

International Statesmen

Two extraordinary Nobel Prize winners

EUROPA – Bridges

This year's Europe wide issue

Na Píobairí Uilleann

50 years of the Society of Uilleann Pipers

1,400th Anniversary of the death of Saint Kevin

Remembering a Saint 1,400 years later irishstamps.i



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COLLECTOR...

Welcome to the second edition of The Collector for 2018. Once again we are very pleased to bring you four new stamps to add to your collection.

The first issue is a set of two stamps in early April, celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela, two of the greatest statesmen of a generation.

Both stamps feature iconic photographs of the great men as they address mass public gatherings of their followers.

Early May heralds the arrival of An Post's EUROPA issue. As you probably know, the EUROPA stamps issue Europe wide and feature a different theme each year. 2018's topic is 'Bridges'.

Our two stamps depict two bridges of interest in terms of their structure and use: Mizen Head Footbridge in County Cork, and Boyne Viaduct in County Louth.

Towards the end of May, we will issue a stamp that commemorates the 50th anniversary of Na Píobairí Uilleann, the society of uilleann pipers.

The society has done an incredible job of preserving and promoting the making and playing of Ireland's national bagpipes, the Uilleann pipes. The instrument has recently been

recognised as an important and unique cultural heritage symbol by UNESCO.

Our final issue for the period is a stamp commemorating the 1,400th Anniversary of the death of Saint Kevin. Kevin was a holy man who lived a simple life, while around him grew a large monastic centre.

Glendalough Monastery is arguably Ireland's most important site of this kind. Located at Glendalough in Saint Kevin's native County Wicklow, the site is so important because of how well preserved the round tower is. Glendalough Monastery recieves hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

Each edition of The Collector includes our Last Chance Saloon section. This offers you a final chance to get your hands on stamps issued this time last year, such as Royal Sites of Ireland, EUROPA – Castles, Centenary of the founding of Lions Clubs International, Centenary of the Battle at Messines Ridge and 150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meagher. Don't miss out on having these in your collections!

Joanne Ferris, Irish Stamps

NEWS & INFORMATION

STAMP ISSUE OF THE YEAR 2017

The winner of the 2017 Stamp Issue of the Year as voted on by collectors was the 50th Anniversary of the death of Che Guevara. Among the reasons this was chosen by collectors was "Art is about creating conversation and debate. And this stamp certainly succeeded."

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

SUGGESTIONS FOR 2020 COMMEMORATIVE STAMP PROGRAMME

The final date for submitting suggestions for the 2020 Commemorative Stamp Programme was March 21, 2018. Thank you to all collectors who made submissions.

SPRING STAMP AND COIN SHOW 2018

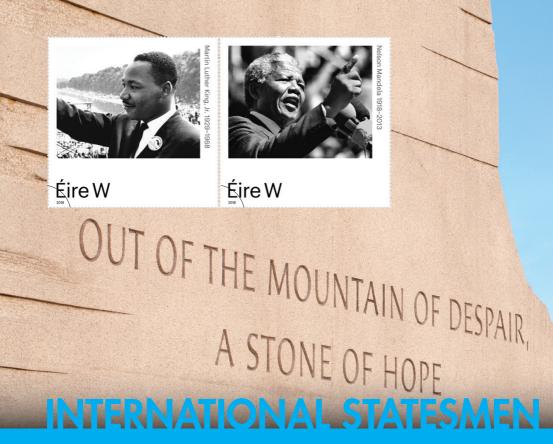
The Spring Stamp and Coin Show will take place Sunday, April 8 in the Clyde Hall at the RDS Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Admission is €6 per adult and children are more than welcome to come along as well free of charge.

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 Phase II 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects, a selection' stamp booklet with a special overprint will be on sale at the event. 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.

NEW POSTAL RATES

From April 4, 2018 new postal rates will apply across our mail products. For Standard Post items up to 100g the rate of €1.00 for Domestic Mail is unchanged, however for International Mail this rate is now €1.50. Find out more at anpost.ie/Rates2018



6 Celebrating two men who changed history **9** 9

An Post will honour two remarkable leaders and civil rights activists – Martin Luther King, Jr and Nelson Mandela – under the title of International Statesmen.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) is best known as an activist and humanitarian, who greatly advanced the cause of African-American civil rights.

King graduated from high school and college, working as a Baptist minister before helping to organise the 'March on Washington' in 1963. It was here that he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of an incredible 250,000 demonstrators, who marched to the

Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. In his now famous address, he said "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character".

The following year, President Johnson signed laws prohibiting all racial discrimination and King received the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent campaign against racism.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Nelson Mandela (1918–2013) was South Africa's first black president and was the son

Date of Issue: April 5, 2018

Value & Quantity: W Se-tenant (120k)

Design: Aad

Stamp Size: 36mm x 36mm

Colour: Black with phosphor

tagging

Paper: Tullis Russell 102gsm

PVA gummed

Cartor Security Printing

Make-up: Sheetlets of 16

Perforations: 13.3 x 13.3

Printer:

Printing Process: Lithography



PRODUCT CODE 1807FDC PRICE €4.00

Martin Luther King, Jr.: Licence granted by Intellectual Properties Management, Atlanta, Georgia, as exclusive licensor of the King Estate Nelson Mandela: Image reproduced with kind permission of The Nelson Mandela Foundation

> of an African Chief and studied law to become one of South Africa's first black lawyers. In the 1950s he was elected leader of the youth wing of the African National Congress (ANC). He was arrested in 1962 and sentenced to life imprisonment for high treason and conspiracy against the state.

> Nelson Mandela was released in 1982 and served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999 when his government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid through reconciliation. He was awarded the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, which he shared with the man who had released him, President Frederik Willem de Klerk.

These stamps are designed by Dublin-based design studio Aad and the stamps feature photographs of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the March on Washington, August 1963 (© Hulton-Deutsch Collection/Corbis/Getty Images) and Nelson Mandela at Soweto, September 1990 (© Alexander Joe/AFP/Getty Images).

You can buy these two stamps 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 5, 2018.



6 Our contribution to this year's theme **9 9**

Every year, members of European Postal Operators (PostEurop) each issue stamps which reflect a single chosen theme. This year, 2018, the theme is 'Bridges'.

The concept behind EUROPA stamps is to show co-operation between postal operators and to build awareness of the common roots, culture and history of Europe. First issued in 1956, the stamps demonstrate Europe's desire for closer integration and co-operation.

Naturally, they are also designed to promote philately throughout Europe – EUROPA stamp issues are among the most popular stamps in the world.

Ireland's contribution to the 2018 issues features two iconic bridges, Mizen Head Footbridge and Boyne Viaduct .

The €1 stamp features the dramatic footbridge at Mizen Head in County Cork. The bridge was constructed in 2011 and is a near-replica of the original Victorian steel structure which was completed in 1909 crossing a sea gorge.

The modern reinforced concrete bridge spans 50 metres and connects the lighthouse on a small island to the mainland, offering breathtaking views from both sides.

The original bridge was exposed to extreme elements for over 100 years and it was



Date of Issue: May 3, 2018 Values & Quantities: €1 (122k)

€1.50 (94k)

Design: Vermillion Design
Stamp Size: 45mm x 28mm
Colour: Multicolour with

phosphor tagging

Paper: Tullis Russell 102gsm

PVA gummed

Make-up: Sheetlets of 10
Perforations: 13.3 x 13.6
Printing Process: Lithography

Printer: Cartor Security Printing



PRODUCT CODE 1808FDC PRICE €3.50

replaced in 2011 toward the end of its lifespan.

The €1.50 stamp features the Boyne Viaduct in County Louth. Opened in 1855, the viaduct is a 30-metre-high railway bridge that crosses the River Boyne in Drogheda and carries the main Dublin–Belfast railway line.

At the time of opening, it was only the seventh bridge of its kind in the world and was considered one of the wonders of the age.

The Boyne Viaduct has twelve stone arches on its south side and three on the north. It originally had two tracks — one heading north and another south — but the refurbishment and renewal processes has left it with just the

one track today.

The viaduct is listed as a heritage structure by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.

These two stamps, their specially designed sheetlets of 10 and a First Day Cover can be bought by using the Order Form attached, calling +353 (1) 705 7400 or by visiting our website **irishstamps.ie** from May 3, 2018



6 © Dedicated to the promotion of the price of the promotion of th

Na Píobairí Uilleann(NPU), the society of uilleann pipers in Ireland, was founded in 1968.

This year An Post has commissioned a stamp to commemorate the body, which reversed the decline in the popularity of the Uilleann Pipes, the national pipes of Ireland.

In 2017 the instrument was recognised as an important and unique cultural heritage symbol by UNESCO.

The uilleann pipes are descended from bellows-blown pipes that were known in Ireland in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Their modern name 'uilleann' is

derived from the Irish word 'uille' (elbow) as the instrument is inflated with a bellows, rather than the player's breath.

When Na Píobairí Uilleann was founded, there were less than 100 uilleann pipers remaining in the world. Today, it is a thriving arts organisation dedicated to sharing the 'sound of Ireland' through access, education, performance and preservation.

The society is committed to excellence in values, governance and processes, organising regular concerts and festivals, arranging tuition and releasing publications and recordings.



Image courtesy of Ná Píobairí Uilleann

Date of Issue: May 24, 2018 Value & Quantity: €1 (122k)

Design: Vermillion Design
Stamp Size: 40.6mm x 29.8mm

Colour: Multicolour with phosphor

tagging

Paper: Tullis Russell 102gsm

PVA gummed

Make-up: Sheetlets of 16
Perforations: 14.3 x 14.1
Printing Process: Lithography

Printer: Cartor Security Printing



PRODUCT CODE 1809FDC PRICE €2.00

Na Píobairí Uilleann have been so successful that the demand for pipes began to considerably exceed supply and so a dedicated Training Centre – Pipecraft – was established to deliver training in the very highly skilled craft of uilleann pipemaking.

The society has its headquarters in Dublin's Henrietta Street from which it supports the ever-growing, worldwide demand for services.

The uilleann pipes are an intrinsic part of Ireland, our heritage and our music. They are our sound.

Na Píobairí Uilleann promotes excellence among its membership and supports a

thriving live performance scene with regular recordings of the instrument.

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 May 24, 2018.



6 Founder of one of the most important monastic sites in Ireland

Saint Kevin is among the most revered saints in Ireland, particularly in his native county of Wicklow, on the east coast, just south of Dublin.

He is best known for founding Glendalough ('glen of the two lakes') monastery in the sixth century – one of the most popular tourist attractions in Ireland today. Glendalough is an area of rich history, abundant wildlife, spectacular scenery and archaeology.

Born in AD 498 into a noble family in west Wicklow, Kevin studied for the priesthood in Cill na Manach (Kilnamanagh). He moved to

Glendalough to be closer to God in solitude and prayer. Kevin chose to live by the shore of the upper lake in a cave that was originally a Bronze Age tomb. This cave became known as Saint Kevin's Bed and can be seen today from the opposite shore of the upper lake.

In his cell to the east of the cave and overlooking the upper lake, Kevin lived a very simple life as a hermit for seven years. We now know that he maintained a deep love of nature and solemn respect for all created things — his companions were the animals and birds around him.



Date of Issue:May 31, 2018Value & Quantity:€1 (122k)Sculpture:Imogen StuartDesign:Vermillion DesignStamp Size:51mm x 30mmColour:Multicolour with

Paper: Tullis Russell 102gsm

PVA gummed

phosphor tagging

Make-up: Sheetlets of 16
Perforations: 13.3 x 13.3
Printing Process: Lithography



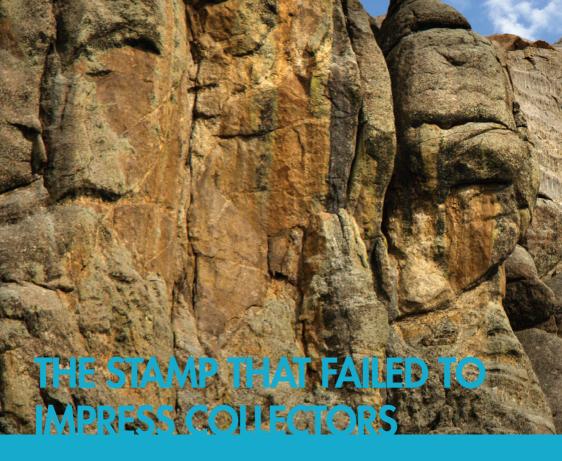
PRODUCT CODE 1810FDC PRICE €2.00

Gradually, word of Kevin's holiness spread across the land and pilgrims came to see him to follow his puritanical way of life. Small monastic communities were established and eventually Glendalough grew to become one of the great spiritual centres of Christianity in Ireland. The settlement flourished for a thousand years after Saint Kevin's death.

Saint Kevin's Day is celebrated on June 3rd every year. The remains of his monastery include the round tower (a feature unique to Irish monasticism), which stands 30 metres high and has been completely preserved. This round tower has become synonymous with Glendalough.

An Post commissioned Vermillion Design to create a stamp in honour of this important Irish saint. The stamp features a woodcarving by renowned artist Imogen Stuart, showing Saint Kevin with Glendalough monastery 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 May 31, 2017.

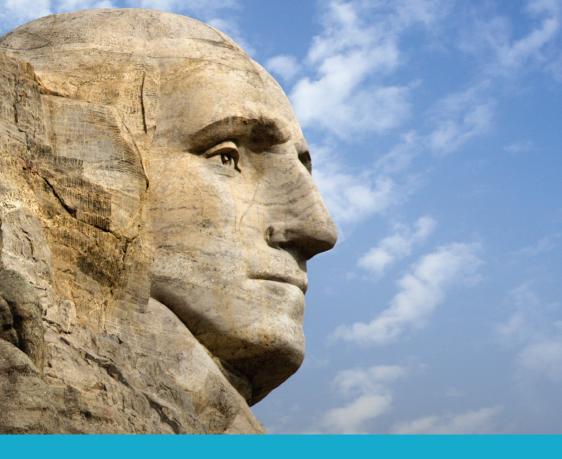


One of stamp collecting's golden eras was the early 1970s, particularly in the United States. The United States Postal Service (USPS) had reinvented itself and was releasing more stamps with more interesting and generally appealing designs.

USPS announced in October 1972 that it would respond to frequent requests from collectors to issue a stamp about stamp collecting. Philatelists deserved a 'stamp of their own'. In November 1972, on the 125th anniversary of the very first official United States postage stamp, the USPS planned to release a commemorative stamp. It would cost eight cents and would be in a new size, 'semi-jumbo'.

The job of designing the new stamp was given to Frank E. Livia, a respected artist and experienced stamp designer. Collectors were delighted with the news – the Associated Press said: "Stamp collecting, the hobby of millions in this country, gets its due recognition". Newspapers offered the advice: "Collectors may send self-addressed envelopes with remittance... to 'Stamp Collecting Stamp, Postmaster, New York, NY 10001.""

Livia decided to base his design around the first ever U.S. postage stamp, released in 1847 and featuring Benjamin Franklin, who had served as postmaster general several times, first for Philadelphia, then for the Britishhelmed American colonies and, finally, after the Second Continental Congress, for the



newly declared independent colonies.

This was one of two stamps issued at the time – the five cent Benjamin Franklin was the domestic letter rate for up to 300 miles, while the 10 cent George Washington was for greater than 300 miles.

Livia's new stamp contained an exact replica of the five cent Franklin stamp from 1847 with a large black magnifying glass encircling it without, strangely, altering its original size. To the right, 'Stamp Collecting' appears along with an enormous '8c'. Everything is in a 1970s turquoise colour.

When it was released it was greeted with horror, particularly amongst the more traditional collectors and critics who

declared, perhaps short-sightedly and unkindly, that this sort of 'poster art' had no place in 'stampic art'. On top of that, production was delayed for weeks because the adhesive makers were on strike, coincidentally.

USPS had intended a tribute to the collectors of the world, turned out to be a philatelic misadventure. The fortunes of the 'stamp collectors' stamp have not changed much. It's possible to pick up one today for about sixty cents which, with inflation, is barely more than the eight cents it cost when it was issued in 1972. Ironically, the 1847 Benjamin Franklin five cent stamp within the magnifying glass is worth about \$2,500 in mint condition.

LAST CHANCE SALOON

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

"What if, what if," Don't let this be you! Before you start purchasing the new issues of 2018, have a quick glance at what 2017 has to offer you. See if there is room in your shopping cart for one or two more stamps! Here is your final chance add some recent Commemorative Stamps to your collection, which you may not have had the opportunity to obtain last year.



Royal Sites of Ireland

Issue Date: 24 April, 2017

Withdrawal Date: 24 April, 2018

The Royal Sites of Ireland are sites of major royal inauguration ceremony and assembly, representing each of the four Irish provinces: Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught, as well as the region of Meath. The stamps were designed by Source Design and feature stunning aerial photographs of The Hill of Tara, Eamhain Mhacha, Rathcroghan and The Rock of Cashel.



EUROPA - Castles

Issue Date: 4 May, 2017

Withdrawal date: 4 May, 2018

Each year, European Postal Operators (PostEurop) select a common theme and each country issues stamps on this topic. In 2017, the theme was 'Castles'. The stamps were designed by Kelvin Gillmor and feature beautiful photography of Dublin Castle and King John's Castle in Limerick. Dublin Castle functioned as a military fortress, a prison, treasury, courts of law and the seat of English Administration in Ireland for 700 years. Rebuilt in the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, Dublin Castle is now used for important State receptions and Presidential Inaugurations. King John's Castle, situated on 'King's Island' in the heart of medieval Limerick City, overlooks the majestic river Shannon and was built between 1200 and 1210. It has since been repaired and extended many times and now houses an interpretive centre.



Centenary of the founding of Lions Clubs International

Issue Date: 1 June, 2017

Withdrawal Date: 1 June, 2018

Lions Clubs International was founded in Chicago in 1917 and is now the world's largest voluntary service organisation, with over 1.3 million volunteers in more than 200 countries worldwide. In Ireland, there are 116 clubs North and South with 2,700 members. The stamp was designed by Red Dog Design Consultants and features a photograph from the annual Irish Lions Holiday Week.



Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge

Issue Date: 8 June, 2017

Withdrawal date: 8 June. 2018

The Battle of Messines was an offensive conducted by the British Second Army during the First World War, on the Western Front near the village of Messines, in Belgian West Flanders. The battle forced the German Army to move reserves to Flanders from the Arras and Aisne fronts, which relieved pressure on the French Army. The tactical objective of the attack was to capture the German defences on the ridge, which ran from Ploegsteert Wood in the south through Messines and Wytschaete to Mt. Sorrel, to deprive the German Fourth Army of the high ground south of Ypres. The stamp was designed by Ger Garland and features the Round Tower from the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines, Belgium.



150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meagher

Issue Date: 29 June, 2017

Withdrawal date: 29 June, 2018

Thomas Francis Meagher was an Irish nationalist and leader of the Young Irelander's in the Rebellion of 1848. Meagher was born in Waterford in 1823. He was the son of the first Catholic Mayor of Waterford. Thomas Francis Meagher was educated like most wealthy Catholics of his time by the Jesuits at Clongowes, Co. Kildare and at Stonyhurst College in England, and then studied law. He brought the tricolour from Paris to Waterford, flying it in Ireland for the first time in March 1848. The stamp, designed by WorkGroup, is based on artwork by Charles Cullen featuring a portrait of Thomas Meagher with the colours of the Irish flag in the background.

ORDER FORM The Collector 02/18

DATE OF ISSUE	PRODUCT/ITEM	PRODUCT CODE	UOM	QUANTITY	PRICE VALUE
05/04/2018	International Statesmen 'W' Se-tenant Pair	1807ST	EA	QUARTITI	€3.00
05/04/2018	International Statesmen 'W' Sheetlet	1807ST	58		€24.00
05/04/2018	International Statesmen FDC	1807FDC	EA		€4.00
03/05/2018	EUROPA – Bridges €1.00 Stamp	1808100	EA		€1.00
03/05/2018	EUROPA – Bridges €1.50 Stamp	1808150	EA		€1.50
03/05/2018	EUROPA – Bridges €1.00 Sheetlet	1808100	SX		€10.00
03/05/2018	EUROPA – Bridges €1.50 Sheetlet	1808150	SX		€15.00
03/05/2018	EUROPA – Bridges FDC	1808FDC	EA		€3.50
24/05/2018	Na Piobairi Uileann €1.00 Stamp	1809100	EA		€1.00
24/05/2018	Na Píobairí Uileann €1.00 Sheetlet	1809100	SH		€16.00
24/05/2018	Na Píobairí Uileann FDC	1809FDC	EA		€2.00
31/05/2018	1,400th Anniversary of the death of St. Kevin €1.00 Stamp	1810100	EA		€1.00
31/05/2018	1,400th Anniversary of the death of St. Kevin €1.00 Sheetlet	1810100	SH		€16.00
31/05/2018	1,400th Anniversary of the death of St. Kevin FDC	1810FDC	EA		€2.00
20/04/2017	Royal Sites of Ireland 'N' Rate Block of 4	1705ST	EA		€4.00
20/04/2017	Royal Sites of Ireland 'N' Rate Sheetlet	1705ST	S4		€16.00
04/05/2017	EUROPA – Castles €1.00 Stamp	1706100	EA		€1.00
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	1706135	SX		€13.50
01/06/2017	Centenary of founding of Lions Clubs International €1.35 Stamp	1707135	EA		€1.35
01/06/2017	Centenary of founding of Lions Clubs International €1.35 Sheetlet	1707135	SH		€21.60
08/06/2017	Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge €1.35 Stamp	1708135	EA		€1.35
08/06/2017	Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge €1.35 Sheetlet	1708135	SH		€21.60
29/06/2017	150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meagher €1.00 Stamp	1709100	EA		€1.00
29/06/2017	150th Anniversary of the death of Thomas Francis Meagher €1.00 Sheetlet	1709100	SH		€16.00
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