

CANNABIS

Wonder Plant or Killer Weed

A Display type exhibit, organized thematically, that explores the history of the hemp or marijuana plant (*Cannabis* sp.), its uses by mankind, and its troubled history in the United States.



1939 Anti-Narcotic League Seals



Ca 1970 National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML)

ORGANIZATION

Title and Plan Page	
Introduction	
1. Wonder Plant	1.1 Early History
	1.2 Age of Exploration and Conquest
	1.3 Hemp Cultivation and Products
2. Killer Weed (?)	2.1 Hemp in the U.S.A.
	2.2 The Drug Wars

Pages

1
3
2
3
3
3
4

INTRODUCTION

To eliminate any confusion, let us review the Linnean classification which uniquely identifies the plants.



Sheet



Coil

KINGDOM - Plantae (Plants)

DIVISION - Tracheophytes (vascular plants)

ORDER - Rosales

FAMILY - Cannabaceae

GENUS - Cannabis

SPECIES - *sativa* L., *indica* Lam., *rudereralis* Janisch
(Speciation is an on-going controversy)

1. WONDER PLANT

1.1 EARLY HISTORY

The hemp plant was known in pre-history to the early inhabitants of the Far East

CHINA

Hemp (ma 玛) has been a familiar agricultural crop in China from the remote beginnings of settlement.

Traces exist in any early village site on Taiwan dating to 10,000 BC.

Although Ts'ai Lun is credited with inventing paper from fiber (bamboo, mulberry, hemp, or all three) fragments of hemp paper dating to 100BC have been found.



The euphoric and medical qualities of cannabis are part of the traditional Chinese pharmacopeia.

Hua T'o (ca. 300 AD) performed complex surgeries using the anesthetic qualities of cannabis resin and wine.



Later physicians and pharmacologists were familiar with medical marijuana.

Sun Szu-miao
Physician (ca. 700 AD)



LiShih Chen (1518-93)
Physician and Pharmacologist



CHINA

Hemp cultivation for use in textiles was important in both ancient and modern China.

Plowing the Field



Weaving the Fabrics



Retting - The partial rotting of harvested stems to permit removal of the long fibers from the woody core.



*Dry Retting
Hunan Province*

Cannabis Trading Card, Series 2 #81, A Chestnut Publication, 1996

THE ARAB WORLD AND PERSIA

Knowledge of the hemp plant spread West from China.

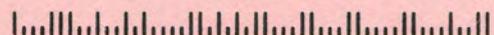
Although the Koran proscribes alcohol, cannabis is allowed.

The seed oil of Cannabis is mentioned in the pharmacopeias of Avicenna.



ICS LEARNING SYSTEMS

925 OAK STREET
SCRANTON PA 18515-0006



Beware, Cannabis possession or use will get you a long jail term in any modern MidEastern country.
(Remember the movie *Midnight Express* ?? 30 years in a Turkish prison for attempted smuggling)

INDIA - THE FIRST MARIJUANA ORIENTED CULTURE

Early Vedic scripts tell how Lord Siva rested one day under a tall marijuana plant to escape the hot sun. Curious, he ate some leaves and felt so refreshed that it became his favorite food.



The Indian Hemp Drugs Commission of the 1890s concluded that the hemp plant was such an integral part of Indian culture that to curtail its use would be disastrous.

40% Reduction of Reverse.



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

Amount.	No.	Date
Rs. 10.	000238	
	001085	
of Origin		
Service		
Code	instructions	



Inland Telegram

H.	M.	Words.
		Charge.
		Rs. A.

Space for Postage Stamps

(Space for additional postage stamps on reverse.)



(If National Cash Register Machine is in use, the booking clerk should sign here.)

(Nothing is to be written by the sender above this line.)

If this telegram is to be classed EXPRESS,
write the class here.

EXPRESS

If this telegram is on State business, the word
STATE should be written in this space.

Special Instructions
(See Clause 375, Post and Telegraph
Guide.)

TO

Name GANJASOCIETY

Address NAOGAON (RAJSHAHI)

Telegraph Office

VN 1085

GANJASOCIETY AAA GANJA STOCK AT RUSSA
 GANJA GOLA EXHAUSTED AAA PLEASE SEND
 TWENTY MAUNDS OF ROUND GANJA
 AND TEN MAUNDS FLAT IMMEDIATELY
 AAA REPEATED COMMISSIONER TAXATION
 DACCA

EXCISE COMMISSIONER CALCUTTA

So you can imagine the distress when the Russia Ganja Gola ran out in 1927!
 The maund is a unit of weight used during the British Raj; One maund = 82.8 lbs

1.2 THE AGE OF EXPLORATION AND CONQUEST

Seafaring people in the West have relied on hemp line, sails, and caulking for their boats and ships.

VIKINGS Viking long ships used hemp sails and cordage to sail the Atlantic and the rivers of Europe.



VENICE Hemp sails and line enabled the Venetian navy to dominate the Mediterranean while Marco Polo told tales of hash-hasins.

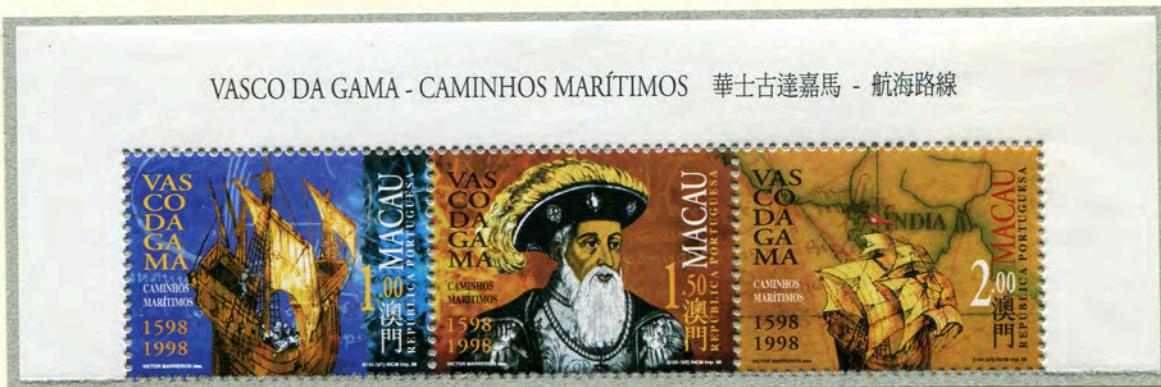


NEDERLAND Dutch admirals ruled the Baltic with sails of hemp while Dutch painters created masterworks on canvas (kannabis).



The Cloth Merchants

PORTUGAL The Portuguese rounded the Horn of Africa in carracks with hemp sails and line to find the wealth of the East.

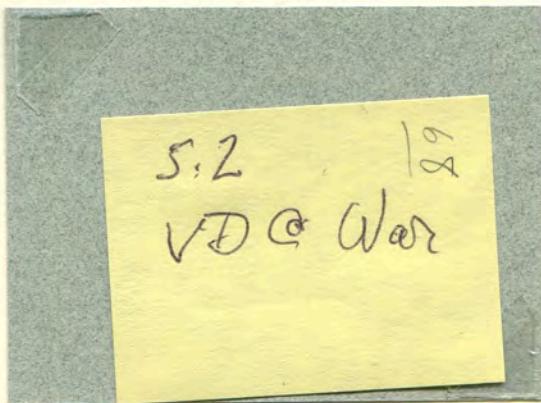
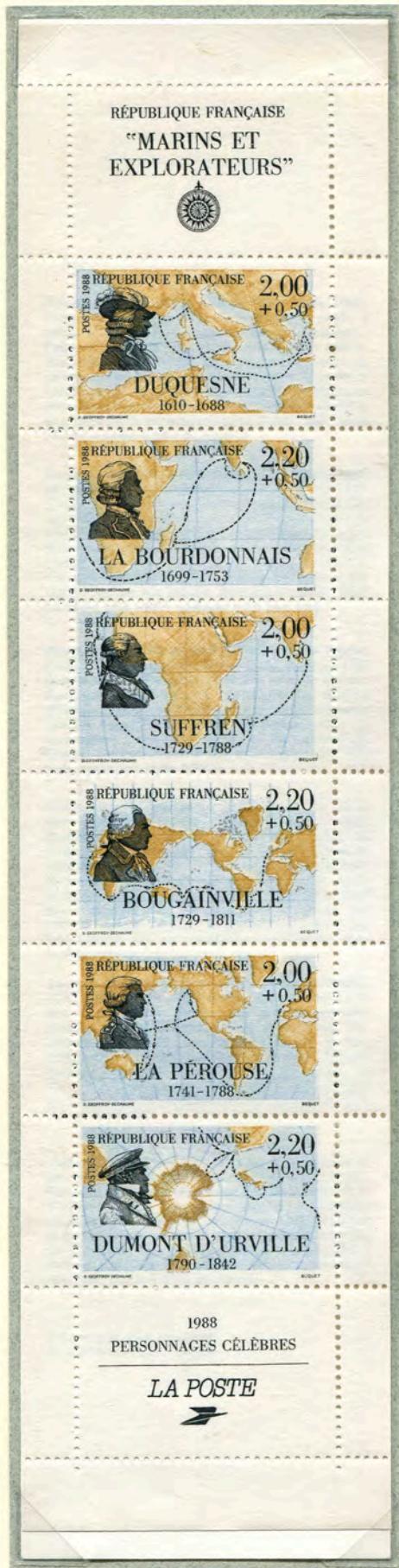


SPAIN A Genoese merchant, funded by Ferdinand & Isabel of Spain, discovered a New World - all on three small ships with sails and rigging of hemp.



FRANCE AND BRITAIN

Whether engaged in peaceful voyages of exploration or engaged in deadly combat, both the French and British relied on hemp sails, hemp line and caulking for their navies and merchant marine fleets.



Sovereign of the Seas, 1637



H.M.S. Victory, 1812

Without a reliable source of hemp, the British navy would soon become almost useless in war. Russia's failure to stop selling cannabis hemp to the British was a violation of Napoleon's Continental System and a major reason for his ill-fated invasion of Russia.



No. 19 GRANDE ARMEE
Dated January 1813 Dresden

1.3. HEMP CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTS

First a quick look at hemp cultivation. (Marijuana growers should consult a number of books or web sites for info on this potentially felonious activity).

For growing, harvesting, and additional information, consult the contents of this French pamphlet from 1950.

133

321

BIBLIOTHEQUE DE TRAVAIL

Collection de brochures hebdomadaires pour le travail libre des enfants

Documentation de A. CHAUVIN (Indre-et-Loire)
et de l'INSTITUT DE L'ECOLE MODERNE DE LA SARTHE
Adaptation pédagogique des Commissions de l'Institut Coopératif de l'Ecole Moderne

LE CHANVRE



L'Imprimerie à l'Ecole
Cannes (A.-M.)

1er Décembre 1950

133

1.3 HEMP CULTIVATION

Both flax and hemp will produce greater yields with a modest amount of fertilizer.



Come to the hemp fair at Marcilhac sur Céle to learn more about this versatile plant.



^ Breaking hemp - hard manual labor

Hemp - Fabric, cordage, oil from the seed
(...and some Felix Potin Chocolate in case you get the munchies...)

1.3 HEMP PRODUCTS

Europeans have been using these hemp products for some time...
Hanfwerke Füssen & Christian Hess provided hemp cordage in post WWI Germany.



Post WWII Romanians were urged to recycle rags and other hemp (canepa) products.



5 Sept 1952 Bucaresti, Roller Cancel used as Receiving Mark

Belgians could purchase hemp cordage from Smits-Henin



2. KILLER WEED (?)

2.1 HEMP IN THE U.S.A.

Hemp was vital to the economy of the new independent nation.

Even before independence, in 1619 the Jamestown Colony ordered all farmers to "make a tryal" growing Indian hemp.



Both Washington and Jefferson grew hemp and encouraged their fellow citizens to 'sow hemp throughout the land.'



Ben Franklin used hemp twine for the kite in his famous experiment.



Homespun hemp fabric clothed Revolutionary soldiers and sailors.



The original Levi's were of hemp canvas - which was a bit rough even for early miners - later pants were of cotton denim.

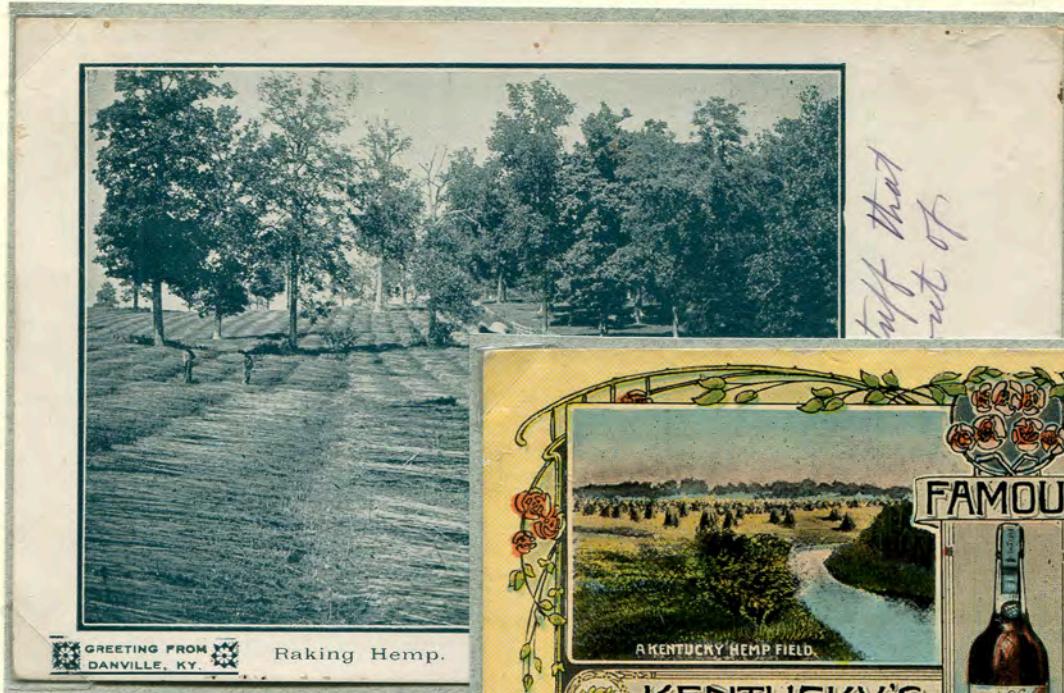


Thousands of pioneers headed West in wagons covered with hemp canvas.



2.1 HEMP IN THE U.S.A.

Hemp was grown in most States east of the Rocky Mountains. Kentucky was a major producer.



Raking hemp for dew retting

One of a series showing
Kentucky hemp fields.

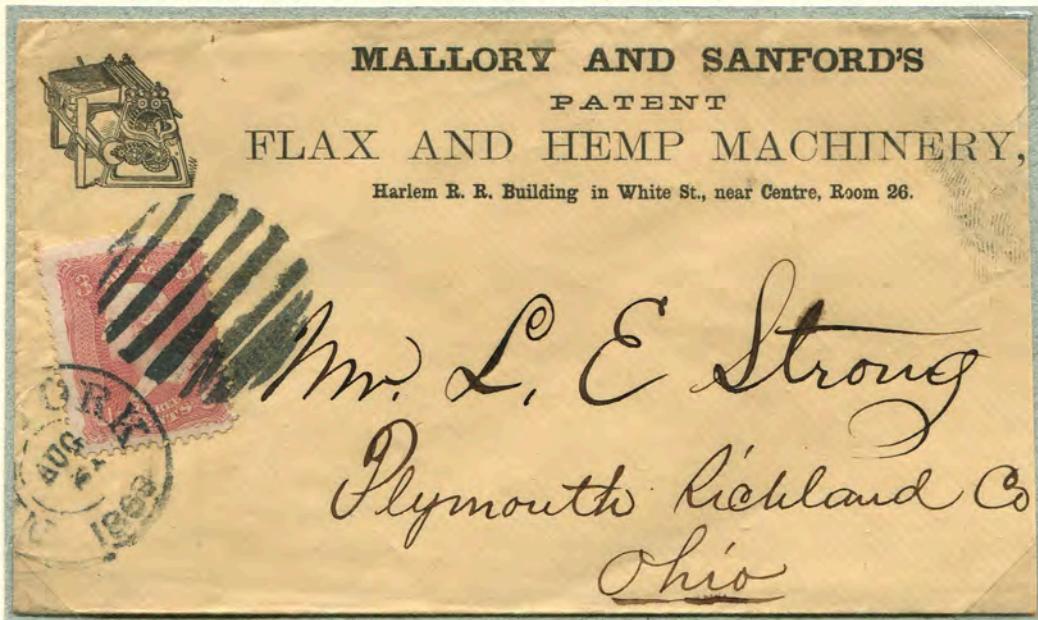
-- Undivided Back
Published by Ed. H. Fox
Danville, Ky.



... and of all these Kentucky products,
hemp is the most beneficial and least
dangerous (booze and tobacco are
addictive, and women will get you
into more trouble than horse racing.)

Curt Teich Card Printed 1908-13
Published by Wren & King.
Lexington, Ky.

Specialized machinery was developed for processing the raw hemp.



Cancelled: New York, AUG 21, 1863

2.1 HEMP IN THE U.S.A.

All that hemp growing resulted in some hemp related post office names.



HEMP, N.C.



HEMP, VA.



HEMP, GA.



HEMP HILL, W. VA.



HEMP FIELD, PA.

2.2 THE DRUG WARS

A lie from the very beginning....

Playing upon a psychology of lies, fear, and racism, the unscrupulous and clever Harry Anslinger . as Chief of the Bureau of Narcotics, criminalized marijuana to advance his career.



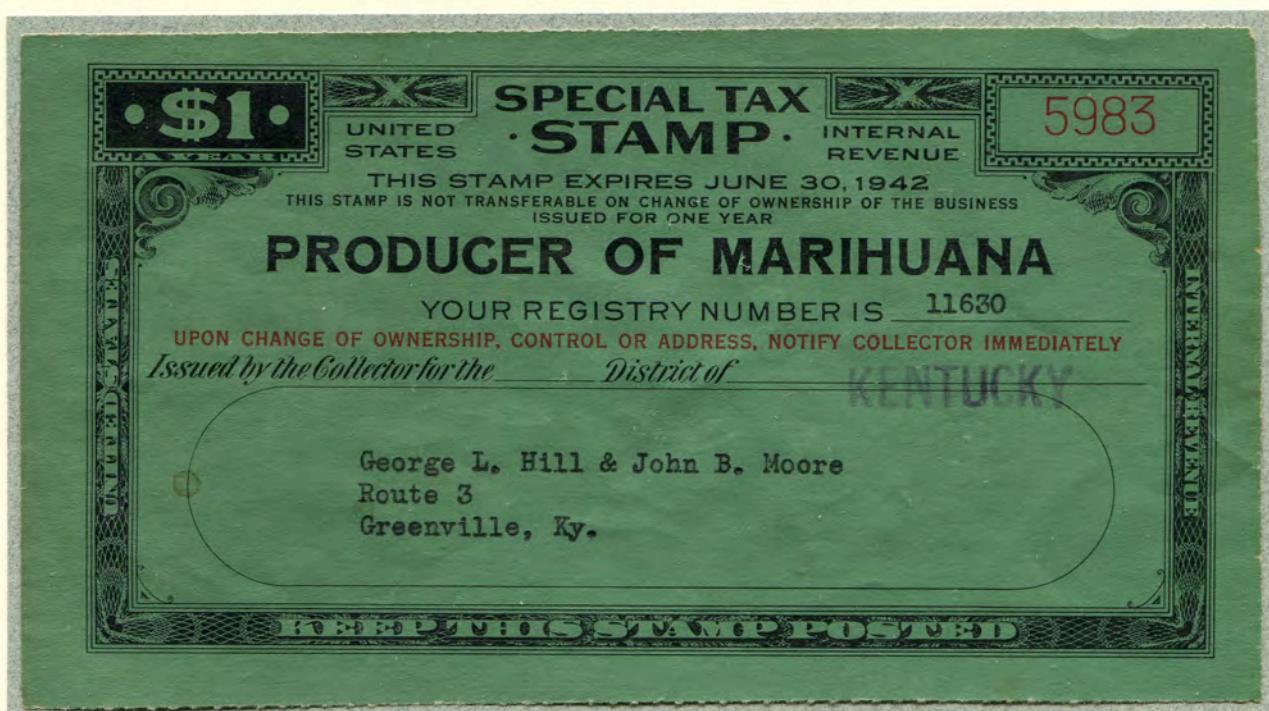
Based on reefer racism and a hatred of almost all things Mexican, the prince of yellow journalism, Wm. Randolph Hearst blamed the nation's ills on Negroes, Mexicans and marijuana.



*Reefer makes darkies think they're as good as white men
This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers, and others.
Marijuana is the most violence causing drug in the history of mankind (1937)
Marijuana leads to pacifism and communist brainwashing (1948)*

Harry J. Anslinger

In a clear case of almost comic dereliction of duty, Congress passed the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 - an attempt to control and eliminate marihuana through taxation - but would almost fill the nation's prisons to the roof beams.



The Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 attempted to control (and eventually eliminate) marihuana through taxation. Between 1938 and 1953, Special Tax Stamps, similar to this one, were required for Producers; Practitioners Dispensing Marihuana; Laboratories Using Marihuana; Dealers in Marihuana; and Importers, Manufacturers, or Compounders of Marihuana.

2.2 THE DRUG WARS

In 1973 under an Executive Order issued by Pres. Nixon, the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was combined with several other agencies to form the Drug Enforcement Administration.

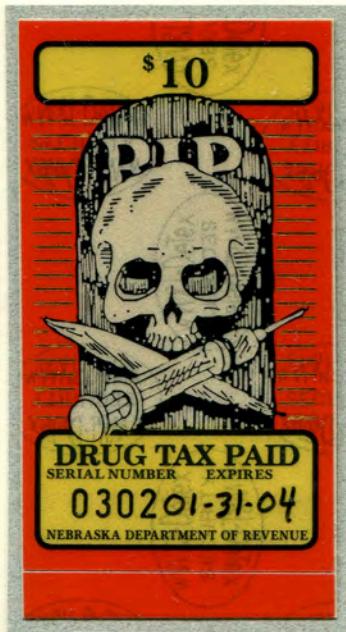


32 cent first class rate + \$2.20 Certified Letter Fee w/ receipt.

In a throwback to the Prohibition era, the U.S. Coast Guard became involved in the drug war at sea. The cutter *Dauntless* was engaged in drug-interdiction operations in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

COMMANDING OFFICER
USCGC DAUNTLESS (WMEC-624)
100 MACARTHUR CAUSEWAY
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33139

PROJECT LAW ENFORCEMENT
DATE 10-9-81 DEPTH 13'
LOCATION MIAMI BEACH, FL
REMARKS MEMBER OF MILLION POUND CLUB - 1 MIL LBS MARIJUANA CONFISCATED
PERSONNEL: 10 OFF - 73 ENL - (1)



Numerous states attempted to cash in on the drug war bonanza by taxing marihuana. The U.S Supreme Court declared this nonsense unconstitutional. A few examples ...

Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was combined with several other agencies to form the Drug Enforcement Administration. It declared an "all out global war on the drug menace..."

line over top of envelope to the right of the return address

CERTIFIED

Z 330 233 bbb

MAIL



Commanding Officer
USCGC Dauntless (WMEC-624)
100 MacArthur Causeway
Miami Beach, Florida 33139



PROJECT LAW ENFORCEMENT
DATE 10-9-81 DEPTH 13'
LOCATION MIAMI BEACH, FL
REMARKS MEMBER OF MILLION POUND CLUB - 1 MIL LBS MARIJUANA CONFISCATED
PERSONNEL: 10 OFF. - 73 ENL. - (1 WOMAN OFF.)

S. C. STEINBERG
300 BURNHAM RD.
COLUMBIA, MO. 65201

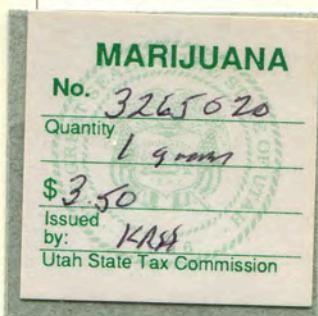
/ receipt.

Guard became >
was engaged
Gulf of Mexico.

attempted to cash in on the drug war bonanza by taxing marihuana - Court declared this nonsense unconstitutional. A few examples ...



an already illegal substance under Federal and state laws.



2.2 THE DRUG WARS - The Victims

Anslinger's racist beliefs and pathological hatred of jazz music meant that most, if not all, of those below were guilty of criminal marihuana abuse.



When asked why he hated jazz, Anslinger replied:
'They don't follow the notes...'

Currently appearing
Billy Eckstine



Anslinger's paranoia extended to the new medium of film. He maintained files on such stars as:



Changing values and the culture wars of the 1960s and 70s resulted in greater use of marihuana - and increased enforcement.



A few historical personalities
Recreational Users

Theophile Gautier



Oscar Wilde



Charles Baudelaire (Recreational)



... and perhaps you
picture right here

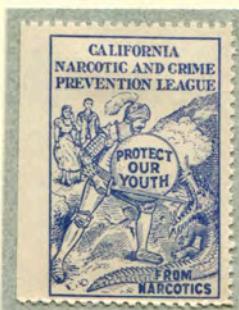
Hypocrite lecteur
- mon semblable
- mon frere!
Les Fleurs des Mots

Anslinger's paranoia extended to the new medium of television.

He maintained files on such stars as:



Marihuana was often confused with dangerous addictive street drugs.



Changing values and the culture wars of the 1960s and the Viet Nam War resulted in greater use of marihuana - and increased enforcement ...



A few historical personalities who could have been busted:
Recreational Users

Theophile Guatier



Oscar Wilde



Medical Users

Queen Victoria



Friedrich Nietzsche



Charles Baudelaire (Recreational)



... and perhaps your picture right here !

Hypocrite lecteur
- mon semblable.
- mon frere!
Les Fleurs des Mals



FINAL THOUGHT

Prohibition makes a crime out of things that are not crimes... A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded.

Abraham Lincoln Dec. 1840

