The Fraktur

Vol. II January 1989 Nr. 1

After Christmas festivities our barge is again underway, soon passing the wine-growing village of Unkel, 190 feet elevation, at kilometer marker 636 on the right bank.

It was in this area of the Rhine that the "Unkelstein," a reef of basalt in the river, was blasted to clear the obstacle for navigation.

In 1947 notes of five, 10 and 50 pfennig were issued by the Hotel Muerl in Unkel. In Unkel-Scheuren, just north of Unkel, Josef Schreiner, a baker, issued notes of five, 10 and 50 pfennig, undated, but in 1947.

Our next village on the left bank is Remagen, kilometer marker 634. Roman ruins can still be found from their fortress, Rigomagus. The Catholic church dates back to 1246 A.D.

Stadt Remagen issued 25 and 50 Pfennig notes, Dec. 27, 1918, with a green border and red printing around the coat of arms. The printer was M. Dumont Schauberg, Cologne.

In 1918 the Ludendorf railway bridge was completed across the Rhine at Remagen. During World War II a bungled attempt to destroy it by the Germans sped the break through of the U.S. Ninth Armored Division, beginning March 7, 1945. It became the first allied bridgehead of the war.

In 1164 Frederick Barbarossa, according to tradition, presented the head of revered St. Apollinaris, Bishop of Ravenna, to Archbishop Reinald von Dassel, Cologne. The head was being conveyed up the river, along with the relics of the Magi, when by a miracle, the vessel stopped in the middle of the river at Remagan, and refused to continue. The head was taken to a chapel on the Apollinarisberg, and the vessel continued.

In Remagan is the headquarters of the Apollinaris company, and home of the manufacture of the glass bottles of "Polly," as the British call the mineral water. It is distributed worldwide from the spring at the juncture of the Rhine and the Ahr rivers.

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THE Notgeld CORNER

A scholar has pointed out to us that we misspoke in the August issue of THE FRAKTUR about Gold notgeld as a "figment of the imagination."

Cited was a federal law in Germany which established the Goldpfennig and Goldmark, along with other items of constant value, such as wheat, rye, electricity and water.

In "Das Deutsche Notgeld Katalog das Wertbestaendige Notgeld (Goldnotgeld) 1923/1924," Dr. Keller cites a portion of the law of Oct. 23, 1923.

Somewhere along the line, I prepared a display of Goldpfennig and Gold mark issues, and will quote from my display explanation:

"To establish a monetary unit of constant value in a time when inflation was changing the value of the German mark almost daily, a unit of account denominated in gold was established when the German government on March 7, 1923, issued Treasuiry bills payable in gold.

"The gold mark was computed at 1/2790 grams of fine gold.

"As early as 1921, Professor Eugen Schmalenback, Cologne University, had suggested an accounting system based on gold.

"For official accounting purposes, 4.2 gold mark equaled $1 in United States funds. The law of Aug. 14, 1923, authorized a stable currency loan of 500 million gold mark, with provision for taxes to be collected in gold mark values also.

"Even so, the 'money with a constant (or stable) value' was purely fictitious, merely paper issues without any cover.

"Through most of 1923 the mark was not used as a unit of account but only a medium of exchange, and soon, even for this purpose, became intolerable. The goldmark proved to be a bridge between the worthless mark and the introduction of the Rentenmark, which effectively ended the rampant inflation."

It is true the Goldmark values were provided in law; if the Germans felt better because the word gold was used, and had exchange values at the pre-war rate of 4.2 Mark to $1, fine; if anyone had delusions they could take a box full to the bank and come away with gold, they were to be disappointed. The goldmark was a legal entity, but without gold.

You can't make a silk purse from a sow's ear. And a rose by any other name smells just as sweet (Romeo & Juliet).

In Kaiserslautern it became a weekly ritual for a tap on my door about 9 a.m. in Building 1040 of the Vogelweh BOQ. Airman Larry Degenhart was on his way to town from Ramstein.

We would go on into the downtown area, checking on our usual coin haunts, each Saturday morning.

We were looking for different coin items, so there was no conflict. After a couple hours we would wend our way to Zur Muenze, a somewhat modernistic Gasthaus. Its claim to its name came from paper money from around the world, behind the bar, and a coffee table loaded with coins, covered with glass.

Shortly after my arrival in Kaiserslautern I got wind of a local notgeld collector. He dropped a note, inviting me to visit him. He lived downtown, just off the main bus line. The first time I couldn't follow his directions.

The second time he was waiting for me and escorted me past some back fences and doors, and into his second floor apartment. He had both metal and paper notgeld, plus other coins, and an interest in chess.

We stayed in touch even after I moved away. One day I called him and said I had permission to visit the Karlsruhe Mint. Would he like to go with me?

He rose to the offer like a trout after a May fly. It turned out to be his first Mint visit. It took a darned American to get him there.

And then there was the time I wanted to visit a notgeld collector in Sulzbach, in the Saarland. Did he want to go? I had lunch with my friend and 10-year old daughter, then the two of us buzzed down the Autobahn.

Now, Herr Max Herrmann was no ordinary German notgeld collector. He had been wounded in the early days of World War I, and returned home with a gimpy leg, to pursue a career in the postoffice.

And he immediately began to collect notgeld, carrying on an extensive correspondence. He built a collection of metal, leather, porcelain and other forms of notgeld. He had envelopes to which would be affixed four our five full sheets of stamps, necessary to mail a letter in the 1923 inflation period.

I introduced this pair and then stood back, like watching the Kilkenny cats go at it, tails tied and tossed over the clothes line.

It was after dark when we left, and my friend and I stopped for a bite of supper. He said, "I cannot thank you enough. I have never enjoyed myself more."

It was also in Kaiserslautern where we formed the Kaiserslautern Coin Club. Kaiserslautern involves the greatest American population outside of the United States, when you count service personnel who live there. They are Army and Air Force serving at Ramstein Air Base, Sembach Air Base, Miesau, Landstuhl, kaserns in Kaiserslautern and listening posts in a 10 or 15 mile radius. Too many things happened of interest to bypass them, so more next time.

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THE FRAKTUR pricelist, from June through December 1988, listed notes from 293 German towns and 12 towns of Denmark. We have selected notes to be offered in coming months from towns not previously offered, beginning with this January 1989 issue.

Subscribers to THE FRAKTUR should be aware that we have refused to sell notes to nonsubscribers. This may not be good business practice. We do appreciate the loyalty of our readers and with a limited supply of notes, believe they should have first choice.

You will notice Lindman (November issue) numbers are being used with THE FRAKTUR January pricelist. We hope to be able to supply these books in quantity by summer.

NOTGELD GLOSSARY
(German-English)

I

Inschrift	Inscription

J

Jahr	Year
Jahreszahl	Year datelk~

K

Kantinenmarke	Cantine token
Karton	Cardboard
Kartusche	Cartouche
Kastenstempel	Box-shaped handstamp
Katalog	Catalog
Klebemarke	Adhesive stamp
Kleingeld	Small money (under 1 Mark)
Komplett	Complete
Kontrollmarke	Check mark
Kontrollzahl (KZ)	Serial letter
Konvention	Convention
Konversions-Kasse	Conversion note office
Konzentrationslager	Concentration Camp
Kopf	Head
Kopfstehend	Inverted
Kopie	Replica
Kranz	Wreath
Kreis	Circle; county
Kriegsausgabe	Wartime issue
Kriegsgefangenenlagergeld	Prisoner of War money
Kuenstler	Designer; Artist

L

Landkreis	County
Laenge	Length
Leer	Blank (plain back)
Legende	Legend
Links	Left
Liste	List

M

Makulatur	Printer's waste
Mangelhaft	Impaired
Mark	Unit of money (Germany)
Mehrfarbig	Multi-colored
Messe	Fair
Metall	Metal
Million	Million
Mitte	Center
Monnaies de Necessite	Emergency money
Muenzzeichen	Mint Mark
Muster	Pattern, Sample
Muster	Essay, specimen

Ahlen/Westfalen Oct. 10, 1918 10 Mark K-6 $2.50*
Alfeld/Leine Hannover July 1, 1921 50 Pf K-8; L-11 $.55*
Allenstein April 1, 1921 10, 50 (2) Pf K-10; L-13 $1.75*
Alten u. Frauenbreitungen Nov. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-14 $.55*
Altenburg Nov. 15, 1918 5 Mark K-11 Punch cancelled $2
Altona Dec. 12, 1921 25 (2); 50 (2); 75 (2) Pf K-20;L-29a $3*
Aurich/Hannover to June 30, 1921 50 Pf K-45; L-56 $2.25*
Babenhausen 1920 50 Pf K-100c $1.25*
Baden-Baden Sep. 19, 1919 50 Pf K-134 $.75*
Ballenstedt, Kreis 30, 25 (2); 50 (3); 75 (2); 100 Pf P-S 50. 3.60*
Barby 1920 25 Pf $1.25*
Bautzen May 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf K-119e $1.25*
Bayreuth Oct. 1, 1920 25 Pf K-122c $1.75*
Belgern/Elbe Nov. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-57; L-68 $1.50
Belgard ND 25 (2); 50 Pf; 2 Mark K-56b; L-67 $3*
Benrath/Rheinland Aug. 15, 1923 1 million Mark K-303a $1.25*
Bensheim Dec. 31, 1920 50 Pf K-136a $2.25*
Berchtesgaden Sept. 24, 1918 K-138b; L-73 4.25*
Bergisch Gladbach July 1, 1917 25, 50 Pf K-148 2.25*
Bernburg May 1, 1920 10 (worn) 50 Pf K-190b $1.50
Berncastel-Cues Dec. 1, 1920 25 Pf K-193 $1.25
Bernstadt/Schlesien ND (1920) 10 Pf K-198 $1.25
Bethel ND 1 Pf K-202a I $1.75*
Biedenkopf Aug. 15, 1920 25, 50 Pf K-219b $2.50*
Bielschowitz to Dec. 31, 1917 25, 50 Pf K-222 $6
Bielschowitz Aug. 12, 1914 1 Mark K-25 tears $1
Bischofswerder July 1, 1920 50 Pf K-232G $1.75*
Bismark July 20, 1920 50 Pf K-284 $.75*
Bitburg April 1, 1920 25 PF K-285g $1.25*
Blankenburg, Bad Thuer. July 23, 1921 50 (5) Pf K-83 $6*
Blankenhain/Thuer. ND 10 Pf, 1 Mark K-88.1; L-114 $2.50*
Bleckede ND (1921) 50 Pf K-302b 1.50*
Bocholt/Westfalen Jan. 1, 1918 25 Pf K-262 $2.25*
Boenningstedt ND (1921) 75 Pf K-101; L-126 $1.75*
Bodenwerder/W NOv. 1, 1921 50 Pf K-326L $1.25*
Bokelsess to Dec., 31, 1921 60 Pf L-129 $1.50*
Bolkenhain/Schlesien ND (1922) 25, 50, 75 Pf; 1, 1.50, 2 Mark K-105; L-130 $9*
Brehna July 1921 10 Pf K-124; L-152 $.50*
Buer/Westfalen Oct. 23, 1923 10 billionen Mark K-659h $3.25
Buergel/Thuer. May 28, 1921 10, 25 (2); 50 (2); 75 (2) Pf K-160; L-192 $3.50*
Celle ND 25 Pf; 1/2 Mark Harry Trueller K-373 $2
Ditfurt July 1, 1921 10, 25, 75 L-265a $2.25*
Dornburg Sept. 1, 1921 25 Pf L-271 $.60*
Erfurt April 9, 1920 10, 20, 25, 50, 75 Pf P-S 275d $3.50*
Gilgenburg/Ostpreussen 10, 50 Pf July 11, 1920 Plebiscite $1.75*
Gotha Feb. 8, 1923 1,000 Mark $1.45
Gransee/Mark ND 50 Pf K-375 $.50*

Gross Salze (now Bad Salzemen) Aug. 10, 1920 25 pf K-824a $.60*
Guhrau (1914) 10 Pf K-137b $1.75*
Iserlohn/Westfalen July 1, 1921 1 Mark (5) $3*
Jerichow March 5, 1920 25 Pf K-1447 $1*
Kellinghusen April 1921 (Satire against Versailles Treaty) 50 Pf K-540 $1.50*
Kellinghusen April 1921 50 Pf (2) K-540c $2*
Lage/Lippe Feb. 1021 25 Pf K-602 $.75*
Lahr/Breisgau Baden Oct. 18, 1918 20 Mark K-279a $2.25*
Langenaltheim Feb. 27, 1917 25 Pf L-733 $1*
Langenwiesen/Thuer. 1921 25 Pf K-614 $.50*

Prisoner of War

Friedrichsfeld ND 1, 5, 10 Pf K-50D $4.50*
Golzern/Muelde Feb. 1, 1916 1, 5 Pf K-56b $2.75*
Gross-Poritsch Feb. 1, 1916 5, 10 Pf K-60 $2.75*
Guben ND 1, 25, 50 Pf III Armee Korps K-61 $3*
Merseburg Jan. 1, 1916 1 Pf K-90 $1*

*Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs
L-Kai Lindman, "Das Deutsche Notgeld: Katalog der Serienscheine, Spendenquittungen und Bausteine 1918-1922"
P-S Pick Siemsen catalog
Please do not send cash with order; you will be invoiced.

(Continued from Page 1)

We will briefly mention the Ahr river, which rises in the Eifel mountains west of Mutscheid, and joins the Adenauder Bach at Duempelfeld. A few miles south of Adenau is the Nuerburg, 2,225 feet. Surrounding the mountain today is a 28-kilometer course known as the Nuerburgring, a treacherous auto race course. Just east of Adenau at 2,448 feet is the highest of the Eifen mountains, the Hohe Acht.

Towns along the Ahr river which issued notgeld include Ahrweiler, Altenahr and Neuenahr, now Bad Neuenahr.

Wines produced in the area are given the general term "Ahrbleichert," (pale red wine of the Ahr). The Spaetburgunder (Pinot Noir) grapes are produced by 2,000 wine producing families on vineyards of an average of an an acre and a half, from 16 villages around Ahrweiler in a 16-mile area.

In this area of our barge travels, New Year's Eve is not particularly notable. But in the larger cities, it is a lusty celebration, with younger folks having no intention of closing down an hour or two after midnight; they welcome the sunrise still celebrating. And a special beer is brewed for the occasion.

Speaking of celebrations, next month we will go into Fasching.