
Castellum



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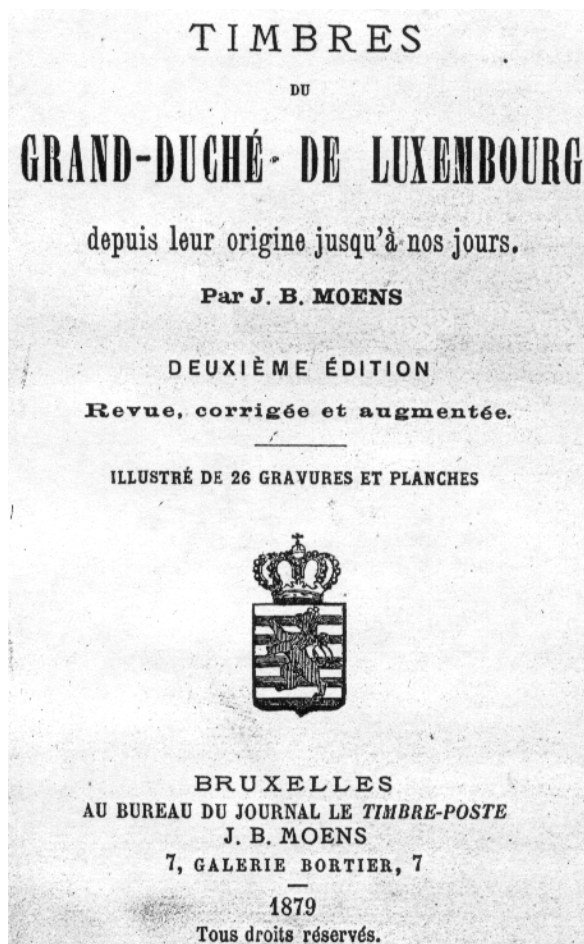
Edward H. Jarvis, Secretary-Treasurer (edja@aol.com)

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March 2001

President's Message

by Gary Little



Title page of Moens' Timbres du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (1879).

A great rarity of Luxembourg philatelic literature was sold via an auction on eBay on February 26 for \$177.50. The item was the second edition of a 127-page book on Luxembourg philately written in 1879 by J.B. Moens. Only 150 numbered copies of this work were published—this example is #40. It was the first book ever published on our favorite topic.

The book, in French, is very comprehensive, covering postage stamps (regular and official), telegraph stamps, postal stationery, money order envelopes, and revenue stamps. Moens was a pioneer stamp dealer based in Brussels.

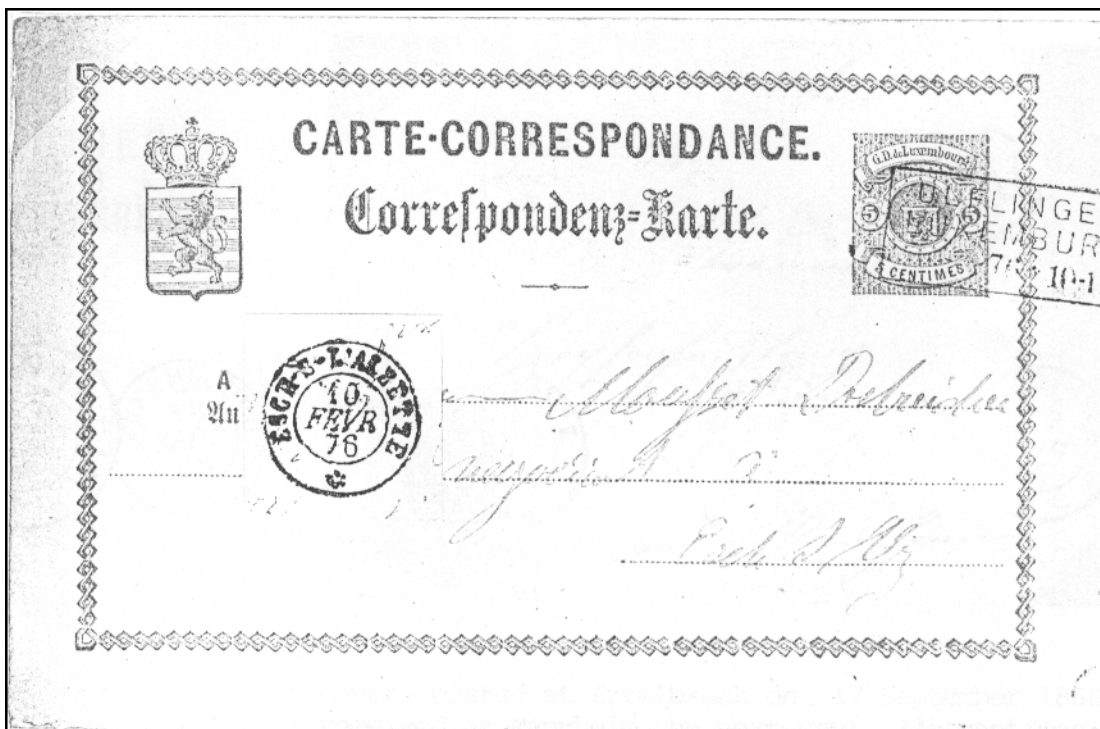
The book has obvious value to anyone doing research on the classic stamps of Luxembourg. What I find particularly interesting is the text of the various Grand Ducal orders authorizing the issuance of postage stamps and related items.

If you're interested in thumbing through a copy of Moens' book, you're in luck. The American Philatelic Research Library, part of the American Philatelic Society, has the book available for loan (see www.stamps.org). Its copy is *ex libris* James Taylor Dunn, an active member of the Luxembourg Philatelic Study Club in the 1950s and 1960s. It is the only other example of this book of which I am aware.

Luxembourg's Small Double Circle Cancels, Part 2
by Leon Stadtherr

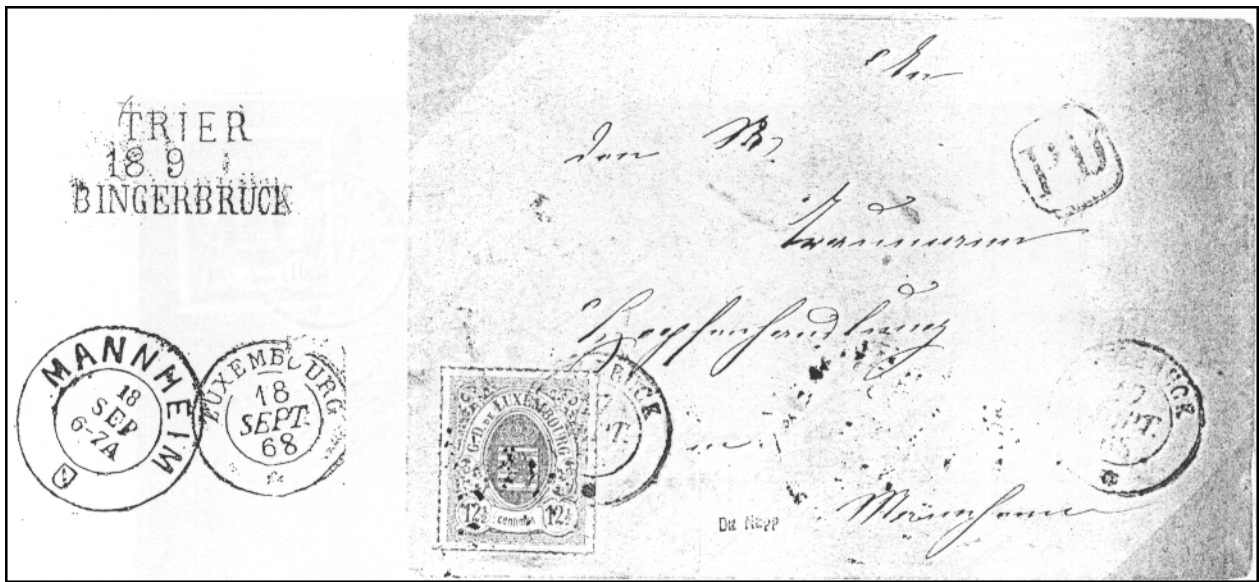
[continued from the December 2000 issue of *Castellum*]

ESCH-sur-ALZETTE
(ESCH-S-L'ALZETTE)



5 centimes domestic rate postal card issued in April 1875 canceled with Luxembourg's first railway cancel, also introduced in 1875. Inset shows the Esch-s-l'Alzette receiving postmark (from the reverse side of the card).

ETTELBRUCK



Cover posted at Ettelbruck on 17 September 1868 and received at Mannheim the next day; 12 1/2 centimes (= 1 silbergros) paid the letter rate up to 1/2 oz. within the North German Confederation. Transit postmarks on the reverse side for Luxembourg City and the Trier-Bingerbrück railway, both dated 18 September 1868.

HOSINGEN

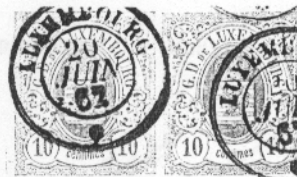


LAROCLETTE



Larochette 12 January 1869 cover to Luxembourg City;
10 centimes domestic letter rate.

LUXEMBOURG CITY
four cancelers



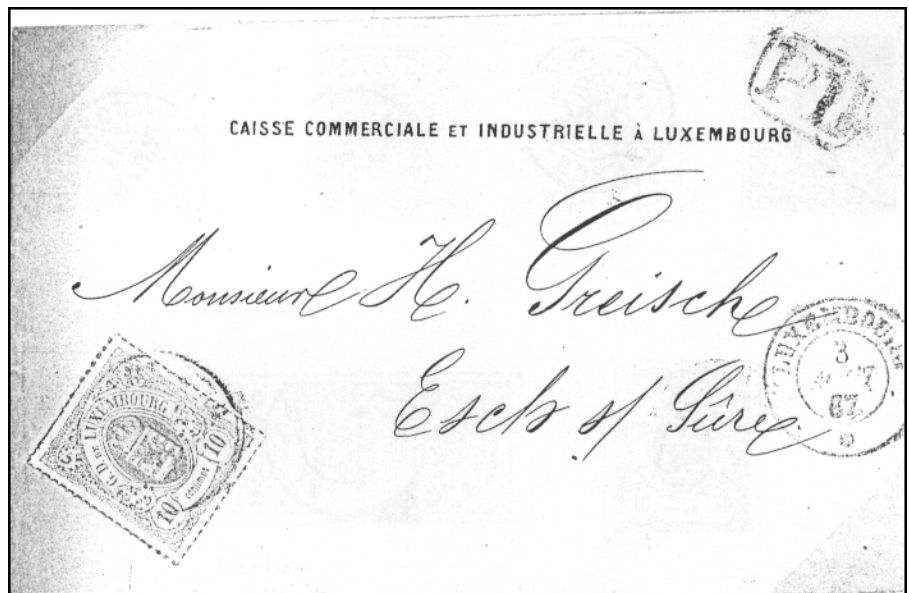
Canceler a

Origin postmark use.
Typical cover of the first issue era (1852-58): mute cancel of Luxembourg City, town postmark to indicate date and origin post office, and PD postmark to show prepayment of postage. Sent to Trier, within 10 miles of the border and part of the German Confederation, therefore franked with a single one silbergros stamp.



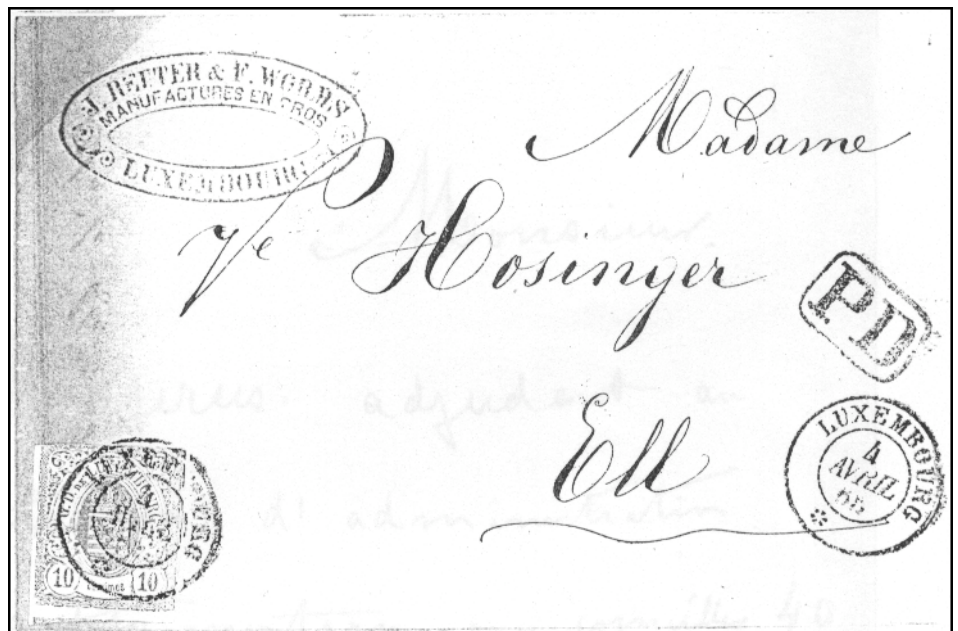
Canceler b

Domestic rate cover sent on 3 August 1867 from Luxembourg City to the tiny village of Esch-sur-Sûre in the Ardennes.



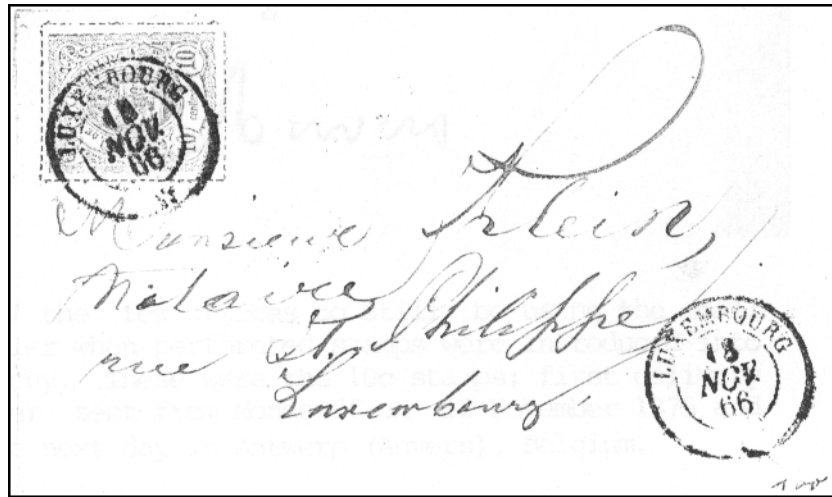
Canceler c

Second issue 10c stamp paid the rate from Luxembourg City to the western border village of Ell (date portion of postmark not aligned).



Canceler d

Third issue ten centimes stamp used to prepay the domestic rate on an intra Luxembourg City cover.



MERSCH



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

20 Franc Intellectual on Cover — Rare!

by Allan Wichelman

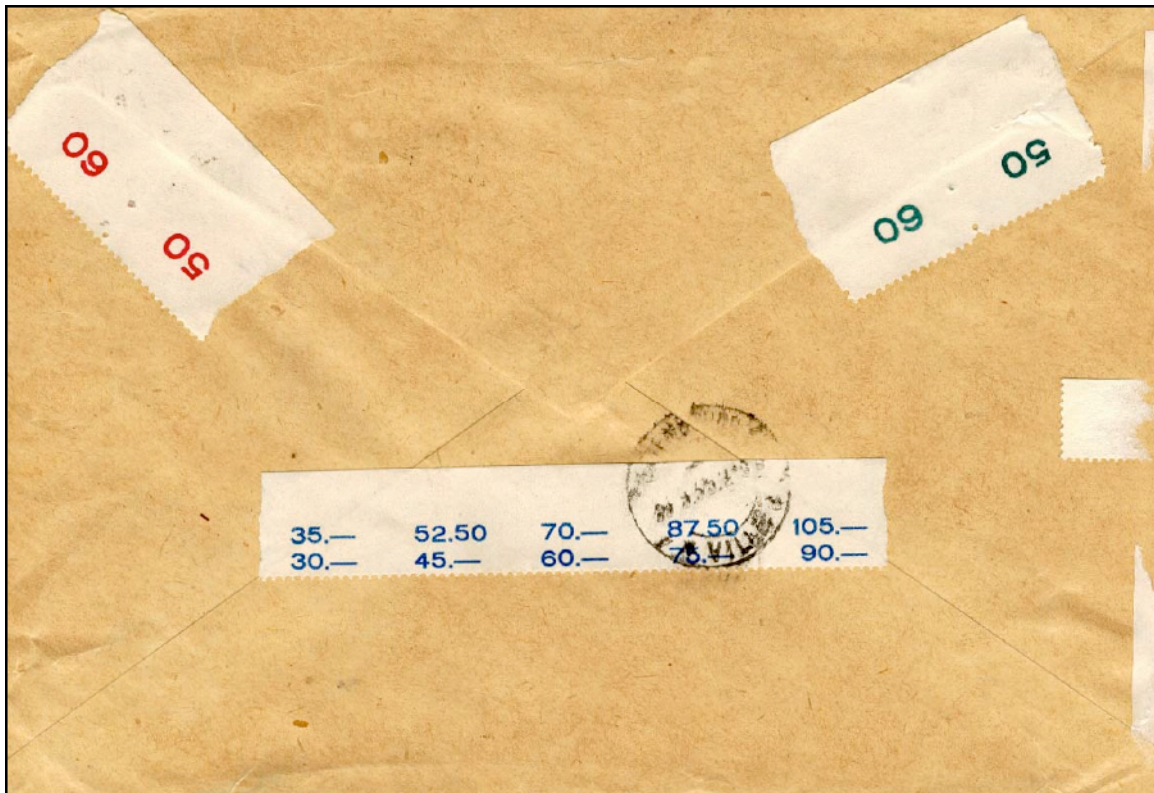
The crown jewel in my Luxembourg semi-postal collection is the 20 franc (+ 20 franc) surgeons stamp from the controversial “Intellectuals” issue of 1935 on cover. The sender was Maury Swartz, a well known stamp dealer, who posted it on September 30, 1935 (about five months after the stamp was issued) from Kayl (Luxembourg) to a Reverend Hensgen, then apparently a chaplain in Luxembourg-Grund. The cover is backstamped in Luxembourg-Ville on the same day.

This is one of several Intellectuals covers in the Swartz-Hensgen correspondence, although it's the only one I've seen franked with the 20 franc surgeons stamp. I regret that I never bothered to ask Maury for the details of the correspondence while he was alive. Times were especially tough in 1935 — so tough in fact that Luxembourg reduced its domestic postal rates on January 30, 1935. In those days, the first 20 grams cost 70 centimes, and each additional 50 grams (or fraction thereof) cost 35 centimes. The registry fee remained at 1.75 francs. Maury, therefore, could have mailed a small brick in this envelope to Reverend Hensgen. He probably didn't, so I have to concede that the cover is overfranked. Nevertheless, I believe it was part of Maury's business correspondence with Hensgen since all the other Intellectuals covers I've seen from Maury to Hensgen are posted on different dates.

This is the only sole use I've seen of the 20 franc surgeons on cover. In fact, the only other use on cover I've seen is on a first day cover of the high values of the set sent by Maury to Dr. W. I. Mitchell in Berkeley, California. Certainly others out there must be able to provide more examples of this stamp used on cover.



The 20 franc Intellectuals stamp on cover (1935)!



Unusual Rate Cover — 1928 Registered Commercial Sample

by Allan Wichelman

Recently I revisited a box of covers franked with the second Charlotte definitive issue that I purchased as a teenager. One of these in particular caught my attention. It was a little paper bag with a red label reading *Echantillons sans Valeur* (in English, *samples without value*), 35c, 50c and 1 franc definitives, and small holes on the right side where the bag once presumably had been fastened together with string. From the purple rubber stamp we can discern that the sender, the *Société pour l'Approvisionnement des Mines et Usines Société Anonyme* (anct. *Andre Laval*) used the bag to send samples (perhaps of ore from one of the Grand Ducal mines) to Dr. Albert Lessing in Nürnberg, Germany in July 1928. The Luxembourg-Ville cancel gives us the year ("1928") and the faint Nürnberg backstamp gives us the month ("July"). The three Charlotte definitives totaling 1.85 francs probably pay a 1.50 franc registry fee and a 35 centimes minimum special samples rate (or, alternatively, a 1.25 franc registry rate and a 60 centimes minimum special samples rate). A detailed and reliable explanation of the rates during this inflationary period awaits revisions and corrections to Charles Rousseau's monograph, *Evolution of Postal Rates in Luxembourg* (Luxembourg Philatelic Study Club, Seattle, Washington, 1953). Finally, before transferring this priceless little bag from the storage box to the stamp safe, I noticed the purchase price marked in pencil: "25 cents." Quite a (postal history) bargain!



Registered commercial sample cover from 1928 (Luxembourg to Germany).

