
Castellum



**Luxembourg
Collectors Club**

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President's Message

by Gary Little

I'm pleased to report that three competitive exhibits of Luxembourg philatelic material won awards at the East Bay Collectors Club show in Walnut Creek, California on September 6-7, 1997. Even better, all three winners are members of the Luxembourg Collectors Club from California!

First-time exhibitor Edward Jarvis of San Francisco (the LCC Secretary-Treasurer) won the Grand Prize for "Luxembourg First Issue on Cover." James McGee of Sacramento won Vermeil for his interesting "Cancellations on the Rouletted-in-Color Issue." Another Vermeil winner was Allan Wichelman of Santa Clara for his "Luxembourg Perfins and Pre-cancels." Congratulations to them all for their success.

Edward has since caught the exhibiting bug. He exhibited again a month later at the Redwood Empire Collectors Club show in San Rafael, California, and was awarded the Reserve Grand, 2nd place overall, for a similar exhibit titled "Luxembourg The First Issue 1852 — Postal History of Domestic and Adjoining Countries."

In early October we submitted a federal 501(c)(3) income tax exemption application to the Internal Revenue Service. If all goes well, in a few months the nonprofit LCC will be recognized as a public charity deserving of tax-exempt status. An important benefit of tax-exempt status under 501(c)(3) is that U.S. donors of cash or property to the LCC will be able to claim a personal federal income tax deduction for these contributions, to the limits specified in the Internal Revenue Code. This should make it easier for the LCC to raise the funds needed to further its goals. I will keep you informed on the progress of the application.

The Luxembourg Collectors Club continues to grow very quickly. In the last issue of *Castellum* in September I noted that we had signed up 20 members since the club was formed last June. Now, just three months later, we have over 50 members. The credit for this spike in new memberships goes to the *Office des Timbres* of the *Entreprise des Postes et Télécommunications*. In mid-September, this philatelic division of the Luxembourg postal administration mailed LCC membership applications to all its North American subscribers.

This generous act was done at absolutely no cost to the club—Guy Rausch, Assistant Director of *Office des Timbres*, covered all duplication and mailing costs. *Merci bien, Guy!*



The Juvalux “deux chevaux” at the European Center on the Kirchberg Plateau.

I had the pleasure of being able to thank Guy in person on a vacation visit to Luxembourg in early September. He treated me to a ride in the fabulous “Juvalux”-mobile, a campy 8-year-old Citroën *deux chevaux* (two-horsepower) painted in green and bright yellow to promote next June’s Juvalux ’98 World Philatelic Exhibition. There are large smiling-globe Juvalux logos on the doors and a giant reproduction of Luxembourg No. 1 on the back. We turned a few heads cruising the streets of Luxembourg-Ville!

Juvalux ’98, to be held in Luxembourg from June 18-21, 1998, is the fourth in a series of world exhibitions for young philatelists held in Luxembourg. The previous ones were Juventus 1969, Juphilux 1978, and Juvalux 1988, all of which were promoted by Luxembourg by the issuance of a souvenir sheet.

New member Raymond Goebel writes to tell us that Soluphil (his Luxembourg auction house), the Luxembourg P&T, and the International Postal History Fellows are sponsoring a postal history symposium on the last two days of Juvalux. It will feature presentations by postal history experts and an exhibition of the most prestigious documents and letters from the postal history of Luxembourg. All LCC members are invited to attend.

For more information on this symposium, contact Raymond Goebel, c/o Soluphil s.a., Boîte Postale 2675, L-1025 Luxembourg (Telephone: +352 441095; Fax: +352 455776; E-mail: soluphil@solution-line.net).

Luxembourg Rulers from Henri IV to Sigismond (1136-1443), Part 1

by Stephen A. Seelig (supplemented by Gary Little)

I would like to present some information on a period of Luxembourg history that is of particular interest to me—from the reign of Henri IV in the mid-12th century to the extinction of the Imperial House of Luxembourg in 1443 when the Dukes of Burgundy seized control of Luxembourg. My interest arises from a desire to learn more about a collection of medieval Luxembourg coins that I’ve put together over the past few years.

The first coins minted for Luxembourg were struck during the reign of Henri IV of Namur (1136-1196). He came into power upon the death of his cousin, Conrad II, who was the last of the direct descendants of Sigefroid, founder of Luxembourg. These first coins, known as deniers, were small silver pieces about 14 mm in diameter. The obverse depicts a stylized castle with three towers and the legend “LU CEMBOR”; the reverse depicts a lion rampant facing to the left.



*Countess Ermesinde
(1932 stamp).*

In 1186, Henri IV's second wife, Agnes of Nassau, sister of the Count of Guelders, bore him his only offspring, Ermesinde. Henri died ten years later and Ermesinde became Countess of Luxembourg. At the age of 12 she married Thibaut of Bar who restored much of the land mortgaged off by Henri IV, and obtained a renunciation of the Emperor Henri VI's claim to the county with the payment of a cash indemnity. Thibaut and Ermesinde's union ended when Thibaut died in 1214. Within a few months Ermesinde married Waléran of Limbourg, who as a wedding present gave Ermesinde the district of Arlon, and expanded the boundaries of Luxembourg. Waléran died 10 years later, leaving Ermesinde once more a widow.

One type of coin struck during Ermesinde's rule was a silver denier. The obverse shows the countess standing and facing left. The reverse shows a lion rampant on a shield.

Luxembourg prospered under Ermesinde's rule, and French culture predominated at the court. She created a golden age for Luxembourg, establishing schools, hospitals and convents. In August of 1244, she gave Luxembourg a Charter of Liberty, establishing a cabinet and council of state, increasing the privileges of the bourgeoisie, lowering taxes and establishing universal military service. (This act is commemorated today in the frieze across the top of the Municipal Palace on the Place d'Armes in Luxembourg City.)

Ermesinde died in 1247 and was buried at the Abbey of Clairefontaine which she had founded. Her eldest son Henri the Blond succeeded her as Count Henri V of Luxembourg.



*Henri V the Blond
(1997 stamp).*

Henri V's rule, from 1247 to 1281, was marked by its high points and its low points. One of the high points was when he brought fame to Luxembourg by going away to the crusades with King Louis IX of France. The low point in his administration was to become known as the "War of the Cow." A peasant from Namur stole a cow from a citizen of Liège. The Bishop of Liège requested that the Count of Namur, Henri's son-in-law, return the cow, but the count refused. The count then requested Henri's support against the Bishop. Some thirty villages and fourteen castles were destroyed, and fifteen thousand men died before the fighting ended. In the meantime, the cow had died and the thieving peasant had been executed for other crimes that he had committed.

Luxembourg issued two different silver denier coins during Henri V the Blond's reign. Each depicts mounted knights on the obverse, one facing left and the other right.

The reverse of the right-facing knight coin bears a cross with the inscription "+h COMES LVCEB." The reverse of the left-facing knight coin depicts a castle with a fleur-de-lys on the left and a cross on the right, surrounded by the inscription "LVSE NBOR."

Henri V the Blond was succeeded in 1281 by his son Henri VI, also known as Henri the Damned. Henri VI in looking for ways to increase revenue for Luxembourg established a tollhouse on the Moselle river to collect fees from those who used the river in trade with the city of Trier. The Archbishop of Trier asked him to remove the tollhouse, and when he refused, the Archbishop excommunicated him. Henri VI was killed in 1288 on the plains of Worringen near Cologne fighting over the succession of the Duchy of Limbourg.



Henri VII (1933 stamp).

Count Henri VII was only about nine years old when his father was killed, so his mother Béatrice of Avesnes, administered the affairs of Luxembourg until he attained the age of majority. In 1292, he married Marguerite, the daughter of the Duke of Brabant. (The very individual his father had died fighting against at Worringen.) Henri VII followed in his father's footsteps concerning other matters. When he took over the government of Luxembourg in 1292, one of his first acts was to build a new tollhouse on the Moselle river, resurrecting the old argument with the clergy of Trier. Henri decided to settle the question by invading the territory of Trier. This little war ended without any bloodshed. The Bishop of Trier admitted Henri into the city as a distinguished guest, and prepared a treaty whereby the disputed rights of navigation on the Moselle were amicably settled.

Henri VII was destined for greater things than just being a count. His brother, Archbishop Baldwin of Trier (appointed 1307), nominated him as a compromise candidate for Holy Roman Emperor and he was elected unopposed in Frankfurt in November of 1308.



Gros struck in Milan during Henri VII's Italian campaign (1980 stamp).

Thereafter, Henri's career belongs to the history of Italy, rather than that of Germany or Luxembourg; at the end of 1309 he left his son Jean in charge of the county of Luxembourg while he pursued his Italian campaign. He was eventually crowned in Rome on June 20, 1312 but died of a fever at Buonconvento on August 24, 1313.

During the reign of Henri VII a number of coins were issued—a gros, resembling the French silver gros tournois issued by Louis IX 1266-70; a smaller silver coin called an esterlin (1/3 gros); and a denier with a cross and inscription on the obverse and a lion rampant on shield on the reverse.

A gros was also struck in Milan (Italy) during the reign of Henri VII.

Before Henri departed for Italy, Bohemia offered its crown to Henri's son Jean if he would marry Elisabeth, the sister of the assassinated Wenceslas III, the last male descendant of the Przemyslid dynasty. The offer was accepted and the wedding took place in August 1310; the coronation of Jean and his wife took place in Prague on February 7, 1311.

After the death of Henri VII, the election of a new Emperor became necessary. Jean of Luxembourg was passed over due to his youth (he was only 17 years old). Jean, however, was one of the five electors and cast his vote for Ludwig, Duke of Bavaria. A rival candidate, Frederick the Handsome, Duke of Austria, contested the election, and tried to establish himself as Emperor. This dispute was settled by arms in 1322, at the battle of Mühldorf. Frederick was captured, thus securing victory for Ludwig IV.



Silver gros struck in Parma in 1331, featuring a portrait of Jean the Blind (1980 stamp).

Jean, as a member of the Teutonic Order of Knights, crusaded in Poland, Italy, and Prussia. He was on close terms with the Pope and Philippe VI of France. Because of Jean's ability to rule with impartiality many of the cities in Italy placed themselves under his rule.

In 1331, Parma (Italy) issued a silver gros honoring Jean. The obverse has a portrait of Jean facing three-quarters left wearing a crown with fleur-de-lys ornamentation and a cloak held around his neck with a fleur-de-lys clasp. The reverse of the coin shows a lion rampant.

Jean was also able to bring the Guelf and Ghibeline factions together. This did not please the Pope, who supported the Guelfs. Nor did it please Ludwig, because Jean was able to do something he was unable to do. Because of Ludwig's and the Pope's opposition to Jean's efforts in Italy, Jean and his son Charles were forced to return to Bohemia in 1333.



Jean the Blind (1946 stamp).

Not long after Jean became King of Bohemia his eyesight began to fail. When he was not on the battlefield he was going from physician to learned monk in the hope of having his eyesight restored. Jean was approached by an Arabian physician of high reputation while he was in Prussia. After four applications of secret herbs and an accompaniment of spiritual incantations the sight of one eye was completely gone. Jean was so enraged at the physician that he had him sewn into a sack and thrown into the Oder River. The work the physician had started was through, for not long after, Jean developed an infection in his other eye. One morning Jean awoke to find that he was totally blind. Jean's pride was so great that he refused to go out into public without a book in his hand to create the illusion that he still had some of his sight. Nevertheless, he is known to history as Jean the Blind or, in French, *Jean l'Aveugle*.

Ludwig IV proved not to be as far sighted of a ruler as some had originally thought. In 1346, Ludwig, for his own personal gain, usurped rights that had been exercised exclusively by the church. He granted Margaret Maultasch a divorce from Jean of Moravia, second son of Jean the Blind, so he could give her in marriage to his own son and take control of her land holdings.

Pope Clement VI now found himself in a position to exercise and strengthen his power in Germany, and oust Ludwig. Clement preferred to have a Frenchman like himself on the German throne, but Philippe VI was occupied with his own problems concerning the English. Clement found his candidate for Emperor in the House of Luxembourg. Jean himself was disqualified because of his blindness, so his oldest son Charles was nominated. On June 11, 1345, Jean of Luxembourg, Rudolf of Saxony, and three archbishops formally elected Charles of Luxembourg as Holy Roman Emperor and he is known to European history as Charles IV.

On July 2, 1346, Edward III set sail from Southampton with the intent to land at Bordeaux, then march to Aiguillon to relieve the English troops besieged by Jean of Normandy, the son of Philippe VI. Edward III was a claimant to the French throne against Philippe VI. Due to bad weather and some advance information, Edward landed on the coast at Normandy where he encountered little or no resistance, and proceeded to march toward Paris. Philippe VI called upon his allies for support.

Among those who came to Philippe's aid was Jean of Luxembourg, King of Bohemia, and the recently elected Emperor Charles IV. Edward drew up his troops at Crécy. The combat was of Edward's cavalry against infantry, armor and lances against simple shields, trained soldiers against a motley hodgepodge of peasants and foreign mercenaries. Philippe VI fled the battle field. Jean of Luxembourg, along with the Counts of Flanders and Alencon, were killed at Crécy.

I have found two different esterlins issued during Jean's reign, although others do exist. The first is a crowned bust of Jean facing forward on the obverse with a cross on the reverse. The second obverse is a quartered shield with four lions rampant and the legend "REX BOEM ORVM." The reverse is a decorated cross, with the legend "MONETA MERAVIDES." A Prager Groschen was also issued during Jean's reign. It is of the same design as those used in Bohemia prior to Jean—the obverse shows a crown and the reverse shows a lion rampant.

Back issues of *Castellum* are available for \$3 each! Send your request with payment to the Luxembourg Collectors Club, 3304 Plateau Drive, Belmont, CA 94002.

Write for *Castellum*! We need your interesting articles, short or long, on all topics related to Luxembourg and its collectibles.



Charles IV (1935 stamp).

When Charles IV returned to Bohemia from the Crécy disaster he found his situation hopeless. Ludwig was more powerful than ever, and because Charles' candidacy was backed by the Pope, the German Imperial cities refused to open their gates to him.

On October 11, 1347, while on a boar-hunt near Munich, Ludwig died, giving Charles the opportunity to secure the Imperial crown. In an attempt to block Charles, four electors, Henri of Virneburg, Elector Palatine Rupert, Lewis of Brandenburg, and Eric of Saxe-Lauenburg, who claimed the electoral vote for Saxony, offered the Imperial crown to Edward III of England. Edward, however, not willing to neglect his war in France, nor willing to face the English Parliament with the idea, declined. After Edward's refusal they offered the crown to Gunther of Schwartzburg, who accepted, but died in 1349, before he had time to test his ability to hold the title.

[to be continued in the next issue of Castellum]

New Luxembourg Stamp Issues

by Gary Little

The Luxembourg P&T issued six new stamps on October 16:

- One stamp (16 F) to publicize the SAR-LOR-LUX European Area, formed by a 1980 agreement between Luxembourg, France, and Germany which calls for cross-border cooperation in the Luxembourg, Lorraine, and Saar regions. The cooperation encompasses the administrative, technical, social, economic, and cultural fields.
- Three stamps (16 F, 32 F, 80 F) showing antique clocks made by Luxembourg craftsmen in the 19th century. The clocks are on display in the National History and Art Museum in Luxembourg City.
- Two stamps (16 F, 50 F) to publicize old mills of Luxembourg. The 16 F stamp shows a drawing by J.-P. Gleis of the old Kalborn Mill near Clervaux. This mill was probably built sometime during the 17th century but it was severely damaged during World War II and was eventually torn down in 1982. The 50 F stamp shows a technical drawing that illustrates the working of a grist mill. The drawing is from Agostino Ramelli's 1588 book *Le Diverse et Artificiose Machine* but has since appeared in several works on the technology and history of mills.

Letters to the LCC

Dear Gary: I do not collect Luxembourg stamps but I did make Luxembourg FDCs for a short time (about five for each new issue). I still have some of these plus other Luxembourg FDCs which I will sell to anyone who wants them. Most of them are from the late 1970's and into the early 1980's. My covers are hand colored and were made under the David "C" Cachets logo. Please let me hear from any of your members who may be interested.

— from David Pritchard, 927 S. Ft. Thomas, Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

Anti-Tuberculosis Seals of 1950

by Gary Little

In a previous issue of *Castellum* I discussed the Caritas forerunners of 1908 that feature a portrait of 14-year-old hereditary Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde with long hair. Since these stamps had no franking value they are not postage stamps, they are labels or seals.



1950 anti-tuberculosis seal

Also in this general category are the Anti-Tuberculosis seals issued on March 21, 1950 by the *Ligue Luxembourgeoise Contre La Tuberculose*. These seals were issued in booklets containing a single pane of 10 seals in a 5x2 configuration.

The seals were issued in three different colors — green, blue, and brick-red — so there are also three varieties of booklets. The booklets were sold for 20 LUF each by the *Ligue* to raise funds to help in its fight against tuberculosis.

The design of the seal is simple but elegant. The central focus is the face of a young boy with haunting eyes who is smiling weakly for the viewer.

At the top of the seal is the phrase *Fre 'Erkannt / Schnell Gehelt* (Early Diagnosis / Fast Healing) between two crosses of Lorraine, symbols of the worldwide Anti-TB movement.

At the bottom of the seal is the name of the issuing charity, *Ligue Luxembourgeoise Contre la Tuberculose* (Luxembourg Anti-Tuberculosis League).



First Day Cover for the three Anti-Tuberculosis seals (March 21, 1950).