



Philatélux



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postphilately.lu



EDITORIAL



October's *Soirée du Timbre*, where we presented this year's programme, feels like it was just yesterday – and yet here we are, presenting the first stamp issue of 2026 already. Time flies, but a passion like stamp collecting can give us peace of mind and something to focus on. Find out what else this hobby has to offer in our 'Behind the scenes' series.

The change of throne in Luxembourg is being accompanied by the issuing of a brand new definitive series, now featuring the portrait of HRH Grand Duke Guillaume. And as usual we are also introducing special stamps commemorating various anniversaries: The first issue of the year honours Banque Raiffeisen, Microlux and the municipality of Schifflange.

We hope you enjoy reading this latest edition and wish you a wonderful start to the new philatelic year.

Claude Balthasar

Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately



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Face of a new era

A change in head of state often marks the beginning of a new definitive series, as portraits of monarchs are traditionally used as motifs for this kind of stamp.

In line with this common practice, POST Philately is issuing new Luxembourg definitive stamps featuring the portrait of HRH the Grand Duke following the change of throne that took place in October 2025. Definitive stamps – also known as definitive series – are usually available for many years and cover all the important postage rates required for domestic and international letters in addition to special methods of dispatch.

Definitive stamp designs are deliberately kept simple. They are characterised by a clear style, a uniform appearance within a series, and a compact format. Each face value is often assigned its own colour, which makes identification easier and is conducive

to machine finishing. While heads of state are a classic choice when it comes to stamp design, many countries resort to more timeless depictions such as national emblems, plants, animals, architectural landmarks or abstract patterns – motifs that can stand the test of time and do not become quickly outdated.

Unlike special stamps, which are usually only available for a short period of time and are linked to events, anniversaries or special occasions, the purpose of definitive stamps is primarily a functional one. They are produced in large quantities and are a regular sight in everyday postal traffic.

But that doesn't mean they're not exciting for collectors. Variations in printing methods, colours, paper types or cancellation marks can make them even more interesting – and sometimes even valuable – in spite of their widespread usage.



Current price of the series:

€12.90

Layout:

Agence Créa POST Luxembourg (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
front side full colour, bpost Stamps Printing,
Malines (BE)

Format of the stamps:

24 x 27.66 mm, 20 stamps per sheet

Print run:

L-E-M 100,000 stamps

R-AR 50,000 stamps

NEW

The stamps are printed on 100% recycled paper



© SIP / Claude Piscitelli

Proximity and cooperative strength

Steeped in history, Banque Raiffeisen is one of Luxembourg's longest-standing banks. The first Raiffeisen credit cooperatives, inspired by the ideas of Friedrich Wilhelm Raiffeisen, were founded in the Grand Duchy in 1925. Just one year later, they merged to form the *Centrale des caisses Raiffeisen luxembourgeoises* – the origin of the bank we know today.

By 1970, the cooperative model was more firmly established than ever before, with 138 Raiffeisen banks across the country. It was at this time that a period of change began. Technological developments and societal changes led to many smaller banks merging. What was formerly a highly decentralised network was transformed into a more modern and efficient structure – and all without sacrificing its cooperative identity.

In 2001, the central institution was officially named Banque Raiffeisen, a move that underscored the bank's commitment to combining tradition with modern banking practices – a guiding principle that it continues to live by to this day.

The fact that Banque Raiffeisen now boasts tens of thousands of members is testament to the enduring adaptability of the cooperative model. People trust the bank: not only as customers, but as members and contributors, too. It is this trust that forms the basis for sustainable development, innovation and customer-oriented services.



Price of the stamp:

€1.20

Layout:

Banque Raiffeisen (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset, front side full colour, bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp:

48.75 x 38.15 mm,
10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30,000 stamps

www.raiffeisen.lu



Promoting from the heart

Microlux is Luxembourg's first microfinance institution and has supported entrepreneurs that may not qualify for traditional bank loans since 2016. Its aim is to promote economic and social inclusion via microloans (up to €50,000), advice and coaching.

Behind the numbers lie some inspiring stories: Take Mariela, for example, who launched her takeaway business – 'Experiencias Deliciosas' – selling Argentine specialities with the support of Microlux, or Nermin, who founded his butcher's

shop 'Nerko' in Dudelange. In total, Microlux has provided support to around 300 entrepreneurs and created over 480 jobs to date.

Since 2024, the institution has been accredited as a *Société à Impact Sociétal* (societal impact company, or SIS), which guarantees that all profits are reinvested in order to support even more entrepreneurs. This makes Microlux a key driver of sustainable entrepreneurship in Luxembourg, and an institution that is often by its clients' side every step of the way – from the birth of an idea right through to its successful implementation.



Price of the stamp:
€1.20

Layout:
Gianmarco (LU)

Printing:
Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
front side full colour, bpost Stamps Printing,
Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp:
35 x 35 mm,
10 stamps per sheet

Print run:
30,000 stamps



Gianmarco has worked as a graphic designer and illustrator in Luxembourg for twenty years – first at various agencies, then as a freelancer since 2017. 'One of my strengths is the fact that I am a good listener. This plays an essential role in my ability to build trusting and lasting relationships with my customers,' he explains. This is how he gets to the heart of things. 'It goes without saying that this is hugely beneficial, especially when dealing with the tiny format that is the stamp' adds the illustrator, whose studio is located within the 1535° Creative Hub in Differdange.

www.microlux.lu

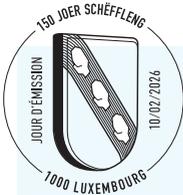
Municipality with a proud history and a great future

Located in the heart of southern Luxembourg, Schifflange is a municipality that is proud of both its history and its people. Its central location in the south of the Grand Duchy affords it excellent connections to Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg City and the French border. With almost 12,000 inhabitants, Schifflange combines tradition, industrial history and modern living in a unique way.

The town's roots are deeply intertwined with the history of Luxembourg's iron and steel industry. Old industrial buildings hark back to a time of hard work and progress, and are dotted between the modern residential areas that characterise the townscape of today. Green spaces, parks and leisure

facilities make Schifflange a place where both young and old can feel at home and where sustainable development forms a key component. With a wide variety of clubs and numerous festivals, life in the municipality is both vibrant and welcoming.

In 2026, Schifflange celebrates a special milestone: 150 years of independence. This anniversary represents the perfect opportunity to celebrate the development of the municipality and bring people together. Schifflange is a municipality that rolls tradition, change and community into one. The anniversary will be a moment that showcases just how dynamic the municipality is – a celebration that brings all facets of Schifflange to life.



Price of the stamp:

€1.20

Artwork:

Chiara Reuland (LU)

Layout:

Imprimerie POST Luxembourg (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset, front side full colour, bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp:

40.20 x 27.66 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

25,000 stamps





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An anniversary requires careful planning and thorough preparation. Two questions for Carlo Feiereisen, Mayor of Schiffange.

You invited all residents to submit a motif for the stamp. How did this idea come about?

Carlo Feiereisen: The idea stemmed from the desire to ensure all citizens could feel like they were playing an active role. The impact a stamp has stretches far beyond the boundaries of the municipality and offers the opportunity to showcase a piece of our history and local life in a unique way.

What special moments can residents and visitors to the commune look forward to?

Carlo Feiereisen: This anniversary year will be marked by a whole host of special moments. There is a wide range of cultural and community activities in the pipeline; these will offer opportunities for encounters and discoveries. There are also special projects planned for the end of the year that will build on existing traditions. The aim is to create experiences that appeal to all generations and make the anniversary a one-of-a-kind event. The specially established committee *150 Joer Schëffleng*, which brings together committed local figures from culture, associations, administration, and the community, has plenty of surprises in store.

POST Philately on the road



A variety of partners, artists and philatelists gathered this year in Lamadelaine, in the municipality of Pétange, to attend the *Soirée du Timbre*.

Soirée du Timbre 2025

On 23 October 2025, POST Luxembourg hosted its traditional *Soirée du Timbre*. In the presence of Claude Wiseler, President of the Chamber of Deputies, members of POST Luxembourg's Board of Directors and management, numerous artists, partners and philatelists, POST looked back on the stamp issues of 2025 and presented its programme of issues for 2026.

POST Philately also presented a souvenir frame for the 'SEPAC 2025 – Architecture' stamp to Reza Kianpour, Robert L. Philippart and Maria-Elysa Galichon. Another frame went to Jeannot Piron and Gisèle Lunkwig-Gauche from the *Cercle Philatélique Rodange* to say thank you for their role as organisers of the *Journée du Timbre* on 25 October 2025.

The winners of the *Schéinsten Timber 2024* competition were also announced, with the crypto stamp featuring a dragon motif being voted most beautiful stamp of 2024. In second and third place were the wildcat kittens from the 'Young Mammals in Luxembourg' booklet and the Christmas stamp featuring American St. Nick respectively.



Internationale Briefmarken-Börse in Ulm & 78th Salon Philatélique d'Automne in Paris

The events in Ulm (23-25 October 2025) and Paris (6-8 November 2025) are among the most important annual gatherings in the philatelic world. POST Philately was represented at each event with its own stand, where it presented special products commemorating the change of throne, in addition to offering visitors a commemorative envelope.



In addition to special products commemorating the change of throne, the POST Philately team also offered numerous other products, including coins.



Hobbyists and philatelists received a unique memento signed by artist Ben Carter (on the right).



Cachet Joyeux Noël 2025

On 18 December 2025, POST Philately invited all stamp enthusiasts to the Espace POST Luxembourg-Gare, offering them the opportunity to have their Christmas post stamped with the special 'Christmas 2025' cancellation mark. The end-of-year holiday stamps were designed by artist Ben Carter, who attended the event in person to take part in a signing session.

Stamp presentations

Presentation of the November issue

On 24 November 2025, the HELIX building, POST Luxembourg's headquarters, hosted the now-traditional reception for the institutions, organisations and partners who had contributed to the themes of the stamp issue that took place the following day. Guests included representatives of the *Maison du Grand-Duc*, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, the Archdiocese of Luxembourg and the *Comité Philatélique*, as well as participating artists and other partners.

In a festive setting, Mario Treinen, *Directeur POST Courier*, and Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, welcomed those present. The representatives were then presented with souvenir frames for their stamps. The finishing touch to the event was a reception that provided guests with the opportunity for stimulating conversation and discussion.



The partners and artists involved in the November issue were presented with their souvenir frames at POST Luxembourg's headquarters in a pleasant atmosphere.



The visit to Rome and the presentation of the souvenir frame containing the PIAC stamp were very special moments for Luxembourg philately.

Joint issue with Vatican City

On 11 December 2025, Claude Balthasar presented representatives of the PIAC (Pontifical Institute for Christian Archaeology) with a souvenir frame featuring the Luxembourg stamp from the joint issue with the Vatican – titled '100 Years of PIAC' – in Rome. At the same time, representatives of the Philatelic and Numismatic Office of the Vatican City State presented their edition of the stamp.



Behind the scenes

Previous issues have seen us explore the fascinating world of stamp production: from the selection of themes to the design, production and delivery of the stamps. This year, we are shifting focus and turning our attention to an equally exciting topic: the art of collecting.

Collecting – a true passion

Stamp collecting is one of the oldest, most traditional and, at the same time, most diverse hobbies in the world. Since the 19th century, people on every continent have been enchanted by these small, artistically designed emissaries. But what exactly is it that makes them so fascinating?

Maybe it's a combination of many things: the joy of discovery, a thirst for knowledge, the aesthetic appeal of the motifs, and the feeling of holding a piece of world history in your hands. Many collectors start quite casually – maybe with a stamp on a letter from abroad, or an old family collection. Others deliberately immerse themselves in philately due to their love of design, culture and history in equal measure.

Getting started with the hobby is surprisingly easy: You can focus on classic countries, tracing the growth and development of a particular state as you go. Equally exciting is the collecting of modern issues that depict social trends, new technologies or current events. Thematic collections are also particularly popular – from flora and fauna, through sport and architecture, to European collaborations, world cultural heritage and important public figures. The variety is almost limitless – and that is precisely what makes the hobby so appealing.



Every collection is unique and can cover a whole range of themes.



Stamps are much more than just a means of franking post, they are miniature works of art.

A treasure trove of stories

Every stamp tells its own story – often one that goes far beyond its actual purpose. Art, history, politics and cultural identity all come together in the space of just a few square centimetres. Some stamps commemorate historic turning points, while others honour explorers, artists or scientific milestones. There are also stamps that capture regional traditions or scenic features that might never have received international attention otherwise.

The value of a stamp is therefore not defined solely by its uncommonness like rarities such as the ‘Blue Mauritius’ (which, alongside the ‘Red Mauritius’, is one of the most expensive stamps in history). Its cultural and historical background is much more significant. A stamp is always a piece of contemporary history, captured in a delicate graphic composition – one that is often a small work of art in itself, given how impressive the artistic element of stamps can also be. Many issues are designed by renowned graphic designers, painters or illustrators. The artful combination of colour, typography and symbolism makes every stamp a miniature design piece. For art lovers, stamps therefore represent an extraordinary opportunity to experience and collect aesthetic diversity.



Collections connect generations. The knowledge they contain is often passed on and carefully preserved.

A hobby for young and old alike

Philately is an enduring, educational and timeless hobby. It guides children as they discover the world for the first time, enriches adults with the gift of knowledge and relaxation, and offers older collectors the opportunity to pass on their passion and expertise.

Once you start collecting, you quickly realise what the hobby is all about: staying curious, deepening your knowledge and seeing the world from a completely new perspective. Philately is not just a hobby – it’s a source of inspiration.

A first-day-of-issue cancellation mark will be available
on **10 February 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



Prices include Luxembourg VAT. Depending on the delivery address, the VAT may vary.

Postage stamps with a face value in euros and those with no face value will remain valid until stated otherwise. Once sold, postage stamps will be neither taken back nor exchanged.

Conditions accessible on www.post.lu or in any POST Point of sale.

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