7. The FAMOUS and INFAMOUS
Spirochetes, gonococci, and viruses have no regard for one's station in life.

7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Three of 16th century Europe's monarchs were syphilitic...

Henry VIII of England

If Henry VIII's wives were not syphilitic before meeting him, they surely were after.

His sole surviving daughter from Catherine of Aragon, Mary Tudor, displayed many signs of congenital syphilis.

Gonorrhea continued to plague French royalty...

Henry IV (1553-1610)

...catheterized several times for urethral blockage.

The royal ministers were not exempt. Cardinal Duc de Richelieu (1585-1642) suffered between his genitals and anus and was catheterized several times for urethral blockage.

Louis XIV (1638-1715)

...but no syphilis as evidence.
Frederick the Great of Prussia (1712-86) wrote the following poem to Voltaire:

\[ \text{J'eus l'honneur} \\
\text{De recevoir, par mon malheur} \\
\text{D'une certaine imperatrice} * \\
\text{Une boillante chaude pisse.} \]

*Elizabeth Brunswick-Bevern

Peter the Great of Russia probably died from neurosyphilis - one of several Romanovs to suffer from syphilis.
Catherine the Great of Russia (1729-1796), despite elaborate precautions against getting syphilis from one of her numerous lovers, probably became infected; she built the first V.D. hospital in Russia at St. Petersburg.

Paul I, Catherine’s son and heir, displayed many signs of congenital syphilis by age ten; suffered from uncontrollable rage and syphilitic insanity; murdered by palace guards after a four year reign of chaos.
The marriage of Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, to Carlota was a disaster due his constant philandering where he acquired a case of syphilis. He died in front of a revolutionary firing squad.

Dom Pedro IV (1798-1834), the last King of Portugal and first Emperor of Brasil suffered from chronic gonorrhea.

Even the great Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was afflicted with gonorrhea; he got his first dose as a young Army lieutenant in Paris.
King Edward VII of England (1841-1910) contracted gonorrhea at Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary) and gave it to his queen consort, Alexandra. Edward VII ceased all philandering during the one year that Alexandra was in mourning due to the death of her father, Christian IX of Denmark.

Edward VII’s Royal Cipher Handstamp (lower left) justifies the free postage from Balmoral Castle. Alexandra’s Royal Cipher embossed on back of envelope not valid for free postage. Red OFFICIAL PAID without hyphen. Inverted 06 year-date in Balmoral-Castle Handstamp.
Emperor Franz Josef of Austria (1848-1917) all but destroyed a poor marriage to the Empress Elizabeth by giving her 'an unmentionable disease' probably gonorrhea.

The Empress spent far more time at the Castle Palace (Varpalota) in Budapest than she ever did with the Emperor at the Hofburg in Vienna.

Kaiser Friedrich III of Germany became syphilitic when, as crown prince, he participated in the celebrations at the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869; died after a 93 day reign from bronchio-pneumonia and throat cancer in 1888.
7.1 POLITICAL FIGURES

Recent research indicates that Pres. Woodrow Wilson's rapid decline in health and death may be due to syphilis.

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov - Lenin - was probably syphilitic as evidenced by lesions on the left side of his brain - thoughtfully preserved for posterity by Stalin in a 'brain museum.'

The Rome-Berlin Axis could have been called the V.D. axis since both Der Fuhrer and Il Duce suffered from gonorrhea at various times in their respective lives.
As a young man in Marion, Ohio, Warren Harding suffered from a particularly severe case of gonorrhea that was complicated by quack treatments. Fortunately he was completely cured before he fathered his only child - from his mistress Nan Britton.

John F. Kennedy suffered from frequent bouts of V.D. from his constant philandering.
Several notable and early visitors to the New World fell victim to the spirochete.

Spanish records from 1510 show that Martin Alonzo Pinzon, pilot and captain of the PINTA, was treated for syphilis.

One of the earliest victims of the new disease may have been Christopher Columbus, as detailed by Surgeon General Thomas Parran, MD in *Shadow on the Land*.
In March, 1805 William Clark wrote of the expedition, "Generally healthy except venereal complaints which is very common."

Meriwether Lewis purchased 600 of Rush's Bilious Pills for treating everything especially syphilis on the expedition. Rush's Bilious Pills, whose main ingredient was mercury, were still popular sixty years later as evidenced by -

A Nobel Prize was no defense against the spirochete; syphilis was to haunt several Nobel laureates -

Niels Ryberg Finsen, 1903 Nobel Laureate for use of light in medicine, had tabes or syphilis of the spinal cord.

Emil von Behring co-discoverer of anti-toxins; 1901 and first Nobel Laureate in Physiology and Medicine; died of general syphilitic paralysis and insanity.
7.3 ARTISTS

Venus has inspired and V.D. has shortened many artistic lives...

7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

Early victims of the Great Pox included...
Pietro Aretino an early 16th Century satirical poet.

Francois Villon suffered from early pre-Columbian syphilis.

Desiderius Erasmus
... a man who did not have the pox was a rustic and not a polished gentleman.

Conrad Celtis (1459-1508) poet laureate of Germany.

Ulrich von Hutten, friend of Erasmus and Luther, died of syphilis after being 'cured' by guiac.
7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

The list includes these other well and lesser known syphilitic writers...

Stendahl  
Alfred de Musset  
Gustave Flaubert

Heinrich Heine became syphilitic at age 24 and developed severe secondary and late neurosyphilis with paralysis, all now easily treatable at the university named for him.

Aleksander Sergeyevich Pushkin (1799-1837) suffered from V.D. throughout his adult life. "My blood thick with mercury and my soul with remorse."
7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

The long list continues...

Giovanni Casanova, a name synonymous with philandering, suffered from at least four cases of gonorrhea, five of chancroid and a lifetime of syphilis.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe probably syphilitic; his sole surviving son died of congenital syphilitic insanity.

Molière, whose medical satires made him hated by doctors probably died of syphilitic aneurism.

... to Charles Baudelaire who states *Etant tres jaune, j’ai une affectation verolique*.
7.3.1 WRITERS AND POETS

The growing list of distinguished syphilitics writers demonstrates the varied nationalities of its victims..

Karen Blixen  Both Goncourt Brothers

Oscar Wilde  Ady Endre

August Strindberg, playwright, novelist, and a doctor's assistant early in his life, suffered from both schizophrenia and syphilis.

Arthur Schopenhauer contracted syphilis while a student at Gottingen, then underwent lengthy mercury treatments, and died at age 72 from pneumonia.
7.3.2 COMPOSERS

Musical talent was little defense against venereal disease...

- Christoph W. Gluck
  General syphilitic paresis

- Gaetano Donizetti
  Cerebral syphilis

- Hugo Wolf
  Syphilitic Insanity

- Nicolo Paganini
  Syphilitic

Bedrich Smetana, father of Czech classical music, died in an asylum of syphilitic insanity.

Franz Schubert - Syphilitic but died of tuberculosis.
Robert Schumann died of syphilitic paralysis and insanity.

Lorenzo de Ponte librettist for several Mozart operas and syphilitic.

Twentieth century jazz, rock, and movie composers and performers were also afflicted with V.D.

The Brasilian rock composer and musician Casuza died in 1981 of AIDS contracted through intravenous (IV) drug abuse.

Jazz composer Scott Joplin was syphilitic.

AIDS claimed Howard Ashmun, Oscar winning composer for The Littlest Mermaid.

... and the stamp collecting rock composer, musician, and performer Freddie Mercury died of AIDS in 1992.
7.3.3 PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS

Albrecht Dürer, mentioned for his medical drawings, was probably syphilitic as evidenced by enlarged left testicle on the nude full-length self-portrait partially reproduced at the right.

Vincent van Gogh's insanity is attributed to syphilis.

Benvenuto Cellini suffered from a milder form of syphilis 
... the French disease...remained in me ...

Francisco Goya suffered cerebral syphilis (meningovascular) from age 45 to death.

Two more recent syphilis painters include:
Sir William Orpen
Munkácsy Mihály
7.3.3 PAINTERS AND SCULPTORS

Stanislaw Wyspianski, painter and writer, suffered from the French pox.

Both Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec... and... Felicien Rops sketched & painted prostitutes, frequented prostitutes, and got syphilis from prostitutes!

Paul Gaugin went to Tahiti to find a cure for his syphilis...
...but succeeded only in giving it to the natives.
AIDS has provided these recent additions.

Rock Hudson was the first Hollywood celebrity to die of AIDS.

Mr. Showmanship, the pianist Liberace, was an early victim in 1987.

Congressman Stewart B. McKinney of Connecticut was the first noteworthy politician to this list.

Lucille Teasdale, helping the poor and sick in Africa.

The graphic pop artist Kieth Haring died in 1990 before his work could be incorporated in this cancel.
Tennis star Arthur Ashe acquired his HIV from infected blood during a transfusion.

Rudolf Nureyev died of AIDS at age 54 in 1993.

The world of figure skating lost both John Curry and Ondrej Nepela to AIDS.

... and among the living, both Magic Johnson and Greg Louganis are HIV+.

Thousands of other AIDS deaths will never be commemorated on a postage stamp but are memorialized on the AIDS quilt.

Over 35 countries have an AIDS memorial quilt.

Last exhibited in its entirety in October 1996 in Washington DC.

Over 45000+ panels comprised the U.S. quilt and well over 85000 worldwide.