



MIASMA PHILATELIST

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THE STORY BEHIND THE COVER

by Dr. David Samson

Thanks to member C. Turner for arranging with the author and original publisher, Stamp Collecting of London, for rights to reprint this article.

Always on the look-out for material relating to two of my main philatelic interests -- medicine, and Palestine postal history -- I was recently doubly delighted to come across an item relevant to both these topics whilst browsing through the latest additions to a local dealer's stock. The 'find' in question was a picture postcard bearing an ordinary 8m mandate stamp (S.G. 78) which had been sent on 15th Junly 1927 from Jerusalem to Sir Ronald Ross in London. The writer seems to have been a medical scientists, perhaps a doctor or an entomologist; and the message conveyed on the card seems to be by way of a brief progress report about his research activities in Palestine, but it is more than simply that.

"I have completed my studies on 'Malaria Conditions in Palistine' and am returning to Cyprus next week", the writer informs Sir Ronald, and then rather dramatically, he goes on, "The end of my stay here nearly ended my life..! The whole country was very severely shaken by a very strong earthquake... Pratically every building in Jerusalem needs certain repairs. NaBlus, Ramlah, and several centres suffered both in loss of life and property." He must certainly have been very grateful indeed that he was on the point of returning to Cyprus!

The card's addressee was of course none other than Sir Ronald ('Mosquito') Ross KCB, KCMG whose own studies on malaria had culminated in his winning the Nobel prize for medicine in 1902.

Born in India in 1857, Ross studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London before returning to India as a member of the Indian Medical Service in 1881. In 1892 he embarked upon his work on malaria which was to prove conclusively that the mosquito was the agent whereby the disease was disseminated, and for which he consequently gained his Nobel prize. From India he treutrnred to England to the University of Liverpool where he became Professor of tropical diseases. Later he was appointed director-in-chief of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London to which the postcard is in fact addressed. He died in 1932 having left behind an indelible impression on the pathway of medical progress.

The Jordan-Arava Rift Valley of Palestine is the deepest crack in the earth's surface containing within it the Dead Sea. It is fact part of the Great African Rift Valley system which stretches over sixty degrees of latitude, and it is an area of relatively high seismic activity. A major earthquake seems to affect this area of the Middle East about once every sixty years or so and minor trembles occur much more frequently than that.

(continued on page 3)

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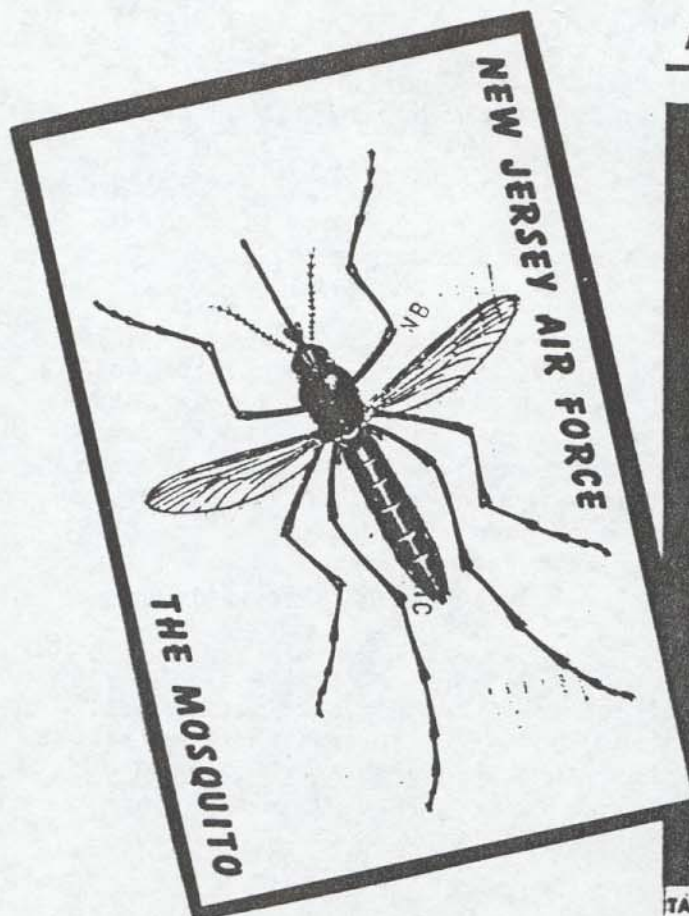
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Thanks to J. Fukunaga and J. Moohr for the two items illustrated . . . they may not meet exhibition criteria but a hobby should be for fun, regardless.



Postcard which notes "This is the bug that made New Jersey famous."

A8 The Vancouver Sun TUES, JUNE 28, 1982 ★★ ★★



TAKE a good look. This is the closest you'll likely see a mosquito this year. (SFU's electron microscope magnified it 280 times.)

Fewer itchy critters have hatched this year because high flood levels on local rivers washed away eggs laid last year.

ROSS CORRESPONDENCE FOUND . . . (continued from page 1)

Historic documents which have survived to the present give accounts of such earthquakes from a far back as the 11th and 12th centuries. In more modern times the earthquake of 1837 destroyed the town of Safad in Galilee almost completely and killed about 5,000 people, and the July 1927 earthquake which the postcard writer experienced at first-hand was indeed as extensive as he suggests with 292 dead and almost a thousand injured in the widespread destruction which ensued.

An extensive control operation for the curtailment of malaria in Palistine had in fact begun in 1923 when as many as 6 per cent of the population of infected areas had the disease. Within a few years, as a result of the introduction of this programme, this figure had already been substantially reduced but in 1927 there would still have been quite a few cases around to make our research worker's studies worthwhile.

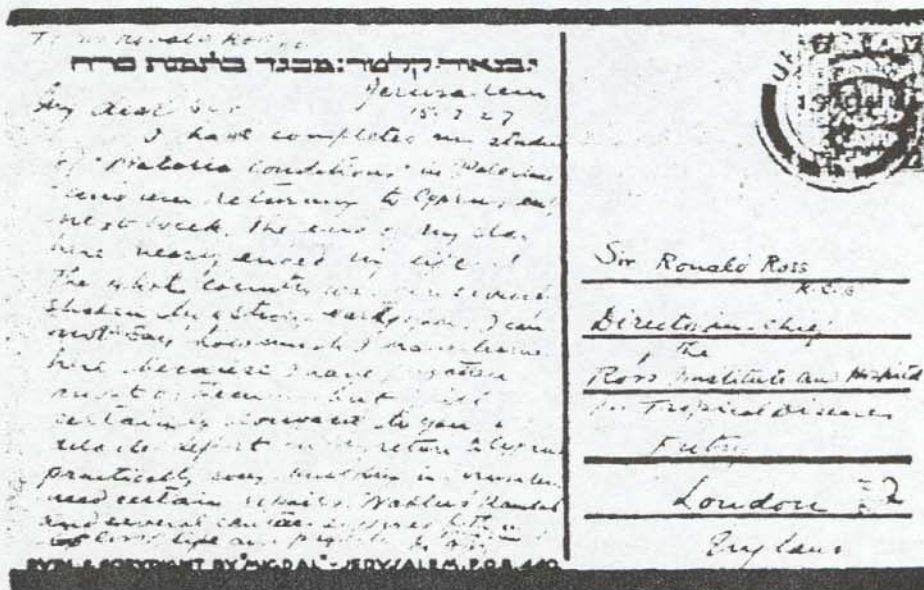
However if it were possible for him and Sir Ronald to visit the area today then I am sure they would be pleased to note that malaria has been eradicated there and that there have been no new cases since about 1960. Like other visitors to present day Israel they would have no need either to bother about taking prophylactic anti-malaria drug medication during and after their trip.

The earth there too has been satistactorily quiescent of late, no serious earthquakes in the area worth writing about having occured since the one in 1927.

The people in that part of the Middle East have enough to contend with at the moment without malaria and earthquakes. Let us hope that as regards these two destructive scourges of nature at least the existing status quo about wich everyone is happy will continue to prevail.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR: Since original publication I have received further information about the writer of the postcard in question. The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science in London has stated that M. Aziz was a sanitary inspector in Cyprus who knew Ross. In fact, Aziz was trained by Ross in mosquito control techniques. Aziz became quite famous, apparently, for having organized and carried out the Cyprus Malaria Eradication Scheme in 1945-1950. He published quite a few papers on the subject and figures prominently in the literature on malaria for the East Mediterranean area.

Postcard written
July 15, 1927
to Sir Ronald Ross
(see story for
text).



DIRECTOR FINDS TOPICAL / THEMATIC COLLECTING STRONG IN TAIWAN

Director Don Pletsch was on a temporary assignment in Taipei, Taiwan midyear 1982. While there, Don found that the English language "China Post" carries a stamp column with a topical slant. The sample provided covers new issues and special covers issued around the world with extensive background information -- including each items' topical subject matter. Also, Don found an article in the Chinese language magazine "Health World" on "Health Stamps" which featured a number of malaria-related issues. Page 61 of the March 1976 issue is illustrated on the opposite page.

Thanks to ATA's translation service for the following: "There is no source or author indicated, the text related to the malaria issues is, 'There are more than forty countries that issued the stamps with the subject of malaria / mosquitoes (picture 34, 35.) These kind of world-wide anti-malaria stamps have helped in eliminating the malaria mosquitoes for the time being. The malaria is 100% under control (picture 36, 37, 38, 39).'

FROM THE READING ROOM -- books / articles of interest

Nov. 5, 1982 Journal of the American Medical Association (Vol. 248, No. 17 - page 2111) Letter to the Editor reports on a 32% increase between 1979 and 1980 in civilian imported malaria in the United States, and the problems in ensuring travelers are properly warned and instructed in needed prophylaxis. To attempt to pinpoint the "information-education" problem area(s), the correspondents (staff of Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, NH) repeated the prior survey in 1981 on a different group of high-risk travelers. The results were not favorable -- "at least 70% of the millions of American tourists who travel to high-risk regions of the world each year are not protected against malaria." *Thanks to K. Lohr for the clipping.*

The July, 1982, issue of TIME carried a "Medicine" capsule commentary on malaria which noted that DDT did not end malaria as hoped. Also highlighted was that the current malaria count stands at a record 400 million cases worldwide. The good news related to the development at the University of California of a high-power insecticide from Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (BTI), a type of bacteria that is lethal to mosquitoes in nature. WHO officials are reported to be enthusiastic -- although tests are just getting under way in malaria-endemic areas. *K. Lekisch spotted this item.*

AUTHORS, COMPILERS, RESEARCHERS NEEDED FOR MALARIA HANDBOOK / CATALOG

Starting with the 1983 issues of Miasma Philatelist the content for Malaria Philately Around the World, MPI's handbook on malaria philately and catalog of worldwide philatelic material related to the topic / theme of malaria, will be published in serial form. Chapters, subsections, or other logical units of the publication will be distributed as they are completed.

Pages for Malaria Philately Around the World will be pre-lunched for filing in a standard three-ring binder. This will allow for publication of updates based upon discovery of new material, new research and reported corrections -- and allow each reader to interfile individual supplementary material.

Any members interested in participating and willing to expend the effort should contact the editor, Miasma Philatelist (address on page 2). A draft table of content with outline of needed information is available for review and selection of assignments by willing participants.

Any members with checklists for related sub-topics (such as the previously published material on fish used to control mosquitoes) or with biographical sketches on malaria related personalities should forward their material for consideration.



加彭發行以采果蠅 (tsetse fly) 為圖案的郵票，這是一種產在赤道非洲的毒蠅，會傳染致命的非洲錐蟲病。

這類郵票除了紀念對抗傳染病的努力外，還有提醒人們注意傳染致命疾病的蟲類。另外有廿個以上的國家以鸚鵡做為圖案 (圖四十)；十二個國家畫的是鴿子，這種形狀美麗，顏色漂亮的鳥類却是鴉片及傳染病的媒介。

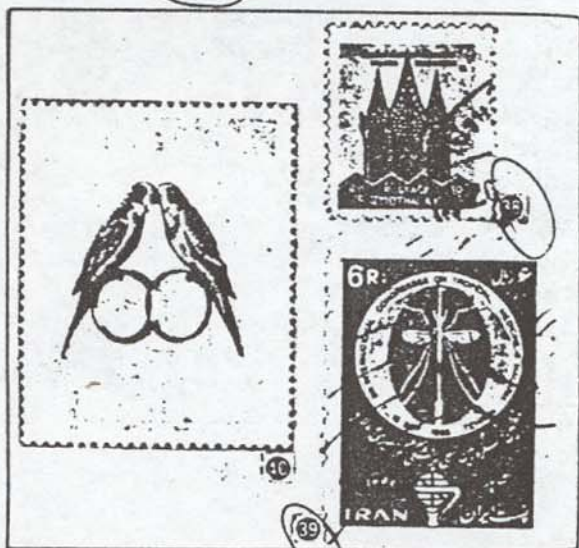


蚊敵

有四十個以上的國家發行以蚊敵為主題的郵票 (圖二十四、三十五)，這個全球性抗蚊紀念郵票對於撲滅瘧疾確有很多的貢獻，現在瘧疾差不多完全被控制了。(圖三十六、三十七、三十八、三十九)。



慈善事業



郵票除了它的郵政價值外，還可作為對附加稅、慈善、賑災、互助和福利之用 (圖四十一)。

瑞士發行了二百種以上的兒童福利郵票，它的大小和顏色都不同，這些郵票主要以小額的面值來為特殊慈善事業籌款。

我國最早的慈善附捐郵票，是在民國三十三年雙十節發行的，這一套六枚的郵票是為發起附捐

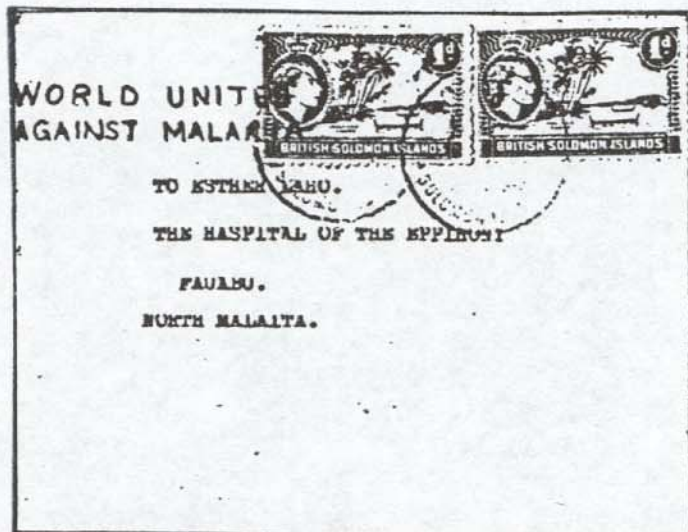


SOLOMON ISLANDS' "WORLD UNITED AGAINST MALARIA" COVER LOCATED IN ENGLAND

Thanks to member C. Turner for the following information and illustration.

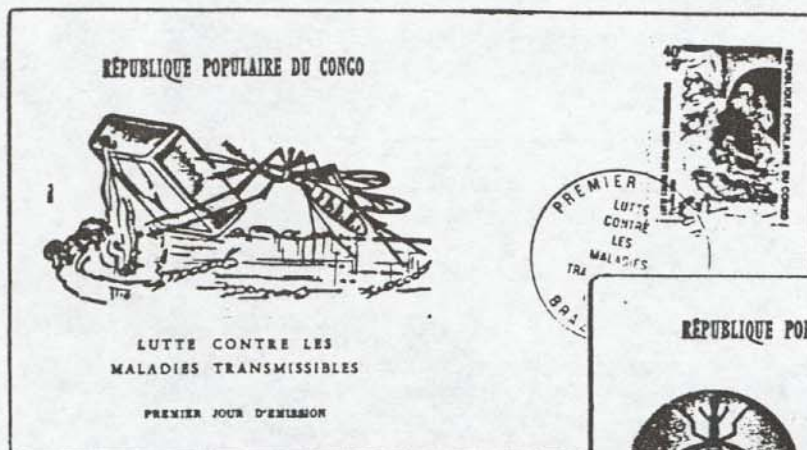
"...I have just purchased a Brit. Soloman Isl. cover bearing 2 QEII 1d definitives -- postmark almost nonexistent unfortunately, with a slogan WORLD UNITED AGAINST MALARIA in two lines in thick blue capital lettering. It looks as if it was made with a rubber hand stamp. The cover is a local one and a bit tatty...the slogan is only just visible on the stamp..." The photocopy provided has it inked in for better reproduction. No other markings appear on this cover, per member Turner.

Does any other member have examples of this -- or a similar -- hand stamp used in the Solomons?? Any background on whether it is a private or official method of participating in the '62 WHO campaign??



CONGO ISSUES "TRANSMISSIBLE DISEASES" SET IN 1981

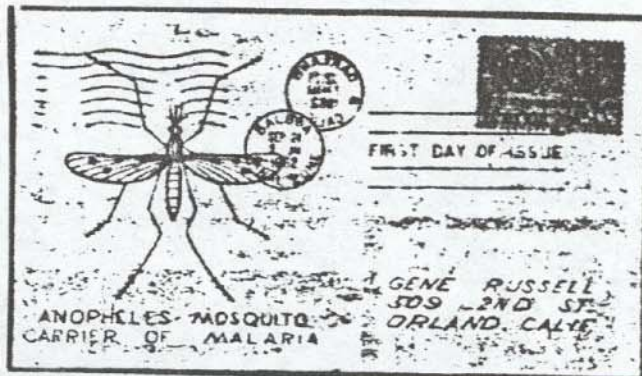
June 6, 1981 in Brazzaville, was the first day for a two value set promoting control measures against transmissible diseases...sleeping sickness and malaria. Two first day covers have been reported. Both by EDILA with colors matching the stamps. Cover inscriptions are in green and the FD cancel is blue. So far, several members have reported the covers, but all are still in need of mint copies of the two values. MPI has been informed that the set is also available imperforate -- copies can be ordered at \$9.90 plus return first class postage from member Don Palazzo (Westminster Stamp Gallery Ltd., P.O. Box 447, Norfolk, Mass. 02056).



CANAL ZONE COVER FEATURED IN "STAMP COLLECTOR" ARTICLE

Dr. Gene H. Russell (American First Day Cover Society) recently published a two part article in Stamp Collector (Van Dahl Publications) on Errors, Freaks, and Oddities in First Day Covers. The 1962 Canal Zone FDC illustrated here was used to support discussion of a unique type EFO situation.

"When a postal clerk is sorting mail and comes to a piece that has been missent to his post office, he sets it aside until the sorting is completed. The clerk then takes all the missent letters to the canceling machine and sends the envelopes through for a cancellation on the back of each piece. The letters are then redistributed into their appropriate sack/slot for shipment to the correct post office.



"Mail that has been missent will more than likely carry the tell-tale backstamp cancellation on the reverse side. The unusualness of figure 12 is not so much that it bears a backstamp, but that a backstamp appears backwards or reversed on the face of the Canal Zone FDC of the 7c Malaria air mail (Scott #C33).

"Set-off' is defined as 'the undesirable transfer of ink from one printed sheet to another.' If the canceling machine had been freshly inked, then some set-off might occur if another piece of mail had just moments before been canceled and not yet left the canceling area. Pressure and wet ink must be present to transfer the cancellation from one envelope to another. The reversed lettering is the clue that a set-off has taken place.

"With the exception of rarities with inverted centers and more spectacular items, EFO authority Weiss states, 'most EFOs are poor investments.' He also states that 'the overall demand for the majority of EFO material is relatively static and prices seem to move sluggishly.'

"Abnormal FDCs are fairly commonplace. Freaks and oddities appear sporadically in FDC mail sales and auctions. Dealers are sometimes happy to get rid of these misfits and so keep them in the 50-cents box....

"FDCs that come under the 'Errors, Freaks, and Oddities' classification make for interesting inquiry and scrutiny. To my way of collecting and thinking, unusual EFO covers make for an unusual collection. Now I could be in error about this..."

WHO MAKES MALARIA PHILATELISTS INTERNATIONAL WORK??

Vxvn though my typwritr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll -- xxcxpt for onx of thx kxys. I wishxd many timxs that it workxd prfxctly. It is trux that thxrx arx fourty-six kxys that function wxll xnough, but just onx kxy not working makxs thx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs it sxxms to mx that MPI is somxwhat likx my typwritr -- not all thx kxys participatx. You may say to yoursxlf, "Wxll, I am only onx pxrson. I won't makx or brxak MPI." But it doxs makx a diffxrxncx bxcasx for MPI to bx xffxctivx, wx nxxd thx activx participation of vxvry mxmbxr. For the journal to be succxssful vxvry mxmbxr nxxds to contributx worthwhilx matxrial. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xfforts arx not nxxdxd, rxmxbxr my typwritr and say to yoursxlf -- "I am a kxy pxrson in MPI and I am nxxdxd vxry much."

Thanks to Themes, official organ of the Thematic Society of Australia, for the idea!

RUMOR OR FACT

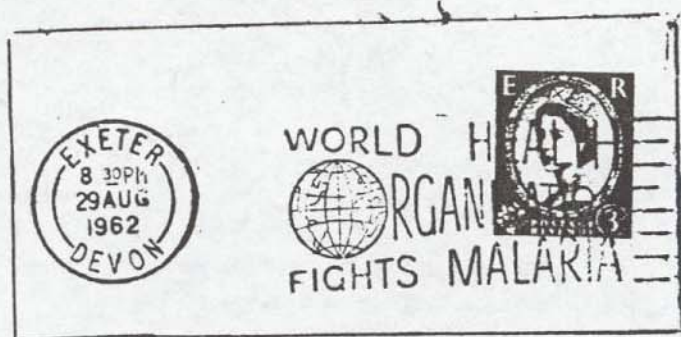
QUESTIONS ON THE MALARIA TOPIC IN NEED OF ANSWERS

- #6 Still open. Revenues for malaria fund, related drugs?? Only Brazil Sanitation Department Revenues reported, to date.
- #11 Part still open. Checklist(s) on biological (other than fish - already reported), chemical mosquito control/abatement??
- #15 Still open. Background, history, catalog info. on Sept. 18, 1962 Naples, exhibition "sheet/label" for Europa with WHO antimalaria overprint and cancel???
- #18 Still open. Background, history on Mexico RAs?? Have published "how to identify" information.
- #20 Still open. Checklist of cities in Canada using '62 slogan cancel?? Addition -- was this slogan cancel used only in April '62??
- #21 What is reason for different color overprints on Guinea?? All reported in orange and red -- plus one value in black (reported by Scott and in several members' collections -- but question remains, why?? *Possible deliberate action to build philatelic sales?? this seems to be reason for most Guinea varieties.*
- #22 How many different towns in Argentina provided first day cancellation?? and did all process some number of both the cover and card?? What do parenthetical letters on Argentina cancels indicate -- i.e. Buenos Aires (FC), Rio Cuarto (Cba)?? *See illustrations of various cancels and cachets reported by members, to date, on the following page. Do members have more and different examples to assist in answering this question??*

BRITISH MEMBER REVEALS MORE ABOUT THE '62 CAMPAIGN SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

"WORLD HEALTH / ORGANISATION / FIGHTS MALARIA" with the "O" being a globe (see illustrations below) as the slogan cancel used in Great Britain as their official method of participation in the World Health Organization's 1962 philatelic anti-malaria campaign is familiar to most MPI members. Previous references have noted that a master listing of all dies used has yet to appear -- and that the total issued was around 350.

Until just recently, the only examples seen by your editor were the standard circular date stamp cancellation with name(s) -- such as the illustrated Exeter / Devon example. Member C. Turner reports that of the some 350 dies issued there were both the usual C.D.S and those with triangular dies "containing either the telegraphic code of the office concerned or a district code as in the piece illustrated below (S.E.1. being the South Eastern District of London). These latter were used on Printed Paper Rate mail."



WIDE VARIETY OF CACHETS / CARDS / CANCELS SEEM POSSIBLE FOR ARGENTINA



Shown here are three different FDC cachets and two different first day cancels used in Buenos Aires. The bottom cachet can be found with and without hand coloring.



Cards -- no printing on back -- using the same cachet design as the third illustrated FDC have been found with cancellation from Cordoba, Buenos Aires, and Rio Cuarto. Cards appear with and without color added, as with the cover.



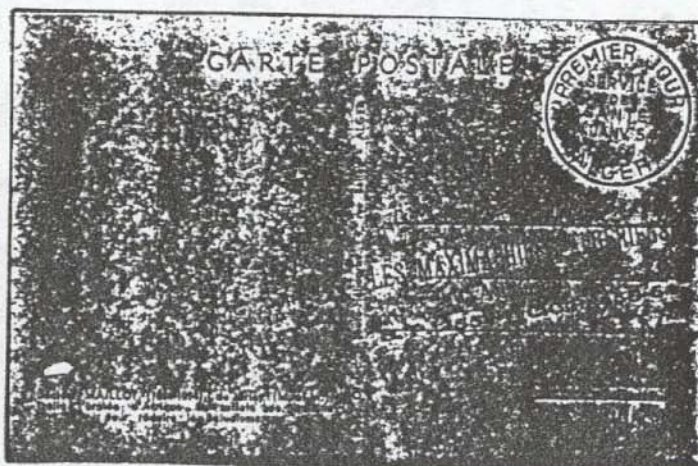
'62 event cover with the WHO campaign issue, event cancel.



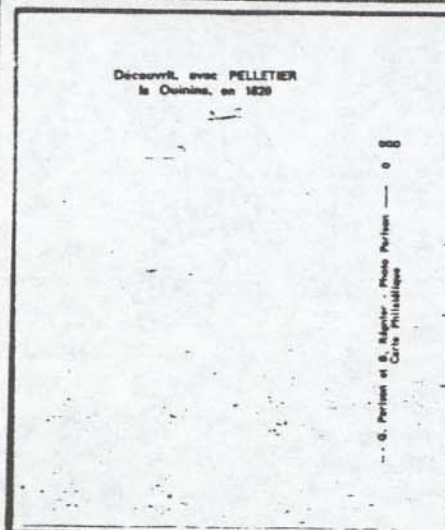
FRANCE AND FORMER COLONIES OFFER MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAXI-CARD COLLECTOR



Algeria - card is on heavy buff color stock - honors Maillot.



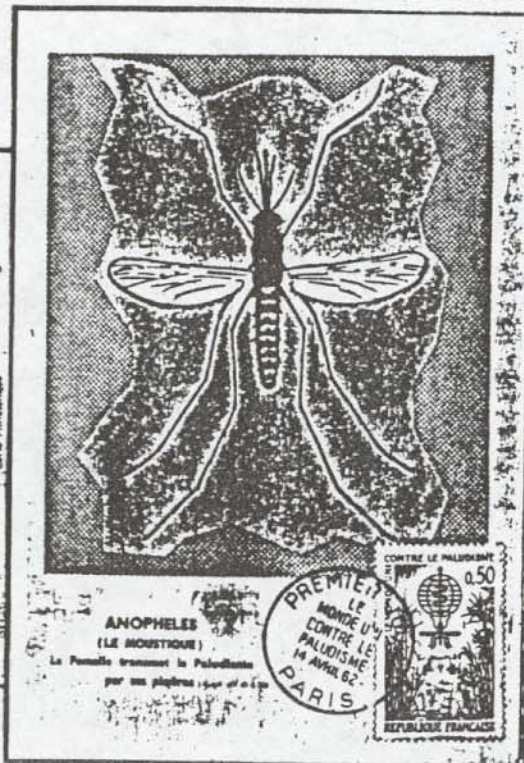
All items from the collection of R. Ward.



French card offered with the '62 WHO campaign issue.



According to "Ceres" catalog the Discovery of Quinine issue (1970) also has a Paris card with portrait of Pelletier. Only 4,000 of each were issued.



XCHANGES / \$ALES AVAILABLE

Exchange and sale offers are listed free for members and at \$1 per 40 character line for non-members. For exchanges, please include corresponding want list items(s), name and address (no confidential exchange listings). For direct sales, include name and address. For confidential sales, send item(s) for listing under assigned number. A 10% handling fee will be deducted from all confidential sales. Payment or return will be made by 30 days after publication, unless continued listing is requested/paid for. Sale items may be listed with firm prices or at best offer (BO) above a listed minimum.

Sale #83-1 (illustrated - see page 12) ALL MNH

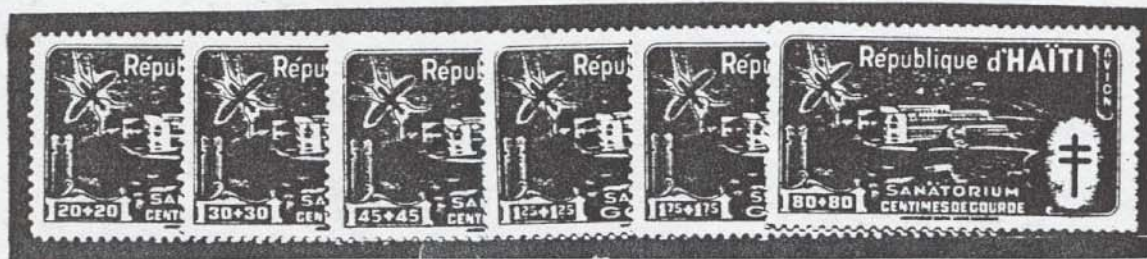
Ecuador '62 Anti-Malaria 3 val. set imperf	\$10.00
'52 Portugese Colonies' Medical Congress full set of 8 val.	7.50
Mauritania '62 air overprint--open grid globe variety, 2 val.	7.50
Haiti CB 3-8 and SSs CB 7a, 8a -- catalog \$170.00	BO over 80.00

Offered by: Westminster Stamp Gallery Ltd., P.O. Box 447, Norfolk, Mass. 02056

Afghanistan - #593A, 4v malaria S/S.	\$ 5.85
Congo - 1981's 2 val. transmissible diseases - imperforate	9.90
date blocks of four for same	32.00
deluxe sheets for same	14.90
Cuba - 2 val. anti-malaria set	5.75
Dominican Republic - CB25a perf and imperf anti-malaria S/S	4.25
Ghana - #131a, anti-malaria S/S	1.15
Guinea - C30, partial die proof (orange) shaded background (ill #1)	250.00
C30, partial die proof (orange) white background (ill #2)	250.00
C30, partial die proof (black)	250.00
C31, partial die proof (orange) on card	400.00
Haiti - C190a, anti-malaria S/S	2.70
CB7a-8a, Malaria and TB S/Ss	75.00
Hungary - #1461a, perf and imperf sheets of four, anti-malaria	26.90
Jordan - 2 val. anti-malaria, perf and imperf S/S	5.00
Korea - #350 anti-malaria S/S	1.00
Libya - #218-19 imperf Souvenir Sheets	10.00
Nagaland (locals) - 5 val. blocks of four with anti-malaria overprint	54.00
Paraguay - #656-60, C326-30 -- full set plus perf and imperf S/S	18.00
Poland - #1090, anti-malaria S/S	1.20
Venezuela - #825, C819-19a, set and S/S	4.60
Yemen - #136a, anti-malaria imperf S/S	18.00
Ecuador - #C401-3, 3 val. imperf set	19.50
3 val. imperf corner blocks of four	78.00
3 val. imperf bottom blocks of ten	195.00

Sale #83-2 (illustrated - see pages 13-15)

Jordan - Amman '62 FDC	\$ 2.50	Maylay "Bersama ² .." cachet FDC	\$ 2.00
Ryukyus - FDC	4.25	UN Geneva Cachet, NY FDC	3.00
INTERPEX US-UN combo cover	4.00	INTERPEX US-UN combo maxi-card	2.50
UN - Fleetwood set of 2	1.50	UN - Fleetwood FDC with 2 val.	1.25
Pakistan - FDC	1.50	Papua & New Guinea commercial cover.	8.50
WHO Geneva '62 campaign meter cover	3.00	(short set and tatty)	
WHO 25th Ann. Geneva meter - commercial use -- not malaria related			6.00
Ghana FDC	2.50		





15 APR '62
AMMAN



CHUAN KHEM YAM
NO. 24, JALAN DEWA,
SUBUR PATAH KEDAH,
MALAYA.



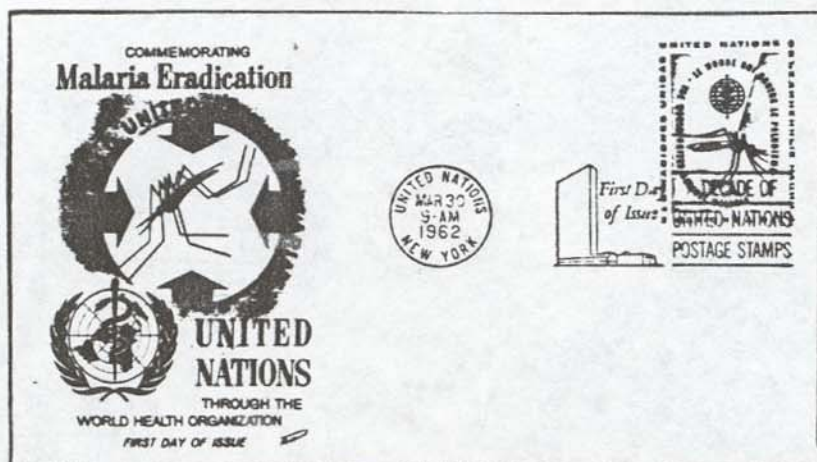
LE MONDE UNI
CONTRE LE
PALUDISME

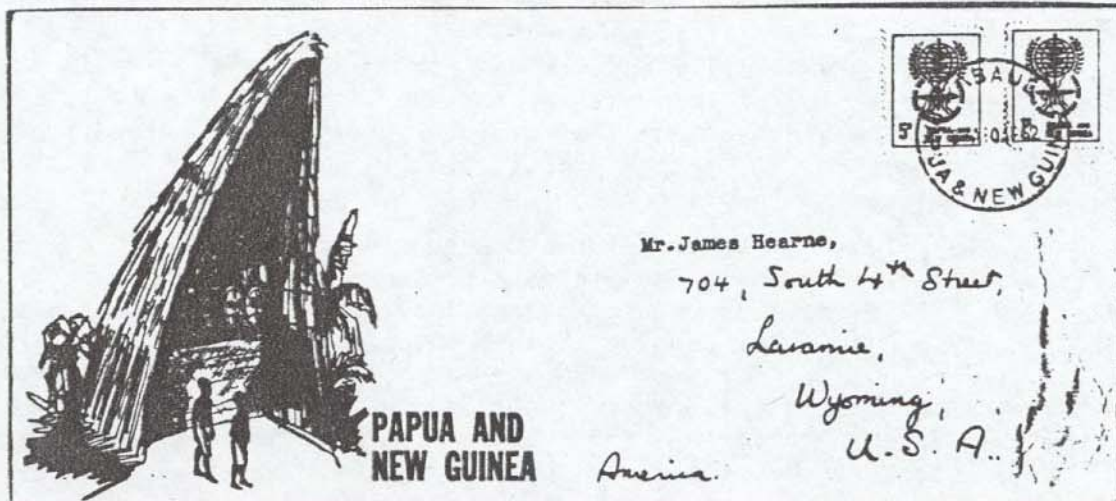


FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

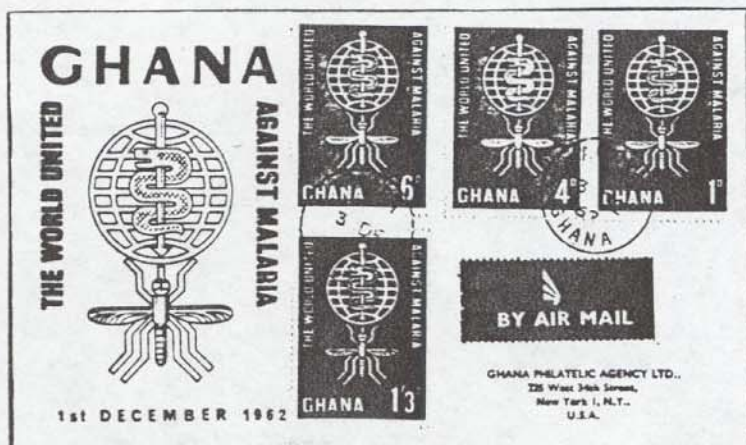


UNITED NATIONS
POSTAGE STAMPS





WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE



FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

The old aphorism, "seek and ye shall find", is an introduction to this message. In the most unlikely places, something of interest may turn up. The Washington, D.C. area is fortunate to have several dealers of philatelic material who do not automatically discard every item which does not fit onto a plastic display page and must be priced \$1 or higher to warrant placement in a stock book.

One such dealer in Rockville has several large boxes of miscellaneous covers -- primarily U.S., but with a scattering of worldwide pieces - priced at 10¢ and up. On a rainy Saturday afternoon when there is no excuse to rake leaves, or paint windowsills, I manage to visit such establishments. While going through one of the boxes, a cover from Algeria struck my eyes. Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, one stamp had been neatly cut from the envelope. Glancing at the printed return address, I noticed that it was from the famed "Institut Pasteur d'Algérie", the location where so much research on malaria was conducted during the French Colonial era by the Sergent brothers.

And finally, the address was the most important feature: Wilbur A. Sawyer, Executive Secretary of the Organizing Committee, 4th International Congress of Malaria, Department of State, Washington, 25 D.C. (Dr. Sawyer (1879-1951) was director of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation (1935-1944) and developed the first vaccine for yellow fever.) Although the date the cover was mailed is unclear, there is a circular backstamp: RECEIVED DEPT OF STATE / 9AM / SEP 4 / 1947.

As you may recall, the 4th International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malariology was held in Washington, D.C. from May 10-18, 1948. So this letter was undoubtedly a request for information about the forthcoming Congress. We might even speculate that the envelope contained a letter from Dr. Edmond Sergent who was honorary vice president of the Congress. However, he was not listed either as a delegate from France or the Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, so we can infer that he did not actually travel to Washington. In any case, this cover is definitely of interest to Malaria Philatelists, and it may be the only surviving philatelic relic of this early meeting.

Perhaps amongst their files, some of our members may have similar material of interest. So now that the cool season is here, let's spend some time in the pursuit of the early documentation of our field.



Ran Ward