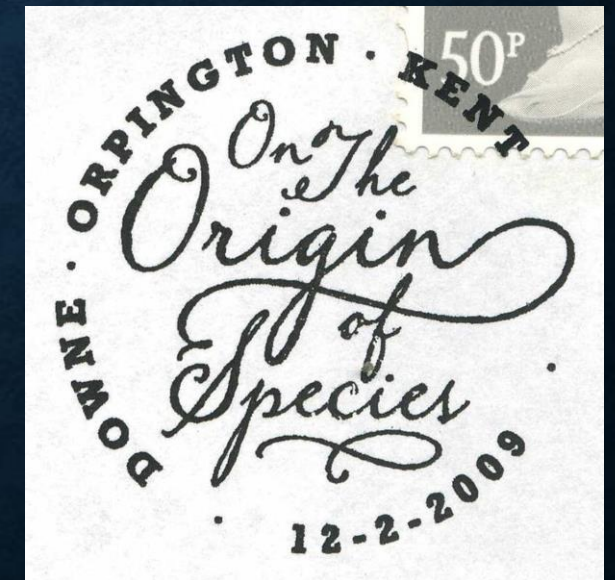
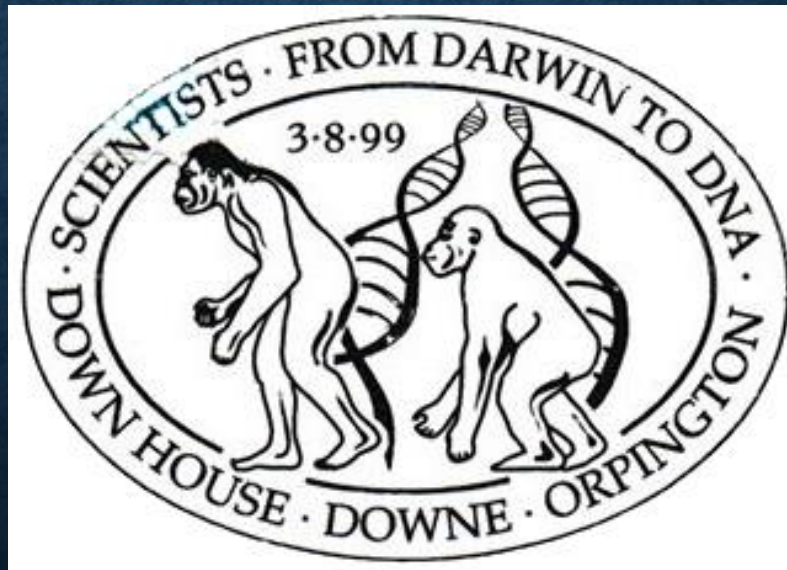
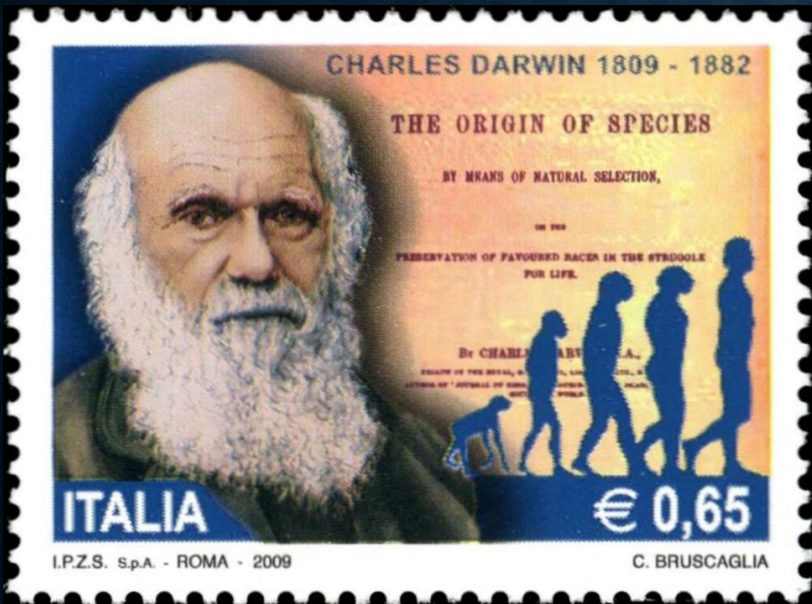


CHARLES DARWIN IN PHILATELY

By Michael Kogan, author of <https://www.paleophilatelie.eu> - the place where Paleontology and Paleoanthropology meets Philately

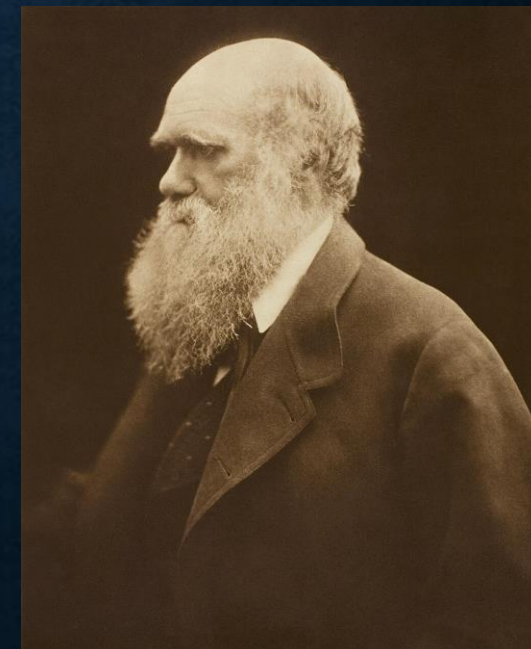
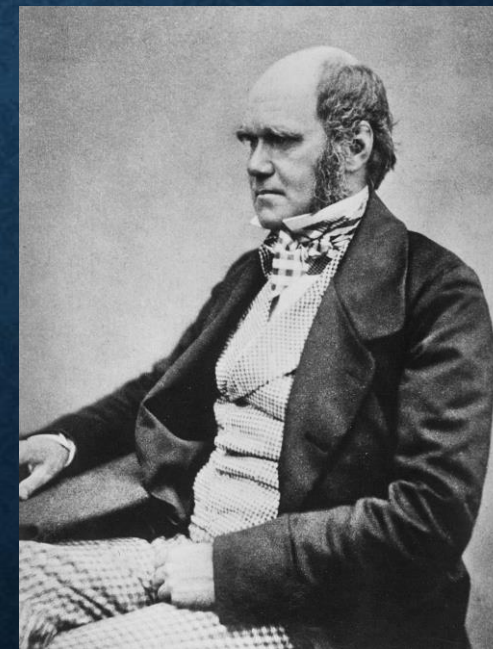


PART 1: WHO WAS CHARLES DARWIN

Charles Darwin's life through commemorative stamps and
postmarks

WHO IS CHARLES DARWIN?

- Charles Darwin (February 12, 1809 - April 19, 1882) was an English naturalist whose scientific theory of evolution by natural selection became the foundation of modern evolutionary studies.
- The eight-year-old Charles already had a taste for natural history and collecting when he joined the day school in 1817
- The stamp from Cuba (2009) shows Darwin at the age of 31 and in the background his parents' house where he grew up.
- The three photos show Charles Darwin in 1816 (age of 7), 1854 (age of 45) and 1868 (age of 59). Darwin began growing his beard in 1862.

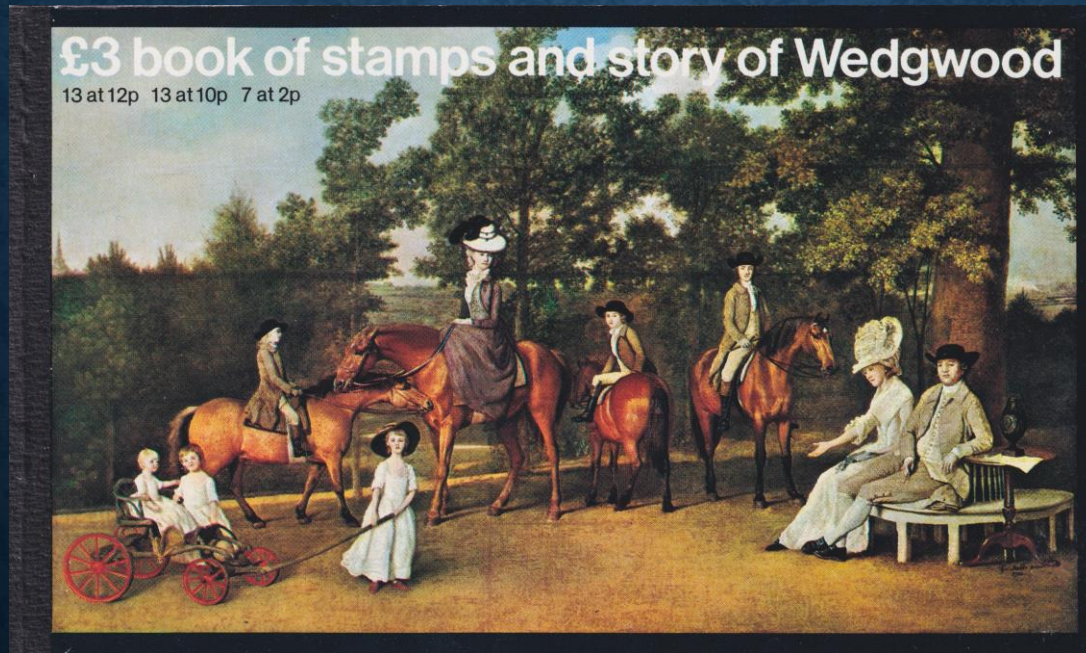


CHARLES DARWIN'S FAMILY - MOTHER

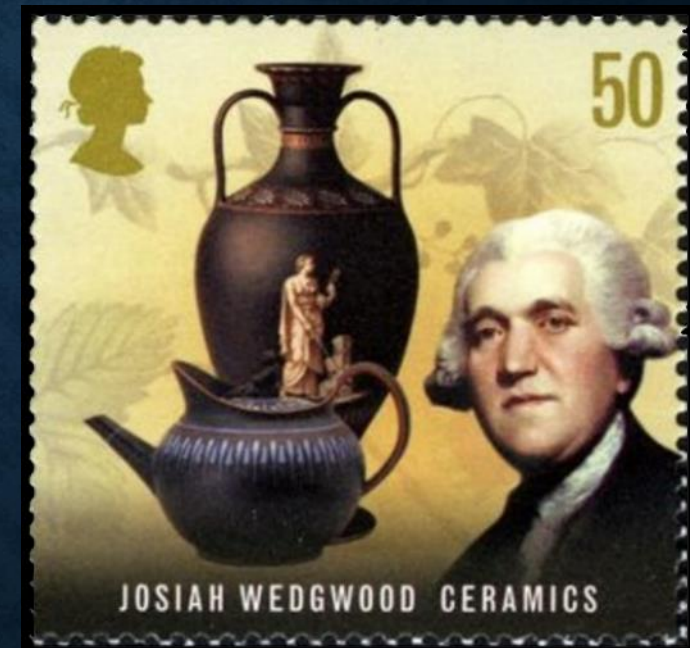
- Susannah Darwin, née Wedgwood (1765-1817) – Charles' mother
- Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795), who was the leader in the industrialisation of the manufacture of pottery was Susannah's father.



Rare image of Susannah Wedgwood (1793).
Image credit Wikipedia



Wedgwood family on the cover of stamp booklet of Great Britain 1980, Susannah (the older child) is sitting on horseback and her brother Josiah (who convinced Charles's father to support his son going on the voyage of the HMS Beagle) is the next figure to the right.



Josiah Wedgwood on stamp of Great Britain 2009, dedicated to the British Industrial Revolution

CHARLES DARWIN'S FAMILY - FATHER

- Robert Darwin (1766-1848) - Charles' father – medical doctor and investor.
- Erasmus Darwin (1731-1802) – Charles' grandfather was an English physician. One of the key thinkers of the Midlands Enlightenment, he was also a natural philosopher, physiologist, slave-trade abolitionist, inventor, freemason, and poet.
- Since 1780, Erasmus Darwin was Josiah Wedgwood's business partner.
- In 1796, to strengthen the business relationship, Josiah's daughter Susannah married Erasmus's son Robert.



Robert Darwin



Erasmus Darwin

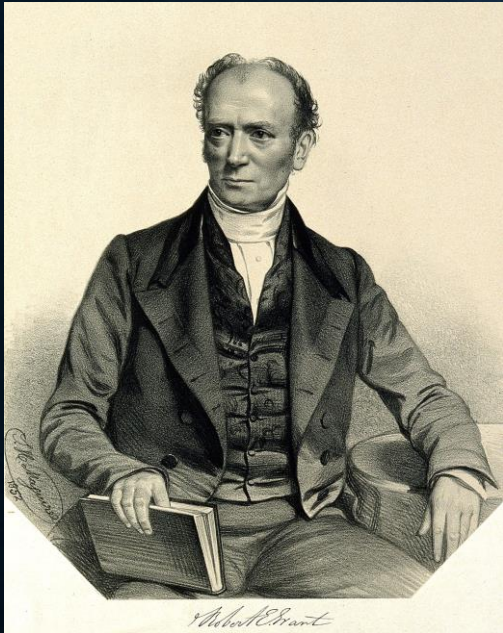
Both images are from Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Darwin

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_Darwin

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION IN EDINBURGH

- In October 1825 Charles Darwin (in the age of 16) went to University of Edinburgh Medical School.
- In 1827 Darwin joined the Plinian Society - a student natural history group.
- In 1827 Darwin assisted anatomy Professor Robert Edmond Grant, who praised Lamarck's evolutionary ideas.



Professor Robert Edmond Grant, the
Image is from Wikipedia



Jean-Baptiste Lamarck on postmark of France.



Above: Prehistoric giraffids (short neck): *Giraffa punjabiensis* on stamp of Nepal 2013.



Right: Modern giraffe (long neck): *Giraffa camelopardalis* on stamp of Poland 1972.

GENESIS

- Until the early 1800s all scientists in Europe believed in the Divine Creation of the Earth and its life.
- It was a common belief, that God created the world and all that was in it.
- One of the first extinction theories was proposed by Geoges Cuvier around 1812, known as Catastrophism today.



Day 1
Light,
Day 2
Sea and Firmament,
Day 3
Land and Plants,
Day 4
Celestial Bodies,
Day 5
Birds and Fish,
Day 6
Land Animals and Humans



Georges Cuvier – the Father of Paleontology

EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION IN CAMBRIDGE

- In 1828 Darwin went to Cambridge to study for a Bachelor of Arts degree as the first step towards becoming an Anglican country parson.
- In Cambridge Darwin took geology courses of Professor Adam Sedgwick and often accompanied him in his geological fieldwork.
- In 1831 a botany professor John Stevens Henslow, recommended that Charles Darwin join the global voyage of the HMS Beagle.

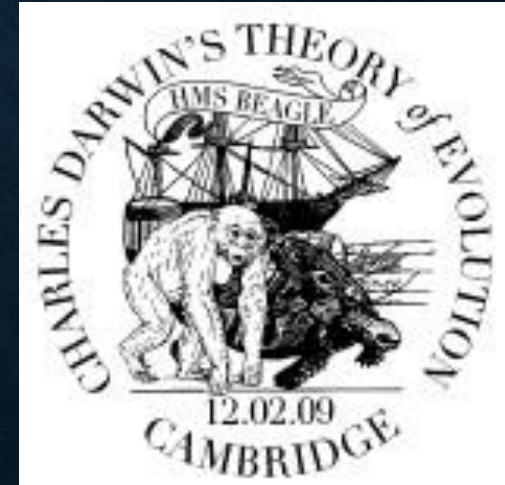


John Stevens Henslow (1796-1861)



Adam Sedgwick (1785-1873)

Both images are from Wikipedia

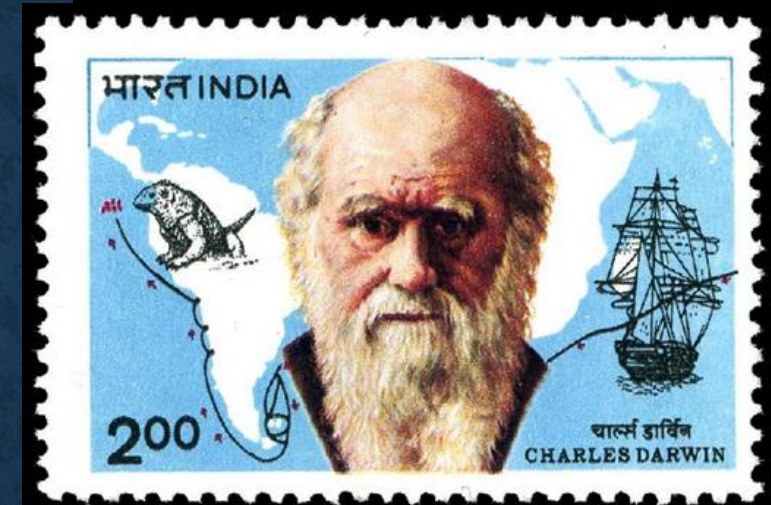
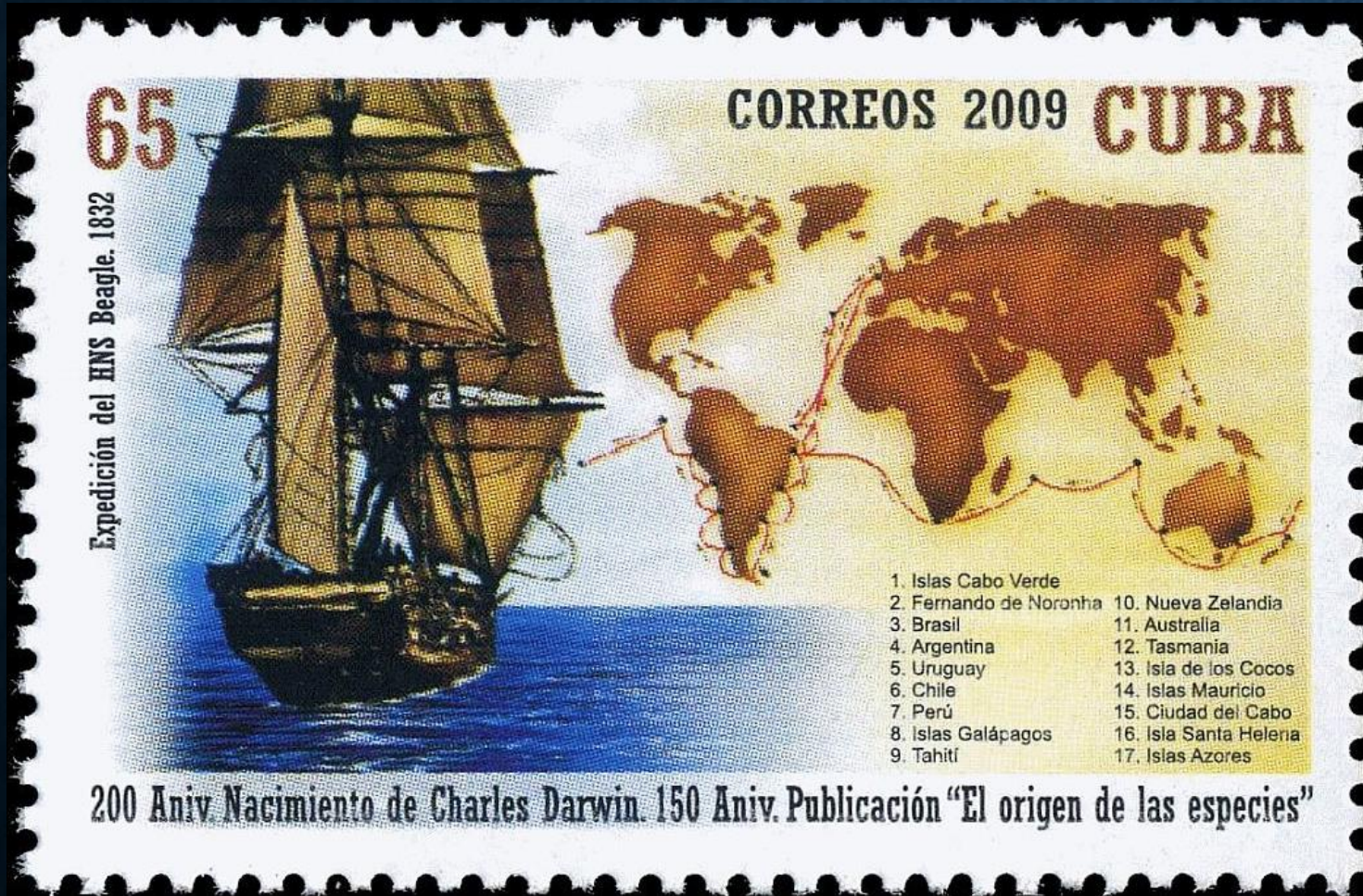


Both photos are from Wikimedia

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THE VOYAGE OF HMS BEAGLE (1831-1836)

- The voyage of His Majesty Ship (HMS) Beagle started on December 27th, 1831, in Plymouth.
- Darwin shared a cabin with the captain Robert FitzRoy (1805-1865)

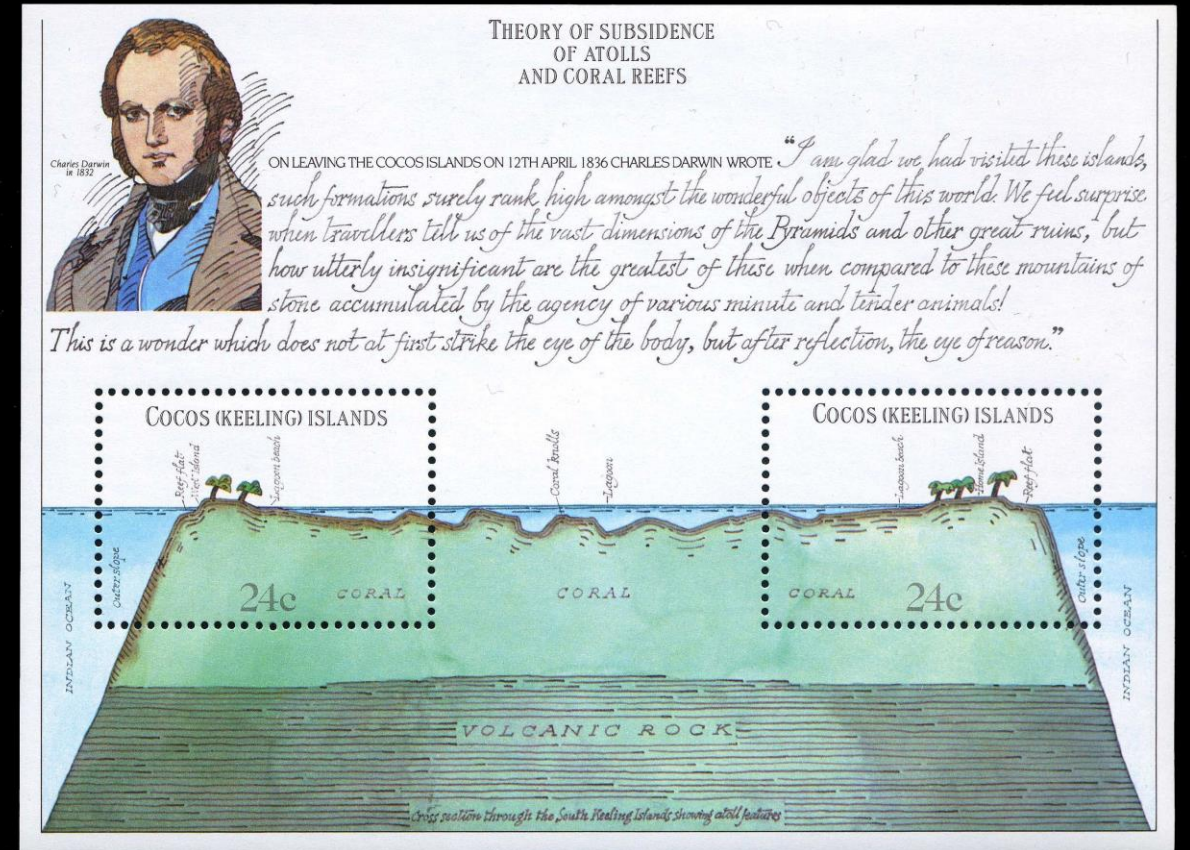


DURING THE VOYAGE DARWIN VISITED MANY EXOTIC LOCATIONS

- On the island of Cape Verde, Darwin examined rock formations containing marine shells lying above basaltic lava flows.

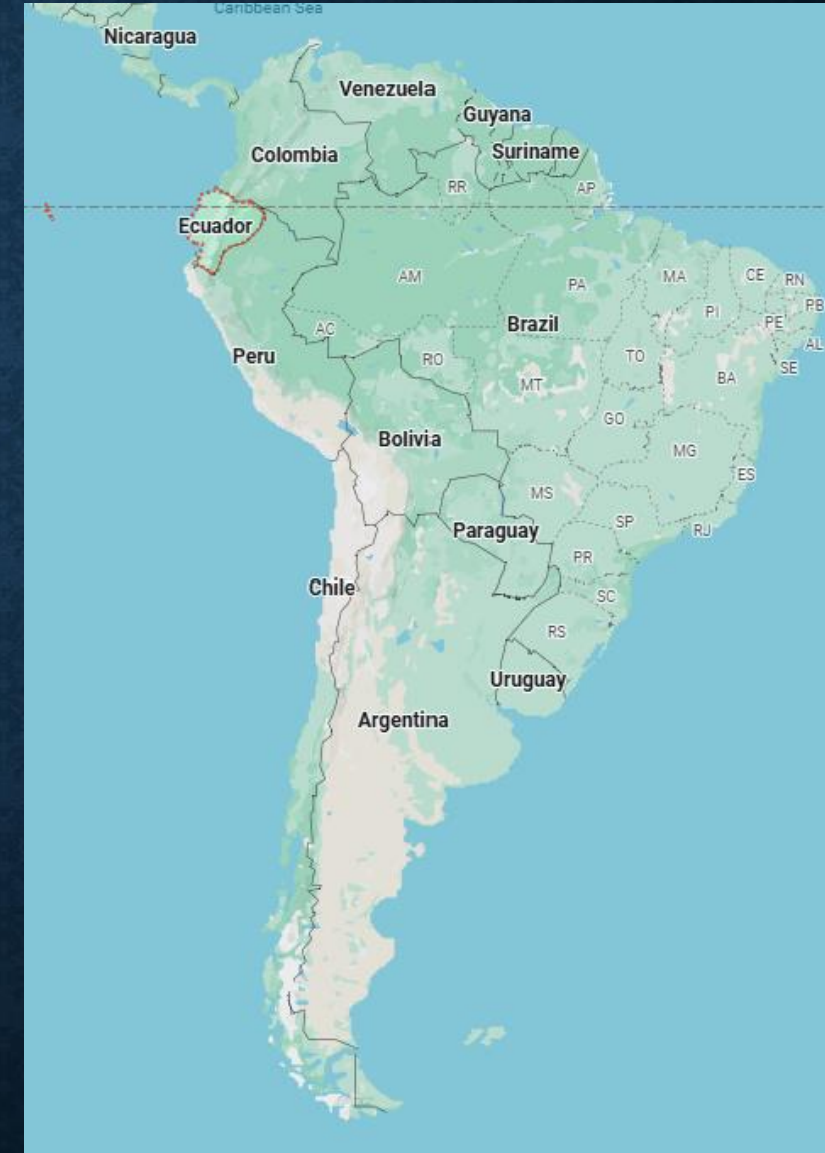


- In Chile Darwin experienced a powerful earthquake
- At the Cocos Islands, Darwin studied the origin of coral reefs that formed unique islands called atolls.



VISIT THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

- His visit to the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, in September-October 1835, was one of the turning points for Charles Darwin.
- His observations and collections of endemic species on these islands contributed to the inception of Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection.



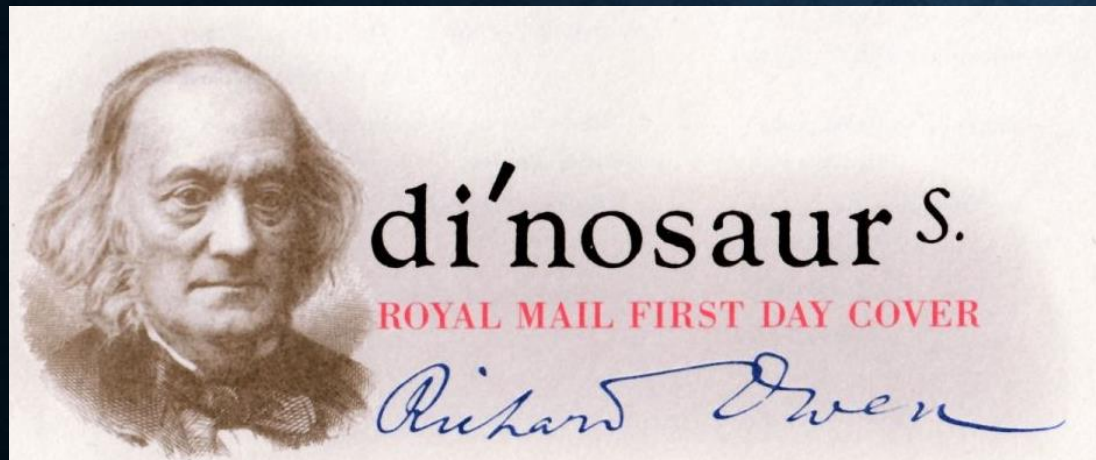
UNIQUE FAUNA OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

- Darwin speculated that the distribution of the mockingbirds, finches and the tortoises might "undermine the stability of Species".



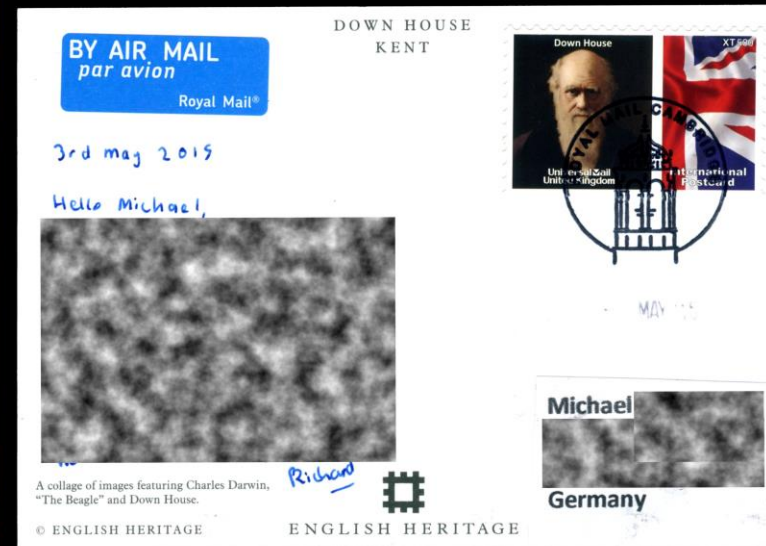
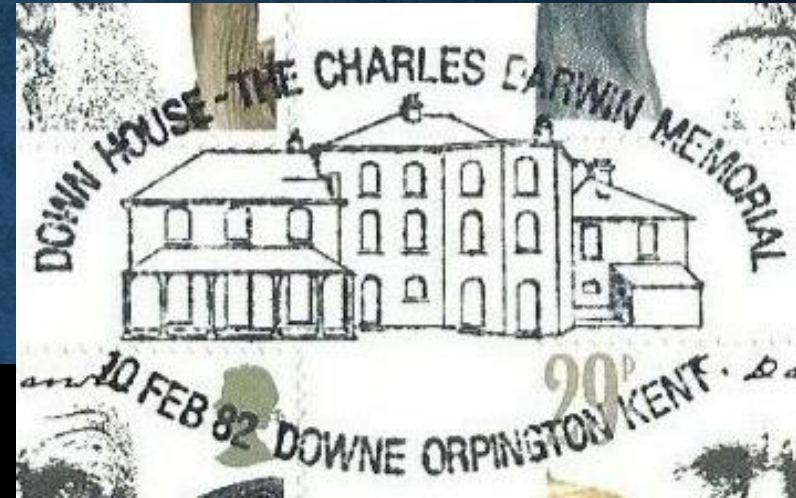
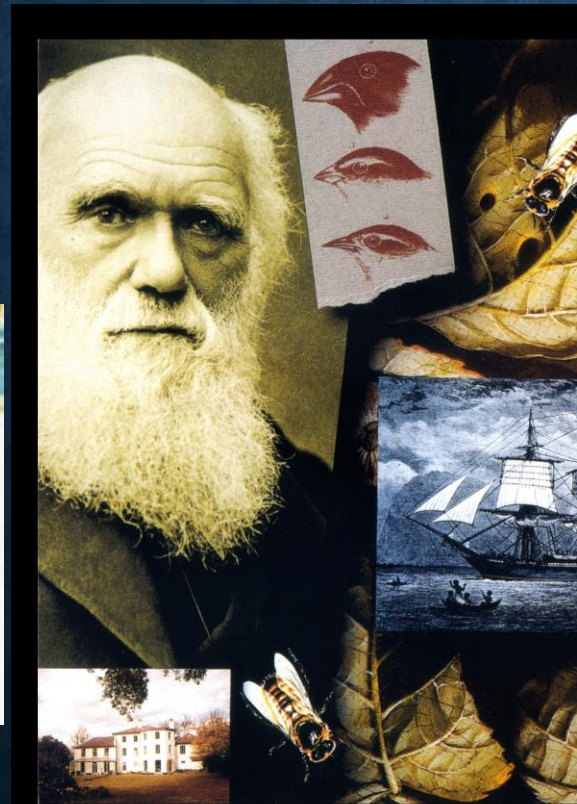
CHARLES DARWIN – FOSSIL COLLECTOR

- During the voyage, Darwin collected many specimens of exotic plants and animals, as well as many fossils from South America, such as:
 - *Megatherium*, *Glyptodon*, *Macrauchenia* and *Toxodon*
- These fossils were studied by Professor of Anatomy of the British Museum in London, Richard Owen.



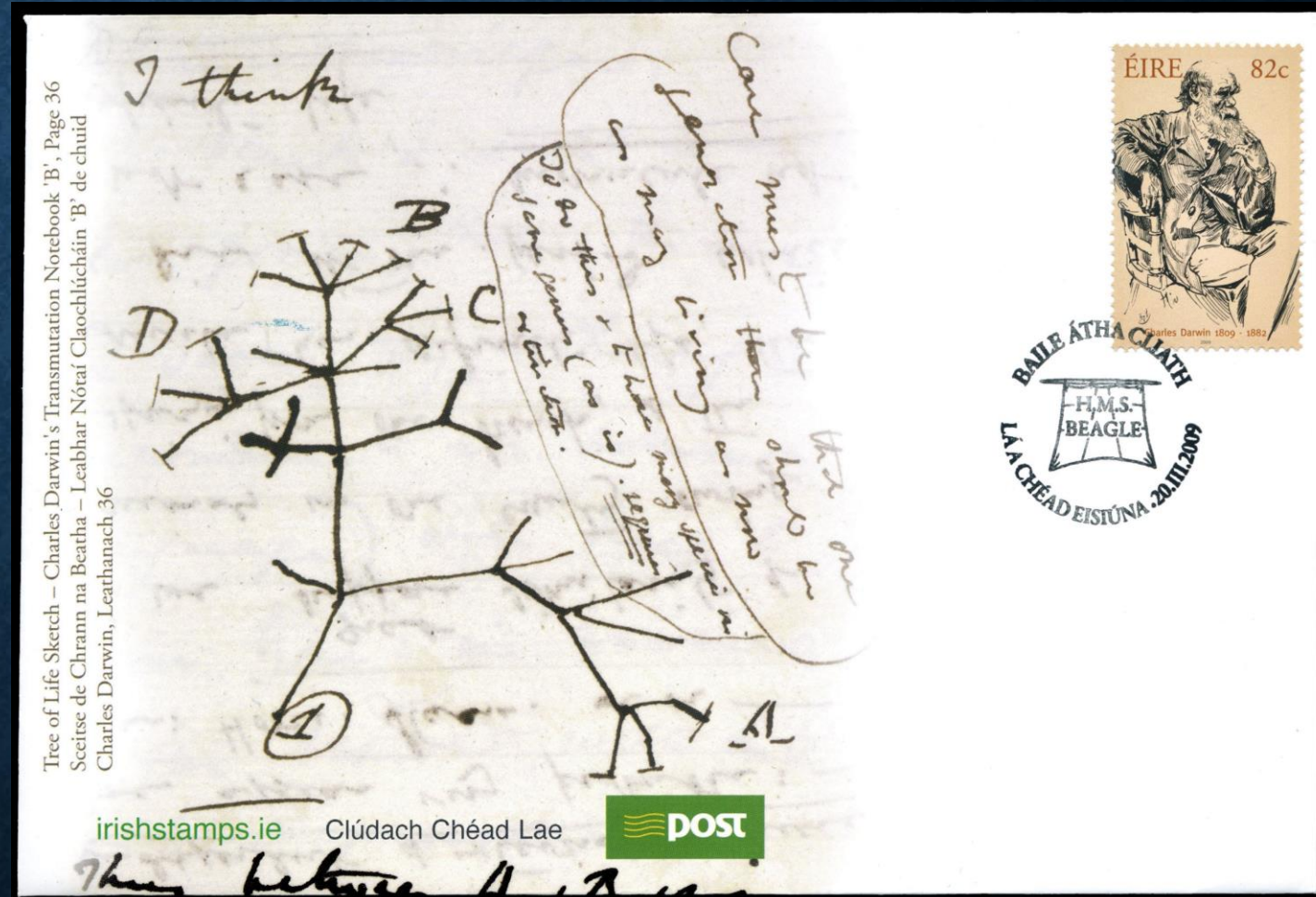
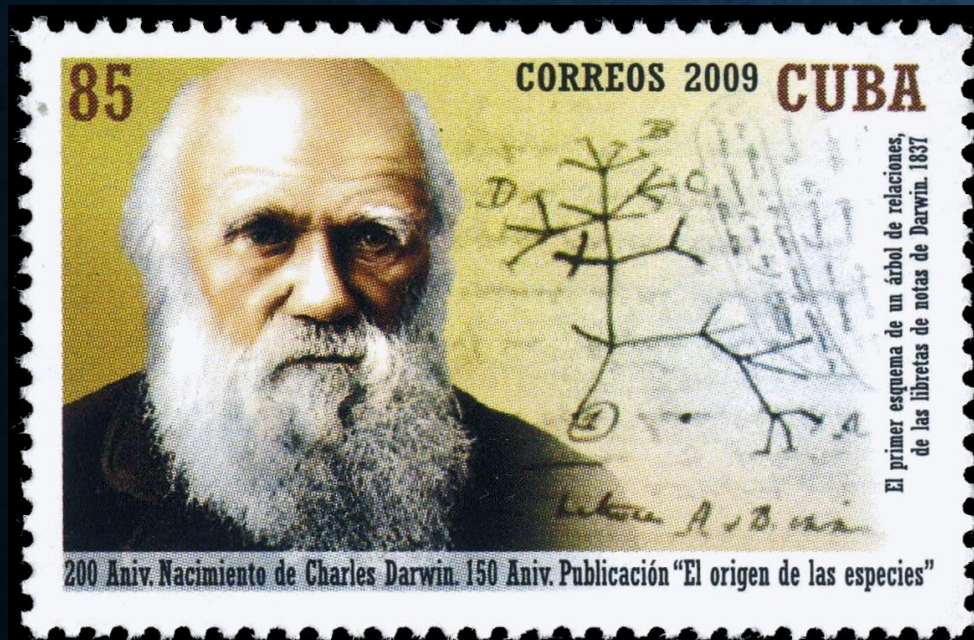
DOWN HOUSE

- In January 1839 Darwin married his cousin Emma Wedgwood.
- In September 1842 Darwin with his family moved to Down (later spelled Downe) House in Kent (near London).
- Here he wrote the „Origin of Species“, „Descent of Man“ and many other books



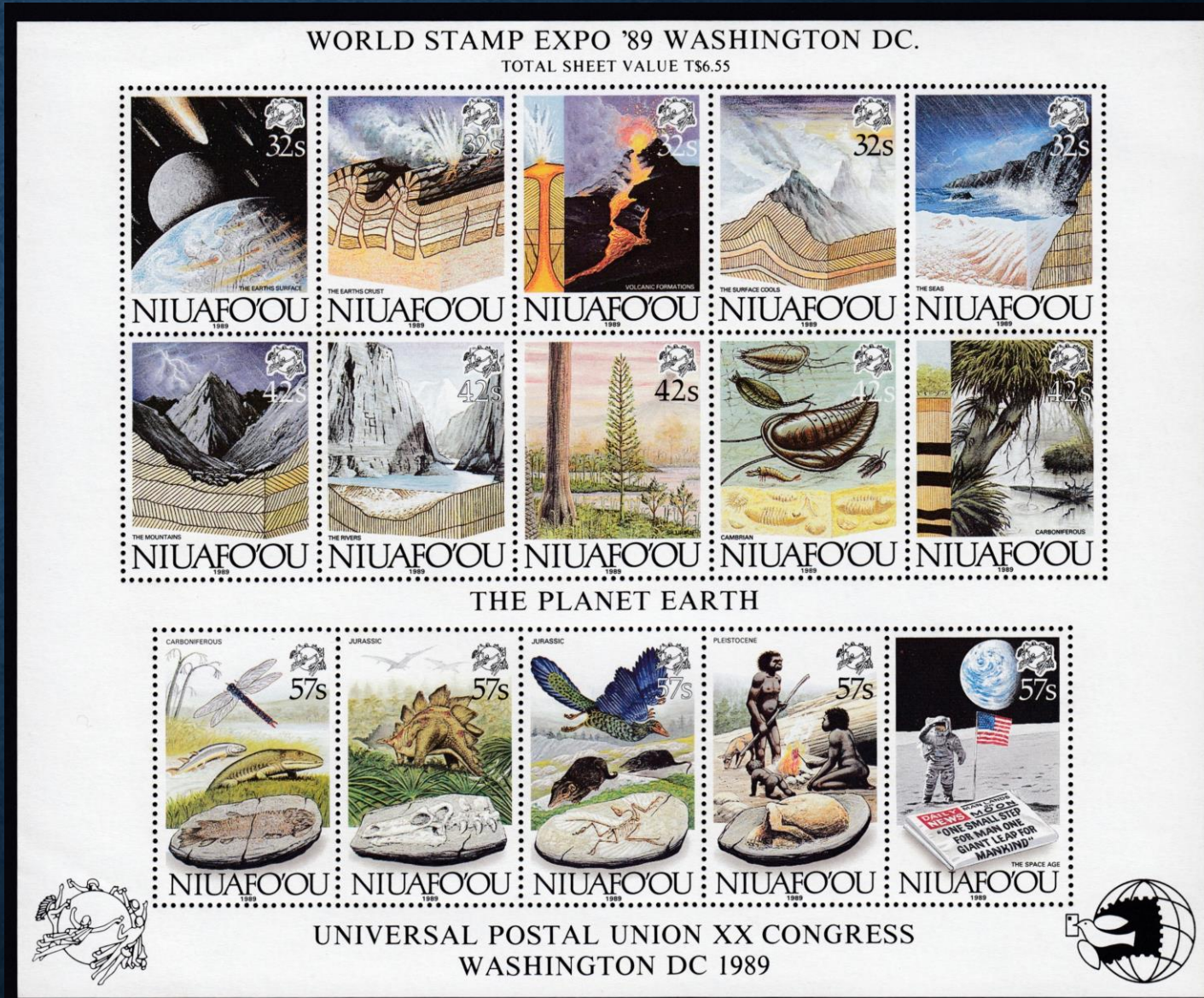
TRANSMUTATION THEORY OF DARWIN

- The “Evolutionary Tree” from the notebook was depicted on the cachet of FDC of Ireland 2009.
- It was one of the first notes that Charles Darwin wrote about his theory of evolution.



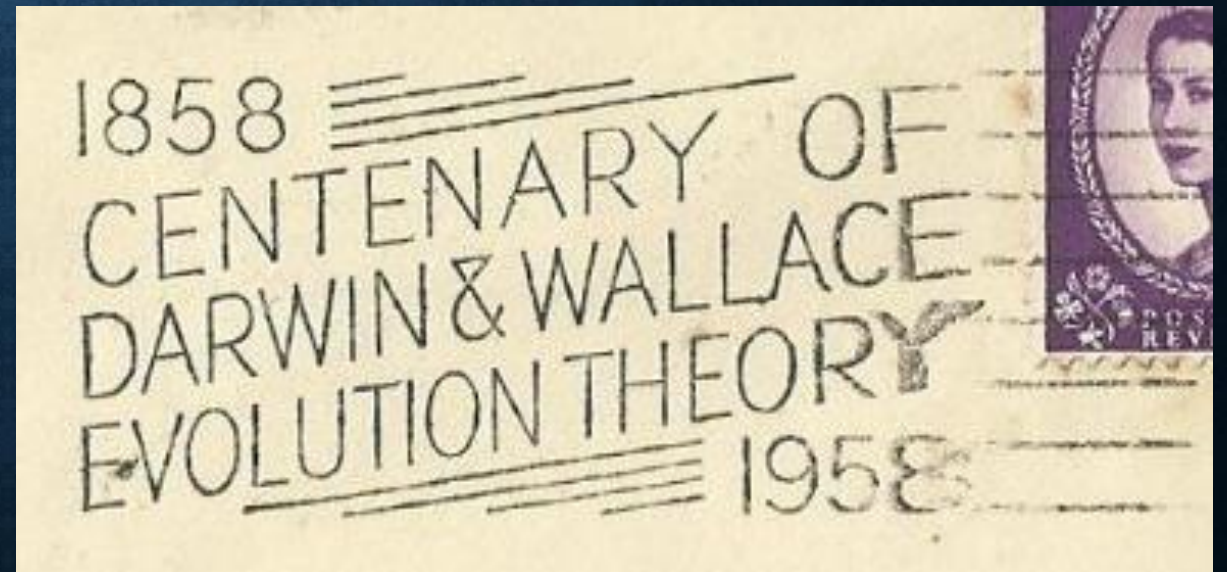
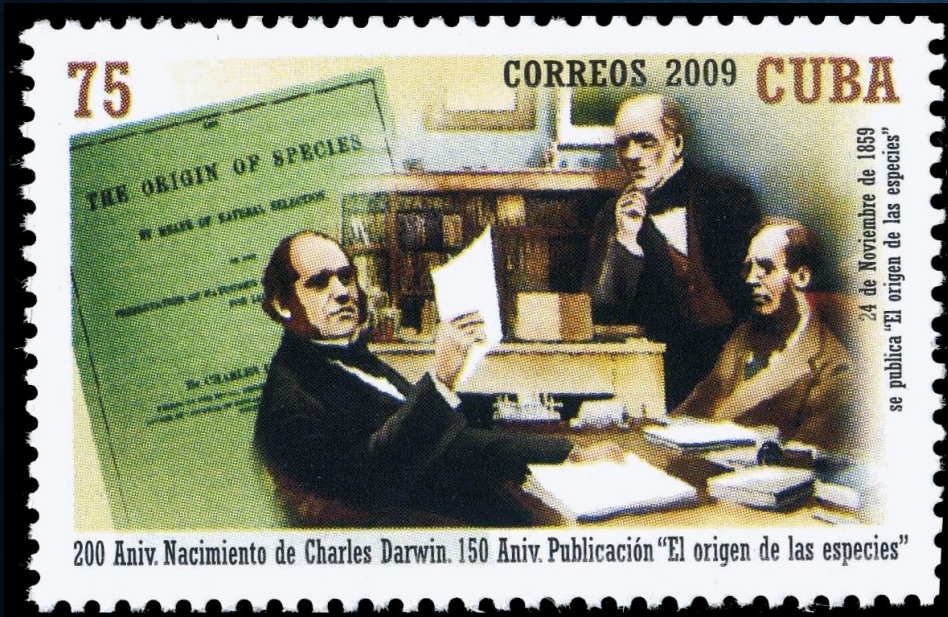
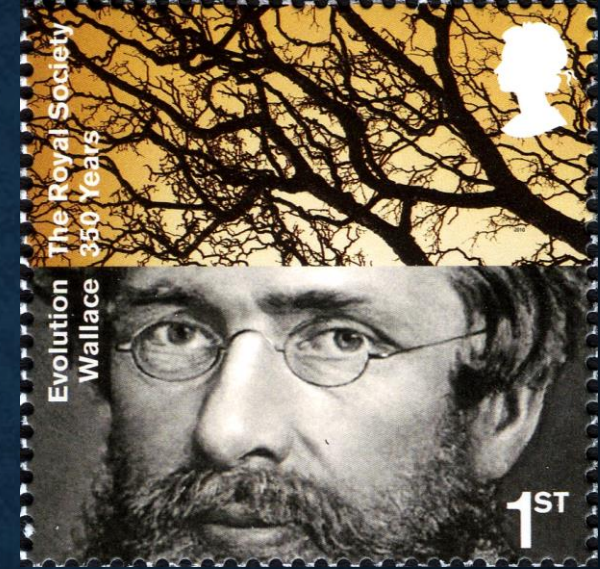
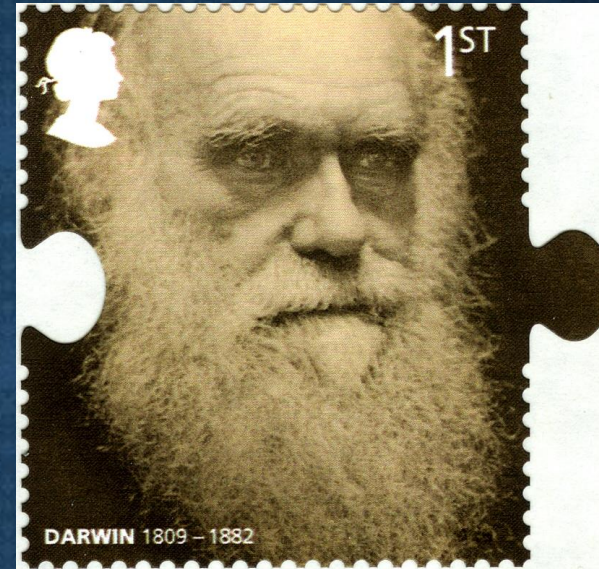
EVOLUTION OF LIFE

- Darwin's theory explains the evolution of life from the simple to the complex without the involvement of God: Natural selection acts as the primary mechanism of evolution, "selecting" traits that improve an organism's fitness (ability to survive and reproduce) in a given environment.



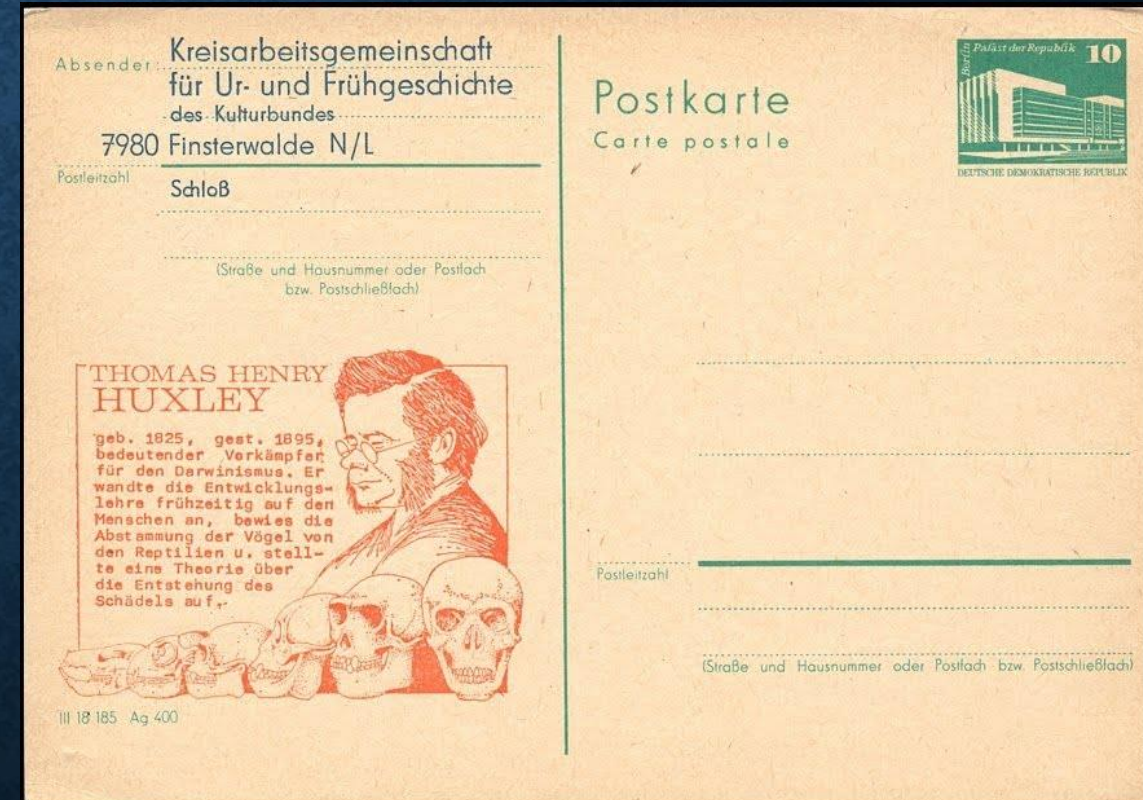
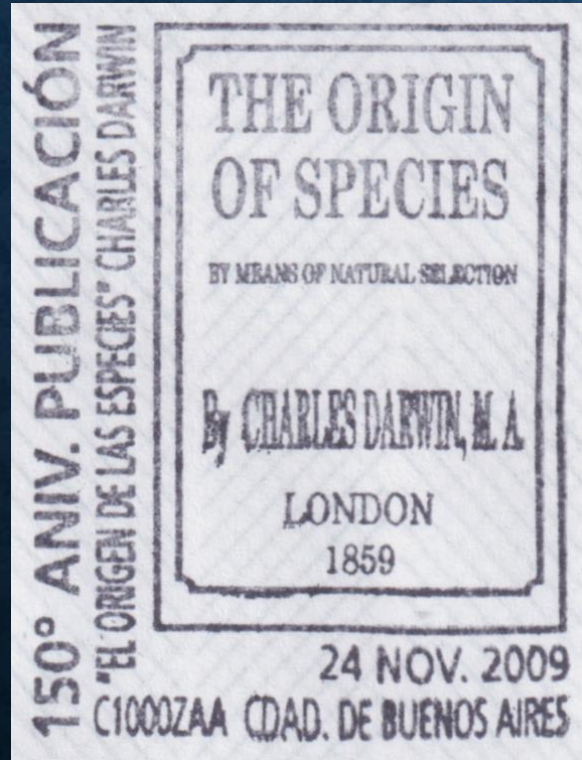
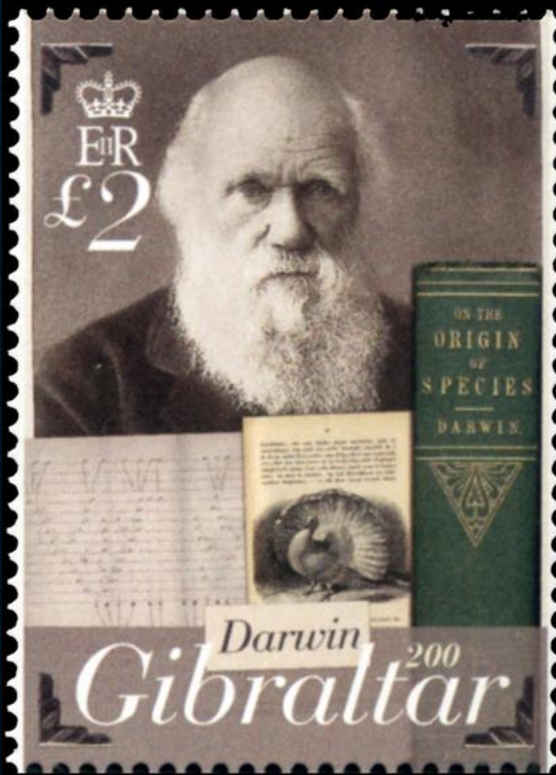
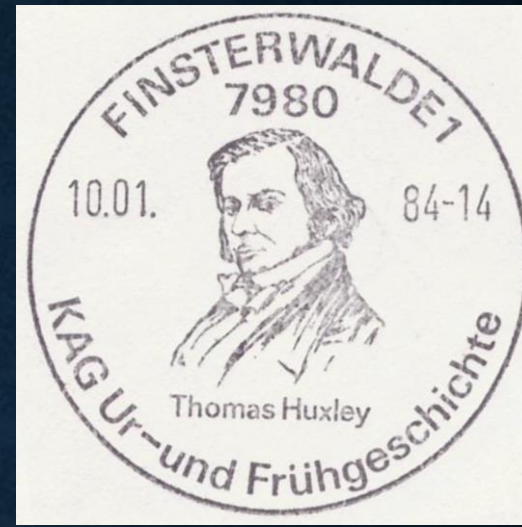
THE TENDENCY OF SPECIES TO FORM VARIETIES

- On 18 June 1858, Darwin received a paper from Alfred Russel Wallace describing his natural selection theory.
- On July 1st 1858, a paper comprising and resulting from the joint presentation of Darwin and Wallace was read to the Linnean Society of London.
- On 20th August, 1858, the Darwin-Wallace article was printed.
- In November 1859 “On the Origin of Species” was published by Charles Darwin.



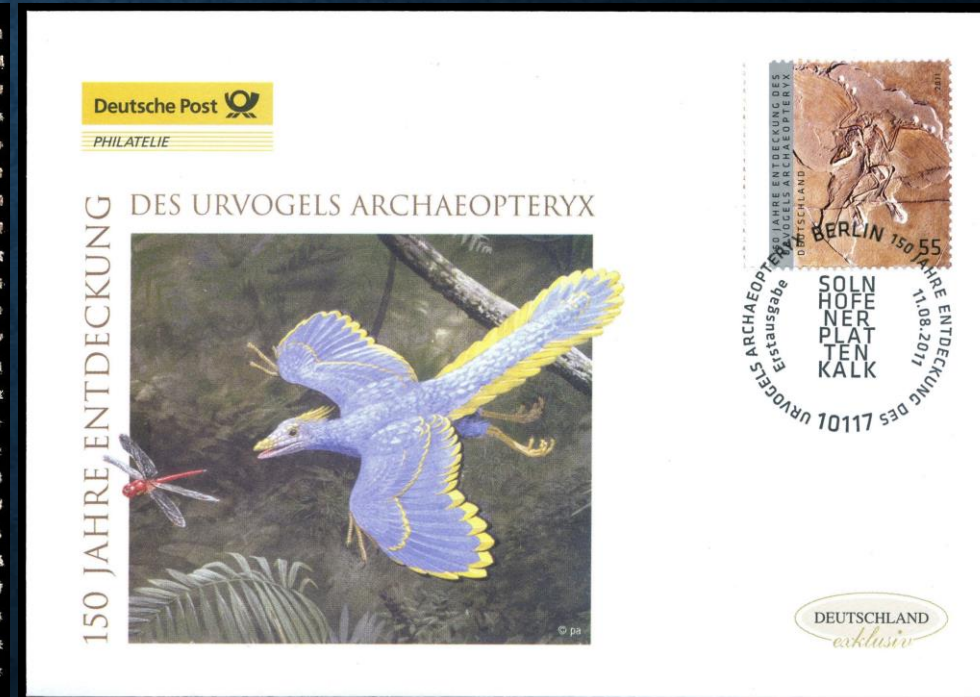
“ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES”

- Publication of “On the Origin of Species” by Charles Darwin in 1859, raised very hot debates in scientific community and by the public.
- Many scientists, including Richard Owen didn't accept the theory.
- Thomas Henry Huxley (1825 –1895) who was an English biologist and anthropologist specialized in comparative anatomy, become known as "Darwin's Bulldog" for his advocacy of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution



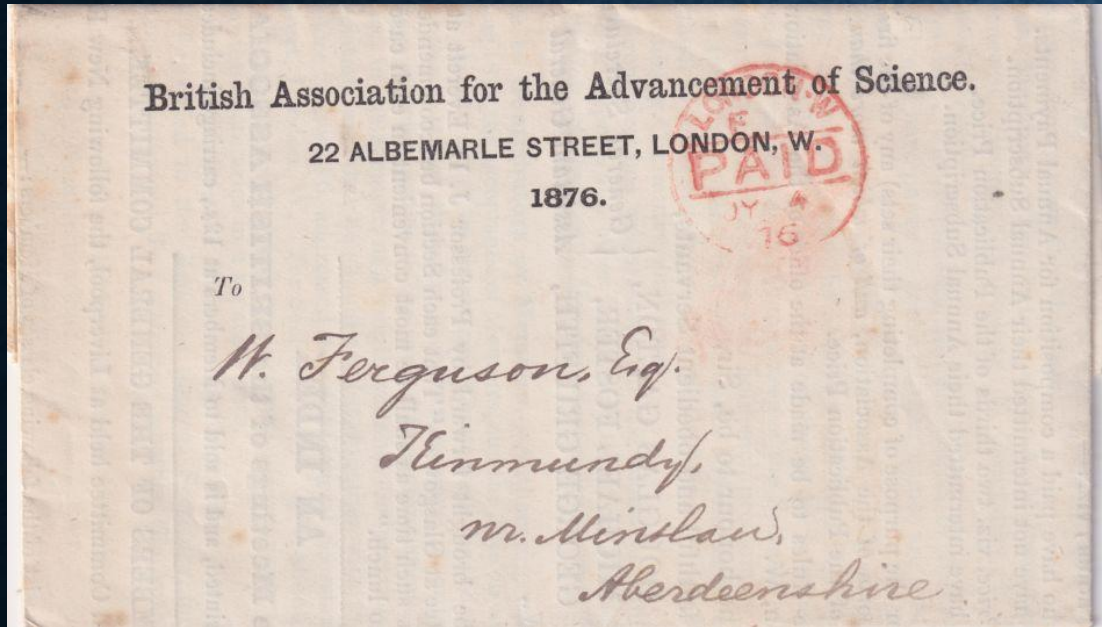
ARCHAEOPTERYX – THE MISSING LINK

- The first fossil of *Archaeopteryx* was discovered just two years after Charles Darwin published “On the Origin of Species”.
- *Archaeopteryx* seemed to confirm Darwin’s evolution theory and has since become a key piece of evidence for the origin of birds, the transitional fossils debate, and confirmation of evolution.



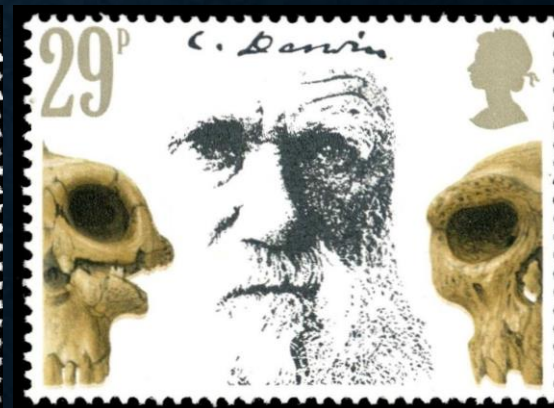
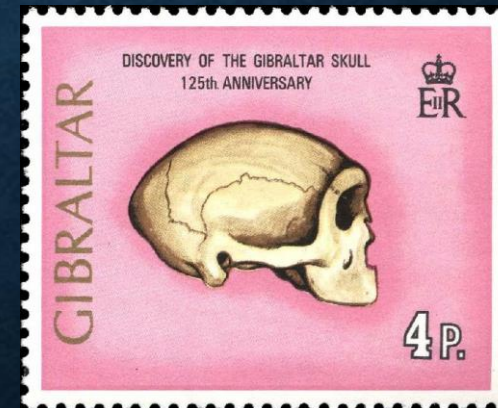
DARWIN AND THE NEANDERTALS

- In 1864, the Neanderthal skull known as Gibraltar-1 today, was brought out of obscurity, and presented at a meeting in the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Norwich, England.



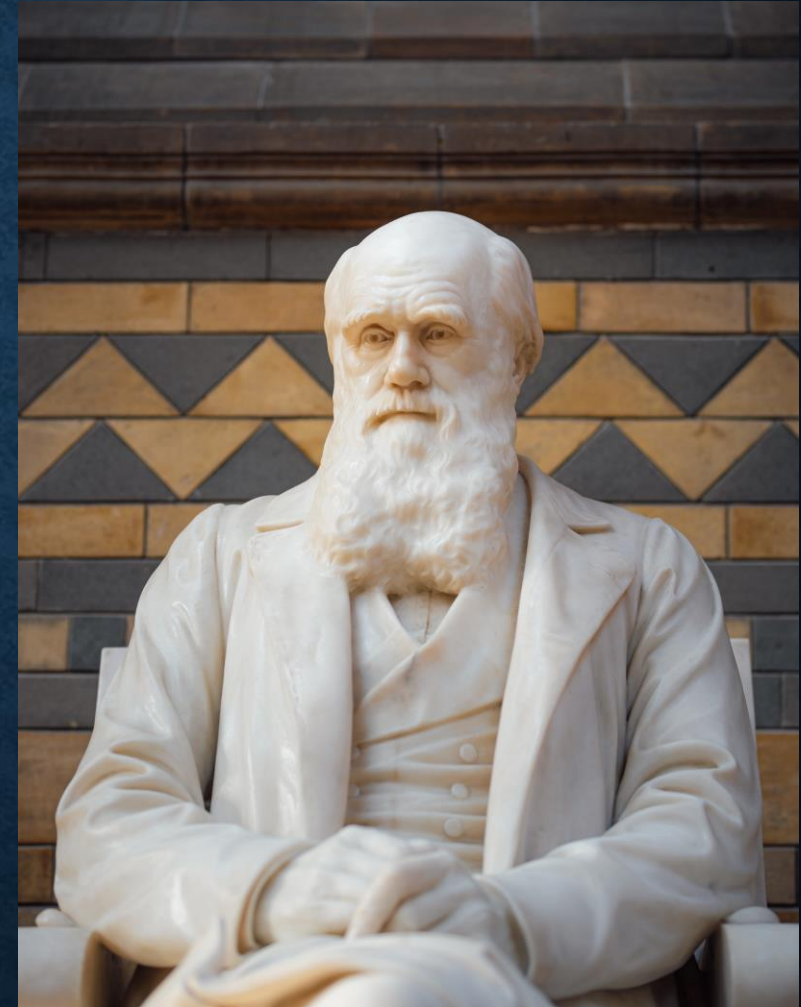
Invitation to the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science from 1876

- Charles Darwin was not present, but the skull was later examined by him together with Thomas Huxley, who concluded the skull was that of an extinct human species.
- Charles Darwin did make fleeting reference to Gibraltar-1 in his 1871 publication, "The Descent of Man".



CHARLES DARWIN DEATH

- Charles Darwin died on April 19th 1882 at Down House.
- Darwin was honoured by burial in Westminster Abbey, close to Isaac Newton.
- Huxley, Hooker, and Wallace were all pallbearers at the funeral.
- Darwin's statue was placed on the main staircase, keeping watch over Hintze Hall of the Natural History Museum in London in 1885, four years after the Museum opened.



The image is from Wikimedia

PART 2:

Charles Darwin in Philately

THE FIRST STAMP OF CHARLES DARWIN

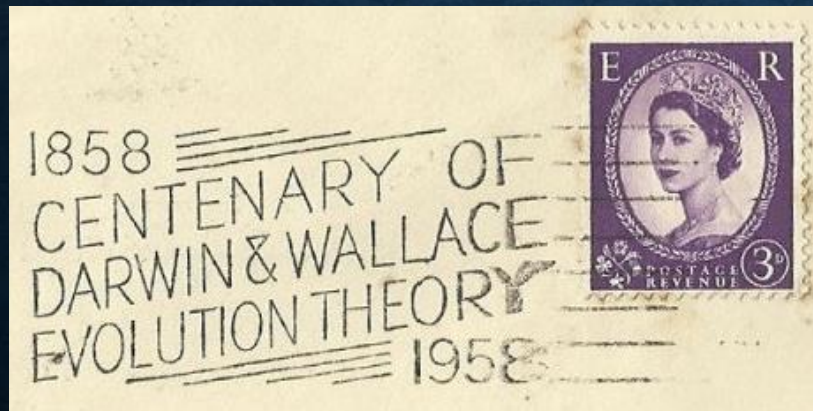
- In 1936, the set of 6 stamps "Centenary of the Darwin voyage to the Galapagos Islands" was issued in Ecuador.
- They were planned for 1935 but delayed.
- Only the postmark was issued in 1935.



More details here: https://www.paleophilatelie.eu/description/stamps/ecuador_1936.html

1959 - 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES DARWIN

- Only a few socialist European countries issued stamps to commemorate Charles Darwin:
 - 1958 - German Democratic Republic
 - 1959 - Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union
- Yugoslavia issued a postmark with portrait of Darwin, in 1959.
- In 1958, Great Britain issued the postmark "Centenary of Darwin and Wallace Evolution Theory"



1982 - 100 YEARS SINCE DEATH OF CHARLES DARWIN DARWIN – GREAT BRITAIN

- In 1982 Charles Darwin appeared on stamps of Great Britain, on the occasion of his death centenary.
- The next time Great Britain issued a stamp in Charles Darwin's honor was in 2006.



Darwin Centenary

The centenary of the death of Charles Darwin, the great 19th century British naturalist, is marked in a special set of four stamps designed by David Gentleman.

All four stamps feature Darwin – three with Pacific Islands creatures which sparked off his theory of evolution by natural selection – and one with prehistoric skulls, reflecting the development of mankind.

The 15½p stamp shows giant tortoises and two iguanas appear on the 19½p value. Finches found on the Pacific Islands, and now called Darwin's Finches, are featured on the 26p stamp and the prehistoric skulls – one of them 1.7 million years old – are seen on the 29p value.

The issue was printed in photogravure in sheets of 100 by Harrison & Sons at their High Wycombe security factory and issued by the British Post Office on 10th February 1982.



Harrison & Sons Limited

Harrison House, Coates Lane, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

The Harrison Printing Group



1982 - 100 YEARS SINCE DEATH OF CHARLES DARWIN DARWIN – ISLAND COUNTRIES

- Four countries issued sets of 4 stamps to commemorate Darwin's visits to their islands:
 - Ascension Island
 - Falkland Islands
 - Mauritius
 - St. Helena
- Each set contains four stamps:
 - portrait of Charles Darwin
 - one of the tools Darwin used during his voyage
 - an animal Darwin met on a particular island
 - The HMS Beagle ship.

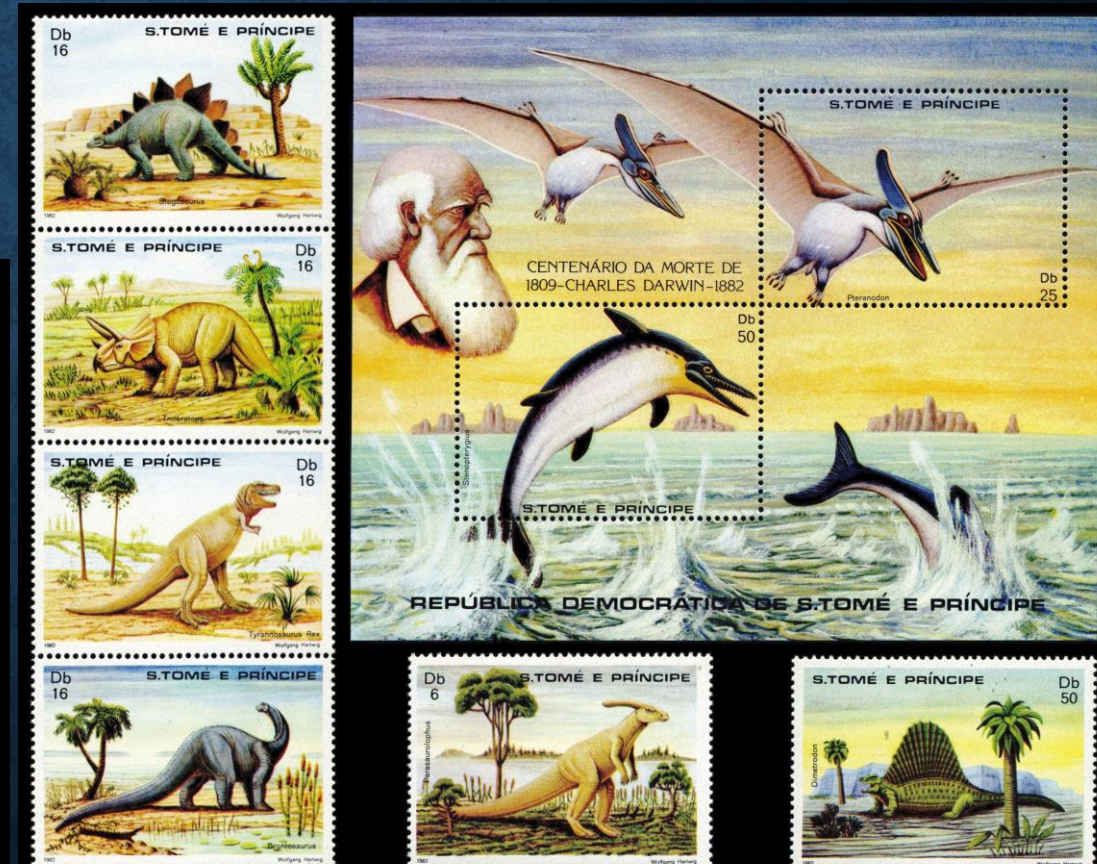
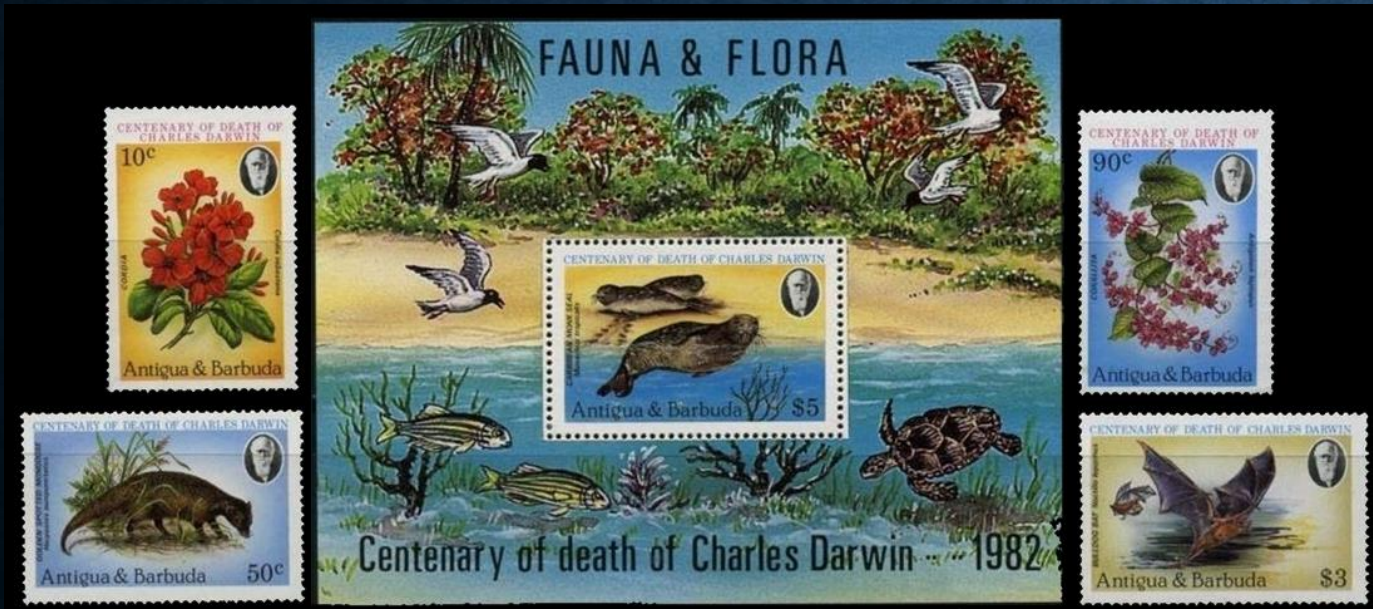


Some stamps from these sets have been found with omission of colours.



OTHER STAMPS OF DARWIN ISSUED IN 1982

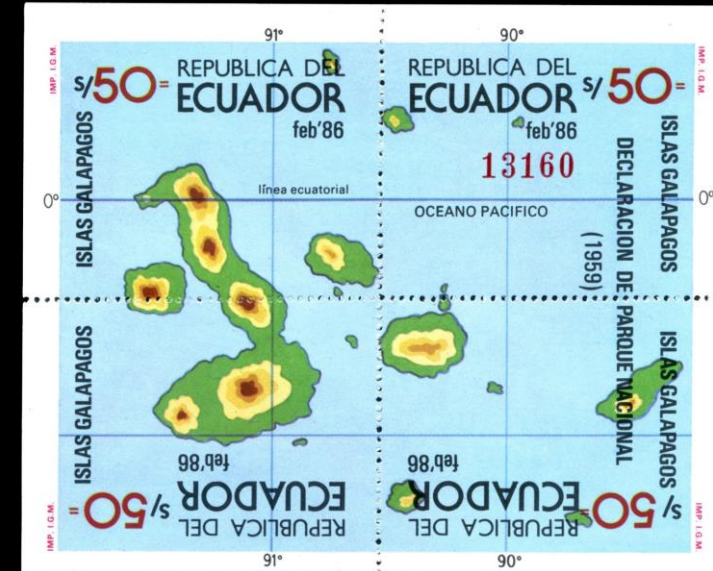
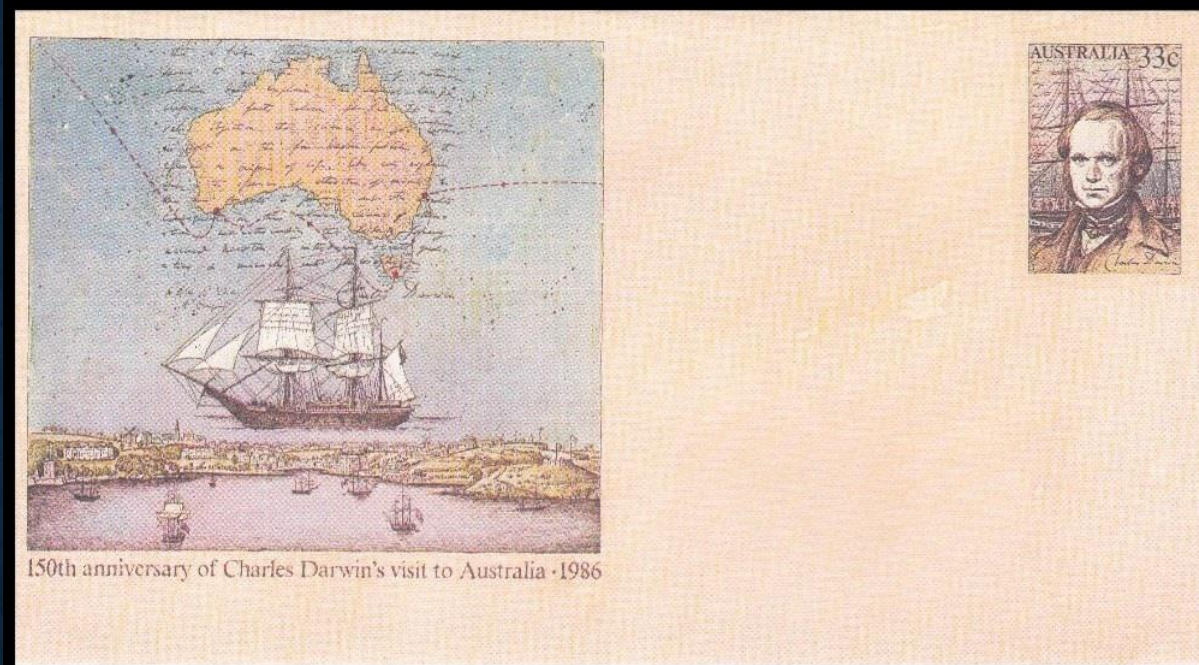
- Antigua & Barbuda – Darwin didn't visit these islands. Since its establishment, this tiny country started issuing large numbers of stamps of various themes. Most of the themes were unrelated to the country.
- Sao Tome and Principe – Darwin and prehistoric animals, but Darwin didn't study dinosaurs and most of the prehistoric animals depicted on these stamps were discovered after Darwin's death



1986 – 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF VISITS

Only 3 countries commemorated Charles Darwin on stamps in 1986:

- Australia
- Cocos Islands
- Ecuador

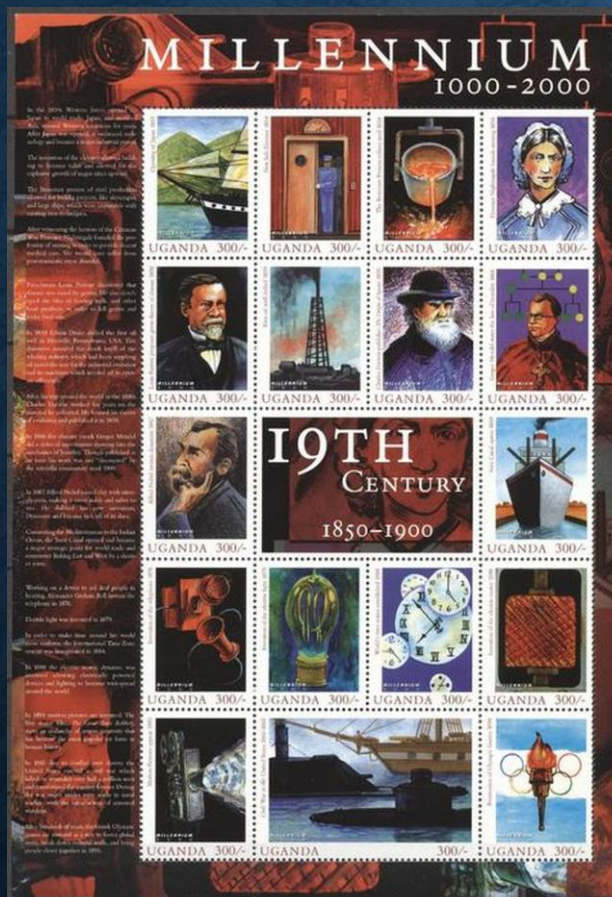
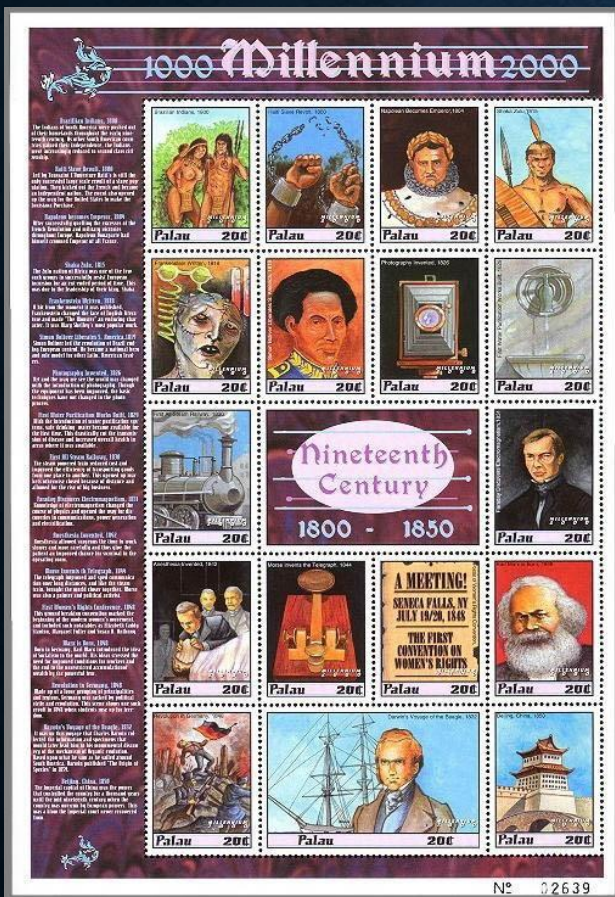


2000 - MILLENNIUM

Palau

Uganda

Mongolia



Proof

The issued version

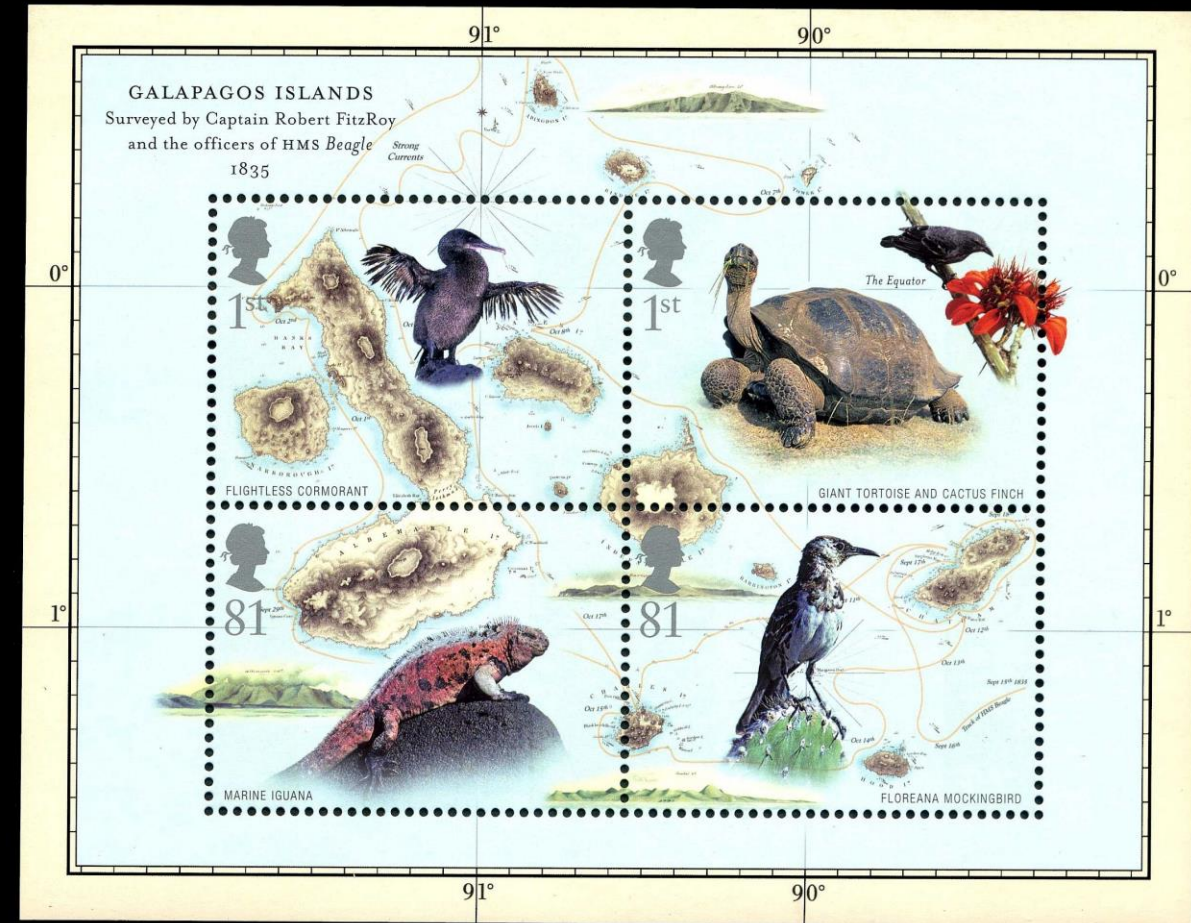
2009 - 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARLES DARWIN

- In 2008-2010 many countries of the World issued stamps, postmarks and postal stationeries to commemorate Charles Darwin. The first country was Bosnia and Herzegovina who issued their stamp set in July, 2008.
- The last countries were Paraguay and Palau, who issued their Darwin stamps in 2010.
- Few examples shown on the right, more details are here:

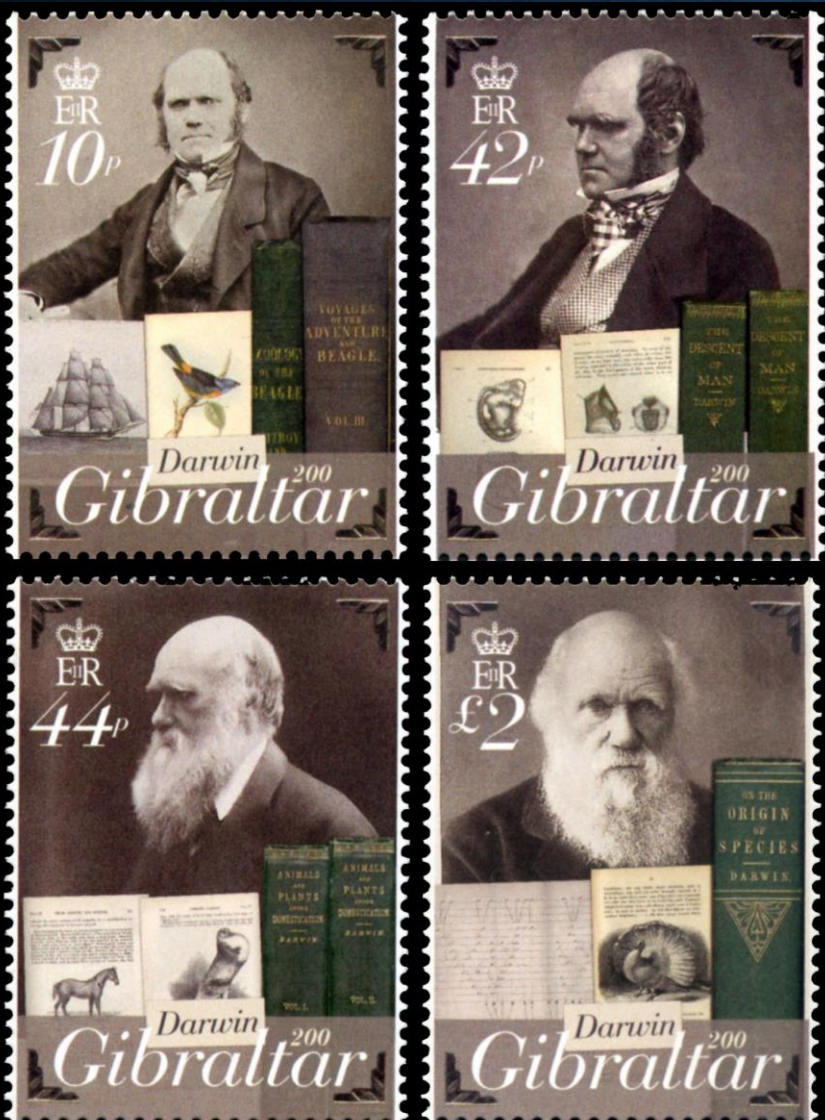
https://www.paleophilatelie.eu/topics/paleo/personalities/charles_darwin.html#2009



2009 – GREAT BRITAIN – THE PUZZLE STAMPS



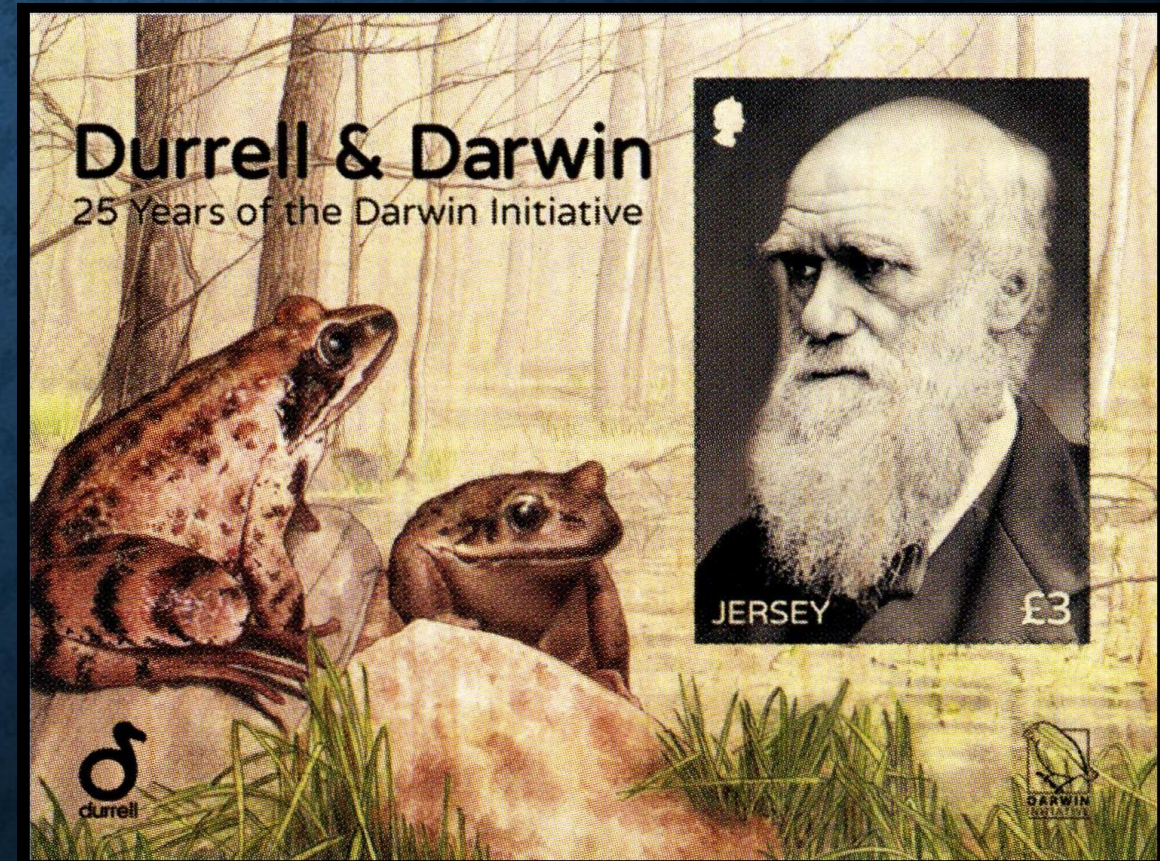
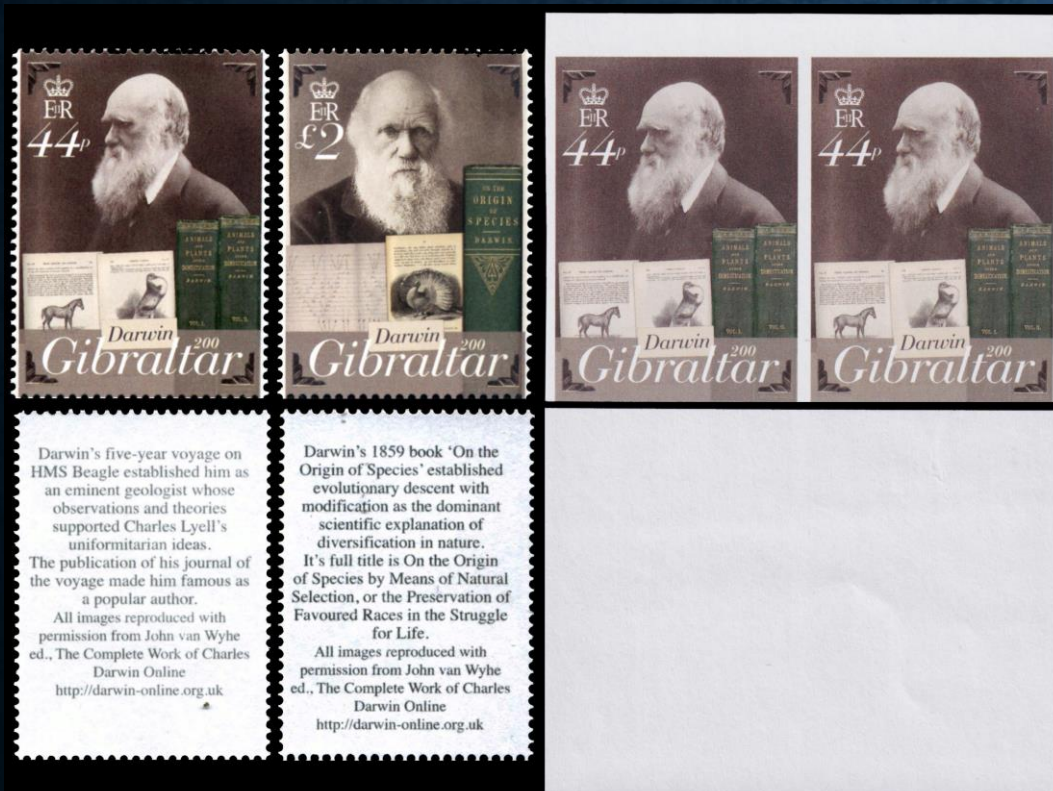
2009 - CHARLES DARWIN ON STAMPS OF GIBRALTAR



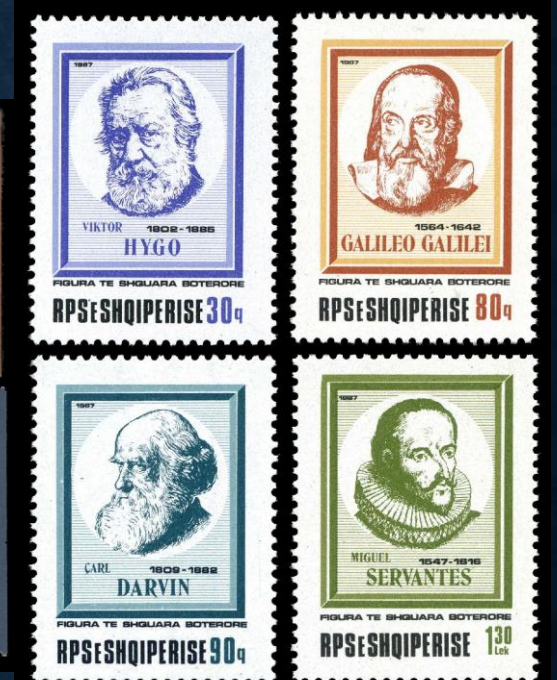
Reproduced with permission from John van Wyhe ed., *The Complete Work of Charles Darwin Online* www.darwin-online.org.uk

UNUSUAL STAMPS OF CHARLES DARWIN – GIBRALTAR 2009

- Stamps of Darwin issued in Gibraltar in 2009 have a short text on the reverse side, the proof stamps have clean reverse side.
- The stamp of Jersey was printed on a thin piece of wood

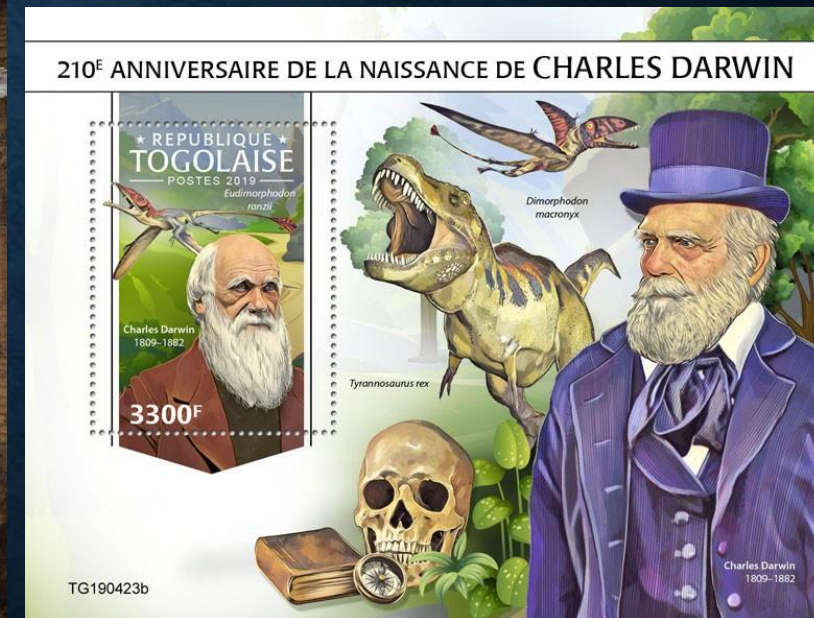
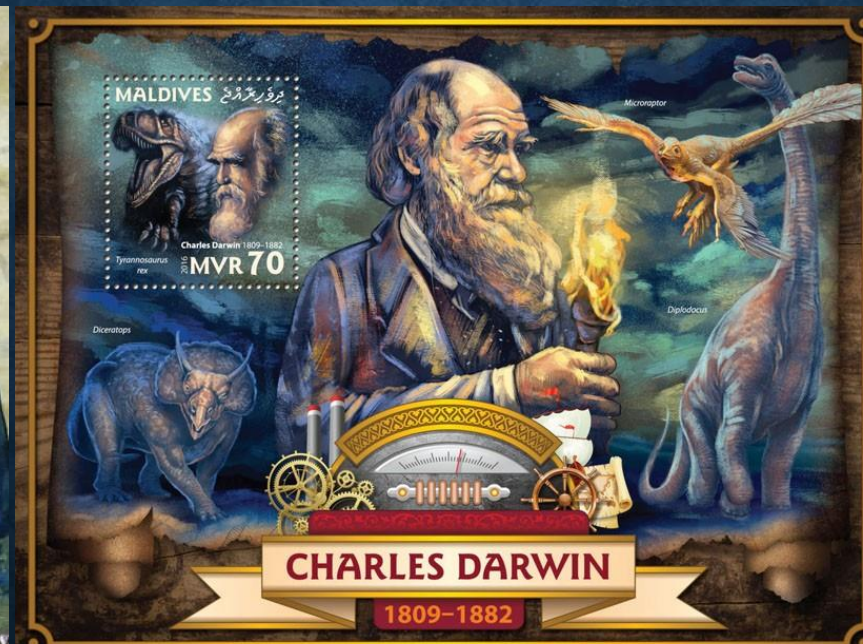
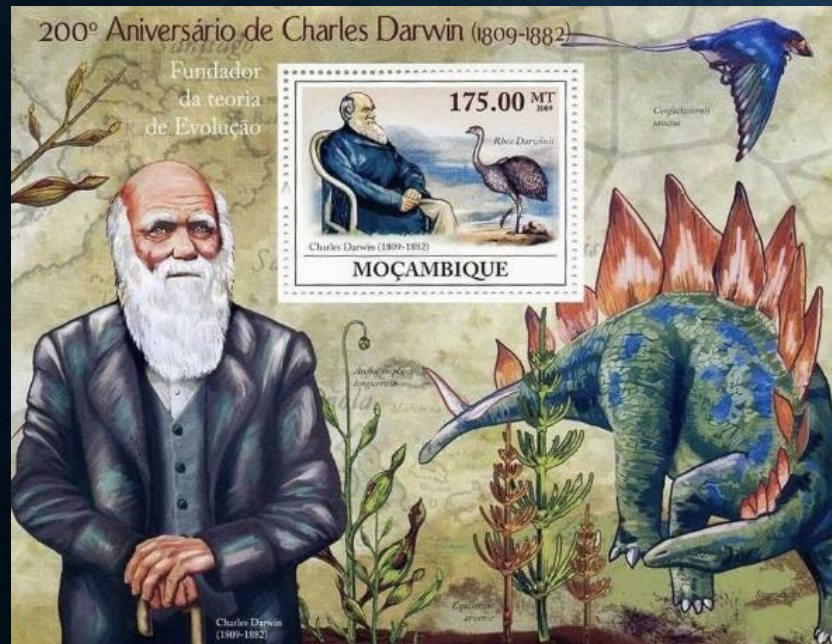


CHARLES DARWIN AMONG EXPLORERS AND GREAT PERSONALITIES



UNDESIRED STAMPS - CHARLES DARWIN AND DINOSAURS

- In Darwin's time dinosaurs were seen as gigantic beasts that seemed to have little connection to earlier or later types of animals, therefore they didn't contribute to Darwin's work on his evolution theory.

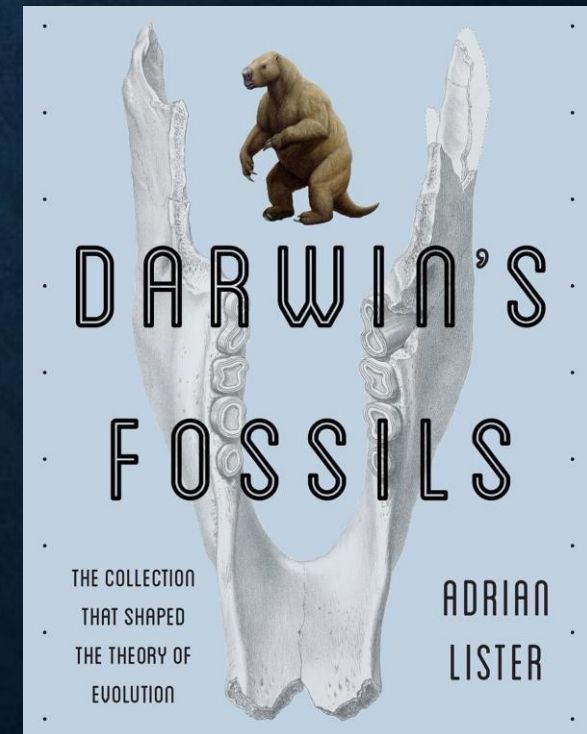
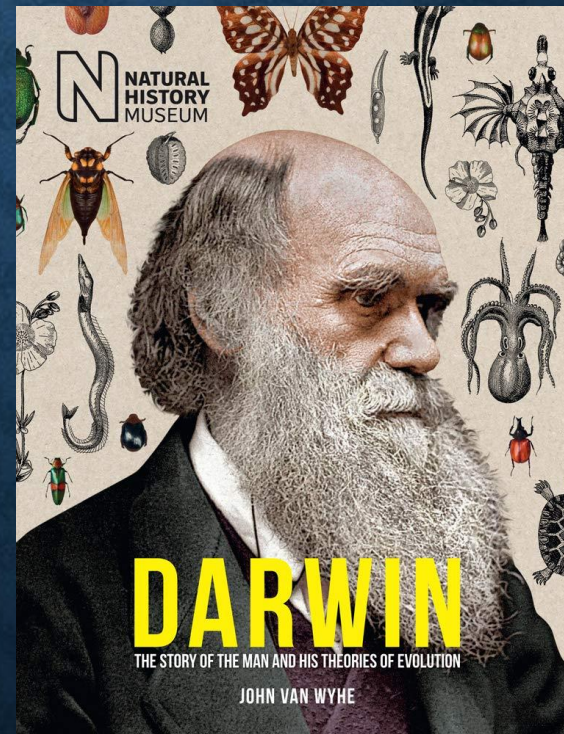


FURTHER READING

„Charles Darwin in Philately“:

https://www.paleophilatelie.eu/topics/paleo/personalities/charles_darwin.html

- Darwin Online: <https://darwin-online.org.uk/>
The world's largest resource on Charles Darwin
- Natural History Museum in London:
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/charles-darwin-most-famous-biologist.html>
- Wikipedia:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Darwin
- Encyclopedia Britannica:
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-Darwin>



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Many thanks to Mr. Peter Brandhuber from Germany for his support and images of stamps and covers from his personal collection.
- Many thanks to Dr. Peter Voice from Department of Geological and Environmental Sciences, Western Michigan University, for his valuable comments.

QUESTIONS?

Ask me now

or email me later: admin@paleophilatelie.eu



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!