



The Westfield Philatelist

Newsletter of the Westfield Stamp Club

American Philatelic Society Chapter #540

American Topical Association Chapter #113

Volume 9 Number 4 March/April 2016

Westfield Stamp Club Show 2016

Photos courtesy of Marion Rollings



Judges Mark Banchik & Stephen Reinhard



Attendees busy at The Excelsior Collection's table



Allan Fisk at the registration table



Member Audrey Yankielun at her booth with her handmade artwork using postage stamps



Stamp designer Victor Stabin & his wife

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The Westfield Stamp Club

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Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the fourth Thursday of the month except for November (third Thursday) and July and August (summer recess). The club meets in the Community Room of the Westfield Town Hall located in the center of Westfield at 425 East Broad Street.

Dues are \$8.00 per membership year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

The club newsletter will be published every two months from September to June.

**For information visit
our website**

www.westfieldstampclub.org

or call

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Westfield Stamp Club Show 2016

Photos courtesy of Marion Rollings



Ed Grabowski searching for an Oxydonor cover



John Crout & Nick Lombardi take a break



Al Fleury gets a surprise visit from his daughter



The Westfield Stamp Club frame crew hard at work

Photo courtesy of Martino Laurenzi

Before Moses There Was Hercules: The Origin of the Oxypathor

By Edward Grabowski

Recently I presented a talk entitled "Philately & International Mail Order Fraud: Elvard Moses and the Oxypathor Company" at a meeting of the Westfield Stamp Club. The highlight of the meeting was my hooking President Lombardi to a genuine Oxypathor and having Drs. Skvara and Rollings monitor his vital signs and psychological status during the talk. The Oxypathor was a medical device that supposedly polarized the skin and oxygenated the blood, thus curing just about every recorded disease. Elvard Moses was the most successful perpetrator of the Oxypathor scam, until his trial in 1914 and subsequent imprisonment put him out of business.

However, Moses was not the creator of the Oxypathor concept. That honor fell to one Hercules Sanche who came up with the idea for such a device prior to 1900. He named his device the Oxydonor. Sanche actually received a US Patent on his Oxydonor concept. As many Merck patent attorneys have told me, a US patent is a legal document, not a scientific one. Thus, the concepts in a patent may not be scientifically valid, something that the uninitiated should always remember.

Sanche's Oxydonor creation was marketed from offices in New York, Detroit, Chicago and Montreal. In a typical ad for his Oxydonor (Fig. 1), Sanche shows his device as a cylinder, presumably filled with a secret chemical mix-

ture (actually inert ingredients), with a single wire coming out of it attached to an electrode which was attached to a human ankle or wrist. The Oxydonor is in a bowl of water with the claim that the lower the temperature of the device, the more potent the treatment. This is contrary to basic chemistry, where chemical reactions proceed faster at higher temperatures. The ad shows the Oxydonor in use on the ankle of a presumed young lady, showing that there is nothing new in advertising. Some diseases that can be successfully treated are noted and an expected testimonial is present too.

Recently eBay presented an opportunity to buy an Oxydonor in mint, never-used condition, with a complete instruction booklet and an intact carrying case (Fig. 2). It was a small device relative to the Oxypathor (which had two electrodes), and could be stored in a pocket with the electrode attached to a wrist to permit ready treatment while traveling. Sanche charged between \$15-\$20 for his Oxydonor, a considerable sum of money around 1900. A photo of Hercules Sanche from the instruction booklet is also shown (Fig. 3). As to covers relating to the sale of the Oxydonor, I have yet to find even one. This is not surprising as the Oxydonor scam was run at a much smaller scale than that of the Oxypathor.

Dr. H. SANCHE'S OXYDONOR.
(Trade-marks Registered November 22, 1896.)

STIMULATES THE MIND.

CAUSES SOUND SLEEP.

INCREASES VITALITY.

GIVES GOOD APPETITE.

OXYDONOR APPLIED.

And cures Nervous Prostration, Insomnia, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Debility, La Grippe, Pneumonia, Biliousness, Asthma, Bright's Disease, Locomotor Ataxia, Fevers, and all forms of disease without medicine or electricity.

One Oxydonor will keep an entire family in good health, and will last a lifetime if taken care of. A 170-page book of directions with each Oxydonor.

REFUSE IMITATIONS. Get only the genuine, plainly stamped with the name of the inventor and discoverer, "Dr. H. Sanche." Descriptive books and prices sent upon request.

Cashier of the Bank of Wayne, of Goldsboro, N. C., indorses Oxydonor for Nervousness, Insomnia, and Indigestion.

"It gives me pleasure to add my statement to the merits of your Oxydonor. It has done for my family what medicines failed to do, and I would not part with it. For nervousness, insomnia, and indigestion I think it without a parallel."
W. E. BORDEN."

Dr. H. SANCHE & COMPANY,
261 Fifth Avenue, New York City. 57 State Street (Musonic Temple), Chicago, Ill.
61 Fifth Street, Detroit, Mich. Canadian Office: 2268 St. Catharines Street, Montreal, Canada.

Fig.1

cont. on pg. 4

Before Moses There Was Hercules: The Origin of the Oxypathor (cont.)

By Edward Grabowski



Fig. 2

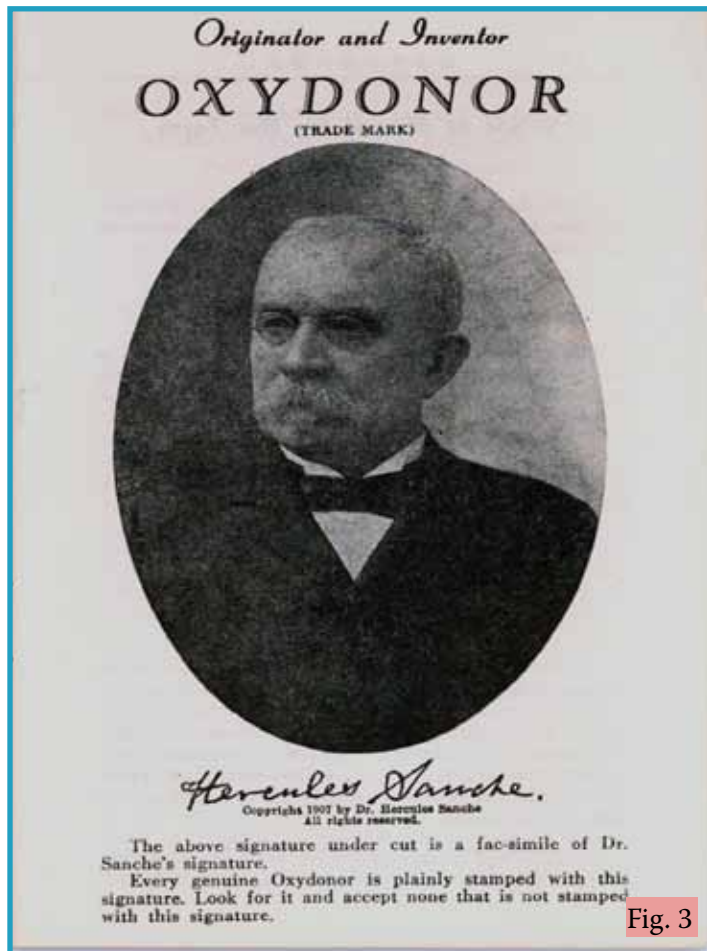


Fig. 3

In creating the Oxypathor, Moses stole just about every concept of Sanche's Oxydonor. What did he add to the Oxydonor scam in creating his Oxypathor? The second electrode and a myriad of attachments are among two enhancements. But his greatest addition was his marketing skills. Rather than selling his device from a few local offices, Moses set up hundreds of franchises around the

world. He created a much larger body of advertising for the Oxypathor and offered it to the franchisees. Sanche was ultimately put out of business for postal fraud. So was Moses, but he continued to do better than Sanche. Moses ended up in Atlanta Federal prison, but, alas, only for eighteen months.



✦ Answers – January/February 2016 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q1. The first bishop of Quebec was honored by Canada with a commemorative stamp. Who was he?

Ans. **François de Montmorency-Laval.**

He was born in Montigny-sur-Avre, France on April 30, 1623 to a noble family. Ordained a priest on May 1, 1647, he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Quebec on December 8, 1658, and sailed for New France in 1659. In 1674 New France became an independent diocese and Laval



Canada 1973 (Scott 611)

was appointed the first Bishop of Quebec. Considered the father of the Catholic Church in New France, he established the Grand Séminaire of Quebec in 1663 as a teaching academy to train missionary priest, but also to serve as a home for all priests and where they may turn to when they are sick or in old age. In 1852 it was chartered as Université Laval.

Laval died from an ulcer on May 6, 1708, and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1980 and canonized on April 3, 2014 by Pope Francis.

[cont. on pg. 5]

✦ Answers_(cont.)— January/February 2016 Philatelic Quiz ✦

Q2. Gustav Stresemann, Ludwig Quidde & Carl von Ossietzky appeared on a 1975 souvenir sheet from Germany. What is their claim to fame?

Ans. **They all won the Nobel Peace Prize**



Germany 1975 (Scott 1203)

Gustav Stresemann (1878–1929) shared the 1926 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts as German Foreign Minister leading to the Locarno Pact in 1925 between France and Germany.

Ludwig Quidde (1858–1941) shared the 1927 prize for his efforts to reduce the hostility between France and Germany after the 1870–71 Franco-German War and for his opposition to Germany's annexation of neighboring territories during World War I.

Carl von Ossietzky (1889–1938) was awarded the 1936 prize for his promotion of disarmament and peace in the years between World War I & II. He revealed that, contrary to the Versailles Treaty, Germany was secretly rearming. Found guilty of treason he was imprisoned and sent to a concentration camp. The Nazi government refused to let him travel to Norway to receive his prize. He died in prison in May 1938.



Q3. What organization does the “Blood and Fire” flag that appears on a 1965 Great Britain stamp honor?

Ans. **The Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army is a Christian church and charitable organization founded in London in 1865 by Catherine and William Booth. The organization's flag was designed by Catherine Booth in 1878 and is used on special oc-

casions. The blood shed by Christ is represented by the red on the flag, the star in the center denotes the fire of the Holy Spirit while the blue border stands for purity.



Great Britain 1965 (Scott 425)



Q4. Canada issued a 4¢ commemorative showing the ship *Matthew* for the entry of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation. Whose ship was it?

Ans. **John Cabot**

John Cabot (1450–1498) was a Venetian navigator and merchant who, at various times, was in the service of Venice, England and Spain. Settling in Bristol, England in 1484, he began looking for sponsors for a voyage in search of a route to the Orient across the Atlantic Ocean. After receiving permission from Henry VII he sailed westward in *Matthew* in 1497 and in June reached what is now Newfoundland on the northern coast of North America. He claimed the land for both Venice and England.



Canada 1949 (Scott 282)

Matthew was a small, three-masted ship, probably a caravel and most likely an older trade ship renamed and refitted for Cabot's voyage. After the 1497 voyage she returned to commercial employment. In 1498 Cabot undertook a second voyage to America using a different ship, but he was never heard from again and his ship was presumed to have been lost at sea.



Q5. Who was Emily Pauline Johnson (1861–1913) that appears on a Canadian commemorative stamp?

Ans. **Mohawk princess, poet and performer.**

Born to a Mohawk chief and an English mother, she was a very popular poet and performer who toured Canada, England and the United States. She used her poems to celebrate the heritage of her people.



Canada 1961 (Scott 392)

Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

John William Polidori, M.D. (1795–1821), English Writer and Physician

A column on the Op-Ed page of the July 31, 2009, edition of *The New York Times* caught my attention. Titled “Why Vampires Never Die”, it was written by Guillermo del Toro (director of *Pan’s Labyrinth*, an adult fairytale) and Chuck Hogan, authors of *The Strain*, the first book of a vampire trilogy. I added the column to my clipping file as it mentioned John William Polidori, a nineteenth century English physician. But what did he have to do with vampires? A little research led to the story below.

John William Polidori (Fig. 1) was born on September 7, 1795, in London, the son of Gaetano Polidori, an Italian émigré and former secretary to the Italian poet and dramatist Alfieri (1749–1803), and Anna Maria Pierce, an English governess. Between 1804 and 1810 John Polidori attended Ampleforth College, at the time, a Roman Catholic boy’s school run by the Benedictine monks.



Fig. 1

He then entered the University of Edinburgh where he received his doctor of medicine degree in 1815 after writing a thesis on sleepwalking. In 1816 he became personal physician to Lord Byron (1788–1824) (Fig. 2) accompanying him, Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822) and Mary Godwin (future wife of Shelley)(1797–1851) on a trip to Europe.

It was the summer of 1816, often called the “year Without a summer” because of the planetary cooling resulting from the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia, the most powerful eruption in recorded history (3). It was during June of that year that Byron and his party, traveling through Switzerland on their way to Italy, had to delay their travels because of thunderstorms. They stayed for a few days at the Villa Diodati on Lake Geneva. One night while there, to pass the time, Byron suggested a game in which each of

the party would write a ghost story. They had been reading aloud from the *Tales of the Dead*, an English anthology of horror fiction published in 1813, and such an endeavor seemed appropriate for such a stormy night. Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote *A Fragment of a Ghost Story*

that was published posthumously. Mary presented a tale that would later become *Frankenstein*, published anonymously in 1818 and under her own name in 1823. Byron recounted *Fragment of a Novel*, but never completed the tale. Based on that tale by Byron, Polidori created a short story that was subsequently published as *The Vampyre* in the April 1819 issue of *New Monthly Magazine* without his knowledge. It was the first vampire story published in English and while initially thought to be the work of Byron, Byron denied authorship. Within a month of publication, Polidori claimed that he was the author while, at the same time, acknowledging the importance of Byron’s tale on its conception.

Although Byron and Polidori initially got along quite well, their relationship changed after the ghost story competition and Byron dismissed Polidori that September. Polidori returned to London and his medical practice and saw his story quickly translated into a number of languages and adapted into a stage play. He died on August 24, 1821, suffering from depression, probably due in part to his debts from gambling. There was some evidence that he committed suicide by taking cyanide, but the coroner ruled “death by natural causes”.

It is interesting to note that on one night in June of 1816, two great monsters of the modern age were born, *Frankenstein* on its own merits and *The Vampyre*, by its influence on later writers. And it is also noteworthy that these creations were not by the literary luminaries in attendance, but by two relatively unknown and untested writers.

Polidori’s story gave birth to the vampire as romantic hero and as an undead monster. He combined folklore, personal recollections and erotic anxieties into our current understanding of vampires. The vampire in his story is Lord Ruthven and is widely thought to be based on Lord Byron. He is a handsome, aristocratic figure, sexually attractive, dressed in black with a penetrating stare and an ashen color. This is a far cry from the “vampires” as described in folkloric tales of the undead that had been told for centuries. Those creatures were uneducated, dirty, violent scavengers seeking only the blood that they needed to survive. It is Polidori’s vision of the vampire that inspired later writers of vampire fiction such as Edgar Allan Poe and Bram Stoker leading to the creation of the most famous horror figure of all time, Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.

So we can now answer the question posed above. This little-known, little-recognized English physician, in his brief exploration of the literary art, created a creature that has become a staple of vampire fiction in books, movies and television.



Fig. 2 Lord Byron. Greece 1924 (Scott 316)

John William Polidori, M.D. (1795–1821), English Writer and Physician (cont.)

Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any philatelic commemoration for Polidori, but there have been several issues for Dracula, the creature influenced by Polidori's Lord Ruthven. Bram Stoker, Irish novelist and short story writer was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1847 and died in 1912. His most famous work is *Dracula* which he wrote in 1897.



Scenes of Dracula - 28p, being transformed into a bat. 32p, with potential victim, 38p, emerging from coffin, 52p, with wolf. Ireland 1997 (Scott 1086-89)[Centenary of the publication of Dracula by Bram Stoker]



Dracula - a, Bram Stoker, b, Dracula and cross, c, Dracula and woman, d, Dracula in coffin. Romania 2004 (Scott 4638a-d) [23rd UPU Congress, Bucharest]



Bela Lugosi as Dracula. United States 1997 (Scott 3169)

Notes:

1) Portrait of John William Polidori, by F.G. Gainsford (floruit 1805-1822), given to the National Portrait Gallery, London in 1895.

3) Mount Tambora is on the mountainous island of Sumbawa in the Dutch East Indies, now modern-day Indonesia. The first inkling of the eruption came on April 5, 1815, when flames shot from the summit. After falling silent for 5 days, the summit “exploded in a deafening roar of fire, rock and boiling ash”. Flaming rivers of lava destroyed tropic forests and villages. The result was catastrophic, not only for the Dutch East Indies, where 100,000 people were estimated to have died, but for the entire planet. The tremendous amount of matter released into the atmosphere reached a height of over 25 miles and was carried by the winds around the world. Reflecting the sunlight back into space, the result was a period of planetary cooling and fierce storms that lasted for three years. A summer blizzard hit New York, heavy frosts were seen in New England in July and August. The global failure of crops led to repeated periods of famine and disease in many countries. There was civil unrest and economic decline around the world. In 1817 a cholera pandemic that began in India killed tens of millions of people due to changes in the monsoons and pounding rains that resulted from the effects of the eruption. At the time of the eruption no one connected the global disasters over the next 3 years with an event halfway around the world. As a new book details, *Tambora: The Eruption that Changed the World* by Gillen D’Arcy Wood (Princeton University Press), it was the scientists studying the eruption that eventually connected the data between the eruption and the worldwide disasters.



Jottings from a Worldwide Stamp Collector

By Frederick C. Skvara

Hubble – 25 Years of Space Exploration (G.B. Jersey)

On April 24, 2015, Jersey Post issued an eight-stamp set and souvenir sheet commemorating 25 Years of Space Exploration with the Hubble Space Telescope. When the Space Shuttle Discovery was launched on April 24, 1990, it carried with it the Hubble Space Telescope. The telescope was released into a low earth orbit the next day and has been orbiting the earth outside the distortion of the earth's atmosphere providing the most visible images of space ever. Over its 25 years of orbiting our planet, it has provided over one million observations noting 38,000 targets. Using its primary mirror of 2.4 meters it has sent hundreds of thousands of very high resolution images back to earth.

Jersey Post used eight of those images for this series of stamps. The stamp designs were created by Two Degrees North, a design firm based in Guernsey, from photographs courtesy of www.hubblesite.org, NASA and STScI (Space Telescope Science Institute located on the campus of Johns Hopkins University). The stamps were printed by offset lithography with metallic silver by Lowe-Martin in Canada.

Edwin Powell Hubble (1889–1953)

Born in Marshfield, Missouri, Hubble graduated from the University of Chicago in 1910 with a degree in mathematics and astronomy. After a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford, England, in which he studied law and literature, he returned to the United States in 1913 and practiced law in Kentucky. But his passion was for astronomy and in 1914 he began a Ph.D. program in astronomy at the University

of Chicago.

Following World War I he began work at the Mount Wilson Observatory in Pasadena, California, using the newly completed Hooker Telescope, the largest in the world at that time. Most of the astronomers of the day thought that the Milky Way was all there was to the Universe. But it was Hubble, who in 1923, by identifying a star that was a million light-years away—far beyond the Milky Way—dramatically expanded the known Universe and in effect discovered the Cosmos.

Embarking on a classification of the known nebulae(1), he determined in 1929 that all galaxies(2) appeared to be receding from us and that the velocities of the nebulae increase in a linear manner with distance (Hubble's Law). This finding proved that the Universe was not static, but expanding, something that Einstein had predicted earlier, but who had corrected his equations because of the conventional wisdom of the day. Hubble showed that Einstein's original conclusion was correct.

As the founder of modern cosmology, the Space Telescope was named in his honor.

Notes:

1. Nebulae - an interstellar cloud of dust, gas and plasma that is the first stage of a star's cycle.
2. Galaxy - a system of millions or billions of stars, gas and dust held together by gravitational attraction.
3. Supernova remnant - an expanding shell of gas from a high-mass star that has reached the end of its life.



Light Echo



Spiral Galaxy



Mystic Mountain



Jupiter



Cat's Eye Nebula



Mars



A Rose of Galaxies



The Pistol Star