

# CRESTHAVEN STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

West Palm Beach, Florida

*The Palm Beaches Oldest & Friendliest Stamp Club*

## June 2023

“Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright,  
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light;  
And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout,  
But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out.” The last stanza from “Casey at the Bat”, published June 3, 1888, in the San Francisco Daily Examiner, by Ernest Lawrence Thayer (1863-1940).

In June we won't “strike out” if we celebrate National Moonshine Day (2<sup>nd</sup>); National Doughnut Day (Jelly, please!) on the 3<sup>rd</sup>; US Army Birthday (14<sup>th</sup>); Father's Day (18<sup>th</sup>); and, Summer Solstice on June 21<sup>st</sup> (the longest day of the year).

Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> is “Flag Day”, when citizens commemorate the 1777 adoption of the United States flag. The “Continental Colors” were designed to provide a sense of unity for colonists to fight under one banner. Be sure to display our flag in a proper and respectful manner.

Welcome new club members Ruben Vera and Alan Fisher! Our June meetings are scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Our Program Committee says, “*You'll miss us this summer (If you're not here)!*”

Regards,  
*Michael Swope*

### In This Issue

Volume 10, Number 6

Page 2 – SS Morgan City, Dan Maddalino

Page 4 – Clipperton Island, Juan Riera

Page 5 – [Philately in Florida](#)

Page 6 – Joyce Chen, Pat Hensley

Page 7 – The Previous King, Michael Swope



Chapter Affiliate #923  
Membership Affiliate #81338

Meetings: Barkley Clubhouse  
1:00 p.m. – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
2605 Barkley Drive  
West Palm Beach FL 33415  
[www.cresthavenstamp.club](http://www.cresthavenstamp.club)



President: Richard Kaye  
V-Pres: Kelley McDougall  
Secretary: Pat Hensley  
Treasurer: Harry Clifford  
Liaison: Dan Maddalino  
dmaddalino@aol.com  
Editor: Michael Swope  
mswope@ameritech.net

©2023 Cresthaven Stamp Club

Material is offered for educational and informational purposes. Guest authors assume no liability for error or omission in content. Material may have been produced under the “Fair Use” clause and can be similarly reproduced.



# How the Wreck of the S.S. Morgan City Affected a Scott Catalogue Listing

Dan Maddalino



Shown above is the chartered troop transport ship “S.S. Morgan City”, outbound for Manila, Philippine Islands, left San Francisco, California on August 10, 1899. On board were 708 soldiers, 32 nurses, and two postal clerks<sup>1</sup>. The ships hold was filled with supplies for the new Army garrisons throughout U.S. occupied Philippines. Soldiers were to fight the ongoing local insurrection, nurses were to staff medical facilities in Manila, and the postal clerks were to expand mail services outside of the capital city. Stowed among the military and medical supplies was the first contingent of 50,000 - 50¢ and 150,000 - 15¢ United States postage stamps, fresh from the (then) current 1895 definitive series<sup>2</sup>. These stamps were overprinted diagonally with “PHILIPPINES”, in black<sup>3</sup> (shown below, right).

Released November 1, 1894, this First Bureau Issue was printed on unwatermarked paper. There are 13 stamps in this series ranging from 1¢ through \$5. The 50¢ stamp was printed in orange with a total print run of only 175,330 copies. The series was still in post offices when the Bureau reissued the exact same series, in the same colors, but using watermarked paper. Color variations are only due to oxidation. The watermarked stamps were released on November 9, 1895.



On September 2, 1899, several days after re-coaling at Midway Island, the Morgan City encountered heavy sea-fog off the island of Innoshima, Japan, causing it to drift off course. There it scraped over submerged rocks and began to take on water. The captain steered the vessel to beach it on the island shores so that all persons on board were able to abandon ship without injury. From there, they watched the Morgan City break apart and disintegrate, making salvage impossible<sup>4</sup>. Following their rescue, the postal clerks immediately notified the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing to prepare and send overprinted replacement stamps as soon as possible.

While rushing to replace the lost stamps, the Bureau had found an overlooked package of 50¢ stamps from the 1894 definitive series marked for destruction<sup>5</sup>. The only difference between the 1894 issues and the (then) current 1895 issues was the absence of a watermark on the 1894 stamps. The printing clerks, not wanting to waste the Bureaus money, added the 1894 remnants to the 1895 stamps for a total of 50,000 stamps. The printers had them all overprinted “PHILIPPINES”, packed, and sent to San Francisco for shipment to Manila, P. I. on the next outbound vessel.

It wasn't long before collectors started to report the two versions of the same stamp. National philatelic press inquiries produced no answer for this anomaly. Without more definitive information, stamp catalogues listed them as two different stamps based on their date of original issue. In Scott the unwatermarked 50 cents stamp with the diagonal “PHILIPPINES” overprint is listed as the first stamp of the occupied Philippine Islands and given the ID #260. The watermarked 50 cent copy is listed deep in the series of 1895 issues and given the ID #275<sup>6</sup>, even though they were overprinted and released on the same day. A more appropriate listing should have it as #275 and #275A. Thus, avoiding any confusion of what actually was the first U.S. stamp for the occupied Philippines.

Had the S.S. Morgan City not wrecked and sunk off the coast of Japan on September 2, 1899, the 1894 unwatermarked 50¢ stamp would have never appeared in the Scott U.S. Possessions listings.

#### PRIMARY SOURCES

1. Internet: [https://www.archive.org/details/reportquarterma00corpgoog/pasge/n20/mode/1\\_up](https://www.archive.org/details/reportquarterma00corpgoog/pasge/n20/mode/1_up) Accessed 12/31/2022
2. Lester G. Brookman, *The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Postage Stamps of the United States, Vol. II* (H.L. Lindquest, New York, NY, 1947) pp 185-186
3. Donna Houseman (ed.), *2017 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps and Covers: (Amos Media, Sidney, Ohio, 2016)* pp. 1064-1065
4. Internet: <https://www.auctions.davidfeldman.com/lots/view/4-3N55Y/wreck-of-the-morgan-city> Accessed 12/30/ 2022
5. Brookman, p. 203
6. Housman, p. 1065
7. Internet: <https://www.freightwaves.com>

# Clipperton Island

Juan L. Riera

Clipperton Island is located literally out in the middle of nowhere (about 700 miles southwest of Acapulco, Mexico), but has been of interest to a number of nations that wanted to claim it - the United States, France, and Mexico.

Clipperton Island is a circular coral atoll of approximately two square miles with a central lagoon that may be used by seaplanes, although treacherous because of the coral reefs. It is low-lying, averaging about 6.5 feet, with a small volcanic outcropping rising to 95 feet known as Clipperton Rock. The surrounding reef is exposed at low tide, technically making Clipperton an island with a barrier reef rather than an atoll.

Originally discovered by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, this island has spent the vast majority of its history uninhabited. The island is named after English mutineer and pirate John Clipperton who made it his hideout in 1705. The French claimed Clipperton in 1855, but the United States Guano Islands Act of 1856 authorized U.S. citizens to take possession of uninhabited islands containing guano. In 1893, the Oceanic Phosphate Company of San Francisco, claimed the land and set up operations to gather bird guano for the production of fertilizer. The W. Frese & Company, as agents for Oceanic Phosphate, were appointed to supply and transport freight to and from the island.

Because W. Frese & Company had the only ships that regularly visited the island, they issued a set of ten postage stamps in 1895 (\$1 value stamp at right) for transporting mail from Clipperton to San Francisco. While W. Frese & Company attempted to have their stamps recognized by U.S. Postal authorities, the United States government ruled that neither Oceanic Phosphate Company, nor the United States had claim to the island.



Mexican forces invaded and occupied Clipperton Island from 1897 to 1917, but due to the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), supply ships did not arrive for extended periods of time. Eventually, the surviving population was evacuated by United States ships. In 1930, the island came under French rule.

There are 115 species of fish recorded in the vicinity of Clipperton island, and because of this, it was visited twice by an avid fisherman, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the 1930's. His official record of activities lists Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1934, at 9:00 a.m. fishing began at Cocos Island and by 8:00 p.m. the party left Cocos Island for Clipperton Island. The records also show that on Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1938, at 10:55 a.m., the USS Houston anchored off Clipperton Island and FDR's party went fishing.



### Clipperton Island

In late 1944 Roosevelt ordered the United States Navy to take possession of Clipperton. The establishment of a U.S. weather station was planned and executed as "Island X" and its identity was a closely guarded secret. It is possible that intelligence sources had obtained information that another power was preparing to occupy Clipperton Island which required the secrecy and urgency of the operation. Secrecy did not last long due to a number of mishaps with supply ships running aground on the coral reef. The USS Argus arrived on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1944, with areological personnel and on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1945, the station was operational when the first weather report was transmitted. All personnel were evacuated on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1945, and Clipperton was abandoned by the United States.

A very interesting tiny and uninhabited island if you ask me.



### Philately in Florida

Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Florida Stamp Dealers Association "Orlando Summer Stamp Show", Maitland Civic Center, 641 Maitland Avenue South, Maitland FL 32751; 10 – 4

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, "The Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show," Azan Shrine Center, 1591 West Eau Gallie Blvd., Melbourne FL 32935; 9:30 – 3

# Joyce Chen

Pat Hensley



In 2014, the United States Postal Service honored Joyce Chen for her accomplishments and influence by issuing a stamp with her image (Scott #4924). The stamp was part of the Celebrity Chef Forever stamp series, released on September 26, 2014, in Chicago. This series also included Julia Child, James Beard, Edna Lewis, and Felipe Rojas-Lombardi. The Celebrity Chefs stamps (49¢) had five designs in a pressure-sensitive adhesive pane of 20 stamps. The digital illustrations show the five chefs resembling oil paintings. The selvage design represents a white china plate resting on a fine linen tablecloth.

Joyce Chen was a famous chef who popularized northern-style Chinese food in the United States. Before that, most Americans ate Chinese food that wasn't authentic or originated in China. Joyce Chen was born in Beijing, China, on September 14, 1917, and died on August 23, 1994. In 1949, Joyce Chen and her family escaped China when Communists took over.

In 1957, she made pumpkin cookies and Chinese egg rolls for a bake sale fundraiser at the Buckingham School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and was surprised that her snacks sold out in an hour. In 1958, she opened the first Joyce Chen restaurant, beginning the all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet. She held a patent for the flat bottom handled wok and also created the first United States line of bottled Chinese stir-fry sauces in 1984

After divorcing her husband in 1966, she sold the original restaurant to him and changed her name to Joyce Liao, her maiden name. She continued to use Joyce Chen as her business name. She opened her second restaurant in 1967, even though she was a single mother raising three children who helped her with the restaurant. It was called The Joyce Chen Small Eating Place.

Her third restaurant, the Joyce Chen Restaurant, opened in 1969 and seated 500 people. This restaurant was closed in 1974 when the building was demolished to make new dorms for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her fourth restaurant opened in 1973, also called the Joyce Chen Restaurant seated 263 people and operated for 25 years until it closed in 1998. In 1985, she was diagnosed with dementia and died in 1994.

## **References:**

<https://postagestampguide.com/stamps/20109/joyce-chen-2014-united-states-postage-stamp-celebrity-chefs>

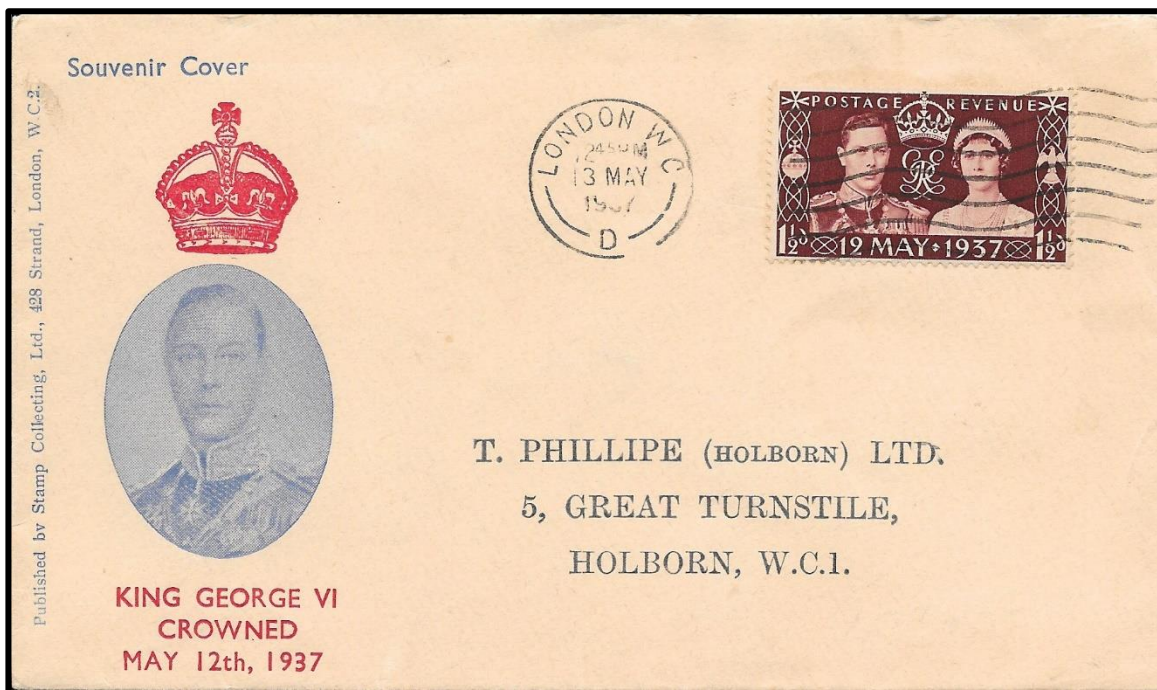
<https://www.mysticstamp.com/Products/United-States/4924/USA/>

<https://joycechenfoods.com/legacy/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joyce\\_Chen\\_\(chef\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joyce_Chen_(chef))

# The Previous King

Michael Swope



With the May 6, 2023, coronation of King Charles III, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, 2022; Charles becomes the first King of England since 1952. Who was the previous King?

Albert Frederick Arthur George (December 14, 1895 – February 6, 1952), King George VI, was King of the United Kingdom and the Dominions of the British Commonwealth from December 11, 1936 until his death in 1952. He ascended the throne after his brother, Edward VII, abdicated to marry American socialite Wallis Simpson. The coronation of King George VI occurred on May 12, 1937 – 86 years before the next King of England would wear the crown.

The future George VI was born in the rein of his great-grandmother, Queen Victoria. His father ascended the throne as George V in 1910. As the second son of the King, Albert was not expected to inherit the throne. His greatest achievements came during World War II, when he remained for most of the time at Buckingham Palace (which was bombed nine times). He visited bombed areas of London and elsewhere in the country that gained him great popularity.

Shown above is a souvenir cover commemorating the coronation of King George VI on May 12, 1937. Published by “Stamp Collecting, Ltd.” of London, It is franked with the 1 ½ Pence, George VI Coronation issue, Scott #234, and cancelled at London on May 13, 1937.

*Ref:*

*Cover from Author's collection*

*www.royal.uk*