

This month The Editor previews this issue

THIS MONTH we preview the forthcoming Magical Worlds stamps featuring characters from popular childrens' books. The stamps will no doubt delight many adult collectors as well as their children and grandchildren.

Three regular contributors – Douglas Myall, Martin Robinson, and Jim Mackay – all write on very different subjects, covering the wide range of interests of *Bulletin* readers. Adam Novak, Director & General Manager of Royal Mail National, gives his views on the Rowland Hill Awards and advance information on Royal Mail's Millennium stamps to be issued during 1999.

This month we have two prize competitions plus the usual features keeping you up to date with the philatelic scene, including forthcoming exhibitions. Hopefully we will this month be enjoying some warm Summer weather, but don't entirely overlook your stamps. Enjoy your collecting as well. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Royal Mail news Magical Worlds stamps • Self adhesives • NPM news • Stamp books

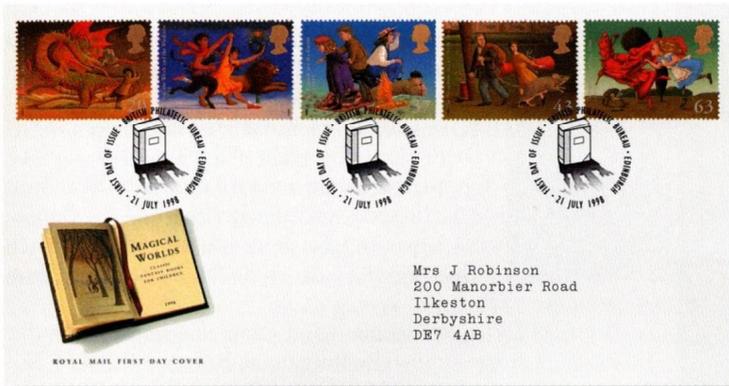


The designer The stamps were designed by Peter Malone, born in Hampshire in 1953. He was educated at Winchester School of Art and Coventry Polytechnic, he now lives in Somerset. He illustrated the 1996 Christmas aerogramme, but these are his first stamps for Royal Mail.

Magical Worlds Stamps commemorating five hugely popular children's books go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 21 July. The issue marks the centenaries of the death of Lewis Carroll and the birth of C S Lewis. The designs feature characters from their books, celebrating the wealth of British fantasy literature enjoyed by children of all ages.

The **20p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) depicts Bilbo Baggins and Smaug the dragon from *The Hobbit* (1937) written by J R R Tolkien, the forerunner of his most famous work, *The Lord of the Rings*. The **26p** value (inland 1st class basic rate) depicts Mr Tumnus (a faun), Lucy, and Aslan the lion from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first of C S Lewis's *Chronicles of Narnia* books, published in 1950.

The four Prosser children, Anthea, Cyril, Jane and Robert, from E Nesbit's *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (1904), feature on the **37p** denomination (airmail postcard rate). The **43p** stamp (airmail basic letter rate) features Pod and Arrietty, tiny folk from *The Borrowers* by Mary Norton, published in 1952 and now a successful film.



Technical details

Printers De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 41 x 30mm

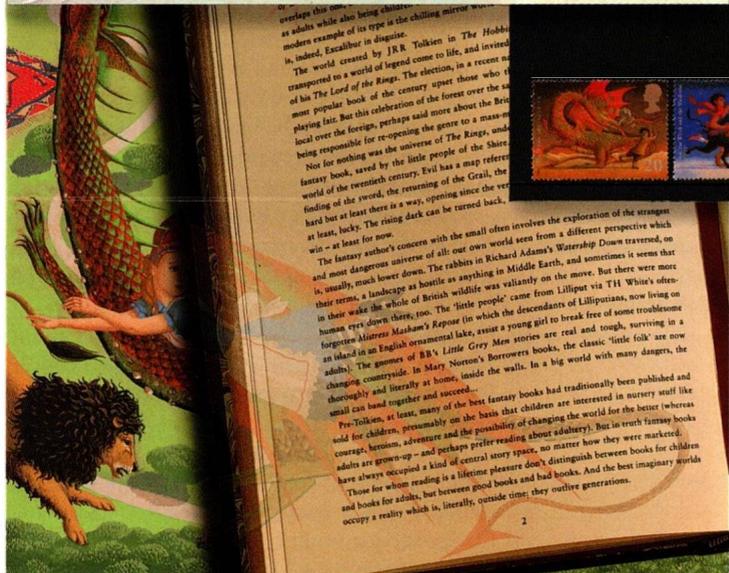
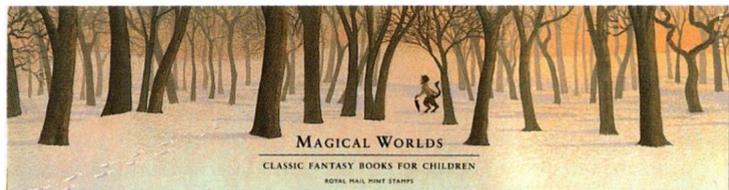
Sheets 100

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor One band 20p ● two bands others

Gum PVA

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Presentation pack and stamp cards A well-illustrated pack (price £2.25) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets.

The pack, written by top fantasy writer Terry Pratchett, appraises children's fantasy literature. Illustrations are by Peter Malone, designer of the stamps.

Aerogrammes Country aerogrammes will be issued on 21 July on the Magical Worlds theme, one each for England, Scotland and Wales. Price 45p each. Details next month.



Lewis Carroll's ever-popular *Through the Looking-Glass* (1871) is the subject of the **63p** value (airmail letters over 10g) which features Alice and the Red Queen.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 21 July, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Oxford (Carroll, Lewis and Tolkien connections) must reach the Bureau by 21 July. Price £2.64 UK (including VAT) or £2.25 overseas (no VAT).

Alternatively, collectors may send stamped covers, on the day of issue, to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Birmingham B1 1AA (Oxford postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9811' (Bureau), or 'FD9812' (Oxford). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices for local (mostly non-pictorial)

first day handstamps. Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.735 elsewhere).

Covers may be posted bearing just the 20p Magical Worlds stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 21 July; the normal 1st class rule is waived.

Health stamps Plate numbers and colours for the forthcoming Health stamps are:

20p 1A (deep claret) ● 1A (black) ● 1A (grey-brown) ● 1A (pale cream) ● 1A (cream)

26p 1A (deep grey-green) ● 1A (black) ● 1A (grey-brown) ● 1A (pale cream) ● 1A (cream)

43p 1A (deep lilac) ● 1A (black) ● 1A (grey-brown) ● 1A (pale cream) ● 1A (cream)

63p 1A (deep dull blue) ● 1A (black) ● 1A (grey-brown) ● 1A (pale cream) ● 1A (cream)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE AWARDS Royal Mail is sponsoring two major children's literature awards in 1998 – the Carnegie medal for the best children's fiction and the Greenaway medal for the best illustrations in a children's book. The Carnegie medal is widely regarded as the Booker of the children's book world, and the Greenaway is one of the most coveted prizes of its kind. Winners also receive £1000 to buy books for schools and educational establishments. Further details next month ●

Welsh aerogramme A Welsh version of the standard aerogramme will go on philatelic sale on 16 June. It will be available both singly (36p), and in discount packs of six (£1.99). It will go on sale at post offices in Wales as stocks of English language aerogrammes are used up. No first day facilities will be available ●



Robert Maude FDC winners In January we offered 25 first day covers of the Endangered Species stamps signed by the designer Robert Maude. The winners were: Mrs J Doggett, Cornwall; L Court, Yorkshire; G Jones, Cardiff; F Draper, Herts; Mrs M Dungeate, Dorset; Mrs D Cox, Devon; Mrs E Bailey, Cambridge; H McGlashan, Falkirk; R Dorin, Berks; L Bird, Yorkshire; M Dhokia, Coventry; P Foulds, Cheshire; Miss Y Trouillard, France; K Hong, Singapore; J McFadyen, Glasgow; D Cluett, Hants; J Smith, Barbados; N Shereshevsky, Israel; M Blackford, Birmingham; K Ward, New Zealand; A Earl, Surrey; G Faulkner, Kent; J Watson, Lancs; T Roberts, Kent; and J Choppen, Essex ●



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