

PERRYSCOPE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
GARFIELD-PERRY STAMP CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY each month at the DOUBLETREE HOTEL - 6200 Quarry Lane - INDEPENDENCE, at 7:00 PM

November 2023

Club seeks to fill role of historian/archivist

It's been said that an organization's history is just as important as the work it is carrying out today.

History is told through meeting minutes, photos, newsletters, correspondence and other important documents that detail how an organization got to its current place.

The key is ensuring those artifacts are preserved for the future.

GP officers are reaching out to invite one or more club members to become a kind of modern-day historian/archivist.

"Our history is worth preserving. We're inviting a few members to become our historians so that our past is not forgotten," President Howard Chapman

said.

The task requires organizing a not overwhelming amount of records and artifacts that are currently housed in a storage container outside the Best Western Hotel, where the annual March Party is held.

Part of the effort will be to determine what to keep and what not to keep. Some items may need to be preserved for nostalgic purposes. Meeting minutes can be digitized -- a task that won't be done by club members -- for archiving on the club's website.

Once the older material is organized and stored properly, adding new items can be done easily.

Sound interesting? To volunteer, send an email to Chapman at stampareme@aol.com.

From the president

Attending our Garfield-Perry Stamp Club meetings continues to be an exciting and educational experience. At the October meeting we learned



a lot about early U.S. local delivery covers from Kent Johnson. Kent handed out color pictures for the attendees to

follow along and add to their library.

In addition to the presentation, we had several interesting

stamps and covers passed around by members. This is always a great learning experience.

We are well on our way in planning for March Party 2024. It would be great to have many club members exhibit in our show. Please work on your exhibit and sign up early for frames.

Do you belong to other local or national stamp clubs? Are they looking for a place to hold a meeting in 2024? Why not suggest that they contact Rocco Caponi or Ken Nilsestuen to see about participating in March Party 2024? This would be a

great opportunity for your members to exhibit and show off their collecting interest.

Remember that our holiday dinner with spouses, significant others and/or friends is occurring on Dec. 4 at Casa D'Angelo Italian Ristorante in Macedonia. The buffet-style dinner is \$42 per person. Please send your check to Ken Nilsestuen, 1000 Kingswood Dr., Akron, Ohio, 44313-5921. Do not be shut out. This event was enjoyed by all last year and promises to be even better this year.

Philatelically Yours,

— Howard S. Chapman

Official stamps meant to bring transparency to government mailings

Note: This article is excerpted from the Oct. 13, 2023 stamp collecting column in The Chronicle-Telegram by Dennis Sadowski.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first of a trio of short-lived experiments by American postal officials to keep track of postage costs within U.S. government agencies.

The original plan of 1873 called for individual departments to use specially printed postage stamps on outgoing mail. These stamps, which became known as Official stamps, took the place of the "free frank" that allowed government officials to write "Free" on an envelope to send mail without charge.

Congress ended the free frank on March 3, 1873 and required government departments to use stamps on July 1.

Lester Lanphear III of San Diego, an expert in 19th-century Official stamp postal history, said some in Congress abused the free frank.

"There was a lot of shenanigans before then," he

said, "where let's say, to mail something was 10 cents and the congressman would charge you 5 cents. You saved some money. He (the Congressman) got some money. Everybody was happy except the government."

The requirement to use stamps on government mail caused the Continental Bank Note Co., which was awarded the stamp printing contract just months earlier, to quickly produce stamps for nine departments. Denominations range

from 1 cent to 90 cents, with additional stamps in \$2, \$5 and \$10 values for the State Department.

Overall, 92 different stamps were designed, engraved and printed in a short time period.

The stamps were printed in different colors: yellow for Agriculture, carmine for Executive, vermilion for Interior, purple for Justice, dark green for State (green and black for the dollar values), brown for Treasury, black for the Post Office, blue for Navy and rose for War. They featured busts of prominent Americans and were

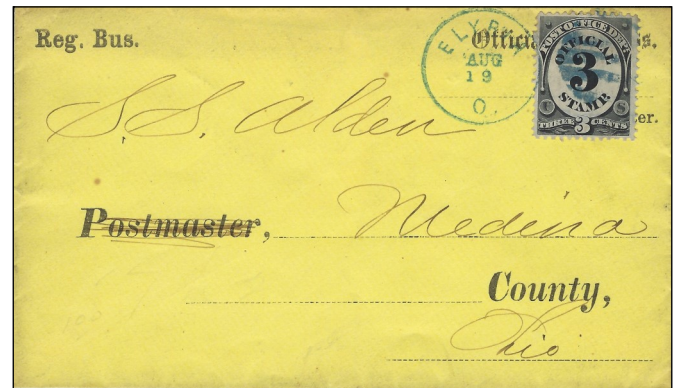


Figure 1

ounce letter rate at the time, are the most common on cover.

An example of usage of the 3-cent Post Office stamp (Figure 1) appears on a yellow envelope meant for "Post-Office Business" mailed from Elyria on Aug. 19, in the mid-1870s, to Medina County.

The use of Official stamps ended on July 5, 1884.

The Post Office revisited using Official stamps in two other periods. Official Postal Savings Mail was introduced in 1910. Six stamps were released to prepay postage on correspondence of the Post Office's Postal Savings Di-

vision. The practice ended Sept. 23, 1914.

The U.S. Postal Service introduced generic multicolor Official stamps on Jan. 12, 1985 for government agencies. Thirty-five stamps were issued in denominations up to \$5, with the last released on Feb. 24, 2009.

Stamps in the series are easier to find on cover such as one (Figure 2) from the Soil and Conservation Service in Elyria, postmarked Feb. 20, 1986 and sent to Columbus.

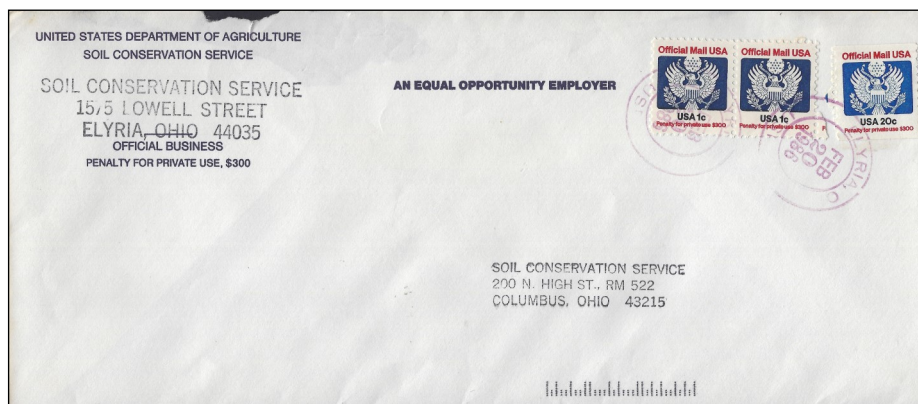


Figure 2

similar in design to the Large Bank Note series of the 1870s.

The Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue designates Official stamps with the letter O followed by a number.

Most stamps of can be found in used condition at modest prices.

Finding some of the stamps on cover is a different story. Lanphear said a census reveals that 33 values are known on five or fewer covers, nine on only one cover.

The 3-cent values, paying the ½-

So you've inherited a small collection. To sell or not?

Note: This is the second of two articles reviewing options when inheriting a stamp collection.

By Chris Duston

Now that we've discussed advice on reviewing a collection you may have inherited, it's time to think about dispersing it if that is the route you have chosen.

What is it worth and how do I sell it?

First, do you really want to sell that album with which your parent or grandparent spent their time in exchange for just a few dollars? They touched every stamp in that album; it is something that was important to them. If the collection has sentimental value, maybe it should be kept in the family, gifting it to a younger descendant.

The Scott or other catalogs provide an approximate value of individual stamps, but remember: condition, condition, and condition affect a stamp's value. That little glassine hinge holding the stamp in the album has already devalued it by more than 50%! Online auction sites such as eBay and Hip Stamp are good places to obtain estimates of values for both stamps and complete albums. Of course, some online sellers are hoping to find that sucker born yesterday and greatly markup items beyond their true value.

Beginner and intermediate albums can be sold online or to a dealer at stamp shows. Local shows can be found through online searches or listings in club newsletters as well as the website of the American Philatelic Society.

Stamp dealers have great integ-

riety and the difference between a \$10 and \$30 offer is driven more by the existence of a potential buyer than the base value of the album. Don't hesitate to visit several dealers to get several opinions. Those buying such albums often have signs offering free appraisals. Collections worth several hundred dollars can be sold



through auction houses, selected based upon their contents. Seek advice as to which to work with.

Those with more extensive collections, stamps from the 1800s or unused stamps from the first two years of a country's existence, should work with a specialist. You may also find guidance on how to move forward with specific items or in getting an appraisal. Visit a local stamp club, bringing samples from your collection, and you will receive in-person recommendations. Local dealers can be found through the American Philatelic Society, American Stamp Dealers Association, and The Philatelic Traders Society. Some dealers will travel to your home to see larger collections, but maybe at a cost. A formal appraisal could cost several hundred dollars and cost more

than the collection is worth. More expansive written guidance on disposing of a collection has been prepared by the American Helvetia Philatelic Society and can be found online at <http://bit.ly/3sXyoTk>.

If you have a box of stamps to get rid of, don't want to bother selling a beginner's album, or just want to get rid of the darn things to someone who cares, consider donating your holdings to the American Philatelic Society, a local stamp club or at a stamp show. Most clubs pile these stamps on a table set-aside for beginners to promote the hobby. My own club donated three book boxes of these stamps to veterans' groups along with albums. The collection's creator would probably be more pleased with this decision than having it sold for just a few dollars.

APS Estate Advice

If the individual who owned the collection was an APS member who passed away within the past year, the society may be able to connect the heirs with one or more of the 200 member volunteers who could view the collection and provide advice. You may contact the APS Estate Advisory Service, which can be found on the APS website or calling 814-933-3803, ext. 205. Please remember that this service is for heirs of APS members only!

With a little effort, you can make decisions about disposal of your collection that will make its creator proud, and you will be able to support your decisions to the family.

Upcoming shows

November 4: WOOPEX 2023, Wooster Stamp Club, Ida Sue School, 266 Oldman Rd., Wooster, Ohio

November 3-4: AAPEX 2023, Morris Lawrence Building; Washenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan

November 5-6: Pittpex 2023, South Fayette Fire Hall, 661 Milers Run, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania

November 17-19: CHICAGOPEX '23, Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca, Illinois

November 18: Black River Stamp Club 39th Show, St. Jude School, 590 Poplar St., Elyria, Ohio

December 8-9: Worthington 2023, Doubletree Hilton Worthington, 175 Hutchinson Ave., Columbus, Ohio

GP programs

The club meets the first Thursday of the month except July and August. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at Doubletree Hotel, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence; (216-447-1300).

Club members are invited to meet for dinner at 6 p.m. at the hotel restaurant.

Upcoming programs include:

November 2: Ray Beer, "The 1988 25c Flag Over Yosemite Coil -- A Short Story."

December 7: Stephen Grundfast, "Four Heroes, One Stamp."

January 4: To be announced.

February 1: March Party mailing.



Club Officers

Howard Chapman, president

Ray Beer, vice president

Clint Many, secretary

Ken Nilsestuen, treasurer

Rocco Caponi, Carol Thatcher, trustees

Matt Liebson, legal adviser

Perryscope is published by the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club.

Editor: Dennis Sadowski

Send news and information to
GPPerryscope@gmail.com.

The club is online at garfieldperry.org
and on Facebook.

Philately starts where the catalogue ends

Perryscope
Garfield-Perry Stamp Club
c/o Dennis Sadowski
3245 Nagel Rd.
Avon, OH 44011-2059

**Use this QR code
to connect with
the latest news
and information
about the
Garfield-Perry
Stamp Club**

