

Panama is a wonderful place

Turning the pages of one of the many children's books by author and illustrator Janosch opens the door to an exciting world full of adventure but also of warmth, solidarity and friendship. The idea at their core is that if you have a friend, you have nothing to fear. Now Swiss Post is dedicating a special stamp to Janosch for his 80th birthday.

Everybody's familiar with the motley world created by Janosch with its shaggy lions, dishevelled bear cubs, tigers, a mouse with red socks, a hare called "Jochen Gummibär" and a box frog (because it's always got a box with it). The world depicted in Janosch's children's books is not a perfect but a friendly one, because the animals and people make it so. The kind of world in which Janosch himself would probably have liked to live as a small boy. Horst Eckert – his real name – was born on 11 March 1931 in Hindenburg, Upper Silesia, now the Polish town of Zabrze. He was brought up alternately by his grandparents and parents in a mining community, in circumstances that were not always harmonious. As he frequently points out in interviews, parental threats and beatings were the order of the day. Despite what was not exactly a good start in life, art came to Janosch's rescue. After his apprenticeship as a blacksmith, he started drawing – to understand the world better, as he later said. After the Second World War, the family fled to West Germany, settling near Oldenburg. In his early twenties, Janosch began writing books: "Really just to win over the girls", but with no success on that score. However, he did not have to wait long for commercial success. His first children's book was published in 1960, and Janosch was soon delighting children all over the world. However, he was made really famous by

his 1978 book "Oh, wie schön ist Panama!" (The Trip to Panama") which tells the tale of a bear and a tiger that leave home to find Panama, the place of their dreams. What they discover in the end comes as a surprise, or perhaps not. "Panama" is actually their own home. They are accompanied on this journey by the

erife, he sometimes works frenetically on books or films, or he just lounges around in a hammock. "Panama" is a wonderful place ...

Gabriel Ehrbar

I'm not searching for anything. I don't care what's on the other side of the curtain. What's in front of it is enough for me. Janosch

little Tigerente (tiger duck) which has since become Janosch's trade mark. And what about Janosch himself? Like his characters, he too left to come home, moving south from Munich to Tenerife in 1980. Not because he was in search of "his Panama" but because he didn't want to pay any more heating bills. That was a long time ago – over thirty years. In Ten-



Exclusively for you.

Janosch's animal friends will accompany you everywhere in this practical stamp booklet.

Special stamp

Janosch

Sales

Philately: From 1.3.2012 until 31.3.2013, while stocks last
Post offices: From 8.3.2012, while stocks last

Validity

Unlimited from 8.3.2012

Printing

Offset, 4-colour; Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands

Sizes

Stamp: 33x28 mm
Stamp booklet: 254x62 mm (open)
(2 rows of 5 stamps)

Paper

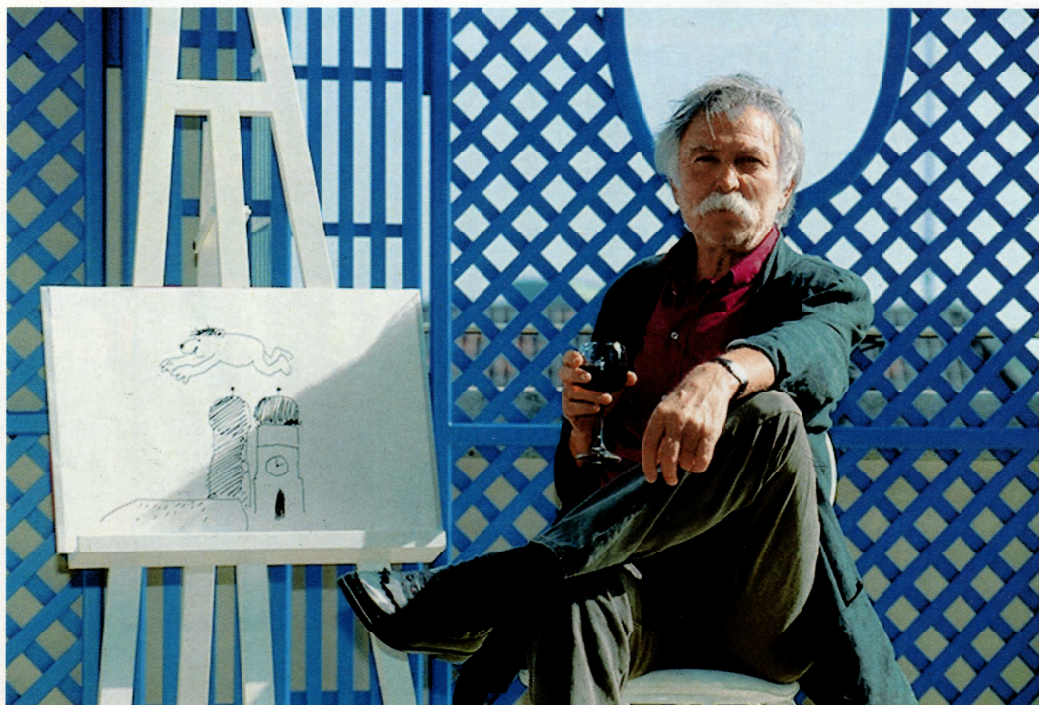
White stamp paper, self-adhesive on backing paper, 220 gm²

Perforation

Serpentine cut (4 sides)

Designer

Janosch



He left to come home: Janosch on Tenerife.
Photo: © Janosch film & medien AG, Berlin

Looking to buy Janosch stamps?

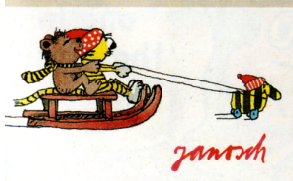
Head to www.swisspost.ch/shops

For more info about Tigerente and Co.

go to www.janosch.de



First-day cancellation



First-day cover motif

Brief Biography

- 1931 Birth of Horst Eckert (Janosch) in Hindenburg, Upper Silesia.
- 1944 Apprenticeship as a blacksmith.
- 1946 Flight of his family to West Germany, near Oldenburg.
- 1953 After a stay in Paris, Janosch moved to Munich, Unsuccessful studies at the Academy of Fine Arts.
- 1956 Start of writing career
- 1960 Publication of the first Janosch children's book: "Die Geschichte von Valek dem Pferd".
- 1970 Publication of his first novel: "Cholonek oder Der liebe Gott aus Lehm".
- 1978 International fame with "Oh, wie schön ist Panama" (The Trip to Panama).
- 1980 Janosch left Germany for Tenerife. However, even there, he can hardly get away from his fans but, above all, from people who want something from him.

Over the years, Janosch has written and illustrated more than 300 books, which have been translated into 40 languages, selling around 12 million copies. He has received numerous accolades for his work, including the "Literaturpreis der Stadt München" (City of Munich Literature Prize), the "Deutscher Jugendbuchpreis" (German Youth Literature Prize), the Dutch "Zilveren Griffel" (Silver Pen) and Germany's Federal Cross of Merit.