Castellum

President's Message
by Gary Little

Maximum card showing the engaged couple.

Congratulations to Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte who celebrate their golden wedding anniversary in April. Luxembourg has issued a special commemorative stamp for this happy event.

Other highlights of the 2003 Luxembourg stamp program are as follows:

• Tourism — featuring Mamer, Esch-sur-Alzette, and Differdange

• Great Luxembourg Women — Catherine Schleimer-Kill and Lou Koster

• Official Journal of the EC

• Viaducts and bridges of Luxembourg (including Adolphe Bridge centenary)

• Poster Art (Europa)

• Industrial products

• Luxembourg League of Home Gardening — 75th anniversary

• Athénée — 400th anniversary

• Wildlife semi-postals

• Electrification — 75th anniversary

Grand Duke Jean – Joséphine-Charlotte Golden Wedding Anniversary
by Gary Little

April 9 marks the 50th wedding anniversary of Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte. The wedding ceremony, a major social event in post-war Europe, was attended by the leading families of Europe, including the royal family of Belgium, the Queen of The Netherlands, the Prince of Liechtenstein, and representatives of the Kings of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

The ceremony and festivities were covered by over 400 members of the press.

Then 32 years of age, Jean was Crown Prince of Luxembourg, the heir apparent to the throne. He became Grand Duke 11 years later when his mother, Grand Duchess Charlotte, abdicated in 1964 after a reign of 45 years.

Stamp issued on March 18, 2003 for the golden wedding anniversary of Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte.
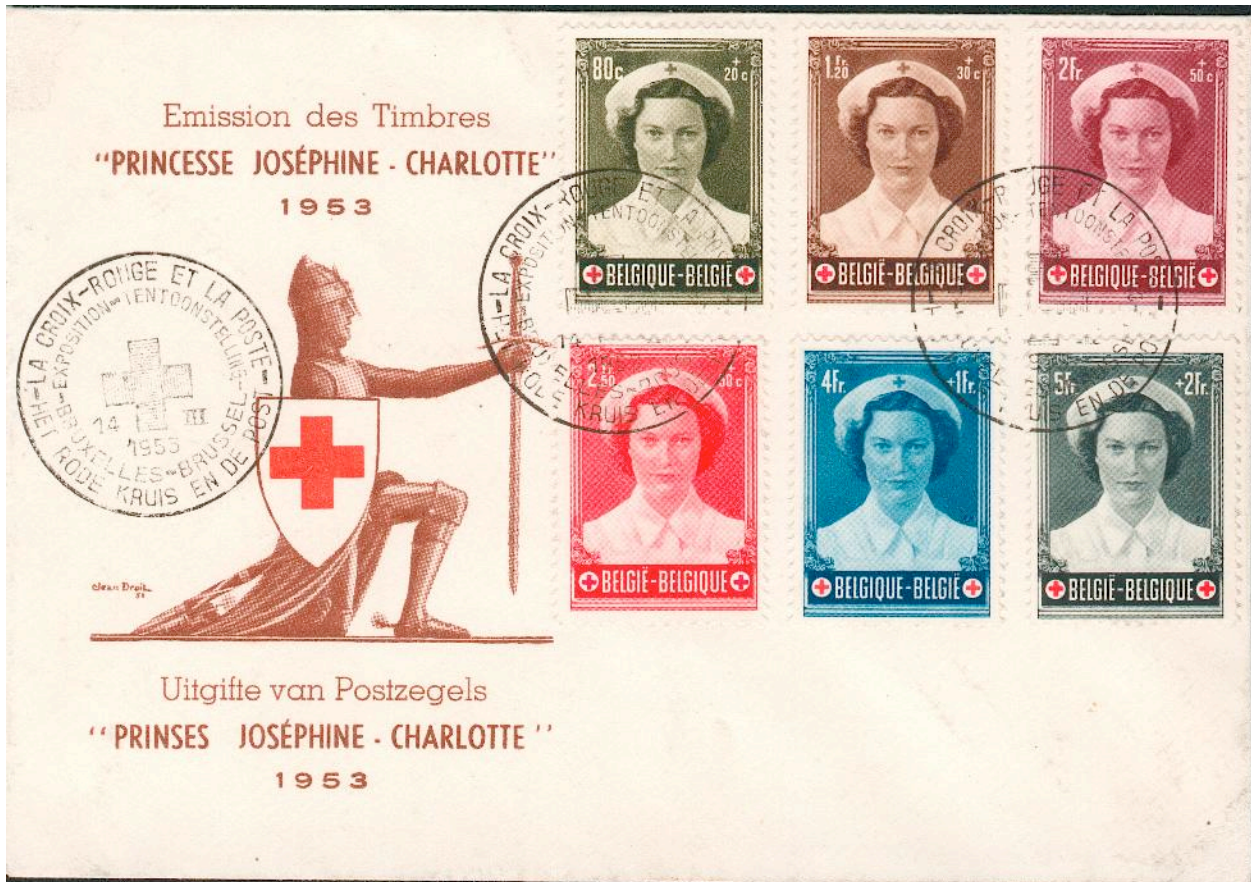
Jean's bride, Her Royal Highness Princess Joséphine-Charlotte, Ingeborg, Elisabeth, Marie-José, Marguerite, Astrid, Princess of Belgium, was born in Stuyvesant Castle near Brussels on October 11, 1927. She is the eldest child of King Léopold III of Belgium and Queen Astrid, a Swedish princess. Her father became King of Belgium in 1934 upon the death of King Albert I in a climbing accident. Not long afterwards, her mother died in a tragic automobile accident in Switzerland.
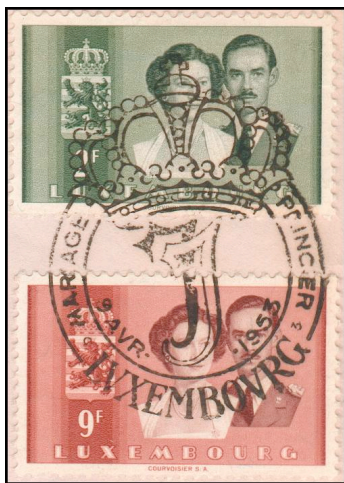

First day cover for the set of six stamps issued on April 1, 1953 for the wedding of Crown Prince Jean and Princess Joséphine-Charlotte.

The first five of Joséphine-Charlotte's formative teenage years were not happy ones for her or the rest of the Belgian royal family because of the Nazi occupation. King Léopold III had decided not to flee the country and go into exile when the country was invaded in May 1940, as the Luxembourg royals had done. Thus, for almost five full years the family was under the thumb of

the Nazis and, following the D-Day invasion, they were removed to Germany. It was not until May 7, 1945 that the family was liberated by the 7th American Army commanded by General Patch. And it would be another four years before Joséphine-Charlotte returned home to Belgium.

Belgium issued this set of six stamps, featuring
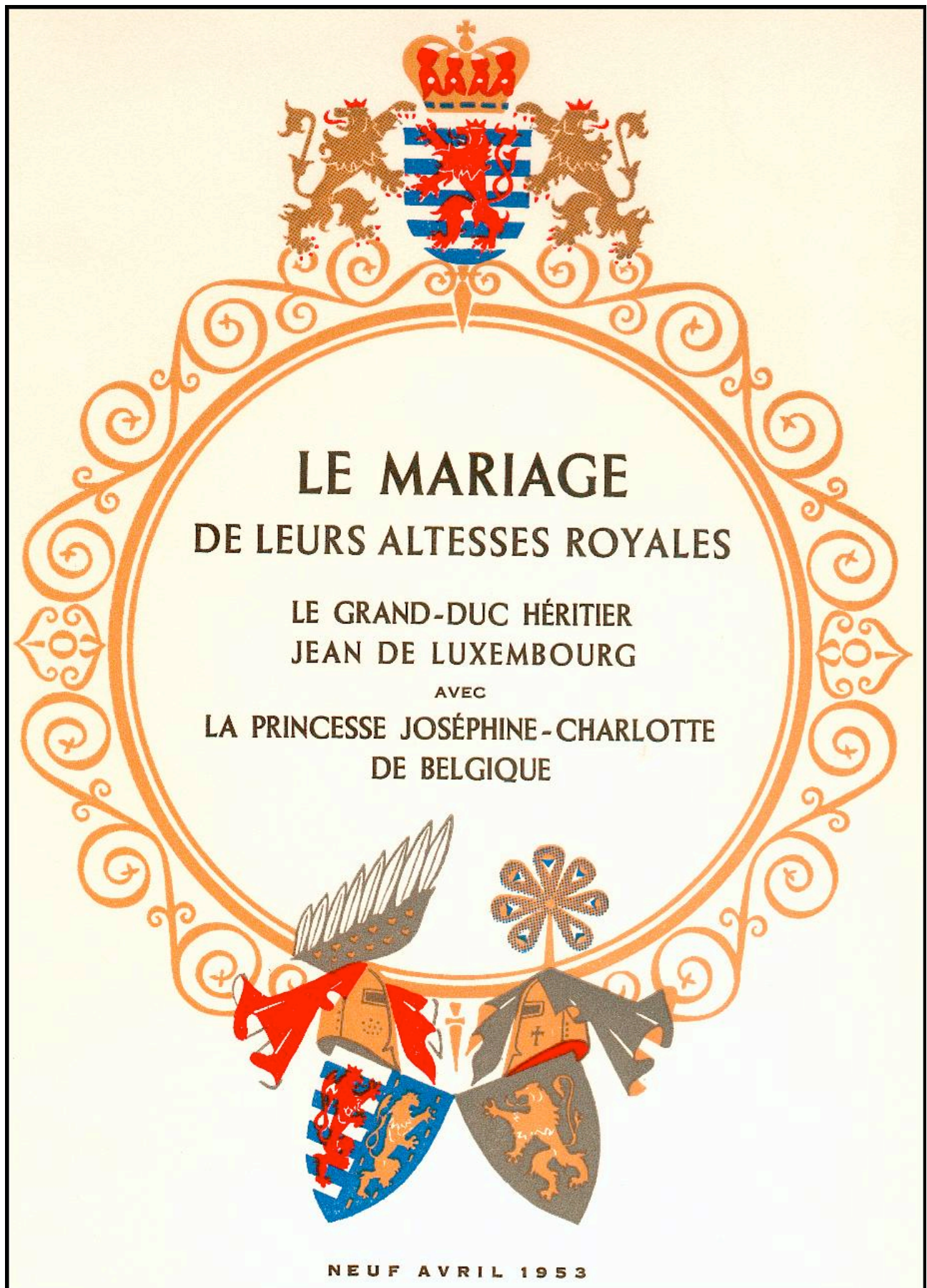*Princess Joséphine-Charlotte in her Red Cross uniform, on March 14, 1953.*

Close up of the wedding day postmark — intertwined "J"s and crown.

Joséphine-Charlotte has two younger brothers, both of whom became Kings of Belgium. Baudouin ascended the throne in 1951 when Léopold III abdicated as a result of intense pressure from his subjects and the government who felt he had cooperated too much with the Nazis during the occupation. Following Baudouin's sudden death in 1993 caused by heart disease, Joséphine-Charlotte's other brother, Albert, became King Albert II. He still rules Belgium today.

The wedding activities of April 9 were quite grand. First was the civil ceremony at the Grand Ducal Palace, immediately followed by the religious ceremony at the nearby Cathedral. The couple then entered a carriage and proceeded across the Passerelle down to the train station, before returning to the Grand Ducal Palace via Avenue de la Liberté and Adolphe Bridge.

Upon reaching the Palace, a 101-gun salute was fired from Fetschenhof above the Clausen suburb and there was a flyover by 16 Thunderjets and 16 Meteor jets from the Belgian air force. Public festivities included several concerts and dances as well as a spectacular fireworks show across the valley in front of Fort Thüngen.

Cover of the official program for the marriage of Jean and Joséphine-Charlotte on April 9, 1953.

Some other collectible souvenirs of the Royal Wedding of 1953 are shown on this page. On the left is the official wedding medal with blue ribbon attached. On the obverse are left-facing profiles of the royal couple. On the reverse is the wedding monogram composed of back-to-back "J"s with a crown above.

Below are the two sides of a 20 franc gold coin minted by the *Banque et Caisse d'Epargne de l'Etat* for the wedding. Similar in design to the medal, the words on the obverse read *Princesse Joséphine-Charlotte • Jean Grand Duc Héritier*. On the reverse side is *Grand Duché de Luxembourg 9.4.1953*.

This coin weighs 6.45 g and is 90% gold, in other words it contains about 1/5 ounce of gold. It generally sells for about its gold value ($75 or so).

Wedding medal (obverse).

First day cover for the souvenir sheet issued in 1978 for the silver wedding anniversary.

A Walk Around the Bock, Part 2
by Gary Little

[continued from the December 2002 issue of *Castellum*]

*Gate of Three Towers
(1963 stamp).*

8 The next stop is the medieval Gate of Three Towers. To reach it, continue past the National Museum on Rue Wiltheim and go past *Taverne Wëlle Mann* and through the short tunnel on the right. As you come out of the tunnel you will see the distinctive gate.

The Gate of Three Towers once guarded access from the lower town of Pfaffenthal and the main roads coming from Trier and the north. The central rectangular tower with the passageway was built around 1050 and formed part of the second protective wall built around the town. This wall followed the outline of the present Rue du Fossé.

The round towers on either side of the central tower were added in the 15th century. The bars on the lower windows hint that the towers were once used as a prison.

Spanish turret
(1966 stamp).

Grand Ducal Palace
(1963 stamp).

9 On the other side of the Gate of Three Towers, along Rue Sosthène Weis, you will see two interesting Spanish-style turrets, dating from the middle of the 17th century, which overhang the old fortress walls.

There are many other similar turrets still present in Luxembourg City. Two are located across from the Gate of Three Towers on the opposite rim of the Pfaffenthal valley, for example, and another stands next to Boulevard d'Avranches high above the southern end of the Grund.

Go back up through the Gate of Three Towers and turn right on Rue du Palais de Justice near *Taverne Wëlle Mann*. This road takes you past the *Palais de Justice* (Law Courts) on the right. Turn left on Rue du Marché aux Herbes and continue straight ahead until you reach Rue de la Reine.

10 The stately building on the left is the elegant Grand Ducal Palace, the exterior of which has recently been meticulously cleaned and repaired. It serves as the official city residence of the Grand Duke and his family. It is here where the Grand Duke works, receives guests, and meets with government officials.

The oldest portion of the Palace is the section on the left, next to the main entrance, with the iron balcony railing running between two sharply pointed towers. It was built in 1572-1573 as the new City Hall under the direction of Governor Pierre-Ernest de Mansfeld who governed Luxembourg from 1545-1604 under the authority of King Charles V and King Philippe II of Spain. (The old City Hall that occupied the same site had been destroyed in 1554 by an accidental gunpowder explosion.)

The facade of the old portion of the Palace is in Renaissance style but with Spanish macramé adornment around the windows that serves as a reminder of the Spanish domination of Luxembourg during the 16th century. Around 1741, major additions were made that doubled the size of the building.

The building served as the City Hall until 1838 when the new City Hall building on Place Guillaume II was completed. It was not until 1895, after five years of renovations ordered by Grand Duke Adolphe, that it became the Grand Ducal Palace. It has served in this capacity ever since, except for the years of the World War II occupation when the Nazis used it for administrative purposes.

11 The Chamber of Deputies, the Parliament of the Grand Duchy, is adjacent to the Grand Ducal Palace, a little further down Rue du Marché aux Herbes.

The neo-Gothic building was designed by Luxembourg architect Antoine Hartmann. It was officially opened on October 30, 1860.

The Chamber of Deputies is an elected body, serving the entire country, and shares legislative power with the Grand Duke sovereign. Members of the Chamber have the right to introduce and pass new laws, although the laws must ultimately be consented to by the Grand Duke before they can take effect. In practice, this is a formality.

Chamber of Deputies (1987 stamp).

12 This ends the tour of the historic Bock and its immediate surroundings.

To learn much more about the history of Luxembourg City, visit the new History of the City of Luxembourg Museum. It is located one block further down Rue Marché-aux-Herbes.

History of the City of Luxembourg Museum (1998 stamp).

[Conclusion of Series]