

# NORTHERN IRELAND

As a result of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 and the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 which established the Free State of Ireland, the English Province of Northern Ireland was also established. Consisting of the northern-easternmost six counties, it includes the port city of Londonderry, and the industrial city of Belfast, as its new capitol. Since the province is served by the Royal Mail, or its successor, British stamps are used. Starting in 1956, provincial definitive stamps unique to Northern Ireland were created, similar to the stamps of Scotland, and Wales & Monmouthshire.



These were followed by a second series in 1968.



Localized Machin stamps were introduced in 1971 bearing the provincial logo of "The Red Hand of Ulster" on a six pointed star.



In 2001, the definitive stamps series were expanded to unique designs for each province. Commemorative stamps, on the other hand, are those of Great Britain.



Similar to the Republic of Ireland, collecting opportunities abound. Some programs are the same as the rest of the United Kingdom, while others are unique to the province.



As with any divorce or separation, there are at least two or more aggrieved parties. Differences exist in religious, economic, and political arenas, and with such differences, there are varying shades of opinions. This has resulted in social unrest, riots, and mayhem, by one group or another. Sad as it may be, such activities can result in philatelic opportunities. Censored mail, prisoner mail, and political labels are but a few of the items available for the collector.



Regardless of political persuasion, Northern Ireland is a part of the island of Ireland, and is a fitting subject for Irish collectors.

Northern Ireland stamps are listed in major catalogs, such as Scotts and Stanley Gibbons. New issues are available through the British Stamp Distribution Center, and dealers. Information on various topics can be found in the journals of the Irish collecting groups, such as the EPA's The Revealer, [See topic on Researching Irish Literature].

## REFERENCES

Many Irish philatelic publications have Northern Ireland as a separate chapter or section. The following publications on the EPA Special Offers page deal primarily with Northern Ireland topics.

[Airway Letters To and From Belfast, Including Air "RAILEX" Letters](#), by William J. Murphy

[O.A.T. and A.V.2 Markings on Irish Airmail](#) by William J. Murphy