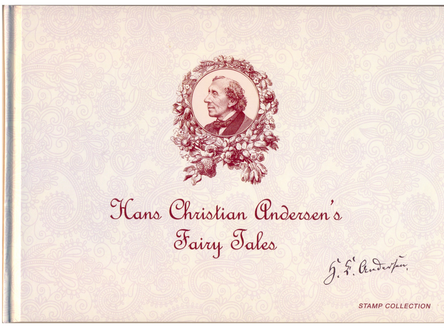
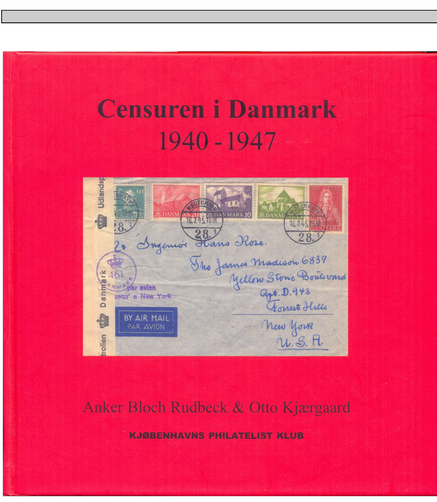
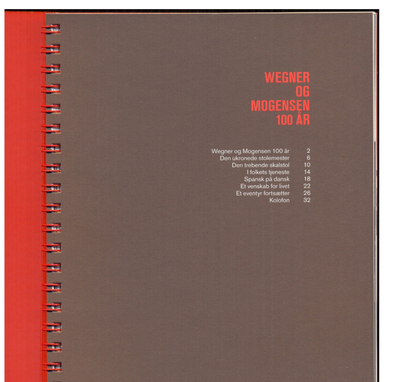


The scale and quality of his work has established Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875) as a major figure in world literature. Even in his own lifetime, he was regarded as one of the most significant and original European writers. Today, his works are known all over the world, but there is a particularly strong interest in China.

The new stamp series by Post Danmark features motifs from Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales. The first four stamps are based on "The Wild Swans" (1838), "The Nightingale" (1844), "The Shepherdess and the Chimney Sweep" (1845) and "What the Old Man Does Is Always Right" (1861). The Chinese designer Shen Jiahong designed all four stamps.

In 1835, Hans Christian Andersen published his first collection, entitled "Tales, Told for Children". From the very beginning, his stories were equally aimed at adults, and so in 1842 he changed the title to just "Fairy Tales". Later, he alternated between the terms "fairy tales" and "stories". Andersen's tales are always rooted in or refer to reality – albeit a reality in which animals, flowers and inanimate objects are transformed into living beings that speak and act on a small stage that reflects the larger universe.

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