
Castellum



**Luxembourg
Collectors Club**

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Vol. 5, No. 1 (whole #17) © 2001 Luxembourg Collectors Club and contributors

June 2001

President's Message

by Gary Little

May 22 marked a milestone in the history of the Luxembourg P&T. For the first time, postage stamps were issued which were denominated both in francs and in euros, a new common currency being adopted by 12 participating European countries. Euro coins and currency begin circulating next January 1, although francs, marks, lire, etc. will also be valid during a short two month phase-in period; on February 28, however, old currencies will be withdrawn.

Including euro denominations on stamps now is important because it means that the stamps may be used for postage even after the franc is retired. The last day of validity of all stamps denominated only in francs is June 30, 2002. In the coming year, look for plenty of interesting mail from the Luxembourgers as they try to exhaust their hoards of common stamps issued during the past 40 years. This is the first mass demonetization of postage stamps in Luxembourg since the German occupation of World War II.



New 18 F / 0.45 € stamp.

Covers in the Handwriting of Marie-Adélaïde and Charlotte

by Allan F. Wichelman and Gary Little

Covers relating to the royal family are very popular with collectors of Luxemburgensia. Relatively easy to obtain are envelopes mailed by an aide-de-camp thanking someone for sending congratulations for a personal event such as a birthday or anniversary. Much rarer, and thus highly prized, are covers that bear the handwriting of a Grand Duchess or Grand Duke. They do exist and some examples are pictured with this article. If you've got any older covers franked with official stamps, especially those postmarked in Colmar-Berg where the royal residence is located, take a close look at them and try to tell if you've got mail personally sent by a monarch.

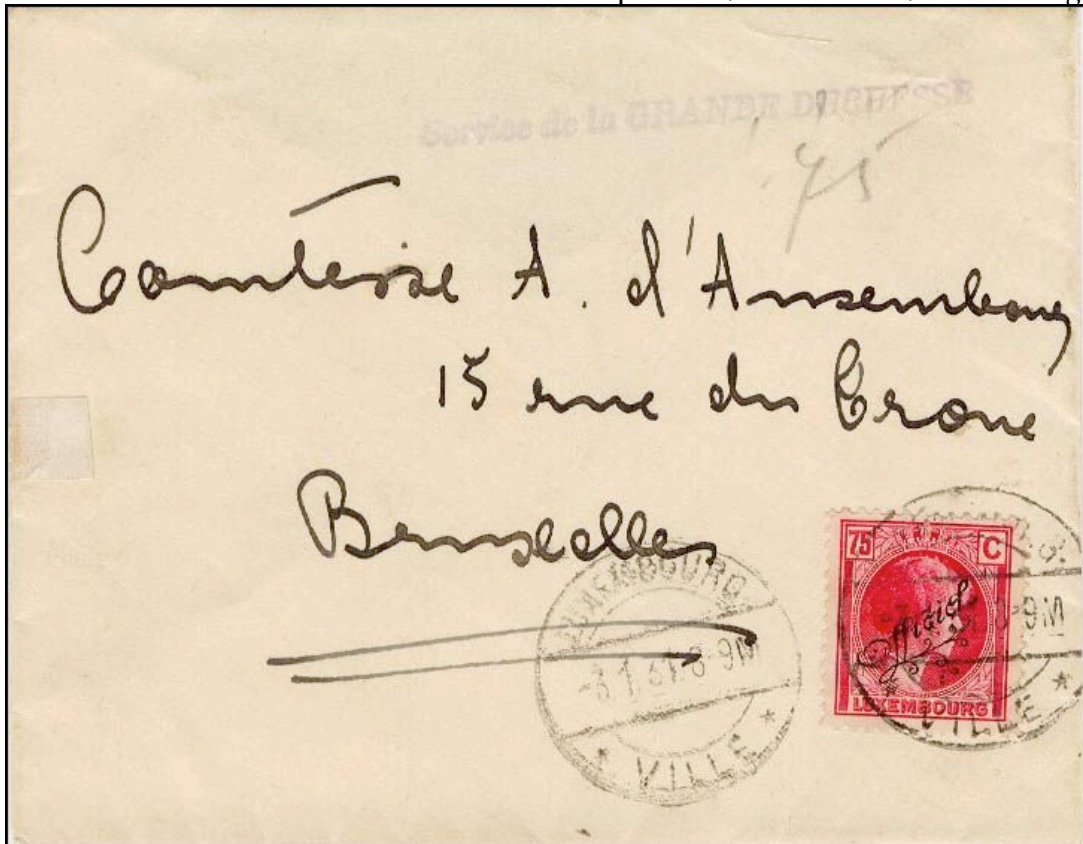
The first of our covers is in the handwriting of Grand Duchess Marie-Adélaïde who reigned from 1912 until her abdication in 1919. This cover is endorsed in her hand at the top: *Abs [absender]:Grossherzogin von Luxemburg* with her initials (M.A.) below the purple rubber stamp endorsement *Service de la Grande Duchesse*.



Letter from Grand Duchesse Marie-Adélaïde to Baroness Anna Marie Brusselle in 1918.



This is a registered letter sent to the Baroness Anna Marie Brusselle in Basthorst (post Möhnsen) near Hamburg and is postmarked Luxembourg-Ville IV, September 16, 1918. It was censored at Trier (royal correspondence apparently was not an exception to censorship, the Grand Ducal family essentially being held under house arrest during World War I). The franking is on the back — the 17 1/2c official pays the letter rate to Germany, the 25c official pays the registration fee. Also note the embossed return address on the back flap: *Palais/Grand Ducal/Luxembourg*.



The 1931 cover above bears a faint purple rubber stamp endorsement at the top: *Service de la GRANDE DUCHESSE*. It is in the distinctive handwriting of Grand Duchess Charlotte. Franked with a 75c official, it is addressed to Countess Anne d'Ansembourg in Brussels. This cover has same embossed return address on the back flap as the Marie-Adélaïde cover above.

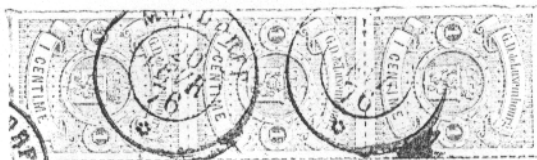


The 1937 cover above, postmarked in Colmar-Berg and with *Château de Berg / Luxembourg* embossed on the back flap, may also be personally addressed by Charlotte. It was sent to her then 16-year-old son, "Prince John of Luxembourg" at Ampleforth College in England. Note the Anglicized signature of Jean on the reverse side — the owner of this cover claims Jean signed it and gave it to him when they were classmates at the college. It was offered in a recent eBay auction, but bidding did not meet an unspecified reserve price which was more than \$150.

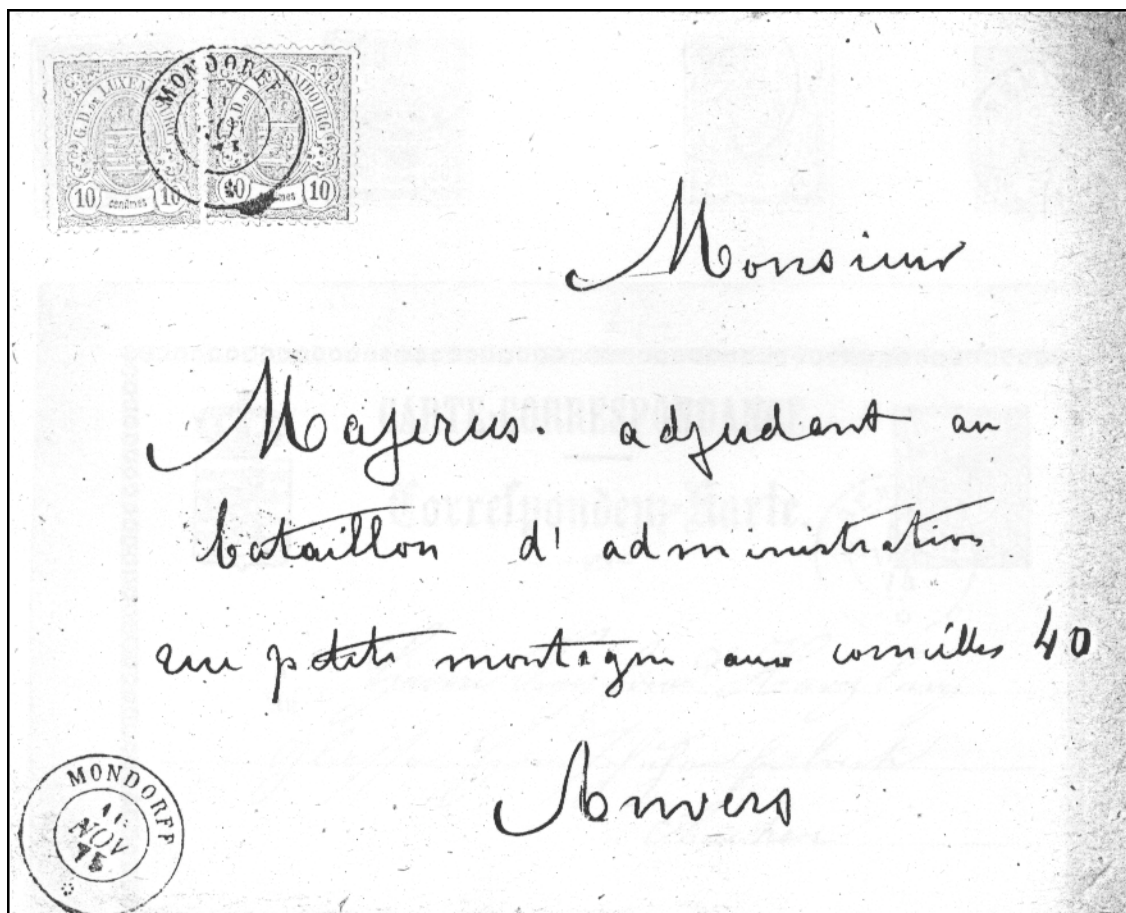
Luxembourg's Small Double Circle Cancels, Part 3
by Leon Stadtherr

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

MONDORFF



bl-bk



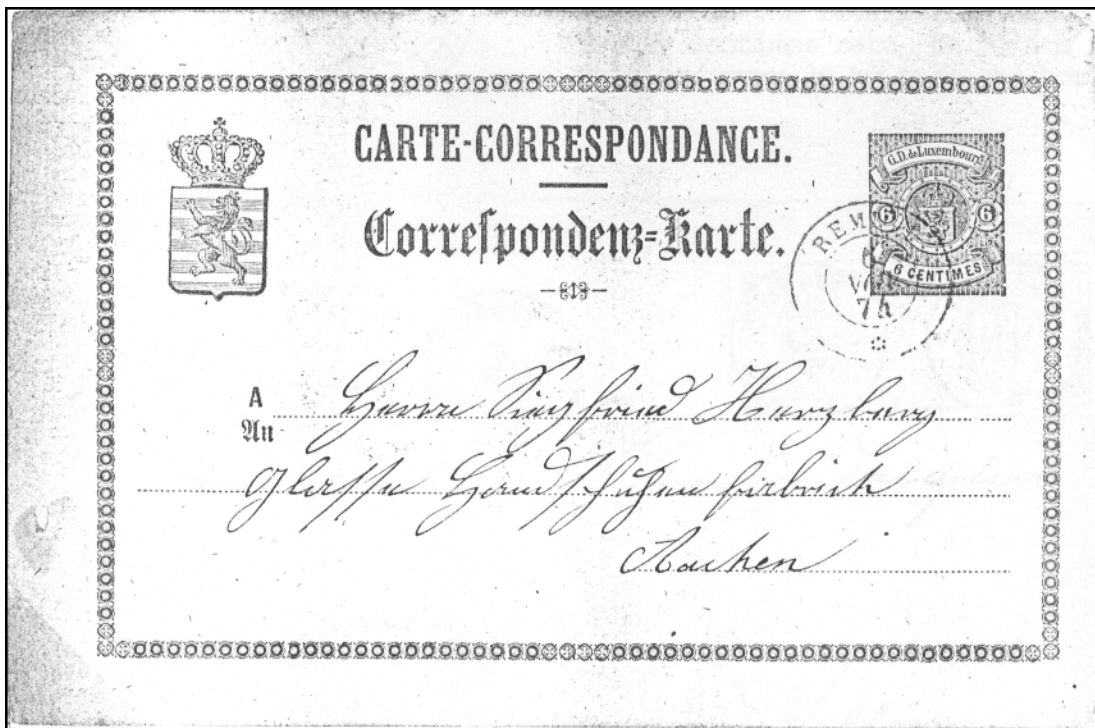
Mondorff was one of the few offices to still be using the small double circle canceler when perforated stamps were introduced into use in the Grand Duchy. These were the 10c stamps; first delivery in April 1875. Cover sent from Mondorff on 16 November 1875 and received the next day in Antwerp (Anvers), Belgium.

REDANGE



green

REMICH

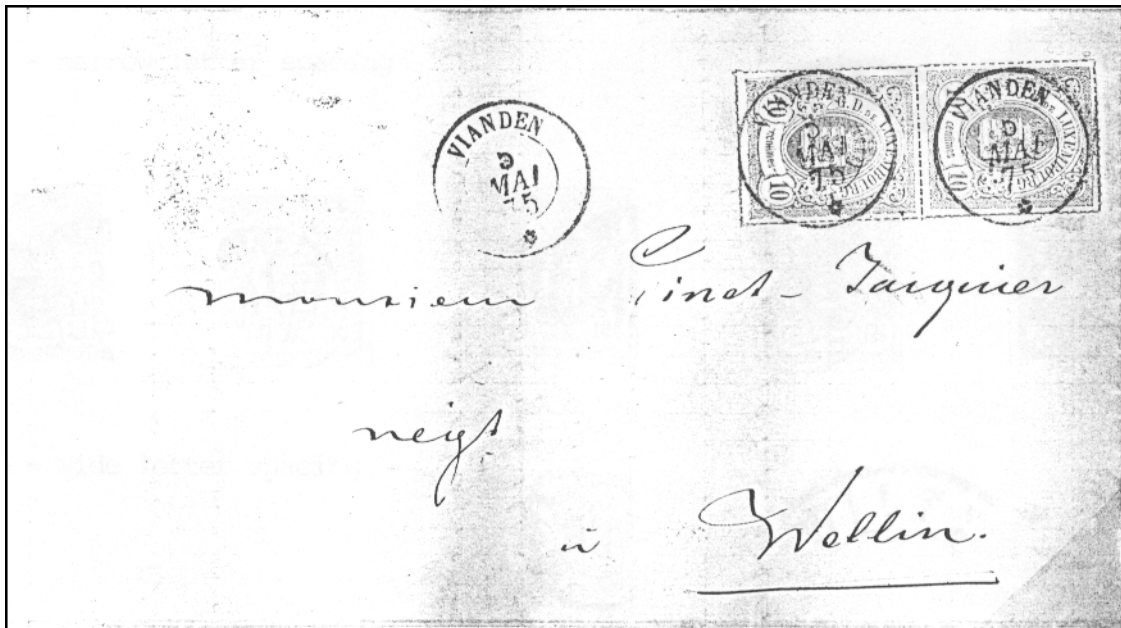


International rate postal card issued in August 1874 sent from Remich on 6 November 1874 to Aachen, Germany.

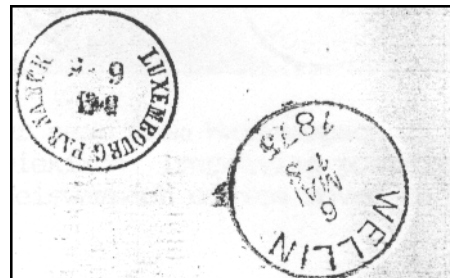
TROIS-VIERGES



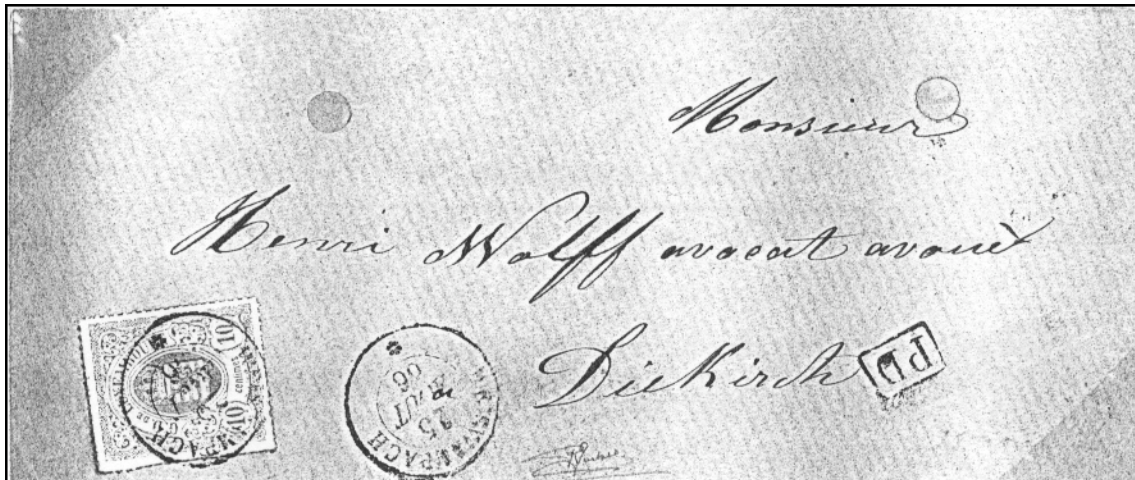
VIANDEN



Cover mailed at Vianden on 5 May 1875. Luxembourg Par Namur transit and Wellin receiving postmarks applied on the reverse the next day. Twenty centimes rate to points in Belgium over 30 km from the border.



WEISWAMPACH



Cover sent from Weiswampach 25 August 1866; received the next day in Diekirch (receiving postmark on reverse). A late use as the Weiswampach office moved to Troisvierges in November 1866.

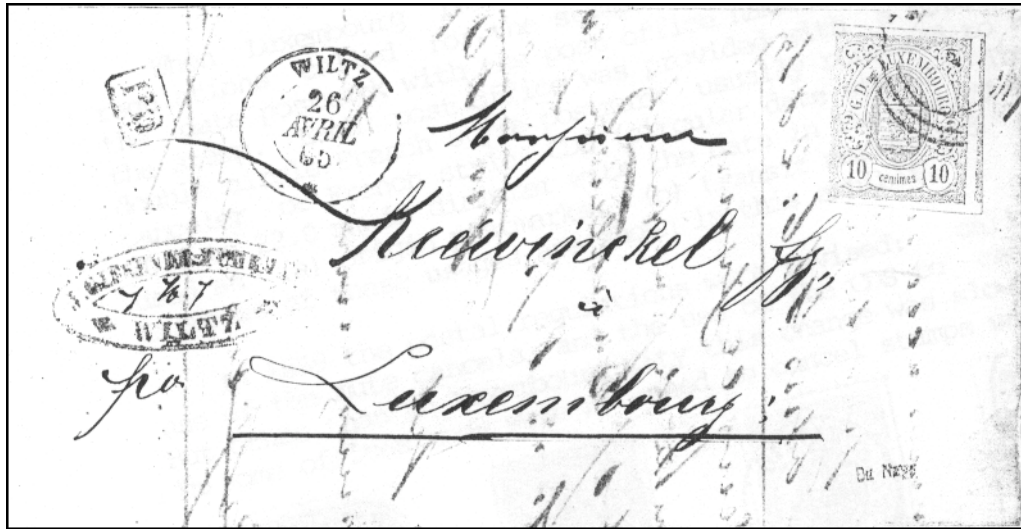
WILTZ
two cancelers

a - narrow letter spacing



b - wide letter spacing





Canceler a – 26 April 1865 letter from Wiltz to Luxembourg City. Note the use of the mute cancel and the PD and town postmarks as per the regulations of 1852, but which had been revised in 1859.



Canceler b – Late use – Second issue Luxembourg postal card sent 7 February 1876 from Wiltz to Frankfurt. A late use of the small double circle cancel. The Luxembourg Gare transit postmark on the reverse is of the German style single circle, the canceler style which replaced the small double circle French style cancels.



[Conclusion of Series]