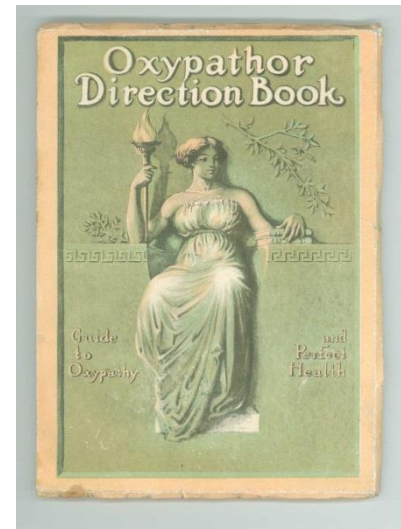


Philately & International Mail Order Fraud Elvard L Moses and The Oxypathor Company

At the beginning of the 20th century a group of American Fraudsters used the efficient international mails to promote schemes to defraud the public. One of the most successful was Elvard L Moses of Buffalo, NY who created a medical device called the Oxypathor – see ad below. When connected to a patient it polarized the skin and permitted entry of oxygen into the blood. Moses claimed than high blood oxygen levels cured virtually all recorded diseases of the times. Moses sold about 45,500 Oxypathors at \$35 each (about \$700 in 2021 dollars) from 1908 – 1914 via 450 international franchises. In late 1914 he was convicted of mail order fraud and sentenced to 18 months in Atlanta Federal Prison.



Belgian Albert I booklet from 1912 with ad from the Anvers/Antwerp Oxypathor franchise. The 10c rate applied to local mail and postcards. Also, a container of Oxypathor anti-septic powder.



Oxypathor Direction Book of 1912 with 128 pages. Additional electrodes for every human surface and orifice were offered for sale. Also, registered cover from the Caracas, Venezuela franchise to the Buffalo home office for the purchase of Oxypathors, and double weight cover from the franchise in Harbin, Manchuria to Scotland via the Siberian route with Russian censorship and transit handstamps. edjig@alum.mit.edu

