



# Philatélux

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postphilately.lu



# EDITORIAL



Giving visibility to past and present events, discovering new things, creating connections – stamps can do far more than one might assume at first glance. Innovation may not be the first word that comes to mind when thinking about philately. All the more reason why we are delighted to surprise you with a special highlight in the new definitive series: POST Philately's first 3D-printed block, which will be released on 22 June 2026 in addition to the May issue.

Enjoy discovering the other interesting themes that the second issue of the year has in store for you.

Claude Balthasar  
*Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*

  
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# CONTENTS



## 4

**Block & Booklet**  
Block definitive series  
HRH Grand Duke Guillaume  
& Booklet *Joyeuses Entrées*



## 6

**Block**  
40 years of the awarding  
of the International Charlemagne  
Prize to the people of Luxembourg



## 8

**Special series**  
EUROPA – 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of EUROPA stamps



## 10

**Special stamp**  
Commemoration  
of Nicolas van Werveke



## 11

**Special stamp**  
160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first  
book in Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs



## 12

**Special stamp**  
30 years of the National Museum of  
Natural History Luxembourg in the Grund

## 14

**Stamp  
presentations**

## 16

**On the road  
with POST Philately**

## 17

**Behind  
the scenes**

# Tradition, exchange and connection

To mark the accession to the throne of HRH Grand Duke Guillaume in October 2025, two additional products are being issued: a stamp booklet containing five different designs and a block.

## Stamp booklet

The *Joyeuses Entrées* are traditionally associated with a new dynastic chapter and offer opportunities for encounters, conversations, and personal moments between TRH the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess and the citizens.

In his Christmas speech in December 2025, HRH the Grand Duke announced a series of five *Joyeuses Entrées* across various regions of the country, expressing his wish to further strengthen direct contact with the population. In 2026, TRH the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess will visit Esch-sur-Alzette, Troisvierges and Wormeldange. The series of visits will continue in 2027, with planned visits to the municipalities of Beckerich and Mersch.

The host municipalities hope that the grand-ducal couple – as already seen during the festivities marking the change of reign – will on some occasions be accompanied by their two sons, TRH Prince Charles and Prince François.

## Block

The design of the block combines a detail of the balcony of the Grand Ducal Palace in Luxembourg City, featuring the national coat of arms, with the official monogram of HRH the Grand Duke and his portrait.

As in many representative residences in Europe, the palace balcony in Luxembourg is traditionally a symbolic place for public appearances, from which the family presents itself to the population on special occasions (Weddings, National Day, etc.).

For this issue, the block is printed in four-colour process. For the summer, a special edition is planned featuring a variant where the monogram will be produced using 3D printing.

### What is 3D printing for stamps?

In this printing process by the Austrian company Hämmerle & Vogel, liquid photopolymer is applied onto the stamp sheets in extremely fine droplets using precise nozzles and then cured under UV light before additional droplets are added. This allows the monogram to be built up layer by layer at different heights. The final product is flexible, bendable and has a pleasant, soft surface.

**Current price of the block:**

€5.50

**Layout:**

Agence Créa POST Luxembourg (LU)

**Picture:**

Maison du Grand-Duc / Kary Barthelme (LU)

**Printing:**

High definition four-coloured offset printing, recto full colour, Gutenberg AG, Schaan (LI)

**Format of the stamp:**

90 x 45 mm

**Format of the block:**

120 x 80 mm

**Print run:**

20,000 units



**Current price of the booklet:**

€17

**Layout:**

Agence Créa POST Luxembourg (LU)

**Pictures:**

Maison du Grand-Duc / Sophie Margue / Kary Barthelme (LU)

**Printing:**

Offset lithography, recto full colour and varnish, bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

**Format of the stamps:**

35 x 35 mm, 10 stamps per booklet

**Format of the booklet (open):**

278 x 94 mm

**Print run:**

100,000 units



The 3D block will be issued on 22 June 2026 in a limited edition. All information about the issue will be made available in due time on the e-shop and communicated via the newsletter.

# For a strong Europe

The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen has been awarded annually since 1950 to individuals or institutions for their outstanding services to the promotion of European unity and cooperation between the peoples of Europe. Named after Charlemagne, it is considered one of the most important awards in relation to European commitment and understanding.

40 years ago, on 8 May 1986, the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen was awarded in a particularly special way: instead of giving the award to an individual, it was presented to an entire people – the people of Luxembourg. This decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the Charlemagne Prize in recognition of Luxembourg's extraordinary contribution to European unity – an ideal that enjoys broad cross-generational support within the Grand Duchy.

As one of the smallest countries in Europe, Luxembourg has played a major role in the integration process from the outset. It was a founding member of the European Communities and developed into a central location for European institutions. The close interweaving of national identity and European attitudes had a formative influence: not just on politics and the economy, but also the everyday life of a

population living in a multicultural country situated in the heart of Europe. The Charlemagne Prize, which was accepted on behalf of the Luxembourg people by the then Grand Duke Jean, thus recognised not only the actions of the state, but also the active contribution of an entire people towards a united Europe.



## Price of the block:

€1.70

## Layout:

Annick Kieffer (LU)

## Printing:

Offset lithography, recto full colour, bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

## Format of the stamp:

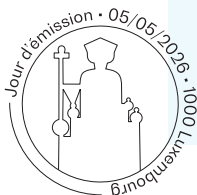
40 x 30 mm

## Format of the block:

120 x 80 mm

## Print run:

20,000 units





© Photothèque de la Ville de Luxembourg / Jean Weyrich

© Rick Tonizzo



Annick Kieffer

Luxembourg native Annick Kieffer studied graphic and communication design in Stuttgart and Trier and has been working in the Grand Duchy since 2011. Her designs are a mix of playful ideas, unusual concepts and exciting colour combinations.

**Can you give us an insight into how you approached the design of this block?**

**Annick Kieffer:** The unique challenge this design posed was how to link the 40 years with the Charlemagne Prize. In the end, my inspiration came from the photo of the medal, which symbolises those 40 years with a twist in the ribbon. The block is intended to reflect the moment the medal was presented, while the stamp focuses on the centrepiece – the medal itself.

**What does Europe mean to you?**

**Annick Kieffer:** For me, Europe is about diversity. It is a continent that draws its strength from cohesion, and a peace project that can never be taken for granted. Europe needs strong figures that are willing to stand up for cohesion – in difficult times more than ever.

# Common history, shared joy

2026 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUROPA stamps. As has been the case in previous years, PostEurop representatives have decided on a joint issue for this special occasion instead of individual motifs in each country – with the open theme being "70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUROPA stamps. United in..."

The 53 members of PostEurop were invited to submit their proposals as part of a competition. As a founding member, Luxembourg's participation was a matter of course. The competition sought expressive designs that illustrate unity and cooperation between European countries, emphasise values such as integrity, collaboration, diversity, creativity, innovation, uniqueness and passion, and reflect Europe's rich history and diverse culture.

At the end of 2024, POST Philately, in collaboration with Design Friends asbl, organised a competition for graphic designers in Luxembourg to submit their proposals. A jury selected Jill Els' motif – a modern dove that symbolises both the tradition of written correspondence and the idea of peace. This motif went on to take third place in the European competition.

The second stamp of the EUROPA series is the winning design of the international competition, designed by Klaus Welp (Finland), whose multi-layered interpretation presents the theme via an abstract language of colour and form.

In addition to the EUROPA series, POST Philately also issues Marc Wilmes's (jury's prize in Luxembourg) design, which creatively integrates and combines the various alphabets used in Europe.

The stamp designed by Marc Wilmes incorporates the various alphabets used in Europe, which are explained on the sheet with decorated borders.



**Price of the series:**

€4.10

**Layouts:**

Jill Els (LU), Klaus Welp (FI), Marc Wilmes (LU)

**Printing:**Offset lithography, recto full colour,  
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)**Format of the stamps:**30 x 40 mm,  
10 stamps per sheet**Print run:**

90,000 stamps (30,000 of each stamp)



With a background in cultural history and visual communication, Johanna Finne is Head of Communications & Stamps at Åland Post and Vice-Chair of the PostEurop Stamps & Philately Working Group.

**EUROPA stamps are among the most collected issues in the world. What is it about them that collectors find so fascinating?**

**Johanna Finne:** EUROPA stamps combine design, identity, and a shared European narrative. Since 1956, they have symbolised cooperation through themes ranging from monuments and nature to myths and values. Strong design, annually selected themes, and a clear collectible framework make each stamp a small but meaningful piece of European dialogue.

**How are the annual themes determined?**

**Johanna Finne:** Themes are proposed and voted on by members of the PostEurop working group Stamps & Philately. A strong theme is relevant, creative, and reflects Europe's shared culture and history. Countries have had design freedom since 1974, though common designs are implemented on selected occasions, such as anniversaries or other significant events.

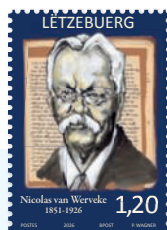
# From records to remembrance

Nicolas Paul Antoine van Werveke (born 23 July 1851 in Diekirch, died 24 February 1926 in Luxembourg City) was an important Luxembourg historian. He was active in the field of numismatics and heavily involved in cultural and linguistic research. He was also a history teacher – first in the capital, at the Luxembourg Atheneum, from October 1892, and then at the vocational school from May 1895. Later, from 1909 to 1911, he became the first headteacher of the *Lycée de Jeunes Filles* in Luxembourg.

For over 50 years, van Werveke devoted himself to the history of Luxembourg spanning the 12<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, transcribing or describing numerous documents and files that he found in archives in Luxembourg and abroad – always with reference to Luxembourg's history. The impressive scope of his work is

reflected, among other things, in the more than 100,000 documents that are kept in the National Archives today.

Towards the end of his career, Nicolas van Werveke wrote a three-volume work entitled *Kulturgeschichte des Luxemburger Landes* (Cultural History of Luxembourg), covering the everyday, economic and social history of Luxembourg.



**Price of the stamp**

€1.20

**Layout:**

Pit Wagner (LU)

**Printing:**

Offset lithography, recto full colour, bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

**Format of the stamp:**

27.66 x 40.20 mm,  
10 stamps per sheet

**Print run:**

25,000 stamps



Pit Wagner is a Luxembourg artist who, after studying in Amsterdam, has devoted himself primarily to illustration, painting and printmaking since 1980. "When painting a portrait, every little stroke, every dab of paint can drastically change your subjects facial expression" explains Wagner. "I based my depiction of van Werveke on a pencil drawing by Henri Rabinger, reproducing his concentrated, thoughtful expression in my own way."



# Symbols that live on

Mi'kmaq is the language of the indigenous nation of the same name, whose settlement area is situated in Atlantic Canada. In addition to the spoken language, they used pictographs out of which the Mi'kmaq hieroglyphic writing system was developed. These pictorial symbols, mostly drawn on birch bark, were used for generations for passing on knowledge. They became the basis for religious texts, and were used as memory aids.

1866 saw the publication of the first printed book in Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs, which was compiled by the Luxembourg missionary Christian Kauder and printed in Vienna. Kauder's work was written in the context of 19<sup>th</sup> century missionary literature, but is also the only systematic printed document using Mi'kmaq hieroglyphs. The book has helped to preserve knowledge and a writing system that might otherwise have been lost. Today, Kauder's work is regarded as an important source for language and cultural research.

Mi'kmaq is still a living language. Although the Latin alphabet is now mostly used, the traditional hieroglyphs remain an integral part of the tradition of the almost 60,000 Mi'kmaq people, serving as visible signs of cultural identity and belonging – both during ceremonies, such as the Feast Day of Saint Anne, their patron saint, on 26 July, and in everyday life, e.g. as part of handicrafts, T-shirts, tattoos or even car number plates.



**Price of the stamp:**

€2.40

**Layout:**

binsfeld (LU)

**Image of the book cover:**

Courtesy, J.J. Stewart Collection,  
Dalhousie University Libraries/Dicastero  
per l'Evangelizzazione – Biblioteca della  
Pontificia Università Urbaniana

**Printing:**

Offset lithography, recto full colour,  
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

**Format of the stamp:**

48.75 x 38.15 mm,  
10 stamps per sheet

**Print run:**

25,000 stamps



# Discover, experience and understand natural history

The relocation of Luxembourg's National Museum of Natural History, also known as the Naturmusée, in 1996 marked an important turning point in the history of the museum. Thirty years ago, the museum left its long-standing site at the Fish Market in Luxembourg's historic city centre and moved into its new premises in the Grund district.

The main reasons for the move were the significant growth of the museum's natural history collections as well as its expanding responsibilities in the areas of research, education and knowledge transfer. The previous premises, which the Naturmusée had shared with the National Museum of History and Art, had become too small and could no longer meet the modern requirements of a museum geared towards public access and educational offerings, with a lack of space for contemporary exhibitions, educational programmes and suitable workspaces for scientists.

Towards the end of the 1980s, it was decided that the two museums would be separated into two institutions, and in 1988, the National Museum of Natural History was established as an independent institution. Shortly afterwards, the decision was made to restore the historic *Hospice Saint-Jean* in the Grund district and convert it for the museum's purposes. With its relocation in 1996, the National Museum of Natural

History was able to establish itself as the central institution in Luxembourg for both research into biodiversity and geodiversity as well as for the conveying of natural history and natural sciences.



**Price of the stamp:**  
€1.20

**Layout:**  
Naturmusée (LU)

**Printing:**  
Offset lithography, recto full colour,  
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

**Format of the stamp:**  
29.75 x 40.15 mm,  
10 stamps per sheet

**Print run:**  
25,000 stamps





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## Two questions for Patrick Michaely, the director of the museum

**Moving a museum is certainly a major logistical challenge. How do you organise something like that?**

**Patrick Michaely:** At that time, we switched from a systematic to a thematic presentation of the exhibitions, which meant that only selected objects – ones that truly represented a given exhibition – were on display. The majority of the items still on display in the former museum were returned to storage, which of course meant preparing the depots for an influx of materials. It was a lot of work, but the anticipation of the new museum gave us the motivation we needed.

**It goes without saying that there will be a special exhibition to mark the anniversary. What theme can the public look forward to?**

**Patrick Michaely:** In keeping with our motto *Connaître le passé, comprendre le présent, projeter le futur* (Know the past, understand the present, shape the future), we see natural history as a highly dynamic and modern discipline. The exhibition will show how the move, and the greater visibility it afforded, changed the work of a museum that has since consistently been developing into a cultural institution at the service of both research and the public.

# Stamp presentations

## Presentation of the February issue

On 6 February, the presentation of the stamps from the first 2026 issue took place in the HELIX building.

Claude Strasser, Managing Director of POST Luxembourg, Isabelle Faber, *Directrice Ressources humaines, Relations publiques & RSE* of POST Luxembourg, and Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, welcomed the guests and presented the souvenir frames to the various institutions, organisations and partners.

The guests took the opportunity to chat and exchange ideas at a reception following the presentations.



Mr Yves Arend, Director of the Office of the Marshal (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), accepted the souvenir frame for the new definitive series "HRH Grand Duke Guillaume".



Laurent Zahles, CEO and Chairman of the Management Board (4<sup>th</sup> from left), and Laurent Derkum, *Directeur Ressources Humaines, Marketing et Communication, ESG* (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), were presented with the “100 years of Banque Raiffeisen” souvenir frame.



Anne Muller-Contreras, Chair of the Board of Directors (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Sam Paulus, Senior Manager (1<sup>st</sup> from left), as well as graphic designer Gianmarco (4<sup>th</sup> from left) received souvenir frames to mark “10 years of Microlux”.



Carlo Feiereisen, Mayor (4<sup>th</sup> from left), Yves Marchi, Alderman (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), Jennifer Popescu-Urbain, *Service Communication* (1<sup>st</sup> from left), and Chiara Reuland, winner of the design competition (5<sup>th</sup> from left) were delighted with their souvenir frames celebrating the “150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the independence of the municipality of Schiffange”.

# On the road with POST Philately



During the New Year's reception, Isabelle Faber (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) was honoured for her merits toward Luxembourgish philately.

## FSPL New Year Reception 2026

On 12 January 2026, the *Bureau Permanent* of the *Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques du Grand Duché du Luxembourg* (FSPL) hosted the traditional New Year Reception in the *Foyer de la Philatélie*. President Lars Böttger welcomed Claude Strasser, Managing Director of POST Luxembourg, Isabelle Faber, *Directrice Ressources humaines, Relations publiques & RSE* of POST Luxembourg, Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, other guests from POST Philately, and around sixty philatelists from Luxembourg and abroad.

## 83<sup>rd</sup> FSPL congress and exhibition

On 21 and 22 March 2026, the *Cercle Phila Dudelange* invited guests to the multipurpose hall in Dudelange. On the occasion of its 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the association organised an exhibition, and within the same framework, this year's FSPL congress took place.

POST Philately was present on Saturday with a stand offering a special cancellation mark featuring the Dudelange transmission tower as a motif.



From l. to r.: Louise Nilles, Isabelle Faber, Claude Balthasar, Dan Biancalana, Lars Böttger, Josiane Di Bartolomeo-Ries, Walter Berrettini

# Behind the scenes

**Collecting may be a personal hobby, but its true strength lies in its community. Ask anyone who collects stamps and they will tell you the same thing: your own enthusiasm for the hobby grows when you can share that passion with others.**



The exhibitions and fairs organised by the FSPL and the stamp clubs in Luxembourg create a space for exchanging around a shared hobby.

## **Collections connect collectors**

Societies, study groups, swap meets, exhibitions – combined, these create a space where knowledge, passion and experience come together to the benefit of everyone, but in particular newcomers, who can ask questions, receive advice and take their first steps into the hobby together with like-minded people.

In Luxembourg, the societies – and in particular the *Fédération des Sociétés Philatéliques du Grand Duché du Luxembourg* (FSPL) – play a prominent role, creating opportunities for interaction, fostering the sharing of expertise, and supporting collectors nationwide. From workshops and advice to nurturing young people's interest: the FSPL takes a leading role in keeping philately alive in the Grand Duchy, ensuring it remains open, intriguing and accessible to all.

### Stamp collecting: opening up your eyes to the world

A running theme in philately is the idea of looking beyond your own horizons. Collectors automatically find themselves part of a global community. Stamps connect people, no matter their age, origin or experience. Collectors can exchange views, discover common interests and share their enjoyment of something special. For many, the hobby represents an antidote to everyday life – calm and focused, but at the same time full of adventure, conversation and new discoveries.

Philately also promotes international exchange. Contacts with collectors from other countries, exchange partnerships, exhibitions and international competitions create a global network that has grown over decades. Looking at a collection from another country is sure to open up new perspectives and illustrate just how diverse, creative and culturally rich stamps can be.



Shared discoveries and engaging exchanges make philately a diverse and multifaceted hobby.

### Community brings the hobby to life

Philately thrives on people coming together – locally, nationally and internationally. Conversations, shared wonder and the discovery of new sets give this hobby a rewarding and communal feel. Collectors are never alone: every stamp, every contact and every encounter broadens their own horizons, turning an individual interest into a shared passion that brings people together across borders – and ensuring the philatelic community is a lively, diverse and inspiring one.

### Luxembourg: small country, big philatelic presence

Luxembourg occupies a remarkable place in this global community. The Grand Duchy delivers surprise and delight year after year with its creatively designed issues that combine cultural diversity, historical events and modern themes. The country's comparatively small issues are a particular source of the stamps' appeal – both for specialised collectors as well as for new philatelists who appreciate high-quality, varied and aesthetically pleasing motifs.

The collections are well-structured in theme yet extensive in scope – an ideal combination for collectors who value both continuity and diversity. With its issues, Luxembourg impressively demonstrates how fascinating a small country can be in the large universe of philately.



Each year, POST Philately issues several stamps in cooperation with other postal administrations and companies.

POST Philately regularly collaborates with other postal administrations/companies and is an active member of the UPU (Universal Postal Union), PostEurop (association of over 50 major European postal operators and companies) and SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation). The common themes for motifs arising from this international cooperation create interesting issues for collectors in the participating countries – and, of course, far beyond.



A first-day-of-issue cancellation mark will be available  
on **5 May 2026** at the Philatelic Counter in Luxembourg-Gare.

## OPENING HOURS OF THE PHILATELIC COUNTER

Monday to Friday  
8.30 am – 12.00 pm

### POST Philately

L-2992 Luxembourg

### Philatelic Counter

Espace POST Luxembourg-Gare  
38, place de la Gare  
L-1616 Luxembourg-Gare

Tel.: 4088-8840

E-mail: [contact.philately@post.lu](mailto:contact.philately@post.lu)



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