

Isle of Man Features Knox Celtic Art

On April 4 Isle of Man is issuing a set of stamps to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Archibald Knox. The internationally renowned Manx artist and designer was a leading exponent of British Celtic revival, a design style of the early 20th century.

Knox is most widely known for his work with silver and pewter designs for Liberty, the London department store that, as a center for fashionable and eclectic design, displayed the works of fashion leaders; however to his Manx contemporaries in the 1910s and 1920s he would have been known better as a graphic designer producing designs for everything from illustrations for a book of fairy tales to the cover of a theater program.

Whatever his designs were used for and whether they were cast in silver, carved in stone or printed on paper they are all characterized by a common motif of intricate interlace designs and knots that show Knox's lifelong fascination with the carved Norse and Celtic stone crosses that surrounded him from his childhood onwards.

The commemorative stamps capture Knox's intricate interlace and calligraphy. The images used originate from Knox's illuminated manuscript *The Deer's Cry*, which he started while working at the Knockaloe Civilian Interment camp during

WWI. Based on an early Irish prayer, it is widely acknowledged as his greatest achievement.

Tony Pass, Chairman of the Manx Museum and National Trust said: "... Archibald Knox's... con-

nection with the workshops of Liberty of London gave him a place in the Celtic/Arts and Crafts Revivals. A century later, his work is renowned across the world. I am pleased that in the 150th anniversary of Knox's birth and during the Island of Culture 2014 celebrations, Manx National Heritage and Isle of Man Stamps, with the support of Lloyd's Bank, are able to bring *The Deer's Cry* to a wider audience".

Maxine Cannon, General Manager Isle of Man Stamps and Coins said: "We are delighted with the stamps, they capture and frame the images from *The Deer's Cry*. They are a more than fitting tribute to someone who helped provide the foundations of Manx art and bring it to an international stage...the stamps capture an important part of cultural history that we are currently celebrating in 2014 with the Island of Culture."

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