



Philatélux

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postphilately.lu



EDITORIAL



Behind every association, club or society is a team of organisers, members and volunteers that works tirelessly, passionately and with great dedication. For many years we have been issuing special stamps to commemorate the anniversaries of a wide range of different initiatives and organisations in an effort to raise their visibility and thus support their causes. Our *Comité Philatélique* also considers significant public and institutional anniversaries when deciding what to commemorate via these stamps.

This year we have one new addition for you: our newsletter is finally here! From now on, we will be sending out a newsletter on current topics, products, activities and special cancellations on a regular basis. Register now to make sure you don't miss any news!

Claude Balthasar
Chef de Service Patrimoine & POST Philately

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Behind the scenes

Flying high!

While the skies of America and Europe were no strangers to hot-air balloons from as early as the late 1960s, the history of ballooning in the Grand Duchy did not begin until 1974, when five longtime friends and amateur pilots – Pouilly Emering, Alfi Feltes, Jang Sauber, Norri Theisen and Pit Thibo – decided to switch from aeroplanes to balloons and founded the *Commune Aérostatique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg*. They had no idea just how much their association would shape Luxembourg's aviation culture.

Their first step was to purchase a hot-air balloon from the British manufacturer Cameron Balloons Ltd. The balloon was christened *Feierwôn* (or "Chariot of Fire") and made its maiden flight from Rambrouch to

Noerdingen on 1 February 1975. The name *Feierwôn* is a reference to the song by Luxembourg poet Michel Lentz, which was written in 1859 to mark the first train journey from Luxembourg railway station. Like the trains from that period, a hot-air balloon is also powered by fire – a charming detail.

With the right maintenance and care, the envelope of a hot-air balloon can last for around 500 to 650 flying hours. Today's *Feierwôn* is therefore already the fifth replica, and made its maiden flight in March 2021. It boasts the same design as the original. This deliberate continuity in name and appearance honours the founders and symbolises their values: friendship, passion, respect and solidarity.

An exclusive pre-sale of the stamp will take place on 9 March 2025 from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm in Ettelbruck (Däichhal).

Current price of the stamp:

1,70€

Layout :

MONOGRAM (LU)

Printing:

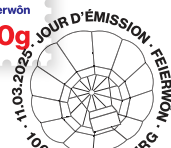
Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

26,25 x 30 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps





Goy Feltes and Claude Sauber are sons of the founders and continue their parents’ work as president and secretary respectively of the *Commune Aérostatique du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg*.

What are your memories of your parents’ endeavours and the *Feierwôn*’s first flight in 1975?

Claude Sauber (C.S.): It was a big day for me. You could sense the excitement in the air amongst family, friends and classmates while everything was being set up. It was a particularly significant moment for me in that it was also my first balloon ride – an unforgettable experience.

What has been the best moment for you personally?

Goy Feltes (G.F.): The atmosphere at the starting area of the 12th European Hot Air Balloon Championships in Meysemburg (Larochette) in 2000 left a real impression on me. I prepared the balloon in the VIP and sponsors’ area. The enthusiasm on display from the many partners and visitors was touching, and the moment all 120 balloons launched at the same time is something I’ll never forget.

Do you have any stories about strange landings?

C.S.: Back in the day, there were no radios or mobile phones. My father would usually land near a village, go to the pub near the church and call his contact from there. If the tracking team lost sight of the balloon, they would call the contact from a phone booth. That could prove quite the adventure sometimes.

G.F.: You’re required to complete a test flight every two years. My teacher in Austria was impressed by how accurately I hit the target, dropped the marker and landed shortly after. It was a successful flight that meant a lot to me – and made my examiner’s day.

"Zesummen am Kampf géint de Kriibs"

Together in the fight against cancer - the guiding principle of *Een Häerz fir kriibskrank Kanner asbl*. Play areas, cuddly toys, lots of colourful pictures and group photos of activities: the friendly and familial atmosphere is unmistakeable from the moment you step through the door of the house in Boevange/Attert that serves as the organisation's base of operations. "We provide information, support and guidance to families with young children and teenagers suffering from cancer during what will be a difficult time for them," says Martine Wirtz, the organisation's director. "But it is also very important to us to give these people hope and to show them what life can be like after cancer."

In addition to providing intensive support for affected families during the period of illness, psycho-social and administrative assistance, palliative care and financial aid, *Een Häerz fir kriibskrank Kanner asbl* also raises public awareness of childhood cancer by organising info booths as well as appeals for – and collections of – donations. These donations are then used to fund the association's holistic work on the one hand and invested in projects researching children's cancers on the other. Because each new medical finding can improve treatment and boost patients' chances of recovery.

kriibskrankkanner.lu



Current price of the stamp:

1,20€

Layout :

EduTec (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset, bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

38,40 x 28 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps



In the interests of all patients

On 28 June 1995, *Patiente Verriedung asbl* was founded by seven larger and smaller organisations with the aim of advocating more strongly for patients' rights. At that time, there was no institution or organisation in Luxembourg that specifically dealt with the rights of patients vis-à-vis medical service providers and could serve as a guiding hand through the sea of information and the multitude of actors in the sector. It was not until 2014 that a law was passed that consolidated

patient rights and obligations in a single text, thus bringing more clarity to them.

Today, the membership of *Patiente Verriedung asbl* numbers almost 20 associations. The association provides information regarding rights and obligations, delivers advice and helps patients with questions and problems concerning health, care and social security, including in the event of a dispute. Its work involves relying on dialogue and public relations activities with the aim of ensuring continuous improvements to the healthcare system.



Current price of the stamp:

1,20€

Layout :

Andy Genen (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

40 x 30 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps



The Luxembourg illustrator Andy Genen has been involved in the comic book industry for 20 years. He is, for example, the creative brains behind *De roude Puma* and the illustrator of *De Ieschte Ritter*, the *Ris* in Bettemburg and the National Library of Luxembourg's *De Littty* series. "*Patiente Verriedung* has been using the medium of comics as part of its communications for a very long time," says Genen. "Still, it was a considerable challenge for me to summarise 30 years of history – something I would normally present across several pages – within a smaller format."



patienteverriedung.lu

Presenting perspectives

Up until the 1970s, abortion was illegal in many European countries. It was around this time that the socio-political debate regarding the legalisation of abortion under certain conditions garnered increasing public attention. Œuvre pour la Protection de la Vie Naissante asbl was founded on 27 May 1975. This organisation took a clear position on the issue from the outset and set itself the goal of helping women in need to ensure that life would triumph over death.

The weakest members of the human race are undoubtedly children – both born and unborn. *Vie Naissante* provides a wide range of assistance to help young women in particular cope with the many challenges they face both before and

after giving birth. This assistance takes many forms and includes medical, psychological, material, financial and legal counselling and support.

Milk, nappies and food are provided to those who ask, for example. Members and friends of the organisation donate maternity clothing, children's clothes and furniture of all kinds. These donations are sorted and prepared by employees who work on an entirely voluntary basis, then passed on to people in need free of charge.

Between 350 and 400 young mothers use the services of *Vie Naissante* every year.

Current price of the stamp:

1,20€

Design:

Muriel Moritz (LU)

Layout :

Imprimerie POST Luxembourg (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

35 x 35 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps



vienaissante.lu

In honour of the patron saint of Luxembourg

The *Muttergottesoktav* (or "Octave of the Mother of God") is an important religious tradition in Luxembourg that is still firmly anchored in the country's ecclesiastical life today. The origins of the tradition date back to 8 December 1624, when Father Jacques Brocquart, a Jesuit priest, and a number of students from the Jesuit college carried a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary to the site of the present-day Place du Glacis and erected it there. This statue quickly became a place of pilgrimage for those who were sick, mourning or in need.

The pilgrimage was given the name *Oktav* (Octave) because it originally lasted eight days. Today, however, the festivities last for two weeks and take place between the fourth

and sixth week after Easter, with the solemn final procession marking the end of the Octave. The statue, which now stands in the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Luxembourg City, can be visited all year round.

The *Muttergottesoktav* was recognised as part of Luxembourg's intangible cultural heritage in 2008 due to the fact that, in addition to its religious significance, it is an important cultural event for the Grand Duchy.



Did you know that the statue of Mary is dressed in new garments every two days during the *Oktav*? Her robes, decorated with elaborate embroidery and delicate details, reflect the artistic skill and typical, often symbolic, elements of the time.



Price of the stamp:
1,20€

Layout :
Zoë Mondloch (LU)

Printing:
Multicoloured high-resolution offset, soft touch lamination and embossment, bpost Stamps

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

Print run:
30.000 stamps



A municipality worth living in

Mertzig, a Luxembourg municipality on the border between Éislek and Guttland, was first mentioned in 762. In 842, it gave rise to Martiaco, one of the oldest villages in Luxembourg. On Joseph Johann von Ferraris' maps from the 18th century, Obermertzig and Untermertzig appear as separate localities, with Obermertzig on the right and Untermertzig on the left of the Wark river.

A significant year in the history of Mertzig was 1874 when, in November, parliament passed a law officially detaching it from the commune of Feulen. This came into force on 1 January 1875 – meaning the commune celebrates its 150th birthday this year.

Today, Mertzig has around 2,450 inhabitants from 42 different nations and is a young,

modern and dynamic municipality. One of its most famous sons is the artist and architect Sosthène Weis. His birthplace, which has been owned by the commune since the 1970s, was extensively renovated between 2020 and 2022 in a process that managed to preserve the building's architectural heritage.

With its modern extension, it's clear just from looking at the town hall that sustainability and inclusion play a key role in Mertzig. Since 2019, through the #mertzig4all project, the commune has been committed to the concept of the Economy for the Common Good. This is an alternative economic model that places the focus on people and the environment, with the principles of this initiative shaping development and life in Mertzig accordingly.



Current price of the stamp:

2,40€

Layout :

Jason Goldschmit (LU)

Printing:

Two-coloured high-resolution offset, bpóst Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

60 x 30 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps

Three questions for Jason Goldschmit, who came up with the design for the stamp

Mr Goldschmit, how did you get into drawing?

Jason Goldschmit (J.G.): Drawing has been with me all my life: I discovered it as a child and later rediscovered it during my time at secondary school. It's my way of giving form to crazy ideas and concepts that I don't see anywhere else.

You lived in the municipality of Mertzig. What makes the commune special to you?

J.G.: To put it very simply: Mertzig is my home. I grew up here and always felt that, despite its somewhat modest size, it had everything to offer that you could reasonably expect from a small town.

And how did you translate this into the design for the stamp?

J.G.: Actually, what I drew has very little to do with my view of Mertzig; rather, I decided to focus more on the history of the municipality.

What has most defined Mertzig down through the years and made it what it is today? The Mertzig quarry and its distinctive reddish stone.

It is, in a very literal sense, the fundamental building block of the municipality, with even the town hall itself being built using Mertzig sandstone. With that in mind, it made sense to me to choose the quarry as the subject for the stamp.



mertzig.lu

Always on duty

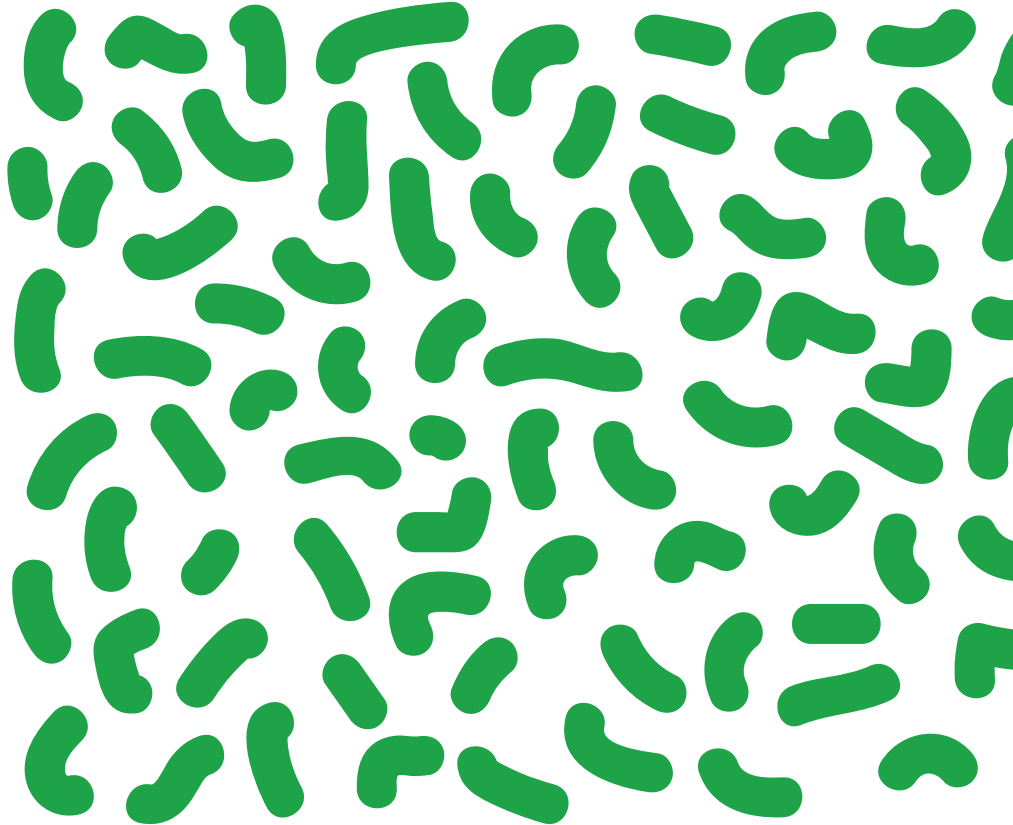
The word "police" is derived from the Greek *politeia*, which can be translated as "state authority". An institution for ensuring public safety and order has existed in Luxembourg for more than 200 years. The modern-day *Police Grand-Ducale* was created in May 2000 through the merger of the police with the gendarmerie.

Global digital transformation and the use of social media have given rise to new forms of crime. At the international level, terrorist attacks and current wars are having a significant impact on global security. These developments are

leading to a change in the types of crime being committed and increasing the demands placed on the police. Issues such as cybercrime and the dangers of the dark web pose new challenges and make it necessary to constantly adapt to ever-evolving threats.

At the same time, however, the police must remain in touch with the people they serve because the force is an integral part of society and continues to be responsible for the safety of each and every individual – while always remaining true to their motto "Zesumme fir lech" ("Together for You").





Current price of the stamp:

1,20€

Layout :

Police Grand-Ducale (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

48,75 x 38,15 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps



Collected history, collected stories

In 2006, the police administration decided to take a detailed look at its own history. The first pieces in the current collection were brought together at police headquarters in Luxembourg-Verlorenkost as early as 2007. In 2010, an association was founded and given the task of managing and continuously expanding the police-history collection. The aim of this association is to make the numerous items and exhibits accessible and to convey their significance in a way that makes them really come alive.

The museum, which is currently located in Capellen, invites visitors on a journey through the history of the police, with fascinating insights from the active or retired police officers who provide guided tours. Behind almost every uniform cap, every document, every weapon and every technical device, there lies a fascinating story. The association places particular emphasis not just on getting the general public interested in police history, but also on appealing to both police officers and prospective members of the force. Visitors have the opportunity to discover the many different facets of the profession up close, including the painful and traumatic moments that can come with it.



Current price of the stamp:

1,70€

Layout :

Police Grand-Ducale (LU)

Printing:

Multicoloured high-resolution offset,
bpost Stamps Printing, Malines (BE)

Format of the stamp

48,75 x 38,15 mm, 10 stamps per sheet

Print run:

30.000 stamps



Camille DIENER, President, Le Musée de la Police a.s.b.l.



As former police chief inspector, Camille Diener is one of the founding members and has been involved in the *Policemusée* for 15 years.

"For me, it was – and is – important to look back on and reappraise the history of the former and current law enforcement forces, to shed light on this history and to bring it to a wider audience," he explains. "And we, as members of the association, are now part of this history – but you don't necessarily have to be part of the history to work with it."

POST Philately on the road and stamp presentations

25 years FNR

On 4 October 2024, Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, handed over the souvenir frame – “25 years of the *Fonds National de la Recherche* (FNR)” – to Didier Goossens, Head of Corporate Communication at the FNR, and Joanna Muz, Design & Creative Project Manager at the FNR.



Didier Goossens, Claude Balthasar, Joanna Muz



Ainhoa Achutegui, Manou Worré, Isabelle Faber, Claude Balthasar

In commemoration of Dr Marie-Paule Molitor-Peffer

On 7 October 2024, Isabelle Faber, *Directrice Ressources humaines, Relations publiques et RSE* of POST Luxembourg, in the presence of Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, welcomed Ainhoa Achutegui, President of *Planning Familial*, and Manou Worré, Member of the Board of *Planning Familial*, to hand over the souvenir frame – “25th anniversary of the death of Dr Marie-Paule Molitor-Peffer”.



© Gemeng Käerch

Claude Balthasar, Daniel Wirth, Myriam Schmit

500 years of the Coryciana

On 13 November 2024, Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, visited the commune of Koerich and handed over the souvenir frame – “500 years of the Coryciana” – to Daniel Wirth, Mayor of Koerich, in the presence of the graphic designer Myriam Schmit, who designed the stamp.



Marco Zorzi, Vic Weber, Tom Paquay, Claude Balthasar

Christmas 2024

On 29 November 2024, Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, visited Wiltz to hand over the souvenir frame to Tom Paquay, President of the *Œuvre Saint Nicolas Wiltz*, Vic Weber, Secretary and Treasurer of the *Œuvre Saint Nicolas Wiltz*, and Marco Zorzi, the artist who designed the two stamps.

125th birthday of Jean-Pierre Beckius

On 16 December 2024, as part of the exhibition "Impressions d'ici et d'ailleurs" at the Villa Vauban in Luxembourg City, Gaston Bohnenberger, Director of POST Technologies, presented a souvenir frame with the stamp that commemorates the artist to members of Jean-Pierre Beckius' family.



Gaston Bohnenberger, Lisa Bley

30 years *Fondation Cancer*

On 18 December 2024, Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*, presented the souvenir frame to Margot Heirendt, Director of *Fondation Cancer*, and Claudia Gaebel, Head of Information, Communication and Fundraising at *Fondation Cancer*.



Claude Balthasar, Margot Heirendt, Claudia Gaebel



Tessy Roeser, Melissa Da Silva, Dr. Fränz D'Onghia, Dr. Sophie Hédo, Claude Balthasar, Isabelle Faber, Pascal Recchia, Catherine Van Ouytsel

10 October: World Mental Health Day

On 8 October 2024, Isabelle Faber, *Directrice Ressources humaines, Relations publiques et RSE* of POST Luxembourg, handed over the souvenir frame to Dr Sophie Hédo, Director of *Ligue Luxembourgeoise d'Hygiène Mentale* (LLHM), in the presence

of Melissa Da Silva, Tessy Roeser, Catherine Van Ouytsel, Dr Fränz D'Onghia (LLHM), Pascal Recchia, *psychologue du travail* at POST Luxembourg, and Claude Balthasar, *Chef de service Patrimoine & POST Philately*.



Emil Apel, Anna Gérard, Isabelle Faber, Jules Apel, Sophie Pereira Pütz, Luise Dombrat

Award ceremony for the “Kleeschen” drawing contest

Jules Apel, 5 years old, won the first prize in the “Draw a Stamp for Saint Nicholas/ *Kleeschen*” contest.

Reminder: During the summer, POST4Kids invited children aged 4 to 8 to draw their own design for a *Kleeschen* (Saint Nicholas) stamp. More than 150 young creatives participated in the contest. Congratulations to all!

A jury composed of philately experts and communication professionals carefully analysed all the submitted drawings. The jury selected the following winners, taking into account creativity, adherence to the theme, and age-appropriate artistic quality:

①

Jules Apel, 5 years old. Prize: a frame with his stamp, 2 sheets of this stamp to use, sponsorship of a donkey at *Parc Merveilleux de Bettembourg* along with 5 entry tickets, a donkey plush toy, and the book “Briefträger Maus”

②

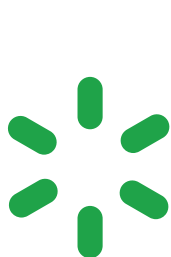
Anna Gérard, 5 years old. Prize: 2 sheets of the winning stamp and the book “Briefträger Maus macht Ferien”

③

Sophie Pereira Pütz, 7 years old. Prize: 2 sheets of the winning stamp and the book “Les Vacances de Facteur Souris”

With so many wonderful drawings, the decision was not easy for the jury members. Therefore, it was decided to award, in addition to the top three prizes, the “Coup de cœur du jury” prize to Emil Apel, 8 years old. He won 2 sheets of the winning stamp and the book “La tournée de Facteur Souris”

The award ceremony took place on 12 November 2024, at the *Centre de tri* in Bettembourg, where the drawing contest winners and their families gathered. As a surprise, the young artists and their companions had the opportunity to discover the *Centre de tri* during an exclusive guided tour led by René Clement.



BEHIND THE SCENES



In this new section, we would like to provide insights into areas that go beyond the subjects of individual stamp issues, and in doing so, answer questions that some of our customers have asked us in the past. In this issue – and subsequent ones – of Philatélux, we will be covering the journey from idea to finished stamp – and the challenges that arise along the way.



2nd row: Antonio Ferreira, Claude Balthasar, Serge Ungeheuer, Guy May, Fons Biver • 1st row: Dany Weyler, Jean-Claude Müller, Heike Fries, Paul Rausch
• Absent: Jos Wolff



Every stamp starts with an idea

The Luxembourg state has granted POST Luxembourg the exclusive right to issue postage stamps. The fact that the issuing of commemorative stamps is within the “sovereign domain” of the state highlights their significance. But stamps are not just official tokens of value for franking letters or parcels; they are also mini “ambassadors” of their country of origin, providing insights into that country’s culture, history and society. Looking through a country’s stamp collection is a great way to quickly get an overview of topics or events that are and were important for that country. The stamps themselves also visualise the changes that both graphic illustration and stamp production have undergone over time.

This makes it all the more important that an issue programme does justice to these numerous facets. In order to create a varied and interesting issue programme, POST Philately puts out a call for subject suggestions for future stamps in online and offline media towards the end of each year. Although it is possible to suggest subjects throughout the year, anyone who has a relevant idea should ideally submit it a year and a half in advance. This is the only way to ensure that a suggestion can be considered in the first place.

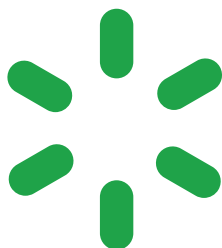


Strict subject-selection criteria

The *Comité Philatélique* meets at least twice a year to discuss and review the subjects submitted. This committee is made up of experts from a wide range of fields, as well as representatives of POST Luxembourg.

As mentioned above, POST Luxembourg acts on behalf of the Luxembourg state. This means that the selection of subjects is particularly important and therefore must follow clearly defined rules: commercial anniversaries or living persons – aside from members of the Grand Ducal Family – are excluded from selection. Instead, the programme reflects a cross-section of Luxembourg’s culture, history and society. Postage stamps honour special achievements by individuals and institutions and contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage.

After careful evaluation of and voting on the individual suggestions, the committee thus comes up with the annual issue programme of around 30 subjects. It is then submitted to the POST Luxembourg executive committee and the government.



Presentation of the annual programme

The new issue programme is unveiled at the *Soirée du Timbre*, which takes place every autumn and is attended by representatives of institutions, organisations and individuals whose subject suggestions have been accepted, as well as collectors, artists, politicians and members of the public.



Win two tickets for this year's *Soirée du Timbre*!

To take part in our competition, all you need to do is answer the following question:

What is the name of the body that considers potential stamp subjects?

The *Soirée du Timbre* will take place in Rodange in autumn 2025.

Enter
the competition



A first-day-of-issue postmark will be available on **11 March 2025** at the Philatelic Counter in Luxembourg-Cloche d'Or.

New rates for national and international shipments have been in place since **3 February**.
More information on www.postphilately.lu

OPENING HOURS OF THE PHILATELIC COUNTER

Monday to Friday
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On Issue day and the day after:
8.30 am – 12.00 pm
and 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

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