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# Castellum

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

As I mentioned in the last issue of *Castellum*, the Luxembourg P&T has recently disclosed its 1999 stamp program. The program, which is subject to change, of course, looks like this:

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|-----------|---|
| March 8   | Owls of Luxembourg<br>Introduction of the Euro<br>Council of Europe — 50th Anniversary<br>NATO — 50th Anniversary   |
| May       | Europa 1999 — Natural Parks<br>Luxembourg Federation of Amateur Photographers — 50th Anniversary<br>Luxembourg Federation of Mutual Societies — 75th Anniversary<br>Luxembourg Gymnastics Federation — 100th Anniversary<br>International Year of the Elderly<br>Universal Postal Union — 125th Anniversary |
| September | Communications — "On the Path to the Future"<br>Aline Mayrisch de Saint Hubert — 125th Anniversary of Birth<br>Prince Guillaume — 18th Birthday   |
| December  | Drawings by Abbot Jean Bertels II (Charity Issue)<br>Christmas 1999<br>Johann Wolfgang von Goethe — 250th Anniversary of Birth  |

Particularly noteworthy is the stamp marking the age of majority of Prince Guillaume, the eldest son of Crown Prince Henri, who was born on November 11, 1981. Guillaume is second in line to the throne of the Grand Duchy, being destined to follow his father one day.

Also of interest is the stamp for Goethe, the German author who visited Luxembourg briefly in 1792. He published his fond impressions of the capital in his book "*The Campaign in France*."

**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.

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## Perforation Varieties of the Allegory Stamps of 1882

by Gary Little

For the 23-year period from 1859 to 1882, the Luxembourg post office issued and sold stamps of the same two general designs, although in an interesting variety of collectible perforation and printing varieties (imperforate, rouletted, perforated, narrow margins, wide margins, etc.). These stamps are generally referred to as the coat-of-arms or *armoiries* stamps.

In late 1882, however, a new series of stamps with an entirely different design was issued—the so-called *Allegory* series. The design features human allegories of “Agriculture” and “Commerce” flanking a coat-of-arms of Luxembourg resting on a block bearing a numeral of value. It is deliberately similar to the design of the French allegory stamps of 1876—furthermore, the stamps were engraved by the same person, E. Mouchon. There are twelve different face values in the set: 1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 10c, 12 1/2c, 20c, 25c, 30c, 50c, 1F, and 5F.



double-circle cancellation

At the same time as the arrival of the Allegory stamps, the Luxembourg authorities distributed new large double circle cancellation devices to most of the post offices in the country. These replaced the single circle cancelers that had been in use since 1872. As a result, most of the cancels you see on the Allegory stamps are of the large double circle variety. Specimens with single circle cancellations are far less common and you should save all that you can find.

The Allegory stamps were reprinted several times up to 1894 as required in order to replenish stock. The 2c value, for example, was reprinted on 27 different occasions although the rarely used 5F value had to be reprinted only once. The stamps were valid for postage until January 1, 1906, at which time the remaining stock was sold to stamp dealers by the Luxembourg post office.

The table below shows the quantities printed for each denomination. These quantities include those stamps that were later overprinted “S.P.” (*Service Public*) for official governmental use (Scott O52-64, Prifix O54-66, Michel D35-46, D46I.)

There are four different perforation varieties for the Allegory stamps, also shown in the table below. (These varieties are valued separately in the Prifix specialized catalog, but not in Scott or Michel.) Note, however, that the 30c, 1F, and 5F values were never perforated 12.5.

Most of the Allegory stamps were printed in sheets of 100, some in sheets of 200. On sheets that are nominally perforated 12.5x12, the first column of 10 stamps is actually perforated 11.5x12. Thus, this perforation variety is much less common and is highly desirable to specialists.

In theory, the “S.P” official stamps should exist in the same perforation varieties as their regular issue counterparts, but the 11.5x12 variety is quite rare and I believe that some values in this perforation are yet to be discovered, particularly in used condition. My collection, for example, includes only the 20c and 30c values used and the 4c, 10c, 12 1/2c, 30c, and 1F values mint. Rudolphi’s 1944 catalog, *Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde*, the latest reference I’ve discovered dealing with this issue, indicates that the 2c, 25c, and 50c values do not exist at all in the perf. 11.5x12 variety. Further study is clearly needed.

# Luxembourg Allegory Series

Issue Date: December 1, 1882  
 Valid Until: January 1, 1906  
 Designer: A.J. Marc  
 Engraver: E. Mouchon  
 Printer: J. Enschedé



Catalog Numbers				Perforation				
Scott	Prifix	Michel	Quantity	Description	12.5x12	11.5x12	12.5	13.5
48	47	45	7,940,000	1c light gray	X	X	X	X
49	48	46	8,684,000	2c olive 2c gray-brown	X	X	X	X
50	49	47	660,000	4c olive-yellow	X	X	X	X
51	50	48	7,093,400	5c green	X	X	X	X
52	51	49	9,652,000	10c rose	X	X	X	X
53	52	50	921,000	12 1/2c blue-gray	X	X	X	X
54	53	51	1,075,700	20c orange-yellow	X	X	X	X
55	54	52	6,167,000	25c blue 25c ultramarine	X	X	X	X
56	55	53	393,100	30c gray-green	X	X		X
57	56	54	774,000	50c light brown 50c brown-gray	X	X	X	X
58	57	55	550,000	1F lilac	X	X		X
59	58	56	586,000	5F red-brown	X	X		X

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## Updated Web Site for the Luxembourg P&T Office des Timbres

by Gary Little

In January, the *Office des Timbres* of the Luxembourg P&T went online with a renovated web site. It is located at <http://www.philatelly.lu>, so point your web browser to that address and have a good look around.

The colorful site, mostly in English, contains a great deal of information on recent Luxembourg stamps, coins, and telephone cards as well as all you need to know in order to set up a subscription for new issues. There is also an interesting section on the Luxembourg P&T Museum. Thanks to our friend Guy Rausch of the P&T for all his hard work in setting up this useful site.

While we're on the subject, there are two other Luxembourg philatelic web sites that you should know about. The first is my own "Luxembourg Philately" site which includes a complete database of every Luxembourg stamp ever issued, a bibliography, and much more. It is located at <http://www.luxcentral.com/stamps/>. The other is the Banque du Timbre web site at [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Serge\\_Ungeheuer/](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Serge_Ungeheuer/). Banque du Timbre is the leading retail stamp store in Luxembourg, publishes the Prifix specialized catalog of Luxembourg stamps, and also conducts a mail bid auction two times per year.

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## Dueling Allegories

by Allan F. Wichelman

The photo below shows an interesting use of French stamps on a cover from Luxembourg to Belgium. E. Mouchon engraved the 1882 Allegory stamps of Luxembourg *and* the visually similar 1876 Allegory stamps of France, but the 5 centimes French stamp was printed in a much deeper shade of green. Here a thrifty Luxembourger tried to mail a letter to Belgium requiring 20 centimes postage using a 10 centimes Luxembourg Allegory and a pair of 5 centimes French Allegory stamps (perhaps left over from a visit to France?) but gets caught and the letter is taxed 10 centimes (blue crayon). The cancels are interesting too — the letter was posted at the horse-drawn Relais Postes No. 11 (Walferdange) on October 15, 1884, then traveled on the Luxemburg-Ufflingen railway post office (the cart did not get ahead of the horse in this instance), and arrived in Brussels the same day. A very enjoyable cover.



5c green Allegory  
of Luxembourg

**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](mailto:lcc@luxcentral.com)).

## Perforation Varieties of the Charlotte “Full Face Portrait” Stamps of 1921-1928

by Gary Little

I recently bought an old Luxembourg collection that includes a perforation study of the Charlotte “full face portrait” stamps issued between 1921 and 1928. From that study, an examination of my own collection, and a little research, I’ve developed two useful tables that show the varieties for both the regular issues and the Officiel overprints. I believe this information to be accurate and complete—very old catalogs that refer to a perf. 12 variety are just plain wrong. A 1953 article in *Luxembourg Philatelist* claims the 50c deep blue and the 30c stamps are also known in perf. 11.5x11, but I believe this claim to be mistaken as well. One final note: the 25c Officiel overprint does not seem to exist in perf. 12x11.5 like the corresponding regular stamp. This is confirmed by the Prifix catalog, which lists the 30c Officiel perf. 12x11.5 variety, but not its 25c partner.

### Charlotte “Full Face Portrait” Series Officiel Overprints 1922-1926



All stamps were printed in sheets of 100.  
– also printed in sheets of 25.

All overprints are in black except the one on the last stamp in the list, which is in red.



Catalog Numbers					Perforation					
Scott	Prifix	Michel	Date	Description	11.5	11.5x11	11x11.5	12x11.5	11	11.5x12.5
O114	O129	D109	25.8.22	2c brown	X					X
O115	O130	D110	25.8.22	– 3c olive green	X	X				
O116	O131	D111	25.8.22	– 6c violet	X	X				
O117	O132	D112	25.8.22	10c yellow green	X	X				
O118	O150	D129	1925	10c olive brown	X		X			
O119	O133	D113	25.8.22	15c brown olive	X	X	X		X	
O120	O151	D130	1925	15c pale green	X		X			
O121	O152	D134	15.2.26	15c deep orange	X					
O122	O134	D114	25.8.22	– 20c deep orange	X					
O123	O153	D135	15.2.26	20c yellow green	X					
O124	O135	D115	25.8.22	25c dark green	X	X				
O125	O136	D116	25.8.22	30c carmine rose	X			X		
O126	O137	D117	25.8.22	40c brown orange	X	X				
O127	O138	D118	25.8.22	50c deep blue	X					
O128	O154	D131	1925	50c red	X					
O129	O139	D119	25.8.22	– 75c red	X	X				
O130	O155	D132	1925	75c deep blue	X					
O131	O140	D120	25.8.22	– 80c black	X	X				
O136	O144	D124	6.23	– 80c black (red overprint)	X	X				

# Charlotte "Full Face Portrait" Series Regular Issues 1921-1928



All stamps were printed in sheets of 100.

- also printed in sheets of 5 and 25.
- also printed in sheets of 25.

Catalog Numbers					Perforation					
Scott	Prifix	Michel	Date	Description	11.5	11.5x11	11x11.5	12x11.5	11	11.5x12.5
131	119	122	20.9.21	2c brown	X					X
132	120	123	20.9.21	- 3c olive green	X	X				
154	159	156	1.9.25	5c on 10c yellow green	X	X				
133	121	124	20.9.21	- 6c violet	X	X				
134	122	125	20.9.21	10c yellow green	X	X				
135	151	152	11.12.24	10c olive brown	X		X			
125	123	121	6.1.21	• 15c rose	X		X	X	X	
136	124	126	20.9.21	15c brown olive	X	X	X		X	
137	152	153	11.12.24	15c pale green	X		X			
138	153	161	12.2.26	15c deep orange	X					
155	197	199	10.3.28	15c on 20c yellow green	X					
139	125	127	15.2.22	- 20c deep orange	X					
140	154	162	12.2.26	20c yellow green	X					
141	126	128	20.9.21	25c dark green	X	X		X		
149	135	140	27.8.22	25c dark green (imperforate)						
142	127	129	20.9.21	30c carmine rose	X			X		
150	136	141	27.8.22	30c carmine rose (imperforate)						
156	198	197	15.12.27	35c on 40c brown orange	X	X				
143	128	130	20.9.21	40c brown orange	X	X				
144	129	131	20.9.21	50c deep blue	X					
145	155	154	11.12.24	50c red	X					
157	199	198	15.12.27	60c on 75c deep blue	X					
158	200	201	10.3.28	- 60c on 80c black	X	X				
146	130	132	1.7.22	- 75c red	X	X				
147	156	155	11.12.24	75c deep blue	X					
148	131	133	1.7.22	- 80c black	X	X				

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# AFW's Guide to Identifying Luxembourg Double-Circle Cancellations

by Allan F. Wichelman

The large double-circle cancellation devices were introduced in 1882 and remained in service until about 1905. Because of the size of the cancellations, you often see only a portion of a postmark on the small definitive stamps of the era. The following guide may help you identify the origin of a postmark where only the last few characters of the postmark are visible. Note that these postmarks are classified as "type 32" in the FSPL Luxembourg Postmark catalog.

## I. The "ange"s

Boevange-sur-Attert  
Boevange (Boegen)  
Differdange  
Dommeldange  
Dudelage  
Hesperange  
Hovelange  
Leudelage  
Oetrange  
Petange  
Redange-sur-Attert  
Rumelage  
Tetange  
Useldange  
Walferdange  
Walferdange (Château)  
Wormeldange

## II. The "dorf"s

Arsdorf  
Bettendorf  
Bollendorf (Luxembourg)  
Consdorf  
Mondorf-les-Bains  
Reisdorf

## III. The "ort"s

Beaufort  
Rosport  
Steinfort

## IV. The "weiler"s

Lorentzweiler  
Sandweiler  
Schouweiler

## V. The "en"s

Bettingen.....  
Cruchten |  
Eischen..... | .....  
Hosingen..... | [gen] |  
Kehlen | | [hen]  
Kleinbettingen... | |  
Remerschen..... | |  
Schieren  
Vianden



Boevange (Boegen)

Dudelage

Eischen

Rumelage

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## 1854 Folded Letter from Luxembourg to London

by Gary Little

Here's a rare and fascinating folded letter cover from the Ed Jarvis collection. It was mailed from Luxembourg to London, England via Ostende, Belgium on September 4, 1854. It is franked with a strip of three of the 10 centimes first issue and is postmarked with two mute circles of nine bars of Luxembourg-Ville on the stamps and a French-style Luxembourg circular date stamp sidemark. On the back of the envelope are two railroad transit marks and a British arrival postmark.

The cover is unusual in that the affixed stamps paid the rate only to the port of Ostende (30 centimes), not all the way to London (60 centimes). This appears to have been deliberate because the front of the cover is marked "*affranchie Ostende*." A large manuscript "8" on the front of the cover seems to indicate that 8 pence postage due was collected in London. Ed has some questions about this cover that our readers may be able to answer. First, why would the sender of this letter pay the postage only to Ostende and not all the way to London? And is the interpretation of the manuscript "8" correct? Would that have been the appropriate amount in British currency of the day to cover the missing 30 centimes franking?

