

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Flower Mound Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

3020 Corporate Ct, Ste 400 (Step Up Sports Medicine)

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

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



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April 2024

Been There, Done That

St. Vincent Churches

By Peter Elias



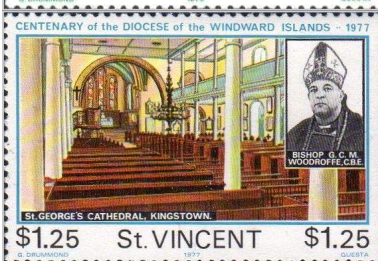
As I was driving down Texas State Highway 5 in Fairview (just south of McKinney, in Collin County) the other day, I saw a "Faith Church" building to my right. It

somehow reminded me a lot of the Anglican church in Georgetown, St. Vincent shown above (Scott #476, issued in 1976).

I'm not a religious expert, so I turned to Wikipedia for a brief introduction to the topic of Anglicanism: It is a Western Christian tradition which was developed from the Church of England. Those that adhere to Anglicanism are called "Anglicans" and are called "Episcopalians" in some countries. For

more information, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglicanism>.

That said, I have enjoyed visiting churches (along with castles & forts) on my travels, both for their interesting architecture and ornate interiors. Above is a photo I took of the Georgetown, St. Vincent Anglican Church when I was driving up the eastern coast of St. Vincent 31 years ago in April 1993. I don't remember whether I went into the church though (I have no pictures of that).



In 1976, St. Vincent issued another stamp showing an Anglican Church (Scott #478, below): [Cathedral Church of St. George](#), which is located in Kingstown. In 1977, Scott #498 shows the interior of St. George's Cathedral (below left).

On the stamp, the building seems to have a "bluish" hue to it. When I was there in 1993, it was definitely more of a cream/vanilla color; perhaps they repainted it (or the stamp



designer took some liberties..). See the photo on the above right.

Unlike the Georgetown Anglican Church, I have actually visited the Kingstown Anglican Church twice. The first time was also in 1993 and the 2nd time in 2007 during my visit to attend an annual meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. The 3 photos above are all from the 2nd trip.

The interior of St. George's Cathedral is very nice as you can see. The church, built in 1820 is now almost 200 years old according to the church website; it replaced an earlier Anglican church that was destroyed by a hurricane in 1780.

--> *continued on page 10* <--

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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:

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P.O. Box 820784
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or visit: <https://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>



"Editor At Work"
LEGO™ MOC by Marcos Elias

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

In last month's issue, my brief "space filler" article about "911" asked "where were you" on or about that day? I did get a rather lengthy response from a reader (not a member though) about that, but it would be a bit too long to publish here (and I wouldn't to "edit the article for brevity"...); if anyone wants to read the response, I can forward you the text from the writer. Looking at stamps like the USA "911" semi-postal, should hopefully make you reflect on your own life a bit regarding that day.

Errata

By Peter Elias

In the March 2024 issue, the "Thank You" notice on page 2 referred to "Philatelic Commemorative Society", it should have been the "Postal Commemorative Society". Thanks to Otto Bergman for pointing that out.

2001 Articles

By Peter Elias

A few years back, I decided to index all "philatelic" articles in *Stamping Around* (but not most that relate to club related matters, such as Meeting Minutes, Officer Reports, and various other items such as requests for help at Picnics, Xmas parties, etc). I started the list with the 1986 issues of *Stamping Around* (prior to that, there were no newsletters for around 10 years, back to 1976/77, and prior to that, just a handful).

After entering last month's "philatelic" articles, we just surpassed the 2,000 mark! Here's to the next 1,000 articles!

Coming Attractions

2024

- MAR. 26** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Olympics Now & Then*, by Jim Case
- APR. 3** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: *Airmail Pick-up Service, part 2*, by Stan Christmas
- APR. 5 - 6** **TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse**
DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 US Hwy 75 @ Campbell Rd.
Friday 10 - 5, Saturday 9 - 4
- APR. 17** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- APR. 23** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *Airmail Pick-up Service, part 2*, by Stan Christmas
- MAY 1** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Auction
- MAY 15** **MCSC — FLOWER MOUND Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- MAY 28** **MCSC — LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: *TBD*, by Gary McNamee
- JUN. 5** **MCSC — ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: *Cinderellas*, by Ken Wills



Secretary's Report

By Janet Moyer

Applications Received:

Stuart Clark (#665)
Randy Blackburn (#667)
Kurt & Starla Long (#668 & #669)

New Members:

Tom Holder (#664)
(collects FDC, 1st Flight & Civil War covers)

Resignations:

Dennis Ludlow (#485)
Tom Montgomery (#655)
Martha Siegel (#635)
Marc (Mary Ann) Wrisley #427

Not Renewing for 2024:

12 members

Deceased:

Karen Cartier (#2)

Membership Summary – March 20, 2024

Membership as of February 25, 2024	103
Applications Rec'd (counts as member next month)	4
New Members	1
Not Renewing for 2024	(12)
Resignations	(4)
Deceased	(1)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of March 20, 2024	87

TV Philately: All Good Things

By Peter Elias

On March 1, we watched the movie "All Good Things" on Amazon Prime. It was originally released in 2010 and stars Ryan Gosling, Kirsten Dunst and Frank Langella as the main actors.

The movie title refers to the name of a health food store that the couple (Ryan & Kirsten) had in Vermont.

The movie is based on true events that started in 1970's New York City, where the son, Robert Durst (David Marks in the film), heir of a wealthy NY real estate tycoon (Douglas Durst) marries a college student, Kathleen McCormack (Katie McCarthy in the film), who then mysteriously disappears in 1982.

Despite a reward being offered for clues about the disappearance of the wife, the case went cold. A friend of the husband then wrote a novel that was about a murder similar to what happened in real life and was killed; a district attorney reopened the case of the missing wife shortly after receiving a copy of the unpublished novel. The screen shot below shows the envelope being received at the office of NY Senator Daniel Moynihan. Since this is now several weeks after I watched the movie, some of the details are less than clear; I really need to write these article on the same evening after watching a movie, while I still remember all the details..



More info about the movie at:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Good_Things_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Good_Things_(film))

According to the movie timeline, this envelope was mailed approximately in 2000, 18 years after the disappearance of the wife.

The 4x stamps shown are #2012 (see inset above), issued in 1982, featuring 3 of the famous Barrymore actors. A close-up of the stamps shows them to either have been cut off an envelope or reproduced. But, would 80¢ in 2000 have been sufficient to mail a thick & heavy envelope (containing pages of an unpublished novel)? Probably not.



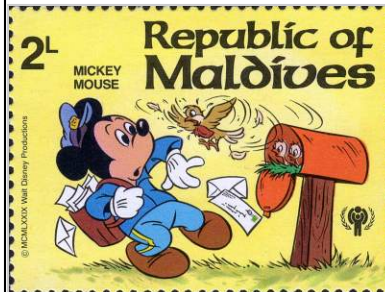
Other than the fact the wife disappeared in 1982 and the stamp was issued the same year, it doesn't make sense that the mailer would have used stamps issued 18 years prior. Is this a nod to the fact this is a movie prop and the stamp features actors?

The machine cancel is indistinct, but appears to show up twice on the stamps. Technically, anything this bulky probably can't pass through machine cancellation equipment and should have gotten a manual postmark.

As usual, a "fail" by the Props Department.

Topical of the Month: Mailboxes

By Peter Elias



In 1979, the Republic of the Maldives issued a series (Scott #826 to 835) of stamps a souvenir sheet relating to "Postal Scenes". The one shown, is #827, 2nd lowest value of the set.

So if you were collecting the topic of "Mailboxes on stamps", then you would probably want to

have the whole set. I only have this one stamp, since I found it loose in the freebie pile.

Exploring this topic, just how many stamps are there featuring mailboxes? First, you would probably want to make a choice as to "all" mailboxes, or just those are for "outgoing mail" or "incoming mail". In the case of the USA, the standard style of mailbox, similar to what is shown on the stamp, can function as both.

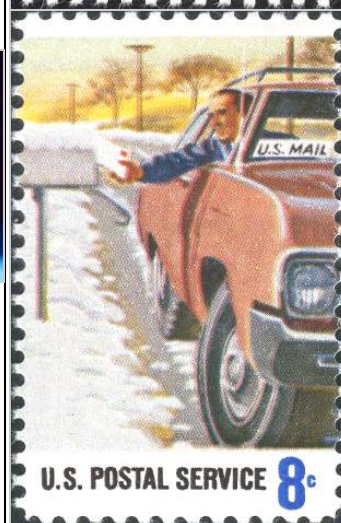
This could certainly also evolve to a "theme", whereby you might want to showcase the history of mail collection and delivery!

Here in the USA, 2 stamps come to mind immediately regarding this topic: USA Scott #1490 & #1498, a series of 10 stamps commemorating the US Postal Service.



USA #1490 (left) shows outgoing mail being retrieved from on the one (once ubiquitous) blue mail boxes that could be found everywhere. Due to theft of outgoing mail from these boxes, there are not that many of them out there anymore. Although there is a larger version of one of these in the drive-through at the Plano MPO (main post office), and promptly at 5 PM, someone wheels out a huge rolling bin and collects all envelopes (parcels have to be dropped off inside).

USA #1498 (below left), shows a rural route carrier delivering the mail to one of the typical mailboxes found here in the USA, and this can double for outgoing mail if you raise the little red flag on the side.



These 2 stamps are at the same 600 dpi resolution as the Maldives one at the top and all 3 stamps were printed via "Offset Litho". Looking at the "sharpness" of the Maldives stamp vs. the USA ones, I would say that ours look fairly "grainy" compared to the Maldives one...

Of course, there are undoubtedly other stamps from around the world that mailboxes and receptacles for in- or out-bound mail. Might end up being an interesting topic to explore!

Ready, Set, Collect!

MCSC Granbury Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2024

by Stan Christmas

Call-To-Order:

- Dave Stockbridge called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM pm February 27, 2024.

Officer Reports:

- Dave briefed the group on the articles about Texas stamp history in the Texas Philatelic Associations magazine "Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History".
- Dave pointed out the freebee's on the give-away table and told the group about the APS, MCSC and OPS sales books available for members to review and make purchases from.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas told the group how his wife Judy, won 10 of the 1993 Recalled "Legends of the West" sheets by contacting her family members and asking them to bid on the sheets. She eventually sold 7 of them for \$150 to \$170. Stanley said he was looking through his Safe Deposit box Monday and came across the three that were left. He brought one to the meeting. Out of curiosity he checked on E-Bay to see what they were selling for...\$58 to \$68!
- Les Barton showed a plastic molded stamp of President Eisenhower from Bhutan.
- Rick Howell announced he had US and foreign mixture pick stamps available in one-pound bags for \$10.
- Gary McNamee briefed the group in the APS Stamp Chat feature that kicked off on the internet on January 26, 2024. The URL is: <https://stamps.org/news/c/news/cat/stamp-chat/post/aps>.
- Jim Myers:
 - Discussed the MCSC Flower Mound meeting that started up on February 21. The Euless location is now closed. Sixteen people attended the opening meeting.
 - He showed a 1947 stamp from Calgary, Canada with a box cancel.
 - He also showed a cover from Westinghouse Corp that was sent from Venezuela to Rochester, NY.
 - Jim also announced that the TSDA Bourse will be held on April 5 & 6 at the Doubletree Hotel, Bluebonnet Room, 1981 North Central Expressway (Hwy 75 & Campbell Rd), Richardson, TX 75080 (Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4).
- Bruce Davis:
 - Showed an envelope from Bermuda that was part of a new issue service he subscribes to.
 - He also showed envelopes from Faroe Islands, Portugal Switzerland, Luxemburg, Vatican City and Spain.

- Joe McFarland said he recently attended a Boy Scout Merit Badge Training Session at Tarleton State University in Stephenville. Over 800 people attended. He volunteered to review the Stamp Merit Badge and had two Scouts. They knew nothing about stamps so he helped them with their BSA Stamp Merit Badge workbooks.
- Dave Stockbridge showed an old commercial envelope that was sold with 200 foreign stamps inside for 25¢.

Announcements:

- Dave announced:
 - That the March program will be given by Jim Case titled "Olympics, Then and Now"
 - In April Stanley Christmas will give the "Adams Mail Pick-up Service, Part 2".
 - He also announced he still had 4 open dates left in 2024 and asked for volunteers.

Break:

- Dave announced a 10-minute break. Madeleine Myers brought home-made brownies. Soda's and water was also available to the members.

Program:

- After the break, Rick Howell showed two "Exploring Stamps" videos produced by Graham Beck. The first one was titled "Singapore and the Straits Settlements" and the second "Operation Cornflakes." This covered the British attempt in 1945 to place propaganda letters with bogus stamps into the German postal system.
 - You can find more "Exploring Stamps" videos at : https://duckduckgo.com/?q=youtube+exploring+stamps&t=h_&iax=videos&a=videos

Door Prize Drawing:

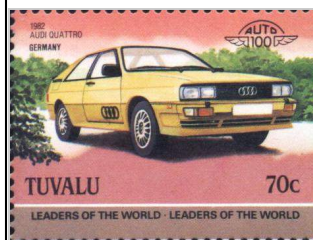
- The drawing for gift certificates was held and the winners were Bob Coleman, Stanley Christmas and Rick Howell.

Adjournment:

- Dave Stockbridge adjourned the meeting around 8:20 PM.

What Got You Started?

By Peter Elias



This is the stamp that started me on my collection (& exhibit) of "Audi on Stamps", along with a sub-collection of "My Life On Wheels" (i.e.: vehicles I've owned), which in turn started my collection of "Been There - Done That" stamps.

So why was this particular stamp the trigger for all of this? Back in 1986, the first new car I ever purchased was an Audi Coupe GT, which was the front-wheel drive version of the "Quattro" (4-wheel drive) that is on the stamp. My car was red. What stamp got you started on a particular collection?

TV Philately: Surrounded

By Peter Elias

Google map, that county is partially in Denver and goes west into the Rockies, and south to the Pike-San Isabel National Forrest.

Surrounded

(Movie Trailer Screenshot)



In the movie, the stamp itself is partially obscured, but now shows a lot more perforation holes! The real stamp was Perf. 12, the one on the document looks to be about 8 - 10 at best!

Did you notice anything about the document shown in the movie vs. the movie trailer? Look at the bottom left of each document. In the movie document, there appears to be a nicely engraved mountain scene (and an embossed notary stamp), while in the trailer version, that is absent (even though the trailer document appears a lot more tattered, there should still be something left of that printed scene and the embossed notary marking).

Did the Props Dept. goof up a bit, and had created more than one document? The placement of the stamp on the movie document also has it at much more of an angle. I can't vouch for whether that document looks authentic for the period (post-Civil War).

So what is "Surrounded" about? It is about a "Buffalo Soldier" who after the Civil War inherited a piece of land in Colorado from a family member and she was going there to start a new life. She traveled



In Mid-February, I watched the trailer for the movie "Surrounded" on Amazon Prime. The trailer was 2 minutes 44 seconds long and at the 1:59 mark, the film's main character was seen holding a tattered document that featured a USA revenue stamp.

Generally, items with stamps are usually not shown in a relatively short movie trailer, unless the document (or

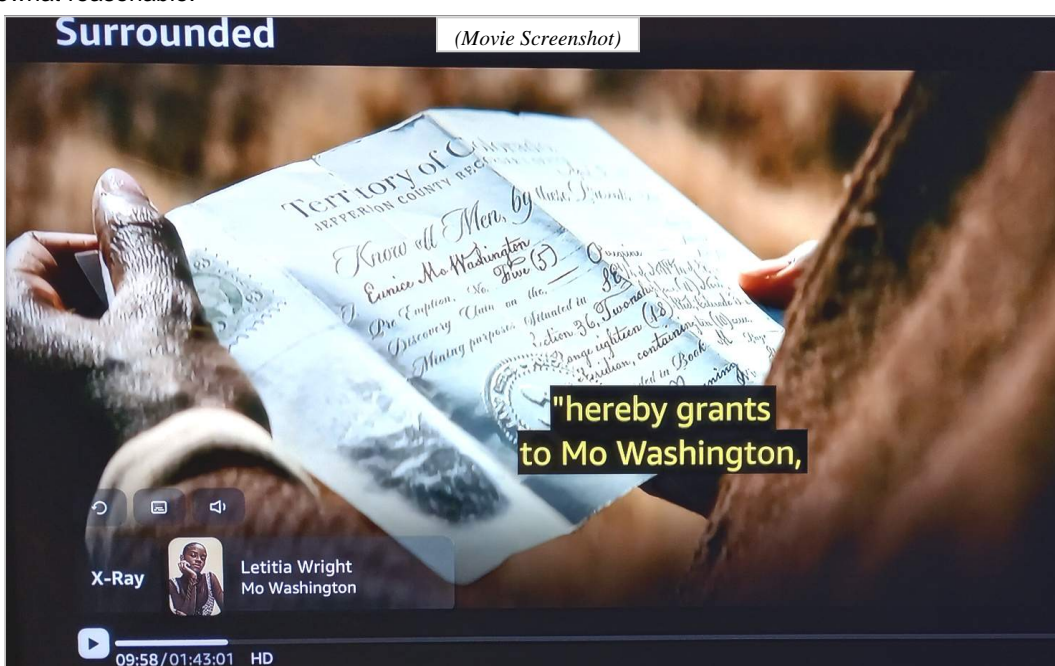
envelope) is very important to the plot in the movie!

Not much is readable in the image on this document at top, but the image of the stamp is somewhat reasonable.

Above is a cropped and rotated image of the stamp. It resembles a US revenue stamp, most likely Scott #R18, a 3c "Proprietary" revenue stamp (the other 3c revenue stamps, R16, R17 & R19 were inscribed "Foreign Exchange", "Playing Cards" and "Telegraph").

The stamp does appear to have rather crude perforation holes, with only 3 holes across the entire bottom of the stamp and just a few visible on the sides.

In the movie itself, the document appears early on, and this time, the details of the document, which appears to be a deed for a mining property, are much clearer. It states that it was for the Jefferson County in Colorado. Looking this up on a current





President's Message

By Ken Aldridge

There's an old saying, "Steal a man's wallet and he'll be poor for a week. Teach a man stamp collecting and he'll be poor for life."

The April meeting at Arlington will feature Stanley Christmas with the 2nd part of his air-mail history program.

The May meeting is our semi-annual auction, so be sure to bring your auction items to the April meeting. Forms are available from most all members or on our Website.

Our June meeting will be a video presentation on "Cinderellas" put on by Ken Wills.

The July meeting is on July 3rd, the day before the 4th of July holiday. At this time, we plan to still hold a meeting on the 3rd. Program to be announced.

And the collecting goes on.....

Topical of the Month: Philately

By Peter Elias

If you are reading this newsletter, then you too can claim this as a "Been There - Done That" item (and hopefully continue doing it...):



This is United Nations #473-474 issued in 1986. There are of course various other stamps that commemorate stamp collecting, such as USA #2198-2202, also from 1986 (and a joint issue with Sweden #1585-1588). Two are shown here.



Two are shown here.

If you're looking for a new topic, how about collecting stamps that are about stamp collecting?



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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Paris: 3 out of 5

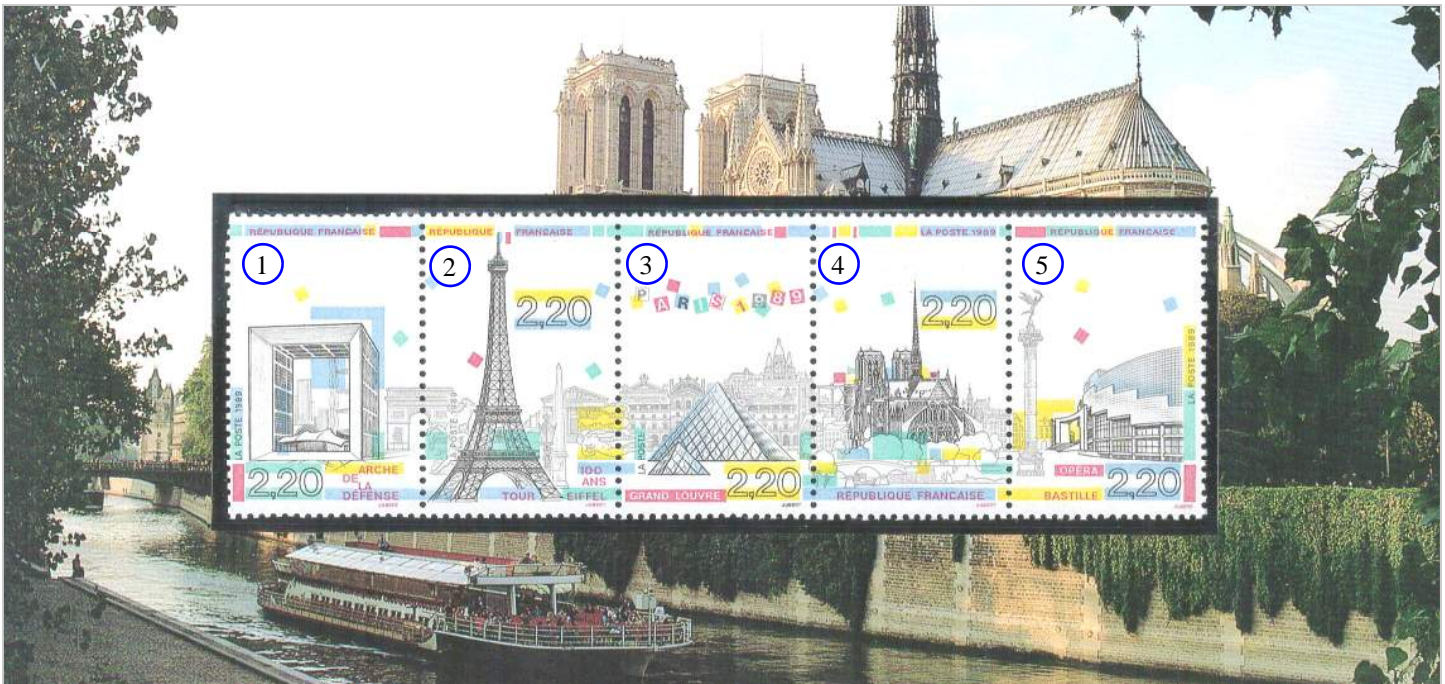
By Peter Elias

In 1989, France issued a strip of 5 stamps featuring "Historic Sites" (according to the Scott catalog), catalog #2151a (which is comprised of stamps #2147 to 2151). These stamps are mounted on a card in a black mount that is on top of a photo of

based on your interests! There is a lot of history there, so a brief 1-page article can not even begin to discuss it all (for that, there is "Wikipedia", try here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Paris_\(1946%E2%80%932000\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Paris_(1946%E2%80%932000))).

Back in 1991, 4 of us (family member, 2 old college buddies & myself) went off for a trip to Europe.

At one point, we ended up in the outskirts of Paris. Given that driving & parking in major European cities both expensive



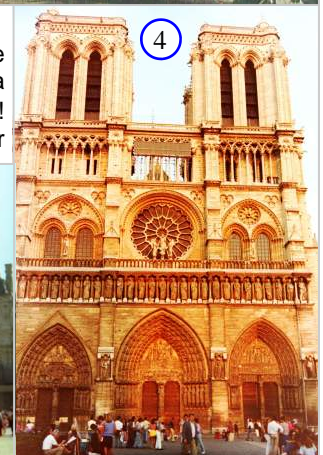
the Notre Dame Cathedral (which unfortunately had a major fire in 2019 and is presently being rebuilt). If you take the stamps & mount off the card, there's just a big white area in that spot ...

The stamp set shows (from left to right):

1. Arche de la Defense
2. Eiffel Tower
3. Grand Louvre
4. Notre Dame Cathedral
5. Bastille Monument & Opera de la Bastille

There is lots to do and see in Paris! If all you have is a couple of days in Paris, then you had better pick carefully

Photos by Peter Elias



Photos by Peter Elias



heard of the subjects on stamps #1 & #5 above, so we'll ignore those. We did however, make it to #2 (Eiffel Tower - what a view from the top), #3 (the Louvre - you really need more than 1 day to cram in seeing 4,000+ years of human history & art...) and #4 (Notre Dame Cathedral).

We also went to the Catacombs (and I just ordered the stamp for that, so that will be in a future Been-There article...).



MCSC Arlington Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024

By Janet Moyer

Call-To-Order:

- President Ken Aldridge called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Attendance:

- 24 members were present and we had two guests – Sam Phillippi and Howard Petschel - our speaker.

Officer Reports:

- Stanley Christmas reported the balance in the check-book (on behalf of Judy Christmas).
- A moment of silence was held for Karen Cartier.

Announcements:

- 2024 dues are due. Please get them to Janet Moyer.
- April's program will be part 2 of Stanley's presentation on Air Mail Pick-Up Program.
- May's meeting will be an auction. Please get your information to Skip if you have items to auction.
- Peter is working on the newsletter.
- We have two new members.
- Skip has plenty of Circuit books for sale including 3 boxes from the Oklahoma Philatelic Society (OPS).
- The Eules meetings are now held in Flower Mound and had 16 people present. We would like to keep that meeting format informal. The next meeting there will be March 20.
- The next EXPO meeting will be after Ralph returns.

Show & Tell:

- Ken shared an article on "Stage Coach Mary".
- Stan showed an error "Legends of the West" sheet.
- Bruce shared 4 things:
 - Uses of US stamps and envelopes from foreign countries- a zip code that is not real.
 - Questions about 2 stamps.
 - Funny cancellation.
 - Calendars from Bermuda to pass out.
- Peter had 3 things to show and tell :
 - US Federal Regulations regarding "fraudulent stamps" (US CFR Title 18 sections 501 & 502).
 - Some stamps that are not tacky enough to stick
 - Foreign revenue stamps on documents & receipts.

Door Prizes:

- Three gift certificates were awarded.

Program:

- Howard Petschel, a retired US Postal Inspector, spoke about counterfeit, fake & forged stamps and being a postal inspector. He donated two sets of his books to the club and/or members.

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

Flower Mound Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2024

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 16 members attended our second meeting in Flower Mound.

Call-To-Order:

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

Officer Announcements:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.
- Secretary - Skip Ely was substituting for Janet Moyer. He said we were dropping eleven members, leaving us at 86 paid members.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO - Stanley said we would likely have an Expo planning meeting in April once Ralph Poore returned from his trip.
- Newsletter - Peter said he was almost done.
- Facebook - Rick said we had about 140 members on the club Facebook page, with about 40 visitors.

Announcements:

- Stanley is proposing that we continue our informal format of just extended show & tells at Flower Mound, much like we did at Eules. No one present objected.

Show & Tell:

- Stanley Christmas mentioned he would be presenting Part II of his Adams Mail Pick Up program at Arlington soon. He also spoke briefly about the Legends of West error sheets, and how the value of them had decreased significantly over the years.
- Tom Turner talked a little about a POW cover he had obtained.
- Steve Carpenter passed around a both horizontal and vertical misprinted U.S. post card.
- Jim Myers showed a cover from Venezuela to New York with an insufficient address. Many auxiliary markings show how the post office attempted to deliver it anyway. Jim also showed a stamp album organized by postage value, rather than by catalog number or date issued.
- Skip Ely referenced an article about Egyptian stamps from a Royal collection, and showed an auction card from one of those stamps.
- Ken Wills offered some recent ICWSC journals to the membership. He also mentioned an article about a British postal scandal. He also passed around a chart showing UPS routing.
- Peter Elias - showed a revenue document from India he couldn't decipher (Mathew Ittoop offered to try and help). He also talked about the USPS regulations about counterfeit stamps. He also passed around a nice cover defaced by a pen cancel, an older Thanksgiving postcard and a book from Trinidad on Cricket (the sport) on stamps.

Where Am I:

- Stanley offered a "Where Am I" question, modeled after a similar feature at the Granbury club (courtesy of Gary McNamee). Stuart Clark correctly identified the country as Ecuador.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Dan Golden and Jim Myers.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:30 PM.

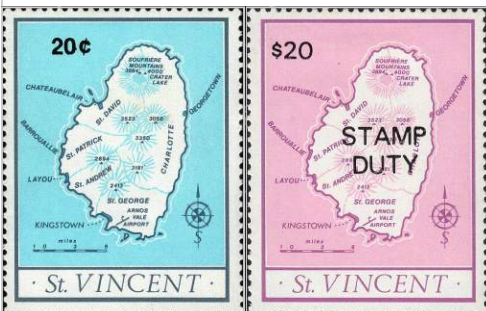
Maps

By Peter Elias

There, I admit it: I'm a *Cartophile!* Which as per the definition of the word, is "a person with an interest in maps". That's not to be confused with "Cartophilist", which is a person that collects cigarette cards (although, I do have a few 1930's cigarette cards in my collection & philatelic exhibit that relate to the History of Audi). But I digress...

That said, I do like maps, both those on stamps, and the larger more useful versions that can actually do duty as a map...

The ATA (American Topical Association) has a checklist of "Maps on Stamps"; it lists 7,801 stamps. That is quite a sizeable number of stamps. There is also an ATA Study Unit called the *CartoPhilatelic Society*, which you can find at <https://www.mapsonstamps.org/>.



One of my favorite collecting areas is the Island of St. Vincent in the Caribbean, and it has issued several stamps over the years that feature a map of the main island, such as #515 (20¢) and #AR3 (\$20) from the late 1970's. You can of course magnify the image but these 2 particular stamps only have some basic details.



Above are 2 of my older St. Vincent maps that I have; the left one is from 1764 and the right one is from 1794. Definitely much more detail on these than a stamp! I had to angle the camera, as these are in a hallway, and a direct flash would create a huge white spot, while the overhead light creates too much reflection from the glass.

St. Vincent also had a nice series of stamps, #548 to #567 (shown) featuring a map of the island and both old & current postmarks in use at the main post office and many of its village post offices (some of which I have been to myself).

Another map stamp which caught my eye, is not really a "map on a stamp" as such, but more of a "map on the reverse side of the stamp"! We are of course talking about Latvia #1 & #2, issued shortly after World War I (top of 2nd column). At the time, paper was scarce, but there seemed to an abundance of old German military maps



around, so they simply printed the stamp on the backside of the map and then gummed and perforated the sheet. Thus each individual stamp has a tiny piece of the map on its back!

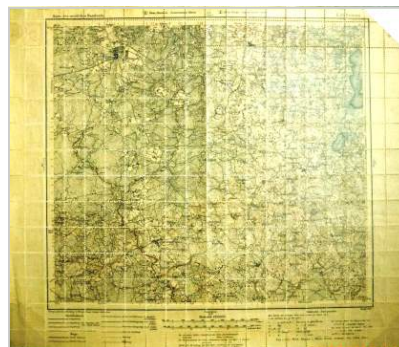
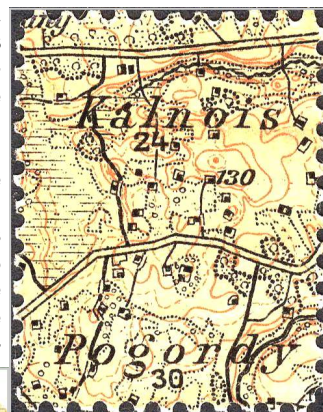
Here are the front and back of a Latvia #2 single:



The front of Latvia #2. On the right is the backside, magnified so you can see the detail!

Below: a reduced scan of the entire sheet (it's large!)

Each sheet has 228 stamps (12 rows of 19 stamps) and 78 different maps are known to have been used, thus 17,784 unique stamps! Sheets also exist in im-



perforate condition, which is Latvia #1. I have both a perforated (at left) and imperforate full sheet in my collection.

Where did I pick up my interest in maps? Probably sometime during my childhood in Switzerland and when I started collecting stamps, around the same time this stamp was issued, #493 in 1968 for "Territorial Planning", which shows a non-descript map.



Growing up in Switzerland, meant using maps when hiking. The fold-out map shown to the left is one of several in my collection,



this one from 1959. It covers the Montana area in southern (French-speaking) Switzerland. A close-up detail from that map is shown below.

We vacationed in Montana once in 1970 (while still living in Switzerland), and my parents sent me back there in 1973 to a Summer Camp when were already living in the USA.



I liked maps so much, I remember making this little 3D map below (of no particular place) back in the early 1970's!

So here's another way where philately is combined with another hobby!

Ready, Set, Collect!

St. Vincent churches (continued from page 1)



And to round off the article on St. Vincent churches, here is Scott #475, also issued in 1976. It depicts St. Mary's Roman Catholic church in Kingstown. When looking it up though, I found it under "Assumption Cathedral", "Catholic Cathedral of Kingstown" and also "Cathedral of our Lady of the Assumption", despite what it says at the bottom of the stamp...

While the church dates back to about 1823, it was erected in the stages and completed in the 1930's. It has an interesting architectural style that consists of elements from the Romanesque, Moorish, Byzantine, Venetian and Flemish, and contrasts strongly with the rest of the city.

There is a 4th stamp in this series, but it is in Georgetown, and I didn't get to stop to see it.

The pictures below I took during my 2007 trip (but was also there in 1993). On the bottom picture, the arrow on the sign points to both the Gift Shop and Confessional. Hmm... which one should you visit first?



Scenic Photos on this page: Peter Elias



Stamp Humorist

By Ken Wills

The following is by Edward Verrall Lucas (1868-1938), an English humorist:

A stamp's a tiny flimsy thing,
No thicker than a beetle's wing,
And yet 'twill roam the world for you,
Exactly where you tell it to.
This very moment that I write,
And every moment day and night,
A sturdy stamp battalion scours
The earth in search of friends of ours.
It's hard to think how people used
To live ere stamps were introduced . . .
—E. V. LUCAS.

Been There,
Done That

Blue Mountain Coffee

By Peter Elias

Below: Jamaica #167



I love coffee. Well, let me rephrase that: "good coffee" that is...

<-- And some of the best coffee that I know of, comes from right here, the "Blue Mountains" in Jamaica!

So what makes Blue Mountain coffee so good? It is a combination of altitude,

cover and forest cover. Of course the type of bean (Arabica) and subsequent roasting also makes a huge difference.

Pure Blue Mountain coffee is fairly expensive, currently about \$80 per pound! Better savor each sip! When I was in Kingston, Jamaica, back in 1999 on a business trip (wow, that was a 1/4 century ago!), I decided to buy the coffee where the locals shopped for it (NOT at the duty free shop in the airport..); it was much less expensive and certainly not \$80 back then.

Since the Blue Mountains National Park is located just outside Kingston, I drove towards it a bit; below is a view from



the car. While the mountains weren't "blue", the sky was! And at one point, I ended up here. -->

It was Newcastle JDF

Camp, a military base, so I decided to go back. Would have been interesting to have seen some coffee plantations though...

On a side-note: when I was in Trinidad on a business trip (also in 1999), and while I stayed in a nice hotel, they served "instant coffee". Eww... Recommendation: stick to Jamaica!



CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

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

For Sale

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

Arlington March Meeting - Speaker

By Peter Elias

Retired US Postal Inspector Howard Petschel gave a fascinating and informative presentation about his former job at the March 6 Arlington meeting.

Arlington March Meeting - Video

By Rick Howell (VP-MCSC)

To All MCSC Members,
On Wednesday, March 6 we had a meeting in Arlington with a presentation by Howard Petschel, a retired postal inspector and author. The presentation was quite interesting and I recorded a video of the presentation for all our members to enjoy at their leisure. You can find the program online at:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4jFuPNG7dg>

If you like the presentation, let me know and I will attempt to record more of them in the future. I think this would be of great help to any of our membership who for whatever reason are unable to physically attend.

For Sale

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

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

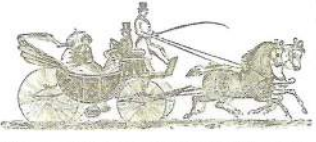
- [APC Conversions 2012-2014](#) (NY2016 Vermeil Award!)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi](#) (Great for any car lover!)
- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans](#) (1,700 items!!)
- [St. 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 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 12/14

Exp. 12/24

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832.518.6558

Topper Stamps & Postal History

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www.topperstamps.com



MEET & EAT for

April 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

April 3 El Chico, 1549 S Bowen Rd, Pantego,
76013 (817) 265-8335

FLOWER MOUND

April 17 Corner Bakery, 3640 Justin Rd Ste 190
Highland Village (972) 317-0378

GRANBURY

April 23 Palio's Pizza Café
3710 E. US 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 \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!) Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 4/24

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:
TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse - Apr. 5 & 6

[Letter to the Editor: 911 Article](#)

By Otto Bergman

On page 9 of the last Stamping Around (February 2024 issue), you asked readers where they were and what they were doing before & during 911.

At that time, Joanne & her former college roommate from STL met once a year at some state park in southern Indiana. They each left home early Monday morning, and met later that day for lunch. On Wednesday after lunch, they parted company for home.

In 2001, Joanne left Monday morning September 10. I was still working then, so we typically went to bed around 11 PM, and arose at 8 AM. While I was sleeping, the phone rang, and before answering, I saw the clock read 2 AM. Did something happen to Joanne? Upon answering, I discovered it to be an elderly customer who had some mental issues. She heard noises in her basement, so was afraid it was either a Boogiemán, or a major leak. She was 10 miles from me, so I decided to try to calm her down and solve the mystery by talking to her, which took 2 hours. I was all worked up dealing with her, so it was after 6 AM Tuesday, September 11 until I got back to sleep.

Just before 9 AM, another customer called me to say, "We've been attacked!" I arose and sat in front of our TV until about noon at which time everything was replayed and I was saturated, so I turned it off and had breakfast.

I had an appointment to meet an elderly lady customer in her home at 3 PM to discuss some plumbing issues. She happened to be a Jewish Auschwitz survivor with her number on her arm, who got my name from another one of my customers. She would have rather had a non German and non Christian as her plumber, but she soon came to the realization that the lady who recommended me to her was correct in calling me WGP (World's Greatest Plumber). Over all our years of knowing one another, we had never discussed our religious beliefs with one another.

I figured I needed a change of pace from the attack, so I kept my appointment. Each time I had ever entered her home, she had a large screen TV blaring away. That day, it was off, so I asked why. She said after her past experience in the camps, she could not stand to watch or listen to it. She asked if I had watched, so I said for 3 hours. She thought I was quite calm about it all. I told her that sooner or later, this earthly life will end for all of us. But she said that those people in the planes and those on the floors where the planes hit died instantly! I told her that I was prepared to die at any time, and knew for certain where I was going when I died, so I had peace of mind. She wondered how that was possible. I told her that when I was young (under 28 years of age), I was not sure, so I had some fear about dying. My consolation was that life expectancy was ~65, so my chances of dying then were slim. I told her, now that I'm past life expectancy, I'd be shaking in my boots, or be putting the thought of death out of my mind like many do if I was not sure.

The Bible (the Word of God to us) gives the Good News that Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday taking the sins of all upon Himself, and rose on Easter Sunday. Those who confess their sins, repent, turn around, and trust Him as their Savior from eternal damnation in hell can be certain that they will live forever with Him and the Saints in Heaven forever.

A couplet explains it all. Born once, die twice, born twice, die once.

An earthly example also explains it well. Imagine the earth's entire living population to be riding on a speeding train with 2 closed doors. Occasionally, the train stops, a number is called, and 1 door opens. The person with that number must exit. One door leads to hell, the other to heaven. Once the train stops and the number is called, it's too late for that person to make his decision.

After answering her question, which took about 30 minutes, I asked her as a weekly attendee at the local synagogue, what she believed would have happened to her had she been on one of those planes. She responded that she would have to ask the Rabbi. I told her that she sounded just like most Christians who say one must ask the Priest or Pastor. The choice and decision is between each of us and the true God with no intermediary involved.

You might have to add an addendum to include this reader's response to your request in Stamping Around as to what he was doing on 911.