

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)



CHAPTER MEMBER

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August 2019

Been There, Done That

Rodelbahn

By Peter Elias



Rodelbahn (in German) means “toboggan run”. A toboggan is a sled; these come in various forms, such as the ones illustrated in the two Norwegian stamps to the left. Growing up in Switzerland, our sleds were similar to the one featured on the left stamp. The were

made of wood and had iron runners at the bottom. We brought them with us to the USA, but the use (abuse?) when I was a teenager made eventually them fall apart.



Sled - ding / toboggan - ing is generally a winter sport and requires snow! While we had that in Michigan (along with a few minor hills), we don't get much snow here in north Texas, and not too many hills either.



So it was great that during a trip back to Switzerland with my family in 2013, there was a “summer toboggan run” (“Sommerrodelbahn”) where we stayed in Davos, just a short funicular ride away. Davos is about 1 mile above sea level, and the toboggan run is at about 6,300 feet above sea level.

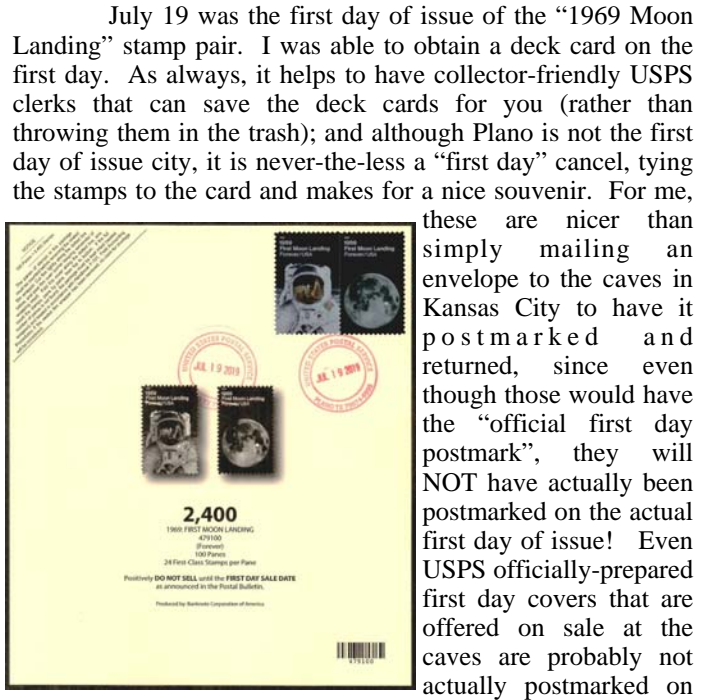
Since there is no snow, you slide down a half-pipe metal tube made of aluminum. You sit on the sled (which has wheels) and hold on to the stick (as

you see me doing in the photo above). Move the stick forward to go faster (let gravity do the job!) and pull the stick towards you to slow down!

At the beginning, the sled is clamped to a steel rope that pulls you up to the top, then it's a 500 meter (1,640 feet) ride to the bottom! It's rather exhilarating! There are no helmets provided, so it's at your risk. And it is definitely possible to fall off! My son (who was 10 at the time) and I enjoyed ourselves doing 5 of these runs; I was wearing my GoPro camera as the photo above shows and got some nice videos of the rides. If you're ever in Davos in the summer (one of the best places for hiking in Switzerland), be sure to check it out!

1969 Moon Landing Anniversary

By Peter Elias



the actual first day. This is the real deal!

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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

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2019 - 2020 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
Second Vice-President – Gene Pfretzschner
Secretary – Skip Ely
Treasurer – Judy Christmas

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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

JUL. 23 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Paul Witthoef – Stamp Collecting Merit Badge

AUG. 7 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD

AUG. 21 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

AUG. 23-24 **TSDA Stamp Show**
411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4. Free!

AUG. 27 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: Alliene Franklin: Program TBD

AUG. 31 **MCSC EXPO Meeting**
Angelo's in Pantego, 11 AM

SEP. 4 **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: Club Auction (postponed from May)

SEP. 18 **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions

SEP. 24 **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

EXPO 2019 is just around the corner! Have you signed up for volunteer work? Janet Moyer is passing around a sign-up sheet at meetings in Arlington & Euless. Our EXPO is a huge success BECAUSE of the work of all volunteers! "Ask not what the club can do for you, but what you can do for your club!" (that sort of paraphrases a similar statement from JFK).

How about entering an exhibit at EXPO 2019? Our theme this year is "Railroading". As a special award for the "1-page" and "4-page" mini-exhibits, the club is offering a "best of" (i.e.: \$) award for mini-exhibits that relate to the theme! If railroads, railroading, or even being "railroaded" speaks to you somehow, how about putting together at least a 1-page mini-exhibit?

Members in the News

Peter Elias' article "SSK Poster" was published on page 5 of the Summer 2019 issue of the *Meter Stamp Society Bulletin*.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club Facebook Page

Club Member Rick Howell has created a Facebook Group page for the club and will maintain it. The group page is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/759696427764886/>

You may want to "like" the group (i.e.: join it...) and this way you can also post comments, upload photos, start a discussion, etc.

Bob Friedman - RIP

By Tom Cunningham

We have just learned that Bob Friedman, long time TSDA stamp dealer passed away on July 12. He retired from active stamp dealing about 7-10+ years ago, but kept up his membership in our organization. He is survived by his wife Kathleen and his children Christa & Michael. I still have many postal stationery items in my personal collection that I bought at his dealer table over the years: "Friedman's Cover Corner". Funeral information is at <https://m.facebook.com/NobleCremations/posts/1247214685438225> and <https://www.noblecremations.com/obituaries/Robert-Friedman-4/#!/Obituary>

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



New Members

Charles J. Deur (#618)

Reinstatements

Ricky Peed (#511-D)

Membership Summary – July 15, 2019

Membership as of June 19, 2019	90
New Members	1
Dropped for non-payment of dues	0
Resignations	0
Deceased	0
Reinstatements	1
Membership as of July 15, 2019	92

TV Philately: AutoBiography (The Case of the Missing Movie Cars)

By Peter Elias

In the interesting (2019) TV series on the Motor Trend TV channel called “Auto Biography”, in an episode called “The Case of the Missing Movie Cars”, they talked about the Aston Martin DB5 cars that were used in various James Bond movies.



As part of illustrating information about the Aston Martin DB5, they showed a 73 pence stamp from Jersey. It is Scott #1169 (the high value of the series issue in 2005).

They got this one right! Of course, there’s not much to be gotten wrong in simply illustrating an actual stamp; unlike other movies and shows where a piece of “postal history” (i.e.: a depiction of an envelope with a stamp & postmark) is used, where invariably the postmark is incorrect, the address non-existent and/or the stamp being a fantasy or modification or “reprint” of an actual stamp).



News from the Internet

By Peter Elias

The spammers & scammers are getting craftier. ALWAYS be wary of any email that you receive, even if it comes from someone you know. For years now, I’ve been getting various emails from “Tim Bartshe”. As you know, Tim was one of our judges at EXPO in the past, and will be again this year. However, most emails from “Tim Bartshe”, aren’t really from him. When looking at these messages, they are from email addresses that are not Tim’s; so somewhere along the line, Tim’s AOL email account was compromised and someone copied all of his email address book entries into a new email address account somewhere else, where they simply called themselves “Tim Bartshe”! This can happen to anyone, and even if your email account did not get hacked!

Some stuff just doesn’t make sense: Would you buy a “automobile warranty renewal” from “DistantLimitAcid.bid”?

In an attempt to get you to click on a link in a message, the following have been seen constantly lately: “Get Your Sam’s Club Reward Before It Expires” (there’s no such thing), “Confirm Your Unsubscription” (only if you knowingly unsubscribed from a site), “Free Medicare Quotes”, etc... All designed to get you to click and compromise yourself! Resist the temptation!

Information Overload

By Rick Howell

There is an overwhelming amount of information available on the internet. Want a recipe for squirrel stew? Got it. Want to know how to build an outhouse? Got it. Build a nuclear weapon – yep, if you know where to look.

Now, philately has been a pretty popular hobby for a long time. John Bourke, an Irishman, is credited with being the first stamp collector. In 1774 he created an album of the existing embossed revenue stamps of the time ranging in value from a halfpenny to six pounds, as well as the hand stamped charge marks that were used with them. His actual collection is preserved at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. And yes, I found this information on the internet.

Many philatelic organizations are now sharing their newsletters and articles on whatever specialty you could possibly be interested in, on the internet. For instance, the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (AAPE) at www.aape.org has a great website promoting the creation and display of philatelic exhibits at stamp shows and expos. They put out a quarterly journal that is considered by many to be the last word on building quality award-winning exhibits. The back issues of their journal are available for download from their website and contain articles from philatelic heavyweights like John Hotchner and Janet Klug.

There are literally hundreds of stamp clubs out there and many of them feature back issues of their newsletters free for download. Interested in the stamps of Switzerland? Go to Google and type “Switzerland Philatelic”. Within the first three or four results you will find American Helvetia Philatelic Society and a link to their website at <http://swiss-stamps.org/>. Clicking on the link brings up the main page of their site, and then selecting “Research” drops down a selection list. Select “Publications” and it will bring up a page giving you the option of downloading copies of five different newsletters they have published between 1951 and 2014. For instance, The “Swiss Philatelist” contained 91 newsletter issues published between 1951 and 1986, all available online free for download. If you can’t find what you want to know about Swiss stamps in there, it probably doesn’t exist. And, like I said, there are hundreds of these sites out there with archives of newsletters available free.

Probably the best known organization, besides the Mid-Cities Stamp Club, with a great website out there is the American Philatelic Society at www.stamps.org. The American Philatelic Society members have access to the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL).

The APRL is currently building a tremendous digital archive of books, magazines, articles and newsletters, and has made available to members every issue of the “American Philatelist” magazine. Volume 1 Number 1 of the “American Philatelist” was published in January of 1887 and the “American Philatelist” is the oldest continuously published philatelic journal in the world. Again, a lot of information. APRL is also publishing digital copies of the American Philatelic Congress Books and currently has seventy issues available for download. Each of these books usually sells for around twenty bucks on eBay. Download a couple of these and you have paid for your APS membership.

I hope this article is making you at least a little bit aware of the vast expanse of information out there, and that the amount of information is growing exponentially. Get connected, get online, and get it together! See y’all at the meeting.

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Exp. 12/19

Comics - Pluggers (Using up Xmas stamps)

By Peter Elias

In the April 2, 2019 "Pluggers" comic strip, reference is made to using up Christmas stamps sometime in early spring. Personally, I have

PLUGGERS By Gary Brookins



so much postage floating around, that even if I do need Christmas stamps for mailing at Christmas time, I'll only buy enough to cover my needs, as I already have enough other spare postage as it is! How about you?

Personally, I have so much postage floating around, that even if I do need Christmas stamps for mailing at Christmas time, I'll only buy enough to cover my needs, as I already have enough other spare postage as it is! How about you?



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>



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Exp. 12/19

Been There, Done That

Memel

By Ken Wills

If you collect the stamps of Germany and all its global outreaches, you'll be familiar with names such as Mariana Islands, Marienwerder, Memel etc. I have long known that Danzig became Gdansk, but where the many other places fitted on the map remained a mystery. Purely by accident, I found myself this June in the city that used to be Memel!



Without doing the research that I should have done, I used to wonder why the stamps of Memel were overprinted French stamps yet were surcharged in German currency:

More mysterious were the later issues, still only overprints, but no longer on French stamps. These had the strange word *Klaipėda* as part of the overprint. What language did this word come from, and what did it mean? And what stamps lay under the overprint?

Well, the introduction to Memel in the Scott catalogue gives part of the answer. What it does not explain is that *Klaipėda* is simply the Lithuanian name for the same city. As Memel, the territory was actually an integral part of the Prussian Empire, important for the export of timber and amber, and as such became part of the unified country of Germany.

When the treaty of Versailles in 1919 disposed of various German holdings, Memel was assigned to France to manage. The Allied and Associated Powers decided that there should be a plebiscite to determine its future, and to prevent it from becoming totally independent the Lithuanian government declared it to be part of Lithuania. This move won the approval of the League of Nations, and from 1924 no more Memel stamps were issued. Under the occupation the stamps used were unissued official stamps of Lithuania, overprinted with their name for the territory, and still with German currency as most of the residents were actually German.

How did I happen to be there? My wife's father was born in Vilnius, Lithuania, and brought to New York at the



Been There, Done That

Apple Savings Bank

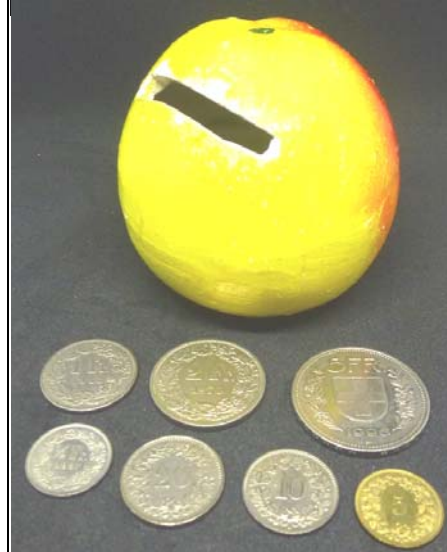
By Peter Elias

We're all familiar with the "piggy bank" for saving money, a popular tool to get kids involved in saving their spare change for a rainy day...

The Mexican "Savings" stamp shown to the left is not listed in Scott's, and features a "piggy bank". Many traditional piggy banks were made of earthenware, such as clay (seen to the left), that could easily be broken in order to get at the coins. But then you have a bunch of broken pieces. The point was to not make it too easy to get at the money ... Today there are sometimes "access plugs" at the bottom of the piggy bank to make it easier, or the materials used are made of plastics.

Why are they called "piggy" banks to begin with? They are not named after pigs, but after "pygg", which was a type of clay used in the Middle Ages!

Growing up, I had an "apple bank". The one shown to the left is the actual one I've had since my childhood in the 1960's! Shown below it are a couple of Swiss



coins that would have been deposited in the apple bank when I was a kid.

All coins that Switzerland currently uses are shown above, ranging from a copper 5 Rappen (centime) piece all the way up to a 5 Franc piece (which would be worth about \$5). Back in the 1960's, Switzerland also had copper 1 & 2 Rappen coins; the 2 Rappen coin was invalidated in 1978 and the 1 Rappen coin in 2007. Everything is now rounded to the nearest 5 Rappen.

So how did I get the coins back out without "breaking the bank"? Simple: I used the edge of a stamp tong to carefully align the edge of a coin to get it to fall out of the slot! Hence the various "white marks" that you see around the edge!

age of two. The "roots" urge was upon us, and we booked a tour of the Baltic States. The first stop on this tour after Vilnius was two nights in Klaipėda! We stayed at the National Hotel, the green and grey building pictured below, which goes back to the mid-19th. Century.

Arlington Meeting Minutes July 3, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- We had 21 members attending on the day before of the Fourth of July.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had 90 members, with one new application from a guest last month. That will bring our membership total to 91.
- Treasurer – Judy Christmas said she hadn't balanced the books recently, but that the club was solvent.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO – Ralph Poore said our next Expo meeting would be 11:00 AM on Saturday, August 31 (Labor Day week-end) at Angelo's in Pantego.
- Janet Moyer passed around the EXPO volunteer sign-up sheet.
- Rich Hildebrandt said that the awards dinner menu would be some sort of chicken.
- Sales – Skip Ely said sales were doing OK.

Announcements:

- Rich Hildebrandt said any additional auction lots for the September auction will be due by the next Arlington meeting (August 7).
- Stanley Christmas mentioned the club had mint stamps for sale at fifty percent of face value.

Show & Tell:

- Ralph Poore showed a Postcard Collectors Reference book he had recently found.
- Diana Davis showed a torn copy of Linn's Stamp News she had been disappointed to receive in the mail. She also had a Mother's Day card from her granddaughter addressed only to "Grandma", but got delivered anyway.
- Ray Cartier showed a cover he thought had a missing color stamp, but upon sending it off for certification was told it was just a sun faded example.

Program:

- Ray Cartier gave a brief summary of his exhibit on space covers summarizing the U.S. space program (and some Russian examples as well) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing this month.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Judy Christmas, Diana Davis, Kathryn Storey, and Ralph Poore. Mint stamp packets donated by Stanley Christmas (from the Bob Werry estate) were won by Ray Cartier, Howard Savage, Janet Moyer, Rob Hathaway, and Jim Williams.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:20 PM.

Eules Meeting Minutes July 17, 2019

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- There were 9 members present.

Officer Reports:

- Secretary – Skip Ely said we had a reinstatement to bring our membership total to 91.
- Treasurer – Judy Christmas said the treasury was in good shape due to the influx of dealer table fees.

Committee Reports:

- EXPO – Stanley Christmas mentioned the Expo/Board meeting scheduled for Saturday, August 31 at Angelo's in Pantego.
- Janet Moyer passed around the volunteer sheet for this year's EXPO and asked people to confirm their entry.
- Sales - Skip Ely said APS and Club sales have been good.
- Newsletter – Peter Elias said the newsletter was almost complete.

Announcements:

- Peter Elias mentioned the TSDA Bourse in Richardson on August 23-24.
- Stanley Christmas said he had club-donated mint postage on sale for 40% of face value. There was also a discussion about the duties of the club historian, as Diana Davis had indicated she would like to pass the responsibility on to someone else.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell showed a proposed exhibit for EXPO based on the newly issued Transcontinental Railroad stamps. He also showed some large posters he obtained from the "caves" based on the same stamps.
- Stanley Christmas passed around an envelope he received with the three new Transcontinental Railroad stamps.
- Ken Wills showed a technique for distinguishing between similar but slightly different sized stamps (he cut one along the edge of the vignette and used it as a guide to determine which one the others are). Ken also talked about certain USPS issues that Scott doesn't list if they are only available from the caves and are typically not used for postage. He showed some examples.
- Skip Ely passed out around a guide he made for the 1947-50 German Leipzig issues and asked for help in identifying what looks like a local overprint.
- Jack Dykhouse showed a French Indochina stamp that was once in the collection of King Faud and Farouk of Egypt (with certification).
- Peter Elias showed a deck card he had acquired for the recent Sesame street stamps. He also had a cover with a German internet stamp and regular stamp, which he said wasn't allowed but got through the mail stream anyway. This somehow led to a lengthy discussion about media mail.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were won by Judy Christmas, Ken Wills, and Janet Moyer. Skip Ely, Jack Dykhouse, and Peter Elias received mint corner blocks of U.S. stamps donated by Stanley Christmas.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned about 8:25 PM.

Swiss Chocolate

By Peter Elias

Every day, after coming home from elementary school, I got my “zVieri”. What is that you might ask? Well, in Switzerland, that refers to a small meal or snack at 4 PM (the “Vier” part of the word is from the German for “four”). And it probably won’t require a wild guess on your part as to what that could possibly have been, simply by looking at the illustrations in this column! “Zvieri” is also discussed here:

<https://www.ahumorousguidetoswitzerland.com/2016/07/zvieri-typical-swiss-meal-part-4.html>



So yes, my mom gave us a small bowl of sweets at 4 PM, and generally it was about a half of a standard bar of milk chocolate, sometimes the variety with hazelnuts! A standard bar of chocolate in Switzerland is 100 grams (= 1¾ ounces). If there were other sweets present, which I’m sure there were, I

don’t remember what they were...



Shown above is a typical row of chocolates available in a Swiss Supermarket, in this case, it was the “Migros” Supermarket in Davos; I took this picture in 2013. Migros primarily sells their own in-house brand of chocolates and sweets under the brand name “Frey” (which is not exported), unlike “National” brands such as Suchard, Lindt & Sprüngli, Nestle and Toblerone.

Switzerland has issued 2 stamps featuring chocolate recently; the top stamp was issued in 2001 and commemorates the 100th anniversary of Swiss Chocolate Manufacturers. The stamp even has a special “scratch ‘n sniff” feature, which releases the sweet smell of chocolate when rubbed!

The second chocolate-themed stamp shown above was issued in 2008 as part of a series of stamps called “Switzerland through the Eyes of Foreign Artists” and features chocolate

From The President’s Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

This will be a brief letter, as it is just too darn hot to lift a finger and type my message!

We have been very fortunate to have many people volunteer to put on programs in the past for the club meetings. Arlington is covered for the remainder of this calendar year. I don’t know about Granbury or Euless. We are all in need of programs for next year. If you think you are able and willing to present something, please contact Dave, Skip or myself and let’s discuss your ideas.

There will be an EXPO/BOD meeting on August 31. All club members are welcome to attend and have an input to the club operations. If you have something that you would like to bring up, please let me know and I will put it on the agenda for the BOD. Likewise, if you have some input related to our fast approaching EXPO, please let Ralph Poore know.

On the subject of EXPO, Janet Moyer has started to circulate the volunteer sheet at the Arlington and Euless meetings. If you do not normally attend them you are still very welcome to help. In fact, it would be very much appreciated if everyone could give just a few hours of assistance at the show. Just contact Janet and she will gladly put you down for some service time.

Enjoy your stamps and try to keep cool !

Triage Tool

By Ken Wills



The definitive stamps of Japan issued between 1914 and 1933, and also those with Mount Fuji (1922-1937) belong in two groups, “Old Die” and “New Die.” The readily distinguishing feature between them is their width. Old Die stamps are 19 mm wide, and the New Die stamps are 18.5 mm wide. Wrestling with a ruler to look for that half millimeter difference can be a real pain.

What I did is to take a New Die stamp and cut it in half to make a sorting tool. The way I use it is to lay its cut edge on the stamp to be identified, aligning the left edges of the border. If the right edges are then also perfectly aligned, we have a New Die stamp. This illustration shows how the right edge of an Old Die extends beyond the edge of my tool. That half millimeter suddenly shows up fast, and very clearly.

Work smarter, not harder!

pieces (no “scratch ‘n sniff” feature though...). One thing to remember is that despite the Chocolate industry is very big in Switzerland, the country does NOT grow any of its’ own cocoa beans! Switzerland primarily imports cocoa butter, paste & powder from various European cocoa bean processors in the Netherlands, Germany and France.

Last but not least, the average Swiss consumes 22.36 pounds of chocolate per year!

Meeting Minutes for Granbury June 25, 2019

By Eugene Atkinson

The Lake Granbury Branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club met at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 25, at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 West Emerald Bend Court.

Host David Stockbridge welcomed 10 members and introduced guest Mike Coggins of Stephenville. And he noted a table of philatelic publications and supplies that were free for the taking. He also announced trip to the Arlington club meeting and invited others to accompany him on July 3.

SHOW & TELL: In a regular feature of the meeting

- Gary McNamee circulated a copy of the World Wide Collectors society bulletin and auction items and encouraged members to consider joining that group.
- Ray Ashley recalled the Moon Landing commemoratives on the impending occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the event.
- Dave Stockbridge remarked on the attractive "Golden Spike" commemoratives just released from the USPS.

WHERE IN THE WORLD: It took a number of clues--first stamps in 1853 pictured Columbus, centennial of independence in 1910, etc.--for the group to identify Gary McNamee's chosen country of Chile.

Bob Coleman provided cookies and cold cuts for the **BREAK**, after which Stanley Christmas delivered the program on "How to Identify a Pre-Cancelled Stamp." Step-by-step he discussed the nature of precancels, the difference in bureau and "town and type" issues, and existing catalogs crucial to a collector. With an almost endless variety of the two major types, identification sometimes depending upon the most minute measurements, Stanley advised those who were contemplating such a collection to "specialize early."

CLOSING: With eight door prizes available, including gift certificates and matched sets of U. S. plate blocks, almost everyone present won something: Gary McNamee, Dave Stockbridge, Liz Ashley, Gene Atkinson, Alliene Franklin, Judy Christmas, Bob Coleman and Ray Ashley.

Finally, members were reminded to bring any submissions for the fall club auction to the next meeting in July--to allow time for preparation and listing.

*Been There,
Done That*

Sam Rayburn Library

By Pat & Bob Weidman



The building in the photo above is the Sam Rayburn Library in Bonham, Texas. The statue in front of the library is of Samuel Taliaferro Rayburn, who was born on January 6, 1882, and died on November 16, 1961.

On my many visits to the Veteran Affairs Hospital in Bonham, I would pass the library. The hospital is named the Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center. I know that Mr. Rayburn served in Congress as a representative of Texas, but I wasn't aware that he was from the Bonham area.

He entered Congress in 1913 at the beginning of Woodrow Wilson's presidency, as representative of the fourth district, serving his home county of Fannin, and served in office more than 27 terms, for nearly 49 years until his death during the John F. Kennedy presidency.

Mr. Rayburn has the distinction of serving as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives for seventeen years during three different stints. That is nearly twice as long as any of his predecessors.

In addition to the veterans hospital in Bonham, other tributes are the Rayburn House Office Building adjacent to the United States Capitol in Washington, DC, the nuclear ballistic missile submarine "USS Sam Rayburn" (which was launched in 1963), the Sam Rayburn Memorial Student Center at Texas A&M University-Commerce, a reservoir in East Texas, numerous middle and high schools and several highways (including the SRT - Sam Rayburn Tollway - that goes through the north Plano / Frisco area).

The stamp shown is United States Scott #1202 and was issued on September 16, 1962.



*Been There,
Done That*

Zirkus Knie

By Peter Elias



And here's a case of a "Been There - Done That" where I know I was there, but I can't prove it!

Growing up in Zürich, Switzerland in the 1960's, my

parents took us to see Zirkus Knie, Switzerland's national circus, which was founded in 1803 by the Knie family; it is based in Rapperswil (at the other end of Lake Zürich) and has about 200 employees (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circus_Knie).

I was probably around 8 - 10 years old when my parents took us to see the circus, and I do have some vague recollections in my memory, but there are no photos, ticket stubs or any other "proof".

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). jasmymers@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

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

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!)
- [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

Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album. Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, asking \$875 OBO. Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or dkgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

But Will It Sell for \$6 Million?

By Peter Elias

On June 22, I saw this eBay lot available for sale for a whopping \$6 Million! I know that the "non-inverted Jenny" souvenir

Shop by category Search for anything All Categories Search Advanced

eBay > Stamps > United States > Errors, Freaks, Oddities

US # 4806d (2013) \$2(x6) MNH - S98 w/PSE Cert- Un- INVERTED CENTER - Rare/Scarce

1 viewed per hour

\$6,000,000.00

Free Shipping

Get it by Sat, Jun 29 - Tue, Jul 9 from Orem, Utah

• 30 day returns - Buyer pays return shipping

"Mint Never Hinged/Ognh. "It is genuine unused, o. g., never hinge, pane of six." If you want to check out the authenticity of this stamp's grade y..."

Read full description See details

Sold by tasmanianman (4135)

Buy It Now

Add to cart

Watch

July 18 update: this is still available for \$6 million; but wait, the same seller has another one for only \$1 million (with less nice centering), or an individual stamp from the sheet for only \$580,000 !

sheets (of which 100 were printed and so far 32 reported to the USPS) are expensive; I remember seeing prices of around \$50,000 in the past, but \$6 Million? Oh, but wait: the seller is offering "free economy shipping" (that implies regular first class envelope). Are they kidding? For \$6 Million, I'd fly the item to the buyer in person and hand-deliver it!



MEET & EAT for August & September 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 Arlington new 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

August 7 Angelo’s, 2590 W Pioneer Pkwy, Pantego

September 4 Campo Verde, 2918 W Pioneer Pkwy
Dalworthington Gardens

EULESS

August 21 Jason’s Deli, 2200 Airport Fwy , Bedford

September 18 On the Border, 500 Airport Fwy, Bedford

GRANBURY

August 27 Best Burger Barn—Acton, 5675 N Gate Rd

September 24 Palio’s Pizza Café, 3710 E Hwy 377, #100

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

Don’t Forget:
TSDA Stamp Dealers - Aug. 23-24
EXPO / BOD meeting - Aug. 31

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

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

—> YOUR AD COULD BE HERE ! <—