



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 2024

GP elections

It's time to vote for the slate of trustees to guide the Garfield-Perry Stamp club for the next two years.



A nominating committee of Ray Beer, Rocco Caponi and Ken Nilsestuen proposed eight candidates for the

seven trustee positions traditionally overseeing the club.

The nominees are:

- Ray Beer
- Rocco Caponi
- Howard Chapman
- Chris Duston
- Clint Many
- Ken Nilsestuen
- Carol Thatcher
- Bob Weygandt

The officers will be chosen from among the candidates.

Ballots were sent by email on Nov. 18. Instructions for returning ballots by mail or email were included in the mailing. The deadline for voting is Nov. 26.

The results will be announced at the club's Dec. 5 meeting.

March Party to host another stamp release



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Vibrant Leaves is the theme of five post card rate stamps that will be released during March Party 2025. The stamps feature colorful leaves on trees in the United States as seen in the fall: maple, oak, sassafras, aspen and sweetgum.

Another first day of issue ceremony is coming to March Party 2025.

Five post card rate stamps are set to be released during the GP's 135th annual show, which is set for March 14-16.

Details are still being worked out, but the ceremony is likely to take place on Friday, the show's opening day.

The U.S. Postal Service approached the club to host the release in mid-November and club officials quickly agreed to the request, said Rocco Caponi, show co-chairman.

"We are pleased that the U.S. Postal Service continues to recognize the March Party as one of the premier philatelic events in the country by allowing us to host an-

other first day ceremony. This is an opportunity to showcase the March Party and to introduce new stamps to new visitors," Caponia said.

Vibrant Leaves is the theme of the stamps designed by Antonio Alcalá, a USPS art director.

The designs include leaves commonly found on trees throughout the country as seen in the fall: maple, oak, sassafras, aspen and sweetgum.

The stamps were included in a Nov. 15 announcement from postal officials of some of the postal agency's 2025 stamp lineup.

The non-denominated stamps will be valued at 56 cents, the current post card rate. They will remain valid for mailing post cards into the future.

From the president

I hope that all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and are able to be with family and/or friends.



The holidays are approaching fast and our club will be holding its annual holiday dinner at D'Angelo's Italian

Ristorante in Twinsburg on Dec. 2. Details were recently emailed. Please plan to join the celebra-

tion. Send Ken Nilsestuen your check directly at 1000 Kingswood Dr., Akron, Ohio, 44313-5921. D'Angelo's is a different location this year.

More and more stamp clubs offer Zoom presentations. Garfield-Perry holds Zoom meetings in July and August. It may be nice to also offer a couple of Zoom programs at other times. If you have the ability to present a Zoom presentation, please let me know. We will choose a convenient day and time for you and offer our members the oppor-

tunity to watch and learn. Each of us has different collecting interests and we can enjoy learning from each other.

Please remember it's time to renew your club membership for 2025. Dues are \$15. Those who wish to receive the Perryscope newsletter via mail can pay \$25.

You can pay at the Dec. 5 meeting or by mail to Nilsestuen.

Remember to make time for your hobby to help relieve the stress at this time of year.

Philatelically yours,
Howard S. Chapman

A favorite philatelic Christmas souvenir

GP member Kurt Laubinger sent along a fun item for this month's Perryscope. He says it's his favorite from his Christmas collection.

The item is a block of nine stamps from the 1-cent Century of Progress souvenir sheet (Scott 730) issued Aug. 25, 1933 by the U.S. Post Office Department for the American Philatelic Society convention in Chicago that year.

The block stands out because of the souvenir overprint with a holiday greeting applied by stamp dealer J.L. Portwood.

The overprint in red ink includes a decorative frame with a classic snowy scene of a home. The text below reads: "Seasons Greetings/from/J.L. Portwood."

The creation is not dated, but Laubinger believes it is from 1933.

Well-known philatelic writer John Hotchner described the souvenir in the Dec. 28, 2015 issue of Linn's Stamp News.

Hotchner wondered how many of the souvenirs were sent and



how many might have been preserved. He asked readers to share information for a future column. We're unsure anyone responded.

So perhaps Laubinger has a

unique item! Certainly it's something of a conversation piece.

We're sharing this unusual item here just in time for the holiday season.

Paris street a mecca for collectors

As a follow up to his presentation at the November club meeting, this column by Dennis Sadowski, re-printed courtesy of The Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria, looks at a Paris street filled with stamp shops.

By Dennis Sadowski

Rue Drouot, in the heart of Paris, is the center of stamp collecting in France.

About a dozen stamp shops line the two-block long street in the city's 9th arrondissement. Nearby streets and passages -- shopping arcades -- are home to perhaps another 15 storefront stamp and post card dealers. More stamp shops are scattered throughout Paris.

The street has been a stamp collecting mecca for more than a century. It's easy to get to, being just a few steps from the Le Peletier Metro (subway) stop.

Roumet SA is one of the oldest shops on the street. Founded in 1896, four generations of the Roumet family have catered to stamp collectors looking for fine and difficult-to-find material. The firm sells solely through mail auctions today, but welcomes collectors to view its offerings in person.



Roumet SA, founded in 1896, is one of oldest stamp shops in Paris. The firm has occupied the same building on Rue Drouot since 1927.

During my Sept. 11 visit, clients were perusing binders at a large wooden table outfitted with lamps. Auction catalogues were stacked at one end, available to take home. Nearby, bookcases with protective sliding doors held dozens of binders of stamps and postal history.

Geraldine Roumet, 46, and her brother Gwemaël, 39, run the business. She said they learned the trade from their father, Alexander, who died from cancer in 2023.

"We've been in this boutique, in this same location, since 1927," Roumet said. "We were the first company to offer mail auctions."

Online sales and auctions are the primary modes of business on this well-known stamp street. Although the dealers have material available for walk-in customers, each one said they maintain active websites to attract collectors.

By and large, the dealer offerings focus on French and French colony material. Still, depending on the firm, inventory could include worldwide collections, individual stamps and covers including U.S. material.

Having just posted several sale items on his website for an upcoming auction, Julien Kalkstein, president of Caphila, took a few minutes to talk about his business, which his father opened in 1975.

"I kept the shop (after my father died) because it started 50 years ago. I don't want to let it go," he said. The material he handles, he said, "is my collection."

"Stamps are a good business if you know how to work the market. The market is changing all the



Gilles Pilatte, right, stands in front of some of the offerings in his stamp shop on Rue Drouot in Paris.

time and you have to stay on top. You have to have good prices and you have to have good stock," he said.

Unlike in the U.S., local stamp shows are not nearly as common as they once were, Kalkstein said, explaining that only large international-level stamp shows that feature dealers and exhibits from across Europe and elsewhere attract a large number of collectors.

Down the street, Gilles Pilatte, 59, finds that the shop he purchased from long-time dealer Pascal Scheller in 2007 is an invitation to explore the world. The business has existed since 1910.

"I like stamps," he told me, saying he started collecting at age 14. "Every morning you come to work, it's not work."

Pilatte publishes a catalogue of his global offerings twice a year.

It's not just stamps that attract visitors to Rue Drouot. Pilatte pointed to the art and antique dealers located nearby alongside cafes, restaurants and businesses offering other services.

"The whole street is popular," he said. "We have customers who are 30s and 40s. It's good for all of us."



Julien Kalkstein of Caphila

Upcoming events

Jan. 4-5: MSDA Indianapolis Stamp Show, Lawrence Park District Community Center, 5301 N. Franklin Rd., Lawrence, Indiana

Jan. 7: Lunch and Learn program: "Lorain County Postal History" by Dennis Sadowski, Lorain Public Library, 351 Sixth St., Lorain

Feb. 1: Mid-winter Stamp and Coin Show, Ashland Stamp and Coin Club, Mozelle Hall, Ashland County Fairgrounds, 2042 Claremont Ave., Ashland, Ohio

Feb. 8-9: MSDA Cincinnati Stamp Show, American Legion Post 530, 11100 Winton Rd., Greenhills, Ohio

Feb 21-22: Toledo Stamp Expo 101, Stamp Collectors Clu of Toledo, Graystone Banquet Hall and Conference Center, 29101 Hufford Rd., Perrysburg, 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 Sanctuary Restaurant at the hotel.

Upcoming programs are:

Dec. 5: Ray Beer, "Counterfeit Stamps 2024: A Year in Review."

Jan. 2: To be announced.

Feb. 6: March Party mailing.

March 6: March Party planning.



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 10 times a year 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 is the hobby that rests the nerves

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