



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

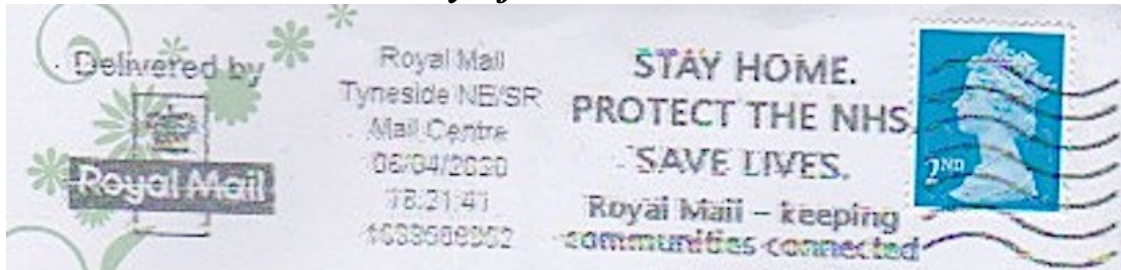
Now in our 89th year

May 2020

Web page: www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>



Diary of Future Events



Picture taken from Stampboards

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

President's Message May 2020

What a sad world we are living in. However we here in Australia seem to be missing the worst of it. There is no news yet as to when we will be able to resume getting together to continue our hobby.

We are lucky though that thanks to Lyn's initiative we are able to continue to pursue in a restricted way our hobby.

We have cancelled this year's Stamp Fair but will continue the Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt and decide a winner when we can again get together.

In the meantime Tom Harris has produced the sheets for next year's competition and a copy will be sent to members shortly.

Unfortunately Tom at the moment is a resident of the Bendigo Hospital and we wish him well and hope to see him back on deck with us all soon.

Take care now and stay home and safe...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*

ph: 0439 473 645 email: joysgold2@gmail.com

Treasurer: *Margaret Brown*

email: mabrown@bigpond.net.au

Newsletter Editor: *John Armstrong*

email: jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com

Librarian: *Ian Kimpton*

email: ickim@bigpond.com

Webmaster: *David Robinson*

email: ddusa@live.com.au



The April meeting in full swing

Report On Our April Meeting.

Our April meeting was a great success with no members attending at all. Instead of the usual noisy animated gatherings, our April meeting was quiet and calm.

When interviewed, club president, Libby Luke said that, to her knowledge, Bendigo Philatelic Society had never before had such a polite and peaceful meeting and this she said was probably due to the maturity of the members or perhaps some astral phenomenon which had brought all the stars and planets into an astrological harmony that had affected the members psychologically.

When asked whether she thought that perhaps the fact that the meeting had been cancelled may have had something to do with it she replied that, yes, of course that was a remote possibility but probably more research was needed before concluding that such a mundane reason could be accepted as the main factor.

Discussions are ongoing but as the meetings have now been called off until further notice, it will remain to be seen whether a pattern of quiet harmony emerges from future meetings.



News from Paul Brownlie

Recent Australian Engraved Stamps



The stamps and minisheet have been illustrated and engraved by Norwegian artist Martin Mörck (pictured at right), and printed using a combination of traditional intaglio techniques and offset printing. Mörck has produced more than 900 stamps, which contain more than 670 engravings, for numerous postal administrations in his 45-year career. He also works internationally in the field of banknote engraving. More info from:



<https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/articles/intaglio-and-the-incredible-art-of-stamp-engraving>

Yours in philately,

Paul

Editor's note.

Unfortunately, while engaging the services of one of the world's foremost engravers to produce the set, Australia Post chose to only use his talents as an artist to prepare the issue as a line drawing. As with many modern "engraved" stamps, the actual engraving was done by computer. Some collectors of classic line engraved stamps, when asked, said they will probably give this one a miss as when seen under magnification, the quality of the engraving does not come close to Morck's hand engraved stamps.

Attention: Collectors of New Zealand Stamps

Margaret Brown has informed us that the album of New Zealand stamps that belong to the club has been returned to her. If any member is interested in looking through these, Margaret's contact details are on page one.

Stamp Insurance

Our recent article about insuring stamp collections drew the following response from one of our members.

Lindsay Nicholls writes, "Recently, when my home was broken into, a brief case with stamps was stolen. The stamps were prepared for our monthly auction. Fortunately, I had a copy of the listings and reserve prices. This I presented with my claim to the insurance company under my home and contents policy. Without question, they paid out the reserve prices. This was probably to my advantage as not all lots sell at our auctions.

Years ago, I tried to insure my collection but found it too difficult and premiums too high. It was more efficient and cheaper to invest in a strong-box to house the most valuable.

A non-printer's view of stamp printing

Those of you who are familiar with the editor of this newsletter will know that he is always banging on about the beauty of engraved stamps. It was not until a conversation with another member that he realised that not everyone understands what an engraved stamp is and how it differs from other types of printing. While not having a full understanding about how much of stamp printing is carried out, this is an attempt to shed a light on some of the basic ideas but it should be said that there is some overlap between types and some stamps are printed with a combination of more than one type of printing.



Typographed



Engraved

There are actually two types of engraved stamps. Most engraved enthusiasts define an engraved stamp as a “line-engraved” one where the image has been carved, “life-sized” and in reverse on a steel or copper plate using a small chisel known as a burin. These “dies” are hardened then used to produce the printing plate. The lines of engraving are then filled with ink and the plate is pressed onto the paper so that the final image is formed of slightly raised lines of ink. This form of printing is known as recess or intaglio.

The other type of engraving is called typography or offset and is virtually the reverse. In this case, the parts of the image where no ink is required are the parts that are carved away so what is left is what carries the ink.

Both types have advantages and disadvantages. Recess printed, line engraved stamps are costly to produce and cannot produce large blocks of colour so where this is required, parallel lines are usually used. The advantages are a fine, crisp image when done well, plus the raised surface of the ink can be felt making forgery more difficult. Typographed stamps are far cheaper to produce and while the image is coarser, blocks of colour can be printed. The plates are more easily damaged leading to the endless possible varieties beloved by KGV collectors. The two types are shown above.

On older stamps other common types of printing are photogravure and lithography. Photogravure is a process where the image is produced by a screening method that reduces it to minute dots. These can usually be seen under a glass, particularly on older stamps. The size of the dots reduced and the number of dots per inch increased as printing methods improved.



Photogravure

Lithographed stamps look like engraved issues but have a more flat look and lack the tactile feel of a recess printed stamp. It can be difficult to tell them apart at times, particularly with high quality litho or lower quality recess and this writer has been fooled on many occasions.

Collectors of Austrian stamps will know that sometimes an issue could be released in two or more types. The Mariazell Basilica 1s stamp of 1957 was issued firstly in recess, then in typo, then litho and finally in photo so is a good way to look at the differences.



Engraved (recess)



Typographed



Lithographed



Photogravure

Most modern stamps are produced by a method known as offset lithography and printing methods have improved so much that incredible detail can be included. They are also cheap to produce and unfortunately for collectors, this has led most postal administrations to start releasing hundreds of different stamps every year. Though these are miniature works of art, the sheer bulk of new issues has forced many collectors to choose a cut-off date for their collections. I do not understand how this process works so will not try to describe it but a lot of information is available at <https://www.stampprinters.info/>

Stamp Favourites: The stamp they said was impossible.



There have been several combinations of artist and engraver that have produced stamps that could almost have been made in heaven. The Austrian designer, Adalbert Pilch with Georg Wimmer, Alfred Nefe or particularly, Rudolf Toth come to mind for sheer brilliance. But perhaps the most fortuitous meeting, as it has left a legacy for collectors, comes from Czechoslovakia when Jindra Smith first engraved a stamp that had been designed by the artist, Max Svabinsky.

It began a firm friendship that lasted until Svabinsky's death in 1962 and a collaboration that continued even after that as several of Svabinsky's designs were translated by Schmidt posthumously.

They only seem to have argued over one thing. After world war two, Schmidt began signing his stamps Jindra S. as he thought that his German sounding surname would give people the impression that Germany was still in control of the Czech post.

Svabinsky thought this was a ridiculous idea but Jindra stuck with it right up until Max's death. On the posthumous Svabinsky stamps, Jindra went back to signing his full name as a tribute to their friendship.

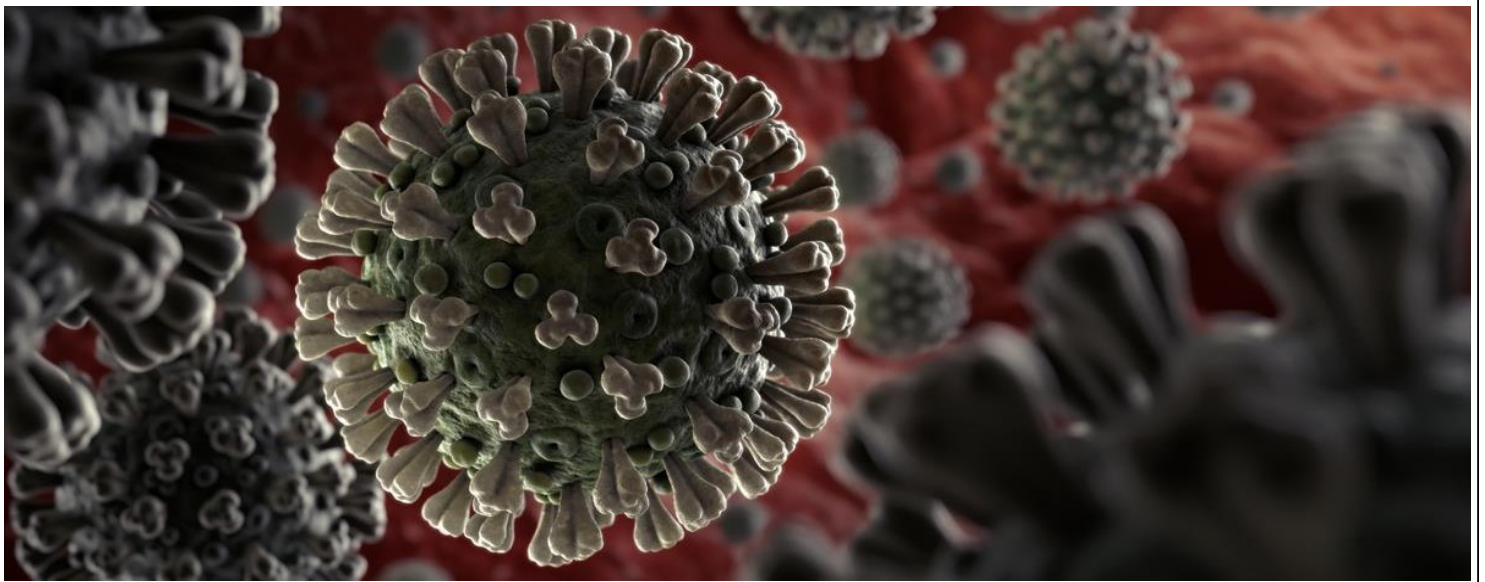
The Sokol Festival was a mass gymnastics affair based in Czechoslovakia. For the 1948 Sokol Congress in Prague, Svabinsky had made a design that he wanted to be engraved by Schmidt and printed in recess. He was told by the printers that it was too detailed and would be impossible to engrave in a way that could be recess printed. It might have ended up being printed by photogravure but Svabinsky asked Schmidt to see if he could achieve the impossible. The result was one of the classics of Czech philately, a beautiful stamp featuring an allegory of the republic and with such detailed lines, particularly in the background, it does indeed seem impossible that it could have been engraved on a stamp just 28 x 34mm.



Max Svabinsky



The very last stamp issued by Czechoslovakia before the country's break-up in 1992 featured Jindra Schmidt engraving a stamp. It was a fitting tribute to one who had given so much to his country.



A Corona Competition

The virus that has the whole world running scared is called a corona virus because someone with more imagination than me thought it looked like a crown. I would have called it a sea urchin virus if anyone had asked me but as they didn't, I guess we are stuck with corona, much to the chagrin of the manufacturer of the beer with that name.

Anyway, that seems like a good reason for a small competition to while away the hours stuck at home. The rules are simple. Just try to identify which country released the stamp. Just to make it a little more difficult, one of them is a revenue stamp. There are no prizes and the whole stamps will be shown in the next issue. Happy hunting!



And a final question. On one series of stamps the monarch is shown with two crowns. Can you find a stamp that fits this description and answer why this happened?



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
Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew
Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au