A Philatelic Exhibit

- The Family Tree
- Will the Real T. rex Please Stand Up
- My Skull's Bigger Than Your Skull
- Monsters in Motion
- Lifestyles of the Huge and Famous
- When Dinosaurs Walked the Earth
- Discovering T. rex

T. rex

http://members.aol.com/tyrantrex.html.index

With acknowledgement to John R. Horner, Don Lessem and their wonderful book, The Complete T. rex.

As a young boy, dinosaurs, stamps and books were basic interests. I imagined being a paleontologist and dug giant bones from the beach sands of Florida. Growing older, those interests matured into a hobby.

Any stamps depicting prehistoric life forms earned revered places in my albums. Over the years, a checklist developed and contact with collectors of other materials extended my horizons to postal cards, cancellations, meter imprints and other postal items.

The collection developed as did an interest in competitive exhibiting. Why and how? On reading 'The Complete T. rex' by John Horner and Don Lessem, the concept simply sprouted legs of its own accord. I selected materials and wrote a storyline to explain both items and context.

Pages are shown in a frame format and judged at local and national competitions. Adding computers to this mixture results in a digitized and more interactive document with undetermined, but expandable goals.

As with every 'labor of love', improvement through suggestions and new information is sure to come. If you have materials not included, please e-mail me at: tyrantrex@aol.com.

I hope this work is interesting to collectors and encourage production and distribution of projects such as this as well as exhibiting paleontological subjects.

I would also like to thank Mr. George Olshevsky for reviewing and verifying the information in these pages for scientific accuracy.

Mesozoic Times

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Tyrannosaurus, probably the most famous of dinosaurs, was one of the largest terrestrial carnivores in our earth's history.

At least 22 specimens have been found, of which several are nearly complete and in good condition. Due also to the spectacular size and attributed ferociousness of the animal, many experts study the available fossil remains. The remaining questions about the life style of T. rex are on the way to being answered.

Tyrannosaurus rex was without doubt a truly special and magnificent animal. These exhibit pages provide an overview of the information currently available to the public. Welcome to the world of the greatest 'tyrant' of all time.

T. rex

Design art
Qu'aiti State in Hadhramaut
Aden Protectorate

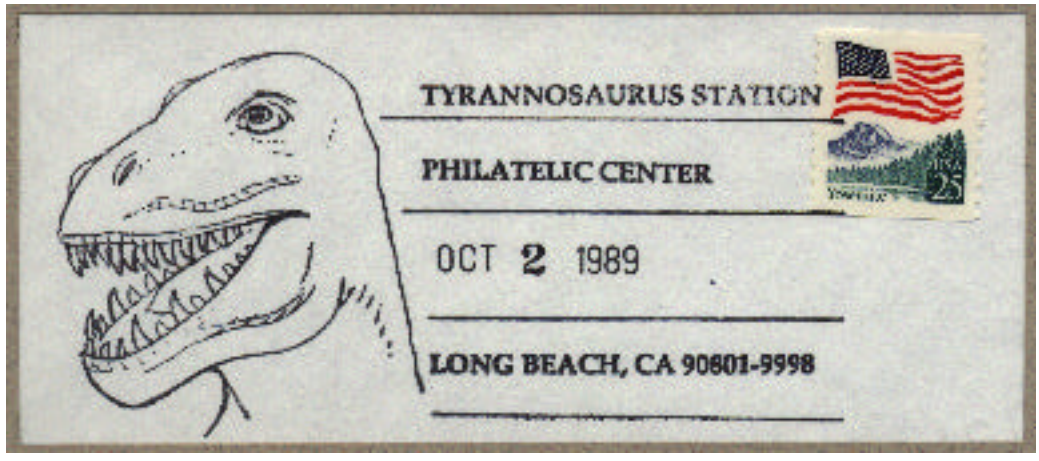
Exhibit Plan and Chapter Descriptions

1.	The Family Tree	:	The origin of the tyrannosaurids from early reptilian lifeforms.
2.	Will the Real T. rex Please Stand Up	:	Members of the same family, and misidentified brothers.
3.	My Skull's Bigger than Your Skull	:	Physical traits, skeleton, muscles, body, limbs, skull, and coloring.
4.	Monsters in Motion	:	Tyrannosaur movement — stance, locomotion and warmbloodedness.
5.	Lifestyles of the Huge and Famous	:	Boy and girl tyrannosaurs, mating, eggs, and hunting.
6.	When Dinosaurs Walked the Earth	:	When T. rex lived, and events leading to extinction of the dinosaurs.
7.	Discovering T. rex	:	Expeditions, research, and museums for study and exhibition.

Albertosaurus sarcophagus is an early member of the tyrannosaur family. It stalked the western regions of North America 8 million years before Tyrannosaurus rex and may have been an early ancestor of T. rex.

Pitney Bowes adhesive tape

The possible direct ancestor of T. rex

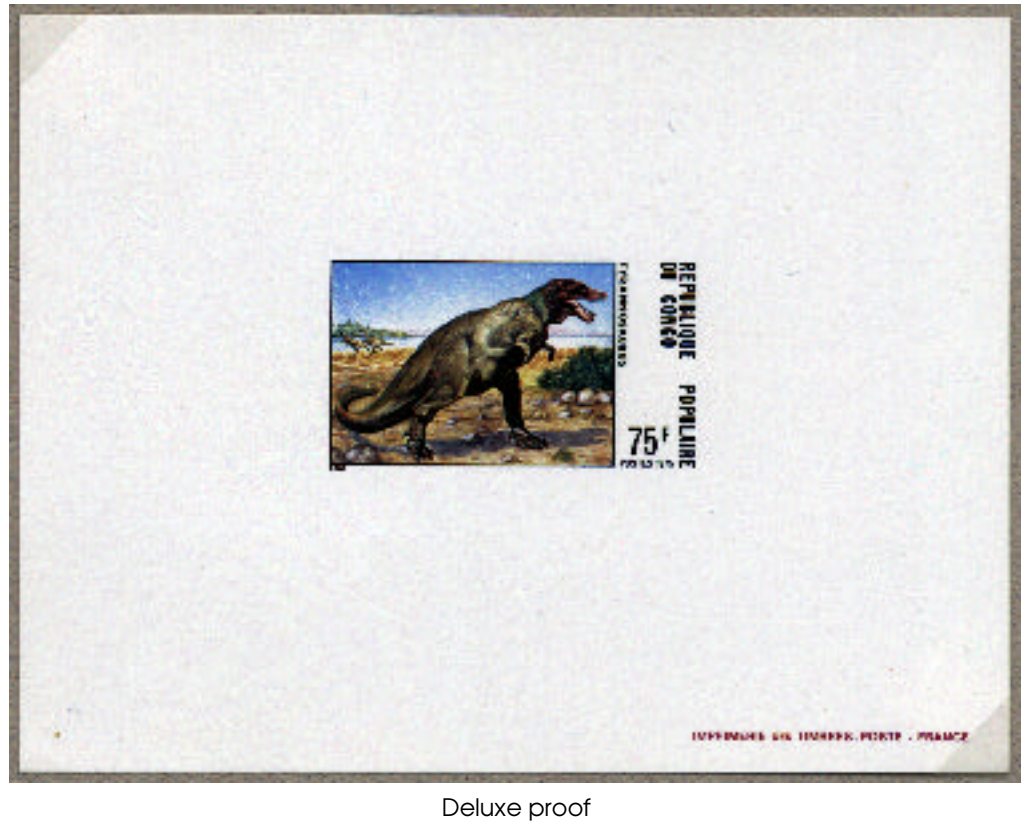


Large theropod discoveries are rare, some consisting of only a few bones. Many of these finds were given different names although the fossils resembled species already named. Gorgosaurus, Tarbosaurus and Siamotyrannus are close relatives of T. rex.

Owen coined the term 'Dinosauria' in 1842, not 1841 as indicated

Skeletal construction was massive and relatively light for its size. Neural spines at the top of the neck anchored powerful neck muscles. Muscle scars and attachment points on bones indicate it had extraordinary strength and stamina.

Large shoulder muscles made for strong arms.



Deluxe proof

The head was massive, with ample cheek muscles.

Advertising machine slogan device

Unlike most other dinosaurs, Tyrannosaurus had eyes that faced forward and may thus have had depth perception and stereoscopic vision.

Evidence points to smooth profile eye ridges, not horns.

The muzzle was narrow and formed a V-shaped jaw. The mouth boasted six-inch teeth with serrated edges.

Misidentified as Trachodon

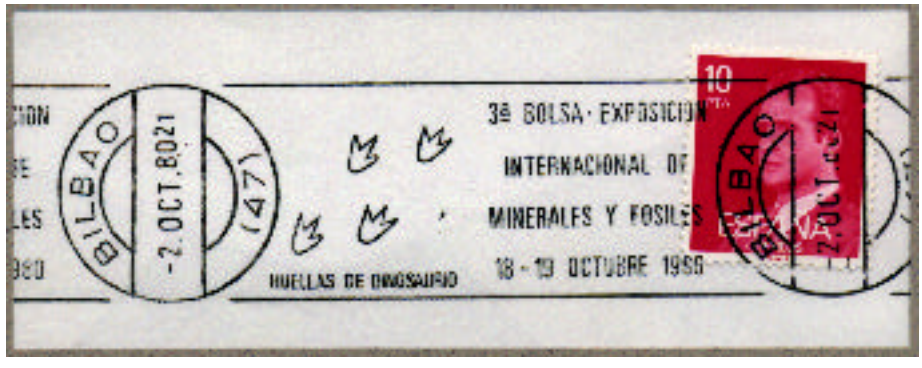
Commemorative cancel

The body was massive (estimated at 5 to 7 tons), with a huge chest, pillar-like legs, and long tail to act as a counterbalance.

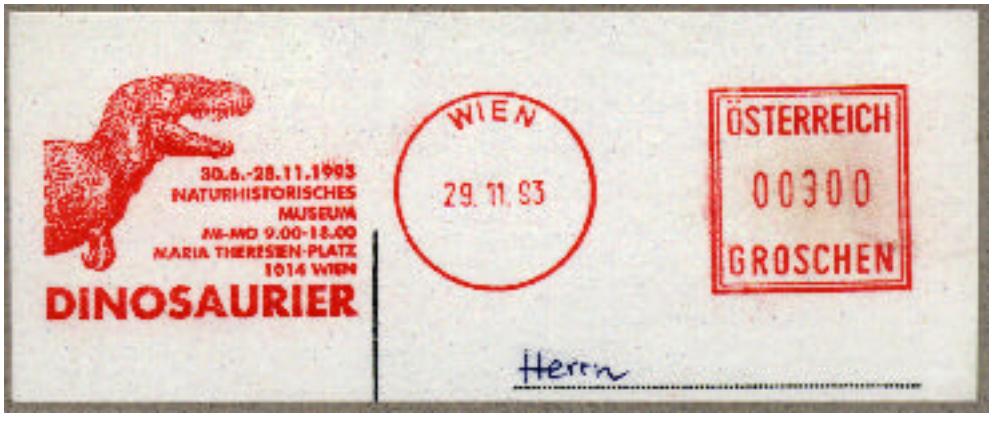
Local overprint

Progressive color proofs, Qu'aiti State in Hadhramaut, Aden Protectorate

The feet were large and wide to support the massive body weight. Both feet had three main toes with a side vestigial remnantant of a first.



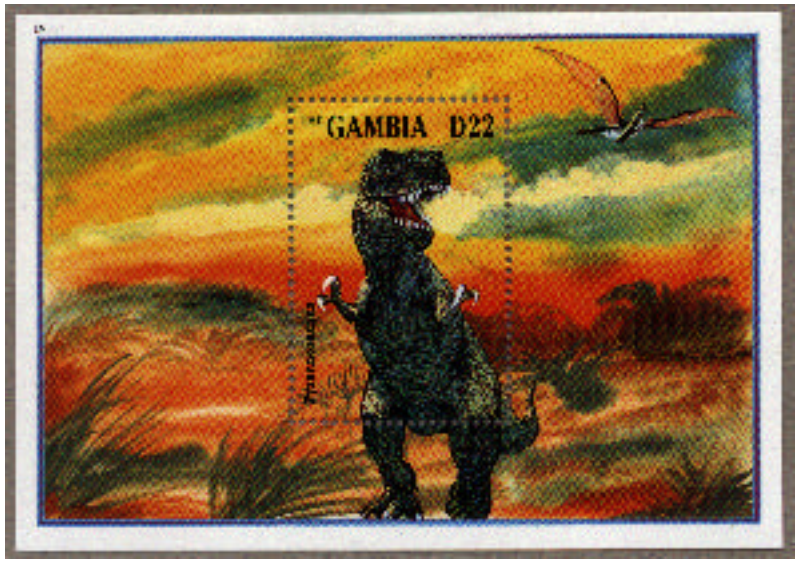
Machine roller band device



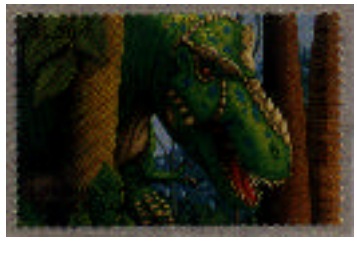
Local machine (without zip code)

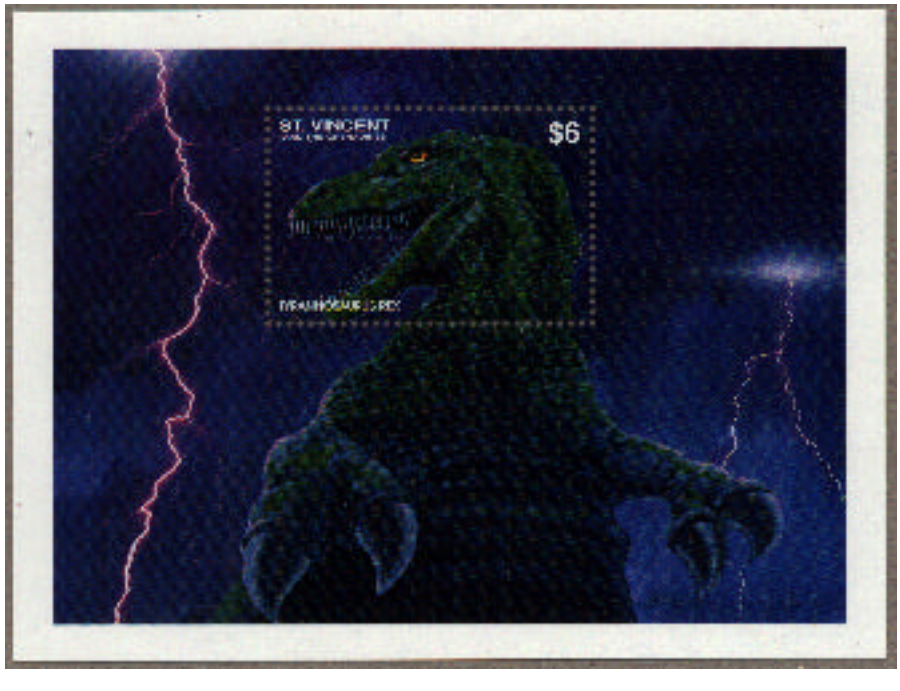
The arms were very short for the creature's size but very powerful. The hands were didactyl (two-fingered) and ended in blunt, not strongly curved, claws.

MUESTRA (Specimen)



Although scientists and artists continue to argue over the color scheme of T. rex, it was most probably a color which blended with the environment, such as shades of greens and browns.





Spikes, bumps and rugosities on the skin provided additional textural blending with the surrounding plants.

Pictorial postage paid imprint (printed matter rate) for domestic use only

A classic pose showed the animal dragging its tail on the ground, appropriate for animals with fewer active features like small chests.

This stance has since been revised to reflect the more active carriage traits of Tyrannosaurus specifically the huge chest cavity for heart and lungs.

Commemorative cancel

Plate number 2 (dots to left)

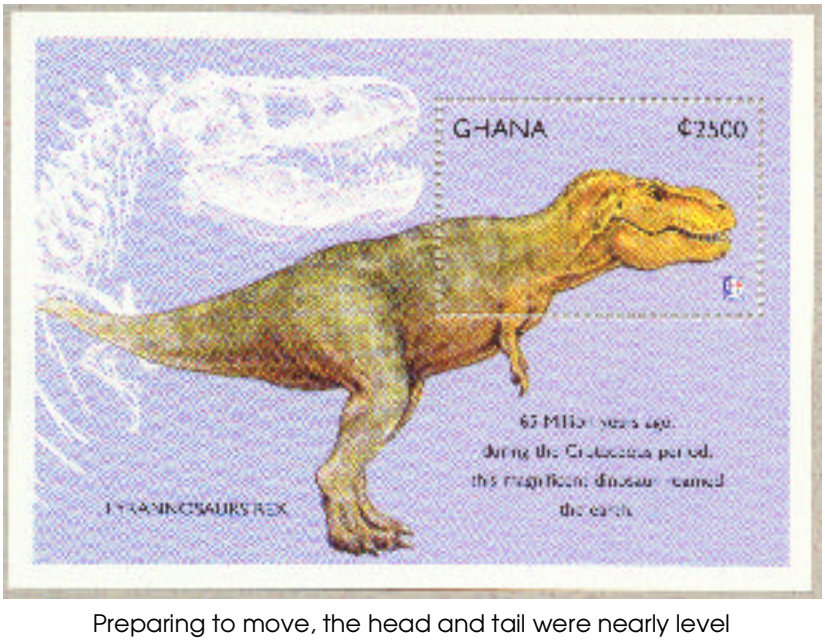
Missing black color
(value & country name)

Booklet

The articulations between the vertebrae of the spine act as a stiffening rod.

Gutter pair

The body balanced over the hind legs which acted as a fulcrum to allow good vertical movement. Chest size indicates T. rex had a huge heart and lungs, prerequisites for active warm-bloodedness.



Preparing to move, the head and tail were nearly level

Tail balanced the upper body

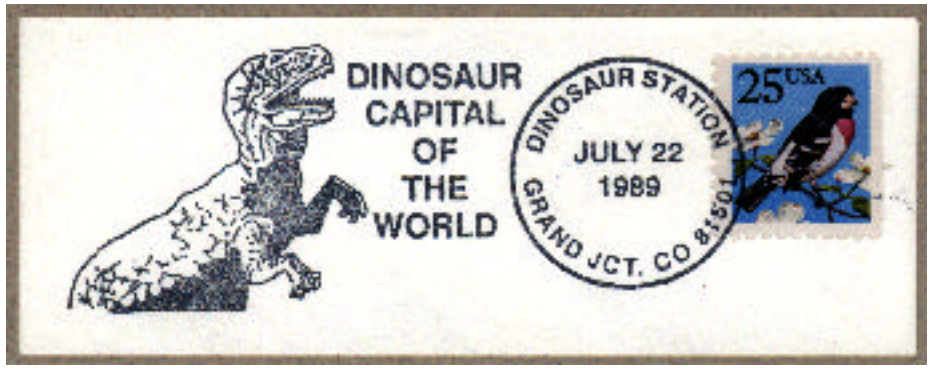
Phone card issued by Japanese post office

Local issue

As a predator, Tyrannosaurus rex most likely attacked mainly herding animals, as lions do today. Plant-eating dinosaur species were available in great numbers, and T. rex may have made an easy meal of a weak or aging animal culled from the herd.

The bulk of a single Triceratops would provide enough food for a week or more.

Bellowing to attract a female.



Airmail issue

Tyrannosaurus rex proably had mating rituals like many modern animals. The most dominant male in the area defeated other males in physical combat to mate with the available females.

Overprinted 'Benin'

Commemorative cancel

Local issue

Tyrannosaurus, like other reptiles and birds, laid eggs which hatched into the young animals. It is not known if tyrannosaur parents stayed with their young, but other dinosaur species did stay with their young and feed them until they were mature enough to find food without assistance.

Juvenile, thin and light

Adult male, heavy but streamlined

Adult female, larger and heavier

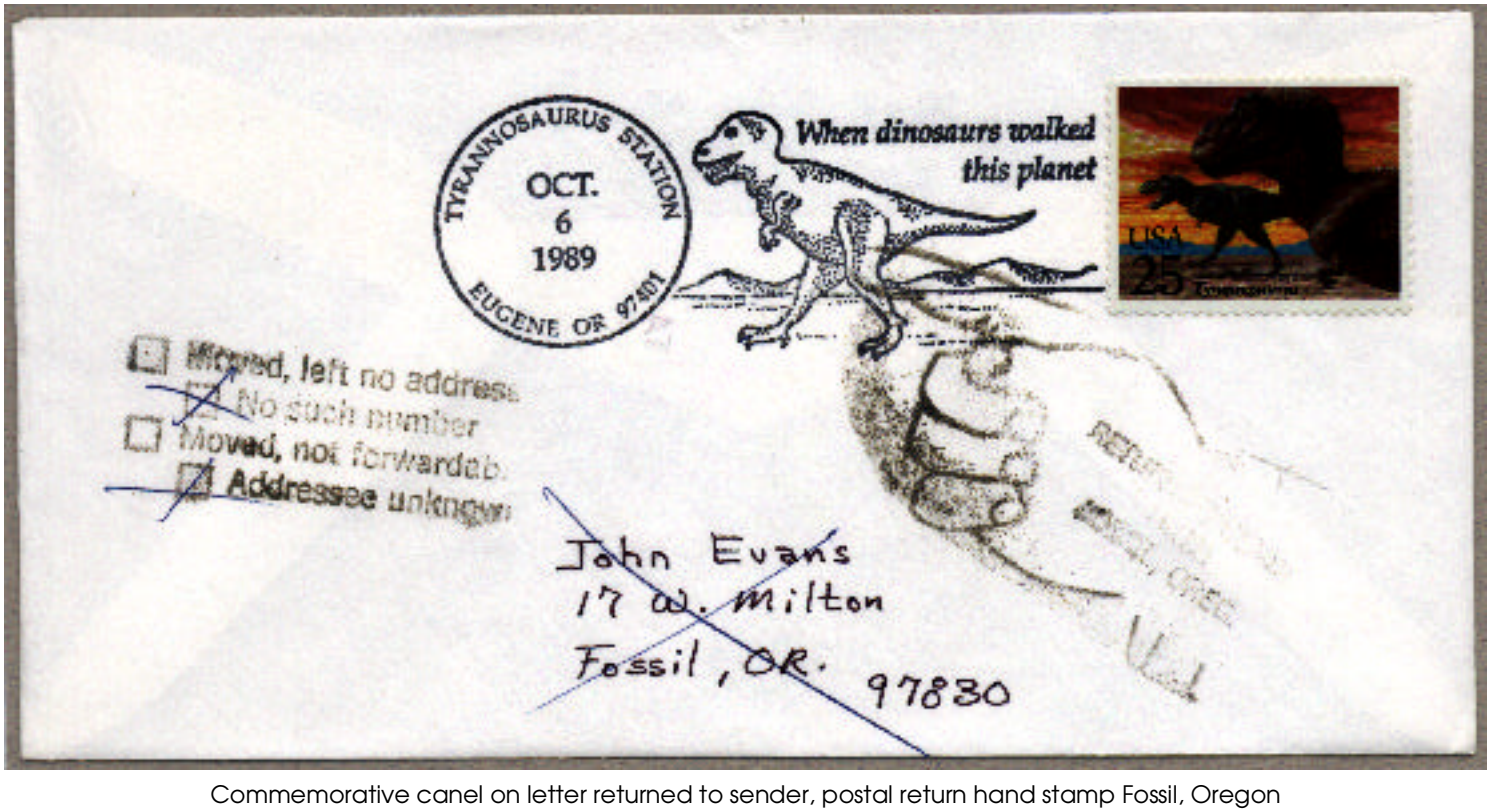
Black color shifted up 1.5 mm

Special cancel for 1979 International Cretaceous Conference

Perforation shift to left

Tyrannosaurus rex lived approximately 65 to 70 million years ago at the end of a period known as the Cretaceous. The period is part of the Mesozoic Era, commonly called the 'Age of Reptiles'.

Cretaceous positions



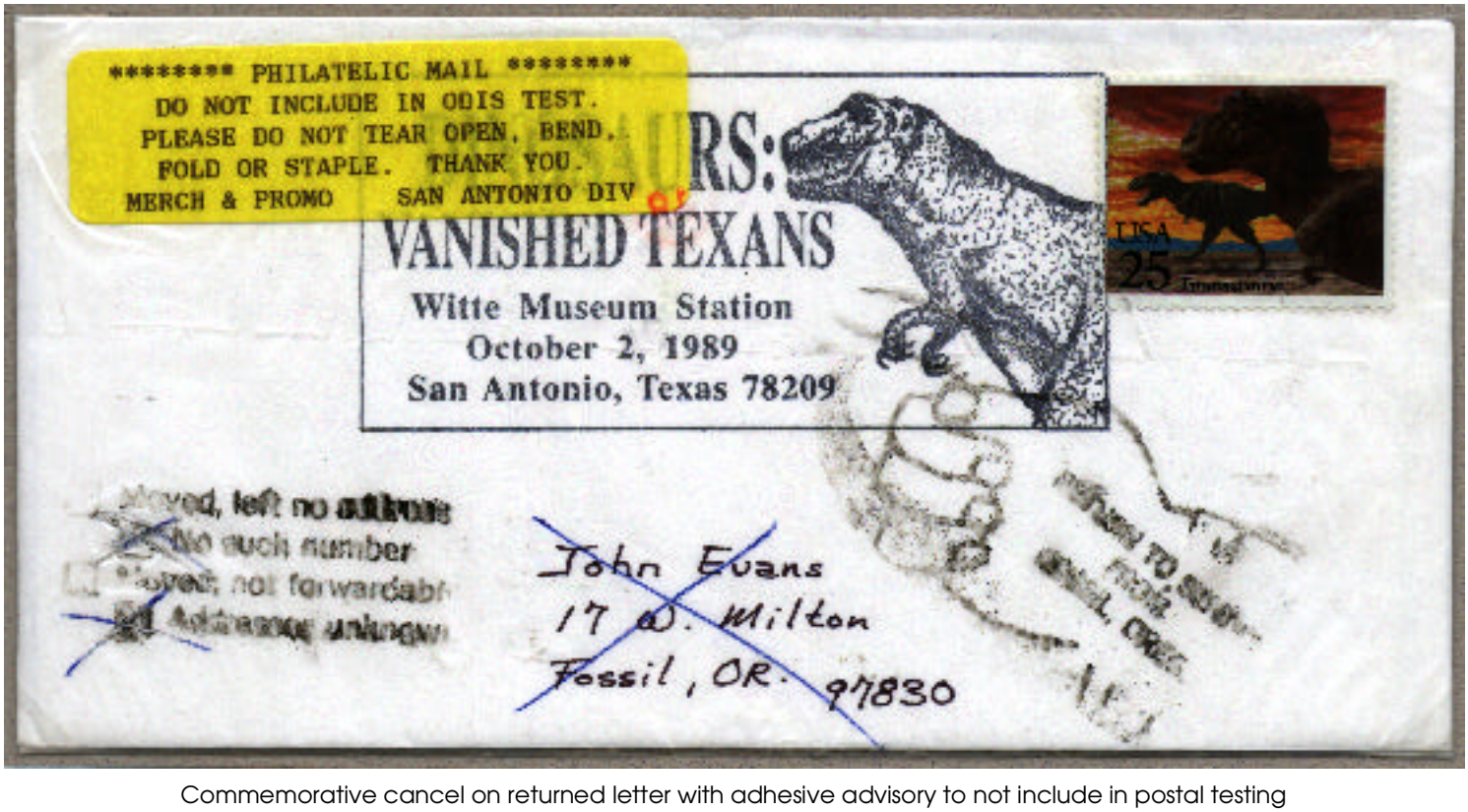
Commemorative canel on letter returned to sender, postal return hand stamp Fossil, Oregon

Extinction of the dinosaurs is a continuing puzzle. The current scientific evidence points to a major catastrophy caused by an asteroid or comet impact. The impact sent millions of tons of vaporized material into the atmosphere causing a nuclear winter effect.

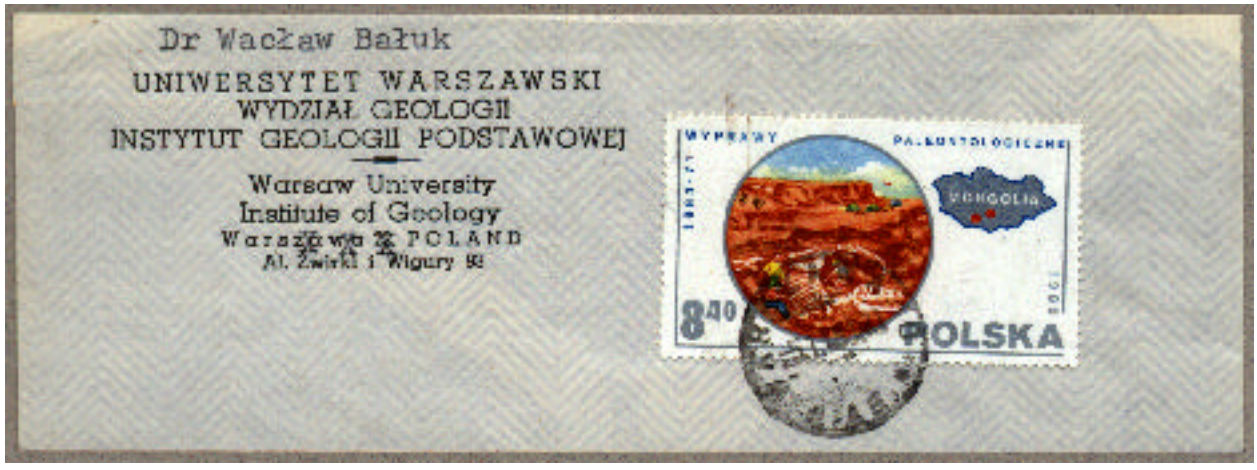
Specimen

Airmail issue

The resulting plume is estimated to have extended miles upward.



Commemorative cancel on returned letter with adhesive advisory to not include in postal testing



Polish expedition to Mongolia unearthed the Tarbosaurus skeleton depicted on stamp (airmail rate to Europe)

Expeditions recover fossilized remains of prehistoric animals for study and display in museums worldwide.

Booklet depicting new discovery Siamotyrannus

Non-Fluorescent

1863 Essay

Indian head cancel
Fort Keough,
Montana Territory

Fluorescent Paper

Many expeditions result from discovery of fossil bones by inhabitants of the area. Chief Red Cloud and his braves guided scientists to fossil sites in Montana and protected them during excavations.

Overall Tagging

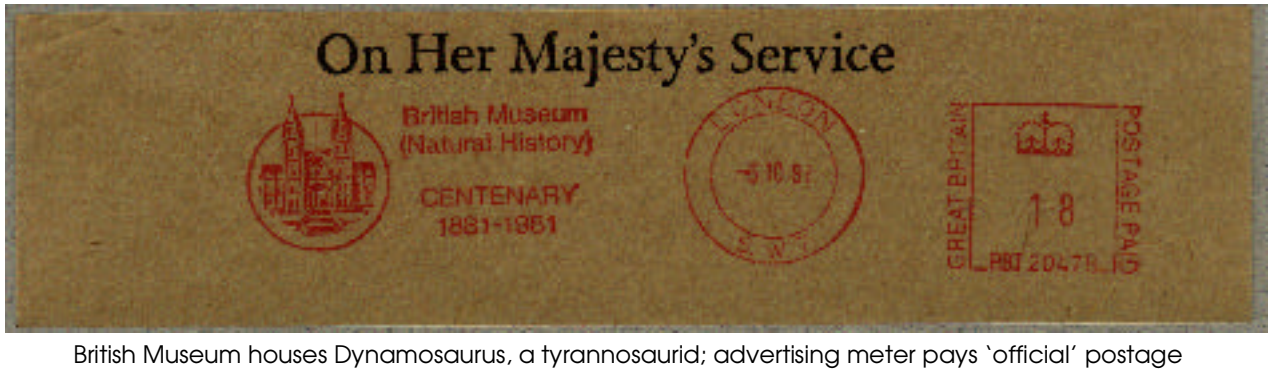
Ameghino researched theropods

Block Tagging

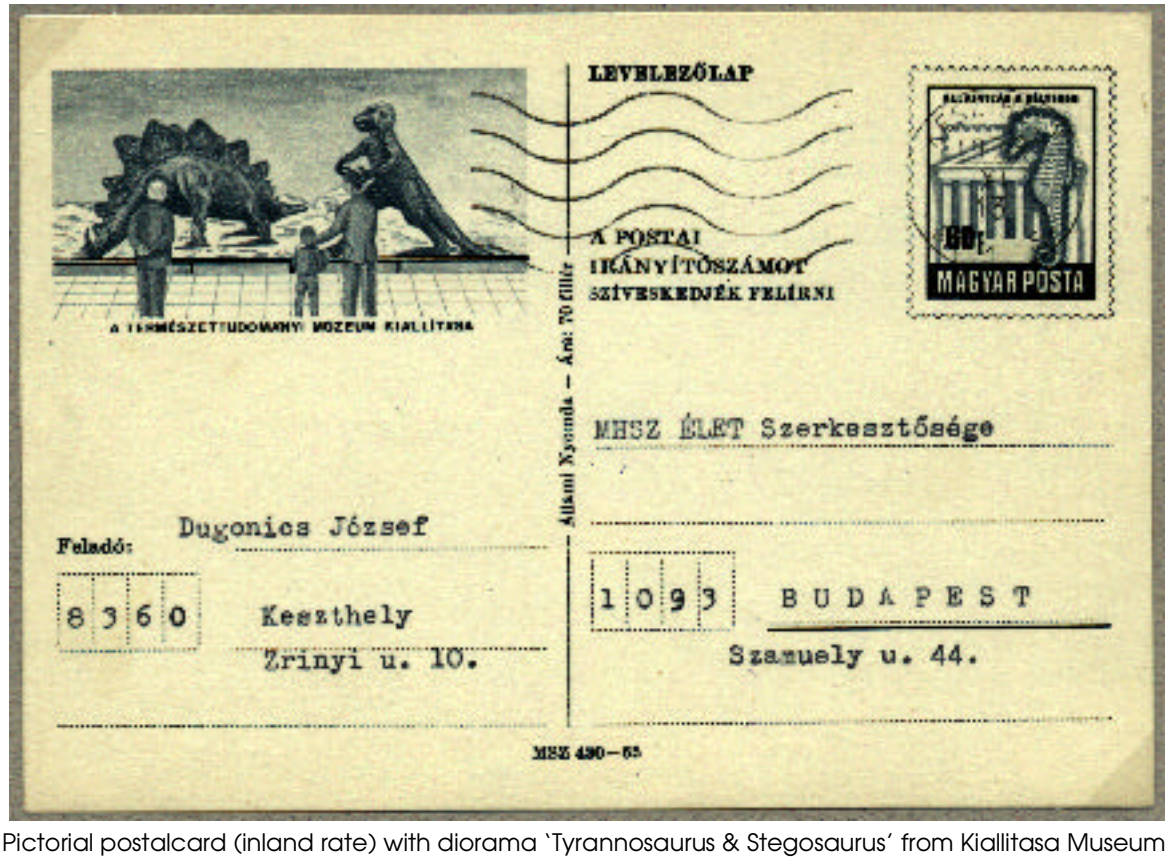
The Smithsonian Institution and the British Museum of Natural History house a few spectacular dinosaur specimens on public display.

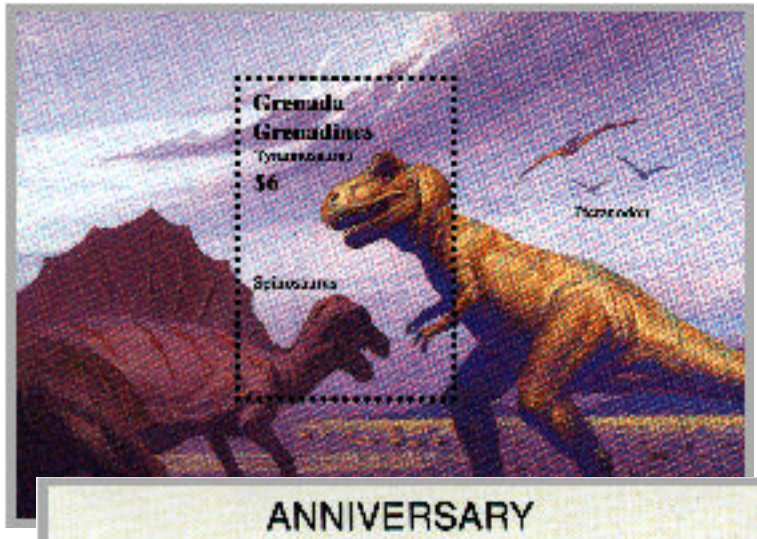
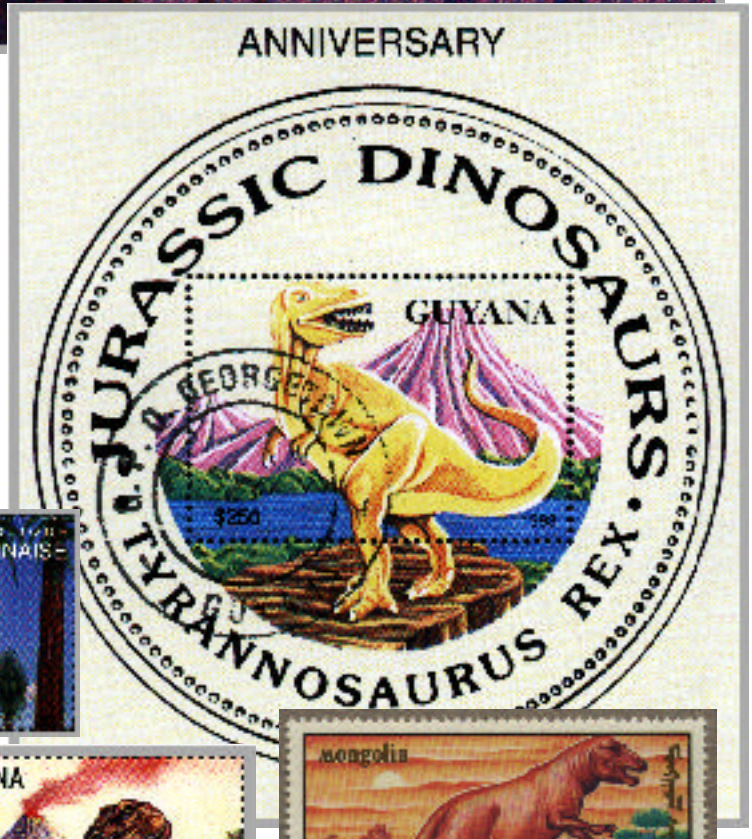
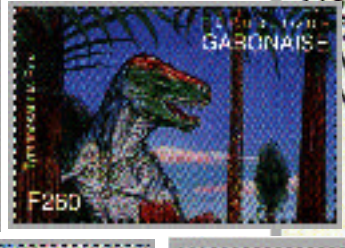
Dry plate

Commemorative cancel



British Museum houses Dynamosaurus, a tyrannosaurid; advertising meter pays 'official' postage



Pictorial postalcard (inland rate) with diorama 'Tyrannosaurus & Stegosaurus' from Kiallitasa Museum

Additional items are issued from time to time which depict our hero - T. rex. These didn't make it into the exhibit as it's crowded now and they can't find room.