

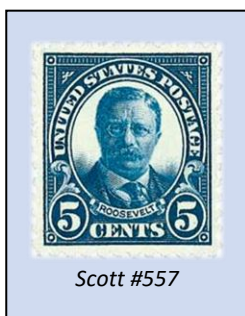
Birmingham – Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



September 2026

September has always been a month of fresh starts - new school years, cooler evenings, and the quiet return to routines we abandoned during summer's chaos. It's also a perfect moment to channel a bit of Theodore Roosevelt, who reminded the nation to *"speak softly and carry a big stick."* In the philatelic world, we've long mastered the first part: collectors are famously soft-spoken, patient, and endlessly curious.

Whether you're sorting new acquisitions or revisiting long-held favorites, September invites you to move thoughtfully, learn deeply, and enjoy the quiet power of this hobby we share. Here's to a month of soft voices, strong collections, and stories that still carry weight more than a century after Roosevelt's famous words.



Our August meetings were very well attended with about 100 lots in each auction. We welcomed Vinh Duong and Michelle Rosenfeld as guests to our meetings and they both were enthusiastic participants.

Our plan for the Fall stamp show, FERNPEX 2026 is picking up pace (only four weeks to go). Advertisements have been placed at Linn's Stamp News and the American Philatelic Society. Club members will stuff show fliers in envelopes at our September 1st meeting. We have at least eight dealers committed to the show

Club Meetings –

September 1st and 15th, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham.

Upcoming Events –

September 12th, Modern Stamps Public Auction #540 at their Oak Park facility, Saturday at 12N.

September 18th – 20th, INDYPEX, a World Series of Philately show, Hendricks County Fairgrounds, Danville, Indiana.

October 2nd and 3rd, FERNPEX 2026, St. Ronald's Catholic Church Hall, 17701 Fifteen Mile Road, Clinton Township, 48035. Opens 10 am on Fri/Sat.

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Joyce Chen

Pat Hensley

In 2014, the United States Postal Service celebrated the life and legacy of Joyce Chen by featuring her on a Forever stamp (Scott #4924). Issued on September 26, 2014, in Chicago, the stamp was part of the Celebrity Chefs series, which also honored Julia Child, James Beard, Edna Lewis, and Felipe Rojas-Lombardi. The pane of 20 stamps featured five digital illustrations styled to resemble oil paintings, with a selvage design showing a white China plate resting on a fine linen tablecloth—an elegant nod to the art of cooking.



Joyce Chen earned her place in American culinary history by introducing authentic northern Chinese cuisine to a country that, until the mid-20th century, largely knew only Americanized versions of Chinese food. Born in Beijing on September 14, 1917, she and her family fled China in 1949 after the Communist takeover, eventually settling in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Her rise as a restaurateur began in 1957, when she baked pumpkin cookies and Chinese egg rolls for a school fundraiser at the Buckingham School. The treats sold out within an hour, inspiring her to open her first restaurant the following year. That restaurant introduced the concept of the “all-you-can-eat” Chinese buffet, a novelty at the time. Chen’s innovations didn’t stop there—she patented the flat-bottom, handled wok and launched the first U.S. line of bottled Chinese stir-fry sauces in 1984.

After divorcing her husband in 1966, she resumed her maiden name, Joyce Liao, while continuing to use “Joyce Chen” professionally. She opened her second restaurant in 1967, managing it as a single mother with the help of her three children. Her third restaurant, opened in 1969, seated an impressive 500 guests before closing in 1974 when MIT demolished the building to construct new dormitories. A fourth Joyce Chen Restaurant opened in 1973, seating 263 diners and operated for 25 years until its closure in 1998.

Joyce Chen was diagnosed with dementia in 1985 and passed away in 1994, but her influence on American cooking endures. The 2014 stamp honoring her achievements serves as a lasting tribute—not only to her culinary creativity, but to her role in bringing authentic Chinese flavors to American tables.

References:

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

Michael Swope

On September 10, 1813, just off the waters that define our region, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry won the Battle of Lake Erie—one of the turning points of the War of 1812. After his flagship *Lawrence* was shattered, Perry famously carried his “Don’t Give Up the Ship” flag to the *Niagara*, broke the British line, and ended the fight with the immortal report: “We have met the enemy and they are ours.”



The Battle of Lake Erie holds special meaning for our region. Perry’s victory opened the door for General William Henry Harrison’s campaign into Detroit and Upper Canada, ultimately helping secure Michigan’s future as part of the United States. For collectors, Perry’s legacy lives on in the form of several highly sought, 90¢ postage stamps, along with first-day covers and Great Lakes postcards depicting the battle and the “Put-In-Bay” memorial. As the anniversary arrives, it’s a perfect moment to revisit the history that shaped our shoreline—and the stamps that keep its story alive.

Shown above is a cacheted cover created by artist Richard Buchwald for the Cleveland Cover Club in 1938, on the 125th anniversary of Commodore Perry’s Lake Erie victory over the British. The 3¢, purple Navy Issue stamp (Scott # 792) features Admirals David G. Farragut and David D. Porter and was cancelled on board the *U.S.S. Perry* on September 10, 1938, at San Diego, California.

References: Cover from Author’s collection; Wikipedia.org