

# 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.

March 2026

## March Party excitement Sunflowers on tap for club's big 136th show

The 136th March Party is just days away.

The show is set for March 13-15 at the Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

For the third consecutive year the show will host the release of a new "forever" stamp, this one featuring brightly colored sunflowers. A first-day ceremony is set for 11 a.m., Saturday.

The program will include brief presentations from representatives of Prayers From Maria: Sunflowers Fields of Hope, the Ukrainian Museum and Archives in Cleveland, Sarah Schwartz of the Greeting Card Association and the U.S. Postal Service.

Jay Bigalke, editor of Linn's Stamp News has helped plan the program for the stamp release.

"We are planning another special show aimed to attract both collectors and the general public. The March Party traditionally has been well attended because of the programming we offer, the exhib-



KENNETH SRAIL

A showgoer seeks a new addition to his collection at last year's March Party.

its on display and the topnotch dealers from across the country. This year should continue that 136-year tradition," said Rocco Caponi, show co-chairman.

A show highlight includes a 38-dealer bourse with offerings of stamps, postal history and ephemera. In addition to

### Show volunteers still needed

It's not too late to sign up to volunteer at this year's March Party.

Trustee Carol Thatcher is especially seeking help to staff the registration table throughout the show.

Other tasks include show set up and take down, exhibit mounting, dealer assistance and working with Bob Weygandt and Michael Kohut in the Beginners' Corner.

Sign up at the meeting on March 5 or email Thatcher at [TrusteeB@garfieldperry.org](mailto:TrusteeB@garfieldperry.org).

Meanwhile, please bring any donations for the beginners' area to the setup on Thursday afternoon.

"regulars," the bourse will find several dealers who do not always participate in the show.

Beyond the stamp release, the club will host the general meeting of the International Machine Can-

*See MARCH PARTY on page 2*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# It's showtime!

We work hard all year for this moment when we are about to host our March Party 2026.



take down of the show and/or working at the registration table.

We need all members to do their part to make this the most successful March Party. If you are able, please volunteer to assist with set up and/or

I encourage all members to do their best to attend the show and invite collector friends to attend. I can assure you that any first time March Party attendee will be amazed at what the show on March 13-15 offers.

Be sure to find something to add to your collection from the wonderful group of dealers supporting our show. Bring the item or items you purchase to the April or May Club meeting for show and tell.

Remember, this is the year we

would like to build out the Garfield Perry Room at the American Philatelic Society headquarters building. Each of you can help by donating to the APS, American Philatelic Research Library or the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club for the benefit of the room. Any size donation accumulates and helps to complete the project.

I hope to see all of you at March Party.

Philatelically yours,  
*Howard S. Chapman*

## March Party

*Continued from page 1*

cel Society Friday afternoon. Members will be on hand throughout the show to share their knowledge about the many ways mail has been handled since the advent of mechanical postmarks in the late 19th century.

### Presentations, meetings

Meanwhile, two GP members will deliver presentations on Friday.

Ken Nilsestuen will speak at 2 p.m. on U.S. Newspaper and Periodical Stamps.

At 3 p.m. Dennis Sadowski will present "People and the Posts: Stories Behind the Mail of Early Lorain County History" under the auspices of the Ohio Postal History Society. The presentation is based on his columns published in The Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria about small post offices that have been long closed.

After Saturday's stamp release, a Postcrossing Meetup will take place at 1 p.m., coordinated by Bigalke. Folks who enjoy sending and receiving post cards from

around the world will gather to share stories and prepare cards for mailing.

### Exhibits

In addition, there will be 170 frames of exhibits for showgoers to enjoy. The March Party participates in the American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately.

Exhibits will be judged by an APS-accredited jury that includes Christopher Dahle, William Fort III, Mike Ley, James Mazepa, Norma Nielson and Dzintars Grinfelds.

The multi-frame Grand Award winner will be eligible to enter the APS Champion of Champions competition, which will take place at the Boston 2026 World Expo, May 23-30.

The single-frame Grand Award winner will be eligible to join the annual Single Frame competition at the [Chicagopex](#) show set for Nov. 20-22 in Itasca, Illinois.

Awards will be presented at a banquet the evening of March 14 at the hotel. Tickets are \$65 and will be available at the front table.

The Garfield-Perry Players are preparing a skit for the award banquet. Now preparing for their fourth performance, the troupe has become a popular -- and hilarious -- part of the evening celebration.

### Show cover

Two different show covers focusing on the sunflower theme and designed by GP resident artist Denise Stotts will be available for purchase. Each will feature a pictorial postmark on each of the three days. Covers cost \$3 and will be available at the front desk.

### Philatelic Antiques Roadshow

Club members will host a "Philatelic Antiques Roadshow" from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday to review stamp holdings visitors may inherited or have had in their possession.

The hotel show rate is \$114 plus tax per night. Call 440-238-8800 for reservations.

Visit the club website at [www.garfieldperry.org](http://www.garfieldperry.org) for more information.

# When it comes to creativity, stamp collectors do not lack imagination

By Anthony Bello

First day cover collectors have the most creative spirit in the stamp world. I have seen stamps with first-day cancellations on boxes, tins, bottles, barrels, documents, paintings and photographs. I am certain that my list is incomplete.

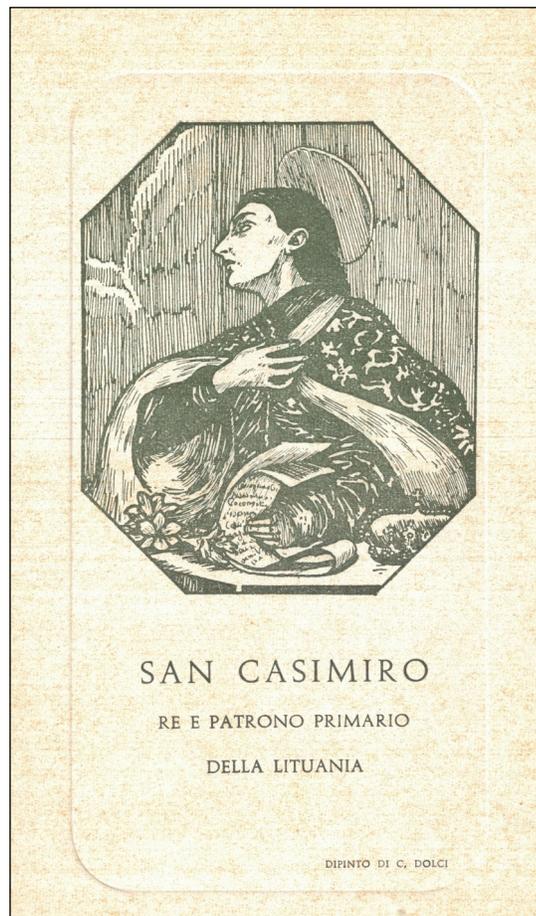
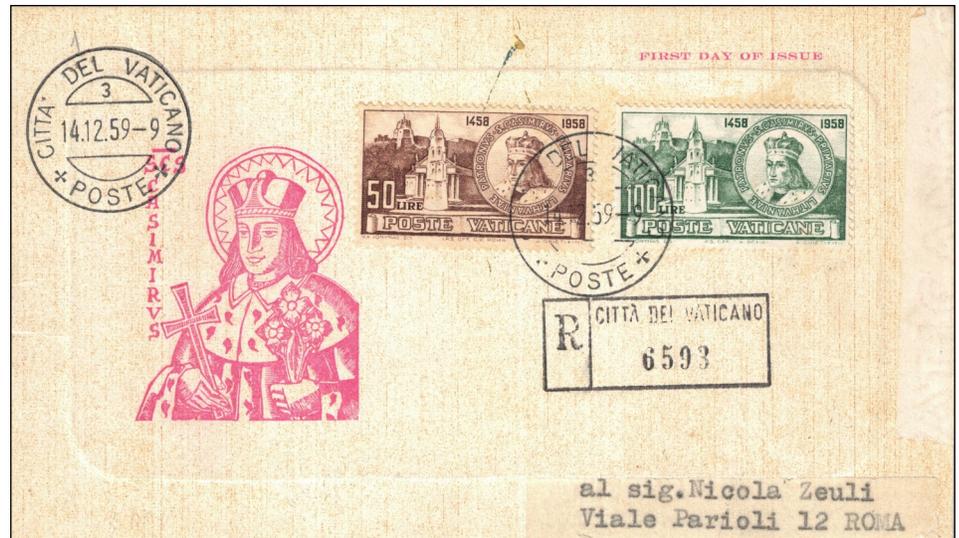
Recently I discovered a new level of creative imagination: a first day cover of two Vatican City stamps made on a religious card depicting St. Casimir, patron saint of Lithuania, Poland and Russian youth.

St. Casimir (1458-1482), born Casimir Jagiellon, was the second son of Poland's King Casimir IV. He was prince of the kingdom of Poland and of the grand duchy of Lithuania.

Although he was a prince, he lived a life of humility and compassion by dedicating himself to the needs of poor and sick people.

The religious figure of the saint is printed on hard cardboard. It probably was purchased by the maker of the cover in one of the numerous souvenir stores along Via della Conciliazione, the street in Rome that leads to St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. It represents a sketched image of a painting by Carlo Dolci, currently hanging in one of the rooms of the Galleria Palatina in Florence.

Note the wording under the sketch. It describes Casimir as a "Re," which translates to king. That is wrong as he was a prince.



An imaginative collector used a religious card depicting St. Casimir to create a first day cover for a pair of 1959 Vatican City stamps honoring the saint.

A cachet showing the saint and the words "FIRST DAY OF ISSUE" are on the back of the card. The two stamps (Scott 254-255) issued by the Vatican to commemorate the 500th anniversary of his birth have the first day cancel of Dec 14, 1959.

The stamps portray the image of St. Casimir and the Cathedral of Vilnius in Lithuania. They were designed by Lithuanian artist Vytautas Kazimjeras Jonynas.

It's also interesting to note that the cover was sent by registered mail within Rome.

The Vatican issued a second set of stamps honoring St. Casimir in 1984 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of his death (Scott 731-732).

## Upcoming events

**March 6-7:** MICHIPLEX 2026, Michigan Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights, Michigan

**March 7-8:** BUFPEX 2026, Buffalo Stamp Club, Knights of Columbus Hall, 2735 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, New York

**March 13-15:** 136th March Party, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, Ohio

**April 10-11:** WILKPEX 2026, Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Holiday Park Fire Hall, 415 Old Abers Creek Rd., Plum, Pennsylvania

**April 24-25:** Western Reserve Post Card Society annual show, Rocky River Memorial Hall, 21016 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, Ohio

**April 24-25:** Plymouth Show, West Suburban Stamp Club, Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Rd., Westland, Michigan

## 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:

**March 5:** March Party planning

**April 2:** March Party review and planning for 2027

**May 7:** "The Latest Counterfeits," Ray Beer



## 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.

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Send news and information to

[Perryscope@garfieldperry.org](mailto:Perryscope@garfieldperry.org).

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

*"Designs in connection with postage stamps and coinage may be described, I think, as the silent ambassadors on national taste."*

*— W. B. Yeats (1865-1939), Irish poet and playwright.*

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