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# Castellum

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Collectors Club**

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

The Year 2000 is almost upon us, much to the delight of innkeepers and champagne suppliers around the world. Many Luxembourgers, of course, may not be quite as excited as people in the rest of the world—after all, just 37 years ago in 1963 they participated in another big millennium party to celebrate the 1000 years since the founding of their homeland in the early Middle Ages. That millennium started with the 963 A.D. acquisition by Sigefroi, a count of the Ardennes, of the ruins of an old Roman watchtower called *Lucilinburhuc* atop the Bock promontory in what is now Luxembourg City. This acquisition marked the beginning of recorded history of Luxembourg.

Speaking of the arrival of a new century, LCC member Allan Wichelman rummaged through his enormous collection of Luxemburgensia and somehow was able to find the old postcard pictured below which shows a classic view of old Luxembourg City. What makes the card so special is that it was used by the Luxembourg post office to celebrate the arrival of the year 1900; the text at the bottom reads "*Meilleurs souhaits de l'Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes du Grand Duché de*



*Meilleurs souhaits de l'Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes  
du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg.  
Luxembourg, le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1900.*

Luxembourg P&T postcard of January 1, 1900

*Luxembourg. Luxembourg le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 1900.*" (Best wishes from the Luxembourg P&T Administration. Luxembourg January 1, 1900.)

To celebrate the arrival of 2000, the Luxembourg post office is issuing a stamp booklet containing eight stamps of four different designs. These stamps will be available at a special advance sale on New Year's Eve and can be postmarked on that day with a special cancellation.

# Railway Postmarks of Luxembourg, Part 1

by Thomas Post

This article was adapted from Tom's single frame exhibit which he presented at the 1999 Plymouth (Michigan) stamp show. The exhibit was awarded a Vermeil award.

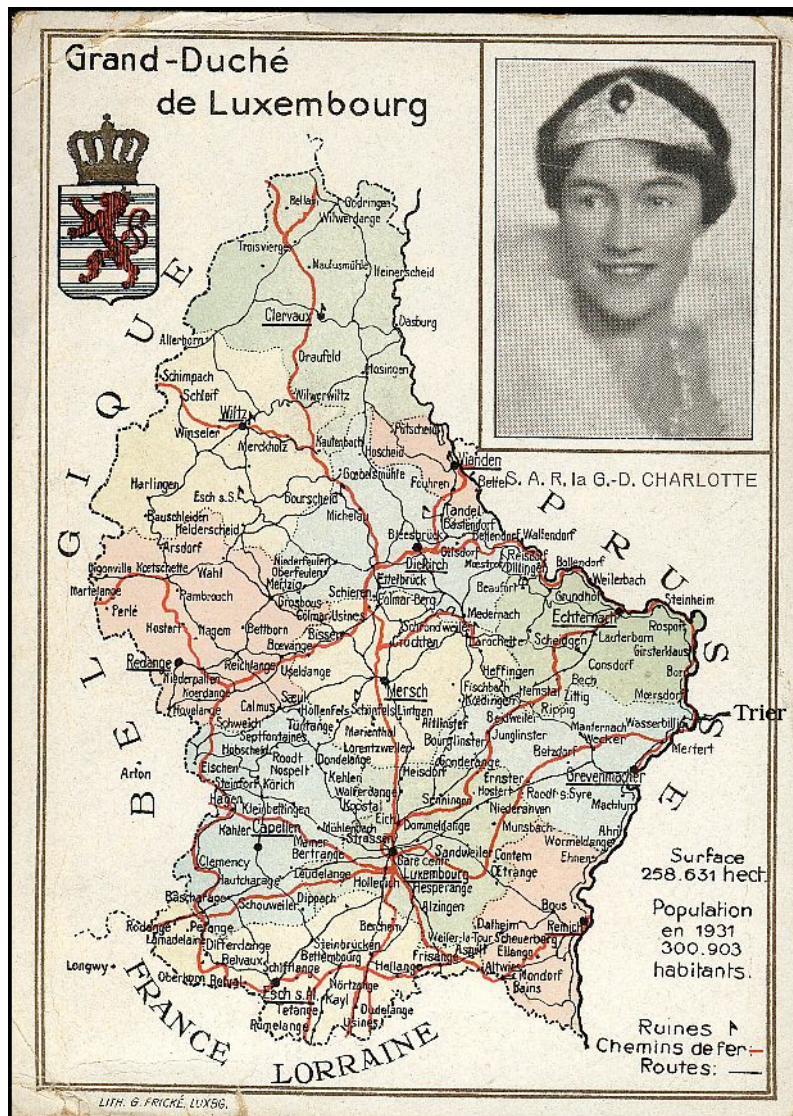
The purpose of this exhibit is to show the eight major types of postmarks used by the Route Agents and Travelling Post Offices of the railways of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The types were used as such:

Types 1 and 2 were used only on Travelling Post Offices (T.P.O.) from Luxembourg Ville to Longwy, Trier, Karthaus, and Ulflingen (Troisvierges).

Types 3, 5, and 6 were used by Route Agents on secondary lines.

Types 4, 7, and 8 were used on both mainlines and secondary lines.



1931 map showing railway lines (Chemins de fer).

Both French and German languages were used on these postmarks. Luxemburg routes usually served German cities or were used during the two periods of German occupation. Luxemburg routes usually served French cities or domestic city pairs. Look at the "Date and Time" line to determine language in use.

French:

A.M. = "M" for matin

P.M. = "S" for soir

German:

A.M. = "V" for vormittag

P.M. = "N" for nachmittag

Look closely and you will sometimes find exceptions to this rule.

The eight types of postmarks are generally arranged in their order of introduction. Single route, occupation, and postwar examples are the most difficult to acquire.

**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.



TYPE 1: Small Rectangle with 3 lines — 2 for town names, 1 for date and time.



ULFLINGEN LUXEMBURG 17 1 88 \* 10 • 11V.

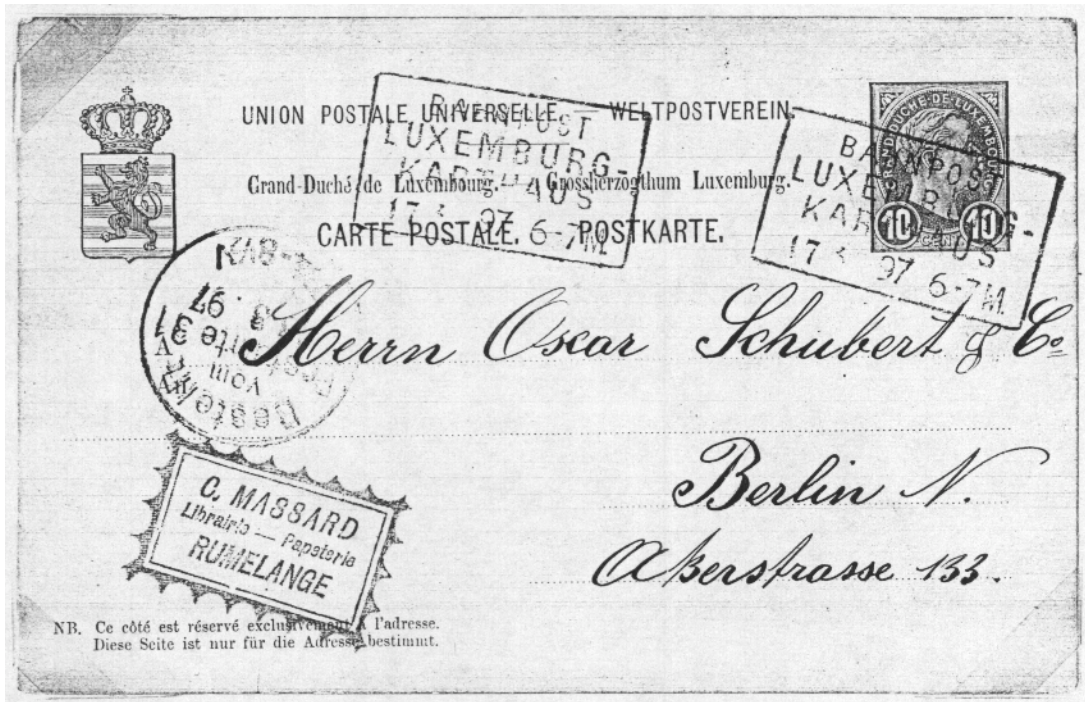


LUXEMBURG ULFLINGEN 20 12 87 \* 7-8V.

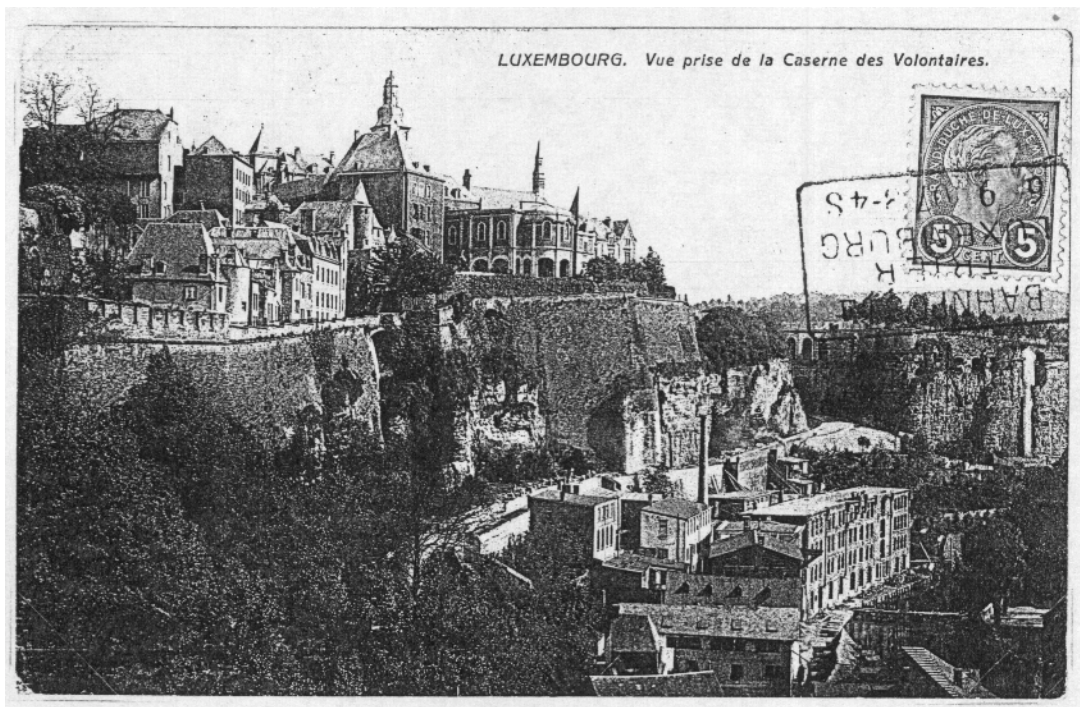
Used only on the mainline from Ulflingen (Troisvierges) south to Luxemburg. This service began September 1, 1875. Type 1 was used as late as 1902 and was replaced on this route with a Type 2 device.



TYPE 2: Large rectangle with 4 lines — 1 for service, 2 for town names, 1 for date and time.



BAHNPOST LUXEMBURG- KARTHAUS 17 3 97 6-7M.

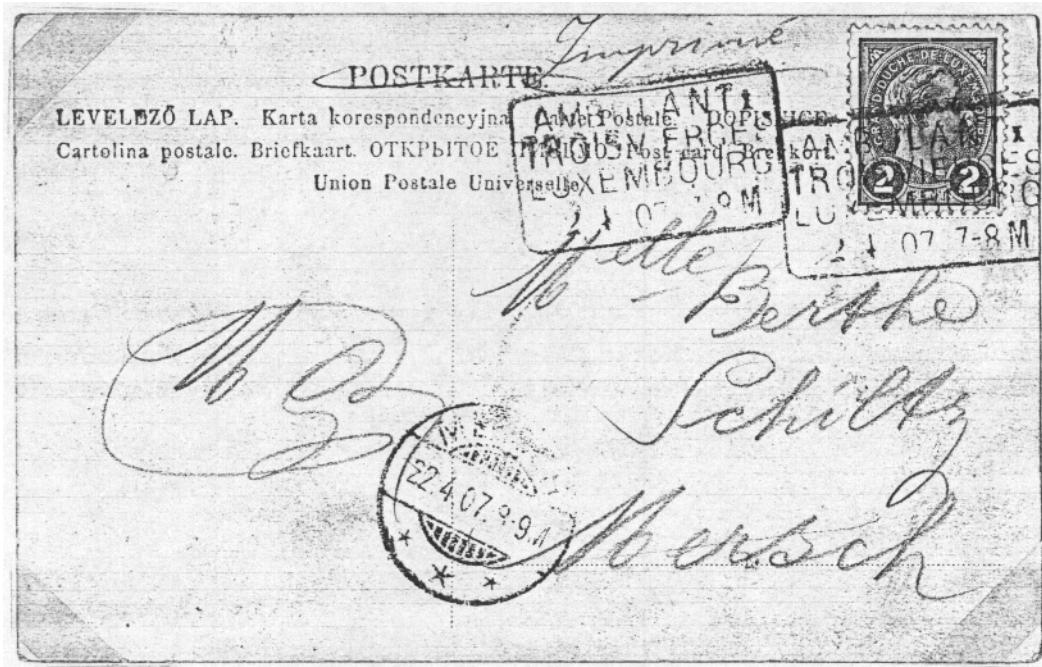


BAHNPOST II TRIER LUXEMBURG 6 9 07 3-4S

*Bahnpost* denotes full T.P.O. service to the German cities of Karthaus and Trier on the mainline east from Luxemburg. Type 2 devices were used between the mid-1890s and the end of first decade of the 1900s.



TYPE 2



AMBULANT I TROISVIERGES LUXEMBOURG 22 4 07 7-8M



AMBULANT I LUXEMBOURG LONGWY 21 1 00 8-9M  
 AMBULANT II LONGWY- LUXEMBOURG 20 7 03 5-6S.

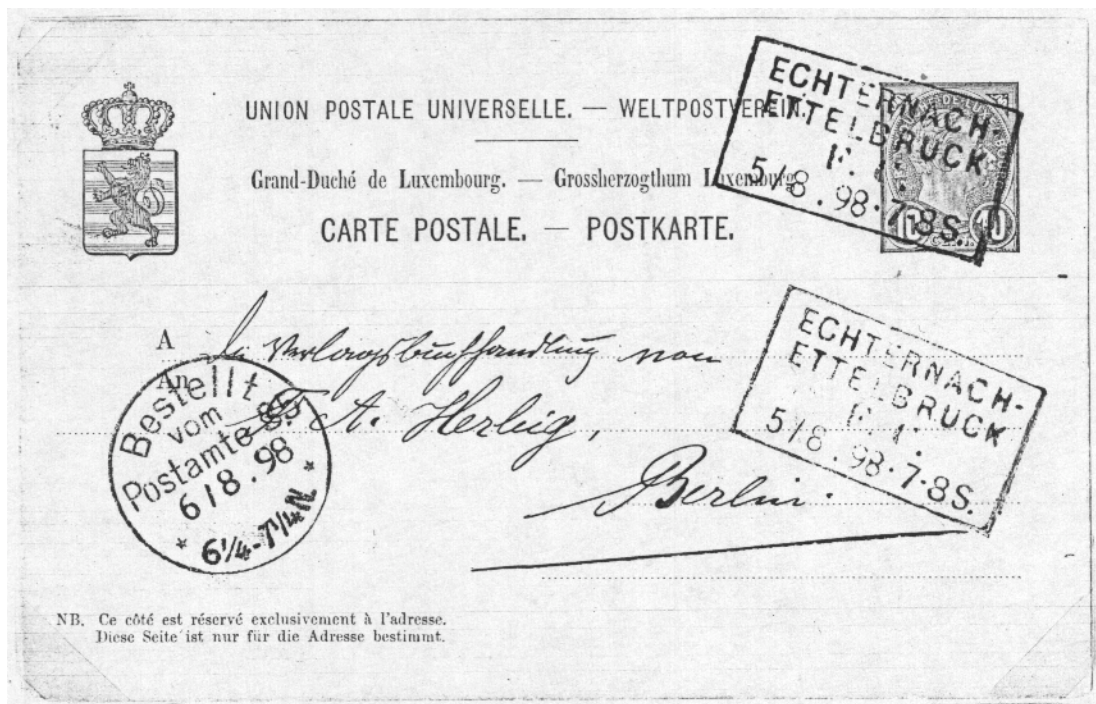
*Ambulant* denotes full T.P.O. service on the domestic route between Troisvierges (Ulflingen) and Luxembourg Ville (Luxemburg). Longwy is in France on the mainline west from Luxembourg Ville.



**TYPE 3:** Large rectangle with 4 lines — 2 for town names, 1 for F.C. or F.C. II (*Facteur-Convoyeur*), 1 for date and time.



BETTINGEN- ETTTELBRUCK F.C. 29/9.92•4•55.



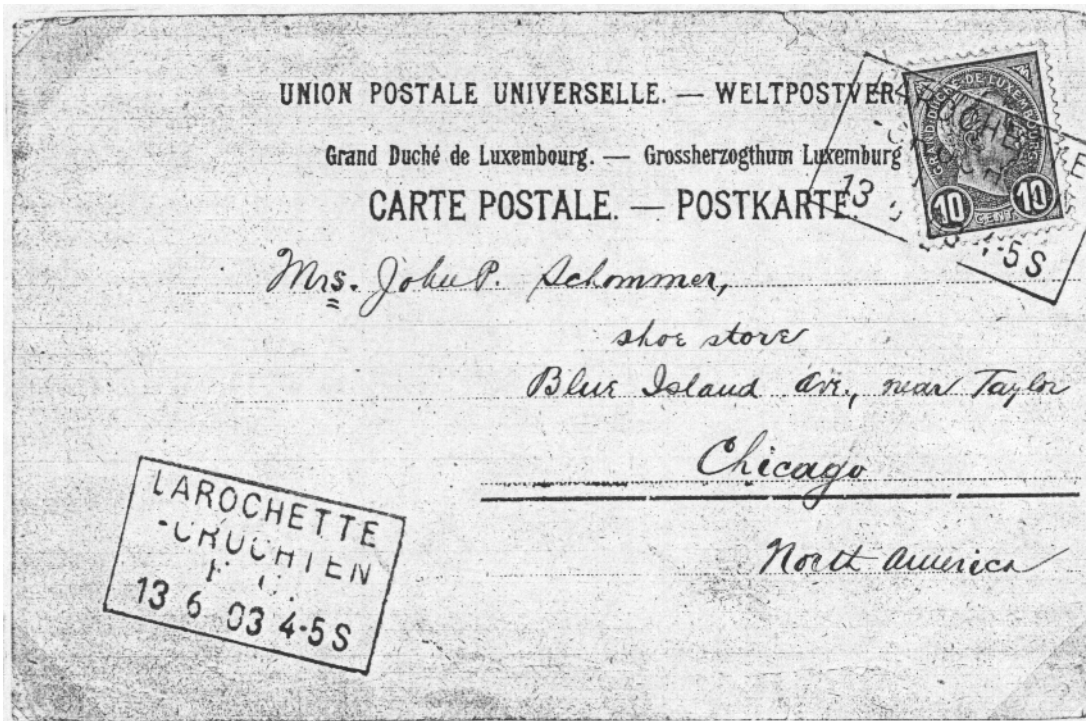
ECHTERNACH- ETTTELBRUCK F.C. 5/8.98•7•85.

F.C. (*Facteur-Convoyeur*) denotes railroad post agents who provided T.P.O. services for local or branchline routes. Bettingen is also known as Kleinbettingen. Type 3 devices were used from the mid-1890s to 1940.





ECHTERNACH-GREVENMACHER F.C. 5/5 96 4•5S.



LAROCLETTE-CRUCHTEN F.C. 13 6 03 4•5S

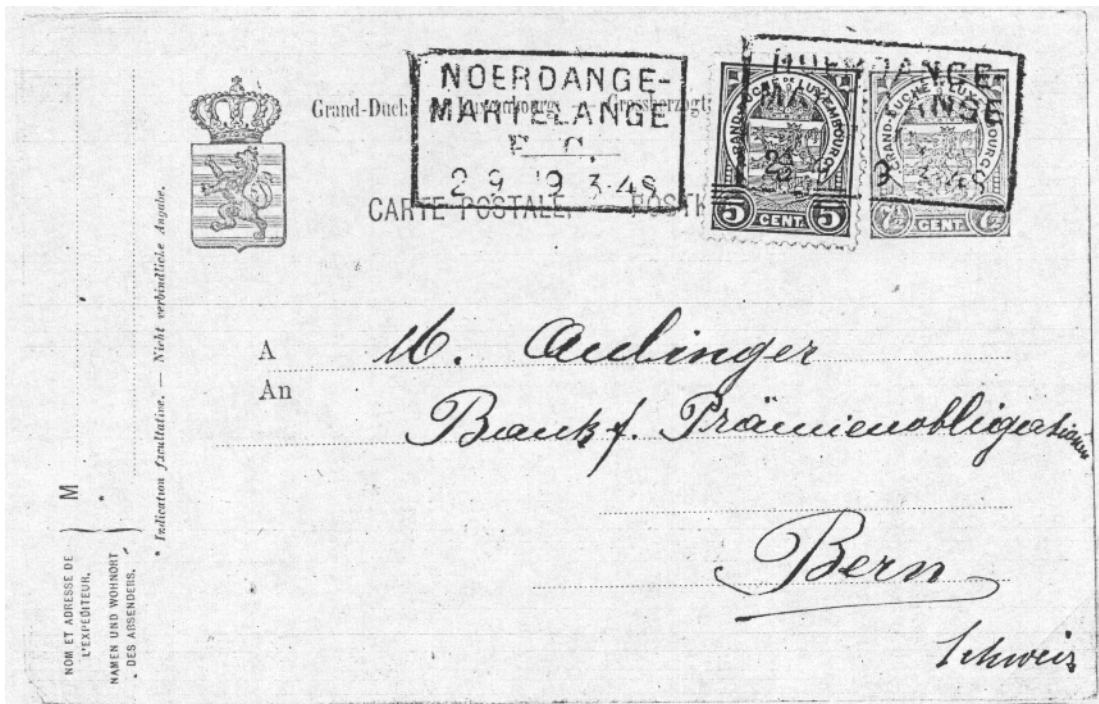
The Larochette-Cruchten route is a secondary, narrow gauge route.



TYPE 3



RUMELANGE NOERTZANGE F.C. II 12/5 02 6-7S.



NOERDANGE- MARTELANG F.C. 2 9 19 3•4S

The Noerdange-Martelange route is a secondary, narrow gauge route.

[to be continued in the next issue of *Castellum*]