

## OPHTHALMOLOGY AND PHILATELY

### II. OPHTHALMOLOGISTS WHO BECAME FAMOUS IN OTHER AREAS OF ENDEAVOR

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Several ophthalmologists branched out in other areas, scientific, political or social, and became famous so that a special stamp was issued in their honor.

#### **I. Carlos Finlay (1833–1915)** (Fig. 1)

Finlay was born of English parents in Cuba and received his education in France, England and the United States. He studied medicine at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and graduated in 1855.

Dr. Finlay took training in ophthalmology in Paris and practiced medicine and ophthalmology on his return to Cuba. He published several papers on diverse medical subjects, several being ophthalmological topics, among them papers on exophthalmus and the surgery of cataracts.

He soon shifted his interest to public health problems and the yellow fever epidemics in his native Cuba. In 1881, he postulated for the first time before the Havana Royal Academy of Sciences that a mosquito carries “a transportable substance, perhaps an amorphous virus, or a vegetable or animal germ” from the yellow fever victim to a new victim. This observation was later heroically proven by Walter Reed and his fellow medical officers.

Because of his role in controlling yellow fever, he played an important part in the construction of the Panama Canal.

The Institute for Tropical Diseases was later created by the Cuban Government in honor of Dr. Finlay. He died in Havana as an internationally recognized authority on tropical diseases.

His father had been an oculist and his son, Dr. Carlos E. Finlay, was the first Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Havana.

## **2. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859–1930)**

(Fig. 2)

He was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and died in a small village in England. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1884. His first major book (Micah Clarke) appeared in 1888.

In 1890, he went to Berlin to observe Koch and then went to Vienna to take specialized courses in ophthalmology before setting up a practice in London. He arrived in Vienna in January 1891 and lived in a boarding house. During the same year, however, he decided to give up his medical career and devote himself entirely to writing.

His first story with Sherlock Holmes appeared in 1891. Dr. Watson is patterned after one of his teachers in Edinburgh.

The stamp (Fig. 2) shows Sherlock Holmes as one of the twelve most important detectives in fiction.

## **3. Jose Rizal y Mercado (1861–1896)**

(Figs. 3–14)

He was born in the Philippines but his father was Chinese. He received his M.D. degree at the University of Madrid in 1882. He then took training in ophthalmology, especially at the University of Heidelberg, where a plaque commemorates his activity. For a short time he practiced in the Philippines.

He soon became involved in the independence movement of the Philippines and in revolutionary activities. He was executed by the Spanish in Manila on December 30, 1896. This date is still the national holiday of independence in the Philippines.

More stamps have been issued for Rizal than for any other ophthalmologist. When the Philippines were a commonwealth of the United States (Figs. 3–5) stamps were issued in his honor.

The independent state honored Rizal in numerous stamps (Fig. 6). Stamps also show his parents (Fig. 7), his birthplace (Fig. 8), and his old schools (Fig. 9). Other stamps show him fencing (Fig. 10), playing chess (Fig. 11), addressing his fellow revolutionaries (Fig. 12) and his execution (Fig. 13).



Fig. 1



Fig. 2





Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

First Day Of Issue



DR. JOSE RIZAL  
1861 - 1896



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

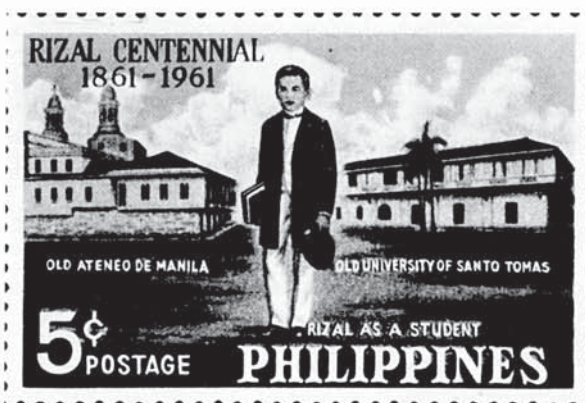


Fig. 9





Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15





Fig. 16



Fig. 17



Fig. 18



Fig. 19



Fig. 20

Other countries have also honored Rizal by a stamp, emphasizing their friendship with the Philippines (Fig. 14).

#### **4. Belisario Dominguez (1863–1913)**

(Fig. 15)

He was born on April 25, 1863 in Comitan, Chiapas, Mexico.

He first studied in his native state and later entered the Institute of the Sciences and Arts in the State of San Cristobal de las Casas. Later he studied in France and received a Doctor of Medicine degree. He then specialized in surgery and ophthalmology.

He returned to Comitan in 1904 and had great success in his professional career. He was elected mayor of the city and began a political career. In 1912, he was elected Senator of the Republic.

In 1913, he was assassinated after he had given a speech violently opposing the dictatorial policy of the president, Victoriano Huerta. He died in the senate chamber on October 7.

#### **5. Ludwig Lazarus Zamenhof (1859–1917)**

(Fig. 17–19)

He received his M.D. at the University of Warsaw which was then part of Russia in 1882.

In 1887, he published his auxiliary universal language “esperanto”, which he hoped would facilitate communication among nations.

Stamps issued in his honor came from his native Poland (Fig. 16) or from other countries behind the iron curtain (Fig. 17 and 18). A few stamps were issued in South America (Fig. 19).

#### **6. Fritz Pregl (1869–1930)**

(Fig. 20)

He was born in Laibach, now called Ljubiana, the capital of Slovenia. He received his M.D. degree at the University of Graz in 1894. He then received training in ophthalmology and practiced ophthalmology for a year in Styria, one of the Austrian states.

He soon, however, became interested in biochemistry and published important works on microanalysis of biochemical compounds. He became Professor of Biochemistry first at the University of Innsbruck and later on at the University of Graz. He had previously received some training in Germany from Abderhalden.

He received the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1923.



### Summary

Several ophthalmologists branched out in other areas, scientific, political or social, and became famous so that a special stamp was issued in their honor.

### **BLODI, F.C. – Ophthalmologie et philatélie**

#### **II. Les ophtalmologistes devenus célèbres pour d'autres raisons que l'oculistique**

#### **Resumé**

Différents ophtalmologistes se sont illustrés dans d'autres domaines, scientifiques, politiques ou sociaux, et sont devenus célèbres de sorte que des timbres spéciaux ont été émis en leur honneur.

### **BLODI, F.C. – Ophthalmologie und Philatelie**

#### **II. Ophthalmologen, die auf anderen Gebieten berühmt wurden**

#### **Zusammenfassung**

Eine Reihe von Augenärzten betätigte sich auch auf nichtophthalmologischen Gebieten, politischen und sozialen, und wurde berühmt, so daß ihnen zu Ehren eine Sonderbriefmarke herausgegeben wurde.

### **BLODI, F.C. – Oftalmología y filatelia**

#### **II. Oftalmólogos, que se hicieron famosos en otros campos de actividad**

#### **Resumen**

Diferentes oftalmólogos se ilustraron en otros dominios, científicos, políticos o sociales, y ganaron celebridad, tanto que fueron emitidos sellos en su honor.

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