This month CANCER RESEARCH presents examples of postal stamps from around the world, with cancer as the commemorative theme. The stamps are from a collection of Dr. Robert A. Kyle of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., who made the selection and provided the following description:

Fig. 1. In 1938, Ecuador issued an overprinted postal tax stamp for the control of cancer. It was obligatory on all mail from November 23 to 30 of that year. The stamp, originally issued August 1, 1930, to promote tobacco, was overprinted for “The Campaign against Cancer.” It is ironic that a stamp promoting the tobacco industry was used for supporting cancer control.

Fig. 2. France printed this semipostal stamp on April 4, 1970, to publicize the fight against cancer in connection with Health Day, April 7, 1970. The stamp shows an allegory of life and death.

Fig. 3. Turkey issued this commemorative stamp on October 10, 1972, for the fight against cancer. The stamp portrays a radiation source treating the crab (cancer).

Fig. 4. The Congo People’s Republic printed this airmail stamp on December 26, 1966, to commemorate the Ninth International Anti-Cancer Congress which was held in Tokyo October 23 to 29, 1966.

Fig. 5. On July 16, 1965, Niger issued this airmail stamp to publicize the fight against cancer. It portrays a hand crushing a crab.

Fig. 6. This airmail stamp, printed on July 19, 1965 and issued by Mauritania, publicizes the fight against cancer. It also shows a lightning bolt directed at a crab.

Fig. 7. Costa Rica printed this airmail stamp on May 14, 1970, to publicize the Tenth International Cancer Congress in Houston, Texas, on May 22 to 29. These stamps also show Alexander Calder’s stylized crab.

Fig. 8. The United States issued this commemorative stamp on April 1, 1965, to publicize the “Crusade against Cancer” and to stress the importance of early diagnosis.

Fig. 9. This commemorative stamp depicting the crab was issued on April 7, 1970, by Afghanistan to publicize the fight against cancer. Many stamps issued for the fight against cancer use the crab as a symbol, since cancer was named after the crab.

Fig. 10. This airmail stamp, which shows a portrait of Marie Curie and the destruction of the crab by a spear, was issued April 30, 1968, by the Central African Republic.

Fig. 11. On October 5, 1970, the Philippines issued this commemorative stamp to publicize the fight against cancer. The design shows a stylized crab, executed by Alexander Calder, superimposed on a map of the Philippines.

Fig. 12. A stylized crab is seen in this set of semipostal stamps issued by the Netherlands on August 12, 1969. The stamps commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Queen Wilhelmina Fund, and the surtax was used for cancer research.

Fig. 13. Kuwait printed this commemorative stamp for World Health Organization Day, April 7, 1970, to publicize the fight against cancer.

Fig. 14. On October 21, 1966, Japan printed this semipostal stamp to publicize the Ninth International Anti-Cancer Congress held in Tokyo on October 23 to 29, 1966. The stamp shows a cobalt radiation unit. The surtax was used for the fight against cancer.