



FIGURE 1: International Day of Families. Day of issue: May 15, 2014. Size: 28 × 45 mm. **A** A youngster puts one hand on the back of the hand of an elder walking with a cane. The Chinese character at the bottom means “filial piety”. Value: \$1.7. **B** Hand in hand. The Chinese character at the bottom means “love”. Value: \$2.9. **C** Family members with their hands stacked together. The Chinese phrase at the bottom means “harmony”. Value: \$3.7. **D** A youngster is holding an elder’s hand with both hands. The Chinese phrase at the bottom means “care”. Value: \$5.

Hands on Stamps: Greece 1977—Bloodletting From the Upper Limb

Ahmadreza Afshar, MD, Neda Afshar, MS

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

REFERENCES

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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.

Received for publication June 29, 2014; accepted in revised form July 14, 2014.

No benefits in any form have been received or will be received related directly or indirectly to the subject of this article.

Corresponding author: Ahmadreza Afshar, MD, Department of Orthopedics, Urmia University of Medical Sciences, Imam Khomeini Hospital, Modares Street, Ershad Boulevard, Urmia 57157 81351, Iran; e-mail: afshar_ah@yahoo.com.

0363-5023/16/4102-0021\$36.00/0
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhsa.2014.07.027>

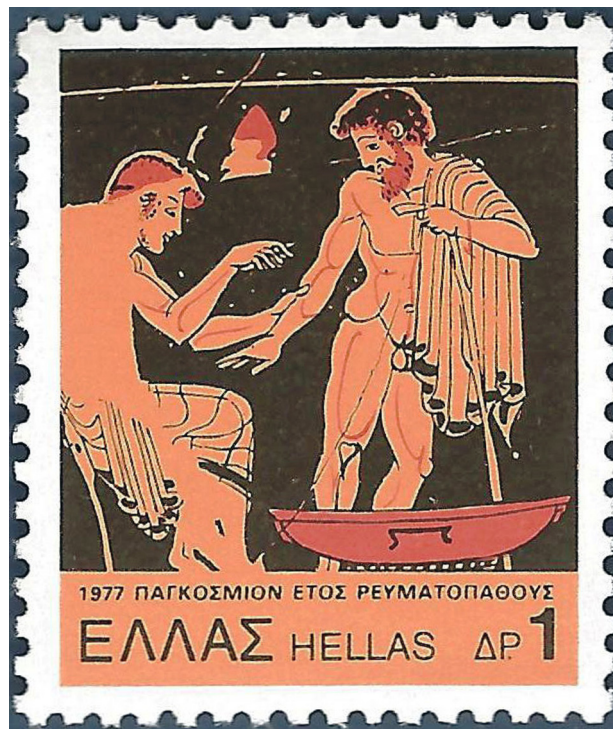


FIGURE 1: The physician is about to perform bloodletting from the upper limb. Country: Greece. Occasion: Commemoration of the International Year of Rheumatic Patients. Scott Catalogue # 1200. Day of issue: March 15, 1977. Value: 1 drachma.