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# Castellum

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

This issue marks the end of the first year of publication of *Castellum*. I hope it has helped increase your enjoyment of all the Luxemburgensia you collect. *Many memberships expire with this issue, so please send us your \$12 membership renewal fee if necessary. (The number of the last issue of Castellum you are to receive is on your mailing envelope.)*

One final reminder of the biggest event of the Luxembourg philatelic year—Juvalux '98 will be held in Luxembourg City from June 18-21. **We have scheduled a meeting at the exhibition center in Room R3 on June 19 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm. I hope you can make it!**

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## New Luxembourg Stamp Issues

by Gary Little



Luxembourg finished up the year by issuing six new postage stamps on December 8, 1997.

Four of these stamps make up the third and final set of *Bienfaisance* (Charity) semi-postal stamps in the annual Indigenous Trees series that began in 1995.

The stamps were designed by Alan Johnston and depict the wych-elm, sycamore, wild cherry tree, and the walnut tree, each in a different season of the year.

The sum of LUF 14 from the sale of each set goes to charity.



Christmas 1997

Another semi-postal issued is the Christmas 1997 stamp which features an enamel panel by German artist Eginio Weinert.

Weinert has produced religious works for a number of chapels and churches in Luxembourg.

The last stamp honors Count Henri V the Blond on the 750th anniversary of his accession to power in Luxembourg. The son of Countess Ermesinde, Henri V ruled from 1247-1281



Henri V the Blond

Henri V was a skillful diplomat who continued the policy of territorial expansion begun by his mother. It was he who created the national coat-of-arms featuring the lion rampant. The stamp shows a 17th century drawing of the tomb of Henri V at Clairefontaine Abbey. It is kept at the National Archives in Luxembourg City.

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## Luxembourg's 1998 Stamp Program

by Gary Little

Last December, the Luxembourg P&T announced its stamp program for 1998—it includes a conservative total of 27 stamps and one souvenir sheet of two stamps (to promote Juvalux '98). Here is the detailed agenda:

March	Fish (3) Tourism—Hesperange and Rodange (2) NGL Politically-Independent Union—50th Anniversary (1) Wiltz Broom Festival—50th Anniversary (1) Antoine Zinnen—100th Anniversary of Death (1) Abolition of Censorship—150th Anniversary (1)
June	Europa 1998—National Days and Festivals (2) Juvalux '98—Postal History (3) Juvalux '98 Souvenir Sheet—Ancient View of Luxembourg (sheet of 2) Granting of Right to Henri VII to Hold Annual Fair—700th Anniversary (1)
September	Founding of Abbey of Echternach—1300th Anniversary (3) Museums—History of the City of Luxembourg Museum (2) St. John of Hope Workshop of Grand Lodge—150th Anniversary (1)
December	NAMSA (NATO Maintenance & Logistics)—40th Anniversary (1) Christmas 1998 (1) Drawings by Abbot Bertels of Echternach (Charity Series) (4)

You can purchase current Luxembourg stamps at face value, and set up a subscription to automatically receive future issues and first day covers, through the *Office des Timbres* (Stamp Office) of the Luxembourg P&T in Luxembourg City. The address of the *Office des Timbres* is:



Postes et Télécommunications Luxembourg  
Office des Timbres  
L-2992 Luxembourg  
Telephone: (+352) 4088-8840  
Fax: (+352) 40 68 68  
e-mail: ptofftim@pt.lu

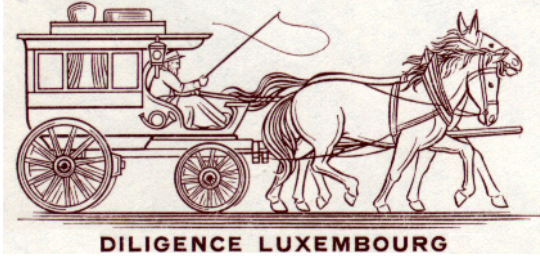
The *Office des Timbres* accepts payment by VISA credit card, making it very easy to do business with it from outside Luxembourg.

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## The Luxembourg Relay Posts

by Leon G. Stadtherr



In the mid-19th century the Luxembourg postal system established the *Postes Relais* or Relay Posts. Each relay post served a community composed of one main village and several nearby smaller villages. These communities usually were some distance from a railroad station or larger village. The residents of these communities traveled between the villages by horse-drawn diligences (postal coaches). These

diligences were considered a public utility by the government. To receive franchises to operate the diligences the concessionaires were required to pick up the mail from and deliver mail to the respective small villages and the village of origination.

Before 1881, relay posts did not cancel stamps affixed to mail—this task was performed by the post offices in the larger towns where the mail was delivered. Beginning in 1881, however, this practice changed and 13 of the 17 relay posts then in existence were each provided with a cancellation device bearing an identification number rather than a town name. (The other four used old cancellation devices with town names.) These numbered relay posts were scattered throughout the country, as follows:



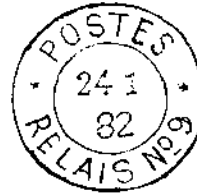
Relais No. 1	Arsdorf	Relais No. 8	Rambrouch
Relais No. 2	Bissen	Relais No. 9	Reisdorf
Relais No. 3	Differdange	Relais No. 10	Strassen
Relais No. 4	Kautenbach*	Relais No. 11	Walferdange
Relais No. 5	Mamer	Relais No. 12	Wecker
Relais No. 6	Oetrange	Relais No. 13	Wilwerwiltz
Relais No. 7	Kleinbettingen		

\*The Relais No. 4 canceler was transferred to Dalheim on April 1, 1883.

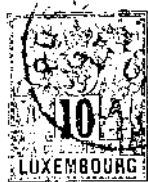
Each of the numbered relay posts had its own 25-26 mm. double circle canceler which included its identification number. One type is known for each of these relays. Examples of the early use of these cancelers:



27/11 82



The thirteen cancels are nearly identical except for the identification number. Some of the cancels have a slash between the day and the month; others just a space. Use of these cancelers was discontinued in the early 1890s and replaced by double circle cancelers with hub town names in them. Examples of the late use of the numbered relay cancelers:



17/2 90



14/8 91



The stamps in common usage during the relay post era were the 1880 Coat of Arms and the 1882 Allegory issues. For both issues, the 11 1/2 x 12 perforation variety is found least often for the used stamps. Black ink was almost always used for the relay cancels; strikes in blue ink are seldom found. The areas served by the relay posts had small populations, so the volume of mail handled by each relay was not large.

*Author's Note: The earliest date of use for a Postes Relais cancel I have seen is 16 Sept 1881 and the latest use August 1892 (in the Robert Danzer collection). If anyone has seen an earlier or a later use of any of these cancels, please let me know and enclose a photocopy of it if possible. Write me at Leon G. Stadtherr, P.O. Box 61, Gibbon, MN 55335.*

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### **Escorted Tour of Luxembourg on May 5-13**

Member Byron Cain of Texas, a principal of International Intermediaries, is organizing an interesting eight-day escorted tour of Luxembourg from May 5 to 13, 1998. The tour begins in beautiful Luxembourg City and also includes visits to the Moselle wine country, the religious center of Echternach, and the famous castles at Beaufort, Clervaux, Wiltz, Vianden, Bourscheid, and Esch-sur-Sûre.

The tour will feature expert commentary from professional Luxembourg specialists, including Byron himself, and should be of considerable interest to anyone interested in learning more about the culture and history of Luxembourg. I'm sure most of our members fall into this category.

The cost of the tour is \$USA 1,469 per person (double occupancy) or \$USA 1,635 per person (single occupancy), not including airfare. Contact Byron in Dallas at 214/349-5480 for the complete itinerary and for information on how to make a booking. His e-mail address is bcain@connect.com.

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## Luxembourg Rulers from Henri IV to Sigismond (1136-1443), Part 2

by Stephen A. Seelig (supplemented by Gary Little)

[continued from the December 1997 issue of *Castellum*]

Charles IV overcame the problem with the Imperial cities, which were in the midst of an outbreak of plague, by giving them additional privileges. Charles also sued for the hand of a daughter of the powerful house of Wittelsbach. By 1350, Charles' title of Holy Roman Emperor was acknowledged throughout Germany.



*Charles IV, founder of the University of Prague (1948 stamp from Czechoslovakia).*

As Emperor, Charles IV was known for his preference for diplomacy over force as well as his sense of practical government. He established the University of Prague in 1348, which was modeled after the University of Paris where Charles himself had studied. He also established trade regulations that protected native merchants and promoted commerce and arranged for a uniform coinage in Bohemia.

Charles, knowing the mistakes of his father and grandfather, refused to become involved in Italian politics. In 1354, when he visited Italy to receive the Lombard crown in Milan and the Imperial crown in Rome, he did not linger long and returned immediately to Germany after the coronation ceremonies.

Upon his return to Germany, Charles IV began work on what was to become the greatest enactment of his life, the Golden Bull. The Golden Bull is a document that covered all aspects of Imperial elections. It fixed the number of electors at seven, gave the electors the right to coin money, and also gave them final jurisdiction over disputes.

The Golden Bull also regulated the rights and privileges of the towns and cities, and covered the rights of serfs. One significant provision omitted from the Bull was allowance of papal claims to confirm or veto an election. Charles IV

had effectively banned the Pope from further interference in German politics.

Charles IV retained the title and administered the County of Luxembourg until 1353 when his younger half-brother Wenceslas (Wenceslas I) turned 16. Charles then conferred the countship to Wenceslas, elevated Luxembourg to the rank of Duchy, and conferred upon its rulers the distinguished right to hold the Emperor's horse.

**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.



*Wenceslas I (1936 stamp).*

Wenceslas I married Jeanne, the daughter of the Duke of Brabant. In 1355 when the Duke of Brabant fell ill and died he left all of his holdings to Wenceslas and Jeanne. The Count of Flanders, Louis de Maele, did not find this situation to his liking, as he had married Margaret, Joanna's older sister, and felt that the inheritance should have gone to himself.

The matter was taken to the Emperor, and Charles supported his brother's claim with the stipulation that should Wenceslas die without heirs, the provinces would go to the main male line of Luxembourg. Wenceslas I, adding Brabant and Limbourg to his holdings, chose to reside in Brussels.

Wenceslas proved to be a just, conservative ruler and skillful executive. He freed all of his and his wife's holdings from mortgages, and recovered territories that had been previously lost. Soon after gaining power, Wenceslas and Jeanne issued what is sometimes called the Magna Carta of the southern Low Countries, "The Joyous Entree." The fact that the constitutional claims of Belgian citizens were based on this fundamental charter four centuries later attests to its significance. The document reflects the interests of the citizenry in the large cities rather

than of the feudal nobility. It covered a broad range of subjects; to name just a few, there were sections on alliances, upkeep of public roads, war powers, politics at the local level, the striking of coinage, debasement of coinage, and hunting on public lands.



*Gold coin issued during the reign of Wenceslas I (1980 stamp).*

During Wenceslas I's reign, few coins were issued which have Luxembourg as the issuing country. Two of these include the silver gros and the esterlin. Other coins that circulated in Luxembourg at the time were from Brabant, and struck in the names of both Wenceslas and Jeanne.

On December 7, 1383, Wenceslas died without an heir, and, as had been previously agreed upon, all his holdings were passed to his nephew, Holy Roman Emperor Wenceslas II, the oldest son of Charles IV.

Wenceslas II was not personally unpopular, but he was a political blunderer. He managed to alienate the clergy and exasperate the nobles. In Germany he was resented because he moved his power base from the west to the east. Bohemia neither enjoyed the prestige nor good government that had endeared Charles IV to his subjects.



*Wenceslas II (1937 stamp).*

In order to keep up his standard of living, Wenceslas II had to raise money. In 1388 he mortgaged Luxembourg to his cousin and chief adviser, Josse of Moravia, retaining the right to buy back the duchy should he so desire.

During Wenceslas II's reign two different gros were issued for use in Luxembourg. One is the same design as the gros of Wenceslas I, with the legend reworded with "BOEMIE REX" (King of Bohemia).

The second gros shows a large crown over a shield with a lion rampant on the obverse; the reverse shows an eagle with outspread wings. Josse also issued several coins.



*Silver gros struck in Luxembourg during the reign of Wenceslas II (1980 stamp).*

Upon Josse's death in 1411, Wenceslas II mortgaged the Duchy to his niece Elisabeth of Görlitz, daughter of Jean of Görlitz, to honor a dowry of 120,000 florins promised at the time of her marriage to Antoine of Burgundy, son of Philippe the Bold. Elisabeth was a spendthrift and most of her holdings ended up being mortgaged. Antoine issued a gros, 1/2 gros, and 1/12 gros for use in Luxembourg. The obverse of the gros has a crowned lion rampant with a quartered shield. Antoine was killed at the battle of Agincourt on October 25, 1415. This left Elisabeth alone as ruler of the Duchy. She issued many coins, including a gros with an obverse depicting a plumed helmet and quartered shield.



*Sigismond (1938 stamp).*

Wenceslas II died in 1419 and his brother Sigismond inherited the right to pay off the mortgage of 120,000 florins and take possession of Luxembourg. He never exercised the right, but on his death in 1437 the right passed to his daughter, also named Elisabeth. Her husband Albert II of Austria began negotiations to settle the claims to the duchy but died before he was able to do so. Elisabeth then turned the option over to her son-in-law William of Saxony. He marched on Luxembourg driving out Elisabeth of Görlitz.

Elisabeth of Görlitz then went to her late husband's nephew, Philippe the Good, for support. She agreed to transfer title of Luxembourg to Philippe the Good upon her death for his aid

in recovering her claim. Philippe eventually took Luxembourg by force and became Duke in 1443. Luxembourg was formally incorporated into the Dukedom of Burgundy in 1453 upon Elisabeth's death.

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## Letters to the LCC

*Dear Gary:* In September, 1990, Christie's auctioned the ABNC archives in New York. Lots 718-801 were Luxembourg material, with lots 736-739 and 787-790 containing stamps with a SPECIMEN overprint. Most of the other lots were proofs. My interest is in the stamps only, which I've learned may have been purchased by a Clive Feigenbaum of London. Do you or your members know of anyone currently offering these stamps (Scott 159-185 and 218-234) or how to contact Feigenbaum?

— from David H. Scheiber, 710 Cardiff Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

*Dear Gary.* I'm looking for covers used to Luxembourg from the German occupation of Bohemia & Moravia 1939/1945, German Feldpost covers used during the initial occupation of Luxembourg, and commercial covers with the first three issues under occupation. Special Delivery, Registered, Air Mail, Double or Triple Weight, Unusual Destinations, Unusual Rates are all of interest to me. I welcome any LCC members to contact me if they have such material.

— from Keith Stupell, 29 East 22 Street, New York, NY 10010

**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.