



Banc Ceannais na hÉireann
Central Bank of Ireland

Eurosystem

Video Transcript

Series B £20 Note

This is a transcript of text in the video titled “Series B £20 Note”.

William Butler Yeats was born to portrait painter John Butler Yeats, and his wife Susan Pollexfen in June 1865, in Dublin. The range of his writings is wide, from poetry and plays to folk tales, prose works and three volumes of autobiography, but it is as a poet that he is most often recognised, and he was considered one of the best poets of his day. Yeats was also appointed a senator in the new Irish Free State from 1922 to 1928, and acted as Chairman of the Coinage Committee between 1926 and 1928. This committee were those responsible for deciding on the designs of Ireland’s first coinage.

On the reverse of the note, there is imagery of the Great Blasket Island, which is located just off the Dingle Peninsula in Co. Kerry. If you look closely at the background, you can see text which is taken from Tomás Ó Criomhthain (Tomás O’Crohan’s), *The Islandman* (An tOileánach). This work was written in Irish and first published in 1929. This text is considered a classic of Irish-language literature, and central text of the corpus of the Gaelic Revival.

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