
Castellum



**Luxembourg
Collectors Club**

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President's Message

by Gary Little

Luxembourg now has a new Grand Duke, but the accession didn't take place on September 28 as anticipated in the last issue of *Castellum*. Shortly before the appointed date, Henri's youngest brother, Prince Guillaume, was in a terrible automobile accident near Paris which left him with severe head injuries. As a result, the decision was made to postpone the date of accession to October 7 and to cancel most of the special celebratory events that had been planned. Happily, Guillaume has now emerged from his coma and is on the road to recovery.

I would like to thank Postmaster Lerene Clinton of the Luxemburg, Iowa post office for postmarking the envelopes for the September *Castellum* with a nice Luxemburg hand cancel on September 28. Combined with the special franking, which included a 5c Luxemburg flag stamp issued by the United States in 1943, the envelope is a unique souvenir of this important year in Luxemburg history.

In closing, I note that LCC member Bob Danzer, 86 years old, has sold his award winning exhibit of Luxemburg postal history to Nutmeg Stamp Sales (www.nutmegstamp.com). The material was included in a mail auction that closed on October 18, providing all of us with a chance to pick up some unique items that have not been on the market for years. Thanks, Bob!

From Beyond the Back of the Book: Esch-sur-Alzette Transit Postmark from 1901

by Allan F. Wichelman

Foreign transit cancels on covers and cards emanating from Luxembourg are fairly common. Less frequently, Luxembourg-Ville and Luxembourg-Gare cancels are seen as transit marks on mail passing through Luxembourg. And sometimes foreign railway post office cancels include Luxembourg venues. The *Gruss Aus* postcard shown below, however, shows the use of the double circle Esch-sur-Alzette [V] cancel as a transit cancel. The card was postmarked at Deutsch-Oth, Germany (now Audun-le-Tiche, France, a village only 3 kilometers from Esch-sur-Alzette) between 9 and 10 a.m. on September 24, 1901. It was transit marked at Esch-sur-Alzette between 10 and 11 a.m. the same day, from where it was sent on to Couillet, Belgium, where it was received and postmarked the next day. Perhaps the German specialists have recorded more items like this one?



Postcard from Deutsch-Oth (Germany) to Couillet (Belgium) with Esch-sur-Alzette transit postmark.



View side of the postcard in the previous figure showing important buildings in Esch-sur-Alzette.

Luxembourg's Small Double Circle Cancels, Part 1

by Leon Stadtherr

Leon is a frequent exhibitor of Luxembourg material. This article is adapted from his award-winning 1999 exhibit of postmarks used in the Grand Duchy.

When Luxembourg issued her first postage stamps on 15 September 1852 regulations called for the stamps to be canceled with a mute canceler and the date postmark with the post office name in it to be placed alongside the stamp. Each post office was provided with a mute canceler and a small double circle French style postmark usually referred to as the French style canceler or French style CDS (circular date stamp). These postmarks were 20.5 to 22.0 mm in diameter with the date in italics. They were most commonly used as (a) origin postmarks, (b) transit marks, and (c) receiving marks. Examples of these usages are shown in this article.

In 1859 the postal regulations were revised, calling for an end to the use of the mute cancels and the use of the CDS to cancel stamps on covers. But other than in Luxembourg City this change was slow to be put into practice. In some offices they were not used to cancel stamps until well into the 1860s.



The French style cancelers were gradually replaced in the 1870s; first at Luxembourg City about 1870 and then at the other post offices. Any strikes after 1875 are late uses of these cancels. Therefore most offices used them to cancel stamps and postal cards for only about ten years. A total of 25 different cancelers were used at 21 locations. The map on the next page shows the locations of these 21 offices.

During the period when the French style postmarks were used Luxembourg issued her first four postage stamp sets:

- 1852 Grand Duke William III – 10 centimes and 1 silbergros. Any strikes on stamps are accidental or from 1859 or later.
- 1859-1863 Coat of Arms, imperforated – 9 stamps. Not often found; most offices still used mutes.
- 1865-1874 Coat of Arms, rouletted, colorless & colored – 14 stamps. Most frequently found on this issue.
- 1875-1879 Coat of Arms, perforated 13 – 11 stamps. Seldom found and then usually on the 10 centimes stamp.

Luxembourg's first postal cards were issued during the mid-1870s when the last few French style cancelers were still in use.

This article shows each of the 25 small double circle postmarks used as cancelers of postal cards and stamps, both off and on cover with both foreign and domestic destinations. Included are many stamp color shade varieties.

Black ink was usually used with these cancelers. But eleven post offices are known to have used blue ink and one, Redange, is known to have also used violet and green inks. Blue or blue-black (bl-bk) strikes from eight offices are shown here.

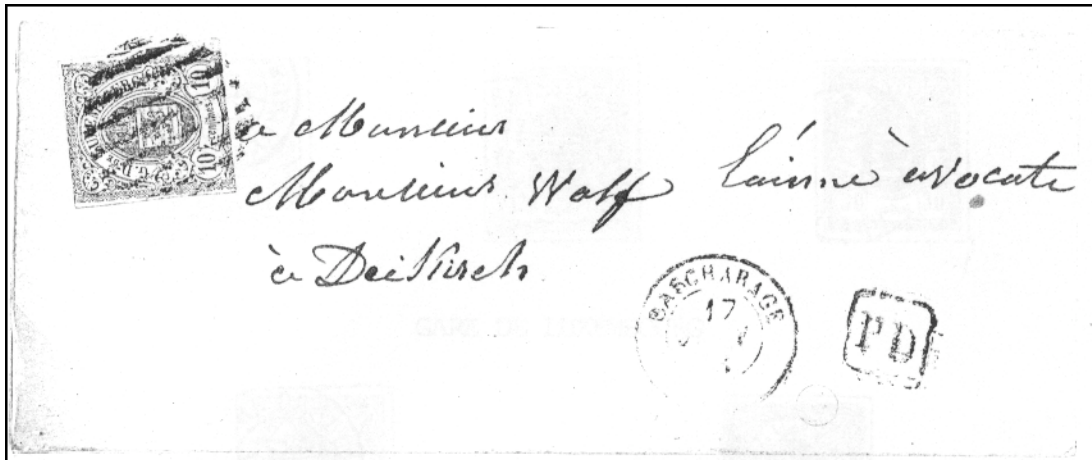


Locations of the 21 Post Offices which used the Small Double Circle Cancelers

BETTEMBOURG

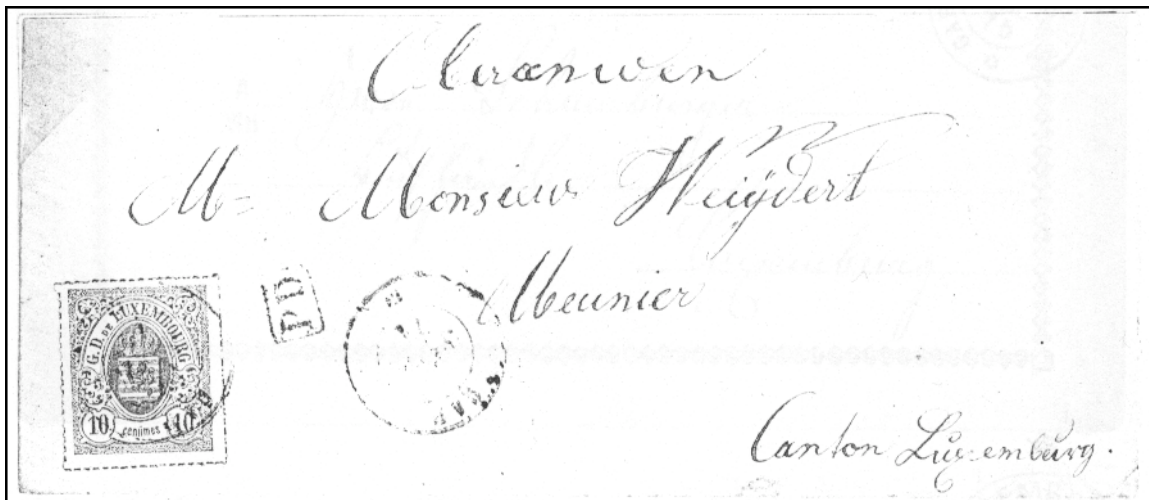


BASCHARAGE



Use as origin postmark – 10 centimes internal rate cover sent from Bascharage to Diekirch on 17 June 1863 via Luxembourg City (transit postmark on reverse side).

CAP



Cover sent from Cap on 25 September 1871 to Meunier, Belgium, which is within 30 km of the border, so the special 10 centimes rate applied.

CLERVAUX



GARE DE LUXEMBOURG



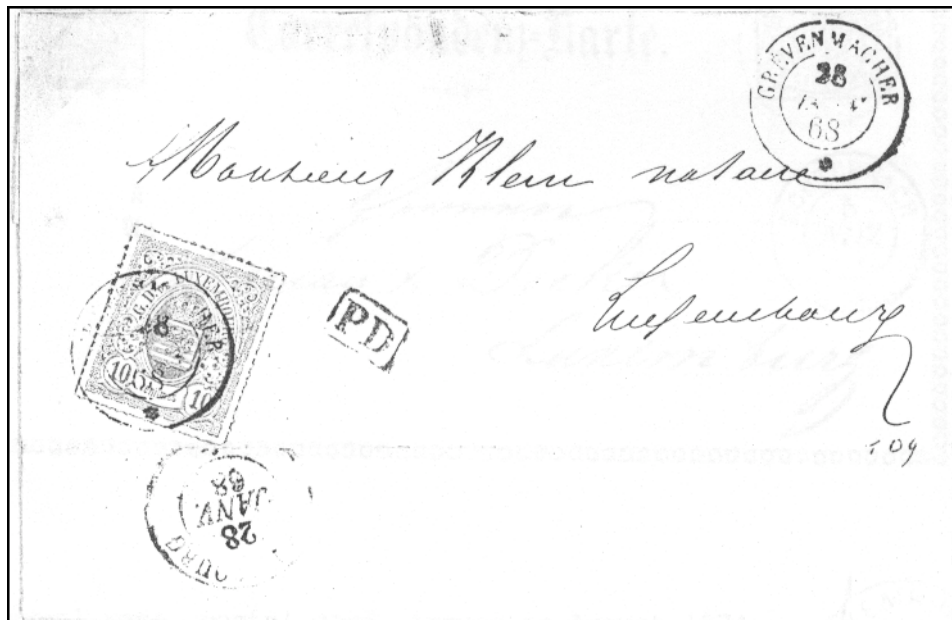
Although the message on this 1875 postal card was written at Ettelbruck, it was cancelled at the Luxembourg Gare post office on 14 December 1875. Luxembourg (Ville) receiving postmark of 15 December 1875 on the reverse.



DIEKIRCH



GREVENMACHER



Letter written at and sent from Grevenmacher and received at Luxembourg City on the same day, 28 January 1868.

ECHTERNACH



Internal rate postal card issued in August, 1874, the second postal card issue, sent from Echternach on 5 November 1874 to Luxembourg City where it was received the next morning.



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

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).