

PERRYSCOPE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
GARFIELD-PERRY STAMP CLUB

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June 2026

OPHS turns 50 GP members among those who founded society devoted to preserving Ohio's postal history in 1976

Note: A version of this article appeared in the May 23 issue of The Chronicle-Telegram in Elyria, Ohio.

By Dennis Sadowski

Postal history is just about everyone's history.

The study of mail, from correspondence to invoices, sheds light on life, whether it's decades ago or today.

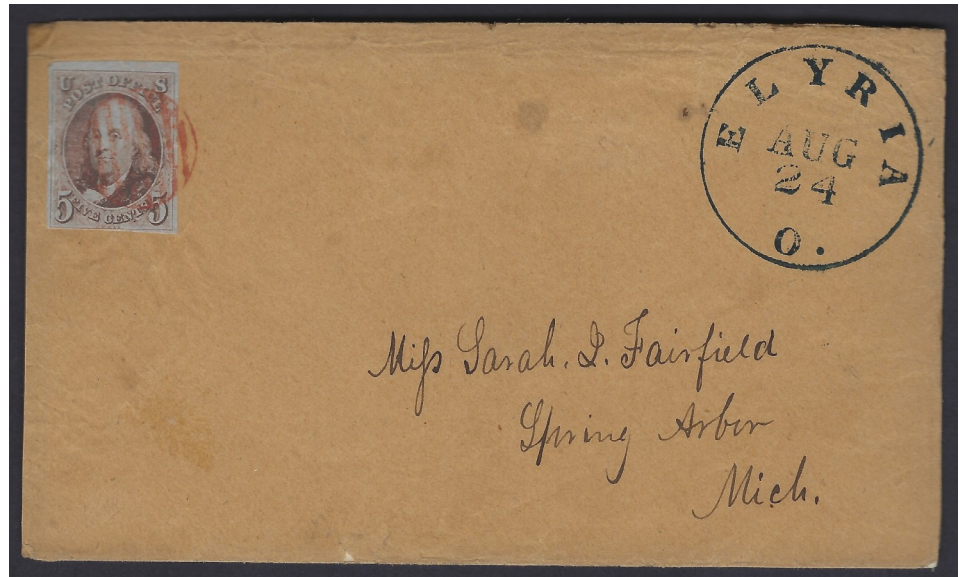
For devotees of Ohio postal history, the Ohio Postal History Society can help.



Born 50 years ago in March 1976, the society

has contributed vast amounts of information about postal rates, routes and postmarks as well as what society president and GP member Matthew Liebson calls "social history."

"There are more people who are interested in local history and their family history and where they came from than ever," Liebson said. "The challenge is getting them to understand that local his-



DAVID WESSELY

This cover from 1850, franked with U.S. Scott 1, is among a series of covers postmarked in Elyria, Ohio, and sent to Miss Sarah Fairchild in Spring Arbor, Michigan.

tory and finding where they are connected."

The concept of social history has evolved over the last two decades as people seek to understand their roots and get a glimpse into their family background. They want to know what life was like for long-ago generations, which is what letters and messages on the

back of post cards illustrate, said Liebson, who has developed several Ohio-themed exhibits including one featuring early 20th-century street car mail service in Cleveland.

"For me, it's always been sort of that, hey, what went on here and what happened and how did it

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Making our way into summer

I hope that many of you traveled to the Boston 2026 World Stamp Expo.



The international show was a once in 10-year opportunity to attend a show like this in the United States. If you purchased something at the show, please either bring it to a meeting to show

or make a scan to share at our July and August meetings, which will take place online.

Items for show and tell do not have to be stamps or covers. You may collect stamp boxes. Members and attendees would be interested in seeing them. How about sharing an interesting philatelic book you recently acquired? Too many collectors do not spend money on catalogs or research material for their collection. This keeps you from truly enjoying

your collection. Perhaps you are undertaking research and writing a monograph or book. Share this with other GP members.

Please remember that our last in-person meeting for the season is on June 4. July and August gatherings will take place online via Zoom. We are back at the hotel from September through June 2027.

Philatelically yours,
Howard S. Chapman

OPHS

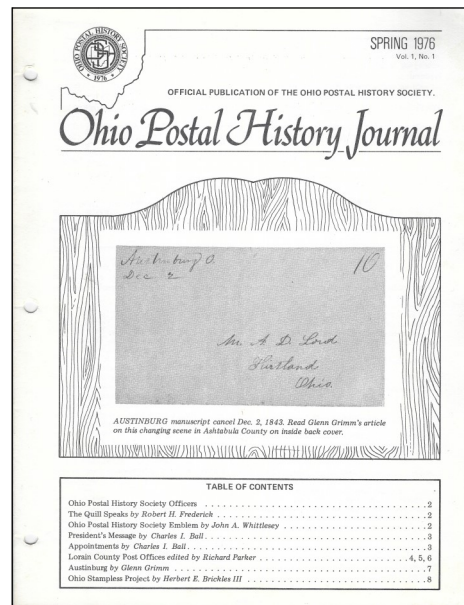
Continued from page 1

work,” he said. “How do you know where you’re going if you don’t know where you came from?”

The society was formed in 1976 during meetings weeks apart at the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club’s annual show, the March Party, and the Columbus Philatelic Club’s annual show, known as COLOPEX, or the Columbus Philatelic Exposition. Postal history collectors around the state were undertaking research and were seeking ways to share what they learned as well as to identify other sources of information to build their understanding of mail service.

Back then, even the Ohio Historical Society joined the effort. Carl Albrecht of the OHS agreed to acquire and maintain books and articles of interest to postal history collectors. The trove of material included lists of Ohio post offices and who served as postmasters in the thousands of post offices that existed.

Such information may seem trivial but it provides insight into what life was like in local communities, many of which no longer



The first issue of the Ohio Postal History Journal was published in spring 1976 with Robert Frederick as editor.

exist but are still of interest to people researching their ancestors. And the more someone digs, there’s a better connection to social history, as Liebson has described.

Later in 1976, the society began publishing the Ohio Postal History Journal. The first spotlighted Lorain County postal history. To date, 178 issues have been pub-

lished.

Ohio natives Denise and Jay Stotts, now of Houston, joined the society more than 40 years ago. For Jay, who grew up in Richland County, it was a worthwhile discovery.

“I’m a history buff. My mother was a teacher. She taught fourth grade and in Ohio that was when Ohio history was taught,” said Stotts, who has widely exhibited Ohio postal history among other themes.

Family vacations often included time spent at historical sites across the state, he recalled. Years later as an adult and serious collector, when he heard about a society devoted to Ohio postal history, he was all in.

For Denise -- one of her grandfathers was born in Lorain, Ohio -- postal history is a compelling part of her philatelic journey. While she leaves collecting Ohio postal history to Jay, she still was curious enough to serve as society secretary for 28 years.

She finds that the growth in genealogical research can help boost interest in postal history in any setting.

Business trip leads to a pleasant philatelic connection

By Anthony Bello

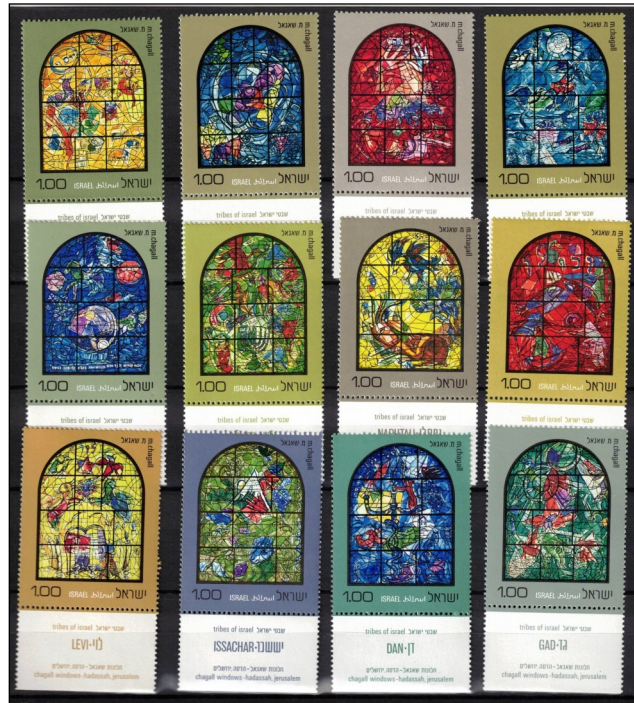
It was the year 1986. I had just been appointed executive vice-president for finance and administration for an Italian company with offices in New York City trying to establish its roots in the United States when I was asked to go to Zurich, Switzerland, for a meeting with the firm's top financial executives and some Swiss bankers.

The company arranged my three-day stay in a small boutique hotel. I never had been in Zurich before. The day of our first meeting, an executive from the company, came to meet me in the hotel. He told me he had come early because he had a surprise for me before the meeting.

After walking for about 200 or 300 yards we were in front of the Fraumunster Church, built in the 9th century and Zurich's most prominent landmark. The church's claim to fame, aside from its beautiful architecture, stems from its five Chagall 33-foot tall stained-glass windows. Four of them were installed in 1970 and the fifth in 1978.

As we walked into the church and approached the stained-glass windows, I stood in awe in front of such magical beauty.

I recalled the stamps in my possession featuring stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall among which is the set of 12 stamps is-



Israel issued 12 stamps in 1973 featuring stained-glass windows at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center Synagogue in Jerusalem. The windows were designed by famed artist Marc Chagall, a Belarus-French artist of Jewish descent.



The United Nations issued a souvenir sheet in 1967 depicting Marc Chagall's "Peace Window" at U.N. headquarters in New York.

sued in 1973 by Israel (Scott 509-520). The windows depicted hang at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center Synagogue in

Jerusalem.

When these stamps were issued I lucidly remembered the large placards in Gimbel's window on 33rd Street in New York to promote them. The famed dealer Jacques Minkus, who occupied a large area of the store's ground floor, had a right to a window to display his material. Minkus served as the U.S. agent for the stamps of Israel.

The United Nations souvenir sheet (Sc. #179) issued in 1967 representing Chagall's "Peace Window" installed at the United Nations headquarters in New York also is in my collection. I attended the new issue ceremony.

Americans should not miss seeing the 8-foot high stained-glass window, also by Marc Chagall, installed in 1977 at The Art Institute of Chicago in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial.

Marc Chagall, born Moïse Shagal, was a Belarus-French artist of Jewish descent. He was born in 1887 and died in 1985. Famous for his paintings and his stained-glass windows, his works can be admired in numerous countries around the world. His work has been marked by many postal administrations. A complete collection can be formed solely with the stamps dedicated to this artistic genius.

Upcoming events

June 5-6: MSDA Ann Arbor Show, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan

June 19-20: Colopex 2026, Columbus Philatelic Club and Worthington Stamp Club, Madison County Fairgrounds, 205 Elm St., London, Ohio

Aug. 7-8: CINPEX 2026, Greater Cincinnati Philatelic Society, Monfort Heights United Methodist Church, 3682 West Fork Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio

Aug 7-9: BALPEX 2026, Baltimore Philatelic Society, BWI Marriott Airport, 1743 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum Heights, Maryland

Aug. 21-22: AIRPEX 2026, Dayton Stamp Club, The Emerge Center, 2960 W. Enon Rd., Xenia, 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:

June 4: "The Latest in Counterfeit Stamps," Ray Beer

July 2: Member show and tell online via Zoom

Aug. 6: Member show and tell online via Zoom



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.

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

Synonyms for collectable postage stamps: "sticky treasures," "collection of paper heads," "pretty bits of paper," and "colorful scraps."

— Alan Bradley, Canadian author

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