The Fraktur

Vol. II. February 1989 Nr. 2

Our barge journey this month begins at Sinzig, at the mouth of the Ahr River.

In 1917, round zinc coins of five, 10 and 50 pfennig values were struck for Sinzig; the same values in 1919 in iron. The Frankfurt/Main firm of Joergun & Trefz struck 23,000 of the zinc coins; several varieties are known for the iron pieces. The same firm struck the iron coins.

The Roman name for Sinzig was Sentiacum.

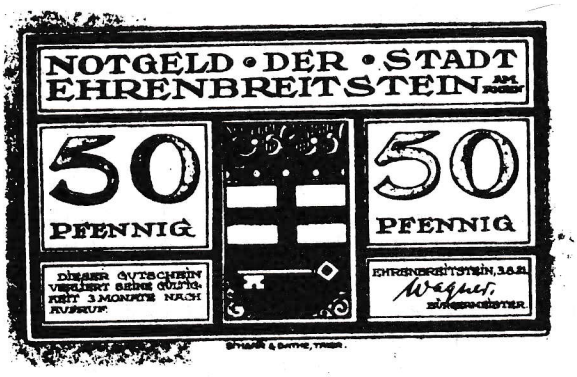
The parish church in the town was started in 1220.

Dated Nov. 9, 1923, were notes of the Sinzig Staedtisch Sparkasse in values of 500 milliarden and two billionen mark. From Sinzig, at 628 kilometer mark, we continue upriver to the next notgeld-issuing town, Andernach, KM 615.

Andernach, at 213 feet elevation, was one of the 50 forts of Roman emperor Nero Claudius Drusus Germanicus, 38 B.C.-9 A.D., called Antunnacum. Just above the town the River Nette flows into the Rhine.

Historical sites include the Royal Frankish residence from the Middle Ages, burned by French troops in 1688, as was the city of Andernach. The round watch tower was built in 1448, and the Alter-Kran, the old crane, built in 1554 and used until 1911.

Issued in Andernach were the small value circulating notgeld notes, series notes and inflation notes of 1922 and 1923.



Part of a six-note set issued Aug. 3, 1921, by the town of Ehrenbreitstein, directly opposite the entry of the Mosel River to the Rhine, is a 50-Pfennig note showing on the back the fortress as it appeared in 1700, with a commanding view up and down the Rhine from its 468-foot elevation. The note measures 95 by 60 millimeters.

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THE Notgeld CORNER

"It's the crazy number!" That is the only explanation you can get when you ask why Fasching balls begin at 8:11 p.m.

Called Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Mardi Gras in New Orleans and Lent by the Christian world, Fasching begins in Germany, officially on Nov. 11. Usually on the city hall steps the mayor proclaims the king and queen of Fasching.

After Three Kings day, Epiphany, the 12th Day of Christmas, Fasching balls will begin along the Rhine and in Bavaria on weekends, building the tempo toward Ash Wednesday.

It is all night Rosenmontag, Rose Monday, before Lent begins (Ash Wednesday is Feb. 8 this year). In Mainz all main streets into the city are barricaded Sunday at midnight, and only busses and streetcars move. A soldier who worked for me told of the streetcar conductors operating the vehicle with one hand while holding a bottle in the other.

Perhaps the satirical themes found in the Fasching parades date from medieval court jesters, who could (usually) get by with jokes about the king. These same jokes would have merited the dungeon for other court personages.

Perhaps the flavor of German Fasching can be gleaned from some of the popular song titles. "Du darfst mich lieben fuer drei tolle Tage," You may love me for three mad days; you must kiss me-it's your duty. But please, please don't ask my name!

Or "Du kannst nicht treu sein" - You Can't be True.

"Wer soll das Bezahlen" - Who shall pay all that? "Jetz trink mer noch a Flascherl Wein" - Let's Drink Another Bottle of Wine.

At the Fasching balls, no gentleman asks a lady to dance. It is ladies' choice.

Major centers with Fasching balls include Cologne, Mainz, Wiesbaden, Duesseldorf, Aachen and Munich. It is less likely to be found in Berlin and traditional Protestant centers. It all ends on Tuesday at midnight, official beginning of Lent, and tradition calls for participants to go down to the local creek or fountain and wash out their purses; after all, by this time, nothing is left in them.

Rudolf Walter Leonhardt, in "This Germny: The Story since the Third Reich," separates Munich and Cologne Fasching activities. He characterizes Munich frivolous; Cologne, rowdy, during Fasching time.

"Munich's Fasching consists of a long, long series of festivals and balls, the most elegant ones in the Deutsche Theater, the Haus der Kunst, and the Regina Palast Hotel. Decorations, costumes, a 'royal couple' (when it's over, he'll be a local business man again, and she a typist)-all can be assembled under the general heading of Fasching, whereas in Cologne such festivities are only a way of getting people under the influence of liquor, music, good spirits and beautiful women," Leonhardt writes.

He adds, "Half the people who transform Cologne, in its

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NOTGELD GLOSSARY
(German-English)

	N
Nachdruck	Reprint
Namenszug	Signature
Nennwert	Nominal value; face value
Neu	New
Neuausgabe	Reissue
Neubewertung	Revaluation
Nord	North
Notgeld	Emergency or necessity money
Notmuenzen	Emergency token
Nummer, Numeriert	Number. numbered
	O
Ohne	Without
Ohne Datum; Ohne Jahr	Undated; no year
Ohne Unterschrift	Unsigned
Ost	East
	P
Papier	Paper
Papiergeld	Paper money
Pappe	Cardboard
Perforiert	Perforated
Pfennig	1/100 Mark
Portraet	Portrait
Porto	Postage
Porto Bezahlt	Postage Paid
Porzellan	Porcelain; Biscuit
Preis	Price, cost
Preisliste	Pricelist
Privatausgabe	Private issue
Praegestempel	Die
Probe	Essay, trial, pattern
Propaganda Ausgabe	Propaganda Issue
	Q
Quadrat	Square
Quelle	Source; spring (of water)
	R
Rabatt	Discount; refund
Rand	Border, edge
Randbeschriftung	Edge lettering
Rat	Government
Rathaus	City hall
Reihe	Row, series

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last carnival week, into one huge amusement park, may be from the provinces, but the other half consists of Cologne natives, no doubt about that, and the carnival is their festival, a true folk festival still, in spite of the people whose main objective is to profit by it financially."

I am confident that there must be Fasching themes on notgeld, though I cannot cite any. Perhaps readers of THE FRAKTUR can help compose such a list.

Garstedt ND 50 Pf (2) K-329; L 391 $2*
Gebesee Oct. 14, 1921 10, 25, 50 (3), 75 Pf (6 notes) K-331; L-393 $3.25*
Geestemuende May 1921 50 Pf K-143 $1.25
Geisa/Rhoen 1921 50 Pf K-334a; L-396a $1
Gera/Reuss May 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 (2) Pf (4 notes) K-338b; L-401. $10.50*
Gernrode/Harz Anhalt Oct. 21, 1921 50 Pf (6) 75 Pf (6) K-340c; L-404 $7*
Gerolstein Dec. 5, 1921 50 Pf K-341; L-405 $4.75
Gifhorn June 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-343; L-408 $2.25*
Gnarrenburg (1921) 50 Pf K-354; L-423 $1.25*
Godesberg, Bad Oct. 25, 1920 25 Pf K-744 $.60*
Gothmund-Luebeck to Dec. 31, 1921 75 pf K-367 $.60*
Graefenthal/Thuer. 1921 50 Pf sun instead of control nr. K-373c; L-442 $11*
Greifenstein/Blankenburg to Sept. 30, 1921 50 Pf (5) K-378b; L-447 $5.50*
Greiz Sept. 5, 1921 75, 90 Pf K-380; L-449 $1.25*
Groemitz May 12, 1921 50 PF K-383; L-452 $1.25*
Grossbreitenbach to July 31, 1922 20, (2) 25, 50 Pf K-387; L-455 $1*
Grossbreitenbach ND 50 Pf (3) K-386; L-456 $1.75*
Gross-Flottbek Aug. 1, 1921 25 Pf K-390; L-460 $.60*
Gross-Nordende Sept. 1, 1921 25. 50, 75 Pf; 1 Mark K-392; K-392; L-462 $4.50*
Gross-Wirschleben Sept. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-394; L-464 I $.60*
Grundhof/Angeln April 1, 1921 50, (2) 75 Pf (3) 5 notes Plebiscite K-399b; L-470 $3.50*
Guestrow Feb. 1, 1922 50 (3) 75 (2) 100 (3) Pf K-410b; L-472 $4.25*
Hachenburg June 1, 1921 10, 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf K-404; L-475 $2.50*
Hagenow Oct. 1921 25, 50 Pf K-406a; L-477a $1.25*
Hainholz ND 25, 50, 75 (2) Pf K-407; L-479 $6*
Hallig Langeness-Nordmarsch Sept. 1, 1921 50 Pf $.75*
Haltern June 1, 1921 1 Mark K-415; L-490 I $.60*
Hamburg May 31, 1921 Zoo 50 (3) Pf K-444b, L-534 $3.25*
Hamburg July 1, 1921 Warte 50, 75 Pf; 1 Mark K-427; L-507 $1.75*
Hamburg Aug. 12-24, 1921 Sport week 50, 75 Pf; 1 Mark Series B; K-432; L-513 $2*
Hamburg Sept. 1, 1921 Sportvesreinigung 50 (3) Pf K-437; L-524 $1.75
Hamburg Nov. 4, 1921 Kolonialgedenktag 75 (4) Pf K-419a; L-498a $2.25
Hamburger Hallig to Sept. 30, 1921 50 Pf 1 Mark K-445 I; L-535 II $5.50*
Hamm/Westfalen Oct. 1, 1921 10 Pf folds K-448d; L-539 $1
Hannover Dec. 1, 1919 25 Pf K-1275e Circ $2.50*
Hannover Aug. 15, 1923 1/2 million Mark Vereinigung

niedersaechsischer Handelskammern K-2169a $1.50
Harburg/Elbe Sept. 15, 1921 50 (4) Pf K-457; L-548 $2.25*
Harzgerode July 7, 1921 25 Pf K-459cII; L-550cII $4.60
Hasloh 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf K-461b; L-552b $7*
Hausberge/Weser Jan. 1921 25, 50 Pf K-462; L-553 $4.50*
Heede to Dec. 31, 1921 75 Pf L-554 Konrad Hanf designer $1.75*
Heiligenhafen to Dec. 31, 1923 50 Pf K-468; L-560 $1.25*
Heisterbach Nov. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-470; L-561 $1.75*
Helgoland 1921 20, 25, 50 Pf K-472; L-563 $5*
Helmarshausen/Diemel May 15, 19821 50 Pf 1, 2 Mark K-473; L-564 $3.25*
Helmstedt Dec. 24, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 1.5, 2 Mark K-1277; L-565 $8*
Hemdingen Jan. 31, 1922 25 (2), 50 Pf K-474c; L-567 V $5*
Herne/Westfalen July 1, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-569 $1.75*
Herzlake/Hannover Oct. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark K-1279 L-572 $6.50*
Herstelle Nov. 1, 1921 50 Pf 1, 2 Mark K-478; L-571 $1.75*
Hessische-Oldendorf Oct. 1, 1921 25 Pf K-479 L-573 $.60*
Hoexter May 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf K-485; L-585 $1.25*
Hofgeismar/Hessen-Nassau ND 25, 50, 75 Pf 1, 1.5 Mark K-487; L-586 $5.50*
Hohenwestedt July 3, 1921 1 Mark K-1284; L-589 $1*
Hohndorf Sept. 30, 1921 50 (6) Pf K-490; L-590 $3.25*
Holnis March 14, 1920 K-491a Plebiscite $.75*
Holzminden Mayi 1, 1922 1 Mark L-592 $.75*
Honnef, Bad/Rhein Oct. 1, 1921 99 Pf K-1015; L-594 $1.25
Horn/Lippe June 1921 50 Pf K-494a; L-596 $1.25*
Husby/Angeln Dec. 15, 1921 50 Pf K-499; L-604 $.60*
Husum ND 25. 50 Pf K-501; L-606 $1.75*

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Andernach residents, cross the Rhine by ferry to Leutesdorf; across the river, and upstream at KM 608 is Neuwied, where a bridge crosses to Weissenthurm.

The Wilhelm Deumer firm in Luedenscheid struck 10 pfennig zinc and iron coins for Neuwied in 1917, and 10 pfennig iron in 1919. Varieties exist.

Small value circulating notes were issued by Neuwied, as well as values of one mark or more, the Grossgeld. Also, there were inflation notes in 1922 and 1923.

Just before we pull into Koblenz, we pass Vallendar, also on the right bank, almost hidden behind the island called Niederwerth. Inflation notes were issued by Vallendar in 1923.

As we make a small bend in the river we come to the famed "Deutscher Eck," the German corner, formed by the Rhine. At Koblenz on the left bank of the Rhine, the Mosel River empties,, and five kilometers upriver, is the entry of the Lahn River on the right bank of the Rhine.

Excitement builds with collectors on the barge, for we are entering historic, beautiful areas rich in notgeld issues and full of basic German traditions. While cargoes are offloaded and new ones brought on at Koblenze, we will take time to mosey up the Mosel (called Moselle by the the French), the Lahn and even visit a town famed for its pottery, which made earthenware notgeld!

MEMORY LANE

The Kaiserslautern Coin Club met in the Vogelweh Service club. As in Wiesbaden, I was named first president. We had almost all Americans in the club, and few juniors, as I recall.

A couple interesting experiences were reported through the club. There was the time some "collectors" spent an evening or two sorting through bags of coins at the base exchange office. It turned out that when Soviet influence came to Cuba, bags of minor U.S. coins were sent to the Soviet Union, perhaps to pay for Soviet favors, perhaps 10 cents on the dollar.

What do the Soviets do with all that baggage? They sell it to the British, perhaps 40 cents on the dollar. And the British? Rather than ship to America, they simply transferred the lot to U.S. forces in Britain, 100 cents on the dollar, and they wound up in Kaiserslautern.

Now, many of these coins had been knocking around in Cuban banks, left by tourists, perhaps back before the turn of the century. So picking was good.

Then there was the Air Force captain from Ramstein who walked into the bank in Madrid, asking, "Have you any American coins? "Come into my office," said the bank president. The banker had $5,000 worth, and it would be his expense to ship them to the U.S. before he could recover his money from them.

The captain wrote a check for half, walked out with a load, saying he would be back for the remainder. Shortly before his return to the U.S. he was selling the dregs at the coin club meetings, perhaps 55 cents for worn Walking Liberty halves.

It was always amazing to me that American collectors in Europe would pursue U.S. coins. "While in Europe collect the coins of the country you are in," I would say. "There will be no better opportunity."

Years later, at a coin show in the States, it was not unusual for a collector to come up to me and say, "I was in the Kaiserslautern Coin Club, and you told us to do this, and I did, and I am glad," or they would say, "I didn't do what you told us, and I am sorry."

A good German collector friend worked for Pfaff in Kaiserslautern. He and his wife had no children, and much interest in coins. One evening they invited me to a Fasching party (I was the only American at the event), and another time, to Christmas dinner.

The Boy Scout Coin Collecting merit badge requirements become ludicrous for Boy Scouts overseas. There is the stupid requirement that the lads collect U.S. coins of their birth year. I have been associated with troops in Mexico and West Germany, and to make the Scout collect U.S. coins of their birth year in such situations is silly. Why can't they collect coins of the country in which they are living?