

Luxembourg in Manga and Anime

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Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg

In manga, you often see Japan, the USA or France as a setting for a story. Or sometimes the story will be in a supernatural fantasy world, or even in space. Japanese comics like Dragon Ball, One Piece and Naruto are popular in Luxembourg, but is Luxembourg ever portrayed in these comics?

We would like to present to you two instances where Luxembourg is portrayed in Anime and Manga. We hope that you enjoy these and tell us what you think of them!

Hetalia

Hetalia is a long-running manga which started out as a webcomic, and later received its first anime adaptation in 2009. Ever since then, it has continued and is still running today. Over the years it has garnered a cult following in the anime community, and it has many fans. The newest anime season was broadcasted in April 2021.

The anime is about different nations, portrayed as over the top allegories in human form. In their human form, the different “country characters” interact with each other, for example: France is a blonde, carefree, charismatic guy, while Italy is a short, but very jolly young lad. The series touches on cultural differences, conflicts, misunderstandings, and military interactions, and often uses satire and comedy to tell a story. The eight main characters are Japan, Germany, Italy, France, USA, Russia, UK, and China.

But not only big countries are found in Hetalia, there are also smaller countries. And among those, we see Luxembourg as human character, now for the first time in “Hetalia World Stars”, the new 2021 anime adaptation.

Luxembourg is male, has light brown hair and blue eyes, and wears a dress suit, sometimes with gloves. He is friends with Belgium and Netherlands, who he sees as both “big sister” and “big brother”. Together, they want to be stronger. In one manga story, Luxembourg wants to use the power of BeNeLux, so they can take control of Europe’s finance. (While Luxembourg loves this idea, Belgium is a bit worried, since it makes Luxembourg sound like a villain.) Luxembourg also has a big friendly Labrador as a companion, called “Pelutze”.



Hetalia is a show which plays with stereotypes and cultural aspects, and seeing Luxembourg in this series is a unique interpretation of the country and culture in general. The interactions with Belgium and Netherlands are fun satire.

While Hetalia looks at Luxembourg itself as a character, the next anime has Luxembourg as a unique setting.



Tada Never Falls in Love

This anime is a romantic comedy with highschool characters, and was produced by Studio Doga Kobo – which a few people might already know for their popular anime “Monthly Girls Nozaki-kun” and “Plastic Memories”.

In this story, the Japanese highschooler Mitsuyoshi Tada meets a young blonde European girl while watching the cherry blossoms bloom in his city. She is called Teresa Wagner, and wants to spend her exchange year in Japan. It turns out that she is a transfer student from a country called “Larsenburg”. Tada and Teresa become friends and live their lives in a Japanese highschool together.

However, at the end of the series, Teresa suddenly flies home again without saying a word, and Tada follows her via plane, despite his phobia of flying. It turns out that Teresa was the princess of Larsenburg, and is forced to marry another love interest called Charles, in order to succeed the throne and become Queen. There will be drama and tears, since they both feel something for another, but their duties keep them apart. It is a great romcom for fans of the genre.



The most important aspect however is that “Larsenburg” is modeled after Luxembourg, in every way possible. The palace where Teresa lives is exactly the Grand Ducal Palace in Luxembourg City, there is the Grund and the Kasematten fortifications, and even the Christmas market, as Tada arrives in Winter at Larsenburg.

There is an excessive amount of detail put into the portrayal of Luxembourg, street signs and buildings are immediately recognizable, like the Luxembourg Airport, and rainbow-striped buses are on the streets.



It is no surprise that there was Luxembourgish involvement in the anime: The tourism promotion agency of Luxembourg, presented the anime at the Tourism Expo 2018 at Tokyo Big Sight, and presented an exhibition and collaboration with the animation. The production team of this anime visited Luxembourg in person beforehand in order to accurately reproduce the capital city of Luxembourg.

What do you think of these animes? Have you seen them or do you want to see them? Write us your comments and ideas!

Sources:

<https://prtimes.jp/main/html/rd/p/000000011.000010206.html>

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