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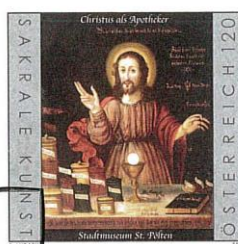
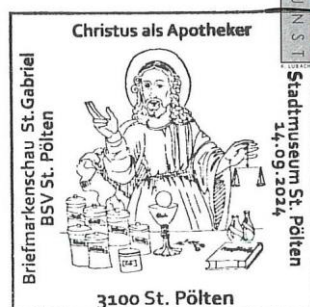
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Dear Readers,

This issue of our Löwen-Zahn is the last one in 2024. The end of the year and Christmas are approaching. What could be a better choice for this editorial than a new stamp and cancel depicting Jesus Christ himself as an apothecary?

The Austrian postal cancel (1, 2) with one of paintings of this genre. The the 19th century. This one Lower Austria, had been gratitude for having shows the upright standing hand and with a balance in vessels with “remedies” are however, are not the usual filled chalice and drug virtues like “Barm-(patience), “Hoffnung” gospel book and verses arrangement.



administration issued a stamp and the approximately 150 known theme was popular from the 17th to from the church in St. Pölten, donated by pious citizens as a survived a plague epidemic. It Jesus Christ blessing with his right his left. In front of him a number of standing on a table. His medicines, ones. We see the holy host, the containers labelled with religious herzigkeit” (compassion), “Geduld” (hope), “Lieb.” (love) and others. A from the bible complete the

From a pharmaceutical point of view, one of the drugs on the table in the front is of special interest. The cross gentian (“Kreuzwurzel”), *Gentiana cruciana*, is an old herbal folk medicine. Pieces of the cut root of it look like small crosses. This gives them Christian symbolic power.

In this way we wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! And, of course, we are looking forward to presenting you four more editions of our journal in the year 2025.

Detlef Werner

Hinweis: Die Verwendung der MICHEL-Nummerierung erfolgt mit freundlicher Genehmigung des Schwaneberger Verlags, Unterschleißheim. Diesem stehen die ausschließlichen urheberrechtlichen Nutzungsrechte zu. Darüber hinaus ist die MICHEL-Nummerierung durch wettbewerbsrechtliche Vorschriften geschützt.

1. Stamp. Sakrale Kunst in Österreich (XXVII): Christus als Apotheker - Christus als Apotheker (1657); Gemälde. Österreich: MiNr. 3815; 2024.
2. Cancel. Christus als Apotheker - Briefmarkenschau St. Gabriel BSV St. Pölten - Stadtmuseum St. Pölten. St. Pölten: 14.09.2024, MiNr. 3815; 2024.

New Stamp and Cancel Issues

The Vatican City has its own pharmacy, the Farmacia Vaticana. The new stamp on occasion of its 150th anniversary (3) shows three persons in front of a silhouette with the St. Peter's basilica (centre) and a part of an pharmacy's interior (at the sides): A pharmacist and a patient surround Saint John of God, who lived in Grenada, Spain and founded the Brothers Hospitals order. He is the patron saint of hospitals and ill persons. The pomegranate with a cross is a symbol of the order. The pharmacist on the right hands-over a medicine package with a cross on it to the patient. Today, the Vatican Pharmacy is located in the Palazzo del Belvedere and open for everyone.



In issue no. 244 we introduced a stamp from Slovenia commemorating the Nobel prize for chemistry, awarded to Fritz Pregl 100 years ago. Now Serbia also issued a new stamp (4) depicting Pregl in front of chemical equipment. It is part of a series of stamps with the motto "Serbia-Slovenia – our famous people". Pregl is relevant for us as a pioneer of microanalysis and combustion analysis which was an important precondition for scientific research with enzymes and hormones due to the low quantities available for identification.

A new cancel from Bad Dürrenberg (5), a spa town in eastern Germany with brine springs, mentions the name of Borlach. Johann Gottfried Borlach (1687-1768) was a multi-talend and was involved in the production of salt in salines. He was the first to formulate the rule that where brine springs are found, there are salt formations in the underground. He was an important pioneer in salt production with salt pans, graduation towers, and targeted drilling to find brine in the underground.



The new stamp from Jersey depicts a hole and a half fruit of the fig tree (6). The fig, *Ficus carica*, is a fruit used as food, but is also of pharmaceutical interest. It contains a proteolytic enzyme, the protease ficin or ficain, which supports digestion. This makes it comparable with the pineapple, *Ananas comosus* (contains bromelain) and the papaya, *Carica papaya* (contains papain).

Moldavia issued a series of stamps with wild flowers, and the St. Mary thistle (7), *Silybum marianum*, is a medicinal herb still in use. The plant contains silymarin which is one of the few options to treat an intoxication with amatoxin, the main toxicant from the death cap, *Amanita phalloides*.



- Stamp. 150 Jahre Vatikanische Apotheke - Hl. Johannes von Gott (um 1495-1550), spanischer Buchhändler und Stifter des Ordens der Barmherzigen Brüder vom hl. Johannes von Gott; mit Apotheker und Kunde. Vatikanstadt: MiNr. 2111; 2024.
- Stamp. Freundschaft mit Slowenien - Fritz Pregl (1869-1930), österreichisch-slowenischer Physiologe und Chemiker, Nobelpreis 1923. Serbien: MiNr. 1234; 2024.
- Cancel. Landesgartenschau 2024 - 261. Brunnenfest - 260 Jahre Borlachturm. Bad Dürrenberg: 08.09.2024; 2024.
- Stamp. [Früchte von Jersey - Feige]. Großbritannien-Jersey: MiNr. offen; 2024.
- Stamp. Wildblumen - Mariendistel (*Silybum marianum*). Moldawien: MiNr. 1290; 2024.

Ein Denkmal für den „französischen Branntwein“

(Siegel, Th.) Wer benutzt ihn nicht, den spiritus vini gallici nach DAC, zur äußeren Anwendung? Auch heute ist dieser in verschiedenen Konzentrationen mit oder ohne weitere Zusätze gebräuchlich.

Der ungarische Apotheker Bela Erényi (1872-1935) hatte im Jahr 1897 in seiner DIANA-Apotheke in Budapest die erfrischende Wirkung des Menthols erkannt und es seinem Franzbranntwein zugesetzt, den er „DIANA mit Menthol“ nannte. Dies geschah mit großem Erfolg, auch Dank der fachlichen Unterstützung seines Rechtsberaters. Nach 1907 wurde das neue Produkt dann auch in Österreich vertrieben. Das Marketing mit der Göttin der Jagd wurde dabei gefördert durch die Schaffung eines besonderen Etiketts und einer eigenwillig geformten Flasche, zunächst rund, später flach. Beides ließ er sich patentamtlich schützen; ein wichtiger Schritt, vergleichbar mit dem Erfolg von Lingner mit seinem Odol. Um einen Abusus als Suchtmittel zu verhindern, wurde der Alkohol später vergällt. Daneben entwickelte Erényi unter der Wortmarke auch eine Creme, Seife und einen Puder.



Die österreichische Post erinnert 2024 mit einer Sondermarke (8) an rund 125 Jahre dieser Darreichung, die es auch heute noch gibt. Die Marke ist derzeit im Besitz des österreichischen Unternehmens Unipack.

Franzbranntwein, ursprünglich Alkohol aus vergorenen französischen Trauben, führt bei äußerlicher Anwendung durch Einreiben zu einer Hyperämisierung der Haut und wird zur Behandlung von Muskel- und Gelenkschmerzen sowie Prellungen und Zerrungen verwendet. Initial kommt es aber durch Verdunstung des Ethanols zu einer erfrischenden Abkühlung. Dieser Kältereiz wird von dem zugleich angenehm riechenden Menthol verstärkt. DIANA mit Menthol ist dadurch zu einem belebenden Tonikum geworden.

Eine philatelistische Besonderheit ist, dass die Marke mit einem Duftlack versehen ist. Bei leichtem Reiben der Markenoberfläche ist der typische Mentholgeruch wahrnehmbar.

Menthol ist der Hauptbestandteil des ätherischen Öls der Pfefferminze, *Mentha piperita*, einer wichtigen Arzneipflanze. Es sind zahlreiche Briefmarken bekannt, die die Pfefferminzpflanze oder deren pharmazeutisch genutzte Blätter darstellen (9), als Beispiel sei eine Marke zur australischen Minze (*Mentha australia*) dargestellt. Hingegen sind Marken rar, die sich dem Hauptinhaltsstoff Menthol widmen. Daher ist die neue Marke für uns aus naturstoffchemischer Sicht interessant, indem sie die Substanz Menthol benennt. Ein weiteres Beispiel ist eine neue Marke aus der Schweiz (10), auf der „Schlieren“ des ätherischen Öls der Wasserminze (*Mentha aquatica*), wohl eher Mentholkristalle, zu sehen sind.

8. Stamp. Klassische Warenzeichen (XVIII): 125 Jahre Diana-Franzbranntwein - Diana; Franzbranntweinflasche. Österreich: MiNr. 3817; 2024.

9. Stamp. Einheimische Gewürzpflanzen - *Mentha australia*. Australien: MiNr. 5481; 2022.

10. Stamp. Naturmuster - Ölschlieren. Schweiz: MiNr. 2903; 2024.

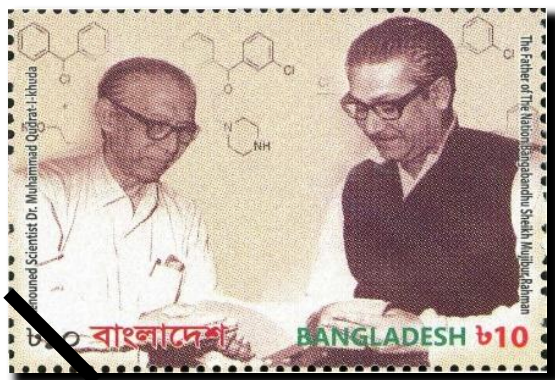
Qudrat-i-Khuda

(Diesveld, J.) Dr Qudrat-i-Khuda education in the colonies could be (11), who played an important role and later in Bangladesh. He was the Pakistan Council of Scientific the Bangladesh Council of research work demonstrates the applications. One example is the an imitation of solid wooden charcoal, minerals, and salt to the trees and plants for medicinal use.



(1900-1977) is proof that British very good. He was an organic chemist in the development of science in Pakistan the first director of the Eastern Division of and Industrial Research, later he founded Scientific and Industrial Research. His link between science and industrial use of jute-sticks to manufacture Partex, planks. His research ranged from herbs, extraction of biochemicals from local

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh a stamp was issued in 2021 (12), showing him with the founder of Bangladesh, Mujibur Rahman, and a chemical equation in the middle. The molecule has a similar structure to the antihistamine Cloperastine, which is also an antitussive (cough suppressant). Cloperastine has a piperidine ring (with one nitrogen atom), unlike the molecule shown which has a piperazine ring (with two nitrogen atoms). Japanese researchers discovered the action of Cloperastine, which has been commercially available since 1972.



I have not found any information about the molecule on the stamp in the Internet (nor any link to Qudrat), but if you look at a large number of antihistamine molecules, they have a similar molecule structure: two phenyl groups (the hexagonal rings) linked to a carbon atom and this to an oxygen atom. Such chemical structures are systematically synthesized as a “key” or agonist respectively antagonist of physiologic target sites (receptors) in the nervous system.

For a philatelist collecting motives it is a pleasant, but not always successful challenge to identify such details with only incomplete information on the stamp itself. As reported above, similar structures can be found in chemical compendia via structural characteristics. Sometimes editorial promotion texts or information leaflets of the postal administration may be helpful. We tried to get in contact to the designer of the stamp, however with no result. Possibly, just a random structure has been chosen for background illustration? Whatever the truth, it is a welcome occasion to deal with this topic!

- Stamp. Dr. Qudrat-i-Khuda - Qudrat-i-Khuda (1900-1977), Wissenschaftler. Bangladesh: MiNr. 292; 1988.
- Stamp. Persönlichkeiten: Muhammad Qudrat-i-Khuda - Muhammad Qudrat-i-Khuda (1900-1977), Chemiker, Pädagoge und Schriftsteller mit Mujibur Rahman (1920-1975), Staatsgründer. Bangladesch: MiNr. 1528; 2021.

Ozone (O₃)

(Werner, D.) Ozone, a molecule made of three oxygen atoms (13), instead of two in our atmospheric oxygen, has ambivalent importance for science and pharmacy. Chemically seen, it is a potent oxidizing agent. It has a typical odour well-known from tanning lamps, laser printers or nearby lightning in thunderstorms. In the atmosphere close to the ground (the troposphere) it is built during summer days with intense sunshine, the so-called photochemical smog. Inhaled, it has irritating properties in the pulmonary system. Therefore, the weather forecast provides a so-called ozone index as a warning for sensitive persons. So far, ozone is an environmental toxicant with adverse effects on our pulmonary system (see this PM issue's lead theme).

In the stratosphere however, ozone built by solar UV C radiation has a protective function by absorbing it and safeguarding organisms on the earth against too much ultraviolet radiation. Some industrial waste gases like chlorofluorocarbons and nitrogen oxides are responsible for a depletion of this ozone layer, and an "ozone hole" results (14). If the skin is exposed to higher UV B doses this correlates with an increased risk for skin cancer. The Netherlands' meteorologist Paul J. Crutzen (1933-2021) (15), the Mexican chemist Mario Jose Molina Henríquez (1943-2020) (16) and the US chemist Frank Sherwood Rowland (1927-2012) first discovered the Antarctic ozone hole and its endangering by catalytic degradation of ozone, and were awarded the Nobel prize in chemistry for it in the year 1995.

Ozone is used as a disinfectant with high potency, e.g. for water treatment. Some swimming pools advertise with ozone used as a chlorine-free alternative. Another typical application is the sterilization of water for pharmaceutical purposes. The crucial advantage is, that there are no (toxic) residues in it afterwards, except oxygen and water. Further uses of ozone are the elimination of odours in room air fresheners, bleaching of textiles and paper and, of course, as important oxidizing agent in the analytical chemistry.



On this Croatian stamp we see the chemical formula of ozone: O₃.



This Russian stamp illustrates the ozone hole in our atmosphere.



Paul J. Crutzen on a stamp from Grenada.



Mario Jose Molina's portrait and autograph on a Mexican stamp.

In the complementary medicine the so-called ozone therapy is common. Ozone is applied directly by injection or by infusion or via the patient's blood prior treated with ozone. The numerous indications propagated, ranging from chronic wounds and arthritis to viral infections and cancer, are not proved. On the contrary, the ozone therapy bears the risk of severe side effects and is not recommended by the evidence-based medicine.

13. Stamp. Internationaler Tag zum Schutz der Ozonschicht - Wolken, chemisches Zeichen für Ozon. Kroatien: MiNr. 523; 1999.
14. Stamp. Internationaler Tag zum Schutz der Ozonschicht; 10. Jahrestag der Unterzeichnung des Protokolls von Montreal - Erdatmosphäre mit Ozonloch. Russland: MiNr. 621; 1997.
15. Stamp. Internationale Briefmarkenausstellung AMPHILEX 2002, Amsterdam (III): Niederländische Nobelpreisträger - Paul J. Crutzen (1933-2021): Chemie 1995. Grenada/Grenadinen: MiNr. 3840; 2002.
16. Stamp. Mario Jose Molina Henríquez - M. J. Molina Henríquez (*1943), Chemiker und Physiker, Nobelpreis 1995. Mexiko: MiNr. 2663; 1997.