

# Diamond Dinoversary

by Jon Noad  
jonnoad@hotmail.com

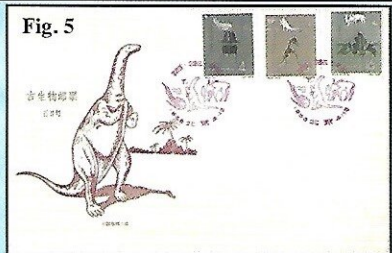
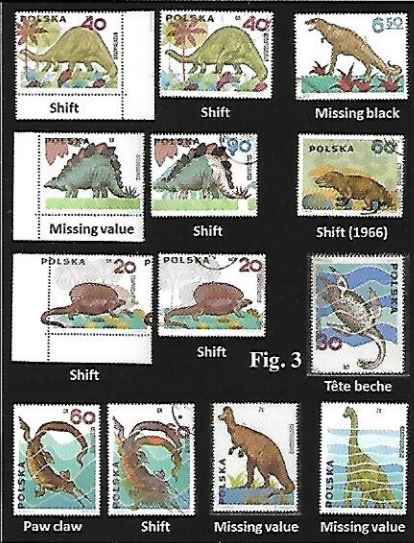
*The first of a series of articles covering the history of dinosaurs on stamps*

Without a doubt, one of China's greatest achievements occurred on April 15th, 1958 when they issued the world's first official stamp showing a dinosaur. The following sixty years have seen the issue of a plethora of dinosaurs on stamps, with designs ranging from the sublime to the (frankly) ridiculous; all shapes, colours and sizes, including triangular and circular; cartoons, three dimensional and holographic; lick and stick and self-adhesive; covers, postcards, souvenir folders, tattoos and more. At least 2500 official stamps and more than 3000 "cinderella" stamps (stamps resembling postage stamps but not issued for postal purposes by a government postal administration) showing prehistoric animals have entered the market, plus many others featuring hominids and other fossils.

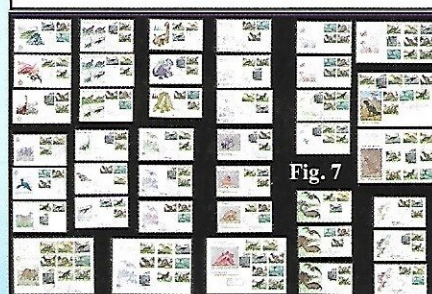
My dinosaur stamp collection began, as a child, when I visited the Odeon Stamp Shop, located in a movie theatre in West London, UK. The early 70's was the era of "wallpaper stamps", brightly coloured offerings from the Middle East and eastern Europe issued to capture the attention of young collectors across the globe. One of these sets was issued by Poland in 1965, with ten stamps showing a variety of prehistoric animals (Figure 1).

The stamps were designed by a noted Polish artist, Andrzej Heidrich as seen here in his original art (Figure 2), who has also worked on books and bank notes, and edited the Polish coat of arms. Their bright colours and simple images appeal to many stamp collectors, and they are also well known for a range of printing errors (Figure 3). Once I bought these stamps, my interest was kindled.

However, the Polish stamps were only the second set to showcase dinosaurs, the VERY FIRST being the Chinese Paleontology set of three stamps from 1958. One of the stamps shows *Lufengosaurus* (Figure 4), a Lower Jurassic massospondylid similar in appearance to a *Plateosaurus*. The delightful first day cover shows a shy prosauropod resting on its tail (Figure 5). One of the great things about the earlier stamps is the portrayal of how dinosaurs were reconstructed at the time. The next set of stamps to show "Prehistoric Animals," issued in June 1965 by San Marino, also demonstrates the 1960's view of dinosaurs as lumbering, portly lizards (Figure 6). This set is notable for the vast array of first day cover designs (Figure 7) and for the first dinosaur stamp maxicards (Figure 8), official postcards showing the stamps. After buying a single postcard (the *Elasmosaurus*) at a stamp fair, it took me ten years to track down a complete set, with many dealers denying that they even existed.

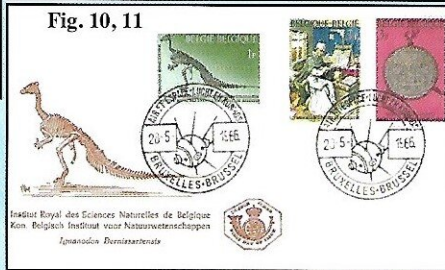


*Rhamphorynchus* and "Dinosaur", more correctly a *T. rex* copied from an original painting by Burian. As we will see in future issues, the recycling of famous dinosaur paintings is all too common on stamps. The set from Fujeira



Poland was back a year later with another set of "Prehistoric Animals" on stamps, although only one of the stamps was dinosaurian (an *Archaeopteryx*: Figure 9). Later in 1966, Belgium issued a National Science Heritage set, with one stamp showing an *Iguanodon* skeleton from the famous fossil assemblage at Bernissart. Thirty one pyritized, adult skeletons were discovered in 1878, preserved in a Cretaceous, clay filled sinkhole, in a coal mine. The mineralization of the bones has presented significant challenges. The skeletons are thought to represent two species of *Iguanodon*, and were reconstructed as bipedal animals (Figure 10). First day covers and commemorative sheets (Figure 11) were issued in addition to the stamps. This was followed by a Mongolian set of Prehistoric Animals in 1967, employing some slightly questionable artwork (Figure 12).

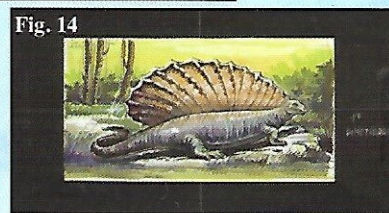
As previously mentioned, the Middle East continued to pump out wallpaper stamps, including an unusual set of triangular "Recent and Prehistoric Animals" set from Aden (Figure 13), and a set of ten "Prehistoric Animals" from Fujeira, both issued in 1968. The former set includes zebras, marsupials, cheetahs (inexplicably labelled as "detail of painting paradise") and an ape, alongside *Brontosaurus*,



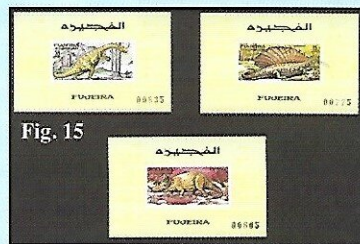
Country	Year	Issue title
China	15th April 1958	Chinese Paleontology
Poland	5th March 1965	Prehistoric Animals
San Marino	30th June 1965	Dinosaurs
Poland	5th March 1966	Prehistoric Animals
Belgium	28th May 1966	NationalScience Heritage
Mongolia	31st March 1967	Prehistoric Animals
Qu'aiti, Aden	1968	Recent & Prehistoric Animals
Fujeira	16th September 1968	Prehistoric Animals

shows five pairs of stamps (Figure 14), for air and surface mail, although finding examples used on cover is very rare. The stamps were also issued as deluxe sheets (Figure 15).

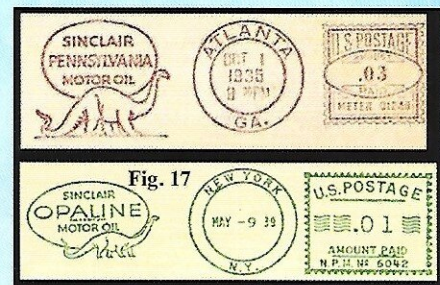
This covers the first ten years of official dinosaur stamps – spoiler: more to come from the next fifty years in future issues of PT!!!



but we cannot leave the earliest days of dinosaur philately without discussing the contributions of the Sinclair Oil Corporation. Famous for its dinosaur mascot, Dino the *Brontosaurus*, the company issued three Cinderella dinosaur stamp albums, in 1935, 1938 and 1958 (Figure 16). Over four million copies of the first album were distributed across America, most of them within two days, a huge marketing coup at the time. The company also utilized its own postmarks on Sinclair mail, which date back to at least 1935 (Figure 17).



So is this the oldest dinosaur stamp? Heck no! Around 1932, the Utah Tourist Board issued a set of cinderella stamps depicting “Utah, the Center of Scenic America”. These were painted by John Heber Stansfield, and one showed Dinosaur Monument, with a large dinosaur skeleton (Figure 18). But even this is not the earliest recorded dinosaur on a postally used envelope. After writing to a series of American stamp dealers, seeking unusual dinosaur related material, one gave me a unique prepaid cover, originally sent to the Department of Agriculture by the Torrance Lime and Fertilizer Company in 1922 (Figure 19). Based in Lomita, California, they produced lime from Palos Verdes algal limestone at the Lomita Quarry, which is still operating today. The cover depicts a very wobbly sauropod, next to the postmark (Figure 20) and, as far as I know, is the first ever “official” postal dinosaur..... unless somebody out there knows better?!



**SINCLAIR  
DINOSAUR  
STAMP ALBUM N°2  
WITH OTHER ANCIENT REPTILES**

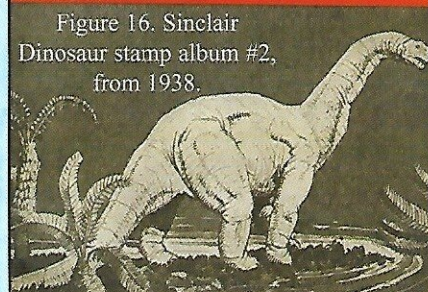
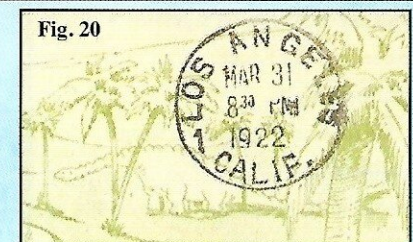
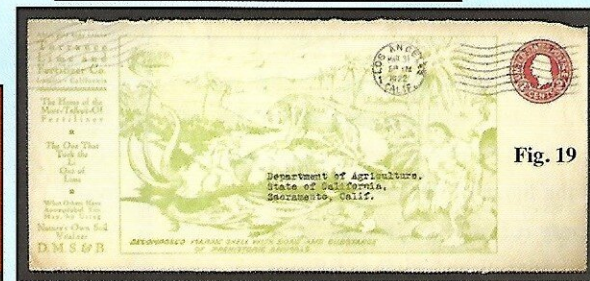


Figure 16. Sinclair Dinosaur stamp album #2, from 1938.



**References:**

www.paleophilatlie.eu  
Dinosaur Stamps of the World. 1991. Stuart Baldwin and Beverly Halstead. Baldwin's Books

# Disco-saur Stamps of the early Seventies

by Jon Noad

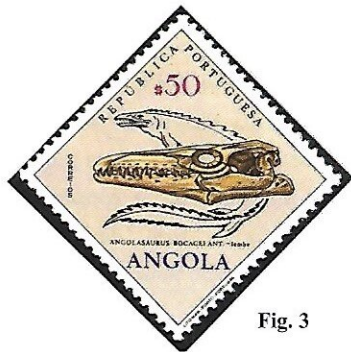


Fig. 3

Our second foray into the world of dinosaurs on stamps takes us into the beginning of the 1970s, a time when the

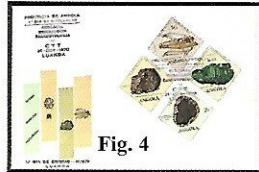


Fig. 4

world was still reeling from the mission that put the first man on the moon, and bands like Led Zeppelin battled Abba for musical glory. Meanwhile people were getting acquainted with walk-mans, pocket calculators and the challenging world of Pong.

Over the first two years of the decade, the issuers of dinosaurs on

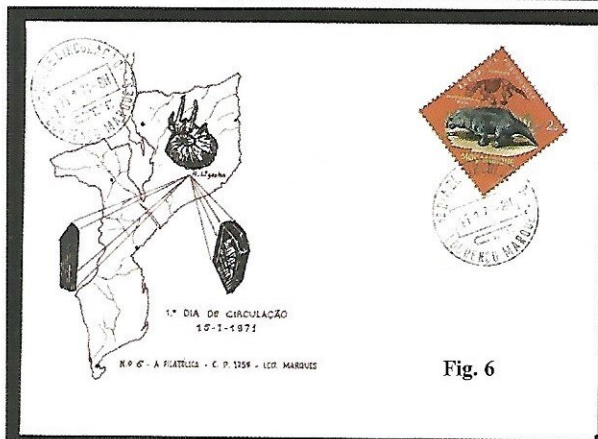


Fig. 6

stamps repeatedly turned to the Karoo Supergroup, covering two thirds of the present land surface of southern Africa, for inspiration. The honour of the first dinosaur stamps issued in the decade fell to Lesotho.

Five stamps featuring various reptile footprints (Figure 1) showcased the country's rich assemblage of trackways dating from the Permian to early Jurassic of the Karoo, far more diverse than the associated vertebrate fos-

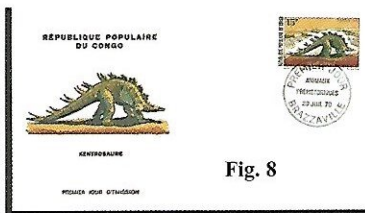


Fig. 8



Fig. 1

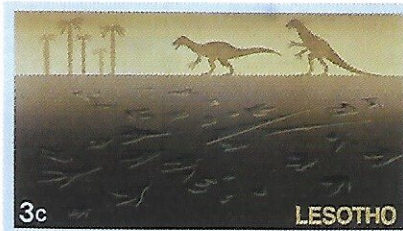


Fig. 2

shape and similar subject matter suggest that the two sets were related in some way. Each includes a single vertebrate; the mosasaur *Angolasaurus*, known only from Angola (Figure 3 and on first day cover in Figure 4); and the late Permian, beaked, dicynodont, *Endothiodon*. Figure 5 shows a stunning cover with an

*Endothiodon* cachet, or pictorial image, while Figure 6 shows a second first



Fig. 9

sils. These rocks were deposited in a terrestrial basin created during the break up of the supercontinent Pangea, inhabited by numerous mammal-like reptiles. The beautiful artwork was painted by Jennifer Toombs, one of Britain's most celebrated stamp designers. Figure 2 shows a painting based on one of the stamps commissioned from Jennifer by your

author.

Two issues of diamond shaped stamps came next, from Angola (1970) and Mozambique (1971), each comprising a variety of stamps showing fossils and minerals. Their geographic proximity, unusual

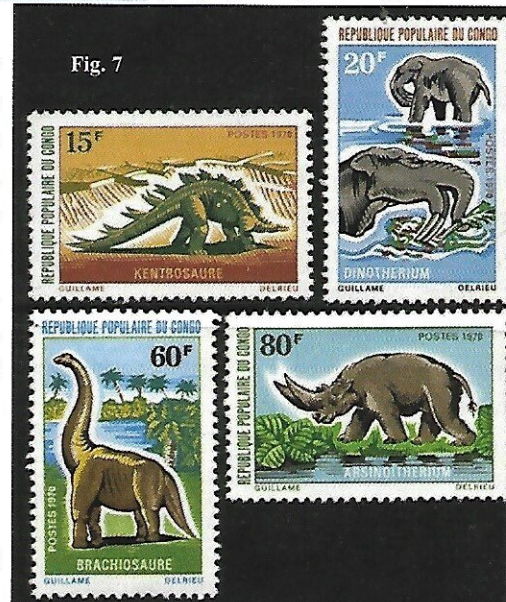


Fig. 7

day cover. The latter animal is common in the Beaufort Group of the Karoo in South Africa, continuing the theme started by Lesotho,

and has also been found in the Karroo Graben of northern Mozambique, explaining the stamp. The Angolan mosasaur was discovered in the Turonian Tadi Beds Formation, deposited in marginal marine conditions.

Remains of the sauropod *Angolatitan*, including a shoulder and forelimb, have also been found in this Formation (later we will see this “longneck” on a stamp from 1994). The rocks outcrop in the Bengo province in the NW of the country, and similar deposits have been identified in Brazil, which formerly adjoined Mozambique, prior to the opening of the Atlantic.

The Congo has become synonymous with the issue of thousands of so called “wallpaper stamps”, typically brightly coloured, often poorly executed, depicting diverse topics and of extremely dubious postal value. However, in our featured decade they produced two striking and quite legitimate dinosaur related issues. The first set of four prehistoric animals was released in 1970 (Figure 7), printed by Imprimerie Delrieu in Paris, demonstrating the enduring link between the two countries. While somewhat cartoon-like, the images are very pleasing and have that “lava lamp” 70’s feel. The *Kentrosaurus* in particular is a delight (Figure 8), and each of the four stamps gets its own first day cover. The remaining stamps include an *Arsinotherium*, *Dinotherium* and a stump tailed *Brachiosaurus*.

The second Congo issue of four stamps is from 1975, and features *Tyrannosaurus*, *Stegosaurus*, *Moschops* from the Karoo and the plesiosaur *Cryptocleidus* (Figure 9). The artwork is nicely stylized, although all four images are “borrowed” from the famous dinosaur artist Zdenek Burian. This is a recurring theme, especially on stamps from less obvious countries. Why design your own dinosaur images when you can steal someone else’s? Again, this set appears on four, individual first day covers (Figure 10), which are as “rare as hen’s teeth”

as we say in the UK. Every stamp from each of the Congo sets is also available on a special sheet. It is ironic that

the most famous “dinosaur” reported from the Congo is the mythical Mokele-mbembe, originally a water spirit but later transmogrified into a crocodile or even described by cryptozoologists as a plesiosaur or sauropod. Sauropod bones have been reported from late Jurassic outcrops of the Kwango Group in the Congo Basin, and Cretaceous pterosaur remains from



Fig. 10

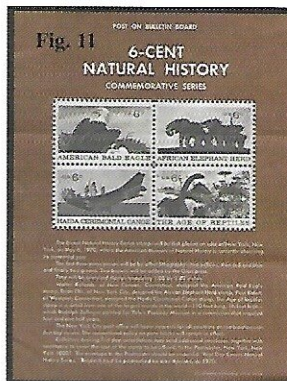


Fig. 11

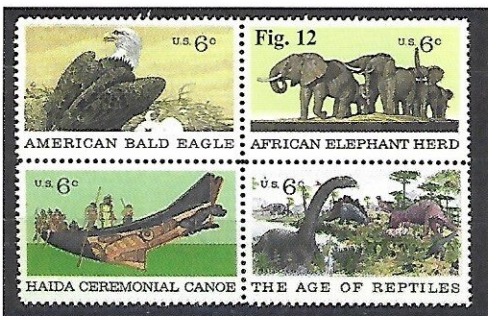


Fig. 12

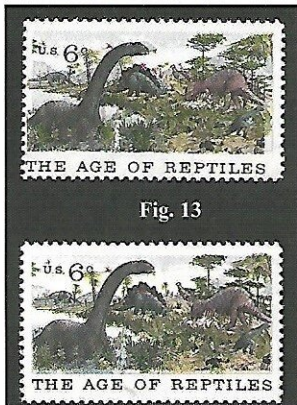


Fig. 13

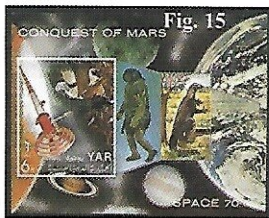


Fig. 15

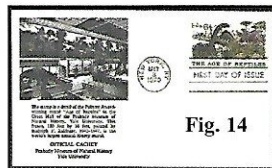


Fig. 14



Fig. 16

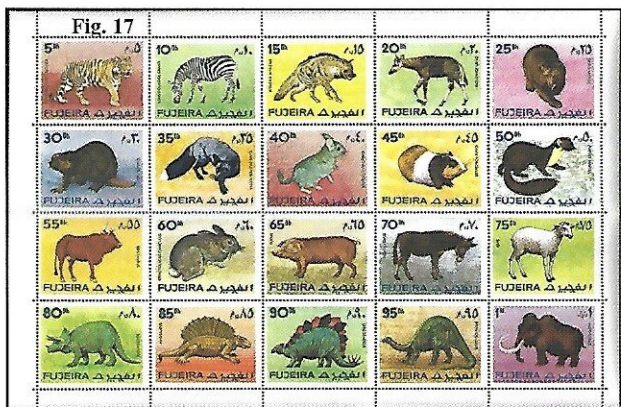


Fig. 17



Fig. 18

along the Lubilash River (a wonderful name for a river).

Ever since I was five years old I have wanted to be a geologist/palaeontologist. My interest was first kindled, as I imagine were many other dinosaur enthusiasts, by the inspiring book “Dinosaurs and Other Prehistoric Reptiles” by Jane Werner Watson. The breathtaking illustrations are by Rudolph Zallinger, who also painted the famous mural at the Yale University’s Peabody Museum, and a portion

of this mural was incorporated in one of a block of four stamps, issued in the US in 1970, to commemorate the centenary of the American Museum of Natural History (Figure 11). The stamp shows a *Brontosaurus* hip deep in water, with a *Stegosaurus* and *Allosaurus* close by (Figure 12). The stamp is also well known for a striking and very common printing error showing a “red shift”.

This is often easy to spot on the Steggy’s back plates (Figure 13), the *Allosaurus* and the meat that he is consuming.

Numerous first day cover designs were issued on the day (Figure 14).

Going back to wallpaper stamps, at this time a canny stamp dealer in the US, Finbar Kenny, had hundreds of thousands of stamps printed under the auspices of Middle Eastern countries. The lurid stamps, covering many random themes, became known as “dunes”. Any child growing up in the 70’s, and interested in stamps, cannot fail to have seen

the garish and sometimes faintly ridiculous issues from the Emirates and associated Trucial states. The issues included some “classic” dinosaur images, the first from Yemen in 1971. Entitled “Conquest of Mars”, the sheet incorporates a Mars Photon Rocket; Galileo’s trial; a caveman; a child-like drawing of an

*Iguanodon*; and some stromatolites (Figure 15). The Iggy stamp is labelled “200 million years: the first saurian”, and is almost the worst ever portrayal of a dinosaur on a stamp. There is another space themed sheet in the issue. Once again, the first day cover is extremely hard to get hold of (Figure 16).

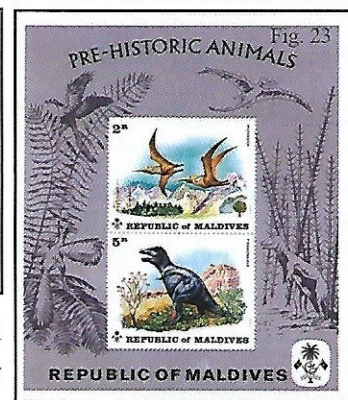
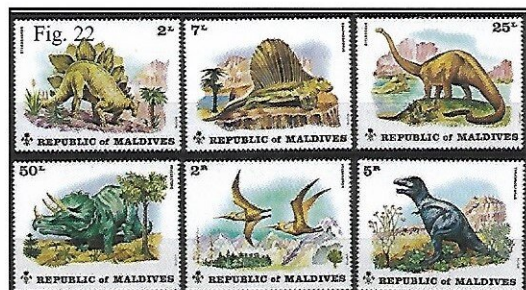
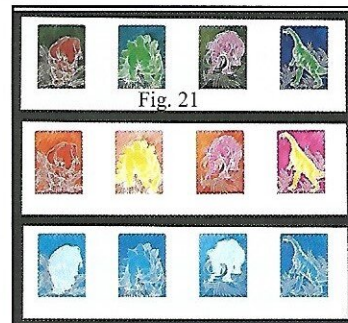
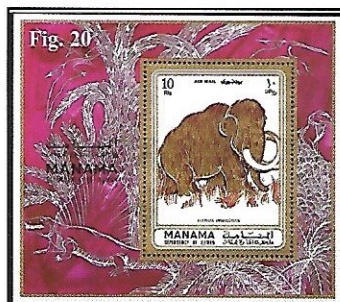
Both Fujeira and Manama joined the Arab Dinosaur Spring in 1972. Fujeira is now one of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and its second foray (after the 1968

issue of a benign set of ten dinosaur stamps, seen in Part 1) was a gang-buster sheet of 20 large stamps that included a tiger, a beaver, a rabbit and even a guinea pig, as well as the bottom row that showed *Triceratops*, *Naosaurus*, *Stegosaurus*, *Brontosaurus* and a Mammoth (Figure 17).

Unusually the Latin names have been used for each animal, and surprisingly the artwork is not too bad. An additional special sheet also features

the mammoth, with a *Triceratops* head in the margin. The mint, perforated version of the latter sheet is incredibly rare (Figure 18), and I have never seen a postally used example from this set. Instead it can be considered as a wallpaper issue par excellence.

Manama, a small enclave of the emirate of Ajman, now in the UAE, also issued a set of dinosaur stamps in 1972, with some unique artwork that made the animals look as though they were drawn using scratch paper (scraper-board; Figure 19). They are difficult to describe: *Brontosaurus* with crystals dripping from its snout; the *Styracosaurus*' almost flaming head shield; and fossil mammals including a majestic mammoth on the special sheet (Figure 20). The golden margins are typical of Manama stamp issues, and progressive sheets, showing



the separate printing stages for each stamp, occasionally come up for sale on Ebay (Figure 21).

The final issue of 1972 was a lulu, with six stamps and a special sheet from the Maldives. The images are enchanting, painted by the famous Israeli Shamir brothers. These graphic designers were responsible for many stamp designs of the 60's and 70's, as well as the State Emblem of Israel. While owing a nod to Zallinger (especially the *Tyrannosaurus*), each dinosaur painting is fresh and unique (Figure 22).

My favourite is the *Diplodocus*, and the background image on the special sheet (Figure 23). The details of this set remain mysterious. I have only once seen a postally used envelope with one of these stamps aboard, and there did not appear to be a first day cover (and nothing beyond the stamps on the Shamir website). The special sheet is not even listed in most stamp directories. The Maldives post office does not answer querying emails (I have written more than once), so we must simply enjoy them for what they are.

The stamps from the 70's era are undoubtedly a mixed bag yet maintain a charming innocence. Sometimes comical (the poor *Iguanodon* from Yemen), sometimes garish (stand up Manama and Fujeira), sometimes true works of art like

the stamps from Lesotho and the Maldives, but always interesting and arresting. The first 25 years was a golden age for dinosaurs on stamps, and would be followed by a decline in quality and scientific veracity matched by a huge growth in the number of issues. Next time we will follow the dinosaur trackways through the rest of the 1970's.

Country	Date of issue	Description
Hungary	01.09.1969	One stamp with Placochelys
Lesotho	05.01.1970	Footprints (5 stamps)
Angola	31.10.1970	One stamp with <i>Angolasaurus</i>
Congo	20.07.1970	4 prehistoric animals
USA	06.05.1970	One stamp from Zallinger mural
Yemen	15.06.1971	Sheet with <i>Iguanodon</i> from space set
Mozambique	15.01.1971	One stamp with <i>Endothiodon</i>
Maldives	31.05.1972	6 dinosaur stamps and special sheet
Fujiera	23.04.1972	Sheet of 20 animals and special sheet
Manama	29.08.1972	8 prehistoric animals and sheet

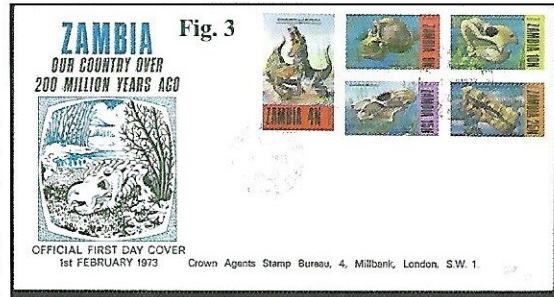
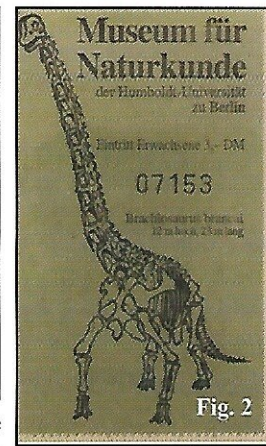
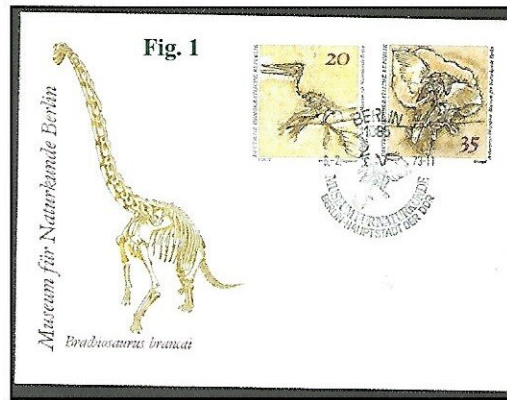
# Part 3. Dinosaurs stamping in the Seventies

by Jon Noad

The Seventies was a turbulent era of oil and energy crises, when Russia invaded Afghanistan while modern dictators like Pol Pot, Idi Amin and Saddam Hussein held sway. Skylab went up...and crashed back down, while Apple Computers and microwave ovens entered our lives. Our ears were subjected to punk, rampant disco and funk, while *Dark Side of the Moon* went on to be the best selling album of its generation. TV was dominated by game shows and Charlie's Angels, watched by gents with sideburns and ladies in platform shoes under the light of a lava lamp. The *Star Wars* franchise opened at the cinema, a certain australopithecine, *Lucy*, was discovered in Ethiopia, and the first IVF child was born.

Meanwhile a small boy trudged through the streets of Uxbridge, West London towards the Odeon Stamp Shop, eager to purchase the latest issue of dinosaurs on stamps. What would he find lurking in the dusty store? Well it seemed to be all about Germany. We begin in 1973 with a colourful set of stamps showing fossils from Berlin's Museum of Natural History. Of most interest are the *Archaeopteryx* (Berlin specimen, obviously) and *Pterodactylus* (Figure 1), both found in the Solnhofen Limestone of Germany. Twelve body specimens of *Archaeopteryx* (or similar birds) have been found, with the Berlin specimen the most complete. It is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful fossils in the world, with an articulated skeleton, complete skull and lower jaw, stunning spread wings and feather imprints.

*Pterodactylus* was also collected from the Solnhofen Limestone, which is a fascinating lagerstätten deposit. In the late Jurassic, this area lay at the edge of the Tethys Sea. Lagoons would periodically be cut off from the open sea, leading to increased salinity. No scavenger could live in these brines, so any animal washed into the lagoons from land or ocean would be buried in soft carbonate mud. Over 600 species have been collected from these sediments, often exquisitely preserved in homogeneous silts that were ideal for lithographic printing, lead-



ing to extensive quarrying in the 19th Century. On a side note, juvenile pterosaurs are known as flaplings, and in earlier times were considered as different species rather than simply youngsters.

The first day cover (FDC) shows a *Brachiosaurus*, later renamed as *Giraffatitan* (Figure 1). Such images are known as cachets. The museum houses a spectacular skeleton of this sauropod found in Tendaguru in southern Tanzania (Figure 2, an entry ticket from 1990). These rocks are also from the Late Jurassic, deposited as a package of terrestrial and marine interbeds. They have yielded seven species of sauropods, including an undescribed giant brachiosaurid known only as "The Archbishop", as well as many other dinosaurs.

The African theme continues with our next set of stamps from Zambia. The stamps are striking, with the anatomically correct fossils set against vivid backgrounds (Figure 3).



They show the prehistoric skulls of three dicynodonts, *Zambiasaurus*, *Oudenodon* and *Luangwa*, as well as the skull of *Broken Hill Man* (*Homo heidelbergensis*) and a fossil fern. The beaked dicynodonts were found in the upper Lungwa River Valley in Zambia, and are similar to *Eryops* in body pattern. The Luangwa area now hosts a stunning wildlife National Park, but was also filled with an abundant fauna back in the Triassic, similar to that of the Karoo in South Africa (see part 1). The almost complete skull of a hominid was found in a lead mine in Kabwe, Zambia, and a monument to this fossil still stands in the town.

The year 1974 saw Dahomey enter the world of dinosaur stamps (Figure 4). The country has a complicated past, achieving autonomy from the French in 1960, and eventually changing its name to Benin in 1975, after five coup d'états in the preceding 15 years. Its solitary dinosaurian issue comprises three stamps whose designs owe much to Zdenek Burian. What separates these stamps from many other issues is the small circle adorned by a skeleton on each stamp, a nice touch. This set is also well known for a vari-



ety of overprints (Figure 5), changing the value, or even the country of origin, from Dahomey to Populaire du Benin. Like so many philatelic issues from former French colonies, the FDC's are almost impossibly difficult to obtain (Figure 6). We have already

discussed the 1975 Congo issue (see part 1), so we move to Niger in what is clearly a very African decade.

Niger produced two sets of stamps supposedly focused on archaeology, but each including a Cretaceous reptilian. The first set, dating from 1976, includes a stamp showing *Ouranosaurus*, a hadrosauriform which was discovered in the Elrhaz Formation (Figure 7). This deposit is known for its extensive fossil graveyard, yielding a variety of vertebrate species preserved in fluvial deposits. The ouranosaur is around 7m in length and is distinguished by a large sail on its back, supported by long neural spines. Its skull is very elongated and flat, with a toothless snout and batteries of cheek teeth. It is thought to have eaten seeds, fruit and leaves.

Featured on a Niger stamp from a set issued the following year, *Sarcosuchus* (Figure 8) was a huge crocodyliform dating to the early Cretaceous, weighing up to eight tonnes and possibly 12m in length. While not a dinosaur, this beast was definitely a formidable predator, and inhabited parts of the ancient Sahara region. Gadoufaoua in Northern Niger yielded the first skull from the Elrhaz Formation, along with specimens of *Ouranosaurus* and several other dinosaurs, crocodylomorphs, turtles, fish and a pterosaur.

Germany's rich dinosaur heritage was revisited in 1977. Each stamp from a set ostensibly featuring fish and reptiles, from the Berlin Zoo Aquarium, had a sidebar showing an *Iguanodon* (Figure 9). This statue of a dinosaur, created by Heinrich Harder in 1913, stands outside the aquari-

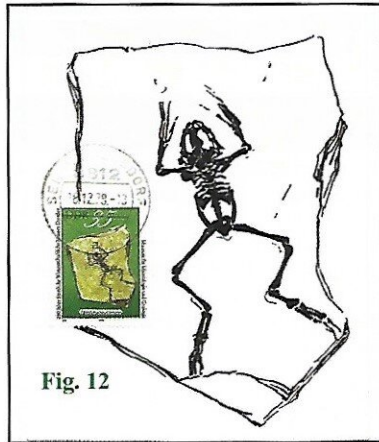
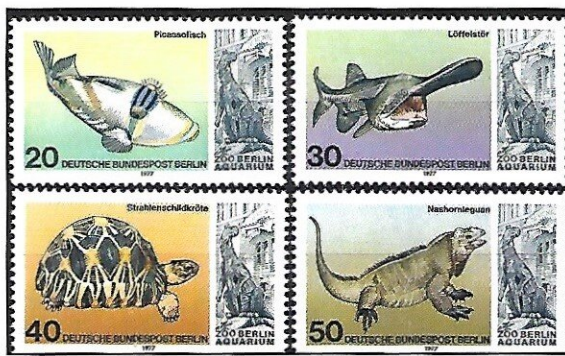
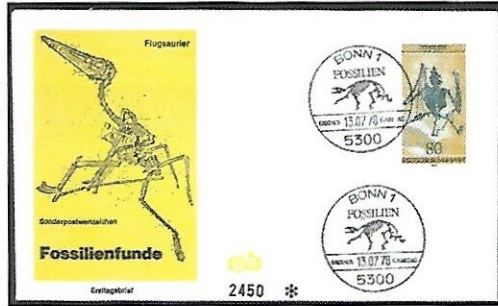


Fig. 12



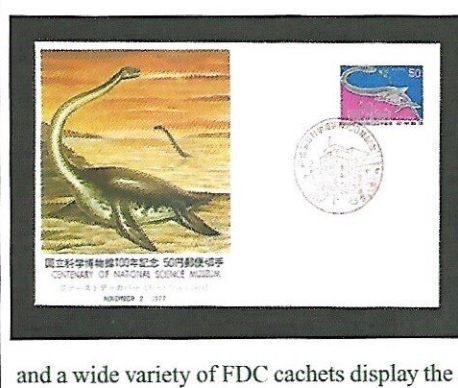
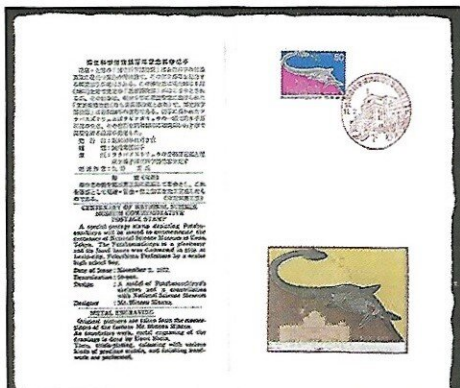
um, and is almost certainly meant to represent one of the specimens of *Iguanodon* from Bernissart in Belgium (Figure 10). Harder also illustrated the prehistoric collecting cards for the Reichardt Cocoa Company, entitled "Tiere der Urwelt". Though small, these cards show beautiful, highly detailed images.

Germany went on to issue two further sets in 1978 that included prehistoric animals, one with two stamps showing a fossil bat and a fossil equid, and a second set that featured a wonderful fossil frog. One of the nice things about most German stamps is that typically there are many different FDC's to choose from. This allows the artists to exercise their talents, leading to some striking covers showing dinosaurs as well as sketches of bats and proto-horses. The latter was an Eocene forest dweller with a tapir-like appearance, and both fossils were collected from the Messel Pit near Frankfurt, as a by product of coal and oil shale mining. The quarry was purchased in 1991 as a scientific resource, and declared a UNESCO World heritage Site in 1995. It is a lagerstätte, deposited in a series of tropical lakes, and some fossils exhibit amazing preservation due to the anoxic conditions on the lake floor. The frog, from Dresda Science Museum, is rendered as a simple yet very effective line drawing on the maxicard (postcard issued to accompany the set of stamps: Figure 12).



One of my favourite prehistoric stamps, issued by Japan in 1977 to celebrate the centenary of the National Science Museum (Figure 13), does not show a dinosaur, but instead a marine reptile. *Futabasaurus* (formerly *Wellesiosaurus*) is an elasmosaur from the late Cretaceous of Japan, found in Fukushima Prefecture by a high school student. It grew to 9m in length, and its bones commonly show signs of scavenging by sharks. The stamp shows its skeleton in striking pink and blue hues (Figure 14, a maxicard), and a wide variety of FDC cachets display the diversity of art styles of Japan

Figure 13 shows a Japanese postage stamp featuring a marine reptile (Futabasaurus) and a large illustration of a dinosaur skeleton. The stamp includes text in Japanese and English, and a circular postmark from Tokyo, dated 1977.

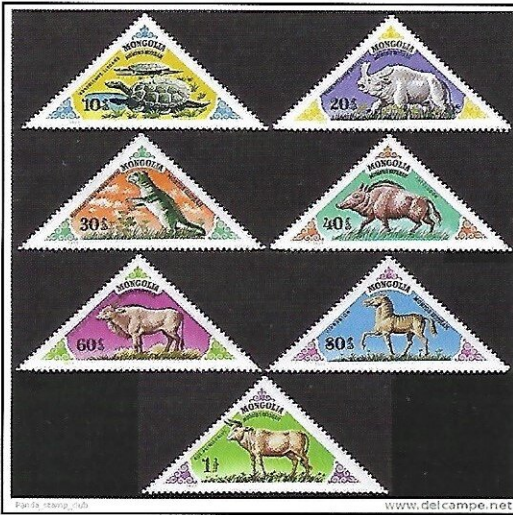


(Figures 15 and 16). A coloured, metal engraving of the stamp can be seen in the presentation folder (Figure 17).

Mongolia issued another set of prehistoric animals in 1977, crudely drawn and notable mainly for their triangular shape (Figure 18).

*Psittacosaurus* is the only dinosaur in the set, a small early Cretaceous ceratopsian originating in the Gobi Desert region. The picture on the stamp looks more like a gopher, but it is no match for what is probably the most pathetic prehistoric animal drawing ever to grace a stamp. Equatorial Guinea inexplicably decided to issue a set of dinosaur stamps in 1978 - surely this wasn't a cynical attempt to screw money out of innocent stamp collectors? The drawings on the stamps are fairly poor (Figure 19), with the usual suspects including *Stegosaurus*, *Triceratops* and *Ankylosaurus*. However, it is one of the minisheets that grips you in horrified fascination, as you gaze at a plesiosaur that a three year old would be ashamed to portray (Figure 20). Always imperforate, this minisheet is accompanied by a friendly looking *Diplodocus*, with a lizard alongside, on the second, perforate minisheet. It comes as no surprise to hear that I have never seen a postally used envelope with one of these stamps on board.

Thankfully Vietnam saved the decade with a wonderful set of eight stamps issued in 1979 (Figure 21). There are nods to Burian and others, but the stamp that catches the eye is once again a marine reptile, a *Plesiosaurus* (Figure 22). The colours are greens, blues and purples, while bold strokes lend a sense



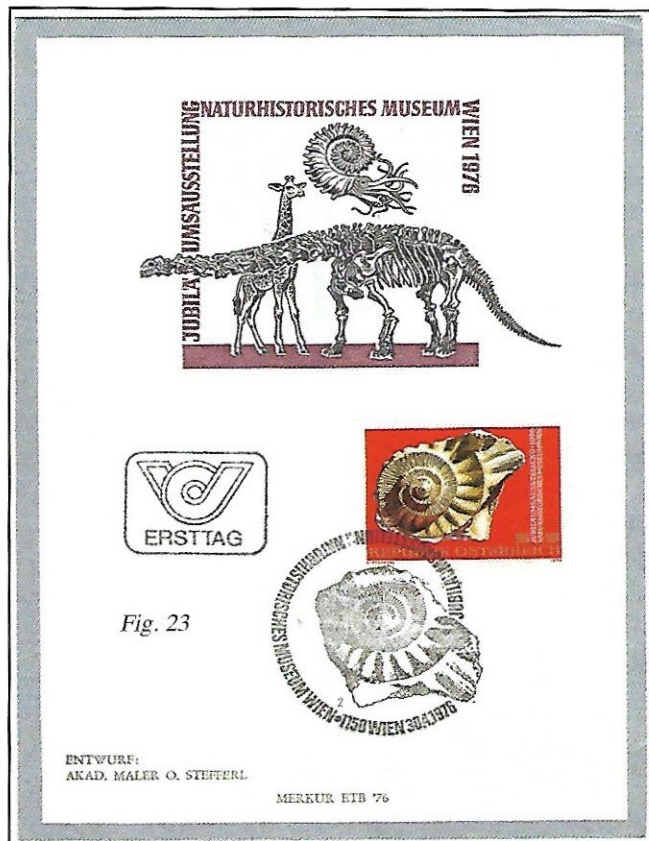
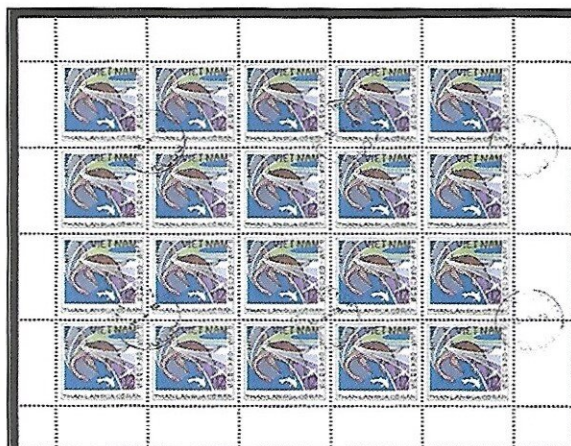
Country	Date of issue	Description
Germany (GDR)	06.02.1973	Six stamps of fossils, including Archaeopteryx and pterodactyl; Berlin Nature Museum
Zambia	01.02.1973	Five stamps showing mostly skulls of prehistoric reptiles and fossil man, one with <i>Zambiasaurus</i> and <i>Oudenodon</i> , a dicynodont
Dahomey	23.09.1974	Three stamps showing dinosaurs and a pterodactyl
Congo	15.10.1975	Four stamps, two with dinosaurs, described in Part 2
Niger	15.11.1976	Three stamps showing "archaeology", including an <i>Ouranosaurus</i>
Germany (FDR)	16.08.1977	Set of four aquarium stamps with <i>Iguanodon</i> sidebars
Japan	02.11.1977	Single stamp featuring a plesiosaur
Mongolia	07.05.1977	Set of seven stamps, one showing a <i>Psittacosaurus</i>
Niger	14.12.1977	Two "archaeology" stamps, one showing the crocodylian <i>Sarcosuchus</i>
Germany (FDR)	13.07.1978	Two Tertiary fossils on stamps, FDCs have dinosaur cachets
Equatorial Guinea	13.09.1978	Set of seven stamps and two minisheets showing dinosaurs and reptiles
Germany (GDR)	24.10.1978	One stamp shows a fossil frog
Vietnam	01.01.1979	Set of eight stamps showing dinosaurs and reptiles

of movement in the water as the Plessey chases some fish. The mosasaur is depicted in a similar way, while the *Stegosaurus* and *Pteranodon* are less sympathetically portrayed, with somewhat childlike efforts. One cool aspect is that Vietnamese names of the dinosaurs are shown on each stamp: they translate as "winged lizard", "thunder lizard" and the *T. rex* translates as "king of the violent lizards"! Of course, I am relying on Google Translate, so don't quote me on that!

This brings us to the end of the 70s, home to some of the very best (Maldives) and worst (Equatorial Guinea) dinosaur stamps ever issued (Figure 23). Stay tuned for the next episode, the early 80s, when we will explore how rebels in Arabia used stamps as propaganda (and as money makers), employing a British stamp dealer to create the "Dhufar Philatelic Agency". We will also return to the Karoo, and visit Sao Tome and Cuba amongst many other unusual destinations.







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