

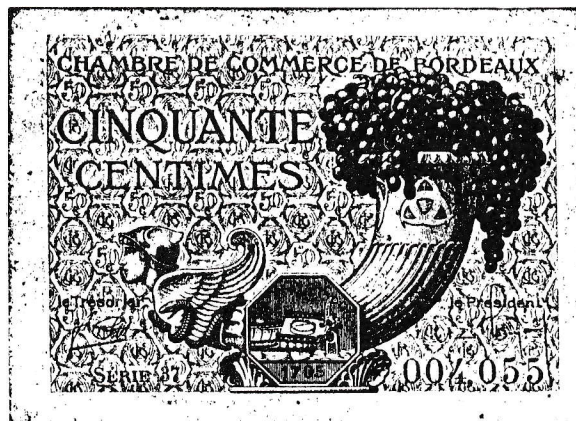
# LES BILLETS DE NECESSITE

By TONY JAMES  
(CONTINUED FROM MAY 1991)

These notes, like the 50-centime Bon Regional from L'Aisne and Ardennes, try to appear official, with often more than three signatures and a listing of contributing areas and communes on the notes's reverse. The reimbursement clause is simple, occurring six months after the signing of peace, to the bearer at the assembly of the communes.

Names of towns that Australian travellers would know are also represented. The place to become renowned in 1940 for the evacuation of the Second British Expeditionary Force, Dunkirk, illustrates on an emergency note its maritime connections. These include a lifebelt, oars and a boathook, as well as sail and anchors on the back. The town's coat of arms features a lion and a dolphin.

Grapes overflow from a cornucopia shown on a 50-Centime note of the Chambre de Commerce de Bordeaux



Another well-known port that many travellers have passed through is Calais. Its note for 50-centimes is almost out of character for this series, as it has two classic-style vignettes. One appears to be the original seal of the chamber of commerce, started in 1828. The other is of two figures in classical garb, looking out to sea. The coat of arms of Calais shows the fleur de lys and the French cross of Lorraine.

Boulogne-sur-Mer notes also have a nautical flavor, with the depiction of an anchor. This series was issued by the chamber of commerce of the town. It is more sedate, with several varieties. Differences are in dates and the placing of the over-printed amount in red on the notes.

## Private Industrial Issues

Large industrial companies also issued their own notes. This meant cash flow savings in an already tight economic situation.

The Bethune Companie, for example, issued notes

alongside the local chamber of commerce of Bethune. The Public Society of Steelworks of France also provided its members with notes. It relied on its public standing for acceptance, as the first series was not even signed, although the registered office address is shown, together with the capital value of the society.

A significant characteristic of this series is their general utilitarian nature. As time passed and semblance of normality returned, the notes began to take on a more artistic look. A 25-centime note from the Central Economic Region is multicolored, with the ornate engraving of scrolls and numerals on the face.

It also offers on the back a scene of the city of Clermont-Ferrand's industrial nature, depicting in the background the cathedral and Puy de Dome mountain.

Four examples of a 50-Centime note of Colmar are required to show the complete seal in the upper left corner dated June 17, 1940.



A series of notes from the Premier Groupement Economique Regional (First Regional Economic Group) comprising chamber of commerce of the areas of Normandy, especially the Pas de Calais, depict very graphic scenes of France. A 25-centime note shows postwar reconstruction after the devastation.

A 50-centime note indicates the horrors of war for the civilian population, showing a mother and child with few belongings looking at the ruins of her home. The one franc has the figures in classical robes surveying the industry of the area, together with the fruits of labor and the spinning wheel as a tool of trade.

These notes were valid until 1925, before which they could be exchanged for notes of the Bank of France. This illustrates another characteristic of the whole series, which is that they were largely unaffected by the post-war inflation and continued to be circulated within the areas of issue.

This type of note is nothing like the very popular German Notgeld, where issues can be counted in the tens of thousands. It has 14,500 chamber of commerce notes of different issues and denomination, which have been cataloged. Then there are still the company and commercial issues. It is still possible, even in Australia, to find an uncataloged note with the thrill of the unknown issue rewriting the catalog.

The issues are usually found in poor to very fine condition, as these notes saw plenty of use and those souvenired by the WWI diggers were taken from circulation. Uncirculated specimens consequently command much higher prices but are correspondingly very difficult to find. The collector is warned against collecting this series by condition!



## Bibliography

White, B. "The Currency of the Great War"  
Habrekorn, R. "Monnaies de Necessite"  
De Mey and Poindessault "Billets de Necessite Francais 1914-1926"

(James is the author of the Hofstetten feature in the May 1990 issue of THE FRAKTUR. The story of the Belgium and French emergency money appeared in Australian Coin Review, 1990)

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## NOTGELD CURIOSITIES

By Hermann Krause

It is no secret that the colorful "Serienscheine" of 1921-1922 were mainly printed with the collector in mind. Originally, that is during World War I and up to about 1920, Notgeld notes served truly as small change substitute since there was a severe shortage of legal tender coins.

When the public started collecting these true notes the issuing authorities realized the potential of a good profit and created more attractive notes, longer sets and unnecessary values. Not enough, they finally came up with all kinds of playful gimmicks to make their notes more interesting and desirable to collectors.

Some of these oddities may be scarce and difficult to locate, but most are common. They can be found in any average Serienscheine collection.

Usefulness of a 97-Pfennig note of Freiberg/Sachsen is questioned by the author.



Mentioned above are "unnecessary values." A look into the catalogs confirms that 10, 25 and 50-Pfennigs are the most frequently encountered, the so-to-speak basic values replacing equivalent coins.

They are as much justified as 30, 40, 60, 70, 80 or 90-Pfennig cannot be justified. The newspaper of Goerlitz (Lindman-435) issued among other values 3, 4 and 6-Pfennig notes; Wismar (L-1401) saw need for a 95-Pfennig note; and Wittenburg (L-1407b) deemed it necessary to come up with 99, 199 and 299-Pfennig values.

The city of Freiberg's (L-365a) unusual one mark note actually consists of attached 1, 2 and 97-Pfennig values.

Divisible notes are not uncommon. The 10-Pfennig value of Frose (L-384a) consists of two five-Pfennig items; mark of Groemitz (L-460) is made up of two 50-Pfennig notes; Poessneck (L-1037d) has two 20-Pfennig each made up of two 10-Pfennig notes; and another 20-Pfennig item composed of four 5-Pfennig notes.

Suesel (L-1270b), even issued an entire set of six double notes, each formed of a 25 and 75-Pfennig value. There are more but this sampling may suffice.

The set from Oldisleben (L-994) is rather common and chances are you have the 10 50-Pfennig notes in your collection. Maybe you have been wondering about the meaning of those letters at the front upper left corners of each note.

In proper sequence, the set of six 50-Pfennig notes of Oldisleben/Kyffh. spells a phrase in the upper left corner.



The answer is that the letters will form a sentence if the notes are arranged in the correct numerical order, as illustrated. Appearing at upper left is a picture of the Kyffhaeuser Monument between the lines "Sie umfliegen - noch den Berg" (They still fly around the mountain).

The quotation is in reference to the ravens who, according to the old Barbarossa legend, will fly around Kyffhaeuser until the emperor sleeping inside the mountain will rise again to lead his people to eternal glory.

It is not unusual at all to have several notes of a set form a word or even a phrase. For example, the single letters on the 12 notes of Burgsteinfurt (L-202) compose the name of the town, while the six letters on the Eisenach set (L-308b) make up the word L-U-T-H-E-R.

The four 50-Pfennig notes of Einnigerloh (L-325) are marked EN-NI-GER-LOH. Friedrichroda (L-379a) formulates: "Friedrichroda-das gruene-Herz-des Thueringer-Waldes," (Friedrichroda, the green heart of the Thuringian Forest).

These few examples may be representative for a great number of similarly marked sets throughout Notgeld catalogs.

(To be continued)



# THE FRAKTUR PRICELIST

JUNE 1991

Haarbrueck Nov. 5, 1921 1 Mark L-482 \$.65\*  
 Hachenburg June 1, 1921 10 (2), 25 (2), 50 (3) Pf L-483  
 Set \$4.50  
 Hadersleben March 1920 50 Pf P-S 847f Plebiscite \$1.25\*  
 Hainholz ND 50, 75 Pf L-487 \$3.25\*  
 Halberstadt Feb. 10, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 854d \$3\*  
 Halberstadt Sept. 11, 1921 75 Pf L-488\*  
 Halberstadt Nov. 2, 1920 10, 25 Pf L-489a \$1.25\*  
 Halberstadt April 27, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-489b \$3\*  
 Halberstadt April 27, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-489c \$2.25\*  
 Halle/Saale May 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 410 \$.50\*  
 Halle/Saale Nov. 13, 1921 50 (6) Pf Set Notgeld show L-491  
 \$6.75\*  
 Halle Sept. 25, 1922 100 Mark K-249 \$2.25  
 Hallig-Langeness-Nordmarsch Sept. 1, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf  
 \$2.25\*  
 Halstenbek ND 25 Pf L-497 \$1.50\*  
 Berlin Nov. 4, 1921 Deutsch-Hanseatischer Kolonial Gedenktag  
 Hamburg -Berlin-Bremen 75 (3) Pf L-83 Portraits \$3\*  
 Berlin Nov. 4, 1921 Togo 75 Pf L-83 \$.75\*  
 Hamburg June 1, 1920 50 (2) Pf P-S 871b \$2\*  
 Hamburg to Dec. 31, 1921 20, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-499 Alte Diele  
 \$14\*  
 Hamburg July 1, 1921 50 Pf, 2 Mark L-503 \$4\*  
 Hamburg July 1, 1921 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-515 \$1.25\*  
 Hamburg Aug. 12-24, 1921 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf, 1 Mark (3) L-522  
 \$4.50\*  
 Hamburg to Oct. 1, 1922 1 Mark L-531 \$2.50\*  
 Hamburg to Dec. 31, 1921 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark L-542 \$4  
 Hamburg to May 31, 1922 50 (4) Pf Set L-546b \$3.50\*  
 Hamburg Hallig to Sept. 30, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-547 \$5.50\*  
 Hameln/Weser July 1, 1918 25, 50 Pf P-S 924b Pied Piper \$2\*  
 Hameln/Weser June 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-549a Set  
 Septuplets \$2.50\*  
 Hameln/Weser Sept. 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-549b Pied Piper \$6.50\*  
 Hameln/Weser Sept. 1, 1921 75 (6) Pf Set L-549c \$7.50\*  
 Hamm/Westfalen Oct. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-551b \$15\*  
 Hammelburg March 10, 1918 10 Pf \$1\*  
 Hanau/Main Aug. 12, 1920 10, 25 Pf Grimm bros. \$1.25  
 Hannover Feb. 1, 1922 2, 3, 5, 20 Mark L-552 \$6  
 Hannover Dec. 1, 1919 25 Pf P-S 933e /31°/8  
 Hannoverisches-Munden July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-559 \$2.50  
 Hannoverisches-Munden ND 25, 75 (2) Pf, 1, 1.25 Mark L-560  
 \$2.25  
 Harburg/Elbe to Oct. 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 944b \$1  
 Harburg/Elbe Sept. 15, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-562 Set \$2.25\*  
 Harzburg, Bad July 1, 1921 10, 20, 50, 75 Pf Set L-563 \$3\*  
 Harzgeroda July 7, 1921 25, 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf L-564 \$4\*  
 Haseluenne Oct. 1, 1921 1 Mark L-565b \$3\*  
 Hasloh 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf L-566 \$7\*  
 Heilbronn/Neckar Dec. 1, 1917 50 Pf P-S 965e \$4\*  
 Heiligenhafen March 1, 1922 1, 2 Mark L-573 \$4.50\*  
 Heiligenstadt und Worbis July 1, 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 968a  
 Schiestl \$4\*

Heessen/Bad Eilsen Jan. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-569 Will try to fill specific letters \$2.50\*  
 Heisterbach/Siebengebirge Nov. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-575 \$3.25\*  
 Helgoland October 1919 25, 50 Pf P-S 974c \$1.25\*  
 Helgoland April 1921 20 (2), 25 (2), 50 Pf L-577 \$3.50  
 Helmarshausen/Diemel May 15, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-578 \$2.25\*  
 Helmbrechts (1922) 100 Mark K-266 \$3  
 Helmstedt Dec. 24, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 1.50, 2 Mark L-565 \$8\*  
 Hemdingen to Jan. 31, 1922 25 (2), 50 Pf L-581 \$15\*  
 Herford/Westfalen March 4, 1920 10 Pf P-S 980d \$.75  
 Hermsdorf April 4, 1919 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 1346b \$2.25\*  
 Herne/Westfalen July 1, 1921 50 (10) Set L-584aI \$7.50\*  
 Herne/Westfalen July 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf L-584b \$2\*  
 Herrnsdorf/Schlesien ND 25 Pf P-S 985 \$1.50\*  
 Hersfeld Nov. 4, 1918 1, 2, 10, 20 Mark K-217 \$10  
 Herstelle Nov. 1, 1921 1, 2 Mark L-586 \$1.25\*  
 Hessische-Oldendorf Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-588 Set \$3\*  
 Heydekrug May 28, 1921 50 Pf L-589 \$3.25\*  
 Hildesheim Oct. 18, 1918, 50 Pf; June 24, 1920, 25 Pf \$3  
 Hildburghausen 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-590 \$2.50\*  
 Hirschberg/Schl. to March 31, 1920 10 Pf \$1.25\*  
 Hochlitz to Dec. 31, 1919 10 Pf \$1\*  
 Hoehscheid July 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1003e \$.75\*  
 Hoexter May 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 (3) Pf L-600 \$3\*  
 Hofgeismar/Hessen ND 25, 50 Pf; 1, 1.50 Mark L-601a \$6\*  
 Hofgeismar/Hessen (1922) 1, 1.50 Mark L-601b Reinhard-waldsreihe \$2\*  
 Hofgeismar/Hessen ND 25, 50, 75 Pf; 1, 1.50 Mark L-601c  
 all control Nr. 01326 \$7\*  
 Hofheim ND 20 Pf P-S 1006 \$.50\*  
 Hohndorf Sept. 30, 1921 50 (6) Pf set L-605 \$4\*  
 Holzminden to May 1, 1922 1 Mark (4) L-607 \$5\*  
 Hohenmoelsen ND 20 (2) L-603 \$1.25  
 Hohenfriedeberg ND 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 Pf L-602 \$2.75\*  
 Hohen Neuendorf ND 20 Pf P-S 1009 \$2\*

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\*Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog; P-S Pick-Siemsen

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