

The Fraktur

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December 1998

PLEBISCITE SCHLESWIG

(As new issues emerge, even today, journalists are eager to describe them as they become available to the public. This was the case of Dr. Keller, in Munich, receiving information about the new Notgeld issues on the Danish border. We quote from four of his issues of *Das Notgeld*.)
(Continued from November 1998)



By Dr. Arnold Keller

April 1920 page 5 (continued)

Sonderburg, too, issued attractive bilingual notes of 10- and 50-Pfennig, depicting views of the castle, with the Danish text limited to a few lines. The notes of Apenrade and Hadersleben we have not seen as yet.



In a humorous style, Flenburg was depicted on its 25-Pfennig note dated Jan. 16, 1920, with the plebiscite shown as a tug-of-war. In the center, with three-color printing, is shown the municipal coat of arms, flanked on both sides by the two parties pulling on the rope. The text below reads "Jungs holt fast" (Boys hold on!).

The designer was Holtz. The underprint on the face is the first verse of Martin Luther's "Eine feste Burg" (A Mighty Fortress).

The corresponding 50-Pfennig note shows a road sign pointing to "Deutschland" and to "Danmark" (NB. To be sure, Danmark would have been more correct), in front of it a family seemingly opting for the road to Germany.

All of these notes demanded high prices immediately after their appearance and some may be considered great rarities. A.K.



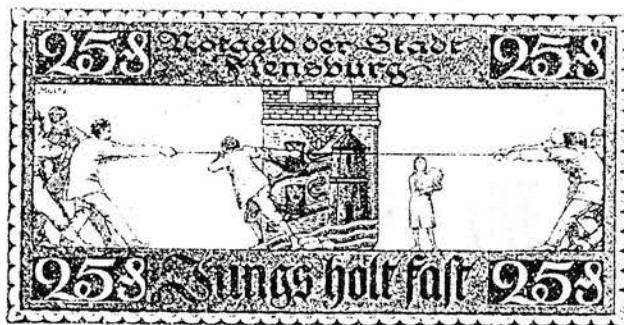
+

Monthly Notgeld Quote. . .

Sonneberg S. M.
50 Pfennig Feb. 20, 1920
P-S 2386d

Here comes the jolly
Old Fellow!





Flensburg Jan. 16, 1920 25 Pfennig L-355; Mehl 369

May 1920 page 25

Now we also have the notes of Apenrade (P-S 50) which we have mentioned already, 1920, 25- and 50-Pfennig. They bear on the face the German name of the town, denomination and coat of arms; on the back is a picture of the Apenrader Foerde, below AABENRAA.

Active Broacker issued yet another one Mark note, this time in pure Danish, Feb. 10, 1920, one Mark. In the middle are crossed English and French flags, PLEBISCIT SLESVIG,



Apenrade Abbenraa Undated 25, 50 Pfennig P-S 50



Broager Broacker Feb. 10, 1920 1 Mark L-180b; Mehl 188

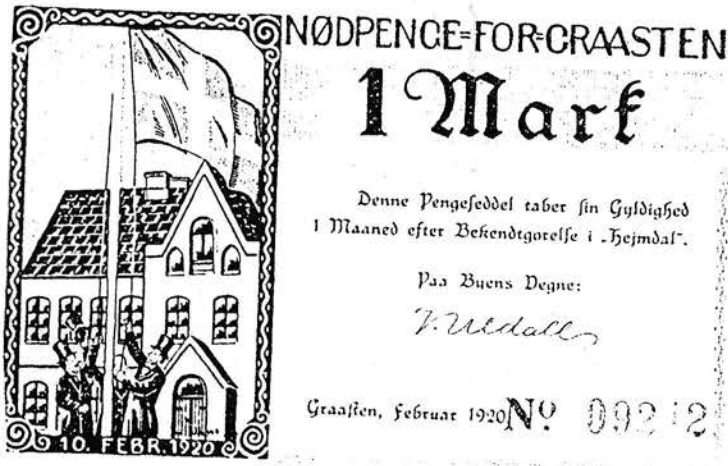
In the four corners are escutscheon with the Danish, German, Swedish and Norwegian colors. On the back at left is the church of Broacker, at right the coast, and in the background, the ocean. In the foreground is a large Danish flag held by two lions with the Danish legend.



Tondern Feb. 10, 1920 20 Pfennig L-1296; Mehl 1330

From Tondern is a 20-Pfennig note dated Feb. 10, 1920, with the coat of arms, and below, PLEBISCIT SLESVIG, at left German text, at right, Danish text. On the back, the Danish text could be translated "Wie war das schoen in alten Tagen, da konntes man sich einen Punsch schmucken lassen fuer - 20 Pfennig - im weissen Schwan." (How wonderful it was in the old days, one could enjoy a punch for - 20 Pfennig - at the White Swan); at right, a picture of the common room at the White Swan: A man next to the wall sips from a steaming glass.

Dr. Keller indicates that issuance of further notes of Tondern can be expected.

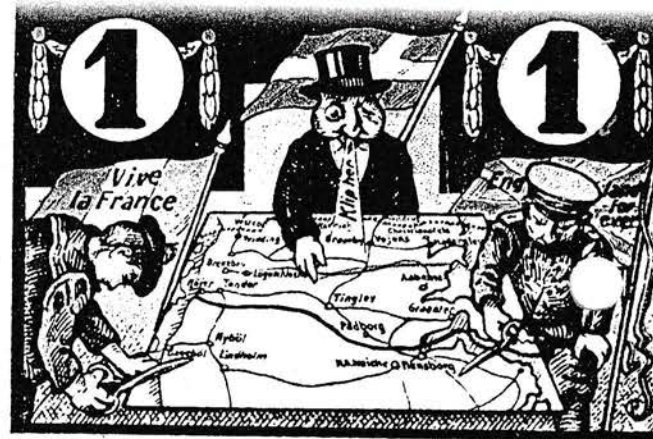


Graasten Gravenstein February 1920 1 Mark L-452; Mehl 466

In February 1920 Gravenstein (now Graasten), issued a purely Danish one Mark note. At left, two citizens hoist the Danish flag; at right is the necessary information. On the back in an oval is a pond with swans, surrounded by trees, and in the background, the palace Gravenstein. The picture shows a wreath of fruits adorned with red and white garlands. The three-color printing is beautiful.



Christiansfeld Kristiansfelt March 1920 50 Pfennig L-221; Mehl 229



Gramby March 1920 1 Mark L-450a L-1296; Mehl 464

June 1920 page 39

(Composed from reports and samples by copies from Heinz Mueller)

More and more pieces join the notes which have been reviewed in issues Nr. 1 and Nr. 2 of *Das Notgeld*.

All these notes owe their origin to the conflict about North Schleswig. In most cases there is really no need for small change but the issues are of a speculative nature which is already evident by the denominations (besides low values, also 1, 2 and 5 Mark).



Tondern February 10, 1920 25 Pfennig L-1296 Mehl 1329

Collectors and persons entitled to vote drove the prices up; for some pieces really absurd amounts have been asked, but should refuse unreasonable demands. The printing was mostly so large that it was impossible for all the pieces to be out of circulation. Even now, some towns give their notes to collectors.

Christiansfeld (L-221; M-229.1) issued a Danish 50-Pfennig note.

Gramby (L-450; M-464.1) issued a Danish one Mark, very original. We don't have those notes yet so we will comment on them later on, also the rare values 50-Pfennig and two-Mark of Gravenstein-Graasten. One Mark has already been reported.

Classified Advertising

GERMAN-FRENCH world paper Notgeld. Over 10,000 pieces in stock! Large free lists. Ian A. Marshall, Parkway Mall Box 62509, 85 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada MIR 5G8.

Panning for Gold in the Rhine

The alchemists of the Middle Ages tried to make lead into gold.

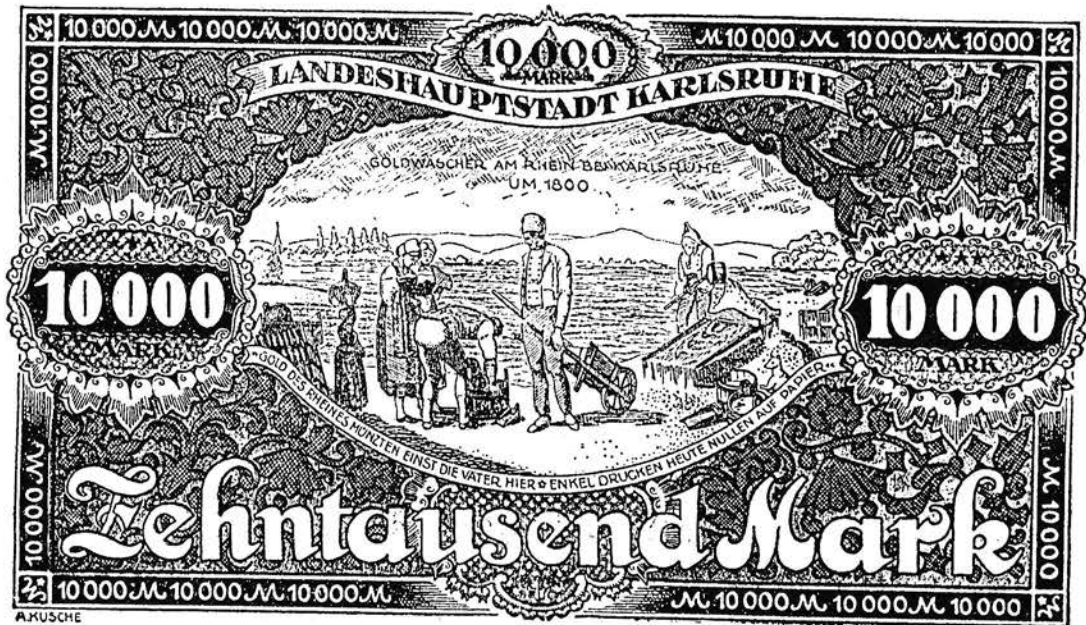
Gold was found on Cherokee land in Georgia in 1835, at Sutter's Mill in California in 1848, in Australia in 1851 and at the Klondike in 1896 on Bonanza creek.

But panning for gold in the Rhine River in Germany?

Gold coin collectors will tell you of the German gold pieces with the legends DANUBE, ISAR, INN and RHINE rivers to denote the source of the gold. More plausible are the Hannover issues marked HARZ, since the gold came from mines in that area.

But about 1800 one could go to the banks of the Rhine River to find "Goldwascher" gold washing or panning, on the Rhine. The scene is recalled on the 10,000 Mark note of Karlsruhe dated February 1923, Mueller Nr. 2250.

And that brings up a tale spun by Wilhelm Eglseer. It seems that a Swiss dealer visited in Karlsruhe during a coin show and purchased a stack of the 10,000 Mark notes. He returned to Switzerland, where sales of the notes went well.



Karlsruhe February 1923 10,000 Mark Mueller 2250

He wrote the German source, asking on the postcard for more of the "Goldwascher" notes. The postal clerk noted the message, read it as a request for "Geldwascher" notes, observed the high denomination, and promptly notified German customs authorities of a possible connection to money washing, the German equivalent of money laundering, which implied hiding the source of drug or ill-gotten money.



*Lend, Austria Undated 80 Heller
Elevation, 2090 feet, some 40 miles
south of Salzburg on the Salzach River*



Speyer July 27, 1923, 5,000,000 Mark Keller 1923 4834f

The story might offer several lessons: don't order on postcards; make clear the writing of gold and gold; and stick to dealing in Notgeld.

Incidentally, in 1800, 10,000 Mark would have bought many gold coins. The 10,000 Mark note of Karlsruhe is catalogued by Dr. Keller in his book of 1922 issues, number 293.

About 50 miles north of Karlsruhe, on July 27, 1923, the city of Speyer issued a 5,000,000 Mark note with another view of the goldwashers along the Rhine, a view of the Speyer cathedral in the background, Keller's 1923 inflation work, number 4834f.

And while we are on the subject, we can turn to an 80-Heller note of Lend/Salzburg, which depicts a goldwashing operation. Apparently soil was removed from the creek and hillside and rinsed for what gold would remain after the washing, as shown on the note.

THE NOTGELD KORNER

December 1998

We have noticed the Neustadt/Meckenburg series of eight notes with colonial themes offered in a mail bid sale for an estimated value of \$30. Check your catalogs before going out on such a limb.

Comments about a Notgeld club continue to be heard. This is not something I am promoting and as Cal Coolidge said, "I do not wish to serve." But I will not throw out my mailing list willy nilly. This is the way I see it working.

A volunteer comes forward, says "I will organize it." Then his/her name and address will be published in THE FRAKTUR, and readers interested can contact him/her.

The name, dues, meeting dates and purpose can then be established.

Classified Advertising

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* Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-S Pick-Siemsen Circulated issues

G-Gieger Das deutsche Grossnotgeld 1918-1922.

M-Mueller, Die Notgeldscheine der deutschen Inflation 1922

Among recent acquisitions have been a variety of Reutergeld: please update your needs.

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

The Notgeld Hotline 1 (800) 547-1067