

The Fraktur

December 1988

Es ist Weihnachten Seit. It is Christmas time in Germany. Our barge remains tied in Bonn, as Skipper Georg visits his home nearby for Christmas.

Second mate Manfred lives in Koenigswinter, across the Rhine River, and invites us to his home for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

This visit will not be without notgeld connections, so bear with us. We checked with German friends before the visit on what would be appropriate gifts to take. A gentleman would not bring deep red flowers to a married lady.

The December calendar, with openings for each day until Christmas, had been started on Dec. 1, so that was not appropriate. A mixed color flower bouquet was suggested for Renata, Manfred's wife; an after-shave lotion for him; and some small toys for the children.



From the six-note Christmas set of Kahla/Sachsen-Altenburg, is a view of a red-headed Christ child receiving the gifts of the Magi. The note was printed by the Augsburg firm Himmer. The notes in the set are all 50-pfennig, good to Dec. 1, 1921.

Manfred's apartment is on the third floor, hot water heated, with a view out the back to the Siebengebirge, the seven mountains formed from old volcanos. And from the front windows, Renata, his wife, can keep an eye on Manfred's barge when it slips by on the Rhine.

On the morning of Christmas Eve, he drives us to some salient points in the mountains, pointing out all seven: Grosser Oelberg, from which is the best view of the lower Rhine; Nonnenstromberg; Petersberg, on which is a famous hotel; Wolkenburg; Lohrberg; Loewenburg, also with a hotel; and the famous Drachenfels, site of the castle ruins, and on which Siegfried killed the dragon. The mountains are composed of trachyte, basalt and dolerite. All seven can be seen from Cologne.

The red wine from grapes grown on the hillside of the Drachenfels is called "Drachenblut," dragon blood. In a more temperate season, one can enjoy the walking paths which connect all seven mountains.

From a copy of poems by Lord Byron, we turn to "Childe Harold," and read,

"The castled crag of Drachenfels
Frowns o'er the wide and winding Rhine,
Whose breasts of waters broadly swells
Between the banks which bear the vine;
And hills all rich with blossom'd trees,
And fields which promise corn and wine
And scatter'd cities crowning these,
Whose far white walls along them shine,
Have strew'd a scene which I should see
With double joy wert thou with me."

On Christmas Eve we were taken into the room with the live fir tree, and watch, with a bit of trepidation, as each white candle on the tree is lighted. The two children "Oh" and "Ah," and a few favorite Christmas songs were enjoyed. The American visitors sang along in English. And as is typical in many West German homes, a candle burns in a window, in silent remembrance of loved ones beyond the east border.

Koenigswinter, literally "King's Winter," probably site of a winter home of a king, plays a large role in John LeCarre's "A Small Town in Germany," mentioned last month. Christmas morning for Manfred and Renata is not the hassle found in America. Gifts were exchanged on Dec. 6, when St. Nicholas visited.

However, on Christmas morning, Manfred finds time to show us his collection of Notgeld. He explained that the green and purple notes most frequently encountered from Koenigswinter, dated Nov. 1, 1921, were in reality a spurious issue, not circulated nor intended for money. They were jointly issued by the Koenigswinterer Bank and Honnefer Volksbank. Honnef, now Bad Honnef, is a nearby town up river, also on the right bank of the Rhine.

Legitimate issues appeared during the inflation period, Manfred explains, as early as Aug. 2, 1923, with 100,000 mark notes, to an undated issue of 100,000,000,000 (100 Milliarden) mark.

He also showed us his Notgeld which followed the Christmas theme, from Austrian towns of Bruck (with St. Nicholas) and Oberndorf (origin of Silent Night). German towns included Bolkenhain, Goldberg, Grossbreitenbach, Kahla, Langeln, Lauscha, Neustadt (Sachsen-Coburg); Poessneck; Schneeberg, Schwarzenberg, Sonneberg, Steinheid and Stuetzerbach.

(The list of these towns were kindly supplied by Dwight Musser, Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537. More detailed lists are available from him; also themes of sports, Martin Luther, windmills, scatological and health.)

Then came an afternoon walk on Christmas to the Drachenfels, the nearest of the seven mountains to Manfred's home. Later we headed back to our barge, ready to continue our upstream journey.

The Notgeld CORNER

It was a small but interested group that met in the Thunderbird Motel, Bloomington, Minn., on Oct. 15, to talk and swap notgeld.

The event was held during the annual convention of the Minnesota Organization of Numismatists, MOON, meeting for their 26th year.

Discussed were books, sources, how we started collecting notgeld, and few suggestions for THE FRAKTUR.

Some had perhaps 200 pieces of paper notgeld; others none, but interested in learning about the hobby. Hermann Krause discussed fine points of the hobby and showed a new book printed in Germany, reviewed in the November issue of THE FRAKTUR.

On exhibit at the show was a two-case display titled AUGUST 1914, with a three-by-five card with each day of the month. Almost all the cards were covered with a piece of paper notgeld issued the day shown on the card, including Sundays. Cards without notes indicated the towns which issued notes that particular day.

Notes were issued each day of August and until about the middle of September in a continuous sequence.

Members are often scattered, and lack the benefit of interaction with one another, such as club meetings. Correspondence and seeking knowledge from books are the next best things. We will list some major book auctioneers and suppliers of whom we have knowledge, in the event members have special needs.

Orville J. Grady , 6602 Military Ave., Omaha, Neb. 68104.

George Frederick Kolbe, P.O. Drawer 3100, Crestline, Calif. 92325.

Dwight Musser, P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537.

Beate Rauch, P.O. Box 2830, Los Angeles, Calif. 90078-2830.

Your staff of THE FRAKTUR wish each reader a Happy Hanukkah (starting Dec. 4 for nine days), a bountiful Saint Nicholas Day (Dec. 6), a Merry Christmas and all missing notgeld in the New Year.

NOTGELD GLOSSARY (German-English)

F

Fabrik	Factory
Fahne	Flag
Faelschen, Falsch	Counterfeit, fake
Farbe	Color
Farbton	Shade
Farbvariante	Color variety
Faserpapier	Paper with fibers
Fehldruck	Misprint
Fehlend	Missing
Fehler	Error
Firma	Firm
Fleckig	Stained
Fortaufend Numeriert	Consecutively numbered
Format	Size
Fraktur	Gothic type
Freiheit	Freedom
Frisch	Crisp; Uncirculated

G

Gebrueder	Brothers
Gebraucht	Circulated
Gefaelst	Forged; Counterfeit
Gelb	Yellow
Geld	Money
Geldschein	Currency; note; bank note
Gewoehnlich	Common
Giltig	Valid; "good to..." (Poor German)
Graviert	Engraved
Gravur	Intaglio
Groess	Size
Groschen	Unit of money (Austria)
Grossgeld	Large money (notes 1 Mark and more)
Gruen	Green
Gueltig	Valid; "good to..."
Gutschein	Voucher, Coupon

H

Haendler	Dealer, merchant
Handschriftlich	Handwritten
Hell	Light (color)
Heller	1/100 Schilling (Austria)
Hintergrund	Background, underprint
Hochinflation	High inflation (Oct., Nov. 1923)
Hochformatig	Vertical
Holz	Wood
Huelle	Envelope
Huette	Foundry; smelter

MEMORY LANE

Hanau, on the Main River, 15 miles east of Frankfurt on the Main, was home for four months, July to November.

When I think back as to how I met local collectors, I cannot say, but coin collectors seem to find each other. I was in Hutier Kaserne, at a street intersection which divided four American Kasernes. Across the street was a machine shop where Herr Rudolf Braun worked. I had visited in his home, met his lovely Frau and teenage son. The son had enough patience to color lead soldiers in flawless uniforms and embellishments.

We exchanged coins and traditional gifts. Occasionally I would step into the machine shop where he worked.

One late fall evening I asked my secretary, Frau Wagner, where there might be a stamp shop, since I knew better than to ask about a coin shop. She furnished directions, and at 5 p.m., on a misty, dark evening, I boarded a bus, got off at a certain corner and entered the shop.

A teenager was on the door side of a long glass counter. Behind the counter was the owner, patiently sorting and picking up some of many coins scattered on the counter top. He would lift one and move it to the side; lift another and move it aside. After a while, without looking up, he addressed me, asking what I wanted. I replied "Muenzen." He moved a few more coins.

"Do you like these?" he asked. "Perhaps," I replied. I had barely glanced at them. Suddenly he and the lad were in a furious exchange, back and forth, and his last word to the boy, in German, was "Fifty," and to me, "Sixty" deutschemark. I said I would take them, but next Thursday was payday, and I would return then. "Fine," he said, and put the package on the shelf.

I returned on the appointed day and got the coins. A few days later I encountered Herr Braun, who told me of a fabulous hoard of coins recently purchased by an American--n "Oh no," he said, and I said, "Oh Yes." And he said "This coin was in there," and I said "Ja," and that coin, "Ja," and "I must have that coin:" "I am sorry," I said.

A doctor had died, and his widow had refused an offer of 50 deutschemark from Herr Braun, the amount the lad got for them from the dealer. At the time the exchange rate was four to 1, a 25-cent deutschemark.

Braun became active as a porcelain coin collector and dealer. He visited us in our quarters in Giessen shortly before we returned to the US. In 1975 I visited a coin show in Berlin. There he gave me a portrait medal of himself, baked in porcelain, and an autographed book about porcelain coins which he had written, "Weisses Gold."

Regretably, we heard later that he had become involved in drugs, and died.

On paper notgeld of Hanau is seen the statue of the Grimm brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm, one standing, the other seated, in front of the city hall. And townfolk tell you, with a straight face, that on the stroke of midnight, they change places. After all, one day is long enough to stand.

The Fraktur Pricelist December 1988

Alten und-Frauenbreitungen 50 pf. (6) Nov. 1, 1921
K-14 Series \$5*

Arnsberg Sparkasse Dec. 15, 1921 50 (2); 1 Mark (2) 2
Mark (2) K-31 Series \$3

Bruchhausen/Hoexter 1 Mark May 1, 1921 K-150 \$1.25*
Burg/Magdeburg. Dec. 1, 1918 20 Mark, K- 69 \$3.75*
Dalhhausen 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark Nov. 5, 1921 K-209 \$2.50*
Diepholz 10, 25, 50 Pf Sept. 1, 1920 K-222 \$2.50*
Dueren 25 Pf June 1, 1917 K-512c 1.25*
Esens/Ostfriesland 10, 25 Pf ND (1920) K-779b Circ \$3*
Flensburg 25 (2) 50 Pf Jan. 16, 1920 K-293 Plebiscite \$3.25*
Frankfurt/Oder 10, 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark ND K-302 Series \$1.75*
Freiburg/Breisgau 50 Pf (3) March 20, 1920 K-636d \$2.50
Freiburg/Schlesien 10, 50 Pf Oct. 1, 1920 K-856d \$5*
Friedrichsbrunn/Harz 25 (2) 50 (2) 75 (2) Pf Oct. 15, 1921 K-315 \$5*

Friedrichshafen 5, 50 Mark Nov. 1, 1918 K-149 (1918) \$9
Friesack 25 (3) 50 (3) 75 (3) Pf Nov. 1921 K-317 Series \$4.25*

Fuerstenberg/Mecklenburg 10 (2), 25 (2) 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf
1 Mark (2) Aug. 1, 1921 K-322a \$4.25*

Fuerstenwalde/Spree 20, 25 (2) 50 (3) Pf K-323 Series \$3.25*
Gatersleben 25, 50 (4) 75 Pf July 7, 1921 K-330 Series \$6*
Genthin 25, 50 Pf 1, 2, 5 Mark July 1, 1921 K-337 Series \$3*
Goldap/Ostpreussen 25, 50, 75, 100 Pf To Dec. 31, 1921 K-361 Series \$3.25*

Grossenhain. 10 Pf to Dec. 31, 1920 P-S 813b \$1*
Heesen. 25, 50 Pf 1 Mark Jan. 1, 1921 K-464 \$1.75*
Horst-Emscher. 10 Pf May 1, 1917 P-S 1017 \$2*
Jena. SWE 10 Pf March 1, 1917 P-S 1039d folds \$1
Jever. 1, 1.50, 2, 3 Mark ND K-518 \$3.60*
Kahla. S-A 50 Pf (6) Christmas notes K-521i \$9*
Karlsruhe. 50 Pf April 25, 1920 P-S 1067 \$1*
Karlsruhe 20 Mark Oct. 16, 1918 K-244A 1918 book \$3
Katzhuetten 10, 20, 25 Pf Dec. 15, 1920 K-1082 Circ \$3*
Kiel. 10 Mark Oct. 15, 1918 K-249b \$2*
Kneitlingen 50 (2) 75 Pf 1 l Mark July 1, 1921 K-559 Series
Till Eulenspiegel \$2.25*

Krappitz/Schlesien. 25 Pf ND P-S 1152b \$2*
Lauenstein. 10, 25, 50 Pf June 1921 K-617 \$2.25*
Lippespringe. 25, 50, 75 Pf May 28, 1921 K-642 \$2.25*
Magdeburg. 50 Pf (4) 1921 K-683 \$2.25*
Tiefurt 25 (2) 50 (4) 75 (2) Pf Aug. 1, 1921 K-1101 Series \$6.50*

Triptis 5, 10, 25 Pf Jan. 1, 1921 K-2518c Circ \$2.25*
Vlotho/Weser 10, 25 Pf April 1921 K-1138 Series \$1.25 Warin/M
25 (3) 50 (3) 75 (3) Pf to March 1, 1922
K-1147
Series \$8*

Weilburg/Lahn 50 Pf Oct. 1, 1920 K-2585f \$1.50*
Weimar 50 Pf (3) March 1, 1921 K-1159 Series 1 worn \$1.50