

## Short biography of Lex Roth

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## **Lex Roth**

Former Director of the Information and Press Service of the Luxembourg Government  
Strongly involved in the promotion of Luxembourg's language and culture

Born on 22 June 1933 in Wiltz, Luxembourg

### **Education and training**

- Primary and secondary education in Diekirch, Luxembourg
- Lycée Classique de Diekirch, 'Latin' section
- 1954–1971: Language teacher in technical and vocational education establishments

### **Positions held in government and cultural organisations**

- 1971: Founding President of *Actioun Lëtzebuergesch asbl*, a cultural association for the promotion and enhancement of the Luxembourgish language
- 1974: Correspondent member of the Grand Ducal Institute
- 1976: Founder and organiser of the Luxembourgish language course 'Luxembourgish for foreigners'
- 1980–1984: Seconded to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs (directed by Pierre Werner) and given responsibility for organising Luxembourgish language courses
- 1980–1983: Luxembourgish language teacher at the Grand Ducal Court
- 1982: Coordinator of preparations for the Language Law on recognition of the Luxembourgish language (adopted on 24 February 1984)
- 1984: Government adviser in the Ministry of State
- 1985: Chairman of the Committee for the restoration of the *Gëlle Fra* monument (the monument of national remembrance in Luxembourg)
- 1987: Chairman of the Grand Duchess Charlotte Monument Committee
- 1988–1993: Director of the Information and Press Service of the Luxembourg Government. Chief Adviser to the Government
- 1993: Retirement
- 1997: Instigator and coordinator of the *Itinéraire culturel Michel Rodange* (Michel Rodange cultural route) in Wiltz
- 1998: Vice-President of *Actioun Lëtzebuergesch asbl*

### **Honours**

- Grand Officer of the Order of the Oak Crown (Luxembourg)
- Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg
- Commander of the Civil and Military Order of Merit of Adolphe of Nassau (Luxembourg)
- Officer of the Legion of Honour (France)
- Holder of the Commander's Cross of Merit (Germany)
- 'Dicks-Rodange-Lentz' honorary plaque awarded by *Actioun Lëtzebuergesch*

### **Publications (books and press articles)**

- *40 Fabelen, op Lëtzebuergesch verzielt*, 1st edition 1973, 2nd edition 1999
- *Kommt, mir léiere Lëtzebuergesch*, 1978 (10 subsequent editions)
- *Lëtzebuergesch Annoncen a Schreifweis*, 1979 (5 subsequent editions)

- Translation into Luxembourgish of 10 *Asterix* comic books and 10 *Tintin* comic books
  - Translation of 23 comic books in the series of illustrated Walt Disney tales
  - *D'Melusina*, book illustrated by Muriel Moritz, Éditions Saint-Paul, 1996
  - *Orthographie-Blat*, 1999 (30 000 copies printed)
  - *Lëtzebuenger Mäerchenalbum*, Éditions La Passerelle, 2003
  - *Buch iwwer de Rodange-Reenert-Kulturwee*, Wiltz, 2005
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- *e Këppche fir eis Sprooch*, series of articles published over a 5-year period in the main Luxembourgish newspapers (*Luxemburger Wort*, *Tageblatt*, *Revue*)
  - Chief editor of *eng KLACK fir eis Sprooch*, 119 issues
  - 1972–1984: radio column over a 12-year period for RTL (3 times a week): *Een Ament fir eis Sprooch*
  - 1993–1999: DNR radio column (3 times a week): *Eis Sprooch*
  - TV series for RTL entitled *Hei Elei* on the spelling of the Luxembourgish language (12 programmes)
  - Column for the weekly online newspaper *RTL-Sonndeszeitung* entitled *Eis Sprooch mam Lex Roth* ([http://news.rtl.lu/sonndes/lex\\_roth/](http://news.rtl.lu/sonndes/lex_roth/)).

### **Lex Roth and Pierre Werner**

— Lex Roth was recognised for his expertise and work in promoting Luxembourg's language and culture, and his commitment to this cause. Pierre Werner, then Minister for Culture and instigator of the Language Law, called on Lex Roth to participate in the drafting and introduction of this law, which enshrined Luxembourgish as a national language.

— After working together at the Ministry of Culture, the two men continued their cooperation at the Ministry of State until Pierre Werner withdrew from Luxembourg political and public life.

— Lex Roth maintained close links with Pierre Werner until the latter's death; the two men worked together on various large-scale cultural projects linked with key moments in Luxembourg's history (including the *Gëlle Fra* project and the Grand Duchess Charlotte Monument) and contributed to the promotion and preservation of Luxembourg's culture and language (Luxembourg heritage 'cultural routes' — Michel Rodange, Wiltz, etc.).