

## FABulous stamps Celebrating the genius of



Each week nine-year-old Joe would download special skills from the Big Rat computer to carry out secret missions



Spectrum agent Captain Scarlet and his colleagues saved the world in 32 episodes broadcast from 1967 to 1968



From their island hideaway, International Rescue co-ordinated amazing rescue missions with their fantastic machines

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE THAT the 50th anniversary of *Supercar* and the development of Supermarionation is upon us. It seems like only yesterday that Gerry Anderson's distinctive puppets were entertaining us every Saturday. It all started in 1961 when a new children's programme burst onto British TV screens. Commissioned by cigar-chomping TV mogul

Lew Grade, the *Supercar* series pioneered a combination of sophisticated puppetry and state-of-the-art special effects produced with the full range of filming techniques normally used in live-action features. The process was known as Supermarionation and featured fibre-glass puppets controlled by fine wires instead of strings, and with moving eyes and the ability to lip-synch dialogue. Combined with a fast-moving sci-fi plot and a number of uniquely futuristic super-vehicles, the show became an instant success and launched Gerry Anderson's career.

**Family favourites** Anderson went on to produce for television 39 episodes of *Supercar*, 39 each of *Stingray* and *Fireball XL5*, 32 episodes and two feature films of *Thunderbirds*, 30 episodes of *Joe 90*, and 32 episodes and two films of *Captain Scarlet*, over the next decade, garnering a loyal cult following.

Triggering happy memories alongside the stamps are a fully illustrated Presentation Pack (£7.50) containing the six Gerry Anderson stamps and the Miniature Sheet on a separately

### FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson stamps.

#### Technical details

Number of stamps	Six
Design	GBH
Acknowledgements	Licensed Rights as follows: Joe 90™ & © ITC Entertainment Group Ltd 1969 & 2011; Captain Scarlet™ & © ITC Entertainment Group Ltd 1967, 2001 and 2011; Thunderbirds™ & © ITC Entertainment Group Ltd 1964, 1999 & 2011; Stingray © ITC Entertainment Group Ltd 1964, 2002 & 2011; Fireball XL5™ & © ITC Entertainment Group Ltd 1961, 2002 & 2011; Supercar © ITC Entertainment Group Ltd 1959, 2002 & 2011. All licensed by Granada Ventures Limited. All rights reserved.
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

## Supermarionation pioneer Gerry Anderson



*Supercar* featured the inventor Mike Mercury and his amazing vehicle, first broadcast between 1961 and 1962



Troy Tempest and Phones of the World Aquanaut Security Patrol dealt with various threats from beneath the ocean



Together with his robot sidekick Robert, Colonel Steve Zodiac kept the Earth safe from interplanetary threats

designed carrier. Anderson expert Chris Bentley talks to Gerry Anderson about how the shows were devised. And the Sheet's Carrier Card explains how the microlenticular technology works in the words of *Thunderbird's* boffin Brains.

The Pack also contains a four-page folded 'comic' in the style of the 60s publication, *TV Century 21*. The insert was illustrated by Gerry Embleton, one of the original *TV Century 21* illustrators, and written by Stephen la Riviere, and tells the story of how *Thunderbirds* came about.

Also available are a First Day Envelope (30p), First Day Cover (£5.46 in the UK), Retail Stamp Book (£2.46) which features two 1st Class *Thunderbirds* stamps together with four gold Machins – an 11-card postcard set (£4.95), and a limited-edition *Thunderbirds* medal cover (£14.95). Pictorial and non-pictorial SLOUGH postmarks commemorate the location of the studios in which many of the TV shows were made (see page 134).

**The minisheet** The 1st Class stamp on this specially printed sheet shows *Thunderbird 4*, Gordon Tracy's submarine, which was often transported in one of *Thunderbird 2's* pods. The 60p stamp shows *Thunderbird 3*, which was piloted by Alan Tracy. The 88p stamp features *Thunderbird 2*, Virgil Tracy's big bird. And the 97p stamp shows *Thunderbird 1*, Scott Tracy's machine, which was always first on the scene of a rescue ●

The miniature sheet (£2.86) is printed using microlenticular technology so that when tilted the stamps show each vehicle's launch sequence



### FAB minisheet technical details

Number of stamps	Four
Size of sheet	115mm x 89mm
Design	GBH
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France and Outer Aspect Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand
Print process	Microlenticular
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Border
Gum	PVA