

The Fraktur

NOTGELD VARIETIES

With Remarks About the Potsdam Garrison Notes

By DAVID BLOCK

One of the maddening things about collecting Notgeld is the difficulty involved in distinguishing one variety of a note from another. Some of the difficulties are exemplified in a series of notes from Potsdam, the garrison town Frederick the Great established near Berlin. Those notes will be discussed after the problems are laid out.

Serial numbers present one problem. Dr. Arnold Keller created a distinction between type one and type two digits, stating that the differences are found in the numerals 2, 5 and 7, and sometimes, 4.



The common face of the 6-note set of Potsdam, L-1040, is dated Nov. 28, 1921.

In the Pick-Siemsen revision of Dr. Keller's catalog the explanation of the differences was clouded because the spaces on page 250 which should have contained the digits in question were not filled in.

Battenberg later printed a supplement correcting some errors in the catalog and showing the forms of Dr. Keller's type one and type two digits. Lindman gives a verbal description which follows Keller. A discussion of the difficulties of trying to use this system may be found in "Classifying Notgeld by Serial Number Types," "NI Bulletin," February 1978, pages 45-49.

The descriptions of the colors both of the papers and of the inks printed onto them cause difficulties too. Dr. Keller realized that he had sometimes distinguished varieties by saying that one was on white paper, another on gray, when actually the one paper was a lighter gray than the other. He realized, too, that some of the inks' color differences were caused by differential settling of the different ground pigments in the press's ink reservoirs during a long run.

A third problem is with watermarked papers. Mr. Lindman did a great service to collectors by including illustrations of the different patterns in his catalog of series notes, but in some cases the printing on the notes is so heavy that the type of watermark cannot be discerned, and in other cases, the watermarks or parts of them do not appear on all the notes in a set.



Backs 1 and 2 depict Grenadiers and the Bodyguards. Music of the troop appears at the top of the notes.



Further, Dr. Keller noticed that in some cases printers used a mixture of papers without regard for whether the sheets were watermarked or, if so, which watermarks they bore.

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A fifth problem may be caused by the blind stamps city government sometimes used to validate the notes after receiving them from the printer. A city might use more than one variety of stamp on an issue, creating two varieties of the same issue.



A rifleman, left on note Nr. 3, and mounted Hussar at right, on note Nr 4, continue the action series of the Potsdam 50-Pfennig notes.



The importance of varieties comes from the information they give us about the printing history of the notes; artificial distinctions lead to false conclusions and the pursuit of varieties which do not, in fact, exist. The attractive series from Potsdam, Lindman 1040, illustrates some of these points.

The notes share a common face, which has a network of yellow underprinting a slightly smaller, brown printing which displays the Prussian eagle.

At the top center of each note is a shield bearing the arms of the city: a red eagle displayed on a gold field. In the center below is a reserved circle into which the seal of the magistrate has been blind-stamped.

Below that is the serial number, letterpress printed over an offset-printed raster. The text of the face of the note is identical on all the notes although the style of the serial numbers differ.

The reverses are numbered 1 through 6, and each shows a member of a different regiment of the Potsdam garrison (a sort of Praetorian Guard established by Frederick the Great).

Each note also contains one line of a poem urging the public to buy the notes. Hermann Krause kindly translated the Berlin dialect of the poem into High German for me, and I have tried to put an English spin on it:

1. Soldier pictures? My word!
2. There is already a lively response!!!
3. Quickly buy one
4. of each kind
5. and pocket it.
6. They'll soon be all gone.

Each note illustrates a different regiment and gives that regiment's music, with sometimes irreverent lyrics added, and the regiment's nickname:

1. Grenadiers. The First Company has lice. Hayeaters
2. Bodyguard. Look alive, comrades; to horse, to horse. Flour sacks
3. Riflemen. Potato soup, potato soup; the whole week potato soup. Tree frogs
4. Hussars. Thighs tight, thighs tight; let him run as he can. Striped boys
5. Artillerymen. We pump the barrel for the last time. Bomb flingers
6. Lancers. Take that thing out of my body or I'll scream. Toad stickers

Lindman, following Pick, divides the set of six notes into seven varieties. The distinguishing signs are simple:

13-line raster.

Two borders on back separated by white Variety a.

One border on back. Blind stamp A. Variety b.

Blind stamp B. Variety c.

7-line raster

Kreuzmaeander watermark. Blind stamp A. Variety d.

Blind stamp B. Variety e.

Z-muster watermark. Blind stamp A. Variety f.

Blind stamp B. Variety g.

The blind stamp A referred to is an eagle, wings spread, surrounded by MAGISTRAT ZU POTSDAM. The wings of the stamp B eagle are vertical, and the legend is MAGISTRAT DER RESIDENZSTADT POTSDAM.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

IN FROEBEL'S KINDERGARTEN

BY HERMANN KRAUSE

It was an interesting experience to attend Kindergarten in the building first used for a Kindergarten.

The building was in Blankenburg, where I was born, where Friedrich Wilhelm August Froebel developed the concept of a "Garden of Children" and created the name, Kindergarten.

Froebel was born in Oberweissbach, Thuringia, on April 21, 1782. He was considered a dunce at age 15, by-passed additional schooling, and later entered forestry service.

He studied architecture at universities in Frankfurt/Main and Goettingen.

In 1809, he became acquainted with Johann Pestalozzi, who took Froebel to his school at Yverdon, near Neuchatel, Switzerland.



Oberweissbach 25-Pfennig notes, July 1, 1921, depict on the face a side-view of Friedrich Froebel and on the back, his Kindergarten building in Oberweissbach.

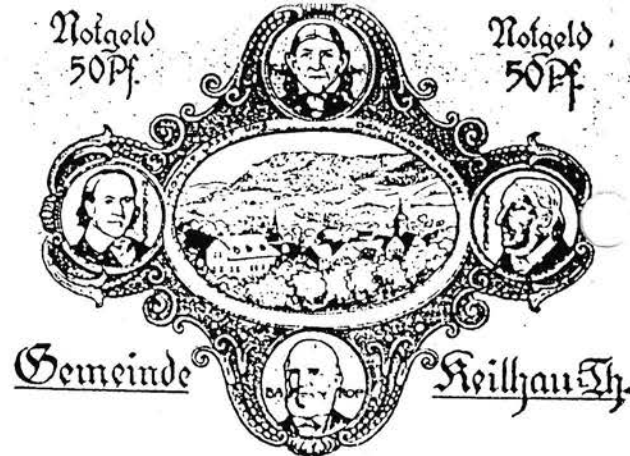
The wars of Liberation against Napoleon were soon to begin, and Froebel joined the famous volunteer corps of Adolf Luetzow. In that time he met Heinrich Langethal and Wilhelm Middendorf, and later Johannes Barop.

Froebel, Langethal, Middendorf and Barop coalesced their ideals and ideas in an educational community established in Keilhau in 1818. The pedagogical institution used principles learned in earlier educational experiments.

In 1831 the group moved to Burgdorf, Switzerland, at the invitation of the Swiss government, returning to Keilhau in 1837. It was then that he established his first "Garden of children," the Kindergarten.

Froebel died at Marienthal, near Bad Liebenstein, on June 21, 1852. Burial was in a cemetery at Schweina.

We can trace some events of the life of Froebel from our Notgeld collections. From Oberweissbach, his birthplace, is a set of five notes dated July 1, 1921. His portrait appears on the face of the 25-Pfennig note; on the back is shown his home.



Keilhau 50-Pfennig notes, June 1, 1921, depict on the back the four leaders of Froebel's education institute, medallions from left reading to right, Middendorf, Froebel, Langethal and Barop.

A set of four 50-Pfennig notes was issued by Keilhau, dated June 1, 1921, each in a different color but depicting the village and Froebel's institute. Surrounding the institute were four medallions, each with a portrait of Froebel, Middendorf, Langethal and Barop.

One of the printing blocks used for the Notgeld is on display in a museum in Keilhau.

Two of a set of five notes issued by Schweina refer to Froebel, one depicting his grave monument, and another the mansion Marienthal, where he had trained Kindergarten teachers.

From Blankenburg, since renamed Bad Blankenburg, five iron Notgeld coins were issued in 1921, depicting Froebel.

In 1982, to mark the bicentennial of Froebel, a five-mark coin was issued by the German Democratic Republic. Several medals which portray Froebel have been issued.

Froebel family members live today in Oberweissbach. Inflation issues of Oberweissbach, from 1923, bear the signature of L. Froebel.



A two million Mark note of Oberweissbach, Aug. 20, 1923, was signed by L. Froebel.

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Waldenburg/Schlesien ND (1917) 10 Pf P-S 2552a \$1.25*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien ND 10 Pf P-S 2552d \$2.25*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien ND 25 Pf P-S 2552o \$1.50*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Dec. 1919 10 Pf P-S 2552p \$.75
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Feb. 1, 1920 10, 25 Pf P-S 2552q \$1.75
 Waldenburg/Schlesien March 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2552r \$1*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Sept. 29, 1920 50 Pf L-1336d \$2
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Sept. 29, 1920 50 Pf L-1336e \$1.25*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Oct. 10, 1920 25 Pf L-1336f \$.65*
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 Waldenburg/Schlesien 1921 10 Pf Issue A L-1336g \$.60*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien 1921 10 Pf Issue B L-1336h \$.60*
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 Waldenburg/Schlesien Nov. 1921 Ladewig L-1336o \$1.50*
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Nov. 1921 Kraft 20, 50, 75 Pf L-1336p
 \$1.75
 Waldenburg/Schlesien Nov. 1921 Hartman 20, 50, 75 Pf L-1336q
 \$1.75*
 Walsrode ND 1 Mark (2) L-1337 \$2.25
 Waltershausen/Thuer. July 1, 1921 5, 20, 50 Pf L-1339 \$5.50*
 Wandsbek/Schl-Holst. Dec. 1919 50 Pf P-S 2560c folds \$.60
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 Wanfried ND 5, 10, 50 Pf P-S 2561 \$4*
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 Warin/Mecklenburg ND 75 Pf L-1243a \$.60*
 Warin/Mecklenburg ND 10, 25, 50 Pf Reutergeld L-1343b \$2.25*
 Wartha/Schlesien July 5, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-1346A \$2.50*
 Wartha/Schlesien Aug. 11, 1921 25 (4), 75 (4) Pf L-1346b \$24*
 Wasserburg/Inn Oct. 15, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2569 \$1.25*
 Wasserleben 1921 10, 50 Pf P-S 1348 \$1.25*
 Wasungen Oct. 1, 1921 50 (4), 75 (2) Pf L-1349 \$4*
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 Wedel June 10, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1352 \$3.75*
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 printer firm) L-1351b \$5*
 Weida Nov. 25, 1918 5 Mark K-502 \$2.75
 Weida ND 25, 50 Pf L-1355a \$2.50*
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 Wesel 1919 50 Pf P-S 2608c \$.65

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 Wilhelmshaven ND (to Feb. 1, 1919) 1 Mark K-518 \$3.50
 Wilhelmshaven June 10, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2631 \$4.50*
 Willingen/Waldeck April 15, 1921 50 Pf P-S 2634b \$1.25
 Wilsnack ND 50 (9), 75 (5), 100 (10) Pf L-1396 \$12.50*
 Winsen/Luhe ND 10 Pf L-1397 \$.60*
 Winterberg/W July 15, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1398 \$2.50*
 Winzeldorf ND 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf Red Control Nrs.
 L-1399 \$22.50*
 Wismar ND 10, 50 Pf Reutergeld L-1402 \$1.50*
 Wittduen/Amrum March 14, 1920 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1403b \$2.75*
 Wittenberg Dec. 10, 1920 50 (3) Pf Luther L-1405a \$5*
 Wittenberg Jan. 20, 1922-199, 299 Pf L-1407b \$1.50*
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 Wittgensdorf July 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-1408 \$7.50*
 Wittingen/Hannover ND 50 Pf Karton P-S 2645 \$1.25*
 Czech (Bohemia)
 Aussig Nov. 6, 1918 20 Kronen \$5
 Bielsko (Bielitz) May 1, 1919 50 Heller, 1 Krone P-S 2855a
 \$7
 Bruch (Lom u Mostu) ND (1921) 50 Heller P-S 2881 \$4*
 Usti nad Orslíci April 1, 1915 1 Korona Jan Hernych a Syn
 Vlcek 3014 \$5
 Poland
 Teschen (Cieszyn) June 1, 1919 50 Heller P-S 2911b \$5*
 Teschen (Cieszyn) Oct. 25, 1919 1 Krone P-S 2911c \$3
 Portugal
 Lisbon Decree April 5, 1918 5 Centavos bronze (paper) \$2.50
 Lisbon Decree Aug. 15, 1917 10 Centavos bronze (paper) \$2.50
 Spain
 Blanes (Gerona) Aug. 25, 1937 50 Centims Graeber 112 \$25*
 Cuevas del Almanzora (Almeria) Oct. 3, 1937 1 Peseta Graeber
 299 \$7.50*
 El Vendrell (Tarragona) August 1937 25 Centims Graeber 644
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 Gramenet del Besos (Girona) July 30, 1937 25 Centims Graeber
 272 \$7.50*
 Pauls (Tarragona) ND 25 Centims Graeber 427 \$10

*Uncirculated

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