

LEONARDO DA VINCI - LIFE AND WORKS OF A GENIUS

Painter, sculptor, inventor, military engineer, set designer, anatomy, scholar, man of science: Leonardo da Vinci (Anchiano, 1452 - Amboise, France, 1519) is considered one of the geniuses of humanity.

Nobody like him has managed to embody the drives and passions that made the Renaissance great.

A person of great intuition, talent and creativity is called "genius" because with this word anciently indicated a divinity with otherworldly powers. The human being, therefore, possessed by this divinity, became capable of accomplishing extraordinary undertakings.

As a young man Leonardo went to the workshop of Andrea Verrocchio, also master of Botticelli. It took little to the young artist to demonstrate his qualities. The legend (according to what the art historian Giorgio Vasari writes) is that one day the pupil drew a small angel so well that his teacher, seeing him "never again did not want to touch colors, disdained that a boy knew more than him".

Leonardo was fascinated by the functioning of the human body, so much so that he came to dissect corpses for his anatomical studies. This practice, at the time considered to be on the verge of blasphemy, allowed Leonardo to draw the human body with a realism unknown to his contemporaries.

Leonardo's most famous works are the Mona Lisa, the Virgin of the Rocks, the Lady with an Ermine, the Last Supper (and Leonardo's Horse, an imposing sculpture never created due to the war that involved his client, Ludovico il Moro, Duke of Milan. The bronze needed for the work was in fact cast to make cannons.

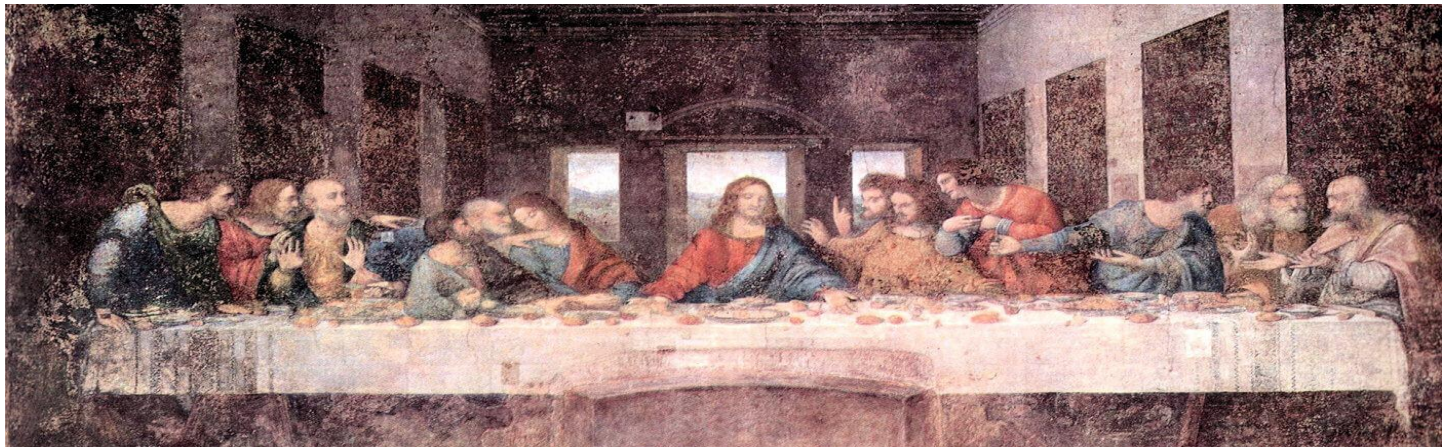
Leonardo da Vinci succeeded in drawing to mark large canalization works of the various waterways and war works and fortifications. At Ludovico Sforza's court he managed to build the inventions he had in mind, the weapons, war machines and the irrigation system of the fields he had designed. He built a large equestrian monument, the nicknamed "Leonardo's Horse".

He developed other inventions that can be defined as modern. One of these is the parachute: in the Atlantic code you can see a drawing depicting a man hanging on an object more similar to the parachute. Here, that design was conceived precisely by Leonardo. Another invention attributed to him is the tank.

He designed a war machine capable of holding eight men. Even the bicycle is an invention of Leonardo

As a scientist, Leonardo made fundamental research in mechanics (studies on the levers), anatomy (demonstration of the function of the muscles), optics, chemistry, geology, astronomy. Precursor of many achievements of modern technology, he designed flying machines, nautical instruments, war machines.

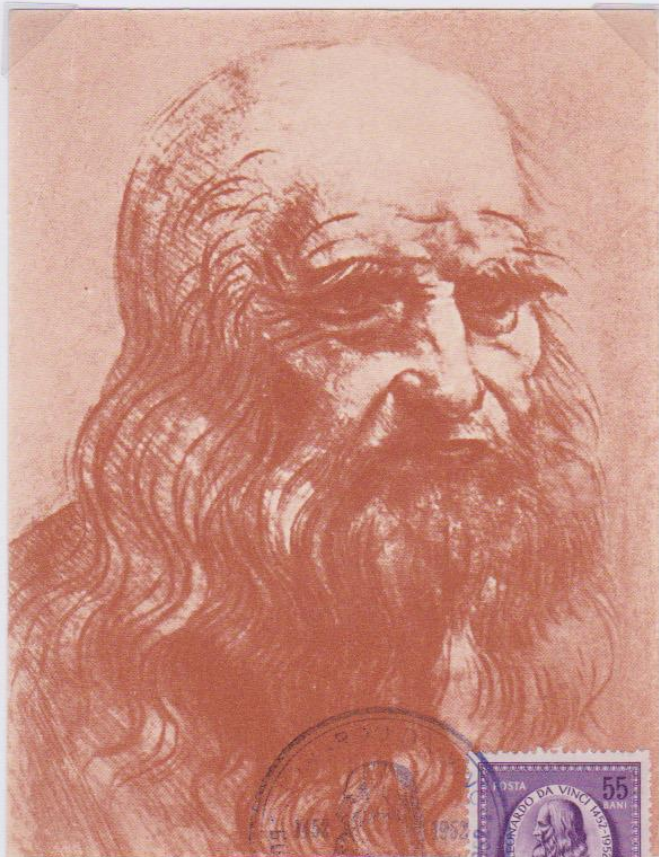
In this short exhibition we wanted to summarize the multiple aspects of the genius of the great Italian.



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di Clarissa Torcelli



The life of **Leonardo da Vinci** is known, especially from the year 1500, thanks to various Florentine and Lombard sources.

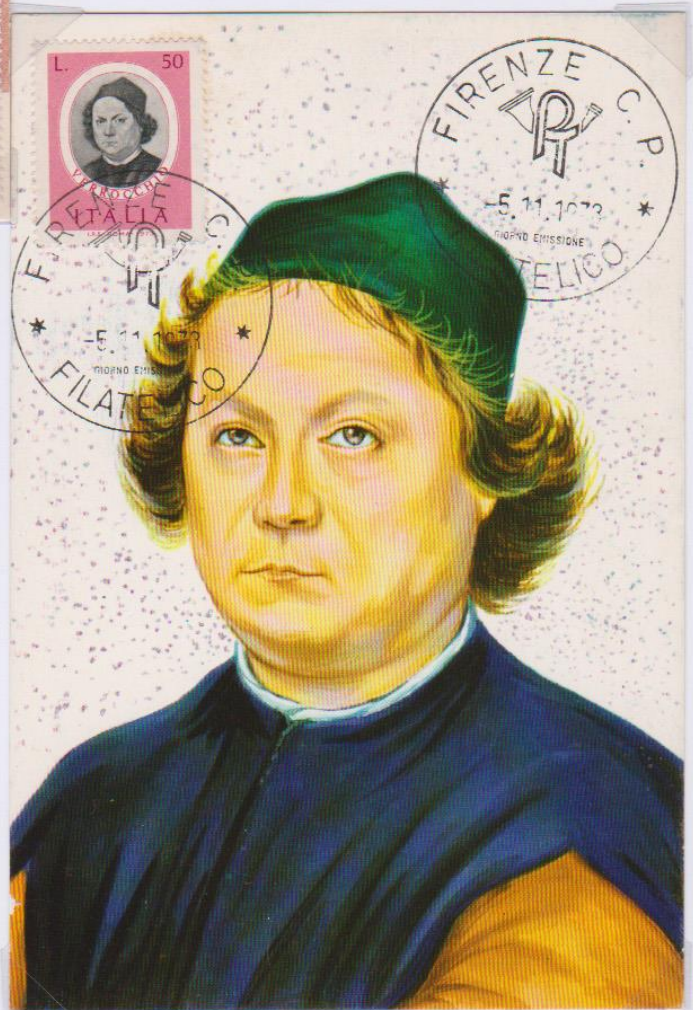
Leonardo's self-portrait
500th birth anniversary
Issue 20-06-1952 Romania
Special cancellation F.D.Bucuresti
Edition not indicated

LEONARDO DA VINCI
1452 - 1952



His childhood was happy: born in Anchiano, a small village in the lower Valdarno, the natural son of a notary and a peasant, he grew up in the paternal home entrusted to the care of his step-mother, receiving careful education. Entered around 1469 in the workshop of **Andrea del Verrocchio**

Verrocchio
Issue 5-11-1973 Italy
Cancellation 5-11-1973 Florence
Ed. Rome



Among his students were names that would become the great masters of the next generation, such as **Sandro Botticelli**, Perugino, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Lorenzo di Credi.

Botticelli-Birth of Venus
 Issue 26-7- 2010
 San Marino
 Cancellation 26.7.2010
 San Marino
 Italian Art Edition



The workshop carried out a multifaceted activity, from painting to various sculptural techniques (on stone casting in lost wax and wooden carving), up to the "minor" arts. It is known that Leonardo after teaching in the Verrocchio workshop passed to the teachings of **Antonio del Pollaiuolo**, the artist with whom he perfected his pictorial genius. Antonio del Pollaiuolo

Hercules and the Hydra
 Issue 3.1.1998 Italy
 Cancellation 3.1.1998 Florence
 AIM Edition



The Profile of an ancient **Captain** (also called the **Condottiero**) is a silverpoint drawing on prepared paper, datable to around 1475 and preserved in the British Museum in London. The drawing shows a stiff Captain in profile turned to the left, wearing sumptuous old-fashioned armor. The helmet is decorated with scrolls, floral elements and two dragon wings that depart from the temples. The armor has a very protruding lion head on the chest and a rich phytomorphic ornamentation. The work is generally assigned to the period spent in the workshop of Andrea del Verrocchio.

The Captain

Issue 25.11.1969 Principality of Monaco

Cancellation 25.11.1969 Monaco

CEF edition – Nice



Soon illustrious people noticed the talent of the young apprentice, among them there was Ludovico il Moro, Lord of Milan who wanted him to his court.

Beatrice d'Este, daughter of Ercole I d'Este and Eleonora d'Aragona, younger sister of Isabella d'Este and Alfonso I d'Este, married Ludovico il Moro in 1491 in this way becoming Duchess of Milan and Duchess of Bari.

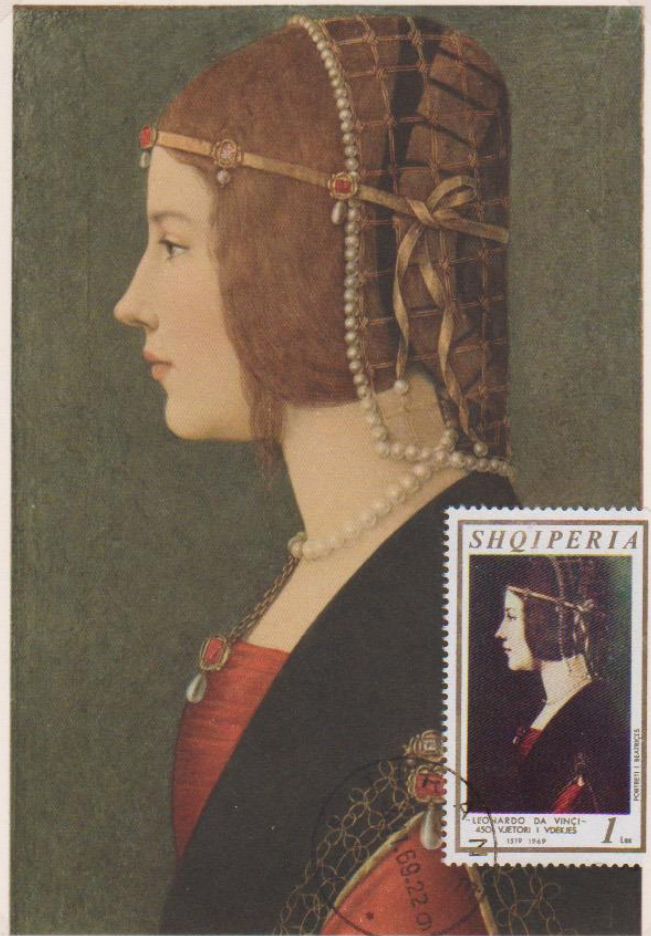
Beatrice d'Este

Milan-Pinacoteca Ambrosiana

Issue 2-5-1969 Albania

Cancellation 1-11-1969 Tirana

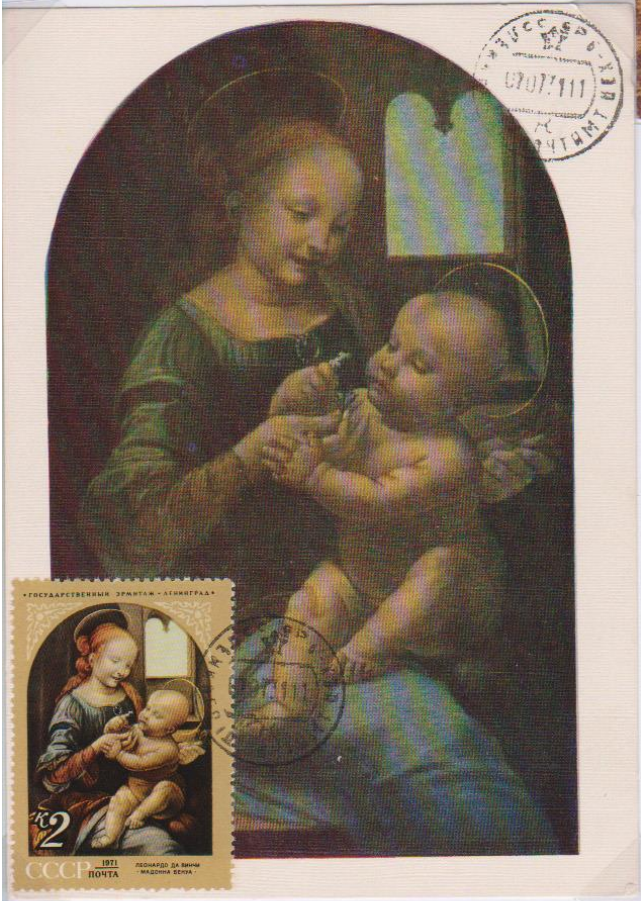
Edition not indicated



The Head of a Girl called 'La Scapigliata' is one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous and enigmatic paintings. Guarded at the National Gallery of Parma, now part of the Monumental Complex of the Pilotta, the fascinating and mysterious face of the 'Scapigliata' made its appearance in Parma in 1826. A three-quarter-turned head of a young woman: the features of the face are very sweet, the eyelids parted in an absorbed gaze, the slightly pronounced nose, the soft and tight lips that hint at a light and ambiguous smile, the thick decomposed crown, barely held by a ribbon, which falls messily on the shoulders, in an interweaving of curls.

The Scapigliata

Issue 2-5-2019 Italy
 Special cancellation FD
 Uffizi Gallery-Florence
 Gallery Edition Art



"Madonna Benois" (1478-82): in a dark room lit by a mullioned window, a young Maria holds a chubby baby in her lap and hands him a flower. If the four petals already announce the future crucifixion, the salient feature of the scene is the naturalness with which Leonardo detaches himself from the traditional iconography of the Madonna and Child thanks to an accurate study from life. The Virgin is a smiling girl, amused by the tender awkwardness of her son who observes the flower; the child is portrayed as a real infant and no longer as a miniature man. Among the treasures of the Hermitage of St. Petersburg since 1914, the painting owes its name to the Benois family who owned it.

Madonna Benois

Hermitage of St. Petersburg
 Issue 7-7-1971 USSR
 Cancellation 7-7-1971 Moscow
 Edition not indicated

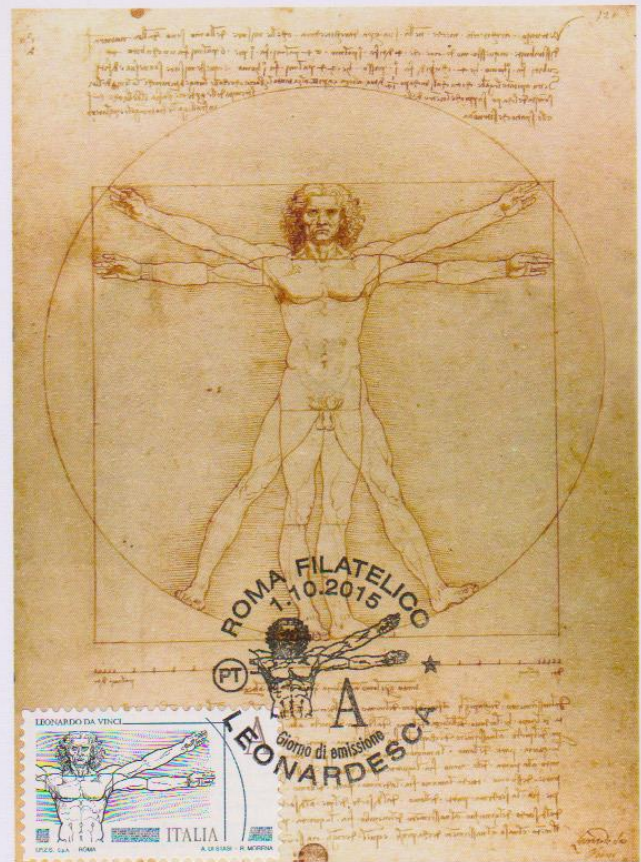


The **Madonna Litta** is a tempera painting on wood generally attributed to Leonardo da Vinci, but largely executed by one of his pupils, perhaps Giovanni Antonio Boltraffio or Marco d'Oggiono, on a probable lost original of the Master; datable to around 1490, it is kept in the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

Madonna Litta
 Issue 25-12- 1970 USSR
 Cancellation 31-12-1970Moscow
 Edition not indicated

The **Vitruvian man** is a pen and ink drawing on paper preserved in the Cabinet of Drawings and Prints of the Galleries of the Academy of Venice. The work dates back to June 1490, when Leonardo got to know Francesco Giorgio Martini during a trip from Milan to Pavia. Francesco di Giorgio made him a participant in his treatise on architecture and the lesson of Vitruvius in whose treatise "De Architectura" Martini had started to translate some parts. The most famous of Leonardo's drawings represents the symbolic union between art and science: the Vitruvian man is perfect within two geometric figures, the circle and the square, forms considered perfect by the Greek philosopher Plato

The Vitruvian Man
 Accademia Galleries - Venice
 Issue 1-10-2015 Italy
 Special cancellation FD Rome
 Universal Postcard Edition



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**MilanSforzesco
Castle**
Issue 22-9- 1980 Italy
Special cancellation
FD Milan
GIESSE edition

In the **Castello Sforzesco** in Milan you can still admire the Sala delle Asse created by the Florentine Maestro. In 1480 it was part of the Accademia del Giardino di San Marco under the patronage of Lorenzo il Magnifico. It is Leonardo's first approach to sculpture. Also in that year he was commissioned to paint the **Adoration of the Magi** for the Church of San Giovanni Scopeto just outside Florence (today this work is located in the Uffizi). However, the Florentine environment is close to him.



Adoration of the Magi
Issue 2-5- 2019 Italy
Special cancel FD Rome
Gallery Art Edition

Giorgio Vasari's writings describe that it was **Lorenzo de 'Medici** who presented Leonardo to Ludovico il Moro (perhaps not personally but through a missive), thanks to the excellent relationships created by Lorenzo with the Italian lordships. From 1483 to 1499 he was not only a painter ("The Virgin of the rocks", "The Last Supper", for the Convent of S. Maria delle Grazie) and sculptor (elaboration of the gigantic clay model of the horse for the equestrian monument of Francesco Sforza), but also decorator (Sala delle Asse and other rooms of the Milanese Castello Sforzesco), advisor - architect for the dome of the Milan Cathedral and the projects of the Cathedral of Pavia.

Lorenzo de 'Medici

Issue 8-4-1992 Italy

Special cancellation FD Florence

Florentia edition



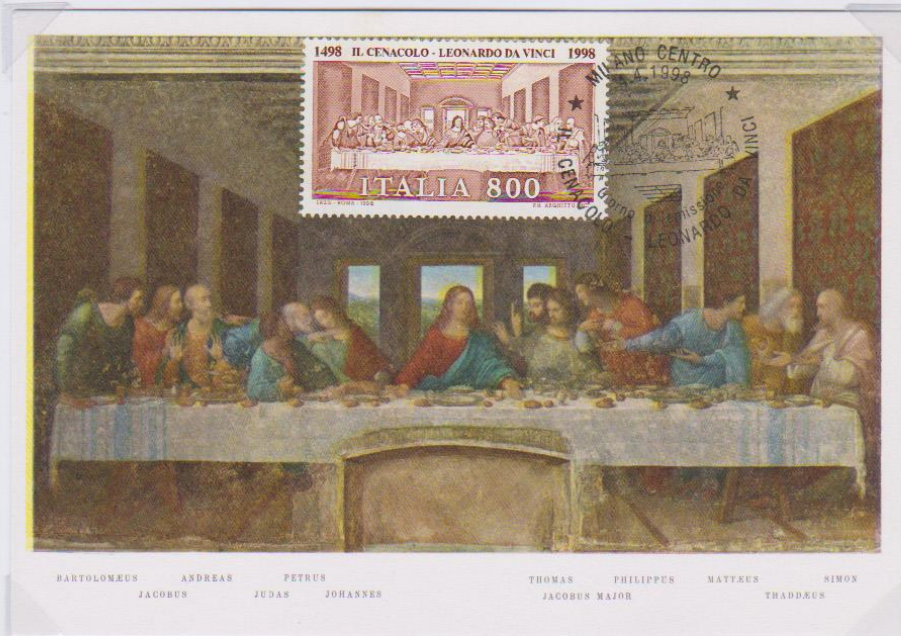
The **Virgin of the Rocks** (first version) It is a painting with oil on canvas For Leonardo it was the first commission he got in Milan, where he had been welcomed by Evangelista and Giovanni Ambrogio De Predis. The contract included a triptych. In the central altarpiece the Madonna with a rich dress of "golden azure blue brocade" God the Father at the top, and a group of angels in the "foggia greca" and two prophets. In the two lateral parts the confreres asked for four angels, the lateral tables, entrusted to the De Predis, were to show angels in glory.

The Virgin of the Rocks

Issue 31-12- 1952 Italy

Cancellation FD Rome

Edition not indicated



THE LAST SUPPER

Issue 4-4-1998 Italy
 Cancellation FD
 Milan
 Edition not indicated

The Supper Room is the most famous depiction of the **Last Supper** of Christ in the history of art. To make the representation more engaging, Leonardo concentrated on the expressions and gestures of the apostles. The scene of the Last Supper represented is set within an architectural space. The ceiling is decorated with a lacunar drawer. Instead, some tapestries hang on the walls. On the back wall there are three windows.

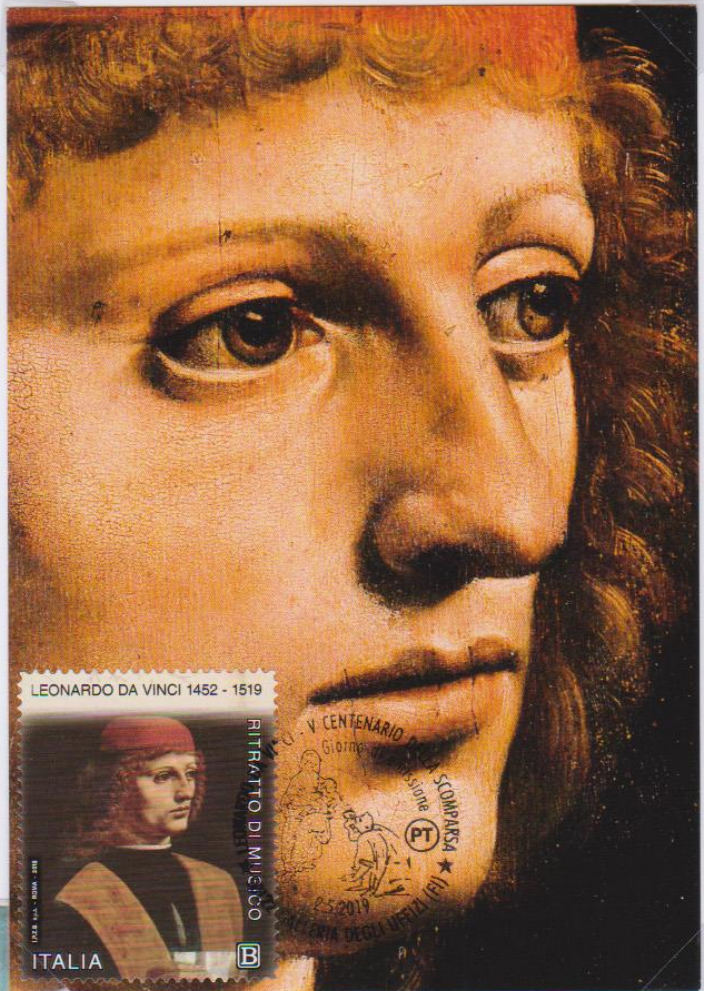
The **Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie** is a Basilica and Sanctuary located in Milan, belonging to the Dominican Order. It was the second Italian site after the rock carvings in Val Camonica to be classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, together with the fresco of the Last Supper.

SANTA MARIA DELLE GRAZIE-MILAN CHURCH
 Issue 1944/1945 Italy (RSI)
 Cancellation 25-4-1945 Milan
 Edition not indicated



The **Portrait of a Musician** is the only painting on wood by Leonardo left in Milan. Traditionally it was thought that he portrayed Ludovico il Moro, Duke of Milan, but when the restorations of 1905 eliminated the repaintings and brought back the hand with the musical scroll in the lower part, we began to talk about the portrait of a Musician, now identified with Franchino Gaffurio (chapel master of the Milan Cathedral)

PORTRAIT OF MUSIC
 Issue 2.5.2019 Italy
 Special cancellation FD
 Uffizi Gallery-Florence
 Gallery Art Edition



"**Saint Anne, the Virgin and Child with the Lamb**" is a work created in the second Milanese period that dates from 1506 to 1513 and is now preserved in the Louvre Museum in Paris. It is an oil painting on wood. The work represents the maximum expression of Leonardo's art and of all Renaissance painting.

SAINT 'ANNA, THE VIRGIN AND THE CHILD

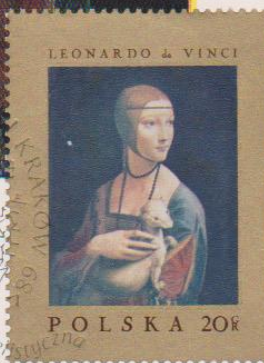
Issue 12-9-1969 Yemen
 Cancellation FD San'a
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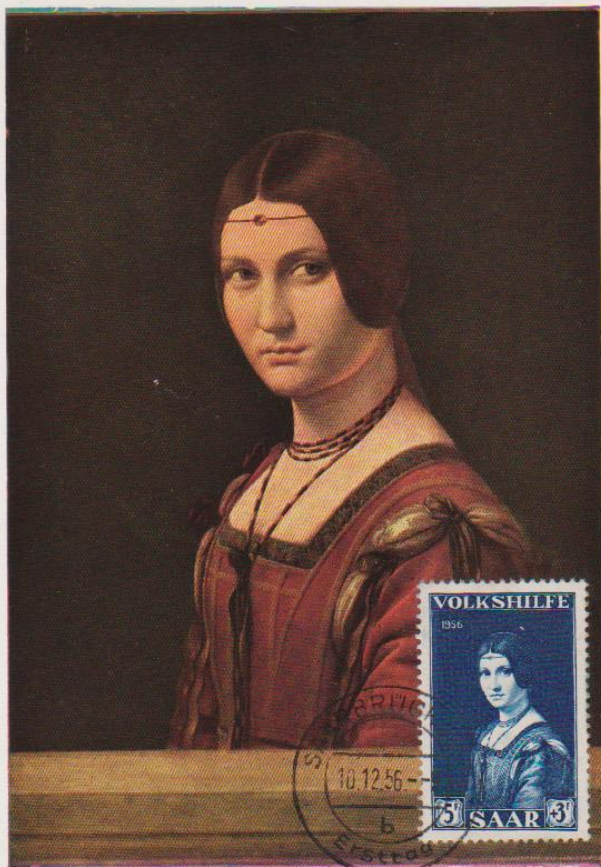
One of the most famous portraits is the **Lady with an Ermine** (1489-90) which depicts the very young Cecilia Gallerani, lover of Ludovico il Moro. The painting is traversed by a weave of subtle symbols: the ermine is a symbol of purity for its color, it was an emblem of the Order of the Ermine to which the Moro and his Greek name belonged (galé) recalls the surname of the young woman.

DAMA WITH ERMELLINO

Issue 15-11-1967 Poland
 Special cancellation 5.10.1968 Krakow
 Krakow edition 68



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 X Ogólnopolska Wystawa Filatelistyczna
 5.X.1968 KRAKÓW



Lucrezia Crivelli (Milan 1452 – Canneto S/O 27-5-1508) young woman of Milanese origin went down in history for being the lover of Ludovico il Moro, Duke of Milan, at that time married to Bea-trice d'Este. After Cecilia Gallerani, first lover of Ludovico il Moro and model for the work "The Lady with Ermine", Lucrezia Crivelli seems to have been the inspiring muse of the portrait that has the French title of "La Belle Ferronnière", now in Paris, at Louvre Museum. The woman is half-length portrait with the head in profile, facing right, and the torso instead in front position, with the hands resting in the foreground in the center. The pose was often referred to as an anticipation of the Mona Lisa. The facial features are delicately modeled with a soft chiaroscuro, with loose, long and flowing hair, slightly wavy.

LUCREZIA CRIVELLI PORTRAIT

Issue 10-12- 1956 Saar
 Valid. Until 31-12-1958
 Cancellation 19.12.1956 Saarbrücken
 Les Editions Nomis - Paris

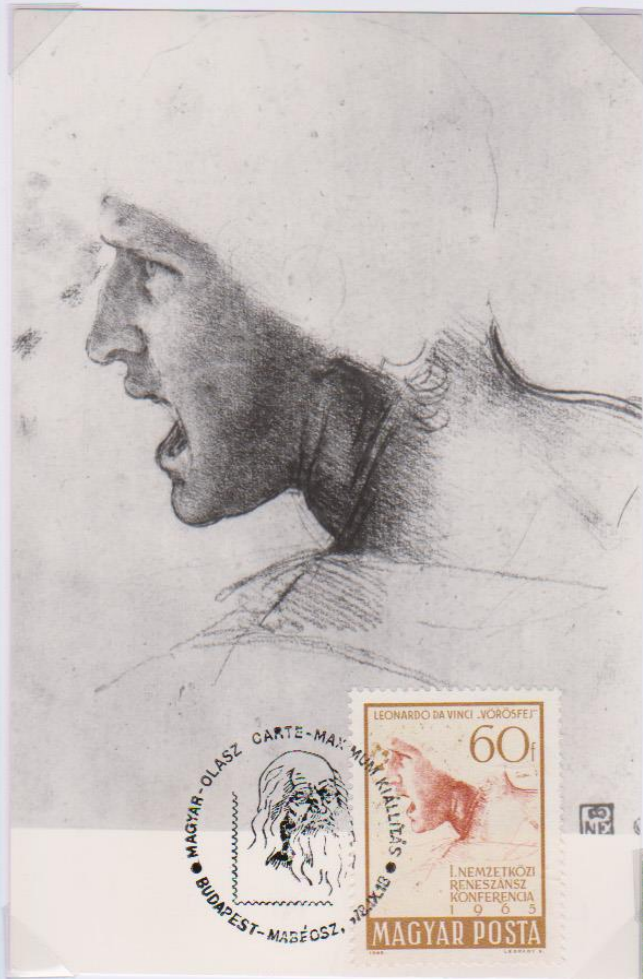


**FRA 'LUCA
PACIOLI,
MATHEMATICAL
FRIEND OF
LEONARDO
FATHER OF
ACCOUNTING**
Issue 13-4-1994
Special cancellation
FD Sansepolcro
Edition not indicated

The defeat of Ludovico il Moro (16 March 1500) forced Leonardo to leave Milan. Together with the mathematician **L. Pacioli**, of which he was a great friend, Leonardo left for Venice, stopping along the journey to Mantua at the court of **Isabella d'Este**, where he was welcomed with great favor by charismatic and cultured wife of Francesco II Gonzaga. During her trip to Milan in 1498, Isabella had seen the portrait of Cecilia Gallerani shown to her by the same lover of Ludovico and was so fascinated by it that she intensely desired a portrait of him by Leonardo.

ISABELLA D'ESTE
Issue 8-11-1986 France
Special cancellation FD
Puteaux
Edizione Impression Pierron





When the city was conquered by the army of the King of France, Leonardo began to travel through Italy in the service of Cesare Borgia. It is precisely in this period that he becomes an expert in military fortifications and war machines. Between 1503 and 1505 finally in Florence, where he presented the cartoon of "Santa Anna" (1501); he was therefore commissioned (1504) to paint a fresco inspired by the "Battle of Anghiari" in the hall of the Grand Council, a work that placed him in rivalry with Michelangelo in Florence.

STUDY OF A HEAD

for the fresco unrealized of the battle of ANGIARI

Issue 13-10-1982 Hungary

Special cancellation FD Budapest

Alap Kladovallalata edition Budapest

In Florence he began to paint the most famous female portrait in the world: the **Gioconda (Mona Lisa)**, preserved in the Louvre museum in Paris. This painting represents the synthesis of Leonardo's art. Its history is full of anecdotes and curiosities; the lady represented is Lisa, wife of a wealthy merchant from Florence, Francesco del Giocondo, hence the name "Gioconda".

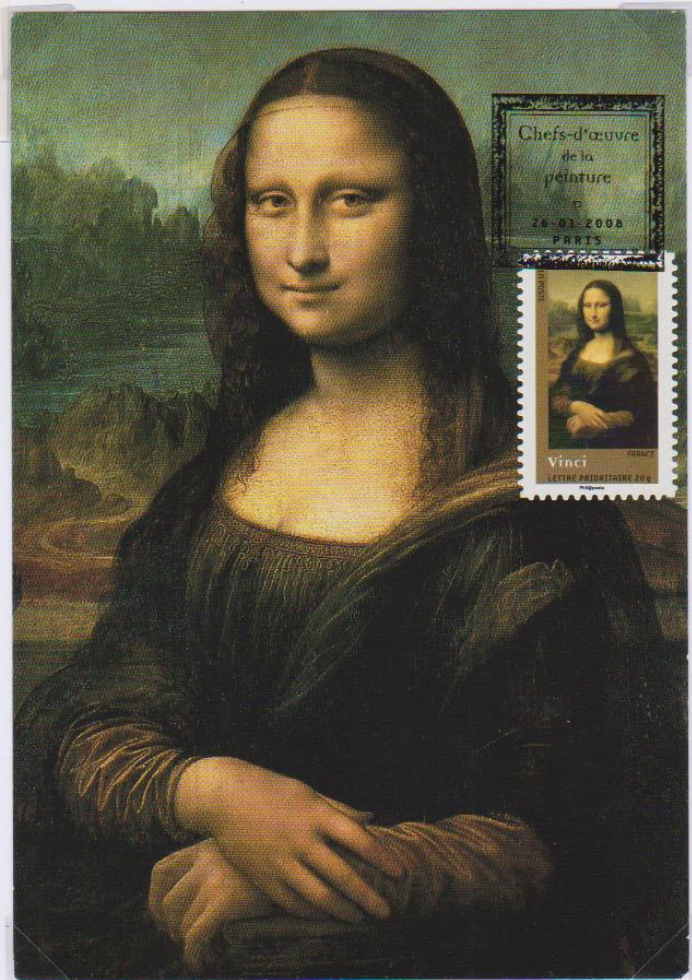
THE GIOCONDA

Issue 26-1-2008 France

Special cancellation Paris

Reunion des Musées Nationaux

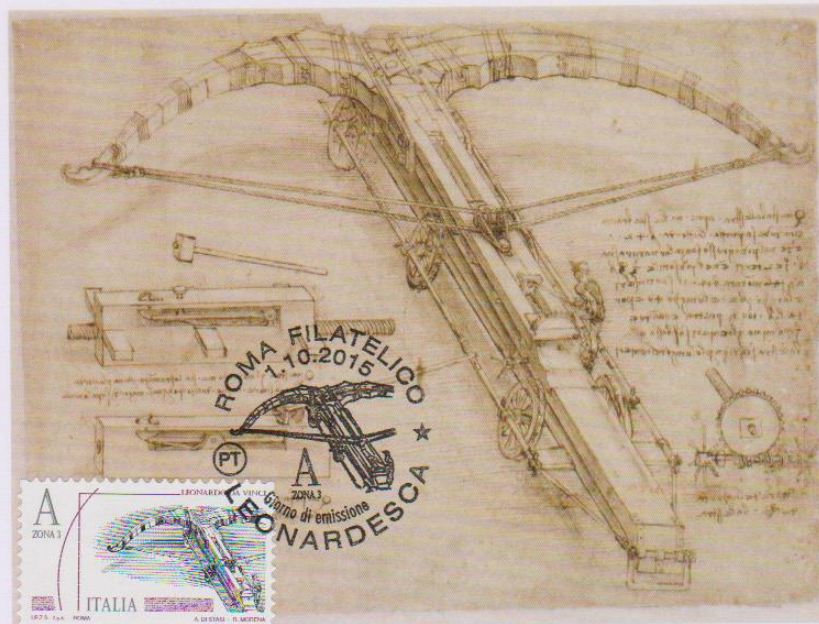
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MECHANICAL WING
 Issue 1-10- 2015 Italy
 Special cancellation
 FD Rome
 Universal Postcards
 edition

From May 1502 to May 1503 Leonardo went away from Florence, almost always in the service of the Duke Valentino (Cesare Borgia), in turn in close relationship with Louis XII. A safe - conduct by Valentino declares Leonardo "Architect and General Engineer. The original contributions to cartography, relief and description of the places belong to this period. Returning to Florence, he also dealt with painting, military matters, and canalizations, both for peaceful and military purposes and began to study the **flight of birds** and the laws of hydrology; sorts his note. The ingenious weapon, called the **fast crossbow** is a project of crossbow with rapid reload conceived by Leonardo and drawn on sheets 143r, 153r and 155r present in the Atlantic Codex. This project foresees that the "release" of the darts can be twice or triple the frequency of common crossbows.

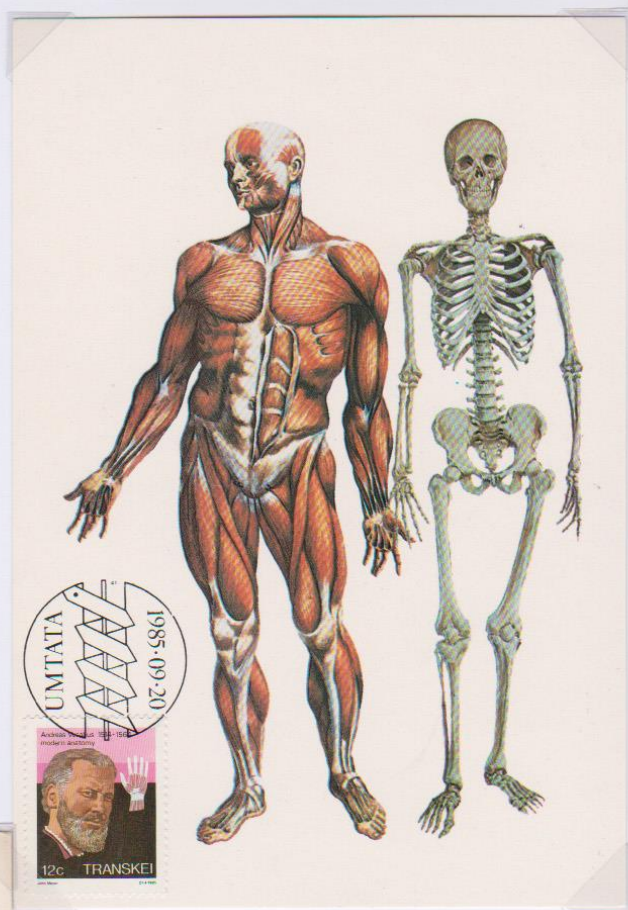


FAST CROSSBOW
 Issue 1-10-2015 Italy
 Special cancellation
 FD Rome
 Universal Postcards
 edition

The abandonment of Lombardy by the French after 1512, and the assumption of Leo X to the papal throne (1512) brought him to Rome, where he was in the service of Giuliano de' Medici, brother of the Pope. The new experience was negative: Leonardo did not meet the same favor enjoyed by Raphael and Michelangelo. In Rome Leonardo saw himself excluded from the great works of the time: the plans for Saint Peter and the decoration of the Vatican; he was taken away from the treatise *De vocie* which he had composed; hindered in his research on **Anatomy**, he continued to deal with mathematical and scientific studies.

ANDREA VESALIO - ANATOMY

Issue 20-9-1985 Transkei
Cancellation FD Umtata
Photo Bernard Clark



ANDREAE VESALII.



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While acknowledging **Andrea Vesalio** as the greatest anatomical of the Renaissance, it should be remembered that Leonardo da Vinci was the initiator of the study of anatomy and physiology on a scientific basis, by means of original research and dissections on the corpse and it is he was also the first to have illustrated anatomy with drawings from life.

ANDREA VESALIO - DISSECTION

Issue 2-3-1954 Belgium
Cancellation Brussels
UNIMAX edition



After Giuliano's death he left Italy for France (end of 1516), where the young King **Francis I** offered him the Château Le Clos Lucé as his residence, near **Amboise** and he gave him an annual pension as "premier peintre, architecte et mechanicien du Roi". Here his activity was limited to the design of some buildings. Leonardo, as always, brought the Mona Lisa with him.

FRANCESCO I (d'après CLOUET)
Issue 1-7-1967 France
Special cancellation Cognac
Editions Bourgogne - Les Laumes

Francesco fell in love with the painting and bought it for 400 ducats and it is for this reason that since then it can be admired at the Parisian museum. Leonardo had some paintings with him, someone who had previously started in Florence, an "infinity of volumes", of notes. Although prevented by paralysis in his right hand, he waited with passion for anatomy studies, also dedicating himself to architecture and party equipment. On April 29, 1519 he made a will; he died three days later, on May 2, 1519, without having had time to rearrange the collections of notes and drawings which he entrusted for his friend and pupil Francesco Medici

CHATEAU D'AMBOISE
Issue 9-7-1952 France
Special cancellation FD
Amboise
Les Editions d'Art - Paris

