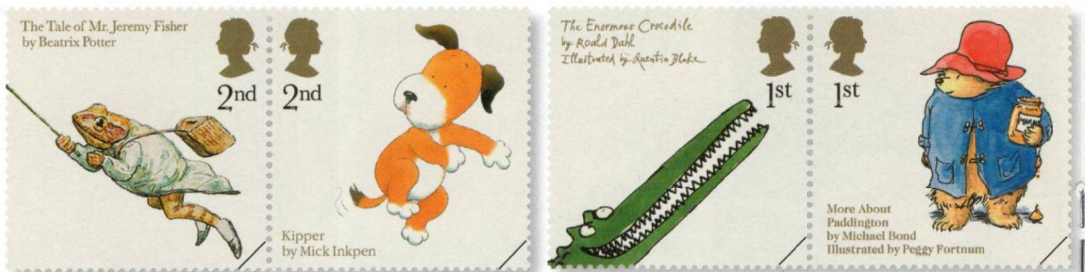


Animal Tales Royal Mail joins the US Postal



The 68p Caterpillar stamp has two punctures (at bottom left and top right), referring to the similar holes in the pages of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

THE FIRST SPECIAL ISSUE of 2006 goes on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 10 January. Printed in se-tenant pairs, the stamps depict characters from British and American children's books. The set is a joint issue with the US Postal Service. The designs are: 2nd class *The Tale of Jeremy Fisher* by Beatrix Potter and *Kipper* by Mick Inkpen; 1st class *The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl and *More About Paddington* by Michael Bond; 42p *Comic Adventures of Boots* by Satoshi Kitamura and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll; 68p *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and *Maisy's ABC* by Lucy Cousins. The stamps were designed by Rose Design.

Post office branches will be supplied with sheets of 30; sheets of 60, with gutter margin, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Litho

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Plates and colours

All values D1 brown ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 black ● D1 phosphor

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 10 January, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Mousehole, Penzance must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £4.20 UK or £3.58 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or to the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Mousehole postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO601' or 'FDO602'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Mousehole postmark. For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

SMILERS SHEET A new generic Smilers sheet containing 20 Paddington 1st class stamps will be available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £6.55. Printed self-adhesive, litho by Cartor.

JOINT PRODUCTS A joint Royal Mail/US Postal service first day cover will be produced – details will follow.

Service to celebrate classic children's books

COMIC ADVENTURES OF ROOTS
BY SATOSHI KITAMURA



42

42



Alice's Adventures
in Wonderland
by Lewis Carroll
Illustrated by
Helen Oxenbury

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle

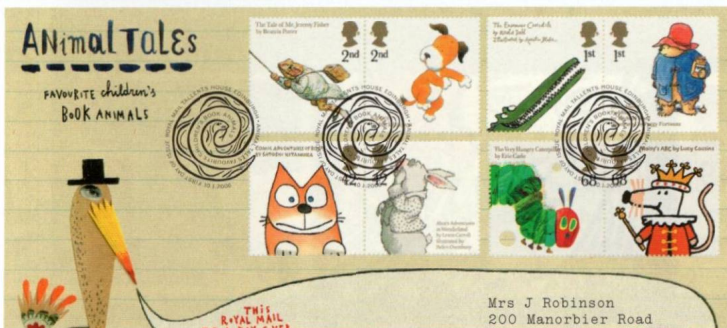


68

68



Maisy's ABC by Lucy Cousins



A pack containing the eight stamps (below, price £3.75) and stamp cards (not shown, 30p each) will be available from Tallents House and main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack was written by Roger McGough, designed by Rose Design with illustrations by Sara Fanelli, and printed by Walsall.



People have been telling animal tales for as long as people have been telling stories. This tradition lives on in the world of children's books where the art of the storyteller meets that of the illustrator.



GOLDFISH

Goldfish are not cold fish

Mine kisses me all over

He sleeps in a kennel made of shells

And answers to the name of Rover.



KANGAROO

ga kan roo
kan roo ga
kind ly stop jump
i'm talk ing you.



STICK INSECT

I may be a stick-insec but I'm not this, I'm this
I married a beautiful stick-insec who turned out to be a stick

POEMS by ROGER MCGOUGH
ILLUSTRATIONS by SARA FANELLI



First day of issue postmarks for Tallents House, Edinburgh and Mousehole, Penzance.

Below, children's literature on stamps: 1988 Edward Lear; 1990 Queen of Hearts; 1993 *Treasure Island*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*; 1994 Rupert, *Alice in Wonderland*, Noggin and the Ice Dragon, and *Paddington Bear*; 1998 *Magical Worlds*; and 2002 *Peter Pan*.

Children's literature Royal Mail has issued several sets relating to children's literature: 1979 International Year of the Child; 1988 Edward Lear; 1997 Enid Blyton; 1998 *Magical Worlds*; 2002 *Just So Stories* and *Peter Pan*; also 1990 'Smiles', 1993 'Gift Giving' and 1994 'Messages' greetings stamps.

Characters from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* featured on the 13p stamp in the 1979 set, two of the 1990 (Cheshire Cat, Queen of Hearts), one of the 1993 (Tweedledum & Tweedledee), and one of the 1994 greetings stamps (Alice), and the 63p value of the 1998 issue. *Paddington Bear* featured on one of the 1994 greetings stamps. Whilst the new 2nd class is the first stamp featuring Jeremy Fisher, other Beatrix Potter characters featured on 1979 and 1993 stamps and in *The Story of Beatrix Potter* prestige book of 1993 •

