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# Castellum

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

The march towards the euro has turned into a sprint. Although euro banknotes and coins will not appear until January 1, 2002, P&TLuxembourg has decided to begin publishing the prices of its postal services exclusively in euros starting on October 1. On the same day, thirteen new stamps will appear denominated only in euros; until the end of the year they will presumably be sold in francs using the fixed conversion rate of 40.3399 Luxembourg francs per euro. These stamps will not only prepare the public for the monumental conversion day, they will not be demonetized anytime soon. Stamps denominated only in francs cannot be used for postage after June 30, 2002.



Three "euro-only" stamps to be issued on October 1 are shown at the left. The first promotes biological research; the second is from a set of six showing the euro coins that will begin circulating next year; and the third is one of four new Grand Duke Henri definitives.

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## More Luxembourg Royal Signatures

by Gary Little

As a follow up to the article on the handwriting of the Luxembourg royals in the last issue of *Castellum* (June 2001), I now have two more very interesting items to share with you.

The first is a remarkable presentation page featuring an autographed photograph of Grand Duchess Charlotte dating from the 1930s. (Notice that the underline of the signature spills off the photo, nicely tying it to the page itself.) The page also includes eight mint stamps of the Grand Duchy that were in use at the time — seven pictorials and one Charlotte definitive. In the lower right corner are the seal of the Luxembourg consulate in Washington, D.C. and the signature of the Consul at the time (whose name I can't make out). Wow!

This page comes from a famous collection of signatures of monarchs formed by a member of the Collectors Club of New York who left it to the CCNY when he died. The collection returned to private hands in the late 1980s when individual pages were made available to anyone who contributed \$200 to the CCNY building fund. I subsequently acquired it a couple of years ago.



H.R.H. Grand Duchess Charlotte,

*Charlotte*

1921-26-



Vianden Castle.



Foundries at Esch.



Pont Adolphe.

1934-



Grand Duchess Charlotte

1934-



"Three Towers" erected 1050 A.D.

1923-



View of Luxembourg.

1931-

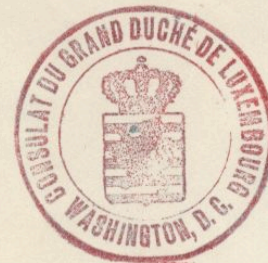


View of Basse.

1928-



View of Clervaux.



*Antoine Tavelly  
Consul.*

Grand Duchess Charlotte's signature on a presentation page from the 1930s.

The second autograph is that of Charlotte's husband of over 50 years, Prince Félix. Born in 1893 in Austria, Félix was a member of the illustrious Bourbon-Parma family rooted in Italy. He died on April 8, 1970 in Fischbach.

Charlotte and Félix were married on November 6, 1919, just eight months after Charlotte had become Grand Duchess when her sister, Marie-Adélaïde, abdicated on January 15, 1919. Together they had six children: Jean (who was Grand Duke from 1964-2000), Charles, Marie-Gabrielle, Alix, Elisabeth, and Marie-Adélaïde.

The signature shown here is written across the front of a registered first day cover for Scott B98-B103, the set of six semi-postal stamps issued on December 1, 1939 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charlotte's accession and marriage. Two of the stamps in the set feature the profile of Félix.

The only other stamps of Luxembourg on which Félix has appeared are the five stamps issued in 1927 to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps in the Grand Duchy (Scott B20-4).



This signature of "Félix Prince of Luxembourg" appears on this 1939 first day cover.

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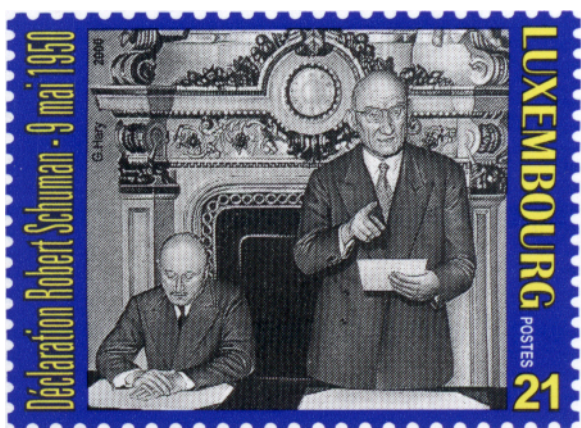
## A Philatelic Tour Through the Municipal Park of Luxembourg, Part 1

by Gary Little

The beautiful 30-hectare Municipal Park of Luxembourg City bends around the central core of old Luxembourg from the Grand Duchess Charlotte Bridge to the Adolphe Bridge. Its shield-like shape serves as a reminder that, prior to the dismantlement of the Luxembourg fortress ordered by the Treaty of London in 1867, this land was occupied by an impressive collection of defensive bastions, redoubts, and forts designed to guard against attack on the weak side of the fortress. The transformation into a pleasant park with abundant trees began in 1872 and took 15 years to complete. The park was designed by Parisian country planner Edouard André who also designed the gardens of Monte Carlo in Monaco.



*Robert Schuman Monument  
(1966 stamp).*



*Robert Schuman (2000 stamp).*

On this tour you will first visit some interesting landmarks located on the streets around the outer fringe of the Municipal Park, then explore inside the park itself. The starting point is at the foot of the Grand Duchess Charlotte bridge in front of the Robert Schuman Monument.

The primary elements of the Robert Schuman Monument are a group of three tall steel beams cast by the Differdange Steelworks and an engraved block of stone.

Robert Schuman was born on June 29, 1886 in Luxembourg and became an influential European statesman. His declaration of May 9, 1950 resulted in the formation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the first step towards a unified Europe. A brief extract from the Schuman Declaration is engraved on the stone block.

The Schuman Monument was designed by Robert Lentz, a Luxembourg architect, and was unveiled on October 24, 1966. It was built in response to a joint initiative of the Luxembourg Council of the European Movement, the Grand-Ducal Government, the City of Luxembourg, and the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community.

Across the street from the Robert Schuman Monument is the Municipal Theater. It opened on April 15, 1964 and was built to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of the founding of the City of Luxembourg. Paris architect Alain Bourbonnais, the winner of an international competition, designed it. The beautiful facade of the theater is made up of a symmetric arrangement of trapezoids and rhombuses, some decorated with pieces of gray slate, others with small pebbles.



*Municipal Theater (1963 stamp).*



*Pescatore Foundation retirement home (1992 stamp).*



*General George S. Patton, Jr. (1947 stamp).*

There are two halls in the theater. The first is the main auditorium, which has 941 seats. The other is a smaller studio with simultaneous translation facilities, suitable for meetings and congresses of up to 446 people. The foyer of the Municipal Theater is also often used for formal receptions and cocktail parties.

Directly across from the Municipal Theater, on the south side of the Boulevard Robert Schuman, is the retirement home of the J.-P. Pescatore Foundation. The best view of the oldest part of the building is from the side facing the city center; you can access it from along Avenue de la Porte-Neuve and Avenue Pescatore. The main entrance features a tall spire, a bust of Pescatore above the portal, and stained glass windows.

This building was funded by a grant from the estate of Jean-Pierre Pescatore (1793-1855) who was born in Luxembourg but made his fortune in France in banking and the tobacco trade.

(Pescatore also bequeathed his extensive art collection to Luxembourg City and it is on display in the Villa Vauban in the Municipal Park.)

The neo-gothic retirement home opened on May 16, 1892 and has 160 rooms on four floors. Four additional wings were added between 1954 and 1982.

During the Battle of the Bulge (the Ardennes Offensive) in the winter of 1944-1945, the Pescatore Foundation building served as the military headquarters for General George S. Patton, Jr., the Commander of the United States Third Army. A plaque near the front of the building testifies to this fact.

In the park behind the Pescatore Foundation retirement home is a small abstract monument by Lucien Wercollier in memory of Joseph Kutter (1894-1941), the first modern Luxembourg painter to achieve international fame.



Joseph Kutter self-portrait  
(1975 stamp).



Schueberfouer carnival  
(1990 stamp.)



Jean the Blind  
(1934 stamp).

Kutter is best known for his melancholy portraits and dark landscapes. He studied art in France and Germany for many years before returning to Luxembourg in 1924. For the rest of his short lifetime he traveled extensively and exhibited his works throughout Europe.

The National Museum in the Fish Market area of old Luxembourg has more than two dozen Kutter paintings on display, including all of his most famous works.

The next stop, the vast Glacis square, is past Rond-Point Schuman on the north side of Boulevard de la Foire. Most of the year this square is just a large, unremarkable parking lot, but for two weeks, starting on the next-to-last Sunday of August, it is home to the lively *Schueberfouer*.

The *Schueberfouer* is a large carnival and market that was founded over 650 years ago in 1340 by Jean the Blind, Count of Luxembourg and King of Bohemia. It began as a sheep market and for centuries it was purely a trade fair for merchants to sell their wares; in recent years it has become a fun fair with carnival rides and a sideshow. Each year the fair is opened by the Sheep's March parade depicted on a fountain on Grand-Rue (see Chapter 2).

Across from the Glacis, on Rue Adames near the border of the Municipal Park, is a large memorial stone to which is affixed a plaque honoring Jean the Blind for his role in founding the *Schueberfouer*. The plaque depicts the ancient seal of John the Blind that shows him atop a galloping horse. The stone was placed here in 1975 by *L'Union des Industriels-Forains* (Union of Fair Workers).

A little further along Boulevard de la Foire is Avenue de la Faiencerie. Take this street to the right and go past the Glacis to the corner of the Notre Dame cemetery on the right along Allée des Résistants et des Déportés.

On this corner is a small monument to the *Klëppelkrich* (War of the Clubs) that is a bas-relief of a tree trunk. It is the work of Edmond Lux of Diekirch and was unveiled on October 29, 1972.



*Kléppelkrich Monument (in Clerveaux)  
(1979 stamp).*

The *Kléppelkrich* was a 1799 peasant uprising, centered in northern Luxembourg, organized to protest the annexation of Luxembourg by Republican France and the imposition of conscription. The fearless and proud Luxembourgers challenged the seasoned French soldiers with a sorry collection of weapons, including ancient shotguns, rusty swords, axes, pitchforks, and simple clubs. Predictably, the insurrection was quickly quashed and thirty peasants were sentenced to death and executed on the Glacis between January 8 and May 20, 1799.

Continue to the left along Allée des Résistants et des Déportés. A few meters from the *Kléppelkrich* monument is a monument with a medallion depicting the old Notre Dame Chapel. This chapel was destroyed by French revolutionary army in 1796, but was rebuilt nearby almost 100 years later; you will come to its new location shortly.

A few more paces along Allée des Résistants et Déportés is a memorial to the Luxembourg underground movement. It was placed here on June 6, 1994, the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, by *Groupement Independent des Maquisards Luxembourgeois* (Independent Group of the Luxembourg Resistance Movement).



*Luxembourg resistance workers  
(1985 stamp).*

During World War II, about 500 Luxembourgers, motivated by the forced conscription of young Luxembourg men into the German army, became underground resistance workers in neighboring allied countries, particularly Belgium and France. Their goal was to attack and disrupt the enemy by launching many surreptitious raids on key targets behind enemy lines, often with only a handful of collaborators and minimal resources. Of the 500 Luxembourgers who joined the underground, 74 died in combat or were executed by Nazi firing squads after being captured.



*J.A. Zinnen (1998 stamp).*

On the next block of the Allée is a gate that provides access to the Notre Dame Cemetery that opened in 1775.

Along the first row of the cemetery, parallel to the Allée, is the impressive mausoleum of national composer J.A. Zinnen (1827-1898). The mausoleum, featuring a bust of Zinnen and a monument decorated with musical notes and instruments, was financed by a national subscription.

Leave the cemetery by the same gate you entered, then go back in through the next gate along Allée des Résistants et des Déportés. This gate is at the southwest corner of the cemetery.

On the right is another World War II memorial — *Croix de Hinzert*, the National Monument of Resistance and Deportation. It is composed of two distinct elements, the wooden Hinzert Cross and the *Political Prisoner* statue by Luxembourg sculptor Lucien Wercollier.



*National Monument of Resistance and Deportation (1982 stamp).*

The Luxembourg resistance was organized soon after the Nazi occupation on May 10, 1940. Its repression was brutal and terrible — thousands of patriots were arrested, imprisoned, deported, or thrown into concentration camps. More than 1,600 Luxembourgers passed through the Hinzert deportation camp and many died there.

Shortly after the war, on March 9-10, 1946, the remains of those who died in Hinzert were returned to Luxembourg for burial in the Notre Dame cemetery. The Hinzert Cross, made from the boards of the huts of the Hinzert camp, was erected at this time. The Political Prisoner statue was placed near the cross on May 10, 1969.

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