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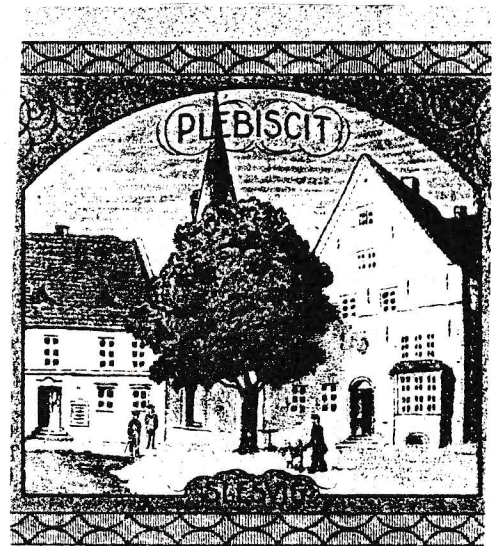
NOTGELD COUNTRY...REVISITED

The Danish Border

By Hermann Krause

(Continued from March 1990)

In Hadersleben the business part of our trip was soon finished. We turned around and headed in a southwesterly direction toward Tondern (Tønder). None of my companions was keen about Notgeld but everybody was more or less interested in history, art or architecture.



A tree stands in front of the church steeple in downtown Tønder, Denmark, as viewed on a five-Mark note dated Feb. 10, 1920, shown at right. The same sight is available to the camera-carrying tourist today, revealing the clock on the tower. Notice the number of panes in the windows vary, perhaps a bit of artistic license.

Consequently, no one objected when I suggested another brief detour to see the famous landmark, the monastery church of Luegumkloster. It was just a few kilometers off our route but well worth the extra distance. The imposing red brick structure was seen contrasting against a blue sky; it was exactly the same picture as on the Luegumkloster 50-Pfennig note of 1920.

And it appears entirely unchanged, not only during the 70 years since the note was printed, but for more than 800 years since it was built.

Tondern is a small town, picturesque and quaint. One scene I recognized at once was the street intersection from the back of the 5-Mark note of 1920. Even the tree in the center of the picture is still there, yet of the same size, with the church steeple behind it.

Moegeltondern, just a few minutes' drive away, is not less colorful. But that fact was ignored by the creator of the local Notgeld.

Just south of Tondern we crossed back into Germany and continued on to Niebuell. This is another town familiar to collectors of Notgeld but the designs are "nontopographical" and feature no landmarks with which we can compare.

Only 15 minutes later we reached the west coast and climbed up to the top of the dike. And there, in front of us, glittering in the light of the late afternoon sun, stretched the North Sea.

Those dark lines out there just above the horizon are the islands of Foehr (with its biggest town Wyk) and behind it Amrum (with the towns of Wittduen and Norddorf).

Further to the left and closer to the coast are the Halligen (plural of Hallig) of Oland and Langeness. A Hallig is an unprotected, small or even tiny island, sometimes sustaining just a single Frisian farm. And every one of those place names out there in the sea is familiar from our Notgeld collections.

I would have enjoyed following the coastal road south at least to "the gray city by the sea," as poet Theodor Storm called his hometown Husum, but it was getting late and because of other commitments for the evening we had to return to Flensburg.

Luckily, two days later my brother-in-law had to attend to some business in Husum; would I be interested in coming along? I most certainly would.

There is a Husum Notgeld set of four notes, dated September 15, 1921. The 20-Pfennig note pictures on the front in a medallion the church in classical style; it still dominates the market square as it did a century and a half ago.

The 100-Pfennig value shows a row of old houses on the same market square and an almost identical illustration decorates the 50-Pfennig note of Husum's second (undated) Notgeld set. The row of houses is still there and it still looks the same, except that the Rathaus (courthouse) on the left was rebuilt and somewhat modified in 1971.

Directly in front of the church stands a stone fountain adorned by a larger-than-life statue of a Frisian girl holding an oar in her right hand. This statue is one of the landmarks of Husum. Artist Max Boettcher, who designed both Notgeld sets, put a picture of the girl on the undated 25-Pfennig note, but he moved her from the fountain to the seashore with the Husum skyline in the background.

With some extra time on our hands, we decided not to take the shortest route back home but go for another side trip. Herbert wanted me to see Friedrichstadt, about 15 kilometers to the south and I was only too willing, since Friedrichstadt is another "Notgeld town."

It was settled in the 17th century by refugees from the Netherlands who were seeking religious freedom. They built canals, arched bridges and narrow houses with step-gables reminiscent of the architecture in their homeland. Today, boat trips through the town on the old waterways are the main tourist attraction.

There are three Notgeld notes dated 1921. On the front of the 25-Pfennig note is a view of the Old Mint. Appearing on the 50-Pfennig piece is the massive Lutheran church. And the beautifully decorated Paludanus house appears on the 75-Pfennig note.

All of these buildings date from the 17th century, are still there and still look the same as on the Notgeld notes. Friedrichstadt was the last of our Notgeld stops in Schleswig-Holstein but an especially rewarding one.

To be continued

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On page 8 of the December 1989 issue of THE FRAKTUR there was mention of the use of paper Notgeld as membership cards of the International Emergency Money Society.

We contacted Arlie Slabaugh, who produced "The Emergency Money Collector" from 1948 to 1949.

Mr. Slabaugh wrote, "I do still have my IEMS membership card. It is 1941, and it is not Notgeld; is the Austria government note for two-Kronen, 1922 issue, which had a blank reverse and the membership card is printed on that side.

"Judging by the scrapbook in which I found it, I must have joined in 1940 as I have a 1940 membership card (regular type card). But I was in correspondence with members before that.

"I never attended meetings. I was involved in the IEMS trading set-up, although I think I was mainly buying as I had not yet accumulated a lot of duplicates of emergency money. I also corresponded with Europe, as late as early 1940. It was still possible for censored mail to come from the mainland through the British blockade.

"After the war I renewed old ties.

"Those were the days and I enjoyed them immensely. I had Keller's original printed catalogs; also Funck's and the like, part of which I had bound in one volume. A year or so ago it turned up in a book auction; at least it sounded like mine."

Hamburg. Alte Diele to Dec. 31, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-499-b \$11*
 Kampen/Sylt. Sep. 1, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark L-656-b set \$5.40*
 Landsberg/O-S. May 24, 1921 50, 75 (2), 100 Pf \$12*
 Lassen ND 25 Pf Nr. 00057 P-S 1676a \$.50
 Lauenburg/Elbe (1919) 10 Pf K-1203d \$1.60*
 Lehesten/S-M Nov. 11, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 1220 \$2.25*
 Leipzig Stadt to Dec. 31, 1918 10 Pf P-S 1224a \$1.50*
 Leipzig Land Sachsen to Dec. 31, 1918 10 Pf P-S 1235 \$1*
 Leipzig to Dec. 31, 1920 50 Pf K-1224e \$.50*
 Leipzig. to June 30, 1922 50 (3) Pf blue, brown, grey
 Volkhaus L-765 \$7.25*
 Leopoldshall/Anhalt July 25, 1921 25 Pf L-773 VI \$.65*
 Leutenberg/Thuer. 1921 25, 50 Pf L-775 \$1.25
 Lich Aug. 20, 1923 10 Million Mark K-3243 2.25
 Lichtenfels Aug. 1, 1918 50 Pf K-1240b \$2.50
 Lichtenfels Feb. 23, 1920 50 Pf K-1240 Heinz Schiestl \$2
 Liebenwerda Oct. 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-779 \$4
 Liebenwerda Sept. 16, 1922 100, 500 Mark K-367 \$5
 Liegnitz 1920 10 Pf P-S 1252c \$.75*
 Lindau/Bodensee Nov. 30, 1918 50Pf/Overprint 5 Mark K-295
 \$2.50
 Lindau/Bodensee to Oct. 1, 1919 10 Pf P-S 1264 \$.75
 Lindau & Weiler Oct. 10, 1918 5 Mark K-296c \$.50
 Lingen April 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-781 \$2.25*
 Lindenberg/Allgaeu May 1, 1918 50 Pf K-1266c \$2.25*
 Lingen ND 10 Pf; April 1, 1920, 25, 50 Pf L-781 \$2.25*
 Linz/Rhine April 1, 1919 50 Pf \$1*
 Lippe/Detmold Nov. 13, 1918 50 Pf K-1275 \$1.50*
 Lippstadt/W Dec. 16, 1919 50 Pf K-1276a \$1
 List/Sylt July 21, 1921 L-784 \$2*
 Lobeda 1921 10, 50 Pf L-786 \$1*
 Lobenstein Sept. 15, 1919 10, 25, 50 Pf K-1280b \$2.25*
 Lobenstein March 15, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-787b \$2.50*
 Loebau/Saxony to Dec. 31, 1918 10, 50 Pf K-1282 \$2*
 Loebejuen Feb. 25, 1921 1 Mark K-648 \$.75*
 Loessnitz/Erz. to June 30, 1921 10, 20 Pf \$15
 Lorch/Rheingau Aug. 20, 1920 50 Pf L-793a \$.50
 Lorch/Rheingau June 15, 1921 50 (2) Pf Map L-793 \$1*
 Luckenwalde Dec. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-795 \$.50*
 Ludwigslust March 1, 1922 75 Pf L-796b \$1*
 Luebecke/Westfalen May 14, 1920 5, 10 Pf 1/2 Mark
 K-1806a \$3*
 Luebecke/Westfalen Dec. 8, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-797 \$1.25
 Luebeck July 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S-1301d \$1.50*
 Luebeck Sept. 1-11, 1921 50 (5) Pf Set Nordischewoche L-805
 \$3*
 Gothmund-Luebeck to Dec. 31, 1921 75 Pf L-801 \$1.25*
 Luebeck May 1, 1921 50 (4) Pf \$2.50*
 Luebeck to Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-808 \$6*
 Luebeck to Dec. 31, 1921 50 Pf L-802 \$2.50*
 Luebeck Oct. 15, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-806 Set L-806 \$6.50*

By Hermann Krause

Air mail copies of Kai Lindman's book were received in February, giving us an opportunity to compare the 326-page soft cover book with the first edition. Readers of THE FRAKTUR will recall the second edition was mentioned in issues November 1988 and July 1989.

In my opinion, the new edition is the best ever published on the subject and indispensable for any collector who was ever attracted by these colorful, pictorial notes.

Of the various types notes of German emergency money, Notgeld, issued between 1914 and 1947, the Serienscheine are by far the best known, the most popular and the easiest to obtain. The name "Series" notes derives from the fact that many of these notes were issued in the form of sets or series.

The first Series catalog appeared in 1953, written by Dr. Arnold Keller, Berlin, the dean of German Notgeld. A second edition followed two years later. Only 150 copies were printed of each edition, creating a void not filled until 1975, when Albert Pick and Carl Siemsen wholly revised the catalog, printed by the Ernst Battenberg firm in Munich.

Inconceivable as it may seem, even now, nearly 70 years after they were printed, unknown issues and note varieties are frequently coming to light. The first edition by Lindman appeared in 1987, only a few hundred copies which were soon sold. The edition brought to light new information which was incorporated into the current edition.

The original Lindman work had 246 pages and 1,427 issuing entities. The current volume has 326 pages, 1,440 issuing entities. This can be compared to the 874 issuing entities listed by Dr. Keller in his first effort. Counting varieties, size differences, color variations, watermarks and serial number oddities, the notes cited by Lindman total well into five figures.

Varieties listed may represent differences in value from \$1.20 for a common note to \$18 for the odd one; in other cases the differences can be worth 30 times or more.

Some 200 scarce Notgeld issues are illustrated throughout the volume. Notes are priced between one Mark and 300 Mark values, with current exchange rates for the Mark near 60 cents in U.S. funds. A four-page English translation of the introduction is available for books sold in the U.S.