

# 1) PRIMITIVE BEGINNINGS

## 1.1) GREEK MYTHOLOGY & LEGEND

### 1.1a) HERMES

The Greek god Hermes (whom the Romans called Mercury) was the general messenger of the gods of Olympus and, specifically, the courier for Zeus. In classical sculpture Hermes is depicted with 3 attributes: A 'petasus', or protective traveller's hat, sometimes with wings. A 'caduceus', or herald's staff (with two snakes and sometimes surmounted by wings). 'Talaria', or winged sandals (sometimes winged feet). In classical literature both Homer and Virgil give Hermes golden wings that he straps onto his feet.

Hermes and globe

*South West Africa  
South Africa 1949 issue  
overprinted SWA  
Bilingual pair  
(Inscribed in  
English & Afrikaans)*



Hermes (Mercury)  
as an icon  
of the (UPU) Universal  
Postal Union.



### 1.1b) DAEDALUS & ICARUS

Daedalus was an engineer who was imprisoned by King Minos. With his son, Icarus, he made wings of wax and feathers. Daedalus flew successfully from Crete to Naples, but Icarus, tried to fly too high and flew too near to the sun. The wings of wax melted and Icarus fell to his death in the ocean.



Icarus in flight  
with wings.

*Switzerland 1934  
Air issue surcharged*

## 1.2) THE RENNAISSANCE

- LEONARDO DA VINCI (1480's)

Leonardo Da Vinci



*Latvia 1932 Air charity issue  
surcharged 50s to raise funds for charity*

wrote about and sketched many designs in the 1480's for flying machines and mechanisms. While his designs were rational, they were not scientific.

## 1.3) GEORGE CAYLEY (1799)

It is generally accepted that the aeroplane was the invention in 1799 in England of

George Cayley



Sir George Cayley designed many different versions of gliders. He designed a tail to help with the stability and tried a biplane design to add strength to the glider.