



# MIASMA PHILATELIST

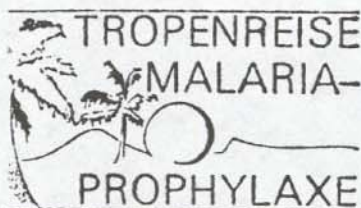
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THE SWISS TROPICAL INSTITUTE



## A. THE INSTITUTE

Founded in 1943 in Basil, Switzerland, with the support of the Swiss government, the city of Basil, and private industry, the Swiss Tropical Institute (STI) has three purposes: education, research, and service in all aspects of medicine as it relates to hot climates. It consists of medical and biological sections, an electron microscopy station, a school for tropical agricultural technicians, and an administration. Professor T. A. Freyvogel is the current director. Headquarters and the Tropical School are in Basil; the field laboratory is in Ifakara, Tanzania.

Among education programs offered by STI is a course in "Tropical Medicine and Public Health" which offers doctors a specialized three-month training for work in tropical climates or with tropical diseases imported into Europe. A "General Tropical Course," with no restrictions on enrollment, gives general preparation to anyone planning a stay in the tropics. Since 1981, the Technical School for Tropical Agriculture has offered a two-year course for tropical agricultural technicians. STI also takes part in training medical and biological technicians in the Laboratory School of the Basil Canton Hospital.

Research carried on by STI is in two categories: basic and applied. Among ongoing basic research projects are examinations of the transmission of schistosomiasis, jaundice, sleeping sickness, venomous and poisonous animals, termites, and the value of current prophylactic measures. Applied research includes examination of tropical diseases brought into Switzerland, improvement of diagnostic methods, and treatment and prophylaxis of intestinal infections in African villages.

Services provided by the institute include dissemination of information, a publicly accessible specialized library, a scientific journal (*Acta Tropica*), a computer center, and a tropical medical clinic for inoculation, examination, and treatment of travelers to and

(continued on page 3)



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the June 1985 issue of "Miasma Philatelist," the question was raised about MPI's expanding its interests to cover other diseases and their insect vectors. Favorable arguments could be broached pro and con. My personal thoughts are that we should stay within our area of interest. The rationale for this is that in most of the peripheral cases a tie to malaria can be found.

A good example is Dr. Walter Reed. While at Johns Hopkins University in the late 1800's, he heard about the recent discoveries of Ronald Ross and subsequently changed his own ideas about the transmission of yellow fever. In addition, Reed was the author of an extremely long, rather obscure report on the incidence of malaria in the Washington Barracks, which were situated across the Potomac in Maryland. Unfortunately, this was written prior to the work of Ross, and malaria was attributed to "miasmas," water-borne agents, etc. Thus, I have no difficulty associating Walter Reed with my interest in MPI. Unfortunately, no envelopes sent by Walter Reed have been described in philatelic literature. Large portions of his correspondence, however, have been preserved in the libraries of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

I would like to stress that MPI is a forum for ALL collectors interested in this matter, so please send your comments to the editor of MP.

*Ran*

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SANITARY REPORT





## SCHWEIZERISCHES TROPENINSTITUT (CONTINUED)

from tropical areas.

In addition to counting malaria among the tropical medical and biological diseases covered in educational and service programs, STI is also conducting research on malaria and its vectors. This research is presently focused on the relationship between parasite and vector, with emphasis on the following questions:

What is the nature of the digestive processes in insects that suck blood and transmit disease?

Why, when pathogen-bearing blood is ingested by blood-sucking insects, are the pathogens transmitted rather than digested?

How are the malaria pathogen and the mosquito vector adjusted to each other?

Is a specific "signal" produced by the vector's salivary glands to stimulate sporozoites to enter into them?



## B. THE POSTAL METER

Postal meter number 16067 was purchased by STI in 1976. The actual first day of use was not recorded. Plans to replace the meter and its slogans will not likely develop until the present machine is no longer functional.

Two "slogans," both designed by the institute, are used with the meter. The first slogan features a tropical scene and the text "TROPENREISE MALARIA - PROPHYLAXE" (translation not known). The other slogan is the logo for the institute - the organization's name in Latin around a tsetse fly.

Collectors desiring examples of the meter and slogans can acquire copies by sending two International Reply coupons and two addressed adhesive labels to: Mrs. E. Zehnder, Secretary, Swiss Tropical Institute, Socinstrasse 57, 4051 Basel, Switzerland. (Please be advised that many "favor cancels" formerly acquired in this way have been lately denied to collectors due to requests for multiple copies.)

MPI extends thanks to Mrs. Zehnder, for supplying data for this article, and to Dr. Ernst Schlunegger, for leading us to the institute.

## MEMBERSHIP STATUS

☐ If an "X" appears in the box at left, your membership expires with this issue of "Miasma Philatelist." Don't miss the next issue.



## Malaria: One of the Last Diseases Still To Be Conquered

(Continued from MP #15, page 8)



Yemen, 1966

*Galen* (129-199)

had a good knowledge of malaria. In this field too he made an excellent compilation of the knowledge of his time, which remained a leading work for 1,400 years.

*Pelletier* (1788-1842) and *Caventou* (1795-1877) discovered the alkaloids quinine and cinchonine in the bark of the cinchona tree from the Andes in 1820. Although *WOODWARD* and *DEARING* succeeded in synthesizing quinine in 1944, the method appeared to be unexploitable on a commercial scale.

A philatelically illustrated history of malaria, compiled by G. VERVEEN, Delft, The Netherlands



Rwanda, 1970

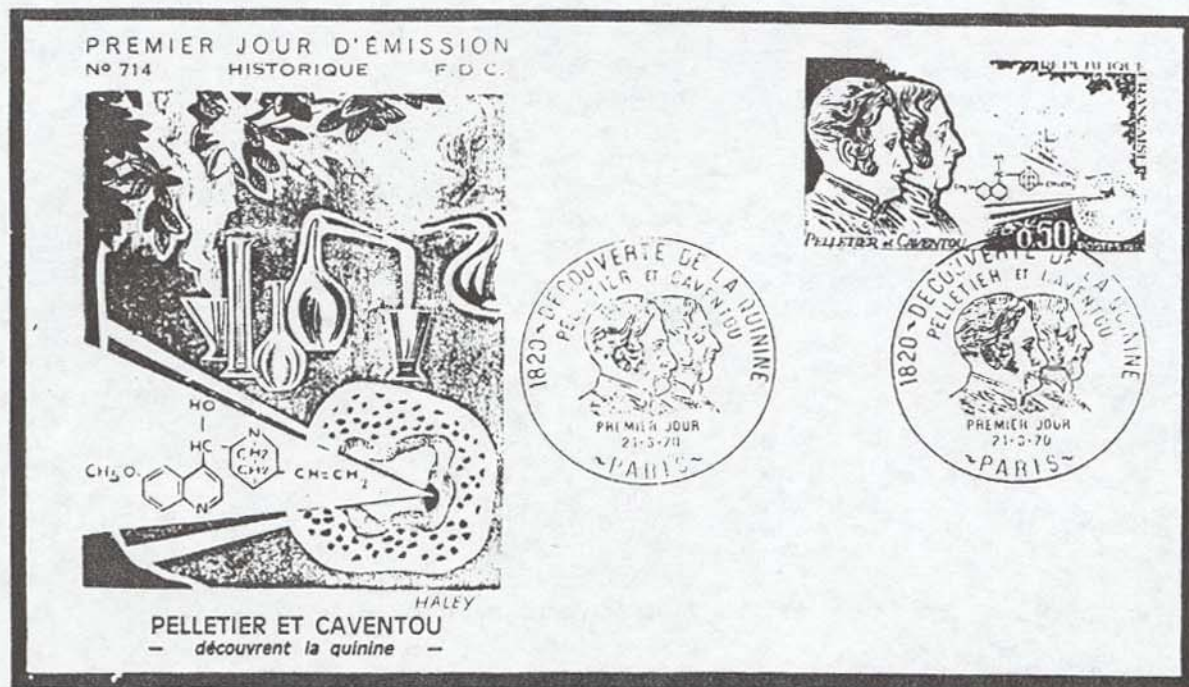


Congo, 1963

### *Cinchona*

In 1649, Jesuit fathers published the first European report on cinchona in the *Schedula Romana*: 'This bark is imported from the Kingdom of Peru and is called china or rather china febris, and is used for the treatment of three-day and four-day fever with chills.' The description is followed by a recipe for the preparation of a mixture.

In 1854 the Dutch botanist Hasskarl brought cinchona trees from South America, which formed the basis of the plantations on Java and which could ultimately supply 90% of the world's needs.



France, 1970

(continued on next page)



## Malaria: One of the Last Diseases Still To Be Conquered



Algeria, 1954



Venezuela, 1971



Algeria, 1954



Cuba, 1962



Sweden, 1966

*Maillot* (1804-1894)

studied the action of quinine on malaria in the French expeditionary army in Algeria about 1832.

*Beauperthuy* (1807-1871)

pointed out the vector role of the mosquito as early as 1853. Unfortunately his theory was rejected at that time.

*Laveran* (1845-1922)

November 6, 1880 was the historic date on which this French army doctor observed in his microscope in a fresh, unstained blood-film the microgametocyte with flagella in the erythrocytes of a patient suffering from malaria. He called the parasite *Oscillaria malariae*. In 1885 the parasite was named *Plasmodium*. In 1884 Laveran published his book *Traité des fièvres palustres* and was appointed professor of military hygiene. Then he took up the study of trypanosomiasis, piroplasmiasis and leishmaniasis in particular. In the second edition of his book (1898) he introduced the name *paludisme*. In 1907 he was honoured with the Nobel prize.

Only much later was it found that there are various types of *Plasmodium*, such as *P. vivax* (malaria tertiana), *P. malariae* (malaria quartana) and *P. falciparum* (malaria tropica).

*Golgi* (1844-1926)

observed the asexual division of *Plasmodium* in an erythrocyte in 1886 and established the coincidence of an attack of fever and the disintegration of the infected erythrocyte. He also found that the causal agents of malaria tertiana and quartana are different. In 1906, he received the Nobel prize.

(To be continued)

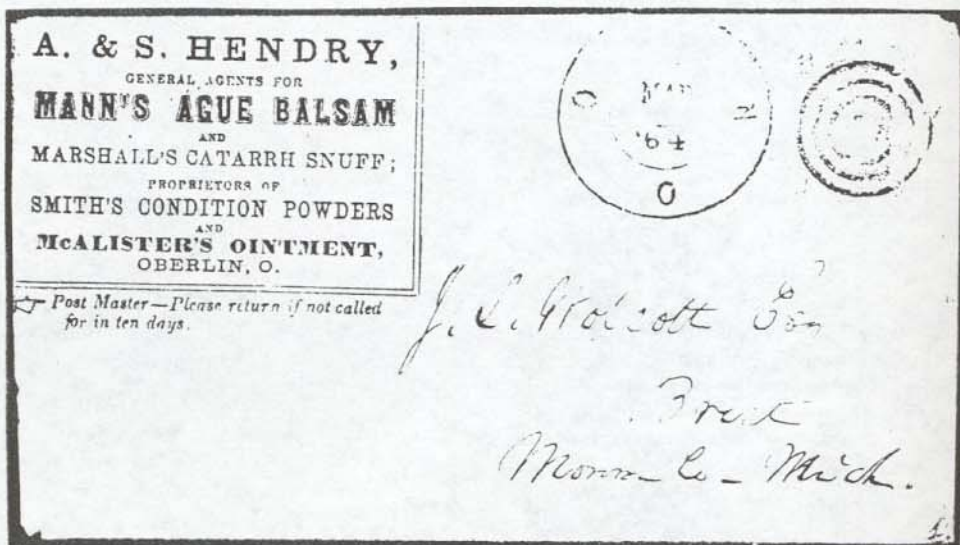


CHECKLIST**PRIVATE DIE REVENUES FOR MEDICINES**

At least one of the private die revenue stamps lists "ague" among the ills for which the medication it advertises should be used. The stamp is listed in Scott's specialized U. S. catalog as RS93. The only example seen by this reporter is listed as RS93d, implying that at least four varieties exist. RS93 is a black, 3¢ stamp produced for (by?) the G. G. Green Company. Scott lists RS92 for the same company.

Other such items, listed as RS295-301, are revenues for the Charles Marchand Company. These list "chills" as an ailment purportedly cured by the company's medicine.

Additional stamps among the RS issues may also advertise companies that produced medications for malaria sufferers, but the stamps do not mention this. Advertising covers, like the one shown below, or other evidence, will be needed to make the connection. Perhaps readers of MP can shed more light on this matter.

**MOSQUITOES' PREDATORS**

A previous issue of MP presented a checklist of fishes that have been used in mosquito control programs. Other natural predators working on the mosquito population have not been used in a control program, but they nonetheless have an effect on the mosquito populations.

Dragonfly and damselfly larvae both prey on mosquito larvae in their watery habitats. Dragonfly adults also prey on adult mosquitoes, catching and consuming them in flight. The following is a list of postage stamps that portray these predator members of family Odonata.

Albania 923-6  
Botswana 268, 273a  
Chad 256  
Guernsey (1982)  
Jugoslavia 1294  
Mauritius 544-7  
Romania 1615  
Sweden 1295  
N. Vietnam (1977 x 8)

Ascension 305-8  
Brazil 1708  
Falkland 344-7  
Indonesia B224  
Lesotho 262  
New Zealand 391  
St. Helena 364, 368-71  
Switzerland B208, B240  
Wallis & Futuna 185

Bhutan mi276  
Bulgaria 1332-7  
Finland B128  
Japan 179-87, 1296, 139  
Mali 280  
Pitcairn 154  
Singapore (1985)  
Tuvalu



by Ronald A. Ward

Shiremantown is in the vicinity of Harrisburg, and it no longer has a separate post office. In the 1880's, malaria was considered just another seasonal disease that periodically showed up. The statement in the above letter - that "Clara is better again" - implies that she was experiencing a relapse of vivax malaria, the common form of malaria in her part of the country.

## NEW ISSUES

Kenya - June 25, 1985. 4 values for VII International Congress of Protozoology, Nairobi:  
1'- value features malaria victim. (Complete write up in next issue of MP)

Australia - 4 values for Christmas: 27¢ includes holly.

Andorra (Fr) - Oct. 21, 1985. 10 postage dues: 10c features holly.

Viet Nam - May, 1985. Definitives: 50xu fighting fish (*Betta splendens*)

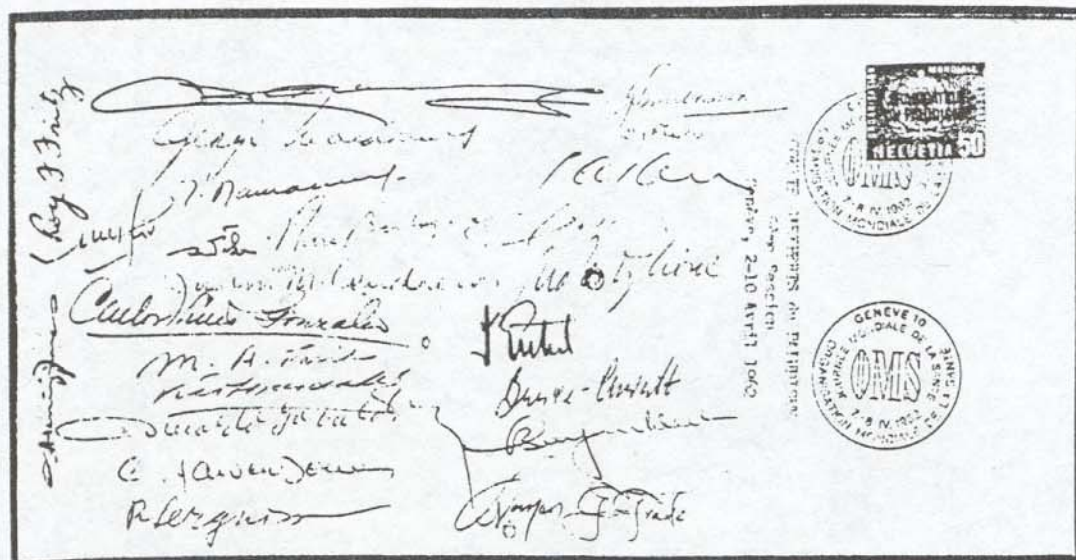
Zimbabwe - Aug. 21, 1985. Definitives: 1c tobacco.

India - April 4, 1985. 15p postal card w/add "Fever? Get Blood Tested for Malaria."





## FIRST DAY COVER... AND HISTORY



Shown here is a true gem of malaria philately - a first day cover for the WHO office issue from Switzerland that has been signed by the attendees of the ninth session of the Committee of Experts on Malaria. The committee met from April 2 to 10, 1962. Some philatelist managed to create a nice bit of malaria postal history!

Now let's name the signatories. The following are obvious: Roy F. Fritz, Justin M. Andrews, (L. J.) Bruce-Chwatt, and Norman G. Gratz. Can MP readers identify more?

(Thanks to Don Pletsch for sharing this cover with MPI.)

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

## AN A - 1 SELECTION

Although a number of MPI members submitted nominations for the organization's officers, many of those overlapped. Nominees have been contacted and those accepting nominations have submitted profiles for the information of the electorate.

Readers will quickly note that only one candidate has stepped forward for each office, but what is not so apparent is the quality of these candidates. All of these people have contributed much to MPI already via service as charter officers or through contributions to "Miasma Philatelist." Voters can be sure, therefore, that their organization will be well led by the people who have volunteered their services.

One item that demands the voter's special attention is the position of secretary-treasurer. Although the journal editor has in the past assumed these roles as well, such an amount of duty is too much for one person who must also deal with family and professional obligations. Therefore, the journal editor will not accept the other positions at this time. It has been suggested further that the positions of secretary and treasurer be also separated. Doing this, however, requires a constitutional change. If the electorate wishes to so change the organization's by-laws, then they may vote for these officers individually. If the change is not desired, then the vote will be for secretary-treasurer. The outcome of this vote will be deemed the people's choice on the constitutional question. So please review the candidates' profiles and mail the enclosed ballot at your earliest convenience.



## CANDIDATE PROFILES

**Cynthia Douglas.** I joined MPI as a charter member and served on the first Board of Directors representing the European region. I have since moved to Florida as part of my military duties and now live near Pensacola. I desire to continue to serve you and feel that filling the position of Secretary would help me to get to know you all better, as well as give me a personal challenge. I started a general collection as a youth, put it aside, and started again in earnest in 1970. I began collecting insects, and, as I found more of the 1962 anti-malaria issue, my interest grew to this area. I am a captain in the U.S. Air Force - working with computers - and am married and have two sons. Again, I hope you will give me the chance to serve as your secretary.

**John Moohr.** John is a retired contractor living in Chicago. An avid stamp collector for innumerable years, he counts among his credits the Ethiopia section of the Minkus catalog. John has also served in many Chicago-area stamp clubs, most recently having been in charge of the huge task as chairman of junior exhibitors at COMPEX 85. Through his many activities, John has "learned the ropes" of directing philatelic organizations. As a charter member of MPI, he has contributed heavily to the club's journal, providing a wealth of information from his outstanding collection which has won many awards at various exhibits. John can provide the best of leadership for MPI as it moves forward.

**Donald J. Pletsch.** I have been active in international malaria programs since serving as commanding officer and entomologist of the 218th Malaria Survey Unit during WW II in New Caledonia, the Philippines, and Japan. Since that time I have led WHO malaria teams in Taiwan and Mexico during the 1950's, a USAID malaria team in Ethiopia during the 1960's, the USPHS/USAID Central America Malaria Research Station in El Salvador in the late 1960's, and participated in the USAID-sponsored team efforts designing and/or evaluating anti-malaria programs in Sierra Leone, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Ethiopia, India, and Nepal. I consider malaria philately not only a fascinating, educational hobby, but also a valuable instrument for promoting global awareness of the importance of intensifying the struggle against this devastating disease. My service since 1981 as a regional director of MPI proved stimulating and gratifying.

**Mike Seth.** At age 33, Mr. Seth is married and has two children. He received a B.S. in Entomology at the University of California, Davis, in 1975. Since then he has worked for the Shasta Mosquito Abatement District for nine years. His stamp collecting started about five years ago with emphasis on U.S. issues. He then expanded to collecting insect topicals, from which his interest in malaria philately evolved to its present dominance over his other collecting interests. He has been a member of the ATA for three years and of MPI for over two years. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Redding (CA) Stamp Club for three years, and has served as Bourse Chairman for NoVaPex.

**Alan Steffen.** I would be most happy to serve as a director of the MPI. I am retired from the U.S. Agency for International Development. Before leaving the agency in 1981, I served as malaria advisor to the governments of Indonesia, Thailand, Nepal, Ethiopia, and Pakistan. I have also served as a team member evaluating the programs of Pakistan and Haiti. I have an A.B. degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a Master of Science in Entomology from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. In addition to my malaria topicals, I collect all insects on stamps, Japanese Occupation issues, and postal history related to the concentration camps of Nazi Germany.



CINCHONA AND QUININE

## DUTCH PROMOTE USE OF QUININE



Although cultivation of cinchona plants began in Java in 1852 at the Dutch-owned Buitenzorg Botanical Garden, commercialization of the products of the plants became practical only after Charles Ledger successfully grafted a Brazilian variety with another wild variety with a strong root system that could survive in less fertile soils. Since Ledger's work in 1865, the Dutch have nearly monopolized the industry; and, until the 1930's, they usurped their position by selling quinine at inordinately high prices, thus making it unavailable to many who needed it most.

U.S. sanitation officer Victor Heiser, who in 1905 went to the Philippines as Director of Health, noted the lack of quinine use due to its high price. Unsuccessful in attempts to persuade the Dutch to lower prices, he did manage to convince the League of Nations Malaria Commission that a problem existed. The Commission, in turn, pressured the Dutch to lower prices, primarily through recommending use of the cheaper cinchona extract totaquine.

Relenting, the Dutch lowered the price of quinine. The commercialization, however, continues; and it is this that gives rise to additions to malaria philately like the malaria-topical postal meter shown above. Although the user of this meter is not yet known, the slogan proclaims "In Quinine Health."

(Thanks to John Meek for the photo of the meter.)

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## CANDIDATE PROFILES (CONTINUED)

**Carol Turner.** I am a community dental officer working mainly with school-age children in a rural area. I have been collecting stamps since the early 1970's, concentrating on the stamps of British North Borneo. Although still maintaining my interest in B.N.B., I have since branched out into other fields, mainly malaria-related material, recent G.B. postal history, and Azerbaijan. I strongly believed that knowledge should be shared and, in that sharing, interest and enthusiasm are further stimulated. I hope to serve MPI by giving what information I have whenever possible and also to promote the society in whatever way I can.

**Ron Ward.** Dr. Ward has served as president of MPI since the first election of officers. The amount of work he has done in promoting the organization and keeping us all informed is a matter of record. He also has edited the "Mosquito News," a publication of the American Mosquito Control Association, for a number of years. Although many members of MPI have asked that Dr. Ward be nominated for a second term as president, his occupational responsibilities preclude his doing so. We are very fortunate, however, in being able to nominate him for as a director.





## RUMOR OR FACT

## QUESTIONS ON THE MALARIA TOPIC IN NEED OF ANSWERS

Readers are urged to submit both questions and their answers / opinions on current open questions - and facts - published in MP. Some inquiries are quite old, but someone must be able to provide an answer or viewpoint. Let's hear from you.

## # 6 Revenue stamps for malaria funds? Or related drugs?

Partial answer: Brazil has issued revenue stamps for malaria fund. Mexico's postal tax stamps (RA14, RA16, RA19) were for malaria fund.

## #11 Checklist(s) on biological (other than fish) and/or chemical mosquito abatement or control?

Partial answer: Though not used in planned programs, dragonflies and damselflies and/or their larvae feed on mosquitoes or mosquito larvae. (See checklist elsewhere in this issue.)

## #18 Background, history on Mexico RA14, RA16, RA19?

R. E. Dorer, in the March 1945 issue of Mosquito News (Vol. 5, No. 1, Page 20), offered the following:

## "Financing Malaria Control Work in Mexico"

Mr. J. L. Robertson, Jr., of the U. S. Public Health Service, who has just returned to the States after a two year tour of duty in Mexico, explained the unique way the Mexican Government has for financing malaria control work. Each letter that is posted with origin and destination in Mexico requires a special stamp in addition to postage. The money obtained from this stamp goes to the Mexican Federal Health Department and is spent for permanent malaria control work. The stamp has the figure of a man standing with outstretched arms with a large over-sized mosquito stretched over his back with its proboscis imbedded in the man's chest.

(MPI member Don Pletsch, who provided this information, is also preparing for MP an article on the same topic based on the work of Dr. Noe de Jesus Cabrera.)

## #21 Reason for different colors of overprints on Guinea issues?

## #22 Israel's 1962 anti-malaria issue (Sc. 218) has three different numbers in sheet margins. What is the significance of each? How many plate numbers exist?

## #23 How many countries' anti-malaria issues have been found in blocks of four on fdc's?

Partial answer: Canal Zone, Ceylon, Israel, Philippines, U.N., U.S. (might want to include Dubai's mini-sheets.)

## #24 What is the full implication of the footnote following the listing of Paraguay's 1962 anti-malaria issue in Scott's catalog: "Some specialists question the status of this issue."

Answer: Such footnotes in Scott's generally mean that the issue was probably intended solely to separate collectors from their money rather than to fill a postal need.



# EXCHANGES AND SALES AVAILABLE

Exchange and sale offerings are listed free for MPI members and at \$1 per 40-character line for non-members. For exchanges, please include corresponding wantlist item(s), name, and address. (No confidential listings for exchanges.) For direct sales, include name and address. For confidential sales, send item(s) for listing under an assigned number. A 10% handling fee will be deducted from confidential sales. Payment or return will be made within 60 days after publication unless continuous listing is requested. Sale items may be listed with firm prices or for "best offer" (BO) above a listed minimum. PLEASE NOTE: Best offer sales are not auction sales; each offer is passed on to the owner, who makes the decision to accept, wait, or relist.

## SALE 85-4

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Cayman Is. - MRCU plane (set/4) . . . \$2.00 | 2. Cayman Is. - Aviation fdc . . . . . \$2.50 |
| 3. Kenya - Protozoology congress (4) . . . 2.00 | 4. Kenya - Protozoology gutter prs . . . 4.50 |

## SALE 85-5 (all 1962 issue fdc's or slogans; see photos)

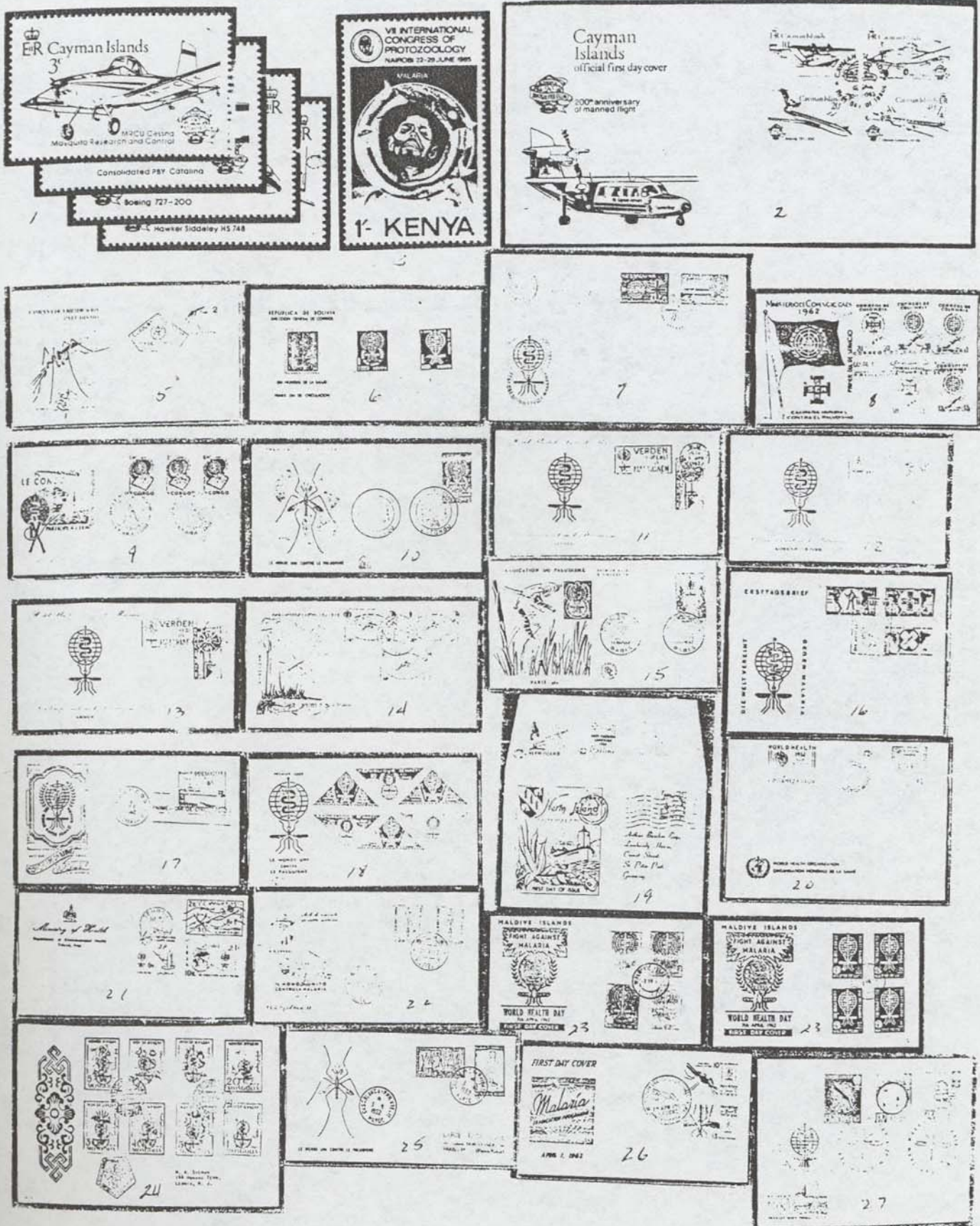
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 5. Argentina . . . . . 1.00                    | 6. Bolivia . . . . . 1.00                 |
| 7. Bulgaria (imperfs) . . . . . 7.50           | 8. Colombia . . . . . 5.00                |
| 9. Congo (ex-Belgian) . . . . . 2.50           | 10. Dahomey . . . . . 1.50                |
| 11. Denmark slogan (Alborg) . . . . . 2.00     | 12. Denmark slogan (Arhus) . . . . . 2.00 |
| 13. Denmark slogan (Copenhagen) . . . . . 2.00 | 14. Ethiopia . . . . . 3.50               |
| 15. France . . . . . 1.50                      | 16. Germany (DDR) . . . . . 1.50          |
| 17. Guatemala (red & dk blue) . . . . . 2.25   | 18. Haiti . . . . . 2.00                  |
| 19. Herz Is. . . . . 3.00                      | 20. India UN meter . . . . . 6.00         |
| 21. Iran . . . . . 3.00                        | 22. Italy (green) . . . . . 2.00          |
| 23. Maldives Is. (2 covers) . . . . . 4.00     | 24. Mongolia . . . . . 11.00              |
| 25. Morocco . . . . . 1.00                     | 26. Pakistan . . . . . 2.00               |
| 27. Poland . . . . . 2.00                      | 28. Poland (s/s) . . . . . 2.00           |
| 29. Portugal (1958) . . . . . 10.00            | 30. Russia (imperf) . . . . . 3.00        |
| 31. Somali Coast . . . . . 3.00                | 32. Spain (green) . . . . . 1.00          |
| 33. Switzerland . . . . . 1.25                 | 34. Switzerland Official . . . . . 3.00   |
| 35. Togo . . . . . 2.00                        | 36. U.S. (Artcraft) . . . . . 1.00        |
| 37. U.S. (Artmaster) . . . . . 1.00            | 38. Upper Volta . . . . . 1.00            |
| 39. Vatican City . . . . . 5.00                | 40. Yemen (grey) . . . . . 2.50           |

## OTHERS ARE IN SEARCH OF . . .

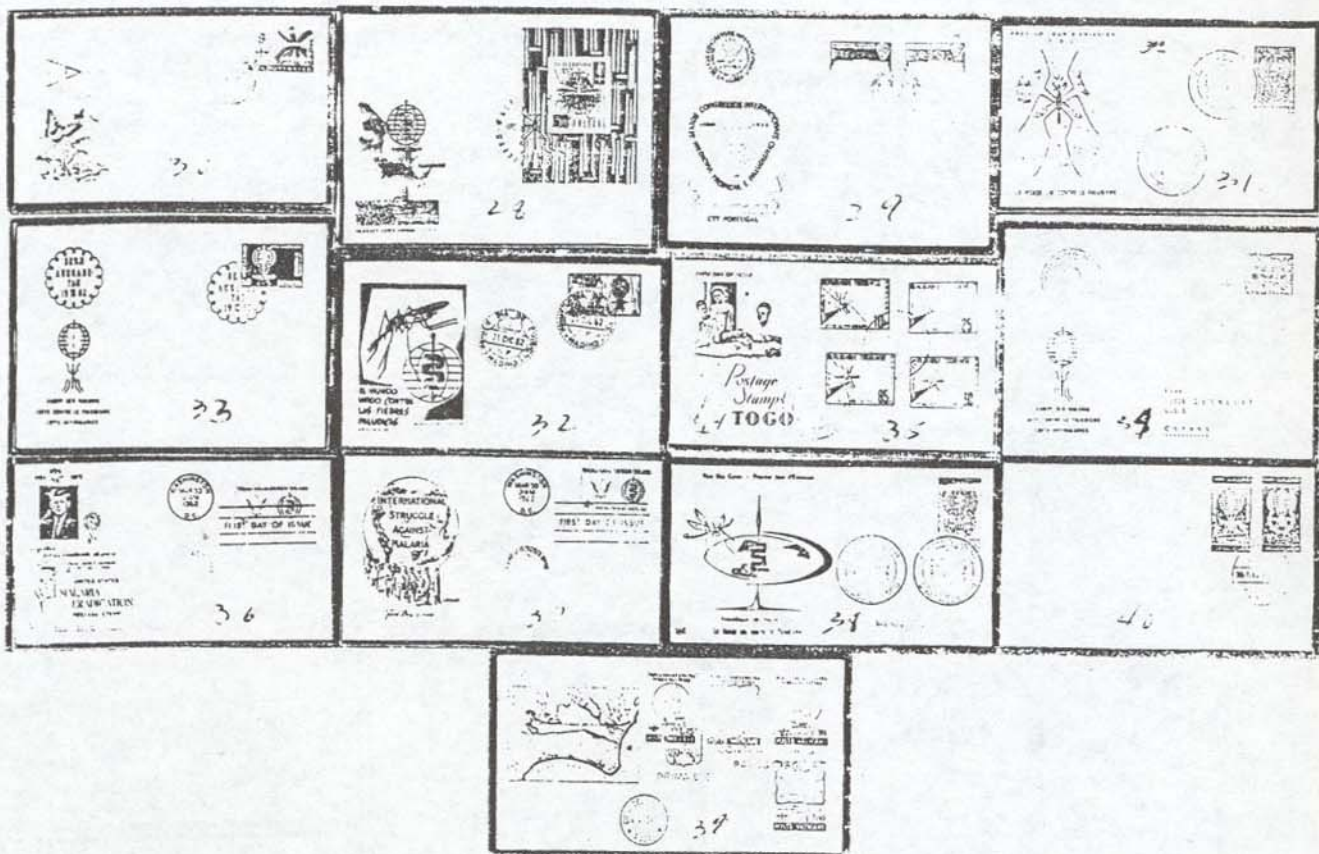
Antonio Leite Cruz, M.D., Caixa Postal 415, Aracaju - Sergipe, 49000 - Brazil, seeks members' help in locating the following items for his anti-malaria collection.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Afghanistan 518-9 imperf         | 2. Afghanistan mk845-51 imperf             |
| 3. Cambodia 120-8 imperf            | 4. Comoro Is. mk345                        |
| 5. Ecuador 241-3 imperf             | 6. Gabon C41, C41a                         |
| 7. Guinea 825-9 imperf              | 8. Haiti CB3-8, CB7a-8a                    |
| 9. Iran 140-1                       | 10. Laos 74-6 imperf, 76a                  |
| 11. Morocco 60-1 imperf             | 12. Nicaragua CB8                          |
| 13. Philippines Is. 508             | 14. Rwanda 369-72 imperf                   |
| 15. Saudi Arabia 249-51 w/air opts. | 16. Singapore Toxotes sp. (fish) (1962-68) |









## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### THE CAMBODIAN CHALLENGE

In an attempt to inform readers of the many collectible forms of Cambodia's postal issues relating to malaria, the editor prepared a six-page manuscript that necessarily became somewhat intricate. The addition of pertinent photos would likely have doubled the length of the article. In the interests of clarity and economy, therefore, included with this issue of MP is a supplement that will inform readers of both the topic at hand and the nature of the malaria philately handbook in progress.

While the editor surely cannot have notes on EVERYTHING available for the issues presented, reader input is solicited. While blanks in the descriptive legends indicate some of the data needed, a number of other questions exist:

Do B11-12 exist in sheets of four? Do imperf's of B11-12 come from full-sized sheets (of 25)? What about overprint proofs and compound deluxe sheets for B11-12? Are there other examples of fdc's for the three issues? Does a compound deluxe sheet exist for 191-2? How about proofs for the same issues?

Again, reader input will be appreciated. Please help make the handbook complete.



PERSONALITIES ON POSTAGE

## ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was the greatest naturalist and scientist of his time. Through his travels and subsequent writings, he was known throughout the western world. Because of his greatness, he is honored with many place names, in particular in Nevada.

Humboldt grew up in Berlin, Germany, and was influenced at an early age by the liberal philosopher Moses Mendelssohn. At the university at Gottingen, Humboldt met the German naturalist Georg Forster, who had accompanied Captain Cook on his second voyage around the world (1772). Forster and Humboldt travelled to London to meet Sir Joseph Banks and to view the collected botanical specimens from Cook's voyage.

In 1799 Humboldt sailed on a five-year expedition to America, where he met both Dr. Don Jose Celestino Mutis and Dr. Francisco Jose de Caldas. In North America he met Thomas Jefferson, to whom he recommended the practicality of a canal through Panama.

Humboldt researched atmospheric electricity with Alessandro Volta, and he encouraged Luigi Galvani to carry on work on the twitchings of muscles caused by animal electricity. In France he collaborated with Francois Arago, the reported discoverer of photography. Meeting Simon Bolivar in Europe, he encouraged that leader to declare the independence from Spain of six South American countries.

While in South America, Humboldt described the various cinchona barks from which the alkaloid quinine, used for treating malaria, is derived.

Goethe paid tribute to Humboldt when he said, "He has no equal in knowledge and living wisdom."

(Thanks to Dr. Kurt Lekison for this article.)



Sc. C513 (1969)

## A PLEA FOR HELP



Illustrated is the front of a folded letter written by a malaria victim in Tarrytown, NY, to his doctor in New York City. The letter is a plea for help against malaria.

The entire letter is reproduced on the following page.



Irving Institute Mar 12<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Doctor

For about three weeks I have had continuous attacks of fever. Vague and the physician of the family being called I have taken Quinine in large doses at least three times a day, and physic in large doses every other morning. I have been placed on diet, a little to eat nothing of greasy nature, and nothing strengthening during the time. At nights I sweat very profusely, run through a mattress into a straw bed and sometimes my upper eyelids have been wet. Under the influence of this I have become very thin, and am daily losing my strength. I would not ask you to leave your business and come this far in the country, but perhaps your brother who is with you, would be willing to come. But if not you will please send a physician of your class, and if you are not able to obtain any send what medicines you may think proper. You need not spare expense in sending either a physician or medicines.

Your affectionate friend

S. J. Hamline.