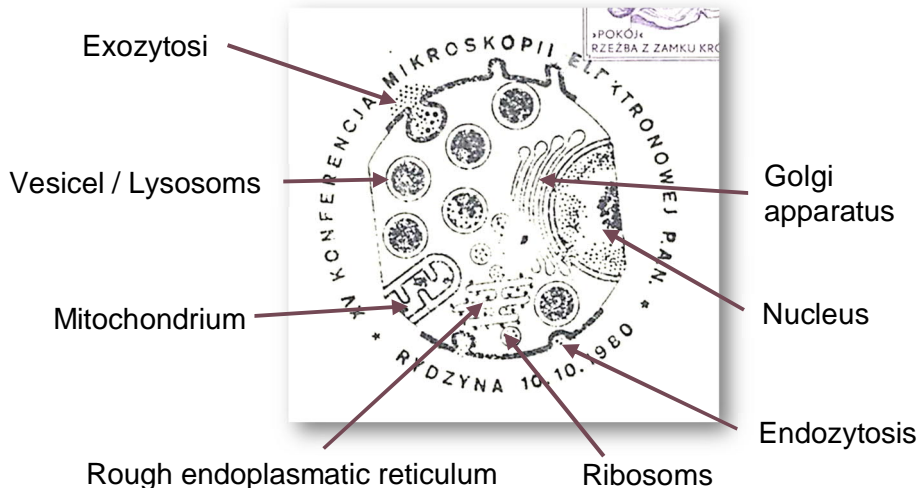


### Cell Biology in Philately



When designing exhibits in the medical-biological field, one often has problems describing cellular biological processes more precisely in philatelic terms. Often there is only the paraphrase, such as that the mitochondria are the power plants of the cells, and then one uses a cover with a power plant. From time to time, however, there are such beautiful covers, like the adjacent special postmark from the year 1980 from Poland. Here an animal cell with almost all important structures is shown.

Otherwise, cell biology illustrations with such detailed resolution are relatively rare in philately from my experience so far. An exception is the mitochondrion on a stamp from Japan in 1967. There are indeed illustrations of cell types, such as nerve cells and blood cells. But even beyond these prominent cell types you have to search, so far I have not found any liver cells or skin cells. In addition, the search is difficult, because if such cells or cell components are illustrated, then often in connection with a tribute to a researcher or doctor. The keywords in the search engines or catalogs are then usually limited to the person, not, however, to the cells and cellular parts also depicted on the stamps.



Personalized stamps, if included as a collectible, could remedy this. For example, there is a nice sheet of the University of Oldenburg on which cell biological aspects of our retina, such as photoreceptors, second messenger systems, the cellular structure of the retina, as well as its cones and rods for day or night vision were represented.

