Láithreáin Ríoga na hÉireann Royal Sites of Ireland Rock of Cashel, County Tipperary

IRISH STAMPS

Royal Sites of Ireland Four stunning new stamps

Centenary of the founding of Lions Clubs International Celebrating a very special centenary **EUROPA – Castles** Discover Ireland's Europa 2017 issue here

Éire N

Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge

WWI Battle in Flanders they hoped would unite Ireland **150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meagher** A man celebrated on both sides of the Atlantic



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COLLECTOR...

Welcome to the second edition of The Collector for this year. In this edition we celebrate three very important anniversaries that are remembered both worldwide and at home while we also issue two sets of stamps that highlight the architectural beauty Irish landscapes provide.

We begin with the Royal Sites of Ireland. We've chosen four out of the six designated royal sites and made them available for you to add to your collection. Find out which of these sites makes it onto stamps on pages 4 and 5.

This year's EUROPA PostEurop theme is Castles, something which we have an abundance of in each of the four provinces in Ireland. Urban castles were used to control the local populace and important travel routes, while rural castles were often located near features that were integral to life in the community, such as mills and fertile land. Kelvin Gillmor has designed two wonderfully crafted stamps which you can learn all about on pages 6 and 7.

On pages 8 and 9 we feature a stamp commemorating the centenary of the founding of Lions Clubs International. This charitable organisation is setup in over 200 countries, providing support for communities. Find out exactly what Red Dog came up with inside and also learn more about the services that the Lions Clubs provide. World War One was described as the "war to end all wars" and the battle which took place a century ago at Messines Ridge only adds weight to that claim. While many people lost their lives in what was essentially a tactical manoeuvre to gain ground within the context of the bigger picture, there is a beautiful backstory relating to the army divisions North and South of the Irish border. Learn about this for yourself on pages 10 and 11.

The Tricolour is synonymous with Ireland all around the world, but how many of you know where it came from or the meaning behind it? Our final issue in this edition will help you fill in these blanks as we commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meagher on pages 12 and 13.

As always we give you one final opportunity to claim stamps that were issued in our 02/16 edition in the Last Chance Saloon section. These issues include Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavan Duffy, EUROPA – Ecology in Europe 'Think Green' and Centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of The Collector, and that you are looking forward to the content that will be presented in future editions.

Joanne Ferris, Irish Stamps

NEWS & INFORMATION STAMP ISSUE OF THE YEAR 2016

The winner of the 2016 Stamp Issue of the Year 2016 as voted on by collectors was Wild Atlantic Way. One of the reasons why this was chosen by collectors was:

"Because they are among the best stamps I've ever seen and I feel so proud of our beautiful country when using these, especially on letters going overseas!"

The 5 winners chosen will receive their prize of a set of two *A History of Ireland in 100 Objects* FDC's shortly.

STAMP SUGGESTION PROGRAMME 2019

The final date for receiving stamp suggestions for the 2019 Commemorative Programme has now closed and we would like to thank all collectors for their submissions.

NEW POSTAL RATES

From April 13, new postal rates will apply across all of our mail products. For Standard Post items up to 100g the new rate is €1.00 for domestic mail and €1.35 for international mail. Find out more at **anpost.ie/Rates2017**

SPRING STAMP AND COIN SHOW 2017

The Spring Stamp and Coin Show will take place Sunday, April 23 in the Clyde Hall at the RDS in Dublin 4 from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Admission is €6 per adult and children are more than welcome to come along as well.

This is a great opportunity for Philatelists to come and search for stamps to fill the gaps in their collections. An Post will have a stand with all the latest philatelic products on sale and customers who spend €50 or more with us will receive a complimentary miniature sheet.

A limited edition Love and Marriage stamp booklet with a special overprint will be on sale at the door also. A free expert valuation service for your collections of stamps, postcards, coins, old letters, medals and any collectable items will also be available. For further information contact Michael Kelly at 086 871 4880.



G Recognising Ireland's Royal Past

The Royal Sites of Ireland are historical sites around the country that were used by Kings and other Irish royalty for coronations, ceremonies and gatherings. There is one in Ulster, Munster, and Connaught while the remaining three can be found in Leinster.

Most of these sites may not be very obvious to the layman but historical sources associate them with various medieval Irish Kingdoms. Archaeological investigations show that the sites were culturally significant thousands of years before recorded history.

Ancient monuments, including Neolithic burial mounds, standing stones and cairns

date back thousands of years and tell us how important these places were through those millennia. The concept of a royal site goes back to medieval texts that describe these places as the titular seats of Irish Kings where assemblies and athletic games were held.

In Ireland there are six royal sites in total; Eamhain Mhacha, Dún Ailinee, Rock of Cashel, Rathcroghan, Hill of Tara, and Hill of Uisneach.

The first, Eamhain Mhacha (Navan Fort), is located in Co. Armagh and was the royal site for the Kings of Ulster. The second, Dún Ailinee, was the site used by the Kings of Leinster and is an ancient ceremonial site on the hill of Cnoc



Image courtesy of Fáilte Ireland

Date of Issue:	April 20, 2017
Value & Quantity:	4 x N Block (208k)
Stamp Design:	Source Design
Stamp Size:	51mm x 30mm
Paper:	TR PVA Gum 102gsm
Colour:	Multicolour with
	phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



PRODUCT CODE 1705FDC PRICE €5.00

Ailinee (Knockaulin) in Co. Kildare.

Third on our list is the Rock of Cashel which was the location for the Kings of Munster and this today is one of the most visited tourist attractions in Ireland. Fourth is Rathcroghan (meaning ringfort of Cruachan), an archaeological site near Tulsk in Co. Roscommon, which was the meeting place for the Kings of Connaught.

The fifth site is the Hill of Tara which was the seat of the Kings of Meath and the seat of the Irish High Kings. Finally, the Hill of Uisneach in Westmeath is traditionally regarded as the epicentre of Ireland, where all the provinces meet.

You can buy this Block of 4 which includes Hill of Tara, Eamhain Mhacha, Rathcroghan and the Rock of Cashel and also 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 April 20, 2017.



Calsleán Bhaile Átha Clia ∎EUROPA Dublin Castle



a cleán an Rí Eoin, Luimneach King John's Castle, Limerick

EUROPA – CASTLES Contemposities Contempos

Every year An Post issues EUROPA stamps, along with other members of European Post Offices (PostEurop). There is a theme for these stamps and for 2017 it is 'Castler'

Post Offices (PostEurop). There is a theme for these stamps and for 2017 it is 'Castles', something that Ireland just happens to have in abundance.

EUROPA stamps have the official EUROPA logo on them and are designed to show how the various postal authorities throughout Europe cooperate to promote philately. Since the very first issue in 1956, their purpose has also been to help to build awareness of the common roots, culture, history of Europe and its mutual goals.

EUROPA stamp issues are among the most collected and popular stamps in the world and

the 2017 series from An Post features two of our most famous castles: Dublin Castle in the capital and King John's Castle in Co. Limerick, which are also amongst the finest Norman castles built in Europe.

Originally built in the 13th century on a site previously settled by the Vikings, Dublin Castle is right in the very heart of our busy capital city. For over 800 years it has always been in use, either as a military fortress, prison, treasury, courts of law or for 700 years, as the seat of English Administration in Ireland. The first building was designed to be a defensive fortification for the Norman city of Dublin and it was rebuilt in the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.



Date of Issue:	May 4, 2017
Values & Quantities:	1 x €1.00 (122k)
	1 x €1.35 (94k)
Photography and	
Stamp Design:	Kelvin Gillmor
Stamp Size:	45mm x 28mm
Paper:	TR PVA Gum 102gsm
Colour:	Multicolour with
	phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 10
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.6
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing

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PRODUCT CODE 1706FDC PRICE €3.35

Image courtesy of Fáilte Ireland

Nowadays, Dublin Castle is a major Irish government complex and is often used for important State receptions.

On the other side of the country, but of a similar age, King John's Castle is situated on 'King's Island' in the heart of medieval Limerick city.

Although the site dates back to 922 when the Vikings lived on the Island, King John's Castle itself was built on the orders of King John in 1200. It overlooks the majestic river Shannon and is one of the best-preserved Norman castles in Europe – the walls, towers and fortifications are all still intact there today. Over the past 800 years, the castle has been repaired and extended many times and is now one of the busiest tourist attractions in Ireland.

These two stamps were designed by Kelvin Gillmor and you can buy them alongside 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 May 4, 2017.



CENTENARY OF THE FOUNDING OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

6 6 100 years of great work. **9 9**

Lions Clubs International was founded in Chicago in 1917 by a group of philanthropic business people headed by Melvin Jones. It became an international organisation in 1920 when the first club outside of the United States was established in Canada.

Today, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest voluntary service organisation, with over 1.4 million volunteers in more than 200 countries worldwide. The word 'Lions' was used because it is an acronym for Liberty, Intelligence, and Our Nations' Safety while the movement's motto is "We Serve". In Ireland, there are 116 clubs north and south of the border with over 2,700 members involved. The main objectives of the club are to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world, to promote the principles of good government and good citizenship and to take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

Lions Clubs in Ireland and around the world work towards humanitarian goals such as preventing blindness, helping street children, improving recycling, Christmas food appeals, diabetic screening and suicide prevention. At Lions events, the discussion of politics and religion is forbidden.



Image courtesy of lions100.lionsclubs.org

Date of Issue:	June 1, 2017
Value & Quantity:	1 x €1.35 (94k)
Design	Red Dog
Photography:	Paul McCarthy
Stamp Size:	51mm x 30mm
Colour:	Multicolour
Paper:	TR Yellow Green Phosphor PVA Gum
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



PRODUCT CODE 1707FDC PRICE €2.35

Lions Clubs organise many events to improve the communities in which they live, helping in particular the old and the vulnerable. This is particularly evident at the biggest annual event that the Lions organise in Ireland every year: The Irish Lions Holiday Week.

Amazingly, this is also one of the largest service projects undertaken by Lions in Europe, if not the world. Each year, Lions Clubs throughout Ireland combine to give more than 900 elderly citizens a full weeks holiday. This is usually held in June in Trabolgan, Co. Cork.

This year we celebrate the positive contributions of Lions Clubs International in serving communities locally and globally, and giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants. The stamp features a photograph from the 2016 Irish Lions Annual Holiday week and was designed by Red Dog.

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* from June 1,2017.



CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF MESSINES RIDG

6 The centenary of an important WWI milestone.

The First World War Battle of Messines Ridge was an important event in world, military and Irish history. The battle was fought 100 years ago in early June, 1917 on the Western Front near the village of Messines, in Belgian West Flanders and began with an offensive strike by the British Second Army against the entrenched Germans.

The Allies deemed the battle a success because it forced the German Army to move reserves from the Arras and Aisne fronts, which relieved pressure on the French Army. The tactical objective was to capture the German defences on the ridge, which ran from Ploegsteert Wood in the south, right through Messines, and down to Mt. Sorrel. Capturing this ridge would deprive the German Fourth Army of the high ground south of Ypres.

Why is this important to Irish history you ask? 1917 was just one year after the Easter Rising at home and many believed that the Battle of Messines Ridge presented an opportunity for reconciliation between the two political traditions in Ireland – British unionism and Irish nationalism. It was thought that if Irishmen could fight and die together, they could live together.

On June 7, 1917 soldiers from the 16th (Irish) and the 36th (Ulster) Divisions re-took the



Image courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

German occupied Flemish village of Wijtschate (which was previously known as Wytschaete) and so played a major part in one of the most successful large-scale operations of the war.

The battle began with the detonation of a series of mines beneath German lines, which created more than a dozen large craters and devastated the German defences. This was followed by a creeping barrage 700 yards deep with support from tanks, cavalry patrols and aircraft, all of whom covered the Allied troops as they secured the ridge. The Battle of Messines was a prelude to the much larger and better-known Third Battle of Ypres which began just over a month later on July 11.

Technical Details

Date of Issue:	June 8, 2017
Value & Quantity:	1 x €1.35 (94k)
Design:	Ger Garland
Stamp Size:	36mm x 36mm
Paper:	TR PVA Gum 102gsm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Make-up:	Sheetlets of 16
Perforations:	13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process:	Lithography
Printer:	Cartor Security Printing



PRODUCT CODE 1708FDC PRICE €2.35

This stamp was designed by Ger Garland and features the Round Tower from the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines, Belgium, which is a war memorial to the soldiers of the island of Ireland who died, were wounded or are missing from the First World War, and is symbolic of the aspirations of those involved for peace in Ireland at the time.

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** from June 8, 2017.



150THANNI EKSARY OF THE D OF THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHE

6 150th Anniversary of the death of a hero?

Thomas Francis Meagher was born in Waterford in 1823 and was educated by the Jesuits at Clongowes, Co. Kildare and at Stonyhurst College in England. The family lived in what is now the Granville Hotel but later moved to a large house opposite the site on which Waterford Treasures Museum is now located, and where a significant collection of memorabilia has been on display since 2012.

1848 was a big year for the Meagher's: Thomas brought the Irish republican tricolour from Paris to Waterford, flying it in Ireland for the first time from the Wolf Tone Confederate Club at 33 The Mall, Waterford. Later that year he led the Young Irelanders in the general nationalist uprising. He explained the meaning behind the flag as follows: "...I trust that the old country will not refuse this symbol of a new life from one of her youngest children. I need not explain its meaning. The quick and passionate intellect of the generation now springing into arms will catch it at a glance. The white in the centre signifies a lasting truce between the "orange" and the "green" and I trust that beneath its folds, the hands of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped in generous and heroic brotherhood..."

After being convicted of sedition for his role in the uprising, Meagher was sentenced to death, but this was commuted to transportation for life to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) in Australia. In 1852 he escaped to the United States and settled in



Date of Issue:	June 29, 2017
Value & Quantity:	1 x €1.00 (122k)
Illustration:	Charles Cullen (Aosdána)
Design:	WorkGroup
Stamp Size:	29.8mm x 40.6mm
Colour:	Multicolour with phosphor tagging
Paper:	TR PVA Gum 102gsm
Make-up: Perforations: Printing Process: Printer:	Sheetlets of 16 14.1 x 14.3 Lithography Cartor Security Printing



PRODUCT CODE 1709FDC PRICE €2.00

Image courtesy of Phil Brown www. docbrown.info/docspics/irishscenes

New York City where he was given a hero's welcome and he settled down to study law and work as a journalist.

At the beginning of the American Civil War, Meagher joined the U.S. Army, eventually becoming brigadier general. His greatest feat there was probably in recruiting and leading the Irish Brigade and encouraging support among Irish immigrants for the Union. After the war, Thomas Francis Meagher was appointed acting governor of the Montana Territory but drowned in the Missouri River in 1867 after falling from a steamboat at Fort Benton.

In 1886, Meagher's widow, Elizabeth, presented a number of Thomas Francis

Meagher's personal possessions to the City of Waterford – including a magnificent portrait of him in the uniform of General in the Union Army which was painted in New York in 1865

This stamp, designed by Dublin design studio WorkGroup, is based on a portrait by Charles Cullen of Thomas Francis Meagher with the colours of the Irish flag in the background. 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 from June 29, 2017.

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 within this edition, 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!



Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavan Duffy Issue Date: April 7, 2016

Withdrawal Date: April 7, 2017

Charles Gavan Duffy was born in Monaghan on April 12, 1816. While studying law in Dublin, Duffy, along with John Blake Dillon and Thomas Davis, founded *The Nation* (1842), a weekly journal of Irish nationalist opinion. Later, he and his two colleagues formed the Young Ireland party, which advocated Irish independence. In 1852 he was elected to Parliament for New Ross, Co. Wexford, and organised an independent opposition of some 50 Irish members to obstruct any government that did not support the demands of the Irish Tenant League. Duffy retired from Irish politics in 1855, and went to Australia. The stamp, designed by Steve Simpson, is based on an illustration of Charles Gavan Duffy by Charles Cullen.



EUROPA – Ecology in Europe 'Think Green'

Issue Date: May 12, 2016

Withdrawal date: May 12, 2017

Each year, European Post Offices (PostEurop) select a common theme and each country issues stamps on this topic. In 2016, the theme was Ecology in Europe 'Think Green'. The winning design appeared on the 70c stamp and was created by Ms Doxia Sergidou from Cyprus Post. Ms Sergidou explained that the main purpose of her design was to show that it is in our hands to create a greener planet. The €1.05 stamp was designed by Red Dog Design and displays 'Forty Shades of Green'.



Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

Issue Date: June 23, 2016

Withdrawal Date: June 23, 2017

The Battle of the Somme took place near the Somme River in France and lasted from July 1 to November 18, 1916. It began in the high expectation of a major victory that would bring the carnage of the First World War to an end, but by the time it ended, more than one million soldiers from both sides had died without making any significant alteration in the opening position. The total number of Irish casualties cannot be calculated with certainty but they affected every part of the island and continue to have an influence on the evolution of Irish politics. This stamp was designed by Red&Grey Design and features an image of the Royal Irish Rifles from the Imperial War Museum.

ORDER FORM The Collector 02/17

	DATE OF ISSUE	PRODUCT/ITEM	PRODUCT CODE	UOM	QUANTITY	PRICE VALUE
	20/04/2017	Royal Sites of Ireland 'N' Rate Block of 4	1705100ST	EA		€4.00
.OT 1	20/04/2017	Royal Sites of Ireland 'N' Rate Sheetlet	1705100ST	S 4		€16.00
-	20/04/2017	Royal Sites of Ireland 'N' Rate Block of 4 FDC	1705FDC	EA		€5.00
	04/05/2017	EUROPA - Castles €1.00 Stamp	1706100	EA		€1.00
LOT 2	04/05/2017	EUROPA - Castles €1.35 Stamp	1706135	EA		€1.35
	04/05/2017	EUROPA - Castles €1.00 Sheetlet	1706100	SX		€10.00
	04/05/2017	EUROPA - Castles €1.35 Sheetlet	1706100	SX		€13.50
	04/05/2017	EUROPA - Castles FDC	1706FDC	EA		€3.35
	01/06/2017	Centenary of founding of Lions Clubs International €1.35 Stamp	1707135	EA		€1.35
LOT 3	01/06/2017	Centenary of founding of Lions Clubs International €1.35 Sheetlet	1707135	SH		€21.60
Ц	01/06/2017	Centenary of founding of Lions Clubs International FDC	1707FDC	EA		€2.35
	08/06/2017	Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge €1.35 Stamp	1708135	EA		€1.35
LOT 4	08/06/2017	Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge €1.35 Sheetlet	1708135	SH		€21.60
_	08/06/2017	Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge FDC	1708FDC	EA		€2.35
	29/06/2017	150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas F Meagher €1.00 Stamp	1709100	EA		€1.35
LOT 5	29/06/2017	150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas F Meagher €1.00 Sheetlet	1709100	SH		€16.00
Ľ	29/06/2017	150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas F Meagher €1.00 Stamp FDC	1709FDC	EA		€2.00
	07/04/2016	Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavin Duffy 70c Stamp	160570	EA		€0.70
	07/04/2016	Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavin Duffy 70c Stamp	160570	SH		€11.20
щ	12/05/2016	Europa - Ecology in Europe 'Think Green' 70c Stamp	160670	EA		€1.44
ANG	12/05/2016	Europa - Ecology in Europe 'Think Green' €1.05 Stamp	1606105	EA		€7.20
AST CHANCE	12/05/2016	Europa - Ecology in Europe 'Think Green' 70c Sheetlet	160670	SX		€1.05
LAS'	12/05/2016	Europa - Ecology in Europe 'Think Green' €1.05 Sheetlet	1606105	SX		€16.80
	23/06/2016	Centenary of the Battle of the Somme 'W' Rate Stamp	1607W	EA		€1.35
	23/06/2016	Centenary of the Battle of the Somme 'W' Rate Sheetlet	1607W	SH		€21.60

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