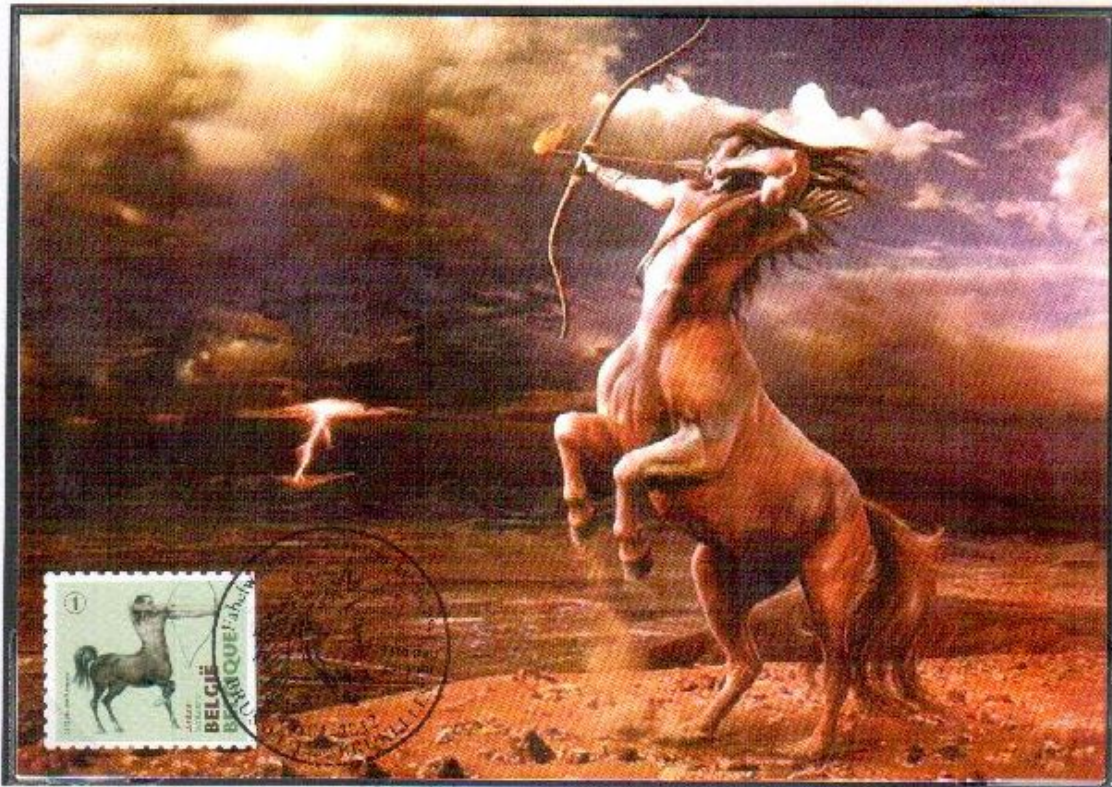


CENTAUR: A FABULOUS CREATURE



Belgium – 2012 - Maxi card: Centaur

1. INTRODUCTION
2. WHAT IS THE CENTAUR?
3. CENTAUR ORIGINS
4. TYPES OF CENTAUR
5. A POPULAR FIGURE
 - 5.1. in the art
 - 5.2. in astronomy
 - 5.3. in astrology
 - 5.4. in the name of ships and military divisions
6. CONCLUSION



1. INTRODUCTION

Mythological Creatures are non-human beings which appear in mythology and folklore. Many strange animals and creatures exist in this world imaginative.



Belgium - 2012 - Booklet: fabulous creatures



India - 2012 - Registered Letter - Receipt: "Centaur: Mythological creature"

Almost every culture in the world has stories about some sort of mythological animals, for examples: Mermaid, Werewolf, Unicorn, Dragon, Winged Serpent, Pegasus, Griffin, Centaur, Sphinx, Harpy, ...



Germany - 1970 - Slogan Cancellation: Unicorn

Among these legendary creatures we know a little about the Centaurs.



Proof

2. WHAT IS THE CENTAUR?



Color Proof on card paper – Commemorative of the Revolution of May, 1810 - designed by Carlos María Herrera and printed by the Compañía Sud-americana de Billetes de Banco (Buenos Aires Bank).

The centaurs (from Greek: Κένταυρος, Κένταυρος) are creatures that are part human and part horse.



Color Proof – Stamp valid only for the transport of correspondence in Uruguay and to Argentina. Line-engraving system, plate of 50 stamps.

2. What is the centaur?



Perforation shift

They are usually portrayed with the torso and head of a human, and the body of a horse.

Proof – Compañía Sud-americana de Billetes de Banco

1128

COMPANIA SUD AMERICANA DE BILLETES DE BANCO DE BUENOS AIRES



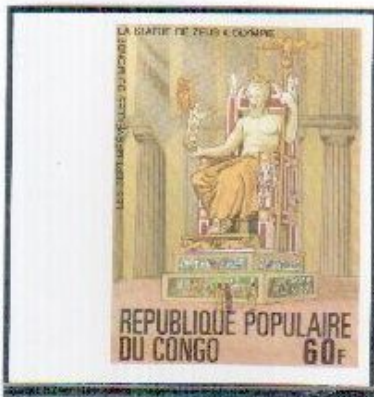
COMPANIA SUD AMERICANA DE BILLETES DE BANCO DE BUENOS AIRES

3. CENTAUR ORIGINS



Spain - 2006 - Commemorative Postmark: Archeology

The Greek love for the horse led to the emergence of many myth and legend. The centaur probably began as a horse totem of a tribe of early Greeks in prehistory.



Red shifted

According to one myth, centaurs are the offspring of Ixion, the king of Lapithae (Thessaly), and a cloud. He had arranged a tryst with Hera, but Zeus got wind of it and fashioned a cloud into Hera's shape. Therefore, the Centaurs are sometimes called Ixionidae.



Rubens - Ixion 1

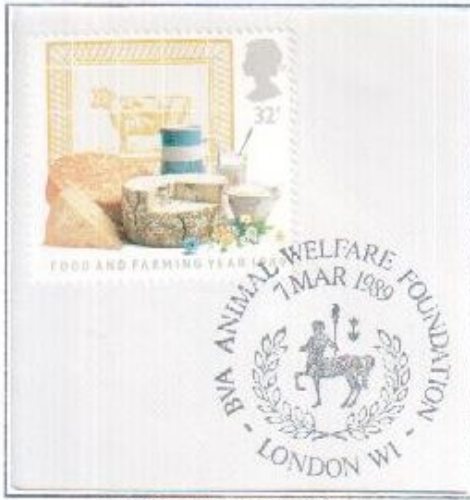


Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1630)



4. TYPES OF CENTAUR

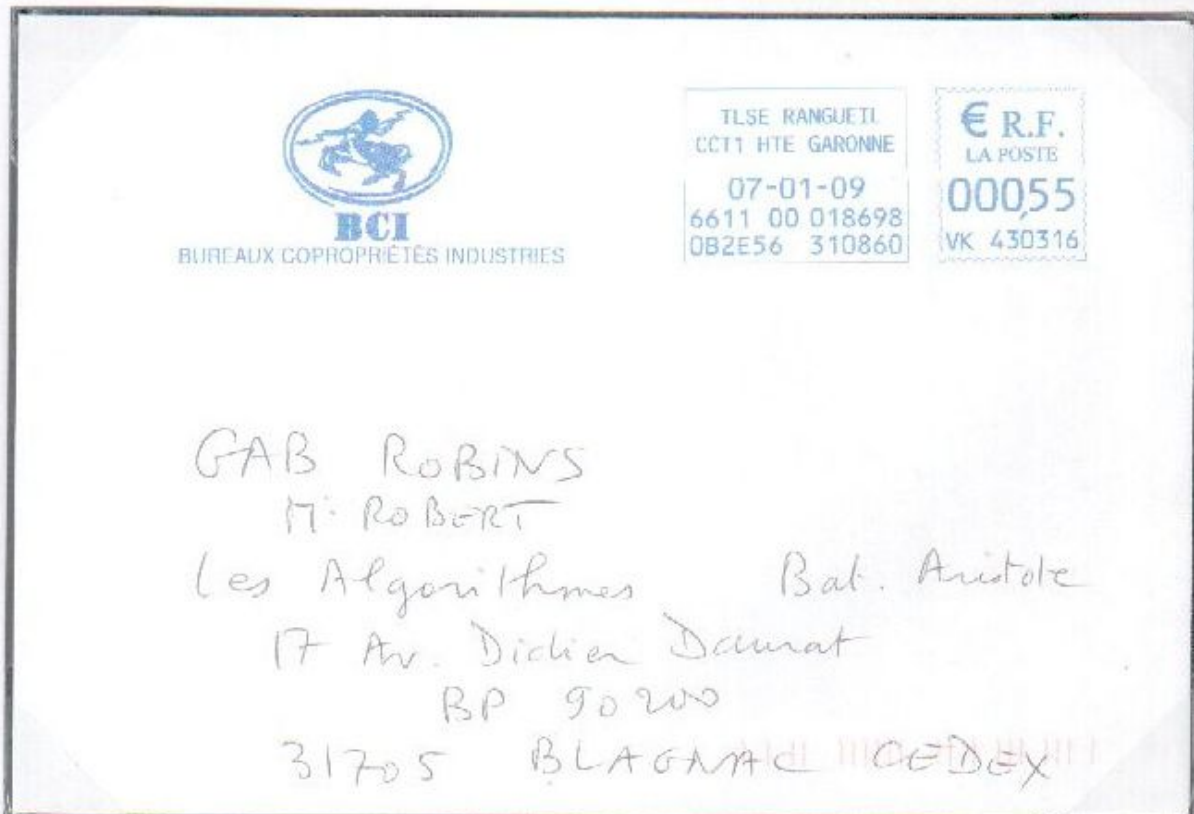
Typically speaking there are two types of centaur: the warriors and the wise teachers, less common.



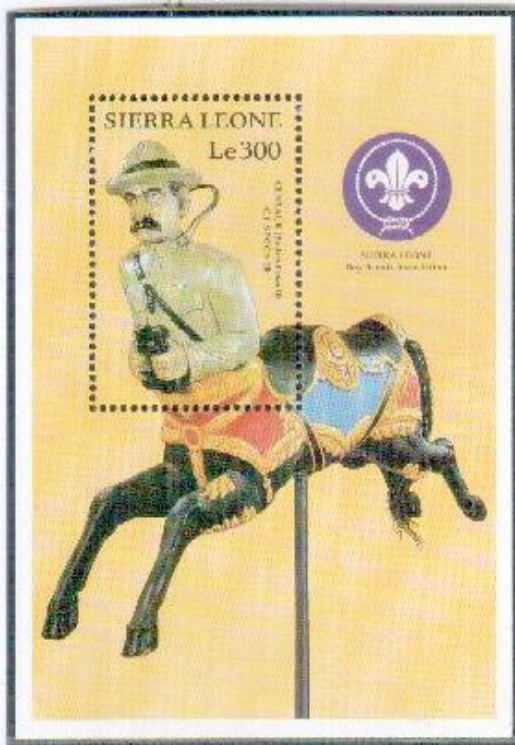
England - 1952 - Postmark: Centaur



The average centaur would be a somewhat harsh, boisterous, blustering and uncivilized behavior. Not much different than a stereotypical picture of a human barbarian perhaps, just imagine a horse body underneath them.



4. Types of centaur



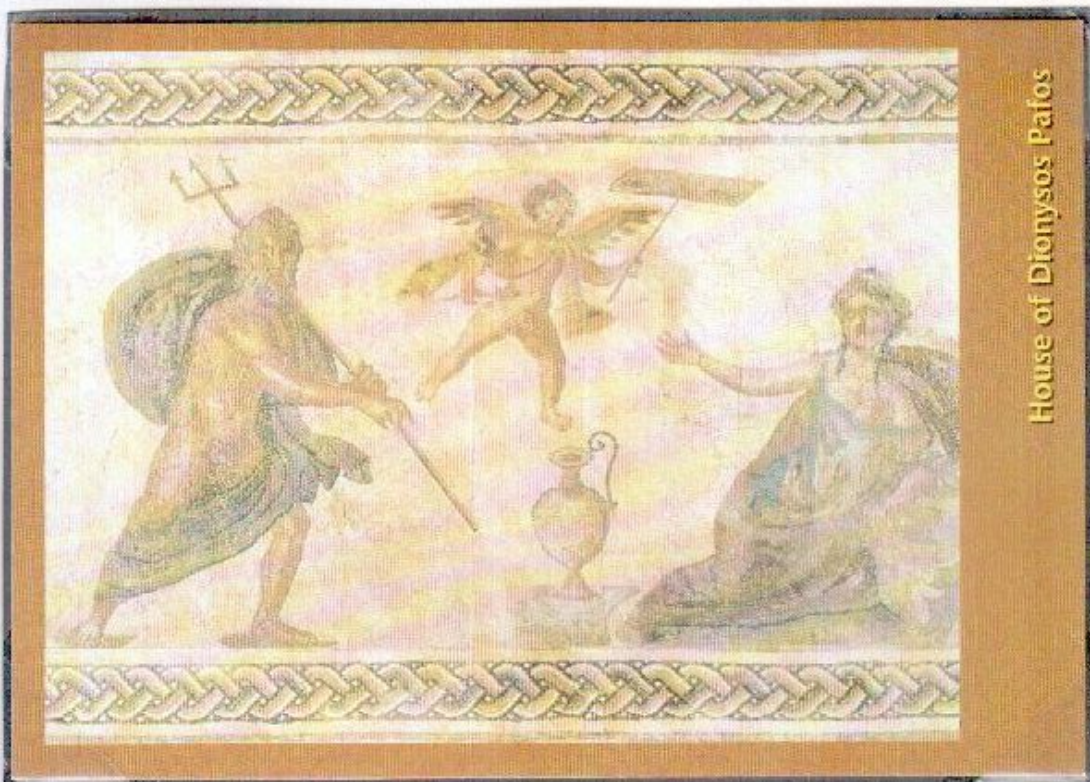
These centaurs are known for their drunkenness and lust and are often portrayed as followers of Dionysus, god of wine.



Black Print



United States - 1952 - Postmark: Dionysus



Cyprus - Specimen - Postal Stationery: House of Dionysos Pafos



1 Specimen 4



4. Types of centaur

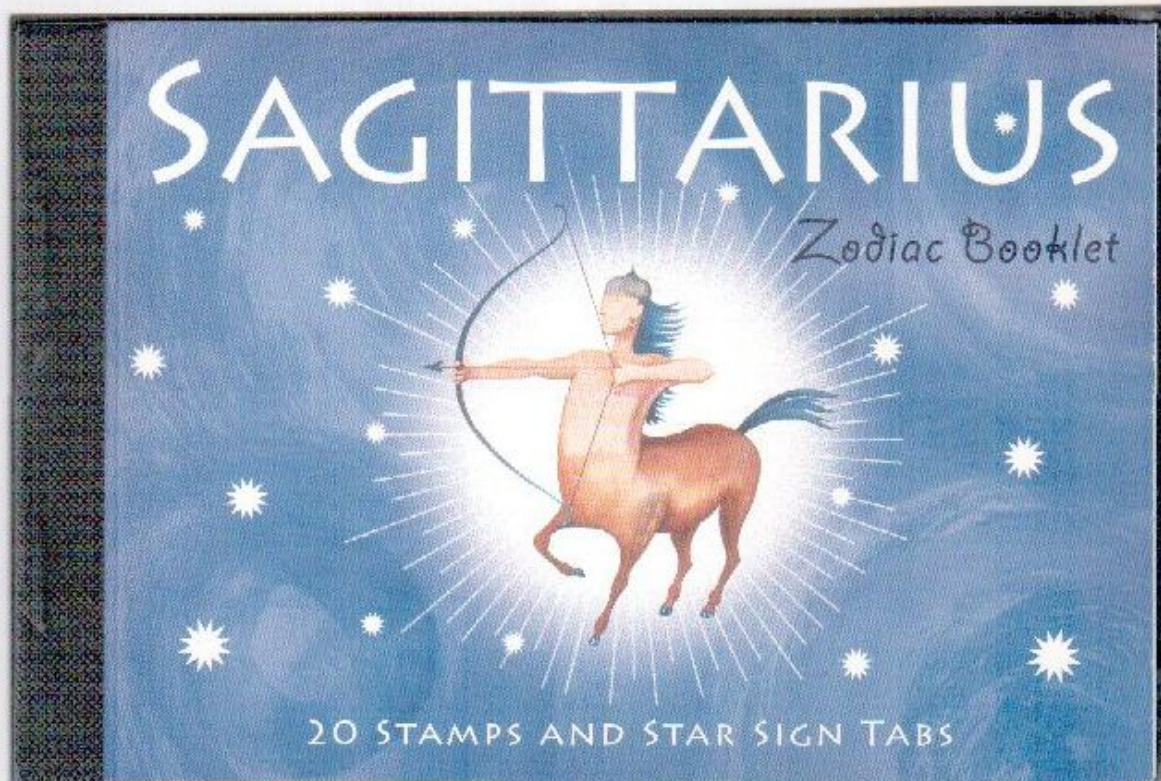
Aside from this chunk of society there are more quiet, intelligent and wiser centaur. They watch the stars, are well versed in the divination arts and seem to have a tendency towards melancholic.



Italy – 2010 – Postmark: Cheiron



The most famous this types of centaur was Cheiron. He was wise, benevolent and beloved. Cheiron was of high moral character and, unlike the other Centaurs, sympathetic to the betterment of the human race.



Australia – 2005 - Booklet: Centaur

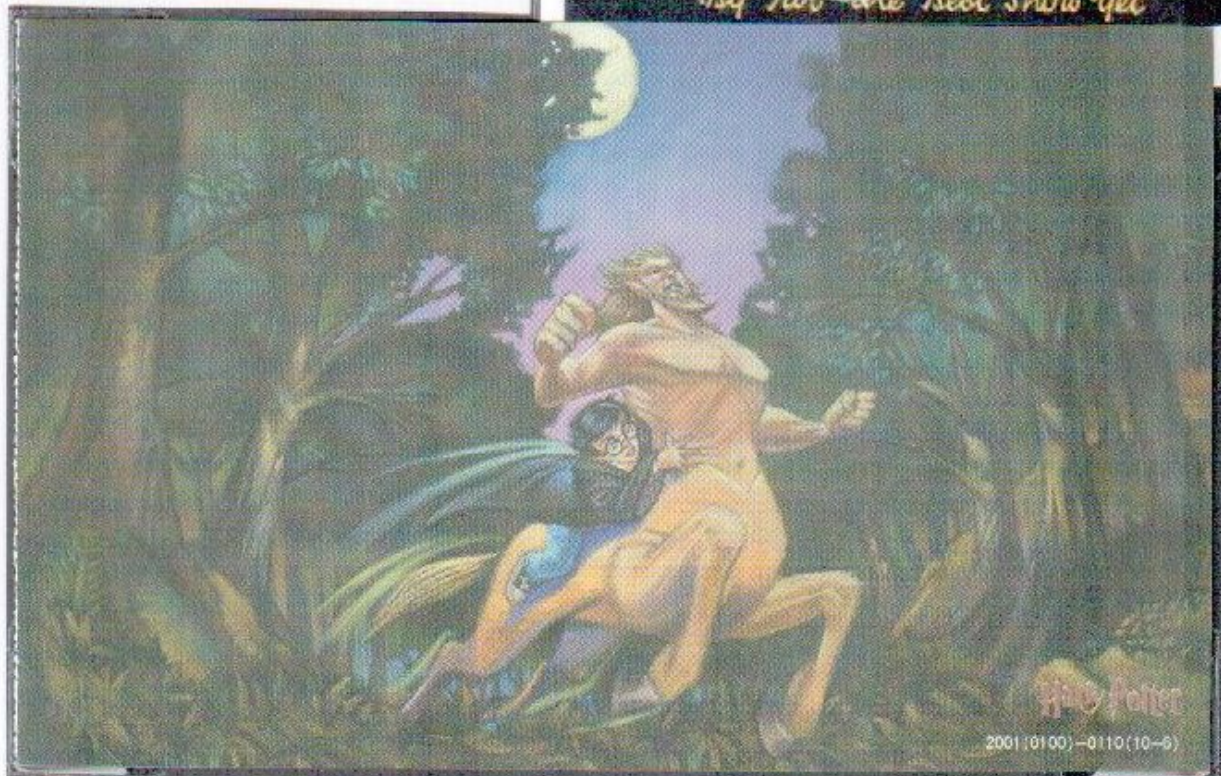
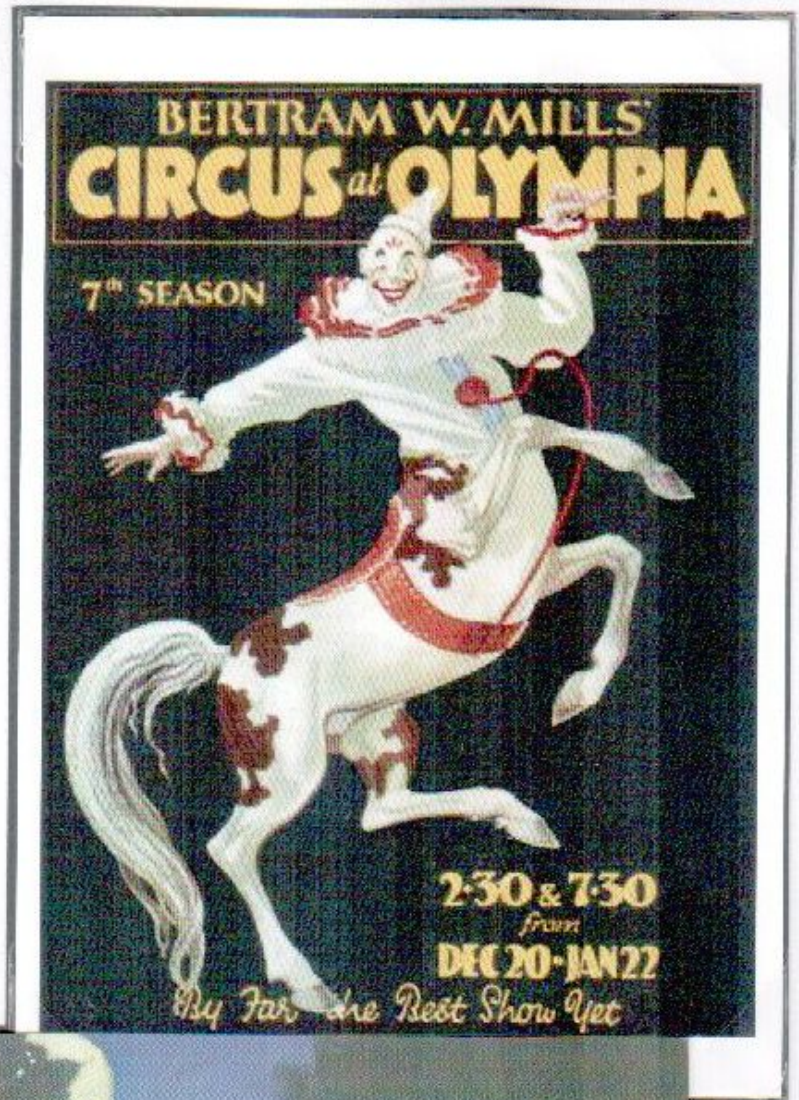
5. A POPULAR FIGURE

The image of the centaur is related with many cultural events, brands, names, works of art, books and movies.



In J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, for example, centaurs live in the Forbidden Forest close to Hogwarts.

Finland - 2011 - Postal Stationery: Centaur in Circus at Olympia



China - 2001 - Postal Stationery: Harry Potter and Centaur

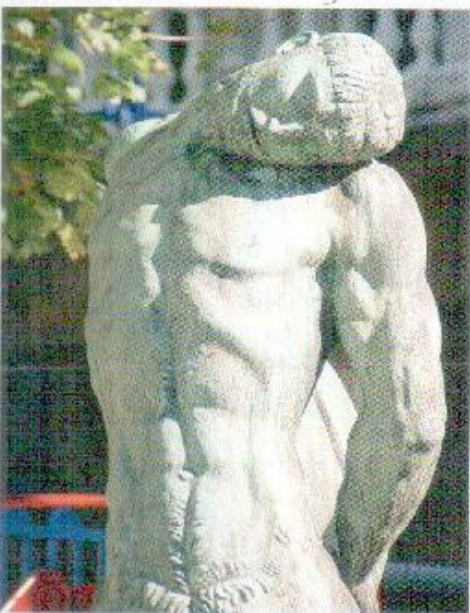
5. A Popular Figure
5.1. in the art



The centaur has been a popular figure in both art and pops up in a number of modern and ancient works.



Balades en Tarn-et-Garonne



Le Centaure mourant d'Antoine Bourdelle

centre financier
de banque postale

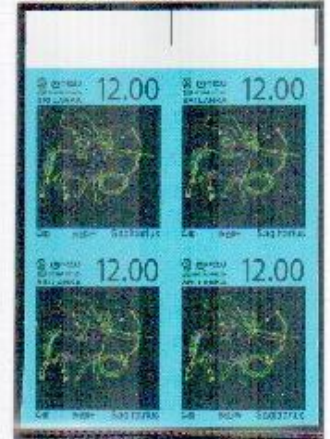
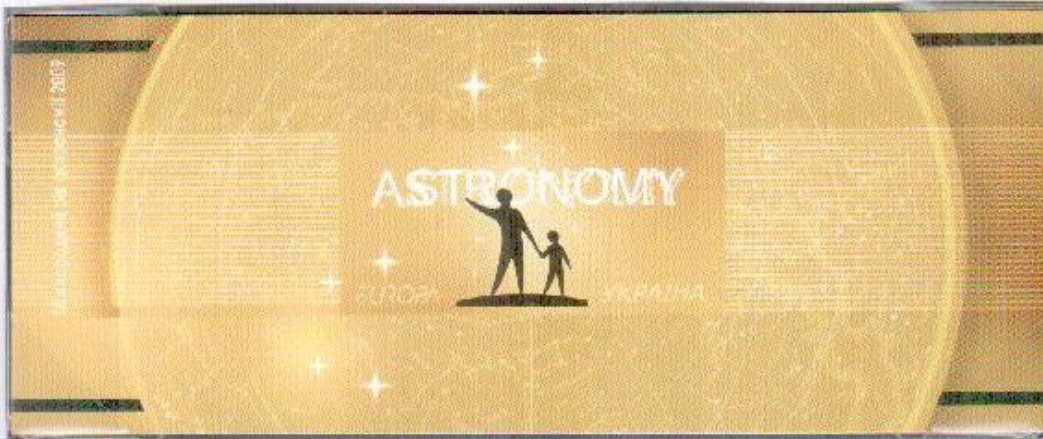


3 1 9 0 0

toulouse cedex 9

5. A Popular Figure
5.2. in astronomy

There are also two centaurs in the sky, one on each side of the Milky Way, facing each other.



Ukraine – 2009 – Booklet: Astronomy

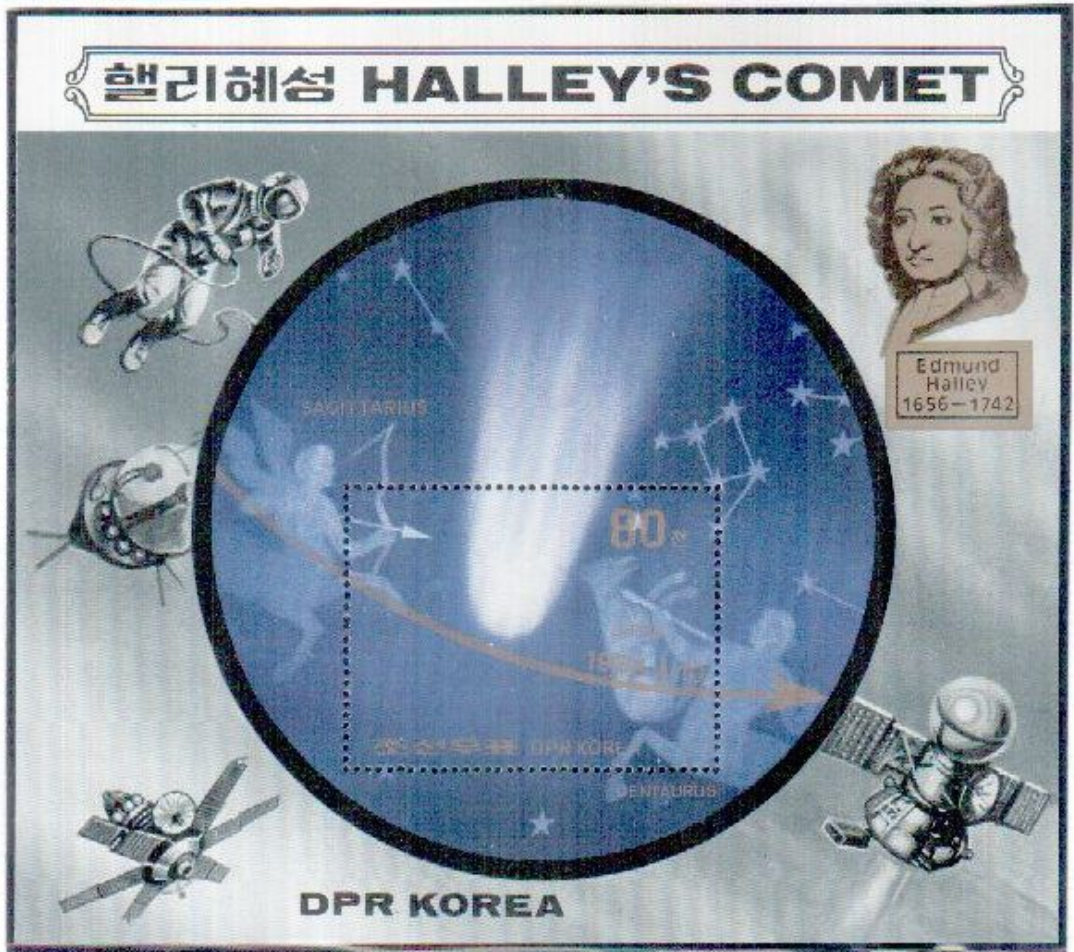
Proof



Centaurus is found in the southern sky, and isn't visible much above 25 degrees latitude, but it is one of the most important constellations in the sky, containing the closest star to Earth, as well as the brightest and most impressive globular cluster in the sky.



Color proof and definitive stamp



5. A Popular Figure
5.2. in astronomy



Hong Kong - 2012 - Booklet: Constellations

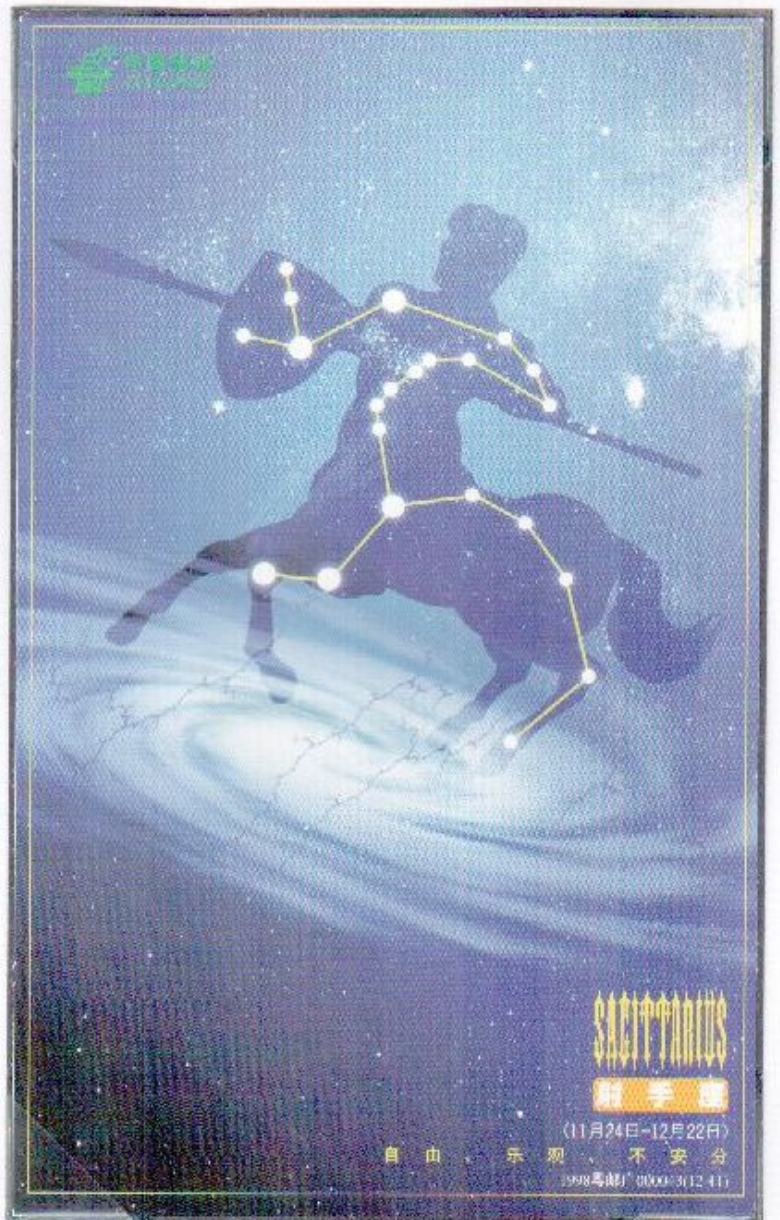
... the constellation that sits at the center of our Milky Way galaxy.



Specimen



Sagittarius is one of the oldest and largest constellations in the sky. It also has the distinction of being ...



China - 2001 - Postal Stationery: Constellations - Sagittarius

5. A Popular Figure
5.3. in astrology



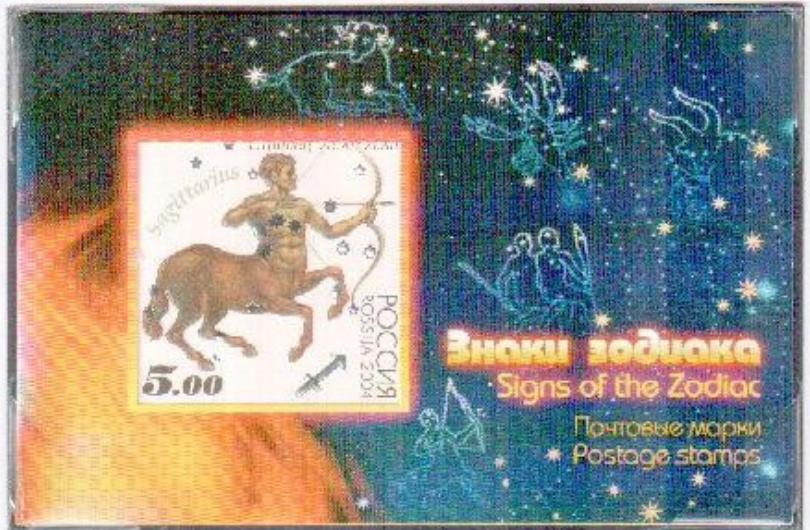
Canada - 2013 - Booklet: Sagittarius

... is the ninth astrological sign, which is associated with the constellation Sagittarius.



Poland - 1996 - Postmark: Sagittarius

Sagittarius (♐) (Greek: Τοξότης, "Toxotes", Latin: "Sagittarius") ...



Russia - 2004 - Booklet: Sagittarius

China - 2009 - Postal Stationery: Sagittarius

射手座

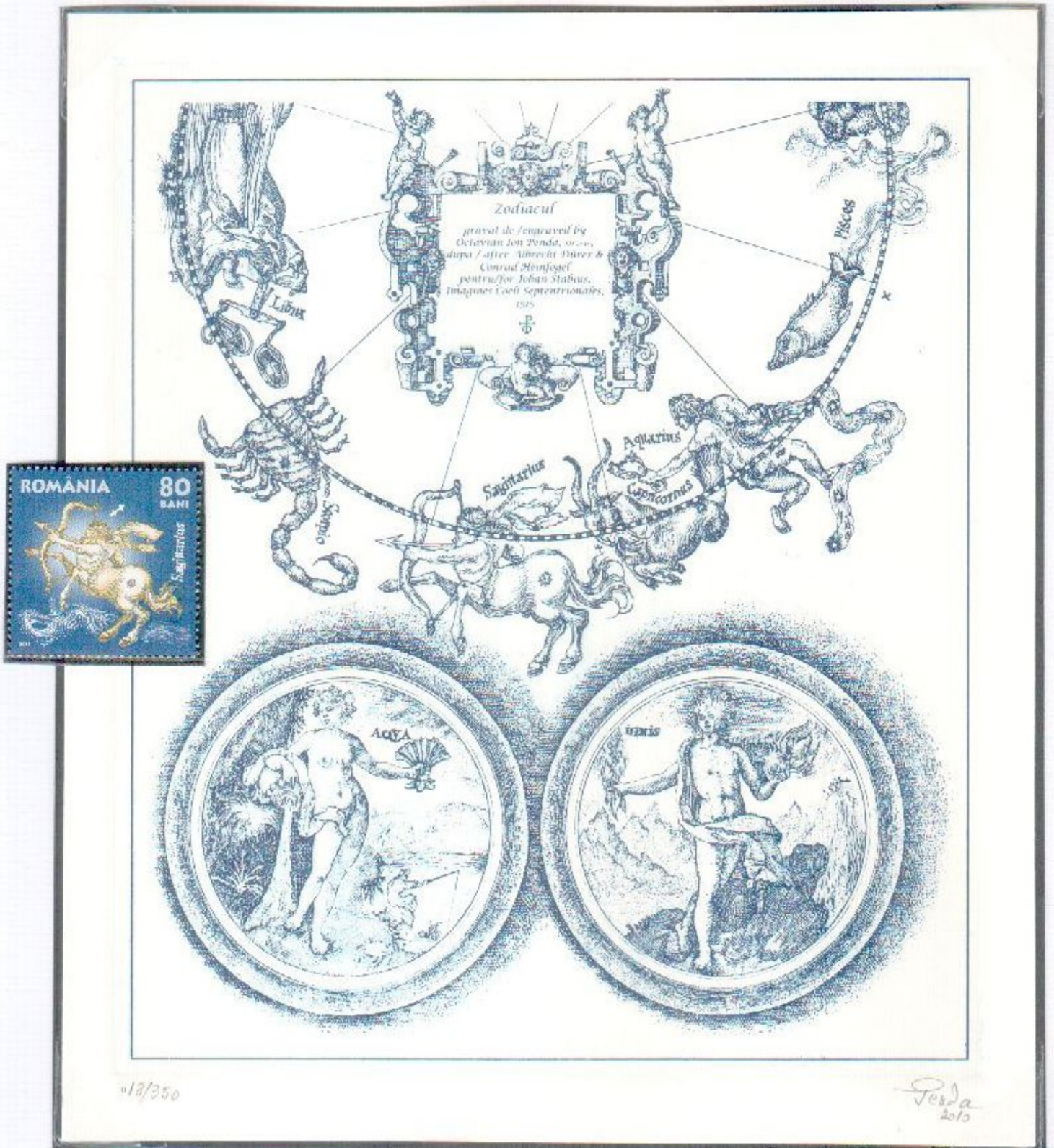
11月22日 - 12月21日出生者

射手座的人是忠心的，爱国的，守法的，大方而无拘无束，精力充沛，好争论，脾气急躁，对权位有野心，对受磨难及压迫的人有慈悲的心肠。在性格方面，是诚实，真心，坦白和值得信任的。在脾气方面，对自己的朋友是仁慈大方的，在许多事情上都很圆滑，很懂得外交手腕。精神力量强，讨厌一切不文明的举动，厌恶恶劣的东西，有爽快气息的人，仪表态度是极聪明而具有鼓舞性的，有个性与见识，勇猛，自尊心强。爱好自由，本性很民主，喜欢交朋友。感情上时而热情如火，时而漠不关心，这种起伏不定的感情是造成失败的原因。

海南省邮政商广总局发布 09-460105-13-0065-011

5. A Popular Figure
5.3. in astrology

Sagittarius is commonly represented as a centaur drawing a bow.



Romania - Proof

Sagittarius, the ninth sign of the zodiac, is a fire sign. Individuals born during between November 23 to December 21, may be called Sagittarians.

5. A Popular Figure
 5.4. in the name of ships and military divisions



France - 1976 - Postmark: Sagittarius and military division



Centaur may refer multiple ships around the world and military division, by strength and bellicose behavior of this fabulous creature.

France - 1997 - Letter - Military service - free franking: R.H.M. Centaure (01/17)



Specimen



France - 1917 - Military service: Centaur Convoys automobile - 11^e section (11/27)

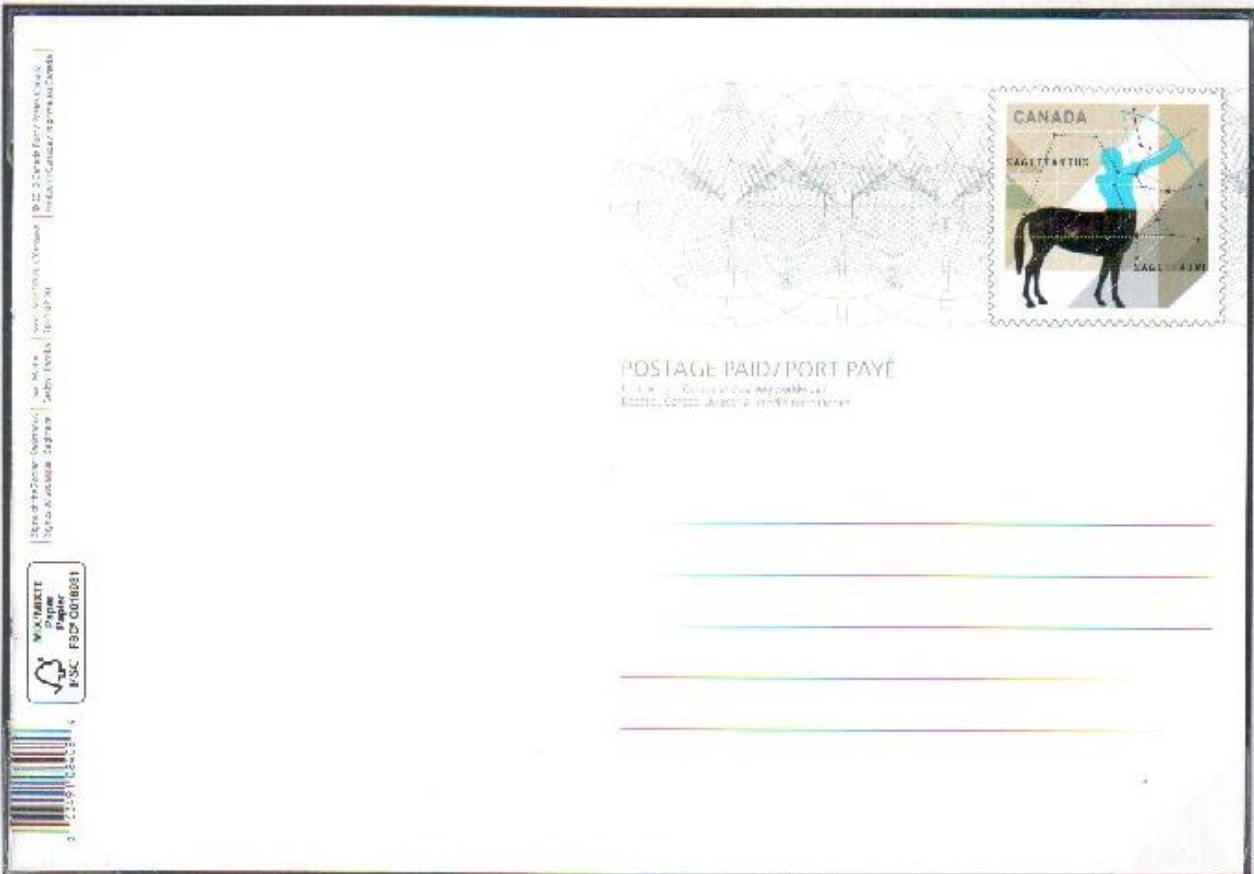
6. CONCLUSION



Proof – Compañía Sud-americana de Billetes de Banco



The centaur, although it a mythological creature, remains seems very much alive in our imaginations.



Canada - 2013 Postal Stationery: Sagittarius