



# PERRYSCOPE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
GARFIELD-PERRY STAMP CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY each month at the WYNDHAM INDEPENDENCE, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, at 7 p.m.

December 2025

## Colorful Sunflower stamp to debut at 136th March Party

For the third year in a row, the March Party will host a stamp release.

Postal officials have been in touch with show co-chair Rocco Caponi about their interest in having Ohio's largest stamp show host the debut of a "forever" rate sunflower stamp.

Details are still being worked out, but the ceremony is likely to occur on Saturday, March 14, Caponi said.

The definitive-size stamp is expected to be printed in convertible booklet panes of 20.

"Obviously, we are able to put together great program in collaboration with Jay Bigalke of Linn's Stamp News. We've had strong attendance and people seem to re-

ally like attending such a special event at our show," Caponi said.

Plans for the event will continue in the coming weeks.

The stamp initially will be valued at 78 cents, but will always be usable for first-class mail weighing up to 1 ounce.

The USPS will begin selling the stamps at the show immediately after the first-day ceremony.

The club has hosted numerous stamp releases throughout March Party history.

In 2025 five post-card rate stamps depicting brightly colored fall leaves were released in ceremony attended by nearly 100 people. A year earlier the show featured the release of four hummingbird stamps.



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

A colorful "forever" stamp depicting sunflowers is planned to be released during March Party 2026.



Five post-card rate stamps showing colorful fall leaves were introduced during a first-day-of-issue ceremony at March Party 2025. The planned release of a new stamp during the 136th March Party will mark the third consecutive year the club has hosted such an event.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Time to pay 2026 dues

It is hard to believe that 2025 is almost history. This is a good time to pay your 2026 Garfield-



Perry Stamp Club dues. Active member dues are \$15. The Club newsletter will be emailed to you. Printed Newsletter is an additional \$10 per

year.

Please send your payment to Garfield Perry Stamp Club, Inc., c/o Kenneth Nilsestuen, 1000 Kingswood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44313-5921. Include your email.

Know that our Holiday Dinner is set for 6 p.m., December 1 at D'Angelo's Italian Ristorante, 7995 Darrow Rd., Twinsburg. The price is \$40 per person, the same as last year. The food is always delicious. Please send your check to Ken at the address shown above by Nov. 24.

Introduce a friend to our wonderful and interesting club by bringing them to a meeting, as some members have been doing recently. It is more fun to collect when you have other similarly minded people to talk with. We all learn from each other.

Be sure you mark your calendar, complete an exhibit and/or

draft a want list for our upcoming March Party 2026 March 13-15.

Our 136th consecutive annual show is sure to be one of the finest in the United States. This is not just my thought, but it is what I hear from collectors and dealers around the country.

For this, I thank all our officers, volunteers and members who work so hard each year to maintain the high quality and standards of March Party.

Linda and I wish all of you Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy New Year 2026.

Philatelically yours,  
*Howard S. Chapman*

## GP members on the go



GP members did very well with their exhibits at the recent Cuy-Lorpex 2025.

**Alan**

**Hanzl** took home a gold medal for

“Art on Stamps and Castle Art Series of Czechia and Slovakia.”

The exhibit highlighting beautiful artworks of the central European nation also was named the Best Traditional Exhibit.

Meanwhile, **Clint Many** also received a gold medal for “The ‘Bari Wolf’ Issue.”

The interesting display of the post-World War II era also was named the Best Single Frame Exhibit and shared tied Hanzl for

Best Traditional Exhibit.

In addition, **Carol Thatcher** received a gold medal for “U.S. First Ladies -- U.S. Philately.” Her topnotch story received the Best Thematic Exhibit award.

Finally, **Mary-Margaret Kohut** received a silver medal for “19th Century United States Territorial Postmarks.”

Congratulations all!

The November issue of The American Philatelist featured the philately of France and colonies. Of course, longtime GP members who are leaders in the France and Colonies Philatelic Society contributed articles.

**Jere Dutt's** piece, “Dahomey: The Birth of a Colony,” explored postal history dating to the early 19th century and traced the development of stamps in the West Africa nation.

For those with an interest in the region from where slaves were often bought and taken to far-off

lands, it's a must read.

A second article by **Ken Nilsestuen**, “Dodging the Algerine Corsairs,”

takes the reader

through the fascinating history of the decades-long raids and political jockeying for economic power in European and African seas in a strategically important part of the world.

Don't forget **Matt Liebson's** regular insightful column in the magazine on the stamp marketplace. This month, he co-authored the column with Bruce Marsden in explaining the implications of recent changes in tariffs, taxes and fees on the stamp collecting world.





# Allied forces helped oversee postal services after World War II

*Note: A version of this article appeared in the Sept. 27, 2025 edition of The Chronicle-Telegram, Elyria, Ohio.*

**By Dennis Sadowski**

As World War II in 1945 Allied forces were faced with temporarily providing many administrative functions in liberated lands, among them law enforcement, judicial services, taxation and mail service.

The Allied Military Government operated in Austria, France, Germany, Italy in the Free Territory of Trieste, Korea and Japan's Ryukyu Islands, until each administration was stable.

Mail service was particularly important because of the need to communicate both within and outside of the liberated areas.

Mail required postage stamps and postal stationery, some of which was printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. In addition, the payment of fees and taxes on business transactions, licenses and permits required revenue stamps.

AMG stamps and postal history are popular collecting areas. A specialty society, the Allied Military Government Collectors' Club ([www.amgcollectors.org](http://www.amgcollectors.org)), brings together collectors of material from an important time in modern history.

GP member Clint Many started collecting AMG material in the 1970s and has focused on the era more recently. He said he enjoys learning about "what happened when World War II wound down."

Many primarily collects Europe-

an AMG items, studying usages by town. Seeking out material from the Free Territory of Trieste is particularly challenging because of what he called the "incredible variety" of items including paper types, overprints and a plethora of stamp usages.

American, British and Yugoslav officials from Sept. 15, 1947 to Oct. 5, 1954. For the rest of Italy, AMG teams were in place from 1943 to 1945.

The Ryukyu Islands had the longest period of administration under American leadership, from 1945 until May 14, 1972.

In Germany, the AMG served from 1945 to 1949. In France the Free French Forces oversaw operations from Oct. 8, 1944 to May 12, 1945.

Examples of mail from these periods can be readily found and Many holds many of them. Some of it is philatelic, but much of it carried actual correspondence and is eagerly sought by collectors.

His collection includes an example from Eschersheim, Germany, postmarked June 9, 1946 (Figure 1) using both styles of AMG stamps that were available including two 30-pfennig stamps from the numeral series and a 15-pfennig stamp in the German "M" design. It has censor tape sealing one side. A rubber stamp reading "U.S. CIVIL CENSORSHIP/GERMANY" indicates it passed inspection and was sent on to London.

A cover from France (Figure 2) is franked with a trio of 1,50-franc interim Arc de Triomphe stamps. It was postmarked in Paris on March 8, 1945. Censor tape closes one side and a rubber stamp shows it was opened and approved by the military authority.

Such mail, Many said, shows Allies "trying to get society functioning again."



Figure 1



Figure 2

"I just find this stuff interesting. It's American history and it's World War II history," Many said.

The AMG included British, French, American and Russian forces. In Austria the AMG was present from Aug. 27, 1945 until July 27, 1955. The Free Territory of Trieste was administered by

## Upcoming events

**Dec. 5-6:** BIRMPEX 2025, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W. Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights, Michigan

**Dec. 6-7:** MSDA Cincinnati Stamp Show, American Legion Post 530, 11100 Winton Rd., Greenhills, Ohio

**Dec. 13:** Stamping with Santa Stamp and Post Card Show, Erie Stamp Cub, New Hope Presbyterian Church, 5440 Washington Ave., Erie, Pennsylvania

**Feb 1, 3 p.m.:** "People and the Posts: Stories Behind the Mail in Early Lorain County History," by Dennis Sadowski, North Ridgeville Branch of the Lorain Public Library, 35700 Bainbridge Rd., North Ridgeville, Ohio

**Feb. 6-7:** 95th McKinley show, McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegate St., NW, North Canton, Ohio

## GP programs

The club meets the first Thursday of the month except July and August. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at Wyndham Independence, 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. 4:** Elias Traboulsi, "Art on United States Stamps"

**Jan. 8:** Mini-bourse for members; sell/buy/trade philatelic treasures

**Feb. 5:** March Party mailing.

**March 5:** March Party planning.



## Club Officers

Howard Chapman, president

Ray Beer, vice president

Clint Many, secretary

Ken Nilsestuen, treasurer

Rocco Caponi, Chris Duston, 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 [Perryscope@garfieldperry.org](mailto:Perryscope@garfieldperry.org).

The club is online at [garfieldperry.org](http://garfieldperry.org).

***Everyone has an addiction. Ours just happens to be stamp collecting.***

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