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# Castellum

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## President's Message

by Gary Little

If you look closely at this month's masthead you will notice that the mailing address for the Luxembourg Collectors Club has changed for the first time since the group was formed over 7 years ago. After an extended "visit" to the United States, your faithful President has decided to return to British Columbia and so the *Castellum* editorial offices are moving as well. Of course, all the electronic contact information remains the same: the e-mail addresses and the Web site URL.

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The market for Luxembourg philatelic material remains very strong thanks in large part to the eBay online auction service, a powerful magnet for drawing together buyers and sellers from around the world. In the past year or so, the number of European participants has grown considerably, possibly fueled by the increased buying power of the Euro against the US dollar.

Unusual material of any sort usually fetches very good prices. Even older philatelic covers are doing well; take a look at these recent prices for some classic first day and "set" covers:

- £530 — Charlotte sheetlet of 5; Scott 125a [FDC]
  - \$381 — Heroes and martyrs souvenir sheet; Scott B131
  - \$305 — Our Lady of Luxembourg souvenir sheet; Scott B126 [FDC]
  - \$305 — Mondorf medicinal baths semipostal; Scott B104 [FDC]
  - \$273 — Tourism definitives; Scott 246-9 [FDC]
  - £148 — Charles I and Wenceslas I semipostals; Scott B67-72, B73-8
  - \$153 — Our Lady of Luxembourg semipostals; Scott B121-5
  - \$150 — Royal family semipostals; Scott B98-103
  - \$144 — Michel Lentz semipostals; Scott B143-6 [FDC]
  - \$144 — John the Blind semipostals; Scott B60-5 [FDC]
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This issue of *Castellum* features another interesting article on postal rates, this one covering airmail rates to the USA and Canada during the immediate post-war period from 1945 to 1971. This is a follow-up to my earlier article (June 2002) on a similar topic, but extended substantially to include new rate covers I've discovered since that date. Rates to Canada are also included.

# Airmail Rates from Luxembourg to the United States & Canada, 1945-1971, Part 1

by Gary Little

	Rate Period	Letter		Postcard <sup>2</sup>	Printed Matter (per 50 g)	Registration Fee	Special Delivery Fee	Airmail Fee (per 5 g)	
		first 20 g	extra 20 g					USA	Canada
I	06.04.45 - 30.09.45 <sup>1</sup>	2.50	1.50	1.50	0.70	3.00	5.00	7.00	7.00
II	01.10.45 - 03.01.47	3.50	2.00	2.00	0.70	3.50	7.00	7.00 <sup>3</sup>	7.00
III	04.01.47 - 14.03.48	3.50	2.00	2.00	0.70	3.50	7.00	4.00	4.00
IV	15.03.48 - 31.12.48	3.50	2.00	2.00	0.70	3.50	7.00	3.00	3.50
V	01.01.49 - 30.04.53	4.00	2.50	2.50	0.80	4.00	7.00	3.00	3.50
VI	01.05.53 - 30.06.53	4.00	2.50	2.50	0.80	5.00	7.00	3.00	3.50
VII	01.07.53 - 14.07.58	4.00	2.50	2.50	0.80	5.00	8.00	2.50	3.00
VIII	15.07.58 - 15.09.63	5.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	6.00	8.00	2.50	3.00
IX	16.09.63 - 31.12.65	6.00	3.50	3.50	1.00	7.00	8.00	2.50	3.00
X	01.01.66 - 30.06.71	6.00	3.50	3.50	1.50	10.00	12.00	2.50	3.00

<sup>1</sup>Post-World War II airmail service to North America began on September 5, 1945 near the end of this rate period.

<sup>2</sup>Postcards with messages of five words or less could be sent at the Printed Matter rate.

<sup>3</sup>The 7 F fee was for airmail sent via Brussels, the usual route used. This mail was marked North Atlantic Air Service / Par Avion. Airmail could also be sent via Paris for a fee of 6 F per 5 g. This mail was marked with Par Avion only. This option was available only until 04.01.47.

(Values are in Luxembourg francs; dates are in DD.MM.YY format.)

## Rate Period I: April 6, 1945 — September 30, 1945

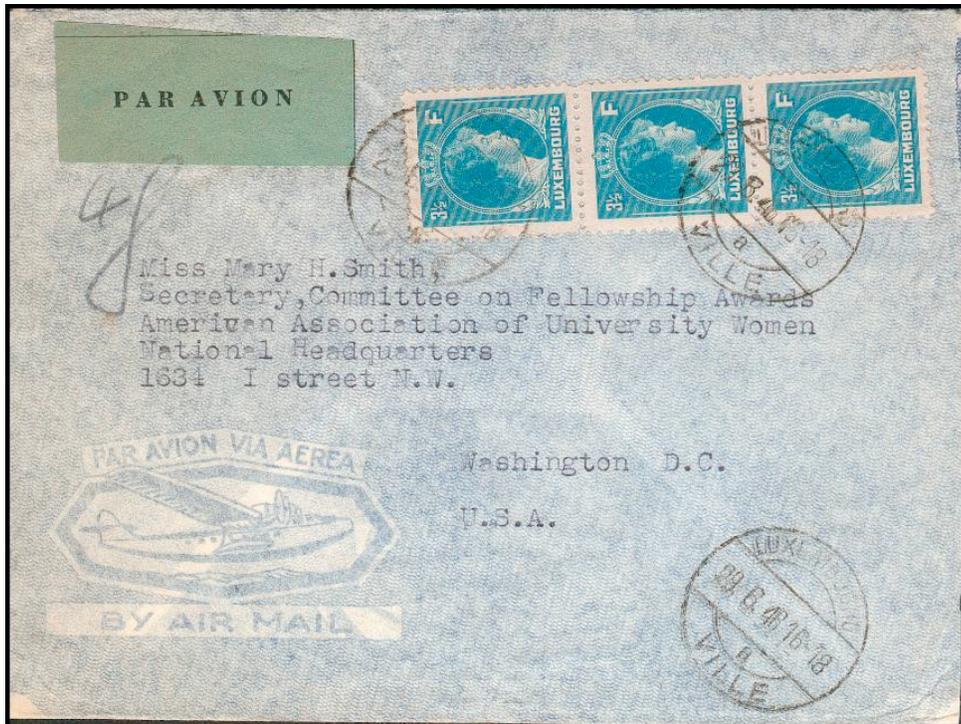


**19.9.1945 Differdingen to Jacksonville, Florida**

16.50 F = 2.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 14.00 F (airmail fee, 2<sup>nd</sup> weight class)

Airmail fee: 7.00 F per 5 g = 14.00 F for this 7 g letter

Note: Airmail service was available for only the last 26 days of this initial post-war rate period.



**29.6.1946 Luxembourg-Ville to Washington, D.C.**  
 10.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 7.00 F (airmail fee, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 7.00 F per 5 g = 7.00 F for this 4 g letter



**16.5.1946 Esch-sur-Alzette to Houston, Texas**  
 17.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 14.00 F (airmail fee, 2<sup>nd</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 7.00 F per 5 g = 14.00 F for this 9 g letter



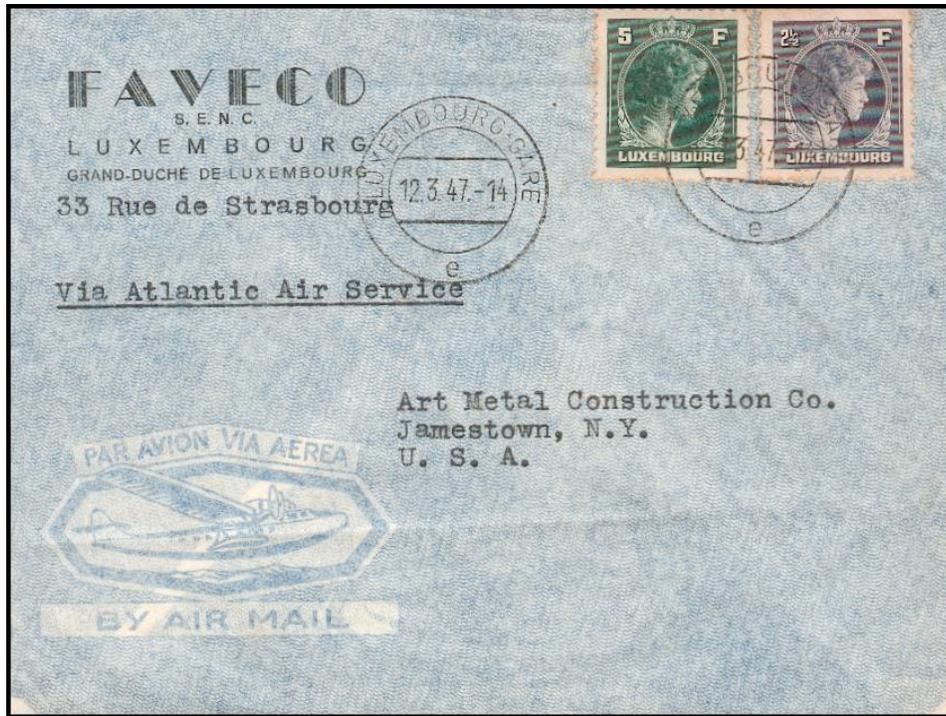
**5.8.1946 Wiltz to Kingston, Pennsylvania**

24.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 21.00 F (airmail fee, 3<sup>rd</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 7.00 F per 5 g = 21.00 F for this 14 g letter



**12.12.1945 Esch-sur-Alzette to Coral Gables, Florida**

31.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 28.00 F (airmail fee, 4<sup>th</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 7.00 F per 5 g = 28.00 F for this 16 g letter



**12.3.1947 Luxembourg-Gare to Jamestown, New York**

7.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 4.00 F (airmail fee, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 4.00 F per 5 g = 4.00 F for this 0-5 g letter



**13.5.1947 Diekirch to Pottstown, Pennsylvania**

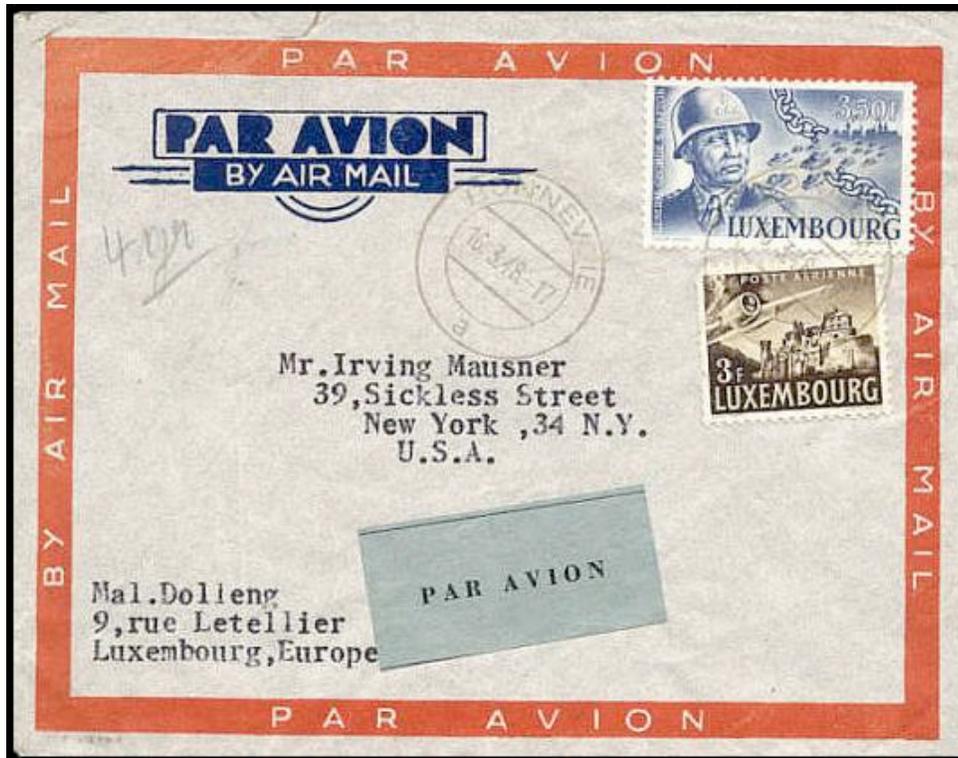
11.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 8.00 F (airmail fee, 2<sup>nd</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 4.00 F per 5 g = 8.00 F for this 7 g letter



26.8.1947 Luxembourg-Gare to New York, New York  
 19.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 16.00 F (airmail fee, 4<sup>th</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 4.00 F per 5 g = 16.00 F for this 16 g letter



19.3.1947 Luxembourg-Gare to New York, New York  
 23.00 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 3.50 F (registration) +  
 16.00 F (airmail fee, 4<sup>th</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 4.00 F per 5 g = 16.00 F for this 18 g letter



**16.3.1948 Bonnevoie to New York, New York**

6.50 F = 3.50F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 3.00 F (airmail fee, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class)

Airmail fee: 3.00 F per 5 g = 3.00 F for this 4 g letter

Note: This cover was mailed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the 3.00 F air mail rate period.



**4.6.1948 Wiltz to Burlington, Wisconsin**

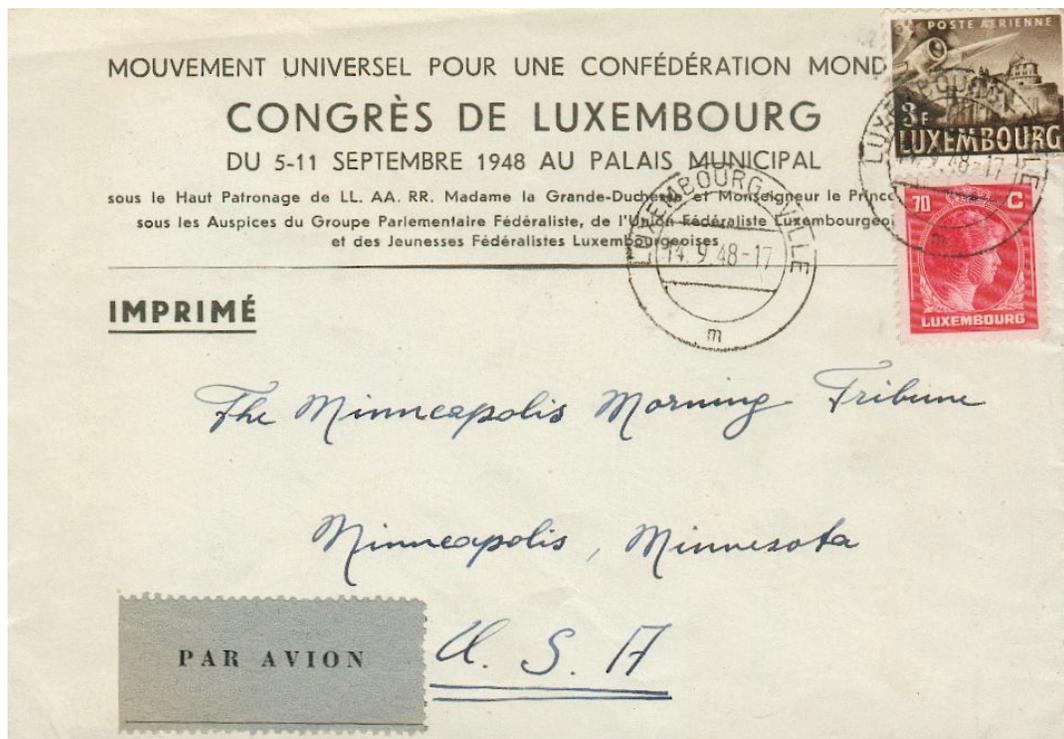
9.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 6.00 F (airmail fee, 2<sup>nd</sup> weight class)

Airmail fee: 3.00 F per 5 g = 6.00 F for this 9 g letter

Note: The Atlantic Air Service Londres – New York rubber stamp marking is rarely seen.



**25.12.1948 Luxembourg-Téléphones to So. Glens Falls, New York**  
 15.50 F = 3.50 F (letter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 12.00 F (airmail fee, 4<sup>th</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 3.00 F per 5 g = 12.00 F for this 18 g letter



**14.9.1948 Luxembourg-Ville to Minneapolis, Minnesota**  
 3.70 F = 0.70 F (printed matter, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class) + 3.00 F (airmail fee, 1<sup>st</sup> weight class)  
 Airmail fee: 3.00 F per 5 g = 3.00 F for this 0-5 g letter

[to be continued in the next issue of Castellum]