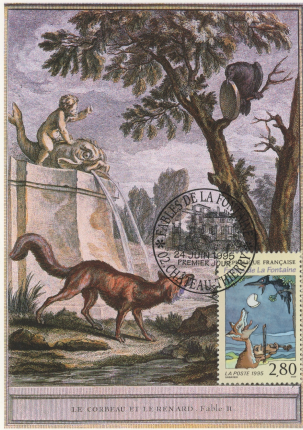


*The Fox and the Crow*  
a fable by  
Jean De la Fontaine  
(1621-1695)

Crows are one of the most intelligent of animals: as smart as a seven year old human child according to some researchers. Yet for many years Europeans thought of them as vain and foolish because that's what they learned from the *Fable of the Fox and the Crow*.

Fables are stories that feature human-like animals that offer a moral - often summed up in a pithy statement - to help us along in life's journey.

Of the 239 fables Jean De la Fontaine published, it was the one he borrowed from Aesop about the Fox and the Crow that has been most popular in philately.



Above and below, **France**, maximum cards issued 25 June 1995 celebrating the Fables of La Fontaine. Issued on the 300th anniversary of the writer's death.

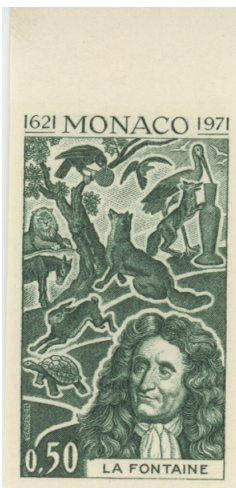


PREMIER JOUR  
D'EMISSION  
FIRST DAY COVER

**France**, FDC of stamp celebrating La Fontaine issued 25 June 1995 on the 300th anniversary of his death. Note the special cancel featuring his home (now the Musée Jean de La Fontaine) in Château-Thierry, France



Right, **Romania**, special cancel on cover featuring La Fontaine and the fable. Issued for Luna Pădurii (Forest Month) 13 April 2009 with 2005 pottery stamp. Detail.



Above **Monaco**, essay for stamp issued 18 January 1972 on the 350th anniversary of La Fontaine's birth.



Left, **Poland**, Fox and Crow on 40gr stamp issued 15 March 1968 one of eight celebrating fairy tales

*The Fable*

A fox, wanting the cheese a crow is holding in its beak, says "Surely, your voice must be as beautiful as your plumage!"

Flattered, the crow starts to sing, dropping the cheese.

The triumphant fox tells the crow: "Learn that every flatterer lives at the expense of those that listen to him".

The crow vows never to be fooled again.

Exhibitor: David Dean  
david.malcolm.dean@gmail.com

Left: **Niger**, color proofs for 25f airmail stamp issued 23 November 1972 on the 350th anniversary of La Fontaine's birth. Below, detail. The crow's advice is on the bottom (in French).

