ANIL AGGRAWAL'S
Internet Journal of
Forensic Medicine and Toxicology
The world's first online journal devoted entirely to forensic medicine and toxicology · Published 1 January and 1 July

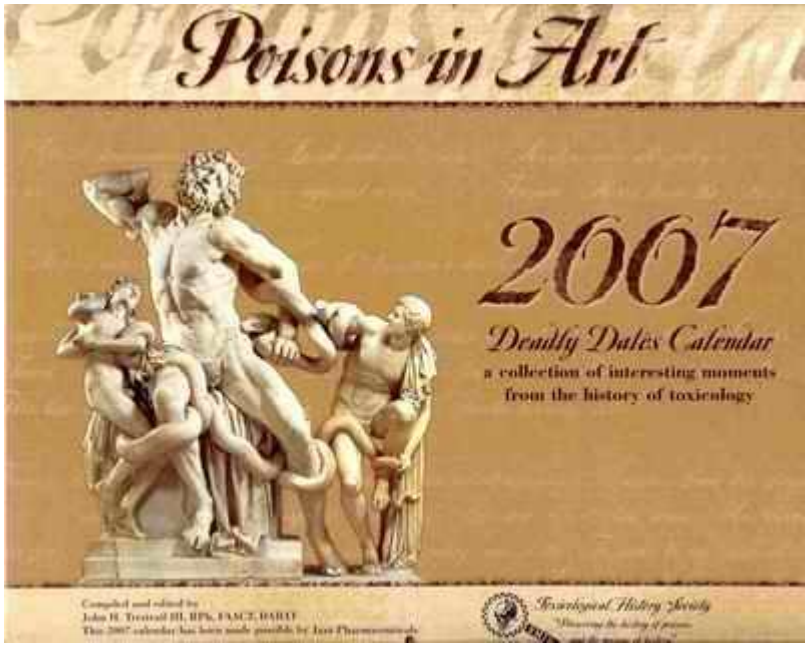
VOL. 7, NO. 2
Downloaded from www.anilaggrawal.com · ISSN 0972-8074 (Online) · https://www.anilaggrawal.com/ij/vol_007_no_002/reviews/ca/page001.html

Reviews: Calenders

VERY IMAGINATIVE

2007 Deadly Dates Calender - A collection of interesting moments from the history of toxicology - Special on Poisons in Art, 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 2007. Price - Not Mentioned

2007 Deadly Dates Calender - A collection of interesting moments from the history of toxicology by John H. Trestrail III, RPh, FAACT, DABAT (Click to enlarge)

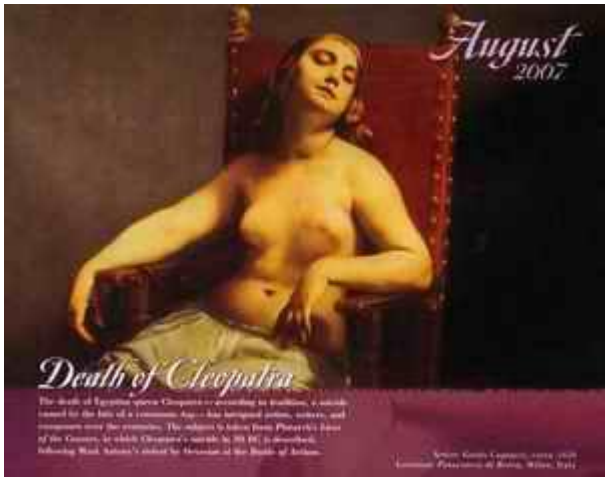


While reviewing the 2006 Deadly Dates Calender in our July - December 2005 (Volume 6, Number 2) issue, I maintained that I knew of no greater and more ardent toxophile than John Harris Trestrail III. This is as valid now, as it was then. The unstoppable John now comes out with a 2007 Deadly Dates Calender - this time with another unique theme - Poisons in art.

This time, John has collected 12 works of art depicting poison in some form of other. Believe me this is not an easy task, as artists don't usually choose poisons as their subject. The subject usually

chosen by them are beautiful landscapes or gorgeous and voluptuous ladies. Sometimes however these subjects overlap - as in the case of Cleopatra getting her left breast bitten by an asp (a beautiful lady being poisoned by a snake!) in 30 BC, following Mark Antony's defeat by Octavian at the *Battle of Actium*. These are precisely the paintings John has chosen for this calender.

Cleopatra dying in her chair after being bitten on her breast by an asp (Click to enlarge)



John gives a picture for each month, provides a short description about the picture, tells us about the artist who made the picture and the location where the work of art is located. The picture of dying Cleopatra is included for the month of August 2007. The artist is Guido Cagnacci and the painting is located at *Pinacoteca di Brera*, Milan, Italy.

Some other great pictures to be seen are Death of Socrates by "Poison Hemlock" or *Conium maculatum* (for the month January 2007), suicide of Hannibal by poison in 182 BC to avoid capture by Romans (for November 2007) and the suicide of Hannibal's sister (and wife of Syphax) Sophonisba by poison after Syphax, chief of the Numidian tribe of Masaesyles was defeated in 203 BC. According to the Roman historian Livy, Masinissa, king of Massyles, sent poison to Sophonisba, so she could commit suicide rather than fall into the hands of much hated Romans. The artist of this impressive painting is Rutilio Manetti (1571-1639) and it is located in *Uffizi*, Florence, Italy.

This is a great calender and is now decorating one of the walls of my office. If you want to be the proud owner of this impressive calender, get in touch with John now!



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. You may want to click on the "Poisons on Stamps" calender below to read its review done in this electronic journal earlier.

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.)