

# **AN POST IRISH STAMPS REPORT 2016**

# 2016 IRISH STAMPS REPORT

An Post issued a total of 30 special and commemorative stamps in 2016, covering a wide range of subjects including the Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavan Duffy, Irish Shop Fronts, The Centenary of the Battle of the Somme, Cycling, The Five Senses and Europa – Ecology in Europe ‘Think Green’.

January 2016 saw the introduction of 1916 -2016 the Eighth Definitive Series, commemorating the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. Sixteen stamps were issued on the Stamps On A Roll (SOAR) format for post office counter sales.

An Post also produced stamp booklets and a wide range of souvenir items including a special sheet of 16 gummed stamps; *The 1916 Easter Rising*, a 108 page book written by eminent historian Fearghal McGarry (containing a sheet of 16 gummed stamps); a presentation folder with four miniature sheets; a souvenir folder with 16 gummed stamps and a set of postcards. Sales have been really strong across the range, with some items selling out completely. The stamps feature Augmented Reality and when scanned by a smartphone with the ‘CEE’ App installed, reveal exclusive content related to the 1916 Rising.

Amongst the highlights of the 2016 commemorative stamp programme was the award-winning stamp celebrating Love and Marriage. The annual theme stamp is created and issued in time for St Valentine’s Day. The 2016 stamp used bold design principles to create a series of interlocking hearts, or ‘a chain of love’. Designed by Atelier David Smith, the flamboyantly graphic stamp was further distinguished by its use of metallic and fluorescent inks and it won the Bronze Bell in the print design category at the 2016 ICAD (Institute of Creative Advertising and Design) awards.

Zinc Design Consultants won the highly coveted 2016 Design for Print Award at the IDI (Irish Design Awards) for the Five Senses stamp issue of September, 2015. The design was also 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 designed a minimalist, illustration-led design that created visual harmony between each of the senses. The stamps also featured specially created digital content, available by scanning stamp images using the CEE app on a mobile phone.

On the night, the judges commented: “On the smallest possible canvas, 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”.

Augmented Reality was again employed to great effect in the set of four stamps celebrating the Wild Atlantic Way. Designed by Red&Grey, these beautiful stamps were very positively received by collectors and also served to promote Ireland as a first-class visitor destination. Each stamp featured an outdoor activity and location in Ireland: Horse Riding at Grange, Co. Sligo; Fly Fishing at Glenbeg Lough, Co. Cork; Cycling on the Aran Islands, Co. Galway and Surfing at Inch, Co. Kerry.

In March, a set of four stamps on the theme of ‘Dogs - Man’s best friend’, was issued, complementing the ‘Cats’ stamps of 2014. Towards the end of the year, four stamps recognized the contribution of the Commissioners of Irish Lights to safe shipping and to Ireland’s economic wellbeing.

Once again, the Irish Stamps Year Book was produced in both standard and luxury editions. Featuring all commemorative issues from the annual programme, it also contained the 16 definitive stamps produced for 1916-2016. This strictly limited edition book contained superb imagery and informative text. A diverse portfolio of associated collateral was also produced, including Prestige Booklets, Miniature Sheets, a Year Pack and First Day Cover (FDC) Collection.

An Post/Irish Stamps contributed nine original stamp artwork paintings to an exhibition - *A Terrible Beauty: Centennial Reflection* - by renowned Dublin artist, Robert Ballagh at the Hunt Museum, Limerick from May to August. The rebellion and its leaders has been a recurring subject in his work and the selection had personal resonance as the artist reflected on the challenges and legacy of the Rising. In addition, an *Exhibition of Stamps Commemorating the 1916 Easter Rising* was held in the Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, Dublin from 24 March to 30 April. Large format prints of the stamps and exclusive souvenir sheets were displayed throughout the centre.

For further information on Irish Stamps please refer to [www.irishstamps.ie](http://www.irishstamps.ie)

25 May 2017

50th Anniversary of the Irish Heart Foundation



Love & Marriage



St. Patrick's Day



Wild Atlantic Way



Europa



Dogs



# 2016 IRISH STAMPS REPORT

continued

## Irish Shop Fronts



## Bicentenary of the birth of Charles Gavan Duffy



## Cycling in Ireland



## Irish Lighthouses / Commissioner of Irish Lights



Christmas



Centenary of the Battle of the Somme



1916-2016 Eighth Definitive Stamp Series

<p>Éire 70c 1916-2016</p>	<p>Éire 70c 1916-2016</p>	<p>Éire 70c 1916-2016</p>	<p>Éire 70c 1916-2016</p>
<p>Constable James O'Brien &amp; Sean Connolly</p>	<p>Michael Malone &amp; William Malone</p>	<p>Dr Kathleen Lynn &amp; Elizabeth O'Farrell</p>	<p>Jack Doyle &amp; Tom McGrath</p>
<p>POBLACHT NA hÉIREANN. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.</p>	<p>Seán Foster</p>	<p>Louisa Nolan</p>	<p>Sir Francis Fletcher-Vane &amp; F. Sheehy-Skeffington</p>
			<p>Roger Casement</p>

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