

The Chinese Horses of Lascaux

Fran Adams

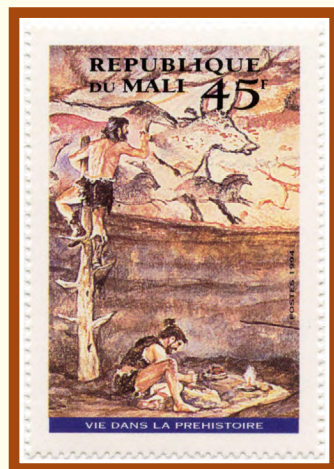
By painting and etching on cave walls, our prehistoric ancestors captured their ice age perceptions of life. In doing so, they didn't realize their visions would endure for more than 400 succeeding generations; it was the dawn of art.

A procession of three shaggy ponies is located in a diverticule leading from the great 'Hall of Bulls'. They are referred to as 'Chinese Horses' as the style resembles horses in Chinese paintings. Due to modern air pollution, the cave is now closed to visitors and climate controlled to protect it from the elements.

Cave paintings were reported in remote caves in the south of France by unnamed sources in the late 1860s. Modern historians believe prehistoric cave art has shamanistic origins associated with rituals of hunting magic.



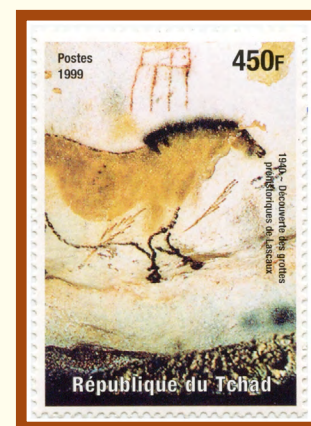
Lascaux is 19,000-13,000 years old and has more paintings than all other caves. Its crystalline mineral base brightens colors and acts like a modern beaded projection screen providing a sense of additional depth to the art making it seem alive and at times moving.



Tree ladder painting



Ponies amongst the aurochs

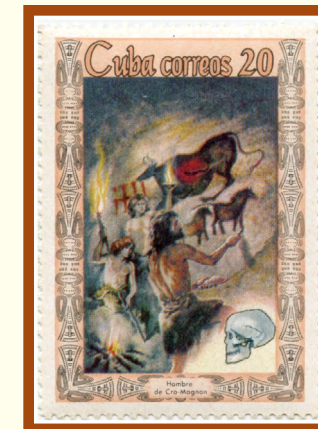


Short stiff mane



4th pony to the right

Plate number marking I
Printing date
23 Sept. 1969



Painting the second pony



Signed presentation proof with ponies

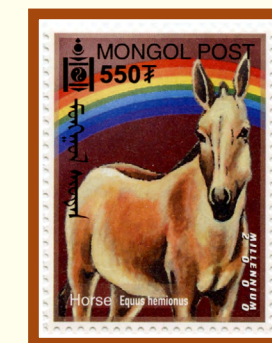
Cave art ponies appear to have short stiff manes, resembling Przewalski horses found in Mongolia.



Postage meter device with revised 5 digit zip code after German re-unification (stalactites in design are artistic license)



Homo sapiens cro-magnon admiring Chinese Horses



Przewalski horse of Mongolia