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# Castellum

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## President's Message by Gary Little

I regret to inform everyone that Bob Danzer passed away earlier this year at age 93. Bob was a member of the Luxembourg Collectors Club since its founding in 1997 and was a titan of Luxembourg philately for many years. He began breaking up his collection in 2000, so many of us, myself included, were able to enhance our own collections by acquiring interesting *ex-Danzer* material at auction. The prize of my Luxembourg first day cover collection, for example, is Bob's May 4, 1895 postal stationery card franked with all five *Adolphe profile* definitives issued that day. I have no idea where he found it, but it's probably unique, and I thank him for preserving it.

Jim McGee has kindly written and provided the following tribute to Bob:

*Longtime Luxembourg collector/philatelist, Robert Danzer closed his albums and moved on to the next experience earlier this year at the age of 93. He had been in retirement in Carmel, California for several years.*

*Bob was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. His love for stamps was encouraged at an early age, and as a teenager he frequented the many philatelic shops on Nassau Street. His special interests were US general collecting, unusual postal markings worldwide, and, of course, Luxembourg. He began putting his Luxembourg collection together in the 1930's, and was always amazed at the prices of the 1980's. Once he started, he never looked back.*

*Professionally, Bob was a talented landscape designer, doing the landscaping for many of the estates on Long Island, New York. He personally ran the business until he was well into his eighties. He loved flowers and he loved stamps.*

*Bob's Luxembourg Postal History exhibit won many national gold awards and several international large Vermeils. He was a member of the Collectors Club of NY, the Postal History Society, and the LCC.*

*He was generous in sharing his knowledge and will be missed.*

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## Invalid, Dubious & Questionable Uses (IDQs), Part 1

by Allan F. Wichelman

Let me ask you, "How should we organize those Luxembourg covers and cards that were used in unusual ways, but which don't fit nicely into traditional postal history categories?" There is a body of philately devoted to EFOs (errors, freaks and oddities). Why not develop one devoted to the study and showcasing of IDQs?

We might begin with these categories (and any others you can think of):

| Type | Illegal, Invalid & Dubious Uses                              |
|------|--|
| 1    | Luxembourg franking no longer valid                          |
| 2    | Luxembourg franking valid, but not for the requested service |
| 3    | Luxembourg franking used abroad                              |
| 4    | Luxembourg and foreign franking used in combination          |
| 5    | Luxembourg postal card imprint cutouts used as postage       |
| 6    | Non-postal use of Luxembourg stamps and stationery           |
| 7    | Luxembourg revenue stamps used to pay postage                |
| 8    | Reuse of previously used Luxembourg stamps                   |

## Type 1 — Franking No Longer Valid



**T-1 — Invalid Use (25c 1891 Adolphe):** Attempted use of the 25c definitive to pay the 20 g UPU rate on a letter to the United States from Dalheim, April 3, 1911.

However, the 1891 Adolphe issue had been demonetized on January 1, 1909. In accordance with UPU regulations, the Dalheim post office marked off the invalid stamp with blue crayon, indicating with a zero that it had no monetary value and that postage due was to be charged to the recipient. The New York exchange office then taxed the letter ten US cents (double the five-cent UPU letter rate).



**T-1 – Invalid use (30c Charlotte & 4 rpf. Hindenburg):** Letter posted from Luxembourg-Ville to Rumelange, September 10, 1944, the day Luxembourg was liberated from WWII German occupation and 10 days after the Nazi administration in Luxembourg had collapsed. Although the letter was censored on December 6, 1944, domestic mail delivery to towns outside Luxembourg-Ville was not resumed until March 26, 1945. The March 26, 1945, Rümelingen backstamp shows that this letter was delivered on the first day that inland deliveries were permitted, 196 days after it had been posted.

Two of the stamps were invalid on the date of posting. The 30c 1926 Charlotte had been invalidated on October 1, 1940; the 4 Rpf. Hindenburg on January 1, 1942. The 4 Rpf. Hitler head remained valid until September 29, 1944. However, as the letter rate was 12 rpf., the Rumelange post office only charged postage due for a 1 Rpf. deficiency in the franking after giving the sender 11 Rpf. credit for the three stamps. (The 30c Charlotte was converted to reichpfennings at the rate of 10 centimes to 1 Rpf., thus being worth 3 Rpf.) The 20-centime postage due charge reflects the 1 Rpf. deficiency doubled.



## Type 2 — Franking Invalid for Service Requested



**T-2 — Airmail Use Disallowed:** Reply card from a 75c+75c Luxembourg Écusson double card mailed May 4, 1936, on the special German automobile postal service between Berlin and Leipzig with a blue Luxembourg airmail label and 75c Luxembourg airmail adhesive added purporting to pay supplemental postage for return of the reply card by airmail.

Airmail service (apparently) was not available or offered for return of foreign reply cards, as indicated by the German post office having marked off the adhesive stamp with blue crayon, crossed out the airmail etiquette and indicated no postal value for the adhesive. The 75c Luxembourg postal stationery imprint on the reply card correctly pays the 75c postal card rate in effect at that time between Luxembourg and Germany.

## Type 3 — Luxembourg Franking Used Abroad



**T-3 — *Illegal Use in Germany:*** Attempted use of a five-centime 1882 Allegory postal card uprated with a 5-centime 1895 Adolphe definitive to pay postage from Rüttgen to Bad-Kreuznach, Germany, September 23, 1895. At that time, Rüttgen was part of the German Lorraine, on the German side of the border with Luxembourg. Today it is part of France and known by its French name, Roussy-le-Village.

The writer dated the card two days earlier at Frisange, a nearby village in Luxembourg. As the card was posted on the German side of the border, the German post office correctly marked off the Luxembourg stationery imprint and stamp with blue crayon, indicating their invalidity and postage due of 10 pfennig.



**T-3 — Illegal Use in France:** Attempted use of a 35-centime Charlotte definitive to pay postage on a viewcard sent from Thionville to Roubaix, France, August 16, 1933. The Thionville post office marked off the stamp with blue crayon to indicate its invalidity, taxed the card, and applied a pair of French postage due stamps. As the card was refused by the addressee, it was sent to the dead letter office in nearby Lille.





**T-3 – Illegal Use to Great Britain from Germany:** Attempted use of 3.50 francs of Luxembourg stamps to pay postage on a picture postcard from Volkingen, Germany, to Goldsithney-Penzance, England, August 25, 1967. The German post office marked off the stamps with blue crayon to indicate their invalidity. On arrival in England an auxiliary mark was applied reading “Stamp Not Valid - To Pay 10p,” payment of which is shown by three British postage due stamps. The writer notes that “As I write this, we are now traveling through Germany towards Saarbrücken.”

[to be continued in the next issue of Castellum]