

## Not just a street name

A funeral letter from Paris to Berlin, mailed from a post office on Claude Bernard Street. Claude Bernard street is named after the 19th century physiologist Bernard. This postmark can therefore be used in a thematic collection to refer to the physiologist C. Bernard.



The physiologist Claude Bernard (1813-1878) was a Frenchman. He specialized in the dissection of the human body. He researched the digestive process and the functioning of the nervous system.

In 1848 he was able to prove the importance of the pancreas for digestion and the formation of sugar (= glucose) in the liver (Transkei stamp with portrait of Bernard and illustration of the chemical formula of glucose (with an error!)). This was the beginning of the long road to the discovery of insulin. This year marks 100 years since insulin was first isolated from the pancreases of dogs by Canadians Banting and Best (stamp booklet of Canada issued to mark the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin). The full story of insulin is a topic for another time.

Bernard received the Order of the Légion d'Honneur in 1867. He was the first French scientist to receive a state funeral and is buried in Père-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris.

