

Gargoyles at the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse (RPG)



Friends of Greenhouse Newsletter - Winter 2026



Dear Members & Friends,

In addition to its array of lush flowers, diverse plants, and exotic trees, the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse is home to some unique artifacts. This edition of our newsletter features one example of those artifacts: **Gargoyles**. Artfully mounted on the panels of a brick wall, the mythical figures guard the entrance to the Greenhouse's indoor show rooms. The terra cotta sculptures were originally housed at the Euclid Avenue Station of the Pennsylvania Railroad. When the station was demolished in 1973, the gargoyles found a safe haven at the Greenhouse. Learn more about their incredible journey at [Cleveland Historical](#).

About Gargoyles



Over the centuries, architectural gargoyles have had dual functions. First, like modern gutters, they diverted rainwater away from masonry walls, reducing erosion damage.

Next, symbolically, gargoyles were meant to divert negative energies away from the communities over which they stood guard.

Left: Bird gargoyles from the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse collection.

Gargoyles vs. Grotesques

Architecture enthusiasts enjoy searching for gargoyles on old buildings. It's important to note, though, that not every building sculpture fits the definition of a gargoyle. True gargoyles serve a critical function: they have spouts that channel rainwater away from a building's walls. In contrast, other types of building sculptures are purely ornamental. These include carvings called **grotesques**, which are common on churches and cathedrals. Even so, all types of architectural sculptures share features like wings and horns, and can represent various kinds of beings, including humanoids, animals, and monsters.

The [Friends of Greenhouse](#) (FOG) is pleased to highlight this unique collection of Cleveland's very own gargoyles. Available only at the Greenhouse, they are both a reminder of Cleveland's architectural past, and a testament to RPG as a key community resource for both nature and history.

Dedication Plaque on Gargoyle Wall at RPG



The plaque states in part:

Gargoyles and Mementos from the Old Pennsylvania Railroad Euclid Avenue Station 1901-1973



Become a member of the [Friends of Greenhouse](#)

Read a [History of the Rockefeller Park Greenhouse](#)

As the new year blossoms, we thank our members, volunteers, and friends for your continued loyalty and support. For generations, the Greenhouse has been a warm and nurturing space where visitors can connect with the botanical world and one another.

The mission of the Friends of Greenhouse is to support the preservation and enhancement of the Greenhouse as a freely accessible, community green space. We invite you to join or renew your [membership](#).

*Sincerely,
Friends of Greenhouse Board Members*

Visit [Rockefeller Park Greenhouse](#)