

Creation of The Border Between Two Irelands and Immediate Consequences 1912 to 1923

This exhibit shows the Political, Social & Economic forces that caused the Creation of an International Border in Ireland & the immediate consequences of the border on The Irish Free State

Exhibit is in two parts: Causes: Irish agitation for Home Rule in 1912; British Parliament's 1914 Irish Home Rule Bill & resulting Ulster Crisis; Irish social & political divisions caused by the failed 1916 Easter Rebellion (Page Headings shown in Black). **Consequences:** The resulting economic, social & political impacts through 1923, the first year of the *Irish Free State* (Page Headings shown in Green).

Brief History

Invited by the King of Leinster to resolve an Irish Dispute, the British Normans invaded Ireland in 1169. The British ruled all Ireland for the next 752 years until the Anglo-Irish Treaty on December 6 1921 ratified the creation of Northern and Southern Ireland. There were many rebellions against the British. The 1798 rebellion caused the 1800 Act of Union creating *The Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland*, eliminating home rule by Irish Parliament in Dublin. Ireland was now ruled by Parliament in London. The main benefit of the Union was the creation of economic *free trade between Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland*. The Irish attempted to regain home rule with rebellions (1848 and 1867), and political actions during the mid-19th & early 20th centuries. **Final result: The British 1920 Government of Ireland Act creating Northern & Southern Ireland (becoming the Irish Free State)**

The exhibit is organized as follows

- Introduction: Start of Irish Republicanism; Start of Unionism in Ireland
- Home Rule for All Ireland: Irish Nationalism and Political Divisions with Ulster Widen
- Opposition to Home Rule for All Ireland: Ulster Crisis and the Beginning of a Divided Ireland
- Toward the Anglo-Irish Treaty of December 6 1921 and the Creation of Northern and Southern Ireland
- The Border has Consequences: The Economic Consequences of Ending Free Trade with Great Britain.
- The Border has Consequences: Cultural & Social Divisions Widen between Northern Ireland & Irish Free State
- Epilogue: Two Irelands and the Border Remains

The exhibit is shown on 8 double pages. Each page is a separate chapter with its own time line.

Please Note: The material reads from left to right on the top row – then left to right on the bottom row. Scarce and interesting material is shown on a **Green Background**

- Indicates social, political or economic information with important information shown in **Bold Black Italics**
- Indicates philatelic information and important information is shown in **Bold Green Italics**.

Derry : Londonderry - A City Illustrating two Irish Cultures



- > Folded Letter Registered letter mailed *from Derry* to Genova, Italy on No 26 1869. Arrival cancel 30 Nov
- > **Registered at Londonderry** red handstamp
- > 6d paid postage to Genova; 4d paid foreign registration fee; 6d paid double compensation insurance. Total of 1 Shilling 4d in postage.
- > Letter mentions that a Cheque is enclosed hence the additional insurance.

- The City represents the **dual loyalties and cultures of Ireland**
- Known as *Derry* to the Irish Republicans
- Known as *Londonderry* to the Irish Unionists

Start of Irish Republicanism

The 1848 Rebellion



- Letter from Ed. Reid's brother discussing Irish Famine & rebellion activities
- One of the Leaders of 1848 rebellion was from *Ulster*.
- Rebellion start of both *Irish Republican Movement* & 1867 Fenian Rebellion

- > **Folded Letter Mailed from Mobile Alabama Apr 24 1848 To Londonderry, Ulster Ireland**
- > Sent Via Boston on steamship Arcadia sailing May 3.
- > Arriving Liverpool May 16, and in Derry May 18.
- > 10 Cents prepaid the over 300 mile rate to Boston
- > 1 Shilling paid ship rate to Great Britain collected by receiver, Edward Reid
- > **One of three recorded covers mailed to Ireland using 1847 series stamps.**



Back of cover shows receiving cutback

Start of Unionism in Ireland

Impacts of the Failed 1867 Fenian Rebellion

- > Mail from Dublin to New York Ap 19 71 with 186 Dublin cancel.
- > 6d Paid full postage to NY
- > New York Paid All arrival stamp dated May 3
- Back of Cover shows
- > **Red Hand of Ulster was seal**
- > **Symbol of Unionist Party**
- > Mason Society Handstamp
- > May 4 receiving stamp

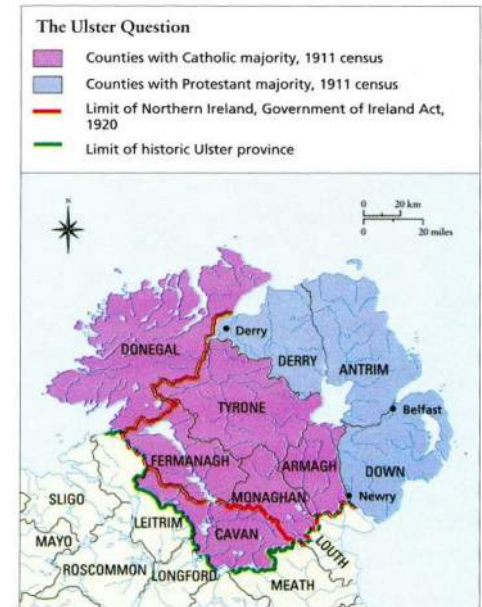


- > Fundraising Letter seeking help from *"Independence spreading in Ireland"* after the failed 1867 Fenian Rebellion

Creation of the Border Between Two Irelands & Immediate Consequences 1912 to 1923: 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 20th century. The British passed the ***Government Ireland Act of 1920*** creating ***Northern Ireland*** from 6 of nine counties 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 ***ÉIRE*** in 1937.

This exhibit shows the ***Causes of the Border*** and the ***Social, Economic and Political (SEP)*** Consequences on Southern Ireland (Irish Free State) by the creation of an ***international border*** between Northern and Southern Ireland. The exhibit covers the 11 years from 1912 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 (EU). Ireland has the only EU 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 1912 to 1923. 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 20th 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 known or recorded census.***

Layout:

The exhibit is structured in two parts:- ***Causes*** of the Border (First 4 Pages - ***Page Headings in Bold Black***)) and ***Consequences*** of the border during 1922 and 1923 in The Irish Free State (last 4 pages - ***Headings in Bold Green***)
Each page is a separate Chapter with its own time line.

The first page (chapter) starts with a brief introduction to the start of both the Republican (nationalist) and Unionist movements in Ireland during the mid and late 19th century.

The 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 1848 rebellion activities in Ireland.

This chapter also 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.***

The next two chapters look at the *SEP* forces pulling Ireland apart during 1912 /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.

The last four Chapters (Part 2) 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.

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**).*

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 1912 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).

Changes since SESE- Atlanta 2025

- (1) Changed the Title to ***Creation of the Border Between Two Irelands & Immediate Consequences 1912 to 1923.***
- (2) Changed the scope by Dividing the exhibit into two sections: Causes of the Border and Consequences of the Border.