

## The “POSTES RELAIS” Cancellations of Luxembourg

Among the 17 postal relais existing in 1881, 13 did not yet possess a cancelling device. These 13 offices received a two ring obliterator with the inscription “POSTES RELAIS”, followed by the number of the relais (see Postal Instruction No. 115/2906, dated 9 August 1881) but without hour indication. The postal relais were: Arsdorf (No. 1), Bissen (No. 2), Differdange (No. 3), Kautenbach (No. 4), Mamer (No. 5), Oetrange (No. 6), Bettingen (No. 7), Rambrouch (No. 8), Reisdorf (No. 9), Strassen (No. 10), Walferdange (No. 11), Wecker (No. 12) and Wilwerwiltz (No. 13).

The cancel “POSTES RELAIS No. 4” was transferred on 1 April 1883 to the relais of Dalheim.

The relais of Beaufort, opened on 1 June 1889 received the cancel “Postes Relais Nr. 14”.

The standard color of the cancels is usually black for all post offices, but there are also cancels in blue, lilac or on very rare occasions - green.

The outside diameter of the cancels is 25, 25.5 or 26 mm, the inside diameter of the double circle is always 15 mm.

At the end of the year 1891 the “POSTES RELAIS” cancellation devices are all replaced by a two ring circle with the name of the town on it.

These towns were at the time very small, often with a few hundred inhabitants. In first years of usage of the cancels the stamps and postal stationery shown are of the classic “Coat of Arms” design. In later years they get replaced by stamps with the “Allegory” design.



Postal stationery from Arsdorf to Walferdange, transiting Luxembourg-Gare (post office near the trains station); POSTES RELAIS No. 1 cancel in blue (7.1.1887), transit cancel LUXEMBOURG-GARE II (7.1.1887 – 8-12 S) and arrival cancel POSTES RELAIS No. 11 (8.1.1887) in black.

Postage 5 Centimes, postal tariff valid from 1.10.1877

Literature: N. Poos, Die Post des Großherzogtums Luxemburg, 1951, Buchdruckerei P. Linden, Luxemburg  
D. Basien / F. Hoffkamp, Tarife der Briefpost in Luxemburg 1852 – 2002, Luxemburg



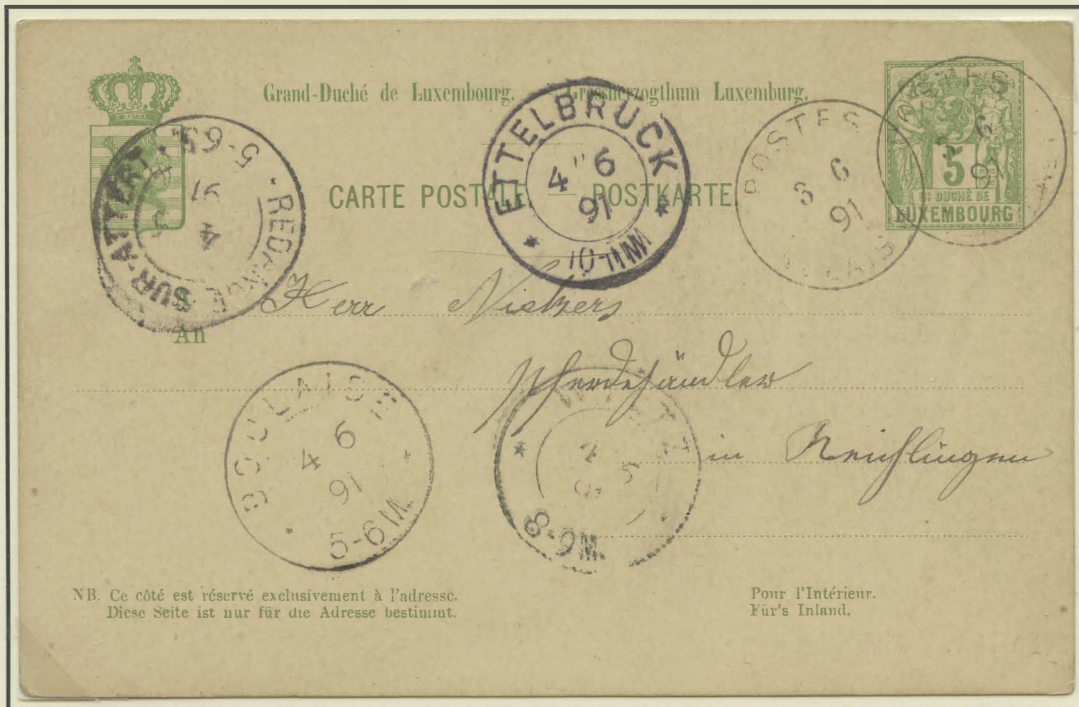
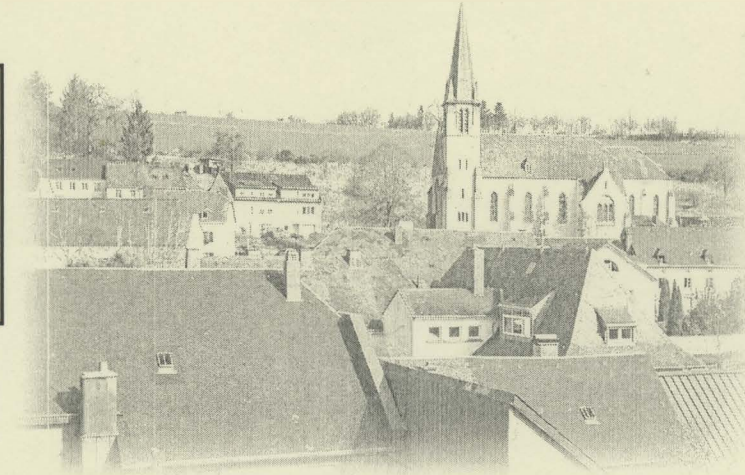
## POSTES RELAIS No. 1 (Arsdorf)

Relais transferred from Bigonville on 19.6.1880

Parcel and postal service from 24.7.1880

Usage of Cancel: 4.1.1882 – 3.6.1891

Diameter: 25-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, blue-green



Postal stationery from Bondorf (small hamlet near Arsdorf) to Räichel (Canton Redange-Sur-Attart)  
 POSTES RELAIS No. 1 (3.6.1891) – **latest registered usage**, two ring transit cancel BOULAIDE (4.6.1891 5-6 M),  
 transit cancel WILTZ (4.6.1891 8-9 M), transit cancel ETTTELBRUCK (4.6.1891 10-11 M) and arrival cancel  
 REDANGE-SUR-ATTERT (4.6.1891 5-6 S), all in black  
 Postage 5 Centimes, postal tariff valid from 1.10.1877



## POSTES RELAIS No. 2 (Bissen)

Relais with Parcel Agency service: 22.7.1880

Usage of Cancel: 12.9.1881 – 13.12.1891

Diameter: 25.5-15 mm – Color: Black



Last registered usage



Postal stationery (Mandat Postal) from Luxembourg-City via Mersch to Bissen – payment was refused (see note on back written by the carrier) and subsequently returned to Luxembourg

On front: Two strikes of the two ring cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE IV (20.10.1883)

On back: One ring cancel MERSCH (20.10.1883), POSTES RELAYS No. 2 (22.10.1883 and 24.10.1883), two ring transit arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE I (24.10.1883), all in black

Postage 10 Centimes, postal tariff valid from 1.10.1877 + 20 Centimes registration fee

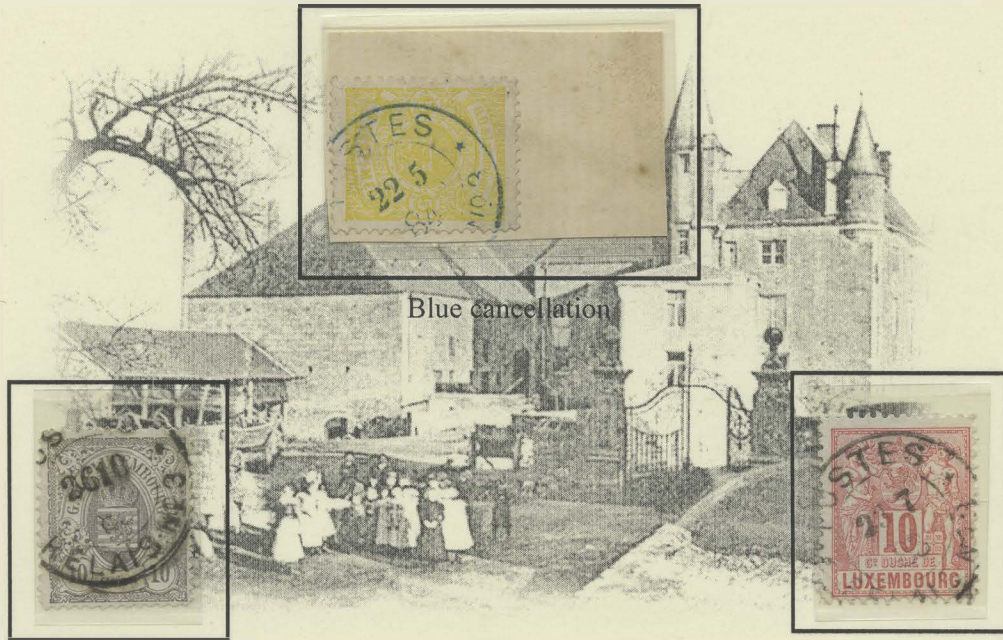


# POSTES RELAIS No. 3 (Differdange)

Relais: 4.4.1874

Usage of Cancel: 27.2.1882 – 1.4.1890

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, green



Postal stationery from Differdange via Luxembourg-City to Paris  
POSTES RELAIS No. 3 (26.10.1883) two ring transit cancel LUXEMBOURG-GARE 2 (26.10.1883 10-11 M),  
French train cancel AVRINCOURT A PARIS (26.10.1883), all in black  
Postage 10 Centimes, UPU postcard tariff valid from 1.4.1879

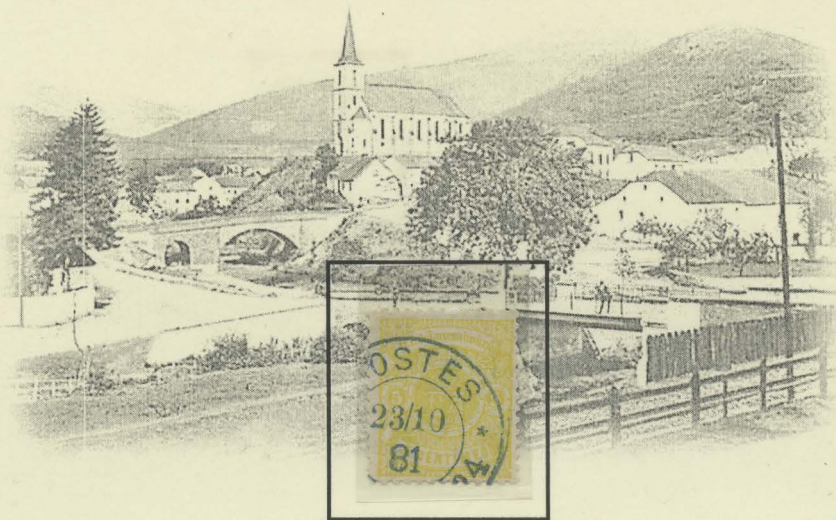


# POSTES RELAIS No. 4 (Kautenbach)

Relais: 1.1.1876

Usage of Cancel: from.1881 – 31.3.1883

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black, blue



Blue cancellation



Postal stationery from Kautenbach to Useldange (near Ettelbrück)

One ring cancel KAUTENBACH (4.7.1889 6-7 N(achts)), two ring arrival cancel ETTTELBRUCK (26.10.1883 7-8 S),  
all in black

Postage 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877

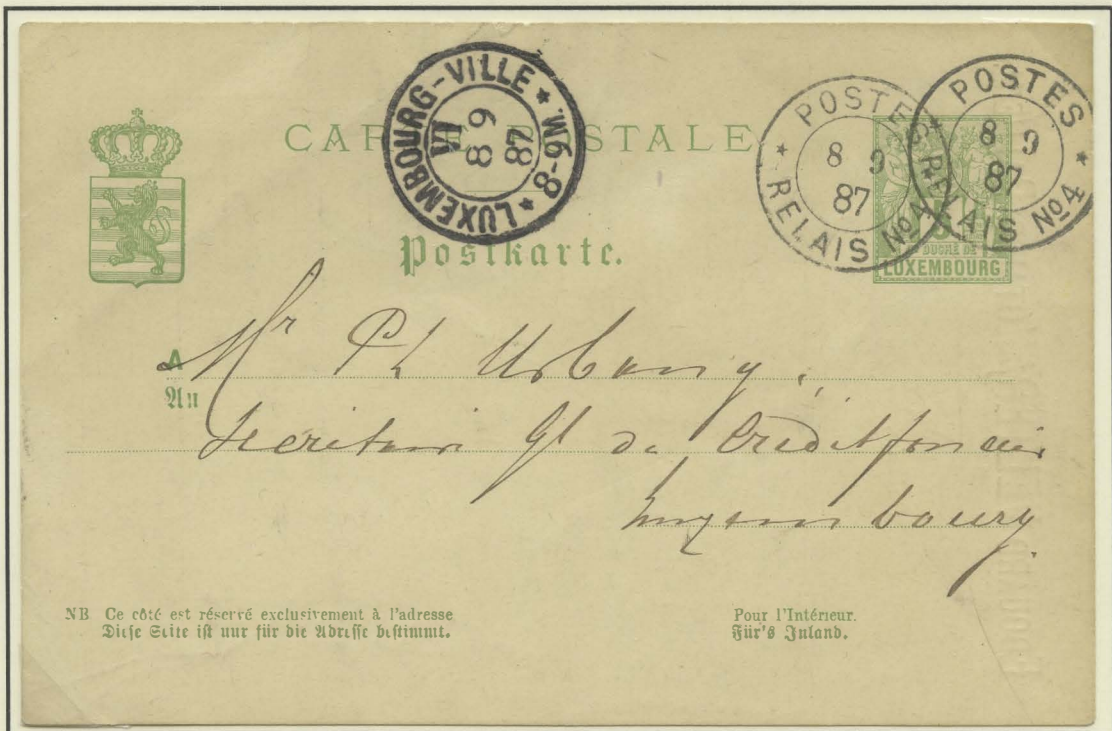
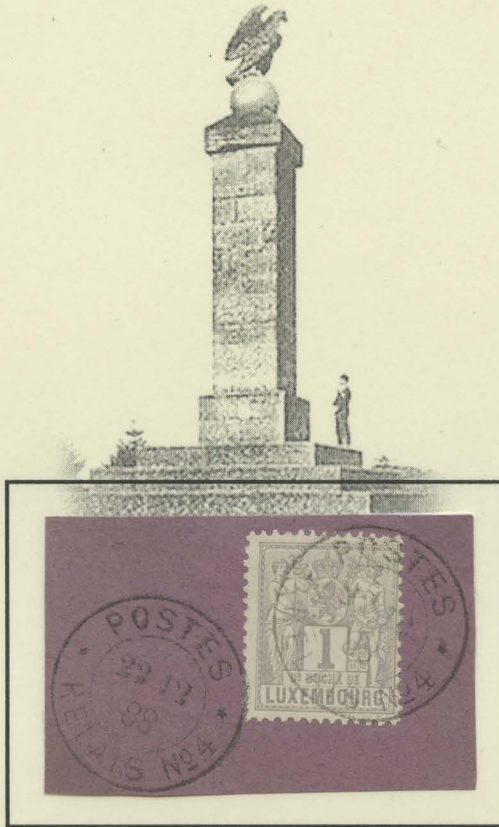


# POSTES RELAIS No. 4 (Dalheim)

Relais: 1.4.1883

Usage of Cancel: 1.4.1883 – 8.8.1890

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black



Postal stationery from Dalheim to Luxembourg-City

POSTES RELAIS No. 4 (8.9.1887), two ring arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE VI (8.9.1887 8-9 M)

Postage 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877



# POSTES RELAIS No. 5 (Mamer)

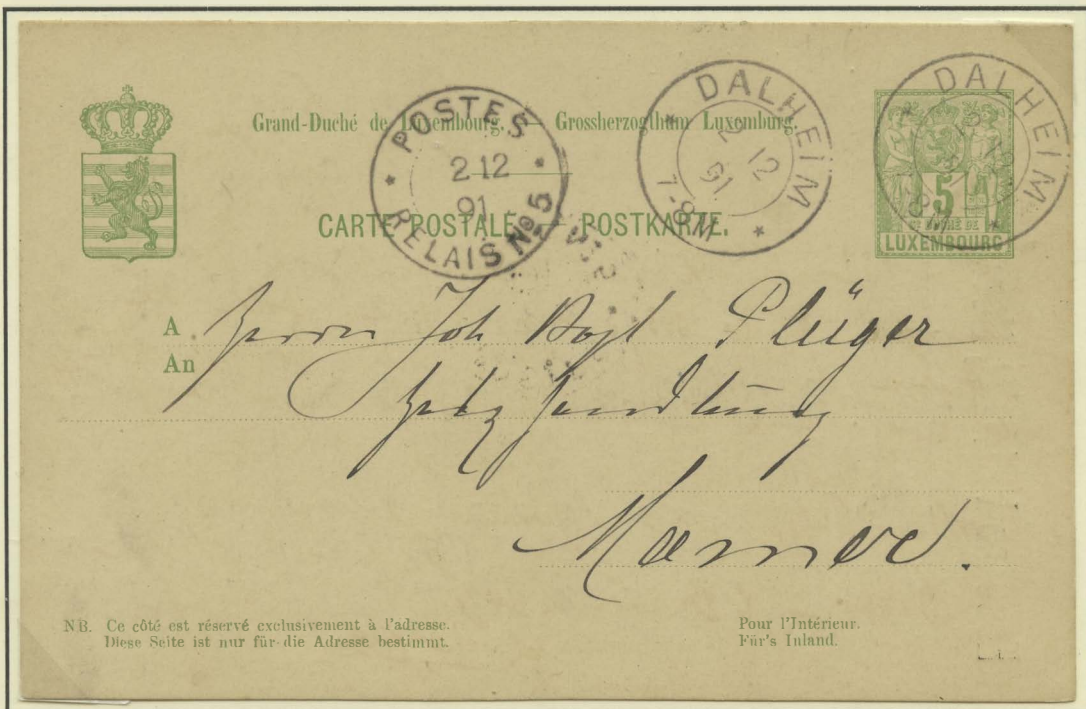
Relais: 28.4.1860, Packet agency. 1.7.1873

Usage of Cancel: 21.2.1881 – 2.12.1891

Diameter: 25-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, lilac



Lilac cancellation



Postal stationery from Dalheim to Mamer

Two ring cancel DALHEIM (2.12.1891 7-8 M), POSTES RELAIS No. 5 (2.12.1891) – latest recorded usage

Postage 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877

# POSTES RELAIS No. 6 (Oetrange)

Relais: 1.9.1866, Packet agency. 1.7.1873

Usage of Cancel: 24.4.1882 – 28.12.1891

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, lilac



Postal stationery from Oetrange to Antwerp, transiting Luxembourg-Station  
POSTES RELAIS No. 6 (10.10.1882), one ring cancel LUXEMBOURG-GARE (10.10.1882 7-8 S), arrival cancel of  
ANVERS (11.10.1883 – 12 M), carrier cancel 45  
Postage 10 Centimes, UPU postcard tariff valid from 1.4.1879



# POSTES RELAIS No. 7 (Bettingen)

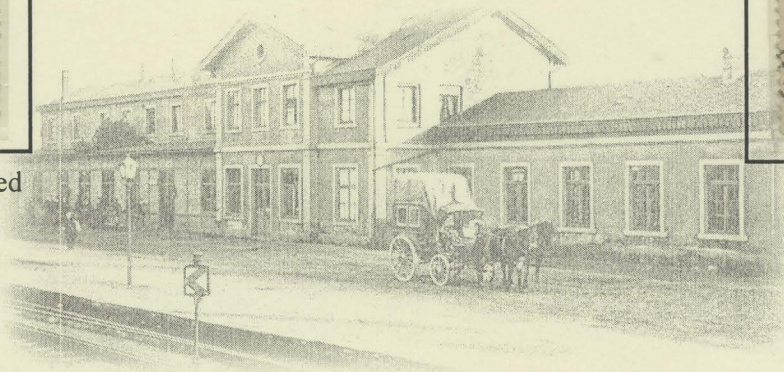
Relais: 1.5.1877

Usage of Cancel: 16.10.1881 – 3.12.1888

Diameter: 25-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, lilac



Earliest recorded usage



Postal stationery from Bettingen to Luxembourg  
POSTES RELAIS No. 7 (23.11.1881), one ring arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG (23.11.1881 8-9 N),  
Postage 5 Centimes, internal postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877



# POSTES RELAIS No. 8 (Rambrouch)

Relais transferred from Wolwelange: 19.6.1880

Packet Agency: 19.7.1880

Usage of Cancel: 14.9.1881 – 6.11.1890

Diameter: 25-15 mm – Color: Black, blue-green, lilac



Postal stationery from Rambrouch to Wiltz via Redange  
POSTES RELAIS No. 8 (22.11.1881) in lilac, one ring transit cancel REDANGE (22.11.1881 8 N(acht),  
Postage 5 Centimes, internal postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877



# POSTES RELAIS No. 9 (Reisdorf)

Relais: 1.2.1879, Packet Agency: 22.7.1880

Usage of Cancel: 28.9.1881 – 9.11.1891

Diameter: 25.5 -15 mm – Color: Black



Latest recorded usage



Postal stationery from Reisdorf per train via Bastogne to Antwerp  
 POSTES RELAIS No. 9 (12.11.1883), train cancel LUXEMBURG-ULFLINGEN (12.11.1883 – 5-6 N), one ring arrival cancel ANVERS (12.11.1881 6 M), Carrier Cancel 47

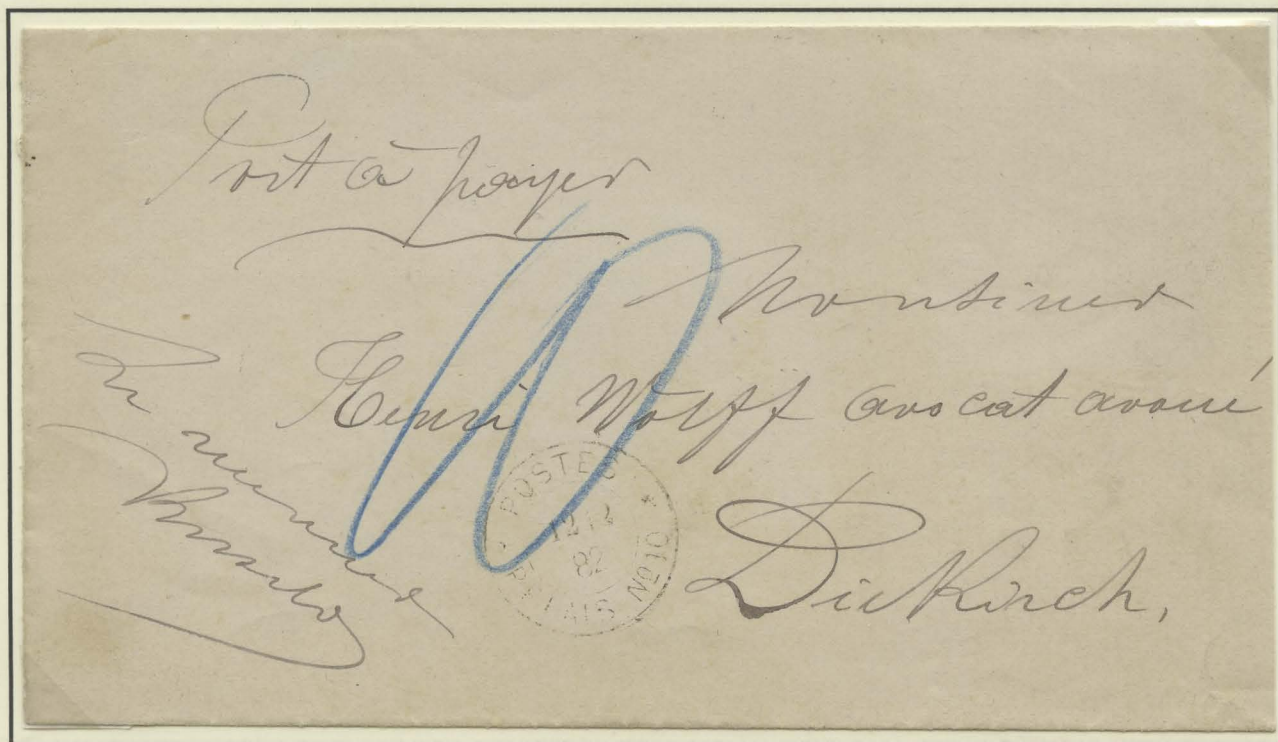


# POSTES RELAIS No. 10 (Strassen)

Relais: 20.2.1878

Usage of Cancel: 23.12.1881 – 25.5.1892

Diameter: 25 -15 mm – Color: Black



Letter from Strassen to Diekirch

POSTES RELAIS No. 10 (12.12.1882), on back one ring transit cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE (12.12.1882 8-9 S),  
one ring arrival cancel DIEKIRCH (12.11.1883 – 8-9 M)

Postage due 10 Centimes, inland letter rate for up to 15 gram, valid from 1.10.1877

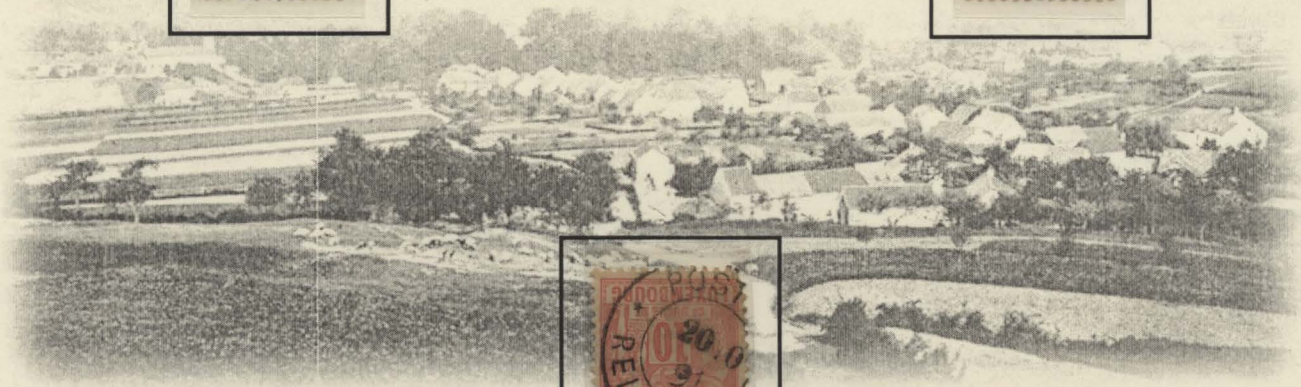


# POSTES RELAIS No. 11 (Walferdange)

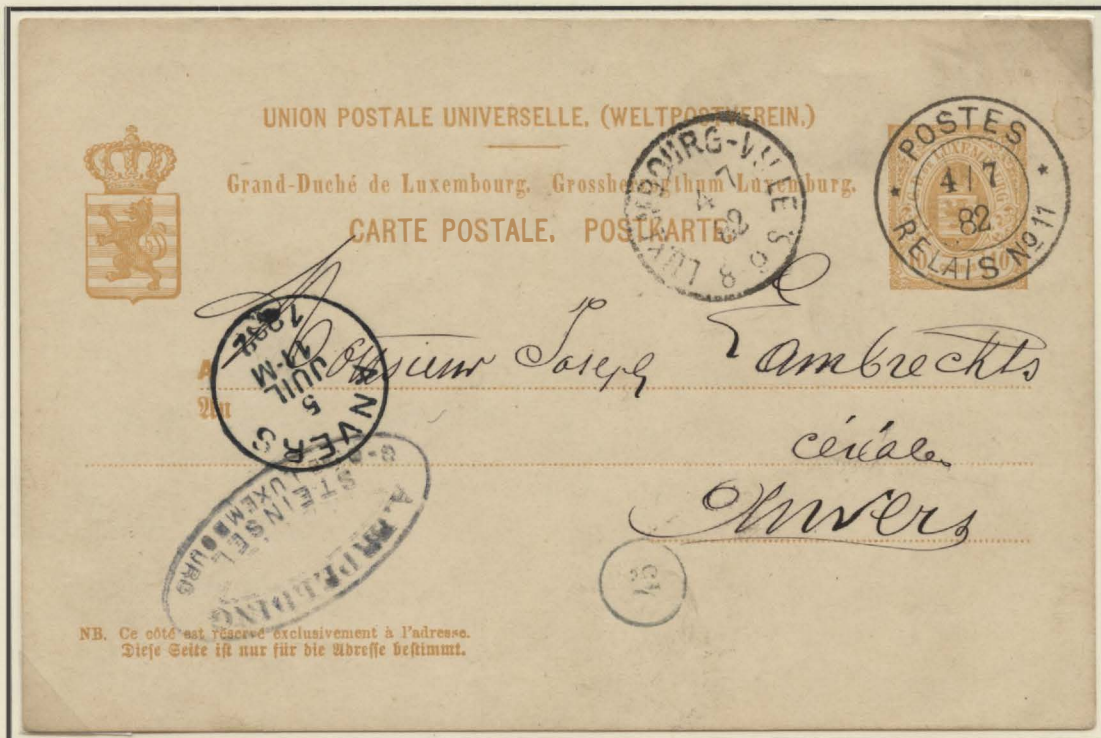
Relais: 6.4.1876

Usage of Cancel: from 8.9.1881 – 20.10.1891

Diameter: 25.5-15 mm – Color: Black



Last recorded usage



Postal stationery from Walferdange to Antwerp via Luxembourg

POSTES RELAIS No. 11 (4.7.1882), one ring cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE (4.7.1882 8-9 S), arrival cancel of ANVERS (5.7.1883 – 12 M), carrier cancel 45

Postage 10 Centimes, UPU postcard tariff valid from 1.4.1879



# POSTES RELAIS No. 12 (Wecker)

Relais: 1.10.1879

Usage of Cancel: from 12.10.1881 – 26.9.1891

Diameter: 25.5-15 mm – Color: Black



Postal stationery from Wecker to Luxembourg

POSTES RELAIS No. 12 (23.1.1883), one ring arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG (23.1.1883 9-10 V(ormittags))

Postage 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877



## POSTES RELAIS No. 13 (Wilwerwiltz)

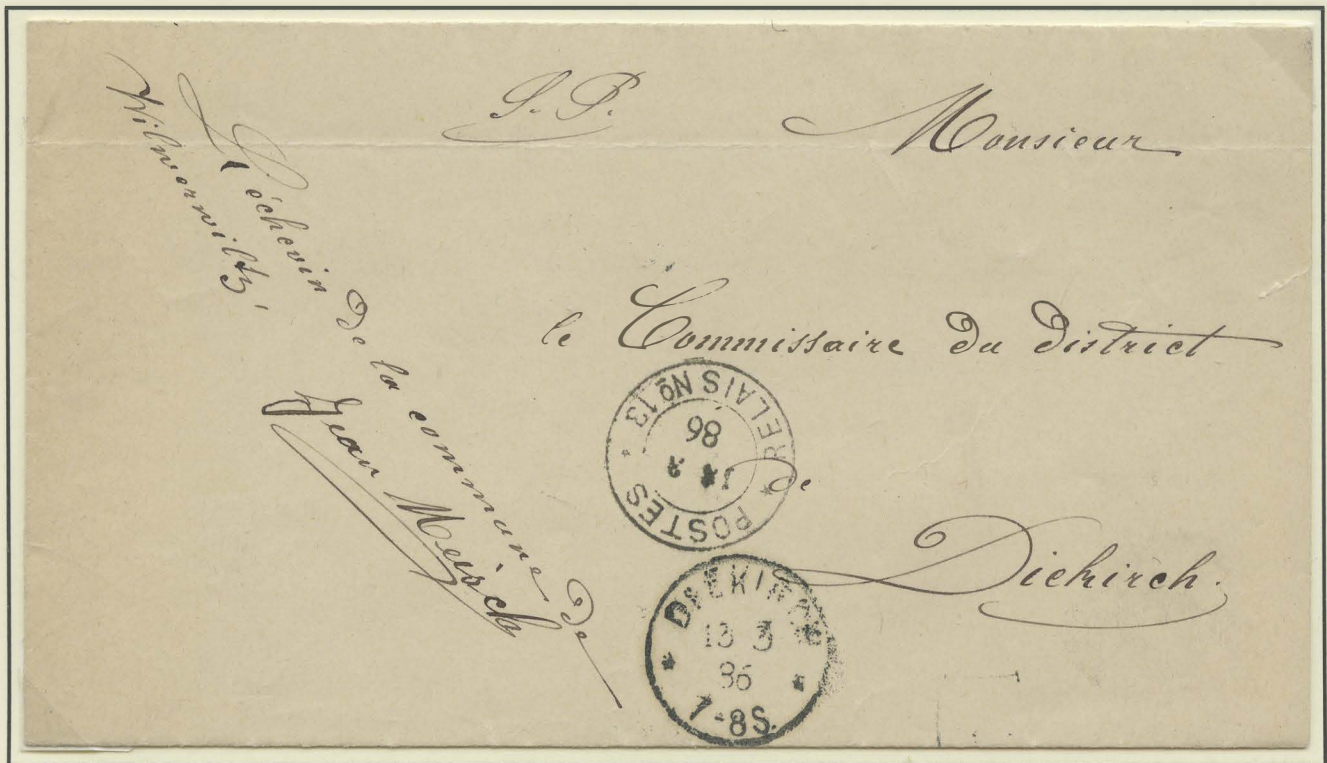
Relais: 23.3.1867, upgrade to Parcel Agency: 1.7.1873

Usage of Cancel: 12.9.1881 – 2.9.1891

Diameter: 25-15 mm – Colors: Black and Blue



Last recorded usage



Public Service letter (notation S.P.) from Wilwerwiltz to Diekirch

POSTES RELAIS No. 13 (13.3.1886), single ring receiver from DIEKIRCH 13.3.1886 – 7-8 S(oir)

Official letters (Service Public) are sent free of postage within the borders of Luxembourg by the postal service; the sender just had to sign on the front of the letter



# POSTES RELAIS No. 14 (Beaufort)

Relais: 1.6.1889

Usage of Cancel: 17.6.1889

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black



Discovery copy –  
only two registered



Postal stationery from Ettelbrück to the small hamlet of Bigelbach near Reisdorf  
Two ring cancel ETTTELBRUCK (13.3.1890 – 6-7 M), two ring arrival cancel BEAUFORT (13.3.1890 – 9-10 M),  
both in black

Postage 5 Centimes, postal tariff valid from 1.10.1877