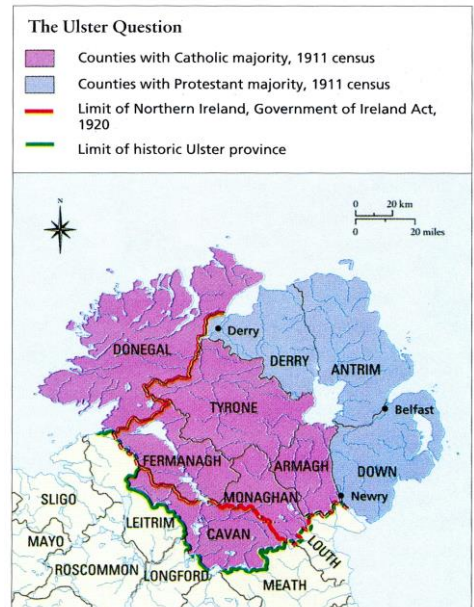


# Creation of the Border Between Two Irelands 1913 to 1923: A Synopsis



**Ireland as part of Europe and the British Isles**



**Ulster and Northern Ireland (Border in red Line).**  
Ulster Counties Monaghan, Donegal and Cavan were ceded to Southern Ireland as part of the 1921 Anglo Irish Treaty. Southern Ireland became the Irish Free State on Dec 6 1922

## ***Purpose, Scope and Importance:***

This is part of my *documentary style* of single frame exhibits looking at various historic events in Ireland during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The British passed the *Government Ireland Act of 1920* creating *Northern Ireland* from 6 counties of nine that make up the Irish Province of Ulster. Three other counties of Ulster and the remaining 23 counties of Ireland became *Southern Ireland* which became the Irish Free State in December 1922 and the Republic of Ireland known as *EIRE* in 1937.

This exhibit shows the social, economic and political (SEP) impacts on Southern Ireland (Irish Free State) by the creation of an *international border* between Northern and Southern Ireland. The exhibit covers the decade from 1913 and Home Rule for all Ireland, to 1923 and the end of the Irish Civil Wars, and Partition, with Northern Ireland remaining part of the United Kingdom. The main focus is on Southern Ireland where the SEP impacts of the border were much greater. ***This border has even more importance to all of Europe today with Great Britain & Northern Ireland departing from the European Union. Ireland has the only land border with Great Britain.***

## ***Background and Treatment:***

I lived in Ireland for 10 years from 1965 to 1975, attending Secondary School (High School) and University. Very little was taught in school about the *Creation of the Border* between Northern and Southern Ireland, which divided families and communities. Most of the books and articles about the border creation were written during and after the 1980s, when the *Irish National Archives* began releasing information about various Irish and British Government activities during 1913 to 1923. *The exhibit is laid out on 8 double pages, each page is a separate chapter with its own timeline.* Covers, folded letters, postcards, labels and stamps are used and *the material selected is important to the story time lines.* ***Both SEP and philatelic information are discussed.*** Many of the letters, postcards and covers represent unique correspondence.

## ***Knowledge and Research and Rarity***

The Exhibit is based upon several years of my research at the Irish National Archives, various museums in Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Cashel and the Library at Trinity College, Dublin

The *exhibit use of postcards and political labels* is vital to the storyline of the exhibit. They were the *Social media of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century* and, therefore, an important means of communicating social and political views to 100s of people through the mail and for fundraising. *Many Political Postcards and labels have become rare and represent over 30 years of my collecting this material.* ***Important and rare materials are shown with a green background. Rare material is indicated by census.***

## ***Layout:***

The exhibit starts with a brief introduction to the start of both the Republican (nationalist) and Unionist movements in Ireland during the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

This chapter shows a Registered folded letter from Derry to Italy, Postmarked ***Derry*** Nov 26 1869, but with a red hand stamp ***Registered at Londonderry***. ***This cover demonstrates the dual cultures and personalities of the city known as Derry to the Republicans and Londonderry to the Unionists and British.***

Another highlight of this section is a folded letter mailed from Mobile, Alabama to Londonderry on April 24 1848. ***This is one of three recorded covers mailed to Ireland using the 1847 US stamp series.*** The letter mentions the Irish Famine and rebellion activities in Ireland.

The next two chapters look at the SEP forces pulling Ireland apart during 1913 /1914 when ***Home Rule for all Ireland*** became law despite ***violent opposition*** from Unionists in Ulster. Home Rule for All Ireland was suspended during World War I only to reemerge ***as Home Rule for two Irelands in December 1921.***

The fourth chapter looks at the dynamics behind the creation of Northern Ireland from Ulster during the period of 1914 to 1921.

***Noteworthy:*** The island of Ireland and the other 3 parts of Great Britain enjoyed ***Free Trade***, cultural and political exchange up to the Anglo-Irish Peace Treaty ( December 6 1921) that created the ***Irish Free State and a border between two Irelands.*** The following four chapters look at the economic, cultural (social) and political consequences of the border on the people of Ireland during the first two years of Southern Ireland's independence from Great Britain – 1922 and 1923.

My exhibit format is part of the new documentary trend in exhibiting & requires a bit more time to read and comprehend. There are two key components to ***Documentary Exhibits***: The Philatelic importance and the significance of the items to the history of the moment. ***Both need to be explained***

I have used a ***green background and green text to highlight important philatelic information*** and I hope that this helps to distinguish the philatelic story from Social, Economic and Political story.

Selected Readings available from The American Philatelic Society Research Library

Benninghoff, Robert: ***The Creation of The Border Between Two Irelands***, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, published by Stanley Gibbons, London, February 2022 pages 50 to 55

Benninghoff, Robert: ***The Border Between Two Irelands*** – Power Point Presentation. Printed Copy available from APS Library.

Bowen, Roy-Hamilton: ***Hibernian Handbook and Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of Ireland***, Rodgau, Germany 2019. Pages 210 to 226. Available from the APS Library

Dulin, C.I. Dr.: ***Irelands Transition***, MacDonnell Whyte Ltd, Dublin, Ireland, 1992, pages 74 to 108

Benninghoff, Robert: ***Witness to the Irish Civil War & The Irish Civil War: Comments from the British Government***, Irish Philately, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle, August 2020 page 47

Benninghoff, Robert: ***The Mystery of the ERIE Post Labels Deepens***, Irish Philately, Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle, April 2021 page 6

Ibid page 30

Benninghoff, Robert: ***The Irish War for independence Continues May 1922***, Die Harfe, the German-Irish research Society- - Forschungs- und Arbeitsgemeinschaft Irland (FAI), Spring 2020 page 11

## ***Changes to the exhibit since the previous showings***

- (a) New Exhibit Title to include the 1913 to 1923 time line
- (b) Redefined the purpose statement.
- (c) Title page: Clarified how to read the material on each page of the following pages 7 pages in the exhibit
- (d) Reworked each page to highlight important philatelic information in ***Bold Green Italics***, and to better tie the material to the purpose statement and the exhibit outline on the title page.
- (e) Clarified the importance of postcards and political labels to the exhibit (see exhibit page 3)