

IRISH STAMPS REPORT 2017



An Post Irish Stamps 2017

An Post issued a total of 34 special and commemorative stamps in 2017, covering a broad range of subjects including **W.B. Yeats and the Noh Tradition, Urban Street Art, Irish Castles and Irish Railway Stations.**

An Post's Ninth Definitive Stamp Series, '**A History of Ireland in 100 Objects - a selection**' issued in January, 2017. The stamp series began life as a publication by Fintan O'Toole of The Irish Times and over time, the stamp series will feature many of the objects from the fully illustrated hardback book, *A History of Ireland in 100 Objects*.

Starting with the issue of the first 12 stamps and continuing over five years, the series allows customers and collectors to discover more about the island of Ireland's long history from c.5000BC to the early 21st century. The stamps feature Augmented Reality and when scanned by a smartphone with the 'CEE' App installed, reveal exclusive content related to each object. Series one of the stamps include objects from ancient Ireland such as a Mesolithic Fish Trap (c.5000 BC), the Coggalbeg Gold Hoard (c.2000 BC), the Tara Torcs (c.1200 BC) and the Gleninsheen Gold Gorget (c.700 BC)

Among the highlights of the 2017 commemorative stamp programme was a stamp issued during October to mark the 50th Anniversary of the death of Che Guevara, who was of Irish descent. Designed by Red&Grey Design, the stamp features an iconic portrait of Guevara which has reached a global audience since it was first created by Irish artist, Jim Fitzpatrick in 1968.

In March, two stamps celebrated the global phenomenon of Emoji. Designed by the Stone Twins, the stamps feature emoji with the typography 'Don't Worry' and 'Be Happy' in Irish and English.

July saw the release of a stamp marking the Centenary of the death of Francis Ledwidge, who is unusual in the canon of 20th Century Irish poetry. He was a self-educated, labourer poet, writing about nature and his World War One experiences while he still served as an active soldier in the British Army. Known as the Poet of the Blackbird, he was killed in action, aged 30, at the Battle of Passchendaele at Ypres in 1917. The stamp by Detail Design Studio features a traditional portrait with a modern treatment, overlaid by a blackbird in flight to create a striking image.

In September, An Post issued four stamps celebrating four different styles of Urban Street Art. Designed by Aad, the stamps feature artworks by four renowned Irish artists: Conor Harrington *Dead Meat*; James Earley *Irish Deer*; Maser *Untitled*, and Fin DAC *Meghna Lall* (Part of The Magnificent Seven). A beautiful Prestige Booklet was also produced to showcase the four artworks within their original urban setting.

Once again, the annual Irish Stamps Year Book was produced in both standard and luxury editions. As ever, this strictly limited edition featured all commemorative issues from the annual programme and contained superb imagery and informative text.

A diverse portfolio of associated stamp products was also produced including Prestige Stamp Booklets, Miniature Stamp Sheets, a 2017 Stamp Year Pack and First Day Cover (FDC) Collection.

For further information about Irish stamps please see www.irishstamps.ie



Railways



Che



Rugby



Emoji



Urban Art

An Post Irish Stamps 2017

continued



Fatima



Yeats



Love



TF Meagher



Ledwidge



Lynch



Ploughing



Christmas



Royal Sites



Castles



Messines



St. Patrick



Education



Lions



Postcrossing

