

INTRODUCTION

In many aspects, this *Handbook of Malaria Philately* may appear as a catalog, but the intent is to provide information about philatelic and related material pertaining to the topic of malaria rather than to serve merely as a guide to valuation of the material. The handbook presents material in alphabetic order by country or issuing entity, and in chronologic order within countries. Items originating at post offices are stamps and slogan cancels. Other featured material includes slogan meters, handstamps, and privately produced items. A number of conventions employed to maintain consistency in the format of the handbook are described below.

Layout. Presented first for each item is the postal emission and varieties, then cancels, cachets, and covers, each category beginning on the next available right hand (odd-numbered) page. Though this results in some blank pages, it does facilitate the addition of new discoveries. It also allows the handbook user to arrange loose-leaf pages according to personal preference.

Illustrations are sized to fit the available spaces. Though a space may be larger than needed, the illustration will generally be smaller than actual size. An illustration's appearing in the actual size of the item presented is purely through chance. Relative visual sizes may be deceiving: Always check the *Size* notation in the descriptive text. Mock-ups are sometimes used to illustrate an element of a presented item. They are not issued formats. Catalog numbers for these are preceded by an X.

Numbering. Stamps are numbered according to the *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalog*[®]. When varieties of an issue, such as imperforates and deluxe sheets, are not listed in that catalog, related numbers are assigned, such as the addition of *i* for imperforate or *ds* for deluxe sheet. Cancels, cachets, and covers are numbered sequentially within each issue. Cancel numbers are preceded by a two-letter designation for the city in which the cancel was applied, being the first letter of the city name followed by the next consonant in the name or, in the case of city names consisting of more than one word, the initial letter of the second major word. Cachet numbers are likewise preceded by a two-letter designation based on the country name and according to the same pattern as for cancels. Page numbering starts with 1 for each issue listed

Terminology. A *sheet* of stamps refers to the printing format and usually includes more than one *pane*, which is the format in which stamps are delivered to post offices. Stamps are often printed in sheets containing two or four panes, each separated by a *gutter*, an area where no stamp is printed and where the producer separates the panes. The margin around a pane is the *selvage*, which usually contains little or no printing. *Traffic lights* are a series of colored control marks in the selvage. They are used by the printer to monitor for omission of colors.

Abbreviations. *mm* is millimeter; *cds* is circular date stamp; PB is plate block; IB is inscription block.

Descriptions of printing and pricing data for each emission are self-explanatory based on the labels used. Colors are as shown. When color is mentioned, it is to call attention to a particular element of an item or to highlight or clarify differences between two otherwise identical items. Descriptions of illustrations are given only when needed for clarity. Where no information is provided after a label, research continues and readers are urged to provide whatever data they can.

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Measurements are given in millimeters, first horizontally and then vertically. Counts of stamps in panes are given by rows and then columns. When a pane position is indicated, it is in the form *row number, period, column number*. Thus, position 6.2 would be the second stamp in row six.

Subtopics are listed for many stamp issues. They include WHO recommended design #1, WHO recommended design #2, mosquito, sprayer, swamp.

Notes are sometimes added concerning printing, historical, or other information about an issue, cancel, cachet, or cover.

Pricing. The following price ranges are assigned to material based on retail and catalog listings and on auction results. Stamp prices are for unused, never hinged stamps without faults and with fine centering, i.e., margins clear design all around. Prices for first day covers are for clean examples without faults. Prices for other covers are likewise for clean examples. In general, material should be near the quality shown in the illustrations.

A less than \$1	D \$10 - \$20	G up to \$200	J up to \$500
B \$1 - \$5	E \$20 - \$50	H up to \$300	K over \$500
C \$5 - \$10	F \$50 - \$100	I up to \$400	

Prices for covers may be enhanced by the presence of stamp printing varieties, multiple stamps, autographs, scarce postal use, unusual postal markings, or similar attributes.

Cancellations. Slogan and first and last day cancellations for each emission are shown in alphabetic order by office, design characteristics, or both. They generally exist in a range of clarity and intensity, but these variations are neither illustrated nor assigned numbers. Numbers are assigned based on design, color, size, markings, and office where used. For slogan cancels of a single design used at multiple offices, the first illustration shows the entire cancellation; subsequent images show only the portion identifying the office, usually a circular date stamp.

Cachets prepared for first day, last day, and other malaria-related events are listed and illustrated. Each is assigned a type number.

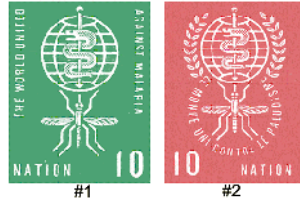
Covers. Known first day stamp-cancel-cachet combinations are illustrated, including maximum cards and at least one first day cover without a cachet when available. An attempt has been made to show first day covers in their simplest form: a cover with a single stamp or series as issued. In some cases, however, only covers with multiple copies of an issued stamp or set, or covers with fewer than all the stamps in a set, have been located. Also included are usages of malaria stamps on covers issued for special events, whether related to malaria or not. Slogan cancels and handstamps were typically used for more than a single day: Earliest and latest reported usages for these are listed. Registered postal use covers are in some cases illustrated to verify public availability of an issue. Examples of other postal use covers may also be shown.

Errors and Omissions. The material presented represents only what was known to the editors at the time the handbook was compiled. Persons having additional information, material, or varieties are encouraged to inform the editors and, whenever possible, provide high quality color digital scans (at least 300 dpi) of unlisted material. Please e-mail scans to malariastamps@yahoo.com or to emikeyb@yahoo.com. Please include a statement of permission to use the scans in future updates or editions of the handbook.

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Mock Images. Items with numbers preceded by an **X** are contrived images digitally created to illustrate perforation patterns, marginal markings, or other features. They are *not* issued formats.

Recommended Designs. With the announcement of a planned postage stamp campaign to call attention to the malaria eradication efforts, the World Health Organization distributed two design recommendations to postal authorities around the world. These designs were adopted for many issues, but often with variations. The two designs are shown at right.



Using the Handbook. Initially, a collector should simply browse the handbook to become familiar with the elements and layout of the listings. When a person needs to find a particular item, such as a specific first day cover, he/she will need to open the appropriate section and locate a discrete element of the item, such as a cancel or cachet, locate the listing number for that element, and then do a search (Ctrl-F) for the covers with that element number. Scrolling through the search results should readily reveal the item sought.

Users may copy or print any and all parts of the handbook for personal use only. Sale or distribution of handbook elements by persons other than the editors or their agents is prohibited.

Work in Progress. Editor Mike Birrer is currently preparing appendices to this handbook. These will include malaria-related philatelic material such as (1) history of malaria, (2) cinchona and other plants used as remedies for malaria, (3) early medicines and their producers, (4) famous victims of malaria, (5) fish used in mosquito control projects, and (6) malaria during wartime. Once posted to the Internet, these sections will be accessible at the same site as the primary handbook.