The Fraktur

Vol. XI Nr. 3 **March 1999**

TREASURE CHEST IN THE ATTIC

BY WILLIAM R. EGLSEER

Some months ago a friend told me that in his father's house he had found a box with funny, colorful little paper money, apparently issued in the 1920s by German communities.

He sensed my interest and when he visited me the next time he brought the box with him. Well, how should I describe my feelings? It was an old box, which must have been hidden under the rooftop of my friend's home for more than 60 years! When he felt my enthusiasm he just said flatly, "Keep it if you like it." And I liked it!

The collector had been the younger brother of my friend's father. When he died by accident in 1922 nobody else seemed to have had any interest in this collection of Notgeld (emergency money). Emergency money came in many forms, including metal and paper. The contents of my friend's box were all paper.

So the family put everything together into this huge box, stored it safely and forgot it for the next 60 years. There was a Notgeld album, filled with many nice issues from 1917 to 1922. There was a catalog by Dr. Arnold Keller, printed in 1921 by the famous coin dealer Adolph E. Cahn in Frankfurt/Main, already in the third edition.

I also found pricelists from 1922, offering Notgeld, an invoice for ordered Notgeld together with the Notgeld series still in the envelopes as they had been supplied by the dealer. The poor chap never had the chance to look through the last batch of Notgeld he had ordered.

Sorting the find, looking through the Notgeld magazine, the pricelists and so forth, I felt transferred into the year 1922 (by the way, long before I was born!). Nowadays, there are quite a lot of collectors of Notgeld not only in Germany, but also in other parts of the world, especially in the United States.

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Monthly Notgeld Quote. . .

Landsberg/Oberschlesien
1 Mark
May 24, 1921 L-741

From the Polish border at Landsberg, many Poles infiltrated at night, to seek work and employment, only to be chased back by German border police.

1. Jahrgang Salzburg, 15. Juni 1921 Nr. 1

Bezugsbedingungen: Abonnementspreis vierteljährig K 20.—, Einzelnummer K 8.—

Notgeld often is sold or bought just by quantity: 500 different, 1,000 different, and so forth. Of course, there are also issues which command higher prices and therefore are offered by sets only. Who can imagine how it started? What was the situation in 1922?

During the later years of World War I small change became scarce. To overcome the shortage many municipalities started to mint their own coins, redeemable into the Reichsmark notes and coins on demand. Soon it was ascertained that the same effect of supplying small change could be reached more cheaply by printing small notes.

At that time people did not think of collecting. The fourth year of war, with its hunger, cold and scarcity of everyday goods, left little time for spare time hobbies such as Notgeld collecting. Though the issues of 1917/1918 are mostly without colorful pictures, they still have a sort of "money-character."

In 1919, after the end of the war, more Notgeld was issued by the municipalities. Now people started collecting and looking for issues from other parts of the Reich. So dealers started their businesses, supplying collectors with issues which they had ordered from the different towns.

The municipalities and their treasurers might have thought, "What a good business to print our own money!" since it would still be redeemable against the Reichsmark, of course, and could be sold to collectors who would never ask to redeem it.

So they made their issues as attractive as possible, colorful, dealing with special topics, and as higher values were not permitted by the goverrnment, with many built-in tricks to increase the sales value. The same series might be offered in different colors, for example, with red numbering and black, or with built-in printing errors which necessitated a new issue without errors.

In the beginning it might indeed have been a good business for the issuing municipalities. As long as the value of the Mark declined only slowly through 1919/1920, it might have worked.

But when Notgeld collecting became a sort of "folks-sport" in 1922, the money which the issuers could raise from printing and selling Notgeld was rendered meaningless through the spiraling, accelerated inflation.

The final issues of late 1922 and then 1923 were denominations of hundred thousands of Mark issues, then millions, milliards and in the end, even billions. They again were real money issues, intended to help pay for things when not enough cash from the Reichsbank was readily available.

Then it was again sheer necessity which urged the printing of local money, not the interest of supplying collectors with printed paper.

Now let us look at the situation in early 1922. It was a difficult year for Germany. Since the armistice of Nov. 11, 1918, which ended World War I, three years had gone.

NEWSPAPER

for the exportation of postage-stamps and war paper-money

Export-Blatt für Briefmarken und Notgeld

Feuille pour exportation de timbres postes et argent de guerre

Foglio D'Esportation Per Francobolli e Carta Moneta Di Guerra

Edition - Herausgeber: JOSEF LETTENMAIR, WELS - TRAUNLEITEN

Oesterreich - Austria - Autriche

1. number Nummer | 15. Juni 1921 | 1. year Jahr

Germany had lost part of the eastern provinces to Poland and Danzig had become a free city; Elsass-Lothringen had been returned to France; in Upper Silesia, in southern East Prussia and in Northern Schleswig plebiscites had been held to decide which part should stay German or be given to the neighboring nation.

The economy was in bad shape, and political turmoil occurred again and again in many parts of the Reich. The currency, still the Mark of the empire, was losing its value quicker and quicker, because of the huge amounts of money which had been issued in order to finance the efforts of four-and-a-half years of war.

Also, Germany had to meet the demand of 32,000,000,000 Goldmark (-33,000,000,000 gold dollars) to be paid by the already impoverished Reich to the Allied Reparations Commission.

The exchange value of the Mark before WWI stood at 4.20 Mark for the dollar. At the end of the war the exchange value in neutral places such as Zuerich, Switzerland, was seven Mark for the dollar.

On Dec. 1, 1919, one year after the war's end, the Mark was worth only one-tenth of its pre-war value: 42.20 Mark to $1. At the end of 1920 the dollar was 74 Mark; at the end of 1921 185 Mark; on July 1, 1922, $1 was 401.50 Mark; at the end of 1922 the Mark stood at 7,260 for the dollar. So in 1922 inflation was already spiraling.

Despite the fact that most collector Notgeld, the colorful series, is dated 1920/1921, with a few from 1922, I got the impression from my box that interest in collecting Notgeld might have been greatest at the end of 1921 and the first half of 1922. In the box there was a magazine, *Der Internationale Notgeld-und Muenzen Haendler,* ("The International Notgeld and Coin Dealer") Vol. I, Nr. 4, April 1922, issued monthly.

So the first issue of this magazine might have been published in January 1922. Dealer pricelists advertised the Muenzen-und Notgeld Borse, Hannover. The above mentioned magazine carried advertising for the first German Notgeld Trade Fair in Hamburg on Feb. 26-28, 1922. The fourth fair was held Nov. 26-29, 1922.

Looking through the magazine and pricelists gives one a good idea of how Notgeld issues were promoted and how they came into the market. In the magazine, municipalities advertised their issues, stating the postal giro account to which payment should be made in order to get a completed set. So they were selling to the single customer also, not only to wholesalers.

Conditions of sale varied. Some advertised face value plus postage; others, 10 sets and the postage was free. Still others asked for a fee from six percent to 100 percent in addition to the face value and postage.

Notgeld-Rundschau

Zeitschrift der Grazer Notgeldsammler-Vereinigung.

Redaktionsschluß am 15. jedes Monats. — Erscheint monatlich. — Fernruf 1666. — Postsparkassenkonto 187.204.

1. Jahrg. Graz, am 1. Jänner 1923. Nr. 1.

Inhalt: An alle Sammler und Notgeldfreunde! — Briefmarken und Notgeld. — Interessante Notgelder aus Steiermark. — Vereinsnachrichten. — Frage- und Antwortecke.

An alle Sammler und Notgeldfreunde!

The town of Crivitz in Mecklenburg, for example, offered the rest of its issue which became obsolete by March 31, 1922, (In Dr. Keller's catalog, Nr. 202a) totaling 4,700 sets (consisting of notes of 50- and 75-Pfennig and two different 80-Pfennig; for 10,000 Mark (total face value 13,395 Mark). The four notes in the set retail today for about $5, Lindman catalog number 239a, 1994 edition.

In April 1922 the amount of 10,000 Mark was $33.60. When you think of the purchasing power of 33 gold dollars at that time you'll feel it was quite a lot of money for the 4,700 sets of printed paper.

From the pricelists we can see, the prices were increasing over the whole year 1922. What did it mean? Did the issues of Notgeld become more expensive? It seems so, but it was not like this. In order to show the real meaning of the prices let us take for comparison the amount to be paid for postage for a letter from town to town within Germany at that time. The postal rates were:

April 1, 1921	60 Pfennig	about 1 cent
January 1, 1922	2 Mark	about 1 cent
July 1, 1922	3 Mark	about 0.7 cent
October 1, 1922	6 Mark	about 0.3 cent
November 15, 1922	12 Mark	about 0.2 cent
December 15, 1922	25 Mark	about 0.3 cent
January 15, 1923	50 Mark	about 0.7 cent

Let us check as an example the set of Altenau im Harz, Keller 13, dated May 1, 1921. The set consists of six different notes with a face value of 75-Pfennig each, for a total of 4.5 Mark.

In summer 1921, this amount was good enough for postage for 7.5 normal letters. In a pricelist of Februry 1922, this set was offered for 15 Mark, still the equivalent of postage for 7.5 letters.

In a pricelist of May 1922, the price is 10 Mark only, i.e., good for five letters. Apparently the demand declined further, because in November 1922, this set was offered for 20 Mark, which was equal to only 3.3 letters.

Our friend bought his set on March 22, 1922, and paid 15 Mark for it; the invoice shows it. He did not live long enough to realize the decline in real prices.

The same set nowadays is offered by a Bavarian dealer specializing in Notgeld, for eight Mark (now 10 postage stamps worth).

A research through the pricelists of 1922 showed the same result: prices going up but declining in real value. Despite the fact that Notgeld collecting became a widespsread hobby just that year, that "international bourses" had sprung up in Germany and that throughout

Pfälzisches Notgeld

Zeitschrift für Pfälzische Notgeldkunde
Organ des Pfälzischen Notgeldsammlerbundes

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Bezugspreis: 0.50 Mk. monatlich, für Mitglieder frei. — Anzeigenpreis: Ganze Seite 20.— Mk., halbe Seite 11.— Mk., Viertelseite 6.— Mk., Achtelseite 4.— Mk. Preise in Goldmark. Bei mehrmaliger Aufnahme Rabatt. Schluß der Anzeigenannahme am 10. jed. Monats.

1. Jahrg.	Oktober 1924	Nr. 1

Zum Geleit.

Germany dealers had started Notgeld businesses, the prices prove that the boom in Notgeld was fading by late 1922.

With the high inflation in 1923, people finally lost all their money and with it their interest in such "unnecessary" subjects as Notgeld collecting. Very few Notgeld dealers survived the end of inflation in businesses, as the market for Notgeld then was nearly dead.

Before World War II Notgeld collecting was no big business at all. Most families had their shoebox full, stored away somewhere and practically nobody seemed to be interested in it. The situation did not change until the beginning of the 1960s.

In the meantime supply became a bit scarcer; since most was lost during the war in the East and in bombed-out houses. Much was thrown away as useless.

Suddenly interest was rekindled in the colorful pictures of towns and villages of 65 years ago, which had changed their appearance so much during the war and the subsequent reconstruction. People from the East who lost their *Heimat,* home, in Silesia, Pommerania or East Prussia to Poland, recall with fond memories the old days long bygone, by collecting the notes of the places where they or their forefathers had been born and reared.

So nowadays Notgeld collecting in Germany is mostly concentrated on special areas of the former Reich. In order to help collectors who are looking for all issues from 1914 to 1923 from a few places only, a new sort of catalog has been published or is still in compilation, with all Notgeld issues of a special area in one book, mostly confined by province borders of the former Reich or even states of the Federal Republic.

Collecting by topics shown on the notes, which is popular in the U.S., is not widespread in Germany., Happily enough, there is still plenty of material to satisfy the different interests in Notgeld collecting, for mostly modest prices.

Die Notgeldkunde

(Zeitung für das gesamte Notgeldwesen)
Herausgegeben von H. Bodenschatz, Hamburg 36, Hohe Bleichen 38
Postscheck-Kto.: Hamburg 63349
Jahresbezug Mk. 3.—. Halbjährlich Mk. 2.—.

Nr. 1	Hamburg, Dezember 1927	1. Jahrg.

Zum Geleit!

Musser's New Offerings

Last year Dwight L. Musser offered a reprint titled "Billionen Mark Notgeld" but was unable to cite the source of the publication. Now he is asking that readers who purchased it add the following information to the cover:

"The data in this publication was originally compiled and self-published by Dr. Richard E. Dickerson in 1972 with the title *Billionen Mark Notgeld.* A copy has recently come to light and is being reprinted in edited form under a modified title in 1997."

Musser continues to offer his reprint for $5 plus postage..

Musser is in the process of preparing for publication *German Notgeld Topical Check List.* He plans to ask $5 plus postage for the new publication. His address is P.O. Box 905, Lacoochee, Fla. 33537.

New publications begin 1999 Notgeld year

We were blest in 1998 with a spate of up-date and new books on Notgeld. Recently received was a 725-page work by Jochen Jos. Topp, *Das Papiernotgeld von Westfalen, 1914-1948.* Numerous illustrations of notes are to be found, plus data of variances, and estimated values in two conditions in German deutschemark. The text is in German. We can supply on order for about $75.

Within the same area of Germany but devoted to a single town is *Das Geld der mageren Jahre - als alle Milliardaere waren, Bielefeld Notgeld 1917-1924* by Guenter Gerke.

In addition to illustrations and descriptions of the numerous issues in silk, linen, jute as well as paper issues of Bielefeld, the volume offers local photographs and flavor of the times when the notes were issued. For instance, there is the photograph of the office of the Stadt Sparkasse, from whence came all the issues. The Sparkasse Bielefeld has underwritten the publication we have today.

There are 198 pages in the book with details of each note, which are shown in color. There are no valuations indicated. We can supply on order. Price available later.

Kai Lindman has given us a sneak preview of what is to come from his pen in 1999, including four new titles, a new work on the circulating notes volume and a revised edition of his *Serienscheine,* the red cover volume last published in 1989 which details variations.

Save some of your Notgeld budget for books in 1999!

Classified Advertising

ANTI-SEMITIC (AND JEWISH RELATED) NOTGELD WANTED. Any quantity, any type, any condition from towns such as Brakel, Beverungen, Bremen, Hamburg, Sternberg, Tostedt, etc. Please send to Steve Pomex, PO Box 2, Ridgefield Park, N.J. 07660. Fax 201-641-1700 Member IBNS

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

GERMAN-FRENCH world paper Notgeld. Over 10,000 pieces in stock! Large free lists. Ian A. Marshall, Parkway Mall Box 62509, 85 Ellesmere Road, Scarborough, Ontario CANADA MIR 5G8.

Pinneberg Aug. 13, 1923 1 Million Mark K1923 4312a $3.25
Pirmasens/Pfalz Aug. 22, 1923 10,000,000 Mark K1923 4313m $2.75
Reinerz Nov. 1, 1918 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2168 $7.50*
Reinerz Dec. 30, 1919 10, 25 Pf P-S 2168b $4.50
Reichenbach ND (1919) 5, 10, 50 Pf P-S 2159c $5*
Remagen Dec. 27, 1918 25 Pf P-S 2173 $2.50
Remagen Oct. 9,1921 25 Pf P-S 2173b $1.50*
Remda July 1, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf L-1084 Mehl 1115.1 $2* Will try to supply black or red serial numbers if requested
Reutlingen Oct. 30, 1918, 20 Mark; Nov. 1, 1918, 10 Mark Geiger $15
Rheinsberg ND 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1089a B Mehl 1120.1 $2.50*
Rheinsberg ND 25 (4), 50 (44), 75 (4) Pf L-1089b Mehl 1120.2 $8.50*
Rheydt Aug. 23, 1923 10 Millionen Mark K1923 4561f $2.50
Ribnitz ND 50 Pf L-1019 Mehl 1121.1 Reutergeld $.75 Pf *
Rieder/Ostharz Sept. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-1091a Mehl 1122.1 $1.25*
Rieder/Ostharz Sept. 1, 1921 50 (7) Pf L-1091b Mehl 1122.2 $4.75*
Rinteln/Weser September 1917 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2184a $12.50*
Rinteln/Weser August 1920 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1095 Mehl 1095 $2*
Ritterhude 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1096a Mehl 1126.1 $2*
Rochlitz/Sachsen ND 10, 25 P-S 2185g, h $3.50*
Roda/Ilmenau Oct. 10, 1921 20, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1098 Mehl 1128.1 $2.50*
Roebel ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1100 Mehl 1130.1 Reutergeld $2.25*
Ronneburg/Thuer. May 1, 1921 10, 50 Pf L-1103 Mehl 1133.1 $1.25*
Rosenberg/West Preussen Oct. 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2211d $8.50*
Rosenberg/West Preussen April 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2211c $6*
Rosenheim/Bayern Feb. 16, 1921 5, 10, 25 (2), 50 (2) L-1104 Mehl 1134.1 $4.25*
Rossbach ND 50 (6) Pf L-1105 Mehl 1135.1 $4*
Rossla July 1, 1921 25 (6), 50 (6) Pf L-1106 Mehl 1136.1 $8*
Rosswein May 5, 1915 50 Pf P-S 2218a $2.25*
Rostock Feb. 15, 1920 5, 10 Pf P-S 2219c $2.50
Rostock ND 10, 50 Pf L-1108 Mehl 1138.1 $1.50*
Rotenburg/Hannover Jan. 1, 1921 75 Pf L-1109 Mehl 1139.1 $1.25*
Roth/Nuernberg ND (1916) 10 Pf P-S 2224 Perforated $3.50
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1112b Mehl 1142.2 $4*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1112c Mehl 1142.3 $4*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 75 (4) Pf L-1112d Mehl 1142.4 $4*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 50 (5) Pf L-1112e Mehl 1142.5 $3.25*
Rottenburg/N Jan. 2, 1918 50 Pf P-S 2227 $3.50*
Ruda/Oberschlesien April 11, 1918 1/2 Mark P-S 2230g rubber stamp linen well worn $7.50
Rudelsburg ND 50 Pf L-1113 Mehl 1143.1 $1.25*
Rudolstadt ND 50 (10) Pf L-1116a Mehl 1146.1 $7*
Rudolstadt ND 50 (4), 75 (4), 100 (2) Pf L-1116b Mehl 1146.2 $7*
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232a $1.25*
Ruegenwalde Oct. 1, 1920 5 Pf P-S 2232p No print firm $1.25*
Ruhla/Thuer. May 1, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2235e $1*
Ruhla/Thuer. April 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1123 Mehl 1153.2 Signature: Th. Hoppert $4.50*
Ruhtaler (Essen) Satirical theme 100,000,000 two of the four designs $15
Rybnik (Emmagrube) Aug. 15, 1914 1 Mark K1914 93 (5,976 printed) $10
Saalfeld/ Saala April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1125a Mehl 1155.1 $2*
Saalfeld/Saala April 15, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1125c Mehl 1155.4 $2*

Saalfeld/Saala Aug. 1, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1125d Mehl 1155.5 $2*
Saarburg ND 50 Pf L-1126 Mehl 1156.1 $.65*
Saarlouis (Saarlautern) October 1919 10 Pf P-S 2247g $2
Salzbrunn, Bad (Ober Salzbrunn) Schlesien (Ladza) 50 (5) Pf L-973 Mehl 1000.1 $3.25*
Salzburghofen 1920 10 Pf P-S 2248 a II Karton rose $5*
Salzig, Bad Aril 25, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1128 Mehl 1158.1 $1.25*
Salzuflen May 1921 50 Pf L-1129 Mehl 1160.1 $.65
Salzwedel March 20, 1921 5, 10 Pf L-1132a Mehl $1.25*
Sangerhausen March 26, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1133 Mehl 1163.1 $5*
Schaala Aug. 15, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1140 Mehl 1170.1 $2*
Schalkau/Thuer. ND 50 (6) Pf L-1141 Mehl 1171.1 $4*
St. Andreasberg/Harz Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75, 100 Pf, 3 Mark L-1134 Mehl 1164.1 $13*
St. Toenis Nov. 5, 1920 25 Pf L-1137 Mehl 1167.1 $2*
St. Wendel Nov. 1, 1919 25 Pfennig P-S 2262 $2*
Scharmbeck Dec. 1, 1920 75 Pf L-1143a $2*
Scheessel Jan. 1, 1921 L-1144a 25 Pf: IIc; 50 Pf: IIa; III , c Mehl 1174.1 $6* Varieties
Scheessel Oct. 1, 1921 1 Mark L-114b Mehl 1174.2 $.65*
Schleusingen ND 5, 50 Pf P-S 2292b $7*
Schleusingen ND 25, 50 (2), 75 (1921) Pf L-1151 Mehl 1181.1 $2.50*
Schierke/Harz July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1147 Mehl 1177.1 $2.50
Schierke/Harz May 30, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1148 Mehl 1178.1 $.65*
Schierke/Harz April 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1149 Mehl 1179.1 $2.50*
Schildhorst July 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2277 $3.50*
Schleiz Dec. 1, 1921 50 (8) L-1150 Mehl 1180.1 $6*
Schleswig ND 25, 50 Pf P-S 2290 $5*
Schleswig Aug. 14, 1923 500,000 Mark K1923 4976b $2.50
Schliersee June 15, 1921 10 Pf L-1151 I Mehl 1182.1 white $1.25*
Schliersee June 15, 1921 25 Pf L-1151 II Mehl 1182.1 Rose $7.25*
Schlossvippach Oct. 1, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1153 Mehl 1183.1 $18*
Schmiedeberg ND 1, 3 Mark L-1155 Mehl 1185.1 $2.50*
Schmiedefeld ND 25, 50 Pf L-1157 Mehl 1187.1 $2.50*
Sommerfeld April 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2382a $3*
Schmoelln 1921 10, 20, 25, 75 Pf L-1159a Mehl 1189.1 $2.50*
Schmoelln 1921 50 (4) Pf L-1159b Mehl 1189.2 $2. 50*
Schneeberg 1921 50 (5) Pf L-1160 Mehl 1190.1 $3.25*
Schneeberg-Neustaedtel ND (1918) 1, 10 Pf P-S 2303 $4.50*
Schnelsen ND 25, 50 Pf L-1162 Mehl 1192.1 $5*
Schneidemuehl (Pila) ND 25, 50, 75 Pf 1, 1.50 Mark L-1161a Mehl 1191.1 Schecks red $3.25*
Schneidemuehl (Pila) ND 25, 50, 75 Pf 1, 1.50 Mark L-1161b Mehl 1191.2 Schecks blue dirigible $7*
(For readers collecting completeness, please indicate your missing Schneidemuehl Scheck letters)
Schneverdingen Feb. 25, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) Pf L-1163 Mehl 1193.1 $5*
Schoenberg ND 25, 50 Pf L-1165a Mehl 1195.1 $2.50
Schoenberg ND 50 Pf L-1165b Mehl 1195.2 Reutergeld $.75*
Schoppenstedt ND 50 (10) Pf L-1169 Mehl 1199.1 $7*

* Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman *Serienscheine*; P-S Pick-Siemsen Circulated issues
G-Gieger *Das deusche Grossnotgeld* 1918-1922. Mehl: *Deutsche Serienscheine von 1918-1922*
M-Mueller, *Dis Notgeldscheine der deutschen Inflation, 1922.*

THE FRAKTUR , P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945
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