
CASTELLUM



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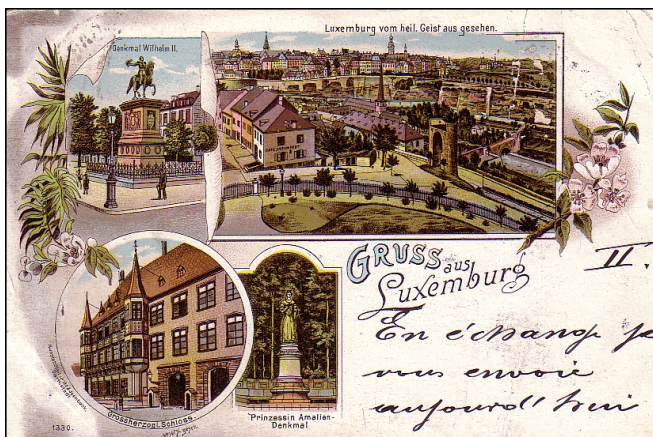
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Vol. 12, No. 2 (whole #46)

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September 2008

President's Message by Gary Little



To the left you will find an attractive pictorial “Gruss aus” postcard I recently acquired which shows various scenes in Luxembourg-Ville — the William II statue, Holy Spirit plateau, Grand Ducal Palace, and Princess Amelie statue.

It is postmarked 1898, quite an early use for this type of postcard. Similar cards exist for many other small towns in Luxembourg though it seems the smaller the town the rarer — and the more expensive — the card. Assembling a complete collection would definitely be a challenge, but the result would be spectacular.

Scarce, Illegal, and Legal Uses of the 1-Rpf Hindenburg in Luxembourg During the World War II German Occupation by Allan F. Wichelman

1. Introduction

Some of the most interesting Luxembourg covers are those from the World War II German occupation of the Grand Duchy. For the knowledgeable philatelist, they present abundant opportunities to find philatelic treasures — often at very reasonable prices — amidst dealers' stocks at show bourses, on eBay or Delcampe, and in European auctions. Some of these treasures are showcased in this article.

Luxembourg was occupied on May 10, 1940. The Grand Duchy's stamps remained valid until October 1, 1940.¹ They were replaced on that date by 16 denominations of Germany's Hindenburg Médaillon series overprinted 'Luxembourg,' with face values ranging from 3 Rpf. to

¹ Mixed Luxembourg and Hindenburg frankings were allowed (some say “tolerated”) on October 1 and October 2.

100 Rpf. Curiously, the lowest denomination of the Hindenburg series — the 1 Rpf. Hindenburg — was never overprinted. However, in response to local demands, an unknown quantity of the un-overprinted 1 Rpf. was made available to pay the 1-Rpf. newspaper wrapper (or *zeitungssachen*) rate for locally delivered newspapers. This rate remained in effect only from October 1 to the end of 1940, just 92 days.² According to M. C. Gilhousen writing in the GERMAN POSTAL SPECIALIST, the 1 Rpf. Hindenburg:

was occasionally used for other purposes but was assessed postage due at the 150 percent rate when detected. In many cases, postage due charges were not assessed. Keep your eyes open for the 1 Pf used in Luxembourg between November 30, 1940 and April 1, 1941. They are very rare.³

Gilhousen's reference to November 30, 1940, suggests that the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg might not have been available in Luxembourg until that date, in which case the period of sole use on newspaper wrappers would have been only 31 days. His reference to April 1, 1941, is to the date on which use of all German stamps was permitted in Luxembourg.

2. Scarce, Illegal and Legal Uses



Illus. 1 — Use of the 1 Rpf. Hindenburg on a newspaper wrapper, **December 31, 1940.**

2(a) — *Scarce newspaper wrapper use:* While the covers Gilhousen refers to in his article indeed are scarce, the wrapper shown in Illus. 1 is even scarcer. It shows the 1 Rpf. Hindenburg properly used as sole franking on a newspaper wrapper endorsed "*Zeitungsdruksache*" and postmarked Luxembourg [a], December 31, 1940, the last day of the 1-Rpf. *zeitungssachen* rate. The wrapper was

² See Basien & Hoffkamp, TARIFE DER BRIEFPOST IN LUXEMBURG 1852-2002, p. 62.

³ "The Frugal Philatelist," pp. 187-194 (May 1995). See also Marcel Starr, DAS POSTWESEN IN LUXEMBURG WÄHREND DER DEUTSCHER BESETZUNG IM 2. WELTKRIEG 10.5.1940-10.9.1944 (Luxembourg 1983).

used to send an issue of the LUXEMBURGER VOLKSBLATT newspaper to a local subscriber. Thus far, I believe the only other reported example of this use is a similar wrapper in Dieter Basien's collection, which is illustrated at p. 214 of the Basien-Hoffkamp rate book. But other examples likely remain to be discovered. I would welcome scans of any examples our readers might have secreted away in their collections.



Illus. 2 — *Illegal Use of a pair of the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg on a 12-Rpf, 20-g letter, posted February 6, 1941.*

2(b) — *Illegal uses (with and without penalty):* As Gilhousen points out, before April 1, 1941, the 1 Rpf. Hindenburg could only be used to frank wrappers for locally mailed newspapers. Thus, Illus. 2 shows an *illegal* use of a pair of the 1 Rpf. in combination with a pair of the 3+2 Rpf. overprinted Winter Welfare semi-postal and a 4-Rpf. Charlotte surcharge on a 20-g letter posted February 6, 1941, from Luxembourg-Ville to Duisburg, Germany. However, no penalty was assessed despite the illegal use. Illus. 3 shows a similar un-penalized illegal use on an 82-Rpf. registered, special delivery cover.

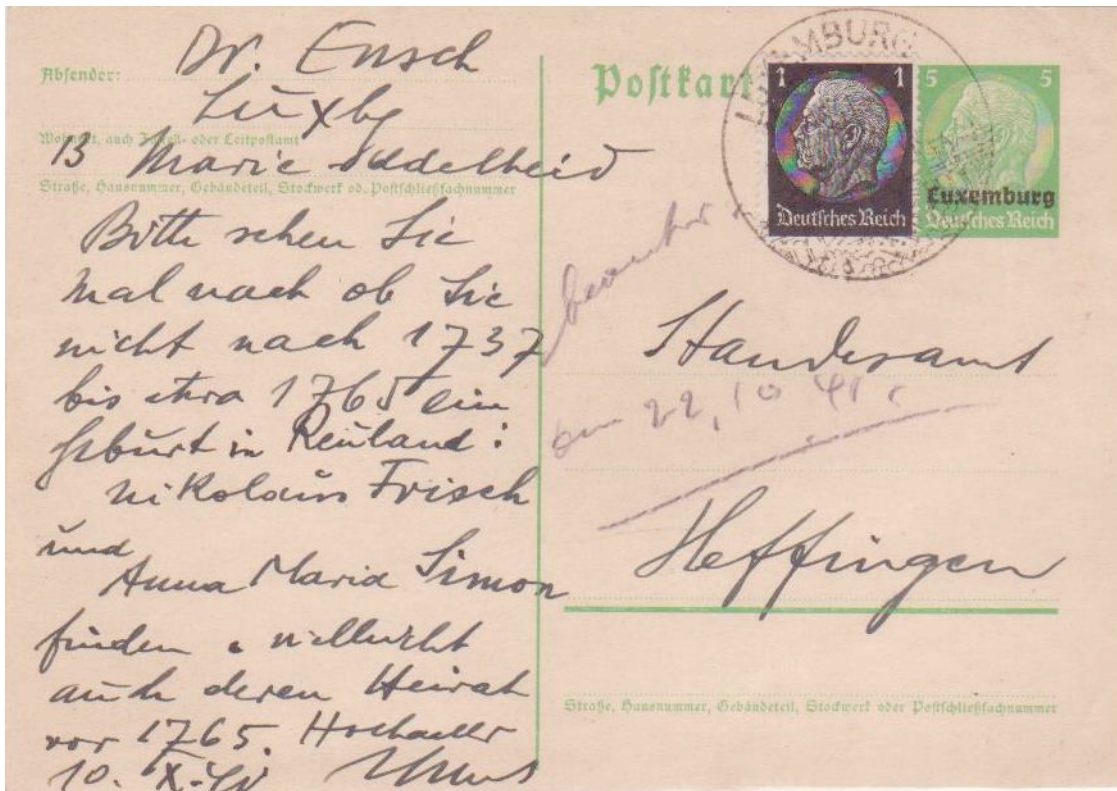
In contrast, the 82-Rpf. registered, special delivery cover shown in Illus. 4, which was posted on March 3, 1941, was properly penalized 3-Rpf. (150%) for the illegal use of a pair of the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg [blue crayon 'T 0.03' with the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg pair marked off and not cancelled].



Illus. 3 — *Illegal use of two 1 Rpf. Hindenburgs on an 82-Rpf registered, special delivery letter [30 + 40 + 12 Rpf.], sent from Petingen, December 31, 1940, to Braunschweig, Germany. As in Illus. 2, no penalty was assessed.*



Illus. 4 — *Attempt to illegally pay 2-Rpf. of the 82-Rpf. postage and registry and special delivery fees with a pair of the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg on a letter from Düdelingen, March 3, 1941, transit Luxemburg, to Mainz, Germany, the next day. The illegal use was detected and correctly penalized 3 Rpf. (150% of the 2-Rpf. illegality).*



Illus. 5 — Legal Use of the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg on **October 10, 1941**, to uprate a 5-Rpf. local postal card to the 6-Rpf. domestic postal card rate, sent from Luxembourg to Heffingen.



Illus. 6 — Legal Use of the 1 Rpf. Hindenburg on **December 12, 1941**, on a 12-Rpf. 20-g letter from Luxembourg to Markkleeberg, Germany.

2(c) — *Legal use:* From April 1 to December 31, 1941, all German stamps could be used in Luxembourg, and as of January 1, 1942, use of German stamps was required. Illus. 5 and 6 show *legal* uses of the 1-Rpf. Hindenburg after March 31, 1941.

3. Conclusion

Keep the dates shown in Table 1 in mind when you rummage through dealers' dollar boxes or scrutinize the offerings in auctions and on the Internet. And don't forget to share with us your findings!

Table 1 — Philatelically Significant Dates During WWII

Validity Period		Uses Allowed
May 10 1940	Oct 1-2 1940	Luxembourg pre-occupation stamps & stationery
Oct 1 1940	Dec 31 1941	Un-overprinted 1-Rpf. Hindenburg on newspaper wrappers
Oct 1 1940	Dec 31 1941	Hindenburg overprints & stationery
Dec 5 1940	Mar 31 1941	Surcharged Luxembourg stamps
Jan 12 1941	Jun 30 1941	Overprinted German Winter Welfare semi-postals
Apr 1 1941	Dec 31 1941	All then-valid German stamps permitted
		Alsace and Lorraine overprints
Jan 1 1942	Sep 10 1944	German stamps required; all others invalidated

Many philatelic treasures from the World War II occupation remain to be discovered. Uses of the higher denomination overprinted Hindenburgs tend to be found mostly on international airmail covers. But sole use of the lowly 1-Rpf. un-overprinted Hindenburg can be found only on newspaper wrappers used between October 1 (or possibly November 30) and December 31, 1940. This use undoubtedly is the scarcest of all the Hindenburg uses in Luxembourg during the World War II occupation. Happy hunting!

Letter Rates to France Between World Wars I and II (1919-1939), Part 1

by Gary Little

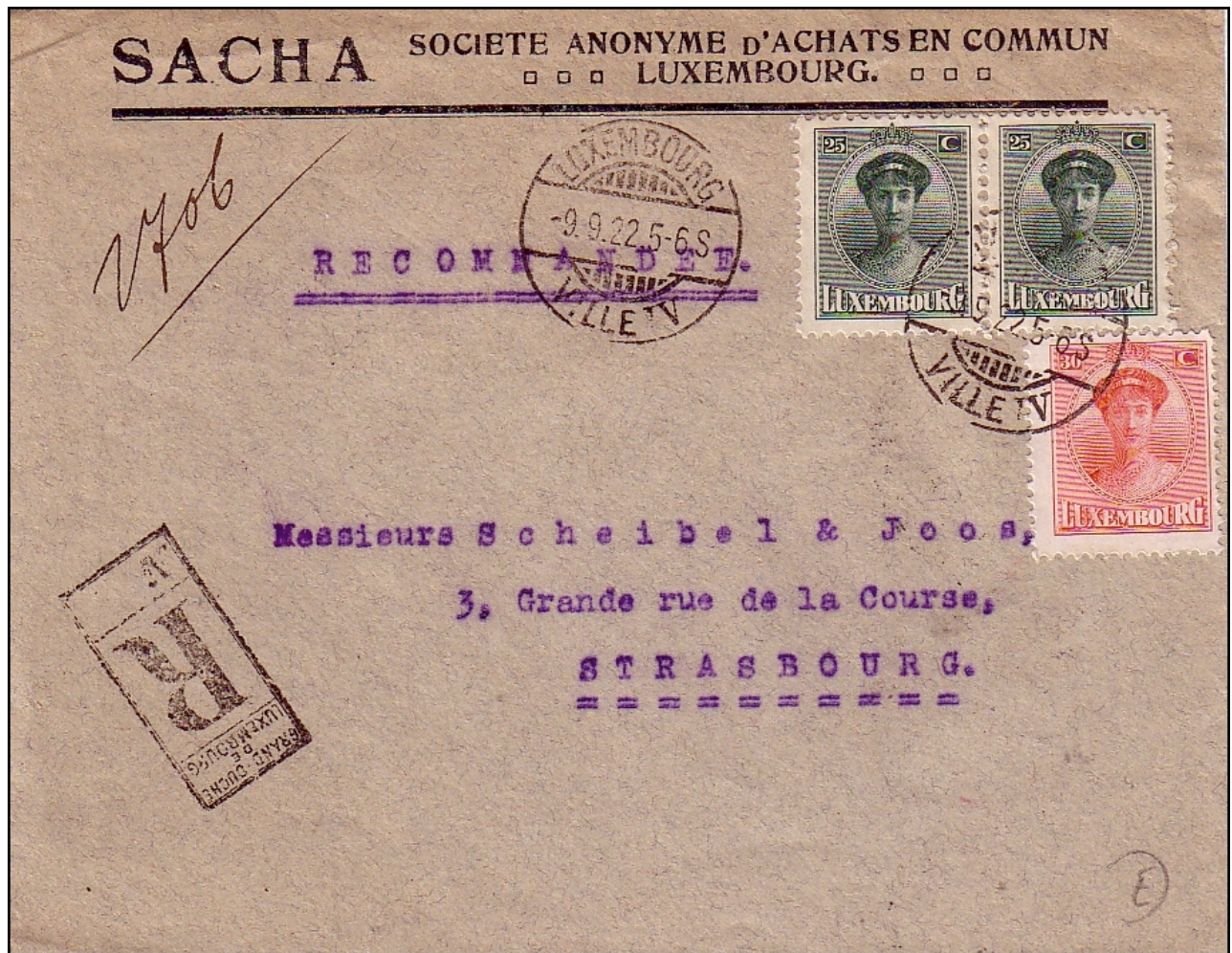
Mail to France from Luxembourg has always enjoyed a preferential postal tariff, discounted from the UPU rates established for most other countries of the world. In this article I describe, with examples, the standard 20 g letter rates for the period from 1919 until the German occupation of World War II. There were seven rate changes during this inflationary period.

January 1, 1919	15c	15c for each additional 20 g
September 1, 1920	25c	20-50 g: 40c, 50-100 g: 50c, over 100 g: 50c + 15c per 100 g over 100 g
May 10, 1921	30c	20c for each additional 20 g
October 1, 1925	50c	30c for each additional 20 g
August 1, 1926	75c	40c for each additional 20 g
December 15, 1927	100c	60c for each additional 20 g
December 1, 1929	125c	75c for each additional 20 g

I have examples of the use of six of these rates, missing only the 25c rate period which lasted only a little over eight months in 1920-1921.



17.12.1919 Dommeldange to Paris
15c (letter, 1st weight class)



09.09.1922 Luxembourg-Ville to Strasbourg
80c = 30c (letter, 1st weight class) + 50c (registration fee)



17.01.1926 Luxembourg-Ville to Strasbourg
50c (letter, 1st weight class)



07.02.1927 Luxembourg-Gare to Lunéville
75c (letter, 1st weight class)

[to be continued in the next issue of *Castellum*]