FORTIFICATIONS, CASTLES AND MANSIONS OVER THE CENTURIES

The collection describes the defensive town planning evolution; you pass from the enemy sighting tower to the castles as a mean of defence, in each facet on the grounds of the areas.
The castles has been a dominant buildings from the 9th century to the 17th century. The castle, increasing the power of firearms, lost a lot of its privileges. Luxurious and princely mansions were built instead the castle.

EXECUTION OF THE COLLECTION

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Old fortifications

The towers

A tower is a tall structure, usually taller than it is wide; throughout history it has provided its users with an advantage in surveying defensive positions and obtaining a better view of the surrounding areas, including battlefields. Towers were installed on defensive walls, or rolled near a target, especially during the middle ages.



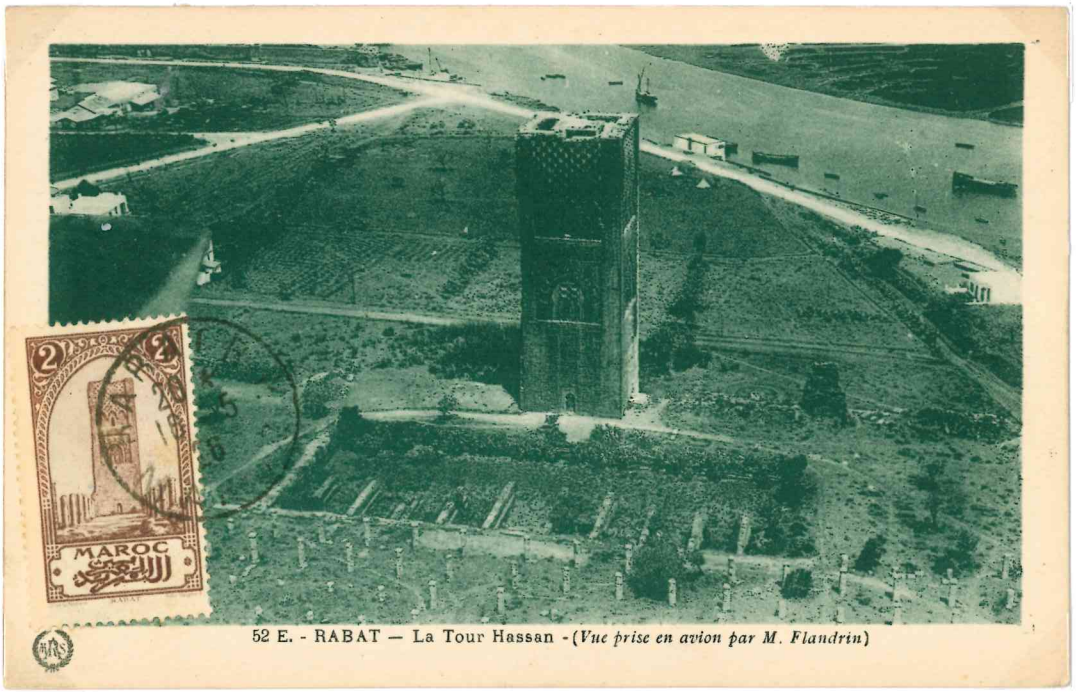
CONSTANTINOPLE
(Turkey)
The Maiden's Tower

It is a tower lying on a small islet located at the southern entrance of the Bosphorus. In 1929 Turkish Government changed Constantinople in Istanbul.

Issue 21-01-1919 - Canc. Constantinople 07-05-1921.



Issue 21-01-1919 – Cancellation Galata 08-12-1920



RABAT (Marocco)
Hassan Tower

It is the minaret of an incomplete mosque in Rabat, Morocco. Begun in 1195, the tower was intended to be the largest minaret in the world along with the mosque, also intended to be the world's largest. The tower only reached 44 m, about half of its intended 86 m

Issue 1925 – Canc. Rabat 16-05-1926.

THESSALONIKI
(Greece)
The White Tower

It is a monument on the waterfront of the city of Thessaloniki. The present tower replaced an old Byzantine fortification and reconstructed by the Ottomans to fortify the city's harbour. It was originally covered by a conical roof

Issue 01-04-1927 – Canc. Thessaloniki 21-09-1928.



Old fortifications

The towers

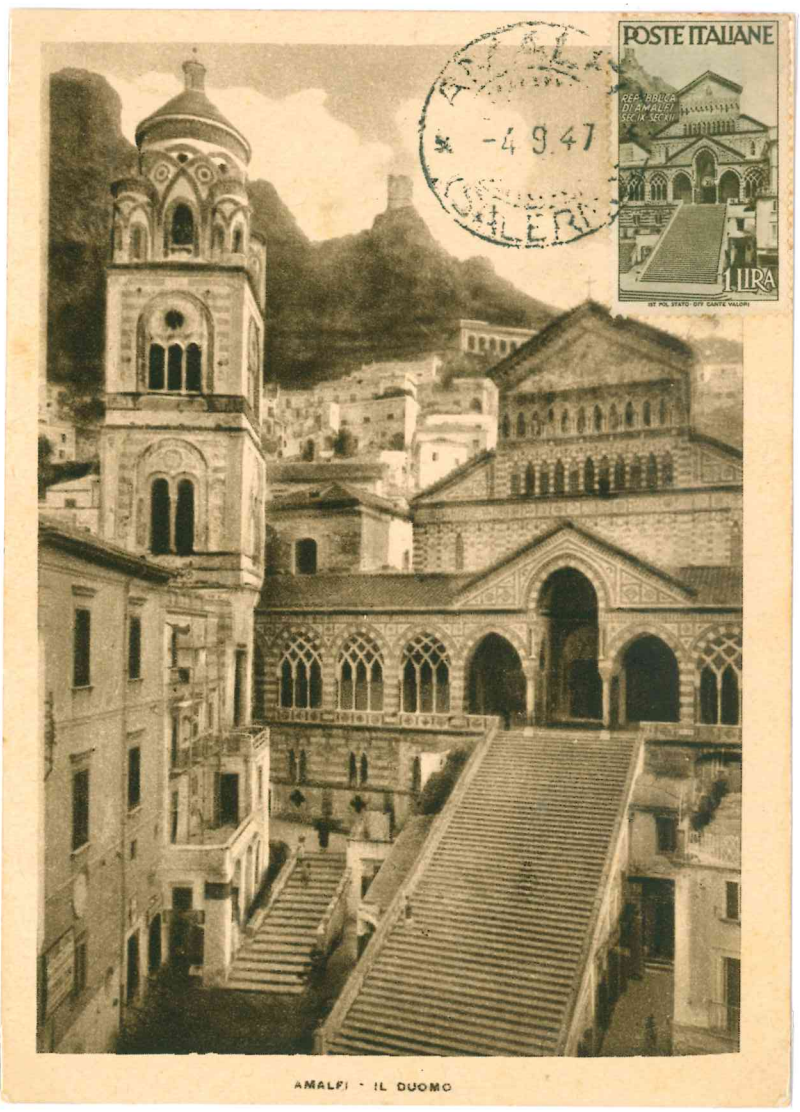
You pass from the enemy sighting towers to the tower of castles for a better defence.



S. MARINO (Republic of san Marino)
The tower

De La Fratta or Cesta is one of three peaks which overlooks the city of San Marino and it was built in the XIII century. The other two are Guaita and Montale.

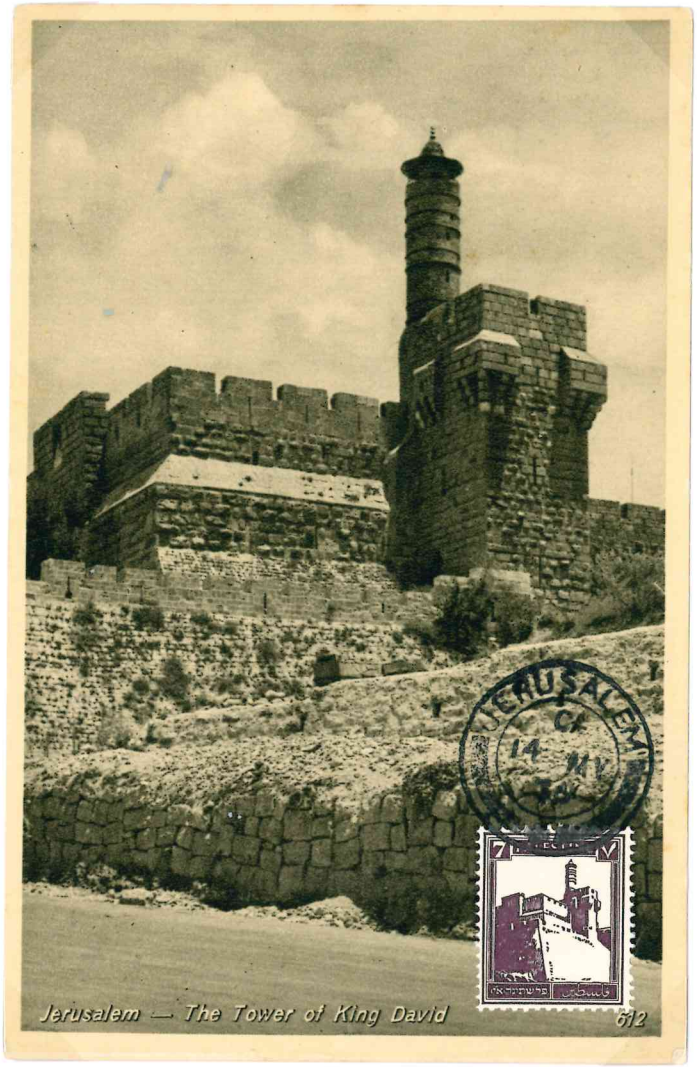
Issue 01-04-1903 – Canc. S. Marino 12-08-1906.
Postal validity 15-12-1917.



AMALFI (Italy)
The tower

The tower stands out against the sky behind the Cathedral, in the background. It was built as an outpost and watchtower to guard against attack by Saracen pirates.

Issue 31-10-1946 – Canc. Amalfi 04-09-1947.
Postal validity 31-12-1947.



JERUSALEM (Israel)
The castle and the tower of David

The Tower of David is an ancient citadel located near the Jaffa Gate entrance to the Old City of Jerusalem. Built to strengthen a strategically weak point in the Old City's defenses, the citadel that stands today was constructed during the II century BC and subsequently destroyed and rebuilt by, in succession the Christian, Muslim, Mamluk and Ottoman conquerors of Jerusalem.
The name "Tower of Davis" is due to Byzantine Christians who believed the site to be the place of King David.

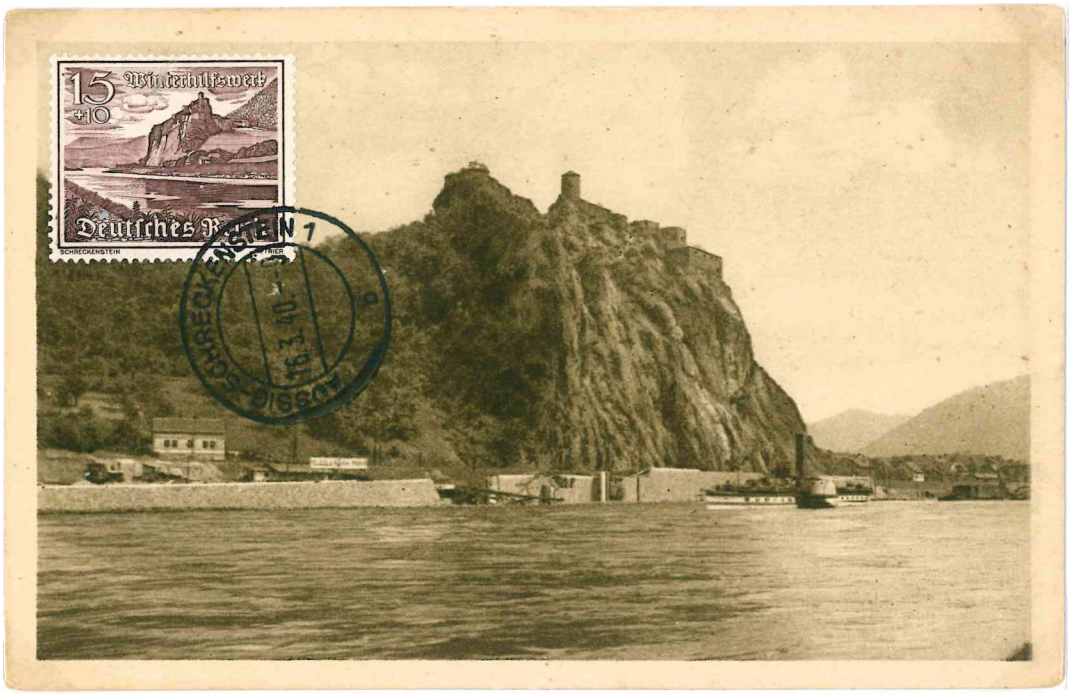
Issue 01-06-1932 – Canc. Jerusalem 14-05-1936. stamp of ordinary set.

BELGRADO (Jugoslavia)
The Nejbosa Tower

It represents the only remaining well preserved medieval building within the Belgrade Fortress. It was built around 1460 for the purpose of defending the city from the Turks.

Issue 206-09-1939 – Canc. Belgrado 25-03-1940.





AUSSIG (Germany)
Strekov castle

It was built in the 14th century on a basalt rock above the river Labe to protect the important waterway and to collect duties. Střekov castle enchanted many artists notably Richard Wagner who was inspired to write a poem that served as basis for the libretto to the opera Tannhäuser.

Issue 27-10-1939 – Canc. Aussig-Schreckenstein 16-03-1940.

ESCH-SUR-SURE
(Luxembourg)
The castle

The castle, now a ruin, is located on a spur in the small town of Esch-sur-Sûre. It is naturally protected by a sharp meander in the River Sûre which surrounds the town and the castle on three sides. The castle has a lot of towers.

Issue 05-08-1948 – Canc. Esch-sur-Sure 21-10-1950.

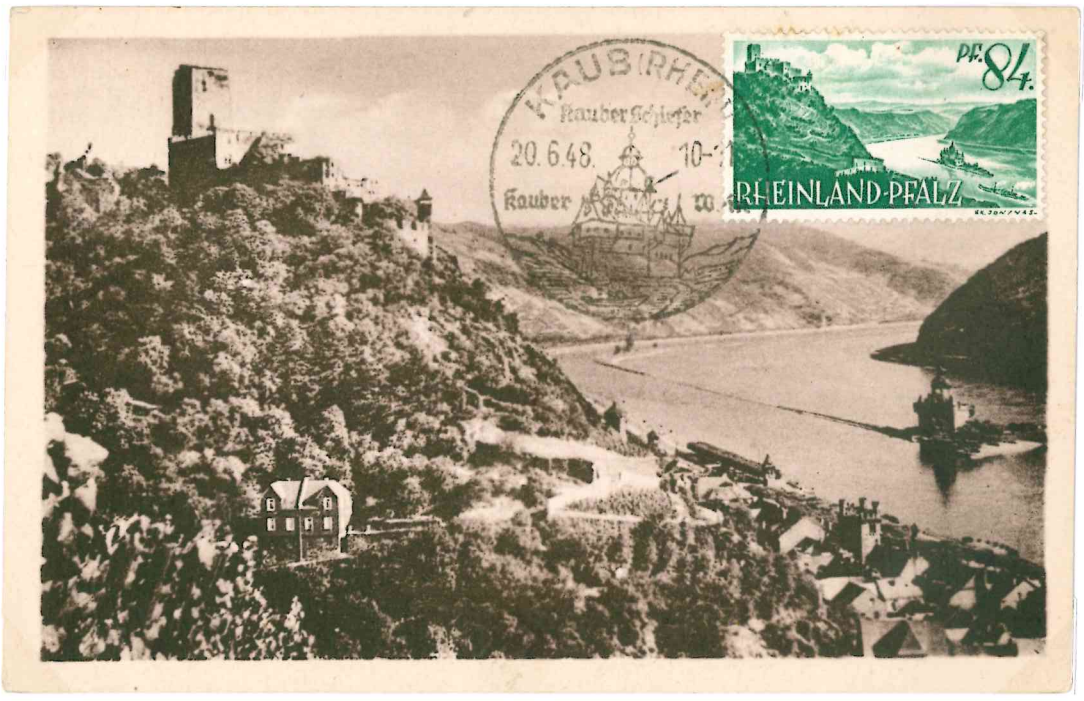




DRACHENFELS (Germany)
The tower of the castle

The seven mountains are a romantic place. The castle has gone to the ruins, but a beautiful tower remains today. This tower is the most popular imagine of the Region.

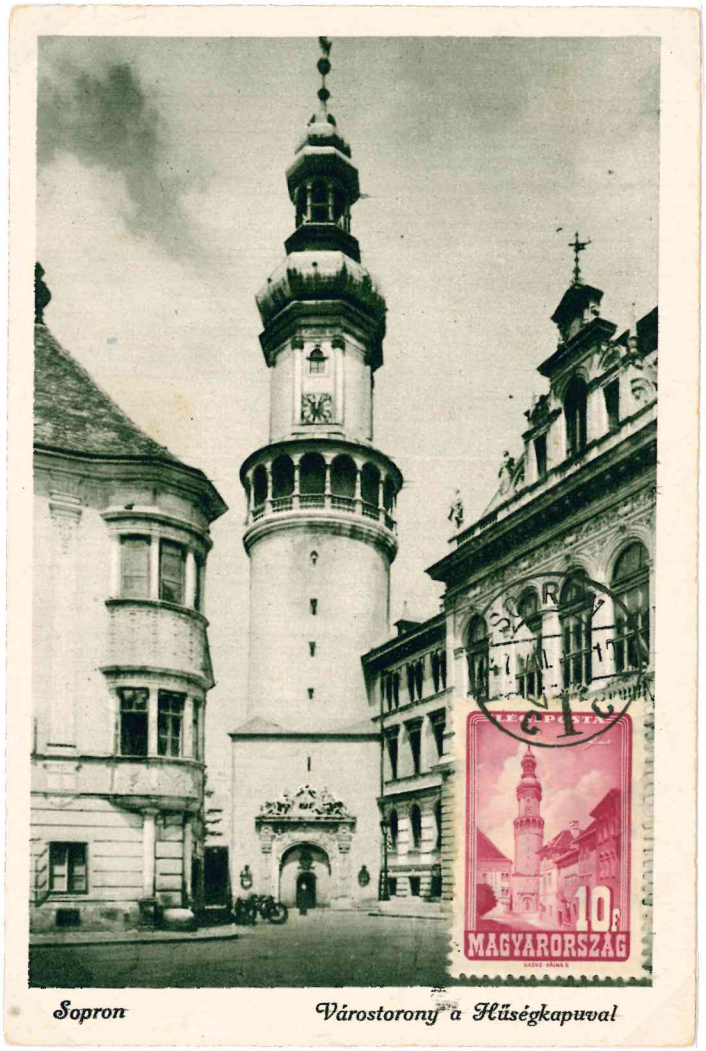
Issue Third Reich 27-10-1939 – Canc. Drachenfels 29-04-1940.



KAUB (Germany)
The castle

The watchtower of the castle was built in the XII century. It overlooks the large Reno Valley, over the medieval village of Kaub.

Issue 1947 – Canc. Kaub 20-06-1948.
Stamp issued for the French occupation in the Rheinland.Pfalz Region.



SOPRON (Hungary)
The fire tower

The tower was built upon the ruins of Roman walls and it is the symbol of the town. From the 13th century its bottom cylindrical part served as a gate tower of the town walls. The Renaissance circular arcade originally served as a fire watchtower. The guards of the tower had an important job. They indicated the position of the fire with lanterns at night and colourful flags in daytime.

Issue 1947 - Canc. Sopron 19-08-1947.

ISTANBUL (Turkey)
Rumeli Fortress

It was built by Sultan Mehmed II in just over four months in 1452. It consists of three large and one small towers, connected by a wall reinforced with 13 small watchtowers. The fort gave the Ottomans complete control of the passage of ships through Bosporus.

Issue 1953 – Canc. Istanbul 12-12-956.





FOIX (France)
The castle

From atop its impressive rock, the castle dominates the town; in centuries past it controlled access to the high Ariège river valley and watched over the countryside, protected by impregnable walls. It was built in the VII century.

Issue 11-10-1958 – Canc. Foix 11-10-1958. First day of issue.

BROUAGE (France)
The fortress

The old fortress of Brouage lays now abandoned in the marshes south of Rochefort. But once it was one of the richest harbours in the French coast, thanks to the salt commerce.
The small towers were built in the XV century.

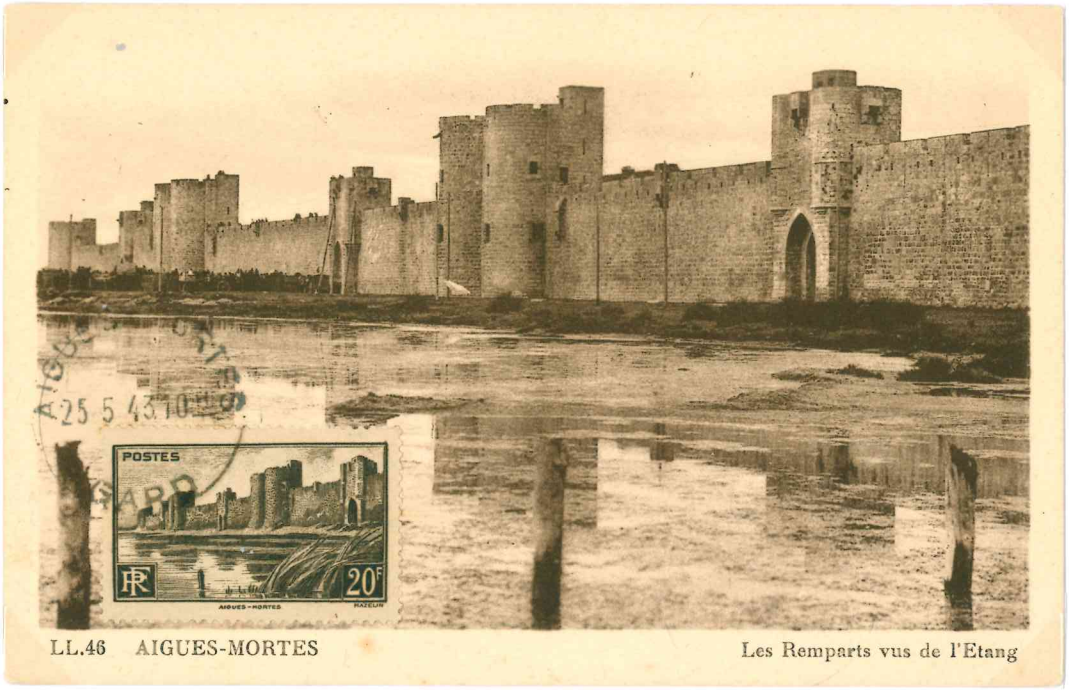
Issue 15-10-1955 – Canc. Brouage 15-10-1955. First day of issue.



Old fortifications

Boundary walls

A wall is a vertical structure, usually solid, that defines and sometimes protects an area. Before the invention of artillery, many of the world's cities and towns, particularly in Europe and Asia, had boundary qalls. In fact, the English word "wall" is derived from Latin vallum, which was a type of fortification wall. Since they are no longer relevant for defence, such cities have grown beyond their walls, and many of the wall, or portionsi thereof, have been torn down.



AIGUES-MORTES (France)

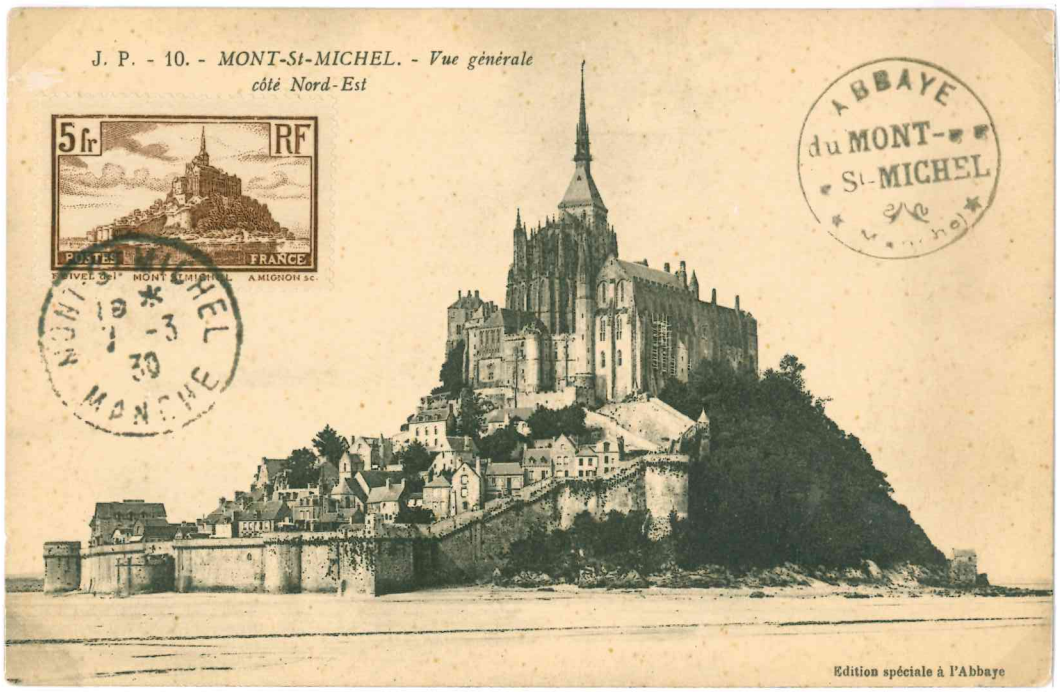
In 1240 St. Louis decided to built a city in order to open up access to the Mediterranean: this was Aigues-Mortes. The town was completely sourrounded by walls in the XIII century. The walls can be covered on foot.

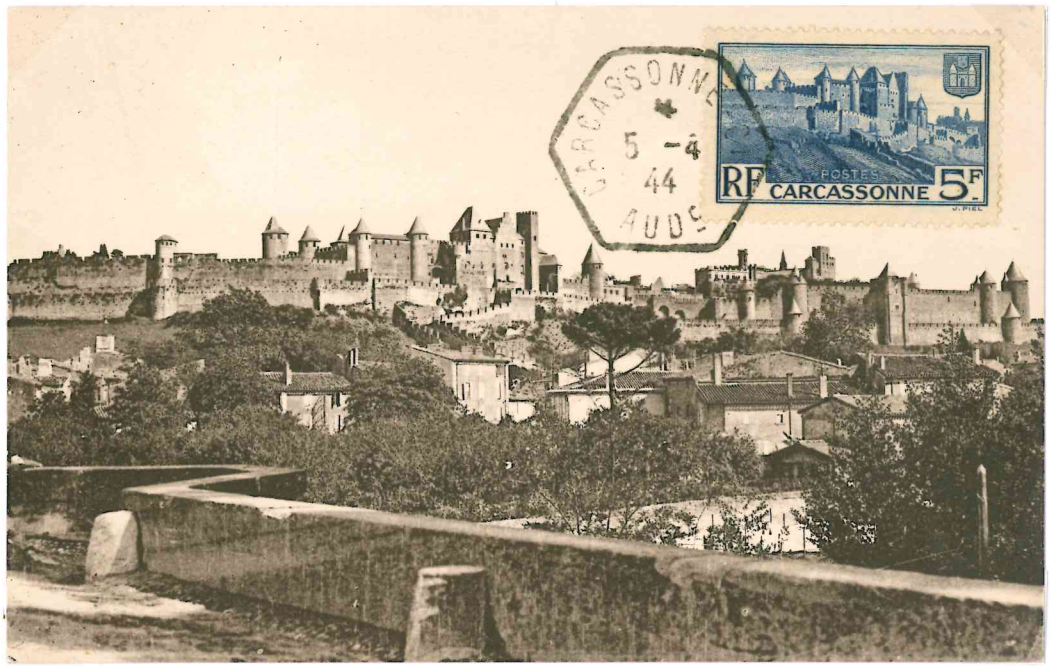
Issue 20-06-1941 – Canc. Aigues-Mortes 31-05-1943.

MONT SAINT MICHEL (France)
The walls

It is a rocky tidal island in Normandy, France. The islands highest point is 92 metres above sea level. The island has held strategic fortifications since ancient times, and since ancient times, and since the 8th century AD been the seat of the monastery from which it draws its name.

Issue 1930 – Canc. Mont Saint Michel 07-03-1930.

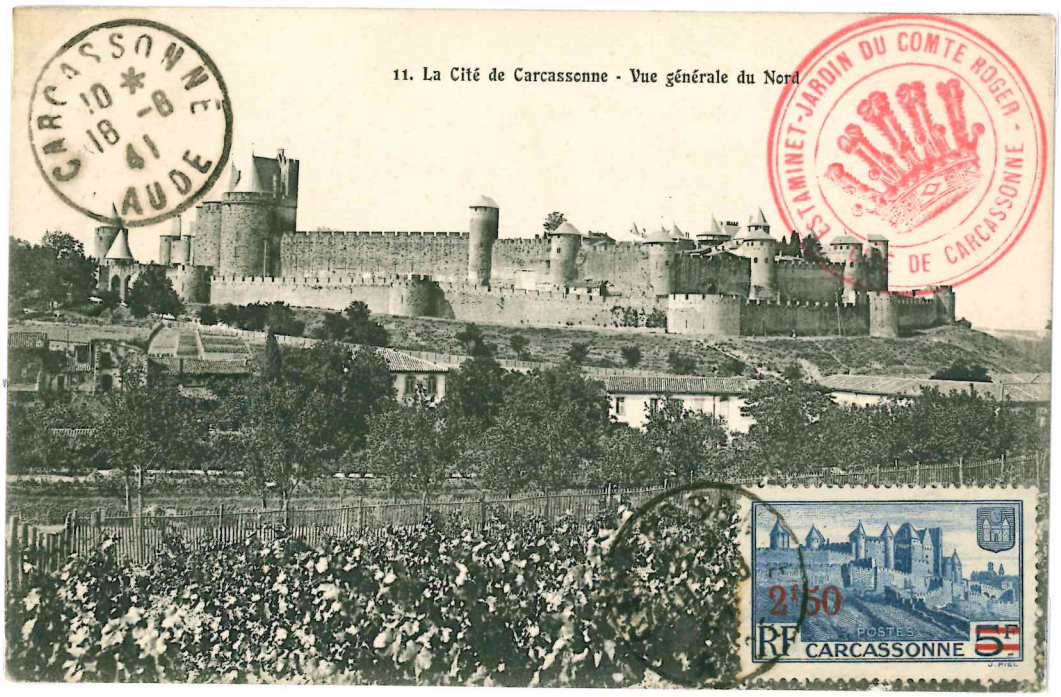




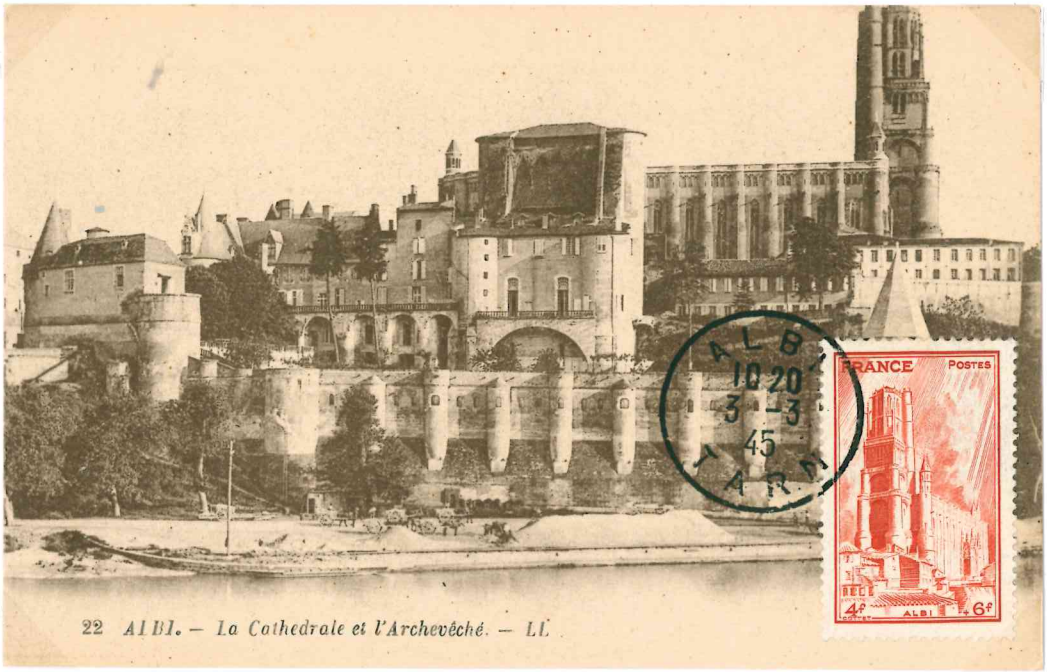
Issue 20-04-1939 – Canc. Carcassonne 05-04-1944.

CARCASSONNE (France)
Boundary walls

Carcassone is a fortified French town in the Aude department founded by the Visigoths in the fifth century. Carcassone has the longest walls in Europe; the walls consist of towers built over quite a long period. One section is Roman and is notably different from the medieval walls with the tell-tale red brick layers and the shallow pitch terracotta tile roofs.



Issue 17-05-1941- Canc. Carcassonne 18-08-1941. Stamp with red overprint for a new value, types 1938-1939.



ALBI (France)
The Cathedral

The Cathedral of Saint Cecilia was constructed between 1287 to 1480 in the wake of the Albigensian heresy in the area. The government mounted a brutal crusade to suppress the Cathar rebellion. The cathedral was the symbol of the power and authority of the Christian faith.

Issue 20-11-1944 – Canc. Albi 03-03-1945.

SAN MARINO (Republic of S. Marino)
Mount Titan

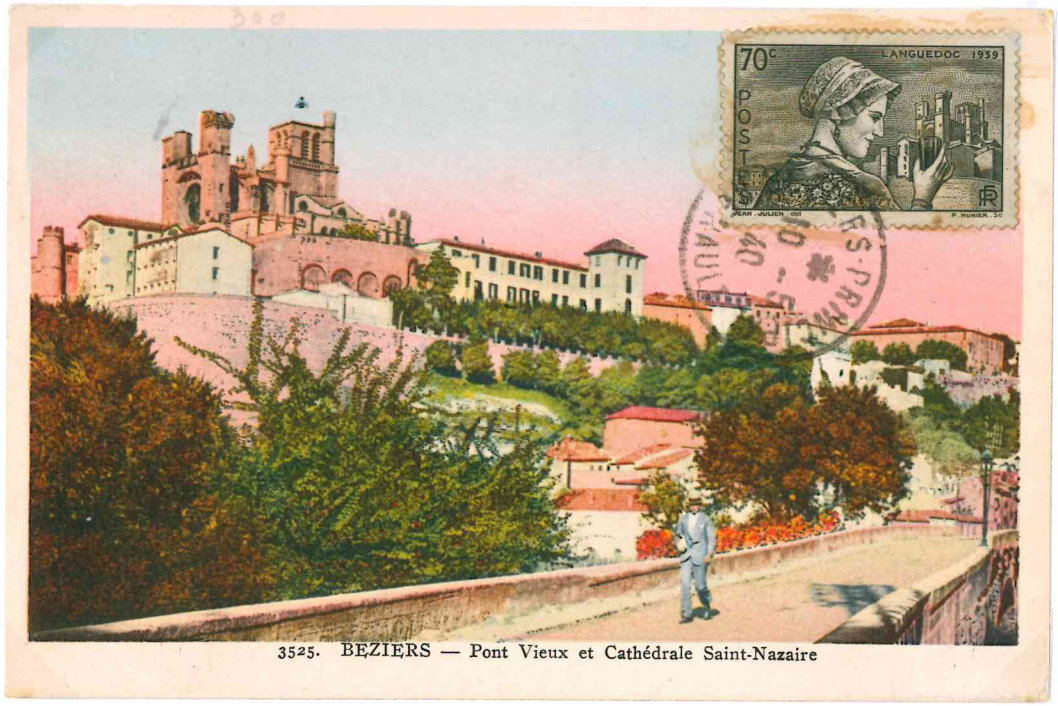
The defence of S. Marino was entrusted to the walls and to the strategic position.

Issue 1925 – Canc. San Marino 03-11-1940.
Unlimitted postal validity.



Old fortifications

Boundary walls



3525. BEZIERS — Pont Vieux et Cathédrale Saint-Nazaire

BEZIERS (France)
Cathédrale Saint Nazaire

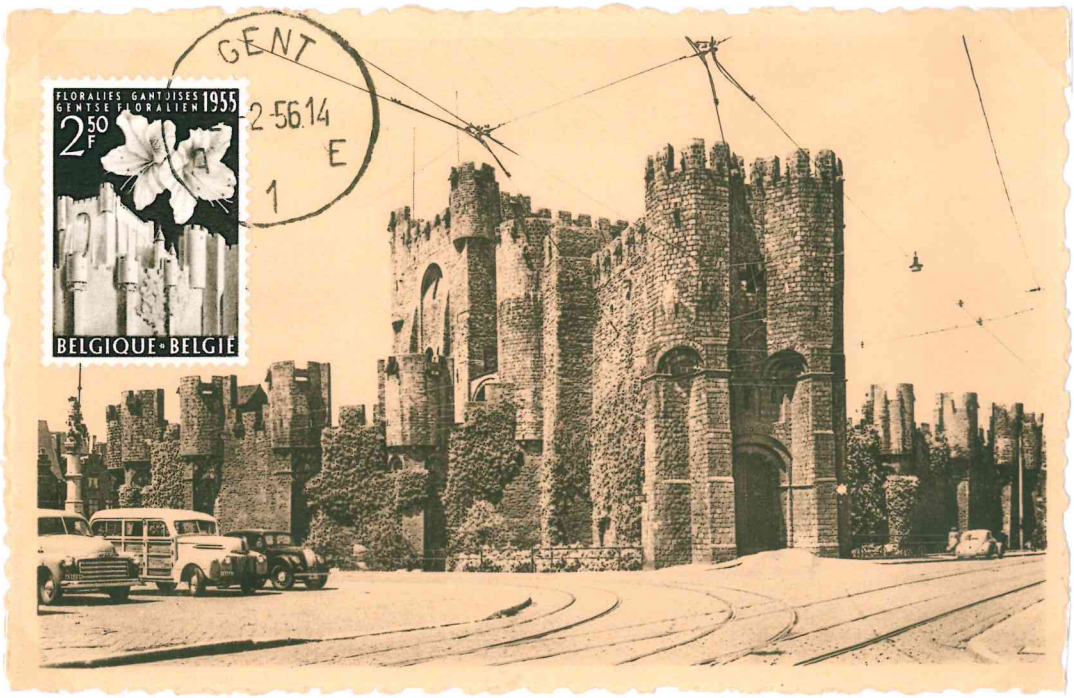
It is a Roman Catholic cathedral; the structure dates from the thirteenth century and was erected on the site of an earlier building. Western façade looks like a fortress, in fact it served as a deterrent for enemy attacks.

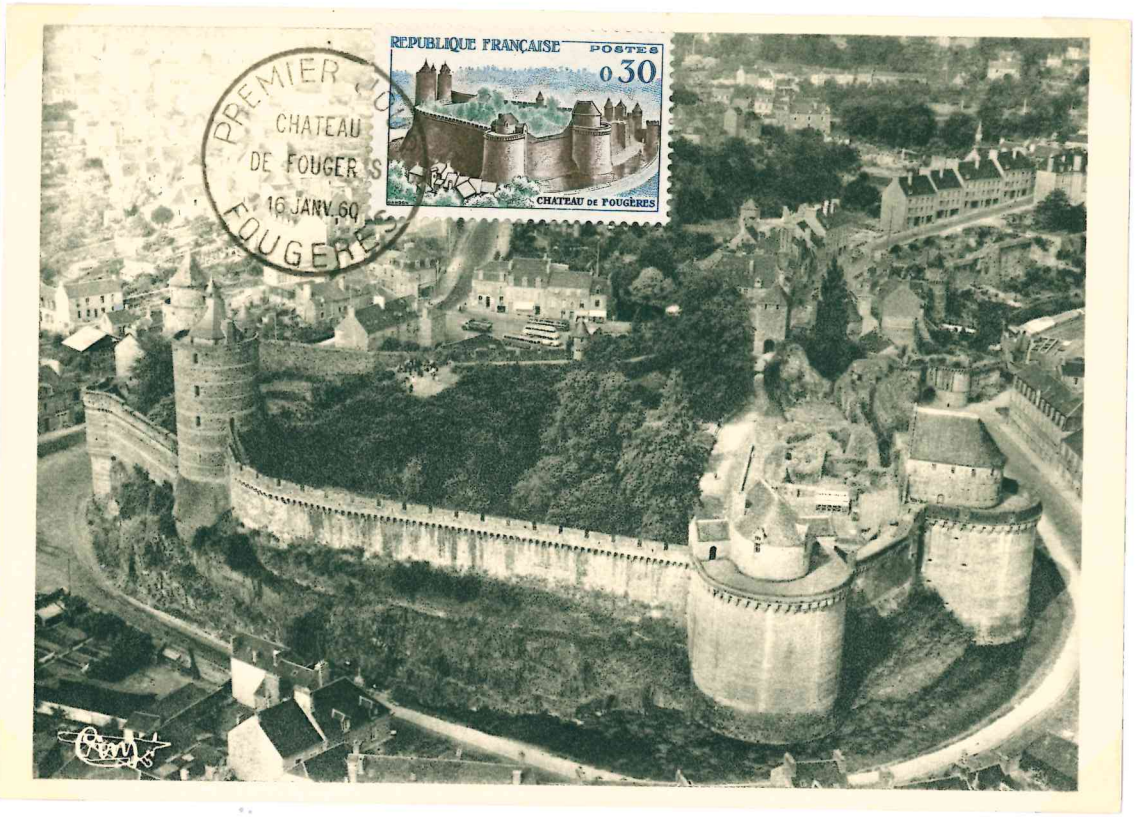
Issue 1939 – Canc. Beziers 10-05-1940.

GHENT (Belgium)
The Gravensteen

It is a castle from the Middle Ages and its name means "castle of the count" in Dutch. It was built in 1180 by count Philip of Alsace .

Issue 15-02-1955 – Canc. Ghent 24-02-1956.





FOUGERES
(France)
The Castle

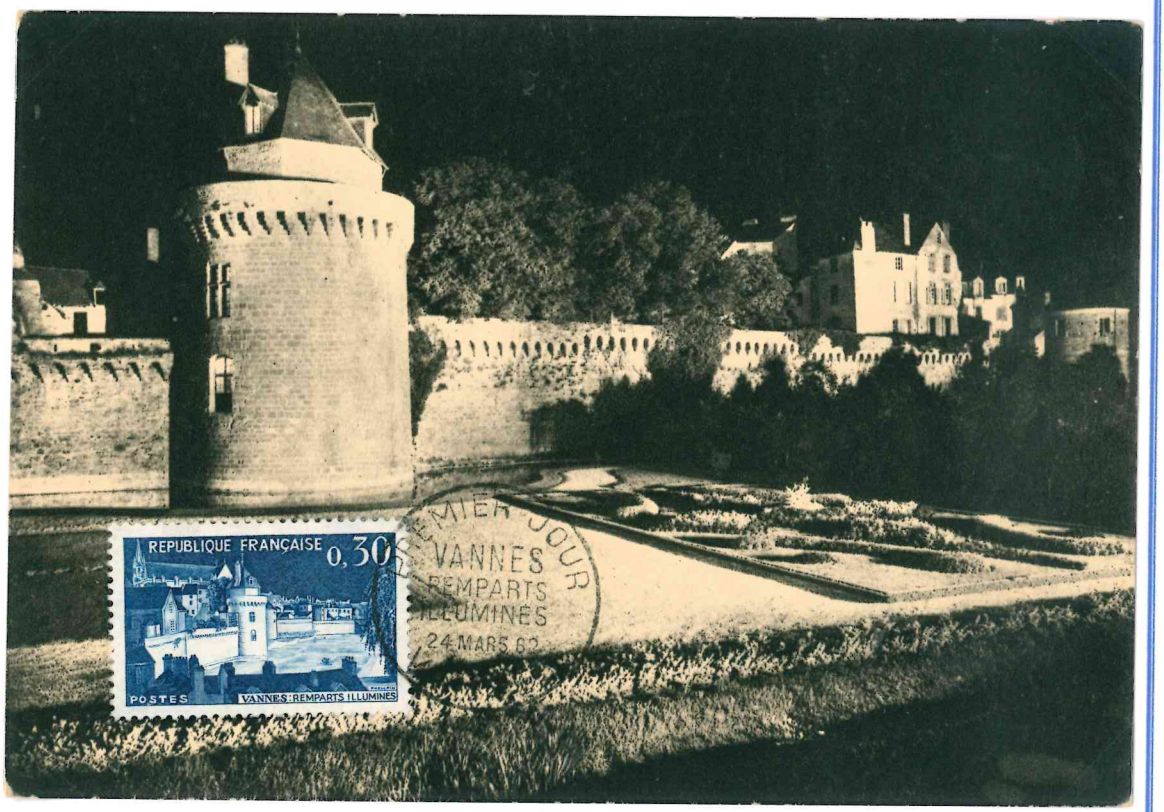
It stands on its rocky islet and it was originally only a wooden fort. But it was in the 15th century that construction took on a new magnitude with the Raoul and Surienne towers and five floors of arrow loops. Its plan has three defensive walls.

Issue 16-01-1960 – Canc. Fougeres 16-01-1960. First day of issue.

VANNES (France)
The boundary walls

Situated on the gorgeous Gulf Of Morbihan, this stunning medieval city is often described as one of the most beautiful in France, with colorful sunken gardens surrounding the imposing city walls, known as the Remparts De Vannes.

Issue 24-03-1962 – Canc. Vannes 24-03-1962. First day of issue.



Old fortifications

Boundary walls



MOSCOW (Russia)
Moscow Cremlin

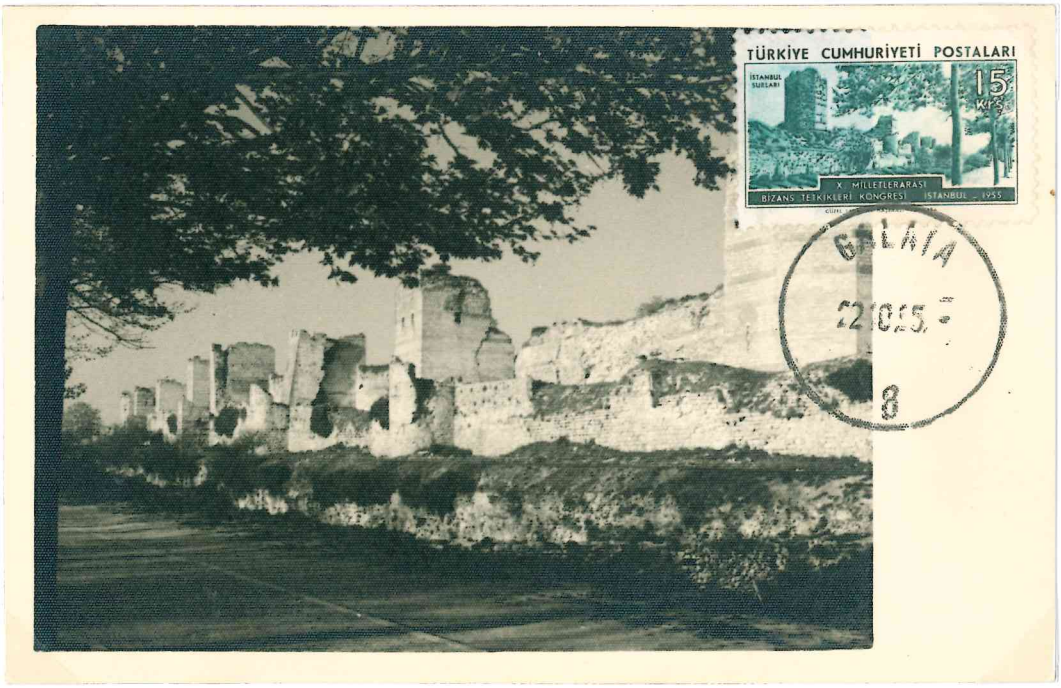
The Moscow Kremlin is a historic fortified complex at the heart of Moscow, overlooking the Moskva River (to the South), Saint Basil's Cathedral and Red Square (to the East) and the Alexander Garden (to the West). It is the best known of kremlins (Russian citadels) and includes four palaces, four cathedrals and the enclosing Kremlin Wall with Kremlin towers. The complex serves as the official residence of the President of the Russian Federation.

Issue 1947 – Canc. Moscow 20-03-1951.

ISTANBUL (Turkey)
The castle

In 1453 Mahomet leaded the Turkish to conquer Istanbul. There they built the castle with long walls, seven pentagonal towers in defence of the city.

Issue 1955 – Canc. Galata 22-10-1955.



Old fortifications

The bridges

A structure spanning and providing passage over a river. A lot of bridges were built in the Middle Ages with the peculiarities of defence: battlemented parapets and guard towers.



ANGERS (France)
The castle and the bridge

The castle was built by St. Louis on a rocky ridge overhanging the river Maine (1228-1238). The outer wall is 3 metres thick, extends for about 660 m and is protected by seventeen massive towers

Issue 17-05-1941 – Canc. Angers 27-03-1943.

CAHORS (France)
The Pont Valentré

It has become a symbol of the city.. It was built between 1308 and 1378 with six Gothic arches and three square towers.

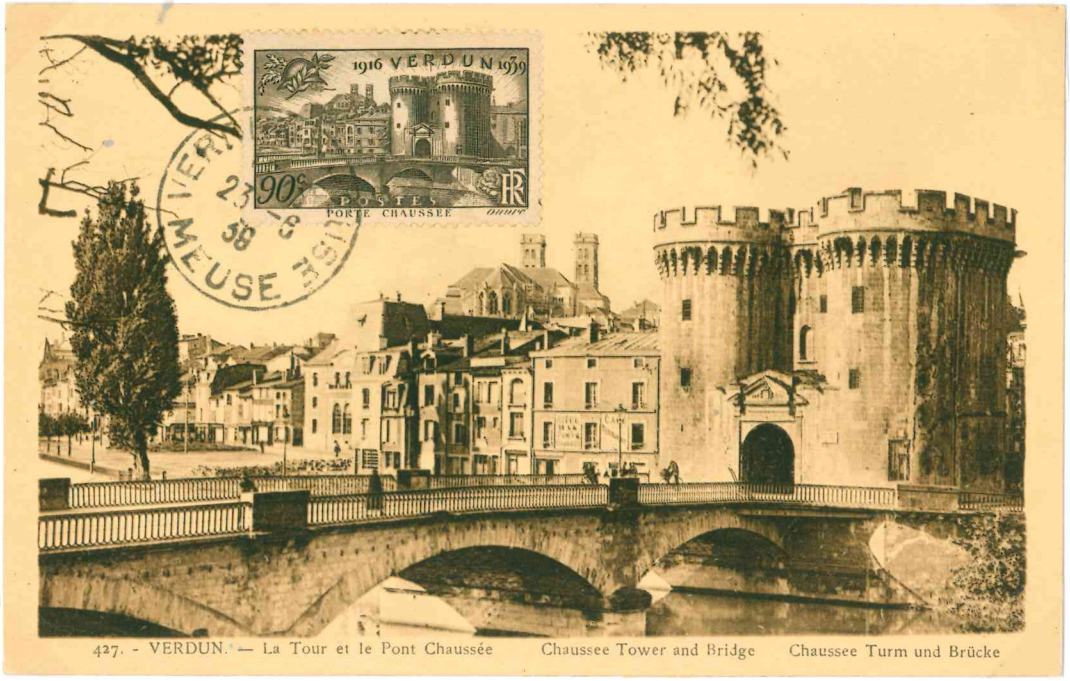
Issue 15-10-1955 – Canc. Cahors 15-10-1955. First day of issue.



Old fortifications

The gates

The gateways, which allowed the entry in the boundary wall, permitted the architects to express varied ideas of defence.



VERDUN (France)
Chaussée gateway

It was built in the XIV century and is surrounded by two cylindrical battlemented towers. The stone structured has served as a prison in the past.

Issue 23-06-1939 – Canc. Verdun 23-06-1939. First day of issue.

FEZ (Morocco)
The Royal Palace

A monumental gate built in 1886 during the reign of Moulay Al Hassan, this was the main entrance to the Royal Palace. It opens onto the Mechouar, a large square used for official ceremonies.

Issue 1921 – Canc. Fez 15-09-1921.

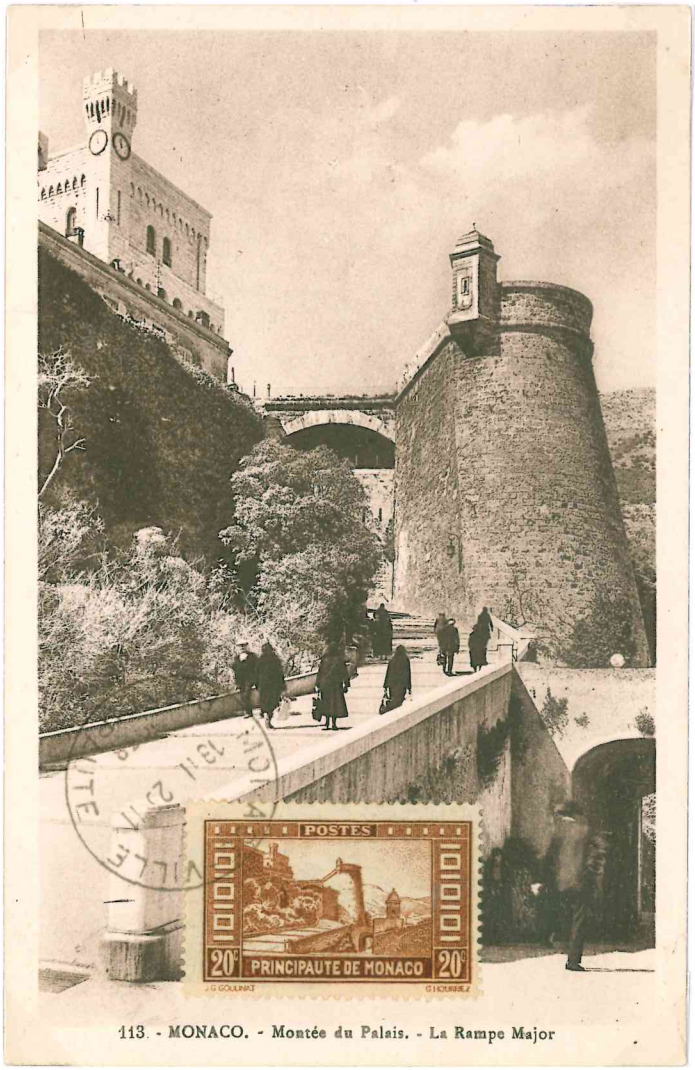




TOLEDO (Spain)
Puerta del Sol

It is built in the XIII century. The gateway is rectangular with a semicircular top. The horseshoe arch entry is franked by two towers. In the middle of the blind arches it has a relief with the Cathedral's emblem emblazoned upon it, which represents the placing of St. Idelfonso's Cassock under the sun and the moon which has given the doorway its actual name.

Issue 18-11-1932 – Canc. Toledo 16-01-1933.



MONACO (Principality of Monaco)
Palace Grimaldi

The 16th century red-brick Rampe Major provides a steep pedestrian link from the port area of la Condamine to the Palace Grimaldi. Rampe Major has two gateways of the XVI century: one has a big donjon and an embossing look-out.

Issue 17-01-1937 – Canc. Monaco 25-11-1938.

Old fortifications

The gates



Issue: 1938
Cancellation: Prague
26-06-1938.

PRAGUE (Czechoslovakia)
The Powder Tower

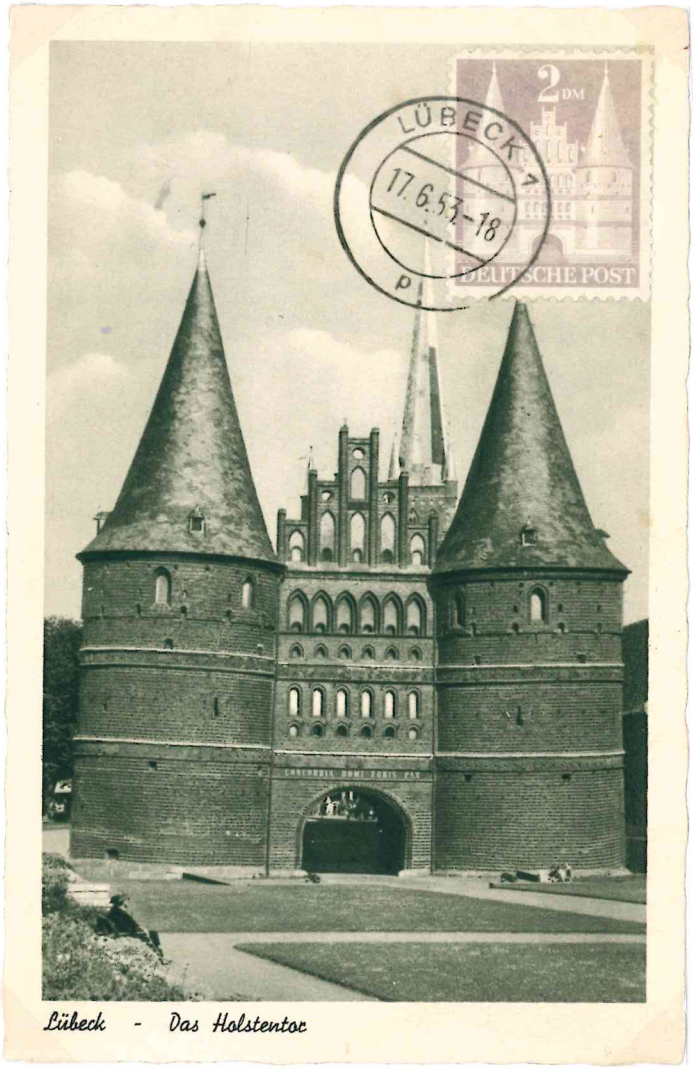
It is a gothic tower and one of the old city gates. It was built in 1475 by Matij Reisek. By the XVII century, it was being used as a gunpowder storage space. The tower is adorned with reliefs of coats of arms and several statues embellish the east and the west façade.

PRAGUE (Bohemia-Moravian)

In 1939 the Nazi Government instituted a protectorate, after having invaded Bohemia and Moravian in 1938. In 1943 Czechoslovakia was reformed and Bohemia now is a region.

Issue 1942 – Canc. Prague 02-09-1942.





LUBECK (Germany)
The Holsten gate

It is a city gate marking off the western boundary of the old centre of Lubeck. It is composed of a south tower, a north tower and a central building; the towers have conical roofs and the central block has a pediment. It was built in 1477.

Issue 01-09-1948 – Canc. Lubeck 17-06-1953.

MEKNES (Morocco)
Bab Mansour gate

It is the biggest of all imperial Moroccan gateways. The gate is well preserved with Lavish Zellij and inscriptions across the top. It was completed in 1732. It is opened only on grand occasions.

Issue 1935 – Canc. Meknes 16-03-1939.

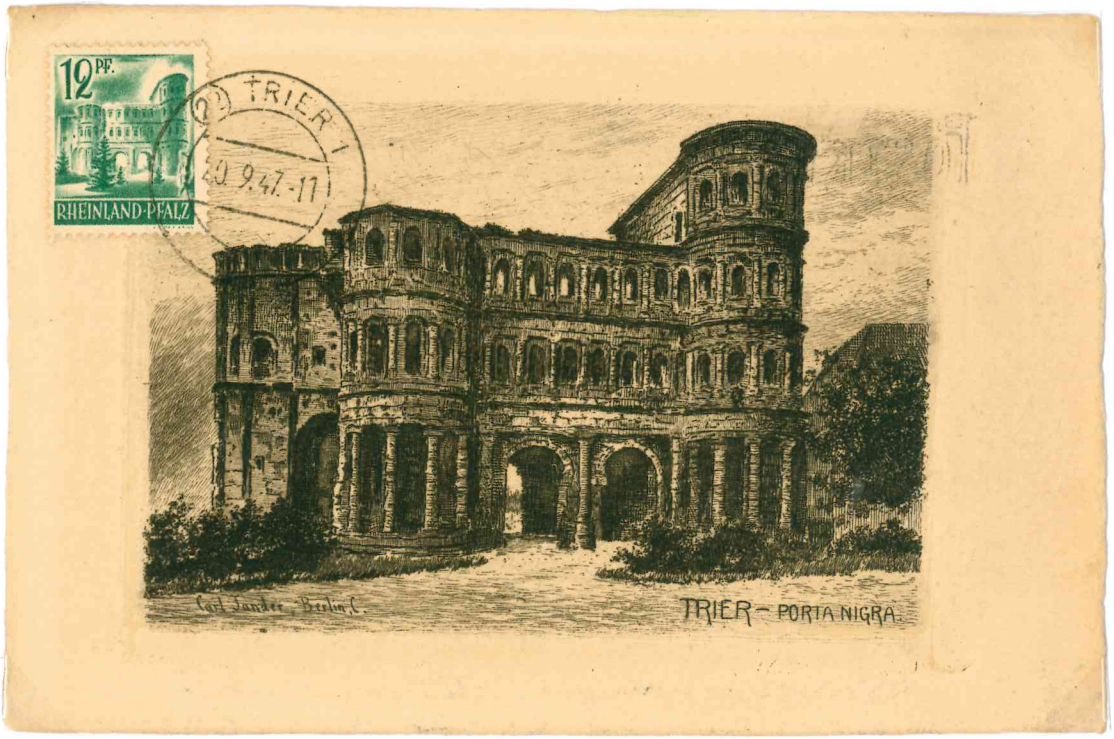




TRIER (Germany)
The Porta Nigra

It is the biggest roman city gate; it was built in grey sandstone between 186 and 200 AD. The original gate consisted of two four-storied towers, projecting as near semicircles on the outer side. A narrow courtyard separated the two gate openings on either side. However, the construction of the gate remained unfinished. The name Porta Nigra due to the darkened color of its stone.

Issue 05-11-1940 – Canc. Trier 31-01-1941. German Reich.



Issue 1947 – Canc. Trier 20-09-1947. Stamp issued for the French Occupation.



VANCOULERS (France)
The gate

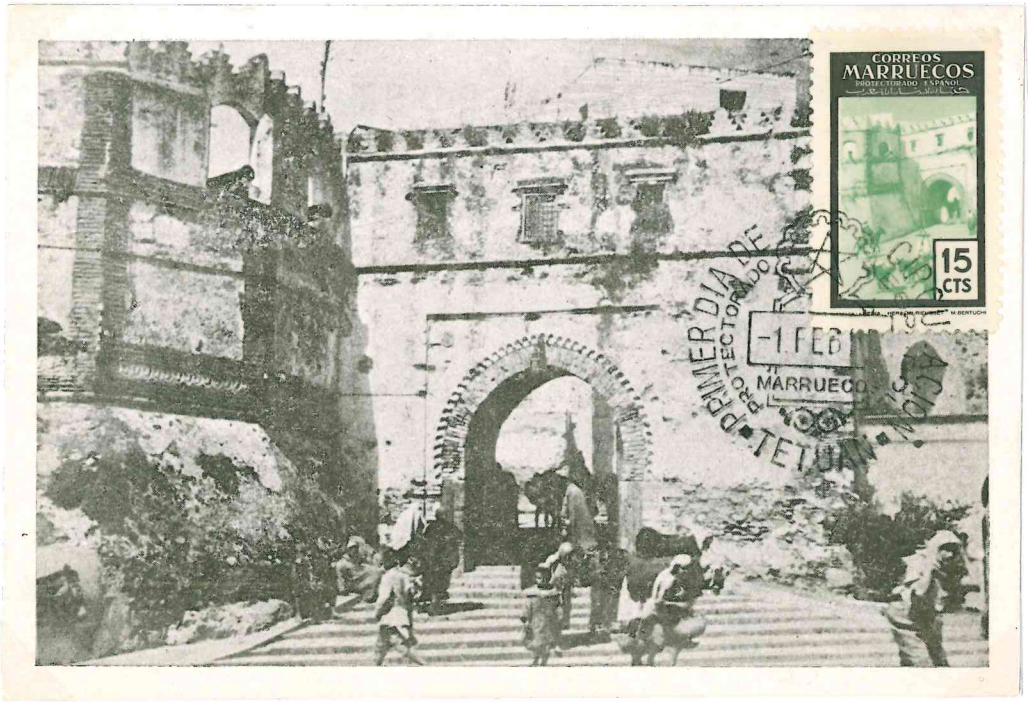
According to the legend, Koan of Arc went through this gate during her departure in 1429. Actually, the gate, that we can admire, was built in the XVII century, The real gate of Joan of Arc is below.

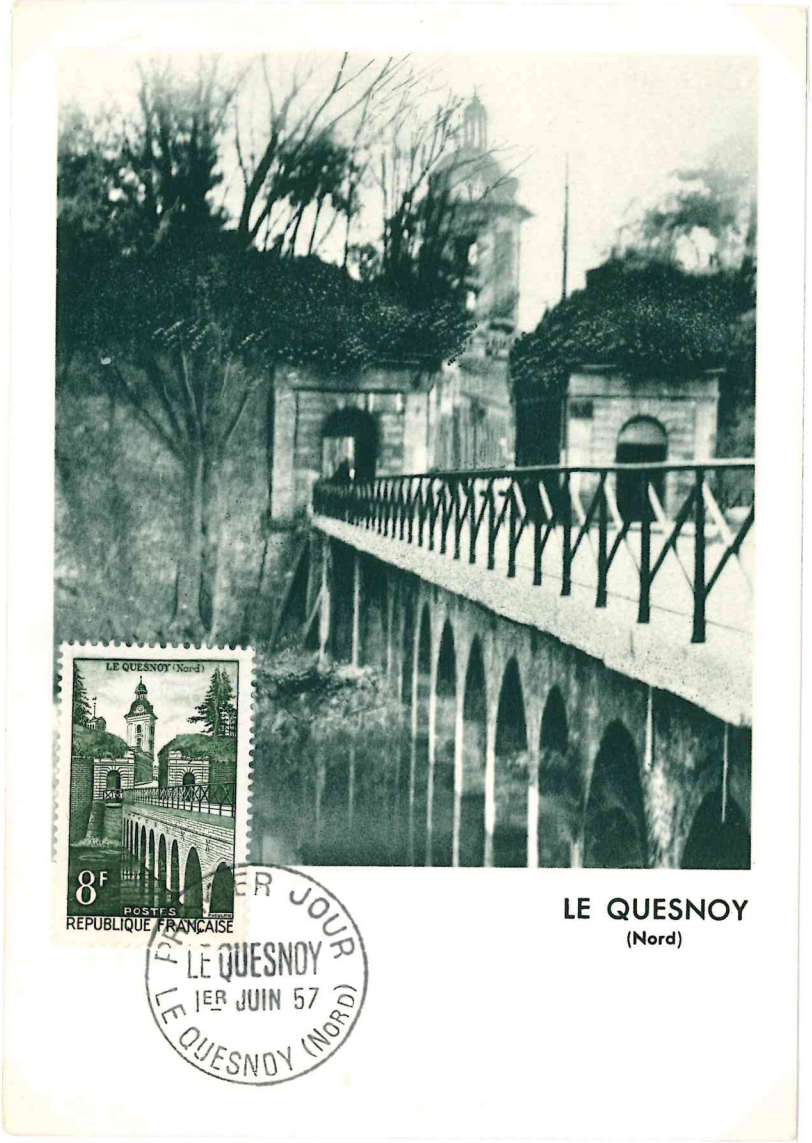
Issue 11-05-1952 – Canc. Vancoulers 11-05-1952. First day of issue.

TETUAN (Morocco)
The Queen's gate

Among battlemented defences of the XIV century, you can make out the first cannons of the XV century.

Issue 01-02-1955 – Canc. Tetuan 01-02-1955. First day of issue. At that time Morocco was a Spanish Protectorate.





LE QUESNOY (France)
La porte Fauroeulx

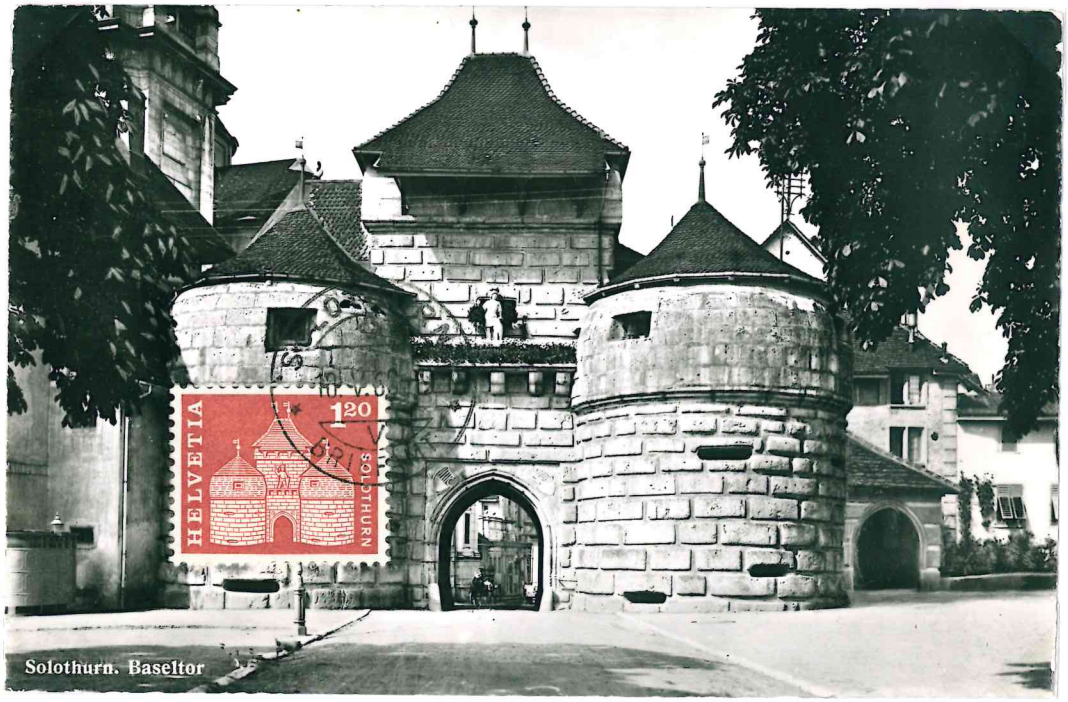
The stone bridge spans Vauban Lake by Le Quesnoy in the Nord department in northern France. It gives access to the "Porte Fauroeulx", the main entrance to the fortification. Le Quesnoy is a walled city, and was a German strongpoint during World War I.

Issue 03-06-1957 – Canc. Le Quesnoy 03-06-1957. First day of issue.

SOLOTHURN
(Switzerland)
Baseltor

After the Swabian War, Hans Gibelin replaced the oakwood gate with the Basel Gate made of Solothurn stone in 1504. Together with St.Ursus' Tower, the Basel Gate forms a magnificent architectural ensemble.

Issue 10-05-1960 – Canc. Solothurn 10-05-1960. First day of issue.



Old fortifications

The fortifications

Fortifications are military constructions and buildings designed for defence in warfare and military bases. Humans have constructed defensive works for many thousands of years, in a variety of increasingly complex designs. The word fortification can also refer to the practice of improving an area's defence with defensive works. The art of setting out a military camp or constructing a fortification traditionally classifies as castramentation, since the time of the Roman legions.



MONT ORGUEIL
(Jersey)
The castle

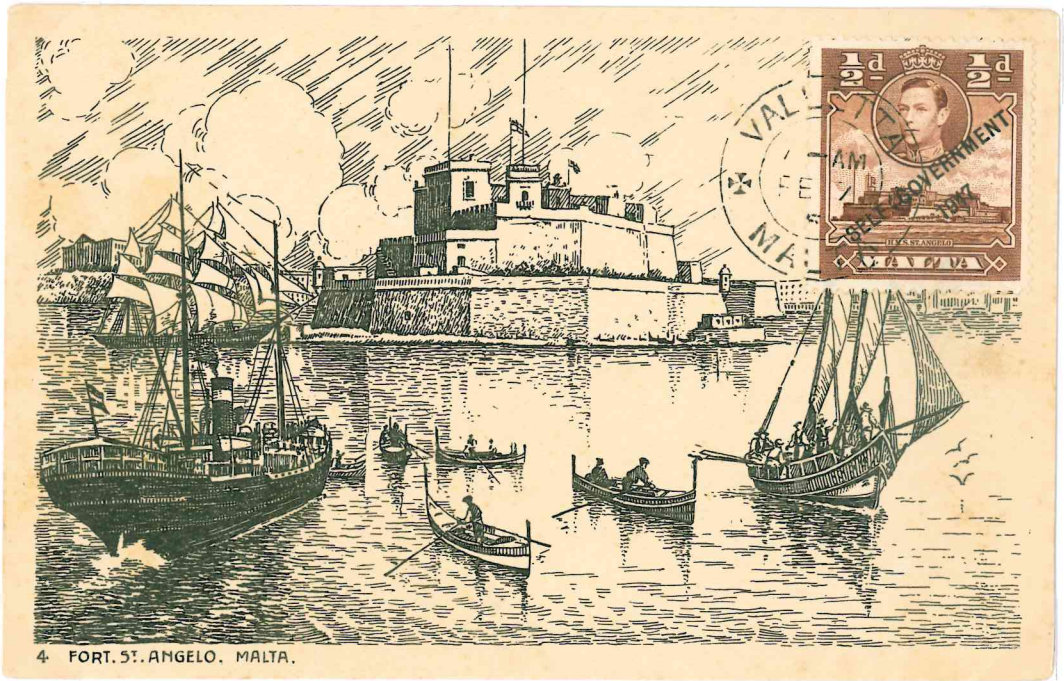
It is located overlooking the harbour of Gorey. During the Second World War German Occupation the occupying forces garrisoned the castle and added modern fortifications.

Issue 1943 – Canc. Creapside Jersey 09-11-1944. Issued for the German Occupation.

LA VALLETTA
(Malta)
Fort St. Angelo

The fort was built by Giovanni de la Vallette to fortify the city and defend it by the attacks of Turkish.

Issue 25-11-1948 – Canc. Valletta 01-02-1950.





PRAGUE
(Czechoslovakia)
Fortezza di Vysehrad

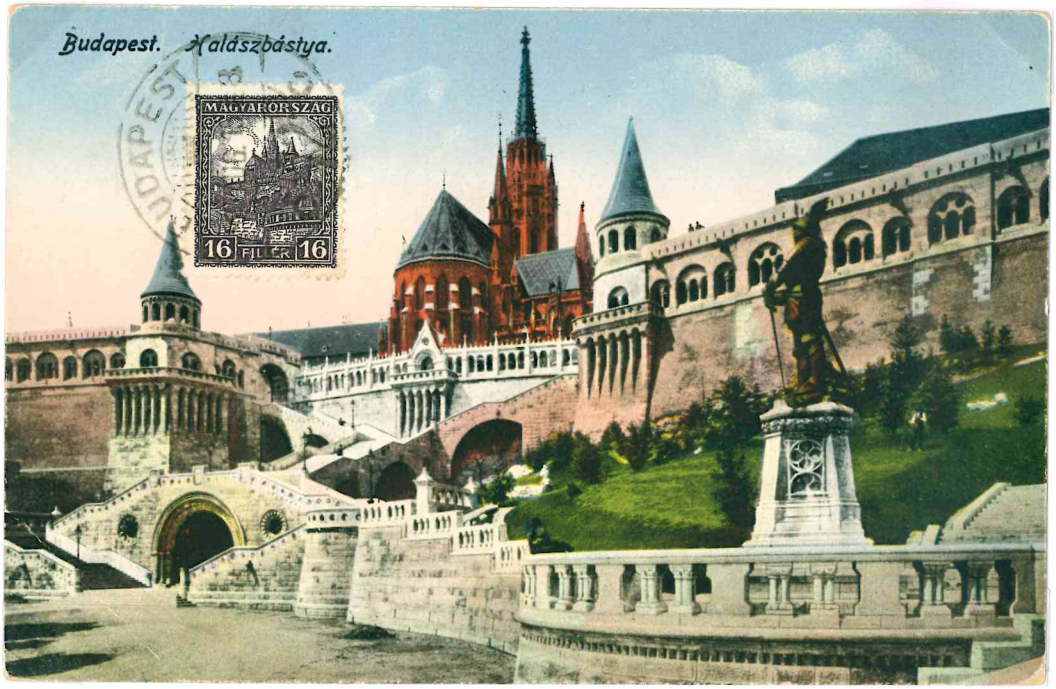
Oldest Rotunda of St. Martin is the unique survived building of the medieval fortress. The fortress was built by Vratislav in the XII century.

Issue 1938 – Canc. Prague 04-07-1938.

BUDAPEST (Hungary)
Fisherman's Bastion

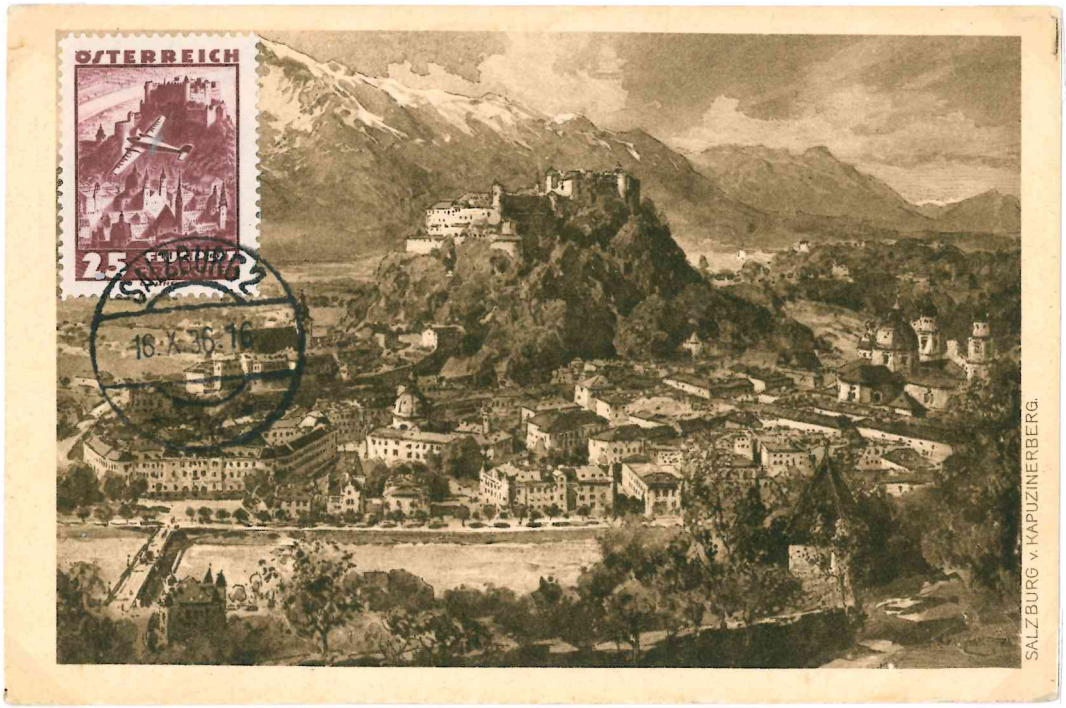
It was built between 1895 and 1902 in place of an ancient fortress. Its seven towers represent the Magyar tribes that settled in the Carpathian Basin in 896. The Bastion takes its name from the guild of fishermen that was responsible for defending this stretch of the city walls in the Middle Ages.

Issue 1926-27 – Canc. Budapest 15-08-1927.



Old fortifications

The fortifications



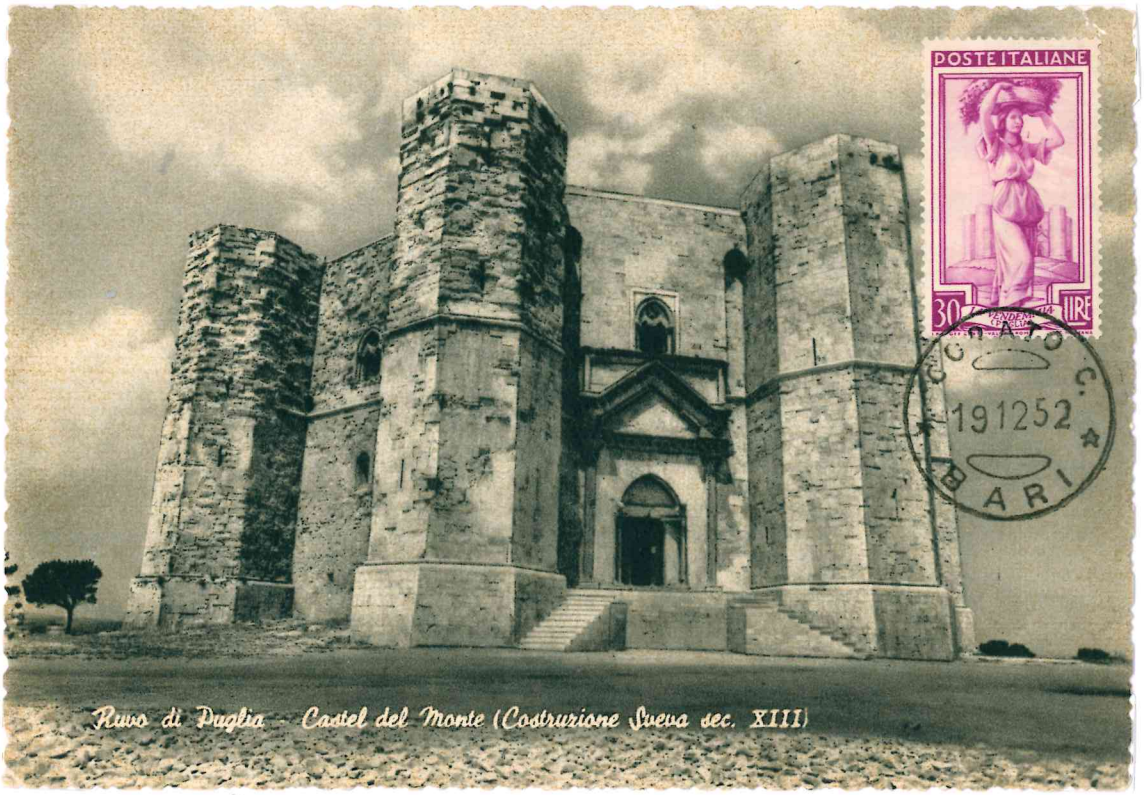
Issue 16-08-1935 – Canc. Salzburg 16-10-1936.

SALZBURG (Austria)
The fortress

Hohensalzburg fortress was erected at the behest of the Prince-Archbishops of Salzburg, it today with a length of 250 m (820 ft) and a width of 150 m (490 ft), is one of the largest medieval castles in Europe. Construction of the fortress began in 1077 under Archbishop Gebhard von Helfenstein. The fortress consists of various wings and courtyard.



Issue 20-02-1936 – Canc. Salzburg 16-10-1936.



RUVO DI PUGLIA (Italy)
Castel del Monte

The fortress is an octagonal prism with an octagonal tower at each corner. It was built in the XIII century.

Issue 20-10-1950 – Canc. Corato 19-12-1952. Postal validity 31-03-1958.

SAN ANTONIO (Texas)
Alamo

The Alamo, originally known as Mission San Antonio de Valero, is a former Roman Catholic mission and fortress compound and was the site of the Battle of the Alamo in 1836.

Issue 1936 – Canc. San Antonio 27-05-1938. Issued for century of the battle.

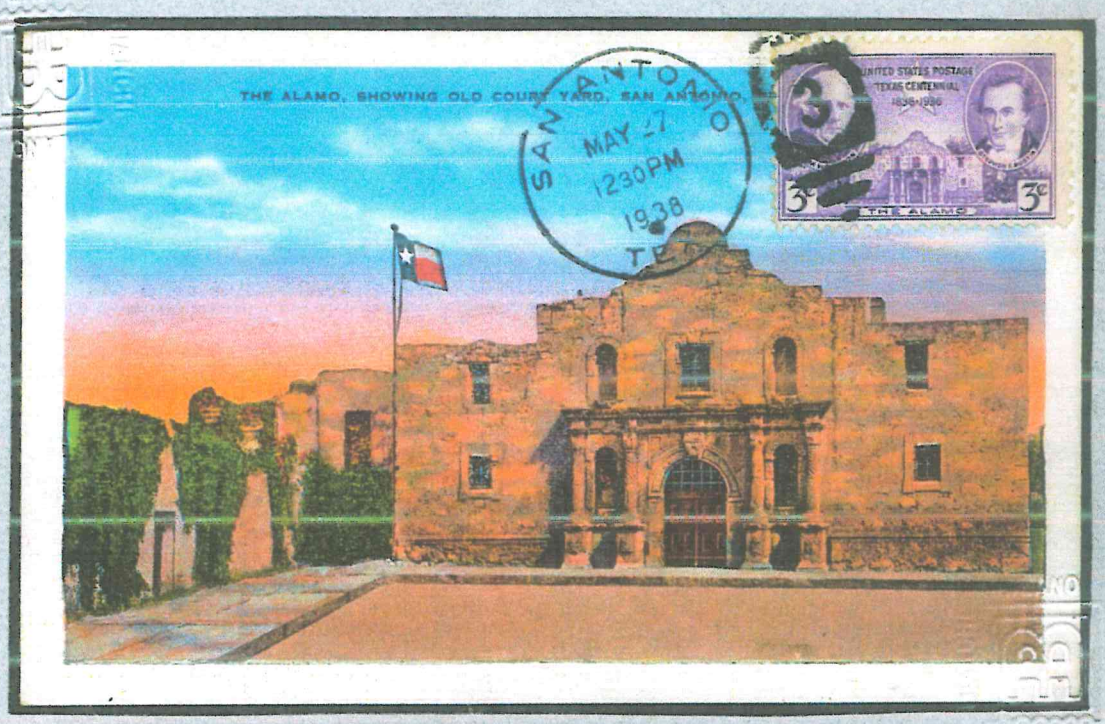


ENNIO BIANCHI
Perito filatelico della Camera di Commercio
Consulente Tecnico del Tribunale Civile e Penale di Milano iscrizione n. 744 del 1971
20129 Milano - Via Plinio, 43 - Tel. e Fax 02 29512169

STATI UNITI d'AMERICA - cartolina MAXIMUM Chiostro di Alamo

Ho esaminato la cartolina con la riproduzione - in primo piano - delle 'rovine del chiostro di Alamo' Catalogo Scott n°776, Michel n°381 e Yvert n°342 con la medesima riproduzione e annullato SAN ANTONIO MAY 27 1938.

A mio parere la cartolina è del tutto originale, in ottimo stato di conservazione e l'ho firmata.
Milano 23 luglio 2013



A castle for each situation

Castles on a rise

Most of castles were built to control the area immediately surrounding them, and to have a better defence. The buildings also served as centres of administration and symbols of power. Today a few castles were inhabited but the most of them house museums.



SEGOVIA (Spain)
Alcàzar

Rising out on a rocky crag, the Alcázar was originally built as a fortress in the XI cebtury. The castle is one of the inspirations for Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle. The tower of John II is decorated with sgraffito, relief geometric designs.

Issue 1932 – Canc. Segovia 14-01-1933.

SION (Switzerland)
The castles

These are two adjacent castles in the town of Sion. Tourbillon castle is on the hill to the left and the fortified basilica of Valere is on the hill to the right. Tourbillon castle is currently in a state of ruins following a fire in 1788.

Issue 01-10-1948 – Canc. Sion 12-04-1949. Stamp of 1941 in changed colour.





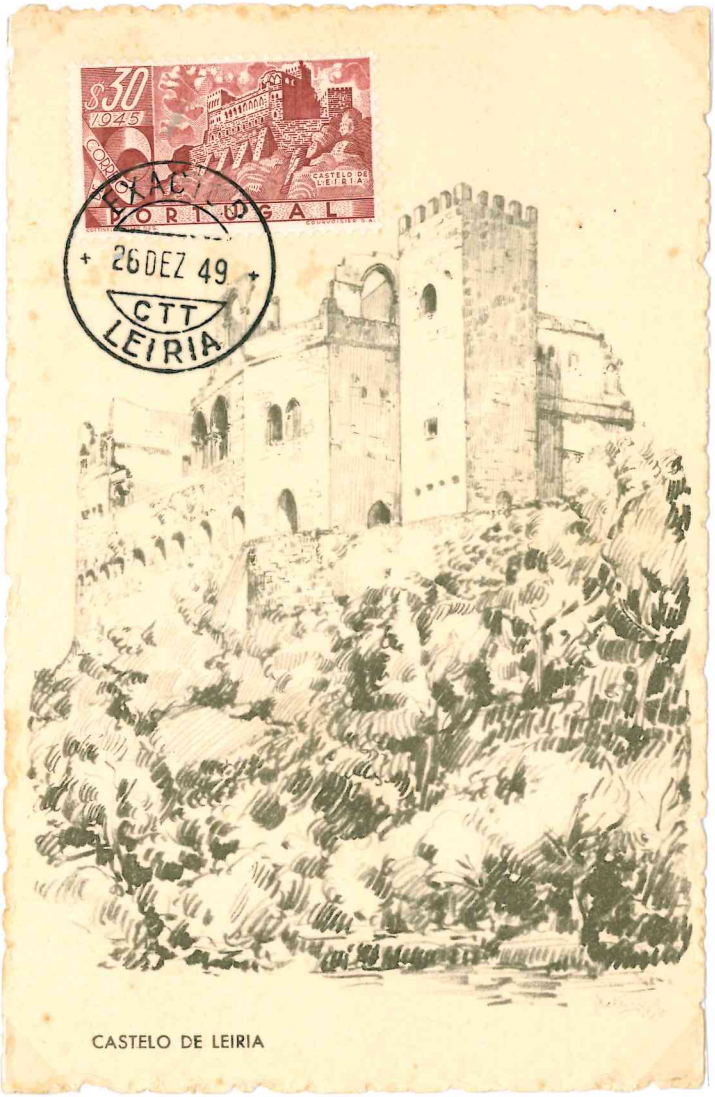
Issue 1946 – Canc. Vienna 08-09-1947.



Issue 10-12-1947 – Canc. Vienna 12-04-1948.
Stamp types 1946, colour red-orange.

VIENNA (Austria)
The castle

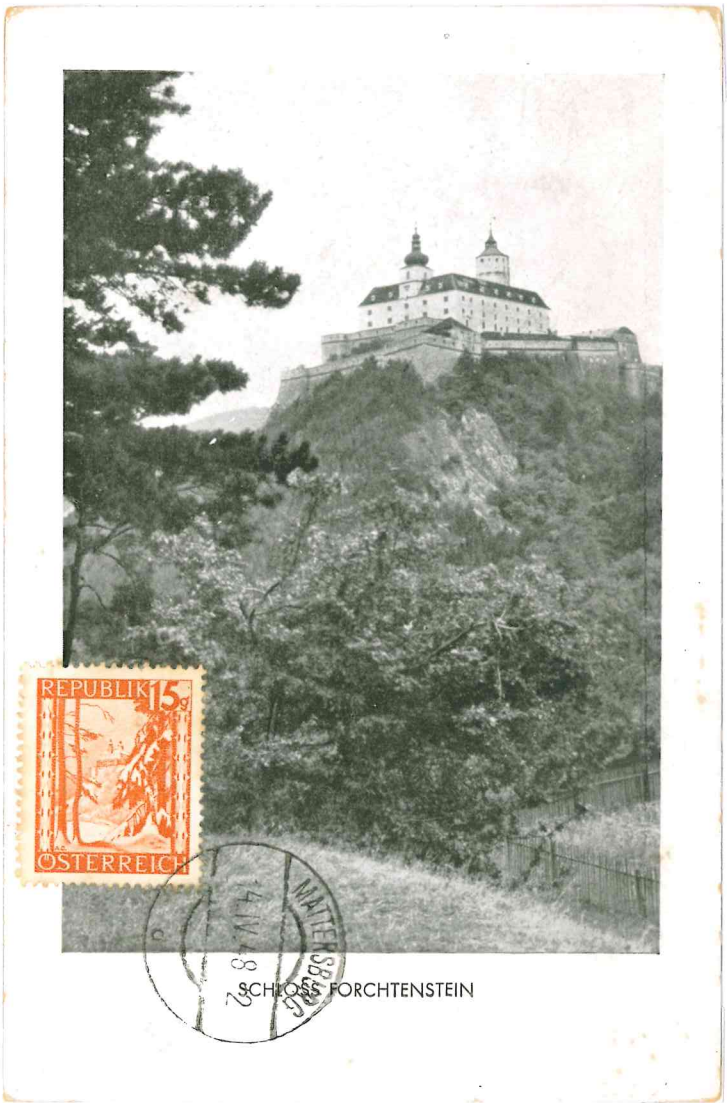
The site Leopoldsberg was already settled in prehistoric time (Iron Age) due to its beneficial strategic situation at the river Danube. On this strategic point a castle was built in the Mediaeval that played a major role during historic times.



LEIRIA (Portugal)
The castle

The castle have been based on a Roman settlement and it was constructed in the XII century by Alfonso Henrques. It was transformed into a royal palace with large, arched galleries providing views over the city itself.

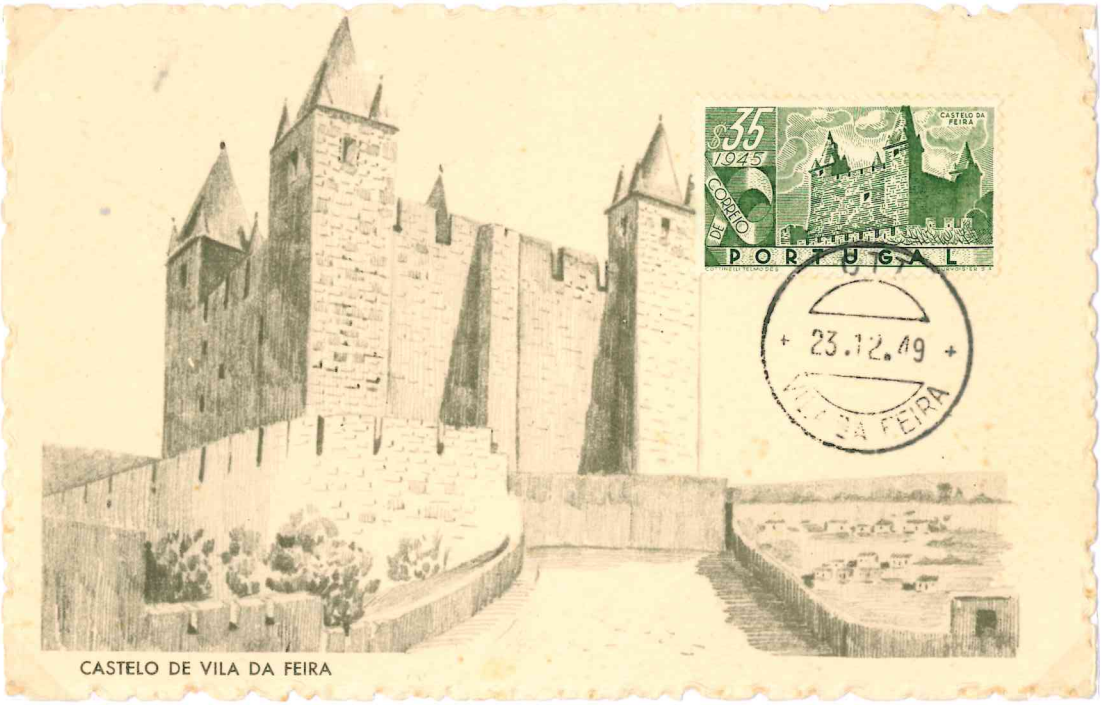
Issue 01-06-1946 – Canc. Leiria 26-12-1949.



FORCHTENSTEIN (Austria)
The castle

The castle is situated above the Wulka valley. The first part of the castle with its 50 meter high keep was built in the beginning of the 15th century by the Lords of Mattersburg.

Issue 10-12-1947 – Canc. Forchtenstein 14-04-1948.



VILA DA FEIRA
(Portugal)
The castle

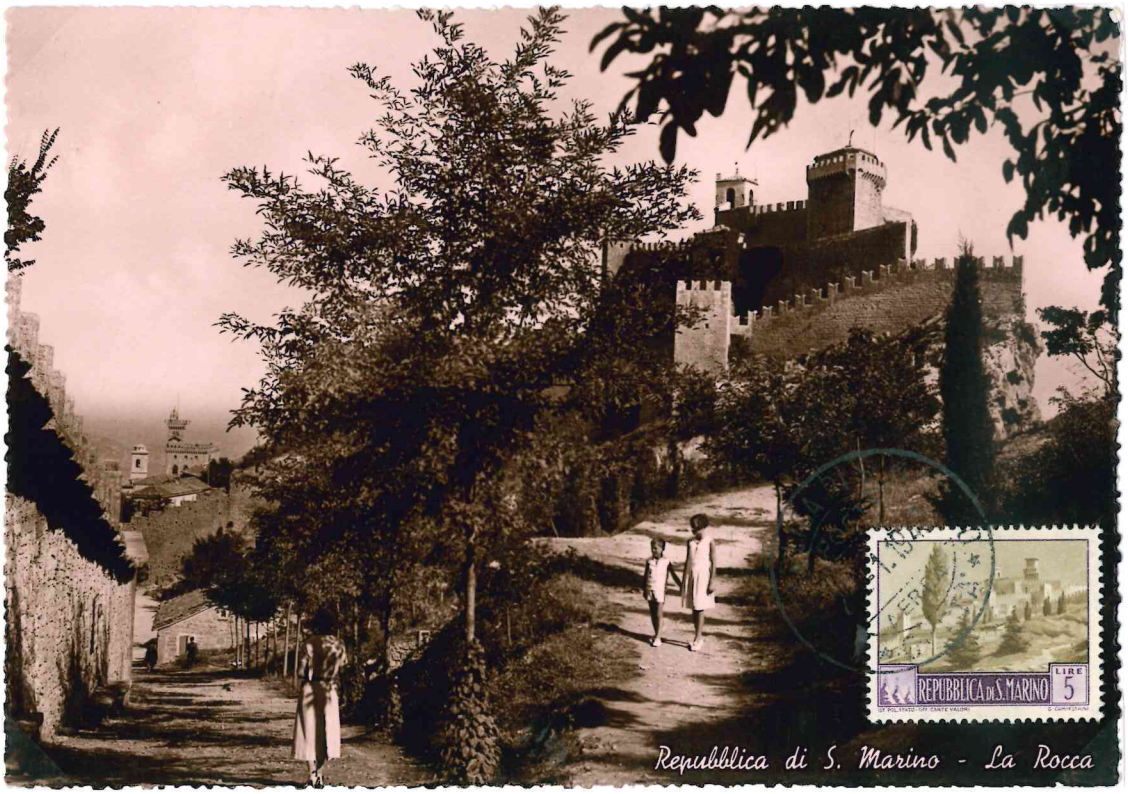
It was built in the 11th century on the site of a pagan sanctuary. It is situated on a small hilltop overlooking the urban valley of Feira. The castle has four addorsed rectangular watchtowers and battlemented walls.

Issue 01-06-1946 – Canc. Vila da Feira 25-12-1949.

SAN MARINO
(Republic of San Marino)
The Guaita fortress

It is the oldest of the three towers constructed on Monte Titano, and the most famous. It was built in the 11th century and served briefly as a prison. The other two are De La Fratta and Montale.

Issue 27-01-1949 – Canc. San Marino 27-01-1949. First day of issue.



A castle for each situation

Castles on a rise



NUREMBERG (Germany)
The castle

It is a historical building on a sandstone rock in the north of Nuremberg. It comprises three sections: the imperial castle ("Kaiserburg"), some buildings of the Burgraves of Nuremberg ("Burggrafenburg"), and the municipal buildings of the Imperial City at the eastern site ("Reichsstädtische Bauten"). The castle together with the City walls of Nuremberg is meant to be one of the most considerable medieval weir systems.

Issue 01-09-1934 – Canc. Wahnn Eikell 04-10-1934. Stamp issued for the second Congress in Nuremberg.

KARLSTEIN
(Bohemia-Moravia)
The castle

The first gate, a square, two-storey tower with a tall hip roof, stood above a moat at the western slope of the promontory. The traverse was protected by battlement and divided by a covered bastion in the middle.

Issue 1942 – Canc. Iglau 31-05-1943.



A castle for each situation

Castles on a rise



HEIDELBERG (Germany)
The castle

The ruins of the once grand Heidelberg Castle rise up on a rocky hilltop over the university town of Heidelberg. Once a Gothic masterpiece, the Castle of Heidelberg has encountered turbulent times: it was plundered and burned by the French army in 1689, then struck by lightning 100 years later, and its red stones were even used to build new houses.

Issue 05-10-1940 – Canc. Heidelberg 12-01-1941.

BUILLON
(Belgium)
The castle

The castle is situated on a rocky spur of land within a sharp bend of the Semois River and was built in the VIII century. It is characterised by a labyrinth of corridors and huge vaulted halls.

Issue 23-02-1944 – Canc. Bouillon 22-03-1944.





HOHENTWIEL (Germany)
The castle

Hohentwiel is an extinct volcano in southern Germany. The fortress, whose ruins lie on top of Hohentwiel, was constructed in 914 using stone taken from the mountain itself by Burchard III, Duke of Swabia.

Issue 27-10-1939 – Ob. Canc. 14-03-1940.

BRAGANÇA (Portugal)
Castelo de Bragança

It is a granite fortress built in 1187 by Sancho I. The castle has 15 watch towers; perhaps the most romantic is the Torre de Menegem (Princess Tower), which is situated adjacent to the 33 metre high keep.

Issue 01-06-1946 – Canc. Bragança 17-01-1950. Postcard.

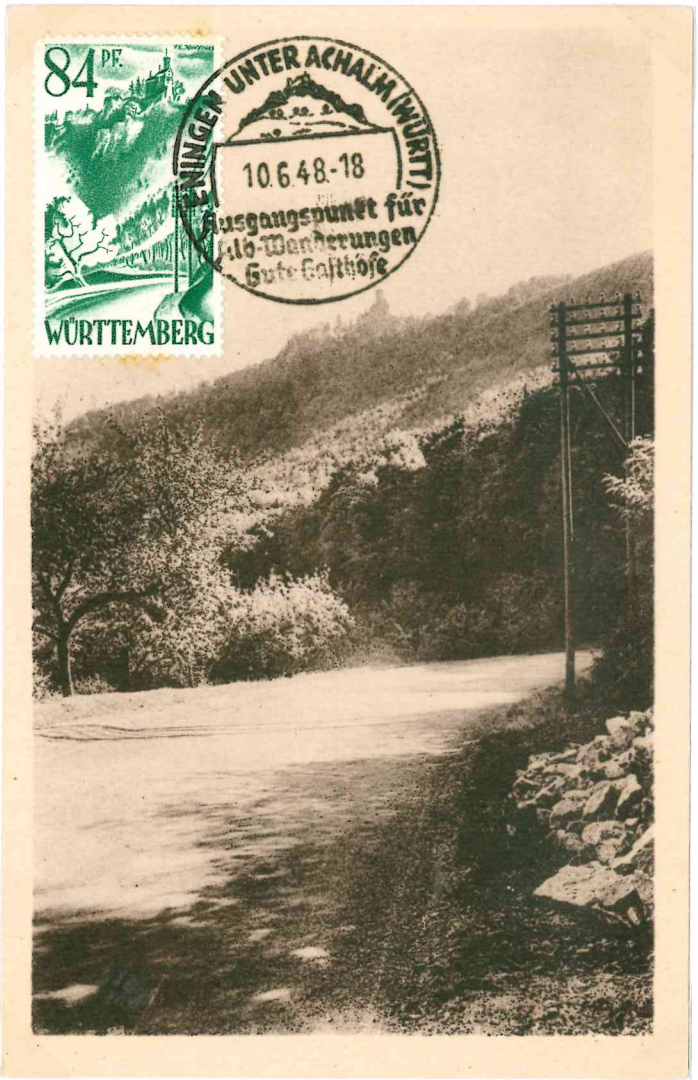




ROCAMADOUR (France)
The castle

Rocamadour occupies a truly breathtaking site, where old houses, towers and oratories seem to cascade down the sheer cliff, towering 150m above the Alzou canyon, crowned by the slender keep of the castle and the seven sanctuaries. The castle was built in the XV century.

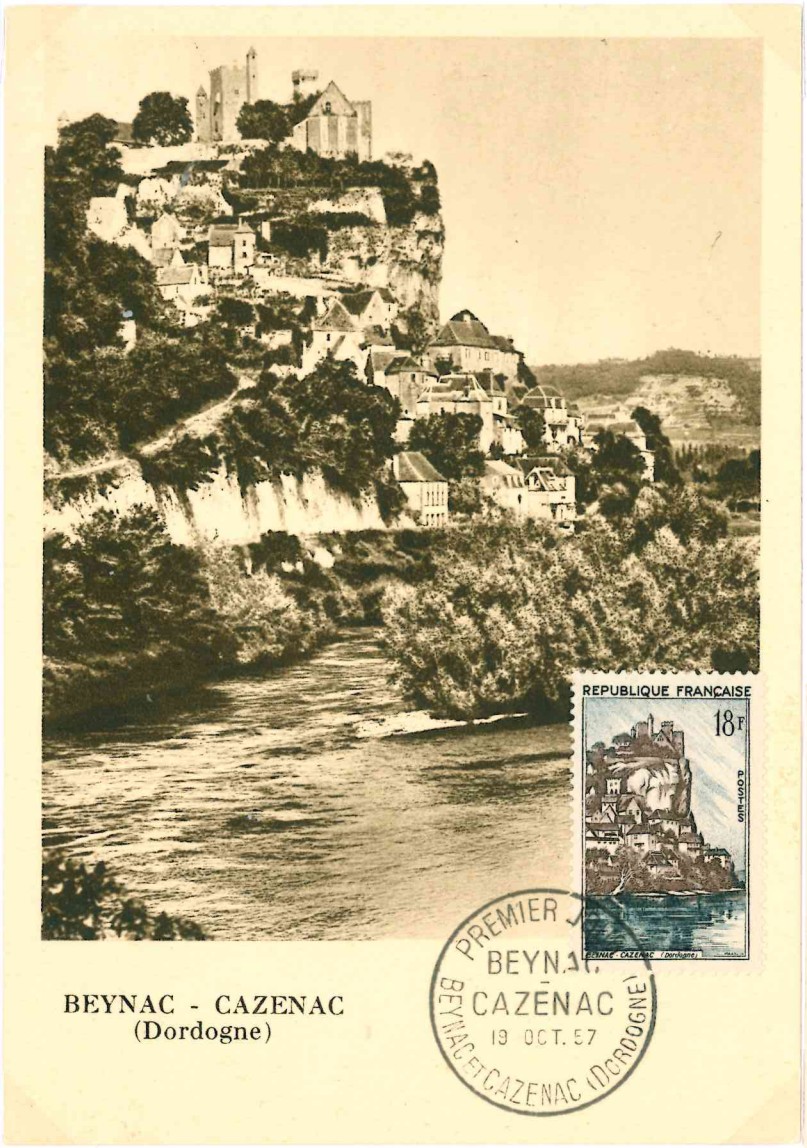
Issue 21-10-1946 – Canc. Rocamadour 21-10-1946. First day of issue.



LICHTENSTEIN (Germany)
The castle

Lichtenstein Castle sits on a crag overlooking the Echaz Valley. Today The castle contains a large collection of historic weapons and armour.

Issue 1948 – Canc. Wurttemberg 10-06-1948.
Stamp issue for the French Occupation in the Wurttemberg region.

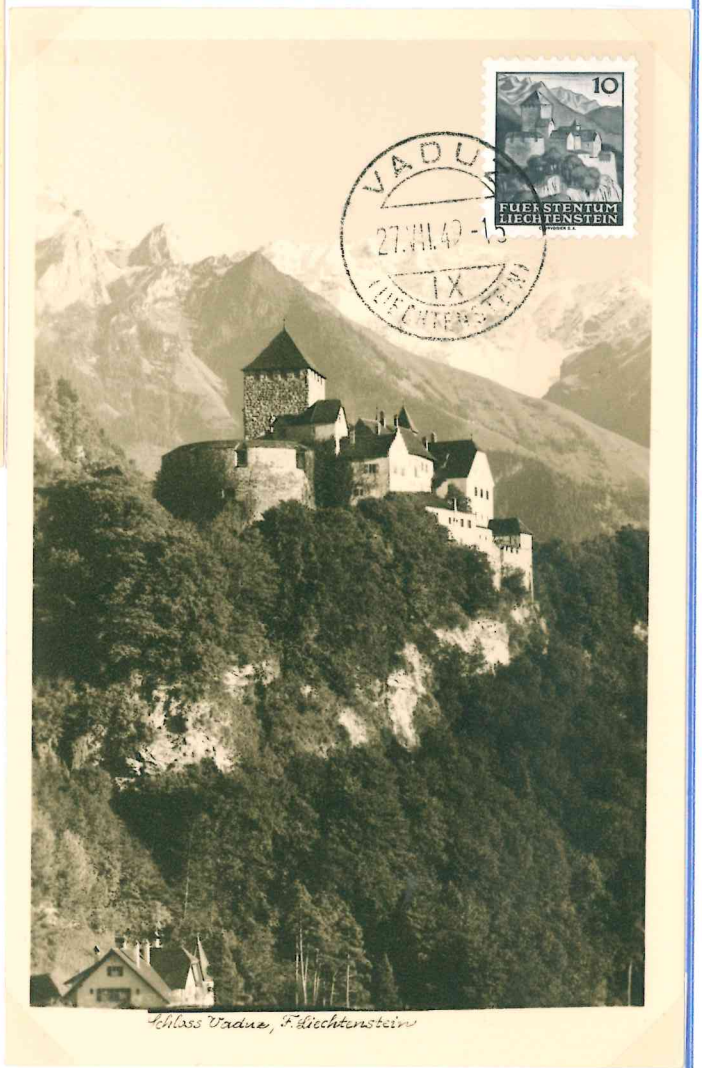


BEYNAC - CAZENAC
(Dordogne)

BEYNAC-CAZENAC (France)
The castle

This Middle Ages construction, with its austere appearance, is perched on top of a limestone cliff. It was built in the 12th century by the barons of Beynac to close the valley. The defences were built up on the plateau: double walls, double moats, one of which was a deepened natural ravine, double barbican.

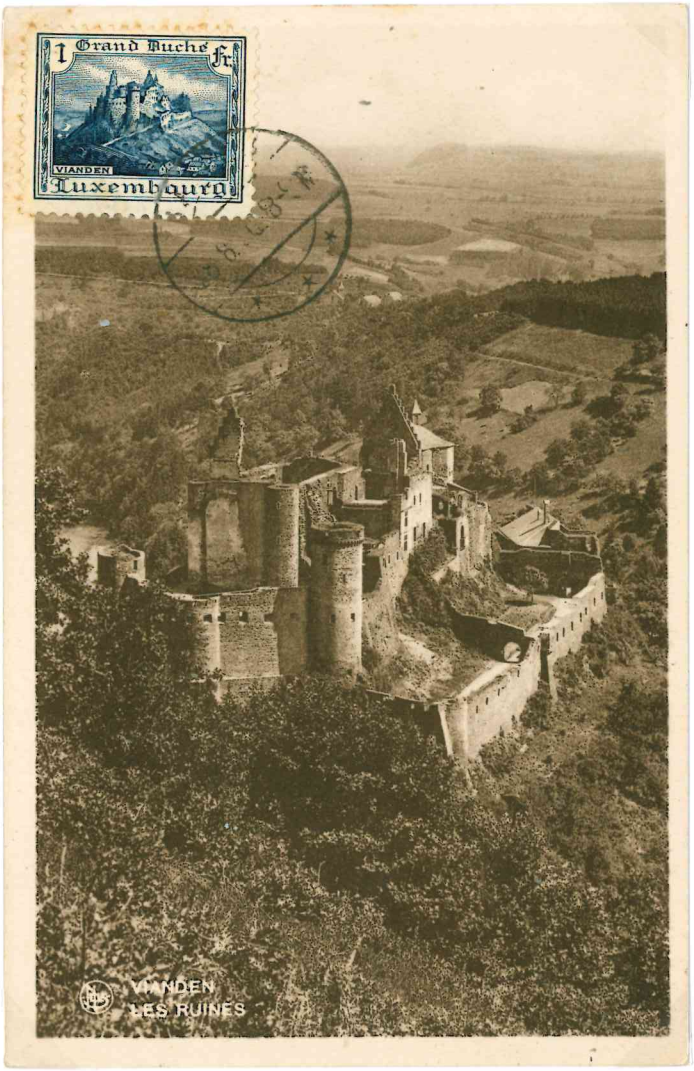
Issue 19-10-1957 – Canc. Beynac-Cazenac 19-10-1957. First day of issue.



VADUZ (Liechtenstein)
The castle

The castle gave its name to the town of Vaduz, the capital of Liechtenstein, which it overlooks from an adjacent hilltop. The tower stands on a piece of ground some 12 x 13 metres and has a wall thickness on the ground floor of up to 4 m. The original entrance lay at the courtyard side at a height of 11 metres. The castle is the palace and official residence of the Prince of Liechtenstein. Vaduz.

Issue 27-12-1943 – Canc. Vaduz 27-07-1949.



VIANDEN (Luxembourg)
The castle

Set on a rocky promontory, the castle stands at a height of 310 metres, dominating the town of Vianden and overlooking the River Our about a hundred metres below. Historically, the first Count of Vianden was mentioned in 1090. The castle continued to be the seat of the Vianden's influential counts until the beginning of the 15th century. The castle was built in the Romanesque style from the 11th to 14th centuries. Gothic transformations and trimmings were added at the end of this period. It has, however, recently been fully restored and is open to visitors.

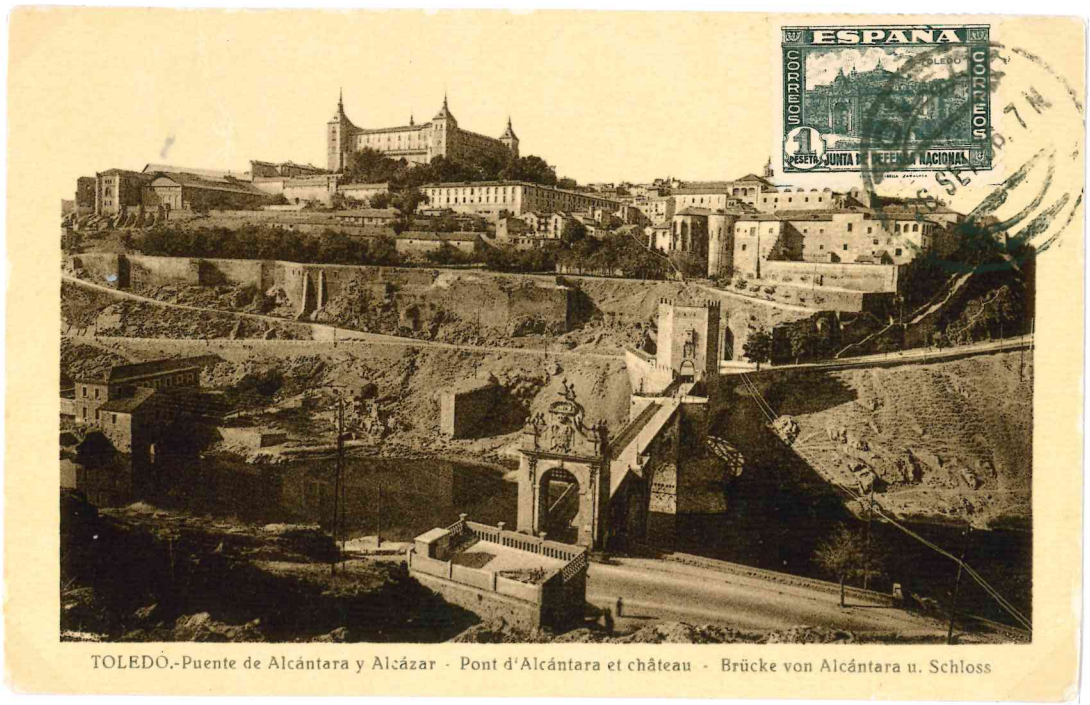
Issue 1926 – Canc. Vianden 28-08-1928.



Issue 1926 – Canc. Vianden 28-08-1928.

A castle for each situation

Castles on a rise



TOLEDO (Spain)
The Alcázar

It is a stone fortification located in the highest part of Toledo. Once used as a Roman palace in the 3rd century, now houses the Castilla-La Mancha Regional Library and the Museum of the Army

Issue 1936 – Canc. Toledo 26-09-1936.

LJUBLJANA (Slovenia)
The castle

It is a medieval castle located on Castle Hill overlooking the old town. The hill summit probably became a Roman army stronghold after fortifications were built in Illyrian and Celtic times. In 1991 Ljubljana became a town of Slovenia.

Issue 1937 – Canc. Ljubljana 10-03-1938.



A castle for each situation

Castles and water

The link water-castle was reciprocal; some castles were defended by water of the moat or the river, the other were built to defence a river, a coast or a beach.



CHILLON (Switzerland)
The castle

Chillon castle, an architectural jewel located in the most beautiful setting imaginable, on the shores of lake Geneva, right at the foot of the Alps. It is the result of several centuries of constant building, adaptations, renovations and restorations.
Erected in the X century, belonged to the Savoy family.

Issue 15-05-1943 – Canc. Chillon 28-08-1946.



HEERENBERG (Netherlands)
Huis Bergh

The building history dates back to the 13th century. The main parts of the castle are from the 14th, 15th and 17th century. The castle has a big moat.

Issue 15-05-1951 – Canc. Heerenberg 31-05-1952.



RENESSE (The Nederlands)
The castle

The castle was built in the XVI century and was owned by Iman Van Zuydland. During the second World War the castle was used by the occupying forces and the Vruesendorp family was exiled to the "Coach House". On the inside you can admire a rich renaissance and baroque furniture.

Issue 15-05-1951 – Canc. Renesse 30-05-1952.



DALFSEN (The Nederlands)
The castle

Castle Rechteren is situated in a Island in a dead estuary of the Vecht. A stone arch bridge gives access to the castle. It is the only castle in the province from the Middle Ages that has survived. The castle is still inhabited by descendants of the Van Heeckerents. There is a large round donjon tower for a better defence.

Issue 15-05-1951 – Canc. Dalfsen 25-01-1952.



BORNHEM (Belgium)
The castle

It is a stately and charming castle, partly late gothic style and partly early Renaissance.

Issue 01-12-1930 – Canc. Bornhem 15-07-1931.

BRATISLAVA
(Czechoslovakia)
The castle

The massive rectangular building with four corner towers stands on a quite isolated rocky hill of the little Carpathians directly above the Danube river. I was built by the King Sigismund during his fight against the Czech Hussites in the XV century.

Issue 1946 – Canc. Bratislava 12-07-1946.





JINDRICHUV HRADEC (Czechoslovakia)
The castle

It is situated between a lake and a river and it has a history that dates back to the XIII century; chapels with frescoes from the XIV century make up the oldest part of the complex.

Issue 1955 – Canc. Jindrichuv Hradec 17-10-1955. Stamp issued for the heritage of Czechoslovakia.

CHAMBORD (France)
The castle

The building was built in 1519 by King François I. The massive castle is composed of a central keep with four immense bastion towers at the corners.

Issue 30-05-1952 – Canc. Chambord 30-05-1952. First day of issue.





AMBOISE
(France)
The castle

Built on a rock headland dominating the Loire, this old medieval fortress preserved this time an enclosure that contains the actual castle. In 503 Amboise Clodoveo, Frankish King, met Alarico, Visigoth King.

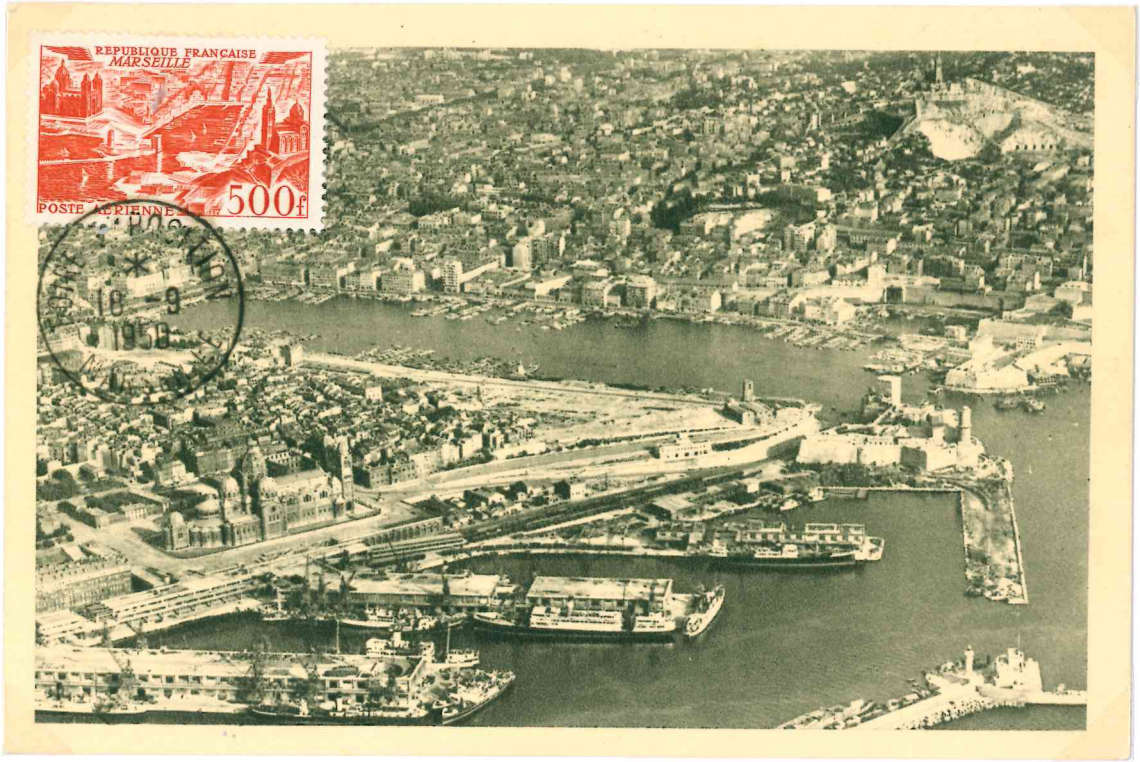
Issue 09-07-1952 – Canc. Amboise 09-07-1952. First day of issue.

ANTWERPEN-
ANVERSA
(Belgium)
The castle

It is known as "the Stone", because at the time it was built in the XIII century most buildings were still made of wood. In 1520 the castle was revamped by Keldermann. It is situated along the river.

Issue 22-06-1953 – Canc. Antwerpen 05-08-1953.





MARSIGLIA
(France)
Twin castles

Fort St. Nicolas and Fort St. Jean are twin structure that mark off the entrance to Vieux Port. They were built in response to a local uprising. Their cannons pointed inwards towards the town, non outwards towards the sea.

Issue 20-04-1949 – Canc. Marsiglia 18-09-1950.

KAUB (Germany)
The castle

Pfalzgrafenstein castle is the main tourist attraction of the village. It was built on a small island in the Rhine river.

Issue 05-11-1940 – Canc. Kaub 17-01-1941. Set issued for the winter rescue.



A castle for each situation

Castles and water



BUDAPEST (Hungary)
Vajdahunyad Castle

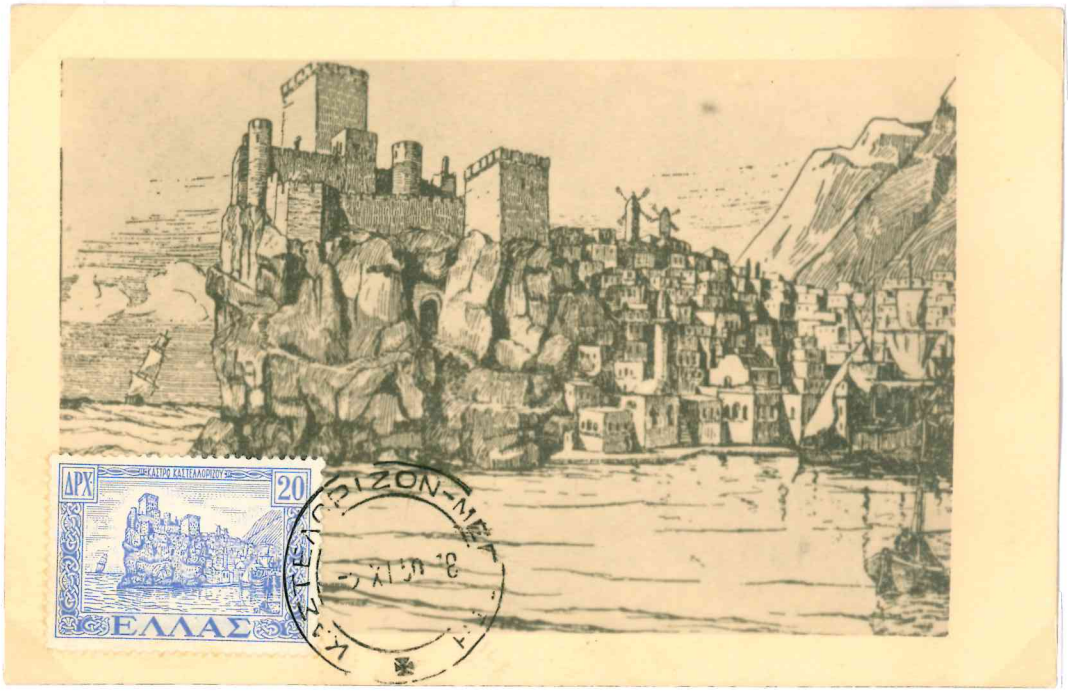
It was built in the XIII century and modified between 1896 and 1908. As the castle contains parts of buildings from various time periods, it displays different architectural styles. It lies on a little isle in the lake.

Issue 1948 – Canc. Budapest 01-12-1948.

KASTELORIZO
(Greece)
The castle

The little town Kastelorizo is situated in the Kissamov Bay. The castle was built in the XVII century and overlooks the deep western coast.

Issue 1948 – Canc. Kastelorizo 05-11-1950.



A castle for each situation

Round towers

Round towers on a keep or on a curtain wall assisted defence as it was believed that any form of missile thrown or catapulted at the castle would deflect off of a rounded surface. Also if the enemy tried to dig under a castle to undermine a weak corner, they would not find a corner on a round tower! So this form of attack was useless against a castle with rounded towers.



BEERSEL (Belgium)
The castle

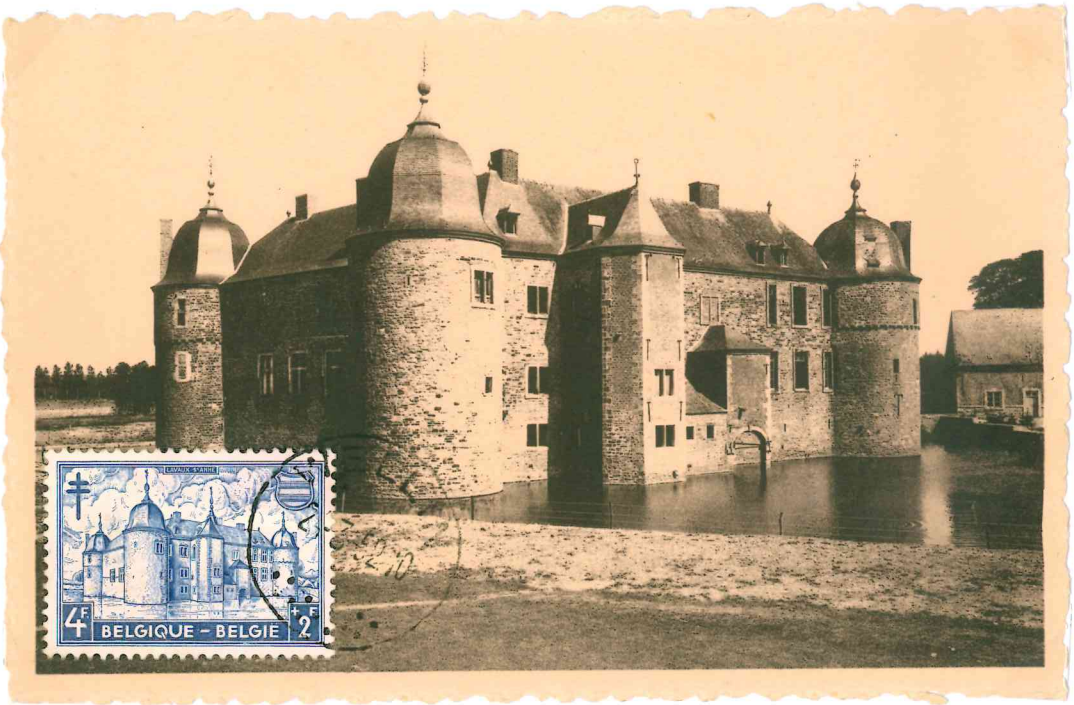
The castle was built between 1300 and 1310 to protect Brussels. The castle with his moats, high and thick walls and towers was a stronghold and almost impossible to conquer. Also because the marsh that surrounded the castle.

Issue 17-12-1951- Canc. Beersel 25-03-1952.

LAVAUX-STE-ANNE
(Belgium)
The castle

It dates back to the first half of the XV century when it was built by the Berlo family. It was built on a swampy plain near the small Wimbe river.

Issue 17-12-1951 – Canc. 24-03-1952.





NYBORG (Denmark)
The castle

The present Nyborg Castle's history dates back to around 1200. The dense, low tower and the basement of the castle building are the remains of the original fortress, which was surrounded by a 1.5-metre thick ring wall with semicircular corners. Due to its central location, the fortress became the site of the so-called Danehof assembly meetings of the nation's most powerful men.

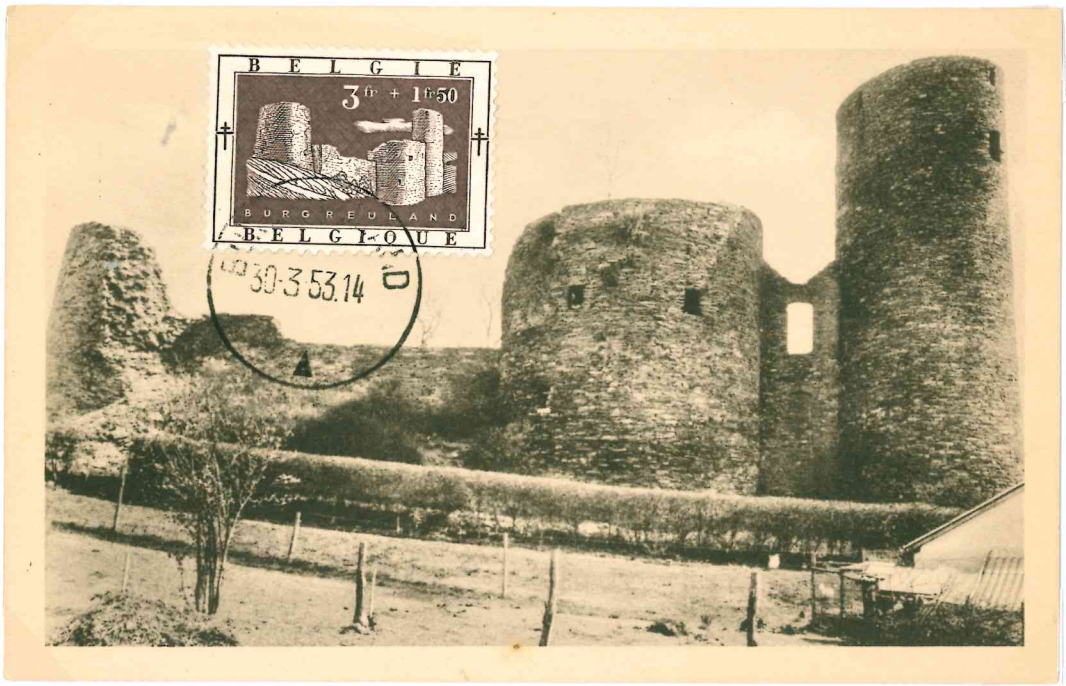
Issue 1955 – Canc. Nyborg 22-08-1957.



VEVES (Belgium)
The castle

The castle, in the form of an irregular pentagon and flanked by six round towers of varying size, dates largely from around 1410. Successive restorations modified especially the walls of the inner courtyard. The northern frontage is crowned with a small cupola containing a clock.

Issue 17-12-1951 – Canc. Veves 25-03-1952



BURG-REULAND (Belgium)
The castle

The history of this ruin goes back to the Roman times. It was rebuild in the XIII century with strong round towers and thick stone walls.

Issue 15-12-1952 – Canc. Burg-Reuland 30-03-1953.

ANGERS (France)
The castle

The outer wall is protected by 17 round towers. Each of them was once 40 metres in height, but they were later cut down for the use of artillery pieces, except the Tour du Moulin.

Issue 13-06-1959 – Canc. Angers 13-06-1959. First day of issue.



A castle for each situations

Round towers



PROVINS (France)
Caesar's Tower

It was built in the XII century at the top of the hill. It has a square ground plan at the base which becomes octagonal at half height, flanked by four turrets.

Issue 13-06-1964 – Canc. Provins 13-06-1964. First day of issue.

SULLY-S-LOIRE (France)
The castle

It is a *château-fort*, a true castle, built to control one of the few sites where the Loire can be forded; the site has perhaps been fortified since Gallo-Roman times.

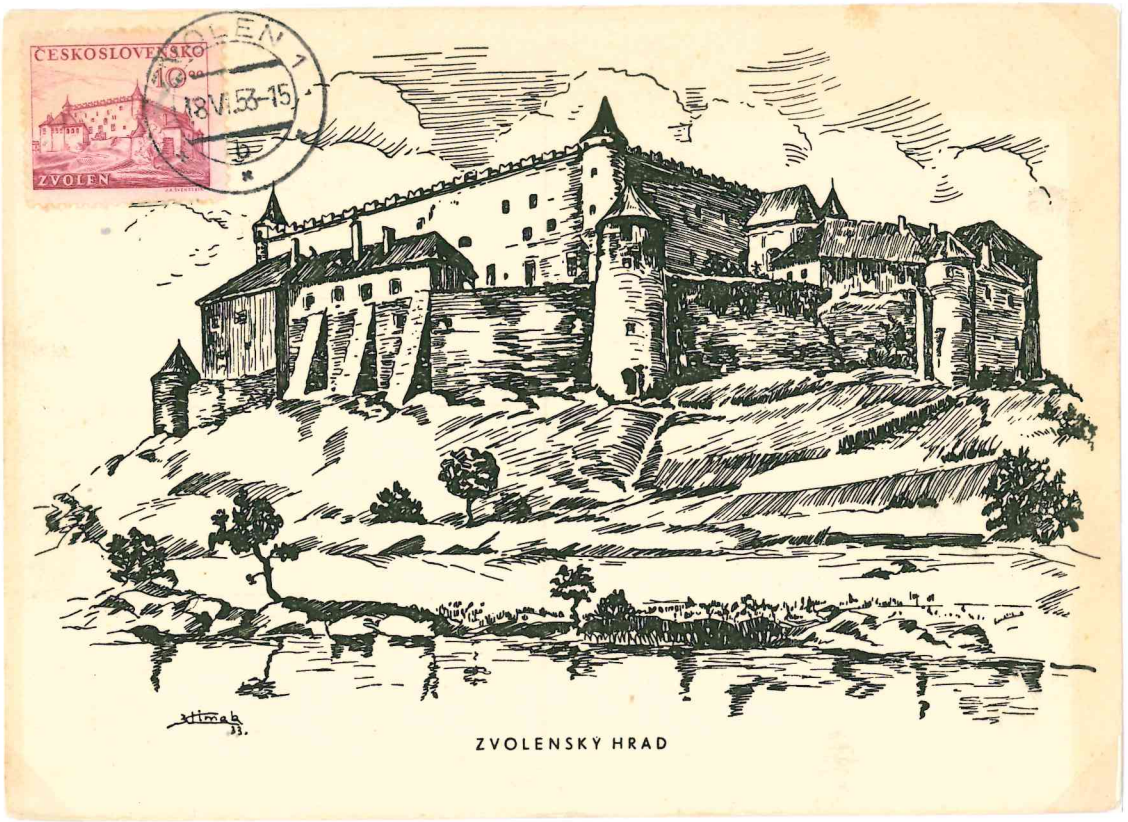
Issue 07-10-1961 – Can. Sully-S-Loire 07-10-1961. First day of issue.



A castle for each situation

Solid and impregnable

Huge and isolated, these castles could standoff over months and years, till the enemy were tired and shouted through.



ZVOLEN
(Slovakia)
Zvolen Castle

It is a medieval castle built by Louis I. from Anjou, which built it like a gothic hunting castle. About 1500 was built up external fortification with four round bastions and entrance gate. The castle was rebuilt many times, but it retains its Renaissance look

Issue 1949 – Canc. Zvolen 18-06-1953.

CAERNARFON
(Great Britain)
Fortress

It is a medieval building in north-west Wales.
The Edwardian town and castle acted as the administrative centre of north Wales and as a result the defences were built on a grand scale.

Issue 1963 – Canc. Caernarfon 18-02-1964.



A castle for each situation

Solid and impregnable



REGGIO CALABRIA (Italy)
The Aragonese Castle

Even though it is referred to as Aragonese, its origins are indeed much older. It was Ferdinando I of Aragon who, in 1458, expanded it to its maximum size and grandeur.

Issue 20-08-1981 - Canc. Reggio Calabria 20-08-1981. First day of issue. Illustrated cancelling.



VINCENNES (France)
The Castle

The building affirms the power of the monarchy: it guarded the capital, whilst at the same time protecting the kings against uprisings. It was at the heart of the French monarchy until 1682, when Louis XIV chose to settle in Versailles. The keep was used as a prison from the 16th up to the 19th century: Fouquet, the Marquis de Sade, and Mirabeau were held here. Under Napoleon I it was transformed into a barracks and arsenal, and the fortress protected Paris during invasions in the 19th century.

Issue 16-05-1938 – Canc. Vincennes 16-05-1938. First day of issue.

A castle for each situation

Castles in inhabited suburb

In the Middle Ages castles were a shelter for the people.



ROME (Italy)
Castle of the Holy Angel

It is a towering cykindrical building commissioned by the Roman Emperor Handrian as a mausoleum for his family. The building was later used by the popes as a fortress and castle, and is now a museum.

Kindom of Italy.
Issue 26-10-1926 – Canc. Rome 03-12-1926. Postal validity 29-11-1928.

KRAKOVIA (Poland)
The Wawel Castle

Built at the behest of King Casimir III the Great, it consists of a number of structures situated around the Italian-styled main courtyard. The castle, represents nearly all European architectural styles of medieval, renaissance and baroque periods.

Issue 05-05-1925 - Canc. Krakovia 22-09-1926.





ARBOIS
(France)
The castle

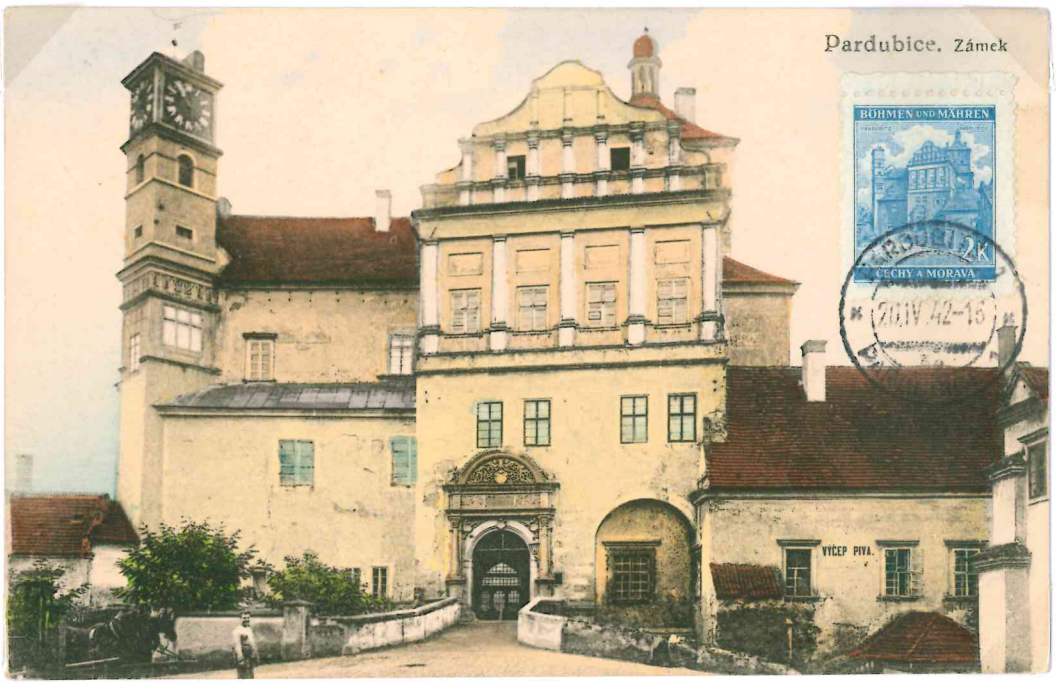
Chateau Pécauld, built in the twelfth and fourteenth centuries, was part of the defences of the city. Its large circular tower is known as the Tour de Velfaux.

Issue 23-06-1951 – Canc. Arbois 23-06-1951. First day of Issue.

PARDUBICE (Czchec Republic)
The Castle

The original castle was transformed into a palace. A new, massive fortress was built around it. Thus, a combination of a castle and chateau was created. The last significant reconstructions date back to the 1570s.

Issue 1941 - Canc. Pardubice 26-04-1942. Postal validity 31-03-1943. Stamp issued during the Dutch Occupation.





LJUBLJANA
(Yugoslavia)
Zuzemberk castle

The castle is believed to date back to around 1000. Between 1526 and 1533, the prince bishop Krištof Rauba fortified the castle and added seven defence towers or bastilles.

Issue 1945 – Canc. Ljubljana 12-05-1945. Stamp issued for the German occupation. In 1991 Ljubljana became a town of Slovenia.

HALL TIROL (Austria)
The castle

The building was originally erected to protect the salt mines, the shipping industry, the bridge across the river Inn and the old Roman Road.

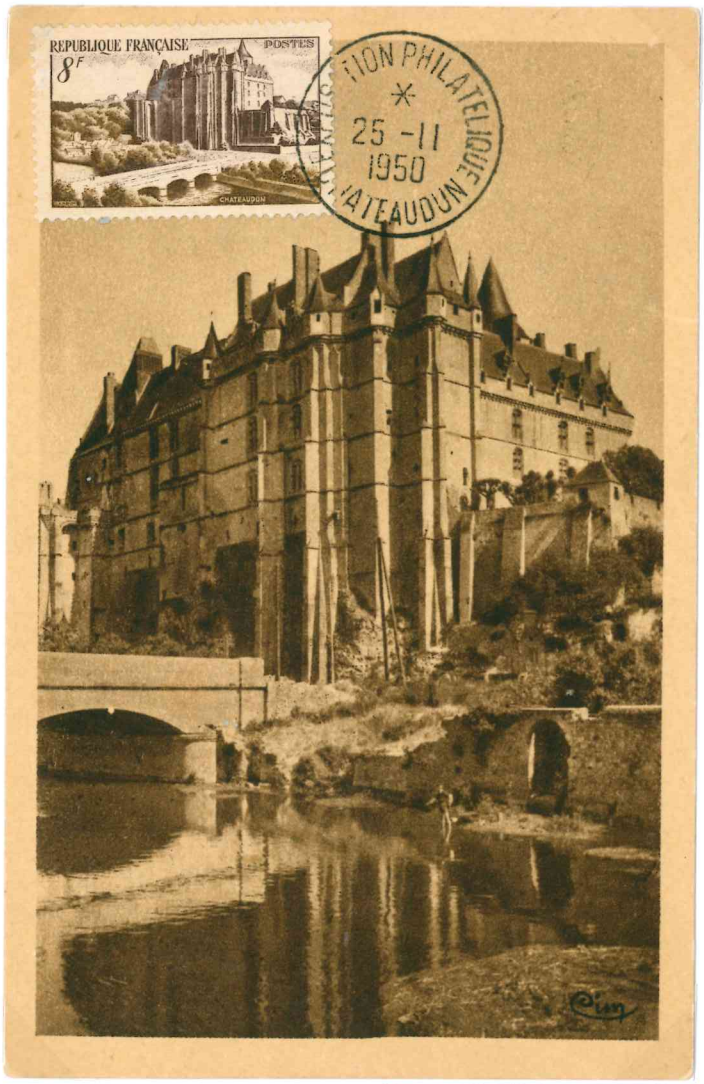
Issue 18-11-1938 – Canc. Hall Tirol 17-03-1939. From 1936 to 1948 Hall Tirol was occupied By Germany, Third Reich.



A castle for each situation

Castles and churches

Castles and fortress influenced also the religious architecture. It is not unusual to find churches, Cathedrals and Monasteries with towers and fortified walls instead of bell towers and apses.



CHATEADUN (France)
The castle

The castle was built between the XII and the XVI century and it overlooks the Loir river. The entrance was an opening in the ceiling, to guarantee the inviolability of the castle. The real opening was in the middle of a door in a gallery over the chapel.

Issue 25-11-1950 – Canc. Châteadun 25-11-1950. First day of issue.

ST. BERTRAND DE COMMINGES (France)
The cathedral

The gothic cathedral is a building with stately fortified walls and a massive tower instead of the façade.

Issue 01-06-1949 – Canc. St. Bertrand 18-01-1950.



Princely mansions

Partly castle and partly mansion

The change from castle to mansions was gradual. The coming of firearms, the disappearance of raiders' hurdles, the evolution of the policy and the birth of sovereign states made the castles lose their originally functions.



CHENONCEAUX
(France)
The castle

Diane de Poitiers, Catherine de' Medici and Marie of Scotland described it as the most romantic castle in the Loire Valley.
It is often called "the ladies chateau".

Issue 10-06-1944 – Canc. Chenonceaux 10-06-1944. First day of issue.

It is often described as "the ladies chateau" as throughout its history it is they who have most influenced its design and its destiny. In 1515 Thomas Bohier began the construction of the castle. Catherine de' Medici constructed the gallery above the bridge ad wonderful gardens.

Issue 10-06-1944 – Canc. Chenonceaux 30-10-1944.



Princely mansions

Partly castle and partly mansion



WINDSOR (Great Britain)
The castle

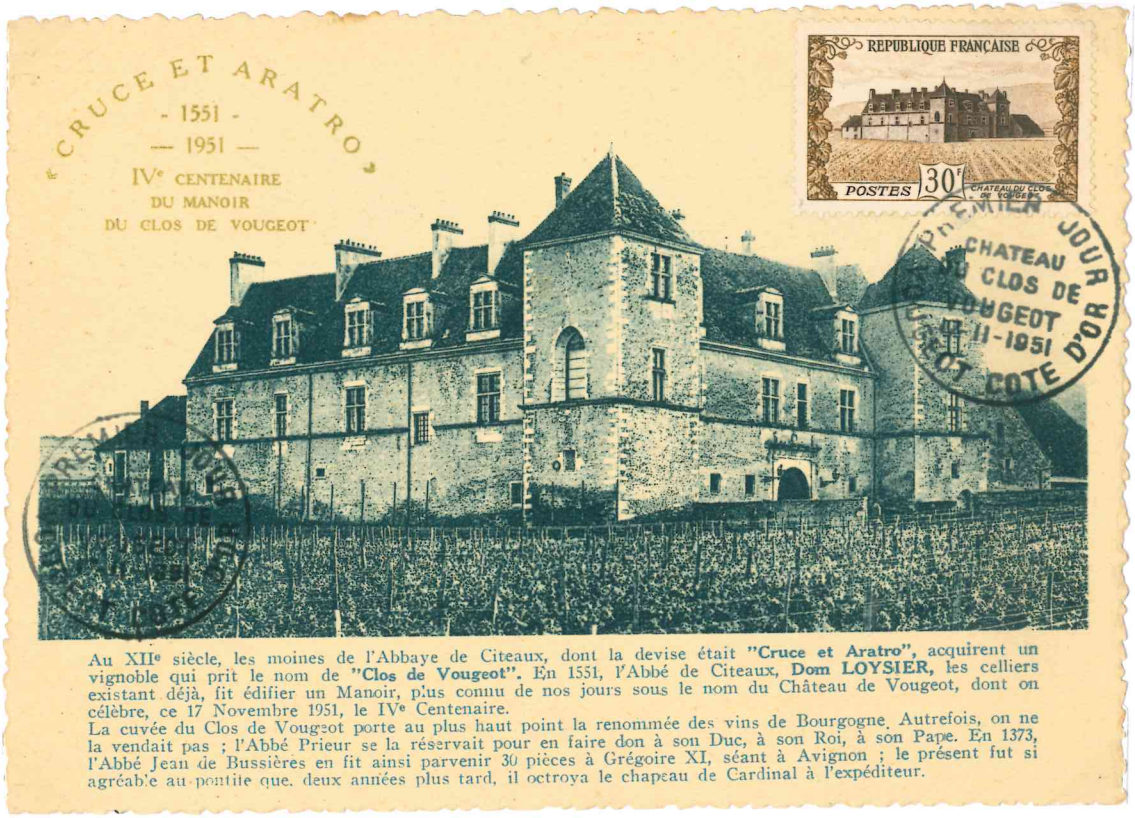
Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world and the official residence of her Majesty the Queen. It was founded by Henry III in the XIII century. It houses several valuables master pieces.

Issue 13-09-1955 – Canc. Windsor Castle 14-04-1956.

CLOS DE VOUGEOT (France)
The castle

The castle was built by Cistercians Monks in the XII century and it was completed during the Renaissance. Nowadays it is the headquarter of the "Confriére de Chevaliers".

Issue 17-11-1951 - Canc. Vougeot Cote d'or 17-11-1951. First day of issue.



Princely mansions

Partly castle and partly mansion



PAU (France)
The castle

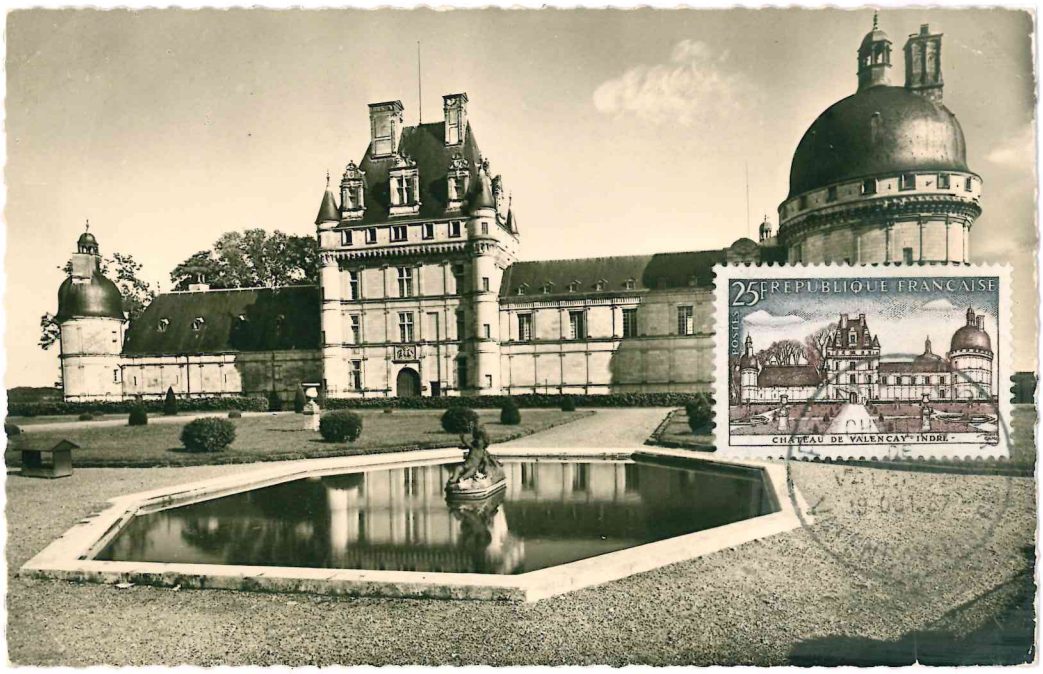
It was founded in the Middle Ages. In the XII century Gaston IV built three towers at the fortress and in the XIV century Gaston Phoebus built the tower of brick, 33 metres high. At the Renaissance it became a residence for Henry D'Albret and his wife.

Issue 1939 – Canc. Pau 25-08-1939.

VALENCAY (France)
The castle

The castle is sited at the edge of a plateau that overlooks the little Nahon River and it was built by the d'Estampes family of financiers in the XVI century. In the centre there are two round turrets and by the sides two big round towers.

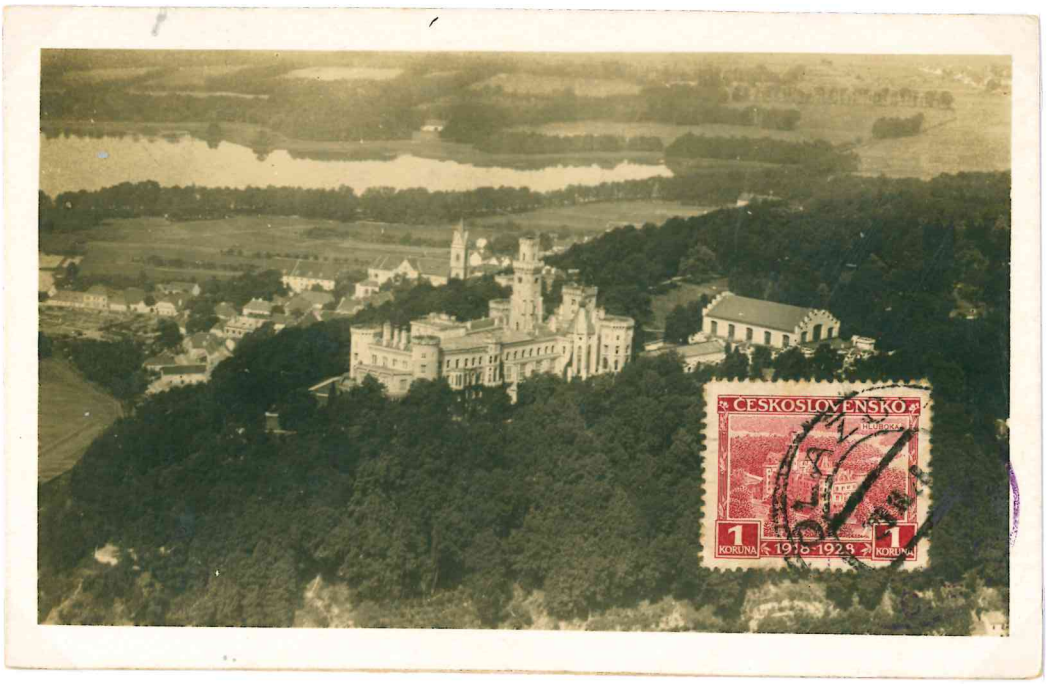
Issue 19-10-1957 – Canc. Valencay 19-10-1957. First day of issue.



Princely mansions

Partly castle and partly mansion

Some castles, erected as defence and fortifications, were reworked and modifying during the centuries becoming princely mansions.



HLUBOKA
(Czechoslovakia)
The castle

It is a marvellous white battlemented castle on a promontory above the Vltava river.
It's a fabulous and bewitched castle, like the buildings in the fairy tales of Disney.

Issue 1928 – Canc. Hluboka 26-11-1928. Issued for the 10th liberation anniversary.

JNDRICHUV HRADEC
(Czechoslovakia)
The castle

It dates back to the XIII century, and older parts of it have been incorporated into newer additions. Chapels with frescoes from the XIV century make up the oldest part of the complex.

Issue 1955 – Canc. Jndrichuv Hradec 06-04-1956. Issue for architectural heritage of Bohemia.



Princely Mansions

Partly castle and partly mansion



NEUCHATEL
(Switzerland)
The castle

The castle is located on a hill overlooking the town and it was the seat of the canton administration. The castle was built from the 12th to the 19th Century and the western section is a rare example of medieval architecture.

Issue 27-02-1948 – Canc. Neuchatel 01-03-1948.

BRIG (Switzerland)
The castle

It was built between 1658 and 1678 by Kaspar Stockalper, a silk merchant of Brig. The palace has three towers with gilded onion domes and reflects the immensity of Stockalper's wealth

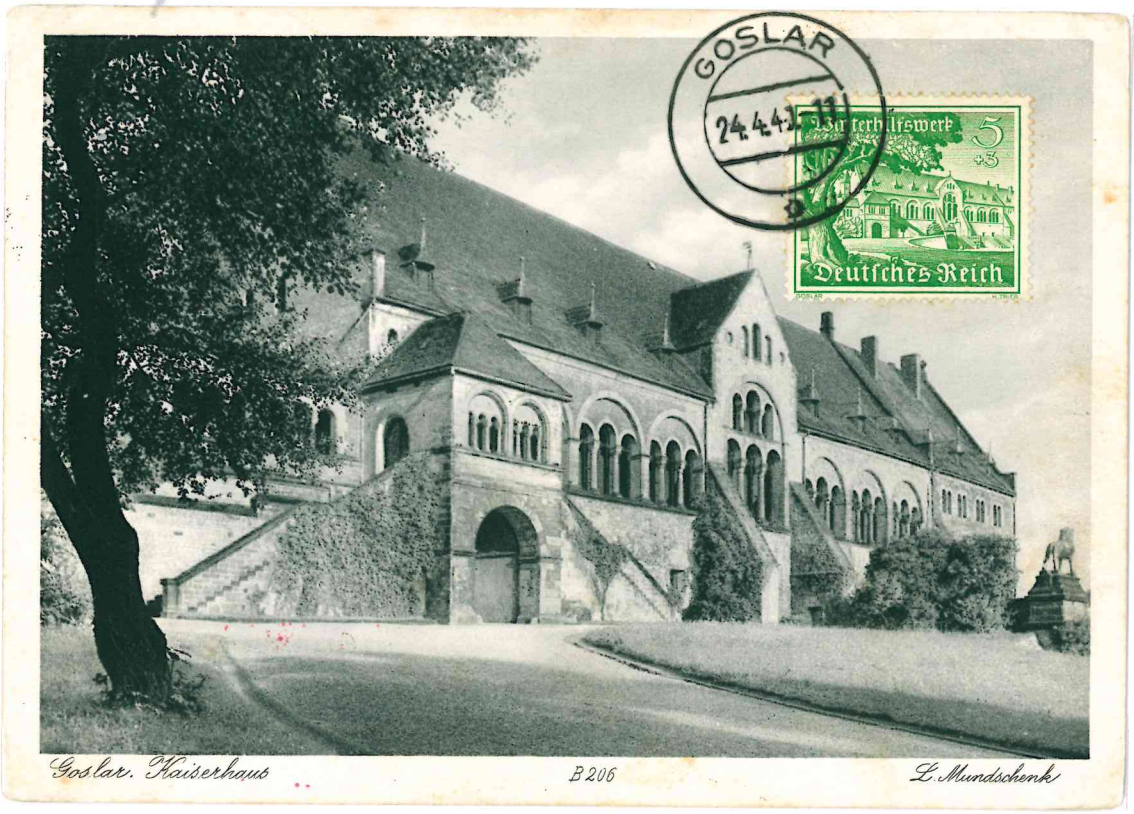
Issue 01-03-1956 – Canc. Brig 01-03-1956. First day of issue.



Princely Mansions

Courts and mansions

The oldest inhabited mansions around the world usually began their existence as fortified castles in the middle ages. As social conditions slowly changed and stabilised fortifications were able to be reduced, and over the centuries gave way to comfort. It became fashionable and possible for homes to be beautiful rather than grim and forbidding.



GOSLAR
(Germany)
Kaiserhaus

The Imperial Palace is a historical building complex at the foot of the Rammelsberg hill. It is the greatest, oldest and best-preserved secular building of the 11th century in Germany. It was a favourite imperial residence.

Issue 27-10-1939 – Canc. Goslar 24-04-1941.

PRAGUE
(Czechoslovakia)
Wallenstein Palace

The original Palace was built in years 1623-1630 by Albrecht von Wallenstein Duke of Mecklenburg.

Issue 1941 - Canc. Prague 02-11-1942. In 1939 the Nazi Government instituted a protectorate. In 1945 Czechoslovakia was reformed.

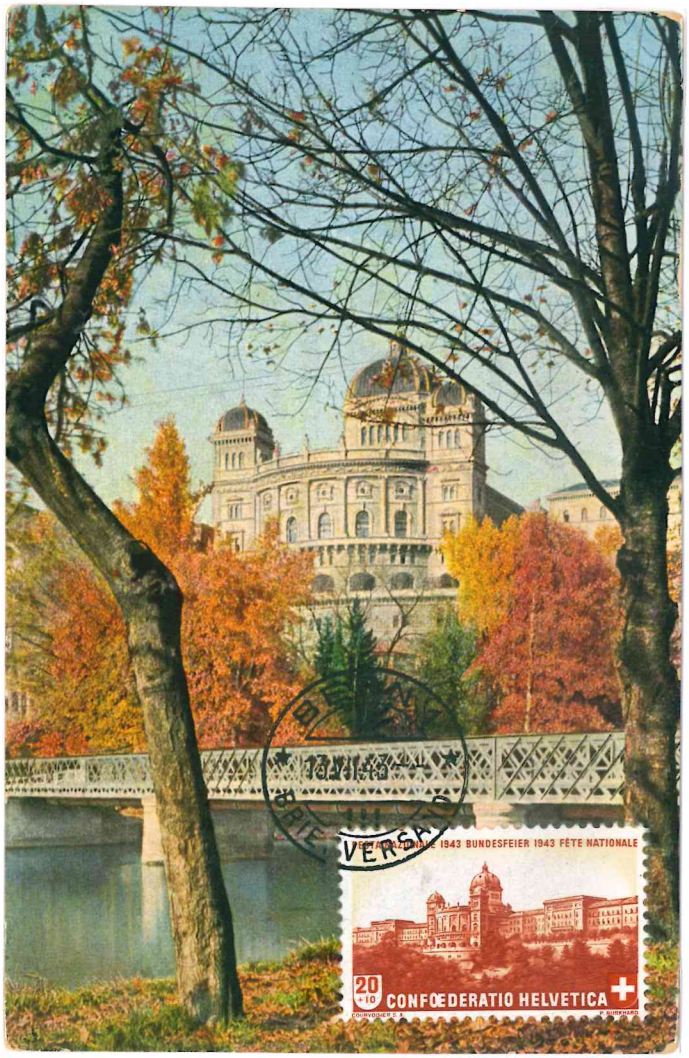




PRAGUE (Czechoslovakia)
The National Museum

The National Museum is on the inside of a stately building in the neorenaissance style of the XIX century. At present the museum houses a rich collection of antiques, relics and scientific equipment. .

Issue 1932 – Canc. Prague 28-10-1936.



BERN (Switzerland)
The Bundesplatz

The Bundesplatz is situated at the old city of Bery and it is in renaissance style. It is consisting of three part: western wing (1852-1857) and eastern wing (1888-1892) follow the style of the Florentine palaces; the central building (1894-1902) has a dome and a high pronao and it is an imitation of late-renaissance architecture.

Issue 15-06-1943 – Canc. Berna 13-07-1943.



PODEBRADY
(Czechoslovakia)
The castle

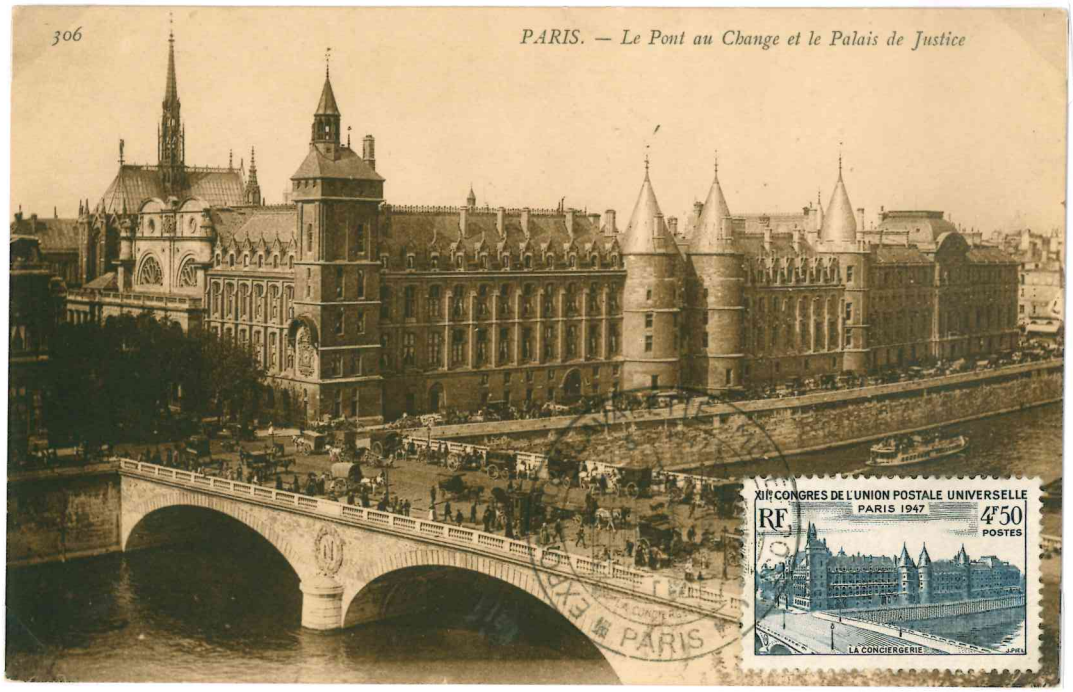
The castle dates back to the XII century and was the residence of Hohenlohe Princes. In front of it there is the equestrian statue of King George, who was born in the castle, according to legend.

Issue 1937 – Canc. Podebrady 08-08-1937.

PARIS (France)
Palais de Justice

The Palais de Justice is located in the Ile de la Citè in central Paris. It was the seat of the Parliament of Paris then it became a former prison, now a museum, where Marie Antoinette was imprisoned before being executed on the guillotine.

Issue 07-05-1947 – Canc. Paris 07-05-1947. First day of issue.

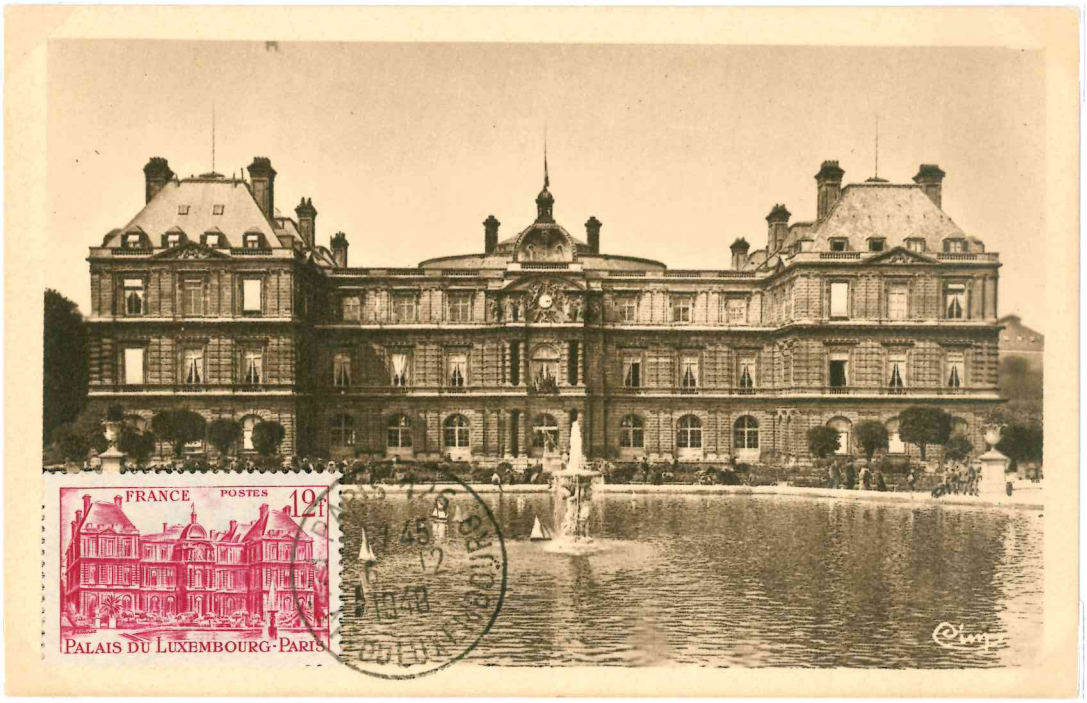




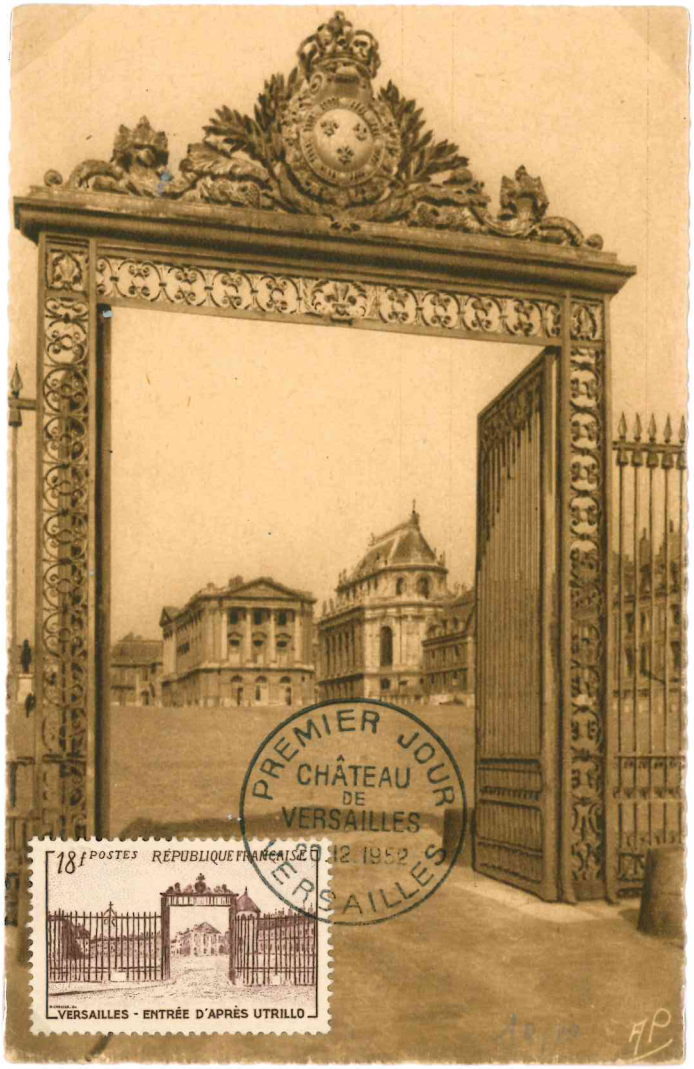
Issue: 29-06-1946
Cancellation: Paris 25-08-1946.

PARIS (France)
Le Palais du Luxembourg

It is probably the most beautiful park in Paris. The gardens were laid out in Italian style on request of Marie De' Medici. Fountains, little lakes and rows of trees are placed in accordance with a specific scheme. Between 1615 and 1627 the palace was constructed at the northern end of the garden of Luxembourg for Marie De' Medici. The building currently houses the French Senate.



Issue: 05-04-1948
Cancellation: Paris 06-12-1948.



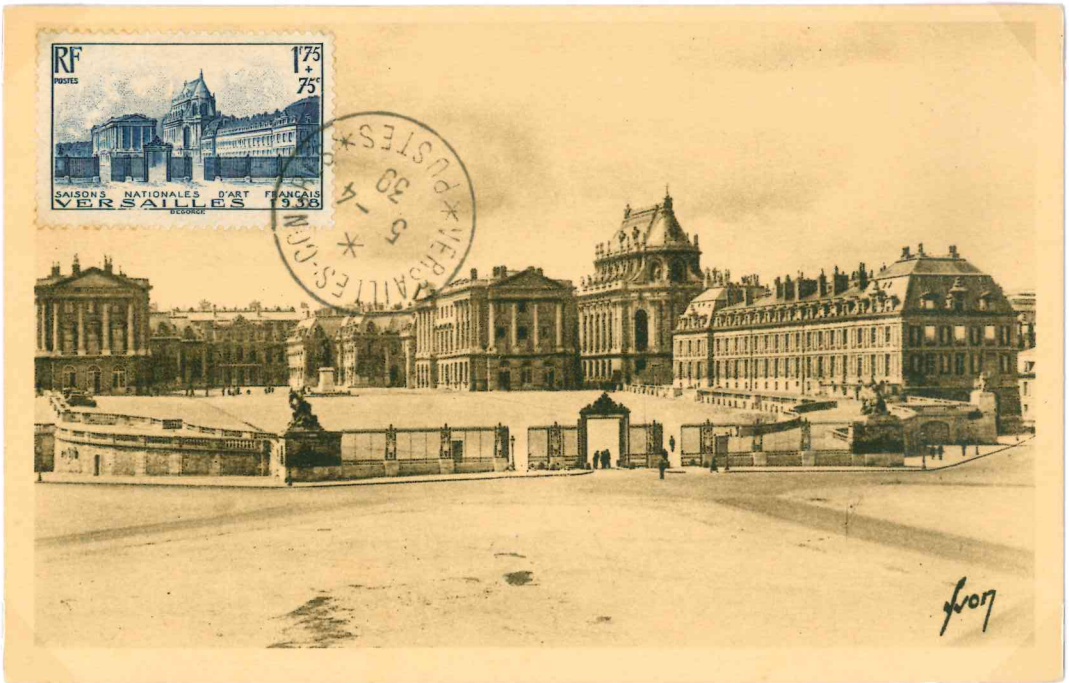
VERSAILLES (France)
The Castle

The Chateau de Versailles, which has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List for 30 years, is one of the most beautiful achievements of 18th-century French art. The site began as Louis XIII's hunting lodge before his son Louis XIV transformed and expanded it, moving the court and government of France to Versailles in 1682. Each of the three French kings who lived there until the French Revolution added improvements to make it more beautiful.

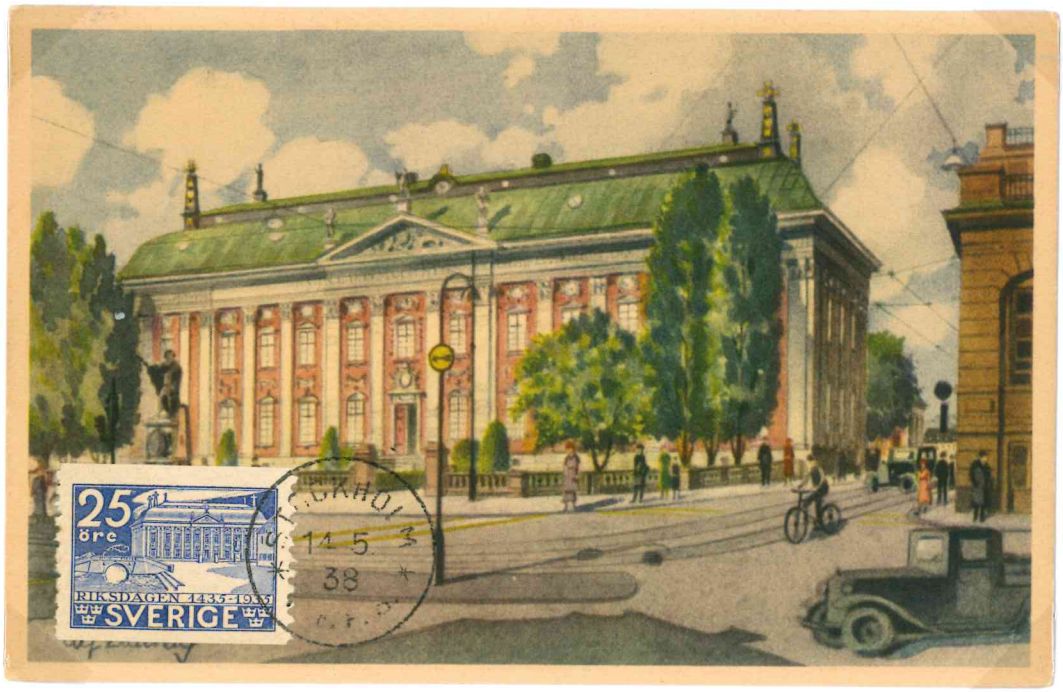
Issue 22-12-1952 – Canc. Versailles 20-12-1952. First day of issue.

VERSAILLES
(France)
The Castle

Issue 09-05-1938 – Canc. Versailles 05-04-1939.



Princely mansions



STOCKHOLM (Sweden)
The House of Nobility

It is a corporation and a building, that maintains records and acts as an interest group on behalf of the Swedish nobility. The south end of the building carries the Latin inscription CLARIS MAIORUM EXEMPLI. *orefathers*, and holds a statue of Gustav Vasa.

Issue 01-10-1935 – Canc. Stockholm 14-05-1938.

VENICE (Italy)
Doge's Palace

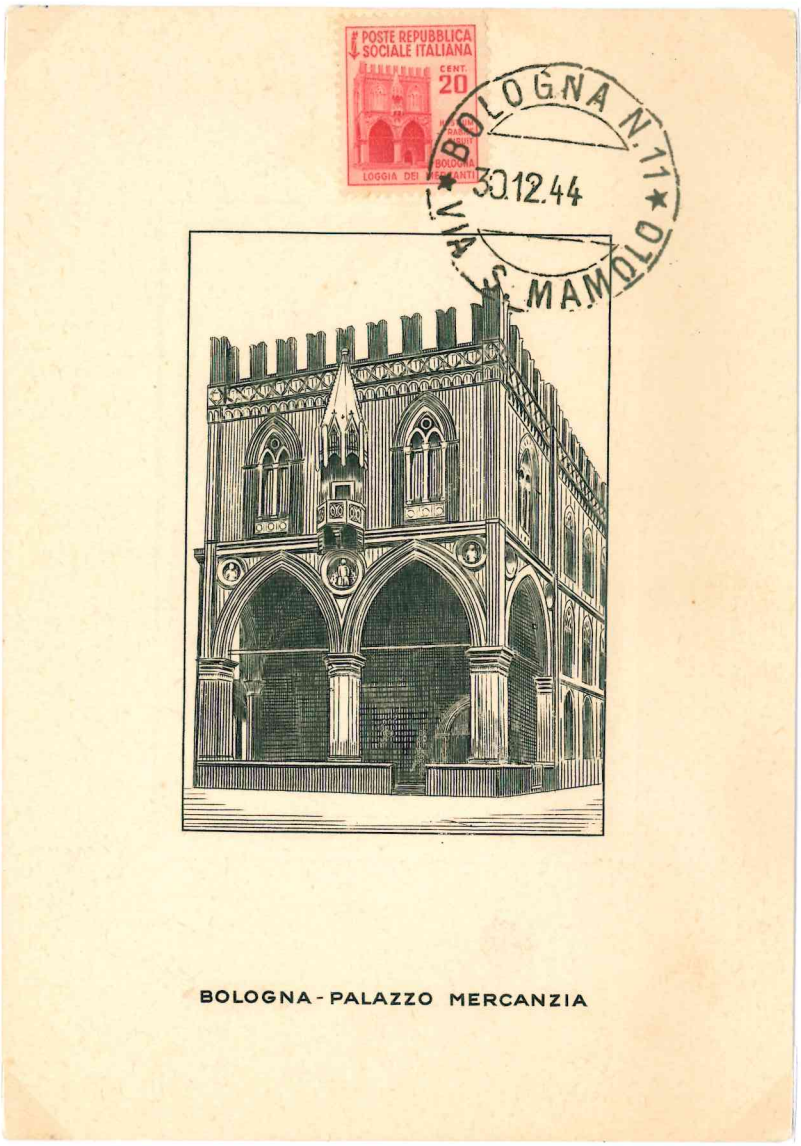
Built from 1309 and 1442, it was the seat of the Government of Venice for centuries; Filippo Calendario started the building. The thirty-six capitals on the lower colonnade have carvings of beasts, flowers and representations of the months of the year.

Issue 20-10-1950 – Canc. Venice 17-08-1951. Postal validity 31-03-1958.





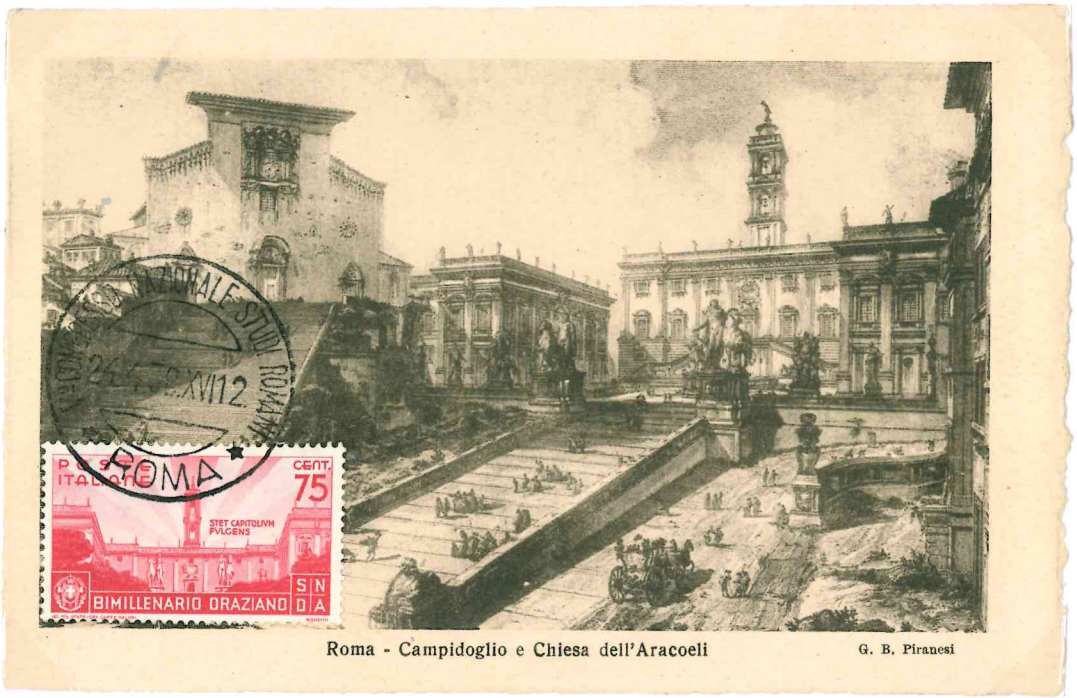
Issue 05-06-1944 – Canc. Bologna 30-11-1944.
Postal validity 25-06-1945.



Issue 01-10-1944 – Canc. Bologna 30-12-1944.
Postal validity 25-06-1945.

BOLOGNA (Italy)
Palazzo della Mercanzia

Seat of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture and Crafts, Palazzo della Mercanzia has governed trading an business activities of Bologna since the late XIV century. In 1384 the building was initiated under the direction of Antonio Di Vincenzo. Built in brick and istrian stone, the façade shows the deed gothic arches. Over the arches, a small marble balcony juts out between the two mullioned windows, from which the judges of the Merchants'Court would read their sentences.



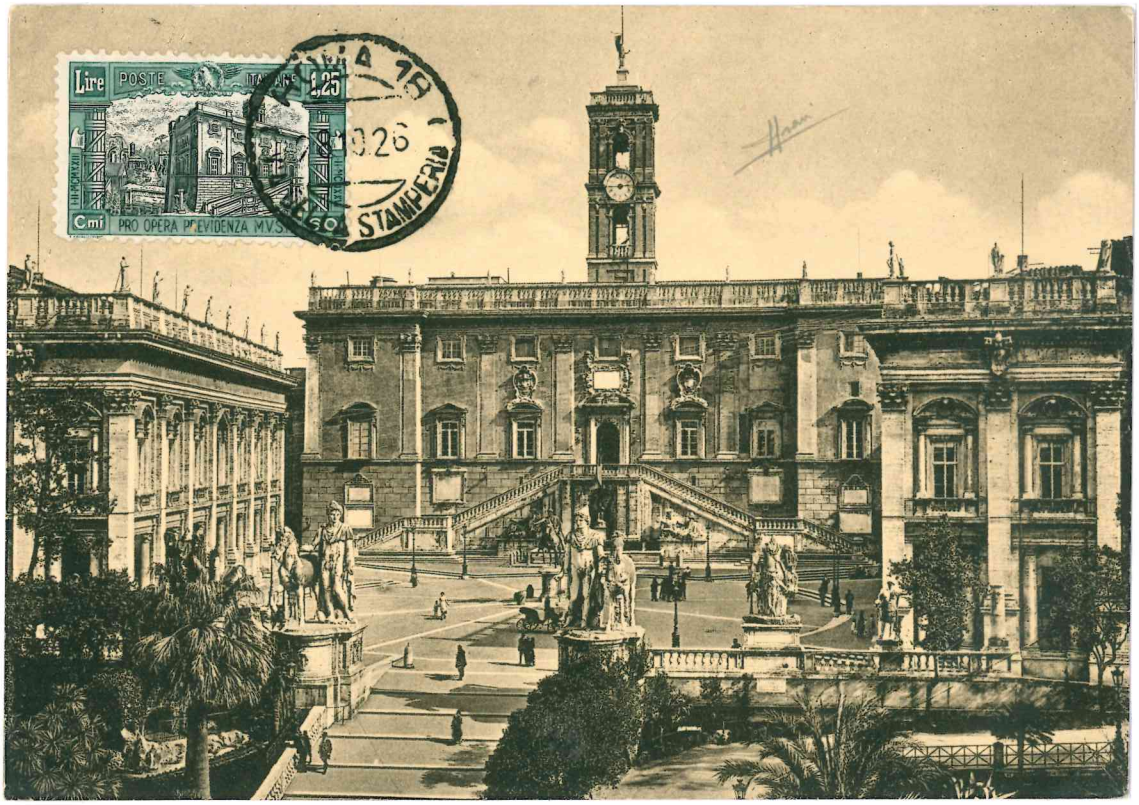
ROME (Italy)
The Capitoline

The Capitoline has been the hub of Rome's political and religious life since ancient times. Today the Michelangelo Piazza, reached by climbing a splendid flight of steps, is encircled by two identical buildings and Palazzo Senatorio, the seat of the Mayor.

Issue 01-07-1936 – Canc, Rome 24-04-1938. Stamp issued for the two thousandth anniversary from Horace's birth.

The palace was built by Giacomo della Porta e Girolamo Rainaldi in the second half of XVI century.

Issue 26-10-1926-Canc. Rome 28-10-1926.
Issue pro militia benefit.





KLAGENFURT (Austria)
Landhaus

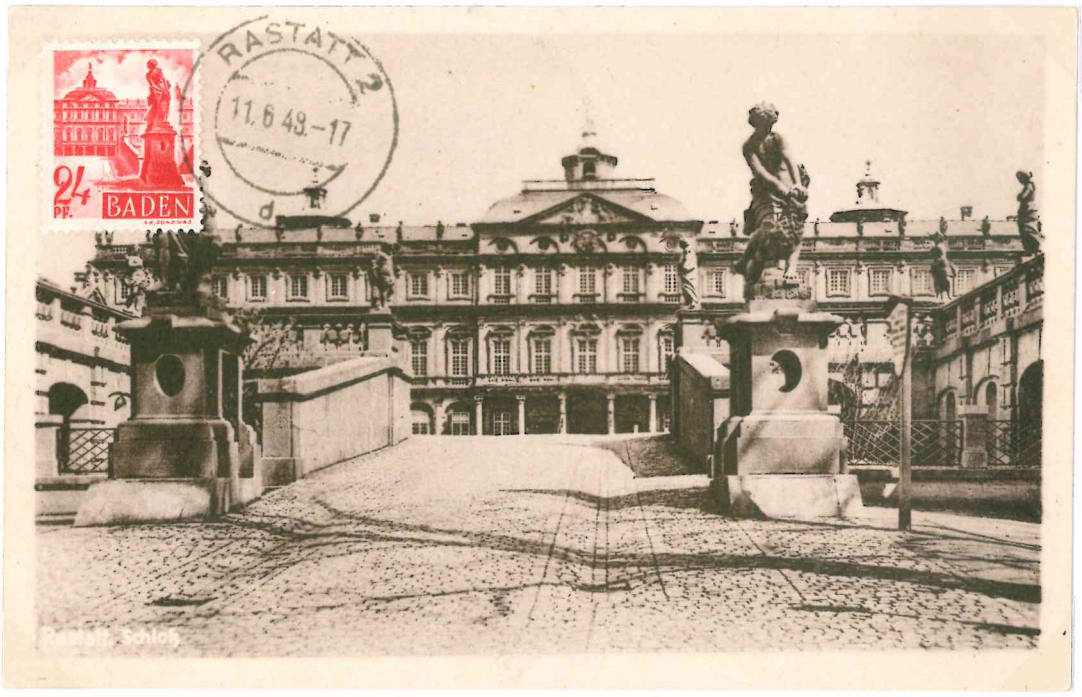
The Landhaus was built between 1574-1594. It has two onion dome Towers in which staircases are located, and a two storied arcaded courtyard.

Issue 27-10-1939 - Canc. Klagenfurt 30-06-1940. Issued by German Third Reich for annexed Austrian cities in 1938.

RASTATT (Germany)
The castle

Schloss Rastatt is a historical building in Rastatt, Germany. The palace and the Garden were built between 1700 and 1707 by the Italian architect Domenico Egidio Rossi.

Issue 1948 – Canc. Rastatt 11-06-1948. Stamp issued for the French occupation in Baden.





INNSBRUCK (Austria)
Neur Hof

On the façade you can admire the golden roof; it was built by Archduke Friedrich IV in the early XV century as the residence of the Tyrolean sovereigns. The balcony, in baroque style, was added by emperor Maximilian I. Completed at the dawn of the XVI century, the golden roof was built in honour of Maximilian's second marriage, to Bianca Maria Sforza of Milan.

Issue 22-05-1923 – Canc. 31-05-1923.

LEIPZIG (Germany)
Old Town Hall

The Markt Platz is dominated by the Old Town Hall, a Renaissance building erected by Burgomaster Hieronymus Lotter in 1556. The tower, with a baroque crown, is placed asymmetrically over the main entrance.

Issue 03-03-1940 – Canc. Leipzig 02-03-1941

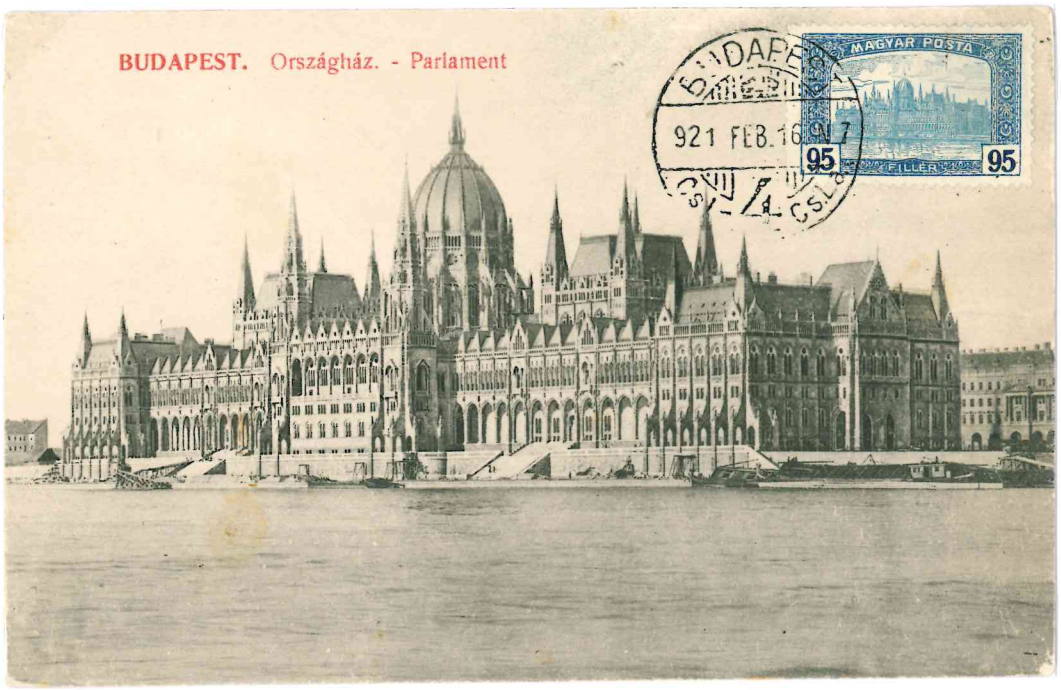




BUDAPEST (Hungary)
The Parliament

The building stretches 268 metres in its length, along the Danube embankment. Ornamented with white neo-gothic turrets and arches, it forms the most outstanding landmark of the pest side horizon.

Issue 15-04-1920 – Canc. Budapest 08-02-1921.



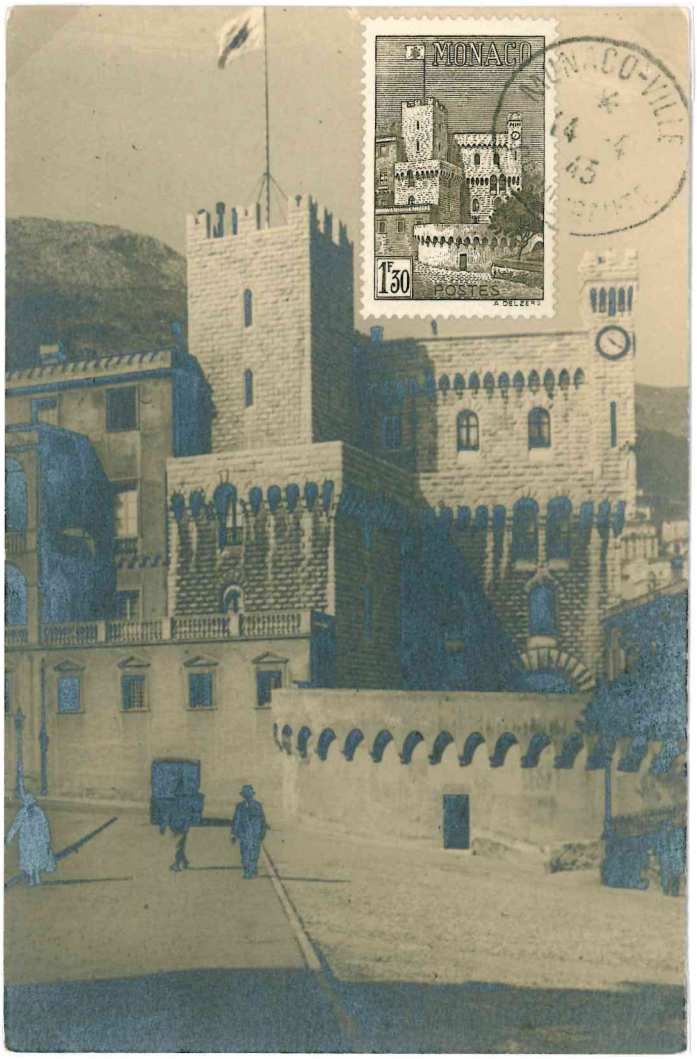
Issue 15-04-1921 – Cancellation Budapest 16-02-1921



BRESLAU (Germany)
The Town Hall

The Town Hall stands at the centre of the City's Rynek. Today is used for civic and cultural events, it houses a museum and the basement is a restaurant. The southern façade is decorated with old sculpture. On the inside there are the Grand Hall, the Court Room and the Council Chamber. It was built in the XIII century and is considered a fine example of gothic bourgeois architecture.

Issue 21-06-1938 – Canc. Breslau 23-06-1938.
Breslau is the capital of the lower Silesian Voivodeship, it has been part of Poland since 1945 after World War II. Breslau is called Wroclaw.



MONACO (Principality of Monaco)
The Prince's Palace

The Prince's Palace of Monaco is the official residence of the Prince of Monaco. Built in 1191 as a Genoese fortress, during its long and often dramatic history it has been bombarded and besieged by many foreign powers. The portal was built in 1672. The mansion houses a prestigious picture gallery.

Issue 1941 – Canc. Monaco 14-04-1943.