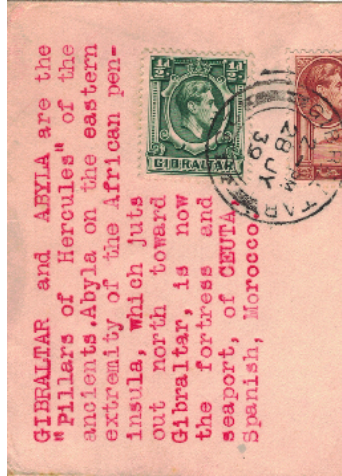


ATLANTIS IN PHILATELY

Michael Wells

Plato (429-347 B.C) in his works *Timaeus* and *Critias*, wrote about the island nation of Atlantis. He located the island beyond the "Pillars of Hercules," the ancient name for the straits of Gibraltar.

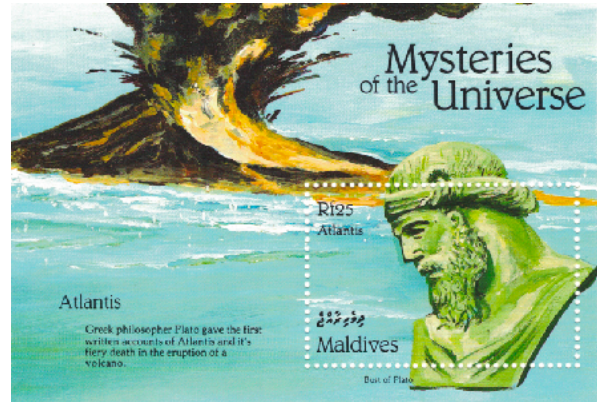


Cachet, Gibraltar cover, 1939

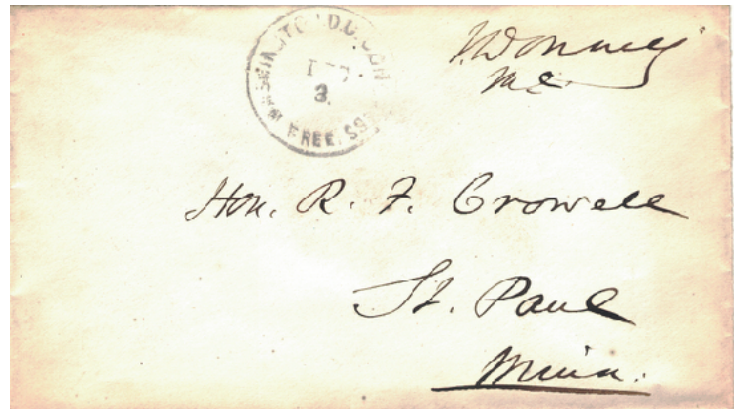
According to Plato, Atlantis was destroyed by a cataclysm and submerged into the ocean about 9500 B.C. This story, seen as an allegory about the hubris of nations, was revived by nineteenth century writers as historical tradition, and the search for Atlantis was on.

Atlantis was on.

One of the earliest and most influential books portraying Atlantis as historical fact was *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World* by Ignatius L. Donnelly (1831-1901) a Congressman and author from Minnesota.



Maldive Islands, Scott 1768



Ignatius Donnelly Congressional free frank, 1880s



Atlantis, 1934

Cinderella stamps showing "Princess Marie" were issued in 1934 by Captain J. L. Mott and stamp dealer Douglas P. Ball as part of a Scandinavian group's search for evidence of Atlantis in the West Indies.

Leicester Hemingway, brother of the author, founded a "nation-state" in the Caribbean and called it "New Atlantis" issuing stamps in 1964 and 1965. The "country" consisted of an 8 foot by 30 foot bamboo rafter anchored over a shallow bank in international waters eight miles southwest of Jamaica. Hemingway later said he founded New Atlantis to "have fun and make some dough."



michaelwells1956@mac.com