

BOOK REVIEW

JONES R.: MOSQUITOES. Reaction Books Ltd., London, 2012, 256 pp., semi-soft cover, 190 × 135 mm. ISBN 978-1-86189-923-1. Price: GBP 9.99, USD 19.95.

A fellow of the Royal Entomological Society of London and the Linnean Society of London, and a former president of the British Entomological and Natural History Society Richard Jones (1958) wrote this very good and popular book on mosquitoes. It will be useful not only for the general public but also for entomologists that are not specialists in this family. It is full of interesting information. It begins with etymology, continues with an explanation of why and how mosquitoes bite, how they orient to hosts, their life-cycles, where they breed, their morphology, how many species there are and where they exist in the world and what can now be used to destroy them. All of this is presented along with the historical background. A whole chapter is dedicated to the role of mosquitoes in transmitting various human diseases such as malaria. In this Patrick Manson was important in being the first to prove that mosquitoes are vectors of elephantiasis and Ronald Ross that they are the vectors of malaria. There are 94 illustrations in this book of which 61 are

in colour, consisting of photographs, paintings, reproductions of various witty cartoons, period placards, bills etc. It is a book that will appeal to a wide range of readers.

I have only two suggestions for a possible future edition. It might be interesting to indicate that Manson was obsessed with mosquitoes and believed they are among the peculiar creatures of God and have an important role in the destiny of man. He used to mention this to everybody he met and as consequence was given the nick-name “Mosquito Manson” or worse “Pathological Jules Verne”, which greatly amused him, however, he did stimulate Ross to make his discovery. In this book is reproduced the stamp of New Foundland with a “View of Mosquito”, a small town with this name. There are many stamps on which mosquitoes are depicted as the principal theme, not only those linked with the action of WHO “World United Against Malaria”, which show a mosquito supporting the logo of the world health organization. They were produced in 1962 and more than a hundred editions of similar designs were produced by different states. That is stamps do not only bear the heads of kings, queens or presidents.

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