

Peter Pan A new issue celebrates the 150th



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor 2nd class one band, others two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

FIVE STAMPS featuring Peter Pan – a favourite of children's literature – will be available from post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh, and philatelic outlets from 20 August. The stamps mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London. Sir James Barrie, author of Peter Pan, gifted the royalties to the Hospital.

The stamps feature characters from the play: 2nd class (19p) Tinkerbell; 1st class (27p) the Darling children against the clockface of 'Big Ben'; E (European rate, 37p) the crocodile; 47p Captain Hook; and 68p Peter Pan about to fly. The Queen's silhouette, value or service indicator are printed in gold at top left; gold is also used in parts of the designs. The stamps are the work of Tutssels design group who designed the 1996 Children's tv stamps and the 1999 Welsh country definitive issue.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 20 August, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Hook must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.74 UK (including VAT) or £2.34 overseas (no VAT).

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 Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Hook postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO227' (Tallents House), or 'FDO228' (Hook). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Hook postmark.

Details of other handstamps for 20 August will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the five stamps (price £2.35) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets.

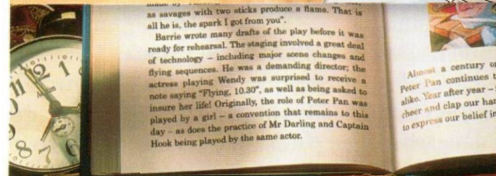
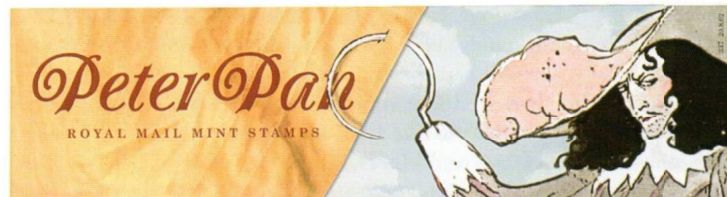
anniversary of Great Ormond Street Hospital

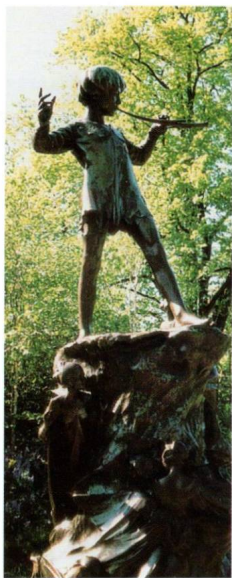


The stamps feature characters from the play *Peter Pan*, from left: Tinkerbell, the Darling children against the clockface of 'Big Ben', the crocodile, Captain Hook, and Peter Pan about to fly. The stamps were designed by Tutssels design group, who also designed the 1996 Children's TV stamps and the 1999 Welsh country issue.

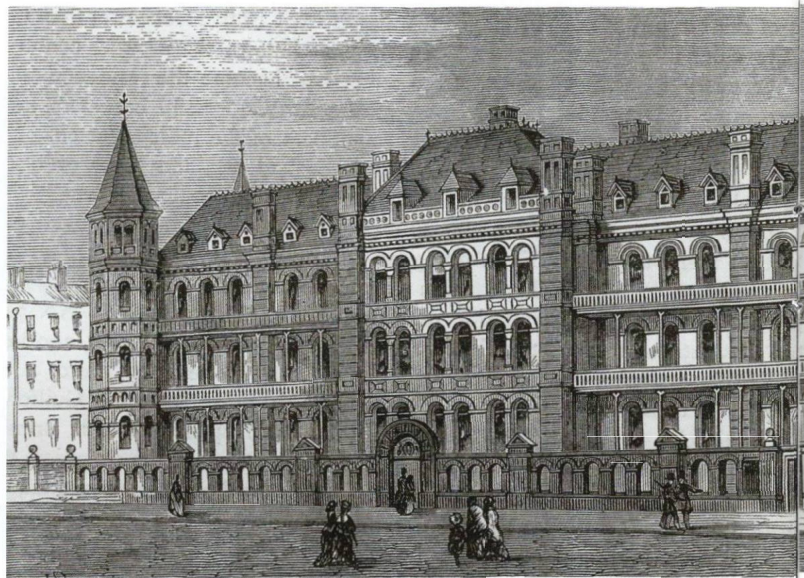


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Above: The Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens, by Sir George Frampton, and Great Ormond Street Hospital (the Hospital for Sick Children).



Peter Pan These are the first British stamps to feature Peter Pan although an illustration by Lucie Attwell (1921) and a portrait of the author, Sir James Barrie, featured on a Scottish aerogramme issued in 1987 to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860 and educated at Dumfries Academy and Edinburgh University. In 1883 he left Scotland to work on the *Nottingham Daily Journal* before coming to London in 1885. He began writing novels such as *A Window in Thrums* (based on Kirriemuir), published in 1889, and then turned his attention to the theatre. He is perhaps best remembered for *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* – a dramatic fantasy first performed in 1904 and published in book form, under the title *Peter and Wendy*, in 1911. It is the story of the three children of Mr and Mrs Darling – Wendy, John, and Michael, the nurse Nana (a Newfoundland dog) and the motherless Peter Pan who, with the fairy Tinker Bell, takes the children to Never-Never Land where they encounter Redskins and pirates, including Captain Hook and Smee. The play started as stories invented by Barrie to tell the five sons of Arthur and Sylvia Llewellyn Davis who he befriended in Kensington Gardens; he provided the boys with a home when their parents died. Three of the boys died tragically: George was killed in the First World War, Michael drowned in the Thames in 1921, and Peter committed suicide in 1960. Barrie referred to Michael as 'the boy who will never grow old.'

Peter Pan was written partly in the summerhouse in the garden of Barrie's London home in Bayswater Road and partly in the pine woods behind his country home – Blacklake Cottage at Farnham in Surrey. His Newfoundland dog, Luath – the inspiration for Nana – is buried there. A statue of Peter Pan, designed by Sir George Frampton at Barrie's expense, was erected in Kensington Gardens in 1912. A blue plaque was affixed to his



London home in 1961, testifying to his residence there from 1902 to 1909. In 1929 he gifted the copyright of Peter Pan to the Great Ormond Street Hospital. Barrie was awarded a baronetcy in 1913 and the Order of Merit in 1922, and was Chancellor of Edinburgh University from 1930.

Noted characters from children's literature feature on the International Year of the Child stamps of 1979; on 1990, 1993 and 1994 greetings stamps; Enid Blyton centenary stamps issued in 1997; and Magical Worlds stamps and aerogrammes of 1998.

Above: Peter Pan, Wendy and the lost boys in the original 1904 production of the play at The Duke of York's theatre in London.

Below: slogan postmark used at Bournemouth, Dorchester & Weymouth, 8-29 September 1988.

Great Ormond Street Hospital The Hospital for Sick Children, usually referred to as the Great Ormond Street Hospital, first opened its doors in February 1852 with just 10 beds for sick children aged between two and 12. It was the inspiration of Dr Charles West who, appalled by the lack of facilities for sick children in London, set about raising money for the cause. The first patient, a two year old boy, was suffering from catarrh and diarrhoea – far more serious complaints in Victorian days than they are now. The new hospital quickly attracted public support, including J M Barrie, Queen Victoria, and Charles Dickens. The number of patients soon necessitated a larger hospital, and the foundation stone of a new building, designed by E M Barry, was laid by the Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra) in 1872. The new hospital, completed in 1877, had 120 beds. It was further extended in 1893 and further rebuilding took place in the 1930s. From 1985-87 the Hospital ran the Wishing Well Appeal, supported by the Prince and late Princess of Wales. The Princess was President of the Hospital and a regular visitor until her death in 1997. Today, over 100,000 children are treated at the hospital every year •

