
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. 11, No. 2 (whole #42)

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September 2007

President's Message by Gary Little

See below for an interesting cover I recently picked up for my collection of post-war Luxembourg rate covers. It is franked with the top three values in the set of Charlotte profile stamps issued on November 6, 1944 — the first stamps issued by Luxembourg after the German occupation of 1940-1944.

And, yes, it does pay the correct rate for a 17 g registered airmail cover to New York mailed in January 1946. The total franking is 35 F: 3.50 F covers the standard letter rate + 3.50 F for the registration fee + 28 F for the airmail fee. The airmail fee at the time was 7 F per 5 g.



*This cover was sent airmail and registered in January 1946
from Luxembourg to Yonkers, NY.*

[continued from the June 2007 issue of *Castellum*]

Type 4 — Luxembourg and Foreign Franking Used in Combination

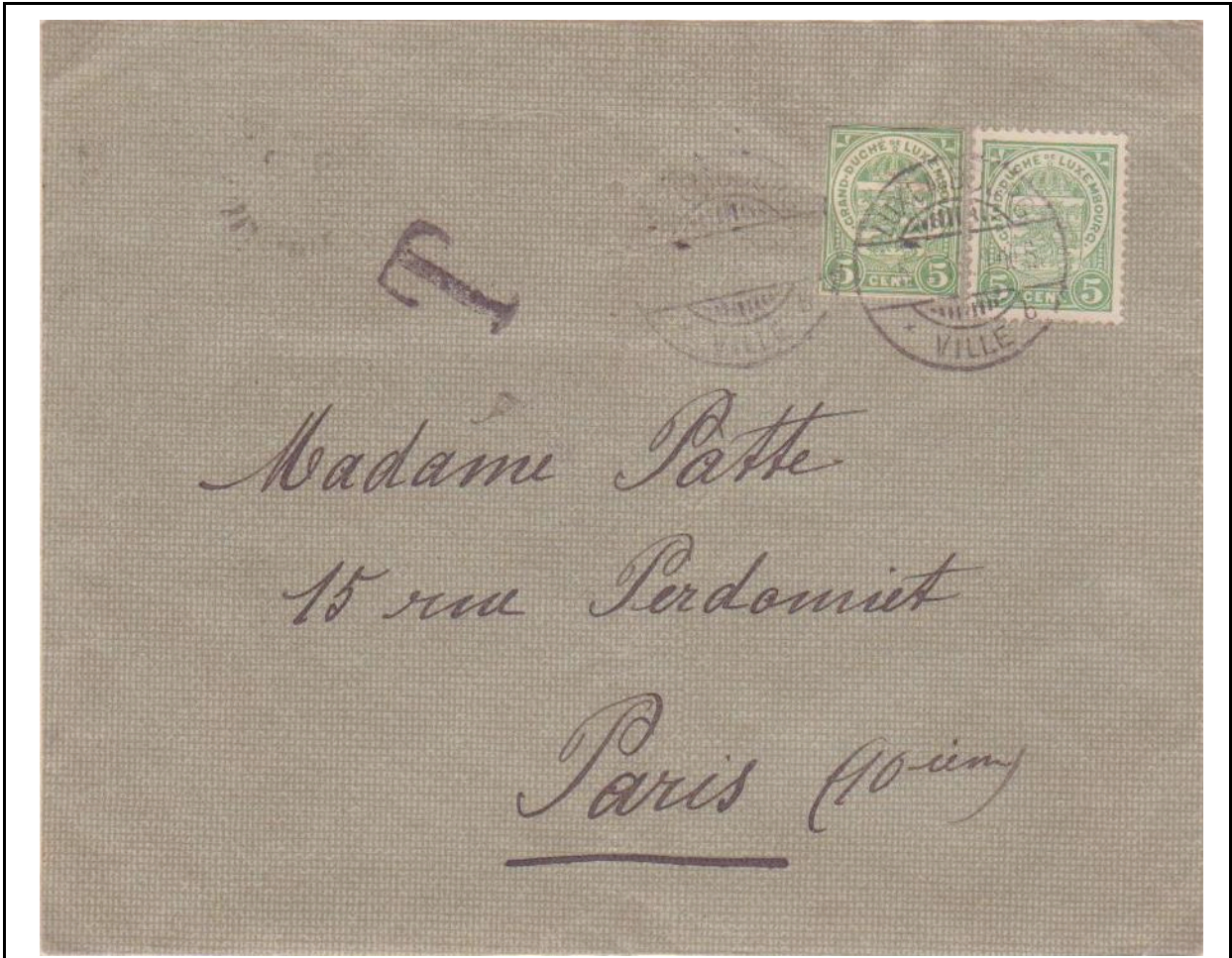


T-4 — Luxembourg & Italian Franking: 6-centime reply card from an 1875 6c+6c double card returned from Milan, Italy, September 23, 1906, used in combination with a five-centime Italian adhesive to make-up the ten-centime UPU rate then in effect. It was received in Luxembourg-Ville, September 24, 1906, and not taxed, as this practice was widely tolerated by European postal authorities although technically violative of UPU regulations, which required that the return card be entirely franked with the country of origin's postage.



T-4 – Luxembourg & German Franking: 5-centime Allegory postal card for domestic use, illegally uprated with a 5-pfennig German adhesive to pay the 10-centime postcard rate to Germany, posted from Luxembourg-Ville, October 21, 1892, to Köln-Ehrenfeld, Germany, but the illegal combination franking apparently was not noticed by the Luxembourg post office.

T-5 — Postal Card Imprint Cutouts Used as Postage

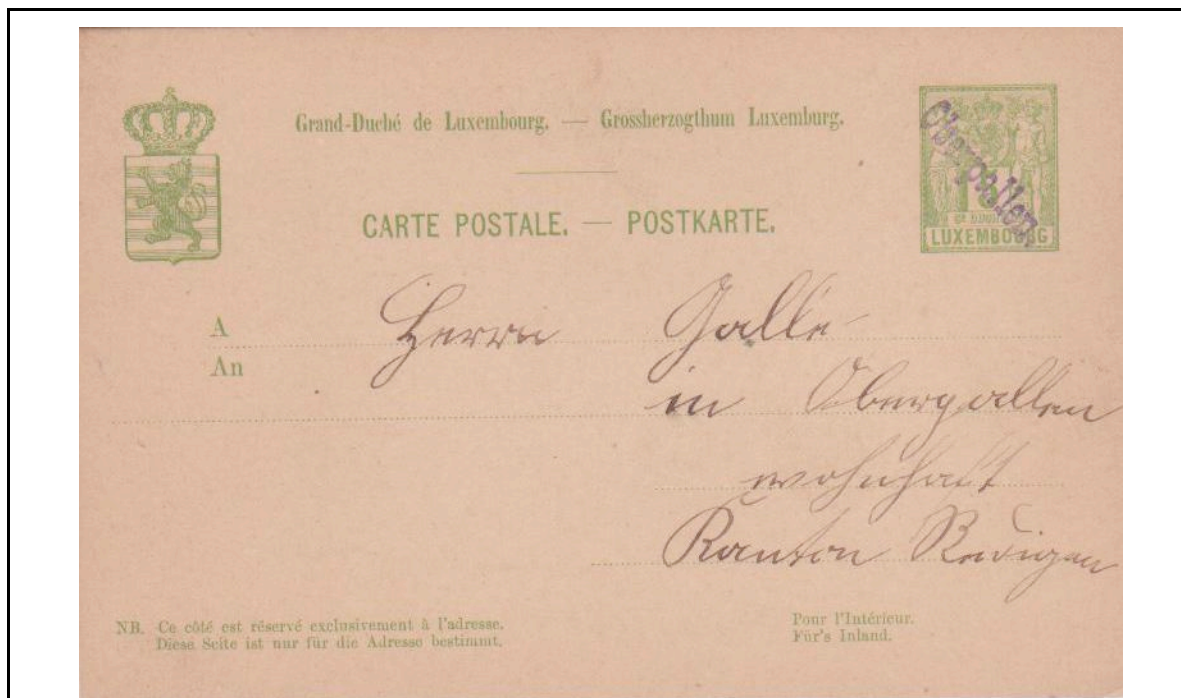


T-5 — Use of a 5c postal card imprint: Attempted payment in 1915 of five centimes of the ten-centime letter rate to France with a five-centime Écusson postal card cutout, but noticed and taxed by the Luxembourg-Ville post office. The return address is that of the Carmelite Tertiary nuns, the frugality perhaps reflecting their vow of poverty.



T-5 — Use of a 45c postal viewcard imprint cutout: Attempted payment in 1935 of part of the 70-centime domestic letter rate on a sealed letter to the suburb of Limpertsberg, otherwise franked only with a 35-centime Charlotte adhesive. Although an illegal use, the 45-centime imprint was nicely hand canceled and no postage due charged.

T-6 — Non-Postal Uses



T-6 — Oberpallen Private Overprint: Nicolas Gallé, who was the customs and immigration officer in charge of the Oberpallen border crossing between Luxembourg and Belgium in the late 1800s, must have been something of an eccentric. He apparently had five-centime Allegory postal cards overprinted “Oberpallen.” across the stamp imprint by letter press in purple. These cards were used to record the names of persons who crossed the border at Oberpallen each day and are all addressed to Mr. Gallé.

Oberpallen has never had a post office, and an examination of these cards readily reveals that none ever passed through the mails. They lead my list of dubious and questionable items. Use of the Allegory postal cards in this curious manner probably was unauthorized, may have been illegal, and likely served no revenue purpose.

T-7 — Luxembourg revenue stamps used to pay postage T-8 — Reuse of previously used Luxembourg stamps

I have yet to discover a Luxembourg revenue stamp used in lieu of a postage stamp. Likewise, I have not seen an example of an attempt to reuse a previously cancelled Luxembourg stamp. Certainly such uses must exist.

Today might be a good time to organize the IDQs in your collection and share them with the other members of the LCC. Your editor welcomes contributions to *Castellum*, and this writer would gladly surrender the laboring oar!

[conclusion of series]

Maury Swartz — A Kayl Tale

by Gary Little

Collectors of Luxembourg covers will surely recognize the name of Maury Swartz. For a stretch of over 14 years, from 1926 to 1940, he ran a prominent philatelic business based in Kayl, Luxembourg. Thousands of his carefully franked covers have survived in collections around the world.

Maury was born in the 1880s in the old Austrian-Hungarian empire and emigrated to the United States in 1905. He joined the U.S. Army and for the next 14 years was engaged in campaigns in The Philippines, China, and Mexico. His military career ended after his European tour in World War I where he survived mustard gas attacks in the trenches of France.

Somewhere along the way, Maury became very interested in stamp collecting because he became a member of the Society of Philatelic Americans in 1910. He was also a member of the American Philatelic Society.

After the Great War, Maury was stationed in Luxembourg where he met and soon married Sophie Laux of the small village of Kayl in southern Luxembourg near the Moselle River. The newlyweds then moved across the Atlantic to the Washington, DC area where Maury started a philatelic business.

In 1923, Maury and Sophie had a son, Eugene. In 1926, the family of three returned to Kayl to visit the proud grandparents. It must have gone quite well because they ended up staying for 14 years and Maury firmly established himself as one of the most prominent dealers of Luxembourg material based in the Grand Duchy.

With the outbreak of World War II in 1939, and certainly after the Nazi invasion of Luxembourg in May 1940, the family had a difficult decision to make: stay put or return to the U.S.?

Sophie and the in-laws, as Luxembourg nationals, would not be permitted to leave. The U.S. had not yet entered the war, so it would be far easier for Maury and son Eugene, then aged 17, to leave. On top of this, Maury was determined to get Eugene back to the U.S. before his 18th birthday in order to preserve his U.S. citizenship. So, reluctantly, they did leave, making their way through France and Spain to Portugal where they boarded a ship to America on October 2, 1940.

In 1942, Eugene joined the U.S. Army and trained for a military intelligence role, aided by the fact that he spoke several languages fluently, including French, German, and Luxembourgish. He became an interrogator of prisoners and in 1944 and 1945 he served in five major campaigns — Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe — prior to VE Day in May 1945.

On Christmas Eve 1944, as the Battle of the Bulge was raging in northern Luxembourg and Belgium, Eugene was able to get to Kayl and reunite with his mother and grandmother for the first time in over four years. Quite a story!

After the war, Sophie finally returned to the U.S. to reunite with Maury in Washington. Maury continued his stamp business in the U.S. into the 1950s. I'm not sure when he finally retired, perhaps one of our readers can help determine that.

Maury's son, Eugene, had a distinguished post-war career with the Central Intelligence Agency, Strategic Air Command, and Defense Intelligence Agency, retiring in 1980.

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1929

GENERAL PRICE LIST
OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

MAURY SWARTZ
KAYL

LUXEMBURG (EUROPE)

MEMBER Stamp Trade Protective Association.
American Philatelic Society.
Soc. of Phil. Americans (since 1910).

TERMS: Cash in advance. All prices are strictly net in U.S. currency.

Remittance shall be made by cash in registred letter. Draft on any U.S. Bank, or personnal check accepted if 10 cent is added for cashing.

All quatations subject to alternation or cancellation without notice.

All my stamps are guaranteed and in perfect condition, or money refunded.

Orders of a less amount than 1 Dollar are respectfully declined. Postage add 10 cents with each order.

Bankers: Banque Général de Luxembourg.

MY SPECIAL

200 all different stamps
of LUXEMBOURG
mint and used, a VERY nice
collection with complete sets. ONLY \$ 6.00 Postpaid.

The title page from Maury Swartz's 1929 general price list.