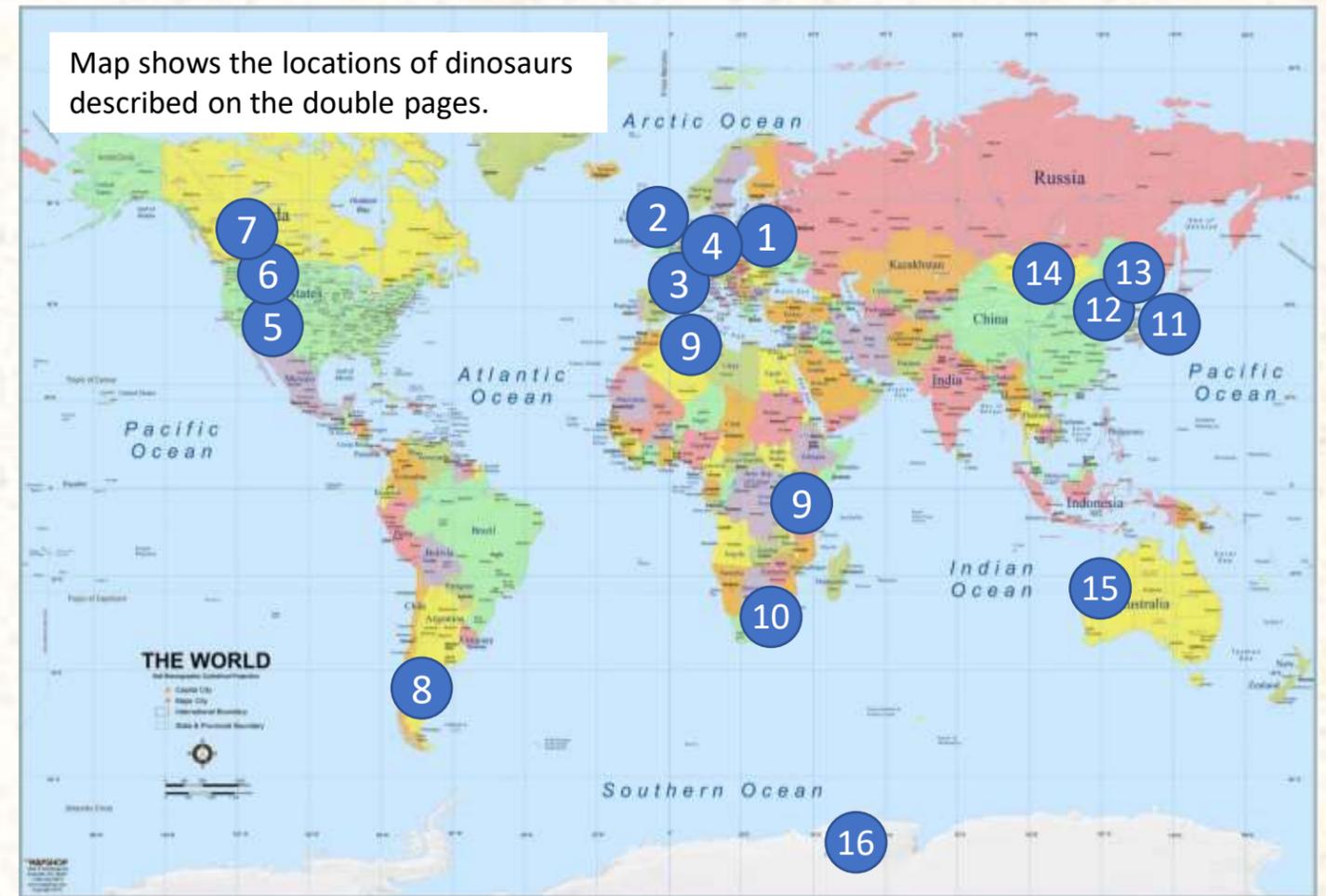


# LANDMARK DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

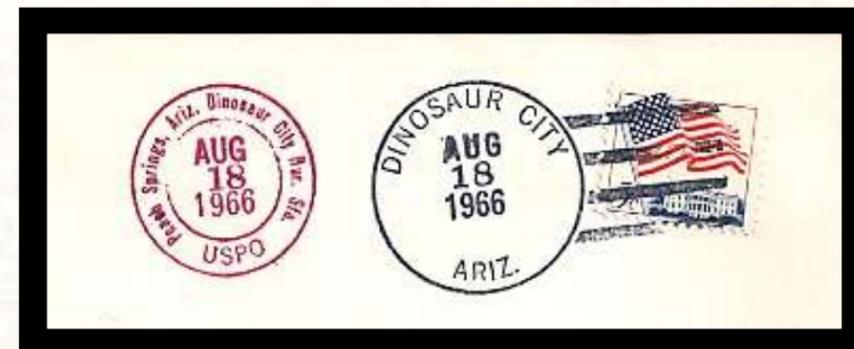
Dinosaurs representing more than 1000 species have been discovered on all seven continents. While often represented by a few scattered bones or teeth, certain key localities around the world have yielded fossils that have changed our understanding of these remarkable animals. Browse through the pages to see where these sites are located and why they are so important, illustrated by some unique philatelic items.



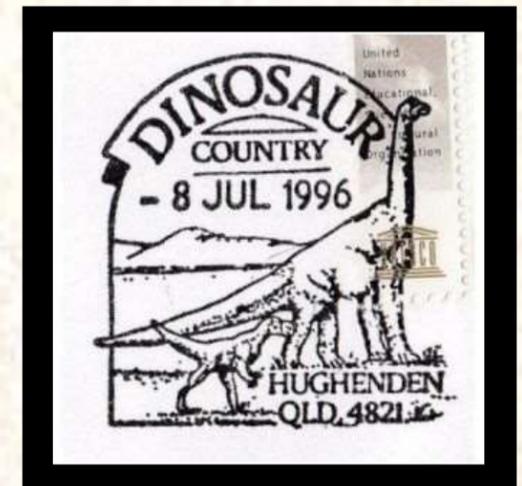
New set of 2021 dinosaur stamps on a postally used cover from Poland.



Map shows the locations of dinosaurs described on the double pages.



Postmarks from a cover showing two types of Dinosaur City cancel from Arizona, USA.



Dinosaur, Colorado is named for the nearby Dinosaur National Monument.



## Plan of the Exhibit

Pages	Content
1	Introduction
2 to 4	Europe: - UK, Belgium, Germany
5 to 7	North America: - USA, Canada
8	South America
9 to 10	Africa: - Tanzania, South Africa
11 to 14	Asia: - Japan, Mongolia, China
15	Australia and New Zealand
16	Antarctica and Conclusions

Information on dinosaurs will be in Arial plain font size 14

Philatelic details will be in Calibri italic font size 11

**Text of rare items is enclosed within blue boxes**

PLEASE NOTE: **Numerous** liberties have been taken with the scale of the philatelic items shown.



Few dinosaurs have been described from the Middle East. This may be the next "big thing", but for now I will only share this mis-positioned green overprint from Iraq 2010.

Before we begin our journey.....,this exhibit shows where dinosaurs have been found around the world, but there are also some places actually CALLED Dinosaur.

# Europe: The UK, Cradle of Palaeontology

The term “dinosaur” was coined by Sir Richard Owen in 1841, meaning “terrible lizard”. The first dinosaur described, *Megalosaurus*, was found in Oxfordshire. Further discoveries included *Iguanodon*, and the stunning fauna found by Mary Anning at and around Lyme Regis, in Dorset. This included plesiosaurs, ichthyosaurs and pterosaurs (technically reptiles rather than dinosaurs). Since then, many other species have been identified across the UK, the majority of which occur in the Isle of Wight.



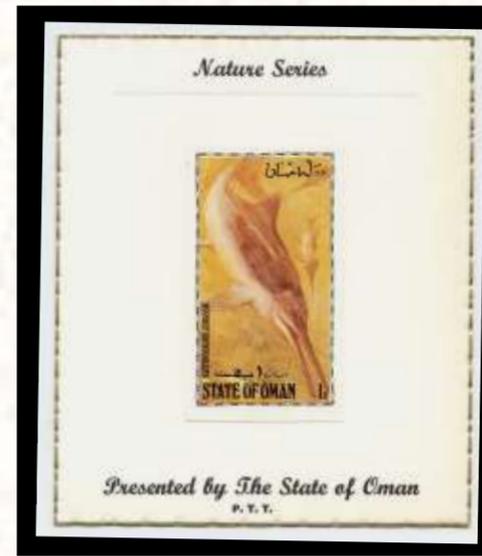
*Iguanodon* footprint from Portland, Dorset.



*Megalosaurus* on a Romanian stamp issued in 1994.



This image of *Megalosaurus* on a North Korean cover represents a model created to accompany the Crystal Palace after its move from the 1851 Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, London. The models were designed and sculpted by Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins under the scientific direction of Sir Richard Owen.



A “dune” stamp, mass produced as wallpaper stamps for collectors, from Oman, showing an Ichthyosaurus from Dorset. This special sheet is rarely encountered.

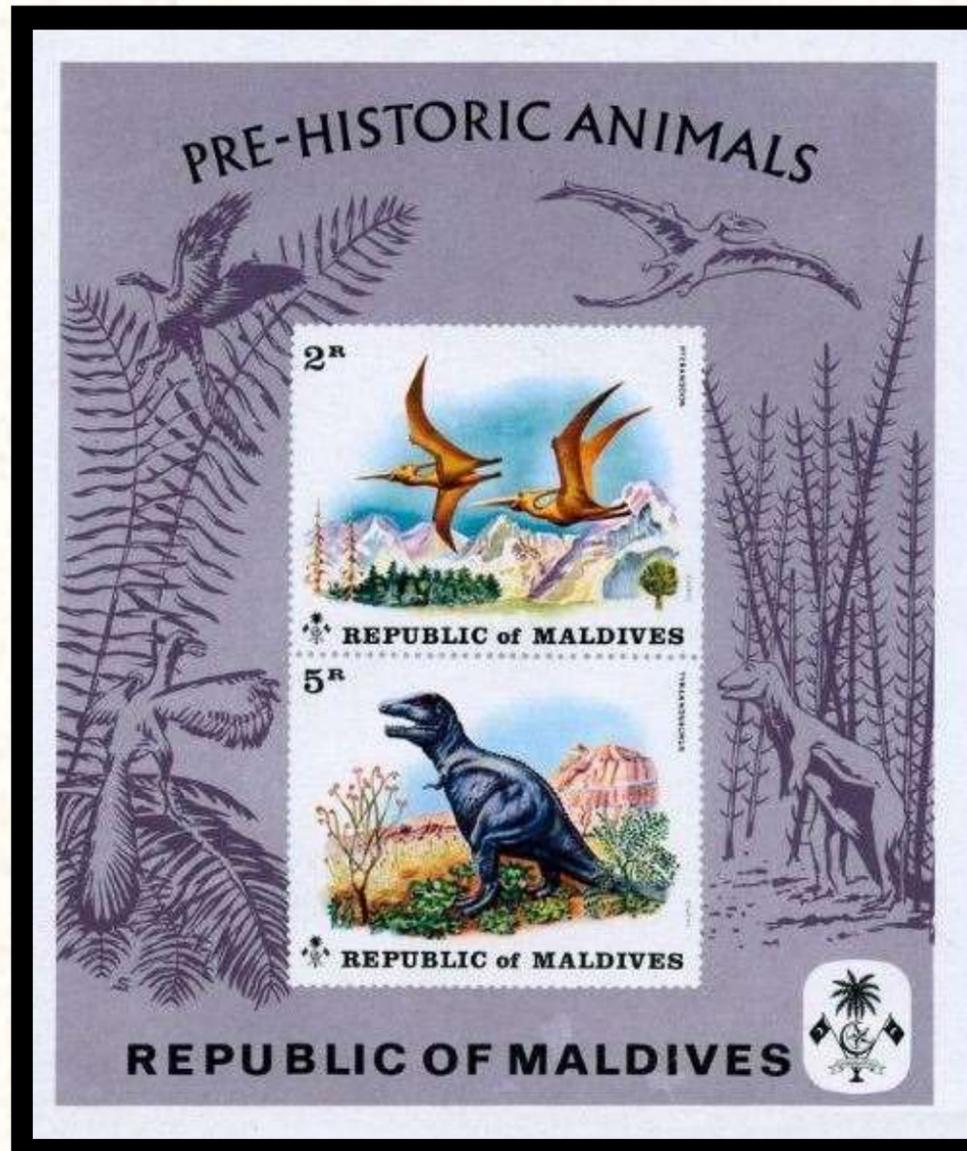


Mali Cinderella sheet showing Mary Anning.

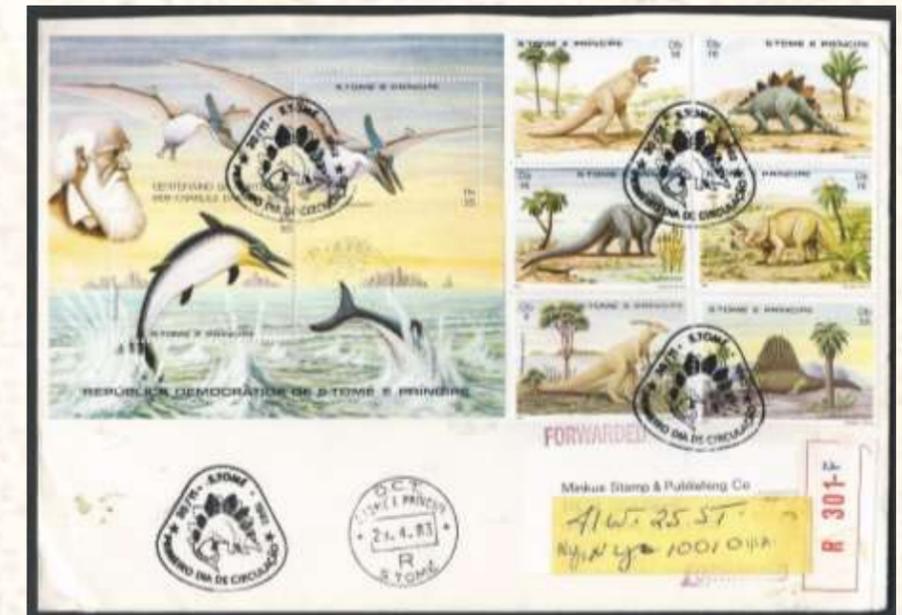


Set of stamps showing British dinosaurs, with first day cover and gutter sheet.

Rare minisheet from the Maldives, designed by the Israeli Shamir brothers in 1972, showing pterodactyls from Lyme Regis..

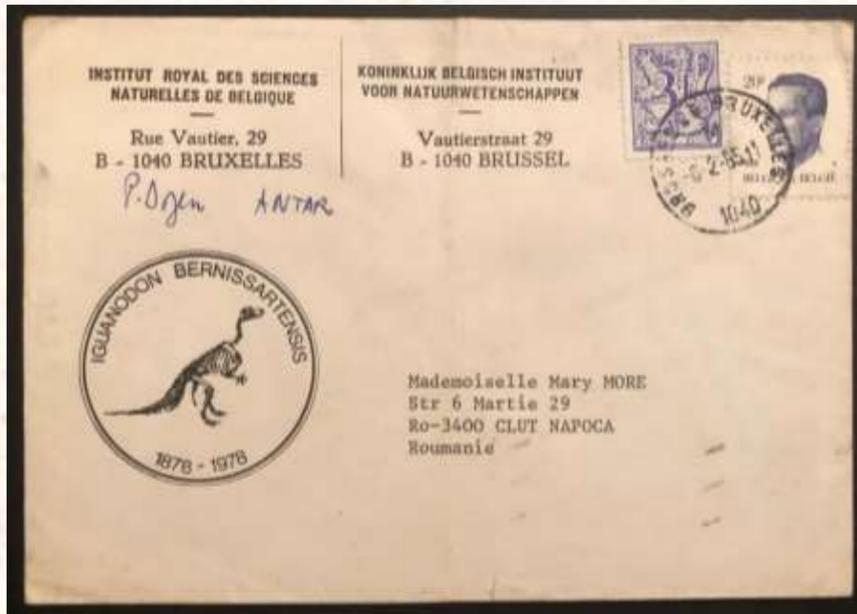


Beautiful 1982 first day cover from St. Tome e Principe, showing a Liassic fauna on the miniature sheet.



# Europe: Bernissart, Belgium

In 1878, 31 pyritized skeletons of Iguanodons were discovered in a clay filled, Cretaceous sink hole in a coal mine in Bernissart. They were carefully excavated and are on show at the Natural History Museum in Brussels.



Cover from Belgium showing the Iguanodon on the village postmark.



First day cover with Iguanodon cachet issued by Belgium in 1966.

The museum in Brussels.



Cover from Germany showing the dangers of smoking, illustrated with an Iguanodon.

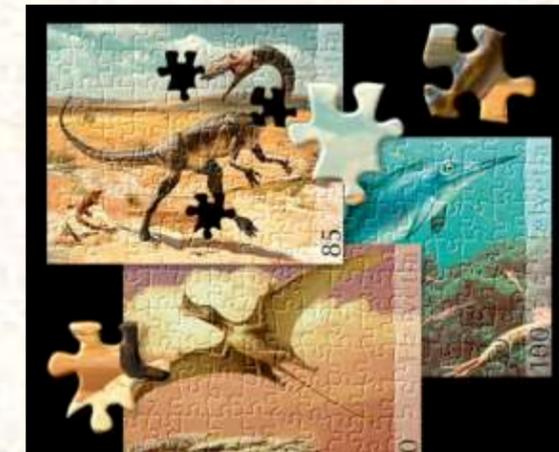


Set of dinosaur stamps with Iguanodon in a booklet issued by Belgium in 2015

Full sheet of stamps from the set.



# Europe: Switzerland



Fossils of therapods, ichthyosaurs and pterosaurs have been found here, and are represented on postally related jigsaws as well as stamps.

Notatesseraeraptor, a therapod from the Switzerland 2010 set.



Switzerland 2004.

# Europe: Italy

Despite some amazing dinosaur discoveries, Italy has never released a dinosaur stamp. I decided to design some stamps featuring Italian dinosaurs to redress the balance (images from Wikipedia).



Scipionyx, a juvenile dinosaur found in 1981, preserved with casts of its internal organs including windpipe, liver and intestines.



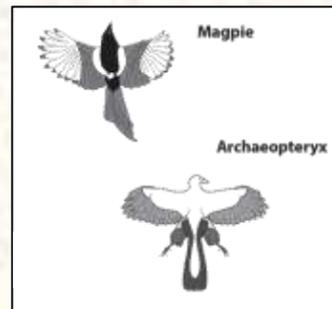
Saltrovenator, a predator found by an amateur in 1981, was discovered in a quarry after the skeleton was blasted into hundreds of fragments.

# Europe: Germany and the First Bird

First discovered over 150 years ago in southern Germany, *Archaeopteryx* has captured the imagination of millions. Long considered as the transitional species between dinosaurs and birds, time has done little to lessen its scientific impact. Twelve specimens, in various states of preservation, have been recovered from the late Jurassic lagerstätten of the Solnhofen Limestone.



Photographs showing one of the quarries in Solnhofen, from where the specimens have been collected, and the "plattenkalk" in which they are found.

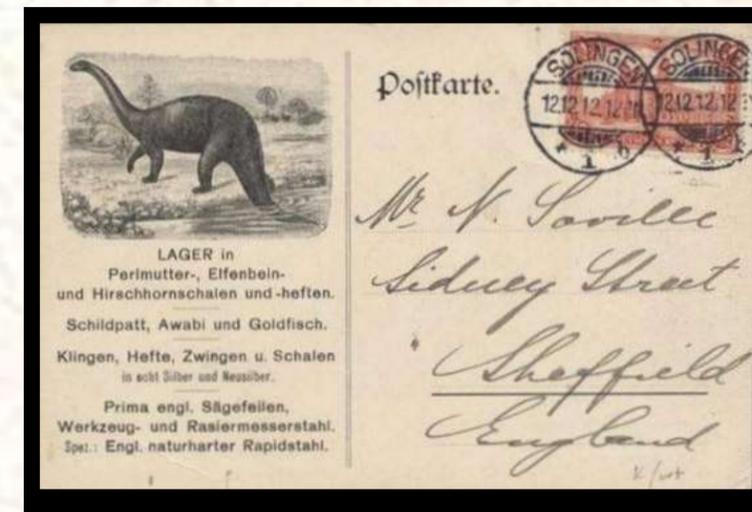
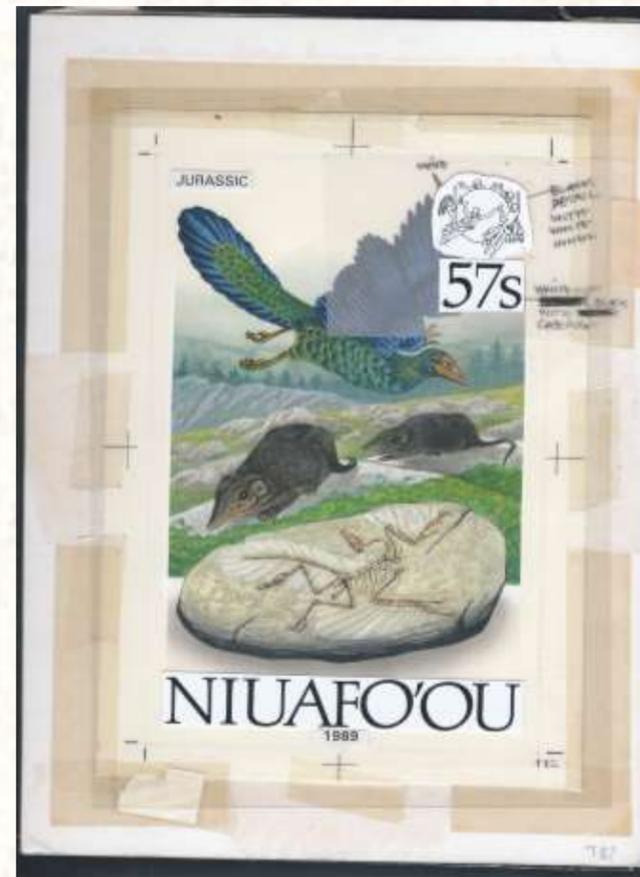
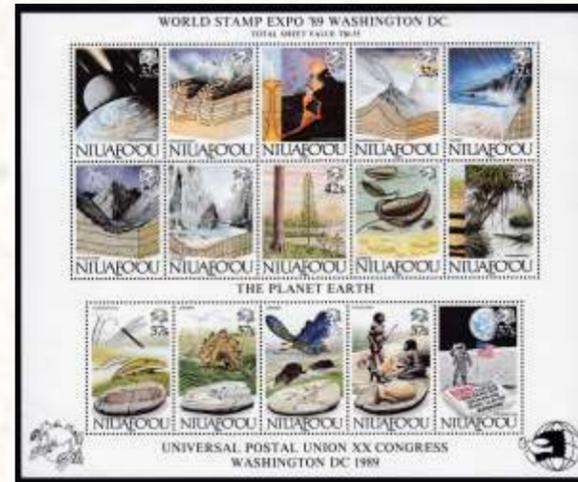


Archaeopteryx was the size of a magpie and probably had black feathers.

Korea 2000 cachet showing evolution of dinosaur flight.



Original artwork for a Niuafo'ou stamp showing *Archaeopteryx* from 1995. The full sheet of "The Planet Earth" is shown below.



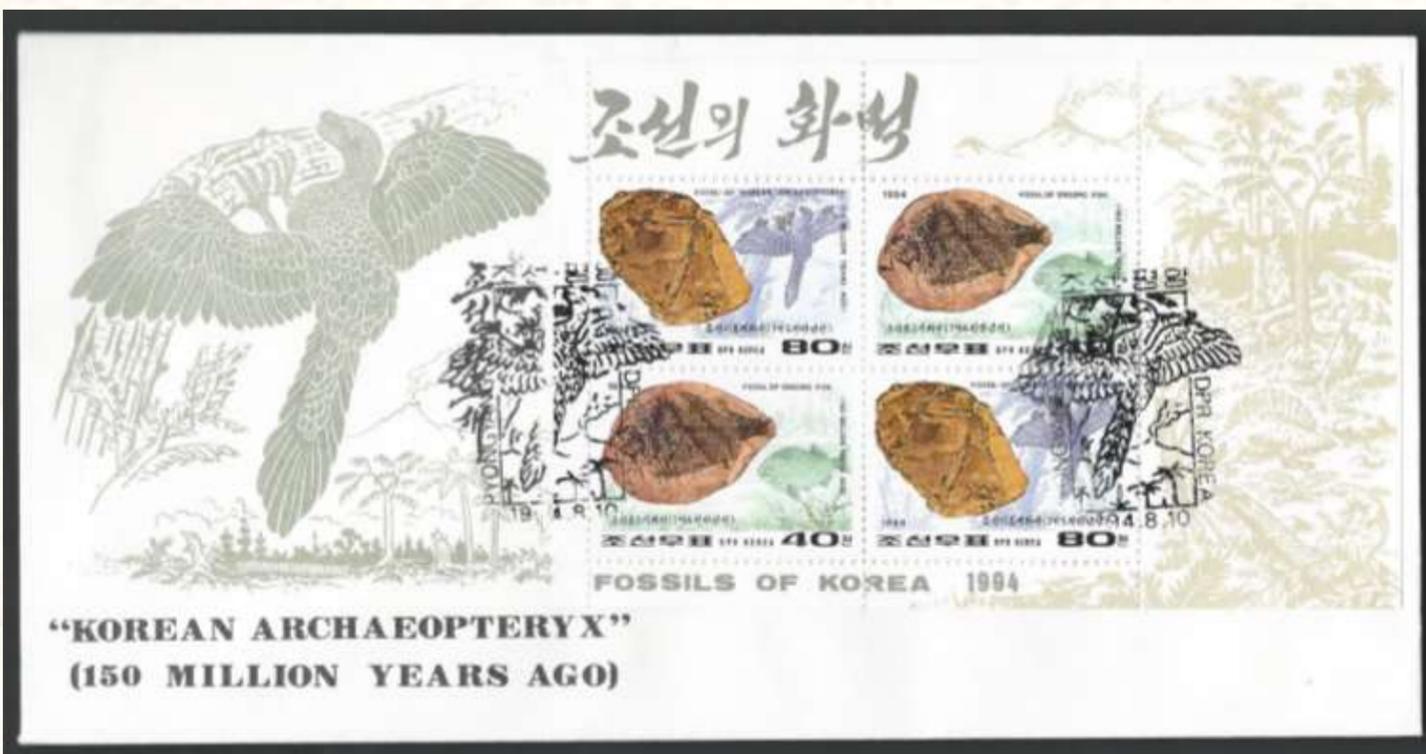
One of the very first ever postcards with a dinosaur on its cachet issued by Reichspost. The issue date of the postcard can be no later than the 1912 postmark.



UK stamp celebrating the life of Darwin with *Archaeopteryx* fossil, 1999, showing a dramatic mis-perforation.



Block of stamps from Germany GDR, with an *Archaeopteryx* postmark.



First day cover from Korea 1994, with cachet and postmark of *Archaeopteryx*.



First day cover from Poland, 1966, with *Archaeopteryx* cachet.

# North America: The Morrison Formation, USA

The Morrison Formation is a distinctive sequence of Upper Jurassic sedimentary rock found in the western United States which has been the most fertile source of dinosaur fossils in North America.

The first fossils were discovered in 1877, after which it became the focus of the Bone Wars between two rival palaeontologists, Cope and Marsh. It has yielded some iconic dinosaurs including *Brontosaurus*, *Diplodocus*, *Allosaurus* and *Stegosaurus*.



Cinderella label, painted to advertise Utah as a holiday destination, by John Heber Stansfield in 1935 – an early dinosaur “stamp”.



Outcrop of the Morrison Formation in Utah.



This 1970 USA issue uses a design painted by Rudolph Zallinger at the Peabody Museum, Yale. A signed first day cover.



Classic error showing *Brontosaurus* with missing head from Poland 1965 set.



Two 1970 stamps, one with red shift (common in this set) and the other a spectacular mis-perforation.



Photo essay for 1989 dinosaur stamp issue from the USA.



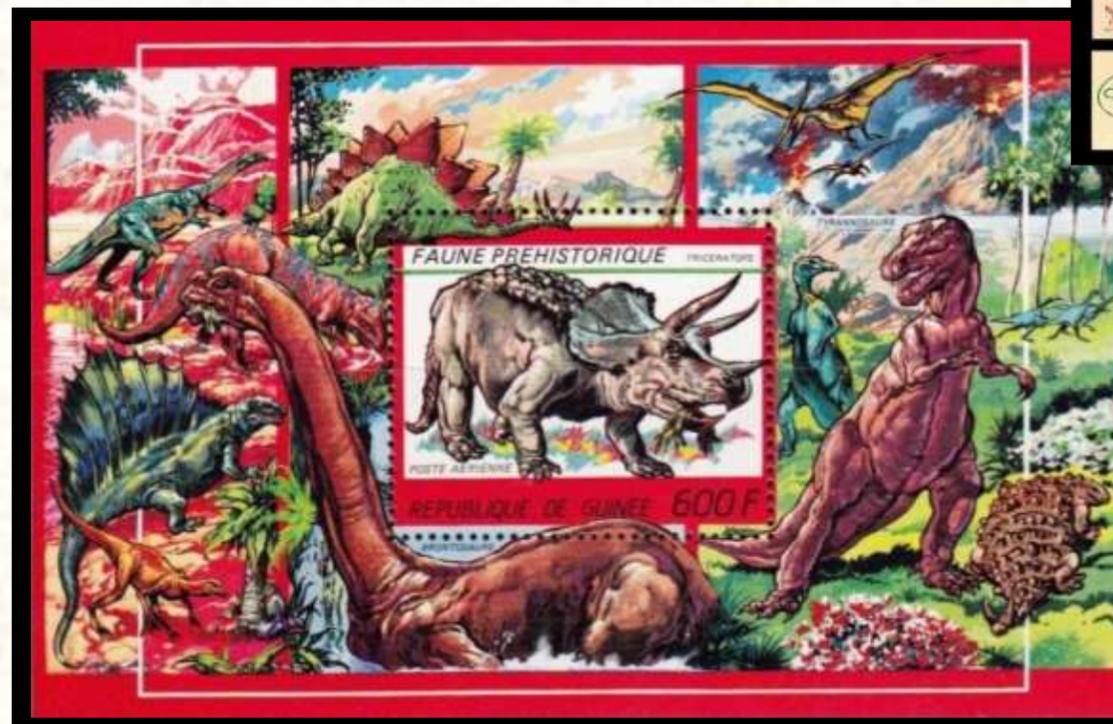
Postally “semi valid” Fujeira 1968 (“dunes”) with progressive proofs of *Allosaurus* and *Stegosaurus*.



Sinclair Oil’s “Dino the Dinosaur” first appeared in marketing material in 1930 and served as the company’s gas-station logo. Shown here are meter frankings and a giveaway album with Cinderella dinosaur stamps.

My favourite stamp showing *Diplodocus*, Maldives 1972.

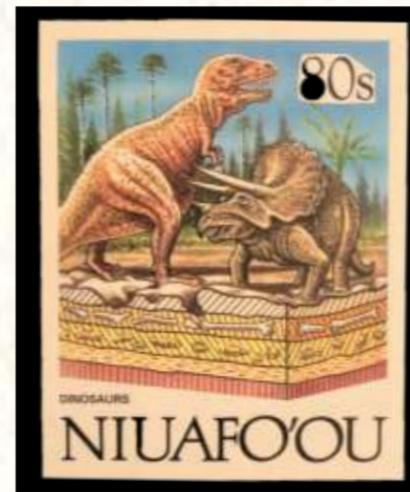
Sheet from Guinea, 1997, showing a variety of dinosaurs including many from the Morrison Formation.



# North America: Fertilizer and Fame

Several companies used prehistoric animals for advertising purposes. The Torrance Lime & Fertilizer Company in Lolita, CA, used several images including saber toothed tigers, cavemen and a “wobbly” dinosaur.

Possibly the world’s most famous dinosaur is *Tyrannosaurus rex*, found in Montana and Canada. Its skeleton recently sold for \$31 Million dollars. It is found in the same rocks, the Hell Creek Formation, as *Triceratops*.



The age old struggle on a photo proof from Niuafo'ou 1989.



Set of stamps issued by USA in 2019 to show the growth stages of Tyrannosaurus rex. The left hand image shows a 3D pop up model of T. rex marketed by United States Postal Service to accompany the set.



Photo shows the fertilizer quarry today.



Rare missing black error on the 1989 USA dinosaur issue, with a great image of T. rex. The sheet showed a great US Postal Service invention: Stampasaurus.



Fake 1980 first day cover from Dhufar, printed using 2000's technology and showing T. rex.



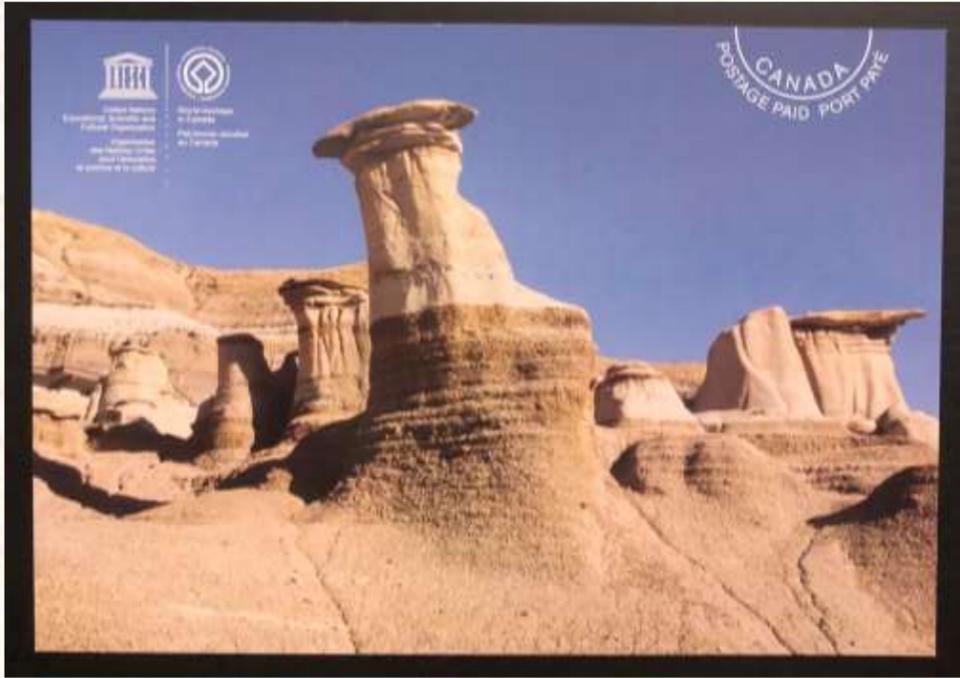
A 1991 stamp from Great Britain showing a Triceratops, with a skewed print.



Postally used, prepaid cover, sent in 1922, bearing an image advertising Torrance Lime and Fertilizer. The cover includes the image of a dinosaur, which may be the **first record of a dinosaur picture on a postal paid item**. Probably unique. Photo shows the quarry as it is today.

# North America: Canada's dinosaur bonanza

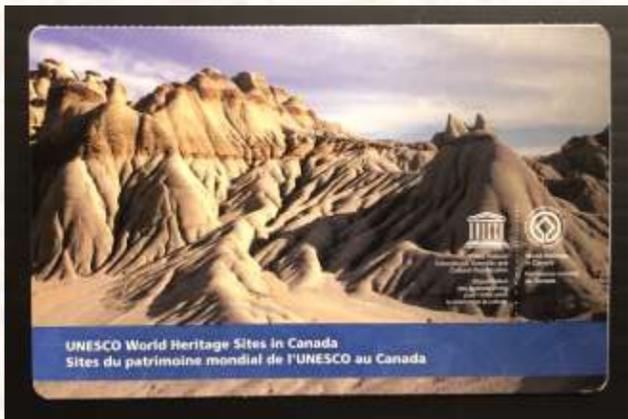
Alberta is the home of Dinosaur Provincial Park, where 58 species of dinosaurs have been found. The Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is late Cretaceous in age.



In 2015, Canada Post issued a stamp mistakenly picturing Drumheller rather than Dinosaur Provincial Park. Most philatelic material was recalled and destroyed, but an estimated 20 maxicards seem to have slipped through the net. Amazingly Canada Post had previously issued a prepaid postcard of the hoodoos with the correct attribution (below).



1972 maxicard correctly showing the Hoodoos.



Booklet showing the corrected image from the 2015 set.

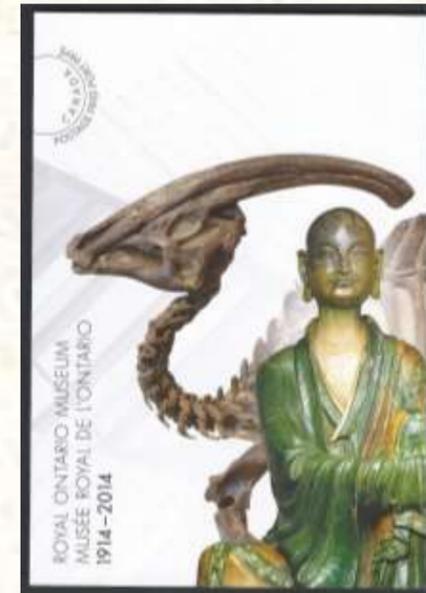


Sketch of booklet cover by the original artist, Sergey Krazovskiy.

Dinosaur stamps in booklet issued by Canada in 2015



Two photos of the Park, showing weathered sandstone and a hadrosaur tail exposed in the Badlands.



Maxicard from a Canadian stamp showing a hadrosaur at the Royal Ontario Museum issued in 2014.



First day cover from Canada issued in 1993, showing typical Canadian dinosaurs and reptiles.



Rare souvenir cover from the 1967 Stampede in Calgary, showing Dinny the Dinosaur

# South America: Dino giants

Some of the world's largest dinosaurs have been found in Argentina. These include sauropods that may exceed 40 m in length and the one of world's largest ever terrestrial carnivores, *Giganotosaurus*.

Bolivia has some incredible dinosaur footprints, while Brazil also hosts a rich dinosaurian fauna and the largest ever pterosaurs.

## Bolivia



*Cal Orck'o near Sucre, Bolivia is vying to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.*

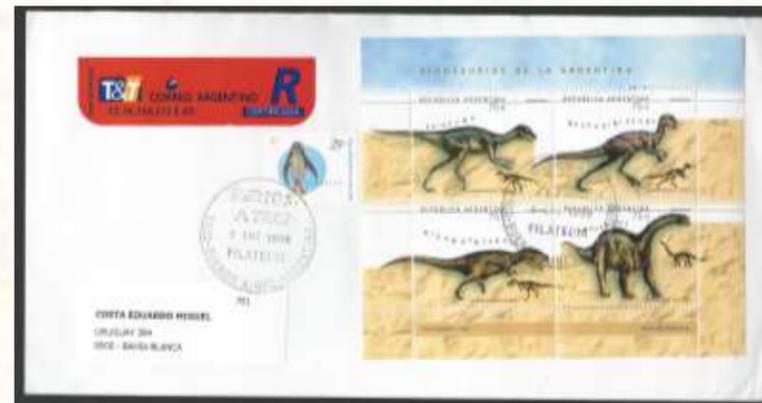
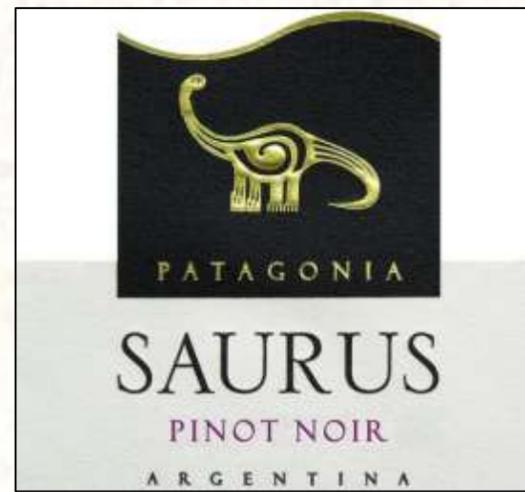
*A 2012 set of Bolivian stamps showing some of the footprints and the animals that may have created them.*



*These personal stamps, created in 2019 in Parana Province, Brazil, proved so popular that they were officially adopted by Brazil Correios.*

## Brazil

*The grapes for Saurus wines are grown in Patagonia. Dinosaur bones were found on the property, belonging to a new sauropod species, later named for the Schroeder family.*



*1999 set from Argentina on registered mail featuring four dinosaurs from Patagonia.*

## Argentina

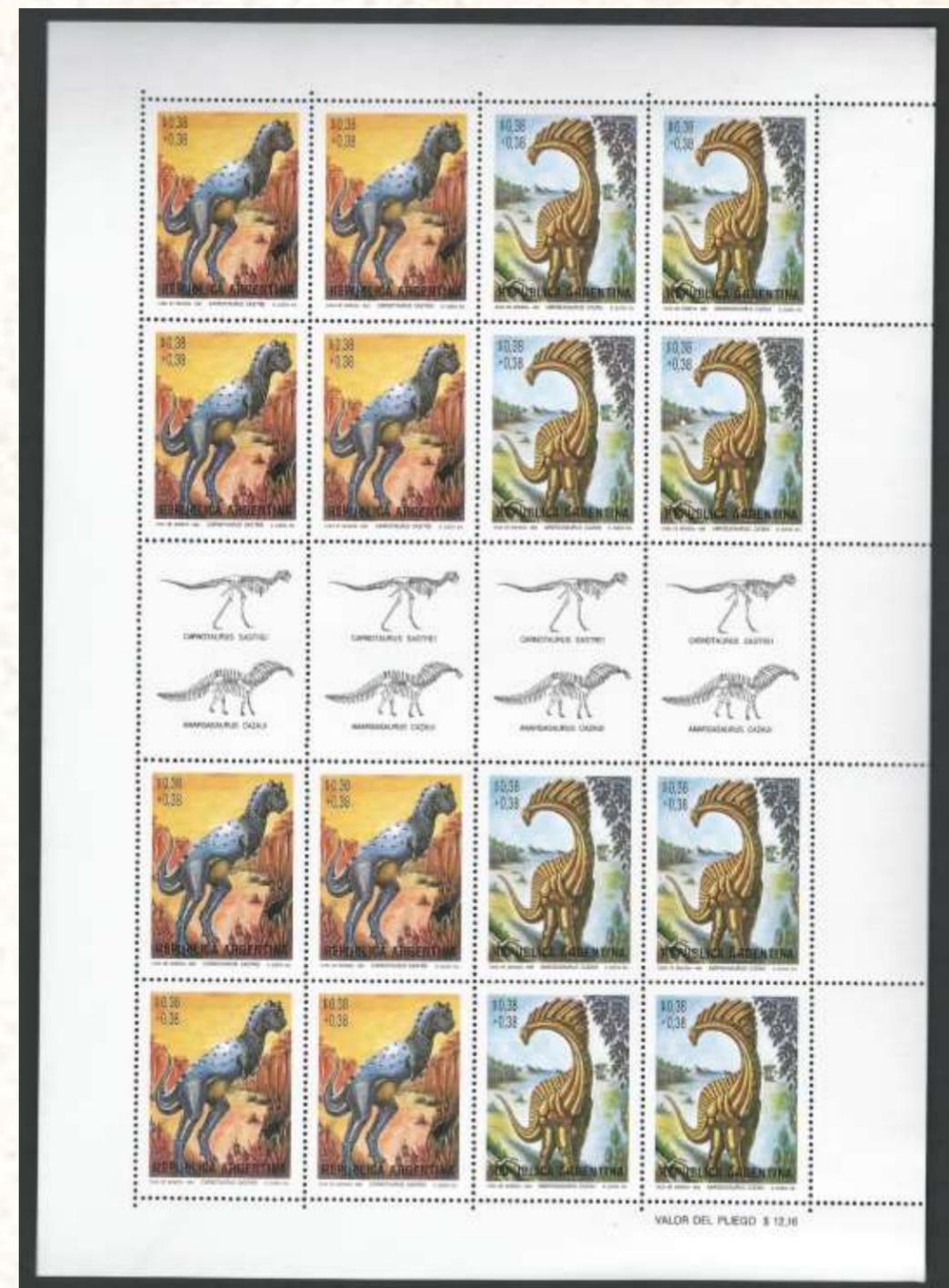


*Local postal item from Argentina showing a saurpoid.*

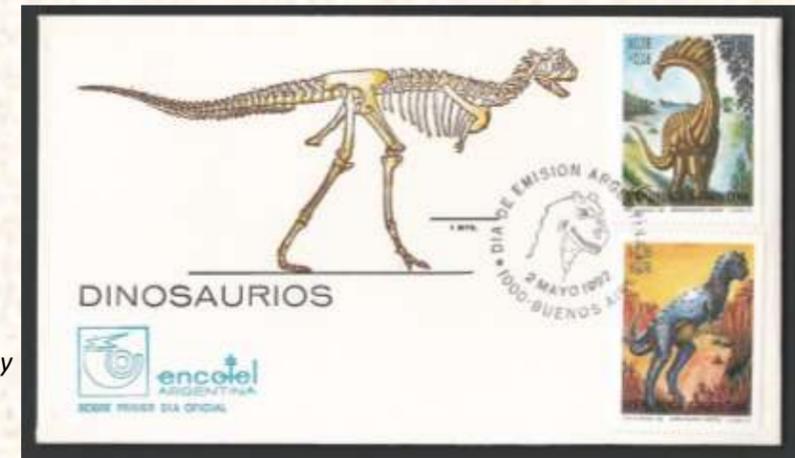
*This 1992 gutter sheet from Argentina shows Carnotaurus, and Amargasaurus, with its striking "mane"*



*Dinosaurs and Snakes, a Brazilian issue on first day cover from 1991.*

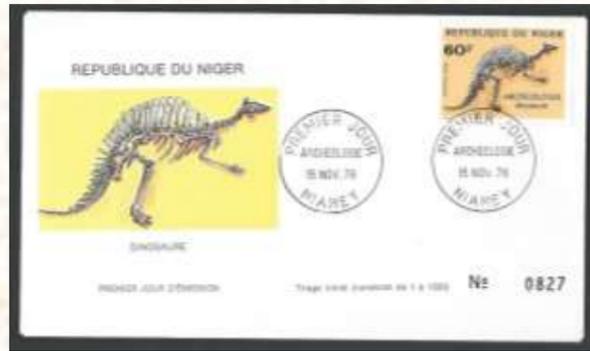


*1992 first day cover from Argentina.*



## Africa: Niger

*Ouranosaurus* was a lower Cretaceous iguanodontid dinosaur with a striking sail running down its back. This deposit is known for its extensive fossil graveyard, yielding a variety of vertebrate species preserved in fluvial deposits



First day cover from the 1976 set of stamps from Niger.

## Africa: Monster of Morocco



A fairly complete skeleton of a sauropod was found at Tilouggite in Morocco in 1979. *Cetiosaurus* (originally described from the UK, and named for the whale it was believed to be) was up to 18 m in length.

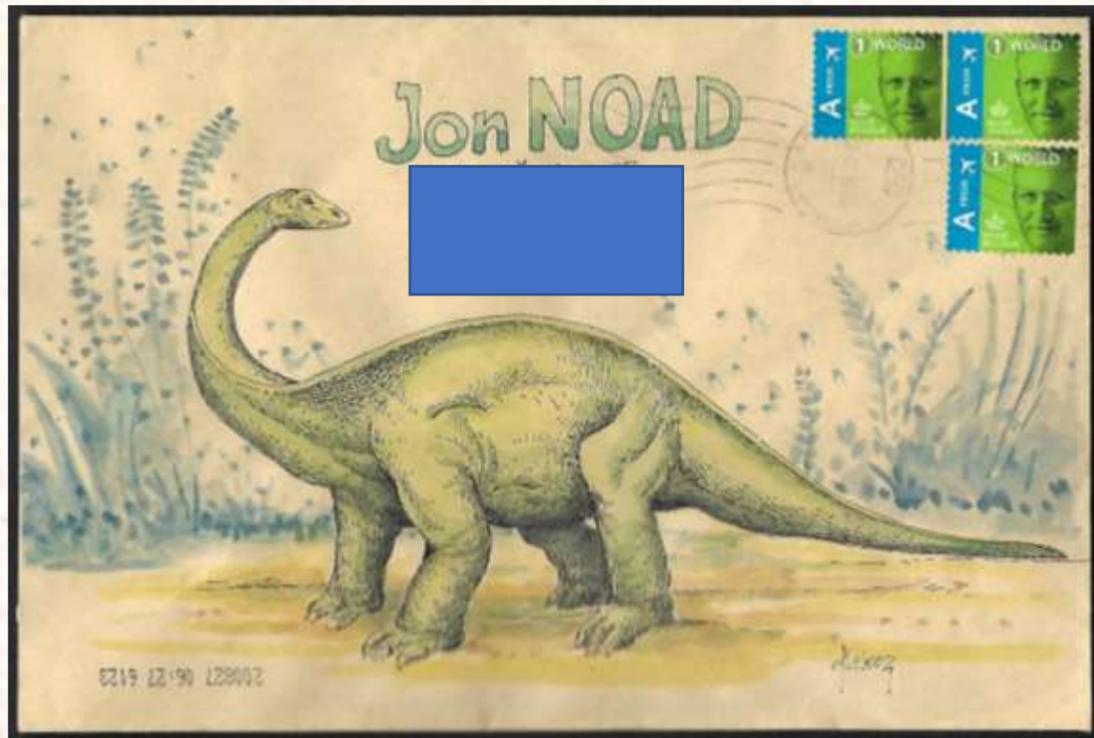


Image drawn by the original artist, Lisette Deloos, and sent to the author.

## Africa: Tendaguru, Tanzania

German expeditions excavated over 230 tonnes of bones and other fossils in the Tendaguru Formation. They represent the most important excavations of dinosaur fossils found in Africa and several skeletons are on display in the Museum of Natural History in Berlin. These include the largest dinosaur skeleton on display in the world, *Giraffatitan* (originally *Brachiosaurus*).



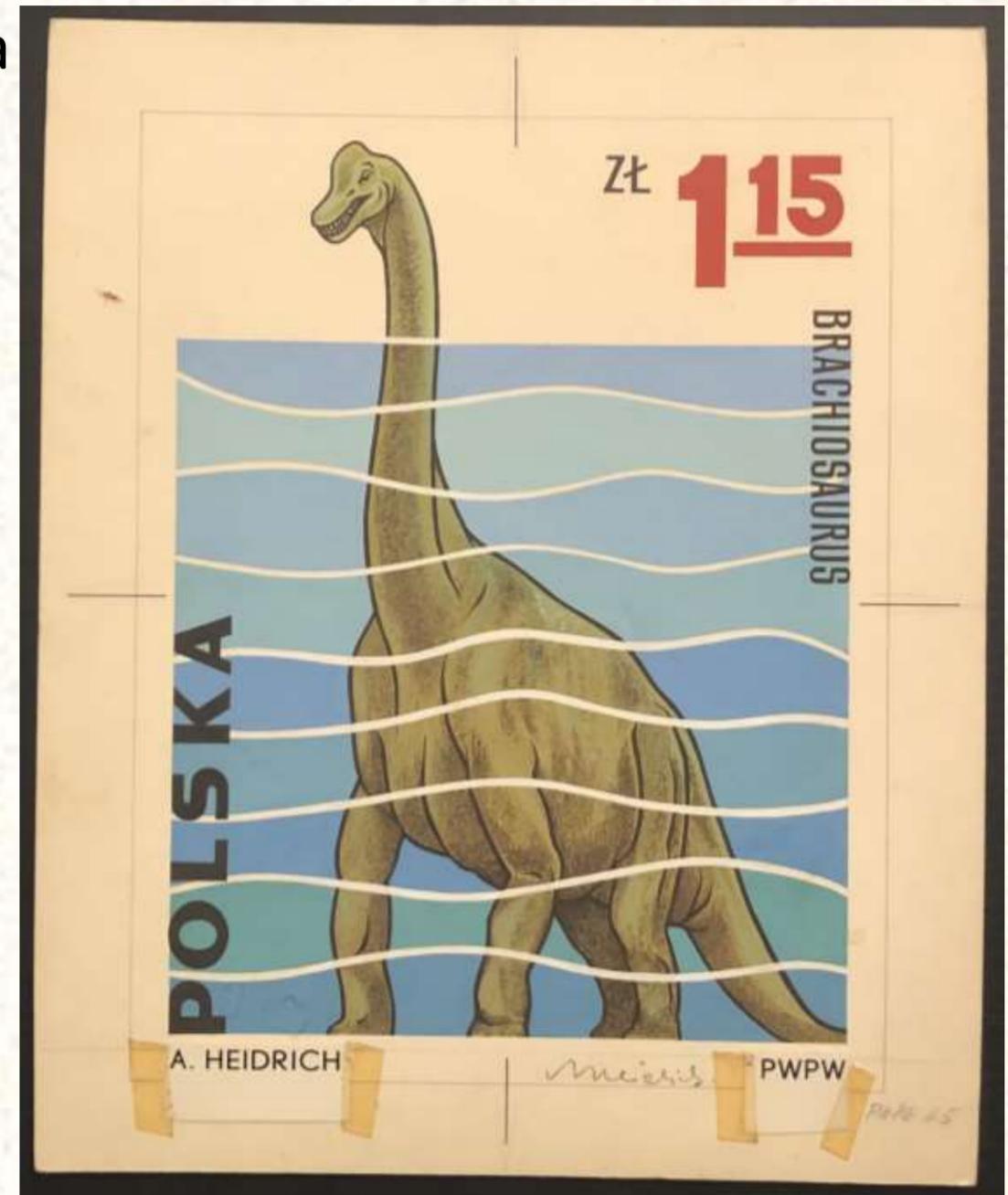
Photos of *Brachiosaurus*.



Entry ticket for the Berlin museum – when I visited you also had to buy a permit to take photographs.



Classic error from the 1965 Poland set of prehistoric animals showing a missing value.



Original artwork for the 1965 Poland set of prehistoric animals



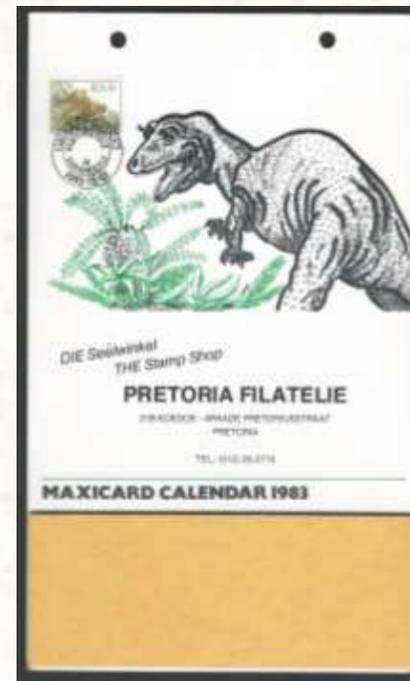
First day cover from Germany showing *Giraffatitan*, and another cover showing a minisheet with *Kentrosaurus*.

# Africa: Lesotho tracks and the Karoo

Lesotho has the world's largest known sites of dinosaur footprints, dating from the Permian to early Jurassic of the Karoo. These rocks were deposited in a terrestrial basin created during the breakup of the supercontinent Pangea, inhabited by numerous mammal-like reptiles.



Beautiful sheet from South Africa showing the 1982 set of Karoo reptiles. The image on the right was painted for the author by the original artist, Shelia Nowers, and shows Euparkeria.



Maxicard calendar from the 1983 South Africa Karoo set of stamps.



Artwork commissioned from Jennifer Toombs, who designed the Lesotho, 1970 Footprints of Prehistoric Animals set of stamps.

Photo of a fossil reptile jaw, 220 million years old, from the Karoo



Rare first day covers dating to the early 70s from Mozambique and Angola showing Karoo reptiles alongside mineral specimens.

Specimen of Cynognathus from the Karoo on a North Korean specimen stamp, 1991.



Progressive proofs from the 1983 set of dinosaur footprints from Lesotho



Brochure from the 1982 set of Karoo stamps.



Lesotho, 1970 Footprints of Prehistoric Animals set of stamps, based on trackways discovered near Maseru, Lesotho.

# Asia: Japan's elasmosaur

*Futabasaurus* (formerly *Wellesiosaurus*) is an elasmosaur from the late Cretaceous of Japan, found in Fukushima Prefecture by a high school student. It grew to 9 m in length, and its bones commonly show signs of scavenging by sharks.

Plesiosaurs are relatively common in other sets of prehistoric animals on stamps. Technically they are marine reptiles rather than dinosaurs.



San Marino maxicard from 1965 showing a Plesiosaurus.



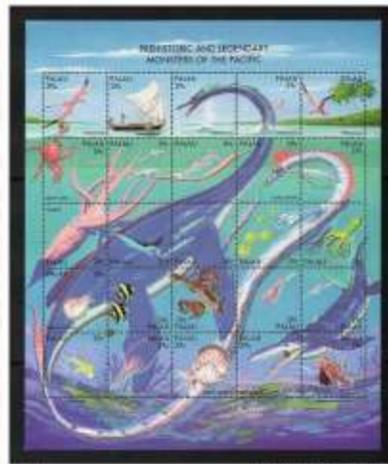
Rare Congo 1975 plesiosaur on first day cover.

*Elasmosaurus* gutter pairs with text from an Ascension Islands set from 1994.



Vietnam letter with set of prehistoric animal stamps from 1979.

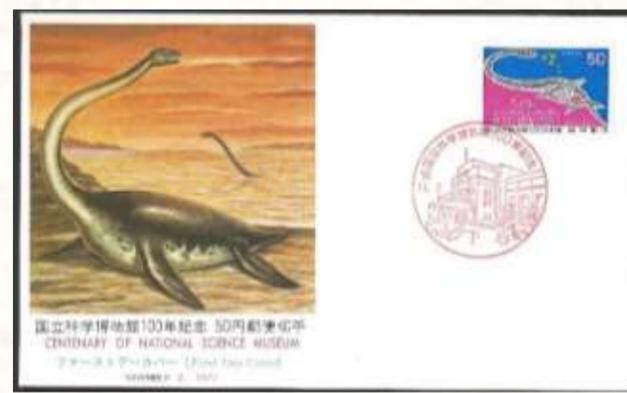
Palau 1993 sheet of stamps.



Stamp and postcard from the 1977 Japan National Museum set.



A coloured, metal engraving of the stamp can be seen in the rare presentation folder.



One of many first day covers issued for this set showing a distinctly Japanese artistic style.



Stamps in booklets from Japan 1999 issue.



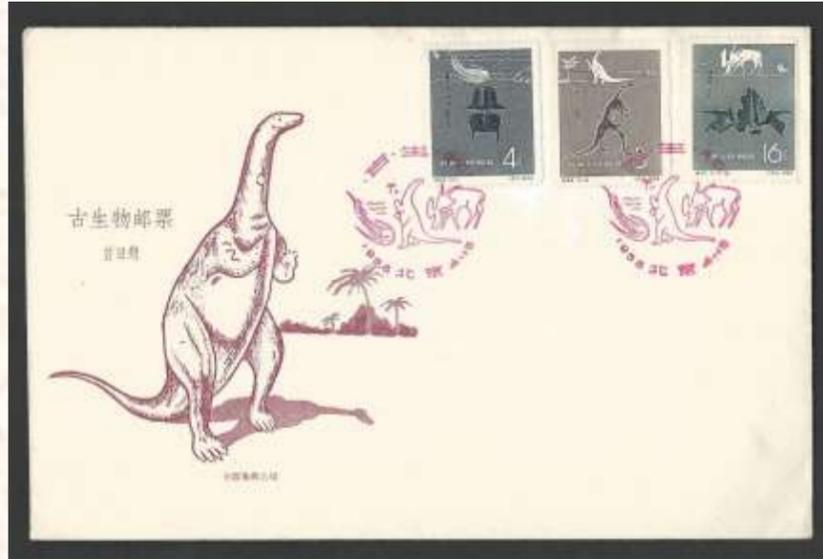
Used cover with several 1977 Japan stamps.



Special folder with 15 dinosaur stamp booklets purchased after negotiations in Japan. I have never seen another for sale.

# Asia: China's dinosaurs

Over the years, China has produced some incredible saurian fossils including most of the world's known dinosaur eggs, feathered dinosaur fossils and other wonders. It also issued the first official dinosaur stamp.



China has the honour of having issued the first official dinosaur stamp in 1958. It shows Lufengosaurus, a massospondylid dinosaur which lived during the Early Jurassic period in what is now southwestern China. The dinosaur made international headlines in 2017 when Nature Communications reported scientists' discovery of 195-million-year-old collagen protein in the rib of a Lufengosarus fossil.

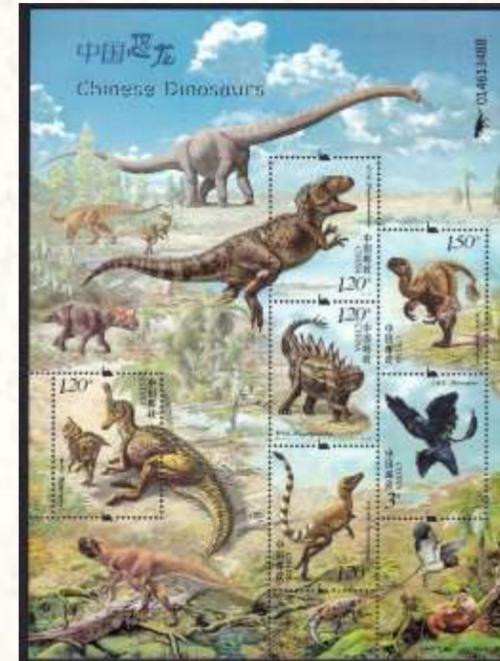


Unusual Chinese vignette from 1985.

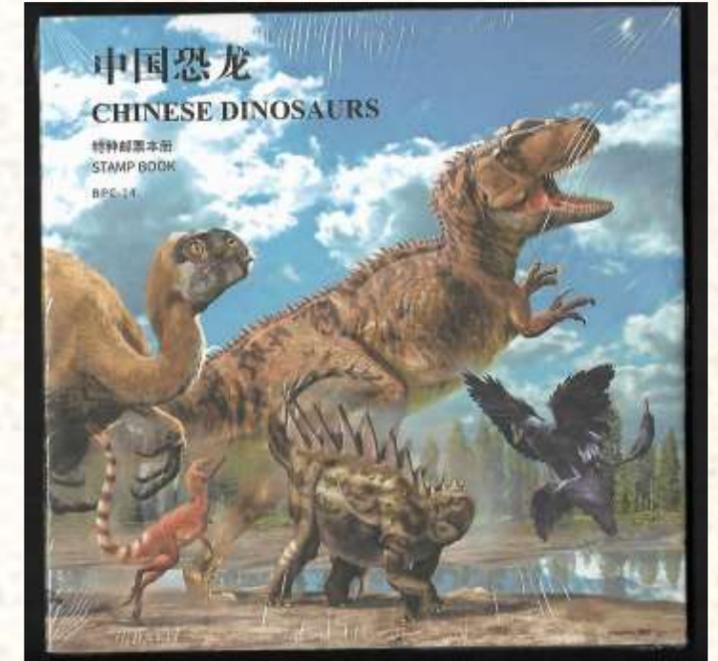


The first dinosaur stamp!

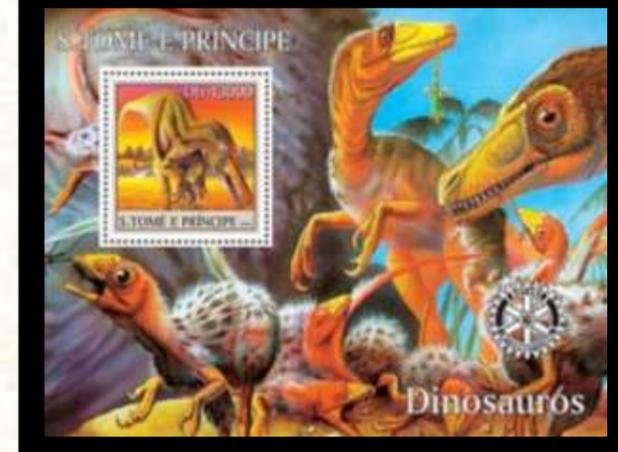
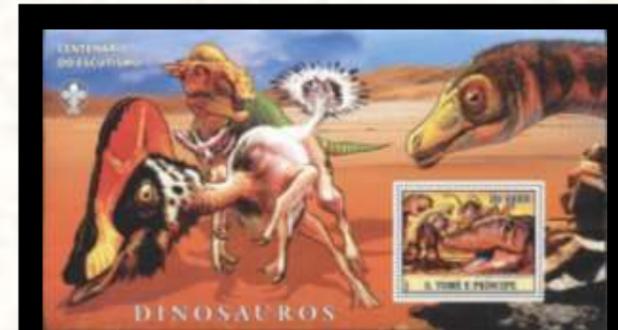
Two used postal covers using stamps from the 1958 set from China.



Sheet and special book issued to accompany the 2017 China dinosaurs issue.



Maxicard showing Microraptor, a feathered dinosaur from China; set of Chinese Dinosaurs issued in 2017.



Cinderella sheets from Sao Tome et Principe from 2004 showing feathered dinosaurs. The official status of such stamp issues is in question.

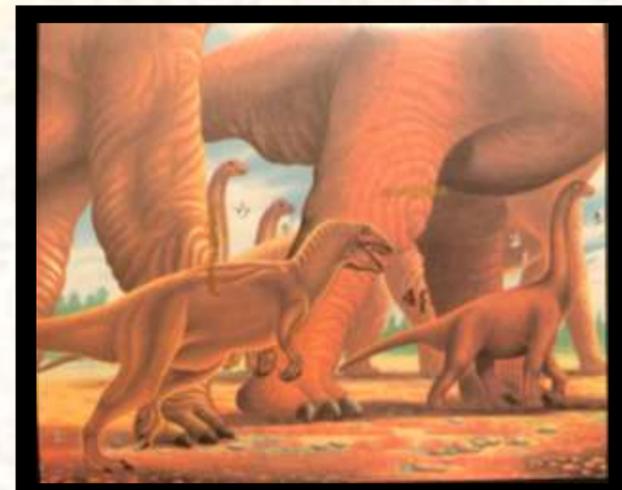


# Asia: Nesting dinosaurs of Mongolia and China

The first scientifically recognized dinosaur egg fossils were discovered in 1923 by an American Museum of Natural History crew in Mongolia. Egg discoveries continued to mount all over the world. Many dinosaur eggs have been recovered from sandstone deposits that formed in the ancient dune fields of what are now northern China and Mongolia. Mongolia is also famous for its dinosaur fossils, which have been compared to those of western Canada for their diversity and abundance.



Presentation pack from the Australia, 1993 set of Australia's Dinosaur Era set of stamps showing a dinosaur hatchling.



Imperforate stamp from Mongolia 1990, incongruously showing North American dinosaurs.



More nestling Protoceratops from Antigua issued in 1992.



Protoceratops with nest as unearthed in the Flaming Cliffs, Mongolia. The stamp is from Bulgaria, issued in 1990.



Psittacosaurus nests have been found in Mongolia, where this stamp was issued in 1977.



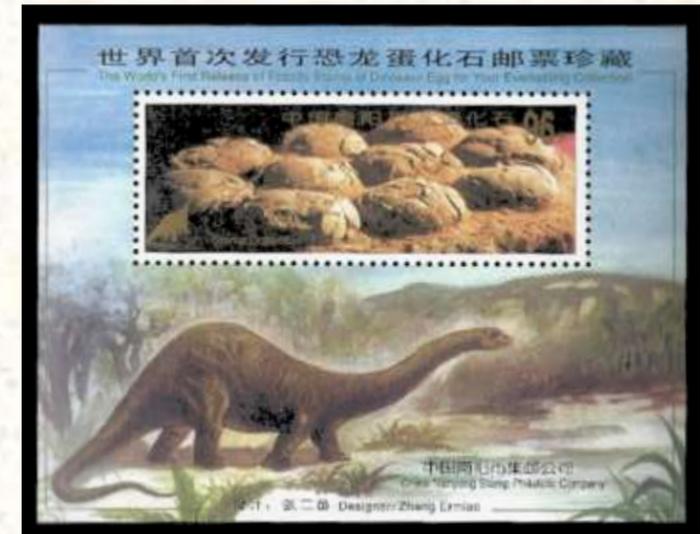
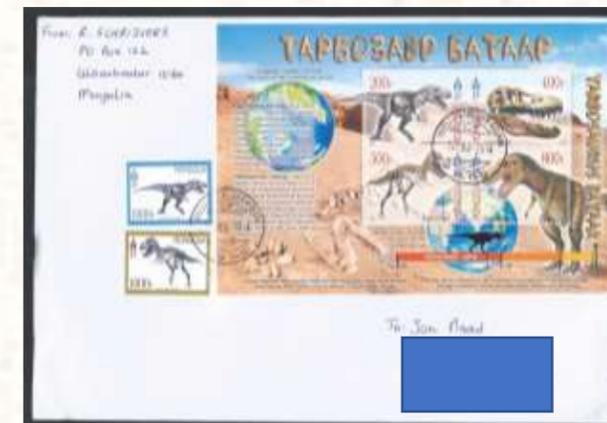
Maxicard showing a newly hatched Maiasaura; Sweden, 2016. These dinosaurs are only known from Montana, but hundreds of their nests have been discovered,



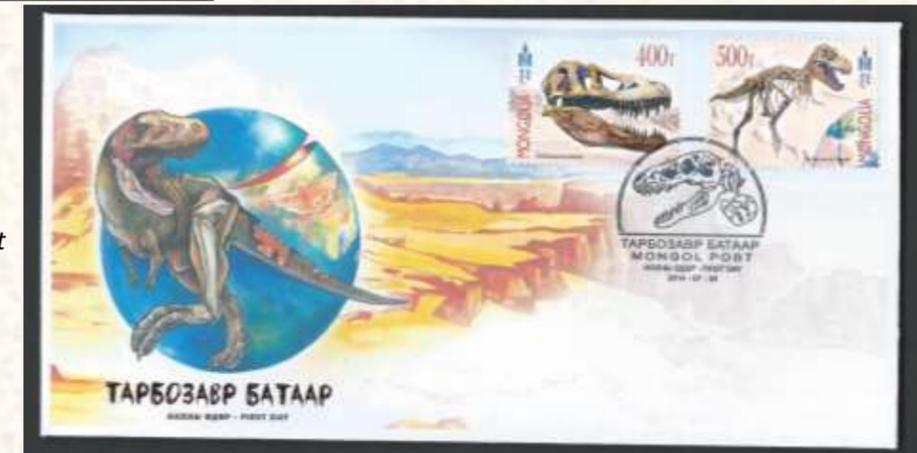
Beautiful sheet featuring Tarbosaurus issued in Mongolia in 2007. Shown here are the first day cover and postally used envelope.



Mini sheet on first day cover with dinosaur eggs from Central African Republic, 1996, for the Nanyang stamp show in China.

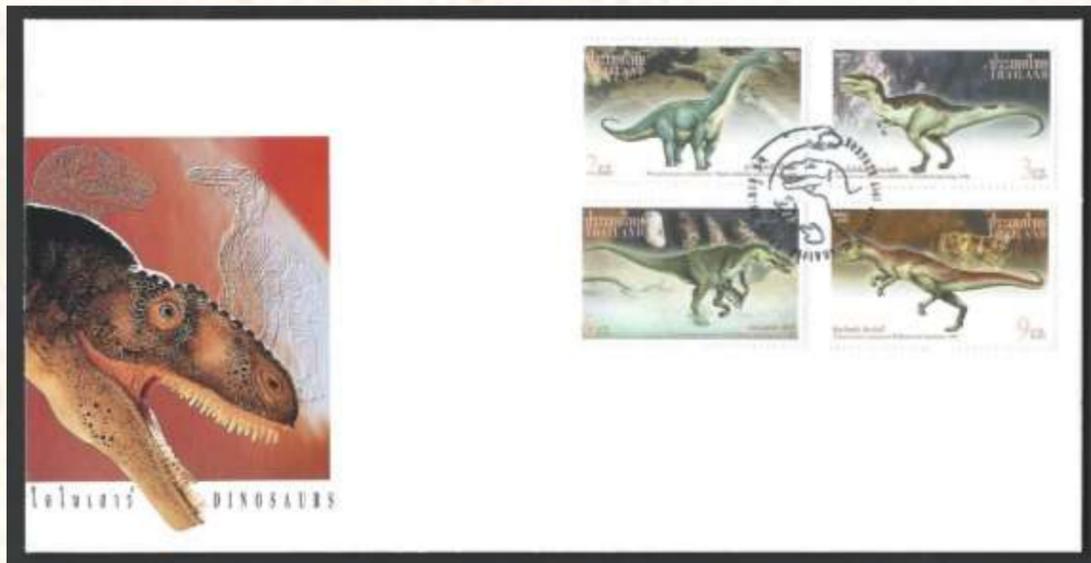


Unofficial mini sheet from China, 1996, issued to celebrate the Nanyang stamp show in China. This design is copied from the Central African issue.



# Asia: More to explore

Dinosaurs are very popular in Asia. Most fossils have been discovered in China, but countries like Thailand and South Korea are adding to our knowledge of dinosaurs around the world. The first Thai dinosaur fossil was found in 1996 and is the distal part of the left femur of a sauropod dinosaur. At least five species have since been found, one named after the Princess: *Phuwiangosaurus sirindhornae*.



First day cover and presentation pack from Thailand's 1997 dinosaur stamp issue, and (below) a booklet from the same set with dinosaur stamps.



Stamp from a sheet of "Unseen tourist attractions" in Thailand, from 2004, thought to be *Phuwiangosaurus*



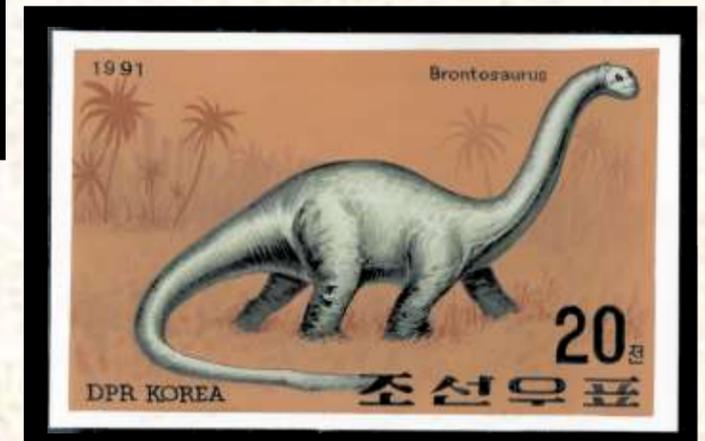
1992 Thai stamp celebrating the Centenary of the Department of Mineral resources.



Issued to celebrate the World Dinosaur Stamp Exhibition in South Korea in 2010. Shown are the original hand stamp and postmarked envelope.



Interesting Cinderella accompanying the dinosaur stamps on the 1991 sheet.

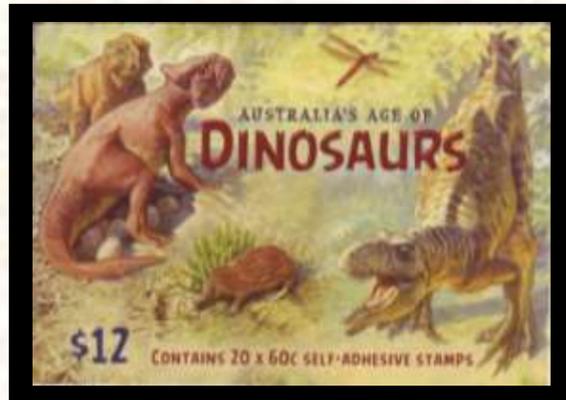
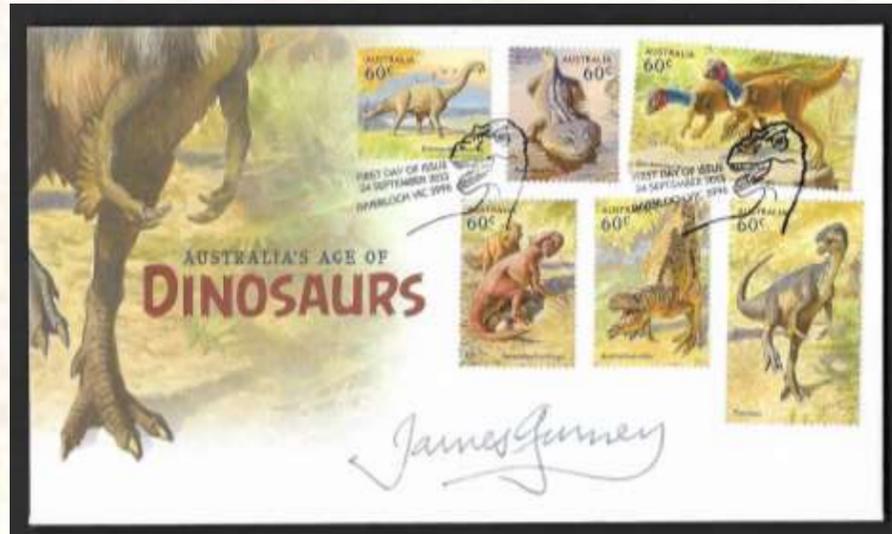


Stamp and original artwork from North Korea 1991 dinosaur stamp issue.

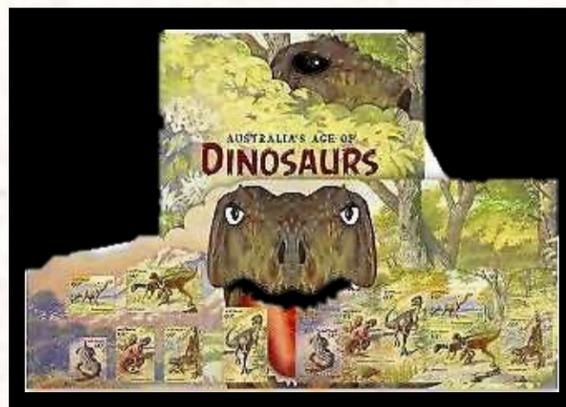


# Australia: Underexplored

Tin comparison to many other parts of the world, Australasia has not received the same level of study. New dinosaur finds are being made often, and include skeletons and trackways, including those of Stegosaurus. One trackway was cut out and stolen, with the rustlers fortunately caught at the border as they made their escape.



Booklet of stamps from 2013.



This special folder of stamps actually roars when you open it, wonderful for kids.

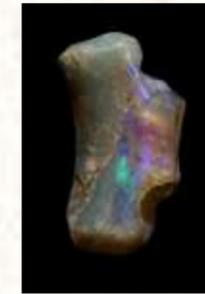
Set of dinosaur stamps issued in 2013 signed by James Gurney, the artist.



The right hand stamp from Australia in 1988 show evolution from a dinosaur to a fellow.

# Australia: Opal

The continent has some of the world's best opal deposits, which include opalized dinosaur teeth. A new set of stamps depicts a Cretaceous theropod tooth.



Ornithopod centrum (opal).



This sheet is from the Opalised Fossils Minisheet Collection. The stamps were issued in 2020.

Minisheet from the Opal Fossils issue



Reproduction artwork by the artist Geoffrey Cox, from a 1993 New Zealand stamp.



Set of dinosaur stamps issued in 1993 includes Muttaborrasaurus. Note the Jurassic Park postmark.

The 2013 set has many additional items including a book of special miniature sheets. If you bought everything on offer, it would run to more than \$700.

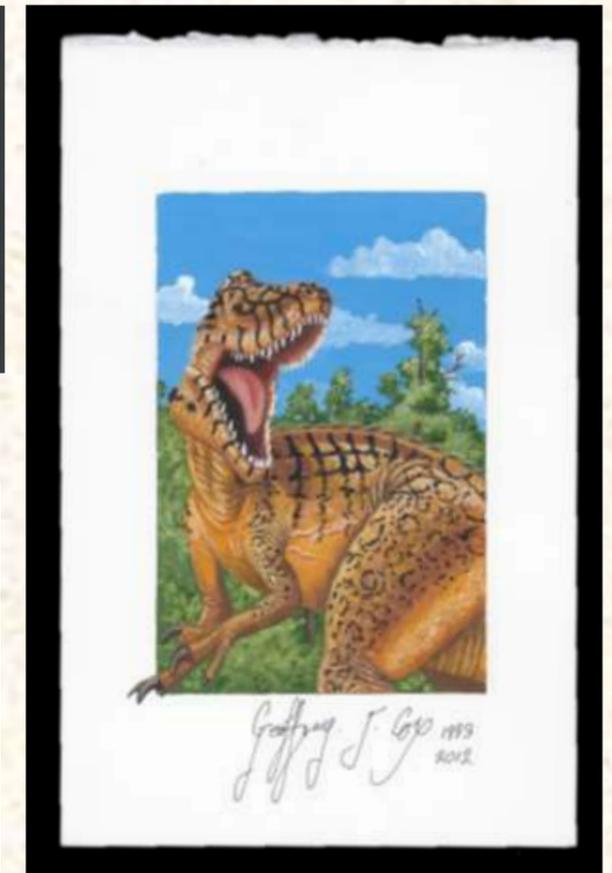
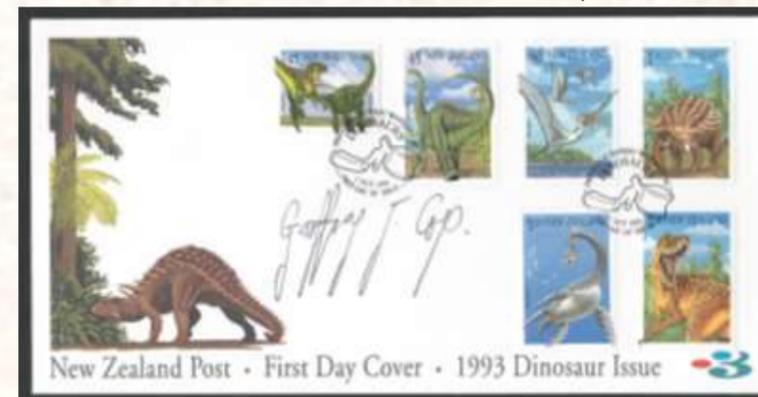


The 2010 New Zealand dinosaur stamps.

The 1993 New Zealand dinosaur stamps.

# New Zealand

Dinosaur finds are limited to a few bones, but more are being turned up all the time.



# Antarctica

While underexplored and mostly snowbound, this continent has yielded both dinosaurs and many Cetaceous plant fossils.



FALKLAND ISLANDS PHILATELIC BUREAU 1991				
PORT STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS				
Mon	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tue	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wed	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Thu	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Fri	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Sat	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sun	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Mon	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Tue	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	6 13 20 27
Wed	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	7 14 21 28
Thu	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	1 8 15 22 29
Fri	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	2 9 16 23 30
Sat	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29	3 10 17 24 31
Sun	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	2 9 16 23 30	4 11 18 25
Mon	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	2 9 16 23 30
Tue	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	1 8 15 22 29	3 10 17 24 31
Wed	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	2 9 16 23 30	4 11 18 25
Thu	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	3 10 17 24 31	5 12 19 26
Fri	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	6 13 20 27
Sat	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	7 14 21 28
Sun	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	1 8 15 22 29

British Antarctic Territories issued a stamp and calendar card showing a *Hypsilophodon* dinosaur.



British Antarctic Territories stamp showing *Lystrosaurus*, its presence in Antarctica helping to prove continental drift

B.A.T.



# Argentina

Several sets of stamps have been issued relating to their presence in Antarctica.



*Antarctopelta* was the first dinosaur ever discovered in Antarctica in 1986 and is a medium sized ankylosaur.

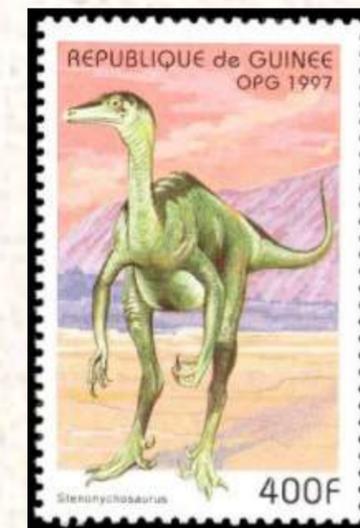


*Plesiosaurs* lived for millions of years in the then-warm southern ocean surrounding Antarctica, with adults growing as much as 10 meter long.

# Where are they now?

It is widely accepted that birds are directly descended from theropod (meat eating) dinosaurs - so dinosaurs are far from extinct and continue to fill ecological niches worldwide. Perhaps any thematic collectors of birds on stamps are secretly curating dinosaur thematics.

*Stenonychosaurus*, Guinea 1997



First day cover showing extinct birds from Laos 1994.

Modern dinosaurs AKA ostriches: stamp is from Spanish Sahara 1990.



Counterfeit edition, shown by poor perforations, from the US COASTAL BIRDS SET ~ 2015 Postcard Rate Block

