

**Megaloceros giganteus** (Giant Deer), contemporary of the Woolly Mammoth, was indeed a giant, as males were up to 700 kg in weight and stood about 2.1 meters tall at the withers.



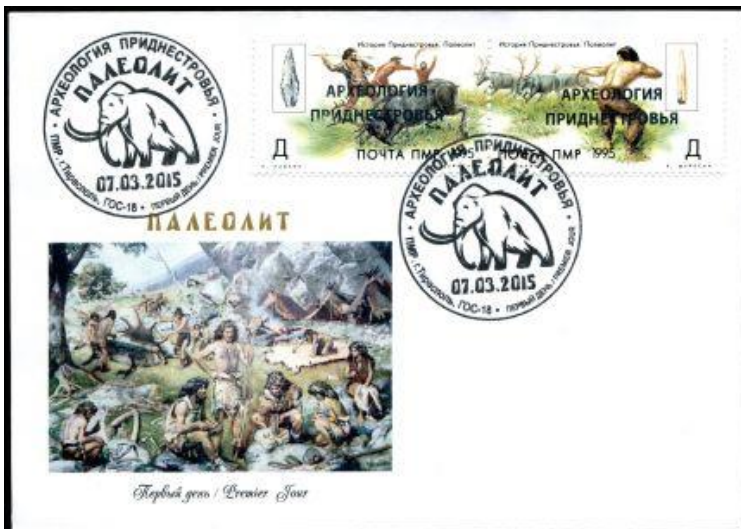
*Megaloceros giganteus*, Woolly Mammoth (*Mammuthus primigenius*) and other extinct mammals of Ireland. “Extinct Irish animals” Ireland 1999, Scott Nr. 1206a.

They carried proportionally huge antlers with a maximum tip to tip length of 3.7 meters. The antlers were up to 50 kg in weight, which are the largest antlers of any known deer. Similar to modern deer, the female animals were smaller and antlerless, while males replaced their antlers every mating season.



Ireland 2007, Scott Nr. 1759. France 2008, Scott: 3432. Great Britain 2006, Scott Nr. 2360. Belgium 2008, Scott: 2872

The animal is often called the Irish Elk, however it is not an elk, but a deer, nor it is unique to Ireland. According to recent research *Megaloceros giganteus* is most closely related to present-day fallow deer (*Dama dama*).



Some remains show evidence of butchery by *Neanderthals* and *Homo sapiens*, so over-hunting by humans is a possible contributory factor to their extinction, along with climate change and habitat loss.

LEFT: Hunting scene from the Paleolithic on FDC of Transnistria, 2015 (reduced). Scott: N/A.

RIGHT: Postmark of France 1968, “Painting of Lascaux cave”



For more details about „the History of *Megaloceros giganteus* discovery,” please visit <https://www.paleophilatelie.eu/topics/paleo/vertebrate/megaloceros.html> or scan the QR code.

