The Fraktur

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'Nothing but God's Justice'

The serfdom imposed on the peasants of Europe brought abut the unrest in Europe, beginning in Alsace in 1502, when Joss Fritz led a movement of peasants against the nobility. The movement was quickly put down and Fritz was sought but not found.

Fritz reappeared in 1525, to join the swelling movement which began again near LakeConstance, the *Bodensee*, in German, in Waldshut, Bavaria, in the summer of 1524.

Social injustice and the movement of Martin Luther and the Roman Catholic Church combined in the spread of the Peasants' War, also called the Farmers' War, *Bauernkrieg*, in German.

Complaints were targeted at tithes, water rights, forestry and game laws. The resurgence of the movement in 1524 began in the Black Forest, moved to Swabia, into the Rhineland, across the lake to Switzerland and for a brief time, to Austria.

"The revolts of the peasants were essentially a last attempt of an agrarian society to hold its own against the surperior forces of the new capitalistic system of economy," Dr. Kurt F. Reinhardt wrote in 1950 in *Germany 2000 Years*. Dr. Reinhardt continued, "The peasants appeared as the reactionary and retrogressive forces in an age that had introduced the profit motive as the chief factor in economic endeavor and that adhered to the formerly condemned and despised theory that money can breed money.

"With increasing opportunities in commercial enterprise the investment of capital in ever so many ways became the order of the day and was univesrsally practiced by states, cities and individuals. The newly discovered trade routes to Africa, India and the Americas added even

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Monthly Notgeld Quote. . .



Höxter
50 Pf., 1 May 1921
L-600a

Hoffmann von Fallersleben.
He was since 1860 librarian of the duke Viktor von Ratibor at Corvey castle, where he died on 19 Jan. 1874. He wrote the text to the German national anthem "Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles"



Local militia drill for battle, shown on a 25-Pfennig note of Schuettorf, Nov. 1, 1921. L-1172

greater stimulus and allurement to an expanding international trade, based on large scale investment and commercial credit. But this whole process of transforming an agrarian into a financial society was accompanied by almost constant conflicts, convulsions and explosions," Dr.Reinhardt said.

First waves of the peasasnt rebellion were somewhat disorganized, bands of men sweeping through the countryside, living off the land, with little leadership and organization. When confronted by military opposition they had little chance and suffered heavy losses.

In Thomas Muenzter, born in Stolberg, Germany, in 1490, they met a determined leader with a religious fervor. Initally a protege of Luther, Luther soon disavowed him for his militancy. Riding on a wave of social injustice with an apostolic fervor, Muentzer (his name is spelled with and without the T in German citations) proclaimed the Twelve Articles, which were written by Wendelin Hippler.

Muentzer was against infant baptism. He and Nikolalus Storch taught that "true authority was not the Bible but the inner light given by God to those who were his."

Following the peasants in their quest for social justice were not just the peasants. Many famous knights, artists and literary figures joined the march, some even today revered by the Germans.

There were Ulrich von Hutten, 1488-1523, poet laureate, who retired to Ufnau, an island in Lake Zuerich.

Franz von Sickingen, 1481-1562, who died in battle at Landstuhl, today the site of a large U.S. Army hospital.

German Notgeld Paper, Coins & Tokens

Notgeld Paper Money (1914-1923)

- Including WWI POW stamp-size money and 1920's seal stamps
- Prices based on various catalogs (converted US$)
- Includes notes issued by federal, state and local authorities as well as industry-issued
- Condition:. VG - UNC (mostly Ave Circ)

Notgeld Coins/Tokens (1914-1923)

- Approx. 30,000 coins & 20,000 tokens issued by local governments and industry
- Coins range from 1 Pfg to DM 3 million (VF - AU)
- Tokens include various beer, industry-related, numbered sets by Trumpf, health care, Bethel, automat & entertainment (VF/VF+)

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In the thousandth year of the town of Allstedt, 1921, a set of notes in values of 10-, 25- and six of 50-Pfennig were issued, honoring Thomas Muentzer. From a scene on the fact of the 10- and 25-Pfennig notes, the castle of Frankenhausen can be seen in the distance. Other local views appear on the backs of the notes. L-15



Geotz von Berlichingen, 1480-1562, who lost a hand at the siege of Landshut in 1504. It was replaced with an iron hand, which added to the reputation of the knight.

The motto of the peasants, inscribed on their banners, was "Nothing but God's Justice." Their emblem was the *Bundschuh,* a laced boot worn by peasants as a sign of protest over the expensive buckskin worn by the nobles. But without training in military ability for their leadership, the peasants were doomed.

Joining to end the revolt were Protestant Philipp the Great of Hesse, 1504-1567, and Catholic Duke Georg of Saxony. Muentzer was captured at Frankenhausen and executed; we see his demise on three of the illustrated Notgeld pieces.

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.

Classified Advertising

ODD & CURIOUS wanted: Aluminum, leather, felt and other varieties of odd and curious Notgeld. Ken Hallenbeck, 711 N. Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.



With a sharpened pike and a determined cant to his jaw, a citizen of Muehlhausen prepares for battle during the Peasants' War. The same portrait appears on a set of six 50-Pfennig notes, Oct. 1, 1921, L-881b; Oct. 15, 1922, 250 Mark, Mueller 3000/1; and Aug. 15, 1923, one and two Millionen Mark, Keller 3621.









A six-note set of 50-Pfennig notes tells of the last days of the Peasants' War in Frankenhausen am Kyffhaeuser, dated September 1921. All backs of the notes are in silhouette against colored backgrounds, ending with a kneeling Thomas Muentzer as he awaits the blow from the executioner. L-359b. Below are two notes of Oldisleben which also show the execution scene. L-994

The number of persons involved, their many battles and defeats, tell of an operation of more than a rag-tag bunch of hoodlums, Dr.Reinhardt summarizes for us.

"During the following period of violence cities were captured, castles destroyed, monasteries and churches desecrated and burned and the instincts of the peasant mobs satisfied their desire of revenge in many acts of savage cruelty. In the course of seven major encounters the peasants were finally subjugated by the well-trained armies and the superior strategy of their opponents.

"The peasant armies were well equipped but lacked adequate, unified and unselfish leadership. The lords followed Luther's advice and drowned the revolt, literally in blood. Over 100,000 peasants were slain, many other thousands were wounded, tortured and crippled for life," Dr. Reinhardt added.

And he concluded, "Terrible vengeance was meted out to the survivors: their arms were confiscated, their liberties revoked, their burdens increased. An official estimated the number of those executed at 10,000. The lords devised the most inhuman tortures for their victims."

Luther disowned the peasants, calling them "murdering, thieving hoards of peasants."

In the end, the peasants were worse off than before; the winners were the princes and territorial lords, and Luther's reform movement. In 1555 Serfdom was legally recognized throughout the German Empire.

Robert Julian, editor of the *Newsletter* of the Russian Numismatic Society and supplier of information which appeared in the May and June issues of THE FRAKTUR, sends along a tidbit on the state of the hobby in Russia today. He quotes from a letter received from a Russian collector:

"The numismatic life here is declining and more and more collectors try to get rid of their collections, but very few people want to buy coins now. Years ago, before 1991, there were many young people, school boys and girls, who were interested in coin collecting, but now you see only old men in the coin clubs. Almost all of them are concerned about who will continue their hobby when they go away."

Notgeld of the German Rheinland has been selected for a pricelist issued by Jos. M.F. Eijsermans, Tegelen, The Netherlands.

Issues range from the large (GrossNotgeld) of 1918-1921, to Serienschein, to inflation issues of 1922 and 1923. Some privately issued Notgeld is included in the list.

Inquiries may be made to Eijsermans at Postbus 3240, NL-5930 AE, Tegelen, The Netherlands.

Notgeld came back into circulation in the late 1990s in Germany, sporting a new appearance but an old use.

Stamp collectors in the five-city area of Weinstadt, Wuerttemberg, issued a 1996 set of four notes, which could also be used as payment to the stamp show held in Weinstadt. similar issues were released for shows from 1997 through 2000. Denominations used each time were for values of one, 1.25, 1.5, 1.75 and two Mark.

Similar issues were from Remstal and the St. Hedwig Krankenhaus (hospital)..

Issues dated April 29-30, 2000, coincided with the annual spring paper money show held in Valkenburg, the Netherlands, a duel -city, duel-country issue of Weinstadt, Germany, and Valkenburg.

Additional information is available from Klaus Mann, Jasminstr. 13, D-71384 Weinstadt, Germany.



On a 50-Pfennig note of Muehlhausen, a local warrior ponders the display of two pikes bearing the heads of Heinrich Pfeiffer and and Thomas Muentzer. L-881b

Peine/Hannover Nov. 15, 1918 5 Mark Geiger 410/1 $3.50*
Penzlin/Mecklenburg-Schwerin ND 25, 50 Pf L-1027 $1.50*
Pfoerten N.L. September 15, 1921 50 Pf P-S 2038b $2..50*
Pforzheim Oct. 6, 1922 100 Mark Mueller 3565.a $3
Pforzheim Nov. 6, 1922 1,000 Mark Mueller 3565.3b $7.50
Plathe/Pomm. ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1031 Scheck $5.50*
Plau/Meck-Schw. ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1032 Reutergeld $2.25*
Plaue/Thuer. Oct. 30, 1921 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1033 $2.25*
Plauen/V 50 Pf ND P-S 2055 Rev. Contr. Nr. center $2*
Ploen/Schleswig-Holstein ND 50 Pf (choices 1 to 4; colors blue, red, green, silver) $ vary L-1034a
Ploen/Schleswig-Holstein ND L-1034b 1 Mark (50 + 50) $2*
Ploen/Schleswig-Holstein 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf 1 Mark L-1035a $2.50*
Poessneck ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1037a "Pfennig" on back $2*
Poessneck ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1037b "Wo das Regiment" $2*
Poessneck ND 25, 50, 75 Pf L-1037c Hermann & Dorothea $6.50*
Poessneck ND 20 (3) 25 (2), 50 (2), 75 (3) Pf L-1037d $7*
Poettmes ND 25, 50 Pf L-1038 $2.50*
Poppenbuettel/Schleswig-Holstein 50 (10) Pf L-1039 $7*
Potsdam Nov. 28, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1040 $4*
Prien Dec. 1, 1920 10, 25 Pf 1 Mark L-1044 $2*
Pries-Friedrichsort ND 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1045 $3.25*
Proessdorf ND (1921) 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 2092b $2.25
Pruem/Eifel Dec. 6, 1920 25 Pf P-S 2095 $2*
Pruem/Eifel May 1, 1921 50 Pf L-1049a $2
Przyschetz 1921 75 Pf L-1050b $2.25*
Pyritz/Pommern Nov. 1, 1921 50, 75 Pf L-1053 $2.50*
Pyrmont June 15, 1919 25 Pf P-S 2101 $1.25*
Pyrmont Jan. 2, 1921 50 Pf L-1055 $1.25*
Quackenbrueck Sept. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-1056 $.65*
Quedlinburg ND 5 + 5 (10) Pf P-S 2104 $1.75
Quedlinburg June 1, 1921 25, 50 (3) Pf L-1057a $2.50*
Quedlinburg July 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1057b $4*
Quedlinburg ND 5 + 5 (10) Pf L-1058 $.65*
Querfurt Aug. 24, 1921 25, 50, 75 Pf, 1 Mark L-1060 Heinz Schiestl $5*
Quern/Schleswig-Holstein ND 25 (3), 50 (3) Pf, 1 Mark L-1061 $8*
Raa-Besenbek ND 30, 40, 60, 80 Pf L-1062 $7.50*
Radolfzell Dec. 1, 1918 10 Mark K-402b $5*
Radolfzell Dec. 15, 1921 1 Mark L-1063 $4*
Randow Sept. 1, 1921 25 (4), 50 (4), 75 (3) Pf L-1065 $8*
Ranis July 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1066 $1.25*
Ranis July 30, 1921 50 Pf L-1066 $.70*
Rathenow May 1`, 1917 10 Pf P-S 2131b $1.25*
Rathenow Nov. 12, 1918 5 Mark Geiger 437 $6*
Rathenow ND 50 (2), 75 (2), 90 (2) Pf L-1069a $4.25*
Rathenow ND 50, 75, 80, 90 Pf L-1067b $2.75*
Ratzeburg ND 25, 50 Pf L-1071 $1.35*
Raunstein 1920 50 Pf P-S 2137 $1.50*
Recklinghausen/Westfalen Dec. 1, 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 21444g VII Ausgabe $5
Rees 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 2`145b $2
Regensburg Oct. 4-8. 1918 20 Mark Geiger 440 "Entwertet" stamp $17.50

Regensburg 1918 25 Pf P-S 2146a $1.25*
Regensburg ND (1920) 1, 2 Pf P-S 2146b $2.50*
Rehmen Aug. 1, 1921 50 (2) Pf L-1078 $1.25*
Rehna ND 10, 20 Pf L-1079b Reutergeld $1.50*
Reichenbach/Schlesien ND P-S 2157 Reihe II red cont. Nr. $2*
Reichenbach/Schlesien ND (1919) P-S 2159c $5*
Reichenberg Oct. 30, 1918 5, 10, 20 Kronen R. Richter #88 $10
Reichenberg ND 10 Kronen Campbell 1448 POW $10
Reichenhall ND 10 Pf P-S 2161d $2
Reinerz, Bad/Schlesien 25 Pf P-S 2168a $2*
Reinerz, Bad/Schlesien Nov. 1, 1919 25, 50 Pfennig P-S 2168b $4.50
Remagen Jan. 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf P-S 2173b $2.25
Remda July 1, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf L-1084 Red Control # 4mm $2*
Remda July 1, 1921 20, 30, 50 Pf L-1084 Black control # 4mm $2*
Remscheid April 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 2175c $4*
Rendsburg July 1, 1918 5, 10 Pf P-S 2176 $2.50*
Reppen Feb. 19, 1920 50 Pf P-S 2177 $3*
Reutlingen Nov. 1, 1918 10 Mark Geiger 448 $20*
Rheinsberg/Mark ND 25, 50 Pf L-1089a (2) $1.50*
Rheinsberg/Mark ND 25 (4), 50 (4), 75 (4) Pf L-1089b $12.50*
Ribnitz/Meck-Sch. ND 25 Pf L-1090 Reutergeld $.75
Rieder Sept. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-1091a $.65*
Rieder Sept. 1, 1921 50 (7) Pf L-1091b $5*
Rietberg/W May 12, 1921 50 Pf L-1092 $.70*
Rinteln August 1920 25, 50 Pf, 1 Mark L-1052 $2.35*
Ritterhude 1921 25, 50 Pf L-1096a $1.35*
Rochlitz ND to Dec. 31, 1919 10, 25 Pf P-S 1285d $3*.
Roda/Ilmenau Sept. 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2186e $1.25*
Roda/Ilmenau Sept. 30, 1921 10 Pf L-1097 Faust $.65*
Roda/Ilmenau Oct. 10, 1921 20, 25, 50 (2) Pf L-1098 $2.50*
Rodach ND (1920) 10 Pf P-S 2187 $2*
Roebel ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-1100 Reutergeld $2.25*
Ronneburg/Thuer July 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf P-S 2204 $3*
Ronneburg/Thuer May 1, 1921 5, 10, 25, 50 Pf $2.75*
Rosenberg/West Preussen Oct. 1, 1920 10 Pf P-S 2211 $2.50*
Rosenheim Feb. 16, 1921 5, 10, 25 (2), 50 Pf L-1104 2nd issue $3.75
Rossbach ND 50 (5) Pf L-1105 $3.75*
Rossla July 1, 1921 50 (6) Pf L-1106 $3.25*
Rostock Feb. 15, 1920 5, 10 Pf P-S 2219c $2.50*
Rostock ND 50 Pf L-1107 Reutergeld $.75*
Rotenburg/Hannover Jan. 1, 1920 25, 50 f P-S 2222 $2.50*
Rotenburg/Hannover Jan. 1, 1920 75 Pf L-1109 $.65
Rothenburg/Tauber ND 50 Pf P-S 2226c $1.25*
Rothenburg/Tauber ND (1921) 50 Pf P-S 2226d $1.25*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 50 (3) Pf L-1112b $2*
Rothenburg/Tauber June 24, 1921 75 (4) Pf L-1112d $2.50*

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman *Serienscheine*; P-S Pick-Siemsen Circulated issues
G-Gieger *Das deutsche Grossnotgeld* 1918-1922.
M-Mueller, *Das Notgeldscheine der deutschen Inflation, 1922.*

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