



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89<sup>th</sup> year

**March 2020**



Web page: [www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org) Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>

## Diary of Future Events

- March 3 International Year of Plants.
- March 4 Daytime Meeting. (plus Committee meeting)
- April 7 Richard Guy - Kangaroos  
(Hand in Lois Whatley entries at this meeting)
- April 8 Daytime Meeting.
- May 5 Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.
- May 6 Daytime Meeting. (Committee)

Please Note: The daytime meeting is on the Wednesday after the main meeting. This is not always the first Wednesday of the month

## President's Message March 2020

March just around the corner beckons us with all the Stamp Auctions and Stamp Fairs held here in Victoria. See my last communication for dates and localities.

For those who did not know Australia Post has produced a special edition Disaster Relief Stamp Booklet containing 5 unique stamps die-cut in the shape of Australia. For every Stamp Book sold Australia post will donate \$2 to the Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief.



Next year is the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the Bendigo Philatelic Society so I have attached on the bottom of this message a crayon drawing of the first Official Post Office on the Bendigo Field by Frederick Brown M.L.C. and titled View Point in 1853. I hope you enjoy this little piece of history ?

We have had a few members of the Society with medical problems. We wish to them all a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back among us.

Have a happy March and continue to enjoy our hobby.  
Best wishes...Libby.



The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at

**Old Long Gully School (now CVGT)**

**Cnr Stanfield and Jackson Streets, Long Gully**

Extra Daytime Meeting at Golden Square on the Wednesday after the main Tuesday meeting.

**Auctions** will be held at all Tuesday meetings.

**10 items per member** are allowed for auctions

Christmas bonanza auction in **December** .

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

## CLUB CONTACTS:

**President: Libby Luke**

**Secretary: Joy Watters**

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## Australia Post Issues a “real” First Day Cover

News from Paul Brownlie

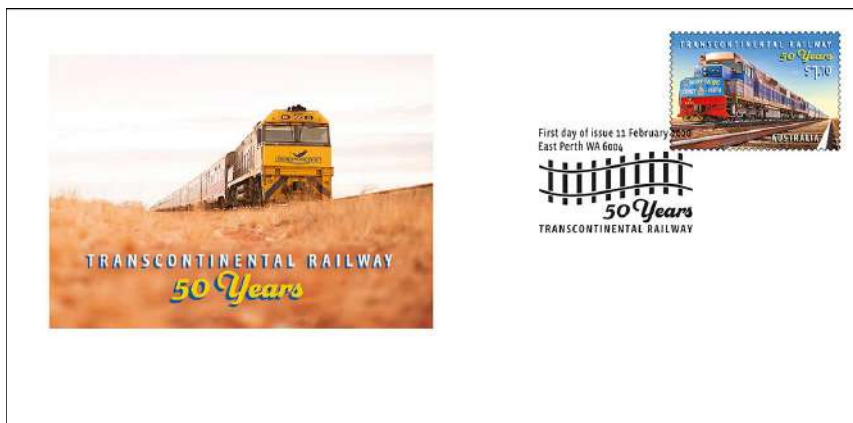
Noted this comment online at Auspost Shop for FDC of above:

The first day cover is valid for postage only on the day of issue, from the post office named on the postmark.

Interesting I always thought FDC were valid for a fortnight from any Post Office and it appears that if posted in a letter box they will still go through the system.

First Day Covers, for many years have not been what they originally were - a letter posted on the day that the stamp it bore was issued. Most modern FDCs never go through the post and are available long after the date of issue so really they are a printed envelope with a new stamp attached that has usually been cancelled with a fancy postmark. Certainly they are collectable but their philatelic value remains debatable.

Should Australia Post become serious about this new direction, collectors of FDCs in the future might go back to collecting genuinely posted examples which might make them much more interesting and, dare I say it, valuable. What do you think?



### Ranking by country of postcards sent

1	Germany	964,324
2	U.S.A.	631,917
3	Russia	600,844
4	Netherlands	243,805
5	Finland	219,883
6	China	206,578
7	Taiwan	184,779
8	Belarus	141,269
9	Japan	135,628
10	Czechia	135,115
11	France	115,193
12	UK	113,527
13	Poland	89,051
14	Canada	84,649
15	Hong Kong	55,600
16	Belgium	54,741
17	Lithuania	48,795
18	Austria	47,863
19	Australia	47,293
20	Switzerland	45,741

Meanwhile, the postcrossing figures have been released for 2019. Some members may be interested, others not, but just think of the numbers of stamps used during 2019.

5,100,682 postcards received

26,836,704,573 kms (or 16,675,555,116 miles) of total travelled distance

19,993 km (or 12,423 miles) was the longest distance travelled by a postcard

Yours in philately

Paul

### Important Auction Reminder

Members are reminded that details of all items for the club auctions must be finalised with the treasurer by the 25th of the preceding month. Items will not be accepted after that date.

### Extra Daytime Meeting of the Bendigo Philatelic Society.

If you are unable to get to our regular evening meeting, or want more time to pursue your collecting interests, we now have a daytime meeting on the morning after our main meeting.

Members are welcome to attend both meetings. Daytime meetings are not formal meetings.

Venue: Golden Square Hall, 9 Old High St.  
(Bendigo Field Naturalists Club rooms)  
(Behind the Golden Square Fire Station)

Date and time: 10 am Every Wednesday following the Tuesday night meeting)

Coffee, Tea, biscuits etc, available throughout the meeting. The venue has lots of free parking, has ground floor and ramp access and is close to a bus stop in High street. Further details can be obtained from the club secretary.



## How closely do we look at our stamps?

Our local Goldfields Library has recently added Michael Palin's 2018 book, "Erebus" which is the story of the epic adventures of the various men who sailed in that ship. For lovers of nautical yarns, it is a beauty though the amount of detailed research that Palin has included might make it a bit slow for some.

The point I am slowly getting to is that for quite some time I have had a stamp showing the Erebus and her sister ship, the "Terror" off the coast of Antarctica. The names reflect the fact that they were originally built as warships then converted to scientific research. What struck me, as I was reading the story was that, although I've looked at this stamp in detail and marvelled at the superb engraving by Pierre Bequet, I had never thought to look for the story behind the stamp.



This got me thinking about the many stamps in my albums that had suffered a similar fate. This is particularly true of the endless portraits. I had rarely wondered what the person had done to deserve a stamp, what sort of person they were or anything else about them. I decided that this would be a good subject for an article or two. I would choose an album at random, open it and see who was hiding there that I didn't know and then see what I had missed. I would skip over those whose fame relied on an accident of birth and look for people who had changed the world around them in some way.



The stamp from Germany that caught my eye was of a grim-looking woman named Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach who, according to the stamp lived from 1830-1916. Who was she? Why is she on a stamp?

She was born Marie Dubsy, the daughter of a Bohemian nobleman, in the family castle at Zdislavič, Moravia which was then part of the Austrian empire but is now in the Czech Republic. Though never formally educated, she had boundless curiosity and had access to the vast family library. She became fluent in French, German and Czech but it is in the German language where she gained fame and she is now considered one of the most influential German writers of her time.

Marie was an author who seems to have been in a similar mould to Charles Dickens in that her books told stories of the social and economic conditions of her time. She is said to have told her stories without the maudlin sentimentality that pervaded Victorian English literature and her depictions of the poor and of children showed depth and understanding. At the other end of the scale, she wrote incisive books about the lives of the aristocracy and it was her ability to depict characters that came to life on her pages that endeared her to so many readers.

At the age of eighteen, she married her cousin, an Austrian professor who also held the military rank of captain, later field marshal, Moritz, Baron von Ebner-Eschenbach and the couple moved to Vienna. Her first book was published when she was only twenty eight and her last, in 1909. Her writings have been translated and contain many aphorisms that have stood the test of time and are sometimes quoted by people who have no idea of their source. A few of them are here.

"We don't believe in rheumatism and true love until after the first attack."

"Privilege is the greatest enemy of right."

"Nobody knows enough, but many know too much."

"In youth we learn; in age we understand."

"None are so eager to gain new experience as those who don't know how to make use of the old ones."

What I don't understand is why the stamp's designer used a photograph taken in 1900 when Marie was an old woman. She attained her fame while still in her twenties so surely a younger portrait would have been more appropriate and certainly more pleasing.



*Marie in her twenties*

## Valuation and Insurance and Stamps - Where do you stand if you lose your collection?

We have been hearing disturbing reports of fellow collectors losing their entire collections in the recent bushfires. A discussion about this with David Cotton at the recent meeting prompted me to put a few thoughts on the subject here.

Some of those who lost their collections in the recent fires are now finding that their collections are not covered by their house and contents insurance. It seems that there is a general lack of understanding about how insurance companies do business around stamp collections.



Having looked into this some time ago, I can understand why this should be the case. If I was to use my catalogue to value my collection, thousands of stamps would show a value of around 20c which would mean that those stamps had substantial value. In reality, that 20c only constitutes a handling charge by the dealers and I might be able to buy a box full of such stamps for a dollar. Other stamps in my collection might be worth hundreds, or even thousands of dollars each (they are not, but I can dream, can't I?).

Insurance companies are very conscious of such issues and so if you wish for your collection to be included in your insurance policy, they have very strict guidelines on how the collection must be documented and stored and who can provide the valuation. Some of the larger dealers can value your collection for you but time is money to them and it takes quite a lot of time and so, does not come particularly cheaply.

In the end, it really comes down to how and what you collect. If your collection is a valuable investment it probably makes a lot of sense to make sure that it is insured. For many of us, however, the costs involved may simply not be worth while. My collection, for instance, owes me nothing. The substantial amount of money that I have spent over the years has been repaid many times over by the pleasure I have gained from it. I spend far less than my friend who spends his money on cigarettes and has nothing to show for it but a cough.



If I was to consider insurance, I would need to remove all the more valuable items to a separate album to get them valued and then I would need to ensure that they were safely stored in a manner that minimised the risk for the insurers. I like to turn the pages of my album and view the sets displayed in their entirety. I don't want to have to keep going to the safe (which I would need to buy) every time I wish to see a stamp.

In the end, it is a personal decision but after the devastation that has hit so many Australians recently, if others hear of a fellow collector who has lost their collection in the fires (or this week, the floods) or perhaps had it stolen, one would hope that there will be plenty of help and encouragement from the rest of us to start again.



## Favourite Stamps

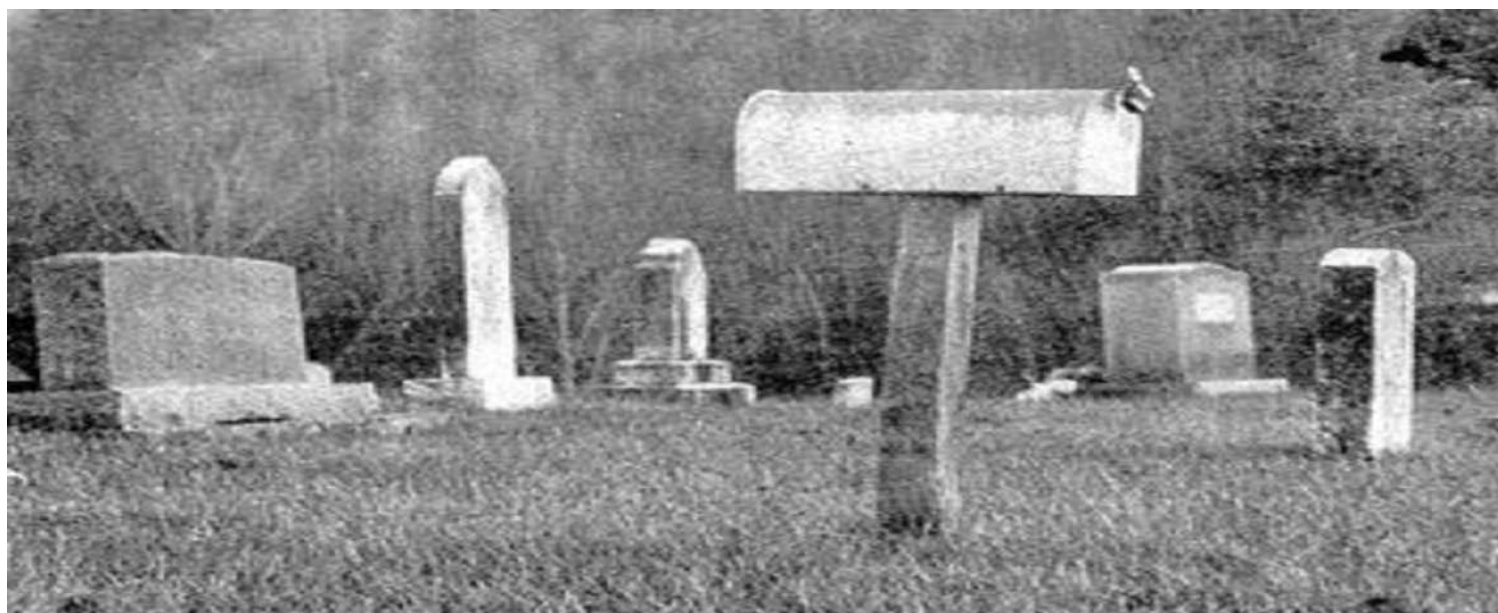
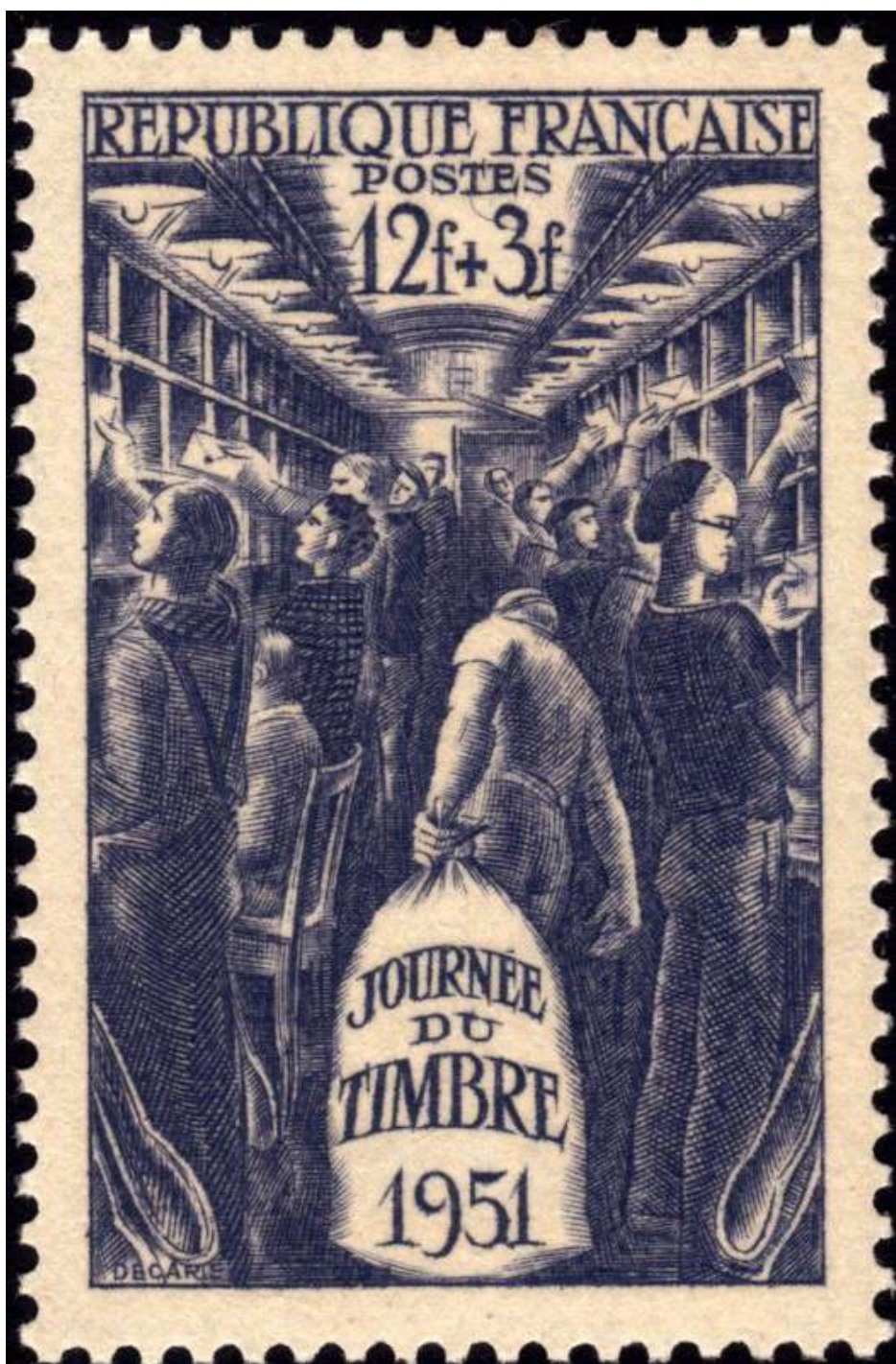
This stamp, designed and engraved by the iconic French engraver, Albert Decaris, shows the inside of a railway postal sorting van in 1951.

We had these in Australia as well which is why the post office was able to send a letter from Bendigo to the outer suburbs of Sydney in twenty-four hours. That is something that can't be done these days.

A train would be loaded with the post bags into the mail van where the initial sorting would begin as the train headed to Melbourne. At stations along the line, the stationmaster would hang the day's bag of post onto a special hook that could be caught by the train as it passed without the need for the train to stop. These would be also be sorted.

By the time the train reached Melbourne, everything would be ready in bags destined for different areas, all mail for New South Wales, and major towns along the way, being loaded onto the Sydney train. This would be further sorted so that by the time the train reached Sydney, the mail was ready to be sent to whatever part of NSW to which it was addressed.

Moving the mail onto road trucks may have seemed like a boost in efficiency at the time but alas, the loss of sorting made the end result quite the opposite.



*Dead Letter Office*



# Annual Stamp Fair

Ocean Grove Stamp Club

**Saturday 21st March  
2020**

**9am - 2pm**

Senior Citizens Clubrooms  
101 The Terrace, Ocean Grove

Dealers in attendance for  
Valuations and Buying

**Great range of Australian  
& worldwide Philatelic material,  
coins, banknotes and a  
limited selection of memorabilia!**

Entry by **Gold Coin** Donation

**Light refreshments available**





# **BENDIGO Stamp Fair**

**Saturday**

**8th August 2020**  
9.30am - 3.30pm

**Local & Melbourne  
Stamp and Coin Dealers**

**St Andrews**

**Uniting Church Hall**  
24 Myers Street Bendigo

**Free Entry**

**Food and Drinks Available**

**Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc**

**P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552**

[www.bendigophilatelicociety.org](http://www.bendigophilatelicociety.org)

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: [marj.trew@bigpond.com.au](mailto:marj.trew@bigpond.com.au)