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**SOME COMMENTS ON THE
DIVERSITY OF VERMEER PAINTINGS
DEPICTED ON POSTAGE STAMPS**

OSKAR MARIA BAKSALARY

*Institute of Physics, Adam Mickiewicz University,
Umultowska 85, PL 61–614 Poznań, Poland*

e-mail: baxx@amu.edu.pl

AND

GEORGE P.H. STYAN

*Department of Mathematics and Statistics, McGill University,
805 ouest, rue Sherbrooke, Montréal (Québec), Canada H3A 2K6*

e-mail: styan@math.mcgill.ca

Abstract

We present some comments on the diversity of the paintings by Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675) depicted on postage stamps. We have found 20 of the 36 “recognized” Vermeer paintings depicted on postage stamps issued by 29 “countries”; by country we mean here a stamp-issuing region that issues or has issued its own postage stamps. We apply Fisher’s α index of biodiversity [11] to compare the diversity of Vermeer paintings depicted on postage stamps with the diversity of two other data sets [26]. We illustrate our article with images of 7 Vermeer paintings depicted on 10 postage stamps issued by 5 different countries.

Keywords: artemetrics [9], Jerzy K. Baksalary (1944–2005), Dutch paintings and works of art, Fisher’s α index of biodiversity, topical philately, Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675).

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¹A set of nine stamps depicting Colin Firth was issued by the “Amurska Republic” in 2002, a year before the movie *Girl with a Pearl Earring* was released (in 2003). According to *Wikipedia* [24], “The Amur Oblast is a federal subject of Russia, situated about 8,000 km east of Moscow on the banks of the Amur and Zeya Rivers; it shares its border with China in the south.” Stamps from the “Amurska Republic” are “Local issues without official status” [4]. Wood [27, pp. 2, 95] says “Amur [*sic*] is a province in Siberia” and that stamps were issued (already) in 1920; see also [19, pp. 108–109].

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