania.

Break:

- Madeleine Myers brought cookies which the group enjoyed during the break.

Program:

- The program was presented by Rick Howell. He showed a video titled "*Dodging the Yanks along the Rappahannock River*" by Trish Kaufman, a noted Civil War philatelic historian. Rick grew up in that part of eastern Virginia and had some interesting personal stories to tell.

Door Prizes:

- There were 3 winners of the \$10 gift certificates.

Adjournment:

- Dave closed the meeting around 8:20 PM.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes March 1, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call To Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM.
- Ken Aldridge introduced the 2 guests.

Announcements:

- The Program will be presented by Ralph Poore.
- May's program will be an auction. Please look through your philatelic things for possible items to sell. A minimum of \$10 worth of items is requested. If you need a form, please email Skip.
- The Board of Directors voted to grant lifetime memberships to all members that have been in the club for 25 years (to take effect in 2024).
- Rich Howell has bags of stamps from the Mixture Pick. The cost is \$10 per pound of stamps.
- The secretary's report was published in the newsletter. No corrections were mentioned.
- Judy Christmas read the treasurer's report and reported that the Anniversary luncheon had a good turnout.

Committee Chairman reports:

- Peter Elias is working on the newsletter.
- Dave Stockbridge reported the circuit books have not had much activity. The older books from club members are priced at 50% off the net price.
- Ralph Poore reported the EXPO had a meeting on February 24th.
- We are always looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Ralph to see what positions are needed.
- The theme for this year's EXPO is our 50th Anniversary and the recurring theme of Veterans.

Show and Tell:

- Stanley Christmas showed a letter from Germany with bar-coded stamps.
- Judy Christmas showed the 50th anniversary pamphlet. We have extras if anyone wants one.
- Ben Termini complimented the party and showed a pamphlet with an article from John Hotchner about our EXPO.
- Ray Cartier showed a designer souvenir sheet he had made for a Stamp Show in Dayton (Ohio).
- Peter Elias talked about Stan's letter.
- Peter showed stamps from the newsletter about left-handed people and how it arrived in damaged condition (got wet).
- Peter showed a Russian Cosmonaut stamp sheet forgery.
- Peter showed an ad with (thought to be) counterfeit stamps on sale on the internet via a popular coupon site.
- Peter reported that the amount of people that trade stamps by mail has drastically reduced (yet he has 2 active traders!)
- Ken Aldridge told of a person advertising albums for \$35 that has \$90 worth of postage in it.
- Rick Howell reported that Royal Mail in Great Britain will be putting out a commemorative stamp of the Flying Scotsman. It will be the last stamp with Queen Elizabeth.

Door Prizes:

- Gift certificates were awarded.

Program:

- Ralph Poore presented an excellent program entitled "*Censorship of and on Postcards*".

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned after the program.

Нет почты (Net Pochty)

By Peter Elias

Back on January 30, I sent a #10 of free give-away stamps to a collector in Russia, that requested some. On March 6, I received the envelope back from the USPS with a yellow "Nixie" sticker on it stating "Not Deliverable As Addressed".

I had sent the envelope with the address given in the email address (except that I put senders name on the first line instead of after Russia...).

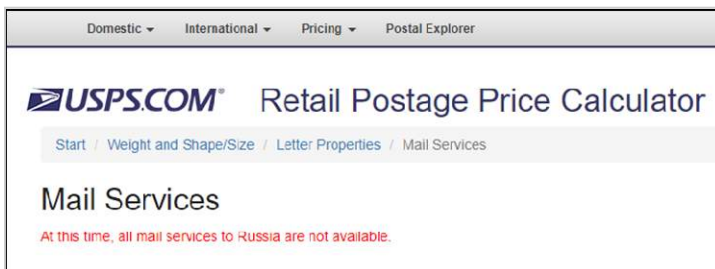


I have of course no real way of verifying that the address is correct (and just as here in the USA, if it is a younger collector, 13 in this case, then we can't even be sure that they know how to properly convey a mailing address). I receive many foreign requests (especially from India) where it is difficult to properly put the address in 4 or 5 lines (since I always use window envelope - so it has to fit), or just make sure everything is in the generally accepted order (you know, Name, Address, City, Region, postal code and country).

After looking at the envelope a bit closer, I noticed that there was a remnant of a diagonal rubber stamp marking across the address. But since the window envelope uses a plastic film, whatever was there had rubbed off. Near the bottom corner, I can make out a "D" on the paper part of the envelope, and holding it against some diagonal light, I can make out "OPENED", and "RILY" above that (which looks like "TEMPORARILY") and no clue as to what was above that, nor where it was applied.

I checked the envelope to see if it HAD been opened, but all sides seem intact except for a small 3/4" slit at the bottom (which looks like was burst due to machine handling) and the left side which looks like it starting to get compromised but doesn't like it had been opened (as there is no signs of it being glued or taped there).

So what happened? Well, regardless of whether or not the address was correct, when I went to the USPS "rate calculator" (<https://postcalc.usps.com/Calculator>), this is what it said (as of March 7, 2023):



Ok, so basically they're saying you can't mail a letter to Russia (Net Pochty = No Mail). Trying to check this a bit further, I went to the "Service Alerts" website at <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/service-alerts/international/welcome.htm> where you get a list of various countries where there are service disruptions. For Russia, it states that as of March 11, 2022, that there is a temporary service disruption to unavailable transportation and restrictions into that area. That is not quite the same "not deliverable as addressed", it should be more of a "mail service suspended" sticker (which had I seen before). See the screen shot below.

Service alerts

International service disruptions

International Mail Service Suspensions

Updated: March 3, 2023

The Postal Service™ is temporarily suspending international mail acceptance for certain destinations due to impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and other unrelated service disruptions. Customers: please refrain from mailing items addressed to the countries listed here, until further notice.

[View the suspensions](#)

Select one of the entries below to display disruption information for that location or event.

Afghanistan 5-20-21	Laos 11-27-20	Peru 1-25-23	Turkey 2-8-23
Belarus 7-22-22	Libya 9-17-21	Russia 3-11-22	Turkmenistan 5-22-20
Bhutan 7-23-21	Mauritius 2-22-23	South Sudan 4-17-20	Ukraine 3-8-22
Chad 10-15-21	Mongolia 3-19-21	Syria 6-11-21	Yemen 4-17-20
Finland 2-18-23	New Zealand 2-14-23	Timor-Leste 4-7-20	

Russia

3-11-22

Temporary Service Disruption

The Postal Service™ has temporarily suspended international mail acceptance to Russia due to unavailable transportation as a result of widespread cancellations and restrictions into the area.

3-8-22

Global Express Guarantee (GXG®) Service Suspension

The Postal Service™ has temporarily suspended international mail acceptance of Global Express Guarantee Russia.

So the above is a good website to use if you intend on sending mail to these countries; of course, the list changes as situations change. That said, I did successfully send a letter with some stamps in trade to the Ukraine (which is also listed above), although the USPS states the following (clicking on the Ukraine link above):

3-2-22

Ukraine Post advises that some post offices across various regions will continue to be open on a limited basis so customers can receive mail and parcels. The post also advises countries to send their international postal items to Ukraine via Poland, Slovakia or Latvia. The post will be collecting the consignments from those countries.

2-24-22

Ukraine Post advises that due to the conflict in the region international postal transit through Ukrainian territory has been suspended until further notice. Post offices will remain closed beginning Feb. 24 and postal deliveries are suspended until further notice. As soon as the situation allows, the post will resume delivery of all international postal items.

My envelope to the Ukraine collector was mailed near the end of December 2022 and did make it to him about 6 weeks later (and his envelope, sent around the same time to me, also arrived in about 6 weeks). So my guess would be that mail to/from Ukraine does probably pass via Poland, Slovakia or Latvia as mentioned above; hard to say which though, as that would be a decision made by the USPS.

Isn't postal history interesting? If you have similar items and research, please feel free to send it in!
PS: "Net Pochty" (title) is pronounced sort of like "Nyet Poshtee"

MCSC Euleless Meeting Minutes March 15, 2023

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 8 members attended the March meeting in Euleless.

Opening:

- Second Vice President Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Officer Reports:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said he was filling in for Janet Moyer tonight.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Stanley said he had the March APS books at this meeting.
- EXPO - Stanley mentioned the EXPO planning meeting scheduled for April 22 at Spring Creek BBQ.
- Newsletter - Peter said the next newsletter was almost done. There followed a short discussion on EXPO publicity notices in newspapers.

Show & Tell:

- Skip Ely passed around a recently purchased Scott 2023 U.S. Pocket Stamp catalog. He said it was useful for updating the Scott numbers of recent issues and prices.
- Ken Wills showed a cover he had mailed to a relative that they had mailed back to him. He said it represented a sort of "controlled mail", a subject he plans to talk about this summer in Granbury. A short discussion about the dearth of commemorative issues on U.S. mail followed.
- Peter Elias had a number of items, including a registered letter (cover) from 1935 where a "registered" meter paid the postage & fees, a quarterly magazine from Spain about new worldwide ATM issues called "Variable", and his lack of success in finding an upright Jenny from the souvenir sheets issued in 2013.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Rick Howell and Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:15 PM.

George Watkins, Jr (RIP)

By Peter Elias

Thanks to Art von Reyn for making me aware that former MCSC member (#544) and longtime MCSC EXPO dealer Retired Army Major General George Watkins, Jr. (of Iola, Texas) passed away on December 3, 2022 at the age of 88. According to the 2022 EXPO program, he (and Charlie Adams) had a booth at our EXPO just a few weeks prior to passing away.

There is further obituary data available as this site: <https://www.madisonvillemeteor.com/obituaries/george-haddon-watkins-jr>

Feeding the USPS

By Peter Elias

I receive a number of envelopes each month requesting various free stamps (USA or Worldwide) that I give away if they requestor sends an SASE. Below are 2 examples.



The two envelopes above each only contained a folded #10 envelope (which had proper 1 ounce return postage applied). Yet, both of the above envelopes themselves overpay the postage quite a bit (and none weighed more than 1/2 oz). The top example shows a "2 ounce" Forever stamp + 3¢ and the lower example shows 3x Forever stamps applied.

Since mostly beginning collectors (of all ages) send in these requests, I supposed that they just don't know what really needs to be applied based on destination, weight and size. So I suppose it's some extra funds for the USPS...

3 Times Is Better

The envelope below I received from Hawaii went through the USPS mail processing equipment 3 times! The machines that apply the spray-on inkjet cancels are supposed to cancel regular stamps differently than with "CVP" stamp such as Scott #CVP91b below.

While 3 sets of "Honolulu" cancel impressions are present, there is only 1 set of "wavy" bars.

"Regular" stamps normally get a spray-on inkjet cancel that has wavy bars and the location and date info on the left side.

Envelopes bearing only "CVP" or Personalized Postage stamps (which always have 2D matrix codes) are supposed to get a cancel that is blank on the right (i.e.: no wavy bars or slogans), see below. Now why is that? Well, the surface of these CVP stamps is somewhat glossy, and inkjet ink would not dry quickly enough and smear or be rubbed off.

(Thanks to Ken Wills for the cover at right)



SSK Updates

By Peter Elias

In the world of collecting “ATM” (Vending Machine) stamps, things are constantly changing, and the USPS does not give us a “heads up” when there is some sort of change occurring at the machines. That kind of requires you to be at the machine practically every day and see if there is something different. That does get to be expensive after a while, since you won’t know if the status quo has changed until after you’ve bought something, requiring at present at least a \$1.28 or so to find out.



Above is one of the 3 types of ATM stamps/labels that are issued by the SSK (self-service kiosks). This is Scott #CVP108, which first became available around August 2018 when the updated SSK machines were first installed.

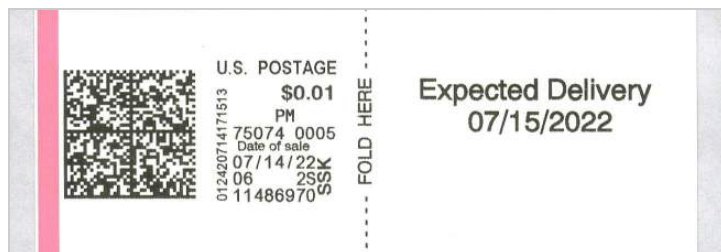


Starting sometime in February 2023, this is what the machines started producing. Notice the difference? Easy, the 2D matrix code is wider!

In my case, the above labels are from November 11, 2022 (top) and February 19, 2023 (above). How do I know that? Simple: it’s all in the code. The 15-digit number that runs sideways next to the matrix code is in the following format: **####YMMDDHHMMSS**. The #### are a 4-digit number representing that machine, and the rest is the date (Year/Month/Day) and time (Hours:Minutes:Seconds) that the stamp was bought.



(and supposedly Express mail, but at around \$30 a pop, I’m not going to try). At the moment, there are 5 different ones that you can buy (not counting Express Mail). Two are shown above: “FCP” (first class package) and PM (Priority Mail). There is also “FCM” (standard first class mail), “FCI” (first class mail international) and those without a mail class designation. What you see above also changed in early February. So what exactly changed? Look at the July 14, 2022 version of the “PM” label at the top of the 2nd column, that was typical of what the machines produced until this year’s changes.



The changes show that some elements got moved around. On the new stamps (bottom left), it now has the inscription “RDC ##” below the denomination. On the older label above (which is a variation of Scott #CVP96a), the RDC (retail distribution code) was shown as “0005” next to the Zip Code and the first two zeroes were truncated and “RDC” added.

In turn, the mail class designation (“PM” in this case) was moved from underneath the denomination to being to the right of the Zip Code.

Most of all, the big change was with the “PSD” (postal security device) code. On the older label above, it is shown as “06 2S” (which was assigned to stamps.com). On the new stamps, the PSD code is “02 6W”, which is assigned to Pitney Bowes. Along with the PSD change, comes a change in the number shown underneath the PSD designation; it represents some sort of serial number for the particular PSD device. This is easily seen by FOLD HERE label above from kiosk #0124; on the old label above, that PSD serial number is 11486970; and on the new labels (below left), while also from kiosk #0124, it is 9817520586.



Then there are the above (shown in reduced size). These are the package labels and also have some changes. One key change is of course the PSD of “02 6W”, although the service class remains under the denomination.

The space to the right of the Zip Code remains blank (same as the older versions).

The 1st of the 3 labels above is for plain 1st class mail that doesn’t require any tracking, and is a shorter label. Actually, it is the length that ALL package labels used to be until about March 2022, when some labels were made 3/4” longer, as shown by the middle & right examples above. At that point in 2022, they also added the two smaller square matrix codes (next to the recipient address and a duplicate at bottom right). We have yet to figure out their purpose. These older versions are Scott #CVP94a. Obviously given the “indicia” changes for everything discussed here will more than likely see some minor catalog number add-ons in the next edition of Scott’s USA catalog.

There is also a “PME” (Priority Mail Express) version for the package labels, but as with the FOLD HERE labels, spending around \$30 for each one isn’t in my budget. Reason is that for PME, one now HAS to buy the full amount of the Priority Mail Rate, while with FCM, FCI, FCP & PM labels, the machine allows you to specify how much regular postage you already applied and then just sells you the rest (usually 1¢ in my case). This part of collecting has kept me busy for the last 11 years!

A Stamp Collection's Worst Enemy

By Peter Elias



... is cellophane tape! If you take an album to a stamp dealer and the stamps look like the one on the left (cellophane taped around the edges of Crystal Mounts), they are most definitely NOT interested.



Oh sure, initially cellophane tape looks mostly clear. Give it a decade or 3, the gum starts drying and out (and generally leaching into any paper it is in contact with, even the edges of perfs inside a Crystal Mount) and either the gum and/or the cellophane itself starts turning yellow.



While when the gum has dried out, the tape itself normally falls off. But the worst part is that the gum itself makes most papers take on a translucent appearance after it leaches into the paper. A good candidate for that is the 5¢ Airmail stamp shown here, where some collector decided actually

MCSC Sponsor Members

By Janet Moyer

The following members that for 2023 contributed amounts above the standard dues are "sponsor" members:

Ken Aldridge
 Dr. James Camak
 Ray & Karen Cartier
 Tom Cunningham
 Peter Elias
 Alliene Franklin
 Rick & Donna Howell
 Gary McNamee
 Jim & Madeline Myers
 Dave Stockbridge
 Robert Thompson
 Bob & Pat Weidman

William (Gene) Atkinson
 Steve Carpenter
 Stanley & Judy Christmas
 Jack Dykhouse
 Skip & Beverly Ely
 James Higgins
 Al Little
 Janet Moyer
 Mike Smith
 Dr. Ben Termini
 Art Von Reyn
 Ken Wills

mount the stamp on the album using cellophane tape instead of a hinge. And why even both with this stamp, it is in horrible condition to begin with, having a tear & crease on the lower left side and short perfs on the lower right side.

There should be a big warning printed in all stamp albums advising against cellophane tape (which is not used much as such these days, and who knows what the "magic" tape, which is not quite fully transparent) will do in 20+ years.



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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President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

The Club has added three new members so far this March. They are: Mark Kirby, Arlington; Tom Montgomery, Midlothian and Curtis Christianson, Arlington. Be sure to greet and welcome them when you can.

Our April 5th program at the Bob Duncan Center will be International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors Association (ISWSCA) put on by Ken Wills. Be sure to attend this interesting presentation.

Also in April, bring up to 10 items for our May 3rd Arlington meeting, semi-annual auction. Skip Ely will take these items and be our auctioneer. Auction sheets are available to download and printed on the Club's website: www.mid-citiesstampclub.com

Past Secretary Skip Ely and current Secretary, Janet Moyer are working on updating the Club's Membership Handbook. Please double-check your personal data as well as collecting interest in our current handbook and let either of them know ASAP of any changes. Thanks Skip and Janet.

Our library needs culling out and Rich Hildebrandt has agreed to handle that task. Items that are never or hardly ever checked out will be considered to be passed on to the Silent Auction Committee for the November EXPO. Thanks Rich.

Ralph Poore has agreed to take over as the Club's American Topical Assn. representative from Ray Cartier. Thanks Ralph.

MCSC Board of Directors

By Ken Aldridge

As per a majority vote, the Board approved Honorary Life Memberships for any member of 25 years or more.

MCSC 25-Year Members

The following members are celebrating their 25th membership year with the club this year and will be eligible for free lifetime membership starting in 2024.

001-ME Cartier, Ray	002-ME Cartier, Karen
011-D Little, Albert (Al)	093 Termini, Dr. Ben
141 Offill, Kenneth	147 Mertz, Jerold (Jerry)
145 Stockbridge, David	173 Cox, Kenneth
213 Dougan, Kenneth	215 Camak, Dr James, Jr.
255 Wills, Kenneth	285 Elias, Peter
292 Jenvey, Robert	294 Christmas, Judy
295 Christmas, Stanley	299 Phelps, Ann (Penni)
301 Latas, Dean	319 Davis, Diana
325-D Myers, James	339 Lacko, Andras
342-D Cunningham, Thomas	355 Barrett, John
356 Higgins, James (Jim)	

How NOT To Mail Batteries

By Peter Elias

On February 21, I received a strip of 5 watch batteries that I had ordered from a seller on Amazon 12 days after I placed the order. What you see below, is how I received it.



At first glance, all seems ok; the seller had sent these via 1st class mail for \$1.00 at the metered rate of 60¢ with the additional 40¢ for "non-machinable mail".

But all is not ok. Take a good look at what you see above (if reading this as a PDF file, zoom in a bit).

At the top of the picture is the back side of the note that he enclosed, the bottom half shows envelope and the contents (a strip of 5 watch batteries).

When I first opened the envelope, one of the batteries fell out (it is the left-most one on the strip). At that point, I saw that the envelope had a circular hole (about where the "R" of my Received stamp is). And the enclosed letter also had a hole punched in it. The battery strip was at the angle shown.

Look at that piece of paper at the top again; you'll see 5 circular impressions in it. These come from the clear plastic bubble in which the batteries reside on the strip. The outside of the envelope also those 5 circles, which are impressions made when the USPS processing equipment with all of its force squeezed the envelope hard enough to collapse the plastic bubbles and also force one battery out of the thin plastic film behind the bubble. That is shown below; the very bottom is a photo of another strip of similar brand batteries WITHOUT collapsed bubbles, while above it is the strip that I received, reduced to about 1/3 of its' original thickness!

Keep in mind, the USPS mail processing equipment can really mess with items that you are mailing!



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

Illinois Beer Stamps

By Peter Elias



One of the benefits of being a member of the SRS (State Revenue Society, see their website <https://staterevenue.org>) is that there is usually a “free-for-all” advertised in the quarterly issues of the “State Revenue News”.

Last month’s freebie was a set of 4 Illinois case stamps for beer. I’m showing 2 of them here.

The left stamp is SRS #B73, apparently printed via offset litho, with roulette perfs, was issued between 1943-45 and is “perfin” cancelled by “P.HAND B.Co.” on 11/22/44, so nice “in-period” usage.

Above right is SRS #B59, which was issued in 1941, printed via engraved cylinders (for the



frame) and apparently offset litho for the blue background. It is “slot perforated” according to the catalog. The perfin cancel states “PABSTM” and is dated 2/4/42”.

Both of these revenues are shown actual size. They are great items for the revenue stamp collector. Since they are “case” stamps, I wonder if they were attached to the beer cases, making them hard to collect “on piece”!

For Sale

I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **uplicates (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

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IMM Section 382

By Peter Elias



I'm sure you have all seen a "Business Reply Card / Envelope" as shown above. Many companies use these to get you to reply to whatever it is that they sent you (whether it is a statement or invoice, for further information, for sending in an order, etc). The cost of postage will be on them.

As noted in the upper right-hand corner of the card, it states that no postage is due if mailed in the USA; if you happen to reside outside the USA and get one of these cards or envelopes, you'll have to ante up the correct postage to mail this back to the USA.

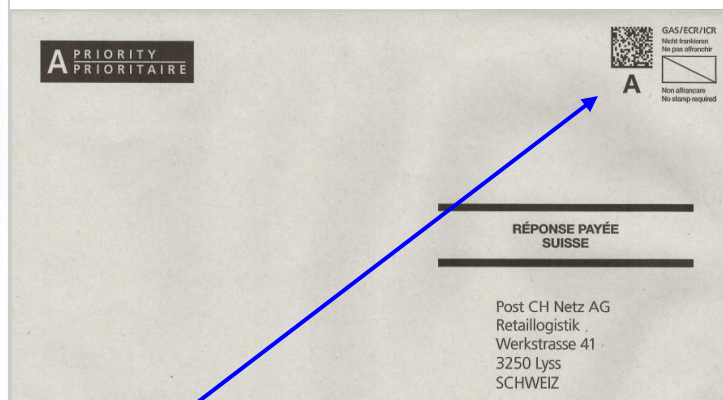
So, a US company should not be sending these to prospects or customers in other countries. For that purpose, there is actually an "International Business Reply Card / Envelope" as shown below:



While I don't have an International Business Reply Card or Envelope from a US company, I do however have a foreign version of one. Above (cropped and reduced in size - original is about the size of a #10 envelope) is an international business reply envelope (and yes, it does actually say "card" between the heavy black lines...) from the French Postal Service.

On the top right corner it does state (in both French & English) "No Stamp Required". However, I'd bet that if you take this to a clerk at your local postage he'll want to charge you \$1.45 to mail this, and you'll probably have to remind him/her (and yes, I've had to do this...) that this is a foreign reply envelope and that the postage due is paid by the recipient, La Poste in this

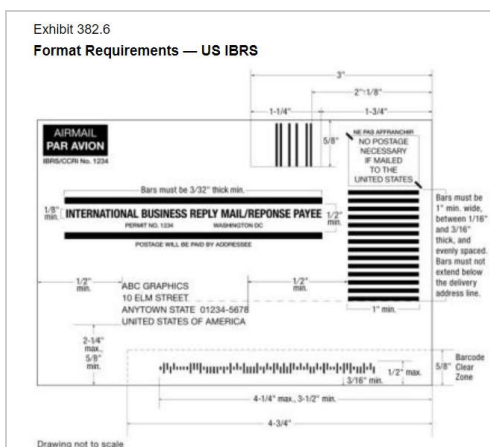
case. If they don't believe you, have them look this up in the IMM (International Mail Manual) in section 382.7 (which is conveniently available on the internet at their website at https://pe.usps.com/text/imm/immc3_021.htm - scroll to the very bottom of that page) and you can show it to the clerk on your phone.



The Swiss Postal Service (Post CH) uses a similar envelope as shown above, with some added text, to ensure that 3 of their 4 national languages are included (German, French & Italian), plus English. The 4 national language, "Romansh" is normally not written on products, as only about 1% of the population speaks or writes this language that is descendant of spoken Latin in the Roman Empire. But I digress (hey, you're never to old to learn this stuff !).

Obviously, getting postally used copies of properly used foreign business reply envelopes and cards would be a bit difficult unless you know someone in foreign postal administrations or companies. So I suppose that if you're interested in these, you'll have to settle for unmailed copies. And I have never seen anyone do any articles, write-ups or exhibits about these items.

If you do happen to look at the USPS website link above, you will see that they USPS does have requirements for the US versions of International Business Reply Mail in Section 382.6 ; a cropped screen shot is shown above.



So, hopefully the above has provided some interesting information, and if you're interested in the 2 foreign items shown in this article, let me know and you can have them at the next meeting I attend (1st come - 1st serve).

Ready, set, collect!



MEET & EAT for

April 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

April 5 El Chico, 1549 S Bowen Rd, Pantego, TX 76013 Phone: (817) 265-8335

EULESS

April 19 Dream Taco, 2807 Central Dr, Bedford, TX 76021 Phone: (682) 503-6373

GRANBURY

April 25 Palio's Pizza Cafe
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:
TSDA Bourse - April 7 - 8
EXPO Planning Mtg - April 22

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)