



*Bendigo*

# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

May 2024

Web page: [www.bendigophilatelic.org](http://www.bendigophilatelic.org)



## Diary of Future Events

Tues. 7th May Stamp Trivia Night  
Tues. 4th June Members Selling Night  
Tues. 2nd July Roman Numerals on Stamps

## President's Report May 2024

Our Last Meeting was our annual dinner. It was very well attended, and all had a great meal, and great fellowship. The winners of the Lois Whateley and the new Roman Lemega competitions were announced. We had six entries all high standard. Joy diligently judged the entries and gave a resume about all the entries. Tom Glazebrook gave an amusing small recitation, and hopefully John will give me a page in next months newsletter.

Now to the winners: Ken Datson won the Lois Whateley with the great score of 88 points. The inaugural Roman Lemega competition was won by Pauline Robinson, a great achievement. A few anomalies reared their head with these competitions, so our fantastic Secretary has created a document explaining all.

A lot of babies were born in the month of May. Tom Glazebrook on the 7th, Pauline Robinson on the 13th, Warren Richmond on the 18th, Ian Kimpton on the 25th, and Amy Benjamin on the 28th, Happy Birthday to you all and may you have wonderful celebrations.

The next meeting is on the 7th of May, and its agenda is Stamp Trivia. We also have quite an extensive Auction. That means study up your philatelic knowledge and save your pennies.

Next month Ballarat Philatelic Society celebrates its 120th Formation Anniversary. What an achievement - Congratulations and Well Done. Let's all look forward to their 150th.

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

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



**Thank you to Jacinta Allan MP and staff for the printed copies of this newsletter.**

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm 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:

**President: Libby Luke** ph: 0448 120 066

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## Lois Whateley and the new Roman Lemega competitions

The winners of the Lois Whatley and Roman Lemega competitions were announced at the club's annual dinner.

Pauline Robinson is shown here with Libby and Joy. Pauline was the inaugural winner of the Roman Lemega Memorial Award.

Ken D was not present to get the Lois Whatley award, hence no photo.

Details for the 2024-5 competitions are now available so an early start is recommended as some items may prove hard to find.



## Collection Disposal Number 4

The Scotch shortbread tin has been opened and we have Kings and Kangaroos...Some of them are "OS" perfins. They look like they will make a tasty feast for the exchange sheets and a club auction.

With no auction in April, I am working on a special effort for May with emphasis on slightly better material than Thai treats and Sushi Sensations.

I have moved on from the Scotch tin filing system to the last item in the storage box. It is an album marked "First day covers" but on opening it I see it contains "Jernbanen" covers...they are Norwegian railway travelling post office covers. I will illustrate a couple for The Golden City Philatelist and then decide what to do with them.

That's the end of the first storage container and now we tackle some lever arch files and spring backed binders labelled "various displays". I cannot remember why or when I started to accumulate stamps with surcharges, overprints and surtax. I say accumulate rather than collect because I just gathered up stuff and put them on Hagner sheets and now I have rediscovered them I have a lot from France and to a lesser degree Denmark.....so they look like future candidates for exchange sheets and auctions..

David Cotton



## Maryborough Stamp Fair will definitely take place on Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at Mill House, Maryborough.

There is some misinformation "out there" that the Fair had been cancelled. This is wrong.

kind regards  
Grey



# Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

A review / information: David Robinson. Library code: BPS-0149



## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **The Stamps and Postal History**

**Published and distributed by:**

**The Western Australian Study Group.**

This 471-page book presents Western Australian postal history in a comprehensive and well researched manner. The edition would be readily understood and make a great study for both the beginner and the specialist alike. The period 1827-1912 is covered but many chapters exceed these boundaries because of the subject matter. The book is divided into two main parts, the text and the appendices, the latter provides supportive references for details in the text and includes listings and tables to make for easy cross references to the relevant chapters.

This Information was obtained from the Groups Web Site. <http://www.wastudygroup.com> The Western Australia Study Group (WASG) was founded in 1974 to promote the collection and study of all aspects of the philately of Western Australia. Postal history started in 1826 with the settlement at King George Sound as an outpost of New South Wales. The Swan River Colony was founded in 1829 and its first adhesive postage stamps appeared in 1854 followed by postal stationery in 1879. Western Australia's Sesquicentenary in 1979 was marked by the publication of an authoritative handbook on Western Australia, now out of print. Since then, the WASG has pursued an active publication programme in many areas of research.

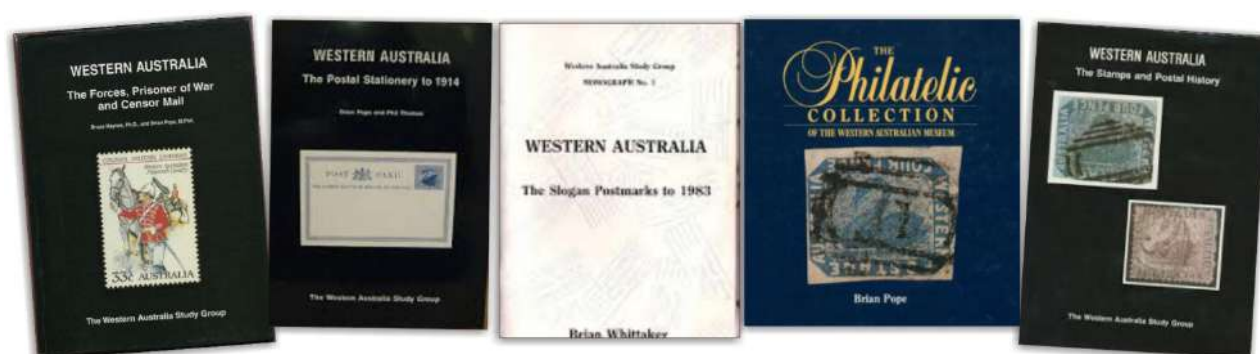
Members are kept in touch with the latest research findings and general activities of the Group through Black Swan, published quarterly (12x4 pages) since March 1975 and distributed free to members, and other philatelic organisations on an exchange basis.



Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month with the exception of December. The venue is Philatelic House in Wellington Fair on the NE corner of Wellington and Lord Streets, Perth. If you are travelling by car, park in Moore Street, walk up the hill (Lord Street) towards Wellington Street, entry on your left. We start about 7-45pm. Visitors are welcome. The emphasis is on philately and meeting business is kept to a minimum. Of the eleven meetings held each year, five or six are presently devoted to Western Australia and the balance to non-Western Australia.

Two small (around 35 lots) sales by tender are usually held each year and larger sales by tender are held from time to time.

The Western Australia Study Group has within its membership, specialists in all areas of Western Australian philately and whilst we do not maintain an expertisation service, we are happy to provide advice and we endeavour to answer all queries relating to Western Australia no matter how esoteric.



#### OTHER HAND BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM:

#### THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STUDY GROUP.

- *Western Australia: The Postal Stationery to 1914. Hardbound, pp148, illustrated*
- *The Fiscal Stamps of Western Australia. Hardbound, pp 154, illustrated Dzelme, V.E.J., (1987)*
- *The Philatelic Collection of the Western Australian Museum. Hardbound, 12 colour plates, illustrated Pope, B., (1991)*
- *Western Australia: The Forces, Prisoner of War and Censor Mail. Hardbound, pp 864. illustrated Haynes, B., and Pope, B., (1997)*

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[Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines,](#)  
[available to members. Please contact David on email: \[ddusa@live.com.au\]\(mailto:ddusa@live.com.au\)](#)

## The Stamp Creators: José Moreno Benavente

Most countries have people who were pivotal in the creation of high quality stamps, particularly in the first half of the twentieth century when stamps were a matter of pride and presented images of the country that extolled the national virtues.

Scandinavia gave us many, such as Slania, Jakus, Sjooblom and more recently, Morck and Naszarkowski. France gave us the Gandons, father and son, Piel, Decaris and a host of others. Australia was dominated for a long time by Frank Manley. When we look at the stamps of Chile from the 1930s to the mid 1970s we are mostly looking at the work of José Moreno Benavente, more commonly referred to as José Moreno.



José Moreno was born in 1905 in Granada, Spain, the son of a watchmaker and engraver. He obviously inherited his father's skill and was soon enrolled in the School of Arts and Crafts. On graduation, he enrolled at the National School of Graphic Arts in Madrid where he was a pupil of one of Spain's most famous engravers, José Luis Sánchez Toda. After this, he did further studies at the Institut de Gravure in Paris. Little is known about the work produced by the Institut. What is known is that the elder Gandon, Gaston was one of the teachers there. He then moved to London and a position with Waterlow and Sons where he received further training and encouragement from the world famous engraver, John Augustus Charles Harrison who had produced the Opening of Parliament House stamp for Australia. At Waterlow and Sons he did his first work on a stamp, the portrait of Bolivar on the 1930 Independence Centenary set of Ecuador.

1931 saw him move to Buenos Aires in Argentina where he met Joaquín Marcó, who was head of the new Chilean security printing organisation which eventually became the Casa de Monedas de Chile, the Chilean mint. Realising Moreno's talent, Marcó persuaded him to come and work for him. In 1934, his first Chilean stamps, were released, an airmail set where he produced all of the vignettes while the frames and lettering were engraved by James Philip, an Englishman who had moved to Chile in 1916.



Moreno stayed with the Casa de Monedas until his retirement in 1975, eventually becoming the hear of engraving and design and his work resulted in the Chilean Mint gaining a world-wide reputation for the quality of their stamps and banknotes.

From 1935 to 1972, Moreno engraved every Chilean stamp.

At left is a proof of the five thousand peso banknote produced in 1935 though not issued until 1940.

The intricacy shown in the battle scene is a fine example of the quality of Moreno's work.





## The Stamp Creators: José Moreno Benavente

In 1938-9, Moreno produced one of his most popular sets of stamps which showed various scenes around Chile and this is where I first became acquainted with Moreno's work, not due to his engraving but to the depiction of a merchant ship on the two peso value.

I was working on a collection of stamps associated with Italian prisoners of war during WW2 and this led me to this stamp. I've probably told this story before but it is worth repeating.

Before WWII, both the Conte Biancamano and her sister ship, the Conte Grande were conducting luxury cruises between Italy and various South American ports. When the war started, Conte Grande was in Rio de Janeiro and Conte Biancamano was in Cristobel where she was siezed by US forces. Both were interned as Panama and Brazil both supported the allies.

From then on, their stories are a bit different. For two years, the Conte Grande was used as a floating prisoner of war camp. The crew did as they were told and were eventually transferred to a camp ashore when the ship was sold to the United States to be used as a troopship and renamed USS Monticello.

Conditions in Brazil can't have been too bad because at the end of the war, many of the crew chose to settle there rather than return to Italy. Aboard the Conte Biancamano, the situation was different.

The crew of the Conte Biancamano considered themselves at war and sabotaged the ship's turbines to stop it being used by the allies. Because of this, they were considered dangerous and were shipped to high security prison camps in the United States. The turbines were repaired and this ship also was converted to a troop carrier under the name of USS Hermitage.

At the end of the war they were given to the Italian government to be used to repatriate Italian prisoners of war. When this was completed, they were given back to the Italian Line. Both were identical to look at but it is the Conte Biancamano that appears on this stamp from Chile.

In 1975, José Moreno Benavente retired citing failing eyesight and shaking hands as his reasons. The retirement was a fairly short one and he died six years later in 1981.





## Why is this person on a stamp No. 29: Germaine Ribièrè

Last month, we showed the first stamp engraved by Sophie Beaujard as part of our article on women who produced stamps. This month, we'll look at the subject of that stamp, an incredibly brave woman named Germaine Ribièrè.

Although she was a devout Catholic, she continuously risked her life to rescue Jewish children from the Nazi occupation of France. When the Nazis invaded, Germaine was a young social work student at the University of Paris. She abandoned her studies and joined a network of clergymen who were shielding Jewish families and providing them with false identification papers to help them escape France.

Ribièrè made contact with Jewish families living in France, getting their permission to arrange hiding places for their children with non-Jewish families and in convents. In 1940, she escorted two children from the Domb family out of Paris and across the border into Vichy France where she left them with a French family.

Ribièrè became an activist in the Amitié Chrétienne, established in Lyons in 1941 to help Jewish and other victims of the Vichy and occupation persecution. Germaine traveled throughout France with the Resistance, trying to find hiding places for Jewish children in convents and homes. At times, her association with the Jews was met with hostility from the clergy. One priest, upon hearing that she had been helping Jews, refused to give her communion.

In 1943, Amitié Chrétienne found out that the Germans had realised they were arranging false papers for Jews and the Gestapo sent agents to arrest Jews as they arrived at the organisation's offices to receive them. To combat this, Germaine disguised herself as a cleaning lady and scrubbed the foyer, intercepting and warning the families not to enter, thus saving many lives. Thus, only a limited number of persons, about 100, instead of the 1200 foreseen were arrested.

Gerda Bikales was one of those warned. She wrote, "That morning, I accompanied my mother as she went to collect food stamps. I had stopped going to school because people were arrested at all hours, in their homes and on the street, and I was afraid to separate from my mother for even a short time. We had learned to look for signs of danger everywhere, and as we neared our destination, we cased the surroundings. All seemed normal, so we entered the building and started up the flight of stairs. Halfway up we noticed that the woman who was busy cleaning the first-floor landing was waving her hands at us, discreetly signaling us to leave. We didn't ask any questions, just turned around and left."

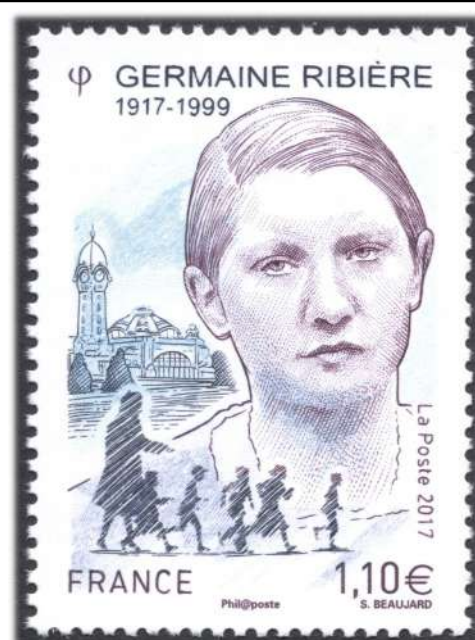
It was work such as this that led to her later recognition by Israel. On July 18, 1967, Yad Vashem recognized Germaine Ribièrè as Righteous Among the Nations.

Later in the war, when the Allied forces (including this editor's father) liberated the concentration camps in Germany, Ribièrè spent several months aiding the survivors. When the war ended, she was finally able to resume her studies to become a social worker. Her work with Jewish children was not over as in 1953, as a social worker, she travelled to Spain to find Robert and Gérald Finaly. These were two Jewish orphans who had been hidden there in a convent. She brought them back to France and then managed to reunite them with an aunt who had survived the war.

This was not as simple as it might sound. The children had been sheltered by Antoinette Brun who had had them baptised and refused to release them back to the Jewish community. The Pope had declared that no child who had been baptised should be brought up in a Jewish home. The aunt had tried to get them back through the courts and had won the case but the children had been spirited away to a convent in Spain. Germaine's influence with both the Catholic and Jewish communities allowed her to be a go-between in the affair which finally, after eight years, led to the successful outcome.

After watching the Jews being rounded up in Paris in 1941, Germaine Ribièrè noted in her diary: "I ache for them in my whole being, I ache for my Jewish brothers and sisters. In the presence of hatred I feel an icy chill... Hatred is not the world of God, it is the refusal of God".

Sources: Wikipedia, <https://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/ribiere.html>,  
<https://catholicsensibility.wordpress.com/2015/06/23/two-weeks-of-worthy-women-germaine-ribiere/>







# *BENDIGO Stamp Fair*

*31st. August 2024*

*10.00 - 3.00*

*Local & Melbourne  
Stamp Dealers*

*St. Andrews  
Uniting Church Hall  
24 Myers St. Bendigo*

*Free Entry  
Bendigo Philatelic Society  
Inc*

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