

AMPHIBIAN SUBJECTS OF FAMOUS WRITERS APPEARING ON STAMPS

Vic Eichler, BU1850

Many authors of the 19th and 20th Centuries became well known through their writings that featured frogs and toads in a prominent role. A number of the amphibian subjects of these writers, have been featured on postage stamps of many countries.

Jean de La Fontaine (1621-1695) was one of the most famous poets of 17th Century France. He was especially loved for his many collections of fables, several of which included situations with frogs. The 300th anniversary of his death in 1995 was noted with a series of stamps (Sc#2486-91) illustrating animals (including a frog) from his fables.



La Fontaine Fable
France Sc#2487



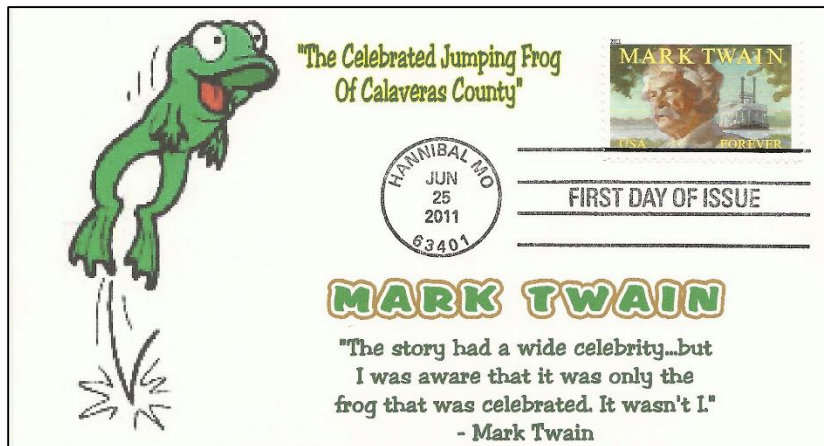
"The Frog Prince"
Ajman OTS#1269

One of the most famous fairy tales published by the German brothers, **Jacob (1785-1863)** and **Wilhelm (1786-1859) Grimm** is their story "The Frog Prince." In 1971, the kingdom of Ajman—one of the seven entities that make up the United Arab Emirates—issued one stamp in a series of six devoted to this beloved Grimm Fairy Tale.

The tales of Danish writer **Hans Christian Andersen (1805-1875)** have been translated into plays, ballets, films, and television specials. One of his most beloved stories is that of "Thumbelina," a tiny child who was born within a flower. For the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2005, Singapore released a mini-sheet of four stamps that included a 1st value stamp illustrating a toad in the story who approaches the little child.



"The Frog Prince"
Singapore Sc#1133a



A number of countries have honored American writer **Samuel L. Clemens (1835-1910)** who wrote using the pen name Mark Twain. It is not widely known that his short story titled, "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," published in 1867, was the first publication that brought Mark Twain to national prominence. A 2011 USA First Day of Issue cover honors this author and his story.

A stamp issued at Christmas 1980, honors a frog made famous by the popular Colombian poet **Rafael Pombo (1833-1912)**. This Colombian stamp shows Rin Rin in stylish fashion and his companion the mouse as they go about their adventures in the children's story book published in 1901 titled, "*El renacuajo paseador* (The Tripping Tadpole)."

Story Illustration
Colombia Sc#C693

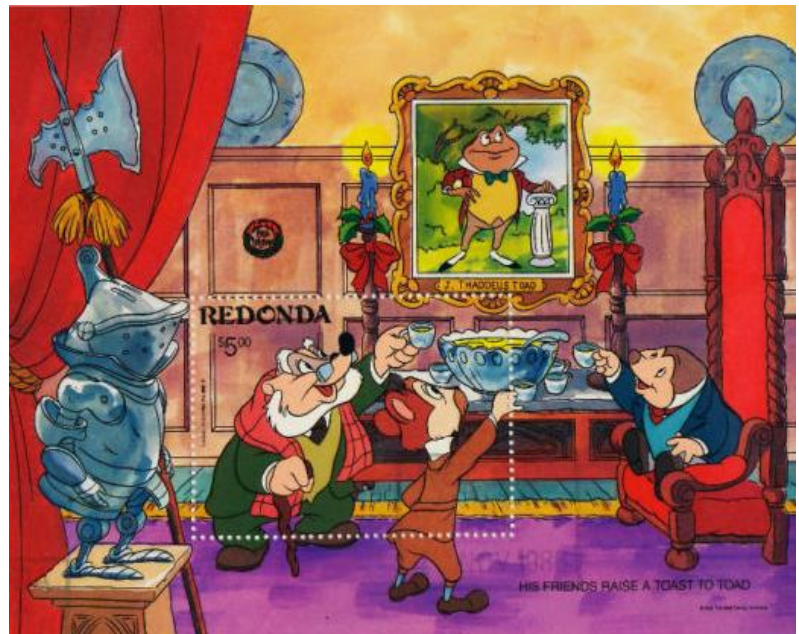


Viktor Vasnetsov (1848-1926) was a Russian folklorist who published "The Frog Tsarevna," in 1918. This is one of a number of variations that exists in many European countries where a frog becomes royalty after being freed from an evil spell and eventually marries a prince or princess. These stamps from a sheet of a dozen that illustrate two other Russian folktales illustrate scenes from Vasnetsov's "The Frog Tsarevna (Frog Princess)".

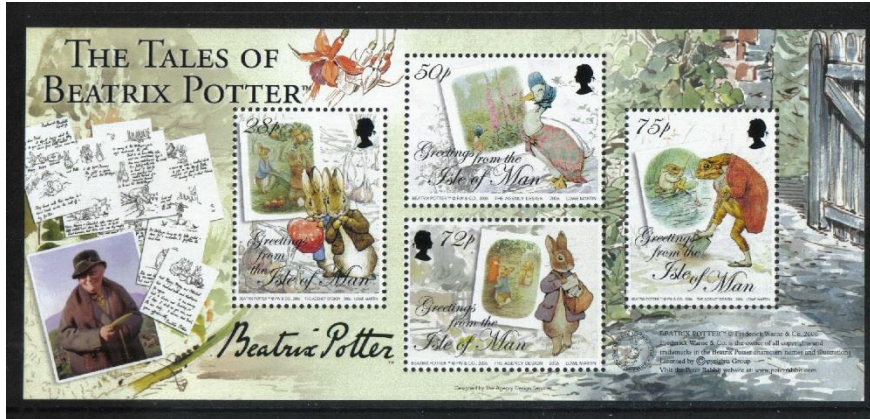
Story Illustration
Russia Sc#5279a-d



The most well-known writing of celebrated Scottish author **Kenneth Grahame (1859-1932)** is the classic children's tale *The Wind in The Willows*, published in 1908. Toad is one of the four animal characters whose interactions throughout the story have fascinated both adults and children for many generations. The visit of Toad's friends Rat, Mole, and Mouse to Toad Hall is commemorated in a 1986 "cinderella" sheet from Redonda in which a portrait of Toad is part of the margin.



Author and illustrator **Beatrix Potter (1866-1943)** is equally well known for her stories *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* (1902), and *The Tale of Jeremy Fisher* (1906). The Isle of Man issued a souvenir sheet honoring this English author in 2006. Great Britain released a stamp in 2006 also to honor this author.



Beatrice Potter Souvenir Sheet
Isle of Man Sc#1171d



Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher
Great Britain Sc#2334

American biologist **Rachel Carson (1907-1964)** is credited with advancing the environmental movement with the 1962 publication of her book *Silent Spring*. Her writing had the seminal effect of leading to a nationwide ban on DDT and other synthetic pesticides that she had shown were leading to the death of many species of animals.

Many countries have issued stamps with the likeness of Rachael Carson, including Palau (1987, 33c, Sc#479a), the United States (1981, 17c, Sc#1857), and Zambia (2000, K500, Sc#856g). In 2000, Marshall Islands issued a stamp to commemorate Rachel Carson that includes an illustration of a frog.



Rachel Carson
Marshall Islands Sc#710e

The author wishes to thank Editor Jack Congrove for providing information for some of the above items that were not listed in the Scott catalogues.