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# Castellum

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

Two awards of interest to Luxembourg philatelists made the news this summer. First, our friends at the Banque du Timbre in Luxembourg, publishers of the Prifix catalog, received a vermeil medal for the 61<sup>st</sup> (!) edition of their fine publication at the APS Stampshow in Columbus, Ohio in early August. Congratulations to editor Serge Ungeheuer for this deserved recognition.

The second award goes to the eminent Luxembourg philatelist, Joseph Wolff, who, for over 30 years, has dedicated himself to the advancement of philately in Luxembourg and around the world. (Founding members of the Luxembourg Collectors Club will recall that Joseph gave the keynote presentation at the first meeting of the club at Pacific 97 in San Francisco.) Joseph has been asked to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in Great Britain, a great honor bestowed on only 69 individuals to date. As reported in Flash, the FIP journal, *"He has been a tireless worker for the cause of philately especially in endeavours to encourage the young. He is constantly in demand to give lectures and seminars both to youth leaders and to young collectors. Contributions to daily newspapers and appearances on television have been aimed at promoting the interest of the young. His book on stamp collecting and its educational and instructive values have been reprinted several times and translated from the German into English and French. The Postal Administration of Luxembourg has distributed his book to all primary schools throughout the Duchy. A significant and important part of his work is that of judge having been on National juries since 1974 becoming chairman and as an accredited FIP judge since 1974 working on the International exhibitions constantly and many times as vice-chairman and as chairman of the jury. His valuable expertise being in Classical Philately, Thematics, Youth and Maximaphily. He was elected Vice President of FIP in 2000."*



*Joseph Wolff, Distinguished Philatelist*

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## UPU Use of Luxembourg's 19<sup>th</sup> Century Domestic Postal Cards Without Supplemental Franking

by Allan F. Wichelman

For over forty years, from April 1, 1879 to May 1, 1921, the rate for postal cards sent to UPU countries from Luxembourg was 10 centimes. The only exception was the postal card rate to Germany from October 1, 1902 to October 1, 1907, during which a special 5 centime treaty rate was in effect. Nonetheless, 5 centime domestic postal cards without supplemental franking can be found properly used to send *printed advertisements* to other UPU countries. If the only handwriting on the card was the address, and an advertisement (or other text) was privately printed on the back, a 5 centime domestic postal card could be sent to other UPU countries at the 5 centime UPU printed matter rate. This UPU printed matter rate was in effect from the inception of UPU rates on July 1, 1875 until May 10, 1921.

Figures 1 and 2 show 5 centime domestic postal cards from the first Allegory issue with identical advertisements printed on the backs (*see* Figure 3). Both were mailed from Luxembourg-Ville on October 10, 1884, one to St. Petersburg, Russia, and the other to Aachen, Germany, by Alphonse Brück, advertising for sale collections of Luxembourg stamps.



Figure 1: 5c Printed Matter rate to Russia.

Figures 4 and 5 show 5 centime domestic postal cards from the first G.D. Adolphe issue, also with identical advertisements of stamps for sale printed on the backs (*see* Figure 6). Both were mailed from Luxembourg-Ville, one on June 16, 1898, to Melbourne, Australia; the other on June 23, 1898, to Woburn, Massachusetts, by another stamp dealer, J.-G. Paquelet. On the card to the United States, Mr. Paquelet crossed out "Carte Postale. Postkarte." and wrote *imprimés* above the deletion to indicate the card's postal status as printed matter. The other cards do not evidence any such endorsement; nonetheless, they were not taxed and apparently were treated, as was the card to the United States, as properly paid printed matter. The use was an exception to the bilingual usage instruction in the lower right margin of these cards: *Pour l'Intérieur./Für's Inland.*, meaning "for domestic use."





Figure 4: 5c Printed Matter rate to Australia.

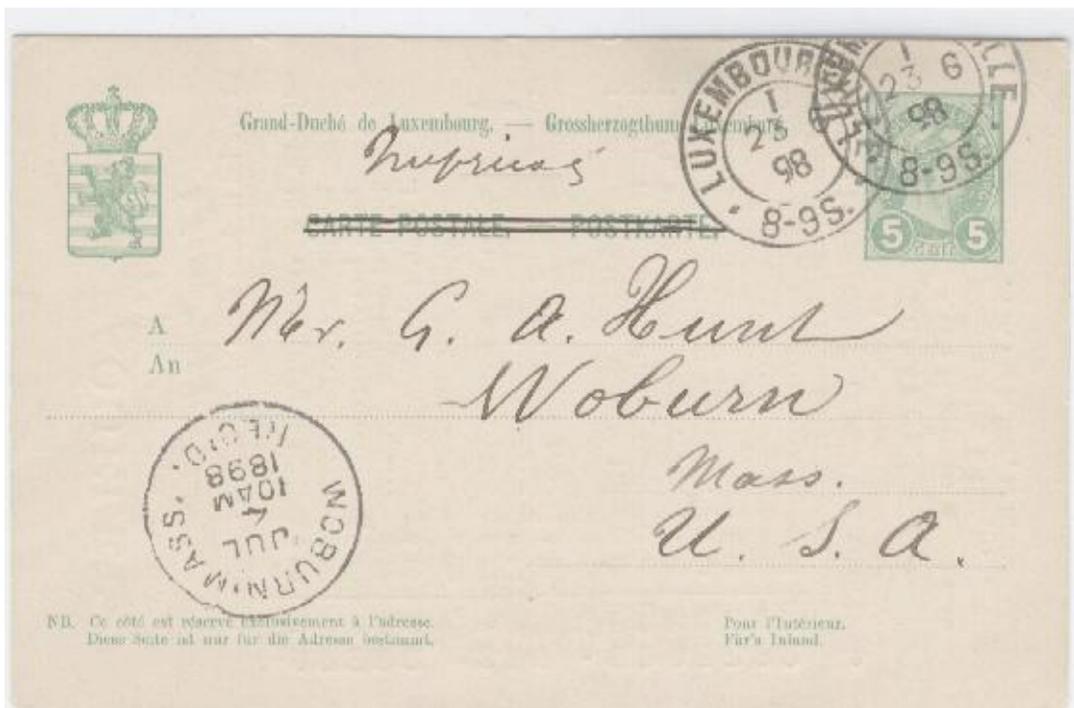


Figure 5: 5c Printed Matter rate to USA.

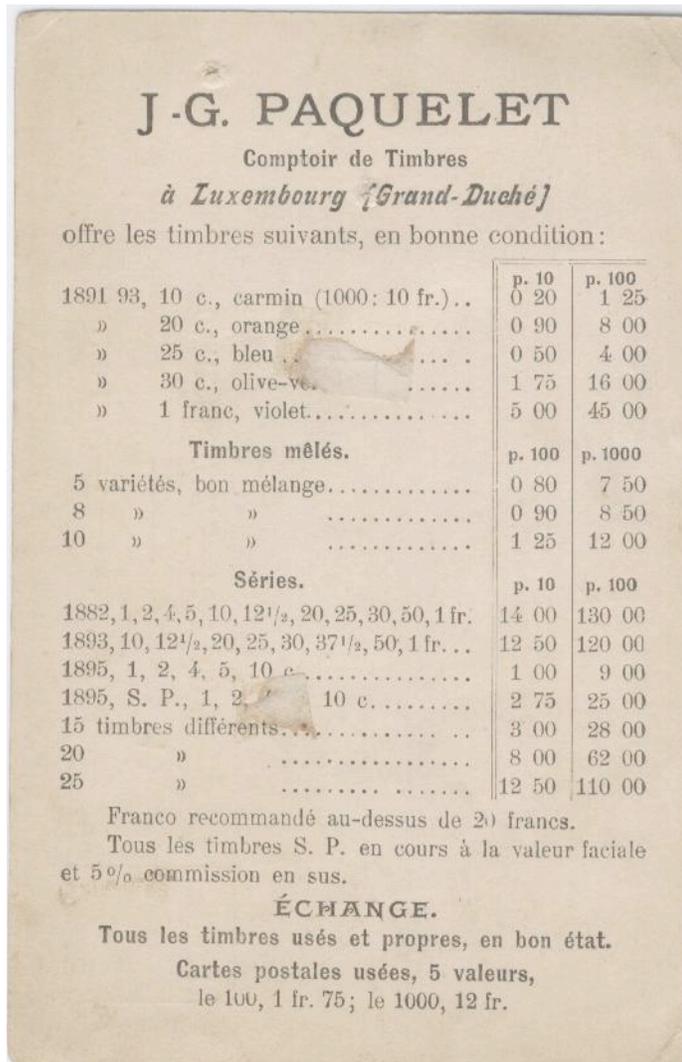


Figure 6: The "Printed Matter" on the back of the cards in Figures 4 and 5.

## Postal Rates from Luxembourg to UPU Countries, 1907-1940, Part 1

by Gary Little [some images courtesy of AFW — Allan F. Wichelman]

	Rate Period	Letter		Postcard <sup>1</sup>	Printed Matter (per 50 g)	Registration Fee
		first 20 g	extra 20 g			
I	01.10.07 - 09.05.21	0.25	0.15	0.10	0.05	0.25
II	10.05.21 - 31.05.24	0.50	0.25	0.30	0.10	0.50
III	01.06.24 - 30.09.25	0.75	0.40	0.45	0.15	0.75
IV	01.10.25 - 31.07.26	1.00	0.60	0.60	0.20	1.00
V	01.08.26 - 31.10.26	1.25	0.75	0.75	0.25	1.25
VI	01.11.26 - 30.11.29	1.50	0.90	0.90	0.30	1.50
VII	01.12.29 - 30.09.40	1.75	1.00	1.00	0.35	1.75

<sup>1</sup>Postcards with messages of five words or less could be sent at the Printed Matter rate.  
(Values are in Luxembourg francs; dates are in DD.MM.YY format.)

The rates summarized above applied to surface mail sent to all UPU member countries from 1907 to 1940. The only exceptions were lower preferential rates for mail sent to Belgium, Belgian Congo, France, Algeria, Monaco, Germany, and the Saar during all or some portion of this period. Air mail service, introduced in 1929, required additional postage and is not covered in this article.

The treaty forming the Universal Postal Union was ratified on October 9, 1874 by 22 nations, including Luxembourg. Postal rates between member nations were quickly established and took effect in Luxembourg on July 1, 1875. The basic letter rate remained unchanged for over 30 years: 25 centimes per 15 g. In 1907, the first year covered in this article, the letter rate was lowered to 25 centimes per 20 g and 15 centimes for each additional 20 g.

This was to be the only decrease. From April 1921 to January 1929, during the European post-war inflationary period, the rates were increased six times. [In contrast, during the same time period the United States UPU letter rate remained constant (5¢ for the first ounce and 3¢ for each additional ounce), the UPU postcard rate increased once (from 2¢ to 3¢ in October 1925), as did the foreign registry rate (from 10¢ to 15¢ in December 1925.) The sixth and final increase, in 1929, remained in effect until the German occupation of World War II in 1940.

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**Rate Period I : October 1, 1907 — May 9, 1921**

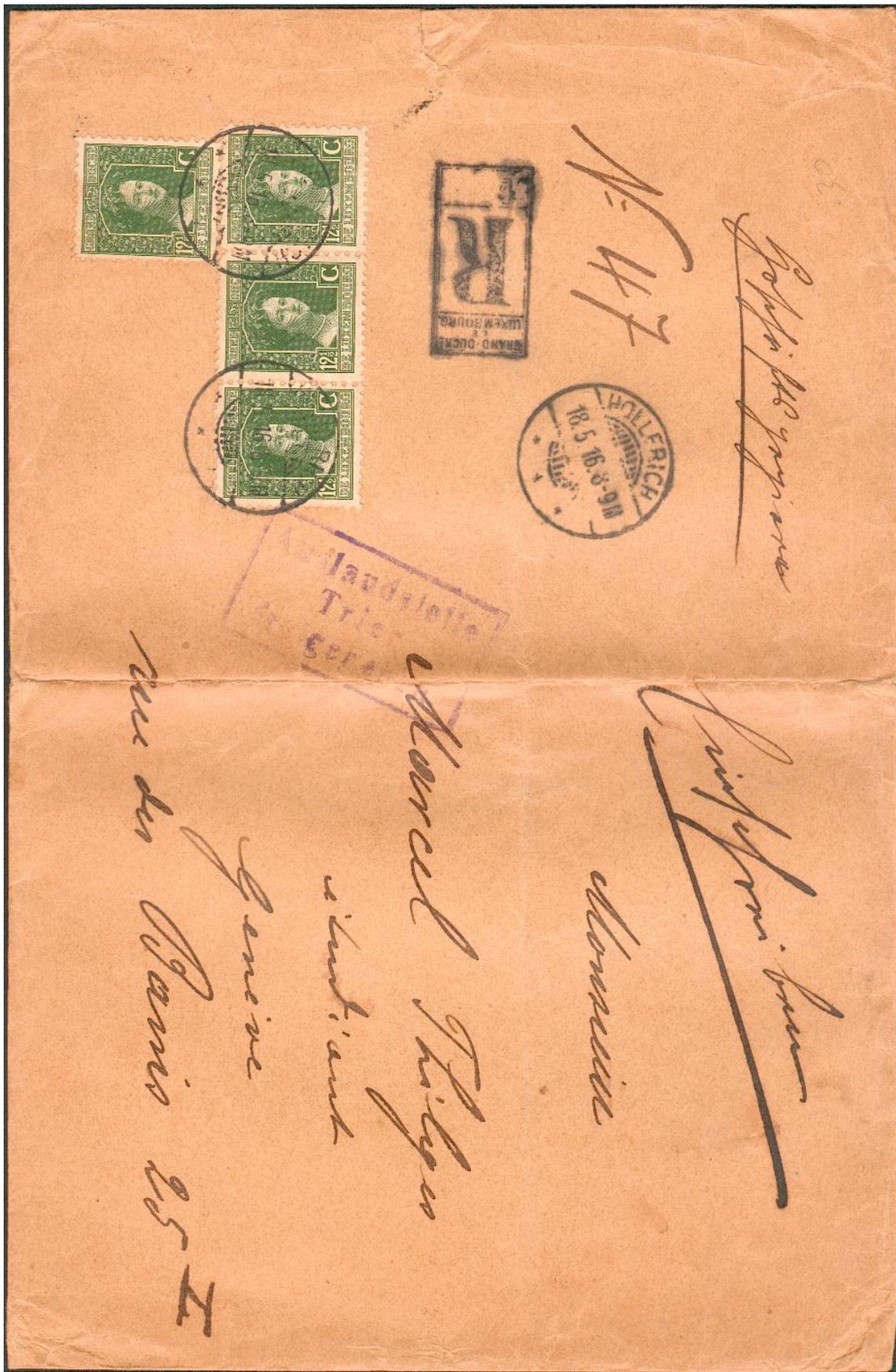
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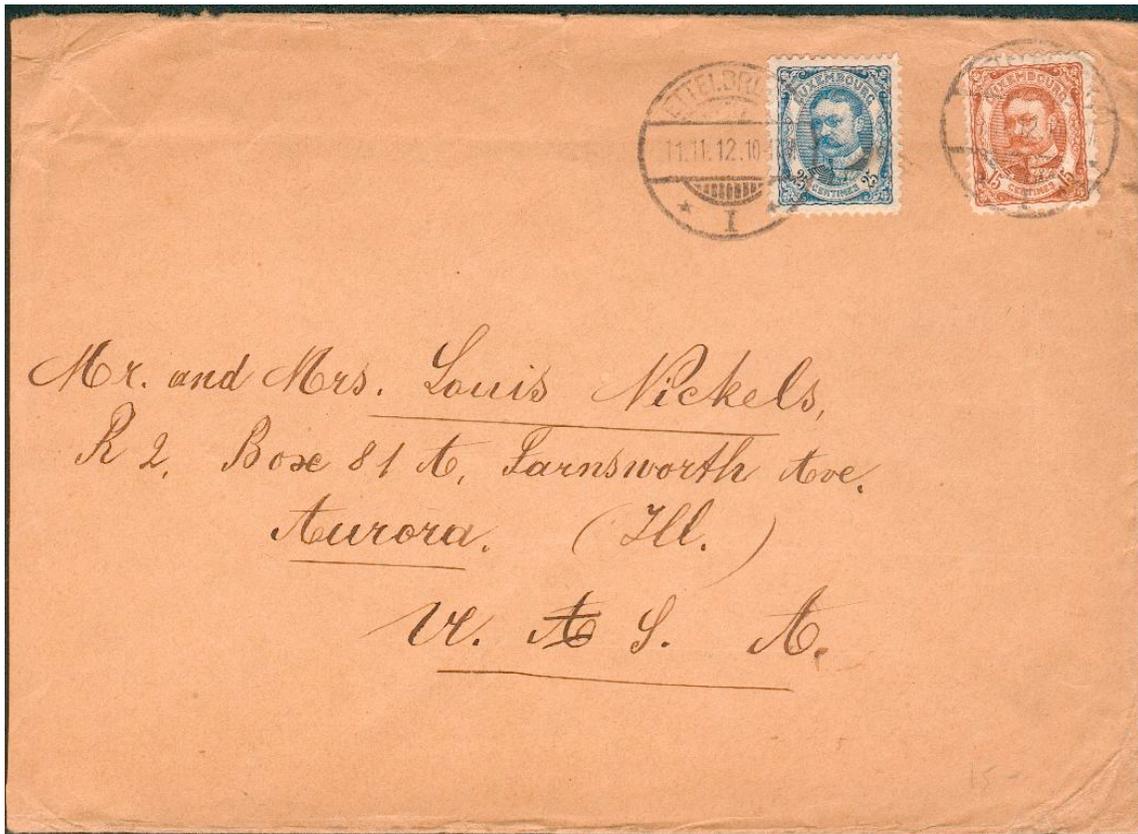
**6.12.1916 Troisvierges to Minneapolis, Minnesota**

0.25 F = basic letter rate

*Note: German and British censor markings*



18.5.1916 Hollerich to Geneva, Switzerland  
0.50 F = 0.25 F (basic letter rate) + 0.25 F (registration)  
Note: German censor marking



**11.11.1912 Ettelbruck to Aurora, Illinois**  
 0.40 F = 0.25 F (basic letter rate) + 0.15 F (overweight: 0.15 F per 20 g)

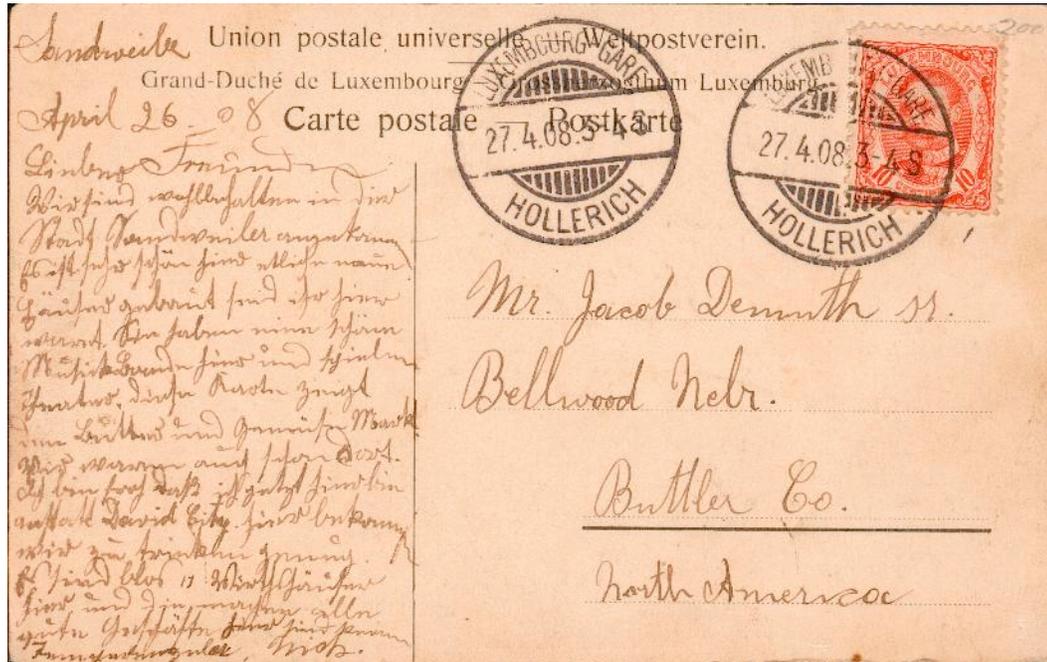


**14.2.1920 Luxembourg-Ville to Minneapolis, Minnesota [AFW]**  
 0.65 F = 0.25 F (basic letter rate) + 0.15 F (overweight: 0.15 F per 20 g) + 0.25 F (registration)



19.4.1920 Luxembourg-Ville to Kumla, Sweden [AFW]

0.80 F = 0.25 F (basic letter rate) + 0.30 F (overweight: 0.15 F per 20 g) + 0.25 F (registration)



27.4.1908 Luxembourg-Gare-Hollerich to Bellwood, Nebraska

0.10 F = postcard rate



30.5.1908 Luxembourg-Ville to Wülflingen, Switzerland  
0.05 F = basic printed matter rate

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Rate Period II : May 10, 1921 — May 31, 1924

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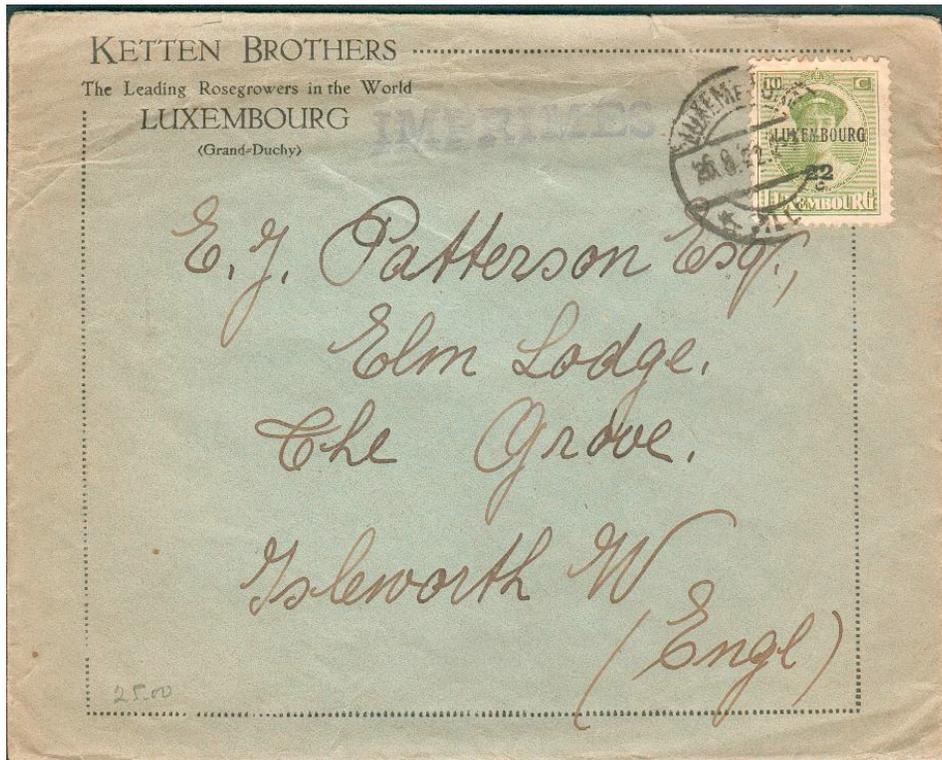
12.12.1921 Esch-sur-Alzette to Detroit, Michigan  
0.50 F = basic letter rate



9.2.1922 Kayl to Vienna, Austria  
 1.00 F = 0.50 F (basic letter rate) + 0.50 F (registration)



20.6.1922 Rumelange to Denver, Colorado  
 0.30 F = postcard rate



26.8.1922 Luxembourg-Ville to Isleworth, England  
 0.10 F = basic printed matter rate  
 Note: Franked with a 1922 precancelled Charlotte stamp

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Rate Period III : June 1, 1924 — September 30, 1925

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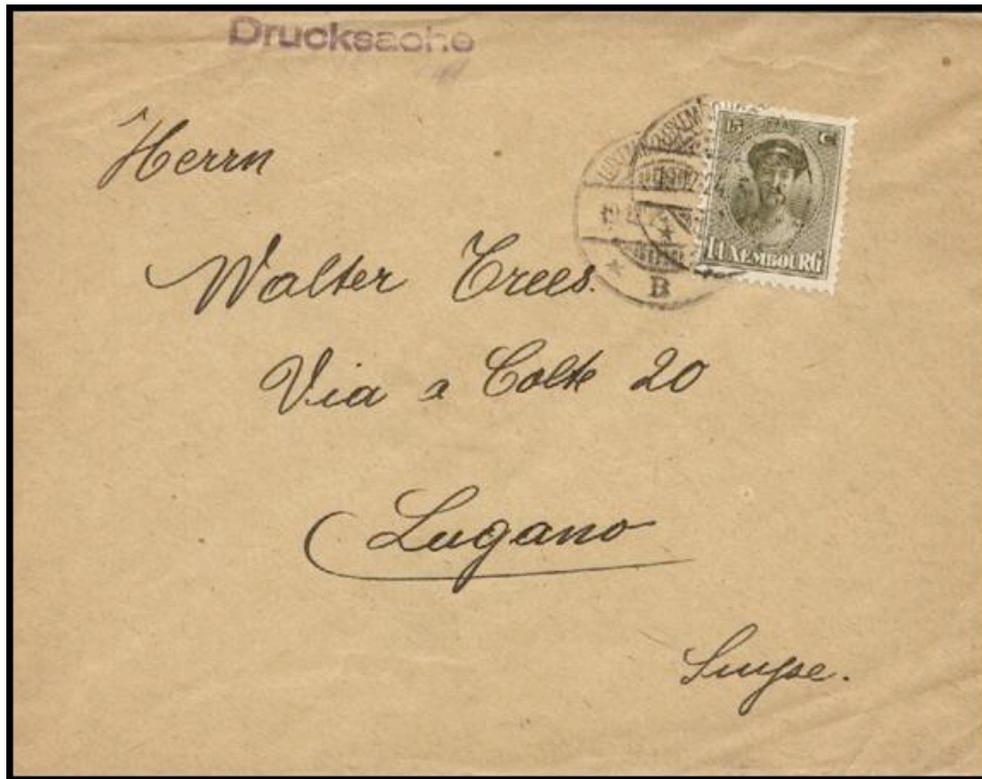
2.4.1925 Kayl to Winnipeg, Canada  
 0.75 F = basic letter rate



9.12.1924 Luxembourg-Ville to Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii [AFW]  
 1.50 F = 0.75 F (basic letter rate) + 0.75 F (registration)  
 Note: Mail to Hawaii from the Grand Duchy is extremely rare



27.12.1924 Luxembourg-Gare to Landquart, Switzerland  
 0.45 F = postcard rate

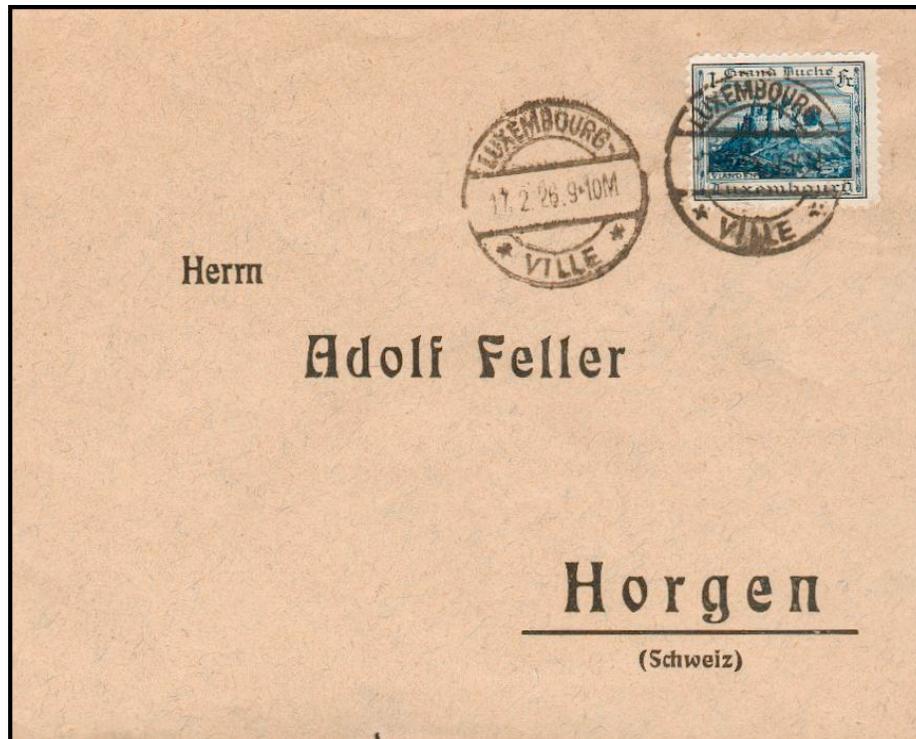


19.12.1924 Luxembourg to Lugano, Switzerland  
0.15 F = basic printed matter rate

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Rate Period IV : October 1, 1925 — July 31, 1926

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17.2.1926 Luxembourg-Ville to Horgen, Switzerland  
1.00 F = basic letter rate

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