



IRISH STAMPS

# THE COLLECTOR

irishstamps.ie 01/17

## Love and Marriage

Happy 11th Anniversary

## W.B. Yeats

Irish links with the land of the Rising Sun

## St. Patrick's Day

A new stamp and an Ancient Art Form

## Emoji

Don't Worry — Be Happy

## Ireland's Objects

Ninth Definitive Series of Stamps

 **POST**

THE IRISH STAMP YEAR BOOK 2016  
Complete Prestige Collection

BLIAINIRIS STAMPAÍ NA hÉIREANN 2016  
Bailiúchán iomlán Ardchálíochta



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# CONTENTS

Commemorative Cancellations 2016	4
Stamp Issue of the Year Award 2016	6
News and Information	8
2017 Stamp Programme	11
Ninth Definitive Series — 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a selection'	12
Love and Marriage 2017	16
W.B. Yeats and the Noh Tradition	18
St. Patrick's Day 2017	20
Emoji	22
2016 Rio Olympics	24
Last Chance Saloon	26

## DEAR COLLECTOR...

Welcome to the first issue of The Collector for 2017. As we start a new year, our 2017 Stamp Programme begins to take effect, which all of us here at Irish Stamps hope catches your eye throughout the year!

We begin 2017 with the introduction of our Ninth Definitive Series, which focuses on 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a selection' which will run over the next five or six years based on Fintan O'Toole's book *A History of Ireland in 100 Objects*, published by The Royal Irish Academy. Why don't you skip ahead to page 12 to see which of the 100 Objects featured in Phase I of this series makes its way on to your letters, postcards and parcels this year?

Always popular in our annual Stamp Programmes are our Love and Marriage and St. Patrick's Day stamps, which return in 2017 on pages 16 and 20. Whether you're a romantic at heart or enjoy Celtic designs, we have the stamp for you to collect, admire and enjoy!

Sandwiched in between these two issues is an opportunity to pay homage to W.B. Yeats and learn how he was influenced by the art of Japanese Noh Theatre. For me personally this is my favourite of all the stamps featured in this edition as the design is not only beautifully

created but makes you think about the great William Butler Yeats in a different light. Anyways, enough talking about it, page 18 is where you can study and appreciate this unique issue for yourself.

To round off the stamp issues for this edition we present a topic that is everywhere you go - Emoji! Whether its text messaging, apps, television or even movies these are everywhere. We've embraced this craze and you can view these fun designs on page 22.

No edition of The Collector would be the same if we didn't have our Last Chance Saloon section. Here you have your final chance to get your hands on stamps issued this time last year such as 50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation, Love and Marriage 2016, St Patrick's Day 2016 and Dogs. Don't miss out on having these in your collections!

Finally, to finish I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations wherever in the world you were, and are ready and raring to go for the issues and surprises we have in store for you in 2017.

Until Edition 2, take care!

Richard Miley, Irish Stamps



1916—2016 Eighth Definitive Stamp Series

50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation



Love and Marriage

St. Patrick's Day



Dogs

Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavan Duffy



EUROPA — Ecology in Europe 'Think Green'

Centenary of the Battle of the Somme



## COMMEMORATIVE CANCELLATIONS 2016

2016 saw some unique and interesting cancellations created by our design team here at An Post to go alongside our

stamp issues. Take a look above at all the cancellations issued by An Post in 2016 and check if you are missing any of these. If





Irish Shop Fronts



Wild Atlantic Way



Cycling



Commissioners of Irish Lights



Christmas



so, treat yourself to a New Year gift with a copy of the 2016 First Day Cover Collection which is priced at €65.00. Available at

**irishstamps.ie** or by calling our sales team on +353 (1) 705 7400.

# STAMP ISSUE OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016

**Here's your chance to vote for your favourite Stamp Issue from 2016.  
On page 7 you'll find the stamps chosen to represent each issue in 2016.**

Simply fill in the entry form and send it to: Stamp Issue of the Year Award 2016, Irish Stamps, 4th Floor, GPO, O'Connell Street Lower, Dublin 1, D01 F5P2, Ireland.

The stamp issue that gets the most votes will receive the award, and if you have voted for this winning issue your name will be entered into a draw to win one of five prizes. The prize will consist of a set of Ninth Definitive Series First Day Covers and winners will be announced in a future edition of The Collector. Closing date for entries is 1 March, 2017.

1. 1916—2016 Eighth Definitive Stamp Series
2. 50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation
3. Love and Marriage
4. St. Patrick's Day
5. Dogs
6. Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavan Duffy
7. EUROPA — Ecology in Europe 'Think Green'
8. Centenary of the Battle of the Somme
9. Wild Atlantic Way
10. Irish Shop Fronts
11. Cycling
12. Commissioners of Irish Lights
13. Christmas



Name:

Address:

Email Address:

Collector's Account Number:

Your favourite stamp issue in 2016:

Reasons why you chose this issue:

# NEWS & INFORMATION

## STAMPA 2016

*Stampa 2016 roundup by Brian Warren.*

Stampa 2016 was held at the Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin 8 from 14 to 16 October, 2016. The new venue was favourably commented on by both dealers and collectors and the 100 frames of exhibits was one of the highest in recent years.

The overall award and Gold Medal for Best Exhibit on show went to Kathryn Johnson of the USA for her exhibit "The Additional Halfpenny Mail Coach Tax in Scotland 1813–1839". A total of 21 medals were awarded including six gold medals. In the special 1916 Rising Centenary competition there were seven entries with the special Dublin Crystal Class Trophy going to Anthony Hughes for "Westmeath Reflects 1916". A full list of the awards is available at [www.stampa.ie](http://www.stampa.ie), congratulations to all.

In addition, An Post displayed a number of 1916 artefacts including a piece of the flagpole which reputedly was part of the pole which flew the Irish Republic flag over the GPO at the time of the Rising. Well known dealer and collector Michael Giffney displayed his father's Easter Rising 1916 medal and associated documentation. His father (Michael Snr) was one of the volunteers who was in the GPO during Easter Week 1916.

The 2017 show will be held at the same venue from the 6 to 8 October 2017.



Crowd gathers at *Stampa 2016* and Michael Giffney with his father's 1916 medal.

## Cork Stamp and Coin Exhibition 2016

*Cork Stamp and Coin Exhibition 2016 roundup by Padraig O'Shea.*

The 2016 Cork Stamp and Coin Exhibition took place on 12 November, 2016. A total of 13 stands took part and an increased attendance on 2015 figures was present.

An Post had a double stand at the top of the room and the staff were pleased with the level of sales, with the 1916—2016 Easter Rising products completely selling out and more recent stamps and miniature sheets also proving popular on the day.

All the other dealers were also happy with their sales level and felt that although people were still price conscious the mood in the room was that people were prepared to spend. While the majority of sales were on medium priced items, there were also some higher priced sales recorded on the day.

Collectors of all levels were catered for with stamps, covers and coins ranging from a low of 5c each to a high of several thousand euro per item. Most interest was as ever on stamps and covers although local postcards also proved very popular with one dealer delighted when his entire postcard stock was purchased by a local collector.

The local society produced a Souvenir Booklet with a print run of 125 while show organiser Raven Stamps had an overprinted Cycling Miniature Sheet with Black Overprint (500) available as a Door Souvenir while there was a Supporters Souvenir limited to 100 overprinted in red.

All souvenirs can be purchased from Raven Stamps via Telephone 021 427 1750/087 257 4309 or by emailing [ravenstamps@gmail.com](mailto:ravenstamps@gmail.com).

## Stamp Suggestion Programme 2019

Collectors, please remember we are interested in getting your suggestions for the Stamp Suggestion Programme 2019. If you have an idea that you'd like to be considered, simply send it to us at:

Stamp Suggestion Programme 2019

An Post, 1st Floor

GPO

O'Connell Street

Freepost

Dublin 1

D01 F5P2

The closing date for receipt of suggestions is 31 March, 2017.



## Zinc Design win big at IDI Awards

Zinc Design Consultants won the highly coveted Design for Print Award at the IDI Irish Design Awards at The Marker Hotel, Dublin on Thursday, November 17. The award was for the design of the 5 Senses stamp issue of September, 2015. In addition, the 5 Senses designs were highly commended in the Universal Design category. For this challenging stamp design brief – to create a set of stamps to capture the genius and variety of the human senses – Zinc created a minimalist, illustration-led design that created visual harmony between each of the senses. As a result, the stamps and the senses can be experienced independently and as a set. On the night, the judges commented that; "On the smallest of possible canvases, with all the limits and technical restrictions that needed to be overcome, here we had a simple idea, brought to life with real thought and energy. The visuals are kept simple to let the joy of the idea speak for itself; this is a piece of everyday design that can be enjoyed by everyone."

Philatelic Manager, Aidan Murphy, remarked that he was delighted with the set of designs created by Zinc Design Consultants for this stamp series.

*"I believe this was a real team effort with involvement from the Stamp Design and Production area of An Post, allied to the creative inputs of Zinc Design Consultants, and the specialist print production techniques employed by Cartor Security Printing, combining to produce a visually stunning and technically innovative set of stamps."*

An enhanced production technique was used for each sense: Taste — strawberry flavoured gum is applied to the reverse of the stamp, Touch — the stamp reacts to the warmth of the human touch as the thermochromic ink changes its colour, Sight — the sight stamp used an illustration of an eye printed on transparent paper to represent the clarity sight brings, Hearing — the thermography print technique embeds small particiles on the print surface, creating noise when scratched, and Smell — a mint fragrance has been added to the surface of the stamp. In addition, the stamps incorporated image recognition technology, which when scanned on a mobile phone or tablet using the CEE App, specially created content on each of the five senses could be experienced.

## International Events

15—18 February - Spring Stampex London, England

3—5 March - AmeriStamp Expo - Reno, Nevada, USA

7—18 March - Collecta - International Collectors Fair - Ljubljana, Slovenia

# 2017 STAMP PROGRAMME

Another year, another new Stamp Programme for collectors to sink their teeth into. The 2017 Stamp Programme\* has been carefully put together by our Philatelic Department and consists of 20 issues for you to add to your respective collections. As I'm sure you'll agree, there's something for everyone in 2017.

ISSUE DATE	DESCRIPTION	STAMPS
12-JAN	NINTH DEFINITIVE SERIES A HISTORY OF IRELAND IN 100 OBJECTS, A SELECTION	8
02-FEB	LOVE AND MARRIAGE	1
09-FEB	W.B. YEATS AND THE NOH TRADITION	1
23-FEB	ST. PATRICK'S DAY	1
16-MAR	EMOJI	2
20-APR	ROYAL SITES OF IRELAND	4
04-MAY	EUROPA – CASTLES	2
01-JUN	CENTENARY OF FOUNDING OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL	1
08-JUN	CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF MESSINES RIDGE	1
29-JUN	150 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THOMAS MEAGHER	1
20-JUL	IRISH RAILWAY STATIONS	4
27-JUL	CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF FRANCIS LEDWIDGE	1
10-AUG	CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF JACK LYNCH	1
07-SEP	50 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FREE SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION	1
14-SEP	NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS	2
21-SEP	URBAN STREET ART	4
05-OCT	50 <sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF CHE GUEVARA	1
05-OCT	POSTCROSSING	1
12-OCT	CENTENARY OF THE APPARITIONS OF FATIMA	1
02-NOV	CHRISTMAS	3

\*Please note that this schedule may be subject to change.



# A HISTORY OF IRELAND IN 100 OBJECTS, A SELECTION

“ Ninth Definitive Stamp Series. ”

Objects don't just have stories, they tell stories. But what they said to their contemporaries may be different from what they say to us. Whether it's a silver tea urn from Georgian Dublin, the Clonmacnoise Crozier or an illuminated page from the Book of Kells, these objects help us gain a more comprehensive understanding of our past.

Many of the objects can be seen at the National Museum of Ireland. There's a wooden fish trap from the Mesolithic era, found preserved in a bog in Co. Meath.

There's St. Patrick's Confessio (460–490), the oldest surviving example of prose writing in Ireland.

Books of Survey and Distribution from the mid-17th century chronicle the shift in land ownership in favour of Protestant families, while an emigrant's suitcase from the 1950s tells the story of Ireland's diasporic expansion.

On 12 January, 2017, An Post will introduce the ninth definitive stamp series – A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a selection. The 'objects' were defined as a single, man-made entity (does not include Buildings), and are generally freely accessible in public institutions or spaces.

The stamp series is based on Fintan O'Toole's book, A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a project which originally involved The Irish



PRODUCT CODE 17DBK1 PRICE €7.20



PRODUCT CODE 17DBK2 PRICE €11.00

## Technical Details

Date of Issue:	January 12, 2017
Value:	8 x 72c
Stamp Design:	Zinc Design Consultants
Stamp Size:	56mm x 25mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Paper:	Raflatac Thermal P200
Make - up:	2 x Strip of 4
Perforations:	11 x 11.25 approx.
Printing Process:	HP Indigo high resolution digital print
Printer:	CCL Label Ireland Ltd

Times, The National Museum of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy.

An Post has now become a full partner in this revitalised project and will introduce a selection of the 100 objects as definitive stamps each year over the next five or six years.

As part of this venture, An Post will collaborate with the Royal Irish Academy to redevelop the website [www.100objects.ie](http://www.100objects.ie) and enrich it with new material and content sourced from the original app.

Designed by Zinc Design Consultants, the stamps are represented in photographic format, with each of the objects opening a

window into an important moment in Irish history.

The stamps will feature Augmented Reality, and for more information use a smartphone with the CEE App installed to scan the stamps or visit [www.100objects.ie](http://www.100objects.ie).

In January, 2017, eight SOAR stamps and a range of Philatelic material including Stamp Coils, National and International Booklets, and First Day Covers will issue as part of the first phase of the ninth definitive stamp series – A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a selection.

The objects featured on the SOAR stamps are a Mesolithic Fish Trap, a Ceremonial Axehead, a Neolithic Bowl, a Gold Hoard, a Flint



Macehead, Bronze Age Funerary Urns, the Tara Torcs, and the Broighter Boat.

The National and International Booklets feature a Gold Disc (2200–2000 BC) and a Gleninsheen Gold Gorget (c.800–700 BC) respectively, while the objects featured on the Stamp Coil are a Castlederg Bronze Cauldron, and an Armlet, Old-Croghan Man.

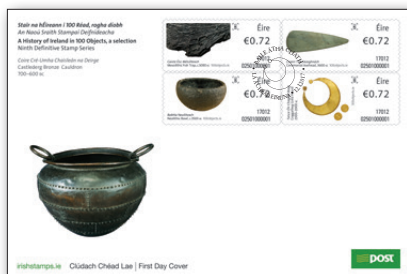
The Fish Trap from Clowanstown, Co. Meath is made of interwoven sticks and dates from c.5000 BC. It was used by early Irish people to catch fish from lakes or weirs. Dating from 3600 BC, the Ceremonial Axehead from Kinraigy, Co. Donegal is an exotic import from

the Italian Alps.

It is thought that the Neolithic Bowl with burnished surfaces (c.3500 BC) from a burial at Annagh, Co. Limerick may have been used for drinking. The Coggalbeg, Co. Roscommon Gold Hoard is perhaps a set of regalia, consisting of an Early Bronze Age lunula – a crescent-shaped collar representing the moon – and two gold discs, representing the sun.

The Flint Macehead was found in the eastern chamber beneath the great passage tomb at Knowth, Co. Meath in the Boyne Valley, and is one of the finest works to have survived from Neolithic Europe.





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**PRODUCT CODE 17DFDC2 PRICE €3.88**

The Bronze Age Funerary Urns (1900–1300 BC) were made to be buried with the dead. The Tara Torcs (c.1200 BC), made of long bars of twisted gold, were found close to the Rath of the Synods on the Hill of Tara in Co. Meath.

The beautiful Broighter Boat is a miniature rendering in gold of a sailing boat complete with benches and oars that was found at Broighter, Co Derry and dates from c.100 BC. It was part of a gold hoard found on the shores of Lough Foyle, perhaps an offering to the sea god Mannanán Mac Lir.

The earliest objects here are nearly twice as old as the Great Pyramids of Giza in Egypt and are extremely important artefacts not only for

Ireland but for the world to see and treasure. Displaying them, in sequence, on stamps like this will make them a remarkable collection and an extraordinary stamp series.

You can buy these stamps in their many formats and the First Day Covers by using the Order Form attached, by calling our sales team on +353 (1) 705 7400 or by visiting our website at [irishstamps.ie](http://irishstamps.ie) from 12 January, 2017.



# LOVE AND MARRAIGE

“Still going strong”

In 2017 we again issue a Love and Marriage stamp for the third consecutive year in its current form and still one of the most popular annual An Post issues. As always, the Love and Marriage stamp will appear in time for Valentine's Day on 14 February and this year we have chosen another iconic design theme: a stylised representation of kissing lovebirds.

The stamp was created by Dublin-based design firm Zero-G and features an illustration – in gold, on a plain background – of a love heart surrounding the two lovebirds kissing.

While the term 'lovebirds' is regularly used to describe an openly affectionate couple, in reality the lovebird is a very small African and Madagascan parrot with mainly green

plumage and usually a red, peach or black face. What makes them so unusual is the affectionate behaviour of mated birds.

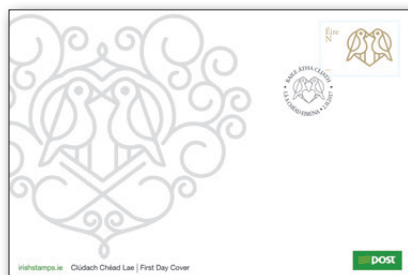
Unlike most other birds, lovebirds don't live in nests, they live in holes in trees, rocks or shrubs and, while they are native to Africa, there are flocks in Southern United States that are actually descendants of escaped pets. In fact they make great pets because they are often very affectionate towards their caregivers and will try to communicate with you through little chirps and head bobs. If you let them they will actually cuddle up to you too.

The behaviour of a pair of mated lovebirds is not the only thing that connects them to



## Technical Details

Date of Issue:	February 2, 2017
Value & Quantities:	N (1m) Strip of 2 (15k)
Stamp Design:	Zero-G
Stamp Size:	37.5mm x 26mm
Paper:	TR Self-adhesive Litho 240gsm
Colour:	Metallic gold (PMS 871) with phosphor tagging
Make - up:	Booklets of 10 Collectors' strip of 2
Perforations:	13 x 13
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



**PRODUCT CODE 1701FDC PRICE €1.72**

love and Valentine's Day. Literature scholars usually refer to a poem by Geoffrey Chaucer as the first evidence of the relationship between the religious celebration of Valentine's Day and romantic love. The poem of 699 lines was written in 1381 and 1382 and is called '*Parlement of Foules*'. It just happens to feature two birds which exhibit all the markings of human love. Two lovebirds, no doubt.

Whether or not there's a connection there, we all know what the term lovebirds refers to and it is synonymous with affectionate couples and also, Valentine's Day.

This stamp will be available in self-adhesive format in booklets of ten stamps. What makes this format so popular is that the Love and

Marriage stamp is often used to send wedding invitations which couples will buy and keep in advance of the event and use them closer to the time. Whether used singly or as part of an invitational mailing, the An Post Love and Marriage stamp will, as always, enhance any letter or card with a sense of love and romance.

You can buy this booklet and the First Day Cover by using the Order Form attached, by calling our sales team on +353 (1) 705 7400 or by visiting our website at **irishstamps.ie** from 2 February, 2017.





# W.B. YEATS AND THE NOH TRADITION

“ A celebration of Yeats' artistic adventure. ”

Acclaimed as one of Ireland's greatest-ever poets, Yeats was a busy writer not just of poetry but in other genres too.

As a dramatist he explored the world of theatre and found himself to be highly influenced by the mysterious elegance and beauty of the art of the Japanese Noh Theatre. He thought it might help him reach the 'strange intimacy' he sought in his plays as opposed to the familiar distance he saw in the productions in England and at the Abbey Theatre at the time.

Yeats adapted this highly-stylised theatre of Japanese Noh into his own plays as well as borrowing some structural elements from it. Two of his plays that showed this influence

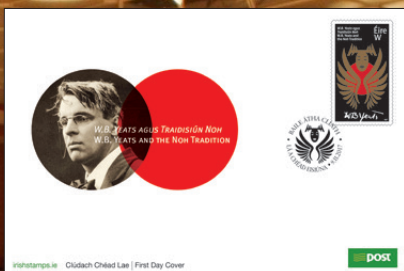
were *At the Hawk's Well*, performed at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin in 1917 and *The Death of Cuchulain* first published in 1939 and performed at the Abbey Theatre in 1945. *At the Hawk's Well* uses elements of dance, masks and the supernatural in its performance.

Yeats received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923 and in his acceptance speech noted that his success was largely the result of his plays.

Scholars, critics and admirers agree that Yeats' encounter with the Japanese Noh played a powerful role in his development as a playwright. Yeats' *The Dreaming of the Bones*, based upon the Noh play *Nishikigi*, led to Masaru Sekine's 2012 adaptation of *The*

# Technical Details

Date of Issue:	February 9, 2017
Value & Quantities:	W (94k) 2 x W Miniature sheet (25k)
Design	Zinc Design Consultants
Stamp Size:	30mm x 51mm
Miniature Sheet Size:	150mm x 68mm
Colour:	Black, Metallic gold (PMS 873) Red (PMS 186) and additional (PMS 291) on Miniature Sheet
Paper: Stamp	Tullis Russell 102gsm PVA gummed
Paper: Miniature Sheet	Tullis Russell Yellow Green Phosphor gummed
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



**PRODUCT CODE 1702FDC PRICE €2.10**



**PRODUCT CODE 1702FDCMS PRICE €3.20**



**PRODUCT CODE 1702MS PRICE €2.20**

*Dreaming of the Bones* in collaboration with Noh, Kyogen actors and operatic singers.

The stamp you see here is based on W.B. Yeats' play *At the Hawk's Well* and is a celebration of Yeats' journey to explore realms beyond his own literary traditions. The play itself is set by a dried-up well on a desolate mountainside that is guarded by a hawk-like woman. In the stamp, the woman is represented by the golden wings and masked face in a Japanese style. The original stage backdrop used a large black cloth, and you can see that in the black background of the stamp. The stamp's designers, Zinc Design Consultants, used gold foil in the golden wings and mask to illustrate

the Japanese oriental design culture. The red circle represents the sun, a symbol that is very significant in Japanese culture (it's on the Japanese Flag, for example). The stamp also bears W.B. Yeats' signature which depicts the Irish connection.

You can buy this stamp, the First Day Cover or the unique Miniature Sheet by using the Order Form attached, by calling our sales team on +353 (1) 705 7400 or by visiting our website at **irishstamps.ie** from the 9 February, 2017.





# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

“A Celtic art masterpiece”

To celebrate St Patrick's Day 2017, An Post commissioned Aaron Canning, an Irish graphic designer based in Vienna, Austria. His response was to use a minimal design featuring Celtic lines but in a modern manner – the old being the use of Celtic lines and weaving, and the new is the mix of thick and thin lines.

Lines used like this is a very familiar Celtic style of design, and you will see it a lot if you live in Ireland. Often called 'interlace' it is characterised by a continuous, unending pattern of connected strands or plaitwork. A great example of interlace is the Celtic knots that you see in jewellery, manuscripts, burial crosses and, in more recent years, popular

culture and tattoos. Interlace is the most common feature of Celtic art, along with spirals and fantastic animal shapes.

The ancient Celts did not actually invent interlace as an art form – it did not appear in its true form until the 6th or 7th century – some 500-600 years after the collapse of the pagan Celtic kingdoms on the Continent – by which time the surviving pockets of Insular Celts (e.g. in Ireland, Iona, Scotland and Wales) had become almost fully integrated with the indigenous cultures where they had settled.

There are two streams of thought as to how interlace became a Celtic tradition. The first

## Technical Details

Date of Issue:	February 23, 2017
Value & Quantity:	W (102k)
Design:	Aaron Canning
Stamp Size:	36mm x 36mm
Paper:	Tullis Russell 102gsm PVA gummed
Colour:	Single colour (PMS 354) with phosphor tagging
Make - up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



**PRODUCT CODE 1703FDC PRICE €2.10**

maintains that it was part of Germanic Anglo-Saxon art that flourished in 7th century Northumbria and Lindisfarne Island from where it spread via the Christian monastic network to Ireland.

The second view suggests that Celtic interlace originated in the Middle East as part of the artistic tradition of the Eastern Roman Empire in Byzantium (Constantinople, now Istanbul). Byzantine artists used interlace in the development of their preferred form of two-dimensional art, as seen in icons, mosaics, calligraphy and illuminations of the later Eastern Orthodox Church.

Whichever concept is correct, and while interlace was certainly used in many different countries between 600 and 900 AD, these interwoven braid patterns are today seen as a distinctly Celtic art form.

You can buy this stamp and the First Day Cover by using the Order Form attached, by calling our sales team on +353 (1) 705 7400 or by visiting our website at [irishstamps.ie](http://irishstamps.ie) from 23 February, 2017



## “Stamps to put a smile on your face”

Even if you don't know what an emoji is, you've probably heard the word anyway. Emoji are ideograms or smiley faces used in text and electronic messages and webpages. They are used much like emoticons (facial expression such as a smile or frown, formed using keyboard characters) and exist in various genres, including comic faces, common objects, places and types of weather and animals. Originally meaning pictograph, the word emoji comes from Japanese *e* (picture) + *moji* (character).

These small digital icons that are used to express an idea or emotion, originated on Japanese mobile phones in the late 1990s. Their popularity exploded, however, when Apple, Android and other mobile

operating systems began to include them in their phones.

Oxford Dictionaries named the emoji “Face with Tears of Joy” as its 2015 Word of the Year - SwiftKey also found that this was also the most popular emoji across the world. Meanwhile, Oxford noted that 2015 has seen a sizable increase in the use of the word 'emoji' and recognised its impact on popular culture.

It's very easy to dismiss Emoji because when you break it down they are, at first glance, ridiculous. They are a cartoon army of faces/ vehicles/flags/food and symbols trying to topple the everyday use of words. Emoji are intended to illustrate, or in some cases replace



## Technical Details

Date of Issue:	March 16, 2017
Value & Quantity:	2 x N Se-tenant (148k)
Design:	The Stone Twins
Stamp Size:	36mm x 36mm
Colour:	Multicolour plus PMS 803 with phosphor tagging
Paper:	Tullis Russell 102gsm PVA gummed
Make - up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



**PRODUCT CODE 1704FDC PRICE €2.44**

altogether, the words we send each other digitally, whether in a text message, email, or tweet.

Emoji has now become a worldwide, language-independent form of communication. Some might even argue that emoji is a form of pop art and they might have a valid point: There are now thousands of emoji used daily worldwide to convey humour, enhance messaging, make a point or to describe things.

To mark the rise of emoji in society around the world, An Post approached Dublin-designers The Stone Twins now based in Holland to create an appropriate design and these are the two stamps they came up with.

These stamps feature a range of emoji with the headlines 'Don't Worry' and 'Be Happy' ('Ná Bí Buartha' and 'Bí Sona' in Irish).

Instantly recognisable worldwide, these new emoji stamps should prove popular with people of all ages as well as collectors.

You can buy these stamps in Se-tenant format, and the First Day Cover by using the Order Form attached, by calling our sales team on +353 (1) 705 7400 or by visiting our website at [irishstamps.ie](http://irishstamps.ie) from 16 March, 2017.





# 2016 RIO OLYMPICS

“Get ready and get set for a lot of sports themed issues.”

For many collectors, sports and event themes present a very special opportunity to add some unique stamps to their collections and the 2016 Olympic Games was no different.

As you would expect, many postal services around the world issued commemorative stamps for the 2016 Olympic Summer Games which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The first Rio 2016 commemorative postal stamps were launched in March 2015 by the Brazilian Post Office at the games' organising committee headquarters. It marked 500 days until the Olympic Games began and revealed 10 designs featuring nine Olympic sports – basketball, rugby, weightlifting, rowing, aquatics, archery, cycling, badminton and

wrestling and also Paralympic athletics.

In all, there were 31 different designs commemorating Rio 2016 and the Games of the XXXI Olympiad (two more batches were launched in 2016 – the second with 10 stamps and the third 11 stamps).

Other countries around the world issued stamps to commemorate the games also, including two stamps from Hungary and ten \$1 stamps from New Zealand, which represented the ten events they had previously won gold medals in, up until that point.

Czech Post has issued two stamps while the tiny pacific island state of Vanuatu issued four. There are a great many others, naturally, but





the most spectacular sheets are from Serbia (18 stamps), Great Britain (12 stamps) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (12 stamps).

Another important issue has been that of 12 stamps issued by the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA). The UNPA believes that sport can be a universal language and so a powerful tool to promote peace, tolerance and understanding by bringing people together across boundaries, cultures and religions. To promote the contribution of sport to peace the UNPA has partnered with the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace to create an

impressive set of 12 stamps which feature several Olympic sports.

The Olympic Games and the United Nations (UN) share many ideas: The Olympic movement inspires people to contribute to a peaceful future for humankind as it brings together athletes from all parts of the world for the Olympic Games. One of the objectives of this great international sporting event is to promote peace, respect, mutual understanding and goodwill, much like the UN.

# LAST CHANCE SALOON

Once they're gone, they won't be coming back!

"What if, what if, what if?" Don't let this be you! Here is your last chance to get the below Commemorative Stamps which you may not have had the opportunity to obtain in 2016. Before you flick one page more and start purchasing the new issues of 2017, have a quick glance one last time at what 2016 had to offer you and see if there is room in your shopping cart for one or two more stamps!



## 50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation

Issue Date: 28 January, 2016

Withdrawal date: 28 January, 2017

This stamp was issued on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Heart Foundation in Jury's Hotel in Ballsbridge, Dublin, in 1966. The stamp was designed by Ger Garland and features an image of a heart over a cardiograph of a regular heartbeat.



## Love and Marriage 2016

Issue Date: 11 February, 2016

Withdrawal date: 28 January, 2017

In 2016 An Post issued its ever popular Love and Marriage stamp for the tenth consecutive year – it was previously called the Wedding Stamp. Designed by Dublin's Atelier David Smith, is it based on the theme of The Chain of Love. The stamp features an interesting and unusual graphic design of hearts forming a chain and was available in self-adhesive format of ten stamp booklets.



### St Patrick's Day 2016

**Issue Date:** 25 February, 2016

**Withdrawal date:** 25 February, 2017

Once again in 2016 An Post issued a stamp to mark the biggest annual holiday and celebration in Ireland. This stamp was designed by Steve Simpson and depicts a young St. Patrick in slavery with Slemish Mountain (County Antrim) in the background.



### Dogs

**Issue Date:** 10 March, 2016

**Withdrawal Date:** 10 March, 2017

Dogs are amongst the most popular pets in the world – the bond between humans and dogs is the most widespread form of interspecies bonding and keeping dogs as companions has a long history throughout the world. The beautiful 70c stamps were designed by Detail. Design Studio in Dublin city. They feature four uniquely Irish dog breeds: An Irish Wolfhound, an Irish Red Setter, a Sheepdog and a Kerry Blue.

# ORDER FORM

## The Collector 01/17

	DATE OF ISSUE	PRODUCT/ITEM	PRODUCT CODE	UOM	QUANTITY	PRICE	VALUE
LOT 1	Ninth Definitive Series						
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' SOAR Strip of Four 1 'N' Rate	17DL1	EA		€2.88	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' SOAR Strip of Four 2 'N' Rate	17DL2	EA		€2.88	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' 'N' National Booklet	17DBK1	EA		€7.20	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' 'W' International Booklet	17DBK2	EA		€11.00	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' Stamp Coil 'N' Rate	17DSASR	EA		€72.00	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' 'N' SAS Pair	17DSAS1	EA		€1.44	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' 'W' SAS Pair	17DSAS2	EA		€2.20	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' Stamp Coil SAS Pair 'N' Rate	17DSAS3	EA		€1.44	
	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' FDC 1	17DFDC1	EA		€3.88	
LOT 2	12/01/2017	'A History of Ireland through its Objects' FDC 2	17DFDC2	EA		€3.88	
	02/02/2017	Love & Marriage Self-Adhesive Pair 'N' Rate	1701SAS	EA		€1.44	
	02/02/2017	Love & Marriage Self-Adhesive Booklet 'N' Rate	1701BK	EA		€7.20	
LOT 3	02/02/2017	Love & Marriage FDC	1701FDC	EA		€1.72	
	09/02/2017	WB Yeats and the Noh Tradition 'W' Rate Stamp	1702W	EA		€1.10	
	09/02/2017	WB Yeats and the Noh Tradition 'W' Rate Sheetlet	1702W	SH		€17.60	
	09/02/2017	WB Yeats and the Noh Tradition Miniature Sheet	1702MS	EA		€2.20	
	09/02/2017	WB Yeats and the Noh Tradition FDC Miniature Sheet	1702FDCMS	EA		€3.20	
	09/02/2017	WB Yeats and the Noh Tradition FDC	1702FDC	EA		€2.10	
LOT 4	23/02/2017	St. Patrick's Day 'W' Rate Stamp	1703W	EA		€1.10	
	23/02/2017	St. Patrick's Day 'W' Rate' Sheetlet	1703W	SH		€17.60	
	23/02/2017	St. Patrick's Day FDC	1703FDC	EA		€2.10	
LOT 5	16/03/2017	Emoji 'N' Rate Se-Tenant Pair	1704ST	EA		€1.44	
	16/03/2017	Emoji 'N' Rate Sheetlet	1704ST	SH		€11.52	
	16/03/2017	Emoji FDC	1704FDC	EA		€2.44	
LAST CHANCE	28/01/2016	50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation 70c Stamp	160170	EA		€0.70	
	28/01/2016	50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation 70c Sheetlet	160170	SH		€11.20	
	11/02/2016	Love and Marriage Self-Adhesive Pair 'N' Rate	1602SAS	EA		€1.44	
	11/02/2016	Love and Marriage Self-Adhesive Booklet 'N' Rate	1602BK	EA		€7.20	
	25/02/2016	St. Patricks Day €1.05 Stamp	1603105	EA		€1.05	
	25/02/2016	St. Patricks Day Sheetlet	1603105	SH		€16.80	
	10/03/2016	Dogs 70c Block of 4	160470ST	EA		€2.80	
	10/03/2016	Dogs 70c Sheetlet	160470	S4		€11.20	
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