

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Eufless Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)

Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

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

July 2023

Postage Rates & Fees	1/22/2023	7/9/2023
DOMESTIC		
1st Class - 1 oz (retail/metered or PC)	0.63 / 0.60	↑ 0.66 / 0.63
" 2 oz	0.87 / 0.84	↑ 0.90 / 0.87
" 3 oz	1.11 / 1.08	↑ 1.14 / 1.11
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.35 / 1.32	↑ 1.38 / 1.35
non-machinable surcharge	+0.40	+0.40
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	1.26	↑ 1.35
" 2 oz	1.50	↑ 1.59
" 3 oz	1.74	↑ 1.83
" 4 oz	1.98	↑ 2.07
" 5 oz	2.22	↑ 2.35
+ 0.24 per ounce up to 13 oz (maximum)	+0.24/ounce	+0.24/ounce
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Package)	4.14	↑ 4.23
Ground Advantage - up to 4 oz	4.75 - 5.25	4.75 - 5.25
" up to 8 oz	5.40 - 5.85	5.40 - 5.85
" up to 12 oz	6.15 - 6.65	6.15 - 6.65
" 13 oz (max for retail)	7.50 - 8.25	↑ 7.60 - 8.55
--> "1st Class Package" is being renamed as "USPS Ground Advantage" on July 9, 2023		(now up to 15.999oz)
Media Mail - 1 lb	3.65	↑ 3.92
" 2 lbs	4.35	↑ 4.67
" 3 lbs	5.05	↑ 5.42
" 4 lbs	5.75	↑ 6.17
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded	9.65/9.95 / 10.40	9.65 / 9.95 / 10.40
" Commercial Flat-Rate/Legal/Padded Env.	7.75 / 8.05 / 8.45	↑ 8.05 / 8.35 / 8.80
" Small Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	10.20 / 8.55	10.20 / 8.55
" Medium Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	17.10 / 14.75	17.10 / 14.75
" Large Flat-rate Box (Ret/Comm)	22.80 / 19.90	22.80 / 19.90
Postcard (Domestic)	0.48	↑ 0.51
Certificate of Mailing (domestic) (3817 / 3665 with 3 piece min)	1.85 / 0.54	↑ 1.95 / 0.57
Certified Mail	4.15	↑ 4.35
Insurance (up to \$50 is included with Priority Mail) up to \$50 / \$100 / \$200	2.65 / 3.40 / 4.30	↑ 2.70 / 3.44 / 4.55
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	15.25	↑ 16.80
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	15.90 / 18.30	↑ 17.55 / 20.20
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada (2 oz) (variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)	1.45	↑ 1.50
see usps.com	see usps.com	see usps.com
Non-machinable surcharge	+0.40	+0.40
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)	15.75 - 17.40	15.75 - 21.70
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4 lbs)	36.60 - 44.70	36.60 - 44.70
" Canada	30.35	30.35
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound, Grp2-20)	48.80 - 60.00	↑ 50.80 - 63.10
Certificate of Mailing (3817/3665)*	1.85 / 0.54 each	↑ 1.95 / 0.57 each
See current Notice123 at usps.com !	*FCM/MinQty3	*FCM / MinQty 3

USPS Mid-year Rate Changes

By Peter Elias

The USPS is adjusting various rates again mid-year; this time, taking effect on Sunday, July 9, 2023. To the left is a summarized chart of key postage rates that most of us tend to use commonly.

The left column are current rates (through July 8), and the "proposed" (i.e.: yet to be approved by the PRC) rates are shown in **green** if unchanged and **dark red/italic** (along with an **arrow**) if changing.

The big change is that "1st Class Package" is being renamed to "Ground Advantage". That also means while previously (depending on distance), many 1st class packages that went via "air", they will now go via slower "ground" (i.e.: truck) and are lumped into general "ground" parcels (previously known as "Retail Ground").

As before, we generally pay "retail" postage prices (i.e.: if via stamps or at the post office counter); however, it you can get cheaper "commercial" rates (but you can't use stamps for those, except perhaps "Netstamps" if you have a stamps.com account...). In some cases, USPS "Click 'n Ship" also has better rates.

Article Index	Page #
USPS Mid-year Rate Changes	1
Editor's Forum, Calendar & Secretary's Report	2
National Medal of Honor Museum	3
Useful Internet Links	3
Club Meeting Minutes	4,10
USPS: And You Wonder Why...	5
EXPO Planning Meeting Minutes	6
Book Report: US Comm. Stamps of 20th C.	6
Philatelic Life In Jefferson, Texas	7
Member & Dealer Ads	7,13,16
Posts Afloat On The Danube River	8
President's Message	8
Thank You	8
Been There - Done That (Scotty's Castle)	9
Been There - Done That (Brandenburger Tor)	10
A Closer Look: Turkey #568	11
EXPO Announcements	11
Thrace	12
Been There - Done That (Grand Canyon)	13
Been There - Done That (Swissair 747)	13
TV Philately - Georgetown	14
EXPO 2023 - Mini-Exhibit Entry Form	15
Meet & Eat	16

Stamping Around

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 820784
N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784

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



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

For the few of you that are getting the black & white mailed version, please be aware that some scans & illustrations just do not show up well when printed in black & white (like with page 1 of the June 2023 issue). Color just works better in most cases, however, mailing a color newsletter costs about 3 times what a black & white one costs. If you have access to viewing the newsletter as a PDF file via a computer or

tablet, I would highly encourage that.

I was going through some old photo albums from the "turn of the century (i.e.: 1999 - 2001) and looking at some of the photos, and there are now yet more "Been There - Done That" articles just waiting as a result! Many times, it should be easy to find a stamp or postmark to go with the photo, such as me standing in front of Tower Bridge in London (which has been on several stamps...).

While "Been There..." is obviously named after having been somewhere, I incorporate not just places, but people, things, etc. So go review some of your old photo albums and see what potential articles can be done.

Remember that (for me at least), the "Been There" articles incorporate up to 3 different things: 1) technical info about the stamp itself (if warranted); 2) historical background about what is printed on the stamp; and 3) how I fit into all of this.

For photos, please be sure that either YOU took the photo and/or you have the copyright to it (if taken by someone else, be sure to get a copyright release from them). Stamps and philatelic items should be ok to use, but don't use copyrighted images from websites (some sites even incorporate their name as a "watermark" in the stamp scan). I always make sure I own the stamps that I use for articles, meaning I may have to wait a while until I can order them from eBay, etc.

Other things that add a nice little touch for illustrations is things like ticket stubs (especially if dated); I've always kept ticket stubs from places I visited and put them into my albums. Need help? Please don't hesitate to contact me at editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

Coming Attractions

2023

JUN. 27 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *The Adams Airmail Pick-up Service* by Stanley Christmas

JUL. 5 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

JUL. 19 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

JUL. 25 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Pitcairn Island: From the Bounty to British Overseas Territory* by Gary McNamee

AUG. 2 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

AUG. 12 **MCSC - EXPO Planning Mtg**
David's BBQ, 2224 W. Park Row Dr, Pantego, 11 - 1pm

AUG. 16 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

AUG. 22 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Controlled Mail* by Ken Wills

AUG. 25 & 26 **TSDA Bourse**
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)

Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

n/a

New Members:

n/a

Reinstatements:

n/a

Resignations:

Steven Gruhlke

Membership Summary – June 7, 2023

Membership as of May 17, 2023	97
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	0
Did Not Renew for 2023	(0)
Resignations	(1)
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of June 7, 2023	96

National Medal of Honor Museum Arlington, Texas

By Ken Aldridge

On May 22, 2023, I attended a presentation by two volunteers of the new **Medal of Honor Museum** under construction next to the Choctaw Stadium in Arlington. Many cities wanted the museum, but the selection committee reduced it down to two, Arlington and Denver.

Arlington was selected over Denver when the Texas city put on a powerful display of Texas patriotism. Heavily promoted by Charlotte Jones, daughter of Cowboys owner, Jerry Jones, with children's choir singing and the location being planned near to Six Flags Amusement Park, the Dallas Cowboy Stadium, the new Ranger's Stadium and two nearby hotels with a total of about 1000 rooms.

The site for the museum is visible from the roof of the Choctaw Stadium (the old Ranger's home). It is planned to be completed by March 2025. Total cost will be about \$400 million and \$288 million has already been raised.

Former Navy Captain and Astronaut, Chris Cassidy acts as Chairman of the Medal of Honor Foundation with Directors George Bush, Jimmy Carter, Barak Obama and Bill Clinton.

The first Medal of Honor was presented in 1863 to Private Jacob Parrott. Since then, about 4,000 men and women have been awarded the award. They are currently about 64 living Medal of Honor recipients.

Shown is the museum's Medal of Honor pin. The building will be in an elevated structure and house biographies and history of various Medal of Honor recipients. The foundation hopes that the museum will be an inspiration for all visitors stressing Courage & Sacrifice, Commitment & Integrity and Citizenship & Patriotism.



USA Scott #4988 strip of 3 (2015)



Useful Internet Links

By Peter Elias

I often have to look up postal information about various countries. Here's a Wikipedia link that gives you a list of most (all?) countries' postal administration websites. Many times I'm looking for an actual physical address to write to (rather than email), and that is usually a good place to find their main mailing address. Or in some instances, I'd like to order a new issue if I need one for an article. Although most countries do have websites, they don't always have decent (or any...) ways to stamps order online. In any case, use the link below as your start:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_postal_services

Here's another useful link, from the US Postal Service; it is the online version of ALL postage rates for the various services, and is known as "Notice 123" (don't ask me why it is called that...):

<https://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/notice123.htm>

If you would rather download the associated PDF file for viewing "offline", go here:

<https://pe.usps.com/cpim/ftp/manuals/dmm300/notice123.pdf>

As you know, the USPS is updating postal rates & fees at least once a year, if not twice. The above 2 links will ALWAYS take you to the current version of Notice123.



USA Scott #2045 (1983)

Photo Credits:
Ken Aldridge

Stamp scans:
From the personal
collection of
Peter Elias

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2023

By Stanley Christmas

Call-To-Order:

- The meeting was called to order on May 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM by **David Stockbridge**.

Attendance:

- There were 12 people in attendance.

Announcements:

- **Rick Howell:** (1) reported that the APS has a new director and that (2) the SESCAL stamp show in Los Angeles was closing down after 70 years.
- **Stanley Christmas** told the group that EXPO night-time security was not going to be provided by the Grapevine Convention Center and that we would have to use the Grapevine Police. Ken Aldridge was looking into this.
- **Gary McNamee** did our monthly "Where Am I" and stumped the group with Luxemburg.
- **Dave Stockbridge:** The MCSC BOD decided to give the APS books another six months before deciding whether to keep them or not. The books cost the club around \$20.00 a month and only around 20% of the club members buy out of the books. The club charges 5% on sales from the APS books, but that is not enough to cover the costs.

Program:

- The Program tonight was that everyone bring something from their collection(s) and talk about it.
- **Alliene Franklin** showed a French stamp, mounted in a frame, that depicted people on the stamp which bore a resemblance to a family member.
- **Bob Cole** discussed his First Flight and Space Covers. He showed a pre-Cape Canaveral space program cover and a rare cover from a recovery ship for Apollo 17.
- **Jim Case** discussed how he began to collect stamps. His favorite subject is sports and he has identified 137 different sports on stamps and covers. He has them in 19 stamp albums. He now has 11 albums on Olympic sports alone.
- **Judy Christmas** talked about her collection of plate blocks and US airmail stamps.
- **Stanley Christmas** showed his collection of over 2,500 different pre-cancelled 4½¢ White House stamps and briefly talked about the first flight covers associated with the Adams Airmail Pick-Up system that began in 1939.
- **Denny Ludlow** showed the US mint sheet "Early TV Memories" released in 2009 with old TV shows and said the only show he had not seen was Kukla, Fran & Ollie.
- **Gary McNamee** showed examples of stamp album pages generated by a database program.
- **Les Barton** discussed Confederate stamps, US Airmails stamps and US Aerogrammes.
- **Joe McFarland** talked about soaking stamps with orange oil, soap and water.
- **David Stockbridge** stated he collects 60 countries and puts his stamps in 3 ring binders. He prints his own pages on card stock. He collects to 1970 and then stops because after 1970, countries started pouring out too many stamps. He showed his collection of the French islands of Saint Pierre & Miquelon.

Door Prizes:

- The door prize drawing finished the evening. The winners of the \$10 gift certificates were **Lex Barten**, **Rick Howell** and **Gary McNamee**.

Adjournment:

- **Dave Stockbridge** closed the meeting at around 8:15 PM.

MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Announcements:

- President Ken Aldridge made two announcements:
 - July meeting will be "clean out your closet".
 - The copyright issue has been settled.
- Secretary Janet Moyer announced we have no new members this month. That leaves us with 97 paid memberships. We have had one resignation.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Announcements:

- There was an article about decline of membership and lack of participation in stamp clubs. The board will be discussing offering a daytime meeting.
- **Ralph Poore** announced the EXPO planning meeting on June 11 at David's BBQ on 2224 W. Park Row in Pantego at 11:00 AM.
- **Peter** announced that the next TSDA show in Richardson will be on June 23-24 at the Doubletree Hotel (US75 & Campbell Rd).
- **Ralph** reminded people to sign the EXPO volunteer sheet.
- **Ralph** reminded everyone that there will be no exhibits at the EXPO this year, but hopefully, they will return next year.
- **Peter** asked for displays for the four frames he will put by the entrance.
- **Peter** said that the new postal rate table will be in the newsletter.
- **Dave Stockbridge** announced he got 6 new books from members.
- **Rick Howell** announced he had the MixPix bags of stamps with him for sale.

Show & Tell:

- **Ken Wills** showed a German stamp he got that was the wrong color. Scott's said it should be brown and orange, his was brown and yellow. (Later in the meeting we found out it was from a souvenir sheet.)
- **Ken Wills** sends items to the APS to have them expertised and he finally got one back. It was a North Korea #4, genuine and unused with no gum. Scott's says it was worth \$165, he sold it for \$40, and spent \$20 getting the valuation.
- **Ralph** showed four different postcards of interest:
 1. Unused auxiliary machine
 2. Postage due - rare on a postcard
 3. Fancy cancel with a Maltese Cross
 4. Registered mail postcard
- **Peter** showed 6 items:
 1. An order mailed from BuckACover in Canada that had a USPS tracking number.
 2. A "Permit" stamp that was embossed on the envelope (that at first glance appeared to have a "stamp").
 3. eBay standard envelopes have tracking for \$0.60.
 4. A certificate of mailing can be printed on large paper so you can fit more stamps on it.
 5. Certificate of mailings are also available as a log book form.
 6. He has an exhibit from a Japanese collector in a PDF file that shows some of Peter's Certificates of Mailing in it.
- **Steve Carpenter** showed 2 things:
 1. A certificate of mailing sheet like Peter's that had 62 stamps on it!
 2. A USPS catalog insert that shows all of the 2023 stamps.
- **Marty Conner** told that there was an exhibit about fake canceled stamps. They commented that they contacted the Postal Authorities and they did nothing. 2 weeks ago they shut down the Chinese printer in Las Angeles.
- **James Taylor** mentioned 2 things:
 1. Talked about a book Best of Robert's Service read from a Stamp Collector.
 2. Told about "Stamps for the wounded". They collect stamps for therapy for wounded soldiers. It is run by John Hotchner via: Stamps for the Wounded, Box 297, Dunn Loring, VA 22027

Gift Certificates:

- 4 gift certificates were issued and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Program:

- The program was Tom Cunningham talking about how to sell a stamp collection. He started with a quote about being a stamp dealer: "It's a lot of fun, but the pay isn't very good".

USPS: And You Wonder Why ...

By Peter Elias

People are doing more stuff online these days rather than mailing something (such as bill payments), or wanting something mailed to them (such as bills & statements). For example, many financial institutions want to have you convert to "paperless" statements. That saves them a lot of paper, toner, envelopes & postage. It shouldn't cost YOU anything, since you can usually download the statement as a PDF file and store it on your computer, or access up to several years (usually 3 to 7) online at the financial institution.

Of course, if you are old-school, you may wish to print out the statements yourself. That will of course cost you paper & ink/toner.

Even most philatelic journals, such as ours and that of the APS can be downloaded or viewed online. The advantage of THAT is what won't lead to this:



Above you can see what I look at every day as I pick up my PO Box mail in Plano. The white arrow points at my box. On May 26, I went to retrieve my mail, and there were a couple of envelopes. As I walked away, I happened to cast an eye into the gray circular filing cabinet (something that we stamp collectors are known to do...).

The bin was about half full, and I saw an APS Journal (with prominent blue US stamps on the cover) laying right on top. I thought: "Cool, I guess there's another APS member in town, but why would they throw out their new magazine?" So, I looked a bit closer and what did I see on the mailing label? It appeared to be my name (and address)! So I fished it out of the bin and yup, it was definitely my copy of the APS Journal, May 2023 issue (and the mailing label stated 4/30/2023, so this had been mailed quite a few prior to the current day). I did correctly receive my June issue just a week later, confirming that this May issue had been laying in someone's box for a bit...

So what happened? My guess is that it was delivered to a box other than mine, where the box holder doesn't pick up their mail often, and when they did, probably thought "not mine, chuck it...". Wrong attitude! The right thing to do in this case is give the magazine to a Post Office clerk and have them put it into the correct PO Box (and if the post office is closed at the time, simply put it into the outgoing mail slot). But throwing out mail misaddressed to you is NOT the right thing to do. Sure, the post office goofed, and now you have to expend a little bit of effort to ensure that the original recipient gets their mail. That's what I do.

Luckily the post office was still open, and I spoke with a supervisor, letting him know that I wasn't exactly pleased about this mis-delivery and have their clerks checked for dyslexia. I asked what the policies and procedures are. He said really none, and it was up to the recipient of the wrongly delivered item to do what is ethically/morally the right thing to do. But, if that person decides to keep, throw away, shred, etc, the item they got, there's no legal repercussions. After all, no one other than the recipient knows that it was misdelivered!

So, getting someone else's magazine or ad flyer is one thing, getting financial items (statements, a new debit/credit card, etc) is a whole other thing. In many cases, those kind of #10 envelopes look more like junk mail and some people will just discard them. But what if there's a check or invoice in there? What if they DO open the envelope (accidentally or not)? Now they'd have something that definitely doesn't belong to them and potentially have information that they are not privy to!

A week prior to this event, I got my mail and was expecting about 3 envelopes according to the USPS "Informed Delivery" service. The stack was quite larger than expected. In-between my 3 envelopes, were about 6 envelopes belonging to the PO Box just to the left of mine! Luckily the post office was still open, and I gave the clerk the errantly delivered envelopes, one at a time, each time stating "not mine", "not mine", etc, to drive home the point.

A couple weeks prior to that, at my house, I was expecting some important mail, including one particular statement that I saw in the "Informed Delivery" email that morning. I had no mail addressed to us, but instead, got all the mail for my neighbor one house down. I flagged down the mailman (he was 5 houses further down) and gave him the wrongly delivered mail, telling him I need to him to put them into the right box (as it is illegal for me to open up someone else's mailbox). I also told him about our missing mail. He went to the mailbox at the house on the other side of me, and then handed me all of my mail (including said statement). Sigh...

Honestly, given the 3 examples I mentioned above, this really bothers me! And it all occurred in just a 1-month time frame.

At my PO Box ending in 427, over the years, I have received mail for 447, 472, 474, 942, 947, 974 and others. So where has my mail been to? Who knows!

About 2 years ago, a relative sent a small box (all correctly addressed and readable) with irreplaceable videotapes for me to transfer to DVD. The small box was sent via Priority Mail and made it from San Antonio via Austin to Dallas just fine (based on tracking as I found out later). Then it returned to San Antonio, then made it here again, just to go back to San Antonio again! In one month, 3 round trips between San Antonio & Dallas before ending up at my house! I mean, what the...

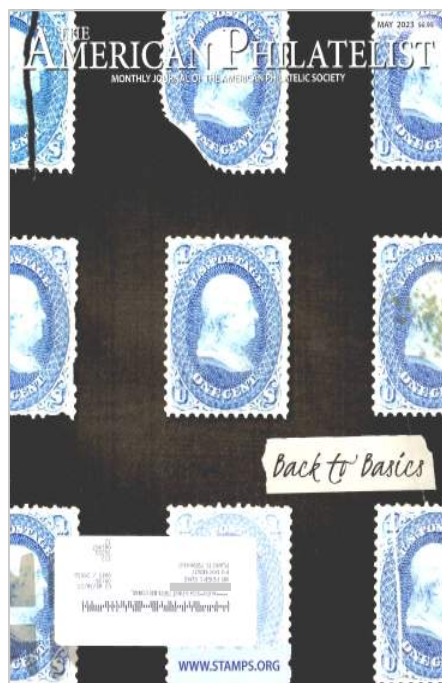
Another time, an eBay order was "delivered" to my PO Box. I couldn't file a "lost package" claim with eBay, since the USPS scanned it as delivered! I just never got it. Otherwise they'd call me a liar.. After a month, I asked the USPS door clerk to check into this for me. She found my package in another PO Box (but didn't say which one). It was an active PO Box, and apparently the box holder looked at the small package, figured it wasn't theirs and just left it in their box (and what, hoping that the USPS clerks will magically take it out of their PO Box and put into my PO Box?). So even "tracking" doesn't help in this case! The USPS scanning a received and tracked item and then putting it into the wrong PO Box (or mailbox) doesn't help the recipient. Only physically handing an item to a verified recipient is true assurance of delivery! But not a lot of people pay for "delivery confirmation"...

While things like statements and such can be delivered electronically, "stuff" has to be physically shipped, but my trust level in the USPS is definitely sliding downhill as you can tell.

I know that the USPS is hurting due to declining 1st class mail revenue, but it's things like this that are just fueling that fire.. So reluctantly I'm trying to switch many financial things to "paperless" (and it's not like businesses are using nice commemoratives on their statement and invoice mailings anyway...).

I've converted to automated credit card billing for practically all standard utility and related bills. Having mailed a check for a cell phone bill in the early 2000's; from Plano to Dallas it took over 5 weeks and caused my account to be overdue was the last straw in that case. No more mailing of checks for these kind of things (plus I earn rebates or miles/points when using my credit card, something that my checks don't do).

Much as I love stamps & philately, I'm not always enamored with the "mail"...



MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting

June 10, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order

- Chairman Ralph Poore called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM.

In attendance were:

Ralph Poore	Janet Moyer
Rick Howell	Ken Aldridge
Tom Cunningham	Rich Hildebrandt
Skip Ely	

Announcements:

- Ralph checked the schedule for the next meeting and announced we need to find a new place to meet. Janet will check with David's BBQ, Moni's, and El Chico.

Committee Reports:

- Chairman Ralph Poore has checked the cabinet in the storage area and we will not need the extra one. We will offer it for sale the members of the club. Peter will put it in the newsletter – Best offer.
- Patti Poore needs to have the chance board changed in regard to how it sets up. Rick is going to look into it.
- Bourse - Tom Cunningham said he collected from 16 dealers, 7 tables are committed, 23 dealers have committed, and we have one new dealer; Kim Nieser from Houston. 2 more tables are available. There are 3 dealers that are not returning: Larry Martin, Charlie Adams, and Eric White.
- Cachet - Diana gave Janet some ideas but we decided to go with a drawing Ken Aldridge presented. The suggestion was to print 500 envelopes and put them in the bulletins. There will no cancel. The decision will be made next meeting.
- Skip Ely announced items are needed. He has been working on a German album that will be ready and maybe a Britain album.
- Ken Aldridge announced that we will be using Grapevine Police for the nightly security. This will be handled through John at the Center but we will be paying them. They will be needed from Thursday 9 PM to 8am (Friday) and Friday, 5 PM to 8 AM (Saturday). Ken will wear a security vest so people now there is security present during the show. He will be sure to cover the area by the auction.
- A raffle item will be available. Tom Cunningham will work on finding a suitable item.
- Some dealers work alone and need bathroom breaks during the day. Kathryn Storey will try to handle this but if you see someone who needs a break - watch their table for them. Maybe we need a flyer to give them with a phone contact on it.
- Rich Hildebrandt has offered to be next year's (2024) exhibits chairman!!! Thank you Rich. This means a lot to us!

Next Meetings:

- The next meeting will be on August 12th. Location to be announced.
- The following meetings will be on September 23 and October 7.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM.

Book Report:

The United States Commemorative Stamps of the Twentieth Century By Max G. Johl [Volumes I (1901-1935) & II (1935-47)]

By Skip Ely

These two books go into marvelous detail about the history of the U.S. commemorative stamps from 1901-47. A similar format is followed for each stamp. It begins with the reason and impetus for the stamp, the history and details of the engravings and layout, the shades and varieties, as well as the number of plates and quantity issued. In most cases, there are pictures of the photos, paintings or sculptures on which the stamp was based, as well as some preliminary drawings.

These books were extensions of previous editions that covered both the regular and commemorative U.S. issues through the late 30s. The first two volumes of the originals were co-authored by Max Johl (1900-1957) and Beverly (Mr.) S. King (1876-1935), while Johl authored the third and fourth volumes after the untimely death of Mr. King in 1935. Both authors were members of the NY Collectors Club and respected philatelists.

Rick Howell has identified a source for the original books. They can be found at <http://\davidaks.com\id43.html>*. The first volume covers commemoratives and regular issue stamps from 1901 to 1922, including the Washington-Franklins. The second volume covers the commemorative issues only

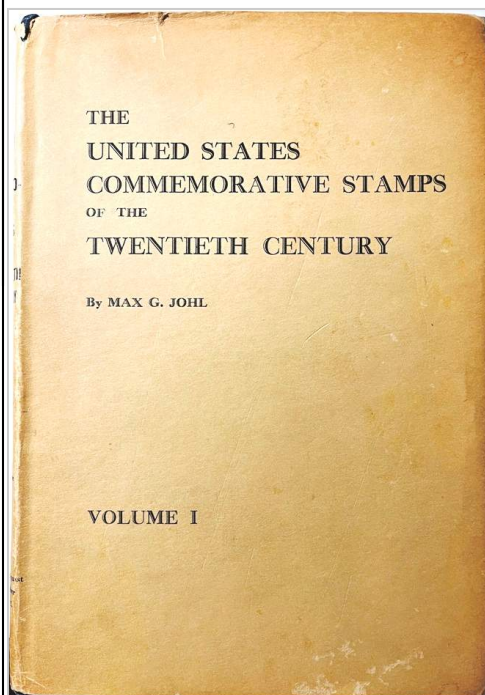
from 1923-1933. The third volume covers the regular issues 1922-35 (most of the 4th Bureau issues) and the parcel post, and airmail issues to 1935. The fourth volume covers commemorative from 1933-37.

The two books added to our library are fascinating accounts of the facts behind the commemorative issues of the early 20th century. If you ever

wondered why some stamps were issued and others not, you should read these books.

These books have been kindly donated by MCSC member Robert Bray. We thank him for this generous offer.

[* Editor Note: The books at this website are in PDF file and can be downloaded]



Philatelic Life in Jefferson, Texas

By Ray Cartier

The unpacking is done and we're settling in a little. As I mentioned previously, the closest stamp club [Editor Note: I believe this would be Longview] is about 45 minutes away @ 65 mph most of the way, and consists of only 10 people. They meet only 6 times per year and only 4 showed up at their May meeting. I will give a presentation on Jules Verne and his stories at their July 11 meeting and sent a letter to each of the 10 members.

I am getting together a listing on local newspapers in a 30 mile radius of surrounding towns, so that I can mail in an article in early July about my talk, the location and time. I've asked Skip to send me about 25 glassines of topical stamps to pass out to attendees. I'll also bring about two dozen membership documents to go with ATA and APS color brochures and membership application blanks which I will distribute to whomever shows up.

Two other stamp clubs up here, in Jefferson and Marshall Texas, folded about a year ago, so there are definitely some collectors living in the area.

I'll also bring 5 or 6 copies of Karen's three books to the meeting, along a two frame exhibit of "Monsters On Stamps" to show. I still have 4 of the 8 page wooden frames that were what we used in the early 1960s, so I'll

have an actual exhibit to show them.

Luckily for me, one of the four people who came to their May meeting used to work for NASA, so I have a real treat in store for him. My 10 Frame "How We Got Men to the Moon" won 7 National Gold Medals, followed by three National Large Gold medals, so I think I'll get his attention.

In the meantime, on June 3rd, the local VFW had a fish fry that was open to the public. Karen and I went and I brought along the first half of my exhibit, "The Warbirds of Air Force Plant #4 – Ft. Worth, Texas". I hope to get an opportunity to give a presentation on that topic to them later this year. If that goes over well, I have an exhibit for the Navy veterans, "A Tale of Two Hornets. Aircraft Carriers CV-8 and CV-12". CV-8 launched Jimmy Doolittle and his raiders in the first air strike of Japan in the early years of WWII. CV-12 recovered the Apollo 11 and 12 crews, following the first two manned lunar landings. I'll write from time to time on how my attempts to build a functioning stamp club in this area are going.

[Editor comments: I hope that Ray can spark more interest in stamps in his area! Right before receiving his article, I happen to come across this website listing Texas stamp clubs: <https://www.geocities.ws/stamplink/i/xref/usa/7/txpa-1st.htm>. It lists a lot of clubs, but the site is fairly well outdated, judging by the MCSC listing]



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

← <https://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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Posts Afloat On The Danube River

By Geoff Owens

Deep in the Black Forest of southern Germany, not too far from the Swiss border, the town of Donaueschingen sits at the confluence of the rivers Breg and Brigach. The merged river flowing from this point takes the name Donau or in English, Danube, famed in history, geography, culture and Strauss waltzes. The Danube flows for 1,770 miles generally southeast until it empties into the Black Sea. Along the way it flows through or along ten countries and the important capital cities of Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, and Bratislava.

As most of the river is navigable it was inevitable that it would become a major route for the transportation of goods and people, and mail.

In 1829 the Austrian government founded the *Erste Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaft*, or First Danube Steamboat Shipping Company. This became the largest river shipping company in the world, serving cities along the river and across the Black Sea to Constantinople (now Istanbul), and successor firms continue to operate to this day.



1 Once it began carrying mail the company privately issued stamps from 1866 to 1880. Stamps were issued for regular mail in several denominations.

The stamp shown in Figure 1, from the author's collection, is one of a set that were more akin to revenue stamps and were used for general insurance purposes.

The river takes a sharp turn to the north at the Romanian city of Cernavoda and branches into a difficult-to-navigate delta as it reaches the Black Sea. This area was also beset then as now by political turmoil following the Crimean War in 1856. These factors led to the establishment in 1860 of the Danube and Black Sea Railway, which ran for 46 miles from Cernavoda (then Czernavoda) to Kustendje on the coast. This shortcut saved a day's traveling time between the upper Danube cities and Constantinople.

A local post was set up in 1867 for the carriage of mail on the railway and stamps were printed for this purpose. An example from the author's collection is shown



2 in Figure 2. While these stamps are not particularly hard to find many examples are reprints or outright forgeries.

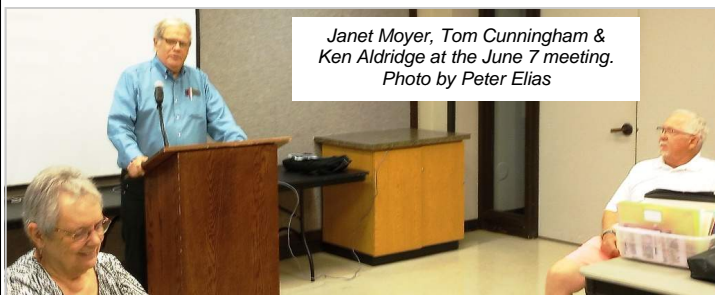
This article just skims the surface of an interesting area of postal history. Hopefully a few appetites have been whetted among readers to fish deeper.

President's Message

By Ken Aldridge



I would like to thank Tom Cunningham for his presentation, "So You Want To Sell Your Stamp Collection," at our Arlington meeting on June 7. Very interesting and helpful information.



Our July Arlington meeting will be, "Clean Out Your Closet." Bring whatever stamp related items you want to get rid of. Mark each item with the price and your name. Items not sold can be given to Skip or Tom Turner for the Silent Auction at our November EXPO.

Speaking of EXPO, we always need more volunteers. Please contact Ralph Poore or Judy Christmas for more information. Volunteers are eligible for hourly gift certificate drawings each day!

The PicRights Copyright Matter has now been completely resolved. The Board voted on and approved an Omaha Steaks Gift Package for the lawyer who helped us through the matter, at no cost to the Club.

I brought up the idea of possible daytime, rather than evening, meetings for our Arlington meetings. Not sure about the other two monthly meetings, but I have asked the Board members to give this some thought and start an open discussion of the pros and cons. Our regular Arlington meeting room at The Bob Duncan Center will be available the 1st Wednesday of each month, in the mornings or afternoons starting September 6th (there is an art group in there just for the summer).

It seems there has been an increased interest in buying and selling Revenue Stamps from what I've seen on numerous Facebook stamp buying and selling sites. I don't collect these but find the trend rather interesting.

Happy collecting, Ken

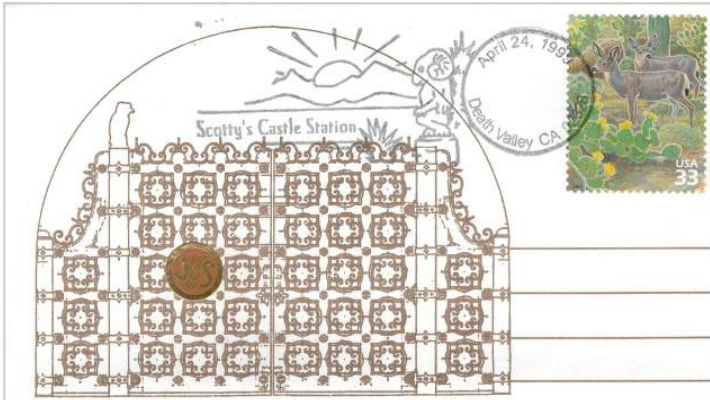
Thank You

By Peter Elias

A Thank You to Byron Sandfield of Park Cities Stamps for providing another couple of boxes of philatelic material to the club. This time it was mostly a lot older USA off-paper sorted by Scott # (great for packets!) and various older albums.



Ever heard of Scotty's Castle? If you have ever been to Death Valley (California), then you may have heard of it or even visited it!



So what is Scotty's Castle? It's not exactly a castle as far as European castles go (although it does have a turreted tower..), but it also goes by another name, "Death Valley Ranch". It is located near the northeastern edge of Death Valley National Park, about 45 miles from Stovepipe Wells, and only about 2+ miles from the California/Nevada border. You can reach it from Las Vegas in a leisurely 3-hour drive, which Annie & I did on July 4, 2001. It was brutally hot that day (at least 117°F at Stove Pipe Wells, and had a yearly high of 127°F for 2001 according to NOAA).

Given that our visit was about 22 years ago, exact memories of all the knowledge I gained during that visit are getting a bit dim; so Wikipedia to the rescue!

So according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotty's_Castle, the "castle" is a "Mission & Spanish Colonial Revival Style" villa. It was named for a gold prospector name Walter E. Scott, although he never owned it.

The general history is that Walter Scott, who was also a con-man, convinced a Chicago millionaire named Albert Johnson to invest in Scotty's Gold Mine around 1922. Despite Johnson being angered when he found out that the mine turned out to be fraudulent, he still struck up a friendship with the colorful Scott and ended up purchasing land in the Grapevine Canyon area. Albert & Bessie Johnson started to build the ranch for vacations in the area and later became a winter home for them. It was later found that the surveys had been incorrect, and that the ranch was built on government-owned land instead. While trying to resolve the mistake, the 1929



Celebrate National Park Week at
Scotty's Castle
Death Valley National Park
April 24, 1999

Follow these
3 Steps
to obtain your
Special
Postal
Cancellation

- 1. The Envelope**
Printed on the commemorative envelope is a picture of an entrance gate that leads to the Castle courtyard. The iron-and-wood gate is an example of the custom design and hand-craftsmanship found at Scotty's Castle.

Death Valley Natural History Association has produced these souvenir envelopes. The association is making a gift of one envelope with each park entry fee paid on April 22, 23 and 24. To purchase additional envelopes, visit the Association bookstores at Scotty's Castle or in the Furnace Creek Visitor Center.
- 2. The Sticker**
See the blank circle on the left-hand gate? An important monogram is placed there! The initials "J/S" are found throughout the Castle property. On this gate, they are made from hand-wrought iron. "J" stands for Albert and Bessie Johnson who built the Castle; "S" stands for Death Valley Scotty, their long-time friend.

The "J/S" monogram has been reproduced on a sticker, by AmFac Parks and Resorts. When you visit any of AmFac's gift stores at Furnace Creek, Stovepipe Wells or Scotty's Castle, ask to receive your sticker. (First one free; additional stickers available with purchase.)
- 3. The Postal Cancellation**
Perched on the right gate post is a wooden sculpture of a bighorn sheep. Much of the intrigue and romance of Scotty's Castle has been derived from its location in the far reaches of Death Valley!

The Death Valley branch of the United States Post Office has designed a special cancellation that represents the bighorn sheep, and the natural environment that surrounds the Castle. On Saturday April 24th the Postal Service will be at Scotty's Castle from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Stamps will be available for purchase at that time, and your completed souvenir envelope will be cancelled with the special cancellation.

(Unable to attend the special event at Scotty's Castle on April 24th? For 30 days following this event, the cancellation will be available at the Furnace Creek Post Office in Death Valley.)

Death Valley National Park is a unit of the National Park System. Welcome!

stock market crash brought this to a halt. The Johnson's died without heirs, and eventually the National Park Service bought the ranch from the "Gospel Foundation" (founded by Johnson) to whom Johnson had bequeathed the ranch after his death.

In 1999, the Death Valley Natural History Association created a cachet envelope along with having a USPS "Station" at Scotty's castle on April 29 (see top left & above). While I've been to Death Valley and have driven past Scotty's castle several times over the years (as part of driving to/from the nearby ghost town "Rhyolite", I never had a chance to stop there until 2001 (and so far I've not found any philatelic items that relate to Rhyolite)..

I found the cover in one of the donation lots to the club, and figured it would make a nice philatelic item (cancellation) perfectly suited to a "Been There..." article! The flyer above was tucked into the cover.

At present, Scotty's Castle is temporarily closed due to a flood and resulting damage in 2015 and a fire in 2021 destroyed a historic garage & workshop; according to the NPS (National Park Service), it is scheduled to reopen sometime in 2023. In the meantime, there are various resources online where you can learn more about Scotty's Castle, such as at <https://www.dvconservancy.org/scottys-castle/> (there's even a 3D walk-through available at this site). In any case, I can certainly recommend a visit if you're in Death Valley!

Brandenburger Tor

By Peter Elias



The Brandenburger Tor (Brandenburg Gate) in the City of Berlin is on the site of a former city gate that was the start of a road from Berlin to Brandenburg. It was built by order of Prussian king Frederick William II in the 18th Century.

On August 13, 1961, construction began on the Berlin Wall and the Brandenburg Gate was on the Soviet occupation side, and thus it was closed

off to the West until the Berlin Wall fell on November 9, 1989.

The DDR (East Germany) stamp above was issued 10 years (August 12, 1971) after the Wall was built and is Scott #1317. Below is a "Feldpost" (German Military Mail) card (but I could not find reference to it in the Michel catalogs), it was probably printed in the early 1940's).



We visited West Berlin on May 23 & 24, 1990, just a bit over 6 months after Wall fell. Getting there from West Germany meant driving on a what was a previously "protected" freeway which you could NOT exit from en-route. While in West Berlin, we decided to visit East Berlin. The entry point was near the Brandenburg Gate (to one side of it), but as we were officially entering "East Germany", I didn't feel comfortable taking any photos and pictures near the checkpoint (you know, in case of "Stasi"...). But it was an interesting visit to East Berlin that day. It felt "different" somehow... The official "re-unification" between East & West Germany did not occur until a few months later, on October 3, 1990.



Above: Screen shot from my video of what we saw as we exited West Berlin with our rental car on May 24, 1990.

MCSC Eules Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2023

By Janet Moyer

Opening:

- 2nd Vice President Stanley Christmas began the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Attendance:

- 8 members attended the April meeting in Eules.

Officer Reports:

- Stan announced that there was a notice from the Pic-Rights issue.
- Judy Christmas reported that checks are coming in from the vendors for the EXPO.
- Janet Moyer announced the secretary's report had been printed in the newsletter.
- Skip Ely there has been some stamp sales.
- Rick Howell announced there have been sales of Mix-Pix bags.
- Peter Elias said the newsletter should be out by Saturday.
- Peter announced that the TSDA bourse in Richardson on June 23-24 will take our certificates.
- Peter mentioned if anyone wants to put 1-page or 4-page mini-exhibits in the four frames by the EXPO door entry, he has forms available (and also in this newsletter).

Show & Tell:

Stanley:

- An Envelope from Australia with Cocos & Keeling Islands postmark
- Package from India with pretty stamps to give away
- Adam's Airmail pickup covers that were "shore to ship" not "ship to shore".
- Mail sent to Richard DuPont.
- Skip Ely passed out check sheets for 1890-1907 Australian stamps he has been working on.

Peter:

- Gave away an extra current Linn's Stamp News.
- Will post upcoming USPS rate increases in the newsletter [see page 1].
- eBay offers discounted postage (with limited tracking) when selling certain stamp items; known as "eBay Standard Envelope".
- Shared the new Waterfall stamp sheet.
- Indian & Tunisian revenue stamps documents.
- Showed what the "Gold stamps" are really made of.

Gift certificates:

- ...were awarded to Skip Ely and Rick Howell.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

[A Closer Look: Turkey #568](#)

By Peter Elias



Continuing to go through “finds” from either the TEXPEX or MCSC “Beginner Table” items, here is another stamp that caught my eye.

At first, I could not identify this stamp, since there is no Western Alphabet present (other than the “10” on the overprint, but that didn’t help). It looked to be Middle Eastern, and had what appears to be the Turkish crescent in the upper corners, which did give me a clue.

But rather than spending lots of quality time perusing hundreds pages of Scott’s catalogs, I scanned the stamp and then uploaded via Google’s image search. Below is a part of what the search brought up. My image on the left (with the part of the overprint turned inexplicable from black to gray by Google) and some of the findings on the right (it scrolled downwards a bit).

As you can tell, the search found (on the main screen) 3 stamps that are identical to mine, along with where those images are located (at the Delcampe, eBay & HipStamp online

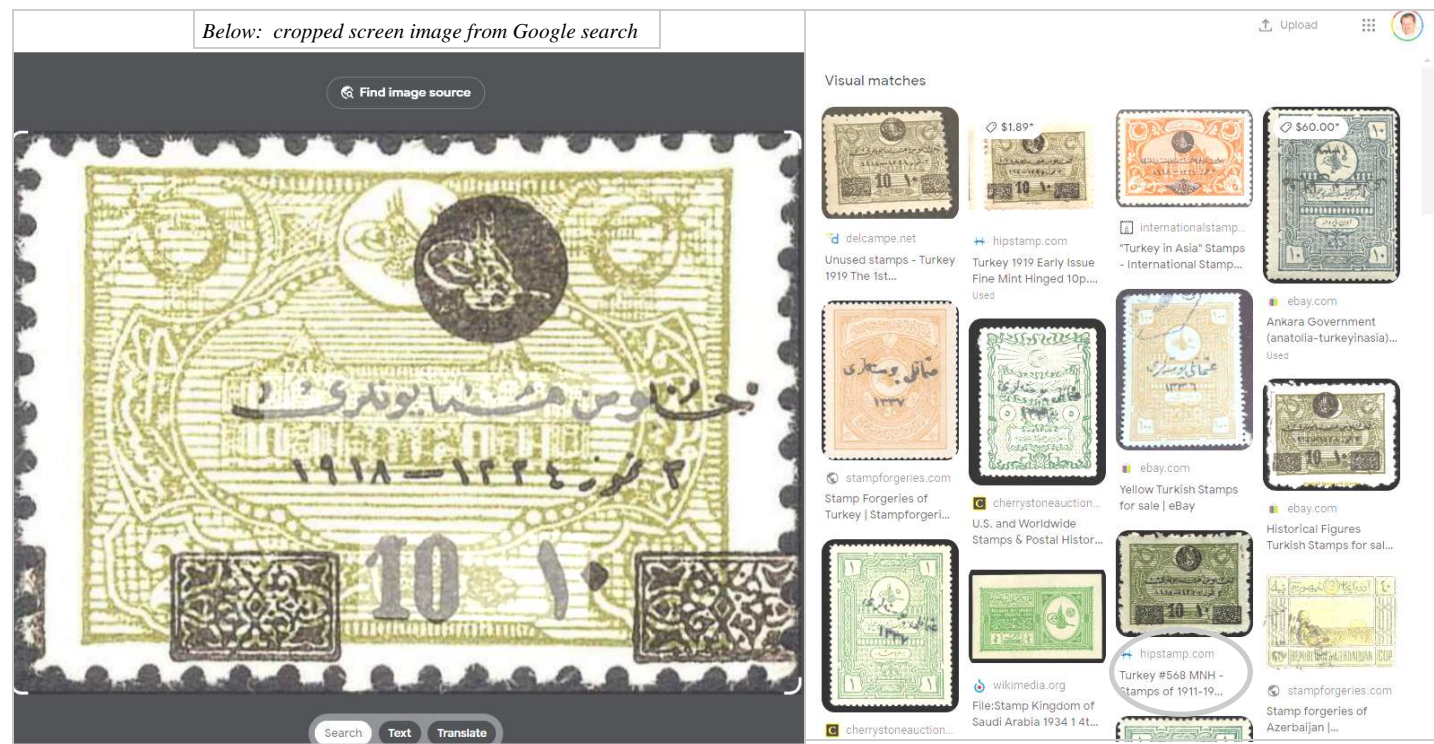
auction sites). For the HipStamp location, it even stated the stamp was Turkey, Scott #568 ! I then quickly looked this up in Scott’s, and confirmed that it was correct!

But then there was what caught my eye to begin with, and that was the overprint on the stamp, which Scott’s says means “Accession to the Throne of His Majesty, 3rd July 1334-1918”, and that also present were the Tughra of Sultan Mohammed VI and various ornaments and new values. A “Tughra” (the symbol in the black circle at the center of the stamp) is “a calligraphic emblem of the sultan’s authority that was included in all official documents, such as firmans (royal decrees), endowment papers, correspondence and coins [..and apparently postage stamps as well !].

As a side note, I always thought there was a UPU requirement for stamps (that can be used internationally) have the country name using Roman Letters, which UPU Regulations, Article 6, section 3.1 confirms; for more details, see the 499 page document at: <https://www.upu.int/UPU/media/upu/files/UPU/aboutUpu/acts/manualsInThreeVolumes/actInThreeVolumesManualOfConventionEn.pdf>.

As always, one always learns something new when investigating a stamp! The key take-away here is that to help identify where a stamp is from, try using a Google image search!

Below: cropped screen image from Google search



[EXPO Announcements](#)

By Janet Moyer

1. [Spare Cabinet for Sale](#) - The club is selling a spare cabinet (previously rented to dealers at EXPO). This is a “best offer” sale to club members only (pick up will be at our storage unit in Grapevine). The cabinet is generally ok, but the hinges at the right-hand door need repair, but it can otherwise be used as a shelving unit. Send your best offer to Janet Moyer (janet.sue.moyer@gmail.com).
2. We [need donated philatelic items](#) for the EXPO Silent Auction. Please see if you have anything decent that you can donate. Please contact Ken Wills (wills@airmail.net), Tom Turner (tturner72@att.net) or Skip Ely (N5tjb@flash.net).
3. We will [have exhibits again starting with EXPO 2024](#); Rich Hildebrandt has volunteered to spearhead this. This means that we will [need exhibits and also other volunteers](#) to handle the various tasks that go along with having exhibits. Please contact Rich (richhilde@hotmail.com) for more details.

Note: Member phone numbers are listed in your member handbooks if you prefer to call any of the above members.

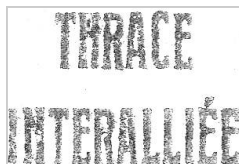
Thrace

By Peter Elias



I am still sorting through various stamps that I had set aside as far back as TEXPEX (from the beginner's table). While some of these stamps may not seem attractive to a beginning collector, they did however catch my attention for some reason or other. In this case, it was probably the overprint that caught my eye.

So now it's a few years later and I can finally get around to actually looking at some of these stamps. Today, I present you with Thrace #N19. This is a Bulgarian stamp from 1911-1919 that was overprinted with "THRACE INTERALLIÉE" (see the cropped & rotated overprint from the stamp above to the right).



Since the Scott "N" designation refers to "Occupation" issues, this one was used after World War I. "Interalliée" means "existing between, relating to, composed of or involving one or more allies".

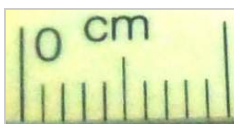
So that solves that mystery. The next question would be: where exactly is Thrace? According to my favorite "go-to" source for this kind of information, Wikipedia tells me that the Thrace region goes back to the Greek & Roman era. It is located in southeastern Europe and was made up of what are now 3 different countries.

After World War I, Thrace was divided amongst Turkey (eastern Thrace), Greece (western Thrace) and Bulgaria (northern Thrace).

Now, while I've not been to anywhere near that part of Europe or Euroasia, I do own two things that HAVE!



First up, a diobol coin from Thrace, specially from "Mesembria" and is dated 450 to 350 BC! Shown at actual size to the left, it is a tiny silver coin, measuring only 10.5 mm (3/8") in diameter. It features what appears to be a human head (or possibly mask) on one side and a circle with spokes and the letters M E T A within the spokes.



The problem with scanning coins is that they don't always scan well, so to the above left is a "photo" of the same coin and an enlargement of the tiny scan above it.



M e s e m b r i a was an important ancient city in

Thrace and is in what is now known as "Nesebar"; it is located on the Bulgarian Black Sea. For more info, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesembria> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nesebar>. Interestingly enough, the Mesembria link above features the same coin (and a much better photo of it)!



Next up is a diobol coin from "Maroneia", dating back to 400-350 BC. It is also fairly small coin, copper, and about 14.5 mm (19/32") in diameter.



The front features a horse and the reverse appears to have letters (possibly spelling "Maroneia" around the outside edge and a square with some symbols inside...).

Maroneia is located in Greece in what was western Thrace. More on the history of Maroneia can be found at (you guessed it), Wikipedia:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maroneia>

So while I haven't been to Thrace, these coins certainly have! It does make you wonder about the journey that these coins took to get into my collection about 2,300+ years later!

As always, philately has yet provided me with another learning experience (why can't high school world history classes present some of the history in this fashion?).

When I first really looked at that stamp, the word "Thrace" reminded me that I had some ancient coins that relate to this! And so yet again, philately can tie into other hobbies, in this case, numismatics. Although honestly, I'd rather own Thrace coins from 2,300+ years ago than a stamp from 1919. And since this was more of a "Someone Else Was There..." rather than "I Was There..." article, I couldn't make it a "Been There..." article (although I was tempted...), since that would have been a bit of a stretch... Never-the-less, as they say, "it's all good!". And I had a mini-history lesson to boot!

Been There,
Done That

Grand Canyon

By Peter Elias



The Grand Canyon has been featured on various US stamps, such as Scott #741 shown here and the "Celebrate the Century" series from "1910's" sheet of 15 as #3183h.



The Grand Canyon measures around 277 miles long, up to 18 miles wide and 1 mile deep. It became a National Park in 1919.

Back in August 1980, our family took a month-long 10,000 mile drive around the USA and amongst other things, we took a mule ride down into the Grand Canyon. One felt a bit "tingly" looking over the side

of the mule, as it was a long way down! The picture of me (below) was taken at or near the bottom of the Canyon.

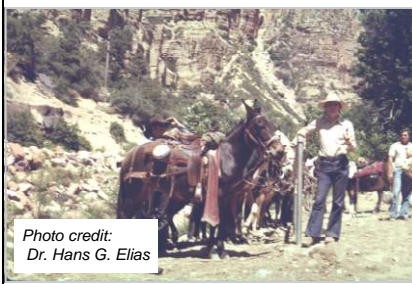


Photo credit:
Dr. Hans G. Elias

Back in the pre-internet days, my dad had to plan for excursions like this up to a year in advance, either in writing or by telephone and then make sure you would be there on the reserved day! We stayed in a cabin on the north rim of the Canyon.

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

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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:

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- 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

Swissair 747

By Peter Elias



Shown on this stamp from “Ajman State” (not Scott listed) issued in 1972, is a Swissair 747B.

The first Boeing 747 took flight in early 1969 and was certified in December 1969. It entered service with PanAm on January 20, 1970.


Swissair's first regular service on a Boeing 747B was from New York to Zürich on April 1, 1971.

My first flight on a 747 was in September 1971, only about 5 months after Swissair first took

delivery of a 747. If you look at the photo at right, the blue arrow is pointing at me (at age 11) when as we were boarding the 747. Notice that back in 1971, there were no “jet bridges”. You walked across the tarmac and went up the stairs!

I also remember that as we were getting ready to take off, there was a malfunction and we had to abort take off and then started our flight to New York after they fixed the problem. Landing in New York as a bit frightening as the plane seemed to just drop 50 feet at a time during landing approach. We made it ok though. And then it was “Welcome to the USA”!

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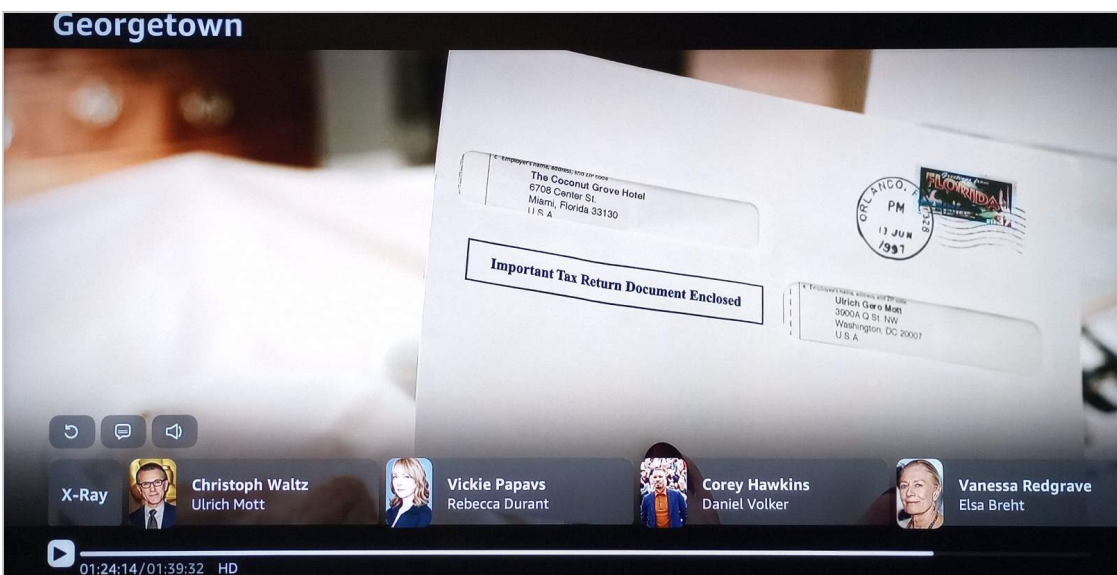
TV Philately: Georgetown

By Peter Elias

The movie "Georgetown", starring Christoph Waltz, Vanessa Redgrave and Annette Bening was released in 2019 and is "based on real events" of a social climber called Albrecht Muth (named Ulrich Mott in the movie) who killed his much older wife, Viola Drath (named Elsa Brehm in the movie) in 2011 and was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

The movie jumps back and forth in time several times. Ulrich saw his wife as a ticket to move up the social ladder and in "importance" and was a consummate liar. That part is shown when in the movie, Elsa looks through some mail (which Ulrich had actually brought to her as he was serving her breakfast in bed - and apparently didn't look at the letters himself).

The scene showed her briefly looking at the outside of the envelope, and unfortunately it was too brief to make it out fully, other than one can briefly see that it says something about taxes. Luckily there is "pause" to the rescue, and after we finished watching the movie (which was shown on Amazon Prime), I rewound back to the scene with envelope, which was about 1 hour 24 minutes into the movie.



scanned image of #3704 is shown above; and comes from my personal collection (unfortunately the backing paper protrudes a bit into the perforations, making for a less than optimal scan).

The postmark also doesn't quite look right. The wavy bars in the machine cancel are

too short, and while the circular portion does mimic a real one, it does appear to be a bit too large.

And here is the other puzzler: why would a W-2 form be sent in June? That is well after the deadline for sending a W-2 form and certainly well before they are usually sent the following year.

So what do we see on the cover? It appears to be a W-2 form as any employer would send to the employee (and also to the IRS).

So as usual, for the sake of authenticity, it would have been beneficial for the props department to have consulted a philatelist on the matter. That's like showing a 1960 Chevy in a movie that takes place in 1955...

As always, an envelope on screen just has to show muster for being what it is, an envelope that went through the mail. Luckily being able to pause the movie allows us to analyze what is really there, and most of the time, some things just don't add up. Ready, set, **pause!**

2023 EXPO Mini-Exhibit Request

By Peter Elias

Since EXPO 2023 is now only about 5 months away, and since we are not having regular judged exhibits this year, there won't be the usual pleas for coming up with exhibits. HOWEVER, I was able to make sure that we can have something to show, and we will have 4 exhibit frames (64 pages) of mini-exhibits available. These will be located in the entry area near the registration table at EXPO as you walk in (or out).

--> I encourage all members that have provided 1-page (or even 4-page) exhibits in the past, to please consider them for use in this year's frames. There will be no entry fee (but no judging & awards either...). And they will hopefully be looked at more than ever before, as everyone coming & going to EXPO will be walking by them, and hopefully have a look-see!

My suggestion for these mini-exhibits is for them to be eye-catching (or "eye candy" as they call it); and of course be educations as well ! Let's give our visitors some interesting items to look at!

MID-CITIES STAMP CLUB 36th ANNUAL EXPO

November 10 & 11, 2023 Friday - 10 to 5 pm & Saturday - 9 to 4 pm
Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St, Grapevine, TX 76051

1-page or 4-page Mini-Exhibits Entry Form

Exhibit applications must be received via E-mail or USPS by close of Monday, October 17, 2023.

Please type or print legibly. Use a separate form for each entry.

Name of Exhibitor _____ **___ 1-Page or ___ 4 Page**

Address _____

My ___ Home ___ Cell is (___) ___ - _____ E-Mail: _____@_____

Title of Exhibit: _____

25 or fewer word description of exhibit: _____

I or my agent _____ will personally ___ deliver ___ remove my exhibit.
(Name)

RULES

1. These mini-exhibits are open to all Mid-Cities Stamp Club and Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society members.
2. Each page must be on standard 8 ½" x 11" paper, unless approved by the Exhibit's Chair.
3. The entry fee for either a 1-page or 4-page exhibit is waived for 2023 !
4. This Entry Form must be received no later than Tuesday, October 17, 2023 (mail or email to Peter Elias).
5. Entrants are responsible for insuring their exhibits against loss, or deciding not to do so at their risk.
6. Exhibits must be personally delivered and removed from the EXPO by the owner or authorized agent.
7. All Exhibits must be mounted on Thursday, November 9, 2022 between 6:30 to 8:30 PM. **No mounting of exhibits on Friday, November 10, 2023 !** If you can't mount the exhibit in person, please give them to Peter Elias at a meeting prior to November 9, 2023.
8. Exhibits cannot be removed before 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 11, 2023. If not present at that time, Peter Elias will hold your exhibits (at your risk) until you can collect it from him in person at a club meeting.
9. All exhibit entry applications must go through the Exhibit's Chair for tracking purposes.
10. There will be a **limit of 2x 1-page and 1x 4-page exhibits per exhibitor**. This may be increased after the closing date if the 4 available frames are not filled with 16 pages each.
11. There will be no judging or awards for these mini-exhibits.

- There is no entry fee for 2023. Please send this form to Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano TX 75094-0427 before October 17, 2023.
- For questions, please call Peter Elias at (972) 671-0077 [landline] or email at peter@pcelias.com

Signature _____ Date _____

My signature above indicates my understanding of and compliance with, the rules stated above and I acknowledge that I am responsible for insuring my exhibit. I will not hold the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, the Grapevine Convention Center, the City of Grapevine, nor any officers, members, employees, agents or associated persons of the same, liable for loss or damage to this exhibit.



MEET & EAT for

July 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

July 5 David's BBQ, 2224 West Park Row,
Arlington, (817-261-9998)

EULESS

July 19 Jason's Deli, 2200 Airport Freeway,
Bedford, (817-354-1511)

GRANBURY

July 25 Grumps Burgers, 3503 E. Hwy 377,
Granbury

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

United States Booklets, large selection of unexploded booklets for sale at just above face value. Starting with booklet #BK104 to #BK259. Identify booklet number desired and send an email to Dave Stockbridge at stockdave44@yahoo.com. Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions. 4/23

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

Don't Forget:
EXPO Planning Mtg - August 12!