

Denis Williams

# GIGLIOLI IN GUYANA, 1922-1972

The eradication of malaria in British Guiana – Giglioli’s monumental achievement – still represents the most important achievement in the country in the twentieth century.

George Giglioli was an Italian, born in Naples. He graduated from the Royal University of Pisa in 1921 as a Doctor of Medicine, in 1922 he obtained a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from London and in 1925 a Diploma in Dermatology and Venereology from Paris. In 1932 he got a Diploma of the Superior School of Malariology; while in 1933 he was admitted to membership of the Royal College of Physicians, London, as well as becoming honorary lecturer in Tropical Pathology at his alma mater, the Royal University of Pisa. Working in Guyana from the 1920s, Giglioli developed a passion for researching the causes of malaria. His identification of *A. darlingi* as the sole vector of malarial infection, and the astounding eradication of the dreaded disease in the colony, between 1946 and 1948, constitute an epic in tropical medicine. It was an achievement with revolutionary potential - economically, socially and politically. In eradicating the dreaded malarial disease, Giglioli helped to transform Guyana "...from one of the world’s foremost fever-ravaged countries to the place where the death-dealing disease was first checked, then beaten back until today, victory over malaria has become one of the glorious achievements in the history of Guyana’s progress against disease and death."

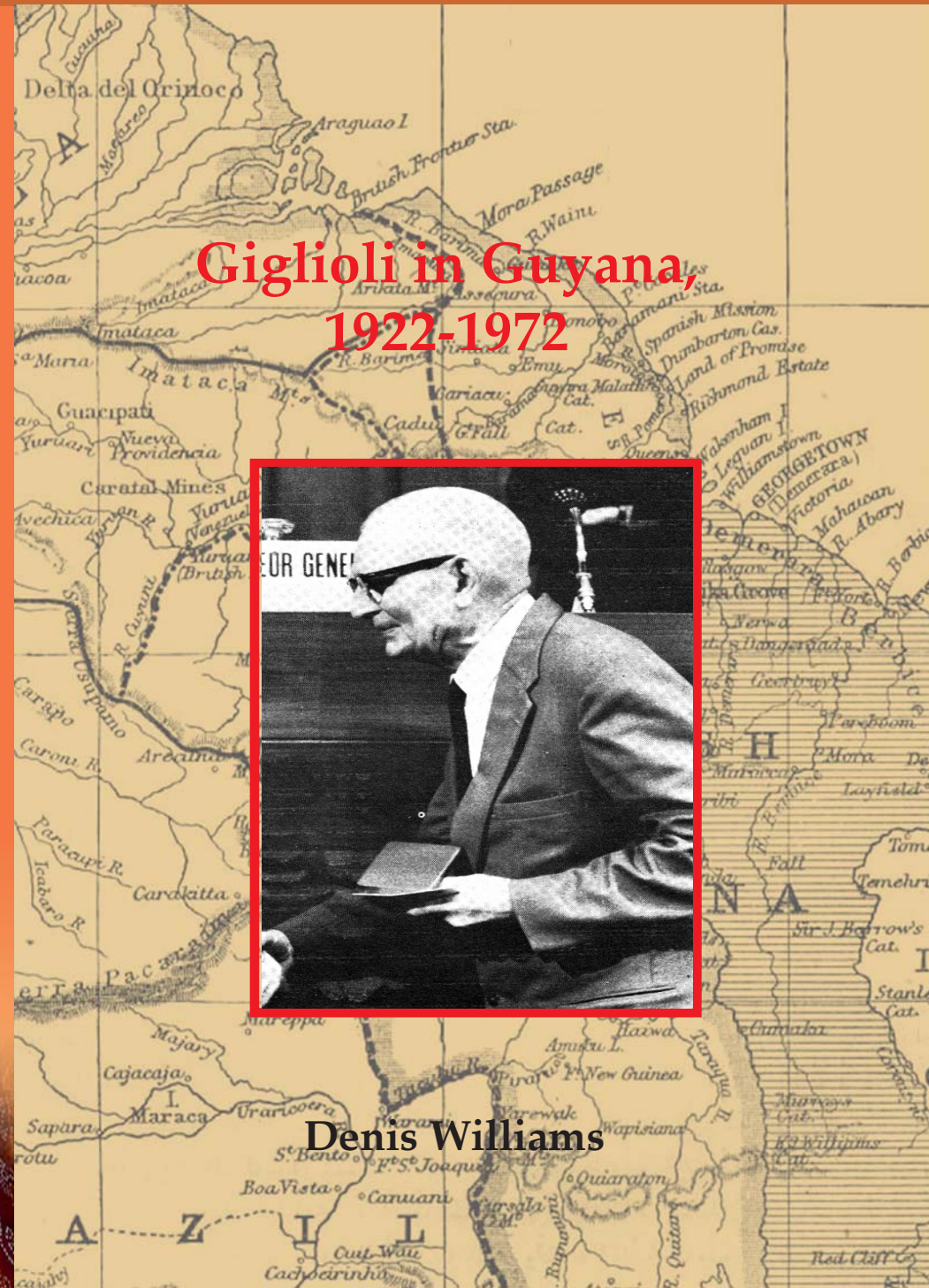
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