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# Castellum

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

I have an update to an article I wrote several months ago on U.S. postmarks with a Luxembourg theme. In my quest for completeness I have finally obtained a copy of the elusive Luxembourg, Wisconsin postmark. This small town near Green Bay now goes by the name of Luxemburg (no "o"), having changed it from Luxembourg for unknown (to me) reasons in 1924. Until then, the Luxembourg name had been in use since the post office was established in 1880.

I'm still hunting for one more U.S. postmark and it will be much harder to find. It's the Luxemburgh, Iowa postmark (yes, with an "h") that was used only from 1879 to 1886 before the "h" was dropped. Be sure to let me know if one crosses your path!

P&T Luxembourg has just announced its 2002 stamp program. You can find it on the Internet at [www.philately.lu](http://www.philately.lu). The highlights include a souvenir sheet and stamps to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Luxembourg postage stamps, three stamps for the Tour de France 2002 cycling race that will commence in Luxembourg, and two stamps honoring European institutions with headquarters in Luxembourg.



*Luxemburg, Wis. postmark.*

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## Registered Mail Markings used in Luxembourg, Part 1

by Gary Little

Registered mail appeals to many collectors because of the many interesting markings typically applied by postal officials—handwritten indicia, labels, transit postmarks, and so on.

In this article I will discuss the treatment of registered mail in Luxembourg since the Universal Postal Union was formed in 1875. One of the activities of the UPU is to issue regulations relating to the international mail system that member countries are expected to follow. This includes regulations on the marking and handling of registered mail.



*Registered letter from Luxembourg-Ville to Trenton, NJ (1889).*

Around 1875 the Luxembourg Post Office began using a special rubber stamp marking in order to identify registered mail in a manner suggested by the UPU. As shown in the 1889 cover above, it is a rectangular marking with three compartments—"Grand-Duché de Luxembourg" in the top compartment, a larger letter "R" in the middle compartment, and "No." and a space for a handwritten registration number in the bottom compartment.

Note that even though a space is provided for the registration number, it was rarely used. In fact, except for an odd cover I describe at the end of this article, I have never seen the space used. The number is invariably in large handwriting elsewhere on the front of the envelope.

This style of registration marking was used until May 15, 1926 when new UPU regulations dictated the use of a label containing the letter "R" on the left and the name of the town of origin on the right. The registration number appeared below the town name.



Registered letter from Wilwerwiltz to Los Angeles (1926).  
 This style of registration label (with red "R" and number) was first used in Luxembourg in 1926.

These labels, which are rouletted on three sides, have town names printed in black. The "R", the registration number, and the frame lines were initially red, but orange was used later (circa 1929). The roulettes are either colorless or black.

In 1937-38, new labels were introduced which had all-black text with no vertical dividing line. (The earliest example I have in my collection is from Dudelange in July 1937.)



Registered letter from Luxembourg-Ville to Brooklyn, New York (1938).

This style of registration label (all black text with no vertical dividing line) was first used in Luxembourg in 1937.

From 1940-1942, during the World War II Nazi occupation, similar labels were used although town names were Germanified (Dudelange became Düdelingen, Esch-sur-Alzette became Esch-

Alz., and so on). On occasion old labels with French names were used with overprinted German names—see the Klerf/Clervaux cover below, for example.



Registered letter from Klerf (Clervaux) to Luxemburg (1942).  
 Note that the Clervaux label has been overprinted "Klerf".

Towards the end of 1941, the Nazi occupiers introduced new labels similar to the ones used in Luxembourg prior to 1937. They have a wide outer border, a large letter "R" with serifs, and a thin vertical dividing line, all in red. The town name and registration number are in black.



Post-war registered letter from Rodingen to Luxemburg using the red German-style label (1945).  
 Note that the word "Moselland" in the label has been crossed out.

When the war ended and normal postal service resumed in 1945, many post offices continued to use the red German labels, probably because they was no alternative—there were severe paper shortages and conservation and recycling was necessary. Those labels that included the hated Moselland name (Germany’s name for the annexed Luxembourg region) invariably had this word crossed out (see the Rodingen example above). The latest use of the red German labels I have in my collection is November 28, 1945.



*Pre-war red registration label used on a post-war letter from Mondorf-les-Bains to Louisiana (1946).*

In the same spirit of conservation, some post offices started using the old pre-1937 red registration labels that, apparently, had never been destroyed even after the black ones were introduced. I have seen them used in 1945 and 1946 in Luxembourg-Ville, Mondorf-les-Bains, and Dudelange. The latest use I have in my collection is December 5, 1946 (in Mondorf-les-Bains).

By 1947, however, all post offices seem to have reverted to the all-black labels that were in use just prior to the war. This style of registration label continued in use for the next half century.

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

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## A Philatelic Tour Through the Municipal Park of Luxembourg, Part 2

by Gary Little

[continued from the September 2001 issue of *Castellum*]

When you leave the cemetery, through the same corner gate you entered, you will see across the street the back of an old school building which opened in 1957. The main entrance to the school is on Boulevard de la Foire.



*The first European School (1960 stamp)*

This is the European School of Luxembourg and was the first school in the European School system. This system, which now includes schools in several countries, has a curriculum which is specially designed to meet the needs of the children of parents employed in the offices of European institutions.

This building near the Glacis is now an annex of the main European School located on the Kirchberg Plateau. It is a primary school for children in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. The building is rather drab, but does have an interesting bas-relief work across the top of the main entrance showing teachers and students around a globe marked with the letter "E" to symbolize a united Europe.



*Notre Dame Chapel  
(1991 stamp)..*

Across the street from the European School is Notre Dame Chapel, also known as the Glacis Chapel. It was built in 1885 in the neo-gothic style to the plans of Luxembourg architect Charles Arendt. It replaced the nearby chapel of the same name that was destroyed in 1796 by the French revolutionary army.

The interior of the chapel was significantly refurbished in 1966 in honor of the tercentenary celebrations of the appointment of Notre Dame, Consoler of the Afflicted, as the patron saint of Luxembourg City. Stained-glass windows and a large wall carpet tell the history of worship of Notre Dame.

The Notre Dame Chapel was further restored in 1985 on the occasion of the visit of Pope John Paul II to Luxembourg and the centenary of the chapel.



*Sir Winston Churchill statue (1974 stamp).*

The next stop around the park is a statue honoring Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965).

To reach it, return to the main Boulevard Grande-Duchesse Charlotte (the continuation of Boulevard de la Foire) and continue following it around the Municipal Park until you reach Place Winston Churchill on the left opposite Rue Nicolas Welter. The statue is located near the back of the Place, behind a grove of trees.

The Churchill statue, an initiative of the British-Luxembourg Society, was unveiled on October 23, 1973 and honors the great statesman of Great Britain who was also its political leader during most of World War II. It is the work of sculptor Oscar Nemon of England.

Churchill was always a friend to Luxembourg and its people. He provided refuge in England for Grand Duchess Charlotte during her World War II exile and he was an early promoter of a united Europe following the war.

On a state visit to Luxembourg in July 1946, in an address to the Luxembourg Parliament, he said he was *“profoundly impressed with the strong principle of vitality, of personality which has preserved the independent and sovereign life of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.”*

To reach the next stop, leave Place Winston Churchill on the east side behind the statue, proceed south along Boulevard Joseph II, then turn left at the next intersection (Avenue Monterey). The Jewish synagogue is located a few dozen meters down on the right side.

The synagogue opened on June 28, 1953 and replaces the original one built in 1894 on Rue Aldringen.

The original building was destroyed by the Nazis during World War II. The new synagogue was designed by architect René Maillet.



*Jewish synagogue (1982 stamp).*



*Victor Hugo (1977 stamp).*

In the Municipal Park, near the northwest corner of the intersection of Avenue Monterey with Boulevard Prince Henri, is a bust of the great French writer Victor Hugo (1802-1885) sitting on a tall, light-pink pedestal. It was sculpted in 1838 by Hugo's friend P.J. David of Angers (1788-1856) and was placed in its present location in 1957.

Hugo visited Luxembourg several times during his political exile from France after 1852.

Most notably, he lived in Vianden in the summer of 1871 where he drew, visited ancient castles, and wrote a series of poems published in *L'Année Terrible* (*The Terrible Year*).

The last stop of this tour is the memorial stone placed in 1961 in honor of Luxembourg writer and humorist Batty Weber (1860-1940) by *D'Frönn vum Batty Weber* (*The Friends of Batty Weber*). It is also located in the Municipal Park, just north of the corner of Avenue Emile Reuter and Boulevard Prince Henri.

Weber was a journalist and newspaper editor who is perhaps best known for the regular newspaper column he wrote for *Luxemburger Zeitung* for over 25 years, his short stories, and the many plays he wrote in the Luxembourgish language.



*Batty Weber (1990 stamp).*

You are now free to explore the Municipal Park and enjoy its natural beauty and peacefulness at your leisure. Look for other interesting sites such as the Gandhi bust, the Princess Amélie memorial, the Siggy vu Luxemburg monument, the cycling memorial to Tour de France winners Fr. Faber and Nicolas Frantz, and Villa Vauban (the art gallery of Luxembourg City, also known as the J.-P. Pescatore Museum).

### [Conclusion of Series]

**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)).