

Hungarian Stamps 2009

FOR YOUTH 2009: 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELEK BENEDEK'S BIRTH



Magyar Posta is marking the 150th anniversary of the "great story teller", Elek Benedek, by issuing a special miniature sheet.

Elek Benedek (Kisbacon, 30 Sept 1859 – 17 Aug 1929) studied humanities in Székelyudvarhely, and then in Budapest. As a student he was involved in collecting folk stories and then became a journalist for Budapesti

Hírlap and other newspapers. He was a Member of Parliament between 1887 and 1892. In his speeches in Parliament he was concerned with the issues of literature for children, folk poetry and language, and public education. He took part in editing several dailies and periodicals, and also published under a pseudonym. In 1889 he launched the first patriotic children's periodical of literary worth, *Az Én Újságom*, together with Lajos Pósa. He also worked for the children's periodical *Jó Pajtás* and was involved in editing a series of youth books called Little Library, later published under his own name. In 1900 he became a member of the Kisfaludy Society. His adaptations of tales for children were for decades the most popular children's books in Hungary. Benedek also wrote poems, plays, novels for girls, historical works and works of literary history. In 1921 he returned to his place of birth, where he lived there until his death, editing a periodical for children, *Cimborá*. (Source: http://hu.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benedek_Elek)

The miniature sheet with a surcharge is composed in a graphic language recalling story book illustrations. It features a portrait of the writer and the heroes of some of his stories – in the order of the stamps – *Puss in Boots*, the *Three Little Pigs*, and the *Diamond Penny*. The first day cover for the miniature sheet is illustrated by a scene from the fairy tale of the Starry-eyed Shepherd, while the postmark employs a stylised drawing of the character of the little cockerel.

Proceeds from the surcharge of the miniature sheet are devoted by Magyar Posta to youth stamp collecting.

The amount of the surcharge may not be used to pay for postage!

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Order code: 2009060040011 (miniature sheet) - 2009060060012 (FDC)

Date of issue: 2 April 2009

Printed by Pénzjegynyomda

Designed by Edit Szalma

Imperforated size of the miniature sheet; 140 x 60 mm. Perforated size of the stamp in it: 30 x 40 mm.

120,000 copies of the miniature sheet issued.

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www.posta.hu