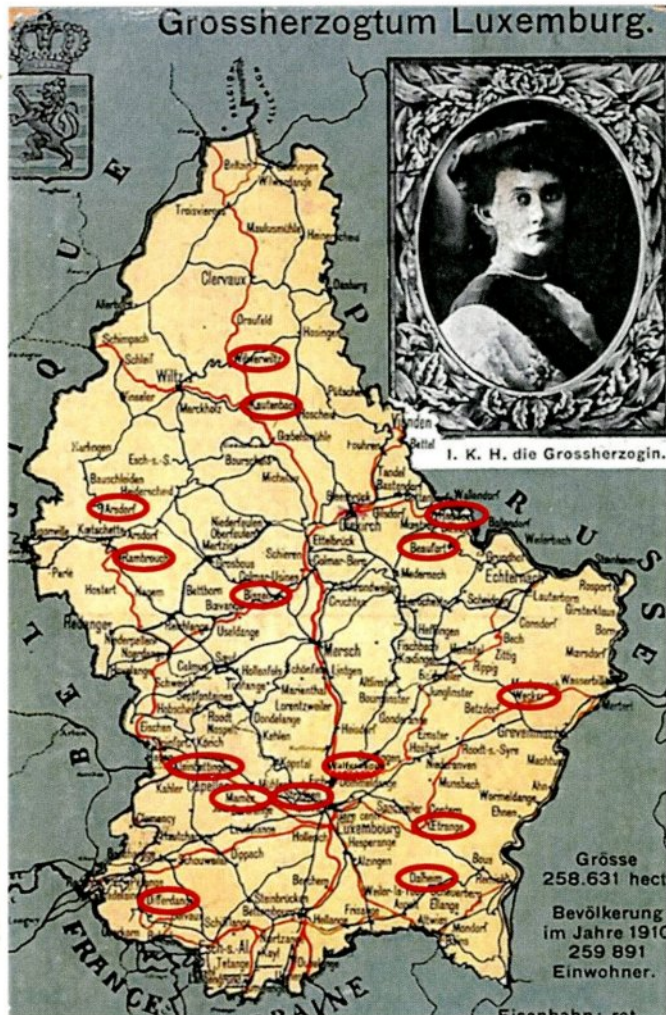


The “POSTES RELAIS” Cancellations of Luxembourg

SCOPE: Among the seventeen postal relais existing in 1881, thirteen were not yet equipped with a cancelling device. To address this, these thirteen offices received a two-ring obliterator inscribed “POSTES RELAIS”, followed by the number assigned to the relais (see Postal Instruction No. 115 / 2906, dated 9 August 1881). These obliterations did not include any hour indication. The postal relais are: 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 and received the cancel “POSTES RELAIS No. 14”. The standard color of the cancels was black for all Luxembourg post offices. However, some preceptors occasionally resorted to using different ink pad colors. Documented variations include blue, lilac, and — on very rare occasions — green.

RESEARCH: The outside diameter of the cancel devices measures 25, 25.5, or 26 mm, while the inside diameter of the double circle is consistently 15 mm. At the end of 1891 and the beginning of 1892, the “POSTES RELAIS” cancels were replaced by two-ring postmarks bearing the name of the town. The villages using these cancels were very small at the time—often numbering only a few hundred inhabitants. As can be seen on the card to the left, most were situated near a railway line or an important road. There are two notable exceptions: Kautenbach, with fewer than ten strikes recorded, and Beaufort, with currently only three strikes known. In general, these cancellations are uncommon but not rare. During the early years of their use, the cancels appeared on stamps and postal stationery with the classic “Coat of Arms” design. Later, these were replaced by issues featuring the “Allegory” design. The earliest and latest recorded usage



dates are taken from the list provided by the Luxembourg Commission d’Études. This exhibit and its rarity statements are based primarily on the collection and research of Pierre Kauthen, supplemented by important material from renowned postal stationery collectors Roland Schneider and Hans-Ulrich Doose.

TREATMENT: The exhibit presents the POSTES RELAIS cancels in alphanumeric order, beginning with Relais No. 1 and concluding with Relais No. 14. For each cancel, the diameter of the outer and inner circles is indicated, alongside the currently known dates of usage and all recorded cancel colors. The objective is to document the earliest and latest known strikes for each relais. For this reason, loose stamps are included when they provide relevant information on usage periods. The POSTES RELAIS cancels were introduced prior to the appearance of the named two-ring cancellation devices, which later beginning in 1883 replaced the earlier single-ring cancels.

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
Commission d’études, Tagesstempelkatalog 8.3.1., working version with actual date as of March 2026

POSTES RELAIS No. 1 (Arsdorf)

Relais transferred from Bigonville on 19.6.1880
 Parcel and postal service from 24.7.1880
 Usage of Cancel: 29.11.1881 – 4.3.1892
 Diameter: 25-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, blue-green



Written in Hosingen, posted in Arsdorf, via Luxembourg, Walferdange, Steinsel to Erpelding, POSTES RELAIS No. 1 in blue, transit cancel Typ 32 LUXEMBOURG-GARE I (1884-1905), Typ 32 POSTES RELAIS No. 11

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Arsdorf, via Redange to Luxembourg, POSTES RELAIS No. 1, transit cancel Typ 31 REDANGE (1877-1887)



Antérieur. Inland.



Bondorf (small hamlet near Arsdorf) to Räichel (Canton Redange), POSTES RELAIS No. 1, transit cancels BOULAIDE, WILTZ and ETTTELBRUCK, arrival cancel REDANGE-SUR-ATTERT, inland postcard, tariff valid 1.10.1877

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Pour l'Intérieur. Für's Inland.

POSTES RELAIS No. 2 (Bissen)

Relais with Parcel Agency service: 22.7.1880

Usage of Cancel: 12.9.1881 – 24.12.1891

Diameter: 25.5-15 mm – Color: Black



Last registered usage

Bissen to Diekirch, POSTES RELAIS No. 2, earliest registered usage, arrival cancel Typ 31 DIEKIRCH (1881 – 1888), inland postcard, tariff valid 1.10.1877, ex Schneider



Postal mandate from Luxembourg-City via Mersch to Bissen – payment refused (see note on back written by carrier), returned to sender in Luxembourg-City, on front: Two strikes Type 32 LUXEMBOURG-VILLE IV, on back: Type 31 MERSCH, POSTES RELAIS No. 2, LUXEMBOURG-VILLE I, 30 Centimes for inland postal mandate, tariff valid from 1.10.1877

POSTES RELAIS No. 3 (Differdange)

Relais: 4.4.1874

Usage of Cancel: 30.11.1881 – 1.4.1890

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



Rare blue cancellation
– less than five items recorded



Postcard from Differdange via Luxembourg-City and Metz to Paris,
POSTES RELAIS No. 3, Type 32 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)

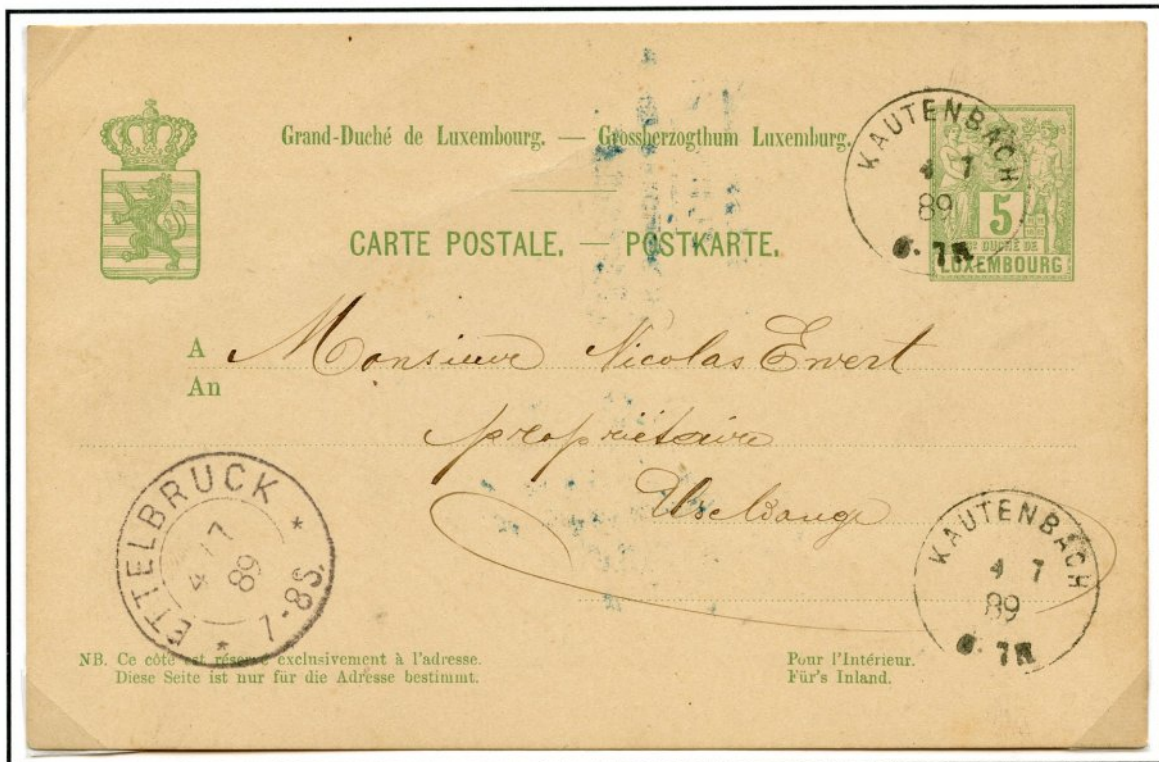
Relais: 1.1.1876

Usage of Cancel: from 23.10.1881 – 31.3.1883

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



**Blue cancellation –
earliest recorded copy,
less than ten items
recorded**
– ex Pierre Kauthen



Postal stationery from Kautenbach to Useldange (near Ettelbruck)
Type 31 cancel KAUTENBACH (1877 – 1890), Type 32 cancel ETTTELBRUCK (1887 -
1906), 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 – 25.2.1891

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black – Grey-Black



Dalheim via Luxembourg by
railway via Avricourt to Paris

POSTES RELAIS No. 4,
Typ 32 cancel
LUXEMBOURG-GARE B
(1891 - 1905), transit cancel
AVRICOURT A PARIS

Postage 10 Centimes, inland
postcard, tariff valid from
1.4.1879

last recorded usage



Dalheim to Luxembourg-
City

POSTES RELAIS No. 4,
Typ 32 cancel
LUXEMBOURG-VILLE
VI (1883 - 1906)

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 – 15.12.1891

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



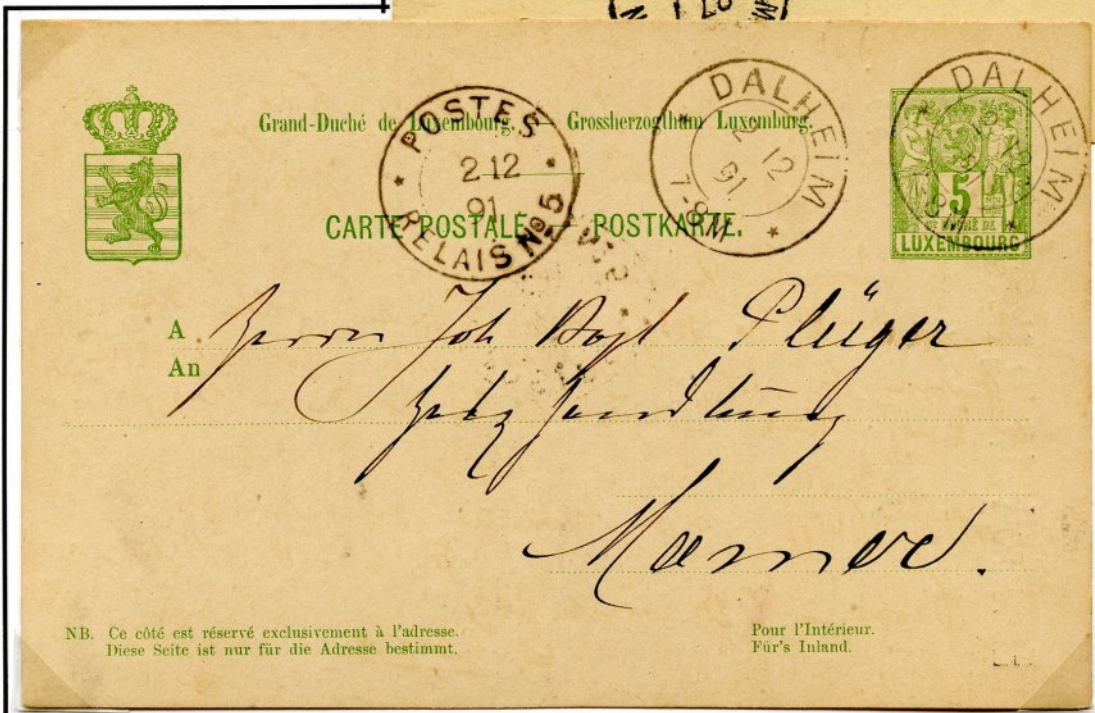
Lilac cancellation – less than five stamps recorded



Mamer via Luxembourg-Station to Dommeldange

Typ 32 POSTES RELAIS No. 5,
Typ 32 LUXEMBOURG-GARE, Typ 31
DOMMELDANGE
(1874 – 1902)

Postage 5 Centimes, inland
postcard, tariff valid from
1.10.1877



Pour l'Intérieur.
Für's Inland.

Dalheim to Mamer

Typ 32 cancel DALHEIM
(1889 - 1913), POSTES
RELAIS No. 5 (2.12.1891)
– late registered usage of the
POSTES RELAIS cancel

Postage 5 Centimes, inland
postcard, tariff valid from
1.10.1877

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Pour l'Intérieur.
Für's Inland.

POSTES RELAIS No. 6 (Oetrange)

Relais: 1.9.1866, Packet agency. 1.7.1873
Usage of Cancel: 17.10.1881 – 28.12.1891
Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black, blue, lilac



The post office at Oetrange had – parallel to the Postes Relais cancellation device – since 1875 a single ring cancellation which was used regularly on mail.



Oetrange to Antwerp, transiting Luxembourg-Station, Arlon and Brussels
POSTES RELAIS No. 6, Type 31 cancel LUXEMBOURG-GARE (1877 - 1883), 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: 22.9.1881 – 3.12.1888

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

Early usage



Last recorded usage



Bettingen via
Luxembourg-City to
Hautmont / Nord
(France)
POSTES RELAIS
No. 7, two ring
cancel
HAUTMONT
NORD,
10 Centimes, UPU-
Postcard, tariff valid
from 1.4.1879



Bettingen to
Luxembourg
POSTES RELAIS
No. 7, Type 31
arrival cancel
LUXEMBOURG
(1879 - 1886),
postage 5 Centimes,
internal postcard,
tariff valid from
1.10.1877

POSTES RELAIS No. 8 (Rambrouch)

Relais transferred from Wolwelange: 19.6.1880

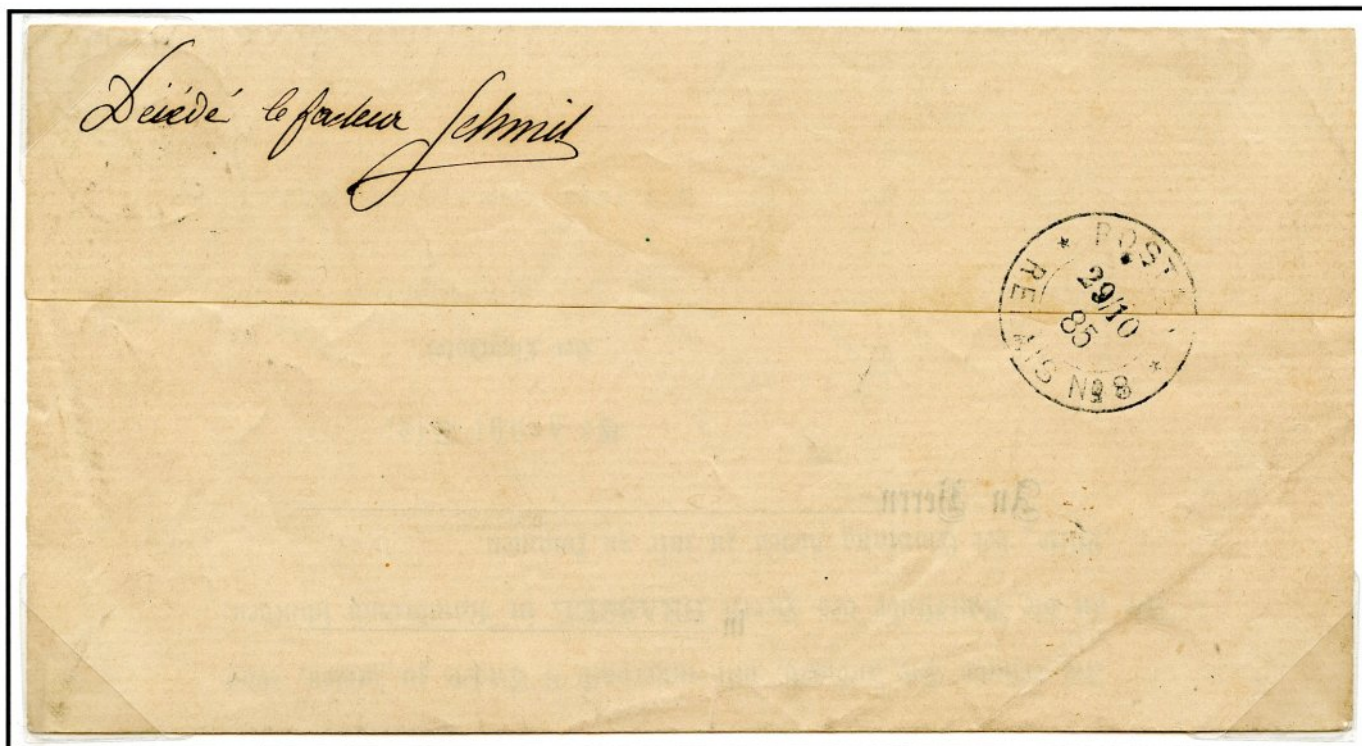
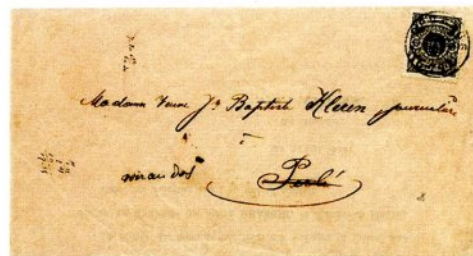
Packet Agency: 19.7.1880

Usage of Cancel: 9.9.1881 – 6.11.1890

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



Copy: Front of printed matter below



Above: Redange to Perlé via Rambrouch and back POSTES RELAIS No. 8 in lilac, Type 31 transit cancel REDANGE (1877 - 1887), postage 2 Centimes, internal printed matter, tariff valid from 1.10.1877



Rambrouch to Wiltz via Redange POSTES RELAIS No. 8 in lilac, Type 31 transit cancel REDANGE (1877 - 1887), 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: 24.9.1881 – 14.12.1891

Diameter: 25.5 -15 mm – Color: Black

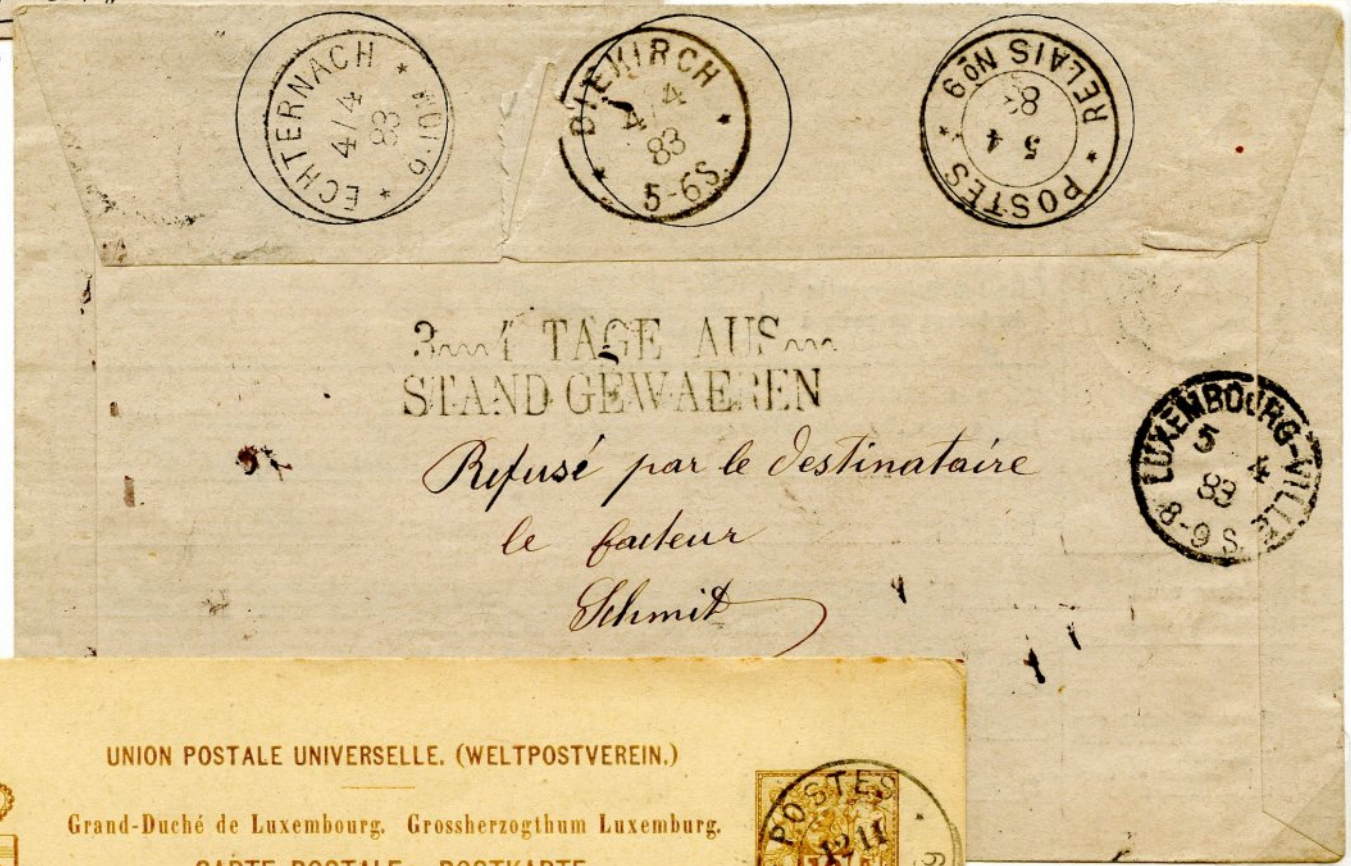
Reisdorf to Diekirch

POSTES RELAIS No. 9,
Typ 32 DIEKIRCH (1887 –
1905)



Below: Luxembourg via Echternach and Diekirch to
Reisdorf and back to Luxembourg

POSTES RELAIS No. 9, Typ 31 DIEKIRCH, Typ 31
LUXEMBOURG-VILLE, Typ 31 ECHTERNACH



Reisdorf per train to
Luxembourg, forwarded via
Arlon and Brussels to
Antwerp
POSTES RELAIS No. 9,
train cancel LUXEMBURG-
ULFLINGEN (1875 – 1908),
one ring arrival cancel
ANVERS (12.11.1881 6 M),
carrier cancel 47, UPU-
Postcard tariff

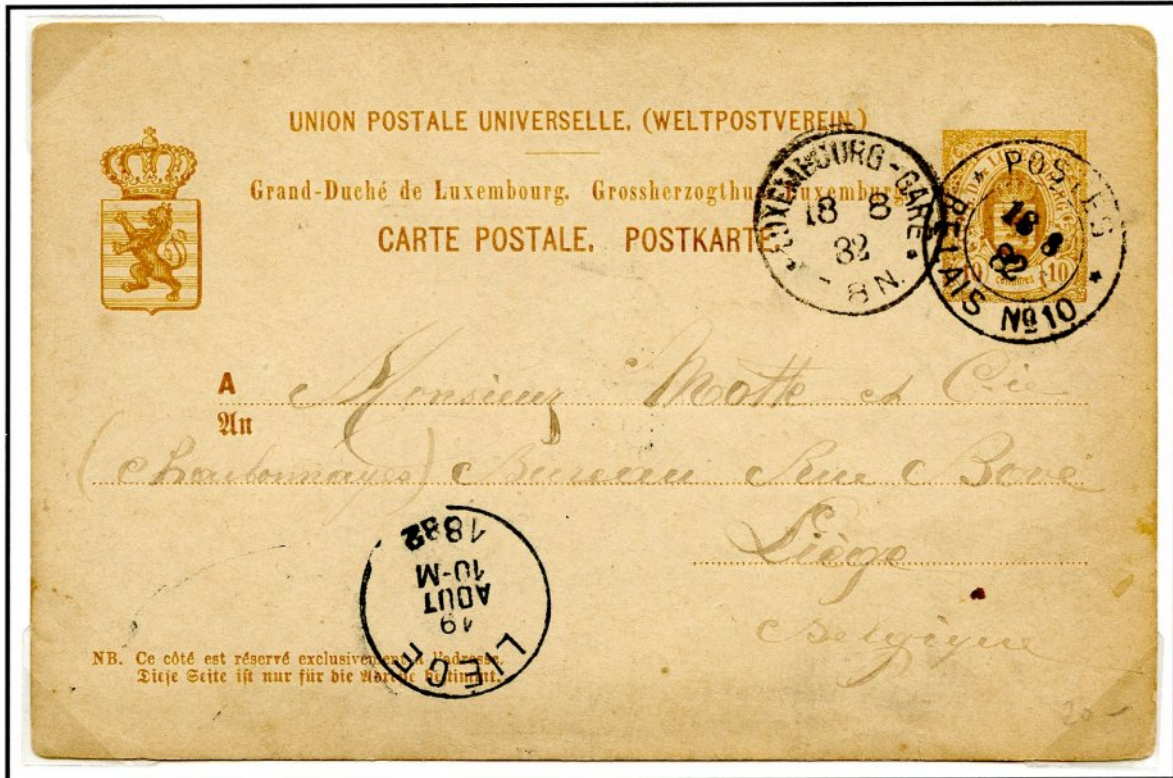
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POSTES RELAIS No. 10 (Strassen)

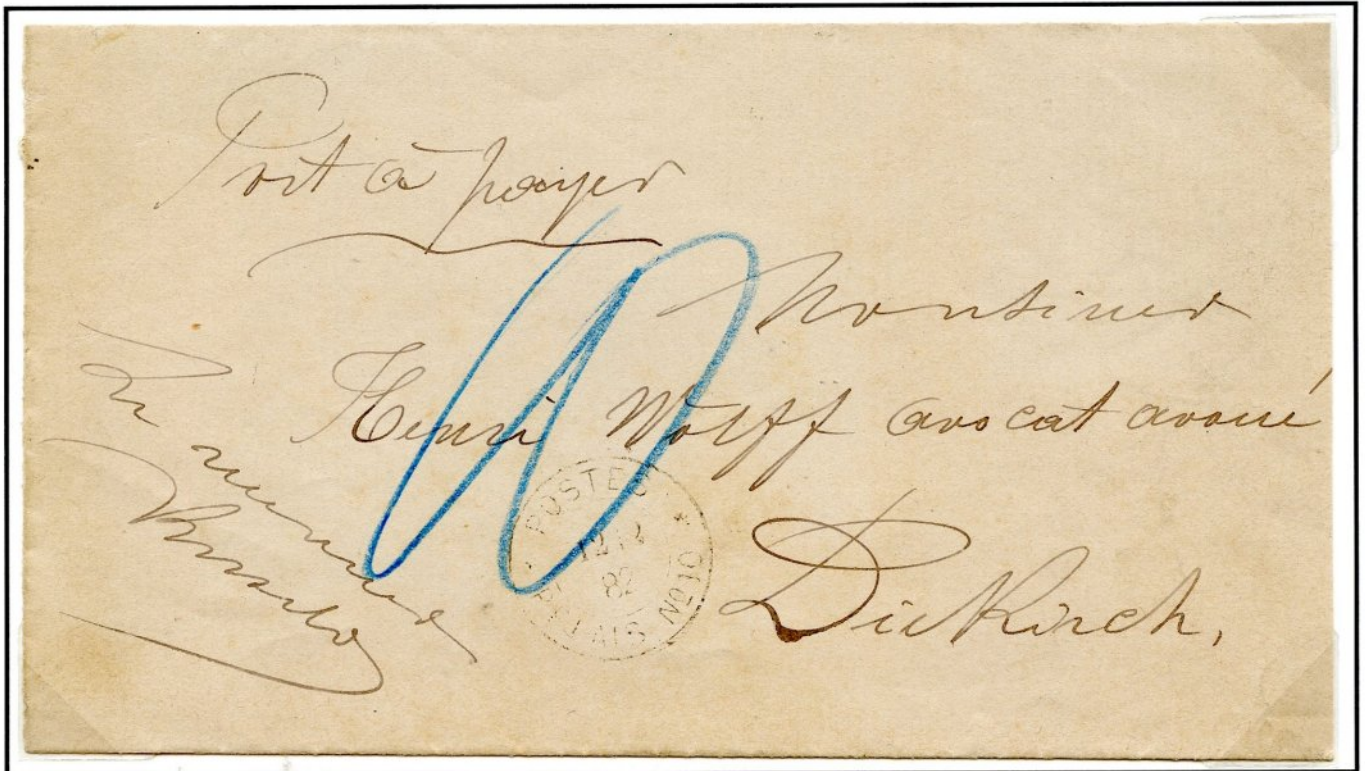
Relais: 20.2.1878

Usage of Cancel: 23.12.1881 – 25.5.1892

Diameter: 25 -15 mm – Color: Black



Strassen via Luxembourg, forwarded via Arlon to Liege,
POSTES RELAIS No. 10, Type 31 cancel LUXEMBURG-GARE, 10 Centimes, UPU
postcard tariff, 10 Centimes, ex Doose



Official letter from Strassen to Diekirch
POSTES RELAIS No. 10, on back Typ 31 transit cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE (1882 - 1886), Typ 31
cancel DIEKIRCH (1881 - 1888), postage due 10 Centimes, inland letter rate for up to 15 grams, valid
from 1.10.1877.

POSTES RELAIS No. 11 (Walferdange)

Relais: 6.4.1876

Usage of Cancel: from 8.9.1881 – 14.12.1891

Diameter: 25.5-15 mm – Color: Black



Walferdange to Marktbreit
via Luxembourg and Trier,
POSTES RELAIS No. 11
Typ 31 cancel
LUXEMBOURG-GARE
(1877 - 1888), arrival cancel
MARKTBREIT

Walferdange to Antwerp via
Luxembourg
POSTES RELAIS No. 11
Type 31 cancel
LUXEMBOURG-VILLE
(1882 - 1886), arrival cancel
of ANVERS (5.7.1883 – 12
M), carrier cancel 45



Walferdange via railway to
Luxembourg station and
forwarded to Esch-sur-
Alzette
POSTES RELAIS No. 11
transit cancel ULFLINGEN-
TROISVIERGES, Typ 32
cancel LUXEMBOURG-
GARE (1886 - 1904), arrival
cancel of ESCH-SUR-
ALZETTE (1885 – 1909)



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Pour l'Intérieur.
Für's Inland.

POSTES RELAIS No. 12 (Wecker)

Relais: 1.10.1879

Usage of Cancel: from 6.9.1881 – 26.9.1891

Diameter: 25.5-15 mm – Color: Black



Written at Biewer, posted at Wecker to Luxembourg

POSTES RELAIS No. 12, Typ 31 arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG (1877 – 1883)

postage 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877



Wecker to Luxembourg

POSTES RELAIS No. 12, Typ 31 arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG (1877 – 1883)

postage 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877

POSTES RELAIS No. 13 (Wilwerwiltz)

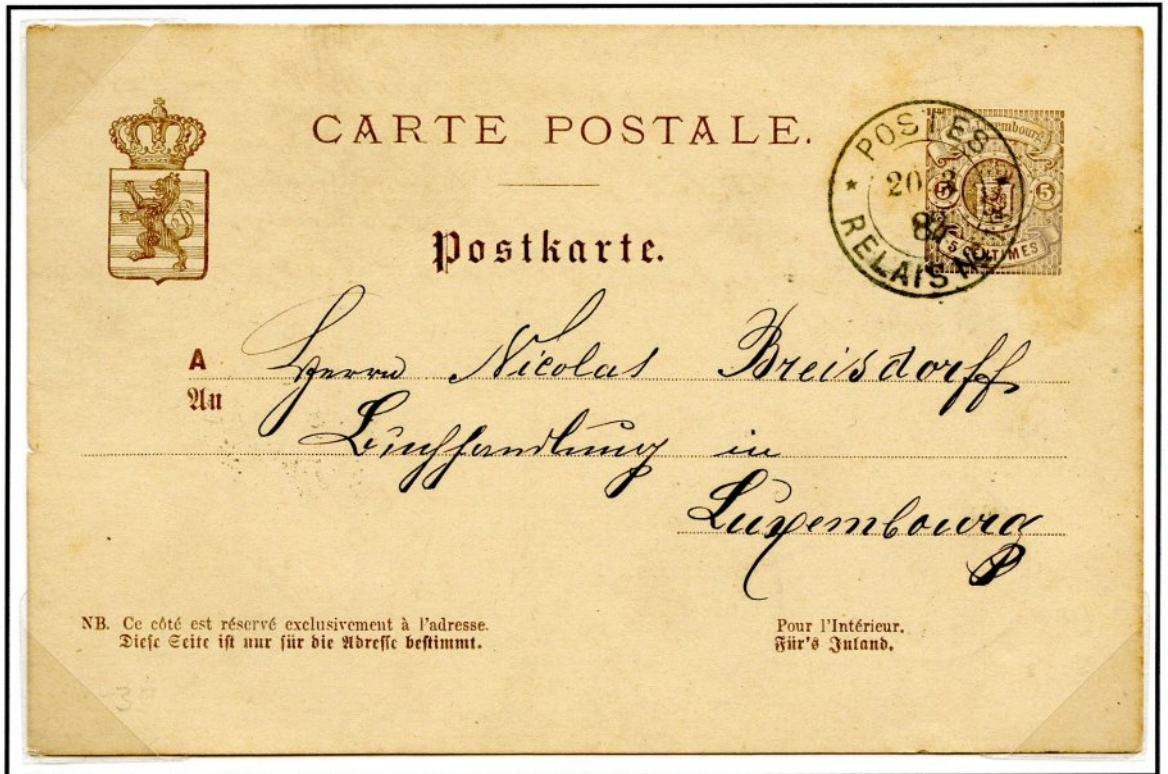
Relais: 23.3.1867, upgrade to Parcel Agency: 1.7.1873

Usage of Cancel: 12.9.1881 – 2.9.1891

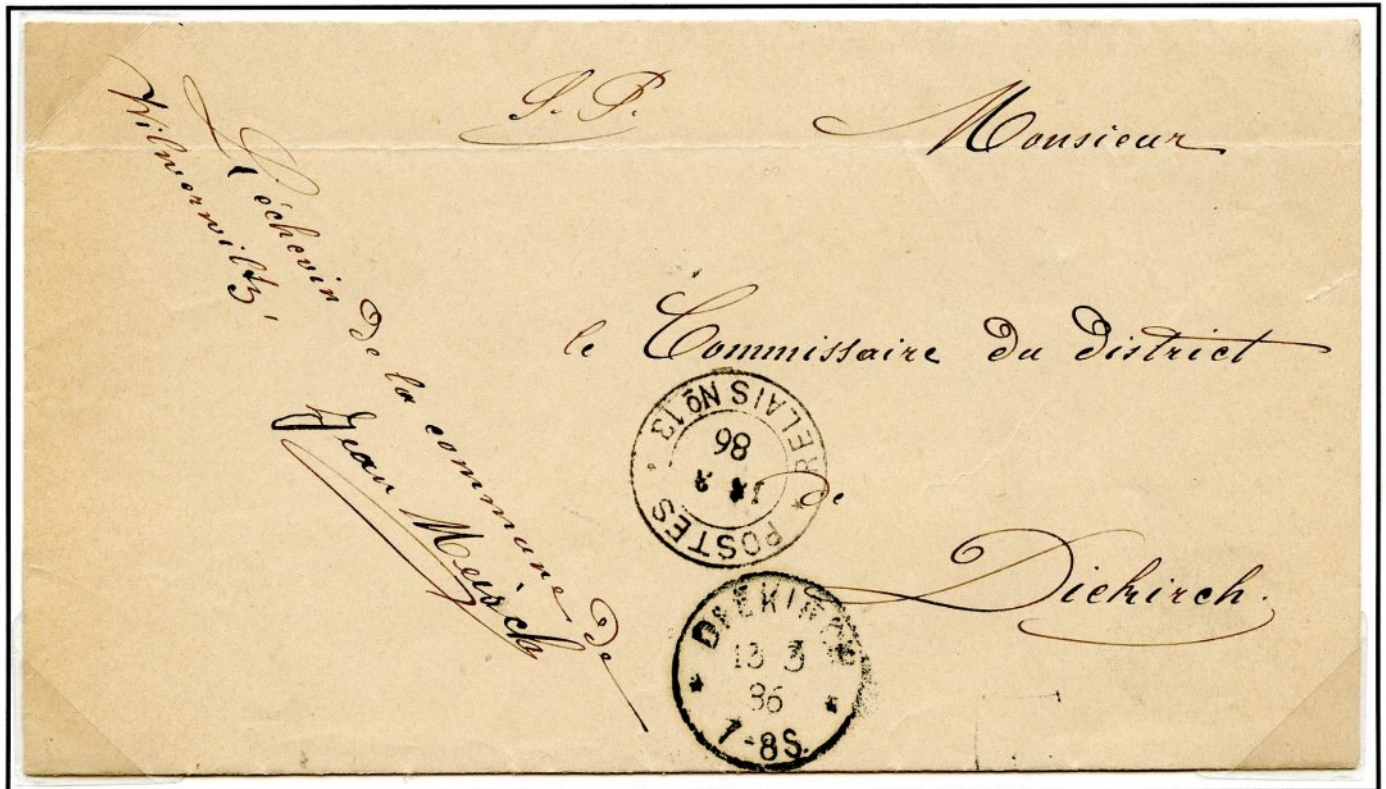
Diameter: 25-15 mm – Colors: Black and Blue



Last recorded usage



Postal stationery from Wilwerwiltz to Luxembourg, POSTES RELAIS No. 13, on back Type 31 arrival cancel LUXEMBOURG-VILLE 21.3.1882 (1882 – 1886), 5 Centimes, inland postcard, tariff valid as of 1.10.1877, ex Schneider



Public Service letter (notation S.P.) from Wilwerwiltz to Diekirch, POSTES RELAIS No. 13, on back Typ 31 arrival cancel DIEKIRCH (1881 – 1888), Official letters (Service Public) are sent free of postage within the borders of Luxembourg, the sender just had to sign on the front of the letter

POSTES RELAIS No. 14 (Beaufort)

Relais: 1.6.1889

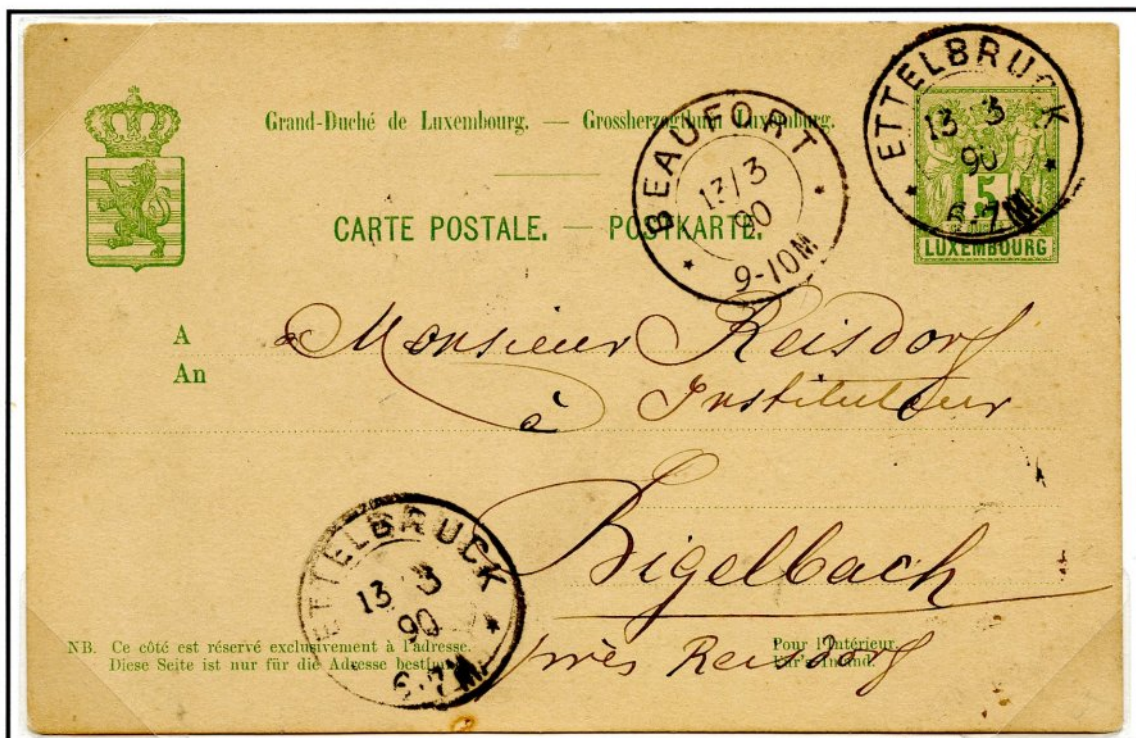
Usage of Cancel: 17.6.1889 – 20.3.1890

Diameter: 26-15 mm – Color: Black



**Discovery copy –
only two cancellations are
confirmed
POSTES RELAIS No. 14 recorded
ex Kauthen**

While the POSTAL RELAIS No. 14 cancellation device was used at the post office in Beaufort, the two-ring cancel was also used – two strikes of the POSTES RELAIS No. 14 cancellation are recorded



Ettelbruck to the small hamlet of Bigelbach near Reisdorf, Type 32 ETTTELBRUCK (1887 - 1906), two ring arrival cancel BEAUFORT (13.3.1890 – 9-10 M), both in black, 5 Centimes, inland postcard tariff valid from 1.10.1877