

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
AND MEDICAL SCIENTISTS
ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Sample Pages

AKEL, Friedrich Karl (1871 – 1941)

Ophthalmologist, member of the International Olympic Committee, diplomat, and Head of State of Estonia

Born: September 5, 1871 in Kaubi Manor, Kaubi Parish, Estonia (now: Pornuse, Halliste Parish, Viljandi County, Estonia).
Deceased: July 3, 1941 in Tallinn, Estonia.
Cause of death: Execution by the Russian *Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennikhh Del* (NKVD).
Cemetery: Unknown¹.

Career

1881 – 1887 Elementary education at Viljandi Elementary School and Viljandi County School.
1889 – 1892 Secondary education at the gymnasium in Tartu, Estonia.
1892 – 1897 Medical studies at the University of Tartu.
1898 – 1899 Assistant-ophthalmologist at the Tartu University Clinic and the Reimer Ophthalmology Clinic in Riga, Latvia.
1899 – 1901 Physician at the *Ujazdov Hospital* in Warsaw, Poland.
1901 – 1902 Assistant-ophthalmologist at the Reimer's Ophthalmology Clinic in Riga, Latvia and in Berlin, Prague and Leipzig.
1902 – 1904 Akel works as a private ophthalmologist in Tallinn.
1904 – 1905 Akel serves as a physician in the Russo-Japanese war (1904–1905).
1905 – 1922 Private ophthalmologist in Tallinn.
1907 Co-founder of the Private Clinic of Estonian Physicians.
1907 Elected chairman of the Tallinn Sports Society '*Kalev*'.
1912 Akel establishes his own eye clinic.
1920 – 1922 Vice-president of the Consistory of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church.
1923 – 1924 Foreign Minister.
1923 – 1929 Member of the *Riigikogu* (at that time unicameral parliament of Estonia).
1924 Head of State ('State Elder') of Estonia (26 March – 16 December).
1924 – 1931 Elected member and first president of the Estonian Olympic Committee.
1926 – 1927 Foreign Minister.
1927 – 1932 Member of the International Olympic Committee.
1928 – 1934 Envoy ('Minister plenipotentiary') for Estonia in Stockholm, Sweden.
1934 – 1936 Envoy ('Minister plenipotentiary') for Estonia in Berlin, Germany.
1936 – 1938 Foreign Minister.
1938 – 1940 Member of the *Riiginõukogu*, the second chamber of the Estonian Parliament².
1940 On October 17 Akel is arrested by the KGB and is imprisoned and condemned to death in 1941. The execution takes place on July 3, 1941.

References

Rommelkoor R. Karl Friedrich Akel (1871-1941). *Journal of Olympic History* 2000;8(1):31-33 (<http://library.la84.org/SportsLibrary/JOH/JOHv8n1/johv8n1k.pdf>) (17-05-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Estonia: 2011.



Fig. 1 Estonia 2011 (SG 659)

¹ There's no information in the KGB's records about the place where the remains of Akel were buried.

² From 1920 till 1938 Estonia had a unicameral parliament. From 1938 till 1940 the National Assembly was divided in two chambers: the Riigivolikogu (Chamber of Deputies) and the Riiginõukogu (National Council).

Professor of Biochemistry and one of the 'Big Three' science fiction writers of the 20th century

Born: Between October 4, 1919 and January 2, 1920 in Petrovichi, former USSR.
Deceased: April 6, 1992 in New York City, New York, USA.
Cause of death: Heart and kidney failure, caused by HIV-infection, contracted during heart surgery.
Cemetery: Not applicable (cremated; ashes scattered).

Career

1923 The Asimov family emigrates to the United States (Brooklyn, New York City).
1935 Graduation from Boys High School, Brooklyn.
1938 His first science fiction writing (*Cosmic Corkscrew*) is rejected by the publisher *Astounding Science Fiction*. His third story (*Marooned off Vesta*) is bought and published by the publisher *Amazing Stories*.
1939 Bachelor's Degree in Science from Columbia University School of General Studies. After failure to enter Medical School of Columbia University, Asimov switched to chemistry and was admitted on a probationary basis.
1941 Masters Degree in Chemistry from Columbia University.
1941 The 32nd story (*Nightfall*) is published by *Astounding Science*. This is considered "one of the most famous science fiction stories of all time".
... – ... Asimov works as a civilian at the Philadelphia Navy Yard's Naval Air Experimental Station.
1948 PhD in biochemistry.
1973 Asimov signs the *Humanist Manifesto II* (see Richard Roberts for an explanation).
1948 Appointed associate professor (tenured) for the School of Medicine of Boston University.
1977 Asimov suffers a heart attack.
1979 Appointed professor in biochemistry.
1983 Asimov has a triple bypass surgery, during which he contracts HIV infection.

Other things worth knowing

- Along with Robert A. Heinlein and Arthur C. Clarke, Asimov is considered one of the 'Big Three' science fiction writers of the 20th century.
- Asimov's literary output is enormous: he wrote or edited over 500 books and an estimated 90,000 letters.

Websites

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isaac_Asimov (15-07-2013).

Postage stamps issued by:

Djibouti: 2010; **Israel:** 2000.



Fig. 1 Djibouti 2010 (SG n.l.)



Fig. 2 Israel 2000 (SG 1504)

ECCLES, Sir John Carew (1903 – 1997)

How the synapse of the neurons works and the philosophy of the interaction between mind and body

Born: January 27, 1903 in Melbourne, Australia.
Deceased: May 2, 1997 in Tenero-Contra, district of Locarno, canton Ticino, Switzerland.
Cemetery: Cemetery in Tenero-Contra.

Career

1915 – 1920 Secondary education at Warnambool High School (now: Warbambool College), Victoria, Australia, and Melbourne High School.
1920 – 1925 Medical education at University of Melbourne. Graduation with first class honours.
1925 – 1927 Awarded a Rhodes scholarship to study with Charles Scott Sherrington* (1857–1952) at Magdalen College, Oxford University, UK.
1927 – 1931 Research assistant to Sherrington at Exeter College, Oxford University.
1929 PhD from Oxford University.
1934 – 1937 Eccles works as a tutorial fellow at Magdalen College.
1937 – 1944 Director of Kanematsu Institute at Sydney Medical School. Here he works together with Bernard Katz* (1911–2003), winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1970.
1944 – 1951 Professor of Physiology at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Here he meets the philosopher Sir Karl Popper (1902–1994) who will influence Eccles' philosophical ideas.
1950 – 1951 Lecturer at Magdalen College in Oxford.
1952 – 1962 Distinguished professor of Physiology and Medicine at the John Curtin School of Medical Research of the Australian National University in Canberra.
1958 Made Knight Bachelor
1963 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine –jointly with Andrew Fielding Huxley* (1917–2012) and Alan Lloyd Hodgkin* (1914–1998)– “for their discoveries concerning the ionic mechanisms involved in excitation and inhibition in the peripheral and central portions of the nerve cell membrane”.
1966 – 1968 Eccles works at the Institute for Biomedical Research in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
1968 – 1975 Professor at the University at Buffalo, New York, USA.
1975 Retirement. Eccles moves to Tenero-Contra.
1990 Made Companion of the Order of Australia.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

• Selected publications:

- *Reflex activity of the spinal chord* (1932).
- *The neurophysiological basis of the mind* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1953).
- *The physiology of nerve cells* (1957).
- *The physiology of synapses* (1964).
- *The brain and the unity of conscious experience* (London: Cambridge University Press, 1965).
- *The inhibitory pathways of the central nervous system* (1969).
- *Facing reality: Philosophical adventures by a brain scientist* (Berlin: Springer, 1970).
- *The understanding of the brain* (1973).
- *The self and its brain* (co-author: Karl Popper; Berlin: Springer, 1977)
- *The human mystery* (Berlin: Springer, 1979).
- *The human psyche* (1980).
- *The wonder of being human – Our brain & our mind* (co-author: Daniel Robson; New York: Free Press, 1984).
- *Evolution of the brain: Creation of the self* (1989).
- *How the self controls its brain* (1994).

Other things worth knowing

- From the beginning of his career Eccles was fascinated by ‘the brain-mind problem’, rather more from a philosophical point of view than from a neurophysiological one. He published several books on the subject, especially after his retirement. Initially – in his book *The understanding of the brain* (1973)– he follows the ideas of Popper and distinguishes three ‘worlds’: 1. Physical objects and states, 2. States of consciousness and 3. Knowledge in objective sense. World 2 is divided in three levels: 1. Outer sense (light, colour, sound, smell, taste, pain, touch), 2. Inner sense (thoughts, feelings, memories, dreams, imaginings, intentions) and 3. Pure ego (the self, soul and spirit). But later –in his book *How the self controls its brain* (1994)– he returns to a dualistic mechanism of how the brain works.

- There has been a long-lasting controversy between two hypotheses about the transmission mechanism in synapses: the ‘camp’ of the supporters of chemical transmission (of which Katz was the exponent) and the ‘camp’ of the supporters of electrical transmission (of which Eccles was the exponent). Today there is overwhelming evidence that the chemical transmission hypothesis must be accepted as the right one.

References

Shampo NA, Kyle RA. Sir John Eccles – Prize-winning neurophysiologist. In: Shampo RA, Kyle MA (Eds.). *Medicine and Stamps*. Volume 3. Rochester MN / Montvale NJ: Mayo Clinic Proceedings / Dowden Health Media Inc., 2004 (pp. 57-58).

Websites

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Eccles_\(neurophysiologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Eccles_(neurophysiologist)) (12-08-2015).

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/1963/eccles-bio.html (12-08-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Australia: 2012; **Solomon Islands:** 2013 (see: *Blackburn*, fig. 3); **Sweden:** 1984.



Fig. 1 Australia 2012 (SG 3828)



Fig. 2 Sweden 1984 (SG 1219)

ENDERS, John Franklin (1897 – 1985)

From flight instructor and real estate businessman to father of modern vaccines

Born: February 10, 1897 in West Hartford, Connecticut, USA.
Deceased: September 8, 1985 in Waterford, Connecticut.
Cause of death: Heart failure.

Career

... – 1912 Secondary education at Noah Webster School in Hartford.
1912 – 1915 Secondary education at St. Paul's Boarding School in Concord, New Hampshire, USA.
1915 – 1917 Enders studies at Yale University "*with no definite academic objectives*".
1917 – 1920 Enders joins the United States Naval Reserve in Pensacola, Florida, is trained as a pilot and becomes lieutenant- flight instructor.
1920 BA degree in English from Yale University.
1920 – ... Enders works in the real estate business.
... – 1922 Enders studies English literature and Germanic and Celtic languages at the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.
1922 MA degree.
1922 – 1925 Enders explores three topics for a PhD study in philology, but didn't take his fancy.
1925 Enders lives in a boarding house in Brooklyn, Massachusetts, with Hugh Kingsley Ward (1887–1972), at that time instructor at the bacteriology laboratory of professor Hans Zinsser (1878–1940). Enders visits the laboratory on a regular basis with Ward and becomes fascinated by this field of science.
1927 Stimulated by Zinsser Enders starts a doctoral study in bacteriology at Harvard Medical School.
1930 PhD in biology from Harvard University.
1930 – 1935 Instructor at the Laboratory of Bacteriology.
1935 – 1942 Assistant professor of bacteriology.
1940 – 1942 After the death of Hans Zinsser Enders is appointed interim head of the Department of Bacteriology.
1942 – 1956 Associate professor at Harvard Medical School.
1946 Enders is asked to establish a laboratory for research of infectious diseases at the Children's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. Elected member of the American Academy of Art and Sciences.
1946 – 1972 Chief of the Research Division of Infectious Diseases at the Children's Hospital in Boston.
1952 – 1953 President of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI).
1953 Elected member of the National Academy of Sciences.
1954 Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award. Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, jointly with Thomas Huckle Weller* (1915–2008) and Fredrick Chapman Robbins (1916–2003) "*for their discovery of the ability of polioviruses to grow in cultures of various types of tissue*".
1955 Kyle Award from the U.S. Public Health Service. Elected member of the American Philosophical Society.
1956 – 1962 Full professor at Harvard Medical School.
1962 – 1967 University professor at Harvard Medical School.
1963 Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Science Achievement Award from the American Medical Association.
1967 Elected foreign member of the Royal Society of London.
1967 – 1985 Emeritus University professor at Harvard Medical School.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Important contributions to the knowledge of factors that determine the virulence of the *Pneumococcus* (1929–1937).
- Demonstration of the immunising effect of attenuated mumps virus (1941).
- Development of tissue culture techniques for polioviruses (1949).
- First isolation of measles virus (1954)¹.
- Development of egg culture techniques for measles virus (1958).
- Development of measles vaccine (1960). First FDA marketing authorisation in 1963.

¹ The virus was isolated from an 11-year-old boy named David Edmonston. The Edmonston strain of the attenuated measles virus is still used in modern plain measles vaccines and combination vaccines with a measles component (MMR and MMR-V vaccines).

References

Anonymus. *Celebrating 100 years Nobel laureates of AAI. John Franklin Enders (1897–1985).* (http://www.aai.org/about/History/Notable_Members/pdfs/Nobel/AAI-Enders_John.pdf) (20-08-2015).

Weller TH, Robbins FC. John Franklin Enders 1897–1985. A biographical memoir. In: National Academy of Sciences. *Biographical memoir.* Washinton D.C.: National Academy of Sciences, 1991 (pp.47-65). (<http://www.nasonline.org/publications/biographical-memoirs/memoir-pdfs/enders-john.pdf>) (20-08-2015).

Websites

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medicine/laureates/1954/enders-bio.html (20-08-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Guyana: 1995; **Transkei:** 1991.



Fig. 1 Guyana 1995 (SG 4559)



Fig. 2 Transkei 1991 (SG 276)

FLEMING, Lady Amalia (née Coutsouris-Vourokas) (1909 – 1986)

Greek bacteriologist, activist, politician and ‘the wife of’

Born: June 28, 1909¹ in Constantinople, Ottoman Empire (now: Istanbul, Turkey).
Deceased: February 26, 1986 in Athens.
Cause of death: Heart attack.

Career

... – ... Medical education at the University of Athens.
... – ... Specialisation in bacteriology.
1941 – 1944 Coutsouris-Vourokas helps British, New Zealand and Australian military officers and Greek Jews to escape from the Nazi-regime by providing them with false identity papers.
1946 Coutsouris-Vourokas receives a scholarship for postdoc studies in London at the Wright-Fleming Institute of St. Mary’s Hospital, where she meets Sir Alexander Fleming* (1881–1955).
1946 – 1955 Research assistant to Sir Alexander Fleming.
1953 Marriage with Sir Alexander Fleming.
1963 Amalia returns to Greece.
1965 Fleming initiates and funds the Greek Foundation for Basic Biological Research ‘Alexander Fleming (now: Biomedical Sciences Research Center ‘Alexander Fleming’).
1971 Imprisoned by the Greek junta for her role in the resistance. She loses Greek citizenship and is exiled.
1971 – 1974 Amalia lives in exile in London.
1974 Return to Greece after the fall of the junta. She joins the PASOK (Panhellenic Socialist Movement).
1977 Elected Member of Parliament.
1981 Elected Member of Parliament.
1985 Elected Member of Parliament.

Websites

http://articles.latimes.com/1986-02-28/local/me-12829_1_junta-members (27-08-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Greece: 1996.



Fig. 1 Greece 1996 (SG 1997)

¹ On the Internet 1909 is mentioned as many times as 1912 as year of birth.

Physician and legendary British cricketer

Born: July 18, 1848 in Downend, Gloucestershire, England.
 Deceased: October 23, 1915 in Nottingham, Kent, England.
 Cause of death: Cerebral haemorrhage.
 Cemetery: Beckenham Cemetery, Beckenham, Kent.

Career

1865 – 1908 Grace plays first class cricket in 29 teams.
 1868 – 1879 Medical education at Bristol Medical School.
 1873 – 1874 Honeymoon and cricket tour to Australia.
 1875 The Grace family settles in Earl's Court, London. Grace is assigned to Bartholomew's Hospital.
 1878 Grace is assigned to Westminster Hospital Medical School to finalise his medical education.
 1879 Qualification as a physician. Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh (LRCP) and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS).
 1879 – 1900 Grace practices medicine in the Easton district of Bristol. During the cricket season he employs a locum.
 1900 – 1913 Grace practices medicine in southeast London.
 1913 Retirement as a physician.



Fig. 1 Australia 1988 (SG 1147)
 Fig. 2 Great Britain 1988 (SG 1398)

Other things worth knowing

- Dr. Grace always carried a Gladstone bag and was the trendsetter for doctors to carry their instruments in such bags.

References

Shampo MA, Kyle RA, Heidel W. *Famous Personalities honoured on Stamps. Links to Medicine*. New York: Vantage Press, 2010 (pp. 95-96).

Websites

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Gilbert-Grace> (08-11-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Australia: 1988¹; **Great Britain:** 1973 and 1988.



Fig. 3 Gr. Britain 1973 (SG 928)



Fig. 4 Gr. Britain 1973 (SG 929)



Fig. 5 Gr. Britain 1973 (SG 930)

¹ In 1988 Australia and Great Britain issued an Australia/UK joint set of stamps at the occasion of the Australian bicentenary. Originally the Australian Post Office stated that the depicted person was dentist and most famous Australian cricketer Montague Alfred Nobel (1873–1940), but in fact it is William Grace.

HEO, Jun (1539? – 1615)

The most famous physician in Korean history

Born: 1539? in Korea.
Deceased: October 9, 1615 in Korea.

Career

... – ...	Nothing is known about where and by whom Heo Jun was trained in medicine.
1571	Heo Jun enters as a physician the <i>Naeuiwon</i> , the royal clinic of the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1897).
1575	He treats for the first time King Seonjo (1552–1608).
1590	Heo Jun cures smallpox patients, including crown prince Goang'haegun ¹ . He is promoted to 'senior third rank government official' ² .
1592 – 1598	During the Japanese invasions most of the court physicians flee, but Heo Jun accompanies the king in every battle.
1596	King Seonjo promotes Heo Jun to 'senior second rank government official'.
1600	Promoted to Chief Physician of the <i>Naeuiwon</i> . King Seonjo orders Heo Jun to write a medical book that promotes preventive care and that is easily accessible for common people. It will take 13 years to write that book.
1608 – 1609	Being the first royal physician, Heo Jun is impeached for the death of King Seonjo and he is exiled to Uiju in the north of Korea.
1609	The successor of King Seonjo, King Guang'haegun, restores Heo Jun to office.
1613 – 1615	After the publication of Heo Jun's <i>magnus opus</i> he teaches young court physicians.
1615	Heo Jun dies. He is posthumously promoted 'senior first rank governmental official'.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
 - *Oenhaedu'chang'jip'jo* (Essentials of smallpox with Korean translation) (1601).
 - *Dong'uibo'gam* (Treasured collections of an eastern physician) (1613). This medical encyclopaedia was reprinted in Korea more than ten times, over thirty times in China and at least two times in Japan. The work consists of: 4 volumes on internal medicine, 4 volumes on surgery, 11 volumes on common diseases 3 volumes on pharmaceuticals, 1 volume on acupuncture, a tables of contents and a glossary.
 - *Byuk'yeok'sinbang* (Divine remedies for treating contagious diseases) (1615).

Other things worth knowing

- Heo Jun wrote his works in *Hanja* (traditional Chinese), which was the common language among scholars. But most of his works were also translated in *Hangul* (Korean language) and therefore made accessible to common people as well.

References

Shin D. Heo, Jun. In: Bynum WF, Bynum H (Eds.). *Dictionary of Medical Biography*. Volume 3. Westport, Connecticut USA / London UK: Greenwood Press, 2007 (p. 631).

Websites

http://www.hektoeninternational.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=888 (04-12-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Korea (DPR): 2008.



Fig. 1 Korea DPR 2008 (SG N4745)

¹ This is remarkable, because for religious reasons at that time it was not done to treat smallpox patients. It was common belief that the god who had sent smallpox to earth kills every patient who seeks treatment for his disease.

² The government officials of the Joseon Dynasty were ranked in eighteen levels, ranging from senior first rank to junior ninth rank.

HOLLOWS, Frederick Cossom (*Fred*) (1929 – 1993)

Eye care for the unprivileged and the poor around the world

Born: April 9, 1929 in Dunedin, New Zealand.
Deceased: February 10, 1993 in Randwick, New South Wales, Australia.
Cause of death: Metastatic renal cancer.
Cemetery: Cemetery in Bourke, New South Wales, Australia.

Career

1942 – ... Secondary education at Palmerston North Boys' High School, Palmerston, New Zealand.
... Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand.
... – ... Medical education at Otago Medical School.
1961 – 1965 Specialisation in ophthalmology at Moorfields Eye Hospital in Islington, London, England.
1965 – 1992 Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia and Director of the Departments of Ophthalmology at the Prince of Wales Hospital and the Prince Henry Hospital.
1971 Shirley Colleen Smith ('Mum Shirl') (1924–1998) and Fred Hollows set up the Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern, a suburb of Sydney.
1976 – 1978 Hollows is responsible for organising the National Trachoma¹ and Eye Health Programme, funded by the Federal Government².
1985 Hollows refuses to accept the honour of becoming an Officer of the Order of Australia, because he accuses the government of neglecting eye care for the Aboriginals.
1985 Hollows becomes Australian citizen. He visits Nepal to train local doctors in eye surgery. He initiates the establishment of a local laboratory for the production of intra-ocular lenses (production starts in 1993).
1987 Travel to Eritrea to train local doctors in eye surgery and to initiate the local production of intra-ocular lenses (production starts in 1993). Hollows is diagnosed with renal cancer.
1990 Named Australian of the Year.
1991 Made Companion of the Order of Australia. Training programme for local doctors in Vietnam. Honorary Doctorate from the University of New South Wales. Made first honorary citizen of Eritrea.
1992 The Fred Hollows Foundation³ is established to continue the work of Fred Hollows.

Websites

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fred_Hollows (21-12-2015).

Postage stamps issued by:

Australia: 1995, 2012; **Eritrea:** 2003.



Fig. 1 Australia 1995 (SG 1554)



Fig. 2 Australia 2012 (SG 1554)

¹ Trachoma is an infectious eye disease, caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Untreated infection can lead to permanent blindness.

² During this programme 465 aboriginal communities were visited, 62,000 Aboriginals were examined, 27,000 were treated for trachoma, 1,000 eye operations were performed, and 7,000 pairs of glasses were dispensed free of charge.

³ At the moment the Australian Fred Hollows Foundation runs projects in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Eritrea, Fiji, Indigenous Australia, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, South Africa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Vietnam. There are also Fred Hollow Foundations in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

KNOCKER–BLACKALL, Elizabeth (*Elsie*) (1884 – 1978)

Scottish nurse and ambulance driver in World War I; one of the two ‘Madonnas of Pervyse’

Born: July 29, 1884 in Exeter, Devon, England.
Deceased: April 27, 1978 in Ashted, Surrey, England.
Cause of death: Pneumonia and senile dementia.

Career

1888 – 1890 At the age of four Elsie’s mother dies and two years later she is orphaned when her father dies of tuberculosis. Teacher at Marlborough College, Lewis Edward Upcott and his wife adopt Elsie and send her to Saint Nicholas’s in Folkestone and later to the *Château Lutry* in Switzerland.

... – 1906 Training as a nurse at the Children’s Hip Hospital in Sevenoaks, Kent, England.

1906 Marriage with Leslie Duke Knocker. They get a son a year later, Kenneth Duke Knocker, but soon after his birth they divorce¹.

... – ... Training as a midwife at Queen Charlotte’s Hospital in London.

1914 Knocker meets 18-year-old Mairi Chisholm* (1896–1981) with whom she shares the same passion: driving motorbikes. At the beginning of World War I Knocker suggests going to London to serve as dispatch rider for the Women’s Emergency Corps. In London, they meet Dr. Hector Munro, who is setting up a Flying Ambulance Corps to help the Belgians. Munro asks them to go to Flanders. Chisholm and Knocker agree and travel first to Gent and from there to Veurne (Furnes), where they transport wounded soldiers from the front to the field hospitals. However, they are convinced that they can do more for the wounded men when they are treated first and thereafter transported. So, they decide to stop working for the Belgian Red Cross and in a cellar they start a *Poste de Secours Anglais*. They become official members of the Belgian Army’s 3rd Division at Pervijze.

1915 – 1918 Chisholm and Knocker run their *Poste de Secours Anglais* in Pervijze near the Yser Front in West Flanders.

1915 Awarded the Knight Cross with Palm of the Order of Léopold II.

1916 Knocker marries baron Harold de T’Serclaes, a pilot in the Belgian Flying Corps.

1917 Awarded the Military Medal (MM).

1918 Made Officer of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (OStJ). Return to England.

1919 Both her second husband and the Roman Catholic Church unravel the previous marriage of Knocker. For Chisholm this is reason to end her friendship with Knocker.

1926 – 1978 Knocker lives in Ashted, Surrey.

1939 – 1942 Knocker serves as a senior officer in the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) at the Royal Air Force (RAF) Fighter Command.

1942 Her son Kenneth, wing commander in the Royal Air Force, is killed when the Germans shoot down his plane over the city of Groningen, The Netherlands. Knocker leaves the RAF.

Websites

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elsie_Knocker (29-11-2017).

Postage stamps issued by:

Great Britain: 2017.



Fig. 1 Great Britain 2017 (SG –)
Elsie Knocker (left) and Mairi Chisholm (right)

¹ To avoid being frowned upon for her status as an unmarried single mother, she tells everyone that Knocker had died in Java, Netherlands East Indies (now: Indonesia).

Gynaecologist and first female professor at the University of Helsinki

Born: February 13, 1877 in Kurikka, Finland.
Deceased: November 28, 1938 in Helsinki, Finland.
Cause of death: Renal failure due to chronic use of painkillers.

Career

... – 1896 Training as a teacher.
1896 – 1900 Leidenius works as a teacher.
1903 Bachelor of Science from the University of Helsinki.
1908 Licentiate in Medicine from the University of Helsinki.
1909 – 1910 Medical practice in Juva, Finland.
1910 – 1913 Specialisation in gynaecology and obstetrics at the General Hospital of Helsinki under professor Gustaf Heinriciuxsen (1853–1915).
1913 Medical Doctorate on thesis *Untersuchungen über den Einfluss der Desinfektion der Kreissenden auf den Keimgehalt des puerperalen Uterus*.
1913 – 1920 Private gynaecological and obstetrical practice.
1917 – 1924 Member of the Sexually Transmitted Disease Committee.
1920 – 1928 Leidenius works in the Department of Obstetrics at the General Hospital.
1925 – 1930 Professor of Obstetrics.
1929 – 1930 Leidenius works in the Department of Gynaecology at the General Hospital.
1930 – 1938 Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics.
1932 – 1934 Member of the building committee for the new Women's Hospital in Helsinki.
1934 – 1938 President of the Finnish Gynaecological Association.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
 - *Über den Einfluss der elterlichen Endokrinen auf die allgemeine Entwicklung und die Endokrinen der Nachkommenschaft, Tierexperimente* (1925).
 - *Eklampsiestatistik der Universitätsklinik und der Stadt Helsinki mit besonderer Berücksichtigung einiger exogenen und endogenen Momente in der Pathogenese der Eklampsie* (1925).
 - *Über die Struktur der Zellen der Uteruskarzinome* (1928).
 - *Über die regionären Lymphdrüsen bei Uteruskarzinom* (1929).
 - *Wasserstoffionenkonzentration des Harnes vor, während und nach der Geburt bei normaler Schwangerschaft und bei Toxikosen* (1929).

Websites

<http://www.saunalahti.fi/arnoldus/leideniu.html> (31-01-2016).

Postage stamps issued by:

Finland: 1992.



Fig. 1 Finland 1992 (SG 1293)

LÖNNROT, Elias (1802 – 1884)

Finnish physician who compiled the national epos 'Kalevala'

Born: April 9, 1802 in Sammatti, Sweden¹ (now: Finland).
Deceased: March 19, 1884 in Sammatti, Grand Duchy of Finland, Russian Empire¹ (now: Finland).

Career

1828 Lönnrot starts his medical education at the University of Åbo, Grand Duchy of Finland in the Russian Empire, (now: Turun, Finland), but the university is destroyed in the great fire of the city in that year. The institution is transferred to Helsinki.
1828 – 1832 Medical education at the University of Helsinki.
1832 – 1833 Assistant municipal Medical Officer in Oulu.
1833 – 1853 District Medical Officer in Kajaani near the Russian border. In this period he makes trips among the Laps, Estonians and the Finnish tribes and collects his material for the *Kalevala* and the *Kanteletar*.
1836 Lönnrot founds the magazine *The Bee*, the first magazine in Finnish language.
1853 – 1862 Professor of Finnish Language and Literature at the University of Helsinki.
1862 Retirement. Lönnrot returns to Sammatti.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
 - *The Finnish peasant's home doctor* (1839).
 - *Kanteletar* (1840–1844), a collection of women's folk songs.
 - *Advice to the people in Ostrobothnia on rearing and feeding children* (1844).
 - *Kalevala* (first edition 1849; so called 'Old Kalevala'), a collection of short lyric poems.
 - *Flora Fennica – Suomen Kasvisto* (1860), the first Finnish flora in Finnish language.
 - *Finsk-Svenskt lexicon* (1866–1880), the first Finnish-Swedish dictionary.

Other things worth knowing

- The *Kalevala* was a constant inspiration for the famous Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865–1957). Based on the work of Lönnrot he composed *Kullervo* Op. 7 (1892), the orchestral suite *Four Legends from the Kalevala* Op. 22, also known as the *Lemminkäinen Suite* (1893–1900), *Pohjola's Daughter* Op. 49 (1906) and *Tapiola* Op. 112 (1926).
- As a young man Lönnrot was a heavy drinker, but later stopped drinking and founded the 'Clearheads Club', the first temperance society in Finland.

References

Shampo MA, Kyle RA, Heidel W. *Famous Personalities honoured on Stamps. Links to Medicine*. New York: Vantage Press, 2010 (p. 154).

Websites

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elias_Lönnrot (16-02-2016).
<http://windowstoworldhistory.weebly.com/elias-lonnrot-compiles-the-kalevala.html> (16-02-2016).

Postage stamps issued by:

Finland: 1931.



Fig. 1 Finland 1931 (SG 285)

¹ In 1809 Finland signed the Treaty of Hamina and almost 700 years of being part of Sweden came to an end. Finland then became part of the Russian Empire as an autonomous Grand Duchy until 1918, when it became an independent republic.

Canadian pathologist writes the most famous poem of World War I: 'In Flanders fields the poppies blow'

Born: November 30, 1872 in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.
 Deceased: January 28, 1918 in Dannes-Camier, Pas-de-Calais, France.
 Cause of death: Pneumonia and pneumococcus meningitis.
 Cemetery: Cemetery in Wimereux, Pas-de-Calais, France.

Career

1886 McCrae joins the Highland Cadet Corps.
 1888 Graduation from Guelph Collegiate Vocational Institute.
 1888 – 1891 Studies at the University of Toronto.
 1889 McCrae enlists the Militia Field Battery as a gunner.
 1891 Promoted to the rank of sergeant.
 1891 – 1893 Interruption of his studies because of severe asthma.
 1893 – 1894 McCrae finishes his studies with a Baccalaureate of Arts.
 1893 Promoted to the rank of second lieutenant.
 1894 – 1898 Medical studies at the University of Toronto.
 1896 Promoted to the rank of lieutenant.
 1898 – 1899 Resident house officer at Toronto General Hospital.
 1899 – 1900 Resident at Johns Hopkins* Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, USA.
 1900 – 1902 McCrae postpones a fellowship in pathology at McGill University in Montreal to lead the artillery battery of Guelph in the Second Boer War (1899–1902) in South Africa.
 1902 – ... Resident pathologist at Montreal General Hospital.
 ... – 1904 Assistant pathologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.
 1905 – 1908 Pathologist at the Foundling and Baby Hospital in Montreal.
 1908 – 1910 Physician at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Infectious Diseases.
 1910 – ... McCrae serves as expedition physician on a canoe expedition to Hudson Bay, led by the Governor General of Canada, Lord Albert Gray (1851–1917).
 1914 McCrae is appointed Medical Officer at the rank of major and sent to Belgium with the 1st Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. There he fights in the Second Battle of Ypres.
 1915 The death of his comrade lieutenant Alexis Helmer in May inspires McCrae to write the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which is published anonymously in the magazine *Punch* in December.
 1915 McCrae is transferred from Ypres to Dannes-Camier, Pas-de-Calais, France, to set up the No.3 Canadian General Hospital.
 1915 – 1918 Director of the No.3 Canadian Hospital at the rank of colonel. In January 1918 McCrae falls ill with pneumonia and dies.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
 – McCrae J, Adami JG. *A textbook of pathology for students of medicine*. Philadelphia / New York, 1912.

Other things worth knowing

- McCrae's poem *In Flanders Fields* made the poppy the symbol of the victims of war of the British Empire.

Websites

http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?id_nbr=7576 (11-04-2016).
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCrae (11-04-2016).

Postage stamps issued by:

Canada: 1968; St. Helena: 2008.



Fig. 1 Canada 1968 (SG 628)

Fig. 2 St. Helena 2008 (SG 1081)

PICQUÉ, Robert Léon (1877 – 1927)

French military surgeon establishes aerial evacuation of wounded and sick people

Born: December 15, 1877 in Paris, France.
Deceased: June 1, 1927 near Marcheprime, Gironde, France.
Cause of death: Accidental fall from an airplane.

Career

1895 – 1899 Medical education at *l'École du service de santé militaire de Lyon*.
1899 – 1906 Specialisation in surgery at *l'Hôpital d'instruction des armées du Val-de-Grâce* in Paris.
1913 PhD.
1914 – 1918 Unable to take part in the combat due to a neurologic illness Piqué is assigned as surgeon in Beaurieux, Aisne, France.
1916 Made *Officier de la Légion d'honneur*.
1919 – 1927 Chief surgeon at *l'Hôpital Chirurgical Complémentaire* in Talence, Gironde. Because of the long duration of transport of wounded soldiers on the ground, Piqué establishes a network of airfields in the five *départements* of the 18th Military Regiment (Basses Pyrénées, Hautes Pyrénées, Gironde, Landes, and Charente maritime) from where wounded soldiers are flown to Talence. Piqué himself is trained as *Officier observateur en avion*. He gets three airplanes at his disposal.
1921 – 1927 Professor of anatomy at the *Université de Bordeaux*, Gironde, France.
1927 On 1 June Piqué leaves Talence on a flight to Cazaux, Gironde. On the return flight to Talence the engine catches fire in the neighbourhood of Marcheprime. When the pilot, who is sitting rear in the cockpit starts to prepare for an emergency landing. Piqué, who is sitting in the front of the cockpit, tries to move backwards to prevent from being burned. Hampered by his chronic neurologic condition¹, Piqué is not able to control his movements and falls out of the aircraft and dies. The pilot is able to land safely on an open field.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
– *Traité pratique d'anatomie chirurgicale et de médecine opératoire* (1913).

Websites

<http://urm33.devatom.net/node/23> (03-09-2016).

Postage stamps issued by:

France: 1951.



Fig. 1 France 1951 (SG 1120)
Military surgeons Robert Picqué,
François Roussin* and
Jean-Antoine Villemin*

¹ Picqué was suffering from *tabes dorsalis* (syphilitic myelopathy), a slow progressive demyelination of the nerves in posterior columns of the spinal chord. When these nerves are damaged, a person loses his proprioception (sense of position).

Forensic medical expert during the Southern Song Dynasty

Born: 1186 in Jianyang, present Fujian Province.
 Deceased: 1249 in Guangzhou, China.

Career

... Song Ci¹ passes the feudal examination at the highest (imperial) level.
 ... – ... Confidential secretary of the local magistrate.
 ... – ... County magistrate.
 ... – ... Song Ci serves as Provincial Official for Law Suits and Jail Affairs. He orders deadlines for solving unsolved lawsuits and clears the backlog of more than 200 cases. In cases in which a body is involved or cases with wounded persons he examines the crime scene and the victims as soon as possible to determine whether it is a case of (an attempt of) murder or suicide, or an accident. He stresses the importance of keeping the crime scene untouched until he has finished his investigations.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
 - *Xi yuan ji lu yi shi* (1247). (A collection of records on the washing away of wrongs). Translated in English by Brian E. McKnight as *'The washing away of wrongs: forensic medicine in thirteenth-century China'*. Ann Arbor: Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan, 1981. The book is also translated into Japanese, modern Chinese, Vietnamese and German.

Other things worth knowing

- A very clear and detailed history on the further development of forensic medicine and the role of Song Ci's treatise in it can be found in: Will P-É. Developing forensic knowledge through cases in the Qing Dynasty. In: Furth C, Zeitlin JT, Hsiung P-C (Eds.). *Thinking with cases. Specialist knowledge in Chinese cultural history*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007 (pp.62-100) (accessible via Google books).

References

Hong W. Sing Chi. In: Selin H (Ed.). *Encyclopaedia of the history of science, technology and medicine in non-western cultures*. Dordrecht: Springer Science + Business Media, 1997 (p.904) (Accessible via Google books).

Zi X. *Tales from the practice of medicine: Ancient Chinese forensic medicine* (<http://www.pureinsight.org/node/1517>) (15-02-2017).

Postage stamps issued by:

PR China: 2016.



Fig. 1 China 2016 (SG –)



Fig. 2 China 2016 (SG –)

¹ Also known as Song Chi, and Sung Tz'u. Some sources state that he is also known as Song Huifu, but according to Hong that was his father.

WILMUT, Sir Ian (1944 –)

Dolly, the first cloned mammal from an adult somatic cell (1996)

Born: July 7, 1944 in Hampton Lucy, Warwickshire, England.

Career

... – ...	Secondary education at the former Boy's High School in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, England.
... – ...	Wilmut studies agriculture and animal science at the University of Nottingham.
1966	Wilmut spends eight weeks at the Unit of Reproductive Physiology and Biochemistry of the Medical Research Council at Cambridge University, led by Christopher Polge (1926–2006), who invented cryopreservation in 1949.
1967 – 1971	PhD student at Darwin College in Cambridge under Christopher Polge.
1971	PhD from Cambridge University on thesis <i>Deep freeze preservation of boar semen</i> .
1971 – 1973	Researcher in Cambridge.
1973 – 2000	Senior Scientific Officer at the Animal Breeding Research Organisation (ABRO) in Roslin, near Edinburgh, Scotland (in 1985 renamed Edinburgh Research Station of the Institute of Animal Physiology and Genetics Research and again renamed Roslin Institute in 1993).
1999	Awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE). Elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci).
2000	Elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE).
2000 – 2005	Head of the Department of Gene Expression and Development at the Roslin Institute.
2002	Elected Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS).
2003	Elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).
2005 – ...	Professor of Reproductive Science at the University of Edinburgh and Director of the Centre of Regenerative Medicine of the University of Edinburgh. Visiting scientist of the Roslin Institute.
2007	Knighted.

Contribution(s) to (medical) science

- Selected publications:
 - Polge C, Salamon S, Wilmut I. Fertilizing capacity of frozen boar semen following surgical insemination. *The Veterinary Record* 1970;87(15):424-429.

Other things worth knowing

- In 2006 Wilmut admitted that he did not design nor perform the experiments that led to the birth of Dolly and that most credit should go to biologist Keith Campbell (1954–2012).

Websites

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ian-Wilmut> (29-07-2017).

Postage stamps issued by:

Comoro Islands: 2009.



Fig. 1 Comoro Islands 2009 (SG n.l.)