
CASTELLUM



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Vol. 11, No. 3 (whole #43)

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December 2007

President's Message

by Gary Little

It is with great regret that I must report on the October 28 passing of a great friend to the Luxembourg Collectors Club — Guy Rausch, head of Office des Timbres, the philatelic office of P&T Luxembourg.

I have known Guy for over 10 years and have visited him and his wife several times while on vacation in Europe. He was an ardent supporter of the philatelic communities around the world. When the LCC formed in 1997 he graciously arranged to send out an announcement to all of P&T's subscribers in North America. He also donated three copies of *Eis Post* (a comprehensive history of postal operations in Luxembourg) as door prizes for our very first meeting at the Pacific 97 World Philatelic Exhibition in San Francisco.

Perhaps my fondest memory of Guy was the day in September 1997 when he drove me around Luxembourg-Ville in the "Juvalux"-mobile, a campy 8-year-old Citroën *deux chevaux* painted in green and bright yellow to promote the Juvalux '98 World Philatelic Exhibition. We turned quite a few heads that day!

Guy leaves behind his wife Betty and their two sons, Marc and Bob. He will be missed by all who knew him. *Salut* to my friend.



Pamela Little, Guy Rausch, Gary Little, Betty Rausch (1998).

Centenary of the International Reply Coupon: 1907-2007, Part 1

by Allan F. Wichelman

I. Introduction. The International Reply Coupon (IRC) was introduced at the 1906 Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress in Rome. Initially issued on October 1, 1907, an IRC at that time could be exchanged at any UPU-member-nation post office for the postage required to prepay a single-rate, surface-delivery letter. Today, one hundred years later, an IRC can be redeemed for the minimum postage required for an unregistered priority airmail letter. UPU-member postal services must exchange an IRC for postage but are not required to sell IRCs. IRCs remain popular with philatelists, autograph collectors, and radio amateurs exchanging QSL cards, who want to prepay return postage from a foreign country without sending cash or obtaining foreign postage in advance. They are sold in more than 70 countries.

Collectors classify IRCs by design (or “frame”), with the design taking its name from the city where the UPU Congress was held that adopted the design. Table 1 summarizes the five basic designs which have appeared over the past 100 years.

Table 1 — IRC Designs (or “Frames”)

	Design	First Issued
I	Rome	October 1, 1907
II	London	July 1, 1930
III	Vienna	December 1965
IV	Lausanne	January 1, 1975
V	Beijing Model No. 1	January 1, 2002
	Beijing Model No. 2	July 1, 2006
	Beijing Model No. 2: Centenary Printing	February 1, 2007

Luxembourg has issued IRCs in each of the five designs (including both Beijing models) and is one of only 35 countries to issue the recent Beijing Model 2 commemorative Centenary design. The available information on Luxembourg’s IRC tariffs is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2 — IRC Tariffs in Luxembourg: 1907-2002*

10.01.1907	0.30 F	09.01.1949	7.00 F	07.01.1983	25.00 F
04.15.1916	0.375 F	05.01.1953	8.00 F	01.01.1986	45.00 F
10.20.1917	0.55 F	02.15.1958		07.01.1988	35.00 F
04.23.1920	0.90 F	09.16.1963		01.01.1991	
05.10.1921	?	01.01.1966	10.00 F	02.01.1995	45.00 F
11.01.1926	1.50 F	07.01.1971		01.05.1996	
07.01.1930	2.75 F	03.01.1973		05.01.1999	
07.01.1935	2.50 F	01.01.1976	16.00 F	04.01.2000	1.12 €
10.01.1940	25 Rpf	07.01.1980		01.01.2002	
10.01.1945	4.50 F	07.01.1981	20.00 F		

*Adapted from Basien & Hoffkamp, p. 162

II. Rome Design (1907–1930). During this nearly 23-year classic coupon period, Luxembourg issued five Rome-design IRCs. They paid four different tariffs. Moreover, when the tariff was increased, some of the coupons were updated with the new value in manuscript. *All of the Rome-frame coupons are very scarce.*

Table 3 — Rome Design: Luxembourg IRCs

IRC 1 1907	30¢	Back: paragraphs are separated by lines
IRC 2 1909	30¢	Back: paragraphs are not separated by lines; first paragraph consists of four lines of text
IRC 3 1910	30¢**	Like IRC 2, except that the first paragraph on the back consists of three lines of text
IRC 4 1913	30¢*	Like IRC 3, except that the country name is printed in large-size, Egyptian-style type
IRC 5 ~1916	37 1/2¢**	New 37 1/2¢ denomination

*Known updated to 90¢ in manuscript to pay the 04/23/30 tariff.

**Known updated to 55¢ in manuscript to pay the 10/20/17 tariff.

IRC-LUX 1

*Postmarked Luxembourg-Gare,
January 11, 1910.*



IRC-LUX 3

Postmarked Roodt, December 26, 1919,
and uprated in manuscript to 55 centimes



III. London Design (1930 – 1965). During the 35 years that the London design was in use, Luxembourg issued IRCs in five face-different denominations. As the IRC tariff was increased to 2.75 F at the same time that the London design was released (*i.e.*, July 1, 1930), Auguste Wéry, on the basis of reports in the philatelic literature, states that a 2.25 F IRC might have been ordered but never put into circulation. Whether a 2.25 F IRC exists remains an unsolved philatelic puzzle.

Unlike the Rome design, inexpensive examples of the London design appear frequently in the philatelic market. But in acquiring examples, don't overlook the fact that 13 varieties have been documented! They are summarized in Table 4 below along with the 2.25 F phantom and the German occupation IRCs.

Table 4 — London Design: Luxembourg IRCs

IRC ? 1930	2.25 F	Status uncertain	IRC 9 1945	4.50 F	New value	IRC 12 1953	8.00 F	New value; back: 5 paragraphs; "Benziger" = 13 mm.; no notation at the upper right
IRC 6 1930	2.75 F	Back: four 3-line paragraphs	IRC 9a	7.00 F	#9 uprated with a rubber stamp	IRC 13 1954	8.00 F	Like #12 but "FORMULE C 22" at upper right; English text ends under "u" of "amount"
IRC 7 ~1935	2.50 F	Back: 3 four-line & 1 three-line paragraph	IRC 10 1949	7.00 F	New value; Back: five paragraphs; Cliché = 95.5 mm.	IRC 14 1958	8.00 F	Like #13 but English text ends under "n" of "amount"
IRC 8 1937	2.50 F	As #7 but German text in Gothic letters	IRC 11 1949	7.00 F	As #10 but cliché = 97 mm.	IRC 15 1963	8.00 F	Like #14 but "C 22" at upper right; Arabic text 12 mm. wide
German IRC types 1940-44	25 Rpf.	Various German IRCs were used in Luxembourg	IRC 11a 1953	8.00 F	Uprated to 8 F with a 1 F adhesive	IRC 16	8.00 F	Like #15 but Arabic text 7 mm. wide

IRC-LUX 8

*Postmarked Luxembourg-Ville, September 1939
Redeemed, Shanghai, China, February 14, 1940*



IRC-LUX 9

Luxembourg-Ville, August 29, 1947



IV. Vienna Design (1965-1975). The four different Vienna-design IRCs known for Luxembourg are summarized in Table 5. A Vienna printing that I have not seen listed for Luxembourg reads in French on the front “*lettre ordinaire de port simple*” instead of “*premier échelon ... par voie de surface.*”

Table 5 — Vienna Design: Luxembourg IRCs

IRC 17 1965	8.00 F	Large single UPU watermark	IRC 19 1971	10.00 F	German text: 2 nd line “Taxe”
IRC 18 ?	8.00 F	Small multiple UPU watermark	IRC 20 1972	10.00 F	German text: 2 nd line “Gebühr”

IRC-LUX 20

Luxembourg-Ville, December 28, 1973



Dieser Schein wird in allen Ländern des Weltpostvereins gegen ein oder mehrere Postwertzeichen im Gesamtwert der Gebühr für einen gewöhnlichen, auf dem Land- und Seeweg beförderten Auslandsbrief der ersten Gewichtsstufe umgetauscht.

V. Lausanne Design (1975-2002). The Lausanne design first appeared on February 1, 1975. The price is not shown on this design; however, when Luxembourg increased the IRC tariff from 10 F to 16 F on January 1, 1976, postal clerks sometimes indicated the new price in manuscript in the center box.

Varieties that I have not seen listed for Luxembourg include Lausanne printings with (i) “*par voie aérienne*” instead of “*par voie de surface*” on the front, and (ii) “*CN01*” instead of “*C22*” in the front upper right corner, and (iii) printings without the broken circle in the box on the right. The only known varieties are summarized in Table 6.

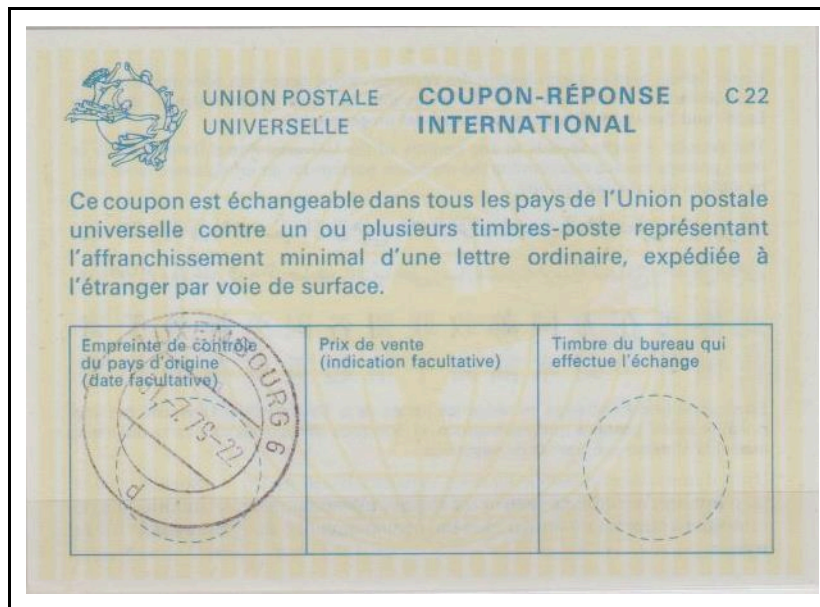
Table 6 — Lausanne Design: Luxembourg IRCs

IRC 21 1974	[10.00 F]	Watermarked UPU horizontally	IRC 21a 01/01/1976	16.00 F in manuscript	As IRC 21 but uprated	IRC 22	[16.00 F]	Watermarked UPU vertically
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IRC-LUX 21

Luxembourg-Ville, July 31, 1979

Horizontal UPU watermark



VI. Beijing Design: Models 1 & 2; Centenary Printing 2002 – 2007. Shown below are the two Beijing-model IRCs. The first appeared in 2002 and was valid for exchange until December 31, 2006. The second appeared in 2006 and is valid for exchange until December 31, 2009.

Beijing Design – Model 1 (2002)

Luxembourg-Ville, February 14, 2006



Beijing Design – Model 2 (2006)
Luxembourg-Ville, October 18, 2006



In February 2007, a special printing of the Beijing Model 2 IRC appeared to commemorate a century of IRC use. The Centenary IRC has the inscription “1907 – 2007” added, as shown below in a cut from the specimen posted on the UPU website. Since February, only Luxembourg and 36 other countries have ordered and placed on sale the Centenary IRC. A total of just over 180,000 Centenary IRCs were printed for the entire UPU membership, and the UPU states that this special commemorative printing will not be reissued. As some countries have ordered as few as 500 or 1,000, the Centenary IRCs will undoubtedly be much sought after by collectors. I have not yet received an example from Luxembourg, nor do I know how many P&T Luxembourg ordered.

**Centenary Inscription “1907 – 2007”
on the Beijing Model 2 Special Printing**



[to be continued in the next issue of Castellum]