

Löwen-Zahn

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Dear Readers,

A recent highlight was our meeting in Hofgeismar near Kassel. We had a lot of time to talk with each other, to discuss matters of our group, and to buy some interesting items for our collections. A guided visit of the local and famous pharmacy museum "Steinernes Haus" was on our agenda, and a special cancel was offered showing this old building (1). Furthermore, Hofgeismar had been a spa with a ferrous mineral water ("Gesundbrunnen"). The fountain and the surrounding buildings in a beautiful park still exist. Some years ago a special cancel had been dedicated to it (2).



Sometimes, it is not an easy task to present new stamps and cancels directly thematizing pharmacy to our readers, as such are rarely issued. In this Löwen-Zahn we introduce novelties from Germany with no pharmaceutical relevance for an apothecary at first glance. However, such a connection is possible when "thinking outside the box". Some collectors even prefer this method to demonstrate unconventional and interdisciplinary thinking. We hope you will enjoy our examples!

This time Philatelia Medica's lead theme is the lymphatic system. As pharmacists, we also associate with that term the hemolymph (bloodlike fluid of arthropods) of the horseshoe crab which is a pharmaceutically important reagent. Please read more details about it on the last page of this issue.

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. Cancel. Apothekenmuseum - Jahrestreffen ArGe Medizin und Pharmazie - "Steinernes Haus" 1239 - Märchenposta 25. Hofgeismar: 26.07.2025; 2025.
2. Cancel. 1792-2012 - 220 Jahre Brunnentempel - 80 Jahre BSG Hofgeismar - Großtauschtag Werbeschau. Hofgeismar: 29.07.2012; 2012.

New Stamp and Cancel Issues

At first, we would like to introduce a new stamp about Mallorca (3), a preferred holiday destination for Germans. The first day cancel (4) depicts a sun lounger and a sunshade, requisites for skin tanning in the mediterranean sun. Unfortunately, excessive sunbathing is able to cause skin cancer. Pharmacists recommend customers to avoid sun exposure or to use sunscreen at least – a typical product of pharmacy shops. The labelled sun protection factor (SPF) is a measure for its filtering abilities against UV radiation.



A new stamp from Germany is dedicated to children's toys (5) and the corresponding first day cancel (6) shows us a Lego™ brick. A predecessor of it was the Anker™ brick, made from clay. The famous Otto von Lilienthal invented it and sold his idea at a bargain price to the pharmaceutical company F. Ad. Richter & Cie., the later Ankerwerke. Before long, the "Ankersteine" became a great success and made the Ankerwerke better known than for its pharmaceutical products.



Another new stamp is issued to honour the "Speicherstadt" in Hamburg (7), a large historic ensemble of warehouses at the harbour side, that became a world heritage site. In these buildings mainly oversea's products have been stored, and spices and herbs were an important part of it. A museum in the "Speicherstadt" tells the story of this branch, which also supplied pharmaceutical companies with the raw materials of herbal drugs.



Last but not least we present a new stamp of a series with images of re-introduced wild animals. One of them (8) is the beaver (Castor fiber), and there is a traditional medical use. The exudate from the castor sacs, called castoreum, has an intense, long-lasting scent. Originally built for scent marking of the beaver's territory, it is used as a fragrant component for perfumes. The pharmaceutical use is largely obsolete.

3. Stamp. Beliebte Urlaubsziele der Deutschen (II): Mallorca - Alte Windmühle auf Mallorca, große weiße Inschrift. Bundesrepublik Deutschland: MiNr. 3909; 2025.
4. Cancel. Mallorca. Bonn: 05.06.2025; 2025.
5. Stamp. Internationaler Tag des Spielens: LEGO - Gamerin mit Beinprothese, Scooterfahrerin mit Helm, Fußballspieler, Astronautin mit Zauberstab, Rollschuhfahrer mit Knochen, Hund; Spielfiguren des dänischen Spielzeugherstellers LEGO. Bundesrepublik Deutschland: MiNr. 3912; 2025.
6. Cancel. Internationaler Tag des Spielens. Berlin: 05.06.2025, MiNr. 3912; 2025.
7. Stamp. Historische Bauwerke in Deutschland (VIII): Speicherstadt, Hamburg - Speicherstadt, Hamburg (erbaut 1885–1927). Bundesrepublik Deutschland: MiNr. 3917; 2025.
8. Stamp. Jugend: Zurückgekehrte Wildtiere - Europäischer Biber (Castor fiber) am Wasser. Bundesrepublik Deutschland: MiNr. 3919; 2025.

Franz Ludwig Gehe (1810-1882) – Pharmazeutischer Großhandel

(Siegel, Th.) Franz Ludwig Gehe wurde am 07.05.1810 in Merkwitz bei Oschatz (in Sachsen) geboren und machte 1824 bis 1828 in Leipzig eine Ausbildung zum Kaufmann, war also selbst kein Apotheker.

1835 gründete er eine Drogerie- und Farbwarengroßhandlung, im ersten Jahr zusammen mit dem Apotheker Carl Robert Schwabe (dem Vater von Wilmar Schwabe). 1859 trat der Chemiker und Apotheker Dr. Rudolf August Luboldt (1831-1894) in das Unternehmen ein und begann mit der Fabrikation von pharmazeutischen Erzeugnissen. Nach dem Tode Gehes wurde er alleiniger Gesellschafter. Darauf folgte in den Jahren 1865 bis 1866 eine „Drogen-Appretur-Anstalt“. Diese entwickelte sich im Laufe der Zeit zu einer bedeutenden chemisch-pharmazeutischen Fabrik. Aufgrund des Wachstums wurde die Fabrik 1904 in die „Gehe & Co. AG“ umgewandelt. Aus seinen Preislisten und Handelsberichten entstand 1910 schließlich der Gehe-Codex, ein viel benutztes Verzeichnis von Arzneispezialitäten. Die Fabrik entwickelte sich dann später zum Arzneimittelwerk Dresden. Der Absenderfreistempel aus dem Jahr 1990 (9) weist noch auf das 150-jährige Firmenjubiläum im Jahre 1985 hin.



Der Arzneimittel-Großhandel ist ein Beispiel für eine fortschreitende Konzentration durch Zukäufe und Zusammenschlüsse. So wurde aus der Firma Gehe zunächst Celesio und dann McKesson. Parallel dazu wurde ein weiteres traditionelles deutsches Großhandelsunternehmen, die Andrae-Noris-Zahn, nach Übernahme von Walgreen Boots mit der Gehe-Nachfolgefirma zur Alliance Healthcare fusioniert. Ein marktbeherrschendes Unternehmen war dadurch entstanden. Trotz der Übernahmen wurde der eingeführte und bekannte Firmenname „Gehe“ noch weiterverwendet (10).



Gehe selbst verfolgte sehr intensive nationalökonomische Ziele und war politisch und in Wirtschaftsverbänden aktiv. Er förderte auch die Schaffung von Handelskammern. Kurz vor seinem Tod stiftete er der „Commercial-Akademie“ zwei Millionen Mark. Daraus entwickelte sich 1885 die „Gehe-Stiftung“. Heute pflegt die Firma Celesio in Dresden eine Dauerausstellung Pharmaziegeschichte in Dresden.

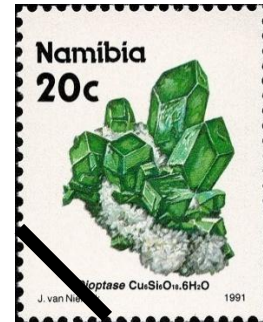
Franz Ludwig Gehe starb am 22.06.1882 in Dresden. Er wurde mehrfach geehrt; eine Straße und eine Schule in Dresden tragen seinen Namen. Ebenso ist eine Straße nach Luboldt benannt.

9. Cancel. Seit 1835 - GEHE - 150 Jahre Pharma-Handel. Duisburg: 08.10.1990; 1990.

10. Cancel. GEHE Pharma Handel GmbH Postfach 1652 27736 Delmenhorst. Delmenhorst: 28.02.2014; 2014.

Pesticides

(Diesveld, J.) With her book "Silent Spring" (1962) Rachel Carson (1907-1964) (fig. 1) drew attention to the problems of using pesticides. Her main focus was then the abundantly used DDT (dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) (fig. 2). Paul H. Müller (1899-1965) discovered the insecticidal effect of this compound in 1939. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology of Medicine in 1948. DDT was in use against insects since about 1943. It was very effective the first few decades, along with many other likewise chlorine based organic chemicals. It became apparent that there were serious adverse effects, one being accumulation of the compounds or their degradation products in many plants and animals and thus having a negative impact on their well-being.

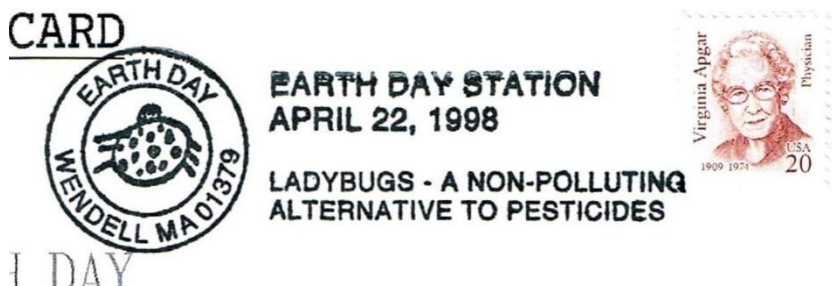


But pesticides were in use soon after man turned to agriculture. A well-known example is the use of the Bordeaux mixture in the viticulture in a fight against fungi: a mixture of copper sulphate and quicklime. The grounds around the vines are polluted with the heavy metal copper (fig.3).

So a search for other pesticides with a less impact on the environment was on (fig.4). One natural product was pyrethrum (fig.5), this can be found in the flowers of the chrysanthemum. This chemical doesn't hardly have any accumulative effects, it degrades fast naturally with UV radiation. Chemists have made derivatives with better UV resistance, but that usually comes with enhanced (unwanted) bioaccumulation.



Maybe a better solution to this balancing act can be found in adapting newer, not such large-scale monoculture planting of crops, in strips instead of large consecutive surfaces. And not relying on chemical pesticides but on natural living predators (fig.6).



In some special cases however the very, very controlled use of pesticides can be advantageous, for example light spraying of walls with DDT to repel mosquitoes.

Pyrogen Testing

(Werner, D.) Liquids for parenteral application (infusions, injectables) must not only be absolutely sterile, but also free from pyrogens. These are endotoxins from bacteria that cause fever in the patient's body. Chemically spoken, endotoxins are lipopolysaccharides from gram-negative bacteria which remain stable even after thermal killing of the bacteria.

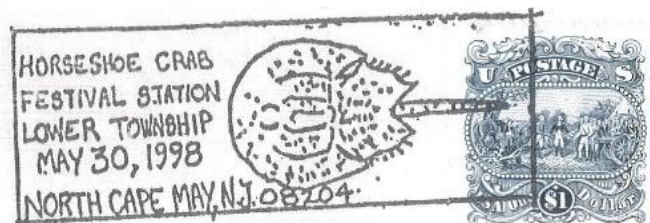
Traditionally, the rabbit test is performed to test the presence of endotoxins in parenterals. It is described in the pharmacopoeias. The sample is injected into a group of three rabbits (11, 12) and the body temperature observed with an electrical device in the rectum (13). The summed temperature increase must not exceed 1.15 °C. Animal in-vivo testing, especially for such standard parameters, are today ethically questionable and should be replaced by alternative in-vitro methods.



One alternative is the LAL test, where LAL stands for limulus amoebocyte lysate. It is made from the blood-like hemolymph of the horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*), a “living fossil” (14-17). The cells in it (amoebocytes) are extracted, lysated with distilled water and used for the detection of endotoxins by forming precipitates (so-called clots). Detection methods are gel-clot, turbidimetry, and colorimetric assays. The horseshoe crab is also used as a seafood, and due to habitat destruction, its population is declining.



By this, the LAL test is also dependant from animals. As a completely animal-free alternative the monocyte activation test (MAT) has been introduced, which is based on human blood. It is accepted since 2010 by the European pharmacopoeia and since 2012 by the FDA.



11. Stamp. Pelztiere - Wildkaninchen (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*). Bundesrepublik Deutschland: MiNr. 529; 1967.
12. Stamp. Internationale Leipziger Rauchwarenauktion - Hauskaninchen (*Oryctolagus cuniculus forma domestica*). DDR: MiNr. 1541; 1970.
13. Stamp. Medizin in Israel - Kinderheilkunde - Kind mit Teddybär, Fieberthermometer. Israel: MiNr. 1837; 2005.
14. Stamp. Naturschutz (XII): Schalentiere - Pfeilschwanzkrebs (*Tachypleus tridentatus*). Japan: MiNr. 1310; 1977.
15. Stamp. Naturschutz (II) - *Tachypleus tridentatus* (Pfeilschwanzkrebs). Japan: MiNr. 6103; 2012.
16. Cancel. Dover Stamp Clu Sta - Horseshoe Crab. Dover: 29.03.2003; 2003.
17. Cancel. Horseshoe Crab Festival Station Lower Township. North Cape May: 30.05.1998; 1998.