

HISTORY OF TOXICOLOGY
AND POISONOUS EVENTS
TIMELINE

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DATE
PERSON
DESCRIPTION

4500 B.C.
GULA
FIRST GOD CONNECTED TO POISONS

2000 B.C.
SHEN NUNG
TREATISE ON HERBAL MEDICAL EXPERIMENT POISONS

850 B.C.
HOMER
WROTE OF ARROWS POISONED WITH VENOM IN THE ILIAD AND ODYSSEY

384-322 B.C.
ARISTOTLE
DESCRIBED PREPARATION OF POISON ARROWS

370-286 B.C.
THEOPHRASTUS
WROTE “DE HISTORIA PLANTARUM”

470-399 B.C.

SOCRATES

PHILOSOPHER EXECUTED WITH POISON HEMLOCK FOR CORRUPTING THE YOUTH OF ATHENS

204-135 B.C.

NICANDER OF COLOPHON

WROTE POETRY ABOUT POISONS AND ANTIDOTES IN TWO POEMS "THERIACA" AND "ALEXIPHARMACA"
THERIACA CONCERNS POISONS AND ALEXIPHARMACA IS ABOUT ANTIDOTES

132-63 B.C.

MITHRIDATES VI OF PONTUS

DEVELOPED THE MITHRADATUM, 1ST UNIVERSAL ANTIDOTE

EXPERIMENTED WITH ACUTE TOXICITY ON CRIMINALS

ALLEGEDLY INGESTED A 36 INGREDIENT MIXTURE TO "INNOCULATE" HIMSELF AGAINST ALL POISONS

81 B.C.

SULLA

ISSUED "LEX CORNELIA" 1ST LAW AGAINST POISON

69-30 B.C.

CLEOPATRA

EXPERIMENTED WITH POISONS ON PRISONERS & ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED SUICIDE WITH ASP

54-55 A.D.

LOCUSTA

INFAMOUS POISONER WHO USED CYANIDE

37-68 AD

NERO

USED PRISONERS AS FOOD TASTERS TO DISTINGUISH POISONOUS FROM EDIBLE MUSHROOMS

37-68 A.D.

ANDROMACHUS

REFINED MITHRADATUM (THERIAC OF ANDROMACHUS)

40-80 A.D.

DIOSCORIDES

WROTE MATERIA MEDICA AND CLASSIFIED POISONS AS VEGETABLE, ANIMAL, OR MINERAL

129-200 A.D.

GALEN

PREPARED "NUT THERIAC" WROTE " DE ANTIDOTIS I, II"

801 A.D.

IBN WAHSHIYA

ARABIC TOXICOLOGIST WROTE BOOK ON POISONS

1135-1204

MOSES MAIMONIDES

WROTE "TREATISE ON POISONS & THEIR ANTIDOTES"

WROTE OF POISONS FROM INSECTS, SNAKES AND MAD DOGS

1250-1315

PETRUS ABBONUS

WROTE "DE VENENIS" ON POISONS

1300 AD

HEIRONNYMA SPARA

DEVELOPED COSMETICS THAT CONTAINED ARSENIC WHICH SHE DISPENSED FOR MONEY

1400

CESARE BORGIA

POISONER USED ARSENIC TO KILL FOR POLITICAL GAIN

1495-1555

GEORGIUS AGRICOLA (GEORG BAUER)

AGRICOLA WROTE "DE RE METALLICA" (OF METAL MATTERS) DOCUMENTING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF MINING IN BOOK VI OR THE ENORMOUS VOLUME

DESCRIBED TWO KINDS OF ARSENIC POISONING; BLACK FOOT DISEASE & ACUTE POISONING THAT CAUSES SWELLING WITHOUT PAIN

1493-1541

PARACELSUS

DEVELOPED THEORY OF DOSE RESPONSE AND COINED THE PHRASE, "The Dose Makes the Poison"

1510-1590

AMBROISE PARE

SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE USE UNICORN HORNS AND BEZOARS AS THERAPY

1519-1589

CATHERINE MEDICI

INFAMOUS POISONER WHO EXPERIMENTED ON THE POOR

1640

HIERONYMA SPARA
INFAMOUS POISONER USED ARSENIC

1650
MARCHIONESS DE BRINVILLIER
INFAMOUS POISONER EXPERIMENTED ON THE SICK AND POOR DOCUMENTING TIME TO ONSET,
SYMPTOMS AND POTENCY

1600 AD
CATHERINE DESHAYES
INFAMOUS POISONER

1611-1678 AD
WILLIAM PISO
1ST TO STUDY IPECACUANHA

1633-1714
BERNARDINO RAMAZZINI
WROTE "DE MORBIS ARTIFICUM DIATRIBA" OCC. MED.

1673-1754
RICHARD MEAD
WROTE BOOK OF POISONS

1680
CATHERINE DESHAYES
POISONER USED ACONITE, ARSENIC

1700

GUILIA TOFFANA

POISONER USED ARSENIC IN PREPARATION KNOWN AS "AQUA TOFFANA"

1714-1788

PERCIVALL POTT

RELATED DISEASE TO OCCUPATION WITH SCROTAL CANCER IN CHIMNEY SWEEPS

1730-1805

FELICE FONTANA

1ST SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF VENOMOUS SNAKES

1752

MARY BLANDY

POISONED FATHER WITH ARSENIC

1767-1837

PHILIP PHYSICK

EARLY PROMOTER OROGASTRIC LAVAGE

1777-1835

BARON GUILLAUME DUPUYTREN

STUDIES OROGASTRIC LAVAGE REMOVE POISONS

1787-1853

BONAVENTURE ORFILA

FATHER MODERN TOXICOLOGY WROTE "TRAITE DE POISONS"

1797-1882

ROBERT CHRISTISON
WROTE "TREATISE ON POISONS" AND DESCRIBED ACUTE RENAL FAILURE FROM RENAL INVOLVEMENT
IN RESPONSE TO POISONS

1783-1855
FRANCOIS MAGENDIE
DISCOVER EMETINE STUDIED STRYCHNINE CYANIDE

1794-1846
JAMES MARSH
DEVELOPED MARSH ARSENIC TEST

1813-1878
CLAUDE BERNARD
MECHANISM OF CARBON MONOXIDE AND CURARE

1807
ANNA MARIA ZWANIZER
POISONER USED ANTIMONY AND ARSENIC

1820
EDWARD JUKES
SELF-EXPERIMENTED OROGASTRIC LAVAGE

1813
M. BERTRAND
CONFIRMED CHARCOAL USE IN ARSENIC POISONING

1831
P. TOUERY
CONFIRMED CHARCOAL USE STRYCHNINE INGESTION

1839
MARIE LEFARGE
POISONER USED ARSENIC (1ST MARSH TEST)

1845
JOHN TAWELL
POISONER USED CYANIDE

1846
A. GARROD
1ST STUDY OF CHARCOAL IN ANIMAL STUDIES

1848
B. HOWARD RAND
1ST STUDY OF CHARCOAL IN HUMANS

1855
WILLIAM PALMER, MD
POISONER USED STRYCHNINE

1857
MADELINE SMITH
ALLEGED POISONER USED ARSENIC

1848
O.H. COSTILL
WROTE 1ST BOOK POISON SYMPTOM TREATMENT

1826-1897
THEODORE WORMLEY
WROTE "MICROCHEMISTRY OF POISONS"

1842
HUGO REINSCH
DEVELOPED QUALITATIVE ARSENIC AND Hg TEST

1847-1915
MAX GUTZEIT
QUANTITATIVE TEST FOR SMALL QTY ARSENIC

1860
ALBERT NIEMAN
ISOLATED COCAINE

1854-1918
RUDOLF KOBERT
STUDIED DIGITALIS AND ERGOT ALKALOIDS

1850-1929
LOUIS LEWIN
STUDIED NUMEROUS BIOLOGICAL TOXINS

1863

EDMOND DE LA POMMARAIS, MD
POISONER USED DIGITALIS

1865

EDWARD PRITCHARD, MD
POISONER USED ANTIMONY

1869-1970

ALICE HAMILTON
WORKED TO IMPROVE WORKER SAFETY

1881

GEORGE HENRY LAMSON, MD
POISONER USED ACONITE

1886

ADELAIDE BARTLETT
ALLEGEDLY POISONED CHLOROFORM

1889

FLORENCE MAYBRICK
POISONER USED ARSENIC

1891

THOMAS NEVILLE CREAM, MD
POISONED PROSTITUTES WITH STRYCHNINE

1892-1905

JOHANN HOCH
POISONER USED ARSENIC

1898

CORDELIA BOTKIN
PUT ARSENIC IN CHOCOLATE

1898

ROLAND MOLINEUX
POISONED USING CYANIDE OF Hg

1906

PURE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT
PROHIBIT ADULTERATED MISLABELED FOOD DRUGS

1910

HAWLEY HARVEY CRIPPEN, MD
POISONED USING HYOSCINE

1911

FREDERICK HENRY SEDDON
POISONED USING ARSENIC IN FLYPAPER

1912

HENRI GIRARD
POISON MUSHROOM AMANITA PHALLOIDES

1914

HARRISON NARCOTICS ACT

1ST LAW CRIMINALIZE NON-MED USE DRUGS

1920

ARSENIC COMPOUNDS DEVELOPED FOR TREATING SYPHILLIS

1921

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

POISON ARSENIC IN WEED KILLER

1922

LANDRU

POISONED WITH CYANIDE

1927

FEDERAL CAUSTIC POISON ACT

LABELING OF CONCENTRATED CAUSTICS

1927-1972

LOUIS JAMES CASARETT

CO-EDITED THE FIRST MODERN TEXTBOOK OF TOXICOLOGY WITH JOHN DOULL "TOXICOLOGY; THE BASIC SCIENCE OF POISONS" IN 1975

1929

JULIAS FAZEKAS AND SUSANNA OLAH

POISONED WITH ARSENIC OBTAINED FROM BOILING FLY PAPER

1948

SADAMICHI HIRASAWA
POISONED BANK EMPLOYEES WITH KCN

1954

CHRISTA AMBROS LEHMANN
POISONED WITH PARATHION LACED CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

1954

NANNIE DOSS
POISONED RELATIVES WITH ARSENIC

1960'S

SHELDON MURPHY
STUDIED THE TOXICOLOGY AND METABOLISM OF ORGANOPHOSPHOROUS COMPOUNDS

1962

FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY OF TOXICOLOGY & FIRST FORMAL MEETING APRIL 15, 1962 IN ATLANTIC CITY; THERE WERE 9 FOUNDERS AND 183 CHARTER MEMBERS
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL "TOXICOLOGY AND APPLIED PHARMACOLOGY"

1965

CARL COPPOLINO, MD
POISONED WIFE WITH SUCCINYLMCHOLINE

1970's

LOVE CANAL
OVER 200 CHEMICALS FOUND TO CONTAMINATE LOVE CANAL
DECLARED A FEDERAL DISASTER AREA BY PRESIDENT CARTER

1971

GRAHAM FREDERICK YOUNG
POISON MOTHER COWORKERS THALLIUM

1971

JUDIAS BUENOANO
POISON HUSBAND & SON WITH ARSENIC

1974

RONALD CLARK O'BRYAN
POISONED HIS SON WITH CYANIDE LACED CANDY "PIXY STIX" AT HALLOWEEN

1978

GEORGI MARKOV
DIPLOMAT MURDERED WITH RICIN DELIVERED IN A PELLET GUN DISGUISED AS AN UMBRELLA

1978

JIM JONES
ORCHESTRATED MASS SUICIDE WITH CYANIDE IN GUYANA

1974-1998

HAROLD SHIPMAN, MD
POISONED OVER 250 PATIENTS WITH HEROIN AND MORPHINE
HANGED HIMSELF IN PRISON

1980

FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF TOXICOLOGY
THE FIRST EXAM WAS ADMINISTERED AUGUST 4, 1980; 400 PEOPLE SAT FOR THE EXAM; 217 PASSED

1983-1987

DONALD HARVEY

POISONED PATIENTS WITH ARSENIC AND CYANIDE

1982

TYLENOL TAMPERER

CYANIDE LACED TYLENOL POISONED 7 PEOPLE

PERSON WAS NEVER APREHENDED

TAMPER PROOF SEAL ADOPTED

1988

GEORGE TREPAL

POISONED HIS NEIGHBORS WITH THALLIUM NITRATE IN COCA COLA

1980-1990

MICHAEL SWANGO, MD

POISONED PEOPLE WITH SUCCINYLCHOLINE, KCL, ARSENIC