

The Fraktur

Vol. IV, Nr. 1

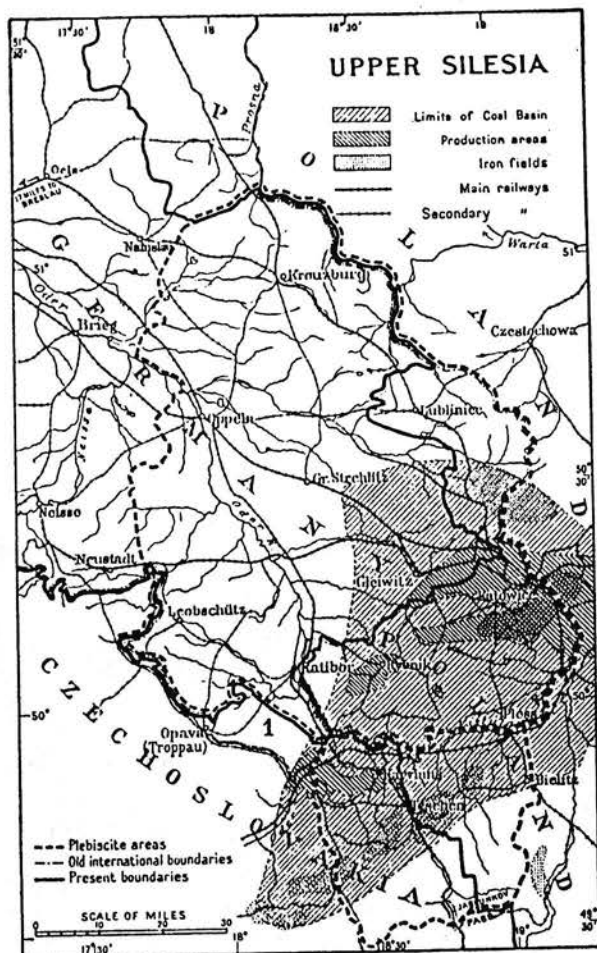
January 1991

The Oberschlesien Plebiscite

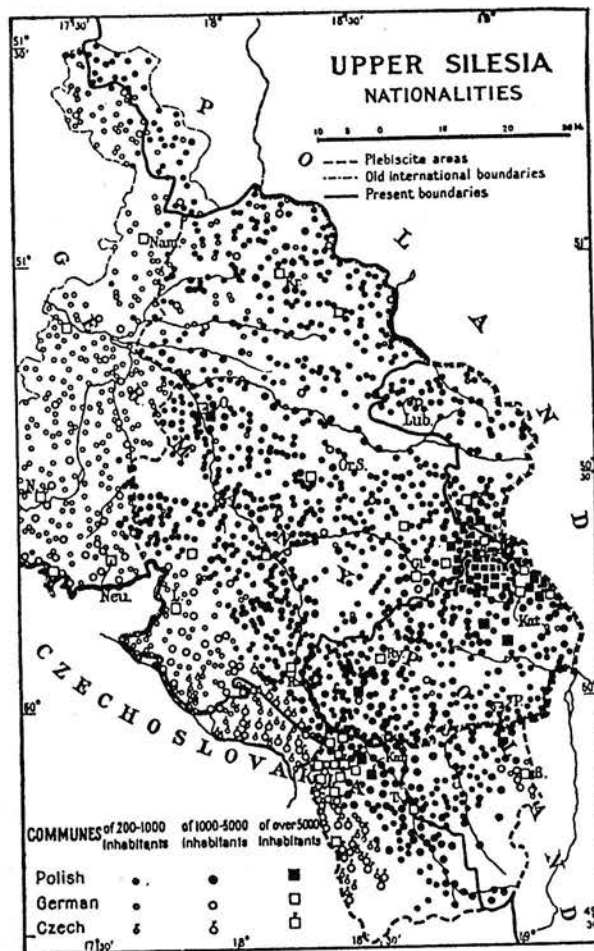
Considered the most important plebiscite created by the Paris treaties following WW I was that of Upper Silesia (Polish, Gorny Slask; German, Oberschlesien).

In contention were 4,150 square miles, populated by 2,280,000 persons. The eastern extremity was bounded by two lazy brooks, in German "Drei-Kaiserreichs Ecke," the three-empire corner of Russia, Prussia and Austria.

Reborn Poland lay on the north and eastern borders; new Czechoslovakia appeared in the place of Austria on the south. Upper Silesia was the Prussian province of Silesia, (Schlesien) with the capital in Breslau.

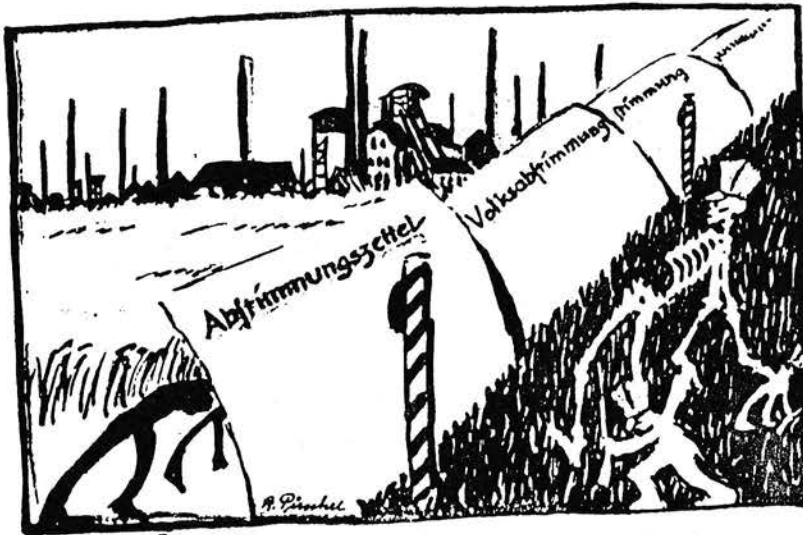


THE SILESIAN COAL BASIN



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Not all Notgeld concerning the Upper Silesian plebiscite came from the area. From Glauchau-Stollberg was an issue showing a line dividing prosperity from poverty.

Serving as the highway for dispensing agricultural products of Upper Silesia was the Oder River, rising in the Sudetic mountains in Czechoslovakia, passing Ratibor (Raciborz) and Oppeln (Opole), enlarged by the Malapane River, flowing past Breslau, Stettin and into the Baltic See.

Included in the province were 23 Kreise, akin to counties, including those agriculturally oriented in the west; to the east, coal and zinc, contributing to the second largest industrial area of Germany after the Ruhr.

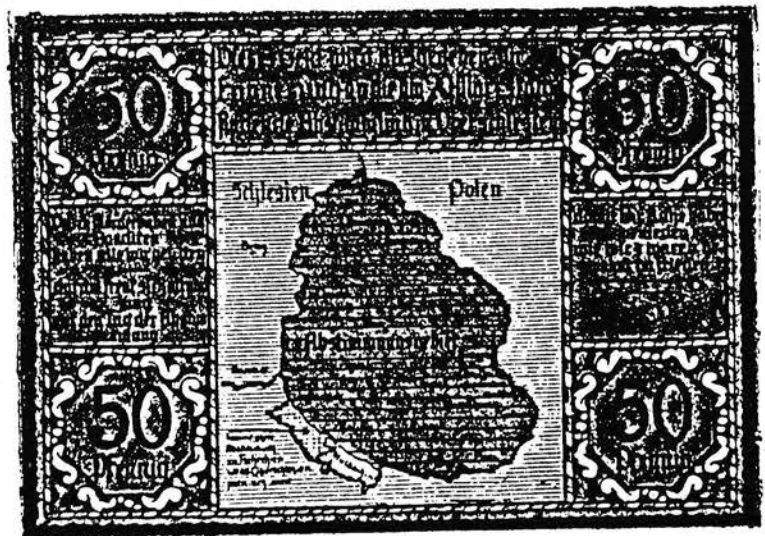
The ethic mixture included Slavs and Teutonic tribes, ruled by the Piasts of Poland in the 11th Century; renounced by the Polish king in 1335 at the Treaty of Trencin, next under the rule of the King of Bohemia and after 1742, under Prussian Frederick the Great.

The Prussians encouraged immigration by Germans as farmers and workers. Wambaugh comments, "To the German the industries of Silesia were built by German capital and German brains; to the Poles they were the product of Polish labor."

Unifying the two groups was the church. Most of the area was Roman Catholic, both Germans and Poles, except around Namslau and Kreuzburg, where Germans and Poles were Protestant.

One quarter of the province was owned by seven landowners, the Junkers, in 1910, including half the coal area. Schools taught only German.

A 50-Pfennig note of Bielschowitz shows a map of the plebiscite area. An arrow points to the Teschen site.



Following WW I, Poland pursued annexation of eastern Upper Silesia, based on the ethnic population, though Poland had renounced claims to the area six centuries earlier. Also, Polish labor was said to have contributed to the industrial development.

A draft treaty dated May 7, 1919, awarded Poland the lines later to become the western boundary of the plebiscite area, insensuing the Germans. On June 2, 1919, Lloyd George proposed the plebiscite to eliminate germs of a future war which might be pursued by Germany.

On June 12, 1919, Article 88 of the treaty proposed the plebiscite formally, to be overseen by an international commission.

Members appointed in the summer of 1920 to the Commission Interalliee de Gouvernement et de Plebiscite included, from the United Kingdom, Col. H.F.P. Percival; Italy, Gen. Alberto de Marinis; and from France, Gen. Le Rond.

A hard coal mining firm of Hoymgrube issued a 20-Mark note dated May 15, 1921, considered a plebiscite issue.



Silesien Notgeld-issuing towns during the Plebiscite
(Plus a few out of Silesia)

Beuthen	Hoymgrube	Nikolai
Bielschowitz	Kandrzin-Pogorzelletz	Oppeln
Bismrckhuette	Katscher	Paruschowitz
Carlshof	Kattowitz	Paulsdorf
Charlottegrube	Klodnitz-Oderhafen	Pitschen
Chrosczuetz	Knurów	Radzionkau
Cosel	Koenigshuette	Ratibor
Emmagrube	Konstadt	Rosenberg
Glauchau-Stollberg	Krappitz	Rybnik
Gleiwitz	Kreuzburg	Schaedlitz
Gross-Rauden	Kunzendorf	Siemianowitz
Gross-Strehlitz	Landsberg	Sohrau
Guttentag	Laurahuette	Tarnowitz
Hamm	Leobschuetz	Thale
Halberstadt	Loslau	Tichau
Helmstedt	Muchenitz	Zuelz
	Neudeck	

To Be Continued

THE MYSTERY OF DR. KELLER'S SMALL CHECKS

By David Block

One of the mysteries provided for the collector of the series notes is the reason Dr. Keller included the Kleinschecks in his catalog.

The series notes purport to be genuine currency, money issued to be used to supply the lack of small change. The small checks, on the other hand, purport to be orders to pay money to the bearer.

Men such as Gustav Prange, author of the 1921 and 1922 volumes "Das deutsche Kriegsnotgeld, eine kulturgeschichtliche Beschreibung," realized that these checks were not money in the same sense as the series notes as soon as they began to appear. He fought against including them in Notgeld collections.

Perhaps Dr. Keller was influenced by the fact that when the small checks first appeared he was operating a dealership; perhaps collector demand made it necessary for him to accept them. Be that as it may, here is my translation of Prange's diatribe against one of the first issues, published in his above-cited book, Vol. 2, page 58.

I expressly thank Hermann Krause for taking time to compare my translation with the German text and to correct several of my inadvertent errors. Moreover, Hermann has pointed out that the lines near the end of the feature are quoted from an 18th Century poem, "Der gefangene Husar," telling of an interview between a captured Hussar and a French general, one Clermont, in 1758.

THE 1922 CHECKS FOR FLEECING COLLECTORS

By Gustav Prange

If the director of a city's affairs at one time refuses to issue Notgeld because of a government ban but afterwards allows the production of what is called Notgeld but which could more properly be called unnecessary money, then the critic challenges him, even the more strongly the more the profit motive shows up.

The three series of Notgeld, each in the values of 25, 50 and 75-Pfennig, one and two Mark, a total of 13.50 Mark, with which Belgard has in 1922 blessed the world, are plainly too much and exceed arrogance by a long way. The notes offered must be extraordinarily distinguished to make collectors forget that they are only aimed at their wallets.

Already with a fleeting glance at these notes criticism begins. Why are all the notes indifferently of the same color? Because of that merchant and public must mix them up and quarrel, if an unfortunate note should wander into circulation. Is it so the Flemming Press can save on colored ink?

At any event, the series "Old Belgard" may be tolerated,

as the following description shows: On the 25-Pfennig note, the Belgard Council repels the Polish delegation (1107); On the 50-Pfennig, a view of the city in 1618, from the Lubin map; On the 75-Pfennig, the high city gate; On the one Mark, a city street; on the two-Mark note, St. Mary's Church.

One had already seen enough, however, of such city scenes, and even better chosen ones on cheaper notes. Creative imagination is lacking.

The motifs of the second and third series, however: "The Belgard Death's Head Hussars in former days" and "Uniforms of the Belgard Death's Head Hussars as times changed" show a shameful display of false deeds.



"Schecks" were issued by Belgard on the Persante River in Pomerania, undated, in 15 "account" or Konto letters, A to P, and sold in a paper envelope. "Death heads" appear at each side of the back of the bank illustration.

Who has ever heard anything about the Belgard Death's Head Hussars? There has never been one, and there still is none today. There is only a Fifth Hussar Regiment, to which belong the two squadrons lodged in Belgard.

The city did not earn the honor of having the historical Life Guard come to Belgard; it came on orders of the minister of war after the rape of Danzig make the transfer necessary. In such circumstances it is, to put it mildly, decking oneself in borrowed plumage if the brave hussar of Frederick the Great is claimed as a Belgard Death's Head Hussar, the brave hussar who at his interrogation by the enemy general showed that even after his capture he remained true to his King:

"Friend, does your king have more men of your sort?"

"Certainly," said the hussar, "and even much better ones! I am the worst of all his soldiers, or else I certainly wouldn't have fallen into your hands."

We would prefer genuine Notgeld and historical truth. Belgard has sinned against both by this issue instigated by Mayor Trieschmann, and by so doing he himself has pronounced his sentence.

JANUARY 1991

We are greeted by the control number on a 10-Pfennig note of Bankenburg/Harz, for our New Year 1991--oops, the printer slipped in an extra 9! But it is close.

We do hope 1991 or 19991, whatever it is, brings all of our readers mail boxes stuffed with Notgeld and books and all sorts of hobby enjoyment, throughout the year.

It will be another 11 years before we have another radar or palindrome date; 1991 is the first one in the 20th century and 2002 will be the only one in the 21st century. Despite all the talk you hear about it, remember that the 21st century does not begin until Jan. 1, 2001.

An interesting feature of our "19991" note of Bad Blankenburg is the "White Lady" riding her broom on the back of the note. The specter appears on several Notgeld issues from the Harz area.

One of our readers visited this fall in his old haunts in old West Germany and slipped into old East Germany. He took some pictures of buildings illustrated on Notgeld which are still standing, a la Hermann Krause, and shares some with us, to be used in coming issues. His wife was caught up in the euphoria of the Notgeld events and even found it interesting. The moral of the story is that if you are going to make converts to Notgeld, convert your wife first. It helps.

And a Happy New Year to all. Thank you for staying with us.



Classified Advertising

German metal Notgeld bought and sold. Municipal, private, POW, beer, transportation, naval, military, Consum Verein, gas and electricity tokens are bought and sold. Sell books on metal Notgeld. Also interested in other continental European tokens. Send for latest list. T.J. ORLIK, Box 947, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

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AUSTRIAN, GERMAN NOTGELD; World Banknotes, coins. Lists: periodic price; topical; send needs. Chuck Springman, 7462 Nall, Shawnee Mission, Kan. 66208.

THE FRAKTUR PRICELIST

JANUARY 1991

Aachen 1918 25, 50 Pf P-S 1 \$1
 Achim Jan. 15, 1921 50 Pf L-2 fold \$.50
 Adorf/Vogtland Aug. 25, 1923 500,000, 1,000,000 Mark
 K-15 \$7
 Ahaus June 7, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-3II \$1*
 Ahlen Oct. 10, 1918 5, 10 Mark K-6 \$12.50*
 Ahrensboek Dec. 1920 50 Pf L-6 \$.60*
 Ahrweiler Aug. 15, 1921 25 Pf L-7aI \$.50*; L-7aIV \$1.75*
 Aken SOct. 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-8 \$1.25
 Alfeld/Leine July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-11 \$1.25*
 Allenstein April 1, 1921 10 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-13 set \$2.25*
 Allstedt Dec. 22, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-15 Wildman \$2*
 Allstedt Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50 (6) Pf L-15 \$4.25*
 Altenau/Harz May 1, 1921 75(6) Pf L-17 \$3.25*
 Altenburg 1921 50 (8) Pf Set L-21 Max Bechstein artist \$7.50*
 Altenkirchen 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-23 \$1.60*
 Altenkirchen-Waldbroel 1920 10 Pf \$.75*
 Altenwerder u. Finkenwaerder Nov. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-24 \$1.25*
 Altheide/Schlesien ND 50 PF L-27II \$.60
 Altoetting ND (1918) 50 Pf K-19b \$1*
 Altona Nov. 2, 1918 50 Pf K-20II \$.60*
 Altona Nov. 2, 1918 5, 20 Mark K-12d \$7.50*
 Altona Dec. 12, 1921 20, 30, 40, 60, 80 Pf L-29b \$5*
 Altrahlstedt to SOct. 15, 1922 25 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-30 \$9*
 Altusried to Dec. 31, 1918 10 Pf K-28b \$1.50*
 Alzey Dec. 31, 1919 25 Pf P-S 30a \$1*
 Alzey Feb. 1, 1921 10 Pf P-S 30b \$.75*
 Andernach April 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-31a \$10*
 Andernach Dec. 1, 1920 75 Pf L-31bII \$.60*
 Anklam/Pommern ND 50 Pf P-S 43h \$2*
 Annaberg/Erzgeb. ND 10 Pf P-S 45 \$1.25
 Annaberg/Erzgeb. Nov 1, 1918, 5, 20 Mark; Dec. 1, 1918, 10
 Mark K-17 \$8.50
 Arnstadt March 1, 1917 50 Pf P-S 54 \$1*
 Ansbach 1917 50 Pf P-S 47a \$.65*
 Ansbach Nov. 1, 1918 25, 50 Pf P-S 47c \$1*
 Ansbach Aug. 12, 1921 25 Pf L-34 \$.60
 Appen ND (1921) 25 Pf L-39I \$2.25*
 Arnsberg March 1, 1920 25 Pf P-S 53 \$.65*
 Arnsberg Dec. 15, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-41 \$3.50*
 Arnstadt 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 54 \$1.25*
 Arnstadt 1921 10 (6), 25 (6), 50 (6) Pf Set L-42 \$10*
 Arnstadt 1921 10 (6). 25 (3), 50 (6) Pf L-43 \$7*
 Arnswalde May 2, 1921 50 (2) Pf PO-S 57 \$2*
 Arnswalde Aug. 1, 1920 25 Pf \$1*
 Arnswalde Aug. 10, 1923 500,000 Mark, 1 Millionen Mark K-141
 \$7.50
 Arolsen June 1921 25 Pf L-43 \$.50*
 Artern/Thuer. to Sylvester 1921 (Dec. 31) 50 (6) Pf Set L-45c
 \$3.50*
 Aschaffenburg ND 25 (2), 50 Pf K-60 Schiestl \$3
 Aschaffenburg ND (1918) 5, 10, 20 Mark \$8
 Aschaffenburg 1920 25, 50 SPf K-60 Schiestl \$2*
 Aschaffenburg to Jan. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-60 Hoch \$1*

Aschersleben April 14, 1917 50 Pf P-S 88 \$.60*
 Aschersleben March 5, 1920 50 Pf L-50a \$1*
 Aschersleben Dec. 1, 1921 25 (3), 50 (4), 75 (2) Pf L-50 \$5*
 Attendorf ND 1 Mark L-49 \$1.25*
 Aue ND (to Dec. 31, 1918) 50 Pf P-S 69 \$1.50*
 Auerbach/Vogtland to Dec. 31, 1919 10 Pf L-51 \$.60*
 Auerbach/Voigtland to end 1920 25 Pf L-53 \$.50
 Auerbach/Vogtland July 1, 1921 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf L-53 Kinder
 \$3.50*
 Augsburg to Dec. 31, 1918 50 Pf P-S 73e \$1.50*
 Auma June 1, 1918 10 Pf \$1.25*
 Auma April 1, 1921 50 Pf L-53 \$.60*
 Auma Nov. 1, 1921 50 (4) Pf L-55 \$2.50*
 Aventoft/Schleswig-Holstein Oct. 31, 1921 50 Pf L-57 \$1.25*
 Baden-Baden Sept. 19, 1919 50 Pf P-S 102a \$.75*
 Baden-Baden June 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 102b \$.60*
 Badetz (Domaene bei Zerbst) Sept. 1, 1918 P-S 104 \$1.25*
 Ballenstedt/Harz March 22, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 3 Mark \$1.75
 Ballenstedt/Harz Aug. 22, 1921 25, 30, 50 (2), 75, 100 Pf
 L-58 set \$3.25*
 Barby 1920 25 Pf P-S 109 \$2*
 Barntrup/Lippe Nov. 20, 1921 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark (2) L-63 \$8*
 Bautzen April 1, 1918 50 Pf K-119b \$1
 Bautzen May 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf \$.75
 Bautzen Oct. 15, 1922 100, 500 Mark K-35 \$5
 Beckum Nov. 1, 1918 50 Pf, 1 Mark P-S 127 3 signatures \$4.50*
 Beckum Sept. 1, 1920 25 Pf, 2 Mark L-64 \$3*
 Belgard/Persante ND 25, 50, 75 Pf, 2 Mark L-67 \$3.50*
 Belgern/Elbe Nov. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-66 \$1.25*
 Benneckenstein/Harz July 1921 5, 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-68
 \$3.25*
 Bentheim/Westfalen ND (Oct. 1921)j 10, 25, 50 Pf 1 Mark L-70
 Set \$2.50*
 Berga/Elster June 22, 1920 25, 50 Pf K-140 \$2*
 Berga/Elster Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf L-72 \$2.50*
 Berka, Bad ND 25 Pf P-S 150 \$.75*
 Berncastel-Cues Dec. 1, 1920, 25, 50 Pf \$1.50*
 Beverstedt Jan. 15, 1922 25 Pf L-93 Beaver \$2*
 Beverungen May 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark L-94 brown \$8.50*
 Beverungen May 1, 1921 75 Pf, 1 Mark green L-94 \$5*
 Bialla/O/Pr July 11, 1920 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-95 \$4.25*
 Birkenfeld O/B Feb. 1, 1921 10 Pf L-101 \$.40
 Bitburg April 1, 1920 25 Pf \$1*
 Bitterfeld July 6, 1920 50 Pf \$.75
 Bitterfeld Dec. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-105 \$.75*

One set only: Collection of one each of paper Notgeld from
 632 German cities, majority Uncirculated, both Series and
 Circulating notes. \$350.

* Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog; P-S Pick-Siemsen
 Austrian catalog numbers from Meyerbeck

THE FRAKTUR, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945