

# Dragons and Children, Howard Bridgman (howard.bridgman@optusnet.com.au)

Dragons are the ultimate fantasy beings. Embellished by imagination, they have a centuries old history. Dragons in children's stories and shows are friendly and happy, and designed not to scare. They are fun, entertaining, and educational. This display provides some philatelic examples.



This West German sheetlet (1966) features a smiling flying dragon with a child on its back, off on an adventure. The sheetlet shows children's concepts of "monsters" around the edges.



Cute green dragon with bright red eyes from Sweden (2000), from the children's story *The Little Dragon with Red Eyes* by Astrid Lindgren, to celebrate Chinese New Year.



Silly dragons entertain small children in cartoon TV shows. Meet *Telesfor* from Poland (1975), left, and *Tabaluga*, skipping rope, from Germany (1999), right



In a painting by Hashimoto, from Japan (1971) a smiling dragon emerges from a cloud to save a child. The children's story is *Dragon and Tiger*



Dragon toys, issued by Japan in various years, to provide children good fortune.



六蔵書印刷局製

Ryukyu Islands (1970) mini-sheet featuring a classic children's opera, *The Virgin and the Dragon*. A dragon (top panel) falls in love with a princess (centred on the stamps), with unkind consequences.



A friendly red dragon looks over the shoulder of a child, encouraging reading, Luxemburg (2010)