
Castellum



**Luxembourg
Collectors Club**

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President's Message

by Gary Little

Welcome to Year 2 of the Luxembourg Collectors Club. I hope you have been enjoying the issues of *Castellum* we've been regularly publishing every three months. **As usual, I remind you to renew your membership today if it has expired—check your mailing envelope for your current status and send us the \$USA 12 renewal fee, if necessary.**

If all goes as planned, this issue will have been mailed to current members directly from the floor of the Juvalux World Philatelic Exhibition in Luxembourg. This FIP-sponsored event is focused on Youth Philately and Postal History, two disparate but interesting categories; we will provide a report of the show to you in the next issue of *Castellum*.

The LCC doesn't hold many meetings, but we try to schedule those we do have around major events that we expect will attract a good number of people interested in Luxemburgensia. Our next meeting will be held at APS Stampshow in Santa Clara, California on August 30 at 11:00 a.m.

New Luxembourg Stamp Issues

by Gary Little

The Luxembourg P&T issued nine new postage stamps on March 23 on subjects designed to raise environmental awareness, promote tourism, and commemorate a variety of historical events. Here is a summary description of each of them:

Freshwater Fish in Luxembourg

This set of three stamps draws attention to the need to protect the fish population of Luxembourg, which is threatened by pollution, the building of dams, and reduction of sources of nutrition. The stamps depict the brown trout, miller's thumb, and small river bleak.

Tourism—Hesperange and Rodange

The Hesperange stamp depicts the local authority building, the former "Urbain Castle." Hesperange is located just south of Luxembourg City. The Rodange stamp shows the parish church of Rodange built in 1869. Rodange is a small town located near the French border in the southwest corner of Luxembourg.



Wiltz Broom Festival

Independent Luxembourg Trade Union—50th Anniversary

The NGL (Independent Luxembourg Trade Union) was founded in 1947 under the name *Handwierker-Amicale* (Craftsmen's Fellowship); its membership was made up of craftsmen looking to improve their social position. The group was transformed into a union in 1960. The union was given its present name in 1984 when it was opened up to non-craftsmen membership.

Wiltz Broom Festival—50th Anniversary

The broom is a common plant in the Oesling region that comes into bright yellow bloom in the springtime. The Wiltz Broom Festival, which takes place every year on Pentecost Sunday, was first held in 1948 and attracts thousands of visitors to the Wiltz area in the northern part of the Grand Duchy.

The highlight of the day is a colorful parade along the main street of the upper town, which passes by the Wiltz Castle shown in the background of the stamp.



Jean Antoine Zinnen (1827-1898)

Jean Antoine Zinnen—Centenary of Death

Zinnen was a composer and musician who wrote the music for the Luxembourg national anthem *Ons Hémécht*. He was musical director of the Luxembourg Academy of Music until it closed in 1881 and was head of the orchestra at the municipal theater.

Zinnen was born in Neuerburg on April 25, 1827 and died in Neuilly-sur-Seine on May 16, 1898. The stamp shows a bust of Zinnen atop his musically-themed mausoleum in the Notre Dame Cemetery of Luxembourg City.

Abolition of Censorship—150th Anniversary

On March 15, 1848, censorship was abolished in Luxembourg by order of the Grand Duke, thus allowing for more candid political criticism in the press. The order led to the creation of many publications, including *Luxemburger Wort für Wahrheit und Recht* (*Luxembourg Voice for Truth and Law*), today Luxembourg's most popular newspaper.

Did you know... that the recent movie *American Werewolf in Paris* was filmed in Luxembourg City? In a *Late Night with David Letterman* interview, actor Tom Everett Scott said that during filming he lived in an apartment off Place Guillaume II.

Findel Airport and Modern Luxembourg Aviation

by Gary Little

Luxembourg's Findel Airport is the international airport of the Grand Duchy. It is located beyond the Kirchberg Plateau, just off the Luxembourg-Trier freeway that brings traffic to and from Luxembourg-Ville via the Grand Duchess Charlotte Bridge. Despite the small size of the airport, it is an important passenger and cargo hub that links Luxembourg to the major cities of western Europe as well as destinations in North America and Africa.

Findel opened to international air traffic in 1946. At the time, the airport had one small terminal building and supported only a limited number of flights to a few European cities. Over the years, however, its facilities have been greatly expanded and improved to meet the needs of modern aircraft and increased traffic volume.



*Findel Airport and the statue
by Charlotte Engels (1981 stamp).*

The present air terminal building at Findel is a rather ordinary building with a plain flat roof. It was officially opened on October 31, 1975. The terminal is depicted on the 1981 stamp pictured on the left, one in a set of three stamps issued to publicize aviation in the Grand Duchy.

The main wing of the terminal has three levels and measures 70 m by 60 m. A secondary wing measures 40 m by 18 m.

Near the terminal building is a modern sculpture by Luxembourg artist Charlotte Engels depicting a bird in flight. It was erected in 1977. It is pictured in the foreground of the stamp.



Luxair (1968 stamp).

Of the many airlines that serve Findel Airport, two are deserving of a special mention—Luxair and Icelandair.

Luxair, the national airline, was founded in 1962. It is the successor to Luxembourg Airlines which first opened for business in 1948.

The beautifully engraved 1968 stamp at the left shows a Luxair aircraft cruising over the many distinctive bridges, viaducts, and landmarks of old Luxembourg City.

The primary shareholders of Luxair are the Luxembourg Government, the German airline Lufthansa, and four large Luxembourg institutions—Banque Générale du Luxembourg, Banque Internationale à Luxembourg, Banque et Caisse d'Épargne de l'État, and the Luxembourg broadcasting company RTL.

Did you know... that the dinnertime jousting tournaments at the Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas have a cheering section for the knights of Luxembourg?



The first Icelandic Airlines flight between Luxembourg and New York was on May 22, 1955.



Icelandair (1995 stamp).

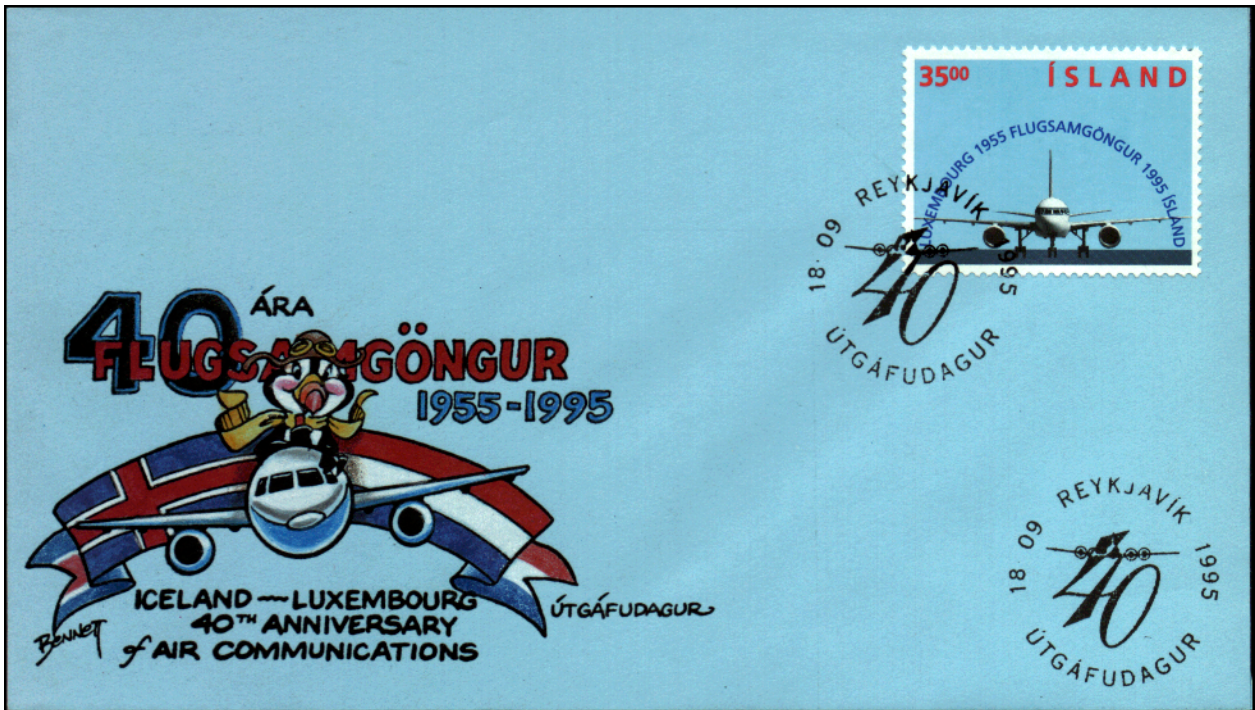
Icelandair, formerly Loftleidir or Icelandic Airlines, has played an important role for over 40 years in establishing Luxembourg as a popular tourist destination and raising the level of awareness of the Grand Duchy and its unique charms.

Icelandic Airlines service between Luxembourg and Iceland (and onward to New York), began on May 22, 1955 with a westbound flight from Findel to Reykjavík to New York's Idlewild airport (now JFK International).

A first flight card edited by the Banque du Timbre is shown above.

Icelandair's aggressive low-fare policy quickly established it as a very popular carrier. Over the years it has brought tens of thousands of people, mostly North American tourists, directly to Luxembourg.

The 40th anniversary of this pioneer flight and the years of continuing aviation relations since were marked by a joint issue of stamps by Luxembourg and Iceland in 1995. Both stamps share the same graphic design. A commemorative presentation booklet was also published which contains mint and used blocks of four of both stamps together with descriptive text in Icelandic, French, and English.



*Iceland commemorates 40 years of air communications with Luxembourg (1995 stamp).
The cachet for this unofficial first day cover is by artist Dave Bennett of California.*



Presentation booklet for the Iceland-Luxembourg aviation relations stamps.

Write for Castellum! We need your interesting articles, short or long, on all topics related to Luxembourg and its collectibles. If you've got a philatelic gem in your collection, please take the time to tell your fellow members all about it. Send articles to the Luxembourg Collectors Club, 3304 Plateau Drive, Belmont, CA 94002. Electronic submissions are especially welcome (send them to lcc@luxcentral.com).

Hamm American Military Cemetery

by Gary Little

Not far from Luxembourg City's Findel Airport is the serene American Military Cemetery in Hamm, a grim reminder of the many American soldiers and support personnel who died defending Luxembourg soil during World War II. The cemetery is featured on two of the set of four stamps issued by Luxembourg on October 24, 1947 to honor the memory of U.S. General George S. Patton, Jr.



American Military Cemetery in Hamm (1947 stamps).

The 20-hectare cemetery includes over 5,000 graves marked by white crosses or Jewish stars of David arranged in gently curving semi-circular rows on a well-manicured lawn. A large memorial near the entrance gate stands in tribute to these victims, most of whom were killed during the Battle of the Bulge (known in Europe as the Ardennes Offensive) that ravaged Belgium and northern Luxembourg during the winter of 1944-45.

Also buried in the cemetery is the fabled Patton, Commander of the United States Third Army. Patton was a master strategist and motivator who played a vital role in defeating the enemy in the Battle of the Bulge, the last major German offensive of World War II. His troops were responsible for liberating all of northern Luxembourg as they swept the Germans out of the country and back towards the Rhine in early 1945.

Patton's heroic actions earned him the unofficial title of "Liberator of Luxembourg." He is honored to this day by military museums and monuments in Ettelbrück and Diekirch in northern Luxembourg.

Ironically, Patton died on December 21, 1945, just seven months after the end of World War II in Europe, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. He was buried three days later in Hamm cemetery next to many of the soldiers he had commanded who never made it home.



Patton first day cover from 1947.

Luxembourg Postmarks

by Leon Stadtherr

I'd like to share with you some of the more interesting Luxembourg postmarks that I've come across over the years. Pursuing them is quite challenging given the tiny population of Luxembourg, but once in hand they provide motivation for learning more about the fascinating small towns from which they originate. The postmarks are pictured below and come from 25 small towns. I would classify most of these postmarks as RR (very rare).

Postmark Style	Town
Large double-circle	<u>Bascharage-Sanem</u> , <u>Bettendorf</u> , Boevange (Boegen), <u>Colmar-Berg</u> , <u>Garnich</u>
Single circle	<u>Differdingen</u> , <u>Frisingen</u> , Grosbous, Hamiville, <u>Kautenbach</u>
Bridge without bars	<u>Feulen</u> , Koerich, <u>Medernach</u> , Trintange (with bars), <u>Vichten</u> Mondorf, Roodt, <u>Wormeldingen</u> , <u>Wasserbillig</u> , Septfontaines-Simmern <u>Walferdange (Chateau)</u> , <u>Walferdange (Chateau)</u> , <u>Waldbillig</u> , Schieren, <u>Schimpach</u>



Interesting and rare Luxembourg postmarks.

LCC Receives Tax-Exempt Status as a 501(c)(3) Educational Organization

by Gary Little

The Internal Revenue Service has recently determined that the Luxembourg Collectors Club is exempt from federal income tax because it is a 501(c)(3) educational organization. A major benefit of this determination is that donors of money or property to the LCC may deduct contributions as provided in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code, to the extent that the contributions are gifts. Your \$12 membership fee is not deductible because you receive *Castellum*, but additional cash donations would be, as would contributions of materials to the library. We hope you will consider such donations so that we can expand our services more rapidly and continue to provide the public with interesting and useful information about Luxembourg told through its collectibles.

Has your membership expired? Your mailing envelope indicates the last issue of *Castellum* you will receive. Renew by sending \$USA 12 (in cash or by check drawn on a U.S. bank) to the Luxembourg Collectors Club, 3304 Plateau Drive, Belmont, CA 94002.