



Mar.-May 1980

## AN ON-SITE REPORT

### MALARIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ITS CURRENT STATE

by James R. Palmieri -- From 1976-78 the author worked in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the Institute for Medical Research, a joint project with the University of California - Hooper Foundation, on medical research. Beginning July 1978 to present he has directed the activities of the Department of Parasitology of the United States Naval Medical Research Unit #2, Jakarta Detachment, in malarial and filarial research. He has traveled most of Southeast Asia and has met and discussed malarial and filarial problems of the region with representatives of all countries involved. Jim and his wife, Margaret have an adopted son from Thailand, a daughter from Indonesia and recently had one of their own.

Malaria, one of the major diseases affecting man, is found as far north as the Dvina River in the USSR, as far south as Cordova, Argentina, as high as 2,770 meters above sea level (Cochabamba, Bolivia) and as far as 400 meters below sea level in the Deep Sea Basin. Although eradication has not been totally successful, many countries throughout the world have eliminated malaria.

This has not been the case in Southeast Asia where the epidemiology is complex and control approaches being impossible. For the purpose of this report, Burma, Kampuchia (Cambodia), Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam will be regarded as Southeast Asia. Because of political reasons limited information is available for several of these countries. Investigators, from these politically problem countries, have expressed fear in collecting data on malaria from village or forested areas.

Economic loss due to malaria in Southeast Asia is great. This includes loss due to death and man-days lost in agricultural and other productive activities as well as the loss due to the costs of treatment and prevention activities. A brief review of the status of the malaria situation for each country is given below.



**BURMA:** During the 1950's over 500,000 cases of malaria occurred each year with over 11,000 dying annually. Attempts to control and eradicate the disease were tried in the early 1960's and revised again in 1970. Epidemiological information over the past few years has shown malaria incidence to be the highest among all the communicable diseases.

**KAMPUCHIA:** Malaria is one of the major diseases of this nation. Prior to political take-over when the population was about 7 million, 35% of the population resided in malarious areas. The infection rate for Kampuchia is just under 30% but has risen to over 32% since political instability has run rampant throughout the country. During the past four years, unfortunately, the political administrations in power have accounted for a much greater death rate than has malaria.

(continued on page 3)





## C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

O UNAVOIDABLE DELAY -- Due to relocation of both home and office, this  
R issue of *Miasma Philatelist* was delayed. It is being published together  
N with issue four for June-Aug. 1980.

E CORRECTIONS RE: LINNE

R There are a couple of mistakes in Vol. #2, page 7 regarding the Linne  
writeup. Bulgaria should be #998 not #994 (Scott). Norway Scott #356  
shows a map of Spitzbergen; nothing to do with Linne. Norway has yet  
to honor Linne. Sweden has issued a booklet pane of 6 stamps honoring  
Linne - Scott #1242-47. - Regards, E. Petscher, Massillon, OH

*It is stretching it to include Norway 356, as the Linne connection is Cape Linne  
a geographic feature named for him. - JWD*

THANKS . . .

for the splendid job you have done to get this new journal launched. In spite  
of the efforts of millions of people in hundreds of countries and costing millions  
of dollars, this disease persists as a major public health problem.

As a physician, who has spent all his professional life in public health, I have  
seen malaria in all its deadly forms, in many countries death, incapacitation  
and misery.

I have seen the tremendous benefits derived from man's efforts to eradicate the  
disease in many countries and control it in many others. I firmly believe we will  
one day eradicate malaria but not as easily as some other diseases. The stakes,  
however, are greater in malaria and I rejoice for any effort and for any progress  
toward eliminating this human scourge.

As a philatelist I welcome these opportunities to recognize, memorialize, spread  
the word and make more visible to everybody the progress that is being made in this  
great human effort to improve the quality of human life everywhere.

Best wishes . . . Dr. Eugene P. Campbell, Chevy Chase, MD

## RIOT ENDS COVER ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY

*Pakistan being one of the nations with an active program, one subscriber with  
connections there had been contacted to arrange for cover distribution to Miasma  
Philatelist readers.*

...unfortunately your request is impossible now unless I can get someone in Pakistan  
to get them for me. My wife, our dog and cat and I left Pakistan on November 23  
just a short time after the rioters burned our embassy there. There were almost  
400 U.S. Government employees, dependants, 26 dogs, 2 cats and one parakeet on the  
chartered Pan Am 747 that took us out. Thursday being Thanksgiving and Friday being  
an Islamic holiday we had no chance to even say goodbye to our Pakistani friends and  
co-workers. Possibly I will go back but at this point it is most unlikely.

- Alan Steffen, Arlington, VA

*Any subscribers with contacts that could result in offering unique items to Miasma  
Philatelist's subscribers should contact the Editor.*

## MALARIA AT THE SHOWS...

..sent mounted pages to Vancouver, B.C. to fill 20 6-page frames. The exhibit takes  
place early May and am interested to see how a poor-man's collection makes out in  
a national show. Will drop a line when results are known. Will later in May show  
about the same material but more of it at COMPEX here in Chicago. - John Moohr

*John has a winner, if you saw the reports in LINN'S. Congratulations are in order!!*





## MALARIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA . . . (continued from page 1)

**INDONESIA:** Malaria is an important disease to the Health Ministry in Indonesia. It was estimated that in 1955 thirty million cases of malaria resulted in over 120,000 deaths. In 1952 a malaria control program was started on both Java and Bali islands. This led to an extensive eradication program which was initiated in 1959 but was discontinued in 1965 due to political unrest. From 1965 to 1970 the number of positive cases increased from 9,000 to 117,000. In recent years the number of cases of malaria has declined in Java due to control efforts. In the outer islands little is being done to control the disease, and drug resistant forms have been found. (This author has personally witnessed both chloroquin and Fansidar resistance to *Falciparum* malaria.

**LAOS:** Approximately 85% of the population of Laos lives in risk of malaria. Fortunately, the Vientiane plain is free of malaria. Since 1960 anti-malaria activities have been reduced. In 1969 WHO assistance resumed but a successful campaign was prevented due to war conditions.

**MALAYSIA:** Malaysia, with one of the highest standards of living in Southeast Asia, still suffers from malaria. The disease opened up during the 19th century with the cultivation of the land for rubber and palm oil. Almost all control programs are directed at the urban areas. Because of the geographic location many areas (mangrove swamps, hilly jungles and flat coastal plains) are free of malaria. The overall infection rate is about 4% with some villages having a prevalence rate ranging from 21%-90%. The government now has a program which covers the whole peninsula involving spraying of homes and larval breeding sites.

**PHILIPPINES:** The history of malaria in the Philippines is classic. In 1930 over 118,000 people died due to the disease. After WW II there was a resurgence but with the assistance of the Public Health Service units' anti-malaria efforts the resurgence was held steady. By 1955 morbidity due to malaria was estimated at over two million each year. At present, spraying is now limited to those areas where the government considers it a major health problem.

**SINGAPORE:** Once a part of Malaysia, Singapore suffered greatly from malaria. Since their independence the city (island) has become exceptionally clean and ultramodern, with the government in full control of its populations and diseases. Many European, Australian and American expatriates living throughout Southeast Asia travel here for medical care. Most cases of malaria are either brought in from the off-shore islands or from the neighbouring countries of Malaysia and Indonesia.

**THAILAND:** Malaria is widespread in Thailand with varying intensities depending on the geographic area. In the mid-1970's it was the seventh leading cause of mortality at a rate of 16 per 100,000 inhabitants. The rate over the past few years has increased alarmingly due to relaxation of the anti-malaria program and cutbacks in funding. With the political problems in the north, it is expected that the refugees will further increase this rate.

**VIETNAM:** The condition of Vietnam above the 17th parallel relative to malaria infection rates and control programs is not known to this author. In Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) the urban population is free of malaria. But, in the other areas below the 17th parallel the incidence ranges from 0.1% to 50%. Political upheaval has all but eliminated any control program.

(continued on page 4)





# MALARIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA . . . (continued from page 3)

Vectors of malaria in Southeast Asia vary from region to region as does their importance as a transmitter of disease. Some vectors have developed a resistance to some insecticides while others are still sensitive to residual insecticides sprayed on walls.

Anopheles minimum minimum - a hill/stream breeder is developing resistance to DDT in both Vietnam and Thailand.

A. minimum flavirostris - a hill/stream breeder is resistant to Dieldren in the Philippines.

A. maculatus - a hill/stream breeder is important as a vector in Malaysia, Singapore and south Thailand.

A. sundaicus - a brackish water breeder is important as a vector along the coastal areas from Vietnam to Singapore, and has been eliminated from the northern coast of Java while remaining present on the southern coast.

A. aconitus - a rice field breeder is an important vector in Java and Bali with resistance to DDT spreading through Java.

A. campestris - a rice field/pond/swamp breeder is an important vector in peninsular Malaysia which has been eliminated from Selangor after four cycles of DDT spraying.

A. jeyporiensis - a clear stream breeder is an important vector in the highlands of Vietnam below the 17th parallel.

A. balabacensis balabacensis - a jungle breeder is found in Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma and the Philippines and has developed an increasing tolerance to DDT.

A. colicifacies - a stream breeder found in Burma has resistance to DDT.

Many factors contribute to the prevalence of malaria in Southeast Asia. Several of these factors are unique to the area due to the cultures and lower standards of living that exist here.

Movement of people -- for religious festivals and pilgrimages, due to land development and population relocation schemes, based on barter trade and smuggling, forced by military activity (the military security forces themselves and the resulting refugees) -- accounts for the spread of malaria from infected areas to clean areas.

Habits and culture -- staying outdoors in late evening for coolness (increasing the man-vector contact and decreasing contact with DDT-sprayed walls), religious or other beliefs against spraying if sick or if new borns are present, transfusion via drug addiction, refusal to take drug prophylaxis due to religious beliefs, selling of anti-malarials for needed money -- impact the problem.

Political unrest adds to all these factors and directly accounts for lapses in the administration of needed programs.

(continued on page 6)



## SUB-TOPIC HAS SHORT CHECKLIST - FEW STAMPS



Thanks to John Greve, Ames, IA for furnishing the following information.

The list of stamps depicting plasmodium is quite short. The author knows of no special cancellations which depict the organism. Readers are urged to advise the editor of any additions or corrections.

Cuba - Gibbons #728 (1962) issued for the WHO Anti-Malaria campaign

France - Scott #1268 (1970) issued for the 150th anniversary of the discovery of quinine

Malaysia - Scott #139 (1976) a national malaria commemorative

Pitcairn Island - Scott #95 (1968) issued for the 20th anniversary of WHO

Poland - Scott # 1088 (1962) issued for the WHO Anti-Malaria campaign

Scott # 2274 (1978) issued for the Fourth International Conference on Parasitology

Solomon Islands - Scott #354 (1977) a national malaria commemorative

Poland 2274 clearly shows P. vivax. The 1962 issue is stated to show malarial cells by Scott's but seems to only show lenkorytes and erythrocytes. Malaysia 139 depicts the Field's stain used for quick stains of blood smears. France 1268 includes the chemical formula for quinine and portrays its discoverers, Pelletier and Caventou.

## RUMOR OR FACT

## QUESTIONS ON THE MALARIA TOPIC IN NEED OF ANSWERS. . .

- #4. Does any reader know what meeting the illustrated cover is for? Or, is it just an available Anti-Malaria campaign cover mailed from WHO in Geneva in 1962?  
-R. Chakravorty, Salem VA



No 282

DILL REPORTS THE NEWS



Mr.  
J.H. Sheaffer  
807-12 th.St.  
McKees Rocks, Pa.

U S A



## MALARIA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA . . . (continued from page 4)



Although the efforts of the 1950's and 1960's with eradication programs saw great progress, malaria is presently staging a comeback due to political unrest, development of land for population increases and reduction in spending for control. Most Southeast Asian countries have abandoned the concept of eradication in favor of control due to the high costs related to health services, control efforts, mobile teams, eradication programs and routine treatment. With the increase in Chloroquine and Fansidar resistance this author does not see promise for eradication of malaria in Southeast Asia and the prospect of control lies only with those countries that have both economic and political stability.

*Other readers with background and experience related to malaria, or who have done research for thematic or topical presentation of malaria philatelic material are urged to submit material for publication. JWD*

RUMOR OR FACT (continued from page 5)

#5. In the last listing of malaria issues (checklist in issue #2) two issues were listed with overprint for Chile. I have one overprint on a Rotary Club issue but am not familiar with a second. Not having a catalog I wonder if you could describe both issues in a future issue. - A. Steffen, Arlington, VA

*Both issues are listed in Minkus but the catalog listing seems to be identical. No information on the difference, why two numbers are assigned, is given. Does any reader know why? or have both issues from which they could explain the difference? Please send photocopies if you can. JWD*

#6. My main interests in Medical philately concern the collection of medically related revenues. I am aware of tax paid revenues re cigarette tax stamps where the proceeds would go for tuberculosis treatment. Are there any revenues used for malaria eradication, treatment, etc.?? I know that in Puerto Rico there were revenue issues overprinted "special tax Malaria Fund" or similar wording. I have no further details about these stamps, however. I also know of revenue stamps used for fly control. Were there any stamps used for mosquito control?? Any tax stamps for drugs used to treat malaria?? - E. Cunningham, PR

*Does anyone out there have an answer? Please send details and photocopies of the issues for publication. Mexico's Scott #s 14, 14a, 16 and 19 seem to qualify. Has anyone a copy of the referenced issues from Puerto Rico??*



## PERSONALITIES ON

O This issue's "personalities" column was authored by Ernest M. Petscher,  
S Massillon, OH.

T Giovanni Battista Grassi (1854-1925) proved that the *Anopheles* mosquito  
A carries the *plasmodium malariae* in its digestive tract. He is honored  
G by Italy on Scott #701.

E Dr. Francois Cimet Maillot (1808-1894), a French citizen, made important  
contributions to the diagnosis and treatment of malaria. Dr. Maillot is  
honored on Scott #251 from Algeria.

Dr. Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran (1845-1922), a French surgeon, discovered the  
malaria parasite in 1880 and received the Nobel Prize for medicine in 1907. He  
is honored by Algeria on Scott #252.

Sir Ronald Ross (1857-1932) was a professor of tropical medicine in Liverpool and  
earned the Nobel Prize in 1902 for his work in the control of malaria. Sweden  
honored him on Scott #617.

## UNITED STATES STILL ACTIVE IN MALARIA PROGRAMS

*The following report comes from A. Steffen, Arlington, VA, who is currently on temporary duty as a malaria advisor in the Development Support Bureau of the Agency for International Development.*

The United States is still very much involved in malaria programs overseas although not at the level of ten years ago. In Latin America we have supplied money for the purchase of insecticide to Bolivia and still have a rather large program in Haiti. Haiti is probably the country with the most serious problem in the Western Hemisphere. In Asia we have loaned money to India to purchase insecticide and in Nepal a new health care program has a sizable money input into the malaria program for that nation.

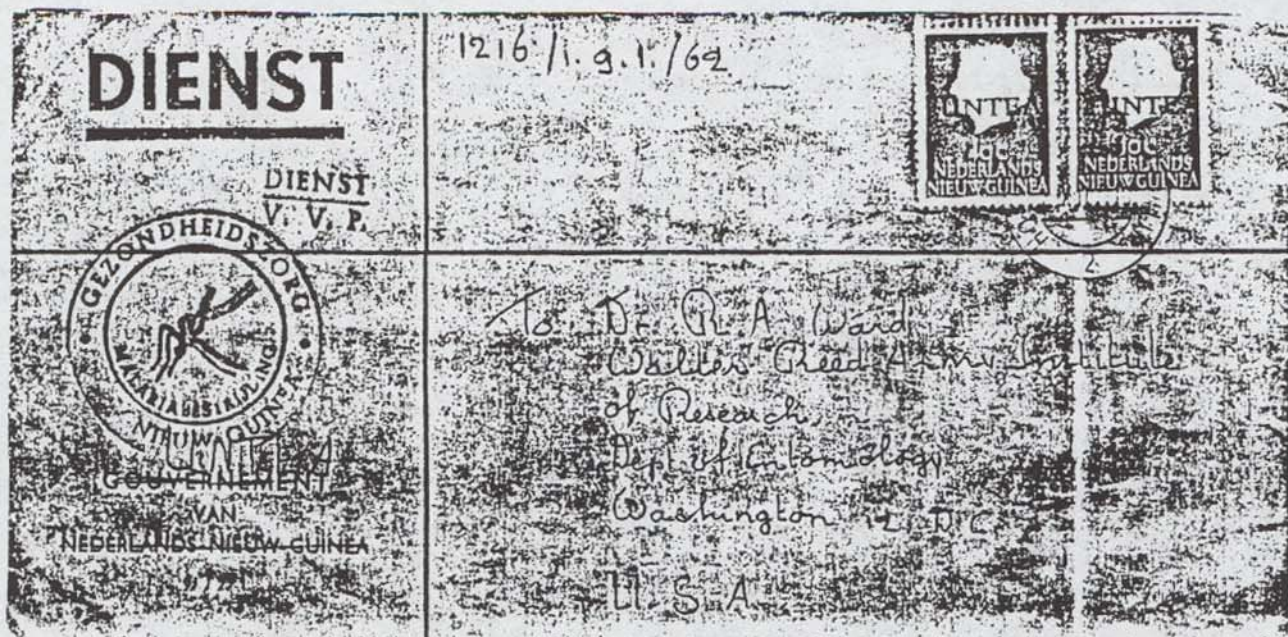
The last of the loan money in Pakistan was spent in 1980 and there are no plans to make any input there although malaria is still a problem. We are still involved in the malaria programs in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Indonesia. There is a possibility for future expansion of the program in Indonesia to some of the outer islands. There have been some discussions on a possible assistance program to Bangladesh as well.

It is Africa that is almost untouched by any anti-malaria campaigns. The U.S. is partially funding a pilot project in Zaire, primarily around the capital city of Kinshasa, and there is a good possibility of another program on the island of Zanzibar within this year. There has been a joint WHO/AID team working on a strategy paper for Africa so there is a possibility of additional programs in the future.

## COPIES OF JFK MALARIA MESSAGE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

On March 30, 1962, John F. Kennedy issued a message from the White House as part of the "first day of issue" activities for the U.S. malaria eradication stamp -- this nation's participation in the WHO "World United Against Malaria" campaign. This message appears in the Ayal malaria album as the dedication page. Readers who wish to have a copy mailed with their next issue of *Miasma Philatelist* should contact the editor.





#### MALARIA UNTEA COVER TRANSLATED

This outstanding cover, from the collection of R. Ward, Rockville, MD., an official (dienst), no postage required (vris van port), communication from the Health Care/Service's (Gezondheidszorg) Malaria Control/Fight Against (Malaria Bestrijding) office of the Government of (Gouvernement van) the Neatherland New Guinea (Nederlands Nieuw Guinea) mailed during the administration of this area by UNTEA (the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority) with Scott # 11 and 12 for West Irian (West New Guinea). Thanks to ATA's Bro. Casey and J. Palmieri for the translations.

#### OTHERS ARE "IN SEARCH OF . . ."

Want lists are published free of charge. Resulting sales are processed on a confidential basis for a 10% processing fee with a minimum charge of 25¢.

To list wanted items complete and mail the Exchange/Sale/Want List Request on the back page with a SASE. To offer wanted items mail with your price clearly marked and a SASE. To accept, forward payment plus process fee. When check clears, payment will be sent seller and purchase will be mailed.

##### #D1 WANT LIST

Solomon Is. Scott #352-5 FDC  
'62 French Colonies WHO issues imperf.  
'62 French Colonies WHO issues FDCs

Photo-bromides of the two suggested UN (WHO)  
'62 Malaria designs  
Mexico Scott # RA14, RA14a, RA16, RA19 FDCs  
'62 Portugese Colonies '62 WHO issues FDCs

##### #A0 WANT LIST

South Kasai '62 WHO overprint issues on cover - FDC, commercial use, etc.

##### #A5 WANT LIST

Laos '62 WHO souvenir sheet (one of the 1,000) for addition to University collection; funding available.

(continued on page 9)



## WANT LISTINGS (continued from page 8)

## #B8 WANT LIST

Cambodia Scott #106-8 Imperf MNH  
 Somali Coast Scott #B15 Imperf MNH

Comoro Scott #B1 Imperf MNH

## XCHANGES / \$ALES AVAILABLE

Exchange and sale offers are listed in this column on a confidential basis at a minimum (cost recovery) charge of 10¢ per listed item.

TO LIST an item for sale or as available for exchange, complete the Exchange/Sale/Want Listing Request on the back page and mail with payment, the listed item(s) and a SASE. When listing items for exchange, please include corresponding want list items acceptable in trade -- either specific item(s) or "any X accepted". Sale items may be listed with firm prices or BO (best offer) above a listed minimum.

Exchange/sale items will be returned 30 days after the second publication date following receipt, if not purchased or traded after two listing.

TO TRADE/PURCHASE send wanted item(s) or check and SASE. Exchange items will be shipped upon receipt of trade. Sale items will be shipped when check clears. Best offer items will be invoiced to the top bidder 30 days after listing; shipment following payment.

## #1 SALE

Cyprus Scott #204-5 FDC	\$2.50	Lundy '62 anti-malaria 6 val MNH	\$5.00
Guatemala Scott #C258 FDC	3.00	Costa Rica Scott #C345-9 MNH	1.25

## #2 SALE

Malaria Eradication starter mint collection, \$60+ cat. val. '62 issues	\$20.00
'62 WHO collection, good range of issues, \$160+ cat. val. all MNH	\$60.00

## #3 EXCHANGE

Offer - \$2 cv duplicates my choice (5 lots)	Want - pictoria/slogan cancel on piece (per lot)
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## #4 SALE

WHO headquarters/regional office anti-malaria meters on cover, set of 8 (1962)	\$10.00
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## #6 SALE (covers illustrated on following pages)

'62 WHO ANTI-MALARIA COLLECTION, most issues mint and used, lightly hing-mounted and identified on custom album pages. '80 catalog value \$255+. Excellent buy for stamp, not gum, collector.				BO \$50.00
Russia Scott #2594-5 & 2595 imperf, set of 3 FDC				2.95
Ghana Scott #131a (SS) FDC	\$2.95	Austria, Bregenz cancel '62 on cover		2.25
Turkey Scott #B88-9 FDC	2.50	Iran Scott #1204-6 combo FDC w/		
Surinam Scott #304-5 combo FDC w/		RO China #1342-3		3.95
RO China #1342-3	3.95	Congo Scott # 414-6 combo FDC w/		
Surinam Scott #304-5 FDC	1.90	RO China #1342-3		3.95
Bolivia Scott # 467:C245 FDC	1.50	Niger Scott #B14 FDC		.85
UN Scott #102-3 combo FDC w/		Rep. Central Africa Scott #B1 combo FDC/		
RO China #1342-3	3.95	w RO China #1342-3		3.95
'62 Papeete, Polynesia cancel FDC	1.50	Liechtenstein Scott #371 FDC		3.50
Bulgaria Scott #1218-9 imperf FDC	1.95	Cameroun Scott #B36 combo FDC w/		
		RO China #1342-3		3.95

## READERS APPROVE COMMERCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Based on response to the question of allowing commercial advertisement, the 1981 issues of *Miasma Philatelist* are being promoted to appropriate dealers.



— FIRST TAG —  
— FIRST DAY — ПЕРВЫЙ ДЕНЬ —  
— PREMIER JOUR —



— FIRST TAG —  
— FIRST DAY — ПЕРВЫЙ ДЕНЬ —  
— PREMIER JOUR —



— FIRST TAG —  
— FIRST DAY — ПЕРВЫЙ ДЕНЬ —  
— PREMIER JOUR —





GHANA

THE WORLD UNITED



AGAINST MALARIA

GHANA  
THE WORLD UNITED AGAINST MALARIA



DIE WELT VEREINT



GEGEN DIE MALARIA

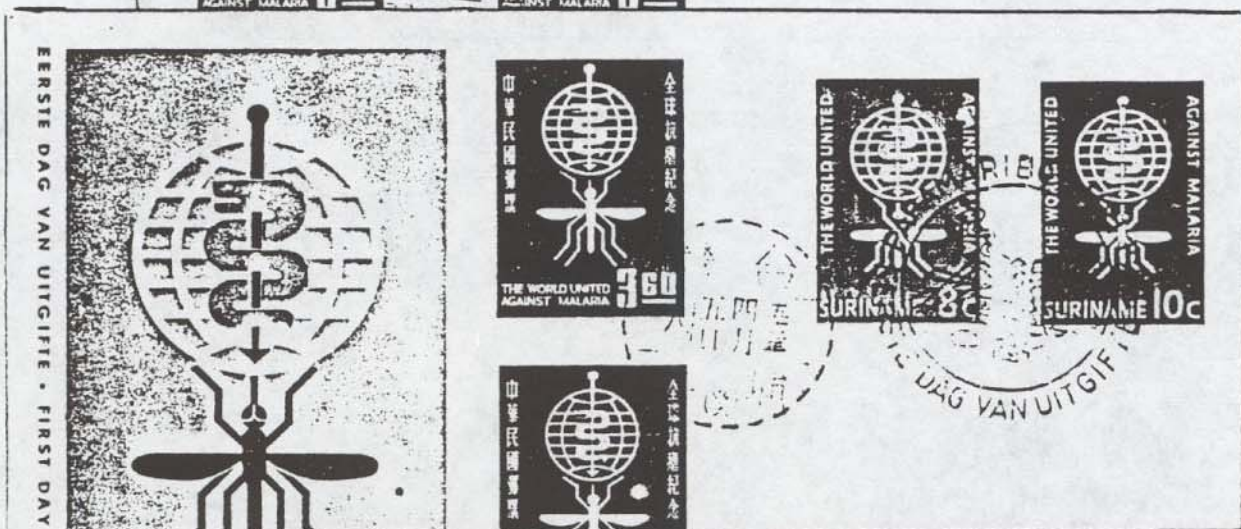
REPUBLIK



150  
ÖSTERREICH











REPUBLICA DE BOLIVIA  
DIRECCION GENERAL DE CORREOS



DIA MUNDIAL DE LA SALUD

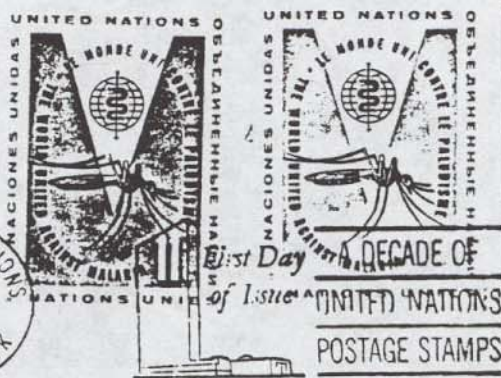
PRIMER DIA

PREMIER JOUR D'ÉMISSION  
F. D. C.



LE MONDE UNI CONTRE LE PALUDISME

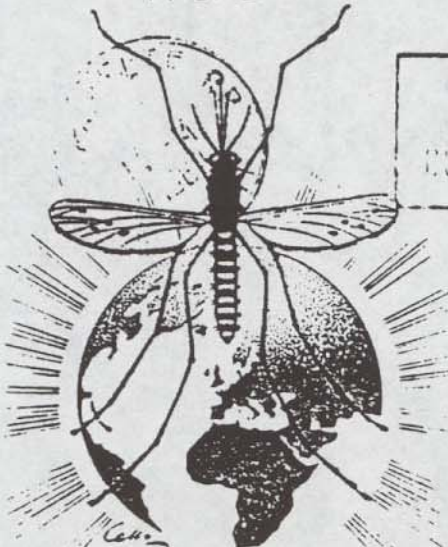




PREMIER JOUR D'ÉMISSION  
F. D. C.



PREMIER JOUR D'ÉMISSION  
F. D. C.



LE MONDE UNI  
CONTRE LE PALUDISME



LE MONDE UNI CONTRE LE PALUDISME

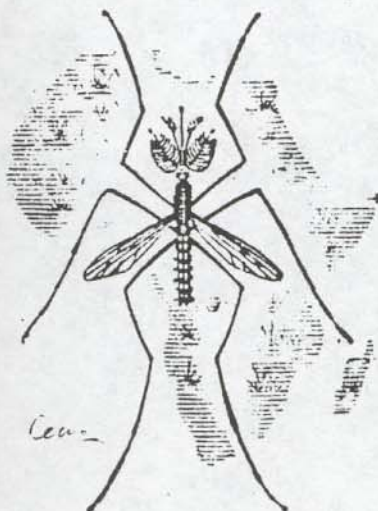




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PREMIER JOUR D'ÉMISSION



LE MONDE UNI CONTRE LE PALUDISME



## MALARIA TOPICAL / THEMATIC CHECKLIST STATUS REPORT

Due to production problems this issue of *Miasma Philatelist* does not carry a continuation of the checklist from the first two issues. The checklist will be back in expanded format within the next two issues. Collectors with items not listed in standard reference catalogs are urged to submit photo copies for addition to the reference collection and illustration of the checklist.



## EXCHANGE / SALE / WANT LISTING ORDER

Please PRINT all information; enclose listed exchange and sale items with your order.

Catalog/catalog #/description

Listing  
Code\*Catalog Value (E)  
or Sale Price (S)

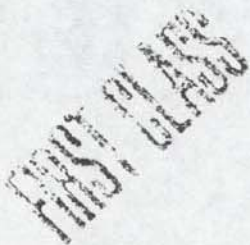
Continue listing on additional page(s), if needed.

\* Note "E"xchange, "S"ale, "B"est Offer sale, or "W"ant in the code column.

TOTAL Exchange/Sale listings \_\_\_\_\_ x 10¢ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_, payment enclosed.

From:

MIASMA PHILATELIST  
426 West Fremont  
Elmhurst, IL 60126



JAMES S. GERSON  
6 Maple Drive  
Port Washington NY 11050