

The Fraktur

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NOTGELD COUNTRY...REVISITED

Thuringen

By Hermann Krause

(Continued from April 1990)

It was a few days later that the four of us crossed into East Germany. The stern-faced East German border guards were polite but strict. We were ordered out of the car, our suit cases were checked and the ladies even had to show the contents of their handbags.

But there was no objection to the Camcorder I carried. I was allowed to tape anything except, of course, military objects and railroad installations such as stations, trains, tracks or bridges. Keep in mind, this was June 1989 and there was no indication yet of the revolutionary events which were to take place five months later.

By late afternoon we reached Bad Blankenburg, the town where I was born, spent my childhood and where some relatives yet lived.

I will not bore you with details of our daily travels and events but will limit my report to the "then and now" of the subjects pictured on Notgeld.

Bad Blankenburg is known to collectors for its series of five notes (108) showing scenes from a historical open air play staged in 1914. The illustrations are reproductions of photographs. This set is of a very unique, personal significance to me: Pictured among the players is my father. He



Rising above Bad Blankenburg is the castle ruin of the Castle Greifenstein, shown on a 50-Pfennig note good until Sept. 30, 1921. The ruins command a view of the Harz Mountains.

is one of the young men in the group of people kneeling before the dying Count Guenter.

This set was the first Notgeld I ever knew because it was the only one kept in our house as a memento.

Bad Blankenburg still is a quaint town with cobblestoned streets and a murmuring fountain on the market square. The main claim to fame for the village comes from the fact that the educator Friedrich Froebel founded here in 1840 the world's first kindergarten. Froebel has been honored by a monument, by a street named after him and by plaques on some houses.

His portrait does appear on 10 and 50-Pfennig Notgeld coins dated 1921.

High above the town looms the 750-year-old Greifenstein castle, the location where the above-mentioned play was performed. The Greifenstein (455) has a Notgeld set all its own showing a view of the ruined castle.

The view today is somewhat different from the 1921 note illustration because the watch tower, which collapsed centuries ago and is missing from the 1921 picture, was rebuilt in 1928. As a child I used to roam through the castle grounds and even knew the old castellan, Oskar Knabe, the man whose signature appears on the notes.

Not far from Bad Blankenburg, in a remote forest valley, lies the community of Paulinzella (1205). Only about 150 live here and the handful of houses is dominated by the splendorous ruins of the old Benedictine convent church. It was built in the 12th Century and has been dilapidated since the 16th century.

The charm of this romantic place has forever been captured by the artist Georg Koetschau with the set of six Notgeld notes he designed. There are many hundreds of Notgeld artists, some renowned and others practically unknown. The prolific Georg Koetschau has always been my favorite.

As I walked between the rows of towering columns I became suddenly aware that every detail still looks the same as it does on the Notgeld notes.

A 10-minute drive straight south from Paulinzella and through dense forests brought us to the small town of Koenigsee (705). Its only imposing structures are the huge church and the Rathaus in late Baroque style. Not surprisingly, both buildings decorate the 25 and 50-Pfennig Notgeld notes dated 1921.

I am equally impressed by another feature not apparent on the Notgeld illustrations: the large, cobblestoned market square, of which the Rathaus forms one side, is not level but sloping to such a degree that it becomes essential to secure the hand brake of the car when parked.

Of course, I am biased, and why shouldn't I be? To me, one of the most beautiful places on earth is the Schwarza River valley, particularly between Bad Blankenburg and Schwarzburg. The clear, rippling river winds through the deeply cut valley; the slopes on both sides are covered with pines and firs.

To be continued

Marktheidenfeld 1921 50 Pf Kommunalverband P-S 1346d \$2.50*
 Marten to 1924 1 Goldmark K-307a Punchcancelled \$2
 Massow/Pommern Oct. 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 1348 \$1.25*
 Maulbronn Dec. 31, 1918 10, 20 Mark K-326 1 \$6
 Maulburg Oct. 27, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-3483a \$3*
 Mayen June 1919 25, 50 Pf blue over stamps K-1350 \$2.50*
 Mecklenburg-Schwerin ND 25, 50 Pf K-1351b \$1*
 Medebach Sept. 2, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-851 \$1*
 Meiningen May 10, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 1356c \$1.25*
 Meiningen July 31, 1921 30, 50, 75 Pf L-853d \$1.50*
 Melle Feb. 23, 1917 50 Pf K-1359a \$3.50
 Melle Nov. 15, 1920 25, 50 Pf K-1359f \$2.50*
 Mellrichstadt ND (1921) 25 Pf K-1361d \$1.25*
 Memmingen Nov. 1, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1363c Smiling moon \$1*
 Meppen May 31, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-859 \$2*
 Merseburg ND (1917) 1, 2 Pf Leuna Werk, BASF K-1366 \$2.25*
 Merseburg May 1, 1921 5, 10, 20, 25, 50 (6) Pf Set L-860 \$5*
 Meura/Thuer. May 1, 1921 10 Pf L-862 \$.50*
 Meuselbach/Thuer. Oct. 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1369 \$1.50*
 Miesbach/Bayern Dec. 29, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-864 \$2*
 Mindelheim April 1920 5, 10, 50 Pf \$5*
 Mittelwalde ND 25, 50 Pf P-S 1385 \$2.25*
 Moelln ND 25, 50 (2), 100 Pf L-870 Till Eulenspiegel \$6.50*
 Moenchen-Gladbach May 1, 1917 20, 50 Pf K-1825a Map \$5*
 Mohrunen Nov. 10, 1918 5, 10, 20 Mark K-335 \$6*
 Monschau July 1, 1921 25 (2), 50 (3), 75 Pf L-872, 873 \$3.50*
 Montabaur Dec. 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf L-874 \$1.50*
 Muecheln July 1, 1921 50 Pf L-878 \$.50*
 Muehlberg/Elbe July 1, 1921 10 Pf Schiestl L-879 \$.65*
 Muehldorf to March 31, 1921 1, 2 Pf \$1*
 Muehlhausen/Thuer. Oct. 31, 1918 5, 10 Mark K-342 \$4
 Muehlhausen/Thuer. April 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-881 Set \$3.25*
 Muellheim/Baden to Dec. 31, 1918 25 Pf \$4.50*
 Muelsen-St. Jakob Sept. 2, 1921 50 (8) Pf L-882b set \$3.50*
 Muenchenbernsedorf ND 10, 25 Pf ND L-886 \$2*
 Muennerstadt Dec. 24, 1920 10 Pf L-887 \$1.75*
 Muennerstadt Jan. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-887bIII \$1.50*
 Muenster/Westfalen Aug. 24-27, 1921 50 Pf fire truck L-888 \$3*
 Muenster/Westfalen Aug. 1, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-891 \$1.75*
 Muenster/Westfalen Aug. 1, 1921 2 Mark (4) J. Dominicus L-891 \$2.25
 Muenstermaifeld Aug. 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark (2) L-894 Burg Eltz; local woman/s hair style \$2.75*
 Nachterstedt June 1, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-897 \$2.25*
 Namslav/Schlesien Oct. 1, 1918 10, Pf K-1842g \$2.25*
 Namslav/Schlesien Dec. 17, 1920 10 Pf P-S 1841 \$.50
 Naugard/Pommern ND 50, 75 Pf, 3 Mark L-898III Konto 1 green signature stamp Control Nr. 3.5mm \$7.50*
 Bad Nauheim June 1, 1917 K-1843 II \$2.25*
 Naumburg/Saale Jan. 1, 1920 50 (12) Pf L-901 II Control

numbers come in various sizes \$7*

Neckargemuende Oct. 1, 1917 P-S 1847 \$2.25*

Neheim/Ruhr ND 2, 5 Mark L-904 Louis Koch \$5*

Neidenburg/Ostpreussen 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark P-S 1849 \$1.25*

Neinstedt/Harz July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-906aI \$2.25*

Nesselwang Nov. 1918 20, 25, 50 Pf K-2430b \$4*

Netzschkau/Sachsen ND 5, 10 Pf P-S 1854 \$2.50*

Neubrandenburg July 2, 1921 25 (2), 50 (3), 75 (2) Pf
L-908b \$4*

Neuenahr, Bad Dec. 31, 1921 50 Pf L-911 \$2.25*

Neuendorf (Coblenz) Oct. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-227 \$1.25*

Neugraben-Hausbruch Aug. 15, 1921 40, 60, 75, 100 Pf L-912
\$2.50*

Weuhaldensleben Aug. 1, 1919 10 Pf P-S 1863 \$.75*

Neuhaus/Elbe April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-919 \$1.75*

Neuhaus/Oste Feb. 1921 25 Pf L-920 \$.65*

Newhaus/Rennweg March 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-921b \$1.50*

Neuhaus/Westfalen Nov. 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf, 2 Mark L-918 \$4*

Neumarkt/Schlesien Oct. 15, 1919 50 Pf P-S 1869 \$1*

Neumuehlen-Dietrichsdorf to Dec. 31, 1922 10, 25 Pf L-926b
\$1.25*

Neumuenster April 23, 1920 50 Pf P-S 1870 fold \$1

Neundorf/Anhalt Sept. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-928II
\$1.75*

Neuoetting/Inn ND 50 Pf P-S 1874 \$.75*

Neuruppin July 1921 25, 50 (3) Pf L-932 \$5

Neusalz/Oder ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-933 \$1.75*

Neuss May 1, 1919 10. 25 Pf P-S 1881e \$3.25*

Neustadt/Coburg 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf Heinz Schiestl \$2.50*

Neustadt/Holstein ND 50 Pf K-1884e white; building \$2*

Neustadt/Holstein ND 20 Pf city seal L-922 \$.50*

Neustadt/Holstein 1920 25 Pf Plebiscite L-922 IV \$1.75*

Neustadt/Holstein to July 31, 1921 25 (2), 50 (4), 75 (2) \$5*

Neustadt/Mecklenburg Nov. 24, 1921 75, 99 Pf \$1.75*

Neustadt/Oberschlesien Aug. 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf \$1.75*

Neustadt/Orla July 1, 1921 10, 50, 75 Pf L-938a \$1.75*

Neustadt/Orla Sept. 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-938b \$1.50*

Neustadt/Rennweg Aug. 20, 1921 50 (11) Pf L-921 \$6*

Neustadt/Ruebenberg May 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-940 \$3.50*

Neustadt/Saale 1918 50 (2) Pf P-S 1891 \$1.50*

Neustettin Oct. 1, 1922 50 (2) Pf L-941 \$1.25

Neustrelitz Oct. 1, 1920 25, 50 (3) Pf L-942 \$2.25*

Neuwied Oct. 20, 1919 50 Pf; 10 Pf Jan 31, 1921 P-S 1902 \$2*

Niebuehl April 20, 1920 1 Mark L-943 \$1*

Nied/Main ND (1917) 1/2 Mark; 1 Mark Lebensmittel \$2.50*

Niederlahnstein May 1, 1917 25, 50 Pf P-S 1905 \$1.50*

Wartha Aug. 11, 1921 25, 50, 75 (3) Pf L-1346b \$15*

Wettin/Saale March 15, 1921 25 Pf L-1384b \$9*

Wyk/Foehr ND 50 Pf L-1423 \$4.25*

*Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog P-S Pick-Siemsen

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Hofstetten bei Brienz 1933-1934

By A.R.G. James

In the midst of the world economic depression, a series of five denominations of script were issued by the town of Hofstetten, Switzerland, dated June 6, 1933.

In the period of little money in circulation, the notes issued by the town can be likened to the American Depression script.

When officials of the small municipality of Hofstetten near Brienz decided to issue the money, they were alone in the country of Switzerland in this venture.

The National Bank of Switzerland was established in 1905. Private banks in Switzerland ceased to issue notes in 1910. The National Bank Swiss notes are even used in the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Other limited note issues in Switzerland include unofficial notes and metal tokens issued workers on the St. Gothard railway tunnel, issued at Brunnen-Sisikon and Arth Goldau, in the Canton of Schwyz. The notes and tokens were not recognized by the cantonal governments and further issue was prohibited.

The Hofstetten notes were issued in denominations of two, five, ten, 20 and 50 Franken. The total face value of all denominations is not known, though one source puts it between 4,000 and 5,000 Franken.

Perusal of the following known serial numbers shows there could be some disparity with this estimation:

2 Fr	5 Fr	10 Fr	20 Fr	50 Fr
2066	577	514	86	
2127	1018		132	
			165	
			279	
			320	
x2	x5	x10	x20	x50
4254	5090	5140	6400	=20,884 Franken

The majority of notes recorded have the word ENTWERTET (cancelled) stamped on them. The 10-Franken note also exists with the overprint NUR ZUM BEZUG VON LEBENSMITTELN BERECHTIGT (valid only for the purchase of living necessities).

Workers who were paid daily, like those working in the woods, were paid with these notes. Food could be purchased with the currency in all the shops and it was also accepted in nearby Brienz, although that town did not belong to the same political district.

The notes were printed by offset on an off-white paper with blue fibers. The two-Franken note is printed in red ink with typed serial numbers in black. The five and 20-Franken

notes are printed in black ink with black serial numbers.

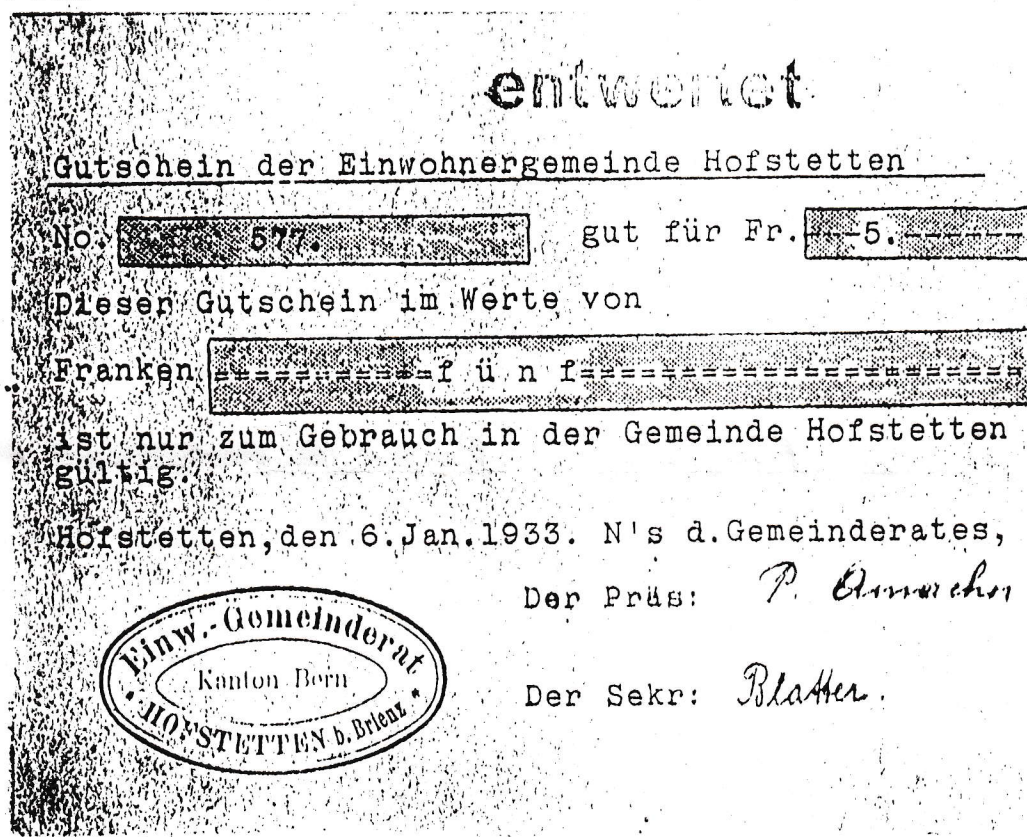
The oval stamp of the municipality on the lower left of the notes are also in black. Of interest are the security features found in the panels for the amount in words and numbers have a shaded background except immediately under the amount. The signatures appear to have been signed separately for each denomination as each are slightly different.

It should be emphasized that the note issue had no connection with the Swiss National Bank nor with the cantonal government. It has been indicated that the notes were an issue of the canton to finance certain construction projects.

This is substantiated by an account of what happened a year later when the larger town of nearby Brienz applied to the capital in Bern for permission to issue similar notes, "but permission was refused by the National Bank, and therefore Hofstetten was ordered to burn all their currency as well. A show was made of burning the notes but all they burned were old newspapers."

The notes were not destroyed, yet kept by the municipality of Hofstetten today. Examples are also held in a museum in Basel.

(This feature was printed in the "Australian Coin Review, March 1990, pages 12, 14)



Deigning to issue their own emergency money were the citizens of Hofstetten, near Brienz, Switzerland. Brienz is northeast of Interlaken on the Brienz See (lake).