

Revising the History of DDT's Long-Tailed Legacy

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Elena Conis (2022) *How to Sell a Poison: The Rise, Fall and Toxic Return of DDT* (Bold Type Books)

Most historical tidbits about DDT were drawn from Conis's unless otherwise specified below. With thanks to Ed Lorenz, Lynn Roslund, Jane Keon for inviting me (along with Madeleine Scammell and Carolyn Raffensperger) to St. Louis and Alma College.

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Piera M. Cirillo, Michele A. La Merrill, Nickilou Y. Krigbaum, Barbara A. Cohn; Grandmaternal Perinatal Serum DDT in Relation to Granddaughter Early Menarche and Adult Obesity: Three Generations in the Child Health and Development Studies Cohort. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev* 1 August 2021; 30 (8): 1480–1488. <https://doi.org/10.1158/1055-9965.EPI-20-1456>

Balayannis A (2018). *Following Pesticides in Disposal: A Chemical Geography*. University of Melbourne. URL: <https://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/219355>

Veronika Kivenson, Karin L. Lemkau, Oscar Pizarro, Dana R. Yoerger, Carl Kaiser, Robert K. Nelson, Catherine Carmichael, Blair G. Paul, Christopher M. Reddy, and David L. Valentine. 2019. Ocean Dumping of Containerized DDT Waste Was a Sloppy Process *Environmental Science & Technology* 2019 53 (6), 2971-2980  
[DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.8b05859](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.8b05859)

Rosanna Xia. 2020. LA's coast was once a DDT dumping ground. Los Angeles Times. October 25, 2020. <https://www.latimes.com/projects/la-coast-ddt-dumping-ground/>

“DDT Is Good for Me-e-e!” June 30, 1947. Science History Institute. Philadelphia.  
<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/1831ck18w>

Flit insecticide cartoons, 1929. MS-1100: Theodor S. Geisel collection, Box: 1 "Contains examples of Seuss' advertising artwork, including work done for Standard Oil subsidiari...,

1929-2004", Folder: 2 "Book of Flit insecticide cartoons, 1929"see historical note – (DDT wasn't added into formulation in the 1920s-1930s – that came later)  
<https://exhibits.library.dartmouth.edu/s/vanishingexhibit/item/1631>

**On Primo Levi**, see the following:

*The Truce*, published in Italy in 1963. I worked from two English translations, one by Ann Goldstein and the other by Stuart Woolf.

Cravotto, G, Cintas, P. Primo Levi: A frustrated stereochemist?—Insight in hindsight. *Chirality*. 2021; 33: 72– 80. <https://doi.org/10.1002/chir.23287>

Zeidler, O. (1874), I. Verbindungen von Chloral mit Brom- und Chlorbenzol. *Ber. Dtsch. Chem. Ges.*, 7: 1180-1181. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cber.18740070278>

**On PBB and St. Louis, Michigan:**

Mark Brush. 2017. EPA approves \$9.7 million to start cleaning up Velsicol Superfund Site in St. Louis, Michigan. NPR/Michigan Public Radio. June 23, 2017. Available at:  
<https://www.michiganradio.org/environment-science/2017-06-23/epa-approves-9-7-million-to-start-cleaning-up-velsicol-superfund-site-in-st-louis-michigan>

Gabriel Dunsmith. 2017. 'Silent Spring' comes to life in DDT-stricken town. E&ENews. February 2, 2017.  
<https://www.eenews.net/articles/silent-spring-comes-to-life-in-ddt-stricken-town/>

Edward Lorenz. 2012. Civic Empowerment in an Age of Corporate Greed. Michigan State University Press.

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Joyce Egginton. 1982. The Poisoning of Michigan. Michigan State University Press.

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**On regrettable substitutions:**

Joseph Allan (December 15, 2016). “[Stop playing whack-a-mole with hazardous chemicals.](#)” *The Washington Post*

**On planetary boundary threats:**

Linn Perrson, Bethanie M. Carney Almroth, Christopher D. Collins, Sarah Cornell, Cynthia A. de Witt, Miriam L. Diamond, Peter Fantke, Marin Hassellöv, Matthew MacLeod, Morten W. Ryberg, Peter Søgaaard Jørgensen, Patricia Villarrubia-Gómez, Zhanyun Wang, and Michael Zwicky Hauschild. 2022. Outside the Safe Operating Space of the Planetary Boundary for Novel Entities. *Environmental Science and Technology* 56(3): 1510-1521. DOI: [10.1021/acs.est.1c04158](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c04158)

Rockström, J., Steffen, W., Noone, K. *et al.* A safe operating space for humanity. *Nature* 461, 472–475 (2009). <https://doi.org/10.1038/461472a>

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