

Philately & International Mail Order Fraud

Professor G.A. Mann and The Institute of Radiopathy of Rochester, NY

The Institute of Radiopathy was a creation of 'Professor' G A Mann, and operated via the New York Institute of Science principally during 1907 – 1908 based on postal history addressed to this organization. According to Mann, Radiopathy was 'a natural and scientific method to cure all diseases. It receives the support of doctors, clergy and scholars. For the first time in the history of medicine, doctors of all schools agree on a single method to cure all diseases.' In fact, it was a rehash of all of the medical nonsense in vogue during the first decade of the 20th century, under a very clever and attractive name. In a US Post Office hearing dated April 29, 1908, Mann and his Institute were judged guilty of mail order fraud, and denied all services of the US postal system. In response, Mann opened a branch office in Paris, and continued with his scam until at least 1914 according to the postal history documentation shown herein.

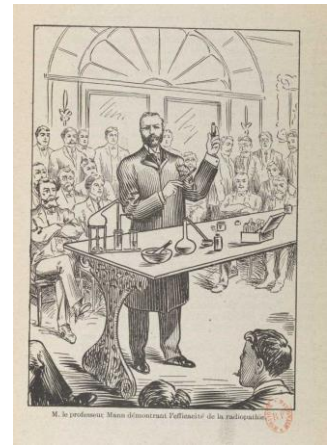
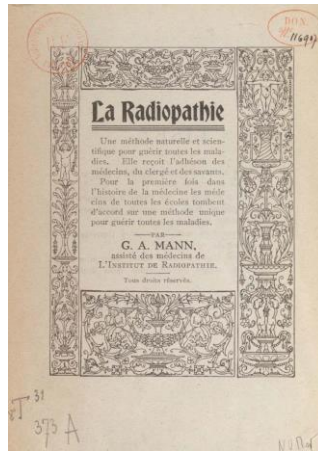
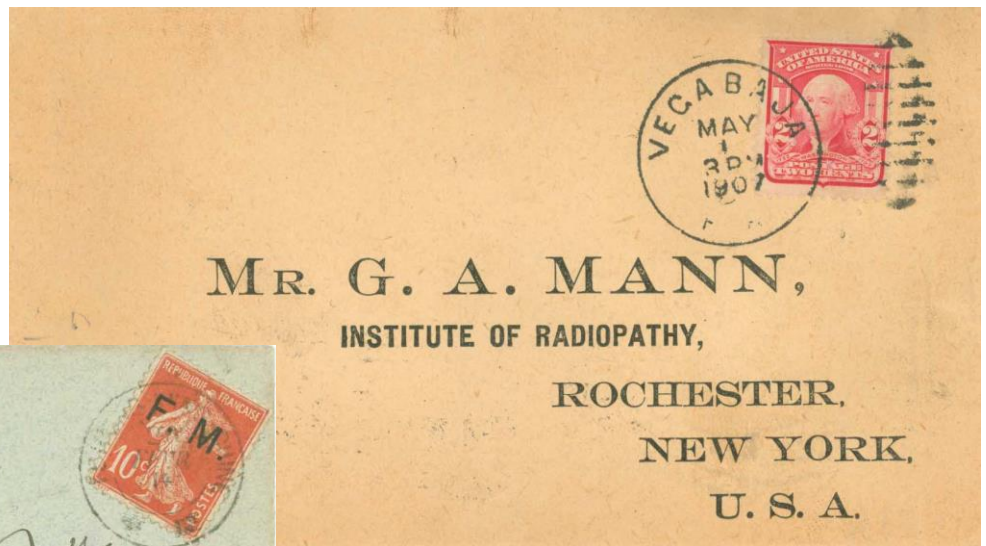


Photo of Professor Mann, title page of his book **La Radiopathie**, written in French, and cartoon of him giving a lecture on the principals of Radiopathy to the French medical establishment.

Typical preprinted letter to Mann in Rochester in 1907 at the 2¢ US possession rate from the small village of Vegabaja, Puerto Rico.



Exceptional letter from the French Chinese Office at Tchungking on February 20, 1914 to Mann at his French publishing firm in Paris. The sender, a member of the marine forces in China, employed a French *franchise militaire* stamp (F.M. overprint on the current French Community rate stamp) to which he was entitled to two free examples each month.