
Castellum



**Luxembourg
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President's Message by Gary Little



*Czech Republic souvenir sheet honoring the
Luxembourg dynasty (1996).*

I recently discovered a beautifully engraved souvenir sheet issued by the Czech Republic on March 27, 1996, which features portraits of four renowned Luxembourg rulers from the Middle Ages:

- Jean the Blind (1296-1346)
- Charles IV (1316-1378)
- Wenceslas II (1361-1419)
- Sigismund (1368-1437)

These four leaders, the last three of whom became Holy Roman Emperors, also ruled Bohemia, now part of the Czech Republic.

In the early 14th century, following the assassination of Wenceslas III, the last male heir of the Przemyslides dynasty, Bohemia was in chaos. To restore order, the crown was offered to Emperor Henri VII of Luxembourg's eldest son, Jean, on condition that Jean marry Princess Elisabeth, Wenceslas III's sister. He did so in 1310 and was crowned in early 1311.

The Luxembourg dynasty in Bohemia was to last just over 125 years, ending with the death of Sigismund in 1437, who left no male heir.

Back in Luxembourg, Sigismund's death also led to the taking by force of Luxembourg in 1443 by Philip the Good of Burgundy. Burgundian rule would last until 1506.

20c Brown Adolphe on Wasserbillig Cover

by Allan F. Wichelman

Until recently, the "Rare Stamps and Covers" section of Gary Little's Web site at www.luxcentral.com/stamps/ described a cover franked with the famous 20c brown Adolphe portrait stamp (Scott 62a, Prefix 61a) as being the only known example postmarked in Grevenmacher. Covers are also known from Wasserbillig and Wecker bearing this rare color variety, though they are not quite as rare. Only a few sheets of these stamps were released — unintentionally — by the post office authorities. The usual color of the 20c stamp is orange.

However, I have another Grevenmacher cover in my collection and it is shown below, thus doubling the number of known examples! It was postmarked on May 29, 1905 and was mailed to Oetzch-Gautzsch, a suburb of Leipzig in Germany. I acquired the cover from a U.S. east coast dealer in the early 1980s I think. Gary's site has now been updated to reflect this new information.

Mr. Wagner, the Luxembourg stamp dealer who acquired all of the 20c browns, initially sold them to friends and acquaintances singly at 5 marks each, later, by 1920, raising the price to 25 marks. In 1905, as we've seen, he quietly succeeded in posting a number of registered letters with the 20c brown as part of the postage — as far as I can ascertain, these went to stamp dealers he knew.



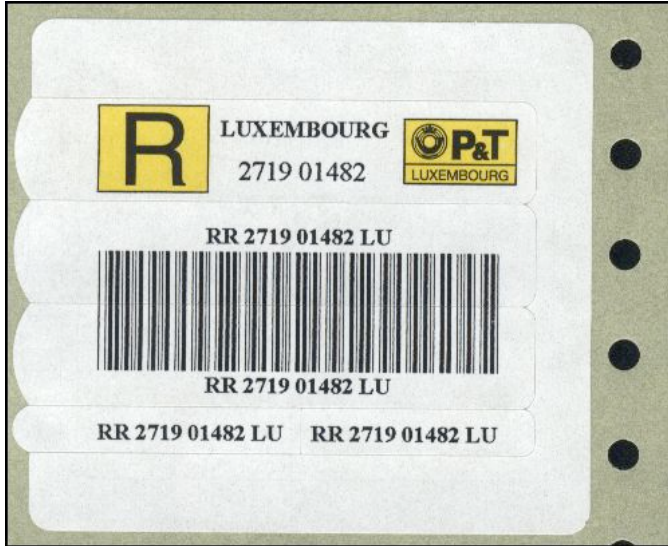
The 20c brown Adolphe (Scott 62a, Prefix 61a) on a cover postmarked in Grevenmacher.

Registered Mail Markings used in Luxembourg, Part 2

by Gary Little

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

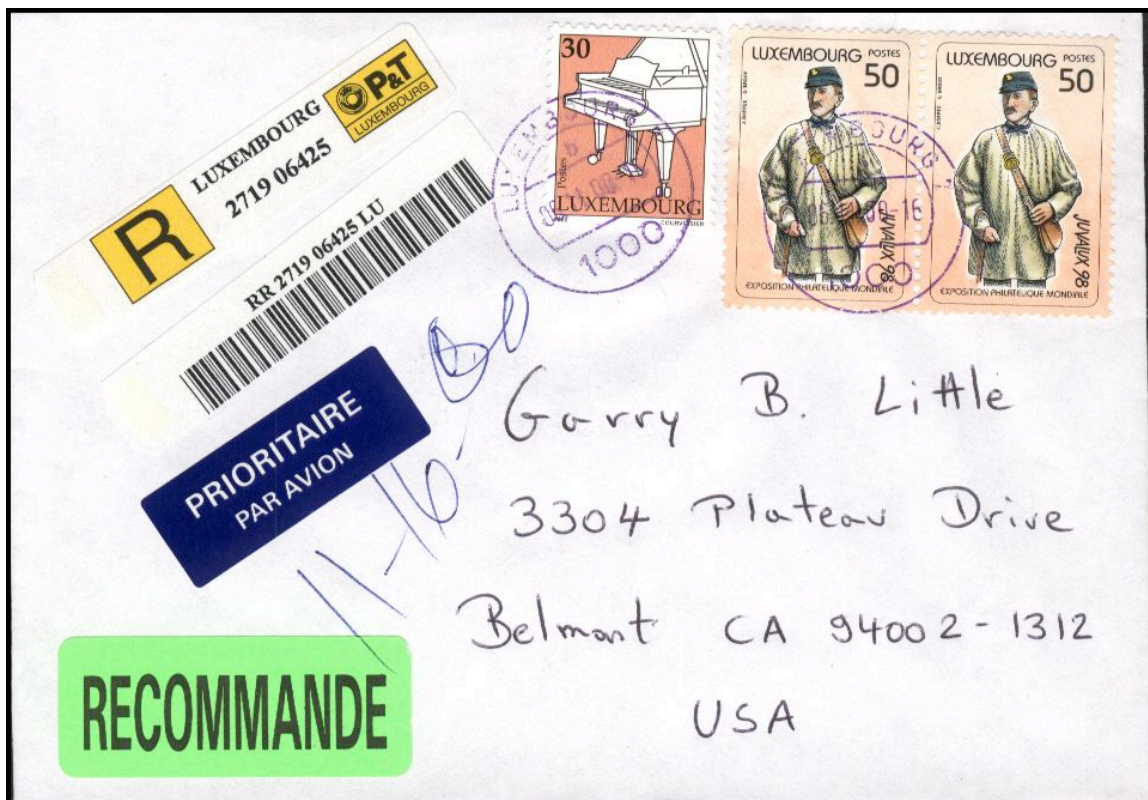
In the late 1990s, the Luxembourg P&T made a radical change and started using self-adhesive registration labels printed by computer and containing bar code markings.



Multi-part self-adhesive registration label introduced in the late 1990s.

If you look carefully at the sample label on the left you will notice that it is scored in several places to allow removal of five smaller labels – the primary registration label with the letter “R” and P&T logo on yellow backgrounds; the bar code encoding the registration number (2 copies); and the registration number (2 copies).

As shown below, the common practice is to affix the “R” label and a bar code label on the front of the envelope (perhaps the second one is used on larger packages). I’ve not seen the number labels used, but they may be intended for log books.



Registered letter from Luxembourg 7 to California using the new registration labels (2000).



Registered letter mailed at Diekirch in 1978. Note the use of the anachronistic registration marking which was supposed to have been retired in 1926!

While researching this article, I came across a very unusual registered cover from 1978. It is a windowed envelope from the Administration des Contributions in Diekirch. Note that it has the “R” rubber stamp marking (in purple) even though this style of registration marking had been retired over 50 years earlier. It also has the registration number neatly written in the space provided—making it the only example I’ve ever seen where the postal clerk decided to make use of the space. Can anyone explain this very late appearance of this registration marking?

At the opposite end of the time spectrum is the spectacular registered cover shown below, which was provided to me by LCC member Allan Wichelman. This cover, franked with a block of four of the 12 1/2c Marie-Adélaïde stamps, was sent from Esch-sur-Alzette to Berne, Switzerland during World War I. (From 1907 to 1921, the 50c franking was the proper rate for a registered letter to Switzerland in the 20g weight class.)

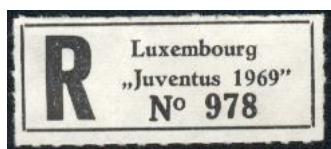
This cover has a circular purple Trier censor marking and has been resealed with censor tape (also from the German censors in Trier). On the reverse side (not pictured here) is a Bern arrival backstamp as well as another rubber stamped censor marking, this one rectangular.

The cover also bears the standard rubber stamped registration marking of the era (with the box for the registration number left blank as usual). But it also has another rubber stamped marking in red which has the same general format as the paper registration labels put into service *over 10 years later*. Note the fancy serifed font used for the town name, which was not used on later labels. Also note that the registration number has been neatly written inside the red box.

The origin of this unusual marking is not clear. It was certainly applied to the envelope when it was mailed — close examination shows that the ink of the purple censor marking clearly lies on top of the red ink. The marking was probably applied privately by the sender, a reasonable conclusion gives that its color is the same as the rubber stamped marking used for the sender’s return address. Of course, that doesn’t explain how the sender chose a style of marking that was 10 years ahead of its time.



1915 cover registered at Esch-sur-Alzette with an unusual red registration marking.



In closing, note that there are a few special Luxembourg registration labels that were used only at philatelic exhibitions:

- Luxembourg Expos. phil. (1936)
- Luxembourg Centilux (1952)
- Luxembourg "MELUSINA" (1963)
- Luxembourg "Juventus 1969" (1969)
- JUVLUX 88 (1988)

Each has the same general look as regular labels of the period it was used but with the addition of the text identifying the exhibition.

[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).

Luxembourg Postal Rates to UPU Countries (1875-2002)

by Gary Little

For all you rate collectors out there, here's a handy table for determining letter rates to UPU countries. Registration fees are also indicated. Note that Luxembourg has usually charged different rates to Belgium, France, Germany, and The Netherlands over the years, so the rates shown here should not be used for those destinations.

The information shown here has been gathered from two primary sources: Charles Rousseau's 1953 book *Evolution of Postal Rates in Luxembourg* and, for the period after World War II, from official bulletins of the Luxembourg P&T.

Of special note are the new rates, in euros, that became effective on October 1, 2001.

	Up to 15 g				Overweight (per 15 g)	Registration Fee
1875	25c				25c	10c
	Up to 20 g				Overweight (per 20 g)	Registration Fee
1907	25c				15c	25c
1921 (May)	50c				25c	50c
1924 (June)	75c				40c	75c
1925 (October)	1 F				60c	1 F
1926 (August)	1.25 F				75c	1.25 F
1926 (November)	1.50 F				90c	1.50 F
1929 (December)	1.75 F				1 F	1.75 F
1940 (October) to 1944 (September)	25 Rpf				15 Rpf	30 Rpf
Occupation						
1944 (November)	2.50 F				1.50 F	3 F
1945 (October)	3.50 F				2.00 F	3.50 F
1949 (January)	4 F				2.50 F	4 F
1953 (May)	4 F				2.50 F	5 F
1958 (July)	5 F				3 F	6 F
1963 (September)	6 F				3.50 F	7 F
1966 (January)	6 F				3.50 F	10 F
	Up to 20 g	20 g to 50 g	50 g to 100 g	100 g to 250 g	Overweight	Registration Fee
1971 (July)	8 F	14 F	18 F	40 F	250 g to 500 g — 75 F 500 to 1000 g — 125 F 1000 to 2000 g — 200 F	15 F
1973 (October)	8 F or 14 F *	14 F	18 F	40 F	250 to 500 g — 75 F 500 to 1000 g — 125 F 1000 to 2000 g — 200 F	15 F
1976 (January)	12 F	20 F	30 F	57 F	250 to 500 g — 110 F 500 to 1000 g — 190 F 1000 to 2000 g — 310 F	20 F
1980 (July)	12 F	20 F	30 F	57 F	250 to 500 g — 110 F 500 to 1000 g — 190 F 1000 to 2000 g — 310 F	30 F

1981 (July)	16 F	28 F	40 F	75 F	250 to 500 g — 150 F 500 to 1000 g — 255 F 1000 to 2000 g — 415 F	35 F
1983 (July)	16 F	28 F	40 F	75 F	250 to 500 g — 150 F 500 to 1000 g — 255 F 1000 to 2000 g — 415 F	50 F
1986 (January 1)	20 F or 30 F *	30 F or 45 F *	45 F	80 F	250 to 500 g — 160 F 500 to 1000 g — 300 F 1000 to 2000 g — 500 F	50 F
1988 (July 1)	20 F or 30 F *	30 F or 45 F *	45 F	80 F	250 to 500 g — 120 F 500 to 1000 g — 200 F 1000 to 2000 g — 300 F	50 F
1991 (January 1)	22 F or 40 F *	40 F or 70 F *	70 F	155 F	250 to 500 g — 230 F 500 to 1000 g — 400 F 1000 to 2000 g — 750 F 2000 to 3000 g — 1100 F 3000 to 4000 g — 1450 F 4000 to 5000 g — 1800 F If over 250 g: + 10 F per 100 g (Africa, Near or Middle East, Central Asia, North America, Central America) + 30 F per 100 g (Far East, South America, Australia)	60 F
1996 (May 1)	25 F	45 F			Nonstandard up to 100 g — 80 F Nonstandard 100 to 250 g — 180 F Nonstandard 250 to 500 g — 250 F — Maxi-letter up to 1 kg — 300 F Maxi-letter 1 to 2 kg — 600 F Maxi-letter 2 to 3 kg — 900 F Maxi-letter 3 to 4 kg — 1200 F Maxi-letter 4 to 5 kg — 1500 F If over 250 g: + 10 F per 100 g (Africa, Near or Middle East, Central Asia, North America, Central America) + 30 F per 100 g (Far East, South America, Australia)	80 F
2000 (April 1)	30 F	45 F			Nonstandard up to 100 g — 80 F Nonstandard 100 to 250 g — 180 F Nonstandard 250 to 500 g — 250 F — Maxi-letter up to 1 kg — 300 F Maxi-letter 1 to 2 kg — 600 F Maxi-letter 2 to 3 kg — 900 F Maxi-letter 3 to 4 kg — 1200 F Maxi-letter 4 to 5 kg — 1500 F If over 250 g: + 10 F per 100 g (Africa, Near or Middle East, Central Asia, North America, Central America)	100 F

					+ 30 F per 100 g (Far East, South America, Australia)	
2001 (October 1)	0.74 €	1.12 €			Nonstandard up to 100 g — 1.95 € Nonstandard 100 to 250 g — 4.45 € Nonstandard 250 to 500 g — 6.20 € — Maxi-letter up to 1 kg — 7.40 € Maxi-letter 1 to 2 kg — 14.80 € Maxi-letter 2 to 3 kg — 22.30 € Maxi-letter 3 to 4 kg — 29.70 € Maxi-letter 4 to 5 kg — 37.10 € If over 250 g: + 0.25 € per 100 g (Africa, Near or Middle East, Central Asia, North America, Central America) + 0.74 € per 100 g (Far East, South America, Australia)	2.45 €

* rate for a non-normalized letter

Schloss Hohenburg Cancellation

by Gary Little

Here's a fascinating 1905 postcard with a Luxembourg royal connection. Note, in particular, the Schloss Hohenburg postmark, which was used at the then vacation home of the Grand Ducal royal family located in southern Bavaria near Munich.

The message, written in English and mailed to someone in a convent in nearby Prien, is signed *Mary*. Could this be in the hand of Marie-Anne, the wife of Grand Duke William IV? I am still trying to verify the identity of the writer.



Postcard with Schloss Hohenburg cancellation (1905).