

Luxembourg Presents Its Philatelic Diversity

Four new issues released on September 23 demonstrate how Luxembourg stamps combine a rich history with popular local and international topics.



In commemoration of World War One, a single stamp recalls how on August 2, 1914, Luxembourg—which had previously remained neutral—became one of the first victims of German military might.

For the €0.60 stamp, artist Pierre Blanc captured the moment the first incursions took place, as the Germany's 29th infantry regiment stormed Luxembourg City. The original aquarell pen drawing can be found in the National museum of history and art in Luxembourg.

Also with an historical bent are three €0.60 stamps honoring these Famous Personalities:

Marie Speyer (1880-1914) was born in Vianden. At 25, she passed all the compulsory exams to become a primary school teacher. In 1905, she went to study at Fribourg University in Switzerland (it began admitting women in 1865) and presented her doctorate thesis in 1909. In 1911, she was offered the position of assistant director at the Lycée de Jeunes Filles in Luxembourg. In 1914 she died of cancer, a few days shy of her 34th birthday.



Samuel Hirsch (1809-1889) studied at the universities of Bonn and Berlin, receiving training as a rabbi in Metz. He was a pioneer of liberal Judaism in Germany and a radical voice when the Jewish reform movement was still in its incipience. He was Chief Rabbi of Luxembourg from 1843 to 1866. In 1966 he was appointed rabbi of the reform community of Philadelphia and immigrated to the U.S. where he chaired the first North American rabbinical congress in Philadelphia in 1869. He remained rabbi for 22 years in Philadelphia, retiring in 1888 and moving to join his son in Chicago.

Nikolaus Hein (1889-1969) was the son of a winegrower from Ehnens who studied German language and literature, ancient philology and history in Munich (1909-1910) and at the Sorbonne (1910-1912). He taught in Echternach and at the School of Industry and Trade in

Luxembourg. Hein dedicated his life to promoting the German language and its literature. The Moselle landscape and the winegrowing profession provided the foundation for his poetry and impressionist prose miniatures.

Every two years, POST Luxembourg organizes a stamp design competition for children and adolescents in primary and secondary schools. The winning design, by age group, is published in the form of a postage stamp and the winner(s) receive a €1,000 prize.

This year, working in partnership with the Natural History Museum, the theme was “the soil, this essential living environment”. More than 1,600 children and adolescents took part in the drawing competition. On July 3, 2014, the



prizes were presented at the Head Office of POST Technologies at the Cloche d'Or. Two winners are featured on €0.60 and €0.85 stamps.

Also released on September were €0.85, €1.00 and €1.10 stamps picturing legumes (shown here, a common chicory plant). With 1,300 identified species of vascular plants in the country, Luxembourg is, despite its small size, is the keeper of an astonishing biodiversity. (Vascular plants, including legumes, have tissues that distribute resources through the plant, which allows them to evolve to a larger size than non-vascular plants.)

The stamps were issued in accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, whose goal is to stop the loss of endangered species.

The stamps of Luxembourg, as well as the issues of 20 other postal administrations offered at face value may be accessed at the World Online Philatelic Agency, <http://www.wopa-stamps.com/>.

Information also can be found at our Stamp News Now website page, <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/WOPA-NewIssues.html>.

