

The Fraktur

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GREEK EMERGENCY MONEY OF OCTOBER 1944

BY COSTAS CHR. HADZIOTIS

(CONCLUDED FROM AUGUST 1944)

KALAMATA

Kalamata was one of the first towns evacuated by the Nazi armies. On September 17, 1944, the local resistance corps entered into the town while the High Commissioner of the Hellenic Government, Mr. Panayote Kanellopoulos, then minister of reconstruction and later prime minister, arrived on October 4, 1944.

On the arrival of the local forces in the town, four bank notes were issued on September 20, 1944. These notes were in nominal values of 10, 25, 50 and 100 million drachmai.



Dated Sept. 20, 1944, was a 25 million drachmai note of Kalamata, first city to issue Greek notes after the occupation

PATRAS

Patras, the historic capital of Peloponnesus, was evacuated by the Nazi armies on Oct. 4, 1944. The commissioner of the Hellenic Government arrived two days later.

When the Commissioner of the government arrived at Kalamata, a new bank note was printed with a nominal value of 200 million drachmai. This new note was supposed to replace all previously circulating bank notes.

On Oct. 7, 1944, two "Treasury Bills" were put into circulation, first a 100 million drachmainote, and later, one of 500 million drachmai.



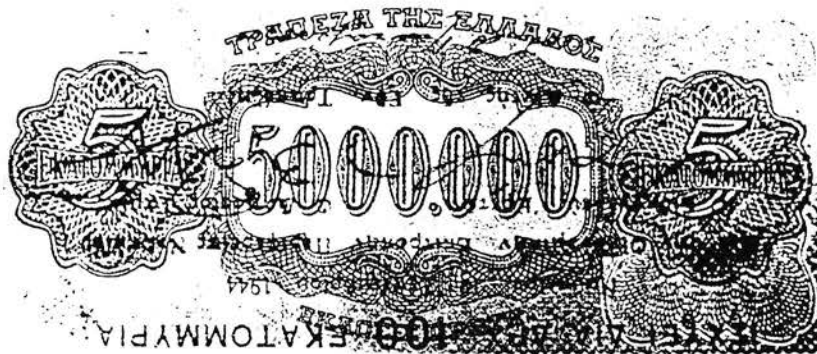
Patras Treasury Bill of Oct. 7, 1944, was valued at 100 million drachmai, similar to the Kalamata notes.

Legends and mottoes used are practically identical to those appearing on the notes issued for Kalamata.

NAFPLION

Nafplion was evacuated by the Nazi forces on Sept. 14, 1944. However, as fighting in the surrounding district continued, the town was practically isolated and no communication existed even with the neighboring town of Argos.

On Sept. 19, 1944, the manager of the local branch of the National Bank, Mr. Th. D. Pantazopoulos, had suggested to the Nomarch (governor), that the only solution would be the issue of local emergency paper money.



Worthless 5,000,000 Drachma notes received an upside-down overprint dated 19 September 1944 valued at 100,000,000 drachmai, (Original note Pick 128)

Following this suggestion, an ad hoc committee, the "Financial Committee of the Nafplion District," was created. It immediately proceeded with the issue of the needed emergency notes. This currency consisted of inflationary paper money already useless because of its low face value, 5,000 and 5,000,000 drachmai, which was overprinted with new much higher values of 100,000,000 and 500,000,000 drachmai.

None of these notes was ever returned to the Bank of Greece for exchange

The complete story of the Nafplion issues was described by Mr. Pantazopoulos in "The Treasury Shortage in Nafplion during the Occupation and the issue of a local currency," published in Nafplion in December 1945 and in Athens in 1963.

CEFALLONIA-ITHAKA

Cefallonia and Zante, two of the seven main islands forming the Ionian Islands, were liberated on Sept. 17, 1944. A small corps of British Forces landed on Sept. 19, and the Minister-Commissioner of the Hellenic Government, Mr. Leon Makkas, arrived at Argostoli, the capital of Cephalonia, on Oct. 4, 1944.

The emergency notes printed in Cephalonia and declared to be legal tender for both islands, Cefalonia and Ithaka, were issued on Oct. 6. They were printed in a very primitive and poor way. The paper used was of the worst quality. Even so, it was the only paper available on the island.



Dated Oct. 6, 1944, were 100 and 500 million drachmai notes issued in Argostoli, Caphalonia (Cefallonia), also legal tender on the island of Ithaka.

Information about these notes was supplied by Mr. Gerassimos Apostolatos, a resistance leader during occupation of the islands by Italian and German forces.

Mr. Apostolatos was condemned to death by a Nazi military court. He escaped and later worked on a history of the Nazi occupation of the islands.

CORFU

Corfu was the last Greek island liberated from the Nazi occupation. On Oct. 17, 1944, the Commissioner of the Hellenic Government was able to land and on that same date, following a decree, issued a 100,000,000 drachmai treasury note.



The Corfu branch of the Bank of Greece issued a 100 million drachmai note, Oct. 17, 1944.

On Nov. 11, 1944, the Hellenic Government, which had arrived in Athens on Oct. 18, withdrew from circulation the inflationary money issued during the Nazi occupation. A new drachma was introduced, fully convertible into English sterling.

The parity of the new drachma was fixed at 50,000,000,000 old ones. Despite all government efforts, the monetary situation of the country was again deteriorating day by day, and the continuing inflation severely reduced the purchasing value of the new drachma.

Only six days before the introduction of the new drachma, on Nov. 5, 1944, the government had put into circulation a 100,000,000,000 drachmai bank note, the highest value that ever existed in Greece.

Thus, most of the emergency bank notes issued in October 1944 under the circumstances described above, were never returned by their holders to the Bank of Greece for exchange, since they soon became valueless.

The tragic events of December 1944 completed the ruin of the new drachma. The bloody communist revolution, which broke out in that month cost the Hellenic nation hundreds of innocent lives and incalculable damages to the suffering country. As this happened, the last preserved and surviving emergency bank notes disappeared.

Now, all October 1944 emergency bank notes are rarities. Collectors interested in Greek paper money or history, although prepared to pay very high prices, cannot find them. The despised, when issued, paper money with the such short-lived circulation, takes strange revenge: when "legal tender," it was put into bags and burned by the people as the easiest and cheapest way to light fires.

Today, when they are no longer "legal tender," these ugly and primitive pieces are considered rare museum items. The famous Latin proverb SIC TRANZIT GLORIA MUNDI has sometimes a quite inverse sense.

This feature by Mr. Hadziotis appeared in a pricelist of Spink & Sons, London, dated November 1973.

* * *

"Paper money issued in the last two years by some of the break-away Russian republics (Ukraine, Belosuss, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia) amounts to emergency money," Dr. Igor v. Victorov-Orlov said on a recent visit to Iola.

Dr. Victorov had attended the annual convention of the American Numismatic Association in Detroit, Mich., in late July before coming to Iola.

He explained his comment about the recent paper issues of the former Russian states by saying that as inflation has made an issue obsolete, new, higher denominations had to be issued, one issue on top of another.

Victorov, now retired from the Chelyabinsk State Pedagogic Institute, was a professor of linguistics and head of his department in the teachers college.

On his journey to the United States, from Chelyabinsk to Moscow, Victorov and Lisa were met at the Moscow airport by a Moscow resident, a long-time paper money collector who is a recipient of THE FRAKTUR.

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Neighbors



Keeping busy is way of life

By HEATHER McDONALD
of the Journal

Courtney Coffing couldn't have more energy if he were a teenager.

The 73-year-old Iola man keeps involved in as many activities as possible because "if you keep your mind and body busy, you live longer," he says.

A member of the Iola Lions Club for almost 10 years, and secretary for six, Coffing, with help from his wife, Wanda, takes care of meeting notices and attendance records, types minutes, contacts members for meetings and helps organize some of the club's events, such as the recent Iola Car Show.

"It's real busy," he says. "You get (telephone) calls day and night."

Being the club's secretary is just one aspect of his life, however. Coffing writes monthly and quarterly publications and takes classes to further his education within the Iola United Methodist Church where he is a lay speaker.

But that's not all.

One of the most "unique" activities he's involved in, according to Wanda, is collecting bier deckels, a type of coaster used at taverns in foreign countries.

Why is that strange?

Coffing doesn't drink beer. "I hate the stuff," he says.

He also collects coins and money, a hobby that steered him toward publishing *The Fraktur*, the only monthly publication dealing with emergency money, he says.

"It's the greatest thing," he says. "People who collect (money) have a hard time finding items. I do this and send it out to Austria, Germany, all over."



Courtney Coffing

Though started in July of 1988, he had the idea for years before, he says. He finally got to develop the idea after work in publishing companies: Krause Publications where he was editor of the *Bank Note Reporter*; and Amos Press in Sidney, Ohio, where he was the international editor of *Coin World* and editor of *World Coins* magazine from 1965 to 1983.

Coffing also served in World War II. He is post commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9748, Iola.

He doesn't talk much about the war. "I survived," he says.

He was with the U.S. Marines, 21st Marine Regiment stationed at Guam. He was a mortar man, he says, and had to shoot them all night long sometimes to illuminate the front line so soldiers could see if anyone was attacking.

"You see an awful lot of things, dead people, injured people," he says. "One aspect of Iwo Jima you never hear about though

"It was February (1944), and it was cold," he says. "But it was uncomfortable to sleep at night because of the heat. The ground was so hot."

His unit put down cardboard for insulation, but it didn't help. So crate box walls were placed on the ground with the cardboard on top for air circulation.

Then he laughs. "It was still warm."

Coffing also was an instructor at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, and later with the U.S. Army, as a civilian, he was an education adviser in Germany.

In between, he found time to marry Wanda 48 years ago, and raise a son, Lawrence, who works at the Veterans Administration Hospital in North Chicago, Ill. He and Wanda also adopted a 15-month-old girl in the 1960s in Germany, Catharine Elizabeth, who now is married to Fred Borgmann and lives in Iola.

It's a full life, Coffing says, but it's worth it.

"I think what you can do, you should do," he says.

THE FRAKTUR PRICELIST

SEPTEMBER 1994

Sagan/Schlesien Nov. 14, 1918 5 Mark K-429 punch cancelled
\$4.50

Schoenberg/Ratzeburg ND 25, 50 L-1165b Reutergeld \$1.50*

Schwaan ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1173b Reutergeld \$2.25*

Schwerin/M ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1184 Reutergeld \$2.25*

Sorau/N.L. 1918 5 Mark K-464 \$3

Stassfurt Feb. 1, 1919 5, 10 Mark K-469 \$7

Sternberg ND 25, 50 Pf L-1237a Reutergeld \$1.50*

Stollberg/Erzgebiet June 1, 1917 50 Pf P-S 2435c \$1

Stollberg/Erzgebiet Nov. 15, 1918 5, 20 Mark K-473 \$7

Tanna/Reuss Jan. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2468d \$.75*

Tannroda July 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1278 \$1.25*

Tangermünde April 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1276 \$.60*

Tarnowitz/Posen ND 75 Pf L-1280 \$.65*

Tegernsee June 1, 1921 10, 20, 30, 40 Pf L-1281 \$5*

Tessin ND 10 L-1283 Reutergeld \$.75*

Teterow ND 50 Pf L-1284a 50 Pf Reutergeld \$.75*

Teterow ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1284b \$1.50*

Tettngang Dec. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2477 \$2*

Teuchern March 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1285 \$1.25*

Thale/Harz 1918 10, 25 Pf P-S 2478b \$3*

Thale/Harz ND - to Dec. 31, 1921 25 Pf P-S 2478n \$1.25*

Thale/Harz Jan. 1, 1921 10 Pf L-1288a \$.60*

Thale/Harz Walpurgis 1921 5, 25 Pf L-1288c \$1.25*

Thale/Harz ND - to Dec. 31, 1922 5 Pf L-1288f \$1*

Thale/Harz 1921 3 Mark L-1288g Wildman No control # \$.75*

Thale/Harz Johanni 1921 75, 100 Pf L-1288 \$1.25*

Thannhausen ND 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2488 \$1.50

Thannhausen ND 2 Pf P-S 2488e Karton \$1

Thesdorf ND 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1289 Red control # \$10*

Tiefurt Aug. 1, 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf L-1291 \$2.50*

Tiengen/Baden Oct. 26, 1923 10 Milliarden Mark K-5170d \$5

Tilsit Nov. 12, 1921 50, 75 Pf, 3 Mark L-1292 \$6

Tingleff (Denmark) April 10, 1920 50 Pf L-1293a Plebiscite
\$1.75*

Tinum/Sylt April 1, 1921 1 Mark Plebiscite L-1294 \$2.50*

Tirschenreuth Sept. 1, 1923 500,000 Mark K-5173a \$2.75

Tirschenreuth Oct. 1, 1923 100,000,000 Mark K-5123e \$2.75*

Todtnau/Wiesental Oct. 31, 1921 50 Pf L-1295 \$1.25

Todtnau/Wiesental Nov. 4, 1923 100 Milliarden Mark K-5180f \$3

Tonndorf-Lohe March 30, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-1297a
\$3.25*

Tonndorf-Lohe July 1, 1921 1 Mark (2) L-1297c \$1.25

Torgau/Elbe March 31, 1920 50 Pf folds \$.75

Torgau/Elbe Feb. 10, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1298a \$2.50*

Torgau/Elbe Feb. 10, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1298b \$2.50*

Torgau/Elbe Feb. 10, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1298c \$2.50*

Torgau/Elbe Nov. 1, 1922 100, 500 Mark K-588 \$6

Trappstadt Dec. 31, 1920 10, 25 Pf Karton L-1302a \$2.50*

Trappstadt Jan. 18, 1921 50 Pf Map L-1302b \$1.25*

Traunstein/Bayern Aug. 10, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-5189
\$7.50

Trebnitz/Schlesien Nov. 5, 1920 25 Pf P-S 2501i \$.75*

Treffurt/Werra June 15, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2506d \$2*
Treffurt/Werra June 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (5) Pf L-1305 \$5*
Treffurt/Werra Dec. 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1305b \$4*
Treuchtlingen ND (1918) 50 Pf P-S 2510 \$1 tear
Treuenbrietzen July 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1306 Luther-Schiestl \$4*
Treysa ND 50, 75 Pf L-1307 \$6*
Triberg/Baden July 25, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2512 \$1*
Triberg/Baden Oct. 9, 1918 5, 10 Mark cancelled K-483c \$8
Triberg/Baden Nov. 13, 1918 5 Mark K-484 \$1.25
Triberg/Baden Nov. 15, 1918 K-483 Radar Control Nr. \$12
Triebes Feb. 1, 1919 50 Pf P-S 2516d \$1.25*
Triebes March 7, 1921 1, 5, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2160 \$3*
Triebes Oct. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1308 \$2.75*
Trier June 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2517e \$1
Trier January 1921 50 Pf P-S 2517i \$1.25*
Trier July 1921 50 Pf P-S 2517k \$1.25*
Trier Aug. 14, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-5229 \$5
Triptis/Thuer. July 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf P-S 2518c \$2.25*
Triptis/Thuer. July 29, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-1313 \$1.25*
Trittau ND 50 (2) L-1314 \$2.50*
Trostberg ND 25, 50 (2) Pf, 1 Mark L-1315 \$10
Tuttlingen ND (1918) 50 Pf P-S 2524 \$2*
Uelzen/Hannover ND 25 (8), 50 (8) Pf P-S 2527g \$10
Uerding/Rhein Feb. 20, 1921 25 Pf P-S 2528c \$.45
Uetersen ND 25, 50 Pf L-1319 \$.75
Uk (Denmark) 1920 50 Pf L-1320 Plebiscite \$3*
Ulm/Donau Oct. 22, 1918 50 Pf, 1 Mark P-S 2530 \$2.25
Unterweissbach July 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf P-S 2536b \$2*
Uslar ND 25, 50 L-1321 Karl Klanke artist \$1.25
Vachta Oct. 18, 1921 75 (6) Pf L-1322 \$4*
Vaethen-Tangerhuetten Aug. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1323b \$4*
Vegesack May 13, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-1325a \$1.25*
Vegesack Dec. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1325b \$1.75*
Verden/Aller Dec. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L--1326 \$2.50*
Vilsbiburg ND 1, 2 Pf P-S 2545 \$1.50*
Vinsebeck May 15, 1921 1 Mark L-1328 \$2.50*
Visselhoevede/Hannover June 1, 1921 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1329 \$4*
Vloth/Weser April 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1332 \$1.75*
Volkstedt/Saale Sept. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1334 \$2.50*

METAL NOTGELD

German metal Notgeld available as a lot of about 170 pieces, \$1,200. A listing of the collection is available to serious inquiries.

*Uncirculated

K-Keller Catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-Pick-Siemsen

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