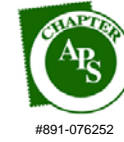


Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

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



Volume 33, Number 3

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

March 2020

*Been There,
Done That*

Royal Palace Nuku'alofa

By Pat & Bob Weidman



Pat took this picture of me standing the near the Royal Palace in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

On our South Pacific vacation in the fall of 2018, one of the places that we visited was the Kingdom of Tonga.

Tonga, known as the "Friendly Islands", is the only kingdom in Polynesia. It consists of around 150 islands and is located 1,950 miles from Australia. It is only 45 minutes by plane from Fiji, which where we started our vacation.

Tonga was discovered by Captain Cook back in 1773. It became a protectorate of Great Britain in 1900 and a remained that way until gaining independence in 1970.

The palace was located right down the coast from where we were staying. At the most it was a ten minute walk. Getting around Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga, was relatively easy, since everything was compact and close by. Whenever we went into the main part of town, we would walk, which took us right past the Royal Palace.



Pictured on the stamp at left, Scott #100, is the Royal Palace and Queen Salote Tupou III. She was Queen of Tonga when the stamp was issued on July 1, 1953; she passed away in 1965.

How Many Stamp Stores?

By Peter Elias

A recent article in Linn's said that there are 84 "brick & mortar" stamp stores in the USA. That sounds like a lot, but is it? I did a quick search of the Swiss "yellow pages" with a search for "philately" as a subject, and 50 stamp stores came up. You can view the map with info here: [Swiss Stamp store map](#).

Now let's do some math. The greater DFW metro area covers approx. 8,000 square miles. Switzerland is 16,000 square miles (and the population is somewhat similar at 7.5 million for DFW area and 8.5 million for Switzerland). So the math would be:

Stamp Stores #	Stores per X residents
DFW	0 stores
Switzerland	1 store per 171,400 residents
USA	1 store per 3,895,238 residents

I'd say that Switzerland wins that round! Given that Switzerland has 50 stamp stores and is twice the DFW size, then that would be equivalent to the DFW area having 25 stamp stores! And considering how small Switzerland is compared to the USA, the Swiss are lucky to have that many stores per resident!

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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

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First Vice-President – Ray Moyer
Second Vice-President – Gene Pfretzschner
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

2020

- MAR. 4** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- MAR. 13-14** **Greater Dallas Postcard Show**
Comfort Inn, 700 Central Pkwy East, Plano, Admission
- MAR. 13-14** **TSDA Stamp Dealer Bourse**
411 W. Arapaho Rd, Richardson (at US75), Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4
- MAR. 14** **Texas Precancel Club - Spring Meeting**
St. Mary's Catholic Church
603 Church Ave, College Station, TX 9 AM until ...
- MAR. 18** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- MAR. 24** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: TBD
- APR. 1** **MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting**
Program: TBD
- APR. 15** **MCSC—EULESS Meeting**
Program: Extended Show & Tell and philatelic discussions
- APR. 28** **MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting**
Program: semi-annual Club Auction

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

If you haven't yet joined the new "Mid-Cities Stamp Club" discussion group at "Groups.io", please feel free to do so. While Skip Ely will continue to email the newsletters, this discussion group site has ALL known issues of Stamping Around all the way back to 1973! To join, please respond to the invitation that I sent previously, or send an email to mid-citiesstampclub+subscribe@groups.io using the email address that we have on file for you (as I want to keep this group primarily for MCSC members).

Please make Skip Ely's job easier by paying your 2020 dues (the membership renewal form had been in the past 4 month's newsletters); as per the minute meetings from February 5th, about 20% of the members had not paid their dues yet.

A New Feature

By Rick Howell

Our online Facebook presence is proving to be quite an interesting feature. At our last Arlington meeting, Rob Hathaway gave a presentation entitled "Is It Possible to Collect the World?". While Rob was giving the presentation, his wife Debbie was live-streaming it on Facebook, so anyone could actually see the presentation from anywhere in the world. A copy of the presentation is still available for viewing online, so if you missed the meeting, check out our Facebook site and watch Rob's great presentation. We are currently looking at ways to expand upon this for upcoming meetings.

Welcome to the future!

[Editor note: The club's Facebook page is maintained by Rick Howell here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/759696427764886/>

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



New Members

Robert G. Thompson (#627)
Marty Conner (#628)

Dropped for non-payment of membership dues:

K. Foster (#551)	T. Gleim-Hanson (#608)
M. Glen-Walker (#593)	N. Grote (#548)
W. Lau (#601)	K. May (#619)
A. Pritchard (#616)	J. Rickman (#455)
C. Spurlock (#493)	K. Tracht (#491)
S. Washburne (#587)	J. Williams (#615)

Deceased

Stephen Robbins (#434)

Membership Summary – February 20, 2020

Membership as of January 15 2020	101
Applications Received	0
New Members	2
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(12)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(1)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of February 20, 2020	90

Been There,
Done That

Dahlia Hill

By Peter Elias



During a visit to my old stomping grounds in Midland, Michigan in early September 2001 (yup, just a few days before the infamous "911"...), I visited the "Dahlia Hill" (see photo below).

This place did not exist in the 1970's when I grew up there!



Dahlia Hill, September 2001, photo by Annie Elias

The Dahlia Hill was founded in 1998 and sits on about 1.4 acres of land at the intersection of Orchard Drive & West Main Street in Midland; it is owned by the Dahlia Hill Society of Midland. While membership doesn't require dues, members are expected to work 15 hours in the garden and attend biannual meetings, and do receive 10 tubers in the spring and are allowed to pick a limited number of stems during peak bloom times.

There are more than 3,000 Dahlias planted, comprising 250 varieties (one of which is shown below). Unlike other flower societies, Dahlia Hill does not grow the dahlias for competition or shows; spare tubers are sold after planting is completed. After the first frost in the fall, tubers are uprooted and placed into storage until the next spring.

The USA issued a set of 4 flower stamps in 1981 and Scott #1878 features a Dahlia (as shown at the top). While my wife Annie took photos of some of the Dahlia's on our 2nd trip there in 2015, I couldn't find one that matched the stamp.

More info about Dahlia Hill can be found at Wikipedia at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dahlia_Hill.



Dahlia Hill, August 2015, photo by Annie Elias

Been There,
Done That

Captain Cook Plaque

By Pat & Bob Weidman



In the picture shown above, is a plaque dedicated to the visit of Captain Cook to Tonga one of his expeditions to the Pacific Ocean. Captain James Cook was born on October 27, 1728 in Marten, England.

At an early age, he joined the English Navy and rose through the ranks to become one of the most famous English explorers of all time.

In the span of eleven years, he made three voyages to the Pacific, discovering and visiting Easter Island, the Marquesas Islands, the Tuamotu Islands, New Caledonia, Tonga, the New Hebrides Islands, New Caledonia, Tonga, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia and the Cook Islands, which are named after him. He also visited the west coast of what is now the United States and Alaska. On his last voyage in 1779, he was killed in Hawaii in a dispute with the native peoples.



On our 2010 vacation to Tonga, we took a tour of the main island and visited the sight where Captain Cook landed. This is the spot where the plaque is located.

The United States issued Scott #1732 on January 20, 1978 commemorating Captain Cook's visit to Alaska 200 years prior.

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/> Or simply search for "Mid-Cities Stamp Club" at Facebook.com

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.

As of February 22, there are 19 people listed as members of the Facebook group, most of which are also MCSC club members. This is a great way for the club to interact with the general public, who might not find us otherwise.

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Exp. 12/19

When Life Hands You A Lemon Stamp

By Peter Elias



So, when life hands you a lemon stamp you ...

Ok, now it's YOUR turn: complete the previous

sentence.

Responses can be emailed to me at editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

I just figured I'd try something different. No prizes or anything, I'm just be curious as to the ingenious responses that some of you might come up with, and no, don't use "make lemonade" ... Let's take that one off the table right from the start!



Be sure to visit the Club website on the Internet:

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

For online newsletters see

or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm> →



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Exp. 12/20

The Four Chaplains

By Ken Aldridge



In 1998, Congress designated February 3rd as "Four Chaplains Day" to honor four men of faith who gave their lives to save others on February 3, 1943. They were aboard the *Dorchester*, a U.S. troop transport ship, when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat shortly after midnight off the coast of Greenland. The ship sank within twenty minutes and of the 904 on board, only 230 survived, making it one of the worst losses of life of U.S. personnel of any American convoy during WW II.

The chaplains represented four different faiths. As the ship began sinking, they did whatever they could to calm and comfort the troops and direct them out of harm's way. When it became clear there were not enough life jackets for everyone, they gave theirs to men who needed them. As the ship went under, the chaplains were huddled together, praying and singing hymns. Their bodies were never recovered.

The chaplains were: Rev. George Fox (Methodist), Rabbi Alexander Goode (Jewish), Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformist), and Father John Washington (Catholic).

The chaplains were honored with a commemorative stamp, Scott #956 that was issued on May 28 1948, and was designed by Louis Schwimmer, the head of the Art Department of the New York branch of the U.S. Post Office Department (now called the USPS). This stamp is highly unusual, because until 2011, U.S. stamps were not normally issued in honor of someone other than a President of the United States until at least ten years after their death.

The stamp went through three revisions before the final design was chosen. None of the names of the chaplains were included on the stamp, nor were their faiths (although the faiths had been listed on one of the earlier designs): instead, the words on the stamp were "These Immortal Chaplains...Interfaith in Action." Another phrase included in an earlier design that was not part of the final stamp was "died to save men of all faiths." By the omission of their names, the stamp commemorated the event, rather than the individuals per se, thus obfuscating the ten-year rule in the same way as did later stamps honoring Neil Armstrong in 1969 and Buzz Aldrin in 1994.

The Chapel of the Four Chaplains was dedicated on February 3, 1951, by President Harry S. Truman to honor these chaplains of different faiths in the basement of Grace Baptist Church of Philadelphia. In his dedication speech, the President said, "This interfaith shrine... will stand through long generations to teach Americans that as men can die heroically as brothers so should they live together in mutual faith and goodwill."

The Chapel dedication included a reminder that the interfaith team represented by the Four Chaplains was unusual. Although the Chapel was dedicated as an All-Faiths Chapel, no Catholic priest took part in the dedica-

tion ceremony, because, as Msgr. Thomas McCarthy of the National Catholic Welfare Conference explained to *Time* magazine, "canon law forbids joint worship."

In addition to supporting work that exemplifies the idea of Interfaith in Action, recalling the story of the Four Chaplains, the Chapel presents awards to individuals whose work reflects interfaith goals. 1984 was the first time that the award went to a military chaplain team composed of a rabbi, priest, and minister, recalling in a special way the four chaplains themselves, when the Rabbi Louis Parris Hall of Heroes Gold Medallion was presented to Rabbi Arnold Resnicoff; Catholic Priest Fr. George Pucciarelli; and Protestant Minister Danny Wheeler, the three chaplains present at the scene of the 1983 Beirut barracks bombing. The story of these three United States Navy Chaplains was itself memorialized in a Presidential speech by President Ronald Reagan, on April 12, 1984.

In 1972, Grace Baptist Church moved to Blue Bell and sold the building to Temple University two years later. Temple University eventually decided to renovate the building as the Temple Performing Arts Center. February 2001, the Chapel of the Four Chaplains moved to the chapel at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

Stamped Paper

By Peter Elias

Occasionally one hears of "stamped paper". While that could conjure up a piece of paper with a stamp affixed, that is not quite what is meant by "stamped paper".

Stamped paper is a form of a revenue (tax, or fiscal) stamp that is printed (and many times also embossed) on a piece of paper that will serve as a document or receipt on which a tax or fee is due.



Shown above is a receipt from a hotel in Great Britain, presumably for lodging, from July 22, 1924. The "stamp" is an oval impressed duty stamp with a 2 pence value. This is similar to the checks that are often found in the USA from the late 1800's, where a 2 cent revenue stamp was imprinted on the check.

Collecting revenue stamps and documents is a fascinating look into fiscal history, just as stamps on covers are postal history. I found this item in a dollar cover box!

Arlington Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2020

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- We had 27 members brave the cold and threat of rain or snow to attend the meeting.

Officer Reports:

- **President** - Rich Hildebrandt called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 P.M. He said that he would accept auction lots for the club auction in May at the next two meetings. He also requested members consider offering to do a program during the coming year.
- **Secretary** - Skip Ely said we had 75 members who had renewed their membership for 2020.
- **Treasurer** - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

- **EXPO**
 - Ralph Poore said there would be another Expo planning meeting Saturday, February 29 at David's BBQ in Pantego. He asked for volunteers to help with varying tasks that were open.
 - Ray Cartier encouraged members who had never exhibited to try a one or four page exhibit.
 - Peter Elias said he would start contacting exhibit judges soon.
- **Sales** - Skip Ely said APS sales were good last month.
- **Newsletter** - Peter said he was working on it.

Announcements:

- Peter Elias mentioned the Dallas post card show to be held on March 13-14 in Plano and the TSDA bourse in Richardson (on the same date).
- Ray Moyer said we had received the 2020 Scott U.S. and Classic Specialized catalogs.

Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier showed a book of local posts related to Jules Verne that he and Karen had put together from their travels.
- Peter Elias passed around a print out of John Hotchner's list of "experts" for U.S. stamps. He also showed some deck cards from new U.S. issues, a stock page of Spanish ATM stamps, and some early German covers.
- Ken Aldridge talked about a stamp that cataloged in the hundreds of dollars MNH, and wondered what a mint stamp, but with no gum, was worth.

Program:

- Stanley Christmas presented a program on precancels. He described the types in general terms and showed a printout of a catalog that described them in more detail. He then focused on the precancels associated with his four and a half cent Presidential series study.

Gift Certificates:

- Were awarded to Ray Cartier, Rich Hildebrandt, Gene Pfretzschner and Rick Howell. Mint stamp packets were won by Bob Thompson, Ralph Poore and Jim Case.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:10 PM.

Eules Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- Eight members braved a cold, nasty rain to attend the meeting.

Officer Reports:

- **Secretary** - Skip Ely said with we had 86 paid members, with a few still likely to renew. Fourteen people will be dropped this month, with one deceased (see Secretaries Report in the newsletter).
- **Treasurer** - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount.

Committee Reports:

- **EXPO:**
 - Stanley Christmas reminded everyone of the EXPO meeting Saturday the 29th of February at David's BBQ.
 - Tom Cunningham said he needed to get together with Ralph Poore soon to decide on the new floor plan so he can talk to the dealers before the first of April. Stanley said we needed a new Awards chairperson since Ray Cartier agreed to chair the vacant Exhibits position.
 - Skip Ely said we had several nice donations recently for the Silent Auction.
- **Sales** - Skip Ely said we had another good month for APS sales book sales.
- **Newsletter** - Peter said he was almost ready to go to press.

Announcements:

- Stanley Christmas mentioned the club auctions in Arlington in May and Granbury in April. Auction lots need to be turned in a month or so in advance.
- Peter Elias mentioned the TSDA bourse in Richardson and the Dallas Postcard shows on March 13-14.

Show & Tell:

- Tom Cunningham showed a box of many packaged stamps from a late TSDA dealer that he was donating to the club. Each package contained approximately 2,000 worldwide stamps for the beginning collector.
- Evan Islam showed the progress being made on the new MCSC website and credited Jim Myers with a lot of hard work (we were impressed!).
- Peter Elias passed around a postmarked deck card he was able to get for the new Gwen Ifill issue. He also showed a print-out of an eBook that he had received about selling stamps that he was willing to loan to club members.

Door Prizes:

- Gift Certificates were awarded to Ray Moyer and Judy Christmas. Tom Turner, Skip Ely and Evan Islam received a package of mint USA stamps courtesy of Bob Perry (via Stanley Christmas).

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:35 PM.

Cars On Stamps

By Peter Elias

FOMO Strikes Again

By Rick Howell

The "Transportation" (as a general) topical collecting area has a variety of special "study groups" within the ATA (American Topical Association), such as:

- **Bicycle Stamps Club**
—> http://americantopicalassn.org/study_units/bicyclestampclub.html
- **Casey Jones Railroad Unit**
—> http://americantopicalassn.org/study_units/railroadunit.htm
- **Ships On Stamps Unit**
—> http://americantopicalassn.org/study_units/shipsonstampsunit.html

What is missing? —> **Cars!** Well...and also airplanes, trucks, buses and personal motorized vehicles such as motorcycles ...

So why is there no apparent interest in forming a study unit for people that like cars?

Most of us own one (or two ..)! My theory is that while there's lots of "car & truck guys & gals", many are a bit "biased" towards certain makes and/or models, such as Corvettes or Mustangs, or perhaps they're Ford, GM, Mopar or VW fans. And heaven forbid that they comingle ... Of course, that's not always the case ... some of us like ALL cars (even strange Europeans cars like Citroens [see stamp to left below] & Peugeots - don't knock 'em, I've had them as rentals in 2010 & 2013 and was very pleased with them). Sure, as you all know, I'm a bit biased towards the Audi & Volkswagen brands, but even I have owned other brands, such as Fiat, Dodge, Chrysler, Plymouth, Ford, Mercury and Volvo's (but never GM or Asian cars - although I've had plenty as rentals).

I suppose that when you're dealing with railroads and ships, that there's a bit less bias, since those aren't exactly "personal" as such, but people can definitely be "divided" when it comes to cars (and motorcycles, i.e.: Harley versus all the other motorcycle makes...).

I would love for there to be a "Cars On Stamps" study group; there is lots to collect and a lot of interesting items to write about ... But will it ever happen?



My 1973 Ford LTD in 1984

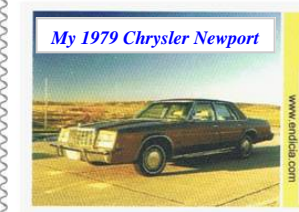


My 1972 Audi 100LS

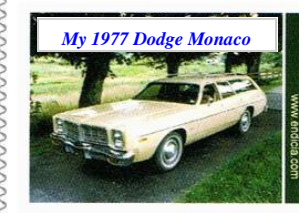


My Citroen C5 Rental in 2010

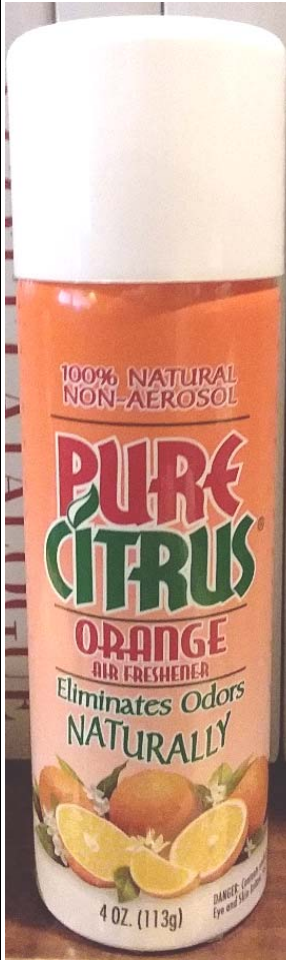
Citroen C5



My 1979 Chrysler Newport



My 1977 Dodge Monaco



I love to learn things. I feel that if I don't learn at least one thing every day, it has been a wasted day. I guess that's why I really enjoy our stamp club meetings. I always learn something by listening to our presenters or even by asking or answering questions. In fact, I enjoy it so much, I try to make it to all three of our monthly meetings whenever possible. In case you don't have access to the Millennial generation, FOMO means *fear of missing out*. (See, you can learn something too).

The Granbury meeting is a bit of a drive for me since I live in Bedford, but since I started working in Benbrook, heck, I'm halfway there already. I really enjoyed last month's Granbury meeting as I was able to find a couple of bargains at their "clean out your closet" sale. The members in Granbury always make it a great experience, so I highly advise you to try to attend.

The meetings in Granbury are run by Dave Stockbridge, who has the perfect disposition for the job. He is always cheerful and happy to welcome visitors, quickly making them feel like one of the group. At the February meeting, Dave gave a demonstration of how to remove modern self-adhesive stamps from paper and I thought the information

was so valuable, I asked Dave for permission to do an article recapping his demo. He encouraged me to do that, so prepare yourself to learn something else.

Dave informed us of a product available at Home Depot, as well as other places, that sell home cleaning supplies, called Pure Citrus Orange. It is a spray air freshener that contains citrus oil made from oranges, which, amazingly, has the ability to lift self-adhesives right off the paper. You might want to use this product outside or in the garage as the smell, although pleasant, can be overpowering. All you have to do is lay your envelope or package down on the ground or on a sheet of newspaper, and spray the stamps thoroughly soaking them with the product. After about 5 minutes, you can start lifting the stamps off the paper using a set of flat blade tongs by working your way around the stamp lifting it off the paper.

Now, this product will allow the stamp to be removed with the adhesive intact, so you have to have a way to mount your stamp for display or storage. Dave told us he uses label backing paper for this purpose. Whenever you use a sheet of labels, don't throw away the backing paper. Just peel off the selvage from the labels and you have a whole sheet of paper which is good for attaching self-adhesive stamps. Have you learned enough yet?

Here is a picture of the Pure Citrus Orange can. There are similar products on the market, but this one seems to work a lot better than most. It is available for about \$5.00 a can. See y'all at the next meeting, or on Facebook on the MCSC group page.

Granbury Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2020

By Gene Atkinson

At 7 PM on Tuesday, January 28, 11 members gathered at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, in Granbury, for the January meeting of the Lake Granbury Branch, Mid-Cities Stamp Club.

For **SHOW & TELL**:

- Fred Ekenstam discussed correspondence from Indian agent Jessie Stem to his wife, dated in the late 1850s from Fort Graham, Texas.
- Rick Howell recommended Herman Herst's book "Put a Stamp On It," along with other books from the iconic stamp dealer of Nassau Street.
- Gene Atkinson called for club suggestions for APS programs and Dave Stockbridge listed the months where programs still need to be scheduled. Club auctions will likely be set for May and November.

Gary McNamee asked **WHERE IN THE WORLD IS IT**—a country that first produced stamps in 1843 picturing numerals on grayish paper. Its currency, he added, was the Cruzeiro, and since 1970 had added the year to the country name. With still no response, he mentioned Emperor Dom Pedro, and Gene Atkinson then identified Brazil.

For **ANNOUNCEMENTS**:

- Rick Howell explained that in the 2020 EXPO, collector exhibits will be in a separate room, allowing more room for dealers and activities.
- Jim Case will assemble the club's "Mystery Box," that will be auctioned as part of EXPO.
- Dave Stockbridge called attention to a table of free periodicals from Linn's, APS, ASDA and others.

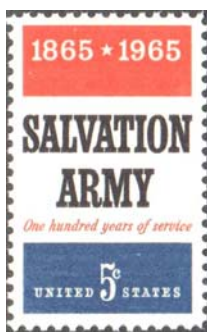
With weather unpredictable in January, the club replaces its formal **PROGRAM** every year with "Clean Out Your Closet," with members bringing stamps, albums, catalogs and supplies for sale or trade. In addition, this year Dave Stockbridge demonstrated the use of a product called Pure Citrus, which with a little patience and caution will safely remove self-adhesive stamps intact from paper.

CLOSING: In the door prize drawing, Julie Rimmer, Jim Case, and Gene Atkinson won club gift certificates. February's program will be an expanded version of SHOW & TELL.

*Been There,
Done That*

Salvation Army

By Peter Elias



Over the years we've donated a variety of items; many went to the CCCAC (Collin County Children's Advocacy Center). A couple of times I tried the Salvation Army, which had me deposit the items in a large container in the back lot. When I saw the deplorable condition of items (many broken due to people simply tossing stuff into the container, I went back to donating to the CCCAC). After all, what's the point in donating good condition items when they'll be broken as a result of donating them?

From The President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

For those one or two of you who can't wait to read my letter each month, let me get my apology out of the way early. My wife and I were out of the country last month when Peter was ready to publish the newsletter and I did not have time prior to leaving to write my letter. For the rest of you, sorry, but I am back.

A quick "State of the MCSC" note. We have lost several active members in the past year through their passing or moving away from the area.

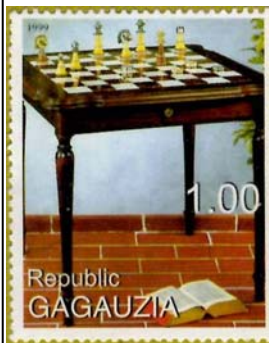
In particular, Aliene Franklin has moved and will be sorely missed. She spearheaded many activities involving the Granbury group and was very active with our EXPO. Along that line, there are several opportunities relating to EXPO for folks to get more involved. It is the one major event that the club stages each year and our primary fund raiser. If you are hesitant to jump in with both feet at least stick your toe in the water and volunteer to be someone's assistant. That would allow you to learn the ropes and become comfortable with a job that needs doing. If you are so inclined contact Ralph Poore or myself. There is an EXPO board meeting on Saturday, February 29 at David's BBQ at 11AM. All club members are invited to attend and provide their input.

Philatelic trivia question of the month: Who officially authorized the United States Post office and what was the date? You will be forced to read this column next month for the answer.

Happy stamping!

Republic of Gagauzia

By Peter Elias



As I was sorting through some stamps the other day, I came across several stamps with chess-related topics, all from "Republic Gagauzia", in various "denominations" and with a date of 1999. They appeared "mint", but didn't have any real gum on the back, just a glossy paper surface (with no sticking power when slightly wetted).

Never having heard of "Gagauzia", I had to do a Google search which brought me to a Wikipedia page at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gagauzia>. There it stated that Gagauzia is known as the "Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia", an autonomous region in southern Moldova. Gagauzia declared its' independence (on August 19, 1990) from the Soviet Union as it began to disintegrate, but was integrated into Moldova in 1994. And while Gagauzia has its own police force as part of its' autonomy, I couldn't find anything about it having its postal services! This is corroborated by the IMPS (International Moldovan Philatelic Society - https://www.moldovastamps.org/info_gagauzia.asp), which states that these are bogus stamp issues (i.e: Cinderellas)!

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

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: jstrubel-boy@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 dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comic Strip - Blondie (AutoPay)

By Peter Elias

This Blondie strip from January 18, 2020 (as published in the Dallas Morning News) has the mailman lamenting the fact that he doesn't get to see the "look" on Dagwood's face every time he hands him a stack of bills, all due to AutoPay, to which Dagwood replies that he loves AutoPay. Well, I love it too! I remember a few years back (ok, about 20 years ago...), that I mailed off my monthly check for my AT&T cellphone bill. It didn't make it. So the following month, I had double the bill plus a penalty! So I paid that next bill in full (via mailed check, which they received & cashed). A couple of weeks later, my first check somehow made it to AT&T and they cashed it, so now I had a credit the following month!

BLONDIE

By Dean Young



I switched to credit card billing at that point, which is better, since I also accumulate frequent flyer miles and not have to worry about where my check is. And I still wonder why it took 6 weeks for that check to go 20 miles from Plano to Dallas! So yeah, AutoPay! Sorry USPS ...



MEET & EAT for March & April, 2020

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 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 6:30 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

- March 4 Jay Jays Café, 1001 South Bowen Rd
Phone (817) 861-1060
- April 1 Angelo's Pizza, 2590 W. Pioneer Pkwy
Pantego, (817) 303-7242

EULESS

- March 18 Jason's Deli , 2200 Airport Freeway, Bedford
Phone (817)-354-1511
- April 15 On The Border, 2500 Airport Fwy, Bedford
Phone (817) 438-4560

GRANBURY

- March 24 Best Burger - Acton
- April 28 Palio's Pizza Café, 3710 E Hwy 377

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

Don't Forget:
Dallas Postcard Show - March 13-14
TSDA Show - March 13-14

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 FREE AD COULD BE HERE ← !
(for MCSC club members only)