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Tommy Tricker and the Stamp Traveller

Canada / China (!) : 1988 : dir. Michael Rubbo : : 105 min
prod: : scr: Michael Rubbo : dir.ph.:
Lucas Evans; Anthony Rogers; Jill Stanley
Andrew Whitehead; Paul Popewich

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
3441b	2	5	3	565	-	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>



*A new solution for disposing of
irksome brothers – post them
to China...
Source: indeterminate*

The Time Out Film Guide review:

“Rubbo’s made-for-kids philatelic tale starts with young sting-merchant Tommy Tricker smooth-talking his wimpish pal Ralph *[sic]* out of his father’s most treasured stamp. In the doghouse, Ralph and his sister Nancy spot the rarity in a local stamp shop. No chance, \$600 price tag, but the dealer offers the pair a dusty old album as solace. Lo and behold, out pops

a hand-written letter dated 1928, stating the whereabouts and means of recovering several old and extremely valuable stamps. Ralph is reduced to pinhead size (by way of some fairly clever animation), planted firmly on a current 1st class stamp, and popped in a letter-box. En route to his final destination, the film gets bogged down in various worldwide locations, the whole thing could quite easily be condensed into a 45-minute TV short.”



Film Review 1989-90 review:

"Stamp collectors young and old will find plenty to amuse and delight them in this Canadian film about a boy who finds a letter in a stamp album, and is magically enabled to travel around the world on stamps. Novel, well made and great fun as well. Dir and screenplay: Michael Rubbo. Animation dir: Bernard Lajoie. First shown in London: ICA, 22nd October 1988."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Radio Times note:

"Kid's philatelic adventure."

Sunday Times note:

"Philatelic fantasy for children."

Vereniging Martijn TVtips webpage note:

www.fpc.net/pages/martijn/tvtips

"A really nice kids' film. Young stamp collectors find a way to shrink themselves and, once the size of a postage stamp, they make trips all across the world. With Anthony Rogers and Lucas Evans, among others."



Source: Ver. Martijn website

No further information currently available. One of producer Russ Demer's "Tales For All" series of children's films. "Philately will get you everywhere" was discarded as a working title. This is unique, to my knowledge, in attempting to capture on film the child's love of stamp collecting, once as popular as fishing or train spotting, though now an all but extinct hobby. Very likely it is also unique as a Canadian / Chinese co-production. It enjoyed a sequel in "**THE RETURN OF TOMMY TRICKER**" (94). Others of Rock Demers' Canadian children's productions included "**THE DOG WHO STOPPED THE WAR**", "**THE GREAT LAND OF SMALL**", "**THE PEANUT BUTTER SOLUTION**" and "**VINCENT AND ME**". Nothing else is known of Lucas Evans, Anthony Rogers or Jill Stanley.

See subject index under [ASIA](#), [EPIC JOURNEYS](#), [FANTASY](#), [HOBBIES](#), [LIVE ACTION KIDS - ANIMATED SETTINGS / LIVE ACTION SETTINGS - ANIMATED KIDS](#) and [TALES FOR ALL](#). See also the 1991 Channel 4 documentary "[Yani's Monkeys](#)", about a 12-year old girl whose designs were used for a series of China's postage stamps.