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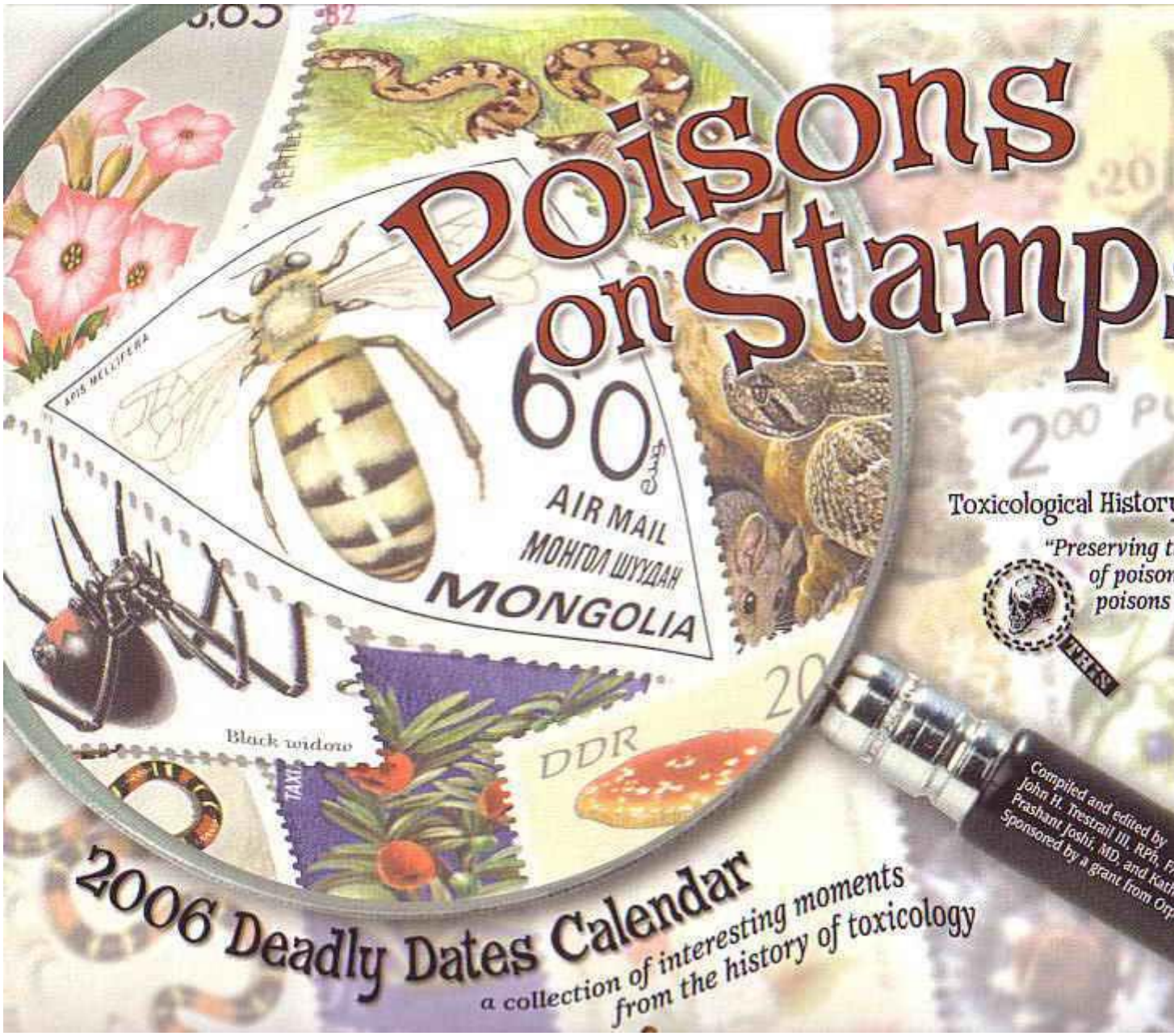
Reviews: Calenders

VERY IMAGINATIVE

2006 Deadly Dates Calender - A collection of interesting moments from the history of toxicology - Special on "Poisons on Stamps", by John H. Trestrail III, RPh, FAACT, DABAT
DeVos Children's Hospital Regional Poison Center, 1300 Michigan Street, N.E., Suite 203, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. ; E-Mail: john.trestrail@spectrum-health.org. Publication Date 2006. Price - Not Mentioned

2006 Deadly Dates Calender - A collection of interesting moments from the history of toxicology Trestrail III, RPh, FAACT, DABAT (Click to enlarge)



I know of no greater and more ardent toxophile than John Harris Trestrail III. He is the writer of an extremely successful book "Criminal Poisoning" (published by Humana Press), publishes a highly interesting biannual newsletter Mithridata, is an avid collector of poisons and poison books, a great orator and lecturer who trots around the world delivering lectures on homicidal poisoning, travels around the world visiting arcane sites (of course related to toxicology) and most astonishingly designs and publishes calenders completely devoted to poisons! He has been doing this since 2000 and each year he comes out with a thematic calender on poisons.

I first had a chance to correspond with him sometime in 2000. Since then I have been in regular touch with him and not a day has gone by when he has not surprised me with his vast and encyclopedic knowledge on homicidal poisons. I have tried to stump him so many times by asking such weird questions as a list of homicidal poisonings occurring due to toxic toads (*sic*) between 4th and 11th centuries, but pat comes the answer every time. Incidentally he is also the writer of a very successful quiz book on Poisons, which is now in its second edition.

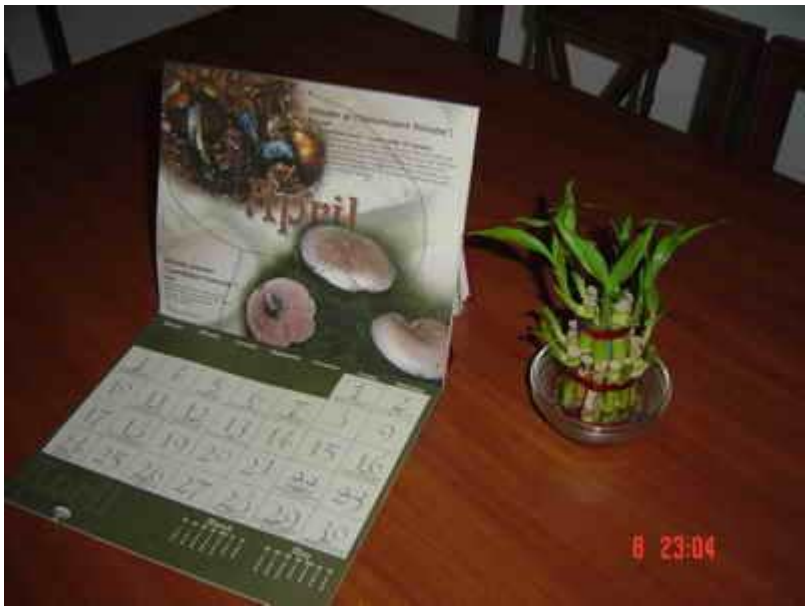
John H. Trestrail III in his poison museum (Click to enlarge)



He has been sending his astounding calenders to me every year since 2001. All calenders are called "Deadly dates" calenders and for a good reason. Most dates within the calender remind you of relevant dates related to toxicology. For instance if you open the 2006 calender at month "February", you get to read as many as 16 important and relevant toxicology related incidents that have occurred in the month of February. Sample the following:

- Feb 1: Dan Mahoney of the "Cincinnati Reds" dies from ingesting Carbolic acid (1904)
- Feb 2: Death of punk-rock singer Sid Vicious, from Heroin overdose, New York, NY (1979)
- Feb 4: Phil Lynott of "Thin Lizzy" dies from Heroin Overdose (1986)
- Feb 5: 1st case of "Epping jaundice" is seen, from contaminated bread in a truck (1965)
- Feb 7: Suicide of actor, Nick Adams with sedatives (1968)

Trestrail's 2005 poisonous mushrooms calender (Click to enlarge)



- Feb 10: Philsalex and Calmette discover antivenins (1894)
- Feb 11: Suicide of author, Sylvia Plath, "The Bell jar" by natural gas (1963)
- Feb 15: Poisoner Genene Jones RN, is convicted of murdering pediatric patients (1984)
- Feb 17: Byzantine emperor Jovian dies of poisoning (364)
- Feb 20: Great white pyrotechnics causes fire during concert. 100 die many from CO (2003)
- Feb 21: Suicide of novelist, Stefan Zweig, with Veronal, Austria (1942)
- Feb 23: Thalidomide victim, Thomas Quasthoff wins "Grammy" for classical voice (2000)
- Feb 25: President Clinton signs "Poison Center Enhancement and Awareness Act" (2000)
- Feb 26: Fletcher Knebel, author of "Seven Days in May" Hemlock Society Member, suicide with tranquilizers (1993)
- Feb 27: Birth of Alice Hamilton, matriarch of American occupational medicine (1869)
- Feb 28: Gee Jon is first criminal executed in US by Cyanide in the Gas Chamber (1924)

Interestingly John keeps changing these dates in each calender. So if you see the February month in, say, 2005 or 2004 calender, you would see entirely different dates and incidents. Which is why these calenders outlive themselves; they are collectors' items.



Some of Trestrail's astounding poison calenders. Click picture to enlarge.

John has been publishing these calenders since 1993 (There were no calenders in 1997 and 1999). He picks up one interesting theme each time he comes out with a calender, each month displaying a rare and impressive picture related to that theme. Thus you get to see twelve thematic pictures in each calender.

S.no.	YEAR	SUBJECT
1	1993	Toxic Ticklers
2	1994	Convention Candids
3	1995	Convention Candids II
4	1996	Convention Candids III
5	1997	NO CALENDAR
6	1998	Snakes
7	1999	NO CALENDAR
8	2000	Marine
9	2001	Desert Animals

10	2002	Frogs
11	2003	Antique Poison Bottles
12	2004	Pioneering Toxicology Books
13	2005	Mushrooms
14	2006	Poisons on Stamps
15	2007	Poisons in Art

Here is a list of all calenders produced by John till date. It also gives the theme for 2007 calender. Watch out for this space for review of this calender.

And John, now we are waiting for the day, when you come out with Greeting cards on toxicology, which we could send one another!

Order these *Calenders* by Clicking here

Request a PDF file of this review by clicking here. (If your screen resolution can not be increased, or if printing this page is giving you problems like overlapping of graphics and/or tables etc, you can take a proper printout from a pdf file. You will need an Acrobat Reader though.)