In 1997, Greece issued a set of stamps to commemorate the International Year of Rheumatic Patients. One of those stamps demonstrated bloodletting from the upper limb (Fig. 1). In ancient times, it was believed that some diseases were derived from excess blood, and blood-letting was a common treatment.1 The physician on the stamp is about to incise the antecubital vein of a patient who is standing over a bleeding bowl. The picture was adopted from an Athenian vase from the fifth century BC.2

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From the Department of Orthopedics, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Urmia, Iran; and the Davis Medical Center, University of California, Sacramento, CA.

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Corresponding author: Ahmadreza Afshar, MD, Department of Orthopedics, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Imam Khomeini Hospital, Modares Street, Enshad Boulevard, Urmia 57157 81551, Iran; e-mail: afshar_a@yahoo.com.
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Hands on Stamps: Greece 1977—Bloodletting From the Upper Limb

Ahmadreza Afshar, MD, Neda Afshar, MS