



## The Anniversary of Decimal Day

The 15th of February is Decimal Day.

Did you know that in 1971 the Irish Punt currency system switched over from the old system of florin, shillings and half-crown, to the decimal system?

This meant the withdrawal of the penny, threepence, sixpence and half-crown.

Gabriel Hayes, an Irish female artist and sculptor, designed the Irish punt decimal coins, of which the halfpenny, penny and twopence are most notable.

Decimal coins were used until the euro came into circulation in 2002.

What we can see is three ornamental bird designs similar to those contained in old Irish illuminated manuscripts, the most famous one being the Book of Kells.

We do not know where exactly Hayes got the designs from, but they blend in perfectly with the rest of the designs created by Percy Metcalfe, which we've shown in previous videos of our archival collection.