

= Terry Pratchett =

Sir Terence David John " Terry " Pratchett , OBE (28 April 1948 ? 12 March 2015) was an English author of fantasy novels , especially comical works . He is best known for his Discworld series of 41 novels . Pratchett 's first novel , The Carpet People , was published in 1971 ; after the first Discworld novel , The Colour of Magic , was published in 1983 , he wrote two books a year on average . His 2011 Discworld novel Snuff was at the time of its release the third @-@ fastest @-@ selling hardback adult @-@ readership novel since records began in the UK , selling 55 @ , @ 000 copies in the first three days . His final Discworld novel , The Shepherd 's Crown , was published in August 2015 , five months after his death .

Pratchett , with more than 85 million books sold worldwide in 37 languages , was the UK 's best @-@ selling author of the 1990s . He was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1998 and was knighted for services to literature in the 2009 New Year Honours . In 2001 he won the annual Carnegie Medal for The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents , the first Discworld book marketed for children . He received the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement in 2010 .

In December 2007 , Pratchett announced that he was suffering from early @-@ onset Alzheimer 's disease . He later made a substantial public donation to the Alzheimer 's Research Trust (now Alzheimer 's Research UK) , filmed a television programme chronicling his experiences with the disease for the BBC , and also became a patron for Alzheimer 's Research UK . Pratchett died on 12 March 2015 , aged 66 .

= = Early life = =

Pratchett was born on 28 April 1948 in Beaconsfield in Buckinghamshire , England , the only child of David and Eileen Pratchett , of Hay @-@ on @-@ Wye and he attended Holtspur School . His family moved to Bridgwater , Somerset , briefly in 1957 , following which he passed his eleven plus exam in 1959 , earning a place in High Wycombe Technical High School (now John Hampden Grammar School) where he was a key member of the debating society and wrote stories for the school magazine . Pratchett described himself as a " non @-@ descript student " and , in his Who 's Who entry , credits his education to the Beaconsfield Public Library .

His early interests included astronomy . He collected Brooke Bond tea cards about space , owned a telescope and wanted to be an astronomer but lacked the necessary mathematical skills . He developed an interest in reading science fiction and began attending science fiction conventions from about 1963 ? 1964 , but stopped when he got his first job a few years later . His early reading included the works of H. G. Wells , Arthur Conan Doyle , and " every book you really ought to read " , which he later regarded as " getting an education " .

Pratchett published his first short story entitled " Business Rivals " in the High Wycombe Technical School magazine in 1962 . It is the tale of a man named Crucible who finds the Devil in his flat in a cloud of sulphurous smoke . " The Hades Business " which was published in the school magazine when he was 13 was published commercially when he was 15 .

Pratchett earned five O @-@ levels and started A @-@ level courses in Art , English and History . His initial career choice was journalism and he left school at 17 in 1965 to start working for the Bucks Free Press , where he wrote , amongst other things , several stories for the Children 's Circle section under the name Uncle Jim . One of these episodic stories contains named characters from The Carpet People (1971) . The stories are currently part of a project by the Bucks Free Press to make them available online . While on day release he finished his A @-@ Level in English and took a proficiency course for journalists .

= = Early career = =

Pratchett had his writing breakthrough in 1968 when he interviewed Peter Bander van Duren , co @-@ director of a small publishing company , Colin Smythe Ltd . During the meeting , Pratchett mentioned he had written a manuscript , The Carpet People . Colin Smythe Ltd published the book

in 1971 , with illustrations by Pratchett . The book received strong , if few , reviews and was followed by the science fiction novels *The Dark Side of the Sun* (1976) and *Strata* (1981) .

After various positions in journalism , in 1980 Pratchett became Press Officer for the Central Electricity Generating Board in an area which covered four nuclear power stations . He later joked that he had demonstrated " impeccable timing " by making this career change so soon after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident in Pennsylvania , US , and said he would " write a book about my experiences , if I thought anyone would believe it " .

The first Discworld novel , *The Colour of Magic* , was published in hardback by Colin Smythe Ltd in 1983 . The paperback edition was published by Corgi , an imprint of Transworld , in 1985 . Pratchett 's popularity increased when the BBC 's *Woman 's Hour* broadcast *The Colour of Magic* as a serial in six parts , and later *Equal Rites* . Subsequently , the hardback rights were taken by the publishing house Victor Gollancz Ltd , which remained Pratchett 's publisher until 1997 , and Colin Smythe became Pratchett 's agent . Pratchett was the first fantasy author published by Gollancz .

Pratchett gave up working for the CEGB to make his living through writing in 1987 , after finishing the fourth Discworld novel , *Mort* . His sales increased quickly and many of his books occupied top places on the best @-@ seller list . According to *The Times* , Pratchett was the top @-@ selling and highest earning UK author in 1996 . Some of his books have been published by Doubleday , another Transworld imprint . In the US , Pratchett is published by HarperCollins .

According to the Bookseller 's *Pocket Yearbook* (2005) , in 2003 Pratchett 's UK sales amounted to 3 @.@ 4 % of the fiction market by hardback sales and 3 @.@ 8 % by value , putting him in second place behind J. K. Rowling (6 % and 5 @.@ 6 % , respectively) , while in the paperback sales list Pratchett came 5th with 1 @.@ 2 % and 1 @.@ 3 % by value (behind James Patterson (1 @.@ 9 % and 1 @.@ 7 %) , Alexander McCall Smith , John Grisham , and J. R. R. Tolkien) . His sales in the UK alone are more than 2 @.@ 5 million copies a year .

= = Later life = =

Pratchett married Lyn Purves in 1968 , and they moved to Rowberrow , Somerset , in 1970 . Their daughter Rhianna Pratchett , who is also a writer , was born there in 1976 . In 1993 , the family moved to Broad Chalke , a village west of Salisbury , Wiltshire . He listed his recreations as " writing , walking , computers , life " . He described himself as a humanist and was a Distinguished Supporter of the British Humanist Association and an Honorary Associate of the National Secular Society . He was the patron of the Friends of High Wycombe Library . In 2013 he gave a talk at Beaconsfield Library which he had visited as a child and donated the income from the event to it . On a number of occasions he also visited his former school to speak to the students and look around .

Pratchett was well known for his penchant for wearing large , black fedora hats , as seen on the inside back covers of most of his books . His style has been described as " more that of urban cowboy than city gent . "

Concern for the future of civilisation prompted him to install five kilowatts of photovoltaic cells (for solar energy) at his house . Having been interested in astronomy since childhood , he had an observatory built in his garden . An asteroid (127005 Pratchett) is named after him .

On 31 December 2008 , it was announced that Pratchett was to be knighted (as a Knight Bachelor) in the Queen 's 2009 New Year Honours . He formally received the accolade at Buckingham Palace on 18 February 2009 . Afterwards he said , " You can 't ask a fantasy writer not to want a knighthood . You know , for two pins I 'd get myself a horse and a sword . " In late 2009 , he did make himself a sword , with the help of his friends . He told a *Times Higher Education* interviewer that " At the end of last year I made my own sword . I dug out the iron ore from a field about 10 miles away ? I was helped by interested friends . We lugged 80 kilos of iron ore , used clay from the garden and straw to make a kiln , and lit the kiln with wildfire by making it with a bow . ' Colin Smythe , his long @-@ term friend and agent , donated some pieces of meteoric iron ? ' thunderbolt iron ' has a special place in magic and we put that in the smelt , and I remember when we sawed the iron apart it looked like silver . Everything about it I touched , handled and so forth ... And everything

was as it should have been , it seemed to me . "

= = = Alzheimer 's disease = = =

In August 2007 , Pratchett was misdiagnosed as having had a minor stroke in 2004 or 2005 , which doctors believed had damaged the right side of his brain . While his motor skills were affected , the observed damage had not impaired his ability to write . On 11 December 2007 , Pratchett posted online that he had been newly diagnosed with early @-@ onset Alzheimer 's disease , which had been responsible for the " stroke " . He had a rare form of the disease , posterior cortical atrophy (PCA) , in which areas at the back of the brain begin to shrink and shrivel .

Describing the diagnosis as an " embuggerance " in a radio interview , Pratchett appealed to people to " keep things cheerful " and proclaimed that " we are taking it fairly philosophically down here and possibly with a mild optimism . " He stated he felt he had time for " at least a few more books yet " , and added that while he understood the impulse to ask " is there anything I can do ? " , in this case he would only entertain such offers from " very high @-@ end experts in brain chemistry . " Discussing his diagnosis at the Bath Literature Festival in early 2008 , Pratchett revealed that by then he found it too difficult to write dedications when signing books . In his later years Pratchett wrote by dictating to his assistant , Rob Wilkins , or by using speech recognition software .

In March 2008 , Pratchett announced he would donate US \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 (about £ 494 @,@ 000) to the Alzheimer 's Research Trust , and that he was shocked " to find out that funding for Alzheimer 's research is just 3 % of that to find cancer cures . " He said : " I am , along with many others , scrabbling to stay ahead long enough to be there when the Cure comes along . "

In April 2008 , Pratchett worked with the BBC to make a two @-@ part documentary series about his illness , Terry Pratchett : Living With Alzheimer 's . The first part was broadcast on BBC Two on 4 February 2009 , drawing 2.6m viewers and a 10 @.@ 4 % audience share . The second , broadcast on 11 February 2009 , drew 1.72m viewers and a 6 @.@ 8 % audience share . The documentary won a BAFTA award in the Factual Series category . Pratchett also made an appearance on The One Show on 15 May 2008 , talking about his condition . He was the subject and interviewee of the edition of 20 May 2008 of On the Ropes (Radio 4) , discussing Alzheimer 's and how it had affected his life .

On 8 June 2008 , news reports indicated that Pratchett had an experience which he described as : " It is just possible that once you have got past all the gods that we have created with big beards and many human traits , just beyond all that , on the other side of physics , there just may be the ordered structure from which everything flows " and " I don 't actually believe in anyone who could have put that in my head " . He went into further detail on Front Row , in which he was asked if this was a shift in his beliefs : " A shift in me in the sense I heard my father talk to me when I was in the garden one day . But I 'm absolutely certain that what I heard was my memories of my father . An engram , or something in my head ... This is not about God , but somewhere around there is where gods come from . "

On 26 November 2008 , Pratchett met the Prime Minister Gordon Brown and asked for an increase in dementia research funding . From August 2008 , Pratchett tested a prototype device to address his condition . Despite some apparent improvements , the ability of the device to alter the course of the illness has been met with scepticism from Alzheimer 's researchers .

In an article published mid @-@ 2009 , Pratchett stated that he wished to die by assisted suicide (although he disliked that term) before his disease progressed to a critical point . He later said he felt " it should be possible for someone stricken with a serious and ultimately fatal illness to choose to die peacefully with medical help , rather than suffer . " Pratchett was selected to give the 2010 BBC Richard Dimbleby Lecture , entitled Shaking Hands With Death , broadcast on 1 February 2010 . Pratchett introduced his lecture on the topic of assisted death , but the main text was read by his friend Tony Robinson because Pratchett 's condition made it difficult for him to read . In June 2011 Pratchett presented a one @-@ off BBC television documentary , Terry Pratchett : Choosing to Die , about assisted suicide . It won the Best Documentary award at the Scottish BAFTAs in November 2011 .

In September 2012 Pratchett stated : " I have to tell you that I thought I 'd be a lot worse than this by now , and so did my specialist . " In the same interview , he stated that the cognitive part of his mind was " untouched " and his symptoms were physical (normal for PCA) . However , in July 2014 he cancelled his appearance at the biennial International Discworld Convention , saying : " the Embuggerance is finally catching up with me , along with other age @-@ related ailments " .

= = = Death = = =

Pratchett died at his home on the morning of 12 March 2015 from his Alzheimer 's , according to his publisher . The Telegraph reported an unidentified source as saying that despite his previous discussion of assisted suicide , his death had been natural . After Pratchett 's death , his assistant , Rob Wilkins , wrote from the official Terry Pratchett Twitter account :

AT LAST , SIR TERRY , WE MUST WALK TOGETHER .

Terry took Death 's arm and followed him through the doors and on to the black desert under the endless night .

The End .

The use of small capitals is a reference to how the character of Death speaks in Pratchett 's works .

Many public figures paid tribute following Pratchett 's death , including British Prime Minister David Cameron and the comedian Ricky Gervais , and authors including Nick Harkaway , Ursula Le Guin , Terry Brooks , Margaret Atwood , George R. R. Martin , and Neil Gaiman . Pratchett was memorialised in a graffito in East London , and the video game company Frontier Developments added a space station to Elite : Dangerous named " Pratchett 's Disc " . Developers of Dota 2 , Valve Corporation , added an item to their game called " Octarine Core , " in reference to Pratchett 's novel " The Colour of Magic . " Users of the social news site Reddit organised a tribute by which an HTTP header , " X @-@ Clacks @-@ Overhead : GNU Terry Pratchett " , is added to a site 's responses , a reference to the Discworld novel Going Postal .

Pratchett 's humanist funeral service was held on 25 March 2015 .

= = = Interests = = =

= = = Computers and the Internet = = =

Pratchett started to use computers for writing as soon as they were available to him . His first computer was a Sinclair ZX81 ; the first computer he used properly for writing was an Amstrad CPC 464 , later replaced by a PC . Pratchett was one of the first authors routinely to use the Internet to communicate with fans , and was a contributor to the Usenet newsgroup alt.fan.pratchett from 1992 . However , he did not consider the Internet a hobby , just another " thing to use " . He had many computers in his house , with a bank of six monitors rigged up to ease writing . When he travelled , he always took a portable computer with him to write .

His experiments with computer upgrades are reflected in Hex .

Pratchett was also an avid video game player , and collaborated in the creation of a number of game adaptations of his books . He favoured games that are " intelligent and have some depth " , citing Half @-@ Life 2 and fan missions from Thief as examples . Additionally , he played Oblivion , which he described as " wonderful " , and used many of its non @-@ combat @-@ oriented , fan @-@ made mods . He is also said to have enjoyed playing the first Tomb Raider game .

= = = Natural history = = =

Pratchett had a fascination with natural history that he referred to many times , and he owned a greenhouse full of carnivorous plants .

In 1995 , a fossil sea @-@ turtle from the Eocene epoch of New Zealand was named in honour of

him Psephophorus terrypratchetti by the palaeontologist Richard Köhler .

In 2016 , Pratchett fans petitioned the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) to name chemical element 117 , currently referred to as Ununseptium , as Octarine , with the proposed symbol Oc (pronounced " ook ") .

== = Orangutans == =

Pratchett was a trustee for the Orangutan Foundation UK but was pessimistic about the animal 's future . His activities included visiting Borneo with a Channel 4 film crew to make an episode of " Jungle Quest " in 1995 , seeing orangutans in their natural habitat . Following Pratchett 's lead , fan events such as the Discworld Conventions have adopted the Orangutan Foundation as their nominated charity , which has been acknowledged by the foundation . One of Pratchett 's most popular fictional characters , the Librarian of the Unseen University 's Library , is a wizard who was transformed into an orangutan in a magical accident and decides to remain in that condition as it is so convenient for his work .

== = Amateur astronomy == =

Pratchett had an observatory in his back garden and was a keen astronomer from childhood . He made an appearance on the BBC programme The Sky at Night .

== = Terry Pratchett First Novel Award == =

Pratchett sponsored a biennial award for unpublished science fiction novelists , the Terry Pratchett First Novel Award . The prize is a publishing contract with his publishers Transworld . In 2011 the award was won jointly by David Logan for Half Sick of Shadows and Michael Logan for Apocalypse Cow . In 2013 the award was won by Alexander Maskill for The Hive .

== = Sir Terry Pratchett Memorial Scholarship == =

In 2015 , the estate of the late Sir Terry Pratchett announced an in @-@ perpetuity endowment to the University of South Australia . The Sir Terry Pratchett Memorial Scholarship supports a Masters scholarship at the University 's Hawke Research Institute .

== Writing career ==

== = Awards == =

Pratchett received a knighthood for " services to literature " in the 2009 UK New Year Honours list . He was previously appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire , also for " services to literature " , in 1998 . Following this , Pratchett commented in the Ansible SF / fan newsletter , " I suspect the ' services to literature ' consisted of refraining from trying to write any , " but added , " Still , I cannot help feeling mightily chuffed about it . "

Pratchett was the British Book Awards ' ' Fantasy and Science Fiction Author of the Year ' for 1994 .

Pratchett won the British Science Fiction Award in 1989 for his novel , Pyramids , and a Locus Award for Best Fantasy Novel in 2008 for Making Money .

Pratchett was awarded ten honorary doctorates : University of Warwick in 1999 , the University of Portsmouth in 2001 , the University of Bath in 2003 , the University of Bristol in 2004 , Buckinghamshire New University in 2008 , the University of Dublin in 2008 , Bradford University in 2009 , University of Winchester in 2009 , The Open University in 2013 for his contribution to Public Service and his last , from the University of South Australia , in May 2014 .

Pratchett won the 2001 Carnegie Medal from the British librarians , recognising *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* as the year 's best children 's book published in the UK .

Night Watch won the 2003 Prometheus Award for best libertarian novel .

In 2003 , BBC conducted *The Big Read* to identify the " Nation 's Best @-@ loved Novel " and finally published a ranked list of the " Top 200 " . Pratchett 's highest @-@ ranking novel was *Mort* , number 65 , but he and Charles Dickens were the only authors with five in the Top 100 (four of his were from the *Discworld* series) . He also led all authors with fifteen novels in the Top 200 .

Three of the five *Discworld* novels that centre on the " trainee witch " Tiffany Aching won the annual Locus Award for Best Young Adult Book in 2004 , 2005 and 2007 .

In 2005 , *Going Postal* was shortlisted for the Hugo Award for Best Novel ; however , Pratchett recused himself , stating that stress over the award would mar his enjoyment of Worldcon .

Pratchett received the NESFA Skylark Award in 2009 and the World Fantasy Award for Life Achievement in 2010 . In 2011 he won Margaret A. Edwards Award from the American Library Association , a lifetime honour for " significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature " . The librarians cited nine *Discworld* novels published from 1983 to 2004 and observed that " Pratchett 's tales of *Discworld* have won over generations of teen readers with intelligence , heart , and undeniable wit . Comic adventures that fondly mock the fantasy genre , the *Discworld* novels expose the hypocrisies of contemporary society in an intricate , ever @-@ expanding universe . With satisfyingly multilayered plots , Pratchett 's humor honors the intelligence of the reader . Teens eagerly lose themselves in a universe with no maps . "

He was made an adjunct Professor in the School of English at Trinity College Dublin in 2010 , with a role in postgraduate education in creative writing and popular literature .

I Shall Wear Midnight won the 2010 Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy presented by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA) as a part of the Nebula Award ceremony . In 2016 , SFWA announced that Sir Terry would be the recipient of the Kate Wilhelm Solstice Award , presented at the 2016 SFWA Nebula Conference .

= = = Fanbase = = =

Pratchett 's *Discworld* novels have led to dedicated conventions , the first in Manchester in 1996 , then worldwide , often with the author as guest of honour . Publication of a new novel was sometimes accompanied by an international book signing tour ; queues were known to stretch outside the bookshop as the author continued to sign books well after the intended finishing time . His fans were not restricted by age or gender , and he received a large amount of fan mail from them . Pratchett enjoyed meeting fans and hearing what they think about his books , saying that since he was well paid for his novels , his fans were " everything " to him .

= = Writing = =

Pratchett said that to write , you must read extensively , both inside and outside your chosen genre and to the point of " overflow " . He advised that writing is hard work , and that writers must " make grammar , punctuation and spelling a part of your life . " However , Pratchett enjoyed writing , regarding its monetary rewards as " an unavoidable consequence " , rather than the reason for writing .

= = = Fantasy genre = = =

Although during his early career he wrote for the sci @-@ fi and horror genres , Pratchett later focused almost entirely on fantasy , and said : " It is easier to bend the universe around the story . " In the acceptance speech for his Carnegie Medal he said : " Fantasy isn 't just about wizards and silly wands . It 's about seeing the world from new directions " , pointing to J. K. Rowling 's *Harry Potter* novels and J. R. R. Tolkien 's *The Lord of the Rings* . In the same speech , he acknowledged benefits of these works for the genre .

Pratchett believed he owed " a debt to the science fiction / fantasy genre which he grew up out of " and disliked the term " magical realism " which , he said , is " like a polite way of saying you write fantasy and is more acceptable to certain people ... who , on the whole , do not care that much . " He expressed annoyance that fantasy is " unregarded as a literary form " , arguing that it " is the oldest form of fiction " ; he described himself as " infuriated " when novels containing science fiction or fantasy ideas were not regarded as part of those genres . He debated this issue with novelist A. S. Byatt and critic Terry Eagleton , arguing that fantasy is fundamental to the way we understand the world and therefore an integral aspect of all fiction .

On 31 July 2005 , Pratchett criticised media coverage of Harry Potter author J. K. Rowling , commenting that certain members of the media seemed to think that " the continued elevation of J. K. Rowling can be achieved only at the expense of other writers " . Pratchett later denied claims that this was a swipe at Rowling , and said that he was not making claims of plagiarism , but was pointing out the " shared heritage " of the fantasy genre . Pratchett also posted on the Harry Potter newsgroup about a media @-@ covered exchange of views with her .

= = = Style and themes = = =

Pratchett is known for a distinctive writing style that included a number of characteristic hallmarks . One example is his use of footnotes , which usually involve a comic departure from the narrative or a commentary on the narrative , and occasionally have footnotes of their own .

Pratchett 's earliest Discworld novels were written largely to parody classic sword @-@ and @-@ sorcery fiction (and occasionally science @-@ fiction) ; as the series progressed , Pratchett dispensed with parody almost entirely , and the Discworld series evolved into straightforward (though still comedic) satire .

Pratchett had a tendency to avoid using chapters , arguing in a Book Sense interview that " life does not happen in regular chapters , nor do movies , and Homer did not write in chapters " , adding " I 'm blessed if I know what function they serve in books for adults . " However , there have been exceptions ; *Going Postal* and *Making Money* and several of his books for younger readers are divided into chapters . Pratchett offered explanations for his sporadic use of chapters ; in the young adult titles , he said that he must use chapters because ' [his] editor screams until [he] does ' , but otherwise felt that they were an unnecessary ' stopping point ' that got in the way of the narrative .

Characters , place names , and titles in Pratchett 's books often contain puns , allusions and culture references . Some characters are parodies of well @-@ known characters : for example , Pratchett 's character Cohen the Barbarian , also called Ghengiz Cohen , is a parody of Conan the Barbarian and Genghis Khan , and his character Leonard of Quirm is a parody of Leonardo da Vinci .

Another hallmark of his writing was the use of capitalised dialogue without quotation marks , used to indicate the character of Death communicating telepathically into a character 's mind . Other characters or types of characters were given similarly distinctive ways of speaking , such as the auditors of reality never having quotation marks , Ankh @-@ Morpork grocers never using punctuation correctly , and golems capitalising each word in everything they say . Pratchett also made up a new colour , octarine , a ' fluorescent greenish @-@ yellow @-@ purple ' , which is the eighth colour in the Discworld spectrum ? the colour of magic . Indeed , the number eight itself is regarded in the Discworld as being a magical number ; for example , the eighth son of an eighth son will be a wizard , and his eighth son will be a " sourcerer " (which is one reason why wizards are not allowed to have children) .

Discworld novels often included a modern innovation and its introduction to the world 's medieval setting , such as a public police force (*Guards ! Guards !*) , guns (*Men at Arms*) , submarines (*Jingo*) , cinema (*Moving Pictures*) , investigative journalism (*The Truth*) , the postage stamp (*Going Postal*) , modern banking (*Making Money*) , and the steam engine (*Raising Steam*) . The " clacks " , the tower @-@ to @-@ tower semaphore system that sprang up in later novels , is a mechanical optical telegraph (used in Napoleon 's Era successfully) before wired electric telegraph chains , with all the change and turmoil that such an advancement implies . The resulting social upheaval driven by these changes serves as the setting for the main story .

== Influences ==

Pratchett made no secret of outside influences on his work : they were a major source of his humour . He imported numerous characters from classic literature , popular culture and ancient history , always adding an unexpected twist . Pratchett was a crime novel fan , which was reflected in frequent appearances of the Ankh @-@ Morpork City Watch in the Discworld series . Pratchett was an only child , and his characters are often without siblings . Pratchett explained , " In fiction , only @-@ children are the interesting ones " .

Pratchett 's earliest inspirations were *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame , and the works of Isaac Asimov and Arthur C. Clarke . His literary influences have been P.G. Wodehouse , Tom Sharpe , Jerome K. Jerome , Roy Lewis , Alan Coren , G. K. Chesterton , and Mark Twain .

== Publishing history ==

While Pratchett 's UK publishing history remained quite stable , his relationships with international publishers were turbulent (especially in America) . He changed German publishers after an advertisement for Maggi soup appeared in the middle of the German @-@ language version of *Pyramids* .

== Works ==

== The Discworld series ==

Pratchett began writing the Discworld series in 1983 to " have fun with some of the cliches " and it is a humorous and often satirical sequence of stories set in the colourful fantasy Discworld universe . The series contains various story arcs (or sub @-@ series) , and a number of free @-@ standing stories . All are set in an abundance of locations in the same detailed and unified world , such as the Unseen University and ' The Drum / Broken Drum / Mended Drum ' public house in the twin city Ankh @-@ Morpork , or places in the various continents , regions and countries on the Disc . Characters and locations reappear throughout the series , variously taking major and minor roles .

The Discworld itself is described as a large disc resting on the backs of four giant elephants , all supported by the giant turtle Great A 'Tuin as it swims its way through space . The books are essentially in chronological order , and advancements can be seen in the development of the Discworld civilisations , such as the creation of paper money in Ankh @-@ Morpork .

Many of the novels in Pratchett 's Discworld series parody real @-@ world subjects such as film making , newspaper publishing , rock and roll music , religion , philosophy , Ancient Greece , Egyptian history , the Gulf War , Australia , university politics , trade unions , and the financial world . Pratchett also included further parody as a feature within the stories , including such subjects as Ingmar Bergman films , numerous fiction , science fiction , and fantasy characters , and various bureaucratic and ruling systems .

== Other Discworld books ==

Pratchett wrote or collaborated on a number of Discworld books that are not novels in themselves but serve to accompany the series .

The *Discworld Companion* , written with Stephen Briggs , is an encyclopaedic guide to Discworld . The third edition was renamed *The New Discworld Companion* , and was published in 2003 . The fourth and most recent edition of the companion , *Turtle Recall* was published on 18 October 2012 . Briggs also collaborated with Pratchett on a series of fictional Discworld " mapps " . The first , *The Discworld Mapp* (1995) , illustrated by Stephen Player , comprises a large , comprehensive map of the Discworld itself with a small booklet that contains short biographies of the Disc 's prominent

explorers and their discoveries . Three further " mapps " , have been released , focusing on particular regions of the Disc : Ankh @-@ Morpork , Lancre , and Death 's Domain .

Between 1997 and 2015 , ten Discworld Diaries were published as collaborations with Briggs or the Discworld Emporium . Pratchett and Tina Hannan collaborated on Nanny Ogg 's Cookbook (1999) . The design of this cookbook , illustrated by Paul Kidby , was based on the traditional Mrs Beeton 's Book of Household Management , but with humorous recipes . Pratchett and Bernard Pearson collaborated on The Discworld Almanak , for the Year of the Prawn , with illustration by Paul Kidby , Pearson and Sheila Watkins .

Collections of Discworld @-@ related art have also been released in book form . The Pratchett Portfolio (1996) and The Art of Discworld (2004) are collections of paintings of major Discworld characters by Paul Kidby , with details added by Pratchett on the character 's origins .

In 2005 , Pratchett 's first book for very young children was Where 's My Cow ? Illustrated by Melvyn Grant , this is a realisation of the short story Sam Vimes reads to his child in Thud ! .

The Unseen University Cut Out Book was published in 2006 developed with Alan Bately and Bernard Pearson . The book contains cut @-@ out templates of seven of the major buildings in the Unseen University .

Following on from the release of Sky 's adaptation of Hogfather , Terry Pratchett 's Hogfather , The Illustrated Screenplay was released in 2006 . It was written by Vadim Jean and " mucked about with by Terry Pratchett " . It contains the final shooting script , pictures from the film and additional illustrations by Stephen Player . It was published by Gollancz .

Pratchett and the Discworld Emporium published The Compleat Ankh @-@ Morpork City Guide in 2012 which combined a trade directory , gazetteer , laws and ordinances together with a fully revised city map with artwork by Bernard Pearson , Ian Mitchell and Peter Dennis .

A number of publications have been released on the back of Pratchett 's novels with the participation of the Discworld Emporium :

The World of Poo ; a book by Miss Felicity Beedle who features in Snuff (2012)

Mrs Bradshaw 's Handbook : an illustrated guide to Discworld railway (Raising Steam , 2014)

Pratchett resisted mapping the Discworld for quite some time , noting that a firmly designed map restricts narrative possibility (i.e. , with a map , fans would complain if he placed a building on the wrong street , but without one , he could adjust the geography to fit the story) .

= = = = The Science of Discworld = = = =

Pratchett wrote four Science of Discworld books in collaboration with Professor of mathematics Ian Stewart and reproductive biologist Jack Cohen , both of the University of Warwick : The Science of Discworld (1999) , The Science of Discworld II : The Globe (2002) , The Science of Discworld III : Darwin 's Watch (2005) , and The Science of Discworld IV : Judgement Day (2013) .

All four books have chapters that alternate between fiction and non @-@ fiction : the fictional chapters are set within the Discworld universe , where characters observe , and experiment on , a universe with the same physics as ours . The non @-@ fiction chapters (written by Stewart and Cohen) explain the science behind the fictional events .

In 1999 , Pratchett appointed both Cohen and Stewart as " Honorary Wizards of the Unseen University " at the same ceremony at which the University of Warwick awarded him an honorary degree .

= = = = Folklore of Discworld = = = =

Pratchett collaborated with the folklorist Dr Jacqueline Simpson on The Folklore of Discworld (2008) , a study of the relationship between many of the persons , places and events described in the Discworld books and their counterparts in myths , legends , fairy tales and folk customs on Earth .

= = = Other novels and writing = = =

Pratchett 's first two adult novels , The Dark Side of the Sun (1976) and Strata (1981) , were both science @-@ fiction , the latter taking place partly on a disc @-@ shaped world . Subsequent to these , Pratchett mostly concentrated on his Discworld series and novels for children , with two exceptions : Good Omens (1990) , a collaboration with Neil Gaiman (which was nominated for both Locus and World Fantasy Awards in 1991) , a humorous story about the Apocalypse set on Earth , and Nation (2008) , a book for young adults .

After writing Good Omens , Pratchett began to work with Larry Niven on a book that would become Rainbow Mars ; Niven eventually completed the book on his own , but states in the afterword that a number of Pratchett 's ideas remained in the finished version .

Pratchett also collaborated with British science fiction author Stephen Baxter on a parallel earth series . The first novel , entitled The Long Earth was released on 21 June 2012 . A second novel , The Long War , was released on 18 June 2013 . The Long Mars was published in 2014 . The fourth book in the series , The Long Utopia , was published in June 2015 , and the fifth , The Long Cosmos , in June 2016 .

In 2012 , the first volume of Pratchett 's collected short fiction was published under the title A Blink of the Screen . In 2014 , a similar collection was published of Pratchett 's non @-@ fiction , entitled A Slip of the Keyboard .

= = = Juvenile literature = = =

Pratchett 's first children 's novel was also his first published novel : The Carpet People in 1971 , which Pratchett substantially rewrote and re @-@ released in 1992 . The next , Truckers (1988) , was the first in The Nome Trilogy of novels for young readers , about small gnome @-@ like creatures called " Nomes " , and the trilogy continued in Diggers (1990) and Wings (1990) . Subsequently , Pratchett wrote the Johnny Maxwell trilogy , about the adventures of a boy called Johnny Maxwell and his friends , comprising Only You Can Save Mankind (1992) , Johnny and the Dead (1993) and Johnny and the Bomb (1996) . Nation (2008) marked his return to the non @-@ Discworld children 's novel , and this was followed in 2012 by Dodger , a children 's novel set in Victorian London . On 21 November 2013 Doubleday Children 's released Pratchett 's Jack Dodger 's Guide to London .

In September 2014 an anthology of children 's stories , Dragons at Crumbling Castle , written by Pratchett , and illustrated by Mark Beech , was published .

= = = Collaborations and contributions = = =

The Unadulterated Cat (1989) is a humorous book of cat anecdotes written by Pratchett and illustrated by Gray Jolliffe .

Digital Dreams , edited by David V Barrett (1990) , contains the science fiction short story ' " # ifdefDEBUG + " world / enough " + " time " .

Good Omens , written with Neil Gaiman (1990)

After the King : Stories In Honour of J.R.R. Tolkien edited by Martin H. Greenberg (1992) contains " Troll Bridge " , a short story featuring Cohen the Barbarian . This story was also published in the compilation The Mammoth Book of Comic Fantasy (2001 , edited by Mike Ashley) .

Now We Are Sick , written by Neil Gaiman and Stephen Jones (1994) , includes the poem called " The Secret Book of the Dead " by Pratchett .

The Wizards of Odd , a short @-@ story compilation edited by Peter Haining (1996) , includes a Discworld short story called " Theatre of Cruelty " .

The Flying Sorcerers , another short @-@ story compilation edited by Peter Haining (1997) , starts off with a Pratchett story called " Turntables of the Night " , featuring Death (albeit not set on Discworld , but in our " reality ") .

Knights of Madness (1998 , edited by Peter Haining) includes a short story called " Hollywood Chickens " .

Legends , edited by Robert Silverberg (1998) , contains a Discworld short story called " The Sea

and Little Fishes " .

The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Fantasy , edited by David Pringle (1998) , has a foreword by Pratchett .

The Leaky Establishment , written by David Langford (1984) , has a foreword by Pratchett in later reissues (from 2001) .

Meditations on Middle @-@ Earth , an anthology of essays on Middle Earth compiled by Karen Haber , contains Pratchett 's essay " Cult Classic " (2002)

Once More * With Footnotes , edited by Priscilla Olson and Sheila M. Perry (2004) , is " an assortment of short stories , articles , introductions , and ephemera " by Pratchett which " have appeared in books , magazines , newspapers , anthologies , and program books , many of which are now hard to find . "

The Writers ' and Artists ' Yearbook 2007 includes an article by Pratchett about the process of writing fantasy .

The " Long Earth " series , written with Stephen Baxter , which includes the following titles :

The Long Earth (2012)

The Long War (2013)

The Long Mars (2014)

The Long Utopia (2015)

The Long Cosmos (2016)

= = = Unfinished texts = = =

According to Pratchett 's assistant Rob Wilkins , Pratchett left " an awful lot " of unfinished writing , " 10 titles I know of and fragments from many other bits and pieces . " In the past , Pratchett himself mentioned at least two texts , Scouting for Trolls , and a Discworld novel centering on a new character . The notes left behind outline ideas about " how the old folk of the Twilight Canyons solve the mystery of a missing treasure and defeat the rise of a Dark Lord despite their failing memories " , " the secret of the crystal cave and the carnivorous plants in the Dark Incontinent " , about Constable Feeney of the Watch , first introduced in Snuff , involving how he " solves a whodunnit among the congenitally decent and honest goblins " , and on a second book about Amazing Maurice from The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents .

Pratchett 's daughter is the current custodian of the Discworld franchise , and has stated on several occasions that she has no plans to publish any of her father 's unfinished work , or to continue the Discworld on her own .

= = Adaptations = =

= = = Comic books and graphic novels = = =

Four graphic novels of Pratchett 's work have been released . The first two , originally published in the US , were adaptations of The Colour of Magic and The Light Fantastic and illustrated by Steven Ross (with Joe Bennett on the latter) . The second two , published in the UK , were adaptations of Mort (subtitled A Discworld Big Comic) and Guards ! Guards ! , both illustrated by Graham Higgins and adapted by Stephen Briggs . The graphic novels of The Colour of Magic and The Light Fantastic were republished by Doubleday on 2 June 2008 . An adaption of Small Gods is planned for release on 28 June 2016 .

= = = Feature films = = =

Pratchett held back from Discworld feature films ; though the rights to a number of his books have been sold , no films have yet been made .

Director Terry Gilliam announced in an 1999 interview with Empire magazine that he planned to

adapt Good Omens , but as of 2007 this still needed funding .

In 2001 , DreamWorks commissioned a Truckers adaptation by Andrew Adamson and Joe Stillman but Pratchett believed that it will not be made until after " Shrek 17 " .

In 2006 , it was reported that The Wee Free Men was set to be directed by Sam Raimi , but in 2009 Pratchett said that he had " got [it] back " after reading the proposed screenplay .

In 2008 , Danny Boyle revealed that he hoped to direct a Truckers adaptation by Frank Cottrell Boyce .

= = = Internet games = = =

The world of Discworld is featured in a fan @-@ created online MUD (multi @-@ user dungeon) , which allows players to play humans in various guilds within the universe that Pratchett created .

= = = Music = = =

From The Discworld (1994) is a collection of 14 songs by Dave Greenslade inspired by the Discworld novels , with the author contributing to the production of the record . The album features songs and instrumentals about the books as well as some that appear in the novels , such as " A Wizard 's Staff has a Knob on the End " . The video of Soul Music used parts of the complete songs that were actually written and performed by Keith Hopwood and Phil Bush ; the complete songs were released on an audio CD .

Steeleye Span co @-@ operated with Terry Pratchett to write and produce the album Wintersmith (October 2013) , based on the novels featuring the Wee Free Men .

= = = Radio = = =

Pratchett had a number of radio adaptations on BBC Radio 4 : The Colour of Magic , Equal Rites (on Woman 's Hour) , Only You Can Save Mankind , Guards ! Guards ! , Wyrd Sisters , Mort , and Small Gods have all been dramatised as serials , as was Night Watch in early 2008 , and The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents as a 90 @-@ minute play .

The 4 @-@ part BBC Radio 4 adaptation of Eric by Robin Brooks again started on 6 March 2013 .

Guards ! Guards ! was adapted as a one @-@ hour audio drama by the Atlanta Radio Theatre Company and performed live at Dragon * Con in 2001 .

In 2014 , a six @-@ part adaption of Good Omens aired on BBC Radio 4 , and featured cameos by both Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman .

= = = Television = = =

Truckers was adapted as a stop motion animation series for Thames Television by Cosgrove Hall Films in 1992 . Johnny and the Dead was made into a TV serial for Children 's ITV on ITV , in 1995 . Wyrd Sisters and Soul Music were adapted as animated cartoon series by Cosgrove Hall for Channel 4 in 1996 ; illustrated screenplays of these were published in 1998 and 1997 respectively . In January 2006 , BBC One aired a three @-@ part adaptation of Johnny and the Bomb .

A two @-@ part , feature @-@ length version of Hogfather starring David Jason and the voice of Ian Richardson was first aired on Sky One in the United Kingdom in December 2006 , and on ION Television in the US in 2007 . Pratchett was opposed to live action films about Discworld before because of his negative experience with Hollywood film makers . He changed his opinion when he saw that the director Vadim Jean and producer Rod Brown were very enthusiastic and cooperative . A two @-@ part , feature @-@ length adaptation of The Colour of Magic and its sequel The Light Fantastic aired during Easter 2008 on Sky One . A third adaptation , Going Postal was aired at the end of May 2010 . The Sky adaptations are notable also for the author 's presence in cameo roles . He is also credited as having " mucked about " with these adaptations .

In 2012 , Pratchett founded a television production company of his own , Narrativia , which is to

hold the rights to his works , and which is in development of a television series , The Watch , based on the Ankh @-@ Morpork City Watch .

In 2016 , Neil Gaiman stated that Terry had given him his blessing to go forward with an adaptation of Good Omens if he so wished . It is currently formatted as a six @-@ part series .

= = = Theatre = = =

Twenty one of Pratchett 's novels have been adapted as plays by Stephen Briggs and published in book form . They were first produced by the Studio Theatre Club in Abingdon , Oxfordshire . They include adaptations of The Truth , Maskerade , Mort , Wyrd Sisters and Guards ! Guards ! Stage adaptations of Discworld novels have been performed on every continent in the world , including Antarctica .

In addition , Lords & Ladies has been adapted for the stage by Irana Brown , and Pyramids was adapted for the stage by Suzi Holyoake in 1999 and had a week @-@ long theatre run in the UK . In 2002 , an adaptation of Truckers was produced as a co @-@ production between Harrogate Theatre , the Belgrade Theatre Coventry and Theatre Royal , Bury St. Edmunds . It was adapted by Bob Eaton , and directed by Rob Swain . The play toured to many venues in the UK between 15 March and 29 June 2002 .

A version of Eric adapted for the stage by Scott Harrison and Lee Harris was produced and performed by The Dreaming Theatre Company in June / July 2003 inside Clifford 's Tower , the 700 @-@ year @-@ old castle keep in York . It was revived in 2004 in a tour of England along with Robert Rankin 's The Antipope .

In 2004 , a musical adaptation of Only You Can Save Mankind was premiered at the Edinburgh Festival , with music by Leighton James House and book and lyrics by Shaun McKenna .

In January 2009 , the National Theatre announced that their annual winter family production in 2009 would be a theatrical adaptation of Pratchett 's novel Nation . The novel was adapted by playwright Mark Ravenhill and directed by Melly Still . The production premiered at the Olivier Theatre on 24 November , and ran until 28 March 2010 . It was broadcast to cinemas around the world on 30 January 2010 .

Pratchett worked with Youth Music Theatre UK several times over the last few years to bring adaptations of both Mort and Soul Music to the stage . In August 2014 , a brand new adaptation of Soul Music will be performed at the Rose Theatre , Kingston .

= = = Role @-@ playing games = = =

GURPS Discworld (Steve Jackson Games , 1998) and GURPS Discworld Also (Steve Jackson Games , 2001) are role @-@ playing source books which were written by Terry Pratchett and Phil Masters , which also offer insights into the workings of the Discworld . The first of these two books was re @-@ released in September 2002 under the name of The Discworld Roleplaying Game , with art by Paul Kidby .

= = = Video games = = =

The Discworld universe has also been used as a basis for a number of video games on a range of formats , such as the Sega Saturn , the Sony PlayStation , the Philips CD @-@ i , and the 3DO , as well as DOS and Windows @-@ based PCs . The following are the more notable games :

The Colour of Magic , the first game based on the series , and so far the only one directly adapted from a Discworld novel . It was released in 1986 for the Sinclair ZX Spectrum and Commodore 64 .

Discworld , an animated " point @-@ and @-@ click " adventure game made by Teeny Weeny Games and Perfect 10 Productions in 1995 .

Discworld II : Missing Presumed ... ! ? , a sequel to Discworld developed by Perfect Entertainment in 1996 . It was subtitled " Mortality Bytes ! " in North America .

Discworld Noir is the first 3D game based on the Discworld series , and is both a parody of the film

noir genre and an example of it . The game was created by Perfect Entertainment and published by GT Interactive for both the PC and PlayStation in 1999 . It was released only in Europe and Australia .

= = = Board games = = =

So far there have been five games published relating to Discworld

Thud , 2002 , by Trevor Truran , publisher The Cunning Artificer . It resembles ancient Norse games such as Hnefatafl , and involves two unequal sides , Trolls and Dwarves with different moves and ' capture ' abilities .

Guards Guards , 2011 , by Backspindle Games (Designers : Leonard Boyd & David Brashaw) , Published in conjunction with Z @-@ Man Games . This is a ' quest ' game where players have to manoeuvre their piece around the board collecting stolen spells to return to the Unseen University , while dealing with various Discworld characters .

Ankh @-@ Morpork , 2011 , by Martin Wallace , published by Treefrog Games . This is a game where each player has a secret victory condition , usually relating to owning buildings in , or controlling , various areas of the city of Ankh @-@ Morpork . During the game , players play cards from their hand to place control elements in the city , remove other players ' pieces , or otherwise manipulate the ownership of areas .

The Witches , 2013 , by Martin Wallace , published by Treefrog Games . This is a game aimed at younger or more family oriented players . They must move around the town of Lancre and its surrounds , dealing with ' problems ' ranging from a sick pig , to an invasion by vampires . Each player has a one @-@ use special power . It is a semi @-@ cooperative game , in that all players can lose if the game wins , but if they resolve all the problems , then one of them will win .

Clacks , 2014 , by Backspindle Games (Designers : Leonard Boyd & David Brashaw) , Published in conjunction with Z @-@ Man Games . In this game players compete to send their ' message ' on a clacks board while disrupting their opponents ' messages . It resembles the game Amoeba , with its constantly changing board .

= = Works about Pratchett = =

A collection of essays about his writings is compiled in the book Terry Pratchett : Guilty of Literature , edited by Andrew M. Butler , Edward James and Farah Mendlesohn , published by Science Fiction Foundation in 2000 (ISBN 0903007010) . A second , expanded edition was published by Old Earth Books in 2004 (ISBN 188296831X) . Andrew M. Butler also wrote the Pocket Essentials Guide to Terry Pratchett published in 2001 (ISBN 1903047390) . Writers Uncovered : Terry Pratchett is a biography for young readers by Vic Parker , published by Heinemann Library in 2006 (ISBN 0431906335) .

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