

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)



#891-076252



CHAPTER MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

Volume 32, Number 1

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

January 2019

Postage Rates & Fees	2018	1/28/2019
DOMESTIC		
1st Class - 1 oz (retail / metered or PC postage)	0.50 / 0.47	0.55 / 0.50
" 2 oz	0.71 / 0.68	0.70 / 0.65
" 3 oz	0.92 / 0.89	0.85 / 0.80
" 3.5 oz (maximum)	1.13 / 1.10	1.00 / 0.95
non-machinable surcharge	+0.21	+0.15
1st Class Flats - 1 oz	1.00	1.00
" 2 oz	1.21	1.15
" 3 oz	1.42	1.30
" 4 oz	1.63	1.45
" 5 oz	1.84	1.60
" 13 oz (maximum)	3.52	2.80
(if rigid, non-rectangular, non-uniform, must be mailed as 1st Class Parcel)		
1st Class Package - up to 4 oz	3.50	3.66 - 4.06
" up to 8 oz	3.75	4.39 - 4.81
" up to 12 oz	5.50	5.19 - 5.66
" 13 oz (max for retail)	4.95	5.71 - 6.27
(Commercial base pricing is considerably less)		
Media Mail - 1 lb	2.66	2.75
" 2 lbs	3.17	3.27
" 3 lbs	3.61	3.79
Priority Mail - Flat-Rate /Legal/ Padded	6.70/7.00/7.25	7.35/7.65/8.00
" - up to 1 lb.	6.70 - 10.60	7.35 - 12.20
" - Small Flat-rate Box	7.20	7.90
" - Med. /Lrg Flat-rate Box	13.60 / 18.85	14.35 / 19.95
Postcard (Domestic)	0.35	0.35
Certificate of Mailing (3817 / 3877 3pc min)	1.40 / 0.40	1.45 / 0.41
Certified Mail	3.45	3.50
USPS Tracking		
1st Class Parcel / Priority / Media / Parcel	0.00	0.00
Insurance		
0 - \$50 / \$50.01 - \$100 / \$100.01 - \$200	2.10/2.70/3.40	2.20/2.80/3.50
Registered (Domestic)		
\$0 value	11.90	12.40
\$0.01 - \$ 100 / \$100.01 - \$500	12.60 / 14.55	12.95 / 14.95
INTERNATIONAL		
Letter & Postcard Airmail		
All Countries (1 oz) or Canada/Mex. (2 oz)	1.15	1.15
(variable pricing up to 3.5 oz)	see usps.com	see usps.com
Non-machinable surcharge	+0.21	+0.21
First Class Pkg Int'l (1 to 8 oz)	10.00 - 14.00	10.50 - 14.50
Priority Mail Int'l Flat Rate Env(4 lbs) /	29.95 - 32.95	32.20 - 35.65
" Canada & Mexico (flat rate legal,padded)	23.95	25.85
Priority Mail Int'l (1 pound)	38.75 - 40.95	41.80 - 43.10
Registered Mail		+16.00

2019 Postage Rate Changes

By Peter Elias

The USPS was recently granted approval for the new postage rates that they had requested. A chart showing the most commonly used rates is shown to the left.

First class rates have a whopping 10% increase, on the other hand, the "additional ounce" and "non-machinable surcharges" have a 28% decrease!

All other domestic postage rates seem to have various increases, which the exception of postcards which stay at 35¢.

International Mail has the base rate (and non-machinable surcharge) stay the same at \$1.15, but all other international rates are also seeing increases.

You can save 5¢ on regular first class mail if you are using metered mail or certain other forms of postage such as customized/personalized postage and internet postage (such as "Netstamps" from Stamps.com).

I've never really understood why regular 1st Class postage stops at 3.5 ounces, but it's probably because that is equivalent to 100 grams. Why that matters for domestic mail in the USA which is not on the metric system, I can't figure out...

The new rates will take effect on Sunday, January 27, 2019. The "price list" for postage rates is known as "Notice 123" and can be found at: <https://pe.usps.com/text/dmm300/notice123.htm>. At this time it shows the rates in effect as of January 21, 2018 and will be updated after the rate changes.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

Stamping Around is published monthly by the Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Material in this [newsletter](#) may be reproduced in other philatelic publications if the source is acknowledged. Opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club or its officers.

2019 - 2020 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Richard Hildebrand
First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
Second Vice-President – Gene Pfrezschner
Secretary – Skip Ely
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Peter Elias Alliene Franklin Ken Wills
Immediate Past President: Ray Cartier

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 (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

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

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

Coming Attractions

2019

- JAN. 2** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Installation of new officers
Ray Cartier - *True Astrophilatelic Stories, Part 2*
- JAN. 16** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: TBD
- JAN. 22** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Clean Out Your Closet Sale for members.
- FEB. 6** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- FEB. 20** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: TBD
- FEB. 26** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD
- MAR. 6** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- MAR. 15-16** **Dallas Spring Postcard & Paper Show**
Comfort Inn & Suites, 700 Central Expwy, Plano. Admission fee
- MAR. 20** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**

Editor's Forum

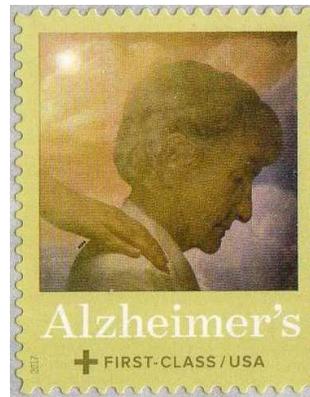
By Peter Elias

Another year comes to a close. It's not 2019 yet, as this newsletter should be in your hands approximately a week after the club Christmas party.

As a reminder, PLEASE pay your 2019 dues if you haven't already. At the Christmas party it was announced that only about 50% of members have paid their 2019 dues. For your convenience, there is a dues renewal form in this issue (the club does NOT mail out dues reminders); please submit your renewal form and check made out to "Mid-Cities Stamp Club" to the NEW club secretary, Skip Ely. The address for renewals is Skip's address shown at the bottom of the form. If you send the renewal to the club's PO Box in Arlington, your renewal might be delayed. It will also be delayed if you send it to my PO Box in Plano (that's only used as the return address for newsletters).

Alzheimer's Stamp

By Peter Elias



In a recent issue of Linn's it was reported that the Alzheimer's stamp is not selling well, only 4.8 million so far, out of 500 million printed!

Of course, it is a semi-postal stamp and perhaps many people don't want to pay "extra" for that. An earlier regular (non-semi-postal) version of this design was issued a few years ago with the same image, but facing left instead of right.

Perhaps one of the reasons for lack of sales is that US Post Office clerks really don't do a great job in pushing any sort of commemorative stamp; they'd rather just sell a booklet of flag stamps than showing customers the various commemorative and special stamps that are available.

Sadly for me, this stamp kind of hits home... like so many people, I have parents with this terrible disease, but I have bought a couple of sheets and do use them as postage!

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



New Members

Bernard Falk (#609)
Patrick Walters (#610)
Tom Galloway (611)

Deceased

Daniel Kennedy (#507)

Membership Summary – December 6, 2018

Membership as of November 8, 2018	99
New Members	3
Dropped for non-payment of dues	0
Resignations	0
Deceased	-1
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of December 6, 2018	101

Meeting Minutes for Granbury November 27, 2018

By William Atkinson

Host David Stockbridge dispensed with the usual order of business at the November 27 meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club. Instead, members and guests participated in an auction of more than one hundred lots from the collections of Jeff Jessop, about half of which were stamps and covers from the United States, the remainder a world-wide accumulation. Although a few lots found no buyers, the auction realized over \$815.00, with bids ranging from a few dollars on small lots to over \$25.00 on country collections.

In addition, Jim Case, Julie Rimmer, and Judy Christmas won gift certificates as door prizes.

Because of the Christmas holidays, the club will not meet in December and, weather permitting, will resume its regular schedule in January, 2019. Lake Granbury meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month, at 7 PM, in the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 West Emerald Bend Court, in Granbury.

SSK Rage?

By Peter Elias

While the photo below may not show it that well (unless blown up to full sheet size), the touch screen on one of the SSK machine at the Plano 75075 post office recently was completely shattered (a big hole in the middle and cracks running to all corners).

Granted, one has to press the screen harder than on the screen on the new machines than the old ones in order to get the selection to take place, but I think in this case, someone must have been very frustrated and didn't just "touch" the screen, but "punched" it!

These screens have a LCD/LED monitor, which is then apparently overlaid with a touch-sensitive screen and a plastic sheet on top of that.



The broken-off plastic pieces all fell to the bottom, between the plastic sheet and LCD screen. The old machines had glass screens and were cathode ray tube monitors.

EXPO Bird Contest Winner

By Ray Cartier

Calvin Rees of Oklahoma City was the winner in the MCSC Bird Photo competition at our 2018 EXPO this year. We had a total of 15 entries and the judge, from the Audubon Society, had to take a little time in making his decision. The winning photo has not been printed on a sheet of personalized postage stamps and the sheet has been mailed to Mr. Rees. There was no name assigned to the photo and as a result we called it "In Flight Meal". It is a marvelous feat to have been able to take this photo at the precise millisecond that the swallow passed along a snack to its youngster.

There were a few other great photos in the competition and our judge contemplated them all before selecting this one for the show's prize. Thanks to all of those who entered photographs. Hopefully a few more people who are interested in bird photography but are not collectors, will start thinking about joining the philatelic community.



Above: The photo that was submitted.



Above: The winning photo on "PhotoStamps"

CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

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

For Sale

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

Recalled Legends of the West (Scott 2870), pane of twenty inside original mailing envelope, Scott 2017 value \$125 with note that panes in original envelope (blue bordered) "sell for somewhat more." I will sell for \$80 plus any mailing costs. Ken Aldridge, KAldridge@aol.com 12/18

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

Wanting to trade stamps from Trucial States: Yemen, Aden or Equatorial Guiana. Brian Smith, donnasmithphoto@gmail.com 3/18

Wanted

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

For Sale

Do you collect **used USA Plate Number Coils**? Select what you want from my [extensive](#) inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog value. They are listed on my website at <http://web2.iadfw.net/wills/> and from there you will find links to other countries too. Also interested in trading. Ken Wills 9/11

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

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

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-member price is \$19.95 (+ \$3.45 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094 6/16

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

2000 used, VF, Great Britain Machin Head stamps, 150 varieties plus bonus of 100 Machin Heads from Scotland, Jersey, etc. all for \$40. First come, first served, Ken Aldridge, 817-528-7979, KAldridge@aol.com. 12/18

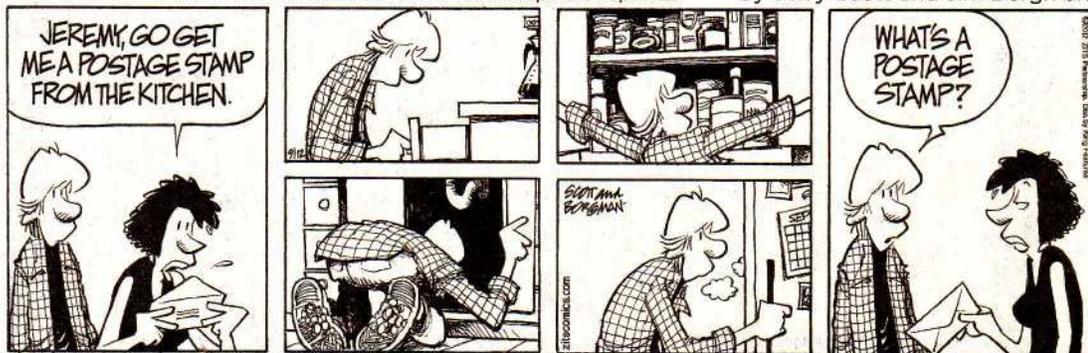
Great Britain binder only 13% of CV, mostly older M & U on Vario sheets, CV \$1400. For further info contact KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18

US#1 (U) for \$300 (CV \$375) & US C13-15 (U) for \$1,000 (CV\$1140). KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18

Comic Strip - Zits (What's A Postage Stamp?)

So here's another take on the "What's A Postage Stamp" question that I've seen in several other comic strips in the past. This time it is from one my favorite strips, "Zits" (about a teenage boy and his parents—something that I can identify with); it was published on September 12, 2012.

ZITS The artists are on vacation. This week's strips are reprints. By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



By Peter Elias

I'm sure that what is depicted rings true these days in many households that have kids. There is little interaction with mail in general (how many kids write letters these days?), since email & (and more importantly) texting are the primary means of communication. So they have no clue about a postage stamp is for!

From The President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

Although I am not officially the Mid Cities stamp Club president yet, I have been requested by our esteemed and award winning editor, Mr. Peter Elias, to write this column.

A few of you may be aware that our soon to be President emeritus, Ray Cartier, has been undergoing some medical procedures and is under the weather. Although in the short term he is experiencing major discomfort, the long term outlook is completely positive. I would like to express on behalf of the club and myself great thanks and gratitude for his service as president these last two years.

For those unfamiliar with our club's history, without Ray there would be no MCSC. Back in the dark ages when people used oil lamps to provide illumination for working on their stamp collection, well maybe not that far back, Ray along with his wife Karen, founded this club. In fact, Ray has been the Johnny Appleseed of Philately. As his work took him to various locations, he started several stamp clubs.

It has been our good fortune that he returned to Arlington and has been very active with our club. In recent years he has been club secretary, Expo exhibits chair and will become the Expo Awards chair.

What distinguishes Ray is his enthusiasm for Philately and the innovative ways he promotes our hobby. He has participated in the Waxahachie Chautauqua for several years to expose more people to stamp collecting. At our last Expo he came up with the idea for a bird picture contest and reached out to the Audubon Society to try to attract more people. Also this past fall he arranged with the Frontiers of Flight Museum to exhibit some of his unique space related material and expose philately to a wider public audience.

Again I wish to express my gratitude to Ray for his continued enthusiastic work for our club. I hope we can continue to innovate and expand on this foundation in the next two years.

*Been There,
Done That*

Y2K

By Peter Elias



If you were born on or before December 31, 1999, you lived through "Y2K" (= "Year 2000"). The big worry at the time was that all sorts of technology would fail as a result of computers not recognizing the switch from 1999 to 2000, and that some things would come to a screeching halt.

So why would 1999 vs. 2000 be a big deal for computers? Since most computing started well in the middle & later half of the 20th century, many "years" in early programming was expressed only with 2 digits (to save on precious storage space and not having to store the "19" part of a year back when things were measured in bytes and kilobytes, not megabytes and terabytes as now and storage was very expensive!).

As a result, a lot of software had to be rewritten to use 4-digits years, so that when the century roll over, that it was seen as 2000, not 1900, and that things could continue to function.

Where was I on January 1, 2000? In the San Antonio area with family and all the world continued to turn...

How To Use A Santa Souvenir Sheet for Postage

By Peter Elias

The 2018 Christmas stamps were a booklet pane of 4 Santa stamps, and also a 50¢ souvenir sheet based on one of those 4 design.

Unfortunately, they were only available by mail order.

But, since they are only a single stamp sheet, they are perfect for using as postage for Christmas cards.

The trick though is peeling them off the backing paper, which is easy if you want to use just the stamp part, not so easy if you're trying to remove the entire sheet from the backing paper. Fiddling with a corner for several minutes results in what you see below:



So, how does one remove the backing paper without damaging the sheet? Simple: A sharp Xacto knife! I simply "scored" the back of the sheet across one of the corners, then was able to "crack" the backing paper, allowing me to easily remove the short corner, followed by carefully peeling the remainder off and then placing the sheet on an envelope (if done right, the die-cut stamp will stay put inside the sheet!).



Philatelic Xmas Parties

By Peter Elias



AFDCS Christmas Party

The "Fred Sawyer" chapter of the American First Day Cover Society meets at the Wineburgh Philatelic Library and had their Christmas Party on December



MCSC Christmas Party

2019 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 2018 and skip to 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 newsletter)

\$22 Regular Adult (with mailed newsletters)

\$25 Sponsor Membership

\$35 Sponsor (with mailed newsletters)

\$6 Additional Adult (only 1 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:
Skip Ely, MCSC Secretary, 5512 Shady Meadow, N. Richland Hills, TX 76180-6616**

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Coppell, TX 75019
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Exp. 12/19

Arlington Meeting Minutes December 5, 2018

By Ben Termini

This was our annual Christmas party and the normal procedures were modified. There were approximately 25 members and guests present. A delicious dinner (organized by Judy Christmas) was enjoyed by all.

After dinner, our incoming president Rich Hildebrandt called the meeting to order for a brief period. Secretary Ben Termini reported the passing of Daniel Kennedy, and stated that our membership stood at exactly 100 good people. He reminded everyone that it was time to pay dues for the coming year. He also passed around a box of stamps which had been donated to the club, and members were invited to help themselves.

Then we played Shanghai Bingo, and everyone had a good time, but some members may not be on speaking terms for a while. The game was called by Stanley Christmas. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 PM.



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

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

For online newsletters see <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/mid-citiesstampclub/files>
or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm>



cunninghamstamps@aol.com

Exp. 12/19

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Exp. 12/19

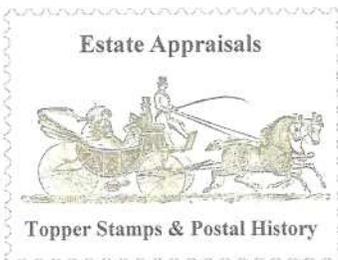
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Estate Appraisals

Exp. 12/19



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832.518.6558

jonathan@topperstamps.com
www.topperstamps.com

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Iola, Texas 77861-3834
(936) 394-2146 Fax (936) 394-2147
gwkeller@aol.com

George H. Watkins, Jr.





MEET & EAT for January & February 2019

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet and Eats" are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM 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 PM to 6:30PM with the new (Arlington) meeting start time now being at 7:00PM rather than 7:30PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club's broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

- Jan. 2 Campe Verde, 2918 W. Pioneer Pkwy
- Feb. 6 China Harbor Super Buffet, 3512 S. Cooper St.

EULESS

- Jan. 16 Cheddars, 1937 Airport Fwy, Bedford
- Feb. 20 Jayson's Deli, 2200 Airport Fwy, Bedford

GRANBURY

- Jan. 22 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E. Hwy 477
- Feb. 26 Grumps, 3503 E. Hwy 377

Wanted to Buy

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

For Sale

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

FREE 111-page or 26-page album of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$3.00 in Spanish ATM stamps! Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 6/17

China Stamp catalogue (2 volume set) 2010 by Shiu-Hon Chan. Paid 160.00 will sell for 80.00. Never been used. E-mail me at donnasmithphoto@gmail.com if interested. Brian Smith 12/18

Only 13% of CV for the following country collections, all on album pages. Austria (U), CV \$700; Czechoslovakia (U), CV \$600; Denmark (U), CV \$1,400; Germany (U) (Hingeless Album to 1945) CV \$7,200; Norway (U), CV \$600, Sweden (U), CV\$1,650. For further info contact KAldridge@aol.com, 817-528-7979 12/18

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

Don't Forget:
New Year's Resolutions:
Attend a Meeting!
Get Involved with EXPO 2019!