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Dear Readers,

The current issue of the journal "Philatelia medica" (our Löwen-Zahn is part of it) has chosen nursing as its lead topic. Nurses have a crucial function for drug safety. In hospitals, doctors prescribe a more or less large number of drugs, and the nurses are the ones to assemble the right ones in the correct doses for each patient. Additionally, they help patients to adhere to the directions for use (compliance) and they also may observe adverse effects (vigilance).

There is a large number of female nurses, first and foremost other outstanding personalities for health systems (1), hospital

In Italy, on the island of Sardinia collector founded in the year nursing philately (Museo sections the diversity of this Introduction, Florence stamps depicting personalities, maximum cards. This shows of stamps and cancels, postcards vignettes (erinnophilic products)



hope very much that this museum still exists. Unfortunately, I lost contact to the founder, but I am trying again. For a first impression please visit www.nursingphilately.com. Possibly, will one of your next holidays have this museum as its destination?

stamps depicting nurses, mostly showing Florence Nightingale and The nurse is also a general symbol care, and military medical service.

in the town of Villamassargia, a 2021 a specialized museum for Filatelico Infermieristico). In six outstanding collection is presented: Nightingale, stamps from Italy, stamps from all over the world, and impressively how large the number and letters, and last but not least also in this field of these motives is. I

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.

New Stamp and Cancel Issues

Plastic foils (2) play an important role as primary packaging material for drugs. Especially tablets and capsules, formerly offered in bulk containers (flasks), are nowadays presented in so-called blister packs. The individual doses are placed in a thermally pre-formed plastic sheet and closed with an aluminium seal. The used plastic material (often PVC/PVDC) protects the drug form against moisture and other environmental impacts.



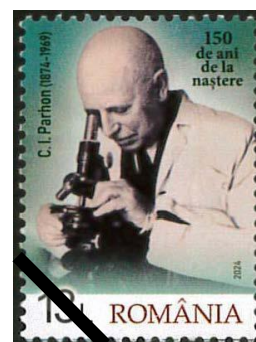
The Austrian post administration issued a sheet (3, 4) in form of a drink coaster for beer. Of course, beer is an alcoholic beverage and not a drug. However, we should not forget that it is made with hop (*humulus lupulus*) extract, which is also a popular medicine against sleep disorders. It is often combined with extracts from passionflower (*passiflora incarnata*) and valerian (*valeriana officinalis*). This mild herbal therapeutic helps to find sleep and to sleep well. Possibly, it is also responsible for the effect of drinking beer making tired.

A new stamps series issued by the United Nations is dedicated to species threatened with extinction. One of these shows the tree *Aquilaria malaccensis* (5). The wood, once infected with a fungus, is source of a rare resin respectively etheric oil, in Arabic called Oud. Only old trees (more than 60 years old) can be used, and it is necessary to cut the tree down for extraction. It is urgently necessary to preserve this species from extinction by strict protection.



This stamp from Hungary (6) depicts the thermal bath in Sarvar, the town being part of the so-called Hungarian street of spas. There are found two different medicinal waters: One is hot and rich in sodium chloride, but also contains iodine, bromine, fluoride and borate, used for relaxation. The other one is alkaline, contains hydrogen carbonate and is used for the balneotherapy of rheumatic diseases, muscle injuries, and neurologic complaints.

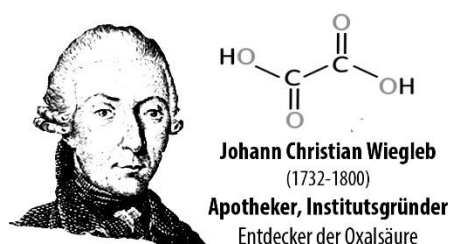
On this new stamp from Romania (7) we see Constantin Ion Parhon (1874-1969), an endocrinologist, using a microscope. This optical instrument is an important analytical tool also for pharmacists: by histologic methods herbals drugs and mixtures of these can be identified. By using staining techniques, also microorganisms may be categorized. More and more the microscope is also used for the characterisation of drug forms (crystals, disperse systems, foreign particles).



- Stamp. 90 Jahre Folienhersteller Chemosvit - Stilisierte Folienproduktionsrollen. Slowakei: MiNr. 1020; 2024.
- Stamp. Technische Besonderheiten (III): Bierdeckel - Bierkrug, Inschrift. Österreich: MiNr. 3819, Michel Block 155; 2024.
- Cancel. Bier hat's in sich. Wien: 10.10.2024; 2024.
- Stamp. Gefährdete Arten (XXXI) - Adlerholzbaum (*Aquilaria malaccensis*). Vereinte Nationen Genf: MiNr. 1235; 2024.
- Stamp. Tag der Briefmarke: Sarvar - Thermalbad, Sarvar. Ungarn: MiNr. 6385; 2024.
- Stamp. [150. Geburtstag von C.I. Parhon]. Rumänien: MiNr. offen; 2024.

Johann Christian Wiegleb (1732-1800)

(Siegel, Th.) Erinnern Sie sich noch an ihre Vorlesungen in Pharmaziegeschichte zurück oder haben Sie anderweitig Namen großer Pharmazeuten vor Ihrem geistigen Auge Revue passieren lassen? Der Name Wiegleb ist wohl spontan eher nicht dabei. Auch philatelistisch ist er unseres Wissens bisher nur durch einen Sonderstempel zum Deutschen Apothekertag 2000 belegt (8). Mit dem Absenderfreistempel für die Versendung dieser Ausgabe möchten wir erneut an Wiegleb als herausragenden Apotheker erinnern. Lange Zeit schien sein entscheidender Beitrag zur Förderung der Apothekerkunst unterschätzt worden zu sein. Grund dafür dürfte eine damals sich rasant entwickelnde Phase der naturwissenschaftlichen Welt gewesen sein. Diese hat seine Leistung einfach überrollt. Zu Unrecht, wie diese Präsentation zeigen soll. Allgemein gesagt: Er hat sich als Gegner der Alchemie und als Anhänger der Phlogiston-Theorie etabliert. Er stand an der Schwelle des Zeitalters der Aufklärung.



Wiegleb ging von 1748-1754 in die Apothekerlehre bei Dr. Sartorius in der Dresdener Marien-Apotheke. Nach der einjährigen Gehilfenzeit in der Hofapotheke zu Quedlinburg übernahm er 1755 die Apotheke seines Veters C.F. Reisig in Langensalza (Thüringen) (9). Neben dem Apothekenbetrieb übersetzte er lateinische Fachbücher ins Deutsche, überarbeitete bestehende Standardwerke und verfasste 1781 sein „Handbuch der Allgemeinen Chemie“. Zudem bekleidete er in Langensalza das Amt des Stadtoberkämmerers. Da er später einmal seine Ausbildung in Dresden als „schlecht“ beschrieb, reifte mit der Zeit die Überzeugung, die Ausbildung der Apotheker verbessern zu wollen. Auslöser waren seine Beschäftigung mit der Fachliteratur und seine eigenen naturwissenschaftlichen Studien. Deshalb errichtete er 1779 in einem Nebengebäude seines Apothekenhauses die erste praxisorientierte private Unterrichtsanstalt (Pensionsinstitut) mit Vorlesungsverzeichnis, Bibliothek und Unterkunft. Neben vielen Apothekerlehrlingen haben auch bekannte Pharmazeuten und Forscher seine Schule besucht (z.B. Willdenow, Hermbstädt, Götting). Bereits 1776 war er zum Mitglied der Leopoldina (10) berufen worden.



Neben der Lehrtätigkeit war er chemisch praktisch, analytisch und auch als Fabrikant chemischer Produkte tätig. Bekannt geworden ist seine Entdeckung der Kleesäure (Oxalsäure, enthalten unter anderem im Waldsauerklee, Oxalis acetosella) (11) im Jahr 1779. In Langensalza erinnert ein Denkmal an den großen Sohn der Stadt. Die verwendeten Abbildungen zeigen, wie ein Beitrag auch ohne direkte Belege philatelistisch illustriert werden kann.

8. Cancel. Deutscher Apothekertag - 28.9. - 30.9.00 - J.C. Wiegleb Apotheker Lehrer (1732-1800) - ABDA Motivgruppe Pharmazie. Köln: 28.09.2000; 2000.
9. Postcard. Schwefelbad gegen Rheuma - Hautkrankheiten. Bad Langensalza: 07.07.1959; 1959.
10. Cancel. Leopoldina - Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften. Halle: 11.03.2025; 2025.
11. Stamp. Blumen und Tiere (I) - Waldsauerklee (Oxalis acetosella), Kaninchen. Rumänien: MiNr. 6588; 2012.

Pharmaceutical Excipients (VI): Lactose

(Werner, D.) Milk sugar or lactose is an important and often used excipient for solid drug forms like powders, granules, and tablets. Its function is mainly as a bulking agent or carrier for drug substances, it is of natural origin and has a moderate sweet taste. However, lactose is also used as a drug itself when administered as a solution in larger quantities, by its laxative effect.

The raw material lactose is made from cow's milk. The main quantity of milk produced is directly used as a healthy food or to manufacture milk products like cream, yoghurt, or cheese. A by-product of cheese production is whey, the liquid remainder when curd is obtained. It contains whey proteins, lactose, salts and water and is further processed by larger dairy factories. One product is crystalline lactose.



Traditionally, cow's milk is supplied by small farmers (12), but more and more industrial farming is done to rationalize the milk production and raise the output (13).



Lactose is made from whey, which is obtained during cheese's manufacturing (14, 15). The remaining liquid contains nearly 5 % lactose which can be isolated by ultrafiltration, ion exchange and, finally, crystallization.



Whey is traditionally used as feed, fertilizer, or even as a wellness drink. But it is the modern industrial milk industry (16, 17) that provides pure lactose of pharmaceutical quality made of it.



Chemically, lactose is a disaccharide consisting of galactose and glucose. Infants are able to digest this disaccharide of mother's milk, but the ability to produce the necessary enzyme (lactase) decreases with the age. Only people of the so-called Caucasian genetic type (often present in Europe) retain the ability in adolescence, while most people in the rest of the world cannot utilize lactose anymore. Additionally, a disease called lactose intolerance emerges in the western world, also limiting the wide use of lactose in products including drug formulations.

12. Stamp. [Die Milchindustrie auf Jersey - Milchkannen]. Großbritannien-Jersey: MiNr. offen; 2024.
13. Stamp. Moderne Technik in der Landwirtschaft - Melkkarussell M 693-40. DDR: MiNr. 2240; 1977.
14. Stamp. Jahresereignisse (II): 100 Jahre Schweizerischer Milchwirtschaftlicher Verein (SMV) - Käser. Schweiz: MiNr. 1353; 1987.
15. Stamp. Typisch Niederlande: Sehenswürdigkeiten (IV) - Käsemärkte. Niederlande: MiNr. 4200; 2023.
16. Stamp. 45 Jahre milchverarbeitende Industrie (INDULAC) - Fabrikgebäude, Tanklastwagen. Venezuela: MiNr. 2344; 1986.
17. Cancel. [Kleeblattlogo] - Meggle - Meggistr. 6-12, 83512 Wasserburg, Postfach 40, 83513 Reitmehring. Reitmehring: 07.10.2004; 2004.

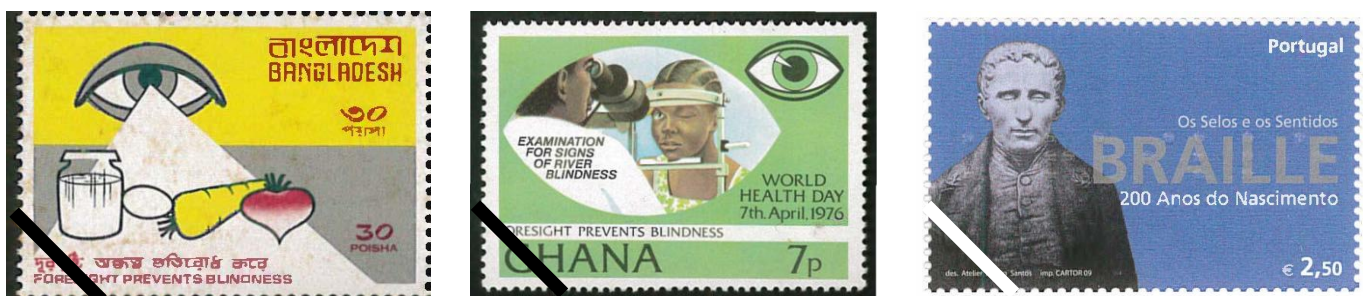
Ophthalmics

(Werner, D.) Ophthalmic drugs are specially designed for the treatment of eye's diseases. Often, the typical drug form is eye drops, formerly in small flasks with pipette, today preferably in single-dose plastic ampoules. There are also eye ointments used, and even syringes for injection, as developed for the treatment of macular degeneration. The stamp from Swaziland (18) shows them all, explicitly bearing the words "Eye Ointment".



The first point of contact for diagnosing an eye disease is the ophthalmologist (19), a specialized doctor for eyes. In case that a surgical intervention is necessary, this is done in an ophthalmic clinic. The treatment of refractive errors is done with glasses or contact lenses, the correct fitting and compilation is done by the optician, a skilled craft profession (20). Eye drugs are mostly manufactured industrially, but sometimes individual recipes are prescribed. In pharmacy shops this is a challenge, because eye drops and ointments need to be absolutely sterile.

For the prevention of eye diseases a number of dietary products and food supplements are propagated (21). Especially vegetables containing beta carotene (from carrot, *Daucus carota*, or green algae, *Dunaliella salina*) or lutein (from *Tagetes* spp.) are said to have a protective effect and are part of public health campaigns on stamps and cancels.



Unfortunately, not all eye diseases can be treated sufficiently. Blindness is still a worldwide problem, in tropical regions often caused by an infection with a bacterium, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, (trachome) or a parasitic worm, *Onchocerca volvulus*, (river blindness) (22). These are transferred by insects as vectors. Many stamps address blindness by depicting white canes, guide dogs or, very popular, the BRAILLE tactile alphabet. The corresponding stamps (23) are not only printed, but also have embossed or raised surfaces that can be read by blind persons.

18. Stamp. Weltgesundheitsstag: Verhütung von Blindheit - Medikamente zur Behandlung von Augenkrankheiten. Swaziland: MiNr. 252; 1976.
19. Stamp. 100 Jahre Nationale Gesellschaft für Augenheilkunde - Pupille, Farbspektrum. Mexiko: MiNr. 2328; 1993.
20. Stamp. Jugend: Handwerksberufe - Augenoptiker. Bundesrepublik Deutschland: MiNr. 1274; 1986.
21. Stamp. Weltgesundheitsstag: Kampf gegen die Blindheit - Auge, sehkräftfördernde Nahrungsmittel. Bangladesch: MiNr. 72; 1976.
22. Stamp. Weltgesundheitsstag: Vorsorge gegen Blindheit - Untersuchung auf Flussblindheit. Ghana: MiNr. 658; 1976.
23. Stamp. Die fünf Sinne - Louis Braille (1809-1852), französischer Blindenlehrer. Portugal: MiNr. 3458, Michel Block 289; 2009.