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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, mosasaurs, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>DINOSAUR</th>
<th>Scott #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aden</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
<td>non-Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Brontosaurus&quot;</td>
<td>non-Scott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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        |
|                 |      | Ceratopsaur    | 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 |

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 |
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.

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

The proper name for Kentrosaurus is Kentrosaurus. Ornithomimus is in the background (Scott #353). The restoration is too small and generalized for a proper identification.
The 1985 set uses the Spanish version of the names of the dinosaurs. In the 1987 set, Euoplocephalus is incorrectly restored without its 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

1972
Triceratops 1216
Stegosaurus 1218
"Brontosaurus" 1219

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Catalog Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>sauropod</td>
<td>894</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sauropod</td>
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</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
<td>860</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceratosaurus</td>
<td>861</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iguanodon</td>
<td>862</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Euoplocephalus?</td>
<td>863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Trachodon&quot;</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
<td>899</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stegosaurus</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triceratops</td>
<td>902</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saurolophus</td>
<td>903</td>
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</table>

Maldive Islands

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Stegosaurus</td>
<td>389</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Diplodocus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Triceratops</td>
<td>392</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus a</td>
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</table>

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

Mali

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
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<td>505</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Archaeopteryx</td>
<td>506</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iguanodon</td>
<td>508</td>
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</table>
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
              Saurlophus       451
              Psittacosaurus?  956
1977          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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Stegosaurus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>Megalosaurus</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Triceratops</td>
<td>Non-Scott</td>
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<td>Poland</td>
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<td>Stegosaurus</td>
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<td>Brachiosaurus</td>
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<td>Styracosaurus</td>
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<td>Corythosaurus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Tarbosaurus</td>
<td>2395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint Thomas &amp; Prince Islands</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Parasauropodus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>&quot;Brontosaurus&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
<td>8223</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Marino</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>&quot;Brontosaurus&quot;</td>
<td>612</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brachiosaurus</td>
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<td>Tyrannosaurus</td>
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<td>Iguanodon</td>
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<td>Triceratops</td>
<td>620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soviet Union</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Saurolophus</td>
<td>5923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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.
there's like no good dinosaur stamps so.. I made one all the ones I've seen are like those scene dinosaurs that are all cute and say rawr and etc you know the ones. no need to comment if you want to use! Add a Comment Graphic: Dinosaurs - Soft Colors & Dinosaur Stamps By Pixel Paper Prints from My Grapfico; Green Dinosaur by Tuty Triana; little bit DINOSAURS by N3rdyGirlDesigns. ADChoices by Google. ADChoices by Google. < What Is In The Pack & Download Your Copy. Dinosaur Pack contains over 60 pages: 3 Part Cards, Beginning Sounds, Matching Cards, Read Write the Room, Which One