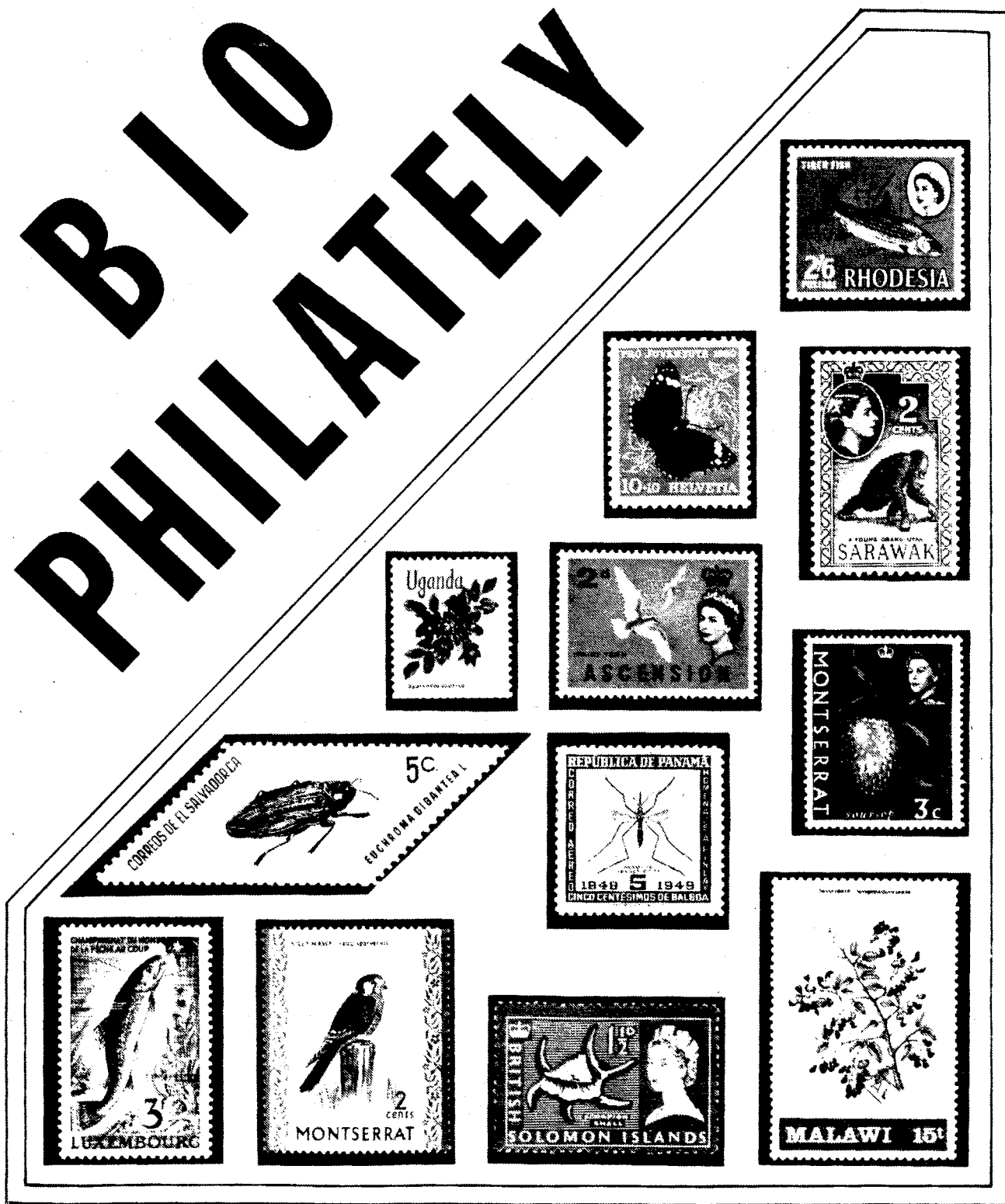


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DINOSAURS ON STAMPS

by Michael K. Brett-Surman Ph.D.

Dinosaurs are the most popular animals of all time, and the most misunderstood. Dinosaurs did not fly in the air and did not live in the oceans, nor on lake bottoms. Not all large "prehistoric monsters" are dinosaurs. The most famous NON-dinosaurs are plesiosaurs, mososaurs, pelycosaurs, pterodactyls and ichthyosaurs. Any name ending in 'saurus' is not automatically a dinosaur, for example, Mastodontosaurus is neither a mastodon nor a dinosaur - it is an amphibian! Dinosaurs are defined by a combination of skeletal features that cannot readily be seen when the animal is fully restored in a flesh reconstruction. Because of the confusion, this compilation is offered as a checklist for the collector.

This topical list compiles all the dinosaurs on stamps where the actual bones are pictured or whole restorations are used. It excludes footprints (as used in the Lesotho stamps), cartoons (as in the 1984 issue from Gambia), silhouettes (Ascension Island # 305) and unofficial issues such as the famous Sinclair Dinosaur stamps. The name "Brontosaurus", which appears on many stamps, is used with quotation marks to denote it as a popular name in contrast to its correct scientific name, Apatosaurus.

For those interested in a detailed encyclopedic work about all fossils on stamps, the reader is referred to the forthcoming book, 'Paleontology - a Guide to the Postal Materials Depicting Prehistoric Lifeforms' by Fran Adams et. al. The best book currently in print is a book titled 'Dinosaur Stamps of the World' by Baldwin & Halstead. This book, however, shows many stamps that are not dinosaurs and the authors do not adequately distinguish between the non-dinosaurs and the real dinosaurs. It is still an excellent book for the color pictures and a story on the history of the Dinosaur Commemorative stamps issued by Great Britain in August, 1991.

If you are interested in other books on dinosaurs, the two best are 'The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs' by David Norman and 'The New Dinosaur Dictionary' by Donald Glut.

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DINOSAURS ON STAMPS

Country	Year	DINOSAUR	Scott #
Aden	1968	Tyrannosaurus	non-Scott
		"Brontosaurus"	non-Scott

The animal listed as "Dinosaurus" is probably Tyrannosaurus. The word "Dinosaurus" is not a valid name for any genus or species, only for the whole group. "Brontosaurus" is a popular (unofficial) name and is therefore used inside quotes. The proper technical (scientific) name for this animal is APATOSAURUS.

Afghanistan	1988	Styracosaurus	1280
		Protoceratops	1282
		Stegosaurus	1283
		Ceratosaurus	1284
Belgium	1966	Iguanodon	664
Benin	1984	Anatosaurus	587
		"Brontosaurus"	588
	1985	Tyrannosaurus	C349
		Stegosaurus	C350

All species of "Anatosaurus" were assimilated into the name Edmontosaurus in 1979 with the exception of "Anatosaurus" copei. This name was changed to Anatotitan in 1990. The name "Anatosaurus" is no longer used by professional dinosaur paleontologists.

British Antarctic Territories	1991	Hypsilophodont	173
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The term "hypsilophodont" refers to a member of the family Hypsilophodontidae but not to any particular genus within that family.

Bulgaria	1990	"Brontosaurus"	3540
		Stegosaurus	3541
		Protoceratops	3544
		Triceratops	3545

Cambodia	(Kampuchea)		
	1986	Brachiosaurus	non-Scott
		Tarbosaurus	non-Scott

The pictures of Tarbosaurus and Brachiosaurus are taken from the works of Zdenek Burian, a famous Czechoslovakian artist. The same picture of Tarbosaurus also appears on the 1975 issue from Dhufar.

Canada	1989	Albertosaurus	1235
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Central African Republic	1988	"Brontosaurus"	872
		Triceratops	873
		Ankylosaurus	874
		Stegosaurus	875
		Tyrannosaurus	876
		Corythosaurus	877
		Allosaurus	878
		Brachiosaurus	879

Brachiosaurus is incorrectly restored. In this animal the forelimbs are longer than the hindlimbs.

China, People's Republic	1958	Lufengosaurus	342
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Congo, People's Republic	1970	Kentrosaurus	229
		Brachiosaurus	231
	1975	Ornithomimus	353
		Tyrannosaurus	353
		Stegosaurus	355

The proper name for Kentrurosaurus is Kentrosaurus. Ornithomimus is in the background (Scott #353). The restoration is too small and generalized for a proper identification.

Cuba	1985	"Brontosaurus"	2766
		Iguanodon	2767
		Stegosaurus	2768
		Monoclonius	2769
		Corythosaurus	2770
		Tyrannosaurus	2771
	1987	Triceratops	2954
		Euoplocephalus	2956
		Styracosaurus	2957
		Saurolophus	2958
		Anatosaurus	2959

The 1985 set uses the Spanish version of the names of the dinosaurs. In the 1987 set, *Euoplocephalus* is incorrectly restored without it's tail club.

Dahomey

1974	Stegosaurus	C-220
	Tyrannosaurus	C-221

The Stegosaurus stamp is incorrectly labelled as Crétacé (for the Cretaceous Period, 135 to 65 million years ago). It is actually from the Jurassic Period (about 200 to 135 million years ago).

Dhufar

1975	Iguanodon	non-Scott
	Tarbosaurus (S/S)	non-Scott

The artwork for these two dinosaurs are taken from the works of Zdenek Burian.

Equatorial Guinea

1975	Styracosaurus	Michel 1163
	Stegosaurus	1165
	Corythosaurus	1167
	Ankylosaurus	1168
	Triceratops	1169
	Diplodocus	S/S

Fujeria

1968	Triceratops	Michel 253
	Plateosaurus	254
	Stegosaurus	255
	Allosaurus	257
	Triceratops	258
	Plateosaurus	259
	Stegosaurus	260
	Allosaurus	261
1972	Triceratops	1216
	Stegosaurus	1218
	"Brontosaurus"	1219

Germany, Berlin

1977	Iguanodon	9N 411
	Iguanodon	9N 412
	Iguanodon	9N 413
	Iguanodon	9N 414

Germany, East

1990	Dicraeosaurus	2812
	Kentrosaurus	2813
	Dysalatosaurus	2814
	Brachiosaurus	2815
	Brachiosaurus	2816

The proper name for Kentrurosaurus is Kentrosaurus.

Great Britain

1991	Iguanodon
	Stegosaurus
	Tyrannosaurus
	Protoceratops
	Triceratops

This set is labelled OWEN'S DINOSAURS. When Richard Owen coined the word DINOSAURIA in 1841, he based the name on 3 dinosaurs: Iguanodon, Hylaeosaurus, and Megalosaurus. The only stamp in this set that applies is Iguanodon. The other dinosaurs in this set were discovered after Owen died and have nothing to do with him. Most of the dinosaurs are improperly restored. In dinosaurs, the shoulder blade lies mostly parallel to the backbone, not perpendicular to it as it is in mammals, and as incorrectly seen here.

Guinea

1987	Iguanodon	1049
	Stegosaurus	1053
	Triceratops	1054

Triceratops is on a minisheet with many dinosaurs in the background. Several of these dinosaurs are taken from the artwork of both Burian and Zallinger.

Guinee-Bissau

1989	"Trachodon"	827
	Tyrannosaurus	831
	Stegosaurus	832

The name "Trachodon" is no longer used in paleontology. The original material upon which the name was erected in 1856 turns out to be from two different types of dinosaurs. This makes the name useless for scientific purposes and is therefore enclosed in quotation marks to denote its "unscientific" status.

Hungary

1986	"Brontosaurus"	2972
1990	Tarbosaurus	3263
	"Brontosaurus"	3264
	Stegosaurus	3265

Korea, North

1980	Stegosaurus	non-Scott
	Tyrannosaurus	non-Scott

In the Stegosaurus stamp there appears to be one of the ankylosaurian dinosaurs in the background.

Kuwait

1982	sauropod	894
	sauropod	895

In this stamp the dinosaur appears to be one of the sauropods (the group to which Diplodocus belongs). It is too small and generalized to be properly identified although the Baldwin & Halstead book call it Plateosaurus.

Laos

1988	Tyrannosaurus	860
	Ceratosaurus	861
	Iguanodon	862
	Euoplocephalus?	863
	"Trachodon"	865

In this set, the names for Tyrannosaurus and "Trachodon" have been switched and appear on the wrong stamps. The Scolosaurus stamp is identified as Euoplocephalus in the Baldwin & Halstead book but the tail club and head shape are closer to Scolosaurus. Most of the artwork in this set is copied from the famous Czechoslovakian artist Zdenek Burian.

Malagasy

1989	Tyrannosaurus	899
	Stegosaurus	900
	Triceratops	902
	Saurolophus	903

Maldive Islands

1972	Stegosaurus	389
	Diplodocus	391
	Triceratops	392
	Tyrannosaurus	394
	Tyrannosaurus	394a

The inspiration for the artwork in this set appears to be from the famous Rudolph Zallinger mural at Yale University.

Mali

1984	Iguanodon	505
	Archaeopteryx	506
	Iguanodon	508

		Archaeopteryx	509
		Triceratops	510
Manama	1971	Stegosaurus	Michel 682
		Plateosaurus	Michel 684
		Styracosaurus	Michel 685
		Allosaurus	Michel 686
		"Brontosaurus"	Michel 688
Mauritania	1986	Iguanodon	620
		Apatosaurus	620
		Polacanthus?	620
Mongolia	1967	Tarbosaurus	447
		Talarurus	448
		Protoceratops	449
		Saurolophus	451
	1977	Psittacosaurus	956
	1990	Chasmosaurus	1871
		Stegosaurus	1872
		Probactrosaurus	1873
		Opisthocoelicauda	1874
		Iguanodon	1875
		Tarbosaurus	1876
		Mamenchisaurus	1877
		Allosaurus	1878
		Ultrasaurus	1878

Ultrasaurus is considered by most professional dinosaur paleontologists to be a larger version of Brachiosaurus. This Mongolian set has some stamps which copy the art of John Gurche and Mark Hallett, two famous American artists. The original pieces of art can be seen in DINOSAURS PAST AND PRESENT available through the University of Washington Press, and in National Geographic Magazine.

Morocco	1988	Cetiosaurus	655
Nicaragua	1987	Triceratops	non-Scott

This stamp is part of a series taken from the famous Charles Knight murals that grace the walls of the Field Museum in Chicago and the American Museum in New York.

Niger

1976	Ouranosaurus	381
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The 60f denomination stamp pictures Ouranosaurus. Above the word 'dinosaur' is the word Archaeologie. This points out one of the most popular misconceptions about dinosaurs. Archaeology is a subdivision of Anthropology and deals only with MAN and covers the last 4 million years of time. Paleontology deals with ALL fossils and covers the last 3.5 Billion years of time. Paleontologists dig up dinosaurs, not archaeologists.

Niuafo'ou

1989	Stegosaurus	8917
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Oman

1975	Megalosaurus	non-Scott
	Triceratops	non-Scott

Poland

1965	"Brontosaurus"	1309
	Stegosaurus	1311
	Brachiosaurus	1312
	Styracosaurus	1313
	Corythosaurus	1314
	Tyrannosaurus	1316
1980	Tarbosaurus	2395

Saint Thomas & Prince Islands

1982	Parasaurolophus	8219
	Stegosaurus	8220
	Triceratops	8221
	"Brontosaurus"	8222
	Tyrannosaurus	8223

San Marino

1965	"Brontosaurus"	612
	Brachiosaurus	613
	Tyrannosaurus	616
	Stegosaurus	617
	Iguanodon	619
	Triceratops	620

Soviet Union

1990	Saurolophus	5923
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Tanzania

1988	Plateosaurus	382
	"Brontosaurus"	384
	Stegosaurus	389
1991	Stegosaurus	
	Triceratops	
	Edmontosaurus	
	Plateosaurus	
	Diplodocus	
	Iguanodon	
	Silvisaurus	

In this set, Silvisaurus is misspelled Silviasaurus and it is incorrectly restored. There are no spikes along the tail.

United States

1970	Stegosaurus	1390
	Camptosaurus	1390
	Archaeopteryx	1390
	Allosaurus	1390
	Compsognathus	1390
	Apatosaurus	1390
1989	Tyrannosaurus	2422
	Stegosaurus	2424
	"Brontosaurus"	2425

The first stamp in 1970 is based on the legendary Zallinger Mural on display in the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University. A new popular book on the mural has just been published by Harry Abrams Inc. that included a foldout of the entire masterpiece. The second set from 1989 contains the famous "Brontosaurus" stamp. The Pteranodon stamp depicts a Pterosaur or flying reptile which were the first cousins of the dinosaurs and often mistaken for them. The artist, John Gurche, is considered to be the best artist for dinosaur restorations. The original paintings for this stamp are only 1.5 times larger than the actual stamps!

Viet-Nam

1979	"Brontosaurus"	SG 244
	Iguanodon	SG 245
	Tyrannosaurus	SG 246
	Stegosaurus	SG 247
	Triceratops	SG 249
1984	Diplodocus	SG 724
	Styracosaurus	SG 725
	Corythosaurus	SG 726

	Allosaurus	SG 729
	Brachiosaurus	SG 731
1991	Gorgosaurus	non-Scott
	Ceratosaurus	non-Scott
	Ankylosaurus	non-Scott
	Ankylosaurus	non-Scott

Two stamps are labelled "Ankylosaurus", one valued at 1000d and one at 2000d. The second stamp does NOT depict Ankylosaurus but is actually much more similar to the related dinosaur Saichania. Another stamp in the set valued at 3000d is "Edaphosaurus" which is often mistaken for a dinosaur. It is actually a member of the Synapsida or mammal-like reptiles and is more closely related to mammals than to the dinosaurs. The 100d stamp is labelled Gorgosaurus. This name was replaced over 20 years ago by the name Albertosaurus.

Yemen

1971	Iguanodon	non-Scott
1990	Tyrannosaurus	non-Scott

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