

## The Golden City Philatelist

### BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 92<sup>nd</sup> year

September 2022

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



### Diary of Future Events

Tues. 6th Sept 7.30pm World Soccer Stamps

Tues. 4th Oct 7.30pm AGM and How to Use a Perforation Guage.

Tues. 1st Nov 7.30pm Annual Club Competitions

### President's Message September 2022

Looking out the window writing this report our street trees are loaded with blossom. Early signs of Spring.

Our August Meeting we were going to be treated to a talk by Georgie Redmond, titled "Your Heart Matters" Georgie is a paramedic, and the Heart Matters Co-ordinator for Bendigo. Unfortunately Georgie was not well, so we have re schedule her talk to the October meeting. Which will also be our A.G.M. so if anyone wants to challenge the current office bearers you now have time to put your name up.



The 6th of August 2022 Stamp Fair, went well for not a lot of advertising. We now have 11 months to plan our next fair bigger and better. Thanks Bill and your team of volunteers for all the hard work in making this year's fair a success. Now it our turn to support our fellow collectors in Ballarat for their fair on Sunday 9th October 2022 (9.30am - 3.30pm) 20 Eastwood St, Ballarat (behind downtown Woolworths). Isn't it great getting back to Stamp Fairs.

Birthdays for the month of August.

The Birthday's in our Philatelic Family for the month of August are Noel on the 5th, Myrtle on the 19th, Geoff on the 21st and Ken Scott on the 31st (which is a special one for him). Hope you all have or had a wonderful Birthday.

As COVID 19 is quite prevalent in Bendigo, it has been suggested that we go back to wearing our masks, over to the individual, this is not compulsory but suggested.

I will conclude with the very sad news of the passing of Tom Harris, he fought a great battle. But in the end it all became too much. Eight of our members attended his memorial service. It's very sad we really don't get to know someone until it is too late. We all send our condolences to his wife Valmai and his three children, Stewart, Kim and Greg and their Families.

Let me finish with my little phrase to all members of our philatelic family.

TAKE CARE WE CARE and you are all important ...... Libby.

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

Kangaroo Flat R.S.L. Station St. Kangaroo Flat

**Auctions** will be held at all Tuesday meetings. **10 items per member** are allowed for auctions Christmas bonanza auction in **December**.

Exchange sheets will no longer be circulated at meetings. Please see Lyn to access sheets at home. More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

**CLUB CONTACTS:** 

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### Editorial: The longest journey begins with the first step.

That old adage could easily be applied to our recent stamp fair. I have no doubt that anyone who attended would have noticed that the numbers were down from previous years but the fact that the fair happened at all was a testament to the optimism and faith in the future of the club members.

With the possibility of having to cancel at the last minute hanging over the event right up until the day, it was always going to be a gamble and the reduced attendance pointed to the fact that many of us older generation are still wary of gathering in numbers as the covid threat is far from over.

Despite this, the amount of work that was needed to make the event happen was no less than in previous years and the club is very fortunate to have Bill Trew whose tireless efforts brought together all the dealers and volunteers who gave us such an enjoyable day.

Ballarat president, Peter Morey echoed the sentiments of many of us when he wrote, "The Bendigo Fair last Saturday was great fun. It was a great chance to catch up with Stamping friends after such a long break."



Collectors we spoke with seemed to be enjoying finding many items to fill those gaps in their albums and we can only thank all the dealers and hope they had a worthwhile day and will continue to support our fair in the future. The first step back has been taken. Let's look forward to a brighter and better fair in 2023.

### To soak or not to soak. That is the question.

You sometimes hear people ask whether you should soak stamps off of the envelope or leave them on. Well, it really depends on what you are looking at. Most modern mail does not have the interesting postmarks etc. that older mail might have, in fact increasingly there is no postmark at all or else just an angry slash with a pen. In these cases, it is just as well to simply save the stamp.

Much older mail, however, can have a huge story hidden on the envelope. You just need to understand the code. Also, there is a growing number of collectors who want



stamps that have been posted "in date", not simply rejects from a dealer who bought too much years ago. These collectors might prefer their stamps "on cover". Then there are the collectors of printed commercial envelopes to whom the stamp is a minor part of the story.



Perhaps one of the best examples of why not to soak is the cover above, one of only three known and the only one in private hands. This envelope once held an invitation to a ball that was being held by the wife of the governor of Mauritius. They had heard about the stamps being promoted in England and commissioned a local printer to produce some for the colony, many of which were used on the invitations. These became the first British Empire stamps produced outside of Great Britain

You can buy a copy of the stamp for around \$600,000 as twenty-seven of the five hundred printed have survived. The one above which was left on the cover sold in 2021 for twelve million US dollars at the Christopher Gaertner auction in 2021 making it the most expensive philatelic item ever. That was definitely better left on the cover.

# BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

INTERCLUB GET TOGETHER

&

### **AUCTION**

(UP TO 10 ITEMS EACH)

SUPPER PROVIDED

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 2022

7.00PM

EASTWOOD LEISURE COMPLEX
20 EASTWOOD STREET BALLARAT
CENTRAL.

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER.15<sup>th</sup>

FOR CATERING PURPOSES.

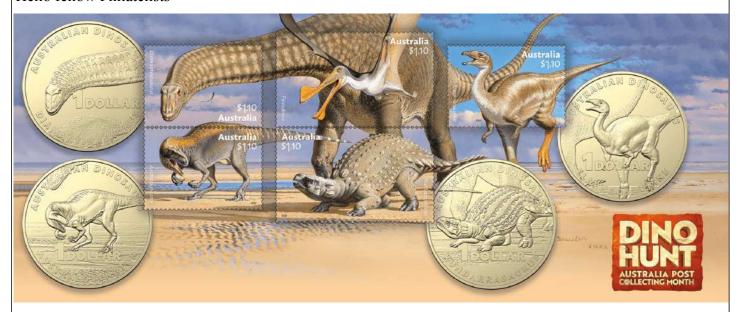
info@ballaratstampclub.com.au

OR PHONE JAN KERR: 0450172165

We also invite you to put in a display of up to 15 sheets for our October Fair. You can bring them with you on the night as they need to be in by September 30th for judging. Prizes awarded.

### **News from Paul Brownlie**

Hello fellow Philatelists



Australia Post are issuing more of the ever-popular dinosaur stamps, this time with coins to match. This being a particularly popular topic with young people, it can only enhance the future for our hobby. The dinosaurs depicted are those that were found in Australia which ranged from the massive Diamantinasaurus down to

some the size of a chicken.

Another recent release which found particular favour with me (Go Bombers!) was a commemorative booklet celebrating the 150th anniversary of Essendon Football Club. Many of us are old enough to remember when some primary schools would often adopt a football jumper as their school uniform. One such school that used the Essendon jumpers was Kilsyth Primary School in the Eastern suburbs. The practice continued until the mid sixties at least. The school now has a modern uniform but the colours are still red and black!





There was a time when stamps reflected the culture and history of a nation but those days seem to be gone. The latest stamp pack "collectables" have little to do with Australian culture but I suppose they will be popular with some people. It will be interesting to see how many of them actually end up being postally used.

Yours in Philately

Paul

### **Bendigo Philatelic Society Library**

by David Robinson

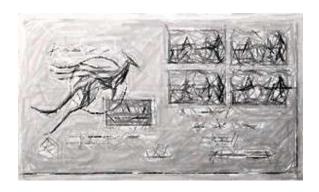
Booklet by: The Australian Post Office. BPS0032

# THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1952-1959

FOLLOWING ON FROM LAST MONTH

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POST OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA, 1959





For the convicts, settlers and officials arriving in the early colony of New South Wales, letters were the only way to maintain a connection with Britain. Ships arriving in Sydney were mobbed by people looking for mail. Fraud, theft, and extortion were rife. On 25 April 1809 the government appointed Isaac Nichols to the position of Postmaster. Nichols, a former convict, took control of the distribution of mail within the colony and set up the first post office in his home.

#### Sydney Gazette, 30 April 1809:

Early in 1958 the Post office proposed that a special stamp be issued to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The first ship to reach Sydney Harbour after Nichols appointment was the "Experiment". The Experiment dropped anchor on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1809. The 1959 stamp shows Isaac Nichols boarding the ship and includes historical scenes of Sydney in the background. The Deep Blue 4d stamp was designed and engraved by F. D. Manley, Recess Printed and was issued on the 22rd April 1959.

### CENTENARY OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN QUEENSLAND, 1959





The Government of Queensland proposed a stamp be issued to mark the centenary of the attainment of self-government that was issued in London England on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1859. It was felt the stamp design should include the State Coat of Arms and include the Jacaranda plant in flower with the Parliament House depicted to the right. In order to print the flowering Jacaranda a second printing was found to be necessary using the letterpress printing process. So basically, the stamp was a green recess printed stamp with the jacaranda blue blossom letterpress printed onto un watermarked paper. The stamp was designed and engraved by G. Lissenden and released in sheets of 80 stamps

### CHRISTMAS 1959





This Christmas 1959 issue was designed by F.D. Manley it shows a silhouette of three sages following the star on camels to visit Jesus, Joseph, and Mary, in the distance we find the city of Bethlehem. This 5d stamp is a reddish violet colour, Recess printed and issued in sheets of 120 stamps.

#### Other booklets in this series are:

- The early Commonwealth Period and The Kangaroo Map Series
- The 1913-14 Recess- Printed series and the King George V Side face and Pictorial Definitive Stamps.
- The Early Federal Period 1901 to 1912-13
- The Postage Due Stamps of Australia 1890-1961
- The Definitive Stamps of the Reign of KING GEORGE VI
- THE Definitive Stamps of the reign of QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1952-1956

Our library stock's an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines,

which are available to members.

Please contact me David Robinson on 0428 821 221 or email me at ddusa@live.com.au



I remember one time while hiking with my girlfriend in northern Alberta and out of nowhere came this huge brown bear charging us and was she mad. We must have been near one of her cubs. Anyway, if I had not had my little Jetfire I would not be here today.

What is the smallest caliber you trust to protect

Just one shot to my girlfriend's knee cap was all it took . . . . . the bear got her and I was able to escape by just walking at a brisk pace.

It's one of the best pistols in my collection...



When officials asked for the Welsh translation of a road sign, they thought the reply was what they needed.

Unfortunately, the e-mail response to Swansea council said in Welsh: "I am not in the office at the moment. Send any work to be translated".

# PRIORITIES

### A Philatelic Conspiracy Theory Finally Put To Rest.

To begin this story, one really needs to read the following article. The Czeslaw Slania study group disbanded many years ago but this article in their newsletter from 2005 has long been accepted as containing proof that the US post office covered up the identity of the engraver of the Korean War Veterans stamp.



# CLOSE-UP

Quarterly Newsletter of the CZESŁAW SŁANIA STUDY GROUP P.O. Box 1382 • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

### Behind the scenes — Słania's "KOREAN WAR VETERANS" Stamp Controversy

any stories and intrigues have surrounded the life of Czesław Słania. It is not unexpected for someone of such prominence, surrounded as he is by dealings with many governments at the highest levels of security and people such as kings, princes, the Pope and other famous personages.

One such story involves the United States. After the death of Czesław Słania, CSSG distributed a memorial stamps to members. It consisted of a U.S. stamp that he is credited with engraving — the World War I Veterans, of 1985 — overprinted with his signature and the years of his life. For many years we have known that this was only one of the Veterans stamps that he engraved for

Veterans Korea

USA 222

Take a good long look at these two stamps. Knowing what you do about the engraving process and individual artistic expression, can these be anything but the product of the same burin, in the hand of the same artist?

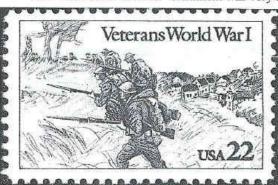
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BEP/USPS, but we were held to silence, as told in this article.

In 1985 you may have been bothered by the similarity of design and execution of two stamps issued at that time within a month of each other, the Korean Veterans stamp was issued first on July 26, 1985; the World War I stamp was issued on August 26, 1985.

At the time, it was announced that the WW I stamp would be engraved by Słania. Directly and in the press the USPS and BEP received a lot of objection about going to a foreign source to get a commemorative stamp fashioned for a group of U.S. veterans.

The "BUY AMERICAN" sentiment was very high



Images are at 200% of actual size

during 1985, following the Vietnamese War. Possibly, because there were a lot more Korean Veterans still living at that time than WW I veterans, the BEP decided to not credit Słania with the engraving of the Korean Veterans stamp. When they were issued, we thought they looked a great deal alike, but dismissed it as two artists working from the same type of design originals wanting to make a matching set of stamps. They just might come out this close in appearance, especially considering that they were both printed by the BEP. It wasn't so. The stamps were both done by one engraver, Czesław Słania.

The U.S. Postal Service records show Thomas Hipschen, resident engraver for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, as the engraver of the 1985 22¢ Korean War veterans commemorative of 1985 (Scott 2152). Just after (Continued on page 6)

### A Philatelic Conspiracy Theory Finally Put To Rest.

#### CLOSE-UP

#### OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2005

(Continued from page 1)

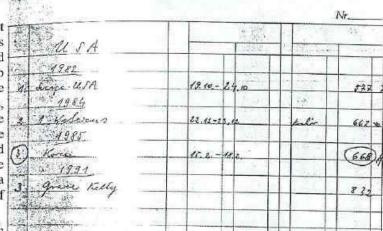
they were issued there was a great deal of dissent in the popular and philatelic press about how this 'foreign' prankster often slipped secret initials and names into his work. Photos of the WWI stamp were presented upside-down to show how in the shading of the grasses he had signed his initials, which is against U.S. policy. It took a very fertile imagination to see any similarity between these shadings and Słania's name in any form. It turned out that when the complainers went back to the original design sketch, which was given to Słania to work from, they found that his representation of the shadings were exactly as they were designed.

According to Słania, as told to a confidant, when the controversy of him, a foreign engraver, doing the World War I Veterans stamp (Scott 2154) arose, he already had engraved the Korean Veterans die (Scott 2152) and the printing was already done and waiting to be put on sale. The Bureau demanded that he write a letter stating that he did not have anything to do with the production of the Korean stamp. The recognition was then given to the American engraver, Thomas Hipschen. The Bureau feared if this was not done, the controversy that would be generated, would probably be greater than for the World War I Veterans stamp. More Korean veterans were still living, after all.

We have proof of this instance in the handwriting of Słania himself. The confidant mentioned above was privileged to see Słania's record log book of all his work, with dates and what number Słania assigned to each stamp. Each stamp for each country is numbered sequentially as they are completed. Stania allowed this person to photocopy the log book. One complete copy was sent to CSSG. A copy of the page listing his U.S. stamps, up to 1991 is shown here. If you notice, he has the "KOREA" stamp listed as his #3 U.S. stamp. In addition he numbers his life work for this issue as #668. Both numbers are circled, No other stamp in the log book is so indicated, and #3 for the U.S. is re-designated to the "Grace Kelly" stamp, issued in 1993. When doing signatures at stamps shows Słania would always gladly sign the World War I stamp, and covers, as shown on this page, but would refuse to sign the Korean Veterans stamp.

This is intriguing enough by itself, but comes into greater significance when considering the numbering of all his life's works, the Opus

(Continued on page 7)



A poor photocopy of the "U.S.A." page of Slania's log book. The entry for 1985 shows his third work as "Korea" which was his 668th stamp die. Both numbers are circled. The number '3' for the United States is reassigned in 1991 for the "Grace Kelly"





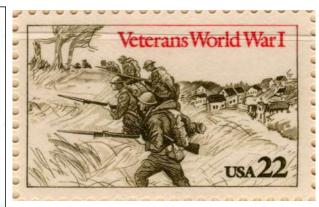
A cordial meeting of Thomas Hipschen and Stania at AMERIPEX 86 in Chicago after the 'incident.' Stania obviously understood the need for this action. They both signed the Souvenir Card above, with the Korean and WW I Veterans stamps attached.

### A Philatelic Conspiracy Theory Finally Put To Rest.

(Continued from page 6)

numbers\*, so to speak. A great deal of attention was given to the choice of subject and country for which he would produce his 1000th stamp die. So, in light of the foregoing information, we must assume that when his 1000th stamp was issued, it was actually his 1001st stamp. At that time however, we were not able to print this story in an effort to not reveal the source.

What is surprising in looking back and reviewing this incident, is that after such shabby treatment by the USPS, why Słania ever chose to do any other stamps for the United States. But, in fact, he did, indirectly. The two veterans commemoratives were the last of his direct contract with USPS. Subsequent to this he was under contract through Stamp Venturers, for whom he did the Earl Warren, Grace Kelly, Dean Acheson, Christmas (paired with Hipschen to make two different versions, booklet and sheet, of the same design) and the "Surrender at Saratoga" \$1. Later, in 2001, he engraved the joint-issue (with Sweden) honoring the Nobel Prize Centenary. His first stamp design for the U.S. was US-Sweden Treaty of Amity and Commerce (Scott #2036).





The two stamps that caused the controversy.

Following on from this article, many people, myself included, believed that there had been a secret agreement between the two engravers and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. This made sense as Slania had told an acquaintance that the Korean stamp was finished and printed, ready for release. Surely they wouldn't have then destroyed that issue and got Thomas Hipschen to start all over again.

Well, it appears that was exactly what they did! During Slania's lifetime, neither engraver seems to have revealed who did the stamp - until now. As most members know, for the last dozen or so years, I have been building a database of stamp engravers at www.engravedstamps.net. A short time ago, I received the following email from Thomas Hipschen.

From: Tom Hipschen <tom@hipschen.com Sent: Wednesday, 10 August 2022 7:15 AM To: ijarmstrong47@hotmail.com <jjarmstrong47@hotmail.com>

I recently stumbled across your engraver website and was excited to see it. I did not know that such a list even existed.

My name is Thomas Hipschen and I was an engraver at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C. from 1968 until 2007. I noticed a few discrepancies in the U.S. listings and have added them here in case you might be interested in updating them.

13372 - 1972 - Tom Sawyer - was engraved by Joseph Creamer while he was my instructor

13149 - 1981 - Bison - was Engraved by Ken Kipperman - he and I each made five engravings that appear in a 10 stamp booklet. I did the left vertical column of animals, and he did the right column.

118 - 1985 - Korean War Veterans I engraved this stamp, and Slania engraved the WWI stamp

9088 - 1985 - Mary Cassatt - was engraved by Gary Chaconas

7631 - 1988 - Jack London - I engraved this stamp.

10265 1965 - Adlai Stevenson - was engraved by Charles Brooks.

These are all the picture engravers. The lettering on all of these stamps was engraved by others, but I do not recall who did each one accurately enough to be certain for attribution.

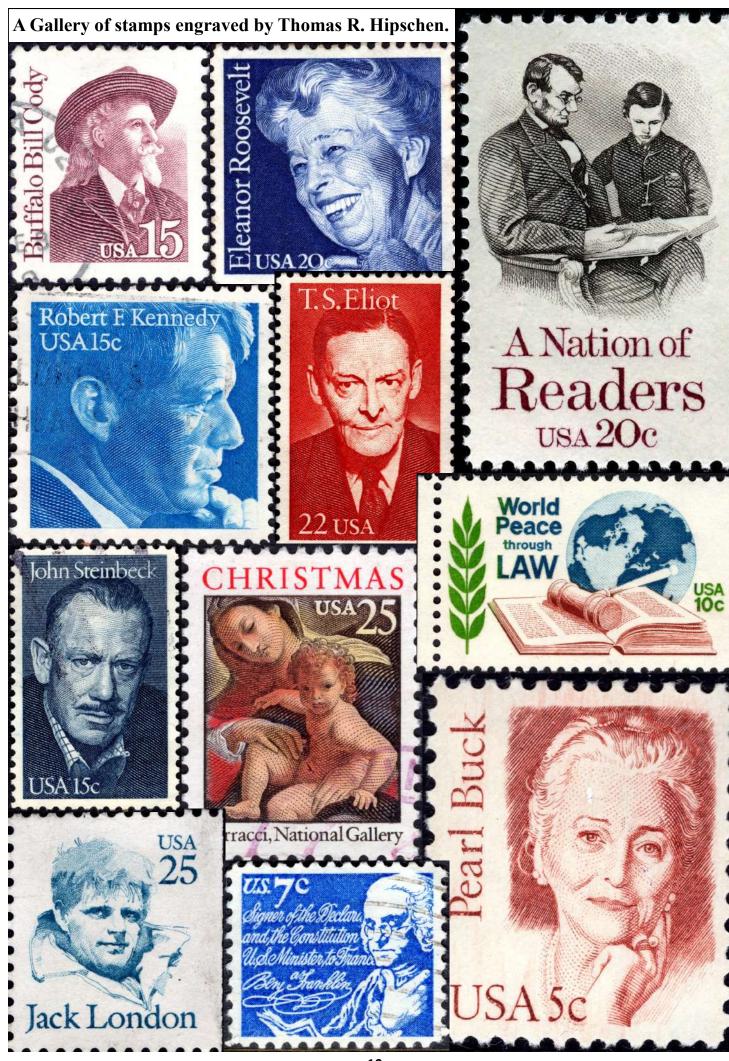
Thank you for making the effort to compile this resource

Best wishes

Tom Hipschen

It says much for Hipschen's engraving that so many "experts" could not tell his work from that of Slania whom many argue was the greatest of all time. Slania's circling of the number in his log and reissuing the number was because his stamp was rejected. In subsequent emails, Tom sent me a list of the 131 stamps he had engraved, which included many of my favourite US stamps. He also made me aware that from the early 1990s, those stamps issued by the US in intaglio, or recess printing, were no longer engraved but were etched using acid and from then on, his work was on banknotes. A gallery of some of the Hipschen stamps follows this article.

John Armstrong



### Why is this person on a stamp No.9: Anna Louise Strong

Browsing through some stamps brought up this stamp which seemed unusual as it depicts a Western woman (she turned out to be American) on a People's Republic of China stamp. Once again, Wikipedia came to the rescue with a long article on the life of Anna Louise Strong.

Given the above, it will come as no surprise that she was a lifelong socialist, a passionate pacifist and a champion of workers' rights. She was also a journalist who wrote many books as well as articles.

Her father, Sydney Dix Strong, was a Social Gospel minister in the Congregational Church, active in missionary work, and a dedicated pacifist. She adopted his pacifist ideals as her own. She gained a PhD in Philosophy by the age of 23 and worked as an advocate for child welfare, joining the National Child Labor Committee. She organised a travelling exhibition promoting child welfare which was seen by many thousands daily.





At the age of thirty, she moved to Seattle to live with her father. She was overwhelmingly elected to the Seattle School Board. It was during these years that she developed her belief that capitalism was responsible for the poverty and suffering of the working class, a belief that was strengthened when she was hired as a journalist to cover the "Everett massacre". She became outspoken on workers' rights after seeing the armed guards, hired by the Everett, Washington mill owners to combat the Industrial Workers of the World or "Wobblies" after a five-month-long strike by shingle workers. Her subsequent association with the IWW led to her being

removed from the Seattle School Board.

The Seattle Star, November 6, 1916

In 1921, she travelled to Poland and Russia to see first-hand the Soviet government she had supported in her writing. Her relationship with the Russians was to go through many phases over the years from being hailed as their spokesperson in America to being arrested as an American spy and back to being an honorary member of the Red Guards.

In the late twenties, she visited China becoming a friend of the communist leader, Zhou Enlai. She always preferred the Chinese form of socialism to that of Russia, possibly due in part to her troubled relationship with the Russian authorities. Even so, she returned to Russia in 1930, helping to set up the first English language newspaper in Moscow. While there, in 1931 she married Joel Shubin, a fellow socialist journalist and the marriage was a happy one until his death in 1942.



Newspaper file photo By Tim Davenport. New York Call, 1918

She returned to America in 1936, apparently dismayed at the Russian purges of its population but returned to Russia during WW2, following the Red Army as a correspondent. After the war, she again went to China, interviewing Mao Zhedong, but in 1949, her open preference for the Chinese led to her being expelled from Russia. She returned to the US for a while before returning to China where she spent the rest of her life. She died in Beijing in 1970 and was buried in Beijing's "Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery." This is simply a précis. A much more detailed account of her life can be found in Wikipedia.

Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc A0012556J

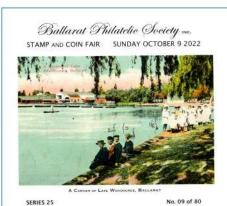
# Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coins Fair

### Sunday 9th

### October 2022

9.30am — 3.30pm

Eastwood Leisure Centre, 20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat





To order contact -

Peter Morey
petermorey05@gmail.com
0435 601 673

- •Orders processed in order of receipt with payment
- •Allow \$2 postage or \$4.50 registered
- •Overseas clients allow for 15% for PayPal
- •Direct Payment (new details)
  BSB: **013 516 A/C: 642092592**Ref: **Your Name**
- •Cheques payable to 'Ballarat Philatelic Society' PO Box 337, Wendouree, Vic. 3355

### For Sale:

Limited Editions Series 25 of the Ballarat Historical Envelopes. Featuring a corner of Lake Wendouree, Ballarat.

### Only \$3

Australia Post overprinted 'Postcards to the Front' miniature sheet. Overprinted letterpress on a Heidelberg Platen machine, utilizing hot metal handset type.

\$15



Note that 2021 items all sold out, so get in quick!

### Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamps and Coins Fair Monday, March 13th 2023

Visit our NEW website: ballaratstampclub.com.au

New members most welcome!



24 Myers Street Bendigo

# Free Entry

Food and Drinks Available

### Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc

P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552 www.bendigophilatelic.org

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