

We have been saddened to learn of the death of Herbert Bodenschatz, one of the long time dealers of German paper money who specialized in notgeld. Mr. Bodenschatz died 24 Oct. 1972. That same month his photo appeared in World Coins. He was the last active dealer from a group which met in Frankfurt in 1926. Some 22 years ago, the publisher of this newsletter began to buy paper money from Herbert Bodenschatz. Literally hundreds of pounds running into countless thousands of pieces were imported over a period of several years. The bulk of the shipments consisted of packets of 100 diff. notgeld. The packets were sold at \$1.00 each, mostly through classified ads in Popular Mechanics and similar publications.

The 22 Nov. issue of Coin World had pictures of several witch notgeld. (p.52) In a remarkable coincidence, the feature appeared about one month after this newsletter published the first check list of witch notgeld. Add to your list: Wernigerode, 1 Mar. 1921, 50 pf., nude witches on broomsticks. Issued by Nordhausen-Wernigerode Railroad Co. The Coin World feature may have been inspired by the Halloween season. If so, another very appropriate item should have been included: Manebach, Dec. 1921, 20 pf. Three Halloween masks produced by the Manebach Mask Factory are pictured on the note.

With this issue we begin to number the pages of the newsletter. Since Nos. 1 and 2 were unnumbered, please number your copies by hand. This will aid in making the newsletter useful for future reference.

On page 6 mention was made of the 210 piece Reutergeld series. John Mayer writes to point out that certain varieties can increase the range of this set. Boizenberg 10 pf. has square in upper left obverse. Some notes have R in square. Those without R seem scarcer. Gnoien: Set comes with an embossed stamp and is scarcer than set without same. In addition, the entire series has minor varieties such as thick and thin paper, yellow or white paper, missing colors (especially the blue), etc. Each collector can decide for himself where to draw the line.

John also suggests that on page 4, regarding classification of German notgeld, we should have said small denomination notes and large denomination notes in B, C & D. B & C generally were small in size and under 1 Mark. However some are denominated in Mark and some are larger in size. Class D. notes are larger denominations, usually 1 to 50 Mk. and often larger in size than B & C. In spite of some overlapping and possible confusion, we think the system is useful and will no doubt refer to it from time to time.

In compiling the check list of witch notgeld, Herman Krause and John Mayer were most helpful. Sorry we neglected to mention this along with the check list in last issue. Also regret the misspelling of Weihnachten on page 6. Please correct this error.

Some comments on the chess articles in Sept. & Oct. World Coins: Notes of Ellrich included apparently because they have something resembling a chess board. We hesitate to include these as chess items. The check list of paper money (p. 1316-1318) omits Stroebeck 25 pf. although the note is pictured earlier in the article. Incidentally, the Stroebeck 25-50-75 pf., 31 Dec. 1921 come with three distinctly different printer marks at the bottom of the notes.

Please check your collections for any notes related to the topic of printing - printing presses, etc. We have Glogau 5 pf. 31 Dec. 1920, Possneck 25 and 50 pf. no date. No doubt there are others.

The colorful Lichtenhorst "prisoner of war camp" notes were issued several years after the camp had closed - an imaginative swindle issue.

THE COLONIALS

Issued in remembrance of the lost German colonies.

Amt Neustadt i/M (in Mecklenburg), April 1922

Series I.

1. 50 pf. Kamerun, Gouvern.-haus in Duala
2. 75 pf. Dtsch.-Ost-Afrika, Daressalaam - Die Boma
3. 75 pf. D. Sud-West-Afrika, Der Waterberg
4. 50 pf. Togo, Anecho

Series II.

1. 50 pf. Samoa, Hafen-Apia
2. 50 pf. Kiautschou, Tsingtau, Deutscher Klub
3. 75 pf. D.-Neu Guinea, Tyr Pfahldorf D. Eingeborenen
4. 75 pf. Marianen-Karolinen, Marianen-Insel Pagan

Hamburg (Deutsch-Hanseatischer Kolonialgedenktag) 31 Marz 1922 (4 XI 1921)

Series A. Palm tree on back.

1. 75 pf. Deutsch-Sud West Afrika, Swakopmund
2. 75 pf. Deutsche Sudseeinseln, Kaiser Wilhelmsland
3. 75 pf. Kiautschau, Iltisberge
4. 75 pf. Togo, Dorf Bei Missahohe
5. 75 pf. Deutsche-Ostafrika, Daressalam
6. 75 pf. Kaamerun, Viktoria mit Kamerunberg

Series B. Map of Africa on back.

1. 75 pf. v.Lettow-Vorbeck
2. 75 pf. Carl Woermann
3. 75 pf. Dr. Carl Peters
4. 75 pf. A Luderitz
5. 75 pf. v.Wissmann
6. 75 pf. v.Bismarck

AMERICANA NOTGELD

Bremen, a series of 8 diff. notes celebrating "German-America Week" (Deutsche Amerika Woche). All have a likeness of the U.S. flag along with other flags of the Americas. Four notes of the series honor American cities, one of which is New York.

Dusseldorf, (w/o name of town) 2 Mark, 28 Dec. 1921, Uncle Sam directs as other nations dance around golden calf. Satirical. (684)

Lorch, 50 pf., 15 June 1921, U.S. flag in color. (1798-b)

Knivsberg, 50 pf., 14 March 1920, Uncle Sam carrying U.S. flag. (fantasy issue, Knivsberg never existed as a town) (1549)

Ritterhude, 25 pf., 15 May 1921, Turnhalle. Gebruder Ries Stiftung, New York.

Uncle Sam also appears on a 500 Mark silk note of Bielefeld.

(Published by Dwight L. Musser, Box 305, Ridge Manor, FL 33525)

Ruhla Notgeld

Following is a translation of a small printed booklet which was distributed along with the set of notes at time of issue:

The Original Artistically Executed Notgeld Series of the Mountain and Industrial City of Ruhla in Thuringia, Issued at the Time of the Union of the Originally Two Communities into One City.

Written by: Arno Schlothauer, Ruhla
Drawings and cliches by: Paul Beyer, Erfurt
Printed by: O. Schwinger, Ruhla

And if the cow drops something
it used to fall into two states!
Oh Ruhla, you beautiful, magnificent Ruhl,
You are a real German mud puddle.

Without a doubt since long ago, in regards to its scenery, our little mountain town deserves the term "beautiful and magnificent." Therefore it may seem peculiar that Ludwig Storch, the poet of the Ruhl, in the preceding century, calls Ruhl, in one of his dialectic poems, in the same breath beautiful and magnificent but at the same time a muddy German puddle. Yet he did not want to say anything different for our hometown. Within its narrow boundaries it was just as torn as the German homeland itself, since Ruhla with hardly 3,000 inhabitants, consisted until 1833 of three communities. One on Weimar ground, belonged directly to the princely house (of Weimar) and therefore was called the "Gentleman's Place." Of the two communities in Gotha land, one belonged to the Council of Tennenberg. Locally that part of Ruhla was called the "Tennenberg ground." The other community was ruled by the Council of Thal as a one time loan of the family of Utteradt. It was called the "Uttero."

Because of the division, Ludwig Storch called the Ruhl a German puddle. All told, our revered forefathers did not seem to worry much about this tri- and later two-part division. On the contrary, when in the years 1832-1833 Duke Ernst I of Gotha suggested and succeeded in uniting the two Gotha communities, the two neighbors were not at all enthusiastic and in the end fought about debts of which one community had 659 Thaler less than the other, and when six years later that same Prince took steps aimed at bringing Gotha and Weimar Ruhla under one head, certain natives objected with hand and foot so that the well meant intentions of the enlightened Prince came to nothing.

Authenticated by documents is a combined meeting of the two communities' representatives in 1891, at which the idea was expressed how much the division of our dear Ruhla hindered the progressive development of the area and that the union of the Ruhl as a single political community should be considered as a desired goal.

But not until 1913 was the general public made conscious of the question of union by newspaper propaganda, in public meetings, etc. The war (World War I) again delayed the negotiations which had started at that time. It is doubtful whether they would have succeeded faster than the new and forcefully conducted efforts of the revolution.

But be that as it may. The Ruhl, which two princes divided because of an inheritance struggle, was united on April 1, 1921, as one city.

Because of that and in remembrance of the union, the united Ruhl issued a new emergency money series which shows with humor on the picture side of the six notes, conditions and

events during the time of the dual rule and of the union. In the following, the series is explained in word and picture with the little dialectic verses indented.

It may be observed that all notes bear on the front side the following inscription in Ruhla dialect as the obligation for redemption: "I am worth in the Ruhl until New Year 1922 / 50 Pfennig" and the signature of the Chief of the City Council. In the center of the front side is a copy of the bas relief of the Count's Smithy: The Smith of Ruhla. It is surrounded by a frame which is formed of the trademark of the former knife industry the double "R" which stood for the divided Ruhl.

And now on the back of the individual notes:

1. 300 Years - for God's sake
The princes were really shortsighted.
They tore the, for a long time beautiful, Ruhl into pieces
And made it into the German puddle.
And if a cow left a dropping
It usually fell into two states.

(Verses and picture refer to the poem: The Ruhl a German Puddle, by Storch)

The border of the city was formed by the "original stream" as the people boastfully called our little Ruhla, which, at some places, crossed the street in such a way that it was not unusual that when nature called to a cow, two towns were dirtied at the same time.

2. Much misfortune came with the division.
That you can see already at the church fight.
The Ruhler at the time were
Much holier than nowadays.
But it does not fit with the commandments of the Lord
That they loved to beat each other up!

At the time of the division there was only one small church which stood on Gotha land, but was supposed to be used also by the inhabitants of the "Gentleman's place." Legend says that because of this agreement there arose arguments which degenerated into battles inside and outside the church.

3. Often there was a great grief
When the bedroom was in two lands.
He had to cross the border
When he wanted to say something in her ear.
But sometimes it was also the opposite
When she was longing for him!

Some houses stood directly on the border, so that apartments were divided into two parts. The originator of the Notgeldseries lived for several years in one of these apartments, so he should know.

4. Not far from the "Gentlemen's Place" lived the rich people!
There the bank swam in money.
Not far from Uttero were the poorer people.
With their taxes money did not go far.
That was also an evil thing
Which created friction and often strife.

Financially, the two-part division had some drastic results. For example, the Gotha part had to take care of four times the number of streets and pay twice as many teachers

as the Weimar sister community which was justly called the millionaire's quarter. Just before the war the conditions between the two communities were quite noticeable. The Weimar bank owned a larger, well filled city treasury, so the treasurer could therefore wear a smile all over his face. His Gotha colleague could not dig quite so deep into the money and that is why he laughed with only one eye while he shed bitter tears with the other because of the unjust division of the earthly wealth. The money bag in the middle is supposed to represent how the finances look here today. Incidentally, there are not many places whose treasury impresses one less.

5. It's not so very long ago
That each part had its own fire brigade.
And if there was a fire, there surely was a fight
for when anyone from the other side wanted to spray
the other would say, you will lose your shoe
If you want to spray our fire.

Jealousy, arrogance and envy often hindered a desirable working together of the communities. Even if the case of the jealous fire brigades should not be true, it cannot be denied that it happens like this in other phases of public life.

6. Now is the Ruhl again one piece
and, let's wish for them good luck.
The border barriers have fallen,
Go hopeful, therefore, towards the future,
Forget the evil things,
And dance the "Ruhler Springer."

On note 6 is the moment when the two mayors as chiefs of the heretofore enemy communities saw down the border barrier while the Ruhler inhabitants prepare to celebrate the joyful event by dancing the old folkdance.

Not all difficulties, not all unfriendly conditions, are abolished for us by this union; but we are confident and hope that in the not too distant future a final complete union of Thuringia will do the rest. And may the time come right soon when all, really all, inhabitants feel in every way happy again in our beautiful Ruhla.

Translated by Marianne Heinemann

Note: The Ruhla notgeld described above come with two signature varieties:
Th. Hoppert or Theob. Hoppert.



Ich geall in der Ruh! bis Neujahr 1922
Foufzig Pfänn.

50



50

Ruhla in Thüringen,
den 1. April 1921.

Der Stadtgemeindevorstand.

J. Koppert

Die
originelle, künstlerisch ausgeführte

Notgeld-Serie

der Berg- und Indulfriestadt

Ruhla in Thüringen.

Herausgegeben
anlässlich der Vereinigung der
leitherigen beiden Gemeinden
zu einer Stadt.

Geiftiger Urheber der Serie in Bild und Wort:

Berno Schlotthauer, Ruhla.

Zeichnungen v. Mühlberg, Paul Meyer, Adolf