

Cartoon Bird Stamps - P

Vinik (or Vin) the Penguin

The Main Stamp

On July 29th, 2022, Armenia Post (Hay Post) issued one postage stamp dedicated to "Children's Philately". The stamp, which celebrates "Armenian Cartoons", features a scene from the 1972 film "Vin the Penguin". The bottom part of the stamp bears the inscription "Vin the Penguin" in Armenian and English.

Armenia 2022



Image source: <https://www.haypost.am/en/>

Hay Post issued 15,000 of this stamp, which Rem Saakyan designed. It is available in sheets of 10 stamps.

The Character

Key Facts¹

- Vin (Vinik in the film) is a naughty juvenile penguin who first does what he wants, then asks for permission from his parents.
- Vin's behaviour is so badly behaved that he is unable to go to Kindergarten.
- Instead, he goes for a wander on his own and accidentally boards a helicopter.
- The helicopter pilot takes pity on Vin and brings him into his cabin. He also puts a ring on his leg so that he does not get lost.
- Overnight, Vin decides to walk back home. He leaves the hut and wanders off.
- On his journey, he encounters a Walrus and a Sea Lion. The Sea Lion encourages Vin to learn to fish.
- On his journey, Vin learns to swim and escapes from a chasing shark.
- Vin continues his long walk back home and returns to his parents a much more experienced and grown up penguin. He donates the ring to two younger juveniles, Pinik and Kwinik.
- Stepan Andranikyan directed this film, which was made at a time (1972) when Armenia was still part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

Overall, a delightful stamp for a charming animated film. Well worth collecting!

¹ Source: "A Penguin Called Vin" or "The Penguin Vin" on You Tube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIT0EGV6S-A>

Interested in Collecting Penguins on Stamps?

Penguins are one of the most popular birds on stamps. There is a wide choice, including many cartoon birds, as was shown in Part 1 of this article. But here are a few more penguins to choose from:

Great Britain 2022



Image source: author's collection and Royal Mail

This stamp illustrates the villainous "Feathers McGraw", who appeared in the Aardman Film "The Wrong Trousers". Feathers is a criminal penguin who steals Wallace's "Techno Trousers" to steal a diamond from the local museum.² This stamp is part of a set of eight celebrating Aardman Animation Films.

France 2005



Image source: <https://www.hipstamp.com>

This is a souvenir bloc which features a Christmas stamp (in centre) which is inscribed "Best Wishes" or perhaps, more aptly, given the time of year, "Seasons Greetings". The stamp is from a set of five that the French Post Office issued in a booklet too.

² Source: Stamp Collector, December 2022 Volume 4, Issue 12 page 22.

Sierra Leone 2015



Image source: <https://stampera.eu/product/african-penguins-1>

This is an unusually-shaped stamp sheetlet that celebrates the African Penguin.

French Antarctic and Southern Lands 1994



Image source: <https://www.hipstamp.com>

This stamp, from the territory of the French Antarctic and Southern Lands, illustrates a column of Emperor Penguins marching across the ice, in perfect order.

Uruguay 1997



Image source: <https://www.hipstamp.com>

This stamp from Uruguay illustrates the Gentoo Penguin and is designed to celebrate the Uruguay research station in Antarctica.

Ross Dependency 1982



Image source: <https://www.hipstamp.com>

This stamp, which shows five Adelie Penguins, is from the Ross Dependency which is the Antarctic territory of New Zealand. The stamp is issued by New Zealand Post for the Ross Dependency.