

COMIC STRIPS

Background: A Comic Strip is a series of adjacent drawn images, usually arranged horizontally, that are designed to be read as a narrative or a chronological sequence. Words may be introduced within or near each image, or they may be dispensed with altogether. It is essentially a mass medium, printed in a magazine, a newspaper, or a book. The term graphic novel is now established for the longer and more novel-like coherent story, and the term sequential art is also in use.

The first newspaper comic strips appeared in North America in the late 19th century. The Yellow Kid is usually credited as one of the first newspaper strips.

Familiar comic-strip iconography such as stars for pain, sawing logs for snoring, speech balloons, and thought balloons originated in Rudolph Dirks' strip 'The Katzenjammer Kids', a strip strongly inspired by 'Max und Moritz' created by Wilhelm Busch.

Swiss author and caricature artist Rodolphe Töpffer (Geneva, 1799 - 1846) is considered the father of the modern comic strips. His illustrated stories such as 'Histoire de M. Vieux Bois' (1827), first published in the US as 'Histoire de Monsieur Jabot' (1831), inspired subsequent generations of German and American comic artists.



Scope and purpose: The exhibit shows by country of birth, well-known cartoonists and their comic strips. Note: This is a growing exhibit with many more stamps having been issued by the countries displayed and other countries also having issued stamps depicting Comic Strips.

Treatment: A short profile of the cartoonist is given with dates of first publication of the Comic strip, followed by a brief description of the characters portrayed.

Plan: Displayed in alphabetical country order.

Bibliography: Wikipedia; Lambiek Comiclopedia; Comic Toonopedia; Comic Book Religion.

Åland

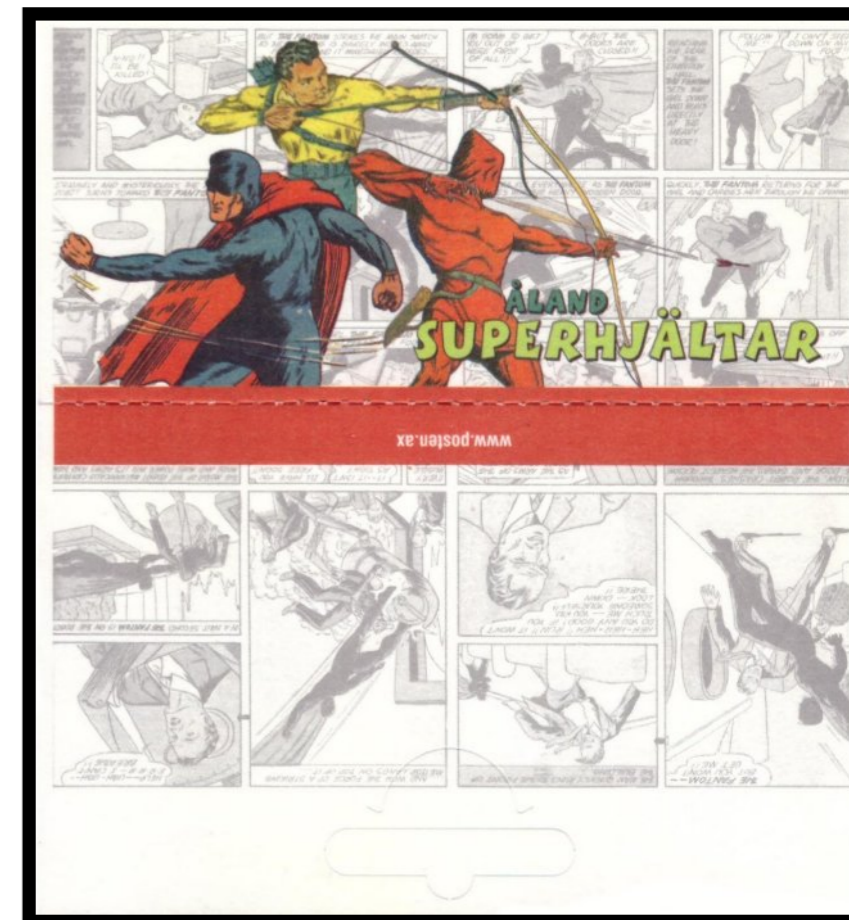
Paul Gustavson (1916 - 1977) born in Åland, Finland was a Finnish-American comic-book writer and artist. His most notable creations were the Human Bomb for Quality Comics, and the Angel, who debuted in Marvel Comics #1 (Oct. 1939). The Angel would star in more than 100 stories in the 1940s. The Human Bomb would later be acquired by DC Comics and make sporadic appearances as late as 2005. While working for the comics packager, Funnies, Inc., Gustavson created A-Man, the Arrow, Fantom of the Fair, and Man of War. He later joined Quality Comics and in 1941 created the Human Bomb. Gustavson also wrote/drew characters including Magno the Magnetic Man; the Spider; the Jester and Rusty Ryan.

Printed by Posten Sverige
 Issued on: 2011-05-09
 Printing: Offset lithography
 Perforation: 13
 Face value: No Face Value

The Arrow. The character first appeared in *Funny Pages* #21 dated September 1938. The Arrow is actually Ralph Payne, a military intelligence agent who uses his archery skills to fight crime.

The **Fantom of the Fair** debuted in Centaur Publications' *Amazing Mystery Funnies* in July 1939. His early adventures are set fighting threats at the 1939 New York World's Fair. He was originally clad in an all-black hood and bodysuit, with a purple cape, but soon adopted an open-faced cowl and red cape around the close of the 1939 Fair season.

The Spider first appeared in *Crack Comics* for nearly three years (starting with issue #1 in 1940). His feature was known as "Alias The Spider". The Spider was, in reality, playboy Tom Hallaway who had tired of seeing criminals have their own way harassing and murdering honest citizens, so he adopted the guise of The Spider to settle the score. The Spider fought crime in a yellow shirt and blue shorts, looking a lot like a wrestler. He was armed with a fairly ordinary bow and arrows, a special car known as The Black Widow, and the assistance of his valet Chuck.



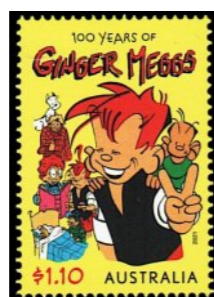
Booklet containing 9 stamps with NVI for International postage.
 Gum: Self-Adhesive



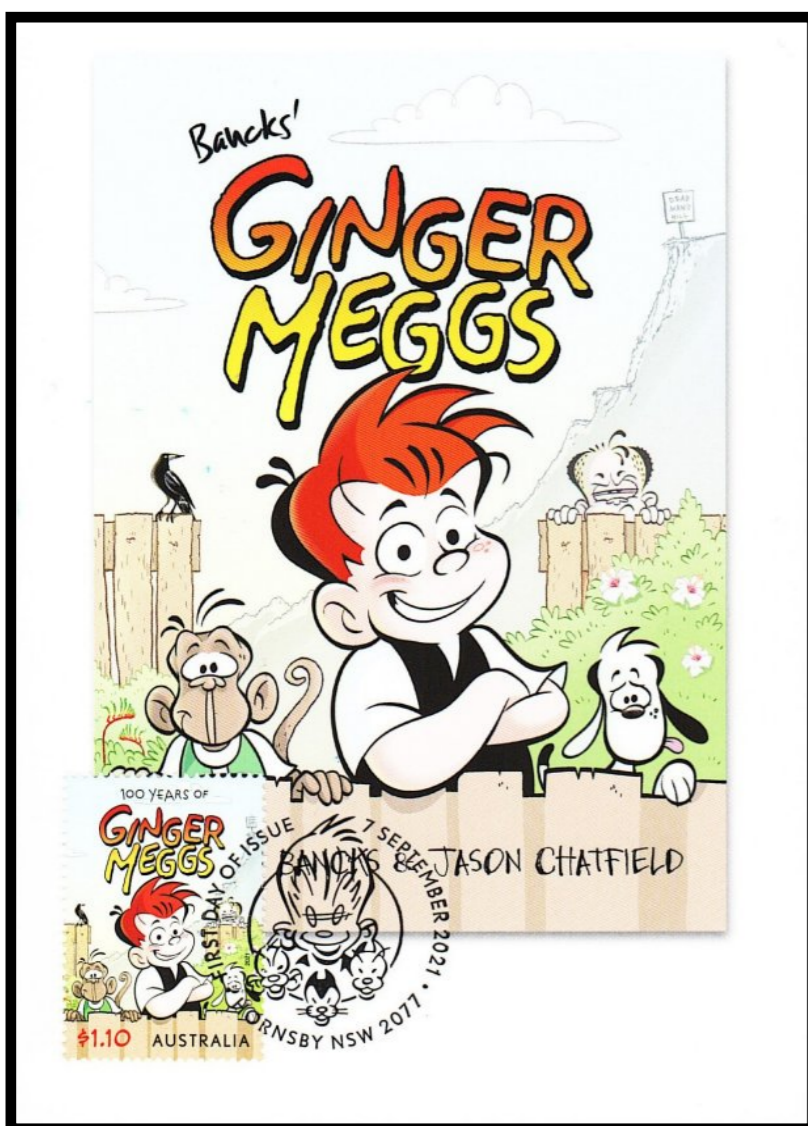
Australia

James (Jim) Bancks (1889–1952), cartoonist, was born at Enmore, Sydney, on 10 May 1889. Brought up at Hornsby, Bancks left school at 14, worked as a wool clerk, office-boy and lift-driver, and practiced drawing in his spare time. In 1911 his first cartoons were published in the Comic Australian.

In November 1921 Bancks began drawing 'Us Fellers', a colour comic-strip for the Sunday issue of the Sydney Sun. One of the minor characters in the first issue was Ginger Smith, a small red-headed boy in a black waistcoat. By the time he became Ginger Meggs in April 1922 he had a muff-wearing girl-friend, Minnie Peters, a rival for her affections in Eddie Coogan, and had gathered about him a gang of mates, including Benny and Ocker. For the next thirty years, Ginger Meggs, was published weekly in the Sunday Sun and also from 1924 in the Sunbeams Book.



In the late 1920s Bancks penetrated the overseas syndication market; by the time 'Us Fellers' changed its *Sunday Sun* title to 'Ginger Meggs' in November 1939, the strip had reached audiences in England and the United States of America as well as throughout Australia, and had been translated into French and Spanish for readers of *La Presse* in Montreal and *El Muno* in Buenos Aires.

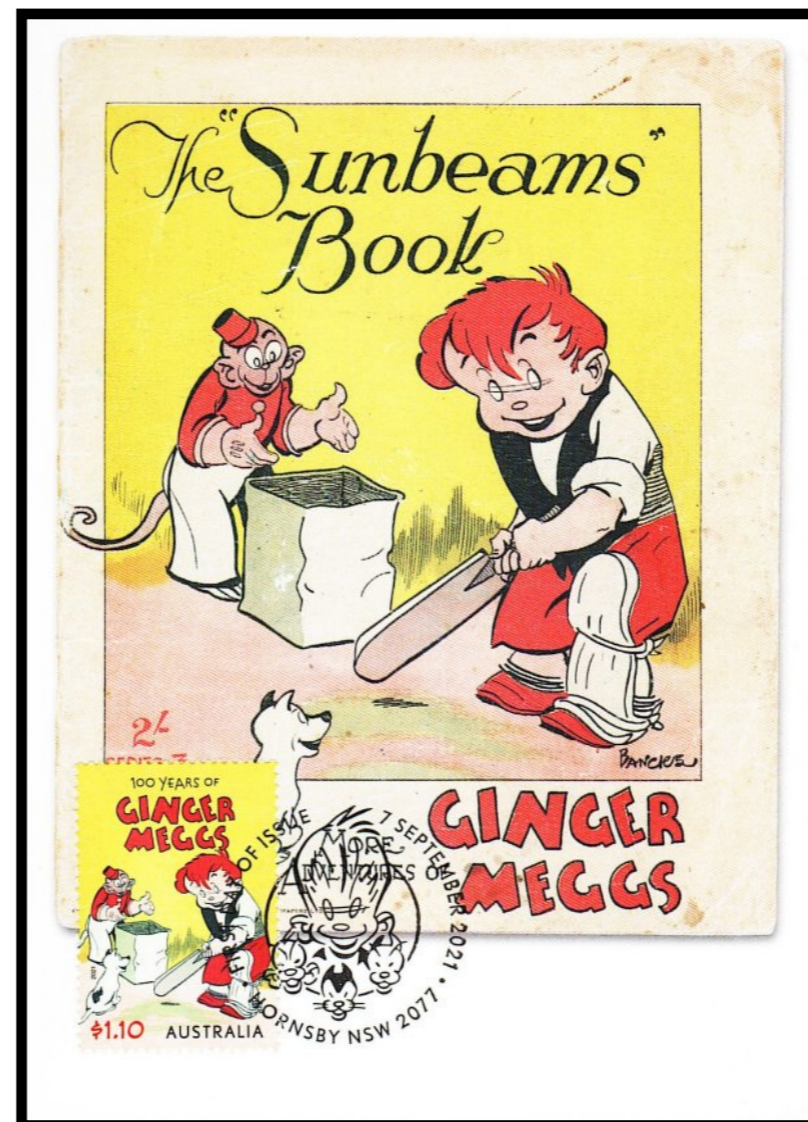


The red-headed rascal, Ginger Meggs, first appeared in print on 13 November 1921. 'Megsie', a young Aussie larrikin, began life as a supporting character named Ginger Smith in the comic strip *Us Fellers*, by James (Jim) Bancks (1889–1952), in the Sydney Sunday Sun.

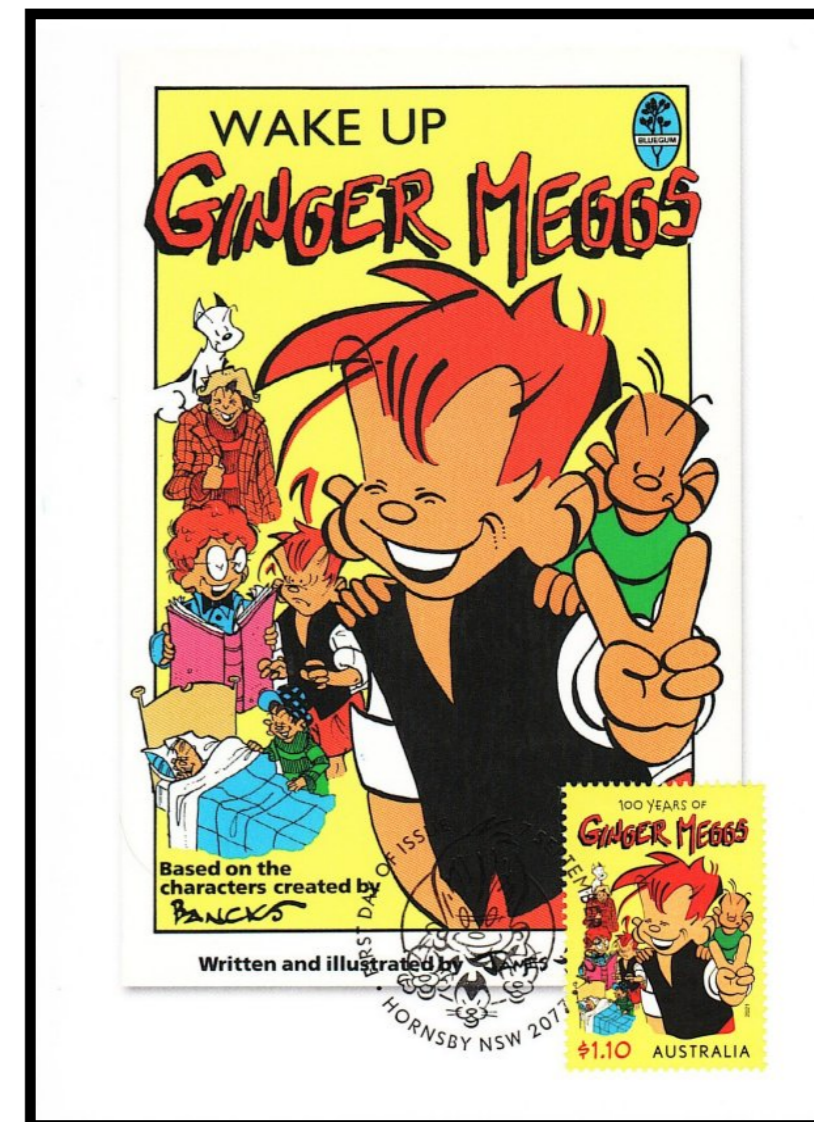
Stamps Issued on: 2021-09-07
Colours: Multicolour
Designers: Jason Watts
Printers: EGO
Perforation: 14½ x 14
Printing: Offset lithography
Gum: Ordinary
Face value: 1.10 \$ - Australian dollar

Souvenir Sheet Issued on: 2021-09-07
Colours: Multicolour
Designers: Jason Watts
Printers: EGO
Perforation: 14½ x 14
Printing: Offset lithography
Gum: Ordinary
Face value: 3.30 \$ - Australian dollar

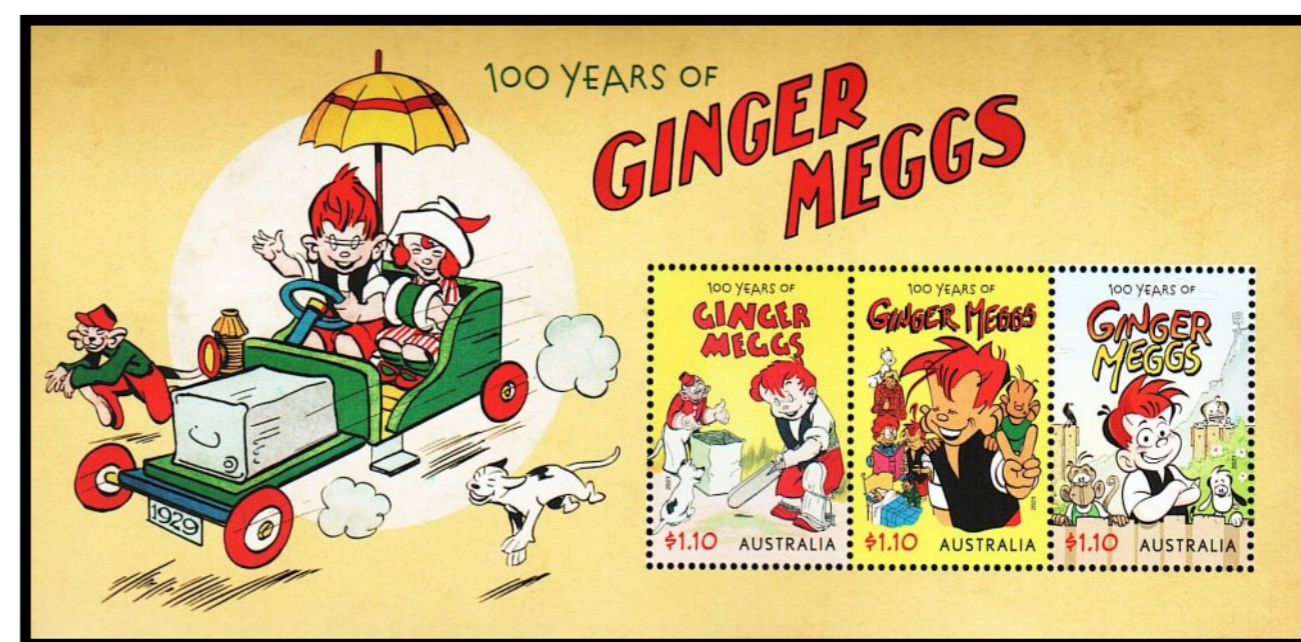
Maxicard image "Wake up Ginger Meggs, 1989"



Maxicard image "More adventures of Ginger Meggs, 1926"



Maxicard image "Wake up Ginger Meggs, 1989"



Maxicard image "Wake up Ginger Meggs, 1989"

Belgium

Jean Roba (1930-2006)

A Belgian comics author from the Marcinelle school. His best-known work was Boule et Bill. After working as an illustrator for different magazines, he started to work as an illustrator for Spirou magazine in 1957, where he made small cartoons for the front page for a few years. He made a few short stories with Yvan Delport and collaborated on different stories of Spirou et Fantasio with André Franquin, who taught him the basics of making comics, before starting his own main series Boule et Bill in 1959.

Known in English as Billy & Buddy, was created in collaboration with Maurice Rosy the artistic director of Spirou magazine. The stories center on a typical family: a man and his wife, their young son Boule and Bill the cocker spaniel. In 2003, the artistic responsibility of the series was passed on to Roba's former assistant Laurent Verron. From 1961 to 1965, the strip appeared in the British comic Valiant, renamed "It's A Dog's Life". Boule's name was changed to Pete and Bill's was changed to Larry.



Boule & Bill

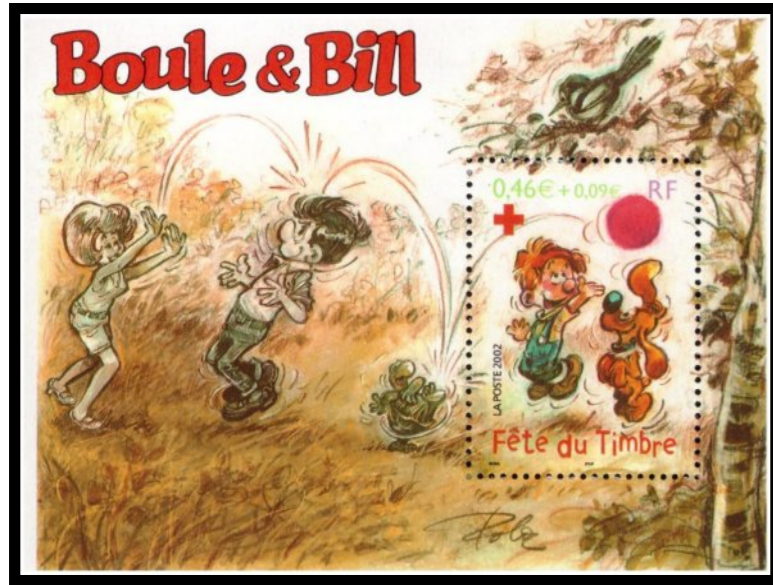


André Franquin (1924-1997)

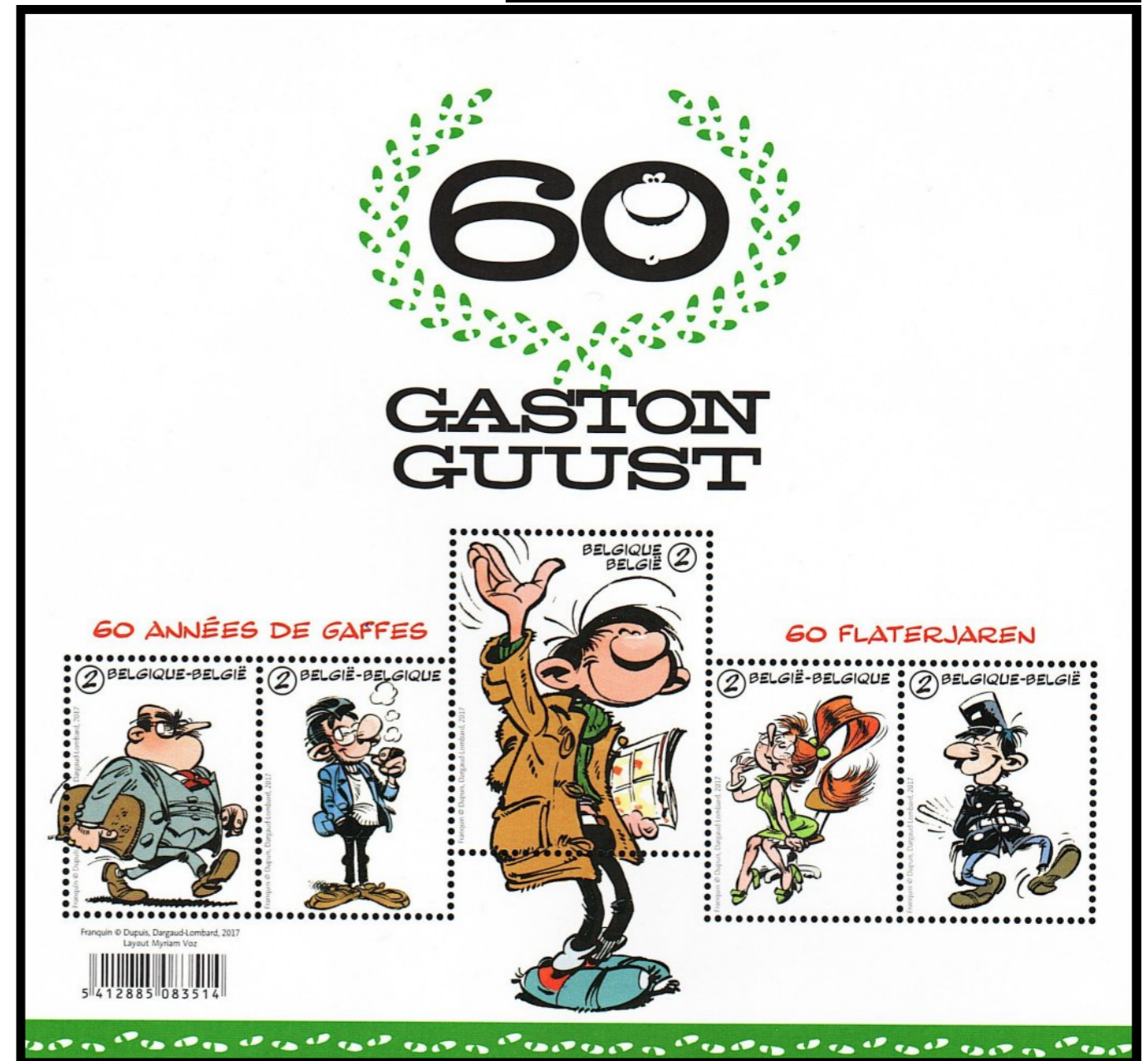
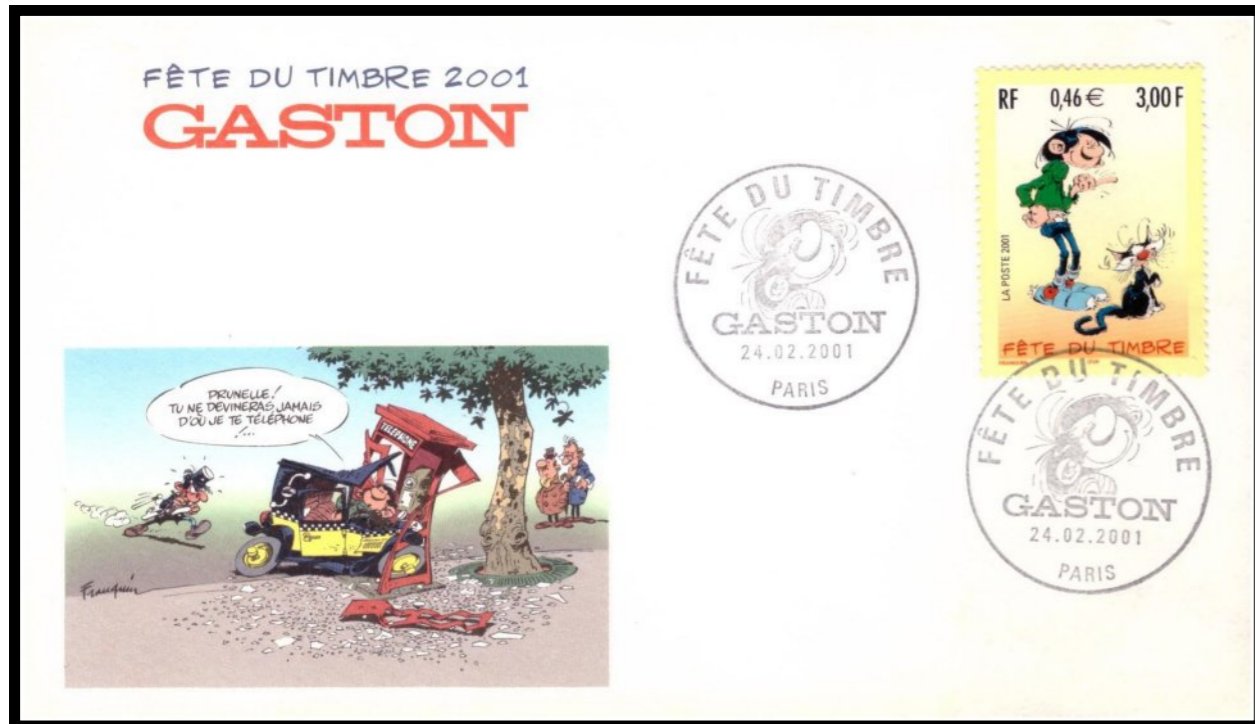
Gaston is a Belgian gag-a-day comic strip created in 1957 by the Belgian cartoonist André Franquin in the Franco-Belgian comics magazine Spirou. The series focuses on the everyday life of Gaston Lagaffe (whose surname means "the blunder"), a lazy and accident-prone office junior who works at Spirou's office in Brussels. Popular in large parts of Europe (especially in Belgium and France), Gaston has been translated into over a dozen languages. Early in the 1990s, Fantagraphics published a few pages (as Gomer Goof). In July, 2017, Cinebook began publishing English language editions of Gaston books (again named 'Gomer Goof').

Issued on: 2001-02-26
Printing: Photogravure
Paper: No Watermark
Perforation: comb 13½
Gum: Ordinary
Face value: 3 F - French franc

Issued on: 2017-01-30
Printing: Offset lithography
Paper: No Watermark
Perforation: comb 11½
Gum: Ordinary
Face value: 2 Inland ¢ - No Face Value



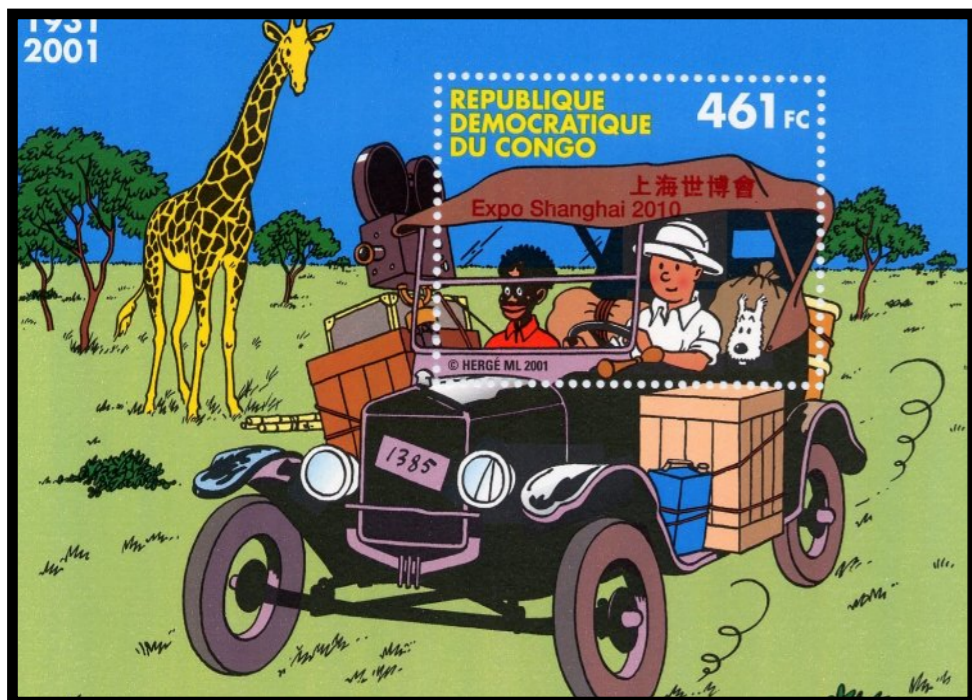
Issued on: 2002-03-16
Printing: Photogravure
Paper: No Watermark
Perforation: comb 13½ x 13
Gum: Ordinary
Face value: € - Euro 0.46 (+0.09 to the French Red Cross)



Belgium

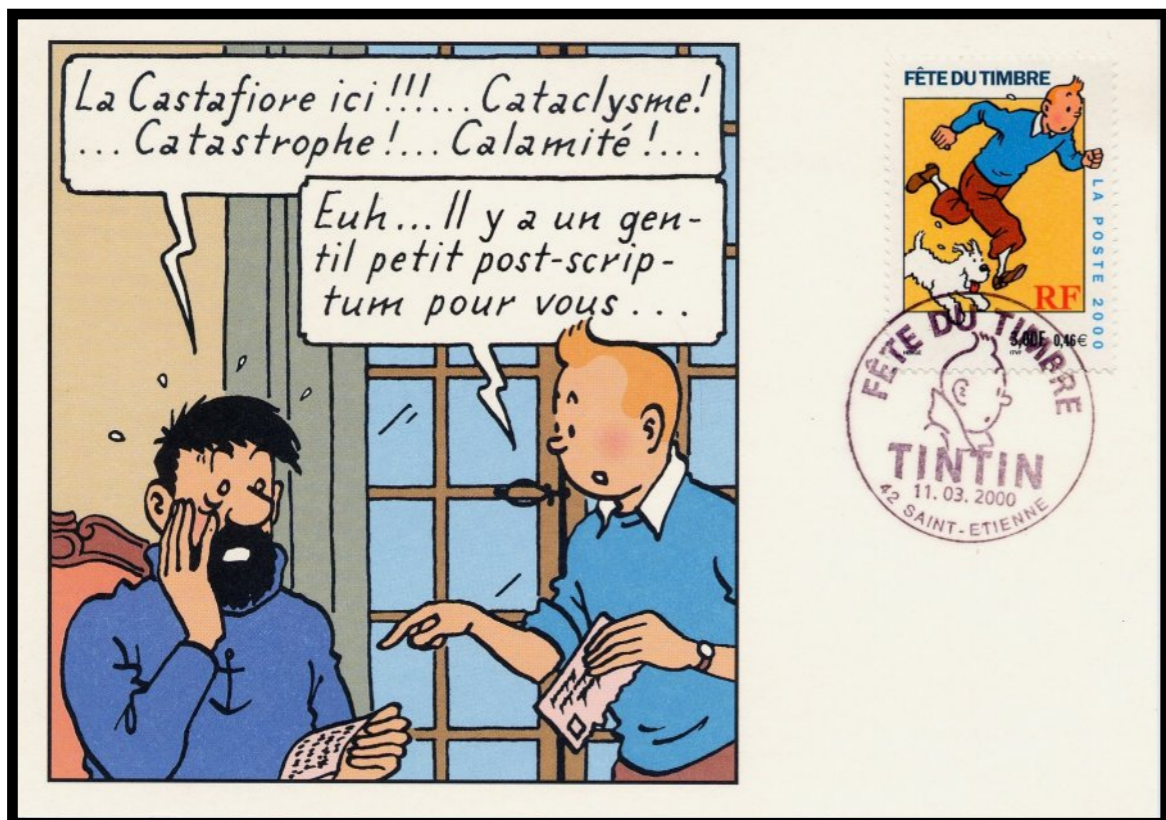
The Adventures of Tintin is a series of comic albums created by Belgian cartoonist **Georges Remi** (1907–1983), who wrote under the pen name Hergé.

Tintin first appeared in the Catholic newspaper supplement for young readers, *Le Petit Vingtième* ("The Little Twentieth") as a serialised comic. In the 30 December 1928 edition of the satirical weekly newspaper *Le Sifflet*, Hergé had included two cartoon gags with word balloons, in which he depicted a boy and a little white dog. Hergé was asked to use characters like these for an adventure that could be serialised in *Le Petit Vingtième*. Hergé agreed, creating *The Adventures of Tintin* as a result. Images of Tintin and Snowy first appeared in the youth supplement on 4 January 1929, in an advert for the upcoming series. However, Hergé would later insist that Tintin would only be "born" on 10 January 1929, when *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets* began to be serialised in *Le Petit Vingtième*. *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets* would also feature Tintin writing a report on his activities in the Soviet Union to send back to Belgium; the only time in the entire series that he is actually seen reporting. In June 1930 he began serialisation of the second story, *Tintin in the Congo*, designed to encourage colonial sentiment towards the Belgian Congo. Authored in a paternalistic style that depicted the Congolese as childlike idiots, in later decades it was accused of racism, however at the time was un-controversial and popular.



Miniature sheet commemorating Hergé's second serialisation of Tintin.
 Issued on: 2001-12-31; Perforation: comb 11½; Printing: Offset lithography.
 Face value: 461 FC - Congolese franc

Maximum card showing fancy commemorative canceller.



Tintin a young Belgian reporter who becomes involved in dangerous cases in which he takes heroic action to save the day. Snowy, a white fox terrier dog, is Tintin's loyal, four-legged companion. Captain Archibald Haddock, a Merchant Marine sea captain of disputed ancestry is Tintin's best friend. The hot-tempered Haddock uses a range of colourful insults and curses to express his feelings. He is a hard drinker, particularly fond of rum and of Scotch whisky, his bouts of drunkenness are often used for comic effect, but sometimes get him into serious trouble. Professor Cuthbert Calculus an absent-minded and half-deaf physicist, is a regular character alongside Tintin. Thomson and Thompson (Dupont et Dupond in Hergé's original version) are two incompetent detectives who look like identical twins whose only discernible difference is the shape of their moustaches.¹

Right. French Booklet cover showing many of the characters featured in the Tintin adventures.

Issued on: 2000-03-13;
 Perforation: comb 13½ x 13;
 Printing: Photogravure . Gum: Ordinary
 Face value: 21+1.80 F - French franc

Below right. Commercial letter from Belgium depicting the Scouting Theme which Tintin's character was fashioned on. From July 1926 Georges Remi had written a strip about a boy scout patrol leader "The Adventures of Totor, Scout Leader of the Cockchafers" for the Scouting newspaper "The Belgian Boy Scout".



British Annuals

Bunty was a British comic for girls published by D. C. Thomson & Co. Bunty was the longest serial in girls' comics, running from the magazine's creation in 1958 until 2001. Regular stories included "The Four Marys", drawn by Barrie Mitchell; "A Girl Like You"; Moira Kent and Lorna Drake and "Penny's Place". Artists were Barrie Mitchell, Sean Phillips and Ron Smith.

Buster The title character, whose strip usually appeared on the front cover, was Buster himself. He was originally billed as Buster: Son of Andy Capp; he wore a similar flat cap to reinforce the connection. In early issues Buster often referred to his father, and Andy was seen in the comic of the 18 June 1960 issue. Buster's mum was often referred to by name, and was consistently drawn to resemble Andy's wife Flo. The connection with Andy Capp was gradually forgotten over time, and Andy no longer appeared in the strip by the mid-1960s. In its final years, the comic mostly consisted of reprints from either Buster itself or from the twelve comics which had merged with it over its 40-year run. The final strip was written by the last cartoonist for Buster, J. Edward Oliver.

The Steel Claw first appeared in the debut edition of **Valiant** dated 6 October 1962. The strip was one of several put together for the comic by Fleetway editors Ken Mennell, Jack Le Grand and Sid Bicknell, and was then refined by writer Ken Bulmer and artist Jesús Blasco. The Steel Claw appeared in Valiant throughout much of the 1960s and was one of the most popular strips in the comic. In 2005 DC Comics used the character along with a number of other characters, in a six issue mini-series called Albion, with art by Shane Oakley and George Freeman.

Twinkle, "the picture paper specially for little girls," was a popular British comics magazine, published by D. C. Thomson & Co. Ltd from 1968 to 1999. Among the most popular comic strips were Nurse Nancy illustrated by Sabine Price. It came out weekly, supplemented each year with a Summer Special and a hardcover Annual.

2000 AD is a weekly British science fiction-oriented comic magazine. As a comics anthology it serialises stories in each and was first published by IPC Magazines in 1977. 2000 AD is most noted for its **Judge Dredd** stories, and has been contributed to by a number of artists and writers such as Brian Bolland, Mike McMahon and Alan Grant.



Issue Date: 20 03 2012

Design: "The Chase"

Print: Litho by Cartor

All over Phosphor

Perf: 14¼



Desperate Dan is a wild west character in the now-defunct British comic magazine **The Dandy**, and became its mascot. He made his appearance in the first issue which was dated 4 December 1937. He is apparently the world's strongest man, able to lift a cow with one hand. The pillow of his (reinforced) bed is filled with building rubble and his beard is so tough he shaves with a blowtorch. The character was created by Dudley D. Watkins, originally as an outlaw or 'desperado' (hence his name), but evolved into a more sympathetic type, using his strength to help the underdog.

Dennis and Gnasher (previously titled Dennis the Menace and Gnasher, and originally titled Dennis the Menace) is a long-running comic strip in the British children's comic **The Beano**, published by DC Thomson, of Dundee, Scotland. The comic stars a boy named Dennis the Menace and his Abyssinian wire-haired tripe hound Gnasher. Dennis the Menace and Gnasher was first drawn by David Law (1951–1970), who gave the mischievous boy his distinctive red-and-black-striped jersey and outsized shoes.

Dan Dare a British science fiction comic hero, was created by illustrator Frank Hampson who also wrote the first stories. Dare appeared in the **Eagle** comic which ran from 1950 to 1969.

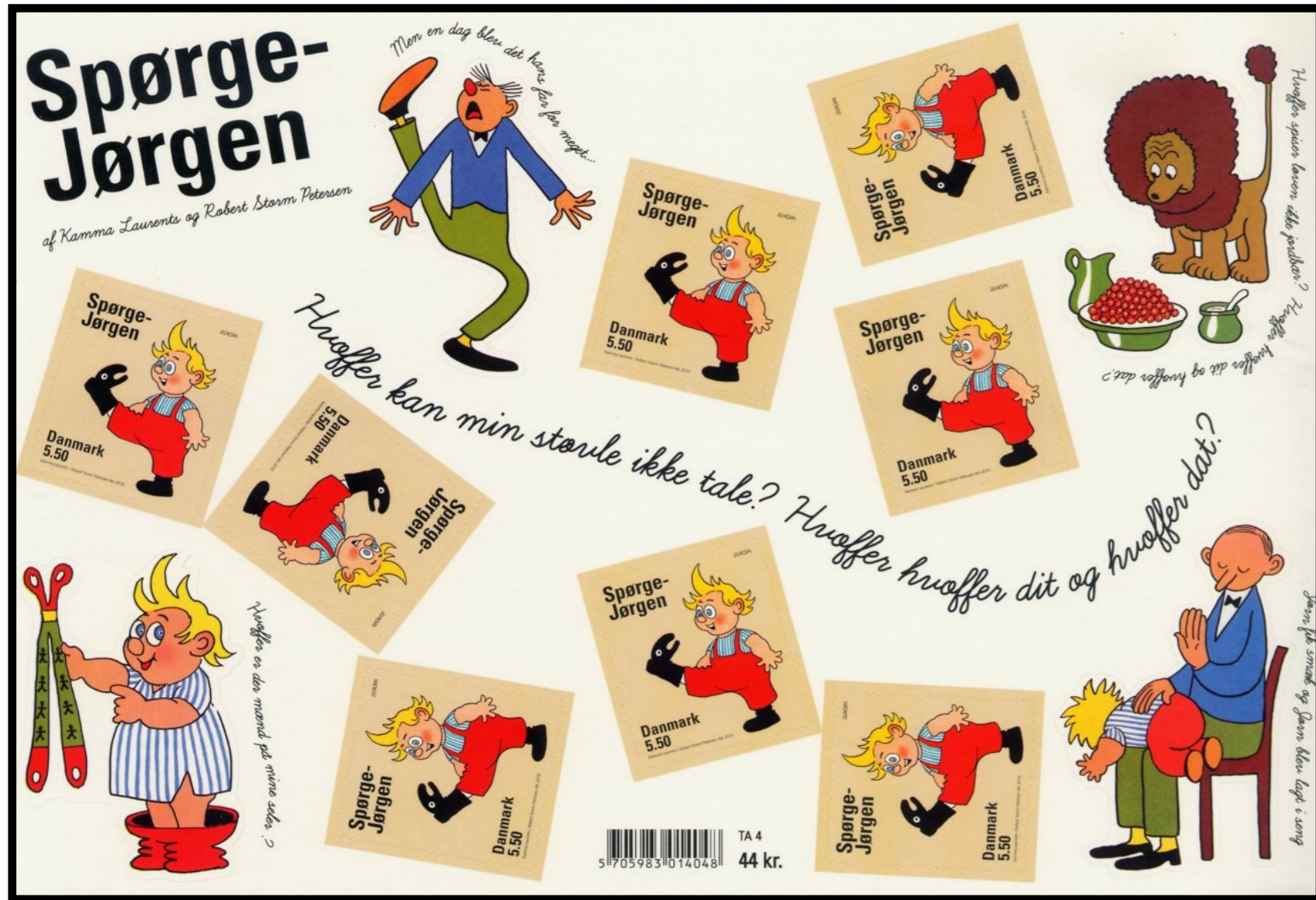
Beryl the Peril is a fictional character created by David Law, for issue 1 of **The Topper** Comic (dated 7 February 1953) published by DC Thomson & Co. Limited. She had black and red apparel, and devilishly tormented her parents and other members of her community. Beryl is still considered one of the classic characters which define the popularity of British comics.

The magazine **Roy of the Rovers** was launched as a weekly on 25 September 1976, named after the established comic strip of the same name that first appeared as weekly feature in the Tiger on 11 September 1954. The title ran for 853 issues, until 20 March 1993.

Denmark

Kamma Laurents, born Combs Julie Rosenberg (1903-1996) was a Danish author. His principal works must include "Ask George" from 1944 , illustrated by Robert Storm Petersen.

The Spørge-Jørgen character - the sort of irritating child who is always asking why. Why do cows moo? Why do dogs bark? Why can't his boots talk? In the end, he is smacked and sent to bed without any supper. Politically incorrect, maybe, but deeply satisfying.



I will tell you about Jørgen. Jørgen was a tem'lig good kid.

But he burdened 'with all his questioning, from the time he awoke until he went to bed. Father and mo-scar was so tired of it, what he asked for was nonsense. Often he asked just to tease, why - why this, why that. Why does a buck have no wings. Why are there nails on my fingers, if it sat on the nose it would be more fun. Why am I not a cat. Why can my boot not talk, why, why this, why that. Why has a flea no pants, why is a small fish so wet. Why are there men on my braces, why do we always wear a hat. Why eat the lion strawberries, why, why this, why that. But one day, it was too much for his father. Jørgen got spanked and Jorgen was put to bed. And now he lay there again and asked almost like a perfectly sensible boy. "Why did I get no pancakes, why can I not play more. Why do I have so sore a bum".

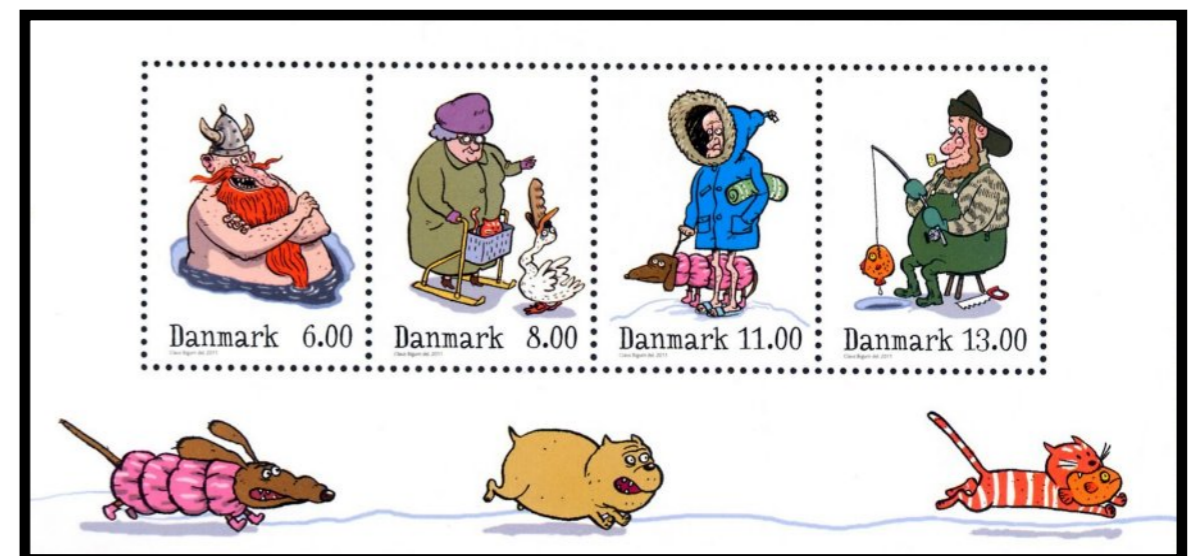
Issued on: 2010-06-01
 Printing: Offset lithography
 Perforation: Serpentine Die Cut 13
 Gum: Self-Adhesive

Claus Bigum, Illustrator, born in Denmark July 13, 1961. Illustrated "Winter Incarnations" for Denmark Post in 2011. The stamps depict "Winter Tales", showing different aspects of the life of the Danes during the winter. Motives are 'Winter Swimmers'; 'Woman Feeding birds'; 'Dog-Walker'; 'Fishing on Ice'.

Issued on: 2011-10-25
 Printing: Offset lithography
 Perforation: 13 x 13¼
 Gum: Self adhesive



Issued on: 2011-10-25
 Printing: Offset lithography
 Perforation: 12¼
 Gum: Ordinary



Finland



Tove Marika Jansson (1914-2001)

Jansson studied art from 1930-1938 in Stockholm, Helsinki and Paris. Her first solo art exhibition was in 1943.

The **Moomins** (Swedish: **Mumintroll**) are the central characters in a series of books and a comic strip by Swedish-speaking Finnish illustrator, novelist, painter, illustrator and comic strip author Tove Marika Jansson.

Jansson wrote the Moomin books for children, starting in 1945 with *The Moomins and the Great Flood*. The next two books, *Comet in Moominland* and *Finn Family Moomin troll*, published in 1946 and 1948. For her work as a children's writer she received the Hans Christian Andersen Medal in 1966.

The Moomins are a family of white, round fairy tale characters with large snouts that make them resemble hippopotamuses. However, the Moomin family are trolls. The family live in their house in Moominvalley, though in the past, their residences have included a lighthouse and a theatre. Nine books, five picture books and a comic strip were released between 1945 and 1993.

The Moomins have since been the basis for numerous television series, films and even a theme park called **Moomin World** in Naantali, Finland.

Issued on: 2009-05-06

Designers: Päivi Vainionpää | Tove Jansson

Printers: Joh. Enschedé

Perforation: Die Cut 11½

Printing: Offset lithography

Issued on: 2011-05-06

Designers: Satu Lusa | Tove Jansson

Printers: Joh. Enschedé

Perforation: Die Cut

Printing: Offset lithography



Germany

Thomas Goletz (born October 13, 1966 in Karlstadt) is a German graphic artist, illustrator, copywriter, and inventor of the **Diddl mouse**. He created the first Diddl drawings on 24 August 1990 at the age of 23. These were soon followed in 1991 with 48 postcards, which marked the beginning of Diddl's European career. Thomas Goletz also created the basic designs for the distinctive world of Diddl. Diddl - The lively jumping mouse and his friends live in Cheesecakeland, a land where the rocks are made of hard cheese and where everything is "oki-doki-cheesy-oki". A piece of perfect world and a little bit of paradise. Gummi-bear-trees grow next to potato-chip-bushes and it also rains fruit syrup from time to time. Today, 23 years later, Diddl and his friends are some of the most successful cult figures in Europe.



Diddl cartoon character by Thomas Goletz

Printed by: Cartor Security Printers

Printing: Offset lithography

Colours: Multicolour



Bernhard-Viktor Christoph-Carl von Bülow (1923 - 2011), known as **Vicco von Bülow** or **Loriot**, was a German comedian, cartoonist, actor and writer. Von Bülow's talent for drawing was eminent already during his school years. After the war he studied graphic design and painting at the Landeskunstschule in Hamburg. From 1950 onwards he published cartoons under the pseudonym "Loriot". In 1971 von Bülow created a cartoon dog named Wum, which he voice acted himself. Wum became the mascot of *Aktion Sorgenkind*, a German humanitarian organization. Before long, Wum was accompanied by the elephant Wendelin, and later by Blauer Klaus. Loriot wrote, drew and dubbed all of these skits by himself.



Printed by: Cartor Security Printers

Printing: Offset lithography

Colours: Multicolour

Perforation: Comb 13¾ x 14

Dr Sommer & Bello (the talking dog)



The Breakfast Egg



Kloebner & Mueller-Luedenscheidt
in the bath



Two racegoers (At the Racecourse)

France

René Goscinny (1926-1977) was a French comic editor and writer, who created the **Astérix** comic book series with illustrator **Albert Uderzo**. Raised largely in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he attended French schools, he lived for a time in the United States. There he met Belgian cartoonist Morris. After his return to France, they collaborated for more than 20 years on the comic series Lucky Luke. Alberto Aleandro Uderzo was a French comic book artist and scriptwriter. He is best known as the co-creator and illustrator of the Astérix series in collaboration with René Goscinny. He also drew other comics such as Oumpah-pah, again with Goscinny. Uderzo retired in September 2011.

Asterix the Gaul. First Appeared: 1959 when a consortium of French comics creators launched *Pilote*, a weekly comic book that introduced Astérix le Gaulois — or as we know him, Asterix the Gaul. The basic premise was that Julius Caesar had, indeed, as history tells us, divided Gaul into three parts and established Roman rule over them — except for one village of doughty warriors who still hadn't been forced to submit. The reason they couldn't be defeated was, they had a druid named Getafix, who brewed a magic potion to make them invincible in battle. Everybody in the village took it (except Asterix's pal, Obelix, who, having been immersed in the potion as a baby, didn't need it), so they simply shrugged off the Romans. The greatest of the village's defenders was the diminutive but very shrewd Asterix.

Issued on: 1992-09-18
Size: 162 x 97 mm
Perforation: comb13¼ x 13
Printing: Offset lithography
Face value: 5.60 £ - Guernsey pound



Asterix, 50th Anniversary Miniature sheet

Issue Date: 2009-12-02 *Perforation: Comb 13*
Printing: Photogravure *Gum: Ordinary*
Paper: without phosphor strip *Watermark: No Watermark*
*Face value: 6*0.56 € - Euro*

Issued on: 2016-09-16
Design: Patrick Sobral & Mathilde Laurent
Perforation: comb13¼
Printing: Offset lithography
Gum: Ordinary
Watermark: No Watermark
Face value: 0.70 € - Euro



One of four sheetlets from a booklet issued by Guernsey.

Miniature sheet depicting:

Asterix the main character. He is a brave, shrewd warrior of somewhat diminutive size.
Obelix is Asterix's closest friend and works as a menhir sculptor.
Getafix is the village druid.
Dogmatix is Obelix's pet dog.
Chief Vitalstatix is the leader of the Gaulish village.
Impedimenta is the matriarchal wife of chief Vitalstatix.

Cacofonix is the village bard.

Mrs. Geriatrix enjoys her husband's devotion and also her status as wife of the village's most senior inhabitant, which makes her one of the inner circle of village wives. Her youthful appearance suggests that she is less than half her husband's age
Unhygienix is the village fishmonger.
Fulliautomatix is the village smith.

The Legendaries is a comic book series created in 2004 by **Patrick Sobral**, published by Delcourt. The story is set in a world called Alysia, where five heroes are trying to stop an evil wizard named Darkhell. They fail to prevent the Stone of Jovenia from breaking, resulting in dramatic consequences for their world. It caused everyone, themselves included, to revert to childhood. Legendaries attempt to undo the spell and restore their adulthood.

The Legendaries are **Danael** - The Leader of the Legendaries whose goal in life is to fight injustice throughout Alysia. He is armed with a golden sword forged in the Elven World; **Ironclaw/Claw** - A man-beast representing the virtue of Courage; **Jadina** - a magician and a princess who represents the virtue of Intelligence. **Razzia** -The ColosTénébris - The daughter of the evil sorcerer Darkhell sus of Rymar who represents the virtue of Strength; **Shimy** - An Elemental Elf who represents the virtue of Purity; **Ténébris** - The daughter of the evil sorcerer Darkhell; **Amylada** - A chiridirelle demon that has replaced Razzia's arm after he loses it fighting Anathos.



Germany

Heinrich Christian Wilhelm Busch (15 April 1832 – 9 January 1908) was a German humourist, poet, illustrator and painter. From 1863 until Busch's death in 1908, there were 56 editions and more than 430,000 copies of *Max and Moritz* sold. Despite at first being ignored by critics, teachers in the 1870s described *Max and Moritz* as frivolous and an undesirable influence on the moral development of young people. Busch is described as the "first virtuoso" of illustrated stories. From the second half of the 20th century he was considered the "Forefather of Comics". Busch's greatest success, both within Germany and internationally, was with "*Max and Moritz*", "*Hans Huckebein*" and "*Pious Helen*". Several countries banned the story. By 1997 more than 281 dialect and language translations had been produced. Busch is regarded as the forefather not just of comic strips, but also of the animated cartoon.



Printer: Österreichische Staatsdruckerei GmbH, Wien
 Design: Leone Ming & Christine Bohmwaldler, Schaan
 Paper: Tullis Russel White 102gm² with 4 Photogravure colour print
 Issued on: 2008-09-01
 Perforation: 14 Face value: 8*1.30 Fr. - Swiss franc

Centenary of the death of Wilhelm Busch Miniature sheet depicting:

Schoolmaster Lämpel: The teacher, ash faced, after the boys have filled his pipe with gunpowder.

Hans Huckebein: A raven is caught by a boy and causes a lot of havoc.

Max and Moritz: two naughty boys subject the good citizens of a German town to a crossfire of cruel pranks. One after another the Widow, the Uncle, the Teacher, the Tailor, and the Baker fall prey to their rascally crimes, until the delinquents find their master in a crafty Farmer and their reign of terror comes to a surprisingly final end.

Widow Bolte: "bless her soul, goes downstairs and takes a bowl" only to have her roasted chickens stolen.

Pious Helene: The story of a girl who's sent to the countryside where people are supposedly better than in the city. However, Helene is more hypocritical than pious, and likes to play pranks on her relatives. Not however on her cousin Franz, with whom she falls in love, despite the fact he's supposed to become a Catholic priest. They keep up their relationship even after she marries, and he becomes the real father of her twins.

Fipps the Monkey: How he's caught in Africa, brought to Germany and creates a lot of mischief. But also saves a baby from the fire once.

Tailor Böck: Who fell into the steam.

Balduin Bähllamm: the would-be Poet. A man hopes to become a famous poet, but the circumstances prevent him from creating any art.



Luxembourg

Gab Weis, born in 1926, was a tireless cartoonist from a very young age. Books, notebooks, bits of scattered paper, school books and other items provide evidence of this since well before the war. Caricatures, comic strips, illustrations for short stories, neon signs and headings all crossed over his black oak desk, where his eldest son sits today having picked up his pencil, but not his talent for holding an entire generation of young readers speechless, who at the time had not yet encountered television.

Description: Souvenir Sheet bearing 5 stamps
Issued on: 2012-05-15
Printing: Offset lithography
Colours: Multicolour
Perforation: Die Cut 12¼
*Face value: 5*A 9*



"Mil's adventures". The miniature sheet, has been designed so that the whole block itself is a comic strip, signed by the artist and even depicted as a cartoon character. The motifs provide us with "Friends & Villains".

Mil, the tireless opponent of a black and white underworld, well scarred and tattooed, mixes it up in a joyous swirl of boxes with Bomlop, Billy Brainless, Metti an Tunni, Himpo and Hampo, Edelmüt and Rosalinde, Fos a Klos, and so many others. The list is so long that it reaches up to cartoonists' heaven where today I am sure, Gab continues his stories.

Serge Weis is the eldest in a family of cartoonists. Originally an architect like his father, he became a sculptor, teacher, and amateur historian. Father to two children who have not strayed far from their roots...with pencils in their mouths. And the story goes on...

'De leschte Ritter' (The Last Knight) created by **Lucien Czuga** and illustrated by **Andy Genen**. Lucien Czuga of "De Superjhempe" fame joined forces with Andy Genen to publish the first volume in November 2005,

The premise of the comic strip is about John the Blind, Count of Luxembourg and King of Bohemia, who died in 1346, and reappeared in Luxembourg today. "De leschte Ritter", featuring Maloo the Dragon with Jean - The Last Knight, together with his new companion, the gentle, but sometimes awkward Pedro, and assisted by Pixel and the charming Maloo, tries to figure out how he arrived in the world of today.

Superjhempe is the hero of the comic series of the same name, drawn by Roger Leiner and Lucien Czuga. It has been published since November 1988 by the publishing house of the weekly magazine Revue.

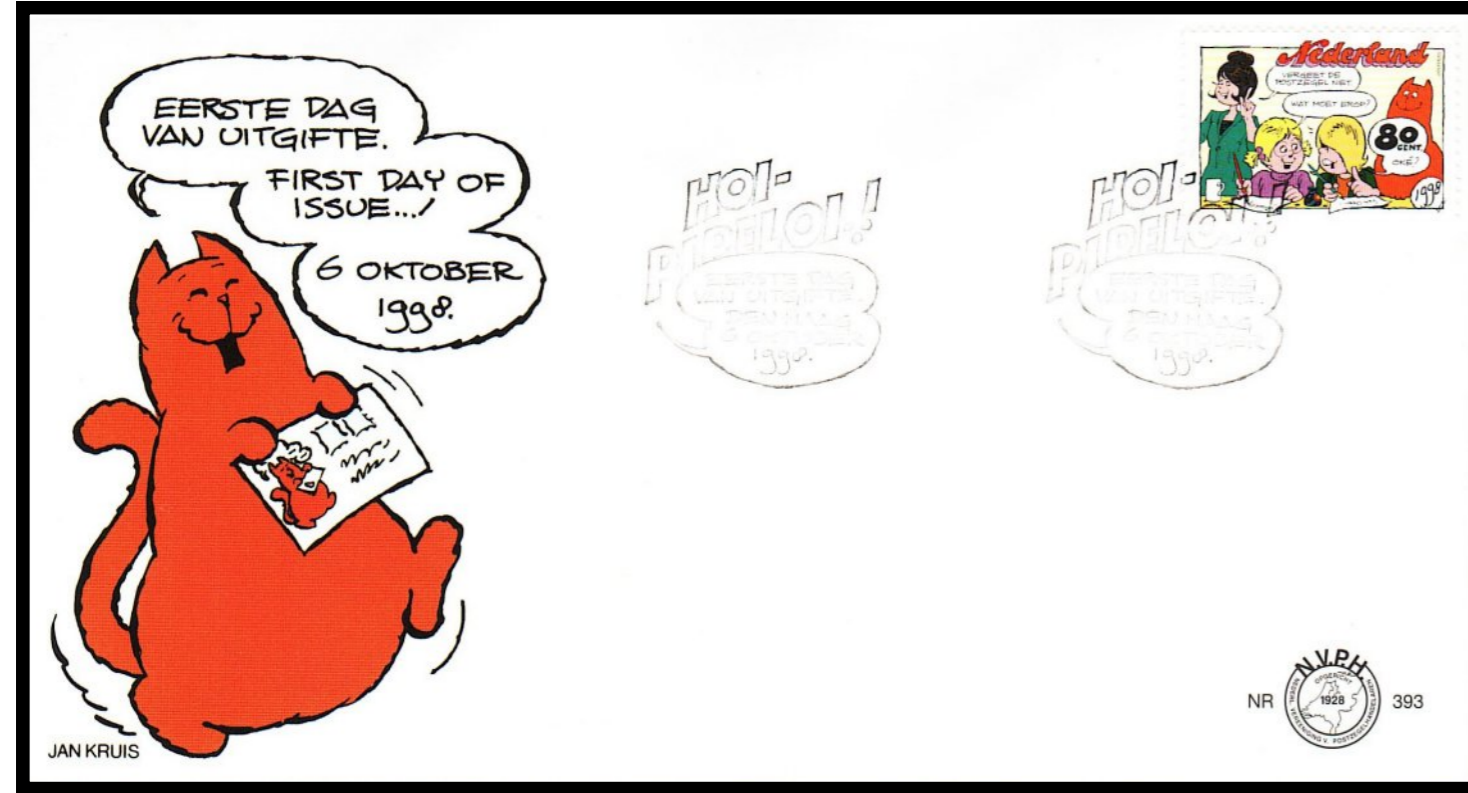
Description: Souvenir Sheet bearing 4 stamps
Issued on: 2011-05-17
Printing: Offset lithography
Colours: Multicolour
Perforation: Die Cut 14x13
*Face value: 4*A 9*



Netherlands

Jack, Jacky and the Juniors (Dutch: *Jan, Jans en de Kinderen*) is a Dutch comic strip originally made by Jan Kruis for women's weekly magazine *Libelle*, for whom they've become mascots. It chronicles the events of an average family and has been running since 1970.^[1] Since 1999, the gags are made by Studio Kruis.

The original line-up of the family consisted of Jack, Jacky and their daughters **Karlijn** and **Catootje**. A baby-son, **Gertje**, was introduced in 1993. They also have pets; Lotje, a male dog with a feminine name and a red cat called Edgar. They were later joined by **Loedertje**, a Siamese cat whose name closely translates as *bitch* and a white pony named Fury. Other recurring characters are Catootje's best friend Joe, Jacky's cousin Hanna (a single mother by choice), grandad **Gerrit** and **Moeps Pepernoot**.



Joost Swarte (born 24 December 1947 in Heemstede) is a Dutch cartoonist and graphic designer. He started drawing comics in the late sixties. In 1971 he started his own comic magazine *Modern Papier* and made regular contributions to the Dutch comic magazine *Tante Leny Presenteert*. Comic series and characters by Swarte include *Katoen en Pinbal*, *Jopo de Pojo*, *Anton Makassar*, *Dar Ben Cine* and *Niet Zo, Maar Zo- Passi, Messa*.



Issued on: 1984-11-14
 Watermark: No Watermark
 Designers: Joost Swarte Printers: Joh. Enschedé
 Perforation: comb12% x 13% Printing: Offset lithography
 Paper: phosphorescent paper Face value: 50+25 - Dutch cent

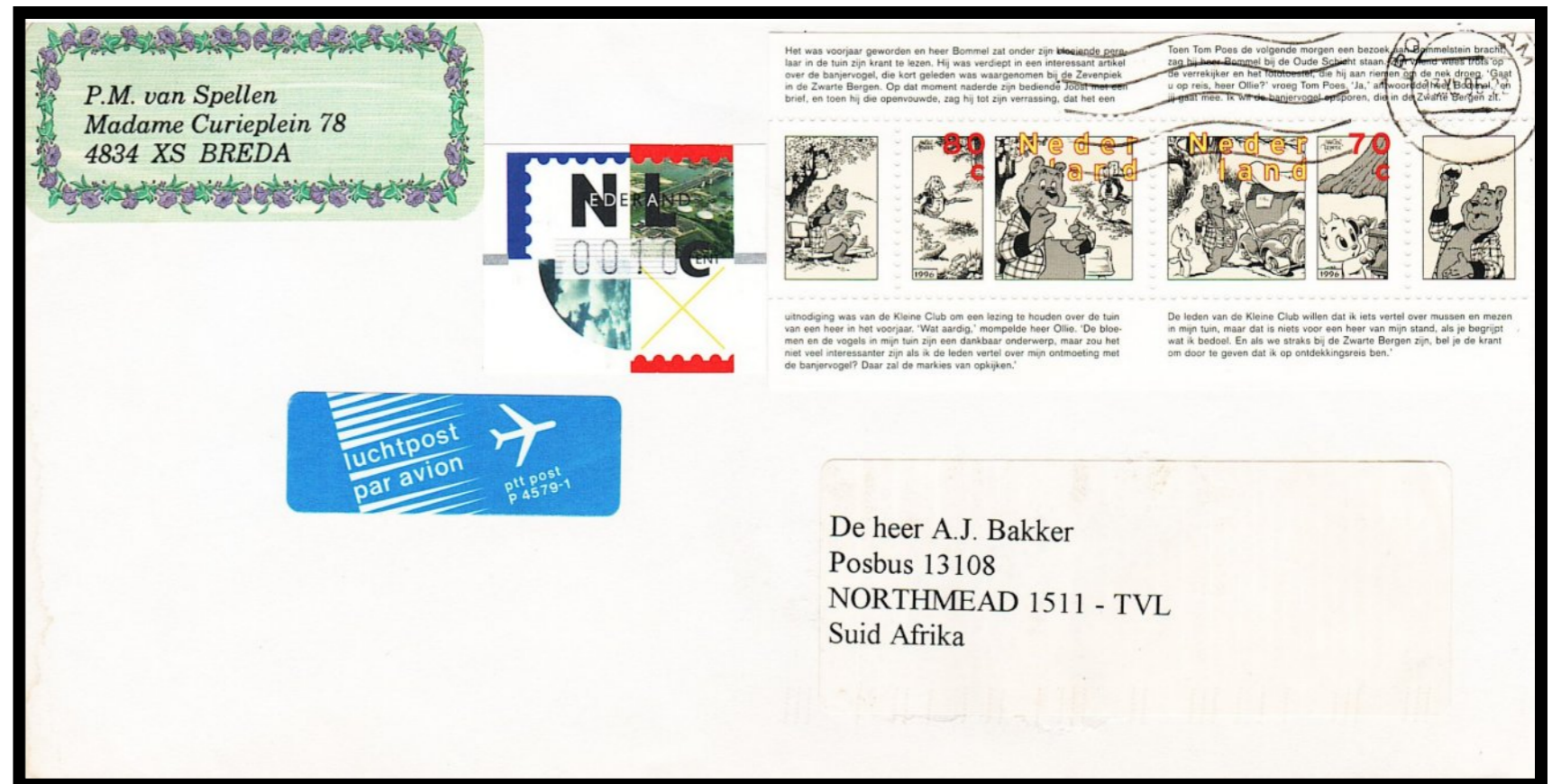


Issued on: 1998-10-06
 Expiry date: 2013-11-01
 Watermark: No Watermark
 Designers: Jan Kruis Printers: Joh. Enschedé
 Perforation: comb13% x 12% Printing: Offset lithography
 Paper: phosphorescent paper Face value: 80 c - Dutch cent

Marten Toonder (2 May 1912 – 27 July 2005) was a Dutch comic strip creator. He was probably the most successful comic artist in the Netherlands and had a great influence on the Dutch language by introducing new words and expressions. He is most famous for his series *Tom Puss* and *Panda*.

Tom Puss is a Dutch comic strip, created by Marten Toonder, together with Hans G. Kresse's *Eric de Noorman* and Pieter Kuhn's *Kapitein Rob*, it is regarded as the Big Three of Dutch comics.

On March 16, 1941, the first *Tom Puss* comic, *Het Geheim der Blauwe Aarde* ("The Secret of the Blue Earth") was published in the newspaper *De Telegraaf*, written and drawn by Toonder, replacing the Mickey Mouse comic in 1941. Tom Puss himself was already created in July 1939.



Portugal

1. Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro (1846 - 1905)

Born in Lisbon, into a large family of distinguished artists, and as graphic artist and published his first album, 'O Calcanhar d'Achilles', in 1870; a collection of caricatures of literary celebrities. He founded the bi-monthly magazine 'O Binoculo', and shortly after started 'A Berlinda'. Pinheiro also published his work in magazines like 'El Mundo Comico', 'A Lanterna Magica', 'O Antonio Maria' and 'El Bazar'. Influenced by Wilhelm Busch, he specialized in sequential narratives, and published several more albums.



2. José Stuart Carvalhais (1887-1961)

Considered the founder of Portuguese children's comics. Starting in 1915, he made the series 'Quim e Manecas' in 'O Século Cómico', a humorous supplement of 'Século'. He continued this series until 1953, eight years before his death. Although at first the series was about the adventures of two little boys, its stories soon became more political and ironic. In World War I, the two characters fought against the enemy. The two characters even went to Russia in 1918 and even met Lenin! He was one of the first European comic artists to use text balloons.



3. Celso Hermínio de Freitas Carneiro (1871-1904)

He became one of the Portuguese Republican caricaturists who expressed his comments on the monarchy in his work. Just like his contemporary Leal da Câmara, he was suspended from the magazines where his work was published. Hermínio moved to Brazil. After his return to Portugal in 1900, he replaced Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro as illustrator for 'Comércio do Porto Ilustrado'. Celso Herminio died in Lisbon in 1904, when he was only 33 years old.

4. Jorge Baradas (1894 - 1971)

In 1912 he debuted at the 1st Exhibition of the Portuguese Humourists Group. In 1915, he exhibited at the 1st Exhibition of Humourists and Modernists, in Porto. The drawings from this period already reveal a strong propensity to observe the social environment. In August 1919 he founded, together with the writer Henrique Roldão, the humorous newspaper 'O Riso da Vitória'. His work is inhabited by typical characters from the alfacinha life, where the beggar, the drunkard, the new rich, the ardinha, the seamstresses stand out. The woman is also a favourite figure.

5. Américo da Silva Amarelhe (1892-1946)

Simply known as Amarelhe, he was a caricaturist, painter and set designer. He excelled in the theatrical environment of Lisbon, as a set designer and as a caricaturist of the artists and authors of the time. He devoted himself almost exclusively, during his short career, to portraying and caricaturing the people of the theatrical environment, from actors, musicians, entrepreneurs and technicians to playwrights.



6. Canto da Maya (1890-1981)

In 1907 he enrolls at the School of Fine Arts of Lisbon. In 1912 & 1913 he participated in the 1st & 2nd Exhibitions of Portuguese Humourists. As a sculptor he participates in the International Exhibition of Decorative Arts (Paris, 1925) and in the Colonial Exhibition of Paris (1931), where he is awarded. In 1935 his great

7. Manuel Gustavo Bordalo Pinheiro (1867 - 1920)

The son of Portuguese comic pioneer Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro. Although a talented artist, he wasn't the genius his father was. He made his debut in 'Os Pontos nos ii', a magazine published by his father. Although successful as an illustrator in magazines like 'A Paródia', 'O António Maria' and 'O Gafanhoto', Manuel felt that his future was in pottery, so he stopped his activities as an illustrator.

Centenary of the 1st Humourists' Show
 Issued on: 2012-10-16
 Perforation: Syncopated 11¼ x 12
 Colours: Multicolour
 Printing: Offset lithography
 Paper: Esmalte
 Gum: Ordinary



8. Emmérico Nunes (1888 - 1968)

A modernist artist whose comic work was published in magazines like 'ABC-Zinho'. He published stories with an ironic vision of the national culture, and he parodied several figures of the intellectual environment. For the German market, he made mostly cartoons and illustrations.



9. José Sobral De Almada Negreiros (1893 - 1970)

Painter, writer and futurist, he made several experiments with comics as an art form. One of his most famous exploits in the comics world was 'O Velho, o Rapaz e o Burro', a comic adaptation of an old traditional tale in rhyme, published in 'Ilustração Portuguesa'. In the late 1920s, Almada Negreiros moved to Spain. He made comics regularly for the magazine 'El Sol' between 1927 and 1929. His most innovative work was published in 'Sempre Fixe', where he created several of his best comic pages, including 'Os Dois Irmãos Muito Unidos' and 'O Sonho do Pechalin'.

10. Menezes Ferreira (1889-1936)

As a young man, he founded the Society of Portuguese Humourists, chaired by Manuel Gustavo Bordalo Pinheiro, son of Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro. He distinguished himself, with a modernist style, in humorous drawing, especially caricature, and also in painting, illustration and graphic work for editing. A career officer, sent to France in 1914, in the Expeditionary Corps Portuguese, he documented the war in a record close to the comic, in the work "John Doe : soldier of the Great War : humorous impressions of the C.E.P."

11. Cristiano Cruz (1892-1951)

A veterinarian, painter, designer and caricaturist of the first generation of Modernism Portuguese. In 1910 he joined the group that was at the origin of the Society of Portuguese Humourists. It is in this context that he participates in the Salons of Humourists of 1912 and 1913, with a very positive reception in the press. Between 1909 and 1912 his work was humorous drawings. Their severe figures depart from deformed particularities to become "mannequins of a more subtle and mysterious humorous program". In 1919 he travelled to Mozambique from where he dedicated himself exclusively to veterinary medicine.

12. Francisco Valença (1882 - 1963)

His work first published in the magazine 'O Chinelo', which he founded in 1900. Later, he also founded 'O Salão Cómico' (1902), 'Varões Assinalados' (1909), and 'O Moscardo' (1913). He contributed to 'A Comédia Portuguesa' (1902), 'O Gafanhoto' (1903-1904; 1910), a magazine founded by Gustavo Bordalo Pinheiro, among several other publications. His cartoons were also reproduced abroad, namely in Brazil, France (Rire, Paris) and Spain. Together with text author Carlos Simões, Valença created the 'Catálogo Cómico da Exposição de Belas-Artes', a yearly publication featuring illustrated satires of the works exhibited at the Academy of Fine Arts, Lisbon.

South Korea

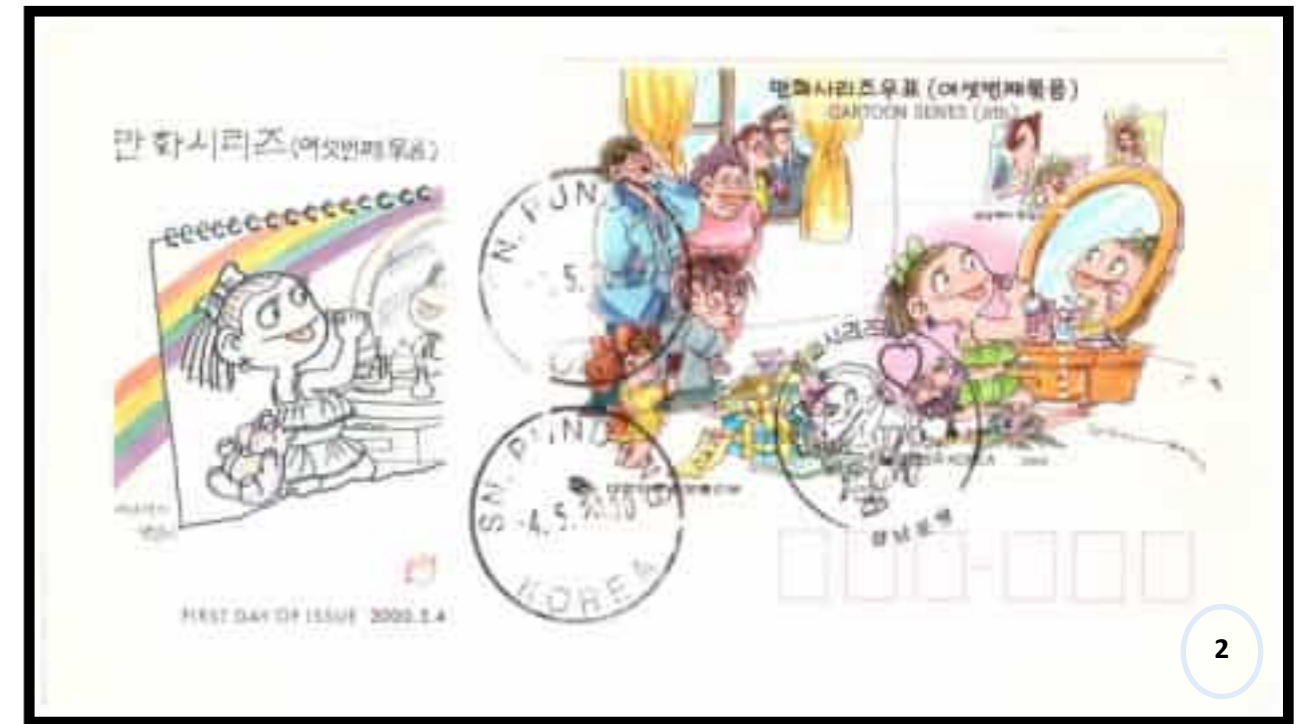
1. "Goindol," drawn by Pack Soo-dong, and **Youngsiro-f** was created by **Bae Gum-taek**. Park Soo-dong's 'Goindol' comic strip is set in the Stone Age. Goindol, the short and stocky protagonist with a flat, round face and hair parted down the middle, weaves a masterful tale about sex, along with four other libido-driven men, three women, and an elderly man who serves as the village patriarch, in the process, readers get poignant insight into life's essential elements, running the gamut of universal human feelings through the perspective of an imaginary Stone Age. Considered to be a representative Korean adult cartoon strip, "Goindol" has enjoyed a long-standing popularity among Koreans since it debuted in 1974 in the Sunday Seoul, a popular men's magazine.



3. **Park Ki-jong's 'Challenger'** rendered by Lee Hi-jar is the success story of a Korean expatriate residing in the alien land of Japan. He experiences a great deal of hardship and frustration but finally rises out of his miserable situation. This comic was first published in 1964 and immediately enjoyed great popularity. Hoonie ekes out a meager living with his widowed Japanese mother. He faces discrimination everywhere for being different. Hoonie gets a second chance and a whole new life when he takes up boxing as a career. Though life in the boxing ring proves extremely challenging, Hoonie overcomes trials and tribulations to come out on top in the fair world of the square ring free of discrimination and prejudice.



2. **Bae Gum-taek's Youngsim-i**. This cartoon follows the life of Youngsim-i, a 13-year-old girl with a round face, big, dreamy eyes, and a long ponytail. She revolves around Kyungtae, a shy and awkward boy whose pure heart is smitten with this impressionable adolescent girl. It was serialized in I.Q. jump, a comic magazine for children, from 1989 to 1993 and subsequently made into a hugely popular TV animation series.



All Miniatures Sheets

Printers: Korea Security Printing & Minting Corporation

Paper: White Unwatermarked

Perf.: 13 Printing: 5 Colour Photogravure



4. **Aktong-i** (which literally translates to naughty boy) rendered by **Lee Hi-jae** was first created in 1983. A pint-sized little rogue full of mischief with a couple of strands of hair on the back of his head. Aktong-i is a consummate trouble-maker pulling practical jokes. However, Aktong-i also possesses a heart of gold and is a defender of justice, standing up to bad kids who bully his weak friends. He weaves a funny story with his best friend Sun-gi, the very pretty girl Suk-i, the little bully Wangnam, and the fat kid Daeshik.



Spain

José María Pérez González, also known as **Peridis**, was born in Cabezón de Liébana (Cantabria) in 1941. He studied architecture in Madrid and, after completing his degree, developed a special interest for restoring and rehabilitating the historical buildings commonly found throughout Spain.

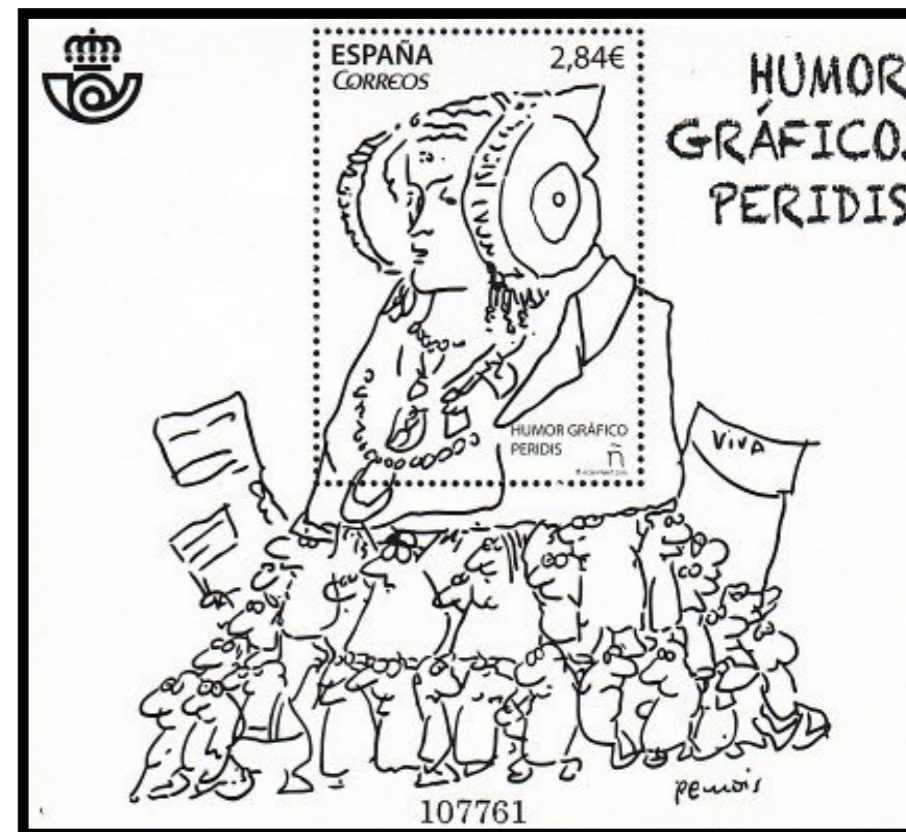
Peridis started working as a cartoonist in the 1970s in newspapers and magazines such as "Informaciones" and "Cuadernos para el Diálogo". In 1977 he began publishing in the newspaper "El País", in which he made daily contributions with his comic strips and sketches. His sketches use caricatures to critically and humorously depict the current political state of Spain and relevant social issues.

Some of his comic strips have been published in books such as: "Los animalillos políticos de la transición" and "De la Constitución al golpe".



Issued on: 2017-03-31
Printers: Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre-Real Casa de la Moneda
Perforation: 13½
Printing: Offset lithography
Paper: phosphorescent
Face value: 3.15 € - Euro

Issued on: 2015-07-02
Printers: Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre-Real Casa de la Moneda
Perforation: 13¼ x 13¼
Printing: Offset lithography
Paper: phosphorescent
Face value: 2.84 € - Euro



Joaquín Salvador Lavado Tejón, is better known as **Quino**. He was born in Mendoza, Argentina, on 17 July 1932 to Spanish parents. He obtained Spanish citizenship in 1990 and remained a dual citizen of Spain and Argentina. In 1954 he published his first page in the weekly "This is Buenos Aires". The miniature sheet includes a series of illustrations of different characters of Mafalda. Manolito, Felipe or Libertad, along with the parents of the protagonist among others, surround the stamp. On top of it, an illustration of Quino himself seems to look with pride on the stamp that is dedicated to him, in which one can see the famous Mafalda in an image remembered by all, contemplating the world.

The character, Mafalda, the girl who hates soup and who doubts the world of adults, first appeared in 1964 in the weekly "First Flat" of Buenos Aires and later, in the newspaper "El Mundo", where it appeared six times a week. In 1973 he ceased drawing this unique character, but still doing what is best, create stories with a pencil, a paper and an insurmountable wit.

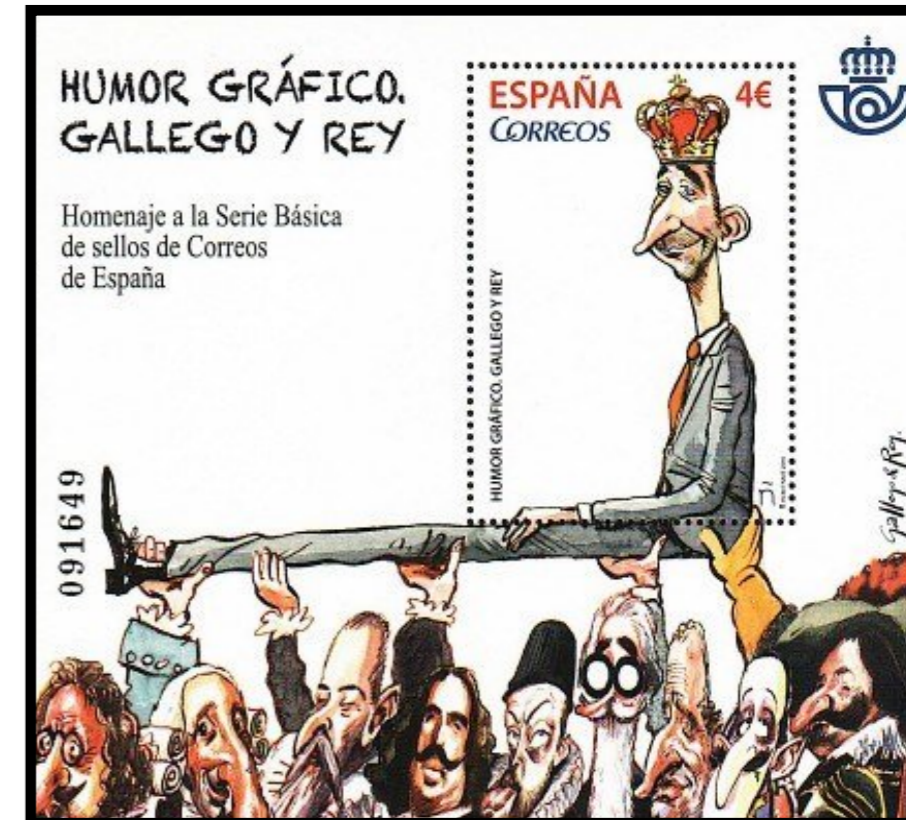
The cartooning duo **José Gallego and Julio Rey** have been working together since 1980, when they began their collaboration with Diario 16. (Diario 16 was a Spanish newspaper based in Madrid, which existed from 1976 to 2001). Since then, their political cartoons and strips have appeared in El País (since 1989) and El Mundo (since 1996), as well as the Spanish edition of Paris

Match-Match. Gallego is the artist and Rey the scriptwriter. In 1985, they devised a series of graphic humour for Diario 16 that they called "16, Rue del Pecesbarba" based on the comics of Francisco Ibáñez. Caricature of Felipe VI, on the Miniature Sheet.



Issued on: 2016-05-24
Printers: Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre-Real Casa de la Moneda
Perforation: 13¼ x 13¼
Printing: Offset lithography
Paper: phosphorescent
Face value: 4 € - Euro

Issued on: 2023-09-29
Perforation: 12
Printing: Offset lithography
Paper: phosphorescent
Wmk: None
*Face value: 8*2.45 R\$ - Brazilian real*



Sweden

Much of what would shape the genre in Sweden happened around 1900, when Oskar Andersson and Albert Engström - with characters like *Mannen som gör vad som faller honom in* (The man who does whatever he fancies) and *Kolingen* (The Cool Guy) - established a Swedish comic strip arche-type: the anarchist. The character has made a regular return with well-known examples such as *Kronblom*, and *Asa-Nisse*, eventually assuming its ultimate embodiment in the 1980s in the shape of Joakim Pirinen's "*Socker-Conny*" - a character who would mark the start of modern Swedish comic strip culture. The selection made for this stamp issue spans the past three decades and shows the sheer breadth of modern Swedish comic strip culture, as well as this element of anarchism that can be traced in so many Swedish comic characters.



Issued on: 2008-09-25
 Colors: Multicolor
 Designers: Martin Mörck (E)
 Printing: Offset lithography
 Perforation: comb 12½ x 12¼
 Face value: 5.50 kr - Swedish krona

Miniature sheet depicting:

Ulf Lundkvist's talking hot-dog sausage *Assar* has his adventures in Nollberga, where the people live in cultural poverty.

Cecilia Torudd's *Ensamma mamman* is a depiction of life for a single teenage mom.

Charlie Christensen's *Arne Anka*, an incurable drinking anarchist duck *Arne Anka*, based on a cynical Stockholm Bohemian and failed poet who spends far too much money at the bar.

Martin Kellerman's *Rocky* is a cynical, down-in-the-dumps comic book artist with financial problems and a career that's going nowhere.



Watercolour by Martin Kellerman

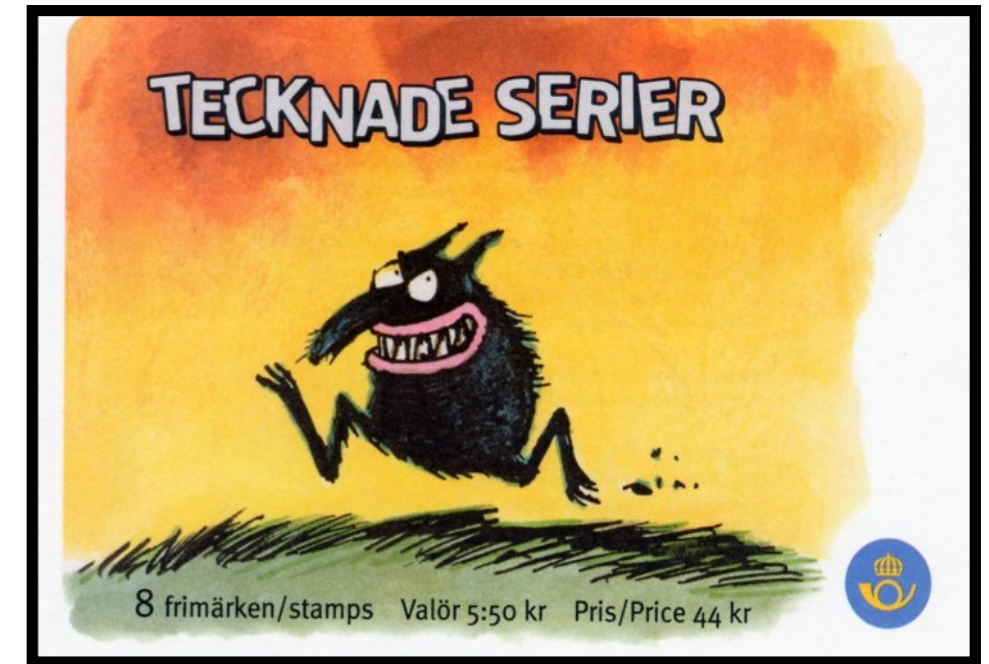
Miniature sheet depicting:

Nina Hemmingsson's comic strip characters virtually always have no pupils. One of the main characters in her creations is "*nameless gloomy girl*", a person with no inhibitions.

Lars Mortimer's self-absorbed elk "*Hälge*", constantly tries to evade hunters.

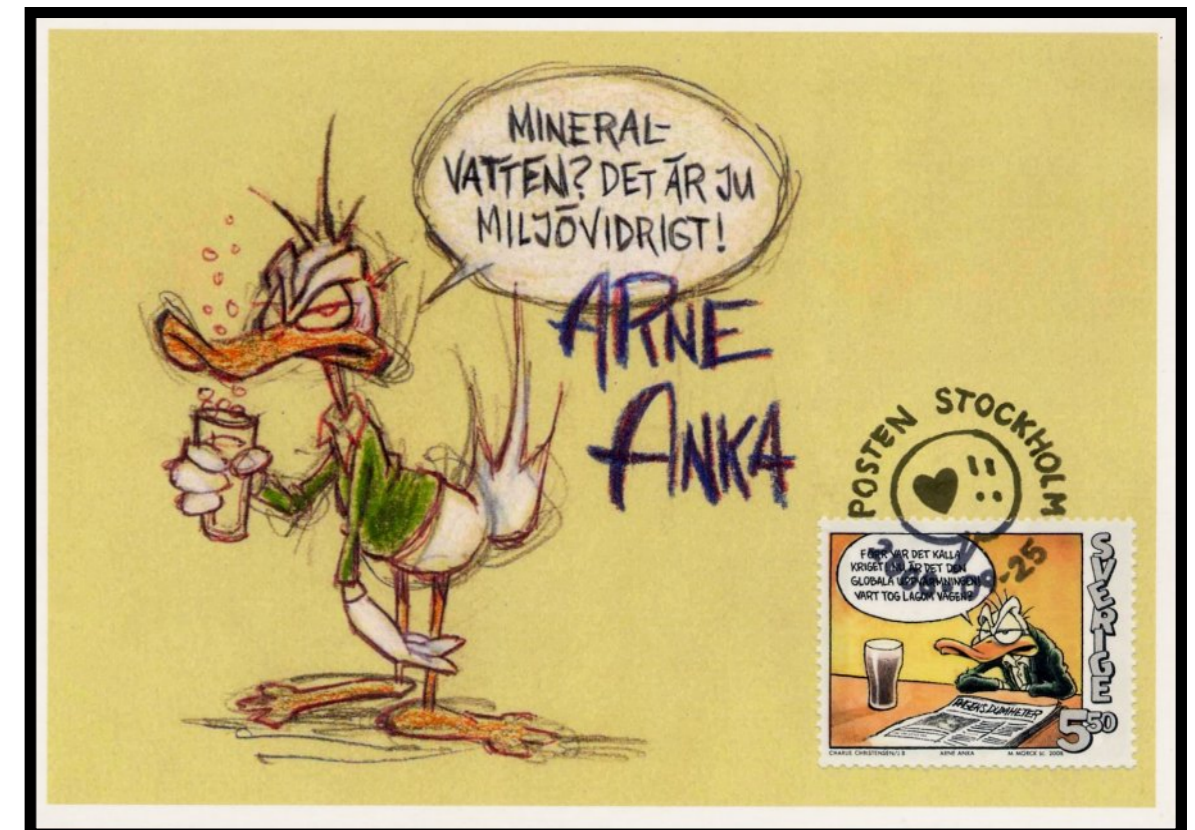
Joakim Pirinen's *Socker-Conny* is a brutal and tragic character who breaks most of society's taboos who marked the start of modern Swedish comic strip culture.

Asa Ekström's utilizing Japanese character design and story telling portrays the characters at a Comic Art School and centers around art student Alex and her classmates.



Booklet of 8 stamps

Maximum Card showing "*Arne Anka*". A contemporary of *Socker-Conny* is the duck *Arne Anka*, a cynical Stockholm Bohemian and failed poet who spends far too much money at the bar. *Arne Anka* the character has some of the characteristics of originator Charlie Christensen, while his appearance is based on Donald Duck.



The Yellow Kid. First Appeared in 1895. Its creator: Richard Felton Outcault who started drawing funny pictures about New York tenements in 1894, for the Truth magazine. One was reprinted in Joseph Pulitzer's newspaper, 'The New York World' inaugurating the series from which The Yellow Kid would eventually emerge. Identifiable by a bald head, huge ears, and a bright yellow nightshirt, which later had his dialog written on it. He wasn't usually addressed by any particular name (although when that did happen, the name was Mickey Dugan), but readers came to know him as The Yellow Kid.

Katzenjammer Kids. Many historians consider The Katzenjammer Kids (later known as The Captain and the Kids), by Rudolph Dirks (1877-1968), and not Richard Outcault's 'The Yellow Kid', the first true newspaper comic strip in America. In December 1897, it started out featuring the technique of telling a story in a sequence of panels and was also an early user of the word balloon. Dirks made substantial contributions to the graphic language of comic strips. He popularized such icons as speed lines, "seeing stars" for pain, and "sawing wood" for snoring.

Little Nemo in slumberland. Winsor McCay a freelance cartoonist in 1905 started his two most famous comic strips, both of which were about nocturnal adventures. Little Nemo was about a small boy (whose name is Latin for "nobody") and his excursions in a fabulously surreal fantasy kingdom. Each week, Nemo's adventures would be interrupted when, in the last panel of the page, he would wake up. In 1911 the title changed to 'In the Land of Wonderful Dreams'. Continuing until 1914, revived in 1920 and ending in 1927. McCay died in 1934.

Bringing up father. On January 12th, 1913, George McManus debuted 'Bringing Up Father', about an Irishman named Jiggs, who doesn't understand why his ascension to wealth via the Irish Sweepstakes means he can't hang out with his friends, and his nagging, social-climbing wife, Maggie. Before McManus died, in 1954, 'Bringing Up Father' made him two fortunes (the first lost in the 1929 stock market crash). By then time, Jiggs's Irishness had faded and viewers saw him as just a rich guy that liked to hang out with a regular crowd. The last strip appeared in May 2000 and become the longest-running daily strip in the world.

Krazy Kat first appeared in 1910. Its creator George Herriman (1880-1944), in the strip "The Dingbat Family" that Herriman was doing "to fill up white space" included a gag about the resident cat and mouse. The gags grew more complex and in July 1910, the mouse hurled a brick at the cat, thus inaugurating a major element of a relationship lasting over 30 years. Ignatz, was obsessed with beaming Krazy with a brick; who mistook the repeated assaults for affection.

Rube Goldberg. Goldberg was born in 1883. In 1907 he moved to New York and there he started his regular feature, Foolish Questions, in which he would suggest silly answers to annoyingly obvious questions. In 1914 he created the series that brought him lasting fame. Professor Frederick Slate inventing incredibly complex contraptions such as determining the mass of our planet. In 1938 Goldberg joined the New York Sun as Editorial cartoonist from where his political cartoons were distributed nationwide.

Barney Google. Barney made his debut on 1919. Barney, who was about half as tall as the other characters, enjoyed horse races, prize fights and similar contests, and was nagged by "a wife three times his size" for it. Barney was gifted a horse named Spark Plug, whose first race became one of comics' first national media events, eagerly anticipated by millions of readers.

Little Orphan Annie. The strip debuted in August 1925. Little Orphan Annie was not an original name - it was the title of an 1885 poem by James Riley. The story formula was - rags to riches and back again. The strip opened in an orphanage. Annie had to make her own way in the world, her only companion a large, nondescript dog named Sandy. Annie's spirit was unquenchable.

Dick Tracy. Steel-eyed and hawk-nosed, with a chin that could slice bologna, Chester Gould's Dick Tracy made his debut in 1931. The Tracy strip quickly became famous for more than just its unflinching use of gunplay. Its villains soon became proverbial for their bizarre deformities. The vast majority of those criminals appeared only once, because when Tracy kills 'em, he kills 'em dead. Another thing Tracy has always been famous for is up-to-date technology.

Alley Oop. First appeared in 1932. Cartoonist Vincent Hamlin developed an interest in fossils and decided to try his hand at a comic strip, the prehistoric past suggested itself as a topic. He named his Stone Age hero after words used by French gymnasts and trapeze artists ("Allez Oup"), Supporting charcters were girlfriend Ooola, pal Foozy, antagonist King Guz and pet dinosaur Dinny. At its peak, it appeared in about 800 newspapers, and today, more than 600 carry it.

Li'l Abner. While ghosting a strip of Joe Palooka for Ham Fisher, Capp did a story about Joe's clash with an uncouth hillbilly boxer named Big Leviticus & his equally uncouth relatives. In 1934, Al Capp went on his own and created an entire strip about hillbillies. It was Capp's sense of the absurd, his ability to milk an outrageous situation for every laugh, that found such favour with the public. His use of language was both unique and universally appealing and his cartooning style provided a perfect vehicle for his creations. It was a total of 43 years before the strip ended. The strip at its peak, had an estimated readership of over 60 million.



Terry and the pirates. Milton Caniff was the creator and the strip first appeared in 1934. The story opens with young Terry Lee and his grown-up sidekick, Pat Ryan, arriving in China in search of a mine that had belonged to Terry's grandfather. In the second day's strip, they meet George Webster Confucius, who, under the name "Connie", signs on as their interpreter and native guide. They then go on to have a myriad of varied adventures in the wide-open Far East.

Prince Valiant. This 5th-century adventurer was created by Hal Foster. In 1937 King Features began distributing the strip on a Sunday only. Valiant was a small child when the strip began, and the first several stories told of his boyhood exploits in the British fens where his father, the deposed king of Thule, had made a home in exile. Val meets Sir Gawain, Sir Launcelot, and King Arthur himself, and was performing such knightly deeds as slaying dragons and rescuing fair maidens.

Toonerville Folks. First appearing in 1908 by creator Fontaine Fox. The art style of Toonerville Folks was unique in comics - not just because of Fontaine Fox's ability to convey clear, detailed meaning with just a few squiggly lines, but for its point of view. The characters of that strip were usually seen from a bit above their own eye level; thus, the reader always seemed to be looking down on them. Very few subsequent cartoonists used this technique. Toonerville Folks ended in 1955.

Gasoline Alley. Starting Nov. 24, 1918 its creator was Frank King. The Chicago Tribune ran a page on Sundays, called "The Rectangle", that was divided into little boxes where its staff artists would contribute cartoons. Frank used The Rectangle for a weekly ongoing cast of characters - Walt, Doc, Avery and Bill - who in the panel talked about their cars. He called the continuing series "Gasoline Alley". It entered history as the first comic strip in which the characters aged normally.

Popeye. Elzie Segar was the creator and first appearance was in 1929. His sweetheart was Olive Oyl, Castor Oyl's sister. Wimpy was added to the cast in 1932, and Swee'pea in 1936. Popeye made his first animated appearance in "Betty Boop Meets Popeye the Sailor" in 1933 and in the same year saw the release of "I Yam What I Yam", the first of a long series of animated shorts. During the 1960s, the cartoons were made as TV originals.

Blondie. Murat "Chic" Young (1901-1973) created Blondie Boopadoop (her maiden name). The strip started in September 1930. In 1933 she married Dagwood Bumstead. In 1934, Blondie's son Alexander was born, boosting the strip's popularity. It's popularity soared even higher with the addition of their daughter, Cookie, and higher yet when their dog, Daisy, and all her pups, joined the cast. According to King Features Syndicate, Young had a daily readership of 52 million.

Nancy. Nancy started out as a bit player in the strip named 'Fritzi Ritz'. First appearing in 1922 by cartoonist Larry Whittington, and taken over in 1925 by Ernie Bushmiller. In 1938 Sluggo Smith was introduced and the title changed to 'Nancy'. The title changed again in 1955 to 'Nancy & Sluggo'. In 1957 John Stanley was assigned to continue the strip and during he tenure introduced the little girl who lives in a haunted house, Oona Goosepimple.

Flash Gordon. First appearing in 1934 its creators were Don Moore (writer) and Alex Raymond (artist). He, the beautiful Dale Arden and Dr. Hans Zarkoff rocketed into space to head off the runaway planet Mongo, which was about to collide with Earth. The three immediately became embroiled in the affairs of Mongo's inhabitants and its warlord, Ming. In 1944 Dan Barry was appointed as its artist and remained with the strip for nearly four decades.

Brenda Starr. Dale Messick Brenda Starr appearing in 1940, had the working woman theme, a soap opera style and an exotic adventure composition. Plus, it had sex. Yet, it was initially rejected by the Chicago Tribune editor. Brenda Starr was a newspaper woman who had both fabulous adventures and fabulous love affairs. When she wasn't in danger of her life, she was in the middle of a steamy romance. Messick had assistants to draw action scenes and technical things such as cars and buildings, but she herself always handled the fashions, the faces, the gestures - all the details that give the strip a feminine air.