The Fraktur

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SILENT NIGHT in Oberndorf

"It is Weinachszeit, Christmas time, 1818, and the organ is on the fritz. Something about the mice gnawing on the bellows again. They don't make bellows like they used to," muttered the pastor of the Oberndorf, Austria, Catholic church.

"Christmas and no music for the children. They surely will miss it," he pondered.



Pastor Mohr and teacher Gruber, authors of "Silent Night," appear on 10, 20 and 50-Heller notes of Oberndorf, Austria.

"Well, at least we have a poem to read," Pastor Joseph Mohr said, as he laid his quill down.

"Hello, Franz. How was school today?" he greeted as his friend Franz Gruber blew into his office, accompanied by a burst of snow flakes.

"Gruss Gott, Pastor Mohr. You know, the children are restless so close to Christmas time. What are we doing for Christmas Eve services without the organ?" the schoolmaster queried.

"I wrote a brief poem. That will be some Christmas program," the vicar observed.

"Ha, let me take it and try to strum something on my guitar," the schoolmaster said, picking up the scrap of paper on which the poem was written.

On Christmas Eve, Mohr's poem was sung to the guitar strumming of the school teacher.

In January, the repairman came. He replaced the bellows and made other necessary repairs to the organ. In the course of his stay, he noticed a poem and the musical score lying on the organ. He played it as part of his test of the organ, copied the words and music, then returned home.

It became the practice of small villages in Austria and Germany to send representatives with their crafts to the

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Dr. Keller Vs. Dr. Neumann

BY DAVID BLOCK

Dr. Neumann first appeared in Dr. Keller's *Emergency Money (Das Notgeld)* as the producer of an Austrian magazine which Dr. Keller reviewed. The review indicates, I think, that Dr. Keller had a poorly developed sense of humor.

"The Emergency Money Collector (Der Notgeldsammler). Monthly, produced by Dr. Neumann, Vienna 18, Cottagegasse 1. Number 1, July 1920, 3 crowns, 10 pages. Contains along with a few new reports a reprint of the Gössler notices of the Wurtemberg notgeld issues. There is very peculier information on page 2, that Hannibal paid his troops with notes that bore his signature and that paper money was also used during the besieging of Saguntum by the Carthaginians (212 B.C.). Might not Dr. Neumann give us his sources for this? Classical philology would be extremely grateful to him for them. It has been unknown up to now that there was already paper in Europe then; and even if Hannibal was able to write, yet there is no doubt that his soldiers were unable to read."

Das Notgeld, 2.7:131 (Juni 1920)

Doctor Neumann placed the following ad in the July 1921 issue of the German periodical, *Das Notgeld.*

Ask far the leading austrian paper for war notes and stamps "Der Notgeldsammler" Wien XVIII, Kottagegasse 1 (Dr. Neumann) You can get there war money and stamps very cheap. Send money for sampler.	Verlangen Sie das führende Organ in Österreich für Notgeldwesen "Der Notgeldsammler" Wien XVIII, Kottagegasse 1 (Dr. Neumann) Sie können dort Notgeld und Marken billig erhalten. Senden Sie Geld für Muster.

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Block, who recently retired from his position as a computer programmer at the University of Florida, bought his first notgeld in 1940. His first article on notgeld, about the Kahla Christmas notes, appeared in the Numismatics International Bulletin in December of 1977. His later publications in the same bulletin included translations of Keller's prefaces to his Kleingeld catalogs, reprinted by Dwight Musser as Notgeld Handbook #1.

Apart from the typographical errors the advertisement is interesting because of the unspecified amount of money requested for a sample copy.

In the next issue of Dr. Keller's *Das Notgeld* Dr. Neumann had another ad: "Let anyone who wants to buy Austrian notgeld astonishingly cheaply immediately write to the leading organ in Austria, "Der Notgeldsammler" Vienna 18, Cottagegasse No. 1 to learn about sources. No fantastic prices not based on value."

To Dr Neumann, Vienna. The periodical "The Notgeld Collector" writes in number 3/4 3/4 on page 10 in opposition to our remark in number 7, page 131, about paper in antiquity "Herodotus mentions paper money during the revolt of the Ionians, and our reference to Saguntum was taken from a book in the court library." I have taken the trouble to reread Herodotus and found, as expected, not a single word about paper money in all the 135 chapters which deal with the Ionian revolt (Book V.23 to book VI.42). Perhaps Dr. Neumann could give the reference somewhat more exactly! And "a book in the court library" is no source citation at all! I retain my previous opinion about that, that the use of paper money in antiquity is completely unthinkable. Being an orientalist, I really have no need to be taught that the Egyptians knew of papyrus. The question is only about paper, and that was first brought by the Arabs from Chinese captivity in the eighth or ninth century. Dr. A.K.

Das Notgeld, 3.2:36 (1. Februar 1921)

Early in 1922 Dr. Keller ran the following notice:

"Today we can inform our readers that by a purchase agreement we have acquired ownership of the Austrian periodical, "The Emergency Money Collector". At the same time we have won the most-widely known producer of that periodical as our editor for Austria. By this our magazine becomes further valuably enriched in the area it covers and by regular notices now gives German readers abundant opportunity to inform themselves about Austrian emergency money. Dr. Neumann is known as a battler against swindles in Austrian emergency money, so our readers will have an informed guide for building up their collections."

Das Notgeld, 4.3:62 (1.Februar 1922)

Dr. Keller's agreement with Dr. Neumann did not last very long.

"**Our representative in German-Austria.** In No. 2 we notified our readers of our incorporation of the Viennese periodical, "The Emergency Money Collector" and at the same time announced that the former producer of that periodical, Dr. Neumann, had taken over the editorship and representation of our periodical for German Austria. Among serious German-Austrian collectors this announcement produced strong misgivings, since in wide circles Dr. Neumann is not considered the proper man to represent Austrian emergency money in Germany. In spite of that we would have maintained the bargain we struck with him, if Dr. N. had not moved too rapidly in concluding the agreement. However, he had discussed with Josef Rastorfer, the producer of the well-known "Monthly Pages", a combined union with my "Emergency Money", but then behind Rastorfer's back he alone completed the union in order to secure thereby that he alone would represent Austria. Naturally we were not able to

know anything about the dealings of the two Austrian periodicals with each other and saw no reason for Dr. Neumann not to join us. But now that we have been informed about the way things are, we must cancel the union with the "Emergency Money Collector", explain the reappearance of that magazine or understand its incorporation elsewhere, and transfer the representation of "Emergency Money" as well as the provincial editorship for New Austria from now on to Mr. Josef Rastorfer in Salzburg. He therefore unites his "Monthly Leaves" with our magazine.

Das Notgeld, 4.6:156 (15.März 1922)

Dr. Neumann. We had stated that we were prepared to publish a declaration by Dr. Neumann against us , to dutifully give the opposition too the opportunity to change opinions. We still maintained this willingness, even after Dr. Neumann had already attacked us in most unheard of ways in another publication. However, now that he has circulated untrue reports about our settlement with him in his favor and even dares to report that we preferred Rastorfer to him because Rastorfer is our advertizer, we decline to place even one more line in our periodical at his disposal. Our Austrian co-worker Rastorfer will not reply to the reports which Dr. Neumann spreads.

Das Notgeld, 4.9/10:214 (15. Mai 1922)

"Dr." Paul Neumann. We have already once had to inform our readers of the nature of this gentleman (in fending off his attack). Now we find in the "Viennese Workers Times" a description of the gentleman, which we believe that we cannot hold back from our readers:

"Dr. Paul Neumann (formerly "Gentleman von Heilwart") is as much a doctor as a student who has studied medicine for three semesters and adopts the title. He is a son of the late dermatologist, Professor Isidor Neumann, and for known reasons wandered off to America and became a professional swimmer. As such he once attained the world championship at the Olympic Games in Athens, since when he calls himself 'Olympic Victor'. Later he became a gymnastics instructor at the Pestalozzi Institute. From a calling card from the time of the war it appears that in spite of that he was head doctor for the garrison in Baden for nearly two years! He called himself 'Imperial and Royal Military Doctor to the Local Militia', Head Doctor of the Kaiserhaus- an error, intended is the "Stiftung Kaiserhaus" in Baden. Since he didn't feel content holding the position of a substitute assistant doctor, he passed himself off as a staff doctor. He even awarded himself the Order of Franz Josef. His downfall came at the headquarters which were then in Teschen; his documents were demanded and thus was unmasked the man who for at least two years had *wohl Tausende Begutachtungen, Rentenbemessungen usw. vorgenommen.* As far as we know he was not locked up. Right after the Baden affair he offered himself as second assistant to Head Doctor Albert Konried in Edlach and was hired. On the second day he astonished the first assistant, Dr. H. Maend , that even a military doctor displayed such amazing ignorance of the simplest medical directions. They demanded to see his diploma. He did not have one; in place of it he offered as a substitute a citation from the Red Cross which praised 'Dr. Neumann.' They let him go. In spite of that he still went around in the uniform of an assistant doctor."

Das Notgeld, 5.1:8 (1. Okt. 1922)

To be Continued

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Christmas market in Nuernberg each December. Sometimes singing groups attended to add flavor to the holiday programs.

So it is believed that the music taken out of Oberndorf to other parts of Austria eventually trickled into Nuernberg. It spread throughout the world and became, perhaps, the best loved of the Christmas hymns, Silent Night.

Mohr lived from 1792 to 1848; Grueber from 1787 to 1851.

A set of 10, 20 and 50 Heller notes good to Dec. 31, 1920, were issued for Oberndorf, depicting Father Mohr at the left, teacher Gruber at the right, and the church in the center. Below the date Dec. 24, 1818, recalls the night Silent Night was first played.

In the summer of 1964 we were visiting Oberndorf, just down the Salzach River 12 miles from Salzburg. Another couple was with us, and we stopped at the Roman Catholic church to make inquiry about the origins of "Silent Night."

Alas, we were told, the church at which the song had been written had burned, but on the site a chapel was built to recall the event. So we drove a few blocks in the blue VW bug to the "Stille Nacht Kapelle."

Postcards are sold; stained glass windows depict Mohr and Grueber.

In the following December, youth from the Giessen chapel visited the Nuernberg Kris Kringle Markt. They added to the spirit of the season by singing Christmas music in English and German. Our son was in the group.

Across the Salzach River from Oberndorf is Laufen, West Germany. Both cities issued emergency money. A set of Oberndorf notes in values of 10, 20 and 50 Heller depict Mohr and Gruber. The notes are dated Dec. 30, 1920.

There are paper and coin issues from Laufen. Also there are municipal paper issues from Laufen-Tittmoning.

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SUBSCRIPTION PRICES will change in 1990. We will have to ask for $7.50 for subscriptions paid after January 1, 1990.

Current subscribers may pay $6 for 1990 fees in December 1989. Many renewals will be due July 1; these may be paid at the $6 rate in December. A Post-It over this notice gives the status of your subscription.

* * *

As a gentle snowfall descends, on some of us, on Christmas Eve our thoughts are with all of you with wishes for the blessings of the season and hopes for true Peace and Joy in the New Year. May all your Notgeld be Uncirculated.

Aschaffenburg ND 5, 20 Mark K-20 $6
Diez/Lahn (Dietz, near Fachingen, home of a popular mineral water) Dec. 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf K-462f $1.75*
Dinslaken Aug. 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf K-616 $4*
Dinkelsbuehl ND (1918) 50 Pf K-615 $2
Dresden-Neustadt to Sept. 30, 1921 25 Pf K-507e $.75*
Driburg Sept. 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1, 2, 5 Mark K-234; L-278 $10*
Duisburg Oct. 18, 1919 25 Pf K-686b $1.25*
Dueren March 1, 1918 50 pf K-512 $1*;; July 20, 1919 10 Pf (10 Pf Notgeld coin on design) K-512K $1.25; Feb. 20, 1920, smaller in size, $1.25*
Duelken Aug. 1, 1920 75 Pf K-236; L-280 $1* Windmill tied to moon
Dueben Jan. 1921 25 Pf K-235; L-279 $2.50*
Ebersberg Dec. 15, 1916 5 Pf K-521 $1.50*
Ebersdorf/Reuss July 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf K-241; L-288 $5*
Eberswalde July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-242a, L-289 $1.75*
Eckartsberga June 1, 1921 5 Pf K-244a; L-291a $.60*
Eckartsberga Sept. 1, 1921 25 (6), 50 (2), 75 (2) Pf Round K- 244b, L-291 $4.50*
Eckartsberga May 1, 1921 25 Pf K-244a; L-291 $.45*
Eckartsberga Aug. 1, 19820 10, 25, 50 Pf K-529 $1.75*
Eckernfoerde Sept. 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-246; L-293 $1.75*
Egenbuettel ND 75 Pf K-247 Konrad Hanf $1.50*
Ehrenbreitstein Aug. 3, 1921 K-250; L-297 25 (3), 50 (2) 75 Pf $4*
Eilenburg/Mulde Sept. 30, 1921 K-254; L-301 50 (2) 1.60*
Eisenberg May 15, 1921 20, 50 Pf K-259; L-308 $1.75*
Elbing Aug. 5, 1914 10 Mark folds punch cancelled K-91 $6
Eldagsen/Hannover June 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-262 $2.50*
Elgersburg Aug. 8, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-263; L-314 3.25*
Ellrich/Harz Sept. 1, 1921 50, 75 (2) Pf K-266; L-317 $3.25*
Emden Dec. 15, 1918 50 Pf K-551b SMS Emden on back $3*
Emmendingen 1921 50 (3) Pf K-271; L-322 $3.50*
Eppelborn-Dirmingen Feb. 15, 1921 25, 50 Pf K-273; L-324 $1*
Erbach/Odenwald Nov. 1918 50 Pf, 1 Mark K-557 $2.25*
Erkelenz June 24, 1920 25 (2) Pf K-767L $2.25*
Eschershausen/Braunschweig June 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark set K-281, L-335 $4*
Esens/Ostfriesland ND (1920) 10, 25 Pf K-779b $3*
Esingen ND 75 PF K-283a Konrad Hanf designer $2*
Ettenheim 50 Pf Nov. 23, 1917 K-586a $2.25*
Ettenheim March 1, 1922 50 (6) Pf Set K-284 $3.25*
Gatersleben July 30, 1921 25, 50 (3) Pf L-392 $2.25*
Geldern May 7, 1920 25 Pf K-697c $1.25*
Geldern March 30, 1921 25 Pf K-697d 1.25*
Geldern ND 25, 50, 75 Pf 1, 2 Mark K-336, L-397 I $5*
Geldern May 1, 1922 (handwritten) 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark K-336; L-397 III $5
Genthin/Sachsen July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf, 1, 2, 5 Mark K-337, L-400 A.Hanf $3*

Gera May 1, 19821 25, 50, Pf, 1 Mark L-401 $7.50
Gernrode/Harz Anhalt May 9, 1921 25 (2), 50 (2) 75 (2) Pf K-340b, L-404 $3.25*
Giessen Nov. 1, 1918 5, 10, 20 Mark K-168 $8
Giessen July 2-4, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf K-342. L:406 Admission tickets to Notgeld show Gibana $5*
Gifhorn June 1, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf K-343, L-408 $5.25*
Glatz Oct. 6, 1921 25 (4), 50 (4), 75 (2), 100 (2) Pf K-346c, L-412 $12.50*
Glauchau 1921 25, 50 Pf 1, 2, 3 (2), 5 Mark K-1266; L-413 $12*
Glauchau May 1, 1921 Set of 6, 50 Pf Buttermilk war K-347a. L-416a $3.50
Glauchau May 1, 1921 Set of 6, 75 Pf Bierkrieg K-347b, L-416b $3.50*
Glauchau June 1, 1921 Set of 6, 1/2 Mark Bebelseries K-347; L-416c $3.50*
Glauchau 1919 50 Pf P-S 736 $.50*
Glogau (1922) 50 (2), 75 Pf, 1, 2 Mark K-350, L-420 I $5*
Godelheim May 10, 1921 1 Mark K-357 a I; L-426 I $1.50*
Gollnow/Pommern Jan. 31, 1921 25 (2) Pf K-363 b $2.50*
Gollnow Aug. 3, 1921 50 (4) Pf K-363 e; L-432 $8*
Gotha Feb. 8, 1923 1,000 Mark $1.45

Denmark
Apenrade (Aabenraa) 1920 25, 50 Pf K-69 $7.5-
Auenbuell to June 8, 1920 50 Pf K-416; L-52a III Plebiscite $4.50*
Augustenburg/Alsen (Augustenborg) April 8, 1920 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-54 $2.50*;; Oct. 15, 1921 50 Ore, 1 Krone Plebiscite $6*
Broacker (Broager) 1919 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-179a $3.50*
Brunde (Rothenkrug, Rodekro) April 1920 1 Mark L-184 Plebiscite $3*
Christiansfeld March 1920 50 Pf L-220 $2.50*
Daler April 10, 1920 25 Pf L-244 Windmill $1.25*
Dybbol (Doeppel, Dueppel) April 18, 1920 25 Ore K-675; L-284 $3*
Graasten (Gravenstein) Feb. 1920 50 Pf L-445 $3.25*
Knivsberg to Dec. 31, 1920 50 Pf L-678 Fictitious town $20*
Luegum Kloster Feb. 10, 1920 50 Pf K-673; L-803b Plebiscite $2.50*
Roedding Feb. 10, 1920 50 Pf K-925a; L-1089 Plebiscite $3*
Tondern Feb. 10, 1920 20, 25 Pf, 1, 10 Mark K-1106a; L-1284 $20*
Uk 1920 50 Pf L-1308 $3.25*
Woyens (Vojens) ND 50 Pf K-1207 Plebiscite K-1207; L-1404 $1.50*

*Uncirculated
K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman catalog; P-S Pick-Siemsen
THE FRAKTUR, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945

February 1939

January 12. The regular meeting was held at the home of Fred M. Howard, 33 West 69th Street, New York City.

The main exhibits of the evening were two partial fractional currency sheets of the 3c and 5c denominations exhibited by Mr. Bullowa, as well as a strip of three Austrian 10-Kreuzer notes, uncut, of 1860 issue. These notes were multi-lingual.

Mr. Howard showed the rare fifth edition of Keller's "Notgeld 1916-1924," which he had been able to secure after much difficulty. This volume, although recently printed, was quickly exhausted, and copies now bring high prices when they are obtainable. The work is the standard on the German emergency money of the post-war inflation, giving much detailed information about them, as well as valuations.

Mr. Howard also showed a series of Montenegrin notes of 1914 from the 1 perpera to the 100 perpera, surcharged for Cettinje.

A number of new members were admitted.

The matter of membership cards was again discussed and it was voted that these be printed at the club's expense and that they be sent to the members in good standing as a receipt for their 1938 dues.

It was also voted that the club officially change its meeting place from West 57th Street to Mr. Howard's home, 33 West 69th St.

March 1938

February 9. The regular meeting was held at the home of Mr. Child, as it was impossible to meet at Mr. Howard's home, due to his absence from the city for a short time.

Mr. Berliner, of 277 Broadway, was officially appointed the Treasurer, and reported that the 1938 memberships were coming in nicely.

The membership cards were exhibited and were to be distributed the following week by mail.

Mr. Child discussed a number of problems besetting the club, the chief one being the need for new members. It was agreed that a membership drive be held and that coin and stamp organizations in the metropolitan area be visited.

There was also some discussion about Keller's rare book on German Notgeld, and ways of making copies available were discussed by reprinting, photostating, translating, etc. No decision was reached, however, as the question is large and would have to have some financial backing.

The March meeting will again be held at the home of Mr. Howard, the president, 33 West 68th street, New York City.