Birmingham – Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



November 2026

November in Michigan has a way of reminding us how much endurance and imagination shape our state. The leaves have mostly fallen, the air carries that unmistakable hint of winter, and yet this month has always marked moments when Michigan looked forward rather than back. One of the greatest examples arrived on November 1, 1957, when the Mackinac Bridge officially opened and stitched the peninsulas together with steel, cable, and a kind of optimism only mid-century America could muster.

For collectors, the Bridge's opening was more than an engineering feat, it was a postal milestone. Mail routes that once depended on ferries and unpredictable weather, now had a reliable, year-round crossing.



Scott #1109

Our meeting on October 6th was well attended and featured returning club members Chris Spounias and David Porter, and new members Jessica & Eric Belcher of Livonia and John Carty from Royal Oak. We welcome you!

Initial reports on the FERNPEX 2026 show held October 2nd & 3rd at St. Ronalds Church in Clinton Township are encouraging. It looks like the club actually made some money.

Our Pizza Banquet at Infinity Hall & Sidebar on October 22nd had forty-five attendees and the pizza and salads were delicious. Club member Fred Como announced that this would probably be his last club banquet because he and his family are planning a move to Spring Hill, Florida in the spring.

Club Meetings –

November 3rd & 17th, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. Election of officers is scheduled for November 3rd. We are currently meeting in Room 3.

Upcoming Events –

November 6th & 7th Ann Arbor Stamp Club's AAPEX 2026 show, Washtenaw Community College -

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Iceland Post - No Stamps

Pat Hensley

On a recent visit to Iceland, we visited a local post office to see what stamps we could buy for my husband's collection. We were disappointed that there weren't any new issue postage stamps for us to buy. The postal clerk told us they don't have any current issues because, in 2019, Iceland announced they would stop issuing new postage stamps.

In 1873, Iceland issued their first postage stamps as a Dependency of Denmark. On June 17, 1944, Iceland became an independent republic.

After 90 years of operation, Iceland Post (Íslandspóstur) Stamp and Philatelic Department, "Postphil" was closed. They announced huge deficits as the reason for closing. In 2019, Iceland Post cut back on everything that was not profitable for the company, including Postphil. The CEO said that the number of philatelic customers had decreased annually, leading to a deficit for Postphil. He said they had a stock of stamps that would last many years and probably would have enough until the last letter was sent. But if more stamps are needed, it is possible to re-print them. The exclusive right to distribute letters ended for Iceland Post in 2019.

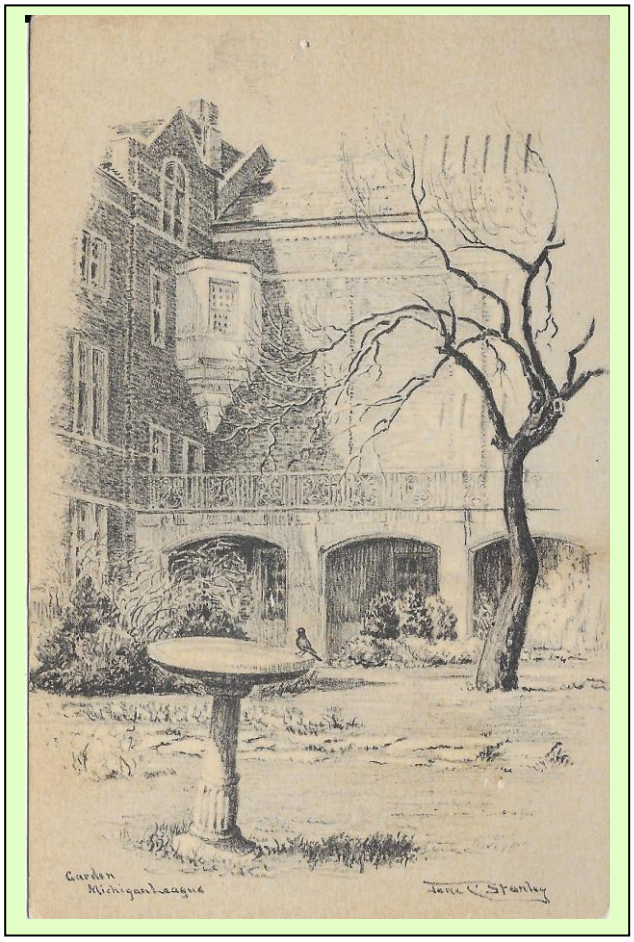
On August 23, 2023, Iceland Post did issue a se-tenant souvenir sheet of four stamps (at right) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Iceland's first postage stamps. The mini-sheet of stamps depicts: Holtsós floods (50g); Aurora corona at Kolgrafarfjörður (100g); Merardalagos lava flow (100g); and Svínafellsjökull glacier (50g).
Will there be more?



References: Reprinted in part from Cresthaven Stamp Club News, V.10, No.11, November 2023
Linns.com
Punkphilatelist.com
Icelandreview.com

Michigan League Garden

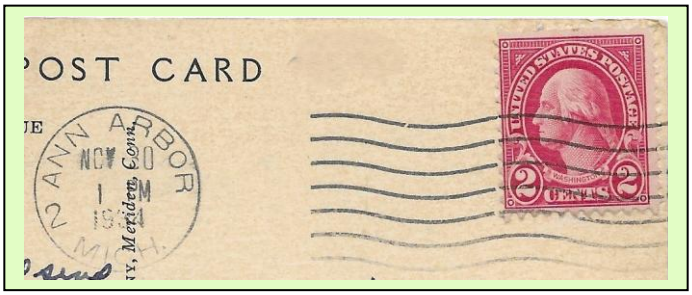
Michael Swope



November is a fitting month to reflect on the quiet beauty captured in a postcard mailed from Ann Arbor nearly a century ago. Postmarked on November 30, 1934, this card depicts the Garden of the Michigan League at the University of Michigan.

Published by the Meriden Gravure Company of Meriden, Connecticut, the lithograph is an artistic rendering executed in a delicate crayon style. The scene portrays a peaceful courtyard that invites the viewer to pause and enjoy a quieter side of campus life.

The postcard carries an artist's signature in the lower right corner, Jane C. Stanley. While little biographical information has yet surfaced about the artist, the refined drawing demonstrates considerable talent and suggests that Stanley may have produced other views in the Michigan League series.



The reverse side offers its own glimpse into the past. Mailed from Ann Arbor, the card bears a George Washington 2¢ postage stamp (Scott 634) and was sent to New York City. The brief handwritten message transforms the postcard from a simple souvenir into a personal connection with campus life during the 1930s.

The Michigan League itself was an important center of student activity when this card was mailed. Opened in 1929, the building provided gathering spaces, meeting rooms, dining facilities, and accommodations, primarily intended to support women's activities at the University of Michigan. The garden depicted on the postcard served as an attractive outdoor complement to the League's social and cultural functions.

Reference: Post Card from Author's collection,
Bentley Research Library, University of Michigan