
Castellum



**Luxembourg
Collectors Club**

7319 Beau Road
Sechelt, BC V0N 3A8
Canada

E-mail: lcc@luxcentral.com

Web: <http://lcc.luxcentral.com/>

Gary B. Little, President (gary@luxcentral.com)

Edward H. Jarvis, Secretary-Treasurer (ejarvis@westpex.com)

Vol. 10, No. 1 (whole #37)

© 2006 Luxembourg Collectors Club and contributors

June 2006

President's Message

by Gary Little

It's hard to believe but it's now been 10 years since the founding of the LCC and the publication of the first issue of *Castellum*. We have made substantial contributions to the philatelic knowledge of the country over the years and, with your support, I trust we can continue to do so for years to come.

This month's gem is the innocent looking cover below that I recently bought on eBay. Yes, it's overfranked with "boring" definitive stamps, but take a close look at the postmark. This cover turns out to be a first day cover for the 25c, 30c, 75c, 90c and 1 1/2 Fr stamps issued on that day. It's the first example I've ever seen and is the perfect 10th anniversary gift!



October 15, 1927 first day cover for the five Charlotte profile definitives issued on that day.

Luxembourg's 42-Reichpfennig Registered Letter Frankings: 1940-1944

by Allan F. Wichelman

On May 10, 1940, eleven months after the outbreak of World War II in Europe, Luxembourg was overrun by German forces. The country, which was soon designated as the Moselland district of Germany, continued to be occupied until the liberation of September 10, 1944.

The following dates during the occupation have special significance for the following discussion:

- Until October 1, 1940, use of Luxembourg's pre-occupation stamps and postal stationery was permitted.
- On October 1, 1940, the occupiers abolished the use of the Grand Duchy's stamps and postal stationery (although use was tolerated through October 2, 1940), replacing them with sixteen denominations of the then-current German Hindenburg definitives (Scott N1-N16) as well as three Hindenburg postal cards, all denominated in Reichpfennigs and overprinted "Luxemburg." Also on this date, new postal rates for Luxembourg stated in Reichpfennigs and marks were decreed.
- On December 5, 1940, some of the invalidated pre-war Luxembourg stamps (and later some of the postal cards) were "re-issued" after having been surcharged from centimes and francs to Reichpfennigs (Scott N17-N32). Their use was permitted through March 31, 1941 (a short, 117-day period for the stamps).
- On January 12, 1941, the nine German 1940 Winter Relief semi-postal stamps overprinted "Luxemburg" (Scott NB1-NB9) were issued and were valid through June 30, 1941 (a 170-day period).
- On April 1, 1941, all German stamps (including the "Elsass" and "Lothringen" overprints) also became valid for use in Luxembourg.
- On January 1, 1942, the Reich required use of German stamps; use of the Hindenburg overprints was no longer permitted.

As of October 1, 1940, the charge to send a registered letter weighing 20 g or less within Luxembourg, or to Belgium or the Reich, was **42 Reichpfennig (Rpf.)** (12-Rpf. postage plus a 30-Rpf. registry fee). However, when this basic registered letter rate took effect, no 42-Rpf. definitive stamp existed to pay this charge. Since sole frankings were not possible, 42-Rpf. registered letters provide an excellent opportunity for collectors to acquire a broad range of both combination frankings (frankings using only one issue) and mixed frankings (frankings using two or more issues).

The Reich finally did issue a 42-Rpf. Hitler-head definitive sometime in 1944 [Scott 529], so conceivably sole frankings in 1944 using this stamp to pay the 42-Rpf. registered letter rate may exist, although I've yet to discover one.

Additionally, each year of the occupation, the Reich issued a 42-Rpf. semi-postal stamp with a 108-Rpf. surcharge that benefited Hitler's so-called National Culture Fund. These are known as the "Brown Ribbon" stamps as they were issued during the annual summer Brown Ribbon horse races in Munich [Scott B173, B192, B205, B243, and B283]. Sole frankings with these stamps would have been possible, but if they exist, they would likely have been philatelically inspired as these semi-postal stamps (the first two of which were valid only for a short time) may not have been generally available over most of the postal counters in Luxembourg and during these difficult

years the country's populace would hardly have been inclined to pay a 257% surcharge to benefit the Nazi Culture Fund.

With the foregoing rather obscure possibilities in mind, let's look at the 42-Rpf. frankings you are more likely to encounter:

The relevant Hindenburg overprints are the 12 lowest denominations, *i.e.*, the 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 40-Rpf. values; the set of nine Winter Relief semi-postals consisted of 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 15, 25 and 40-Rpf. denominations. Thus, the only two-stamp combination franking possible with the Hindenburgs was a 12-Rpf. and a 30-Rpf. stamp, as shown below, and none was possible with the Winter Relief semi-postals (although two-stamp mixed frankings using these two issues may exist):



Figure 1: Two-stamp Hindenburg combination franking—Esch-sur-Alzette, November 20, 1940, to Peine, Germany. This is probably the most common 42-Rpf. franking as the Hindenburg overprints could be used from October 1, 1940 until January 1, 1942.

From April 1, 1941 until January 1, 1942 (the 275-day period during which the Hindenburgs continued to be used and use of German stamps was permissive), a similar franking was possible using either a 12-Rpf. Hitler-head and a 30-Rpf. Hindenburg or a 30-Rpf. Hitler-head and a 12-Rpf. Hindenburg, as shown below:



Figure 2: Two-stamp mixed Hindenburg-Hitler franking—Luxembourg-Ville, December 24, 1941, to Frankfurt, Germany, Christmas Day 1941.

Another possibility with the Hindenburgs was a three-stamp franking using two 6-Rpf. Hindenburgs and a 30-Rpf. Hindenburg, as shown below:



Figure 3: Three-stamp, two-denomination Hindenburg combined franking—Esch-sur-Alzette, November 5, 1940 to Berlin, Germany, November 7, 1940. The Nazis had not yet replaced Esch-sur-Alzette’s pre-war bridge cancel, although a new, Germanized registry label was used.

The pre-war Luxembourg stamps that had been surcharged also could be used exclusively or together with the Hindenburgs from December 5, 1940 through March 31, 1941, and with the Winter Relief semi-postals from January 12, 1941 through March 31, 1941. An example of a mixed Hindenburg and Luxembourg-surcharge franking is shown below:



Figure 4: Three-stamp Hindenburg and Luxembourg-surcharge mixed franking—Garnich, March 4, 1941 to Hannover, Germany, March 5, 1941. The three red stamps along with the red registry label and the red rubber-stamped *Einschreiben* together provide a lot of philatelic pulchritude!

Three-stamp Hindenburg combination frankings and one three-stamp Winter Relief combination franking (using the 5, 12, and 25-Rpf. denominations) also were possible:



Figure 5: Three-stamp, three-denomination (10, 12, & 20-Rpf.) Hindenburg combination franking—Eschdorf, October 16, 1940 to Peine, Germany, October 18, 1940.



Figure 6: Three-stamp, three denomination (5, 12, 25-Rpf.) Hindenburg combination franking—Luxembourg-Ville, March 31, 1941 to Wilthen (Oberlausitz), Germany, April 4, 1941.

An example of a four-stamp Hindenburg combination franking is shown below, using the 5, 10, 12, and 15-Rpf values:



Figure 7: Four-stamp, four-denomination (5, 10, 12, 15-Rpf.) Hindenburg combination franking—Heinerscheid, December 30, 1941 to Limpertsberg, Luxembourg, same day.

A seven-stamp franking also was possible using only the 6-Rpf. Luxembourg surcharge, only the 6-Rpf. Hindenburg, or only the 6-Rpf. Winter Relief semi-postal; combinations thereof could be used for a seven-stamp mixed franking. Use of seven 6-Rpf. Luxembourg-surcharge stamps is shown below:



Figure 8: Seven-stamp Luxembourg-surcharge franking—Lorentzweiler, February 26, 1941, to Hannover, Germany, forwarded to and received in Ensheim, Germany, March 1, 1941.

In addition, many frankings made up entirely of German stamps became possible as of April 1, 1941, and mandatory as of January 1, 1942. Even earlier mixed and combination frankings can be found on the Deutsch Dienstpost mail as the Dienstpost always used German stamps. The Prifix catalog purports to distinguish between the German stamps sold in Luxembourg and those sold only in Germany. Unfortunately commercial registered covers from 1943, and especially from 1944, are scarce, undoubtedly reflecting the worsening economic conditions in Luxembourg during the last two years of the Occupation.

Here is a commercial example with 12 and 30-Rpf. Hitler head definitives:



Figure 9: Two-stamp, 12, 30-Rpf. Hitler combination franking—Fels (Moselland), September 6, 1943 to Luxembourg.

Here are examples of a 42-Rpf. mixed and a 42-Rpf. all-German stamp franking on mail of the Deutsche Dienstpost:



Figure 10: Mixed franking using Winter Relief and German stamps—A mixed 42-Rpf. franking using the overprinted 25 Rpf.+15 Rpf. Winter Relief semi-postal with a 1-Rpf. Hindenburg and a 16-Rpf.+10-Rpf. Postal Police semi-postal [Scott B156], bearing the Wehrmacht [army] cachet, postmarked Luxemburg on February 14, 1941, and by the Deutsche Dienstpost the next day, to Frankfurt, Germany.



Figure 11: All German seven-stamp franking—A German Dienstpost [official] cover posted from Luxembourg-Ville, April 10, 1942, to Diederhofen in the Lorraine [today: Thionville, France], where it was received April 12, 1942. The 42-Rpf. franking consists of five 1-Rpf. Hindenburgs, the Hitler-Mussolini 12-Rpf. + 38-Rpf. semi-postal issued on January 30, 1941 (Scott B189), and the 25-Rpf. Prince Eugene Monument issue of March 8, 1941 (Scott 505).

These days a lot of World War II material is coming on the market. Unfortunately, much of the Luxembourg material consists of philatelically-devised sets of the Hindenburgs, Luxembourg-surcharges, or Winter Relief semi-postals on one or more covers. So, as philatelic tedium sets in from seeing yet another complete set on yet another (often overpriced) WWII cover, consider collecting sole uses (often found on commercial mail), minimal frankings, and the interesting range of combination and mixed frankings that the WWII material offers. What may have seemed commonplace and uninteresting to you may suddenly take on a new philatelic dimension!