

Notgeld of the Pinneberg District

by Dwight L. Musser

In the introduction to his "small notgeld" catalog of 1953, Dr. Arnold Keller mentions with regard to the speculation in notgeld: "Soon, the speculators were no longer satisfied with single issues. Entire districts were harvested. Some 40 communities in the District of Pinneberg were induced to issue complete sets of six notes, all of which were taken possession of by the dealer L. Brieger in Hamburg. Naturally, no motive was offered for so many different notes by the fairly unattractive district of 'flatland' (northwest of Hamburg; a flower growing area): the inspiration had to be sought from further afield - all the heavens, the sun, moon, stars and angels, fields and woods, country life and the theatre, and whatever else occurred to the producers. In comparison with this the issue of the Reuter notes forms an advantageous contrast." (Translation by Darnell and Block, Notgeld Handbook No. 1, page 44.)

The family resemblance between the notes of certain towns came to my attention while sorting out a large accumulation of notgeld. Actually they contrasted with the other material because of their plain and uninteresting appearance. I noticed that they were all printed by the same firm, Konrad Hanf, Hamburg, but it was only later that I realized these were the "Pinneberg" notes mentioned by Dr. Keller in his introduction to the catalog of series notes.

These Hanf-printed notes have a definite to vague similarity in design. The artistic quality varies from poor to something less than fair. By comparison the Reutergeld are inspired and the Schiestl productions are works of art. Paper with the same watermark was used for the majority of the printings, however some are on unwatermarked paper and a few watermark varieties may be found. All sets were issued in groups of six with two different denominating schemes employed. None of the notes have the date of issue but some do have an expiration date.

Although Dr. Keller mentions "some 40 communities", I have not yet found quite that many. It seems curious to me that Keller, the man of quintessential detail, was not specific on this point.

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The assumption is that Leo Brieger of Hamburg purchased the issuing rights from the communities and made himself the sole distributor. It is difficult today to pinpoint all of these locations on a map. Some are still small and insignificant hamlets. Others are tiny parts of other towns while some have been incorporated into the city of Hamburg.

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If one can overlook the relative unattractiveness of this "family" of notgeld, the challenge to complete the series is rather formidable. In comparison with many other issues these are printed in small numbers. This is reflected in currently high prices being quoted in price lists emanating from Hamburg.

As is frequently the case in my notgeld research, Hermann Krause has supplied pertinent comment: "Kreis, as you know, means district. But the district of Pinneberg is subdivided into Amts-Bezirke (Amt meaning office and Bezirk an area). Observe the signatures on the notes and you will find that many have the same signature. It boils down to just a few groups. Take, for example, the notes from Ellerhoop: besides the town name they list 'Amtsbezirk Bevern.' Consequently, they have the same signature as the Bevern notes and several other nearby towns.

All Kreis Pinneberg notes are generally considered common. Actually they are not common at all since the printing was only 10,000 for each community. Compared with really common types of notgeld, with printing amounts usually of several hundred thousand, they belong to the scarce notgeld. Watch the serial numbers on the notes; should you ever find one with a number above 10,000 it would be a sensation. (The only exception is Kummerfeld, with a much larger quantity.)"

With reference to the map, which Krause was kind enough to provide for this article, he goes on to say "It is almost complete, only Kummerfeld and Raa-Besenbeck are missing. I was unable to locate them on any available map, although they are listed in the German zip code directory. And the twin community of Klein-Nordende-Lieth is now listed as Lieth only. Seeth-Eckhold is only Seeth now."

The tabulation which follows presents data on 36 of the Pinneberg District communities which are in the group of Breiger-Hanf notgeld.

Pinneberg District Notgeld Printed by Konrad Hanf of Hamburg

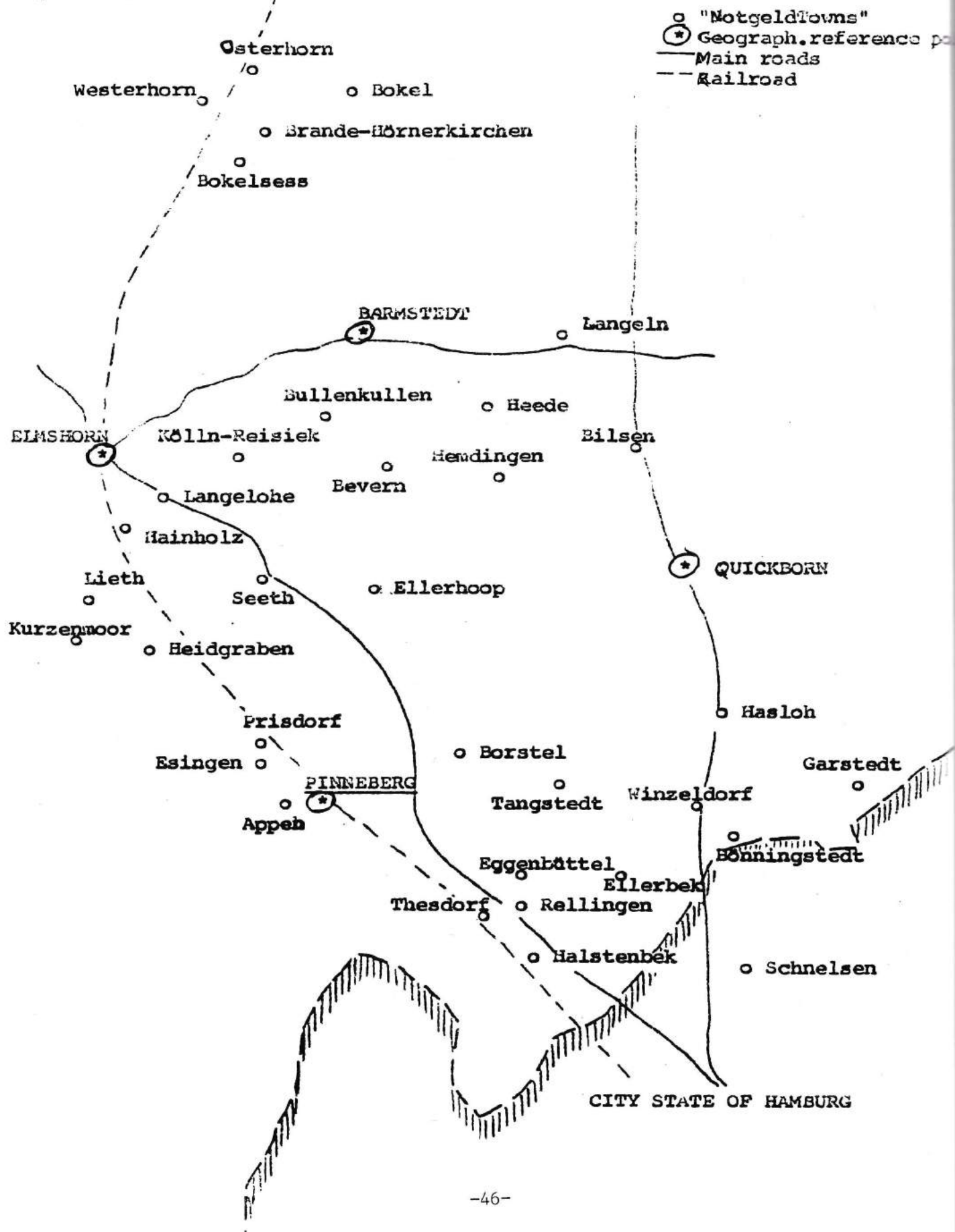
Town	Cat. No.	Denominations			
Appen	28	25-25-50-50-75-75	Langeln	606	25-25-50-50-75-75
Bevern	71	25-25-50-50-75-75	Langelohe	607	25-25-50-50-75-75
Bilsen	77	25-25-50-50-75-75	Osterhorn	836	20-30-40-60-70-80
Bönnigstedt	101	25-25-50-50-75-75	Prisdorf	874	25-25-50-50-75-75
Bokel	103	20-30-40-60-70-80	Raa-Besenbeck	890	20-30-40-60-70-80
Bokelsess	104	20-30-40-60-70-80	Rellingen	908	25-25-50-50-75-75
Borstel	112	25-25-50-50-75-75	Schnelsen	980	25-25-50-50-75-75
Brande-Hörner- kirchen	117	20-30-30-60-70-80	Seeth-Eekholt	1103	25-25-50-50-75-75
			Tangstedt	1087	25-25-50-50-75-75
Bullenkuhlen	165	25-25-50-50-75-75	Thesdorf	1099	25-25-50-50-75-75
Egenblüttel	247	25-25-50-50-75-75	Westerhorn	1173	20-30-40-60-70-80
Ellerbek	264	25-25-50-50-75-75	Winzeldorf	1191	25-25-50-50-75-75
Ellerhoop	265	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Esingen	283	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Garstedt	329	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Hainholz	407	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Halstenbek	414	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Hasloh 80x55mm	461	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Hasloh 98x69mm	461b	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Heede	463	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Heidgraben	466	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Hemdingen	474	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Klein-Nordende	555	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Kölln-Reisiek	563	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Kummerfeld	594	25-25-50-50-75-75			
Kurzenmoor					
84x54mm	596a	20-30-40-60-70-80			
100x65mm	596b	20-30-40-60-70-80			

NOTE: Only major "face different" types have been listed. See catalog for watermark, serial number and color varieties.

Map Showing Pinneberg District in Relation to Hamburg



Map Showing Pinneberg District Notgeld-issuing "Towns" that can Still be Located Today



Notgeld of Hameln Recalls Story of Pied Piper

The "Pied Piper of Hamelin" is a familiar tale in many languages, including English. The city of Hameln, Hannover, Germany, where the event supposedly took place, issued notgeld during and after World War I. Some of the notes tell the story of or otherwise refer to the Pied Piper legend. As is the case with legends, a good story was told and retold until it bore little resemblance to the historical occurrence if indeed there was one. One explanation of the source of the tale is that a group of young people left the city to start a new settlement. Following is a list of Hameln series notes and the one "circulating issue" with a Pied Piper theme:

I. Series notes:

No. 446 (Stadt)

- a. 1.6.1921 25-50-75-1 (No Pied Piper theme)
- b. 1.9.1921 6.50 Pfg. Each note tells part of the story
- c. 1.9.1921 6.75 Pfg. Scenes from the city
- d. 1.4.1922 6.50 Pfg. Each note tells part of the story

No. 447 (Münster - Café - Diele)

- od (1921) - 31.3.1922 25-50-1 Mk Pictures of piper and children

II. Circulating notes:

No. 924 1918 25-50 Pfg. Piper, children, rats.

Notgeld with Fire Fighting Equipment

Gluckstadt	353	50 Pfg.	3.09.1921	Firefighter
Langensalza	612	50-50 Pfg.	31.12.1921	Firefighters
Luckenwald	653	1 Mark	1.12.1921	Firetruck
Linz	641	25 Pfg.	1.07.1920	Fire equipment overprint
Münster	730	50 Pfg.	24-27.08.1921	Firetruck
Waldenburg	1141a	50 Pfg.	black	Firetruck
	1141b	50 Pfg.	red	Firetruck

Notes exist with pictures of "great fires" such as Wasungen No. 1152, 4x50 2x75 Pfg.

Notgeld with Till Eulenspiegel Themes

Braunschweig	119a	1 May 1921	10-25-50-75 Pfg.
Mölln	714	31 Dec 1921	25-50-100 Pfg.
Kneitlingen	559a	1 Jul 1921	4x50 4x75 4x1 Mk (heavy paper)
	559b	1 Jul 1921	4x50 4x75 4x1 Mk (light paper)
Osterwieck	838	1 Jan 1921	50 Pfg.
Mölln	V 1406a	31 Dec 1921	50 Pfg.

A Trial Check List of Trains on Small Notgeld

Apolda	S 26	50 Pfg.	1 Aug 1921	train on viaduct
Barmen		5 Md. Mk.	15 Oct 1923	suspension railroad
Bensheim	V 136	50 Pfg.	nd	locomotive on "el"
Berlin	S 67c	10x2 Mk.	1 Mar 1922	evolution of street cars
Bitterfeld	S 82b	6x50 Pfg.	1 Dec 1921	trains around mines, factories
Brockau	S 149	50 Pfg.	22 Oct 1920	small locomotive
Burgsteinfurt		50 Pfg.	23 Nov 1921	
Butzbach	S 171	50 Pfg.	6 Jun 1921	part of locomotive, small
Elberfeld	V 540f	50 Pfg.	10 Dec 1919	suspension railway
Elberfeld	S 261	2x1 Mk.	1 Oct 1920	suspension railway
Ellerhoop	S 265	25 Pfg.	31 Dec 1921	crudely drawn train
Forst	V 615g	25 Pfg.	1 Jul 1921	freight train in city
Gatersleben	S 330	25-50 Pfg.	30 Jul 1921	trains on comic type notgeld
Gräfenroda	S 372	25 Pfg.	nd	small train exits tunnel
Hamburg	S 433	50 Pfg.	21 Oct 1921	small train in silhouette
		1 Mark	31 Oct 1921	electric locomotive and train
Hann. Münden	S 454	1 Mark	1922	small locomotive lower left
Husby	S 499	2x75 Pfg.	15 Dec 1921	trains
Igelshieb	S 504	50 Pfg.	1 Apr 1921	train in snow
Leck	S 622	1 Mark		
Malchin		50 Pfg.	31 Dec 1922	
Marktschorgast	S 695	2x50 Pfg.	31 Dec 1921	crudely drawn trains
Netzekreis	V 1853	25 Pfg.	16 Jun 1920	crudely drawn train
Neuhaus AR	S 754b	50 Pfg.	1 Mar 1921	small train on stone bridge
Nordhausen	S 793	25-50-75	1 Mar 1921	Nord.-Wernigerode-Brocken line
Oldenburg	S 820	3 Mark	21 May 1922	suspension railway
Osterfeld	S 834a	150 Pfg.	15 Dec 1921	crudely drawn train
Remscheid	S 911	50 Pfg.	8 Oct 1921	train on Kaiser Wilhelm bridge

Roda	S 921	50 Pfg.	10 Oct 1921	train station
Schmiedfeld	S 975	20-25 Pfg.	nd	small trains
Steinheim	S 1045	50 Pfg.	18 Mar 1921	
Stützerbach	S 1069a	20 Pfg.	1921	small train
Tostedt	S 1109	50 Pfg.	1921	small train at bottom
Westerhorn	S 1173	80 Pfg.	31 Dec 1921	

German Notgeld Pertaining to Aircraft and Flying

Bensheim	V 136	50 Pfg.	30 Dec 1920	small airplane
Bitterfeld	S 82a	50 Pfg.	nd	two Zeppelins
Delbrück	S 214	5 Mark	27 Jan 1921	man with bat-like wings
Frankenhausen	S 299	50 Pfg.	19 Jun 1921	airplanes around monument
Friedrichshafen	V 652	50 Pfg.	1 Aug 1920	Zeppelin
Klein-Nordende-				
Lieth	S 555	25 Pfg.	31 Dec 1921	airplane at tower
Magdaburg	S 682	50 Pfg.	1921	small airplanes flying
Schneidemulh	S 979a	75 Pfg.	nd	bi-planes flying
		1 Mark	nd	Zeppelin and hangar
Schwerin	V 2345	1-5-10-50	1 Apr 1917	Fokker-Flugzeugwerke. no illus.
Warnemunde	S 1148	25 Pfg.	31 May 1922	Bi-plane with pontoons
Wetzlar		1.05 Mark Gold	30 Nov 1923	Zeppelin over Wetzlar

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No check list of automobiles, trucks and busses on notgeld is known at this time. Off-hand it would appear that the number in this category would not vary substantially from the total of "Aircraft and Flying." The number of notgeld with "Ships and Boats" would, however, be quite large. The latter category might be expanded to include harbors and lighthouses. "Transportation" would be a major category.