

# 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

December 2023

## Hummingbird stamps to debut at March Party

The 134th March Party will host a first day ceremony when a new set of four hummingbird stamps debuts at the show.

U.S. Postal Service officials reached out to GP in October with a plan to release the stamps on March 16, the second day of the March Party.

In a press release announcing the 2024 stamp program, the USPS described the stamps as being “available for mailers who enjoy adorning their cards and letters with beautiful stamps depicting nature scenes.”

Each stamp shows a female ruby-throated hummingbird hovering next to either a sunflower, spotted touch-me-not, cigar flower

or zinnia.

Titled “Garden Delights” the stamps will be issued in booklets of 20.

Greg Breeding, a USPS art director, designed the stamps using photographs by wildlife photographer Ben King.

Meanwhile planning for the show is moving forward. It’s set for March 15-17 at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 15471 Roy-alton Rd., Strongsville.

The prospectus for exhibitors can be downloaded from the club website, [www.garfieldperry.org](http://www.garfieldperry.org).

Greg Shoults urges those desiring to exhibit to file their application as early as possible so they don’t get locked out.

A set of four self-adhesive stamps showing female ruby-throated hummingbirds hovering near flowers will be released by the U.S. Postal Service on March 16 during the March Party. The stamp issue is titled “Garden Delights” and will be released in booklets of 20. (Image courtesy of U.S. Postal Service)



## Perryscope earns large vermeil

Perryscope received a large vermeil medal in the 2023 Star Route competition of the American Philatelic Society.



The competition allows local clubs to submit their newsletter and website for consideration by a panel of

judges. Perryscope was among 30 newsletters entered. The Grand Award went to GRSC News, published by the Greater Richmond Stamp Club in Virginia.

Judges congratulated GP for restarting the newsletter in 2023.

The reborn Perryscope debuted in February after a hiatus following the death of long-time editor Roger Rhoades.

Articles by GP members discussing their collecting specialties received kudos from judges.

“I wish other clubs would do more of that,” one judge wrote in a critique of the newsletter.

Judges also suggested Perryscope could be improved by adding “hot” links for readers to get additional information on the subjects of articles by members.

## From the president

The November meeting of our Garfield-Perry Stamp Club was a tremendous success. The room was full for the pre-meeting



dinner and all seats in the meeting room were filled as well by members and several guests.

Many interesting philatelic items were available for show-and-tell, followed by a wonderful presentation by Ray Beer on the U.S. 25-cent Flag over Yosemite coil stamp.

Let's continue our club success with a large crowd for our buffet-style holiday dinner at Casa D'Angelo in Macedonia at 6 p.m., December 4. Cost is \$42 per person. Send a check, payable to

Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, to Ken Nilsestuen, 1000 Kingswood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44313-5921.

A couple of weeks ago I learned that our Perryscope received a large vermeil award from the American Philatelic Society Star Route Awards for newsletters. Congratulations to our editor, Dennis Sadowski, and thanks to all who helped by writing for the Perryscope.

You may be interested to know that GP had previously purchased the naming rights to a room at the APS headquarters. We have had a design to finish the room professionally made by our member Robert Weygandt. We would like to complete this project in 2024. Please help with this project by making a donation to the American Philatelic Research Library, designated for the Garfield-Perry

Stamp Club room. It is a costly endeavor to have custom storage and display cabinets with granite tops made to furnish the room. This can be accomplished with your help. We should all feel proud of the APS/APRL headquarters and the room sponsored by GP.

November is the time to plan your exhibit for the 2024 March Party. Reserve your frames now. Do not be shut out.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year. There is a lot of turmoil in our world and in our country. Let us all do our part to bring this country together and learn to live with others in our world. Philately is a great place to start.

Philatelically yours,

*Howard S. Chapman*

## Elwyn "Doub" Doubleday Jr.

We've learned that Elwyn "Doub" Doubleday Jr. died Oct. 26. He was 79.



Details are limited. The news was reported on Frajola's Board for Philatelists.

Doub, doing business as Doubleday Postal

History (online as covercrazy2) with his wife of 17 years Anne, was a regular at the March Party for years.

The company website said Doub started collecting postal history as a boy after making the transition from stamps to covers. He began the business in the 1960s while in college.

## Postal rates set to climb — again

U.S. Postal Service officials have filed notice with the Postal Regulatory Commission to raise postage rates on Jan. 21.

Under the plan, which has been approved by USPS governors, the cost for first-class mail will rise to 68 cents, up from 66 cents.

The postal service said in a recent announcement that prices for other mailing services would rise about 2%. Other price changes include:

-- Letters, metered 1 ounce: 64

cents (up 1 cent)

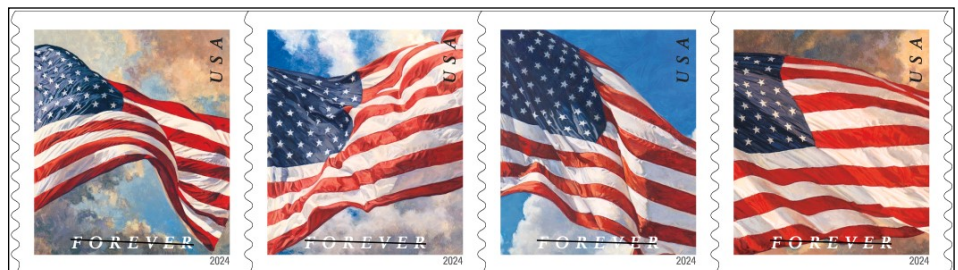
-- Domestic post cards: 53 cents (up 2 cents)

-- International postcards and letters: \$1.55 (up 5 cents)

No change is planned to the additional announce rate, which will remain at 24 cents.

The plan also seeks to raise fees for certified mail, post office box rentals, money orders and insurance for mailing an item.

As usual, the commission is expected to approve the new rates.



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

New American flag stamps will be released in early 2024 as postage rates rise.

# Papal coins were used to pay for Roman States stamps

By Rocco Caponi

The November 2023 issue of *The American Philatelist* featured articles on coin collecting and stamp collecting.

There is a natural bridge between the two hobbies. Both share the love of learning, history and the ability to collect by topic, theme or interest.

Being a stamp collector, have you ever wondered what kind of coins were actually used to pay for a stamp? Let us look at a set Roman States stamps issued 1852, Scott 1-11 (Figure 1).

Before Italy's unification in 1861, the peninsula was divided into kingdoms and city states. The region around Rome and central



Figure 1: The first stamps of the Roman States, illustrating the papal arms, were issued in 1852 (Scott 1-11).

verse (Figure 2). The currency used during the issuance of the stamps was the baiocco and scudo. The lower denominations, baiocchi, were made of copper; the higher one was minted in silver (Figure 3).

Unfortunately, I was unable to find the 1852 exchange rate of baiocco to the U.S. dollar.

Comparing coin sizes, the 1-baiocco coin is approximately the same size as a U.S. large cent. (Coin images are not shown to scale.)

The Kingdom of Italy unified in 1861. The currency changed in 1866 with the introduction of the pontifical lire struck in conformity



Figure 2: The obverse of mid-19th century coinage of the popes, left, shows the papal crest on all values of coins. They range in value, from second left, 20 baiocco to ½ baiocco. Coins not shown to scale.

Italy was known as the Papal State. The Scott catalogue calls them the Roman States.

The Papal State was ruled by the sitting pope. From 1846 until 1878 Pope Pius IX reigned. Pius IX was noted for the first Vatican Council and losing the Papal States to the

Kingdom of Italy in 1870. Like the kings of other European city states, he ruled until death. His successor was determined by a vote of the College of Cardinals.

Coinage of the popes consisted of the papal crest on the obverse and the denomination on the re-

verse with the standards of the Latin Monetary Union. Thus, we have a new series of decimal coinage requiring a new series of stamps be issued, also in centessimi denominations.

They will be explored in a future article.



Figure 3: High-denomination Papal State coins in denominations of 50 baiocchi and the scudo. Coins not shown to scale.

## Upcoming shows

**December 2:** Stamping with Santa Stamp and Post Card Show, New Hope Presbyterian Church, 5440 Washington Ave., Erie, Pennsylvania

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

**January 13-14:** MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show, Lawrence Park District Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd., Lawrence, Indiana

**February 16-17:** Ferndale Stamp Show, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights, Michigan

**February 17-18:** MSDA Fort Wayne Stamp Show, Franke Park Pavilion, 3411 Sherman Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana

## 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 Sanctuary Restaurant at the hotel.

Upcoming programs include:

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

**January 4:** Bill Ullom, topic to be announced.

**February 1:** March Party mailing.

**March 7:** To be announced.



## 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.

*Spread good cheer with stamps*

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

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