



# Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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



Volume 37, Number 2

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

February 2024

Been There,  
Done That

## Herrenhäuser Gärten

By Peter Elias



In 2010 we visited Hannover, Germany during a trip Europe. One of the places we saw was the Herrenhäuser Gärten (Gardens), which also includes the Herrenhausen Palace. The entry to the palace



grounds are shown on the Citipost stamp above. Citipost is a private postal company operating in the Hannover region. The German Postal Service (Deutsche Post) also issued a stamp featuring the Schloss (castle) Herrenhausen; it is Scott #1315 from a long-running definitive series.

The Great Garden at Herrenhausen is considered one of the great baroque gardens in Europe, and had evolved over the years from a simple vegetable garden to a large botanical garden. There are several gardens here, and it takes up about 120 acres and will take you a while to walk through all of it! It all dates back to the late 1600's.

The main palace and much of the gardens were severely damaged during World War II. Reconstruction of the palace began in 2010 (the year we were there!) and was completed in 2013. I did get a nice photo of the outside (which is the same viewpoint as the Citipost stamp above, except I was already inside the gates:



← In one of the buildings in the garden grounds were really fascinating glass & mirror mosaic displays, one of which prompted me to

order the Zazzle custom stamp shown above in the 2nd column. Near that is a "selfie" photo I took against some of the mirror artwork.

While the Zazzle stamp was easy to order, getting a copy of the Citipost stamp was not so easy. Citipost did



feature this stamp on their website, but it was just too difficult to order this stamp, which was part of a booklet issued in 2015, from their website (not due to language differences, but given that they apparently don't ship outside their service area...).

I finally did find this stamp (along with the others in the set) from a German eBay seller. And one of the other stamps in the set might also feature in a future "been there..." article, so kind of a bonus!

Of course, there's way more history to this place than I can mention in this article, so please feel free to go the Wikipedia website below for more info:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herrenhausen\\_Gardens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herrenhausen_Gardens)



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# Stamping Around

## Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor ([news@mid-citiesstampclub.com](mailto:news@mid-citiesstampclub.com))

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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](mailto: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

I hope that you found the new USPS chart I put into last month's newsletter to be useful. I always have one hanging near my desk for quick reference!

## Membership Renewals

If you have already paid your 2024 membership dues, thank you! If not, there's an **updated renewal form in this news-**

**letter** (the PO Box # was listed incorrectly in previous issues!). We do not mail out renewal notices, so please use the form from this newsletter. Members with unpaid dues will be dropped in February, so please send your dues to Janet in a timely manner.

## Members In The News

By Peter Elias

The article "New 'X-Rayed Cleared for Delivery' Auxiliary Marking" was published on pages 8 to 10 of the January 2024 issue of *Auxiliary Markings*, the monthly issue of the Auxiliary Markings Club (<https://www.postal-markings.org/>). Peter provided the covers illustrated in the article and some basic information; the formal write-up was done by Douglas Quine, PhD, along with additional research & editing by Otto Bergman. All 3 are listed as authors of the article.

## Thank You

... To Byron Sandfield for donating 5 boxes of stamps, covers, binders & albums to the club. As always, these primarily come from items that he purchased as part of a larger lot, but can't use; or items that he couldn't purchase due to lack of ability to sell in the marketplace, but instead asked the seller to donate the items to the club.

## Coming Attractions

### 2024

<b>JAN. 23</b>	<b>MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	Clean Out Your Philatelic Closet
<b>FEB. 7</b>	<b>MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	"The Adams Mail Pickup Service ... The Early Years" by Stan Christmas
<b>FEB. 10</b>	<b>MCSC - EXPO Planning Meeting (11 AM)</b>
	At David's BBQ in Pantego
<b>FEB. 21</b>	<b>MCSC - EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>FEB. 27</b>	<b>MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>MAR. 6</b>	<b>MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>MAR. 20</b>	<b>MCSC - EULESS Meeting</b>
Program:	Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
<b>MAR. 26</b>	<b>MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>APR. 3</b>	<b>MCSC - ARLINGTON Meeting</b>
Program:	TBD
<b>APR. 5 - 6</b>	<b>TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse</b>

## Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer



### Applications Received:

n/a

### New Members:

Dan Golden (#662)

### Reinstatements:

n/a

### Resignations:

n/a

### Membership Summary – January 17, 2024

Membership as of December 6, 2023	103
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	0
New Members	1
Did Not Renew for 2024	( 0 )
Resignations	( 0 )
Deceased	( 0 )
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of January 17, 2024	104

*Been There,  
Done That*

## Washington DC

By Peter Elias



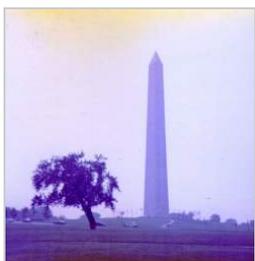
The Washington Monument is shown on USA Scott #3473, issued in 2001 as an Express Mail stamp. The monument is an obelisk and was built to commemorate George Washington.

Construction began in 1848 and was completed in 1884 (but suspended from 1864 to 1877 due to funding challenges). It is primarily a "stone" structure, consisting of granite, marble and bluestone gneiss, and it is the world's largest obelisk.

It overtook the Cologne Cathedral as tallest structure in the world, until in 1889 it was overtaken by the Eiffel Tower.

The inside of the monument is mostly hollow, and there are iron stairs that go to the top, as well as an elevator.

In recent years, the monument was closed due to renovations that took place between 1998 and 2001 and again from mid-2004 to mid-2005. Cracks that formed after an earthquake in Virginia in 2011 required further repairs & restorations, took place after that. Much more info is at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington\\_Monument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Monument).

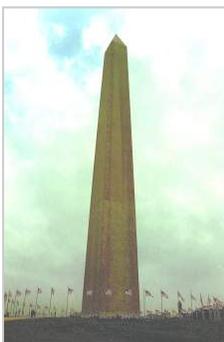


The stamp above features a beautiful photo. In 1974, our family took a trip from Michigan to various places east of there. I don't remember much from that trip, but do have a photo that I took when we were in Washington DC. For what it's worth, that's the photo to the left, taken with a 126-film camera that I had at that time (a simple and

boxy point-n-shoot camera that used the "126" film that came in a cartridge).

In 1987, when I was living in Kentucky, I drove to the Washington DC area to visit an old college friend that lived in the area, and again took a picture (see left); this time I had a better 35 mm Olympus camera, although the picture to the right does not do that camera justice...

On May 16, 2008, while taking off from Ronald Reagan National airport in



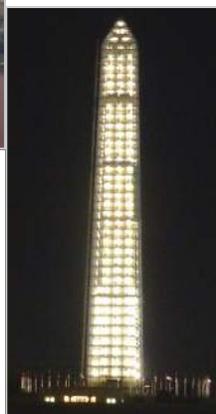
Washington DC, I was able to take a great aerial photo of the monument from my airplane



seat. That's as close I got to it though on that trip, as I was there for a Sage "Insights" conference (having landed in Baltimore on the way in...)

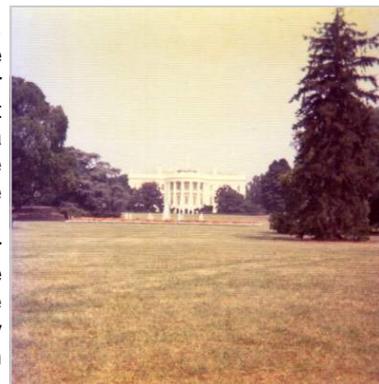
And in 2013, during another visit to DC for another Sage conference, I was driven past the monument at night but it was covered in scaffolding (see right).

*[Photo credits on this page by Peter Elias]*

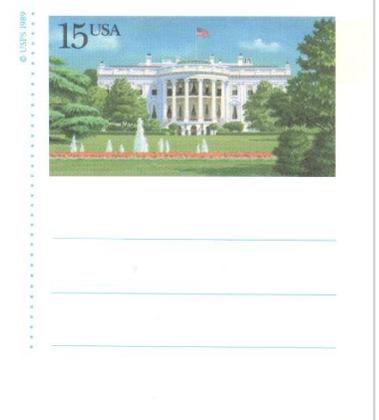


On that 1974 trip, we also got to see the White House. One of the other remaining pictures from that trip on my 126 film camera shows how close I was able to get to the place. Ah, the memories.... (not).

A much better illustration of the White House is shown on the USPS Postal Stationery card, Scott #UX143 (shown below), issued in 2013.



Washington:  
The White House



*The Scott catalog subject index lists 10 different U.S. postage stamps that depict the White House!*

The White House has been the residence of every U.S. President since John Adams starting in 1800. The building was modeled after a house in Dublin, Ireland by Irish-born architect James Hoban and it was constructed between 1792 to 1800. The exterior is made of sandstone and painted white. In 1814, during the War of 1812, the British set the White House ablaze during their burning of Washington DC. Reconstruction began immediately and President James Monroe moved into the partially reconstructed Executive Residence in 1817. Various additions (East Wing, West Wing, etc) were added in later years.

In 2006, I was in Washington DC again very briefly for the Washington 2006 International Stamp Show for a couple of days (sandwiched between 2 business trips elsewhere). I did see fellow MCSC member Ray Cartier at that show (see right!); but no visits to the rest of DC attractions.



In 2013, Sage Software held one of their annual "summit" conferences in the DC area, and that's me in front of a picture of the White House at the conference.

It's amazing how many times I've been in the Washington DC area in the past 50 years, and yet have never actually visited the Washington Monument! I'm sure the view is great from the top!



I did however go to the National Postal Museum twice though (and that was a separate "Been There..." article, see the June 2008 issue)!

# MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes January 3, 2024

By Janet Moyer

## Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

## Attendance:

- 24 members were present and we had one guest – Watson Arnold.

## Officer Announcements:

- Secretary Janet Moyer announced we have no new members this month. That leaves us with 105 memberships, 60 have paid for this year.
- Treasurer Judy Christmas told us she has closed the books on 2023. .

## Announcements:

- 2024 dues are due. Please get them to Janet Moyer.
- Stanley Christmas will give the program in February.
- March's meeting will have a special speaker.
- There will be an EXPO meeting on February 10th, starting at 11:00 at David's Barbecue.
- Peter is working on the newsletter.
- Skip has plenty of Circuit books for sale including many from Oklahoma.

## Show & Tell:

- Stanley received 3 envelopes from Canada.
  - One was not cancelled.
  - One was half cancelled.
  - One was totally cancelled.
- Ken Aldridge showed a list of sites selling unauthorized Forever Stamps: BEWARE of them.
  - [usstampcenter.com](http://usstampcenter.com)
  - [oldstocks-shop.com](http://oldstocks-shop.com)
  - [deliverystamp-shop.com](http://deliverystamp-shop.com)
  - [stampsvalue.com](http://stampsvalue.com)
  - [valuestamp.com](http://valuestamp.com)
  - [uspsonlinestores.com](http://uspsonlinestores.com)
  - [franklinmintstore.com](http://franklinmintstore.com)
- Rick had Mixture Pick Bags for sale. 1 pound for \$10.
- Skip had many stamp supplements for FREE! Please take them!
- Peter had 6 things to show and tell or give away:
  - A whole stack of things that he wants to get rid of...
  - He received a letter from Gibraltar.
  - He asked for self-addressed envelopes and they sent some addressed to him.
  - An Austrian Stamp printed by post office and you cannot use any other stamp in that country,
  - He got mail with his first name spelled as "Funmilola". He noted that this is actually a real name, and seems to be popular in Nigeria.
  - Ordered batteries and they came to him from Equatorial New Guinea but came through three states in the US to get to him. On the customs form it stated that these items were "light parts".
- Jim Taylor showed stamps from Ukraine "saluting" Russia arms.

## EXPO updates:

- Stanley reported since Ralph was not present.
- We had a Security Guard payment problem but it was handled.
- We made a couple thousand dollars.
- 2024 budget showed we will be in the hole so we will not have exhibitions again.
- The entry display frames went over very well.
- Rick talked a little about virtual exhibits as a possibility. If you know about these, please discuss it with him.
- Janet thanked the volunteers. We were well staffed and everyone showed up!
- Raffle made some money but not enough for the raffle items we had. Next year we should only have one raffle item.
- Skip had a lot of people at the Beginner's Table but very few beginners. He is reassessing how much stuff to bring with him.
- Tom said the Silent Auction went well. We need higher quality items to improve income.
- Dave said the snacks were fine. We did receive a few donations.
- Ken reported that the security worked well.
- The "Mixture Pick" went well and was busy.
- The "Chance Board" went well and was busy.

## Door Prize Drawing:

- Four gift certificates were issued and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM

## Program:

- The "empty your closets" followed.

## USPS Smart Lockers

By Peter Elias



<-- Do you remember these? They are "Parcel Lockers" that are usually found in the PO Box section of most post offices.

If you have a PO Box and you receive a package too large for your box, they would put it in a "Parcel Locker" and put the key for the locker into your PO Box (assuming that the package would fit into the parcel locker to begin with...).

Apparently now, the USPS is starting do away with "dumb keys" and use "smart lockers" instead!

I took photo of a new USPS "Smart Locker" back on January 4 at my post office in Plano. I saw the haul parts of this in a week or two prior to that. A clerk explained to me



that that instead of leaving a key in your box, they would now text or email you and you could pick up the item by scanning (or entering) a code at the smart locker. No more key required!

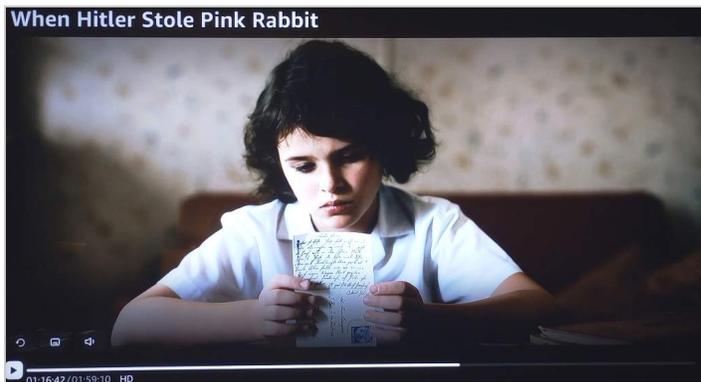
## TV Philately: When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

By Peter Elias

In December I watched the movie "When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit" on Amazon Prime. This was a German/Swiss co-production and took place in Germany, Switzerland & France.

It was early 1933, and the German elections for Hitler were about to happen. The father of a family in Berlin was a well-known writer and critic of the NSDAP (National Socialist German Workers Party, aka: NAZI). Fearing what would happen if Hitler were to win the election, he, his wife and 2 children fled Germany for Switzerland. The movie is from the viewpoint of Anna Kempner, a 10-year old (at the beginning of the movie).

In the movie, the parents talked about "going on a ship cruise on Lake Zürich". In the movie, they were living in a quaint mountain-side village with dramatic mountains in the background.



Ok, back to the movie. The family left Switzerland for Paris, since the father had a better chance of a writing job there. While in Paris, at about 1 hr 16 min 45 sec. into the film, main character, Anna (an 11-year old at that time), received a postcard from Uncle Julius in Berlin. You see her holding the card in the scene above.

Cropping the scene around the card and rotating in counter-clockwise, you get a slightly better view (see below). Despite the movie being hi-definition played on a 55" TV, by the time you crop out this fairly small portion, it still gets a bit fuzzy.

Best I can make out is that the stamp is a 25 pf blue stamp from 1933, featuring Frederick the Great. It is Scott #400



When I first saw the various shots of the village (such as the one on the left), and particularly the one above with the church and mountain in the background, I thought, "wait a minute", that can't possibly be near Zürich, which doesn't have mountains like this nearby. And for some reason, those various village scenes just looked WAY too familiar.

My suspicion was confirmed when I was closely watching the ending credits, where it stated that film producers wished to thank the citizens of Soglio.

Aha! I was correct! I had been to Soglio 3 times before, most recently in 1991 and again in 2013. The top photo I took while visiting Switzerland in 2013 and the one with the village "street" in 1991.

The thing is though, that the village of Soglio (current population 167) is about 144 miles from Zürich and a 3-hour drive (since we're talking about having to go over mountain passes). So while the real family probably lived somewhere in the Zürich vicinity, the producers took some liberties as to the exact location. An "afternoon lake cruise" might have been possible had they first taken an early morning bus ride and then a lengthy train ride to get there. Lovely village though. If you're ever in Switzerland visit it; it's only a couple of miles from the Italian border.

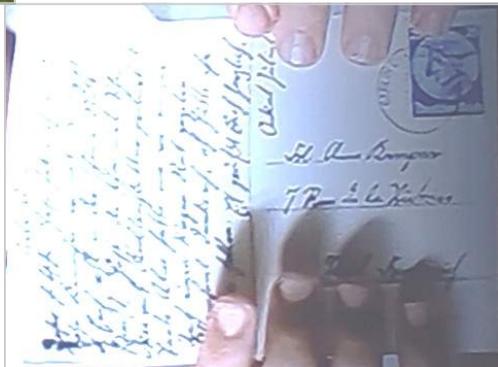
(which currently has a value of \$22.50 in my 2018 Scott catalog).

Now, is the stamp "real"? Hard to tell from the illustration, but it is a stamp that could have been used at that time. But is

the 25 pf rate correct? In my Michel Germany Specialized catalog, I saw that the postcard rate from Germany to a foreign destination was 15 pf (as of December 1, 1933), but I haven't found anything for 1934, and for 1943 I also saw 15 pf, so I'd say that they missed the mark (pun intended!). The postmark is indistinct, but on the screen I was sort of able to make out "Berlin", but that's about it. I can also make out that the card is addressed to the young girl, Frl. Anna Kempner.

After Paris, the family left for England, where they lived for the rest of her lives. The movie was based on a book by Judith Kerr to help show her children what she went through in that period. She also wrote other children's books. She died at 95 in 2019.

It is always nice to see a letter or postcard in a movie, and even more fun to pause the screen and investigate a bit further what one saw for just a second. It's meant to pass as a "mailed postcard", which it does, but only the ability to pause a movie or TV show when watching it at home on a big screen TV let's you examine what exactly you just saw. But they didn't quite get the postage rate correct..





## President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

I mentioned at the last Arlington meeting my concern about the growing number of heavily discounted Facebook ads for U.S. Post Office issues of "Forever" stamps. There are coils, sheets and booklets of almost all the latest issues, most discounted at \$19.95 per 100. However, I saw one recently as low as \$12.99 per hundred! Several recognized dealers and longtime collectors have objected to these ads and a few have reported the ads to Postal Inspectors. I checked the website for one ad and it led me to a Chinese Company with the seller being an individual in California.

I contacted him and asked about his source for selling some many discounted stamps. His reply, "I sorry, we can't tell you the specific channel because it involves commercial confidentiality and is not allowed by the company, but we can be sure that these stamps can be used normally." Beware of these offers and I hear postal clerks are disposing of letters that contain these stamps.

The February meeting in Arlington will feature Stanley Christmas' presentation, "The Adams Mail Pickup Service...The Early Years".

We also need programs for the March and April meetings. Please contact me if you can do one.

Remember the YouTube stamp videos that Rick has shown a few times? That was Graham Beck and he has just been appointed to Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee by the US Postal Service.

Reminders: Last year, the club voted to keep show and tell to 3 items per member. Try to honor this in future meetings. When laying out items to sell at our meetings, be sure to have your name and the price visible.

## Do NOT Use This...

By Peter Elias

... I think they wanted to really make sure that you were **NOT** going to use this parcel drop-off bin at the Plano Wildcat Station Post Office!



# 2024 Mid-Cities Stamp Club Membership Renewal

# \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Check here if information is unchanged from 2023 and skip to the signature line below.**

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Stamp Organizations with membership numbers (if applicable):

APS # \_\_\_\_\_ ATA # \_\_\_\_\_ TPA # \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

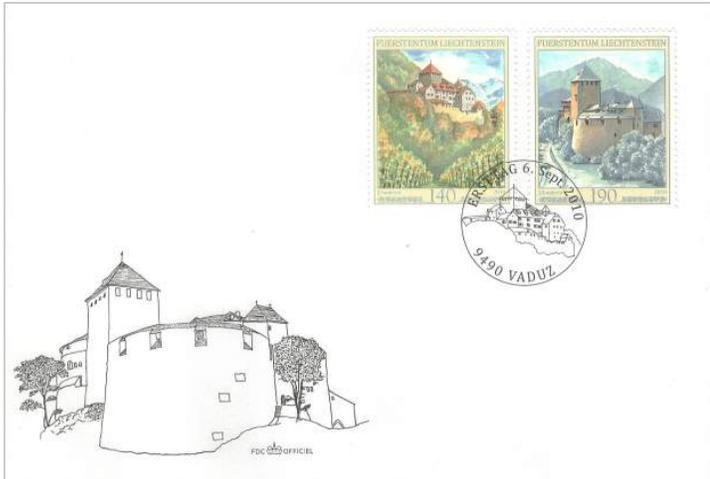
### Membership Level:

- \$12 Regular Adult (emailed or online colors newsletters)
- \$22 Regular Adult (with mailed black & white newsletters)
- \$25 Sponsor Membership**
- \$35 Sponsor (with mailed black & white newsletters)
- \$6 Additional Adult (no separate newsletter copy)
- \$4 Youth (under 18; add \$10 if printed newsletter is desired.)

**Make check out to 'Mid-Cities Stamp Club' and mail this form with payment to:  
Mid-Cities Stamp Club, PO Box 820784, N. Richland Hills, TX 76182-0784**

## Vaduz Castle

By Peter Elias



Shown on the first day cover above, are Scott #1488-1489 from 2010, depicting the Vaduz castle in Liechtenstein in autumn and winter.



About 10 years prior to these stamps being issued, I was driving by the castle with Annie. I had a viewpoint from the same side of the building as the cachet and the 190 Rp. (Rappen) stamp. The castle is on the side of a mountain (as shown on the 140 Rp. stamp).

Those that know me, know that I absolutely love visiting castles and fortresses and checking out their history and how the other half lived. Or "lives", as in this case, Vaduz castle is actively occupied by the Princely Family of Liechtenstein, and thus off-limits to visitors; unless of course, you are invited by Prince, so like, that'll never happen to me...). Never-the-less, I have driven by the castle a couple of times; other than on September 3, 2000, I do remember driving by there back in the summer of 1986.

One of the former owners of the castle were the counts of Werdenberg-Sargans (I wrote about Werdenberg in the October 2023 issue of Stamping Around). The oldest part of the castle is the "keep", which was built way back in the 12th century. The Princely Family of Liechtenstein acquired the castle in 1712, and it was restored several times in the early part of the 20th century.

## Spacewalk

By Pat & Bob Weidman



Back on September 29, 1967, the US Post Office Department issued the two shown above, Scott #1331 & #1332 as a se-tenant pair. The left stamp shows an astronaut doing a spacewalk.

The picture below shows an astronaut on the left side, that did two spacewalks back in January of 2023. That astronaut is Colonel Nicole Mann, United States Marine Corps. Colonel Mann spent five and a half months aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Colonel Mann is the daughter-in-law of Captain John Mann, United States Navy, retired (shown on the right in the photo). John spent 22 years in the Navy and flew helicopters during the Vietnam War. He is a friend of mine and fellow volunteer at the Ft. Worth Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic. He was kind enough to supply me with the enclosed picture of him and his daughter-in-law.

Colonel Mann attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where she graduated in 1999, first in her class. She and John's son Travis, a retired commander from the Navy, met in flight school where they were both flying F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets.



Photo used by permission of John Mann (it was taken by his wife).



I've always wondered why the U.S. Postal Service decided to issue the 20c airmail stamp, Scott #C71 on 4/26/1967? It's a near duplicate of their 12/7/1963 issue, the 5c "Columbia Jays", Scott #1241.

Both stamps honor John James Audubon and the birds shown are actually "Collies Magpie Jays." I searched Scotts Specialized for U.S. issues and couldn't find any other regular and airmail issue that had the same design.

However, the \$1 postal issue "American Airlift," Scott #1341 issued 4/4/1968 was to pay for airlift of parcels from and to U.S. ports to servicemen overseas valid for all regular postage. But on 4/26/1969 postal authorities ruled that henceforth #1341 "may be used toward paying the postage or fees for special services on airmail articles."



Ken's article to the left had me wondering about a couple of things.

In the Scott "US Specialized" catalog, while Scott's mentions what Ken wrote (see the last sentence) in a note after #1341, it also wrote the following additional information about the \$1 Airlift stamp in the Airmail section right after Scott #C73: "On Jan. 1, 1970, the Department told postal employees through its Postal Bulletin that this \$1 stamp "can only be used to pay the airlift fee or towards payment of postage or fee on airmail articles".

To me, that above statement has the US Post Office Department back peddle on their earlier statement that this stamp was valid for "regular" postage, not just Airmail or Airlift postage and/o related fees. If you look at most US Airmail stamps, they are (after 1954) inscribed as "US Air Mail", while regular (non-airmail) stamps are inscribed as "US Postage". Note: sometimes it is "U.S. Air Mail" and sometimes "United States Airmail". That is all fine and well, but most US stamps are generally just issued for the 1 ounce rate. What if you are mailing something heavier? Are you going to be able to pay for that postage with ALL "Air Mail" stamps?

So, were you allowed to pay for additional ounce airmail rates with "regular" stamps?

That also make me wonder: Is that \$1 Airlift stamp still valid for postage today? What about other US stamps issued since the Civil War? Which ones are NOT valid for any sort of postage? It would be nice to see an article showing those stamps which USPS considers invalid now! Hint: Someone please research this and write an article about it!

[LEGO™ Minifigs Scene](#)

By Peter Elias

In late 2023, the Dutch Postal Service issued a semi-postal souvenir sheet of 5 stamps featuring a scene composed of various LEGO™ Minifigures™ (minifigs as they're often called) and other LEGO elements and pieces. The imagery on the sheet was most likely designed by the LEGO Group. The stamps are all of the "1" rate (Netherlands's version of a Forever domestic stamp) + €0.50 surcharge that benefits children. See the sheet to the right.

The top line *Kinderpostzegels* means "children's stamps", and it is part of a foundation that benefits children under 18. At the bottom: *Lat ieder kind meedoen* means "let every child participate".

So I wanted to see if I could recreate the scene on the souvenir sheet with actual LEGO pieces & minifigs; the illustration on the souvenir sheet was based on computer generated images, not an actual photograph. The design was created by the LEGO Group (in Denmark). Denmark & Switzerland have also issued stamps commemorating LEGO.

To the right is the current progress of my "build". While I've had some of the basic LEGO pieces, most of the minifigs and their accessories (skateboards, hair & helmets, etc) I had to buy, some where available quickly through US-based warehouse, others came from the Netherlands and took about a month. The minifigs as you see them, don't actually exist as such (i.e.: heads, hair or helmet, torsos and legs are from various different actual minifigs). The sled on the lower left stamp doesn't actually seem to exist as such. I made one from various pieces, but they were all white instead of brown. The runners of the sled are actually hockey sticks! I'm still missing some pieces...

So for me, this is kind of marrying 2 of my hobbies: Philately & LEGO. For me LEGOs predates stamps, as I have photos of me playing with LEGOs when I was around 4 or 5, while I don't start collecting stamps until I was about 8. Both hobbies took a hiatus after high



school. Stamp collecting I took back up actively after I moving to Dallas and was 30; LEGOs I took back up about 15 years later, after my son was born (and old enough for LEGOs). So, if you have another hobby that intersects with your stamp collection, tell us about it!

## East Texas Philatelic Updates

By Ray Cartier

I did manage to get away on Tuesday (on January 2) to the Longview Stamp Club and will pen an article about that right now for the MCSC Newsletter.

The Longview Stamp Club is listed as a Texas Stamp Club, but it is nothing like the one in Arlington. I wrote and asked the contact if he would be interested in my coming to a future meeting with a presentation about space cover collecting. He simply told me to come by after the holidays, to their January meeting on January 2nd.

I thought that this would be a good way to test a new presentation. I still have 4 of the really old 8 page, wooden exhibit frames from the 1960's and painted them a tan color. These are set up like an inverted V on tables and are tied together at the top by two screws on each frame, which each have metal loops at the top for tying the front frames to the rear frames to keep them standing.

I made a total of four frames of the eight pages each held and kept about another 6 pages in my hands to just show around.

I'd been to a previous meeting here about 7 months ago, which had 8 members show up and thought that I'd take the small group around the frames and explain the significance of them, while interspersing with some of the individual pages in my hand, so as to get them to see about 3 of the first 4 frames in my exhibit. The plan was that if they enjoyed it, they could invite me back to talk at a future date on the final half of my exhibit.

When I came in, about 5 minutes to 7PM., only two people, a man and a woman, were present and talking to each other. Neither bothered to look at me, much less say anything to me as I came in with the first two frames and two albums in my arms. I went back to the car and got the 2nd of two armloads and while I was putting them down on a table another woman came in, smiled and nodded at me and joined the conversation of the other two.

Once I got my third armload in and was setting up the frames, a man came in and took a seat. Once I was finished, the first man says, "OK you can give your presentation". No opening; no introduction, no other business. So I gave it.

The only person that showed any interest was the fourth person, the man who came in last. He had worked with NASA for a few years and did have some interest in my talk which started with the 1931 first balloon flight into the stratosphere and ended with the culmination of the Gemini Manned Program. I did learn that the club has only 12 members.

After I finished, the first man and woman stood up and left without a word. The other woman was responsible for locking up the facility so she just sat there, waiting for me to leave.

The NASA man started talking to me and helped me tear down the exhibit and load the whole lot back into

my car. The woman locked the door behind us after we got it all out, and left. But I was able to discuss elements of my presentation with him, outside in the cold, for another 10 minutes or so.

Needless to say, I have no plans to ever drive the 80 mile round trip to Longview for a "Stamp Club Meeting", ever again. After visiting the Stamp Club in Shreveport, which is about a 100 mile round trip, I found just four men talking in a library. I have no reason to want to get to one of their meetings again either. You folks in Arlington have a wonderful, active club. Cherish it.

Ray E. Cartier

## Eulless Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

By Skip Ely

### Opening:

- Second Vice President - Stanley Christmas began the meeting.

### Attendance:

- 10 members participated on a cold January night.

### Officer Announcements:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was substituting for Janet Moyer.

### Committee Reports:

- EXPO - Stanley mentioned the Expo planning meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 10, at David's BBQ.
- Newsletter - Peter said he was almost done.
- Facebook - Rick said we had a 128 members on the club Facebook page.

### Show & Tell:

- Ken Wills showed an example of a USPS First Day of Issue write-up. He also had a cover with "free" postage. There also was a package of stamps on cover.
- Skip Ely had a mirror image stamp from Chile and some labels from the 1926 International Exhibit in New York. He also showed a box with several thousand bundled US Presidential definitives (from 1938).
- Bruce Davis showed an old Ogilvie Stamps Book, and a nice little case for stamps tools.
- Stanley Christmas had a number of items, including a cover from the Adams Airmail Pick-Up Service.
- Peter Elias showed how he bundles the previous year's newsletters into a nice binder soft cover book. He also showed some Argentine revenue documents and stamps. Finally, there were some items from today's mail that he briefly talked about.
- Rick Howell showed a couple of items of interest.

### Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Judy Christmas and Donna Howell.

### Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 P.M.

# CLASSIFIED BOURSE

## Announcements

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

## For Sale

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

## Wanted to Trade

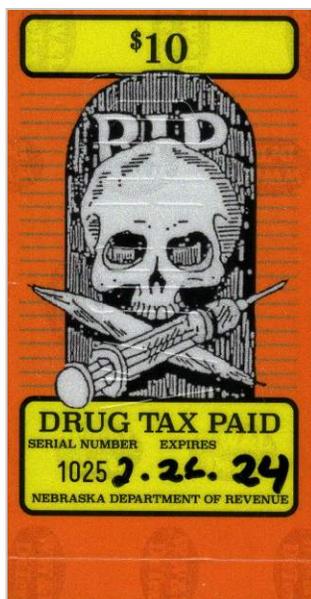
I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 9/16

## Wanted

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

## SRS Benefits

By Peter Elias



SRS is the “State Revenue Society”. As some of you may know, I collect a variety of “Revenue” stamps (sometimes also known as “tax” or “fiscal” stamps).

While USA “Federal” revenue stamps are listed in the Scott catalogs (regular & US Specialized), US “State” revenue stamps are NOT listed in Scott’s. But luckily, the SRS had published a fairly comprehensive “State Revenue catalog” back in 2013. It is massive 733-page hardbound catalog (now out of print). It is due to be issued in an updated edition, as many people have

found and additional items for the catalog. I believe a few people have made their own album pages for some of these stamps, but trying to even remotely complete a collection of State revenue would be

## For Sale

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

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

- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
- [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 \$ 6.95 each (Regular price is \$14.95 to \$19.95).. Contact [peter@pcelias.com](mailto:peter@pcelias.com) 7/23

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

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an impossible task! While many State revenues are not necessarily very expensive, they are somewhat difficult to find!

One of the advantages of being an SRS member, is that

1) They will have a “Free For All” every quarter. A recent freebie was the Colorado Liquor Revenue stamp shown above.

2) The SRS also has various revenue stamps for sale. Especially interesting are the various revenues for illegal drugs. Shown to the left is one I purchased back in December 2023. It is a newer version of a Nebraska “Drug Tax” stamp (self-adhesive), and yes, I had to pay \$10 for it. But I’d rather buy this from the SRS sales department (which buy these from the various States) than try to buy it directly from the State of Nebraska. Trying to buy this in person would make me uncomfortable (“well, I am stamp collector and want one for my collection” ... “sure son...”). Presently the SRS has them for CT, ID, IA, KS, LA, MA, MN, NE, NC, OK, SC, TN. The TX ones are sold out.

# Collin County History Museum

By Peter Elias



Once in a while, we go to downtown McKinney on Saturday's. For a lot of last year, the building was closed, but is now open (but only on Thursday to Saturday's, 10 AM to 4 PM). I finally got to check it out this former 1911 Federal Building late last year. It was also was the McKinney Post Office until 1959.

Despite it having been a post office, I saw relatively little postal or philatelic material. To the right is a

"sorting station" and above is a glass cabinet with a handful of old stamps and some postal stationery (top row). One was a plain 4¢ Lincoln PS card, that looked in horrible condition. So a few weeks later (after digging through various duplicate US stamps & postal items, I found a few things to bring them. While I don't have any Collin County-specific philatelic items, I did find some Dallas & Texas based FDC's and a couple of mint stamps relating to Texas and dropped it off after Christmas; hopefully these will be added to their display case!



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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## MEET & EAT for February 2024

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.

### ARLINGTON

February 7 **Moni's Pasta & Pizza**  
1730 W. Randol Mill Road, Arlington,  
Texas 76012 (817) 860-6664

### EULESS

February 21 **Chili's**, 2101 Airport Freeway,  
Bedford, TX 76021 (817) 545-0012

### GRANBURY

February 27 **Palio's Pizza Café**, 3710 E US Hwy 377,  
Granbury

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

**Don't Forget:  
EXPO Planning Mtg - February 10**

## Wanted to Buy

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

5/19

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

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

## For Sale

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

**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](mailto:stockdave44@yahoo.com).

Dave will send you a price, if booklet is available and payment instructions. 4/23