

The Fraktur

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Notes on Notgeld

By C. Albert Jacob Jr.

When I attended my first meeting of the Westchester Coin Club before I was elected to membership, one of the exhibits shown by a member consisted of a collection of German "Notgeld," and at that time I heard one member volunteer the misinformation to another that the word "Notgeld" meant "Not Gold" and distinguished that type of money from pre-inflation money of actual gold value.

Being not even a member of the club at that time, I felt it would be rather presumptuous on my part to start airing any opinions which differed from those of full-fledged numismatists, so I held back my impulse to tell the gentleman who was giving the information that "Notgeld" could never mean "Not Gold."

At that time I thought the part of discretion was to "pipe down" at least till I was elected to the club. This incident was all but forgotten until last month when I picked up my copy of THE NUMISMATIST and saw the advertisement of a coin dealer, in which he was offering for sale a collection of this German "Notgeld," and in his remarks volunteered the same misinformation to the effect that "Notgeld" meant "Not Gold."

The English word "Not" is expressed in German as "Nicht," and "Gold" in English is spelled G-O-L-D in German also, though pronounced with a somewhat shorter O. "Not Gold" in German would be "Nicht Gold."

The German word "Not" (which is pronounced the same as "Note" in English) means need, necessity or emergency, and the German word "Geld" means money. If I say, "Ich habe Geld," it means I have money, with no distinction as to the substance used. It may be any of the metals, gold, silver, nickel or copper or it may be paper or even fiber. As money in German they are all "GELD," so the combination of the two words "Not" and "Geld" in the one word "Notgeld" (pronounced "Note-Geld") means "emergency money."

There are other titles printed on many of these issues which have allied meanings, though they are all generally referred to as "NOTGELD."

Some are called "Kriegs Geld," meaning war money. Some as "Kriegsnotgeld" (in one word), meaning war emergency money.

Many series are entitled "Gut Schein," the word "Gut," which means good, used in the sense of credit (just as a Guthaber is as creditor), and the word Schein meaning certificate. In other words, a "Credit Certificate," or "bill of exchange," as for instance what we call a postal money order is referred to in German as a "Post Anweisung."

"Notgeld" in its various forms was issued by practically all of the cities, towns and hamlets in Germany, and in many instances by private concerns. Many are printed

with illustrations of local celebrities, institutions, sports or pastimes peculiar to the particular locality where the notes were issued, and many have verses on them eulogizing local celebrities, traditions or events.

Translation of the legend on these little and picturesque notes is an interesting pastime for anyone with a knowledge of the German language, and as the number of varieties issued is apparently legion, there is lots of opportunity for anyone so inclined to brush up on his study of German by tackling the problem.

However, the sole objective of this effusion on my part is to rectify what is apparently a common error of understanding in American numismatic circles and to establish the fact that when the German printing presses were working overtime turning out "Notgeld" (though ironically enough it certainly was "Not Gold"), they actually were printing "Emergency Money" and so labeling it for all of us to recognize if we only took the trouble to consult that ever-present friend in time of doubt--the dictionary.

(THE NUMISMATIST, February 1938)

MEMORY LANE

"You must come to Hall, Mr. Coffing."

We were sitting in the lobby of the Hotel Intercontinental, Orlikon, Switzerland. The drawing card was a coin convention sponsored by members of the Swiss Numismatic Society; a Bank Leu auction of coins and medals of Napoleon had just preceded the show.

Chatting affably with me was Sigismund Werkner, professional coin dealer from Innsbruck, a gentleman of the old European school of dealers.

Werkner, Xavier Calico and Dr. Stan Kaplan from Germiston, South Africa, had met an American trio of Oliver Amos, Russell Rulau and me in Basel in 1965. Now, it was 1975 and I was alone with my pencil, pad and camera.

Something we had learned was that a long trip need not be filled with commitments so tightly planned that every minute must be accounted for.

And too, not every commitment pans out as planned. But for every missed opportunity or unfilled minute, there are unexpected delights that drop into your lap. One was an invitation to visit Hall, Austria, for some special numismatic events.

I had promised myself that I would visit Kurt Jaeger in a hospital in Bad Cannstadt near Stuttgart on the following day. After that, I explained to Werkner, I did have time to visit Hall and would be glad to do so.

I took the train to Munich, left my baggage in a locker, took an Intercity fast train to Bad Cannstadt, a taxi to the hospital, and back again to Munich. The visit was sad, as the Dean of German Numismatics suffered from hepatitis. By the end of the year he had passed away.

On earlier trips to Innsbruck our family had stayed at the Maria Theresia hotel on the main street. By 1975 "progress" had eliminated it; instead I stayed at a new hotel, the Maria Theresia, on a hillside above Hall.

Hall is just east of Innsbruck on the Inn River; between the two towns is the Olympic village that accommodated athletes for the 1964 Olympics, and a newer section for the 1986 Olympics. Werkner had a dual interest in Hall at this time. First, there was a formal recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Tiroler Landesjaegdschutzverein, the Tirolean Hunting Society, an event held in Innsbruck.

And then there was the completion of restorative work on the Hall Mint, almost along the Inn River. And it was still a Mint! Mint employees from Vienna brought two Graebener presses to Hall and struck 100-Schilling Olympic proof coins, dated 1976. One could commemorate the visit by ascending the winding stairway into the tower, and on an anvil, with a sturdy hammer swing, strike a silver or bronze token.

The restoration work of Burg Hassegg was a project of the Tirol Numismatic Society and the local historical society. It was established as a Mint in 1477 by Emperor Maximilian I.

A formal banquet included representatives of embassies in Vienna and a walking tour of the village, with bilingual guides pointing out the Mint in use at the time of Emperor Maximilian and winding up in the chambers of the city council. We recall the long table, chairs reeking with history, the wooden walls with pictures. For both the hunting and numismatic celebrations, I was the only American numismatist present.

Personal recollections cannot become too encumbered with historical revelations. And a notgeld feature must have a notgeld hook. So here we go. Go to your Austrian notgeld album and pull out the notes of Hall and Innsbruck, and there the history of the two towns is told for you. Salt from the local mines was hauled to market on small craft. Silver mines coming on the heels of the salt ones.. Local mints were established to strike the silver coins.

And not all the coins were struck! The innovative Austrians made use of their waterpower to turn rollers which had die impressions. Perhaps some of our collector readers have talers which are strangely cupped. The long strips of silver were fed between the rollers, their matching impressions the obverse and reverse of the coins. Then shears cut the coins out, leaving rough edges.

Several references tell these stories and many more. "Der Tiroler Taler" was published by the Tiroler Numismatische Gesellschaft Hall in Tirol, and the Tiroler Landesmuseum K Ferdinandeum in Innsbruck, 1963 and 1972. Dr. J. Hans wrote "Maria-Theresien-Taler" in 1961, and Dr. John S. Davenport, "The Talers of the Austrian Noble Houses" in 1972.

A walking tour of Hall is provided by Leopold Wagner in "Hall in Tirol," published in 1974.

THE FRAKTUR Pricelist

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Mainz April 1, 1921 10, 25 Pf L-822 K-686b \$1
 Malente Nov. 20, 1920 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-689a; L-826a \$2.50*
 Malente-Gremsmuehlen June 1, 1921 50 Pf K-639c; L-826b \$.60
 Mallnitz July 1921 25 Pf Die Moewe, a ship; K-690; L-827 \$.50*
 Medebach Sept. 1921 50 (tear), 75 Pf; 1 Mark K-698; L-836 \$1.50
 Meiningen June 21, 1921 75 (3) Pf K-699; L-838b \$2.50*
 Menteroda Nov. 1, 1918 25, 50 (2) Pf K-703; L-843 \$2.25*
 Meppen May 31, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-704; L-844I \$1
 Meura/Thuer. May 1, 1921 25 Pf K-707I; L-847I \$.50*
 Milkultschuetz/Oberschlesien ND (Sept. 1, 1914) 1 Mark K-236b \$3.50*
 Monschau, Stadt July 1, 1921 25 (2) Pf L-859 \$1*
 Muecheln July 1, 1921 25 Pf K-721; L-864 \$.60*
 Muehlhausen April 1, 1921 50 (3) Pf K-724a; L-867a \$1.50*
 Muelzen-St. Jakob Sept. 2, 1921 50 (5) Pf K-725a; L-868a \$2.50
 Muenchenbernsdorf Aug. 1, 1921 50 (3) Pf K-727a; L-871a \$2.50*
 Muenchenbernsdorf Sept. 1, 1921 10, 50, 75 PF K-727b; L-871b \$1.50*
 Muennerstadt Dec. 24, 1920 25 Pf K-728a; L-872aIII \$1*
 Muenstermaifeld Aug 1921 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-734I; L-879I \$2
 Nachterstedt June 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf K-737; L-882 \$2*
 Naugard/Pomm. ND 25 Pf Chessmen K-738; L-883 \$.50*
 Neidenburg Nov. 1921 25 Pf K-743c; L-890I \$.50*
 Neuhaus/Oste Feb. 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf K-753b; L-906II \$2*
 Neukalen to May 31, 1922 10, 25, 50 Pf Reutergeld K-756; L-908 \$2.75*
 Neusalz (1922) 25, 75 Pf, 1 Mark K-766; L-919I \$1.50*
 Neustadt/Holstein to July 231, 1921 50 (2), 75 Pf L-922 \$1.50*
 Neustettin July 1, 1923 25, 50 (2) Pf K-774a; L-927a \$1.50*
 Neustrelitz Oct. 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf L-928 \$1*
 Neuteich/Danzig June 2, 1920 5 Pf P-S 1898 \$.60*
 Niebuehl April 20, 1920 1 Mark Plebiscite \$1*
 Nieheim Nov. 19, 1921 50 Pf, 1, 2 Mark K-779; L-932 \$1.50*
 Niendorf March 1, 1921 25 Pf K-780; L-934 \$.50*
 Nienhagen to Feb. 28, 1922 10, 50 Pf Reutergeld K-781; L-935 \$2
 Nimptsch 1921 25, 75 Pf, 1 Mark K-783; L-937 \$3*
 Noerenberg Oct. 18, 1921 K-785QB; L-939dII \$.50*
 Nordhausen March 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-947 \$1.50
 Oland Aug. 22, 1921 20, 50 Pf, 2 Mark K-815a; L-972a \$7.50*
 Oldenburg/Holstein April 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf K-816b; L-974b \$4*
 Oldesloe, Bad ND 50 Pf K-821a \$.75*
 Oppeln ND 10. 50 Pf K-1988d \$1*
 Oppurg Aug. 1, 1921 25, 50 (2), 75 Pf K-824a; L-902 \$2*
 Orlamuende/Thuer. Sept. 2, 1921 25 Pf K-826I; L-984 \$.75*

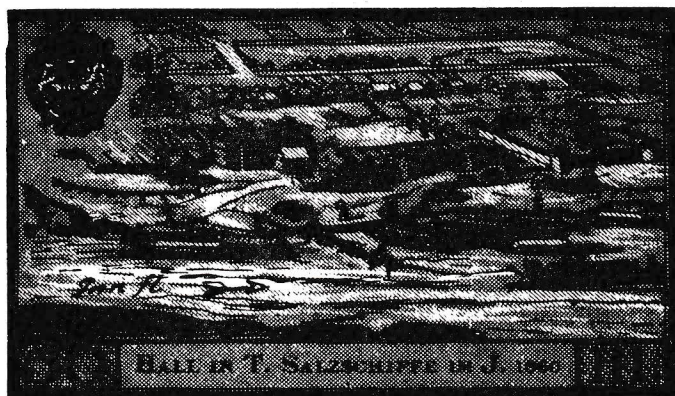
Rochlitz to Dec. 31, 1918 50 Pf \$1*
 Roda S-A Sept. 1, 1920 10 Pf \$.50*
 Sangerhausen March 26, 1921 5, 10, 50 Pf \$1.50*
 Sankt Wendel Nov. 1, 1919 10 Pf \$1
 Saulgau Feb. 15, 1918 50 Pf \$1.25*

Austria

Abstetten/NOe Dec. 15-31, 1920 10, 20 Heller \$.75*
 Biedermannsdorf/NOe June 22, 1920 10, 20 Heller*
 Fieberbrunn/T 10, 30 (2), 40, 50 (2), 75 (2), 99 Heller
 \$3*
 Graz/Steiermark to Feb. 29, 1920 50 Heller \$.35*
 Hainfeld/NOe May 1920 10 Heller \$.35*
 Hartheim/OOe Dec. 15-31, 1920 80 Heller \$.35*
 Klaus/OOe June 15, 1920 90 Heller 3rd Issue \$.35
 Leonfelden/OOe March 17, 1920 20, 50 Heller \$.75*
 Linz Oberoesterreich 1921 10 (2), 20 (2) Heller \$1.50*
 Raabs/NOe April 12, 1920 10, 20, 50 Heller \$1.25*
 Rodaun/NOe. ND 50 Heller 2nd issue \$.25 hole
 Salzburg ND 10 Kronen \$3*
 Sankt Georgen/Gusen OOe 1920 20, 50 Heller \$1*
 Sankt Johann/Walde OOe to Jan. 21, 1921 99 Heller 2nd issue
 \$.35*
 Sankt Willibad/OOe to Dec. 31, 1920 10 Heller \$.50*
 Telfs/T to Jan. 31, 1921 10 Heller \$.35*
 Vienna Oesterreichisch-ungarische Bank Jan. 2, 1922 1, 2
 Krone \$.75
 Voeslau/NOe Dec. 1-31, 1920 50 Heller \$.35*
 Wien Land Niederoesterreich July 1920 10 Heller 2nd issue
 \$.35*
 Wiener Neustadt Nov. 15, 1918 5 Heller \$2*

Denmark

Scherrebeck April 10, 1920 25 Pf \$5
 Roedding Feb. 10, 1920 50 Pf \$3*
 Uk 1920 50 Pf Plebiscite L-1308 \$2.50*
 Tondern Feb. 10, 1920 25 Pf L-1284 \$.60*



Salt boats dominated the
 Inn River (Fluss) at
 Hall in Tyrol in 1660,
 part of a series of
 Heller notes of Hall
 expiring Nov.30, 1920.

THE Notgeld CORNER

Our first bit of news this month is from our German reader, Kai Lindman, who is writing his second edition of the notgeld book on the Series notes.

He told us the book will not be available before December; that it will be much larger than the first edition; and that there will be some number changes. He estimates the cost will be in the area of \$30 in West Germany.

In the catalogs of both metal and paper notgeld one finds references to some curious measurements. For instance, on 10-Pfennig zinc coins of Oettingen in Bavaria, 1917, one is told the distance between the 1 and the zero of the value can be .5 millimeter; one mm; or 1.5 mm.

On five-pfennig zinc coins of Offenbach/Main, the distance from the 7 of the date to the letter N can be 4.5 mm, 5 mm, 6 mm or 6.75 mm.

Many of the iron and zinc notgeld coins were made by the L. Christian Lauer firm in Nuernberg. A standard value side was used. But dies crack, especially when striking iron, and many varieties exist.

For instance, the space between the inside of the K to the inside of the E of KLEINGELDERSATZMARKE on 10-Pfennig iron coins of Riesenbug, West Prussia, 1917, might be 10.5 mm or 12 mm.

And in the paper money catalogs, control numbers vary in height, perhaps from 3.5 mm to six mm.

There are 25.4 millimeters to an inch. Now tell us, how can you tell the difference between 4.5 mm and 5 mm? Even with an eight power loupe it is difficult; that is a difference of 1/50 of an inch.

Sometime in 1964 in Hannover, West Germany, I purchased a brass 8X loupe with 10 millimeters etched on the reticle, with 10 lines between each of the millimeters. Now, one can make the judgement of a half millimeter difference.

Whether dealing with coins or paper money, one can expand the field of interest by seeking out varieties. Besides control numbers, one can find the name of the printer in varying lengths; varieties in type and spacing.

For several months I have been seeking optical catalogs to find such a loupe, from Japanese, American and other sources. Recently a German collector contacted two firms for me. Each make Fadenzaelers, linen counters, used in the textile trade to count strands in cloth. And when the catalog arrived from one of them, there was illustrated the same type I have been using, 10 these many years.

I am not yet sure of the price but a few have been ordered and will be supplied to readers on a first come basis.

Don't throw away those duplicate coins or notes yet!