

THE HISTORY OF THE OLD
IRISH CURRENCY
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- The history of Irish currency reflects Ireland's political development over the last 1000 years. It began with the Vikings, who hammered out the very first Irish coins in Dublin in the 10th century.
- Some of the designs were to last until the Euro was introduced in 2002. The new Irish coins were quite radical at the time. Other than the harp, there was no obvious symbolism, the coins bearing only images of certain indigenous flora and fauna.

The Irish Punt

The Irish pound (Punt) was the currency of Ireland from 1928-2002, the Irish pound coin and coins of lesser value came into circulation 1990-2002.



A range of banknotes was also introduced. These were designed by the Belfast-born artist, Sir John Lavery and featured his rendition of an archetypal "colleen". It later transpired that the portrait was of his wife, Hazel, more commonly known as "Lady Lavery" an American painter.





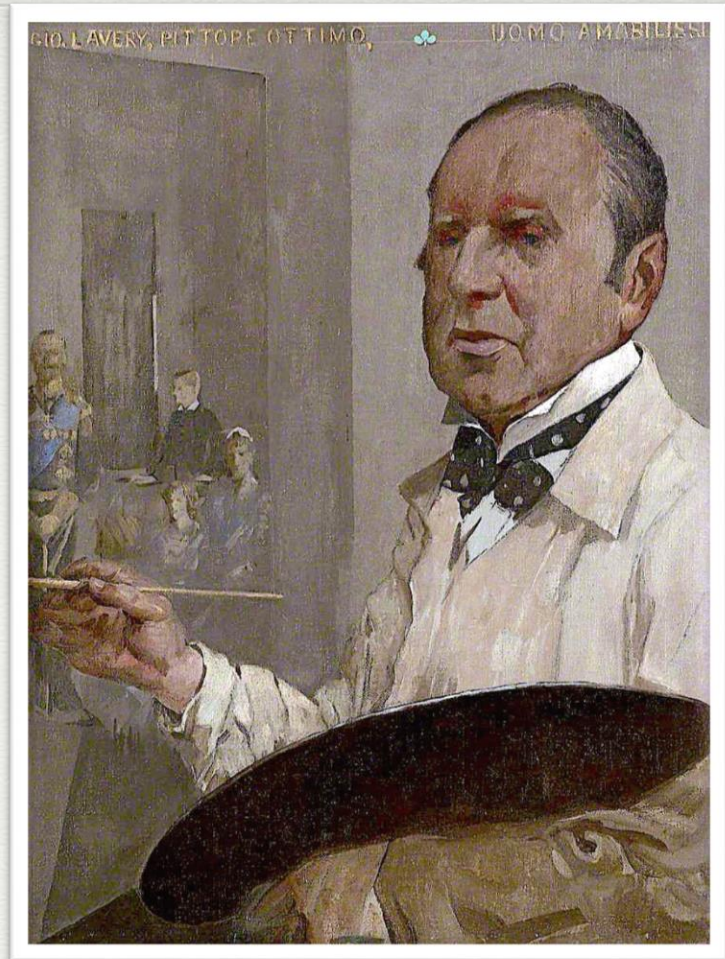
Lady Lavery.

- Hazel Martyn was born in 1880 in Chicago to Edward Martyn of Attleboro Massachusetts, and Alice Louise Taggart, who was from Wisconsin. She was a bright child and was educated at the best schools, where she learnt dance and music.



- Hazel first met John Lavery in 1903 in Beg-Meil in Brittany France in the summer of 1903. She was very taken with his ways and his painting. Hazel loved painting and sketching herself and was considered quite talented.
- They married in December 1903
- Hazel was pregnant and she gave birth to a daughter in October 1904, who she named Alice, after her mother.

- The renowned Irish portrait painter Sir John Lavery was commissioned to produce an image of the female personification of Ireland for the bank notes and he used his wife Lady Hazel Lavery as his model, her image appeared on the front of all the notes.





Old 1 Pound Note.



Old 10 Shillings Note.

Old Half-Crown Coin.



Old Half-Penny Coin.



Old Penny Coin.

Coin Values

English Name	Irish Name	Symbol	Pence Value
Farthing	Feoirling	Woodcock	1/4
Half-Penny	Leathphingin	Sow and Litter	1/2
Penny	Pingin	Hen and Chickens	1
Three-Pence	Leath Ruel	Hare	3
Six-Pence	Reul	Wolfhound	6
Shilling	Scilling	Bull	12
Florin	Flóirín	Salmon	24
Half Crown	Leath Choróin	Horse	30
Ten Shillings	Deich Scilling.	Cú Chullainn	120

- The Irish pound coin came into circulation 1990- 2002 it had the image of a red deer with a harp image on reverse side. In 1976 the central bank introduced an entirely new set of notes which replaced the Lady Lavery notes.
- £1=Queen Meadhbh,
- £5=Johannes Scotus Erigena,
- £10=Jonathan Swift,
- £20=William Butler Yeats,
- £50=Turlough O Carolyn.



THE END.