

EUROPEAN CLASSICS

XXVII. LUXEMBOURG

The Grand Duchy of *Luxembourg*, one of the small countries of Europe, covered during its classic stamp period an area of almost 1000 square miles, with a population of more than 180,000 in 1852 which had increased to 205,000 in 1875. Situated between the Ardennes and Eifel mountains, it bordered to the west and north on Belgium (Provinces of Luxembourg and Liège), to the east on Prussia (Rhine Province), to the south on Lorraine (which belonged to France until 1871 and from then on to Germany) and to the southwest on France (Moselle Department). The capital, *Luxembourg*, had over 15,000 inhabitants in 1875. The language of the population was a German dialect which was strongly influenced by French, but the official language was French.

Luxembourg's History is colorful. Considering its small size, its influence on the affairs of neighboring countries was extraordinary. The territory was first settled by several Celtic tribes. It was invaded by the Romans who made it part of their Belgica Prima province. In 260 A. D., under Emperor Gallienus, they founded a fortified camp on the site of the later city of Luxembourg. After the decline of the Roman Empire, the territory first became part of the Frankish Kingdom of Austrasia and later of the Empire of Charlemagne. In 738 the Abbot of Treves (Trier) built a castle at the later site of the city of Luxembourg and called it Lucilienburg. The first move to make the territory a separate political entity was made in 953, when Sigefroy, Count of the Ardennes, became the ruler of the territory and acquired the castle, which was then called Lützelburg and later became Luxembourg, to give the country its name. His descendants ruled the country for more than four centuries and became very influential in Germany and France. One of them, Count Conrad, took the title of Count of Luxembourg in 1060. A branch of the family gravitated to France and became rather influential at the French Royal Court, but the main line of the Luxembourg family was successfully involved in German politics. In 1308, Count Henry III became, as Heinrich IV, the first German Emperor of the House of Luxembourg, and three more

German Emperors, Karl IV, Wenzel I and Sigismund I, were also chosen from the rulers of the little country. Heinrich IV's son, Johann the Blind, became King of Bohemia in 1310. Emperor Karl IV elevated the country to a duchy. By marriage, the country passed to the House of Habsburg, but it was seized in 1443 by Duke Philip III of Burgundy. Regained in 1477 by the Habsburgs, it passed in 1555 to Philip II of Spain. During the long wars between Spain and France in the 17th century, Luxembourg lost part of its territory in the south to France. In 1684 the entire country was seized by France which held it until 1697. During that time, under Louis XIV, the famous French military architect Vauban built the fortifications of the city of Luxembourg, considered at that time as being the strongest on the European continent. In 1697, the country was regained by Spain which formed with it, together with Belgium, the Spanish Netherlands. In 1713, by the treaty of Utrecht, the Spanish Netherlands passed to Austria and became the Austrian Netherlands. In 1795, French revolutionary armies occupied the duchy and incorporated it, as the Département des Forêts (No. 98) in the French Republic. It remained French until 1815, when the Congress of Vienna made it a Grand Duchy. It was given to the House of Orange-Nassau, the rulers of the Netherlands, as compensation for the loss of their homeland, Nassau, which was given to Prussia. In the treaty, Luxembourg lost part of its territory in the east to Prussia. The Grand Duchy was nominally declared independent, King Willem I of the Netherlands being also the Grand Duke of Luxembourg. At the same time it became a member of the German Confederation. A garrison of federal troops was to occupy the Luxembourg fortress, and this was delegated to Prussia, which did so in 1815. The personal union with the Netherlands remained in force during the whole classic stamp period. When Belgium revolted in 1830, Luxembourg joined in this movement, but the city of Luxembourg remained loyal to the Netherlands due to the Prussian garrison there. Luxembourg was originally incorporated in the new Kingdom of Belgium, but the London Treaty of 1839 again made the country independent, re-

maining in personal union with the Netherlands. But more than half of the territory of the Grand Duchy, the French-Walloon part, was given to Belgium, which formed of it the province of Luxembourg. Luxembourg had become a small country, left with only about one quarter of the area it had in the middle ages. In 1840, King Willem I was succeeded by Willem II who gave the country its first constitution, reaffirming its independence. In 1842, the country became a member of the German customs union. Willem III ascended the throne in 1849 and ruled until long after the end of the classic stamp period. He had entrusted the rule of the Grand Duchy to his brother Henryk who acted as prince-lieutenant of the king. After the dissolution of the German Confederation, a treaty signed in London on March 11, 1867 guaranteed the independence and neutrality of the grand duchy. The Prussian troops departed on August 24, 1867, and the fortress was dismantled in 1872.

The *Postal History* of Luxembourg goes back to the early 16th century, when in 1504 the Tassis family established the first mail line from Brussels, the capital of the Spanish Netherlands, to Vienna which touched on Luxembourg soil. A Tassis post office was established in the city early in the 17th century which was connected in 1680 by branch lines to Brussels and Trier. With short interruptions, the Thurn & Taxis mail service served the territory until 1795, establishing a few post offices and employing the first mail carriers. When the French occupied the territory in 1795, they closed the Thurn & Taxis post offices and established their own postal system, opening a post office in Luxembourg City and eight branch post offices. From 1814 to 1815, the Thurn & Taxis mail service again took over, but in 1815 it definitely lost its foothold in the territory which became part of the 5th postal district of the Netherlands. When the revolution of 1830 started, Belgian postal service was installed, except in Luxembourg City, where Netherlands postal service remained in charge. On June 22, 1839, the newly established Luxembourg government took over the mail service in the whole country. By a decree of November 9, 1841, a separate postal administration was created which started operations on January 1, 1842. The postal system was modeled after that of the Netherlands, the number of post

offices increased, and mail boxes were installed. Only letter mail was handled, while parcel service and money letters were left to private initiative. On January 1, 1852, Luxembourg became a member of the German-Austrian Postal Union. In 1858, it participated in a postal treaty between Prussia, France and Belgium which introduced reduced rates between these countries. In 1859 the first railroad was opened, between Luxembourg City and Troisvierges. In 1867, a postal treaty with the North German Confederation replaced the German-Austrian Postal Union, providing for domestic rates between the two countries; this was extended in 1871 to the newly established German Empire. In 1873, the postal administration took the parcel post service in its own hands. On July 1, 1875, Luxembourg became one of the founding members of the Universal Postal Union.

Three kinds of *post offices* existed in Luxembourg. The regular post offices were called "Perceptories", they were directly supervised by the postal administration and had a complete mail service. A few such post offices, "Sub-Perceptories", were subordinated to perceptories. Branch post offices, called "Agencies", were dependent on perceptories or sub-perceptories. Letter collecting agencies, which had a limited mail service, were named "Relays". In 1852, there were 14 post offices in operation, and this number increased to 36 in 1875. An extensive rural mail service, which was conducted by letter carriers collecting mail from letter boxes in the various villages and delivering mail there, was also in operation.

From 1815 on, Prussia operated a military postal agency in Luxembourg City which served the Prussian troops occupying the fortress. A mail line to Trier was maintained by a private contractor; it was taken over by the Luxembourg mail service on January 1, 1864. When the Prussian troops left the city, the military postal agency was closed on September 9, 1867. Prussia also had another postal agency on Luxembourg territory, at Vianden near the Prussian border, which handled no letter mail, only parcels and money letters. It was opened on January 1, 1851, taken over by the North German Confederation in 1867 and closed in 1870. German travelling post offices functioned on railroad lines which passed Luxembourg territory, namely Luxembourg-Diedenhofen-

Metz and Luxembourg-Battenburg.

The Luxembourg *Currency* during the classic stamp period was the same as that of Belgium, the Franc (fr) divided into 100 Centimes (c). For the mail service within the German-Austrian Postal Union, the German thaler currency—the Thaler (th) equivalent to 30 Silbergroschen (sg), one Silbergroschen divided into 12 Silberpfennig (spf)—was used. The relation between the two currencies was fixed at one thaler equivalent to 3.75fr, therefore 1sg amounting to 12½c.—The metric system was used for *weights and distances*. For the service within the German-Austrian Postal Union, the pound, divided into 32 loth (one loth equivalent to ½ ounce) was used as a unit.

For the purpose of this monograph, the *classic stamp period* ended in Luxembourg in 1874. It includes the first recess-printed issue as well as the imperforate and the rouletted typographed issues printed at Frankfurt a. M., leaving the perforated stamps in the same design, printed at Luxembourg City and at Harlem, outside of the scope of this monograph, as they were in use until 1882 and cannot be considered "classic" stamps any more.

Luxembourg issued its first *Postage Stamps* on *September 15, 1852*. No other kinds of postal stamps nor any postal stationery were issued during the classic stamp period. *Postal Cards* were introduced on *September 1, 1870*, but they had no imprinted stamps and were used with regular adhesives pasted on. Only on June 1, 1874 were postal cards with imprinted stamps issued.

The *Prussian military postal agency* at Luxembourg City used *Prussian postage stamps and postal envelopes*, the former from *November 15, 1850*, the latter from *September 15, 1851* on. On December 31, 1863, the use of Prussian stamps was discontinued and henceforth the regular postage stamps of Luxembourg were used for the military mail.

The *Postal Rates* were rather simple, as far as the domestic service and that to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union was concerned. When postage stamps were introduced, the domestic rate for letters was 10c to 10 grams, 20c to 20 grams, 30c to 30 grams and 10c for each additional 20 grams. Newspapers and printed matter paid 2c per unit, samples 6c up to 40 grams and for each additional 20 grams. For registered

letters, double postage had to be paid. In 1855, the letter fee was changed to 10c for each 10 grams, and samples now paid 10c for each 30 grams; the registration fee now was uniformly 10c. On January 16, 1863, the postage for newspapers was reduced to 1c. New low rates for letters were introduced in 1865, namely 10c up to 10 grams, 20c to 100 grams, 30c to 300 grams, 40c to 500 grams, 50c to 700 grams and 60c to 1000 grams. In 1867, the fees for newspapers and printed matter were fixed at 1c for each 40 grams. The fee for postal cards, introduced on September 1, 1870, was 10c, from January 1, 1874 on 5c. In 1873, another reduction of the letter rates took place; up to 15 grams 10c, to 500 grams 20c and to 2000 grams 30c. The rates to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union were slightly higher than the domestic rates. On September 15, 1852, letters paid 1sg (12½c) per loth up to 10 miles, 2sg (25c) per loth up to 20 miles and 3sg (37½c) over 20 miles. Printed matter was 4spf (5c) per loth, samples the same rates as letters but for 2 loth. The registration fee was 2sg (25c). Reduced rates were also in force to Belgium, the Netherlands, France and, after the dissolution of the German-Austrian Postal Union, also to the North German Confederation and to the German Empire. To France, the letter rate was 25c per 7½ grams up to 30km. and 40c beyond 30km., from 1868 on uniformly 25c per 10 grams. To Belgium, letters to the province of Luxembourg paid 20c per 10 grams, to other provinces 30c; from August 1, 1867 on, the fee was 10c per 10 grams up to 30km. and 20c beyond 30km. Letters to the Netherlands paid 40c per 15 grams, from 1869 on 20c per 15 grams. To the North German Confederation, the rates for letters were fixed in 1867 at 12½c for letters of one loth and 25c for heavier letters; postal cards paid 12½c. To the German Empire, from January 1, 1872 on letters paid 12½c up to 15 grams and 25c for heavier ones; postal cards paid 6c from January 1, 1874 on. The fees to other countries were more complicated; to overseas countries they often consisted of the fee to the port and a special sea charge.

The *sale* of the first postage stamps started at the post offices on September 10, 1852, but they became valid for postage only on September 15. Curiously enough, no first day covers are known, the earliest known

example being dated September 25, 1852.

The *denominations* of the stamps were in accordance with the rates. The first issue, introduced on September 15, 1852, consisted only of two denominations, for the single letter rate, 10c for the domestic service and 1sg (12½c) to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Only in 1859 was the number of denominations enlarged, by issuing stamps of 25c (2sg), 30c, 37½c (3sg) and 40c, to cover the rates for heavier letters as well as the letters to the second and third zone of the German-Austrian Postal Union. The 30c was issued on September 29, the others on October 20, 1859. Due to the introduction of postage stamps for the postage on newspapers and printed matter, 2c and 4c stamps were issued on December 15, 1860; when the fee was reduced, a 1c stamp was issued on January 16, 1863. Due to the reduced letter rate to Belgium, a 20c stamp was issued in October 1867. To cover the high rates for money orders and money letters to foreign countries, a 1fr stamp was introduced on January 25, 1873.

The mail of the *Prussian military postal agency* at Luxembourg City was free of postage insofar as the sender was a soldier. Officers had to pay domestic Prussian postage which was figured from the Luxembourg-Prussian border post office (since 1860 Konz or Wasserbillig). No mail was accepted from civilians.

Prepayment of postage for letters was obligatory only to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union; for unpaid letters, a surtax of 1sg was collected from the addressee. For domestic mail, prepayment became obligatory only in 1855. Until then, letters could be sent paid or unpaid at the same rates; now unpaid letters were returned to the sender for payment of postage. Certain kinds of mail, such as printed matter and newspapers, were always accepted only against prepayment of postage.

In the domestic service, *Use of Postage Stamps* was compulsory on prepaid letters from their introduction. Postage on newspapers and printed matter first continued to be paid in cash; only from December 15, 1860 on did payment in stamps become obligatory. For all mail to the countries of the German-Austrian Postal Union, use of postage stamps was obligatory from the start, as it was later for letters to Belgium, France and the Netherlands. To other count-

ries, use of stamps remained non-compulsory.

All Luxembourg stamps were *used up*, with the exception of the 37½c stamp, which became unnecessary by the dissolution of the German-Austrian Postal Union in 1867. It was *withdrawn* and later used for the provisional 1fr denomination. During the classic stamp period, Luxembourg did not *demonetize* any stamps; all issues remained valid until long after the end of the classic stamp period. They were eventually all demonetized on December 31, 1905.

The classic postal stamps of Luxembourg used three kinds of *design*. The first issue featured the likeness of Grand Duke Willem III, facing to the left, in an ornamented frame, with the figure of value in the two upper corners, between them the word POSTES, and the value indication DIX CENTIMES or UN SILBERGROS below the center oval. It was, except for the different head, an almost exact copy of the 1849 medallion issue of Belgium. The second issue was an economy measure to avoid the inefficiency and to save the high costs of recess-printing. The 10c and 12½c of the new issue were introduced after using up of the remainders of the first issue, in October 1859; the 30c was issued earlier, on September 29, 1859, the other denominations on October 20, 1859 (25c, 37½c and 40c), December 15, 1860 (2c and 4c) and January 16, 1863 (1c). All showed the coat of arms in the center. The denominations of 10c and above, which were issued first, have the arms in an oval, while the later issued low denominations show it in a circle. Both designs have richly ornamented frames, with the inscription G. D. DE LUXEMBOURG at top. On the 10c to 40c, which have an oval center, the figures of value are in the lower corners, with "centimes" between; on the 1c, 2c and 4c, which have a circular center, the figure of value is on both sides in the middle, the value indication "1 CENTIME", "2 CENTIMES" or "4 CENTIMES" in a ribbon at bottom. The design of the first issue is believed to be the work of the engraver Jacques Wiener who also designed the first stamps of Belgium, but the head of Willem III is claimed to have been made by Jan-Willem Kaiser who was also the designer of the first stamps of the Netherlands. The designer of the second issue is unknown.

For the first issue, which was to be recess-printed, the *dies* were engraved in steel by

J. H. Robinson, an engraver in the employ of Perkins, Petch & Co. of London. The engraving of the head is the same for both denominations, but the frame was engraved separately for each. For the typographed second issue, the engraving firm of M. Dressler at Frankfurt a. M. provided the two original dies, which were without value indication; they had been cut in steel by the engraver Ludwig Kurz of Frankfurt a. M. who also provided the steel cuts for the 1860 arms issue of Baden.

The *printing material* for the first issue was produced in the same way as that for the first issue of Belgium (see Volume II, page 201 et al.) at the Atelier du Timbre of Brussels. The plates consisted of 200 designs, in two panes of 100 (10x10), side by side. The stamps were spaced apart about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in each direction, the gutter between the two panes was $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide. There was no margin print of any kind. A number of plates were laid down, and in this process the original die of the 10c became noticeably worn. The printings from the last plates show distinct "weaknesses" of the design, and some parts became rather indistinct, due to lines being partly or completely worn away. There is no evidence that any reengraving was made on the die, but small individual retouches can be found on some stamps. In the 1sg, a distinct re-entry has been found of which several identical copies are known. For the printing material of the second issue, secondary dies had to be provided first, by engraving the figures of value and the value indications in working dies and matrices respectively. The necessary number of electrotypes were made and a setting of 100 (10x10) of each denomination assembled. There is no conclusive evidence whether these settings were used directly for the printing or whether they served as mother plates from which electrotyped printing plates were obtained. But as only on the earliest printings of 1859 are the designs in undamaged condition while the printings get more and more worn in later years, it is more probable that the former method was used and all printings were made with settings of the same clichés. This is almost a certainty for the imperforate stamps, while for those with colored roulette the settings had to be changed anyway to provide space for the rouletting lines, by wider spacing of the clichés; possibly new clichés, in part or

completely, were used for these new settings. There was no margin printing of any kind. The clichés were rather irregularly spaced, and the space varies between $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The printing material for the first engraved stamps was provided by the Atelier du Timbre of Brussels, that for the typographed stamps by the firm of M. Dressler at Frankfurt a. M.

There existed many plate varieties of the typographed stamps. The 10c always shows the defective value indication "Ceniimes" due to a flaw of the secondary die. On the typographed values, several constant plate flaws, affecting the inscriptions, are noticeable, for example "centines", "centites", etc., which are of little significance, although some of them are listed in the general catalogs.

The 1fr denomination of the second issue was obtained by overprinting the remainders of the $37\frac{1}{2}$ c with UN FRANC in black. The overprint was made from type-set plates of 100 (10x10), probably by the printer Peter Bruck of Luxembourg City. No varieties of any significance are known of this overprint.

The *printing* of the first issue was the work of the printer Franz Barth who accomplished it in a special recess-printing plant of the printing shop Wahl of Luxembourg City. The second issue was printed by the C. Naumann Printing Works at Frankfurt a. M. The printing was done rather carefully, and only one major printing variety is reported, the imperforate 30c of the 1859 issue printed on both sides. We have not seen a used copy, and the unused ones we know look like printers' waste, so that we have doubts that such a variety was ever issued at a post office.

The *paper* used for the first issue was hand-made and watermarked; each stamp of the sheet had a double-lined "W" as watermark. There was no margin watermark. The paper was manufactured by the paper mill of Septfontaines (Mühlenbach) near Luxembourg City and supplied by the paper firm of Schmidt-Brück of Luxembourg City. It is claimed that from 1855 on the paper was made in Belgium but there is no evidence for that. Due to its manufacture the paper comes in various thicknesses, thin, almost pelure, to thick. The watermark comes in all possible positions, regular, reversed, inverted and inverted-reversed. While reversed watermarks are

not very scarce, inverted ones are rare of both denominations. Split watermark is also found occasionally. The stamps also exist as rarities without watermark, probably from margin rows of sheets on which the stamps were printed in such a way that the watermarks were shifted a full row. The paper of the second issue was machine-made wove, without watermark.

The *color scheme* of the Luxembourg stamps was an original one for the first issue, being *black* for the 10c and *rose* for the 12½c (1sg), a combination no other country had. For the second issue, the color of the 12½c was retained, but the 10c became *blue*. The new values obtained the following colors (in order of their issuance): *red lilac* (30c), *brown* (25c), *green* (37½c), *orange* (40c), *black* (2c), *yellow* (4c) and *bistre* (1c). Luxembourg was one of the last countries to accept the color scale of the German-Austrian Postal Union, in 1865. This scale stipulated the colors *green*, *rose*, *blue* and *bistre* for the printed matter fee (4c) and the three rates of the letter fee (12½c, 25c and 37½c) and accordingly the 4c, 25c and 37½c were issued in the new colors, while the 12½c already had the correct color. Simultaneously with the color changes, the postal administration introduced rouletting for all denominations as a help in separating the stamps from the sheets; only the rouletted 4c was first issued in the old color. The color changes made new colors for other denominations, now all rouletted, necessary, namely *red brown* for the 1c and *lilac* for the 10c, while the 2c and 40c retained their old colors. The new 20c denomination of 1867 took over the discontinued color of the 25c, *brown*. In 1873, the 1fr provisional was overprinted in black on the remainders of the discontinued 37½c *bistre*.

The *inks* used for the printing lacked uniformity of color and a considerable number of shades can be found on practically all denominations. The differences of color are most prominent for the 1sg of the first issue, which was at first red brown, with red orange and brick red shades, but became carmine rose with shades from 1858 on. Of the second issue, the imperforate 1c was *bistre* to pale brown, while the stamp with colorless roulette was red brown and that with colored roulette at first orange with brownish and reddish shades, later, from 1872 on, red brown. The 4c was at first

ochre, then became yellow, with orange shades. The color of the lilac 10c proved rather sensitive and resulted in a large array of reddish and bluish shades as well as colors from gray to slate, part of which may have occurred through spoilage of ink during the printing, but some only by the influence of the gum or as later accidental changelings. The 20c was brown at first, then, from 1870 on, yellow brown, and eventually, in 1872, became grayish brown. The rouletted 25c was at first ultramarine and from 1872 on blue. The 40c varied from red orange, almost vermilion, to yellow orange, with several in-between shades. The other denominations show only lighter and darker shades, sometimes with a specific tint, for instance the 10c of the first issue, of which some printings show a distinct greenish or bluish tint.

The first issue was *imperforate* and so was the second issue originally. In 1865, the postal administration started to employ *rouletting* to make separation easier. This was done gradually and in connection with the change of color of several denominations in accordance with the color scheme of the German-Austrian Postal Union. Generally, the rouletted stamps were issued when the supplies on imperforate stamps of the same denomination were exhausted. The first value delivered rouletted by the printer was the 12½c, on June 26, 1865, the last one the 4c, on September 13, 1867. The introduction of rouletting coincides with the same measure for the stamps of the Thurn & Taxis postal service which were manufactured by the same printers. It is not known whether the idea to use rouletting originated with the printers, who suggested it to both postal administrations, or whether one of the administrations was influential in the introduction and the printer induced the other to follow suit. Two different kinds of rouletting were applied, colorless roulette and roulette in the same color as the stamp. The first kind was a line roulette 16 which was applied in a separate operation by forms of sharpened broken lines which were assembled to a setting, first in one direction and then in the other. The roulette runs through the sheet margins on all sides. This kind of roulette was used only for the low denominations, 1c, 2c and 4c. The second kind of rouletting, in the color of the stamps, seems to have been the invention of the printers,

as they were the first and only ones to apply it during the classic stamp period. Again it is not known whether the idea originated with the printers or with one of the two postal administrations involved. In any case, Luxembourg was the first country which, in 1865, used colored rouletting for its stamps; during the classic stamp period, it was used only by one other postal administration, Thurn & Taxis—which had its stamps manufactured by the same printers—from 1866 on. The method used for the colored rouletting was an ingenious but simple one. The rouletting lines were inserted between the rows of clichés of the setting—which for that purpose had to be spaced wider—, slightly raised above the surface of the setting. When the setting was inked, the rouletting lines were, of course, also inked and therefore printed with the designs in color, at the same time embossing themselves in the paper, providing the desired rouletting. The process needed careful make-ready, as otherwise the margin portions of the stamps would not have printed properly. Cases where such make-ready was not properly applied are known, showing the center of the stamps clearly printed, while parts of the frame are much less distinctly printed. Colored rouletting has the great advantage that it saves considerable work, as it is done automatically with the printing. But labor was cheap at that time, so that not much consideration was given to that fact. Otherwise it would be surprising that only one printing firm used this kind of rouletting*, that it was used only for the stamps of two postal administrations, and that Luxembourg continued to use the other kind of rouletting for the low denominations, except for the 1c, which from September 1867 on was also manufactured with colored roulette, as had been the case for the denominations of 10c and higher from the beginning.

The colored roulette had the added advantage that *varieties* such as completely or partly omitted roulette could not occur as a result of faulty operation. For the collector it provides the perfect solution of the problem of centering, as all stamps with colored roulette must be perfectly centered.

*It was in later years also used by other printing firms, for example in 1880 by the Hamilton Bank Note Co. of New York for stamps of the Dominican Republic.

Of the colorless roulette, several varieties are known. The 1c is known imperforate; two sheets are claimed to have been distributed to a post office. As most known copies are unused—they can be distinguished by their red brown color from the regular imperforate stamps which are pale brown—, we are not sure that these copies do not come from proof sheets of which some copies were cancelled. The 2c is reported in a pair, imperforate between, but we have not seen it.

The *gum* of the first issue was a vegetable glue, more or less yellowish, and applied rather generously. The second issue had an even colorless gum of vegetable origin. The gumming was done by hand with broad brushes.

For the forms of the *postal cards*, which were introduced on September 1, 1870, those of the North German Confederation, which had come into use a few months earlier, served as models. The size of the cards and the arrangement of the printing were very similar, with notes about the use at the bottom. Two kinds of cards, one with German, one with French text, were introduced, with the main inscription "Grossherzogthum Luxemburg/Correspondenz-Karte" or "GRAND-DUCHE DE LUXEMBOURG/ Carte - Correspondance" respectively. The forms were used with pasted-on stamps and were subjected to several changes in the notes about the use and by reducing the size in 1873. An ornamented frame was added in 1874. At first, for a small printing, the cards were on thin brown card, then on light buff or yellow card. In 1873, cards with attached reply card, on thin brown lilac card, were also introduced.

All Luxembourg stamps were issued in *sheets* of 100, therefore the printed sheets



Fig. 126

of the first issue were divided into the two panes before delivery to the post offices. Gutter pairs are unknown of issued stamps but are known from proof sheets.

The classic stamps of Luxembourg were all used up, and no *remainders* resulted. Small quantities of the rouletted issues must have been put away originally and remained in the hands of the postal administration, especially of the 1c, 2c and 40c; they later reached the stamp market. This resulted in a rather easy availability of the above three rouletted stamps in *unused* condition, while of the other rouletted denominations, 4c green and 10c are scarcer and the others decidedly scarcer. Of the imperforate stamps, those of the first issue are rare, as are all denominations of the 1859 issue. In *unused multiples*, the first issue, although rare, is available in pairs, strips and even blocks (Fig. 126), but of the imperforate 1859 issue, all multiples are rare to very rare. Of several denominations we do not know any larger unused multiples than pairs. Such unused pairs are rare of the 1c and 2c and very rare of the others. Of several denominations, strips of three are known, of all except 30c, 37½c and 40c also blocks of four; the latter are extremely rare, some possibly unique.

In *used* condition all classic Luxembourg stamps are rather easy to obtain and, with one exception, more common than unused copies, the only exception being the rouletted 40c. As to *used multiples*, the first issue is relatively easy to obtain in pairs and strips, because such were often used for postage on letters to foreign countries. But blocks are rare. Of the second issue, all imperforate denominations are scarce in multiples, least the 10c, while the 1c, 2c and 4c are somewhat scarcer and the higher values rare. Only few denominations are known in strips, and used blocks of four we know only of the 1c, 2c, 10c and 30c, all being rare to very rare. Of the rouletted stamps, multiples are less rare, but used blocks still do not seem to exist of all denominations, although those of the lower values are somewhat less difficult to obtain.

On *entires*, all classic Luxembourg stamps deserve a considerable premium. It is rather easy to obtain the two denominations of the first issue as well as the same denominations of the second issue on cover, but the other imperforate stamps are generally rare

on entire. Single frankings are the rule, as most rates were covered by the various denominations of the 1859 issue and a considerable part of the foreign mail was paid in cash. For the same reason, multiple frankings can be found more frequently of the first issue than the second one. Colorful frankings are especially rare, of the two denominations of the first issue together just as well as of two or more denominations of the 1859 issue. The rouletted stamps are easier to find on letters and also on post cards, but generally also only single frankings, while multiple or combination frankings are scarcer. Mixed frankings of two different issues are known; they are scarcer between perforated and rouletted stamps and rare between the first and second issue.

No *emergency frankings* are known of the classic stamp period of Luxembourg.

Letters from the *Prussian garrison* at Luxembourg are scarce, may they be stampless soldiers' mail or officers' mail which, from November 15, 1850 on, was franked with Prussian stamps, from January 1, 1864 on with Luxembourg stamps. There is a considerable demand for such covers from Luxembourg as well as Prussia specialists, which accentuates their scarcity.

The plates of the first issue came into private hands and were used in 1906 for the manufacture of unauthorized private *Reprints*. They were printed by the printing works of Hugo Petters of Stuttgart which had received the plates for both denominations and the order, together with a supply of about 100 sheets of the original paper with watermark from F.G. Majerus of Dickirch. As the plates had been defaced and had suffered from corrosion, particularly rust, only 13 positions of the 10c (block of 5, vertical strip of 3 and five singles) and 3 positions of the 1sg (pair and single) were used for the printing of the reprints. They can be recognized by damages to the design, the 1sg also by its color, which is brown orange or rose carmine and quite different from the colors of the originals. The reprints have colorless smooth gum. Both also exist with inverted watermark, manufactured purposely. No reprints exist of the later issues.

Forgeries of Luxembourg stamps are rather plentiful; the best forgers have tried their luck with them, and some of their products are rather dangerous. The forgeries

of the first issue are rather crude, but of the 1859 issue, imperforate and rouletted, some very well executed imitations exist among the various products, especially those of the famous forger Fournier. Even Sperati imitated two Luxembourg stamps, the 2c and the green 37½c of 1859. Very numerous are the *Fakes*. Most dangerous in some cases are trimmed rouletted or perforated stamps of the second issue which are offered as the imperforate stamps. Usually the shades and the more worn design, sometimes also the cancellation, give them away, but there are also very difficult cases which provide trouble even for the expert. Cut squares of 30c C. O. D. envelopes of 1877 are often offered as the imperforate 1859 stamps, but the worn and usually overinked printing give them away easily. Proofs and printers' waste of the perforated issues in the same design, including double prints and copies printed on both sides, are also offered fraudulently or due to ignorance as imperforate stamps. Proofs of the first issue, especially of the 10c in bluish black, which come with and without watermark, are sometimes sold as stamps, and it is even claimed that they also come cancelled from fraudulent use; the cancelled copies we have seen all had faked cancellations. All together, the Luxembourg collector must be well aware of the dangers he is confronted with in his collecting, by very deceptive forgeries and fakes.

The history of the *postmarks* of Luxembourg is a long one, as the first known postmark is known from the year 1717 and was probably introduced about 20 years earlier. It is a straight line LUXEMB., the town name abbreviated as was customary for the French postmarks of that period, so that it is assumed that it was introduced during the French occupation of 1684 to 1697. This postmark had a very long life, as it was taken over under Spanish and Austrian rule by the Thurn & Taxis postal service and used until about 1790. Then similar postmarks, but with the full name LUXEMBOURG, came into use for a short period. When the French occupied the country again in 1795, they introduced their postmarks with departement number; two are known from present Luxembourg territory, namely 98/LUXEMBOURG and 98/GREVENMACHER. For paid letters, special postmarks existed which had the letter P.

added on both sides of the department number. We have not seen *Déboursé* markings as used by the French elsewhere. When the Netherlands took over the postal service in 1815, they introduced straight line postmarks with German town names, which are known of LUXEBURG, DIEKIRCH and ECHTERNACH. In 1829, the first single circle postmarks, with the town name in Roman capitals and the date (day and month, the latter in letters), came into use. They existed also with P.D. or P.P. in the bottom part of the circle, the former for fully paid letters, the latter for letters paid to the border only. The P.D. postmarks were also used for newspapers and printed matter which had to be mailed prepaid. When the country discontinued its postal dependence on the Netherlands postal service and created its own in 1842, it introduced postmarks in the design of the Belgian postmarks, again with French spelling of the town names. They were double circles with the town name in Roman capitals at top and the year date at bottom, the date (day and month, the latter in Roman capitals) in the center. From 1849 on, similar but smaller double circles (obviously copied from the contemporary French postmarks), which had the full date, day, month in italics and year date) in the center and an asterisk at bottom, were gradually introduced.

For the rural mail service, special *letter box cancellers* were introduced in 1830, small circles with one or two letters in the center. They were kept in the letter boxes and stamped by the letter carrier on all mail collected from the specific letter box.

Furthermore, several *additional markings* were used, boxed "P.P." and "P.D.," "FRANCO" or "Franco tout" for paid letters, "Chargé" for registered letters. On letters to foreign countries, various *origin markings* can be found, but they were stamped on such letters by foreign postal services.

The *ink* used for the pre-stamp postmarks was at first generally black, only during the French occupation of 1795 to 1815 occasionally red, which color was the regular one for the Paid postmarks. The postmarks from 1815 on were at first generally black, but the single circles were almost always red, sometimes also blue. The postmarks from 1842 on were either black, red or blue.

When postage stamps were introduced on

September 15, 1852, *special cancellers* were delivered to all post offices simultaneously with the stamps, to be used for their cancellation. They were three-rings with a dot in the center. At first, this dot was extending slightly above the surface of the canceller and had a sharpened point, so that when a stamp was struck with the canceller, this point penetrated the stamp and in this way provided an indelible cancellation. But the sharpened point also damaged the contents of the letters which led to complaints, so that after a short period the points were filed off. In later years, from 1856 on, several post offices replaced the three-ring cancellers by other types of special cancellers, circles of bars or dots and rectangles of bars. Remich used a three-ring canceller which was mutilated by breaking the circles into little segments. Luxembourg City also used roller cancellers of bars to cover several stamps on a letter.

The *town postmarks*, in the Belgian or French types of the pre-stamp period, were stamped alongside the stamps on the letters, but on rare occasions, probably by error, they were also used as cancellers. This became a regular practice in 1859, when the special cancellers were gradually withdrawn—the last ones can be found in 1865—and from then on the town postmarks used as cancellers. Therefore, the stamps of the first issue are generally cancelled by the special cancellers, while on those of 1859 and later, town postmarks are the regular cancellation and special cancellers, which were generally used only to 1859, are the exceptions. The town postmarks, now used as cancellers, were the pre-stamp period Belgian and French type postmarks as well as new postmarks in the latter type. From 1870 on, some of the French type postmarks of Luxembourg City had the ornament at the bottom replaced by the indication of the hour of the day.

For cancelling of the stamps on *newspapers* and *printed matter*, the pre-stamp Netherlands type postmarks, with P. D. or P. P. at bottom, were used and can frequently be found on the low denominations, occasionally also on others. For stamps on letters, the boxed P. P. and P. D. as well as an oval "Franco" can be found occasionally used as cancellers. The small rural circles with one or two letters in the center are also known as cancellers used on

stamps, but they are very rare as such.

The *ink* used for the cancellations was generally black, the three-ring cancellers also come in greenish black. The broken three-ring of Remich is also known in blue, as are some of the circle of bars cancellers. Of the town cancellations, a few blue and even red ones are known as rare exceptions.

The *Prussian military postal agency* at Luxembourg stamped a circular MILL./BRIEF-ST. LUXEM-/BURG on the letters of soldiers, an oval OFFICIER BRIEF/LUXEMBURG on those of officers, first in blue, from 1864 on in black. When Prussian postage stamps and postal envelopes were introduced on November 15, 1850 and September 15, 1851 respectively, these markings were placed alongside of the stamps on the mail, the latter being cancelled with the regular postmarks of Trier. From 1860 on, the letters forwarded by railroad were cancelled at the border post offices with special boxed postmarks AUS LUXEMBURG/PORTO VON CONZ or AUS LUXEMBURG/PORTO VON WASSERBILLIG, both with date, year and hour in a third line. When from January 1, 1864 on Luxembourg stamps were used instead of Prussia stamps, this ceased, as the stamps were now regularly cancelled by the Luxembourg City post office. The military markings continued to be stamped on the mail alongside the stamps.

The *Literature* about Luxembourg, when we compare how much has been written about other countries of similar importance, must be considered rather poor. The first monograph, published in 1879 by J. B. Moens, in French, covering just the classic issues, was a remarkable piece of work and a good source for the student, although compared with modern research methods it appears rather superficial and leaves many important questions unanswered. Many articles and notes were written in the following decades, but they are scattered in a great number of philatelic magazines, especially in French and German language ones. More than sixty years later, in 1941, the first monograph about Luxembourg was published in English, by F. Rhein. It is more in accordance with present research methods and gives a satisfactory compilation of the known data as well as of the findings of the author, but still leaves quite a number of questions, for example the manufacture of the dies and of the printing material, up in

the air. No publication gives a record of the existing multiples, of the rarity of the various frankings, etc. etc. The continuation of the Kohl Handbook, after the resignation of Dr. Munk, published as its last part a monograph of Luxembourg, edited by Hans v. Rudolphi. Although a diligent piece of work, full of good intentions—and a remarkable achievement, considering that it was published in Germany in October 1944, in the sixth year of World War II and less than a year before the collapse of Germany—it lacks the coordinating and searching genius of Dr. Munk and therefore is not on the same level as the monographs under the latter's editorship. For the philatelic student, Luxembourg seems to be a promising field, but the collectors and specialists who depend on the existing literature will soon find out that the existing monographs and handbooks cannot satisfy them.

The *Scott Catalog* dedicates 27 numbers to the classic stamps of Luxembourg, three of which are only color varieties not deserving a separate catalog number, so that actually 24 numbers remain. They are priced at \$678.50 unused and at \$301.50 used. All stamps except for four are higher priced unused than used. The cheapest stamps are priced unused at \$3.00 and used at 50c, the highest priced ones unused at \$135.00 and used at \$45.00. There are eleven stamps listed at \$10.00 or lower. Classic Luxembourg therefore is a fine field for the collector of medium means who will profit from the relative unpopularity of the field caused by insufficient literature which will not satisfy a collector who needs information to get interested in a field. The unpopularity of Luxembourg stamps is, by the way, rather surprising, as Luxembourg was until 1867 a full-fledged member of the German Confederation and must therefore be considered an Old German State. But few collectors of Old German States include Luxembourg which they exclude as they do with Austria, which until 1866 equally was an Old German State. The collector will be surprised how difficult it is to obtain suitable Luxembourg material for a specialized collection. Not only will he have a hard time obtaining copies with satisfactory margins of the imperforate 1859 issue—95% of all copies are touched or cut into, due to the narrow spacing—but he will find out how rare multiples are and how difficult it is to

obtain interesting covers, frankings and cancellations. This may discourage a collector who wants the material he is looking for presented on a platter, ready to put in his collection, but it will be a challenge to a collector who gets satisfaction by attacking those fields where suitable material is difficult to come by. A good specialized Luxembourg collection will attract attention at any show, and knowledgeable judges will give it a high award, acknowledging that they appreciate the work in a field which has no great rarities among the regular stamps but a large number of elusive items which a specialist needs to make his collection an outstanding one.

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MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

- The next issue of the *MERCURY STAMP JOURNAL* is scheduled for *September, 1960*.
- The *Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for 1960* was given to *J. E. W. Purves* of Melbourne (Australia). Mr. Purves is the foremost student of the stamps of the Australian States, especially Victoria, and the author of numerous articles and several books in the field. A well deserved honor to a good friend of ours.
- For exhibitors and visitors of *International Philatelic Exhibitions, 1960* is a busy year. The *Barcelona* exhibition now being philatelic history, we are looking forward to three more international exhibitions, first the *UNIPEX* in *Johannesburg*, South Africa, from May 30 to June 4, then the big *London* show, from July 9 to 16, and finally, the *Warsaw* event, *Polska 60*, from Sept. 3 to 11. Each of these shows will have its special attractions, its special flavor and each will be an example of friendly and peaceful competition among the exhibitors from all parts of the world.
- Whether the next *International Philatelic Exhibition in New York* will be held in connection with the *New York World's Fair of 1964* is still undecided. The Association for Stamp Exhibitions has voted to investigate the possibilities for such a show, but influential circles seem to be opposed to any change in the traditional ten-year cycle.
- Our office will remain open during the whole summer, on a reduced schedule. Beginning June 20, business hours will be