

## FROGS AND TOADS FROM CHILDREN'S STORIES

Dr. Vic Eichler, BU1850

Many stories with a focus for children in the world's literature include a frog or toad as a central character. Numerous countries have honored these amphibian characters by depicting them on postage stamps.

Perhaps the most popular subject is the frog protagonist in the story by the Brothers Grimm. According to the story, the frog retrieved the golden ball that a princess had lost in a pond, and as a reward the young lady was obligated to fulfill her promise to the frog. The story has several versions, but in the end the frog is freed from a spell and his true identity is revealed to be a handsome prince.

Among the numerous versions of stamps that portray this story are the following:

In 1966, West Germany issued a set of four semi-postal stamps that depicted scenes from

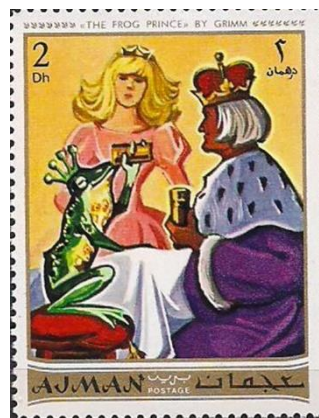
*The Princess and the Frog* fairy tale (Sc#418–21). They used the same designs on stamps from Berlin.



*The Princess and the Frog*, Germany-Berlin, 1966, Sc#9NB41–44



Austria, 1981, Sc#1181



Ajman, 1971, Mi#1034



Serbia, 2016, Sc#717a



USA, 2005, Sc#3944a

No doubt that the frog with greatest public appeal for children—and adults as well—is Kermit the frog who first appeared on the Children's Television Network program *Sesame Street*. Kermit went on to star in television specials, movies, and books, and was even selected as the Grand Marshal of the Pasadena, California, Rose Bowl Parade in 1996.



Great Britain, 1993, Sc#1482



Great Britain, 1979, Sc#868

The popular children's book, *The Wind In The Willows*, by Kenneth Grahame has brought fame to Mr. Toad, one of four animal friends who share many misadventures. Published in 1908, it has had many stage and television adaptations, and in 1985, a Broadway musical version was nominated for a Tony award.



*The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher*, written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter, tells of adventures of a frog named Jeremy Fisher. It followed Ms. Potter's publication of *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and has retained its popularity since being published in 1906.

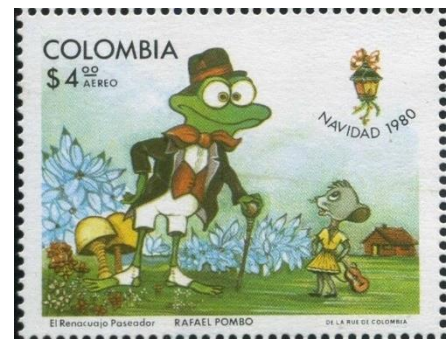


Great Britain, 2006, Sc#2334



Isle of Man, 2006, Sc#1171d (at right)

Rafael Pombo (1833–1912) was a journalist and translator who was given the honor of being named Colombia's most outstanding poet. Pombo created Rin Rin, a tadpole who fails to listen to his elders, much like a young person might. It has been written that Rin Rin is one of the most universally known characters from children's stories known throughout the country of Colombia.



Colombia, 1980, Sc#C693

Sandor Weores (1913–1989) was a Hungarian author and perhaps the country's greatest poet. In honor of his creative writing, Hungary published this miniature sheet of four stamps, the third of which illustrates a frog from one of his creations.



Hungary, 2013, Sc#4288c