

The Fraktur

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Nr. 3

We pause in our barge trip at Coblenz to wind 195 kilometers up the Mosel River to Trier, by bus, passing one of the finest wine growing regions of Europe. Steep slopes come down to the river's edge.

Of course, one can follow the Autobahn, slicing through the Hunsrueck mountains to Trier, just 100 kilometers, but we are planning to stop and test the bouquet of wines of the region. We do not wish to offend tee-totalers by discussing wine. To learn of German ways, the part played by wine should be understood.

Many paper Notgeld notes and coins carry vine and grape themes.

Private issue of Georg Balmer, Traben-Trarbach, shows a castle ruin at left, green; printing is brown. His rubber stamp signature is purple.



A trip to a museum displaying Roman artifacts will show metal pruning shears, not so different in style than the pruning tools used today. This is evidence that the Romans participated in viniculture in the region. Numismatic evidences of the Romans are found each spring, following plowing and rains, as Roman coins are often found in quantity.

September and October are the primary harvest months. Men can be seen coming down steep hillsides with a basket on their backs, laden with grapes. Wine testing locations beckon the tourist to inhale the bouquet of the current vintage and roll a bit over the tongue.

A massive engineering project was completed in the 1960s, as a series of dams and locks were built on the German Mosel, to facilitate barge traffic from the Rhine to the interior of France, and with France picking up most of the tab! In France, many canals connect other rivers.

Notgeld-issuing towns along the Mosel in Germany, and trade names of wine from the area, are listed here, with an * following if the wine is likely to be found in US stores.

TRIER Dom Avelsbacher; Avelsbecher-Herrenberg
 SCHWEICH
 BERNCASEL-CUES B-Doktor; B-Badstube; B-Pfalzgraben
 GRAACH G-Himmelreich; G-Muenzlay; G-Goldwingert; G-Homberg
 ZELTINGEN-RACHTIG Z-Schlossberg; Z-Himmelreich;
 TRABEN-TRARBACH Trarbacher-Schlossbesrg; T-Hohnersberg
 ZELL Zeller Schwarze Katz*
 COCHEM

From Trier, the Mosel continues seven miles to Karthaus, where the Siure or Sauer River enters from the north, forming the German-Luxemburg border and flows northwards to Wallendorf, West Germany.

On up the Mosel, at Apach, France, the border with France is encountered, and the Moselle continues in France to its source on the Balton d'Alsace, 4,036 feet, near le Thillot, south of Remiremont. The source is only about 33 miles west of the Rhine.

General notgeld issues from these towns mentioned above include:

TRIER Zinc 5, 10, 20 & 50 Pf tokens of Herman Haas
 Zinc 1, 5, 10, 50 coins, undated; 1919 Iron 10 and 50 Pf coins, showing Porta Nigra (count the windows!)
 Buchdruckerei Gebr. Koch, Feb. 15, 1920 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf
 Haus Schieffer No date, 10, 25, 50 Pf.
 Sommerfest der Handwerker- und Kunstewerbeschule July 30, 1921 50 Pf., 1, 2, 3 Mark
 Stadttheater ND 50 Pf, 11 Mark
 Also POW and encased postage issues, Separatist, 1923.

SCHWEICH Handel und Gewerb Oct. 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf.
 BERNCASEL-CUES 19th Div. (Texas, Oklahoma) T/O on notes 10, 25, 50 Pf.
 Dec. 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf.
 Aug. 8, 1923, 100,000 Mark to Nov. 13, 1923, 1 billion Mark; also, encased postage stamps

WEHLEN Issues from 9 private firms
 GRAACH ND Matthias Kieren 10, 25, 50 Pf.
 ZELTINGEN-RACHTIG 17 private issuers 1919
 TRABEN-TRARBACH July 15, 1921 Buchhandlung Georg Balmer 25, 50 Pf.
 Haus Klostergarten to Dec. 30, 1921 25, 50 Pf.

ZELL (See under Cochem)
 COCHEM Landkreis April 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf.
 Oct. 1, 1923, 500 Millionen, 1 Milliarden Mark
 Cochem, Simmern, Zell inflation issues, from Aug. 10, 1923, 500,000 Mark, to Oct. 18, 1923, 10 Billion Mark.

WHAT IS 'THUERINGEN'?

By Hermann Krause

"How is it," one collector queried recently, "that Dr. Arnold Keller listed the town of Jena in the Serienscheine catalog as belonging to Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach. Then in the 1923 book on inflation issues, it is attributed to Thueringen?"

Or take Koenigsee; at first, it was attributed to Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt and later to Thueringen. And there are hundreds of similar examples.

This is a good question. At least, it is reasonably asked by persons not specialists in the complex history of this particular German area.

Thueringen (Thuringia) is a geographical area in the very center of Germany, hence, its nickname, "The green heart of Germany."

Its boundaries are roughly defined by the Werra and Saale rivers in the West and East, while the northern and southern boundaries are formed by the mountain ranges of the Harz and the Thuringian forest. Up to the end of World War I the landscape of Thuringia was superimposed with a number of small duchies and principalities.

A map of the region at that time actually looked like a colorful carpet of patchwork. These were the patches:

- Grand duchy of Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach
- Duchy of Sachsen-Meiningen
- Duchy of Sachsen-(Coburg)-Gotha
- Duchy of Sachsen-Altenburg
- Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
- Principality of Schwarzburg-Sondershausen
- Principality of Ruess aeltere Linie
- Principality of Ruess juengere Linie

In addition to, and in between these properties, were administrative districts belonging to the kingdom of Prussia, including Erfurt, Naumburg, Querfurt, Sangerhausen and others. A traveler in the early 1800s traveling by stage coach through Thuringia could easily cross half a dozen borders within a few hours.

The situation was simply a mess and it only came to an end with the close of WWI and the abdication of the princes. By federal law of April 30, 1920, the former duchies and principalities became the new "Freistaat (free state) Thueringen."

In 1930 the free state was officially renamed "Land Thueringen." Border corrections took place as late as 1940, when the last Prussian district, Erfurt, was incorporated into Thuringia. It should be noted that the geographical and the political borders of Thueringen are not always identical since they do diverge in some areas.

The political situation and its changes are reflected in

the entries of Dr. Keller's notgeld catalogs. To remain with the above example of Jena, the early Verkehrs-Ausgaben (circulating issues) of 1917-1920, are listed by Keller under Jena (Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach) and so are the Grossgeldscheine (notes valued at one Mark or more) of the 1918-1919 notgeld period and the Serienscheine (series notes) of 1921-1922.

In contrast, the inflation issues of the 1922 and 1923 periods are entered in the respective Keller catalogs under Jena (Thuringen).

So far, so good. Only, the above explanation contains an obvious contradiction: Why are the series notes of 1921-1922 still listed with the old state names instead of "Thuringen?" Dr. Keller supplies the answer in the foreword to the sixth edition, 1955, of his Serienscheine catalog. Up to the fifth edition, 1934, of what was then called the catalog "Kleingeldschein (lower value notes, under a Mark) of 1915-1922" there was no separation between circulating and series notes. But because of so many newly discovered notes the next catalog was in danger of becoming too voluminous and unhandy. The author was forced to decide on some method of dividing the material.

At one time, Keller observed, he considered a separation between official and private notgeld issues. He finally decided upon dividing the "true" notgeld notes, created for circulation, and the series notes, printed mainly for the benefit of collectors.

Since, in many cases, there is no clear differentiation between the two groups, and even experts disagree about where some issues belong, Dr. Keller resolved that it would be less confusing to retain the old state names throughout both parts of the catalog.

It appears that his decision was the correct one. The same system has been used by subsequent catalogers, including Hans Meyer for his regional notgeld catalogs and Kai Lindman for his new Serienscheine catalog.

* * * * *

Less collected in America are the private tokens issued in Germany during the Notgeld-issuing period.

Probably the greatest motivation for logical collecting is a catalog to be used as a road map. Such a catalog came to American collectors, first in "Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine" and then in book form on the municipal tokens of Germany, by Robert Lamb.

But the tokens issued by private firms, usually made by the same firms which made the municipal tokens, were cataloged in the German language but not English.

A parallel situation exists in prisoner of war tokens. Many firms, such as mines and factories, issued their own tokens to prisoners of war assigned to them for employment. Should a prisoner escape, the theory was he could be more readily identified should he try to spend the special money.

Memory Lane

It was Berlin. 1975. West Berlin. No trenchcoat. No misty fog. No gumshoes.

Coin show, sez the chief. Get the facts. Just the facts. Just the numismatic facts, and nothing else. And don't come back without photos.

It was at this show where I saw Monika Pick's books for the first time. They were "Der Notgeld-Muifti" and "Der Notgeld-Kompass," published by Dieter Hoffman. Later I had supper with her.

Also, I met for the last time Rudolf Braun and received his book on porcelain coins, mentioned in the December issue of THE FRAKTUR.

Recalled vividly is the Gasthaus where I was taken for supper by Erich Proeh and Hans Meyer.

Proeh was the publisher of "Die Muenz," "Der Geldschein" and a long series of books on metal and paper notgeld, including breakdown by province, town and even some from other countries. The ambitiously planned program was never completed. Meyer was his numismatic editor.

They presented a contrast: Proeh, short, a bit rotund, with a grey Vandyke beard. Meyer, tall, completely bald, a friendly smile. Now Meyer has been soundly decried for his lack of perfect German, for rearranging information in his catalogs but contributing little new. I never heard of accusations of dishonest dealings or personal gain, though he had vast interests. Through him on a personal basis I obtained some prewar maps of Germany east of the Oder-Neisse line. They would be difficult to duplicate.

Frankly, Proeh had little to say; he was not the numismatist and I am not sure how much money his numismatic venture was making. I do believe that the multitude of concise books on the hobby brought in many new collectors who would not have purchased more expensive books or magazines.

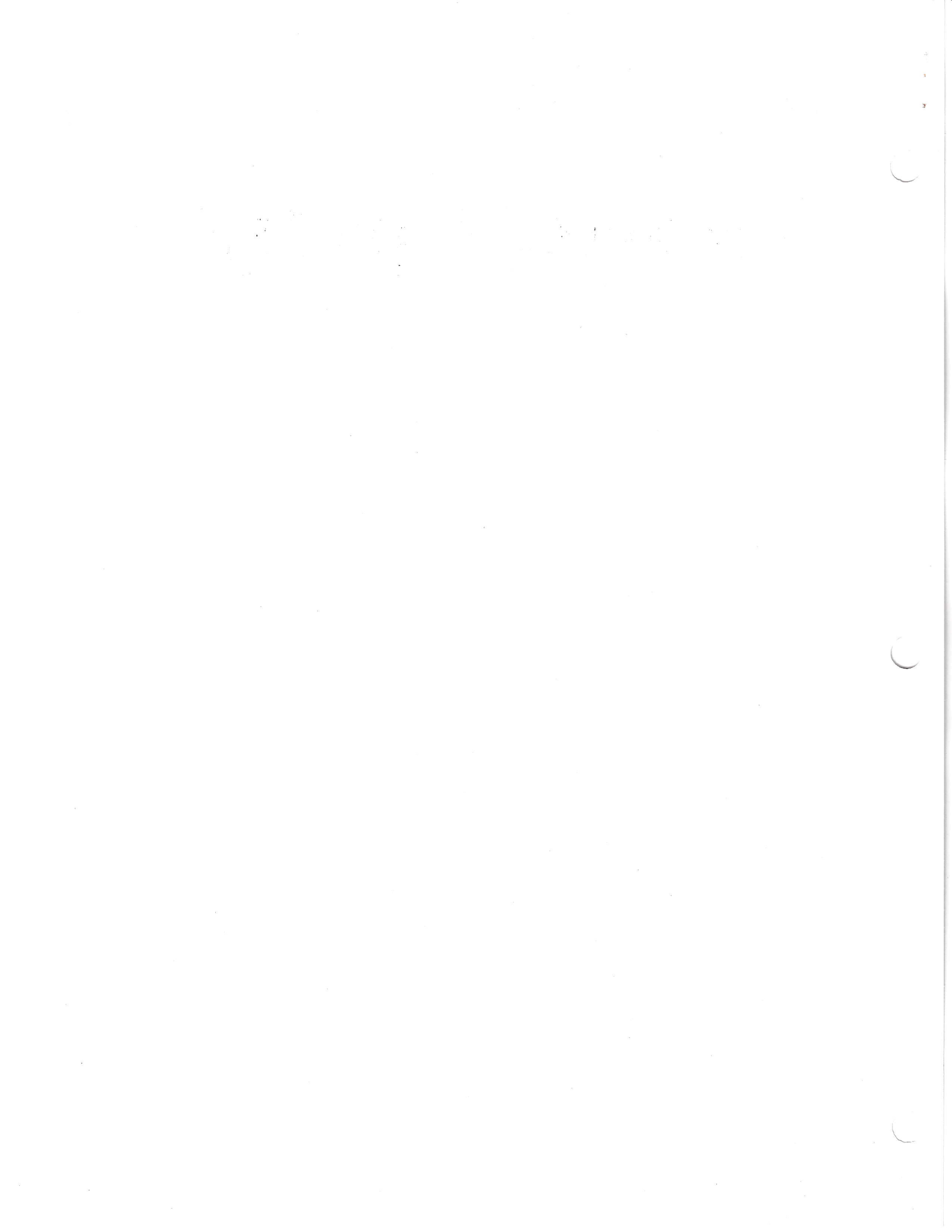
Meyer was a conductor for the Bundesbahn, and later a supervisor of conductors. For the lover of railroads, it was the ideal job. For a combination of interest in railroads and numismatics, his vocation and avocation could not have been improved upon.

It was my only meeting with the pair. Later Proeh sold the entire numismatic operation to Richard Borek, Braunschweig., He had a great base on which to improve distribution of the Proeh-Meyer publications. Apparently he let the entire operation die a quick death.

Meyer, his pen not to be stilled, made a connection with another printer, Hartmut and Lothar Schoenawa, in Werleburgdorf, just in from the East German border, and produced paper notgeld books by province.

Sad to relate, Meyer died while on vacation in Austria in June 1988, at age 66. His death occurred just before the release of the second edition of "Das Papiernotgeld der Provinz Saschsen und Anhalt."

Other Meyer-Schoenawa volumes include Mark Brandenburg



THE FRAKTUR Pricelist
March 1989

Tangermunde April 1, 1921 10 Pfennig L-1264 II; K-372 II
\$.50*

Tangstedt ND 25 (2), 50 Pf L-1265; K-398 \$4.50*

Tegernsee June 1, 1921 10, 20, 30 Pf L-1269; K-484 \$3*

Teuchern March 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1273; K-515 \$1.25*

Thale/Harz 1921 Walpurgis 5, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1276c; K-540
\$2.25*

Thannhausen ND 50 Pf K-2488 Circ \$1.50*

Tingleff April 10, 1920 50 Pf L-1281 III; K-577 \$1.50*

Tondern Feb. 10, 1920 25 Pf L-1284; K-589 1.25*

Tonndorf-Lohe March 3, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-1285;
K-594 2.75*

Tostedt 1921 50 Pf considered anti-Semetic L-1287; K-602
\$.50*

Treffurt/Werra April 1, 1922 50 (6) Pf L-1292b; K-624 \$3.25*

Triebes March 7, 1921 1, 5, 10, 25 Pf K-2516F Circ \$2*

Trier Jan. 1921 50 Pf K-2517 i Circ \$.60*

Trostberg ND (1920) 1 Mark L-1302; K-764 \$1*

Uetersen/Holstein ND (1920) 25, 50 Pf L-1306 II; K-823; \$1.25

Vaethen-Tangerhuetten May 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1311a; K- 884
\$2.50*

Vechtae March 15, 1922 25 (2), 50, 75 Pf L-1312; K-899 \$2*

Vegeesack May 13, 1921 50 Pf (2) L-1313a; K-902 \$1

Verden/Aller June 1, 1920 50 Pf L-1314; K-903c \$.50*

Vilshofen/Donau Oct. 1, 1920 50 Pf K-2546d Circ \$.75*

Vinsebeck May 15, 1921 1 Mark K-1136 \$2.25*

Volkstedt Sept. 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1322 K-1109
\$2.25*

Walsrode/Lueneburg to April 30, 1922 1 Mark L-1325;
K-1170 \$.75*

Walsrode & Fallingbostel 50 Pf July 1, 1920 K-598d \$.75*

Walterhausen/Thuer. July 1, 1921 5, 20, 50 Pf L-1326; K-1244
\$3

Wartha July 5, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1333a; K-1346 \$1.60*

Wasserleben 1921 10, 50 Pf L-1335; K-1351 \$1*

Wasungen Oct. 1, 1921 50 (4), 75 Pf L-1336; K-1353 \$2.50*

Weddersleben July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1338b; K-1370
\$2.25* Sept. 1921, 50 (3) L-1338; K-1370 No printing firm
\$3*

Wedel June 10, 1921 25 Pf, 1 Mark June 10, 1921 L-1155a;
K-1339 \$2.25*

Weida/Thuer. ND 10, 25 Pf L-1342; K-1412 1.25*

Weiden Sept. 1, 1918 50 Pf \$2*

Weissenfels/Saale 1921 25, 50 (6) Pf L-1354; K-661 \$3.50*

Wenningstedt/Sylt Aug. 15, 1921 50 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-1356;
K-261 II \$6*

Wernigerode/Harz Dec. 20, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-1357; K-83 \$1.25*

March 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf Map \$3*

Wesel 1921 50 (3), 75 (3) Pf L-1359; K-896 \$6*

Wesenberg July 1, 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1360; K-1169 \$2.20*
 Wettin/S July 1, 1921 50 Pf with control number L-1373 I;
 K-1179 \$2.75*
 Wiebelskirchen Feb. 7, 1920 25, 50 Pf K-2620 Circ \$3.25*
 Wiedensahl ND 50 Pf L-1374; K-1186 II \$1.25*
 Wilhelmshaven-Ruestringen ND 50 (3) Pf L-1381; K-1186 II \$5*
 Wilsnack to June 20, 1922 50 (4), 75 (4), 100 (2) Pf L-1383;
 K-1187 \$5
 Wilster July 13, 1920 25, 50 Pf K-2635R Circ \$1.75*
 Winterberg/Westfalen July 15, 1921 1 Mark L-1385; K-1190
 \$.60*
 Winzeldorf ND (1921) 25 (2) Pf L-1386; K-1191b \$3*
 Wittduen ND 1 Mark Andreas Hofer L-1390 I; K-1195bI \$1.50*
 Wittenberg Dec. 10, 1920 50 (8) Pf Luther L-1392; K-1196a
 \$12.50*
 Wittenburg/Mecklenburg Jan. 20, 1922 99, 199 Pf Kleinscheck
 L-1394b; K-1199b \$1.50*
 Wittlich Sept. 15, 1919 50 Pf \$1.75*
 Woerishofen, Bad 1921 25 Pf Kneipps L-1398; K-1202 \$2.25*
 Woerlitz to July 1, 1922 25 (4), 50 Pf L-1401; K-1204 \$3*
 Wolfenbuettel Nov. 1918 50 Pf K-2655 \$1.25*
 Wriezen Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1405; K-1208 \$2.25*
 Wuerzburg to Jan. 1, 1919 50 Pf \$1.60*
 Wunsiedel Nov. 11, 1918 25, 50 Pf K-2670b \$2.50*
 Wunstorf MD 5. 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf K-1210b \$3.50*
 Wurzbach/Thuer. July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf \$1.50*
 Wyk/Foehr March 14, 1920 5 Mark L-1411; Plebiscite overprint
 \$7.50* Without overprint, \$4*
 Xanten Oct. 1, 1921 50 (6), 1 Mark L-1413 III; K-1215 b I
 \$22.50*
 Zella-Mehlis Nov. 1921 10, 25, 50 (3) Pf L-1417; K-1218
 \$2.50*
 Zerbst July 1, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-1418 b III; K-1219 b III
 \$2.50*
 Zeulenroda Nov. 1, 1921 25 (5), 50 (5), 75 (5) Pf K-1220 \$8*
 Ziegenrueck Sept. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-1421 II; K-1221 I \$1*
 Ziesar ND 2 Mark L-1422 I; K-1223a \$.50*
 Zoerbig to Sept. 30, 1921 5 (3), 10 3) 50 (5) Pf L-1424;
 K-1224 \$6*
 Zuelz/Oberschlesien March 21, 1921 10, 50 Pf K-1226 \$2*
 Zossen-Halbmondlager ND 5 Pf POW \$1.50*
 Zwischenahn ND 50 Pf L-1427; K-1344 \$1.50*

*Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs

L-Kai Lindman, "Das Deutsche Notgeld: Katalog der
 Serienscheine, Spendenquittungen und Bausteine 1918-1922"

P-S Pick Siemens catalog

Please do not send cash with order; you will be invoiced.