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Both stamp collecting and collecting fossils are popular hobbies in modern society. This book represents a unique combination of these two collecting fields. It is in addition bilingual and has a very responsive layout. This kind of symbiosis of two interesting topics is completely new on the book market.

Philatelic publications on fossils are so far rare. Usually they are limited to single papers, published by various authors from the U.S.A., Canada, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Germany. Baldwin & Halstead (1991) wrote the most comprehensive work in this area so far, with their 128 page book on “Dinosaur stamps of the world” (self-published). For many fossil collectors, trilobites, a group of completely extinct arthropods, exhibit a high degree of attraction. The choice of this group of fossils combined with their representation on stamps will, I am convinced, reach a broad readership.

The book is both a reference work and a scientific book at the same time. The book begins with an appropriate chapter not only on the origin and morphology of the trilobites, but also with information regarding their way of life. The systematic part is well structured and follows the “Treatise of Invertebrate Paleontology” (Harrington et al. 1959). Coloured tables presented at the beginning of each chapter lend a good overview to the systematics.

All published trilobite stamps, together with motives in sheets and se-tenant printings are described and illustrated. In addition, the authors include postmarks and postal stationaries containing trilobite figures and show in all cases corresponding original fossils. The majority of the fossil trilobites originate from the collections of the authors, and several from public collections, such as the well-known holotype of *Odontopleura ovata* from the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin. The text is divided into descriptions, dimensions, and stratigraphical and geographical occurrences of the depicted trilobites. The illustrations are of excellent quality. For philatelists important variations such as perforate and imperforate stamps are also included. The separation of stamps showing unassignable trilobites as well as critical statements regarding illegal stamps in the closing chapter is commendable. The summary table of all stamps presented is regarded as mandatory for this kind of publication. Another positive feature is the separation of the references into philatelic on one hand and paleontologic on the other. This allows a quick orientation for the appropriate collecting field. The bilingual structure reaches an international readership – rather singular for this kind of publication and organisation. The announcement that further publications of fossil fishes and ammonites on stamps are in preparation, should move the reader to joyful expectation. In summary, this book is a wonderful production and for philatelists interested in fossils undoubtedly a requirement.


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