

HORSES AND HUMANS:

A PHILATELIC JOURNEY

The connection between species told through postage stamps.

LARA SBRISSIA SILVEIRA

Around 6,000 years ago, the first evidence of horse domestication was found in mountains near the seas of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



The relationship between horses and humans spread across the world, and the crossbreeding of different breeds gave rise to animals with varied characteristics. Some are more suited for sports, others for transportation or heavy work.



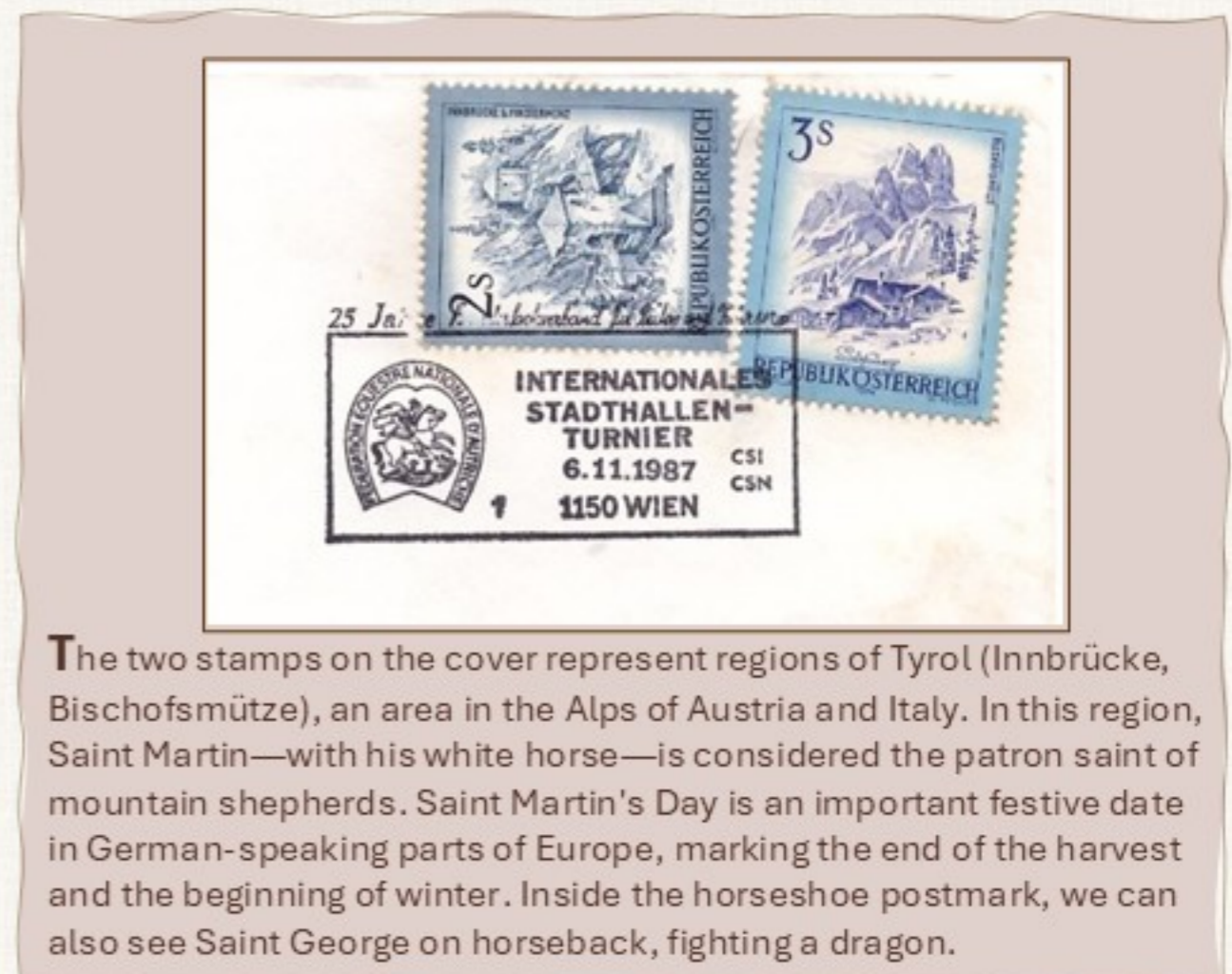
These animals have always played an important role in human history, with a unique bond with people—one that many consider the most significant relationship between humans and any other animal. This collection aims to showcase the characteristics of these animals, the different ways this relationship has occurred, and how it has developed around the world.



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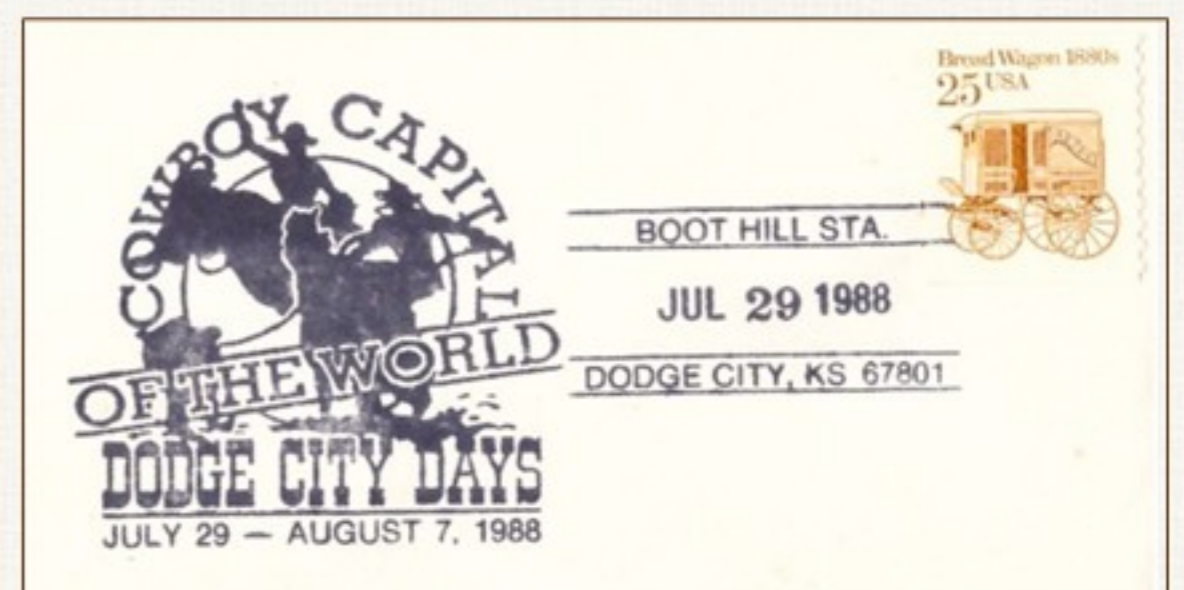
HORSESHOE

The horseshoe (here represented by a postmark) is a U-shaped metal plate that protects horses' hooves from wear on hard or rough surfaces. It seems to have been a Roman or Gallic invention (5th century).



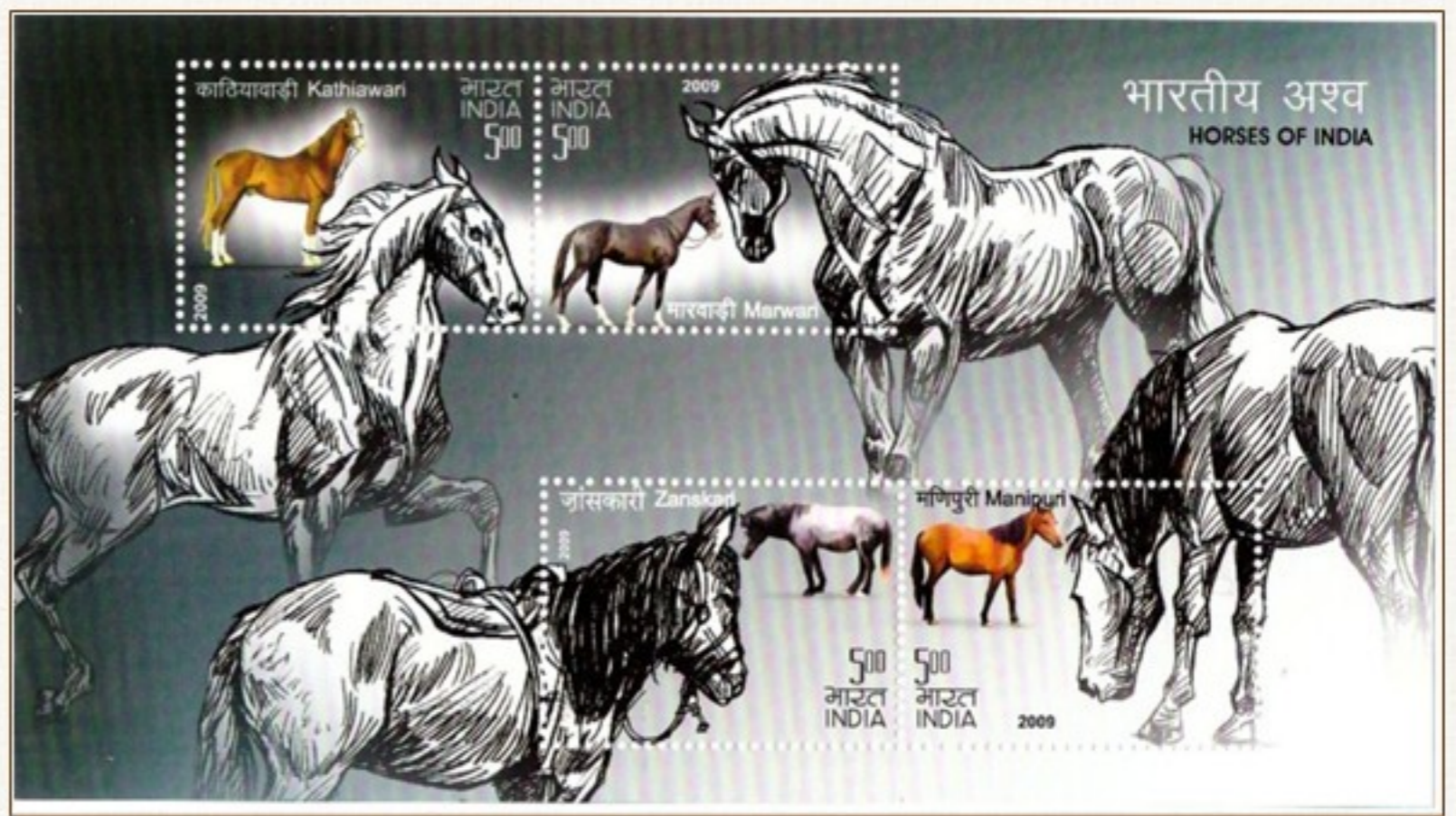
The two stamps on the cover represent regions of Tyrol (Innbrücke, Bischofsmütze), an area in the Alps of Austria and Italy. In this region, Saint Martin—with his white horse—is considered the patron saint of mountain shepherds. Saint Martin's Day is an important festive date in German-speaking parts of Europe, marking the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter. Inside the horseshoe postmark, we can also see Saint George on horseback, fighting a dragon.

Forged in iron and shaped like a crescent moon, the horseshoe has long symbolized protection and good luck—rooted in medieval legend, lunar symbolism, and deeply embraced by cowboy culture as both a practical tool and a talisman hung above doors to guard home and herd.



THE ANIMAL

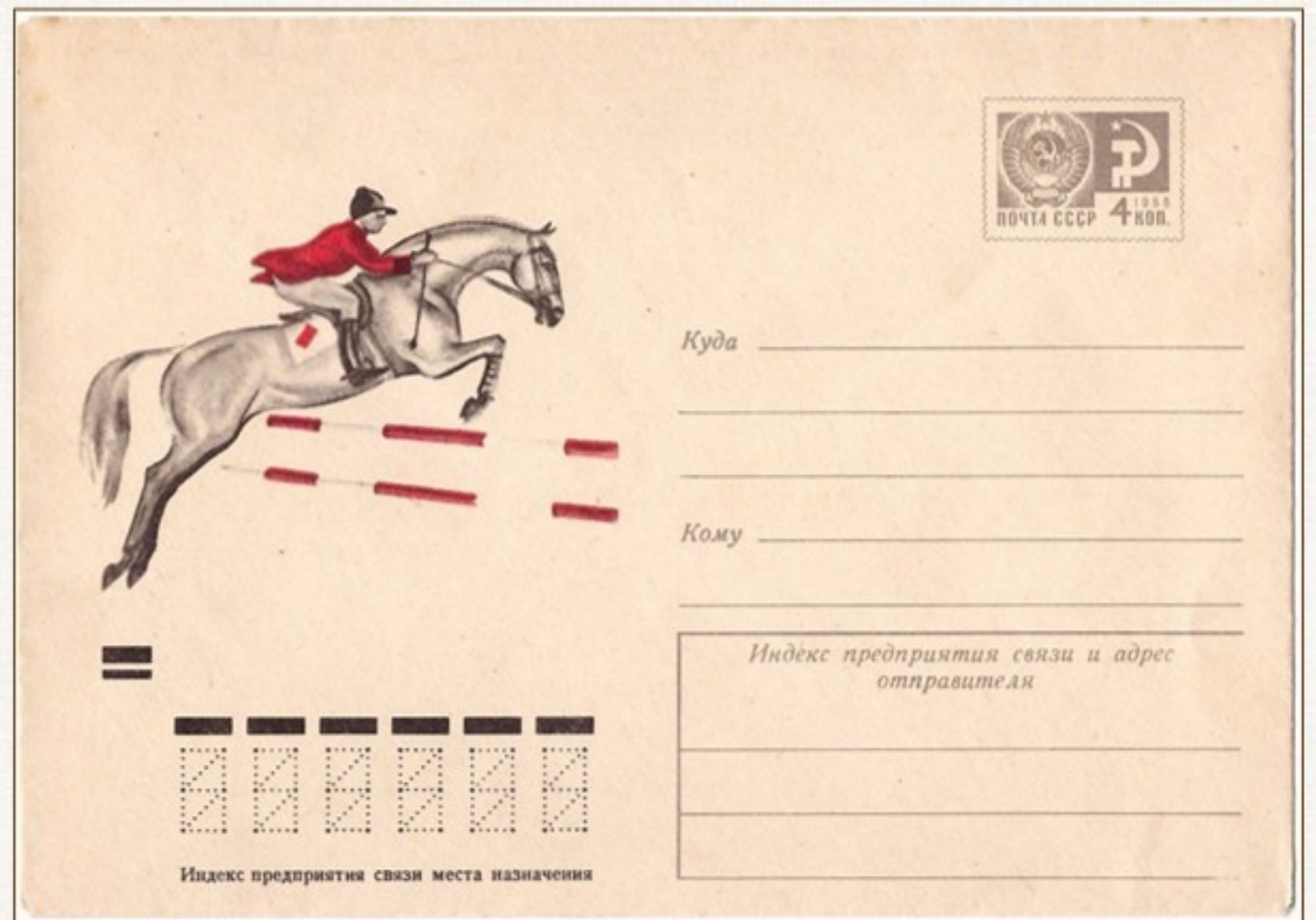
The horse is a herbivorous hoofed mammal from the Equidae family. It belongs to a single species, *Equus caballus*, whose many varieties are called breeds. Horses have large eyes positioned toward the back of the head. This greatly helps in their defense, since when they get scared, the first thing they do is run away. They are very fast!



An adult male horse is called a stallion, and the female is called a mare. Younger horses are known as foals—and they are very cute!



Racetracks (**hippodromes**) usually help improve horse breeds, as their qualities—such as speed and endurance—are passed on to future generations, making the horses better and better.



Horses do indeed nap while standing, but they need to lie down for deep sleep. To sleep without falling, horses have a special system of tendons and ligaments that locks their legs. When they need deeper rest, they lie down for short periods—usually with another horse nearby keeping watch.



HORSE BREEDS

Domestication began in Central Asia, giving rise to two general groups of horses: the Arabians and the northern breeds. Arabian horses¹ are considered light, the Thoroughbreds² intermediate, and the Percherons³ are considered heavy.



3



Photo: Jacques SAUDOUX

Le Haras du Pin - Orne



M. Yannick BOUTET
2 Bis rue des Chatelliers
Le PARCHAIS
79340 FOMPERRON



The Przewalski horse breed was once considered extinct in the wild. A reintroduction project released 30 horses into the Chernobyl exclusion zone, which resulted in the population doubling within a decade.

Horses can be classified by their 'temperament type'. There are cold-blooded¹, warmblood², and hot-blooded³ horses. Hot-blooded horses, like Arabians or Thoroughbreds, are faster and more energetic. Ponies⁴, on the other hand, are smaller horses that are not Arabians and measure less than 147 cm in height.



The Mongolian horse is very hardy and can gallop up to 10 kilometers per day. Its hooves are so tough and strong that it doesn't need horseshoes. In Mongolia, most horses live freely, just as their ancestors did thousands of years ago.

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Herrn
Fritz Elbracht
4811 Hillegossen/ü.Blf.
Detmolderstr.3

TRADITIONAL HORSE BREEDS OF BRAZIL

The captaincy of São Vicente was the first, back in 1534, to have horses in Brazil. These animals soon spread throughout the country and ended up strongly influencing the culture of various regions. Today, we have breeds that are quite famous, such as the fast Crioulo⁵, the calm Mangalarga Marchador⁶ and the beautiful Campolina⁷.



The Marajoara breed developed on Marajó Island, in the state of Pará, starting in the 17th century. It is a hardy and versatile animal—essential traits for assisting in buffalo handling in a tropical (hot and humid) climate.



3

STRENGTH AND INTELLIGENCE IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND

5th AC

Beyond the borders of the Roman Empire, Germanic tribes—labeled 'barbarians' by the Romans—developed the heavy plow with an iron blade. This innovation surpassed the inefficient scratch plow still used in Roman agriculture and marked a turning point in the effective use of horses on the farm.



6th AC

The invention of the stirrup enabled the rise of the iconic mounted knight. Heavily armed cavalry wielding lances became the decisive battlefield force of the era.



9th AC

A rigid, padded horse collar appeared in Scandinavia (possibly introduced from China). By shifting the pulling weight to the horse's shoulders rather than its neck, it allowed a horse to pull more than an ox—and do so faster. Farmers could now plow over twice as much land per day. This innovation revolutionized not only agriculture but also commerce: while Romans traveled with goods packed on horseback, medieval Europeans began using carts. As horses became the main draft animals, breeders developed much larger and stronger horse breeds.



Mr T. James,
58 The Green,
Morden,
SURREY

Nineteenth Century Farming

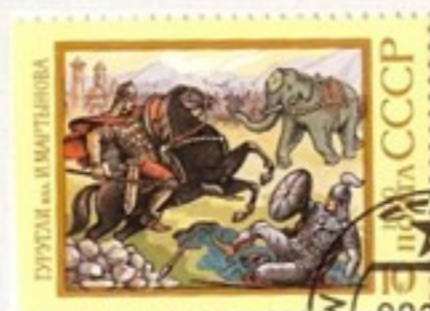
AT WAR

Horses stood by soldiers in many battles throughout history. During World War I, even with new machines being used, horses were still very important. They helped carry food, pull wagons, cross rough terrain, and even carry injured soldiers. Sadly, many horses died in that war. This shows how horses faced many challenges with us and were true companions on our journey.



La bataille de Fontenoy - 1745

PREMIER JOUR D'ÉMISSION
FIRST DAY COVER

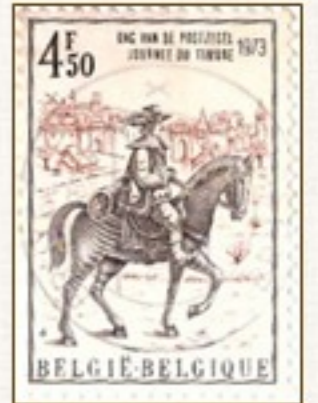
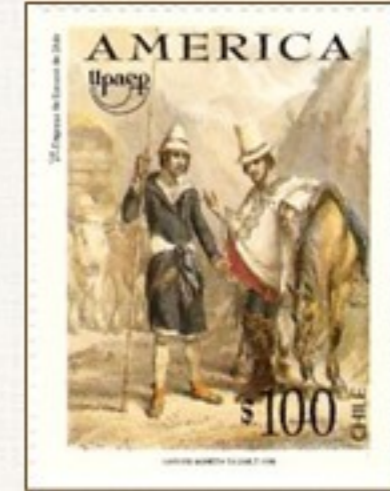


STRENGTH AND INTELLIGENCE IN THE SERVICE OF MANKIND

Horses were used on various types of terrain, such as mountains and plains, either alone or in groups. In addition to transporting people, horses also carried mail, assisted in surveillance, and were ridden for travel.



1º dia de circulação — SFRG



HORSEPOWER BEFORE ENGINES

13th AC

4-wheeled vehicles called carriages



14th AC

The first vehicles with larger rear wheels and a molded body made travel more comfortable and could be pulled by a single horse.



15th AC

The first passenger coaches were manufactured in Hungary, and by the 16th century, they were already being used throughout Western Europe.



17th AC

Heavier coaches were created to be pulled by several horses and to travel long distances.



In Brazil, the **tropeiros** were 'trade travelers' between the 17th and 19th centuries. Brave and resilient, they faced long journeys and connected towns and villages.



The post horn was used by postal services in Europe for a long time, starting in the 16th century. The person who played the horn and delivered the letters was called a **postilion**. He was an important figure, bringing mail to castles, farms, and towns, where people eagerly awaited the arrival of the post.



Museu Histórico e Pedagógico "Brig. Rafael Tobias de Aguiar"

V SEMANA DO TROPEIRO

RUA DA PENHA, 681 - 18.100 - SOROCABA - S.P.

21 a 28 - maio - 1972

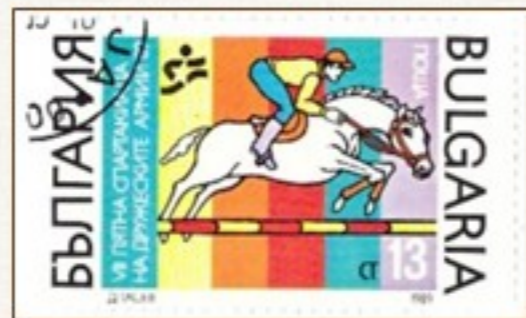


Tropeiro: Símbolo do Pioneirismo Sorocabano

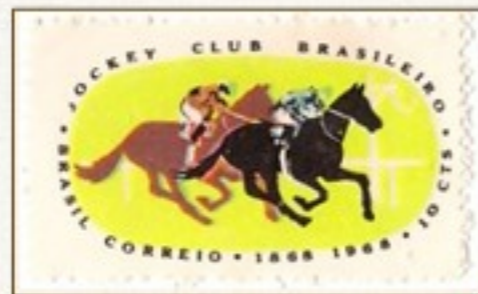
1972 — SESQUICENTENÁRIO DA INDEPENDÊNCIA DO BRASIL

IN SPORTS

Horse racing (courses hippiques) is an exciting sport that includes various disciplines, each with its own rules and characteristics.



Flat Racing: This is the most common type of race and involves horses running on a straight or oval track with no obstacles. The fastest horse wins.



Steeplechase: In this discipline, horses must jump over obstacles such as fences and ditches along the course. It requires both speed and jumping skill. The obstacles may be uniform, of four different types, or natural (cross-country style).



Endurance Racing: This is a long-distance event that tests the stamina of both horse and rider. The races can last several hours and take place over varied terrain.

Harness Racing: In this modality, the horse pulls a sulky—a lightweight cart in which the driver sits. The horse must maintain a trot (without galloping) throughout the entire race.



IN CULTURE

The scene of the Cry of Ipiranga, which marked Brazil's independence, is famously depicted with horses. The most well-known painting of this moment is *Independence or Death*, painted by Pedro Américo in 1888. In it, Dom Pedro I is shown on horseback, surrounded by his companions—also mounted—as he proclaims Brazil's independence on September 7, 1822.



Marengo was the loyal horse of Napoleon Bonaparte, the military and political leader of France who lived over 200 years ago. He led the French army and had great ambitions to expand France's power. He also established laws that still influence many countries today.



Christianity helped shape Western civilization, and throughout the centuries, horses have always played an important role. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. When the three wise men came from the East they represented all peoples. Guided by a star to Bethlehem, they found Jesus and brought him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

King João II³ of Portugal became renowned for promoting maritime exploration, paving the way for the discovery of new lands. The poet Luís de Camões, in *The Lusiads*, celebrated these achievements—especially the daring journey around the **Cape of Good Hope**, then feared as the Cape of Storms. In his epic, Camões wrote that the Portuguese feats surpassed even those of Alexander the Great.



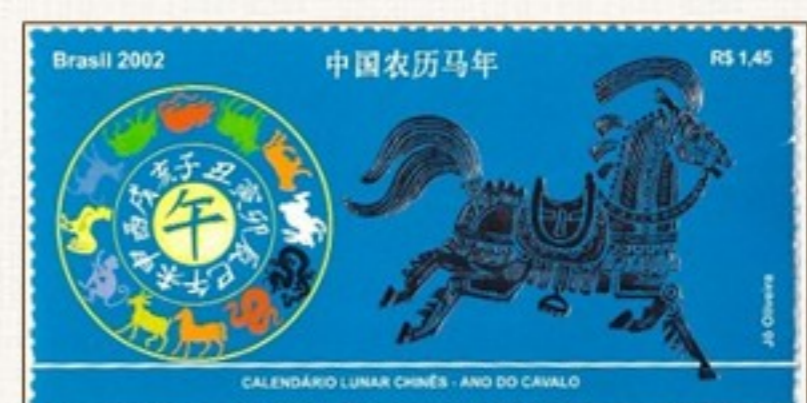
Alexander the Great was a famous conqueror, and he always went into battle with his horse Bucephalus⁴—one of the most famous horses in history. Bucephalus symbolized Alexander's power, just as ships represented Portugal's strength during its ocean voyages.



The Cavalcada is a festival that recalls the period of the Reconquista. In this celebration, tournaments reenact the battles between Christians and Moors. The Christian riders wear blue, while the Moors wear red. In Brazil, the Cavalcada has existed since the 17th century, especially in the Northeast.



In the Chinese calendar, the horse is one of the 12 zodiac animals. Every 12 years is the **Year of the Horse**, and those born in that year are considered courageous, energetic, and fond of adventure. In China, the horse symbolizes strength, freedom, and success. The last Year of the Horse was in 2014, and the next will be in 2026.



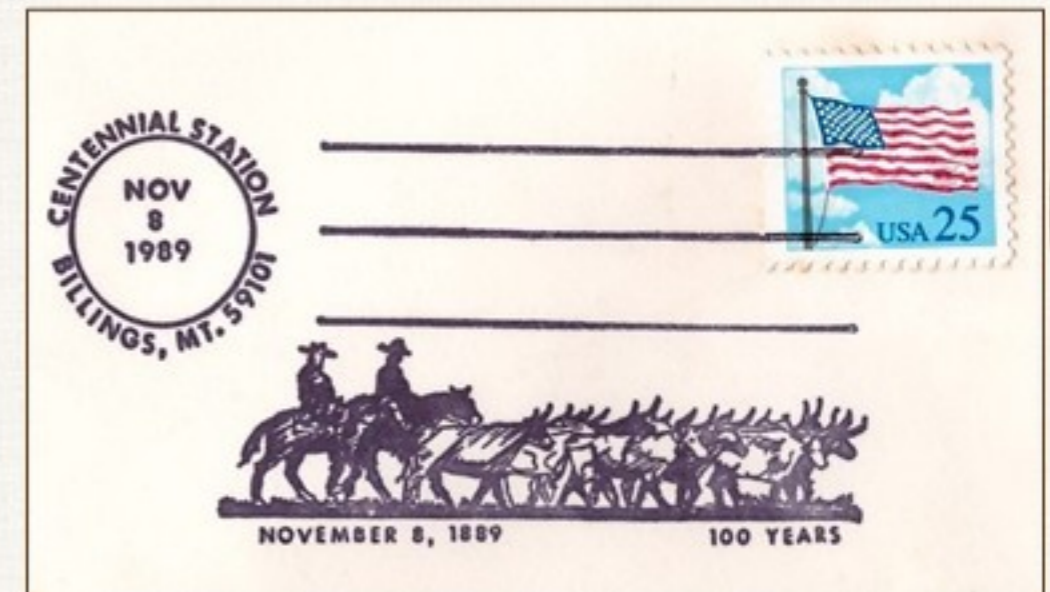
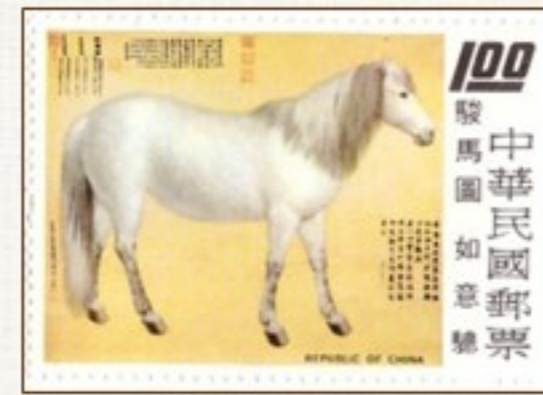
CONCLUSION

I believe the horse plays a very important role in our lives. It helps us with work, transportation, and even in sports. I've discovered that, since ancient times, horses have taken part in key moments of history.



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Einschreiben - Recommandé



I also learned about many horse breeds, developed to help us with different tasks. This interaction has made the horse a part of our lives—in religion, art, literature, and painting. Through my research, I discovered many countries where these horses live. I've always loved horses, and this project showed me how the relationship between horses and people is deeply important to human history.



With Gratitude
 To my uncle João Paulo, who encouraged me in philately.
 To all the horses I have ridden.
 To my father, who helped me create this exhibition.

REFERENCE
 Encyclopædia Britannica, 2024;
<https://www.britannica.com/>